

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Bassian Thrush (South Australian)

1	Family	Muscicapidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Zoothera lunulata halmaturina</i> (A. G. Campbell, 1906)
3	Common name	Bassian Thrush (South Australian)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: ac

### 5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies has lost at least half of its original area of occupancy (Near Threatened: a) and occurs at a much lower density over the remainder of its mainland distribution (Near Threatened: c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	9,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	1,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	12,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	4 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*Z. l. lunulata* (subcoastal areas from south-eastern South Australia to south-eastern Queensland and including Tasmania and Bass Strait islands) and *Z. l. cuneata* (north-east Queensland) are both Least Concern.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Kangaroo I., Mt Lofty Ra. and at Telowie Gorge Conservation Park and Wittaburra Forest, S. A. (Schodde and Mason, 1999, L. Pedler).

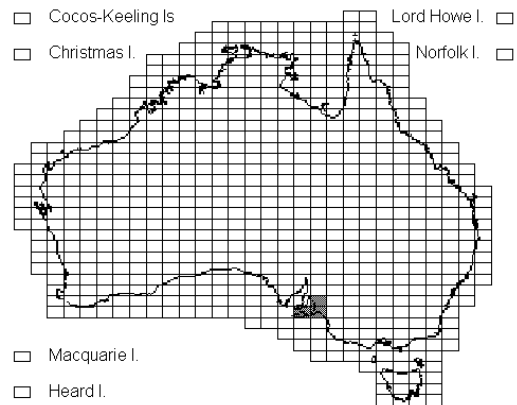
### 8 Present range and abundance

As above, but half its habitat has been cleared on Kangaroo I. and a greater proportion on the mainland. Previously, population was probably underestimated (Garnett, 1992), particularly for Kangaroo I., and movements of other subspecies suggest that Kangaroo I. birds are likely to be isolated from those on the mainland. No decline evident from 1974/1975 to 1984/1985 (Paton *et al.*, 1994).

### 9 Ecology

On the mainland, White's Thrush favours damp eucalypt forest or woodland (SAOA, 1991), and has also been recorded breeding in exotic pine *Pinus radiata* plantations (Edington, 1983). On Kangaroo I., it occurs in the damp eucalypt forests, but also uses mature mallee eucalypt woodland (Baxter, 1995). In much of its range, suitable habitat is confined to creek-lines or dune swales, the birds foraging for worms among damp leaf litter (SAOA, 1991). Damp habitats

seem particularly important in summer (Edington, 1983). The thrush lays 2-3 eggs in a bulky, bowl-shaped nest (Beruldsen, 1980).



### 10 Threats

Much of the best habitat has been cleared for agriculture. That which remains on the mainland is threatened by the damming of creeks, which results in the desiccation of the litter layer downstream, and grazing by cattle. In 1983, wildfire destroyed several sites where the subspecies had been common (SAOA, 1991), and prescribed burning in spring sometimes destroys habitat along creek-lines (T. Dennis). There may also be competition with the introduced Blackbird *Turdus merula* (SAOA, 1991).

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Monitor numbers on mainland by analysis of bird atlas records.
- 11.2 Characterise favoured habitats and maintain these habitat values in all mainland reserves.

### 12 Bibliography

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