

TAXON SUMMARY

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (Torres Strait)

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Family | Meliphagidae |
| 2 | Scientific name | <i>Xanthotis flaviventer saturator</i> (Rothschild & Hartert, 1903) |
| 3 | Common name | Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (Torres Strait) |
| 4 | Conservation status | Near Threatened: e |

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population of this subspecies is probably stable, but limited to two islands with a combined 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 | 200 km ² | high |
| trend | stable | high |
| Area of occupancy | 95 km ² | medium |
| trend | stable | high |
| No. of breeding birds | 20,000 | low |
| trend | stable | high |
| No. of sub-populations | 2 | high |
| Largest sub-population | 10,000 | low |
| Generation time | 5 years | low |
| Global population share | < 1 % | high |
| Level of genetic exchange | high | high |

6 Intraspecific taxa

X. f. filigera (Cape York Peninsula) is Least Concern. Other subspecies are found throughout New Guinea and the Aru Islands.

7 Past range and abundance

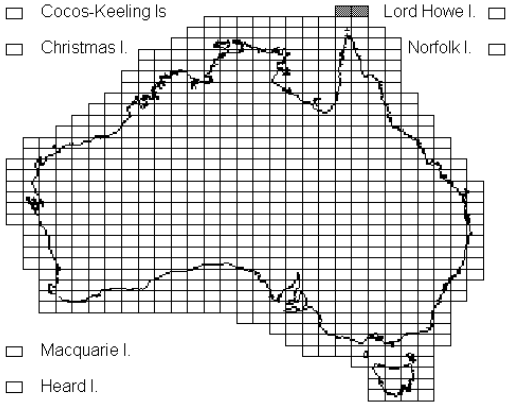
A New Guinea subspecies whose distribution extends to Saibai and Boigu Is (Draffan *et al.*, 1983, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

9 Ecology

In Torres Strait, this subspecies of Tawny-breasted Honeyeater lives primarily in mangroves. Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters forage in the canopy for insects, nectar and fruit, build cup nests, and lay 2 eggs (MacGillivray, 1914, Draffan *et al.*, 1983, Blakers *et al.*, 1984).



10 Threats

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

11 Recommended actions

11.1 Initiate community-based ecotourism business promoting the islands' unique avifauna. Monitoring of sub-populations and habitat could then be undertaken by visiting bird-watchers 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.

Gärdenfors, U., Rodríguez, J.P., Hilton-Taylor, C., Hyslop, C., Mace, G., Molur, S. and Poss, S. 1999. Draft guidelines for the Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at National and Regional Levels. *Species* 31-32:58-70.

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

Comments received from Geoff Dews, Stan Wright.