



# TASMANIAN | Land | CONSERVANCY



Photo: Chris Izaros

## Threatened woodland bird project

### Issue 24 Autumn 2010

- Threatened Woodland Bird Project**
- Supporter News and Events**
- Properties for Sale**
- Board Profile**
- Memorial Donations**

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It is hard to believe that birds comprise the largest group of Tasmania's threatened vertebrate animals.

Of the 76 vertebrates listed under State and Commonwealth threatened species legislation, 36 are birds. Sadly, four of these are already extinct (two emus and two species of Macquarie Island).

Sixteen threatened seabirds, including albatrosses, Giant petrels and Burrowing petrels, have global or sub-Antarctic distributions. Seabirds face oceanic threats like drowning on long-line fishing hooks, entanglement, predation by feral pests and depletion of fish stocks.

Closer to land, Tasmania's threatened shorebirds face their own range of challenges. Species like the Little tern and Fairy tern breed on sandy beaches that are impacted by vehicles, boats and summer recreational activity.

Forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*)

Threats to forest birds are well known and range from land clearing, predation and competition by feral pests, and now a changing climate. It seems no matter what the bird species, all are struggling for survival.

The decline in woodland birds across Australia has become significant in recent times. Woodland birds like the Swift parrot, the Forty-spotted pardalote and the Flame robin are Tasmania's avian icons and visitors from around the world see this place as a stronghold and bastion for their survival. These species are integral to the Tasmanian landscape and are part of the ecology and fabric of this island.

While it seems a depressing story, there are key conservation actions we can perform. The message is clear and the TLC is playing an important role in delivering those actions.



Tasmania's threatened bird groups					
Group	Extinct	Endangered	Vulnerable	Rare	Total
Seabirds		7	6	3	16
Shorebirds		2	2		4
Forest Birds	4	9	3		16
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>

source: [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecies](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecies)

'protecting Tasmanian land for biodiversity'



Flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*)



Swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)

## Threatened woodland birds

### Swift parrot

The migratory Swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) is dependent on Tasmania's old-growth eucalypt forests and every year birds return to Tasmania to breed.

Pairs search for nesting hollows which are close to their feeding areas, because the less energy devoted to travel means more time can be spent on tending the chicks and maybe raising a second clutch in a season. Finding blossom and nectar in sporadically flowering patches of forest, especially those containing Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) or Black gum (*E. ovata*), is a constant challenge.

The Swift parrot is distributed down the east coast of Tasmania, so landholders with woodland properties within the species range can play a major role in their conservation. Protecting forests and retaining big old eucalypts is the key to this species survival.

### Forty-spotted pardalote

The diminutive Forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) is an endemic Tasmanian bird and one of our special treasures.

This nationally endangered species is intrinsically linked to one type of eucalypt, White gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). White gum produces the pardalote's key food source, manna and lerp, and is critical to the species' colony structure. White gum is found across much of the eastern lowlands of Tasmania but unfortunately is susceptible to drought and has been declining over the past decade or so.

Recent surveys conducted by the TLC in conjunction with DPIPWE and NRM South have shown that the Forty-spotted pardalote population has sadly declined by sixty per cent or more over a fifteen year time period, which sets alarm bells ringing for the species' long-term future.

This decline has most likely been caused by the dieback of White gum and subsequent displacement of the pardalote by more aggressive bird species.

Many Forty-spotted pardalote colonies occur on private land at Bruny Island, Tinderbox Peninsula, Coningham and Howden. Landholders can play a significant role in protecting existing colonies and planting more White gum for the future.

### Other woodland species

Three other Tasmanian species that are recognised nationally as being in decline and reliant on woodland habitat are the Flame robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), the Spotted quail thrush (*Cinlosoma punctatum*) and the Painted button quail (*Turnix varia*).

The Flame robin is easily recognised by the male's bright orange chest that extends to the throat under the beak. The female is well camouflaged with her plumage of soft brown and cream.

The Painted button quail and the Spotted quail thrush spend much of their time on the woodland floor, are cryptic and at times difficult to find in Tasmania.

