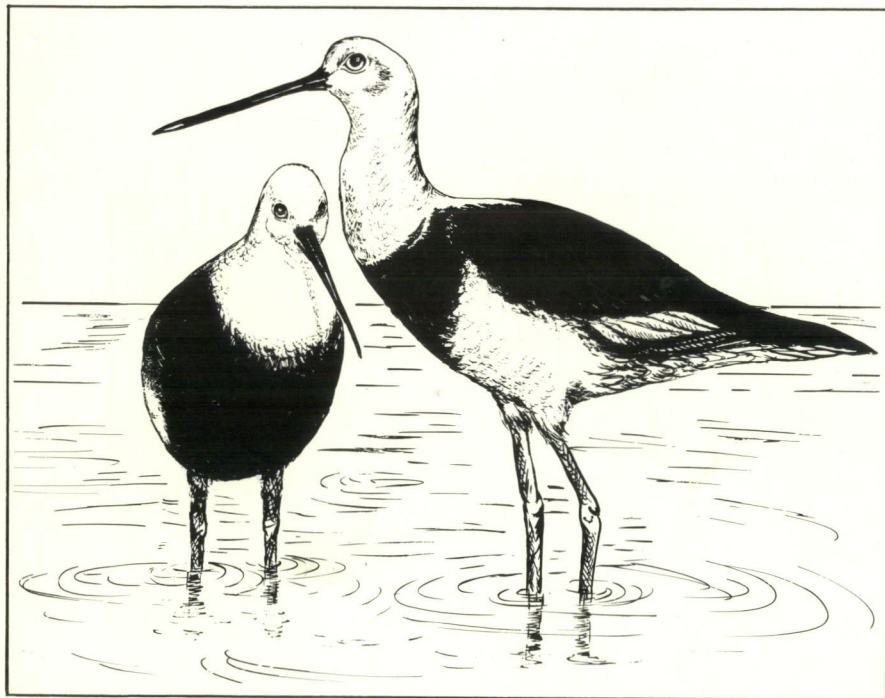


Records of the Western Australian Museum
Supplement No.26

Birds of the South-eastern Interior of Western Australia



G.M. Storr

PREP JACKSON

Birds of the South-eastern Interior of
Western Australia

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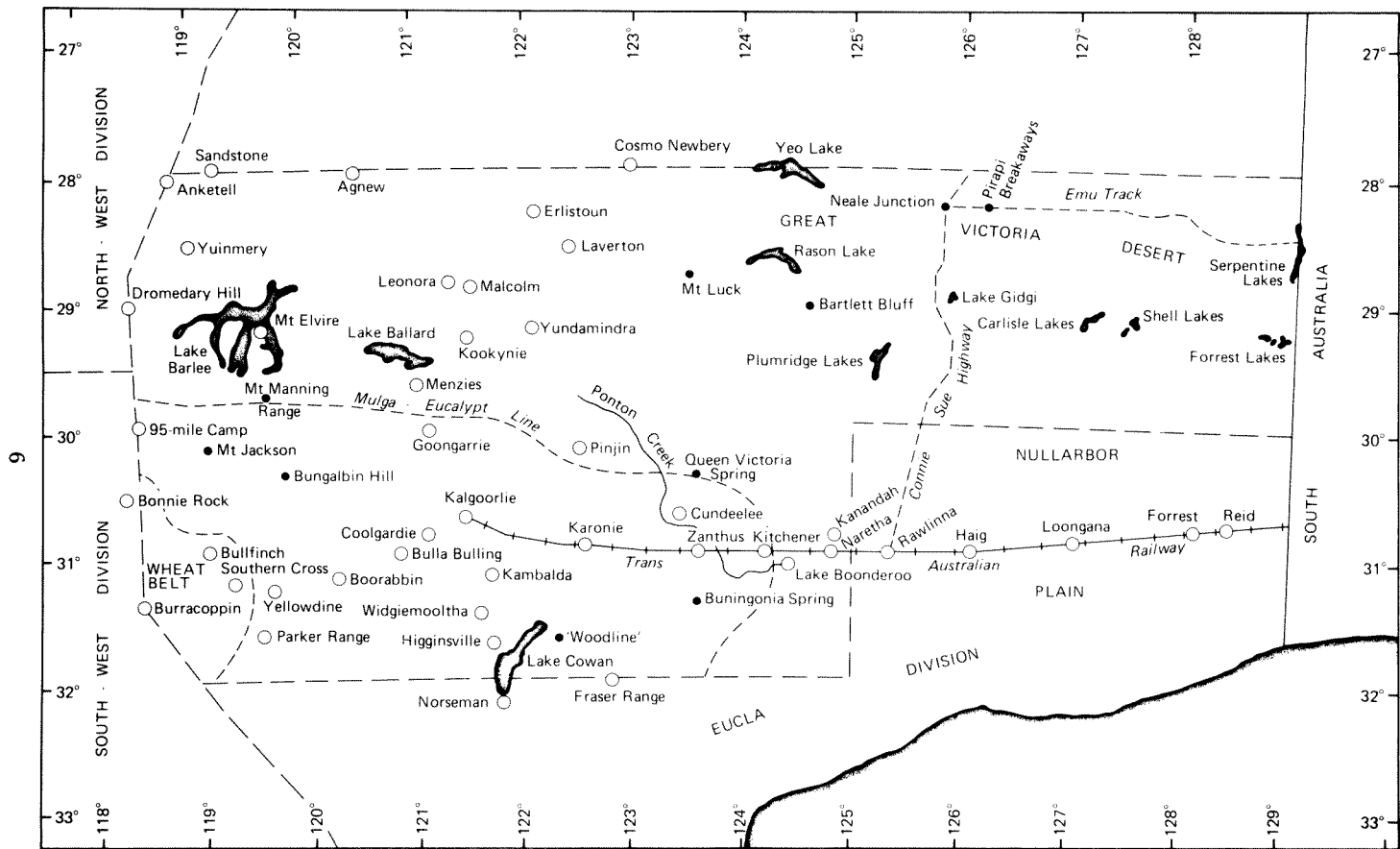


Figure 1 Map of the South-eastern Interior, Western Australia

ABSTRACT

This paper is an annotated list of the 210 species of birds recorded from the South-eastern Interior. The region is located between lat. 28° and 32°S and long. 118°30' and 129°E. It lies mainly in the arid zone.

INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth in a series of regional avifaunas covering Western Australia. Earlier papers dealt with the Kimberley (Storr 1980, *Spec. Publ. West. Aust. Mus.* No. 11), the North-eastern Interior (Storr 1981, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* 9: 65-99), the Pilbara (Storr 1984, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl.* No. 16), the Gascoyne (Storr 1985, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl.* No. 21) and the Mid-eastern Interior (Storr 1985, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl.* No. 22). The aim of the present work is the same as the others, i.e. to summarise for each taxon our knowledge of local distribution (localities outside the region are enclosed in square brackets), ecological status, abundance, habitat preferences, breeding season (i.e. the months eggs are laid in), clutch size* and movements. Taxonomic references cited in earlier papers are not repeated here.

The South-eastern Interior is defined as that part of the Eastern Land Division which lies south of lat. 28°S. In the east it is bounded by the South Australian border, in the south by the northern boundary of the Eucla Land Division, and in the west by the eastern boundaries of the North-West and South-West Land Divisions (see map, Figure 1).

The region is divisible on physiographic, climatic and vegetational criteria into four subregions.

1. South-eastern, comprising the western and northernmost parts of the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely to lightly wooded fringes. Mean annual rainfall ranges from 15 cm in the east to 19 cm in the west with little seasonality. On the Nullarbor proper (the Western Australian sector of which lies almost wholly in the Eucla Land Division) the red clayey soil is extremely shallow over the limestone. Trees are virtually absent, and the vegetation is dominated by bluebush *Maireana sedifolia* (where not eradicated by sheep, cattle or rabbits). In low-lying areas (dongas), especially where the soil is deeper, saltbush (*Atriplex*) and tussock grasses (*Stipa*, *Danthonia*) appear.

Westwards from the core of the Nullarbor, as the soil gradually deepens and the winter rainfall increases, low trees become more plentiful: myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*), sugarwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*) and belar (*Casuarina cristata*). Northwards from the core it is summer-autumn rain that in-

* C/3(2), B/4(1) signifies, for example, two clutches of three eggs and a brood of four young out of the nest but still dependent.

creases, and in addition to myall and belar, mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and a mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa*) become moderately plentiful.

There is a profuse growth of annual grasses and herbs after good rains. Surface water is ephemeral except at dams and stock troughs.

2. North-eastern, comprising the Great Victoria Desert. Annual rainfall ranges from 17 to 20 cm, most of it falling in summer and autumn. The soil is predominantly sandy, and the vegetation consists mainly of open woodlands of marble gum (*Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*) and very open mallee scrubs (especially *Eucalyptus youngiana*), with a ground layer mainly of spinifex (*Triodia*). The prevailing dunes and sandplains are interrupted by a few saltlakes and their surrounding flats of samphire, saltbush and other chenopods, and by a few breakaways and areas of heavy or stony soils dominated by mulga. Between the Desert and the Nullarbor there is a narrow east-west belt of dense mallee scrubs and more open mulga-mallee scrubs. Water is extremely scarce and confined to a few soaks and rockholes.
3. North-western, comprising the Precambrian plateau north of the mulga-eucalypt line. Annual rainfall ranges from 19 cm in the north-east (mostly in summer and autumn) to 23 cm in the south-west (mostly from late summer to early winter). The penepains are broken only by a few low hills and breakaways. Soils are mainly red loams, and the vegetation is predominantly open to fairly dense mulga. Saltlakes are plentiful. There are several freshwater streams in the north; they are lined with river gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). The whole of the quarter is occupied by sheep stations. Grazing and browsing by sheep, feral goats and rabbits has removed much of the ground herbage or has replaced palatable chenopods with unpalatable shrubs. As well as river pools, soaks and rockholes, there are numerous dams and stock troughs.
4. South-western, comprising the Precambrian plateau south of the mulga-eucalypt line. Annual rainfall ranges from 20 cm in the north-east (mostly summer to early winter) to 33 cm in the far south-west (mostly autumn to early spring). Relief is gentle, but the soils and consequently the vegetation are far more varied than elsewhere in the region. Red clays and loams support eucalypt woodlands, especially of salmon gum (*E. salmonophloia*), gimlet (*E. salubris*), morrell (*E. longicornis*) and blackbutt (*E. lesouefi*); in the south and west, where rainfall is heavier and the soils more acid, the understory is dominated by sclerophyllous shrubs (*Melaleuca*, *Acacia* etc.); in the east, where rainfall is lower and the soils more alkaline, the understory is sparser and dominated by chenopods (*Maireana*, *Atriplex*). Stony or gravelly soils carry moderately tall scrubs of *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia*, *Allocasuarina* etc. On deep yellow sandplains there is a highly varied assemblage of low to medium-sized shrubs, including *Grevillea*, *Banksia* and other Proteaceae. Red sandplains carry open mallee (*E. oleosa*) and spinifex.

Part of the far south-west (delineated on map, Figure 1) has been cleared for agriculture. There are several sheep stations in the central zone, mainly about saltlakes and in the more open woodlands with chenopod understory. Surface

water in the form of dams and stock troughs is plentiful in agricultural and pastoral country; elsewhere it is scarce and confined to soaks and rockholes.

For a detailed account of the climate, geology and vegetation of the region see Beard (1974, 1975, 1976). For notes on the Great Victoria Desert see Ford (1971*a*). This paper is based on the collections of the Western Australian Museum, the literature (especially the papers cited under References) and the unpublished data of several naturalists, notably J.R. Ford, R.E. Johnstone, L.A. Smith, J. Dell, P.J. Fuller, G.M. Storr, W.H. Butler, W.L. Klau, B.J. Newbey, N. Kolichis, J.A. Smith, J.K. Rolfe, J. Reid, P. Coyle, L.J. Sylvester and P.M. Lambert.

I am grateful to J. Dell, S.A. Parker, W.L. Klau and R.E. Johnstone for reading the manuscript. A grant from Mr and Mrs W.H. Butler to the Western Australian Museum met the costs of a field trip by R.E. Johnstone and L.A. Smith to the Nullarbor Plain.

LIST OF BIRDS

Casuariidae

Dromaius novaehollandiae (Latham) Emu

Range. Greater part of region but not waterless parts of Great Victoria Desert and Nullarbor Plain.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common in pastoral country, around salt-lakes and in more open or partly cleared eucalypt woodlands, in ones, twos, family parties or small flocks; rare or absent in dense scrubs of south-west and on the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes. Favouring chenopod flats and fresh grass and herbage in lightly wooded country within 20 km of potable water; attracted to fruiting sandalwood. One record of eggs in June, and many of attended young in July-March; B/2(3), 3(2), 4(1), 5(2), 6(1), 7(3), 8(1), 9(1).

Before the erection of the Yilgarn Fence in 1961 barred their movements southwards and westwards in spring (and return in autumn) mobs of Emus did much damage to ripening crops in the eastern wheatbelt.

Podicipedidae

Podiceps novaehollandiae novaehollandiae Stephens Black-throated Grebe

Range. Western, east to Malcolm Dam and Black Ridge Dam (30 km NNW Naretha).

Status etc. Rare visitor (mainly February-April); usually single, occasionally in small parties. Dams and sewage ponds.

Podiceps poliocephalus Jardine and Selby Hoary-headed Grebe

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun, Lake Brown and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Common visitor in wet years; in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (sometimes in hundreds). Flooded saltlakes and claypans, also dams. W.L. Klau found 76 nests in Kalgoorlie district (Rowles Lagoon, Reidy Swamp, Gidji Lake) in December 1982; C/2-6 (mostly 4 or 5).

Podiceps cristatus australis Gould Great Crested Grebe

Rare visitor to south-west. One at Rowles Lagoon in 1980 (W.L. Klau); one on lake 20 km W Marvel Loch in September 1982 (B.J. Newbey).

Pelecanidae

Pelecanus conspicillatus Temminck Australian Pelican

Vagrant. One circling over Gwalia swimming pool late in 1950 (Sedgwick 1952); one dead at Niagara Dam in November 1965 (G.M. Storr); three on Lake Brown in September 1976 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris (Brandt) Little Black Cormorant

Vagrant. G.C. Shortrige collected one at Laverton in October 1905 (Ogilvie-Grant 1910); W.L. Klau saw one at Rowles Lagoon in May and August 1984 and one at Parkeston in October 1984.

Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae Stephens Great Cormorant

Range. South-western, north to Rowles Lagoon and east to Lake Boonderoo.

Status etc. Rare visitor (January-May); usually single, occasionally flocks (up to 62). Dams, swamps and sewage ponds. A nestling banded at Menindee Lake, NSW, in June 1976 found dead at Kanandah in February 1978 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos melanoleucos (Vieillot) Little Pied Cormorant

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun and Kanandah.

Status etc. Rare visitor, usually single. Dams, swamps and claypans.

Anhinga melanogaster novaehollandiae (Gould) Darter

Vagrant. A specimen (WAM A3291) collected at Kanowna.

Ardeidae

Ardea pacifica Latham Pacific Heron

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun, Laverton and [Seemore Downs].

Status etc. Scarce to uncommon visitor; usually single, occasionally in twos. Fresh waters: dams, flooded swamps and claypans, and roadside pools. Possibly breeding at Rowles Lagoon in spring 1980 (W.L. Klau).

Ardea novaehollandiae Latham White-faced Heron

Range. Western, east to Yeo Lake, Plumridge Lakes and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common visitor; in ones, twos or small parties. Flooded claypans and saltlakes, river pools, swamps, dams, roadside pools, and ornamental pond at Kalgoorlie.

Egretta ibis coromanda (Boddaert) Cattle Egret

Vagrant. One seen at Kalgoorlie in autumn 1981 (W.L. Klau).

Nycticorax caledonicus hilli Mathews Rufous Night Heron

Vagrant. One sent to WA Museum from Lakewood in October 1942 (registered as A5609 but not retained).

Ixobrychus sinensis (Gmelin) Chinese Little Bittern

Vagrant. One collected at Kalgoorlie in January 1967 (Ford, *Emu* 69: 233).

Threskiornithidae

Threskiornis spinicollis (Jameson) Straw-necked Ibis

Range. South-western, north to beyond Leonora (Station Creek) and east to Kalgoorlie.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (mainly September-January); single or small flocks (up to 13). Dams and grasshopper-infested paddocks.

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus) Glossy Ibis

Rare visitor to west. One collected at 101 km NW Leonora in January 1977 (WAM A14711); four seen at Rowles Lagoon and six at Kalgoorlie Sewage Farm respectively in September and December 1980 (W.L. Klau).

Platalea flavipes Gould Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Rare visitor to west. W.L. Klau has occasionally seen 1-3 birds in Kalgoorlie district (Rowles Lagoon in August 1982, January and July 1984, November 1985; Blue Dam in June 1985). Also reports of spoonbills (? species) in Leonora district (Sedgwick 1952).

Anatidae

Cygnus atratus (Latham) Black Swan

Range. Western, east to the Leonora district (Station Creek Catchment, Malcolm Dam) and Lake Boonderoo.

Status etc. Locally common in wet years (especially after heavy summer rain) but generally uncommon; in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to 100). Flooded saltlakes, claypans and swamps; also dams and sewage ponds. Breeding at Lake Barlee and near Kalgoorlie (Reidy Swamp, Hannan Lake): August-September; B/5(1), C/6(3), B/7(1).

Cygnus olor (Gmelin) Mute Swan

Vagrant (presumably from Northam). Several reports of one at dams and sewage ponds around Kalgoorlie in May-June 1984 (W.L. Klau).

Stictonetta naevosa (Gould) Freckled Duck

Range. South-western, north to Credo and Gindalbie Stations.

Status etc. Rare visitor (mainly August-December); usually in small flocks. Fresh-water lakes and teatree swamps. Breeding at Rowles Lagoon in October 1973 (P.M. Lambert).

Tadorna tadornoides (Jardine and Selby) Mountain Duck

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun, Beasley Creek and [Yellowtail Bore].

Status etc. Visitor (mainly February-October). Moderately common to common in south-west (north to Lake Barlee and east to Kalgoorlie), uncommon further north and east; usually in pairs, also small flocks (up to 10). Dams, flooded saltlakes and claypans, river pools, swamps and damp grasslands. Breeding north to Lake Barlee and east to Kalgoorlie: July-early September; B/2(1), 3(1), 5(1).

Anas superciliosa Gmelin Black Duck

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun and Cowarna Downs (Swan Lake). Casual further east (Lake Brown).

Status etc. Visitor (mainly September-October). Uncommon to moderately common; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 50). Flooded claypans, swamps and saltlakes; also dams and sewage ponds. One breeding report (Goongarrie): August-September; B/6(1), 12(1).

Anas (gibberifrons) gracilis Buller Grey Teal

Range. Western, east to Yeo Lake, Lake Brown and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Moderately common to very common visitor (much the most plentiful anamid in region); in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to several hundreds). Flooded saltlakes, claypans, swamps and wheatfields, dams and sewage ponds. Breeding reports from Leonora, Lake Barlee, Kalgoorlie and Marvel Loch: late July-early September; B/5(2), B/6(1), B/7(1), C/8(2).

Taxonomy. See Parker *et al.* (1985, *Annot. Checkl. Bds S. Aust.* 2A).

Anas rhynchos rhynchos Latham Blue-winged Shoveler

Rare visitor to south-west. Five on small lake 24 km NNW Bullfinch in May 1978 (J. Dell); one at Boulder Sewage Farm in 1980 (W.L. Klau).

Malacorhynchus membranaceus (Latham) Pink-eared Duck

Range. Western, east to Eristoun, Lake Brown and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Uncommon visitor; in twos or small flocks (up to 20). Flooded claypans and saltlakes, sewage ponds and occasionally dams. Breeding reports from Lake Barlee, Lake Brown and Rowles Lagoon: autumn, winter and late spring; B/3(1), B/4(1), C/6(1), C/7(1).

Aythya australis (Eyton) Hardhead

Range. South-western, north to Lake Barlee and east to [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Rare visitor; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 4). Flooded claypans and saltlakes, and sewage ponds.

Chenonetta jubata (Latham) Wood Duck

Range. Western, east to beyond Yeo Lake (claypans 30 km E Swamper Point) and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Uncommon to common visitor (among anatids second in abundance to Grey Teal); in pairs or flocks (up to 60). Flooded claypans, lakes, swamps and wheatfields, and dams. Breeding reports from Station Creek Catchment (13 km N Leonora) and near Mt Elvire Outstation: winter.

Oxyura australis Gould Blue-billed Duck

Vagrant. One at Rowles Lagoon in May 1984 (W.L. Klau).

Biziura lobata (Shaw) Musk Duck

Rare visitor to south-west. Eight near Marvel Loch in September 1982 (B.J. Newbey); several on Rowles Lagoon and one at Gidji Dam in 1980 (W.K. Klau); several on Lake Boonderoo in February 1978 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Accipitridae

Elanus caeruleus notatus Gould Black-shouldered Kite

Range. South-western, north to Menzies and east to Kurnalpi.

Status etc. Resident at Kalgoorlie since 1980 (W.L. Klau); otherwise rare visitor (mainly March-May), usually single. Lightly wooded flats and wheatfields. Breeding reported at Kalgoorlie: August or September; C/4(1).

Elanus scriptus Gould Letter-winged Kite

Vagrant. Three at Burracoppin in September 1952 (D.L. Serventy 1953, *West. Aust. Nat.* 3: 193).

Hamirostra melanosternon (Gould) Black-breasted Kite

Rare visitor to mid-west; usually single. Two specimens (WAM A6122, 6142) from Yellowdine in July and August 1945, and observations at the Mt Manning Range (September 1980), 10 km W Callion (May 1964) and 20 km E Zanthus (January 1973).

Lophoictinia isura (Gould) Square-tailed Kite

Range. South-western, north to Mt Elvire Outstation and Menzies, and east to Karonie and [Fraser Range].

Status etc. Scarce visitor (August-November); usually single. Mainly eucalypt woodlands.

Haliastur sphenurus (Vieillot) Whistling Kite

Range. Western, east to Laverton, Queen Victoria Spring, Kitchener and the Fraser Range.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common visitor (mainly winter and spring); usually single. Lightly wooded country; attracted to breeding colonies of Banded Stilts.

Milvus migrans affinis Gould Black Kite

Rare visitor to west. One seen at Agnew in October 1982 (J.R. Ford); one at Kalgoorlie in May 1952 (A.G. Mathews); 1-32 at Coonana in September 1952, February 1953 and March 1953 (P. Slater); two at 14 km E Coonana in September 1973 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus (Vigors and Horsfield) Brown Goshawk

Range. Western, east to Doyle Well, Leonora, Yundamindra, Cundeelee and Naretha.

Status etc. Uncommon in south, in ones or twos; rare north of mulga-eucalypt line, single. Woodlands of eucalypts (including river gums) and belar, and mulga and myall scrubs; attracted to vicinity of water. Breeding reports from Bulong and Naretha: August-September.

Accipiter cirrocephalus cirrocephalus (Vieillot) Collared Sparrowhawk

Range Greater part of region excluding the Great Victoria Desert and Nullarbor Plain but including the east-west belt of mallee between them.

Status etc. Uncommon in south-west, scarce further north and east; usually single occasionally in twos. *Eucalyptus oleosa* and other mallee shrubs, and mulga, myall, wattle and other acacia scrubs and thickets; attracted to vicinity of water. Two breeding reports (Depot Springs and Boondi): *c.* July and *c.* September.

Aquila morphnoides morphnoides Gould

Little Eagle

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun, Linden, Cundeelee and Buningonia Spring. Casual further east (Kanandah).

Status etc. Moderately common in south, uncommon in north; usually single. Open woodlands and open scrubs. Breeding north to Mt Jackson and Goon-garrie: September-October; B/1(1), 2(1).

Aquila audax (Latham)

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Uncommon to very common (least plentiful in the Great Victoria Desert and densely wooded parts of far south-west; most plentiful on the Nullarbor Plain, especially in years of rabbit abundance); usually single, occasionally in twos, threes or fours. Open or lightly wooded country. Breeding in July-August; C/1, 2 (1, both eggs hatched but only one chick was reared - W.L. Klau). Birds banded near Naretha have been recovered at Southern Cross (550 km W), Doolgunna (850 km NW) and 160 km NNE Loongana (310 km ENE).

This hawk has benefited greatly from the coming of the rabbit. In 1908, about 10 years before its arrival, C.G. Gibson noted odd birds all the way from Kalgoorlie to Eucla, but it was nowhere common.

Circus assimilis Jardine and Selby

Spotted Harrier

Range. Northern, south to Mt Elvire, Kalgoorlie, Cowarna Downs and Kanandah.

Status etc. Rare or absent in much of the Great Victoria Desert and Nullarbor Plain, otherwise uncommon in good years, scarce in others; single. Open or lightly wooded country e.g. mallee-spinifex, bluebush flats, open myall. Breeding reports from Goongarrie and Kalgoorlie: c. September; B/2(1).

Falconidae

Falco subniger Gray

Black Falcon

Vagrant. One seen near Naretha, January 1964, when large flocks of Budgerigars present (D.L. Serventy).

Falco peregrinus macropus Swainson

Peregrine

Range. South-western, north to Mondie Rocks, Mt Elvire and Jeedanya and east to Cundeelee and beyond Kitchener. Casual further north (Swamper Point).

Status etc. Scarce; usually single. Breeding in disused ballast quarry near Karonie, 1980-84 (W.L. Klau): c. September; C/2(1).

Falco longipennis longipennis Swainson

Australian Hobby

Range Northern, south to Elachbutting Hill, Kalgoorlie and [Newman Rock].

Status etc. Moderately common; mostly single, occasionally in twos or hunting with a Pied Butcherbird. Lightly wooded country, including mallee-spinifex and marble gum woodlands in Great Victoria Desert; attracted to drinking Budgerigars. Breeding in September; C/2(1), 3(1).

Falco berigora berigora Vigors and Horsfield

Brown Falcon

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common (most numerous in the Great Victoria Desert, least on the Nullarbor Plain and in far south-west); usually single, occasionally in twos or small parties (up to 5). All kinds of country. Breeding July-September; C/2(3), 3(4).

Falco cenchroides cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield

Australian Kestrel

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common; usually single, rarely in twos. Sparsely wooded country. Breeding July-October; C/2(1), 3(1), 4(4), 5(3), 6(1); nesting mainly in hollow eucalypts and old nests of Little Crows, also in caves and abandoned mine-shafts; for nestling cannibalism at Laverton see North (1912, *Nests and Eggs* . . . 3: 289).

Megapodiidae

Leipoa ocellata Gould

Mallee Fowl

Range. South to Nevorvia, Sunday Soak and north end of Fraser Range and east to beyond Yeo Lake (80 km W Neale Junction), north-west corner of Kanan-dah Station (c. 30° 30'S, 124° 30'E) and lower Ponton Creek.

Status etc. Generally uncommon south and west of mulga-eucalypt line but now rare or absent in eastern wheatbelt and around Kalgoorlie and other towns; scarce in mallee-spinifex of western end of Great Victoria Desert; rare or absent in north-western pastoral country (north of Lake Barlee and west of Laverton). All kinds of litter-forming scrubs and thickets (*Eucalyptus*, *Acacia*, *Melaleuca*, *Allocasuarina*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea* etc.). Breeding August-November.

Phasianidae

Coturnix novaezelandiae pectoralis Gould

Stubble Quail

Range. Southern, north to Goongarrie and Lake Brown.

Status etc. Visitor. Uncommon in good years (e.g. spring 1973, spring-summer 1980), but generally rare. Grassy flats.

Turnicidae

Turnix varia varia (Latham)

Painted Button-quail

Range. Far south-west.

Status. Has apparently declined. G.C. Shortridge collected one at Parker Range in August 1905, but there have been no subsequent records unless the following sightings refer to this species. P.J. Fuller saw two 'quail' on the crest and slope of Mt Manning Range in September 1980 and March 1981. J. Dell flushed a moderately large 'quail' from characteristic *Turnix* scratchings at Boorabbin in March 1981.

Turnix velox (Gould)

Little Button-quail

Range. Greater part of region but not far south-west (south of Mt Jackson or west of 'Woodline').

Status etc. Common and breeding in wet years (e.g. 1908, 1963, 1973, 1974, 1980, 1984), scarce or absent in dry years (e.g. 1962, 1979, 1981, 1983); usually single, occasionally in twos or small parties (up to 5). Open or lightly wooded country, especially creekside and chenopod flats with fresh grass and herbage. Breeding March-October; C/4(3).

Rallidae

Porzana fluminea Gould

Spotted Crake

Rare visitor to south-west. Seen at Rowles Lagoon in September-December 1980 (W.L. Klau).

Gallinula ventralis Gould

Black-tailed Native Hen

Range. Western, east to Yeo Lake and [Gunnadorah], and south to Marvel Loch, Kalgoorlie and Karonie.

Status etc. Visitor. Common in wet years (e.g. 1984, 1985), but generally scarce; in twos, small parties or flocks (up to 350). Lignum and other swamps, pools in watercourses and on chenopod flats, dams and flats with lush herbage, and wheatfields.

Gallinula tenebrosa Gould

Dusky Moorhen

Vagrant. One captured at Leonora in April 1975 (D.L. Reid).

Fulica atra australis Gould

Coot

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun, Lake Brown and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Uncommon visitor; in ones, twos or flocks (usually small, exceptionally in hundreds). Flooded claypans and swamps, dams and sewage ponds. Breeding at Rowles Lagoon in 1980 and 1982 (W.L. Klau): November-December; C/3(1), 5(1), 6(1).

Otididae

Otis australis J.E. Gray

Australian Bustard

Range. Northern and eastern, south and west to the mulga-eucalypt line. Casual further south (Burracoppin, Mt Jackson, Kalgoorlie, Zanthus).

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones or twos, rarely threes or fours. Open or sparsely wooded country, including chenopod flats and spinifex sandplains; attracted to swarming grasshoppers. One breeding report (Kananah): c. July; B/1.

Charadriidae

Vanellus tricolor (Vieillot)

Banded Plover

Range. Greater part of region, south to Walgoolan, Yellowdine, Coolgardie and Fraser Range Station, and east to beyond Yeo Lake (30 km ESE Swamper Point) and Carlisle Lakes.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common (most numerous in autumn-winter); in ones, twos or small parties, rarely flocks (up to 40). Sparsely vegetated flats (including farmlands and sports grounds), especially in vicinity of fresh water. Breeding east to Sunrise Well (32 km SSE Mt Weld HS) and Kananah: mostly July-September, also April after good summer rains; B/1(2), 2(3), 4(2).

Pluvialis squatarola (Linnaeus)

Grey Plover

Rare passage migrant. One at Rowles Lagoon on 4 November 1985 (W.L. Klau).

Charadrius cucullatus Vieillot

Hooded Plover

Range. South-western, north to Lake Barlee and east to Lake Cowan.

Status etc. Moderately common at Lake Deborah, seldom reported elsewhere; in ones or twos. Edge of saltlakes. One breeding report (Lake Deborah): late May or early June; B/3.

Charadrius ruficapillus Temminck

Red-capped Plover

Range. North-western, east to Erlistoun, Linden and [Gunnadorah], and south to Lake Deborah and Boulder.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties. Edge of flooded saltlakes and claypans, also dams and sewage ponds. Breeding north to Lake Barlee and Lake Goongarrie: mainly August-November, also March following heavy rains in February; C/1(18), 2(35).

Charadrius melanops Vieillot Black-fronted Plover.

Range. Greater part of region, east to Yeo Lake and Lake Brown, and south to Marda Dam (Mt Jackson), Coolgardie, Sheehan Swamp and Lake Boonderoo.

Status uncertain; perhaps mainly a transient. Uncommon; usually in ones or twos. Edge of claypans, river pools, dams and sewage ponds.

Charadrius veredus Gould Oriental Plover

Rare visitor. One collected (ANWC B17101) in company of Australian Dotterels at Kanandah in September 1972 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Charadrius cinctus (Gould) Red-kneed Plover

Range. North-western, east to Yeo Lake and [Seemore Downs] and south to Kalgoorlie.

Status etc. Locally and seasonally moderately common, e.g. around Kalgoorlie in spring 1980 and 1982, but generally rare; usually in small flocks (up to 20). Flooded claypans and saltflakes, and pools on chenopod flats. Breeding reports from Mt Elvire and Kalgoorlie: August-November; C/2(1), 3(2), 4(13), 5(2).

Peltohyas australis (Gould) Australian Dotterel

Range. Greater part of region south to Buningonia Spring and west to Leonora and Randell, but not far north-east (Great Victoria Desert).

Status etc. Nomadic. Moderately common on the Nullarbor Plain, scarce elsewhere; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 8). Sparsely vegetated plains, favouring damper, low-lying places. Breeding on the Nullarbor Plain: January-March and July-November; C/3(2).

Scolopacidae

Limosa limosa melanuroides Gould Black-tailed Godwit

Rare summer visitor. Party of five on dam at Kalgoorlie in December 1952, one remaining till at least February (P. Slater); two at Rowles Lagoon in November 1985 (W.L. Klau).

Tringa stagnatilis (Bechstein) Marsh Sandpiper

Rare summer visitor. Two at Malcolm Dam in November 1974 (D.L. Reid).

Tringa nebularia (Gunnerus) Greenshank

Range. Southern, north to Yacke Yackine Dam, Rowles Lagoon, Kalgoorlie and Lake Boonderoo.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (October-February); in ones, twos or small parties.
Claypans, dams and sewage ponds.

Tringa glareola Linnaeus Wood Sandpiper

Rare visitor (February-April) to claypans and sewage ponds in the Kalgoorlie district, including a party of 10 (W.L. Klau).

Tringa hypoleucos Linnaeus Common Sandpiper

Range. Western, east to Erlistoun and Kanandah.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (September-January); in ones or twos. Claypans and dams.

Arenaria interpres interpres (Linnaeus) Ruddy Turnstone

Rare passage migrant. One at Rowles Lagoon in May 1983 and two in November 1985, and one at Hannan Lake in November 1982 (W.L. Klau).

Gallinago sp.

Rare summer visitor. An unidentified snipe at Boulder sewage pond in January 1985 (W. Brooke).

Calidris ruficollis (Pallas) Red-necked Stint

Infrequent but sometimes numerous summer visitor to Hannan Lake, Kalgoorlie: observed in November 1982, October 1984 and February 1985 (W.L. Klau). Also observed at Rowles Lagoon in November 1985.

Calidris subminuta (Middendorff) Long-toed Stint

Rare summer visitor. One caught at Hannan Lake on 20 February 1985 (W.L. Klau); one collected (ANWC B19218) at Lake Brown on 22 September 1976 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Calidris melanotos (Vieillot) Pectoral Sandpiper

Rare summer visitor. One at Rowles Lagoon in December 1984, and one at Gidji Lake in January-February 1983 (W.L. Klau).

Calidris acuminata (Horsfield) Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Range. Western, east to Laverton and Boulder.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (September-November); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 25). Claypans, dams and sewage ponds.

Calidris ferruginea (Pontoppidan)

Curlow Sandpiper

Status etc. Infrequent visitor (September-December), sometimes in flocks (up to 40). Recorded at Lake Brown, Kanandah and Kalgoorlie (Hannan Lake).

Recurvirostridae

Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus Gould

Black-winged Stilt

Range. Western, east to Lake Brown and [Gunnadorah].

Status etc. Common in wet years; in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally in hundreds. Flooded claypans and saltlakes, also dams and sewage ponds. Breeding reports from Lake Barlee and near Kalgoorlie: August-October; C/4(8).

Cladorhynchus leucocephala (Vieillot)

Banded Stilt

Range. Western, east to lake 21 km NW Laverton, Lake Raeside, Lake Rebecca, Lake Yindarlgooda and Lake Cowan.

Status etc. Moderately frequent visitor, sometimes in tens of thousands; most plentiful after heavy summer-autumn rains. Flooded saltlakes and claypans. Breeding reports from Lakes Barlee, Ballard, Marmion, Goongarrie and ? Cowan: ? winter 1904, 1963, June 1973, June 1974, April-May 1975, July-August 1980; C/2-5 (mostly 3 and 4).

Recurvirostra novaehollandiae Vieillot

Red-necked Avocet

Range. North-western, south to Walgoolan, Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie, and east to Malcolm Dam and Lake Goongarrie. Casual further east (claypan 32 km SW Cosmo Newbery, dam 60 km NNW Naretha).

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 25). Flooded claypans and saltlakes. Breeding in March, August and November; C/2(1), 3(4), 4(34).

Burhinidae

Burhinus grallarius (Latham)

Bush Stone-curlew

Status etc. Unknown but clearly rare. Only recorded from three western localities: Eristoun (J. Rolfe), Station Creek (J.R. Ford) and Toomey Hills (B.J. Newbey).

Glareolidae

Stiltia isabella (Vieillot)

Australian Pratincole

Rare visitor. Two at Kanandah in January 1971 (Brooker 1971, *West. Aust. Nat.* 12: 21).

Glareola maldivarum Foster

Oriental Pratincole

Rare summer visitor. One at Boulder sewage pond in January-February 1984 (W.L. Klau).

Laridae

Larus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae Stephens

Silver Gull

Rare visitor (presumably from south-eastern Australia). One over abandoned Banded Stilt colony at Lake Barlee in October 1980 (P.J. Fuller); two over Hannan Lake, Kalgoorlie, in October 1984 (W.L. Klau); at Lake Boonderoo in February 1978 (Brooker *et al.* 1979).

Sterna hybrida javanica Horsfield

Whiskered Tern

Range. North-western, east to Lake Brown and south to Kalgoorlie.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (April-November); usually single, occasionally small flocks (up to 14). Flooded claypans, also large dams.

Columbidae

Columba livia Gmelin

Feral Pigeon

Common at Kalgoorlie. Breeding in disused mine-shafts most of year (mainly August-September), C/1(3), 2(9) (W.L. Klau).

Streptopelia chinensis (Scopoli)

Spotted Dove

Exotic, established in Kalgoorlie district (including Kurrawang, Boulder and Parkeston) by 1948 (Sedgwick, *West. Aust. Nat.* 6: 118, 9: 155), but no records since 1962. Scarce; in ones or twos.

Streptopelia senegalensis senegalensis (Linnaeus)

Laughing Dove

Exotic, established at Southern Cross by 1958 (R. Martin), at Coolgardie by 1976 (R.E. Johnstone) and in Kalgoorlie district (including Kurrawang, Boulder, Parkeston and Golden Ridge) by early 1940s (Sedgwick, *supra cit.*). Moderately common in Kalgoorlie and suburbs and in adjacent bushland; in ones or twos. Status at Widgiemooltha unknown (B.J. Newbey saw it here in 1979). C/2 (many).

Geopelia cuneata (Latham)

Diamond Dove

Range. North-central, west to Leonora, Goongarrie and Randell, and east to Yeo Lake, Lake Brown and Kitchener. Casual east of Kalgoorlie (Grants Dam).

Status etc. Scarce visitor; usually in ones or twos. Lightly wooded country in vicinity of water. Breeding at Station Creek in 1955 (Ford 1957): September-November; C/2(1).

Phaps chalcoptera (Latham)

Common Bronzewing

Range. Northern and western, east to Pirapi Breakaways (25 km E Neale Junction), Kardinya Rockhole (60 km WNW south end Plumridge Lakes), Queen Victoria Spring and Buningonia Spring.

Status etc. Locally common, e.g. at Queen Victoria Spring, but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually in ones or twos, much larger numbers (up to 100) in evening at water. Well-wooded country in vicinity of water. Breeding reported in April, July, September and December, C/1(1), 2(3).

Ocyphaps lophotes (Temminck)

Crested Pigeon

Range. North-western, south to 33 km S Moorine Rock, Ghooli, Boorabbin, 16 km WSW Coolgardie and 16 km SW Kambalda, and east to 39 km ENE Laverton, Merolia, west end of Lake Minigwal, Pinjin, Yindi and Karonie.

Status etc. At present common in pastoral zone and eastern wheatbelt, but rare or absent in heavily wooded and largely waterless intervening country; usually in ones, twos or small parties, in flocks (up to 60) at water. Usually breeding October-December, also February; C/2 (several).

As elsewhere in Australia this pigeon has greatly increased its range and numbers since European settlement, before which it probably occurred nowhere in the region. At any rate G.C. Shortridge failed to record it on his visits to the Laverton, Kalgoorlie and Southern Cross districts in 1905. The first regional record was K.G. Buller's observation of a score along the road north-west of Leonora in 1942. It reached the eastern wheatbelt in the late 1950s and the Eastern Goldfields in the mid-1960s.

Psittacidae

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Dietrichsen)

Purple-crowned Lorikeet

Range. South-western, north to the Die Hardy Range, Callion, Broad Arrow and Queen Victoria Spring and east to 65 km NW Naretha, 13 km W Kitchener and Buningonia Spring. Casual further north (Menzies, Comet Vale) and in southern part of Great Victoria Desert (36 km SW Cosmo Newbery, Neale Junction, Orrs Creek).

Status etc. Nomadic. Moderately common to common; usually in small flocks (up to 25). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to flowering *E. salmonophloia*, *E. pileata*, *E. gracilis*, *E. calycogona*, *E. salubris*, *E. flocktoniae* etc. Breeding c. August-September and ? June.

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 28).

Polytelis alexandrae Gould

Princess Parrot

Range. North-eastern (Great Victoria Desert): reports from 27 km S and 13 km W Neale Junction in 1967 (Pianka and Pianka 1970); Carlisle Lakes in May.

1969 (Brooker *et al.* 1979); 11 km E Mt Luck (28°46'S, 123°35'E) in October 1984 (R.E. Johnstone and L.A. Smith); and in Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve (30°28'S, 123°41'E and 4 km further west) in July 1983 (Collins, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 29: 12). Casual further west (Laverton district, ? Leonora, Kookynie, Menzies, Kanowna).

Status etc. Nomadic. Scarce; in pairs or small flocks (up to 18). Open mallee-spinifex and open marble gum woodland. Breeding reports from Laverton district, 11 km E Mt Luck and '25 miles from Menzies': September-October; C/2(1).

Polytelis anthoepus westralis Mathews Regent Parrot

Range. South-western, north to 95-mile Camp, Kurrajong Rockhole (Hunt Range), Callion and Cundeelee, and east to 11 km W Kitchener.

Status etc. Nomadic. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 20). Open eucalypt woodlands, including farmlands of eastern wheatbelt; attracted to fruiting *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*.

Platycercus zonarius zonarius (Shaw) Ring-necked Parrot

Range. Greater part of region, but not the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded northern and western fringes (south of the Forrest Lakes and 130 km S Neale Junction, or east of 22 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, lower Ponton Creek and Pioneer Tank). Casual further east (Kanandah, Naretha).

Status etc. Moderately common to very common (most plentiful in eastern wheatbelt, least in more open parts of pastoral zone and of Great Victoria Desert); usually in ones twos or small parties, rarely flocks (up to 40). Well-wooded country, especially eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; also mulga scrubs and belar woodlands; attracted to lerps (Nicholls 1978, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 76), fruiting *Pittosporum phylliraeoides* and *Amyema* sp. (J. Dell), fleshy peduncles of *Exocarpos aphylla* (B.J. Newbey), and flowering *Eremophila oppositifolia* (J. Dell). Breeding August-October and ? May; C/4(2).

Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys Salvadori Western Rosella

Range. South-western, north and east to Moorine Rock, Parker Range, Yardina Rock [and Ten Mile Rock]. Casual further north (Mt Jackson, Karalee, Gnarl-bine Rock).

Status etc. Rare; in ones or twos. Eucalypt woodlands.

Platycercus haematogaster narethae (H.L. White) Blue-bonnet

Range. Wooded northern and western fringes of Nullarbor Plain, north to the Forrest Lakes, Koolgahbin Claypan, Lake Gidgi and 80 km S Neale Junction

and west to 18 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, north-west corner of Kanandah Station and 21 km E Kitchener. (Southern limit unknown; in longitude of Rawlinna extending to 30 km S of railway, but further west absent from country round termination of Ponton Creek, 10 km S of railway.)

Status etc. Common; mostly in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Lightly wooded plains: myall-bluebush, with or without mulga, belar or sugarwood. Breeding July-September; C/4-7 (mostly 5); nesting mainly in belars, but also in myalls, mulgas and sugarwoods. For notes on food etc. see Brooker *et al.* (1979).

Platycercus varius (Clark)

Mulga Parrot

Range. Greater part of region, south to Noongar, Olga Rocks, 7 km NE Bank Rock [and Norseman].

Status etc. North and east of mulga-eucalypt line moderately common to common; south and west of line scarce to moderately common in pastoral and agricultural country but rare elsewhere, e.g. the well-wooded, largely waterless tracts around Mt Jackson and Bungalbin Hill, between Yellowdine and Bulla Bulling, and between Karonie and Kitchener; usually in pairs or small parties, rarely small flocks (up to 20) Lightly wooded country, especially open mulga, myall and other acacia scrubs and belar woodlands, but also the more open eucalypt woodlands and scrubs (especially those over spinifex or chenopods); attracted to fruiting *Lysiana murrayi* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* (E.H. Sedgwick). Breeding July-September; C/5(1).

Neophema elegans (Gould)

Elegant Parrot

Only recorded from Moorine Rock in eastern wheatbelt (Serventy and Whittell).

Neophema splendida (Gould)

Scarlet-breasted Parrot

Range. Ordinarily north-eastern, west to *c.* long. 123°E and south to Queen Victoria Spring, Salt Creek (20 km W Plumridge Lakes), 91 km S Neale Junction and Forrest Lakes. Casual further west and south (Naretha, Kanandah, Cundeelee, Coonana, Laverton, Goongarrie, Mt Manning Range, Bulla Bulling 'just east of central part of Lake Cowan', and 10 km SSW Emu Point Tank; mostly in September-October).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; usually single or in pairs. Open eucalypt woodlands and scrubs (marble gums and several mallee species), with or without an understory of *Triodia*, *Thryptomene* or *Acacia*, on the sands of the Great Victoria Desert and on the heavier soils of the mallee belt between the Desert and Nullarbor Plain. [In South Australian sector of Great Victoria Desert breeding July-August; C/4(2), 5(1).]

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 29).

Neophema bourkii (Gould)

Bourke's Parrot

Range. North-western, east to Yeo Lake (Miller Soak), Mulgabiddy Creek (45 km NE White Cliffs) and 51 km SSE Mt Weld HS, and south to 59 km S Dromedary Hill, Mt Elvire Outstation, Callion and Lake Goongarrie.

Status etc. At present moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties. Open mulga scrub. One breeding report (Mt Elvire): c. August.

Like the Galah and Crested Pigeon, this thirsty parrot has benefited from the greatly increased water supply following the establishment of the pastoral industry. It was not recorded in the Laverton district by G.C. Shortridge in 1905 or by C.G. Gibson in 1908. Indeed there was no regional record till 1949 when E.H. Sedgwick observed a party 12 km N Leonora.

Pezoporus occidentalis (Gould)

Night Parrot

An unconfirmed report from the north-west. J.R. Ford was informed by an employee of Jeedamya Station that in April 1937 he and the manager (C. Purchase) had found an adult and five young in a nest under a large spinifex on a spinifex flat in breakaway country near Ghost Rocks and south-eastern shore of Lake Ballard.

Melopsittacus undulatus (Shaw)

Budgerigar

Range. Northern, south to Mt Elvire Outstation, Kalgoorlie, Karonie, Zanthus and Kanandah. Casual in eastern wheatbelt (Warralakin).

Status etc. Numbers fluctuating enormously: extremely common in wet years (e.g. 1955-56, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1984), but rare or absent in dry years; usually in ones, twos or small flocks when feeding; much larger flocks at water, e.g. 100,000 drinking at Zanthus Dam in January 1956 (V. Serventy 1956). Lightly wooded country with good grass and herbage; attracted to seeding spinifex. Breeding south to Mt Elvire, Goongarrie and 27 km S Neale Junction: September-November; C/3(1).

Nymphicus hollandicus (Kerr)

Cockatiel

Range. Northern, south to 50 km NNE Bonnie Rock, Evanston, Kalgoorlie, Coonana, Kanandah, [Premier Downs] and Carlisle Lakes, but not far north-east (Great Victoria Desert east of Yeo Lake and north of 27 km S Neale Junction).

Status etc. Moderately common in good years, but generally uncommon; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 150 at water). Lightly wooded country. One breeding report (Station Creek): October; C/3.

Calyptorhynchus magnificus samueli Mathews

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Range. Small area in far west, south of mulga-eucalypt line: north to 95-mile Camp and Mt Jackson, east to Bungalbin Hill and Koolyanobbing, and south to Walgoolan. Casual further east (Credo, Kalgoorlie).

Status etc. Moderately common; in pairs, small parties or small flocks (up to 22). Open eucalypt woodlands (especially salmon gum/gimlet); also farmlands of eastern wheatbelt.

Calyptorhynchus latirostris Carnaby

Carnaby's Cockatoo

Status. One record from far south-west: a party of four at Noongar in May 1970 (J.R. Ford).

Taxonomy. See Saunders (1979, *Emu* 79: 215) and Courtney (1986, *Aust. Bd Watcher* 11: 137).

Cacatua roseicapilla Vieillot

Galah

Range. Greater part of region, south to Mt Hampton, Higginsville, [Fraser Range], New Pioneer Tank, Kitchener, Kanandah, 58 km WNW south end Plumridge Lakes, Lake Brown and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes, but not far north-east (Great Victoria Desert between Yeo Lake and Serpentine Lakes and north of 45 km S Neale Junction).

Status etc. At present common to very common in pastoral country north of mulga-eucalypt line, common in pastoral and agricultural country south of line, scarce or absent elsewhere; usually in pairs or small flocks, occasionally large flocks (up to 2000). Lightly wooded country in vicinity of water. Breeding July-September; ♀/2(1) 3(1) 5(1), 7(1).

In 1906 G.C. Shortridge recorded this species in the Laverton district but not in the Southern Cross or Kalgoorlie districts. It is unknown when the latter districts were colonised, but it could hardly have been before 1940. In 1948 the Galah was declared a pest in the Westonia district (eastern wheatbelt).

Cacatua leadbeateri (Vigors)

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Range. Far west from Yuinmery south through Lake Barlee and Diemals to Warralakin and nearly to Bullfinch, and east to Leonora (occasionally), Goongarrie (formerly), soak 23 km E Callion (formerly) and 45 km E Yellowdine. Also far north-east (southern, relatively well-wooded part of Great Victoria Desert from 45 km S Neale Junction and 90 km W Serpentine Lakes south to Queen Victoria Spring, Orrs Creek and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes).

Status etc. Scarce in west, rare in east; in pairs, small parties or flocks (up to 40). Sparsely wooded country in vicinity of water (including mills and dams) and tall trees (including marble gums).

Cuculidae

Cuculus pallidus (Latham)

Pallid Cuckoo

Status etc. Visitor (mostly March-May and August-October, rarely November-February). Common in good seasons, e.g. September-October 1984, but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Most wooded habitats. Breeding August-September (and presumably October), parasitising *Rhipidura leucophrys* (1 record), *Meliphaga virescens* (1) and *M. plumula* (2).

Cacomantis flabelliformis flabelliformis (Latham)

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Range. Far south-west, north to Westonia, Yellowdine, Boorabbin, Cave Hill and Yardina Rock, and east to Heartbreak Ridge (122° 25' E).

Status etc. Rare winter visitor (mid-May to early September); usually single. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs.

Chrysococcyx osculans (Gould)

Black-eared Cuckoo

Range. Greater part of region, including the Great Victoria Desert (north at least to Pirapi Breakaways and Serpentine Lakes).

Status etc. Visitor (mostly March-October). Scarce to uncommon; usually single, occasionally in twos. Mainly mulga, myall and other acacia scrubs; also eucalypt and casuarina scrubs. One breeding report (Naretha): *c.* August; parasitising *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*.

Chrysococcyx basalis (Horsfield)

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

Range. Throughout the region, including the Nullarbor Plain.

Status etc. Visitor (February-November, mostly August-October). Moderately common to common; usually single, rarely in twos. Most scrubs and woodlands. Breeding late July-September; parasitising *Petroica goodenovii* (1 record), *Aphelocephala l. leucopsis* (1), *Smicromis brevirostris* (1), *Acanthiza (pusilla) apicalis* (3), *A. uropygialis* (1) and *Malurus leucopterus leuconotus* (2).

Chrysococcyx lucidus plagosus (Latham)

Shining Bronze Cuckoo

Rare winter visitor to far south-west (noted by B.J. Newbey at Parker Range and Olga Rocks in mid-September 1981).

Strigidae

Tyto alba delicatula (Gould)

Barn Owl

Range. North-western, south to Coolgardie and Naretha and east to Yeo Lake, Plumridge Lakes and [Premier Downs].

Status etc. Scarce autumn-winter visitor; usually single. Lightly wooded country, including samphire flats. One breeding record (between Naretha and Rawlinna): C/3; September; originally reported by Collins (1934) as *T. novaehollandiae*, but corrected by S.A. Parker (1977, *S. Aust. Orn.* 27: 209).

Ninox novaeseelandiae boobook (Latham)

Boobook Owl

Range. Greater part of region, including the Great Victoria Desert but not the Nullarbor Plain or its vicinity south of Bartlett Bluff and Koolgahbin Claypan or east of Queen Victoria Spring and Zanthus.

Status uncertain (no breeding reports, and recorded mainly in August-November and to a lesser extent in March-May). Uncommon; usually single. Well-wooded country.

Podargidae

Podargus strigoides brachypterus Gould

Tawny Frogmouth

Range. Western, east to Yeo Lake, Rason Lake and [Premier Downs]. Casual further east (Neale Junction).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; usually single, occasionally in pairs or family parties. Most wooded habitats. Breeding late July-October; C/2(5).

Aegothelidae

Aegotheles cristatus cristatus (J. White)

Australian Owlet-nightjar

Range. Throughout the region, including the Great Victoria Desert and wooded fringes of Nullarbor Plain.

Status etc. Common in south-west, uncommon to moderately common north and east of mulga-eucalypt line. Most wooded habitats. Breeding August-September; C/3(2).

Caprimulgidae

Eurostopodus argus Hartert

Spotted Nightjar

Range. Northern, south to Mt Jackson, Woolgangie, Kalgoorlie, Yindi, Queen Victoria Spring, Plumridge Lakes and Serpentine Lakes. Casual further south ('Woodline', Buningonia Spring, Limekilns).

Status uncertain; 45 of 59 records in March and August-October, the only months song reported. Uncommon to moderately common; usually single. Sparsely vegetated, preferably stony country, e.g. about breakaways and granite outcrops; also edge of saltlakes and along roads. Breeding c. October; C/1(3).

Apodidae

Apus pacificus pacificus (Latham) Fork-tailed Swift

Rare visitor. A flock of 50-100 near Neale Junction on 12 March 1975 (Burbidge *et al.* 1976).

Alcedinidae

Halcyon pyrrhopygia Gould Red-backed Kingfisher

Range. Greater part of region, but not far south-west (south of Toomey Hills or west of Sunday Soak).

Status etc. Moderately common spring-summer visitor (late August-March); one winter record (NW of Leonora, late June); usually single. Lightly wooded country. Breeding September-February; C/5(3).

Halcyon sancta sancta Vigors and Horsfield Sacred Kingfisher

Status. Rare passage migrant (October-December) through the south-west, east to Kalgoorlie and Pioneer; usually single.

Meropidae

Merops ornatus Latham Rainbow Bee-eater

Range. Western, east to Yeo Lake, 22 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, Lake Boonderoo and the Fraser Range.

Status etc. Passage migrant and breeding visitor (north to Mt Jackson and presumably Cundeelee). As a passage migrant (early October and late January-early March) moderately common; usually in small parties in southward migration, in flocks in postnuptial wanderings and northward migration. As a breeding bird uncommon; usually in pairs. Lightly wooded country. Breeding c. November.

Hirundinidae

Cheramoeca leucosterna (Gould) White-backed Swallow

Range. Northern and western, south to Holleton, Parker Range, Boorabbin, Kalgoorlie, Harris Lake, Lake Brown, Carlisle Lakes and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common but patchily distributed in lightly wooded country (including farmlands and mining areas); rare or absent in the denser eucalypt woodlands south and west of mulga-eucalypt line. Breeding September-December, including an unconfirmed report from Naretha; C/4(1), 5(2).

Hirundo neoxena Gould

Welcome Swallow

Range. North-western, south to Burracoppin, Bodallin, Southern Cross, Coolgardie and Boulder, and east to Marshall Creek, Laverton, Merolia, Edjudina and Pinjin. Far east: vicinity of Trans Australian Railway west to Kitchener and north to Kanandah HS. Far south: Fraser Range, north-east to Outstation. Reports from the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes in May possibly refer to migrants from South Australia.

Status etc. Locally common but generally uncommon and very patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties. Open country, mainly about towns, homesteads, dams, mills, bridges over watercourses and abandoned mines, and railway stations. Breeding September-October; B/2(2), 3(2).

This swallow has presumably colonised the region since European settlement. In 1905 G.C. Shortridge saw it at Southern Cross but not in the Kalgoorlie and Laverton districts. In the east it evidently became established along the railway between F.L. Whitlock's and H. Collins' visits in 1921 and 1931.

Hirundo nigricans nigricans Vieillot

Tree Martin

Range. Western, east to Eristoun, Yundamindra and Kanandah.

Status etc. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (March-May and July-September). Moderately common in south-west, scarce elsewhere; usually in ones, twos or small parties, in flocks (up to 50) on migration. Well-wooded country, especially salmon gum, morrell, gimlet and other eucalypt woodlands. Breeding north to the Mt Manning Range and east presumably to Karonie: August-September and ? April; C/3(1).

Hirundo ariel (Gould)

Fairy Martin

Range. Northern, south to Chiddarcooping Hill, Hospital Rocks, Goongarrie, 13 km SW Mt Luck and Pirapi Breakaways. Also colonies recently established near Kalgoorlie and on the Trans Australian Railway east and west of Randell.

Status etc. Visitor (mainly late August-December). Locally common but generally scarce to uncommon and very patchily distributed; usually in pairs or small flocks (up to 25). Open country in vicinity of nest sites (breakaways, granites, road and railway culverts and bridges, and disused mine-shafts) and water. Breeding August-December; C/2(2), 3(35), 4(27), 5(1), 7(1).

Motacillidae

Anthus novaeseelandiae australis Vieillot

Richard's Pipit

Range. Throughout the region, but in the far north-east only recorded at Pirapi Breakaways.

Status etc. Very common on the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes, common in pastoral and agricultural lands, rare or absent in the more heavily vegetated parts of the south-west and in much of the Great Victoria Desert; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Chenopod and short-grass flats and other areas with low sparse cover (preferably on clayey or stony soils) in open or lightly wooded country. Breeding April-September and December; C/2(3), 3(1).

Campephagidae

Coracina maxima (Rüppell)

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

Range. Greater part of region, but not far south-west (south and west of Mt Jackson, Callion, Kurrawong and [Norseman]), but no reports from far north-east (Great Victoria Desert between Yeo Lake and Serpentine Lakes). Casual further south (22 km WSW Kuykara, Boorabbin).

Status etc. Nomadic. Moderately common in wooded fringes of Nullarbor Plain and in pastoral country north of mulga-eucalypt line; scarce and patchily distributed south and west of line; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 10). Sparsely vegetated areas (preferably on stony or clayey soils) in lightly wooded country. Breeding July-September; C/3(3).

Coracina novaehollandiae (Gmelin)

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Range. Greater part of region, but absent from much of the Nullarbor Plain and its northern fringe (south of the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes).

Status etc. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (late March-early June and late July-late September). Common to very common south and west of mulga-eucalypt line; elsewhere locally common, e.g. along river gum creeks and in well-wooded western quarter of Great Victoria Desert, but generally scarce or uncommon; ordinarily in ones or twos, commonly in small flocks (up to 15) in autumn passage (flocks smaller and less frequent in spring passage). Mainly eucalypt woodlands and scrubs, also belar woodlands and mulga, myall and other tall acacia scrubs. Breeding (reported as far east as Lake Brown) late August-early October; C/2(1), 3(2).

Lalage sueurii tricolor (Swainson)

White-winged Triller

Range. Northern, south to Bullfinch, Yellowdine, Kurrawang, Karonie, Buningonia Spring, 18 km W Naretha, 20 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, Lake Brown and 140 km N Reid.

Status etc. Nomad or irregular migrant. Scarce to very common (most numerous in wet years [e.g. 1973, 1980 and 1984], in spring, and south to the Die Hardy Range, Goongarrie and Queen Victoria Spring; least numerous in dry years, in autumn-winter, and in uncleared parts of far south-west); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 10). Lightly wooded country. Breeding south to Evanston and Kalgoorlie: August (? July) to mid-November; C/2(4), 3(2).

Pachycephalidae

Microeca leucophaea assimilis Gould

Jacky Winter

Range. Greater part of region, but not north-west (north of 15 km S Dromedary Hill, 32 km S Youanmi, Mt Elvire Outstation and Comet Vale, and west of Erlistoun, Merolia and Linden) or south-east (south of 124 km S Neale Junction and 140 km N Reid, and east of 17 km SSE Bartlett Bluff, Kanandah, Lake Boonderoo and Harris Lake).

Status etc. Moderately common south and west of mulga-eucalypt line and in mallee belt north of Nullarbor Plain; scarce or uncommon in far north-east (Great Victoria Desert proper); usually single, occasionally in pairs or family parties. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; seldom mulga, myall or other acacia scrubs. Breeding August-September; C/2(2).

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 30).

Petroica goodenovii (Vigors and Horsfield)

Red-capped Robin

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Resident and autumn-winter visitor (March-September). Common over most of range, but scarce in heavily wooded parts of south-west and in sparsely wooded fringes of Nullarbor Plain; in ones or twos, also fledglings attended by one or both parents. Mainly mulga; also wattle, myall and other acacia scrubs, mallee and other eucalypt scrubs, belar woodlands, and shrubby acacias, melaleucas and eucalypts in understory of tall eucalypt woodlands. Breeding July-November and ? February-April; C/2(7), 3(1); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (1 record).

Petroica cucullata (Latham)

Hooded Robin

Range. Greater part of region, but not far south-west (south of Parker Range and west of Bank Rock).

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common (most numerous in Great Victoria Desert, at least in winter; least in heavily vegetated south-west); usually in ones or twos. Lightly wooded country: open mulga, mallee, myall and wattle scrubs, belar woodland, and shrubby understory of more open eucalypt woodlands. Breeding in August; C/2(1).

Eopsaltria australis griseogularis Gould

Yellow Robin

Range. South-western, north and east to Mt Geraldine (Die Hardy Range), Bungalbin Hill, Boondi, Queen Victoria Rock, Widgiemooltha, Binyarinyinna Rock and [Buldania Rocks], but no recent records from far west (west of 22 km SE Mt Jackson, Marvel Loch and Mt Hampton).

Status etc. Locally common, e.g. from Nevoria south to Cheritons, but generally scarce and patchily distributed; in ones or twos. Thickets of *Melaleuca*, *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Allocasuarina* and *Hakea*, especially at hills and granite outcrops; also melaleuca understory in eucalypt woodlands. Breeding in August; C/1(1), 2(2).

Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa Vigors and Horsfield Golden Whistler

Range. South-western, north to the Die Hardy Range, Bungalbin Hill, Wallaroo Rock, Kurrawang, Binyarinyinna Rock and 15 km S Symons Hill. Casual further north (Comet Vale, Erayinia Hill).

Status etc. Moderately common to common in south, scarce and patchily distributed in north; in ones or twos. Thickets of *Melaleuca*, *Allocasuarina*, *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia* and *Hakea*, especially in vicinity of hills, rocks, saltlakes and breakaways. Breeding c. August.

Distribution and habitat preferences much the same as in preceding species.

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 111).

Pachycephala rufiventris rufiventris (Latham) Rufous Whistler

Range. Greater part of region but not far south (south of Mt Hampton, Olga Rocks, Cave Hill and Buningonia Spring) or the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded northern fringe (south of 159 km N Loongana and Forrest Lakes).

Status etc. Resident and ? passage migrant (May, September). Common except in sparsely wooded country (Nullarbor fringe and overgrazed sheep country) and in the taller, denser eucalypt woodlands; mostly single, seldom in pairs or family parties. Scrubs and edge of thickets in a wide variety of vegetation types. Breeding late July-early September; C/3(1).

Pachycephala inornata gilbertii Gould Gilbert's Whistler

Range. North-eastern (southern Great Victoria Desert and adjacent Nullarbor fringe, west to Neale Junction, Plumridge Lakes and Kanandah, and north at least to the Emu Track). South-western, north to Evanston and Kalgoorlie, and east to Zanthus and [Newman Rock].

Status etc. Locally common (e.g. in far north-east about the Serpentine Lakes and for 70 km westwards, and in far south-west about Nevoria), but generally scarce and patchily distributed; in ones or twos or adults attending fledglings. Mallee, myall, mulga and other scrubs; also shrubby understory or eucalypt woodlands (*Exocarpos*, *Acacia*, *Melaleuca* etc.). Breeding July-October; C/2(2), 3(4).

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 31).

Colluricincla harmonica rufiventris Gould Grey Shrike-thrush

Range. Greater part of region, but not the Nullarbor Plain or its northern fringe south of the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Most kinds of wooded country. Breeding late July-early November; C/2(2), 3(5), 4(2).

Falcunculus frontatus leucogaster Gould Crested Shrike-tit

One record from extreme south: observation in patch of eucalypts 7 km NE Bank Rock on 1 September 1979 (A.D. Sieber).

Oreoica gutturalis (Vigors and Horsfield) Crested Bellbird

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common; usually single, occasionally in twos, rarely small parties. All kinds of wooded country. Breeding late July-early October; C/2(3), 3(3).

Psophodes occidentalis (Mathews) Western Wedgebill

Range etc. At present locally common in north-west (Yuinmery and Leonora district, including Station Creek). Formerly occurring in the Kalgoorlie district (a specimen collected at Kanowna about turn of century) and on the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes (C.G. Gibson found it moderately common in 1908; it was scarce in 1921, soon after the establishment of the rabbit, when F.L. Whitlock seldom found it away from dongas; H. Collins did not see it at Limekilns and Naretha in 1931-32). Breeding in spring.

Monarchidae

Rhipidura fuliginosa alisteri Mathews Grey Fantail

Status. Rare autumn-winter visitor or passage migrant (from south-eastern Australia) to eastern third. A dark fantail, presumably of this subspecies, observed by J.R. Ford in 'mulga-mallee transition zone' (between the Nullarbor Plain and Great Victoria Desert) 123 km S Neale Junction on 25 August 1969.

Rhipidura fuliginosa preissi Cabanis

Range. Western, east to Doyle Well, Comet Vale, Kalgoorlie and Lake Cowan.

Status etc. Winter visitor (mid-April to mid-September) from south-western Western Australia. Uncommon in far south-west, scarce further north and east; in ones or twos.

Rhipidura fuliginosa albicauda North

Range. Western, north to 14 km S Dromedary Hill, Mt Elvire, Hospital Rocks and Comet Vale, and south to 29 km NNE Bonnie Rock and Mt Jackson. Also further south (observation by B.J. Newbey west of Skeleton Rock).

Status etc. Locally common but generally uncommon and patchily distributed. Wattle, mallee, mulga and other bushy thickets and scrubs, especially along watercourses and around granite outcrops and low hills; in ones or twos. Breeding mid-August to early October; C/1(1), 3(2).

Rhipidura leucophrys leucophrys (Latham)

Willie Wagtail

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common (at least in spring and summer); usually single, occasionally in twos, rarely small parties. Lightly wooded country. Breeding August-November; C/2(2), 3(1); parasitised by *Cuculus pallidus* (1 record).

Myiagra inquieta inquieta (Latham)

Restless Flycatcher

Range. South-western, north and east to Parker Range, 23 km NNE Bank Rock, Wingari Well and 30 km ESE Yardina Rock.

Status. Rare winter visitor (mid-May to early October).

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 31).

Orthonychidae

Cinclosoma castanotum Gould

Chestnut Quail-thrush

Range. North-eastern: Great Victoria Desert, generally west to 120 km E Neale Junction, thence patchily further west (Plumridge Lakes, Queen Victoria Spring). South-western, north to 36 km SE Dromedary Hill, Mt Elvire and Jeedamya, and east to Chifley and [Newman Rock].

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones, twos or family parties. Woodlands and scrubs (especially of eucalypts but also of acacias and casuarinas) with fairly dense, bushy understory. Breeding June-August (? early September); C/2(1), B/2(2).

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 30).

Cinclosoma alisteri Mathews

Nullarbor Quail-thrush

Range. Nullarbor Plain, west to Limekilns (23 km W Naretha).

Status etc. Rare here, in far west of range; usually in pairs. Bluebush flats in sparsely wooded country. Breeding c. June (F.L. Whitlock) or early spring (H. Collins).

Cinclosoma castaneothorax marginatum Sharpe Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush

Range. Northern, south to the Die Hardy Range, Comet Vale, Linden, Bartlett Bluff and Pirapi Breakaways, but not far north-east (Great Victoria Desert east of 150 km E Neale Junction).

Status etc. Locally common, e.g. breakaway country around Yeo Lake, but generally uncommon and especially scarce in heavily grazed far north-west and in Great Victoria Desert; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Open mulga with eremophilas and other low bushes in understory, especially on stony soils. Breeding March-May; C/2(2).

Drymodes brunneopygius Gould Southern Scrub-robin

Range. Far south-western, north to Mt Jackson, Boorabbin and Widgiemooltha, with isolated populations further north at 19 km S Menzies and 15 km E Davyhurst.

Status etc. Locally common (Nevoria-Parker Range) but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; in ones or twos. Thickets and dense scrubs of allocasuarinas, mallees, wattles and melaleucas, especially on stony hills and at breakaways.

Pomatostomus superciliosus (Vigors and Horsfield) White-browed Babbler

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common; usually in pairs or small parties. All kinds of scrub and thicket, including shrubby understory of eucalypt and casuarina woodlands. Breeding April and July-September; C/2(5).

Acanthizidae

Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis (Gould) Southern Whiteface

Range. Eastern: the Nullarbor Plain and its northern and western fringes, west to the Plumridge Lakes, Kanandah, lower Ponton Creek, Buningtonia Spring and [Coolanya Rock], and north to Orrs Creek and at least to the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes, with an apparently isolated population further north at Pirapi Breakaways. Birds from extreme west are intermediate between this and next subspecies.

Status etc. Lightly or sparsely wooded country (myall, mallee, mulga) with bushy understory, especially bluebush. Common; ordinarily in pairs or small parties, but forming flocks (up to 200) in autumn. Breeding August-October; C/2(2), 4(1); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (1 record).

Aphelocephala leucopsis castaneiventris (Milligan)

Range. Western, east to Yeo Lake (Swamper Point), Bartlett Bluff and Queen Victoria Spring, and south to Carrabin, Koorkoordine Lake, Boorabbin, Kurrawang and Cundeelee.

Status etc. Common north of mulga-eucalypt line, uncommon and patchily distributed south of line; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 16) or accompanied by Broad-tailed and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, Redthroats or Zebra Finches. Lightly wooded country with bushy understory. Breeding August-September; B/2(1), 3(1).

Gerygone fusca fusca (Gould)

Western Flyeater

Range. Western, east to Doyle Well, Hospital Rocks, Rowles Lagoon, Sinclair Soak and [Fraser Range]. Casual further east (Comet Vale, Kalgoorlie, Uraryie Rock, Lake Brown).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common autumn-winter visitor (late March to mid-September) from south-western Western Australia; mostly single but commonly in twos. Mallee, wattle, mulga and other scrubs and eucalypt woodlands, especially about watercourses and rocky outcrops.

Smicrornis brevirostris (Gould)

Weebill

Range. Greater part of region, but not the south-east (Nullarbor Plain and its northern and western fringes, south of 140 km S Neale Junction and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes or east of the Plumridge Lakes, lower Ponton Creek and Pioneer Tank).

Status etc. Common to very common south and west of mulga-eucalypt line and in the Great Victoria Desert and the mallee transition belt immediately south of it; moderately common but patchily distributed elsewhere north of mulga-eucalypt line; usually in small parties. Almost invariably in eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. Breeding mid-July to late September; C/2(2), 3(2); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (1 record).

Acanthiza (pusilla) apicalis Gould

Broad-tailed Thornbill

Range. Greater part of region but not the south-east (Nullarbor Plain and its northern fringes, south of Orrs Creek and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes or east of the Plumridge Lakes).

Status etc. Uncommon in north-west (north of Dromedary Hill, Mt Elvire, Comet Vale and Pinjin, and west of Point Sunday and Mt Luck), otherwise moderately common to common; usually in ones or twos, occasionally small parties (up to 6) or attached to parties of *Aphelocephala l. castaneiventris*. Most kinds of thicket and scrub including shrubby understory of eucalypt and belar woodlands. Breeding July-September; C/2(2), 3(4); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (3 records).

Acanthiza robustirostris Milligan

Slaty-backed Thornbill

Range. North-western, east to Swamper Point and south to 18 km S Dromedary Hill, Retreat Rock, Jeedamyia and Linden (further south if 'Liberia' Soak,

type locality of *A. r. liberia* Mathews, is a misreading of Siberia). North-eastern: patchily in Great Victoria Desert (mulga 105 and 120 km E Neale Junction).

Status etc. Locally common (Yeo Hills), but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties. Acacia scrubs, especially tall mulga.

Acanthiza uropygialis Gould

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill

Range. Greater part of region but not the south-east (Nullarbor Plain and its northern and western fringes, south of 166 km N Rawlinna, 184 km N Haig, 181 km N Loongana and Forrest Lakes, or east of 18 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, [Premier Downs], Kanandah, lower Ponton Creek and Buningtonia Spring.

Status etc. Very common; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Most kinds of thicket and scrub, including shrubby understory of eucalypt and belar woodlands. Breeding late July-early October; C/3(3), 4(2); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (1 record).

Acanthiza iredalei iredalei Mathews

Samphire Thornbill

Range. Reported from a few localities in arid zone: Lake Barlee, Lake Goon-garrie and western fringe of Nullarbor Plain (west to Naretha, but no record since 1932).

Status etc. Rare; in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Open or sparsely wooded chenopod flats, including lakeside samphire. Breeding in early spring.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa (Quoy and Gaimard)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Range. Western, east to Ivor Rocks, 64 km ESE Merolia, 16 km SE Bartlett Bluff, 18 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, [23 km N Premier Downs] and 7 km E Naretha. Eastern: patchily in northern fringe of Nullarbor Plain at 120 and 188 km N Loongana and near Koolgahbin Claypan and the Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Scarce in heavily-vegetated far south-west, otherwise moderately common; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 7). Open or sparsely wooded flats in vicinity of sheltering shrubs or trees, especially beside watercourses and granite outcrops. Breeding mainly July-early November, also March-April; C/2(2), 3(6), 4(3).

Pyrholaemus brunneus Gould

Redthroat

Range. Western, east to Swamper Point, the Wilson Range, Queen Victoria Spring and Buningtonia Spring. Far north-east: Great Victoria Desert west to 25 km NNE Neale Junction. Formerly western fringe of Nullarbor Plain at Naretha and Limekilns (but no record since 1932).

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common (most numerous in unoccupied lands in far west south of mulga-eucalypt line, least in pastoral country); usually in ones or twos. Most scrubs and thickets, including bushy understory of eucalypt woodlands. Breeding mid-July to late October and ? February; C/2(2), 3(2); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx osculans* (1 record).

Hylacola cauta Gould Shy Groundwren

Range. South-western, north to Bungalbin Hill and Kurrawang, and east to Lake Cowan.

Status etc. Moderately common between Yellowdine and Burbidge, otherwise scarce; in ones or twos. Low shrubland, including understory of eucalypt woodlands.

Calamanthus fuliginosus campestris (Gould) Striated Fieldwren

Status etc. Rare and patchily distributed, usually single. In far south-west (Warra-lakin, Bungalbin Hill, Boorabbin, 47 km SE Neveoria) in low dense shrublands, including *Allocasuarina campestris*. Further north and east (6 km E Stony Point, 7 km ESE Boulder, Buningtonia Spring) on samphire flats.

Maluridae

Amytornis striatus striatus (Gould) Striated Grasswren

Range. North-eastern, west to Eristoun and south to 39 km ENE Laverton, 27 km S Neale Junction and the Serpentine Lakes. Also an observation much further south at 15 km SSW Queen Victoria Spring.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties. Sandplains with spinifex and open eucalypts (especially *E. youngiana*), and dunes and interdunes with bushy acacias (especially *A. ligulata* and *A. aneura*) and usually with spinifex. One detailed breeding report: August; C/2.

Amytornis textilis textilis (Dumont) Thick-billed Grasswren

Before arrival of rabbit evidently widespread (though scarce and patchily distributed) in chenopod understory of open eucalypt woodlands as well as on Nullarbor Plain, but no record since 1910 (J.R. Ford has examined two specimens in H.L. White Collection collected by C.G. Gibson near Kalgoorlie on 2 November 1910). On his survey of the country between Kalgoorlie and Eucla in spring 1908, Gibson (1909: 73) noted 'odd ones here and there right through, chiefly among bluebush'. A fresh C/3 he collected near Kalgoorlie on 29 August 1910 is now in the Favaloro Collection (N. Kolichis).

Stipiturus ruficeps ruficeps A.J. Campbell Rufous-crowned Emu-wren

Only two records. On 27 August 1969 J.R. Ford saw a singing male in spinifex flat with a few scattered wattle in Great Victoria Desert 100 km E Neale Junction. In spring 1931 or 1932 H. Collins (1934) found a pair near Naretha.

Malurus splendens splendens (Quoy and Gaimard) Splendid Fairy-wren

Range. North-western, south to 32 km ENE Bonnie Rock, 22 km N Bullfinch, Koolyanobbing, Kalgoorlie and Karonie, and east to Wilga Well and Cundeelee.

Status etc. Locally common (Comet Vale, Goongarrie) but generally uncommon; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 8). Scrubs and thickets, especially of acacias but also eucalypts, melaleucas and allocasuarinas. Breeding August-September; B/3(1).

Malurus splendens callainus Gould

Range. North-eastern: Great Victoria Desert and far northern fringe of Nullarbor Plain, south to 40 km S Neale Junction, Maloora Rockhole and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually in small parties. Mulga and other acacia scrubs.

Malurus lamberti assimilis North Variegated Fairy-wren

Range. Northern, west to Depot Springs and south to Leonora (rarely), Laverton, Dunges Table Hill, 40 km S Neale Junction and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Common in far north-east (Great Victoria Desert west to Connie Sue Hwy), scarce further west; in pairs or small parties (up to 7). Scrubs and thickets, especially of mulga and other acacias; also a lignum swamp.

Malurus pulcherrimus Gould Blue-breasted Fairy-wren

Range. South-western, north to 21 km N Champion, Bungalbin Hill, Callion and Goongarrie, and east to Kurrawang and Yardina Rock.

Status etc. Locally common but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; usually in small parties (up to 12). Dense shrublands, including understory of eucalypt woodlands. One breeding report ('Woodline'): October; B/2.

Malurus leucopterus leuconotus Gould White-winged Fairy-wren

Range. Greater part of region south to Southern Cross, Lake Lefroy and Buningonia Spring, but absent from most of north-east (Great Victoria Desert east of Yeo Lake and Rason Lake and north of Lake Brown and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes, where only recorded from a samphire-saltbush flat at Pirapi Breakaways).

Status etc. Common around saltlakes, but generally uncommon to moderately common and patchily distributed; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 8). Open or sparsely-wooded low shrubland, mainly of chenopods (samphire, saltbush, bluebush) but also of greybush, acacias etc. Breeding August-October; C/2(1), B/2(2), C/3(1); parasitised by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (2 records).

Sylviidae

Acrocephalus stentoreus australis (Gould) Clamorous Reed Warbler

Status uncertain (? vagrant or passage migrant). Several at Kalgoorlie Sewage Farm on 4 April 1984 (W.L. Klau).

Cincloramphus mathewsi Iredale Rufous Songlark

Range. Mainly north-western, south to Mt Jackson and Goongarrie, and east to Yeo Lake and Piarrie Rockhole. Casual further east (Queen Victoria Spring, Kanandah, Lake Brown and Carlisle Lakes).

Status etc. Irregular visitor (mainly winter and spring). Moderately common in wet years but generally scarce; in ones or twos. Lightly-wooded grassy flats, especially along watercourses. Breeding reported at Mt Elvire and Goongarrie: September; C/2(1).

Cincloramphus cruralis (Vigors and Horsfield) Brown Songlark

Range. Greater part of region, south to Bullfinch, Kalgoorlie, Karonie and New Pioneer Tank, but not the north-east (Great Victoria Desert east of Yeo Lake and the Plumridge Lakes or north of 150 km N Rawlinna and the Carlisle Lakes); also cleared areas further south (Fraser Range and presumably eastern wheatbelt).

Status etc. Irregular visitor (March-November). Common in wet years on the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes, but generally scarce to uncommon; usually single (females rarely reported). Open or sparsely wooded plains and flats with fresh grass and herbage. Breeding in September; C/3(1), B/3(1).

Daphoenosittidae

Daphoenositta chrysoptera pileata (Gould) Australian Sittella

Range. Greater part of region, but absent from much of the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded northern fringe.

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common (most numerous in south-western woodlands; least in Great Victoria Desert, where confined to isolated patches of mulga); usually in small parties (up to 12). Eucalypt woodlands (especially salmon gum and gimlet), tall mallee (especially *Eucalyptus oleosa*) and tall acacia scrubs (especially mulga, also myall). Breeding in October; C/3(1).

Climacteridae

Climacteris affinis superciliosa North White-browed Tree-creeper

Range. Northern, south to 11 km N Dromedary Hill, Diemals, Mt Manning Range, Callion, north of Lake Lefroy and Manners Flat, but not the Nullarbor

Plain or its more sparsely wooded northern and western fringes (south of Lake Brown, 184 km N Haig, 183 km N Loongana and Forrest Lakes, or east of the Plumridge Lakes, Kanandah and lower Ponton Creek).

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common (least numerous in the Great Victoria Desert proper, where only recorded in patch of belar 38 km W South Australian border); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 4). Mainly rough-barked trees, especially mulga, belar and myall. Breeding August-September; C/2(2).

Climacteris rufa Gould

Rufous Tree-creeper

Range. South-western, north to 95-mile Camp, Mt Manning Range, Callion, Scotia and 17 km S Queen Victoria Spring, and east to Zanthus, 86 km SSE Karonie and [Newman Rock]. North-eastern, west to 35 km SW Cosmo Newbery and south to 39 km ENE Laverton, 58 km S Neale Junction and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Rare to common (most numerous in Great Victoria Desert and in heavier south-western woodlands, least in open woodlands around Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs, especially of smooth-barked gums and tall mallees. Breeding mid-August to late September; C/2(3).

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 32).

Dicaeidae

Dicaeum hirundinaceum hirundinaceum (Shaw)

Mistletoebird

Range. Greater part of region, but not the Nullarbor Plain or its northern fringe south of 142 km N Loongana and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Most kinds of wooded country.

Pardalotidae

Pardalotus punctatus (Shaw)

Spotted Pardalote

Range. South-western, north to Mt Jackson and east to Widgiemooltha.

Status etc. Winter visitor (late April-September) from south-western Western Australia. Moderately common in far west, uncommon in east; usually in pairs or small parties. Scrubs and denser woodlands of eucalypts.

Pardalotus rubricatus Gould

Red-browed Pardalote

Range. North-eastern: Great Victoria Desert west to 39 km ENE Laverton and south to Mt Luck and 27 km S Neale Junction.

Status etc. Uncommon; usually single. Marble gum (*E. gongylocarpa*) woodland.

Pardalotus striatus westraliensis Mathews

Striated Pardalote

Range. Greater part of region.

Status etc. Resident and autumn-winter visitor (moving north and east between mid-April and early June and returning between mid-August and mid-September). As a resident uncommon to common; in ones or twos. As a visitor or passage migrant moderately common to very common; usually in small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 60). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; also sugarwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*) during passage through eucalypt-free fringes of Nullarbor Plain. Breeding north and east to the mulga-eucalypt line and (? in good years only) far western end of Great Victoria Desert (south and west of Rason Lake): late August-early October; C/3(3), 4(4).

Zosteropidae

Zosterops lateralis gouldi Bonaparte

Grey-breasted White-eye

Range. Southern, north to Southern Cross, Kalgoorlie and Uryarie Rock and east to [Newman Rock].

Status etc. Common resident in Kalgoorlie, otherwise scarce winter-spring visitor (late May-November) presumably from further south; in ones, twos or small parties. Acacia thickets and understory of eucalypt woodlands; attracted to pepper trees *Schinus molle* in Kalgoorlie (Slater 1955, *West. Aust. Nat.* 4: 193).

Meliphagidae

Lichmera indistincta indistincta (Vigors and Horsfield)

Brown Honeyeater

Range. Western, east to Eristoun, Wilga Well, Queen Victoria Spring and Buningonia Spring.

Status etc. Locally common in south (at least in winter and spring) but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 11). Shrublands, especially around granite outcrops and breakaways, on hills and along minor watercourses, but also on sandplains and in understory of eucalypt woodlands; attracted to flowering acacias, dryandras, grevilleas, teatrees, bottlebrushes, mistletoes and (in Kalgoorlie) coral trees.

Certhionyx niger (Gould)

Black Honeyeater

Range. Northern, south to [Red Bluff], Mt Elvire, Goongarrie and [Premier Downs]. Casual south of mulga-eucalypt line (Geeraning Rock, Geelakin Rock, Kalgoorlie).

Status etc. Infrequent visitor (March-October, mainly spring). Moderately common in some years (1980, 1984) but generally scarce; in ones or twos. Mulga and other open scrubs; attracted to flowering *E. longifolia* and other eremophilas. Breeding late August-early October; C/2(9).

Certhionyx variegatus Lesson

Pied Honeyeater

Range. North-western, south to Lake Barker Reserve (47 km SE Neveoria), Kalgoorlie, Coonana and Naretha, and east to Yeo Lake and the Plumridge Lakes.

Status etc. Common in some years (1980, 1984) but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 40). Mulga and other open scrubs; attracted to flowering *E. punicea* and other eremophilas. Breeding August-September; C/3(1).

Meliphaga virescens (Vieillot)

Singing Honeyeater

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Uncommon and patchily distributed in Great Victoria Desert, but generally common; mostly single, commonly in twos, occasionally in small parties (up to 6). Most kinds of open scrub and low woodland; attracted to flowering *Eremophila pantonii* and *Dryandra arborea* and fruiting mistletoes. Breeding ordinarily from late July to early September, but in wet year 1973 breeding from March to November (Brooker *et al.* 1979); C/2(8); parasitised by *Cuculus pallidus* (1 record).

Meliphaga plumula (Gould)

Yellow-fronted Honeyeater

Range. Northern, west to 32 km W Sandstone, 32 km WNW Cashmere Downs, 9 km S Mt Elvire Outstation and Callion, and south to Kurrawang, Chifley, Zanthus, Kanandah, Lake Brown, Carlisle Lakes and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Very common in Great Victoria Desert including its southern transition mallee belt, generally uncommon elsewhere and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs (especially of *E. gongylocarpa* and *E. youngiana*). Breeding August-November; C/2(3), B/2(2); parasitised by *Cuculus pallidus* (2 records).

Meliphaga ornata (Gould)

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater

Range. South-western, north to 95-mile Camp, Pigeon Rocks, Callion, Goon-garrie and Queen Victoria Spring, and east to 45 km NNW Naretha, 8 km W Kitchener, Buningonia Spring and [Newman Rock].

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or small parties and flocks (up to 20). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. salubris*, *E. calycogona*, *E. celastroides*, *E. loxophleba*, *Leptospermum erubescens*, *Eremophila glabra*, *E. oppositifolia* and *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*. Breeding July-September; C/2(1).

Taxonomy. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 115).

Meliphaga penicillata Gould

White-plumed Honeyeater

Only recorded from one locality in extreme north (Erlistoun).

Meliphaga cratitia (Gould)

Purple-gaped Honeyeater

Range. South-western, north to Burbidge and east to Cave Hill and [Norseman]. Formerly further north: G.C. Shortridge collected three at Kurrawang in September 1905 (Ogilvie-Grant 1909: 657).

Status etc. Locally common in far south, in small flocks (up to 20), but generally scarce and patchily distributed. Thickets, especially around granite outcrops; attracted to flowering mallees (including *E. eremophila*) and melaleucas.

Meliphaga leucotis novaenorcae (Milligan)

White-eared Honeyeater

Range. South-western, north to Mt Elvire Outstation, Hospital Rocks, Comet Vale and Queen Victoria Spring, and east to lower Ponton Creek and Buningonia Spring.

Status etc. Moderately common to common in south-west of range, north and east to the Mt Manning Range, Callion, Bulla Bulling, Spargoville and Higginsville; further north and east scarce to uncommon and patchily distributed; in ones or twos, occasionally threes or fours. Mixed scrubs and denser woodlands, dominated by eucalypts and especially in hilly country; attracted to flowering mallees. Breeding late July-September; C/1(2).

Melithreptus brevirostris leucogenys Milligan

Brown-headed Honeyeater

Range. South-western, north to 33 km SSE Dromedary Hill, Mt Elvire Outstation, Mulline and Comet Vale, and east to Yindi, 11 km E Curtin, 30 km ESE Yardina Rock and [Newman Rock].

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually in twos, small parties and flocks (up to 30). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to flowering eucalypts, including salmon gum and morrell. Breeding early August-late September; C/3(1).

Phylidonyris albifrons (Gould)

White-fronted Honeyeater

Range. Greater part of region (but no records from northern fringe of Nullarbor Plain south of the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes).

Status etc. Blossom nomad. Locally and seasonally very common, but ordinarily scarce to moderately common (generally least numerous on Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded fringes, in warmer months in north and cooler months in south); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 12), in much larger aggregations during migration. Most kinds of scrub and low woodland; attracted to flowering *Eremophila* (including *E. latrobei*), *Grevillea* (including *G. eriostachya*, *G. hookeriana*, *G. apiculoba* and *G. juncifolia*), *Eucalyptus* (including *E. youngiana* and *E. salmonophloia*), *Melaleuca elliptica* and Loranthaceae. Breeding mainly late July-October, also May; C/1(4), 2(16), 3(2).

Phylidonyris melanops (Latham) Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

Range. South-western, north to Southern Cross and Boorabbin and east to [Norseman]. Casual further north-east (12 km SW Kalgoorlie).

Status etc. Rare visitor (late March to mid-October); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 10). Low shrubland, especially on sandplains.

Manorina flavigula (Gould) Yellow-throated Miner

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common; in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to 30). Woodlands and open scrubs. Breeding mainly July-November, also May; C/3(1), 4(2).

Acanthagenys rufogularis Gould Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

Range. Greater part of region, but absent from most of the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded northern fringe south of the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Scarce or uncommon in far south-west (south of Parker Range and Higginsville) and in lightly-wooded western fringe of Nullarbor Plain (east of the Plumridge Lakes, Kanandah and lower Ponton Creek), but generally common; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 5). Scrubs and woodlands; attracted to flowering *Eremophila longifolia*, *Eucalyptus calycogona*, *Grevillea* spp. and *Dryandra arborea*. Breeding mainly late July-September, also April; C/2(3), 3(6).

Anthochaera carunculata (Shaw) Red Wattlebird

Range. South-western, north to 95-mile Camp, Mt Manning Range, Davyhurst, Goongarrie, Pinjin and Queen Victoria Spring, and east to 13 km W Kitchener and Pioneer Tank.

Status etc. Uncommon to common (more numerous in south than north, and in April-October than November-March); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Well-wooded country; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *E. transcontinentalis*. Breeding north to 30 km NNE Bonnie Rock, Kurrajong Rock and Kalgoorlie, and east at least to 'Woodline': late July-September; C/2(3), 3(1).

Epthianura albifrons (Jardine and Selby) White-fronted Chat

Range. Mainly southern, north to 52 km NNE Bonnie Rock, Mt Elvire, 15 km N Kookynie, 29 km ENE Laverton, Yeo Lake (10 km E Stony Point) and Golden Donga.

Status etc. Nomadic. Uncommon to moderately common in south, only a scarce autumn-winter visitor to north; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 6).

Treeless or sparsely wooded country, especially chenopod flats around salt-lakes, but also chenopod understory of open woodlands, depressions with fresh grass and herbage, and farmlands. Breeding mainly July-September, also March; C/2(2), 3(4), 4(1).

Epthianura aurifrons Gould

Orange Chat

Range. Mainly northern, south to Jeedamya, Linden and lower Ponton Creek, but not far north-east (east of 13 km W Neale Junction or north of Lake Brown and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes). Casual further south (20 km SSE Bonnie Rock, Kalgoorlie, 18 and 20 km W Karonie), mainly in spring.

Status etc. Nomadic. Rare to moderately common (most numerous after heavy late summer or autumn rains, least in dry years and in spring and early summer); usually in pairs or small parties. Treeless or sparsely wooded country, especially depressions and waterside chenopod flats carrying low fresh grass and herbage. Breeding in April.

Epthianura tricolor Gould

Crimson Chat

Range. Greater part of region but not far south-west (south of Mt Hampton, Mt Walter, Kurrawang, 'Woodline' and southern end of Fraser Range Station).

Status etc. Highly nomadic. Moderately common to very common north and east of mulga-eucalypt line in wet years, uncommon to absent in dry years and south of mulga-eucalypt line; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally small flocks (up to 20). Sparsely or lightly wooded country (especially chenopod flats, but also creekside and spinifex flats, burnt scrub and farmlands) with low fresh grass and herbage. Breeding south to Mt Elvire, Kalgoorlie and 'Woodline': July-November; C/3(4).

Ploceidae

Emblema pictum Gould

Painted Finch

Status. Very infrequent non-breeding visitor to north-west. Reported by D. Reid (1975, *West. Aust. Nat.* 13: 64) and P.M. Lambert (*in litt.* to W.A. Wildl. Authority) in the Leonora, Menzies and Kalgoorlie districts in the very good season September 1973 to February 1974, in pairs or small parties (up to 15).

Poephila guttata castanotis (Gould)

Zebra Finch

Range. Greater part of region, south to Moorine Rock, Southern Cross, Coolgardie, Karonie, Ponton Creek (10 km S Cundeelee), Kanandah and 7 km E Naretha, but absent from most of the Nullarbor Plain and its waterless northern fringe south of Lake Brown and the Carlisle and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Moderately common to common in north-western pastoral country (south to Mt Elvire and Linden, and east to Yamarna, White Cliffs and Mt Weld), generally uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere and especially scarce in much of Great Victoria Desert and heavily vegetated south-west. Lightly wooded grasslands (including farmlands) within 20 km of water; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally large flocks (up to 300). Breeding mainly September-December, also April; C/5(2).

Grallinidae

Grallina cyanoleuca (Latham)

Magpie-lark

Range. North-western, south to Dromedary Hill, Cashmere Downs, Callion, Kunanalling, Coolgardie, Kambalda and Cowarna Downs (Swan Lake), and east to Eristoun, Merolia, Wilga Well, Pinjin and Karonie; non-breeding visitor further east (Yamarna and 20 km E, Kanandah, Lake Boonderoo, Kitchener, Zanthus) and further south (Diemals, Mt Jackson, Boorabbin, Bulla Bulling, Widgiemooltha, Fraser Range). Far south-west: eastern wheatbelt north to 25 km ENE Bonnie Rock and Ennuin, east to Yellowdine and south to Mt Hampton.

Status etc. Resident, autumn-winter visitor and passage migrant. Moderately common; usually in ones, twos, threes or fours. Sparsely vegetated, loamy or clayey flats near water (river pools, soaks, dams and stock-watering points) and farmlands. Breeding late August to mid-November; C/1(2), B/2(2), C/3(2), B/4(1).

If this bird occurred anywhere in the region before the advent of the pastoral and agricultural industries, it would have been confined to the far north-west (about gum-fringed pools on watercourses south to Station Creek). At any rate G.C. Shortridge did not record it at Laverton in 1905 (or anywhere east of York). The establishment of stock-watering facilities and railway dams has allowed its colonisation (possibly in the second quarter of this century) of the eastern wheatbelt, Eastern Goldfields, and Trans Australian Railway east to Karonie. The Magpie-larks seen east of Karonie since 1974 are probably non-breeding visitors from the recently colonised Esperance Plain.

Artamidae

Artamus personatus (Gould)

Masked Woodswallow

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Irregular visitor (all months, mostly September-November). Scarce or absent to very common (most numerous and staying longest in wet years and in north); usually in pairs or flocks (up to 1000). Sparsely or lightly wooded country. Breeding September-November; C/1(2), 2(5), 3(4).

Artamus superciliosus (Gould)

White-browed Woodswallow

Status etc. Rare visitor (September-November); usually as odd pairs attached to flocks of *Artamus personatus*. Breeding reported in Goongarrie National Park and near Kalgoorlie in September-November 1980; C/2(2). Non-breeding reports from Lake Brown (November 1970) and Linden (October 1980).

Artamus cinereus melanops Gould

Black-faced Woodswallow

Range. Greater part of region, south to 30 km S Dromedary Hill, Mt Manning Range, Boorabbin, Widgiemooltha and 35 km E, Buningonia Spring [and Balladonia]. Also far south-west: eastern wheatbelt east to Yellowdine, north to 30 km ENE Bonnie Rock, and south to 25 km E Muntadgin and Sandalwood Park; casual further south (Split Rocks).

Status etc. Common to very common north and east of mulga-eucalypt line; south and west of line moderately common to common in wheatbelt and in more open woodlands (e.g. around Bardoc and Karonie) but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 10), rarely flocks (up to 40). Treeless and lightly wooded country. Breeding August-January and ? April; C/2(3), 3(1).

Artamus cyanopterus (Latham)

Dusky Woodswallow

Range. South-western, north to the Mt Manning Range, Callion, Kalgoorlie and Karonie, and east to Zanthus, Buningonia Spring and [Easter Tank], but not the eastern wheatbelt (south of Chiddarcooping Hill and west of Parker Range).

Status etc. Moderately common in far south-west (north to Nevorla and east to Bank Rock), otherwise scarce to uncommon and perhaps mainly an autumn-winter visitor; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Eucalypt woodlands. Breeding in October; B/3(1).

Artamus minor Vieillot

Little Woodswallow

Range. Northern, south to 32 km ENE Bonnie Rock, the Koolyanobbing Range, Ive Rock, Gidji, Lake Brown and Forrest Lakes.

Status etc. Locally uncommon to moderately common in far west, but generally scarce and patchily distributed; usually in pairs or flocks (up to 25). Sparsely wooded country, mainly about breakaways and steep hills. Breeding September-November; C/3(2).

Cracticidae

Cracticus torquatus torquatus (Latham)

Grey Butcherbird

Range. Greater part of region but absent from much of the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded northern fringe.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Thickets, scrubs and shrubby understory of woodlands. Breeding late August-early October; C/3(2).

Cracticus nigrogularis (Gould)

Pied Butcherbird

Range. Greater part of region, south to 37 km E Muntadgin, Parker Range, 17 km S Widgiemooltha and [Buldania Rocks], but not the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded northern and western fringes (south of the Shell and Carlisle Lakes, 184 km N Haig and Lake Brown, or east of 22 km ESE south end Plumridge Lakes, lower Ponton Creek and New Pioneer Tank).

Status etc. Common; usually single, occasionally in twos or small parties (up to 4). Lightly wooded country; an immature seen feeding at a freshly road-killed Galah. Breeding late August-early October; C/1(1), 2(1), 3(3), 4(1).

Cracticus tibicen dorsalis (Campbell)

Australian Magpie

Range. Western, east to Eristoun, Mt Morgans, Linden, Yindi, Coonana, Buningonia Spring and Pioneer Tank, with apparently isolated colonies further east (around Kitchener and Naretha).

Status etc. Common in eastern wheatbelt, uncommon to moderately common in pastoral country, scarce and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 5). Lightly wooded country including farmlands, especially sparsely vegetated flats in vicinity of tall trees. Breeding late July-late October; C/2(1), 4(2).

Taxonomy. Birds from north of the mulga-eucalypt line belong to the broad hybrid zone between this subspecies and next (J.R. Ford, pers. comm.).

Cracticus tibicen tibicen (Latham)

Range. North-eastern: southern part of Great Victoria Desert, north to Rason Lake and Orrs Creek, and south to 37 km ESE Plumridge Lakes, Lake Brown, Carlisle Lakes and [84 km NE Forrest].

Status etc. Scarce and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 5). Marble gum and belar woodlands and open mallee, mulga and myall scrubs.

Strepera versicolor plumbea Gould

Grey Currawong

Range. Western, east¹ to Stony Point, nearly to Rason Lake, Queen Victoria Spring, lower Ponton Creek, Buningonia Spring and 13 km E Wadabuna Rock.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually in ones or twos. Well-wooded country. Breeding late August-early October; C/3(1).

Taxonomy etc. See Ford (1971, *Emu* 71: 34).

Ptilonorhynchidae

Ptilonorhynchus maculatus guttatus (Gould)

Spotted Bowerbird

Range. North-western, south to Yindi, west to Yuinmery and Niagara Dam, and east to 28 km SW Cosmo Newbery, Merolia and Linden.

Status etc. Uncommon; usually single, occasionally in twos. About breakaways and gum-fringed creeks; also dense vegetation (wattle, mulga, pepper tree *Schinus molle*) in dam and mill enclosures.

The southward spread of this bird beyond the limit of *Ficus platypoda* is evidently a recent phenomenon. It reached the Leonora district in 1950 (Sedgwick 1952).

Corvidae

Corvus (orru) ceciliae Mathews

Western Crow

Range. Mainly northern, south to 23 km SSW Anketell, Station Creek, Deeba Rockhole (43 km NNE Laverton), White Cliffs, Mt Luck and Pirapi Breakaways. Also well-wooded but relatively waterless areas south of mulga-eucalypt line.

Status etc. Moderately common on watercourses north-west of Leonora, but generally scarce; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Woodlands (especially of river gums) and tall scrubs.

Corvus bennetti North

Little Crow

Range. Greater part of region, but no reports from far south-west (south of Burracoppin, Bodallin, Southern Cross, Boorabbin and Bulla Bulling or west of Higginsville).

Status etc. Common to very common north and east of mulga-eucalypt line; south of line common in pastoral country and towns (Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Southern Cross), uncommon to moderately common in northern half of eastern wheatbelt, scarce or absent elsewhere; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 200). Open or lightly wooded country; attracted to abattoirs and road-kills. Breeding July-early October; C/1(2), 2(8), 3(2), 4(1), 5(1). Of two birds banded at Jiggalong in June 1959, one was shot at Mt Weld (630 km S) in November 1959, the other at Menzies (725 km S) in April 1960.

Corvus coronoides perplexus Mathews

Australian Raven

Range. South-western, north to Yuinmery, Goongarrie, Karonie and Kitchener, and east to mouth of Ponton Creek, Buningonia Spring and [First King Tank].

Status etc. Very common in eastern wheatbelt; uncommon to moderately common further east along highways and railways through well-wooded country;

scarce or absent elsewhere; usually in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally small flocks. Mainly farmlands; attracted to animals killed by road vehicles and trains. One breeding report (Windarling Peak): *c.* September.

It is doubtful if this bird occurred anywhere in the region before European settlement. G.C. Shortridge did not record it in the Southern Cross or Kalgoorlie districts in 1905, and C.G. Gibson did not see it west of Balladonia on his trip from Kalgoorlie to Eucla in 1908.

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GAZETTEER

Latitudes are south and longitudes east

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Agnew 28.01, 120.32 | Die Hardy Range 29.56, 119.22 |
| Anketell 28.02, 118.51 | Diemals 29.40, 119.18 |
| Balladonia 32.28, 123.52 | Doolgunna 25.41, 119.13 |
| Bank Rock 31.56, 120.46 | Doyle Well 28.31, 120.58 |
| Bardoc 30.20, 121.17 | Dromedary Hill 29.02, 118.26 |
| Barker Lake Reserve 31.45, 119.50 | Dunges Table Hill 28.11, 123.50 |
| Bartlett Bluff 29.05, 124.36 | Easter Tank 32.05, 123.48 |
| Beasley Creek 28.34, 122.19 | Edjudina 29.49, 122.21 |
| Binyarinyinna Rock 31.34, 122.03 | Elachbutting Hill 30.36, 118.36 |
| Black Ridge Dam 30.53, 124.33 | Emu Point Tank 31.50, 124.21 |
| Blue Dam 30.53, 121.20 | Ennuin 30.45, 119.00 |
| Bodallin 31.22, 118.51 | Erayinia Hill 31.01, 122.39 |
| Bonnie Rock 30.32, 118.22 | Erlistoun 28.20, 122.09 |
| Boondi 31.11, 120.24 | Eucla 31.43, 128.54 |
| Boorabbin 31.12, 120.18 | First King Tank 32.08, 123.51 |
| Boulder 30.47, 121.29 | Forrest 30.51, 128.06 |
| Broad Arrow 30.27, 121.20 | Forrest Lakes 29.20, 128.50 |
| Buldania Rocks 32.05, 122.02 | Fraser Range 31.59, 122.51 |
| Bulla Bulling 31.01, 120.52 | Fraser Range HS 32.02, 122.48 |
| Bullfinch 30.59, 119.07 | Fraser Range Outstation 31.50, 123.03 |
| Bungalbin Hill 30.24, 119.38 | Geelakin Rock 30.59, 118.37 |
| Buningonia Spring 31.26, 123.33 | Geeraning Rock 30.32, 118.36 |
| Burbidge 31.33, 119.33 | Ghooli 31.15, 119.27 |
| Burracoppin 31.24, 118.29 | Ghost Rocks 29.33, 120.53 |
| Callion 30.07, 120.35 | Gidji 30.36, 121.26 |
| Campion 31.01, 118.30 | Gidji Dam 30.35, 121.23 |
| Carlisle Lakes 29.10, 127.10 | Gidji Lake 30.36, 121.25 |
| Carrabin 31.23, 118.41 | Glen Rhyrn Rocks 30.37, 119.37 |
| Cashmere Downs 28.58, 119.34 | Gnarlbine Rock 31.09, 120.57 |
| Cave Hill 31.40, 121.14 | Golden Donga 29.54, 125.43 |
| Cheritons 31.50, 119.40 | Golden Ridge 30.51, 121.39 |
| Chiddarcooping Hill 30.54, 118.40 | Goongarrie 30.03, 121.09 |
| Chifley 31.00, 122.49 | Goongarrie National Park 30.03, 121.32 |
| Clampton 29.57, 119.06 | Grants Dam 30.47, 121.51 |
| Comet Vale 29.56, 121.07 | Gunnadorah 30.59, 125.51 |
| Coolanya Rock 32.17, 123.49 | Gwalia 28.55, 121.20 |
| Coolgardie 30.57, 121.09 | Haig 31.00, 126.05 |
| Coonana 31.01, 123.10 | Hannan Lake 30.50, 121.32 |
| Cosmo Newbery 27.59, 122.54 | Harris Lake 31.15, 123.33 |
| Cowarna Downs 31.00, 122.21 | Heartbreak Ridge 32.04, 122.23 |
| Credo 30.28, 120.50 | Higginsville 31.45, 121.42 |
| Cundelee 30.43, 123.25 | Holleton 31.57, 119.01 |
| Curtin 30.54, 122.00 | Hospital Rocks 29.50, 120.07 |
| Davyhurst 30.03, 120.39 | Hunt Range 30.12, 119.52 |
| Deeba Rockhole 28.22, 122.36 | Ive Rock 30.43, 120.05 |
| Depot Springs 27.56, 120.05 | Ivor Rocks 28.25, 122.55 |

Jeedamya HS 29.24, 121.16
 Kalgoorlie 30.45, 121.28
 Kambalda 31.10, 121.37
 Kanandah 30.54, 124.52
 Kanowna 30.36, 121.36
 Kardinya Rockhole 29.20, 124.39
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