

26 Mar 2011

Hi All,

There are now three cassowary feed stations at Coquette Point. One at the top of the range and two near the mangroves at the bottom of the hill. 'Little Runt' is looking so much stronger and 'Big Sis's' tail feathers have a sheen to them. Dad 4's chicks are starting to get very independent. They no longer follow him, they are out in front and he is left to travel behind and find them. The chick's cheerful low whistles can be heard as they search through the forest for food. Some minutes behind Dad can be heard making low growing grunts, as if to say where are you kids? wait for me. If the chicks suddenly miss their Dad and sound a louder more urgent whistle, Dad appears in a rush sounding an anxious loud drumming growl. I can imagine how dangerous it could be between an anxious Dad and his chicks. From my 'hide' near one of the feed stations.



I got a photo of Dad peeling a banana for the chicks



Dad and the chicks spend a lot of time on the beach at low tide
their footprints are all around the fiddler crab beds

The morning bird chorus has returned to the mangroves. With the exception of the Wompoos, who are still without a song, the bird calls at Coquette Point are returning to normal.

Male Indian Koel found some ripening Alexandrae palm seed and has been in the palms every day this week. I have not seen his mate.



On my way home from town about 9pm on Monday night last I almost drove over a frogmouth owl in the middle of the road eating a road-kill frog. 100 metres further on there was another owl on the road eating road-kill. I was on the range section of the road alongside the National Park. Lots of frogs jumping across the road during the evening at the moment especially in the low area adjacent to the proposed Sea Haven development.

For the first time in weeks the river was clear on Thursday but it didn't last long another storm on the Tablelands brought the silt back down the South Johnstone. Looking down on the river from the top of the range at Coquette Point you can see Ninds Creek running clear and clean into the Johnstone, [we have had very little rain this week in Innisfail] the demarcation line where the clean water meets the silt laden Johnstone can be clearly seen.



When this happens the sand bar across the entrance to Ninds Creek almost closes over and stays closed until there is heavy local rain and none in the Johnstone catchment. This happens repeatedly throughout the wet season. Interesting for any boating activity coming out of Ninds Creek, like a proposed marina development called Sea Haven.

Cheers for now,
Yvonne Cunningham