

Common Name/Scientific name: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo / *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

The yellow-tailed black cockatoo is a large cockatoo native to the south-east of Australia measuring 55–65 cm (22–26 in) in length. The yellow-tailed black cockatoo is found in forested regions from south and central eastern Queensland to south-eastern South Australia. They are regularly seen (and heard) flying over the Maroochy gardens and adjacent bushland, but not seen perching or on the ground very often.



Description: The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a large cockatoo. It is easily identified by its mostly black plumage, with most body feathers edged with yellow, not visible at a distance. It has a yellow cheek patch and yellow panels on the tail. The female has a larger yellow cheek patch, pale grey eye-ring (pink in males), white upper bill (grey-black in males) and black marks in the yellow tail panels. Young birds resemble the adult female, but young males have a smaller cheek patch.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos feed in small to large, noisy flocks. The favoured food is seeds of native trees and pinecones, but birds also feed on the seeds of ground plants. Some insects are also eaten. In the Maroochy gardens, young shoots on shrubs and trees are often found shredded (especially Banksias), the work of these cocky master pruners (as well as their smaller relatives, the Rainbow Lorikeets).

Breeding and Nesting: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos have a long breeding season, which varies throughout their range. Both sexes construct the nest, which is a large tree hollow, lined with wood chips. The female alone incubates the eggs, while the male supplies her with food. Usually only one chick survives, and this will stay in the care of its parents for about six months. In the Maroochy gardens little nesting activity is seen, because most of the mature trees were logged over 60 years ago, and the trees that replaced them are not yet mature with natural hollows. This repeated over much of SE Queensland has led to the large decline in cockatoos of all species.

Similar species seen in the gardens: Another similarly sized black-coloured cockatoo is the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus magnificus*. This species overlaps with the range of the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo in south-eastern Queensland. It has red panels in the tail, and spotting on the body and head. The smaller (48 cm) Glossy Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus lathami*, also has red panels in the tail. Both of these species were once known in the Maroochy area, but no sightings have been recorded at the gardens over the last ten years.