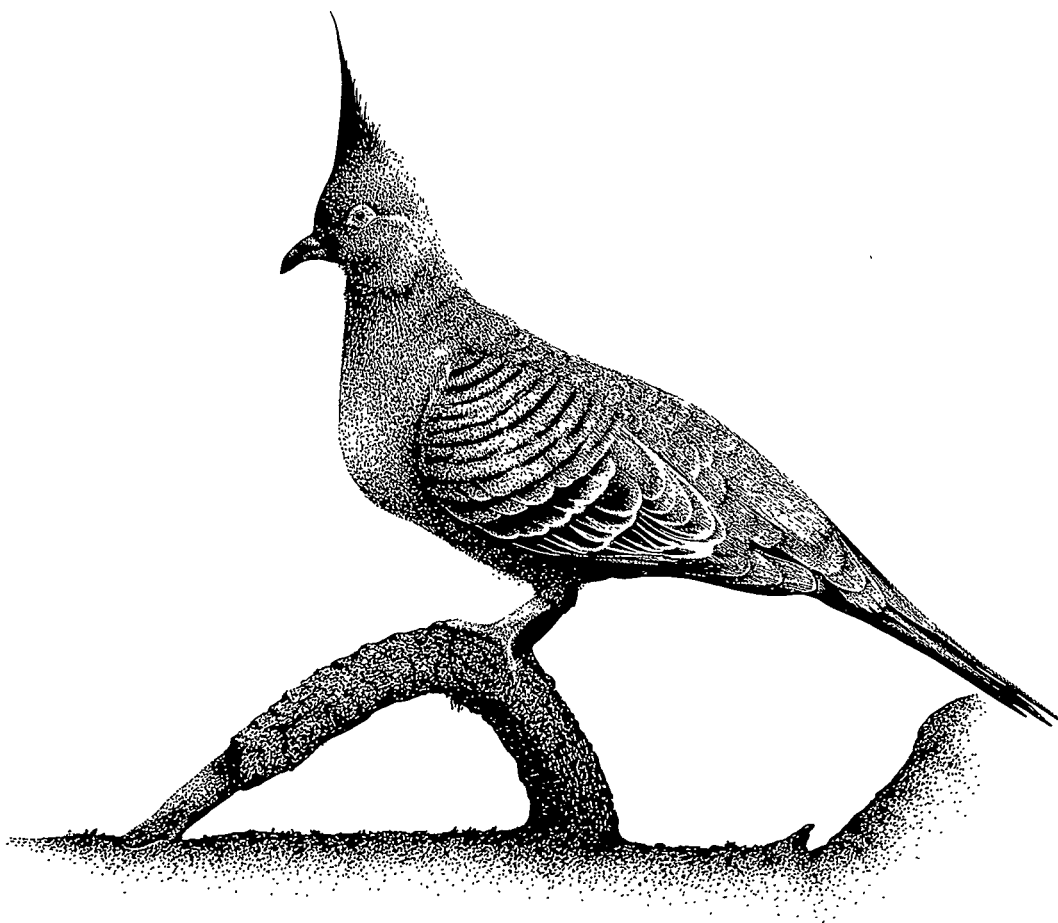


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Birds of the Mid-eastern Interior of Western Australia

G.M. Storr



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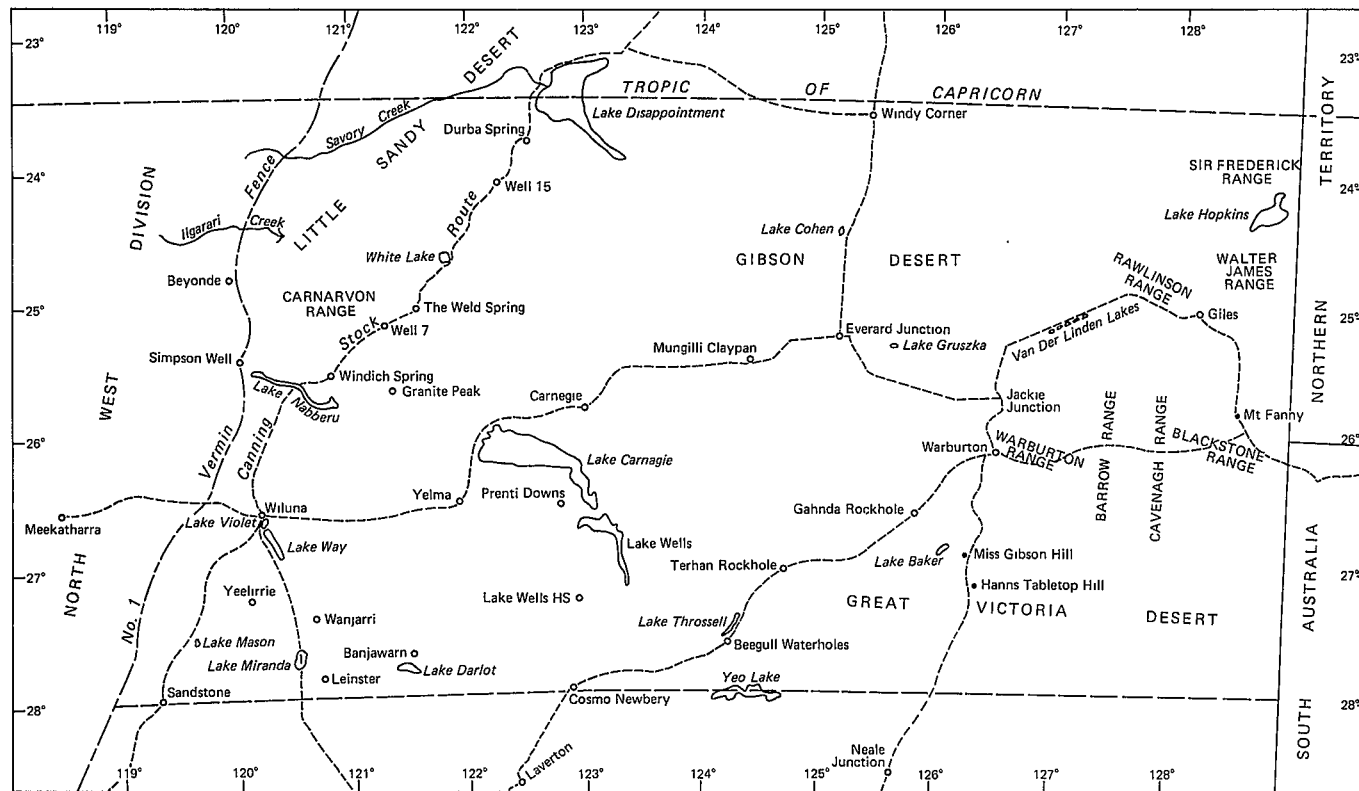


Figure 1 Map of Mid-eastern Interior of Western Australia.

ABSTRACT

This paper is essentially an annotated list of the 173 species of birds recorded from the region. The region is located between the Tropic of Capricorn and lat. 28°S and lies entirely within the arid zone.

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth in a series of regional avifaunas covering Western Australia. Earlier papers dealt with the Kimberley (Storr 1980, *Spec. Publs 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) and the Gascoyne (Storr 1985, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* Suppl. No. 21). The scope of the present work is the same as the others, i.e. to summarise for each taxon our knowledge of local distribution, ecological status, relative abundance, habitat preferences, breeding season (defined by the months eggs are laid in), clutch size and movements. Taxonomic references cited in earlier papers are not repeated here.

The Mid-eastern Interior is defined as that part of the Eastern Land Division which lies between the Tropic of Capricorn and lat. 28°S. In the east it is bounded by the Northern Territory and South Australian borders, and in the west by the eastern boundary of the North-West Land Division, here demarcated by the No. 1 Vermin Fence (Figure 1).

The region lies entirely within the arid zone, mean annual rainfall ranging from 23 cm in the far west and in the eastern highlands to about 18 cm in the far south-east. Most rain falls from January to June in the south-west, from December to May further north and east. Everywhere September and October are the driest months.

Physiographically the region is divisible into three broad zones:

1. the western — penepains overlying Precambrian rocks and interrupted by the moderately high Carnarvon Range; here there are many short watercourses, all of which drain internally into the numerous saltlakes;
2. the central — a lower area of stony and sandy deserts with scattered outcrops of Mesozoic sandstones and conglomerates; there are no watercourses and relatively few saltlakes and claypans;
3. the eastern — an area of hills and ranges of Precambrian rocks, in effect the western extremity of the central Australian highlands; there are very few streams, but the numerous rockholes make it relatively well-watered.

In the western zone, the soils are predominantly loamy and the vegetation mainly mulga (*Acacia aneura*) scrubs; the ground cover consists of low open shrubs, low scattered grasses and seasonal herbage. Watercourses are lined with river gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Flats around saltlakes are dominated

by the chenopod genera *Halosarcia*, *Atriplex* and *Maireana*. South of the Carnarvon Range there are few sandy tracts, but north of the Range the dunes of the Little Sandy Desert are the prevailing landform. Much of the western zone is occupied by pastoralists, and the vegetation has been slightly to severely degraded by the grazing of rabbits as well as sheep and cattle. In addition to natural waters (river pools, claypans and rockholes) there are abundant stock-watering facilities. This zone is understandably the richest in birdlife.

The central zone comprises the Gibson Desert in the north and the Great Victoria Desert in the south. The Gibson Desert consists mainly of undulating, loamy or clayey plains, often with ironstone gravel at the surface. The vegetation varies from open spinifex (*Triodia* and *Plectrachne*) to low open scrubs dominated by mulga, which becomes taller and denser along washes. Claypans are surrounded by river gums, and saltflakes by chenopod flats.

The Great Victoria Desert is predominantly sandy. In the south the ridges carry an open woodland of marble gums (*Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*); further north the trees are replaced by low shrubs, especially *Thryptomene maisonneuvei*. Sandplains and interdunes are mainly vegetated with *Triodia* and open mallee, especially *Eucalyptus youngiana*, which are replaced by mulga and belar (*Casuarina cristata*) whenever the soil is respectively loamy or calcareous.

