

# WHITE WINGED CHOUGH

MONARTO  
ZOO



*Corcorax melanorhamphos*

## STATUS

- Least concern – not considered an endangered species.

## ORIGIN

- Located throughout eastern and south eastern Australia - from Cairns in the north to the Eyre Peninsula in the west.

## HABITAT

- This species lives in groups of between 4 and 10.
- They forage on the ground, searching for insects and other invertebrates, chattering and chuckling as they methodically search through the leaf litter.
- They live in temperate eucalypt woodland, mallee, callitris scrub and pine plantations.

## DESCRIPTION

- The White Winged Chough is a large, slim, long-tailed black bird. It is between 42 and 47 cm in size. It is sometimes mistaken for a small crow.
- The bold white patches in the wings are visible while flying, but hidden when resting.
- The adult White Winged Chough has bright red eyes.
- Male and female are sexually mature at about 4 years of age.

## BREEDING

- Breeding occurs mainly from August to December.
- All members of the group are involved in this process. They work together to build a large bowl shaped nest of mud and plant fibre, to help with the incubation of the eggs and to assist in caring for the young.
- The White Winged Chough will produce 3 to 5 eggs which hatch after about 19 days.
- The young are usually able to fly at 25 days old but remain dependent on the group for food throughout the winter.
- White Winged Choughs will often lure fledglings from a neighbouring group in to increase numbers in their own group.