A SURVEY OF PLAINS-WANDERERS AND THICK-BILLED GRASSWRENS IN THE NORTH-EAST PASTORAL ZONE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



A Report Prepared for South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

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Roman Urban (SA Dept. for Environment and Heritage) produced the maps contained in the report.

Historical records for Thick-billed Grasswren and Plains-wanderer in South Australia were sourced from databases held by South Australian Museum, South Australian Ornithologists Association, South Australian Dept. for Environment and Heritage and Birds Australia.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Several species of birds with conservation significance have been recorded in the past from the north Olary Plains in north-east South Australia. Two of the species of conservation significance that are known to occur in this region are the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) and the eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren (*Amytornis textilis modestus*). It is thought that both species have suffered a severe decline in both their known distributions and population numbers since European settlement. While there been some recent records for both of these species within the region there has been a lack of systematic survey work in an effort to determine distribution, population characteristics, habitat parameters or management considerations.

The aim of this project was to determine the current distributions of both the Plains-wanderer and the eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren in the north-east pastoral zone and to attempt to identify habitat preferences and any issues that may be affecting their management in the region. For each species this included a desk-top collation of records from the region using relevant databases combined with surveys to assess numbers and habitat characteristics.

The encounter rate of Plains-wanderer during this survey was much lower than recorded in the more mesic Riverina but slightly higher than the encounter rate in more arid south-western Queensland. The encounter rates recorded during this survey were also substantially lower than those reported by locals familiar with the species - probably due to current climatic conditions in the region. While the areas where Plains-wanderers have been recorded and may occur in the region are currently too sparse and hold relatively low densities of birds, the total area available to the species there is extensive with the number of Plains-wanderers likely to be similar to numbers on a hypothetical Riverina property of a similar size, even during dry periods. In wetter years when grass and other native vegetation recovers, Plains-wanderer numbers are likely to be substantially higher in the north-east pastoral region.

This survey confirmed and extended the known range of the Thick-billed Grasswrens in the northeast pastoral region. Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded in sufficient numbers during this survey to indicate that the population in this region is probably adequate to maintain long-term viability. The apparently disjointed and clumped distribution of the species in the region evident from this survey cannot be explained by the vegetation assessment conducted here. Much apparently structurally and floristically similar vegetation to that known to support Thick-billed Grasswrens was searched without locating birds. If the species is largely dependent upon a specific habitat type of a particular low open chenopod shrubland then its distribution and abundance in the north-east pastoral region will take the form of a series of small populations in discrete pockets of habitat separated from other small populations by areas of unoccupied habitat. This type of distribution and abundance of populations across the regional landscape would have implications on how the species is managed and conserved compared with if the species can be found to utilise other chenopod shrubland habitat types in the region. The continued presence of this species in the region indicates that it is able to tolerate some level of grazing pressure and habitat alteration given the widespread and historical land use practices in the district combined with feral herbivores.

The results of this survey provide an initial baseline of information on the distribution, abundance and habitat characteristics of these two species of conservation significance in the north-east pastoral region. This information can be used to provide a basis for the conservation and management of both species in the region with a number of recommendations being made for these outcomes.

A considerable amount of location data for other local bird species was also collected during this survey, including for several species of conservation significance.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

A number of species of birds with conservation significance have been recorded from the north Olary Plains in a part of South Australia known as the north-east pastoral region. This area is bounded by the SA/NSW border to the east, the top of Lake Frome to the north, the eastern outliers of the central and northern Flinders Ranges in the west and just south of the Barrier Highway in the south.

Two of the species of conservation significance that are known to occur in this region are the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) and the eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren (*Amytornis textilis modestus*) (Playfair and Robinson 1997, Black and Baxter 2003, and Rogers 2003). The Plains-wanderer is listed as Vulnerable in South Australia under the *National Parks and Wildlife* Act 1972 and as Vulnerable nationally under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation* Act 1999, though Garnett and Crowley (2000) recommended that it be reclassified as nationally endangered. The eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren is listed as Rare in South Australia and Vulnerable nationally under the national and state legislation mentioned above.

It is thought that both species have suffered a severe decline in both their known distributions and population numbers since European settlement. Garnett and Crowley (2000) consider the decline in distribution and abundance of the eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren to have been historical and that both the population and its distribution is now stable. However, they consider that the decline in distribution and abundance of the Plains-wanderer to be of an ongoing concern as the population is small and sparsely spread in specific habitat types that continue to be modified or lost completely due to changing agricultural practices.

While there been some recent records for both of these species within the north-east pastoral region there has been a lack of systematic survey work in an effort to determine distribution, population characteristics, habitat parameters or management considerations.

2.1 The study area

2.1.1 Location and land use

This survey centred on a number of properties on the North Olary plains north of the Barrier Highway approximately 400km north-east of Adelaide and approximately 100km west of Broken Hill (Figure 1).

These properties support several different land-uses. On Plumbago Station, Kalabity Station and the Kalkaroo section of Boolcoomatta Station the land-use is extensive sheep grazing on natural fodder for wool and meat production. This has been the primary land-use type in this region since the country was taken up by large pastoral interests about 150 years ago following European settlement. Bimbowrie Station previously supported a sheep grazing enterprise but was purchased by the SA Department for Environment and Heritage in early 2004 for conservation purposes and has been destocked since that time (DEH 2005). The Boolcoomatta section of Boolcoomatta Station previously supported a sheep grazing enterprise but was purchased by the Federal Government and Nature Foundation of South Australia. The property has been de-stocked since then and is owned and managed by the Australian Bush Heritage Fund for conservation purposes.



2.1.2 Vegetation

Playfair and Robinson (1997) provides a thorough description of each vegetation community they found on the North Olary plain region and maps their distributions. The dominant vegetation communities to be found in the region are the various low Chenopod shrub-lands occurring as either communities dominated by single species or as mosaics of several species on the plains and low rises. Smaller areas of grasslands are also found on the plains. Shrub-lands and low woodlands are found on areas of hills and low rises or outwash formations from these areas. Tall woodlands are generally restricted to riparian areas.

Much of the vegetation presently found in the study area is a result of past land-use practices that altered vegetation structure and species composition. While land management is much improved in recent times, Playfair and Robinson (1997) cite Jessup who wrote in 1948 that 'the floristic composition of the pastures has almost certainly been greatly modified by stocking. Areas which are now shrublands of bluebush probably at one time carried other more palatable species. It is impossible to assess the original condition of these pastures. The continued reduction of bluebush by stock grazing causes the appearances of bindyis following winter rain and spear grass following summer rain. Eventually overgrazing results in the complete destruction of the bluebushes. The land loses its protective cover and the rate of soil loss is greatly increased'. Even as far back as 1892 Dixon, (in Playfair and Robinson 1997), was reporting the dramatic alteration of the vegetation composition bought about by livestock grazing in the region.

2.1.3 Climate

The study area has an arid climate with hot, dry summers and mild, dry winters. Rainfall is relatively low and unreliable and usually falls as infrequent heavy rainfall events. Using available climatic data from Yunta, which is the closest Bureau of Meteorology station (approximately 120km south-west), average daily maximum temperatures range from 32.6°C in January to 15.4°C in July. Average daily minimum temperatures range from 15.0°C in January and February to 3.0°C in July. The average annual rainfall is 236mm with a relatively even spread of rain recorded in all months ranging from an average of 22.9mm in May to 15.6mm in March. The average annual rainfall recorded at several other Bureau of Meteorology stations in the region includes 204.5mm at Bimbowrie Station and 257mm at Broken Hill (approximately 100km east). Annual evaporation rates are much higher than average rainfall.

Rainfall records have been kept at Bimbowrie Station for the past 108 years and during that time the average annual rainfall recorded at the site is 204.5mm. During the past 7 years of rainfall data, when the region has been going through what has been considered an extended dry period, the average annual rainfall has been 199.6mm. During this time there has been 1 year of average, 2 years of well below average, and 4 years of above average rainfall recorded there. This indicates that the recent past has been no drier than the average over the past century and that vegetation recovery may not be as limited by total rainfall so much as by other factors such as timing of rainfall and total grazing pressure. The start to the 2006 season has been average in the district with 37mm recorded at Bimbowrie in February and 23mm recorded in April which freshened the country a bit and resulted in some surface water.

2.2 Aims

The aim of this project was to determine the current distribution of the Plains-wanderer and the eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren in the north-east pastoral zone and to attempt to identify their habitat preferences and issues affecting their management in the region. The aims of this project were designed with reference to the National Recovery Plan for Plains-wanderers

(Baker-Gabb 2002b) and The Action Plan for Australian Birds (Garnett and Crowley 2000). Both of these documents identify population surveys and critical habitat identification as priorities for these two species.

For each of the two species the project would consist of three basic components:

- a desk-top collation of records from the region using relevant databases,
- a survey to assess bird numbers and habitat characteristics, and
- data analysis, report production and dissemination of information to land managers.

The information collected during this survey for each of the species follows with each species discussed separately.

A number of other bird species were observed during the field survey work and this information is also presented at the end of the report.

3.0 PLAINS-WANDERERS IN THE NORTH-EAST PASTORAL ZONE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Status

The Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* is listed as vulnerable in Australia (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation* Act 1999), though Garnett and Crowley (2000) recommended that it be reclassified as nationally endangered. It is listed as endangered in South Australia under the *National Parks and Wildlife* Act 1972.

3.1.2 Distribution and threats

The Plains-wanderer occurs in temperate lowland native grasslands in eastern Australia (Marchant and Higgins 1993). Bennett (1983) and Baker-Gabb (1990) described ten locations where Plains-wanderers were often recorded in the past, but birds are routinely found in only four of these locations nowadays. Widespread cultivation of temperate native grasslands has been the main reason for the demise of all viable populations with the highest densities in the six locations nearest the coast. The species is now mostly recorded from four inland locations: north-eastern South Australia, south-western New South Wales, north-central Victoria and south-western Queensland. Widespread overgrazing during droughts threatens these relatively stable inland populations (Baker-Gabb *et al.* 1990). Other current threats of indeterminate magnitude include predation by Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, and pesticides used to control locusts (Baker-Gabb 1998). Cultivation of native grasslands is an additional threat to the remaining populations in south-western New South Wales and north-central Victoria.

3.1.3 South Australian records

Over the past 30 years there have been scattered, infrequent records of Plains-wanderers from the Eyre Peninsula and the Riverland, where little suitable habitat remains, and the arid interior where the bird occurs following infrequent seasons with good rainfall (Bennett 1983, Baker-Gabb 1990, Webster 1996). There are also some recent records from the Willochra Plain near Quorn (Webster 1996). However, the bulk of recent South Australian records of Plains-wanderers come from the north-east in an area north of the Barrier Highway and west of Broken Hill, and centered on Boolcoomatta Station and Mulyungarie Stations (Webster 1996, Baker-Gabb 2002a, Rogers 2003). Peter Absolom pers. comm. has recorded several hundred Plains-wanderers on Boolcoomatta Station (Boolcoomatta and Kalkaroo pastoral leases) over the past 18 years during his nocturnal work on feral and pest animals, but has seen only a few birds on neighbouring properties such as Kalabity and Mulyungarie Stations. In years with good rainfall, Peter Absolom pers. comm. has recorded an estimated 300-400 Plains-wanderers per year on Boolcoomatta, but in the last few years with very low rainfall the number of Plains-wanderers seen there has declined markedly to the point that no birds were seen during the eight months prior to the recent rains in February and April 2006. Since this rain, numbers have begun to recover, with six Plains-wanderers seen in one night in July 2006.

