



BIRD

Cinclosoma punctatum anachoreta

Spotted Quail-thrush

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
CE	E	E	AMLR	Resident (?)



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

Conservation Significance

Endemic to the AMLR. This subspecies may be extinct.

Within the AMLR the relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.³

Described as a distinct subspecies isolated from two other subspecies, one in TAS and the other in south-eastern Australia (Parker and Reid 1983; Schodde and Mason 1999). Although once regarded as 'fairly numerous' (McGilp 1964), this is probably now the most threatened bird taxon in Australia.¹

Geographically isolated in the AMLR, a subspecies of the Bassian *Cinclosoma punctatum* species at or near the western extremity of the southern distribution.¹

Description

Largest of the quail-thrushes (24–30 cm) and the only one found in coastal south-east Australia. Olive-brown above with bold black streaking, white below with a grey breast, long tail and flesh coloured legs. Call is a varied, repeated soft musical piping or whistling 'fee-oo'.⁵

Distribution and Population

Not recorded during the 1972-76 surveys for the SAOA Bird Atlas of the Adelaide Region. There was one breeding record during the 1977-1981 surveys

(Blakers et al. 1984).⁶ At various times during the 1970s it was reported from the Cherry Gardens, Mount Bold, Clarendon and Ashbourne districts, and from Spring Mount and Waitpinga CPs (Carpenter and Reid 1983; David Harper *pers. comm.* 2001). David Harper provided a record for the Birds for Biodiversity database for May 1981 near Spring Mt CP.²

Last published account in the SMLR was the RAOU Atlas (Blakers et al. 1984). Since then unconfirmed records are known from the Myponga Tiers, south-east of Spring Mount (near Mosquito Hill) and the Clarendon district (David Harper *pers. comm.* 2001).¹

If the MLR Spotted Quail-thrush persists, the number of mature individuals (breeding birds) is estimated to be ten and declining.⁶

Post-1983 AMLR filtered record from Onkaparinga River NP.³

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records isolated, from Angaston, Houghton, Lobethal, Adelaide, Piccadilly, Hahndorf, Belair area, Onkaparinga River NP, Ashbourne, Inman Valley and Tunkalilla areas.³

Habitat

May inhabit Eucalypt woodland with an open shrub layer and dense ground cover (Carpenter and Reid 1988).¹ Use habitat with open ground and areas of leaf litter, woody debris, rocks or tussocks, as well as some small shrubs for cover (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Former habitats include *Eucalyptus microcarpa* woodland with *Lepidosperma semiteres* dominant in the understorey and scattered shrubs including *Olearia ramulosa*, *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, *Acacia acinacea*, *A. paradoxa* and *A. pycnantha*. Other sites had an overstorey of *Eucalyptus viminalis* or *E. fasciculosa*, but still with *Lepidosperma semiteres* prominent.⁴

Likely preferred habitat still exists at Mt Bold Reservoir, Onkaparinga RP, and at various sites on the Fleurieu Peninsula (e.g. Deep Creek).⁴

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Grassy Woodland.³

Biology and Ecology

Sedentary, ground frequenting and secretive bird.¹ Feeds on seeds, insects and other small invertebrates. Lay two to three eggs in a well-disguised cup-shaped

Further information:

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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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nest built on the ground (Beruldsen 1980; Blakers et al. 1984).⁴

Aboriginal Significance

The species was last observed in Kurna Nation, and possibly in Peramangk Nation.³

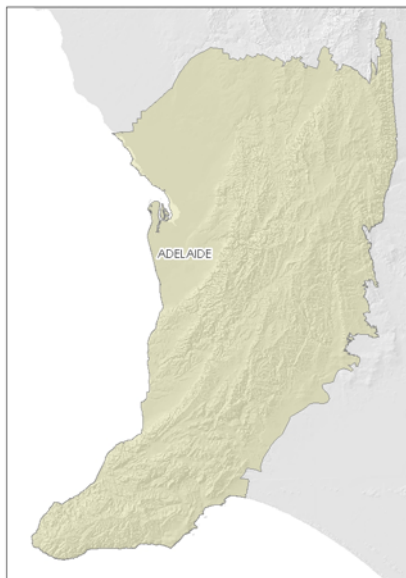
Threats

The area where the MLR Spotted Quail-thrush was known to occur has been subject to large-scale habitat clearance. Severe fires in 1983 in the area would have further reduced the population. Fragmentation of forest patches would have prevented recolonization after local extinctions. Close human settlement is also likely to have caused degradation of habitat and increased predation by cats and disturbance by dogs and people.⁶

Fire is unlikely to be an ongoing threat to its preferred habitat unless a dense shrub or weedy understorey results (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).⁴

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

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.³ 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 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 Garnett, S. T. and Crowley, G. M. (2000). *The Action Plan for Australian Birds*. Environment Australia, Commonwealth of Australia.

5 Higgins, P. J. and Peter, J. M., eds. (2002). *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume 6: Pardalotes to Shrike-thrushes*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

6 Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2002). *Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Cinclosoma punctatum anachoreta* (Spotted Quail-thrush (Mt Lofty Ranges))*. Available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/spotted-quail-thrush.html> (accessed May 2008).

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