

# Conserving the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were once a familiar sight across Adelaide, sharing the landscape with Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Glossy Black Cockatoos - both locally extinct. As native forests were cleared, these majestic cockatoos lost much of their habitat. Now, only the Yellow-tailed remains in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges.

## Adapting to survive

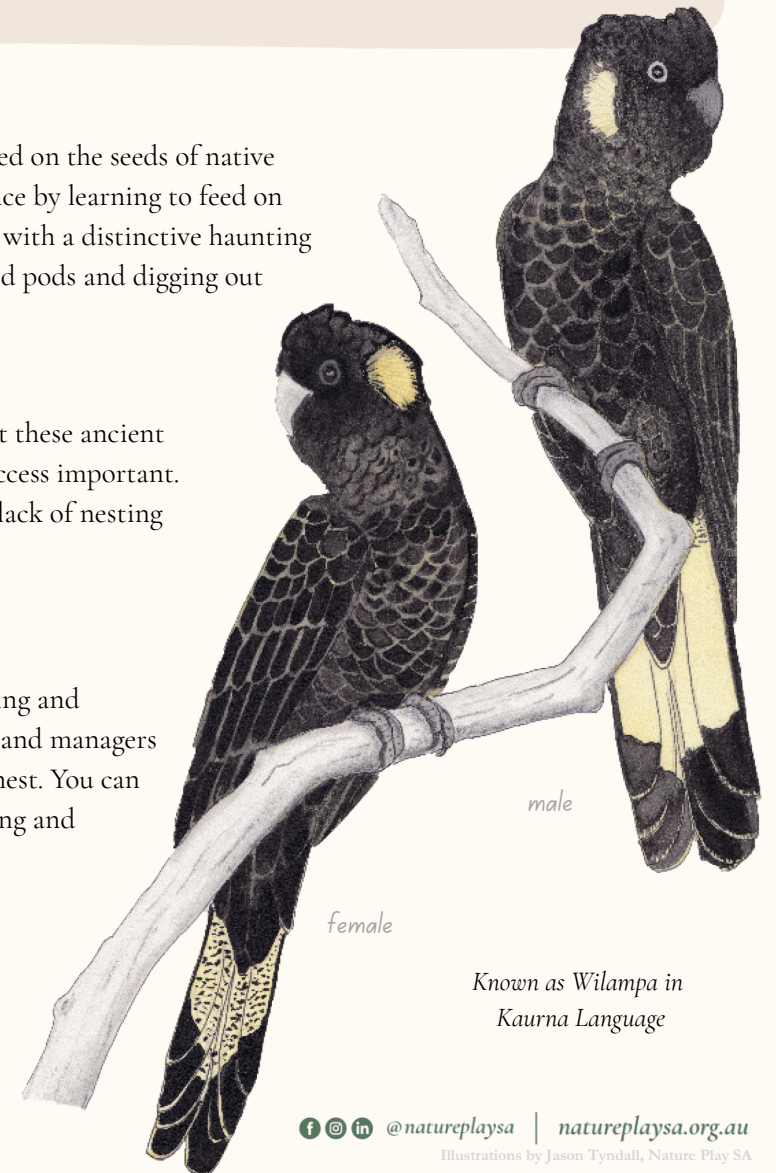
In South Australia the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is a Threatened species (rated as Vulnerable). They once relied on the seeds of native plants such as banksia and hakea for food, but these are no longer common. They have showed remarkable resilience by learning to feed on seeds from pine trees in plantations and parks. You might spot them in flocks, gliding slowly with deep wingbeats with a distinctive haunting call. At up to 65 cm long, they are among Australia's largest cockatoos, with powerful beaks for cracking tough seed pods and digging out grubs from wood and stems.

## Relying on ancient trees

These cockatoos can only breed in deep hollows found in old, mature trees that are hundreds of years old. Without these ancient hollows, they simply can't raise their young. Usually, only one chick survives in each nest, making every nesting success important. Habitat loss, especially the removal of old trees, is the biggest threat to their survival. Even where food remains, a lack of nesting sites puts future generations at risk.

## Bringing them back

Conserving and restoring habitat is the key to preventing Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos from extinction. Protecting and planting native trees, especially those that will one day form hollows, is vital. Community groups, ecologists, and land managers are working together to monitor populations, restore bushland, and create safe spaces for these birds to feed and nest. You can help too by supporting local habitat projects, volunteering with a Friends of Parks and nature groups, or by learning and connecting more with these beautiful birds.



Known as Wilampa in  
Kurna Language



Wherever your adventures take you, we encourage you to connect with Traditional Owners to learn more about the significance of the plants, animals and landscapes.