

## IV BIRDS OF YORKRAKINE ROCK, EAST YORKRAKINE AND NORTH BUNGULLA NATURE RESERVES

JOHN DELL

### Introduction

Information on status of birds of reserves throughout the wheatbelt is being accumulated as part of the biological survey outlined by Kitchener (1976). This paper presents data on Yorkrakine Rock Nature Reserve (YRR), East Yorkrakine Nature Reserve (YER) and North Bungulla Nature Reserve (NBR). Location and details of these reserves are given in Chapman (this report).

Data on these reserves were obtained by me during 18-24 November 1974; 11-14 May 1975 and 30 August-5 September 1977. D.L. Serventy kindly made available his notes on a visit to YRR on 1 September 1956.

In the annotated list, status of each species at the time of survey is listed in the ascending order of scarce, uncommon, moderately common and common in the manner of Dell and Johnstone (1977). I have taken cognizance of status elsewhere in the wheatbelt before arriving at my conclusions. Vegetation locations mentioned are from Muir (this report), which should be consulted for habitat details.

### Annotated List

#### Mountain Duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*)

Uncommon; pairs on farm dams west of YER in May.

#### Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Uncommon; 2 pairs over paddocks near Yorkrakine in May.

#### Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*)

Uncommon; NBR. Single birds overhead in May and August.

#### Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

Uncommon; YRR. Single birds; in gums at ruins opposite loc. 1.15 in May, in loc. 1.9 in September.

#### Little Eagle (*Aquila morphnoides*)

Uncommon; single birds or 2 together. Woodland and overhead. YRR: September — 1 dark, 1 light phase bird in loc. 1.9. November — loc. 1.1. YER: November — overhead.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*)**

Uncommon; single birds. Woodland and overhead. YRR: November — loc. 1.9 and over paddocks. Recorded by Serventy in September 1956.

**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)**

Uncommon; 2 chasing each other over YRR in September.

**Australian Hobby (*Falco longipennis*)**

Uncommon; 1 over paddock near Yorkrakine in November.

**Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*)**

Uncommon; 1 dark bird over YRR loc. 1.7 in November.

**Australian Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)**

Moderately common; single birds or pairs. Mallee and over paddocks. YER: 4 September — 1 flew from nesting spout in Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) 6 m from ground in YER loc. 2.5. Single birds and pairs over paddocks in vicinity of reserves in May and November.

**Painted Button-quail (*Turnix varia*)**

Uncommon; seen once, calling, and characteristic feeding scrapes seen. Mallee and shrubland. YER: November — loc. 2.7. NBR: November — loc. 3.15.

**Banded Plover (*Vanellus tricolor*)**

Uncommon; groups of up to 7 birds. Paddocks adjacent to YRR in May and November.

**Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*)**

Scarce; 1 calling at night in NBR in May.

**Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)**

Uncommon; single birds. Woodland. In gum trees at ruins opposite YRR loc. 1.15 in May; in YRR loc. 1.5 and 1.9 in November.

**Domestic Pigeon (*Columba livia*)**

Uncommon; single birds or pairs. Woodland, mallee and townsites. Two in YER loc. 1.1 in May; 1 cooing outside nesting hollow 10 m up Salmon Gum in YER loc. 2.4 on 5 September. Several at Yorkrakine in May.

### **Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*)**

Uncommon; single birds. Woodland, shrubland and heath. YRR: September — loc. 1.1. YER: May — loc. not recorded. NBR: May — loc. 3.13; August — loc. 3.12 and 4.1.

### **Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)**

Moderately common; usually pairs, occasionally groups of up to 8 birds. Shrubland, mallee, heath, road verges and farmland. Recorded in road verges and farmland in vicinity of all reserves in May and November. YER: September — loc. 2.1 and 3.5; November — loc. 3.5. NBR: August — loc. 3.14, 3.19 and 4.7.

### **Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*)**

Scarce. Five recorded at YRR by Serventy in September 1956.

### **Ring-necked Parrot (*Platycercus zonarius*)**

Moderately common; usually pairs, occasionally groups of up to 16 birds in May. Woodland, mallee, road verges and paddocks. YRR: May — loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.5 and 1.15; September — loc. 1.1. Recorded by Serventy in September 1956. YER: May — loc. 1.1 and 2.7; September — loc. 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.9. NBR: August — Feeding on standing wheat paddock adjacent to 3.6.

