

# Threatened Species Assessment

## *Psophodes cristatus* Chirruping Wedgebill

### Description

#### *Psophodes cristatus*

The chirruping wedgebill is a medium-sized bird, measuring approximately 18–21 cm and weighing 31-64 g. Its bill is dark and wedge-shaped when mature, and horn-coloured when immature. It possesses a slim upright crest, and long rounded tail. Adult plumage consists of pale brown upperparts, with white/pale grey underparts. Flight feathers are edged with white, and the tail is coloured dark black-brown with a white tip. Immature individuals possess similar plumage, the only key differences being buff-tipped flight feathers, unlike the white tips of the mature individual.

This bird is often misidentified as the chiming wedgebill (*Psophodes occidentalis*). Key identifying features include the faint breast streaking, slightly longer tail, and repetitive chirruping call. (Wikipedia 2021)

### Current conservation status

Categorised as 'Regionally extinct' in the 2013 Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria (DSE 2013).

### Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

### Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 15,532 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *P. cristatus* since 1930.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results	
Number of known historical locations	3
Last known record	1930
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	15,532
Survey methods searched	Bird count, Bird transect, Birds Australia 2ha search, Birds Australia 500m area search, Birds



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	Australia 5km area search, Birds Australia bird list, Birds Australia fixed route survey, Camera - Surveillance/Remote, Dusk watch, Listening, Mist net, Point spot count, Timed bird census, Wetland count
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## Historical distribution

The chirruping wedgebill is found throughout south-eastern inland Australia, inhabiting low, open shrublands with acacia species. Distribution is patchy, but where found, the species is usually locally abundant. Though the species covers a large area, it is rarely found in the southern part of its range. It tends to favour areas with vegetation of bluebush, acacia stands, emu bush and lignum species. (Wikipedia 2021)

## References

DSE (2013) Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne.

Wikipedia 2021. Chirruping wedgebill. Retrieved from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chirruping\\_wedgebill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chirruping_wedgebill)