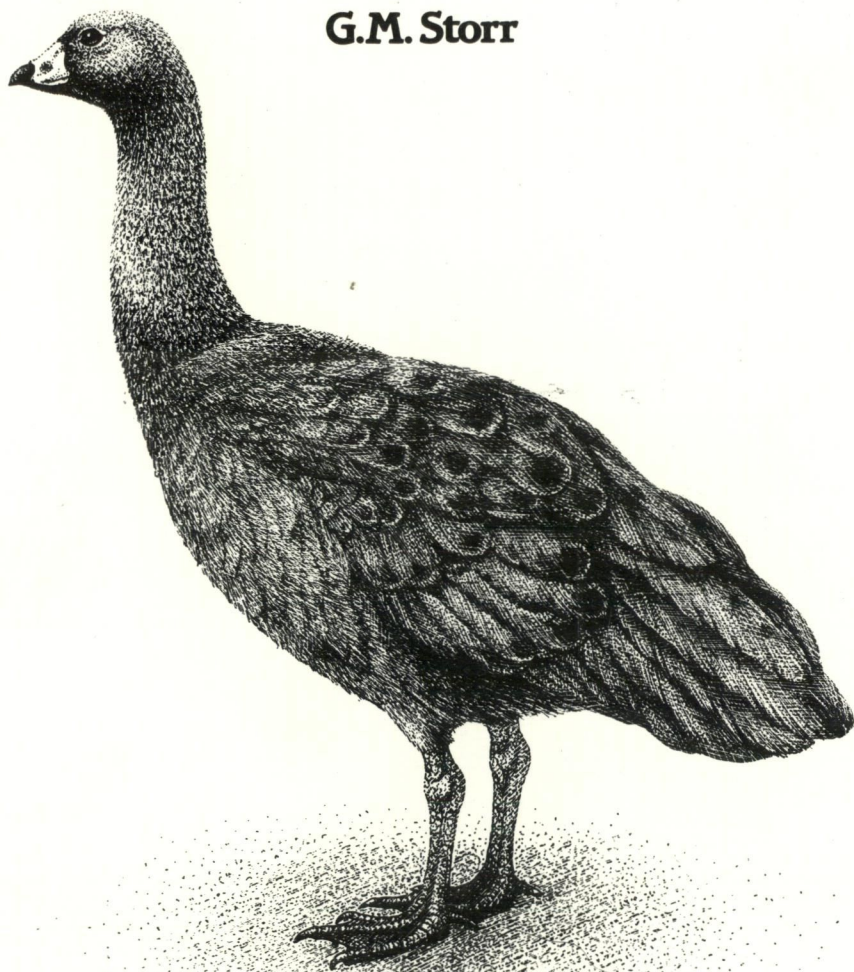


Records of the Western Australian Museum
Supplement No. 27

Birds of the Eucla Division of Western Australia

G.M. Storr



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Western Australian Museum
1987

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an annotated list of the 287 species and subspecies of birds from the Eucla Division, in the far south-east of Western Australia. The Division has a long coastline and includes the Archipelago of the Recherche and a large part of the Nullarbor Plain. The climate is mostly arid and semi-arid; the south coast westwards from Cape Arid is subhumid.

INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh in a series of regional avifaunas covering Western Australia. Earlier papers dealt with the Kimberley Division (Storr 1980, *Spec. Publs West. Aust. Mus.* No. 11), North-eastern Interior (Storr 1981, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* 9: 65-99), Pilbara (Storr 1984, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* Suppl. No. 16), Gascoyne (Storr 1985, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* Suppl. No. 21), Mid-eastern Interior (Storr 1985, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* Suppl. No. 22) and South-eastern Interior (Storr 1986, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* Suppl. No. 26). The aim of the present work is the same as the others, i.e. to summarize for each species and subspecies our knowledge of distribution (localities outside of the Division are enclosed in square brackets), ecological status (whether it is a vagrant, visitor or resident), relative abundance, habitat preferences, breeding season (i.e. the months eggs are laid in), clutch size* and movements. Taxonomic references cited in earlier papers are not repeated here.

At about long. 124° the Eucla Division is divided into two roughly equal areas. To the west lies the undulating Precambrian Shield with its hills, coastal headlands and islands of granitic and metamorphic rocks. To the east is the Eucla Basin, composed largely of Eocene limestone in the form of plains, escarpments and sea cliffs.

In the west the land rises gently towards the north. Several short streams empty into the south coast; further north the ill-defined watercourses drain into saltlakes. Most rain falls in the cooler half of the year, the annual mean ranging from 40 to 70 cm in the south to 25 to 35 in the north. The sandy coastal plains are covered by low heathlands with emergent taller shrubs such as *Lambertia inermis*, *Banksia speciosa* and *Eucalyptus tetragona*, interrupted by small saltlakes and watercourses fringed with flat-topped yates (*Eucalyptus occidentalis*) or paperbarks (*Melaleuca cuticularis*). Northwards the heathlands are replaced by scrubs, mainly of mallees (*Eucalyptus redunca*, *E. eremophila* etc.) and boree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*). Still further north, moderately tall woodlands of eucalypts appear. West of long. 122° the eucalypt woodlands (*E. salmonophloia*, *E. salubris* etc.) are broken by numerous saltlakes and extensive sandplains with low to moderately tall thickets and scrubs; east of that meridian the woodlands (*E. oleosa*, *E. flocktoniae* etc.) are much more continuous, except in the partly open Fraser Range.

* C/4(1), B/5(2) signifies, for example, a clutch of four eggs (or a brood of four nestlings) and two broods of five young out of the nest but still dependent.

Wheat has been grown around Salmon Gums and Grass Patch since the early 1920s. In the last 30 years most of the country further south, west of the Cape Arid National Park, has been cleared for the production of grain and livestock. Here the bush birds have been largely replaced by a few open-country species such as the Yellow-throated Miner, Australian Raven, Richard's Pipit, Magpie-lark, Magpie and Crested Pigeon. Perhaps as a result of this clearing and rise in water table, the Esperance wetlands are becoming increasingly rich in water birds. The islands of the Archipelago of the Recherche provide breeding sites for the Little Penguin, Great-winged Petrel, Fleshy-footed Shearwater, Short-tailed Shearwater, Little Shearwater, White-faced Storm Petrel, Black-faced Cormorant, Cape Barren Goose and several species of Larolimicolae.

Much of the eastern half of the Division consists of the Nullarbor Plain, a featureless region unbroken by hills and watercourses. The soil is shallow and limestone commonly appears at the surface. Rainfall (annual mean 15-22 cm) is fairly evenly distributed through the year. Unless eradicated by rabbits, sheep or cattle, the vegetation is dominated by bluebush (*Maireana sedifolia*), augmented or replaced in low-lying, deeper-soiled areas (dongas) by tussock grasses and salt-bushes (*Atriplex* spp.). The prevailing steppe is occasionally relieved by a line or copse of myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*). Additional low tree species appear in the fringes of the Nullabor, notably belar (*Casuarina cristata*) and sugarwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*) in the west and mallees (*Eucalyptus* spp.) in the south. The far west and south of the Nullabor are occupied by sheep and cattle stations; here dams and bore overflows provide the only wetland habitat apart from the ephemeral waters of claypans. The southernmost part of the plain, too wooded to be termed Nullabor, is called the Hampton Tableland; its southern edge is marked by the Baxter Cliffs (between Point Culver and Twilight Cove) and the Hampton Scarp or Range (where the cliffs retreat from the sea). The coastal plains south of the Hampton Scarp are known as the Roe Plains. Owing to moderate winter rains and an annual mean of 25-45 cm, the coastal strip between Israelite Bay and Eucla is well wooded; scrubs of *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca* and *Acacia* predominate, but *Banksia* and other proteaceous shrubs occur as far east as Twilight Cove and are especially plentiful in the Bilbunya Dunes. The shores of the Great Australian Bight consequently support a moderately rich assemblage of bush birds; in the more open country east of Eyre the number of species rapidly declines, but certain birds like the Yellow Robin and Golden Whistler are still present at Eucla Pass. A little further eastwards, just across the South Australian border, the Nullabor Plain reaches the sea.

This paper is based on the collections of the Western Australian Museum, the literature (especially the papers cited under References) and unpublished data of several naturalists, notably J.R. Ford, R.E. Johnstone, L.A. Smith, R.P. Jaensch, B.J. Newbey, J. Dell, G.M. Storr, P. Marsack, W.H. Butler, J. Jenkins, W.L. Klau, A. Burbidge, N. Dymond, A.K. Daw, I.C. Cooke, P. Congreve, D. Hobcroft, D. Watkins, J.L. Bannister, L. Spurr, T.A. Barnes, B. Muir, P.M. Lambert, P. Kennington and K.M. Lowe.

I am grateful to Messrs J. Dell, R.P. Jaensch, S.A. Parker and R.E. Johnstone for reading the manuscript and to all the people who gave me unpublished data. Mr L. Spurr kindly transported my colleagues R.E. Johnstone and L.A. Smith to many islands. Grants from Mr and Mrs W.H. Butler financed field work on the Nullarbor Plain, the south and south-east coasts and the Archipelago of the Recherche, and a grant from Mr N. Kolichis financed a further trip to the Recherche.

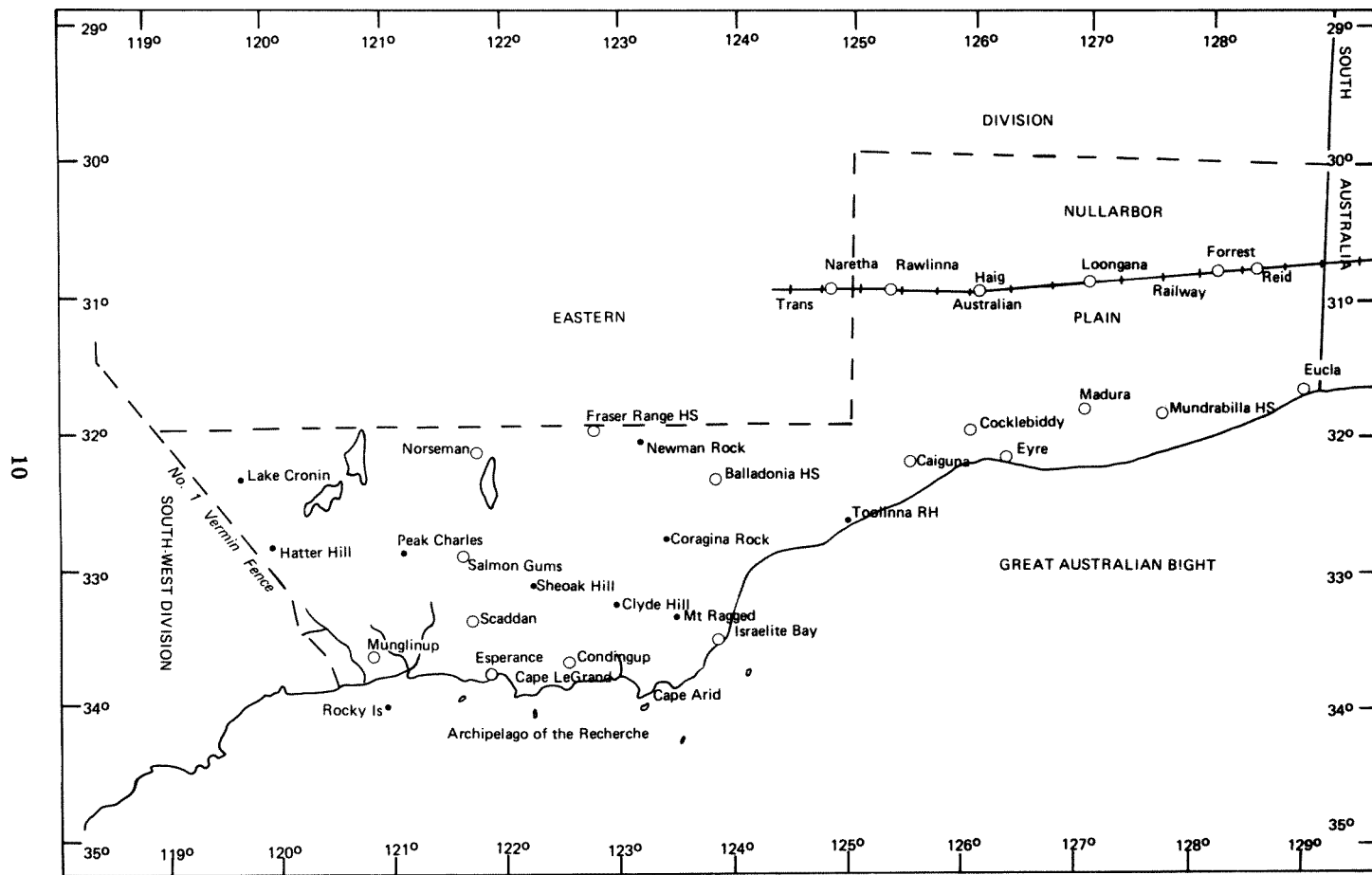


Figure 1 Map of Eucla Division, Western Australia.

LIST OF BIRDS

Casuariidae

Dromaius novaehollandiae (Latham, 1790) Emu

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain east of Haig.

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common; in ones, twos or family parties. Most kinds of country within 20 km of potable water, but favouring vicinity of sandy coasts (where they open up freshwater seepages), saltlakes and granite outcrops; attracted to fruiting quondongs *Santalum acuminatum*. Observations of attended young (as far east on Nullarbor Plain as Seemore Downs) from September to January; B/2(2), 4(1), 6(4), 7(3), 9(2), 10(1). The westward movement of a good number of Emus was impeded by the No. 1 Vermin Fence in autumn 1986 (the only time the fence was traversed by my informants).

Podicipedidae

Podiceps novaehollandiae novaehollandiae Stephens, 1826 Black-throated Grebe

Range. Southern, north to Lake Cronin and Breeboorinia Rock. Casual further east (Cocklebidly sewage pond).

Status etc. Scarce; usually in ones or twos. Freshwater pools (including small dams at granite outcrops) and lakes (fresh or salt). Breeding November-December; C/4(1), B/3(1).

Podiceps poliocephalus Jardine and Selby, 1827 Hoary-headed Grebe

Range. Greater part of Division, east to Gunnadorah Station, Cocklebidly and nearly to Eyre. Accidental further east (Forrest).

Status etc. Common on south coast east to the Thomas River, scarce elsewhere; usually in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally large flocks (up to 700). Estuaries, lakes, dams, floodwaters and sheltered seas. One breeding report (near the Thomas River): November; B/4.

Podiceps cristatus australis Gould, 1844 Great Crested Grebe

Until recently only a rare vagrant (one near Eyre, winter 1978). In 1982 it appeared in Esperance district and by 1984 was established in small numbers on Woody, Wheatfield and Mullet Lakes. One breeding report (Lake Wheatfield): spring.

Spheniscidae

Eudyptes pachyrhynchus G.R. Gray, 1845 Thick-billed Penguin

Rare visitor. Records from Esperance (A.K. Daw) and Point Culver (Reilly *et al.* 1975).

Eudyptes sclateri Buller, 1888 Erect-crested Penguin

Rare visitor. One bird (now WAM A12743) came ashore at Esperance in early March 1972.

Eudyptes chrysocome moseleyi Matthews and Iredale, 1921 Rockhopper Penguin

Scarce visitor. A few records, undated except for two birds in August, from Esperance (A.K. Daw).

Eudyptula minor novaehollandiae (Stephens, 1826) Little Penguin

Range. Rocky Is, Archipelago of the Recherche and shores of Great Australian Bight (Baxter Cliffs from Point Culver east to Twilight Cove).

Status etc. Common along the Baxter Cliffs (Reilly *et al.* 1975) and off lower south-east coast, uncommon to moderately common west of Cape Pasley. Breeding on islands (Rocky, Figure of Eight, Boxer, Observatory, Charley, Rabbit, Cull, Sandy Hook, Termination, Hood, MacKenzie, Ram, Rob, Mondrain, Station, Lorraine, Nares, Marts, Forrest, Ben, Inshore, North Twin Peak, Kermadec, Combe, Goose, Bellinger, Six Mile, Anvil, New Year, Daw) and in the Baxter Cliffs near Toolinna Cove and Twilight Cove: July-November; C/1(3), 2(28).

Diomedeidae

Diomedea exulans Linnaeus, 1758 Wandering Albatross

Common visitor to seas well offshore, mainly south of continental shelf, all months (mostly May-September); usually in ones or twos, occasionally small parties. Commonly following ships. (Some observations possibly based on Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* Lesson, 1825.) Birds banded on Marion, Cochons and Macquarie Is and off Thirroul, NSW, have been recovered in region. Most birds presumably belong to the high-latitude subspecies *D. e. exulans*.

Taxonomy. For name of high-latitude subspecies see P.A. Clancey (1978, *Durban Mus. Novit.* 11: 309).

Diomedea melanophrys Temminck, 1828 Black-browed Albatross

Common visitor (January-early November) to regional seas, including those close to islands and mainland; in ones, twos or small parties. Following ships and trawlers.

[*Diomedea chrysostoma* Forster, 1785 Grey-headed Albatross

Rare winter visitor to seas well south of continental shelf. On 18 September 1971 J. Jenkins saw six in c. 38° 30'S, 127° 00'E. In August 1974 W.R.P. Bourne saw several, mainly adults, in the Bight near the subtropical convergence (Cox 1976: 38).]

Diomedea chlororhynchos Gmelin, 1789 Yellow-nosed Albatross

Common visitor (February-November) to regional seas, including those close to islands and mainland; in ones, twos or small parties. Occasionally following ships; attracted to fishermen pulling nets. A bird banded on Amsterdam I. was recovered at Esperance. Most, if not all, birds presumably belong to the subspecies *D. c. bassi* Matthews, 1912, breeding in Indian Ocean. Some of the records of *D. chrysostoma* were based on this species (Matthews 1920).

Diomedea cauta cauta Gould, 1841 Shy Albatross

Uncommon visitor (mid February-December) to regional seas, including those close to islands and mainland; in ones, twos or small parties. Occasionally following ships and trawlers. Visitors include four banded as nestlings on Albatross I., Tas.

Also a record of *D. c. salvini* (Rothschild, 1893): one observed by J. Jenkins on 25 July 1971 in c. 35° 20'S, 120° 40'E.

Phoebetria fusca (Hilsenberg, 1822) Sooty Albatross

Common visitor (January-October, mainly June-August) to seas well offshore; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 20). Commonly following ships.

Most of the records of *P. palpebrata* (Forster, 1785) from north of 45°S are based on immature *P. fusca*.

Procellariidae

Macronectes giganteus (Gmelin, 1789) Southern Giant Petrel

Macronectes halli Mathews, 1912 Northern Giant Petrel

Giant Petrels are uncommon visitors (March-December) to regional seas, including those close to mainland. Only a few birds have been identified to species: four

beach-washed *M. giganteus* at Eyre, south of Mundrabilla and at Eucla in May, October and December, and two of *M. halli* near Cape LeGrand in April and June, both banded as nestlings on Macquarie I.

Fulmarus glacialisoides (Smith, 1840) Antarctic Fulmar

Status uncertain. J. Macgillivray noted it as very numerous in the middle of the Great Australian Bight in mid-June 1847 (Mathews 1920: 297), but no one else has observed it in these seas except possibly John Gould. N. Dymond (1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32: 4) found a beach-washed specimen at Eyre on 24 October 1984.

Daption capense (Linnaeus, 1758) Cape Petrel

Moderately common visitor (April-October), usually well offshore; in ones, twos or small flocks. Following ships.

Pterodroma macroptera macroptera (Smith, 1840) Great-winged Petrel

Common visitor (mid February-early December, mainly March-October) to all seas. Breeding on islands in Archipelago of the Recherche, viz. Figure of Eight, Boxer, Remark, Wilson, Termination, Hood, Goose, 'possibly' Douglas, Middle, 'probably' Pasley, Bellinger and possibly New Year (largest colonies on Termination and Goose): early winter; C/1 (invariably). For predation on nestlings by Australian Ravens see Lane (1984b).