### Protecting habitat

Just recently the TLC has joined forces with specialists from Birds Australia, Trust for Nature (Vic) and the NSW Nature Conservation Trust to deliver a national conservation project aimed at protecting habitat for threatened woodland birds.

The project, funded through an Australian Government *Caring For Our Country* grant, aims to highlight important areas on private land and assist landholders to covenant and protect their forest. The project recognises the growing pressure on woodland birds and the urgent need to protect eastern forests for the future.

Over the next 18 months you will hear more about this exciting project and may even be contacted by the TLC project staff to identify the woodland birds on your land. If you want to know more and become involved, please contact Sally Bryant at the TLC for a chat.

Dr Sally Bryant - TLC Wildlife Ecologist



Grassy woodland habitat



Photo: Dr Nicky Meeson

Alpine candles (*Stackhousia pulvinaris*)



Photo: Matt Newton

Chamomile sunray (*Rhodanthe anthemoides*) framing volunteers at the Vale of Belvoir

## Supporter news and events

December saw a spectacular flowering of the stunning mat-forming herb Alpine candles (*Stackhousia pulvinaris*) at the Vale of Belvoir. In Tasmania, this threatened herb only occurs at the Vale of Belvoir. Eight generous volunteers spent time around Christmas searching the grasslands for these usually hard to find plants and recording their observations using GPS. Only 1,000 mats have been recorded in the past. In this survey, in excess of 200 Alpine candles mats were recorded, expanding the known range of this species.

Further volunteer surveys of other threatened flora species were conducted in February to coincide with the flowering of many of these species. Members of the volunteer interest group Threatened Plants Tasmania worked alongside TLC volunteers and staff to scour the grassland areas for threatened plants, including the nationally endangered Grassland paperdaisy (*Leucochrysum albicans*). Data gathered from these surveys will be shared with the State Government's Threatened Species Section and Cradle Coast NRM to secure the conservation of these species.

A number of other volunteer activities, TLC events, and supporter trips to TLC reserves are being planned and will be on offer over the next few months. We hope you can come along!

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer to count butterflies, erect fences at the Vale of Belvoir, or help with weed control at the Egg Islands; or if you would like to join us for a slideshow of fabulous images of the Vale taken by ten wonderful photographers from Nature Photographers Tasmania, please register your interest soon (see below).

Spaces are limited so early registration is highly recommended. Further trips, activities and events may be scheduled subject to the level of interest.

### Strategic planning workshops

Thank you to all who responded to our strategic planning supporter survey included with the Summer 2009 newsletter. We received many thoughtful responses and as a result will be holding two strategic planning workshops to build upon your initial thoughts, culminating ultimately in the crafting of a 2050 vision for the TLC's future direction. If you would like to come along to either of the Launceston or Hobart workshops in late April please register your interest. Brain food will be provided to keep those creative juices flowing! Alternatively, if you cannot attend a workshop please do not hesitate to contact us with your thoughts and ideas.

**To register**  
 Email: [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)  
 Phone: (03) 6225 1399  
 Post: PO Box 2112,  
 Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005



Photo: Matt Newton

### Coming up



Photo: Matt Newton

Events and activities March – May 2010		
Date	Location - spaces available	Details
Sat 20 and Sun 21 March	Vale of Belvoir - 15	Ptunarra Brown Butterfly Survey
Friday 12 March 7.30—9pm	TLC Launceston office - 30	Slide night featuring Vale of Belvoir photographers' mission Oct 2009
Wed 17 March 7.30—9pm	TLC Hobart office - 30	Slide night featuring Vale of Belvoir photographers' mission Oct 2009
March / April	Vale of Belvoir - 10	Fencing – no experience required
April / May	Egg Island - 15 each weekend	Weed control (two weekends)
Mon 26 April 5:30—8:30pm	TLC Launceston office - 20	Strategic Planning Workshop
Thur 29 April 5:30—8:30pm	TLC Hobart office - 20	Strategic Planning Workshop
Sunday 9 May	Vale of Belvoir - 20	Supporter trip – subject to interest



## Revolving Fund Properties for Sale

By choosing to purchase property through the Tasmanian Land Conservancy's Revolving Fund, you make an exciting positive contribution towards conserving Tasmania's unique biodiversity. The TLC has selected every property primarily for its high ecological value, but each property offers an existing home or an attractive home site. The TLC uses the proceeds of sales to purchase and protect further important properties. Together, we build a network of areas cherished by owners for their natural values.

