



# LANDSCAPE

RECOVERY FOUNDATION



Breeding season report 2

Swift parrot monitoring

7 January 2025

## Monitoring program – stage 2

The second stage of the annual swift parrot breeding season monitoring program is used to assess the settlement patterns of the swift parrot population (as identified in stage 1), record the spatial distribution of nesting swift parrots across the breeding range, and assess breeding success. This report provides preliminary findings from this second 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 of *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. brookeriana*. This includes locations in the Eastern Tiers, on 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, Fortescue Bay (Tasman Peninsula), Adventure Bay (South Bruny Island), Rheban and the far northeast coast.

The distribution of swift parrots continues to reflect the observed spatial distribution of the most abundant flowering and unopened flower bud. 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.

Significant breeding activity and nesting behaviour has been recorded at several locations across the Eastern Tiers. Ongoing monitoring observations in nesting hotspots (Figure 1), supported by acoustic monitoring, demonstrates the continued use of these locations by swift parrots over the previous 6-8 weeks in both feeding and nesting habitats. Early nesting attempts have been observed around several locations, including Snow Hill, Mount Mismanagement and Crayfish Swamp.

Ongoing monitoring (direct observations and acoustic monitoring) in the Woodsdale area also confirms continued use of feeding and nesting habitats. Of the several previously identified swift parrot nests in this area, some have finished with the young having fledged, others remain active (with advanced/near fledged chicks), and others have failed due to currently undetermined causes.

Other previously reported notable occurrences of swift parrots at a landscape scale include Maria Island, Fortescue Bay and Rheban. These locations are likely to be supporting localised breeding events or nesting attempts.



Figure 1 Swift parrot observations (red squares) and nesting hotspot.