

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Subantarctic Skua (southern)

1	Family	Laridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi lonnbergi</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common name	Subantarctic Skua (southern)
4	Conservation status	
	Australian breeding population	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

In Australian territory, this subspecies breeds in only two locations (Vulnerable: D2). Global status is Least Concern, but there is no evidence of genetic interchange between populations, so the Australian status is assessed independently (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999).

Australian breeding colonies	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5,000,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	40 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	1,300	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	3	high
Largest sub-population	1,100	low
Generation time	20 years	medium
Global population share	10 %	medium
Level of genetic exchange	low	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. l. antarctica (Falkland Is) and *C. l. hamiltoni* (Tristan da Cunha Group). Species' global is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

In Australian territory, breeding on Macquarie, McDonald and Heard Is. Extralimital populations, circumpolar on subantarctic islands. Migrates north after breeding to shores of southern continents. Regularly occurs near Tasmania in winter (Higgins and Davies, 1996, E. Woehler).

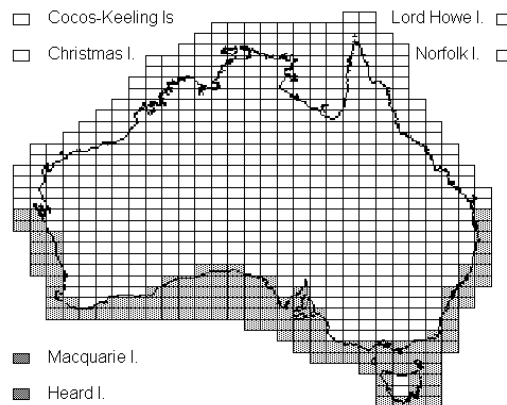
8 Present range and abundance

Distribution as above. About 550 pairs on Macquarie I. (Higgins and Davies, 1996). On Heard I., about 100 pairs. Also present on McDonald Is, but no population estimates (Woehler, 1991).

9 Ecology

Subantarctic Skuas are predators and scavengers, feeding among penguin and seal colonies, in addition to taking live rabbits. The sub-population on Macquarie I. is thought have been artificially inflated by high rabbit numbers (Skira, 1984). Skuas nest among vegetation and have a clutch of two eggs,

unless more than one female lays in the same nest (Higgins and Davies, 1996).



10 Threats

There are few direct threats to the subspecies on land, but abundance is linked to health of the seabird colonies that provide the Skua's food. On Campbell I. (off N. Z.), numbers decreased as penguin numbers dropped (Higgins and Davies, 1996) so, like penguins, skuas will potentially be affected by local fishing, pollution and climate change. At sea, the subspecies has been recorded as bycatch from longline fishing (Brothers *et al.*, 1998).

11 Information required

11.1 Determine trends in numbers.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 A stable population over a period of decades.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Monitoring of breeding population size and success is undertaken opportunistically.

13.2 Feral animal control is ongoing.

14 Management actions required

None.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Australian Antarctic Division, Environment Australia
Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

Antarctic Science Advisory Committee.

