

TAXON SUMMARY

Nullarbor Quail-thrush

(Cinnamon Quail-thrush: Nullarbor)

1	Family	Eupetidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Cinlosoma cinnamomeum alisteri</i> Mathews, 1910
3	Common name	Nullarbor Quail-thrush
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

There has not been a substantial decline in area of occupancy of this subspecies, although some former habitat is now degraded.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	125,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	12,500 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	25,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. c. cinnamomeum (southern Eyre Basin) and *C. c. tirariensis* (Northern Eyre Basin) are Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

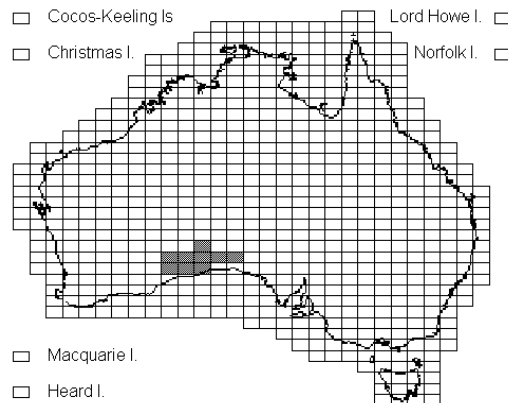
Nullarbor Plain, between Kitchener, W. A. and Cook, S. A.

8 Present range and abundance

As above, though possibly at a lower density (Pedler and Burbidge, 1995).

9 Ecology

Nullarbor Quail-thrush favour chenopod shrub-steppe, stony plains and grasslands (Brooker *et al.* 1979, Burbidge *et al.* 1987). Karara *Acacia tetragonophylla* and shrubby chenopods, including saltbush *Atriplex* and Bluebush *Maireana sedifolia*, are major components of its habitat. The subspecies occurs most commonly where there are more than 100 *M. sedifolia* per hectare (Pedler and Burbidge, 1995). The subspecies nests and feeds exclusively on the ground.



10 Threats

The subspecies is considered scarce in degraded pastoral country (Storr 1986, 1987), and is absent north-west of Naretha from where there are earlier records (Brooker *et al.* 1979). However, it remains relatively common over much of its former range. Grazing by rabbits, particularly in association with fire, are the main factors that reduce habitat suitability (Pedler and Burbidge, 1995). Habitat should be burnt in a tight mosaic.

11 Recommended actions

11.1 Rabbit control in association with appropriate fire management.

12 Bibliography

Brooker, M. G., Ridpath, M. G., Estbergs, A. J., Bywater, J., Hart, D. S. and Jones, M. S. 1979. Bird observations on the north-western Nullarbor Plain and neighbouring regions, 1967-1978. *Emu* 79:176-190.

Burbidge, A. A., Caspersen, K. D. and Fuller, P. J. 1987. Birds. Pp. 153-178 in *A Biological Survey of the Nullarbor Region, South and Western Australia in 1984*. N. L. McKenzie and A. C. Robinson (eds). South Australian Department of Environment and Planning, Western Australia Department of Conservation and Land Management, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Adelaide.

Pedler, L. P. and Burbidge, A. H. 1995. The range and status of the Nullarbor Quail-thrush. *S. Aust. Ornithol.* 32:45-52.

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

Storr, G. M. 1977. Birds of the Northern Territory. *W. Aust. Mus. Spec. Publ.* 7:1-130.

Storr, G. M. 1980. Birds of the Kimberley Division, Western Australia. *W. Aust. Mus. Spec. Publ.* 11.

Comments received from

Allan Burbidge, Lynn Pedler.