

TAXON SUMMARY

Glossy Black-Cockatoo (eastern)

1	Family	Cacatuidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i> (Temminck, 1807)
3	Common Name	Glossy Black-Cockatoo (eastern)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

The subspecies' range has contracted at its edges, and coastal development and clearance of land for agriculture are thought to have reduced its density by at least half (Near Threatened: c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	450,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	50,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	12,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	medium
Generation time	15 yrs	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. l. halmaturinus (Kangaroo I., S. A.) is Endangered, and *C. l. erebus* (Dawson-Mackenzie basin to Paluma, Qld) is Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Patchy distribution from Mitchell, Qld, to Mallacoota and possibly Melbourne, Victoria and King I., Tasmania (Baird, 1986, Schodde *et al.*, 1993, Schodde and Mason, 1997). Thinly distributed throughout range, with highest densities east of Great Dividing Ra.; more scattered distribution inland, to as far west as the Riverina and Pilliga Scrub, N. S. W. (McAllan and Bruce, 1988, Ayers *et al.*, 1996). Probably breeding throughout range.

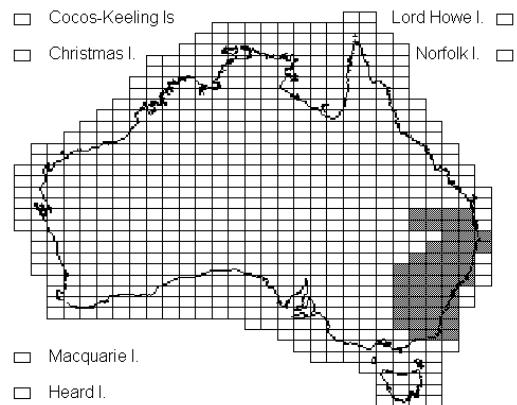
8 Present range and abundance

As above, except in Victoria, where no longer regularly found west of Mallacoota (Baird, 1986, Schodde *et al.*, 1993). Although population seems fragmented, appearance of birds well beyond usual range suggests movements occurs between different areas.

9 Ecology

The main habitat of the eastern subspecies of Glossy Black-Cockatoo is eucalypt woodlands and forests in which there is a sub-canopy or understorey of casuarinas *Allocasuarina/Casuarina*, but brigalow is also used in south-eastern Queensland. The subspecies' diet is primarily restricted to the seeds of *Allocasuarina/Casuarina* (Higgins, 1999). The cockatoos must forage for long hours each day to gain sufficient food,

particularly during the breeding season, and not all apparently suitable habitat provides adequate food value to support the cockatoos (Clout, 1989, Crowley *et al.*, 1999, Crowley and Garnett, in press). The birds lay a single egg in a hollow in a live or dead tree (Garnett *et al.*, 1999).



10 Threats

Clearance of habitat has reduced the range of the subspecies, particularly south and west of the Great Dividing Ra. (Baird, 1986). Burning of fire sensitive species of casuarinas (eg. *A. littoralis*, *A. verticillata*) can render feeding habitat unsuitable for several years (Joseph, 1982, Crowley, 1986, Pepper, 1997). Regeneration may be impeded by grazing, either by stock or rabbits. In coastal areas, residential development is an increasing threat (R. Patterson). Fragmentation of habitat, especially when associated with agriculture, leads to penetration of competitors from more open habitats and/or ecotones (notably Common Brushtail Possums *Trichosurus vulpecula*, Little Corellas *Cacatua sanguinea* and Galahs *Eolophus roseicapillus*) and increasing competition for hollows (Downes *et al.*, 1997, Crowley *et al.*, 1998). Without nests being protected against such competitors, recruitment to the adult population may be minimal (Garnett *et al.*, 1999). Illegal trapping for the bird trade may be a localised problem, but is probably not a major threat.

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Determine age structure and population trends at selected sites throughout distribution.
- 11.2 Identify and protect areas of high food value throughout distribution.

- 11.3 Implement clearance controls to ensure long-term supply of trees suitable for nesting within buffers of native forests and/or woodland to limit incursions of competitors.

12 Bibliography

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