### **Mulga Parrot (*Platycercus varius*)**

Uncommon; singly or 2 together. Woodland, mallee, shrubland, road verges and paddocks. YRR: May — loc. 1.2 and road verges; September — loc. 3.2; November — loc. 1.3. YER: September — loc. 2.3. NBR: May — paddocks; August — loc. 3.1 and 3.19.

### **Elegant Parrot (*Neophema elegans*)**

Uncommon; single birds or pairs. Shrubland. NBR: May — over centre of reserve; November — loc. 3.1 (feeding among *Borya nitida*).

### **Galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*)**

Moderately common; pairs or groups of up to 25 birds (especially when feeding in paddocks). Woodland, mallee, road verges and paddocks. YRR: May — loc. 1.2; September — loc. 1.9 and 1.12; November — loc. 1.3. YER: May — loc. 1.1; September — loc. 2.3 and 2.5. Three pairs at nesting hollows in Salmon Gums in loc. 2.5 on 4 September were probably breeding. November — loc. 1.1. NBR: November — overhead. Recorded in road verges and paddocks in May, September and November.

**Corella (*Cacatua tenuirostris*)**

Scarce; 2 on road near Yorkrakine in November.

**Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*)**

Uncommon; single birds. Woodland. YRR: November — loc. 1.2.

**Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx basalis*)**

Uncommon; single birds. Mallee and shrubland. YER: September — loc. 2.1 and 2.3; November — loc. 3.6. NBR: November — loc. 2.2.

**Shining Bronze Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)**

Scarce; single birds. Woodland. YRR: September — loc. 1.2.

**Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

Moderately common; single birds or 2 together. Woodland, paddocks and towns. YRR: May — loc. 1.1 and 1.2; November — loc. 1.3. YER: November — loc. 1.1. Young being fed by adults on 20 November.

**Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)**

Moderately common; single birds or pairs, once 3 together. Woodland and mallee. YRR: May — loc. 1.5; August — loc. 1.2; November — loc. 1.2. YER: September — loc. 2.5; November — loc. 1.1. Nest with 2 eggs 4 m from ground in *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis* in loc. 2.5 on 4 September. Nest fairly large, made of green twigs with leaves of *Melaleuca adnata*, *Acacia acuminata* and *Eucalyptus* sp. and dead twigs.

**Australian Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles cristatus*)**

Uncommon; calling at night. Woodland and mallee. YRR: May — loc. 1.1 and 1.2. YER: September — loc. 2.3.

**Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*)**

Scarce; 1 calling at night in NBR in November.

**Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)**

Scarce; 2 pairs over YER in November.

**White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*)**

Uncommon; groups of up to 8 birds. In vicinity of gravel pits where they burrow into the banks. YRR: May — loc. 3.2. NBR: August — loc. 3.5.

**Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)**

Uncommon; up to 7 together. At NBR in August and Yorkrakine in May.

**Tree Martin (*Hirundo nigricans*)**

Moderately common; groups of up to 8 birds. Woodland, mallee and overhead. YRR: May — overhead; September — loc. 1.1 and 1.9; November — loc. 1.2 and 1.3. YER: September — loc. 2.3 and 2.4; November — loc. 2.4 and 2.5. Bird carrying feathers to knot-hole 10 m from ground in Salmon Gum in loc. 2.3 on 5 September. Bird was getting feathers from farm 0.5 km across paddock. Bird carrying leaves to spout 7 m from ground in Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) in loc. 2.4 on 5 September. NBR: August — overhead.

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)**

Uncommon; pairs. Woodland. In YRR loc. 1.1 and 1.2 on 1 September. These birds were possibly nesting, they were very cautious and watched me for a considerable time.

**White-winged Triller (*Lalage sueurii*)**

Moderately common in spring, absent in autumn. One to 3 birds together. Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. YRR: August — loc. M1 and over Yorkrakine Rock; September — loc. 1.7. YER: September — loc. 2.3; November — loc. 2.5. Nest with 2 young in fork of small eucalypt 3 m from ground in loc. 2.5 on 20 November. NBR: August — loc. 3.4 and 4.6.

**Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)**

Common; usually in pairs. Paddocks adjacent to all reserves on all visits. Birds making aerial displays in August.

**Jacky Winter (*Microeca leucophaea*)**

Scarce; old nest on fallen tree in YRR loc. 1.11 in September.

**Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*)**

Moderately common; single birds or pairs. Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. YRR: May — loc. 1.2; August — loc. 1.2; September loc. 1.11 and 1.14. YER: May — loc. 1.1, 2.4, 2.8 and 3.4; September — loc. 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 and 3.4. NBR: May — loc. 4.5.

**Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)**

Uncommon; single birds. Mallee and shrubland. YRR: November — thickets of *Casuarina huegeliana* at base of granite rock. YER: September — loc. 2.4. NBR: May — loc. 3.13; August — loc. 3.14 and 3.17. Old nest in *Eucalyptus oldfieldii* 1 m from ground in loc. 3.17 on 31 August.

**Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)**

Uncommon; single birds or pairs. Mallee, shrubland and heath. YER: November — loc. 2.7, 3.6 and shrubland ecotone between 1.1 and 3.6; September — loc. 2.9, 4.4 and shrubland ecotone between loc. 2.6 and 3.6.

**Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*)**

Moderately common; single birds or pairs. Woodland and mallee, occasionally in shrubland and heath. YRR: May — loc. 1.2, 1.13, 1.14 and 1.15; September — loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.9, 1.11, 1.15 and M1; November — loc. 1.2 and 1.15. YER: September — loc. 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.9 and 4.4; November — loc. 2.7. NBR: May — loc. 2.11; August — loc. 3.14; November — loc. 3.4.

**Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*)**

Moderately common; single birds or pairs. Woodland, mallee and shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 1.2, 1.5, 1.14 and 1.15; September — loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.9 and 3.5; November — loc. 1.5 and 1.15. YER: May — loc. 2.8; November — loc. 1.1, 2.3, 2.7, 2.8, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6; September — loc. 2.3 and 3.4. NBR: May — loc. 2.2, 2.3 and 3.13; August — loc. 2.4, 3.4, 3.9, 3.13 and 3.17; November — loc. 2.2, 2.4, 3.3 and 3.4.

**Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*)**

Moderately common; most records are of calling birds. Woodland, mallee and shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 3.4; November — loc. 1.2 and 3.2. YER: May — loc. 2.4; September — loc. 2.3 and 3.5; November — loc. 2.4 and 3.6. NBR: May — loc. 2.2; November — loc. 3.1 and 3.4.

**Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*)**

Seasonal, moderately common; single birds or 2 together. Woodland mallee and shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 1.2, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16 and 1.17; September — loc. 1.2, 1.5, 1.11, 1.16, M1, 3.7 and in gum trees by ruins adjacent to loc. 1.15. YER: May — loc. 1.1, 2.4 and 2.7; September — loc. 2.4, 2.5 and 2.9. NBR: May — loc. 2.2 and 3.13.

**Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)**

Moderately common; single birds or 2 together. Woodland, mallee, edges of shrubland and road verges. YRR: May — loc. 1.2 and 1.18; September — loc. 3.5. YER: May — loc. 2.8, 3.3 and 3.4; September — loc. 2.1; November — loc. 1.1, 3.4 and 3.5. Adult feeding young in loc. 3.4 on 19 November. NBR: May — loc. 3.13; August — loc. 3.12; November — loc. 3.5.

**Southern Scrub-robin (*Drymodes brunneopygius*)**

Moderately common on NBR; scarce on YER, 1-3 birds. Mallee and shrubland. YER: May — loc. 2.7. NBR: May — loc. 3.13; August — loc. 2.6, 3.12, 3.17, 3.19 and 3.23; November — loc. 3.3, 3.4, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.15.

**White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*)**

Uncommon; groups of 3-6 birds. Shrubland, occasionally in woodland, mallee and heath. YRR: May — loc. 1.5; September — loc. 1.7; November — loc. 1.5. Old nest in loc. 1.12. YER: May — loc. 3.4; September — loc. 3.2; November loc. 3.5. Old nests in loc. 3.2 and 3.4. NBR: May — loc. 3.13; August — loc. 3.4, 3.23, 3.24 and 4.1; November — loc. 3.4. Nest with 3 eggs in *Casuarina acutivalvis* in loc. 3.4 on 20 November. Old nests in loc. 2.2, 3.4, 3.12, 3.14, 3.17, 3.23, 3.24 and 4.1.

Nests were in the following plants: *Callitris canescens* (1), *Calothamnus gilesii* (1), *Casuarina acutivalvis* ♀ (11), *C. acutivalvis* ♂ (1), *Eucalyptus oldfieldii* (2), *Exocarpus sparteus* (1), *Grevillea obliquestigma* (2), *Hakea coriacea* (11), *H. platysperma* (2) and *Santalum acuminatum* (1).

