

# BIRDS OF THE MINGENEW SHIRE

Number 13b in a series of  
Bird Guides of Western Australia

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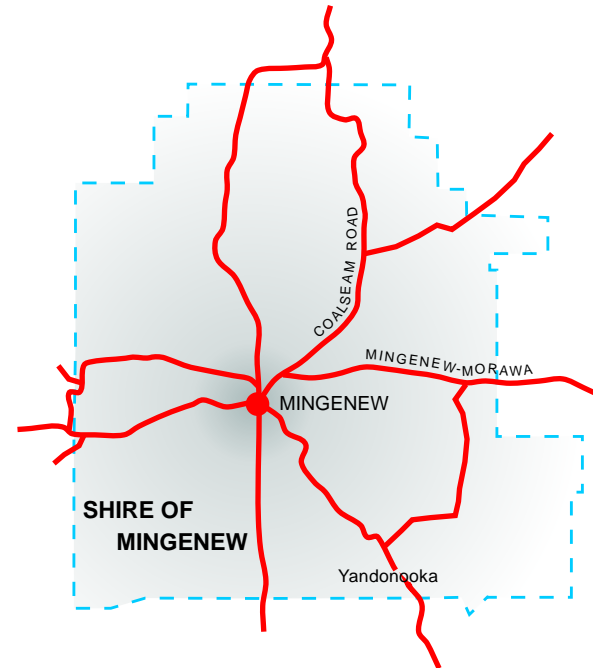
Floreat WA 6014      Weekdays 9.30 – 12.30pm

Ph: (08) 9383-7749

Fax: (08) 9387-8412

Email: [bawa@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:bawa@birdsaustralia.com.au)

Web: [www.birdsaustralia.com.au/wa](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/wa)



*Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike*



**Birds Australia**  
CONSERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

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## REFERENCES

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CURRENT ABUNDANCE		CODE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (1930–1997)	
C	Common	O	No perceived change
M	Moderately common	+	Increase
U	Uncommon	-	Decrease
R	Rare		

## BIRDS OF THE MINGENEW SHIRE

The Mingenew Shire is located in the northern agricultural area with the northeastern boundaries some 60 km from the arid zone and the mulga/eucalypt line. Several species from the arid zone have moved into the shire since agricultural development (e.g. Crested Pigeon, Galah), or as seasonal visitors (e.g. Pied Honeyeater, Crimson Chat), or as visitors during drought periods in the arid zone (e.g. Black Honeyeater).

The development of pastoral and agricultural industries in the area over the past century has led to the possible extinction in the shire of several species (e.g. Malleefowl, Southern Scrub-robin, Golden Whistler, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater). There has also been a reduction in abundance of several species (e.g. Emu, Australian Bustard, Western Yellow Robin, Grey Currawong).

Today we are aware of the importance of the bush remnants on farms, of vegetated road corridors and reserves to provide safe refuges to conserve our remaining native species.

We would be very pleased to hear from observers of reports of sightings or comments on the brief information accompanying each species in this annotated list. We would especially appreciate reports of species not recorded in this guide or those classified as rare. Such valuable information will be added to our records for future revised editions of this brochure.

*Birds Australia Western Australia*

Dusky Woodswallow  
Little Woodswallow R ? arid zone bird - rare vagrant - around breakaways

### BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG

Grey Butcherbird U - resident - reserves, remnants - decline with clearing  
Pied Butcherbird C + resident - open woodland, farmland - has extended range with clearing  
Australian Magpie M + resident - colonizes newly-cleared land  
Grey Currawong R - nomadic - reserves - declining in range to southwest of WA

### FANTAIL, SHRIKE

Grey Fantail U O winter migrant (Apr-Oct) - reserves, remnants, farm gardens  
Willie Wagtail C + sedentary and nomadic - benefited from farming - varied habitats

### RAVEN, CROW

Australian Raven C + resident - all habitats - has benefited from agriculture  
Little Crow C + seasonal migrant - woodland, farmland - often confused with Australian Raven

Torresian Crow

### FLYCATCHER, MONARCH

Magpie Lark C + widespread - nomadic

### ROBIN, SCRUB-ROBIN

Jacky Winter U - resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants  
Red-capped Robin M - resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants - needs corridors for dispersal (Apr-Jul)

