

Common Name/*Scientific name*:

Torresian Crow/*Corvus orru*



Torresian Crow

Mary Hynes

Description: The Torresian Crow has a glossy black plumage with a purple-green sheen. The feathers of the head and neck have white bases, seen when the feathers are ruffled. The eye is white with a fine blue eye-ring. Immature birds are duller black with a brown eye. When landing, this species characteristically shuffles its wings. It can be seen in large flocks outside of the breeding season. It has also been called the Australian Crow, and is seen across most of Australia north of Sydney, particularly northern NSW and SE Qld coastal and hinterland areas. It is also found around farms and croplands.

Where seen in the gardens: The Torresian Crow can be found on rainforest fringes, in open forests and woodlands, taller scrublands, and on beaches. In dryer areas, along watercourses with tall timber. In the Maroochy Gardens they can be seen in most areas, except the dense riparian forest along the permanent creeks.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Torresian Crows eat fruit, insects and other invertebrates, eggs, garbage and carrion (dead animals). Often seen feeding along roads. Away from the gardens, they eat more grain and crop than other corvids (crows and ravens).

Nesting: Torresian Crows require tall trees for nesting. They usually build their bulky stick nests in the tops of tall eucalypts, generally in the shade in the lower section of the crown, but many choose to build on artificial nest-sites instead, such as power poles, pylons or windmills. Torresian Crows form monogamous breeding pairs and maintain a permanent territory. Both sexes build the nest, which is a bowl of sticks lined with grass, placed high in a tree (over 10 m) or artificial structure. The Torresian Crow's nest is made of finer material than the other corvid species. Both parents share feeding duties.

Similar Species: Australian Ravens have similar colouration, with shaggy, long, pointed hackle feathers (like a beard), but the Torresian Crow is a little smaller. The Torresian Crow's short staccato call (uk.uk.uk.uk. rather than the aaah...aaah...aaaaah of the Raven) and its habit of wing-shuffling can help to identify it from other crows and ravens. Nearly all corvids seen on the Sunshine Coast are Torresian Crows.