

# **ENDANGERED VERTEBRATES OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS ISLAND TERRITORIES**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
ENDANGERED FAUNA OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF  
NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS**

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## PREFACE

This publication contains the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna of the Standing Committee of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. This report was adopted by Standing Committee in May 1984.

In 1982 the Working Group on Endangered Fauna was formed by the amalgamation of the former Working Group on Identification of Endangered Fauna, established in 1976 and the Working Group on Management of Endangered Vertebrates, established in 1980.

The Working Group consists of representatives of each Australian State and mainland Territory, as well as CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Rangelands Research and ANPWS.

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## INTRODUCTION

The need for an authoritative list of Australian endangered vertebrates arose when Australia attended the "Plenipotentiary Conference to Conclude an International Convention in Trade in Certain Species of Wildlife" which was held in Washington, D.C., in 1973. At that time there was no agreement between the various wildlife authorities as to which species were endangered and should be included in the Appendices to the Convention.

Accordingly, in 1974, the newly set up Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) created, through its Standing Committee of Commonwealth, State and Territory Departmental Heads, a "Working Group on Endangered Species" to consider the problem. Later, separate working groups were created to consider animals and plants.

The deliberations of the Working Group led to the adoption by CONCOM of an official list of endangered vertebrates in 1980. Since then, minor amendments have been agreed, as more knowledge has become available.

On a world-wide basis, island faunas have suffered most when man appeared on the scene. Australia, the world's largest island, was no exception. Since European settlement, a large number of animals have become extinct or endangered.

The biological exploration of Australia has been slow. Until the past two decades, much of the country had not been examined by biologists and the status of many species was uncertain. Even now, biologists are discovering new species of vertebrate animals; even new species of mammal are being named—a situation unparalleled in any other developed country. Some of the new species are very rare and may well need special protection and management if they are to survive. Examples included in this List are the Long-footed Potoroo and the Proserpine Rock-wallaby.

Most species included in the List, however, have been known for a long time and have declined because of man's activities. The factors leading to rarity and decline in the vertebrate fauna are often subtle and it is probable that, in most cases, there has been more than a single cause. Furthermore, many of these changes in abundance took place some time ago, and were not studied at the time, so in many cases we can only make guesses as to the reasons. It seems likely that some species are still declining and, unless research programmes are set up to find out the reasons and appropriate management instituted, it is likely that there will be further extinctions.

Some of the factors which have led to the extinction or decline of Australian vertebrates are discussed briefly below.

### **Habitat Destruction**

Clearing for agriculture has affected some habitats more than others, being concentrated on the most fertile and productive country. Very few indigenous species persist in farmland and the loss of habitat through clearing has had a major effect on some species. The Toolache Wallaby is one species which has become extinct largely because of the clearing of its habitat.

### **Introduced Predators**

That cats and foxes have had a dramatic effect on indigenous animals, there can be no doubt. The effects of other predators such as rats is less clear. Some species which have disappeared from the Australian mainland, such as the Burrowing Bettong and Banded Hare-wallaby, are abundant on some predator-free islands. On the other hand, where cats or foxes have become established on islands, for example, Dirk Hartog, Hermite and Depuch Islands, Western Australia, the wallabies which lived there became extinct in a short time.

### **Introduced Herbivores**

Competition for food and degradation of habitat by stock and feral animals appears to be a major cause of decline in indigenous animals. A number of domestic herbivores have gone wild in Australia, notably goats, cattle, pigs, donkeys, buffalo, rabbits, horses and camels. The recent decline of relict populations of the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat, a species on the endangered list, has been blamed on competition by cattle, sheep and rabbits.

### **Fire**

European man has managed the bush differently from the Aborigines. This is particularly so in relation to fire. Some areas have been burnt more frequently to provide stock feed or to protect assets, with a consequent reduction in habitat for animals which require dense or climax vegetation. The Noisy Scrub-bird and Western Rufous Bristlebird have declined in Western Australia because of the destruction of their habitats by frequent burning.

Desert Aborigines used fire both as an aid to hunting and to provide areas of young growth which would attract kangaroos. This resulted in a tight mosaic of small burns of various ages which provided both food and shelter for many animals and prevented the development of large summer wildfires. Since the Aborigines moved to European settlements, extensive hot fires have been the rule. This lack of habitat management seems to have contributed to the decline or extinction of a number of mammals which were once widespread in the interior. Efforts to manage the remaining very small populations of the Rufous Hare-wallaby in the Northern Territory are concentrating on imposing a fire regime similar to that of the Aborigines.

### **THE ANNOTATED CHECKLIST**

The List includes endangered terrestrial and marine mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs as well as freshwater fish of Australia, with a separate section listing the endangered vertebrates of Australian external territories.

For each species, notes are provided on past and present geographic range, habitat and threats to survival. Selected Aboriginal names for the animals covered are provided where available. Abbreviations for the States and Territories of Australia are as follows :

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NSW	New South Wales
Vic	Victoria
Qld	Queensland
WA	Western Australia
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
NT	Northern Territory

### **FURTHER READING**

In a publication such as this, it is not possible to provide all the detailed information which is often available. Readers requiring additional information should refer to one of the following publications or contact the relevant State wildlife service.

Burbidge, A.A. (Ed.) (1977). The status of kangaroos and wallabies in Australia. Report of the Working Group on Macropod Habitat of the Standing Committee of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. Australian Government Publishing Service : Canberra.

Groves, R.H. and Ride, W.D.L. (Eds) (1982). Species at Risk: Research in Australia. Australian Academy of Science: Canberra.

- Ovington, D. (1978). Australian Endangered Species. Mammals, Birds and Reptiles. Cassell Australia: Stanmore.
- Tyler, M.J. (Ed.) (1979). The status of endangered Australian wildlife. Proceedings of the Centenary Symposium of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia, Adelaide, 21-23 September 1978. Royal Zoological Society of South Australia: Adelaide.

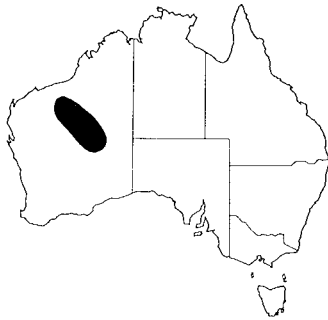
# ENDANGERED VERTEBRATES OF AUSTRALIA

Species

Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

## MAMMALS MARSUPIALS

### Long-tailed Dunnart or Yarrutju (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*)

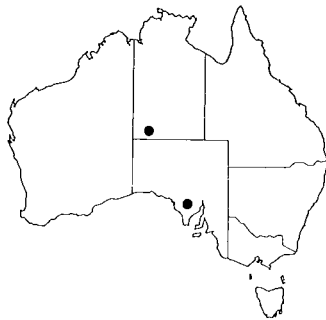


Range: Gibson Desert and east Pilbara, WA, possibly also in central Australia.

Habitat: Rugged slopes and plateaux of desert ranges.

Threats: None known. Recent surveys suggest it may be more common than was thought; three populations are now known from widely separated localities in the Gibson Desert and Aboriginals report that it is widespread in this region.

### Sandhill Dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*)



Range: Formerly known only from near Lake Amadeus, NT and the Eyre Peninsula, SA.

Now known only from Eyre Peninsula.

Habitat: Sand dunes and plains with mallee and shrubs over ephemeral or spinifex grasses.

Threats: Habitat destruction, introduced predators.

### Thylacine, Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*)




Range: Tasmania.


