

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Noisy Scrub-bird

1	Family	Atrichornithidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Atrichornis clamosus</i> (Gould, 1844)
3	Common name	Noisy Scrub-bird
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

This species qualifies as Vulnerable (D2) because it occurs at few locations. It could possibly be listed as Endangered as area of occupancy is less than 500 km², spread across five locations (B1), and a single major fire could cause a decrease in area of occupancy (B2b), quality of habitat (c), number of sub-populations (d) and number of mature individuals (e). A major fire could further reduce the fragmented population of about 1,500 mature birds (C2a). However, the history of fires within this species' range over the last 30 years, and efforts to prevent fire and its spread, suggest that habitat burnt in one fire will recover before the next habitat patch is burnt, allowing persistence of the population. Assuming they are of limited extent, fires should only cause a temporary decline, and can be considered part of the natural variation. Status after any major fire, however, would need immediate reassessment.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	160 km ²	medium
trend	increasing	high
Area of occupancy	100 km ²	medium
trend	increasing	high
No. of breeding birds	1,500	medium
trend	increasing	high
No. of sub-populations	5	medium
Largest sub-population	1090	medium
Generation time	5 years	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

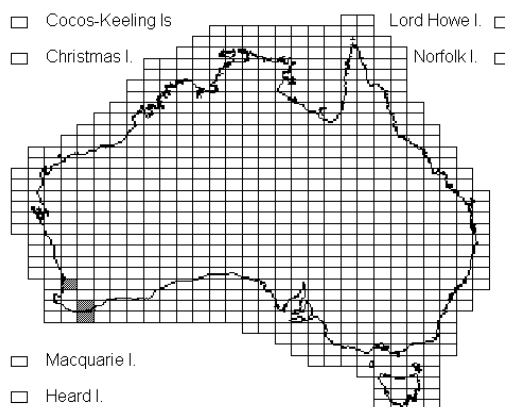
None described.

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to south-west Western Australia. In 19th century, recorded from three main areas: Drakesbrook and Mt William near Waroona, Boodjanup Creek in the Margaret R.-Augusta area, and at Albany and nearby Torbay and Mt Barker, the sub-population at Albany apparently the largest (Whittell, 1943). No confirmed records from 1889 to 1961, when fewer than 100 individuals rediscovered on Mt Gardner at Two Peoples Bay, east of Albany (Webster, 1962, Danks *et al.*, 1996).

8 Present range and abundance

Five gradually coalescing sub-populations east from Two Peoples Bay near Albany, W. A. to Cheyne Beach contained 588 singing males in 1999, 98.3% of population (Comer and Danks, 2000). Some areas were colonised naturally from the sub-population at Mt Gardner, other sub-populations are the result of translocations, which have been continuing since 1983 (Danks, 1994). The largest sub-population, at Mt Manypeaks, arose from the first of these translocations. Since 1994, the sub-population at Mt Gardner has declined (179 to 129 singing males), that adjacent to L. Gardner has virtually disappeared (13 to 2) and the reintroduced sub-population at Mt Taylor has completely disappeared (12 to 0), while re-introduction to Stony Hill failed (3 to 0). Other sub-populations have increased: Angove-Normans 37 to 83, Mt Manypeaks 223 to 317, Waychincup 0 to 26, Mermaid 1 to 8. Also introduced successfully to Bald Island east of Two Peoples Bay (6 to 21; Comer and Danks, 2000) and reintroduced to two sites near the type locality in the Darling Ra. near Waroona (34 males and 8 females reintroduced 1997-1999; 9 singing males 1999; Comer and Danks, 2000).



9 Ecology

Good Noisy Scrub-bird habitat contains dense clumps of sedges, shrubs or piles of debris for nesting interspersed with small open areas with a thick accumulation of leaf-litter and a well developed litter fauna for feeding (Danks, 1991, Danks *et al.*, 1996). The female lays a single egg in a domed nest, which is usually built in a clump of sedge. The main food is terrestrial arthropods (Smith and Calver, 1984, Danks and Calver, 1993). All occupied sites have not been

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Text adapted from

Danks (1992).

Comments received from

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