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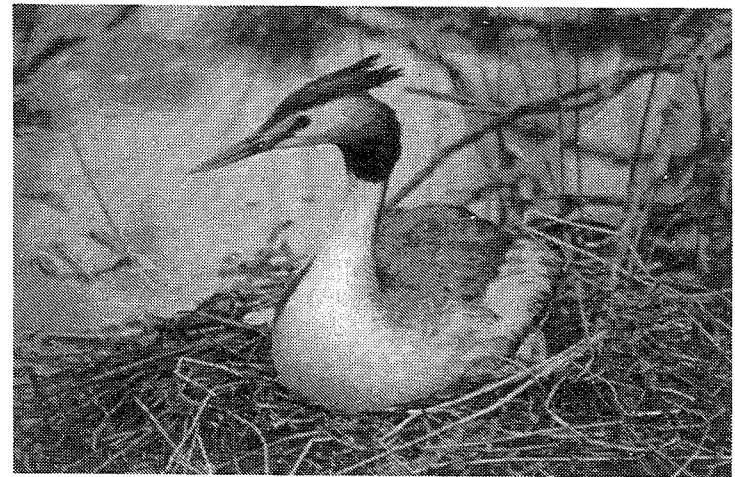
Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## ***CHECKLIST OF BIRDS***

# **FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK**



Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)  
Photo by R. Garstone

The National Parks Authority wishes to thank Ken and Brenda Newby for their expertise and efforts in compiling the contents, and providing the artwork for this publication.

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1985.

## INTRODUCTION

The first species list for the Fitzgerald River National Park (January 1980) was compiled from recordings by the Keen family at "Quaalup", observations by the Rangers and public, and recordings of the RAOU camp on the Phillips River in 1974. The present list (164 species) has been revised by additional observations for the RAOU "The Atlas of Australian Birds" (1984), the Rangers, members of the Fitzgerald River National Park Association, and the RAOU camp at Twertup October 1984. Common names follow "Recommended English Names for Australian Birds" EMU (1984) 77: 245-307. The scientific names, and their order, follow "Field Guide to the Birds of Western Australia" by G.M. Storr & R.E. Johnstone (1979).

## HABITAT

Listed below are the main bird habitats found within FRNP:

**WOODLAND** - The tree layer is 15-25 m high and varies from open to dense (noted if important). Shrubs are present beneath the trees and decrease in numbers as the tree layer becomes denser. Woodland occurs along the rivers and major tributaries, and in swamps. The river beds may contain small and dense patches of shrubs as well as small pools. Few pools are permanent and most are saline. Larger swamps contain fresh to brackish water following floods - about once every 3-4 years.

**LOW WOODLAND** - The vegetation is dominated by a dense tree layer 3-7 m high with few shrubs present. Dense stands of mallees (2.5-4 m high) have a similar structure and its few patches are included in low woodland. NB: The term "woodlands" is used to include both woodland and low woodland.

**MALLEE** - The main cover are mallees 2-5 m high. Shrubs vary in size with dense patches sometimes present.

**HEATH** - Consists mainly of woody shrubs less than 1.2 m high with a few taller shrubs. An occasional mallee may be present. Small dense stands of tall shrubs of Chittick (*Lambertia inermis*) (2-3 m high), or *Banksia* spp (2-4 m high) may be present in southern section of the FRNP.

**SHORELINE** - Includes the beach, the sea as far as the eye can see, and estuaries. The latter usually consist of a deep channel flanked by shallow water. With low rainfall, water in the estuary may be reduced to the channel.

## ABUNDANCE and BREEDING

Subjective assessment: Common, moderately common, uncommon, rare, and very rare. Noted by (B) if known to have bred in FRNP.

Comments are confined to FRNP and may not apply elsewhere.

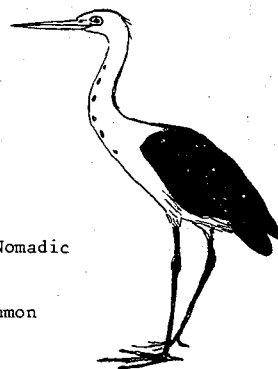
## IDENTIFICATION

Hints are provided for some species, and the common name sometimes implies a key character of the bird. Birds marked "\*" are illustrated (not to scale) to aid finding some bird groups.

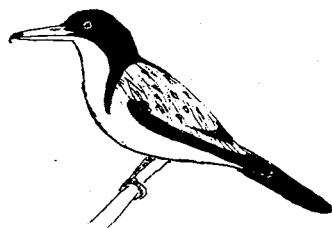
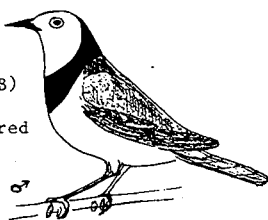
## GAZETTED RARE SPECIES

The Western Australian Government has gazetted a number of species as rare.

Species	Comments
EMU <i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Most habitats. Uncommon (B)
AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE <i>Podiceps novaehollandiae</i>	Large pools, fresh & salt. Rare
*HOARY-HEADED GREBE <i>Podiceps poliocephalus</i>	Estuaries, large pools, fresh & salt. Moderately common
GREAT CRESTED GREBE <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Large pools. Very rare visitor
LITTLE PENGUIN (FAIRY P.) <i>Eudyptula minor</i>	Shoreline. Rare visitor while moulting
YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS <i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>	Shoreline. Usually dead specimens. Uncommon
FLESHY-FOOTED SHEARWATER <i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Shoreline. Usually dead specimens Uncommon
AUSTRALIAN PELICAN <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	Shoreline and large river pools. Moderately common
AUSTRALIAN GANNET <i>Sula bassana</i>	Offshore, winter. Moderately common
LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	Any water area. Moderately common
GREAT BLACK CORMORANT <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Large pools. Rare
PIED CORMORANT <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Shoreline. Uncommon
LITTLE PIED CORMORANT <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Any water area. Moderately common
DARTER <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Large pools, shoreline. Rare (B)
*PACIFIC HERON (WHITE-NECKED H.) <i>Ardea pacifica</i>	Pools, estuaries. Rare. Nomadic
WHITE-FACED HERON <i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>	Any water. Moderately common
GREAT EGRET <i>Egretta alba</i>	Rivers, estuaries. Uncommon
EASTERN REEF HERON <i>Egretta sacra</i>	Rocky parts of shoreline. Uncommon
NANKEEN NIGHT HERON <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Permanent pools, usually in woodland. Rare

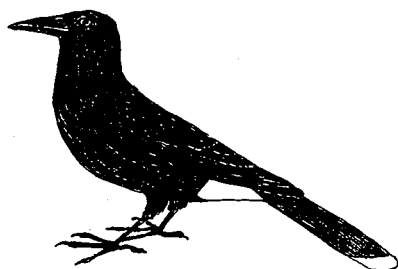


Species	Comments
SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	. Open woodlands. Rare visitor
LITTLE WATTLEBIRD . <i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>	. Dense stands of <i>Banksia</i> , low woodland. Moderately common (B)
RED WATTLEBIRD . <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	. All habitats with large flowered shrubs and trees. Common (B)
*WHITE-FRONTED CHAT . <i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	. Inland heaths. Rare
RED-EARED FIRETAIL (FINCH) <i>Emblema oculatum</i>	. Along watercourses, dense mallee, wood- lands. Uncommon (B) Gazetted rare species
AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE-LARK (MUDLARK) <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Woodland near permanent fresh water. Uncommon
MASKED WOODSWALLOW . <i>Artamus personatus</i>	. Prefers burnt mallee. Nomadic. Rare
DUSKY WOODSWALLOW . <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>	. Open mallee, woodland. Moderately common (B)
*GREY BUTCHERBIRD . <i>Cracticus torquatus torquatus</i>	. Most habitats. Moderately common (B)
AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE . <i>Cracticus tibicen dorsalis</i>	. Most habitats. Moderately common (B)
*GREY CURRAWONG . <i>Strepera versicolor</i>	. Woodlands, mallee. Moderately common (B)
AUSTRALIAN RAVEN . <i>Corvus coronoides</i>	. All habitats. Moderately common (B)



#### MORE INFORMATION

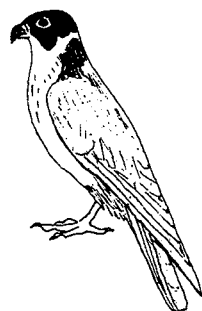
Sightings, breeding records etc. would be most welcome for the next edition. Please send any additional sightings or breeding records (with date, location and reasons for determining the species) to the Ranger, Fitzgerald River National Park, Jerramungup 6335 (098 355043).