[*Pterodroma macroptera gouldi* (Hutton, 1869)

Possibly a rare visitor. J. Jenkins saw a Great-winged Petrel with a very grey face on 18 September 1971 in 38°23'S, 126°51'E. In the South Australian sector of the Bight, A.T. Ross (1985, *R.A.O.U. Newsl.* No. 65: 3) recorded one on 8 August 1985, presumably in 35°S, 134°E.]

Pterodroma brevirostris (Lesson, 1831) Kerguelen Petrel

One record: a beach-washed bird found at Eyre on 4 August 1984 (N. Dymond 1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32: 4).

Pterodroma lessonii (Garnot, 1826) White-headed Petrel

Uncommon visitor (late February-late November, mostly March-September) to regional seas, including those close to islands and mainland.

Pterodroma mollis mollis (Gould, 1844) Soft-plumaged Petrel

Scarce visitor (March-August) to Great Australian Bight, well offshore.

[*Halobaena caerulea* (Gmelin, 1789) Blue Petrel

Possibly visiting regional seas, but there is no record nearer than 35°S, 134°E in the South Australian sector of the Bight, where A.T. Ross observed two on 8 August 1985.]

[*Pachyptila vittata* (Forster, 1777) Broad-billed Prion

Possibly visiting regional seas, but there is no record nearer than 40°45'S, 123°30'E, where J. Macgillivray collected one on 19 June 1847.]

Pachyptila desolata (Gmelin, 1789) Antarctic Prion

Common visitor (April-August) to regional seas, including those close to mainland; in small flocks.

Pachyptila belcheri (Mathews, 1912) Thin-billed Prion

Common visitor (May-August) to regional seas, including those close to mainland.

Pachyptila turtur (Kuhl, 1820) Fairy Prion

Moderately common visitor (June-September) to regional seas, including those close to mainland; sometimes attached to flocks of *P. desolata*.

[*Procellaria aequinoctialis* Linnaeus, 1758 White-chinned Petrel

Possibly visiting regional seas in winter. Brown (1948: 16) recorded several in the western and central parts of the Great Australian Bight on 30 June and 1 July 1947 en route from Colombo to Melbourne, but no one else has seen it in the region except possibly John Gould. Brown's birds and the '*Procellaria parkinsoni*' commonly seen by Alexander (1920: 21) on 23-24 March 1919 in the western part of the Bight were probably *Pterodroma macroptera*.]

Procellaria cinerea Gmelin, 1789 Grey Petrel

Rare visitor to regional seas. One observed by Macgillivray (1920: 174) on 22 June 1919 in c. 38°40'S, 124°50'E, and single beach-washed specimens found at Twilight Cove and near Eyre.

Puffinus carneipes Gould, 1844 Fleshy-footed Shearwater

Very common visitor (October-April, rarely May) to all seas. Breeding on islands in Archipelago of the Recherche, viz. Figure of Eight (?), Boxer (?), Charley, Rabbit, Thomas, Gunton, Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Cliff, Remark, Frederick, Wilson (presumably), Ram, MacKenzie (presumably), Mondrain, Station, Forrest, Tunney, Hull, North and South Twin Peaks, Douglas, Barrier, Owen,

Gulch, George, Wickham and Daw (largest colonies on Charley, Long, Remark, Frederick, Mondrain, Barrier, Gulch, Wickham and Daw): late November-mid December; C/1 (invariably).

Puffinus tenuirostris (Temminck, 1835) Short-tailed Shearwater

Moderately common visitor (October-April) to all seas. Breeding on islands in Archipelago of the Recherche, viz. Figure of Eight, Ben and Inshore (much the largest colony on Ben): late November-early December; C/1 (invariably). For discovery in Western Australia see R.E. Johnstone and L.A. Smith (1987, *West. Aust. Nat.*). The bird seen off Eyre on 9 May 1986 and tentatively identified as a Sooty Shearwater (R. and P. Lake 1986, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 38:5) may have belonged to this species.

Puffinus gavia (Forster, 1844) Fluttering Shearwater

Status unknown. Two beach-washed specimens (WAM A16894 and 17071A) collected respectively by P. Congreve near Eyre on 27 February 1981 and A.K. Daw near Esperance on 8 April 1981. Also a beach-washed specimen at Eyre on 17 November 1985 (N. Dymond 1985, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 36: 5) and observations at sea by M. Taylor in June-July 1947 and J. Jenkins in July 1971.

Puffinus huttoni Mathews, 1912 Hutton's Shearwater

Status unknown. A beach-washed specimen (WAM A16895) found on same occasion as a *P. gavia* (A16894). The juxtaposition and similarity of these two (immature) specimens throw doubt on their maintenance as separate species (R.E. Johnstone, pers. comm.).

Puffinus assimilis assimilis Gould, 1838 Little Shearwater

Moderately common visitor (January-early November) to all seas. Breeding on islands in Archipelago of the Recherche, viz. Figure of Eight, Boxer, Lion, Wilson, Hood, MacKenzie, Inshore (?), Tunney, Hull, Kermadec (presumably), Combe, Barrier, Owen, Gulch, Bellinger, Anvil and New Year (much the largest colony on Combe, moderately large colonies on Hood, Bellinger and Anvil); winter.

Oceanitidae

Oceanites oceanicus (Kuhl, 1820) Wilson's Storm Petrel

Occasionally observed in regional seas, including those close to islands and mainland (Eyre) during northward migration (late February-mid May); in ones or twos.

[*Oceanites nereis* (Gould, 1841) Grey-backed Storm Petrel

Possibly a winter visitor to regional seas. W.R.P. Bourne (in Cox 1976: 68) saw several in August 1974 while crossing Great Australian Bight well to south of continental shelf.]

Oceanites marinus dulciae (Mathews, 1912) White-faced Storm Petrel

Common visitor (September-April) to seas well offshore; in pairs or flocks (6-350). Breeding on islands in Archipelago of the Recherche, viz. Canning, Lion, Woody, Frederick, Rob, Lorraine, Nares, Marts, Douglas, Bellinger (?), Anvil and Daw (largest colonies on Marts, Canning and Lorraine): October-December; C/1 (invariably).

[*Oceanites tropicus* (Gould, 1844) Black-bellied Storm Petrel

Common visitor (March-September) to seas well south of continental shelf, but no records north of 38° S.]

Pelecanidae

Pelecanus conspicillatus Temminck, 1824 Australian Pelican

Range. Vicinity of coasts, east to Eyre.

Status etc. Scarce visitor; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 14). Near-coastal lakes and estuaries and sheltered seas.

Sulidae

Sula (bassana) serrator (G.R. Gray, 1843) Australian Gannet

Visitor (all months, mainly late February-early May) to seas close to islands and mainland; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 18). Moderately common off lower south-east coast (at least during westward passage); scarce or uncommon elsewhere. A bird banded as a juvenile near Portland, Vic., was recovered more than 10 years later at 100 km E Esperance.

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris (Brandt, 1837) Little Black Cormorant

Range. Vicinity of coasts, east to Eyre. Casual in Archipelago of Recherche and inland (Family Dam on Gunnadorah Station, Cocklebidly).

Status etc. Moderately common in Esperance district but generally scarce; usually in ones, twos, or small flocks, occasionally large flocks (e.g. 600 at Lake

Warden, January 1985). Estuaries, near-coastal pools and lakes and sheltered seas. Breeding colonially (up to 200 nests) in melaleuca swamps near Esperance; c. October-December.

Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae Stephens, 1826 Great Cormorant

Range. Coasts east to Red Rocks Point, including Archipelago of the Recherche (Hood, rock in Alexander Bay, islet W of Inshore, Combe, Middle, Bellinger). Casual inland (Salmon Gums).

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 12). Sheltered seas, estuaries and near-coastal lakes.

Phalacrocorax varius (Gmelin, 1789) Pied Cormorant

Range. South-east coast, west to Point Malcolm. Casual further west (Stokes Inlet).

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 22).

Phalacrocorax fuscescens (Vieillot, 1817) Black-faced Cormorant

Range. South and lower south-east coasts and islands from Esperance and Figure of Eight I. east to Point Lorenzen and Six Mile I.

Status etc. Common off lower south-east coast, moderately common off south coast; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 34 when resting). Shallow seas in vicinity of mainland and the less remote islands. Breeding in Archipelago of the Recherche (Lion I., islet off Remark I., Middle I. and Bellinger Is): late July-December; C/1(9), 2(23), 3(20), 4(2).

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos melanoleucos (Vieillot, 1817) Little Pied Cormorant

Range. Vicinity of south and lower south-east coasts, east to Israelite Bay. Casual further east: Eyre, Family Dam (Gunnadorah).

Status etc. Moderately common in Esperance district but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally large flocks (up to 120). Near-coastal pools and swamps, and estuaries and sheltered seas.

Anhinga melanogaster novaehollandiae (Gould, 1847) Darter

Rare visitor. One to three birds seen near Esperance in January-March and one near Eyre in October.

Fregatidae

[Fregata minor (Gmelin, 1789)

Greater Frigatebird

One reported, without description, off Esperance on 3 and 10 January 1982 (A.K. Daw 1984, *R.A.O.U. Bd Rept* No. 6).]

Ardeidae

Ardea pacifica Latham, 1801

Pacific Heron

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the north-east (Nullarbor Plain east of Gunnadorah and north of Madura and Mundrabilla).

Status etc. Scarce visitor; usually single, occasionally in twos. River pools, lakes, dams and bore overflows. One breeding report (five nests in paperbarks in swamp 30 km ENE Esperance): spring.

Ardea novaehollandiae Latham, 1790

White-faced Heron

Range. Greater part of Division, east to western edge of Nullarbor Plain (Hut Donga, Family Dam) and Middini Beach. Casual in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Visitor (mainly summer and autumn). Moderately common on south-coastal plains east to Blackboy Creek, uncommon elsewhere; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 22), occasionally larger aggregations in drier months, e.g. 145 at Racecourse Lake in January 1985. River pools, lakes, swamps, sheltered seas, ephemeral waters and dams.

Egretta alba alba (Linnaeus, 1758)

Great Egret

Range. South-coastal plains from Stokes Inlet east to beyond Mt Merivale. Casual further east (Eyre, Haig, Reid).

Status etc. At present uncommon to moderately common in Esperance district (where first recorded in 1979); in ones, twos or loose aggregations (up to 57). Lakes, swamps and estuaries. One breeding report (six nests in paperbarks at swamp 30 km ENE Esperance): c. November.

Egretta garzetta nigripes (Temminck, 1840)

Little Egret

Vagrant. Two observed on small sewage pond at Caiguna by R.E. Johnstone and L.A. Smith on 10 May 1985, and one observed at Lake Gore by R.P. Jaensch and R. Vervest on 4 November 1986.

Egretta sacra (Gmelin, 1789)

Eastern Reef Heron

Status etc. Possibly rare resident in Archipelago of the Recherche (Canning,

Observatory, Goose and Middle Is); casual on mainland (near Esperance, Twilight Cove, near Eucla); single. Reefs and beaches. Only grey phase reported.

Egretta ibis coromanda (Boddaert, 1783) Cattle Egret

Rare visitor (mainly in autumn); usually single, one party of four. Observed at Norseman (1952, 1953), Esperance (1959), Condingup (1983) and Eyre (1985), usually in company of livestock.

Nycticorax caledonicus hilli Mathews, 1912 Rufous Night Heron

Range. Vicinity of south coast east to Rossiter Bay. Casual further east (Eyre).

Status etc. Uncommon. Near-coastal swamps and river-pools. Breeding (Lion I., 1921; 30 km ENE Esperance, 1984) October-November; C/2(40), 3(1).

Exobrychus minutus novaezealandiae (Potts, 1871) Little Bittern

On 2 November 1984, R. Jaensch (1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32: 8) found an old nest in swamp 15 km WSW Condingup; later that month a bird seen in district. On 17 January 1985 Jaensch found a nest with one cold egg in *Baumea articulata* and *B. juncea* in same swamp.

Botaurus poiciloptilus (Wagler, 1827) Brown Bittern

Range. Vicinity of south coast east to 13 km N Mt Arid.

Status etc. Scarce; usually single. Freshwater swamps with tall *Baumea articulata* and/or *B. juncea* (R.P. Jaensch).

Threskiornithidae

Threskiornis aethiopicus moluccus (Cuvier, 1829) Sacred Ibis

Vagrant. Single birds observed at Shark Lake in July and November 1983.

Threskiornis spinicollis (Jameson, 1835) Straw-necked Ibis

Range. Western Nullarbor Plain and its fringes, east to Loongana and south to Balladonia and Cocklebidy.

Status etc. Uncommon visitor; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 30). Sparsely vegetated plains, especially near dams and ephemeral waters.

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus, 1766) Glossy Ibis

Vagrant. D. Hobcroft saw three east of Esperance in November 1984. The remains of a bird found in a cave east of Eucla in 1952 were sent to the WA Museum (A6902).

[*Platalea regia* Gould, 1838

Royal Spoonbill

One at Seemore Downs in early May 1972 reported to Brooker *et al.* (1979: 179).]

Platalea flavipes Gould, 1838

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Vagrant. A.K. Daw saw one at Mullet Lake in April and July 1983.

Anatidae

Anseranas semipalmata (Latham, 1798)

Pied Goose

Vagrant. Two on roadside east of Madura in early August 1952 (D.L. Serventy 1953, *West. Aust. Nat.* 3: 188).

Cygnus atratus (Latham, 1790)

Black Swan

Range. Vicinity of south coast east to Rossiter Bay. Casual elsewhere (dam at Newman Rock, beach and sea near Eyre, beach south of Mundrabilla).

Status etc. Uncommon to common visitor (mainly November-March); usually single or in small flocks, occasionally very large flocks (up to 3500) in summer. Lakes (fresh or salt), swamps, river-pools and estuaries. One breeding report (Dalyup River West): spring; B/6.

Stictonetta naevosa (Gould, 1841)

Freckled Duck

Scarce visitor. On 9 October 1982, R. King (1982, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 24) saw three on a large donga just south of Seemore Downs HS, recently filled by heavy rain. In January 1972 P. Kennington saw a flock of *c.* 50 on Lake Cronin, which was then nearly 2 m deep. In November 1980 I.C. Cooke saw 13 on a dam at Dalyup. R.P. Jaensch saw 51 at Lake Mortijinup and 11 at Lake Wheatfield in March 1986 and two at Woody Lake in May 1985. J. Ewert, *et al.* saw six at Lake Gore in May 1986 and 10 in yate swamp E of Esperance and 4-10 in paperbarks at Nambarup Swamps in November 1986.

Cereopsis novaehollandiae grisea (Vieillot, 1818)

Cape Barren Goose

Range. Archipelago of the Recherche (*Figure of Eight, *Boxer, *Capps, Canning, Observatory, *Charley, Rabbit, *Cull, Lion, Thomas, Gunton, *Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Cliff, Remark, *Frederick, Wilson, Termination, *Hood, *Mac-kenzie, Rob, Mondrain, Station, Lorraine, Forrest, Ben, Tunney, Hull, North Twin Peak and nearby islet, Kermadec, Combe, Goose, Douglas, *Barrier, Gulch, Wickham, *Bellinger, Anvil and Daw Is); casual on opposite mainland (Esperance Golf Course, Lake Windabout, Mullet Lake, Cape LeGrand, Lucky

Bay, Duke of Orleans Bay, Cape Arid). Accidental on the Nullarbor Plain (Gunnadorah, Mundrabilla RS).

Status etc. Uncommon; usually in pairs or family parties. Breeding (reported on islands asterisked above) c. April-November; C/4(2), C/5(2), B/3(1), B/4(2).

At present the birds can hardly number more than 1000. In the past they were much more numerous. Labillardière found them common on Observatory I. in 1792, where Lane saw none in 1981. The crew of the *Investigator* shot 25 on Middle I. and 65 on Mondrain I. in 1802; recent visitors have only heard one and seen six respectively on these islands. King found it abundant on Goose I. in 1818; Thomson and Shipway observed none here in 1947. At present the largest colonies are on Cull I. (c. 40) and Wickham I. (c. 30).

Taxonomy. See G.M. Storr (1980, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 202).

Tadorna tadornoides (Jardine and Selby, 1828) Mountain Duck

Range. Greater part of Division, east to western edge of Nullarbor Plain (Yellow-tail Bore), Cocklebiddy and Eyre.

Status etc. At present moderately common to very common visitor to vicinity of coasts east to 67 km NNE Israelite Bay, usually in pairs or small flocks, occasionally in thousands in November-February; scarce or uncommon further north and east. Saltlakes, farmlands (especially stubble paddocks), estuaries, sheltered seas, freshwater lakes, dams, claypans and ephemeral waters. Breeding reports from Lake Dundas and Balladonia Hotel: winter; B/3(1). Their numbers have greatly increased over the last few decades since the growing of wheat on the Esperance Plain.

Anas superciliosa Gmelin, 1789 Black Duck

Range. Greater part of Division, east to western edge of Nullarbor Plain (Seemore Downs), Cocklebiddy and Eyre; also Archipelago of the Recherche (Wickham, Bellinger and Six Mile Is).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common visitor (most numerous near south coast); usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally large flocks (up to 500) in summer and autumn. Mainly fresh waters (river pools, pools behind coastal dunes, lakes, claypans, dams and ephemeral waters); also saltlakes and sheltered seas in summer and autumn. A few breeding reports (Young River to Lake Wheatfield): c. September-November.

Anas (gibberifrons) gracilis Buller, 1869 Grey Teal

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain east of Gunnadorah Station. Casual on High and Bellinger Is.

Status etc. Common visitor; in ones, twos, small parties or large flocks (up to 400), occasionally very large aggregations (up to 5500) in summer and autumn. Lakes

(fresh or salt), river pools, dams, flooded dongas, ephemeral ponds and sheltered seas.

Anas castanea (Eyton, 1838) Chestnut Teal

Range. Vicinity of coasts, east to Israelite Bay and inland to the upper Dalyup River West. Casual further east (Eyre).

Status etc. Uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 24), occasionally larger aggregations (up to 300) on lakes in winter. Estuaries, sheltered seas, lakes and river pools. One breeding report (Lake Gore): August.

Anas rhynchos rhynchos Latham, 1801 Blue-winged Shoveller

Scarce to uncommon visitor; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 61). Reported on lakes, swamps and river pools in Esperance district (from the lower Dalyup east to Mullet Lake), at Lake Cronin, on a flooded donga at Seemore Downs and on beach at Twilight Cove. One breeding report (swamp near Lake Gore): spring.

Malacorhynchus membranaceus (Latham, 1801) Pink-eared Duck

Rare visitor, usually in pairs, to western and southern fringes of Nullarbor Plain: reported on rock pool near Balladonia HS, at Rawlinna, on Family Dam (Gunnadorah Station), at Cocklebidy Tank and flying above beach at Twilight Cove. Since 1979 an uncommon visitor (mainly November-April) to south-coastal plains east to Shark Lake, usually in small parties or flocks (up to 300), at lakes (fresh or salt), river pools and flat-topped yate swamps; one breeding report (near Munglinup in spring). Casual in western interior (Lake Cronin).

Aythya australis (Eyton, 1838) Hardhead

Scarce visitor; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 12). Reported at pool on Young River, Shark Lake, small freshwater lake 47 km ENE Esperance, inshore reefs at Twilight Cove and near Eyre, and dams on Gunnadorah Station.

Chenonetta jubata (Latham, 1801) Wood Duck

Range. Greater part of Division, east to Gunnadorah Station and Twilight Cove.

Status etc. Moderately common visitor; in pairs, small parties or flocks (up to 120). Vicinity of dams, freshwater lakes, river pools and flooded dongas.

Oxyura australis Gould, 1836 Blue-billed Duck

Rare visitor (all seasons) to Esperance district, including Gore, Shark, Woody and Wheatfield Lakes. Report of four nests in spring 1969 (*Fauna Bull.* 4(1): 24,

Dept Fisheries and Fauna), and of a nest and eggs at Lake Mortijinup in early November 1986 (*West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 40: 4).

Biziura lobata (Shaw, 1796)

Musk Duck

Range. Vicinity of south coast, east to Duke of Orleans Bay. Casual further east (Israelite Bay, Twilight Cove, Nine Mile).

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to 360). Lakes (salt or fresh), river pools and sheltered seas.

Accipitridae

Elanus caeruleus notatus Gould, 1838

Black-shouldered Kite

Range. Vicinity of south coast (including Inshore I.), east to Mt Arid. Casual further east (Israelite Bay, 70 km N Haig, Rawlinna, Burnabbie).

Status etc. At present an uncommon visitor (common in April-May 1986); usually single, occasionally in family parties. Mainly farmlands. No regional record before 1968.

Elanus scriptus Gould, 1842

Letter-winged Kite

Rare visitor. A party of eight appeared at Dalyup Park (NW of Esperance) on 5 December 1952 and stayed for two days (J.S. Murray 1953, *West. Aust. Nat.* 3: 193).

Lophoictinia isura (Gould, 1838)

Square-tailed Kite

Range. Southern, north to Malara Dam (19 km SSW Fraser Range HS), 20 km WNW Balladonia and Eyre.

Status etc. Moderately common visitor (mid July-early April); usually single, occasionally in twos. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. One breeding report (Tookle Jenna Rock): September; C/3.

Report of *Hamirostra melanosternon* (Gould) by P.A. Bourke (1983, *West. Aust. Nat.* 15: 168) probably based on this species.

Haliastur sphenurus (Vieillot, 1818)

Whistling Kite

Range. Greater part of Division, east to Wilban and Moodini Pass.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Well-wooded country; attracted to road-killed kangaroos. One breeding report (Seemore Downs): 'August.'

Milvus migrans affinis Gould, 1838

Black Kite

Range. Nullarbor Plain and its southern fringe, west to Gunnadorah. Casual on south coast (Stokes Inlet) and south-east coast (Eyre).

Status etc. Scarce visitor; in ones, twos or threes. Mainly about settlements (Forrest, Cocklebiddy) and dams.

Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827)

Brown Goshawk

Range. Throughout the Division, including some islands in Archipelago of the Recherche (Charley, Woody, Mondrain).

Status etc. Apparently part of the population is resident, judging from repeated observations at same place (Junana Rock, Charley I., Woody I.). Moderately common; in ones or twos. Well-wooded country. One breeding report (Lake Cronin): winter.

Accipiter cirrocephalus cirrocephalus (Vieillot, 1817)

Collared Sparrowhawk

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain or its lightly wooded fringes.

Status etc. Moderately common in eastern near-coastal scrubs between Point Malcolm and Eucla, but generally uncommon (or seldom reported); in ones, twos or threes. Mainly mallee scrubs; also denser eucalypt woodlands.

Aquila morphnoides morphnoides Gould, 1841

Little Eagle

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain east of Gunnadorah.

Status etc. Scarce south of 33°S, but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Lightly wooded country, especially near granite outcrops, samphire flats and other places where rabbits abound. Breeding reported east to Haig and south to the Frank Hann National Park and Circle Valley: c. August-October; B/1(3).

Aquila audax (Latham, 1801)

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Range. Throughout the Division, including Mondrain and Middle Is in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. At present common to very common on the Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded fringes (abundance varying with rabbit numbers), common to moderately common in farmlands and other open country (including Fraser Range and Southern Hill Stations), scarce or uncommon in well-wooded country; usually in ones or twos, occasionally small flocks (up to 10). Open or lightly wooded country, especially where rabbits are plentiful; attracted to road-killed kangaroos. Breeding July-August; C/2(4). An adult banded at 115 km

NNE Rawlinna on 2 April 1968 was shot at Yundamindra (360 km WNW) 55 days later. Before the arrival of the rabbit this hawk was scarce, e.g. Whitlock saw few birds and no nests in the Norseman district in 1904-05, and Gibson only noted odd birds between Kalgoorlie and Eucla in 1908.

Haliaeetus leucogaster (Gmelin, 1788) White-breasted Sea Eagle

Range. Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, *Boxer, Observatory, *Charley, Woody, Long, *Remark, Wilson, *Termination, Hood, Mackenzie, *Ram, Mondrain, Hull, *North Twin Peak, Combe, *Goose, *Douglas, Middle, *Gulch, Wickham, *Bellinger, *Six Mile, Pointer, *Anvil and *Daw Is) and mainland coast from Cape LeGrand east nearly to Eyre.

Status etc. Moderately common in the Archipelago, uncommon on the mainland; usually single, occasionally in twos. Breeding on the islands asterisked above and (according to A.J. Carlisle) on mainland cliffs at Point Culver: September; C/2(1).

Circus assimilis Jardine and Selby, 1828 Spotted Harrier

Range. Mainly eastern: Nullarbor Plain and its western and southern fringes and more open parts of Roe Plains. Also south-coastal sandplains, east nearly to Israelite Bay.

Status etc. Visitor (all months), usually scarce but moderately common on Nullarbor after heavy autumn or winter rains; usually single. Sparsely wooded country including farmlands. Breeding on Nullarbor Plain: July and ? September.

Circus (aeruginosus) approximans Peale, 1848 Marsh Harrier

Range. Vicinity of south coast, east to Mt Arid.

Status etc. Uncommon; usually single, occasionally in twos. Swamps, lakes and river pools. Breeding September-October; C/2(1).

Pandion haliaetus cristatus Vieillot, 1816 Osprey

Range etc. Recorded on mainland coast at Stokes Inlet, Ida Bay (Cape Arid) and Twilight Cove; and Mondrain, Goose, Inshore and Salisbury Is in Archipelago of the Recherche. Rare; usually single, except at Twilight Cove (where a pair were commonly seen in late 1970s).

Falconidae

Falco subniger Gray, 1843 Black Falcon

Four reports from the Nullarbor and Roe Plains: two birds on Gunnadorah Station in January 1984 and one in November 1986 (P. Marsack), two on

Noondoonia Station in September 1980 (B.J. Newbey), and one south of Mundrabilla in September 1983 (T.A. Barnes).

Falco peregrinus macropus Swainson, 1837 Peregrine

Range. Greater part of Division, including Cull, Lion and Woody Is in the Archipelago of the Recherche, the Baxter Cliffs and the Roe Plains east to Mundrabilla, but not the Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded western and southern fringes.

Status etc. Scarce; in ones or twos. Granite hills and high islands; also limestone cliffs. Breeding September-November; C/2(2), 3(1).

Falco hypoleucos Gould, 1841 Grey Falcon

Brooker *et al.* (1979: 180) recorded a pair on the Nullarbor Plain c. 80 km N Haig in October 1968.

Falco longipennis longipennis Swainson, 1837 Australian Hobby

Range. Arid and semi-arid zones south to Hatters Hill, 6 km S Norseman, Little Jam Hill, Caiguna and Eyre. Casual further south (Hellfire Bay, Israelite Bay).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common on the Roe Plains, scarce to uncommon elsewhere and mainly observed from February to August. Lightly wooded country. Breeding reported on the Roe Plains: c. September-October; C/3(1), 4(1).

Falco berigora berigora Vigors and Horsfield, 1827 Brown Falcon

Range. Throughout the Division, including Charley I. in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Uncommon to very common (most numerous in open or lightly wooded country and in arid zone, least in heavily wooded country and in subhumid zone); usually single, commonly in twos, rarely in threes or fours. Open or lightly wooded country, including farmlands. Breeding July-October (also late November or early December on Charley I.); C/2(2), 3(1).

Falco cenchroides cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield, 1827 Australian Kestrel

Range. Throughout the Division, including Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Boxer, Lion, Gunton, Sandy Hook, Ram, Mondrain, Middle and Daw Is).

Status etc. Uncommon to very common, numbers varying with seasons in arid zone, but generally most plentiful on Nullarbor Plain and (in spring-summer) in farmlands, least in heavily wooded country; usually single, occasionally in twos. Open or sparsely wooded country. Breeding mainly August-September,

occasionally October-November; C/3(1), 4(3), 5(4); nesting in caves and blow-holes on Nullarbor, in limestone at Baxter Cliffs, on ledges and in crevices in granite near coast and on Ram I., and mainly in old corvid nests elsewhere.

Megapodiidae

Leipoa ocellata Gould, 1840

Mallee Fowl

Range. Semi-arid zone south to Hatters Hill, Dog Rock, Mt Ridley, Clyde Hill, Mt Ragged and Point Malcolm, and north to 16 km S Mt Holland, Maggie Hays Hill, Little Jam Hill, Boingaring Rocks, Toolinna, 22 km N Eyre and Eucla.

Status etc. Moderately common to common in east (Roe Plains and scrubs immediately above the Baxter Cliffs and Hampton Scarp), locally common in west (Mt Heywood, Clyde Hill) but generally uncommon and patchily distributed. Dense mallee (*Eucalyptus*) and boree (*Melaleuca*) scrubs. Breeding September-November. After the arrival of the fox its numbers greatly declined in the central and eastern sectors of the Roe Plains (McColl 1929).

Phasianidae

Coturnix novaezelandiae pectoralis Gould, 1837

Stubble Quail

Range. Eastern: the Nullarbor Plain and its southern and western fringes and the Roe Plains. Casual further west (including North Twin Peak I.).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor; usually single. Open or sparsely wooded country, including coastal dunes. One breeding report (Haig): winter; C/6.

Coturnix ypsilophora australis (Latham, 1801)

Brown Quail

Range. Vicinity of south coast from Esperance east to Mt Arid, and Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Charley, Woody, Thomas, Sandy Hook, Hood, MacKenzie, Mondrain, Forrest, Ben, Tunney, North Twin Peak and Daw Is).

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties. Mainly heath, also grassland. Eggs found on Figure of Eight, Sandy Hook and Tunney Is.

Turnicidae

Turnix varia varia (Latham, 1801)

Painted Button-quail

Only known from three small parts of south coast: heath and *Banksia speciosa* scrub in Cape LeGrand National Park (Dell 1975), heath and melaleuca 40 km E Esperance (D. Hobcroft), and Cape Arid National Park (B.J. Newbey, D. Watkins).

Turnix velox (Gould, 1841) Little Button-quail

Range. Eastern: the Nullarbor Plain and its western and southern fringes and the Roe Plains. Casual further west (Mt Ragged-Balladonia track, Norseman).

Status etc. Scarce to very common, according to rainfall; in ones, twos or small parties. Grassy flats and lush herbage at edges of dongas. Breeding ordinarily September-October (March-November in western Nullarbor in wet year 1973, *vide* Brooker *et al.*); C/4(2).

Rallidae

Gallirallus philippensis mellori (Mathews, 1912) Banded Land Rail

Apparently resident in thickets of *Albizia* and *Nitraria* on easternmost islands of Archipelago of the Recherche (Anvil, Daw). Possibly resident at Shark Lake. Casual at Eyre.

Porzana pusilla palustris Gould, 1843 Baillon's Crake

Range. Vicinity of coasts east to Twilight Cove. Casual further east (Nine Mile).

Status etc. Scarce to uncommon. Mainly freshwater swamps and lakes.

Porzana fluminea Gould, 1843 Spotted Crake

Range. Vicinity of coasts east to Twilight Cove.

Status etc. Uncommon; usually in ones or twos. Freshwater swamps and lakes and interdunal pools. Breeding near Esperance (A.K. Daw).

Porzana tabuensis (Gmelin, 1789) Spotless Crake

Range. Vicinity of south coast, east to Rossiter Bay; also easternmost islands of Archipelago of the Recherche (Bellinger and Daw).

Status etc. Common on islands, uncommon to moderately common on mainland; usually in twos. Dense shrublands (*Atriplex*, *Nitraria* and *Albizia*) on islands; *Xyris* and *Baumea* swamps, freshwater lakes and interdunal pools on mainland.

Porphyrio porphyrio bellus Gould, 1841 Swampphen

Resident at Shark Lake, breeding in spring (R.P. Jaensch); also two birds seen by Storr (1963: 188) on interdunal pool 5 km N Mt LeGrand in March 1958; and noted by J.R. Ford on 'Cape LeGrand swamps' in January 1963.

Gallinula ventralis Gould, 1837 Black-tailed Native Hen

Range. Greater part of Division.

Status etc. Moderately frequent visitor to the western and southern fringes of the Nullarbor Plain, infrequent visitor elsewhere. Moderately common in some years (1984, 1985), but generally scarce or uncommon; in ones, twos, threes or fours, occasionally small flocks (up to 40). Mainly at or near dams.

Gallinula tenebrosa tenebrosa Gould, 1846 Dusky Moorhen

Vagrant. A.K. Daw saw two at Racecourse Lake in January 1985.

Fulica atra australis Gould, 1845 Coot

Range. Vicinity of south coast, east to Tarblong Lake. Casual elsewhere (Lake Cronin, Gunnadorah Station, Nine Mile).

Status etc. Until recently a scarce visitor (mainly summer-autumn), in ones, twos or small parties; now a moderately common visitor or resident on Esperance lakes (including flocks up to 700). Lakes, river pools and dams.

Otididae

Otis australis J.E. Gray, 1829 Australian Bustard

Range. Eastern: the Nullarbor Plain and its western and southern fringes and the Roe Plains. South-coastal plains from Starvation Boat Harbour east nearly to Israelite Bay. Casual elsewhere (North Ironcap, Lake Cronin, Hatters Hill, near Nindibillup Creek, near 90-mile Tank, Lake Dundas, Gorgalamninya Rock).

Status etc. Common in good years on the Nullarbor Plain, otherwise scarce to moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 100). Grassy flats, chenopod flats, heathlands and man-made pastures; attracted to swarming grasshoppers, locusts, caterpillars and house mice, and burning-off in farmlands. Breeding on Nullarbor Plain and its fringes: April-May and September; C/1(1), 2(3).

Haematopodidae

Haematopus (ostralegus) longirostris Vieillot, 1817 Pied Oystercatcher

Range. Mainland coasts.

Status etc. Common; usually in ones, twos or family parties. Mainly long sandy beaches. Breeding c. September and October; C/2(1), C/3(1), B/1(1), B/2(1).

Haematopus fuliginosus fuliginosus Gould, 1845 Sooty Oystercatcher

Range. Mainland coasts and Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Boxer, Canning, Charley, Lion, Thomas, Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Remark, Frederick, Wilson, Termination, Hood, *MacKenzie, Hastings, Pasco, Ram,

*Mondrain, Station, *Lorraine, Nares, Marts, Ben, Inshore, Tunney, Gould, North Twin Peak, *Cave, Kermadec, Combe, Goose, Douglas, Middle, Owen, Gulch, Wickham, *Salisbury, Bellinger, *Six Mile, Anvil and Daw Is).

Status etc. Very common; usually in ones, twos or small flocks. Rock flats, beaches (especially at banks of cast-up seaweed) and small inlets. Breeding reported on islands asterisked above: October-November; C/1(1), 2(2).

Charadriidae

Vanellus miles novaehollandiae Stephens, 1819 Masked Plover

Vagrant from south-eastern Australia. One seen by R.P. Jaensch near Stokes Inlet on 13 March 1986, and one by S.R. Keeling on seaweedy beach 8 km E of Eyre on 4 April 1986.

Vanellus tricolor (Vieillot, 1818) Banded Plover

Range. Eastern and southern, west and north to the Fraser Range, Clear Streak Well, upper Dalyup River West and Hatters Hill. Casual on Middle I.

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common (most numerous in western and southern fringes of the Nullarbor Plain in good years); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 32). Open or sparsely wooded plains (including farmlands), especially in vicinity of rockholes and other waters. Breeding April-May and July-September; C/4(1). Evidently this bird was originally confined to the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes. By 1926 it was established on the Fraser Range, but it did not begin to colonize the south-coastal plains until the late 1940s.

Pluvialis squatarola (Linnaeus, 1758) Grey Plover

Range. Most mainland coasts (recorded from Esperance east to Eyre). Casual inland (Mullet Lake).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common visitor (July-April); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 8). Mainly sandy and seaweedy beaches.

Pluvialis fulva (Gmelin, 1789) Eastern Golden Plover

Rare visitor (August-May) to mainland coasts (recorded from Esperance east to Eyre) and near-coastal lakes; singly or in small flocks (up to 8).

Charadrius cucullatus Vieillot, 1818 Hooded Plover

Range. Vicinity of mainland coasts (recorded from Lake Shaster east to Eyre); also locally in interior (Lake Dundas etc.). Casual on Six Mile I. and at Balladonia.

Status etc. Common (at least from late summer to early winter); in ones, twos or flocks (up to 400). Mainly margins and shallows of near-coastal lakes; also

sandy and seaweedy beaches, estuaries, interior saltlakes and dams. Three breeding reports (Norseman, Station Lake, saltpan near Lake Gore): c. March, and August; C/3.

Charadrius dubius curonicus Gmelin, 1789 Little Ringed Plover

Rare visitor. One seen by N. Dymond at Cocklebiddy sewage pond on 2 November 1985.

Charadrius (alexandrinus) ruficapillus Temminck, 1822 Red-capped Plover

Range. Vicinity of coasts, including Hillier Lake (a saltlake on Middle I.); also locally in interior (saltpan near Lake Cronin, Lake Dundas). Casual on Nullarbor Plain (dams on Gunnadorah Station and sewage pond at Rawlinna) and on Bellinger and Anvil Is.

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally large aggregations (up to 500). Margins of saltlakes and sandy beaches. Breeding on coasts and around near-coastal saltlakes: August-December, also autumn (Congreve and Congreve 1985); C/1(1), 2(11).

Charadrius bicinctus Jardine and Selby, 1827 Double-banded Plover

Range. Mainland coasts (recorded from Stokes Inlet east to Eyre).

Status etc. Visitor (late January-late August). Common in east, scarce west of Point Malcolm; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 20). Sandy beaches.

[*Charadrius mongolus mongolus* Pallas, 1776 Mongolian Sand Plover

Unconfirmed reports from Eyre (Congreve 1982; P. Congreve 1983, *West. Aust. Bd. Notes* No. 26).]

Charadrius leschenaultii Lesson, 1826 Large Sand Plover

Range. Vicinity of mainland coasts (recorded from Esperance east to Eyre); also Six Mile I.

Status etc. Visitor (September-February). Moderately common on south-east coast, rare west of Point Malcolm; usually single, occasionally in small parties (up to 8). Sandy beaches; also edge of tidal inlets and near-coastal lakes.

Charadrius melanops Vieillot, 1818 Black-fronted Plover

Range. Greater part of region, east to Rawlinna, Cocklebiddy and Eyre.

Status etc. Mainly an uncommon summer-autumn visitor; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 32). Edge of lakes, claypans, river pools, interdunal pools, road-side puddles and sewage ponds. One breeding report (Norseman): winter.

Charadrius veredus Gould, 1848 Oriental Plover

Scarce visitor (September-early May) to south-eastern part of Division, i.e. the Hampton Tableland and Roe Plains west to Twilight Cove; singly or in small flocks (up to 15).

Charadrius cinctus (Gould, 1838) Red-kneed Plover

Rare visitor (recorded in January, April-May and August-November); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Observed on recently-filled donga on Seemore Downs, on beaches and inshore reefs near Eyre, on shallow claypan at Rossiter Bay, and at Coramup Creek and Lake Gore near Esperance.

Peltohyas australis (Gould, 1841) Australian Dotterel

Range. Eastern: Nullarbor Plain and its southern and western fringes and the Roe Plains. Casual further south (Boyatup Hill).

Status etc. Common on Nullarbor proper, moderately common in Nullarbor fringes, scarce on Roe Plains; usually in twos or small flocks (up to 30). Sparsely vegetated flats, including dry claypans; occasionally beaches. Breeding February-March and July-November; C/3(2).

Scolopacidae

Numenius minutus Gould, 1841 Little Whimbrel

One record from Nullarbor Plain: three birds seen by N. Dymond (1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32: 4) in grassland on Arubiddy Station on 13 October 1984.

Numenius phaeopus variegatus (Scopoli, 1786) Whimbrel

Nine records of single birds: Woody Lake in October 1982 (A.K. Daw), Figure of Eight I. in December 1982 (S.G. Lane) and beaches near Eyre in September 1979, December 1981, October-November 1984 and October 1985 (N. Dymond).

Numenius madagascariensis (Linnaeus, 1766) Eastern Curlew

Four records of single birds: Stokes Inlet in February 1983 (A.K. Daw) and near Eyre in October-November 1981 (Congreve 1982) and November-December 1985 (N. Dymond).

Limosa limosa melanuroides Gould, 1846 Black-tailed Godwit

Rare visitor to vicinity of mainland coasts (recorded in March, June, October and November); 1-5 birds noted near Esperance at Lake Gore, Coramup Creek, Mullet Lake and Ewans Lake and on beach at Eyre.

Limosa lapponica baueri Naumann, 1836

Bar-tailed Godwit

Range. Mainland coasts. Casual on Wickham I.

Status etc. Moderately common visitor or passage migrant (late September-late April); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 12). Sandy or seaweedy beaches, estuaries and near-coastal saltlakes.

Tringa stagnatilis (Bechstein, 1803)

Marsh Sandpiper

Rare visitor or passage migrant to vicinity of mainland coasts (recorded in April, October and November); in ones, twos or small flocks (15). Observed at several lakes and swamps near Esperance by A.K. Daw and on beach near Eyre by P. Congreve (1982).

Tringa nebularia (Gunnerus, 1767)

Greenshank

Range. Vicinity of mainland coasts. Casual on Nullarbor Plain (Cocklebidy, Gunnadorah, Balladonia).

Status etc. Visitor (August-April, mostly November-February). Common in Esperance district, uncommon to moderately common elsewhere; in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally large aggregations (up to 160). Estuaries, tidal pools, near-coastal lakes (fresh or salt), river pools and dams.

Tringa glareola Linnaeus, 1758

Wood Sandpiper

Range. South-coastal plain, east to Condingup. Casual further east (Gunnadorah, Cocklebidy).

Status etc. Scarce to uncommon visitor (August-April, exceptionally June); singly or in small flocks (up to 21). Near-coastal freshwater swamps, pools and lakes; also dams and sewage ponds.

Tringa terek (Latham, 1790)

Terek Sandpiper

Rare visitor to south-east coast. Three birds observed at Point Malcolm in February 1982 (*R.A.O.U. Rept* No. 6) and single birds near Eyre twice in November-December 1978 (Martindale 1980), in November 1980 and October 1981 (Congreve and Congreve 1985), and October 1984 and October-November 1985 (N. Dymond).

Tringa hypoleucos Linnaeus, 1758

Common Sandpiper

Range. All coasts, including Mondrain, Lorraine, Nares and Six Mile Is.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common visitor (late July-April); usually single, occasionally in small parties (up to 10). Sheltered rocky coasts, seaweedy beaches, estuaries and near-coastal lakes; also sewage ponds and dams.

Tringa brevipes (Vieillot, 1816) Grey-tailed Tattler

Range. Mainland coasts. Casual on Six Mile I.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (September-April); usually single, occasionally in small parties (up to 7). Seaweedy beaches; also a near-coastal swamp.

Arenaria interpres interpres (Linnaeus, 1758) Ruddy Turnstone

Range. All coasts, including Termination, Combe, Wickham, Bellinger and Six Mile Is. Casual inland (Cocklebidy).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common passage migrant and visitor (mid August-late March); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 41). Sheltered rocky coasts, seaweedy beaches and near-coastal saltlakes.

Gallinago sp.

A snipe, possibly *G. hardwickii* (J.E. Gray, 1831), is a rare visitor to vicinity of south and south-east coasts. J.R. Ford saw one at edge of swamp near the Thomas River on 23 December 1982, D. Hobcroft and A.K. Daw saw one at Shark Lake on 30 December 1985, and N. Dymond saw one at Cocklebidy sewage ponds on 5-7 October 1984.

Calidris canutus canutus (Linnaeus, 1758) Red Knot

Common to moderately common passage migrant and visitor (September-April) to mainland coasts; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 15), occasionally larger aggregations (up to 95). Sandy beaches and interdunal saltlakes.

Calidris tenuirostris (Horsfield, 1821) Great Knot

Scarce visitor (August-March) to mainland coasts; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 15); casual inland (Caiguna). Sandy beaches and near-coastal saltlakes.

Calidris alba (Pallas, 1764) Sanderling

Moderately common passage migrant and visitor (early September-early June) to mainland coasts; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 30). Sandy beaches exposed to ocean swell. Also an observation of 13 at Lake Gore on 9 June 1983 (R. Jaensch 1983, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 27: 9).

Calidris ruficollis (Pallas, 1776) Red-necked Stint

Range. All coasts, including Archipelago of the Recherche (Boxer, Observatory, Mondrain, Cave, Wedge, Middle, Bellinger and Six Mile Is). Casual inland (rock-hole 20 km N Twilight Cove).

Status etc. Very common visitor and passage migrant (all months, mostly late

September-early May); in ones, twos or flocks (up to 500). Beaches, sheltered rock-flats, near-coastal saltlakes and estuaries.

[*Calidris minuta* (Leisler, 1812)

Little Stint

An unconfirmed report of one on beach near Eyre on 18 September 1984 (N. Dymond 1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32).]

Calidris subminuta (Middendorff, 1853)

Long-toed Stint

Rare visitor. Two records of single birds in Esperance district: at swamp south of Lake Gore on 1 November 1984 and at Lake Warden on 2 March 1985 (*West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32 and 34).

Calidris bairdii (Coues, 1861)

Baird's Sandpiper

Vagrant. One seen on beach near Eyre on 7 March 1979 (P.J. Curry 1979, *West. Aust. Nat.* 14: 137).

Calidris melanotos (Vieillot, 1819)

Pectoral Sandpiper

Scarce visitor (October-April) to south-coastal wetlands; usually single, occasionally small flocks (up to 27). Casual further east (Eyre, Reid).

Calidris acuminata (Horsfield, 1821)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Range. Mainland coasts. Casual inland (Gunnadorah, Cocklebidy, Newman Rock, Lake Cronin).

Status etc. Uncommon to common visitor and passage migrant (August-May, mainly September-November); in ones, twos or flocks (up to 300). Seaweedy beaches and near-coastal swamps and lakes (fresh and salt); also dams and inland saltlakes.

Calidris alpina sakhalina (Vieillot, 1816)

Dunlin

Vagrant. One observed by A.K. Daw at Stokes Inlet on 23 April 1985; his unpublished description fits this subspecies (R.E. Johnstone).

Calidris ferruginea (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Curlew Sandpiper

Uncommon to moderately common visitor (August-June); usually in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally large aggregations (up to 600). Beaches and near-coastal saltlakes.

Limicola falcinellus sibiricus Dresser, 1876

Broad-billed Sandpiper

Rare visitor. Two records of single birds in Esperance district: at Lake Warden on

9 November 1982 (R.P. Jaensch and A.K. Daw) and at Coramup Creek in January 1983 (A.K. Daw).

Tryngites subruficollis (Vieillot, 1819) Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Rare visitor. One on beach near Eyre in November-December 1982 (P. Congreve 1983, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 25: 5).

Recurvirostridae

Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus Gould, 1837 Black-winged Stilt

Range. Mainland coasts, east to Eyre. Far west of Nullarbor Plain. (Seemore Downs and Gunnadorah Stations). Casual in western interior (Lake Cronin).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 50). Freshwater swamps, pools and claypans; also dams, estuaries, near-coastal saltlakes, and beaches. One breeding report (sapphire swamp near Lake Gore): c. October.

Cladorhynchus leucocephala (Vieillot, 1816) Banded Stilt

Range. Vicinity of south coast from Stokes Inlet to a little east of Esperance, and inland at Lake Dundas. Casual further east (Israelite Bay, Eyre, Gunnadorah).

Status etc. Visitor (most months, mainly November-July); usually in small flocks, sometimes huge flocks, e.g. 10 000 on Lake Warden in September 1982 and May 1985 and on Lake Gore in January and July 1983 (R.P. Jaensch). Salt-lakes; occasionally beaches and sheltered seas.

Recurvirostra novaehollandiae Vieillot, 1816 Red-necked Avocet

Range. Greater part of Division, east to Gunnadorah and Eyre.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common (most plentiful on or near south coast); in ones, twos or flocks (up to 555). Lakes (fresh or salt) and estuaries; also beaches and dams.

Phalaropodidae

Phalaropus lobatus (Linnaeus, 1758) Red-necked Phalarope

Vagrant. One on beach near Eyre on 23 and 30 November 1981 (Congreve 1982).

Burhinidae

[*Burhinus grallarius* (Latham, 1801) Bush Stone-curlew

Possibly occurring in far north-west of Division. Resident near Gibb Rock (Sedgwick 1974: 10).]

Glareolidae

Stiltia isabella (Vieillot, 1816)

Australian Pratincole

Rare visitor to Nullarbor Plain. Three at 85 km NNE Rawlinna in September 1971 (Brooker *et al.* 1979: 181).

Laridae

Stercorarius skua lonnbergi (Mathews, 1912)

Great Skua

Visitor (March-December) to seas off south and south-east coasts, moderately common in winter; usually single.

Stercorarius parasiticus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Arctic Skua

One seen off Daw I. in July 1947 (Serventy and Whittell 1976: 230).

Larus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae Stephens, 1826

Silver Gull

Range. South and lower south-east coasts, from Stokes Inlet east to Point Lorenzen; also Archipelago of the Recherche (recorded as far offshore as Termination I. but not on Salisbury I.). Casual further east (Eyre, Gunnadorah).

Status etc. At present common; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 80), occasionally larger aggregations at Esperance lakes, e.g. 346 at Lake Warden in January and 320 at Lake Windabout in November (R.P. Jaensch). Coasts and near-coastal lakes; attracted to fisheries; birds visiting dams on Gunnadorah Station probably originate in south-eastern Australia. Breeding on Canning, Charley, Frederick, MacKenzie, Sandy Hook, Lorraine, Goose, Middle, Bellinger and Six Mile Is: late July-mid November; C/1(1), 2(5), 3(1). This species was originally scarce, e.g. Hull (1922) only noted a pair on Mondrain I. during his 18-day visit to the region in 1921. By 1950 it was moderately common at Esperance (Sedgwick and Sedgwick 1950) but still uncommon on the islands (V.N. Serventy 1952).

Taxonomy. See R.E. Johnstone (1982, *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* 10: 142-4) for description of the isolated and distinctive population breeding on the Recherche.

Larus pacificus georgii King, 1826

Pacific Gull

Range. Mainland coasts and Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 20). Breeding on Figure of Eight, Cull, Thomas, Woody, Remark, Frederick, MacKenzie, Ram, Mondrain, Lorraine, Nares, Cave, Combe, Goose, Middle, Salisbury and Daw Is and on mainland at Twilight Cove: September-December; C/1(3), 2(15).

Larus dominicanus Lichtenstein, 1823

Kelp Gull

Rare visitor. Single birds seen at Esperance on 16 April 1964 (L. McHugh 1965, *West. Aust. Nat.* 9: 170), 26 January 1966 (J.R. Ford) and 25 March 1985 (*West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 34: 7).

Sterna nilotica macrotarsa Gould, 1837

Gull-billed Tern

Rare visitor. One to five birds at Esperance lakes (Windabout, Warden, Mullet, Ewans) in January, February and September (R.P. Jaensch), 11 on beach at Eyre on 6 September 1981 (Congreve 1982) and another on 13 September 1982 (P. Congreve per N. Dymond).

Sterna caspia Pallas, 1770

Caspian Tern

Range. All coasts, including Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually in ones or twos, occasionally small flocks (up to 9). Sometimes sheltering at near-coastal lakes during storms. Breeding on Canning, Charley, MacKenzie, Ram, Lorraine, islet 1 km NW North Twin Peak, Goose, Douglas, Middle, Bellinger and Six Mile Is and at Israelite Bay: late September-early December; C/1(4), 2(9).

Sterna bergii Lichtenstein, 1823

Crested Tern

Range. All coasts, including less remote islands of Archipelago of the Recherche (offshore as far as Figure of Eight, Hood, Mondrain, Finger, Kermadec, Middle, Daw and Anvil).

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or flocks (up to 200 when resting). Breeding on Rocky, Six Mile and possibly Daw Is (largest colony: c. 1000 pairs on Six Mile I.): December-January; C/1(20). Birds banded as nestlings off southern Eyre Peninsula and southern Yorke Peninsula, SA, have been recovered the following spring near Eucla (700 and 900 km WNW).

Sterna paradisaea Pontoppidan, 1763

Arctic Tern

Scarce passage migrant (late September-late November); in ones or twos. Observed off Esperance and Eyre.

[*Sterna striata* Gmelin, 1789

White-fronted Tern

Possibly visiting Great Australian Bight. On 8 August 1985 A.T. Ross (1985, *R.A.O.U. Newsl.* No. 65: 3) noted these terns in the South Australian sector of the Bight, presumably in c. 35°S, 134°E. Perhaps the single 'immature Common Terns' seen by N. Dymond (1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32 and *in litt.*) at Eyre on 1 July and 23 September 1984 belonged to this species.]

Sterna hybrida javanica Horsfield, 1821

Whiskered Tern

Moderately frequent visitor to saltlakes around Esperance, usually in small flocks (up to 100). Infrequent visitor to Nullarbor Plain, but sometimes in large flocks, e.g. many hundreds over Forrest, 12-26 October 1948 (L. Glauert 1948, *West. Aust. Nat.* 1: 152). Casual at Eyre and Cocklebidy.

[*Sterna leucoptera* Temminck, 1815

White-winged Black Tern

Possibly a rare visitor (late October-mid November and early April); in ones or twos. Unconfirmed reports from Woody and Mullet Lakes near Esperance (*West. Aust. Bd Notes* Nos 34 and 36) and from Eyre (P. Congreve 1982).]

Sterna nereis nereis (Gould, 1843)

Fairy Tern

Range. South and lower south-east coasts, including nearby islands, east to 13 km NE Israelite Bay. Casual further east (Eyre).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor (late October-March); in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 30). Breeding on Six Mile I. and on mainland at Stokes Inlet, on islet in Lake Kubitch, ? near Observatory Point and ? near Israelite Bay; November-January (? early February). The single birds reported at Eyre in June 1980 and 1981 (Congreve 1982) may have been Little Terns *S. (albifrons) sinensis* on northward passage.

Columbidae

Streptopelia senegalensis senegalensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Laughing Dove

Occasional visitor to Esperance and vicinity. E.H. Sedgwick (1958, *West. Aust. Nat.* 6: 117) saw some in June 1955 and A.K. Daw a small party c. 1977.

[*Geopelia striata placida* Gould, 1844

Peaceful Dove

The birds occasionally reported in ones or twos at Eyre and Twilight Cove since April 1979 are probably escapees from the former aviary at Cocklebidy or their descendants. At any rate R.E. Johnstone finds photographs of a captured bird more like specimens from the east coast of Australia than those from the geographically nearest populations (Coopers Creek, SA, and Murchison River, WA), which vitiates N. Dymond's belief (1985, *West Aust. Bd Notes* No. 35) that the species reached Eyre unaided.]

[*Geopelia cuneata* (Latham, 1801)

Diamond Dove

An unconfirmed report (Reilly *et al.* 1975) of four near Twilight Cove in April 1973.]

Phaps chalcoptera (Latham, 1790)

Common Bronzewing

Range. Western, east to Afghan Rock, 12 km S Balladonia, 20 km NW Carlisle Tank and Toolinna Rockhole. Casual on Nullarbor Plain (single birds at Rawlinna and Loongana) and at Eyre.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually single, occasionally in twos or small parties, larger numbers at water in summer. Wooded country in vicinity of water (rockholes, dams and Lake Cronin), especially mallee scrubs but including uncleared road verges in farmlands.

Phaps elegans (Temminck, 1810)

Brush Bronzewing

Range. Vicinity of south and south-east coasts, east to a little beyond Eyre and inland to the sources of the Oldfield River, Mt Heywood, Gora Hill and Sheoaks Hill. Also Archipelago of the Recherche (Observatory, Cull, Woody, Sandy Hook, Remark, Wilson, New, MacKenzie, Mondrain, Inshore and Middle Is).

Status etc. Locally common but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually in ones or twos. Scrubs and heaths in vicinity of potable water (soaks, rockholes). One breeding record (Middle I.): March; C/2.

Ocyphaps lophotes (Temminck, 1822)

Crested Pigeon

Range. Southern, east to Israelite Bay and north to west end of Frank Hann National Park, Pyramid Lake, Scaddan and 25 km NE Condingup. Casual further north (19 km E Circle Valley, 25 km S Rawlinna, Eyre).

Status etc. At present common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 16). Farmlands; also *Acacia-Myoporum* scrubs at Israelite Bay.

This species has quickly colonized the recently established wheatlands of the 'Esperance Plain', presumably from the Ravensthorpe district (itself only colonized in 1970s). It was well established along the Ravensthorpe-Esperance road and up to 11 km east of Esperance when first noticed in 1979. By 1984 it had colonized farmlands along the Fisheries and Merivale Roads up to the western boundary of the Cape Arid National Park. It reached Israelite Bay in 1982 (L. Spurr).

Psittacidae

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Dietrichsen, 1837)

Purple-crowned Lorikeet

Range. Greater part of Division but not the Nullarbor Plain or its fringes north of Newman Rock, Balladonia Hotel, 26 km SE Woolba, Cocklebiddy and 27 km WSW and 30 km S Madura.

Status etc. Nomadic. Common to very common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 40). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to flowering *E. sal-*

monophloia, *salubris*, *flocktoniae*, *annulata*, *cornuta*, *transcontinentalis*, *pileata*, *eremophila*, *celastroides* and other eucalypts. Breeding reports from Norseman and Newman Rock: September-October.

Polytelis anthoepus westralis Mathews, 1915

Regent Parrot

Range. Western interior, south to the head of Coujinup Creek (33°20'S), the lower Young River (33°45'S), Esperance (rarely) and 11 km SE Mt Beaumont, and east to Buldania Rocks, Pine Hill and Israelite Bay. Casual on Nullarbor Plain (Gunnadorah).

Status etc. Nomadic (e.g. a bird banded at Dumbleyung was recovered two years later at Grass Patch, 370 km E). Moderately common in north-west (north of 33°S and west of 122°15'E), scarce further south and east; usually in pairs of small flocks (up to 32), occasionally large flocks (c. 200). Eucalypt woodlands, including road-verges in farming country; attracted to spilt wheat.

Platycercus zonarius zonarius (Shaw, 1805)

Ring-necked Parrot

Range. Mainly the semi-arid zone, north to Kilidwerinia Granite Rock, Caiguna, 40 km E Cocklebidy, Madura Pass, Mundrabilla HS and 3 km N Eucla Pass, and south to the sources of the Oldfield River, Grass Patch, Sheoak Hill, Junana Rock and Point Malcolm. Casual further north (Yellowtail Bore, 38 km ESE Rawlinna) and further south (Oldfield River in 33°42'S, 10 km ESE Dalyup).

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or family parties, occasionally small flocks (up to 30) at water. Eucalypt woodlands, including tall open mallee; attracted to flowering *Banksia speciosa* and mallees and fruiting *Exocarpos aphyllus*.

Platycercus spurius (Kuhl, 1820)

Red-capped Parrot

Range. Vicinity of Esperance, west to the lower Dalyup River. Unconfirmed report from Hatters Hill (Carnaby 1938).

Status etc. Formerly moderately common, but rare and patchily distributed by 1950. Perhaps numbers increasing recently (A. Daw 1983, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 25: 8-9). Flat-topped yates and paperbarks around lakes and swamps and along streams; also banksia. One breeding report: October-November.

Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys Salvadori, 1891

Western Rosella

Range. Semi-arid western interior, east to Ten Mile Rocks and Lake Dundas, and south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Peak Charles and Red Lake.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 8). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to seeding *Olearia revoluta*. One breeding report (Norseman).

Platycercus haematogaster narethae (H.L. White, 1921) Blue-bonnet

Range. Wooded fringes of Nullarbor Plain: in northern and western fringes south to 84 km NE Forrest, Clarries Donga, 19 km N Haig and 30 km S Rawlinna; and on Hampton Tableland from 13 km NNE Cocklebiddy east to 25 km N Mundrabilla HS and south to escarpment in vicinity of Madura and Mundrabilla HS, casual further west (near Caiguna, Newman Rock) and east (22 km ENE Eucla).

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually in pairs of family parties. Open to moderately dense myall *Acacia papyrocarpa*. Breeding late July-early September; C/4(1); in north and west nesting mainly in belars and occasionally in myalls, mulgas and sugarwoods, in south mainly in large mallees *Eucalyptus oleosa*. For notes on ecology see Brooker *et al.* (1979: 181).