Extremely rare; last captive specimen died in 1936. There have been numerous unsubstantiated sightings since then.

Habitat: Formerly common in savannah woodland or open sclerophyll forest with rocky outcrops. Probably never plentiful in the rainforests or wet sedgelands of the south-west.

Threats: Hunting, habitat alteration.

#### Key

Present distribution 

Former distribution 



<i>Species</i>	<i>Status, Range, Habitat and Threats</i>
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**Numbat or Walpurti**  
(*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)



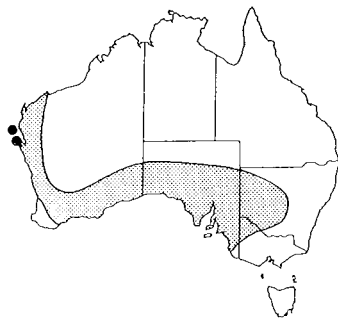
Range: Formerly widespread in southern Australia from western NSW to the south-west of WA.

Now restricted to a few small populations in the south-west of WA.

Habitat: Forests, woodlands and shrublands. Shelter in hollow logs, tree trunks or burrows.

Threats: Introduced predators, unsuitable fire regimes.

**Western Barred Bandicoot or Nyemmel**  
(*Perameles bougainville*)



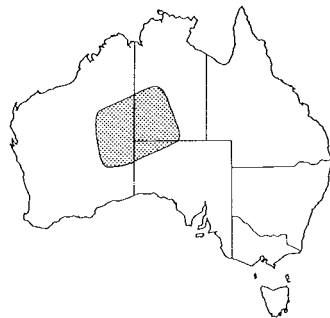
Range: Formerly from western Pilbara, to south-west and southern WA, southern SA, western and northern Vic. and western NSW.

Presumed extinct on the mainland; last recorded in 1922. Remains only on Bernier and Dorre Islands Nature Reserve, Shark Bay, WA.

Habitat: Dense scrub, bluebush and saltbush plains. Widespread on Bernier and Dorre Islands in shrublands and grasslands.

Threats: Introduction of predators, unsuitable fire regimes.



**Desert Bandicoot or Walyilya**  
(*Perameles eremiana*)



Range: Formerly widespread in the deserts of WA, NT and SA.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1931.

Habitat: Spinifex grasslands.

**Key**  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

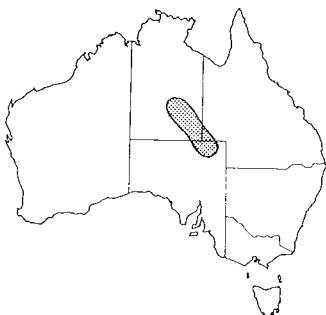
**Bilby, Dalgyte or Nirnu**  
(*Macrotis lagotis*)

Range: Formerly widespread south of the moist tropics and west of the Great Dividing Range but absent from central Qld, most of Vic and the extreme south-west corner of WA.

Now rare and scattered; small populations remain in south-west Qld, central NT, south and west Kimberley, the Pilbara and the Great Sandy and Gibson Deserts, WA.

Habitat: Wide variety of sandy, loamy or stony country with woodlands, shrublands or grasslands; Lives in a burrow.

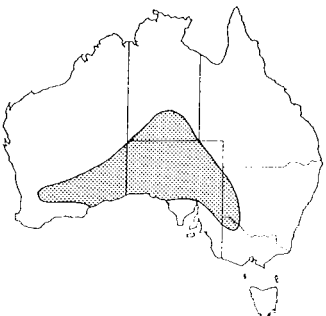
Threats: Unknown; unsuitable fire regimes, competition with rabbits, and predation by foxes have been suggested as the reasons for its decline.

**Lesser Bilby or Yallara**  
(*Macrotis leucura*)

Range: Formerly in Lake Eyre Basin and Simpson Desert.

Presumed extinct; last recorded alive in 1931; a skull of unknown age was found in a Wedge-tailed Eagle's nest in 1967.

Habitat: Desert spinifex grasslands; lived in a burrow constructed in sandhills.

**Pig-footed Bandicoot or Kuntjilpa**  
(*Chaeropus ecaudatus*)

Range: Formerly recorded from widely scattered localities between the south-west of WA, the Murray-Darling River junction and Alice Springs. Probably widespread in the interior.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1907, probably survived in the interior until the 1920s.

Habitat: Woodlands, shrublands, grasslands.

**Key**

Present distribution



Former distribution



## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Leadbeater's Possum**  
(*Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*)

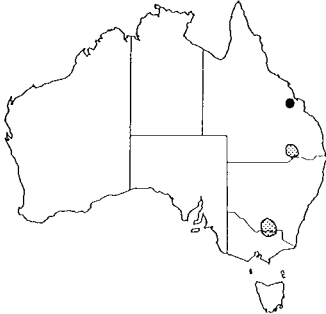


Range: South-eastern Vic.

Habitat: Montane forest at altitudes of 500-1500m. Inhabits mature forest; only lives in regenerating forest if some old nest trees remain.

Threats: Habitat destruction.

**Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat**  
(*Lasiorchinus krefftii*)



Range: Formerly found near Jerilderie, southern NSW, on the Moonie River in southern Qld and in an area 130 km north-west of Clermont, Qld.

Now very rare; only a single small colony is known at the last of the above localities. This area is within the Epping Forest National Park.

Habitat: Occupies burrows in semi-arid mixed *Eucalyptus/Acacia* woodland.

Threats: Previously habitat degradation, predation by dingos, competition with cattle, sheep and rabbits.

**Broad-faced Potoroo**  
(*Potorous platyops*)



Range: Formerly in south-west WA; known only from near Goomalling, Albany and the Pallinup River.

Presumed extinct; last recorded about 1875.

Habitat: Woodland and shrubland.

## Key

Present distribution



Former distribution



## Species

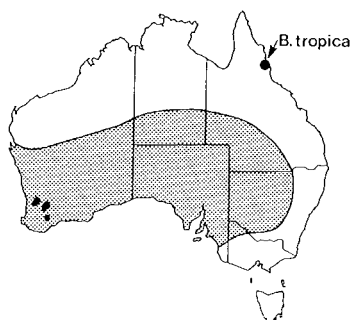
## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Long-footed Potoroo**  
(*Potorous longipes*)

Range: Eastern Gippsland, Vic.

Habitat: Open-forest of *Eucalyptus* and shrubs and a dense cover of wiregrass, ferns and sedges growing on friable, clayey soils.

Threats: Not known.

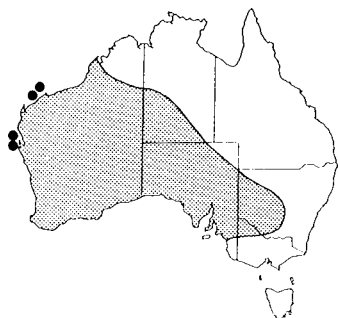
**Brush-tailed Bettong or Woylie**  
(*Bettongia penicillata*)

Range: Formerly widespread across southern Australia from the south-west through northern SA, into north-eastern Victoria and central NSW. Probably also in southern Northern Territory. A population in north Queensland, described as *B. tropica*, may belong to this species but further study is needed.

Now restricted to remnant populations in south-west W.A. including Tutanning Nature Reserve and Dryandra and Perup State Forests. The north Qld population occurs in Davies Creek National Park. Reintroduction programme underway to St. Francis Island, Isles of St Francis Conservation Park, SA.

Habitat: Dry sclerophyll open forest or woodland with a shrub or tussock grass understorey. Builds a grass lined nest in dense vegetation, under a fallen shrub or occasionally in a hollow log.

