

Woodland Birds of North East Victoria

An Identification and Conservation Guide

Victoria's woodlands are renowned for their rich and varied bird life. Unfortunately, one in five woodland bird species in Australia are now threatened. These species are declining due to historical clearing and fragmentation of habitat, lack of habitat regeneration, competition from aggressive species and predation by cats and foxes. See inside this brochure for ways to help conserve these woodland birds.

Victorian Conservation Status

Listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG 1988)

CR Critically Endangered **EN** Endangered

VU Vulnerable

* Member of the FFG listed 'Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community'

Size: Approximate length from bill tip to tail tip (cm)

Guide to symbols

Food Source

Nectar and pollen

Seeds

Fruits and berries

Invertebrates

Small prey

Habitat

Ground layer

Understorey

Tree trunks

Nests in hollows

Canopy

Websites:

Birdlife Australia birdlife.org.au

Birds in Backyards birds-in-backyards.net

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action deeca.vic.gov.au
(see environment.vic.gov.au web pages)

Land for Wildlife Search: Land for Wildlife Victoria

Trust for Nature (*Conservation Covenants on private land*) www.tfn.org.au

Greening Australia greeningaustralia.org.au

Landcare Victoria landcarevic.org.au

Revegetation guides and remnant protection incentives

Search: NECMA Revegetation Information

For more information:

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Wangaratta (03) 8508 0008

Wodonga (02) 6071 6201

Benalla (03) 8622 7601

deeca.vic.gov.au

Birdlife Australia

Melbourne (03) 9347 0757

birdlife.org.au

North East Catchment Management Authority

Local Call : 1300 216 513

necma.vic.gov.au

Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority

Shepparton (03) 5822 7700

gbcma.vic.gov.au

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Peaceful Dove
Geopelia striata 22 (CT)



Square-tailed Kite
Lophoictinia isura VU 52 (CT)



Red-rumped Parrot (male)
Psephotus haematonotus 27 (CT)



Red-rumped Parrot (female)
Psephotus haematonotus 27 (CT)



Barking Owl
Ninox connivens CE * 41 (CT)



Sacred Kingfisher
Todiramphus sanctus 21 (CT)



Striated Pardalote
Pardalotus striatus 10 (CT)



Spotted Pardalote
Pardalotus punctatus 10 (CT)



Bush Stone-curlew
Burhinus grallarius CR * 56 (CT)



Painted Button-quail
Turnix varius * 19 (CT)



Superb Parrot (male)
Polytelis swainsonii - **Nationally Vulnerable**
EN * 40 (DI)



Superb Parrot (female)
Polytelis swainsonii - **Nationally Vulnerable**
EN * 40 (CT)



Brown Treecreeper
Climacteris picumnus * 16 (CT)



Speckled Warbler
Pyrrholaemus sagittatus EN * 12 (DI)



Painted Honeyeater
Grantiella picta VU * 15 (CT)



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Lichenostomus melanops 18 (CT)



Spotted Quail-thrush
Cinclosoma punctatum 26 (DI)



Musk Lorikeet
Glossopsitta concinna 22 (CT)



Turquoise Parrot (male)
Neophema pulchella VU * 21 (DI)



Turquoise Parrot (female)
Neophema pulchella VU * 21 (CT)



Southern Whiteface
Apheloccephala leucopsis - **Nationally Vulnerable**
10 (DI)



Buff-rumped Thornbill
Acanthiza reguloides 11 (CT)



Fuscous Honeyeater
Ptilotula fusca * 15 (DI)



White-plumed Honeyeater
Ptilotula penicillata 16 (DI)



Little Lorikeet
Parvipsitta pusilla 17 (CT)



Purple-crowned Lorikeet
Parvipsitta porphyrocephala 18 (DI)



Swift Parrot
Lathamus discolor - **Nationally Endangered**
CE * 25 (CT)



Black-eared Cuckoo
Chrysococcyx osculans 19 (CT)



Western Gerygone
Gerygone fusca * 11 (CT)



White-throated Gerygone
Gerygone olivacea 10 (DI)



Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*
Nationally Critically Endangered
CR * 22 (CT)



New Holland Honeyeater
Phylidonyris novaehollandiae 18 (CT)



Red Wattlebird
Anthochaera carunculata 35 (CT)



Black-chinned Honeyeater
Meliphaga cinerea * 15 (DI)



Restless Flycatcher
Myiagra inquieta 20 (DI)



White-winged Triller
Lalage sueurii 18 (CT)



Grey Shrike-thrush
Colluricincla harmonica 24 (CT)



Dusky Woodswallow
Artamus cyanopterus 18 (DI)



Hooded Robin (male)
Melanodryas cucullata VU * 16 (CT)



Hooded Robin (female)
Melanodryas cucullata VU * 16 (DI)



Brown-headed Honeyeater
Meliphaga brevirostris * 13 (DI)



Noisy Friarbird
Philemon corniculatus 33 (CT)



