

JACKY WINTER

Jacky Winters inhabit lightly wooded areas, including paddocks. In south-eastern Australia the population of Jacky Winters is declining as a result of loss of woodland habitat and the loss of connectivity between patches of native vegetation. They respond well to patches of remnant native vegetation that have been allowed to regenerate naturally.



Adult Jacky Winter
© Chris Tzaros



Juvenile Jacky Winter
© Dean Ingwersen

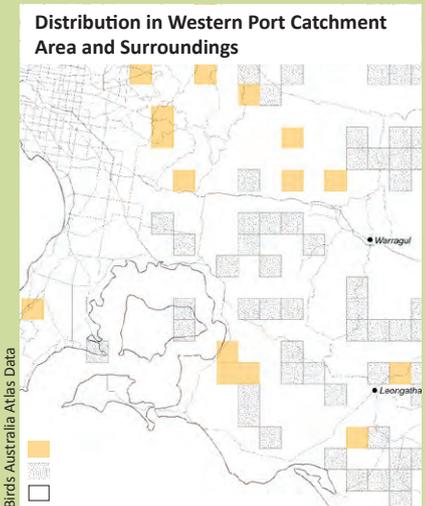
HOW TO IDENTIFY A JACKY WINTER

Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascinans*) are small (13 cm long) active flycatchers with a grey-brown plumage, pale eyebrow and whitish underparts. The tail is dark, with prominent white outer tail feathers that are obvious as the bird perches; it often wags its tail from side to side. Young birds are darker with streaky wings and back, and diffusely streaked dusky underparts. Jacky Winters are usually seen perched on a low, bare branch from which they dart out to catch insects in flight before returning to the same perch. Their calls are variants of a prolonged 'peter-peter' or 'pretty-pretty'. They occur singly or in pairs.

Similar species: female or juvenile robins; female warblers

ANNUAL LIFE CYCLE OF A JACKY WINTER

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Young birds disperse, requiring well-connected habitats.			Adults maintain territories over winter.				Breeding season: Females incubate 2 eggs and both parents feed the nestlings in the nest for 15-17 days.				



WHAT MAKES GOOD JACKY WINTER HABITAT?



Jacky Winters inhabit open woodland habitats with a sparse shrub layer, some bare soil and fallen timber, and often occur at the margins of woodlands and farmland. Healthy native patches provide ample food, however, they are generally absent from small, isolated patches of trees. Jacky Winters require corridors of trees to move between patches of native woodland, as they seldom cross open paddocks. They build cup-shaped nests in an exposed position on a horizontal fork of a dead branch.

ENCOURAGING JACKY WINTERS ONTO YOUR FARM

Jacky Winters respond best to healthy, naturally regenerating remnant native vegetation. The following pointers will help you improve the quality of the remnant native patches on your farm and encourage Jacky Winters into your area.

PROTECT REMNANT PATCHES

- Fence off patches of remnant bushland and allow to regenerate naturally by excluding livestock and removing weeds and exotic plants, rabbits, cats and foxes.
- Maintain a native grassy ground cover and sparse shrub layer within woodland habitats.
- Maintain a range of trees of different ages within patches of remnant vegetation – even dead trees provide valuable habitat.
- Leave fallen trees, branches, leaves and flowers to break down naturally to improve soil health, provide insect habitat and suppress weed growth.
- When establishing a new stock shed, it should be sited as far away as possible from remnant native vegetation, to avoid weed spread, invasion of pest birds and to reduce the risk of fire spreading from one site to the other.

CREATE A HABITAT MOSAIC

- Increase the connectivity of remnant native vegetation by linking patches with strips of revegetation that are at least 20 m wide.
- When planting new vegetation to link remnant patches, plant trees, shrubs and groundcovers that occur naturally (indigenous) to your local area.
- In areas with large remnant patches where it is unfeasible to fence off completely, rotational semi-permanent fencing moved around larger patches over several years will reduce costs and encourage a habitat mosaic.



DID YOU KNOW?

 Bird diversity increases by 30% for every 10 large trees present at a farm site.

 Farm sites with leaf litter, particularly where present in dense clumps, support more birds than cleared areas.

 Financial incentive programs exist to pay landholders to conserve native bushland and establish revegetation on their farms.



Department of Sustainability
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FACT SHEETS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR:

- GOLDEN WHISTLER
- STRIATED PARDALOTE
- SCARLET ROBIN
- CRESTED SHRIKE-TIT

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