

TAXON SUMMARY

Glossy Black-Cockatoo (northern)

1	Family	Cacatuidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami erebus</i> Schodde & Mason, 1993
3	Common name	Glossy Black-Cockatoo (northern)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

Although continuing clearing has reduced the area of habitat available to this subspecies in some areas, recent range extensions suggest that more habitat is becoming available in others.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	160,000 km ²	low
trend	increasing	medium
Area of occupancy	1,000 km ²	low
trend	increasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	5,000	low
trend	increasing	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. lathami* (eastern Australia from east Gippsland, Victoria to Gympie-Chinchilla, Queensland) is Near Threatened. The global status of species is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

East-central Queensland, from Dawes Range north to Eungella National Park, inland to Expedition Range, Blackdown Tableland and probably Peak and Denham Ranges (Pierce, 1984, Schodde *et al.*, 1993, Schodde and Mason, 1997). Flocks of up to 40 birds have been reported at Dawes Range (Schodde *et al.*, 1993).

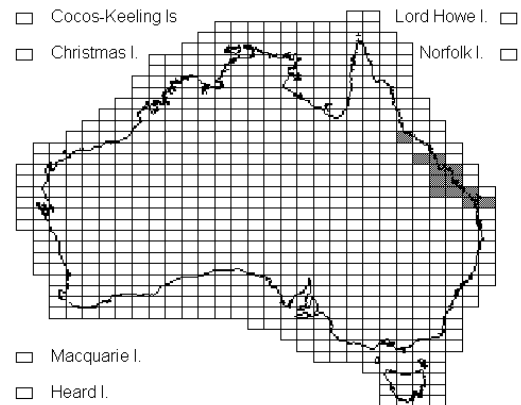
8 Present range and abundance

Range possibly expanding northwards. First recorded at Eungella in the early 1970s (K. McDonald, Pierce, 1984), where absent in 1960s (J. P. Stanton), and then at Paluma in 1999 (Britton and Britton, 1999, Garnett *et al.*, 2000), at a site surveyed intensively since 1982, despite there being few stands of the principal food trees in the 300 km between Eungella and Paluma (Tracey and Webb, 1975). Even if the extensive and relatively inaccessible stands of suitable habitat in the wet tropics have always been occupied, recent movement of Glossy Black-Cockatoos into well-visited areas suggests that abundance has increased.

9 Ecology

The northern subspecies of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo lives in eucalypt forests and woodlands that have a sub-canopy of their major food plants

Allocasuarina littoralis or *A. torulosa*. They lay a single egg in a large hollow in a live or dead tree (Garnett *et al.*, 1999).



10 Threats

The northern subspecies of Glossy Black-Cockatoo is likely to be sensitive to any habitat clearance or fragmentation that exposes the birds to competition for nest hollows from open-country cockatoos, such as Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*, Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea* or Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *C. galerita* (Crowley *et al.*, 1998, Garnett *et al.*, 1999). Fire can have a long-term effect on seed production by *A. littoralis* but, once established, *A. torulosa* is fire tolerant (Crowley, 1986). The area of mature casuarina may be increasing in some areas as a result of a change in fire regime, to the advantage of the cockatoos (Garnett *et al.*, 2000).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Accurately map distribution and tenure of *A. torulosa* and *A. littoralis* north of Dawes Ra.
- 11.2 Record population structure of cockatoos in areas identified in 11.1 and abundance of potential nest-site competitors.
- 11.3 Secure areas identified in 11.1 from clearing or fragmentation.
- 11.4 Implement appropriate mitigation measures if 11.2 identifies significant competition for nest sites.

12 Bibliography

- Britton, P. and Britton, H. 1999. Glossy Black-Cockatoo nesting at Paluma, north Queensland. *Eclectus* 6:5-6.
- Crowley, G. M. 1986. Ecology of *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Salisb.) L. Johnson and *A. torulosa* (Ait.) L. Johnson in North Queensland. Unpubl. Ph. D. thesis, James Cook University of North Queensland, Townsville.
- Crowley, G. M., Garnett, S. T., Carruthers, S. 1998. Mapping and Spatial Analysis of Existing and Potential Glossy Black-Cockatoo Habitat on Kangaroo Island. Report to the Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team, South Australian National Parks Foundation, Kingscote, April 1998.
- Garnett, S. T., Britton, P. and Crowley, G. M. 2000. A northward extension of range of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*. *Sunbird* 30:18-22.
- Garnett, S. T., Pedler, L. P. and Crowley, G. M. 1999. The nesting biology of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* on Kangaroo Island. *Emu* 99:262-279.
- Pierce, R. 1984. Range extension of Glossy Black Cockatoos. *Sunbird* 14:10-11.
- Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1997. Aves (Columbidae to Coraciidae). *Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Vol. 37.2*. W. W. K. Houston and A. Wells (eds). CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.
- Schodde, R., Mason, I. J. and Wood, J. T. 1993. Geographical differentiation in the Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* (Temminck), and its history. *Emu* 93:156-166.
- Tracey J. G. and Webb, L. J. 1975. *Key to the Vegetation of the Humid Tropical Region of North Queensland*. Map Series CSIRO, Melbourne.

Comments received from
Stephen Debus.