

A record of Birds occurring about the Homestead area of Glen Avon Farm, Shire of Northam.

This farm was first settled by the Glade family in 1841. From 1860 to 1916 developed by the Wilkersons.

This record is for that portion only of Avon Loc. X of some 100 hectares of the home area that was completely cleared of the native York Gum/Jam Tree Woodland surrounds by 1890. A few trees planted 1920ies

Owned by Masters Family since 1917

Species Recorded in three Periods from 1930 to 1995 with their status. Record: J.R. Masters.

1930-1945 = A This was the period when the rabbit plague reached its height. Little pasture improvement or tree planting possible.  
 1946-1960 = B During this period rabbits brought under control. Some tree planting done and home gardens extended.  
 1961-1995 = C Period when two large dams built between homes and river, and much tree planting done mostly by 1980 when a tree corridor was completed from the river westward to a woodlot.

This area only  
 VC = Very Common  
 C = Common  
 U = Uncommon  
 R = Rare

Also: \* = Species using the home gardens :- • = Found Breeding in this area of farm: - 2 = Breeding in gardens

Non-Passerine Species	Status change in each Period		
	A	B	C
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	R
Hoary-headed Grebe	-	-	C•
Australasian Grebe	-	-	VC•
Australian Pelican	-	-	U
Darter	-	-	U
Pied Cormorant	-	-	R
Little Pied Cormorant	-	-	C
Great Cormorant	-	-	U
Little Black Cormorant	-	-	C
Pacific Heron	U	U	U
White-faced Heron	C	C	C
Cattle Egret	-	-	R
Great Egret	R	U	C
Little Egret	-	-	R
Nankeen Night Heron	U	U	U 1
White Ibis	-	-	U
Straw-necked Ibis	U	U	U
Royal Spoonbill	-	-	R
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	-	-	U
Black Swan	-	-	U
Australian Shelduck	R	U	C•
Black Duck	U•	U•	VC•
Grey Teal	U•	U•	VC•
Chestnut Teal	-	-	R
Australian Shoveller	R	R	U•
Pink-eared Duck	-	-	U•
Hardhead Duck	-	-	U•
Wood Duck	-	R	C•
Blue-billed Duck	-	-	U•
Musk Duck	-	-	U
Black-shouldered Kite	R	U	U•
Black Kite	-	R	R
Sparrow-tailed Kite	-	-	R
Whistling Kite	VC	U	R
Brown Goshawk	C 1	C 1	U• 1
Collared Sparrowhawk	U	U	R 1
Little Eagle	U	U	R
Marsh Harrier	R	R	R
Peregrine Falcon	U	U	U•
Little Falcon	U	U 1	U• 1
Grey Falcon	-	-	R
Brown Falcon	VC	U	U•
Nankeen Kestrel	C	U	U•
Stubble Quail	C•	C	C 1
Little Button Quail	C• (Irrupt)	C (Migrant)	C 1
Buff-banded Rail	R•	R•	R•
Marsh Crake	-	-	U•
Spotted Crake	-	-	R
Black-tailed Native-hen	U (Irrupt)	U	U•
Dusky Moorhen	-	-	C•
Swamp hen	-	-	R
Coot/Banded Plover	-	-	VC•
Red-kneed Dotterel	-	-	U
Black-fronted Dotterel	U	U•	C•
Red-capped Plover	-	-	R
Black-winged Stilt	R	U	C•
Banded Stilt	-	-	R
Red-necked Avocet	-	-	R
Common Sandpiper	-	- (Migrant)	U

Passerine Species	Status change in each Period		
	A	B	C
Richards Pipit	C•	C•	C•
White-backed Swallow	U	U	U
Welcome Swallow	U 1	C• 2	C• 2
Tree Martin	C 1	VC 1	VC 1
Fairy Martin	U (Irrupt)	U• (Migrant)	U•
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	C 1	C• 1	C 1
Ground Cuckoo-shrike	-	-	R
White-winged Triller	C•	U (Migrant)	U•
Scarlet Robin	U 1	U• 2	U 1
Red-capped Robin	U 1	U 1	U• 1
Jacky Winter	U•	U 1	-
Rufous Whistler	-	U 1	C• 2
Grey Shrike-thrush	-	-	C• 2
Restless Flycatcher	U 1	U 1	U 1
Grey Fantail	U 1	U 1	C• 2
Willie Wagtail	C• 2	C• 2	C• 2
Clamorous Reed-warbler	-	- (Migrant)	U• 1
Little Grassbird	-	- (Migrant)	R•
Rufous Songlark	U•	U• (Migrant)	U•
Brown Songlark	U	U• (Migrant)	U
Splendid Wren	U•	-	C• 2
Weebill	R	R	U 1
Western Warbler	U	U 1	C• 1
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	-	-	U
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	U• 1	U•	U• 2
Inland Thornbill	-	-	U
Red Wattlebird	U 1	U• 2	C• 2
Little Wattlebird	R	R 1	U 1
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	-	-	U 1
Yellow-throated Miner	-	R	R
Singing Honeyeater	C• 2	C• 2	C• 2
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	-	R 1	R 1
Brown-headed Honeyeater	-	-	C• 2
Brown Honeyeater	U 1	U 1	VC• 2
New Holland Honeyeater	-	-	C• 2
White-checked Honeyeater	-	-	U 1
White-fronted Honeyeater	-	-	R 1
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	-	-	R 1
Western Spinebill	-	-	R 1
Black Honeyeater	-	-	R 1
Crimson Chat	- (Irrupt)	R	R•
White-fronted Chat	U	C•	U
Misaloe Bird	U 1	U 1	U• 2
Striated Pardalote	C• 2	C• 2	C• 2
Silvereye	C 1	C 1	C• 2
Zebra Finch	R	R• 2	R• 2
Maggie-lark	C• 1	C• 1	C• 1
Black-faced Woodswallow	C•	C•	C•
Dusky Woodswallow	U	-	-
Masked Woodswallow	- (Irrupt)	-	R
Grey Butcherbird	U 1	U 1	U 1
Pied Butcherbird	R	R	U
Maggie	C• 1	C 1	C• 1
Australian Raven	VC 1	C 1	C• 1
Little Crow	U	U (Migrant)	U
Totals for each Period	36	38	53
Passerine Species Total	55: - Breeding 34		



