

Hooded robin

*Melanodryas
cucullata cucullata*

vulnerable



Image: Dean Ingwersen

The hooded robin is a large Australian robin reaching 17 cm in length. The male is strikingly marked in black and white, with a bold black hood extending down a white breast. The back is black with distinct white shoulder and wing-bar. The tail is black, with prominent white side-panels. Females and immatures are duller, with light brownish-grey upperparts, but the same striking black and white wings.

The adult male is unmistakable but the female and young males may be confused with other species, such as the Jacky Winter. Hooded Robins are distinguished by their larger size, distinctive white wing bar and different shaped tail markings ('hourglass' shaped).

Their flight is short and swiftly undulating and their call is a series of descending, fading, mellow notes.

The hooded robin prefers lightly wooded country, usually open eucalypt woodland, acacia scrub and mallee, often in or near clearings or open areas.

They need structurally diverse habitats featuring mature eucalypts, saplings, some small shrubs and a ground layer of moderately tall native grasses.

They often perch on low dead stumps and fallen timber or on low-hanging branches, using a perch-and-pounce method of hunting insect prey.

Find out more about the hooded robin and other threatened species at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies>