

RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Cape Barren Goose (south-western)

1	Family	Anatidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae grisea</i> (Storr 1980)
3	Common name	Cape Barren Goose (south-western)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D1

5 Reasons for listing

The total population of this subspecies probably never contained more than 1,000 mature individuals (Vulnerable: D1).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	6,500 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	100 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	650	medium
trend	fluctuating	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

*C. n. novaehollandiae* (south-eastern Australia, Tasmania, Kangaroo I. and Bass Strait Is) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

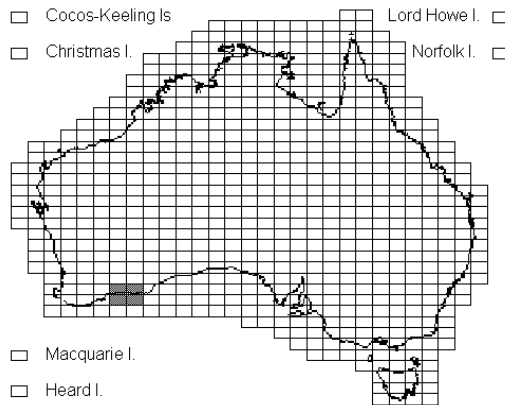
Southern Western Australia, centred on the Archipelago of the Recherche, but found in small numbers on the mainland from Busselton to the Nullarbor Plain. Early measures of abundance all based on incomplete surveys including 60 seen May 1991 (J. Dell) and 232 in February 1992 (Shaughnessy and Haberley, 1994).

8 Present range and abundance

Single comprehensive survey in 1993: 631 birds, 612 being found on 79 of the 232 islands and rocks surveyed in the Archipelago of the Recherche, 15 birds in two flocks on the mainland opposite and four on Red I. 200 km to the west (Halse *et al.*, 1995).

9 Ecology

In Western Australia, Cape Barren Geese live primarily in grassland on rocky islands. They are apparently mostly sedentary, but occasionally visit pastures and beaches on the mainland (Halse *et al.*, 1995). They lay 4-5 eggs in nests among grass tussocks (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).



10 Threats

The small population is vulnerable to extremes of weather, particularly hot summers (Garnett, 1992, Halse *et al.*, 1995). Large numbers of birds were hunted for food before 1937, when this was prohibited (Garnett, 1992). In 1991, many geese died of starvation or heat-stress during a drought and exceptionally high temperatures (Shaughnessy and Haberley, 1994, Halse *et al.*, 1995). Should the climate in south-western Australia become hotter and drier, the Archipelago may become less suitable for Cape Barren Geese.

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain population.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Population surveyed in 1993.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Survey to monitor population once every ten years unless downward trend apparent.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Western Australian Department of Conservation.

16 Other organisations involved

None.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out  
*Staff resources required 2001-2005* 0.1 Project Officer  
*Financial resources required 2001-2005*

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Repeat of 1993 survey</i>	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
<i>Total</i>	\$10,000	\$0	<b>\$10,000</b>

18 Bibliography

Garnett, S. T. (ed.) 1992. *Threatened and Extinct Birds of Australia*. RAOU Report 82. RAOU, Melbourne & ANPWS, Canberra.

Halse, S. A., Burbidge, A. A., Lane, J. A. K., Haberley, B. Pearson, G. B. and Clarke, A. 1995. Size of the Cape Barren goose population in Western Australia. *Emu* 95:77-83.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Shaughnessy, P. D. and Haberley, B. 1994. Surveys of Cape Barren Geese *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* in Western Australia, 1987-1992. *Corella* 18: 8-13.

Comments received from  
 Barry Baker, Andrew Burbidge.