

Nature Conservation (Latham's Snipe) Conservation Advice 2025

Notifiable instrument NI2025-304

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 2014, s 90C (Conservation advice)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Nature Conservation (Latham's Snipe) Conservation Advice 2025*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Conservation advice for Latham's Snipe

Schedule 1 sets out the conservation advice for Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*).

Linda Neaves
Chair, Scientific Committee
21 May 2025

Schedule 1

(see s 3)



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development



CONSERVATION ADVICE

LATHAM'S SNIPE – *Gallinago hardwickii*

CONSERVATION STATUS

The Latham's Snipe – *Gallinago hardwickii* (J.E. Gray, 1831) – is recognised as threatened in the following jurisdictions:

International	Near Threatened , International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List
National	Vulnerable , <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> Vulnerable, The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020
ACT	Vulnerable , <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i>
NSW	Vulnerable , <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
VIC	Not listed, <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>
QLD	Vulnerable , <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>
SA	Rare , <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>
TAS	Vulnerable , <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>

ELIGIBILITY

Latham's Snipe is listed as Vulnerable in the ACT Threatened Native Species List under IUCN Criterion A – A2b as the species has likely undergone a decline of over 30 % over three generations, due to drought and fire and loss of wetlands in Australia and illegal or unregulated hunting in some overseas habitats (Hansen et al. 2021; Attachment 1).

DESCRIPTION AND ECOLOGY

Latham's Snipe (also known as Japanese Snipe) is a medium-sized wading bird, typically 29–33 cm long, has a wingspan of 50–54 cm, and weighs 150–230 grams. The plumage is intricately marked with rufous, black and buff, with bold brown stripes and cream streaks; the flanks are barred, the belly and underparts are whitish. The long bill and conspicuous white belly are key characteristics for field sightings (Higgins and Davies 1996; Pizzey and Knight 1997). The sexes are similar in appearance, and there is no seasonal variation in adult plumage. Adults and juveniles are indistinguishable after early November (Higgins and Davies 1996).

Latham's Snipe usually occurs singly or in small, loose groups of less than a dozen birds (Naarding 1983; Driscoll 1993; Higgins and Davies 1996). The species is



Latham's Snipe (Ben Harvey - NatureMapr)

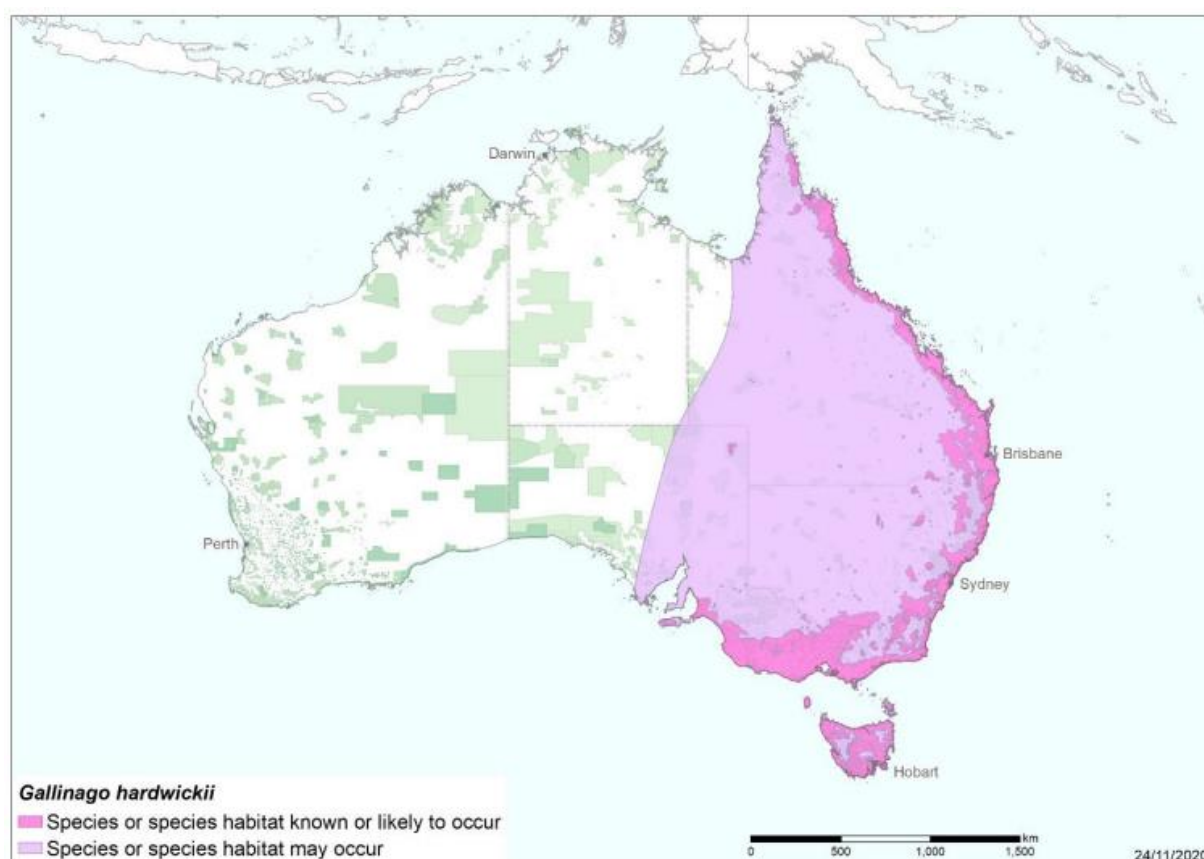
occasionally observed in larger groups of several dozen birds (Naarding 1983; Higgins and Davies 1996) or more, e.g., when migrating, flocks may contain up to 200 birds when they arrive in Australia (Frith et al. 1977; Naarding 1981, 1982). In non-breeding areas, snipe that are flushed from cover flee with a distinctive and rapid 'zig-zagging' flight (Weston 2006, pers. comm.) and the main call is a quick, explosive 'chak!', or 'zhak!', like the sudden tearing of sandpaper (ACT Government 2018).

Latham's Snipe is an omnivorous species that feeds on seeds and other plant material (mainly from species in families such as Cyperaceae, Poaceae, Juncaceae, Polygonaceae, Ranunculaceae and Fabaceae), and on invertebrates including insects (mainly flies and beetles), earthworms and spiders and occasionally molluscs, isopods and centipedes. They use their bills to jab and probe into mud that may be exposed or covered by very shallow water (Frith et al. 1977; Todd 2000).

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Latham's Snipe only breed in northern Japan, and some islands off far-eastern Russia (Naarding 1986; Higgins and Davies 1996). After breeding, they migrate to south-eastern Australia, passing through New Guinea and northern Australia (Higgins and Davies 1996). Most birds spend the non-breeding period at sites located south of the Richmond River in New South Wales (NSW) (Frith et al. 1977 – Map 1).

Map 1. Modelled distribution of Latham's Snipe.



Source: Base map Geoscience Australia; species distribution data [Species of National Environmental Significance](#) database.

Latham Snipe usually inhabit open, freshwater wetlands with low, dense vegetation. However, they can also occur in habitat with saline or brackish water, in modified or artificial wetlands, and in areas located close to humans or human activity (Frith et al. 1977; Naarding 1983). Smaller numbers inhabit drier habitat, including open woodlands and high-altitude grasslands or herblands, usually those being in

proximity to surface water. The snipe roost on the ground near (or sometimes in) their foraging areas, usually in sites that provide some degree of shelter, e.g., beside or under clumps of vegetation, among dense tea-tree, in forests, in drainage ditches or plough marks, among boulders, or in shallow water if cover is unavailable (Frith et al. 1977; Naarding 1982, 1983). Latham's Snipe can occur coincidentally with the Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*).

