



**BIRD**

***Pomatostomus superciliosus gilgandra***

**White-browed Babbler**

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	U	-	Resident



Photo: © Brian Furby

**Conservation Significance**

The species has been 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 'High'.<sup>3</sup>

**Description**

Small dark brown-grey bird. White throat, white tipped tail and long, pointed curved bill. Distinct white brow and dark eye stripe. Tail is long and graduated, with a rounded tip and often held raised or fanned. Very active bird often found in noisy social groups. Also known as the Chatterer, Cackler or Yahoo. Call is a chattering miaowing; whistled rising 'sweet-sweet-sweet-miaow'. Alarm call is a brisk 'wit-wit'. Most common call is a contact call 'chuk' while feeding.<sup>1</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

Endemic to mainland Australia, mainly south of the Tropic of Capricorn and west of the Great Dividing Range and to the north of the Dividing Range in VIC, extending to south-eastern SA. Scattered populations are found in outback NT and WA, particularly in the south-western corner of WA.<sup>1</sup> Uncommon in the MLR.<sup>4</sup>

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records scattered from the vegetated areas of the Barossa, around Happy Valley Reservoir, Newland Head, Monarto and Currency Creek.<sup>3</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records are limited but with a similar distribution.<sup>3</sup>

**Habitat**

Found in dry sclerophyll woodlands with a shrubby understorey; mulga, Acacia, mallee and Cypress pine scrubs; scrub along watercourses and saltbush.<sup>1</sup>

Within the AMLR, also found in low woodlands, coastal shrubland and heaths. Still found at Grange Golf Course (very low shrubland), Black Hill CP and Aldinga Scrub CP. Until recently, also found at Kooyonga Golf Course. Populations are likely to be in decline.<sup>4</sup>

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

**Biology and Ecology**

Feeds on insects, spiders and other invertebrates, small amphibians, crustaceans and reptiles. Will also eat fruits and seeds. Mainly feeds on the ground, among leaf litter or under logs and branches.<sup>1</sup>

Constructs a domed twig and stick nest, with a hooded side entrance. Builds both brooding and roosting nests. Breeding season June to November, but may breed year round. Clutch size two to three and incubation period 19 days. Time in the nest 17 days.<sup>1</sup>

Breeding pairs are monogamous, but they form co-operative breeding groups comprising two to four breeding pairs and two to eight non-breeding helpers. Only the breeding female incubates the eggs, though other birds in the group feed her and the young birds. Co-operative breeding groups occupy a home-range, but there are complex interactions within and between groups. As a group, they participate in activities such as dust-bathing, preening and feeding.<sup>1</sup>

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations - Kurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk.<sup>3</sup>

**Threats**

Reasons for decline and continuing threats are probably a combination of factors including the loss, degradation and fragmentation of woodland habitat. This includes overgrazing by livestock and loss of habitat to residential use, resulting in loss of vegetation cover and food sources.<sup>1</sup>

**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



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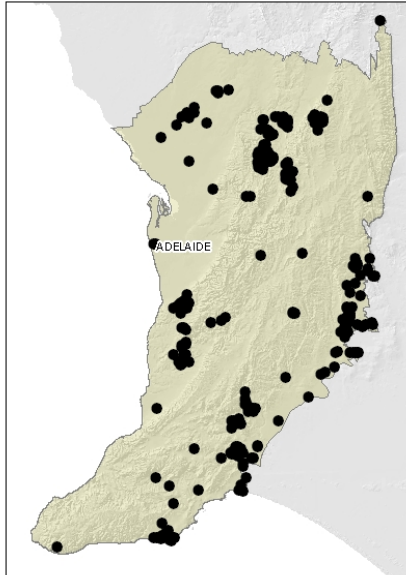


## ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA Threatened Species Profile

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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.<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).

1 Australian Museum (2006). *Birds in Backyards: Bird Finder*. Available from <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> (accessed November 2007).

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

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