

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Black Grasswren

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Amytornis housei</i> (Milligan, 1902)
3	Common name	Black Grasswren
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

### 5 Reasons for listing

This species is abundant within its limited area of occupancy, and there has been no evidence of change.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	15,000 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	8,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	150,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	4 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

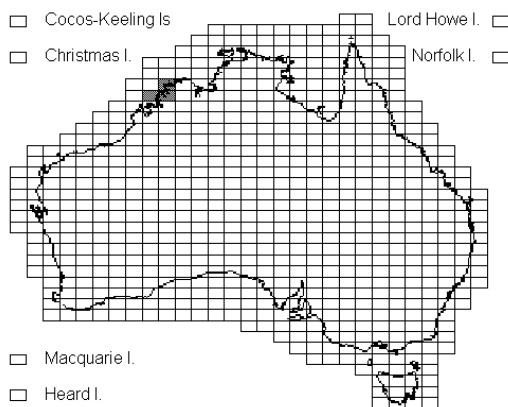
None described.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Western Kimberley, W. A. (Rowley and Russell, 1997).

### 8 Present range and abundance

As above.



### 9 Ecology

Black Grasswrens are found in extremely rugged, rocky terrain, notably along escarpments vegetated by *Triodia spinifex* (Rowley and Russell, 1997, Johnstone and Kolichis, 1999). They take insects and seeds from the ground, usually near shelter of spinifex tussocks (Rowley and Russell, 1997). They build a domed nest in the spinifex, in which they lay 1-2 eggs (Johnstone and Kolichis, 1999).

### 10 Threats

The species could be adversely affected if fires are too frequent (Rowley and Russell, 1997) but is generally protected by the rocky terrain (Johnstone and Kolichis, 1999).

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Initiate regular monitoring of persistence at a selection of known sites.
- 11.2 Determine fire histories for occupied and unoccupied habitats.
- 11.3 Develop and encourage adoption of fire management that favours the grasswren.

### 12 Bibliography

Johnstone, R. E. and Kolichis, N. 1999. First description of the nest and eggs of the Black Grasswren *Amytornis housei* (Milligan) with notes on breeding. *Rec. W. A. Mus.* 19:259-265.

Rowley, I. and Russell, E. 1997. *Fairy-wrens and Grasswrens*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

### Comments received from

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