

A snapshot survey of Painted Honeyeaters in Weeping Myall Woodlands in New South Wales

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The Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* is a threatened, nomadic species of shrublands and woodlands in eastern Australia, but its use of available habitat is poorly understood. The species' spatial ecology in the endangered, highly fragmented Weeping Myall, *Acacia pendula* Woodlands of New South Wales, an important habitat for its foraging and breeding, was studied at the landscape scale. Quantity, quality and condition of such habitat was examined during surveys conducted from September–October 2020 at 355 locations spread across four regions in the western slopes and plains of New South Wales. Eighty-seven Painted Honeyeaters were recorded across 51 of the surveyed sites, with 80 individuals being sighted across 45 of the 143 sites in the two northernmost regions. Habitat cover and structural complexity and mistletoe prevalence appeared to influence the occurrence of Painted Honeyeaters. The findings highlight the importance of Weeping Myall Woodlands to this species. This survey sets a baseline for further monitoring of, and detailed research on, the distribution and abundance of Painted Honeyeaters.

Keywords: Painted Honeyeater; Weeping Myall Woodlands; survey; habitat assessment; *Acacia* cover and structural complexity; mistletoe prevalence.