

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Scrubtit (King Island)

1	Family	Pardalotidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Acanthornis magnus greenianus</i> Schodde and Mason, 1999
3	Common name	Scrubtit (King Island)
4	Conservation status	Critically Endangered: C2a

5 Reasons for listing

The population of this subspecies is severely fragmented, probably contains only 200 mature individuals, and may be declining as a result of tick infestation (Critically Endangered: C2a).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	500 km ²	high
trend	decreasing	high
Area of occupancy	5 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	low
No. of breeding birds	200	low
trend	decreasing	low
No. of sub-populations	4	low
Largest sub-population	50	low
Generation time	4 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

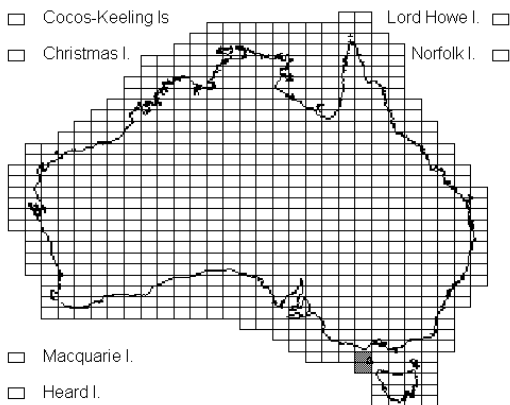
A. m. magnus (mainland Tasmania) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Restricted to King I., Tas., probably existing as a single sub-population across the island (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

Confined to a few habitat remnants on King I.: recorded at The Nook, Pass R., Yellow Rock and, until recently, Pegasus Forestry Reserve (Green and McGarvie, 1971, S. Bryant, M. Holdsworth).



9 Ecology

The King I. subspecies of Scrubtit is restricted to wet sclerophyll forest and tall, undisturbed gully paperbark

scrub. It lays 3-4 eggs in domed nests near the ground (Green and McGarvie, 1971, Beruldsen, 1980, Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Schodde and Mason, 1999). Scrubtits feed on arthropods taken from fern trunks and fronds, and from amongst bark (Thomas, 1974). King Island Scrubtits appear to be less secretive than the Tasmanian subspecies, feeding and displaying high in the canopy (S. Bryant, M. Holdsworth).

10 Threats

The area of suitable habitat on King I. has been reduced by clearance, and the birds occur only sparsely through remaining remnants, to the extent that the subspecies was not discovered until 1966 (Green and McGarvie, 1971). Recently collected birds were affected by large numbers of ticks (Schodde and Mason, 1999) and the subspecies can no longer be found in the largest patch of remaining habitat on King I. (S. Bryant, M. Holdsworth).

11 Information required

- 11.1 Determine current distribution, abundance and threats.
- 11.2 Determine effects of ticks on population viability.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 To retain all existing sub-populations.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Manage remaining habitat appropriately.
- 14.2 On the basis of research, develop an appropriate recovery strategy.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

16 Other organisations involved

Local government, Tasmanian Forestry Commission, bird-watching societies.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out
Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.2 *Project Officer*¹
Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Survey population size and status</i> ¹	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$11,000
<i>Determine effects of ticks on conservation status</i>	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$75,000
<i>Monitoring</i> ¹	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500
<i>Total</i>	\$40,500	\$47,000	\$87,500

¹ Costs shared among all six threatened King I. taxa: Green Rosella, Orange-bellied Parrot, Scrubtit, Brown Thornbill, Yellow Wattlebird and Black Currawong

18 Bibliography

Beruldsen, G. R. 1980. *A Field Guide to Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*. Rigby, Adelaide.

Blakers, M., Davies, S. J. J. F. and Reilly, P. N. 1984. *The Atlas of Australian Birds*. RAOU and Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

Green, R. and McGarvie, A. M. 1971. The birds of King Island. *Rec. Queen Vic. Museum* 40:1-42.

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

Thomas, D. G. 1974. The Scrubtit *Acanthornis magnus* - status and ecology. *Tas. Nat.* 38:1-8.

Comments received from Sally Bryant, Mark Holdsworth.