

TAXON SUMMARY

Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)

1	Family	Climacteridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common name	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

Though the subspecies is widely distributed with a relatively large distribution, declines in abundance have been reported over most of its range (Near Threatened: c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	360,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	1,000,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	100	low
Largest sub-population	10,000	low
Generation time	5 years	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. p. melanotus (Cape York Peninsula, Qld) is also Near Threatened. *C. p. picumnus* (inland Eastern Australia, eastern Queensland) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

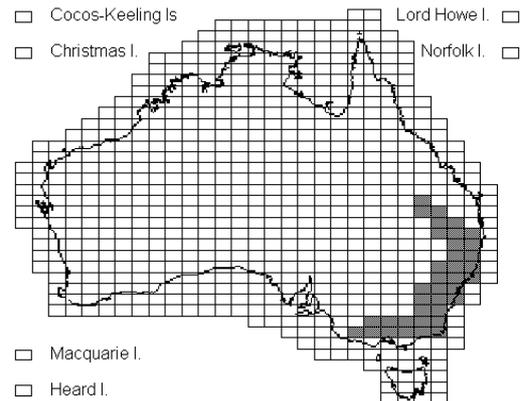
South-eastern Australia: subcoastal environments and slopes of Great Dividing Ra. between the Grampians in western Victoria, through central New South Wales (Wagga Wagga, Temora, Forbes, Dubbo, Inverell), to Queensland border and northward to the Bunya Mountains (Schodde and Mason, 1999). Recorded densities range from 0.04 – 0.50 birds/ha (Blakers *et al.*, 1984).

8 Present range and abundance

Range as above but greatly reduced in density over most parts of its range (Taylor and COG, 1992, Robinson, 1993, Paton *et al.*, 1994, Reid, 1999, Traill and Duncan, 2000), with a decline of 70% recorded in the last decade in central New South Wales (N. Schrader in Traill, 2000).

9 Ecology

Occupying eucalypt woodland and adjoining vegetation, the Brown Treecreeper eats ants, beetles and larvae, which it takes from the trunks of live and dead trees as well as from fallen branches and among leaf litter. Nests are often in hollows, and usual clutch size is 2-3 (Noske, 1979, Blakers *et al.*, 1984).



10 Threats

Brown Treecreepers are one of a suite of species that have declined from woodlands in south-eastern Australia as a result of habitat clearance (Robinson and Traill, 1996, Reid, 1999). Apart from actual clearance of trees, the subspecies has also declined or disappeared from most remaining fragments that are smaller than 300 ha, at least partly because females disperse from these areas or die preferentially and are not replaced (Walters *et al.*, 1999). Once the subspecies is lost from a fragment, recolonisation is unlikely without assistance (Walters *et al.*, 1999). Local extinctions occur 50 years after the habitat was cleared. With clearing continuing and over 90% of the remaining vegetation in some regions being in patches that are smaller than 500 ha, local extinctions are likely to continue for many decades to come (Traill and Duncan, 2000). The readiness with which treecreepers use artificial hollows for nesting suggests that a lack of hollows may limit reproduction in some habitats (B. Quin).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Protect from clearing all woodland in which Brown Treecreepers are known to be resident, monitoring compliance biennially.
- 11.2 Place all Brown Treecreeper sub-populations on public land under secure conservation management, particularly those in timber reserves, transport corridors and local government land.
- 11.3 Within the treecreeper'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.

- 11.4 Using appropriate incentives, undertake extension with land-holders that have suitable woodland habitat to promote sound management of remnants and encourage greater connectivity between sub-populations.
- 11.5 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity, including the tree creeper.
- 11.6 Control and reduce firewood collection from areas occupied by Brown Treecreepers, promoting wood-lot development close to markets, and reduce grazing densities where necessary.
- 11.7 Undertake long-term monitoring of remnant sub-populations.

12 Bibliography

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