

Wildlife Notes

Managing declining bird species on your Wheatbelt property

Declining bird species

Before European settlement, approximately 80 million hectares of Australia was covered in temperate woodlands. These woodlands spanned from the south of Queensland to the southern Flinders Ranges on the east coast and the Western Australian Wheatbelt on the other side of the country.

However, because temperate woodlands are located on fertile soils, Europeans started to clear these important natural environments to make way for agriculture. Clearing increased after World War II through both the advent of mechanical clearing methods and the introduction of State soldier settlement schemes. Such clearing affected the one-third of Australian bird species that lived in temperate woodlands with the result that Australian woodlands now have one of the highest concentrations of extinct and threatened bird species in the country.

In the Western Australian Wheatbelt, clearing has left less than five per cent of the native vegetation intact. Within this region 62 per cent of woodland bird species have declined and 12 per cent have become locally extinct. Some species have increased in numbers due to agricultural changes and are now considered pests in some areas. These species are mainly grain eaters and scavenger birds including galahs, corellas and Australian ravens.

Factors contributing to bird decline

Habitat fragmentation. Clearing in the Wheatbelt resulted in many small patches of vegetation known as remnants. Often the patches are too small to support a viable bird population or too far apart to maintain one. When these patches are not linked, the opportunity for dispersal and genetic interaction of a population and recolonisation after disturbances is restricted or eliminated.

Loss of trees, including mature trees, paddock trees and standing dead trees. Mature trees provide a greater abundance and variation of insect prey. Dead trees provide nesting and foraging opportunities while paddock trees act as stepping stones enabling birds to travel through the landscape.

Loss of and competition for nesting hollows. As trees do not grow hollows suitable for nesting for more than 150 years, the removal of tree hollows from habitat creates long periods with insufficient natural hollows. Tree hollow removal also increases competition between native species and introduced and pest species for nesting sites.

Loss of understorey including young trees, shrubs, grasses, herbs, logs and leaf litter. Loss of understorey vegetative matter limits the natural regeneration of a remnant woodland. Aside from providing shelter, nesting sites and protection, the understorey is also home to a diverse and abundant array of insects which are a major food source for many Wheatbelt birds.

Predation and competition by introduced species. Birds that forage or nest on the ground are more vulnerable to predation by feral animals like foxes and feral cats, so these introduced species need to be controlled. Rabbits and domestic grazing stock (like sheep, cattle and goats) compete with native birds for resources and can overgraze a remnant, destroying the understorey.

Changed burning regimes. Fire can limit or destroy critical resources which may take years to recover and kill off already established bird populations.



Why are birds important?

Everybody knows the joy of watching birds, whether it is through their presence brightening up a homestead or the excitement of heading into the bush to see a rare species. Aside from their aesthetic value birds can also indicate the health of the land. An assortment of birds means there is a variety of vegetation available and this attracts a greater diversity of mammals and reptiles, which in turn results in a healthier and better operating property ecosystem.

Birds also provide important ecosystem services. They assist in the pollination of trees, shrubs and flowers and disperse seeds across the land. They also improve the overall health of plants by eating pest insects.



Top: An aerial view of part of the Avon region in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia, showing the extent of clearing in the region, how little vegetation remains and how this remaining habitat is fragmented. (Photo courtesy of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management)

Bottom: This remnant in the Wheatbelt with its intact canopy, mid canopy and understory vegetation could support a vibrant bird community. (Photo: E. Trimming/DEC)

What can I do to help?

