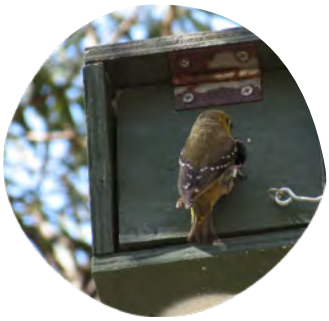
NO NEW NESTBOXES

Nest boxes can provide extra shelters and nesting spaces for threatened species. But a lot of the nest boxes we have built for forty-spotted pardalotes are being used by other animals. **We need to build boxes that only allow forty-spotted pardalotes to enter** if they are going to be helpful.



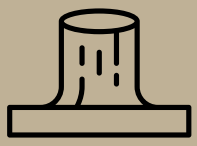
Please don't put up new forty-spotted pardalote nest boxes at this time.

FIND OUT WHY

A BIRD IN TROUBLE

The forty-spotted pardalote is an endangered songbird that is only found Tasmania. It used to be widespread across the island's forests where its preferred food tree, the white gum, occurs. This tiny bird now survives in small, fragmented populations.

THREATS



HABITAT LOSS

Old-growth forests are being cleared and degraded, reducing tree hollow numbers.

NEST COMPETITION

Hollows are often taken by more common species like striated pardalotes and tree martins.

PARASITIC FLY

Native parasitic flies threaten nestlings and reduce their survival rate.

What are we doing?

TESTING DIFFERENT NEST BOXES

We are trying different methods to decrease competition for nest boxes as part of the Biodiverse Bruny Island Project. This project is supported by NRM South and funded by the Australian Government.

HOW?

We will change the entrance holes on existing nest boxes to make them smaller, so bigger birds like striated pardalotes and tree martins can't get in.

We'll try different hole sizes to find out which one works best — keeping out the bigger birds but still letting forty-spotted pardalotes use the boxes.

WHY NO NEW NESTBOXES?

It's important to wait until we know how well the smaller entrance holes work before putting up new nest boxes. This research will help us make sure that future nest boxes are designed in the best way to support this endangered bird.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The results of this project will help us decide how to manage nest boxes on Bruny Island and in other places too. If the changes work well, they could help forty-spotted pardalotes breed more successfully. The findings could also help us design better artificial homes for other rare birds that need tree hollows to nest.

Stay tuned for updates on the findings from this trial and how you can contribute to the recovery of the forty-spotted pardalote.

Photos by Henry Cook, Fernanda Alves de Almorim, Thomas Hunt & James Walsh

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Australian National University

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