

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Black-throated Finch (southern)

1	Family	Estrildidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i> (Gould, 1837)
3	Common name	Black-throated Finch (southern)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: A1c+2c

5 Reasons for listing

Continuation of this species' decline (previously estimated to be at a rate of 20% every ten years; Vulnerable: A1c+2c) is assumed, but needs confirmation.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	800,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	low
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	low
No. of breeding birds	20,000	low
trend	decreasing	low
No. of sub-populations	1	low
Largest sub-population	20,000	low
Generation time	2 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

P. c. atropygialis (northern Queensland) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

From Inverell, north-eastern N. S. W., through eastern Queensland to the Burdekin-Lynd Divide, where it intergrades over abroad zone with *P. c. atropygialis* (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

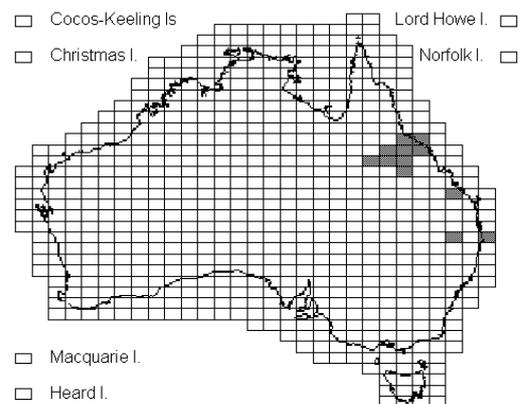
8 Present range and abundance

New South Wales: few recent records, all from the southern New England Tableland (Baldwin, 1975, 1976, McCutcheon, 1976, Rogers and Lindsey, 1977, Morris *et al.*, 1981, G. Holmes, A. Morris), and no records of unequivocally wild birds in the last decade; Queensland: throughout previous range but, at least in south, at a lower density, with very few south of 23°S since late 1970s (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). Apparently disappeared from the Rockhampton region between the early 1970s and 1977 (Longmore, 1978, Blakers *et al.*, 1984). The zone of intergradation had previously been interpreted as indicating a contraction in the north of the subspecies' range (Zann, 1976, Ford, 1986, Schodde and Mason, 1999). Analysis of historical records suggests decline continuing (Franklin, 1999), although sub-species remains locally common near Townsville (M. Lewis).

9 Ecology

The southern subspecies of the Black-throated Finch occupies grassy woodland dominated by eucalypts,

paperbarks or acacias, where there is access to seeding grasses and water (Zann, 1975). It appears to be relatively sedentary, with birds present throughout the year near Townsville, but probably needs a mosaic of different habitats in which to find seed during the wet season (Mitchell, 1996). It builds domed nests in trees, sometimes in tree hollows, laying 5-9 eggs (Immelmann, 1982).



10 Threats

Decline of Black-throated Finches in eastern Queensland began early in the 20th century under pastoralism (Franklin, 1999), and continuing clearance of woodland must be increasing pressure on the species. The decline began in the southern part of the subspecies' range, where sheep grazing dominates land-use, and feral rabbits are prevalent, and has been less extreme further north because clearing has been less extensive, and sheep have been replaced by cattle (Frith, 1982). Clearing, however, is continuing in the north, either for agriculture or for rural subdivision. Although well-established in captivity, trapping for the bird trade, in which this subspecies has the name 'Chocolate Parson', may have cause a local extinctions.

11 Information required

- 11.1 Determine characteristics of habitat and land management where subspecies persisting, ideally as a PhD project.
- 11.2 Document locations of remaining wild birds.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 To secure remaining population, especially in sites where birds are present throughout the year.

