



THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

Hooded Robyn (*Melanodryas cucullata*)

A vulnerable species

Issued: 4 March 2005

The Hooded Robin reaches up to 170 mm in length. The adult male is a strikingly marked black and white bird. The female is duller with light brownish-grey upper parts. Immature birds have mottled plumage.



The Hooded Robin is a largely sedentary bird. It does not flock and is frequently observed in pairs or small groups. It hunts for invertebrates by 'perch and pounce' in grassy clearings. It requires more vegetation cover in the breeding season, as nests are typically built in saplings and small trees.

The south-eastern sub-species of the Hooded Robin occurs from about Mundubbera, Qld to Spencer Gulf, intergrading with the other subspecies through the northern Murray–Darling basin.

In the ACT, the species has been recorded at Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, Gorooyarroo Woodlands, Newline Quarry, Majura Field Firing Range and Tharwa. Black Mountain, Campbell Park, Mt Ainslie and Tuggeranong Homestead may no longer support populations of the species.

The species occupies drier eucalypt forest, woodland and scrub, grasses and low shrubs, as well as cleared paddocks with regrowth or stumps. It avoids dense forests and urban areas. Yellow Box–Red Gum Grassy Woodland provides important habitat.

Critical habitat features include:

- large trees for protective cover;
- areas of grass that support insects and other invertebrates on which the species feeds;
- perching sites within these grassy areas; and
- trees or shrubs (either standing or fallen) to provide sites for nesting.

CONSERVATION THREATS

- Removal of fallen timber and litter.
- Predation by feral and/or uncontrolled domestic animals.
- Invasion of key habitats by introduced pasture and weeds.
- Inappropriate fire regimes.
- Uncontrolled grazing by livestock.

—Continued over page



ACT Government

environment ACT



Helpline: 02 6207 9777

Website: www.environment.act.gov.au

Email: EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au

- Clearing of both living and dead trees.
- Rural tree dieback.
- Use of agricultural chemicals.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Identification of key habitats and potential habitats.
- Protection and management of habitat including:
 - maintenance and enhancement of connectivity;
 - limitation on removal of live and dead timber;
 - prevention of intensive grazing;
 - maintenance of patches of shrubs or eucalypt regrowth;
 - regeneration of habitat; and
 - minimising adverse effects of fire.

- Monitoring long terms trends and status.
- Research into the ecology and conservation requirements of the species.
- Liaison to achieve regional approach to conservation.
- Education and community liaison to raise community awareness.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The primary source of information for this Information Sheet is the ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy—Action Plan No. 27 where a full bibliography is available. Action Plans are available from the Environment ACT Website: www.environment.act.gov.au or the Arts, Heritage and Environment Information Centre at 12 Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT.

Acknowledgement

The illustration of the species was prepared for Environment ACT by Fiona Sivyer.