



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Scarlet robin

Petroica boodang

Vulnerable

The gorgeous scarlet robin is a small insectivorous bird, 13 cm long, and is one of Australia's three red-breasted robins.

The male has a black head and upperparts with a white forehead patch, a bright scarlet chest, white belly, white wing stripes and white tail-edges. Female plumage is less vibrant and similar to the immature male. The scarlet robin's call is a soft, warbling trill.

It is found from south-east Queensland to south-east South Australia, as well as Tasmania and south-west Western Australia. In New South Wales, the scarlet robin occurs widely along the coast, tablelands and western slopes.

It breeds in high altitude forest and woodlands in spring and summer. As a 'seasonal altitudinal migrant', it moves to the lower coast, tableland and slopes areas in autumn and winter.

During non-breeding season scarlet robins are often found in open farming country with

scattered woodland, paddock trees and grazed paddock. They are also occasionally found in mallee woodland, wet forests, tea-tree swamps and wetlands.

Scarlet robins forage from low perches on fallen timber, fence posts and at ground level. They feed by pouncing on small invertebrates they find on tree trunks, logs and on the ground, as well as the shrub or canopy layer.

Scarlet robins are often spotted perching on farm fence posts and along fence wires.

If you have trouble telling your red-breasted robins apart, the male and female scarlet robins have a distinctive large white forehead patch above the bill.

Support local action and help save the scarlet robin



The female scarlet robin is less vibrant than the male.
Photo: Verna Mackenzie



Scarlet robin habitat, with fallen timber and a grassy understorey. Photo: Rob Armstrong/OEH

Landholders are protecting and improving scarlet robin habitat by retaining trees and leaving fallen timber and leaf litter on the ground.

Landholders are also using fencing to better manage stock grazing, controlling weeds and replanting native ground cover and shrubs.

These revegetation strategies help to re-establish suitable non-breeding habitat for the scarlet robin and many other threatened woodland birds. A mixture of trees, shrubs, grasses and other ground-cover plants gives them more opportunity to perch and forage for food. Low-level bushy shrubs also provide shelter and hiding places from predators.

Some landholders are taking a landscape conservation approach by working with neighbours to re-establish, protect and retain important vegetation corridors. Corridors between patches of vegetation allow scarlet robins and other fauna to move safely across the landscape.

Fortunately, scarlet robins are currently responding well to the various established on-farm native vegetation management practices. These practices include erecting fencing around remaining patches of vegetation and riparian zones, and encouraging natural regeneration to occur.

If you own property, you can help the long-term survival of the scarlet robin, and other threatened woodland birds, by adopting the land management practices that protect, improve and increase native vegetation.

The NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust encourages and supports landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on private land. You can find out more here: www.bct.nsw.gov.au

If you want to support property owners looking after scarlet robins or in caring for other threatened species you can find out more about volunteering and research projects related to threatened species here:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species

The South East Local Land Services is managing the Environmental Trust-funded 'Save Our Scarlet Robin' project which is providing funding to local landholders to protect and restore scarlet robin habitat. You can find out more here: <http://southeast.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/key-projects/save-our-scarlet-robin>

Saving our Species is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

Saving our Species can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

To find out more about threatened species in NSW and the Saving our Species program: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS