

RECOVERY OUTLINE

White-chested White-eye

1	Family	Zosteropidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Zosterops albogularis</i> Gould, 1837
3	Common name	White-chested White-eye
4	Conservation status	Critically Endangered: D

5 Reasons for listing

The remaining population must be very small (Critically Endangered: D), but is unlikely still to be decreasing or it would be extinct.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5 km ²	low
trend	stable	low
Area of occupancy	5 km ²	low
trend	stable	low
No. of breeding birds	20	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	3 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described. Vernacular follows Schodde and Mason (1999), White-breasted White-eye being the established vernacular name for the African *Z. abyssinica*.

7 Past range and abundance

The White-chested White-eye is endemic to Norfolk I. (Schodde *et al.*, 1983).

8 Present range and abundance

By the 1970s, White-chested White-eyes were confined to weed-free indigenous forest in and around the Norfolk Island National Park (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, Rooke, 1986, Bell, 1990). Although formal searches (eg. Hermes *et al.*, 1986, Rooke, 1986, Bell, 1990) have failed to find any in the last two decades, there have been scattered sightings throughout this period including four in 1978 (Schodde *et al.*, 1983), one in 1979 (Hermes *et al.*, 1986), one in 1981 (Moore, 1981), one in 1987, two in 1991, four in 1994 (Moore, 1999) and one in March 2000 (R. Ward).

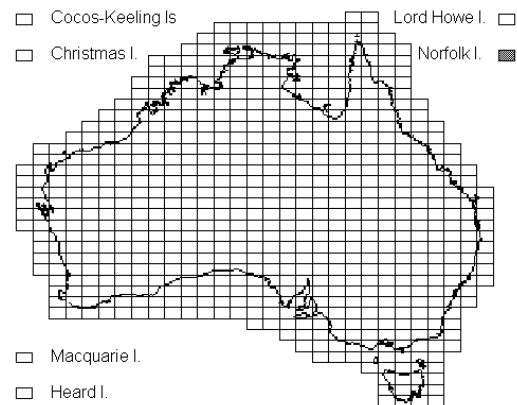
9 Ecology

The White-chested White-eye appears to occur only in weed-free indigenous forest, feeding high in shrubs and trees (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, R. Ward).

10 Threats

The principal threat is probably predation by the Black Rat *Rattus rattus* (Bell, 1990), which is thought to have been introduced in the mid-1940s (Robinson, 1988). Effects of predation have been exacerbated by the clearance of much native forest and invasion of the

remainder by exotic weeds. As a result the favoured habitat has been reduced to less than 1% of the area of the island (Rooke, 1986). Competition from the self-introduced Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*, which was first recorded on the island in 1904 (North, 1904), may also have contributed to the decline.



11 Information required

- 11.1 Determine a method of finding the birds reliably.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain a stable population in Norfolk Island National Park.
 12.2 Establish a captive population.
 12.3 Introduce to Phillip I. following revegetation.

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.
 13.2 Responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. is being encouraged through sponsorship of a cat de-sexing clinic, and a ban on the importation of reproductively-competent cats is being supported.

14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Establish cooperative rodent control programs throughout Norfolk I, with a view to rat eradication.
 14.2 Enhance rat baiting and cat trapping on Norfolk I. and monitor their efficacy.

- 14.3 If birds located, establish a captive breeding population.
- 14.4 Introduce to Phillip I. following revegetation.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation
Environment Australia.

16 Other organisations involved
Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society, Taronga Park Zoo.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.05 Project Officer¹

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Location of birds in Norfolk Island National Park	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Introduce to Phillip I.	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
Rat baiting in Norfolk Island National Park ²	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Cooperative rodent control on Norfolk I. ²	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Cat trapping Norfolk I. ²	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Encourage responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. ²	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Establish a captive breeding colony	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Total	\$75,000	\$30,000	\$105,000

¹ Cost divided among all threatened taxa on Norfolk I.

² Cost divided among all threatened terrestrial taxa on Norfolk I.

18 Bibliography

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Text adapted from

Hermes (1992).

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