

Our Woodland Birds are Disappearing But We Can Help

Square Tailed Kite (V)



Masked Owl (V)



Powerful Owl (V)



Superb Parrot (V)



Turquoise Parrot (V)



Glossy Black Cockatoo (V)



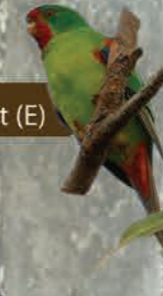
Gang Gang Cockatoo



Southern Boobook



Swift Parrot (E)



Painted Honeyeater (V)



Black Chinned Honeyeater (V)



White Browed Treecreeper (E)



Australian King Parrot



Barking Owl (V)



Regent Honeyeater (E)



Canopy Dwellers

Hollow-Nesters

Shrub Dwellers

Ground Dwellers

Brown Treecreeper (V)



Gilberts Whistler (V)



Diamond Fire Tail (V)



Bush Stone Curlew (E)



Peaceful Dove



Pink Cockatoo (V)



Grey Crowned Babbler (V)



Hooded Robin (V)



Eastern Yellow Robin



Fairy Wren



Speckled Warbler (V)



(E) = Endangered
(V) = Vulnerable

Likely to become extinct unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival cease to operate
Likely to become endangered unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival cease to operate

Conservation of Woodland Birds

Hollow Nesters

Woodland owls, parrots, treecreepers and bats roost and nest in hollows of all shapes and sizes. The hollows can be in living or dead trees, tree stumps and even in fallen timber.

Hollows can take a hundred or more years to form, so for each hollow lost it may take several human generations to get another one back into the landscape.

Leave dead trees with hollows to stand, they might stay there for another hundred years. Resist 'tidying up' and burning dead fallen timber and stumps, as many birds, small mammals, reptiles and invertebrates live in and under timber on the ground.

Protect living, hollow-bearing trees, including paddock trees, from threats such as stock ring-barking, frequent fire and compaction and nutrient overload caused when stock camp under the canopy.

Allow natural regeneration to occur around living trees to ensure future generations of hollow-dependant birds have a home and we humans benefit from the amenity. This usually requires protecting the regrowth from stock for a few years.

Hazard reduction burning, if done too frequently, can significantly reduce the viability of understorey shrubs and grasses. It also destroys fallen timber and leaf litter. Mature trees may also be killed if burns are too hot. For healthy woodlands, hazard reduction burns should not be carried out on the same site every year. If hazard reduction is a priority, then it is better to use a cycle of patch burns over a number of years.

Information contact

Grassy Box Woodland Conservation Management Network
Network coordinator Ph 02 62989709
www.gbwcmmn.net.au

Ground Dwellers and Shrub Dwellers

Many of the woodland birds that feed and nest on or near the ground need structure and diversity in the ground and understorey layers. Even birds that usually forage and nest in the tree canopy come down to the shrub and grass layer to feed on invertebrates (like insects), seeds and fruits.

To encourage native grasses, shrubs and trees to seed and regenerate, stock should be removed from selected sites at strategic times of the year (usually mid spring and summer when the native plants are setting seed).

Weeds also threaten the quality of woodland understorey. Ongoing weed control will allow native grasses and shrubs to regenerate in woodland patches. At certain times of the year (not mid-spring to summer), grazing can be a useful way of reducing the biomass of exotic grass and weed species, allowing native grasses, forbs & herbs a chance to increase in abundance.

Another important component for ground-dwelling birds is the litter including fallen timber and leaves. This natural debris provides shelter and foraging sites, particularly for robins.

Ground-dwelling fauna including the Bush Stone-curlew, reptiles, frogs and small mammals are particularly vulnerable to fox predation. While baiting for foxes during lambing season is common, it only provides a temporary reprieve for ground-dwelling fauna. To reduce foxes all year baiting needs to be undertaken at least four, but ideally, six times a year. This requires a lot of time and money for baits and labour. To maximise the effectiveness of baiting, it needs to be co-ordinated across as many neighbouring landholders as possible, otherwise foxes move back in from unbaited areas. Contact your CMA for assistance.

Brochure design

by James Grounds Design
e: grounds@mac.com // p: 0407 629 747



Nectar Lerp and Canopy Dwellers

Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots, Lorikeets and Woodswallows feed on large trees that have abundant nectar and lerp supplies. Nectar is produced when trees are in flower and 'lerps' are the waxy scale like caps produced by sap sucking insects called psyllids. Younger regrowth trees are also important as they provide roosting habitat and a high abundance of lerps that feed on immature leaves. Birds of prey also need tall trees with dense foliage for nesting and roosting.

Woodlands with abundant mistletoe support high numbers of bird species including the threatened Painted Honeyeater. Many nest in and feed on the mistletoe. Do not remove all mistletoes. Trees generally tolerate a moderate level of infestation. Often the cause of dieback in eucalypts is not mistletoes but rather a combination of factors such as salinity, Phytophthora (root fungus) dieback and over-clearing of woodland patches.

Retaining woodland and forest patches with a mixture of large trees, smaller regrowth trees and regenerating saplings will help our woodland birds. Fencing these patches to keep stock out at strategic times is recommended.

Increasing the size of woodland areas by fencing cleared areas close to existing woodland areas to allow natural regeneration is preferable and cheaper than replanting trees and shrubs. Reconnecting patches of woodland will allow fauna to move between them. This can be achieved through fencing and encouraging natural regeneration or replanting of local indigenous flora species.

Images provided by

T. Axelsen, R. Bennett, S. Cohen, P. Christie, H. Fallow,
S. Ruming, C. Tzaros, T. Tarrant, T. Wilson and T. Crittenden

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Text by D. Oliver and L. Oliver Department of Environment
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