

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Variegated Fairy-wren (Shark Bay)

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Malurus lamberti bernieri</i> Ogilvie-Grant, 1909
3	Common name	Variegated Fairy-wren (Shark Bay)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies is considered threatened only because the combined area of the two islands that it occupies is less than 100 km² (Vulnerable: D2), so a catastrophe could conceivably affect both sub-populations simultaneously.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	200 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	94 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	19,000	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	2	high
Largest sub-population	10,000	medium
Generation time	2 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

M. l. rogersi (Kimberley), *M. l. dulcis* (Arnhem Land), *M. l. lamberti* (coastal and subcoastal New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland) and *M. l. assimilis* (semi-arid Australia, including coastal Western Australia) are all Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Bernier I. and Dorre I. on the edge of Shark Bay, W. A. (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

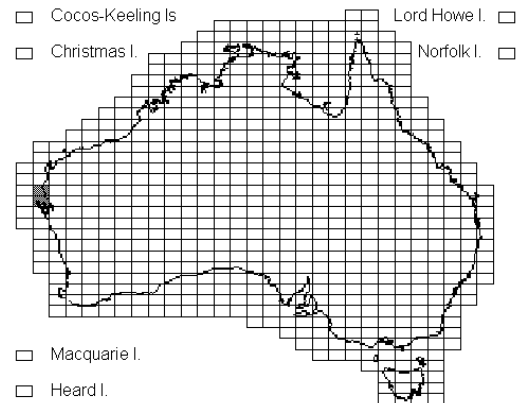
As above.

9 Ecology

Variegated Fairy-wrens live in dense heath and low shrubs, taking ants, beetles, bugs, wasps and other insects, and, occasionally, spiders, seeds and vegetation from amongst the foliage (Schodde, 1982, Rowley and Russell, 1997).

10 Threats

The islands are small and currently without exotic predators, but may be subject to sudden unspecified catastrophes.



11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain island sub-populations.

13 Actions completed or under way

None.

14 Management actions required

14.1 Monitor island sub-populations every three years.

14.2 Restrict spread of extensive wild-fires.

14.3 Take measures to prevent establishment of predators, particularly rats, to islands.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Western Australian Department of Conservation.

16 Other organisations involved

None.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.05 Rangers¹

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Annual visits by management staff ¹	\$14,600	\$0	\$14,600
Monitor abundance at three year intervals ¹	\$14,600	\$0	\$14,600
Total	\$29,200	\$0	\$29,200

¹ Costs shared among the Variegated Fairy-wren (Shark Bay) and the Rufous Fieldwren (Bernier and Dorre Is) as well with those predicted for Rufous Hare-Wallabies *Lagorchestes hirsutus bernieri* and *L. h. dorrae*, Western Barred Bandicoot *Prameles bouganville bouganville*, Banded Hare-Wallaby *Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus* and Boodie *Bettongia lesueur lesueur* after Maxwell *et al.* (1996)

18 Bibliography

Maxwell, S., Burbidge, A. A. and Morris, K. eds. 1996. *The 1996 Action Plan for Australian Marsupials and Monotremes*. Environment Australia, Canberra.

Rowley, I. and Russell, E. 1997. *Fairy-wrens and Grasswrens*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Schodde, R. 1982. *The Fairy-Wrens. A Monograph of the Maluridae*. Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne.

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

Comments received from

John Blyth, Allan Burbidge, Andrew Burbidge, Ian Rowley, Eleanor Russell.