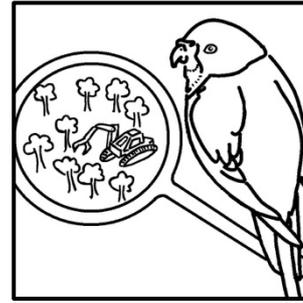


# Forestry Watch Survey Report

Coupe Number: SX038E

Location: Styx Valley, near Maydena

Date: 20/01/2020



## Coupe Snapshot:

<b>Size:</b>	<b>19 ha</b>	<b>Year to be logged:</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Percentage old-growth:</b>	<b>68%</b>		
<b>Natural Values:</b>	Old-growth, swift parrot habitat, masked owl habitat, spotted tailed quoll habitat, numerous hollow-bearing trees, high carbon storage capacity.		

## Introduction

Forestry Watch conducted a citizen science survey of coupe SX038E on the 20th of January 2020. This coupe was selected by the team due to its high percentage of old-growth and the potential for good quality habitat.

## Vegetation

SX038E is listed as *Eucalyptus delegantesis* Wet Forest (Undifferentiated) by TASVEG. Forestry Watch found that the forests should be revised to *E. Delegatensis* Wet Forest over rainforest, as *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Myrtle beech) and other rainforest species dominate the understory. A large area of the coupe shows no evidence of past human disturbance, indicating old growth forest.

## Survey findings:

- High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots, within 10km of large area of feeding habitat
- High quality masked owl habitat
- Old growth forests, with high carbon storage potential
- High quality habitat for a variety of other non-threatened species

## Density of Large Habitat Trees

Density of Large Habitat Trees >150cm diameter	Density of Medium Habitat Trees >100cm diameter	Density of Large Logs >100cm diameter
87 per ha	13 per ha	23 per ha

## Conclusion:

Our survey shows that the forests within this coupe contains excellent habitat for swift parrots, as there are lots of trees with hollows and it is within 10km of a large area of feeding habitat (471ha of Blue Gum forests). There are signs of active use of hollows and dens within the coupe (see photos below). The high density of large trees means that this forest would store large amounts of carbon. Forestry Watch recommends that these forests are protected in order to protect wildlife and the large volume of stored carbon within this forest.

## Previous findings:

A search of the Natural Values Atlas, a state government database which records threatened species information, has found the following threatened species and other features to occur near the coupe:

- Within 10kms of 471ha of feeding habitat (Blue Gum forests) for swift parrots
- Observations of Tasmanian devil, spotted-tailed quoll, swift parrot, Mt Mangana stag beetle found within 5km

## Threatened Species Information:

*Swift parrot (Lathamus discolor)*, **Critically Endangered** (EPBC 1999)

The biggest threat to swift parrots is habitat destruction. Ideal habitat is mature hollow bearing trees within 10 kilometres of flowering *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian blue gum) or *Eucalyptus ovata* (Black Gum). High quality nesting habitat for swift parrots is considered to have more than 15 trees over 100 cm diameter per hectare or 8 trees over 150cm.

*Masked owl (Tyto novaehollandiae subsp. Castanops)*, **Vulnerable** (EPBC 1999)

The Tasmanian masked owl is estimated to have only 500 breeding pairs remaining. Masked owls require large hollows only found in mature forests. The main threat to the masked owl is the clearing of nesting and foraging habitat. High quality masked owl habitat is considered to have more than eight trees over 150cm dbh per hectare.

*Spotted tailed quoll (Dasyurus maculatus)*, **Vulnerable** (EPBC 1999)

The spotted tailed quoll requires large tracts of forest with potential den sites. Den sights and hollows required by prey are removed by intensive forestry practices, especially when logging is followed by burning, rendering the area unsuitable habitat.

*Mt Mangana stag beetle (Lissotes menalcas)*, **Vulnerable** (Threatened Species Act 1995)

The Mount Mangana stag beetle is endemic to the wet forests of southern Tasmania. It lives in logs rotting on the forest floor. The greatest threat to the beetle is the removal of these logs by forest clearing and burning.

## Old growth and carbon storage

Old growth is defined as 'Ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances are now negligible'. Old-growth *Eucalypts regnans* forests are the most carbon dense forests in the world. Large, old trees still grow in width and draw down more carbon than younger trees. Logging of old growth followed by intensive harvesting cycles causes the release of carbon stored in forest soils in a process that continues centuries after initial logging.

If you would like more information about the methodology used in this survey, would like to use the data, or have any general questions, please contact us. If you would like to join one of our surveys, please send us an email or keep an eye out for events on our facebook page.

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**Above:** Guano deposits at the base of a tree in the coupe show signs that this tree is most likely being used as a nesting site by a large bird.



**Above:** Hollows in the base of a tree with signs that it is actively being used.