

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Eastern Bristlebird (southern)

1	Family	Pardalotidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Dasyornis brachypterus brachypterus</i> (Latham, 1802)
3	Common name	Eastern Bristlebird (southern)
4	Conservation status	Endangered: B1+2bcde

5 Reasons for listing

The area of occupancy of this subspecies is only 20 km², and spread over five locations (Endangered: B1). Although the population is currently stable, it is likely that there will be a further decline in area of occupancy (B2b), quality of habitat (c) and possibly number of sub-populations (d) with an inevitable decline in the number of mature individuals (e), because of the confirmed recent history of destructive fires in Eastern Bristlebird habitat.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	500 km ²	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	20 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	1,550	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	5	high
Largest sub-population	600	medium
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

This subspecies is well-isolated from *D. b. monoides* (north-eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland), which is Critically Endangered. Preliminary genetic analysis (M. Elphinstone), however, do not corroborate phenotypic analysis that separated the subspecies (Schodde and Mason, 1997).

7 Past range and abundance

Near-coastal New South Wales and east Gippsland, Vic., from Myall Lakes to Gippsland Lakes (Chisholm, 1958, Holmes, 1998, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

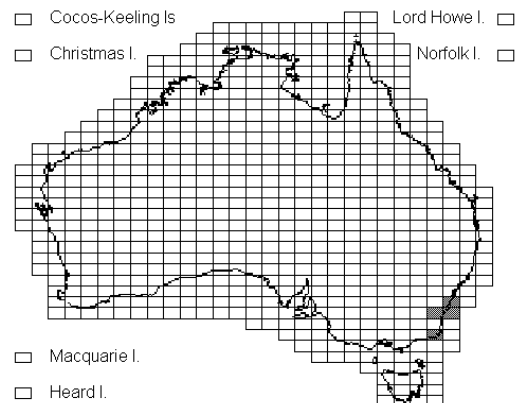
8 Present range and abundance

Central New South Wales: sub-populations persist near Barren Grounds Nature Reserve (560 individuals), Budderoo National Park (250) and Bherwerre Peninsula (600), with fewer than 20 individuals elsewhere; Southern New South Wales to Victoria: Nadgee to Howe Flat in Victoria (Baker, 1998, Clarke and Bramwell, 1998, Holmes, 1998).

9 Ecology

This subspecies of Eastern Bristlebird lives in dense, low vegetation, particularly heath, but also in surrounding woodlands. It is eliminated by fire for at least four years, with density of birds increasing until at

least 10 years after fire. The birds lay two eggs in an enclosed cup nest (Jordan and Jordan, 1987, Bramwell *et al.*, 1992, Pyke *et al.*, 1995, Baker, 1998, Clarke and Bramwell, 1998, Chapman, 1999).



10 Threats

Extensive fire is the main threat to the southern subspecies of Eastern Bristlebird (Baker, 1997). At least 80% of the 10 known sites of occurrence in Victoria were burnt between 1960 and 1995, including fires that were widespread or frequent (Clarke and Bramwell, 1998). In New South Wales, all but two hectares of heath at Barren Grounds were burnt in 1968 and the species was almost eliminated from Nadgee in 1980 (Baker, 1998). Other possible threats are from grazing and spread of exotic plants. Because the populations are small, predation by foxes and cats may also be significant (Holmes, 1998). Most remaining sub-populations are probably isolated as the birds appear incapable of long distance dispersal.

11 Information required

- 11.1 Define suitable habitat.
- 11.2 Survey potential habitat at Ku-ring-gai Chase, Sydney Water Special Areas, and around Creswell.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Retain known sub-populations.
- 12.2 Maintain or increase the population size in each region.

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Surveys and initial ecological research have been undertaken.

