



*Podargus strigoides*

**Tawny Frogmouth**

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	U	-	Resident



Photo: © Chris Ross

**Conservation Significance**

Described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.<sup>2</sup> Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Very Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'Very High'.<sup>3</sup>

**Description**

Silver-grey, slightly paler below, streaked and mottled with black and rufous. A second plumage phase also occurs, with birds becoming russet-red. Eye is yellow in both forms, and the wide, heavy bill is olive-grey to blackish. South-eastern birds are larger than birds from the north (average length 44 cm). Call is a soft, deep, continuous, 'ooo-ooo-ooo' sound.<sup>1</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

Found throughout Australia, including TAS.<sup>1</sup>

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records focused around the central AMLR, with other scattered records in the Barossa, Aldinga, and Fleurieu Peninsula.<sup>3</sup> Breeds in the AMLR and appears to be tolerant of suburban fringe. Infrequent sightings occur in well-established suburbs.<sup>4</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records are limited but include

more within the Adelaide metropolitan area.<sup>3</sup>

**Habitat**

Can be seen in almost any habitat type.<sup>1</sup>

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland, Grassy Woodland and Mallee.<sup>3</sup>

**Biology and Ecology**

Nocturnal bird. During the day perches on a tree branch, often low down, camouflaged as part of the tree.<sup>1</sup>

Most of the diet is made up of nocturnal insects, worms, slugs and snails. Small mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds are also eaten. Most food is obtained by pouncing to the ground from a tree or other elevated perch. Some prey items, such as moths, are caught in flight.<sup>1</sup>

Have a regular breeding season (August to December), but birds in more arid areas may breed in response to heavy rains. Clutch size two to three. Both sexes incubate the eggs for approximately 30 days. The male sits during the day, but both sexes share sitting at night. Nest is a loose, untidy platform of sticks, usually constructed on a horizontal forked tree branch. Normally, only one brood is raised in a season, but birds from the south may have two broods.<sup>1</sup>

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Kurna, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk Nations. It also occurs close to the border of Ngadjuri Nation.<sup>3</sup>

**Threats**

Considered adaptable, however living near to human habitation has exposed it to car strikes while chasing prey or feeding on roadsides.<sup>1,4</sup>

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/>

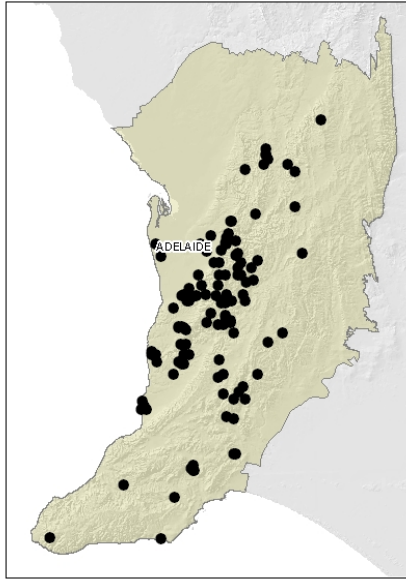
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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





## Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<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).

<sup>1</sup> Australian Museum (2005). *Birds in Backyards: Bird Finder*. Available from <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> (accessed November 2007).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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