

Information Sheet

Baudin's Cockatoo

Zanda baudinii



Male (left), Female (right)



Adult male



Adult female

Other names:

Baudin's Black Cockatoo and Long-billed Black Cockatoo.
Named in honour of French explorer Nicolas Baudin (1754–1803).

Threatened Status:

"Listed Endangered: Schedule 1 – Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act".

"Endangered: under Federal *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*".

Scarce to moderately common (most numerous in deep southwest). Mainly in flocks (up to 300), occasionally larger aggregations (up to 1200) at roosts. It has declined in the last 50 years, its low rate of reproduction (0.6 chick per year) precluding it from replacing the large numbers shot by orchardists.

Description:

Length 50–60 cm. Weight 560–770 g.

Upper bill narrower and longer than Carnaby's Cockatoo.

Adult male: mostly brownish black, the feathers edged with dusky white giving a scalloped appearance; ear coverts dusky white; white band towards tip of tail, broken in middle; bill black; bare skin around eye pink.

Female: like male but differs in having the ear coverts a brighter yellowish white; bill greyish with dark tip and eye skin grey.

Call:

A short "whicher whicher" and "bunyip bunyip" flock call. Breeding call a repeated low "arr" followed by a high-pitched whistle.

Breeding:

Nesting in hollows of Karri, Marri, Wandoo, Tuart and Bullich trees. Eggs laid in August-December; clutch 1–2 (only one young reared) and only the female incubates and broods the chick.

Life span: 25–50 years.

Distribution:

Occurs in south-western humid and subhumid zones, north to Gidgegannup, east to Clackline, Wandering, Quindanning, the Perup River, Lake Muir and King River, and west to eastern strip of Swan Coastal Plain including West Midland, Gosnells, Byford, North Dandalup, Yarloop, Wokalup and Bunbury also the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges and along the south coast to Waychinicup National Park. It is endemic to Western Australia.

Habitat and food:

Southern eucalypt forests of mainly Jarrah, Marri and Karri. Feeds on seeds of eucalypts, Banksia, Hakea and fruiting apples and pears. Also nectar, buds and flowers and strips bark from dead trees in search of beetle larvae. Forages at all levels from canopy to ground.



Female Baudin's Cockatoo at nest

Threats to the species:

Clearing of forests, fires, vehicle strikes and feral European honey bees which take over nesting hollows. In the past large numbers were shot by orchardists; illegal shooting is still occurring.

References:

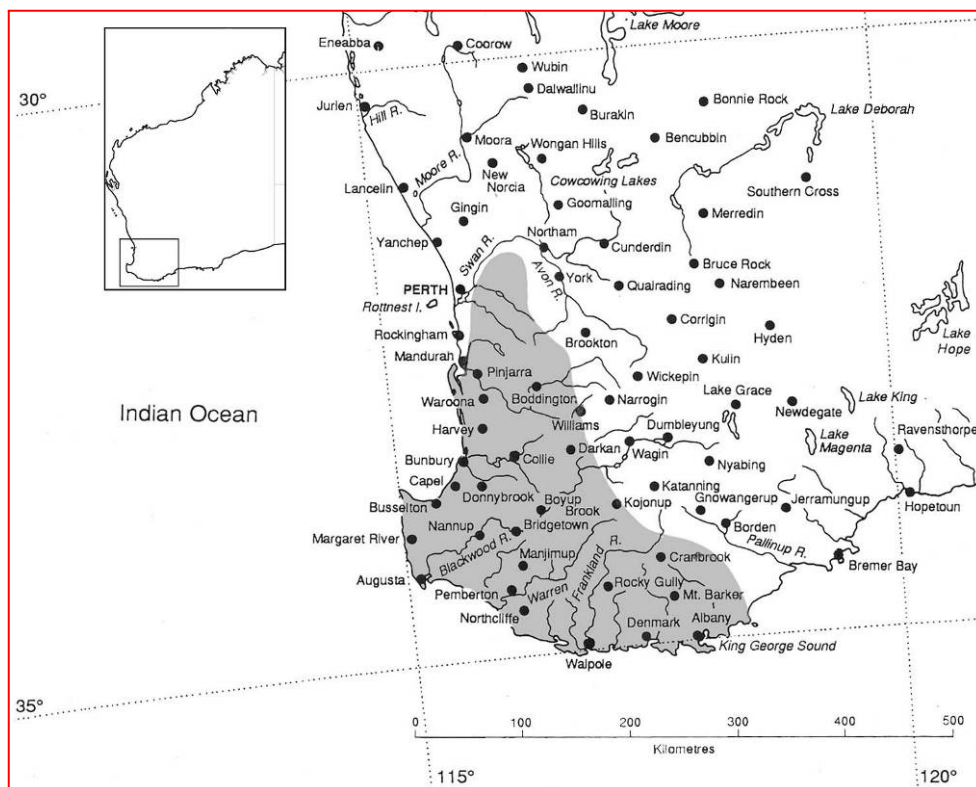
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Images: Tony Kirkby Layout design: Kim Sarti



Marri nuts chewed by Baudin's Cockatoo



Current distribution in south-west Western Australia