



Tablelands Wildlife Rescue's carer Nerida van Emmerik with her most recent rescue of a New Guinea channel-billed cuckoo bird is reaching out to educate locals about helping to care for visiting animals to the area.

Picture: Andrea Falvo

Wildlife group to the rescue of visiting bird

Andrea Falvo

A WILDLIFE rescue group's most recent case of a New Guinea channel-billed cuckoo bird has carers reaching out to educate residents about caring for migrating animals.

Tablelands Wildlife Rescue operates a 24-hour phone hotline where people can report an injured or orphaned animal for a carer to retrieve.

The bird had been mistakenly reported as a baby kookaburra.

Tablelands Wildlife Rescue carer Nerida van Emmerik said, callers often were not sure what species they found.

"We don't expect them to know every animal," Ms van

Emmerik said.

"A man rang the hotline and said 'I've got what looks like a baby kookaburra here'.

"I took him to the vet to get him checked out and the vet identified him as a New Guinea channel-billed cuckoo.

"The mother of these birds lay their eggs in a host nest.

"The caller found him near a crow's nest, so the cuckoo either got too big for the nest or got kicked out.

"Luckily, the bird wasn't injured. He is about the size of a fully grown kookaburra and he's only a baby.

"He will migrate back to New Guinea in about a month and then come back again next year. They are solitary

birds. You usually see them in about a group of two or alone.

"He's doing well and has been eating of berries and grapes and is a noisy little bugger."

Ms van Emmerik said people could do a quick examination of an injured animal before calling Tablelands Wildlife Rescue's 24-hour hotline to help carers know what action to take.

"If the bird or animal is injured when they call up, let us know," Ms van Emmerik said. "You don't need to touch it to see if something is wrong.

"Just be a bit observant of how it is acting."

The Tablelands Wildlife Rescue number is 4091 7767.