

TAXON SUMMARY

Crested Shrike-tit (western)

1	Family	Pachycephalidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Falcunculus frontatus leucogaster</i> Gould, 1838
3	Common name	Crested Shrike-tit (western)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

Substantial areas of habitat have been lost to clearing and this species is thought to have declined in density over at least half its area of occupancy (Near Threatened: c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	270,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	25,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	25,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	10	low
Largest sub-population	20,000	low
Generation time	10 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

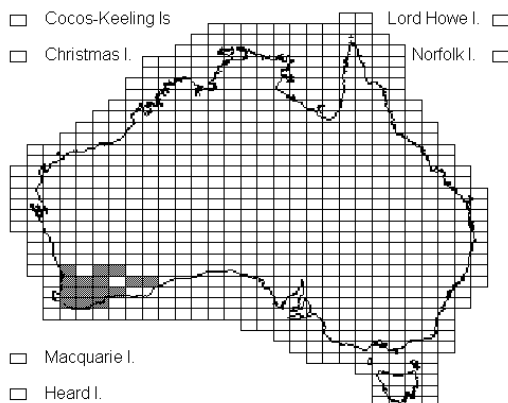
F. f. whitei (northern Australia) is Endangered. *F. f. frontatus* (eastern Australia) is Least Concern, as is the species. *F. f. leucogaster* is sometimes considered a separate species (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to Western Australia, south-west of a line between Geraldton and Point Culver (Serventy and Whittell, 1976, Blakers *et al.*, 1984).

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but with an overall decline in abundance and local extinctions, particularly across the wheatbelt (Saunders and Ingram, 1990).



9 Ecology

In south-western Australia, Crested Shrike-tits live in eucalypt forest and woodland, favouring smooth-

barked Karri *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, Wandoo *E. wandoo*, Salmon Gum *E. salmonophloia*, Flooded Gum *E. rudis* and Jam *Acacia acuminata* over rough-barked Jarrah *E. marginata* (Serventy and Whittell 1976). They feed on invertebrates taken from beneath ribbons of peeling bark (Blakers *et al.*, 1984) and lay 2-3 eggs in deep cup nests built in tree forks (Beruldsen, 1980).

10 Threats

Clearance of vegetation for agriculture has eliminated the Crested Shrike-tit from parts of its range in the south-west, particularly the wheatbelt where it is unable to persist in even the largest fragments (Saunders and Curry, 1990). However the species also occurs in uncleared forest and woodland along both eastern and western fringes of the wheatbelt, where it may be more common than realised, as even known resident birds are hard to find unless they are calling or feeding noisily (G. Lodge).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Determine characteristics of biology that make species susceptible to fragmentation.
- 11.2 Protect all woodland in which Crested Shrike-tits are known to be resident from clearing, monitoring compliance biennially.
- 11.3 Place all Crested Shrike-tit sub-populations on public land under secure conservation management, particularly those in timber reserves, transport corridors and local government land.
- 11.4 Within the shrike-tit's range, manage at least 15% of the pre-European area of all woodland communities on public or private land for nature conservation, using incentives where necessary.
- 11.5 Using appropriate incentives, undertake extension with land-holders that have suitable woodland habitat to promote sound management of remnants and encourage greater connectivity between sub-populations.
- 11.6 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity, including the shrike-tit.

- 11.7 Undertake long-term monitoring of remnant sub-populations.
- 11.8 Control and reduce firewood collection from areas occupied by Crested Shrike-tits, promoting wood-lot development close to markets, and reduce grazing densities, where necessary.

12 Bibliography

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