



## FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

20 April 2018

### Amazing Avian Anatomy - things birds have that we don't

Former veterinarian and keen bird watcher **Jessica Drake** will present a fascinating talk about the amazing world of birds at Friday Environment Forum on April 20. 'As a vet, I found the treating of wild birds to be most rewarding... they appear to be very fragile but are really amazingly resilient' she said.



*Osprey - Being able to fly is impressive, but did you know that a bird's vision outperforms the human eye in just about every way?*

Birds occupy many niches in the environment, but how have their skeletons and bodily systems adapted to enable this? For example, how are their bodies uniquely modified for flight? When we compare the anatomy of humans to that of birds we find that there are a lot of similarities, even though our body shape looks so very different to that of our avian friends. Birds and humans have a similar skeletal layout, similar organs and many equivalent anatomical features. 'It's the differences that are fascinating,' observed Jess, 'the things birds have that we don't.'

Whilst the most obvious difference is wings and the ability to fly, there are many other amazing anatomical features that birds possess which give them abilities we could only dream to have. From highly developed eyes to small but especially efficient brains and a better designed respiratory system - these are just a few things birds have that allow them to see colours we can't comprehend, to be counted amongst some of the world's most intelligent species and to achieve feats of endurance and athleticism of which no human is capable.



Join the audience at the **Noosa Parks Association's Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville** from 10.30am to delve into some of the wonders of the avian body. Coffee is available from 10 am and the forum will conclude at 12.15pm. All welcome.

To learn more about the birds of Wallace Park, join Valda and the **Interpretive Birding Group** in the car park at **8.30am**.