

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Rufous Fieldwren (Dirk Hartog Island)

1	Family	Acanthizidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Calamanthus campestris hartogi</i> Carter, 1916
3	Common name	Rufous Fieldwren (Dirk Hartog Island)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

The island to which this subspecies is restricted is more than 100 km² in size, but because it is so narrow and the habitat so uniform, the subspecies is deemed vulnerable to catastrophe (Vulnerable: D2).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	400 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	250 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	7,500	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	4 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

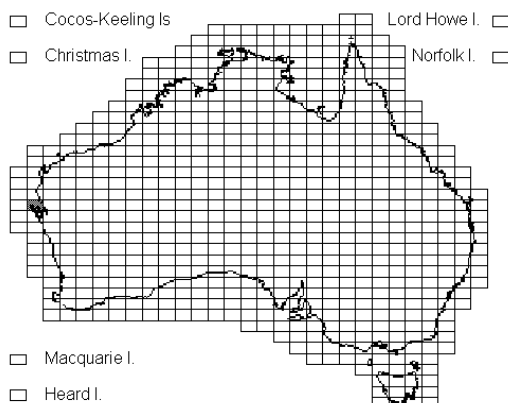
C. c. dorrie (Dorre I.) is Vulnerable. *C. c. montanellus* (western wheatbelt) is Near Threatened. *C. c. campestris* (South Australian gulfs), *C. c. isabellinus* (northern Eyre-Frome basin), *C. c. wayensis* (central Western Australia) and *C. c. rubiginosus* (Pilbara coast) are all Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Dirk Hartog I., W. A. (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.



9 Ecology

Fieldwrens live in low, sparse heath, saltmarsh or samphire, with or without emergent trees, and feed on insects and seeds. They lay 2-3 eggs in a domed nest that is built near the ground (Beruldsen, 1980, Blakers *et al.*, 1984).

10 Threats

The subspecies has persisted despite the small size of Dirk Hartog I., the presence of sheep, goats, house mice and feral cats, and occasional extensive fires. The island, however, inexplicably lacks rats, and, should these arrive, they could be as devastating as they have been on other islands (A. A. Burbidge). The Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis textilis textilis* has disappeared from the island.

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain island population.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Monitor subspecies every three years.

14.2 Restrict spread of extensive wild-fires.

14.3 Take measures to prevent establishment of predators, particularly rats, to islands.

14.4 Encourage appropriate land management on leasehold land.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Western Australian Department of Conservation.

16 Other organisations involved

Leaseholder.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.02 Project Officer¹

Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitoring¹</i>	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
<i>Total</i>	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400

¹ Costs shared among the Dirk Hartog I. subspecies of White-winged Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren and Rufous Fieldwren

18 Bibliography

Beruldsen, G. R. 1980. *A Field Guide to Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*. Rigby, Adelaide.

Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO, Collingwood, Victoria.

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