



A Field Guide to the
**Fauna of Northern Gulf and
Cape York Nature Refuges**
Book 3 **Birds**

Credits

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Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG)

NGRMG is a not-for-profit community-based organisation comprising skilled and energetic local people working together for healthier regional environments, society, culture and economy.

Based in Georgetown and Mareeba, we are a voice for the Northern Gulf region, a conduit between community and government. We build regional resilience through building partnerships and attracting investment, and supporting our key regional natural resource stakeholders (e.g. pastoralists, fishers, local government, local schools, land-care and Indigenous groups). We connect the community with science to secure sustainable and viable environmental outcomes.

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Project summary

The development and production of this wildlife guide were funded through an Australian Government Biodiversity Fund project entitled: *'Building resilient landscapes: maintaining and enhancing biodiversity values in Northern Gulf and Cape York Nature Refuges'*. The content aims to provide user friendly information to assist landholders in the identification of wildlife found on Northern Gulf and Cape York Nature Refuges. Using a spatial model (with a 5 km buffer), we developed lists of species which are likely to occur within the cadastral boundary of each participating Nature Refuge. This book is a compilation of the individual Nature Refuge guides. Profiles for each of the animal species included encompass user friendly information on: simple diagnostic characteristics; a clear colour image or illustration; basic ecological information; and known threatening processes to each animal. Brief summaries of these threats, and actions which may mitigate threatening processes are provided at the beginning of the decks.

There have been few comprehensive surveys on Nature Refuges in the Northern Gulf and Cape York regions, and we acknowledge there is likely to be some error in the species predicted from the dataset. Where possible, we have cross-checked any existing field survey data with the predicted species list for each property. NGRMG welcome feedback on the content provided here, and additional records that were not included in this first edition.

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Threats

Cape York and Northern Gulf regions support a rich and diverse array of vertebrate fauna, which reflect the varied land types and flora communities. Identified threatening processes to these animals are also varied, and threats may individually impact populations of native animals, or interact synergistically with other threats to cause declines. We provide here a brief overview of the most widespread, current and imminent threatening processes to wildlife in the two natural resource management regions.



Inappropriate fire regimes

Changes to fire regimes as a result of land management practices may negatively impact a range of native species. High intensity wildfires, often occurring late in the dry season, at times reaching the crowns of trees, have devastated large areas of the Northern Gulf and Cape York regions. High intensity wildfire may impact native animals in the following ways:

- Cause death during the wildfire, particularly those which cannot escape expansive fires and have small home ranges (E.g. small lizards, snakes and mammals);
- Increase the risk of predation by predators such as feral cats due to a reduction in the vegetation cover animals would normally use to seek protection;
- Reduce available food resources, such as seeds and grasses or flowering and fruiting plants. These may be noticed immediately, or in the season/s following fire;
- Loss of dens/nests/hollows through the mortality of trees and shrubs. This may result in an increased risk of predation, and impede reproduction and protection from weather; and
- Loss of critical habitat around wetlands for wetland dependent bird species, particularly species that rely on grasses and vegetation on wetland fringes for breeding.

Recommended burning practices for conserving biodiversity:

- Low intensity mosaic burning in small fire patches across the landscape, preferably conducted in the early dry season. This fire regime aims to prevent the build-up of high fuel loads that may contribute to high intensity wildfires later in the dry season. The habitat variety created by patch burning increases the diversity of habitat types in the landscape and thus will support a high diversity of vertebrate fauna (including rare and range-restricted species). Further, low intensity mosaic fire regimes also provide unburnt refuge areas which increases survival rate of fauna during the fire;
- Maintain some long-unburnt areas (protected by fire-breaks). Some fauna rely on long-unburnt habitat for food and den resources;
- Low intensity, early season, storm-burns (most effective when lit 2-3 days after the first heavy storm for the season) may be used to reverse the thickening of grasslands and grassy woodlands which provide important habitat for some species. Storm-burns are best lit when there has been sufficient rain, otherwise the fire may spread uncontrollably, causing loss of ground cover and erosion.

If you are uncertain of the most appropriate fire regime for the specific vegetation communities your property, seek advice from professional fire management practitioners.

Weeds and woodland thickening

Invasive plants modify wildlife habitats, and may have a negative impact on a number of animal species in Northern Queensland. Weeds outcompete native plant species, which may result in a reduction in native habitat complexity. This reduction in the suitability of habitats impacts wildlife by reducing food resources and increasing the likelihood of other threats impacting animals. For example, the introduction of weeds such as gamba grass increases the intensity of wildfires. Habitats that are abundant with weed species are also often more suitable for a number of invasive pest animals, which is likely to lead to cumulative impacts from a number of threats. Very little is known about the direct impact of weeds on fauna communities in the region, and further research is required.

The most appropriate way to prioritise weed control actions is to consider the weed's current and potential extent and impact on the Nature Refuge. All landholders have a responsibility for managing weeds on their property, particularly Class 1 weeds. Management activities should be inclusive of:

- Weed seed hygiene to prevent new weeds from entering high-value or sensitive conservation areas;
- Prevention of weed spread;
- Keeping transport corridors clear of weeds to reduce spread;
- Focusing control efforts on small outlier infestations and scattered plants, and working back from the edges of larger infestations;
- Mapping the extent and abundance of weeds for longer-term monitoring; and
- Using the most appropriate control actions for the right weed, in the correct location, using safe methods.

These control actions will typically involve a combination of the following, where appropriate: biocontrol where available; fire; mechanical and/or herbicide; coordinated weed control amongst neighbours; and assessment of the success of control actions and updated weed distribution information.

Woodland thickening is the increase in the density of native shrubs, saplings and trees and has occurred within eucalypt forest, woodlands and grasslands across northern Australia. In some areas tall eucalypt forests have been significantly altered through thickening of rainforest species. Woodland thickening impacts on native fauna by inhibiting pasture growth and therefore reducing food resources, particularly for species reliant on seed resources. For example, the blue-faced parrot finch that utilises grasslands on the edge of rainforest may be impacted by the progression of rainforest into grasslands.

There is evidence that in dry tropical woodlands, woodland thickening is influenced by a combination of factors, including: intensification of grazing; reduced fire frequency and/or intensity; and increases in atmospheric CO₂. However, the mechanisms driving woodland thickening are complex and appear to differ between land types and among the woody species involved.

Management of woodland thickening can be achieved in a number of ways. The following are some of the methods recommended to reduce woodland thickening:

- Low intensity, early season, storm-burns (most effective when lit 2-3 days after the first heavy storm for the season) may be used to reverse established woodland thickening of grasslands and grassy woodlands. Storm-burns are best lit when there has been sufficient rain, otherwise the fire may spread uncontrollably, causing loss of ground cover and erosion;
- Regular fires may be used to reduce the establishment of new woody seedlings. As germination events for savanna eucalypts is erratic and typically linked to high rainfall years, burning following good wet seasons is important for reducing the number of newly recruited woody seedlings;
- Post-fire spelling of paddocks to allow grasses to re-establish to maintain competition with woody saplings; and
- Maintaining low to moderate grazing pressure. Removal of grass biomass by high grazing pressure removes the fuel required to implement fires that are warm enough to kill saplings.



Overgrazing

Native wildlife may be impacted by overgrazing when management:

- Reduces (i.e. lack of ground cover) or modifies (i.e. spread of weeds) food resources for native herbivores and granivores (e.g. finches and rodents);
- Heavily compacts soils through trampling, which impacts habitat quality for ground-dwelling and fossorial animals (numerous snakes, lizards and mammals burrow and/or live underground);
- Facilitates or suppresses the recruitment of woody vegetation and therefore, indirectly influence species reliant on that vegetation;
- Removes ground cover, increasing the risk of predation (e.g. feral cat predation threatens many small animals); and
- Decreases habitat and water quality along riparian areas and within wetlands, reducing their suitability to provide adequate habitat or refuge. Riparian areas provide unique resources for savanna fauna, generally having higher animal diversity than surrounding woodlands, as well as providing refuge to species during drought. Riparian vegetation is particularly susceptible to disturbances associated with livestock grazing and invasive species and this can indirectly impact wildlife communities).

To reduce the impacts of cattle grazing on native fauna, land managers can:

- Maintain low to moderate stocking rates and wet season spell paddocks on a rotational basis, which aims to maintain palatable, productive and perennial (3P) grasses. These grasses protect and stabilise soil, trap and retain litter, sediment and nutrients and provide critical habitat for native wildlife (shelter and food resources);
- Fence off watercourses, and provide cattle with alternative watering points. This may reduce erosion and aid in the protection of animals which utilise these areas;
- Adapt stocking rates in response to climate change predictions. For example, lower stocking rates or manage herd numbers in response to drought or above-average conditions;
- Monitor pasture condition to ensure that grazing practices are not causing a decline in the condition of the property. Changes in pasture condition may be detected using simple measures like photo-monitoring, where photographs are taken in the same location each year; and
- When implementing fencing, it is recommended that smooth top wires are used, as barbed wire fencing can be detrimental to some fauna through entanglement (E.g. gliders and flying foxes).

Climate change

Research indicates that only 30 years of warmer temperatures at the end of the twentieth century have affected the phenology of organisms, the range and distribution of wildlife, and the composition and dynamics of ecological communities. The fauna most vulnerable to the impacts from climate change are those species with long generation times, low mobility, require fluctuating food resources or have small and isolated populations. Climate change is likely to cause a reduction in habitat suitability for a range of animals and disrupt a range of ecological processes.

Unfortunately, the rate of environmental change associated with climate change is predicted to be faster than any change in the past, therefore many species are unlikely to adapt to this threat. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) have prepared tailored climate change projections for the natural resource management regions around Australia. In northern Queensland the following are predicted, followed by an explanation of how these may impact wildlife species:

1. Higher temperatures; more frequent and hotter, hot days. Continued warming of temperatures may change the time and location of migrations, cause contraction of some species distributions southwards, or cause a shift in breeding cycles. Many species may not be able to migrate following temperature shifts and therefore may become extinct or locally extinct;
2. Increased incidence of destructive wildfires. Large-scale burning severely impacts on animal species that have very small home ranges and are unable to escape, or are only able to survive in unburnt habitats;
3. Increased intensity of heavy rainfall events. These events may impact on species in low lying areas such as floodplains, by reducing nesting habitat, seed, fruit and flowers, and shelter resources for a range of species;
4. Increased time spent in drought. Increased drought (and fire frequency) may result in changes in vegetation composition in grassland and savanna communities, with more adapted species such as cane toads being more resilient to the changes than less adaptable native species. Lack of food for animals which rely on fluctuating food items which are impacted by extended drought (and rains);
5. Increased evaporation rates and reduced soil moisture. Animals dependent on waterholes for maintenance of populations, or for migration, may be threatened by higher evaporation and changes in flow regimes;
6. Increased intensity, but decreased frequency of tropical cyclones. Many animal populations will be impacted by loss of shelter and food resources caused by higher intensity cyclones, particularly species that rely on fruit and flower resources that can be severely destroyed during high intensity cyclones; and
7. Higher sea levels and more frequent sea level extremes. Species that rely on coastal areas for breeding may lose critical nesting habitat and inundation of freshwater habitats close to the coast may have some localised impacts for species that rely on these habitats.

Specific actions can be undertaken to reduce the impacts of climate change on fauna communities, such as facilitated migration of species (e.g. moving species into new habitats), or moving nest sites (such as turtle eggs) to higher ground. Reducing existing threats is often considered more valuable for maintaining biodiversity and assisting fauna in adapting to climate change. For example, management activities such the fencing of wetlands and riparian areas to reduce cattle grazing and pig damage, may ensure that these areas are enhanced and protected for use as refuge areas during periods of drought.



Pest animals

Invasive animals pose a significant threat to fauna across northern Queensland, particularly the feral pig (*Sus scrofa*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*). The cane toad (*Rhinella marina*), wild horse (*Equus caballus*), wild dog (*Canis lupis familiaris*), and the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) may also cause direct and indirect impacts to native fauna. These pest species impact native fauna by:

- Predating upon, or competing with native fauna for resources such as dens and food;
- Degrading habitat and spreading weeds, particularly around wetlands and riparian areas, which reduces the quality of these high value refuge areas;
- Causing erosion and soil compaction through trampling, which impacts habitat quality for ground-dwelling and fossorial animals (numerous snakes, lizards and mammals burrow and/or live underground);
- Acting as hosts and/or vectors of diseases and pathogens; and
- Competing with production animals through the grazing of native pastures, which places greater pressure on food resources for granivorous species, and also reduces ground cover used by some species to shelter from predators.

Population control is often used to reduce the environmental damage caused by feral animals. Eradication is not currently considered to be a viable option for most feral species in Australia. Controlling populations through culling is generally not a long-term solution, as populations recover quickly, particularly for species with high reproductive output. Methods such as exclusion fencing and targeted control programs with direct management objectives are generally more effective in protecting priority areas in the landscape, or target protecting rare or threatened fauna communities.

Feral pigs

Feral pigs cause degradation of native pasture and facilitate the spread and establishment of weeds and woody vegetation. Feral pigs also cause environmental damage by degrading habitats and competing with native fauna for food resources. Their omnivorous diet includes: tubers, native seeds and fruits, earthworms, amphipods, beetles, frogs, lizards and the eggs of crocodiles and turtles. They also prey on small nesting birds, eggs and some aquatic species, and have been implicated in the decline of the snake-necked turtle.

Pig control options available are: ground and aerial bait dispersal; trapping; fencing; ground hunting; fertility control; and aerial culls by shooting from helicopters. The most effective options for mitigating the damage caused by feral pigs include targeted baiting programs and fencing off sensitive habitats. Targeted baiting programs to reduce pigs at critical times (such as leading up to the turtle nesting season or

during the dry season where wetlands may be more vulnerable to damage) can be highly effective in reducing pig damage. This improves success rates and reduces effort, thereby reducing costs. A side effect of feral pig control may be that predators which rely substantially on pigs for the diet, such as dingoes, may switch to other prey, such as cattle, kangaroos and wallabies and smaller mammals. Monitoring populations of these larger predators should be included in the feral pig monitoring program.

Feral cats

Feral cats prey on native birds, frogs, reptiles and small mammals. The success of the feral cat can be largely attributed to the lack of native meso-predators and the efficacy of the species hunting behaviour. The group of species most impacted by feral cat predation throughout northern Australia are critical weight-range mammals (35 g to 5.5 kg), followed by reptiles, amphibians and birds. Four of the five species of native mammal considered to be declining in Northern Australia, (the northern quoll, *Dasyurus hallucatus*; northern brown bandicoot, *Isodon macrourus*; common brushtail possum, *Trichosurus vulpecula* and pale field-rat, *Rattus tunneyi*) are found in northern Queensland and of these, most overlap the medium to high selectivity size for the feral cat diet. Cats can also act as hosts and vectors of a number of wildlife diseases, notably toxoplasmosis.

Control options for feral cats include fencing (the only feasible option for complete removal from protected areas), shooting, poisoning using lethal baits and trapping. Currently there are no viable options for controlling feral cats over large areas. Baits specifically developed to target cats (Eradicat® and Curiosity®) have shown to be effective; however these may also poison non-target species. Research is underway to further develop these baits for safe application across Australia.

Cane toads

The Cane toad is a serious threat to biodiversity as it poisons, preys upon and competes with native species. Although the cane toad has not been found to have caused the extinction of any native Australian fauna, evidence shows that they have caused major declines and local extinctions of some goanna species. Evidence also suggests that a wide range of species are impacted by cane toads including mammals (e.g. dingoes and northern quolls), birds (e.g. kookaburras, little and black bitterns), reptiles (e.g. red-bellied black snakes, mulga snakes, green tree snakes, dragons and goannas) and frogs. Some species have become resistant to cane toad poison (e.g. keelbacks), learnt to avoid ingestion of poisonous parts (e.g. ravens and crows) or learnt to avoid predation on cane toads (northern quolls in Cape York).

Control options for cane toads include exclusion fencing, live trapping and direct killing through bounty hunting. However, currently there are no financially viable options for controlling cane toads over large areas.

Dogs

Dogs may impact on native fauna through direct predation, and by competition with native predators. Although dogs in some areas have shown a preference for mammals in their diets, their impacts on mammal communities are considered to be less than feral cats. There is evidence of a high degree of hybridization of native dingoes and feral dogs in some areas. Dingoes and hybrid animals are considered to have some beneficial impacts on native wildlife, by restricting populations of feral cats and foxes. The risk of predation of livestock has resulted in wide scale control of feral dogs using toxic baits and shooting by property managers. The reduction in feral dog numbers is considered to be one of the key reasons why cat populations have become widespread and subsequently caused a loss of small native fauna.

Although feral dogs are widely persecuted by property managers, the species may benefit some landowners. The majority of dingoes' diets are medium to large macropod species, which may have positive implications for production animal systems by reducing competition between macropods and cattle for ground cover. Further, feral dogs also predate pigs, hares and rabbits which may also benefit grazing productivity. Subsequently there may be significant scope to use dingo populations to provide cost effective benefits to both productivity and biodiversity, while managing the predatory impacts of dogs on young livestock. Control options for feral dogs include shooting, trapping or poisoning using lethal baits.

Parasites and disease

Disease and parasites may cause declines in some faunal population through increased mortality and morbidity and reduced fecundity. Disease can have devastating effects on some populations and has been found to be linked to population declines and extinctions of some species. Some of the pathogens of concern in northern Queensland include Psittacine beak and feather disease (parrots), Chytrid amphibian fungus or chytridiomycosis (amphibians) and toxoplasmosis (mammals). The most severe of these diseases is chytrid amphibian fungus which has caused the extinction of several amphibian species in Queensland. There are currently no proven methods to control Chytrid fungus in the wild.

Disease is implicated as a potential factor in the decline of mammals in northern Australia, however no link has yet to be made. There is very little knowledge of infectious diseases in wildlife in Australia and even less known about the prevalence of disease in northern Australian mammals. In Northern Australia, toxoplasmosis has been implicated as a potential disease threat due to cats being a host and vector for the disease. Toxoplasmosis causes clinical signs that can change mammal behaviour, such as increased docility and activity during daylight hours, which may reduce predator-avoidance behaviours.

Microbats and abandoned mine sites

The 'Action plan for Australian bats' produced by the Australian Government has identified Northern Queensland as the highest priority region for microbat conservation, with a number of species of particular conservation concern (e.g. Semon's leaf-nosed bat *Hipposideros semoni* (Endangered), greater large-eared horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus philippinensis* (Endangered), and ghost bat *Macroderma gigas* (Vulnerable, NCA; Critical priority, Back on Track)). Disturbance to roost sites is listed as a key threatening process to Australian bats. Threats may include impending development such as mining or clearing at roost sites, or the collapse, closure or re-working of old mines which bats are currently using as roost and maternity sites. The recommended recovery actions for these species include reinforcing derelict mines to prevent collapse, and preventing access by people to their roosts in mines. Establishing mine gates where these populations are confirmed may be a vital action to conserve populations to protect these important roosting sites. Such gates need to exclude people, pigs and cane toads - without impacting movement of microbats. There is also still a great need to understand where threatened microbats occur across Northern Queensland.

Nature Conservation Act listings

The conservation status displayed for each species in this fauna guide is the status as per the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* is an act of the Parliament of Queensland that provides for the legislative protection of Queensland's threatened biota. The codes used in this guide are:

- Endangered (E)
- Vulnerable (V)
- Near Threatened (NT)
- Least Concern (LC)

Southern cassowary

Casuarius casuarius

NCA Status: **E**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Very large and distinctive bird. Bare blue skin on face and fore-neck, red wattle hanging from neck, with tall helmet (casque). The feathers are black and hair like. Young cassowaries do not have a casque and are brown with a dull head and neck.



Key features

Very large distinctive bird, with tall helmet (casque) and red wattle hanging from neck.

Diet

Fruit, fungi, insects and small roadkill.

Habitat

Dense rainforest near streams, edges and clearings.

Size (length)

150 - 175 cm.

Threats

Dogs, pigs, disease, vehicle strikes, climate change and habitat destruction.

Emu

Dromaius novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Extremely large, distinctive flightless bird. Loose brown-grey plumage hangs off robust body. Bare skin on head and neck is whitish-blue. Legs long, solid and dark grey with large toes.



Key features

Very distinctive flightless bird with shaggy plumage.

Diet

Fruits, seeds, plant shoots and invertebrates.

Habitat

Open woodlands, savanna and pastoral areas.

Size (length)

150 - 200 cm.

Threats

Dogs and vehicle strikes.

Australian brush-turkey

Alectura lathamii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Large, easily distinguishable, fowl-like bird. Plumage mostly black; bright, bare, red head; yellow throat wattle (purple in Cape York). Mostly ground-dwelling.



Key features

Large, black feathered, fowl-like bird with bright, bare, red head.

Diet

Insects, seeds and fruit.

Habitat

Rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests. Occasionally cypress pine (inland).

Size (length)

60 - 70 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Orange-footed scrubfowl

Megapodius reinwardt

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Medium-sized terrestrial bird. Dark dusky-brown in colour with face, neck and underparts slate-blue. Distinctive dark brown pointed crest on head. Legs and feet are orange.



Key features

Chicken-sized, dark brown bird with distinctive brown crest, orange legs and feet.

Diet

Fruit, seeds and invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, beach, vine scrubs and monsoon forest.

Size (length)

40 - 50 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Stubble quail

Coturnix pectoralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Large, plump quail with grey-brown streaks dorsally and cream below. Males have an orange-buff colouration on face and throat. Females are cream. Dark grey bill. Pale pink legs and feet.



Key features

Males: orange-buff area on face and throat. Females: cream throat.

Diet

Seeds, green shoots and sometimes insects.

Habitat

Grasslands and human modified habitats such as crops and farmlands.

Size (length)

16 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Brown quail

Coturnix ypsilophora

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, robust native quail. Mostly reddish-brown, sometimes grey-brown with plain face and dark ear spot. Fine silvery streaks above. Fine, dark V-bars on underside.



Key features

Largest native quail with dark ear spot, pale streaks and red eye.

Diet

Seeds, green shoots and sometimes insects.

Habitat

Dense grasslands, especially near wetlands.

Size (length)

17 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

King quail

Excalfactoria chinensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Tiny quail. Males are unmistakable with blue-grey chest, rufous undersides and black and white blotches on throat. Females are mottled dark brown and black. Curving black line from bill under eye and throat whitish.



Key features

Males are small, with distinctive throat pattern. Females are similar to brown quails but darker.

Diet

Small insects, seeds and grasses.

Habitat

Dense grasslands, edge of wetlands and weedy pastures.

Size (length)

13 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Wandering whistling-duck

Dendrocygna arcuata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large duck with rich orange-brown plumage. Black stripe from crown to nape. Pale yellow-buff face and neck. Wings dark brown. Elongated flank plumes are off-white. Bill and legs dark in colour.



Key features

Lower stance and shorter flank feathers than similar looking plumed whistling-duck.

Diet

Aquatic vegetation, seeds, grasses, occasionally invertebrates and small aquatic vertebrates.

Habitat

Deep, vegetated, freshwater waterways, flooded grasslands, well vegetated dams.

Size (length)

55 - 61 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Plumed whistling-duck

Dendrocygna eytoni

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large duck with erect stance. Honey coloured head and neck. Cinnamon breast with dark barring. Wings dark brown. Elongated flank plumes are obvious and off-white.



Key features

Erect stance. Flank feathers are elongated and edged with black.

Diet

Tropical grasses.

Habitat

Vegetated waterways, farm dams, wetlands, floodplains, grasslands and pastures.

Size (length)

40 - 60 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Australian wood duck

Chenonetta jubata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized grey duck with brown head and two black stripes along back. Chest and breast speckled. Females have two white stripes on their face.



Key features

Grey duck with brown head and black stripes down back. Distinctive shape.

Diet

Grasses, herbs and sometimes insects.

Habitat

Grasslands, pastures, open woodlands, farm dams, lakes, wetlands and floodplains.

Size (length)

45 - 60 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Black swan

Cygnus atratus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Very large, almost entirely black swan. Has white tips on wings which are only visible in flight.
Deep red bill that is paler towards tip.



Key features

Very distinctive bird. Black swan with red bill.

Diet

Aquatic vegetation, including algae.

Habitat

Lakes, rivers, estuaries, flooded pastures and swamps.

Size (length)

110 - 140 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, dogs and pigs.

Magpie goose

Anseranas semipalmata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, distinctive native goose with long, black neck, black head, and a knob on the crown. Undersides are white and bill, legs and feet are orange.



Key features

Large, black and white native goose with knob on head and orange bill, legs and feet.

Diet

Aquatic vegetation.

Habitat

Floodplains, wet grasslands, well vegetated dams and seasonal wetlands.

Size (length)

75 - 90 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, hunting, dogs and pigs.

Radjah shelduck

Tadorna radjah

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Christiansen

Basic description

Large, mostly white duck with pale, flesh-coloured bill and pink legs. Dark chestnut upperparts and breastband. White wings are black tipped.



Key features

Mostly white with chestnut upperparts and breast band.

Diet

Molluscs, insects and aquatic vegetation.

Habitat

Brackish waters of mangrove swamps, paperbark swamps, lagoons, man-made wetlands and shallow river margins.

Size (length)

49 - 61 cm.

Threats

Cats, pigs and wetland degradation.

Hardhead

Aythya australis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, chocolate-brown duck with white under tail and wings. Bill is blackish with pale, blue stripe near tip. Broad, white band across wings in flight. Males have white eyes and females have brown eyes.



Key features

Unremarkable, chocolate-brown duck with blueish tip to bill.

Diet

Aquatic plants and invertebrates.

Habitat

Freshwater swamps, deep permanent wetlands and farm dams.

Size (length)

45 - 60 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Cotton pygmy-goose

Nettapus coromandelianus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Tiny, mostly white duck with short, grey bill and dark green crown. Face and neck are white, underparts are pale off-white. Breeding males have dark iridescent green wings and back. Females have barred chest and brown wings.



Key features

Tiny duck with green crown. Mostly white with either green (males) or brown (females) wings.

Diet

Aquatic vegetation, insects and crustaceans.

Habitat

Freshwater lakes, lagoons, swamps and dams.

Size (length)

34 - 38 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing (silting), pigs and cats.

Green pygmy-goose

Nettapus pulchellus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small duck, with short bill and dark black-brown cap. Cheeks are white, underparts are pale grey-white with dark scalloping. Breeding males have dark iridescent green back and neck, females have white neck and back.



Key features

Small duck with short bill, white cheek and scalloped pattern on underside.

Diet

Aquatic vegetation, seeds, fruit and leaves.

Habitat

Freshwater lakes, lagoons, swamps and dams.

Size (length)

30 - 36 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, habitat destruction, pigs and wetland degradation.

Pacific black duck

Anas superciliosa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Uniformly brown duck with striking facial markings. Black cap on top of head with a black stripe through the eye and black line below the eye. Most common Australian duck.



Key features

Striking black facial markings; black cap with two black stripes on face.

Diet

Seeds and aquatic plants supplemented with small crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates.

Habitat

Very common in most watered areas with plentiful vegetation.

Size (length)

48 - 60 cm.

Threats

Weeds, overgrazing, cats and pigs.

Pink-eared duck

Malacorhynchus membranaceus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small duck with a large, square, grey bill and strongly barred brown flanks. Large, brown eye patch on finely barred white face. Small pink patch behind the eye. Upper parts are brown, underparts white barred dark brown.



Key features

Large, square, grey bill, strongly barred brown flanks and pink patch behind the eye.

Diet

Microscopic plants and animals.

Habitat

Temporary and well-vegetated water sources.

Size (length)

38 - 45 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats and pigs.

Grey teal

Anas gracilis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, non-descript duck. Uniformly greyish-brown body with two-tone head colour; dark on cap and pale on face and throat. Hard, grey bill and reddish eye.



Key features

Pale throat can be used to distinguish between similar species.

Diet

Aquatic plants, seeds and invertebrates.

Habitat

Very common in sheltered, water bodies. Retreats to permanent coastal wetlands in drought.

Size (length)

42 - 45 cm.

Threats

Weeds, overgrazing, cats and pigs.

Great crested grebe

Podiceps cristatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, distinctive aquatic bird with a long neck and head with obvious, black double crest. Dark brown wings, satin white underparts, black crown and dark olive-green feet.



Key features

Very distinctive waterbird. Long neck and head with obvious black double crest.

Diet

Fish, crustaceans, invertebrates and small frogs.

Habitat

Large, deep bodies of freshwater.

Size (length)

47 - 61 cm.

Threats

Pigs and wetland degradation.

Hoary-headed grebe

Poliiocephalus poliocephalus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, stocky grebe with darkish grey and white plumage, an inconspicuous brown iris and square black chin. Breeding adults develop white streaking over their entire head.



Key features

Small and stocky with grey and white plumage. Non-breeding birds similar to Australasian grebe but without dark crown that extends below the eye.

Diet

Aquatic invertebrates and their larvae.

Habitat

Large, open water bodies, occasionally farm dams and sheltered coastal bays.

Size (length)

30 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Australasian grebe

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small waterbird, dark grey-brown above, mostly grey below with a pale yellow oval of bare skin at the base of bill. During breeding season both sexes develop a glossy-black head and chestnut facial stripe.



Key features

Similar to non-breeding hoary-headed grebe, but with pale yellow oval at the base of bill.

Diet

Small fish and aquatic invertebrates.

Habitat

Freshwater ponds, farm dams and waterways.

Size (length)

23 - 25 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Diamond dove

Geopelia cuneata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Smallest Australian dove. Blue-grey head and chest, red eye ring and tan wing with fine white spots. Chestnut panel visible on wing when in flight. Juveniles are brown and finely barred.



Key features

Similar to peaceful dove, however exhibits a red eye ring and white spotted wing pattern.

Diet

Seeds, ants, herbs and grasses.

Habitat

Dry, open savanna and grassy woodlands.

Size (length)

20 - 24 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Bar-shouldered dove

Geopelia humeralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Medium-sized, long-tailed dove with blue-grey head, neck and breast. Distinctive reddish-bronze patch on hind neck, with black barring. Pinkish bar on lower breast. Blue-grey eye ring and reddish eye.



Key features

Distinctive reddish-bronze patch on the hind neck with dark barring.

Diet

Seeds, herbs and grasses.

Habitat

Wooded grasslands, tropical scrubs, gullies and gorges.

Size (length)

27 - 30 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Peaceful dove

Geopelia striata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Very small, mostly grey dove. Blue-grey head, with scalloping on throat and chest. Blue eye ring and heavily barred, tan wing. Lower body pinkish.



Key features

Similar to diamond dove, but with blue eye ring and lacking white wing spots.

Diet

Seeds, herbs and grasses.

Habitat

Dry, open woodlands, agricultural country, acacia shrublands and rainforest edges.

Size (length)

20 - 24 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-headed pigeon

Columba leucomela

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large pigeon with distinctive white head, neck and breast. The back, wings and tail are dark grey-black. Grey underparts. Males have metallic green-purple sheen. Females are usually greyer and often have a darker cap.



Key features

Large grey pigeon with distinctive white head, neck and breast.

Diet

Fruit and seeds.

Habitat

Scrublands, tall tropical and subtropical rainforest.

Size (length)

38 - 40 cm.

Threats

Climate change, habitat destruction and cats.

Topknot pigeon

Lopholaimus antarcticus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, grey pigeon with a swept back crest that is grey in front and rust-red behind. Dark grey upperparts, with paler grey underparts. Tail is black with pale band across. Wings are rounded. Females and young have smaller, paler crest.



Key features

Large pigeon with distinctive swept back crest giving the head a unique shape.

Diet

Fruit.

Habitat

Rainforest and nearby wet sclerophyll and woodlands.

Size (length)

40 - 45 cm.

Threats

Climate change and habitat destruction.

Brown cuckoo-dove

Macropygia amboinensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large brown pigeon with long tapering tail. Coppery rufous colour on back with cinnamon-buff underparts. Eyes are pale blue with red eye ring and pale streak below. Legs and feet are red. Female has brighter chestnut cap and scaly pattern on breast.



Key features

Large brown pigeon with very long tapering tail.

Diet

Fruits, berries and seeds.

Habitat

Rainforest and wet sclerophyll.

Size (length)

40 - 45 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Common bronzewing

Phaps chalcoptera

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, heavily built pigeon. Males have yellow-white foreheads and pink breast. Both sexes have white line below and around the eye, and patches of iridescent green, blue and red in the wings. Distinctive, flashing rufous underwing when in flight.



Key features

Distinctive rufous underwing in flight. Pinkish grey breast, light brown nape and back.

Diet

Seeds and vegetable matter.

Habitat

Habitat generalists, although avoids rainforest.

Size (length)

30 - 36 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Crested pigeon

Ocyphaps lophotes

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Stocky pigeon with a conspicuous thin, dark crest. Mostly grey-brown becoming more pink on underparts. Wings are barred with black and have glossy green and purple patches. Head is grey with red-pink ring around eye.



Key features

Stocky pigeon with distinctive thin, dark crest.

Diet

Seeds, herbs and grasses.

Habitat

Lightly wooded grasslands.

Size (length)

31 - 35 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Spinifex pigeon

Geophaps plumifera

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, plump rusty-buff pigeon with long, sandy crest and wavy black barring on wings. Face has black stripes above and below eye. Red stripe through eye.



Key features

Very distinctive rusty-buff pigeon. Obvious crest and facial markings.

Diet

Seeds, insects, herbs and grasses.

Habitat

Stony woodlands, spinifex plains, acacia scrubs and grassy woodlands.

Size (length)

20 - 24 cm.

Threats

Cats, overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes and climate change.

Squatter pigeon

Geophaps scripta

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized, dull-brown, ground-dwelling pigeon with vertical black and white barring on face. Mostly grey-brown above with white chest. Wings are mottled to form scaly pattern. Skin around eye is red-orange.



Key features

Distinctive, vertical, white facial bands.

Diet

Seeds, herbs and grasses.

Habitat

Open woodlands and savanna.

Size (length)

26 - 30 cm

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, weeds, overgrazing, cats and dogs.

Pied imperial-pigeon

Ducula bicolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, robust black and white pigeon that is seen in northern Australia during the wet season. Mostly white with pale bill, black eyes and slate-black wing and tail tips.



Key features

Large, mostly white pigeon with slate-black wing and tail tips.

Diet

Fruit.

Habitat

Mangroves, rainforest and northern sclerophyll forests along rivers and creeks.

Size (length)

38 - 42 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Emerald dove

Chalcophaps indica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, dark, pinkish-brown pigeon with dull, emerald-green wings. Chestnut under wings. Dark brown flight feathers and two pale bars on top of tail. Bill and legs are orange.



Key features

Small pinkish-brown pigeon with green wings.

Diet

Fruit and seeds.

Habitat

Rainforest, tropical scrub and wet sclerophyll forests.

Size (length)

23 - 27 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change and cats.

Wompoo fruit-dove

Ptilinopus magnificus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, colourful pigeon. Rich purple throat, breast and upper belly with yellow lower belly. Wings and tail are bright light green, with broken yellow bar on wings. Head and neck are pale grey with a red beak and eye.



Key features

Large colourful pigeon easily identified by its rich purple throat, breast and belly.

Diet

Fruit and occasionally insects.

Habitat

Rainforest, monsoon forests and wet sclerophyll.

Size (length)

38 - 48 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change and cats.

Rose-crowned fruit-dove

Ptilinopus regina

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Karl Granzien

Basic description

Small, robust dove with short tail and rounded wings. Has a deep pink cap bordered by a narrow, yellow stripe. Bright green above and orange-yellow underparts with a central red patch.



Key features

Small, colourful pigeon with rose-red cap. Grey back of neck.

Diet

Fruit.

Habitat

Coastal, tall, tropical and subtropical rainforests and adjacent sclerophyll forest.

Size (length)

22 - 24 cm.

Threats

Climate change, and cats.

Superb fruit-dove

Ptilinopus superbus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small colourful pigeon. Males have purple crown, orange neck and blue-black breast band. Upperparts are mostly green with grey breast and white underparts. Females are less colourful with light green upper parts, white under parts and small purple head patch.



Key features

Males have distinctive purple crown and orange neck. Females are less colourful with smaller purple head patch.

Diet

Fruit.

Habitat

Rainforest and rainforest margins.

Size (length)

22 - 24 cm.

Threats

Climate change and cats.

Marbled frogmouth

Podargus ocellatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized frogmouth, with marbled blotches on wings and sides of breast. Males are grey, females are rufous-grey. Tail is long and jagged. Eye is orange-yellow. Bill is wide and heavy with a tuft of barred plumes on top.



Key features

Can be distinguished from other frogmouths by marbled blotches on sides and wings, and barring on tufts over bill.

Diet

Invertebrates and small vertebrates.

Habitat

Tropical lowland forest.

Size (length)

37 - 46 cm.

Threats

Climate change and cats.

Papuan frogmouth

Podargus papuensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, brown-grey frogmouth, streaked and mottled with black and rufous, and paler below. Eye is red. Wide, heavy bill is olive-grey to blackish. Tail is very long.



Key features

Eye is red. Tail is much longer and bill is heavier than tawny frogmouth.

Diet

Large insects.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical lowland forest.

Size (length)

50 - 60 cm.

Threats

Cats and cane toads.

Tawny frogmouth

Podargus strigoides

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, silver-grey frogmouth, streaked and mottled with black and rufous, and paler below. Eye is yellow. Wide, heavy bill is olive-grey to blackish.



Key features

Eye is yellow and tail is short compared to Papuan frogmouth. More streaked than marbled frogmouth.

Diet

Invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles frogs and birds.

Habitat

Habitat generalist.

Size (length)

34 - 52 cm.

Threats

Cats, secondary poisoning and vehicle strikes.

Australian owlet-nightjar

Aegotheles cristatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Miniature, owl-like nocturnal bird with small, broad bill, facial whiskers, pink feet and longish tail. Greyish-brown above and paler below with faint black barring.



Key features

Smallest nocturnal Australian bird. Small cat-like face with large, obvious eyes.

Diet

Insects (particularly beetles, grasshoppers and ants).

Habitat

Habitat generalist.

Size (length)

21 - 25 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes and cats.

Large-tailed nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Martin Willis

Basic description

Nocturnal bird often seen sitting on roads at night. Very large eye that strongly reflects lights. Mottled brown and red-brown in colour. Only nightjar with obvious white spots on closed wing. Tail has white spots on edges.



Key features

Only nightjar with obvious white spots on closed wing.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Edges of lowland rainforests, vine thickets, swamps, coastal heath and mangroves.

Size (length)

25 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Spotted nightjar

Eurostopodus argus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Nocturnal bird often seen sitting on roads at night. Very large eye that strongly reflects light. Mottled brown and red-brown in colour. White bar on throat with one large, white spot visible on each wing in flight.



Key features

White spot on wing in flight. No white spots on folded wings (large-tailed nightjar).

Diet

Insects such as locusts, lacewings, beetles, moths, flying ants and grasshoppers.

Habitat

Drier eucalypt woodlands and stony/sandy ridges.

Size (length)

29 - 32 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats and dogs.

White-throated nightjar

Eurostopodus mystacalis

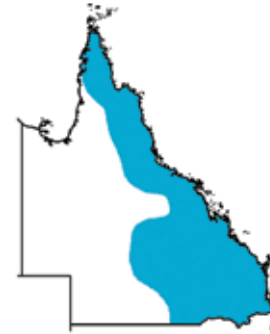
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Andrew Morton

Basic description

Nocturnal bird often seen sitting on roads at night. Very large eye that strongly reflects lights. Mottled dark brown and tan in colour. White bar on throat. No white spots on tail or wings.



Key features

Nightjar with no large white spots on tail or wings. Larger than owlet nightjar.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Coastal woodlands, forests and heath.

Size (length)

32 - 37 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Australian swiftlet

Aerodramus terraereginae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, dark, grey-brown swiftlet with obvious white rump. Flight erratic and often seen in small parties flying close to the ground.



Key features

White rump. Sharp, swift wings and erratic flight.

Diet

Insects and spiders.

Habitat

Rainforest edges, savanna, pasture, beaches and gorges.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Fork-tailed swift

Apus pacificus

NCA Status: **LC**



Illustration by Trevor Madin

Basic description

Medium-sized swift with a slim body and long wings that are finely pointed at tips. Long and deeply forked tail. Mostly black with a white band on rump. Also has white patch on chin and throat.



Key features

Long and deeply forked tail.

Diet

Insects, particularly small bees, wasps, termites and moths.

Habitat

Habitat generalist but typically seen flying over riparian woodland, tea tree swamps and dry sclerophyll forests.

Size (length)

17 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

White-throated needletail

Hirundapus caudacutus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, fast flying swift, predominantly grey-brown glossed with green. Throat and undersides are white. Legs are short. Wings are long, curved and pointed. Tail is short and squared with protruding feather shafts.



Key features

Large swift with long curved wings and white markings. Distinguished from the Fork-tailed swift by its squared tail.

Diet

Flying insects such as flies, termites, moths, locusts, beetles, cicadas, flying ants, bees, wasps and grasshoppers.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, often observed flying over farmlands and woodlands.

Size (length)

19 - 21 cm.

Threats

Climate change.

Australasian darter

Anhinga novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, slim water bird with a long, slender neck and sharp pointed bill. Males are black with a white streak under the eye; females are dark with white underside.



Key features

Very distinctive long, slender neck and pointed bill.

Diet

Small fish, invertebrates such as freshwater shrimp, worms and cephalopods.

Habitat

Mostly freshwater wetlands.

Size (length)

85 - 90 cm.

Threats

Weeds, wetland degradation, overgrazing, cats and pigs.

Great cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Large-sized cormorant. Almost entirely black plumage, apart from a white and yellow chin and small white patch on each thigh. The bill is grey and legs and feet are black. Juveniles are dusky-brown in colour.



Key features

Can be distinguished from the little black cormorant by its larger size and thicker bill.

Diet

Fish, eels, crustaceans, insects and frogs.

Habitat

Prefers freshwater (dams, lakes and rivers), but also sheltered estuarine and marine wetlands.

Size (length)

80 - 85 cm.

Threats

Dogs, pigs and wetland degradation.

Little black cormorant

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, slender cormorant. Completely black with greenish sheen on back, and a narrow, grey, hooked bill. In breeding season adults have fine white flecks on the head and neck. Congregates in large flocks and flies in V-shaped formations.



Key features

Distinguished from the great cormorant by much smaller size and entirely black colour.

Diet

Fish, crustaceans, insects and frogs.

Habitat

Prefers freshwater, but also sheltered estuarine and marine wetlands.

Size (length)

55 - 65 cm.

Threats

Dogs and pigs.

Pied cormorant

Phalacrocorax varius

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized cormorant, entirely black above and white below. The face is dusky and, in adult birds, the white of undersides extends above the eye. Yellow, blue and pink facial skin more obvious in breeding individuals.



Key features

Distinguished from the little pied cormorant by its larger size and longer, pale bill.

Diet

Fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

Habitat

Marine saltwater habitats, as well as inland lakes and rivers.

Size (length)

70 - 80 cm.

Threats

Wetland degradation, dogs and pigs.

Little pied cormorant

Microcarbo melanoleucos

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small-sized cormorant with black upperparts and white underparts. Face is dusky with a yellow bill. Legs and feet are black. Develops a small, spiked crest on head when breeding.



Key features

Distinguished from the pied cormorant by its smaller size, yellow bill and lack of bare facial skin.

Diet

Fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

Habitat

Sheltered marine habitats as well as small lakes, dams, swamps and floodwaters.

Size (length)

58 - 64 cm.

Threats

Pigs.

Great-billed heron

Ardea sumatrana

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Large, dark grey-brown heron with heavy, brown bill and grey legs. Non-breeding individuals display yellow facial skin and white throat colouration. During breeding the facial skin is grey and the plumes of the neck, crest and back appear silvery in colour.



Key features

Large heron that is easily distinguished by its size, consistent grey colour and heavy bill.

Diet

Invertebrates and small vertebrates.

Habitat

Coastal waterways, swamps and large river systems.

Size (length)

100 - 110 cm.

Threats

Pigs.

Black-necked stork

Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Iconic, very large, black and white stork with long, heavy bill and slender pinkish-orange coloured legs. Head and neck are jet black with purple and green iridescence. Females have yellow eyes. Also known as the Jabiru.



Key features

Very large black and white stork. Easily identifiable. Also called Jabiru.

Diet

Fish, amphibians, small reptiles and crustaceans.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical wetlands.

Size (length)

110 - 130 cm.

Threats

Dogs, wetland degradation and overfishing.

Australian pelican

Pelecanus conspicillatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large-sized bird with enormous pale pink bill with throat pouch. Mostly white with black feathers along back, tail and wings. Adult males are larger than females.



Key features

Easily distinguished large bird with enormous pale pink bill.

Diet

Fish, crustaceans, small birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Habitat

Freshwater, estuarine and marine wetlands.

Size (length)

160 - 180 cm.

Threats

Dogs, discarded fishing equipment and pigs.

White-necked heron

Ardea pacifica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, distinctive heron with slate-black body and long white neck. Bill and legs black. During breeding the white head and neck is unmarked and the plumage on the back and breast is plum in colour. Non-breeding individuals display a double line of black spots on the neck.



Key features

Large black and white heron with double line of black spots on white neck when not breeding. Much larger than similar looking juvenile pied heron.

Diet

Freshwater mussels, fish, shrimp, crayfish, spiders, dragonflies, lizards, ducklings and frogs.

Habitat

Shallow flooded vegetation, freshwater, farm dams.

Size (length)

75 - 105 cm.

Threats

Pigs.

Cattle egret

Ardea ibis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, white-plumed egret with yellow bill (non-breeding) and grey-green legs. During the breeding season the bill and legs become reddish in colour and the plumage on the chest appears orange. Difficult to distinguish from other white egrets.



Key features

Small, short-necked white egret. Most easily distinguished outside breeding season by its small, stocky body and yellow bill.

Diet

Grasshoppers, cicadas, centipedes, spiders, cattle ticks, frogs, lizards and small mammals. Usually feeds in association with cattle.

Habitat

Grasslands, woodlands and wetlands.

Size (length)

48 - 53 cm.

Threats

Cats, wetland degradation and pigs.

Little egret

Egretta garzetta

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, white-plumed egret with slender, black bill and black legs. Yellow facial skin. Gains twin ribbon-like head plumes in breeding season. Difficult to distinguish from other white egrets.



Key features

Distinguished from other small white egrets by its black bill.

Diet

Invertebrates, fish and frogs.

Habitat

Tidal mudflats, mangroves, and saltwater and freshwater wetlands.

Size (length)

55 - 65 cm.

Threats

Cats, wetland degradation and pigs.

White-faced heron

Egretta novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, pale grey heron with white face and yellow legs. Body is almost entirely blue-grey. Dark flight feathers can be seen while in flight.



Key features

Easily distinguished by its blue-grey body and white face.

Diet

Invertebrates, small reptiles, fish, frogs and maggots.

Habitat

Shallow wetlands, farm dams and grasslands.

Size (length)

66 - 69 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Pied heron

Egretta picata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, blue-grey and white heron. Wings, body and crested head blue-grey with a white throat and neck. Yellow bill and yellow legs.



Key features

Small blue-grey bodied heron with white neck.

Diet

Invertebrates, fish and frogs.

Habitat

Tropical wetlands, lakes, tidal rivers and stock yards.

Size (length)

43 - 52 cm.

Threats

Cats, inappropriate fire regimes and pigs.

Eastern reef egret

Egretta sacra

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, white or grey egret found around rocky reefs and shorelines. Long, yellow bill and short legs. Grey morph has a white streak on throat.



Key features

White or grey colouration.
Long, yellow bill and short legs.
Found in saltwater habitats.

Diet

Insects, crustaceans and fish.

Habitat

Beaches, rocky shores, tidal rivers and other saltwater habitats.

Size (length)

60 - 65 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats and pigs.

Intermediate egret

Ardea intermedia

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, white plumed egret with yellow bill (non-breeding) and black legs. During the breeding season the bill becomes red, face green and a distinctive erect, wispy plumage is evident. Difficult to distinguish from other white egrets.



Key features

Medium-sized white egret. Black jaw line does not extend beyond the eye.

Diet

Fish, frogs, crustaceans and insects.

Habitat

Wetlands, wet grasslands, pastures and croplands.

Size (length)

55 - 70 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Eastern great egret

Ardea modesta

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, white-plumed egret with yellow bill (non-breeding) and black legs. Bill becomes black and legs become pinkish during the breeding season. Difficult to distinguish from other white egrets.



Key features

Largest white egret. Neck longer than body and strongly kinked. Black jaw line extends behind eye.

Diet

Fish, frogs, reptiles, small birds, rodents and invertebrates.

Habitat

Wetlands, rivers, estuaries and large dams.

Size (length)

85 - 105 cm.

Threats

Pigs, weeds and wetland degradation.

Australian little bittern

Ixobrychus dubius

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Tiny, pretty bittern. Males have a black crown, back and tail, pale chestnut neck and large, rufous shoulder patch. Females are duller with brown crown and back, paler below with streaking.



Key features

Smaller and prettier looking than similar bitterns and herons.

Diet

Aquatic invertebrates (crustaceans, dragonflies) and their larvae. Fish and frogs.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical freshwater wetlands, rivers and lakes.

Size (length)

25 - 35 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes, cats, dogs and pigs.

Black bittern

Ixobrychus flavicollis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, sooty black bittern with a yellow patch on sides of neck, extending from the throat to the wing. Feathers on crown and lower neck are almost long plumes. Legs are dark.



Key features

Large, black bittern with yellow streaking.

Diet

Fish, invertebrates and frogs.

Habitat

Tree-lined wetlands and mangroves.

Size (length)

55 - 65 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, wetland degradation, cats, dogs and pigs.

Nankeen night-heron

Nycticorax caledonicus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, stocky heron with rich cinnamon upperparts and white-buff underparts. Crown is black and during the breeding season the back of the head bears three white nuptial plumes. The head is large and the neck is short. Eyes, legs and feet are yellow.



Key features

Large nocturnal heron with large head, short neck and cinnamon upperparts.

Diet

Insects, crustaceans, fish, reptiles, eggs and frogs.

Habitat

Well vegetated wetlands and islands.

Size (length)

55 - 65 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Striated heron

Butorides striatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, squat water bird with short legs, large head and bill, and black crown. Black and white marks down centre of throat. Legs and lower beak yellow, beak is grey above. Wings grey and breast and chest rufous.



Key features

Robust wader with short legs, large head and bill, and black crown. Smaller than the nankeen night heron.

Diet

Crustaceans, molluscs and small fish.

Habitat

Mangroves, intertidal flats, floodplains, savanna woodlands and freshwater lakes.

Size (length)

45 - 50 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Glossy ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small-sized ibis. Neck is reddish-brown and the body is bronze brown with metallic, iridescent sheen on wings. Long, curved bill which is olive brown. Facial skin is blue-grey with a bordering white line around eye.



Key features

Distinctive curved bill and reddish-brown colour.

Diet

Frogs, molluscs, crabs, crayfish, fish, tadpoles, lizards, small snakes, birds and spiders.

Habitat

Shallow, freshwater wetlands and mudflats. Occasionally dry grasslands.

Size (length)

50 - 54 cm.

Threats

Cats, overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes, dogs and pigs.

Australian white ibis

Threskiornis molucca

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, upright standing bird that is almost entirely white with black head and neck, and lacy black plumes on rear. Head is featherless and its black bill is long and down-curved. Legs are long and featherless.



Key features

Distinctive, tall, mostly white ibis. Red underwing. Long, thin, down-curved, black bill.

Diet

Terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, and human scraps.

Habitat

Freshwater wetlands, dams, floodplains and pastures.

Size (length)

65 - 75 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Straw-necked ibis

Threskiornis spinicollis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large waterbird with featherless black head, long down-curved black bill and yellow throat plumes. Glossy blue-black back with metallic, iridescent sheen. Nape, sides of neck and underparts white.



Key features

Similar to white ibis but with black wings.

Diet

Frogs, small reptiles, mammals, crickets, grasshoppers, and locusts. Human scraps where available.

Habitat

Habitat generalist. Grasslands, freshwater wetlands, flooded areas and croplands

Size (length)

60 - 70 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Yellow-billed spoonbill

Platalea flavipes

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large-sized, pale waterbird with spoon-shaped bill. Yellow face, bill, legs and feet. During the breeding season, the facial skin is outlined in black and long hackles appear on its upper breast.



Key features

The large, spoon-shaped bill easily distinguishes spoonbills from other water birds. Bill is yellow.

Diet

Small fish, spiders, crustaceans, freshwater snails, some plant material and larvae.

Habitat

Shallow, freshwater wetlands and farm dams.

Size (length)

75 - 90 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Royal spoonbill

Platalea regia

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large-sized, white waterbird with black spoon-shaped bill, facial skin, legs and feet. During breeding season it displays a distinctive crest on nape (up to 20 cm long), and cream-yellow wash across lower neck and breast.



Key features

The large, spoon-shaped bill easily distinguishes spoonbills from other water birds. Bill is black.

Diet

Small fish, snails, shrimp, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates.

Habitat

Shallow, freshwater and saltwater wetlands and floodplains.

Size (length)

75 - 80 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Pacific baza

Aviceda subcristata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized hawk with long tail and prominent crest. Head, neck and breast are grey, and underside is white with obvious dark grey barring. Eyes are bright yellow.



Key features

Medium-sized hawk with strongly barred underside, prominent crest and bright yellow eyes.

Diet

Large insects (particularly stick insects and mantids), lizards, small birds, occasionally fruit and frogs.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical woodland and rainforest.

Size (length)

35 - 45 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black-shouldered kite

Elanus axillaris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, black, white and grey raptor. Mostly pale grey above, with white head, body and tail. Black on shoulders and under wing tips. Also has black surrounding eyes. Often observed along roads.



Key features

Easily distinguished small black, white and grey raptor. Letterwing kites are similar but with black “W” under wing.

Diet

Mostly rodents. Occasionally grasshoppers, reptiles, birds and small rabbits.

Habitat

Wooded grasslands and farms.

Size (length)

35 - 38 cm.

Threats

Cats and overgrazing.

Whistling kite

Haliastur sphenurus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized raptor with shaggy appearance. Light brown head and underparts with paler streaks. Dark sandy-brown wings with paler M-shaped band on underside. Tail is rounded. Often observed consuming roadkill.



Key features

Medium-sized brown raptor with 'M' shape under wings, rounded tail and distinctive whistling call.

Diet

Mammals, amphibians, birds, fish, insects, carrion and fruit.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, but prefers waterways (lakes and swamps) and open forests.

Size (length)

50 - 60cm

Threats

Wetland degradation and vehicle strikes.

Square-tailed kite

Lophoictinia isura

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized, tawny-brown raptor with long, square tail. In flight, very long, up-swept, paddle-shaped wings and large cream crescent at the base of the wing tips are visible.



Key features

Distinctive tawny-brown raptor with long, square tail.

Diet

Bird specialist.

Habitat

Dry woodlands, open forests, tropical and sub-tropical rainforests.

Size (length)

50 - 55 cm.

Threats

Habitat clearing.

Black kite

Milvus migrans

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, dark brown raptor with light brown bar on the shoulder. Head, neck and upper parts flecked with light brown and rufous markings. Tail is forked and barred with darker brown. Juveniles are generally lighter in colour. Often observed consuming roadkill. Attracted to burning areas to hunt for food.



Key features

Darker than whistling kite with distinctive forked tail.

Diet

Lizards, small mammals, insects, fish, bats, rodents, fruit and carrion.

Habitat

Habitat generalist.

Size (length)

50 - 55 cm.

Threats

Climate change (with increased frequency of drought).

Red goshawk

Erythrotriorchis radiatus

NCA Status: **E**



Photo by Pete Morris

Basic description

Large, rich reddish-coloured goshawk with whitish, dark-streaked head. Dark mottling over body and wings. In flight has reddish chest and shoulders, and strongly black and white barred tail and flight feathers.



Key features

Rich reddish colouration. Yellow legs. Black and white barring on tail and flight feathers.

Diet

Mostly other birds, particularly parrots and pigeons.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical woodlands and forests, particularly near rivers.

Size (length)

45 - 60 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, habitat destruction, wetland degradation and overgrazing.

Black-breasted buzzard

Hamirostra melanosternon

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, dark raptor with a very short, square-tipped tail. Long, shaggy feathers on nape can be raised into crest. Long, deeply-fingered wings with white marks underneath.



Key features

Large, dark raptor with white spots under wings and short, square tail.

Diet

Small mammals, lizards, birds and their eggs, and carrion.

Habitat

Lightly wooded grasslands and waterways.

Size (length)

51 - 61 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, habitat destruction, inappropriate fire regimes, vehicle strikes and climate change (particularly drought).

Collared sparrowhawk

Accipiter cirrocephalus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, slender hawk with wide-eyed expression and long, yellow legs. Grey-brown above with rufous collar. Underside is rufous with fine white barring.



Key features

Distinguished from goshawks by smaller size, finer shape, wide-eyed expression and fast, flicking flight.

Diet

Primarily smaller birds. Also insects, lizards and small mammals.

Habitat

Woodlands, river margins and farmlands.

Size (length)

29 - 39 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Brown goshawk

Accipiter fasciatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Powerful hawk with 'beetle-brow' expression, yellow eyes and long yellow legs. Grey-brown above with rufous collar. Underside is rufous brown with fine white barring.



Key features

Larger 'glaring' expression and slower, more powerful flight than sparrowhawks.

Diet

Primarily small mammals and birds. Occasionally reptiles, insects and carrion.

Habitat

Habitat generalist. Generally observed in open woodlands, scrubland and farmlands.

Size (length)

40 - 50 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Grey goshawk

Accipiter novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Powerful hawk with two colour morphs (white and grey). Eyes bright yellow or red. Deep yellow hind beak and legs. White morph almost pure white. Grey morph greyish above and white below.



Key features

Very distinctive hawk. Distinguished from black-shouldered kite by lack of black markings on wings.

Diet

Small mammals, reptiles, insects and birds.

Habitat

Rainforests and tall woodlands. Thick vegetation along watercourses.

Size (length)

40 - 55 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, overgrazing and cats.

White-bellied sea-eagle

Haliaeetus leucogaster

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, dark grey and white eagle. Head, rump and underparts are white. Back and wings are dark grey. Long, powerful, fingered wings with black flight feathers. Short, rounded tail.



Key features

Large white and dark grey eagle with short tail.

Diet

Fish, turtles, sea snakes, and sometimes birds and mammals.

Habitat

Coastal waterways and large inland watercourses.

Size (length)

75 - 85 cm.

Threats

Habitat destruction, discarded fishing equipment and climate change.

Brahminy kite

Haliastur indus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized raptor with white head and chest, and chestnut brown body and wings. Wings are broad and deeply fingered. Tail is rounded, short and tipped with white.



Key features

Medium-sized, plain chestnut brown and white raptor.

Diet

Carrion, insects, crabs, small mammals and fish.

Habitat

Coastal waterways and large rivers.

Size (length)

45 - 50 cm.

Threats

Habitat destruction.

Eastern osprey

Pandion cristatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized raptor with dark brown upperparts contrasting with pale-white underparts. Black band across eye, and eyes placed well forward on head. Short bristly crest. Beak is strongly hooked and legs are powerful.



Key features

Medium-sized fish eating raptor, smaller than white-bellied sea-eagle and has sharply bowed wings when soaring.

Diet

Primarily fish. Occasionally molluscs, crustaceans, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Habitat

Coastal woodlands, large rivers and wetlands.

Size (length)

50 - 65 cm.

Threats

Climate change.

Wedge-tailed eagle

Aquila audax

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Australia's largest raptor. Powerful and distinctive eagle with wedge-shaped tail and legs that are feathered to the feet. Juveniles are typically brown but they darken with age to almost black as adults.



Key features

Wedge-shaped tail and large build.

Diet

Mammals, birds, reptiles and carrion.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, although avoids rainforest and coastal heath.

Size (length)

90 - 110 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and vehicle strikes.

Little eagle

Hieraaetus morphnoides

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, stocky, powerful eagle with broad head and long, square tail. Legs are heavily feathered. Plumage is mottled dark to light brown. Distinctive, pale M-shaped band under wings.



Key features

Similar to whistling kite in size and colour, but soars in tight circles and has fully feathered legs.

Diet

Small mammals (particularly rabbits), reptiles, small birds and insects.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, although avoids rainforest.

Size (length)

45 - 55 cm.

Threats

No known threats to Queensland populations.

Swamp harrier

Circus approximans

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Martin Cachard

Basic description

Large, slender raptor with long legs and tail. Mostly chocolate brown with a white rump. Long, broad, fingered wings. Round, owl-like face mask.



Key features

Owl-like face mask and only light barring under tail.

Diet

Large invertebrates and small vertebrates (frogs, birds, eggs, small mammals and reptiles).

Habitat

Wetlands and open country. Often observed around dams.

Size (length)

50 - 60 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing.

Spotted harrier

Circus assimilis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Del Richards

Basic description

Large, slender raptor with long legs and tail. Mostly blue-grey above with striking white-spotted chest. Undertail strongly barred with black and white. Long, broad, fingered wings. Round, owl-like face mask.



Key features

Owl-like face mask and bold, black and white barring under tail.

Diet

Mammals, birds, reptiles and large insects.

Habitat

Open wooded country (such as grasslands). Often observed in croplands.

Size (length)

50 - 60 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and inappropriate fire regimes.

Brown falcon

Falco berigora

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized raptor with dark to light brown plumage above, paler below. Females are larger than males. Characteristic tear-shape stripe on sides of eyes. Falcons from north Queensland are very dark, but pale on face and under tail.



Key features

Brown coloured falcon with distinctive tear-drop markings. Larger than nankeen kestrel and smaller than black falcon.

Diet

Small mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, but prefers open grasslands and woodlands. Often observed on farmlands.

Size (length)

40 - 50 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing.

Nankeen kestrel

Falco cenchroides

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small, slender raptor with mostly rufous upperparts spotted with black. Wing tips are black. Chest and head are pale buff, finely streaked with black. Tail is pale with a solid black bar at tip. Often observed hovering over farmlands.



Key features

Small, distinctive falcon that is mostly rufous with tear-drop markings.

Diet

Small mammals, reptiles, insects and sometimes birds.

Habitat

Lightly wooded grasslands, farmlands and crops.

Size (length)

30 - 35 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing.

Australian hobby

Falco longipennis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small-sized raptor with grey-brown plumage above and dark head and face. Females are larger than males. Pale bib on side of neck and throat. Large yellow feet with black claws. Skin on face grey.



Key features

Similar in colour to peregrine falcon but much more slender and smaller. Skin on face grey.

Diet

Birds, small bats and insects.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, although prefers open grasslands and woodlands in the vicinity of wetlands, lakes and rivers.

Size (length)

30 - 35 cm.

Threats

No known significant threats to Queensland populations.

Peregrine falcon

Falco peregrinus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized raptor with slate grey plumage above and charcoal black head and face. Females larger than males. White bib on neck and chest. Large yellow feet with black claws. Skin on face yellow.



Key features

Similar in colour (but darker) to Australian hobby, however much more solid build and larger in body size. Skin on face yellow.

Diet

Mostly birds. Occasionally small mammals and carrion.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, although avoids treeless and waterless areas.

Size (length)

35 - 50 cm.

Threats

No known significant threats to Queensland populations.

Black falcon

Falco subniger

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized raptor that is almost entirely dark brown or sooty black. Largest Australian falcon. Bill and feet are bluish-white. In flight, wings are pointed at tips and tail is long and square.



Key features

Similar to brown falcon but larger, much darker and more uniform in colour.

Diet

Birds, small mammals, reptiles and insects.

Habitat

Wooded watercourses, grasslands and woodlands.

Size (length)

45 - 55 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing.

Sarus crane

Grus antigone

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Vary large grey crane with featherless red head and neck, and grey crown. Long legs are red. Black dewlap under chin.



Key features

Differentiated from the brolga in having the red colouration extend from the head down the neck. Legs red.

Diet

Aquatic plants, insects, fish, frogs, crustaceans and seeds.

Habitat

Shallow, well-vegetated wetlands and farmlands.

Size (length)

120 - 150 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats, dogs, pigs and wetland degradation.

Brolga

Grus rubicunda

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Vary large grey crane with featherless red head and grey crown. Long legs are grey. Black dewlap under chin.



Key features

Differentiated from sarus crane in that red colouration does not extend from the head down the neck. Legs grey.

Diet

Bulbs, edible roots, seeds, insects, molluscs, crustaceans, frogs and lizards.

Habitat

Shallow, well-vegetated wetlands and farmlands.

Size (length)

80 - 130 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats, dogs, pigs and wetland degradation.

Pale-vented bush-hen

Amaurornis moluccana

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Keith Fisher

Basic description

Small, slender rail. Greyish breast, olive wings and head, yellow-green bill, and slender yellow-green legs. Usually hidden in dense vegetation, however, sometimes seen on road edges.



Key features

Dark coloured rail-like bird with yellow-green beak and legs.

Diet

Seeds, plant matter and invertebrates.

Habitat

Wetlands bordering rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests.

Size (length)

24 - 26 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats, dogs and pigs.

Red-necked crane

Rallina tricolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Crane with chestnut-red head, neck and breast. Upperparts are grey-brown, underparts grey-brown with pale barring. Bill is green. Tail is often raised and repeatedly flicked.



Key features

Warm brown crane with chestnut head, neck and breast.

Diet

Frogs and aquatic invertebrates.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest and dense vegetation surrounding permanent wetlands.

Size (length)

24 - 29 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats, dogs and pigs.

Buff-banded rail

Gallirallus philippensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, stocky rail with short legs. Mottled brown, white and black above and barred black and white below. Distinctive grey eyebrow and orange-brown band on breast. Chestnut streak through eye.



Key features

Distinctive grey eyebrow and orange-brown band on breast. Chestnut streak through eye.

Diet

Invertebrates, small vertebrates, seeds, fruit, and carrion.

Habitat

Dense reeds and vegetation bordering wetlands and drainage channels.

Size (length)

28 - 32 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

White-browed crake

Amaurornis cinerea

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small water fowl that is easily observed on floating vegetation. Grey body, brown wings and two distinctive white lines above and below eyes.



Key features

Small water fowl with white lines above and below eye.

Diet

Insects, fish, frogs and seeds.

Habitat

Woodland areas near watercourses and mangrove forests.

Size (length)

18 - 20 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change, cats, dogs and pigs.

Baillon's crake

Porzana pusilla

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Tiny crake with streaked, yellow upperparts. Pale grey head and breast. Flanks and under-tail are dark and heavily barred with white. Bill and legs are green, eyes are red.



Key features

Mottled yellow above with dark grey flanks and underside of tail barred with white.

Diet

Seeds, molluscs, insects crustaceans and spiders.

Habitat

Freshwater, brackish or saline wetlands, damp wetlands, creeks, rivers and streams.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats, dogs and pigs.

Spotless crane

Porzana tabuensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small crane, with dusky blue-black head and underparts. Upperparts are dark rufous-brown. Under-tail is heavily barred, bill is black, eyes are red, legs are pink.



Key features

Compact, with brown upperparts, dusky-blue underparts and heavily barred under-tail.

Diet

Seeds, molluscs, insects crustaceans and spiders.

Habitat

Densely vegetated edges of wetlands.

Size (length)

17 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs, wetland degradation and pigs.

Eurasian coot

Fulica atra

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, almost entirely black waterbird with snowy white bill and forehead shield. Bright red eyes.



Key features

Black coot with silvery-white bill and head shield, and red eyes.

Diet

Mostly vegetable matter, with some invertebrates and fish.

Habitat

Still, vegetated waterways (particularly swamps and lagoons).

Size (length)

35 - 38 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Dusky moorhen

Gallinula tenebrosa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, dark grey-black waterbird with white undertail. Red bill with yellow tip and red forehead shield. Dark brown eyes.



Key features

Similar to Eurasian coot and purple swamphen but with red bill tipped with yellow. Lacks purple sheen.

Diet

Algae, water plants, grasses, seeds, fruit, molluscs and invertebrates.

Habitat

Wetlands, swamps, rivers and artificial waterways.

Size (length)

35 - 40 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Purple swamphen

Porphyrio porphyrio

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, robust wading bird. Mostly dusky black above with a broad dark blue collar and dark blue to purple below. White undertail. Bill is red and robust, and legs and feet are orange-red.



Key features

Similar to dusky moorhen but with large red head casque, and purple neck and chest.

Diet

Emergent vegetation, frogs, snails, eggs and ducklings.

Habitat

Margins of swamps and wetlands.

Size (length)

45 - 50 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Australian bustard

Ardeotis australis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, upstanding bird of open grasslands. Males have a black crown, grey-white neck, bold, black breast band and brown body. Females are smaller and colouring is less bold.



Key features

Very distinctive bird. Heaviest flighted bird in Australia. Often called plains turkey.

Diet

Seeds, fruit, buds, leaves, frogs, lizards and invertebrates.

Habitat

Grasslands, dry plains and open woodlands.

Size (length)

80 - 130 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Bush stone-curlew

Burhinus gallarius

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, slender, upright, ground-dwelling, mostly nocturnal bird. Also called bush thick-knee. Grey-brown above and buff-white below, streaked with rufous and black. Large eye and relatively slender bill.



Key features

Distinguished from similar beach stone-curlew by more slender bill.

Diet

Invertebrates, small vertebrates (reptiles and occasionally small mammals) and seeds.

Habitat

Open habitats.

Size (length)

55 - 60 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Beach stone-curlew

Esacus magnirostris

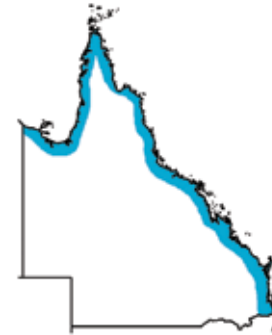
NCA Status: **V**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Very large, robust wader with heavy bill. Large black and white head with heavy, uptilted black and yellow bill. Body is mostly grey-brown with grey underparts. Hunched profile with solid yellow legs.



Key features

Similar to bush stone-curlew but much larger and more robust. Large black and yellow bill.

Diet

Marine invertebrates.

Habitat

Coastal waterways such as mudflats, beaches, islands, reefs and mangroves.

Size (length)

54 - 56 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Black-winged stilt

Himantopus himantopus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, black and white wader with long, orange-red legs and straight, fine black bill. Black on the back of head, white collar and red eyes. Wings are black and the rest of the body is white.



Key features

Slender wader. Black on the back of head, white collar and red eyes.

Diet

Aquatic invertebrates, molluscs and crustaceans.

Habitat

Freshwater and saltwater marshes, lakes, rivers and mudflats.

Size (length)

33 - 37 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, dogs and pigs.

Black-fronted dotterel

Elseyaornis melanops

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small wader with distinctive black face-mask and breast-band. Chestnut shoulder feathers are obvious. Legs are pink-orange. Bill is red with black tip. Dark eye is ringed with red.



Key features

Distinctive black face-mask and breast-band.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Shallow, bare, freshwater wetlands, lakes, rivers and marshes.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Red-kneed dotterel

Erythronyctes alpinus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Tiny, plump wader with long legs. Black cap covers eyes and extends from upper bill to hindneck. Black breast-band contrasts with entirely white chin and throat band. Greenish-brown above. Legs are red from the knees up.



Key features

Tiny wader with long legs, red from the knees up.

Diet

Small molluscs, seeds, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Shallow, bare, freshwater wetlands, lagoons and swamps.

Size (length)

17 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Masked lapwing

Vanellus miles

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, ground-dwelling plover-like bird. Mostly white below with brown wings and back, and a black crown. Large yellow wattles covering the face. Thorny spur projects from the wrist on each wing. Spur is yellow with a black tip.



Key features

Best identified by large yellow face wattles that look like melted cheese.

Diet

Invertebrates and their larvae.

Habitat

Marshes, beaches, grasslands and mudflats.

Size (length)

35 - 38 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Banded lapwing

Vanellus tricolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large plover with broad black breast band and white throat. Mainly grey-brown above with white underparts. Black cap and broad white eye-stripe. Yellow eye ring and bill. Small red wattle over the bill. The legs are pinkish-grey.



Key features

Similar to masked lapwing but with small red wattles and white eye-stripe.

Diet

Invertebrates and their larvae.

Habitat

Short grasslands (particularly grazed paddocks).

Size (length)

25 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Comb-crested jacana

Irediparra gallinacea

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small waterbird with enormously long, dull green toes. Dark brown above with white underparts, face and throat. Bill reddish, tipped with black. Red comb on forehead.



Key features

Very distinctive waterbird with extremely long toes and red comb on head.

Diet

Aquatic invertebrates, seeds and aquatic plants.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical freshwater wetlands, including lagoons, swamps, dams, lakes, rivers and billabongs.

Size (length)

20 - 27 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, wetland degradation and pigs.

Australian painted snipe

Rostratula australis

NCA Status: **V**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized shore bird with robust bill, rounded wings, longish legs and a white-edged shoulder. Males have a dark-brown crown. Head and neck are dark grey, with a white comma-shaped mark around the eye. Females are similar but lighter ash-grey and a bright rufous shoulder.



Key features

Shore bird with white comma through eye and white shoulder band.

Diet

Seeds and small invertebrates.

Habitat

Inland and coastal shallow wetlands where there is grass.

Size (length)

23 - 30 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, wetland degradation, weeds, cats and pigs.

Latham's snipe

Gallinago hardwickii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized cryptic bird with mottled, brown, black and white plumage. Bill is long and straight. Wings are short and pointed, and tail is long. Bold narrow dark stripe on cheek and through eye.



Key features

Long, straight bill and mottled brown plumage.

Diet

Seeds, plants, worms, spiders, molluscs, isopods and centipedes.

Habitat

Densely vegetated wetlands.

Size (length)

27 - 30 cm.

Threats

Cats, wetland degradation, dogs and pigs.

Bar-tailed godwit

Limosa lapponica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large wader. Mostly mottled brown above and lighter, uniform buff below. Dull white underwings. Long, slightly upturned bill. White tail is barred with brown.



Key features

Short and slightly upturned bill, unlike black-tailed godwit.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates.

Habitat

Mudflats, beaches and mangroves.

Size (length)

38 - 46 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs, pigs, wetland degradation and climate change.

Black-tailed godwit

Limosa limosa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, graceful wader with rather small head, long neck, very long straight or slightly curved bill and long legs. Mostly mottled brown above and lighter, uniform buff below. Dull white underwings.



Key features

Straighter and longer bill than the bar-tailed godwit.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic plants, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Mudflats, lakes, wetlands, and marshes.

Size (length)

36 - 43 cm.

Threats

Cats, wetland degradation, climate change, weeds, dogs and pigs.

Eastern curlew

Numenius madagascariensis

NCA Status: **V**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Largest Australian wader. Robust, dark-streaked brown with long neck and legs. Very long down-curved bill. When flying, barred flight feathers are visible. Light underwings and dark above.



Key features

Best identified by size, colour and body shape.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Wetlands, mudflats and sandflats.

Size (length)

60 - 65 cm.

Threats

Climate change, wetland degradation, weeds and pigs.

Wood sandpiper

Tringa glareola

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, slender wader. Dark grey-brown above with light flecks and white underbody. Pale breast is mottled. Legs are yellow-green. Has a distinct white brow line.



Key features

Slender grey-brown wader with distinct white brow line.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Inland, shallow wetlands.

Size (length)

20 - 23 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change, wetland degradation, cats, dogs and pigs.

Common sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small sandpiper with long body and short legs. Grey-brown above. White underside colour forms pointed shape between wing and dark breast band. Indistinct white eye brow and white eye ring.



Key features

Similar to wood sandpiper but with shorter neck, wings and legs.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Wetlands, coastal rivers and mudflats.

Size (length)

19 - 22 cm.

Threats

Cats, climate change and wetland degradation.

Common greenshank

Tringa nebularia

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, robust wader. Non-breeding birds are grey-brown above and pale below. Head and neck are flecked with dark grey. Long bill is green-grey and slightly curved upward. Narrow white eye ring. Breeding birds have bold black markings on chest.



Key features

Long beak is slightly upturned unlike the similar looking marsh sandpiper.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Wetlands and mudflats.

Size (length)

30 - 34 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, wetland degradation, climate change, cats, dogs and pigs.

Marsh sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Distinctive, long-legged wader with long, fine bill and small body. Non-breeding birds are grey-brown above with white breast and neck. White 'eyebrow' above eye. Breeding birds have streaked dark brown head and neck. Flanks and breast are barred.



Key features

Long slender bill much thinner than similar common greenshank.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Wetlands, rivers, lagoons and swamps.

Size (length)

22 - 25 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, weeds, wetland degradation, cats, dogs and pigs.

Red-necked stint

Calidris ruficollis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Very small sandpiper. Legs are short and bill is straight with a bulbous tip. Non-breeding birds are brown and grey-brown above with pale-edged feathers. Pale eye-stripe. Rump and tail are black. Outer tail-feathers and sides of rump are white.



Key features

Very small sandpiper with straight, bulbous-tipped bill.

Diet

Small molluscs, small vertebrates, aquatic plants, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Mudflats, lagoons, estuaries, wetlands, protected shorelines and inlets.

Size (length)

13 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats, wetland degradation, inappropriate fire regimes, dogs and pigs.

Sharp-tailed sandpiper

Calidris acuminata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized wader with straight, black bill which is olive-grey at base. Chestnut crown and nape and white eyebrow. Reddish-brown above with black centre to each feather. White outer margins of black tail visible in flight.



Key features

No obvious division between chest and breast markings.

Diet

Small molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Habitat

Mudflats, wetlands, mangroves and beaches.

Size (length)

17 - 21 cm.

Threats

Cats, climate change, weeds, wetland degradation, dogs and pigs.

Australian pratincole

Stiltia isabella

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Slender-bodied, long-legged bird with an upright stance and elegant posture. Sandy-olive above with very long, narrow, pointed black wings. Deep chestnut brown and black patch on its flanks.



Key features

Small, upstanding, distinctive bird. Sandy with very long, narrow, pointed black wings.

Diet

Insects, spiders and centipedes.

Habitat

Open plains and grasslands near water.

Size (length)

22 - 24 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Red-backed button-quail

Turnix maculosus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, ground dwelling bird with slim pointed bill and white eye. Females have rich rufous face, neck, shoulder patch and rear collar. Wing coverts and flanks are yellow-buff with prominent black spots. Males are less brightly coloured.



Key features

Small ground dwelling bird with rufous collar and shoulders. Females more brightly coloured than males.

Diet

Seeds and invertebrates.

Habitat

Grasslands and wetland margins.

Size (length)

12 - 15 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, dogs and pigs.

Buff-breasted button-quail

Turnix olivii

NCA Status: **E**



Illustration by Trevor Madin

Basic description

Large button-quail with robust grey bill. Eyes, legs and feet are yellow. Cinnamon upperparts, rump and tail. Wings darker. Black laddering and white dots on wings. Very cryptic and rarely observed.



Key features

Robust grey bill, and yellow eyes, legs and feet.

Diet

Seeds and invertebrates.

Habitat

Slopes in woodlands.

Size (length)

18 - 22 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes, woodland thickening, cats, dogs and pigs.

Red-chested button-quail

Turnix pyrrhothorax

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Justin Wright

Basic description

Small, ground-dwelling bird with stout silver-grey bill and cream-white eye. Female has rich orange-buff underparts. Crown, face and upperparts are grey-brown, finely patterned black and rufous with cream streaks. Male has whiter throat and belly.



Key features

Small button-quail with orange-buff chest. Females more brightly coloured than males.

Diet

Seeds and invertebrates.

Habitat

Dense grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Size (length)

12 - 16 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, dogs and pigs.

Painted button-quail

Turnix varius

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, round, ground-dwelling bird. Females have bright chestnut shoulders with rufous upperparts, heavily barred with black and streaked with grey-white. Underparts are grey spotted white. Eye is red. Male is duller with less chestnut.



Key features

Small ground-dwelling bird with rufous upperparts streaked black. Grey underparts.

Diet

Seeds, fruit, leaves and insects.

Habitat

Open forest and woodlands, mulga, brigalow and mallee. Prefers habitat with abundant leaf litter, stony ridges and sparse grass layer.

Size (length)

17 - 23 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, fire, habitat disturbance and pigs.

Little button-quail

Turnix velox

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Very small button-quail with heavy blue-grey bill and cream eye. Females have pinkish-brown upperparts with whitish coloured streaks and pale underparts. Males are pale brown with darker pattern on crown and upperparts, and dark scalloping on sides of chest.



Key features

Very small with brownish upperparts, and cream eye. Females more rufous than males.

Diet

Seeds and invertebrates.

Habitat

Grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Size (length)

13 - 16 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, cats, dogs and pigs.

Caspian tern

Hydroprogne caspia

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Largest Australian tern with long, slender wings and slightly forked tail. Robust red bill with a darker tip. Breeding terns are white with a black crown from bill to nape and short, shaggy black crest. Eye is dark and legs are black.



Key features

Robust red bill and black crown with shaggy black crest.

Diet

Small fish, frogs, crustaceans, insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Coastal and off-shore waters, beaches, estuaries and mudflats. Occasionally observed inland.

Size (length)

48 - 55 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs, climate change, weeds, habitat destruction and pigs.

Whiskered tern

Chlidonias hybrida

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small tern with slightly forked tail. During breeding season the crown is black, and cheeks and side of neck are white. Upperparts, upperwings and tail are light grey. Dark grey to slate grey below and undertail is white. Eye is brown. Bill and legs are red.



Key features

Forked tail, black crown, and white cheeks and neck.

Diet

Small fish, frogs, crustaceans, insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Inland, vegetated and open wetlands.

Size (length)

25 - 27 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Gull-billed tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized tern, mostly white in colour with a broad, gull-like bill. Black crown from bill to nape. Grey back and upper wings. Darker flight feathers. Iris is dark brown. Bill and legs black.



Key features

White tern with black crown and short, robust, gull-like bill.

Diet

Small fish, frogs, crustaceans, insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Wetlands, mudflats, ephemeral pans and floodplains.

Size (length)

35 - 38 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Red-tailed black-cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus banksii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, robust black parrot with large black to grey coloured bill. Males are almost entirely black with a red panel on tail. Females have faint yellow spots on their head, neck and wings. Females' tail panels are orange-yellow and barred with black.



Key features

Large, black cockatoo with red (males) or orange-yellow (females) tail panel.

Diet

Fruit, berries, nectar, flowers, seeds, insects and larvae.

Habitat

Eucalypt and casuarina woodlands.

Size (length)

50 - 65 cm.

Threats

Cats and poaching.

Palm cockatoo

Probosciger aterrimus

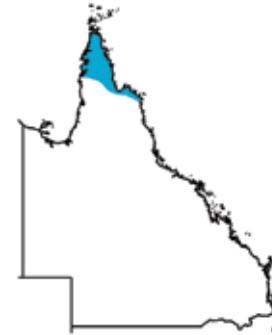
NCA Status: **NT**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Large black cockatoo with distinctive long back-curved crest and powerful black bill. Distinctive large, bare, red cheek patches which turn deeper crimson with excitement.



Key features

Distinctive large, black cockatoo with long back-curved crest and bright red cheek patches.

Diet

Large fruits, seeds and nuts.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest and woodlands.

Size (length)

55 - 65 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, woodland thickening, climate change, habitat destruction and overgrazing.

Galah

Eolophus roseicapillus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized pink and grey parrot. An iconic bird that is very easily identified. Wings are grey, underparts, neck and face are rose-pink. Crown is light pink.



Key features

Easily distinguished pink and grey parrot.

Diet

Seeds of ground cover plants and shrubs.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, but typically timbered areas near water.

Size (length)

35 - 38 cm.

Threats

Cats and vehicle strikes.

Sulphur-crested cockatoo

Cacatua galerita

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, almost entirely white parrot with a yellow wash under the wings and a distinctive bright yellow crest. One of the most distinctive and common birds in Australia.



Key features

Large white parrot with distinctive yellow crest.

Diet

Berries, seeds, nuts and roots.

Habitat

Habitat generalist including eucalypt forest, rainforest, mangroves, watercourses and partially cleared farmlands.

Size (length)

45 - 50 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Little corella

Cacatua sanguinea

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, white parrot with fleshy blue ring around eye and pale pink patch between the bill and eye. Pale yellow wash under wing and tail.



Key features

Medium-sized white parrot with short bill and blue eye ring.

Diet

Grains and grass seeds.

Habitat

Habitat generalist but often associated with seeding grasses along watercourses. Not found in thick forests.

Size (length)

36 - 39 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Varied lorikeet

Psitteuteles versicolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized lorikeet with deep scarlet cap, white eye ring and yellow ear patch. Mostly pale green with fine yellow streaks. Breast is pink with fine yellow streaks.



Key features

Brightly coloured green lorikeet with deep red cap.

Diet

Nectar and pollen, but also fruits, seeds and insects.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical woodlands, eucalypt forests, wetlands and grasslands.

Size (length)

18 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Scaly-breasted lorikeet

Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small lorikeet with red bill and eyes. Entirely green in colour on head and upper wings. Body and neck are green with yellow scale-like pattern. Two-tone, red-orange panel under wing.



Key features

Small parrot that is entirely green in colour marked with yellow 'scales' on breast. Red bill and eyes.

Diet

Nectar and pollen.

Habitat

Lowland eucalypt forests, woodlands and gardens.

Size (length)

23 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rainbow lorikeet

Trichoglossus haematodus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, unmistakable parrot with bright red beak and colourful plumage. Both sexes have blue head and belly, green wings, tail and back, and an orange-yellow breast.



Key features

Easily recognised small brightly coloured lorikeet.

Diet

Nectar, fruit and pollen.

Habitat

Wooded habitat generalist, as well as scrubs, heaths, mangroves and gardens. .

Size (length)

26 - 31 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Little lorikeet

Glossopsitta pusilla

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small, bright green lorikeet with a black bill and red patch covering the forehead and throat. The undertail is olive-yellow with a partly concealed red base.



Key features

Small bright green lorikeet with red forehead and throat.

Diet

Nectar and pollen, but also fruits, seeds and insects.

Habitat

Dry, open sclerophyll forests, woodlands, and timbered watercourses.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Double-eyed fig-parrot

Cyclopsitta diophthalma

NCA Status: E



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, green coloured parrot with robust dark-tipped grey bill. Side of upper-breast is yellow. Very short tail. Male has red cheek and forehead. Females only have red forehead colouration. Found around fruiting trees.



Key features

Smallest parrot in Australia. Green with red patch on forehead. Male has red cheek.

Diet

Seeds, fruit and termites.

Habitat

Rainforest and adjacent woodlands

Size (length)

13 - 15cm

Threats

Habitat destruction, poaching, cats, weeds and climate change.

Australian king-parrot

Alisterus scapularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized, brightly coloured parrot. Males have completely red heads. Females are similar but have green heads and breast. Both sexes have red belly and green back. Normally encountered in pairs or family groups.



Key features

Males are the only parrots in this region with a completely red head.

Diet

Seeds and fruit.

Habitat

Rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.

Size (length)

42 - 44 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, overgrazing and cats.

Red-winged parrot

Aprosmictus erythropterus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized parrot, mostly green in colour with large red shoulder patches above and below the wing which are brighter on males. Bill and eyes are red. Tail is green and tipped with yellow. Flight is very distinctive.



Key features

Robust green parrot with red wing patches. Flies with distinctive strong wing beats with pauses between.

Diet

Seeds, nectar, pollen, insects and larvae.

Habitat

Open dry woodlands, timber-lined waterways and arid scrub.

Size (length)

31 - 32 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Cockatiel

Nymphicus hollandicus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, slender cockatoo with long pointed tail. Mostly grey, with paler underparts. Wings have a large white panel. Face and distinctive crest are yellow. Round, orange cheek patch.



Key features

Distinctive yellow face and crest with orange cheeks.

Diet

Seeds, nuts, berries and grain.

Habitat

Open country near water.

Size (length)

31 - 33 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pale-headed rosella

Platycercus adscitus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, broad-tailed parrot with a pale head and white cheek patches. The underside is mostly blue, with red under the tail. The upperparts are yellow with dark flecks. Females are slightly duller than males.



Key features

Colourful blue, yellow and red parrot with a pale head.

Diet

Seeds, fruit, flowers, and insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Open woodlands, shrublands, watercourses and grasslands.

Size (length)

28 - 32 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Golden-shouldered parrot

Psephotus chrysopterygius

NCA Status: **E**



Photo by Trevor Madin

Basic description

Brightly coloured parrot with a restricted range in central and southern Cape York. Males are primarily turquoise with salmon-pink belly. Wings are bronze with a yellow streak. Females and young birds are primarily green with a turquoise rump.



Key features

Distinctive turquoise colouration.
Yellow patch on wing.

Diet

Fallen grass seeds, particularly firegrass.

Habitat

Open forested grasslands with an abundance of termite mounds for nesting. Habitat selection during the dry season is dependent on grass seed availability.

Size (length)

24 – 26 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes, pigs, woodland thickening, habitat destruction and weeds.

Budgerigar

Melopsittacus undulatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small-sized parrot. Bright green underside, upperparts yellow with black scalloped markings on nape, back and wings. Yellow face with blue cheek spots and short olive-grey beak. Long blue-green tail



Key features

Distinctive small, brightly coloured yellow and green parrot.

Diet

Seeds.

Habitat

Open habitats such as grasslands, spinifex, mallee, mulga and eucalyptus on water courses.

Size (length)

17 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pheasant coucal

Centropus phasianinus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Natalie Waller

Basic description

Large, distinctive, ground-dwelling cuckoo. Long tail and rounded, reduced wings. Body colour is typically mottled red-brown. During breeding the head, neck and underbody are black.



Key features

Large, very distinctive cuckoo with long tail and short, rounded wings.

Diet

Large invertebrates, small vertebrates and eggs.

Habitat

Understorey vegetation of open woodlands, forests and wetlands.

Size (length)

60 - 75 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and vehicle strikes.

Eastern koel

Eudynamys orientalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Large, migratory cuckoo. Males are easily distinguished by their glossy black, iridescent sheen and bright red eyes. Females are brown or black with heavy white spotting, paler underparts and black crown.



Key features

Often heard but rarely seen. Males are glossy black in colour with an iridescent sheen and bright red eyes. Females have black crown and red eyes.

Diet

Fruit, especially figs.

Habitat

Tall forests, figs (native) and rainforest fringes.

Size (length)

40 - 46 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Channel-billed cuckoo

Scythrops novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large migratory cuckoo with robust, pale, down-curved bill, grey plumage and long, barred tail. Very distinctive in appearance and sound. Hard to mistake with any other species.



Key features

Very distinctive, large cuckoo with robust, down-turned bill.

Diet

Native figs and fruits, but sometimes seeds, insects and baby birds.

Habitat

Tall, open forests, rainforest, monsoon and eucalypt forest, thickets on watercourses and swamps.

Size (length)

58 - 65 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Oriental cuckoo

Cuculus optatus

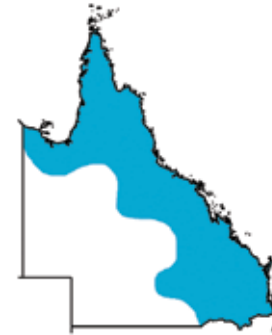
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large migratory cuckoo with yellow eye, eye ring and feet, and partly yellow bill. Males are mostly grey with pale chest and strongly barred belly. Females are rufous brown with entirely barred underparts.



Key features

Distinguished from pallid cuckoo by strong barring of underparts.

Diet

Insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Monsoon forest, rainforest edges, vine scrub, trees in paddocks, river flats, mangroves and islands.

Size (length)

28 - 33 cm.

Threats

Cats and habitat loss.

Chestnut-breasted cuckoo

Cacomantis castaneiventris

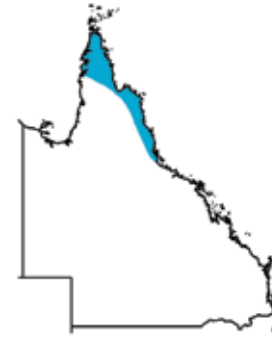
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized cuckoo with bright chestnut coloured underparts, grey upperparts and head. Dark eyes surrounded by a pale eye ring. Juveniles are reddish-brown above with paler yellow-brown undersides.



Key features

Grey upperparts with bright chestnut underparts and pale eye ring.

Diet

Insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Rainforest edges, scrub along watercourses and mangroves.

Size (length)

24 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Fan-tailed cuckoo

Cacomantis flabelliformis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Slender cuckoo with slate-grey wings and back. Chest transitions from rufous to off white on belly. Boldly marked under tail with black and white barring. Obvious yellow eye ring.



Key features

Rufous chest and an obvious yellow eye ring.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, fruits, vegetable matter, small reptiles, mammals and birds.

Habitat

Dense woodland, rainforest, open woodland, orchards and gardens.

Size (length)

25 - 27 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pallid cuckoo

Cacomantis pallidus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small cuckoo with shades varying from light grey to mottled brown on back and darker on wings. Tail is barred black and white. Bill, legs and feet are grey-brown in colour. Golden eye ring.



Key features

Non-descript cuckoo with barring under tail and golden eye ring.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, particularly caterpillars.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, scrublands, mangroves, pastoral country and farmland.

Size (length)

28 - 34 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Brush cuckoo

Cacomantis variolosus

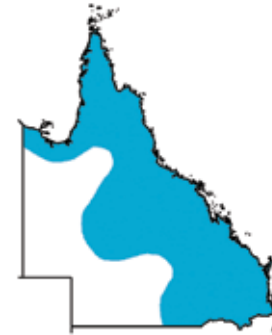
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, plain coloured cuckoo that is grey-brown on the neck and breast and lighter below. The tail is barred with white underneath. Females can be entirely barred underneath. Grey eye ring. Legs grey-pink in colour.



Key features

Distinguished from the fan-tailed cuckoo by lighter coloured eye ring and grey-pink legs.

Diet

Insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Rainforests, woodlands, and mangroves.

Size (length)

22 - 26 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Horsfield's bronze-cuckoo

Chalcites basalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, pale brown cuckoo with glossy green sheen. Long white eyebrows. Dark broken bars on pale breasts. Top of tail rufous on edges, underside barred with broken white and black.



Key features

Distinctive long, white eyebrow markings.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, particularly caterpillars. Occasionally may consume plant matter.

Habitat

Woodlands, mulga, mangroves and along roadsides.

Size (length)

14 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats and habitat destruction.

Shining bronze-cuckoo

Chalcites lucidus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, glossy bronze-green cuckoo with purplish-brown head. Underside white with neat brown-bronze bars. Top of tail rufous on edges, underside barred with broken white and black.



Key features

Very similar to little bronze-cuckoo but without red eye ring.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, particularly caterpillars.

Habitat

Rainforest, woodlands and gardens.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Little bronze-cuckoo

Chalcites minutillus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, glossy, bronze-green cuckoo with purple-brown head, red eye and eye ring. Underside white with fine black scallops. Top of tail rufous on edges, underside barred with broken white and black.



Key features

Red (male) or tan (female) eye and eye ring distinguishes from little bronze-cuckoo.

Diet

Insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical woodland and rainforest.

Size (length)

14 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black-eared cuckoo

Chalcites osculans

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, glossy, pale grey-brown cuckoo with defined black mask under white eye-stripe. Underside pale salmon to fawn in colour. Top of tail grey-brown with white edge. Underside of tail barred with broken black and white.



Key features

Black mask with distinctive white eye stripe.

Diet

Insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Drier inland woodlands and scrublands.

Size (length)

19 - 21 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rufous owl

Ninox rufa

NCA Status: **NT**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large owl with relatively small head. Forehead, neck, back and upper wings are rufous in colour, scattered with light brown barring. Face is dark brown with large yellow eyes. Neck, breast and underparts are striped rufous and cream.



Key features

Large owl with rufous and cream barring on underparts.

Diet

Insects and small-medium sized birds and mammals.

Habitat

Rainforest, rainforest edges, vine scrub, gallery forest along creeklines and eucalypt woodlands.

Size (length)

45 - 55 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes and habitat destruction.

Barking owl

Ninox connivens

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized owl with grey-brown upperparts and white spots on wings. Underparts are whitish, heavily streaked with grey-brown. Head is grey-brown with large yellow eyes. Juveniles have less streaking on underparts.



Key features

Distinguished from the southern boobook by being larger in size and with streaks instead of spots on the underparts.

Diet

Small mammals, birds, reptiles and insects.

Habitat

Open woodlands, dense scrub, river red gums, margins of treeless plains, farming land and forest edges.

Size (length)

35 - 45 cm.

Threats

Habitat destruction, entanglement on barbed wire fences and secondary poisoning.

Southern boobook

Ninox novaeseelandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small owl with dark brown upperparts and rufous-brown underparts, heavily streaked and spotted with white. Facial disk is dark brown with large yellowish eyes. Bill is grey with darker tip. Juveniles have buff-white underparts.



Key features

Smallest Australian owl with dark brown and rufous plumage.

Diet

Insects and small vertebrates.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, often found in open eucalypt forests and woodlands.

Size (length)

25 - 35 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and vehicle strikes.

Eastern barn owl

Tyto javanica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized owl with a heart-shaped facial disc. Sandy and pale grey above and white to cream below. Back and breast evenly spotted with black. Very widespread and distinctive owl.



Key features

Similar to masked owl but generally lighter in colour and has smaller feet and talons.

Diet

Small mammals and birds (sometimes insects, frogs and lizards).

Habitat

Habitat generalist of open woodlands and grasslands.

Size (length)

30 - 40 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and secondary poisoning.

Eastern grass owl

Tyto longimembris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Medium-sized, slim owl with long slender legs. Heart-shaped facial disc white in males and pale orange buff with spots in females. Small, black eyes with black tear marks below. Chocolate and buff above. Pale, flushed orange-buff and spotted below.



Key features

Similar to barn owl and masked owl but with longer legs and face and proportionally smaller eyes.

Diet

Small mammals.

Habitat

Grassland, coastal heath and farmland.

Size (length)

32 - 38 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and climate change.

Lesser sooty owl

Tyto multipunctata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small-sized owl with pale grey oval facial disc outlined in black. Upperparts are sooty with sparse silvery-white spot and specklings. Underparts are silvery-grey with fine dark broken barring. Eyes are very large and black, tail is short.



Key features

Silvery grey owl with pale oval facial disc and large dark eyes. Slightly smaller and paler than sooty owl.

Diet

Small vertebrates, primarily mammals (occasionally birds).

Habitat

Tropical rainforest and woodlands.

Size (length)

40 - 50 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and climate change.

Masked owl

Tyto novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **V**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, robust owl with chestnut to white facial-disc, bordered by darker ring. Dark around bill and below eyes. Blackish-brown to grey-white above, spotted with grey and white. Rufous to white below, speckled with dark brown.



Key features

Similar to barn owl but larger and generally darker in colour. Feet and talons heavier and legs are fully feathered.

Diet

Small mammals.

Habitat

Forests, woodlands and riparian vegetation.

Size (length)

35 - 57 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, weeds and overgrazing.

Azure kingfisher

Ceyx azureus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small kingfisher with a long, slender, black bill and short tail. Head, neck and back are deep blue and underside is orange-red. Orange spots in front of each eye. Legs and feet are red.



Key features

Small distinctive kingfisher. Deep blue above, red-orange below and orange spots in front of eyes.

Diet

Invertebrates and small fish.

Habitat

Well vegetated areas along freshwater watercourses.

Size (length)

17 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats and wetland degradation.

Little kingfisher

Ceyx pusilla

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Tiny kingfisher that is glossy blue above and white below. White spots in front of each eye. White stripes above shoulders.



Key features

Smallest kingfisher. Blue and white.

Diet

Invertebrates and small fish.

Habitat

Dense vegetation along rivers, swamps, lakes and mangroves.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Buff-breasted paradise-kingfisher

Tanysiptera sylvia

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Splendid brightly coloured kingfisher with large red bill, deep blue upperparts and yellow-chestnut underparts. Black eye-stripe running down to nape and white patch between wings. Tail has two very long white ribbon-like plumes.



Key features

Deep blue and yellow kingfisher with red bill and two long, white ribbon-like tail plumes.

Diet

Phasmids, earthworms, beetles, spiders and small vertebrates such as frogs and skinks.

Habitat

Rainforest, monsoon forest and vine scrub.

Size (length)

29 - 35 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs and habitat destruction.

Blue-winged kookaburra

Dacelo leachii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large kingfisher with square head and solid bill. Head is pale with dark streaks. Sky blue patches on the wings and rump. Underparts are off-white. Pale eye is distinctive.



Key features

Sky blue patches on wings and rump. Pale eye. Lacks dark eye stripe.

Diet

Insects, frogs, reptiles, crayfish, fish, spiders, snakes, worms, small birds and mammals.

Habitat

Along watercourses in tropical and subtropical open woodlands, and paperbark swamps.

Size (length)

38 - 42 cm.

Threats

Cats and vehicle strikes.

Laughing kookaburra

Dacelo novaeguineae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large kingfisher with square head and solid bill. Head is white with dark streaks and brown stripe through eye. It has blue spot on dark brown wings. Underparts are off-white. Eye is dark.



Key features

Very distinctive bird. Distinguished from blue-winged kookaburra by dark eye and dark stripe through eye.

Diet

Insects, frogs, reptiles, crayfish, fish, spiders, snakes, worms, small birds and mammals.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, occurring in much of Cape York and Northern Gulf.

Size (length)

40 - 47 cm.

Threats

Cats and vehicle strikes.

Collared kingfisher

Todiramphus chloris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Stocky kingfisher with wide white collar. Blue-green cap and upperparts with flight feathers edged deep blue. Underparts are white. Black stripe runs through eye, bill is grey, long and heavy



Key features

Large blue-green kingfisher with white collar and underparts.

Diet

Beetles, spiders, worms, grasshoppers, larvae, frogs and small lizards.

Habitat

Open sclerophyll forests and coastal areas, particularly mangrove swamps.

Size (length)

24 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats, habitat destruction and wetland degradation.

Forest kingfisher

Todiramphus macleayi

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small kingfisher with a dark royal-blue head and pale turquoise back. Large white spot over the bill in front of eye. Underparts are white. Broad black eye stripe from bill to eye.



Key features

Distinguished from the sacred kingfisher by bright white underparts and collar and white spots in front of the eyes.

Diet

Invertebrates and small vertebrates including beetles, bugs, spiders, grasshoppers, small lizards, frogs and worms.

Habitat

Open sclerophyll forest, mangrove forests and *Melaleuca* swampland.

Size (length)

17 - 23 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Red-backed kingfisher

Todiramphus pyrhopoygius

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized kingfisher with white crown streaked grey-green. Shoulders are blue, mantle is green-grey and mid back to tail coverts rufous. Underparts and collar are white. Long black mask through eyes. Females are duller in colour than males.



Key features

Blue-green kingfisher with white underparts, white streaked crown and rufous rump.

Diet

Invertebrates.

Habitat

Found throughout drier regions, including semi-arid woodlands and scrublands. Often far from water.

Size (length)

20 - 24 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Sacred kingfisher

Todiramphus sanctus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized kingfisher with turquoise back, turquoise-blue rump and tail, buff-white underparts and broad cream collar. Broad black eye-stripe extending from bill to nape.



Key features

Distinguished from the forest kingfisher by buff wash on white underparts and buff patch in front of eyes.

Diet

Invertebrates and small vertebrates including crustaceans, reptiles, insects and their larvae and occasionally fish.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, *Melaleuca* forest, semi-arid scrublands and mangroves

Size (length)

20 - 23 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Dollarbird

Eurystomus orientalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Stocky, green-blue bird with solid, red bill, eye ring and legs. Head is large and dark. Wings and underparts are light green-blue and flight feathers are deep blue. Large, light spot visible on each wing in flight.



Key features

Medium-sized, robust green-blue bird with solid, red bill and light spot on each wing.

Diet

Large flying insects.

Habitat

Open wooded areas and farmlands.

Size (length)

25 - 29 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rainbow bee-eater

Merops ornatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized colourful bird with long slim curved bill. Golden crown with red eye set in wide black stripe, edged in thin blue line. Green breast and upperparts and blue lower abdomen. Long black tail with distinctive tail streamers.



Key features

Strikingly colourful, medium-sized bird with slim curved bill and long tail streamers.

Diet

Insects, particularly bees.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, mangroves and some coastal beaches.

Size (length)

23 - 27 cm.

Threats

Cats, pigs and cane toads.

Yellow-billed kingfisher

Syma torotoro

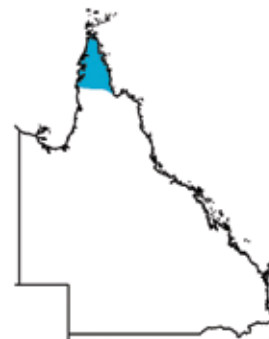
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized kingfisher with distinctive colouring. Orange head and neck with black nape patch and white throat. Back and wings are blue-green and tail is blue in colour. Underparts are orange-grey, bill is yellow. Females have a black crown.



Key features

Distinctly coloured kingfisher with yellow bill, orange face and neck.

Diet

Invertebrates and small vertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, monsoon forest, mangroves and forest edges.

Size (length)

18 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Noisy pitta

Pitta versicolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with black head and neck. Crown is chestnut brown with central black stripe. Upperparts mostly green with bright blue shoulder patches. Underparts are mustard yellow with red patch on under-tail coverts.



Key features

Distinguished from other pitta species by mustard yellow underparts.

Diet

Snails and other small invertebrates. Occasionally consumes fruit.

Habitat

Tropical-subtropical rainforest, wet and dry sclerophyll forest and mangrove forests.

Size (length)

18 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats and habitat destruction.

White-throated treecreeper

Cormobates leucophaeus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small dark grey-brown treecreeper with distinctive white throat and chest. White streaks on flanks are edged with black. Red bars on wings are visible in flight. Undertail is barred.



Key features

Best identified by 'treecreeping' stance on vertical trees and white throat and chest.

Diet

Invertebrates, mostly ants. Occasionally consumes nectar.

Habitat

Rainforest, wet sclerophyll forests and woodlands.

Size (length)

16 - 17.5 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Brown tree creeper

Climacteris picumnus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small, non-descript, brown bird. Mostly darker brown feathers. Head, throat and upper breast are grey-brown. Belly is streaked with black and brown.



Key features

Most distinctive feature is inverted movement around tree trunks.

Diet

Insects and their larvae.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands and dry scrub.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, cats and habitat destruction.

Spotted catbird

Ailuroedus melanotis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized bird that is mostly green on the upperparts, with olive scalloping and yellow-white streaking on underparts. Large dusky head with a blackish cap, black ear spot and red eyes. Wings have slim white bars. Tail is green, tipped with white.



Key features

Vivid green colouration with scale like spots on underparts. Produces a cat like wailing call.

Diet

Native figs, fruits, seeds and insects.

Habitat

Rainforests and margins, vine scrubs, riverine and paperbark forests.

Size (length)

28 - 32 cm.

Threats

Climate change and cats.

Tooth-billed bowerbird

Scenopoeetes dentirostris

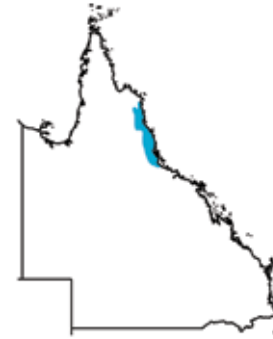
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized stocky bowerbird. Olive-brown with brown streaked buffy-white underparts. Grey feet. Brown eyes encircled by pale eye ring. Unique toothed bill.



Key features

Medium-sized, stocky brown bowerbird with toothed bill.

Diet

Fruits, leaves and sometimes insects.

Habitat

Tropical rainforests and vine scrubs.

Size (length)

26 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Golden bowerbird

Amblyornis newtonianus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small bowerbird with short bill. Males have olive-green wings, upper tail and face. Breast, cap, nape and upper tail is golden yellow. Females are brownish-olive and pale greyish below. Both sexes have yellow eyes.



Key features

Smallest Australian bowerbird.
Males are golden yellow in colour.

Diet

Fruit and invertebrates.

Habitat

High elevation rainforest (700 m and above).

Size (length)

23 - 25 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats and habitat destruction.

Fawn-breasted bowerbird

Ptilonorhynchus cerviniventris

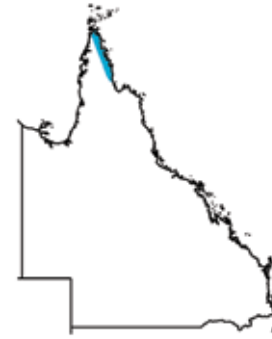
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Anders Zimny

Basic description

Medium-sized bowerbird with greyish-brown upperparts and tawny-buff streaked underparts. Wing feathers have buffy-white tips, black bill and dark brown eye. Females are slightly smaller than males.



Key features

Medium-sized greyish-brown bowerbird, spotted with white.

Diet

Fruits and sometimes insects.

Habitat

Tropical forests, mangroves, savanna and woodlands.

Size (length)

29 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, cats and pigs.

Spotted bowerbird

Ptilonorhynchus maculatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with rich-buff spots on pale-brown body and wings. Both sexes have a erectile pink crest on their nape and an ash-grey patch on their lower nape.



Key features

Distinguished from the great bowerbird by rich buff spots.

Diet

Fruit, but also seeds and insects.

Habitat

Dry, open sclerophyll forests.

Size (length)

25 - 31 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs, inappropriate fire regimes and pigs.

Great bowerbird

Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized, fawn-grey bird with erectile pink crest on nape. Grey-brown with heavy grey-white scalloping above. Tail tip whitish.



Key features

Similar to spotted bowerbird but fawn-grey in colour.

Diet

Fruit, but also seeds and insects.

Habitat

Dry woodlands and vine scrubs near water.

Size (length)

33 - 38 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Satin bowerbird

Ptilonorhynchus violaceus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with violet-blue eyes. Males are entirely iridescent blue-black with a pale whitish-blue bill. Females and immature males have olive-green upperparts, off-white underparts with dark scalloping, and brown wings and tail.



Key features

Medium-sized bird with violet-blue eyes. Males are entirely glossy-blue, females and young birds are green.

Diet

Fruits and sometimes insects.

Habitat

Wet eucalypt forest and rainforests.

Size (length)

28 - 34 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Lovely fairy-wren

Malurus amabilis

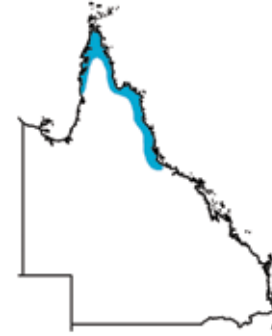
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Breeding males have bright blue crown, ear coverts and upper back. Throat and nape are black, shoulders are chestnut, tail is blue tipped with white. Females have grey wings, blue upperparts, white eye ring and underparts.



Key features

Small blue and white fairy-wren. Breeding males have chestnut shoulders, black throat and nape.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Thickets of rainforest, vine scrubs, and open woodlands.

Size (length)

13 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Variegated fairy-wren

Malurus lamberti

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Very small, variable fairy-wren. In breeding males the crown and sides of the head are blue, and shoulder patches are chestnut. Non-breeding males, females and young birds are a non-descript brownish-grey.



Key features

Chestnut shoulder patches in breeding males. All other individuals are brownish-grey.

Diet

Insects and sometimes seeds.

Habitat

Wide range of habitats including woodlands, shrublands and *melaleuca* thickets.

Size (length)

13 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Red-backed fairy-wren

Malurus melanocephalus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Smallest Australian fairy-wren. Males in breeding plumage are glossy black with red feathers on back and rump. Non-breeding males, females and juveniles have brown upperparts, white to beige underparts.



Key features

Breeding males are black and red. Other individuals are brown with white to beige underparts.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforest margins, swampy woodlands and spinifex.

Size (length)

10 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Fernwren

Oreoscopus gutturalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small terrestrial bird with dark brown upperparts and tail. Underparts are mid olive-brown with long thin white brown line. Prominent white throat. Bill is long.



Key features

Small, brown, terrestrial bird with white throat and long white brow line.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Leaf litter under ferns in upland rainforest.

Size (length)

13 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Tropical scrubwren

Sericornis beccarii

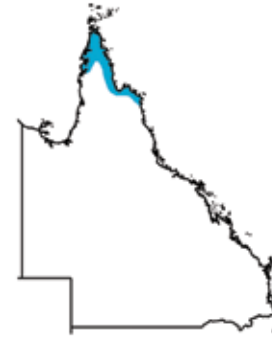
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small scrubwren with bright red eyes and short white brow. Rufous upperparts and pale buff underparts. Slender bill. Males may have smoky black patch on lores.



Key features

Small rufous brown scrubwren with bright red eyes.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforest and vine scrub along watercourses.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Yellow-throated scrubwren

Sericornis citreogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small terrestrial bird with distinctive black face mask, bordered by a white and yellow eyebrow. Throat is bright yellow. Crown and back are dark olive-brown and underparts are pale. Wings are dark grey-brown edged with yellow.



Key features

Small brown and yellow bird with distinctive black face mask.

Diet

Insects and seeds. Feeds exclusively on the ground.

Habitat

Understorey of rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests. Often found near water.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-browed scrubwren

Sericornis frontalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small ground-dwelling bird. Primarily dark olive-brown above, buff-grey throat, and dull rufous flanks, belly and rump. Black mask surrounding eye is bordered by white line above and below.



Key features

Olive-brown with black mask over eyes and white eyebrows.

Diet

Insects and occasionally seeds. Feeds in pairs.

Habitat

Rainforest, open forest, woodlands and heath.

Size (length)

11 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Large-billed scrubwren

Sericornis magnirostra

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized scrubwren with long, straight bill and dark red eyes. Face is pale buff with olive-brown upperparts. Rufous colouration on head, rump and tail. Underparts are pale.



Key features

Brown scrubwren with long dagger-like bill and buff face.

Diet

Insects and spiders.

Habitat

Rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest up to 1500 m above sea level.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats, habitat destruction and climate change.

Western gerygone

Gerygone fusca

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, brownish-grey bird with faint white eyebrow. White eyelids, whitish underparts and dark tail with broad white spots on the underside of each feather. Red eyes.



Key features

Distinguished from other gerygones by lacking the bold black and white pattern on tail.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open woodlands, *Acacia* scrub and savanna.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Mangrove gerygone

Gerygone levigaster

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, brownish-grey bird with broad white line from bill over eye. Whitish underparts and black tail with broad white spots on the underside of each outer feather. Red eyes.



Key features

Fine white eyebrows.

Diet

Exclusively insects.

Habitat

Mangroves, paperbark swamps and coastal woodlands.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Large-billed gerygone

Gerygone magnirostris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small, brownish-grey bird with faint white eyebrow, white eyelids and whitish underparts. Dark tail with broad white spots on the underside of each outer feather. Red eyes.



Key features

Broken white ring surrounding red eyes.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforests, tropical woodlands, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

White-throated gerygone

Gerygone olivacea

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with dark grey-brown upperparts and clearly defined white throat. White spot in front of red eye. Bright yellow underparts and dark grey tail with large white spot at the tip of each tail feather.



