

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Hooded Robin (south-eastern)

1	Family	Petroicidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i> (Latham, 1802)
3	Common name	Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: c

### 5 Reasons for listing

Declines of this subspecies are continuing in the eastern sheep-wheat belt (Near Threatened: c), but are unlikely to be occurring at a rate of 20% every three generations (15 years) throughout the subspecies' range (so not Vulnerable: A1) and the subspecies is still widespread and numerous (so not Vulnerable: B, C or D).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,000,000 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	100,000 km <sup>2</sup>	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of breeding birds	500,000	low
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	medium
Generation time	5 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*M. c. melvillensis* (Tiwi Is, N. T.) is Vulnerable. *M. c. westralensis* (south-eastern arid zone) and *M. c. picata* (northern inland Australia) are both Least Concern, as is the species.

### 7 Past range and abundance

South-eastern Australia: from about Mundubbera, Qld, to Spencer Gulf, intergrading with the other subspecies through the northern Murray-Darling basin (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Schodde and Mason, 1999).

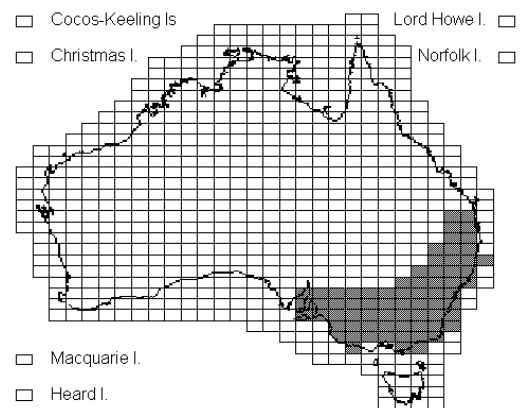
### 8 Present range and abundance

As above, but more sparsely distributed (Lord, 1956, Heron, 1973, Baldwin, 1975, Graham, 1990, 1995, Bennett, 1993, Fitri and Ford, 1997, Schodde and Mason, 1999). Disappearance from several sites in the New England district, N. S. W., well documented (Fitri and Ford, 1997). Almost disappeared from many parts of central New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (Robinson, 1993, Paton *et al.*, 1994, Traill *et al.*, 1996, Traill and Duncan, 2000), and only about 40 pairs thought to occur in Australian Capital Territory (P. Ormay).

### 9 Ecology

The south-eastern subspecies of Hooded Robin lives in eucalypt woodland and mallee and acacia shrubland (Fitri and Ford, 1997, Blakers *et al.*, 1984). It feeds on insects and small lizards from the ground by pouncing

from perches (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Sullivan, 1992). It builds a cup nests and usually lays two eggs (Beruldsen, 1980).



### 10 Threats

The Hooded Robin is one of a suite of species that have declined from woodlands in south-eastern Australia (Robinson and Traill, 1996, Fitri and Ford, 1997, Reid, 1999, Traill and Duncan, 2000). Much of the habitat has been cleared. A large part of that remaining is fragmented and even large fragments appear unable to sustain Hooded Robin over the long term (Traill and Duncan, 2000). The reason for the susceptibility of Hooded Robins to fragmentation is unknown but, once lost from a fragment, recolonisation is unlikely without assistance.

### 11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Protect all woodland in which Hooded Robins are known to be resident from clearing, monitoring compliance biennially.
- 11.2 Place all areas of public land that contain Hooded Robins under secure conservation management, particularly those in timber reserves, transport corridors and local government land.
- 11.3 Within the robin'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 habitat patches.

- 11.5 Promote revegetation and land reclamation that recreates woodland habitat with a full complement of biodiversity, including the robin.
- 11.6 Control and reduce firewood collection from areas occupied by Hooded Robins, promoting wood-lot development close to markets, and reduce grazing densities where necessary.
- 11.7 Undertake long-term monitoring of numbers and distribution.

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### Comments received from

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