

TAXON SUMMARY

Hooded Plover (western)

1	Family	Charadriidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Thinornis rubricollis tregellasi</i> (Mathews, 1912)
3	Common name	Hooded Plover (western)
4	Conservation status	Near Threatened: d

5 Reasons for listing

There are about 3,000 mature birds (Near Threatened: d), but no indications of a decline (so not Vulnerable).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,500,000 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	3,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	4,000	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	medium
Generation time	5 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

T. r. rubricollis (south-east Australia), separated from *T. r. tregellasi* on the basis of morphology and plumage (D. Rogers in Marchant and Higgins, 1993), is Vulnerable, and the species is Near Threatened. Genetic samples to be analysed to clarify taxonomic status.

7 Past range and abundance

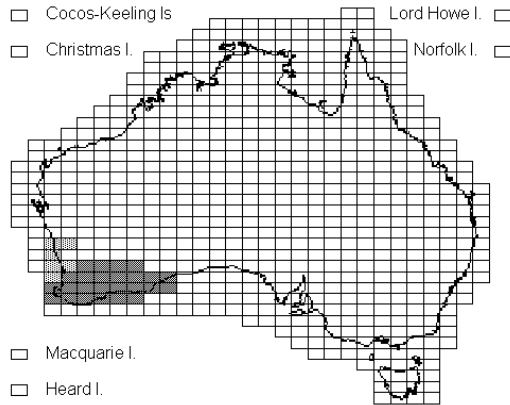
Breeding on south-west Western Australian coast, from Cape Naturaliste to Eyre, and on inland lakes as far north as L. Cowan and L. Moore and Yalgorup Lakes, south of Perth. Single birds or non-breeding pairs recorded on L. Arrow, L. Barlee and L. Ballard (Chapman and Lane, 1997). After breeding, inland birds appear to move to lakes near the west coast or shores of southern lakes. Occasionally occurs in Houtman Abrolhos and as far north as Wooramel R. (Blakers *et al.*, 1984, Johnstone and Storr, 1998).

8 Present range and abundance

Distribution as above. Census in 1995 found 2093 birds (1,500 on the Esperance Lakes; Newbey, 1996). Some additional birds expected at scattered inland locations.

9 Ecology

In Western Australia, Hooded Plovers live on ocean beaches and beside inland lakes. They nest on the upper levels of the beach, in adjacent sand dunes, or on lake shores. They forage at the water's edge for small invertebrates, with *Coxiella* spp. probably the main food taken around inland lakes (Marchant and Higgins, 1993, Singor, 1999, Weston and Elgar, 2000).



10 Threats

Fox predation, which is being reduced by baiting in some areas, is probably the principal threat, but it is not known whether it constrains population size. Human disturbance does not appear problematic, particularly in remote areas.

11 Recommended actions

- 11.1 Monitor accessible locations to determine populations trends.
- 11.2 Assess levels of nest predation, or the proportion of juveniles in the population, in areas with and without fox control programs.

12 Bibliography

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Comments received from

John Blyth, Allan Burbidge, Andrew Burbidge, Ron Johnstone, Brenda Newbey, Mike Weston.