For more information please visit [www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au) and follow the Property Maps and Revolving Fund links.

### Snug Tiers, Margate

This unique property of 103.7 ha is only 25 minutes from Hobart. It features an approved temporary residence with all services and amenities on a sunny, north-facing house site that offers spectacular views of the lower Derwent Estuary. Containing a high diversity of eucalypt species and a high overall diversity, the property also provides habitat for wedge-tailed eagles and Tasmanian devils.

*Offers around \$380,000*

*Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 011*



### Risdon Peppermint, Brighton

With spectacular views of the Derwent River, Mt Dromedary and surrounding forested ridges, the 31 ha Risdon Peppermint property features threatened forest communities and the rare Risdon peppermint eucalypt. The property offers several great house sites and could accommodate a range of recreational, small-scale agricultural, or pastoral pursuits.

*Offers around \$360,000*

*Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 003*



### Snows Hill, Colebrook

This beautiful 84.3 ha property with Snows Hill at its centre is only an hour from Hobart. The property features threatened forest communities and caves that provide dens for spotted-tailed quolls, Tasmanian devils, possums and wombats. There are two potential house sites with sunny aspects and rural views, while the short walk to the summit of Snows Hill provides expansive views.

*Reduced - offers around \$110,000*

*Contact Jim Mulcahy: GenRF 003*



### Township Hill, Dunalley

This forested property of 45 ha on the outskirts of Dunalley in south eastern Tasmania is about 55 km or a 40 minute drive south east of the Hobart CBD. With spectacular views over Dunalley to Blackman Bay, Dunalley Bay and the northern coast of the Forestier Peninsula, the property offers a range of attractive house sites close to services and amenities.

*\$199,000*

*Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 004*



### Apsley River, Bicheno

The spectacular Apsley River property occupies 108.4ha on the outskirts of Bicheno on Tasmania's east coast. It fronts the beautiful Apsley River Reserve, offers outstanding views of the nearby coastline and features a sunny, north-facing house site. This very diverse property protects threatened forest communities, at least three threatened plants and provides habitat for at least four threatened animals.

Offers around \$300,000

Contact Jim Mulcahy: FCFRF 009



### Sassafras Creek, Mole Creek

This 40ha, densely forested property has a recently constructed 3br home with road frontage to Liena Road, a popular tourist route to the Mole Creek caves and Cradle Mountain. Several cave entries provide access to the intricate and delicate underlying karst cave system. The forest is threatened and provides habitat for the Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed and eastern quolls - all endangered marsupial carnivores.

Reduced to \$335,000

Contact Rod Pearse: MCKFP 002



### Chimneys Lagoon, St Helens

On the fringe of St Helens, this tranquil 27ha conservation treasure offers a perfect retreat and lifestyle opportunity. Comprising both coastal forest and a gorgeous wetland, it is home to diverse water-birds and an array of threatened species. This unique conservation property is accessed via a sealed road, is adjacent to services and includes a domestic zone to enable development (STCA).

\$197,500

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 012



### Tall White Gums, Gunns Plains

Perfect for horticulture, hobby farming or just living the quiet life – this 20ha property features rare and magnificent tall white gum forest, trickling streams, caves and a picturesque view across a rural and forest landscape. An orchard and a four bedroom house occupy 4ha of cleared land. Excellent soils and an average rainfall of 1,200mm per year complete this special property.

\$320,000

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 007

**UNDER CONTRACT**



### Shiny Grasstrees, Clarence Point

Located 48 kilometres north of Launceston on the gorgeous West Tamar near the coastal resort of Greens Beach, this 40ha property features an endangered forest community and a large population of endangered grass trees. A house site has Council planning approval.