Threats: Habitat destruction, unsuitable fire regimes, fox predation.



**Burrowing Bettong or Boodie**  
(*Bettongia lesueur*)

Range: Formerly widespread in arid and semi-arid Australia west of the Great Dividing Range and south of the tropical savannah; not recorded from Qld.

Presumed extinct on the mainland; now restricted to Barrow, Boodie, Bernier and Dorre Islands, WA.

Habitat: Inhabited a wide variety of country; lives in burrows, often congregated into extensive warrens.

Threats: Introduction of predators.

Key  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

## Species

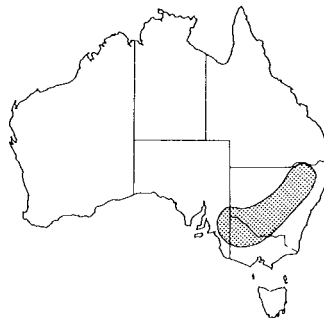
## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Desert Rat-kangaroo or Ulakunda**  
(*Caloprymnus campestris*)

Range: Formerly recorded from a small area in north-eastern SA and south-west Queensland.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1935.

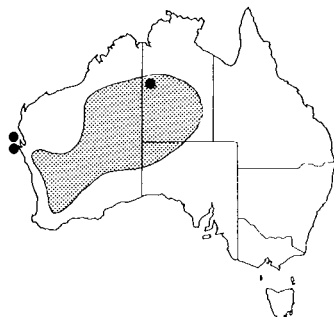
Habitat: Sparse shrubland on gibber plains and dunes. Built a nest from leaves and grass under a small shrub.

**Eastern Hare-wallaby**  
(*Lagorchestes leporides*)

Range: Formerly occurred in inland NSW, eastern SA and north-western Vic.

Presumed extinct; last recorded about 1890.

Habitat: Grassy plains.

**Rufous Hare-wallaby or Mala**  
(*Lagorchestes hirsutus*)

Range: Formerly widespread through much of arid and semi-arid Australia.

Very rare on mainland; only two small populations remain in the Tanami Desert, NT. Good populations on Bernier and Dorre Islands Nature Reserve, Shark Bay, WA.

Habitat: Spinifex grasslands of the interior, low heath or shrublands in the south-west and on Islands. Digs a short burrow in summer, lives inside spinifex hummocks or under low shrubs in cooler months.

Threats: Extensive fires, introduced predators.

## Key

Present distribution



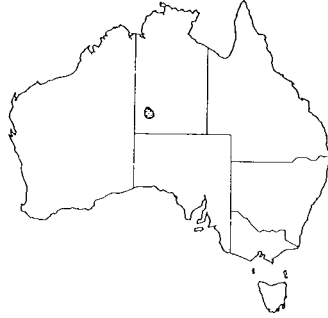
Former distribution



## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Central Hare-wallaby**  
(*Lagorchestes asomatus*)



Range: The only known specimen is a skull collected in 1931 from between Mt Farewell and Lake Mackay NT.

Presumed extinct.

Habitat: Not known.

**Banded Hare-wallaby or Munning**  
(*Lagostrophus fasciatus*)



Range: Formerly occurred in semi-arid south-west of WA.

Presumed extinct on mainland, and on Dirk Hartog Island. Last recorded on mainland in 1906. Good populations on Bernier and Dorre Islands Nature Reserve, Shark Bay, WA. Reintroduction programme to Dirk Hartog Island commenced in 1974.

Habitat: Sclerophyll woodlands and shrublands. During the day it shelters under thick shrubs.

Threats: Introduced predators, unsuitable fire regimes.

**Bridled Naitail Wallaby or Merrin**  
(*Onychogalea fraenata*)



Range: Formerly in south-east Qld from the Darling Downs to inland NSW and adjacent regions of eastern SA and north-west Vic.

Now very rare; a single population is known from a small area in eastern Qld, north-east of Dingo. Most habitat now a reserve controlled by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Habitat: Woodland and tall shrubland dominated by Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*), *Eucalyptus* woodland and grass.

Threats: Dingo predation; previously competition with introduced herbivores and habitat destruction.

## Key

Present distribution



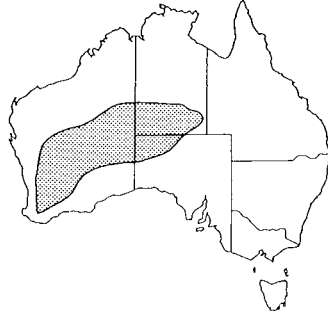
Former distribution



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*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats*

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**Crescent Naitail Wallaby or Tjawalpa**  
*(Onychogalea lunata)*

Range: Formerly from south-west WA through central and eastern WA and the central ranges to Alice Springs, NT.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1930, probably survived in the centre until the 1950s.

Habitat: Thickets in *Eucalyptus* woodlands, mulga (*Acacia aneura*) woodlands.

**Proserpine Rock-wallaby**  
*(Petrogale persephone)*

Range: Recently discovered in the Proserpine district, north-eastern Qld.

Habitat: Rocky outcrops in closed forest.

Threats: At risk because of its very small range; competition with other *Petrogale* species possible.


**Toolache Wallaby**  
*(Macropus greyi)*


Range: A small area of south-eastern SA and western Vic.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1927.

Habitat: Grasslands, often in areas of transition between light sands and richer loams and clays.

**Key**

Present distribution 

Former distribution 

*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats***RODENTS****False Water-rat**  
(*Xeromys myoides*)

Range: Coastal Qld and NT; few widely scattered populations known.

Habitat: Coastal swamps and mangrove forests.

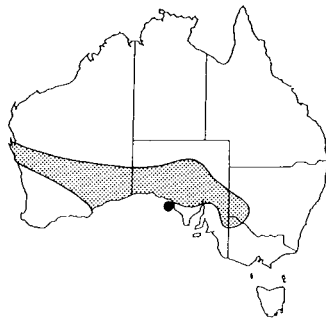
Threats: Habitat destruction.

**White-footed Rabbit-rat**  
(*Conilurus albipes*)

Range: Formerly in south-eastern Qld, eastern NSW, Vic and south-eastern SA.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1875.

Habitat: Not well known, nested in hollow limbs of trees.

**Greater Stick-nest Rat**  
(*Leporillus conditor*)


Range: Formerly in arid and semi-arid country from western NSW and Vic to the Nullarbor Plain, probably extended west to Shark Bay, WA.


Presumed extinct on mainland; last recorded in 1922. A secure population remains on Franklin Island, Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park, SA.

Habitat: Shrublands. Constructed a nest from sticks and stones in caves or crevices and among shrubs.

Threats: Introduced animals; unsuitable fire regimes.

