

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Pied Currawong (Lord Howe Island)

1	Family	Artamidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Strepera graculina crissalis</i> Sharpe, 1877
3	Common name	Pied Currawong (Lord Howe Island)
4	Conservation status	Endangered: D

5 Reasons for listing

There are estimated to be about 80 mature individuals of this subspecies (Endangered: D).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	18 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	12 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	80	medium
trend	stable	high
Number of populations:	1	high
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

S. g. magnirostris (Cape York Peninsula), *S. g. robinsoni* (wet tropics), *S. g. graculina* (eastern Australia) and *S. g. nebulosa* (south-eastern Australia) are Least Concern. *S. g. ashbyi* (Victoria; Schodde and Mason, 1999) is Critically Endangered.

7 Past range and abundance

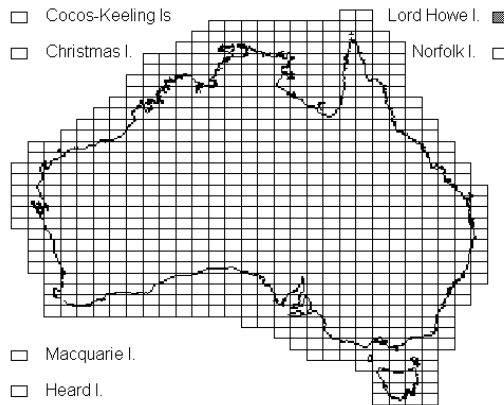
Endemic to islands in the Lord Howe I. group. Highest densities of nests on slopes of Mt Gower and in Erskine Valley, with smaller numbers on the lower land to the north (Knight, 1987). The subspecies is highly mobile. Individuals can be found anywhere on the island as well as on offshore islands, such as the Admiralty group (J. Robertshaw).

8 Present range and abundance

As above. There is room for 35-40 territories (Knight, 1987) but no census using marked individuals has been carried out.

9 Ecology

On Lord Howe I., Pied Currawongs breed in rainforest and palm forest types, particularly those along streams. All territories contain a section of stream or gully that is lined by tall timber. Most nests are near water (J. Robertshaw). The currawongs forage widely in all parts of the island and among seabird colonies offshore. They have a catholic diet. Dead rats are taken (Hindwood, 1940) and live ones certainly chased and probably killed. Pied Currawongs have also been recorded taking seabird chicks, poultry, the chicks of Lord Howe Woodhen *Tricholimnas sylvestris* and White Terns *Gygis alba*, as well as fruits and seeds (Hutton, 1991, McFarland, 1994, J. Robertshaw).



10 Threats

The subspecies has successfully persisted alongside rats since 1918 (Hindwood, 1940), but local residents sometimes kill currawongs that have attacked poultry, woodhens or terns (J. Robertshaw). The effect of this on the overall population is unknown. The small and restricted population is also susceptible to catastrophe, such as the introduction of another predator.

11 Information required

- 11.1 Estimate population size.
- 11.2 Monitor population trends
- 11.3 Determine extent of movement of individuals, causes of mortality and extent of threats.
- 11.4 Ensure residents are aware of the significance of the subspecies.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain population.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Monitor presence in different parts of island during routine management.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

Lord Howe Island residents.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

Staff resources required 2001-2005

0.2

Project Officer

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Estimate population size	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Monitor population trends ¹	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
Determine extent of movements, causes of mortality and threats	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
Education campaign	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Total	\$83,000	\$0,000	\$83,000

¹ Cost divided among Providence Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, Little Shearwater, White-bellied Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Woodhen, Grey Ternlet and Pied Currawong

18 Bibliography

Hindwood, K. A. 1940. The birds of Lord Howe Island. *Emu* 40:1-86.

Hutton, I. 1991. *Birds of Lord Howe Island: Past and Present*. The Author, Coffs Harbour.

Knight, B. J. 1987. A population survey of the Lord Howe Island Pied Currawong. *Aust. Birds* 21:28-29.

McFarland, D. C. 1994. Notes on the Lord Howe Currawong *Strepera graculina crissalis*. *Aust. Bird Watcher*. 15:310-315.

Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, Canberra.

Comments received from
David Priddel.