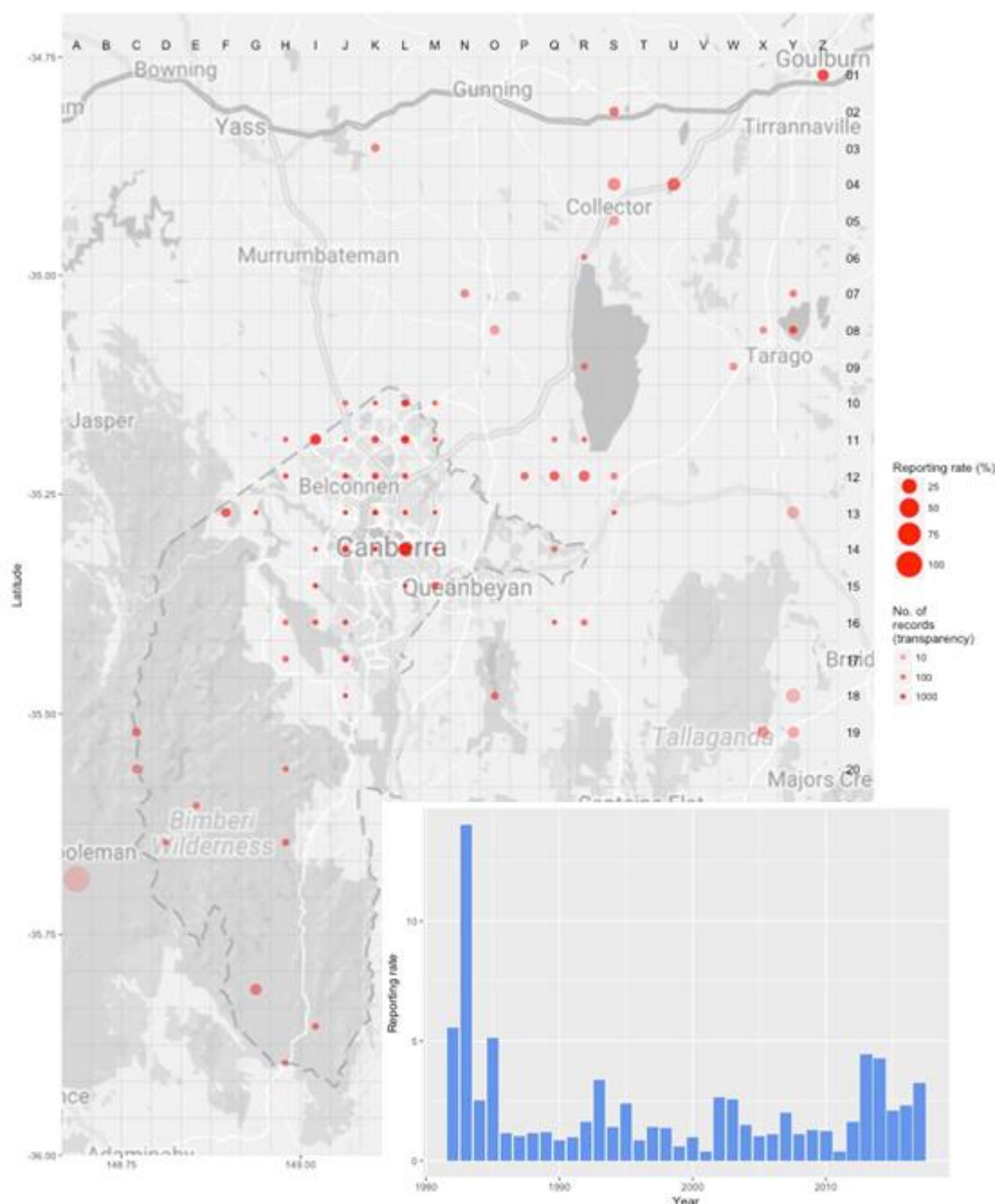
In the ACT and local region, there are two broad habitat types determined by altitude. The highland swamps, such as Ginini Flats and Nursery Swamp, and the lowland areas that can be separated into three types of wetland: small ephemeral wetlands such as soaks and farm dams; larger ephemeral wetlands which hold enough water to develop appropriate roosting and feeding habitat; and larger urban lakes that do not vary much in water depth but contain suitable roosting habitat and may also, on occasion, provide suitable feeding habitat (Davey and Gould 2017).

Latham's Snipe was monitored at Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve (JWNR) annually for 19 years (1984–2003) and other sites (Mulligans Flat dam, Horse Park Wetland and Bonshaw) for shorter periods by the ACT Government (Lintermans 1987; Lintermans 1993). In the 2016–17 season, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, in partnership with the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG), undertook surveys at a variety of 30 lowland ACT and surrounding NSW wetlands where the Latham's Snipe was known to occur (Davey and Gould 2017). The survey was part of the broader Latham's Snipe Project, which continues to expand an understanding of the movements and habitat use of these birds both locally and worldwide. Sites where high numbers of Latham's Snipe were regularly recorded included JWNR, Horse Park Drive Wetland, and West Belconnen Pond, and to a lesser extent, the Mulligans Flat dams (Davey and Gould 2017).

They regularly visit JWNR where 30 were recorded on 16 December 2018 (27 in 2017, 49 in 2016, 29 in 2015) (COG 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020). The number of records is variable from year to year (Figure 1 inset) from around 26–34 sites (COG 2018, 2019, 2020). The Latham's Snipe Project reported 146 Latham's Snipe at JWNR in September 2022 (Hansen 2023).

Other locations include Acacia Inlet on Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Tuggeranong, the upper reaches of the NAAS River and at altitude, e.g., at Ginini Flats (1600 m). They may also be found at various other urban wetlands, e.g., Horse Park, Dunlop Pond, at Giralang and more widely at wetter sites wherever there is suitable habitat, e.g., in other areas within Canberra Nature Park.

