

THREATENED SPECIES - BIRDS

Loss of habitat for breeding and foraging are the main factors affecting our threatened birds. As well as resident birds, Tasmania has a rich variety of migratory birds which swell bird numbers over the spring and summer months.

Thirty seven bird species are listed as threatened. Threatened species include the Swift Parrot, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Forty-spotted Pardalote and the Grey Goshawk. There are 4 extinct species and 22 threatened sea birds and Macquarie Island species including Albatross, Petrel and Tern species.

TABLE 1: THREATENED BIRDS OF TASMANIA

MAINLAND TASMANIAN SPECIES INCLUDE			
		State status (TSPA listing)	Commonwealth status (EPBCA listing)
<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Goshawk	E	
<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle	E	EN
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern		EN
<i>Ceyx azureus diemenensis</i>	Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher	E	EN
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	V	
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E	EN
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	E	CR
<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>	Forty-spotted Pardalote	E	EN
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	V	
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae castanops</i>	Masked Owl	E	VU

TSPA: E=Endangered, V=Vulnerable. EPBCA: EN=Endangered, CR=Critically Endangered, VU=Vulnerable. See Threatened Species Management Fact sheet for further explanation.

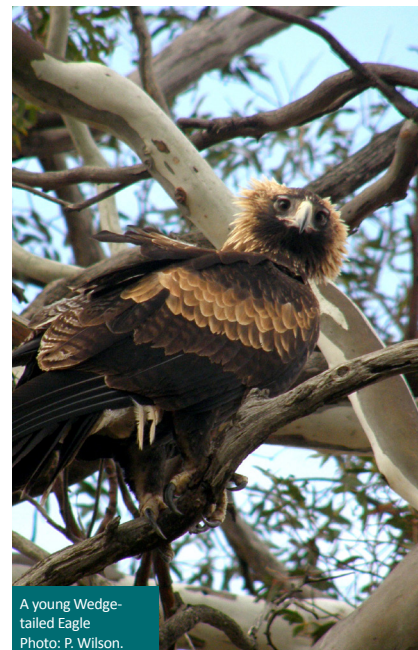
GREY GOSHAWK, WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE AND WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE

These three birds of prey are all threatened in Tasmania.

Tasmania has the pure white form of the Grey Goshawk which is under threat from loss of breeding habitat caused by disturbance and land clearing. This beautiful bird breeds in wet forest, particularly blackwood areas and preys on mammals such as rats, small possums, rabbits and medium sized birds such as thrushes and currawongs.

Free range domestic fowl should have access to shelter in the form of low bushes or structures to retreat under if goshawks are around.

White-bellied Sea-eagles and Wedge-tailed Eagles feed on rabbits, hares, Brushtail Possums and wallabies in sheep grazing areas, but will also eat carrion. It is possible a sick or dead lamb or goat kid may be taken during breeding season and farmers can reduce any risks by lambing close to habitation. Wedge-tailed Eagles are shy breeders, requiring over 10ha of intact bush around the nest and no disturbance during the nesting period.



A young Wedge-tailed Eagle
Photo: P. Wilson.

SWIFT PARROT

Swift Parrots are breeding endemics. They migrate back from mainland Australia in spring to breed.

Following breeding they will feed across their range before flying back to the mainland in autumn. While we can protect their breeding habitat here in Tasmania, loss of feeding habitat in mainland Australia is also impacting on their populations.

They arrive from the mainland to Tasmania during August and nests in hollows in old eucalypts, mainly on the east coast. It has been impacted by loss of breeding habitat, as it relies on very old and dead standing trees in blue gum forests to provide the hollows for breeding. These trees are typically over a hundred years old before they provide the hollows required for breeding. In more recent years some birds have also been found to be breeding in some on the north west coast where large old blue gums can be found. They mainly feed on the nectar of flowering blue gum.



Swift Parrot
Photo: C. Tzaros

MASKED OWL

Like the endangered parrots, this species also relies on hollows for breeding, however as it requires very large hollows, loss of habitat containing very old trees is impacting on this large owl species.

It mainly feeds on rodents, rabbits and small marsupials such as bandicoots and small possums. Another threat is the impact of some rat poisons on the species. Birds picking up sick or dead rodents that have been eating single dose rat poison can themselves be killed. People living adjacent to forest and woodlands should try to use trapping for rodent control and restrict the use of poisons.



Masked Owl
Photo: S. Bryant

FURTHER INFORMATION

NRM SOUTH FACT SHEETS

Supplementary information can be found on other threatened species factsheets in this series on mammals and birds: www.nrmsouth.org.au

THREATENED SPECIES LINK

The Threatened Species Link is a new easy-to-use website providing management and conservation advice on Tasmania's threatened species. You can find out which species might be on your land, and how to plan around their management and conservation needs: www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au

For more information please refer to NRM South's Healthy Farming & Environment Reference Guide: <http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/>