Hooded Robin  
Western Yellow Robin U - resident - reserves, remnants especially near breakaways - need corridors for dispersal

White-breasted Robin  
Southern Scrub-robin

### OLD WORLD WARBLER

Australian Reed-Warbler  
Rufous Songlark M ? breeding migrant (Apr-Sep) - lightly-wooded country, farmland - nest on ground  
Brown Songlark M + breeding migrant - farmland-increase with agriculture - nest on ground

### WHITE-EYE, ALLIES

Silveryeye U - nomadic - woodland, farmland - decline with loss of habitat

### SWALLOW, MARTIN

White-backed Swallow C + resident and migrant - heath, farmland  
Welcome Swallow C + resident and breeding nomad - farms, towns - nest sites in buildings  
Fairy Martin M + regular visitor (Aug-Feb) - woodland, farmland often near water, breakaways, culverts  
Tree Martin C - breeding nomad - woodland, farmland, towns - decline through loss of woodland

### FLOWERPECKER

Mistletoebird U - nomadic - reserves, large remnants

### FINCH, SPARROW

Zebra Finch C + resident and drought refuge - has benefited from introduced grasses, dams

### PIPIT, WAGTAIL

Australasian Pipit C + resident of open country - has benefited from clearing

Redthroat M - resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants - upper Irwin  
 Weebill C - resident - reserves, remnants - mainly canopy woodlands  
 Western Gerygone M - migrant (Mar-Nov) - reserves, remnants  
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill C + resident - reserves, remnants, adjacent farmland  
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill C - resident - reserves, remnants, corridors  
 Inland Thornbill M - resident - reserves, remnants, corridors  
 Southern Whiteface

#### PARDALOTE

Spotted Pardalote  
 Striated Pardalote M - winter visitor - feeds in higher foliage - reserves, remnants, corridors - sharp call often heard, 'chip-chip'

#### HONEYEATER, CHAT

Western Spinebill  
 Pied Honeyeater R ? arid zone bird - rare nomad in reserves - upper Irwin  
 Singing Honeyeater C - resident - reserves, degraded remnants, towns - will fly over open ground  
 White-eared Honeyeater U - resident - reserves, remnants - moves along corridors not open spaces  
 White-plumed Honeyeater  
 White-fronted Honeyeater U - nomad - bird of arid zone  
 Yellow-throated Miner C - resident - reserves, degraded remnants, towns  
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater M - resident - reserves, remnants, corridors - upper Irwin  
 Western Wattlebird  
 Red Wattlebird U - migrant (Apr-Oct) - now found in most habitats  
 Crimson Chat R O arid zone bird - occasional seasonal nomad to reserves, farmlands  
 White-fronted Chat M + nomadic (May-Nov) - pairs to parties - bushland, heath, farmland  
 White-fronted Chat M + nomadic (May-Nov) - pairs to parties - bushland, heath, farmland  
 Black Honeyeater R O arid zone bird - rare nomad in reserves - upper Irwin  
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater  
 Brown Honeyeater M - reserves, remnants, towns - needs corridor movement - feeds on wide range of plants  
 New-Holland Honeyeater  
 White-cheeked Honeyeater  
 Brown-headed Honeyeater M - resident - forms parties that wander locally - reserves, remnants - moves only along corridors

#### BABBLER

White-browed Babbler C - resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants, movement along corridors

#### QUAIL-THRUSH, ALLIES

Chiming Wedgebill  
 Varied Sittella U - resident - reserves - decline with clearing

#### CUCKOO-SHRIKE, TRILLER

Ground Cuckoo-shrike U - nomad from arid zone - reserves, farmland - declined with clearing  
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike C O nomadic - woodland, farmland, town - flocks late summer  
 White-winged Triller M - seasonal breeding migrant (Jun-Dec) - reserves, remnants

#### WHISTLER, SHRIKE-THRUSH

Golden Whistler R - resident - reserves, remnants, range contracting  
 Rufous Whistler M - resident - reserves, remnants, corridors  
 Grey Shrike-thrush M - resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants, moves locally in corridors  
 Crested Bellbird M - resident - reserves, large remnants - decline with clearing

