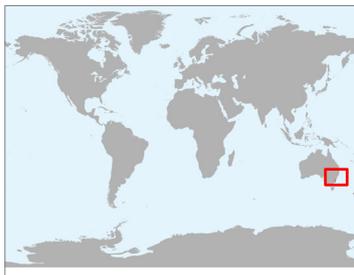




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Greater Stick-nest Rat

The **Greater Stick-nest Rat**, *Leporillus conditor*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Named after the extraordinary stick-nest it builds, which may reach over a metre in height and diameter, the Greater Stick-nest Rat is endemic to Australia, where it occurs naturally on the Franklin Islands, having once been widespread across southern, semi-arid regions of the mainland.

The Greater Stick-nest Rat has been almost completely lost from its former range. This followed European settlement in Australia, when cattle and sheep grazing caused significant habitat disturbance across the mainland. The effects of habitat destruction were further aggravated by severe droughts and by predation by native and introduced species, such as foxes and cats.

Following the development of a recovery plan, a breeding colony was established on the mainland and captive-bred individuals were translocated to predator-free sites to augment natural populations. With the continuing success of these measures, it is hoped that the Greater Stick-nest Rat is on its way to recovery.

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