

TAXON SUMMARY

# Hooded Parrot

1	Family	Psittacidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Psephotus dissimilis</i> Collett, 1898
3	Common name	Hooded Parrot
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for not listing

The species has suffered a small contraction in range, but is abundant within remaining area of occupancy.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	120,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	60,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	20,000	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	2 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to the northern Northern Territory, between about Pine Creek in the west to the McArthur R. in the east; also on Melville, Banyan and Bathurst Is (Barnard, 1914, Higgins, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

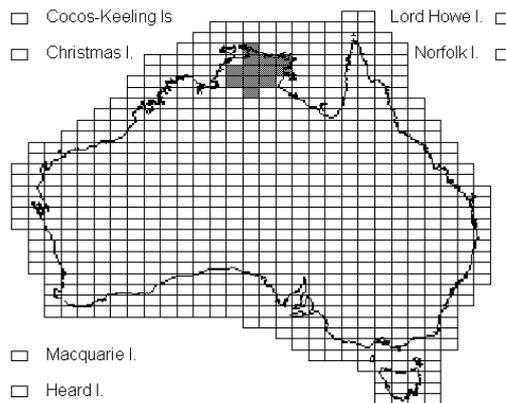
Not seen in the McArthur R. region since 1913; restricted to the mainland since the 1950s and now absent from north coastal plain east of South Alligator R.. However still found between upper Mary R. and Roper R. east into Arnhem Land (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Higgins, 1999). Population in Kakadu National Park is estimated to be at least 12,000 individuals (J. Woinarski).

9 Ecology

Hooded Parrots live in open eucalypt forest and woodland with an understorey of annual and perennial grasses and herbs (Woinarski and Tidemann, 1991, Garnett and Crowley, 1995). They dig nests in termite mounds, usually laying 5-6 eggs (Reed and Tidemann, 1995). They mainly eat annual grass seeds during the dry season, but take seed from a variety of perennial grasses and herbs during the wet season, a time when juvenile mortality is likely to be high (Garnett and Crowley, 1995, Higgins, 1999).

10 Threats

Although the distribution has contracted, probably as a result of overgrazing and inappropriate fire regimes, the species remains common in areas under Aboriginal and/or National Park management, where grazing is minimal and burning programs are in place, or around rocky slopes, where food availability into the wet season is relatively assured. Disappearance from the coastal plains may be reversed by reinstating appropriate burning and grazing regimes. The species may occasionally be taken illegally for the bird trade, but this is unlikely to pose a serious threat as Hooded Parrots are common in captivity and easy to breed (Sindel and Gill, 1996).



11 Recommended actions

11.1 Maintain a mosaic of fire ages, particularly in flatter areas.

12 Bibliography

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