#### WOODSWALLOW

Masked Woodswallow U O seasonal nomad - flocks may appear for some time then disappear  
 Black-faced Woodswallow C + resident - common in wheatbelt - clearing has favoured increase

Emu U - reserves, large remnants, adjacent farmland

#### MOUND BUILDER

Malleefowl R - resident - reserves, needs undisturbed vegetation, danger from foxes and cats - threatened species

#### QUAIL

Stubble Quail C + seasonal migrant - increase with agriculture - many nests in crops

#### WATERFOWL

Musk Duck  
 Black Swan R ? nomad, wet years - river pools  
 Australian Shelduck M + seasonal visitor - farm dams, wetlands - attracted to cleared areas  
 Australian Wood Duck M + breeding visitor to dams, wetlands - pasture has provided suitable habitat  
 Pink-eared Duck  
 Australasian Shoveler  
 Grey Teal U O uncommon visitor - river pools, dams  
 Chestnut Teal  
 Pacific Black Duck M - nomad during wetter periods - decrease due to loss of fresh water wetlands, pressure from

Hardhead  
 Blue-billed Duck

#### GREBE

Australasian Grebe M O nomad - river pools, dams  
 Hoary-headed Grebe U O nomad - fresh or salt pools  
 Great Crested Grebe

#### PIGEON, DOVE

Laughing Dove C + resident - introduced from overseas - now spreading to all suitable habitats  
 Common Bronzewing M - resident - reserves, fragmented remnants - decrease with clearing  
 Brush Bronzewing  
 Crested Pigeon C + once bird of watercourses in arid zone - farms ideal habitat with grasses, dams  
 Diamond Dove U ? bird of arid zone - occasional nomad to woodlands

#### FROGMOUTH

Tawny Frogmouth C - resident - reserves, remnants, corridors

#### NIGHTJAR

Spotted Nightjar R O resident - reserves, remnants, corridors - heard calling at night  
 Australian Owlet-nightjar M - resident - reserves, remnants, decline due to clearing - heard calling at night

#### SWIFT

Fork-tailed Swift U O migrant (Dec-Apr) - sometimes with Tree Martin, Masked Woodswallow - often during stormy weather

#### CORMORANT

Australasian Darter R O rare visitor - freshwater river pools  
 Little Pied Cormorant U - nomad - farm dams, river pools  
 Great Cormorant  
 Little Black Cormorant U O nomad - farm dams, river pools  
 Pied Cormorant

#### HERON, IBIS, ALLIES

Australian Pelican U O nomad - farm dams, river pools  
 White-necked Heron U O annual visitor wetter months - wetlands

Eastern Great Egret	U ?	visitor - pools
Cattle Egret	R ?	infrequent visitor - damp pastures
White-faced Heron	U -	resident/nomad - farm dams, wetlands - decrease due to salination
Nankeen Night-Heron		
Australian White Ibis		
Straw-necked Ibis	U ?	nomad - wetlands, farmlands - numbers fluctuate perhaps controlled by rainfall
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	R +	nomad - may be increasing in range

#### RAPTOR

Black-shouldered Kite	M +	arid zone bird - farmland - increase with agriculture
Square-tailed Kite	R O	nomad - woodland, heath - reserves remnants - decrease with loss of timber
White-bellied Sea-Eagle		
Whistling Kite	M -	resident - woodland, farmland, wetland - decrease with loss of vegetation
Spotted Harrier	U O	resident - woodland, farmland
Brown Goshawk	M -	resident - woodland, farmland
Collared Sparrowhawk	U -	resident - woodland, farmland, mainly near reserves, remnants
Spotted Harrier		
Swamp Harrier		
Wedge-tailed Eagle	M O	most conspicuous raptor - one breeding pair per 130km2
Little Eagle	U -	resident - woodland, farmland - decrease with loss of vegetation
Nankeen Kestrel	M -	resident - woodland, farmland
Brown Falcon	U -	resident - woodland, farmland
Australian Hobby	U -	resident - woodland, farmland
Peregrine Falcon	R O	resident - woodland, farmland

