

TAXON SUMMARY

Zitting Cisticola (Normanton)

1	Family	Sylviidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Cisticola juncidis normani</i> Mathews, 1914
3	Common name	Zitting Cisticola (Normanton)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

Observations at sites between Pormpuraaw and Normanton suggest a continuous and substantial population in a stable area of occupancy.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	3,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	500 km ²	low
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	20,000	low
trend	stable	high
Number of populations:	1	medium
Generation time	2 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. j. leanyeri (Kimberley and Top End) and *C. j. laveryi* (eastern Queensland; Schodde and Mason, 1999) are both Least Concern. Sixteen other subspecies occur through Asia, Africa and Europe. The global status of the species is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

South-west coast of Cape York Peninsula, Queensland. Previously known only from the plains near Karumba at the mouth of the Norman River (Schodde and Mason, 1999, Blakers *et al.*, 1984), but continuous habitat from Burketown to Aurukun with records from near Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw (Garnett and Bredl, 1985, M. Todd) indicate the subspecies, which is difficult to detect and lives in largely inaccessible terrain, is likely to have a much larger distribution.

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

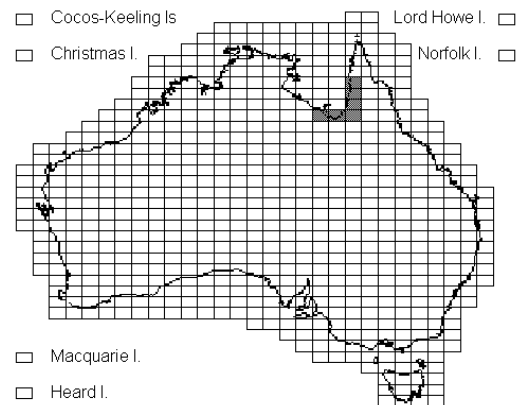
9 Ecology

Along the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, Zitting Cisticola occupy saline coastal grasslands. They weave nests into the grass, in which they lay 2 eggs (Beruldsen, 1980).

10 Threats

Although many grasslands on Cape York Peninsula are threatened by invasion of woody weeds from the

landward side (Crowley and Garnett, 1998), no invasion has been recorded of the grasslands used by Zitting Cisticola. Cisticolas can also withstand substantial areas of their habitat being burnt each year, and have persisted in many areas that have a vigorous fire regime.



11 Recommended actions

11.1 Search for Zitting Cisticola during the wet season on coastal grasslands between known locations.

12 Bibliography

- Beruldsen, G. R. 1980. *A Field Guide to Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*. Rigby, Adelaide.
- Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Crowley, G. M. and Garnett, S. T. 1998. Vegetation change in the grasslands and grassy woodlands of central Cape York Peninsula. *Pac. Conserv. Biol.* 4:132-148.
- Garnett, S. T. and Bredl, R. 1985 An annotated list of the birds in the Vicinity of Edward River Settlement. *Sunbird* 15:6-23, 25-40.
- Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO, Collingwood, Victoria.

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