

NOTES

Prepared by Birds Australia Western Australia Inc.

BIRDS OF THE MINGENEW SHIRE

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Bird Guides of Western Australia

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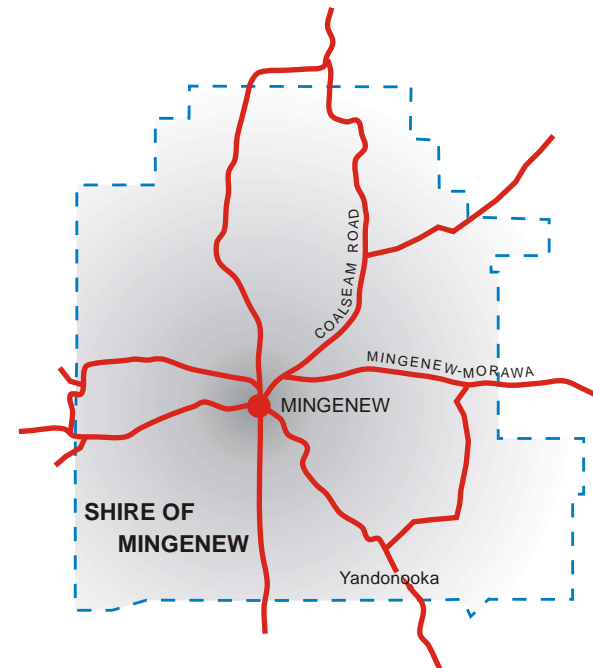
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Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike



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CURRENT ABUNDANCE		CODE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (1930–1997)	
C	Common	O	No perceived change
M	Moderately common	+	Increase
U	Uncommon	-	Decrease
R	Rare		

BIRDS OF THE MINGENEW SHIRE

The Mingenew Shire is located in the northern agricultural area with the northeastern boundaries some 60 km from the arid zone and the mulga/eucalypt line. Several species from the arid zone have moved into the shire since agricultural development (e.g. Crested Pigeon, Galah), or as seasonal visitors (e.g. Pied Honeyeater, Crimson Chat), or as visitors during drought periods in the arid zone (e.g. Black Honeyeater).

The development of pastoral and agricultural industries in the area over the past century has led to the possible extinction in the shire of several species (e.g. Malleefowl, Southern Scrub-robin, Golden Whistler, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater). There has also been a reduction in abundance of several species (e.g. Emu, Australian Bustard, Western Yellow Robin, Grey Currawong).

Today we are aware of the importance of the bush remnants on farms, of vegetated road corridors and reserves to provide safe refuges to conserve our remaining native species.

We would be very pleased to hear from observers of reports of sightings or comments on the brief information accompanying each species in this annotated list. We would especially appreciate reports of species not recorded in this brochure or those classified as rare. Such valuable information will be added to our records for future revised editions of this brochure.

Birds Australia Western Australia Inc.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES, TRILLERS

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

WOODSWALLOWS

Masked Woodswallow	U	O	seasonal nomad - flocks may appear for some time then disappear
Black-faced Woodswallow	C	+	resident - common in wheatbelt - clearing has favoured increase
Little Woodswallow	R	?	arid zone bird - rare vagrant - around breakaways

BUTCHERBIRDS, CURRAWONG

Grey Butcherbird	U	-	resident - reserves, remnants - decline with clearing
Pied Butcherbird	C	+	resident - open woodland, farmland - has extended range with clearing
Australian Magpie	M	+	resident - colonizes newly-cleared land
Grey Currawong	R	-	nomadic - reserves - declining in range to southwest of WA
Australian Raven	C	+	resident - all habitats - has benefited from agriculture
Little Crow	C	+	seasonal migrant - woodland, farmland - often confused with Australian Raven
Richard's Pipit	C	+	resident of open country - has benefited from clearing
Zebra Finch	C	+	resident and drought refuge - has benefited from introduced grasses, dams
Mistletoebird	U	-	nomadic - reserves, large remnants

SWALLOWS, MARTINS

White-backed Swallow	C	+	resident and migrant - heath, farmland
Welcome Swallow	C	+	resident and breeding nomad - farms, towns - nest sites in buildings
Tree Martin	C	-	breeding nomad - woodland, farmland, towns - decline through loss of woodland
Fairy Martin	M	+	regular visitor (Aug-Feb) - woodland, farmland often near water, breakaways, culverts

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

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

Weebill	C	-	resident - reserves, remnants - mainly canopy woodlands
Western Gerygone	M	-	migrant (Mar-Nov) - reserves, remnants
Inland Thornbill	M	-	resident - reserves, remnants, corridors
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	C	-	resident - reserves, remnants, corridors
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	C	+	resident - reserves, remnants, adjacent farmland

HONEYEATERS, CHATS

Red Wattlebird	U	-	migrant (Apr-Oct) - now found in most habitats
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	M	-	resident - reserves, remnants, corridors - upper Irwin
Yellow-throated Miner	C	-	resident - reserves, degraded remnants, towns
Singing Honeyeater	C	-	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	M	-	reserves, remnants, towns - needs corridor movement - feeds on wide range of plants
White-fronted Honeyeater	U	-	nomad - bird of arid zone
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	U	-	nomad - reserves, large remnants - decline with loss of heath
Black Honeyeater	R	O	arid zone bird - rare nomad in reserves - upper Irwin
Pied Honeyeater	R	?	arid zone bird - rare nomad in reserves - upper Irwin
Crimson Chat	R	O	arid zone bird - occasional seasonal nomad to reserves, farmlands
White-fronted Chat	M	+	nomadic (May-Nov) - pairs to parties - bushland, heath, farmland

AUSTRALIAN ROBINS

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

BABLERS, QUAIL-THRUSH

White-browed Babbler	C	-	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants, movement along corridors
Varied Sittella	U	-	resident - reserves - decline with clearing

