

TAXON SUMMARY

Northern Fantail (Torres Strait)

1	Family	Dicruridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris gularis</i> S. Muller, 1843
3	Common name	Northern Fantail (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 km² (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 ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	29 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds:	1,000	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

R. f. isura in northern Australia is Least Concern. Extraliminally, 24 subspecies have been described from New Guinea and nearby islands.

7 Past range and abundance

New Guinea, extending south to Boigu I. (O'Brien, 1995, Carter *et al.*, 1997, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

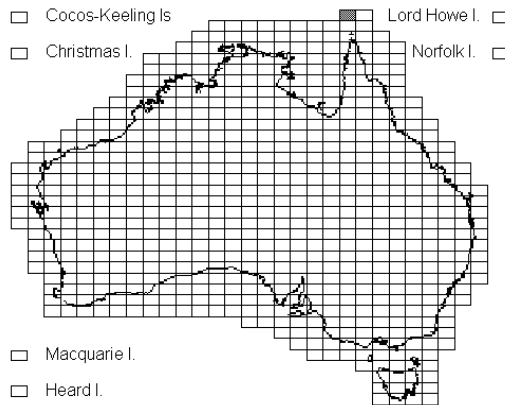
As above.

9 Ecology

On Boigu I., Northern Fantails are found in ti-tree *Melaleuca* woodland. They feed on flying insects, particularly dragonflies (Blakers *et al.*, 1984) and build cup nests, in which to lay two 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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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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