

TAXON SUMMARY

Orange-footed Scrubfowl (eastern)

1	Family	Megapodiidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Megapodius reinwardt castanotus</i> Mayr, 1938
3	Common name	Orange-footed Scrubfowl (eastern Queensland)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

Although the area of occupancy of the subspecies has declined and the taxon was previously listed as being of special concern (Garnett, 1992), over 50% of the population probably remains (so not Near Threatened: a or c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	50,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	8,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds:	50,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	3	medium
Largest sub-population	40,000	low
Generation time	15 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

M. r. yorki (Cape York Peninsula), *M. r. tumulus* (Northern Territory and Kimberley), *M. r. duperreyi* (northern islands of Torres Strait and southern New Guinea) and six other subspecies in New Guinea and surrounding islands are all Least Concern. Global status of the species is also Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Tropical Queensland, from near Rockhampton to south of Cooktown, where intergrades with *M. r. yorki*, and inland to Great Dividing Ra. (Marchant and Higgins, 1993).

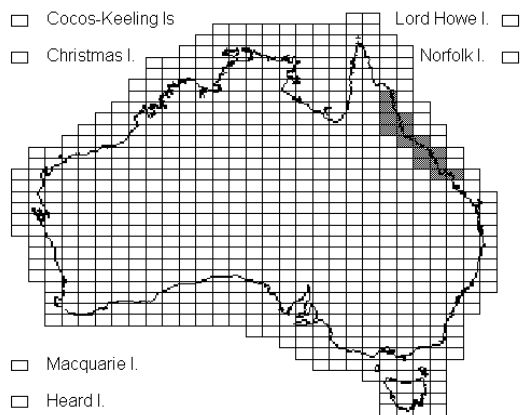
8 Present range and abundance

Extent of occurrence as above, although confined to substantial areas of remaining habitat (Marchant and Higgins, 1993).

9 Ecology

Orange-footed Scrubfowl live in closed forest, from tall rainforest to vine thickets and forest fragments. They also occur on offshore islands, with the young

able to travel across water soon after emergence. Pairs appear to occupy largely exclusive, permanent territories, incubating up to 13 eggs at a time in enormous mounds that may persist for centuries (Marchant and Higgins, 1993).



10 Threats

Clearing has removed much habitat from the flatter parts of its range in the lowlands and Atherton Tablelands of north Queensland, but there are still substantial areas of continuous habitat, and the subspecies has persisted in many fragments (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

11 Recommended actions

11.1 Monitor using Birds Australia Atlas to check for changes in recording frequency.

12 Bibliography

Garnett, S. T. (ed.) 1992. *Threatened and Extinct Birds of Australia. RAOU Report 82.* RAOU, Melbourne and ANPWS, Canberra.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1993. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 2.* Oxford University Press, Melbourne.