



BIRD

Glyciphila melanops

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	U	-	Resident



Photo: © Brian Furby

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

Medium sized bird 16-18 cm, with distinctive cinnamon crown and extended dark mask through eye and down sides of white throat and breast. Flight feathers have narrow buff-yellow margins. Underparts white and flanks softly streaked grey-brown. Wing linings are tinted pale cinnamon. Call is clear, ringing, flute-like notes with wistful quality; variations of 'quip-peeer, pieer-pieer-pieer'.³

Distribution and Population

Occurs across Southern Australia, WA, SA (from EP to SE, including KI regions), VIC and NSW. Another race occurs in TAS.⁴ Uncommon in the AMLR.⁵

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted, with clustered records from the Barossa, Kaiserstuhl CP, Anstey Hill RP, Black Hill CP, south of Monarto, near Aldinga, near Onkaparinga River, near the south of Fleurieu Peninsula, Newland Head, Finniss, south of Ashbourne.²

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records are limited but suggest a similar distribution, with additional records around

Mount Compass and the southern suburbs of Adelaide.²

Habitat

Within the AMLR, recorded from low woodland and heaths.⁵

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Shrubland, Coastal and Mallee.²

Biology and Ecology

Occurs alone or in pairs, occasionally in larger numbers. Most likely to be noticed when breeding, with clear lilting song often given in flight. In display flights it rises steeply, high above the ground then spirals downwards while calling.³

Feeds in low heathy vegetation within open woodlands; flowering banksias, bottlebrushes and other heath shrubs provide nectar. Also hunts insects, often taken in flight.³

Breeding period from July to February, mostly September to December. Constructs a sturdy, thick-walled cup of fine twigs, bark strips and grass; rough outside but thickly lined with plant down, wool and fur. Nest is hidden in a low dense shrub or clump of grass. Adults sneak to and from the nest. Clutch size probably two to three.³

Aboriginal Significance

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

Threats

Loss, degradation and fragmentation of extensive areas of grassy shrub and woodland, and invasion of woody weeds decreasing habitat value (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/>

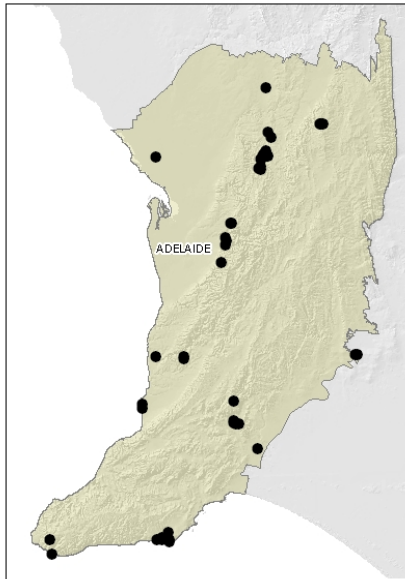
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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





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

⁴ Reader's Digest (1997). *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds*. Reader's Digest (Australia) Pty Ltd.

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

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