



LANDSCAPE

RECOVERY FOUNDATION



Breeding season report 1

Swift parrot monitoring

5 December 2024

Monitoring program – stage 1

The first stage of the annual swift parrot breeding season population monitoring program is used to determine the species' spatial distribution across the breeding range, predict flowering conditions during the entire breeding season, and the settlement patterns of the swift parrot population for the 2024-2025 breeding season. This report provides preliminary findings from this first stage of monitoring to assist decision-making for land managers and regulators.

Regional flowering patterns, swift parrot observations and nesting behaviour

At the landscape/regional scale the most abundant flowering and/or unopened flower bud of food tree species observed in the breeding range has been primarily in *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. brookeriana*. This includes the Eastern Tiers, Maria Island, Mt Nelson, the Channel area, Bruny Island, from Huonville to Southport Lagoon, Woodsdale, Buckland and Nugent.

Flowering *E. globulus* across the breeding range has remained very patchy and/or light with only small pockets of flowering having been observed including Maria Island, Fortesque Bay (Tasman Peninsula), Adventure Bay (South Bruny Island), Rheban and the far northeast coast.

Preliminary findings on the distribution of swift parrots reflect the observed spatial distribution of the most abundant flowering and unopened flower bud (Figure 1). At a regional/landscape scale a large proportion of the swift parrot population has settled in the Eastern Tiers from Tooms Lake to the Snow Hill north of Lake Leake. The species' distribution in this region is patchy due to the patchiness and spatial configuration of functional habitats (i.e. feeding and nesting), and the generally later flowering times of *E. ovata* and *E. brookeriana* at higher altitudes.

Other notable occurrences of swift parrots at a landscape scale include the Woodsdale area, Maria Island, Fortesque Bay and Rheban.

Significant breeding activity and nesting behaviour has been recorded. Early breeding has been observed at several locations across the Eastern Tiers and the Woodsdale area. Other locations where swift parrots have been observed will be monitored during the breeding season for swift parrot occurrence and indications of breeding activity.

Observations of swift parrots have been submitted to the Natural Values Atlas (NVA). New locations of swift parrots will be reported during the breeding season.



Figure 1. Preliminary findings of flowering and swift parrot surveys; swift parrot observations (red squares) and swift parrot nest observations (black triangle).