

TAXON SUMMARY

Southern Scrub-robin

1	Family	Petroicidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i> Gould, 1841
3	Common name	Southern Scrub-robin
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

Most habitat remains intact (so not Near Threatened: a or c), despite clearance at eastern and western extremities, and the species' tendency to disappear from fragments.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	10,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	100,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
Number of populations:	50	low
Largest population:	60,000	low
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

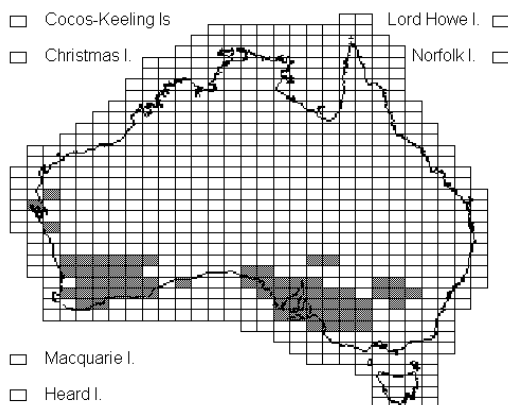
None described.

7 Past range and abundance

Mallee regions of southern Australia: Condobolin region N. S. W., Wedderburn-Inglewood, Little Desert south to Tooran, Big Desert and Sunset Country, Vic., Ninety Mile Plain, Murray Mallee, Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas, S. A. and semi-arid zone, W. A. (Schodde and Mason, 1999, P. Menkhorst). Density in suitable habitat measured at 0.4 to 3 birds/ha (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Brooker, 1998).

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but fragmented where habitat cleared.



9 Ecology

Southern Scrub-Robins live in mallee and other eucalypt woodland and acacia shrublands, and are often associated with broombush *Melaleuca uncinata* (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Brooker, 1998). They forage on the ground for invertebrates (Hall, 1974).

10 Threats

Clearance of habitat has removed much of the habitat on fertile soils in both eastern and western Australia. Some clearance is still likely to occur in New South Wales. However, although there have been subsequent losses from fragments (Saunders and Ingram, 1995), possibly because it appears to avoid induced edges (Luck *et al.*, 1999), the species has proved more resilient to fragmentation than many other wheatbelt species, having a broader range of habitat types which it will use.

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Cease clearance of habitat.
- 11.2 Support rehabilitation of habitat.
- 11.3 Determine characteristics of fragments that continue to support the species.
- 11.4 Monitor population regularly, particularly in relation to habitat rehabilitation.

12 Bibliography

- Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Brooker, B. 1998. A comparison of the ecology of an assemblage of ground-dwelling birds in an arid environment. PhD thesis, Murdoch University.
- Hall, H. F. (ed.) 1974. *Birds of the Harold Hall Australian Expeditions*. British Museum of Natural History, London.
- Luck, G. W., Possingham, H. P. and Paton, D. C. 1999. Bird responses at inherent and induced edges in the Murray Mallee, South Australia. 1. Differences in abundance and diversity. *Emu* 99:157-169.

Saunders, D. A. and Ingram, J. A. 1995. Birds of Southwestern Australia: An Atlas of Changes in the Distribution and Abundance of the Wheatbelt Avifauna. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton.

Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO, Collingwood, Victoria.

Comments received from

Allan Burbidge, Belinda Cale, Richard Loyn, Peter Menkhorst.