**Key**

Present distribution 

Former distribution 





▲ Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)  
From Wharburton Ranges, W.A.  
J. Lochman/National Photographic Index

Rufous Hare-Wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*)  
Dorre Island, W.A.  
▼ A.G. Wells/National Photographic Index







▲ Black-striped Snake (*Vermicella calonotus*)  
City Beach, Perth  
A.G. Wells

Western Swamp Tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*)  
From Twin Swamps Nature Reserve, W.A.  
▼ A.G. Wells





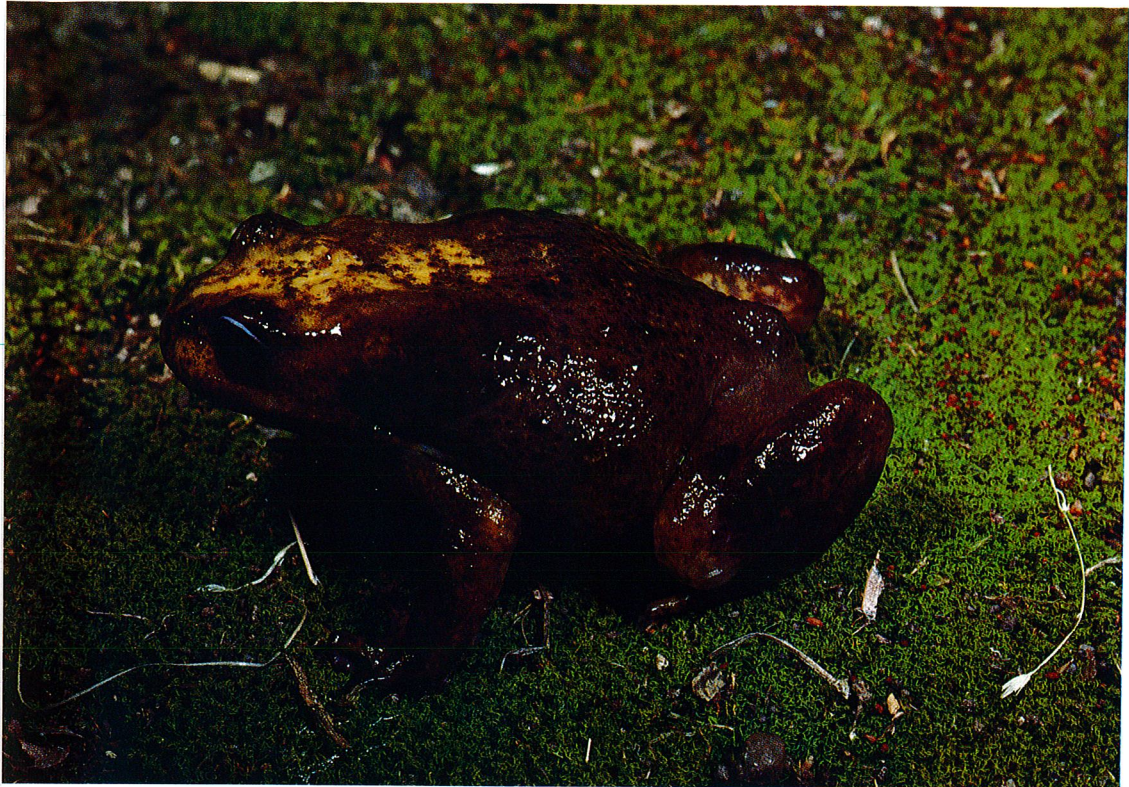


▲ Eastern Bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*)  
Jervis Bay  
J. Gray/National Photographic Index

Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*)  
Jervis Bay  
▼ J. Gray/National Photographic Index

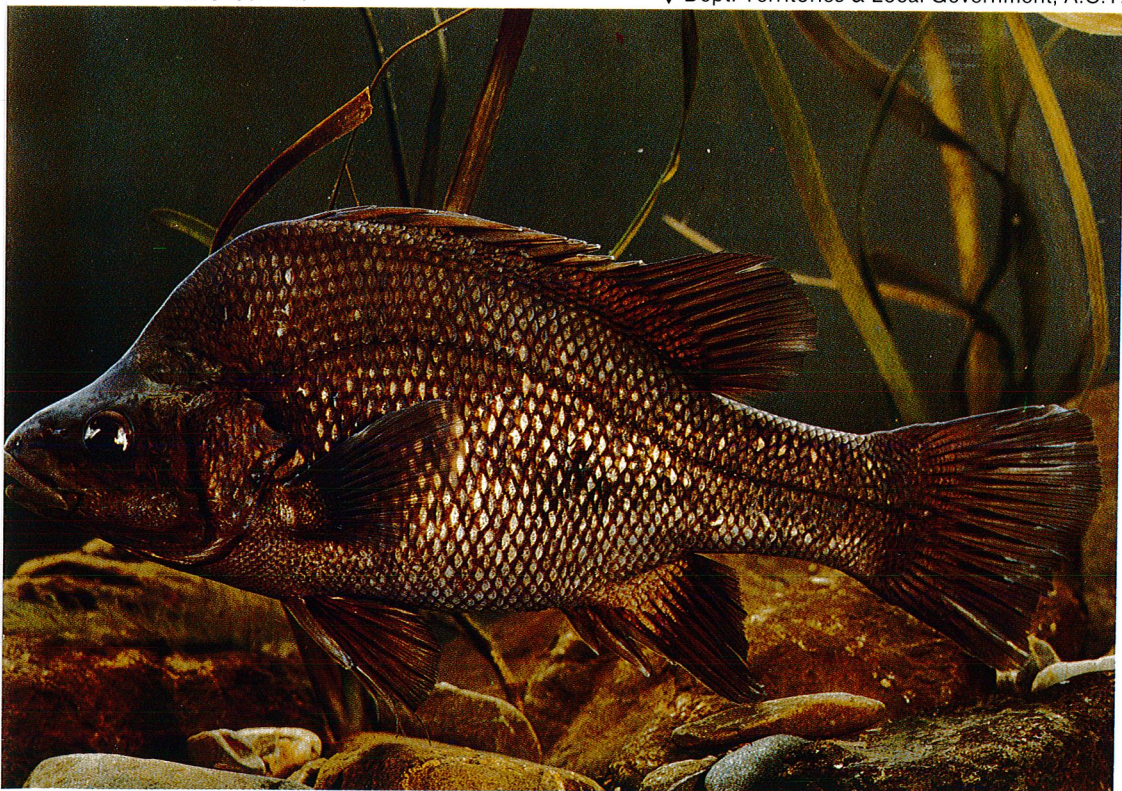






▲ Baw Baw Frog (*Philoria frosti*)  
Mt Baw Baw, Vic.  
R.W.G. Jenkins

Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*)  
From Murrumbidgee River, A.C.T.  
▼ Dept. Territories & Local Government, A.C.T.



*Species*

*Status, Range, Habitat and Threats*

**Lesser Stick-nest Rat or Tjuwalpi**  
(*Leporillus apicalis*)

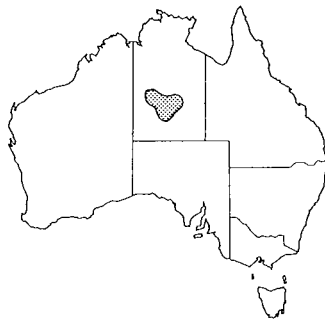


Range: Formerly widespread in arid and semi arid southern Australia from western WA through southern NT and SA to north-west Vic and western NSW.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1933 but probably survived in the centre until the 1940s.

Habitat: Built large nests of sticks and stones in caves and around the base of shrubs or trees in woodlands and shrublands.

**Central Rock-rat**  
(*Zyzomys pedunculatus*)



Range: Southern NT; few populations known; last recorded in 1960.

Habitat: Rock outcrops and ranges.

Threats: Unknown; probably vulnerable to introduced predators.

**Shark Bay Mouse**  
(*Pseudomys praeconis*)





Range: Formerly known from Peron Peninsula, and Bernier Island, Shark Bay, WA.

