

A message from
the Difficult Bird
Research Group.



Help us help the
**FORTY-SPOTTED
PARDALOTE**

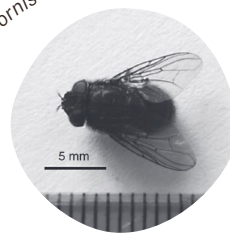
A BIRD IN TROUBLE

The forty-spotted pardalote is an endangered songbird that is only found in Tasmania. It used to be widespread across the island's forests where its preferred food tree, the white gum, occurs. The pressures of habitat loss, nest competition and parasitic flies, mean that this tiny bird now survives in small, fragmented populations.

A HIDDEN THREAT

The forty-spotted pardalote is losing most of its chicks to a tiny parasitic fly, *Passeromyia longicornis*. This fly lays eggs in the birds' nests, and the larvae feed on the chicks, causing very high death rates.

passeromyia longicornis



What are we doing?

TREATING FEATHER DISPENSERS WITH INSECTICIDE

To help, we developed a simple but powerful tool: feather dispensers filled with insecticide-treated feathers. The birds collect these feathers for their nests, and the treatment protects their young. We are now rolling out feather dispensers across North Bruny Island.



In some areas, almost 9 out of 10 nests are affected, killing up to 81% of chicks.

Survival jumps from 8% to 95% in treated nests

What next?



UNDERSTANDING THE PARASITE

To understand the parasite, we need to catch it. We are now running the first-ever tests to trap adult flies. This will help us learn how the parasite lives and how to control it in the long term.

Our goal is clear: **save chicks now while building the knowledge we need for lasting solutions.**

We are testing different smells to attract flies to our traps.



How you can help

INSTALLING FEATHER DISPENSERS IN THE RIGHT PLACES

Research into this host-parasite relationship is still ongoing. So far, the most severe impacts have been recorded on north Bruny Island and Tinderbox. At these sites, using feather dispensers can help protect the birds and improve their chances of survival.

Please only install feather dispensers in areas where parasitic flies are known to occur. Using them elsewhere may do more harm than good and could interfere with important research.

Read the official feather dispenser guidelines before taking action:

bit.ly/featherguidelines



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Photos by Tom Hunt, Fernanda Alves de Amorim, James Walsh & Dean Hohn.