

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Plumed Frogmouth

Marbled Frogmouth (southern)

1	Family	Podargidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Podargus ocellatus plumiferus</i> Gould, 1846
3	Common name	Plumed Frogmouth
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: a

### 5 Reasons for listing

In the past, clearance has reduced the area occupied by this subspecies by at least 50% (Near Threatened: a). This decline had probably stopped, as the birds are now confined to forests where clearing is no longer likely.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	75,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	500 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	3,000	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	3	medium
Largest sub-population	1,500	low
Generation time	4 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*P. o. marmoratus* (Cape York Peninsula) is Least Concern. Other subspecies are found in New Guinea and the Pacific.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Extensive distribution from Many Peaks Ra., Qld, to as far south as Clarence R., N. S. W., and about 800 m altitude (Higgins, 1999). Estimated population size in Conondale Ra., Qld, 1,600 pairs (Kehl and Corben, 1991).

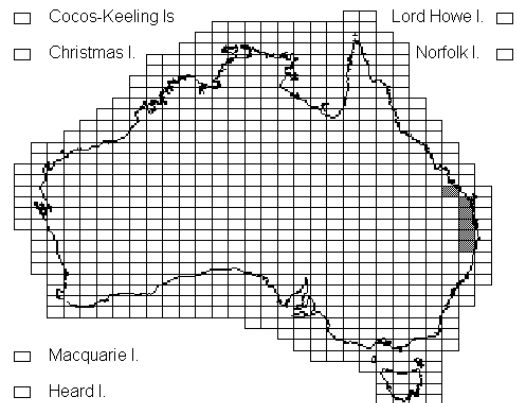
### 8 Present range and abundance

No records south of Lismore, N. S. W., since 1980 (Corben and Roberts, 1993). Most reports from Nightcap Range and Mt Warning National Park, N. S. W. and Bellthorpe-Conondale-Brooloo region, Qld (Milledge, 1983, Higgins, 1999). Separate sub-populations identified in Many Peaks Ra., near Gladstone, Qld, and south from the D'Aguilar Ra. Sub-population in Conondale Ra. estimated at about 755 pairs (Smith *et al.*, 1994a, 1998). Similar numbers likely around the Mount Warning Caldera (C. Corben).

### 9 Ecology

Plumed Frogmouths live in rainforest and also use rainforest trees within sclerophyll vegetation (Smith *et al.*, 1998). Pairs appear to be sedentary within a home range, although capable of dispersing at least

10 km across unsuitable habitat (Corben and Roberts, 1993). The subspecies principally eats arthropods, although it will also take frogs (Smith *et al.*, 1994b, Higgins, 1999). Nests are usually in trees and rarely contain more than one egg (Higgins, 1999). Roosts sites are in, or on the margins of, rainforest, frequently associated with lianes (Smith *et al.*, 1998).



### 10 Threats

Most of the extensive stands of suitable habitat in north-east New South Wales have been cleared for agriculture (Floyd, 1987, Holmes, 1987). Habitat has also been lost to clearance in south-eastern Queensland, initially for agriculture, and later for timber extraction or to make way for plantations of Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Roberts and Ingram, 1978, Kehl and Corben, 1991, Corben and Roberts, 1993, Smith *et al.*, 1998). Much of the subspecies' distribution is now within conservation reserves, although wet sclerophyll forests are still harvested (Smith *et al.*, 1998). Fire may degrade the edges of rainforest, and there is some mortality along roads (Borsboom and Smith, 1996).

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Assess numbers and population trends in Mount Warning Caldera region and Many Peaks Ra., and initiate monitoring.
- 11.2 Implement protective measures for Plumed Frogmouth in timber reserves including buffers around nest trees, traffic speed limits along roads, corridors between occupied

forest blocks, generous retention rates of habitat trees within cut forest and fire breaks.

## 12 Bibliography

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Comments received from  
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