



BIRD

Anthochaera chrysoptera

Little Wattlebird

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	U	-	Resident



Photo: © Brian Furby

Conservation Significance

The AMLR distribution is part of a limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA.⁴ The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.³

Uncommon and geographically isolated in the region (though possibly linked to the South-East via the Coorong).^{1,5}

Description

Medium to large honeyeater, but smallest of the wattlebirds. Mostly dark grey-brown above, with faint white shafts on each feather. Underparts grey and heavily streaked with white. Streaks are finer around the throat, becoming more blotched on sides of belly. In flight, there is a large rufous patch in the wings. Eye blue-grey. Birds of WA have a red eye and silver patch on the side of the throat; these are sometimes regarded as a different species. Sexes are similar. Young birds resemble the adults, but are duller, have less streaking and a browner eye.²

Distribution and Population

Found throughout south-eastern and south-western Australia and TAS.²

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records scattered across the region, but largely focused around suburban Adelaide and the western ranges, the Barossa, northern plains and clusters on the southern Fleurieu north of Waitpinga and Second Valley.⁴

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records are limited but indicate a similar distribution with additional observations at Deep Creek CP.⁴

Habitat

Prefers drier and often scrubby habitats, such as Banksia heaths, forests, woodlands and has done well in urban parks and gardens (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).²

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland, Shrubland and Wetland.⁴

Biology and Ecology

Feeds on nectar, which is obtained using a long, brush-tipped tongue specially adapted to probing deep into flowers. Other food includes insects, flowers, berries and some seeds. Most feeding is done while perched, but some insects are caught in mid-air. May feed alone or in groups.²

Main breeding season is August to December but they can breed year round. Clutch size of one to three eggs and chick's time in the nest is 16 days.² If conditions are suitable, as many as three broods may be raised in a year. Female normally constructs the nest, which is a large cup of twigs and grass, lined with soft materials, such as feathers and wool. Nest may be placed in a range of places from the ground up to about 15 m. Female incubates the eggs alone. Both sexes care for young birds.²

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations - Kurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk.⁴

Threats

Threats include the impact of grazing on *Banksia marginata* recruitment. Also *Phytophthora cinnamoni* has the potential to affect Banksia shrublands (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
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

© Department for Environment and Heritage FIS 90346 May 2008

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



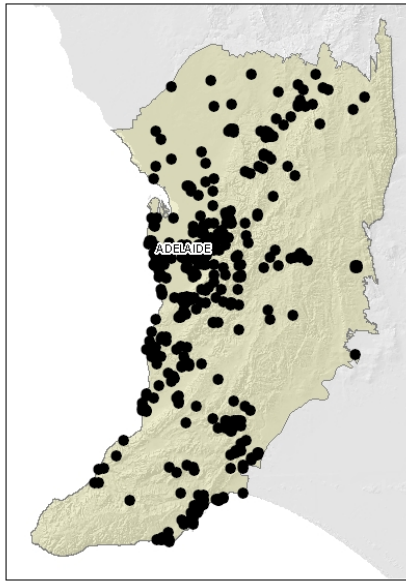
Government
of South Australia



ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁴ 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 Armstrong, D. M., Croft, S. N. and Foulkes, J. N. (2003). *A Biological Survey of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia, 2000-2001*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

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

3 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.

4 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.

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

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

© Department for Environment and Heritage FIS 90346 May 2008

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



Government
of South Australia