

# Population ecology of the Australian White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca*, in the urban environment

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## ABSTRACT:

The Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) has dramatically increased in many coastal urban environments, while it has decreased in large areas of its traditional environment range in inland Australia since the 1970s. Ibis are often viewed as pests in urban environments due to the social, economical and environmental problems they can cause. Current, management of ibis in the urban environment predominately focuses on restricting their breeding success, in order to reduce abundances. Management can be costly, labour intensive and limited in its success, due to a lack of detailed knowledge of the ecology of urban ibis. The focus of this thesis is to explore various ecological parameters of urban ibis to increase the effectiveness of their management. Three major breeding/roosting colonies of ibis were monitored weekly for a whole year (2005 to 2006). In addition, five major landfills for domestic waste were investigated for avian abundances and diversity. My main aims were to provide details on the reproductive biology, population dynamics, local and regional movements and the use of landfills by ibis. In comparison to non-urban ibis, urban ibis have a longer breeding period, smaller mean egg volumes and clutch sizes, but a larger range of clutch sizes. They also have a lower hatching success, but higher reproductive success and a higher mean number of fledglings per clutch. Each roosting/breeding and landfill site differed in their reproductive success and/or population dynamics. Ibis used multiple sites for breeding and feeding and were capable of moving over vast distances after they had fledged. The ability of ibis to obtain food from anthropogenic sources appears to be one of the key factors in the urban environment that allows them to survive and breed there. Management plans need to consider this and their decline in their traditional environments to be effective, without harming the overall survival of this native species.

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The Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) is a native Australian bird and is protected under State Wildlife Legislation (Nature Conservation Act 1992). It is a serious offence to harm an ibis. The ibis plays an important role in natural pest management as it preys on small insects and grubs. While increasing population must be managed, their long-term conservation is necessary for maintaining the variety of all plants and animals. Appearance. Ibis are fairly large and grow up to 75 centimetres in length. They have: long curved black beaks, white bodies with black feathers near the tail. Since the 1970s, populations of the Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) have dramatically increased in many Australian... Expand. Is this relevant? 2011. 2011. Crisis Water Management and Ibis Breeding at Narran Lakes in Arid Australia. Over the last 20 years, Australian white ibis populations (*Threskiornis molucca*) have expanded into urban areas, leading to... Expand. Is this relevant? 2004. 2004. Effect of Feeding Green Onions (*Allium Ascalonicum*) to White Chinese Geese (*Threskiornis Spinicollis*). University of Technology, Sydney Faculty of Science Department of Environmental Sciences Population ecology of the Australian White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca*, in... Population Ecology of Venomous Snakes The Ecology of the Novel Ecology of the lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) Political Ecology of the Latin American Diasp Ecology of the Mind and Neuroethics Anthropology of the built environment Film, Media and Depictions of the Urban Organisation of the Preschool Environment Remote Sensing of the Nearshore Environment Teaching approaches of the Urban Space. Advertisement. MostRelated. What caused t In just a few decades, the Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) has made itself at home in many of Australia's coastal and inland cities. And aside from the feathered birds we see daily (often foraging amongst garbage), representations of ibis have exploded in popular culture. The humble ibis, it seems, has gone viral. From ibis tattoos to artworks to TV series, this often maligned bird has become a cultural phenomenon, bordering on a national obsession. The humble ibis, it seems, has gone viral. (Supplied: Michelle Andersen). This ibis juggernaut says a lot about Australian ident INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*) ON THE GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. Phillip P. Shaw. ECO-SURE environmental consultants 82 Companion Way Tweed Heads New South Wales, Australia. ABSTRACT. The management program has successfully reduced the population of the Currumbin Ibis colony. The second season of operation produced the best results, which was paralleled with the lowest Ibis counts at the airport. This indicates that aircraft hazard is linked to the size of the Currumbin colony. In the third season, Ibis numbers in the breeding colony increased and the numbers of nests and eggs removed reflected this increase. Such a response was due to