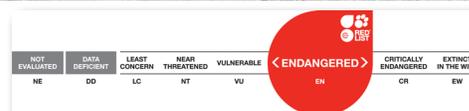


Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*)

The plains-wanderer is a quail-like ground bird endemic to Australia. The sole living representative of the family *Pedionomidae* and genus *Pedionomus*, it was recently up-listed to Critically Endangered on the Australian list of threatened species. There are estimated to be 250-1000 birds remaining in the wild, a record low for the species. Ongoing loss of good habitat to agriculture and grazing regimes that do not promote optimal plains-wanderer habitat are considered the principle causes of the long-term decline. There remains uncertainty about the nature and role of other factors in the recent losses. Learn more at the [IUCN Red List](#).

The National Recovery Plan for the species attaches a high priority to investigating the feasibility and value of establishing a captive breeding program. In August 2015, a workshop was convened to explore these questions.



Contact: Matt Cameron, Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW): matt.cameron@environment.nsw.gov.au

Priority Goals

Using the IUCN SSC *Guidelines on the Use of Ex situ Management for Species Conservation* as a framework for discussion, participants concluded that a well-managed captive program would be both of critical importance to the immediate security of the species and likely to increase significantly the chances of successful recovery following implementation of *in situ* management actions. To establish the required program and to ensure its integration with *in situ* measures, the following priority goals were agreed. **Click on the text in the table below to learn more about each goal and related actions.**

Gain approvals and collect a small number of birds from the wild for captive husbandry research and development.
Pursue approval, priority status, and funding support for the plains-wanderer conservation project from the NSW Government.
Pursue options for prioritising and resourcing plains-wanderer conservation actions in the State of Victoria.
Secure support from potential captive program partners.
Establish the required agreements between governments and any participating captive institutions.
Complete a captive management plan and husbandry manual to support the agreed program goals.
Review the outcomes of 2 and 3 and, if favourable, pursue next steps in program expansion (facility construction, founder collection, and release site preparation).

Full workshop report available at: <http://www.cbsg.org/content/plains-wanderer-workshop-report-2015>

Workshop organized by: Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales

Workshop sponsors: Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales

Workshop host: Department of Environment in Canberra

Workshop design and Facilitation: IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)