

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)

1	Family	Meliphagidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Epthianura crocea tunneyi</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common name	Yellow Chat (Alligator Rivers)
4	Conservation status	Endangered: B1+2bce, C2b

### 5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies is found within an area of about 100 km<sup>2</sup> (Endangered: B1), and a continuing decline is predicted in its area of occupancy (2b), extent of habitat (c) and thus number of mature individuals (e). The population is thought to contain about 500 individuals and to be declining, but is probably mobile enough to be considered a single sub-population (Endangered: C2b).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	500 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	low
Area of occupancy	100 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	500	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	3 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*E. c. crocea* (Kimberley, northern tableland and gulf country and Lake Eyre basin) is Least Concern.

*E. c. macgregori* (Dawson R. valley) is Critically Endangered.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to western Arnhem Land, N. T. (Keast, 1958, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

### 8 Present range and abundance

Coastal and sub-coastal floodplains from the Mary R. to the East Alligator R., N. T. (Blakers *et al.*, 1984).

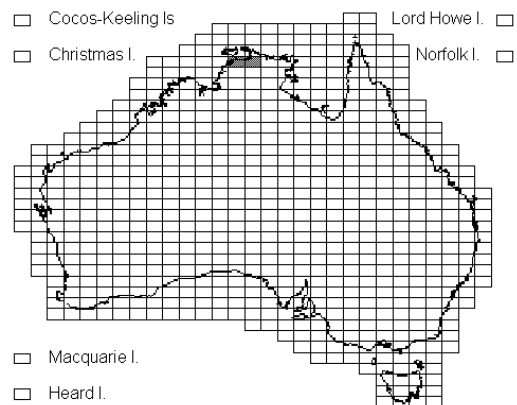
### 9 Ecology

Yellow Chats occur on alluvial grassy floodplains adjacent to large rivers (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). The habitat is regularly burnt and regularly flooded, and the response of the subspecies to these disturbances is unclear.

### 10 Threats

Some parts of the plains have been affected by salt incursion as a result of buffalo grazing, which has now ceased. The major current threat is invasion by the

weed *Mimosa pigra* (Braithwaite *et al.*, 1989), which is thought to render the habitat unsuitable.



### 11 Information required

11.1 Determine current distribution, abundance, habitat requirements and conservation requirements of the subspecies.

### 12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain viable populations on all floodplains within its range.

### 13 Actions completed or under way

None.

### 14 Management actions required

14.1 Control *Mimosa pigra*, particularly in areas occupied by chats or in areas adjacent to such habitat.

14.2 Monitor population size regularly.

### 15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory.

### 16 Other organisations involved

Bird-watching societies, traditional owners, pastoralists, Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 1.0 Honours student

Financial resources required 2001-2005

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Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Obtain basic biological data on habitat requirements	\$3,000	\$12,000	\$15,000
Monitoring	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
Targeted <i>Mimosa pigra</i> control <sup>1</sup>	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Costs relate to planning, other costs of *Mimosa pigra* control to be met as part of routine operations

## 18 Bibliography

Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

Braithwaite, R. W., Lonsdale, W. M. and Estbergs, J. A. 1989. Alien vegetation and native biota in tropical Australia: the impact of *Mimosa pigra*. *Biol. Conserv.* 48:189-210.

Keast, A. 1958. The relationship between seasonal movements and the development of geographic

variation in the Australian chats *Epthianura* Gould and *Ashbyia* North (Passeres: Muscicapidae, Malurinae). *Aust. J. Zool.* 6:53-68.

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

Comments received from

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