

Julimar nature survey reveals abundant birdlife

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

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AS WE work towards establishing Julimar Forest as a national park we have been gathering historical information that has been gleaned about the vast array of fauna and flora that call Julimar home.

There have been a number of formal surveys by different scientific groups as well as a more recent 2016 bioblitz supported by the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management community group.

These surveys serve to provide a baseline of fauna and flora activity and also help to identify any potential issues such as feral animal activity which can be detrimental to the area.

Now we need to understand what is currently happening in Julimar to gauge any improvement or degradation which may have occurred.

In April, Birdlife Australia organised more than 30 Perth and local volunteers to survey the area for birdlife and note other interesting observations in the first of four surveys planned for the coming year.

We know that not all birdlife is resident in Julimar for 12 months of the year and not all local flora is evident at all times, hence the need for multiple surveys.

Most of the volunteers did not have professional scientific backgrounds but they are experts in their own field of observing birdlife and flora and are passionate about their subjects.

We met at an area which has been referred to as the camp site, were divided into six groups and then drove to and walked our designated areas within the Julimar Forest, taking photographs and notes as we went.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and, although a little chilly at first, the weather was perfect and the morning very productive.

The campsite was abuzz when we returned with our findings at lunchtime and Max was smiling widely.

A total of 37 birds were identified.

We understand that the total bird count

for Julimar is more than 100, so for a single morning this result of 37 was terrific.

The most exciting sighting of all was that of the Crested Shrike Tit, a bird normally found regularly in Julimar, but not recorded for the previous 20 years.

Needless to say this caused great excitement.

To date the plants identified have not been collated – it's a work in progress.

As well as identifying fauna and flora, the groups also took note of habitat opportunities.

A number of previously unidentified larger tree hollows were found and their positions were marked by GPS coordinates.

We can hope they will be used in future by bigger birds such as the currently endangered Carnaby Cockatoo.

One group in a 1.5km walk discovered 40 tree hollows of various sizes.

Not all were suitable for cockatoos but they could provide homes for a range of other species.

We will be doing this survey again in about three months so if you would like to be involved, please contact us.

You don't need to be a scientific expert.

You can provide support by taking photographs, being observant, taking notes or, if you prefer, just come along for the exercise – Julimar Forest is a great place for a morning stroll.

For further information please contact Sharon.julimar@gmail.com