



## ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

BIRD

### *Microeca fascinans fascinans*

Jacky Winter

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	R	V	-	Resident



Photo: © Tom & Marie Tarrant (www.aviceda.org)

#### Conservation Significance

The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.<sup>2</sup> Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Very Restricted'.<sup>3</sup>

Nationally three subspecies, with slight geographical variation. Darker in the south and paler in the far north and inland.<sup>1</sup> Of the two subspecies in South Australia, the nominate form of wetter areas was once fairly common in the Mount Lofty Ranges but now no longer occurs in many areas (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

#### Description

Small grey-brown flycatcher with faint pale eye-line and white underbody. Tail dark with prominent white outer feathers, obvious on landing. Typically sits upright on a bare branch or perch, wagging its tail. Call is clear and carries far, a rapid 'chwit-chwit-chwit-peter-peter-peter'.<sup>1</sup>

#### Distribution and Population

Widely distributed in mainland Australia and in south-east New Guinea, being a resident in some places and a seasonal visitor in others.<sup>1</sup>

Now uncommon in the AMLR. Like other woodland birds, in order to increase in numbers, will require substantial revegetated habitat.<sup>4</sup>

Pre- and post-1983 AMLR filtered records scattered

across the ranges from the Barossa to Port Willunga, east to Monarto and south to Victor Harbor.<sup>3</sup>

#### Habitat

Prefer open woodland (Eucalypt and mallee) with an open shrub layer and bare ground. Often seen in farmland and parks.<sup>1,4</sup>

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland and Mallee.<sup>3</sup> Occasional broad vegetation group is also Shrubland (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

#### Biology and Ecology

Sedentary species. Individuals can be quite tame and familiar in some areas.

Breeding season August to January. Sings constantly during breeding. Cup-shaped nest very small, made from grass and strips of bark, bound with spider's web; usually on the fork of a dead branch and always in an exposed position and clear of leaves. Female incubates eggs for approximately 17 days and probably broods the young which are fed by the male. May raise several broods in a season.

Feed by darting out from a perch to snatch at flying insects, returning to the same perch. They dive and twist in the air, hovering and grabbing at insects.<sup>1</sup>

#### Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations - Kurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk.<sup>3</sup>

#### Threats

Numbers have declined substantially in some areas, particularly in the south, due to habitat loss from clearing for farming or housing. Intolerant of human disturbance and becoming scarce around settled areas (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

#### Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region  
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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



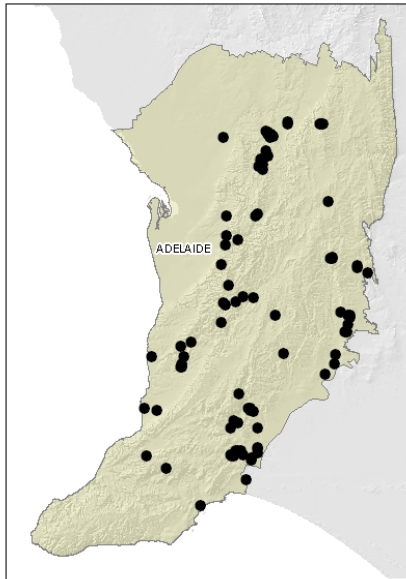
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### Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>3</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

### References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

1 Australian Museum (2006). *Birds in Backyards: Bird Finder*. Available from <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> (accessed November 2007).

2 Cale, B. (2005). *Towards a Recovery Plan for the Declining Birds of the Mount Lofty Ranges*. Scientific Resource Document for Birds for Biodiversity. Unpublished Report.

3 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

4 Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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