

# Orange-bellied Parrot

*Neophema  
chrysogaster*

## Status

Critically endangered.  
It's believed there  
are only about 50  
left in the wild.



## Description

The striking Orange-bellied Parrot is a little larger than a budgerigar and is identifiable by its vibrant orange patch on its lower belly. Its plumage is a bright grass-green colour on top and mostly yellow below, and it has a bright blue patch on the outer wing and a blue bar above its nostrils.

## Habitat

Each year the Orange-bellied Parrot migrates from Tasmania to mainland Australia, with Victoria's Great Ocean Road coastline its preferred home during the winter months.

It relies on the coastal vegetation to make its home and feeds on coastal Saltmarsh plants.

## Threats

Destruction of the Orange-bellied Parrot's Saltmarsh habitat is jeopardising its survival, forcing it to feed on grasses introduced to the Corangamite

region. Saltmarsh is classified as endangered in the Corangamite region.

Global warming and sea level rise is also a concern, with remaining Saltmarsh vegetation at risk of being wiped out. Drought is also a threat to Saltmarsh.

Introduced animals such as foxes and cats are also a threat to the Orange-bellied Parrot.

## What can you do?

Healesville Sanctuary north-east of Melbourne is part of a captive breed and release program to increase the numbers of Orange-bellied Parrots in the wild.

You can get involved by propagating native plants to send to the sanctuary. Experts hope providing the parrot with native food plants in aviaries will make the bird more likely to recognise these plants in the wild.

Plant for Parrots, visit: [http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Planting\\_for\\_Parrots](http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Planting_for_Parrots)