

TAXON SUMMARY

Sacred Kingfisher (Tasman Sea)

1	Family	Alcedinidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Todiramphus sanctus vagans</i> (Lesson, 1828)
3	Common name	Sacred Kingfisher (Tasman Sea)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

5 Reasons for listing

Within Australia, this subspecies has a small population (Vulnerable: D1), which is restricted to a single location (D2). The global status, however, is Least Concern, and self introduction implies genetic interchange. 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	20 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	5 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Estimated population	300	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	4 years	low
Global population share	< 1%	high
Level of genetic exchange	low	medium

6 Other subspecies

T. s. norfolkiensis (Norfolk I.) is also Vulnerable. *T. s. sanctus* (mainland Australia, Tasmania and off-shore islands) is Least Concern. Other subspecies are found through the Pacific and South-east Asia.

7 Past range and abundance

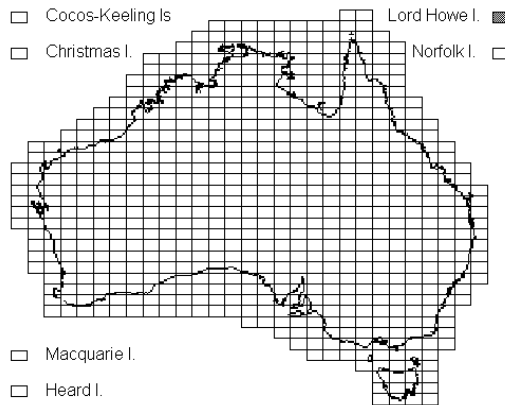
Lord Howe I. Apparently self-introduced from New Zealand or nearby islands in mid-19th century, the first record being 1869 (Hindwood, 1940).

8 Present range and abundance

As above.

9 Ecology

On Lord Howe I., the Sacred Kingfisher feeds on a variety of invertebrates taken from forest edges, rocky shores and coral reefs, and nests in the trunks of rotting trees (Hindwood, 1940, Hutton, 1991).



10 Threats

There are no immediate threats to the Sacred Kingfisher on Lord Howe I., but the subspecies is considered to be vulnerable because of the small population and area occupied. In the 19th century kingfishers, were killed as they were believed to kill poultry (Higgins, 1999). However, the population evidently survived this pressure. The restricted area of occupancy, however, makes the subspecies susceptible to catastrophe, such as the introduction of another predator.

11 Recommended actions

None.

12 Bibliography

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Higgins, P. J. (ed.) 1999. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 4. Parrots to Dollarbird*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Hindwood, K. A. 1940 The birds of Lord Howe Island. *Emu* 40:1-86.

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Comments received from

David Priddel.