

REGISTER at redtail.com.au or email redtail@birdlife.org.au

Is training offered?

This year we will be running an annual count training session on the morning of the count to help those who haven't participated before or feel they need a little more hands-on experience in searching for Red-tails.

Email redtail@birdlife.org.au to find out further details or to register for an online training session.



Volunteer search groups will be allocated a site in stringybark, which they will cover via vehicle, driving slowly along forest tracks in search of Red-tails. 4WD is preferred but there are some sites that can be done easily in a 2WD.

Sites are scattered from Nelson to Little Desert National Park in Victoria and from Mount Gambier to Keith in South Australia. Landholders who have remnant stringybark are also encouraged to search their own property.

How do I become involved?

To **register** please head to redtail.com.au, contact: Rachel Farran on Freecall **1800 262 062** or email redtail@birdlife.org.au.

'The count's success relies heavily on sighting information that we receive in the weeks leading up to the count. If you see Red-tails from now on please report all sightings to the Project Coordinator.'

For further information or to **register** to participate in the 2026 SERTBC Annual Count please contact:



Rachel Farran
SERTBC Project Coordinator
BirdLife Australia
PO Box 142
Edenhope Vic 3318
Ph: 1800 262 062
Email: redtail@birdlife.org.au



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www.redtail.com.au



Glenelg Hopkins



South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count



2026 Volunteer Information Sheet

Saturday 2nd May

Images courtesy of Skye McPherson, Wayne Bigg, Rob Drummond and Rick Dawson

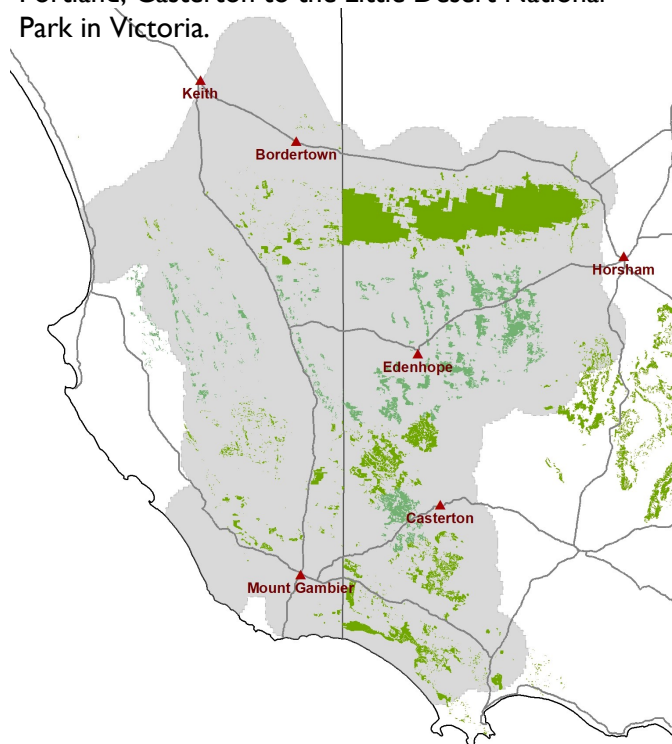
Join in the search for one of the region's most *endangered* locals the 'South-eastern *Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo*'

Species Information

There are five sub-species of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo in Australia. The nationally endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) is only found in the south-east of South Australia and south-west Victoria.



With an estimated population of around 1500 birds, this species is in danger of extinction. Its natural range covers an area of around 18,000km² from Keith to Lucindale to Mount Gambier in SA and from Portland, Casterton to the Little Desert National Park in Victoria.



Annual Count Surveys

Why Survey?

Since 1996, the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team has carried out an annual count of the SERTBC population, across the range, to determine the location of large flocks, the minimum number of birds known to be alive, and patterns of habitat use. This information enables us to complete our annual flock counts, which provides us with an indication of breeding success. The count also promotes awareness of the specialised needs of this colourful local and provides an important community engagement activity.

When is the 2026 SERTBC Annual Count?

The 2026 South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count will be held on **Saturday 2nd May** across the species range in south-eastern South Australia and south-western Victoria.

What's involved?

Volunteer groups will be allocated one of around sixty sites in stringybark forest across the species range to search for the cockatoos. Landholders are also encouraged to survey their own properties on the day. Each group will cover their site via vehicle, (preferably 4WD) using one of two methods; scientific (stopping every 500m to listen for the cockies' distinctive call) or 'Drive in the Park' (driving slowly looking for feeding signs). If birds are observed, participants are required to count all birds, and where possible identify the number of males and barred birds (females & juveniles). Where birds are feeding in stringybark, participants may be required to flush the birds into flight to obtain an accurate count. Red-tails blend well into their stringybark habitat. There are often far more in the stringybark than previously thought.

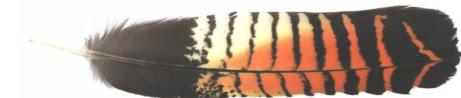
Participants are encouraged to organise their own search group (i.e. family, friends etc), however there will be places available for single participants to join in other volunteer search groups.

What time is best to search for the cockatoos?

Volunteer groups are able to search their allocated site at any time of the day, for as long as they want, on **Saturday 2nd May**, however it is recommended that participants search either up until midday and/or from 3pm until dusk. This is when the birds tend to be more vocal and visible.



Male Tail Feather



Female / Juvenile Tail Feather

What do I need?

Volunteers will need to become familiar with what the cockatoos look and sound like, as they can often be misidentified for the more common Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. Please refer to our Red-tail identification sheet or visit our website at www.redtail.com.au. Alternatively participants can attend an annual count training session (see overleaf).

Participants will need binoculars, and are encouraged to travel in a 4WD as many of the tracks to be searched cannot be suitably covered in a 2WD. All volunteers who register to participate will need to complete a declaration form (covering OH&S) and will be provided with an information pack containing a map of their search area, a record sheet, and survey instructions in the weeks leading up to the count.