

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A YELLOW CHAT?

If you see a the Alligator Rivers yellow chat:

Record

- Take a GPS coordinate or describe the location
- Count the number of birds
- Take a photo or video if you can

Report

Text or email Kelly Dixon at Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)

Mobile: 0488 333 607

Email: kelly.dixon@territorynrm.org.au

WHY DO WE WANT NEW RECORDS OF ALLIGATOR RIVERS YELLOW CHATS?

The limited distribution of the Alligator Rivers yellow chat contributes to its endangered listing status. There have been few surveys carried out for the bird outside of protected areas. Records from

private properties can help improve our knowledge of the species' extent of occurrence, and contribute to the overall conservation of the species.



Keith Lightbody



Laurie Ross

TNRM PROJECT

Protecting the Alligator Rivers yellow chat

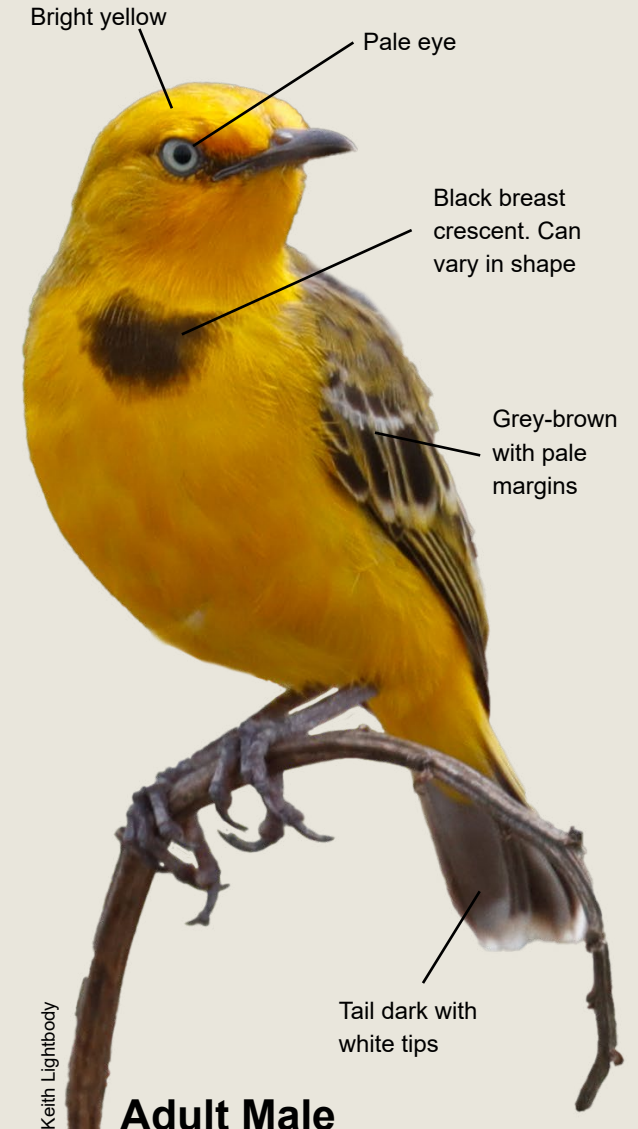
Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) has been collaborating with Rangers and Traditional Owners from Kakadu National Park and surrounding areas, land managers, scientists, and other experts to deliver a project that will improve the habitat of the Alligator Rivers yellow chat.

The main objectives of the project are to undertake targeted surveys for the Alligator Rivers yellow chat, feral pigs, and weeds; to facilitate feral pig and weed management; and support the ongoing monitoring of the subspecies.



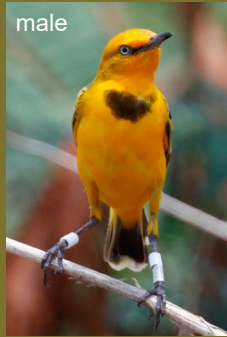
This project is supported by Territory Natural Resource Management, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BIRD?



WHAT IS THE ALLIGATOR RIVERS YELLOW CHAT?

