



# Swift Parrot

*Lathamus discolor*

A true 'Winter Wanderer', the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) is one of our most adventurous birds. It is reliant on the winter nectar of Victorian eucalypt forests and woodlands and will 'swiftly' fly all the way from southern Tasmania to find it! It is one of the species the Goulburn Broken CMA Linking Landscapes and Communities Project is helping to preserve through caring for our Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation communities.

A distinctive green, blue and red bird, the 'Swiftie' grows to approximately 25cm in length and as its name suggests, flies at fast speeds – around 100km/hour. It needs to achieve these high speeds, so that in autumn/winter it may quickly cross Bass Strait, to reach Victoria.

Once on the mainland, it will seek out eucalypt forests, however if there is no nectar, or the supply of nectar is sparse, it must be able to quickly reach the next feeding site – wherever that may be. In the spring, it will leave Victoria and return to Tasmania to breed.

Participating in the Swift Parrot surveys (held in May and August annually) is a fantastic way to practically assist the Swift Parrot Recovery Program (Regent Honeyeaters are also surveyed at this time, as they feed upon the same trees). Visit [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au) to find out more.

The Swift Parrot is listed as Critically Endangered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



Photo: C Tzaros

## A Disappearing Species

The Swift Parrot needs much larger areas of winter-flowering food trees than are currently available. There are only five eucalypt species that flower during winter, including Grey Box, and there is a need to 'spread the risk' and increase the extent and health of winter-flowering woodlands.

Everyone is encouraged to learn about the diversity, beauty and importance of the Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitats that will help protect these ecosystems for the Swift Parrot and many other Grey Box Grassy Woodland dependent species.

## More Information

Contact your local conservation group or agency to find out how you can learn more about Swift Parrots and become involved in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Linking Landscapes and Communities Project.

**Birdlife Australia**  
[www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

**Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network**  
03 5764 7506  
[janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

**Goulburn Broken CMA**  
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# Grey Box Woodlands and Derived Grasslands

A Grey Box Woodland is special. The mature, widely spaced overstorey generally consists of a mixture of eucalypts and sometimes buloke or sheoak (*Allocasuarina* spp.) but is always dominated by Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*).

Unlike a forest that has touching canopies, the canopies of a woodland are sparse and spreading. The understorey predominantly consists of low shrubs and native grasses. These woodlands support intricate symbiotic relationships between plants, animals, insects, fungi, and soils. Grey Box Grassy Woodlands are one of the vegetation communities that the Goulburn Broken CMA Linking Landscapes and Communities Project is helping to preserve through caring for our Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation communities.

Once, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands extended from south-eastern South Australia, through the centre of Victoria. Today, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands exist in fragmented forms: on small reserves, roadside remnants, as scattered paddock trees and patches on private land. This vegetation community generally occupies prime agricultural land, therefore, most of it has been cleared or severely degraded - more than 85 per cent of Grey Box Grassy Woodlands has disappeared since European settlement.

This community is listed as Endangered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



## A Disappearing Vegetation Community

This vast woodland system is vital to the survival of much of our unique threatened wildlife, including Swift Parrots, Regent Honeyeaters, Bush-stone Curlews, Brush-tailed Phascogales and Turquoise Parrots. Clearing, degradation by grazing, cultivation, poor regeneration, invasive weeds, soil compaction, altered fire regimes, firewood collection, erosion, fragmentation, soil compaction and salinity are factors causing the decline of the Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation community.

Everyone is encouraged to learn about the diversity, beauty and importance of the Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia.

## More Information

Contact your local conservation group or agency to find out how you can learn more about Grey Box Woodlands and Derived Grasslands and become involved in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Linking Landscapes and Communities Project.

### **Goulburn Murray Landcare Network**

03 5821 3530  
[www.gmln.com.au](http://www.gmln.com.au)

### **Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network**

03 5764 7506  
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**National Landcare Program**





# Regent Honeyeater

(*Anthochaera phrygia*)

The Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) has been the focus of an intense recovery program in the Goulburn Broken catchment for more than 20 years. This nomadic bird is predominantly a nectar feeder, meaning it is dependent upon flowering box, gum, and ironbark eucalypts growing in better quality soils. It also feeds on the nectar of mistletoe. It is one of the species the Goulburn Broken CMA Linking Landscapes and Communities Project is helping through caring for our Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation communities.

Once travelling in large flocks throughout South Australia, Victoria and Queensland, the Regent Honeyeater's range and population has declined dramatically over the past 30 years.

It continues to 'hold on' – possibly due to its opportunistic nature which has seen it adapt to feeding from native garden plants. A captive breeding program has also been implemented to try to boost numbers.

A distinctive black and yellow bird, the Regent Honeyeater has a characteristic scalloped pattern on the breast and a patch of pink/cream coloured skin around the eye. It is known as a 'flagship species', meaning that actions taken to try to preserve it will benefit a wider range of other threatened and declining woodland fauna and flora.