A total of 95 South Australian records for Plains-wanderer were recovered from South Australian Museum, Birds Australia, South Australian Ornithologists Association and DEH Biological Survey databases. These records date back to 1881 and include specimens and sighting observations. Most of these records are from the period 1881 to 1930 and are from the Adelaide Plains, Lower Murray and Mid-north regions of the state. Following this period there are fewer records and the locations

are scattered across the state. This may reflect the complete loss of Plains-wanderer habitat in the more closely settled parts of the state for agricultural purposes. It is likely there are some additional South Australian records of Plains-wanderer in other museum collections. There are also likely to be a number of additional sighting records for Plains-wanderer that are not recorded on either the Birds Australia, South Australian Ornithologists Association or DEH Biological Survey databases, for example, the Absalom records from the north-east pastoral region.

3.2 PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

Since Boolcoomatta Station was purchased with funds from the Federal Government and the Nature Conservation Foundation of South Australia in 2006 to became a reserve owned and operated by the Australian Bush Heritage Fund, there has been a series of questions posed about Plains-wanderers on the property. These questions include: (a) where is the Plains-wanderer habitat on Boolcoomatta, (b) how much habitat exists there, (c) how suitable is the habitat now and therefore what is the likely population density of Plains-wanderers, (d) what should be done to maintain or enhance the habitat, (e) and what further surveys and monitoring are required?

With only a few days available for survey work on Boolcoomatta Station, these questions could not be answered with any statistical rigour during this study, even though survey and habitat data were collected. Rather, the survey relied to a considerable extent on Peter Absolom's 18 years of nocturnal work on and around Boolcoomatta Station, and David Baker-Gabb's more than 20 years experience in studying and monitoring Plains-wanderers, and conducting surveys in all of the range States (eg Baker-Gabb 1988, 1990, 1998, 2002b, Baker-Gabb *et. al.* 1990, Maher and Baker-Gabb 1993).

3.3 METHODS

Peter Absolom marked on a map of Boolcoomatta Station (Boolcoomatta and Kalkaroo pastoral leases, 116,000 ha) and neighbouring properties areas where he had seen Plains-wanderers over the years. On inspection, his description of the structure of the habitat in these areas tallied closely with that where Plains-wanderers are found elsewhere in the semi-arid and arid zone (Baker-Gabb et. al. 1990, NPWS 2002). We traveled around Boolcoomatta Station and marked additional sparsely vegetated tree-less areas onto the map (Figure 2) that had vegetation with a structure that could support Plains-wanderers, particularly once the areas recover from the current drought's impact. The structure of the vegetation at these sites was described with reference to the photographic guide for Plains-wanderer habitat in the Riverina (NPWS 2002). It cannot be overemphasized that it is the structure of the vegetation, rather than the plant species present, that determines whether or not it will be occupied by Plains-wanderers (Baker-Gabb et. al. 1990). For example, Plains-wanderers have temporarily occupied fallow cultivated paddocks and even bred in sparse, struggling cereal crops that structurally mimicked the sparse native grasslands that they are usually found in (Marchant and Higgins 1993). The sites where Plains-wanderers were located on Boolcoomatta Station were marked using a GPS unit, and the vegetation sampled along a 50m transect the next day.

Surveys were conducted for Plains-wanderers over four nights from three slow-moving (less than 5km/hr) vehicles using hand-held search-lights and the vehicles' headlights to locate any birds present. Plains-wanderers are usually disturbed if a vehicle comes within 20m of them, and characteristically respond by walking a short distance or by standing on 'tip-toes' and craning their necks, which allows them to be detected in the sparsely vegetated tree-less plains they inhabit (Harrington *et. al.* 1988, Baker-Gabb *et. al.* 1990). Plains-wanderers, other species of bird, and



mammals such as Fat-tailed Dunnarts *Sminthopsis crassicaudata* and Foxes were recorded onto standard survey sheets by the occupants of each vehicle.

3.4 RESULTS

3.4.1 Encounter rates

One male Plains-wanderer was located during 70km of transects. Four other species of bird were recorded, including seven Australian Pipits *Anthus australis*, five Inland Dotterels *Charadrius australis*, four Orange Chats *Epthianura aurifrons*, and two Emus *Dromaius novaehollandiae*. Five Foxes and four Fat-tailed Dunnarts were also seen.

3.4.2 Vegetation mapped

Nearly all of the vegetation in the areas where Peter Absolom had seen Plains-wanderers in previous years was currently "Too Sparse" (NPWS 2002) to be suitable for the birds. Less than 10% of these areas were "Slightly Too Sparse" and none were "Ideal" or "Slightly Too Dense" (NPWS 2002). No area on Boolcoomatta Station nor on the surrounding properties contained vegetation that was "Ideal" in structure for Plains-wanderers. The area where the Plains-wanderer was located on Boolcoomatta Station was classified as "Too Sparse" (NPWS 2002) for the species.

The habitat where the male Plains-wanderer was located during this survey was a very low open chenopod shrub-land less than 25cm in height on heavy red clay soil with surface quartzite gravel. Mapping produced by Playfair and Robinson (1997) supports this classification. The vegetation grew as small patches and around small depressions in the soil. The dominant species were *Sclerolaena tricuspis* (Bindyi), *S. patenticuspis* (Spear-fruit Bindyi), *Atriplex stipitata* (Bitter Saltbush), *A. vesicaria* (Bladder Saltbush) and *Eriochiton sclerolaenoides* (Woolly-fruit Bluebush). Other species at the site were *Euphorbia tannensis ssp. eremophila* (Desert Spurge), *Austrostipa sp* (Spear Grass), *Eragrostis sp* (Love Grass) and *Astrebla pectinata* (Curly Mitchell Grass). The last three species were grazed back to butts.

Measurements from a 100m transect through this habitat indicated that 62% was bare ground, 11% was quartzite gravel (a total of 73% without cover), 9% was vegetation litter (dead Saltbush and Wards Weed), 8% was perennial vegetation and 10% was seedlings (Saltbush and Wards Weed). This indicates that while this site may be currently "Too Sparse" it may improve given the germination of seedlings at the site.

Photographs taken during the site inspection are shown as Plates 1 and 2.

3.5 DISCUSSION

3.5.1 Encounter rates

The encounter rate of one Plains-wanderer in 70 km (1.4/100 km) was much lower than recorded in 1,636 km of surveys in the more mesic Riverina (12.8/100 km), but slightly higher than the encounter rate (1/100 km) from 311 km of surveys in more arid south-western Queensland. The encounter rates for Australian Pipits, the only other species commonly recorded on all three surveys, followed the same trend with 10/100 km at Boolcoomatta, 33/100 km in the Riverina, and 6/100 km in south-western Queensland. Reflecting the same trend in vegetation structure, Inland Dotterels are commonly seen on the very sparse plains at Boolcoomatta and in south-western

Plate 1: Vegetation structure and landscape of site where Plains-wanderer was located during this survey.

Plate 2: Ground cover of site where Plains-wanderer was located during this survey.

Queensland, but only occur in the Riverina following prolonged dry spells or droughts when overgrazing makes the Riverina's native grasslands much sparser than usual. The encounter rates for Plains-wanderers that we recorded at Boolcoomatta Station after several years of prolonged dry spells and drought were substantially lower than those Peter Absolom *pers. comm.* indicated were possible in wetter years.

Plains-wanderers are cryptic species that occur at low densities, making them difficult to find at the best of times (Harrington *et. al.* 1988, Marchant and Higgins 1993). In arid areas such as Boolcoomatta and south-western Queensland, the Plains-wanderer's much lower densities, particularly during prolonged dry periods, coupled with much larger areas of potentially suitable habitat (see below), makes the task of finding birds an order of magnitude harder.

3.5.2 Habitat suitability and population numbers

In the higher rainfall Riverina, most grasslands are too dense for Plains-wanderers, with only 2.3% of 2.8 million hectares mapped by Roberts and Roberts (2001) being "Ideal" for the species. A hypothetical 100,000 ha property in the Riverina comprised mostly of native grasslands would hold about 400 Plains-wanderers, based on known population densities in the Riverina of one pair per 12 ha (Baker-Gabb *et. al.* 1990). However, the conclusion that many more Plains-wanderers would occur on such a 100,000 ha Riverina property than on Boolcoomatta Station might not be correct. While the areas where Plains-wanderers have been recorded and may occur on Boolcoomatta are currently too sparse and hold relatively low densities of birds, the total area available to the species there is much greater, covering about one-third of the property (Figure 2). Hence the number of Plains-wanderers on Boolcoomatta Station (116,000 ha) is likely to be similar to the approximately 400 birds occurring on a hypothetical Riverina property of a similar size, even during dry periods. In wetter years when grass and other native vegetation recovers, Plains-wanderer numbers are likely to be substantially higher on Boolcoomatta Station.

Playfair and Robinson (1997) mapped the area on Kalkaroo where the Plains-wanderer was observed during this survey as a low very open shrubland dominated by *Sclerolaena divaricata* (Tangled Bindyi). Within the study area they mapped extensive areas of this habitat type on Kalkaroo and Boolcoomatta stations as well as on Wompinie and Bindarrah stations south and south-east of Boolcoomatta. Playfair and Robinson (1997) thought that this habitat type may indicate severe historical degradation of the original vegetation communities such as *Maireana aphylla* (Cotton-bush) low open shrubland and *Astrebla pectinata* (Barley Mitchell Grass) open grassland where the more palatable species had been depleted by grazing or extended drought conditions. This habitat has low perennial vegetation diversity but may support flushes of annual herbs, forbs and grasses such as *Atriplex holocarpa* (Pop Saltbush), *Calotis hispidula* (Bogan Flea) and *Rhodanthe floribunda* (White Everlasting).

A number of foxes were encountered while conducting spotlight transects on Boolcoomatta and Kalkaroo. The animals were quite fearless, associating the presence of a spotlight-equipped vehicle with kangaroo shooters from which an easy meal of offal might usually be obtained. While predation by foxes of Plains-wanderers is of indeterminate magnitude, fox predation has been demonstrated in a number of other ground-dwelling and ground-nesting species and fox predation has been identified as a key threatening process (Environment Australia 1999, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2001).

3.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this survey provide an initial baseline of information on the distribution, abundance and habitat characteristics of the Plains-wanderer in the north-east pastoral region. This information will provide a basis for the conservation and management of the species in the region with the following issues to be considered.

Grazing

• Low densities of Sheep *Ovis aries* are used from time to time on Terrick Terick and Oolambeyan National Parks in the Riverina to ensure that the "islands" of native grasslands there with ideal structure do not become too dense for Plains-wanderers following major winter rainfall events. In arid regions such as on Boolcoomatta Station where the potential Plainswanderer habitat is either too sparse or much too sparse for them and the rainfall is less, grazing by domestic stock would be detrimental now, and is unlikely to be ever needed in the future.

Artificial water points

• Decommissioning artificial water points in the rangelands should be a central biodiversity conservation strategy for reserves (Landsberg *et. al.* 1997). With the removal of all domestic stock from Boolcoomatta Station, artificial water points are no longer needed and their decommissioning would mitigate against an undesirable, excessive build-up of kangaroo (*Macropus* spp.) numbers.

Incidental encounters

• Peter Absolom and others should be assisted to record at least the date of their sightings of Plains-wanderers, their sex and age, and a GPS locality.

Structured surveys

• Additional structured surveys for Plains-wanderers in the areas marked on Figure 2 are desirable to give a clearer picture of relative abundance on Boolcoomatta Station. The forms used routinely in the Riverina and during this survey (Appendix 1) should be used.

Locust spraying

• There is a possibility that some of the insecticides used by the Australian Plague Locust Commission and others to control locusts might also harm Plains-wanderers (Pearce 1971, Story and Cox 2001). Therefore, only the locust-specific fungus marketed as "Green Guard" should be permitted in any locust control operations on Boolcoomatta Station.

