

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Little Shearwater (Tasman Sea)

1	Family	Procellariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Puffinis assimilis assimilis</i> (Gould, 1838)
3	Common name	Little Shearwater (Tasman Sea)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable D2

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population breeds at fewer than five locations (Vulnerable: D2). Global status is probably Vulnerable (D2), but, as there is assumed to be no genetic interchange, the national status is determined independently of the global status (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	20 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	4 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	10,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	2	medium
Largest sub-population	8,000	low
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	50 %	low
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

P. a. tunneyi breeds on islands off south-west Western Australia, and is Least Concern, as are five extralimital subspecies, and the species as a whole.

7 Past range and abundance

Within Australian territory, breeding recorded Lord Howe I. and Norfolk I. groups. Also extralimital, Kermadec Is, north of New Zealand. After breeding, apparently disperses over Tasman Sea and possibly Coral Sea (Hindwood, 1940, Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Hutton, 1991).

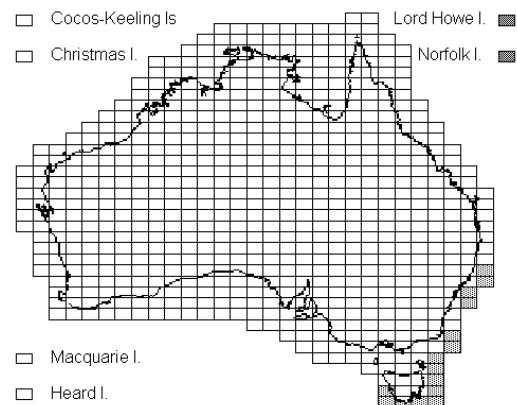
8 Present range and abundance

Extinct from Lord Howe I. since 1913 (Hindwood, 1940), but still present on Norfolk I. until 1980s (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, O. Evans). Breeding on Ball's Pyramid and Roach I., and probably other small islands around Lord Howe I., as well as Nepean and Phillip Is, near Norfolk I. In Kermadec Is, eliminated from Raoul I., but persists on other islands in group (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

9 Ecology

Little Shearwaters breed on islands in burrows dug in soft soil among mats of succulents or among loose

rocks. They forage far out to sea (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).



10 Threats

Little Shearwaters appear to have been eliminated from Lord Howe I. by Black Rats *Rattus rattus* (Hindwood, 1940, Fullagar and Disney, 1975), which is also the likely cause of their apparent disappearance from Norfolk I. The accidental introduction of either predator to their refuges could result in their local extinction.

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain protection for current breeding sub-populations, to enable their expansion.
- 12.2 Expansion of population to main islands.

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Strict quarantine is maintained on any vessels visiting Roach I., Nepean I. or Phillip I.
- 13.2 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 13.3 Responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. is being encouraged through sponsorship of a cat de-sexing clinic, and a ban on the importation of reproductively-competent cats is being supported.

14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Census sub-population on Roach I. and Ball's Pyramid at least once every five years.

