

TAXON SUMMARY

Large-billed Gerygone (Torres Strait)

1	Family	Pardalotidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Gerygone magnirostris brunneipectus</i> (Sharpe, 1879)
3	Common name	Large-billed Gerygone (Torres Strait)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population of this subspecies is confined to two small islands with a combined area 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	300 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	95 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	10,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	2	high
Largest sub-population	5,000	low
Generation time	4 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

G. m. magnirostris (north-western Australia) and *G. m. cairnsensis* (north Queensland) are both Least Concern. There are nine other subspecies in New Guinea and on its off-shore islands. The subspecific status of *G. m. brunneipectus* is assumed and needs investigation (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

7 Past range and abundance

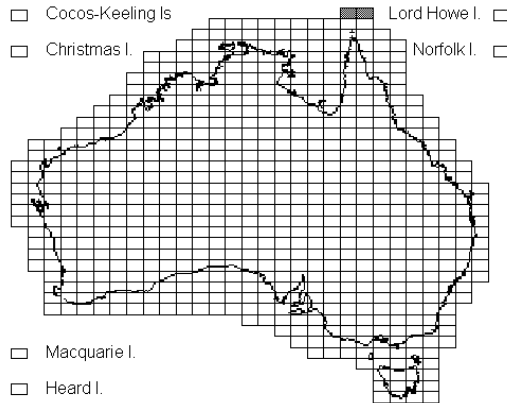
A New Guinea subspecies whose distribution extends to Saibai and Boigu Is (Druffan *et al.*, 1983, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

9 Ecology

Large-billed Gerygones are resident in the mangrove forest which occurs over most of Saibai and Boigu Is (Druffan *et al.*, 1983). They forage in the canopy for insects (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). They build pendulous nests, and usually lay 2 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

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Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

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Gärdenfors, U., Rodríguez, 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.

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