Fox control

• Consideration should be given to implementing a 1080 fox control program on Boolcoomatta Station to reduce the impact of fox predation on local wildlife. This program could link in with the current DEH baiting program on the neighbouring proposed Bimbowrie Conservation Park.

4.0 THICK-BILLED GRASSWRENS IN THE NORTH-EAST PASTORAL ZONE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Status

The Thick-billed Grasswren Amytornis textilis is a complex species with three sub-species recognised based on distributional data and plumage characteristics. The three sub-species are A.t.textilis (western), A.t.myall (Gawler Ranges) and A.t.modestus (eastern). Both the Gawler Ranges and eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren are listed as Rare in South Australia under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and as Vulnerable nationally under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The western sub-species is considered to be endangered in Western Australia and is also listed as Vulnerable nationally under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

4.1.2 Distribution and threats

The Thick-billed Grasswren species complex was formerly much more widespread than present where it was recorded from a variety of arid shrub-lands throughout inland Australia. These shrub-lands may have been dominated by chenopod species or have chenopod species as an understorey with taller shrubs dominated by acacia and eucalypt or occasionally be associated with open woodlands (Higgins, Peter and Steele 2001).

The known range of each of the three sub-species has declined since European settlement leading to a significant decline in the distribution of the species as a whole. A.t.textilis (western sub-species), which was formerly found from the Nullabour Plain through much of southern arid and semi-arid areas of Western Australia to the coast around Shark Bay, is now extinct over much of its former range and is largely restricted to disjunct populations around Shark Bay (Higgins, Peter and Steele 2001). Garnett and Crowley (2000) estimate that 21,500 birds occupy an area of approximately 1,200km² across an area of about 40,000 km² and that population numbers and distribution is now stable. A.t.myall (Gawler Ranges sub-species) is still found in it's previously known distribution from the Gawler Ranges and nearby areas in the north of the Eyre Peninsula and on the east coast of Eyre Peninsula at the top of Spencer Gulf (Garnett and Crowley 2000, Black and Baxter 2003). Garnett and Crowley (2000) estimate that 10,000 birds occupy an area of approximately 5,000 km² across an area of about 40,000 km^2 and that population numbers and distribution is stable. A.t.modestus (eastern sub-species), which was formerly found from north-west New South Wales through the basins of Lakes Frome, Eyre and Torrens in central South Australia to MacDonnell Ranges in southern Northern Territory, is now thought to be extinct in NSW and the northern extent of its distribution is now thought to be close to the SA/NT border with the core of its current distribution now being in the lake basins in central SA (Garnett and Crowley 2000, Higgins, Peter and Steele 2001, Black and Baxter 2003). Garnett and Crowley (2000) estimate that 20,000 birds occupy an area of approximately 10,000km² across an area of about 40,000 km² and that population numbers and distribution is now stable.

The major reason for the decline in the species, particularly in the western and eastern sub-species, appears to have been the widespread loss or severe alteration of the chenopod shrub-land habitat it prefers due to excessive over-grazing by livestock combined with drought conditions in parts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In many areas this was followed by an increase in the numbers of rabbits and goats preventing the chenopod shrub-lands from recovering from the initial grazing pressure or to recruit seedlings into the population (Higgins, Peter and Steele 2001, Black and

Baxter 2003). While now much reduced, the threat of ongoing loss and alteration of chenopod shrub-land habitat in general, and some species in particular, continues with livestock, goats and rabbits grazing on adult bushes and reducing their vigour while also preventing the recruitment of seedlings into the population structure to replace senescing adults. The primary land-use type found in the current range of the species is broad-scale extensive livestock grazing and the apparent stability of distribution and abundance in all sub-species (Garnett and Crowley 2000) may indicate that some level of grazing is tolerable.

In common with many other small bird species that feed on or near the ground and nest near the ground it is probable that introduced predators have some impact on numbers, particularly where the chenopod shrub-land habitat is marginal. The loss of the western sub-species from off-shore islands has been blamed on the introduction of cats but these islands were also heavily grazed by livestock, which may have been of greater significance (Garnett and Crowley 2000). Carpenter and Bellchambers (2003) determined that the Short-tailed Grasswren *Amytornis merrotsyi* in the *Triodia* hummock grasslands of the Flinders Ranges was more common in areas that had predator (fox) control programs compared to those with limited or no predator control programs. This work also showed that Short-tailed Grasswren was able to occupy habitat with lower *Triodia* cover in fox baited areas compared with unbaited areas where they were only found in areas with greater *Triodia* cover.

4.1.3 South Australian records

A total of 380 South Australian records for Thick-billed Grasswren were recovered from South Australian Museum, Birds Australia, South Australian Ornithologists Association and DEH Biological Survey databases. These records date back to 1896 and include both specimens and sighting observations. There may be some additional South Australian records of Thick-billed Grasswren in other museum collections and there are also likely to be a number of additional sighting records for Thick-billed Grasswren that are not recorded on either the Birds Australia, South Australian Ornithologists Association or DEH Biological Survey databases.

The information that has been collated during the database searches includes records for all three sub-species of Thick-billed Grasswren. *A.t.textilis* (western sub-species) is considered to have become extinct in South Australia some time ago (Garnett and Crowley 2000, Higgins, Peter and Steele 2001, Black and Baxter 2003) so the more recent observations attributed to this sub-species may have been misidentified. Records of *A.t.myall* (Gawler Ranges sub-species) are from throughout its previously known distribution and it is thought that the population numbers and distribution are stable (Garnett and Crowley 2000). The majority of the Thick-billed Grasswren records collated during the database searches are for *A.t.modestus* (eastern sub-species) with most of these records concentrated in the chenopod shrub-lands located in the basins of Lakes Frome, Eyre and Torrens in central South Australia indicating that these areas form the species' stronghold in the state.

Until the mid 1970's, the presence of *A.t.modestus* in the chenopod shrub-lands south and east of Lake Frome was unknown as was whether there might have been a continuous distribution from the core area in central South Australia to the formerly known population found in north-west New South Wales. Between 1975 and 1979 several observations were made of small numbers of Thickbilled Grasswren at widely dispersed locations south of Lake Frome on Curnamona Station and north of Yunta on Plumbago Station. These observations extended the distribution of the species to the south and east towards the NSW/SA border. Additional observations of the species from the north-east pastoral district were obtained between 1996 and 2001 from Bimbowrie, Plumbago, Mt. Victor and Kalkaroo Stations that confirmed the species presence in the district and further extended the distribution of the species to the east (Black and Baxter 2003).

4.2 PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The Thick-billed Grasswren is relatively common in the chenopod shrub-lands located in the basins of Lakes Frome, Eyre and Torrens in central South Australia but only a small number of observations of the species have been made on the eastern extent of its known range and there has been little systematic searching for the species in this part of it's range to improve our knowledge of it's distribution, abundance and habitat requirements.

A systematic search can be used to determine the current distribution of the eastern sub-species of the Thick-billed Grasswren in part of the north-east pastoral zone and to attempt to identify characters that determine habitat preferences and suitability there while identifying any issues affecting their conservation and management in the region. The major parameters to consider when collecting baseline information for such a relatively unknown species are what are the habitat characteristics, where is the habitat located and the extent of that habitat, how suitable is the habitat and what population density it may support, what and how much management is needed to maintain or improve the available habitat and what other on-ground works are required to manage the species into the future.

4.3 METHODS

Records for Thick-billed Grasswren from the region using relevant databases and published literature sources were collated to provide location data and some historical perspective to the records. The locations identified in Black and Baxter (2003) were re-assessed during this survey to determine if Grasswrens still occurred there and what habitat characteristics could be measured. These location data were combined with vegetation mapping from DEH databases (Playfair and Robinson 1997) to provide additional search sites in the district. The properties on which site assessments were conducted were the proposed Bimbowrie Conservation Park (Bimbowrie) and Plumbago, Kalabity, Boolcoomatta and Kalkaroo Stations.

Property access tracks were used to traverse the surveyed properties and enabled access to a range of potential habitat areas identified by the literature and mapping. Once a suitable area was located it was searched on foot in an effort to determine if Thick-billed Grasswrens were present. Thick-billed Grasswrens are difficult to detect as they are a very cryptic species spending most of their time on the ground in and among shrubs, flit away quickly and quietly once disturbed and are not generally very vocal.

If Thick-billed Grasswrens were located at a site the number of birds in the group was counted, their activity briefly described and the habitat at the site assessed and recorded. Little effort was made to follow birds as it was difficult to remain close enough to maintain contact with the birds to make meaningful observations and yet no so close as to not continue flushing them away from the observer. To maximise the area covered in this initial survey, it was felt that time spent searching additional potential habitat in an effort to locate more birds was more valuable than detailed behavioural observations at a particular site.

If Thick-billed Grasswrens were located in an area of habitat searching continued until either more birds were located, or, no more birds were located, or, the habitat altered. During this initial survey habitat assessments were not conducted in areas where Thick-billed Grasswrens were not detected.

The habitat characteristics that were assessed at sites where Thick-billed Grasswrens were located were amount of bare ground, amount of ground litter cover, vegetation cover, vegetation structure and species composition. These characteristics were determined at 1m intervals along a 100m tape

measure that was run out where the birds were located. Soil surface substrate, land-use type and grazing impacts in the general area were also assessed.

All sites that were searched, regardless of whether Thick-billed Grasswrens were located or not, were located with a GPS (WGS 84) for mapping purposes and future reference. Site photographs were also taken.

4.4 RESULTS

4.4.1 Encounter rates

A total of 65 sites were searched over 6 days in the survey area. Thick-billed Grasswrens were confirmed at 20 of these sites and there were 2 additional unconfirmed sites. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the number of searches conducted on each property and a brief summary of each survey site is included as Appendix 2. The locations where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey and locations of Thick-billed Grasswrens reported by Black and Baxter (2003) are shown in Figure 3.

The data shown in Figure 3 and Table 1 indicate that while 50% of the total number of survey sites were located on Bimbowrie, 80% of the sites where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey were on Bimbowrie. These sites were concentrated in several patches of suitable habitat in the north of the property adjacent to the Kalabity Station boundary.

Property Name	No. sites searched	No. sites recorded
Bimbowrie Cons. Reserve	32	16
Plumbago Station	15	0
Boolcoomatta Station	7	1 *
Kalabity Station	11	4(+1*)
Total	65	20 + 2*

Table 1: Number of sites searched for Thick-billed Grasswrens per property in survey area.

* unconfirmed observation

Group sizes when encountered ranged from 1-4 birds with the most commonly observed group size being 2 birds. Two groups consisted of 3 birds and one group consisted of 4 birds. The age and sex of birds in these groups was not determined. In habitat patches where more than 1 group was recorded the closest that a group was to its nearest known neighbour was 250m and the furthest was over 500m.

Most of the locations in the district where Thick-billed Grasswrens were reported by Black and Baxter (2003) were re-visited during this survey. This information is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Current status of regional	Thick-billed Grasswren	sites reported in	Black and Baxter
(2003).		-	

Year	Source	Location	Habitat	Status this
				survey
1977	Gloster	Gums Well,	Chenopod and Lignum	No birds
	pers.comm.	Plumbago St.	shrubland in swampy area	located
1976,	Gloster	Vicinity of	Low open chenopod	No birds
1979	pers.comm.	Koolka Hill,	shrubland	located
		Plumbago St.		
1996	Baxter	Near Triangle	Chenopod shrubland	Birds relocated
		Hill,		in general area
		Bimbowrie St.		
1999	Baxter	Vicinity of	Low open chenopod	No birds
		Koolka Hill,	shrubland	located
		Plumbago St.		
1999	Baxter	Near Poodla	Low open chenopod	Birds relocated
		Dam,	shrubland	in general area
		Bimbowrie St.		
2001	Black	Oonatra Ck,	Chenopod and Acacia	No birds
		Kalkaroo St	shrubland	located
2001	Black	Near	Chenopod shrubland	Status
		homestead,		unknown, site
		Mt Victor St.		not surveyed

4.4.2 Habitat characteristics

Habitat characteristics measured at most of the 20 sites (and 2 unconfirmed sites) where Thickbilled Grasswren were recorded during this survey are shown in Appendix 3 and are summarised in Table 3.

