

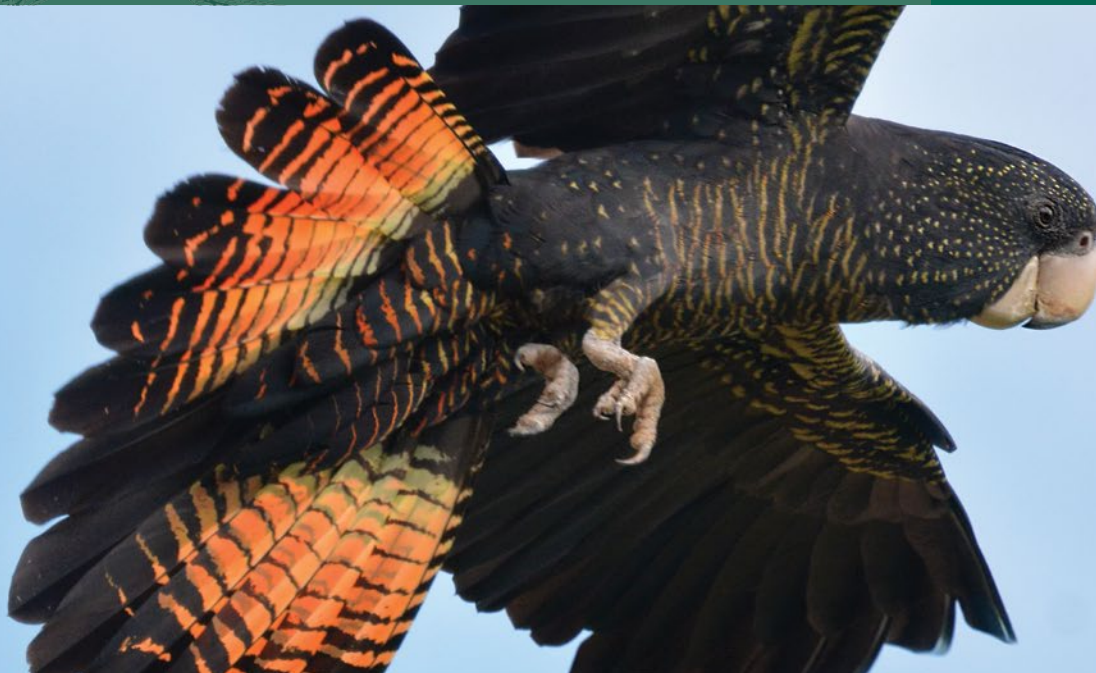
Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (South-eastern) (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*)

EPBC Status - Endangered



Threatened
Species
Recovery
Hub

National Environmental Science Programme



Red-tailed black cockatoo.
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When conservation organisations are charged with planning recovery activities for threatened species, that require public participation, all too often they are attempting to popularise a species that lacks charisma and public appeal. Fortunately for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (SERTBC), this is not the case! A large and strikingly beautiful bird, the SERTBC is the subject of one of the longest running threatened species focused citizen science programs in Australia. The Red-tailed Black-cockatoo comprises five sub-species, two of which are nationally threatened. The Forest Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) is found in the South West of Australia. The SERTBC (*Calyptorhynchus banksia graptogyne*) is, unsurprisingly, found in the South East, from south-western Victoria into south-eastern South Australia.

The SERTBC population has dwindled to only 600-700 breeding pairs, which for a long-lived species puts it at high risk of extinction. As with many of Australia's threatened species, their decline is the result of habitat loss, particularly large hollow-bearing trees that the species requires for breeding. Additionally, this sub-species is a fussy eater! They eat the seeds of three species of trees; two *Eucalyptus* and one *Allocasuarina*. All three of these food trees have tiny seeds, making a reduction in food availability especially problematic for these fussy cockatoos.

As far back as 1998, annual one-day counts for the SERTBC were coordinated by a volunteer recovery team for the species. These annual counts are now a big event on the birding calendar, with 172 volunteers participating in the count in 2017, recording 810 birds at 154 sites.

These citizen science events that draw on a snap shot in time approach are useful to give a better understanding of how and where the species is using the landscape across its range. In addition to the annual count, the general public can contribute data about the SERTBC all year round, via an online reporting tool. All of the data provided by volunteers aids in BirdLife Australia and the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team making informed decisions about where conservation efforts for the species are best directed and ensuring the SERTBC can continue to be the charismatic and iconic part of the Australian landscape, in all four corners of the continent.

Further information

www.redtail.com.au

www.birdlife.org.au/projects/red-tailed-black-cockatoo-recovery