

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Kangaroo Island)

1	Family	Cacatuidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common name	Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Kangaroo Island)
4	Conservation status	Endangered: D

5 Reasons for listing

There are about 140 breeding birds (Endangered: D). As a result of vigorous and effective conservation management, the population is at least stable, and probably increasing.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	4,400 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	100 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	140	high
trend	increasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. l. lathami (eastern Australia, from east Gippsland, Vic., to Gympie-Mitchell, Qld) is Near Threatened. *C. l. erebus* (Dawson-Mackenzie basin to Paluma, Qld) is Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Kangaroo I. and southern Fleurieu Peninsula, S. A., possibly extending to south-eastern South Australia/western Victoria and Eyre Peninsula (Joseph, 1982, 1989, Baird, 1986, Schodde *et al.*, 1993). Population estimates before management actions began in 1995 were of 150-180 birds (Joseph, 1982, Pedler, 1996, Pepper, 1997).

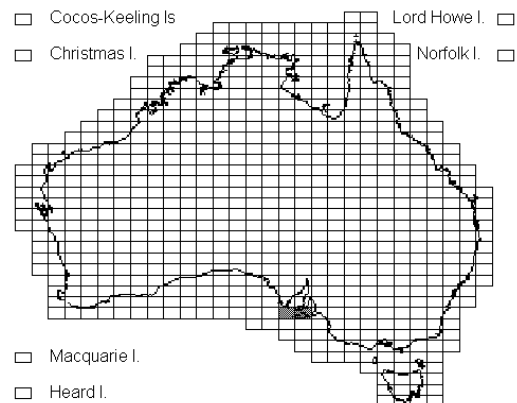
8 Present range and abundance

Breeding now confined to Kangaroo I. at a range of sites on the western two-thirds of the island (Pepper, 1997, Garnett *et al.*, 1999). After protection of nests, successful juvenile recruitment led to population increases to about 188 in 1996 (60 breeding females; Garnett *et al.*, 1996), 204 in 1997 (Prime *et al.*, 1997) and 250 in 1998 (Pedler and Prime, 1998). The current number of breeding females is unknown but is probably at least 70. This sustained increase in numbers justifies the subspecies' down-listing from Critically Endangered to Endangered. In 1999, there was a record from Deep Creek Conservation Park on the mainland adjacent to Kangaroo I. (V. Scholz).

9 Ecology

The Kangaroo Island subspecies of Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeds almost exclusively on the seeds of

Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata* growing on rocky hills and valleys, where the acid soils are rich in iron and aluminium. Drooping Sheoak covers 4,800 ha on the island and nests are all within 12 km of existing Drooping Sheoak stands (Crowley *et al.*, 1998a). The cockatoos lay a single egg in hollows in tall trees, particularly Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Garnett *et al.*, 1999). The cockatoos use both intact habitat and isolated Drooping Sheoak and tall gums within the semi-cleared agricultural land (Joseph, 1982). They must forage for long hours each day to gain sufficient food, particularly during the breeding season (Pepper *et al.*, 2000, T. F. Chapman and S. T. Garnett), and not all apparently suitable habitat provides adequate food value to support the cockatoos (Crowley *et al.*, 1999, Crowley and Garnett, in press).



10 Threats

Clearance of Drooping Sheoak and grazing of regenerating plants by stock and rabbits have eliminated much of the habitat on the mainland (Joseph, 1989). However, the greatest threat to the population is the low recruitment of juveniles as a result of invasion of nesting hollows, and often predation of cockatoo eggs or young, by Common Brushtail Possums *Trichosurus vulpecula*, Little Corellas *Cacatua sanguinea*, Galahs *Eolophus roseicapillus* and honeybees (Garnett *et al.*, 1999). Numbers of possums and open country cockatoos are thought to have increased as a result of partial clearing of the Kangaroo Island. Nest sites are now being protected to prohibit entry by possums, Little Corella numbers are being controlled, and bees poisoned. Most suitable habitat has been cleared on the mainland. There is no indication that possum numbers have ever been a

- Garnett, S. T., Pedler, L. P. and Crowley, G. M. 1999. The nesting biology of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* on Kangaroo Island. *Emu* 99:262-279.
- Garnett, S. T., Crowley, G. M., Pedler, L. P., Prime, W., Twyford, K. L. and Maguire, A. 1998. Recovery Plan for the South Australian subspecies of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*): 1999-2003. Version 3.0. Report to Environment Australia and South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.
- Joseph, L. 1982. The Glossy Black-Cockatoo on Kangaroo Island. *Emu* 82:46-49.
- Joseph, L. 1989. The Glossy Black-Cockatoo in the South Mount Lofty Ranges. *S. Aust. Ornithol.* 30:202-204.
- Pedler, L. P. 1995. Recovery Plan for the Kangaroo Island Glossy Black-Cockatoo Annual Report 1995. Unpublished report to Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra.
- Pedler, L. and Prime, W. 1998. Census of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo on Kangaroo Island, 1 – 14 October 1998. Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team, South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage, Kingscote.
- Pepper, J. W. 1997. A survey of the South Australian Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*) and its habitat. *Wildl. Res.* 24: 209-224.
- Pepper J. W., Male T. D. & Roberts G. E. 2000. Foraging ecology of the south Australian Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*). *Austral. Ecol.* 25:16-24.
- Prime, W., Garnett, S.T. and Pedler, L. P. 1997. Census of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo on Kangaroo Island, 12-27th October 1997. Unpublished report to Environment Australia, Canberra.
- Schodde, R., Mason, I. J. and Wood, J. T. 1993. Geographical differentiation in the Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* (Temminck), and its history. *Emu* 93:156-166.

Comments received from

Peter Copley, Stephen Debus, Lynn Pedler, Bill Prime, Adrian Stokes.