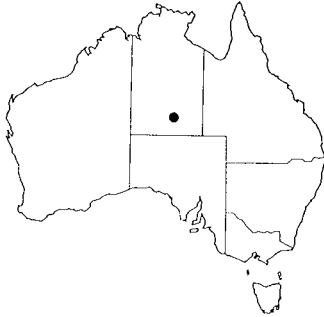
Presumed extinct on mainland, last recorded in 1858. Secure population on Bernier Island Nature Reserve.

Habitat: Coastal dunes with beach spinifex, shrubs and annuals.

Threats: Introduction of predators, unsuitable fire regimes.

**Key**  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

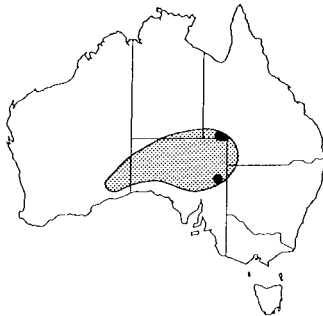


*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats***Alice Springs Mouse**  
(*Pseudomys fieldi*)

Range: Only one specimen known; from Alice Springs, NT. Taxonomic status uncertain.

Presumed extinct; specimen collected 1895.

Habitat: Not known.

**Dusky Hopping-mouse**  
(*Notomys fuscus*)

Range: Formerly central and northern SA, south-west Qld, Nullarbor Plain, SA and WA.

Recently recorded only from north-eastern SA and south-west Qld.

Habitat: Sand dunes.

Threats: Unknown.

**Big-eared Hopping-mouse**  
(*Notomys macrotis*)

Range: Only two specimens known; one came from near New Norcia, WA; the locality of the other is not known.

Presumed extinct; the New Norcia specimen was collected in 1843.

Habitat: Not known.

**Key**

Present distribution



Former distribution



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*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats*

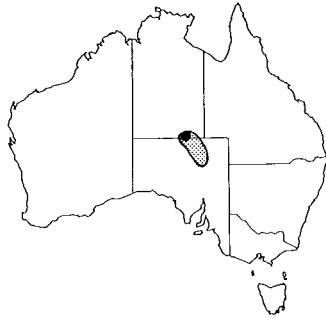
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**Long-tailed Hopping-mouse**  
*(Notomys longicaudatus)*

Range: Formerly known from a few widely scattered localities; near Broken Hill, NSW, near Alice Springs, NT and near New Norcia, WA; probably widespread.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1901.

Habitat: Woodland, shrubland and hummock grassland.

**Short-tailed Hopping-mouse**  
*(Notomys amplus)*

Range: Known only from Charlotte Waters, NT. Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1894. Owl pellet remains of unknown age have been collected in the northern Flinders Range, SA.

Habitat: Not known.

**Northern Hopping-mouse**  
*(Notomys aquilo)*


Range: Cape York, Qld and coastal Arnhem Land, including Groote Eylandt, NT.


Recently collected only from Groote Eylandt and northern Arnhem Land, NT.

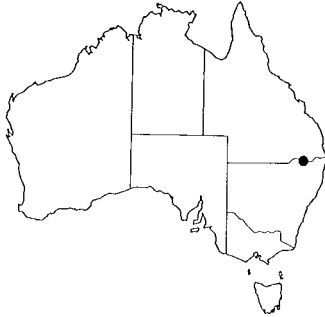
Habitat: Partially stabilised coastal dunes with *Acacia* scrub.

Threats: Possibly habitat destruction or degradation.

**Key**

Present distribution 

Former distribution 

*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats***Darling Downs Hopping-mouse**  
(*Notomys mordax*)

Range: Only one specimen known; a skull believed to have been collected from the Darling Downs in southern Qld.

Presumed extinct; the skull is thought to have been collected in the 1840s.

Habitat: Not known.

**WHALES****Southern Right Whale**  
(*Eubalaena australis*)

Range: Distributed mainly in sub-Antarctic waters in summer; migrates northward to breed in continental waters in winter.

Drastically depleted by over-exploitation prior to protection in the 1930s; current world-wide population less than 2000. Sightings along Australian coastline appear to have increased recently.

Habitat: Oceanic; in Australian waters breeds in shallow bays south of 30° S.

Threats: Illegal hunting, vulnerable to human interference in shallow waters e.g. shipping, pollution and entanglement in fishing gear; large scale exploitation of food species (pelagic crustacea) could affect recovery.



**Blue Whale**  
(*Balaenoptera musculus*)

Range: All major oceans. Animals in the southern hemisphere form summer feeding groups in Antarctic waters and winter in oceans off southern Africa, Australia and South America.

Severely depleted by over-exploitation by the whaling industry. More abundant in the southern hemisphere. Although protected by the International Whaling Commission in 1965, there is no clear evidence that populations are increasing, however this may be due partly to the difficulty of sighting this whale.

Habitat: Open ocean.

Threats: Illegal hunting, exploitation of food species, especially the Antarctic krill.

**Key**Present distribution Former distribution 



Species

Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Humpback Whale**  
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)



Range: Oceans from Arctic to Antarctic. Animals found in local waters form summer feeding groups in the Antarctic and migrate northward past Australia's east and west coasts during winter to breed in temperate or tropical waters.

Drastically reduced by over-exploitation prior to protection by the International Whaling Commission in 1965. Surveys suggest the number of Humpbacks migrating along Australian shores is increasing.

Habitat: Oceanic; often in shallow coastal waters.

Threats: Illegal hunting; vulnerable to disturbance or death from human activity in shallow waters, e.g. shipping, pollution and entanglement in fishing gear; exploitation of food species, especially Antarctic krill.

**BIRDS**

**Providence Petrel**  
(*Pterodroma solandri*)



Range: Breeds on Lord Howe Island, formerly on Norfolk Island; otherwise oceanic. In 1975 the population was estimated to be at least 96 000 breeding pairs. Occurs in Lord Howe Island Permanent Park Preserve.

Habitat: Breeding colonies extend over upper slopes (above 500m) of Mounts Lidgwood and Gower; small colonies known from lower slopes. May breed on nearby Ball's Pyramid.

Threats: Habitat destruction, predation by feral pigs.



**Gould's Petrel**  
(*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*)

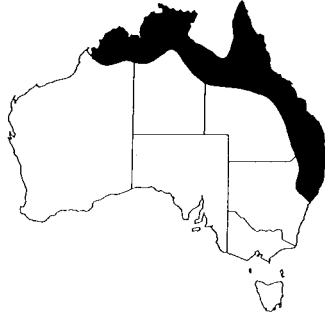


Range: Breeds on Cabbage Tree Island, off Port Stephens, NSW; otherwise oceanic. Stable population of 250-500 breeding pairs.

Habitat: Nests on ground under rocks and fallen palm fronds.

Threats; Introduction of predators; fire.

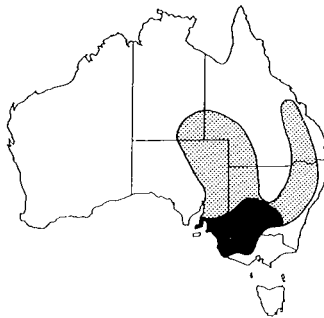
**Key**  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats***Red Goshawk**  
(*Accipiter radiatus*)

Range: Sparsely distributed across northern and eastern Australia from Kimberley, WA, to northern NSW. Rarely sighted. Occurs in Kakadu National Park, NT.

Habitat: Tree-lined watercourses, lightly wooded foothills and surrounding country.

Threats: Unknown.

**Plains Wanderer**  
(*Pedionomus torquatus*)

Range: Formerly inland NSW, southern Qld, western Vic. and eastern SA. Not known to occur in any National Park or Reserve.

