RECOVERY OUTLINE

Albert's Lyrebird

1	Family	Menuridae
2	Scientific name	*Menura alberti* (Bonaparte, 1850)
3	Common name	Albert's Lyrebird
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: C1

5 Reasons for listing

Fewer than 10,000 mature individuals remain and the population may decline by 10% in the next two generations (30 years; C1).

	Estimate	*Reliability*
Extent of occurrence	*1,500 km²*	*medium*
trend	*stable*	*medium*
Area of occupancy	*300 km²*	*medium*
trend	*stable*	*medium*
No. of breeding birds	*3,500*	*medium*
trend	*decreasing*	*medium*
No. of sub-populations	*10*	*medium*
Largest sub-population	*2,200*	*low*
Generation time	*15 years*	*low*

6 Infraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

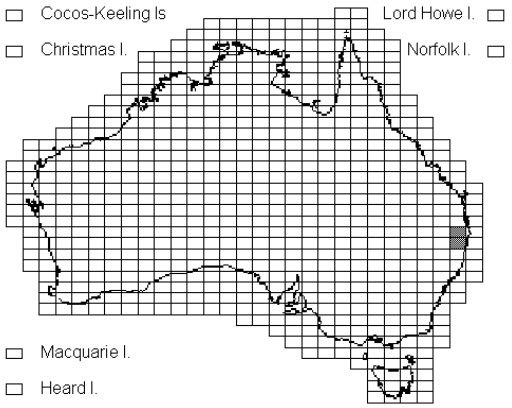
High rainfall areas above 300m between Blackwall Ra., N. S. W. and Mistake Ra., Qld (Robinson and Curtis, 1996, Higgins, in press). In optimal habitat, territories are widely spaced with a density of about five pairs/km² (A. Gilmore).

8 Present range and abundance

Estimated to be fewer than 800 pairs in New South Wales with highest densities at Whian Whian State Forest in Nightcap Ra. Also along Tweed, McPherson and Richmond Ra. An isolated group of less than 10 birds persists in the Blackwall Ra. (A. Gilmore). In Queensland population similar, possibly smaller. Occurs from Lamington National Park around Main Ra. to Mistake Ra. with a few birds isolated on Tambourine Mountain (Curtis, 1996, Higgins, in press).

9 Ecology

Albert's Lyrebirds live in moist forest above 300 m, with highest densities on poorer soils which develop a deep leaf litter. They favour areas with Antarctic Beech *Nothofagus moorei* and wet sclerophyll forest with a dense understorey of rainforest plants but are absent from some rainforest types, including complex notophyll vine forest on high nutrient soils (Gilmore, 2000, A. Gilmore) and from dry sclerophyll forest (Robinson and Curtis, 1996, Higgins, in press, A. Gilmore). They feed on invertebrates on the ground



and have a clutch of one, laid in a large domed nest built in trees, on rock escarpments or on the steep sides of gullies (Higgins, in press).

10 Threats

Much of the bird's habitat was cleared in the 19th century. The major remaining threat is intense forest management, particularly in the Whian Whian State Forest, N. S. W., where proposals exist to allow replacement of optimal wet sclerophyll habitat with unsuitable eucalypt plantations. Plantations contain about 30% of the density of lyrebirds that occur in habitat recovering from selective logging, which are estimated to be about 50% of potential densities (A. Gilmore). Often logged areas are invaded by lantana *Lantana camara* which also reduces habitat suitability. Remaining sub-populations are under relatively secure tenure, although the isolated groups at Blackwall Ra. and Tambourine Mt. are threatened simply because they are so small and densities are unusually low near areas of closer settlement (Gilmore, 2000). Fire could be a threat in exceptionally dry years, especially to outlying sub-populations (Higgins, in press, A. Gilmore), although fire at intervals of several centuries is a natural feature of these environments (Turner, 1984).

11 Information required

11.1 Determine extent of isolation between forest patches.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Ensure principal sub-populations remain viable.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 A study of the habitat distribution and population density has been completed.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Desist from clearing optimal habitat to create plantations.

14.2 Ensure adequate fire protection is in place, particularly in dry years.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

State Forests New South Wales, Queensland Department of Natural Resources.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 *None*

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	*Conservation agencies*	*Other funding sources*	*Total*
Implement habitat protection	$12,500	$0	$12,500
Fire planning and construction of firebreaks	$22,000	$0	$22,000
Total	$34,500	$0	**$34,500**

18 Bibliography

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