

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Scarlet Robin (Norfolk Island)

1	Family	Petroicidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Petroica multicolor multicolor</i> (Gmelin, 1789)
3	Common name	Scarlet Robin (Norfolk Island)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

A decline in the population now appears to have halted leaving a small, stable population at a single location (Vulnerable: D2).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	25 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	15 km ²	high
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	900	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

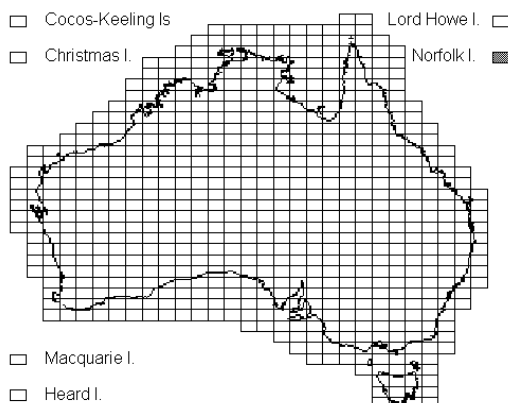
P. m. campbelli (south-western Australia), *P. m. boodang* (south-eastern Australia) and *P. m. leggii* (eastern Tasmania and Flinders I.) are all Least Concern. There are estimated to be a further 14 subspecies on Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji and the Solomon Is (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to Norfolk I.

8 Present range and abundance

Largely confined to the Norfolk Island National Park and nearby forested areas. It disappeared from many sites elsewhere on the island during the 1980s (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, Robinson, 1988, Bell, 1990). Population estimated at 400-500 pairs in 1988 (Robinson, 1988) and appeared little changed in 1997 (Robinson, 1997).



9 Ecology

The habitat most favoured by the Scarlet Robin on Norfolk I. is rainforest. Habitats dominated by Norfolk Island Palm *Rhopalostylis baueri* or exotic olives *Olea europea* hold lower densities and exotic eucalypt forests support very few robins. Most breeding appears to be in rainforest. The main requirements appear to be deep litter, a dense understorey and a fairly open ground layer to give the robins sufficient visibility to feed on the ground (Robinson, 1988).

10 Threats

The decline of the Scarlet Robin was first noticed about 20 years after the introduction of Black Rats *Rattus rattus*, which are a major predator of nests (Major, 1989). Cats may also be a problem and have been recorded taking adult birds. The effects of predation and competition have been exacerbated by habitat clearance and fragmentation (Robinson, 1988). Invasion of habitat by exotic shrubs and trees reduces habitat quality (Smithers and Disney, 1969, Robinson, 1988) until it develops an open understorey (Robinson, 1997).

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain a stable population in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 12.2 Introduce subspecies to Phillip I. following revegetation.

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Progressive weed removal is taking place in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 13.2 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 Rabbits have been removed from Phillip I.

- 14 Management actions required
- 14.1 Monitor population using bird-watchers' records and through a census every 5 years.
- 14.2 Introduce subspecies to Phillip I. following revegetation.
- 14.3 Establish cooperative rodent control programs throughout Norfolk I, 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.

- 16 Other organisations involved
Norfolk Island Fauna and Flora Society, Norfolk Island Conservation Society.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005

1.0	Project Officer ¹
1.0	Technical Officer ¹

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
<i>Monitoring</i> ²	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
<i>Introduce to Phillip I.</i> ²	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
<i>Rat baiting in Norfolk Island National Park</i> ¹	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
<i>Cooperative rodent control on Norfolk I.</i> ¹	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
<i>Cat trapping Norfolk I.</i> ¹	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
<i>Encourage responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I.</i> ¹	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
<i>Total</i>	\$55,000	\$10,000	\$65,000

¹ Cost divided among all threatened taxa on Norfolk I.

² Cost divided among all threatened terrestrial taxa on Norfolk I.

18 Bibliography

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Comments received from

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