



Petrochelidon nigricans

Tree Martin

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	U	-	Migratory Breeder



Photo: © Brian Furby

Conservation Significance

The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.¹

Description

Small bird (12-13 cm) with a shallow, forked tail shorter than folded wings, making it look small or stumpy when perched. Crown, nape and back metallic blue-black; rump dull white with dark shaft streaks; upper-tail more heavily mottled. Chin and underside off-white with fine dark streaks. Call is a slightly metallic 'tzeit' and a musical, squeaky chatter 'chwip-chip-chzeit-chwip'.³

Distribution and Population

Summer breeding visitor, winters in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. Breeds in Adelaide city, but numbers appear to have declined.⁴

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records across the whole region (isolated occurrences in the northern Adelaide Plains).²

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records limited.²

Habitat

Generally prefers open forests and woodland habitats.⁴ Also observed on farmlands with trees, not far from water sources.³

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

Mallee.²

Biology and Ecology

Hunts insects in swift, twisting, turning flight in the canopy of trees, low over water and over pastures. Often found in small colonies around large trees with small hollows in the upper limbs.³

Recorded nesting in all months, but most commonly in spring and summer (August to December). Nest hollow lined with grass and leaves; the same hollow may be re-used year after year. Clutch size three to five. The sexes share nest building and incubation for 14-16 days.³

Aboriginal Significance

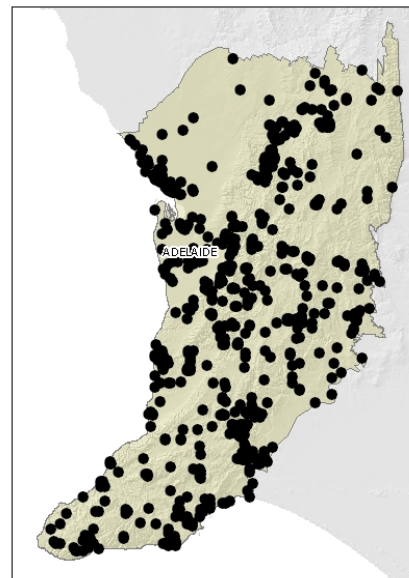
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations - Kaurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk).²

Threats

Breeding ability limited by availability of hollow bearing trees.⁴

Current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.² Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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





ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

¹ Cale, B. (2005). *Towards a Recovery Plan for the Declining Birds of the Mount Lofty Ranges*. Scientific Resource Document for Birds for Biodiversity. Unpublished Report.

² Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

³ Morcombe, M. (2000). *Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Steve Parish Publishing Pty Ltd, Queensland.

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

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