

POPULATION DENSITY AND HOME RANGE ESTIMATES FOR THE EASTERN BRISTLEBIRD AT JERVIS BAY, SOUTH-EASTERN AUSTRALIA

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Twenty-two Eastern Bristlebirds *Dasyornis brachypterus* were radio-tracked at Jervis Bay. Densities at two sites were ≥ 1.5 and ≥ 2.1 birds/5 hectares respectively which were similar to previous aural surveys at Jervis Bay and to the maximum density of 2.4 birds/5 hectares recorded at Barren Grounds. The average home range minimum convex polygon area was approximately 10 hectares for the two birds tracked for more than 11 days. Home ranges overlapped and there was no evidence of individuals or pairs occupying exclusive territories during the non-breeding season. Management decisions which impact upon the Eastern Bristlebird will be flawed if they assume the species is confined to small exclusive territories throughout the year. Even small-scale disturbances in Eastern Bristlebird habitat are likely to impact upon numerous individuals.