

UNUSUAL BIRDS IN LILLIFIELD



THE NOISY PITTA

There are 4 Pittas in Australia, but only this one is found in the SE.

This small, very brightly feathered bird is not often seen in the day, but more often heard during the night- a very loud (especially for its size!) "Walk-to-Work", usually two times, sometimes three times. When seen in the day, those electric shoulder patches are a dead give-away.

Breeds Oct-Dec so keep a lookout.

THE SPECTACLED MONARCH

A pretty flycatcher, this is another summer breeding migrant from the north from Set.-Oct. till May. There is a distinctive, black cloverleaf- like "spectacle" around the face and throat.

Very active bird.

Catches insects on the wing, hovering and darting in the air, or flitting through the foliage - the tail often fanning out showing the distinctive white outer tail feathers.(a few other

birds have these "fantails" but those "spectacles" are the thing to pick out.)

Calls are various, (like lots of birds and surely meant to confuse us humans!) but a clear three note, drawnout, rising sound like :breer, breer, breer" is most often heard.



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ROSE-CROWNED FRUIT DOVE

Very colourful, but oh so hard to see - like so many brightly coloured birds are in the rainforest/wet sclerophyll (eucalypt) forests!

It feeds low or high in dense foliage, the only signs sometimes being a quick wing whistle as it flies off rapidly on being disturbed. On occasion you also hear falling fruit where it is feeding, but the best sign is the call - 5-6 clear deep

“whoops”, or a series of low steady “oom” (but don’t confuse this with those Tawny Frogmouths who has a continuous deep “oom” call at dusk, dawn or during the night)

As well as in dense forest, they can be found in lantana thickets (are we lucky?!), figs, pittosporums and lilly pillies. So go find this beautiful bird!