



BIRD

Acanthiza nana

Yellow Thornbill

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	U	-	Resident



Photo: © Nevil Lazarus

Conservation Significance

The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.³ A Bassian species at or near the western extreme of their southern distribution (north to Flinders Ranges).¹

Description

Small to medium-sized thornbill and most yellow of the thornbill group. Back greenish-olive, white streaking on the cheeks and ears, and pale to bright yellow underparts. Reddish brown tone on the chin and throat. Young birds similar but duller. Harsh, scratchy two-note call: 'tzid-id' or 'tzid-id, tis-tis'.²

Distribution and Population

Found throughout mainland eastern Australia, from Atherton Tableland, QLD, to eastern SA.² Now uncommon in the AMLR.⁵

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records across the whole region, except for the cleared northern agricultural plains, far north east of the region and the southern tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula where records are noticeably absent. Dense clusters of records around the Barossa Reservoir and Port Willunga.⁴

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records limited in the region (near Sandy Creek, Grange, Glen Osmond and Callington).⁴

Habitat

Found in open forests, woodlands and shrublands which are dominated by Casuarinas, native pines, Acacias or paperbarks rather than Eucalypts. Often

seen in parks and gardens, preferring more established areas.²

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland, Heathy Woodland and Coastal.⁴

Biology and Ecology

Feed mainly on insects, but may sometimes eat seeds, almost exclusively in the foliage of trees.²

Breeding season from July to March. Clutch size three to four with an incubation period of 17 days.²

Breeding pairs may have helpers to assist with feeding the young. Females build a rounded domed nest, with a narrow, hooded entrance near the top, with grasses, bark and other materials, lining it with feathers, fur or soft plant down. Nest is usually in twigs of upper tree branches. Female incubates the eggs, but both parents (and possibly helpers) feed the young.²

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations - Kaurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk.⁴

Threats

Lack of population recruitment due to small population sizes as a result of past impacts (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



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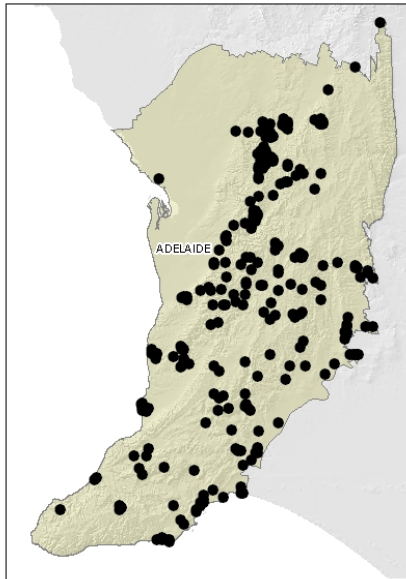


ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁴ 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 Australian Museum (2005). *Birds in Backyards: Bird Finder*. Available from <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> (accessed November 2007).

3 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.

4 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.

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

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