

Grey-Headed Flying-Foxes

About Grey-headed Flying-foxes

Grey-headed Flying-foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) are seasonal visitors to Bathurst arriving in summer and moving on to warmer locations when the temperature drops too low. Flying-foxes roost in trees during the day, and establish permanent and semi-permanent “camps” near food sources and for birthing.

A Vulnerable and Protected Animal

The Grey-headed Flying-fox is a threatened species under state and federal environmental legislation because of declining numbers. The main threat to this species is the loss and degradation of their natural habitat which is forcing these animals closer to towns as they search for food and shelter

An Important Role in the Environment

Grey-headed Flying-foxes disperse the pollen and seeds of a wide range of native Australian plants. A Flying-fox may travel up to 100 km and disperse 60,000 seeds in a single night. This long distance seed dispersal and pollination plays an important role in the health and biodiversity of forests along eastern Australia.



Flying-foxes may feed in fruit trees
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Living with Flying-foxes

Flying-foxes may visit your back yard at night but are unlikely to stay for long. Residential back yards are rarely ideal roosting habitat for Flying-foxes, but instead may be a source of food such as nectar and fruit during night time feeding activities. Because Flying-foxes are protected in NSW, approval is required to disturb or relocate them. If you live near Flying-foxes, the following options may help minimise disturbance:

- Keep food or habitat trees in your yard trimmed or pruned;
- Use netting to protect fruit trees. Ensure that the netting is well secured and has a gap size of less than 5mm to prevent the animals getting tangled; and
- To make roost trees near housing less attractive to Flying-foxes, clear shrubs and plants from under trees and remove some of the branches of the trees.

Avoid Handling Flying-foxes

If you find a Flying-fox alone or on the ground it is probably injured and you should report it to WIRES by contacting 1300 094 737. To ensure safety:

- Do not approach or handle Flying-foxes; and
- Use protective gloves when moving dead Flying-foxes.

Catching a disease from a Flying-fox is extremely unlikely. Australian bat lyssvirus and Hendra virus are two diseases associated with Flying-foxes, but they are extremely rare. Information sourced from the Office of Environment and Heritage



Flying-foxes travel long distances and disperse pollen and seeds
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