

TAXON SUMMARY

Black-faced Woodswallow (Cape York Peninsula)

1	Family	Artamidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Artamus cinereus normani</i> Mathews, 1923
3	Common name	Black-faced Woodswallow (Cape York Peninsula)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

5 Reasons for listing

Scant data suggests that the density of this subspecies has decreased by at least 50% (Near Threatened: c).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	250,000 km ²	high
trend	decreasing	medium
Area of occupancy	200,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	100,000	low
trend	decreasing	low
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	5 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

A. c. melanops (north-west and inland Australia), *A. c. albiventris* (east-central Queensland), and *A. c. cinereus* (south-west Australia) are Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Central and south-western Cape York Peninsula, intergrading with *A. c. melanops* and *A. c. albiventris* along Burdekin-Lynd divide and Flinders-Burdekin nexus, north of a line between Townsville and Karumba (Schodde and Mason, 1999). Common around Coen in the 1920s (White, 1922).

8 Present range and abundance

Similar range, but now rarely recorded around Coen. Further south at Artemis Station, number of flocks declined steadily between 1992 and 1999 (S. Garnett, S. Shephard).

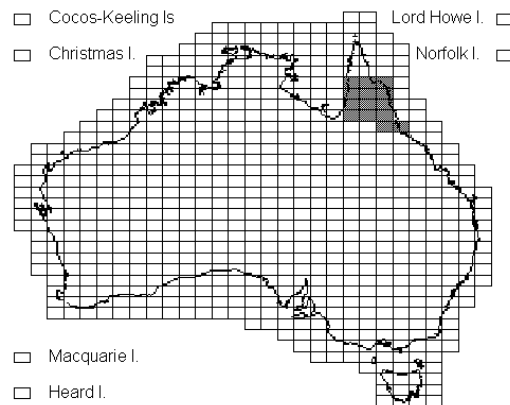
9 Ecology

Black-faced Woodswallows occur in a wide range of woodland types on Cape York Peninsula, are the focal species in mixed-species flocks (S. Garnett). Small flocks are nomadic over a large home range, except when resident at traditional breeding sites. The birds lay 2-3 eggs in cupped nests that are suspended in small trees (S. Garnett and S. Shephard).

10 Threats

A change in fire regime associated with the pastoral industry (Crowley and Garnett, 2000), which leads to

an increase in density of woodlands and loss of grasslands (Neldner et al., 1997, Crowley and Garnett, 1998), is the most likely cause of decline.



11 Recommended actions

11.1 Using analysis of fire histories produced for Golden-shouldered Parrots, Star and Crimson Finches, manage the habitat in central Cape York Peninsula in a way that will reverse the trend towards thickening of the vegetation.

12 Bibliography

Crowley, G. M. and Garnett, S. T. 1998. Vegetation change in the grasslands and grassy woodlands of central Cape York Peninsula. *Pac. Conserv. Biol.* 4:132-148.

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Neldner, V. J., Fensham, R. J., Clarkson, J. R. and Stanton, J. P. 1997. The natural grasslands of Cape York Peninsula, Australia: Description, distribution and conservation status. *Biol. Conserv.* 81:121-136.

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

White, H. L. 1922. A collecting trip to Cape York Peninsula. *Emu* 22:99-116.