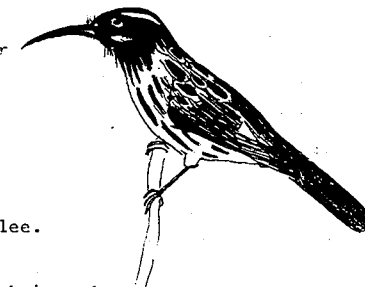
Species	Comments
AUSTRALIAN BITTERN (BROWN B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	. Permanent fresh water swamps. Rare
BLACK SWAN . <i>Cygnus atratus</i>	. Estuaries. Moderately common (B)
FRECKLED DUCK . <i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	. Estuaries. Very rare
*AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK <i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>	. Estuaries, rivers. Common (B)
PACIFIC BLACK DUCK . <i>Anas superciliosa</i>	. Pools in rivers & creeks. Moderately common. Brown, eye stripe dark
GREY TEAL . <i>Anas gibberifrons</i>	. Pools in rivers & creeks. Moderately common
CHESTNUT TEAL . <i>Anas castanea</i>	. Pools in rivers & creeks. Rare
AUSTRALIAN SHOVELLER <i>Anas rhynchotis</i>	. River pools. Rare visitor
PINK-EARED DUCK (ZEBRA DUCK) <i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>	. Large pools. Rare, nomadic
MANED DUCK . <i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	. Rivers, creeks. Moderately common
BLUE-BILLED DUCK . <i>Oxyura australis</i>	. Large deep pools. Rare
MUSK DUCK . <i>Biziura lobata</i>	. Large deep pools. Uncommon
BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE . <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	. Most habitats. Rare visitor Mainly white
LETTER-WINGED KITE . <i>Elanus scriptus</i>	. Most habitats. Rare visitor
SQUARE-TAILED KITE . <i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	. Most inland habitats. Moderately common
BROWN GOSHAWK . <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	. Most habitats. Uncommon (B)
COLLARED SPARROWHAWK <i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>	. Most habitats. Uncommon (B)
LITTLE EAGLE . <i>Aquila morphnoides</i>	. Most habitats. Uncommon (B)
*WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE <i>Aquila audax</i>	. Most habitats. Uncommon (B)



Species	Comments
WHITE-BELLIED SEA EAGLE . <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Shoreline. Rare
MARSH HARRIER . . . <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Near swamps. Uncommon
OSPREY . . . . . <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Shoreline. Uncommon (B)
PEREGRINE FALCON . . . <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Most habitats. Rare Gazetted rare species
*AUSTRALIAN HOBBY (LITTLE FALCON) <i>Falco longipennis</i>	Most habitats. Uncommon (B)
BROWN FALCON . . . . . <i>Falco berigora</i>	Most habitats. Moderately common
AUSTRALIAN KESTREL . . . <i>Falco cenchroides</i>	Heath, cliffs. Moderately common
MALLEE FOWL . . . . . <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Mallee, low woodland. Uncommon (B)
STUBBLE QUAIL . . . . . <i>Coturnix novaezelandiae</i>	Heaths, clearings. Uncommon
BROWN QUAIL . . . . . <i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Some swampy areas. Rare
*PAINTED BUTTON QUAIL <i>Turnix varia</i>	Mallee, low woodland, heath. Moderately common
SPOTLESS CRAKE . . . . . <i>Porzana tabuensis</i>	Large permanent pools. Rare
EURASIAN COOT . . . . . <i>Fulica atra</i>	Any water but sea. Rare vagrant
AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD . . . <i>Otis australis</i>	Heath. Moderately common
PIED OYSTERCATCHER . . . <i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Shoreline. Uncommon
SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER . . . <i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Shoreline. Uncommon
BANDED LAPWING (PLOVER) . . . <i>Vanellus tricolor</i>	Occasionally fly over Park at night. Rare
GREY PLOVER . . . . . <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Estuaries, summer. Rare
HOODED PLOVER . . . . . <i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	Shoreline. Uncommon (B)



