

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Southern Emu-wren (Dirk Hartog Island)

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Stipiturus malachurus hartogi</i> Carter, 1916
3	Common name	Southern Emu-wren (Dirk Hartog Island)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

The island to which this subspecies is restricted is more than 100 km² in size, but because it is so narrow and the habitat so uniform, the population is deemed vulnerable to catastrophe (Vulnerable: D2).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	420 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	200 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	10,000	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	2 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

S. m. parimeda (Eyre Peninsula, S. A.) is Vulnerable. *S. m. intermedius* (Adelaide region, S. A.) is Critically Endangered. *S. m. littleri* (Tasmania), *S. m. malachurus* (south-eastern Australia), *S. m. polionotum* (south-eastern South Australia and western Victoria), *S. m. halmaturina* (Kangaroo I., S. A.), and *S. m. westernensis* (south-western Australia; Schodde and Mason, 1999) are Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Dirk Hartog I., W. A. (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but appears to be very scarce in the southern part of the island (R. Johnstone).

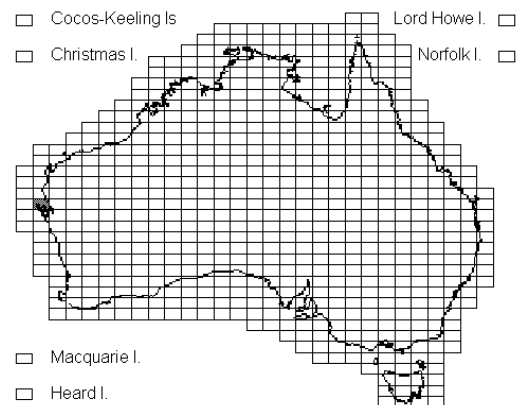
9 Ecology

On Dirk Hartog I., Southern Emu-wrens live in sandplain heaths and dune thickets, foraging amongst the foliage and taking insects, spiders, seeds and leaves. They build cupped nests for 2-4 eggs and appear to occupy territories as pairs (Schodde, 1982, Rowley and Russell, 1997).

10 Threats

The subspecies is scarce where sheep grazing is most intense, but has persisted in the north despite the small size of Dirk Hartog I., the presence of sheep, goats, house mice and feral cats, and occasional,

extensive fires. The island, however, inexplicably lacks rats, and should these arrive they could be as devastating as they have been on other islands (A. A. Burbidge). The emu-wren is already the least common of the island's endemic subspecies (I. Rowley, R. E. Johnstone). The island has already lost the Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis textilis textilis*.



11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain island population.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Monitor island sub-populations every three years.

14.2 Restrict spread of extensive wild-fires.

14.3 Take measures to prevent establishment of predators, particularly rats, to islands.

14.4 Encourage appropriate land management on leasehold land.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Western Australian Department of Conservation.

16 Other organisations involved

Leaseholder.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.02 Project Officer¹

Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Monitoring¹</i>	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
<i>Total</i>	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400

¹ Costs shared among the Dirk Hartog I. subspecies of White-winged Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren and Rufous Fieldwren

18 Bibliography

Rowley, I. and Russell, E. 1997. *Fairy-wrens and Grasswrens*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Schodde, R. 1982. *The Fairy-Wrens. A Monograph of the Maluridae*. Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne.

Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO, Collingwood, Victoria.

Comments received from

Andrew Burbidge, Ron Johnstone, Ian Rowley, Eleanor Russell.