

# 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

**CR** Critically Endangered      **EN** Endangered  
**VU** Vulnerable                      **NT** Near Threatened  
**L** Listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* (FFG, 1988)  
 \* 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** [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)  
**Birds in Backyards** [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)  
**Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)  
*(See the Conserving Threatened Species & Communities' web pages)*

**Land for Wildlife** Search: Land for Wildlife Victoria  
**Trust for Nature** *(Conservation Covenants on private land)* [www.tfn.org.au](http://www.tfn.org.au)  
**Greening Australia** [www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)  
**Landcare Victoria** [www.landcarevic.org.au](http://www.landcarevic.org.au)

**Revegetation guides and remnant protection incentives**  
 Search: NECMA Revegetation Information

**For more information:**  
**Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning**  
 Wangaratta (03) 5723 8600  
 Wodonga (02) 6043 7900  
 Benalla (03) 5761 1611  
[www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

**Birdlife Australia**  
 Melbourne (03) 9347 0757  
[www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

**North East Catchment Management Authority**  
 Local Call : 1300 216 513  
[www.necma.vic.gov.au](http://www.necma.vic.gov.au)

**Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority**  
 Shepparton (03) 5820 1100  
[www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

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 Cover photograph: **Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata* VU \* 12 (CT)   
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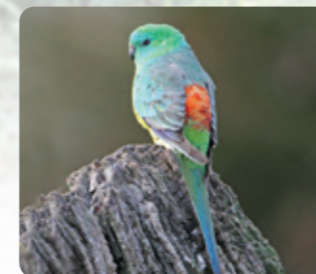
Woodland Birds of North East Victoria



**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)



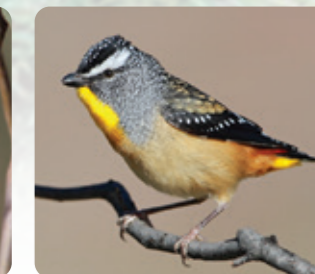
**Barking Owl**  
*Ninox connivens* EN L \* 41 (CT)



**Sacred Kingfisher**  
*Todirhamphus sanctus* 21 (CT)



**Striated Pardalote**  
*Pardalotus striatus* 10 (CT)



**Spotted Pardalote**  
*Pardalotus punctatus* 10 (CT)



**Bush Stone-curlew**  
*Burhinus grallarius* EN L \* 56 (CT)



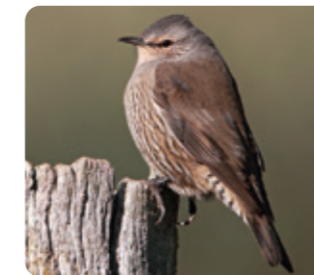
**Painted Button-quail**  
*Turnix varia* \* 19 (CT)



**Superb Parrot (male)**  
*Polytelis swainsonii* – **Nationally Vulnerable**  
 EN L \* 40 (DI)



**Superb Parrot (female)**  
*Polytelis swainsonii* – **Nationally Vulnerable**  
 EN L \* 40 (CT)



**Brown Treecreeper**  
*Climacteris picumnus* 16 (CT)



**Speckled Warbler**  
*Pyrrholaemus sagittatus* VU L \* 12 (DI)



**Painted Honeyeater**  
*Grantiella picta* VU L \* 15 (CT)



**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**  
*Lichenostomus melanops* 18 (CT)



**Spotted Quail-thrush**  
*Cinclosoma punctatum* NT 26 (DI)



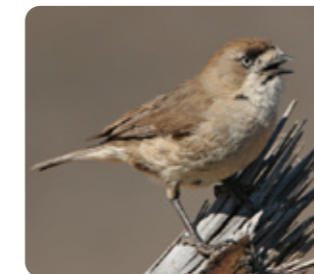
**Musk Lorikeet**  
*Glossopsitta concinna* 22 (CT)



**Turquoise Parrot (male)**  
*Neophema pulchella* NT L \* 21 (DI)



**Turquoise Parrot (female)**  
*Neophema pulchella* NT L \* 21 (CT)



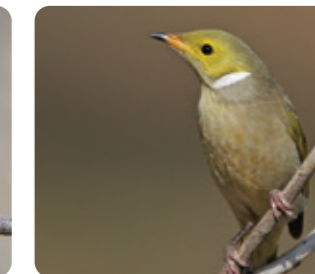
**Southern Whiteface**  
*Aphelocephala leucopsis* 10 (DI)



**Buff-rumped Thornbill**  
*Acanthiza reguloides* 11 (CT)



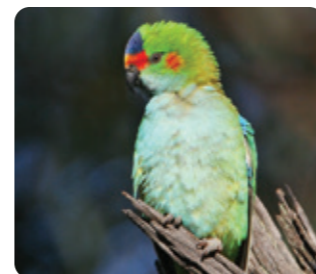
**Fuscous Honeyeater**  
*Lichenostomus fuscus* \* 15 (DI)



**White-plumed Honeyeater**  
*Lichenostomus penicillatus* 16 (DI)



**Little Lorikeet**  
*Glossopsitta pusilla* 17 (CT)



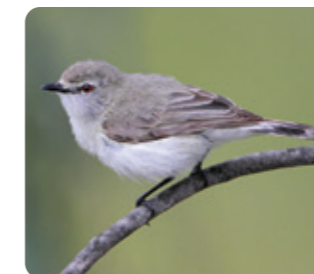
**Purple-crowned Lorikeet**  
*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala* 18 (DI)



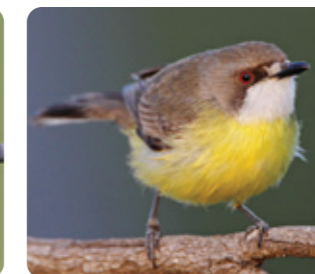
**Swift Parrot**  
*Lathamus discolor* – **Nationally Endangered**  
 EN L \* 25 (CT)



**Black-eared Cuckoo**  
*Chalcites osculans* NT 19 (CT)



**Western Gerygone**  
*Gerygone fusca* \* 11 (CT)



**White-throated Gerygone**  
*Gerygone albogularis* 10 (DI)



**Regent Honeyeater**  
*Anthochaera phrygia* – **Nationally Endangered**  
 CR L \* 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* NT \* 16 (CT)



**Hooded Robin (female)**  
*Melanodryas cucullata* NT \* 16 (DI)



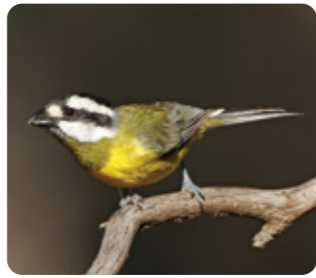
**Brown-headed Honeyeater**  
*Meliphaga cinerea* 13 (DI)



**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* EN L \* 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 Indian (or 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)



**Indian 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 Sustainability and Environment) or the Atlas of Australian Birds (Birds Australia).
- **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* EN (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.