

TAXON SUMMARY

White-browed Treecreeper (eastern)

1	Family	Climacteridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Climacteris affinis superciliosa</i> North, 1895
3	Common name	White-browed Treecreeper (eastern)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

Density has decreased over more than 50% of this subspecies' historical range (Near Threatened: c)

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	600,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	20,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of breeding birds	20,000	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	10	low
Largest sub-population	10,000	low
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. a. affinis (southern Northern Territory, semi-arid South Australia and Western Australia) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

South-western Queensland, western New South Wales, north-west Victoria and central eastern South Australia (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). Intergrades with *C. a. affinis* along the western edge of the Flinders Ra. (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above, but density has been greatly reduced in three southern states, where subspecies is now confined to an unknown number of isolated remnants (Emison *et al.*, 1987, Traill and Duncan, 2000). In Victoria, area of occupancy estimated at 1,100 km², with 1,500-2,000 mature individuals spread over three main sub-populations (J. Radford).

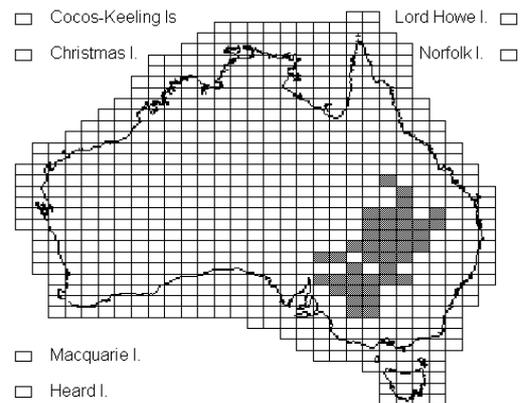
9 Ecology

White-browed Treecreepers live in acacia shrubland and *Triodia spinifex*, particularly in association with *Casuarina*, *Callitris* cypress pine and *Acacia aneura* mulga, where they forage on the ground and tree trunks for insects (Blakers *et al.*, 1984). They lay 1-3 eggs in a lined tree hollow, usually in a cypress pine or casuarina, often in a dead tree or standing stump (Beruldsen, 1980, J. Radford).

10 Threats

At least 90% of habitat along the wetter eastern edge of the subspecies' range has been cleared. Isolated sub-

populations are left in remnants (Emison *et al.*, 1987, Traill and Duncan, 2000, J. Radford). In Victoria, apparently suitable remnants of less than 18 ha are not occupied, and it is likely extinctions in fragments will continue for many decades after isolation (J. Radford). Remnant habitat is heavily grazed by stock and elevated populations of kangaroos, which prevent recruitment of habitat trees (Emison *et al.*, 1987, Traill and Duncan, 2000).



11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Protect all woodland in which White-browed Treecreepers are known to be resident from clearing, monitoring compliance biennially.
- 11.2 Secure all White-browed Treecreeper sub-populations found on public land through conservation management, particularly those in timber reserves, or transport corridors or on local government land.
- 11.3 Within the treecreeper's range manage at least 15% of the pre-European area of all woodland communities on public or private land for nature conservation, using incentives where necessary.
- 11.4 Using appropriate incentives, undertake extension with land-holders that have suitable woodland habitat to promote sound management of remnants and encourage greater connectivity between sub-populations.
- 11.5 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity, including the treecreeper. Emphasis should be given to

expanding and consolidating core areas as isolated habitat patches are unlikely to be utilised.

- 11.6 Control and reduce firewood collection from areas occupied by White-browed Treecreepers, promoting wood-lot development close to markets, and reduce grazing densities where possible.
- 11.7 Investigate the feasibility of reintroduction to large remnants, possibly with the assistance of private aviculturists.
- 11.8 Undertake long-term monitoring of remnant sub-populations.
- 11.9 Determine and rectify causes of failure of regeneration of cypress pine and casuarina woodland.

12 Bibliography

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

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