

Prepared by Birds Australia  
Western Australia

# BIRDS OF THE MULLEWA SHIRE

Number 12b in a series of  
Bird Guides of Western Australia

With information on relative abundances, ecological status  
and conditions for continuing survival or increase

## WHAT IS BIRDS AUSTRALIA?

Birds Australia is a non-profit organisation working for the enjoyment, study and conservation of Australia's birds.

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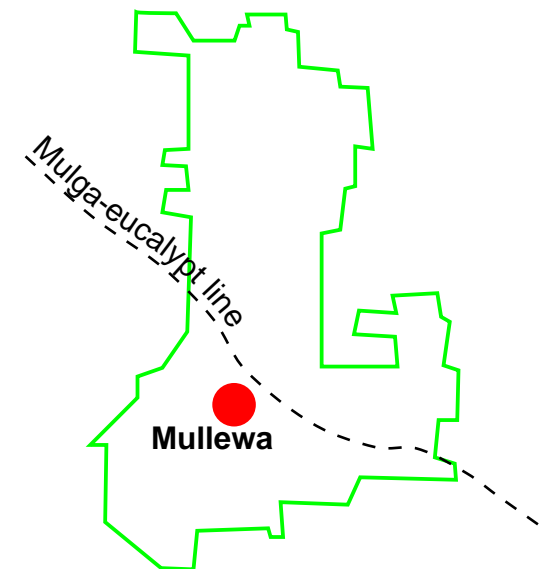
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### CODE

#### CURRENT ABUNDANCE

C Common  
M Moderately common  
U Uncommon  
R Rare

Col 1 West of the Mulga-eucalypt line  
Col 2 East of the Mulga-eucalypt line

#### RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (1930-1996)

O No perceived change  
+ Increase  
- Decrease

## NOTES

Western Yellow Robin	-U -	resident-reserves, remnants especially near breakaways-need corridors for dispersal
Southern Scrub-robin	UU -	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants
<b>OLD WORLD WARBLER</b>		
Rufous Songlark	MM ?	breeding migrant (Apr-Sep)-lightly-wooded country, farmland-nest on ground
Brown Songlark	MM +	breeding migrant-farmland-increase with agriculture-nest on ground
<b>WHITE-EYE, ALLIES</b>		
Silvereye	-U -	nomadic-woodland, farmland-decline with loss of habitat
<b>SWALLOW, MARTIN</b>		
White-backed Swallow	UC +	resident-heath, farmland
Welcome Swallow	UC +	resident-farms, towns-nest sites in buildings
Fairy Martin	MM ?	irregular visitor (Aug-Feb)-woodland, farmland often near water, breakaways
Tree Martin	CC -	resident-woodland, farmland, towns-decline through loss of woodland
<b>FLOWERPECKER</b>		
Mistletoebird	MU -	nomadic-reserves, large remnants
<b>FINCH, SPARROW</b>		
Zebra Finch	CC +	resident, drought refuge-has benefited from introduced grasses, dams
<b>PIPIT, WAGTAIL</b>		
Australasian Pipit	CC +	resident of open country-has benefited from clearing

Emu	MU -	reserves, large remnants, adjacent farmland
<b>MOUND BUILDER</b>		
Malleefowl	MU -	resident-reserves, needs undisturbed vegetation, danger from foxes and cats-threatened species
<b>QUAIL</b>		
Stubble Quail	UC +	seasonal migrant-increase with agriculture-many nests in crops
<b>WATERFOWL</b>		
Musk Duck	UU ?	nomad, wet years-river pools
Black Swan	UU +	seasonal visitor-farm dams, wetlands-attracted to cleared areas
Australian Shelduck	UM +	breeding visitor to dams, wetlands-pasture has provided suitable habitat
Australian Wood Duck	UU O	uncommon visitor-river pools, dams
Pink-eared Duck	UU -	nomad during wetter periods-decrease due to loss of fresh water wetlands, pressure from Australian Wood Duck
Australasian Shoveler		
Grey Teal		
Pacific Black Duck		
Hardhead		
<b>GREBE</b>		
Australasian Grebe	UU O	uncommon nomad-river pools, dams
Hoary-headed Grebe		
<b>PIGEON, DOVE</b>		
Laughing Dove	UC +	resident-introduced from overseas-now spreading to all suitable habitats
Common Bronzewing	MM -	resident-reserves, fragmented remnants-decrease with clearing
Crested Pigeon	CC +	once bird of watercourses in arid zone-farms ideal habitat with grasses, dam
Diamond Dove	UU ?	bird of arid zone-occasional nomad to woodlands
Peaceful Dove		
<b>FROGMOUTH</b>		
Tawny Frogmouth	CC -	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
<b>NIGHTJAR</b>		
Spotted Nightjar	UR O	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors-heard calling at night
Australian Owlet-nightjar	MM -	resident-reserves, remnants, decline due to clearing-heard calling at night

**SWIFT**

Fork-tailed Swift UU O migrant (Dec-Apr)-sometimes with Tree Martins, Masked Woodswallows-often during stormy weather

**CORMORANT**

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

**HERON, IBIS**

Australian Pelican RU O nomad-farm dams, river pools  
 White-necked Heron RU O annual visitor wetter months-wetlands  
 Eastern Great Egret  
 White-faced Heron RU - resident/nomad-farm dams, wetlands-decrease due to salination

## Glossy Ibis

Australian White Ibis  
 Straw-necked Ibis RM ? nomad-wetlands, farmlands-numbers fluctuate perhaps controlled by rainfall

## Royal Spoonbill

Yellow-billed Spoonbill RR + nomad-may be increasing in range

**RAPTOR**

Black-shouldered Kite MM + arid zone bird-farmland-increase with agriculture

Letter-winged Kite RR O irruptive - last report 1953

Black-breasted Buzzard RR O nomad-woodland, heath-reserves remnants-decrease with loss of timber  
 Square-tailed Kite UM - resident-woodland, farmland, wetland-decrease with loss of vegetation

## Whistling Kite

## Brown Goshawk

Collared Sparrowhawk MM - resident-woodland, farmland  
 UU - resident-woodland, farmland, mainly near reserves, remnants

## Spotted Harrier

Swamp Harrier MU O resident-woodland, farmland

Wedge-tailed Eagle MM O most conspicuous raptor-one breeding pair per 130 square kilometres

Little Eagle MM - resident-woodland, farmland-decrease with loss of vegetation

## Nankeen Kestrel

Brown Falcon MM - resident-woodland, farmland

Australian Hobby UU - resident-woodland, farmland

## Grey Falcon

Peregrine Falcon RR O resident-woodland, farmland

**CRAKE, RAIL, ALLIES**

Buff-banded Rail RR ? Rare vagrant - aquatic habitats

**WHISTLER, FLYCATCHER**

Golden Whistler -U - resident-reserves, remnants, range contracting

Rufous Whistler MM - resident-reserves, remnants, corridors

Grey Shrike-thrush MM - resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants, moves locally in corridors

Crested Bellbird MU - resident-reserves, large remnants-decline with clearing

**WOODSWALLOW**

Masked Woodswallow UU O seasonal nomad-flocks may appear for some time then disappear

Black-faced Woodswallow CC + resident-common in wheatbelt-clearing has favoured increase

Little Woodswallow UR ? arid zone bird-rare vagrant

**BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG**

Grey Butcherbird UU - resident-reserves, remnants-decline with clearing

Pied Butcherbird CC + resident-open woodland, farmland-has extended range with clearing

Australian Magpie UM + resident-colonises newly-cleared land

Grey Currawong -R - nomadic-reserves-declining in range to southwest

**FANTAIL, SHRIKE**

Grey Fantail UU O winter breeding migrant (Apr-Oct)-reserves, remnants, farm gardens

Willie Wagtail CC + sedentary-benefited from farming-varied habitats

**RAVEN, CROW**

Australian Raven MC + resident-all habitats-has benefited from agriculture

Little Crow CC O seasonal migrant-woodland, farmland-often confused with Australian Raven

Torresian Crow UR O bird of the mulga (east of Pindar)-bases of body feathers snow white-sharp call

**FLYCATCHER, MONARCH**

Magpie-lark UC + widespread

**ROBIN, SCRUB-ROBIN**

Jacky Winter -U - resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants

Red-capped Robin MM - resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants-needs corridors for dispersal (Apr-Jul)

Hooded Robin

White-eared Honeyeater	U -	resident-reserves, remnants-moves along corridors not open spaces
Grey-headed Honeyeater		
Grey-fronted Honeyeater		
White-plumed Honeyeater		
White-fronted Honeyeater	MM -	nomad-bird of arid zone
Yellow-throated Miner	CC -	resident-reserves, degraded remnants, towns
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	MM -	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Red Wattlebird	RU -	migrant (Apr-Oct)-now found in most habitats
Grey Honeyeater	R ?	one record breeding Mullewa township-arid zone bird
Crimson Chat	UR O	arid zone bird-occasional seasonal nomad to reserves, farmlands
Orange Chat		
White-fronted Chat	MM +	nomadic (May-Nov)-pairs to parties-bushland, heath, farmland
Black Honeyeater	UR O	arid zone bird-rare nomad in reserves
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	-U -	nomad-reserves, large remnants-decline with loss of heath
Brown Honeyeater	UM -	resident-reserves, remnants, towns-needs corridor movement-feeds on wide range of plants
Brown-headed Honeyeater	M -	resident-forms parties that wander locally-reserves, remnants-moves only along corridors
<b>BABBLER</b>		
Grey-crowned Babbler	M- O	bird of mulga-sedentary-reddish underparts-far east and north of shire
White-browed Babbler	MC -	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants, movement along corridors
<b>QUAIL-THRUSH, ALLIES</b>		
Chestnut Quail-thrush	MU -	resident-reserves in wheatbelt-foxes, cats also cause of decline
Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush		
Chiming Wedgebill	MR -	resident-far east and north of shire-becoming rare in agricultural area-reserves
Varied Sittella	UU -	resident-reserves-decline with clearing
<b>CUCKOO-SHRIKE, TRILLER</b>		
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	UU -	nomad from arid zone-reserves, farmland-declined with clearing
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	CC O	nomadic-woodland, farmland, town-flocks late summer
White-winged Triller	UU -	seasonal migrant (Jun-Dec)-reserves, remnants

Australian Spotted Crake	RR ?	rare vagrant-aquatic habitats
Spotless Crake	RR ?	rare vagrant-aquatic habitats
Black-tailed Native-hen	UU O	nomad-wetlands, dams-numbers fluctuate widely
Eurasian Coot	RU O	nomadic-river pools
<b>BUSTARD</b>		
Australian Bustard	UR -	nomadic-woodland, farmland-threatened by foxes, cats
<b>SHOREBIRD</b>		
Bush Stone-curlew	UR -	resident-reserves, large remnants-heard rather than seen
Black-winged Stilt	RU O	nomadic-wetlands, dams
Red-necked Avocet	RR O	nomadic-wetlands, dams
Red-capped Plover		
Inland Dotterel	UU O	resident-open bare areas and farmland
Black-fronted Dotterel	RM -	resident-fresh water pools-decline due to salination
Red-kneed Dotterel	-U O	nomadic-no seasonal pattern-wetlands
Banded Lapwing	RC +	nomadic leaving usually in summer-increase with farming
Common Greenshank		
<b>BUTTON-QUAIL</b>		
Little Button-quail	RU O	nomadic (Spring-early Summer)-woodland, remnants
<b>NODDY, TERN, GULL</b>		
Gull-billed Tern		
Caspian Tern		
Whiskered Tern		
Silver Gull	RR ?	vagrant
<b>COCKATOO, PARROT</b>		
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	-U -	migrant (late winter, spring)-needs heath (eg hakeas, banksias)-extensive clearing causing decline
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	RU -	resident-woodland, farmland-clearing and robbing of nests has lead to decline
Galah	CC +	moved south from riverine plains and arid zone-causes death of some trees by chewing bark around nest hole

Western Corella	UM +	resident-woodland, farmland-after breeding joins summer foraging flocks
Little Corella	CC +	has invaded wheatbelt from arid zone-extending range south-does not damage crops
Cockatiel	MU O	breeding migrant-woodland, farmland-occasional irruptions from north-feeds on standing wheat
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	-U -	nomad, movement dictated by flowering of woodland species-decline with clearing
Regent Parrot	RR -	previously declared pest-decline due to competition for nest hollows
Australian Ringneck	CC +	resident-most common bird-feeds on seeds of introduced grasses, cereals
Mulga Parrot	MM +	resident-woodland farmland, can survive in fragmented remnants, food includes cereal crops
Budgerigar	MU O	bird of arid zone, nomad-woodland, farmland-fluctuation in numbers
Bourke's Parrot	MR O	bird of arid zone, mulga-eucalypt line is limit-rare vagrant to wheatbelt
Elegant Parrot	-U +	resident-woodland, farmland-has spread into northern wheatbelt from south

#### CUCKOO

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

#### OWL

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

#### KINGFISHER

Red-backed Kingfisher	MU O	breeding migrant-reserves, remnants usually along water courses
Sacred Kingfisher	UU -	passage migrant-usually single, pairs

#### BEE-EATER, ROLLER

Rainbow Bee-eater	UU O	migrant (Aug-Apr)-lightly wooded, sandy country near water – foxes destroy nest burrows
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#### TREECREEPER

White-browed Treecreeper	M- O	resident-mulga country, river gum woodlands-feeds exclusively on ants
Rufous Treecreeper	-U -	resident-reserves-declining in range

#### BOWERBIRD

Western Bowerbird	UR O	resident-has colonized station homesteads feeding on fruits in gardens, also gullies, cliffs-east of shire 1986 report 16 km S of Mullewa
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#### FAIRY-WREN, GRASSWREN

Splendid Fairy-wren	MM -	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors, windmill overflows
White-winged Fairy-wren	MM O	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants
Variiegated Fairy-wren	MM -	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants, corridors
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	-U -	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants

#### SCRUBWREN, ALLIES

White-browed Scrub-wren	-U -	resident-needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Shy Heathwren	-U -	resident-needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Rufous Fieldwren	UM -	resident-needs undisturbed understorey, reserves, remnants
Redthroat	MM -	resident-reserves, undisturbed remnants
Weebill	CC -	resident-reserves, remnants-mainly canopy woodlands
Western Gerygone	UU -	resident/migrant (Mar-Nov)-reserves, remnants
Slaty-backed Thornbill		
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	CC -	resident-reserves, remnants, adjacent farmland
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	CC -	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Slender-billed Thornbill		
Inland Thornbill	MM -	resident-reserves, remnants, corridors
Southern Whiteface	C- O	resident-arid woodland and open scrubs-extreme east and north of shire

#### PARDALOTE

Striated Pardalote	UM -	resident/winter visitor-feeds in higher foliage-reserves, remnants, corridors-sharp call often heard, 'chip-chip'
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#### HONEYEATER, CHAT

Pied Honeyeater	UR ?	arid zone bird-rare nomad in reserves
Singing Honeyeater	CC -	resident-reserves, degraded remnants, towns-will fly over open ground