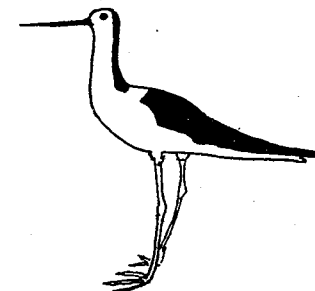
Species	Comments
RUFIOUS SONGLARK . . . . <i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>	Semi-cleared. Irregular visitor. Rare
BROWN SONGLARK . . . . . <i>Cincloramphus cruralis</i>	Clearings. Irregular visitor. Very rare
VARIED SITTELLA . . . . . <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Mallee, woodland. Common (B)
SPOTTED PARDALOTE . . . . <i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	Mallee, woodland. Uncommon
*YELLOW-RUMPED PARDALOTE <i>Pardalotus xanthopygus</i>	Mallee, woodland. Common (B)
STRIATED PARDALOTE . . . <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	Woodland. Moderately common (B)
SILVEREYE . . . . . <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	Woodland, creeklines. Common (B)
BROWN HONEYEATER . . . . <i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	Most habitats. Common (B) Colour grey, call musical
SINGING HONEYEATER . . . <i>Meliphaga virescens</i>	Coastal woodland. Uncommon. Poor singer
YELLOW-PLUMED HONEYEATER <i>Meliphaga ornata</i>	Woodland. Moderately common
PURPLE-GAPED HONEYEATER . <i>Meliphaga cratitia</i>	Mallee. Common (B)
WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER . . <i>Meliphaga leucotis</i>	Inland woodland, mallee. Uncommon
BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER . <i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>	Woodland, mallee, <u>Banksia</u> and Chittick heath. Moderately common (B)
WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER . . <i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>	Woodland. Common (B)
*NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER . . <i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>	Most habitats, prefers feeding in dense shrubs e.g. <u>Calothamnus</u> spp. Common (B)
WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER <i>Phylidonyris nigra</i>	Heaths, minor creeklines. Common (B)
TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER <i>Phylidonyris melanops</i>	Heaths, open mallee. Common (B)
WESTERN SPINEBILL . . . . . <i>Acanthorhynchus superciliosus</i>	Creeklines, mallee, Chittick and <u>Banksia</u> heaths. Uncommon (B)
YELLOW-THROATED MINER . . . <i>Manorina flavigula</i>	Open woodlands. Moderately common (B) Bill & eye patch yellow



Species	Comments
CRESTED BELL-BIRD . <i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>	Inland mallee, heath. Moderately common (B)
WESTERN WHIPBIRD . <i>Psophodes nigrogularis</i>	Mallee & adjacent heath. Moderately common (B) Gazetted rare species
GREY FANTAIL . <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	Woodlands. Moderately common (B)
*WILLIE WAGTAIL . <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Woodlands. Moderately common (B)
RESTLESS FLYCATCHER . <i>Myiagra inquieta</i>	Woodland. Uncommon (B)
SOUTHERN SCRUB ROBIN . <i>Drymodes brunneopygius</i>	Mallee. Common (B)
WHITE-BROWED BABBLER . <i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>	Mallee, low woodland. Moderately common (B)
WESTERN GERYGONE . <i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Woodlands. Rare
WEEBILL . <i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>	Mallee, low woodland. Common (B)
*INLAND THORNBILL . <i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	Mallee, low woodland. Moderately common (B)
WESTERN THORNBILL . <i>Acanthiza inornata</i>	Dense mallee, woodlands. Rare
YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL . <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	Open woodland, riverbeds. Uncommon
WHITE-BROWED SCRUB WREN . <i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	Most habitats with dense shrubs. Moderately common (B)
SHY HYLACOLA . <i>Sericornis cautus</i>	Mallee and adjacent heath. Moderately common
CALAMANTHUS (FIELD WREN) <i>Sericornis fuliginosus</i>	Heath. Common (B)
WESTERN BRISTLEBIRD . <i>Dasyornis longirostris</i> <i>brachypterus</i>	Some dense heaths. Very rare. Gazetted rare species
SPLENDID FAIRY-WREN . <i>Malurus splendens</i>	Woodland along watercourses. Common
BLUE-BREASTED FAIRY-WREN <i>Malurus pulcherrimus</i>	Mallee. Common (B) Breast may appear black
*SOUTHERN EMU-WREN . <i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>	Heath, open mallee. Common (B)

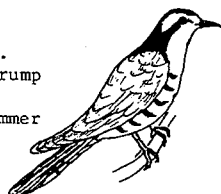
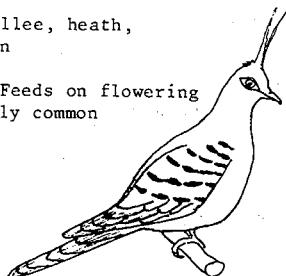


Species	Comments
RED-CAPPED PLOVER . <i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>	Shoreline. Uncommon
BLACK-FRONTED PLOVER . <i>Charadrius melanops</i>	Rivers. Common (B)
*INLAND DOTTERAL . <i>Peltohyas australis</i>	Low heath, grassy clearings. Very rare, vagrant
GREENSHANK . <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Shoreline, summer. Uncommon
COMMON SANDPIPER . <i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	Shallow edged pools, estuaries, summer. Rare
RUDDY TURNSTONE . <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Shoreline, summer. Rare
SANDERLING . <i>Calidris alba</i>	Shoreline, summer. Very rare
RED-NECKED STINT . <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Shoreline, spring & summer. Uncommon
SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER . <i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Shallow edged pools, estuaries, summer. Rare
CURLEW SANDPIPER . <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Shallow edged pools, estuaries, summer. Very rare
*BLACK-WINGED STILT . <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Estuaries. Irregular visitor. Uncommon
RED-NECKED AVOCET . <i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>	Estuaries, more likely in summer Uncommon
BUSH THICK-KNEE (STONE-CURLEW) <i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Salt flats/low woodland. Rare
GREAT SKUA . <i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Shoreline, winter. Very rare
SILVER GULL . <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Shoreline. Common
PACIFIC GULL . <i>Larus pacificus</i>	Shoreline. Moderately common
CASPIAN TERN . <i>Sterna caspia</i>	Shoreline. Moderately common
CRESTED TERN . <i>Sterna bergii</i>	Shoreline. Common
COMMON BRONZEWING . <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	Mallee, woodland. Uncommon