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	-	-	U
Red-necked Scaup	-	R	R
Silver Gull	R	-	R
Whiskered Tern	-	-	R
Gull-billed Tern	-	-	R
Feral Pigeon	R (Introduced)	C 2	R
Laughing Turtle-dove	R (Introduced)	C 2	C 2
Diamond Dove	R (Introduced)	R 1	R 1
Common Bronzewing	C	U	U
Crested Pigeon	-	R	C 2
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	C	U	U
Galah	-	R	C 1
Western Long-billed Corella	-	-	C 1
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	VC	U	R
Regent Parrot	C 1	U	R 1
Cockatiel	U (Irrupt)	-	-
Budgerigar	U (Irrupt)	-	R
Red-capped Parrot	U	-	U 1
Western Ringneck	VC 1	VC 1	VC 1
Elegant Parrot	-	R	U
Pallid Cuckoo	U	U	U 2
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	-	-	U 1
Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo	R	R	U 1
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	R	R	U 2
Southern Bobwhisk	U	U	R
Barking Owl	-	R	-
Barn Owl	U 1	U 1	U 1
Tawny Frogmouth	U	U	R
Spotted Nightjar	-	R	-
Fork-tailed Swift	-	R	R
Laughing Kookaburra	U (Introduced)	C 2	C 1
Sacred Kingfisher	U	U	C 1
Rainbow Bee-eater	C 1	C 1	C 1
Totals for each Period	149	52	92
<b>Non-Passerine Species Total. 92. Breeding 26</b>			

The total Species on record is 149, with 60 at some time Breeding in this Home area.

### Notes and Comments.

**Vagrants:** - Few of the Species listed above as Rare can be considered to be 'stray' Vagrants since all Passerine examples still exist in some 150 hectares of still virgin Wandoo woodland within two kilometres west of the Glen Avon home; or the others are known to be 'irruptive' from the North-eastern Wheatbelt. The Non-Passerine examples, mostly are Waterbirds or Raptors

that appear to use the Avon River and Valley as a 'Flyway'; one or two are 'irruptive' Parrots. There are unlisted examples of very rare stray Vagrants here: - 15<sup>th</sup> March 1943 - Caspian Tern. Fairy Tern - Crested Tern and Bridled Tern blown inland by a cyclone previous 24 hours: - October 24<sup>th</sup> 1951 one only Australian Pratincole in a recently mowed and baited field of hay: - Sep. 4<sup>th</sup> 1979, the rarest of all, a Phalarope thought to be the Red-necked a medium sized migrant wader, grey back, remainder of body white except for needle-like black bill and eye stripe. When first seen on foreshore of recently built dam seen to have 'lobed' toes. The bird then entered the water and swam about in the manner of a Banded Stilt: - Two others were apparently 'escaped' cage birds - Feb. 1944, a single Collared Lorikeet appeared at flowering Sugar Gums and for a few days in April 1982 one Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, both in the home gardens.

**Historic Change:** - When the whole original area of 'Glen Avon' farm of just over 5000 acres (2000 ha) is considered, the bird species still appearing have remained much the same, with some new additions. At least six species however seem to have disappeared - Emu's, Brush Bronze-wing Pigeon, Squeaker and Bush Stone Curlew from the woodlands and both the Black and Brown Bitterns from the river wetland.

Such woodland species as Golden Whistlers, Rufous Treecreepers, Sittela's Western and Broad-tailed Thornbills with White-browed Babblers and Yellow Robins still remain in Wandoo forest though Hooded Robins are now gone.

The most obvious change is the vast decrease in the number of individuals of all those species dependant on woodland and some on understorey shrub cover, this totally absent here over most of the farm constantly grazed by sheep for the past 130 years. Those species that best use the still extensive patches of old York Gum and Wandoo trees with Flooded Gum lined creeks have survived.

These records for 65 years show some success in rehabilitation for Bird-life on a small part of this farm

Jim R. Masters. 'Glen Avon' July 20<sup>th</sup> 1995.

Species Status for each Period					
Number in each group					
Period	VC	C	U	R	Breed
A. 1930 to 1945	1	11	20	4	12
B. 1946 to 1961	1	12	18	7	16
C. 1962 to 1995	2	19	20	11	29

Since development of small woodlots and a narrow tree corridor through the extended home gardens Passerine Species have increased 42 per cent with about a doubling of the Species now remaining to Breed in this area some in gardens.

Species using Gardens (142) = 37. Breeding in Garden (2) = 17

Species Status for each Period					
Number in each group					
Period	VC	C	U	R	Breed
A. 1930 to 1945	4	10	20	13	6
B. 1946 to 1961	1	9	26	15	7
C. 1962 to 1995	6	18	34	33	22

Since the first large dam was built in 1960 then the smaller 'swamp' type dam in 1978 all waterbirds, from the Avon River nearby have proliferated with a few new species. Non-Passerines have increased 80 per cent including some new landbirds with limited breeding of waterbirds now at dams & landbirds in the clinging wood lots.

Those using Gardens (142) = 22. Breeding in Garden (2) = 6