The Alligator Rivers yellow chat is an endangered sub-species of the yellow chat that is native to the Northern Territory. It is in the same family as honeyeaters, but eats insects.



male

Keith Lightbody

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Up to 11cm in length
- Pale eye



female

Laurie Ross

Male

- Striking yellow with grey-brown wings and back
- Dark tail with white tips
- Adult males have a black chest band

Female

- Pale lemon yellow underbody
- Mottled grey wings and head
- Pale cream, or no, chest band

There are two other birds the Alligator Rivers yellow chat is commonly confused with:

Golden-headed cisticola:

- 9-11 cm long
- Golden yellow when breeding to creamy-brown
- Wings and back are brown with streaks
- Females have a darker, streaked head



J.J. Harrison

Australasian pipit:

- 16-19 cm long
- Slender, with upright posture
 - Back, head and wings are light brown, streaked with dark brown
 - Speckled breast
 - Tail with white outer-edges that can be seen in flight
- Can look quite similar in colour and size to female yellow chat



Summerdrought

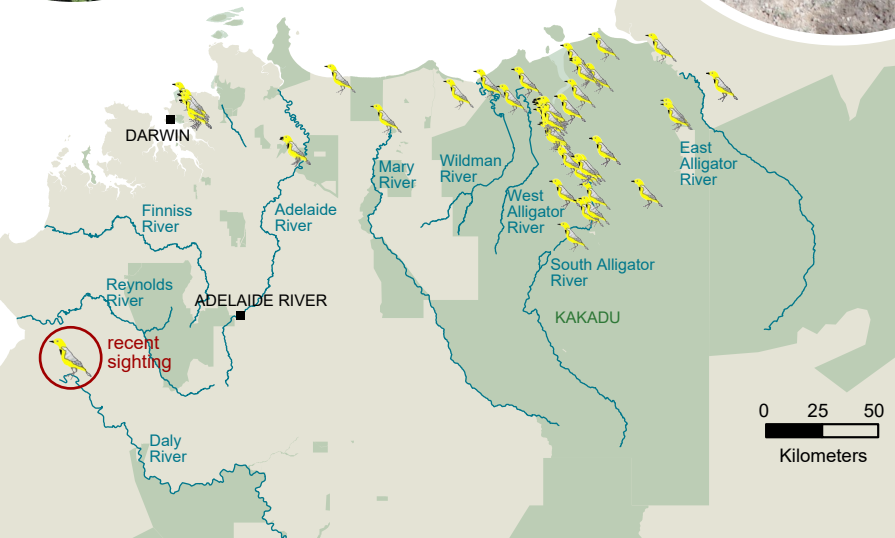
HOW TO FIND AN ALLIGATOR RIVERS YELLOW CHAT

The Alligator Rivers yellow chat is usually seen in the open on floodplains, foraging in or near depressions and channels. The bird eats insects and is typically seen looking for them on the ground or in short vegetation near the ground, or perching on the native plant *Sesbania* (*Sesbania sesbans*).



Robyn Leppitt

The Alligator Rivers yellow chat sub-species is currently only known from the floodplains of the Adelaide, Mary, Wildman, South, West and East Alligator Rivers, mostly within Kakadu National Park. However, there was a recent sighting of a yellow chat, potentially the Alligator Rivers sub-species, on the floodplain of the Daly River, and there have been no formal records of the species from this location before.



WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT THE ALLIGATOR RIVERS YELLOW CHAT?

The Alligator Rivers yellow-chat (*Epthianura crocea tunneyi*) is an endangered bird, a sub-species of the yellow chat (*Epithianura crocea*), only found in the Alligator Rivers region.

THREATS

The Australian Government included the Alligator Rivers yellow chat on a list of 20 priority bird species in 2015. This is because all records suggest that the sub-species is in decline due to:

- Habitat invasion and degradation by exotic weeds
- Habitat degradation by feral pigs and buffalo
- Predation by feral cats
- Inundation of the floodplains due to sea level rise
- Inappropriate fire regime on the flood plains

