

TAXON SUMMARY

Eclectus Parrot (Cape York Peninsula)

1	Family	Psittacidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Eclectus roratus macgillivrayi</i> Mathews, 1913
3	Common name	Eclectus Parrot (Cape York Peninsula)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: d

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies has a small population (Near Threatened: d), but is facing no threats.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,900 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	200 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	3,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	10 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

Of the nine other subspecies that occur in New Guinea, eastern Indonesia and other nearby islands, only *E. r. polychloros* (Northern Torres Strait Islands and lowland New Guinea and offshore islands) has a population in Australia, where it is Near Threatened. Global status of species is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to Iron Ra and McIlwraith Ra. of Cape York Peninsula, between the Pascoe R. and Rocky R. (Schodde and Mason, 1997, Higgins, 1999).

Apparently occurs patchily, but at a locally high density within its limited range (Forshaw, 1981).

8 Present range and abundance

Decline in abundance since early 1970s has been mooted (J. Young in Garnett, 1992), but no concrete evidence (Higgins, 1999).

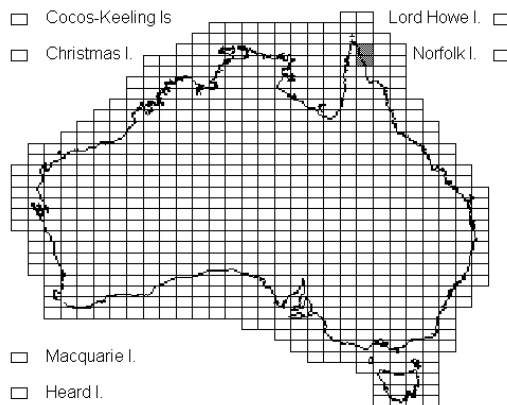
9 Ecology

On Cape York Peninsula, Eclectus Parrots live in rainforest and on its edges. They nest in hollows in emergent trees, often communally with more than one male attending the female at the nest. The usual clutch size is two. Eclectus Parrots feeds on a variety of fruits, mostly from within the rainforest (Forshaw, 1981, Legge and Heinsohn, 2000, R. Heinsohn, S. Legge).

10 Threats

There are no confirmed threats to this species. Nest robbing for the bird trade is rumoured (Garnett, 1992), but not supported by evidence. Similarly,

nearly all nests are in rainforest (Legge and Heinsohn, 2000), and are unlikely to be affected by fire (*contra* Garnett, 1992). Competition for nest hollows with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos *Cacatua galerita* and flooding regularly cause nest failure (Legge and Heinsohn, 2000), but such losses are probably natural.



11 Recommended actions:

- 11.1 Describe habitat requirements and behavioural ecology, in the event active management becomes necessary.

12 Bibliography

- Forshaw, J. M. 1981. *Australian Parrots*. Lansdowne Press, Melbourne.
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- Legge, S. and Heinsohn, R. 2000. That hollow feeling. *Wingspan* 10(2):8-11.
- Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1997. Aves (Columbidae to Coraciidae). *Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Vol. 37.2*. W. W. K. Houston and A. Wells (eds). CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

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