**Western Flyeater (*Gerygone fusca*)**

Seasonal, uncommon; single birds or 2 together. Woodland and mallee. YRR: May — loc. 1.5 and 1.14; September — loc. 1.14 and M1. YER: May — loc. 2.7; September — loc. 2.3.

**Weebill (*Smicrornis brevirostris*)**

Moderately common; groups of up to 6 birds. Woodland and mallee. YRR: May — loc. 1.2; September — loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.9, 1.12 and 1.13; November — loc. 1.2 and 1.9. YER: May — loc. 1.1 and 2.7; September — loc. 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.9; November — loc. 1.1, 2.7 and 2.8. NBR: May — loc. 2.2 and 2.3; August — loc. 2.4; November — loc. 2.2 and 2.4.

**Broad-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza apicalis*)**

Moderately common; usually in pairs. Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. YRR: May — loc. 1.14, 1.15 and 1.16; November — loc. 1.15. YER: May — loc. 2.4, 2.8 and 3.4; September — loc. 2.1 and 3.3; November — loc. 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.4 and 4.3. NBR: May — loc. 3.13.

**Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*)**

Uncommon; groups of 2-4 birds. Woodland, mallee and shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 1.10, 1.14, 1.17 and 1.18; September — loc. 1.2, 1.11, 1.12 and 1.16; November — loc. 1.5. Pair building nest in loc. 1.11 on 1 September. They were removing rabbit fur from an old Jacky Winter nest. YER: September — loc. 2.4. NBR: May — loc. 3.13.

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*)**

Moderately common; groups of 2-5 birds, occasionally up to 7. Woodland and mallee, occasionally shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 1.2 and 1.17; September — loc. 1.1, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15 and 3.7; November — loc. 1.5 and 1.15. Two birds building nest in *Hakea recurva* in loc. 1.11 on 1 September. Two birds flying into nest built into base of corvid nest 20 m up Salmon Gum in loc. 1.12 on 1 September. Old nests in loc. 1.5, 1.12 and 1.14. YER: May — loc. 2.4; September — loc. 2.3, 2.4 and 2.9; November — loc. 1.1, 2.5, 3.4 and 3.6. NBR: August — loc. 3.4.

**Redthroat (*Pyrholaemus brunneus*)**

Uncommon; pairs or up to 5 birds together. Woodland. YRR: May — loc. 1.5, 1.15, 1.16 and 1.17; November — loc. 1.9 and 1.10.

**Blue-breasted Fairy-wren (*Malurus pulcherrimus*)**

Uncommon; groups of up to 4 birds. Shrubland and heath. YER: May — loc. 3.5; September — loc. 3.3; November — loc. 3.5, 4.2 and 4.3. NBR: November — loc. 4.6.

**Brown Songlark (*Cincloramphus cruralis*)**

Scarce; 1 in paddock near Yorkrakine in November. Recorded at YRR by Serventy in September 1956.

**Australian Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*)**

Uncommon; groups of up to 4 birds. Woodland. YRR: May — eucalypts at ruins opposite loc. 1.15; September — loc. 1.11 (2 adults feeding 1 young on 1 September).

**Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*)**

Uncommon winter visitor; groups of up to 6 birds. Woodland. YRR: May — loc. 1.2 and 1.15. YER: May — loc. 1.1.

**Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*)**

Uncommon; groups of up to 6 birds. Woodland and mallee. YRR: May — loc. 1.1 and 1.2; September — loc. 1.1, 1.2 and 1.11. YER: September — loc. 2.4. NBR: May — loc. 2.2.

**Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*)**

Common in August, September and November, scarce in May; frequently seen in pairs but often up to 8 gather to feed in same flowering bush. Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. YRR: May — loc. 1.15; September —



loc. 1.9, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16, M1, 3.2 and 3.5; November — loc. 1.2, 1.5, 1.15, 3.2 and round edges of granite feeding on flowers of *Melaleuca elliptica*. Recorded by Serventy in September 1956. YER: May — loc. 2.7 and 3.4; September — loc. 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.9, 3.4, 3.5 and 4.1 (many feeding in flowering *Grevillea pritzelli*); November — loc. 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.13 and 4.1. Nest with 2 eggs in *Casuarina campestris* in loc. 4.1 on 21 November. NBR: August — loc. 2.4, 2.6, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.9, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.17, 3.19, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24 and 4.7 (many were feeding in flowering *Grevillea paradoxa*, *G. excelsior*, *Hakea coriacea* and *Melaleuca laxiflora*); November — loc. 3.3, 3.4, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.15.

#### Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga vivescens*)

Common; mainly singly or 2 together, occasionally several gather to feed in flowering bushes. Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. YRR: May — loc. 1.5, 1.15 and 3.8; September — loc. 1.2, 1.4, 1.9, 1.11, 1.12, 1.14, 1.15, 3.2 and in shrubs scattered over rock; November — loc. 1.5, 1.15, 3.2, 3.7 and flowering *Melaleuca elliptica* scattered on edges of rock. YER: May — loc. 2.8 and 3.4; September — loc. 2.5, 3.5, 4.3 and 4.4; November — loc. 2.8, 3.4 and 4.1 (some feeding on flowers of *Grevillea excelsior*). NBR: May — loc. 3.11 and 3.13; August — loc. 2.4, 2.5, 3.1, 3.4, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.17, 3.19, 3.23, 3.24, 4.3 and 4.7 (many feeding in flowering *Hakea coriacea*, *Grevillea excelsior* and *G. paradoxa*); November — loc. 2.2, 2.3, 3.3 and 3.4.

#### White-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga leucotis*)

Moderately common; singly or 2 together. Mallee and shrubland, occasionally woodland. YRR: May — loc. 3.2; September — loc. 1.9 and 3.2; November — loc. 3.2. YER: May — loc. 2.4 and 2.7; September — loc. 2.3; November — loc. 2.8, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6. NBR: May — loc. 2.2 and 3.13; August — loc. 2.5; November — loc. 3.11, 3.13, 3.15 and 3.19.

#### Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*)

Uncommon; pairs, or in groups of up to 10 birds in May. Woodland and mallee, occasionally shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 1.1; September — loc. 1.9. YER: September — loc. 2.1, 2.3 and 2.5; November — loc. 2.5. Young being fed by adults on 5 September and 21 November. NBR: November — loc. 2.1 and 2.4.

#### White-fronted Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris albifrons*)

Moderately common in August and September, groups gathering to feed on flowering shrubs. Shrubland and heath. YRR: September — loc. 3.2.

YER: September — loc. 3.4. NBR: August — loc. 3.5, 3.6, 3.9, 3.17, 3.19, 3.23 and 4.7.

Most of the above sightings were of birds feeding in *Grevillea excelsior*, *G. paradoxa* and *Hakea coriacea*.

#### **Yellow-throated Miner (*Manorina flavigula*)**

Uncommon; single birds or groups of up to 14. Woodland and road verges. Nine sightings in May and 1 in November. In YRR loc. 1.1 and road verges near YRR in May and road verges near YRR in November.

#### **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*)**

Uncommon; single birds or 2 together. Woodland, occasionally in shrubland. YRR: May — loc. 1.2; September — loc. 1.2, 1.9, 1.11, 1.14 and 1.15; November — loc. 3.7 (feeding in flowering *Melaleuca elliptica*).

#### **Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*)**

Scarce. Pair in YRR loc. 1.1 on 1 September may have been nesting; they watched me intently for nearly 30 minutes.

#### **White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*)**

Uncommon; groups of up to 5 birds. Shrubland heath and overhead. YRR: September — group flying over rock. YER: May — loc. 3.2. NBR: May — loc. 4.5.

#### **Zebra Finch (*Poephila guttata*)**

Uncommon; 11 groups of 2-6 birds, once 30 were flying overhead. Woodland, mallee and paddocks. YRR: November — loc. 1.2 and 1.3. Pair building nest in hollow limb of Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) 8 m from ground in loc. 1.3 on 20 November. YER: May — paddocks and overhead; September — overhead; November — loc. 1.1 and paddocks. NBR: November — loc. 2.2 and overhead.

#### **Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)**

Uncommon; road verges, towns and farm dams. Several birds recorded in May.

#### **Black-faced Wood-swallow (*Artamus cinereus*)**

Uncommon in May, August and September, no records in November. In groups of 2-6 birds. Road verges, paddocks and margins of YRR, YER and NBR. Eight sightings in May, 2 in August and 4 in September.

### Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*)

Uncommon; single birds or 2 together. Woodland. YRR: May — loc. 1.2 and 1.15; September — loc. 1.2 and 1.5; November — loc. 1.2 and 1.3. Nest with 3 eggs 5 m from ground in *Casuarina huegeliana* in loc. 1.5 on 1 September.

