

Scarlet robin

Petroica boodang

vulnerable



Image: Dean Ingwersen

The scarlet robin is a small Australian robin that reaches 13 cm in length.

The male has a black head and upperparts, with a conspicuous white forehead patch, white wing stripes and white tail-edges. The male has a bright scarlet-red chest and a white belly.

The female is pale brown, darker above, and has a dull reddish breast and whitish throat. The whitish mark on the female's forehead is smaller than the male's. The female Scarlet Robin also has white wing and tail markings. Immature males resemble females.

The main call of a scarlet robin is a soft, warbling trill.

The scarlet robin lives in dry eucalypt forests and woodlands. The understorey is usually open and grassy with few scattered shrubs. It occasionally occurs in mallee or wet forest communities, or in wetlands and tea-tree swamps.

In autumn and winter they may live in open grassy woodlands, and grasslands or grazed paddocks with scattered trees.

Scarlet robin habitat usually contains abundant logs and fallen timber: these are important components of its habitat. Birds forage from low perches, fence-posts or on the ground, from where they pounce on small insects and other invertebrates which are taken from the ground, or off tree trunks and logs; they sometimes forage in the shrub or canopy layer.

Find out more about the scarlet robin and other threatened species at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies>

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Saving Our Species: Actions

Protect known and potential Scarlet Robin habitat, using landholder stewardship payments and covenants.

Improve the condition of Scarlet Robin habitat through supplementary plantings of trees, shrubs (particularly wattles) and native ground cover.

Retain dead fallen timber of all sizes, to provide foraging habitat.

Fence sites to allow strategic grazing within native woodland remnants to ensure ground cover biomass is managed appropriately.

Increase habitat connectivity by creating "corridor" or "stepping-stone enclosure" (20x20m plots maximum 100m apart) plantings of trees, shrubs and native ground cover species, that are locally indigenous, to reconnect patches of isolated habitat – focus on reconnecting riparian vegetation and other remnant vegetation

Increase the area of protected Scarlet Robin habitat by fencing areas adjacent to remnant woodland to allow natural regeneration of trees, shrubs and ground cover.

Control exotic berry-bearing shrubs such as Sweet Briar Rose, Hawthorn, Blackberry and replace with native shrubs such as wattles (*Acacia* spp.), Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) and she-oaks (*Allocasuarina* spp.).

Replace exotic perennial pasture grasses such as Phalaris and Cocksfoot and ground cover weeds with native tussock grass species that are locally appropriate. Weeds should be removed using best-practice methods, including manual removal and chemical control as prescribed by the herbicide manufacturer.