



**BIRD**

*Calyptorhynchus funereus*

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo**

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	V	V	-	Resident



Photo: © Brian Furby

**Conservation Significance**

The AMLR distribution is part of a limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.<sup>3</sup> Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.<sup>4</sup>

**Description**

Large cockatoo easily identified by its predominantly black plumage, with most body feathers edged with yellow, not visible at a distance. Yellow cheek patch and yellow panels on tail. Female has a larger yellow cheek patch, pale grey eye-ring (pink in males), white upper bill (grey-black in males) and black marks in the yellow tail panels. Young birds resemble the adult female, but young males have a smaller cheek patch.<sup>2</sup>

Large, slow moving species with a distinctive loud call, readily heard as it flies in the open sky above the tree canopy. These characteristics may present a misleading account of its abundance relative to the other more secretive and less visible species.<sup>1</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

Found in south-eastern Australia, from Eyre Peninsula, SA to south and central eastern QLD.<sup>2</sup>

The most at risk areas in SA are the AMLR and Eyre Peninsula. Use of seeds from introduced pine as a food has extended its non-breeding distribution in the MLR since the 1950s (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Once a common visitor to Botanic Park, Adelaide.<sup>5</sup>

Although it has a State Vulnerable conservation rating, within SMLR was recorded at 68 of the 157 (43%) survey quadrats and a further 40 opportunistic records.<sup>1</sup> Vulnerable status is based largely on a presumed low population (<10,000 individuals) and lowered reproductive potential, due to a reduction in numbers of the large tree hollows required for nesting and a lack of suitable food near nesting areas.<sup>1</sup>

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records widespread, with records in the central MLR (south of Lyndoch), in vegetated pockets south to Currency Creek and the southern Fleurieu Peninsula.<sup>4</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records in the central MLR, from Lobethal south to Deep Creek.<sup>4</sup>

**Habitat**

Occurs mainly in stringybark forests and woodlands with a heathy understorey and adjacent pines. Main nesting trees are large stringybarks and Candlebarks (*Eucalyptus dalrympeana*) in the central MLR, plus large stringybarks at sites from Mount Bold to Deep Creek CP (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland, Heathy Woodland and Heathy Forest.<sup>4</sup>

**Biology and Ecology**

Feed in small to large, noisy flocks. Favoured food is seeds of native trees and introduced pines and cypresses. Also feed on the seeds of ground plants and insects.<sup>2</sup>

In the AMLR, feeds on cones of introduced Pines such as Aleppo (*Pinus halepensis*) and Radiata (*Pinus radiata*). Native foods include seeds of *Allocasuarina* spp. and *Banksia* spp.<sup>5</sup>

Long breeding season, which varies throughout their range. Both sexes construct the nest, which is a large tree hollow, lined with wood chips. Female incubates eggs, while male supplies her with food. Usually only one chick survives, which will stay in the care of its

**Further information:**

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





## ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA Threatened Species Profile

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parents for about six months.<sup>2</sup>

### Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri, Kurna, Ngadjuri and Peramangk Nations.<sup>4</sup>

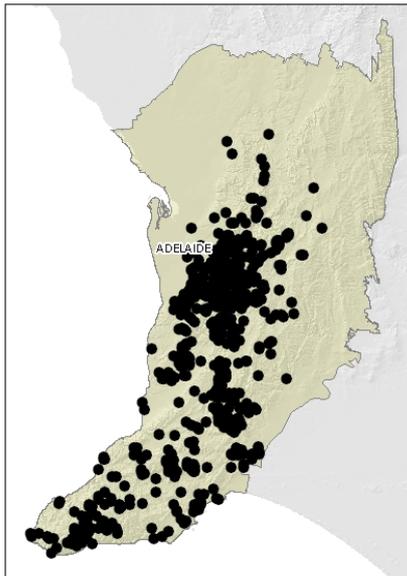
### Threats

Threats include the loss of large nesting hollows and the loss of native trees and shrubs used for food. Impacts of prescribed burning and wildfires are uncertain, but may be detrimental if food plants are reduced or trees with hollows are destroyed (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Competition for nesting hollows with other birds may be an important reason for inadequate recruitment (D. Armstrong *pers. comm.*).

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

### Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>4</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

### References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

<sup>1</sup> Armstrong, D. M., Croft, S. N. and Foulkes, J. N. (2003). *A Biological Survey of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia, 2000-2001*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Museum (2006). *Birds in Backyards: Bird Finder*. Available from <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> (accessed November 2007).

<sup>3</sup> Cale, B. (2005). *Towards a Recovery Plan for the Declining Birds of the Mount Lofty Ranges*. Scientific Resource Document for Birds for Biodiversity. Unpublished Report.

<sup>4</sup> Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

<sup>5</sup> Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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