The eastern zone consists largely of low to moderately high, rocky hills and ranges and the broad plains between them. The few watercourses are fringed with river gums; these and bloodwoods (*Eucalyptus dichromophloia*) growing on flats constitute the only woodlands, apart from occasional stands of desert oak (*Casuarina decaisneana*). The hills themselves are sparsely clothed with spinifex, shrubs and low trees (including *Ficus platypoda*). Scrubs are better developed in the valleys; mulga and various wattles predominate on the heavier soils, and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and other mallees on the sandier soils. Rockholes, some with deep permanent water, are fairly plentiful. The zone is entirely reserved for Aborigines.

For a detailed account of the climate, geology and vegetation of the region see Beard (1974) and Beard and Webb (1974).

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, K.G. Buller, G.M. Storr, J. Dell, J.A. Smith, W.H. Butler, M.J. Bamford, J.K. Rolfe, N. Kolichis, P.J. Fuller and J.H. Calaby. I am grateful to J.R. Ford, N. Kolichis, R.E. Johnstone and J. Dell for reading the manuscript.

LIST OF BIRDS

Casuariidae

Dromaius novaehollandiae novaehollandiae (Latham) Emu

Range. Greater part of region, but not waterless sandy deserts.

Status etc. Moderately common around claypans and saltlakes; elsewhere uncommon in pastoral country and scarce in desert country and largely confined to vicinity of hills and breakaways where run-off enhances vegetation. Favouring patches of fresh grass and herbage and chenopod flats; attracted to fruiting sandalwoods. Attended young noted July–October; B/1(1), 3(1), 5(1), 6(3), 7(1), 8(1), 11(1).

Podicipedidae

Podiceps novaehollandiae novaehollandiae Stephens Black-throated Grebe

Range etc. Rare visitor to flooded western claypans and watercourses, north to Well 16 and east to Brockman Creek and Barwidgee.

Podiceps poliocephalus Jardine and Selby Hoary-headed Grebe

Range. Mainly western, east to Well 16, White Lake, Lake Carnegie [and Erlistoun]; also visiting Lake Gruszka when flooded.

Status etc. Common visitor in wet years (especially after tropical cyclones). Flooded claypans and watercourses. Breeding (reported at Lake Nabberu and Well Spring) March–April; C/1(6), 2(7), 3(10), 4(38), 5(6), 6(1).

Pelecanidae

Pelecanus conspicillatus Temminck Australian Pelican

Rare vagrant to flooded saltlakes and claypans. In the very wet year 1973 J.R. Ford observed two at Lake Nabberu in April and one at Lake Cohen in August. A missionary reported one at Warburton in winter 1962.

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos melanoleucos (Vieillot) Little Pied Cormorant

Rare visitor. Burbidge *et al.* (1976) recorded it at small pools along Cooper Creek in March 1975. Supt Siggs (pers. comm., 23.7.1963) saw an occasional 'small black-and-white shag' near the Warburton Mission.

Ardeidae

Ardea pacifica Latham Pacific Heron

Range etc. Scarce to uncommon visitor, in ones, twos or small parties, to western zone, north to Savory Creek and east to Well 16, White Lake, Lake Carnegie

and Banjawarn; rare further east (Lake Cohen). Flooded claypans and saltlakes, river pools, soaks and ephemeral puddles. One breeding report (Brockman Creek): August; C/3.

Ardea novaehollandiae Latham White-faced Heron

Range etc. Uncommon visitor to western zone, north to Well 16 and east to White Lake, Lake Carnegie and Yeo Lake; rare further east (Lake Gruszka, Pass of the Abencerrages, Cooper Creek); usually in ones, twos or small parties. River pools, flooded claypans and saltlakes, soaks and dams. One breeding report (Brockman Creek): August; C/5.

Egretta alba alba (Linnaeus) Great Egret

Rare visitor to western zone. K.G. Buller saw one on lower Savory Creek in August 1942 (a very wet year). J.R. Ford saw three at Lake Nabberu in April 1973 (a very wet year). Moriarty (1972) occasionally noted it at Wanjarri after good rains.

Threskiornithidae

Threskiornis spinicollis (Jameson) Straw-necked Ibis

Scarce visitor. F.L. Whitlock saw a few around Milly Pool (33 km NW Wiluna) in spring 1908. On the Canning Stock Route in July–September 1942 (a very wet year) K.G. Buller saw 23 near Well 16, 15 at White Lake and one near Well 6. In the very wet year 1973 J.R. Ford saw seven at Lake Nabberu in April and 60 high over Elder Creek (3 km SW Warburton) in August.

Platalea flavipes Gould Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Rare visitor. In the very wet year 1973 J.R. Ford and R.E. Johnstone saw one at Lake Cohen on 25 August, and four days later a pair at a nest on Brockman Creek with four hatchlings.

Anatidae

Dendrocygna eytoni (Eyton) Plumed Whistling Duck

Rare visitor to north-west. K.G. Buller collected two of *c.* 30 birds on a claypan near Well 16 in September 1942, and A.G. Paterson collected one at Yandil in February 1940.

Cygnus atratus (Latham) Black Swan

Range. Western, north to Savory Creek and east to Lake Carnegie.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common visitor, usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 100). Flooded claypans and saltlakes and river pools. Breeding throughout range but mainly on Lake Nabberu and Lake Violet: March–April and August–September; C/2(3), 3(2), 4(3), 5(1), 6(3), 7(5), 8(2), 9(1).

Tadorna tadornoides (Jardine and Selby) Mountain Duck
Range. Western, north to Savory Creek and east to Well 16, Lake Carnegie [and Erlistoun].

Status etc. Moderately common visitor, usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 160). Flooded claypans and saltlakes and river pools. Only two breeding reports (Brockman Creek and 5 km E Yelma): July; B/10(1), 12(1).

Anas superciliosa Gmelin Black Duck
Range. Western, north to Savory Creek and east to Brockman Creek and Wynidda Spring. Casual further east (Lake Gruszka).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor, usually in twos or small flocks. Flooded claypans and saltlakes, river pools and soaks. Occasionally breeding at Wanjarri (Moriarty 1972).

Anas gibberifrons gracilis Buller Grey Teal
Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common visitor to western zone, north to Savory Creek and east to Lake Carnegie and Lake Wells; generally scarce further east and patchily distributed (Lake Cohen, Lake Gruszka, Woodhouse Lagoon, 25 km ESE Warburton, Cooper Creek, Yeo Lake); usually in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 200). Flooded claypans and saltlakes, river pools and soaks. Breeding reported from Well 16, Lake Naberu, Brockman Creek, Wongawall Creek and Wanjarri: April-early August; C/10(1).

Anas rhynchos rhynchos Latham Blue-winged Shoveller
Rare visitor to south-west. J.R. Ford saw one at small lake 28 km W Yelma in August 1973 (a very wet year).

Malacorhynchus membranaceus (Latham) Pink-eared Duck
Rare visitor. M.J. Bamford saw two pairs at Lake Gruszka in July 1982. Also noted just south of region (Erlistoun).

Aythya australis (Eyton) Hardhead
Range. Western, north to Well 16 and east to Lake Carnegie.

Status etc. Rare visitor (possibly more numerous in past); in ones, twos or small flocks. Flooded claypans and freshwater pools. One breeding report (Brockman Creek): c. June.

Chenonetta jubata (Latham) Wood Duck
Range. South-western, north to Lake Naberu and east to Lake Carnegie and Yeo Lake. Casual further east (Lake Cohen, Pass of the Abencerrages).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor, usually in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 60). River pools and flooded claypans and saltlakes. Breeding reports from Lake Cohen, Sydney Heads Pass and Wyndidda Pool: c. February—June.

Oxyura australis Gould

Blue-billed Duck

Rare visitor to south-west. J.A. Smith saw one at Lake Violet in November 1983.

Accipitridae

Elanus caeruleus notatus Gould

Black-shouldered Kite

Range. Greater part of region, but not sandy deserts.

Status. Rare visitor or transient, in ones or twos.

Hamirostra melanosternon (Gould)

Black-breasted Kite

Range etc. Rare visitor to better-watered west and far east; usually in ones, occasionally twos.

Haliastur sphenurus (Vieillot)

Whistling Kite

Range. South-western, north to Windich Pool and east to Lake Carnegie and Lake Wells. Casual further east (Rawlinson, Warburton and Cavenagh Ranges, Lake Baker).

Status etc. Scarce to uncommon, in ones or twos. Mainly vicinity of water, especially river gum woodlands. Breeding June—August; C/1(1), B/3(1).

Milvus migrans affinis Gould

Black Kite

Rare visitor (May—October) to western zone (east to Durba Spring, Well 16 and Wanjarri) and far east (Warburton); in ones, twos or small flocks.

Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus (Vigors and Horsfield)

Brown Goshawk

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Rare winter visitor (May—August); usually single. Favouring vicinity of water, including rockholes and stock-watering troughs.

Accipiter cirrocephalus cirrocephalus (Vieillot)

Collared Sparrowhawk

Range. Far west, north to Savory Creek and east to the Carnarvon Range, Wiluna and Banjawarn. Far eastern highlands, from the Walter James Range south to Mt Fanny and west to Giles.

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones or twos. Well-wooded country, especially along watercourses. Breeding reported only in west: spring; C/3(1), 4(1).

Aquila morphnoides morphnoides Gould

Little Eagle

Range. Western, east to Durba Spring, Lorna Glen and Banjawarn. Casual further east (Lake Gruszka, Giles Creek, 9 km N Mt Aloysius, 10 km SW Gahnda Rockhole, Lake Throssell and 42 km ENE Cosmo Newbery).

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones or twos. Well-wooded country, especially near water.

Aquila audax (Latham)

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Range. Greater part of region, but no records from far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Baker Lake).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common in western pastoral country, scarce in eastern highlands, rare or absent elsewhere; usually in ones or twos, but up to seven birds gathering at carrion. Most kinds of lightly-wooded country, including chenopod flats inhabited by rabbits. Widespread reports of old nests but only two dated breeding records: c. June–July; B/1(2).

Circus assimilis Jardine and Selby

Spotted Harrier

Range. Presumably greater part of region but only recorded south to Depot Springs, Wanjarri, Lake Carnegie, Gahnda Rockhole and the Barrow and Blackstone Ranges.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; usually single. Mainly spinifex plains; also lightly-wooded grassy flats and open samphire flats. Breeding June (? late May)–September; C/2(2), 3(1), 4(1).

Circus aeruginosus approximans Peale

Marsh Harrier

Rare visitor or transient. K.G. Buller observed one at Well 16 September 1942, and G.A. Keartland noted it in the vicinity of the large freshwater swamps at Lake Way in July 1896 (North 1898: 165).

Falconidae

Falco peregrinus macropus Swainson

Peregrine Falcon

Status. Scarce resident in the Carnarvon Range and eastern highlands (Walter James Range, Schwerin Mural Crescent, Rawlinson Range); in pairs. Elsewhere (Mungilli Claypan, Wanjarri, Banjawarn, Yeo Lake) a rare visitor (late February–early September), occurring singly.

Falco longipennis longipennis Swainson

Australian Hobby

Range. Greater part of region, but no records from south-east.

Status uncertain. Possibly a scarce resident in better-watered country; otherwise an uncommon autumn-winter visitor, occurring singly. Lightly-wooded country,

especially at waterholes where it preys on Budgerigars, Cockatiels and Zebra Finches; also pursuing birds flushed by Spotted Harriers. One breeding report (Wanjarri): c. September.

Falco hypoleucos Gould Grey Falcon

Rare visitor. Observed and collected at the Pass of the Abencerrages and Warburton in August–September 1965 (Goodwin 1974: 57). J.R. Ford and R.E. Johnstone flushed one from nest with four eggs at Sholl Creek on 30 August 1973; on nearby Brockman Creek J.R. Ford saw one on 12 July 1985.

Falco berigora berigora Vigors and Horsfield Brown Falcon

Range. Throughout the region, including sandy deserts.

Status etc. Common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Lightly-wooded country. Breeding July–October; C/2(3), 3(3).

Falco cenchroides cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield Australian Kestrel

Range. Throughout the region, including sandy deserts (but sands much less favoured than heavy or stony soils).

Status etc. Common; usually single, rarely in twos. Sparsely-wooded country, especially vicinity of breakaways and watercourses. Breeding July–October; C/2(2), 3(6), 4(5); nesting in holes in trees (especially river gums) and break-aways and in old mine-shafts, wells and crow nests.

Megapodiidae

Leipoa ocellata Gould Mallee Fowl

Range. South-western, north to Yeelirrie and east nearly to the Ernest Giles Range. Far eastern highlands (13 km SW Mt Palgrave).

Status etc. Rare. In west acacia scrubs (mulga, bowgada), in east mallee/*Acacia kempeana* scrub. Nests noted but no egg dates available.

Phasianidae

Coturnix novaezealandiae pectoralis Gould Stubble Quail

Rare visitor. On the Canning Stock Route in July 1942 (a very wet year) K.G. Buller noted several at Well 10 and The Weld Spring. The '*Synoicus australis*' noted by G.A. Keartland (*in* North 1898: 183) between Lake Way and Brockman Creek in winter 1896 probably belonged to this species.

Turnicidae

Turnix velox (Gould) Little Button-quail

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common in wet years (e.g. 1896, 1942, 1973), but generally uncommon; usually single, occasionally in twos or small parties. Open or lightly-wooded country including spinifex plains, especially favouring lush herbage on flats and washes and beside watercourses. No dated breeding reports.

Rallidae

Gallirallus philippensis melli (Mathews) Banded Land Rail

Rare visitor to western zone. K.G. Buller collected a pair at The Weld Spring in September 1942, and G.A. Keartland (*in* North 1898: 189) flushed a few near Brockman Creek in August 1896.

Porzana tabuensis (Gmelin) Spotless Crake

Rare vagrant. F.P. Moriarty collected one at Kathleen Valley in December 1955.

Gallinula ventralis Gould Black-tailed Native Hen

Range. Western, east to Well 16, The Weld Spring and Lake Carnegie. Casual further east (Woodhouse Lagoon, Warburton).

Status etc. Locally and seasonally in thousands, e.g. at Lake Way in autumn 1892 and winter 1896; but generally scarce and in ones, twos or small parties. Flooded claypans, river pools, soaks and dams.

Fulica atra australis Gould Coot

Rare visitor to far west. In September 1955 J.H. Calaby observed many on a very large pool on Savory Creek, 22 km E of No. 1 Vermin Fence; and in November 1983 J.A. Smith noted it on Lake Violet, which had filled in the previous autumn.

Otididae

Otis australis Gray Australian Bustard

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Numbers varying with rainfall but generally uncommon; in ones or twos. Treeless or sparsely-wooded country, including spinifex sandplains and samphire flats. Breeding April; C/1(1).

Rostratulidae

Rostratula benghalensis australis (Gould) Painted Snipe

One record: a female that 'would soon have laid' shot at Brockman Creek on 14 August 1896 (G.A. Keartland *in* North 1898: 187).

Charadriidae

Vanellus tricolor (Vieillot) Banded Plover

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common in south-west, scarce autumn-winter visitor in rest of region; in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 40). Mainly shallow waters and adjacent sparsely vegetated flats. Breeding c. April-July.

Pluvialis fulva (Gmelin) Eastern Golden Plover

One record: one observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 112) at Lake Violet in January 1978.

Charadrius ruficapillus Temminck Red-capped Plover

Range. Western, east to Well 16, Lake Carnegie and Lake Wells. Casual further east (Lake Cohen).

Status etc. Locally common (Lake Violet, Lake Miranda) but generally uncommon; usually in ones or twos. Edge of flooded claypans and saltflakes. One breeding report (Lake Cohen): July.

Charadrius melanops Vieillot Black-fronted Plover

Range. Western, north to Savory Creek and east to Well 16, White Lake, Lake Carnegie and Yeo Lake. Casual further east (Lake Cohen, Lake Gruszka).

Status etc. Locally common, e.g. on watercourses running into north-west end of Lake Carnegie (Brockman, Sholl and Wongawall Creeks), but generally scarce; usually in ones or twos. Mainly edge of river pools, occasionally around claypans. Breeding June-August.

Charadrius veredus Gould Oriental Plover

Two records: up to three birds seen by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 112) at Lake Violet in January 1978; and a specimen from Cosmo Newbery reported by Serventy and Whittell (1976: 203).

Charadrius cinctus (Gould) Red-kneed Plover

Range. Western, east to Well 16, White Lake and Lake Miranda.

Status etc. Locally moderately common (Lake Nabberu), but generally rare; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 17). About pools on samphire flats; also at mill overflows. Breeding reports from Well 16 and Lake Nabberu: April-August; C/4(2), B/3(1).

Peltohyas australis (Gould) Australian Dotterel

Range. South-western, north to Mt Salvado and east to Carnegie, Prenti Downs and Mt Shenton. Far eastern, about the Warburton and Blackstone Ranges. Casual in central zone (Mt Johnson).

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 13). Stony, sparsely vegetated plains and flats; also samphire flats and unpaved roads. Breeding July–August; C/3(1).

Scolopacidae

Tringa nebularia (Gunnerus) Greenshank

Status etc. Scarce visitor (December–June) to western zone (Lake Nabberu, Lake Violet). Shallow fresh (and ? brackish) waters.

Tringa glareola Linnaeus Wood Sandpiper

One record: one observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 112) at Lake Violet in January 1978.

Tringa hypoleucos Linnaeus Common Sandpiper

One record: observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 112) at Lake Violet.

Calidris alba (Pallas) Sanderling

One record: one observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 109) at Lake Violet in January 1978.

Calidris ruficollis (Pallas) Red-necked Stint

Status. Rare passage migrant (August–December); in ones or twos. Observed at Lake Violet and Lake Gruszka.

Calidris subminuta (Middendorff) Long-toed Stint

One record: up to 10 birds observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 109) at Lake Violet in January 1978.

Calidris melanotos (Vieillot) Pectoral Sandpiper

One record: one observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 112) in flooded samphire at Lake Violet in January 1978.

Calidris acuminata (Horsfield) Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Status etc. Visitor or passage migrant (August–April). Locally common (Lake Nabberu) but generally rare; in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 100). Mainly partly submerged samphire; also claypans and river pools. Also recorded at Well 16, Lake Cohen, Brockman Creek and Lake Violet.

Calidris ferruginea (Pontoppidan) Curlew Sandpiper

One record: one collected by F.L. Whitlock (1919: 190) at Lake Violet on 20 August 1908.

Recurvirostridae

Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus Gould Black-winged Stilt
Range. Western, east to Well 16, White Lake, Lake Augusta, Yelma [and Erlistoun].
toun].

Status etc. Locally and seasonally common, but generally scarce; in twos, small parties or flocks (up to 50). Flooded claypans and pools on samphire flats. Breeding reported at Lake Nabberu: April and August; C/4(2), 5(1).

Cladorhynchus leucocephala (Vieillot) Banded Stilt
Range. Western, north probably to Lake Disappointment (Kolichis 1976, *West. Aust. Nat.* 13: 114) and east to White Lake and Lake Carnegie.

Status etc. Infrequent visitor, sometimes in thousands (Burbidge and Fuller 1982, *Emu* 82: 212). Flooded saltlakes and claypans.

Recurvirostra novaehollandiae Vieillot Red-necked Avocet
Range. South-western, north to Lake Nabberu and east to small lake 75 km E Wiluna and Lake Miranda. Casual further north and east (Lake Cohen).

Status etc. Infrequent visitor; usually in small parties, occasionally large flocks. Flooded claypans and saltlakes. Breeding at Lake Nabberu in the very wet year 1973: April; C/4(2), 5(1).

Burhinidae

Burhinus grallarius (Latham) Bush Stone-curlew
Range. South-western, north to Milly Pool (33 km NW Wiluna) and east to Brockman Creek [and Erlistoun].

Status etc. Scarce (possibly more plentiful before advent of fox c. 1920). Stony or bare ground; including claypans and dirt roads.

Glareolidae

Stiltia isabella (Vieillot) Australian Pratincole
Rare visitor. J.R. Ford saw two on stony flat with much green grass beside Lake Cohen in August 1973 and one on open flat 28 km SSE Wiluna in October 1982. C.P.S. de Rebeira (1977, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 27) saw two on bare stony wash at Lake Mason in November 1975.

Glareola maldivarum Forster Oriental Pratincole
One record: two observed by P.J. Curry (1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 112) at Lake Violet in January 1978.

Laridae

Larus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae Stephens

Silver Gull

Rare visitor (presumably from south-eastern Australia). J.A. Smith saw two at Lake Violet in June 1984.

