

# media release

14 September 2021

## Members of the public urged to report Red-tail cockatoo nests



The SE Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team and BirdLife Australia are again calling on landholders and members of the public to help locate new nest sites of the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (SERTBC).

Since 2011, nest incentive payments have been offered to the public for information on new nest sites of the cockatoo across its habitat range in the south-east of South Australia and south-west of Victoria.

More than forty new nests have been discovered through the incentive scheme, with the Recovery Team keen to find more nests in 2021 during the breeding season of September to March. It is important to find nests so we can protect the young birds from predators such as brush-tail possums and to better understand what the birds need to raise their chicks successfully.

Payments of \$500 will be offered for information which leads to the discovery of new nests. Red-tails nest in large hollows (15-50cm), which most often occur in very old, large eucalypts such as River Red Gums. Nest hollows can be in dead or live trees, with most nests occurring within 3km of stringybark habitat.

New Project Coordinator, Skye McPherson is eager to find more nests across the range, especially in South Australia where there are very few known nests.

"It will be great to continue to find new nests this breeding season," said Skye. "If you see single adult males or pairs of Red-tails coming into water or trees with large hollows, these could be indicators of nesting birds".

"We have Recovery Team members residing in both SA and Victoria so no matter which side of the border you live on, a team member will be able to confirm whether a nest is active or not," said Skye.

All Recovery Project personnel will strictly follow COVID guidelines while conducting nest checks, including social distancing and hygiene practices carrying hand washing and cleaning equipment in vehicles.

We are also asking anyone that sees Red-tails or observes nesting behaviour, particularly single males or pairs of birds, to report their sightings to the Coordinator by calling 1800 262 062 or via email [redtail@birdlife.org.au](mailto:redtail@birdlife.org.au). All we need is the date and time of sighting, number of Red-tails, the location (preferably a grid reference), and what the birds were doing (ie feeding, flying, drinking etc) at the time you saw them.

"We understand that some landholders are concerned about the impact that discovering a nest on their property may have on their farm or the nesting birds," Skye continued. "We would

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like to assure them that there are no negative consequences involved with reporting a nest to the Recovery Team, as we simply want to monitor each nest from a distance and protect them from terrestrial predators.”

There are a number of conditions required when applying for the scheme, with incentive payments only made once the sighting has been confirmed. Guidelines for the nest incentive scheme and information on Red-tail nesting behaviour are available on our website [www.redtail.com.au](http://www.redtail.com.au).

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