



## THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

# Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*)

A vulnerable species

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The Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* is a bright and showy honeyeater, about 16 cm in length. Males have black and white upper plumage with bold yellow edging and white underparts. Females and juveniles are smaller and browner. It has a distinctive pink bill.



The Painted Honeyeater is arboreal, foraging on mistletoes, particularly *Amyema* spp., mainly in upper canopies of trees. It feeds almost exclusively on mistletoe berries but also eats nectar from mistletoe flowers and insects.

The Painted Honeyeater nests in loose colonies. The nest is a flimsy cup of plant material and spider web in foliage.

The species frequents eucalypt forests and woodlands, particularly those that are infested heavily with mistletoes. It may be found in acacia woodlands, and paperbarks and casuarinas along watercourses.

Critical habitat features include:

- abundance of mistletoe; and
- flowering eucalypts on fertile soils.

The Painted Honeyeater is sparsely distributed from south-eastern Australia to north-western Queensland and eastern Northern Territory.

In the ACT region, the species has been recorded from a range of woodlands that contain mistletoe, including River Oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) woodland associated with river systems, and Yellow Box–Red Gum Woodlands at locations such as Mulligans Flat and Campbell Park.

## CONSERVATION THREATS

- Inappropriate fire regimes.
- Clearing of both living and dead trees.
- Rural tree dieback.
- Use of chemicals.

## 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.

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- 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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