#### CRAKE, RAIL, ALLIES

Black-tailed Native-hen	U O	nomad - wetlands, dams - numbers fluctuate widely
Eurasian Coot	R O	nomadic - river pools

#### BUSTARD

Australian Bustard	R -	nomadic - woodland, farmland - threatened by foxes, cats
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#### SHOREBIRD

Bush Stone-curlew	R -	resident - reserves, large remnants - heard rather than seen - foxes, cats
Black-winged Stilt	R O	nomadic - wetlands, dams
Banded Stilt		
Red-necked Avocet	R O	nomadic - wetlands, dams
Red-capped Plover		
Inland Dotterel	U +	resident - open bare areas and farmland - increase with farming
Black-fronted Dotterel	R -	resident - fresh water pools - decline due to salination
Hooded Plover		
Red-kneed Dotterel	U O	nomadic - no seasonal pattern-wetlands
Banded Lapwing	C +	nomadic leaving usually in summer - increase with farming

Common Sandpiper	U O	visitor - ones or twos - lakes, pools
Common Greenshank	U O	visitor - usually singly - pools, dams
Red-necked Stint		
Curlew Sandpiper		

#### BUTTON-QUAIL

Painted Button-quail	R -	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants
Little Button-quail	U O	nomadic (Spring-early Summer) - woodland, farmland

#### NODDY, TERN, GULL

Silver Gull	R ?	vagrant
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#### COCKATOO, PARROT

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	U +	resident - originally bird of riverine plains to north, attracted to farmlands by double-gee, grasses and dams - possible shortage of nest hollows
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	R -	migrant (late winter, spring) - needs heath (e.g. hakeas, banksias) - extensive clearing causing decline
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo		
Galah	C +	moved south from riverine plains and arid zone - causes death of some trees by chewing bark around nest hole
Western Corella	M ?	resident - woodland, farmland - after breeding joins summer foraging flocks
Little Corella	M +	has invaded wheatbelt from arid zone - extending range south - does not damage crops
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	R -	resident - woodland, farmland - clearing and robbing of nests has lead to decline - upper Irwin
Cockatiel	M O	breeding migrant - woodland, farmland - occasional irruptions from north - feeds on standing wheat
Regent Parrot	R -	previously declared pest - decline due to competition for nest hollows
Australian Ringneck	C +	resident - most common bird - seeds of introduced grasses, cereals
Mulga Parrot	M +	resident - woodland farmland, can survive in fragmented remnants, food includes cereal crops - upper Irwin
Budgerigar	U O	bird of arid zone, nomad - woodland, farmland - fluctuation in numbers
Elegant Parrot	U +	resident - woodland, farmland - has spread into northern wheatbelt from south

#### CUCKOO

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	U -	breeding migrant - woodland - decline due to loss of host species
Black-eared Cuckoo	U -	visitor (Apr-Dec) - arid, semi-arid thickets - decline due to loss of host species
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	U -	breeding migrant - woodland - decline due to loss of host species
Pallid Cuckoo	U O	seasonal migrant (May-Oct) - woodland, farmland
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	U -	migrant (May-Aug) - reserves, remnants

#### OWL

Southern Boobook	U -	resident - reserves, remnants, corridors
Eastern Barn Owl	U O	resident - reserves, remnants, farmland

#### KINGFISHER

Laughing Kookaburra	U +	introduced to district
Red-backed Kingfisher	U O	breeding migrant - reserves, remnants usually along water courses - upper Irwin
Sacred Kingfisher	U -	passage migrant - usually single, pairs

#### BEE-EATER, ROLLER

Rainbow Bee-eater	U O	migrant (Aug-Apr) - lightly wooded, sandy country, near water - foxes destroy nest burrows
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#### FAIRY-WREN, GRASSWREN

Splendid Fairy-wren	U -	resident - reserves, remnants, corridors, mill overflows
White-winged Fairy-wren	M O	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants
Variiegated Fairy-wren	U -	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants, corridors
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	U -	resident - reserves, undisturbed remnants
Southern Emu-wren		

#### SCRUBWREN, ALLIES

White-browed Scrub-wren	U -	resident - needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Shy Heathwren	U -	resident - needs undisturbed sandplain, reserves, remnants
Rufous Fieldwren	U -	resident - needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants