

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Flame Robin

1	Family	Petroicidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i> Gould, 1837
3	Common name	Flame Robin
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

### 5 Reasons for listing

The frequency at which this species has been observed has declined substantially at edges of its non-breeding range, but overall density has probably not yet halved (so not Near Threatened: c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	10,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	1,000,000	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	5 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

### 7 Past range and abundance

South-eastern Australia, breeding throughout Tasmania, on Bass Strait islands and hilly country throughout southern and north-eastern Victoria and along Great Dividing Ra. in eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland, as far north as 30°S. Non-breeding distribution: dispersing across lowlands and coastal areas, reaching Yorke Peninsula and Kangaroo I., S. A. and New South Wales/Queensland border, and inland slopes of Great Dividing Ra. Some birds also migrating across Bass Strait from Tasmania (Blakers *et al.*, 1984).

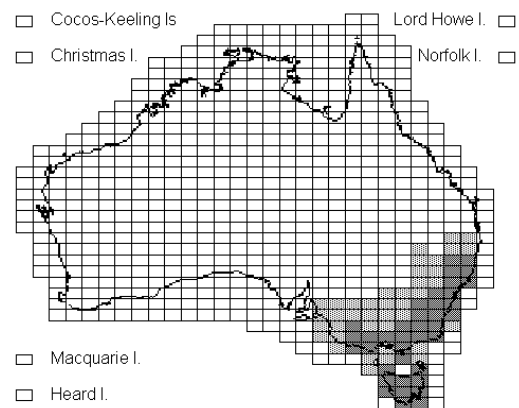
### 8 Present range and abundance

As above, but now scarce in South Australia (Paton *et al.*, 1994) and less common in Victorian lowlands (G. Pizzey, D. Robinson). Remains common in Tasmania and high country of Great Dividing Ra. Probably always scarce near Armidale, N. S. W. (Barrett *et al.*, 1994).

### 9 Ecology

Flame Robins breed in eucalypt forests and woodlands, where there is access to open areas (Robinson, 1990a,b, 1992a,b). Habitats include subalpine woodland, recently burnt forest, and recently logged forest (Stokes, 1975, Loyn, 1980, 1985) and pine plantations (Disney and Stokes, 1976, Blakers *et al.*, 1984). In winter, the robins feed mainly in

extensive open areas such as pasture, using orchards and remnant native vegetation for shelter and roosting (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Robinson, 1992b).



### 10 Threats

Flame Robins are most likely to have declined because of clearing, cultivation and other degradation of non-breeding habitat away from the uplands where they breed. The area suitable for breeding at any one time has probably increased as a result of clear-felling for timber production. Recent reductions in clear-felling may again reduce this area, although regrowth renders such areas unsuitable within five years of cutting (R. Loyn). High rates of nest loss may be exacerbated by any increase in predation by Pied Currawongs *Strepera graculina*, and feeding habitat in open woodland may be affected detrimentally by grazing and other woodland degradation (D. Robinson).

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Analyse existing data to determine extent and geographical distribution of decline and correlate to environmental variables.
- 11.2 Undertake monitoring at selected sites.
- 11.3 Coordinate recovery actions with those of other declining woodland birds of the western slopes of the Great Dividing Ra.

### 12 Bibliography

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