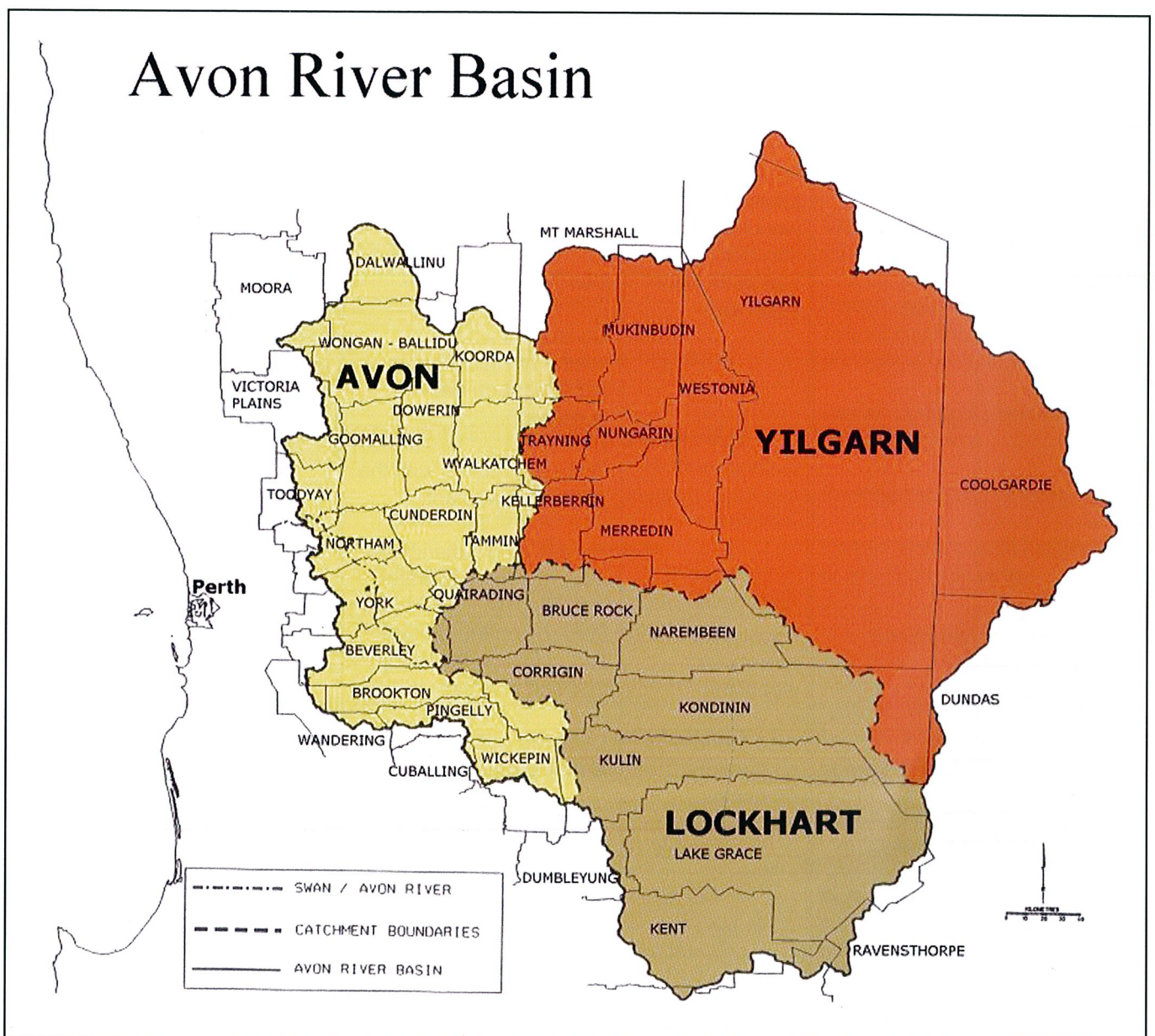
When considering improving habitat for any native species it is worthwhile to remember the following:

Retention – Keep existing remnant vegetation and protect it. This is the most preferred strategy. It is important to maintain vegetation across all age classes as this will allow natural replacement to occur as the remnant ages.

Regeneration – Allow native vegetation to rehabilitate itself by regrowing naturally. This can be achieved by fencing remnants to control grazing pressure and, if necessary, encouraging the regeneration process by active weed control and the implementation of a mosaic fire regime. Mosaic fire regimes do not burn all the habitat and food resources at once, providing a safe area for birds to retreat to after the fire.