Sites where Thick-billed Grasswren were recorded during this survey were dominated by *Maireana pyramidata* (Blackbush) low open shrubland with other chenopod species being sub-dominant. A list of plant species recorded at these sites is included in Appendix 4. These sites had from 20-70% bare ground (bare ground plus stone) and 30-80% vegetation (live vegetation plus litter). Stone consisted of quartzite pebbles and was observed at or close to all sites even if not actually recorded there during site assessments. Most litter measured during the site assessments was dead Saltbush that provided some ground cover and would have some habitat value when combined with the live vegetation. The vegetation structure recorded at most of these sites was less than 75cm tall. Too few observations were made on Kalabity to make meaningful comparisons with the Bimbowrie sites.

Plates 3-8 show examples of the vegetation structure found at a number of sites where Thick-billed Grasswren were recorded during this survey.

Site	Bare	Litter	Stone	Total	HC1	HC2	HC3	HC4	HC5	Total
Code	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Bim 1										
Bim 2	61	10.5	1.5	73	5	15	6	1	0	27
Bim 3	63	9	0	72	11.5	10.5	4	2	0	28
Bim 4	52	2	4	58	12	22	6	2	0	42
Bim 5										
Bim 6	20	8	0	28	4	24	14	22	8	72
Bim 7	61	13	1	75	10	11	4	0	0	25
Bim 8										
Bim 9	50	5	14	69	21	4	4	2	0	31
Bim10	61	8	8	77	10	12	1	0	0	23
Bim11	64	8	6	78	10	6	3	3	0	22
Bim12	66	4	0	70	10	8	7	5	0	30
Bim13	60	13	0	73	5	10	11	1	0	27
Bim14	50	10	0	60	4	5	18	8	5	40
Bim15	62	4	5	71	13	10	5	1	0	29
Bim16	58	6	0	64	0	6	23	6	1	36
Bim	56	7.7	3	66.8	8.9	11	8.2	4.1	1.1	33.2
Avg										
Bool 1										
Kal 1	61	8	10	79	9	8	2	2	0	21
Kal 2										
Kal 3										
Kal 4										
Kal 5	55	5	7	67	15	9	9	0	0	33
Kal	58	6.5	8.5	73	12	8.5	5.5	1	0	27
Avg										

Table 3: Summary of habitat characteristics (percent cover) at surveyed sites (see Appendix 3 for height class categories).

Plate 3: Vegetation structure found at Site BIM 2 where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey.

Plate 4: Vegetation structure found at Site BIM 5 where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey.

Plate 5: Vegetation structure found at Site BIM 6 where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey.

Plate 6: Vegetation structure found at Site BIM 14 where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey.

Plate 7: Vegetation structure found at Site BIM 15 where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey.

Plate 8: Vegetation structure found at Site KAL 1 where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded during this survey.

Plains-wanderer and Thick-billed Grasswren survey report to SAAL NRM Board August 2006

4.5 DISCUSSION

4.5.1 Encounter rates

The majority of observations of Thick-billed Grasswren during this survey were made on Bimbowrie and these, combined with observations on pastoral properties nearby, have confirmed and extended the known range of the species in the north-east pastoral region. Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded in sufficient numbers during this survey to indicate that the population in this region is probably adequate to maintain long-term viability. It is of some concern though that most records were from one paddock on Bimbowrie and adjacent to it just through the Kalabity boundary fence. This makes the majority of the known population susceptible to a single catastrophic event such as fire, disease, gross habitat alteration or predation. The currently known distribution in the region may be a natural phenomena resulting from a specific habitat requirement or it may be an artificial phenomena resulting from insufficient survey work.

Also of concern is that while Thick-billed Grasswrens could still be located in the same general area at the 2 sites on the old Bimbowrie Station (now Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve) reported by Black and Baxter (2003) they could not be found from searches in the general area of the other sites they reported from neighbouring pastoral properties. The species is very secretive most of the year so it may be that they remain in these areas but we could not detect them during our survey. The fact that the source of some Black and Baxter (2003) records were working on Plumbago Station for more than 10 years and were skilled bird observers and yet recorded only 4 sightings in that time may indicate that the birds were always in low numbers there.

The species is thought to be sedentary, occupying home ranges of 4-5ha throughout the year with minimal dispersal (Higgins, Peter and Steele (2001). Schodde in Higgins, Peter and Steele (2001) suggests that breeding pairs stay in the same 4-5ha patch of vegetation throughout the year and that other neighbouring pairs occupy territories within discrete pockets of habitat that may be separated from other pockets of occupied habitat by extensive areas of unoccupied but apparently suitable habitat. This scattered pattern of habitat use seemed to be evident during this survey with a number of groups being located relatively close to each other in an area and then no other groups being located in nearby areas that appeared to be similar to occupied habitat.

4.5.2 Habitat characteristics and suitability

The apparently disjointed and clumped distribution of the species in the region evident from this survey cannot be explained by the vegetation assessment conducted here. Much apparently structurally and floristically similar vegetation to that known to support Thick-billed Grasswrens was searched without locating birds.

Playfair and Robinson (1997) mapped the area around the Bimbowrie and Kalabity boundary where most of the Thick-billed Grasswrens were located in this survey as *Maireana pyramidata* (Blackbush) low open shrubland. This community is generally found in drainage depressions and low lying areas in the region and is often thought to be an indicator of preferential grazing by livestock because other more palatable perennial species are only found at low densities within this community having largely been selectively grazed out. In terms of a pure vegetation community it is only found in relatively confined areas on the northern boundary of Bimbowrie and the southwest and west of Kalabity, however, there are extensive areas on Plumbago where this vegetation community is found with *Senna/Eremophila/Rhagodia spinescens* (Spiny Saltbush) open shrubland as mapped by Playfair and Robinson (1997). No Thick-billed Grasswrens were located in this area during this survey. While no Thick-billed Grasswrens were located during this survey away from *M. pyramidata* low open shrubland, Playfair and Robinson (1997) mapped extensive areas of other

types of chenopod shrublands in the north-east pastoral region and the observations reported by Black and Baxter (2003) from Plumbago were from areas of *Atriplex vesicaria* (Bladder Saltbush)/*Maireana astrotricha* (Low Bluebush) low open shrubland.

If the species is largely dependent upon, and is restricted to, *M. pyramidata* low open shrubland then its distribution and abundance in the north-east pastoral region will take the form of a series of small populations in discrete pockets of habitat separated from other small populations by areas of unoccupied habitat. This type of distribution and abundance of populations across the regional landscape would have implications on how the species is managed and conserved compared with if the species can be found to utilise other chenopod shrubland habitat types in the region.

The continued presence of this species in the region indicates that it is able to tolerate some level of grazing pressure and habitat alteration given the widespread and historical land use practices in the district combined with feral herbivores, however this is not a clear-cut relationship. There is no real idea of where the native vegetation started from before the effects of livestock, goat and rabbit grazing produced what we observe today and what changes – positive, negative or neutral - have occurred in the distribution and abundance of the Thick-billed Grasswrens due to those changes.

The observations from Plumbago Station in the mid to late 1970's were made before the introduction of more conservative stocking rates and the intensive effort to eradicate feral goats on property (Wilson *pers.comm.*) both of which should have benefited the vegetation (and presumably the birds). These observations were also made before stock water was piped to the area around Koolka Hill (Wilson *pers.comm.*) resulting in increased grazing impact on the chenopod shrubland vegetation in a piosphere around the water-point and may have affected the suitability of the habitat for Thick-billed Grasswrens. The records from Kalabity Station during this survey were either from areas on the Bimbowrie boundary fence adjacent to much better vegetated areas on Bimbowrie or in a small well vegetated paddock that had much less grazing pressure than surrounding paddocks because of its size, lack of water and good fencing. The continued presence of the species on Bimbowrie, primarily in one paddock, may be because when the property was operating as Bimbowrie Station these areas were relatively remote from artificial water-points or that livestock did not utilise these areas because the perennial vegetation there was largely unpalatable.

The effect of releasing Bimbowrie (and Boolcoomatta) from livestock grazing pressure, combined with the intensive feral goat control program now in place, should benefit the perennial vegetation by greater productivity, increased cover and improved recruitment and survival of seedlings. Such changes in the perennial vegetation would be expected to improve habitat for Thick-billed Grasswrens but the actual effects and timeframe for such responses are not certain and are dependent on good seasonal conditions. For example, *M. pyramidata* is a known "increaser" species as it is not palatable to stock compared with most other chenopods and it is not known if it will respond to a lack of grazing by colonising additional areas or by being gradually out-competed by other chenopods released from grazing pressure. Either response may have an impact on Thick-billed Grasswren distribution and abundance in the district.

The recruitment of perennial vegetation is also affected by rabbit grazing – particularly of seedlings. Rabbits are patchily distributed throughout the survey area and were observed near some sites where Thick-billed Grasswrens were recorded.

Bimbowrie and Plumbago Station both have an intensive property-wide 1080 fox baiting program to help in the recovery of the local population of Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus*). This program should also be benefiting many other species in the district including Thick-billed Grasswrens given the results of such programs on similar species elsewhere (Carpenter and Bellchambers (2003)).

4.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this survey provide an initial baseline of information on the distribution, abundance and habitat characteristics of the Thick-billed Grasswren in the north-east pastoral region. This information will provide a basis for the conservation and management of the species in the region with the following issues to be considered.

Management of Total Grazing Pressure.

- The de-stocking of both Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve and Boolcoomatta Station removes the primary grazing impact from these 2 properties and provides an opportunity for the habitat to recover somewhat. It also provides an opportunity to monitor the habitat recovery and whether this has any benefit to the local fauna.
- Additional grazing pressure can be removed from these 2 properties plus neighbouring pastoral properties by continuing with the integrated goat control program operated by DEH as part of the Bounceback program in the Olary Ranges.
- Consideration should be given to adopting a rabbit control program, if not on a broad scale at least strategically on Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve and Boolcoomatta Station around known populations of Thick-billed Grasswren.
- Consideration should be given to encouraging Kalabity Station to manage the portion of the property identified as Thick-billed Grasswren habitat for conservation purposes rather than grazing purposes.

Artificial water points.

• Decommissioning artificial water points in the rangelands should be a central biodiversity conservation strategy for reserves (Landsberg *et. al.* 1997). With the removal of all domestic stock from Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve and Boolcoomatta Station, artificial water points are no longer needed and their decommissioning would mitigate an undesirable, excessive build-up of kangaroo (*Macropus* spp.) numbers.

Predator control.

- The current 1080 fox-baiting program in operation on Plumbago Station and Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve should be maintained and cconsideration should be given to extending the fox-baiting program to Boolcoomatta Station to reduce the impact of fox predation on local wildlife.
- Consideration should be given to extending the regional predator control program to include shooting programs for foxes and cats.

Structured surveys.

- Additional structured surveys for Thick-billed Grasswrens in the region are desirable to give a clearer picture of its' distribution and abundance, connectedness to other known populations in the Lake Frome area, habitat preferences and to identify management issues that may be present. (These surveys should also include searches for Slender-billed Thornbill, see Section 5.0).
- Consideration should be given to undertaking a population monitoring program for those areas identified in this survey, particularly on Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve, as the species may be a sensitive indicator of habitat management practices.

Taxonomic status

• There is some debate regarding the genetic and morphological differences in the Thick-billed Grasswren species complex regarding the number of species and sub-species involved. Reasonable numbers of birds were encountered on Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve to enable consideration being given to catching birds to assist in solving this issue.

5.0 OPPORTUNE OBSERVATIONS

A number of other bird species were observed as this survey was being conducted. These observations are included as Appendix 5. All observations have been forwarded to Birds Australia Atlas database and to DEH Opportune database. Observations made on Boolcoomatta Station have been forwarded direct to Australian Bush Heritage.

Apart from Thick-billed Grasswren and Plains-wanderer an additional three bird species with conservation significance were recorded during this survey. National conservation ratings are listed in *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation* Act 1999 while state conservation ratings are listed in *National Parks and Wildlife* Act 1972.

- Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*) rated as Rare in South Australia. A single bird was recorded on a small dam near the Barrier Highway. This is a nomadic species with individuals dispersing away from the preferred habitat of deep wetlands in the eastern states.
- Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*) rated as Rare in South Australia. A number of records of this species were obtained from throughout the study area. This species is found in arid and semi-arid chenopod dominated shrublands. The range and population density of the species have declined due to habitat loss and habitat degradation due primarily to clearance and grazing (Garnett and Crowley 2000). The results of this survey show that the distribution and abundance of the species in the north-east pastoral region would appear to make the population relatively secure there and it should benefit from the de-stocking of Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve and Boolcoomatta Station.
- Slender-billed Thornbill (*Acanthiza iredalei*) rated as Vulnerable nationally and in South Australia. Several records of pairs and small flocks from boundary of Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve and Boolcoomatta Station. This species is found in arid and semi-arid chenopod dominated shrublands. The range and population density of the species have declined due to habitat loss and habitat degradation due primarily to clearance and grazing (Garnett and Crowley 2000). There are a number of sub-populations within the known distribution with no records from this eastern sub-population for a number of years until this survey. The results of this survey show that the distribution and abundance of the species in the north-east pastoral region would appear to indicate a very small and restricted population. It is possible that the local population will benefit from the de-stocking of Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve and Boolcoomatta Station but further survey work is needed to improve knowledge of local sub-population.

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7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1:Plains-wanderer monitoring datasheet.

	PLAINS-WA	AND	ERER MON	ITORING D A	ATASHEE	Т	
Observer's name:		•••••				Number of C	Observer's:
Site Details							
Property:	•••••	• • • • • • • •	•••••	Location:			
Date/Time			•••••	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Day Month Year			Start time			Finish time	1 = Summer time
_							$2 = \mathbf{W}$ inter time
Run	Distance						
	Start odometer	•	End odometer			Total distance (km)	
Weather							
Temperature				Rain			Wind
1 Cold < 15° 2 Mild 15-	-25° 3 Warm >	25°		1 None 2	Mist 3 Sho	owers	1 Calm 2 Light
Cloud					Moon		
1 No cloud 2 Traces 3	3 50% cloud 4	Over	cast		1 No moon	2 Quarter 3 Half 4	Full
Plains-wa	anderer Obser	vatio	n Details				_
				AMG Ref	erence	Habitat	
	No.	Sex	Age	Easting	Northing	Structure	
	1						
	2						
	3				-		_
	4						_
	5						_
	6						-
	0						
	0						-
	10						-
	11						-
	12						
Transect: A - Z	Sex: M (male	e) F	(female)	Age: A (adult	t) J (inveni	le) C (chick)	1
Habitat Structure: Rof	er to "Plaing_u	ande	rer Hahitat Ma	nagement Guid	le" for struct	ture levels	
1 too sparse 2 slightly	too snarse 2;	deal	4 slighty too d	ense 5 much t	oo dense		
1 too sparse 2 singlitty	too sparse 31	ucai	- singinty too u		oo uense		
SPECIES	TOTAL	TAL	LY SCORES	SPECIES		TOTAL	TALLY SCORES
				D'1 "D''			

SPECIES	TOTAL	TALLY SCORES	SPECIES	TOTAL	TALLY SCORES
Plains-wanderer			Richard's Pipit		
Stubble Quail			Rufous Songlark		
Little Button-quail			Brown Songlark		
Inland Dotterel					
Banded Lapwing			Fat-tailed Dunnart		
			Fox		
Total species					

Details to record on the back of this sheet

1. Other species observed and interesting behavioural observations

Property Name	Location data	TBGW observed	Habitat description and comments
Bimbowrie Cons. Reserve	425232E 6463010N (BIM 1)	2	Low open chenopod shrubland on stony rise, taller shrubs in gutter
	426195E 6464704N (BIM 2)	2	Low chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches
	425861E 6464294N (BIM 3)	2	Taller chenopod shrubland with many dead bushes, loamy soil
	425430E 6464330N (BIM 4)	1	Narrow band of low chenopod shrubland along drainage gutter
	427873E 6465111N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil
	425740E 6465840N (BIM 5)	1	Low sparse chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, along drainage gutter
	425835E 6466793N (BIM 6)	2	Tall dense shrubland in ponded drainage area above dam
	425220E 6466180N (BIM 7)	1	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	424800E 6465625N (BIM 8)	1	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	424073E 6464893N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, clay/loam soil
	425180E 6465340N	No	Low sparse chenopod shrubland on stony rise
	410872E 6454261N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, clay/loam soil
	420730E 6457930N (BIM 9)	1	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches, TBGW previously
			recorded in area
	436354E 6462647N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil
	441995E 6462612N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil
	432475E 6464680N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, heavily grazed in past
	429654E 6464196N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil
	426772E 6464482N (BIM 10)	2	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	426472E 6463438N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	427810E 6464670N (BIM 11)	3	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	428620E 6464140N (BIM 12)	2	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	441450E 6463620N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	424945E 6468031N	No	Low chenopod shrubland, clay/loamy soil with stony patches
	422565E 6469065N (BIM 13)	3	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loamy soil, drainage depression
	413050E 6471250N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches
	428741E 6465392N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	428432E 6465783N (BIM 14)	4	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
	420962E 6458511N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	421851E 6457547N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	421298E 6457593N (BIM 15)	1	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	421187E 6458652N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, sandy loam soil
	422513E 6458274N (BIM 16)	1	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
Plumbago Station	407600E 6454650N	No	Low chenopod shrubland, patches of Black Oak nearby, loamy soil
	408601E 6458403N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, 500m to water-point
	408409E 6458403N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches, TBGW previously
			recorded in area
	405880E 6474211N	No	Tall dense shrubland in ponded drainage area above dam
	408881E 6464537N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	407514E 6461924N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	406855E 6460428N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches

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Annendix 7	Thick-hilled	(tracewren curv	vev sites siin	imary information
$I \text{ appendix } \mathcal{L}$.	THICK UNICU	Oldos witch bul	vey shes sun	milar y milormation.

Property Name	Location data	TBGW observed	Habitat description and comments
Plumbago Station	391387E 6448197N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
~	390875E 6446897N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loamy soil with stony patches
	389269E 6444917N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
	387936E 6445066N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
	378781E 6445358N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, along drainage channel, TBGW previously
			recorded in area
	379699E 6445768N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	383837E 6447893N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	405190E 6452890N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
Boolcoomatta Station	442356E 6463660N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	442758E 6463907N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	443685E 6462267N (BOOL 1)	1?	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression, unconfirmed sighting
	456785E 6464881N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches, grazing impact
	457918E 6473179N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, sandy/loam soil, grazing impact
	462718E 6467296N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, sandy/loam soil, grazing impact
	461392E 6466413N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
Kalabity Station	409750E 6473745N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches
	429125E 6467709N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact
	426338E 6467982N (KAL 1)	2	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches, grazing impact
	417507E 6470738N (KAL 2)	1	Low sparse chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, along drainage gutter, grazing
			impact
	412160E 6472620N (KAL 3)	1?	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches
	412860E 6472901N	No	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches, grazing impact
	426775E 6469294N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	426380E 6468890N (KAL 4)	2	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	426713E 6468919N (KAL 5)	1	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches
	430593E 6470302N	No	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression
	436135E 6477639N	No	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches

Site	Species	Bare	Litter	Stone	Total	Height	Height	Height	Height	Height	Total
Code	Name	Ground	(%)	(%)	(%)	Class 1*	Class 2*	Class 3*	Class 4*	Class 5*	(%)
		(%)				(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
BIM 1	Not surveyed										
BIM 2		61	10.5	1.5	73						
	Maireana pyramidata					0.5	7	2.5	0	0	10
	Atriplex vesicaria					1	6	1.5	0	0	8.5
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis					3	0	0	0	0	3
	Olearia pimeleoides					0	1.5	2	1	0	4.5
	Maireana apressa					0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5
	Cymbopogon ambiguus					5	0.5	0	0	0	0.5
		63	0	0	72	5	15	0	1	U	21
DIN 3	Maireana pyramidata	05	,	0	14	0	10	4	2	0	16
	Atriplex vesicaria					ů 0	0.5	0	0	0	0.5
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis					11	0	0	0 0	0 0	11
	Unidentified Grass					0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5
	Total					11.5	10.5	4	2	0	28
BIM 4		52	2	4	58						
	Maireana pyramidata					4	18	2	2	0	26
	Atriplex vesicaria					0	4	0	0	0	4
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis					8	0	0	0	0	8
	Rhagodia spinescens					0	0	4	0	0	4
	Total					12	22	6	2	0	42
BIM 5	Not surveyed										
BIM 6		20	8	0	28						
	Maireana pyramidata					2	10	0	2	0	14
	Senecio magnificus					0	2	6	20	8	36
	Marrubium vulgare					2	12	8	0	0	22
	Total	(1	10	1		4	24	14	22	8	72
BIM 7		61	15	1	75	4	10	2	0	0	17
	Maireana pyramaata Atripler vesicaria					4	10	5	0	0	1/
	Selarolaena species					1	0	0	0	0	1
	Olearia nimeleoides						0	1	0	0	2 1
	Maireana astrotricha					0	1	0	0	0	1
	Atriplex species					3	0	0	0	0	3
	Total					10	11	4	Ő	Ő	25
BIM 8	Not surveyed										
			1	1							

Appendix 3: Habitat characteristics of sites where Thick-billed Grasswren were recorded during this survey.

Site	Species		Bare	Litter	Stone	Total	Height	Height	Height	Height	Height	Total
Code	Name		Ground	(%)	(%)	(%)	Class 1*	Class 2*	Class 3*	Class 4*	Class 5*	(%)
			(%)				(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
BIM 9			50	5	14	69						
	Maireana pyramidata						1	0	1	0	0	2
	Rhagodia spinescens						3	2	3	0	0	8
	Sclerolaena species						17	0	0	0	0	17
	Olearia pimeleoides						0	1	0	0	0	1
	Acacia victoriae						0	1	0	2	0	3
		Total					21	4	4	2	0	31
BIM 10			61	8	8	77						
	Maireana pyramidata						0	4	0	0	0	4
	Atriplex vesicaria						4	6	0	0	0	10
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis						6	0	0	0	0	6
	Olearia pimeleoides						0	0	1	0	0	1
	Maireana apressa	T. 4 . 1					0	2	0	0	0	2
DD (11		Total	64	0	6	70	10	12	1	U	U	23
BIM 11	Maireana pyramidata		04	8	0	/ð	2	1	3	3	0	0
	Maireana pyramaana Atriplar vasioaria						2	1	3	5	0	9
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis						4	5	0	0	0	9
	scieroidena patenticuspis	Total					10	6	3	3	0	22
DIM 12		10141	66	4	0	70	10	0	5	5	0	
DIN 12	Maireana pyramidata		00	-	Ŭ	70	0	4	7	5	0	16
	Atriplex vesicaria						4	3	Ó	0	0	7
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis						3	0	Ő	0	0	3
	Olearia pimeleoides						0	1	Ő	0	0	1
	Maireana astrotricha						1	0	0	0	0	1
	Solanum ellipticum						2	0	0	0	0	2
	1	Total					10	8	7	5	0	30
BIM 13			60	13	0	73						
DIMI	Maireana pyramidata						0	4	11	1	0	16
	Atriplex vesicaria						0	3	0	0	0	3
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis						5	0	0	0	0	5
	Olearia pimeleoides						0	1	0	0	0	1
	Maireana astrotricha						0	2	0	0	0	2
		Total					5	10	11	1	0	27
BIM 14			50	10	0	60						
	Maireana pyramidata						0	5	16	7	5	33
	Rhagodia spinescens						0	0	2	1	0	3
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis						4	0	0	0	0	4
		Total					4	5	18	8	5	40

Site	Species	Bare	Litter	Stone	Total	Height	Height	Height	Height	Height	Total
Code	Name	Ground	(%)	(%)	(%)	Class 1*	Class 2*	Class 3*	Class 4*	Class 5*	(%)
		(%)				(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
BIM 15		62	4	5	71						
	Maireana pyramidata					0	10	5	1	0	16
	Rhagodia spinescens					1	0	0	0	0	1
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis					12	0	0	0	0	12
	lota	59	6	0	64	13	10	5	1	U	29
BIM 16	Maireana pyramidata	58	0	0	04	0	6	13	6	0	25
	Rhagodia spinescens					0	0	7	0	0	7
	Maireana aphylla					0	0	3	0	0	3
	Acacia victoriae					0	0	0	0	1	1
	Tota					0	6	23	6	1	36
BOOL 1	Not surveyed										
KAL 1	•	61	8	10	79						
	Maireana pyramidata					0	5	2	2	0	9
	Atriplex vesicaria					3	1	0	0	0	4
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis					4	0	0	0	0	4
	Maireana astrotricha					2	2	0	0	0	4
IZAL O	10ta				-	9	ð	2	2	U	21
KAL Z	Not surveyed										-
KAL 3	Not surveyed										
KAL 4	Not surveyed										
KAL 5		55	5	7	67						
_	Maireana pyramidata					0	2	8	0	0	10
	Atriplex vesicaria					5	5	0	0	0	10
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis					9	0	0	0	0	9
	Maireana astrotricha					1	2		0	0	4
	Tota				1	15	9	9	0	0	33

* Note:

Height Class 1: 0-25cm Height Class 2: 25-50cm Height Class 3: 50-75cm Height Class 4: 75cm-1m Height Class 5: >1m

Site Code	Scientific Name	Common Name		
BIM 1	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
DINII	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
	Acacia tetragonaphylla	Dead Finish		
BIM 2	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush		
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi		
	Sclerolaena limbata	Pearl Bindyi		
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush		
	Maireana apressa	Pale-fruit Bluebush		
	Cymbopogon ambiguus	Lemon-grass		
	Osteocarpum species	Bonefruit		
	Austrostipa species	Spear-grass		
	Danthonia caespitosa	Common Wallaby-grass		
	Centaurea melitensis	Malta Thistle		
BIM 3	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush		
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi		
	Unidentified Grass	Grass		
	Acacia aneura	Mulga		
	Santalum lanceolatum	Plumbush		
BIM 4	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush		
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi		
	Rhagodia spinescens	Spiny Saltbush		
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush		
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
DD (7	Sida species			
BIM 5	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
BIM 6	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
	Senecio magnificus	Showy Groundsel		
	Marrubium vulgare*	Horehound		
	Sida species	Sida D. L. C. H. L		
	Enchylaena tomentosa	Ruby Saltbush		
	Rhagodia spinescens	Spiny Saltbush		
DI) (7	Lycium ferocissimum*	BOXINOM		
BIM /	Maireana pyramiaata	Blackbush Bladder Solthush		
	Airipiex vesicaria Selevelaena species	Bladder Saltbush Bindvi		
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush		
	Maireana astrotricha	I ow Bluebush		
	Atripler species	Saltbush		
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
BIM 8	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
DINI 0	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
BIMO	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
D11VI 7	Rhagodia spinescens	Spiny Saltbush		
	Sclerolaena species	Bindvi		
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush		
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
	Austrostipa species	Spear-grass		
BIM 10	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
DINI IO	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush		
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi		
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush		
	Maireana apressa	Pale-fruit Bluebush		
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
	Cymbopogon ambiguus	Lemon-grass		
BIM 11	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush		
11 11	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush		
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi		
	Centaurea melitensis*	Malta Thistle		
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle		
1				

Appendix 4: Plant species recorded from	sites where	Thick-billed	Grasswren	were record	ed during	this
survey.						

Site Code	Scientific Name	Common Name
BIM 12	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
D101 12	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush
	Maireana astrotricha	Low Bluebush
	Solanum ellipticum	Velvet Potato-bush
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle
	Dodonaea species	Hopbush
	Austrostipa species	Spear-grass
BIM 13	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
Dim ie	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Olearia pimeleoides	Pimelea Daisy-bush
	Maireana astrotricha	Low Bluebush
	Austrostipa species	Spear-grass
BIM 14	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Rhagodia spinescens	Spiny Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Alectryon oleifolius	Bullock Bush
	Santalum lanceolatum	Plum Bush
	Lycium ferocissimum*	Boxthorn
	Eremophila sturtii	Turpentine Bush
	Marrubium vulgare*	Horehound
	Centaurea melitensis*	Malta Thistle
BIM 15	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Rhagodia spinescens	Spiny Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant wattle
BIM 16	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Rhagoala spinescens Mainanna anhalla	Spiny Saltoush
	Matreana aphylia	Cotton Bush
	Acacia vicioriae	Dimolog Doigy bush
	Acacia tetragonanhulla	Pinicica Daisy-bush Dead Finish
	Santalum lanceolatum	Plum Rush
	A triplex vesicaria	Bladder Salthush
	Sclerolaena natenticusnis	Spear-fruit Bindvi
POOL 1	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
BOOL I	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Maireana astrotricha	Low Bluebush
ΚΔΙ 1	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Maireana astrotricha	Low Bluebush
KAL 2	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Maireana aphylla	Cotton Bush
	Acacia victoriae	Elegant Wattle
KAL 3	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
KAL 4	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Maireana astrotricha	Low Bluebush
KAL 5	Maireana pyramidata	Blackbush
	Atriplex vesicaria	Bladder Saltbush
	Sclerolaena patenticuspis	Spear-fruit Bindyi
	Maireana astrotricha	Low Bluebush

* Note: an introduced species.

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons.	425232E	Low open chenopod shrubland on stony rise	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	10
Reserve	6463010N		Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	2, with WWFW
	(BIM 1)		Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	1
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	2
			Oreoica gutturalis	Crested Bellbird	1
			Rhipidura leucophrys	Willie Wagtail	1
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	8, overhead
			Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	3
			Corvus bennetti	Little Crow	1
			Anthus novaeseelandiae	Richard's Pipit	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	426195E	Low chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	Egg
Reserve	6464704N	stony patches	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	3
	(BIM 2)		Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	2
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	3
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	1
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Cheramoeca leucosternus	White-backed Swallow	2, overhead
Bimbowrie Cons.	425861E	Taller chenopod shrubland with many dead	Aquila audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2, overhead
Reserve	6464294N	bushes, loamy soil	Cacatua sanguinea	Little Corella	20, fly over
	(BIM 3)		Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	8
			Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	2
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	2
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	425430E	Narrow band of low chenopod shrubland	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1
Reserve	6464330N	along drainage gutter	Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	2, with nest and
	(BIM 4)				eggs in A.victoriae
Bimbowrie Cons.	427873E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil	Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	2
Reserve	6465111N		Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	6
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	3
			Acanthagenys rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	425740E	Low sparse chenopod shrubland, grassy	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1
Reserve	6465840N	understorey, along drainage gutter	Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
	(BIM 5)		Anthus novaeseelandiae	Richard's Pipit	2

Appendix 5: Opportune bird observations during survey.

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons.	425835E	Tall dense shrubland in ponded drainage area	Anas gracilis	Grey Teal	2, on dam
Reserve	6466793N	above dam. Some water in dam.	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	3
	(BIM 6)		Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	4
			Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	4
			Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	2
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	1
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	6
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	2
			Petroica goodenovii	Red-capped Robin	1
			Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	2, overhead
Bimbowrie Cons.	425220E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	8
Reserve	6466180N	with stony patches	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1
	(BIM 7)		Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	424800E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	10
Reserve	6465625N	with stony patches	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1
	(BIM 8)		Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
	. ,		Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	2, overhead
Bimbowrie Cons.	424073E	Medium chenopod shrubland, grassy	Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
Reserve	6464893N	understorey, clay/loam soil	Melanodryas cucullata	Hooded Robin	2, a pair
Bimbowrie Cons.	425180E	Low sparse chenopod shrubland on stony rise	Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	2
Reserve	6465340N			-	
Bimbowrie Cons.	410872E	Medium chenopod shrubland, grassy	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	10 (1A & 9SA)
Reserve	6454261N	understorey, clay/loam soil	Cacatua roseicapilla	Galah	6
			Psephotus haematonotus	Mulga Parrot	20
			Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	5
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	4
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	4
			Acanthiza uropygialis	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	2
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	4
			Manorina flavigula	Yellow-throated Miner	6
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	2
			Petroica goodenovii	Red-capped Robin	1
			Oreoica gutturalis	Crested Bellbird	1
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	4
			Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Mistletoebird	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	441450E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	1, male on nest
Reserve	6463620N		Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	8
			Acanthiza iredalei	Slender-billed Thornbill (A:V, SA:V)	2
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	2

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons.	439166E	Redgum creekline	Smicrornis brevirostris	Weebill	2
Reserve	6463436N		Coracina novaehollandiae	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1
Bimbowrie Cons.	420730E	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil	Vanellus tricolor	Banded Lapwing	2
Reserve	6457930N	with stony patches, TBGW previously	Phaps chalcoptera	Common Bronzewing	1
	(BIM 9)	recorded in area	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	3
			Cacatua sanguinea	Little Corella	6
			Barnardius zonarius	Australian Ringneck	2
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	20, several families
			Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1, with WWFW
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Epthianura albifrons	White-fronted Chat	10, 1 flock
			Acanthagenys rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	4
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	2
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	20
			Corvus bennetti	Little Crow	5
			Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	10, 1 flock
Bimbowrie Cons.	436354E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	20, several families
Reserve	6462647N		Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	2
			Epthianura albifrons	White-fronted Chat	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	20
			Corvus bennetti	Little Crow	2
			Cheramoeca leucosternus	White-backed Swallow	2, overhead
			Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Mistletoebird	1
Bimbowrie Cons.	441995E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Aquila audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle	2, overhead
Reserve	6462612N		Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	8
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	4
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Acanthiza iredalei	Slender-billed Thornbill (A:V, SA:V)	1
			Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	5
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	2
			Petroica goodenovii	Red-capped Robin	1
			Corvus bennetti	Little Crow	2
			Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	2, overhead
			Anthus novaeseelandiae	Richard's Pipit	
			Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	4
Bimbowrie Cons.	426772E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	1, track only
Reserve	6464482N	with stony patches	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	2
	(BIM 10)		Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	427810E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	5
Reserve	6464670N	with stony patches	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	3
	(BIM 11)		Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons.	434299E	Mulga woodland on rocky range	Psephotus haematonotus	Mulga Parrot	2
Reserve	6462410		Struthidea cinerea	Apostlebird	30, 1 flock
Bimbowrie Cons.	432475E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil,	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	6
Reserve	6464680N	heavily grazed in past	Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	1
Bimbowrie Cons.	429654E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	1
Reserve	6464196N		Cacatua roseicapilla	Galah	4
			Psephotus haematonotus	Mulga Parrot	2
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	8
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	1
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	2
			Epthianura albifrons	White-fronted Chat	3
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	8
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	14, several families
			Melanodryas cucullata	Hooded Robin	2, a pair
Bimbowrie Cons.	426472E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Aquila audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1, overhead
Reserve	6463438N	with stony patches	Psephotus haematonotus	Mulga Parrot	2
			Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	4
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	6
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	6
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	4
			Acanthagenys rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Petroica goodenovii	Red-capped Robin	1
			Melanodryas cucullate	Hooded Robin	2, a pair
			Cracticus torquatus	Grey Butcherbird	1
			Corvus bennetti	Little Crow	4
			Cheramoeca leucosternus	White-backed Swallow	2, overhead
			Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	2, overhead
			Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	4
Bimbowrie Cons.	428620E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	2
Reserve	6464140N	with stony patches	Epthianura aurifrons	Orange Chat	6
	(BIM 12)		Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	1
Bimbowrie Cons.	422565E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loamy soil,	Coturnix pectoralis	Stubble Quail	1
Reserve	6469065N	drainage depression	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	3
	(BIM 13)				
Bimbowrie Cons.	413540E	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	1
Reserve	6471970N	with stony patches	Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Epthianura aurifrons	Orange Chat	2
			Rhipidura leucophrys	Willie Wagtail	1
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	5, overhead

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons.	424945E	Low chenopod shrubland, clay/loamy soil	Falco cenchroides	Australian Kestrel	1, overhead
Reserve	6468031N	with stony patches	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	2
			Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	2
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	5
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	1
			Cheramoeca leucosternus	White-backed Swallow	2, overhead
			Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	2, overhead
			Anthus novaeseelandiae	Richard's Pipit	1
Bimbowrie Cons.	416568E	Open grassland with scattered emergent	Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	2
Reserve	6471005N	shrubs	Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	20, several families
Bimbowrie Cons.	412430E	Open shrubland near creekline	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	35
Reserve	6462610N		Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	2
			Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	2
Bimbowrie Cons.	413545E	Low open chenopod shrubland in drainage	Anas gracilis	Grey Teal	2
Reserve	6470702N	line above shallow dam. Dam with water.	Elsevornis melanops	Black-fronted Dotterel	2
			Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	10
			Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	4
			Neophema elegans	Elegant Parrot	1
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	4
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	4
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	5, overhead
			Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	5, overhead
Bimbowrie Cons.	413050E	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil	Elsevornis melanops	Black-fronted Dotterel	2
Reserve	6471250N	with stony patches	Neophema elegans	Elegant Parrot	3
		5 1	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	15, several families
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	4
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Ouail-thrush	1
			Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	3
Bimbowrie Cons.	428432E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil,	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	1, tracks only
Reserve	6465783N	drainage depression	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	6
	(BIM 14)		Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	4
	× ,		Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	4
			Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	4
			Pvrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Acanthagenvs rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	4
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
Bimbowrie Cons	422513E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland loamy soil	Amytornis textilis	Thick-hilled Grasswren (A·V SA·R)	1
Reserve	6458274N	drainage depression	11119 WIND WALLES	Then blied Grubbwren (A. V, DA.K)	-
	(BIM 16)				

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons. Reserve	421298E 6457593N (BIM 15)	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches	Aquila audax Cacatua roseicapilla Malurus leucopterus Amytornis textilis Pyrrholaemus brunneus Aphelocephala leucopsis Acanthagenys rufogularis Cheramoeca leucosternus Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Wedge-tailed Eagle Galah White-winged Fairy-wren Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R) Redthroat (SA:R) Southern Whiteface Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater White-backed Swallow Mistletoebird	1, overhead 6 4, 1 pair mating 1 2 4 1 2, overhead 1
Bimbowrie Cons. Reserve	421187E 6458652N	Medium chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, sandy loam soil	Ocyphaps lophotes Neophema elegans Malurus leucopterus Pyrrholaemus brunneus Acanthagenys rufogularis Psophodes cristatus Gymnorhina tibicen Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Crested Pigeon Elegant Parrot White-winged Fairy-wren Redthroat (SA:R) Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Chirruping Wedgebill Australian Magpie Mistletoebird	6 1 10, several families 2 1 2 2 1
Bimbowrie Cons. Reserve	420846E 6453836N	Redgum creekline around homestead	Elseyornis melanops Geopelia striata Cacatua roseicapilla Cacatua sanguinea Barnardius zonarius Neophema elegans Ninox novaeseelandiae Acanthagenys rufogularis Manorina flavigula Lichenostomus penicillatus Rhipidura leucophrys Grallina cyanoleuca Coracina novaehollandiae Cracticus torquatus Gymnorhina tibicen Corvus bennetti Hirundo neoxena Passer domesticus Carduelis carduelis	Black-fronted DotterelPeaceful DoveGalahLittle CorellaAustralian RingneckElegant ParrotSouthern BoobookSpiny-cheeked HoneyeaterYellow-throated MinerWhite-plumed HoneyeaterWillie WagtailMagpie-larkBlack-faced Cuckoo-shrikeGrey ButcherbirdAustralian MagpieLittle CrowWelcome SwallowHouse SparrowEuropean Goldfinch	1, near dam 1 20 20 2 2 1, heard 1 10 2 15 1 2 6 2, overhead 1 1
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Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Bimbowrie Cons.	422756E	Redgum creekline	Cacatua roseicapilla	Galah	2
Reserve	6459244N		Pardalotus striatus	Striated Pardalote	1
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	4
			Acanthagenys rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	5
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	2
			Cracticus torquatus	Grey Butcherbird	1
			Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Mistletoebird	2
Plumbago Station	407600E	Low chenopod shrubland, patches of Black	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	2, tracks only
	6454650N	Oak nearby, loamy soil	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	4
			Psephotus haematonotus	Mulga Parrot	6
			Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	2
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat	2
			Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	2
Plumbago Station	408601E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil,	Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	5
	6458403N	500m to water-point	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	30, several families
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
Plumbago Station	408409E	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil	Aquila audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1, overhead
	6458403N	with stony patches, TBGW previously	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	6
		recorded in area	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	5
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	4
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	2
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	4
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	4
			Melanodryas cucullata	Hooded Robin	1, female
			Rhipidura leucophrys	Willie Wagtail	1
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	3
			Anthus novaeseelandiae	Richard's Pipit	2
			Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	4
Plumbago Station	408881E	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Turnix velox	Little Button-quail	1
	6464537N	with stony patches	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	10, several families
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	4
Plumbago Station	406855E	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	1, track only
	6460428N	with stony patches	Falco cenchroides	Australian Kestrel	1
			Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	8
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	10, several families
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	1
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	3
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	3

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Plumbago Station	405880E	Tall dense shrubland in ponded drainage area	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	2
	6474211N	above dam. Some water in dam.	Poliocephalus poliocephalus	Hoary-headed Grebe	2, on dam
			Anas gracilis	Grey Teal	9, on dam
			Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	2
			Cacatua roseicapilla	Galan	
			Malurus lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren	6
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	20, several families
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	4
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	6
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	6
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	12, several families
			Petroica goodenovii	Red-capped Robin	
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	4
			Corvus coronoides	Australian Raven	
			Corvus bennetti	Little Crow	2
			Cheramoeca leucosternus	White-backed Swallow	2, overhead
	4075145	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Taeniopygia guttata	Zebra Finch	14
Plumbago Station	407514E	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	6
	6461924N	with stony patches	Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	10, several families
			Gymnorhina fibicen	Australian Magpie	2
Plumbago Station	391387E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil,	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	
	644819/N	drainage depression	Falco cenchroides	Australian Kestrel	
			Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	2
			Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	2
			Neophema elegans	Elegant Parrot	
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	16, several families
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	4
			Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern whiteface	4
			Acanthagenys rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	4
			Psophoaes cristatus	Chirruping wedgebili	8
			Cinciosoma cinnamomeum	Christian Quali-thrush	
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	0
			Anthug nong og og landing	Diebord's Dirit	$\begin{vmatrix} 2\\ 2 \end{vmatrix}$
			Diagour himudingoour	Mictlatoshird	
Dlumbaga Station	200975E	Madium abananad abruhland alau/laam asil	Calamanthus campostnic	Purfous Fieldwron	5
r lumbago Station	5900/JE 6446807N	with stopy patches	Durch algomus brunn aug	Ruious Fieldwiell Rodthroot (SA:R)	5
	044009/IN	with stony patenes	r yrrnowemus brunneus	Cinnemon Queil thrush	
			Himmdo nooxona	Welcome Swellow	$\frac{2}{2}$ overhead
Dlumbogo Station	297026E	Tall dansa ahanonod shruhland loarry sail	Malumus laugontamus	White winged Eairy wron	
r lumbago Station	50/950E	drainage depression	Pumbolaomus berra	Podtbroot (SA:D)	
	0443000IN	uramage depression	r yrrnoiaemus brunneus	Acum Vat (SA:A)	2

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Plumbago Station	389269E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil,	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	1, tracks only
	6444917N	drainage depression	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	10
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	6
			Lichenostomus virescens	Singing Honeyeater	2
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	2, overhead
			Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	1, overhead
			Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Mistletoebird	1
Plumbago Station	378781E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil,	Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	2
	6445358N	along drainage channel, TBGW previously	Northiella haematogaster	Blue Bonnet	2
		recorded in area	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	6
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	1
			Acanthagenys rufogularis	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2
			Pomatostomus ruficeps	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	12, several families
Plumbago Station	379699E	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	3
	6445768N	with stony patches	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	5
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	100
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	2
			Artamus cinereus	Black-faced Woodswallow	2, overhead
Plumbago Station	405190E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil,	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	1
	6452890N	drainage depression	Phaps chalcoptera	Common Bronzewing	1
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	6
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	4
Plumbago Station	410285E	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil,	Phaps chalcoptera	Common Bronzewing	2
	6454339N	drainage depression	Neophema elegans	Elegant Parrot	2
			Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	7
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	1
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
Boolcoomatta	442356E	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil	Aquila audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle	1, overhead
Station	6463660N	with stony patches	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	10, several families
			Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Pyrrholaemus brunneus	Redthroat (SA:R)	2
			Acanthiza iredalei	Slender-billed Thornbill (A:V, SA:V)	4
			Psophodes cristatus	Chirruping Wedgebill	4
Boolcoomatta	459450E	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil.	Charadrius australis	Inland Dotterel	2, spotlighted
Station	6462030N				
Boolcoomatta	443840E	Medium chenopod shrubland, sandy/loam soil,	Malurus leucopterus	White-winged Fairy-wren	4
Station	6465480N	grazing impact	Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
			Acanthiza iredalei	Slender-billed Thornbill (A:V, SA:V)	2
			Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Cinnamon Quail-thrush	2
Boolcoomatta	474062E	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil,	Dromaius novaehollandiae	Emu	11
Station	6467254N	grazing impact	Charadrius australis	Inland Dotterel	2

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Boolcoomatta Station	443685E 6462267N (BOOL 1)	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression, unconfirmed sighting	Ocyphaps lophotes Malurus leucopterus Amytornis textilis Calamanthus campestris Pyrrholaemus brunneus Aphelocephala leucopsis Acanthagenys rufogularis Lichenostomus virescens Psophodes cristatus Cinclosoma cinnamomeum Corvus coronoides Hirundo neoxena	Crested Pigeon White-winged Fairy-wren Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R) Rufous Fieldwren Redthroat (SA:R) Southern Whiteface Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Singing Honeyeater Chirruping Wedgebill Cinnamon Quail-thrush Australian Raven Welcome Swallow Zahao Eineke	2 20, several families 1, unconfirmed 2 2 4 2 1 30 1 2 1, overhead 2
Boolcoomatta Station	455550E 6462550N	Redgum creekline, Oonatra Creek	Cacatua roseicapilla Cacatua roseicapilla Cacatua sanguinea Barnardius zonarius Acanthagenys rufogularis Manorina flavigula Lichenostomus virescens Rhipidura leucophrys Grallina cyanoleuca Coracina novaehollandiae Artamus leucorynchus Cracticus torquatus Corvus coronoides Corvus mellori Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Galah Little Corella Australian Ringneck Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Yellow-throated Miner Singing Honeyeater Willie Wagtail Magpie-lark Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike White-breasted Woodswallow Grey Butcherbird Australian Raven Little Raven Mistletoebird	50 50 1 2 10 2 2 5 5 5 20, overhead 1 6 2 2
Boolcoomatta Station	456845E 6473031	Ephemeral water on low open chenopod shrubland.	Anas gracilis Vanellus tricolor Charadrius australis	Grey Teal Banded Lapwing Inland Dotterel	4 6 2
Boolcoomatta Station	466004E 6462222N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Charadrius australis Falco cenchroides Epthianura aurifrons Anthus novaeseelandiae	Inland Dotterel Australian Kestrel Orange Chat Richard's Pipit	3 1 2 1
Boolcoomatta Station	467690E 6464058N	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Charadrius australis Calamanthus campestris Anthus novaeseelandiae	Inland Dotterel Rufous Fieldwren Richard's Pipit	8 2 1
Boolcoomatta Station	475689E 6480677N	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression. Water in dam	Poliocephalus poliocephalus Anas gracilis Malacorhynchus membranaceus Aquila audax Malurus leucopterus Gymnorhina tibicen	Hoary-headed Grebe Grey Teal Pink-eared Duck Wedge-tailed Eagle White-winged Fairy-wren Australian Magpie	1, on water 2, on water 2, on water 1 3 10

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Boolcoomatta Station	478854E 6466930N	Redgums along Mingary Creek	Falco cenchroides Barnardius zonarius Acanthiza chrysorrhoa Pardalotus striatus Lichenostomus penicillatus Gymnorhina tibicen Corvus mellori	Australian Kestrel Australian Ringneck Yellow-rumped Thornbill Striated Pardalote White-plumed Honeyeater Australian Magpie Little Raven	1 2 6 2 2 3 3 3
D 1 4	4720205		Petrochelidon nigricans	Tree Martin	4, overhead
Boolcoomatta Station	472020E 6477386N	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression. Water in dam	Dromaius novaehollandiae Poliocephalus poliocephalus Fulica atra Charadrius australis Aquila audax Ocyphaps lophotes Cacatua roseicapilla Barnardius zonarius Neophema elegans Cuculus pallidus Malurus leucopterus Manorina flavigula Lichenostomus virescens Rhipidura leucophrys Grallina cyanoleuca Coracina novaehollandiae Cracticus torquatus Gymnorhina tibicen	Emu Hoary-headed Grebe Eurasian Coot Inland Dotterel Wedge-tailed Eagle Crested Pigeon Galah Australian Ringneck Elegant Parrot Pallid Cuckoo White-winged Fairy-wren Yellow-throated Miner Singing Honeyeater Willie Wagtail Magpie-lark Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Grey Butcherbird Australian Magpie	1 2, on water 8, on water 2 nest 8 20 2 1 1 1 8 6 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 5
Boolcoomatta Station	456785E 6464881N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches, grazing impact	Malurus leucopterus Calamanthus campestris Epihianura aurifrons	White-winged Fairy-wren Rufous Fieldwren Orange Chat	10 2 2
Boolcoomatta Station	461562E 6466668N	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression. Water in dam.	Poliocephalus poliocephalus Anas gracilis Ocyphaps lophotes Cacatua sanguinea Barnardius zonarius Northiella haematogaster Lichenostomus penicillatus Grallina cyanoleuca Corvus coronoides	Hoary-headed Grebe Grey Teal Crested Pigeon Little Corella Australian Ringneck Blue Bonnet White-plumed Honeyeater Magpie-lark Australian Raven	2 2, on water 14, on water 6 2 2 2 8 2 2 2 2 2 2
Boolcoomatta Station	465884E 6467114N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Charadrius australis Eurostopodus argus	Inland Dotterel Spotted Nightjar	1, spotlighted 1, spotlighted
Boolcoomatta Station	459745E 6465208N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Podargus strigoides	Tawny Frogmouth	1, spotlighted

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Boolcoomatta Station	457918E 6473179N	Medium chenopod shrubland, sandy/loam soil, grazing impact	Dromaius novaehollandiae Aquila audax Northiella haematogaster Malurus leucopterus Calamanthus campestris Pyrrholaemus brunneus Aphelocephala leucopsis Acanthagenys rufogularis Psophodes cristatus Gymnorhina tibicen	Emu Wedge-tailed Eagle Blue Bonnet White-winged Fairy-wren Rufous Fieldwren Redthroat (SA:R) Southern Whiteface Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Chirruping Wedgebill Australian Magpie	4 1 2 10, several families 2 2 2 1 2 4
Boolcoomatta Station	462932E 6467723N	Blackbox and tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression	Ocyphaps lophotes Cacatua roseicapilla Barnardius zonarius Northiella haematogaster Podargus strigoides Pardalotus striatus Smicrornis brevirostris Manorina flavigula Pomatostomus ruficeps Cracticus nigrogularis Gymnorhina tibicen	Crested Pigeon Galah Australian Ringneck Blue Bonnet Tawny Frogmouth Striated Pardalote Weebill Yellow-throated Miner Chestnut-crowned Babbler Pied Butcherbird Australian Magpie	30 6 6 20checkinghollows 2 2 2 8 15 1 2
Kalabity Station	429125E 6467709N	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Malurus leucopterus Pyrrholaemus brunneus Psophodes cristatus Cheramoeca leucosternus	White-winged Fairy-wren Redthroat (SA:R) Chirruping Wedgebill White-backed Swallow	10 4 10 2, overhead
Kalabity Station	426338E 6467982N (KAL 1)	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches, grazing impact	Malurus leucopterus Amytornis textilis Epthianura albifrons Psophodes cristatus	White-winged Fairy-wren Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R) White-fronted Chat Chirruping Wedgebill	4 2 4 6
Kalabity Station	417507E 6470738N (KAL 2)	Low sparse chenopod shrubland, grassy understorey, along drainage gutter, grazing impact	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1
Kalabity Station	412160E 6472620N (KAL 3)	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1, unconfirmed
Kalabity Station	412860E 6472901N	Low open chenopod shrubland, loamy soil with stony patches, grazing impact	Calamanthus campestris	Rufous Fieldwren	2
Kalabity Station	421391E 6469619N	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches	Epthianura albifrons Artamus cinereus Anthus novaeseelandiae	White-fronted Chat Black-faced Woodswallow Richard's Pipit	200 10, overhead 5
Kalabity Station	426380E 6468890N (KAL 4)	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches	Malurus leucopterus Amytornis textilis	White-winged Fairy-wren Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	3 2, with WWFW

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Kalabity Station	426775E 6469294N	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches	Aquila audax Falco cenchroides Malurus leucopterus Calamanthus campestris Psophodes cristatus Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Wedge-tailed Eagle Australian Kestrel White-winged Fairy-wren Rufous Fieldwren Chirruping Wedgebill Cinnamon Quail-thrush	1, overhead 1, overhead 10, several families 2 2 3
Kalabity Station	426713E 6468919N (KAL 5)	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches	Amytornis textilis	Thick-billed Grasswren (A:V, SA:R)	1
Kalabity Station	430593E 6470302N	Tall dense chenopod shrubland, loamy soil, drainage depression. Some water in depression.	Dromaius novaehollandiae Cacatua sanguinea Ocyphaps lophotes Barnardius zonarius Northiella haematogaster Malurus leucopterus Acanthagenys rufogularis Manorina flavigula Psophodes cristatus Pomatostomus ruficeps Petroica goodenovii Cracticus torquatus Gymnorhina tibicen	Emu Little Corella Crested Pigeon Australian Ringneck Blue Bonnet White-winged Fairy-wren Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Yellow-throated Miner Chirruping Wedgebill Chestnut-crowned Babbler Red-capped Robin Grey Butcherbird Australian Magpie	1 2 50 4 2 4 6 10 2 4 2, a pair 2 4
Kalabity Station	436135E 6477639N	Medium chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil with stony patches	Ocyphaps lophotes Malurus leucopterus Calamanthus campestris Cinclosoma cinnamomeum	Crested Pigeon White-winged Fairy-wren Rufous Fieldwren Cinnamon Quail-thrush	15 8 2 3
Kalkaroo Station	450800E 6486351N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Charadrius australis Neophema elegans Anthus novaeseelandiae	Inland Dotterel Elegant Parrot Richard's Pipit	5 12 2
Kalkaroo Station	455093E 6476212	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Coturnix pectoralis Pedionomus torquatus	Stubble Quail Plains-wanderer (A:V, SA:EN)	1 1, male
Kalkaroo Station	460979E 6481346N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Charadrius australis Epthianura aurifrons Anthus novaeseelandiae	Inland Dotterel Orange Chat Richard's Pipit	4, spotlighted 2, spotlighted 2, spotlighted
Kalkaroo Station	459177E 6491301N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Dromaius novaehollandiae Aquila audax Charadrius australis Anthus novaeseelandiae	Emu Wedge-tailed Eagle Inland Dotterel Richard's Pipit	4 2 8 1
Kalkaroo Station	460979E 6481346N	Low open chenopod shrubland, clay/loam soil, grazing impact	Charadrius australis Epthianura aurifrons Anthus novaeseelandiae	Inland Dotterel Orange Chat Richard's Pipit	4, spotlighted 2, spotlighted 2, spotlighted
	1				

Property	Location	Habitat	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
Name				(and conservation rating)*	
Kalkaroo Station	460166E 6482034N	Redgums around dam containing water.	Dromaius novaehollandiae Poliocephalus poliocephalus Anas gracilis Chenonetta jubata Gallinula ventralis Fulica atra Vanellus tricolor Geopelia striata Psophodes cristatus Rhipidura leucophrys Gymnorhina tibicen	Emu Hoary-headed Grebe Grey Teal Australian Wood Duck Black-tailed Native-hen Eurasian Coot Banded Lapwing Peaceful Dove Chirruping Wedgebill Willie Wagtail Australian Magpie	1 2, on water 25, on water 25, on banks 2, on banks 1, on banks 2 2 2 2 2 2
Wompinie Station	475040E 6445710N	Redgums around dam containing water.	Poliocephalus poliocephalus Oxyura australis Pyrrholaemus brunneus Lichenostomus penicillatus Myiagra inquieta Cracticus torquatus Corvus mellori	Hoary-headed Grebe Blue-billed Duck (SA:R) Redthroat (SA:R) White-plumed Honeyeater Restless Flycatcher Grey Butcherbird Little Raven	3, on water 1, on water 1 6 1 1 3

A: National conservation rating under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

SA: State conservation rating under National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

R: Rare, **V**: Vulnerable, EN: Endangered