

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Radjah Shelduck (Australian)

1	Family	Anatidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Tadorna radjah rufitergum</i> Hartert, 1905
3	Common name	Radjah Shelduck (Australian)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

### 5 Reasons for listing

Although it has disappeared from parts of Queensland, the subspecies remains common over more than half its historical range. There is limited genetic exchange across Torres Strait and a high proportion of the population is in Australia. Thus, the Australian status is assessed independently of the global status (Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999), though both are Least Concern.

Australian population	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	8,000,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	4,000,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	100,000	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	5 years	low
Global population share	80 %	low
Level of genetic exchange	low	high

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*T. radjah radjah* of New Guinea, Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Is is also Least Concern. Presumably intergrades with *T. r. rufitergum* in Torres Strait. The species is Least Concern.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Fitzroy River, Kimberley, W. A., across near coastal northern Australia and along east coast as far south as north-east New South Wales (Frith, 1982, Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Marchant & Higgins, 1990).

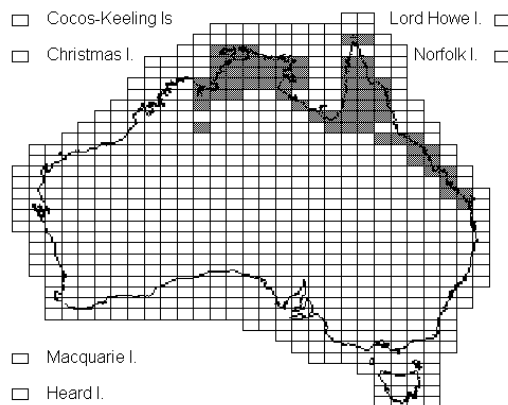
### 8 Present range and abundance

In Kimberley, now confined to the east (Johnstone and Storr, 1998), where abundant on Lake Argyle. In Queensland, scarce south of Cape York Peninsula and no longer present south of Maryborough. Elsewhere, remains common with no evidence of decline (Frith, 1982, Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Marchant & Higgins, 1990).

### 9 Ecology

Radjah Shelduck occupies terrestrial wetlands, estuaries and the littoral zone of monsoonal regions. It nests in tree hollows in the wet season, forming flocks near the coast during the dry season. It feeds on small invertebrates and a few seeds, taken from shallow

wetland edges (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Morton *et al.*, 1990).



### 10 Threats

Although sub-populations have declined near settlements (Marchant and Higgins, 1990), this has not been to the extent that the subspecies is threatened.

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Monitor numbers on major wetlands such as Lake Argyle, Kakadu and Lakefield National Park.

### 12 Bibliography

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