



## THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

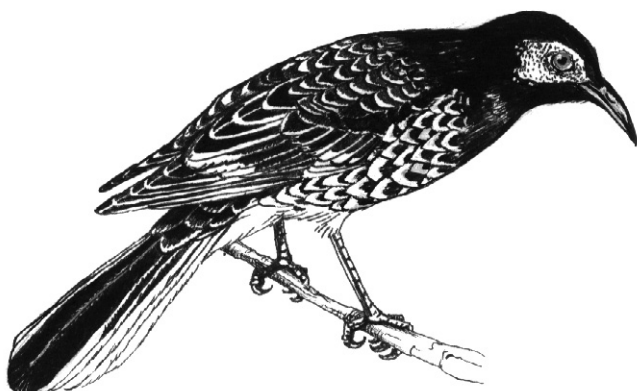
# Regent Honeyeater (*Xanthomyza phrygia*)

An endangered species

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The Regent Honeyeater is one of the most spectacular Australian honeyeaters. Adult birds are 200–220 mm in length. The head is black with yellowish, orange, warty, facial skin that extends over and around the eye. The back and breast are pale lemon scaled in black. The wings are black with conspicuous yellow patches. The tail is also black with prominent yellow edging.

The species is an arboreal, relying on locally abundant nectar and associated insect food sources.



The Regent Honeyeater usually nests solitarily or in loose colonies, with pairs of birds defending their breeding territory. The solidly constructed cup-shaped nest, of bark or coarse dry grass bound with cobweb, is placed in the fork of a tree or clump of mistletoes.

The species generally inhabits drier temperate woodlands and open forests, including forest edges, wooded farmland and sometimes urban areas with mature eucalypts.

It is an irruptive and partly migratory species, generally moving northwards in autumn and winter, returning south to breed in spring. Its movements are complex but mainly governed by the flowering of a small group of eucalypts.

It is found mainly in a few areas north of the Great Divide in Victoria, and along the western slopes and plains of NSW and the ACT. In NSW the species has been regularly recorded in the Bundarra–Barraba area, Warrumbungle National Park and the Capertree Valley.

The ACT region lies at the maximum altitudinal limit of the distribution of the species. In this region the species appears to have a preference for Yellow Box–Red Gum Grassy Woodland along the lower slopes of Mounts Ainslie and Majura, extending through Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve to the Sutton and Lake George areas.

Critical habitat features include large, heavily flowering eucalypts on fertile soils.

## CONSERVATION THREATS

- Inappropriate fire regimes.
- Uncontrolled grazing by livestock.
- Clearing of both living and dead trees.
- Rural tree dieback.

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## CONSERVATION ACTION

Identification of key habitats and potential habitats.

- Protection and management of habitat including:
  - maintenance of woodland remnants and isolated paddock trees;
  - limitation on removal of live and dead timber;
  - regeneration of habitat; and
  - minimisation of adverse effects of fire.
- Monitoring long term trends and status.
- Research into the ecology and conservation requirements of the species.
- Liaison to achieve regional approach to conservation.
- Education and community liaison to raise community awareness.

### HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The primary source of information for this Information Sheet is the ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy—Action Plan No. 27 where a full bibliography is available. Action Plans are available from the Environment ACT Website: [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au) or the Arts, Heritage and Environment Information Centre at 12 Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT.

### Acknowledgement

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