

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Slender-billed White-eye

1	Family	Zosteropidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Zosterops tenuirostris</i> Gould, 1837
3	Common name	Slender-billed White-eye
4	Conservation status	Endangered: B1+2abde, C2b

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies is restricted to a single small area on Norfolk I. (Endangered: B1) which is gradually decreasing in area of occupancy (B2b) and, presumably, number of mature individuals (e). There are fewer than 2,500 individuals in this single decreasing population (C2b).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	8 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	8 km ²	high
trend	decreasing	high
No. of breeding birds	2,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	3 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

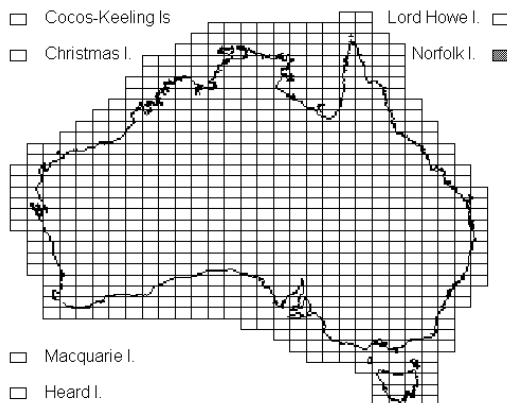
Sometimes thought to include *Z. t. strenuus* (Lord Howe I.; Schodde and Mason, 1999).

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to Norfolk I. (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

Largely confined to Norfolk Island National Park (Schodde *et al.*, 1983). Has been declining since the 1960s, particularly outside the park, a decline which continued in the period from 1987 to 1997 (Robinson, 1997).



9 Ecology

Slender-billed White-eyes live in rainforest and tall secondary growth, using their long, down-curved bills to probe fissures in bark for insects, although also take fruit, including exotic species (Mees, 1969, Schodde *et al.*, 1983, Robinson, 1988). They forage in parties and appear to have a different ecological niche to that of the self-introduced Silvereye *Z. lateralis*, which forages in foliage (Robinson, 1988).

10 Threats

Slender-billed White-eyes have gradually disappeared from all parts of the island that have been extensively cleared, a decline that has probably been exacerbated by the arrival of Black Rats *Rattus rattus* (Robinson, 1997).

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain viable population on Norfolk I.

12.2 Introduce subspecies to Phillip I.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.

13.2 Responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. is being encouraged through sponsorship of a cat de-sexing clinic, and a ban on the importation of reproductively-competent cats is being supported.

13.3 Rabbits have been removed from Phillip I.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Initiate regular monitoring.

14.2 Introduce to Phillip I. following revegetation.

14.3 Establish cooperative rodent control programs island wide, with a view to rat eradication.

14.4 Enhance rat baiting and cat trapping on Norfolk I. and monitor their efficacy.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Environment Australia, Norfolk Island Administration.

