

Talking Turkey:

Have you seen an Australian Brush-turkey in this area?



Did you know that the Australian Brush-turkey is one of only three mound building birds found in Australia? The other two are the Malleefowl and the Shrubfowl.

These three birds rake the ground with strong legs to build large mounds of leaf litter and soil which the female bird lays its eggs in. The heat produced from rotting vegetation, similar to that of a compost heap in your backyard, incubates the eggs. The male Brush-turkey turns the material in the mound each day and maintains a constant temperature of around 33 degrees Celsius.

About 49 days later, the chicks hatch, dig out of the mound and run off into the bush with no assistance from their parents.

While the Brush-turkey is common on the east coast of Australia from Cape York to south of Sydney, an isolated population between Warialda and Bingara and west to Narrabri on the North-West Slopes and Plains is under considerable pressure from pigs, foxes and cats, loss of habitat from clearing, fire and grazing by goats.

The Border Rivers - Gwydir Catchment Management Authority is supporting a preliminary study of Brush-turkeys in the area between Warialda and Bingara.

If you have seen a Brush-turkey, or have mounds on your property, it would be great to hear from you. If you would like to know more wildlife cameras could be set up on or nearby mounds to determine how many birds could be in the area and how many feral animals are visiting mounds.

The information collected will be used to determine the actual size and distribution of the Brush-turkey population in the area and what feral animal control could assist their survival.

For more information contact **Brooke Kelly, Landcare & Community Support Officer at Upper Gwydir Landcare Association (UGLA) on (02) 67242052 or email ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au**

Talking Turkey Survey

Please return ASAP to

Upper Gwydir Landcare Assn, PO Box 108 Bingara 2404

Email ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Have you seen this bird in your area ? Yes No



When approximately did you last see this bird? (Please tick)

- last 12 months
- 12– 18 months ago
- Prior to 18 months ago

Have you seen a mound like this on your property? Yes No



Have you seen more than one mound on your property? Yes No

If so how many mounds have you sighted?

When approximately did you last see this mound/mounds? (Please tick)

- Last 12 months
- 12-18 months ago
- Prior to 18 months ago

**Talking Turkey
Project**

Would you like to be involved in this project to protect the Brush Turkey and its habitat? Yes No



Is your property located in approximately the area indicated in green?

Yes No

Please return ASAP to

Upper Gwydir
Landcare Assn,
PO Box 108
Bingara 2404

Email:
ugla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Your Name

Address

PhoneEmail