Now rare in some closely settled areas. Largest numbers around Deniliquin, NSW.

Habitat: Diverse grasslands and shrublands including pastures and cereal crops.



Threats: Nests on ground. Habitat destruction, intensive cropping cycles, introduced predators.

**Lord Howe Island Woodhen**  
(*Tricholimnas sylvestris*)

Range: Restricted to Lord Howe Island; formerly abundant, now very rare; less than 50 birds in wild in 1981. A successful breeding program had increased numbers to more than 150 in early 1984.

Habitat: Confined to thick mossy 'scrub-forest' on summit of Mts Gower and Lidgbird. Formerly in all habitats on island. Now being re-introduced from captive bred stock to parts of former range.

Threats: Habitat destruction, feral pigs.

**Key**  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Lesser Noddy**  
(*Anous tenuirostris*)

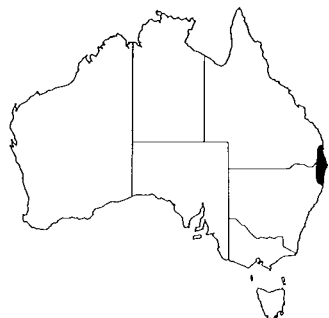


Range: Breeds on Pelsart, Wooded and Morley Islands, Houtman Abrolhos, WA, and in the Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean. The Houtman Abrolhos are a Nature Reserve.

Habitat: Nests are built on branches of mangroves. Feeds at sea.

Threats: Habitat destruction, introduction of predators, marine pollution.

**Coxen's Fig Parrot**  
(*Psittaculirostris diophthalma coxeni*)



Range: Central eastern Australia between Maryborough, Qld, and the Macleay River, northern NSW. In NSW occurs in Macpherson/Richmond rainforests.

Habitat: Lowland forests where fig trees are present.

Threats: Habitat destruction.

**Princess Parrot or Pilpul**  
(*Polytelis alexandrae*)





Range: Deserts of WA, NT and north-western SA. Rare and nomadic.

Habitat: Desert oak, mulga and spinifex, eucalypt-lined watercourses.

Threats: Unknown.

## Key

Present distribution 

Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Ground Parrot or Kiloring**  
(*Pezoporus wallicus*)

Range: Formerly in coastal and near coastal areas from southern Qld to south-eastern SA, also Tasmania. WA population (usually regarded as a separate subspecies) extended from near Geraldton to Cape Arid.

Range now fragmented, rare in many areas, but still relatively abundant in parts of Qld, NSW, Vic. and Tas. WA population now restricted to parts of the south coast. Occurs in a number of National Parks and Nature Reserves, including Bundjalung National Park, Yuraygir National Park, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, Ben Boyd National Park and Nadgee Nature Reserve, NSW; also in Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Croajingalong National Park and Wilson's Promontory National Park, Vic.

Habitat: Sedgeland, heath with sedges; nests on the ground in very dense vegetation.

Threats: Habitat destruction, unsuitable fire regimes.

**Night Parrot**  
(*Geopsittacus occidentalis*)

Range: Arid central Australia from central WA to south-west Qld, western NSW and north western Vic.

Now extremely rare; some recent sight records.

Habitat: Spinifex grassland and samphire low shrubland.

Threats: Habitat degradation through unsuitable fire regimes or overgrazing, introduced predators.



**Golden-shouldered Parrot**  
(*Psephotus chrysopterygius*)

Range: Isolated parts of central and southern Cape York Peninsula, Qld.

Range has contracted in recent times; now mostly restricted to north-east part of range.

Habitat: Open savannah woodland with abundant termite mounds (in which it nests); mangroves during the non-breeding season.

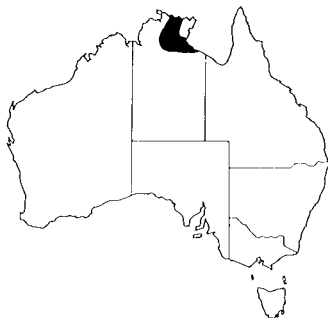
Threats: Illegal trapping for aviculture, fire and pastoralism.

**Key**  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Hooded Parrot**  
(*Psephotus dissimilis*)



Range: Semi-arid north-east NT, from western edge of Arnhem Land to Macarthur River.

Rare, range contracted, now most frequently seen at western end of range.

Habitat: Open woodlands over hummock or tussock grassland, often bordering watercourses, usually with termite mounds (*in which it nests*).

Threats: Illegal trapping, fire and pastoralism.

**Paradise Parrot**  
(*Psephotus pulcherrimus*)



Range: Formerly in south-eastern Qld and north-eastern NSW.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1927.

Habitat: Savannah woodlands and scrubby grasslands, particularly where termite mounds occur.

**Orange-bellied Parrot**  
(*Neophema chrysogaster*)



Range: Migratory between Tas., where it breeds, and Vic and SA. Winter range is restricted to a few coastal localities on mainland. Breeding occurs in South-West National Park and South-West Conservation Area, Tas.

Habitat: Heathlands and sedgelands in Tasmania, saltmarsh and coastal dunes and pastures on mainland.

Threats: Habitat destruction and degradation, illegal trapping.

## Key

Present distribution



Former distribution



*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats*

**Plumed Frogmouth**  
*(Podargus ocellatus plumiferus)*



Range: North-east NSW and adjacent south-east Qld. Range contracting. Occurs in Night Cap National Park, NSW.

Habitat: Rainforest.

Threats: Habitat destruction.

**Noisy Scrub-bird or Tjimuluk**  
*(Atrichornis clamosus)*



Range: Formerly high rainfall parts of south-west WA from near Perth to Albany.

Now very rare; restricted to Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve where there are about 100 breeding pairs (1983); recently introduced to nearby Mt Manypeaks.

Habitat: Dense vegetation around lakes and swamps and along creeks.

Threats: Unsuitable fire regimes.



**Northern Scrub Robin**  
*(Drymodes superciliaris colcloughi)*



Range: Only one record: two specimens collected in the Roper River area, NT in 1910. (The subspecies which occurs in northern Cape York Peninsula, Qld, as well as in New Guinea and the Aru Islands is not endangered.)

Presumed extinct.

Habitat: Riverine thickets.

Key  
 Present distribution   
 Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Western Whipbird or Tjadjing**  
(*Psophodes nigrogularis*)



Range: Formerly south-western WA from Wongan Hills and Perth to Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun; Eyre and York Peninsulas, Kangaroo Island, and south-east SA; Big Desert, north-west Vic.

Now absent from northern part of range in WA but present in a number of places along the south coast including Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Fitzgerald River National Park. Fairly common in SA but rare in south-east and Vic.

Habitat: Heath, mallee and scrub

Threats: Habitat destruction, unsuitable fire regimes.

**Purple-crowned Fairy-wren**  
(*Malurus coronatus*)



Range: Kimberley, WA and lower Victoria River area of NT with second population in north-east NT and north-west Qld. Relatively common in places, apparently rare and restricted in others.

Habitat: Tall cane grass and thickets near watercourses; occasionally in mangroves.

Threats: Habitat degradation caused by cattle and buffalo; unsuitable fire regimes.

**Carpentarian Grass-wren**  
(*Amytornis dorotheae*)



Range: A small area of north-east NT from the Buckalara Range to the China Wall near the Qld border.

Habitat: Rugged broken sandstone escarpments with spinifex.

Threats: Unsuitable fire regimes.

