

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Singing Starling

1	Family	Sturnidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Aplonis cantoroides</i> (G. R. Gray, 1862)
3	Common name	Singing Starling
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: e

### 5 Reasons for listing

In Australian territory, the population is very small (Vulnerable: D1) and has been recorded from only one small island with an area of occupancy fewer than 100 km<sup>2</sup> (D2). The global status, however, is Least Concern and genetic interchange is likely to be substantial. 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	72 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	72 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	100	low
trend	stable	high
Number of populations:	1	high
Generation time	3 years	low
Global population share	< 1 %	high
Level of genetic exchange	high	high

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

### 7 Past range and abundance

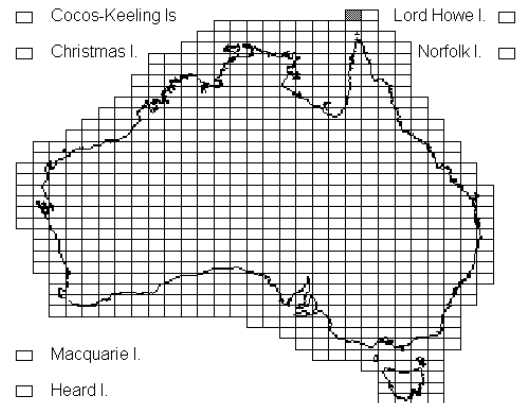
Found throughout New Guinea and on nearby offshore islands, apparently breeding on Boigu I. (Beehler *et al.*, 1986, Lansley, 1997, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

### 8 Present range and abundance

As above. Although only recently recorded in Australian territory, this is more likely to be an artefact of observer movements, than an indication of an extension of the species' range (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

### 9 Ecology

Singing Starlings are mostly found in open lowland habitats, including along coasts (Beehler *et al.*, 1986). They nest in tree hollows and on ledges or cavities in rocks and buildings. They are abundant around settlements and in plantations (Beehler *et al.*, 1986, Schodde and Mason, 1999).



### 10 Threats

There are no immediate threats except, perhaps, those posed to low islands by rising sea levels.

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Initiate community-based ecotourism business promoting the islands' unique avifauna. Monitoring of sub-populations and habitat could then be undertaken by visiting bird-watchers and local rangers.

### 12 Bibliography

- Beehler, B. M., Pratt, T. K. and Zimmerman, D. A. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Gärdenfors, U., Rodriguez, J.P., Hilton-Taylor, C., Hyslop, C., Mace, G., Molur, S. and Poss, S. 1999. Draft guidelines for the Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at National and Regional Levels. *Species* 31-32:58-70.
- Lansley, P. 1997. Boigu Island update. *Aust. Birding* 3(2):24.
- Schodde, R. and Mason, I. J. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO, Collingwood, Victoria.

### Comments received from

Geoff Dews, Stan Wright.