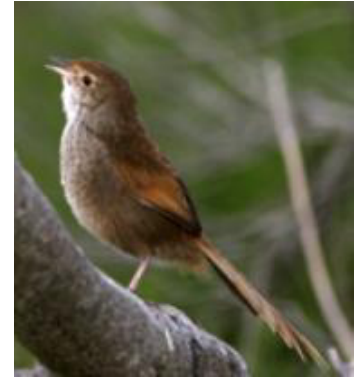


Saving our Species project 2013-14 annual report card Eastern Bristlebird

Species attributes

Scientific name:	<i>Dasyornis brachypterus</i>
NSW status:	Endangered
Commonwealth status:	Endangered
Management stream:	Site-managed



Photographer: David Cook

Overall project status*

- Populations at all key management sites are generally stable or increasing
- All management is being implemented as planned; too early to detect response to management at some sites
- Management at some sites requires review/amendment to ensure that the project is likely to meet its objectives
- Major review of / changes to the project required to ensure long-term objectives are likely to be met

*For SoS priority management sites (may not include all locations where the species occurs in NSW)

Project summary

Key management sites:	Barren Grounds - Woronora; Nadgee; Border Ranges; Jarvis Bay
Action implementation:	25 of 25 actions were implemented as planned for the financial year (includes species population monitoring actions + other project actions fully or partially implemented)
Total expenditure:	\$418,436 (cash and in-kind)
Project partners:	Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary; Office of Environment and Heritage; NSW Environmental Trust

Management site 1: Barren Grounds - Woronora

LGA: Kiama; Shellharbour; Shoalhaven; Wingecarribee

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
1,000	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Unknown

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$64,188

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate	Yes
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Conduct high intensity fox and cat control programs in refugia habitat following controlled or uncontrolled fires.	Yes
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Implement Barren Grounds / Buderoo fox threat abatement plan (Fox TAP).	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Apply current fire management plan (including planning for refugia and applying controlled burns when necessary) and minimise response time to control potentially extensive wildfires.	Yes

Site summary

Fox and fire threats are being actively managed at this site.

Management site 2: Nadgee

LGA: Bega Valley

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
250	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Stable

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$56,382

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Review status of Nadgee as a nil-treatment site under NSW Fox Threat Abatement Plan 2010. If status changed, revise site plan to incorporate baiting in key refuge areas immediately following significant fire events until cover returns (3-5 years).	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Ensure rapid response suppression for wildfires ignited within the park. Also direct water bucketing on key refuge areas during wildfires to ensure cooler burning fires.	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Undertake an ecological burn if monitoring shows that numbers are dropping in response to changes in vegetation structure / condition.	Yes

Site summary

Eastern Bristlebird numbers were the highest ever recorded for some locations with stable numbers recorded in others.

Management site 3: Border Ranges

LGA: Kyogle

Project partners: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary; Office of Environment and Heritage; NSW Environmental Trust

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
35	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Stable

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
NSW Environmental Trust	\$45,686
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$186,130

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Conduct ecological burns to improve habitat structure within reserved areas of the site (Border Ranges National Park) in response to monitoring of habitat condition; maintain fire frequency of between 2 and 10 years. Includes conducting habitat management burns at Border Loop and Grassy Spur as per the National Parks and Wildlife Service Regional Operating Plan.	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	8 habitat management plans in place with local private landholders require ongoing liaison. Negotiate an additional 8 management plans with prescriptions for appropriate burning regimes to promote habitat retention.	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Monitor habitat grass structure and degree of weed infestation and shrub/tree recruitment/resprout-suckering	Yes
Inappropriate fire regimes are a major threat to eastern bristlebird populations. A lack of frequent fires is the major threat to the northern population and too frequent fires are a threat to the central and southern populations.	Conduct research program.	Yes
Invasion of habitat by weeds such as Bitou Bush in the central population and Lantana, Crofton Weed and Mist Flowers in northern population habitat poses a significant threat.	Plan and implement ecological burns in identified bristlebird habitat on reserve to suppress weeds and restore habitat condition	Yes
Invasion of habitat by weeds such as Bitou Bush in the central population and Lantana, Crofton Weed and Mist Flowers in northern population habitat poses a significant threat.	Physical and chemical control of weeds (including Lantana) on private lands across 120ha (6 properties). Includes Grady's Creek and Findon Creek.	Yes
Invasion of habitat by weeds such as Bitou Bush in the central population and Lantana, Crofton Weed and Mist Flowers in northern population habitat poses a significant threat.	Monitor target weed density using methodologies native plant recovery (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/pestsweeds/09352MManualStandardTier.pdf)	Yes
Invasion of habitat by weeds such as Bitou Bush in the central population and Lantana, Crofton Weed and Mist Flowers in northern population habitat poses a significant threat.	Physical and chemical control of weeds. Encompasses Biodiversity Priorities for Widespread Weeds site 1877 - Richmond Gap, Border Ranges National Park. Incorporates entire 120-320ha of reserved land requiring weeding.	Yes

<p>The very restricted size and distribution of the northern population makes it susceptible to local extinction via stochastic processes.</p>	<p>Re-activate captive breeding program with Currumbin Wildlife sanctuary and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and release to appropriate sites in restored habitat; collect eggs/chicks to supplement existing captive held individuals</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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Site summary

A detector dog, Penny, has been trained to help track Eastern Bristlebirds by scent in this population. Field trials during September to December 2014 were very successful in finding Eastern Bristlebirds and mapping of habitat use has commenced.

Management site 4: Jervis Bay

LGA: N/A

Project partners: Office of Environment and Heritage

Species population monitoring action

Reported trends are based on best available information

Estimated population	Population monitoring conducted	Conducted by	Trend
1000	Yes	Office of Environment and Heritage	Unknown

Investment

This includes cash and in-kind contributions

Project participant	Investment
Office of Environment and Heritage	\$66,050

Project actions

The project actions below are those identified as being required in 2013-14 to secure the species in the wild

Threat	Management/monitoring action description	Implemented as planned?
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Liaise with Commonwealth to ensure adequate fox control continues and is effectively coordinated with nearby management of foxes by National Parks and Wildlife Services.	Yes
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Conduct high-intensity 1080 baiting targeted to areas of refugia habitat following significant fire events (estimated to occur once every 10 years).	Yes
Eastern Bristlebirds are prone to fox predation after wildfire events in the central and southern populations.	Quantitative assessment of pest animal abundance/density/activity using appropriate methodology or qualitative estimate.	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Ensure rapid response suppression for wildfires ignited within the park. Also direct water bucketing on key refuge areas during wildfires to ensure cooler burning fires.	Yes
Extensive and intense fire is a major threat to the central and southern populations and a threat to the northern population. Eastern Bristlebirds are semi-flightless and it is expected that few individuals would survive an intense fire event.	Monitor species recruitment and adult condition immediately post-fire event and subsequently every 6 months for 3 years.	Yes

Site summary

Fox and fire threats are being actively managed at this site.