Revegetation – Plant native trees and shrubs to rehabilitate a remnant. This can also be done in corridors to increase the connectivity between remnants on a property and reduce the effects of fragmentation. Incorporating a mid and ground storey into these corridors is necessary as birds will use all levels of vegetation.

The following pages contain information on some of the declining Wheatbelt birds that may occur in your area. They also explain the size and type of habitat required to sustain birds and provide some 'on property' conservation actions aimed at increasing bird numbers.



The Avon Region of Western Australia is home to many of the Wheatbelt birds mentioned on the following pages. (Map courtesy of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management)

Requirements for the 'home range' of some Wheatbelt birds

Bird	Size of remnant	Vegetation type	Other notes	On-property conservation actions
<p>Bush stone-curlew</p> <p>Other names: Bush thick-nee, southern stone-curlew, weeloo, willaroo</p> <p><i>Burhinus grallarius</i></p>	<p>Loosely defined territory between 10 and 25 hectares.</p>	<p>Open forest woodlands, mallee and the timber remnants on roadsides.</p>	<p>Eats seeds, insects, frogs and reptiles.</p> <p>Nocturnal.</p> <p>Lays eggs directly on the ground.</p> <p>Grass length at nest sites needs to be under 15 centimetres to increase visibility.</p> <p>Fallen timber is a crucial component of a day roost.</p> <p>Long-lived (up to 30 years).</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Control weeds and exotic grasses which reduce visibility.</p> <p>Retain fallen tree debris and limit firewood collection for day roosts.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits – some grazing is beneficial.</p> <p>Exclude livestock during breeding season (summer and spring).</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and nester.</p>
<p>Common bronzewing</p> <p><i>Phaps chaloptera</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Wide habitat tolerance but woodland and shrubland elements are essential.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground for seeds, other plant material and insects.</p> <p>Can breed all year.</p> <p>Consumes wheat seed if available but is dependent on native vegetation.</p> <p>Often associated with the <i>gastrolobium</i> plant.</p> <p>Travels long distances at dusk in search of water.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p>
<p>Western rosella</p> <p><i>Platycerus icterotis</i></p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forests and woodland.</p> <p>Also found on farmland, roadsides, orchards and in home gardens.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground and in foliage for seeds, fruit and insects.</p> <p>Declared pest until 1998 is now protected.</p> <p>Extinct in 25 per cent of shires in which it originally occurred due to loss of feeding habitat.</p> <p>Obligate hollow nester.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain mature trees and trees with hollows.</p> <p>Repair damaged hollows or erect artificial hollows.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p>

Bird	Size of remnant	Vegetation type	Other notes	On-property conservation actions
<p>Barking owl</p> <p><i>Ninox connivens</i></p>	<p>Individuals will occupy a territory of 226 hectares.</p>	<p>Dry sclerophyll woodlands and mallee.</p>	<p>Eats insects, small birds and mammals (prefers native prey to introduced).</p> <p>Obligate hollow nester.</p> <p>Territories are associated with a water source.</p> <p>Pairs often mate for life.</p>	<p>Retain old and hollow trees (it takes eucalypts 150 to 200 years to produce a suitable hollow).</p> <p>Repair damaged hollows or erect artificial hollows.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Protect habitat either side of waterways.</p> <p>Limit the removal of dead trees and firewood.</p>
<p>Rufous treecreeper</p> <p>Other names: Woodpecker</p> <p><i>Climacteris rufa</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forests and woodlands which have fallen and standing dead trees (particularly wandoo, York gum and salmon gum).</p>	<p>Forages mainly on the ground but also on bark for insects.</p> <p>Obligate hollow nester – preferring those above eight metres.</p> <p>Lives cooperatively in groups of two to seven birds.</p> <p>1.6 to six hectares territory.</p> <p>Will not use unlinked habitat more than eight kilometres apart.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager.</p> <p>Retain mature and hollow trees (wandoo takes 150 years to produce a suitable hollow).</p> <p>Repair damaged hollows or erect artificial hollows.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>
<p>Blue-breasted fairy-wren</p> <p>Other names: Blue-breasted wren, blue-breasted superb warbler and fairy-wren</p> <p><i>Malurus pulcherrimus</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Mallee, shrublands and heath throughout the northern and eastern parts of the central Wheatbelt and in wandoo woodlands.</p>	<p>Eats insects.</p> <p>Breeds cooperatively and lives in groups.</p> <p>Two-hectare territory.</p> <p>Nests close to the ground.</p> <p>Will not cross gaps in vegetation of more than 60 metres.</p> <p>Only seven per cent of wren habitat remains in WA.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors – vegetation connectivity is more important than remnant size.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and low nester.</p> <p>Retain ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p>

