

## Swift Parrot

**Scientific Name:**

*Lathamus discolor*

**Conservation Status in NSW:**

*Endangered*

**National Conservation Status:**

*Endangered*

Photo: Nevil Lazarus



**SPECIAL NOTE: The loss of large flowering eucalypts means there is less food for Swift Parrots.**

**Description:**

Swift Parrots are a small bird about 25 cm long. It is mostly bright green with some red, yellow and blue patches. The bright red patches under the wings are visible when it is in flight. It has a long thin red tail which distinguishes it from the rainbow lorikeet.

**Habitat:**

Swift Parrots only breed in Tasmania but spend the winter (March to October) in Victoria and NSW. On the mainland they are semi-nomadic, foraging on flowering eucalypts and lerps (a protective covering secreted by some insects).

The remaining stands of Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) are important food sources for the Swift Parrot in Warringah.

**Threats:**

The loss of large flowering eucalypts means there is less food for Swift Parrots during the breeding season and is the major reason for the swift parrot's decline.

**Community Action:**

Warringah residents can help protect remaining areas of Swamp Mahogany by having a "bush friendly" garden, joining a "bushcare" group such as Friends of the Bush, and keeping cats inside at night. Residents with large backyards in low-lying coastal areas can particularly help by planting Swamp Mahogany trees to provide a future food source.

Another threat to the swift parrots comes from collisions with manmade objects, such as windows. Collisions can be reduced by placing pot plants in front of windows or applying a stencil to the window. Shade cloths can be thrown over chain mesh fences in areas where swift parrots feed.

(NPWS)

Reference: [www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au)