

TAXON SUMMARY

# Carpentarian Grasswren

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Amytornis dorotheae</i> (Mathews, 1914)
3	Common name	Carpentarian Grasswren
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

This species has a more extensive distribution than previously believed, and there is no evidence of decline.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	25,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	5,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	10,000	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	2	low
Largest sub-population	5,000	low
Generation time	4 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

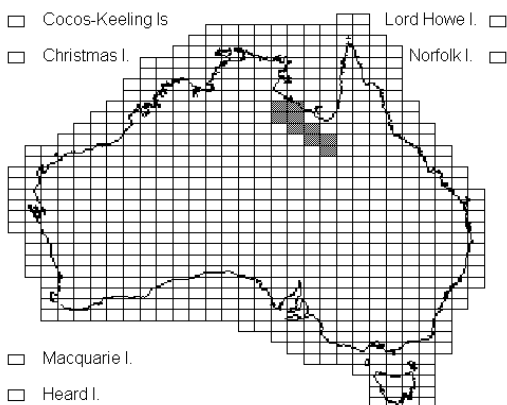
None described.

7 Past range and abundance

Tawallah Range/Limmen Bight R., N. T., to Gunpowder, north-west Qld (Schodde, 1982, Blakers *et al.*, 1984, McKean and Martin, 1989, Fleming and Strong, 1990, Rowley and Russell, 1997, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.



9 Ecology

Carpentarian Grasswrens live on sandstone outcrops in *Triodia* hummock grassland and low to low open woodland, with or without a low shrubby understorey (McKean and Martin, 1989, Rowley and Russell, 1997). They prefer long-unburnt hummock grass, the rugged terrain in which they occur offering natural protection from fire. They forage on the ground for insects and seeds, and lay 2-3 eggs in domed nests built in *Triodia* clumps (Beruldsen, 1980, Rowley and Russell, 1997).

10 Threats

As frequent burning for pastoralism apparently eliminates the species (Schodde, 1982, McKean and Martin, 1989), a change in fire regime is the most likely threat (McKean and Martin, 1989, Rowley and Russell, 1997).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Initiate regular monitoring 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

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Text adapted from  
Brouwer (1992).

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