Bird	Size of remnant	Vegetation type	Other notes	On-property conservation actions
<p>White-browed scrubwren</p> <p>Other names: Spotted scrubwren</p> <p><i>Sericornis frontalis</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants of at least 15 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Mallee, heathland and all kinds of dense shrubland.</p> <p>Common resident near the coast.</p>	<p>Forages mostly on the ground for insects and seeds.</p> <p>Nests on or near the ground.</p> <p>Lives in groups of two to eight birds year round.</p> <p>Breeds cooperatively.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Retain ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and nester.</p> <p>Implement fire intervals of eight years if possible.</p>
<p>Redthroat</p> <p>Other names: <i>Sericornis brunneus</i> <i>Pyrrholaemus brunneus</i></p>	<p>In the central Wheatbelt it requires remnants at least 100 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Tall and moderately tall shrublands (particularly acacia shrublands with chenopod shrubs), woodlands, mallee and thickets surrounding salt lakes.</p> <p>Largely confined to semi-arid areas.</p>	<p>Forages alone on the ground or in low foliage for insects and grass seeds.</p> <p>Nests in shrubs and small trees (one metre high).</p> <p>Males mimic the calls of other birds.</p> <p>Will not use unlinked habitat more than three kilometres apart.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants particularly those with chenopod shrubs.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and low nester.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>
<p>Shy heathwren</p> <p>Other names: Mallee heathwren, shy hylacola, <i>Sericornis cautus</i> and <i>Calamanthus cautus</i></p> <p><i>Hylacola cauta</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 40 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Dense mallee eucalyptus woodland, uncleared road verges and farmland remnants.</p> <p>Habitat generalist but requires low shrub and shrub like vegetation.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground for insects.</p> <p>Nests on the ground or in low shrubs.</p> <p>Avoids areas of open ground.</p> <p>Now exists in small isolated populations.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and nester.</p>

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<p>Rufous fieldwren</p> <p>Other names: Striated fieldwren, <i>Calamanthus</i> and <i>Sericornis fuliginosus</i></p> <p><i>Calamanthus camperstris</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 50 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Low, sparse heath, saltmarsh and shrubland.</p>	<p>Forages on or near the ground for insects and seeds.</p> <p>Nests on or near the ground in dense vegetation.</p> <p>Half of its original habitat has been cleared and populations would now be genetically isolated.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris for nesting.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors – this will reduce isolation.</p>
<p>Inland thornbill</p> <p>Other names: Broad-tailed thornbill and <i>Acanthiza pusilla</i></p> <p><i>Acanthiza apicalis</i></p>	<p>In the central Wheatbelt it requires remnants at least 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath.</p>	<p>Forages at all vegetation levels for seeds, berries and insects.</p> <p>Usually forages in pairs or in small groups.</p> <p>Nests low in the foliage of shrubs.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and low nester.</p>
<p>Chestnut-rumped thornbill</p> <p><i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Woodland, mallee and all types of shrubland and thicket.</p> <p>Habitat generalist.</p>	<p>Forages on shrubs, trees and fallen timber, for seeds and insects.</p> <p>Rarely forages on the ground.</p> <p>Habitats characterised by native herb ground cover and low tree density.</p> <p>Nests in tree hollows.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Retain mature and hollow trees.</p> <p>Repair damaged hollows or erect artificial hollows.</p>
<p>Weebill</p> <p><i>Smicronis brevirostris</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forests, woodlands and scrubs.</p> <p>Habitat generalist.</p>	<p>Forages for seeds and insects in the canopy and sub canopy.</p> <p>Lives in foliage between eight to 16 metres high.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain large trees due to height preference.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p>

