

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Hooded Robin (Tiwi Islands)

1	Family	Petroicidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Melanodryas cucullata melvillensis</i> Zietz, 1914
3	Common name	Hooded Robin (Tiwi Islands)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: C2b

5 Reasons for listing

The subspecies is restricted to a single island group, where there are probably fewer than 10,000 mature individuals, and is likely to decline in abundance (Vulnerable: C2b).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	8,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	1,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	8,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

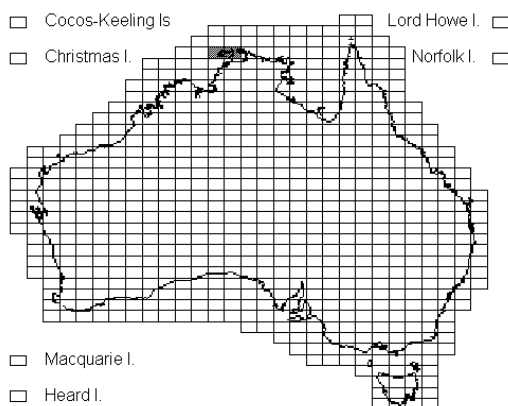
M. c. cucullata (south-eastern Australia) is Near Threatened. *M. c. picata* (northern inland Australia) and *M. c. westralensis* (south-eastern arid zone) are both Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to the Tiwi Is (Melville and Bathurst Is), N. T., (Schodde and Mason, 1999). Described as locally common (Zietz, 1914, Fensham & Woinarski, 1992).

8 Present range and abundance

Range thought to be as above. However, in recent surveys, they were found in frequently, or not at all (Mason and Schodde, 1997, Brock *et al.*, 2000).



9 Ecology

In the Tiwi Is, Hooded Robins probably occur primarily in open eucalypt woodland and treeless plains (J. Woinarski). They feed on insects and small lizards on the ground by pouncing from perches (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Sullivan, 1992). They make cup nests in which they lay two eggs (Beruldsen, 1980).

10 Threats

Extensive clearing for a short-term rotation of *Acacia mangium* will probably destroy habitat. Trial plots of 6,000 ha have been approved with 30,000 ha planned and options for a total of 100,000 ha (J. Woinarski). Given the sensitivity of Hooded Robins to clearing in southern Australia (Robinson, 1993, Reid, 1999), clearing on the Tiwi Is is likely to be deleterious to the species. Dense grass cover that disadvantages the species is kept in check by traditional burning regimes, which ensure that the ground layer remains open. However, a trend to less extensive application of traditional burning regimes could be responsible for the birds' apparent decline (J. Woinarski).

11 Information required

- 11.1 Collect baseline data on population size, habitat use and potential effects of clearing.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain a viable population on the Tiwi Is.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Before proceeding with further large-scale clearing, assess likely effects on robins and adjust plans accordingly.
- 14.2 Work with land-owners to ensure management is adequate to conserve Hooded Robins on the Tiwi Is.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory.

16 Other organisations involved

Tiwi Land Council.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

Staff resources required 2001-2005

0.1

Project Officer

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Survey and assessment of clearing impacts ¹	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Collaborative land management	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
Total	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$55,000

¹ Costs shared with Tiwi Is Masked Owl

18 Bibliography

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Comments received from

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