Sterna nilotica macrotarsa Gould

Gull-billed Tern

Range, etc. Visitor to inundated saltlakes, claypans and floodplains of water-courses in the Wiluna district (Lake Nabberu, Lake Violet, Cockarow Creek and small lake 75 km E Wiluna); in twos or flocks (up to 300). Breeding only reported from Lake Nabberu: April; C/2(52), 3(77); see Ford (1969, *West. Aust. Nat.* 11: 69).

Sterna hybrida javanica Horsfield

Whiskered Tern

Range. Western, east to Well 16, small lake 75 km E Wiluna and Lake Miranda. Status etc. Visitor, in twos or small flocks (up to 14). Flooded saltlakes and claypans. Breeding only reported from Lake Nabberu: March–April; C/2(3), 3(2).

Columbidae

Geopelia cuneata (Latham)

Diamond Dove

Range. Greater part of region, but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill) or far south-west (south of 30 km SW Wiluna and west of Yakabindie).

Status etc. Common in better-watered country in good years (e.g. 1942 and 1973) but generally uncommon: in ones, twos or small parties, with larger aggregations (up to 40) at water. Lightly-wooded country, especially water-side flats. Breeding April and August–September; C/2(5).

Phaps chalcoptera (Latham)

Common Bronzewing

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common in well-watered western zone and eastern highlands, uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; usually in ones or twos, with larger aggregations (up to 15) at water. Mainly wattle, mulga, curara and other *Acacia* scrubs, including *A. victoriae*; also chenopod flats. No dated breeding reports.

Geophaps plumifera Gould

Spinifex Pigeon

Range. Western highlands: Durba Hills and the Carnarvon Range. Far eastern highlands: the Walter James and Rawlinson Ranges.

Status etc. Scarce in west, moderately common in east; usually in pairs or small parties. Stony hills covered with *Triodia*. Breeding in spring.

Ocyphaps lophotes (Temminck)

Crested Pigeon

Range. Greater part of region but not the south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Terhan Rockhole and Miss Gibson Hill and east of Minnie Creek).

Status etc. Common in south-west, north to the Carnarvon Range and east to Glenayle. Lake Carnegie. Lake Wells and Cosmo Newbery: uncommon to moderately common in eastern highlands from the Sir Frederick Range south to the Blackstone Range and west to the Warburton Range; scarce and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties, with larger aggregations (up to 50) at water. Lightly-wooded country. Breeding August–October; C/2(2).

Psittacidae

Polytelis alexandrae Gould

Princess Parrot

Range. The central desert zone, east to Lake Christopher and the Sherriff Range, and west to Well 18, 'north-west of Mt Bates', and 70 km E Cosmo Newbery. Casual further west (Wiluna, Wanjarri, Sandstone).

Status etc. Uncommon; in pairs or small flocks (up to 30). Sparsely-wooded country. One breeding report: September; C/3.

Polytelis anthopeplus westralis Mathews

Regent Parrot

Rare vagrant. One shot by T.K. Moriarty at Wanjarri in July 1969.

Platycercus zonarius zonarius (Shaw)

Ring-necked Parrot

Range. Greater part of region, but not the Gibson Desert north of Mungilli Claypan, Lake Gruszka, Van Der Linden Lakes and the Walter James Range.

Status etc. Common in south-west, north to the Carnarvon Range and east to Lake Carnegie and Lake Wells; scarce to moderately common elsewhere; usually in ones, twos or family parties. Well-wooded country, especially river gums and other eucalypts (including mallees), but also casuarinas and tall mulgas. Breeding July–September; C/4(1), 6(1).

Platycercus varius (Clark)

Mulga Parrot

Range. Southern two-thirds, north to 15 km N Beyond, Wilkins Soak (18 km NNW The Weld Spring), Lake Augusta, Mt Nossiter, 57 km N Everard Junction and the Bonython Range.

Status etc. Locally common, but generally uncommon to moderately common (it has apparently declined in the Wiluna and Wanjarri districts relative to the Ring-necked Parrot, judging from remarks of F.L. Whitlock and T.K. Moriarty); in ones, twos or family parties. Lightly-wooded country, especially mulga and other acacia scrubs and mallee, but also river gum and casuarina woodlands. Breeding late July–early September; C/3(2), 4(1).

Neophema splendida (Gould)

Scarlet-breasted Parrot

Range. South-central and south-eastern, north to the Barrow and Cavenagh Ranges and west to Winduldarra Rockhole, Manunda Rockhole, Terhan Rockhole, Beegull Waterholes and Cosmo Newbery. Casual further west (Wiluna, Wanjarri).

Status etc. Moderately common in sandy country; in ones or twos. Mainly mallee-spinifex; also mulga, wattle and teatree scrubs.

Neophema bourkii (Gould)

Bourke's Parrot

Range. Much of southern two-thirds, north to Simpson Well, the Frere Range, Well 7, Mt William Lambert, 65 km N Everard Junction and the Rawlinson Range, but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Faulkner Hill).

Status etc. At present common in south-west and uncommon to moderately common elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally larger aggregations (up to 200) at water. Mainly mulga scrub. Breeding July (and ? August); C/2(1).

Kearland saw this parrot nowhere on the Calvert Expedition (1896), nor did Whitlock see it in the Wiluna district in 1908. It was first recorded for the region by North (1912, *Nests and Eggs* . . . 3: 155) after C.G. Gibson sent him one of a party of six at Gum Creek. In June 1942 K.G. Buller observed a flock of 20 south of Sir Samuel. It first appeared on Wonganoo Station c. 1945 (Sedgwick 1950, *West. Aust. Nat.* 2: 67). By 1950 it was common in the Wiluna district (Ford 1961, *Emu* 61: 211).

Pezoporus occidentalis (Gould)

Night Parrot

In 1896 G.A. Kearland (*in* North 1898: 171) saw one on a stony rise clothed with spinifex and scattered mulgas; the locality was unspecified but presumably north of Lake Carnegie. He was informed by Aborigines of the nature of this parrot's nest and that it laid four eggs.

Melospittacus undulatus (Shaw)

Budgerigar

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Very common and widespread in wet years (e.g. 1973), scarce in dry years (e.g. 1961), but generally common to moderately common and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small flocks, with larger aggregations (up to 100) at water. Open or lightly-wooded grasslands, mainly of seeding *Triodia* but also *Aristida* and other soft grasses. Breeding late April—early September; C/6(1).

Nymphicus hollandicus (Kerr)

Cockatiel

Range. Greater part of region but not the Gibson Desert north of Mungilli Claypan, Lake Gruszka and the Robert Range or the Great Victoria Desert south of the McIlwraith Range.

Status etc. Moderately common in western (pastoral) zone, uncommon further east; usually in pairs or small flocks (up to 40). Lightly-wooded grasslands. Breeding April and July–August; C/5(1), B/3(1).

Cacatua roseicapilla Vieillot Galah

Range. Western half, east to the Durba Hills, Well 12, Mt Lampe, Empress Spring, Terhan Rockhole and Yeo Lake. Central-east, from the Warburton Range and Mt Fanny south to the Cooper Hills and west to Manunda Rockhole.

Status etc. Now common to very common in the western pastoral zone; otherwise scarce to moderately common and patchily distributed; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally large flocks (up to 300). Grasslands (including *Triodia*) and acacia scrub (including mulga) in vicinity of water and trees suitable for roosting and nesting. Breeding July–August (? May–September); C/2(1), 3(4), 4(1), 5(2).

Judging from the remarks of Keartland (*in* North 1898: 169) and still more Whitlock (1910: 192), the Galah has greatly increased in the west this century. The population of the eastern highlands predates the advent of Europeans, D. Lindsay (1893: 72) recording flocks in the Warburton and Barrow Ranges in 1891, in contrast to the neighbouring central Australian highlands which were only colonised in the last 50-60 years (Storr 1977: 55).

Cacatua sanguinea westralensis (Mathews) Little Corella

Range. North-western, south to Lake Way and Charles Wells Creek and east to Durba Spring, Illyee Pool, Granite Peak and Sholl Creek.

Status etc. Uncommon; usually in pairs, occasionally small flocks (25). Vicinity of pools fringed with river gums; also about station homesteads (Beyonde, Granite Peak, Cunyu).

Cacatua leadbeateri (Vigors) Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Range. Central-east, from the Warburton and Cavenagh Ranges south to Skipper Knob. [Records from western half (Mungilli Claypan and 'east of Wiluna') require confirmation.]

Status etc. Scarce and local; in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Sparsely vegetated flats with scattered tall trees, especially bloodwoods *Eucalyptus dichromophloia*.

Cuculidae

Cuculus pallidus (Latham) Pallid Cuckoo

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Visitor (April–January, mostly May–October). Common in wet years (e.g. 1973) but ordinarily uncommon to moderately common. Most wooded habitats, but seldom in sandy deserts. Three breeding reports: August; parasitizing *Oreoica gutturalis*, *Meliphaga virescens* and *Meliphaga keartlandi*.

Chrysococcyx osculans (Gould)

Black-eared Cuckoo

Range. Southern two-thirds, north to the Carnarvon, Young and Rawlinson Ranges, but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Henning Creek).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor (late March—early September). Mulga and other acacia scrubs, especially along minor watercourses.

Chrysococcyx basalis (Horsfield)

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Visitor (late February—early October). Moderately common. Mainly mulga and other acacia scrubs. Breeding April and July—September; parasitizing *Petroica goodenovii* (one record), *Aphelocephala leucopsis castaneiventris* (1), *A. nigricincta* (2), *Acanthiza (pusilla) apicalis* (2), *A. uropygialis* (1), *Malurus leucopterus leuconotus* ('several') and *Epthianura tricolor* (1).

Strigidae

Tyto alba delicatula (Gould)

Barn Owl

Range. Greater part of region, but no records from far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill).

Status. Uncertain but probably an uncommon autumn-winter visitor (mid March—early September). Gum-fringed watercourses, breakaways and hills, where tree-hollows and caves provide it with daytime shelter.

Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae (Stephens)

Masked Owl

Status. Possibly a rare visitor to western zone. See Ford (1968, *West. Aust. Nat.* 11: 21) for discussion of records from Canning Stock Route (Wells 17 and 5) and Yandil.

Ninox novaeseelandiae boobook (Latham)

Boobook Owl

Range. Greater part of region, but not the Gibson Desert north of Mungilli Claypan and the Walter James Range or the Great Victoria Desert south of Skipper Knob.

Status uncertain (recorded March—November). Uncommon to moderately common. Well-wooded country (river gums, mulga, belar) especially about watercourses.