The Regent Honeyeater is listed as Critically Endangered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



Photo: G Johnson



## A Disappearing Species

Habitat loss and fragmentation, reduction in nectar quality, competition from larger birds such as Noisy Miners and the effects of trying to breed and survive within a dwindling population are challenges that Regent Honeyeaters continually face. There are many ways you can contribute to the recovery of this species. Visit [www.regenthoneyeater.org.au](http://www.regenthoneyeater.org.au) to find out how to get involved.

Everyone is encouraged to learn about the diversity, beauty and importance of the Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitats which will help protect these ecosystems for the Regent Honeyeater and many other Grey Box Grassy Woodland dependent species.

## More Information

Contact your local conservation group or agency to find out how you can learn more about the Regent Honeyeater and become involved in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Linking Landscapes and Communities Project.

### **Regent Honeyeater Project**

[andie@regenthoneyeater.org.au](mailto:andie@regenthoneyeater.org.au)  
[www.regenthoneyeater.org.au](http://www.regenthoneyeater.org.au)

### **Birdlife Australia**

[www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

### **Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network**

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# Turnip Copperburr

(*Sclerolaena napiformis*)

Never heard of the Turnip Copperburr (*Sclerolaena napiformis*)? Neither have most!

This small plant is extremely rare and is one of the species the Goulburn Broken CMA Linking Landscapes and Communities Project is helping to preserve through caring for our Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation communities.

This small shrub grows to approximately 30cm. It produces tiny green flowers and leaves of 5 – 15 mm in length and is covered in fine hairs. In late autumn, its foliage dies back, and energy is stored in a thick 'turnip-like' taproot.

During this time, the small fruits which develop in November fall to the ground, providing a handy energy-laden food source for ants.

Ant nests have been identified as a popular site for germinating Turnip Copperburrs, and ants are thought to be an important 'disperser' of the seeds.

The Turnip Copperburr is listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.



## A Disappearing Species

This unusual little plant probably once grew unhindered across the plains, grasslands, and woodlands of the Goulburn Broken catchment and beyond. It was only first described in 1984, so there is little historical information on its former distribution. It is thought that it currently occurs at less than approximately 1% of its original range. The location and habitat of existing populations suggest that it was probably growing in grasslands and Grey Box woodlands, which is another reason these habitats are so precious!

Everyone is encouraged to learn about the diversity, beauty and importance of the Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitats that will help protect these ecosystems for the Turnip Copperburr and many other Grey Box Grassy Woodland dependent species.

## More Information

Contact your local conservation group or agency to find out how you can learn more about the Turnip Copperburr and become involved in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's Linking Landscapes and Communities Project.

### **Goulburn Murray Landcare Network**

03 5821 3530  
[www.gmln.com.au](http://www.gmln.com.au)

### **Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network**

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# Small Purple-pea

(*Swainsonia recta*)

Never heard of the Small Purple-pea (*Swainsonia recta*)? Neither have most! This small plant is extremely rare and is one of the species the Goulburn Broken CMA Linking Landscapes and Communities Project is helping to preserve through caring for our Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation communities.

The brilliantly coloured Small Purple-pea is a member of the legume family. It produces bright purple flowers along 20-30cm long flower stalks, with slender leaves growing from the base. A thick tap root extends to approximately 60cm below the ground. In autumn/ winter it re-sprouts from this taproot, using the stored energy to flower in spring.

Once it has produced several hard, kidney-shaped seeds, its flowers and leaves die back to the taproot rootstock until the following autumn/winter.

It is naturally a long-lived plant – possibly up to 50 years – however, invasive weeds, habitat destruction, damage from rabbits and other browsers, damage by large machinery, altered land use, altered fire regimes, stock grazing, shrinking population size, soil compaction and salinity are factors causing the decline of the Small Purple-pea.

The Small Purple-pea is listed as Endangered under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



Photo: G Johnson



Photo: G Johnson

## A Disappearing Species

This beautiful plant once grew unhindered across the Goulburn Broken Catchment and beyond. Over the past 60 years its known range has drastically reduced and fragmented to approximately 0.5% of its original extent, largely due to loss of Grey Box woodlands and native grasslands. The Small Purple-pea is just another reason these habitats are so precious! With targeted action, more populations of the Small Purple-pea can be identified and protected, so they may reproduce and thrive.

Everyone is encouraged to learn about the diversity, beauty and importance of the Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitats which will help protect these ecosystems for the Small Purple-pea and many other Grey Box Grassy Woodlands dependent species.

## More Information

Contact your local conservation group or agency to find out how you can learn more about the Small Purple-pea and become involved in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's Linking Landscapes and Communities Project.

### Goulburn Murray Landcare Network

03 5821 3530

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