

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Slender-billed Thornbill (St Vincent's Gulf)

1	Family	Pardalotidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Acanthiza iredalei rosinae</i> Mathews, 1913
3	Common name	Slender-billed Thornbill (St Vincent's Gulf)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies is found at four locations (Vulnerable: D2). Any decline in the small area of its habitat would result in classification of the subspecies as Endangered: B1+2bce.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	120 km ²	high
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	60 km ²	medium
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	10,000	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	4	medium
Largest sub-population	4,000	low
Generation time	4 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

A. i. hedleyi (south-east South Australia and central western Victoria) is Near Threatened, *A. i. iredalei* (southern arid zone of Western Australia and South Australia west to Spencer Gulf) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Endemic to the northern shores of the Gulf of St Vincent South Australia (SAOA, 1977, Blakers *et al.*, 1984).

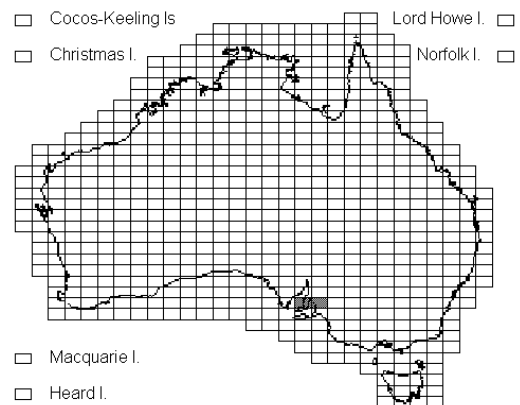
8 Present range and abundance

As above, but now patchily distributed along the northern shores of the Gulf of St Vincent from St Kilda to Ardrossan with three population foci: Price (fewer than 1,000 individuals), Clinton Conservation Park to Sandy Point (4,000), Port Prime south to Torrens I. (4,000). A further 1,000 individuals are estimated to occur on the shores of Spencer Gulf (Matthew, 1994), although there have been no records from Port Broughton since 1917 (J. Cox). The bird has also probably disappeared from around Port Adelaide (Matthew, 1994).

9 Ecology

The Slender-billed Thornbill occupies samphire shrublands on narrow coastal saline mudflats on the shores of Gulf of St Vincent and Spencer Gulf, often behind a mangrove fringe. It appears to be highly selective of particular species of samphire. Although, the subspecies is capable of crossing some gaps of unsuitable habitat (J. Cox in Garnett, 1992), it is

assumed that gaps between sub-populations are insurmountable.



10 Threats

Though unattractive for rural or residential development, the fringes of some salt-flats have been reclaimed for recreational and industrial use, such as for salt works. Other coastal developments, such as marinas, are proposed in parts of the subspecies' range. The subspecies will be particularly vulnerable to any rise in sea level.

11 Information required

11.1 Determine extent of movement between sub-populations.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain existing sub-populations.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 The distribution, population and threats have been studied.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Establish annual monitoring sites, particularly at fringes of range.

14.2 Proscribe further clearing of habitat.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.

16 Other organisations involved

Bird-watching societies, local government, coastal planning agencies, salt extraction companies.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005

None

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Determine extent of movement between sub-populations	\$2,000	\$12,000	\$14,000
Monitoring	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Planning	\$0	\$0	\$0,000
Total	\$3,000	\$16,000	\$19,000

18 Bibliography

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

Garnett, S. T. (ed.) 1992. *Threatened and Extinct Birds of Australia*. RAOU Report 82. RAOU, Melbourne and ANPWS, Canberra.

Matthew, J. 1994. The status, distribution and habitat of the Slender-billed Thornbill *Acanthiza iredalei* in South Australia. *S. Aust. Ornithol.* 32:1-23.

SAOA, 1977. *A Bird Atlas of the Adelaide Region*. South Australian Ornithological Association, Adelaide.

Comments received from

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