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## Hunt on for bayside bird killer

Bridie Jabour  
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A "serial bird killer" who the government believes is responsible for the deaths of more than 40 birds is on the loose in Cleveland.

Magpies, black-faced cuckoo shrikes and crows have all fallen victim to the avian murderer and Environment Minister Vicky Darling has issued a harsh warning for the offender saying he or she will be caught.

"This is a heinous act of deliberate cruelty and when the person or persons responsible is caught, I hope the courts throw the book at them," she said.

"These are protected animals and environment department officers are actively investigating their deaths.

"I would urge anyone who has any information to come forward."

The killer first struck in September, when 16 birds were found dead in Cleveland.

Specimens from the birds were sent to the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation's laboratory in Brisbane as well as some mince found on top of a dumpster near the body.

A poison particularly toxic to birds and fish was found in the mince and in the birds and since the first batch of poisoning 43 birds in total have suffered the same fate.

Ms Darling warned when the person or people responsible are caught they will face a fine of up to \$10,000 or a prison term of up to a year.

"[Department of Environment and Resource Management] officers are liaising with the Redland City Council, RSPCA Queensland and Pelican and Seabird Rescue in relation to this matter, with a doorknock of the area yielding no information," she said.

"Magpies, crows and black-faced cuckoo shrikes are all protected species under the Nature Conservation Act and it is an offence to deliberately harm these native birds."

People with any information should call DERM on 1300 130 372 or the RSPCA on 1300 852 188.