Figure 1: Distribution of Latham's Snipe records in the ACT region – 1982–2017



Source: Canberrabirds.org.au. (2018). Note: Reporting rate (%) is the proportion of all surveys in which the species was present. These data were collected by volunteer birdwatchers using various survey methods and, on some occasions, more than one person may have recorded bird sightings on the same day, which may skew the data.

THREATS

Within Australia, the current major threat to the species appears to be the ongoing loss of habitat. The wetland habitats occupied by Latham's Snipe are threatened by a variety of processes, including, drainage; diversion of water for storage or agriculture; development of land for urban or other purposes; and land management practices such as mowing of habitat during summer, which can render it unsuitable for several months (Frith et al. 1977; Garnett and Crowley 2000). The birds are easily disturbed by the intrusion of humans or cattle into their habitats, especially those near industrial complexes, roads or railways, airfields and within school grounds (Higgins and Davies 1996). The pollution of wetlands

(through nutrient enrichment, industrial discharge or inappropriate land management practices) and the salinisation of wetlands are potential threats to snipe (Melville 1997), but no information is available on the impact of pollution or salinisation upon snipe populations.

Sudden recent declines in the Latham's Snipe are attributed to extreme drought and large-scale fires during 2010 and 2019–20 (Ura and Tajiri 2020). Over the longer-term, extreme drought conditions caused by climate change is likely to be a strong driving factor for further population declines. Additional threats within Australia include the drainage and diversion of water from wetlands, as well as urban development within potential Latham's Snipe habitat (Higgins and Davies 1996; Hansen et al. 2021).

Within the ACT, the major threat to Latham's Snipe is likely urban development, with other significant threats including:

- anthropogenic climate change causing reduction and loss of wetland habitats due to reduced rainfall and run-off, increased temperature and evaporation, and increasing incidence and severity of drought
- human disturbance, including visitors to publicly accessible wetlands for recreation (e.g., JWNR and Mulligans Flat NR)
- disturbance by roaming dogs
- disturbance and predation by cats and foxes
- unfavourable changes to vegetation surrounding wetland sites
- poor water quality or water contamination of wetland sites
- impacts of residential/industrial development including noise, lighting and run-off.

MAJOR CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The priority management objective should be to maintain viable, wild populations of the species in the long term, as a component of the indigenous biological resources of the ACT and as a contribution to regional and national conservation of the species. This includes the need to maintain natural evolutionary processes.

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

Conservation actions are detailed in the Commonwealth Conservation Advice (DCCEEW 2024). An important goal in the ACT Action Plan for Migratory Species is to *Improve knowledge about the occurrence and management of listed migratory species in the ACT with particular focus on Latham's Snipe (ACT Government 2018)*. Conservation and management priorities for Latham's Snipe in the ACT should be to:

- protect habitat, especially important feeding and roosting habitat through improving legal site protection and managing other threats above and as highlighted in the ACT Action Plan for Migratory Species
- monitor population trends and condition of current and potential areas of habitat
- model climate change (see below)
- actively seek opportunities to involve members of local indigenous communities in on ground conservation activities for this species
- encourage and support the continuation and further development of community conservation activities, e.g., the Jerrabomberra Wetlands programs and the [Latham's Snipe Project](#)
- follow the *Guidelines for restoring and managing wetland habitat for Latham's Snipe* (Hansen et al. 2024) as applicable to the ACT

- continue to support the engagement with other jurisdictions to support the international recovery of the species, e.g., Latham’s Snipe Japan-Australia Foundation through the Latham’s Snipe Project.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

It is recommended that quantitative targets and resourcing requirements are clearly identified in any Action Plan or other related projects/programs relevant to this species. Broader conservation issues need to be considered in developing and implementing actions arising from this advice.

Critical Habitat and Nationally Important Habitat

Under the EPBC Act, ‘important habitat’ is a key concept for migratory species, as identified in [EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines - Matters of National Environmental Significance 2009](#).

Important habitats in Australia for migratory shorebirds under the EPBC Act include those recognised as nationally or internationally important. JWNR and the Horse Park Wetlands (separate to Horse Park Drive Wetlands) are nationally important wetlands in the *Australian Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* (DCCEEW 2023).

For the purposes of identifying nationally important habitat, important habitat for Latham’s Snipe is described as areas that have previously been identified as internationally important for the species, or areas that support at least 18 individuals of the species (DCCEEW 2024). All internationally or nationally important habitat that exceeds the above thresholds is considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. The degradation or loss of designated important habitat will have disproportionately detrimental impacts on the species’ populations and must be avoided (DCCEEW 2024).

