

TAXON SUMMARY

# Leaden Flycatcher (Torres Strait)

1	Family	Dicruridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Myiagra rubecula papuana</i> Rothschild & Hartert, 1918
3	Common name	Leaden Flycatcher (Torres Strait)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

5 Reasons for listing

The Australian population of this subspecies is confined to one small island with an area of less than 100 km<sup>2</sup> (Vulnerable: 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	72 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	29 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds:	2,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	4 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

6 Intraspecific taxa

The four other Australian subspecies, *M. r. concinna* (north-western Australia), *M. r. yorki* (Cape York Peninsula) *M. r. yorki* (eastern Queensland) and *M. r. rubecula* (south-eastern Australia), are all Least Concern, as is the species. One other subspecies occurs in the Louisiade Archipelago.

7 Past range and abundance

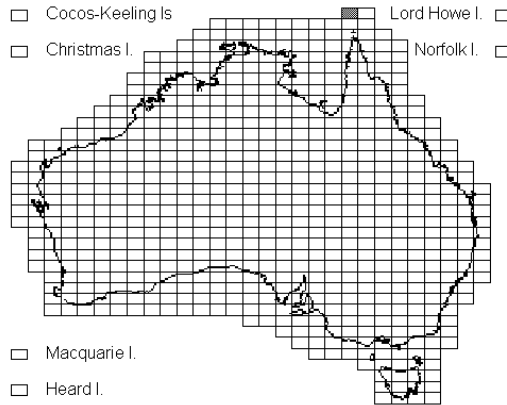
New Guinea, extending south to Boigu I. (Draffan *et al.*, 1983, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

9 Ecology

On Boigu I., Leaden Flycatchers are found in *Melaleuca* woodland. They feed on flying insects (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). They build delicate cupped nests, and have a clutch size of 2-3 (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.

Draffan, R. D. W., Garnett, S. T. and Malone, G. J. 1983. Bird of the Torres Strait: An annotated list and biogeographic analysis. *Emu* 83:207-234.

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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