

THREATENED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS

The Australian Wildlife Society [Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition](#) is a national competition that awards and promotes threatened Australian wildlife through the medium of photography. The Society invited photographers to raise the plight of Australia's threatened wildlife. The Society was delighted to receive a record number of entries, making it an extremely tough competition. Thank you to all the entrants.

The annual judges' prize of \$1,000 was won by Bruno Bell for his photo of a black-tipped spider orchid (*Caladenia anthracina*). The black-tipped spider orchid is endemic to Tasmania and is listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. The black-tipped spider orchid is extremely rare, with field surveys identifying a total of ninety individuals in four populations, none comprising more than thirty individuals. The extent and quality of habitat, the number of populations and mature individuals, agricultural development, fire regimes, and disturbance events determine the survival of this species. Better protection and increased awareness of this species are vital for its survival into the future.



The annual people's choice prize of \$500 was won by Chris Theobald for his photo of a squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). The squirrel glider is widely but sparsely distributed across eastern Australia and prefers wet and dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands. Squirrel gliders take shelter in tree hollows during the day and come out at night to feed on insects, pollen, and nectar. Being arboreal, they are very adept at climbing and can glide from tree to tree using skin membranes that stretch between their front and back legs. The squirrel glider is listed as Vulnerable in New South Wales and Endangered in South Australia. Threats to this species include fragmentation of habitat, loss of hollow-bearing trees and understorey food resources, inappropriate fire regimes, mortality due to entanglement on barbed wire, vehicle strike, climate change, and invasive species occupying hollows.