## Key

Present distribution



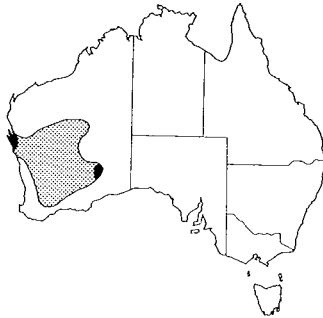
Former distribution



## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Thick-billed Grass-wren**  
(*Amytornis textilis textilis*)



Range: Formerly in much of southern inland WA from Shark Bay to Esperance, inland to the eastern goldfields and west to Wongan Hills, Beverley and Broomehill.

Now absent from most of its range, relict populations are known near Shark Bay, and on the Nullarbor Plain. Extinct on Dirk Hartog Island.

Habitat: Shrub steppe: saltbush, bluebush, cottonbush and nitrebush.

Threats: Habitat destruction, habitat degradation through grazing by introduced stock, predation by cats and foxes.

**Western Bristlebird or Putjeritj**  
(*Dasyornis longirostris*)



Range: Formerly around coastal south-west WA from Perth to Esperance. Now rare and restricted to southern coastal areas; occurs in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Fitzgerald River National Park.

Habitat: Dense coastal and near coastal heath and scrub.

Threats: Habitat destruction, habitat degradation by unsuitable fire regimes.

**Eastern Bristlebird**  
(*Dasyornis brachypterus*)



Range: Isolated scattered populations from east Vic. to south-east Qld. Occurs in Croajingalong and Wilson's Promontory National Parks and Jervis Bay, Nadgee and Barren Grounds Nature Reserves.

Habitat: Dense heath, scrub and reedbeds.

Threats: Habitat destruction, unsuitable fire regimes.

## Key

Present distribution



Former distribution





## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Western Rufous Bristlebird**  
(*Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis*)



Range: Narrow strip of coast between Capes Naturaliste and Leeuwin, WA.

Presumed extinct; last recorded in 1940.

Habitat: Coastal thickets.

**Helmeted Honeyeater**  
(*Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*)



Range: Formerly widespread through southern Gippsland, Vic.

Now very rare and restricted to margins of Woori Yallock Creek and tributaries, approx. 50 km east of Melbourne, Vic. Population of about 200 animals occurs mainly within Yellingbo State Wildlife Reserve.

Habitat: Mixed forest of manna and swamp gums over shrubs, bracken and sedge along watercourses.

Threats: Habitat destruction; unsuitable fire regimes.

**Black-eared Miner**  
(*Manorina melanotis*)



Range: Small region at junction of Vic, NSW and SA. Occurs in Hattah, Mallee Cliffs and Mungo National Parks. No recent sightings in South Australia.

Habitat: Mallee scrub, belar and buloke.

Threats: Interbreeding with Yellow-throated Miner (*M. flavigula*) and probable competition. This is exacerbated by clearing of the mallee.

## Key

Present distribution



Former distribution



Species

Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Forty-spotted Pardalote**  
(*Pardalotus quadragintus*)



Range: Tasmania and adjacent islands.

Now rare and restricted to south-east Tas. on islands or coastal peninsulas.

Habitat: Mature open eucalypt forest containing at least 20% *Eucalyptus viminalis*.

Threats: Habitat destruction, unsuitable fire regimes (especially severe hot fires), competition from other Pardalotes for nest hollows.

**Lord Howe Island Currawong**  
(*Strepera graculina crissalis*)



Range: Lord Howe Island. Occurs in the Permanent Park Preserve.

Now very rare; a 1971 survey estimated the population at between 30 and 50.

Habitat: Forest.

Threats: Habitat destruction.

**REPTILES**



**Leathery Turtle, Leatherback Turtle, Luth**  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)



Range: Tropical and temperate oceans, world-wide.

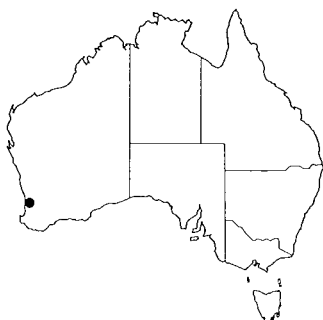
Habitat: Oceanic; sporadic nesting on beaches in Qld from Roundhill to Mon Repos; one record of a nesting female at Maningrida, NT.

Threats: Disturbance at nesting grounds, taking of eggs, entanglement in fishing gear.

Key  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Western Swamp Tortoise**  
(*Pseudemydura umbrina*)

Range: Formerly narrow strip of Perth metropolitan area, WA, at base of Darling Scarp from Guildford to Bullsbrook.

Now restricted to very small area between Upper Swan and Warbrook, almost all animals within Ellen Brook Nature Reserve. Wild population less than 30 animals (1983).

Habitat: During winter and spring in temporary swamps with clay, or sand over clay substrate: in summer and autumn aestivates in holes in ground or under leaf litter or fallen branches.

Threats: Habitat destruction, pollution, fox, dog and pig predation, unsuitable fire regimes, drought.

**Lancelin Island Skink**  
(*Ctenotus lancelini*)

Range: Lancelin Island, a Nature Reserve 80 km north of Perth, WA.

Habitat: Low scrub and herbs on sand and limestone.

Threats: Habitat degradation, introduction of predators, illegal collecting.



**Lined Burrowing-skink**  
(*Lerista lineata*)

Range: Southern suburbs of Perth to Mandurah, WA. Also Rottnest and Garden Islands.

Habitat: Woodland, scrub and heath on sand.

Threats: Habitat destruction through urbanisation.

## Key

Present distribution Former distribution 

## Species

## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Pedra Branca Skink**  
(*Pseudemoia palfreymani*)



Range: Pedra Branca Island, 26 km south of Tasmania, which is part of South-West National Park.

Habitat: Rocky slopes of a seabird nesting colony.

Threats: Unknown.

**Legless-lizard**  
(no common name)  
(*Aprasia parapulchella*)

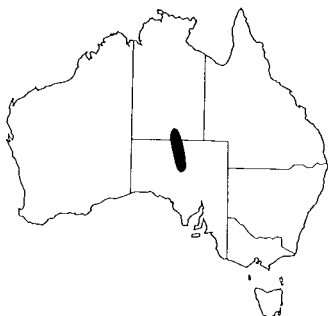


Range: Southern Tablelands in ACT and NSW. Occurs in Black Mountain Nature Reserve.

Habitat: Occurs in association with ant nests beneath rocks adjacent to rocky outcrops.

Threats: Habitat destruction, illegal collecting.

**Bronze-backed Legless-lizard**  
(*Ophidiocephalus taeniatus*)



Range: NT and SA on western edge of Simpson Desert, recent specimens from Coober Pedy.

Habitat: Loose soil and litter at base of trees or shrubs.

Threats: Habitat degradation by stock.

## Key

Present distribution



Former distribution



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**Species**
**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats.**


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**Broad-headed Snake**  
(*Hoplocephalus bungaroides*)



Range: Coastal ranges of Hawkesbury Sandstone in central eastern NSW. Occurs in Royal, Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Morton National Parks.

Habitat: Exfoliated boulders on sandstone plateaux in forest.

Threats: Habitat destruction through collection of sandstone rocks for gardens, illegal collecting.

**Black-striped Snake**  
(*Vermicella calonotus*)



Range: Coastal south-west WA from Lancelin to Safety Bay, with an isolated population near York, 100 km inland.

Now fragmented, inland population probably extinct.

Habitat: Coastal dunes and deep white sands with *Banksia* woodland.

Threats: Habitat destruction through urbanisation, illegal collecting.

