

# ECO FACTS

## Species of concern in Lake Macquarie

### Birds



#### **Brush Bronzewing – *Phaps elegans*** Regionally Significant

Occurs at low elevations on the coast and in the west of the City, particularly in areas with a dense shrub layer including dense coastal scrub, heath, edges of littoral rainforest, Swamp Mahogany and drier scrub in coastal areas behind sand dunes. Feeds exclusively on the ground on seeds of various plants.

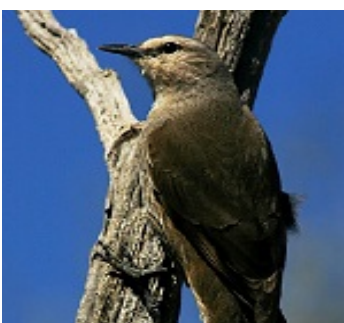
Photo: Darryl Luck



#### **Red-Browed Treecreeper – *Climateris erythroptus*** Regionally Significant

Occurs in the Watagan Range along the western boundary of the City in Ironbark and Stringybark dominated open forest mainly in steep country where tall Eucalypt forest merges into deep moist gullies with Blue Gums. Forages on the trunks, branches and loose bark (of smooth barked trees). Needs forests with groundcover, understorey and canopy. Nests on the bottom of hollows in the branches or trunks of trees.

Photo: Allan Richardson



#### **Brown Treecreeper – *Climacteris picumnus victoriae*** TSC Act – Vulnerable

Occurs in the north-west of the City in Ironbark and Stringybark dominated open forest with an open grassy understorey and fallen timber. Forages for insects and larvae on trunks and branches of trees and on the ground amongst fallen timber. Hollows in standing dead or live trees and tree stumps are essential for nesting.

Photo: Allan Richardson



#### **Masked Owl – *Tyto novaehollandiae*** TSC Act – Vulnerable

Occurs across the City (except in highly urbanised areas) in open forest and woodland with a sparse understorey or groundcover, or along the ecotone between closed and open forest or woodland. Requires very large tree hollows for nesting and shelter. Nocturnal hunters that feed on a range of small terrestrial mammals.

Photo: Michael Todd



### **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren – *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*** (Regionally Significant)

Occurs at lower elevations in the western parts of the City in dry sclerophyll forest with heathy understorey, heath with *Xanthorrhoea*, *Banksia* and *Hakea* dominated shrubby thickets. Does not occur in urban areas.

*Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography*



### **Regent Honeyeater – *Xanthomyza (Anthochaera) phrygia*** EPBC Act – Endangered, Migratory, TSC Act – Critically Endangered

Occurs in lowland areas in central to south-west and south-east areas of the City in Spotted Gum and Ironbark dominated open forest and in Swamp Mahogany forest. Non-breeding birds are found in coastal Swamp Mahogany and Spotted Gum stands around the Wyee, Morriset and lakeside parts of the Wallarah Peninsula. Forages in flowers or foliage, mainly on nectar and other plant sugars, insects and spiders, as well as native and cultivated fruits. Sometimes come down to the ground to bathe in puddles or pools, and may hawk for insects on the wing. Does not occur in heavily populated areas.

*Photo: Dean Ingwersen*



### **Swift Parrot – *Lathamus discolor*** EPBC Act – Endangered and Marine, TSC Act – Critically Endangered

Occurs in scattered locations on low elevations on the south-western and mid-western shores and hinterland and western shore of the Wallarah Peninsula in Spotted Gum and Ironbark dominated open forest and Swamp Mahogany forest. Requires tree hollows for nesting.

*Photo: Chris Tzaros*



### **Southern Emu-wren – *Stipiturus malachurus*** Regionally Significant

Occurs in lowland areas across the City in a range of habitats including, dry sclerophyll forest with *Banksia* or Heathy understorey, shrubby thickets and will use dense vegetation around wetlands as well. Forages on insects and spiders gleaned from within thick foliage. Rarely appears on the ground or above the shrub canopy. Nests in an oval shaped nest made of grasses, low to the ground in dense shrubby areas.

*Photo: Allan Richardson*



### **White-fronted Chat – *Epthianura albifrons*** TSC Act – Vulnerable

Occurs in estuarine and wetland areas of the City, close to the Lake, in saltmarsh and other damp areas with low vegetation. Forages for insects on bare or grassy ground in wetland areas and breeds in low vegetation including saltmarsh and low mangroves. This is a habitat specialist.

*Photo: Arthur White*