

Bird of the fortnight

Local birds in focus brought to you by Karumba Progress Association

Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*)



Photo by Allison Newton



Description

Black bird with brown/chestnut wings and long tail. Red eye and large feet. Breeds Spring-Summer.

Size

60-80 cm

Environment

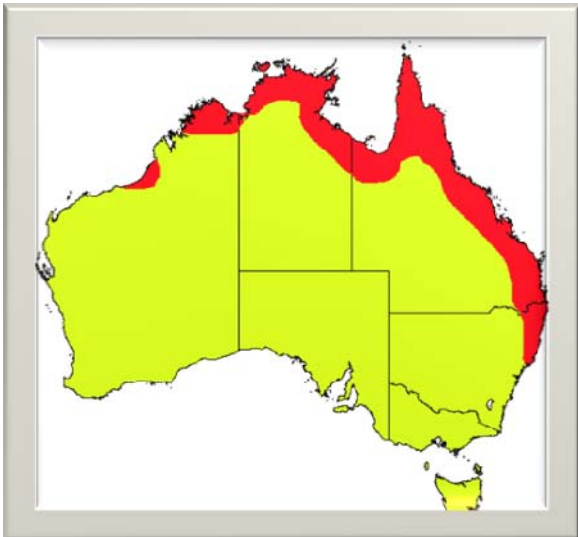
Dense understory vegetation, particularly grasses, rushes, bracken and sedges, in open forests and woodlands, and around wetlands

Food

large insects, frogs, lizards, eggs and, sometimes, small mammals.

Breeding

Pheasant Coucals form lasting pairs and, unlike other Australian cuckoos, build their own nests and raise their young themselves. The nest is usually hidden in thick grass or sugar cane or in weedy thickets and is a platform of sticks, grass or rushes, lined with leaves and grasses. The male usually incubates the eggs and feeds the young, with the female helping with feeding. More than one clutch can be laid in one season.



Locally can be found over the green season just about anywhere in Karumba. At times can be quite a road hazard running around full of their own importance.