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<p>Red wattlebird <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus woodlands, mallee and shrubland.</p> <p>Also occurs in town and farm gardens.</p>	<p>Feeds mainly in the canopy probing flowers for nectar, pollen and insects. Also eats fruit.</p> <p>Rarely forages on the ground, preferring sites above two metres.</p> <p>Attracted to flowering banksia, grevillea, hakea and eucalyptus species.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Replant if necessary.</p> <p>Retain large trees due to height preference.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Plant native flowering species.</p>
<p>Spiny-cheeked honeyeater <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i></p>	<p>In the central Wheatbelt it requires remnants at least 50 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Tall shrublands including the understorey of woodlands and heathlands.</p>	<p>Forages in the dense foliage and outer branches of trees and on the ground, for nectar, fruit, and insects.</p> <p>Attracted to flowering eucalyptus, melaleuca, grevillea, banksia, dryandras and calothamnus species.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Plant native flowering species.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>
<p>White-eared honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i></p>	<p>In the central Wheatbelt it requires remnants at least 20 hectares in size.</p> <p>In the southern Wheatbelt it requires remnants at least 50 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Woodlands and scrubs especially those with flowering grevillea, hakea and calothamnus species.</p>	<p>Forages on foliage, branches and under bark for insects – preferably of large trees.</p> <p>Rarely forages on flowers.</p> <p>Avoids wetter habitat sites.</p> <p>Nests low in shrub one to three metres high.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain large, old trees due to foraging preference.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Plant native flowering species particularly grevillea, hakea and calothamnus.</p>

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<p>Yellow-plumed honeyeater</p> <p>Other names: Mallee honeyeater <i>Lichenostromus ornatus</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 100 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Wandoo, powderbark wandoo and York gum.</p>	<p>Forages for nectar and insects in the canopy and sub canopy – preferably of large trees.</p> <p>Territories located on the most productive land.</p> <p>Forms large colonies.</p> <p>Was once the most common honeyeater in the Wheatbelt.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants – particularly if located on productive ground.</p> <p>Retain large, old trees due to foraging preference.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors used to link productive areas.</p> <p>Plant native flowering species such as eucalyptus, grevillea and dryandra.</p>
<p>Brown-headed honeyeater</p> <p><i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Open eucalyptus woodlands, shrubland and forest.</p> <p>Can be seen in exotic vegetation in town and farm gardens.</p> <p>Habitat generalist.</p>	<p>Forages on bark and foliage in the canopy, for insects and nectar.</p> <p>Eats less nectar than other honeyeaters</p> <p>Attracted to flowering eucalyptus.</p> <p>Forages in groups of up to 12 birds.</p> <p>Can cover two hectares a day.</p> <p>12 to 48-hectare territory.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Replant if necessary.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Plant native flowering species.</p>
<p>Brown honeyeater</p> <p><i>Lichmera indistincta</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Woodland, mallee, scrubland and heath.</p> <p>Also seen in exotic vegetation in town or farm gardens.</p> <p>Habitat generalist.</p>	<p>Forages at all vegetation heights for nectar, flowers and insects.</p> <p>Will follow the flowering of food plants.</p> <p>Seen in pairs or small flocks often with other honeyeaters (e.g. singing, white-fronted and red wattlebirds).</p> <p>Habitats often near water.</p> <p>Frequents urban and farm settings.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Plant native flowering species particularly Proteaceae and grevillea varieties.</p> <p>Protect habitat either side of waterways.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>