WHISTLERS, FLYCATCHERS

Crested Bellbird	M	-	resident - reserves, large remnants - decline with clearing
Golden Whistler	R	-	resident - reserves, remnants, range contracting
Rufous Whistler	M	-	resident - reserves, remnants, corridors
Grey Shrike-thrush	M	-	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants, moves locally in corridors
Magpie Lark	C	+	widespread - nomadic
Grey Fantail	U	O	winter migrant (Apr-Oct) - reserves, remnants, farm gardens
Willie Wagtail	C	+	sedentary and nomadic - benefited from farming - varied habitats

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

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

WATERFOWL

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

GREBES

Australasian Grebe	M	O	nomad - river pools, dams
Hoary-headed Grebe	U	O	nomad - fresh or salt pools

PELICANS, CORMORANTS, ALLIES

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

HERONS, IBIS

White-faced Heron	U	-	resident/nomad - farm dams, wetlands - decrease due to salination
White-necked Heron	U	O	annual visitor wetter months - wetlands
Great Egret	U	?	visitor - pools
Cattle Egret	R	?	infrequent visitor - damp pastures
Straw-necked Ibis	U	?	nomad - wetlands, farmlands - numbers fluctuate perhaps controlled by rainfall
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	R	+	nomad - may be increasing in range

HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS

Black-shouldered Kite	M	+	arid zone bird - farmland - increase with agriculture
Square-tailed Kite	R	O	nomad - woodland, heath - reserves remnants - decrease with loss of timber
Whistling Kite	M	-	resident - woodland, farmland, wetland - decrease with loss of vegetation
Spotted Harrier	U	O	resident - woodland, farmland
Brown Goshawk	M	-	resident - woodland, farmland
Collared Sparrowhawk	U	-	resident - woodland, farmland, mainly near reserves, remnants
Wedge-tailed Eagle	M	O	most conspicuous raptor - one breeding pair per 130km ²
Little Eagle	U	-	resident - woodland, farmland - decrease with loss of vegetation
Brown Falcon	U	-	resident - woodland, farmland
Australian Hobby	U	-	resident - woodland, farmland

Peregrine Falcon	R	O	resident - woodland, farmland
Nankeen Kestrel	M	-	resident - woodland, farmland
CRACKES, RAILS, BUSTARD			
Black-tailed Native-hen	U	O	nomad - wetlands, dams - numbers fluctuate widely
Coot	R	O	nomadic - river pools
Australian Bustard	R	-	nomadic - woodland, farmland - threatened by foxes, cats
BUTTON-QUAILS			
Little Button-quail	U	O	nomadic (Spring-early Summer) - woodland, farmland
Painted Button-quail	R	-	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants
WADERS			
Common Greenshank	U	O	visitor - usually singly - pools, dams
Common Sandpiper	U	O	visitor - ones or twos - lakes, pools
Bush Stone-curlew	R	-	resident - reserves, large remnants - heard rather than seen - foxes, cats
Black-winged Stilt	R	O	nomadic - wetlands, dams
Red-necked Avocet	R	O	nomadic - wetlands, dams
Inland Dotterel	U	+	resident - open bare areas and farmland - increase with farming
Black-fronted Dotterel	R	-	resident - fresh water pools - decline due to salination
Red-kneed Dotterel	U	O	nomadic - no seasonal pattern-wetlands
Banded Lapwing	C	+	nomadic leaving usually in summer - increase with farming
Silver Gull	R	?	vagrant
PIGEONS, DOVES			
Laughing Turtle-Dove	C	+	resident - introduced from overseas - now spreading to all suitable habitats
Common Bronzewing	M	-	resident - reserves, fragmented remnants - decrease with clearing
Crested Pigeon	C	+	once bird of watercourses in arid zone - farms ideal habitat with grasses, dams
Diamond Dove	U	?	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	R	-	migrant (late winter, spring) - needs heath (e.g. hakeas, banksias) - extensive clearing causing decline
Galah	C	+	moved south from riverine plains and arid zone - causes death of some trees by chewing bark around nest hole
Western Corella	M	?	resident - woodland, farmland - after breeding joins summer foraging flocks
Little Corella	M	+	has invaded wheatbelt from arid zone - extending range south - does not damage crops
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	R	-	resident - woodland, farmland - clearing and robbing of nests has lead to decline - upper Irwin
Cockatiel	M	O	breeding migrant - woodland, farmland - occasional irruptions from north - feeds on standing wheat

Regent Parrot	R	-	previously declared pest - decline due to competition for nest hollows
Australian Ringneck	C	+	resident - most common bird - seeds of introduced grasses, cereals
Mulga Parrot	M	+	resident - woodland farmland, can survive in fragmented remnants, food includes cereal crops - upper Irwin
Budgerigar	U	O	bird of arid zone, nomad - woodland, farmland - fluctuation in numbers
Elegant Parrot	U	+	resident - woodland, farmland - has spread into northern wheatbelt from south

CUCKOOS

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

OWLS, FROGMOUTH, ALLIES

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

KINGFISHERS

Laughing Kookaburra	U	+	introduced to district
Red-backed Kingfisher	U	O	breeding migrant - reserves, remnants usually along water courses - upper Irwin
Sacred Kingfisher	U	-	passage migrant - usually single, pairs
Rainbow Bee-eater	U	O	migrant (Aug-Apr) - lightly wooded, sandy country, near water - foxes destroy nest burrows

FAIRY-WRENS, ALLIES

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

PARDALOTES, THORNBILLS, ALLIES

Striated Pardalote	M	-	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 sandplain, reserves, remnants
Rufous Fieldwren	U	-	resident - needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Redthroat	M	-	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants - upper Irwin