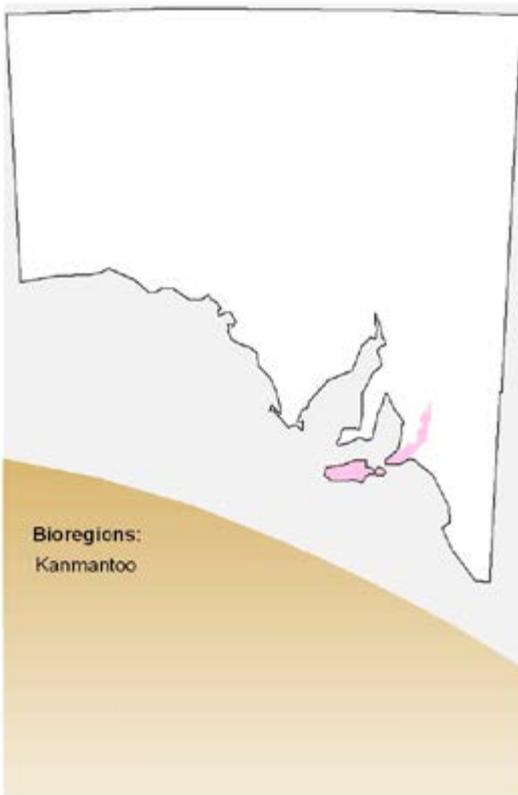


Glossy Black-Cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus lathami habmaturinus



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.

Glossy Black-Cockatoos are endangered parrots. Black-brown in colour, they are distinguished by scarlet red feathers in their tails and the yellow colouring females have on their necks. They are 46-50cm long, with a wingspan of 90cm. The current population of Glossy Black-Cockatoos is estimated at 290-300 birds. A slow growth rate in comparison to similar birds makes it hard for the species to recover in numbers. Their lifespan is unknown, but is thought to be greater than 15 years and may extend to 50 years.

Diet

These birds have specialised diet requirements. Their large, powerful bills are perfect for getting seeds out of their favourite food: sheoak cones. They mainly eat Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) seeds. Occasionally they may eat insect larvae and seeds from some eucalypts, acacias and hakeas.

Breeding

Closely-paired all year round, these birds seem to mate for life. They nest from late summer to spring, and there are records of egg-laying from January to July. They are quite particular about choosing nest sites and make their nests in tree hollows, usually high in live eucalypts (mainly Sugar Gums or South Australian Blue Gums).

Competition for nest hollows can be a problem for Glossy Black-Cockatoos, and can come from possums, bees and other birds. They lay a single egg, which hatches after approximately 30 days. When the female is incubating her egg, she stays in her hollow all the time while the male collects food.

Habitat

Nests are usually within one km of Drooping Sheoak trees and permanent water sources. However, individuals have been known to fly up to 14km between nesting and feeding areas. They have disappeared from the South Australian mainland, and are now restricted to Kangaroo Island (KI) and limited areas in the eastern states.

Threats

Glossy Black-Cockatoos are threatened by habitat clearance through the loss of quality feeding and nesting trees. Nest predation by Common Brushtail Possums is a major threat. Increased fire frequency also destroys nesting hollows and food trees. Nest interference, particularly by Galahs and Little Corellas and avian predation are other problems.



Glossy Black-Cockatoos will only handle Sheoak cones with their left leg! This makes it easy to know where to place a tag so it can be seen when they are eating.

Conservation

More than 80 artificial hollows have been constructed on KI where Glossy Black-Cockatoo nest sites are sparse, and around half of these have been used.

You can help the Glossy Black-Cockatoo by:

- preserving Sheoak tree populations on your land
- leaving trees with hollows in them; even if they are dead, birds still use them to nest in
- not letting pets wander unsupervised in the bush; cats kill birds like the Glossy Black-Cockatoo
- getting involved in planting more food and nest trees.

For further information

Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

Eastwood: (08) 8273 9100

Gawler: (08) 8523 7700

Lobethal: (08) 8389 5900

Willunga: (08) 8550 3400

Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

Northern Adelaide: (08) 8406 8289

Barossa: (08) 8563 8436

Central Adelaide: (08) 8234 7255

Southern Adelaide: (08) 8384 0176

Southern Fleurieu: (08) 8551 0524

