

TAXON SUMMARY

Shy Heathwren (western)

1	Family	Pardalotidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Hylacola cauta whitlocki</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common name	Shy Heathwren (western)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: a

5 Reasons for listing

More than half of the habitat of this subspecies has been cleared (Near Threatened: a), but there has probably not been a population decline of 20% over in last three generations (so not Vulnerable: A1).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	200,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	10,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	25,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	20	low
Largest sub-population	20,000	low
Generation time	4 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

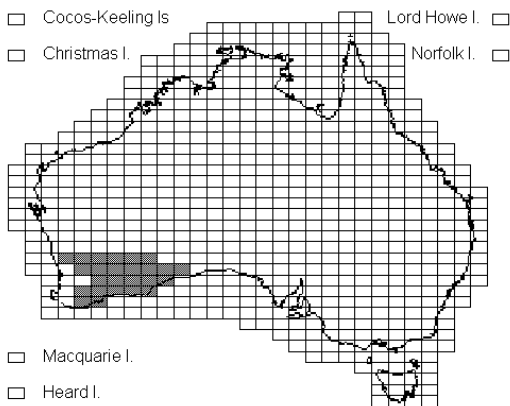
C. c. macrorhynchus (Riverina) is Near Threatened. *C. c. cautus* (eastern mallee) and *C. c. halmaturina* (Kangaroo I.) are Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

South-western Western Australia, particularly the western wheatbelt, but also along the coast as far as Eyre Bird Observatory (Saunders and Ingram, 1995, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but probably a much smaller area of occupancy in the wheatbelt (Saunders and Ingram, 1995), probably with many small, isolated sub-populations within fragments.



9 Ecology

Shy Heathwrens live in dense mallee eucalypt woodland and forage on the ground for insects, but sometimes also take seeds (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). They nest in shrubs, or on the ground, below dense vegetation (Schodde and Tidemann, 1986). Clutch size is usually three (Beruldsen, 1980).

10 Threats

Clearance for agriculture has removed most of the species' habitat in the wheatbelt of Western Australia (Saunders and Ingram, 1995). Although it persists in the continuous habitat that surrounds the wheatbelt (Blakers *et al.*, 1984), degradation of habitat fragments by stock and weeds has probably reduced the number of fragments occupied, a decline that is likely to continue (Saunders and Ingram, 1995).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Cease further clearance of habitat.
- 11.2 Support rehabilitate of fragments.
- 11.3 Determine characteristics of fragments that continue to support the subspecies.
- 11.4 Regularly monitor sub-populations, particularly in relation to habitat rehabilitation.

12 Bibliography

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

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Schodde, R. and Tidemann, S. C. (eds) 1986. *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds*. Reader's Digest, Sydney.

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