

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# White-chested White-eye

1	Family	Zosteropidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Zosterops albogularis</i> Gould, 1837
3	Common name	White-chested White-eye
4	Conservation status	Critically Endangered: D

### 5 Reasons for listing

The remaining population must be very small (Critically Endangered: D), but is unlikely still to be decreasing or it would be extinct.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	low
Area of occupancy	5 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	stable	low
No. of breeding birds	20	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	3 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

None described. Vernacular follows Schodde and Mason (1999), White-breasted White-eye being the established vernacular name for the African *Z. abyssinica*.

### 7 Past range and abundance

The White-chested White-eye is endemic to Norfolk I. (Schodde *et al.*, 1983).

### 8 Present range and abundance

By the 1970s, White-chested White-eyes were confined to weed-free indigenous forest in and around the Norfolk Island National Park (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, Rooke, 1986, Bell, 1990). Although formal searches (eg. Hermes *et al.*, 1986, Rooke, 1986, Bell, 1990) have failed to find any in the last two decades, there have been scattered sightings throughout this period including four in 1978 (Schodde *et al.*, 1983), one in 1979 (Hermes *et al.*, 1986), one in 1981 (Moore, 1981), one in 1987, two in 1991, four in 1994 (Moore, 1999) and one in March 2000 (R. Ward).

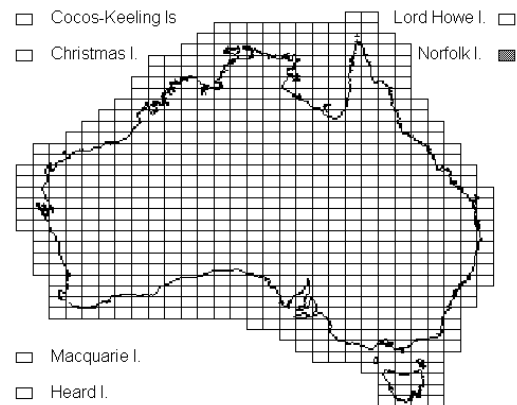
### 9 Ecology

The White-chested White-eye appears to occur only in weed-free indigenous forest, feeding high in shrubs and trees (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, R. Ward).

### 10 Threats

The principal threat is probably predation by the Black Rat *Rattus rattus* (Bell, 1990), which is thought to have been introduced in the mid-1940s (Robinson, 1988). Effects of predation have been exacerbated by the clearance of much native forest and invasion of the

remainder by exotic weeds. As a result the favoured habitat has been reduced to less than 1% of the area of the island (Rooke, 1986). Competition from the self-introduced Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*, which was first recorded on the island in 1904 (North, 1904), may also have contributed to the decline.



### 11 Information required

- 11.1 Determine a method of finding the birds reliably.

### 12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Maintain a stable population in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 12.2 Establish a captive population.
- 12.3 Introduce to Phillip I. following revegetation.

### 13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Rat baiting and cat trapping is occurring in Norfolk Island National Park.
- 13.2 Responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. is being encouraged through sponsorship of a cat de-sexing clinic, and a ban on the importation of reproductively-competent cats is being supported.

### 14 Management actions required

- 14.1 Establish cooperative rodent control programs throughout Norfolk I, with a view to rat eradication.
- 14.2 Enhance rat baiting and cat trapping on Norfolk I. and monitor their efficacy.

- 14.3 If birds located, establish a captive breeding population.
- 14.4 Introduce to Phillip I. following revegetation.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation  
Environment Australia.

16 Other organisations involved  
Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society, Taronga Park Zoo.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.05 Project Officer<sup>1</sup>

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Location of birds in Norfolk Island National Park	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Introduce to Phillip I.	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
Rat baiting in Norfolk Island National Park <sup>2</sup>	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Cooperative rodent control on Norfolk I. <sup>2</sup>	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Cat trapping Norfolk I. <sup>2</sup>	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Encourage responsible cat ownership on Norfolk I. <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Establish a captive breeding colony	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cost divided among all threatened taxa on Norfolk I.

<sup>2</sup> Cost divided among all threatened terrestrial taxa on Norfolk I.

### 18 Bibliography

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Text adapted from

Hermes (1992).

Comments received from

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