

Laura Basin

9 Description

Laura Basin, Cape York Peninsula. Tropical eucalypt and melaleuca woodlands and grasslands dissected by a few major streams with riparian forest. Grazed but largely uncleared and a substantial area under conservation management. Often burnt but not always at the right time of year. Contains a variety of threatened taxa characteristic once more widespread in northern Australia.

10 IBRA Regions

North-east wet/dry tropics (Cape York Peninsula)

11 Core taxa

Endangered

Buff-breasted Button-quail

Golden-shouldered Parrot

Crimson Finch (white-bellied)

Star Finch (Cape York Peninsula)

Gouldian Finch

Near Threatened

Australian Bustard

Bush Stone-curlew

Palm Cockatoo

Masked Owl (northern)

Brown Treecreeper (Cape York Peninsula)

Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern)

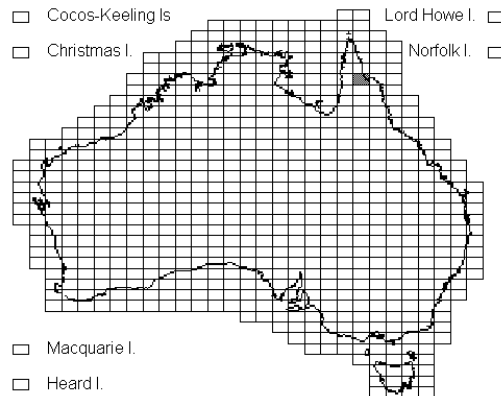
Black-faced Woodswallow (Cape York Peninsula)

12 Conservation issues

Grazing and fire management are the major issues of concern, although sea level rise could be detrimental in the future. Changes in fire management, accompanied by grazing, appear to have caused a proliferation of woody shrubs, particularly Broad-leaved Teatree *Melaleuca viridiflora*, at the expense of grasslands. Attempts are now being made to restore a fine-scale fire mosaic that includes hot fires at the start of the wet season.

13 Recommended management

- 13.1 Understand the fire regimes most likely to allow the persistence of grasslands.
- 13.2 In consultation with local land managers, develop and implement fire management based on fire history analysis that will maintain grasslands or reverse their loss.
- 13.3 Develop and refine a pastoral management strategy that will maintain threatened species habitat on leasehold land and incorporate into property planning.



13.4 Monitor core taxa at appropriate intervals.

13.5 Coordinate conservation management at a regional level.

14 Organisations responsible for conservation

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

15 Other organisations involved

Rirmerr Aboriginal Corporation, land-holders, Birds Australia, Northern Territory University, Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Development of Tropical Savannas.

16 References

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