Platycercus varius (Clark, 1910) Mulga Parrot

Range. North-western fringe of Nullarbor Plain, south to [165 km N Loongana], 32 km N Haig, Seemore Downs and [Naretha]. Hampton Tableland from Caiguna east to 9 km ENE Eucla, and Roe Plains west to longitude of Mundrabilla HS. Semi-arid western interior, west to vicinity of Lake Cronin, south to Maggie Hays Hill, Kumarl and Sheoak Hill, and east to Newman Rock, Boingarling Rocks, Coragina Rock and Pine Hill.

Status etc. Scarce and patchily distributed to moderately common; usually in pairs, occasionally single or in family parties. Eucalypt, myall, casuarina and melaleuca scrubs and woodlands. Breeding c. July-September.

Neophema elegans (Gould, 1837) Elegant Parrot

Range. Western, north to Emu Rock and Bromus Dam and east to Junana Rock.

Status etc. At present scarce to uncommon in north-western farmlands (Emu Rock, 19 km W Forrestania Cross-roads) and southern farmlands (east to the Thomas River), rare elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Mainly farmlands; also eucalypt woodlands, especially in vicinity of potable water. Like several others, this species has followed the clearing of lands for agriculture; it was first recorded in the Division in 1959.

Neophema petrophila (Gould, 1841) Rock Parrot

Range. Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Boxer, Observatory, Canning, Charley, Thomas, Woody, Sandy Hook, Remark, Frederick, Wilson, Hood, MacKenzie, Pasco, Mondrain, Lorraine, Nares, Forrest, Ben, Tunney, North and South Twin Peak, Kermadec, Combe, Goose, Middle, Owen, Gulch, Wickham, Bellinger, Six Mile, Anvil, New Year and Daw Is). South and lower south-east coasts from Quagi Beach east to Israelite Bay; casual further east (40 km WSW Caiguna, Twilight Cove, near Eyre, 30 km WSW Madura).

Status etc. Common; usually in pairs or small flocks (up to 20). Low coastal vegetation; attracted to fruiting *Nitraria billardierei*, *Rhagodia baccata* and *Lycium ferocissimum*, seeding *Arctotheca populifolia* and flowering *Adenanthos cuneatus*. One breeding report (Bellinger I.): October; C/3.

Neophema splendida (Gould, 1841) Scarlet-breasted Parrot

Range. North-western and south-western wooded fringes of Nullarbor Plain and eastern sector of semi-arid interior, east to Premier Downs, [Naretha] and Burnabbie, and west to Newman Rock, Coragina Rock and Junana Rock.

Status etc. Scarce irregular visitor; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 6). Open to moderately dense eucalypt, myall and casuarina scrubs.

Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris North, 1911 Ground Parrot

Range. Small sector of south-coastal sandplains, from Alexander Bay east to Mt Arid.

Status etc. Rare. Heathlands, including low *Banksia speciosa* and mallee. See D. Watkins (1985, *R.A.O.U. Rept* No. 15).

Melopsittacus undulatus (Shaw, 1805) Budgerigar

Range. Western fringe of Nullarbor Plain, east to Haig and Burnabbie and west to Point Culver. Casual further west (Junana Rock, Sheoak Hill).

Status etc. Irregular visitor. Common in wet years (1968, 1973-74, 1982, 1984, 1986) but generally uncommon; usually in flocks (up to 300). Open or lightly wooded grasslands; attracted to potable water, e.g. up to 1200 drinking at Cocklebiddy sewage pond. Breeding reported at Seemore Downs (1973) and on Hampton Tableland N of Eyre (1982, 1984): c. September.

Nymphicus hollandicus (Kerr, 1792) Cockatiel

Range. Western fringe of Nullarbor Plain, east to Premier Downs and Eyre and west to tank 50 km NW Toolinna Cove.

Status etc. Irregular visitor. Moderately common in some years (1973, late 1984-early 1985) but generally rare; usually in small flocks, occasionally large flocks (up to 120) at water. Lightly wooded country.

Calyptorhynchus latirostris Carnaby, 1948 Carnaby's Cockatoo

Range. Far west, east to Lake Cronin, Hatters Hill, the head of the Oldfield River (33°15'S, 120°25'E) and head of Bandalup Creek (33°31'S, 120°26'E); and vicinity of south coast east to 20 km ESE Condingup.

Status etc. Common; usually in flocks (up to 300). Heathlands and mallee scrubs,

including road verges in farming country; attracted to seeding *Hakea crassifolia*, *Banksia*, *Melaleuca* and *Pinus* and flowering *Grevillea*. Roosting reported in flat-topped yates *Eucalyptus occidentalis*.

Cacatua roseicapilla Vieillot, 1817

Galah

Range. Western fringe of Nullarbor Plain (Seemore Downs and Gunnadorah Stations). Hampton Tableland and Roe Plains from 16 km ENE Caiguna east to 20 km E Kuthala Pass. Fraser Range and Southern Hill Stations. Far western farmlands (Emu Rock and NW of Hatters Hill).

Status etc. Common resident on Fraser Range and Southern Hills Stations, scarce visitor elsewhere; in pairs or small flocks (up to 30); also one at Eyre mated to a *C. leadbeateri* (Congreve and Congreve 1985). Lightly wooded grasslands in vicinity of potable water.

Cacatua leadbeateri (Vigors, 1831)

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

Range. Hampton Tableland, Roe Plains and adjacent coasts from 16 km W Cockle-biddy east nearly to Eucla.

Status etc. Common; in pairs or small flocks, occasionally large flocks (up to 300). Open or lightly wooded country (including beaches and coastal dunes) in vicinity of potable water; attracted to seeding *Spinifex hirsutus*, *Arctotheca populifolia* and *Acacia cyclops* and fruiting *Nitraria billardierei*.

Cuculidae

Cuculus pallidus (Latham, 1801)

Pallid Cuckoo

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor proper (east of Haig or south of 84 km NE Forrest and 82 km N Loongana) and infrequent south of 32° 30'S (10 km W Young River, Peak Charles, Mt Ridley, Esperance, Sandy Hook I.).

Status etc. Visitor (late April-mid February, mostly May and August-October). Moderately common in lightly wooded western and southern fringes of Nullarbor Plain in good years (1968, 1973-74), otherwise scarce; usually single, occasionally in twos.

Cacomantis flabelliformis flabelliformis (Latham, 1801)

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Range. Western, east to Heartbreak Ridge, Junana Rock and Israelite Bay, including Mondrain and Middle Is in Archipelago of the Recherche. Also narrow coastal strip from Point Culver east to Eyre.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Well-wooded country. Two breeding reports: *c.* September; parasitizing *Acanthiza pusilla apicalis* and *Sericornis frontalis maculatus*.

Chrysococcyx osculans (Gould, 1847) Black-eared Cuckoo

Range. Northern, south to Lake Cronin, Wellstead Rock, Moir Rock and Pine Hill, but no records from Nullarbor Plain east of Haig.

Status etc. Visitor (March-December, mostly July-October). Scarce to uncommon (in driest parts of range usually present only in good years, e.g. 1973-74); usually single. Various scrubs and shrublands.

Chrysococcyx basalis (Horsfield, 1821) Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo

Range. Greater part of Division, but no records from Nullarbor proper (east of Haig and south of 84 km NE Forrest) and only two from south of 33°45'S (Esperance, Yokinup Bay).

Status etc. Visitor (March-January, mostly May-October). Uncommon to common (most numerous on Nullarbor Plain in good years, e.g. 1921; least in western quarter); usually single. Various scrubs and shrublands. Breeding late July-early September; parasitizing *Aphelocephala l. leucopsis*, *Acanthiza pusilla apicalis*, *A. uropygialis*, *Malurus leucopterus leuconotus*, *Epthianura aurifrons* and *E. tricolor*.

Chrysococcyx lucidus plagosus (Latham, 1801) Shining Bronze Cuckoo

Range. Southern, north to Lake Cronin, Lake Medcalf, Moir Rock, Sheoak Hill, Junana Rock, 53 km NNE Israelite Bay, Point Culver and Burnabbie.

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common (least plentiful and possibly only a non-breeding visitor in driest parts of range); usually single. Teatree, mallee and other scrubs and thickets.

Strigidae

Tyto alba delicatula (Gould, 1837) Barn Owl

Range. Eastern: Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded fringes west to Premier Downs, Rawlinna and Cocklebiddy. Casual further west (Lort River, Esperance, Mt Merivale, Lion I., Woody I., Sandy Hook I., Middle I., Daw I.).

Status etc. Present status on Nullarbor Plain unknown, but up to at least 1932 evidently common and resident, roosting and nesting in holes and caves in limestone. Elsewhere a rare visitor (February-May and August-October). Breeding reports from 20 km E Haig and 3 km ESE Loongana: c. September; C/3(1).

Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae (Stephens, 1826) Masked Owl

One authentic record: a skeleton from Cocklebiddy in West. Aust. Mus. (G.F. Mees 1964, *Zool. Verh.* No. 65: 43).

Ninox novaeseelandiae boobook (Latham, 1801)

Boobook Owl

Range. Semi-arid zone, north to Newman Rock, Balladonia Hotel, Burnabbie and 3 km N Eucla, and south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Dog Rock, Sheoak Hill, Junana Rock and 100 km NNE Israelite Bay. Casual on Nullarbor Plain (64 km N Haig).

Status uncertain (no breeding reports, but recorded in all months except February). Moderately common; in ones or twos. Well-wooded country.

Podargidae

Podargus strigoides brachypterus Gould, 1841

Tawny Frogmouth

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain east of Gunnadorah Station.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; in ones, twos or family parties. Most wooded habitats. Breeding late July-October, rarely December; C/1(1), 2(5).

Aegothelidae

Aegotheles cristatus cristatus (J. White, 1790)

Australian Owlet-nightjar

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain (east of Premier Downs and Seemore Downs) or far south (south of Peter Soak, Double Tank, 29 km NW Clyde Hill, Junana Rock and Toolinna Cove).

Status etc. Common; single. Most wooded habitats.

Caprimulgidae

Eurostopodus argus (Hartert, 1892)

Spotted Nightjar

Range. Southern, north to Maggie Hays Hill, Boingaring Rocks and Burnabbie.

Status uncertain (no breeding reports, and noted only in March-May and August-early November). Scarce; in ones, twos or threes. Heathlands and vicinity of granites.

Apodidae

Hirundapus caudacutus caudacutus (Latham, 1801)

Spine-tailed Swift

Two records from eastern sector: six over Nullarbor Plain 60 km NNE Rawlinna on 4 May 1969 (Brooker *et al.* 1979: 182); and one with Fork-tailed Swifts over Roe Plains 8 km N Red Rocks Point on 18 January 1985 (D. Hobcroft).

Apus pacificus pacificus (Latham, 1801)

Fork-tailed Swift

Range. Mainly vicinity of south-east coast, west to Toolinna Cove. Also Nullarbor Plain (51 km N Haig) and south coast (Rossiter Bay).

Status etc. Visitor (recorded from early November to mid-April, but only in recent summers, viz. 1971-72, 1972-73, 1978-79, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86); usually in small flocks (up to 50), occasionally large flocks (up to 2000).

Alcedinidae

Halcyon pyrrhopygia Gould, 1841

Red-backed Kingfisher

Range. North-eastern, west to just beyond Lake Cowan and south to Norseman, Jyndabinbin Rocks, Balladonia Hotel, Cocklebiddy Rockhole, Madura, Mundrabilla HS and Chowilla Doline (35 km WNW Eucla), but no reports from Nullarbor proper east of Gunnadorah.

Status etc. Uncommon visitor (arriving in September); in ones or twos. Lightly wooded country. Two breeding reports from Norseman district: November; C/5(1).

Halcyon sancta sancta Vigors and Horsfield, 1827

Sacred Kingfisher

Range. South-western, north and east to Pioneer, Gnama Hill, 28 km W Boingaring Rocks, Breeboorinia Rock, Pine Hill and Israelite Bay, and including Middle I. (Archipelago of the Recherche). Casual further east (80 km NNE Rawlinna, Twilight Cove, Eyre).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor (September-April); in ones or twos. Eucalypt woodlands. One breeding report (Moir Rock): October.

Meropidae

Merops ornatus Latham, 1801

Rainbow Bee-eater

Range. Western interior, east to 10 km ESE Newman Rock, Breeboorinia Rock and Pine Hill, and south to the middle Oldfield River, Condingup and Boyatup Hill. Occasionally breeding further east (Bilbunya Dunes, Twilight Cove, escarpment N of Eyre). Pre-migratory flocks noted further south (lower Young River, lower Lort River, Esperance, Mt Merivale) and east (Eyre, Burnabbie, Eucla).

Status etc. Common visitor (30 September-8 March, exceptionally as late as 28 April); in ones, twos or small parties during southward migration in October; usually in ones or twos when nesting; beginning to assemble into small flocks (up to 19) in late December. Lightly wooded country. Breeding November-early December; C/4(1), 5(2).

Hirundinidae

Cheramoeca leucosterna (Gould, 1841)

White-backed Swallow

Range. Patchily distributed in north (21 km W Forrestania Cross-roads, Norseman, 30 km W Fraser Range, Newman Rock, 42 km WSW Caiguna, Cocklebidy and 22 km W and Eyre) and near south coast (east to Esperance and inland to Clare Downs).

Status etc. Scarce to uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties. Lightly wooded country, including farmlands and mining areas. Breeding late September-late October. The south-coastal plains have only been colonized since 1980.

Hirundo neoxena Gould, 1842

Welcome Swallow

Range. All coasts, including Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Boxer, Canning, Observatory, Charley, Cull, Lion, Thomas, Gunton, Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Remark, Frederick, Wilson, Termination, Hood, MacKenzie, Pasco, Ram, Mondrain, Lorraine, Nares, Marts, Forrest, Inshore and islet 2 km W, Tunney, North and South Twin Peak, Cave, Kermadec, Combe, Goose, Douglas, Middle, Gulch, Wickham, Salisbury, Bellinger, Six Mile, Anvil and Daw Is), and their vicinity inland to Cascades, upper Dalyup River, Grass Patch, Mt Ridley, 10 km NW Sheoaks Hill, Mt Ragged, north-east end of Wylie Scarp, 65 km E Balladonia HS, Caiguna, Cocklebidy and the Hampton Tableland. Also interior at Salmon Gums and Balladonia Hotel, on certain sheep stations (Southern Hills, Fraser Range, Balladonia and Seemore Downs), at settlements on the Nullarbor Plain (Rawlinna, Haig and Forrest) and about caves on southern Nullarbor (52 km NNW Eucla Pass). In autumn-winter (March-September) more widespread on Nullarbor Plain, north at least to 100 km NNE Rawlinna and 100 km N Forrest; these and the large flocks (up to 200) seen at Twilight Cove in winter could be visitors from South Australia.

Status etc. Common on coasts and up to 10 km inland and (in autumn-winter) about the Trans Australian Railway, generally uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 20). Open country, especially about granite hills and headlands, limestone cliffs and caves, dams, tanks, towns, bridges, farmhouses, homesteads and railway stations (including abandoned settlements). Breeding August-early December; C/2(2), 3(5), 4(2).

Hirundo nigricans nigricans Vieillot, 1817

Tree Martin

Range. Western interior, south to Pyramid Lake, Grass Patch and Pine Hill, and east to Newman Rock and Coragina Rock. During migration further east (Premier Downs and south-east coastal areas from Toolinna Cove to Eyre) and in vicinity of south coast (east to eastern boundary of Cape Arid National Park and on Woody and North Twin Peak Is).

Status etc. Moderately common breeding visitor and passage migrant (mid February -late May and early July-early November); in ones, twos or small parties when nesting, beginning to assemble into pre-migratory flocks (up to 150) in early December, usually in small parties or flocks during migration. Tall eucalypt woodlands; also low woodlands, scrubs, heathlands and wooded road verges during migration. One breeding report (13 km E Grass Patch): c. October.

Hirundo ariel (Gould, 1842)

Fairy Martin

Range. North-central, west to McDermid Rock, south to Mt Ridley and Breeboornia Rock and east to Rawlinna Station and Madura.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (July-December); usually in small parties (up to 12). Open country in vicinity of nest sites (granite hills, limestone caves, and shed near mill). Breeding reports from 25 km S Rawlinna, Madura Cave and Mt Ridley: September-early November.

Motacillidae

Anthus novaeseelandiae australis Vieillot, 1818

Richard's Pipit

Range. Throughout the Division, including islands in the Archipelago of the Recherche (Rabbit, Cull, Thomas, Woody, Frederick, Long, Sandy Hook, Wilson, North Twin Peak, Anvil, New Year and Daw).

Status etc. Very common on the Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded fringes, common in farmlands, moderately common in coastal areas and partly cleared pastoral areas (Fraser Range), scarce or uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or occasionally small parties. Sparsely wooded country, including farmlands, burnt heathlands and scrubs, edge of saltlakes, coastal dunes and beaches, and roads. Breeding August-October, also April-July on Nullarbor Plain; C/2(1), 3(3), 4(1).

Motacilla flava Linnaeus, 1758

Yellow Wagtail

Vagrant. On 8 August 1984, N. Dymond (1984, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 32) saw a male on seaweed banks on beach near Eyre; it remained for eight days and was identified as *M. f. macronyx* (Stresemann, 1920).

Campephagidae

Coracina maxima (Rueppel, 1839)

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

Range. North-eastern, west to Norseman and south to 8 km S Balladonia Hotel, 18 km SSE Woorlba and Toolinna Cove, but no reports from Nullarbor proper (east of Haig and south of 84 km NE Forrest). Casual further south (Israelite Bay).

Status etc. Nomadic. Moderately common in lightly wooded western and southern fringes of Nullarbor Plain, scarce and patchily distributed west of 123°45'E; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 7). Open flats in lightly wooded country. Breeding July-September; C/3(3).

Coracina novaehollandiae (Gmelin, 1789) Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Range. Greater part of Division, including Figure of Eight, Woody and Mondrain Is in Archipelago of the Recherche, but no reports from Nullarbor proper east of Loongana.

Status etc. Common breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant (late February-early November); usually in ones or twos, also loose flocks (up to 170) in passage. Ordinarily well-wooded country, especially eucalypt woodlands and scrubs, but undeterred by extensive treeless tracts during migration; attracted to fruiting *Nitraria billardierei*. Breeding (including reports from Seemore Downs and southern fringe of Nullarbor Plain) August-November and ? January; C/3(1).

Lalage sueurii tricolor (Swainson, 1825) White-winged Triller

Range. Mainly north-eastern, i.e. western and southern fringes of Nullarbor Plain east to Haig, and Roe Plains south of Mundrabilla HS. Casual further west: Norseman in 1904, Gnama Hill and Mt Heywood in 1980, Gibb Rock and Emu Rock in 1981, and Grass Patch and Lort River in 1984.

Status etc. Visitor (mainly late August-January, rarely arriving in March-May). Common in wet years (1973, 1982) but generally uncommon; in ones, twos or small parties. Lightly wooded country, including farmlands.

Pachycephalidae

Microeca leucophaea assimilis Gould, 1841 Jacky Winter

Range. Semi-arid zone, north to Newman Rock, Balladonia, Caiguna, c. 20 km N Eyre, Madura and Eucla Pass, and south to Coujinup Hill, Pyramid Lake, Mt Ridley, Clyde Hill and Junana Rock. Also far west of western fringe of Nullarbor Plain (westernmost part of Seemore Downs Station).

Status etc. Moderately common to common west of 122°30'E, uncommon further east; in ones or twos, occasionally small parties (up to 6). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. Breeding September-early November; C/2(4).

Petroica goodenovii (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827) Red-capped Robin

Range. Northern and western fringes of Nullarbor Plain, south to Rawlinna, Haig, 76 km N Loongana and 84 km NE Forrest. Hampton Tableland and Roe Plains, west to Twilight Cove and north to Cocklebidy, 29 km N Madura and 2 km

N Eucla Pass. Semi-arid western interior, south to Peter Soak, Pyramid Lake, Circle Valley and Sheoak Hill, and east to Newman Rock and Mt Andrew.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common resident and winter visitor; in ones or twos, rarely small parties. Mostly thickets and scrubs of *Acacia*, *Melaleuca* and *Eucalyptus*. Breeding mainly August-October, also January; C/2(4).

Petroica multicolor campbelli Sharpe, 1898

Scarlet Robin

Range. Subhumid zone, i.e. vicinity of south coast east to the Thomas River.

Status etc. Rare and patchily distributed; in ones or twos. Waterside forests (*Eucalyptus occidentalis*, *Melaleuca cuticularis*). One breeding report (Thomas River): November.

Petroica cucullata (Latham, 1801)

Hooded Robin

Range. North-eastern, west to [22 km ENE McDermid Rock] and south to Norseman, Newman Rock, 60 km WSW Caiguna, the Hampton Tableland N of Eyre, Madura, 6 km S Moodini Pass and 25 km N Mundrabilla HS. Semi-arid south-eastern interior (8 km S Ponier Rock). Semi-arid south-western interior from saltlake N of Lake Cronin south to upper Coujinup Creek, and east to Lake Hope, 90-mile Tank and the upper Young River. Subhumid south-coastal sandplains from Esperance (Lake Warden) east to Boyatup Hill, and inland nearly to Gibson.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common in lightly wooded western and southern fringes of Nullarbor Plain, scarce and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones or twos. Myall over bluebush, low mallee, and heathlands with low emergents. Breeding c. August-October.

Eopsaltria australis griseogularis Gould, 1838

Yellow Robin

Range. Vicinity of south-east coast, west to north end of Bilbunya Dunes and inland to the Hampton Tableland north of Eyre, 27 km E Madura and 5 km N Eucla Pass. Western interior, east to [15 km N Ten Mile Rocks], 28 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, 22 km E Boingaring Rocks, Ponier Rock and Juranda Rock-hole, and south to the middle Oldfield River (33°35'S), Pyramid Lake, Dingo Rock and Mt Ragged. South coast at the Thomas River.

Status etc. Moderately common in western interior but scarce and patchily distributed elsewhere; usually in ones or twos. Mainly thickets of boree *Melaleuca lanceolata*, either in pure stands (as around saltlakes) or as understory of eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; also mallee and acacia thickets. Breeding late September-late October (? mid-November); C/2(2).

Taxonomy. For treating the western and eastern forms of the Yellow Robin as conspecific see J. Ford (1979, *Emu* 79: 103).

Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa Vigors and Horsfield, 1827 Golden Whistler

Range. Vicinity of south-east coast, west to the Bilbunya Dunes and inland to Burnabbie and 5 km N Eucla. Western interior, east to 15 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, 22 km E Boingaring Rocks, Coragina Rock, Balbinya Ruins and Tookle Jenna Rock, and south to Munglinup, Scaddan, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont and Junana Rock. Archipelago of the Recherche (Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Remark, Wilson, Ram, Mondrain, North Twin Peak and Middle Is).

Status etc. Common in western interior and on Mondrain and Middle Is, uncommon elsewhere; usually in ones or twos. Most kinds of thicket and scrub, including understory of eucalypt woodlands. Breeding late August-December; C/2(3), 3(1).

Pachycephala rufiventris rufiventris (Latham, 1801) Rufous Whistler

Range. North-eastern: lightly wooded western and southern fringes of Nullarbor Plain, and Roe Plains west to Twilight Cove. Casual on Nullarbor proper (Forrest). [Records from further west probably based on next species.]

Status etc. Visitor (late January-early July, mostly May-June). Scarce or uncommon; usually single and immature. Myall and mallee scrubs.

Pachycephala inornata gilbertii Gould, 1844 Gilbert's Whistler

Range. Arid north-western fringe of Nullarbor Plain, east in north to 125°15'E and south nearly to Seemore Downs. Semi-arid western interior, south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Tamar Hill, Boojerbeenyer Rock and 11 km SSW Clear Streak Well, and east to Newman Rock and 11 km E Boingaring Rocks.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually in ones or twos. Mainly shrubby understory (especially *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Melaleuca lanceolata*) of eucalypt woodlands; also bluebush understory of myall scrub. Breeding September-early November; C/2(1).

Colluricincla harmonica rufiventris Gould, 1841 Grey Shrike-thrush

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain and its more sparsely wooded fringes (south of 100 km N Forrest, 99 km N Haig and 80 km NNE and 30 km NNW Rawlinna, and north of Balladonia Hotel, 26 km SSE Woorlba, 40 km ENE Toolinna Cove, 25 km SE Cocklebidy, 30 km W and 32 km E Madura Pass, Mundrabilla HS, 13 km S Knousley Tank and 5 km N and 8 km ENE Eucla Pass) or far south (south of the middle Oldfield River [33°35'S], Cascades, Scaddan, Mt Ridley, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont, Mt Ragged, Sheoaks Hill and Israelite Bay).

Status etc. Moderately common to common; in ones or twos. Most kinds of wooded country. Breeding mid July-early November; C/2(1), 3(4), 4(1).

Falcunculus frontatus leucogaster Gould, 1838

Crested Shrike-tit

Range. Semi-arid western interior, north to [7 km NE Bank Rock] and Newman Rock, and south to 15 km ENE Forrestania Cross-roads, 12 km NW Maggie Hays Hill, Jyndabinbin Rocks and Little Jam Hill.

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

Oreoica gutturalis (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827)

Crested Bellbird

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain (east of Rawlinna, south of 99 km N Haig and 84 km NE Forrest, and north of 29 km N Madura Pass) or south of the middle Oldfield River (33° 41'S), upper Dalyup River West (33° 35'S), 10 km NNE Mt Heywood, 10 km NW Clyde Hill, Pine Hill and Point Culver.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually single, occasionally in twos. Most kinds of wooded country. Breeding late July-late September, also late April or early May in wet year 1973; C/2(2), 3(1).

Psophodes occidentalis (Mathews, 1912)

Western Wedgebill

Formerly 'fairly common' on the Nullarbor Plain 'wherever there is a little brush or timber' (Gibson 1909), but very few records since the advent of rabbits, sheep and cattle: in October 1921 F.L. Whitlock (1922) saw a family party in a donga at Haig; in spring 1931 or 1932 H. Collins (1934) noted it at Rawlinna and Haig; and in May 1985 R.E. Johnstone and L.A. Smith heard one 91 km N Loongana in donga with much dead and dying karara *Accacia tetragonophylla*.

Monarchidae

Rhipidura fuliginosa alisteri Mathews, 1911

Grey Fantail

Range. Eastern, west to Hut Donga (78 km NNE Rawlinna) and Point Malcolm.

Status etc. Scarce visitor (late April-early November) from south-eastern Australia; usually single, occasionally in twos. Mainly mallee-teatree scrub or thicket; also tamarisk in garden at Loongana.

Rhipidura fuliginosa preissi Cabanis, 1851

Range. Western, east to Gnama Hill, Ponier Rock and Israelite Bay.

Status uncertain. It seems to be mainly an uncommon winter visitor (April-mid September) from south-western Australia; in ones or twos. However there are several late spring/early summer records (late October-late January) from the south, north to Hatters Hill, Breeboorinia Rock and Israelite Bay; hence the possibility that it is also a rare and patchily distributed resident. Teatree, eucalypt and wattle thickets.

Rhipidura (fuliginosa) albicauda North, 1895 White-tailed Fantail

Range. Western interior, south to Mt Gibbs and east to Gnarna Hill.

Status uncertain. Five records of single birds in April, May, September, October and late November, including two specimens from Lake Cronin. Melaleuca and acacia scrubs and thickets.

Rhipidura leucophrys leucophrys (Latham, 1801) Willie Wagtail

Range. Throughout the Division.

Status etc. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (May, September). Scarce on Nullarbor Plain proper and formerly in vicinity of south coast, but generally uncommon to common; in ones or twos. Lightly wooded country, including farmlands. Breeding (east to at least Premier Downs and Eyre) September-November; C/2(3), 3(1).

Myiagra cyanoleuca (Vieillot, 1818) Satin Flycatcher

Rare winter visitor from south-eastern Australia. An immature female (WAM A12648) collected by M.G. Brooker (1974, *West. Aust. Nat.* 12: 181) at Twilight Cove on 12 April 1973.

Myiagra inquieta inquieta (Latham, 1801) Restless Flycatcher

Range. Western, east to Fraser Range, 5 km NW Balladonia Hotel, Deralinya Ruins and Junana Rock. Casual further east (78 km NNE Rawlinna, Eyre and c. 20 km N).

Status etc. Apparently an uncommon to moderately common, patchily distributed resident in much of western interior, from Lake Cronin, Lake Cowan, Buldania Rocks and Boingaring Rocks, south to the middle Oldfield River (33°40'S), lower Young River (33°40'S), Coomalbidgup and Junana Rock; in ones or twos; mainly in paperbarks *Melaleuca* and flat-topped yates *Eucalyptus occidentalis* along watercourses and around waterholes and lakes; also boree, mallee, blue-bush and other shrubs in eucalypt woodlands. Also a rare visitor (April-October) from south-western Australia and possibly south-eastern Australia.

Orthonychidae

Cinclosoma castanotum Gould, 1840 Chestnut Quail-thrush

Range. Western interior, south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Peak Charles, Mt Ridley, 29 km NW Clyde Hill and Junana Rock, and east to 5 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, 27 km E Boingaring Rocks, Ponier Rock and Balbinya Ruins. Also vicinity of south-east coast: Roe Plains and Hampton Tableland, north to Caiguna, 22 km NNW Eyre, 3 km N Eucla and South Australian border 3 km N of Eyre Hwy.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; in ones, twos or family parties. Boree, mallee, wattle and other scrubs and thickets, including understorey of eucalypt woodlands. Breeding late August-early November; C/2(1).

Cinclosoma alisteri Mathews, 1910

Nullarbor Quail-thrush

Range. Nullarbor Plain, north to 115 km NNE Rawlinna and 86 km N Loongana and south to Arubiddy, but no reports from east of Loongana and very few from south of Trans Australian Railway.

Status etc. Formerly common, but now becoming scarce in degraded pastoral country, e.g. Gunnadorah Station; in ones, twos or family parties. Open country with scattered low shrubs, especially bluebush *Maireana sedifolia* and karara *Acacia tetragonophylla*. Breeding June-October; C/2(2), B/2(2), C/3(2).

Drymodes brunneopygius Gould, 1841

Southern Scrub-robin

Range. Semi-arid zone, south to the middle Oldfield River (33°35'S), Scaddan, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont, Junana Rock and Tookle Jenna Rock, and north to Jyndabinbin Rocks, Mt Andrew, Ponier Rock and north end of Bilbunya Dunes. Also further east: vicinity of Eyre (above and below the Hampton Scarp).

Status etc. Moderately common; in ones, twos or family parties. Thickets and low scrubs of *Melaleuca* (boree, broombush), *Allocasuarina* (tamar etc.), *Eucalyptus* (mallee, moort) and *Acacia* (karara etc.), including understorey of eucalypt woodlands and uncleared road verges in farmlands. Breeding late August-early October; C/1(4).

Pomatostomus superciliosus (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827) White-browed Babbler

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor proper (east of Haig, south of 91 km N Loongana and 100 km N Forrest, and north of 10 km NNW Eucla Pass and 31 km N Madura Pass) or far south (south of the middle Oldfield River [33°35'S], 7 km S Peak Charles, Sheoak Hill, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont, Pine Hill and 47 km NNE Israelite Bay).

Status etc. Uncommon to common; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 10). Most kinds of scrub and thicket, including shrubby undergrowth of eucalypt woodlands. Breeding July-November, January and March-May; C/3(1).

Acanthizidae

Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis (Gould, 1841)

Southern Whiteface

Range. Eastern: the Nullarbor Plain and its western and southern fringes (including the more open parts of the Hampton Tableland and Roe Plains), west to Coolanya Rock and south to 70-mile Tank (presumably c. 40 km WSW Caiguna),

5 km SE Cocklebiddy, 36 km W Madura, 5 km S Moodini Pass, c. 15 km S Mundrabilla HS and Eucla.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common on Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded western fringe, uncommon and patchily distributed in more heavily wooded far south; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 60). Open or lightly wooded plains with scattered low shrubs, especially bluebush *Maireana sedifolia*. Breeding March-April and July-October; C/2(1), 3(2), 4(1); commonly nesting in karara bushes, also bluebushes, nitrebushes and Wedge-tailed Eagle nests.

Gerygone fusca fusca (Gould, 1838)

Western Flyeater

Range. Western, east to 100 km NNE Rawlinna, Seemore Downs and Eyre, and south to Lake Hope and Coragina Rock.

Status etc. Scarce autumn-winter visitor (late March-mid September) from south-western Australia; usually single. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; also open or dense myall scrubs.

Smicrornis brevirostris (Gould, 1838)

Weebill

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes (east of Coolanya Rock and north of 26 km SE Woorlba, 60 km WSW Caiguna, 20 km N Eyre, Madura Pass, 5 km N Mundrabilla HS and 5 km N Eucla Pass) or vicinity of south and lower south-east coasts (south of 8 km NNW Munglinup Beach, the Young River in 33°48'S, the Thomas River 3 km from mouth and Tookle Jenna Rock, and east of the foot of the Wylie Scarp).

Status etc. Uncommon and patchily distributed south of 33°30'S, elsewhere moderately common to very common; usually in twos or small parties (up to 10). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. Breeding August-September (? late July-early October), also May; C/2(2), B/3(1).

Acanthiza pusilla apicalis Gould, 1847

Brown Thornbill

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded western and southern fringes (east of Seemore Downs and Noonoonia, or north of 18 km S Caiguna, 22 km NNW Eyre, Madura Pass and 5 km N Eucla Pass).

Status etc. Common to very common; usually in ones or twos, occasionally family parties, rarely larger but looser aggregations (up to 25). Most kinds of thicket, including shrubby understory of eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. Breeding late July-October; C/2(1), 3(1); parasitized by *Chrysococcyx basalis* (two records).

Acanthiza uropygialis Gould, 1838

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill

Range. Semi-arid western interior, south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S) and Peak Charles, and east to 10 km W Pioneer, 10 km E Bronzite Ridge, Moir Rock and Dowak. Also further east (Heartbreak Ridge, Seemore Downs).

Status etc. Common in north-west (south to 33°20'S and east to 120°50'E), uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; usually in twos or small parties (up to 6). Most kinds of thicket and scrub, including shrubby understory of eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. One breeding report: July.

Acanthiza iredalei iredalei Mathews, 1911

Samphire Thornbill

Range. North-eastern: southern Nullarbor Plain and its southern fringe, north to Haig and Loongana, west to 46 km NNW Arubiddy and south to 25 km NNE Cocklebidy, 'claypan flats towards [i.e. south-west of] Madura', 5 km S Moodini Pass and 25 km NW Eucla.

Status etc. Moderately common; usually in twos or small parties (up to 5), sometimes accompanying Orange Chats or Southern Whitefaces. Shrub steppe (mainly bluebush and saltbush) in treeless or sparsely wooded country. One breeding report: c. September.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa (Quoy and Gaimard, 1830)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the north-east (i.e. the Nullarbor Plain east of 23 km N Premier Downs, 10 km NE Seemore Downs and 17 km SW Balladonia HS, and north of 17 km NE Cocklebidy, 29 km N Madura Pass and 3 km N Eucla Pass) or the far south-west (south of Coujinup Hill and Dog Rock, and west of Stokes Inlet).

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties, sometimes flocks (up to 60) in summer and autumn. Open or sparsely wooded flats in vicinity of thickets and scrubs, especially around granite outcrops and lakes. Breeding early August-mid November; C/2(1), B/3(1).

Pyrholaemus brunneus Gould, 1841

Redthroat

Range. Semi-arid western interior, south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Lake Tay, Peak Eleanor and 28 km SSW Clear Streak Well, and east to Newman Rock, 17 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, Coragina Rock and Junana Rock. Also far east: the Roe Plains and adjacent Hampton Scarp and Tableland, west nearly to Eyre (Damper Flat) and north to Kuthala Pass and 3 km N Eucla Pass. Formerly the Nullarbor Plain.

Status etc. Scarce to moderately common; in ones or twos. Most shrublands, including understory of eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. Breeding August-September; B/3(1).

In 1908 C.G. Gibson found it moderately common among the bluebush of the Nullarbor Plain. In 1921 F.L. Whitlock noted it as rare on the Plain (presumably at Haig and Loongana). A.S. LeSouef observed it at Rawlinna in 1927, but no subsequent visitor, including H. Collins in 1931-32, has recorded it here.

Sericornis frontalis maculatus Gould, 1847

White-browed Scrub-wren

Range. Southern and south-eastern, north to Emu Rock, nearly to McDermid Rock, Peak Charles, Sheoak Hill, Breeboorinia Rock, Rays Rock, north-east end of Wylie Scarp, 37 km ENE Toolinna Cove, 10 km WNW Eyre, 20 km ENE Burnabbie, Madura Pass, 11 km S Knousley Tank and Eucla. Also Ram, Mondrain, Middle and Salisbury Is in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Remarks. Very common and ubiquitous near coasts, becoming scarce and patchily distributed inland; in ones, twos or small parties. Near coasts in most shrublands more than 1 m high; inland largely confined to thickets around granite outcrops and rocky hills and escarpments. Breeding in spring; C/2(2); parasitized by *Cacomantis flabelliformis* (one record). For biology of population at Eyre see S.J. Ambrose (1985, *Eyre Bird Observatory Report* 1981-1983, pp. 84-92).

Hylacola cauta Gould, 1843

Shy Groundwren

Range. Semi-arid western interior, south to upper Coujinup Creek (33°23'S), S of Lake Tay (33°07'S), Peak Charles, Scaddan, Mt Ridley, Mt Heywood, 10 km NW Clyde Hill and 25 km SW Breeboorinia Rock, and east to Gnama Hill, Boingarig Rocks and Junana Rock. Also reported much further east (above escarpment N of Eyre).

Status etc. Moderately common west of 121°E, uncommon and patchily distributed further east; in ones or twos. Taller shrublands, including understory of eucalypt woodlands and scrubs, post-fire regeneration and road verges. Breeding September-October.

Calamanthus fuliginosus campestris (Gould, 1841)

Striated Fieldwren

Range. North-eastern: Nullarbor Plain, Hampton Tableland and Roe Plains, west to 115 km NNE Rawlinna, Rawlinna and 17 km NNW Arubiddy, and south to 9 km N Eyre and Noonaera Rockhole. Western interior, south to the upper Oldfield River (33°17'S) and east to 23 km NW Round Top Hill and 11 km SW 90-mile Tank; and further east near Norseman. Near-coastal sandplains, from 13 km W Dalyup east to 6 km E Toolinna Rockhole, inland to Mt Baring and nearly to Mt Ragged. Also Inshore I. in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Common in ungrazed and lightly grazed parts of Nullarbor Plain (e.g. Forrest and Arubiddy Station) and locally on south-coastal sandplains (e.g. Israelite Bay to Cape Arid), but generally moderately common to scarce and patchily distributed; perhaps exterminated on grossly overgrazed parts of

Nullarbor Plain (e.g. Gunnadorah Station); usually in ones or twos, occasionally small parties (up to 4). Mainly shrub steppe (*Maireana*, *Atriplex* and other chenopods) in north-east, where commonly sheltering in rabbit burrows; mostly low heath elsewhere. Breeding September-October (? November on south coast); C/3(1).

Maluridae

Amytornis textilis textilis (Dumont, 1824)

Thick-billed Grasswren

Evidently occurring on the Nullarbor Plain before the arrival of the rabbit. 'Odd ones noted here and there right through, chiefly amongst the bluebush' by C.G. Gibson (1909: 179) during his trip from Kalgoorlie to Eucla in 1908, but not recorded by F.L. Whitlock between Naretha and Loongana in 1921, A.S. LeSouef at Rawlinna in 1927, or H. Collins between Limekilns and Haig in 1931-32. Recent records from near Haig and Knapp Rock were almost certainly based respectively on female *Cincloramphus cruralis* and on *Hylacola cauta* (R.E. Johnstone, pers. comm.).

Malurus pulcherrimus Gould, 1844

Blue-breasted Fairy-wren

Range. Semi-arid zone, north to Gnama Hill, Boingaring Rocks, Coragina Rock, north-east end of Wylie Scarp, Point Culver, Toolinna Cove, Eyre, 9 km ENE Burnabbie, 27 km WSW Madura Roadhouse, 19 km N Madura Beach and coastal dunes 29 km S Mundrabilla HS, and south to the middle Oldfield River (33°37'S), the lower Young River (33°42'S), Truslove, Sheoak Hill, 10 km NE Mt Heywood, 31 km SW Breeboorinia Rock, Junana Rock and 8 km NNE Israelite Bay.

Status etc. Moderately common; in pairs or small parties (up to 7). Heath and other dense shrublands, including understory of mallee scrubs. Breeding c. September.

Malurus leucopterus leuconotus Gould, 1865

White-winged Fairy-wren

Range. North-eastern: the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes, west to 23 km E Naretha and south to 12 km NNW Cocklebidy, 38 km NE Burnabbie, 5 km S Moodini Pass, 13 km E Mundrabilla HS and Eucla. Also in western interior at Lake Dundas.

Status etc. Moderately common on Nullarbor proper, uncommon in lightly wooded Nullarbor fringes and in Norseman district; in pairs or small parties. Treeless or sparsely wooded flats with low bushes (especially bluebush, saltbush and karara). Breeding c. August-September.

Stipiturus malachurus westernensis A.J. Campbell, 1912 Southern Emu-wren

Range. Vicinity of south and lower south-east coasts, from Cape LeGrand east to 34 km NNE Israelite Bay. Also western interior (one record from 43 km ENE Forrestania Cross-roads).

Status etc. Locally common, but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; usually in pairs or small parties (up to 6). Low dense shrubland, especially in swampy places.

Sylviidae

Acrocephalus stentoreus australis (Gould, 1838) Clamorous Reed Warbler

Range. Vicinity of south coast from Esperance east to Duke of Orleans Bay.

Status uncertain. A few records in December and January in large *Baumea* swamps.

Megalurus gramineus (Gould, 1845) Little Grassbird

Range. South coast near Esperance.

Status uncertain. In December 1959 many heard by G.M. Storr (1963, *West. Aust. Nat.* 8: 188) calling in dense beds of *Baumea articulata* around Shark Lake. In January 1963 noted by J.R. Ford in swamps near Cape LeGrand.

Cincloramphus mathewsi Iredale, 1911 Rufous Songlark

Range. Mainly eastern (but not the Nullarbor proper): recorded at 78-100 km NNE Rawlinna, 17 km W Madura Pass, Eyre, Fraser Range, Bills Paddock and Pine Hill.

Status etc. Irregular visitor (May-December). Uncommon in wet years (1973-74), otherwise scarce and occurring singly. Lightly wooded grassy flats, including dongas.

Cincloramphus cruralis (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827) Brown Songlark

Range. North-eastern: Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded fringes, west to 10 km E Balladonia HS and south to Eyre and 28 km S Mundrabilla HS. Vicinity of south coast, east to the Thomas River. Casual in western interior (Mt Gordon, Clear Streak Well).

Status etc. Irregular visitor (all months, mainly April-November). Common to very common in north-east in wet years (1908, 1921, 1927, 1931, 1958, 1968, 1974, 1984) but generally scarce or uncommon; uncommon in south; usually single (females rarely reported). Treeless or sparsely wooded country (including farmlands) with fresh grass and herbage. Breeding July-October; C/2(1), 3(4), 4(2).

Daphoenositidae

Daphoenositta chrysoptera pileata (Gould, 1838)

Australian Sittella

Range. Semi-arid zone, north to 10 km N Ten Mile Rocks, 8 km S Southern Hills HS, 6 km E Boingaring Rocks, Booanya Rock, 19 km NW Toolinna Rock-hole, Burnabbie, 36 km W Madura Pass and 3 km N Eucla Pass, and south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Pyramid Lake, 7 km ESE Sheoak Hill, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont and Junana Rock. Also far north, south nearly to Seemore Downs and 18 km N Haig.

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common west of 123°E, becoming scarce and patchily distributed further east; usually in small parties (up to 10). Mostly eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; also open or dense myall scrubs. Breeding September-October; C/2(1).

Climacteridae

Climacteris affinis superciliosa North, 1895

White-browed Tree-creeper

One record from far north: one observed in myall scrub c. 100 km NNE Rawlinna (Brooker *et al.* 1979: 183).

Climacteris rufa Gould, 1841

Rufous Tree-creeper

Range. Western interior, south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), 43 km ESE 90-mile Tank, Kumarl, 10 km NNE Double Tank, 42 km E Dingo Rock, 13 km NW Clyde Hill and Junana Rock, and east to Newman Rock, 12 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, 16 km E Boingaring Rocks, 15 km W Coragina Rock and Rays Rock.

Status etc. Common north of 32°40'S, uncommon and patchily distributed further south; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 4). Mainly the taller eucalypt woodlands and scrubs. Breeding mid August-late September (? early October).

Dicaeidae

Dicaeum hirundinaceum hirundinaceum (Shaw, 1792)

Mistletoebird

Range. Greater part of Division, but no records from north-east (east of c. 100 km NNE Rawlinna and 27 km E Madura) or far south (south of Hatters Hill, Peak Eleanora, Breeboorinia Rock and 7 km WSW Israelite Bay).

Status etc. Uncommon visitor; usually single, occasionally in twos. Most kinds of wooded country. Two breeding records April-May.

Pardalotidae

Pardalotus punctatus (Shaw, 1792)

Spotted Pardalote

Range. Western, east to 30 km W Fraser Range (? sp.), 8 km W Boingaring Rocks (? sp.) and Rossiter Bay, including Woody and Mondrain Is.

Status uncertain. In most of range evidently an uncommon visitor (early April-late October); in ones, twos or small parties (up to 12). Also a few summer records from south-west: Frank Hann National Park (January), Mt LeGrand (December), Woody I. (February) and Mondrain I. (December). Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs.

Pardalotus xanthopygus McCoy, 1867

Yellow-rumped Pardalote

Range. Southern and south-eastern, north to North Ironcap, 40 km WNW 90-mile Tank, Peak Charles, Dowak, 7 km NNE Double Tank, Breeboorinia Rock, north-east end of Wylie Scarp, 16 km W Toolinna Rockhole, 16 km S Caiguna, 22 km NNW Eyre, Madura Pass and 3 km N Eucla, but no records from south-coastal areas west of the Thomas River and south of the middle Oldfield River (33° 35'S), lower Young River (33° 45'S), Scaddan and 10 km SE Mt Beaumont.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common; in ones, twos, small parties or flocks (up to 20). Mallee scrubs on sands and sandy loams. Breeding March and July-December (mostly September-October); C/2(1), 3(3), 4(1).

Pardalotus striatus westraliensis Mathews, 1912

Striated Pardalote

Range. Ordinarily the semi-arid zone north to about the mulga-eucalypt line (Chidalinga Rock, Meelina, 27 km NW Toolinna Rockhole, 25 km S Caiguna, Burnabbie, Madura Pass and 3 km N Eucla) and south to upper Coujinup Creek (33° 22'S), Pyramid Lake, 5 km N Scaddan, 9 km WNW Mt Heywood, 13 km NW Clyde Hill, Junana Rock and 43 km NNE Israelite Bay. Commonly on south-coastal plains during pre-migratory movements, and sparingly on Nullarbor Plain (Haig, 53 km S Loongana) and its western fringes during autumn and spring passages.

Status etc. Breeding visitor, summer-autumn visitor and passage migrant. South of mulga-eucalypt line moderately common to very common; ordinarily in ones or twos, also flocks (up to 80) during movements. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; favouring sugarwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*) during passage through eucalypt-free western fringes of Nullarbor Plain. Breeding mainly in western interior, but also one record from Roe Plains (in ruins of old telegraph station south of Mundrabilla): mid August-late October (? early November). This species appears to undergo complex movements. It returns to its breeding quarters between mid-July and mid-October. From mid-December to early April it forms nomadic flocks, consisting largely of juveniles; during this period it commonly wanders

to south-coastal plains and less frequently to the country immediately north of the mulga-eucalypt line, e.g. 18 km N Noondoonia HS. From late April to late May it flies northwards and north-eastwards mainly in flocks, their destination presumably the belts of mallee in the Great Victoria Desert (see Storr 1985: 35).

Zosteropidae

Zosterops lateralis gouldi Bonaparte, 1850

Grey-breasted White-eye

Range. Southern, north to Newman Rock, Coragina Rock, Bilbunya Dunes, Toolinna Rockhole, Burnabbie, Madura Pass and 3 km N Eucla Pass. Also Boxer, Thomas, Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Remark, Frederick, Wilson, Mondrain, North Twin Peaks, Middle, Salisbury, Anvil and Daw Is in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Common to very common near coasts, much less numerous and largely an autumn-winter visitor in interior; usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 60) in summer-autumn. Scrubs and thickets, especially in coastal dunes, around granite hills, at foot of escarpments and around lakes; attracted to flowering *Melaleuca lanceolata* and other teatrees, *Eucalyptus platypus* and other mallees, *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Callistemon* sp. and *Eremophila* sp. and to fruiting *Nitraria billardierei*, *Rhagodia baccata*, *Muehlenbeckia adpressa* and *Lycium ferocissimum*. Breeding July (? June)-December; C/2(1), 3(4), 4(1).

Meliphagidae

Lichmera indistincta indistincta (Vigors and Horsfield, 1827) Brown Honeyeater

Range. Subhumid and semi-arid zones, north to Newman Rock, Coragina Rock, north-east end of Wylie Scarp, Burnabbie, Madura and Middini Beach.

Status etc. Numbers locally fluctuating with supply of blossom, but overall common; in ones, twos or small parties. Most kinds of shrubland, thicket and scrub, including road verges and gardens; attracted to flowering *Lambertia inermis*, *Grevillea hookeriana*, *G. oncogyne*, *G. affin. pectinata*, *Banksia speciosa*, *Melaleuca* spp., *Eucalyptus gracilis*, *E. angulosa*, *E. eremophila*, *E. lehmanni* and *E. cornuta*. Breeding only reported at Eyre: 'August-October' and autumn.

Certhionyx niger (Gould, 1838)

Black Honeyeater

Rare visitor (September-November) to interior. Brooker *et al.* (1979) saw some at flowering *Eremophila alternifolia* in dongas c. 90 km NNE Rawlinna in wet year 1973; Gibson (1909) noted one in 'mulga country' between Kalgoorlie and Eucla in 1908; Whitlock (1937) shot one near Lake Cowan in 1904. Also listed for Hatters Hill (Carnaby 1938).

Certhionyx variegatus Lesson, 1830

Pied Honeyeater

Range. Arid and semi-arid zones south to Frank Hann National Park, Gnama Hill, Eyre, 20 km S Mundrabilla HS and 15 km NE Eucla.

Status etc. Infrequent visitor (September-January). Locally common in wet years (1984), but generally scarce. Open or lightly wooded country; attracted to flowering *Eremophila* sp. Breeding October; C/3(2).

Meliphaga virescens (Vieillot, 1817)

Singing Honeyeater

Range. Greater part of Division, including many islands in Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Boxer, Canning, Observatory, Charley, Cull, Lion, Thomas, Gunton, Woody, Long, Sandy Hook, Remark, Frederick, Wilson, Hood, MacKenzie, Pasco, Ram, Mondrain, Station, Lorraine, Nares, Marts, Ben, Inshore, Tunney, Hull, North and South Twin Peak, Kermadec, Combe, Goose, Douglas, Middle, Owen, Gulch, Wickham, Bellinger).

Status etc. Moderately common to very common on coasts, islands and the Nullarbor Plain and its lightly wooded fringes; in rest of range (western interior) uncommon and patchily distributed in north-west, rare or absent south of Lake Cronin, Lake Hope, Peak Charles, Moir Rock, Norseman and Buldania Rocks; usually in ones or twos. Shrubbery in open or lightly wooded country (in western interior largely confined to vicinity of lakes and granite outcrops); attracted to fruiting *Rhagodia baccata*, *Nitraria billardierei* and *Lycium ferocissimum*, and occasionally to flowering eucalypts and melaleucas. Breeding July-November (also March-June on Nullarbor Plain and December in Archipelago of the Recherche); C/1(1), 2(3), 3(1).

Meliphaga ornata (Gould, 1838)

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater

Range. Western interior, east to Newman Rock, 5 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, 17 km E Boingaring Rocks, Coragina Rock and 7 km W Balbinya Ruins, and south to Frank Hann National Park (33°S), Peak Charles, Circle Valley, 20 km NE Mt Heywood, 13 km NW Clyde Hill and Junana Rock. Also further east: vicinity of south-east coast from 16 km W Toolinna Rockhole east to 'Hampton Scarp between Madura and Eucla'.

Status etc. Common in western interior; in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally larger aggregations during movements. Status in east uncertain: perhaps only a visitor (March-October) to flowering mallees, sometimes in large numbers but generally uncommon. Eucalypt woodlands and tall scrubs; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. diptera*, *E. gracilis*, *E. flocktoniae*, *E. loxophleba*, *E. oleosa*, *E. calycogona*, *E. transcontinentalis*, *E. celastroides*, *E. annulata* and *E. eremophila*. Breeding September-October.

Meliphaga cratitia (Gould, 1841)

Purple-gaped Honeyeater

Range. Western, east to Dundas, Double Tank, 32 km NW Clyde Hill, 25 km SW Breeboorinia Rock, 18 km NW Sheoaks Hill and Tookle Jenna Rock, but not south-coastal plains west of the Thomas River and south of Munglinup and Speddingup. Also patchily further east: along foot of north-east end of Wylie Scarp and at Eyre.

Status etc. Locally common, but generally uncommon to moderately common and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 5). Scrubs, thickets and taller heathlands; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus gracilis*, *E. eremophila*, *E. occidentalis*, *Calothamnus*, *Hakea scoparia* and *Grevillea plurijuga* and to fruiting *Rhagodia*. Breeding in spring, also autumn at Eyre; C/2(1).

Meliphaga leucotis novaenorciae (Milligan, 1904)

White-eared Honeyeater

Range. Semi-arid zone, north to 28 km E Fraser Range, 5 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, 26 km SE Woorlba, 25 km S Caiguna, 10 km E Cocklebidy, 27 km WSW Madura and Moodini Pass, east to Middini Beach, and south to the middle Oldfield River (33°34'S), the middle Lort River (33°33'S), 5 km N Scaddan, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont, Junana Rock and the Bilbunya Dunes.

Status etc. Common; in ones, twos or small parties. Most kinds of woodland, scrub and thicket; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus gracilis*, *Melaleuca* sp., *Grevillea eriostachya* and *Banksia media* and to fruiting *Rhagodia baccata*. Breeding March and July-September; C/1(1), 2(1).

Melithreptus brevirostris leucogenys Milligan, 1903

Brown-headed Honeyeater

Range. Western interior, east to Newman Rock, 5 km WNW Balladonia Hotel, Coragina Rock and Mt Ragged, and south on the No. 1 Vermin Fence to 33°36' and to Scaddan, 10 km SE Mt Beaumont and Tookle Jenna Rock. Also further east, from 10 km ENE Toolinna Cove east nearly to Mundrabilla HS.

Status etc. Moderately common to common; usually in small flocks (up to 15). Eucalypt scrubs and woodlands; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus gracilis*, *E. eremophila* and *Melaleuca* sp. Breeding September-October.

Melitheptus (lunatus) chloropsis Gould, 1848

White-naped Honeyeater

Range. Vicinity of south coast, east to the Thomas River.

Status etc. Scarce and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small parties. Eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to flowering yate *Eucalyptus cornuta*. One breeding report (Rossiter Bay): c. November; B/2.

Phylidonyris novaehollandiae (Latham, 1790) New Holland Honeyeater

Range. Southern and south-eastern, north to Peter Soak, Peak Charles, Dingo Rock, Breeboorinia Rock, north-east end of Wylie Scarp, Point Culver, Toolinna Cove, Twilight Cove and Eyre. Also Lion, Thomas, Woody, Sandy Hook, Mondrain, Nares and Middle Is in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Common to very common near coasts and on Mondrain, Woody, Sandy Hook and Middle Is; locally common inland, but generally uncommon and patchily distributed; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 10). Most kinds of scrub, thicket and tall heathland; attracted to flowering *Banksia speciosa*, *B. media*, *Lambertia inermis*, *Grevillea* sp., *Calothamnus* sp., *Callistemon* sp., *Melaleuca elliptica*, *M. lanceolata*, *Eucalyptus cornuta*, *E. lehmanni*, *E. platypus* and *E. eremophila* and *Amyema miraculosum*. Breeding late March-mid May, and late September-mid November; B/2(2).

Phylidonyris nigra mystacalis (Gould, 1841) White-cheeked Honeyeater

Range. South coast, east to Mt Arid and inland to 28 km NW Munglinup, the lower Young River (33° 30'S) and Lake Condingup. Also recorded much further east (Eyre).

Status etc. Blossom nomad. Scarce; in ones, twos or flocks. Mainly proteaceous scrubs; attracted to flowering *Banksia speciosa* and *Grevillea* sp.

Phylidonyris albifrons (Gould, 1841) White-fronted Honeyeater

Range. Mainly the semi-arid zone, north to 25 km ESE Fraser Range, Balladonia HS, 39 km NW Toolinna Rockhole, Caiguna, Cocklebidly, 21 km ENE Burnabbie and Madura Pass. Much less frequently the north-western fringe of Nullarbor Plain (east to Rawlinna and 90 km NNE), far south-east (Roe Plains east of Madura, and Hampton Tableland north to 5 km N Eucla) and vicinity of south coast west of Israelite Bay.

Status etc. Migrant and blossom nomad. Moderately common to very common in semi-arid zone; absent, scarce or uncommon in arid and subhumid zones; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 25). Most kinds of thicket, scrub and low woodland; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. gracilis*, *E. eremophila*, *E. diversifolia* and other mallees, *Melaleuca* spp., *Callistemon* sp., *Calothamnus* sp., *Banksia* spp., *Grevillea eriostachya*, *Dryandra* sp., *Adenanthos* sp. and Loranthaceae. Breeding late July-late October; C/2(3), B/2(2).

Phylidonyris melanops (Latham, 1801) Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

Range. Southern, north to Lake Dundas, Mt Ridley, Mt Heywood, 10 km SSE Junana Rock, 47 and 77 km NNE Israelite Bay, 50 km WSW Toolinna Rockhole and Toolinna Cove; casual further east (to 7 km E Eyre).

Status etc. Moderately common to common near south coast, less numerous and patchily distributed in interior and along south-east coast; ordinarily in ones, twos or small parties, in flocks (up to 150) during movements. Heaths and other low shrublands; attracted to flowering *Lambertia inermis*, *Grevillea hookeriana*, *G. eriostachya*, *Hakea corymbosa* and *Melaleuca* sp. Breeding September-January and ? autumn; C/2(4).

Acanthorhynchus superciliosus Gould, 1837

Western Spinebill

Range. Far south, east to Israelite Bay and north on No. 1 Vermin Fence to 33° 33'S, to the middle Young River (33° 40'S), 5 km N Scaddan, 5 km S Dingo Rock, Sheoak Hill and Mt Ragged.

Status etc. Moderately common near south coast east to Point Malcolm, scarce and patchily distributed further north; in ones, twos or threes. Most shrublands; attracted to flowering *Grevillea* spp., *Lambertia inermis*, *Banksia speciosa*, *Calothamnus* sp., and *Eucalyptus* sp.

Manorina flavigula (Gould, 1840)

Yellow-throated Miner

Range. Northern, south to 10 km SW Holleton, 16 km ENE Forrestania Crossroads, Honman Ridge, Three Mile Rock, 20 km SSW Clear Streak Well, 5 km S Nanambinia, Toolinna Rockhole etc., but not the Nullarbor Plain east of Haig, south of [132 km N Loongana] and 84 km NE Forrest, or north of 1 km N Madura Pass, 5 km N Kuthala Pass and 5 km N Eucla Pass. Southern and western, north to Frank Hann National Park (33°S) and Peak Charles, and east to 20 km E Kumarl, 22 km E Circle Valley, 2 km N Mt Ridley, 8 km WNW Mt Heywood, 16 km SW Clyde Hill and 34 km WSW Israelite Bay.

Status etc. Scarce and patchily distributed to very common and ubiquitous (most numerous and widespread in farmlands, least in the heavily wooded country west of c. 123° 30'E); in ones, twos and small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 200) outside of breeding season. Lightly wooded country, including uncleared road verges and shelter belts (*Pinus* and exotic eucalypts) in farmlands; attracted to flowering eucalypts, grevilleas and mistletoes. Breeding May-November; C/3(2), B/3(3); double-brooded (Congreve and Congreve 1985: 36).

Originally the southern population would have been restricted to naturally open or lightly wooded places, but since the great expansion of farming in the last two decades it has become by far the most plentiful bird in that region.

Acanthagenys rufogularis Gould, 1838

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater

Range. Mainly northern, south to upper Coujinup Creek (33° 22'S), Lake Ray, Dog Rock, Mt Ridley, 26 km NW Mt Clyde, Junana Rock and Israelite Bay, but not the Nullarbor Plain east of Haig and north of 27 km N Madura Pass and 8 km ENE Eucla Pass. Casual further south (middle Oldfield River in 33° 40'S, 8 km NNE Cape LeGrand, Mt Arid).

Status etc. Blossom nomad. Moderately common; in ones, twos or family parties. Most kinds of scrub and tall shrubland; attracted to flowering mallees, melaleucas, mistletoes, eremophilas, grevilleas and banksias. Breeding August-early October, also January; C/2(2).

Anthochaera chrysoptera lunulata Gould, 1838

Little Wattlebird

Range. Southern and south-eastern, north on the No. 1 Vermin Fence to 33°35'S, to Cascades, the head of the Dalyup River West, Gibson, Condingup, 7 km ENE Boyatup Hill, 12 km E Sheoaks Hill, 53 km NNE Israelite Bay and the Bilbunya Dunes. Casual further east (Eyre).

Status etc. Blossom nomad. Moderately common in vicinity of south coast (east to the Thomas River and inland to c. 33°40'S), uncommon and patchily distributed further north and east; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 10). Tall shrublands and low scrubs, including uncleared road verges and shelter belts of exotic eucalypts in farmlands; attracted to flowering *Banksia speciosa*, *Lambertia inermis*, *Hakea multilineata* and *Calothamnus* sp. Breeding September-October.

Anthochaera carunculata (White, 1790)

Red Wattlebird

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the north-east (north of 24 km N Noon-oonia, 6 km N Culver Cave, 18 km S Caiguna, 12 km SE Cocklebidy, 38 km W Madura Pass, 19 km N Madura Beach, 18 km NNW Middini Beach, Wanteen and 3 km N Eucla Pass). Casual on Middle I. (Archipelago of the Recherche).

Status etc. Uncommon in vicinity of south coast west of Point Malcolm, common elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 55) in summer and autumn. Mainly eucalypt woodlands and scrubs; attracted to flowering *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. loxophleba*, *E. gracilis*, *E. pileata*, *E. eremophila*, *E. transcontinentalis*, *Callistemon* sp., *Banksia speciosa*, *Grevillea* sp. and *Amyema miraculosum*. Breeding late July-October; C/2(1).

Epthianura albifrons (Jardine and Selby, 1828)

White-fronted Chat

Range. Greater part of Division, but no records for most of Nullarbor Plain (east of 90 km NNE Rawlinna and Haig, or north of Madura Pass and Eucla Pass).

Status etc. Moderately common near coasts and in farmlands, uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or small flocks, occasionally large flocks (up to 100) in summer; sometimes accompanying Orange and Crimson Chats and Common Starlings. Sparsely vegetated, preferably damp, flats. Breeding early August-mid October; C/3(2), 4(1).

Epthianura aurifrons Gould, 1838

Orange Chat

Range. North-eastern: Nullarbor Plain and its sparsely wooded fringes, south to

Arubiddy, 15 km N Eyre and Eucla. Casual further west (Newman Rock).
Status etc. Nomadic. Common in wet years, e.g. 1973 and 1982, but generally uncommon to moderately common; usually in pairs or small flocks, sometimes accompanying Crimson and White-fronted Chats and Richard's Pipits. Sparsely vegetated country, especially low-lying chenopod flats. One breeding report (Loongana): October.

Epthianura tricolor Gould, 1841

Crimson Chat

Range. North-eastern, west to Fraser Range, Boingaring Rocks and Point Culver. Casual in far western interior (Emu Rock, 10 km SW 90-mile Tank).

Status etc. Highly nomadic. Very common on Nullarbor Plain and its fringes in wet years, e.g. 1921, 1927, 1973, 1982 and 1984, but generally scarce to moderately common; in ones, twos or small flocks (up to 30); sometimes accompanying White-fronted and Orange Chats. Lightly or sparsely wooded country. Breeding July-October; C/2(1).

Ploceidae

Emblema oculatum (Quoy and Gaimard, 1830)

Red-eared Firetail

Range. Small sector of south coast from Esperance east to Duke of Orleans Bay. Also Woody and Middle Is (Archipelago of the Recherche).

Status etc. At present scarce (except on Woody I., where common, *vide* I.C. Cooke); in ones, twos or small parties. Thickets, especially around granites, pools and lakes.

The range and numbers of this isolated population seem to be diminishing. It no longer occurs closer to Esperance than Mt LeGrand; and it was evidently less plentiful in the Cape LeGrand National Park in 1972 than in 1944 (Dell 1975).

Poephila guttata castanotis (Gould, 1837)

Zebra Finch

Range. North-western sector of Nullarbor Plain, south to the Trans Australian Railway and east to Loongana. Casual further south (Madura Beach).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; in pairs or small flocks. Open or lightly wooded country in vicinity of potable water. Breeding reported in July and September.

Passer domesticus domesticus (Linnaeus, 1758)

House Sparrow

The South Australian population formerly extended into the extreme south-east of the Division west to Mundrabilla, where first noticed in August 1914. Steps were taken in 1918 to exterminate the colony. By March 1919 it was reported

that no sparrows remained west of Nullarbor Station, SA (C.F.H. Jenkins 1959, *Emu* 59: 202). Two were recently seen at Eucla (A. Handy).

Sturnidae

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris Linnaeus, 1758

Common Starling

Range. South-eastern and south-central, west to Salmon Gums and Dalyup. Casual further north (Newman Rock, Woorlba, Loongana).

Status etc. Exotic species, self-introduced from South Australia. Locally and temporarily moderately common in south-eastern coastal areas east of 127°E, in south-coastal areas from Lake Gore east to Condingup and in the Salmon Gums district; elsewhere a rare transient; usually in flocks. Open or lightly wooded country, especially the Roe Plains and sheep pastures on the Esperance Plain; attracted to 'sea lice' [presumably amphipod crustaceans] in banks of seaweed.

First reported in 1965 (two birds at Eucla Pass), next a single bird shot near Esperance in 1970. In spring 1971 two small breeding colonies were destroyed by the Agriculture Protection Board near Condingup. In 1975 an invasion of the Roe Plains and Hampton Tableland prompted the Board to set up a permanent team to destroy starlings and their nests, not only in the Mundrabilla-Eucla area but also on Koonalda Station across the SA border. The WA starling count on 12 July 1983 was 12 in the Eucla district, six in the Mundrabilla district and 22 in the Esperance district (P. Coyle, *West. Aust. Bd Notes*. No. 27: 1). Of 60 seen in the Mundrabilla district, 44 were destroyed 8-26 January 1985.

Grallinidae

Grallina cyanoleuca (Latham, 1801)

Magpie-lark

Range. Southern agricultural belt, north to the upper Young River (33° 15'S) and Salmon Gums, and east to 15 km E Circle Valley, 49 km SE Scaddan, 18 km NE Condingup and the Thomas River, and at Norseman. Also reported in north-west (Lake Cronin), eastern semi-arid zone (from 16 km N Noondoonia south nearly to Point Malcolm, west to Fraser Range and Southern Hills, and east to Cocklebidy and Eyre) and in western Nullarbor Plain (tank 12 km NNE Rawlinna and Gunnadorah).

Status etc. Probably resident at Norseman and in agricultural belt, but no breeding reports apart from a bird gathering mud at Yerritup Creek on 24 October 1985; elsewhere presumably a non-breeding visitor (mainly January-May, occasionally as late as early November). At present uncommon to moderately common, usually in ones or twos, occasionally small parties. Lightly wooded, sparsely vegetated flats, especially near fresh water.

The southern agricultural belt was evidently colonized from the Ravensthorpe district. Although not observed here until 1979 (two birds 15 km E Munglinup), it must have been established earlier, for autumn-winter visitors were first recorded in the Balladonia district and at Eyre in 1978 [and four years earlier on Trans Australian Railway east of Karonie].

Artamidae

Artamus personatus (Gould, 1841)

Masked Woodswallow

Range. Throughout the Division.

Status etc. Visitor (all months, mainly late September-early December). Very common in some years, e.g. 1927, 1973, 1982 and 1984, but generally scarce to moderately common; in ones, twos or small flocks, commonly large flocks (up to 5000) during passage, and on one occasion many thousands (A. Daw 1983, *West. Aust. Bd Notes* No. 25: 1); attracted to swarming grasshoppers on Nullarbor Plain. Lightly wooded country. Breeding reported as far south as Mt Heywood: October-November; C/2(1).

Artamus superciliosus (Gould, 1837)

White-browed Woodswallow

One record from Hampton Tableland: birds, including young, seen in open country north of Eyre in September-November 1980 (Congreve 1982).

Artamus cinereus melanops Gould, 1865

Black-faced Woodswallow

Range. North-eastern: Nullarbor Plain and fringes west to just beyond Balladonia HS and south to Culver Microwave Tower, 32 km WSW Caiguna, 5 km SE Cocklebiddy, 15 km S Madura Pass and 25 km S Mundrabilla HS. Also far western interior: sandplains from Lake Cronin south to 33°S, and east to 13 km ENE Forrestania Cross-roads and 120°15'E in Frank Hann National Park.

Status etc. Common in north-east, uncommon autumn-winter visitor in west (presumably from adjacent wheat belt); in ones or twos, occasionally small parties. Open or sparsely wooded country. Breeding July-February and May; C/2(1); double-brooded (Congreve and Congreve 1985: 38).

Artamus cyanopterus (Latham, 1801)

Dusky Woodswallow

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the north-east, i.e. the Nullarbor Plain and its fringes north of Easter Tank, 18 km SSE Culver Microwave Tower, Oomblegabby Rockhole and Caiguna, or east of 40 km ENE Cocklebiddy.

Status etc. As a breeding bird moderately common to common in tall eucalypt woodlands of western interior, and as a postnuptial wanderer (December-May) uncommon on south-coastal plains and scarce in north-east (Hampton Table-

land); in ones, twos or small parties, occasionally flocks (up to 68) during postnuptial movements. Well-wooded country. Breeding late September-early November; C/3(1).

Cracticidae

Cracticus torquatus torquatus (Latham, 1801) Grey Butcherbird

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the far north-east (Nullarbor Plain south of 84 km NE Forrest, east of 86 and 53 km N Haig and Gunnadorah, or north of 29 km N Madura Pass, Abrakurrie Cave and 3 km N Eucla Pass). Also Observatory and Inshore Is in Archipelago of the Recherche.

Status etc. Scarce and patchily distributed in sparsely wooded fringes of Nullarbor Plain, common elsewhere; usually single, occasionally in twos. Favouring the taller scrubs and denser woodlands. Breeding late August-November; C/3(1), 4(1).

Cracticus nigrogularis (Gould, 1837) Pied Butcherbird

Range. Northern semi-arid zone, south to Hatters Hill, 26 km ESE 90-mile Tank, Moir Rock, Clear Streak Well and Nanambinia, and east to Kildwerinia Granite Rock and 7 km E Balladonia HS. Casual further south (Deralinya Ruins, Pine Hill) and east (Seemore Downs, Eyre).

Status etc. Uncommon to moderately common; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 4). Favouring the more open eucalypt woodlands. Breeding September.

Cracticus tibicen dorsalis (A.J. Campbell, 1894) Australian Magpie

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the north-east (Nullarbor Plain east of Premier Downs and Haig, or north of 30 km N Madura Pass and 8 km NNW Eucla Pass).

Status etc. Moderately common to very common in farmlands, on Fraser Range and Southern Hills Stations, in south-western fringe of Nullarbor Plain (Balladonia etc.) and on the Hampton Tableland and Roe Plains, generally uncommon and patchily distributed elsewhere; in ones, twos or small parties (up to 8). Open or sparsely wooded country in vicinity of tall or moderately tall trees. Breeding late July-late November; C/1(2), 2(1), 3(1), 4(1).

Cracticus tibicen tibicen (Latham, 1801)

Two records from far north-east: northern fringe of Nullarbor Plain 100 km N and 84 km NE Forrest.

Strepera versicolor plumbea Gould, 1846

Grey Currawong

Range. Greater part of Division, but not the Nullarbor Plain or its lightly wooded southern fringe (north of North Rocks, 44 km E Balladonia HS, Caiguna, 7 km SSE Cocklebidy, Madura Pass, 3 km NE Kuthala Pass and 5 km N Eucla Pass).

Status etc. Common; in ones twos or small parties (up to 10), rarely larger but looser aggregations (up to 70). Well-wooded country. Breeding late August-late November; C/1(1), 2(2), 3(3).

Corvidae

Corvus ceciliae Mathews, 1912

Western Crow

Range. Far northern semi-arid zone, south to 10 km SW McDermid Rock, 26 km W Pioneer, 12 km NE Buldania Rocks and 26 km NW Toolinna Rockhole. Casual further south (Frank Hann National Park in 32° 50'S).

Status uncertain: perhaps only an autumn visitor (late February-mid May). Rare; in ones or twos. Open eucalypt woodlands.

Corvus bennetti North, 1901

Little Crow

Range. Greater part of Division.

Status etc. Moderately common to very common on Nullarbor Plain, at Norseman and (in summer) in south-coastal farmlands; uncommon in more open parts of semi-arid zone, e.g. around saltlakes; rare or absent in densely wooded country; in ones, twos or small flocks, larger flocks (up to 100) in summer and autumn. Open or lightly wooded country; attracted to piggeries, garbage dumps and thermals. Breeding (only reported on Nullarbor Plain) June-late September, also April; commonly nesting in myalls and on telegraph poles along Trans Australian Railway. A chick banded near Seemore Downs was recovered near Marvel Loch (600 km WSW) eight months later.

Corvus coronoides perplexus Mathews, 1912

Australian Raven

Range. Greater part of Division, including many islands in Archipelago of the Recherche (Figure of Eight, Boxer, Charley, Woody, Long, Frederick, Wilson, Hood, MacKenzie, Ram, Mondrain, Lorraine, Marts, Forrest, Ben, Inshore, Hull, North and South Twin Peak, Combe, Goose, Middle, Wickham, Bellinger and Daw), but not the arid north-east (Nullarbor Plain north of 44 km N Madura Pass and 3 km N Eucla Pass).

Status etc. Common to very common in farmlands, uncommon to moderately common in other coastal areas, on islands and along highways, scarce or absent in unpopulated, heavily wooded country; in ones, twos or small parties, larger flocks (up to 50) in summer and autumn. Lightly wooded country; attracted to

road-killed kangaroos and rabbits, seabird breeding colonies (including Great-winged Petrels and Fleshy-footed and Short-tailed Shearwaters), fresh water for drinking and bathing, and garbage dumps. Breeding (including reports from Woody, Frederick and Middle Is) late July-early October; C/3(1).

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GAZETTEER

Latitudes are south and longitudes east

- Abrakurrie Cave 31.40, 128.29
 Afghan Rock 32.21, 123.40
 Alexander Bay 33.53, 122.46
 Anvil I. 33.44, 124.05
 Archipelago of the Recherche 34.05, 123.00
- Balbinya Ruins 33.05, 123.34
 Balladonia 32.28, 123.52
 Balladonia Hotel 32.21, 123.37
 Bank Rock 31.56, 120.46
 Barrier I. 33.59, 123.07
 Baxter Cliffs 32.40, 125.10
 Bellinger Is 33.53, 123.38
 Ben I. 33.54, 122.45
 Bilbunya Dunes 32.57, 124.20
 Bills Paddock 33.05, 123.27
 Blackboy Creek 33.50, 122.54
 Boingaring Rocks 32.28, 123.11
 Booanya Rock 32.46, 123.36
 Boogerbeenyer Rock 32.21, 121.50
 Boxer I. 34.00, 121.40
 Boyatup Hill 33.44, 123.02
 Breeboorinia Rock 33.06, 123.20
 Bromus 32.27, 121.38
 Bronzite Ridge 32.11, 121.18
 Buldania Rocks 32.05, 122.02
 Burnabbie 32.08, 126.20
- Caiguna 32.16, 125.28
 Canning I. 33.55, 121.46
 Cape Arid 34.01, 123.09
 Cape Arid National Park 33.45, 123.20
 Cape LeGrand 34.01, 122.06
 Cape Pasley 33.56, 123.32
 Capps I. 33.59, 121.41
 Carlisle Tank 32.45, 124.59
 Cascades 33.28, 121.03
 Charley I. 33.55, 121.53
 Chidalyinya Rock 32.18, 123.44
 Chowilla Doline 31.39, 128.29
 Christmas I. — see Daw I.
 Clare Downs 33.35, 120.59
 Clarries Donga 30.10, 127.40
 Clear Streak Well 32.29, 122.24
 Cliff I. 34.01, 122.05
 Clyde Hill 33.21, 123.00
 Cocklebiddy 32.02, 126.06
 Cocklebiddy Rockhole 32.04, 126.07
- Combe I. 34.05, 122.58
 Condingup 33.45, 122.32
 Coolanya Rock 32.17, 123.49
 Coomalbidgup 33.43, 121.22
 Coragina Rock 32.55, 123.30
 Coramup Creek 33.42, 121.57
 Coujinup Hill 33.20, 120.15
 Coujinup Creek 33.23, 120.15
 Cull I. 33.55, 121.54
 Culver Microwave Tower 32.21, 124.44
- Dalyup 33.43, 121.35
 Dalyup River 33.44, 121.36
 Dalyup River West 33.42, 121.34
 Dampier Flat 32.08, 126.23
 Daw I. 33.51, 124.06
 Deralinya [Ruins] 33.03, 123.23
 Dingo Rock 33.04, 122.05
 Dog Rock 32.58, 121.04
 Double Tank 32.54, 122.14
 Douglas I. 34.10, 123.08
 Dowak 32.54, 121.36
 Duke of Orleans Bay 33.55, 122.38
- Easter Tank 32.05, 123.48
 Emu Rock 32.27, 119.25
 Esperance 33.52, 121.53
 Esperance Bay 33.55, 122.00
 Eucla (old) 31.43, 128.54
 Eucla Pass 31.41, 128.53
 Ewans Lake 33.48, 121.58
 Eyre 32.15, 126.18
- Figure of Eight I. 34.02, 121.37
 Finger I. 34.07, 122.21
 Forrest 30.51, 128.06
 Forrest I. 33.55, 122.43
 Forrestania Cross-roads 32.24, 119.45
 Frank Hann National Park 32.55, 120.17
 Fraser Range 31.59, 122.51
 Frederick I. 34.04, 122.01
- George I. 34.03, 123.15
 Gibb Rock 32.05, 119.06
 Gibson 33.39, 121.49
 Gnama Hill 32.10, 122.42
 Goose I. 34.05, 123.11
 Gora Hill 33.33, 123.22
 Gorgalamninya Rock 32.35, 123.35

Gould I. 33.58, 122.51
 Grass Patch 33.14, 121.44
 Gulch I. 34.02, 123.15
 Gull I. — see Cull I.
 Gunnadorah 30.59, 125.51
 Gunton I. 34.00, 121.59

 Haig 31.00, 126.05
 Hastings I. 34.06, 122.07
 Hatters Hill 32.49, 119.58
 Heartbreak Ridge 32.04, 122.23
 Heinsman Rock 33.07, 123.27
 Hellfire Bay 34.01, 122.10
 High I. 33.55, 122.36
 Honman Ridge 32.25, 120.36
 Hood I. 34.09, 122.03
 Howe I. 34.10, 122.01
 Hull I. 33.58, 122.51
 Hut Donga 30.24, 125.42

 Inshore I. 33.55, 122.50
 Israelite Bay 33.37, 123.52

 Jimberlana Hill 32.09, 121.49
 Junana Rock 33.23, 123.24
 Jyndabinbin Rocks 32.55, 122.04

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