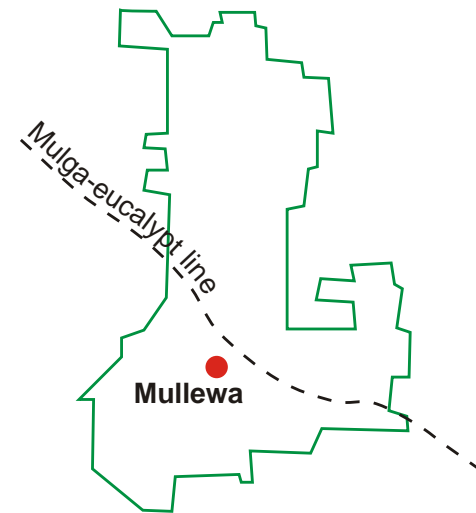


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Western Australia Inc.

BIRDS OF THE MULLEWA SHIRE

**Number 12b in a series of
Bird Guides of Western Australia**

With information on relative abundances, ecological status
and conditions for continuing survival or increase



Nov 2005

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CODE

CURRENT ABUNDANCE

C Common
M Moderately common
U Uncommon
R Rare

Col 1 West of the Mulga-eucalypt line
Col 2 East of the Mulga-eucalypt line

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (1930-1996)

O No perceived change
+ Increase
- Decrease

NOTES

Grey Currawong	-R	-	nomadic-reserves-declining in range to southwest
Australian Raven	MC	+	resident-all habitats-has benefited from agriculture
Little Crow	CC	O	seasonal migrant-woodland, farmland-often confused with Australian Raven
Torresian Crow	UR	O	bird of the mulga (east of Pindar)-bases of body feathers snow white-sharp call
Spotted Bowerbird	UR	O	resident-has colonized station homesteads feeding on fruits in gardens, also gullies, cliffs-east of shire 1986 report 16 km S of Mullewa
Richard's Pipit	CC	+	resident of open country-has benefited from clearing
Zebra Finch	CC	+	resident, drought refuge-has benefited from introduced grasses, dams
Mistletoebird	MU	-	nomadic-reserves, large remnants

SWALLOWS, MARTINS

White-backed Swallow	UC	+	resident-heath, farmland
Welcome Swallow	UC	+	resident-farms, towns-nest sites in buildings
Tree Martin	CC	-	resident-woodland, farmland, towns-decline through loss of woodland
Fairy Martin	MM	?	irregular visitor (Aug-Feb)-woodland, farmland often near water, breakaways

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Rufous Songlark	MM	?	breeding migrant (Apr-Sep)-lightly-wooded country, farmland-nest on ground
Brown Songlark	MM	+	breeding migrant-farmland-increase with agriculture-nest on ground
Silvereye	-U	-	nomadic-woodland, farmland-decline with loss of habitat

Emu	MU	-	reserves, large remnants, adjacent farmland
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MOUNDBUILDERS, QUAILS

Malleefowl	MU	-	resident-reserves, needs undisturbed vegetation, danger from foxes and cats-threatened species
Stubble Quail	UC	+	seasonal migrant-increase with agriculture-many nests in crops

WATERFOWL

Black Swan	UU	?	nomad, wet years-river pools
Australian Shelduck	UU	+	seasonal visitor-farm dams, wetlands-attracted to cleared areas
Australian Wood Duck	UM	+	breeding visitor to dams, wetlands-pasture has provided suitable habitat
Pacific Black Duck	UU	-	nomad during wetter periods-decrease due to loss of fresh water wetlands, pressure from Australian Shelduck
Grey Teal	UU	O	uncommon visitor-river pools, dams
Australasian Grebe	UU	O	uncommon nomad-river pools, dams

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, ALLIES

Darter	RR	O	rare visitor-freshwater river pools
Little Pied Cormorant	RU	-	nomad-farm dams, river pools
Little Black Cormorant	RU	O	nomad-farm dams, river pools
Australian Pelican	RU	O	nomad-farm dams, river pools

HERONS, IBIS

White-faced Heron	RU	-	resident/nomad-farm dams, wetlands-decrease due to salination
White-necked Heron	RU	O	annual visitor wetter months-wetlands
Straw-necked Ibis	RM	?	nomad-wetlands, farmlands-numbers fluctuate perhaps controlled by rainfall
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	RR	+	nomad-may be increasing in range

HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS

Black-shouldered Kite	MM	+	arid zone bird-farmland-increase with agriculture
Letter-winged Kite	RR	O	irruptive - last report 1953

