

RECOVERY OUTLINE

White-winged Fairy-wren (Dirk Hartog Island)

1	Family	Maluridae
2	Scientific name	<i>Malurus leucopterus leucopterus</i> Dumont, 1824
3	Common name	White-winged Fairy-wren (Dirk Hartog Island)
4	Conservation status	Vulnerable: D2

5 Reasons for listing

The island to which this subspecies is restricted is more than 100 km² in size, but because it is so narrow and the habitat so uniform, the population is deemed vulnerable to catastrophe (Vulnerable: D2).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	420 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	200 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	40,000	low
trend	stable	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	2 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

M. l. eduardi (Barrow I.) is also Vulnerable;
M. l. leuconotus (semi-arid Australia) is Least Concern.

7 Past range and abundance

Dirk Hartog I., W. A. (Schodde and Mason, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

As above. On a recent visit, six nests were found in a day and subspecies seemed very common in most habitats (R. Johnstone).

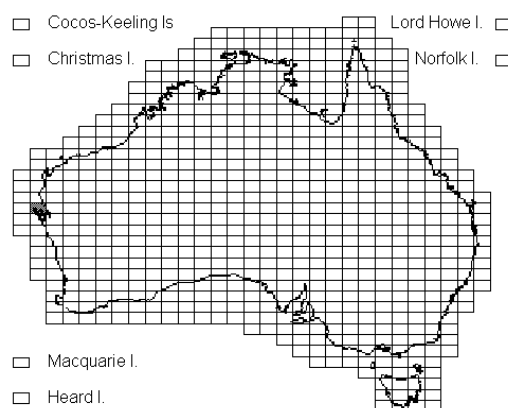
9 Ecology

White-winged Fairy-wrens live in sparse stunted vegetation, usually on poor or saline soils (Schodde, 1982, Rowley and Russell, 1997). They eat a wide range of insects, as well as seeds and fruits (Schodde, 1982).

10 Threats

The subspecies has persisted on Dirk Hartog I., despite the presence of sheep, goats, house mice and feral cats, occasional extensive fires and intensive sheep grazing in the south. The island, however, inexplicably lacks rats, and, should these arrive, they could be as devastating as on other islands

(A. A. Burbidge). The island has already lost the Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis textilis textilis*.



11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Maintain island population.

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.

14.4 Encourage appropriate land management on leasehold land.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

Western Australian Department of Conservation.

16 Other organisations involved
Leaseholder.

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

Staff resources required 2001-2005 0.02 Project Officer¹

Financial resources required 2001-2005

Action	Conservation agencies	Other funding sources	Total
Monitoring ¹	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Total	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400

¹ Costs shared among the Dirk Hartog I. subspecies of White-winged Fairy-wren, Southern Emu-wren and Rufous Fieldwren

18 Bibliography

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

Allan Burbidge, Andrew Burbidge, Ron Johnstone, Ian Rowley, Eleanor Russell.