



FACTSHEET

Red-capped Robin



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Common Name: Red-capped Robin

Scientific Name: *Petroica goodenovii*

Noongar Name: Demokarlitj

Conservation Status: Not listed under IUCN (2016). All Rottnest Island's fauna is protected under the Rottnest Island Authority Act.

Habitat: Woodland

Body length: 10-12 cm

Weight: 8.0-13.0 g

Gestation period: 14-16 days

Number of young: 1-3 (2-3 eggs)

Description:

The male Red-capped Robin is one of the most distinctive birds on the Island. This is because of its bright red cap and breast. The rest of his upper surfaces are mostly black and he has a white wing bar. His under surfaces are mostly white and his tail is black with white edges.

The female Red-capped Robin doesn't have a red breast. She has a reddish patch on her

forehead, pale brown upper surfaces, and her tail and some of her wing feathers have white edges. Her under surfaces are an off-white. Both male and female have brown eyes, a black bill and black legs.

The Red-capped Robin is the smallest of Australia's five red-breasted robins. It has been present on Rottnest since the Island was cut off from mainland about 7,000 years ago and it is believed to be genetically slightly different from the mainland population.

Diet:

Spiders, scorpions, caterpillars, moths, flying ants, other insects.

In the Wild:

The Red-capped Robin is most commonly found in dry areas with little water like Rottnest Island. They can be found in the Island's Tea Tree woodland and they also live in the Wattle thickets. You might be lucky enough to spot them around Bickley swamp or Henrietta Rocks.

Threats:

Loss of woodland habitat caused by:

- Introduction of invasive species, or pest birds
- Climate change causing habitat change
- Uncontrolled fire

DID YOU KNOW?

Red-capped Robins use cobwebs as a glue to make their unusually beautiful nests.

The nest is often covered with lichen and moss to camouflage it. The female selects a site in a tree-fork and then takes great care to build the nest. During her nest building, the male feeds her.