### Pied Butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)

Uncommon; single birds or 2 together. Woodland, mallee and road verges. YRR: May — road verges; September — loc. 1.2. YER: September — loc. 2.3.

### Magpie (*Cracticus tibicen*)

Moderately common; groups of 2-5 birds. Woodland, mallee, road verges and paddocks. YRR: May — road verges and paddocks adjacent to reserve; September — loc. 1.1; November — loc. 1.2 and paddocks. YER: May — road verges and paddocks; September — loc. 2.3; November — loc. 2.4 and paddocks. NBR: August and November — paddocks adjacent to reserve.

### Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*)

Scarce; 1 calling in NBR loc. 3.13 in August.

### Little Crow (*Corvus bennetti*)

Uncommon; groups of 1-15 birds overhead YRR in May; calling at night in YER loc. 2.3 in September.

### Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*)

Common; pairs or groups of up to 8 birds. Woodland, mallee, road verges and paddocks. Recorded over all reserves and in road verges and paddocks in May, August, September and November. YRR: May — loc. 1.2; September — loc. 1.1, 1.2 and 1.9; November — loc. 1.2. YER: May — loc. 1.1; September — loc. 2.4 and 2.5. Nest with sitting bird in Salmon Gum 8 m from ground in loc. 2.5 and nest with sitting bird in Salmon Gum 15 m from ground in loc. 2.4 on 4 September. NBR: August — loc. 2.2.

## Discussion

The survey of the Yorkrakine and North Bungulla Nature Reserves recorded 75 species of birds. This can be compared to the 78 species on Durokoppin and Kodj Kodjin Nature Reserves (Dell 1978) which are *ca* 10 km south-east of YER.

Nineteen (24.3%) species recorded at Durokoppin/Kodj Kodjin were not recorded at Yorkrakine/North Bungulla. Fifteen (19.5%) species recorded at

Yorkrakine/North Bungulla were not recorded at Durokoppin/Kodj Kodjin. Of the 34 species which were not common to both groups of reserves, only 11 were passerines. Of these, only Shy Ground-wren, Field Wren and Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, which were only found at Durokoppin/Kodj Kodjin could be considered resident species. The other 8 passerines and the 23 non-passerines are probably all non-resident species. Therefore, most of the resident species are common to both groups of reserves; this is not unexpected, considering their close proximity.

Thirteen of the 75 species recorded at Yorkrakine/North Bungulla were only recorded in farmland or overhead. This leaves 62 species recorded within 1 or more reserves. Of these, 25 species were common to all reserves, 14 were common to 2 reserves and 23 were found on only 1 reserve.

Only 15.8% on non-passerines were common to all reserves, compared with 52.4% of passerines. This indicates that some non-passerines (especially hawks) utilise areas very much larger than any individual reserve and the probability of recording them on all reserves in a limited period of time is considerably less than could be expected for passerines which utilize much smaller areas.

Table 1 shows the percentage of non-passerine and passerine species in common between any 2 reserves. The figures further support the comments above.

TABLE 1  
Percentage of non-passerine and passerine birds in common  
between any 2 reserves.

	Non-passerines			Passerines		
	YRR	YER	NBR	YRR	YER	NBR
YRR		35	15	61.9	54.7	
YER			25			59.5
NBR						

The comments of Dell (1978) on changes in the bird assemblage at Durokoppin and Kodj Kodjin Nature Reserves since clearing apply equally to the Yorkrakine/North Bungulla Nature Reserves because of the close proximity of the 2 groups of reserves. General comments on changes in the wheatbelt fauna will be given at a later date in a synthesis of wheatbelt birds.

A Tawny Frogmouth had eggs in September; 3 other non-passerines, Australian Kestrel, Domestic Pigeon and Galah, were actively using nesting hollows in September. Tree Martin, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Yellow-

rumped Thornbill were nest-building in September and a Zebra Finch was nest-building in November. A Grey Butcherbird had eggs in September and a White-browed Babbler had eggs in November. White-winged Triller had young in a nest in November. Australian Sittella and Brown-headed Honeyeater had young out of the nest in September; Willie Wagtail and Brown-headed Honeyeater had young out of the nest in November. Australian Raven was sitting on a nest in September. Judging from their behaviour, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Red Wattlebird may have been nesting in September.