An additional ‘important’ site to keep a watch on is Bonshaw (next to HMS Harman), where at least 18 Latham’s Snipe were recorded in surveys in 1997 and 1999 (M. Lintermans pers. Comm 2024).

The Commonwealth Conservation Advice (DCCEEW 2024) identifies ‘habitat critical to the survival’ or important habitats of a species refers to areas that are necessary:

- for activities such as foraging, breeding, roosting, or dispersal
- for the long-term maintenance of the species (including the maintenance of species essential to the survival of the species, such as macrobenthos (sediment-dwelling invertebrate prey)
- to maintain genetic diversity and long-term evolutionary development, or
- for the reintroduction of populations or recovery of the species.

Habitat critical to the survival of the species, should not be destroyed or modified. Actions that have indirect impacts on habitat critical to the survival of the species should also be minimised (i.e., human disturbance or light pollution impacting habitat). Actions that compromise survival, such as the introduction of new diseases, weeds, or predators, should also be avoided. Actions that remove habitat critical to the survival of Latham’s Snipe would interfere with recovery and reduce the area of occupancy of the species. It is important to retain as much foraging and roosting habitat as possible (DCCEEW 2024).

No Critical Habitat as defined under section 207A of the EPBC Act has been identified or included in the Register of Critical Habitat under the EPBC Act.

Urban Development

Urban wetland habitat used by Latham’s Snipe is at the greatest risk of loss due to increasing pressure from residential and industrial developments (Hansen et al. 2024). A significant issue is the impact of

urban development on important habitat sites for the Latham's Snipe. For example, urban development can increase runoff to wetlands and change the hydrology of the area which impacts water levels and vegetation, therefore, the habitat structure of these important wetlands that are close to urban development need to be protected from these increased flows and considered early in any development of nearby areas. Proactive targeted action will be required to minimise the impact of urban development.

Also, conservation actions need to protect both roosting and foraging sites for Latham's Snipe. In the case of Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, foraging sites occur outside the protected area of the reserve, some of which are in areas earmarked for future development (Gould in ACT Government 2024).

Climate Change

Climate change impacts are inevitable and will affect the likelihood of persistence, within the ACT, of many species. Capacity must be developed to model the impact on Latham's Snipe and its habitat under likely climate change scenarios if we are to anticipate and manage the impacts of climate change. This will require a combination of research and the development of in-house capacity for the collection of relevant data and its application in climate change modelling.

Jurisdictional Collaboration

As Latham's Snipe is a migratory species, the development of any policies and action/recovery plans should be discussed between relevant jurisdictional entities. The *Guidelines for restoring and managing wetland habitat for Latham's Snipe* (Hansen et al. 2024) are a collaboration across jurisdiction and are intended to provide science-based advice for land managers, practitioners and decision makers including land developers, local governments, farmers, extension officers, government researchers and environmental consultants.

Ngunnawal Community Engagement

The ACT Government should actively facilitate, the inclusion of the Ngunnawal people in the conservation of this species and its habitat as part of Ngunnawal Country. Reference to the draft Cultural Resource Management Plan (ACT Government in prep.) would be useful to inform culturally appropriate resource management including of native species that aligns with achieving conservation outcomes for the species.

OTHER RELEVANT ADVICE, PLANS OR PRESCRIPTIONS

- Commonwealth Conservation Advice – Latham's Snipe (DCCEEW 2024)
- ACT Action Plan – Migratory Species Action Plan (ACT Government 2018)
- Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve Plan of Management (ACT Government 2010)
- Review of the Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR POM (ACT Government 2025)
- Guidelines for restoring and managing wetland habitat for Latham's Snipe (Hansen et al. 2024)

LISTING BACKGROUND

Latham's Snipe is a listed Marine Species and Migratory Species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and is also listed as a Vulnerable species under the EPBC Act, effective 5 January 2024. It is assessed as Vulnerable under Criterion 1 (A2b) of the EPBC Act. In 2025, under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, the ACT Scientific Committee recommended the Latham's Snipe be listed in the Vulnerable category in the ACT Threatened Native Species List to align with the EPBC Act listing.

ACTION PLAN DECISION

The ACT Scientific Committee does not recommend that the Minister for the Environment should make the decision to have an action plan for the species in the ACT under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* provided the provisions of the Migratory Species Action Plan are strengthened to protect important habitat with an adaptive management and monitoring approach. Actions for shore birds, including the Latham's Snipe are included in the ACT *Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species* (ACT Government 2018) but this needs to be strengthened to include guidance for the conservation of threatened species, especially relating to dealing with the impacts from urban development.

A National Recovery Plan is not required to be prepared for the species (DCCEEW 2024) as the approved Commonwealth Conservation Advice is deemed to be an effective, efficient and responsive document to guide the implementation of priority management actions, mitigate key threats and support the recovery for the species. It is considered to support the species recovery by identifying priority actions, stakeholders for engagement, and the survey and research priorities to facilitate a better understanding of key threats as well as biological and ecological knowledge gaps (DSSEEW 2024).

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the related Action Plan or other threatened species and ecological communities can be obtained from: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).
 Phone: (02) 132281, EPSDD–Environment website: <https://www.act.gov.au/environment>

ATTACHMENT A: LISTING ASSESSMENT ([DCCEEW 2024](#))

THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee finalised this assessment on 7 June 2023.

Attachment A: Listing Assessment for *Gallinago hardwickii*

Reason for assessment

This assessment follows evaluation by experts of the conservation status of the species in accordance with the Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020 (Garnett and Baker 2021).

Assessment of eligibility for listing

This assessment uses the criteria set out in the [EPBC Regulations](#). The thresholds used correspond with those in the [IUCN Red List criteria](#) except where noted in criterion 4, sub-criterion D2. The IUCN criteria are used by Australian jurisdictions to achieve consistent listing assessments through the Common Assessment Method (CAM).

Key assessment parameters

Table 3 includes the key assessment parameters used in the assessment of eligibility for listing against the criteria. The definition of each of the parameters follows the [Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria](#).

Table 3 Key assessment parameters

Metric	Estimate used in the assessment	Minimum plausible value	Maximum plausible value	Justification
Number of mature individuals	19,000	12,000	46,000	There were estimated to be 20,300 Latham's snipe on Hokkaido in May 2020 based on counts of displaying males at a stratified sample of sites (Ura & Tajiri 2020). An additional 3,400 to 11,000 occur on Sakhalin, and smaller numbers breed in alpine grassland on Honshu (Hansen et al. 2020; Ura unpublished cited in Hansen et al. 2021). Counts in Australia tend to be of small numbers from scattered locations with most birds going undetected (Hansen et al. 2016), meaning that monitoring data are not suitable for Australian population estimation at this time. The official flyway estimate of 30,000 (Hansen et al. 2016) is a trend correction applied to the previous population estimate of 36,000 (Bamford et al. 2008). The estimate from Hokkaido is 42 percent less than the estimate of 35,000 in 2018 (Ura et al. 2018), which was similar to the only other island-wide estimate of 37,000 in 1986 (Naarding 1986). Not all breeding birds overwinter in Australia, but the proportion is unknown so placed here within broad bounds. The estimate for Australia is 70 percent of the recent

Threatened Species Scientific Committee

Metric	Estimate used in the assessment	Minimum plausible value	Maximum plausible value	Justification
				total for Hokkaido and the average for Sakhalin. The minimum is 50 percent of the minimum estimates from Hokkaido and Sakhalin. The maximum is 90 percent of the highest values for both places in the last decade.
Trend	Declining			Trend data from Australia is a decline in of up to 50 percent maximum flock sizes near Newcastle between the 1980s and 2010s (Maddock & Newman 2018). The most recent analysis by Rogers et al. (2023) estimated the mean change in population was -3.8% annually (1993-2021) for an estimated total decline of 16% (95%CI: -85.2, 404.3) over three generations.
Generation time (years)	3.0	2.3	3.8	Bird et al. (2020)
Extent of occurrence	3,430,000 km ²	3,350,000 km ²	3,500,000 km ²	Latham's snipe is a non-breeding visitor to south-eastern Australia and is a passage migrant through northern Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996). During southward migration, most birds pass through New Guinea and north-eastern Australia to reach south-eastern Australia, including Tasmania (Weller et al. 2020).
Trend	Contracting			Hansen et al. (2021)
Area of Occupancy	13,000 km ²	13,000 km ²	20,000 km ²	Estimated and minimum AOO is based on the number of 2x2 km squares encompassing all summer records since 1990, but not those recorded on passage in northern Australia; the highest assumes that the true AOO is 1.5 times higher.
AOO is a standardised spatial measure of the risk of extinction, that represents the area of suitable habitat known, inferred or projected to be currently occupied by the taxon. It is estimated using a 2 x 2 km grid to enable comparison with the criteria thresholds. The resolution (grid size) that maximizes the correlation between AOO and extinction risk is determined more by the spatial scale of threats than by the spatial scale at which AOO is estimated or shape of the taxon's distribution. It is not a fine-scale estimate of the actual area occupied. In some cases, AOO is the smallest area essential at any stage to the survival of existing populations of a taxon (e.g. breeding sites for migratory species).				
Trend	Contracting			Hansen et al. (2021)
Number of subpopulations	1	1	1	Hansen et al. (2021)
Trend	Stable			Hansen et al. (2021)
Basis of assessment of subpopulation number	No genetic evidence but birds are assumed to mix freely across the breeding sites			
No. locations	>10			Hansen et al. (2021)
Trend	Not calculated			Hansen et al. (2021)

Metric	Estimate used in the assessment	Minimum plausible value	Maximum plausible value	Justification
Basis of assessment of location number	The spatial nature of the threats is such that there are >10 geographically or ecologically distinct areas in Australia where a single threatening event could affect all individuals of the species present within a period of three years.			
Fragmentation	Not severely fragmented.			
Fluctuations	Not subject to extreme fluctuations in EOO, AOO, number of subpopulations, locations or mature individuals.			

Criterion 1 Population size reduction

Reduction in total numbers (measured over the longer of 10 years or 3 generations) based on any of A1 to A4				
		Critically Endangered Very severe reduction	Endangered Severe reduction	Vulnerable Substantial reduction
A1		≥ 90%	≥ 70%	≥ 50%
A2, A3, A4		≥ 80%	≥ 50%	≥ 30%
A1	Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred or suspected in the past and the causes of the reduction are clearly reversible AND understood AND ceased.	Based on any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) direct observation [except A3] (b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon (c) a decline in area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and/or quality of habitat (d) actual or potential levels of exploitation (e) the effects of introduced taxa, hybridization, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites 		
A2	Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred or suspected in the past where the causes of the reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.			
A3	Population reduction, projected or suspected to be met in the future (up to a maximum of 100 years) [(a) cannot be used for A3]			
A4	An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected population reduction where the time period must include both the past and the future (up to a max. of 100 years in future), and where the causes of reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.			

Criterion 1 evidence

Eligible under Criterion 1 A2b for listing as Vulnerable

There were estimated to be 20,300 Latham's snipe on Hokkaido, Japan in May 2020 based on counts of displaying males at a stratified sample of sites. Hokkaido is the main breeding location for the species. The population estimate in Hokkaido in 2020 was 42% less than the estimate of 35,000 in 2018, which was similar to the other island-wide estimate of 37,000 in 1986.

Counts in Australia tend to be of small numbers from scattered locations, with most birds going undetected, meaning that monitoring data are not suitable for Australian population estimates at this time. Trend data from near Newcastle shows a decline of over 30 percent maximum flock sizes between the 1980s and 2010s.

The most recent analysis by Rogers et al. (2023) estimated the mean change in population was -3.8% annually (1993-2021) for an estimated total decline of 16% (95%CI: -85.2, 404.3) over

three generations. The mean annual change in the last 10 years (2012-2021) was -0.3% (95%CI: -18.3, 22.3), suggesting the decline may have stabilised (Rogers et al. 2023). This decline is lower than previous reports from Hokkaido. However, given the substantial reduction in population size estimated by these studies, a listing of Vulnerable is appropriate until population stabilisation can be confirmed over coming years.

The Committee considers that the species has undergone a substantial reduction in numbers over three generations, and the cause has not ceased. Therefore, the species has met the relevant elements of Criterion 1 to make it eligible for listing as Vulnerable.

Criterion 2 Geographic distribution as indicators for either extent of occurrence AND/OR area of occupancy

	Critically Endangered Very restricted	Endangered Restricted	Vulnerable Limited
B1. Extent of occurrence (EOO)	< 100 km ²	< 5,000 km ²	< 20,000 km ²
B2. Area of occupancy (AOO)	< 10 km ²	< 500 km ²	< 2,000 km ²
AND at least 2 of the following 3 conditions:			
(a) Severely fragmented OR Number of locations	= 1	≤ 5	≤ 10
(b) Continuing decline observed, estimated, inferred or projected in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) area, extent and/or quality of habitat; (iv) number of locations or subpopulations; (v) number of mature individuals			
(c) Extreme fluctuations in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) number of locations or subpopulations; (iv) number of mature individuals			

Criterion 2 evidence

Not eligible

Their estimated and minimum AOO is based on the number of 2x2 km squares encompassing all summer records since 1990, but not those recorded on passage in northern Australia; the highest assumes that the true AOO is 1.5 times higher (Hansen et al. 2021). The species' EOO is thought to be stable, but its AOO is declining. This is mostly due to large-scale fires during 2019 and 2010 (Ura & Tajiri 2020); drainage and diversion of water within wetlands; urban development; and the occlusion of grasslands used during northern transit through Cape York Peninsula by tea-tree (*Melaleuca viridiflora*) and *Terminalia* woodland. The species' population is not severely fragmented, and the species is not subject to extreme fluctuations in EOO, AOO, number of subpopulations, locations, or mature individuals (Hansen et al. 2021). Therefore, the species has not met all the requirements of this criterion.

Criterion 3 Population size and decline

	Critically Endangered Very low	Endangered Low	Vulnerable Limited
Estimated number of mature individuals	< 250	< 2,500	< 10,000
AND either (C1) or (C2) is true			
C1. An observed, estimated or projected continuing decline of at least (up to a max. of 100 years in future)	Very high rate 25% in 3 years or 1 generation (whichever is longer)	High rate 20% in 5 years or 2 generation (whichever is longer)	Substantial rate 10% in 10 years or 3 generations (whichever is longer)
C2. An observed, estimated, projected or inferred continuing decline AND its geographic distribution is precarious for its survival based on at least 1 of the following 3 conditions:			
(a) (i) Number of mature individuals in each subpopulation	≤ 50	≤ 250	≤ 1,000
(a) (ii) % of mature individuals in one subpopulation =	90 – 100%	95 – 100%	100%
(b) Extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals			

Criterion 3 evidence

Not eligible

The number of mature Latham's snipe is estimated to be 19,000 (range 12,000 – 46,000) mature individuals. The only recent trend data from Australia is a decline of over 30 percent maximum flock sizes near Newcastle between the 1980s and 2010s (Maddock & Newman 2018). Therefore, the species has not met all the requirements of this criterion.

Criterion 4 Number of mature individuals

	Critically Endangered Extremely low	Endangered Very Low	Vulnerable Low
D. Number of mature individuals	< 50	< 250	< 1,000
D2. ¹ Only applies to the Vulnerable category Restricted area of occupancy or number of locations with a plausible future threat that could drive the species to critically endangered or Extinct in a very short time			D2. Typically: area of occupancy < 20 km ² or number of locations ≤ 5

¹ The IUCN Red List Criterion D allows for species to be listed as Vulnerable under Criterion D2. The corresponding Criterion 4 in the EPBC Regulations does not currently include the provision for listing a species under D2. As such, a species cannot currently be listed under the EPBC Act under Criterion D2 only. However, assessments may include information relevant to D2. This information will not be considered by the Committee in making its recommendation of the species' eligibility for listing under the EPBC Act, but may assist other jurisdictions to adopt the assessment outcome under the [common assessment method](#).

Criterion 4 evidence

Not eligible

The total number of mature individuals is estimated to be 19,000 (range 12,000 – 46,000). Therefore, the species has not met all the requirements of this criterion.

Criterion 5 Quantitative analysis

	Critically Endangered Immediate future	Endangered Near future	Vulnerable Medium-term future
Indicating the probability of extinction in the wild to be:	≥ 50% in 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 20% in 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 10% in 100 years

Criterion 5 evidence

Insufficient data to determine eligibility

Population viability analysis has not been undertaken. Therefore, there is insufficient information to determine the eligibility of the species for listing in any category under this criterion.

Adequacy of survey

The survey effort has been considered adequate and there is sufficient scientific evidence to support the assessment.

Public consultation

Notice of the proposed amendment and a consultation document was made available for public comment for 30 business days between 30 March 2023 and 15 May 2023. Any comments received that were relevant to the survival of the species were considered by the Committee as part of the assessment process and provided to the Minister for the Environment with the Committee's advice.

Listing and Recovery Plan Recommendations

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee recommends:

- i) that the list referred to in section 178 of the EPBC Act be amended by **including** *Gallinago hardwickii* in the Vulnerable category.
- ii) that there not be a Recovery Plan for this species in accordance with the provisions of the EPBC Act and the Committee's conservation planning principles as follows:
 - An approved conservation advice is an effective, efficient and responsive document to guide the implementation of priority management actions, mitigate key threats and support the recovery for this species.
 - An approved conservation advice would support the species recovery by identifying priority actions, stakeholders for engagement, and the survey and research priorities to facilitate a better understanding of key threats as well as biological and ecological knowledge gaps.
 - The threats facing the entity, and the recovery actions needed can most effectively be guided via an approved conservation advice.
 - The threats facing the entity, and the recovery actions needed can most effectively be guided via an approved conservation advice.
- iii) Having regard to the above factors, a recovery plan is not required as it would not provide a significant conservation planning benefit above existing mechanisms.