



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Glossy black-cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus lathami

Vulnerable

The glossy black-cockatoo is the smallest of the black cockatoos. Despite its name, the birds are a dull brown-black in colour. Males have a prominent red tail panel, females have a yellow to orange-red tail panel, and younger birds have black horizontal bands between the colours which diminish with age. Females also have yellow blotches on the head which are so extensive in some cases that the entire head is yellow.

Glossy black-cockatoos feed predominantly on the seeds of casuarinas (she-oaks). Their large and bulbous bill is well adapted for processing the cones and seeds of casuarinas (she-oaks). They are often detected by the clicking of their bills, and the carpet of casuarina cones and broken twigs lying beneath their favoured food trees.

Glossy black-cockatoos occur throughout coastal and central New South Wales, in dry forest and

woodland areas that support extensive tracts of casuarinas (she-oaks).

Glossy black-cockatoos mate for life.

The glossy black-cockatoo nests in large hollows in dead and living eucalypt trees. A typical nest hollow has an entrance diameter of at least 15 cm and is around one metre deep. The large trees that provide these large hollows may be hundreds of years old.

Female glossy black-cockatoos are more brightly coloured than males. It is rare among birds for females to be more brightly coloured than males, and this suggests there is strong competition among females for resources or for male attention.

Support local action and help save the glossy black-cockatoo



Casuarina (she-oak) cone litter left by feeding glossy black-cockatoos Photo: Simon Tedder/OEH



Female glossy black-cockatoo, centre. Photo: Charles Dove

Community volunteers are helping ecologists survey glossy black-cockatoos to understand how many remain in the wild, and the habitat features that are important to their survival.

Landholders are retaining both living and dead large hollow-bearing eucalypt trees that provide potential nest sites. They are improving the condition of existing habitat on their land by ensuring that eucalypts and casuarinas have an opportunity to regenerate. Planting of eucalypts and casuarinas is also being undertaken to expand the area of available habitat.

In areas where natural eucalypt tree hollows are scarce (e.g. forests or woodlands with few older trees) nest boxes are being installed to serve as artificial hollows for glossy black-cockatoos. By protecting medium-sized eucalypt trees, landholders can create a future supply of nest hollows.

Glossy black-cockatoos need access to water to drink each day. They prefer to drink at sites where vegetation grows close to the water's edge with a resting place and cover from predators. You can help glossy black-cockatoos by making sure surface water is available all year round close to foraging and nesting habitat, and by planting trees around farm dams.

Glossy black-cockatoos prefer to move through the canopy and not over open country. Landholders are ensuring birds have safe access to the resources they need by establishing corridors of planted vegetation between remnant vegetation, and linking isolated resources such as farm dams and paddock trees to forest and woodland patches.

There are many NSW National Parks and Reserves, and NSW Forest Reserves, that protect the glossy black-cockatoo habitat. Some landholders have also taken the opportunity to permanently protect their habitat through conservation agreements.

The NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust encourages and supports landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on private land. You can find out more here: www.bct.nsw.gov.au

If you want to find out more about volunteering and projects related to glossy black-cockatoos and other threatened species, you can find out more here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species>

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

Saving our Species can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

To find out more about threatened species in NSW and the Saving our Species program: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS