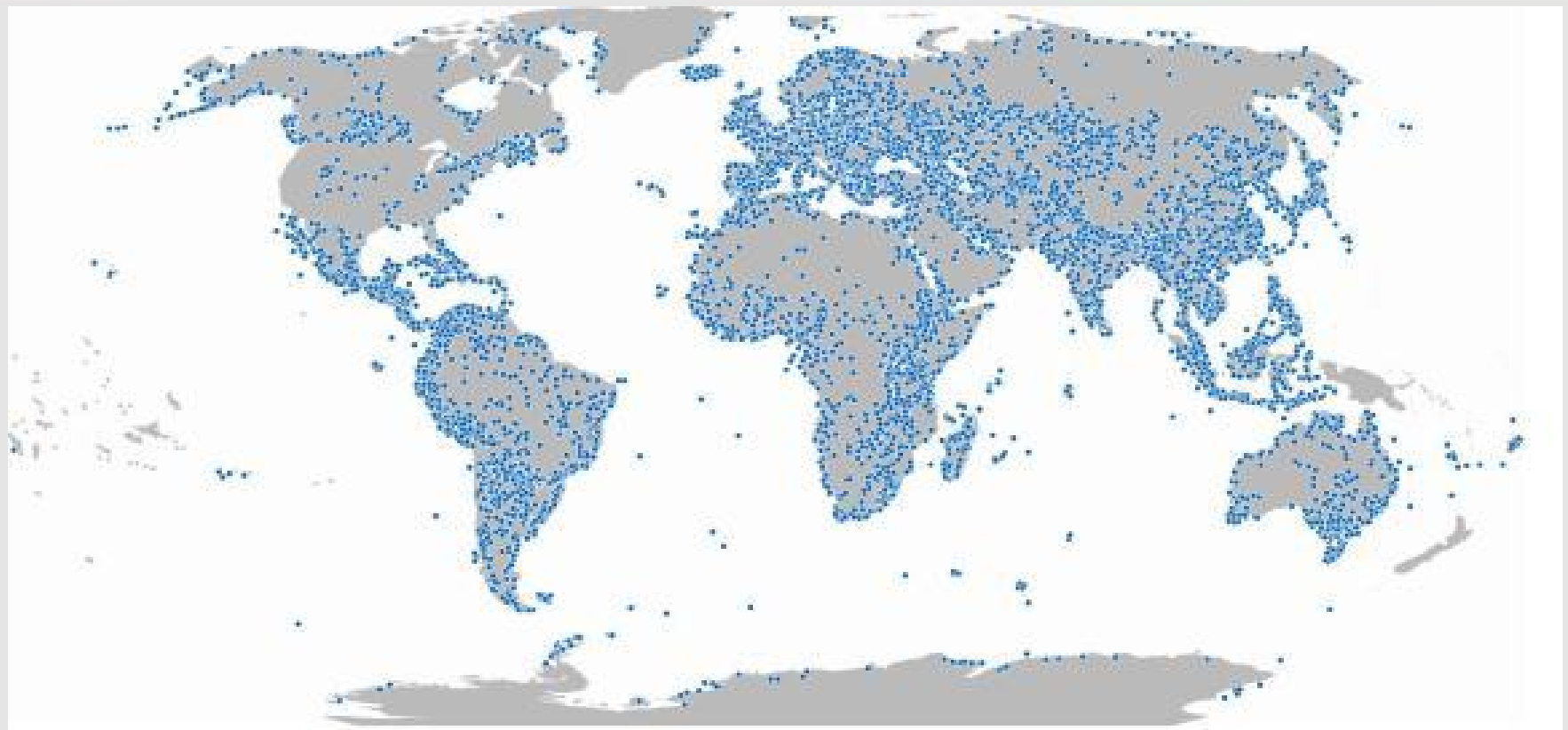


THE STATE OF AUSTRALIA'S IMPORTANT BIRD & BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Samantha Vine

Head of Conservation
BirdLife Australia

IMPORTANT BIRD & BIODIVERSITY AREAS



IBAs defined by BirdLife International criteria

The designation of Australian IBAs is based on three criteria:

1. Globally threatened species

IBAs support more than a threshold number (defined for each species) of a species listed as globally Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List

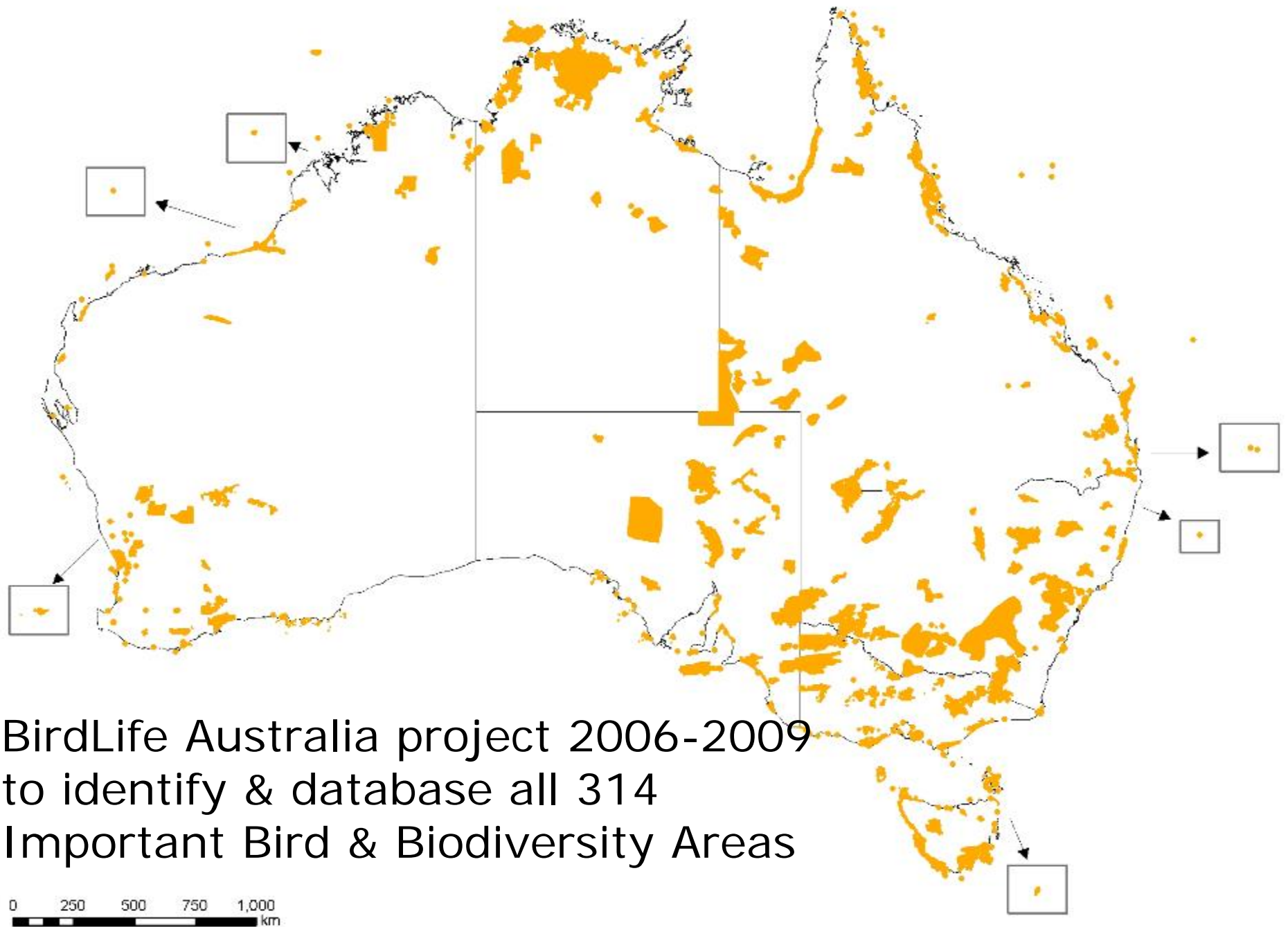
2. Congregatory species

>1% of world population of 'congregatory' birds
(shorebirds, seabirds, waterbirds)

3. Endemic species

the network of IBAs includes a representative set of sites for restricted-range species with global ranges of <50,000 km²





BirdLife Australia project 2006-2009
to identify & database all 314
Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas

The value of IBAs to our Conservation Program

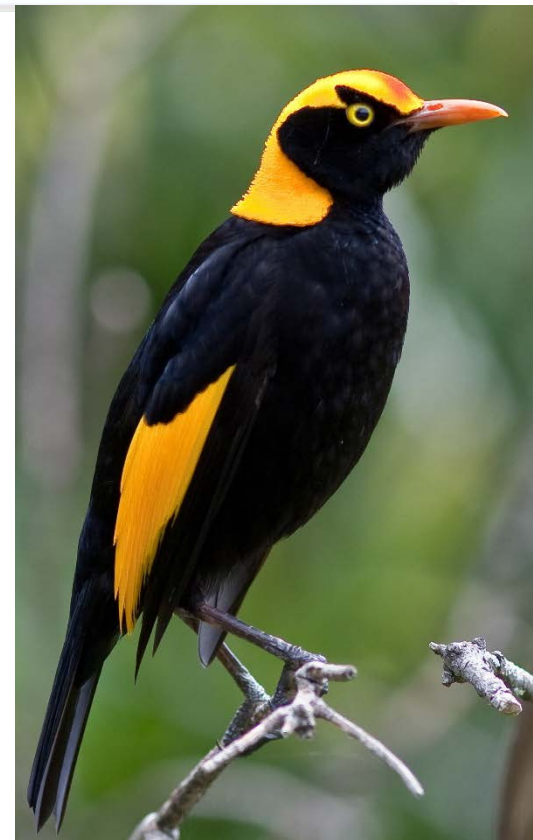
We use IBAs as a prioritisation tool to encourage:

Top-down conservation e.g:

- select sites for on-ground recovery projects
- national advocacy campaigns...

Bottom-up conservation e.g:

- birdwatchers to monitor birds
- rigorous monitoring to inform management
- raise awareness in local communities
- local community-driven conservation



Protecting the right places: Birds can lead the way

Top-Down Conservation

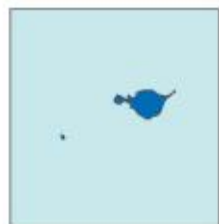
IBAs can help Australia meet its national and international commitments

- **Aichi Target 11** - By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, **especially *areas of particular importance for biodiversity*** and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, **ecologically representative** and well-connected systems of protected areas and **other effective area-based conservation measures**...
- **Aichi Target 12** -By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

AUSTRALIAN IBAS OVERLAP WITH PROTECTED AREAS (2012 CAPAD - TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE).



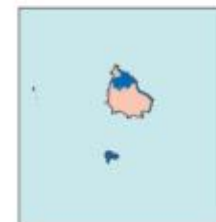
Christmas Island



Heard Island



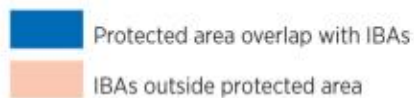
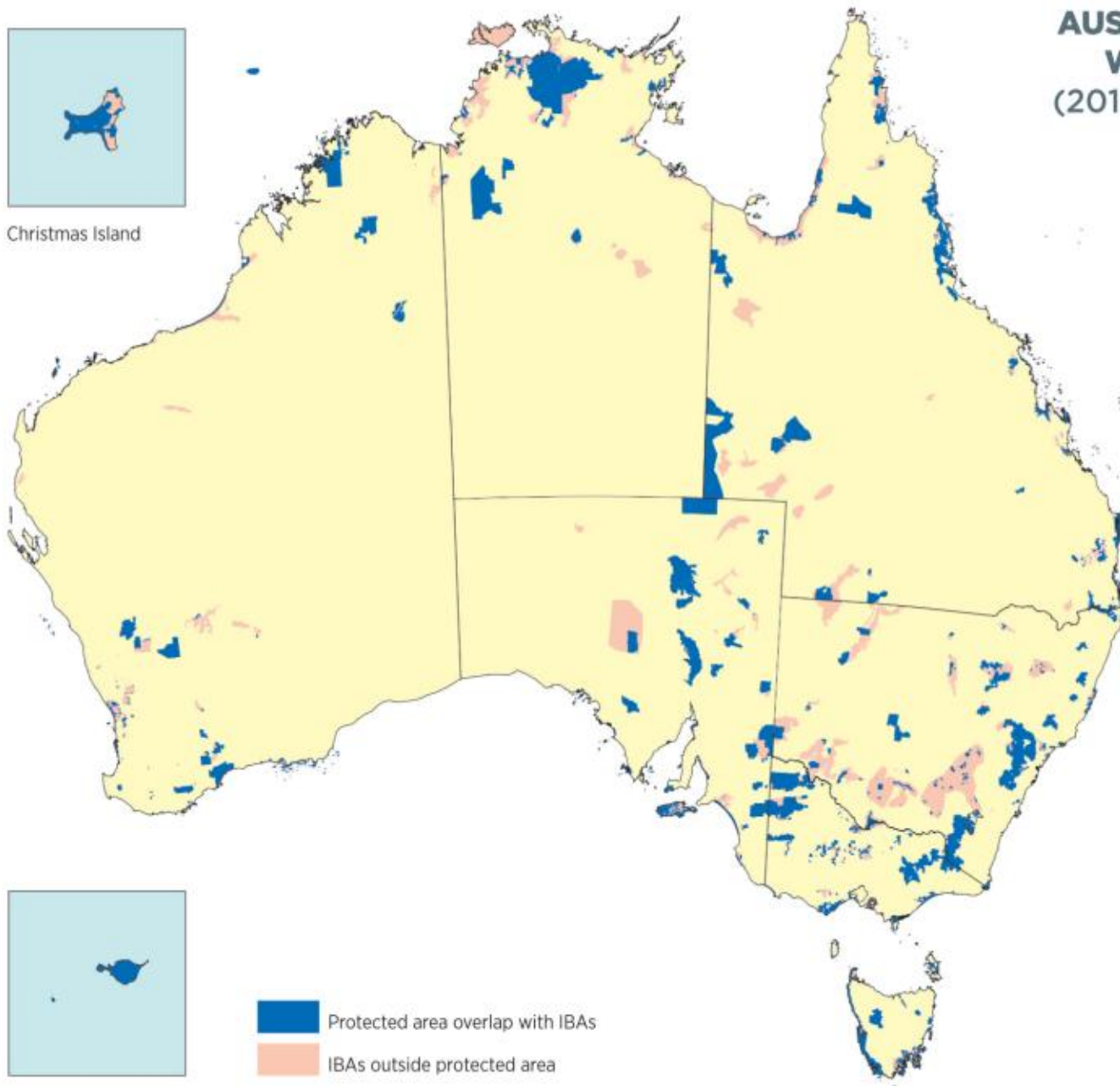
Lord Howe island



Norfolk Island



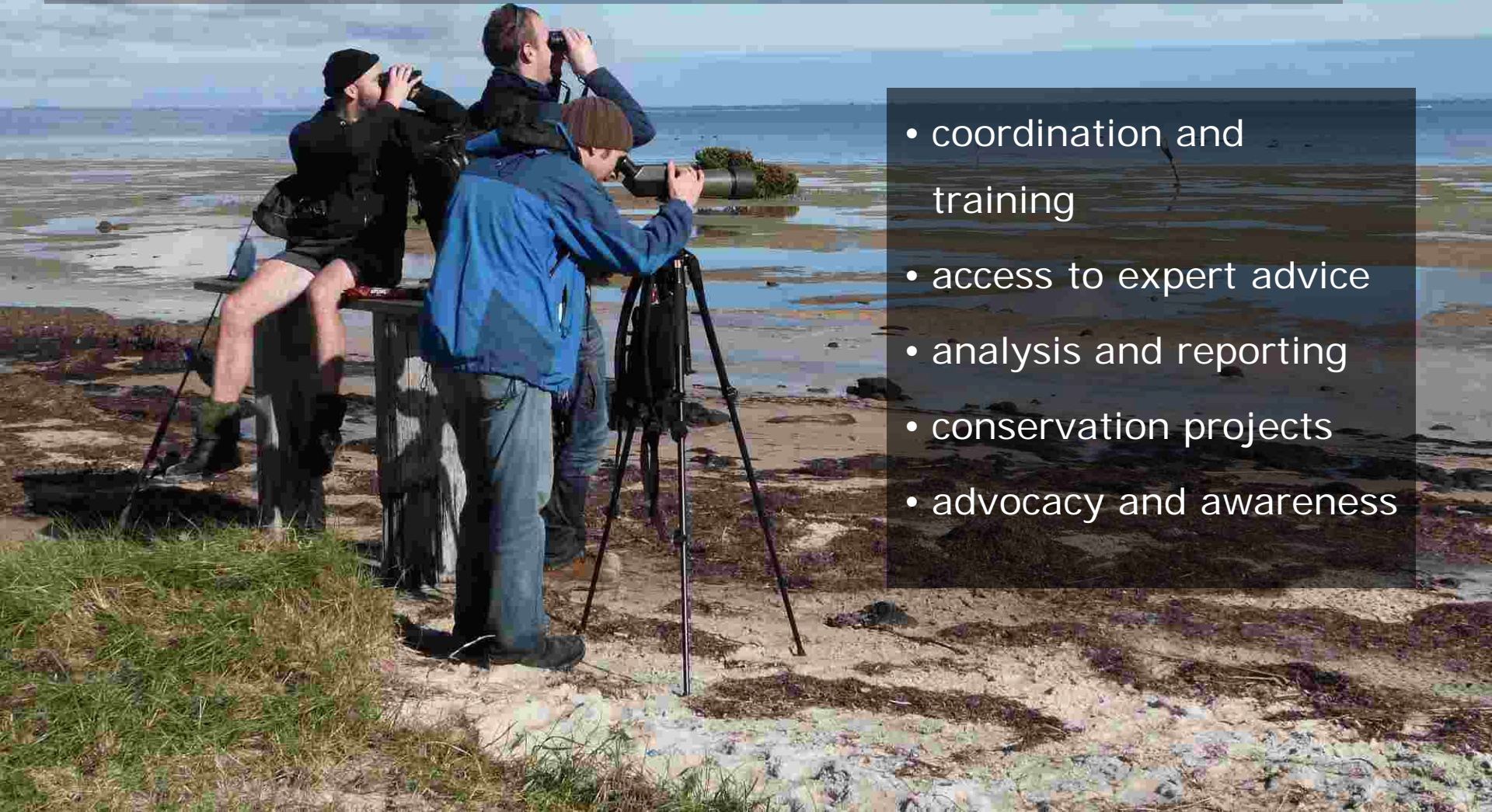
Macquarie Island



Bottom Up - Conservation

IBA Program - Community Ownership is Key.

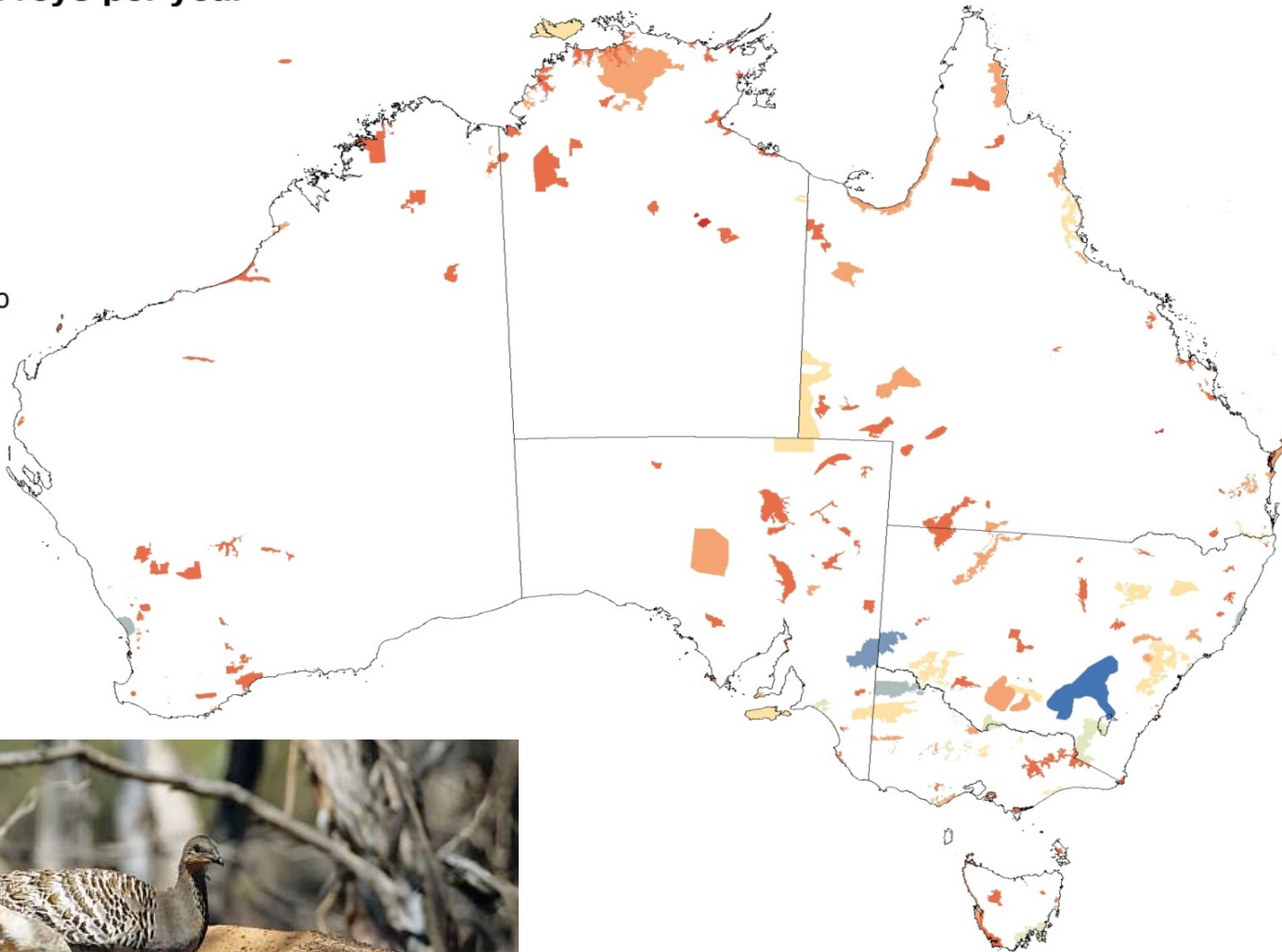
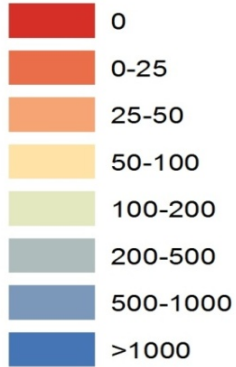
But Local Groups need leadership and support



- coordination and training
- access to expert advice
- analysis and reporting
- conservation projects
- advocacy and awareness

Working with Local Groups: Current level of Atlas monitoring

Average surveys per year



Threats to IBAs








Protected Areas need to be managed

- Over half (59 per cent) of Australia's threatened bird species rely on public land, including protected areas.
- 4/5 Australian IBAs in Danger include national parks.
- We clearly need to improve the management of Australia's Protected Area Estate for the benefit of threatened birds.

The IBAs "in danger" provide habitat for species that could soon become extinct if current threats continue.

IBAs IN DANGER

Key Threats to Australia's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

THREATS	INSTANCES
 Invasive Alien Species	190
 Inappropriate Fire Regimes	96
 Recreational Activities	90
 Unsustainable Agriculture	86
 Infrastructure/Residential Development	65

AUSTRALIA HAS



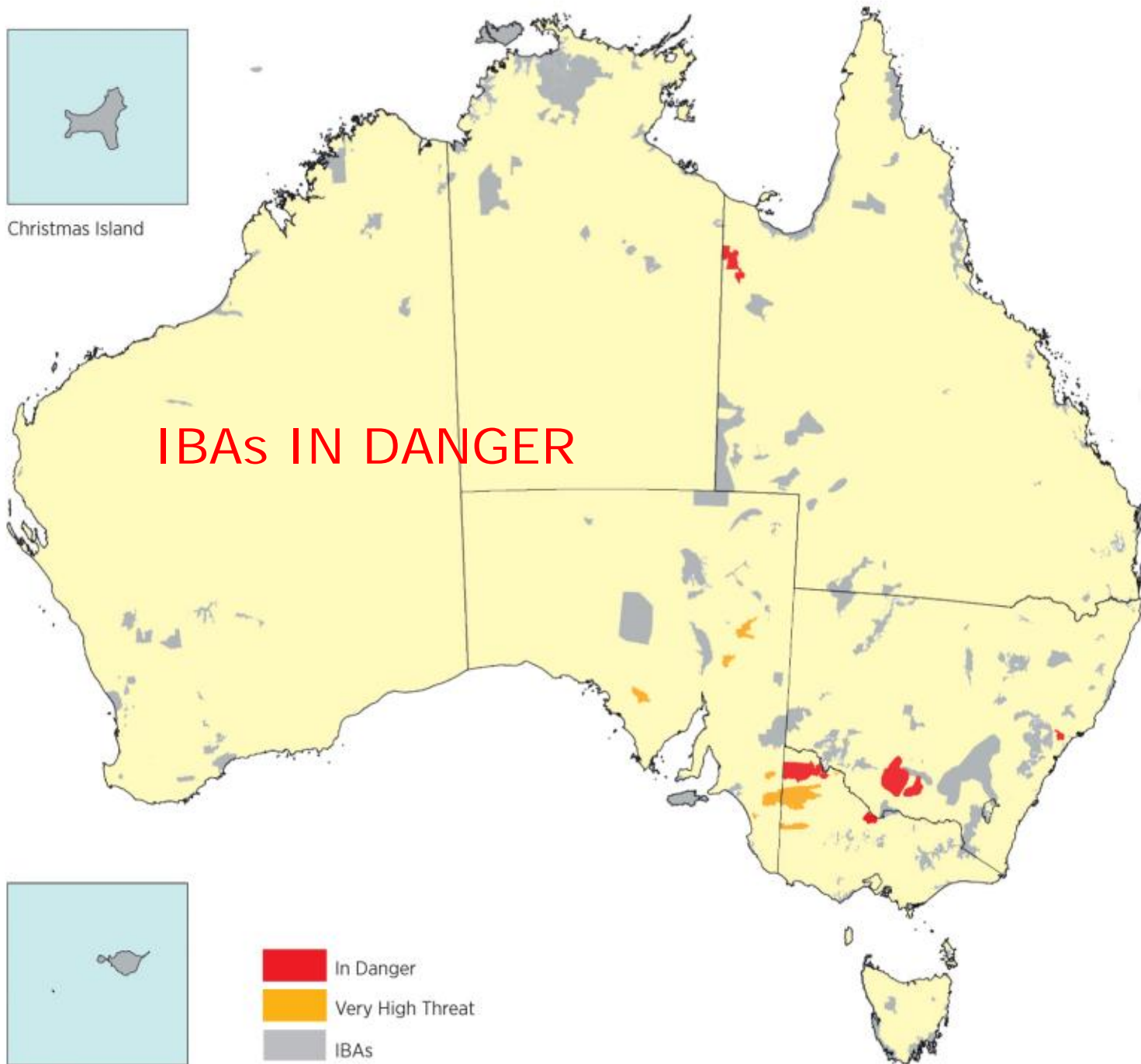
5 of these sites are classified as "in danger"

14 of these sites have "very high" threat levels

20% of these sites are fully protected



Christmas Island



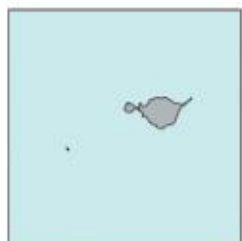
IBAs IN DANGER



Lord Howe island



Norfolk Island



Heard Island



Macquarie Island



Norfolk Island IBA

A close-up photograph of a small bird, likely a species of warbler or finch, perched on a green grass stem. The bird has a brown head, a long thin beak, and a blue-grey breast with fine white streaks. Its tail is long and thin. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange-brown color.

