

## OBSERVATION OF A YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO ROOST ON THE EDGE OF HARVESTED FOREST, SOUTHEAST TASMANIA

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In Tasmania, yellow-tailed black cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus funereus xanthanotus*) are dependent on large tree hollows for roost and breeding sites (Koch et al. 2008) and considered to only breed in mature forest (Wilsdon 1981). However, there are few records of the type of trees used as roost and breeding sites in Tasmania.

On January 26<sup>th</sup> 2010, at approximately 8.50pm, a pair of yellow-tailed black cockatoos was observed using a large tree hollow. Initially one bird was observed to fly and perch on the edge of the hollow with another bird observed inside. The bird flew in and out of the hollow for several minutes before entering. Once entered, the bird was seen at the entrance of the hollow and then disappeared within the hollow. The birds were not observed to exit the hollow that night.

The roost was located in a *Eucalyptus viminalis* (white gum) tree in forest regenerating two years after partial harvesting of insert broad vegetation type here on the Forestier Peninsula (0573085E 5242056N; datum GDA94). The tree was one of few hollow-bearing trees in the area and was located the edge of the harvested area adjacent to mature dry eucalypt forest. The tree was 147.9 cm diameter at breast height (dbh) with a single visible large hollow (entrance > 20 cm) in the trunk on a northwest aspect (Plate 1).

There are very few accounts of the roost and nest requirements of the yellow-tailed black cockatoo in Tasmania. Haseler & Taylor (1993) provided an account of a pair using a mature *Eucalyptus obliqua* (35 m up

a 40 m tall, 137 cm dbh tree, estimated hollow entrance size greater than 20 cm) in mature dry sclerophyll forest in northeastern Tasmania prior to harvesting. This tree was not used by the species post-harvest (Haseler & Taylor 1993; Wapstra & Taylor 1998; Koch et al. 2009). Wapstra & Doran (2004) reported on a pair of black cockatoos using a stag (26 m up a 40 m tall, 120 cm dbh tree, hollow entrance 56 cm high and 30 cm wide) in a riparian area of dry sclerophyll forest in northeastern Tasmania: this tree was subsequently lost to the birds through illegal firewood harvesting.

Our present account of the use of a hollow-bearing tree retained in timber production forest two years post-harvest illustrates the importance of retaining habitat for hollow-dependent fauna.

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**Plate 1.** A roost tree (left) containing a large hollow (right) used by a pair of yellow-tailed black cockatoos on the Forestier Peninsula, Tasmania (images: Lisa Cawthen)