Species	Comments
BRUSH BRONZEWING <i>Phaps elegans</i>	Mallee, low woodland. Common
*CRESTED PIGEON <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	First seen 1982, mallee, heath, Park edges. Uncommon
PURPLE-CROWNED LORIKEET <i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	Mallee, woodlands, Feeds on flowering eucalypts. Moderately common
PORT LINCOLN RINGNECK <i>Platycercus zonarius</i>	Mallee, woodlands. Moderately common
RED-CAPPED PARROT <i>Platycercus spurius</i>	Mallee, woodlands. Moderately common
ELEGANT PARROT <i>Neophema elegans</i>	Mallee, open woodland. Uncommon
ROCK PARROT <i>Neophema petrophila</i>	Coastal sandhills & rocks. Uncommon
GROUND PARROT <i>Pezoporos wallicus</i>	Some heaths. Very rare Gazetted rare species
WHITE-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>	Most habitats. Moderately common
*GALAH <i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i>	Occasional visitor. Rare
PALLID CUCKOO <i>Cuculus pallidus</i>	Most habitats. Uncommon (B)
FAN-TAILED CUCKOO <i>Cuculus flabelliformis</i>	Most habitats, especially spring, summer. Moderately common (B)
BLACK-EARED CUCKOO <i>Chrysococcyx osculans</i>	Most habitats. Rare visitor - spring, summer
*HORSEFIELD'S BRONZE CUCKOO <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>	Most habitats, spring, summer. Moderately common (B) Rufous rump
GOLDEN BRONZE CUCKOO <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>	Mallee, woodlands, spring, summer Uncommon (B)
BARN OWL <i>Tyto alba</i>	Open woodland, cliffs. Rare
BARKING OWL <i>Ninox connivens</i>	Open woodland. Very rare
*SOUTHERN BOOBOOK <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	Most habitats. Uncommon (B) Call "mopoke"
TAWNY FROGMOUTH <i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Open woodland. Uncommon (B)



Species	Comments
AUSTRALIAN OWLET-NIGHTJAR <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	Mallee, woodland. Uncommon (B)
SPOTTED NIGHTJAR <i>Eurostopodus guttatus</i>	Mallee, heath. Uncommon
LAUGHING KOOKABURRA <i>Dacelo gigas</i>	Woodland. Uncommon (B)
SACRED KINGFISHER <i>Halcyon sancta</i>	Woodland, spring, summer. Uncommon (B)
RAINBOW BEE-EATER <i>Merops ornatus</i>	Most habitats, spring, summer. Moderately common (B)
WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW <i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>	All habitats. Rare visitor
*WELCOME SWALLOW <i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Shoreline, watercourses, cliffs. Moderately common summer. Less common winter
TREE MARTIN <i>Hirundo nigricans</i>	Most habitats. Common summer. Uncommon, winter. (B) Tail square, rump pale
RICHARD'S PIPIT (GROUND LARK) <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	Clearings. Rare
BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Most habitats. Moderately common. (B)
WHITE-WINGED TRILLER <i>Lalage sueurii</i>	Open woodlands. Moderately common, spring, summer (B)
RED-CAPPED ROBIN <i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	Open woodland. Uncommon, inland
SCARLET ROBIN <i>Petroica multicolor</i>	Watercourses, woodlands. Moderately common (B)
HOODED ROBIN <i>Petroica cucullata</i>	Heath, mallee. More likely when recently burnt. Rare
WESTERN YELLOW ROBIN <i>Eopsaltria australis</i> <i>griseogularis</i>	Mallee, woodlands. Moderately common (B)
GOLDEN WHISTLER <i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	Mallee, woodlands. Moderately common (B)
*RUFIOUS WHISTLER <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	Woodlands, creeklines. Moderately common (B)
GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	Most habitats, especially river systems. Common (B)
*CRESTED SHRIKE-TIT <i>Falcunculus frontatus</i> <i>leucogaster</i>	Woodland. Very rare