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<p>Jacky winter</p> <p>Other names: Brown flycatcher, Peter Peter and stumpbird</p> <p><i>Microeca fascians</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 40 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus scrubs and undisturbed woodlands particularly wandoo, powderbark wandoo and York gum.</p>	<p>Forages for insects in the air and on the ground.</p> <p>Is a more aerial predator than other robins – pouncing from perches on to prey.</p> <p>Frequents open habitats with low tree and shrub densities.</p> <p>Range has halved in central Wheatbelt.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Replant if necessary – it will use the open habitat created.</p> <p>Limit firewood collection and leave fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime.</p>
<p>Scarlet robin</p> <p><i>Petroica multicolor</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 25 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus woodlands and forest with an open to moderate shrub layer.</p>	<p>Forages for insects on the ground.</p> <p>Occurs in pairs.</p> <p>Prefers sites with a shrubby understorey and sparse layer of saplings and shrubs.</p> <p>Nests high in the canopy (15 to 30 metres).</p> <p>Prefers a fire age of eight to 10 years.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain fallen tree debris to provide foraging perches.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime with eight to 10-year intervals.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>
<p>Red-capped robin</p> <p><i>Petroica goodenovii</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Most kinds of scrub and the shrubby understorey of eucalyptus woodlands.</p> <p>Has a preference for sheoak and jam wattle.</p>	<p>Forages low in the vegetation gleaning the bark and ground for insects.</p> <p>Foraging sites have low tree and shrub density and a high herb and litter cover.</p> <p>Nests in the fork of a tree above six metres.</p> <p>0.4 to three-hectare territory.</p> <p>Will not use unlinked habitat more than five kilometres apart.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain large trees due to nesting height preference.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager.</p>

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<p>Western yellow robin</p> <p>Other names: Yellow robin</p> <p><i>Eopsaltria griseogularis</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 30 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus woodlands, mallee and acacia shrub.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground and in low vegetation for insects.</p> <p>Habitat sites have rich leaf litter and dense, coarse woody debris.</p> <p>Nests high in the canopy.</p> <p>Often associated with the <i>gastrolobium</i> plant.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain fallen tree debris and limit firewood collection.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime.</p>
<p>Hooded robin</p> <p>Other names: <i>Petroica cucullate</i></p> <p><i>Melanodryas cucullate</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 550 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Lightly wooded country, usually open eucalyptus woodland, acacia scrub and mallee.</p> <p>Often found in or near clearings or open areas.</p>	<p>Perch and pounce predator eats insects.</p> <p>Uses large trees and shrubs for protective cover and nesting and large grassy areas with perch sites for foraging.</p> <p>Avoids dense forest and urban areas.</p> <p>Frequently observed in pairs or small groups.</p> <p>Five to 50 hectare territory.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Retain fallen tree debris and control firewood collection to provide perch sites.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager.</p>
<p>Southern scrub robin</p> <p><i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 15 hectares in size.</p> <p>In the central Wheatbelt it requires remnants at least 50 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus woodlands, mallee and acacia shrubland.</p> <p>Often associated with broombrush.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground for insects.</p> <p>Nests on the ground camouflaged with the understorey.</p> <p>Prefers a 26 to 40-year fire age.</p> <p>Two to seven-hectare territory.</p> <p>Will not use unlinked habitat more than two kilometres apart.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Retain ground litter, understorey shrubs, fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and nester.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime.</p>

