

Mt Lofty Ranges

1 Description

Mt Lofty Ranges, South Australia. The vegetation is temperate forests and woodlands with an average annual rainfall of about 500 to 800 mm, mostly falling in winter. Most of the native vegetation has been cleared for agriculture and horticulture. Much of the remainder is affected by rural residential development. The Mt Lofty Ranges support a small, isolated outlier of Temperate Woodlands, and while the two regions share many threatened and Near Threatened taxa at the species level, the subspecies found in the Mt Lofty Ranges are unique. One subspecies, the Spotted Quail-thrush, may have become extinct as have local populations of several more widespread taxa.

2 IBRA Regions

Lofty Block.

3 Core taxa

Locally Extinct

King Quail (Australian)

Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Kangaroo Island)

Swift Parrot

Ground Parrot (eastern)

Barking Owl (southern)

Azure Kingfisher (eastern)

Rufous Fieldwren (southern)

Regent Honeyeater

Critically Endangered

Southern Emu-wren (Fleurieu Peninsula)

Spotted Quail-thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges)

Endangered

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Mt Lofty Ranges)

Vulnerable

Australasian Bittern

Near Threatened

Bush Stone-curlew

Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern)

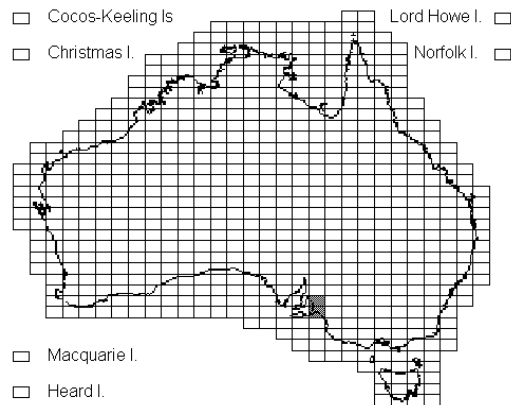
Hooded Robin (south-eastern)

Bassian Thrush (South Australian)

Diamond Firetail

4 Conservation issues

Nearly all the Mt Lofty Ranges have been cleared for grazing or agriculture. Much of that which remains is fragmented and degraded by grazing, periodic wildfire and weed invasion. Nationally Near Threatened taxa are, without exception, more threatened in South Australia than elsewhere in their range. Many other



taxa are threatened at a regional level, though currently remain Least Concern nationally. Nearly all habitats need rehabilitation or regeneration. Many areas support only old trees with no recruitment. Damp gullies needed by Bassian Thrush, and wetlands that once supported King Quail, Australasian Bitterns, Ground Parrots and Southern Emu-wrens have been dammed or drained, burnt or grazed. Fire management is also important. Drooping Sheoak requires protection from fires for at least 15 years before it can support Glossy Black-Cockatoos and other species vacate habitat for at least several years after fire. When fragments are burnt in entirety, unassisted recolonisation is unlikely.

5 Recommended management

- 5.1 Identify areas that contain core species, and encourage sound land management, using appropriate incentives and conservation agreements.
- 5.2 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity.
- 5.3 Manage fire regimes, ensuring a diversity of post-fire ages in most habitat patches, at a scale that permits movement between patches.
- 5.4 Control and reduce firewood collection.
- 5.5 Investigate the feasibility of reintroductions of Ground Parrot, Diamond Firetail and other woodland taxa to large rehabilitated remnants from which they have been lost.
- 5.6 Undertake long-term monitoring of threatened birds, recording key indicators of performance, including population size, breeding success and vegetation condition.
- 5.7 Coordinate conservation management at a regional level.

6 Organisations responsible for conservation

South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.

7 Other organisations involved

Adelaide Zoo, private land-holders, Greening Australia Conservation Council of South Australia, Forestry SA, Landcare groups, catchment groups, Country Fire Service, South Australian Museum, University of Adelaide, Threatened Species Network, bird-watching societies.

8 References

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