

# Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle - *Aquila audax fleayi*



Image from *Going Going Gone* by Malcolm Tait

Least Concern

Near Threatened

Vulnerable

Endangered

Critically Endangered

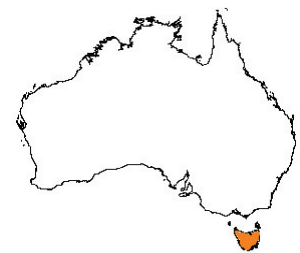
Extinct in Wild

Extinct

## About the Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle

The Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle is Tassie's own subspecies of the "Wedgie" found on mainland Australia. Like the mainland version this is one of the largest prey birds in the world, with a wingspan of up to 2.3m and weighing up to 5.5kg. Its distinctive wedge-shaped tail and its size make this an easy bird to identify, even by a non-expert. They are carnivorous with a twist, eating both live prey and carrion (dead animals). They inhabit coastal, lowland and highland areas, and is often be seen soaring thermal currents high up in the sky, soaring for hours on end without a single wingbeat, and regularly reaching 1,800m, sometimes higher.

The total population of the Tasmanian Wedgie has not been identified but it is estimated that there is less than 1,000 birds left and that their numbers are declining. The disturbance of nesting pairs and habitat clearance are the main reasons for their decline. Although the wedge-tailed eagle is protected nationally, the long-term survival of the Tasmanian Wedgie requires conservation and maintenance of nesting habitat, and effort to minimise human impacts.



 Distribution

## How to Help

Parks and Wildlife Tas.  
<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=1>

Birds Australia  
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/>



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