Key features

Distinguished from the fairy gerygone by having clearly defined white throat patch and white spots on tail.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Eucalypt woodlands, open forests, scrublands, and trees along watercourses.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Fairy gerygone

Gerygone palpebrosa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small bird with olive-grey upperparts and blackish-brown throat. White spot in front of red eye which continues as a streak under bill. Soft yellow underparts and dark grey tail. North Queensland race has a blackish-brown throat.



Key features

Distinguished from white-throated gerygone by having darker throat and lacking white spots on tail.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforest edges, vine thickets, leafy woodlands, eucalypt woodland and scrubland.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Yellow-rumped thornbill

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Very small bird. In the Northern Gulf region, these birds are pale, greenish above and white below. The forehead is black, spotted with white. Wing is mid-brown. Rump is bright yellow and tail is black with white tip. Flight is bouncy.



Key features

Largest thornbill with distinctive black crown spotted with white, pale eyes and bright yellow rump.

Diet

Insects and occasionally seeds.

Habitat

Short grass on the edge of woodlands, scrublands, open paddocks and parks.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and overgrazing.

Mountain thornbill

Acanthiza katherina

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Medium-sized thornbill with olive-grey head and neck, and fine pale scalloping on forehead. Upperparts are green-grey, underparts are buff. Rump is tawny-rufous. Bill is large and eye is whitish-yellow.



Key features

Medium-sized, olive-grey thornbill with fine pale scalloping on forehead.

Diet

Spiders and insects (beetles, ants, flies and shield bugs).

Habitat

High elevation rainforest and wooded streams greater than 450 m above sea level.

Size (length)

10 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Buff-rumped thornbill

Acanthiza reguloides

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized thornbill. Mostly olive-brown to olive above with a buff coloured forehead with paler scalloping. Buff or pale-yellow rump patch. Tail has broad, blackish band and pale tip.



Key features

Buff or pale yellow-rump patch. Tail has broad, blackish band and pale tip.

Diet

Invertebrates and occasionally seeds.

Habitat

Open stringybark forest, woodland and scrubland.

Size (length)

11 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Weebill

Smicrornis brevirostris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with short, stubby, pale beak. Eye is pale cream with a pale line above. Dull grey-brown on the head, olive-brown on the back and the underparts are buff to yellow.



Key features

Small, non-descript bird with stubby beak and cream eye. Pale line above eye.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Dry woodlands, river red gums, and *Acacia* scrublands

Size (length)

8.5 - 9.5 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Spotted pardalote

Pardalotus punctatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with black wings, tail and head which are covered with small, distinct white spots. Males have a pale eyebrow, yellow throat and red rump. Females are similar, though less boldly marked.



Key features

Small bird with white eyebrow and numerous white spots on head.

Diet

Insects, especially psyllids, and sugary exudates.

Habitat

Eucalypt forest, woodlands, scrubland and gardens.

Size (length)

8 - 10 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and cats.

Red-browed pardalote

Pardalotus rubricatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small bird with red eyebrow and black crown with white spots. Olive-grey above and pale below. Broad golden wing stripe.



Key features

Small bird with spotted black head and a red eyebrow.

Diet

Insects and crystallised honeydew (lerp).

Habitat

Dry eucalypt woodlands, scrublands and eucalypts along watercourses

Size (length)

9.5 - 11.5 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and cats.

Striated pardalote

Pardalotus striatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with white eyebrows and yellow spot in front of eyes. Olive-grey above and white stripe on wing. Coloured spot in front of stripe may be red or yellow. Black crown.



Key features

Small bird with white eyebrows and yellow spot in front of eyes.

Diet

Wide variety of insects and larvae.

Habitat

Eucalypt forests, woodlands, scrublands, river red gums, dry scrubs, mangroves and rainforest.

Size (length)

9.5 - 11.5 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and cats.

Yellow-faced honeyeater

Caligavis chrysops

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small honeyeater with dull grey-brown colouring and slightly downcurved bill. Face has distinctive broad yellow face stripe bordered with black. Head has some brown streaking, underparts are slightly paler.



Key features

Small-sized honeyeater. Distinguished from other honeyeaters by yellow face stripe bordered with black.

Diet

Nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds and insects.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, coastal scrubs, mangroves, parks and gardens.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Yellow-tinted honeyeater

Ptilotula flavescens

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with black, down-curved bill. Yellowish-olive to grey upperparts and pale underparts. Yellowish face and a distinctive curved, black line from behind bill to ear.



Key features

Yellowish face with distinctive curved, black line from behind bill to ear.

Diet

Nectar, insects, manna and fruit.

Habitat

Grassy tropical woodlands, scrub along watercourses, mangroves and river red gums.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Yellow honeyeater

Stomiopera flava

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized, plump honeyeater with darkish patch through eye. Dull-yellow underparts and yellow-olive upperparts. Bright yellow stripe behind eye and from corner of bill.



Key features

Primarily yellow honeyeater with bright yellow stripe behind eye and from corner of bill.

Diet

Nectar, insects, manna and fruit.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands near water, rainforest margins, tropical scrubs, mangroves and gardens

Size (length)

17 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Bridled honeyeater

Lichenostomus frenatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with dull, dark, olive-brown upperparts merging into blackish-brown face and lores. Blue-grey eye, encircled by fringed white 'bridle'. Bare pinkish coloured patch under eye. Bill is yellow with white base and black tip.



Key features

Medium-sized honeyeater with distinctive white fringe encircling eye.

Diet

Nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds and insects.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical rainforest, wet eucalypt woodlands, and vegetation near watercourses.

Size (length)

19 - 22 cm.

Threats

Climate change, cats and habitat destruction.

White-plumed honeyeater

Ptilotula pencillata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with down-curved bill. Yellowish-olive to grey above, pale brown-grey below with a yellowish head and a distinctive white dash on neck.



Key features

Yellowish coloured head with distinctive white dash on neck.

Diet

Nectar, insects, manna and fruit.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, often near water.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Grey-fronted honeyeater

Ptilotula plumula

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, mostly grey honeyeater with pale grey forehead and crown, and black masks over eyes. Underparts pale fawn with darker streaks. Obvious yellow neck plumes under black stripe.



Key features

Mostly grey honeyeater with grey forehead and crown, and black mask.

Diet

Nectar, insects, manna and fruit.

Habitat

Grassy tropical woodlands.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-gaped honeyeater

Stomiopera unicolor

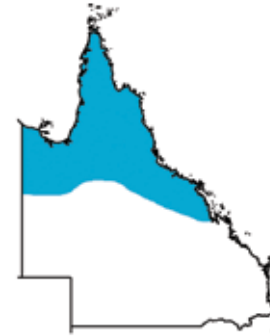
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, grey-brown honeyeater with bright white blotch behind bill. Olive wash on wings. Pale grey below, darker grey-brown above and down-curved black bill.



Key features

Grey-brown honeyeater with bright white blotch behind bill.

Diet

Nectar, insects, manna and fruit.

Habitat

Pandanus, paperbarks and mangroves along watercourses.

Size (length)

19 - 22 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Singing honeyeater

Gavicalis virescens

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, plain, grey-brown honeyeater. Distinctive black streak through eye, bordered by a yellow streak below the eye. White throat and white to grey underparts streaked grey-brown.



Key features

Grey-brown honeyeater with distinctive black streak through eye.

Diet

Nectar, insects and fruit.

Habitat

Shrublands, *Acacia* woodlands, coastal dunes, vegetation along watercourses and gardens.

Size (length)

18 - 22 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Graceful honeyeater

Meliphaga gracilis

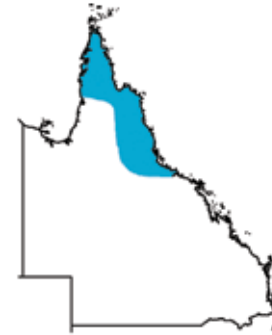
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small-sized honeyeater. Long, slim bill with yellow gape streak and rounded yellow-cream ear patches. Upperparts olive-brown with paler olive edging on wings. Underside pale with faint yellow streaking.



Key features

Distinguished from the Lewin's and yellow-spotted honeyeater by its smaller size and smaller yellow ear patch.

Diet

Fruit, insects and nectar.

Habitat

Rainforest, dense woodlands, vine scrubs, vegetation along watercourses and gardens.

Size (length)

14 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Lewin's honeyeater

Meliphaga lewinii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, dark greenish-grey honeyeater with creamy yellow gape. Large, yellowish crescent-shaped ear patches. In flight, pale yellow edges of the flight feathers may be seen. The bill is black and the eye is blue-grey.



Key features

Distinguished from graceful and yellow-spotted honeyeaters by its large body size and large, yellowish crescent-shaped ear patches.

Diet

Fruit (particularly berries), occasionally insects and nectar.

Habitat

Rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest, coastal scrubs and gardens.

Size (length)

19 - 22 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Yellow-spotted honeyeater

Meliphaga notata

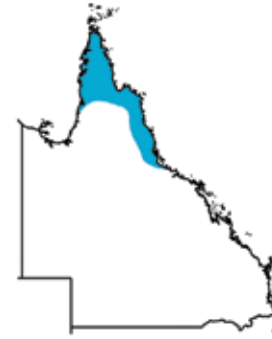
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with olive-grey upperparts and greenish-buff underparts mottled with grey. Yellow ear patch is slightly blunt and rear facing. Gape is yellow and eyes are brown.



Key features

Can be distinguished from graceful and Lewin's honeyeaters by its blunt rear facing yellow ear patch.

Diet

Fruits, nectar and insects.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest, vine scrubs, eucalypt woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

17 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

White-streaked honeyeater

Trichodere cockerelli

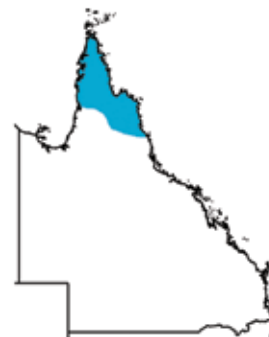
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with dark grey head and face. Yellow line below eye and yellow patch behind ear. Flight feathers edged yellow. Underparts are white and breast feathers fine and sharply pointed. Eyes are red and the bill is tipped black.



Key features

Brown with yellow ear patch and flight feathers. Eyes are red.

Diet

Primarily nectar. Occasionally fruit and insects.

Habitat

Tropical woodlands, and vine scrub.

Size (length)

16 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Banded honeyeater

Cissomela pectoralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small black and white honeyeater. All black above and mostly white below with strong black band across chest. Long, sharp, curved bill.



Key features

Distinctive black and white honeyeater. Black band obvious across white chest.

Diet

Pollen, nectar and small insects.

Habitat

Grassy woodlands, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses, and mangroves.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Bar-breasted honeyeater

Ramsayornis fasciatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small honeyeater with thin, down-curved bill. Grey-brown wings and tail. Black crown scalloped with white. White underparts scalloped black.



Key features

Distinctive honeyeater. Black crown scalloped with white. White underparts scalloped black.

Diet

Primarily nectar but occasionally fruit and insects.

Habitat

Paperbark, eucalypt woodlands and mangroves.

Size (length)

13 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Macleay's honeyeater

Xanthotis macleayanus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Christiansen

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with a largish bill and short tail. Black cap, grey and ochre plumage, yellow -white streaks. Legs are blue-grey.



Key features

Tartan pattern, black cap and a bare patch of skin around eye.

Diet

Nectar, and occasionally fruit and insects.

Habitat

Insects, spiders, nectar and fruit.

Size (length)

20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Brown-backed honeyeater

Ramsayornis modestus

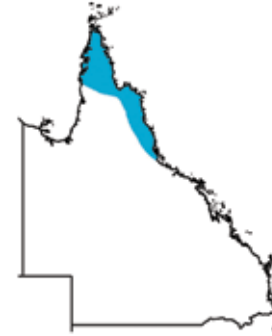
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small honeyeater with thin, pinkish-brown, down-curved bill. Olive-brown crown, back, wings and tail. White underparts scalloped brown. Thin white line from bill under eye. Migrant from Papua New Guinea.



Key features

White underparts scalloped brown. Thin white line from bill under eye.

Diet

Nectar, and occasionally fruit and insects.

Habitat

Paperbark and flowering eucalypt woodlands.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rufous-banded honeyeater

Conopophila albogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, stocky, grey-headed honeyeater with white throat and rufous band on chest. Wings are grey-brown with conspicuous yellow edge to flight feathers.



Key features

Yellow edges to flight feathers and rufous band on chest.

Diet

Primarily arthropods. Occasionally pollen and nectar.

Habitat

Wooded watercourses, mangroves, paperbarks, eucalypt woodland, coastal scrubs and gardens.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rufous-throated honeyeater

Conopophila rufogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, stocky, grey-brown honeyeater with rufous throat and white underparts. Wings are grey-brown with conspicuous yellow edge to flight feathers.



Key features

Yellow edges to flight feathers and rufous throat.

Diet

Primarily invertebrates. Occasionally pollen and nectar.

Habitat

Wooded watercourses, paperbarks, mangroves, grassy woodlands, scrublands and river red gums.

Size (length)

14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black honeyeater

Sugomel niger

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small honeyeater with long, slender, down-curved bill, plump body and short tail. Males are black and white with a black head, neck, wings and upperparts, white underbody with black stripe down chest. Females are mostly dull grey-brown with light eyebrow.



Key features

Males distinctively pied. Females are bland in colour. Distinguished from brown honeyeater by fine white eyebrow.

Diet

Insects and nectar.

Habitat

Open woodlands and scrublands in semi-arid zones.

Size (length)

10 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Brown honeyeater

Lichmera indistincta

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, pale, grey-brown honeyeater with yellow tuft behind eye. Yellow to olive wing patches and tail panels. Pale grey below, darker olive-brown above and down-curved black bill.



Key features

Primarily brown with yellow tuft behind eye.

Diet

Nectar and insects.

Habitat

Eucalypt forests, subtropical and tropical woodlands, rainforest margins, inland scrubs, paperbarks, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

12 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Red-headed honeyeater

Myzomela erythrocephala

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small honeyeater with a short tail and long down-curved bill. Males have distinctive glossy red head, neck and rump. Upperparts are brown with paler grey-brown underparts. Female is mostly grey-brown with a red face.



Key features

Males have distinctive glossy red head. Females have a red face.

Diet

Nectar, and sometimes fruit and insects.

Habitat

Mangroves, monsoon forests, vine thickets, eucalypt woodlands, vegetation along watercourses and paperbarks.

Size (length)

11 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Dusky honeyeater

Myzomela obscura

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Very small, plain, coppery grey-brown honeyeater with black, down-curved bill. Some individuals have rusty wash on head and neck.



Key features

Small, non-descript brown honeyeater. Some have rusty wash on head.

Diet

Nectar, occasionally fruit and insects.

Habitat

Vine thickets, rainforest and watercourses.

Size (length)

12 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Scarlet honeyeater

Myzomela sanguinolenta

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small honeyeater with short tail and down-curved black bill. Males have vivid red head, breast and upper back. Wings and tail are black, underparts are white. Females and juveniles are pale brown with whitish coloured underparts.



Key features

Males have extensive red plumage on back and breast. Females have a pink tinted chin.

Diet

Primarily nectar, sometimes fruit and insects.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, rainforests, paperbarks, coastal scrubs, vegetation along watercourses and gardens.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-throated honeyeater

Melithreptus albogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, robust honeyeater with a black head, short black bill and short tail. Golden-yellow above, off-white below, with a prominent white crescent across nape. White or pale blue patch of skin above the eye.



Key features

White patch on nape. White or pale blue skin above eye.

Diet

Nectar and insects.

Habitat

Woodlands, forests, vegetation along watercourses, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black-chinned honeyeater

Melithreptus gularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Uncommon, robust honeyeater with a black head, short black bill and short tail. Golden-yellow above, off-white below, with a prominent white crescent across nape. Black chin. Has a green patch of skin above the eye.



Key features

White patch on nape and green skin above eye.

Diet

Nectar, insects and occasionally seeds.

Habitat

Dry eucalypt forests and woodlands, vegetation along watercourses and scrublands.

Size (length)

15.5 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-naped honeyeater

Melithreptus lunatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small honeyeater with a short, slender bill. Upperparts are olive-green with a black cap. Thin white band across the back of the neck and an orange crescent above the eye. Underparts are white and flanks washed grey.



Key features

Small, olive-green honeyeater with black cap and orange crescent above eye.

Diet

Nectar, insects and manna.

Habitat

Woodlands, forests, coastal scrubs and gardens.

Size (length)

13 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Spiny-cheeked honeyeater

Acanthagenys rufogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with grey crown scalloped brown. Mottled grey-brown back, white cheek with spiny bristles, and orange-brown throat and chest. Underparts are white. Pale blue-grey eye surrounded by pinkish skin. Pink bill with black tip.



Key features

Bare pink skin at base of pink bill.
Bill has black tip. Blue eye.

Diet

Nectar, fruit and small insects,
occasionally reptiles and young birds.

Habitat

Dry, inland woodlands, scrubs,
and gardens.

Size (length)

22 - 26 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Blue-faced honeyeater

Entomyzon cyanotis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large black, white and golden honeyeater with bright blue to green coloured skin around its yellow eyes. Crown, face and neck are black, with white band on back of neck. Wings are golden-green. Underparts and underwing white in colour.



Key features

Very distinctive bird. Golden-green wings and bright blue to green skin around eyes.

Diet

Invertebrates, nectar and fruits.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, scrubs, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses, farmlands and gardens.

Size (length)

25 - 31 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Striped honeyeater

Plectorhyncha lanceolata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater. Grey-brown above with grey-white head. Neck boldly striped black. Whitish below with faint streaks on belly and undertail. Bill and legs are blue-grey and eye is dark.



Key features

Easily distinguished grey-brown honeyeater with boldly, black-striped neck.

Diet

Primarily insects, occasionally pollen, nectar and fruit.

Habitat

Dry scrub, savanna woodland, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

21 - 23 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Silver-crowned friarbird

Philemon argenticeps

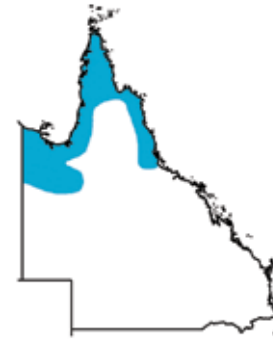
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Jordan de Jong

Basic description

Large olive-brown honeyeater with black facial skin that forms a point towards neck. Olive-brown and paler on belly. Rear of head, throat and upper breast silver-grey. Long black bill with prominent casque. Red eyes.



Key features

Distinguished from the helmeted friarbird by its smaller size, more prominent casque, facial skin forming a point to neck and white belly.

Diet

Nectar, fruit and invertebrates.

Habitat

Tropical open forests and woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

28 - 32 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Helmeted friarbird

Philemon buceroides

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Largest honeyeater. Brown-grey above and pale grey below. Long, black bill has rounded casque. Dark grey facial skin is rounded in contour towards back of head. Red eyes.



Key features

Distinguished from the silver-crowned friarbird by its larger size and inconspicuous casque and grey belly.

Diet

Nectar, fruit and invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, monsoon forest, eucalypt woodlands, paperbark and mangroves.

Size (length)

32 - 37 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Little friarbird

Philemon citreogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Smallest friarbird with medium-sized, curved bill and no casque. Brown-grey above, pale grey underparts, neck and collar. Distinctive bare blue-grey facial skin under eye. Tail square when spread.



Key features

Distinguished from other friarbirds in this region by its small size, blue-grey face patch and the lack of casque (bump) on its bill.

Diet

Primarily nectar, fruit and invertebrates, occasionally fruit and seeds.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, swamp woodlands, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

25 - 30 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Noisy friarbird

Philemon corniculatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, distinctive friarbird with bare, black head. Strong bill has prominent knob at the base. Upperparts dark brown-grey and underparts off-white. Silver-white feathers around the throat and breast. Tail has white tip.



Key features

Distinguished from the helmeted and silver-crowned friarbird by the completely bare head.

Diet

Nectar, fruit, invertebrates, and sometimes bird eggs and chicks.

Habitat

Dry open forests, eucalypt woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, scrublands and gardens.

Size (length)

30 - 35 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Yellow-throated miner

Manorina flavigula

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater with grey upperparts, pale grey below with light brown scalloping on breast to white rump. Black face, yellow forehead and sides of throat. Eye skin, bill, legs and feet also yellow. White tail tips.



Key features

Distinguished from the noisy miner by yellow forehead and sides of throat.

Diet

Insects, nectar, berries, fruit and occasionally reptiles and amphibians.

Habitat

Dry forests and woodlands, scrublands, grasslands, and gardens.

Size (length)

26 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Noisy miner

Manorina melanocephala

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized honeyeater, mostly grey body, wings are slightly darker grey with yellow flecks. Crown and cheeks are black. Eye skin, bill and legs are yellow.



Key features

Distinguished from the yellow-throated miner by lack of yellow throat colouration.

Diet

Insects, nectar, berries, fruit and occasionally reptiles and amphibians.

Habitat

Woodlands, grassy open forests, vegetation along watercourses, paperbarks, coastal scrub and gardens.

Size (length)

25 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Crimson chat

Epthianura tricolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small bird with short, slightly down-curving bill. Males are dark brown above with a brilliant crimson crown, breast and rump. Black mask around eye and white throat. Females and juveniles are pale brown above with a white throat and pinkish below.



Key features

Males are very distinctive with crimson crown, breast and rump. Females are much drabber.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open woodlands and plains.

Size (length)

10 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Yellow chat

Epthianura crocea

NCA Status: **V**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, mostly golden-yellow bird. Wings are greyish in both sexes. Males have black crescent on chest. Females have grey-brown crown and facial markings.



Key features

Golden-yellow bird with grey-brown wings.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Wetlands and drainage systems.

Size (length)

10 - 12 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, weeds, inappropriate fire regimes, cats and pigs.

Grey-crowned babbler

Pomatostomus temporalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, dark brown-grey babbler with a distinctive grey crown, dark face mask and white eyebrow. Chin and throat are white. Pale grey below. Has a long, downward curved bill, short rounded wings and long tail with white tip.



Key features

Very distinctive bird with down-curved bill and grey crown.

Diet

Invertebrates and occasionally seeds.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, scrublands and farmlands.

Size (length)

26 - 29 cm.

Threats

Cats, overgrazing, weeds and inappropriate fire regimes.

Eastern whipbird

Psophodes olivaceus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with dark olive-grey upperparts and grey white belly. The head and breast are black with a distinctive black crest and broad white patch on the side of face. Tail is long.



Key features

Distinctive 'whip-crack' like call, black head and crest. Mostly olive-grey with white cheek patches.

Diet

Insects and other small invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, wet sclerophyll, dense scrub and coastal scrubs.

Size (length)

25 - 30 cm.

Threats

Cats, climate change and habitat destruction.

Varied sittella

Daphoenositta chrysoptera

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, short-tailed, dumpy bird with sharp, pointed bill. Very variable across their range. North Queensland subspecies has dark head, and dark streaks on paler ground colour. White band on wing.



Key features

Best identified from tree-creeper like stance on tree trunks. Yellow eye ring and feet.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open eucalypt woodlands and forests, Acacia scrub and scrubby gardens.

Size (length)

11 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Barred cuckoo-shrike

Coracina lineata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, slender bird with black face. Head, back, wings and tail are blue-grey, underparts are heavily barred. Habitually shuffle their wings upon landing.



