

What time is best to search for the cockies?

Volunteer groups are able to search their allocated site at any time of the day, for as long as they want on Saturday, 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.



Is training offered?

Each year we run 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. This is held in Casterton starting 9am local time for a discussion and Q&A session. Participants can meet at Rotary Park, which is the park where the main road crosses the Glenelg River.



**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 please report all
sightings to the project
coordinator**

How do I become involved?

Volunteers wanting to participate in the SERTBC Annual Count are required to register their interest with the Project Coordinator in order to secure a preferred site. To register please contact:



SERTBC Project Coordinator
BirdLife Australia
PO Box 127
Mount Gambier SA 5290
Ph: 1800 262 062
Email: redtail@birdlife.org.au

○ www.redtail.com.au ○

Images courtesy of Wayne Bigg, Rick Dawson and Michael Waters

South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Annual Count



Volunteer
Information Sheet

First Saturday of May



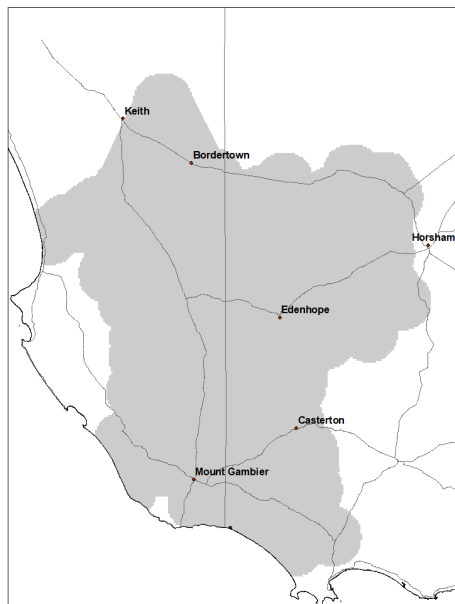
This project is supported by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

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. It's 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.



Why Survey?

Since 1996, the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team has carried out an annual count of the SERTBC population 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 SERTBC Annual Count?

The SERTBC Annual Count is held on the first Saturday in May across the species range in south-eastern South Australia and south-western Victoria.

What's involved?

Volunteer groups will be allocated a site in stringybark forest 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).

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.



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. Identification fact sheets and videos can be found on our website at www.redtail.com.au.

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, a record sheet, and survey instructions in the weeks leading up to the count.