



BIRD

Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis

Southern Whiteface (eastern)

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	V	-	Resident



Photo: © Tony Crittenden (www.tcphotos.net)

Conservation Significance

The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.¹ Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.²

Description

Small bird (10-12 cm) with a white band across the forehead, with a dark rear border down through the eye. Underparts grey or off-white. Stubby, dark, finch-like bill (indicative of its diet of seeds and insects). Call is a rapid, scratchy twittering 'tzip-tzip-tziptziptzip ...'.⁴

Distribution and Population

Occurs across southern and central Australia, from the Great Victorian Desert and Nullarbor Plain, and across most of SA, VIC and NSW, extending into southern QLD, generally avoiding coastal areas in the higher rainfall zones (Blakers et al. 1984; Schodde and Mason 1999).³

Has declined in density, but only across about 20% of historical range. Extent of occurrence is estimated at 3,000,000 km²; area of occupancy is estimated at 1,000,000 km² and declining; and number of breeding birds is estimated as 10,000,000 (low

reliability) and declining. The number of sub-populations is estimated at ten, with the largest sub-population estimated to have 9,000,000 birds (low reliability).³

Although one of a suite of species that have declined from woodlands in southeastern Australia, it has an extensive range in semi-arid Australia where there is no evidence of a decline (Robinson and Traill 1996, Reid 1999).³ In SA, has declined in the agricultural regions (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records predominantly in the east of the region (particularly around Monarto), with isolated records from Onkaparinga, Aldinga and Ashbourne areas.²

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records limited, mostly in the central ranges, also around Mount Compass, Strathalbyn and Port Elliot.²

Habitat

Inhabits open woodlands from near arid habitats, such as Acacia scrub and hummock grassland, through to the wetter grassy woodlands of south-eastern Australia, where Eucalypts dominate (Blakers et al. 1984).³ In the AMLR, small populations occur in mallee, box and native pine woodlands at the margins of the region, preferring open understories (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland, Heathy Woodland and Mallee.²

Biology and Ecology

Sedentary, breeding from June to December. Builds a large untidy domed nest of grass, bark and roots, on tree stumps, hollow limbs, fence posts, foliage of shrubs and low trees or sheds. Clutch size two to five. Feeds mainly on insects but also seeds and leaves.⁵

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations - Kurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk.²

Threats

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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<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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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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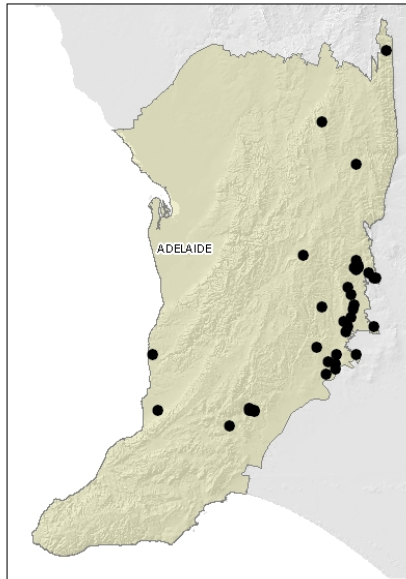


ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.² 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 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.

2 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.

3 Garnett, S. T. and Crowley, G. M. (2000). *The Action Plan for Australian Birds*. Environment Australia, Commonwealth of Australia.

4 Morcombe, M. (2000). *Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Steve Parish Publishing Pty Ltd, Queensland.

5 Pizzey, G. (1997). *The Graham Pizzey and Frank Knight Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Harper Collins, Sydney.

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