Murray Sunset,
Hattah and
Annuello IBA



Boodjamulla IBA





Patho Plains and Riverina Plains IBAs



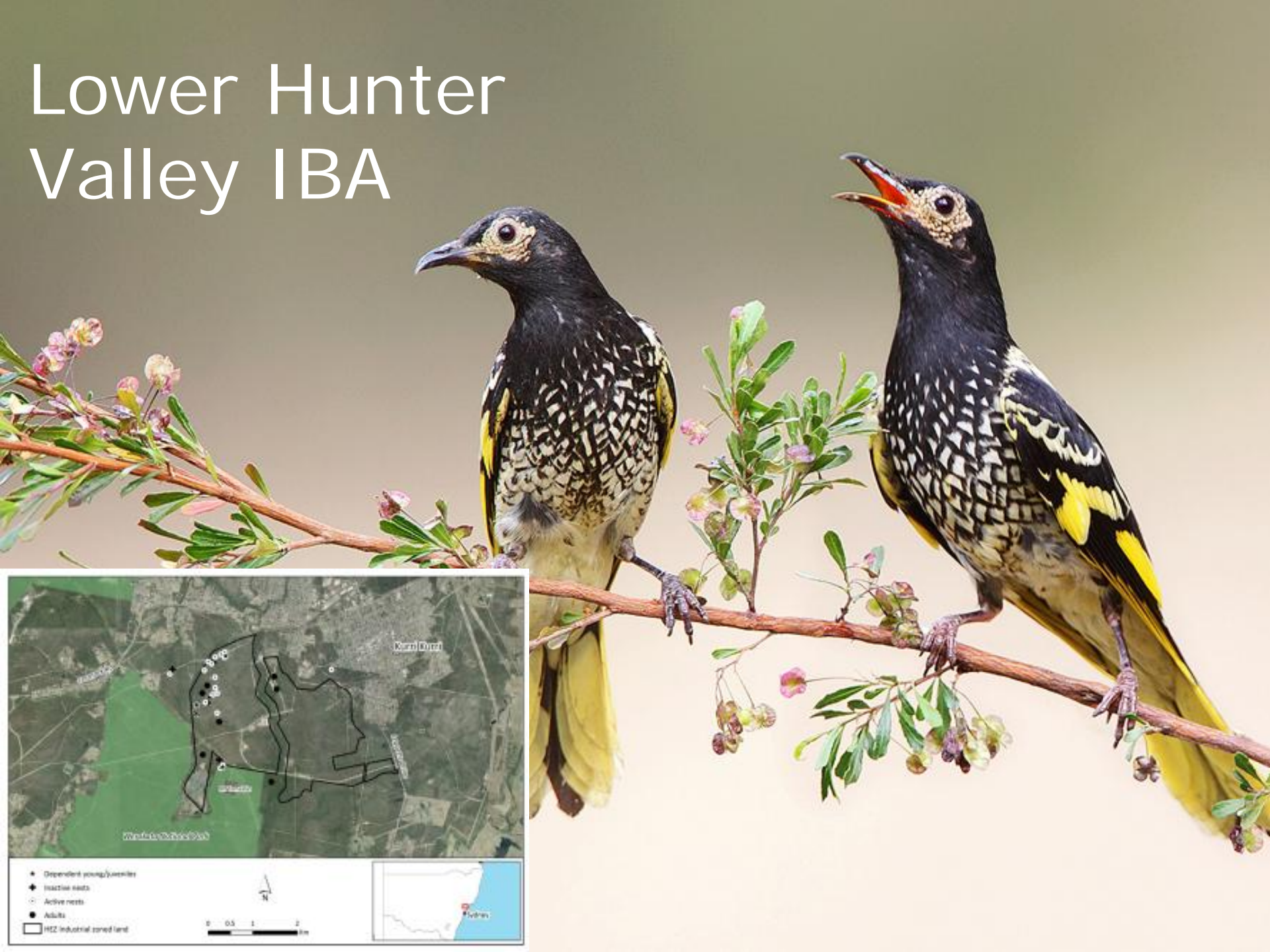
Lower Hunter Valley IBA

A photograph of two Eastern Whipbirds (Psophodes olivaceus) perched on a branch with small pink flowers. The birds have black heads and backs with white speckling, and bright yellow underparts. One bird is facing left, and the other is facing right with its beak open.

An inset map showing the location of the Lower Hunter Valley Important Bird Area (IBA) in New South Wales, Australia. The map displays the coastline, major roads, and the IBA boundary. A legend indicates the following symbols:

- Dependent young/juveniles
- + Inactive nests
- Active nests
- Adults
- HZ Industrial zoned land

The map also includes a scale bar from 0 to 2 km and an inset map of Australia showing the location of the IBA in the lower Hunter Valley region.



Thank you

The report will be launched this afternoon at 2:00 pm in the Protected Planet Pavilion or for more information go to:
<http://www.birdlife.org.au/ibas-in-danger>



IBAs IN DANGER

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)
by the numbers

12,000 Number of sites of global significance for bird and biodiversity conservation

Number of these sites with “very high” threat levels **570**

358 Number of these sites classified as “in Danger”

Proportion of these sites under formal legal protection **40%**



IBAs with “very high” threat levels are rapidly losing their conservation value and require **urgent action.**

IBAs in Danger: The state of Australia's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

By Samantha Vine and Guy Dutson

