

## Bird, Bird, Bird, the Bird is the Word, Everybody's Talking About the Bird

Yesterday, while humming the above ditty from god knows where, I began to look for things that fly and noticed that there are more flying things up here than other places I have been. Why? I asked myself. Darwin! I answered.

Darwinian theory says basically that the natural world evolves to suit the environment in which it exists. Now that I've had a couple of drinks, it all starts to fall in to place, in fact it's so simple it's a wonder someone hasn't worked it out before now.

In Cape York most critters fly. If they are not flying - they try to fly. The birds, which are many and varied, fly. The mosquitoes of which are fewer than expected so far, fly. There is a multitude of weird looking bugs that fly. Kangaroos half fly. Emus haven't quite got their act together, but they're working on it. The four wheel drive club at Archer River last night, well, lets just say that after about ten drinks each they were flying. The cars fly, if only from the top of one corrugation to the next. Even the members of the previously aeronautically (is that a word?) challenged bovine family are having a crack at it.

So what is it in the natural environment that makes everything want to fly. The secret is in the cars. There are very few roads and pathways up here so flying becomes the better alternative. Not only that, there are other positives such as, because the terrain does not suit your walking/running type animals the flying ones have a natural advantage. Having taken this hypothesis one step further, I now believe that this is the reason we have no lions or tigers in Cape York.

Now you're thinking, what about the cows - they walk. Well, I have just explained that they, like the emu are working on it and given time I think the cow will succeed. Though I'm not sure about the emu. They have been at it a while longer than the cows and seem to be no closer than they were a couple of years back.

Where to from here? Well as you all know, good hypotheses like Darwin's require hours of detailed research and this research doesn't come cheap.

So here's what I think you should all do. Put aside a small amount each week (say 5% of your gross) and each month you can do a direct deposit into The **Cape York Evolution Evaluation Research Expedition**. My assistant and I will continue the study and you can play an important part in shaping the course of evolution (just like god).

Sounds too good to be true I know but trust me it's all good.

(donations to The **CYEERE** may not be tax deductible)

In anticipation of your generous support we (the **CYEERE**) are enclosing some really nice flying critter type pictures as our consultants advise us the cute animals generate better response than the evil ones. If you get emails from the Crocodile Conservation Scheme please ignore them as crocodiles are evil and we have it on good authority that the CCS, as they laughingly call themselves, are a bunch of scam artists.

You should donate **ONLY** to the **CYEERE**. Let's face it-it's got more letters to start with.



Pictured here, Daisy having made the connection between the runway and flight, is getting ready for a short sprint then its legs up and fly..... Wind direction still has her a little baffled, but the emu's haven't even found the runway yet.



Rare Flying Ultra Cute Rock Wallaby (come on it's only 5%)



Brolgas Formation Flying



Bird in Jade Tree





Spot the Butterfly (no, it's name is not Spot)



Whistling Kite



Communist Dragonfly



Rainbow Bee-eater





Brolgas in a flap



Great Egret and Great Bull discuss flight techniques over lunch

(Photo credits to rabbit photos)