

TAXON SUMMARY

# Chestnut Quail-thrush (eastern)

1	Family	Eupetidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Cinlosoma castanotus castanotus</i> Gould, 1840
3	Common name	Chestnut Quail-thrush (eastern)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: a

5 Reasons for listing

More than half of the habitat used by this subspecies has been cleared and remaining sub-populations are fragmented (Near Threatened: a). Although the subspecies has proved resilient to both fire and grazing in the remaining habitat, the bulk of which is protected from clearing, losses from fragments are inevitable.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	360,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	10,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	50,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	10	low
Largest sub-population	20,000	low
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

*C. c. clarum* (central and south-western inland Australia) and *C. c. fordianum* (south-western Australia; Schodde and Mason, 1999) are Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Eastern mallee regions, including Flinders Ra., Eyre Peninsula, Ninety Mile Plain and Murray Mallee, S. A., Big and Little Deserts and Sunset Country, Vic., and central and south-western New South Wales (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

Disappeared from areas that have been cleared for agriculture and possibly from Little Desert, from which no records since 1975 (P. Menkhorst). However, still broadly distributed through former range (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Emison *et al.*, 1987, Smith *et al.*, 1995).

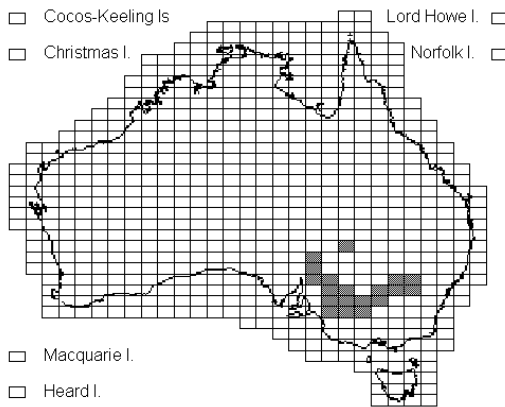
9 Ecology

The eastern subspecies of Chestnut Quail-thrush lives in mallee and *Acacia* scrub, and feeds on insects and seeds (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). Two eggs are laid in a cupped nest built on the ground (Beruldsen, 1980).

10 Threats

Clearance is the major threat, and is likely to be ongoing in New South Wales. Fire and broombush

cutting, however, seem to have little effect (Woinarski, 1989). The species persists in many large fragments, but is likely to be lost from smaller ones.



11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Protect all mallee in which subspecies is known to be resident from clearing, monitoring compliance biennially.
- 11.2 Place all sub-populations that occur on public land under secure conservation management, particularly those in timber reserves, transport corridors and local government land.
- 11.3 Using appropriate incentives, undertake extension with land-holders that have suitable woodland habitat to promote sound management of remnants and encourage greater connectivity between sub-populations.
- 11.4 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity, including the quail-thrush.
- 11.5 Control and reduce firewood collection from areas occupied by subspecies, promoting wood-lot development close to markets, and reduce grazing densities where necessary.
- 11.6 Undertake long-term monitoring of remnant sub-populations.

12 Bibliography

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#### Comments received from

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