

TAXON SUMMARY

Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern)

1	Family	Meliphagidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i> (Gould, 1837)
3	Common name	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies has declined over most of its range (Near Threatened: c), though not at a rate or scale that warrants listing as Vulnerable.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	420,000 km ²	medium
trend	decreasing	high
Area of occupancy	40,000 km ²	medium
trend	decreasing	high
No. of breeding birds	50,000	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	20	medium
Largest sub-population	30,000	low
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

M. g. laetior (northern Australia) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Eastern Australia, along inland slopes of Great Dividing Ra., extending to coast between Sydney and Newcastle, N. S. W., and again between Brisbane and Rockhampton, Qld, as well as westward into south-eastern South Australia (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Schodde and Mason, 1999). From Dubbo, N. S. W., to Rockhampton, Qld, intergrades with *M. g. laetior* in a broad band stretching west to southern Cape York Peninsula, and again around Mt Isa. A sub-population in Mt Lofty Ra. may have been isolated historically (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

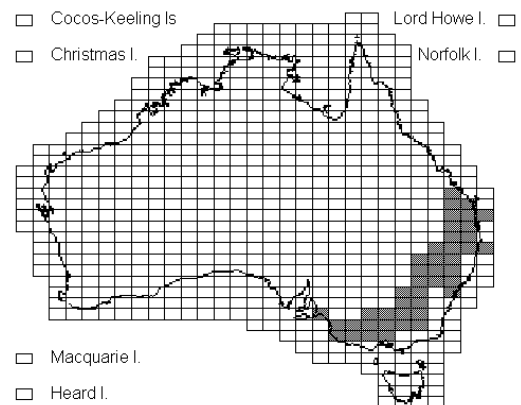
8 Present range and abundance

As above, but has contracted in the Mt Lofty Ra. during the course of the 20th century to 11 sites by the mid 1990s (Paton *et al.*, 1994, Chapman, 1995) and is still declining. Identified as a declining species in western New South Wales (Smith *et al.*, 1995) and in wheat-sheep belt where it is apparently absent from large areas that would once have contained suitable habitat (Reid, 1999, Traill and Duncan, 2000).

9 Ecology

Black-chinned Honeyeaters occupy the dry eucalypt woodland within an annual rainfall range of 400-700 mm, particularly associations containing ironbark and box (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Emison *et al.*, 1987). There they feed on insects, nectar and lerp (Blakers *et al.*,

1984), and build suspended nests in which 2 eggs are usually laid (Beruldsen, 1980).



10 Threats

The Black-chinned Honeyeater is one of the group of species that have declined from woodlands in south-eastern Australia (Robinson and Traill, 1996, Reid, 1999). Most habitat has been cleared and the remainder is fragmented. Though their relative mobility should make the species better able than some to cope with fragmentation, it is nevertheless absent from many small fragments for unknown reasons.

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Determine characteristics of biology that make species susceptible to fragmentation.
- 11.2 Within the honeyeater's range, manage at least 15% of the pre-European area of all woodland communities on public or private land for nature conservation, using incentives where necessary.
- 11.3 Undertake extension, with appropriate incentives, to land-holders with suitable woodland habitat to promote sound management of remnants, encouraging greater connectivity between sub-populations.
- 11.4 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity, including the honeyeater.
- 11.5 Control and reduce firewood collection from areas occupied by Black-chinned Honeyeaters, promoting wood-lot development close to markets, and reduce grazing densities where necessary.

- 11.6 Undertake long-term monitoring of remnant sub-populations.

12 Bibliography

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