

TAXON SUMMARY

Palm Cockatoo (Australian)

1	Family	Cacatuidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Probosciger aterrimus macgillivrayi</i> (Mathews, 1912)
3	Common name	Palm Cockatoo (Australian)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: d

5 Reasons for listing

The subspecies is under no immediate threat, but the adult population likely to be small (Near Threatened: d).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	60,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	1,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	3,000	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	20 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

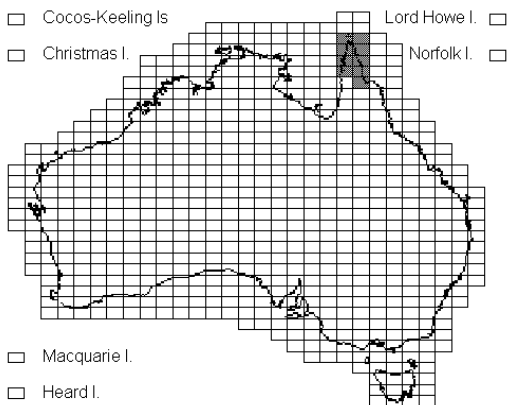
Three other subspecies are found in New Guinea. Global status is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Confined to northern Cape York Peninsula, from Pormpuraaw on the west coast to Princess Charlotte Bay on the east (Storch, 1996, Higgins, 1999). Taxonomy follows Schodde and Mason (1997) on the basis of differences in courtship behaviour between birds in Papua New Guinea (Garnett and Crowley, 1997).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.



9 Ecology

The Palm Cockatoo occupies the ecotone between rainforest and open tropical woodland dominated principally by paperbarks *Melaleuca*, eucalypts and acacias. Pairs are thought to occupy a permanent display territory all year, though often feed away from them, sometimes in flocks. Nests, in which one egg is laid, are in large hollow trees, primarily large eucalypts in woodland (Storch, 1996, Higgins, 1999), and pairs are also thought to claim numerous other hollow trees as display sites (Wood, 1984, 1988). Food is taken both from the canopy and on the ground, and appears to consist largely of the kernels of fruit and nuts (Wood, 1988, Storch, 1996, Garnett and Crowley, 1997).

10 Threats

In some parts of the range the woodland habitat in which hollow trees occur is being invaded by rainforest (Storch, 1996). However fire, which is used to maintain the stability of the rainforest/woodland ecotone, also has the potential to reduce hollow availability if managed incorrectly, by destroying hollow-bearing trees.

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Determine effects of fire on Palm Cockatoo habitat and use as the basis for fire management where the species occurs.

12 Bibliography

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