



AN EXCITING NEW PHASE FOR ARTEMIS NATURE FUND

Artemis Nature Fund (ANF) started in 2019 with a single objective: to work with Tom and Sue Shephard, the owners of Artemis Station, to do practical actions to save Golden-shouldered Parrots. The work was (still is) technically challenging, expensive, and requires long-term and consistent investment. In 2022, we realised that the idea of working closely with landholders to do this kind of conservation could be applied more widely. So we began looking for ways, places and partners to replicate the approach. We now have three major projects, including the original work on Artemis Station. You can read about these new projects [here](#). We also have a fourth exciting project we will soon be announcing. To support this expansion, ANF needed to adopt a new structure.

Conservation Partners was born.



Click here to see the CONSERVATION PARTNERS video

In October, we launched our Conservation Partners website. Please have a look and let us know what you think of it!

2023 WAS A BIG YEAR

We have had a very busy year.
You can watch our Year in Review video on both Facebook and Instagram.

[Click here to see OUR YEAR IN REVIEW video](#)

ARTEMIS UPDATE

ELECTRIC BARRIER FENCING

In 2023 we developed and implemented a novel way to increase the number of young parrots entering the population: Electric Barrier Fencing. From a limited trial involving 5 nests, we added 23 new parrots to the population. This was such an uplifting accomplishment after we started the 2023 nesting season with a very poor start. In early May of 2023, every parrot nest that we had found had failed due to predators attacking the nests. Starting next month, we'll begin searching for the 2024 cohort of nests and we can't wait to expand the nest protection actions so we can add even more young parrots to the population. We look forward to sharing more news with you soon.



COLOUR BANDING AT ARTEMIS STATION

In November, we colour-banded a large number of Golden-shouldered Parrots on Artemis with the assistance of the Queensland Bird Research and Banding Group. This provides essential information about the success of our management interventions. We fitted coloured leg bands onto 21 new Golden-shouldered Parrots. We also saw one of the first parrots ever banded, "black-black", which refers to his colours. We first banded him as a fully coloured male in 2020, which makes him at least 6 years old. The information we get from colour-banding is critically important because it allows us to track the effectiveness of our conservation management actions.



[Click here to see our COLOUR BANDING video](#)

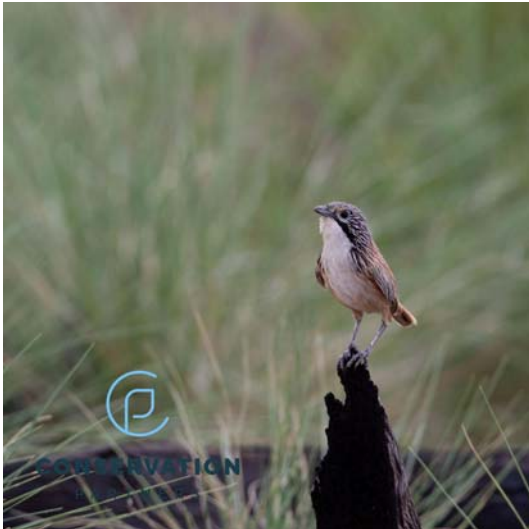
GOLDEN-SHOULDERED PARROT MONITORING SYSTEM

Once they are colour-banded, we monitor the survival of individual parrots using cameras at supplementary feeding stations. This results in hundreds of thousands of photos, and indeed we have a considerable back-log of photos to sort out. To help with this process, we have developed an Artificial Intelligence system in collaboration with some amazing machine learning experts. The system first determines whether or not a photo includes a Golden-shouldered Parrot, and then it decides if it's colour-banded or not. Preliminary testing shows better than 90% accuracy (with true positive cases). Our first batch of 170,000 photos has been reduced to 11,000 banded parrots. The final stage of colour identification still requires human eyes, and we're working on a web-based system so we can enlist the help of volunteers. Stay tuned for more updates about this in the near future.



[CHIDNA STATION](#)

We began working at Chidna Station in 2023, working alongside Brussie Spreadborough, whose family has owned the land for generations. Chidna Station is a 26,000 hectare pastoral lease located on Wakabunga and Kalkatungu Country, about 130 km north of Mount Isa. There are at least 4 state listed threatened species on the property: Purple-necked Rock-wallabies (PNRW), Carpentarian Grasswrens (CGW), Gouldian Finches (GF), and Red-flushed River Turtle. Two endangered riverine Regional Ecosystems also occur on Chidna. We are doing applied research on these species to inform management actions. For example, in September we GPS-collared 5 PNRW, which was a world first. These collars send us information about movements, habitat use and time budgets of the wallabies which will inform prescribed burning. We also placed collars on three feral cats to determine the degree to which cats hunt in PNRW and CGW habitats. In 2024 we plan to collar more PNRWs and cats. It is important to increase our sample size of tracked individuals so that our inferences about all PNRWs and cats are more robust. This information will be the foundation for making management decisions over the coming years.



[Click here to see our CHIDNA video](#)

BUFF-BREADED BUTTONQUAIL SEARCHING ON CAPE YORK PENINSULA

In November, Braydon and Pat headed north on Cape York to search for the Critically Endangered Buff-breasted Button-quail. There have been no

confirmed records of this species for 100 hundred years. Indeed, the extinct Paradise Parrot was seen more recently than Buff-breasted Button-quail! What's more, it's the only Australian bird to have never been photographed!!!

In collaboration with First Nations groups, pastoralists, Birdlife Australia and RARES research group at UQ, Pat, alongside Sam and Grant (Umpila Traditional Owners), deployed survey equipment at various locations where naturalist William McLennan said he saw them over 100 years ago. When in the field, the team found evidence of button-quail foraging; little saucer shaped depressions approximately 15cm across. While this was incredibly exciting and could indeed indicate the persistence of Buff-breasted Button-quail, it could be another species too. The team installed acoustic recorders and cameras there to confirm the true identity. We'll collect all the equipment after this wet season and access opens up again. To say we are excited to analyse the data is an understatement!!



[Click here to see our BBQ video](#)

In November, both the Golden-shouldered Parrot and Artemis Station were featured in Episode 3 EXTREMES of BBC's Planet Earth 3. Seeing Artemis and the GSP on the big screen was very exciting. Did you see it too?



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