

TAXON SUMMARY

Frilled Monarch (Torres Strait)

1	Family	Family
2	Scientific name	<i>Arses telescopthalmus harterti</i> (Lesson & Garnot, 1827)
3	Common name	Frilled Monarch (Torres Strait)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

5 Reasons for listing

There are unlikely to be more than 1,000 mature individuals of this subspecies in Australia (Vulnerable: D1). The subspecies occurs on only one small island with an area of occupancy of less than 100 km² (D2). The global status, however, is Least Concern and genetic interchange is likely to be substantial. The Australian status has therefore been downgraded (as per Gärdenfors *et al.*, 1999) to Near Threatened: e (genetic interchange beyond borders).

Australian population	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	72 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	43 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds:	1,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Largest sub-population	1,000	low
Generation time	4 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

There are seven other subspecies in New Guinea and nearby islands. The Frill-necked Monarch *A. t. lorealis* (Cape York Peninsula), sometimes considered a separate species (Schodde and Mason, 1999), is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Southern New Guinea, extending south to Boigu I. (Draffan *et al.*, 1983, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

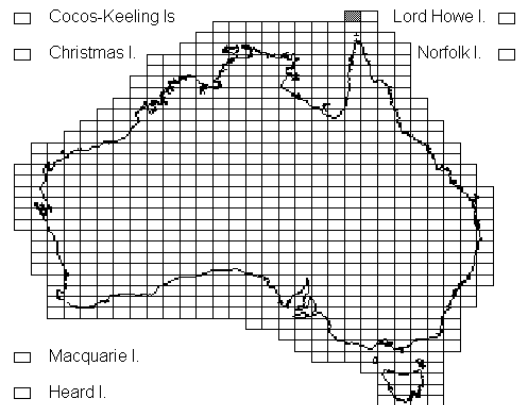
As above.

9 Ecology

In Torres Strait, the Frilled Monarch is confined to mangroves. Frilled Monarchs feed on flying insects, notably termites (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). They build cup nests, usually suspended in vines, and lay two eggs (Beruldsen, 1980).

10 Threats

There are no immediate threats except, perhaps, those posed to low islands by rising sea levels.



11 Recommended actions

11.1 Initiate community-based ecotourism business promoting the islands' unique avifauna. Monitoring of sub-populations and habitat could then be undertaken by visiting bird-watchers and local rangers.

12 Bibliography

- Beruldsen, G. R. 1980. *A Field Guide to Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*. Rigby, Adelaide.
- Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Draffan, R. D. W., Garnett, S. T. and Malone, G. J. 1983. Bird of the Torres Strait: An annotated list and biogeographic analysis. *Emu* 83:207-234.
- Gärdenfors, U., Rodriguez, J.P., Hilton-Taylor, C., Hyslop, C., Mace, G., Molur, S. and Poss, S. 1999. Draft guidelines for the Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at National and Regional Levels. *Species* 31-32:58-70.
- Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO, Collingwood, Victoria.

Comments received from

Geoff Dews, Stan Wright.