\$190,000

Contact Rod Pearse: FCFRF 010



protecting land for biodiversity

[www.tasland.org.au](http://www.tasland.org.au)

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy is a registered environmental organisation. We raise funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites, endangered species habitats, and rare ecosystems by buying and managing private land.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. ABN: 88743 606 934

PO Box 2112, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005 Tel: 03 6225 1399 Fax: 03 6225 1394 [info@tasland.org.au](mailto:info@tasland.org.au)

These properties were purchased by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy through a Revolving Fund, which is used to buy land with significant conservation values to protect forever through the use of a conservation covenant. The TLC's Revolving Fund is funded from a number of sources. The primary source is the Australian Government's Forest Conservation Fund. Other funding sources include the King Island Natural Resource Management Group and DPIPW. Money raised from the sale of Revolving Fund properties is directed into the purchase of other Revolving Fund properties in Tasmania, extending the value from every dollar within the Fund.



Sam McCullough

Photo: Matt Newton



Philippa Woodward and June Buxton at Recherche Bay

Photo: Nathan Males

## Board profile

Growing up on a small hobby farm near the Tamar Valley, TLC Board member Sam McCullough appreciates the benefits and responsibility that the natural assets of Tasmania bring to the inhabitants of the state.

After graduating from the University of Tasmania, Sam was admitted to practice law in Victoria in 2003. After several years in practice in Melbourne, and a year spent working and travelling overseas, Sam and his wife Julia chose to return to Tasmania. “Along with family, what brought us back was the Tasmanian lifestyle and natural environment”.

Sam is a Senior Associate with Peter Worrall Lawyers, and it was Peter Worrall —Recherche Bay supporter and former board member—who sparked Sam’s interest in joining the board.

An estate planning specialist, Sam is particularly interested in helping the TLC to develop its bequest fundraising.

“Bequest fundraising is so important to the future sustainability and success of the TLC, and a great way for our supporters to provide a lasting contribution to the things in life that matter to them”, Sam notes. “The TLC is working hard to establish a foundation fund to secure the management and preservation of our permanent reserves forever, and this raises challenging legal issues to be resolved, with which I am excited to be involved.”

## Memorial donations

*CEO Nathan Males reflects on donations and bequests*

Recently I was lucky enough to spend a day with two remarkable ladies on a visit to Recherche Bay. Philippa Woodward and June Buxton are sisters who grew up on a Tasmanian farm, served as volunteers in the second world war and have led adventurous lives throughout the world. As well as contributing to the purchase of the Recherche Bay Reserve, Philippa has established a memorial fund as part of the TLC’s foundation to remember June’s late son Michael Buxton who had a particular love for Tasmania’s nature and wild places.

This named fund is one of a growing number of recent special gifts and bequests to the TLC with a view to building a lasting legacy of nature conservation for future generations of this wonderful state.

The idea is that these special funds will continue to accumulate in a separately managed foundation and the interest generated will assist with the perpetual management of reserves, the provision of low key facilities for supporters to visit

reserves, and other projects that are of particular interest to the donor, the person leaving the bequest, or their family.

A major bequest was recently received from the estate of Joseph Bedford. Joseph was a supporter of both the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and Bush Heritage Australia. He very generously left his entire estate, his home and his extensive antiquarian book collection to be shared by the two organisations. We plan to work together in the future to ensure his bequest and wishes are appropriately recognised.

Establishing a memorial donation fund or leaving a bequest is a very significant way to ensure that the conservation work we are doing today can be sustained beyond all of our lifetimes. It is also a very special way to ensure that an individual’s love of Tasmania and its natural places can be remembered.

If you would like to discuss either of these ideas Nathan would be happy to talk to you. Thank you to all those like Philippa, June and Joseph who have already made these provisions.

**Gifts have recently been received in memory of:**  
 Gordon Cameron  
 Elisabeth Todd

Nathan Males - CEO

We are grateful to the following organisations for their support in recent months

