

TAXON SUMMARY

Spangled Drongo (Torres Strait)

1	Family	Dicruridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus carbonarius</i> Bonaparte, 1850
3	Common name	Spangled Drongo (Torres Strait)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population of this subspecies is confined to one small island with an area of less than 100 km² (Vulnerable: D2). The global status, however, is Least Concern and genetic interchange is likely to be substantial. The Australian status has therefore been downgraded (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999) to Near Threatened: e (genetic interchange beyond borders).

Australian population	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	72 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	72 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds:	2,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Largest sub-population	2,000	low
Generation time	4 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

D. b. baileyi (northern Western Australia and Northern Territory), *D. b. atrabectus* (Cape York Peninsula) and *D. b. bracteatus* (eastern Australia) are all Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

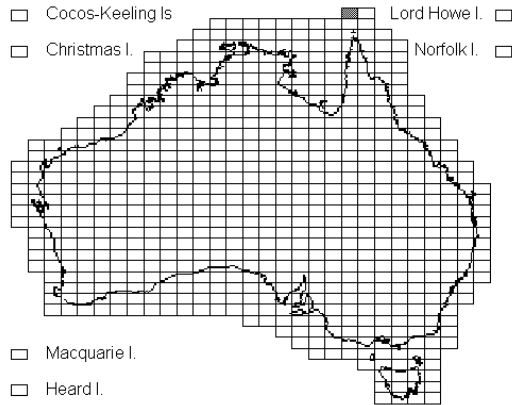
New Guinea, extending south to Boigu I. (Draffan *et al.*, 1983, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

9 Ecology

On Boigu I., Spangled Drongos live in all available habitat, ie. mangroves and tea-tree *Melaleuca* savanna woodland. They feed on flying insects (Blakers *et al.*, 1984) and build untidy stick nests, usually laying 3-4 eggs (Beruldsen, 1980).



10 Threats

There are no immediate threats except, perhaps, those posed to low islands by rising sea levels.

11 Recommended actions

11.1 Assist island communities, if interested, to set up a small ecotourism business based on the islands' unique avifauna. Monitoring of sub-populations and habitat could then be undertaken by visiting birdwatchers and local rangers.

12 Bibliography

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Draffan, R. D. W., Garnett, S. T. and Malone, G. J. 1983. Bird of the Torres Strait: An annotated list and biogeographic analysis. *Emu* 83:207-234.

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