

TAXON SUMMARY

# Torresian Crow (Torres Strait)

1	Family	Corvidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Corvus orru orru</i> Bonaparte, 1850
3	Common name	Torresian Crow (Torres Strait)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population of this subspecies contains fewer than 1,000 mature individuals (Vulnerable: D1) and is confined to three small islands with a combined area of about 100 km<sup>2</sup> (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	300 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	100 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds:	500	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	3	medium
Largest sub-population	300	low
Generation time	10 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

*C. o. ceciliae* (Australian mainland) is Least Concern. Two other subspecies occur on islands off New Guinea.

7 Past range and abundance

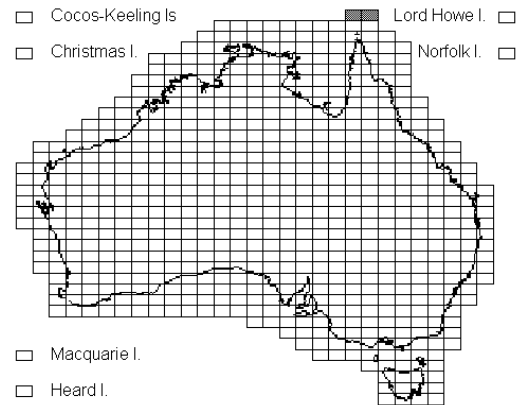
New Guinea, extending south to Boigu, Dauan and Saibai Is (Draffan *et al.*, 1983, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

9 Ecology

On the Torres Strait islands on which they occur, Torresian Crows live in all available habitat, ie. mangroves and woodland dominated by eucalypts or tea-tree *Melaleuca*. They are omnivorous (Blakers *et al.*, 1984), build large, untidy stick nests and have a usual clutch size of 4-5 (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 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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Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

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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.