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<p>White-browed babbler</p> <p>Other names: Happy family, stickbirds, cackler, twelve apostles and jumper</p> <p><i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants less than 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forest and woodlands.</p> <p>Also seen in exotic vegetation in farm gardens.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground and in the understorey for insects and seeds.</p> <p>Preferentially uses vegetation corridors despite being resilient to the effects of fragmentation.</p> <p>Nests in the outer or top foliage of a shrub.</p> <p>Persists in degraded and isolated remnants.</p> <p>Frequents open areas and crosses gaps in the vegetation of 270 metres.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Control firewood collection in remnants.</p>
<p>Western whipbird (western mallee)</p> <p>Other names: Black-throated or mallee whipbird</p> <p><i>Psophodes nigrogularis</i></p>	<p>Individuals occupy a territory between 10 and 19 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Mallee and heath.</p> <p>Prefers vegetation with a dense, low understorey and open canopy.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground for insects and is frequently observed there or in understorey.</p> <p>Shy and elusive bird.</p> <p>Poor fliers, unable to fly more than 50 metres.</p> <p>Fire intervals less than 10 years cause local extinction.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Implement a small-scale mosaic fire regime with intervals greater than 10 years.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>
<p>Chestnut quail-thrush</p> <p><i>Cincoloma castanotum</i></p>	<p>Restricted to uncleared country and large reserves.</p>	<p>Mallee, woodlands and heath.</p> <p>Mallee specialist.</p>	<p>Forages on the ground for insects, seeds and berries.</p> <p>Nests on the ground relying on the shrub layer for cover.</p> <p>Likes areas of long-unburnt vegetation.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and nester.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime.</p>

Bird	Size of remnant	Vegetation type	Other notes	On-property conservation actions
<p>Varied sittella</p> <p>Other names: Australian sittella, bark-pecker, treerunner and woodpecker</p> <p><i>Daphoenositta chrysotera</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 30 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Rough barked eucalyptus, wandoo and York gum.</p>	<p>Forages for insects on branches and trunks of trees.</p> <p>Lives in groups of five and breeds cooperatively.</p> <p>13 to 20-hectare territory.</p> <p>Nests high in the canopy (above five metres).</p> <p>Rarely seen in urban areas.</p> <p>Will not use unlinked habitat more than four kilometres apart.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Rehabilitate by regeneration and possible revegetation – needs a well-treed habitat.</p> <p>Retain large trees due to height preference.</p> <p>Retain any standing dead trees for foraging.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p>
<p>Western crested shrike-tit</p> <p><i>Falcunculus frontatus</i></p>	<p>Will persist in large patches of remnant vegetation, within which it will inhabit discrete territories throughout the year.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forests, woodlands, scrubland and open forest.</p> <p>Also seen in parks and gardens.</p>	<p>Feeds on insects gleaned from foliage and taken from under peeling bark.</p> <p>Nests in the canopy.</p> <p>Rarely seen on the ground.</p> <p>Elusive and rare bird.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants – especially those with large trees.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Replant if necessary – using native species with loose, peeling bark.</p>
<p>Crested bellbird</p> <p><i>Oreoica gutturalis</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>The shrub layer of eucalyptus woodlands, mallee, acacia, grassland, saltbush and heath.</p>	<p>Eats a variety of insects and seeds.</p> <p>Nests low in trees or shrubs.</p> <p>Prefers long-unburnt mallee vegetation.</p> <p>Has disappeared from 50 per cent of its original range.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Control firewood collection.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this low nester.</p>