Key features

Blue-grey in colour with black face, barred underparts and yellow eye.

Diet

Invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, woodlands, vine scrub, eucalypt forests, vegetation along watercourses, native figs and gardens.

Size (length)

24 - 26 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change

Ground cuckoo-shrike

Coracina maxima

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Slender, long-legged, ground-dwelling cuckoo-shrike. Mostly grey with almost black wings and tail. Black streak through yellow eyes. Pale underside and rump dashed with dark grey.



Key features

Usually seen on ground. Grey bird with dark, black wings, tail and mask over eyes.

Diet

Insects and other invertebrates.

Habitat

Open grasslands, vegetation along watercourses, spinifex and pastures.

Size (length)

34 - 37 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Black-faced cuckoo-shrike

Coracina novaehollandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Widespread grey cuckoo-shrike with conspicuous jet black mask on face and throat. Blue-grey above with paler underparts.



Key features

Distinguished from white-bellied cuckoo-shrike by having a much larger black mask.

Diet

Insects and other invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, forests, woodlands, scrublands, vegetation along watercourses, orchards and gardens.

Size (length)

30 - 36 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-bellied cuckoo-shrike

Coracina papuensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, mostly grey cuckoo-shrike with dark mask over eyes. Blue-grey above with paler underparts. Pale ring around rear of eye.



Key features

Distinguished from black-faced cuckoo-shrike by its small size and black mask only over eyes.

Diet

Insects and other invertebrates such as dragonflies, cockroaches, mantids and grasshoppers.

Habitat

Forests, woodlands, open grasslands, river red gums, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

26 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Cicada bird

Coracina tenuirostris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small, neat, cuckoo-shrike with thin black mask. Males are dark blue-grey and females have brown upperparts with strongly barred pale belly. Bill and legs black. Migrant from Papua New Guinea.



Key features

Black eye mask. Males dark grey. Females brown with pale, finely barred belly.

Diet

Insects and other invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest and woodlands.

Size (length)

24 - 26 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Varied triller

Lalage leucomela

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, black and grey bird with white eyebrow and black line through eye. Black above with white patches on wings. Underparts are greyish with fine, darker barring. Grey rump with rufous wash under rump.



Key features

Small, black and grey bird with white eyebrows and rufous wash under rump.

Diet

Primarily fruit, occasionally seeds, nectar and insects.

Habitat

Rainforest, vine forests, tropical and subtropical woodlands, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses and gardens.

Size (length)

18 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-winged triller

Lalage tricolor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small, black and white bird (male) with solid black crown and white throat from below eye. Black above with white patches on wings. Females are pale brown above. Underparts are white. Rump is grey.



Key features

Small, black and white bird with plain white underparts and black and white wings.

Diet

Mostly insects, but sometimes fruit and seeds.

Habitat

Open woodlands, forests, scrubs and vegetation along watercourses.

Size (length)

16 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Mangrove golden whistler

Pachycephala melanura

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Males are vivid yellow on underparts, olive green on back and wings. Head is black, throat white, bordered with a broad black band. Females have grey upperparts and pale grey underparts.



Key features

Males have bright yellow underparts with black head and chest band.

Diet

Insects, occasionally seeds and fruits.

Habitat

Mangroves, coastal rainforest, eucalypt woodlands and coastal scrub.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Golden whistler

Pachycephala pectoralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized bird. Males have bright yellow collar and underside, olive-green back and wings, black head and breast band and white throat. Females lack bright colouring, being grey with pale olive tinge on upperparts.



Key features

Medium-sized bird. Males brightly coloured yellow, black and white. Females dull olive-grey.

Diet

Insects, spiders, berries and other small arthropods.

Habitat

Rainforest, eucalypt forests and woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, spinifex, Acacia scrubs, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rufous whistler

Pachycephala rufiventris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, stocky bird with large head, short stubby bill and long narrow tail. Males have dark-grey upperparts, white throat, black face and breast and reddish underbody. Females are dull grey-brown with streaked underparts.



Key features

Reddish underparts with grey upperparts. Males have a white throat and black mask.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, occasionally seeds, fruits and leaves.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands from arid to coastal areas. Found also in closed dense forest along the Great Dividing Range.

Size (length)

16 - 17.5 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Grey whistler

Pachycephala simplex

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small whistler with long, glossy black bill and large dark eyes. Head is grey with faint white eye brows and shadowy eyeline. Upper parts are olive-brown with grey-buff breast and white underparts.



Key features

Small olive-brown whistler with grey head and faint white eyebrows.

Diet

Primarily insects, occasionally spiders and seeds.

Habitat

Rainforest, tropical lowland forest, vine scrubs, coastal scrubs, paperbark and mangroves.

Size (length)

14 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Bower's shrike-thrush

Colluricincla boweri

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small shrike-thrush with slate-grey upperparts. Breast is grey-streaked rufous. Underparts, brow and lores are rufous in colour. Bill is large and dark with hooked tip.



Key features

Small head and short tail. Olive-brown upperparts and rufous underparts.

Diet

Insects and larvae.

Habitat

Upland rainforest.

Size (length)

19 - 20 cm.

Threats

Climate change and cats.

Grey shrike-thrush

Colluricincla harmonica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Moderately-small, almost entirely grey-brown bird. Darker grey above with paler grey cheeks and underside. Black bill and pale eye ring.



Key features

Very non-descript, small grey bird. Best identified from call.

Diet

Insects, spiders, frog, reptiles, small mammals, bird eggs and young.

Habitat

Eucalypt forest and woodlands, coastal scrubs, vegetation along watercourses and gardens.

Size (length)

22 - 25 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Little shrike-thrush

Colluricincla megarhyncha

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, large-billed shrike-thrush. Olive-brown above, grey nape, whitish throat and rufous underparts. Bill grey-brown with pinkish sides.



Key features

Similar to grey shrike-thrush but smaller with rufous underparts.

Diet

Insects and small vertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, vegetation along watercourses, paperbarks, coastal forests and mangroves.

Size (length)

17 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Yellow oriole

Oriolus flavocinctus

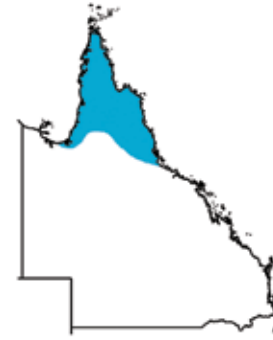
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Medium-sized, yellow-green bird, finely streaked with black. Wings and tail are grey-green. Eyes are bright red, beak is yellow-orange. Females are duller in colour than males.



Key features

Distinctive call, therefore often heard before it is seen. Yellow with green wings.

Diet

Insects and fruit.

Habitat

Rainforest, dense woodlands, paperbarks, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

26 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Olive-backed oriole

Oriolus sagittatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with olive-green head and back. Wings and tail are grey, and underparts are cream streaked with brown. Eyes and bill are red. Females are duller in colour than males.



Key features

Distinctive call means that this species is often heard before it is seen. Whitish underside with black streaks.

Diet

Insects and fruit.

Habitat

Rainforest, eucalypt forests and woodlands, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses, inland scrubs and gardens.

Size (length)

25 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Australasian figbird

Sphecotheres vieilloti

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized, distinctive oriole. Males have bare, red skin around the eye, black crown, grey neck and throat. Body is olive-green, except for white undertail. Females are brown-green above and dull-white, streaked with brown below.



Key features

Males are particularly distinctive. Females can be confused with female rufous whistler, differentiated by bare skin around eye.

Diet

Figs, soft fruit, berries and insects.

Habitat

Rainforest edges, wet sclerophyll forest, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

28 - 29 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

White-breasted woodswallow

Artamus leucorhynchus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, very distinctive woodswallow. Slate-grey above sharply transitions below neck to pure white underside. Tail is dark grey. A highly social bird which is generally observed in flocks.

Key features

Sharp delineation between dark head and wings, and white underside.

Diet

Insects and nectar.

Habitat

Vegetation along watercourses, near to rivers and lakes, mangroves, river red gums and coastal areas.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Masked woodswallow

Artamus personatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, silvery-grey woodswallow with obvious black face and white underside. Underside is washed, light brown-grey in females. Both sexes have white band along tail-tip.



Key features

Black mask, dark grey body and white underside of tail.

Diet

Insects and nectar.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, inland scrubs, vegetation along watercourses, coastal heaths and human modified open country.

Size (length)

19 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

White-browed woodswallow

Artamus superciliosus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, blue-grey woodswallow with black face and chestnut underside. Obvious white eyebrows. Underside is rufous in males and washed, lighter brown in females. Both sexes have white band along tail-tip.



Key features

Distinguished from other woodswallows in the region by white eyebrow markings.

Diet

Insects and nectar.

Habitat

Woodlands, rainforest edges, coastal scrubs and human modified open country.

Size (length)

18 - 21 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black-faced woodswallow

Artamus cinereus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, smoky grey woodswallow with black face and lighter underside. Underside of tail is black with two broad, white dashes on either side of the tail tip.



Key features

Distinguished from the little woodswallow by having lighter grey undersides and bolder white tail patches.

Diet

Insects and nectar.

Habitat

Open country such as spinifex, grasslands, open treeless plains, open woodlands and scrublands. Often far from water.

Size (length)

18 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Little woodswallow

Artamus minor

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, smoky chocolate-brown woodswallow with bluish-coloured, black tipped bill. Underside of wings light grey. Underside of tail is black with two white dashes on either side of the tail tip.



Key features

Blue, black tipped bill and chocolate-brown body.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open habitat, rocky gorges, open scrubs, grassy woodlands, *Acacia* scrubs and spinifex.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black-backed butcherbird

Cracticus mentalis

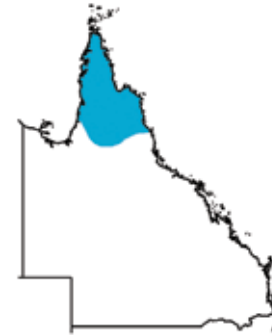
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Medium-sized, black and white bird with long, hooked, grey and black bill. Head jet black. White chest and throat bib. Legs black in colour. Upperparts primarily black with white patches.



Key features

Black and white butcherbird, with white throat and chest.

Diet

Small vertebrates (lizards, rodents and birds) and invertebrates.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, farmlands.

Size (length)

26 - 28 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pied butcherbird

Cracticus nigrogularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized black and white bird with long, hooked, grey and black bill. Head, throat and bib are jet black, chest white and legs are black. Upperparts mostly black with white patches.



Key features

Distinguished from other butcherbirds by black and white colouration and black bib.

Diet

Large invertebrates and small vertebrates (birds and eggs, reptiles and rodents).

Habitat

Dry forests and woodlands, coastal scrubs, vegetation along watercourses, pastoral lands, farmlands and gardens.

Size (length)

33 - 36 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black butcherbird

Cracticus quoyi

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized black bird with thick hook-tipped bill that is silvery-grey with a black tip.



Key features

Medium-sized black bird with grey black-tipped bill.

Diet

Large invertebrates and small vertebrates (lizards, snakes, small mammals and frogs).

Habitat

Rainforest, coastal scrubs, paperbarks, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

38 - 44 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Australian magpie

Cracticus tibicen

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large black and white bird with solid, unhooked grey, black-tipped bill. Plumage varies across range but typically, black with white (or grey; females) on the back of head and neck. Females more grey in colour. White patches on back and wings.



Key features

Very distinctive bird. Distinguished from butcherbirds and magpie-lark by size and pattern.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, including earthworms, millipedes, spiders, small scorpions and caterpillars.

Habitat

Habitat generalist living almost anywhere there are trees, with exception of rainforest.

Size (length)

37 - 44 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Grey butcherbird

Cracticus torquatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized black, white and grey bird with long, hooked, grey and black bill. Jet black face and crown, chest white, and grey back. Thin white collar around neck. Back and wings mostly grey with white patches.



Key features

Distinguished from other butcherbirds by grey back and wings.

Diet

Large invertebrates, small vertebrates (birds and lizards), fruits and seeds.

Habitat

Rainforest margins, vine scrub, paperbarks, eucalypt forests and woodlands.

Size (length)

26 - 30 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pied currawong

Strepera graculina

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, mostly black bird with a bright yellow eye. Small white patches under tail, the tips and bases of the tail feathers. Small white patch towards the tip of each wing. Robust, black bill and grey legs.



Key features

Black bird with yellow eye. White patches under tail and the tip of each wing.

Diet

Small vertebrates (particularly nestlings, but also lizards and small possums), invertebrates and fruits.

Habitat

Forests and woodlands, rainforests, scrubs, farmlands, and gardens.

Size (length)

42 - 50 cm.

Threats

No known significant threats.

Australian raven

Corvus coronoides

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Large, entirely black corvid with white eyes. Long throat feathers (hackles) form a shaggy bunch under throat. Long, solid black bill.



Key features

Best distinguished from torresian crow by call. Obvious hackles.

Diet

Mostly carnivorous, although also consumes grains and fruits.

Habitat

Pastoral areas, farmlands, woodlands, mangroves and urban areas.

Size (length)

48 - 54 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs

Torresian crow

Corvus orru

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Large, entirely black corvid with white eyes. Distinguished from Australian raven by lacking obvious hackles.



Key features

Best distinguished from Australian raven by call. Lacks obvious hackles.

Diet

Grain, seeds, fruit, insects, other invertebrates and carrion.

Habitat

Open forests, woodlands, rainforest margins, scrubs, vegetation along watercourses and farmlands.

Size (length)

48 - 53 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Grey fantail

Rhipidura albiscapa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Very small fantail. Grey above, with white eyebrow, throat and tail edges. Long tail which can be spread like a fan.



Key features

Distinguished from other fantails by the pale grey colouration with white facial markings.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Scrubs, mangroves, rainforests, sclerophyll forests and woodlands, vegetation along watercourses, parks and gardens.

Size (length)

14 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Arafura fantail

Rhipidura dryas

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small fantail with a distinctive rufous rump and continuously fanned tail. White tail tip. Head, neck and face are grey-brown, grading to rufous-brown on back and rump. Eyebrows are rufous, and chin pale grey.



Key features

Distinguished from the rufous fantail by duller colouration. Tail colouration graduates from rufous at rump, through dark mid-tail to white at tip.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Mangroves, tropical riverine forests and vine thickets.

Size (length)

14 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Willie wagtail

Rhipidura leucophrys

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Natalie Waller

Basic description

Largest Australian fantail. Black above with a white belly. Distinctive black throat, white eyebrows and whisker marks. Very well known bird.



Key features

Black throat, and white eyebrows and whisker marks. Very distinctive “wagtail” behaviour.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, but avoids dense forests.

Size (length)

19 - 22 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rufous fantail

Rhipidura rufifrons

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small fantail with a distinctive rufous rump and continuously fanned tail. Head, neck and face are grey-brown, grading to rufous-brown on back, rump and upper tail. Eyebrows are rufous, and chin and throat are white.



Key features

Distinguished from the Arafura fantail by tail grading gradually from rufous at rump, through mid-grey mid-tail to pale grey at tip.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforest, monsoon forest, mangroves and vine thickets.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Northern fantail

Rhipidura rufiventris

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized fantail. Dark grey above with fine, pale eyebrow. Throat, chin and tail edges white. Tail shorter and less fanned than other fantails.



Key features

Distinguished from grey fantail by having a longer, broader bill and less fanned tail.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforest margins, mangroves, vine thickets, vegetation along watercourses, open forest and woodland and monsoon forest.

Size (length)

19 - 22 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Shining flycatcher

Myiagra alecto

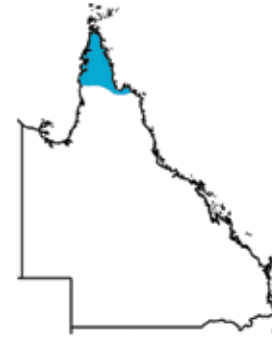
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized bird. Males are entirely iridescent blue-black. Females have glossy black crown and nape with rich chestnut upperparts and white underparts. Immature birds similar to females, however colour is dull.



Key features

Males are entirely glossy blue-black. Females have glossy cap and nape, chestnut upperparts and white underparts.

Diet

Flying insects and small molluscs.

Habitat

Mangroves, rainforest, paperbark, and adjacent eucalypt woodlands. Usually found near water.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Satin flycatcher

Myiagra cyanoleuca

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small, blue-black bird with white underparts. Males are glossy with blue-black breast. Females are dusker blue-black with orange-red throat and breast, and have pale-edged wings and tail feathers.



Key features

Small, glossy blue-black bird with white underparts.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Tall woodlands, mangroves, open country and gardens.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Restless flycatcher

Myiagra inquieta

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with a glossy blue-black head and small crest. Back, wings and tail are darker grey, underparts are white from chin to undertail. Extremely mobile and active bird able to hover while feeding.



Key features

Characteristic hovering action; body arched, while its head and tail points downward and wings quivering rapidly.

Diet

Insects, spiders and centipedes.
Feeds in pairs.

Habitat

Open forests and woodlands, river red gums, scrubs, parks and gardens.

Size (length)

16 - 21 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Leaden flycatcher

Myiagra rubecula

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small bird, mainly dark blue-grey upperparts with white underparts. Small crest and broad black-tipped blue bill. Females have paler blue-grey upperparts with distinctive orange-red throat.



Key features

Distinguished from other flycatchers by having a broader wide-based bill. Also distinguished by call.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Tall, open forests, coastal woodlands and scrubs, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses and mangroves.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Broad-billed flycatcher

Myiagra ruficollis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small bird with mainly dark blue-grey upperparts with white underparts. Flat forehead and broad black-tipped blue bill. Both sexes have pale eye ring. Females have paler blue-grey upperparts with distinctive orange-red throat.



Key features

Broad-bill with obvious bristles visible from above. Both sexes have pale eye ring.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Moist lowland forests, mangroves, paperbarks, vegetation along watercourses and coastal woodlands.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pied monarch

Arses kaupi

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small black and white bird. Males have black head, upperparts, breast band and tail. The collar is erectable and white. Undersides are white. Blue ring around eye. Eye ring, and white breast is less prominent in females. Feeds on tree trunks.



Key features

Small black and white bird with blue eye ring. Distinguished from the frill-necked monarch by its black breast band.

Diet

Insects, particularly moths, beetles and butterflies.

Habitat

Rainforest, vine scrubs and adjacent eucalypt woodlands.

Size (length)

14 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Frill-necked monarch

Arses lorealis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, black and white bird. Males have black head and wings. Throat, nape, shoulders and rump are white. The collar is erectable. Blue ring around eye. Females are similar, however, lack eye ring, and have a brownish-tinged chest.



Key features

Small black and white bird. Distinguished from the pied monarch by having an all white-breast.

Diet

Arthropods.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

White-eared monarch

Carterornis leucotis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, black and white flycatcher. Adults have mostly black upperparts, and pale grey underparts. Head is black with large white patches on face. Prominent white collar, wing-bars, and white band at the base and tip of tail.



Key features

Small pied flycatcher with distinctive black and white facial patterning. Usually observed in forest canopy.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest, scrubs, paperbarks, mangroves and adjacent eucalypt forest.

Size (length)

13 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Black-faced monarch

Monarcha melanopsis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small bird, distinctly black at base of bill that does not extend across the eye. Grey upperparts, wings and upper breast. Belly is rufous in colour. Bill is blue-grey with hooked tip.



Key features

Distinctive black face around the bill only, with grey upperparts and rufous underparts.

Diet

Flying insects.

Habitat

Rainforest, eucalypt woodlands, and coastal scrub.

Size (length)

16 - 20 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Spectacled monarch

Symphysistachrus trivirgatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small bird with black face mask that extends across both eyes in clover leaf pattern. Breast is rufous orange, upperparts are blue-grey, underparts are white and tail is black.



Key features

Small grey bird with orange breast and distinctive black clover-shaped mask across eyes.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Rainforest, wet sclerophyll forests, vegetation along watercourses and mangroves.

Size (length)

15 - 16.5 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Magpie lark

Grallina cyanoleuca

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Medium-sized, very common black and white bird. Thin, white bill and pale eye distinguish it from other black and white birds. Also known as 'pee wee'.



Key features

Black and white bird distinguished by thin, white bill and pale eye.

Diet

Insects and their larvae, earthworms and freshwater invertebrates.

Habitat

Habitat generalist, but avoids rainforest.

Size (length)

26 - 30 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Yellow-breasted boatbill

Machaerirhynchus flaviventer

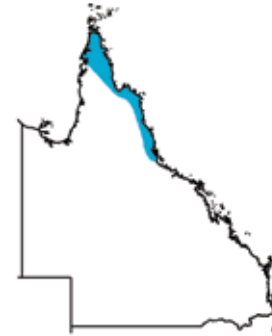
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small flycatcher with broad, flat bill with distinct keel on upper mandible. Brow and underparts are bright yellow, throat is white. Crown, tail and wings are blackish with white barring and back is olive. Females and young are duller in colour.



Key features

Small, black and yellow flycatcher with broad, flat, keeled bill.

Diet

Flying insects.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest, vine forest and eucalypt woodlands.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Apostlebird

Struthidea cinerea

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized, dark grey bird with short, robust bill, brown wings and black tail. Usually seen on the ground in small groups of 6 to 12.



Key features

Distinctive, brown-grey bird. Well known for forming tight and noisy social groups.

Diet

Seeds, vegetation, invertebrates and occasionally small vertebrates.

Habitat

Open, dry forests and woodlands near water, scrubs and vegetation along watercourses.

Size (length)

29 - 33 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Spangled drongo

Dicrurus bracteatus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, glossy black bird with iridescent blue-green spots and red eyes. Bill black, robust and with hair-like black feathers at base. Tail flares at tip to form a fish tail shape.



Key features

Glossy black bird with red eyes and 'fish-tail'.

Diet

Insects, fruit and nectar.

Habitat

Rainforest, farmland, eucalypt forests and woodlands, paperbarks, coastal scrubs, vegetation along waterways, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

28 - 32 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Trumpet manucode

Phonygammus keraudrenii

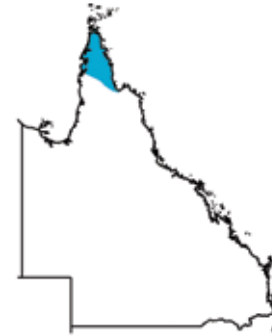
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized iridescent blue-black bird. Cluster of long slender plumes fall from sides of head down to nape. Tail is long, blunt and rounded. Eyes are red. Females are slightly duller in colour.



Key features

Glossy blue-black bird with long thin head plumes falling down nape.

Diet

Fruits and arthropods.

Habitat

Lowland rainforest, vine scrubs and eucalypt forest and woodlands.

Size (length)

28 - 32 cm.

Threats

Climate change and cats.

Magnificent riflebird

Ptiloris magnificentus

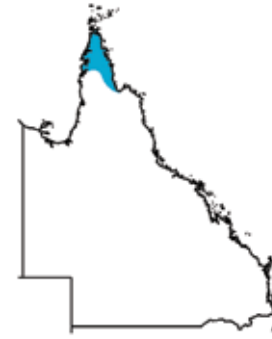
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized bird. Males are velvety black with iridescent blue-black crown and large triangular breast shield. Females have cinnamon upperparts with off-white speckled underparts and long pale brow. Bill is long and downcurved.



