

# Temperate Woodland Bird Conservation Action Plan: Factsheet - November 2021

## Purpose

*To bring together key stakeholders to address current and long-term threats contributing to woodland bird declines in south-eastern Australia.*

## What is the TWBCAP?

The Temperate Woodland Bird Conservation Action Plan (TWBCAP or the Plan) was finalised in December 2020, following extensive planning and input from specialists and conservation practitioners, including government, NGOs and universities.

## Why do we need it?

This Plan is, to the best of our knowledge, the first of its kind to collate information derived from National Recovery Plans for threatened species and from specialists and conservation practitioners to set out a program of high-priority actions at such a large geographic scale. The Plan sets out a strategic framework to address key threats to woodland birds.

## How will it achieve its aims?

It has listed priority actions for over 50 woodland-dependent bird species, identified as threatened or declining, across temperate woodland landscapes in south-eastern Australia. The ten interventions within the plan aim to minimise threats to woodland birds, prevent further species' declines and increase their population size and resilience. Some priority actions are already being undertaken by conservation practitioners at the local scale. This Plan aims to expand on current projects and identify new opportunities for organisations' to work together.

## In a nutshell...

This factsheet provides an overview of the Plan, and future factsheets will promote progress to date in implementing the TWBCAP. It also highlights the diversity of partner organisations **committed to woodland bird conservation in south-eastern Australia** and presents opportunities for other organisations to be involved in TWBCAP delivery.



*Image 1. From left to right: Bush-stone Curlew (photo by Dean Ingwersen), Swift Parrot (photo by Mick Roderick), south-eastern Brown Treecreeper (photo by Dean Ingwersen)*

## Scope

### Background

Nationally, one-third of Australia's woodlands (and 80% of our temperate woodlands) have been cleared since European settlement and the condition of habitat remnants continues to decline due to many threatening processes (e.g. invasive species, altered fire regimes and climate change). Temperate woodland communities support a high diversity of woodland bird species. A paper by Fraser et al. (2018) identified 94 species associated with intact or degraded woodland habitat in south-eastern mainland Australia; a subregion that includes most of NSW, VIC and ACT. The TWBCAP covers a larger geographic area, but focusses on 51 woodland-dependent threatened or declining species/sub-species, including ten nationally-listed species (e.g. Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater, Endangered Swift Parrot).

### Geographic extent

The TWBCAP covers a substantial portion of the eastern Australian mainland including south-east Queensland, coastal and central New South Wales, most of Victoria and eastern South Australia, with non-forested areas of eastern and northern Tasmania and several of the larger offshore islands. A map showing the geographic extent of the TWBCAP is available to view here: <https://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/woodland-birds-for-biodiversity/twb-cap>

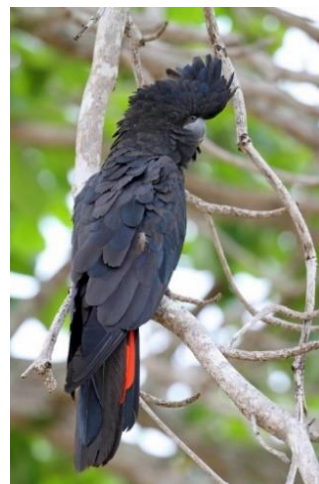
### Threats

Key threats to woodland birds include land clearing causing habitat fragmentation and degradation (historical and contemporary), as a result of agriculture, urbanisation, grazing by native and feral herbivores, and intense, more frequent wildfire – many of which are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Other threats include competitive exclusion by aggressive native birds (in particular the Noisy Miner) and egg and nest predation by over-abundant native species such as Currawongs and, in Tasmania, introduced Sugar gliders.

### Management Interventions

To address these threats, ten priority management interventions (listed below) and associated strategies and actions were identified in the TWBCAP. This process enables current projects to be linked to key actions and also identifies gaps in implementation, where funding could be sought to deliver on outcomes for target groups of woodland birds. Key ecological attributes (e.g. complex understorey) and indicators (e.g. extent of suitable habitat) are used to monitor the effectiveness of management actions at addressing threats to woodland birds.

1. Protect priority areas
2. Engage with the wider community
3. Regulate the loss of habitat
4. Manage fire
5. Manage total grazing pressure
6. Noisy Miner control
7. Manage for extreme weather events and a drying and warming climate
8. Expand nectar feeding areas
9. Restore degraded remnants and re-vegetate cleared areas
10. Undertake targeted research



*Image 2: south-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (photo by Chris Tzaros)*

## Woodland Bird Species

A total of 51 temperate woodland dependent birds (threatened or declining) were identified for active management under the TWBCAP. These taxa are categorised into ten functional groups (conservation targets) based largely on habitat requirements, each with a 'flagship' species.

1. Ground Foragers (Bush-stone Curlew)
2. Pouncing Robins (Scarlet Robin)
3. Shrubby-understorey Specialists (Speckled Warbler)
4. Bark and Foliage Gleaners (south-eastern Brown Treecreeper)
5. Nectar-sippers (Regent Honeyeater)
6. Hollow-dependent Parrots (Swift Parrot)
7. Arboreal Insectivore Specialists (Forty-spotted Pardalote)
8. Mistletoe Specialists (Painted Honeyeater)
9. Seed-eating Parrots (south-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo)
10. Nocturnal Carnivores (Barking Owl)



Image 2. From left to right: Regent Honeyeater, Barking Owl and Scarlet Robin (photos by Dean Ingwersen)

## Delivery

### Partners and Projects

The TWBCAP has regular Steering Committee meetings and runs Working Groups to build on current projects and identify new opportunities for partners to work together.



For further information, visit our website:

<https://birdlife.org.au/projects/woodland-birds-for-biodiversity/twb-cap>

standing together to stop extinctions