

Zoos Victoria's Fighting Extinction Species

GOLDEN-RAYED BLUE BUTTERFLY

Candalides noelkeri sp. nov.

Critically Endangered



Found exclusively in the Wimmera, the Golden-rayed Blue is the only butterfly known to be endemic to Victoria. Because of its very restricted distribution, known threats, and likelihood of on-going population decline, it is listed as Critically Endangered on Victoria's threatened

invertebrate advisory list. We will work with our partners to implement a range of conservation measures to reduce the risk of extinction for this local species and also help raise awareness and support for insect conservation and salt-lake ecosystems more generally.

ZOOS
VICTORIA
Fighting Extinction

Zoos Victoria is committed to Fighting Extinction

We are focused on working with partners to secure the survival of our priority species before it is too late.



The Golden-rayed Blue butterfly was added to Zoos Victoria's priority list in 2019, following our resolve to expand this list to include some local invertebrate species. It was first described in 2004 and is the only butterfly known to occur exclusively within Victoria. Working with our partners, we will implement a range of conservation actions that are aimed at gaining a better understanding of the species and reducing its risk of becoming extinct.

KEY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Work with partners to gain an improved understanding of its distribution and ecological requirements.
- Support the restoration or creation of additional habitat through fencing and/or revegetation.
- Develop the husbandry requirements for captive breeding and improve our knowledge of the butterfly's biology. This information will assist field conservation actions, including the establishment of new populations in existing or restored habitat.
- Display the species in an innovative exhibit and raise public awareness of the need for temperate butterfly and invertebrate conservation.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

This is a newly prioritised Zoos Victoria Fighting Extinction species, we aim to achieve the objectives above and annually report on outcomes through Zoos Victoria communication channels.

THE SPECIES

Golden-rayed Blue is largely restricted to narrow bands of remnant floodplain habitat that border just a handful of salt-lakes in the west of Victoria. It appears to be an ecological specialist, relying on only one species of host plant known commonly as Creeping Boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*). The most significant threat to this species is habitat loss and degradation. The required larval host plant is restricted to the margins of ephemeral salt-lakes and most of this habitat has been lost over time through cropping and grazing activities. At the location where this species was originally found (Lake Wyn Wyn Reserve) its habitat is threatened by an invasive paperbark species, which displaces the food plant and reduces the extent of open sunny microhabitat preferred by the adult butterflies. Management of this paperbark to aid the Golden-rayed Blue has occurred in the past, but ongoing management will be required.

THE PLAN

Together with our partners, we aim to undertake the following actions.

Undertake systematic field surveys to better understand this butterfly's distribution and threats in the wild.	\$35,000
Support protection and restoration through management and revegetation.	\$120,000
Investigate wild-to-wild translocation to secure populations and implement, as required.	\$90,000
Investigate the requirements of captive display and breeding for reintroduction.	\$250,000
Construct and maintain an exhibit for the Golden-rayed Blue.	\$250,000
Welcome this new species onto Zoos Victoria's priority list. Establishing the butterfly's presence at our zoos and online as part of our local threatened species commitment.	\$15,000
Total cost over five years	\$760,000

How can I help?

We will help secure habitat of this species and also develop the potential for captive breeding and translocation activities. You can support our Wildlife Conservation Master Plan 2019-2024 by donating at: zoo.org.au/donate

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
delwp.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria
parkweb.vic.gov.au

Trust for Nature
trustfornature.org.au