**FROGS**

**Round Frog**  
(*Arenophryne rotunda*)



Range: Kalbarri to Shark Bay, WA. Recent surveys have shown that it is plentiful in suitable habitat within this region.

Habitat: Lightly vegetated sand dunes.

Threats: Habitat destruction.

**Key**

Present distribution



Former distribution



## Species

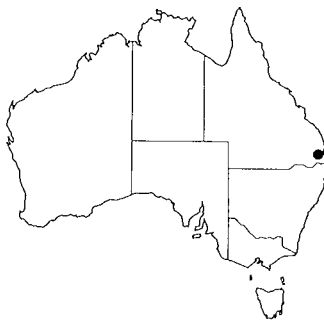
## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Baw Baw Frog**  
(*Philoria frosti*)

Range: An area of about 40 km<sup>2</sup> above 1300m on Mt Baw Baw plateau, Vic., in Baw Baw National Park.

Habitat: Sphagnum bogs, seepages and backwaters of shallow rocky creeks in sub-alpine sedgefields and open forests on acid igneous soils.

Threats: Habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. by pollution, development of skiing facilities and damage by stock.

**Platypus Frog**  
(*Rheobatrachus silus*)

Range: Conondale Range and in the vicinity of Kondalilla, Blackall Range, south-eastern Qld.

Now isolated populations due to clearing of rainforest in Blackall Range.

Habitat: Rocky mountain streams in upland rainforest and low wet sclerophyll forest.



Threats: Previously habitat destruction. Unknown factors caused drastic decline in numbers in 1982.

**Elegant Microhylid**  
(*Cophixalus concinnus*)

Range: Thornton Peak, north-west of Daintree, Cape York Peninsula, Mt Finnigan and Mt Lewis State Forest, Qld.

Habitat: Tropical rainforest. All known locations are National Park or Faunal Reserves.

Threats: Previously habitat destruction.

**Key**  
Present distribution   
Former distribution 

## Species

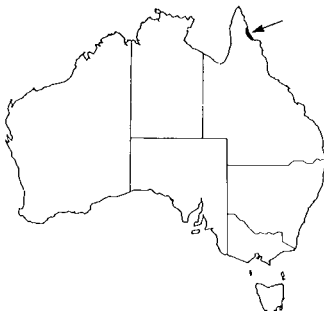
## Status, Range, Habitat and Threats

**Rock-dwelling Microhylid**  
(*Cophixalus saxatilis*)

Range: Black Mountain, Black Trevethan Range, south of Cooktown, Qld.

Habitat: Under rocks and leaf litter in gaps between boulders. Nearly all of its distribution is within a National Park.

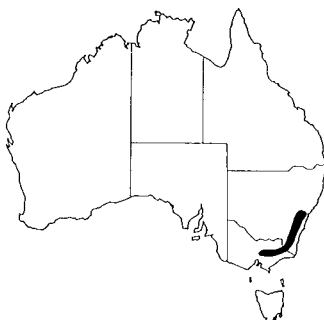
Threats: Unknown.

**Long-nosed Tree Frog**  
(*Litoria longirostris*)

Range: McIlwraith Range, Cape York Peninsula, Qld.

Habitat: Tropical rainforest, in close association with running water. Most of distribution is within National Parks.

Threats: Previously habitat destruction.

**FISH****Macquarie Perch**  
(*Macquaria australasica*)

Range: Rivers and reservoirs in central NSW and northern Vic., and Murrumbidgee River in the ACT. Introduced into some NSW and Vic. coastal streams.

Habitat: Spawns in shallow, fast flowing water over beds of gravel.

Threats: Siltation or flooding of spawning sites, competition with introduced fish.

**Key**

Present distribution



Former distribution



*Species**Status, Range, Habitat and Threats***Trout Cod**  
(*Maccullochella macquariensis*)

Range: Cudgewa, Seven Creeks and the Goulburn River, Vic., Murrumbidgee River near Tharwa, ACT, and Cataract Dam, NSW.

Habitat: Sluggish waters where hollow logs afford cover.



Threats: Siltation or flooding of spawning sites, competition with introduced fish, dam construction. Forming hybrids with the Murray Cod in Cataract Dam.

**Australian Grayling**  
(*Prototroctes maraena*)

Range: South-eastern Australia. Most common in Gippsland, Vic.

Habitat: It is thought that the larvae are swept down from the upper reaches of coastal streams to the estuaries and migrate back upstream as juveniles.

Threats: Siltation or flooding of spawning sites, competition with introduced fish, dam construction.

**Key**Present distribution Former distribution 



## ENDANGERED VERTEBRATES OF AUSTRALIAN EXTERNAL TERRITORIES

<i>Species</i>	<i>Status, Range, Habitat and Threats</i>
<p><b>Abbott's Booby</b> (<i>Sula abbotti</i>)</p>	<p>Range: Formerly bred on islands in western Indian Ocean; otherwise oceanic. Now nests only on Christmas Island. Surveys in 1967 and 1979-80 estimated a population of between 5,000 and 10,000.</p> <p>Habitat: Nests high in emergent trees in dense forest.</p> <p>Threats: Illegal hunting, habitat destruction for phosphate mining.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Island Frigatebird</b> (<i>Fregata andrewsi</i>)</p>	<p>Range: Breeds on Christmas Island, Indian Ocean otherwise oceanic. A 1967 survey estimated a population of less than 2,000 pairs.</p> <p>Also recorded from other islands in the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago.</p> <p>Habitat: Nests in small colonies in tall trees.</p> <p>Threats: Illegal hunting, habitat destruction for phosphate mining.</p>
<p><b>Cocos Buff-banded Rail</b> (<i>Rallus philippensis andrewsi</i>)</p>	<p>Range: Cocos Islands, formerly Keeling Atoll. Probably introduced to North Keeling Island in the 1890s.</p> <p>Now extinct on Keeling Atoll; remnants on North Keeling.</p> <p>Habitat: Tall forest and scrub.</p> <p>Threats: Habitat destruction, introduction of predators, illegal hunting.</p>
<p><b>Norfolk Island Parrot</b> (<i>Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae cookii</i>)</p>	<p>Range: Only on Norfolk Island.</p> <p>Now very rare; in 1977-78 it was estimated that there were only 28-30 birds remaining; rarely found outside the Mount Pitt Reserve.</p> <p>Habitat: Rainforest.</p> <p>Threats: Habitat destruction, introduced predators, competition for nest hollows from introduced birds.</p>
<p><b>Norfolk Island Boobook Owl</b> (<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata</i>)</p>	<p>Range: Norfolk Island.</p> <p>Now very rare; occurs in Mount Pitt Reserve; probably less than 20 individuals.</p> <p>Habitat: Rainforest.</p> <p>Threats: Habitat destruction.</p>

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<i>Species</i>	<i>Status, Range, Habitat and Threats</i>
<b>Christmas Island Owl</b> ( <i>Ninox squamipila natalis</i> )	Range: Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Habitat: Thick jungle and fringes of the plateau and shore terrace. Threats: Habitat destruction.
<b>Grey-headed Thrush</b> ( <i>Turdus poliocephalus poliocephalus</i> )	Range: Norfolk Island. Now very rare; very few recent sightings. Habitat: Rainforest. Threats: Habitat destruction, competition with introduced Blackbird.
<b>Norfolk Island Silveryeye</b> ( <i>Zosterops albogularis</i> )	Range: Norfolk Island. Now very rare; very few recent sightings. Habitat: Rainforest. Threats: Habitat destruction.