

TAXON SUMMARY

Scarlet Robin (south-western)

1	Family	Petroicidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Petroica multicolor campbelli</i> Sharpe, 1898
3	Common name	Scarlet Robin (south-western)
4	Conservation status	Least Concern

5 Reasons for listing

Although much of its habitat has been cleared, and the subspecies is continuing to disappear from fragments, over half the original range is still occupied (so not Near Threatened: a or c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	600,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	20,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of breeding birds	100,000	low
trend	decreasing	medium
Number of populations:	2	high
Largest population:	99,500	low
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

P. m. multicolor (Norfolk I.) is Endangered, *P. m. hoodang* (south-eastern Australia) and *P. m. leggii* (eastern Tasmania and Flinders I.) are both Least Concern, as is the species. Sub-population on lower Eyre Peninsula assumed to be this subspecies. There are estimated to be a further 14 subspecies on Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji and the Solomon Islands (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

7 Past range and abundance

South-western Western Australia and lower Eyre Peninsula (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

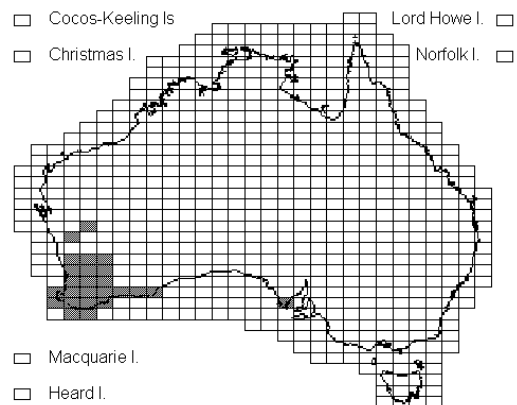
8 Present range and abundance

As above, but much reduced in abundance, particularly in the Western Australian wheatbelt (Saunders and Ingram, 1995). A small population persists on southern Eyre Peninsula (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, D. Farlam).

9 Ecology

The south-western subspecies of Scarlet Robin lives in eucalypt woodlands and forests that have an open understorey (Blakers *et al.*, 1984), where it can feed on the ground (Robinson, 1990, 1992). It invades or increases in abundance after fires that produce an open vegetation structure (Christensen and Kimber, 1975, Brooker, 1998), but persistence in an area appears to require an inter-fire interval of eight to ten years, or mosaic burning that enables recolonisation from unburnt areas (Brooker, 1998). The species

builds cupped nests in tree forks and lays 2-3 eggs (Beruldsen, 1980).



10 Threats

Much of the wheatbelt habitat has been cleared and that which remains is fragmented. Over time, Scarlet Robins disappear from even quite large fragments and do not return (Saunders and Ingram, 1995).

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Cease clearance of habitat.
- 11.2 Support rehabilitation of habitat.
- 11.3 Determine characteristics of fragments that continue to support the subspecies.
- 11.4 Monitor population regularly, particularly in relation to habitat rehabilitation.
- 11.5 Maintain long unburnt patches in remaining habitat.
- 11.6 Determine location, size, conservation status and genetic identity of Eyre Peninsula population.

12 Bibliography

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