

Glossy Black-cockatoo

Glossies are small cockatoos with dull black/brown plumage. They are quiet, and usually only found in small groups of 3-6.

Irregular yellow head markings are the identifying feature for the female Glossy.

Juveniles have thick black banding on their tail feathers, that changes to solid red as they mature.

Males have red tail panels.

Females and juveniles can have some orange in their tails, but as they mature it changes to red and sometimes yellow.

Image by Charles Dove



## Identification

Glossy Black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) are often mistaken for other species of Black cockatoo.

Glossies are smaller, around 46-50 centimetres long, with brownish black plumage and have a small crest.

Males have flame-coloured tail feathers; females tail feathers are barred with black and vary from red to yellow.

The female's head and neck is marked with variable amounts of yellow splotches.

Young birds are lightly spotted with yellow.



## Habitat decline

Because of changes to its habitat, this species is classified as Vulnerable under NSW legislation. Clearing of woodlands, allocasuarina shrublands and removal of hollow bearing old trees has reduced both food and nest sites across much of their range.

The Glossy Black-cockatoo breeds once a year, and produces only one egg each season, therefore its numbers can be reduced very quickly.

## Why not become actively involved in the work to conserve this vulnerable bird?

You can help by joining the Dubbo Field Naturalist & Conservation Society in its regular surveys of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo | [www.dubbofieldnats.org.au](http://www.dubbofieldnats.org.au)



This brochure was upgraded and printed by Local Land Services in conjunction with Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society with funding from the Environmental Trust.



# GLOSSY BLACK-COCKATOO

Managing a vulnerable population in the Central West Coast



Photo: Rob Quinan

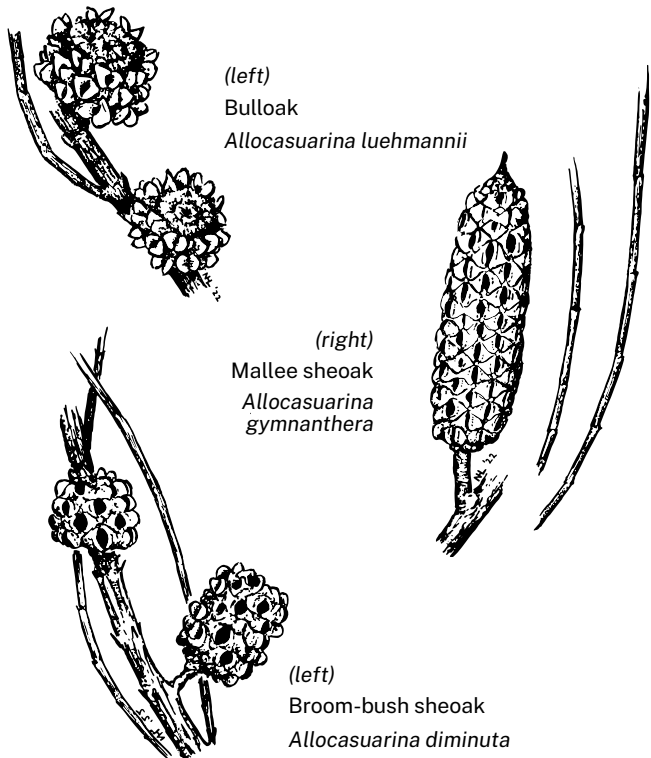




Photos: Jayden Gunn



Allocasuarina cones (She-oaks) in the Dubbo region.  
Illustrations by Netta Holmes.



Other associated species with cones that Glossy's eat are Belah (*Casuarina cristata*), River sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) and Drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*).

### Vulnerable listing

In the Dubbo region, the Glossy Black-cockatoo population appears to be static, according to surveys carried out by the Dubbo Field Naturalist and Conservation Society for nearly three decades.

Glossy Black-cockatoos live in pairs or family groups in eucalypt forest with she-oaks (casuarinas and allocasuarinas), their specialised food source.

Many of these allocasuarina are fire intolerant, not producing adequate seed load until more than seven years after a fire. This means retaining a mosaic of burnt and unburnt areas in the landscape is part of the recipe for their survival.

### What can you do to help?

- Protect your old trees, both dead and alive. Glossy Black-cockatoos need a supply of large tree hollows (up to 1.5m deep) for nesting. Stands of trees rather than isolated specimens should be allowed to mature to hollow-bearing age, which could be 120 to 150 years.
- Preserve or plant local native allocasuarinas for feeding habitat.
- Report sightings of the Glossy Black-cockatoo via <https://bit.ly/3TkLKBX> or [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au)
- Help to survey your local populations of Glossy Black-cockatoos. Find out more at [contact@dubbofieldnats.org.au](mailto:contact@dubbofieldnats.org.au)

### Survival needs

Glossy Black-cockatoos rely upon various species of casuarinas and allocasuarinas. Land managers are encouraged to retain these shrubs and trees and to extend these areas where possible. Many casuarinas were removed for grazing and cropping, and regeneration of casuarinas is essential for the survival of Glossy Black-cockatoos.