Square-tailed Kite	RR	O	nomad-woodland, heath-reserves remnants-decrease with loss of timber
Whistling Kite	UM	-	resident-woodland, farmland, wetland-decrease with loss of vegetation
Spotted Harrier	MU	O	resident-woodland, farmland
Brown Goshawk	MM	-	resident-woodland, farmland
Collared Sparrowhawk	UU	-	resident-woodland, farmland, mainly near reserves, remnants
Wedge-tailed Eagle	MM	O	most conspicuous raptor-one breeding pair per 130 km ²
Little Eagle	MM	-	resident-woodland, farmland- decrease with loss of vegetation
Brown Falcon	MM	-	resident-woodland, farmland
Australian Hobby	UU	-	resident-woodland, farmland
Peregrine Falcon	RR	O	resident-woodland, farmland
Nankeen Kestrel	MM	-	resident-woodland, farmland

CRAKES, RAILS, BUSTARD

Buff-banded Rail	RR	?	Rare vagrant - aquatic habitats
Australian Spotted Crake	RR	?	rare vagrant-aquatic habitats
Spotless Crake	RR	?	rare vagrant-aquatic habitats
Black-tailed Native-hen	UU	O	nomad-wetlands, dams-numbers fluctuate widely
Eurasian Coot	RU	O	nomadic-river pools
Australian Bustard	UR	-	nomadic-woodland, farmland- threatened by foxes, cats

BUTTON-QUAILS

Little Button-quail	RU	O	nomadic (Spring-early Summer)- woodland, remnants
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WADERS

Bush Stone-curlew	UR	-	resident-reserves, large remnants- heard rather than seen
Black-winged Stilt	RU	O	nomadic-wetlands, dams
Red-necked Avocet	RR	O	nomadic-wetlands, dams
Inland Dotterel	UU	O	resident-open bare areas and farmland
Black-fronted Dotterel	RM	-	resident-fresh water pools-decline due to salination
Red-kneed Dotterel	-U	O	nomadic-no seasonal pattern- wetlands
Banded Lapwing	RC	+	nomadic leaving usually in summer- increase with farming

Chiming Wedgebill	MR	-	resident-far east and north of shire- becoming rare in agricultural area- reserves
Chestnut Quail-thrush	MU	-	resident-reserves in wheatbelt-foxes, cats also cause of decline
Varied Sittella	UU	-	resident-reserves-decline with clearing

WHISTLERS, FLYCATCHERS

Crested Bellbird	MU	-	resident-reserves, large remnants- decline with clearing
Golden Whistler	-U	-	resident-reserves, remnants, range contracting
Rufous Whistler	MM	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Grey Shrike-thrush	MM	-	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants, moves locally in corridors
Magpie-lark	UC	+	widespread
Grey Fantail	UU	O	winter breeding migrant (Apr-Oct)- reserves, remnants, farm gardens
Willie Wagtail	CC	+	sedentary-benefited from farming- varied habitats

CUCKOO-SHRIKES, TRILLERS

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	CC	O	nomadic-woodland, farmland, town- flocks late summer
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	UU	-	nomad from arid zone-reserves, farmland-declined with clearing
White-winged Triller	UU	-	seasonal migrant (Jun-Dec)-reserves, remnants

WOODSWALLOWS

Masked Woodswallow	UU	O	seasonal nomad-flocks may appear for some time then disappear
White-browed Woodswallow	RR	?	one record
Black-faced Woodswallow	CC	+	resident-common in wheatbelt- clearing has favoured increase
Little Woodswallow	UR	?	arid zone bird-rare vagrant

BUTCHERBIRDS, CURRAWONG

Grey Butcherbird	UU	-	resident-reserves, remnants-decline with clearing
Pied Butcherbird	CC	+	resident-open woodland, farmland- has extended range with clearing
Australian Magpie	UM	+	resident-colonizes newly-cleared land

Yellow-throated Miner	CC	- resident-reserves, degraded remnants, towns
Singing Honeyeater	CC	- resident-reserves, degraded remnants, towns-will fly over open ground
White-eared Honeyeater	U	- resident-reserves, remnants-moves along corridors not open spaces
Brown-headed Honeyeater	M	- resident-forms parties that wander locally-reserves, remnants-moves only along corridors
Brown Honeyeater	UM	- resident-reserves, remnants, towns-needs corridor movement-feeds on wide range of plants
White-fronted Honeyeater	MM	- nomad-bird of arid zone
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	-U	- nomad-reserves, large remnants-decline with loss of heath
Grey Honeyeater	R	? one record breeding Mullewa township-arid zone bird
Black Honeyeater	UR	O arid zone bird-rare nomad in reserves
Pied Honeyeater	UR	? arid zone bird-rare nomad in reserves
Crimson Chat	UR	O arid zone bird-occasional seasonal nomad to reserves, farmlands
White-fronted Chat	MM	+ nomadic (May-Nov)-pairs to parties-bushland, heath, farmland

AUSTRALIAN ROBINS

Jacky Winter	-U	- resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants
Red-capped Robin	MM	- resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants-needs corridors for dispersal (Apr-Jul)
Western Yellow Robin	-U	- resident-reserves, remnants especially near breakaways-need corridors for dispersal
Southern Scrub-robin	UU	- resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants

BABLERS, QUAIL-THRUSH

Grey-crowned Babbler	M-	O bird of mulga-sedentary-reddish underparts-far east and north of shire
White-browed Babbler	MC	- resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants, movement along corridors

Silver Gull RR ? vagrant

PIGEONS, DOVES

Laughing Turtle-Dove	UC	+ resident-introduced from overseas-now spreading to all suitable habitats
Common Bronzewing	MM	- resident-reserves, fragmented remnants-decrease with clearing
Crested Pigeon	CC	+ once bird of watercourses in arid zone-farms ideal habitat with grasses, dam
Diamond Dove	UU	? bird of arid zone-occasional nomad to woodlands

COCKATOOS, PARROTS

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	-U	+ resident-originally bird of riverine plains to north, attracted to farmlands by double-gee, grasses and dams-possible shortage of nest hollows
Short-billed Black-Cockatoo	-U	- migrant (late winter, spring)-needs heath (eg hakeas, banksias)-extensive clearing causing decline
Galah	CC	+ moved south from riverine plains and arid zone-causes death of some trees by chewing bark around nest hole
Western Corella	UM	+ resident-woodland, farmland-after breeding joins summer foraging flocks
Little Corella	CC	+ has invaded wheatbelt from arid zone-extending range south-does not damage crops
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	RU	- resident-woodland, farmland-clearing and robbing of nests has lead to decline
Cockatiel	MU	O breeding migrant-woodland, farmland-occasional irruptions from north-feeds on standing wheat
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	-U	- nomad, movement dictated by flowering of woodland species-decline with clearing
Regent Parrot	RR	- previously declared pest-decline due to competition for nest hollows
Australian Ringneck	CC	+ resident-most common bird-feeds on seeds of introduced grasses, cereals
Mulga Parrot	MM	+ resident-woodland farmland, can survive in fragmented remnants, food includes cereal crops

Budgerigar	MU	O	bird of arid zone, nomad-woodland, farmland-fluctuation in numbers
Bourke's Parrot	MR	O	bird of arid zone, mulga-eucalypt line is limit-rare vagrant to wheatbelt
Elegant Parrot	-U	+	resident-woodland, farmland-has spread into northern wheatbelt from south

CUCKOOS

Pallid Cuckoo	UU	O	seasonal migrant (May-Oct)-woodland, farmland
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	UU	-	migrant (May-Aug)-reserves, remnants
Black-eared Cuckoo	MU	-	visitor (Apr-Dec)-arid, semi-arid thickets-decline due to loss of host species
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	UU	-	breeding migrant-woodland-decline due to loss of host species
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	UU	-	breeding migrant-woodland-decline due to loss of host species

OWLS, FROGMOUTH, ALLIES

Southern Boobook	UU	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Barn Owl	UU	O	resident-reserves, remnants, farmland
Tawny Frogmouth	CC	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Spotted Nightjar	UR	O	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors-heard calling at night
Australian Owlet-nightjar	MM	-	resident-reserves, remnants, decline due to clearing-heard calling at night
Fork-tailed Swift	UU	O	migrant (Dec-Apr)-sometimes with Tree Martins, Masked Woodswallows-often during stormy weather

KINGFISHERS

Red-backed Kingfisher	MU	O	breeding migrant-reserves, remnants usually along water courses
Sacred Kingfisher	UU	-	passage migrant-usually single, pairs
Rainbow Bee-eater	UU	O	migrant (Aug-Apr)-lightly wooded, sandy country near water – foxes destroy nest burrows

TREECREEPERS

White-browed Treecreeper	M-	O	resident-mulga country, river gum woodlands-feeds exclusively on ants
Rufous Treecreeper	-U	-	resident-reserves-declining in range

FAIRY-WRENS, ALLIES

Splendid Fairy-wren	MM	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors, windmill overflows
Variiegated Fairy-wren	MM	-	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants, corridors
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	-U	-	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants
White-winged Fairy-wren	MM	O	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants

PARDALOTES, THORNBILLS, ALLIES

Striated Pardalote	UM	-	resident/winter visitor-feeds in higher foliage-reserves, remnants, corridors-sharp call often heard, 'chip-chip'
White-browed Scrub-wren	-U	-	resident-needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Shy Heathwren	-U	-	resident-needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Rufous Fieldwren	UM	-	resident-needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Redthroat	MM	-	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants
Weebill	CC	-	resident-reserves, remnants-mainly canopy woodlands
Western Gerygone	UU	-	resident/migrant (Mar-Nov)-reserves, remnants
Inland Thornbill	MM	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	CC	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	CC	-	resident-reserves, remnants, adjacent farmland
Southern Whiteface	C-	O	resident-arid woodland and open scrubs-extreme east and north of shire

HONEYEATERS, CHATS

Red Wattlebird	RU	-	migrant (Apr-Oct)-now found in most habitats
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	MM	-	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors