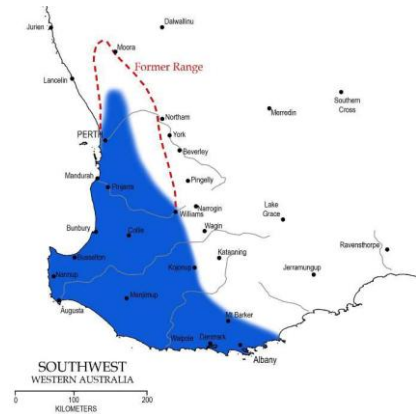
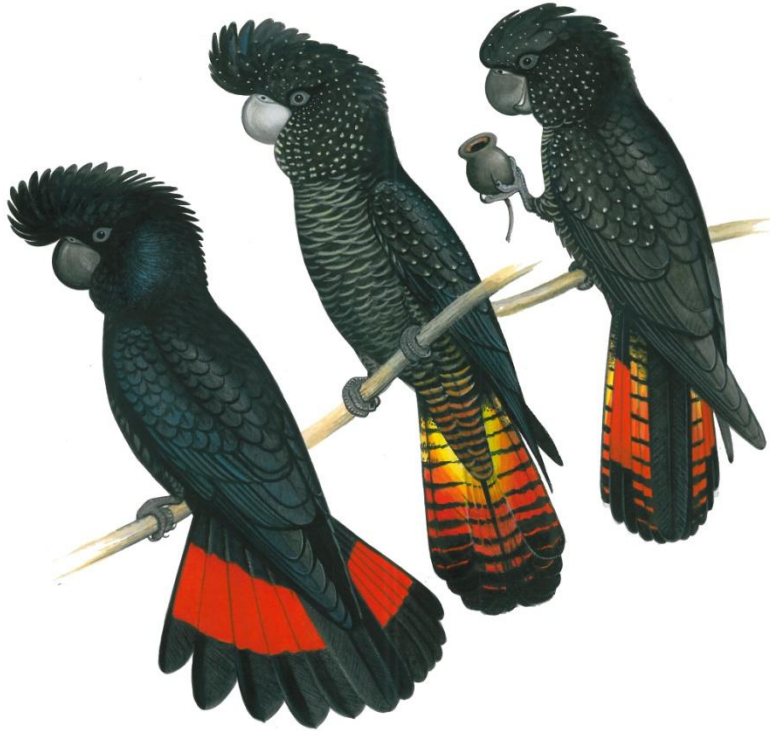


Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus banksii naso



Conservation status: **Vulnerable (WC Act)**
Vulnerable (EPBC Act)

Range: Humid and sub-humid forests of south west WA, mainly in the hilly interior.

Habitat: Eucalypt forests.

Diet: Seeds of Marri, Jarrah, Blackbutt, Karri, Sheoak and Snottygobble, also some ornamental eucalypts and introduced Cape Lilac.

Lifespan: 25 - 50 years in the wild.

Males: Bright orange-red band in the tail; bill dark grey or blackish. Juvenile males resemble adult females until about three years old.

Females: Head and wings spotted with pale yellow; breast and belly barred with orange-yellow; tail narrowly banded with orange-yellow; bill pale greyish white.

- Threats:**
- Loss and fragmentation of habitat (particularly Jarrah-Marri forests) due to climate change, logging, land clearing and fire.
 - Competition for nest sites with feral European honey bees and expanding numbers of Australian Shelducks and Australian Wood (Maned) Ducks.
 - Vehicle strikes.

The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*C. b. naso*) is the smallest of Western Australia's three subspecies of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. This south west subspecies possesses a very large beak needed to crack open the hard woody gum nuts which make up its favourite food.

Their Noongar name, *Kaarak*, means 'black feathers' and was the inspiration for the name of the site of the Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre (Kaarakin).

It was formerly common but has disappeared from 30 per cent of its former range due to extensive land clearing. It is now rare and patchily distributed over an equally fragmented habitat.

With a diet consisting predominantly of the nuts of native trees like Marri and Jarrah, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos have in recent years moved out onto the Swan Coastal Plain in search of food. They have even been reported to take advantage of artificial nest hollows at Murdoch University. Unfortunately this is not an indication of population increase but rather reflects a declining population in search of suitable habitat. They prefer to nest high in Marri trees that are over 200 years old. The total population is estimated at only 10,000 - 12,000 birds.

Recent scientific research by the Western Australian Museum has discovered that, uniquely among cockatoos, the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo breeds only every two to three years probably due to the fact that juvenile birds remain dependent on their parents for up to two years. Similarly to other black cockatoos however, they lay one, rarely two, eggs that the female alone incubates for a month with newly hatched chicks covered in sparse yellow down. Chicks fledge (leave the nest) at around three months old.

How can I help?

- The Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre is working hard to protect our threatened cockatoos by rehabilitating injured birds for release back into the wild, revegetating degraded areas for new cockatoo habitat and educating the community. We are mostly volunteers and you can support our work by volunteering or making a donation via our website - www.blackcockatoorecovery.com
- Contact Kaarakin (9390 2288) if you find an injured or sick black cockatoo in need of care.
- Lend your support to the protection of all remaining Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat and, if your yard is big enough, plant a local tree like Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*).
- Report poaching or shooting to the Department of Parks and Wildlife (1800 449 453).



Kaarakin



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