Podargidae

Podargus strigoides (Latham)

Tawny Frogmouth

Range. South-western, north to the Frere Range and east to Lake Carnegie and Yeo Lake. Casual further north and east.

Status etc. Uncommon resident in relatively well-watered and well-wooded southwest, usually in ones or twos. Elsewhere apparently a rare autumn-winter visitor (two of the four records are of birds found dead on road). Breeding reports from Wiluna, Mt Keith, Wanjarri and Booylgoo Springs: late August—early November; C/2(1).

Aegothelidae

Aegotheles cristatus cristatus (White) Australian Owlet-nightjar

Range. Greater part of region.

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones or twos. Most wooded habitats; finding daytime shelter among rocks (Killagurra Gorge and Cavenagh Range) as well as in tree-hollows. Undated breeding reports from Wiluna.

Caprimulgidae

Eurostopodus argus Hartert Spotted Nightjar

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common. Sparsely vegetated, preferably stony, country. Breeding in July; C/1(2); calling from late March to late September.

Alcedinidae

Halcyon pyrrhopygia Gould Red-backed Kingfisher

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common (at least in spring and summer); in ones or twos; apparently vacating far south in autumn and winter. Lightly-wooded country. Breeding September—October (? late August—early November); C/5(1).

Meropidae

Merops ornatus Latham Rainbow Bee-eater

Range. Far west, east to Karri Karri Pool, Wiluna and Wanjarri.

Status. Passage migrant (March—April and late September—mid October); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 10). Usually flying overhead, occasionally noted at river pools.

Hirundinidae

Cheramoeca leucosterna (Gould) White-backed Swallow

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; usually in pairs or small parties. Mainly sandy country; also about watercourses, saltlakes and abandoned mine-shafts and tailings. Breeding late August—early October; C/4(2), 5(1).

Hirundo neoxena Gould

Welcome Swallow

Range. South-western, north to Yandil and east to Wiluna, Mt Keith and Kathleen Valley.

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties. Largely confined to towns, homesteads, woolsheds, mills and abandoned mines. Presumably present only since European settlement.

Hirundo nigricans nigricans Vieillot

Tree Martin

Range. Western, east to Savory Well, White Lake, Lake Carnegie and Lake Wells. Casual further east (Mungilli Claypan, Lake Gruszka).

Status etc. Locally common in west, but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 20). Further east probably only a rare winter visitor. Mainly about gum-fringed river pools. Breeding April–June and August–September; C/3(1).

Hirundo ariel (Gould)

Fairy Martin

Range. Greater part of region, but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill).

Status etc. Visitor (late August–November). Uncommon to moderately common; usually in pairs or small flocks (up to 50). Lightly-wooded country in vicinity of nest sites (shallow caves in breakaways and cliffs, rock ledges, abandoned mine-shafts and under bridges). One dated breeding report: October; C/3; up to 200 old nests found at a single site.

Motacillidae

Anthus novaeseelandiae australis Vieillot

Richard's Pipit

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common in pastoral country, uncommon to moderately common elsewhere; usually in ones or twos, occasionally small parties. Bare or sparsely-vegetated (preferably clayey or stony) ground, including samphire flats, alluvial flats and the bare ground around mills, homesteads and woolsheds, along roads and on airstrips. Breeding July–September and ? April; C/3(1).

Campephagidae

Coracina maxima (Rüppell)

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

Range. Southern half, north to The Weld Spring, 18 km NE Carnegie, the Warburton Range and Wingelinna Hills.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common in western pastoral country, scarce further east and possibly only an autumn-winter visitor; in ones, twos or small parties. Sparsely-vegetated plains. Breeding August (? July)–October; C/4(1).

Coracina novaehollandiae (Gmelin)

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Resident and passage migrant (late March—late May and early July—early September). Common in relatively well-watered and well-wooded western zone, east to the Durba Hills, Glenayle, Lake Carnegie and Lake Wells; moderately common in eastern highlands; uncommon in intervening deserts; ordinarily in ones or twos, commonly in small flocks (up to 13) during passage. Well-wooded country, especially river gums, but also other tall eucalypts and tall mulga. Breeding in west (east to Granite Peak, Wannabooline Creek and Banjawarn) and in eastern highlands (north to the Walter James Range); mainly August—November, also February—March; C/2(4), 3(2).

Lalage sueurii tricolor (Swainson)

White-winged Triller

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (late February—early November). Very common in wet years (e.g. 1973 and 1982), scarce or uncommon in dry years (e.g. 1961 and 1972); usually in ones or twos, occasionally small parties (up to 8) on migration. Mulga and most other wooded habitats, especially where herbage is lush. Breeding August (? July)—October; C/1(1), 2(1), 3(5).

Pachycephalidae

Microeca leucophaea assimilis Gould

Jacky Winter

Range. South-central and south-east, west to 17 km NW Lake Wells HS [and 33 km SW Cosmo Newbery] and north to the Barrow Range.

Status etc. Rare and very patchily distributed; in ones, twos or family parties. Mainly marble gums and/or mallee on spinifex sandplains; also mallee and wattles on a travertine ridge.

Petroica goodenovii (Vigors and Horsfield)

Red-capped Robin

Range. Throughout the region, except possibly the far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of the Sherriff Range).

Status etc. Resident and presumably also passage migrant and winter visitor. Common; usually in ones or twos, rarely in small parties (up to 8) in winter; single birds joining foraging parties of acanthizids (*Acanthiza robustirostris*, *A. uropygialis* and *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*). Mainly mulga, also other acacia scrubs and thickets, open or dense mallee, melaleuca thickets along water-courses, belar woodland and acacia-cassia understory of bloodwood flats. Breeding July—October; C/2(7), 3(2); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (one record).

Petroica cucullata (Latham)

Hooded Robin

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; in ones or twos, occasionally small parties (up to 5). Mainly open scrubs (especially mulga but also other acacias and mallee); also belar woodlands. Breeding July–August (and ? October); C/2(2).

Pachycephala rufiventris rufiventris (Latham) Rufous Whistler

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Well-wooded habitats, especially tall open mulga, but also other acacia scrubs, open mallee, eucalypt woodlands (river gum, marble gum, bloodwood and *E. clelandii*) and melaleuca scrubs. Breeding mainly late July–early November, also April (and ? late March); C/1(1), 2(3), 3(1).

Colluricincla harmonica rufiventris Gould Grey Shrike-thrush

Range. Greater part of region, but not the Gibson Desert north of the Young Range and Van Der Linden Lakes and west of the Sir Frederick Range.

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones or twos. Most wooded habitats: mulga, mallee and callitris scrubs, and river gum, marble gum and belar woodlands. Breeding August (? July)–October; C/2(1), 3(3).

Oreoica gutturalis (Vigors and Horsfield) Crested Bellbird

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common; usually single, occasionally in twos, rarely small parties (up to 5), once with a party of *Acanthiza uropygialis* and a *Petroica goodenovii*. Mainly mulga and other acacia scrubs; also mallee scrubs and eucalypt and casuarina woodlands. Breeding May–September (? October); C/2(8), 3(3), 4(1); parasitized by *Cuculus pallidus* (one record).

Psophodes occidentalis (Mathews) Western Wedgebill

Range. Far north-west, about Lake Disappointment and Well 16. Central-north, between Windy Corner and Everard Junction. Far north-east about the Ellis and Robert Ranges. South-west, about Lake Way (formerly), Brockman Creek (formerly) and Depot Springs. South-east, near Hanns Tabletop Hill.

Status etc. Locally common (at least in past) but generally scarce and very patchily distributed: in ones or twos. Mulga, teatree and mallee scrubs, especially those with understorey of bushy shrubs (wattles, cassias, eremophilas). Breeding c. August–September; C/2(1).

Monarchidae

Rhipidura fuliginosa alisteri Mathews Grey Fantail

Status. Rare passage migrant (May) through eastern zone (recorded singly in dense mulga 32 km ESE Warburton and in a *Ficus platypoda* and creekside mulga at Miss Gibson Hill).

***Rhipidura fuliginosa preissi* Cabanis**

Status. Rare passage migrant or winter visitor to south-west. A solitary bird collected by J.R. Ford on 29 August 1975 in wattle scrub 33 km W Sandstone. A Grey Fantail shot but lost by F.L. Whitlock near Wiluna in winter/spring 1908 possibly belonged to this subspecies.

***Rhipidura fuliginosa albicauda* North**

Status uncertain, but probably a rare autumn-winter visitor from semi-arid southern interior of Western Australia. Single birds observed in acacias beside Long Creek (40 km W Granite Peak HS) on 23 April 1973 and 14 July 1975, and along Watt Creek near Skipper Knob on 22 May 1966; all three birds were collected by J.R. Ford. Also one observed by F. Stewart (1967, *Bd Observer* No. 431: 3) at Miss Gibson Hill on 24 May 1966.

***Rhipidura leucophrys leucophrys* (Latham)**

Willie Wagtail

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Common; residents in ones, twos or small parties; migrants usually single. Lightly-wooded country, especially near water. Breeding north to Durba Spring (presumably) and the Sir Frederick Range: August–October; C/3(8).

Orthonychidae

***Cinclosoma castanotum* Gould**

Chestnut Quail-thrush

Range. Eastern. north to Lake Hopkins and west to Giles, 32 km WSW Warburton and 13 km E Featherstonhaugh Hill.

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 4). Among bushy shrubs on sandridges, spinifex sandplains, minor watercourses and travertine ridges.

***Cinclosoma castaneothorax marginatum* Sharpe** Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush

Range. Greater part of region, but not far north-east (Gibson Desert north of the Rawlinson Range) or far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Ryans Bluff).

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually in pairs or family parties. Stony rises with open scrub (especially mulga) and a bushy understory (especially eremophilas). Breeding March–September; C/2(6).

***Pomatostomus temporalis* (Vigors and Horsfield)**

Grey-crowned Babbler

Range. Western, from Savory Creek south to Lake Mason and east to the Carnarvon Range, Granite Peak HS, Lake Carnegie and Lake Way.

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common and patchily distributed; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Mainly river gums and tall open mulga (es-

pecially along minor watercourses), occasionally mulga and other acacia scrubs away from water. Breeding August–September (? July–November); C/2(1), 3(1).

Pomatostomus superciliosus (Vigors and Horsfield) White-browed Babbler
Range. Greater part of region.

Status etc. Scarce or absent in far north-west (north of the Carnarvon Range and west of the Durba Hills), elsewhere uncommon to common (generally more numerous in south and east than north and west); usually in pairs or small parties (up to 8). Mainly acacia thickets and scrubs, especially mulga; also mallee and tea-tree scrubs and bushy understory of bloodwood and river gum flats. Breeding July–August; C/2(2), 3(1).

Acanthizidae

Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis (Gould) Southern Whiteface
Range. Eastern highlands, from the Mu Hills south to Ainslie Gorge and the Blackstone Range and west to Giles, Jackie Junction and 12 km ESE Warburton.

Status etc. Common; usually in pairs or small flocks (up to 20). Mainly open mulga; also mallee. Breeding April–July (? August); C/2(1), 3(1), 4(1).

Aphelocephala leucopsis castaneiventris (Milligan)

Range. South-western, north to Lake Nabberu, Glenayle, Mungilli Claypan and the Young Range, and east to Lake Gruszka, Terhan Rockhole and Yeo Lake. Further east (in mulga and gidgea scrubs between Winduldarra Rockhole and Manunda Rockhole) there is a highly variable hybrid population (*A. l. castaneiventris* x *A. l. leucopsis*).

Status etc. Common; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Mainly open mulga with bushy understory; also belar woodlands and chenopod flats. Breeding August (and ? late July); C/3(2); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (one record).

Aphelocephala nigricincta (North) Banded Whiteface

Range. Northern two-thirds, south to the Merrie Range, Prenti Downs, Lake Throssell, Muggan Rockholes, Warburton Range and Blackstone Range.

Status etc. Common in wet years (e.g. 1973) but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Spinifex and/or low open shrubland, mainly on stony soils. Breeding March–April and July–August; C/2(10), 3(5), 4(2); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (two records).

Gerygone fusca fusca (Gould) Western Flyeater

Range. Western, east to Granite Peak and Banjawarn. Casual further east (Muggan Rockholes).

Status etc. Autumn-winter visitor (April–August). Locally moderately common in far south-west, but generally scarce; in ones or twos. Mulga scrubs, river gum woodlands and mallee-spinifex.

Gerygone fusca mungi Mathews

Range. Western, from Beyonde south to Wiluna and east to Long Creek (40 km W Granite Peak HS).

Status etc. Scarce; usually in pairs. River gums and wattles along watercourses, around claypans and on flats. One breeding report (20 km W Wiluna): September; C/2.

Smicrornis brevirostris (Gould)

Weebill

Range. Southern, north to Ilgarari Creek, the Carnarvon Range, Long Creek (40 km W Granite Peak HS), Wongawall Creek, Lake Wells, Nullye Soak and Miss Gibson Hill. Patchily further north (Mungilli Claypan, Lake Gruszka, 36 km NE Winduldarra Rockhole, Van Der Linden Lakes, the Rawlinson Range and the Sir Frederick Range).

Status etc. Locally common but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually in pairs or small parties. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs (*E. camaldulensis*, *E. gongylocarpa*, *E. youngiana* and other mallees, *E. clelandii* and *E. dichromophloia*). Breeding August–September.

Acanthiza (pusilla) apicalis Gould

Broad-tailed Thornbill

Range. Southern two-thirds, north to Ilgarari Creek, The Weld Spring, 38 km NE Carnegie, 20 km WSW Warburton, the Van Der Linden Lakes and the Bonython Range.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common and patchily distributed, e.g. no records from the Warburton, Barrow, Cavenagh and Blackstone Ranges; usually in pairs, occasionally small parties; one bird attached to a party of *Malurus lamberti assimilis*. Mainly *Melaleuca* thickets; also *Thryptomene* shrubland on sandridges, and mulga, wattle and mallee scrubs. Breeding late July–early September; C/3(4); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (two records).

Acanthiza robustirostris Milligan

Slaty-backed Thornbill

Range. Greater part of region, but not far north-west (north of the Carnarvon Range and west of the Durba Hills) or far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of the Sherriff Range).

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Mulga and other acacia thickets and scrubs, mainly on heavy soils or along minor watercourses. Breeding July–August (and ? November); C/2(1).

Acanthiza uropygialis Gould

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill

Range. Greater part of region, but not far north-east (Gibson Desert north of 58 km S Windy Corner and the Bonython Range).

Status etc. Common to very common; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 10); sometimes forming mixed flocks with *Aphelocephala leucopsis castaneiventris* and *Acanthiza iredalei*. All kinds of thicket and scrub, including understory of river gum and bloodwood woodlands. Breeding July–September; C/2-4 (Whitlock); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (one record).

Acanthiza iredalei iredalei Mathews

Samphire Thornbill

Range. Only known from two south-western localities: Lake Violet and Lake Throssell.

Status etc. Uncommon at Lake Throssell, in small parties (sometimes mixed with *A. uropygialis*); no records from Lake Violet since 1909. Tall samphire and (at Lake Throssell) adjacent *Acacia-Fremophila-Santalum* shrubland at foot of sandridge. One breeding report (Lake Violet): August; C/3.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa (Quoy and Gaimard)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Range. Western, north to Savory Creek and east to the Carnarvon Range, Granite Peak, Prenti Downs, Lake Wells and Mt Shenton. Eastern highlands, from the Rawlinson Range and Schwerin Mural Crescent south to the Warburton and Hinckley Ranges.

Status etc. Locally common, e.g. in far south-west and at Mt Fanny, but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 8). Lightly-wooded flats with low open herbage. Breeding March–April and August–September; C/3(1).

Pyrrholaemus brunneus Gould

Redthroat

Range. Greater part of region.

Status etc. Scarce or absent in far west, elsewhere uncommon to moderately common; usually in pairs. Scrubs and thickets, especially of low bushy shrubs along minor watercourses, around claypans and saltlakes and on sandridges. Breeding July–August; C/3(2).

Calamanthus fuliginosus campestris (Gould)

Striated Fieldwren

Range. Western, east to Well 15, White Lake, Lake Carnegie and Yeo Lake.

Status etc. Formerly moderately common but now scarce; in ones or twos. Low dense vegetation around saltlakes (samphire, saltbush, long grass); also *Thryptomene* heath in sandy country. Breeding July–August.

Judging from the remarks of G.A. Keartland and F.L. Whitlock, it has declined since the advent of rabbits and sheep and the consequent degradation of saltlake habitats.

Maluridae

Amytornis striatus striatus (Gould) Striated Grasswren

Range. Greater part of region but no records from north-west (north of Paroo and Millrose and west of lower Savory Creek, Well 16 and The Weld Spring) or south-east (south of the Warburton and Barrow Ranges).

Status etc. Moderately common; usually in pairs or family parties. Open or sparsely-wooded *Triodia*, with or without low shrubs (especially *Thryptomene*) or herbage. Breeding July–September and ? March–April; C/2(4), 3(1).

Amytornis purnelli purnelli (Mathews) Dusky Grasswren

Range. Eastern highlands: Walter James Range, Schwerin Mural Crescent, Rawlinson Range, Mt Fanny, Hinckley Range, Blackstone Range, Cavenagh Range and Townsend Ridges.

Status etc. Common; in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Among boulders and *Triodia* on rocky slopes of higher hills. Breeding July–August; C/3(3).

Amytornis textilis textilis (Dumont) Thick-billed Grasswren

Range. Certainly known only from Lake Way. [The report from Brockman Creek by Keartland (*in* North 1898: 176) was questioned by Whitlock (1910: 210)].

Status uncertain; no observations since 1909. Tall dense saltbush *c.* 1 m high (now largely gone). One breeding record: August; C/3.

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

Range. South-western, north to Neds Creek Station (14 km NNE Simpson Well) and Granite Peak Station (Forbes Outcamp) and east to Millrose and Wanjarri.

Status etc. Uncommon; usually in small parties (up to 8). Dense bushy acacias, especially along minor watercourses.

Taxonomy. Birds from north-east of range (Long Creek and 62 km E Wiluna) show a tendency towards next subspecies (Ford 1975, *Emu* 75: 153-5).

Malurus splendens callainus Gould

Range. Central-eastern and south-eastern, north to lat. 25°S and west to Mungilli Claypan and nearly to Lake Throssell.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common and patchily distributed; in pairs or family parties. Dense mulga or open mulga with bushy understory, mainly on flats, washes and minor watercourses. One breeding report: *c.* July; B/3.

Malurus lamberti assimilis North Variegated Fairy-wren

Range. Greater part of region but not far west (south of Beyonde and west of The Weld Spring, Windich Pool, Wiluna and Wanjarri).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common (more numerous in north and east than south and west); in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Most kinds of scrub, thicket and shrubland. Breeding July–August; C/3(1).

Malurus leucopterus leuconotus Gould White-winged Fairy-wren

Range. Greater part of region but not south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Miss Gibson Hill).

Status etc. Common to very common; usually in pairs or family parties. Low vegetation, especially halophytic flats (samphire, *Atriplex*, *Rhagodia*, *Nitraria*) and *Triodia* sandplains with or without small shrubs (*Acacia*, *Thryptomene*, *Melaleuca*, *Cassia*). Breeding March–April and July–October; C/3(4), 4(4); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* ('several' records).

Stipiturus ruficeps ruficeps Campbell Rufous-crowned Emu-wren

Range. Greater part of region, but not far south-west (south of the Montague Range and west of Wanjarri).

Status etc. Uncommon and patchily distributed; in pairs or family parties. Sandplains, lower slopes of sandridges and occasionally gravelly plains, with *Triodia* and dense low bushy shrubs (*Thryptomene*, *Acacia*). Breeding late July–late October; C/3(1).

Sylviidae

Eremiornis carteri North Spinifex-bird

Range. Extreme eastern highlands: the Sir Frederick Range.

Status etc. Scarce. Large clumps of *Triodia* along a watercourse. One breeding record: July.

Megalurus gramineus (Gould) Little Grassbird

Status uncertain. Vagrant or rare winter visitor to south-west. At least one seen and heard in tall rushes at Windich Spring on 30 August 1962 (Ford 1963, *West. Aust. Nat.* 8: 186).

Cincloramphus mathewsi Iredale Rufous Songlark

Range. Greater part of region but no records from far south-west (south of Lake Way and west of Eristoun) or far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Miss Gibson Hill).

Status etc. Irregular visitor (March–October). Common and widespread in wet years (e.g. 1973), but generally scarce; usually in ones or twos. Grassy, lightly-wooded flats. One breeding report: September; C/3.

Cincloramphus cruralis (Vigors and Horsfield) Brown Songlark

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Common in wet years, but generally uncommon; usually in ones or twos. Open or sparsely-wooded flats and plains, well-covered with grass (including *Triodia*) and annual herbage; also samphire-saltbush flats. Song and display noted in May, July and November.

Daphoenosittidae

Daphoenositta chrysoptera pileata (Gould) Australian Sittella

Range. Greater part of region but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill).

Status etc. Scarce in far south-west, elsewhere uncommon to moderately common; usually in small flocks (up to 15). Mainly tall open mulga, especially along watercourses; also desert oaks, belar and mallee. Breeding August–September.

Climacteridae

Climacteris affinis superciliosa North White-browed Tree-creeper

Range. South-western, north to beyond Lake Nabberu (440-mile Well and Well 5) and east to Lake Augusta and Lake Throssell. Gibson Desert (Mungilli Claypan, Lake Cohen, Lake Gruszka, Todd Range). Eastern highlands, from Giles south to Ainslie Gorge, the Barrow Range and Cavenagh Range.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common and patchily distributed; usually in pairs. Mainly tall open mulga, especially on flats or along watercourses; also belar, beefwood and eucalypt woodlands. Breeding August (? late July)–September; C/1(1), 2(1).

Climacteris rufa Gould Rufous Tree-creeper

Range. South-east and south-central, north to Skipper Knob and west to Yeo Lake [and 35 km SW Cosmo Newbery].

Status etc. Uncommon. Open eucalypt woodlands (especially *E. gongylocarpa* and *E. youngiana*) on sandridges and sandplains of Great Victoria Desert.

Dicaeidae

Dicaeum hirundinaceum hirundinaceum (Shaw) Mistletoebird

Range. Greater part of region.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Well-wooded habitats, especially river gum and other eucalypt woodlands and tall open mulga; attracted to fruiting *Ficus platypoda*.

Pardalotidae

Pardalotus rubricatus Gould Red-browed Pardalote

Range. Greater part of region but not the south-west (south of Wiluna, Lorna Glen and Wyndidda Spring).

Status etc. Locally moderately common (in hilly northern part of Great Victoria Desert and along watercourses draining into Lake Carnegie) but generally uncommon; usually in ones or twos. Mainly eucalypt woodlands (*E. camaldulensis*, *E. youngiana*, *E. gongylocarpa*, *E. dichromophloia*); occasionally belar woodlands and mulga scrubs. Breeding August–September; C/2(1).

Pardalotus striatus murchisoni Mathews Striated Pardalote

Range. Central-west, north to 13 km N Beyonde and the Carnarvon Range, south to Yeelirrie and east to Lake Carnegie.

Status etc. Locally moderately common but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Eucalypt woodlands (mainly river gums, also *E. clelandii*). Two breeding records: Banjawarn, c. May; Wanjarri, August.

Pardalotus striatus westraliensis Mathews

Range. Southern third, north to Lake Carnegie, 8 km NE Gahnda Rockhole and Miss Gibson Hill, and west to Lake Way Station and Banjawarn.

Status etc. Autumn-winter visitor (late April–early September). Very common in May in mallee/spinifex and mallee/mulga of westernmost part of Great Victoria Desert (west to Prenti Downs, Lake Wells Station and Cosmo Newbery and east to Lake Throssell), usually in flocks (up to 100); common in May in river gums along watercourses flowing into Lake Carnegie and Lake Darlot, usually in flocks (up to 25); otherwise scarce.

Meliphagidae

Lichmera indistincta indistincta (Vigors and Horsfield) Brown Honeyeater

Range. South-western, north to the Carnarvon Range and The Weld Spring and east to Wiluna [and Eristoun].

Status etc. Moderately common on Yeelirrie, Yakabindie and Leinster Downs Stations in mid-October 1980, in small parties (2-10); otherwise a rare autumn-winter visitor (late March–late September), usually single. Mainly waterside trees and shrubs; also *Eucalyptus clelandii* and mulga woodlands. One breeding report (Milly Pool, 33 km NW Wiluna): spring.

Certhionyx niger (Gould) Black Honeyeater

Range. Greater part of region, but no records from much of southern half (east of 25 km W Sandstone and south of Yeelirrie, Manunda Rockhole, Winduldarra Rockhole, the Barrow Range and 25 km N Mt Fanny).

Status etc. Irregular visitor (April–November). Locally common in July–August 1942 and August 1973 (both very wet years) but generally scarce; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Mainly wattle and other acacia scrubs, also mallee, melaleucas and cassias; attracted to flowering bloodwoods and grevileas. Breeding July–August; C/2(6).

Certhionyx variegatus Lesson

Pied Honeyeater

Range. Greater part of region but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Skipper Knob).

Status etc. Irregular visitor (mostly July–September). Sometimes very common (August 1973) or common (July 1963) but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually in ones or twos; immatures occasionally forming flocks (up to 25). Most kinds of scrub or thicket; attracted to flowering shrubs (*Grevillea eriostachya*, *Eremophila latrobei*, *Brachysema daviesioides*). Breeding July–September and ? May–June; C/1(2), 2(12), 3(7).

Meliphaga virescens (Vieillot)

Singing Honeyeater

Range. Greater part of region but not recorded from far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of the Sherriff Range).

Status etc. Widespread and very common; usually in ones or twos. Most kinds of shrubland, scrub and woodland; attracted to flowering *Hakea suberea* and Loranthaceae. Breeding July–August (? early September); C/2(1), 3(2); parasitized by *Cuculus pallidus* (one record).

Meliphaga keartlandi (North)

Grey-headed Honeyeater

Range. Northern half, west to the Durba Hills and Carnarvon Range and south to Well 6, 73 km NE Carnegie, 32 km W Everard Junction, the Townsend Ridges and the Cavenagh and Blackstone Ranges.

Status etc. Locally common in eastern highlands but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 12). Mainly low eucalypt woodlands and scrubs (various mallee spp., *E. dichromophloia*, *E. papuana*, stunted *E. camaldulensis*) especially in hilly country; attracted to flowering *Hakea suberea*. One breeding report (Walter James Range): August; C/2; parasitized by *Cuculus pallidus* (one record).

Meliphaga phumula (Gould)

Yellow-fronted Honeyeater

Range. Mainly southern and eastern, north to Barrambie, Bore Well (50 km WSW Wiluna), Millrose, Prenti Downs, Winduldarra Rockhole, the Barrow Range and Lake Hopkins.

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 15). Mainly sandy country with low eucalypt woodland (*E. youngiana*, *E. gongylocarpa*, *E. kingsmillii*, *E. dichromophloia* and several mallee spp.): attracted to flowering *Hakea suberea*, *E. latrobei* and other eremophilas and Loranthaceae. Breeding in spring and ? autumn.

Meliphaga penicillata Gould

White-plumed Honeyeater

Range. Western, east to the Durba Hills, Pierre Spring, Sydney Heads Pass, Lake Augusta and Prenti Downs, but not far south-west (south of Paroo and west of

Yeelirrie and Leinster). Eastern highlands: the Walter James Range, Schwerin Mural Crescent, Rawlinson Range and Warburton Range; casual further south. Patchily in Gibson Desert (Mungilli Claypan, 26 km W Everard Junction, Lake Gruszka, Hunt Oil Camp).

Status etc. Locally common; in ones, twos or small flocks. Almost invariably river gum woodlands (including river gums planted in towns and around homesteads), occasionally waterside melaleuca thickets; attracted to flowering *Hakea suberea*. Breeding June–August; C/2(1).

Phylidonyris albifrons (Gould)

White-fronted Honeyeater

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Irregular visitor (February–October). Very common and widespread in 1973 but generally scarce to common; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 7). Most kinds of wooded country but favouring open scrubs in sandy or stony habitats; attracted to flowering *Eremophila latrobei*, *E. fraseri* and other eremophilas, *Eucalyptus kingsmillii*, *E. youngiana*, *E. dichromophloia* and other eucalypts, *Grevillea eriostachya* and *Hakea suberea*. Breeding north to Bore Well (50 km WSW Wiluna), Lorna Glen, 35 km NE Carnegie, Mt Johnson and the Sir Frederick Range: May–August; C/1(2), 2(8).

Lacustroica whitei North

Grey Honeyeater

Range. Small part of south-west, from the Wiluna district south to Montague and Kathleen Valley.

Status etc. Scarce. Mulga. Breeding August–September; C/2(1).

Manorina flavigula (Gould)

Yellow-throated Miner

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common (most numerous in relatively well-watered, well-wooded western third, least in desert country); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 12). Well-wooded habitats, especially eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to fruiting *Ficus platypoda* and Loranthaceae. Breeding mainly late June–early October, occasionally March–April; C/2(2), 3(6), 4(3).

Acanthagenys rufogularis Gould

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Uncommon to common (more numerous in south than north); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Mainly mulga and other acacia scrubs, also mallee and other eucalypt scrubs and woodlands; attracted to flowering *Grevillea juncifolia* and *Eremophila latrobei*. Breeding (only reported in west, north to Wiluna and Mt William Lambert) March–April and late June–September; C/1(1), 2(6), 3(2).

Epthianura aurifrons Gould Orange Chat

Range. Western, east to Lake Disappointment, Well 16, Lake Carnegie and Yeo Lake; casual further east (13 km W Mt Nossiter, 67 km N Neale Junction).

Status etc. Locally common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 12). Mainly samphire and other chenopods on open lakeside flats; also *Triodia* and shrubs in sandy country. Breeding July–August; C/2 or 3.

Epthianura tricolor Gould Crimson Chat

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Irregular visitor, occurrence and numbers depending on rainfall. Scarce (e.g. 1965, 1970, 1981, 1983) to very common (e.g. 1963, 1968, 1973, 1982); in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 100). Open or lightly-wooded country with green grass and herbage; also chenopod flats and regenerating burnt country. Breeding mainly late June–early September, also February–early April; C/2(4), 3(4); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (one record).

Ploceidae

Emblema pictum Gould Painted Finch

Range. North-western, at Durba Spring, The Weld Spring and Well 6; casual further south (Lake Mason). Eastern highlands: the Walter James Range, Schwerin Mural Crescent and Rawlinson Range; casual further west (Gahnda Rockhole).

