



Backyard BIRDIES

Turkey Tales



I'm a brush turkey, also known as a scrub turkey or bush turkey.
I like to feed on insects, seeds and fallen fruits, which I expose by
raking the leaf litter on the ground.



I'm going to build an impressive nest of plant litter and soil to attract females.

Every day, I spend many hours building
and maintaining my nest.

Now I just need to move these leaves ...





... all the way across the backyard.



I hope it's big enough now.



If the mound is at the right temperature, females will mate with me and lay eggs.

Here they come ...



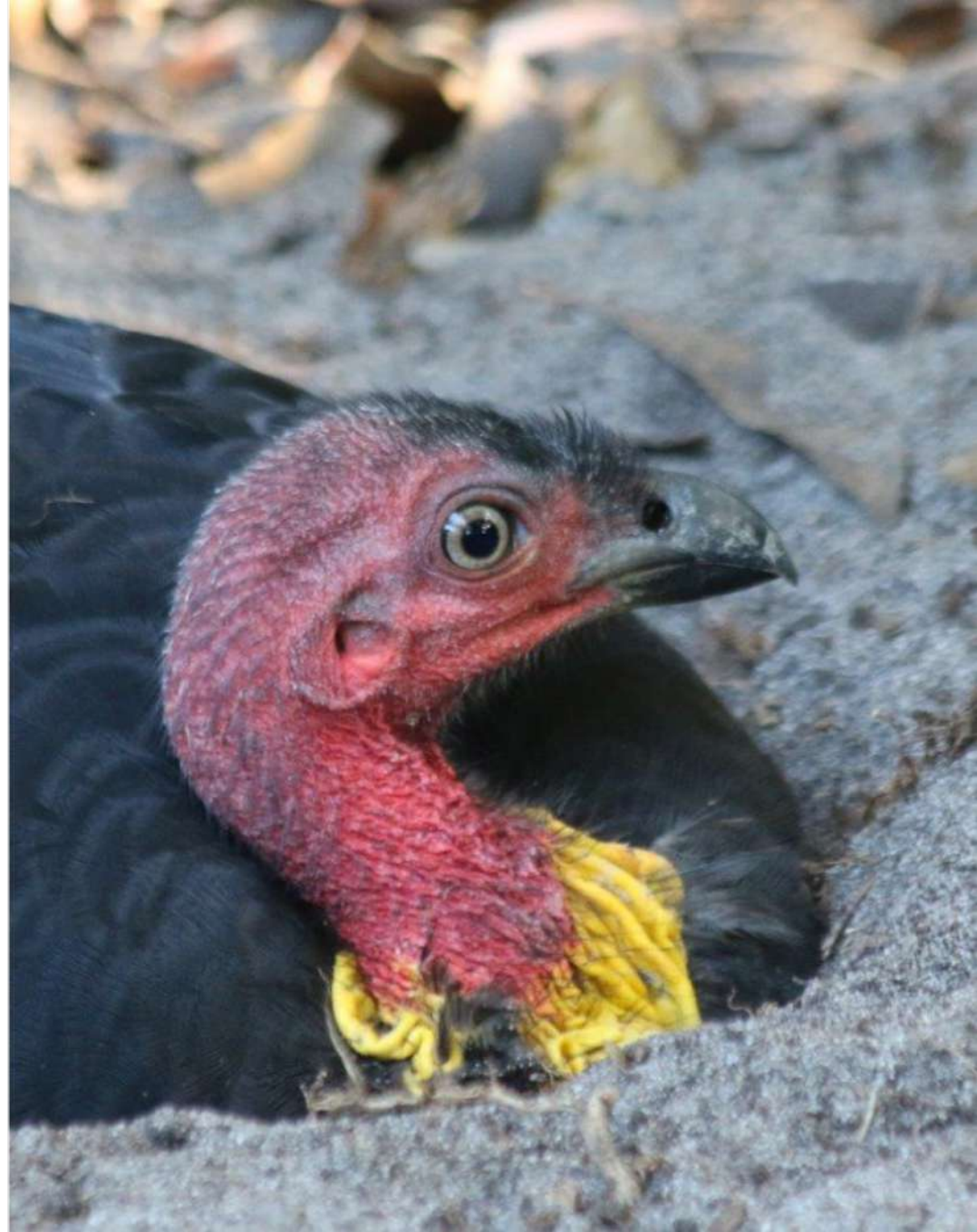


Wow, check out this nest.
How big!

After mating, the female places around 20 eggs into holes about half a metre deep in the mound and covers them.

Then off she goes!

I have to keep watch while the eggs incubate and keep any predators at bay.





To ensure the mound temperature is kept at a perfect 33 °C, I add material to build insulation or remove material to allow heat to escape.

Too hot and the eggs cook!



After approximately 50 days the chicks hatch and are immediately independent.



Due to predators and in-ground swimming pools, the chance of an egg becoming an adult is as little as one in 200.



Chicks grow fast; within a few months, they will have blue-black plumage and the characteristic upright tail.



At the end of a busy day, we like to find a lovely tree to roost in.



Brush turkeys are fully protected in Queensland. Because their natural habitat is shrinking, they build nests in our backyards.



Stay tuned for more
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BIRDIES**

CREDITS

IMAGES BY
Jenny Thynne

WORDS BY
Wenda Shurety

LAYOUT BY
Gigi Lapid

