times in Swamp Canegrass in irregularly-flooded areas when Lignum habitat is inundated. They will also feed in Old Man Saltbush *Atriplex nummularia* and samphire *Halosarcia* spp. where flooding is infrequent (Hardy 2010). They eat seeds and insects, build semi-domed nests and lay 2–3 eggs (Rowley and Russell 1997). A generation time of 9.7 years (BirdLife International 2011) is derived from an age at first breeding of 2.3 years and a maximum longevity of 17.0 years, both extrapolated from fairy-wrens *Malurus* spp.

**Threats**

Cattle grazing is the main threat, particularly in dry years (McAllan and Cooper 1995; Hardy 2010). A specific example is the type-locality of the Caryapundy outflow channel, where cattle grazing young and regenerating Lignum and Swamp Canegrass rendered all habitat unsuitable within >10 km (Hardy 2010). Much of the recent historical habitat in NSW is now unsuitable, degraded by over-grazing and drought (Hardy 2010). Much of the recent historical habitat in NSW is now unsuitable, degraded by over-grazing and drought (Hardy 2010). Rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and feral pigs *Sus scrofa* are suspected to degrade habitat at some sites (Hardy 2002; Hardy 2010). Fire and predation by feral cats *Felis catus* and foxes *Vulpes vulpes* are potential threats (McAllan and Cooper 1995; Australian Government 2005). Water extraction from the Bulloo River system for irrigation or invasion by noxious weeds would be significant threats (Australian Government 2005). As cattle grazing is the main threat, the Bulloo Grey Grasswren is assessed as having <5 locations but if hydrology becomes a more potent threat, the subspecies would have only 1 location.

**Conservation objectives**

1. Stable numbers at surveyed sites
2. Adequate area of suitable habitat

**Information required**

1. Population size and distribution in Queensland
2. Impact of feral cats and foxes
3. Hydrological requirements of habitat

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**Grey Grasswren (Bulloo)**

*Amytornis barbatus barbatus* Favaloro & McEvey, 1968

**Maluridae**

**Conservation status**

Endangered Blab(i,ii,iii,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,v)

**Reasons for listing**

Restricted to <5 locations across a very small EOO and AOO and with a continuing decline in habitat quality and number of individuals

**Status 2000**

Endangered Blab(i,ii,iii,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,v)

**Status 1990**

Endangered Blab(i,ii,iii,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,v)

**Taxonomy**

*A. b. diamantina* (Lake Eyre basin) is Least Concern. Birds from the Cooper Creek system and Lake Cudappan are assumed to be *A. b. diamantina* but their taxonomic status is uncertain (Schodde and Christidis 1987; Carpenter 2002). The species is Least Concern. Taxonomic uniqueness: medium (5 genera/family, 11 species/genus, 2 subspecies/species)

**Range**

Floodplain of Bulloo River on New South Wales/Queensland border including Bulloo River overflow, Caryapundy and Jerrira Swamps (Favaloro and McEvey 1968; McAllan and Cooper 1995; Rowley and Russell 1997). In another study on Pyampa Station, from zero up to 82 birds were trapped in 11 ha of optimal habitat each year from 1984–1996 (Hardy 2002). Population probably fluctuates greatly according to the level of flooding and the intensity of cattle grazing, with birds retreating to refuges of dense habitat during dry periods and dispersing widely in wet periods (Hardy 2002, 2010). As a conservative estimate, population during droughts is putatively estimated at 20 birds/km² over 500 km² of refuge habitat.

**Ecology**

Live in swamps dominated by Lignum *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii* and Swamp Canegrass *Eragrostis australasia*, where these plants form well-separated clumps at least 1 m high (Favaloro and McEvey 1968). They usually nest in Lignum in the most flood-prone areas and some...
Management actions required
1. Erect and maintain effective fencing to exclude livestock from key areas
2. Consider options for de-stocking some or all of Narriearra Station
3. Manage feral herbivores
4. Develop fire management plan
5. Manage any disruptions to water flow

Bibliography


Comments received from
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