Key features

Large bird. Males are glossy black with distinctive iridescent breast plate. Females are brown.

Diet

Fruits and arthropods

Habitat

Lowland rainforest and scrubs.

Size (length)

28 - 33 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Victoria's riflebird

Ptiloris victoriae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized bird. Males are velvety black with iridescent greenish-blue crown and breast shield edged with thick black breast band. Females and young males have cinnamon upperparts and paler underparts and brow. Bill is long and downcurved.



Key features

The only riflebird found in the Wet Tropics.

Diet

Fruits and insects.

Habitat

Elevated rainforest of the Wet Tropics.

Size (length)

23 - 25 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Jacky winter

Microeca fascinans

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small grey-brown flycatcher with white underparts and a faint pale eye-line. Tail is dark with prominent white outer feathers.



Key features

Distinguished from lemon-bellied flycatcher by larger size and white dashes on tail tip.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open woodlands, scrublands, vegetation along watercourses and orchards.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats, overgrazing, habitat destruction and climate change.

Lemon-bellied flycatcher

Microeca flavigaster

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small flycatcher with yellow-brown upperparts and grey head. Wings and tail are darker grey. Underparts are lemon-yellow and the throat is pale grey to white. Legs and feet are dark grey in colour.



Key features

Small bird with lemon-yellow underparts.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Wet woodlands, open forests, rainforest edges, vegetation along watercourses and mangroves.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Red-capped robin

Petroica goodenovii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small-sized robin. Males are black above and white below with a distinctive red cap and breast, contrasting strongly with black throat. Females are grey-brown above, off-white below, with reddish cap and faint red on chest.



Key features

Can be distinguished from other red robins by small size and unique red cap on male and dull red cap on females.

Diet

Invertebrates.

Habitat

Dry woodlands with tall trees, open eucalypt forests, coastal scrubs and gardens.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Eastern yellow robin

Eopsaltria australis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized robin, with grey back and head, and yellow underparts. Off-white throat and black bill. Females are slightly smaller than males. Juveniles are rufous-brown.



Key features

Distinguished from the pale-yellow robin by blackish feet and legs.

Diet

Insects, spiders and other arthropods.

Habitat

Rainforest, vine forest, eucalypt forests and woodlands, *Acacia* scrubs and gardens.

Size (length)

15 - 16 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Pale-yellow robin

Tregellasia capito

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with grey-olive upperparts and yellow underparts. Pale rufous-buff eye ring and lores. White throat. Dull, pale pink legs and feet.



Key features

Distinguished from the eastern yellow robin by pale pink legs and feet. Distinguished from the white-faced robin by having less extensive white on face.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical rainforest, and vine thickets.

Size (length)

12 - 13.5 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change and cats.

White-faced robin

Tregellasia leucops

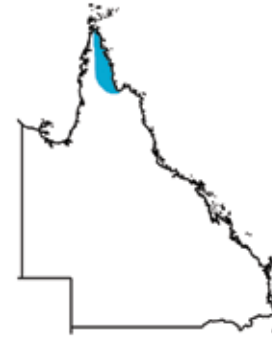
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small yellow robin with black head. White mask around face and chin. Upperparts are olive-green. Legs are pale yellow. Eyes are dark.



Key features

Distinguished from the pale-yellow robin by having more extensive white markings around the face and a black forehead.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical upland rainforest and vine scrubs.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change and cats.

Hooded robin

Melanodryas cucullata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Medium-sized robin with a short, slender bill and long, square-tipped tail. Adult males have a black hood, back and wings. Shoulder bars, wing-stripes and underparts are white. Females are similar, with grey-brown head and dark brown wings.



Key features

Neat black and white plumage (males) with a dark hood covering head, breast and back.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Dry eucalypt forests, woodlands and scrubs.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Cats and habitat destruction.

Mangrove robin

Peneoenanthe pulverulenta

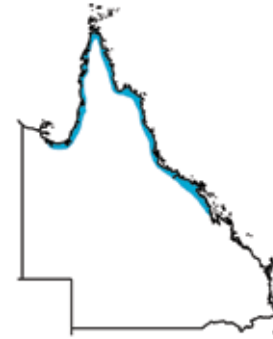
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Allen Sheather

Basic description

Small, robust bird with short black bill and broad, dark mask. Upperparts blue-grey and underparts white. Tail black with outermost feathers white at base.



Key features

Small, robust bird that is grey above and white below. Black tail with white feathers at base.

Diet

Insects and crabs.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical mangrove forests.

Size (length)

15 - 16.5 cm.

Threats

Climate change and cats.

Grey-headed robin

Heteromyias cinereifrons

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized robin with grey crown and lores, and white streak under eye. Back and shoulders are olive-brown, underparts are pale with white belly. Rump is rufous brown. Wings are blackish-brown with a bold 'Z' shaped white marking.



Key features

Medium-sized robin with grey crown and pale underparts. Distinctive 'Z' shaped white marking on black-brown wings.

Diet

Invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, overgrazing, climate change and cats.

White-browed robin

Poecilodryas superciliosa

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized robin with long white eyebrow, white throat and upper breast. Upperparts are olive-brown with double white bar across flight feathers. Wings and tail-tips are white.



Key features

Olive-brown robin with long, white, downcurved eyebrow.

Diet

Invertebrates.

Habitat

Monsoon forest, vine thickets, rainforest, vegetation along watercourses, coastal scrubs, eucalypt woodlands and mangroves.

Size (length)

15 - 17 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, overgrazing, climate change and cats.

Chowchilla

Orthonyx spaldingii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Medium-sized bird with distinctive, bare, blue-grey eye ring. Males have a black head with dark brown upperparts and white underparts. Females are more brightly coloured with rich rufous throat and chest.



Key features

Medium-sized, dark brown bird with blue-grey eye ring. Chest rufous in females, white in males.

Diet

Invertebrates and small vertebrates.

Habitat

Tropical rainforest and scrub.

Size (length)

27 - 29 cm.

Threats

Cats, dogs and pigs.

Australasian pipit

Anthus novaeseelandiae

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by David Stowe

Basic description

Small, tan, ground-dwelling bird that is typically well camouflaged to the habitat. Tan-brown in colour with darker streaks on body and white streaks on face. Tail is brown with exception of the outer white tail feathers.



Key features

Small, ground-dwelling bird. Wings and tail feathers are dark brown with the outermost tail feathers white.

Diet

Insects, insect larvae and seeds.

Habitat

Grasslands, croplands, pastoral lands and open woodlands.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats and dogs.

Horsfield's bushlark

Mirafrja javanica

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, short, thickset bird with a sparrow-like bill. Upperparts are brown, reddish or sandy in colour with darker central streaks. Underparts are pale and the breast is streaked. Distinctive buff eyebrow.



Key features

Small brown thickset bird with sparrow-like bill.

Diet

Grasses, seeds and insects.

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical grasslands, open woodlands, scrublands and farmlands.

Size (length)

12 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Golden-headed cisticola

Cisticola exilis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Very small bird. During breeding season the head is golden-orange in colour, with an upright crest when calling. The body is boldly coloured gold and grey. Non-breeding colours are brown with dark brown streaks, gold rump and pale undersides.



Key features

Distinguished from the zitting cisticola by its golden tonings.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Wetlands and wet grasslands.

Size (length)

9 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Zitting cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

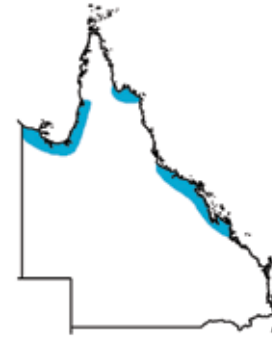
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small bird with brown upperparts, heavily streaked with black. Underparts are white. The tail is broad, white-tipped and frequently flicked.



Key features

Distinguished from golden-headed cisticola by lacking golden tonings. Also identified by call, 'zit-zit'.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Grasslands and margins of mangroves.

Size (length)

9 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats and pigs.

Australian reed-warbler

Acrocephalus australis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird that is often heard before seen. Pale olive-brown above with faint pale eyebrows and yellow mouth-lining. Tan to white below. Tawny coloured rump seen when flying.



Key features

Associated with reeds. The Australian reed warbler is often identified by its rich, fluid, singing call 'dzee-dzee-dzee, quarty-quarty-quarty'.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Reedy vegetation near watercourses.

Size (length)

16 - 17 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and cats.

Little grassbird

Megalurus gramineus

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, non-descript grey-brown bird. Pale eyebrow, grey-brown head and upper body. Underparts and upper body streaked with dark grey-brown. Wing feathers are dark, edged with white. Juveniles are uniform grey.



Key features

Distinguished from the tawny grassbird by being smaller in size, lacking the rufous crown and nape and having dark-streaked crown and underparts.

Diet

Insects and other small arthropods.

Habitat

Swamps, marshes and mangroves.

Size (length)

13 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Tawny grassbird

Megalurus timoriensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small grassbird with rufous crown and nape. Pale buff eyebrow, throat and undersides. Back, wings and tail rufous-brown, heavily streaked with dark brown and black. Tail is long and pointed.



Key features

Distinguished from the little grassbird by being larger in size and having a rufous crown and nape.

Diet

Insects and other small arthropods.

Habitat

Coastal heaths and grasslands.

Size (length)

17 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Brown songlark

Cincloramphus cruralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, non-descript grey-brown bird. Males are substantially larger than females. Mottled crimson-brown with black bill and eyes.



Key features

Distinguished from rufous songlark by larger size and lack of rufous colouring on the rump.

Diet

Insects and seeds.

Habitat

Pastures, croplands and open grassy country.

Size (length)

18 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Rufous songlark

Cincloramphus mathewsi

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, non-descript grey-brown bird. Mid-brown back with rufous rump and upper tail. Underparts pale buff brown. Dark line through brown eye.



Key features

Distinguished from brown songlark by rufous rump and upper tail.

Diet

Insects and other small arthropods.

Habitat

Open grassy woodlands and scrublands.

Size (length)

16 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats and vehicle strikes.

Silvereye

Zosterops lateralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with conspicuous ring of white feathers around dark eye. Head, throat, wings and undertail-coverts are olive-yellow. Back and underparts are grey in colour.



Key features

Small yellow and grey bird with distinct white ring around dark eye.

Diet

Fruit, berries, nectar and insects.

Habitat

Habitat generalist.

Size (length)

11 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Yellow white-eye

Zosterops luteus

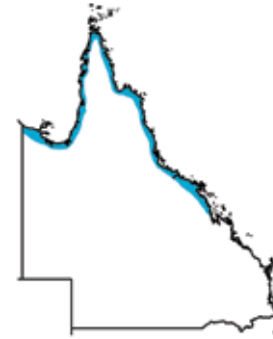
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small yellow-olive coloured bird with ring of white feathers around the eye. Forehead and underparts are bright yellow. Flight feathers are dark grey. Thin dark line from lores to under the eye.



Key features

Small olive-yellow bird with white eye ring. Can be distinguished from silvereye by the bright yellow underparts.

Diet

Invertebrates and their larvae.

Habitat

Mangrove forests and surrounding woodlands and vegetation along watercourses.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Welcome swallow

Hirundo neoxena

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Very small, metallic blue-black swallow with light grey underparts and rusty-orange on forehead, throat and upper breast. Long, forked tail.



Key features

Blue-black swallow with rusty-orange forehead, throat and upper breast. Long, forked tail.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open woodlands, grasslands and vegetation along watercourses.

Size (length)

14 - 15 cm.

Threats

Cats, parasites and diseases.

Fairy martin

Petrochelidon ariel

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small-sized bird with iridescent blue-black back, brown wings, whitish underparts and a rufous head. The short, slightly forked tail appears square in flight. Feeds in large flocks and nests in colonies.



Key features

Smaller and more robust than swallows. Builds characteristic bottle-shaped mudnests packed closely together.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open country near water.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Tree martin

Petrochelidon nigricans

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, swallow-like bird with reddish-brown forehead. Crown and back of neck is glossy blue-black. Black patch in front of eyes. Rump is grey.



Key features

Reddish forehead, blue-black crown and neck, black patch in front of eye and grey rump.

Diet

Insects including bugs, beetles, ants, flies and wasps.

Habitat

Open country near water.

Size (length)

12 - 13 cm.

Threats

Cats, habitat destruction and competition with introduced bird species.

Metallic starling

Aplornis metallica

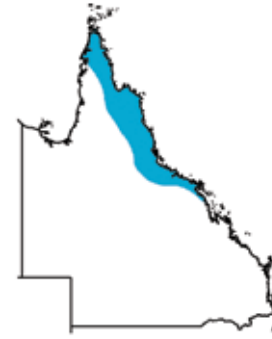
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small black bird with glossy purple and green metallic sheen. Eyes are bright red and large bill is stout. Tail is narrow and long. Juveniles are dark brown with white throat and breast, streaked with brown.



Key features

Small black bird with metallic sheen and bright red eyes.

Diet

Fruit and invertebrates.

Habitat

Rainforest, coastal woodlands, scrubs, mangroves and gardens.

Size (length)

22 - 24 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Mistletoebird

Dicaeum hirundinaceum

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, distinctive bird. Males have glossy black heads, wings and underparts, bright red throat and chest, white belly with black centre stripe and red undertail. Females grey above and white below, with grey streak on belly.



Key features

Males are very easily distinguished by rich red throat and chest and black centre belly stripe.

Diet

Mistletoe berries.

Habitat

Any vegetation that supports mistletoe growth.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Olive-backed sunbird

Nectarinia jugularis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, brightly coloured bird with distinctive long down-curved bill. Head and upperparts are olive-yellow, underparts are bright yellow. Males have iridescent dark blue-violet gorget extending from chin to breast.



Key features

Small bird with yellow underside and long curved bill.

Diet

Nectar and insects.

Habitat

Woodlands on mangrove and rainforest edges, vegetation along waterways, coastal scrubs and mangroves.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Black-throated finch

Poephila cincta

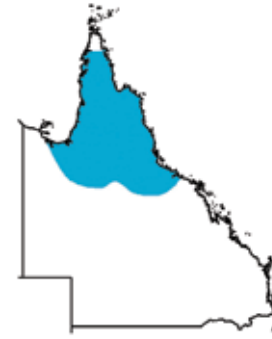
NCA Status: **E**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small finch with short black bill, lores and throat, sharply delineated from the rest of the pale grey head. Wings, breast and belly are pinkish-brown. Legs are red, tail and rump are black.



Key features

Small grey headed finch with black bill, throat and tail.

Diet

Grass seeds.

Habitat

Grassy woodlands.

Size (length)

9 - 11cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, weeds, overgrazing, climate change, habitat destruction, cats and dogs.

Masked finch

Poephila personata

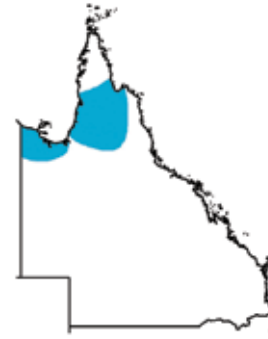
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Medium-sized finch with heavy yellow bill and black mask covering lores and encircling eyes. Cheeks and rump are white. Upperparts rufous-brown with paler underparts. Tail is sharply pointed and black with white at the base.



Key features

Medium-sized brown finch with heavy yellow bill, and black mask.

Diet

Seeds.

Habitat

Grasslands near water and dry scrublands.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes and cats.

Double-barred finch

Taeniopygia bichenovii

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Tiny, long-tailed, grass-finch with black-bordered white face. Grey-brown, with white underparts banded black above and below chest. Wings are black, spotted with white. Tail is black, bill and legs are blueish-grey.



Key features

Grey-brown above and white below.
Banded black above and below chest.

Diet

Grass seeds and small invertebrates.

Habitat

Dry, grassy woodlands and grasslands near water.

Size (length)

10 - 11 cm.

Threats

Cats, inappropriate fire regimes and overgrazing.

Zebra finch

Taeniopygia guttata

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, predominantly grey finch with characteristic black comma over eye, and black and white barring on rump and upper tail. Bill short, robust and bright orange.



Key features

Black comma over eye. Black and white barring on rump and upper tail. Orange bill.

Diet

Grass seeds.

Habitat

Dry, grassy woodlands and grasslands near water.

Size (length)

10 cm.

Threats

Cats, inappropriate fire regimes and overgrazing.

Plum-headed finch

Neochmia modesta

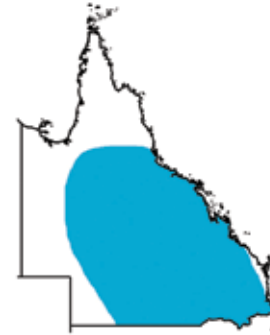
NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small finch with light brown wings spotted with white. Underparts are pale grey-white with dark brown barring across the breast. The crown and forehead are a deep glossy plum colour, more pronounced in males.



Key features

Distinctive glossy plum colour on crown and forehead.

Diet

Grass seeds and some plant material.

Habitat

Tall grasslands and lowland pastoral country.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Cats, inappropriate fire regimes and overgrazing.

Crimson finch

Neochmia phaeton

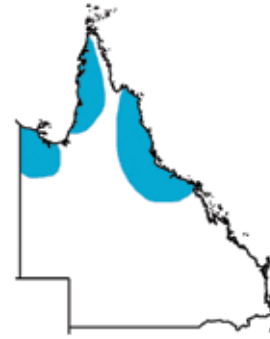
NCA Status: **E**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small finch with bright crimson face and light brown wings, spotted with crimson. Underparts are pale grey-brown in females and crimson in males.



Key features

Bright crimson coloured finch.

Diet

Grass seeds, plant material and small insects.

Habitat

Grasslands and paperbark woodlands near water.

Size (length)

13 - 14 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, weeds, overgrazing, cats and dogs.

Star finch

Neochmia ruficauda

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, pale olive-brown, finch with spots. Scarlet bill, face and forehead. Underside is whitish. Tail is dull red and legs yellow.



Key features

White-spotted finch with scarlet bill, face and forehead.

Diet

Grass seeds and small invertebrates.

Habitat

Grasslands near water, farmlands and coastal areas.

Size (length)

10 - 12 cm.

Threats

Weeds, inappropriate fire regimes, woodland thickening, overgrazing, cats, pigs and poaching.

Red-browed finch

Neochmia temporalis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small bird with distinctive vivid red eyebrow, beak and rump. Upperparts are olive green, underparts are grey. Usually occur in flocks of up to 10 birds foraging for grass seeds on ground.



Key features

Easily recognised by red eyebrow, beak and rump.

Diet

Grass seeds.

Habitat

Grassy clearings in forests, woodlands, coastal scrubs, mangroves and farmland.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, climate change and cats.

Gouldian finch

Erythrura gouldiae

NCA Status: **E**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small, spectacularly coloured grass finch, iconic and easily identified. Bright green back, yellow belly and purple breast. Facial colour is usually black but also sometimes red and rarely yellow. Males are brighter than females.



Key features

Rainbow coloured grass finch.
Only spectacularly coloured finch.

Diet

Grass seeds.

Habitat

Savannah and open woodland, grassy flats, trees near water, scrublands and spinifex.

Size (length)

12 - 14 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, weeds, overgrazing, poaching and cats.

Blue-faced parrot-finch

Erythrura trichroa

NCA Status: **NT**



Photo by Henry Cook

Basic description

Small green finch with bright blue mask around the eyes, extending over the top of head. Rump and central tail feather is red. Females are slightly duller in colour.



Key features

Small green finch with blue face.

Diet

Seeds.

Habitat

Grassy clearings on rainforest margins.

Size (length)

13 - 15 cm.

Threats

Inappropriate fire regimes, overgrazing, climate change, habitat destruction and cats.

Pictorella mannikin

Heteromunia pectoralis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small, robust finch with silver bill, black face and throat, white chest with black scallops and pinkish-brown underparts. Above is grey-brown.



Key features

Small finch that is similar to other mannikins but without black legs.

Diet

Seeds, weeds and insects.

Habitat

Spinifex plains near water, tall grasslands in *Acacia* woodlands and farmlands.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes and cats.

Chestnut-breasted munnikin

Lonchura castaneothorax

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Mark Ayers

Basic description

Small, robust, brown finch with grey crown, black face and a heavy blue-grey bill. Black chest bar divides chestnut brown breast from white underparts. Rump and tail are orange-yellow, with a black undertail.



Key features

Distinctive finch with chestnut-breast and orange-yellow rump.

Diet

Grass seeds and termites.

Habitat

Grasslands close to water, lantana thickets, mangroves and farmland.

Size (length)

11 - 12 cm.

Threats

Overgrazing and cats.

Grey wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Martin Willis

Basic description

Small wagtail with white eye-stripe. Upperparts are grey with greenish rump. Underparts are lemon yellow. Tail is black with white edges. During breeding season, male develops bold face pattern with white stripe and black bib.



Key features

Small grey wagtail with strongly contrasting yellow underparts.

Diet

Aquatic invertebrates such as flies, mayflies, beetles, crustaceans and molluscs.

Habitat

Cleared, well-watered habitat such as disused quarries, rocky streams in rainforest and ploughed fields.

Size (length)

18 - 19 cm.

Threats

Cats and climate change.

Eastern yellow wagtail

Motacilla tschutschensis

NCA Status: **LC**



Photo by Paul Newman

Basic description

Small wagtail with white stripe above eye. Upperparts are dark grey. Underparts are bright yellow in males and white to lemon in females. Tail is grey with white edges. Black blotch under eye.



Key features

Distinctively yellow with grey head and white lines on face.

Diet

Insects.

Habitat

Open country near water. Favours habitat with short grass or bare ground.

Size (length)

16 - 18 cm.

Threats

Cats.

Glossary

Barring: Contrasting dark, light or coloured bands across the wing, tail or breast.

Bib: Coloured area of the throat and upper breast.

Cap: Patch of colour covering part or all of the crown.

Casque: Enlarged helmet-like ridge or shield on the skull or bill.

Crest: Prominent feathers on the top of the head.

Crown: The top of the head.

Cryptic: Hidden, either by behaviour or protective colouring.

Dewlap: Fold of loose skin hanging from the throat or neck.

Dorsal: The upper surface.

Ear coverts: Feathers covering the ear opening and the area immediately around the ear.

Flank: Between the ribs and the hip.

Gape: The mouth from corner to corner of the bill.

Hackles: Long, slender neck feathers.

Iris: Circular part of the eye.

Keeled: A raised ridge.

Lores: The area between the base of the bill and the eye.

Mask: The area that encloses the eyes and part of the face.

Mandible: The two parts of an animals jaw.

Mantle: Plumage or fur that covers the neck and shoulders.

Morph: Distinctive plumage or fur colouration.

Nape: The back of the neck from the base of the upper skull to the upper back.

Nature Refuge: Sections of, or entire properties where landholders and the Queensland government have entered into a voluntary agreement on land management with the aim of protect high conservation value landscapes. This agreement acknowledges the need to protect land which has significant conservation value, whilst allowing sustainable land use to continue concurrently.

Nocturnal: Active at night.

Nuptial: Breeding plumage.

Plumage: Covering of feathers.

Scalloping: Rounded ornamental pattern.

Tail streamers: Elongated, ribbon like tail feathers.

Wattle: Fleshy lobes (usually colourful) hanging from the crown, face or neck.

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