

## Where is the Orange-bellied Parrot found?

The Orange-bellied Parrot migrates between the Australian mainland and Tasmania — spending summers breeding in Tasmania and winters in coastal Victoria and South Australia.

The Orange-bellied Parrot nests in hollows of eucalypt trees near button grass plains in south-west Tasmania.

Much of the Orange-bellied Parrot's habitat is within protected or reserved areas. The entire known breeding population is contained within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and the South-west Conservation Area.

During February and March, the birds leave south-west Tasmania and head north, taking up to two months to complete the journey to the mainland.

King Island in Bass Strait acts as a key bridging site during the migration.

On arrival on the Australian mainland, the saltmarshes of Port Phillip Bay and the beaches of south-east South Australia are the most important areas for the species.



Lake Connewarre in Victoria is one of the Orange-bellied Parrot's winter homes.  
Image: Philip Wright and the Department of the Environment and Heritage.

## How you can help

The Australian community can play a vital role in protecting the Orange-bellied Parrot.

Here are some quick tips for things you can do:

- ▶ volunteer to be part of the Birds Australia monitoring programme
- ▶ report any Orange-bellied Parrot sightings or threats to Birds Australia
- ▶ protect and revegetate areas in your community or on your land to help provide habitat for Orange-bellied Parrots *and*
- ▶ join a local organisation such as a Landcare or catchment group.

## Find out more

Information about Australia's threatened species and ecological communities is available from the Department of the Environment and Heritage web site at: [www.deh.gov.au/sprat](http://www.deh.gov.au/sprat)

or by contacting the Department's Community Information Unit

Email: [ciu@deh.gov.au](mailto:ciu@deh.gov.au) or

Freecall: 1800 803 772

To find out more about Birds Australia's volunteer programmes and monitoring work visit [www.birdsaustralia.com.au/birds/obp.html](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/birds/obp.html) or to report sightings of the Orange-bellied Parrot to [mail@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:mail@birdsaustralia.com.au)

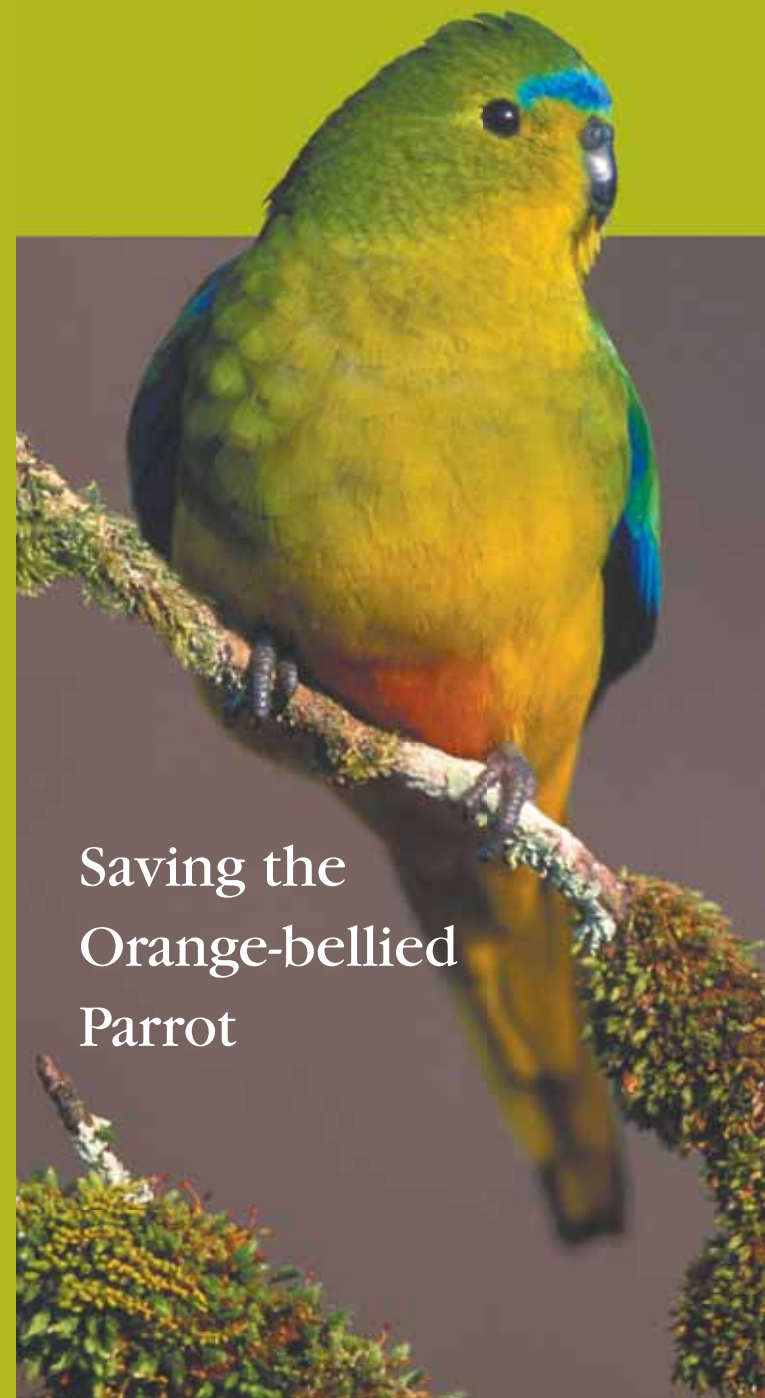
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Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage



## Saving the Orange-bellied Parrot

## What is an Orange-bellied Parrot?



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Australia's Orange-bellied Parrot is ranked alongside the Giant Panda and Siberian Tiger as one of the world's rarest and most endangered animals.

Only 100–200 parrots (about 50 breeding pairs) are thought to exist in the wild.

The Orange-bellied Parrot is a small 'grass parrot', with adult birds being about 21 cm long and weighing 45–50 grams. As its name suggests, the bird has an orange patch on the belly.

The Orange-bellied Parrot is one of the Australia's most threatened species. It is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

## Why is the Orange-bellied Parrot under threat?

While the Orange-bellied Parrot was more common in the 19th century, numbers have declined over time. Current threats to the species include:

- ▶ habitat loss and modification
- ▶ predation by cats and foxes
- ▶ mortality caused by collision with structures
- ▶ catastrophes (e.g. avian diseases or storms during migration) *and*
- ▶ inbreeding due to the small population and other genetic factors.

## What is the Australian Government doing to save the Orange-bellied Parrot?

In 2006 the Australian Government has committed \$3.2 million to protect and expand Orange-bellied Parrot habitat by:

- ▶ working with landholders in the parrot's Victorian and South Australian winter base
- ▶ conserving breeding/nesting habitat at Melaleuca and Birch's Inlet in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area *and*
- ▶ improving important migratory habitat and controlling predators in north-west Tasmania and on King Island.

The Australian Government continues to work with state governments, as well as organisations such as Birds Australia, in an effort to save the Orange-bellied Parrot from extinction.

This new funding builds on the Australian Government's previous support for recovery of the Orange-bellied Parrot.

Since 1989 the Australian Government has invested more than \$1 million into direct recovery actions for the Orange-bellied Parrot including funding for the preparation and implementation of Orange-bellied Parrot recovery plans.

The Natural Heritage Trust regional investment for biodiversity conservation includes a number of activities that complement Orange-bellied Parrot recovery — more than \$5.5 million has been invested across the species' range.

Previous Australian Government funding has supported projects to:

- ▶ protect and enhance feeding and breeding habitat, including preparation of management plans for key habitat across the winter range
- ▶ monitor populations at key sites such as King Island and Melaleuca in Tasmania, Lake Connearre, Swan Island, Lake Yambuk and The Spit Nature Reserve in Victoria, and Hacks Point in South Australia *and*
- ▶ manage and enhance the Orange-bellied Parrot captive breeding programmes.

## Migration path, breeding and wintering range of the Orange-bellied Parrot

