

PROTECTING

SWIFT

PARROTS

A GUIDE TO SAVING THE SWIFT
PARROT AND THEIR HABITAT



What do they look like?

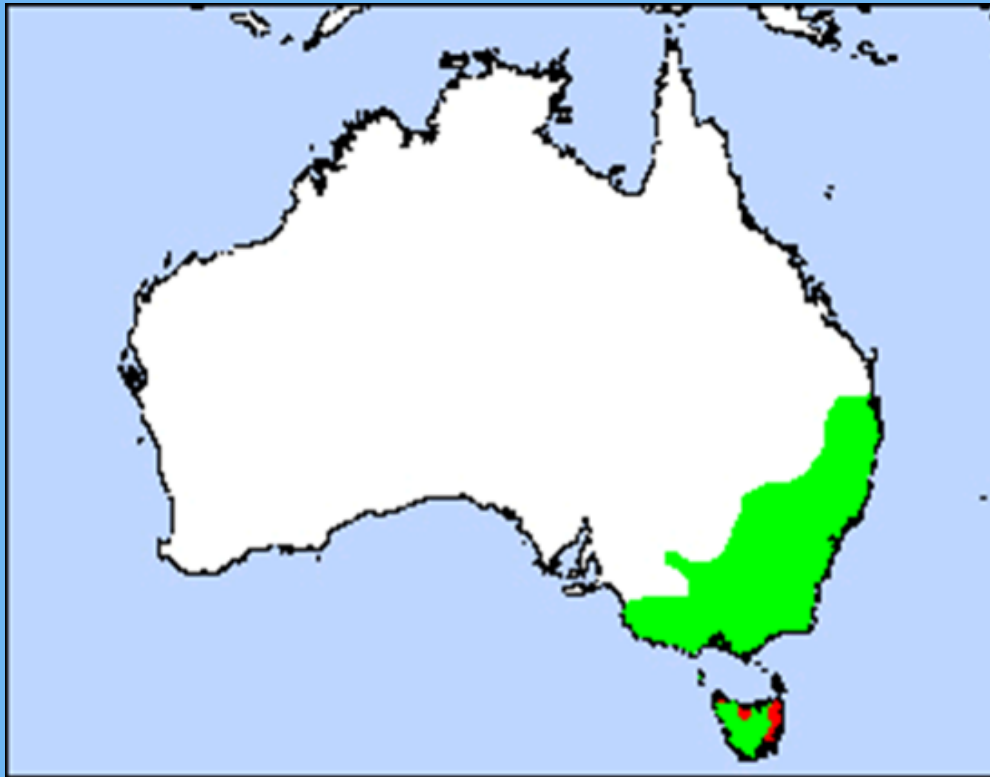


SWIFT PARROT

The Swift parrot is a slim medium-sized parrot. When it is flying it has a streamline shaped body. Most of its body is bright green except a blue patch on the top of its head, a red patch from just above the beak down to the throat. They have red underwings, blue feathers around the green on the wing, red at the bend of the wing and a long pointy tail.



Where they live



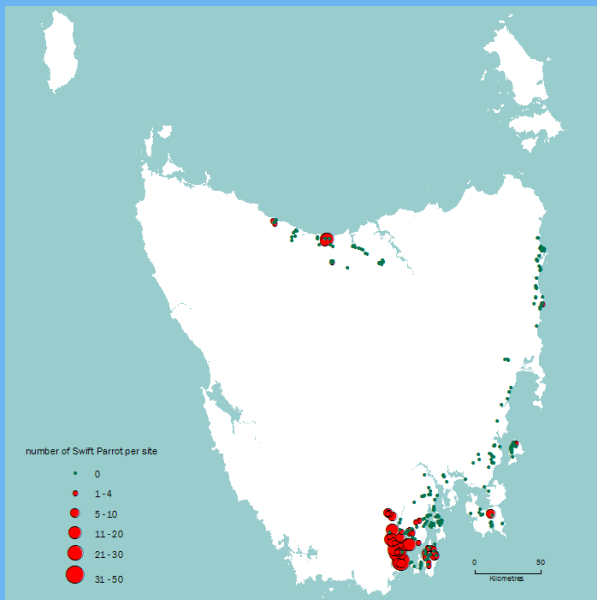
Swift parrots live in Victoria and NSW. In Spring they travel to Tasmania to breed and usually arrive in August. After the breeding season they go back to mainland Australia which is usually in February and March.

When and where do they breed?

Swift Parrots are birds that migrate for breeding.

They will only breed in Eastern Tasmania. They nest in hollows that are near Blue Gums and Black Gums. In February and March they fly north to Victoria and New South Wales. They fly in flocks up to 500 but 10-20 across Bass Strait in a day.

The tall trees behind this post are Blue Gums where Swift Parrots forage for food.



What do they eat?



Black Gum

Swift Parrots eat flower nectar from Blue Gums and Black Gums. Nectar from the flowers of Blue and Black Gums are the main source of food for Swift Parrots during their breeding season. The Swift Parrots breed at the same time as the flowering of both these eucalypts. They also eat Lerps and Psyllids.



Lerps



Blue Gum

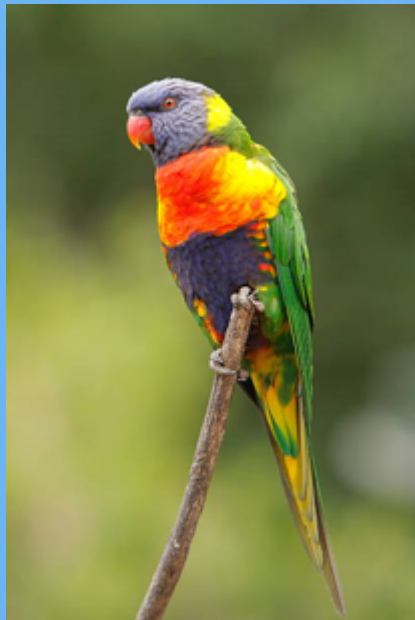


Psyllids



What are their threats?

Swift Parrots have two predators they are the Sugar Glider and the Rainbow Lorikeet. The Sugar Gliders climb into the nests and eat the mother Swift Parrot, the father and the eggs or babies. The Rainbow Lorikeets carry diseases. When a Rainbow Lorikeet goes in a hollow they leave the diseases in there and if a Swift Parrot uses the hollow it can catch the disease and can die. Rainbow Lorikeets also eat all the Swift Parrots food.



What you can do to help.

1. Plant more Blue Gums and Black Gums.
2. Don't cut down trees that have hollows.
3. If you see a Rainbow Lorikeet call 1300 369 688.
4. Don't cut down Blue Gums and black Gums.





SWIFT PARROT

Native speices

It is so cute. Help use
save them because
there are only 1000-
2500 left in the world.

They are classed as
critically endangered.

If you see a Rainbow Lorikeet call
1300 369 688



RAINBOW LORIKEET

Introduced species

This is a Rainbow Lorikeet. You might think it is native to Tasmania but they are not they are introduced. They carry diseases into hollows and if a Swift Parrot uses the same hollow it catches the disease. The Rainbow Lorikeet competes against lots of native birds including the Swift Parrot for hollows and food.

**The tall trees in front of you are
Blue Gums.**