Bird	Size of remnant	Vegetation type	Other notes	On-property conservation actions
<p>Gilbert's whistler</p> <p><i>Pachycephala inornata</i></p>	<p>Multiple pairs will nest in an area 25 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Open semi-arid scrubs and the understorey of eucalyptus woodlands.</p> <p>Mallee specialist.</p>	<p>Forages on or near the ground for insects, seeds and fruit.</p> <p>Nests two metres from the ground.</p> <p>Sometime use nests vacated by other birds.</p> <p>Prefers long-unburnt habitat.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime – avoid burning mature mallee.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and low nester.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>
<p>Golden whistler</p> <p><i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 30 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Thickets and scrubs of acacia, agonis, melaleuca and eucalyptus, including the understorey of forests and woodlands.</p>	<p>Forages in the canopy for insects, seeds and berries.</p> <p>Prefers tall vegetation and rarely forages in low shrubs or on the ground.</p> <p>Nests in dense foliage of the canopy.</p> <p>2.5-hectare territory.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Provide replanted areas – dense foliage cover is important.</p> <p>Retain canopy cover – if removed its foraging strategies are too inflexible to recover.</p> <p>Retain large, old trees due to height preference.</p>
<p>Rufous whistler</p> <p><i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Most types of shrub, mallee and woodlands.</p>	<p>Forages on branches and foliage for insects, seeds, fruit and leaves.</p> <p>Rarely seen on the ground.</p> <p>Prefers mixture of understorey and overstorey vegetation.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Retain ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris.</p>

Bird	Size of remnant	Vegetation type	Other notes	On-property conservation actions
<p>Grey shrike-thrush</p> <p><i>Colluricincla harmonica</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 10 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Most types of shrublands and woodlands.</p> <p>Frequently seen on the edge of habitats and on farmland.</p> <p>Habitat generalist.</p>	<p>Forages at all levels of vegetation for insects, seeds and other plant material, frogs, lizards, nesting birds and small mammals.</p> <p>Nests in low foliage or directly on the ground.</p> <p>Will not cross more than 85 metres of open ground.</p> <p>Will cross 260 metres of open ground if scattered paddock trees are present.</p> <p>Five to 18-hectare territory.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this ground forager and nester.</p> <p>Fence and manage livestock grazing pressure and control rabbits.</p> <p>Preserve ground litter, understorey shrubs and fallen tree debris</p> <p>Remove livestock from remnants during the breeding (spring).</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p> <p>Retain paddock trees.</p>
<p>Dusky woodswallow</p> <p>Other names: Skimmer, summer-bird and woodmartin</p> <p><i>Artamus cyanopterus</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 30 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forest and woodlands, mallee, heath, shrubland and farmland.</p>	<p>Forages at all vegetation levels for seeds, berries, insects and nectar.</p> <p>Attracted to flowering wandoo species.</p> <p>Natural regeneration is preferable to replanting – it will not use replanted habitats.</p> <p>Partly migratory – with some birds flying north in autumn.</p> <p>Nests colonially.</p> <p>Prefers open habitat.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Fence and manage grazing pressures and control rabbits – some grazing can be beneficial.</p> <p>Implement a mosaic fire regime with eight-year intervals.</p> <p>Plant native flowering wandoo.</p>
<p>Grey currawong</p> <p>Other names: Squeaker, black-winged, brown or clinking currawong</p> <p><i>Strepera versicolor</i></p>	<p>Requires remnants at least 20 hectares in size.</p>	<p>Eucalyptus forests, woodlands, scrubs and acacia scrublands.</p>	<p>Forages on tree trunks, branches and in the leaf litter for insects also eats fruit, seeds, berries, frogs and small lizards, mammals and birds.</p> <p>Usually seen alone or in pairs.</p> <p>Extinct in much of the central and northern Wheatbelt.</p>	<p>Retain and promote regeneration of existing remnants.</p> <p>Control feral predators for this occasional ground forager.</p> <p>Provide planted corridors.</p>

The following resources provide additional information including individual species profiles, descriptions, photographs and access to clips of individual bird calls:

The field guide to birds of Australia written by G. Pizzey and F. Knight, published by HarperCollins Publishers (1997)

The Handbook of Western Australian birds: volume 2 – Passerines (Blue-winged Pitta to Goldfinch) written by R. Johnstone and G. Storr, published by the Western Australian Museum (2004)

Birds in Backyards website produced by the Australian Museum: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net>

Birds Australia website: <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au>

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