Crested Shrike-tit (male)
Falcunculus frontatus 18 (DI)



Crested Shrike-tit (female)
Falcunculus frontatus 18 (DI)



Scarlet Robin (male)
Petroica boodang 13 (CT)



Scarlet Robin (female)
Petroica boodang 13 (DI)



Jacky Winter
Microeca fascians * 13 (CT)



Red-browed Finch
Neochmia temporalis 12 (CT)



Little Friarbird
Philemon citreogularis 27 (DI)



Varied Sittella
Daphoenositta chrysoptera 11 (CT)



Rufous Whistler (male)
Pachycephala rufiventris 17 (DI)



Rufous Whistler (female)
Pachycephala rufiventris 17 (DI)



Red-capped Robin (male)
Petroica goodenovii * 12 (CT)



Red-capped Robin (female)
Petroica goodenovii * 12 (DI)



Mistletoebird (male)
Dicaeum hirundinaceum 11 (DI)



Mistletoebird (female)
Dicaeum hirundinaceum 11 (CT)



Grey-crowned Babbler
Pomatostomus temporalis VU * 27 (DI)



White-browed Babbler
Pomatostomus superciliosus 20 (CT)



Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
Coracina novaehollandiae 33 (CT)



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Coracina papuensis 27 (DI)



Flame Robin (male)
Petroica phoenicea 14 (CT)



Flame Robin (female)
Petroica phoenicea 14 (DI)



White-winged Chough
Corcorax melanorhamphos 45 (CT)



Apostlebird
Struthidea cinerea * 31 (CT)

Declining woodland bird community

Victoria's woodlands are renowned for their rich and varied bird life. Unfortunately one in five woodland bird species in Australia are now threatened. The most rapidly declining species are those that rely on mature trees (especially hollow-bearing trees) and those that forage, nest or live on the ground. Under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988), the Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community is listed as a threatened ecological community. Twenty-two of the twenty-four species from that community are found in North East Victoria and are shown in this brochure.

Why are woodland bird numbers declining?

Historical clearing and fragmentation impacts
Since European settlement over 80% of woodlands in south-east Australia have been cleared. Remaining remnants are generally isolated and small, and often below the critical size needed to sustain healthy populations of many bird species.



Natural regeneration with a diversity of habitats provides important refuge for woodland birds (GJ)

Lack of habitat regeneration
Native tree and shrub seedlings and grassy woodland groundcover species are highly susceptible to domestic stock grazing (and in some instances kangaroo browsing pressure). Many woodland remnants in poor condition lack native plant diversity and therefore have low habitat value for woodland birds.

Competition
The Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) is a native species that often aggressively excludes other small woodland birds from remnants they occupy. Unfortunately, Noisy Miners have benefited from landscape-scale clearing and fragmentation. They typically dominate open Eucalypt woodland remnants on farms, in tree corridors and clumps of paddock trees - especially those lacking a shrubby understorey.

The Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) is an exotic pest species that also displaces native species, especially in built-up areas.



Noisy Miner
Manorina melanocephala 26 (CT)



Common Myna
Acridotheres tristis 24 (CT)

Predation
Woodland bird species that nest or forage on the ground are particularly vulnerable to predation by cats and foxes.

You can help

To help conserve Victoria's woodland birds you can:

- **Participate in survey and monitoring events** such as the twice annual Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot Survey weekends and the annual Lurg Woodland Bird Survey.
- **Submit records** of birds you have seen (especially rare or threatened species) to databases such as the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action).
- **Join a local community group** such as Field Naturalists, Environment, Friends of, or Landcare.
- **Be a responsible pet owner** and confine your pets. Wandering cats are major predators of native birds.

Tips for Land holders / Land managers of woodland patches:

- **Protect and expand existing remnants** – the bigger the better.
- **Protect the best bits first** such as diverse native habitats or streamside vegetation.
- Enter **Conservation Covenant** agreements to provide permanent protection.
- **Fence patches** to permanently exclude stock or allow infrequent pulse grazing to manage exotic grass/weed levels. Aim to achieve native tree, shrub and ground cover regeneration.
- **Control weeds:** Replace woody weeds with native shrubs to provide important small bird habitat. Reduce other high threat invasive species.
- **Restore:** Plant seedlings of key native tree, shrub and groundcover species to enhance diversity and re-create understorey structure
- **Retain important habitat features** such as fallen timber, dead trees (especially those with crevices or hollows) and rocky outcrops.
- **Control pests and predators** especially rabbits, cats and foxes (where possible).
- **Gain further knowledge & ideas:** Refer to further information and contacts on the back of this brochure.



Brush-tailed Phascogale
Phascogale tapoatafa VU (CT)



Squirrel Glider
Petaurus norfolcensis VU (GJ)

Revegetation efforts for woodland bird conservation should be targeted at increasing the size and quality of existing remnants and creating or widening wildlife corridors wherever possible. This not only benefits the bird community but many other species, such as the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale and Squirrel Glider that rely on habitat connectivity to move throughout the landscape.