

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Red Goshawk

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Family | Accipitridae |
| 2 | Scientific name | <i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i> (Latham, 1801) |
| 3 | Common name | Red Goshawk |
| 4 | Conservation status | Vulnerable: D1 |

5 Reasons for listing

There may be fewer than 1,000 mature individuals (Vulnerable: D1). The species cannot be listed as (Endangered: C2b), as there is little evidence of a continuing decline, even in the south-east of its range.

| | Estimate | Reliability |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence | 1,000,000 km ² | medium |
| trend | stable | high |
| Area of occupancy | 200,000 km ² | medium |
| trend | stable | low |
| No. of breeding birds | 1,000 | medium |
| trend | stable | low |
| No. of sub-populations | 1 | medium |
| Generation time | 10 years | low |

6 Intraspecific taxa

None recognised.

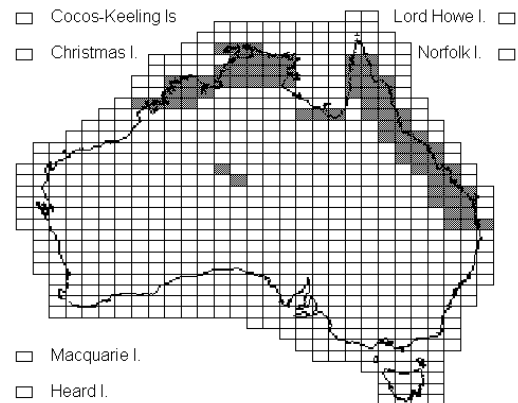
7 Past range and abundance

Northern and eastern Australia north of about 33°S in the east and 19°S in the west (Marchant and Higgins, 1993). Probably always occurred in central Australia, where three widely-spaced recent confirmed sightings corroborate earlier, previously doubted records (T. Aumann). Although thought not to breed in north-east New South Wales (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Debus and Czechura, 1988) or across subcoastal areas of the Gulf of Carpentaria and western Cape York Peninsula (Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991), historical records (Blakers *et al.*, 1984) and recent surveys (Czechura and Hobson, 2000, Harrison, 2000) suggest breeding distribution continuous. Previous belief that sub-population in south-east Queensland isolated (Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991) now discounted, as birds have been seen or found breeding the length of eastern Queensland (Czechura and Hobson, 2000). Total population estimated at 440 pairs before clearing (Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991), but revised here following recent surveys (Czechura and Hobson, 2000, T. Aumann).

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but with a contraction of range from south of 28°S in the east. Now virtually extinct in New South Wales (Debus *et al.*, 1993, Marchant and Higgins, 1993, NSW NPWS, G. Czechura). Total population estimated at 330 pairs by Aumann and Baker-Gabb

(1991). However, recent reports of birds well inland (Czechura and Hobson, 2000, T. Aumann) and on Melville and Bathurst Is (J. Woinarski) indicate a larger population. An estimated 30-35 pairs occur in the Wet Tropics and Einasleigh regions of north-eastern Queensland with 25-30 pairs in southern Queensland (Czechura and Hobson, 2000). Perceptions of rarity are at least partly a result of difficulties in identification, the species persisting in many agricultural areas where previously thought to have been eliminated.



9 Ecology

The Red Goshawk lives in coastal and subcoastal tall open forests and woodlands, tropical savannas traversed by wooded or forested rivers, and along the edges of rainforest (Marchant and Higgins, 1993). In partly cleared country in eastern Queensland, it is associated with gorge and escarpment country (Czechura and Hobson, 2000). The stick nests, in which 1-2 eggs are laid, are restricted to trees that are taller than 20 m within 1 km of a watercourse or wetland (Debus and Czechura, 1988, Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991). The species hunts in open forests and gallery forests, taking mostly medium to large birds, within a home range of up to 200 km² (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991, Czechura and Hobson, 2000). In winter in eastern Australia, the birds appear to move from nest sites in the ranges to coastal plains, where they are associated with permanent wetlands and often feed on waterbirds (Czechura and Hobson, 2000).

10 Threats

Widespread clearance for agriculture is thought to have caused the historical decline in north-eastern

New South Wales (Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991, Olsen, 1998) and may affect more northerly birds as clearing continues. In eastern Queensland, Red Goshawks are most scarce where lowland forests have been cleared for agriculture (Czechura and Hobson, 2000), although tolerance of fragmentation of natural habitat is yet to be determined. Nests are particularly vulnerable. Even if riparian strips are left uncleared, the Goshawks usually nest in the tallest trees that are then exposed to storm damage and other disturbance (Czechura and Hobson, 2000). Egg collecting still results in the failure of some nests, as does the burning of nest trees or disruption of breeding by fire (Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991, Czechura and Hobson, 2000). Shooting by pigeon and poultry owners, and possibly secondary poisoning, kill a few individuals, possibly temporarily resulting in local scarcity (Aumann and Baker-Gabb, 1991).

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Locate and protect breeding pairs in eastern and northern Australia.
- 12.2 Reduce threatening processes through continued monitoring of known nest sites in northern Australia .

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 A six month survey was conducted in north-east New South Wales in 1987-8.

13.2 A three year study was undertaken in northern Australia 1988-1990.

13.3 Surveys have been undertaken in south-east Queensland.

13.4 A survey is currently being undertaken in north-east Queensland and Cape York Peninsula.

14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Locate and monitor known nest sites in settled parts of range and develop appropriate management protocols with land-holders. The location of all nest sites should remain confidential to ensure that this action does not itself become a threat.
- 14.2 Maintain habitat within range of known pairs, particularly open wetlands and riparian forest and woodland.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Environment Australia, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Western Australian Department of Conservation.

16 Other organisations involved

Birds Australia, other bird-watching societies, traditional owners, pastoralists, Queensland Department of Natural Resources.

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

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Staff resources required 2001-2005</i> | <i>0.2</i> | <i>Project Officer</i> |
| | <i>1.0</i> | <i>Technical Officer</i> |
| | <i>0.4</i> | <i>Extension Officer</i> |

Financial resources required 2001-2005

| <i>Action</i> | <i>Conservation agencies</i> | <i>Other funding sources</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Nest surveys</i> | \$162,000 | \$105,000 | \$267,000 |
| <i>Negotiation of management agreements</i> | \$108,000 | \$14,000 | \$122,000 |
| <i>Monitoring</i> | \$128,000 | \$25,000 | \$153,000 |
| <i>Total</i> | \$398,000 | \$144,000 | \$542,000 |

18 Bibliography

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