Status uncertain, perhaps present only in good seasons (recorded in west in July 1942 and in east in May 1969 and August–September 1973). Uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Mountain gullies, gorges and stony ridges.

Poephila guttata castanotis (Gould) Zebra Finch

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common; usually in pairs or small parties, larger flocks (up to 1,000) at water. Open or lightly-wooded grasslands (including *Triodia*) in vicinity of water (rockholes, river pools, soaks, claypans, stock-watering troughs, wells, and open drains at a mining camp. Breeding April–November; C/2(1), 3(8), 4(20), 5(7), 6(1). The record of a bushlark (Reid 1976, *West. Aust. Nat.* 13: 174) was possibly based on a juvenile of this species.

Sturnidae

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris Linnaeus Common Starling

Rare vagrant. An immature shot at Lake Mason HS in October 1984 (P. Coyle, pers. comm.).

Grallinidae

Grallina cyanoleuca (Latham)

Australian Magpie-lark

Range. Western, north to Savory Creek and east to Glenayle, Brockman Creek, Prenti Downs, Lake Wells HS and Minnie Creek. Casual in autumn-winter further east (Lake Gruszka, Warburton, Winduldarra Rockhole, claypan 1 km E Terhan Rockhole).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 5). Sparsely vegetated flats in vicinity of gum-fringed pools; also at mills, homesteads, woolsheds, towns and (in migration through deserts) flooded claypans. Breeding August–September and ? March; C/3(1), 4(1), 5(1).

Artamidae

Artamus personatus (Gould)

Masked Woodswallow

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Highly nomadic. Uncommon (e.g. January 1960, August 1961, November 1965, May 1969, May 1971, March 1976) to very common (e.g. August 1896, July–August 1909, July 1942, July 1963, April–August 1973, October 1982); in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to 1,000). Open or lightly-wooded country, especially flats with green annual herbage or spinifex regenerating after fire; attracted to flowering *Grevillea eriostachya* and *Brachysema daviesioides*. Breeding late July–early September; C/1(2), 2(42), 3(7).

Artamus superciliosus (Gould)

White-browed Woodswallow

Status. Infrequent visitor, noted on three occasions (25 August 1896, 6 August 1909 and 16 May 1980), respectively by G.A. Keartland near Brockman Creek, F.L. Whitlock c. 50 km WSW Wiluna and W.K. Youngson at 10 km NE Wanjarri.

Artamus cinereus melanops Gould

Black-faced Woodswallow

Range. Throughout the region.

Status etc. Very common; in ones, twos or small parties, rarely small flocks (up to 20). Lightly or sparsely-wooded country. Breeding July–September.

Artamus minor Vieillot

Little Woodswallow

Range. Greater part of region but not far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill).

Status etc. Locally common but generally scarce and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties. About cliffs at breakaways and in gorges. Apparently breeding in autumn and spring.

Cracticidae

Cracticus torquatus torquatus (Latham) Grey Butcherbird

Range. Greater part of region but not the north-east (east of Windy Corner and Mt Johnson and north of Winduldarra Rockhole, the Barrow Range, Giles and Rebecca Pass) or far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of the Sherriff Range).

Status etc. Locally moderately common in south-west but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; usually single, occasionally in twos. Mainly mulga scrubs, especially taller, denser stands; also mallee and melaleuca scrubs and casuarina and river gum woodlands.

Cracticus nigrogularis (Gould) Pied Butcherbird

Range. Greater part of region.

Status etc. Generally common, but scarce or absent in much of Gibson Desert; usually single, occasionally in twos, threes or fours. Lightly-wooded country, including marble gum (*E. gongylocarpa*) woodlands of Great Victoria Desert; one bird reported at a road-kill. Breeding July–October; C/1(2), 2(3), 3(5), 4(4).

Cracticus tibicen (Latham) Australian Magpie

Range. South-western, north to Neds Creek (13 km N Simpson Well), Karri Karri Pool and Earahedy, and east to Carnegie, Prenti Downs, Lake Wells and 25 km WSW Beegull Waterholes. Far south of Gibson Desert and far north of Great Victoria Desert at Empress Spring, Manunda Rockhole, Miss Gibson Hill and Skipper Knob. Eastern highlands, from the Rawlinson and Walter James Ranges south to the Warburton, Barrow, Cavenagh and Blackstone Ranges.

Status etc. Moderately common in far south-west, uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Sparsely vegetated flats in vicinity of tall trees (mainly river gums; also bloodwood, marble gums, mulgas, *Eucalyptus clelandii* and desert oaks). Breeding late July–mid September, also May; C/3(4), 4(1).

Taxonomy. Western birds form part of the broad hybrid zone between *C. t. dorsalis* (Campbell) and *C. t. tibicen*. Birds from the deserts and eastern highlands belong to *C. t. tibicen* and appear to be unaffected by *C. t. dorsalis*, but this requires confirmation with more specimens (J.R. Ford. pers. comm.). For discussion of Wiluna specimens resembling *C. t. leuconotus* (Gould) see Black and Ford (1982, *Corella* 6: 114).

Strepera versicolor plumbea Gould Grey Currawong

Range. Southern, north to Bore Well (50 km WSW Wiluna), the De La Poer Range, Breaden Bluff, the Warburton Range and Rawlinson Range.

Status etc. Uncommon in extreme south-west and eastern highlands, but generally rare or scarce and patchily distributed; in ones or twos. Woodlands, mainly of tall mulga, but also *Eucalyptus clelandii*, river gums, bloodwoods and desert oaks (*Casuarina decaisneana*).

Ptilonorhynchidae

Ptilonorhynchus maculatus guttatus (Gould) Spotted Bowerbird

Range. South-western, north to the Carnarvon Range and The Weld Spring, and east to Sydney Heads Pass, McNamara Well (90 km E Wiluna) and Banjarnarn. Eastern highlands, from the Rawlinson and Walter James Ranges south to the Warburton, Barrow and Cavenagh Ranges.

Status etc. Uncommon and patchily distributed; usually single, occasionally in twos, threes or fours. *Acacia*, *Ficus*, *Eucalyptus*, *Casuarina* and other thickets in vicinity of water, including stock-watering troughs; attracted to fruiting *Ficus platypoda*, sandalwood and trees in homestead gardens. One breeding record: October; C/2.

Corvidae

Corvus orru ceciliae Mathews Australian Crow

Range. Greater part of region, but no records from far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill).

Status etc. Moderately common in well-watered and well-wooded south-west (especially sheep country) and eastern highlands, scarce or absent in deserts; in ones, twos or small parties. Open woodlands in vicinity of water, including rockholes and stock-watering troughs; attracted to road-kills. Breeding July–August (? late June–September); C/2(1), 3(1), 4(1), 5(1). For notes on the corvids of the Wiluna district see P.J. Curry (1978, *Aust. Bd Watcher* 7: 265–9).

Corvus bennetti North Little Crow

Range. Greater part of region but no records from far south-east (Great Victoria Desert south of Hanns Tabletop Hill).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common (generally more numerous in south than north); in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to 300, especially in autumn). Most wooded habitats, especially mulga. Breeding late June–early October; C/4(1).

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GAZETTEER

Latitudes are south and longitudes east

- Ainslie Gorge 26.14, 126.39
Baker Lake 26.48, 126.04
Banjawarn 27.42, 121.37
Barrambie 27.31, 119.11
Barrow Range 26.05, 127.25
Barwidgee 27.02, 120.55
Beegull Waterholes 27.42, 124.10
Beyond 27.47, 120.02
Blackstone Range 26.01, 128.15
Bonython Range 23.39, 128.57
Booylgoo Spring 27.45, 119.54
Breaden Bluff 26.54, 124.28
Brockman Creek 25.55, 122.25
Carnarvon Range 25.10, 120.45
Carnegie 25.48, 122.58
Cavenagh Range 26.10, 128.00
Charles Wells Creek 26.03, 121.56
Cockarrow Creek 26.41, 120.13
Cooper Creek 27.19, 126.20
Cooper Hills 27.23, 126.25
Cosmo Newbery 27.59, 122.54
Cunyu 26.01, 120.07
De La Poer Range 27.20, 122.45
Depot Springs 27.56, 120.05
Durba Hills 23.45, 122.25
Durba Springs 23.45, 122.31
Earaheedy 25.35, 121.35
Elder Creek 26.09, 126.33
Ellis Range 24.20, 128.26
Empress Spring 26.45, 124.22
Erlistoun 28.20, 122.09
Ernest Giles Range 27.00, 123.52
Everard Junction 25.10, 124.58
Faulkner Hill 27.04, 126.22
Featherstonhaugh Hill 27.00, 126.17
Forbes Outcamp 25.26, 121.02
Frere Range 25.40, 120.40
Gahnda Rockhole 26.36, 125.52
Gibson Desert 25.00, 126.00
Giles 25.02, 128.18
Giles Creek 25.03, 128.40
Glenayle 25.16, 122.02
Granite Peak 25.38, 121.21
Great Victoria Desert 28.00, 126.30
Gum Creek 26.55, 119.19
Hanns Tabletop Hill 27.09, 126.25
Henning Creek 27.07, 126.22
Hinckley Range 26.08, 128.50
Hunt Oil Camp 26.04, 125.50
Ilgarari Creek 24.20, 120.08
Ilyee Pool 25.16, 120.19
Jackie Junction 25.43, 126.40
Karri Karri Pool 25.28, 120.37
Kathleen Valley 27.31, 120.34
Killagurra Spring 23.44, 122.29
Lake Augusta 24.45, 122.30
Lake Carnegie 26.15, 122.35
Lake Christopher 24.45, 127.31
Lake Cohen 24.27, 125.03
Lake Darlot 27.45, 121.25
Lake Disappointment 23.30, 122.45
Lake Gruszka 25.19, 125.33
Lake Hopkins 24.15, 128.50
Lake Mason 27.37, 119.32
Lake Mason HS 27.35, 119.31
Lake Miranda 27.40, 120.32
Lake Nabberu 25.37, 120.30
Lake Throssell 27.35, 134.10
Lake Violet 26.39, 120.16
Lake Way 26.50, 120.25
Lake Way HS 26.57, 120.28
Lake Wells 26.45, 123.15
Lake Wells HS 27.18, 123.01
Leinster 27.55, 120.41
Leinster Downs 27.51, 120.36
Long Creek 25.35, 121.00
Lorna Glen 26.13, 121.33
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