

FURTHER NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE GAWLER RANGES

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SUMMARY

An annotated list of 120 native birds recorded in the Gawler Ranges from 1992 to 1997 is presented. Notes on breeding, feeding and habitat use are also provided where relevant. The discussion compares the birds sighted during this period with other records from the Gawler Ranges, dating back to 1902. At least three species—Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* x *superciliosus*, Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*, and Straited Grasswren *Amytornis striatus*—were recorded from the Ranges for the first time, as well as another 27 species that have only been recorded rarely. On the other hand recordings of waterbirds were scarce, which was probably due to the dry conditions over six of the seven years and the authors' lack of coverage of water bodies. The failure to record three species—Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis textilis*, Rufous Fieldwren *Calamanthus campestris* and Redthroat *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*—gives cause for concern.

INTRODUCTION

There have been two major papers on the birds of the Gawler Ranges in recent times (Paton 1975; Joseph and Black 1983). Since then Robinson *et al.* (1988) summarised the bird records made during a biological survey of the region in October 1985, Chapple and Lewis (1991) documented a breeding record of the Elegant Parrot *Neophema elegans*, Matthew and Carpenter (1993) provided information on the birds on northern Nonning Station, and Matthew (1994) gave details of all sightings of the Slender-billed Thornbill *Acanthiza iredalei iredalei* in the Gawler Ranges.

The Gawler Ranges have been classed in the top 22 refugia¹ of arid and semi-arid lands in Australia (Morton *et al.* 1995). This paper documents sightings made by the authors (and others) from 1992 to 1997, with a view to adding to the ornithological knowledge of this biologically important area of South Australia.

The records of Chris Baxter (CB) were made while undertaking field trips to the Ranges for the purpose of the conservation and management of populations of the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby *Petrogale xanthopus* from October 1992 until December 1997. Observations by Penny Paton (PP) were made on a field trip from 4 to 7

¹Morton *et al.* (1995) considered refugia to be areas with unusual aggregations of endemic, relictual, threatened or otherwise significant species.

November 1997. Figure 1 shows pastoral leases in the Gawler Ranges, and the Gawler Ranges Conservation Reserve adjacent to the Ranges. Appendix 1 provides a gazetteer of other locations mentioned in this paper.

Weather conditions in the western Gawler Ranges were variable during the period 1992–97. Excellent rains fell during 1992 (440.7 mm at Lake Everard Station, compared with the annual average of 227.5 mm). This was followed by slightly above average falls in 1993 (238.7 mm). A drought prevailed during 1994 (94.6 mm) and the extremely dry conditions continued with below average rainfall in 1995 (203.7 mm) and 1996 (207.2 mm). Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats *Lasiorchinus latifrons* were in a severely emaciated condition during 1994 and the early months of 1995. Despite good winter rains in June–July 1995 (78.5 mm) there was little runoff and negligible surface water, in the form of dams and rockholes, on Hiltaba, Yarna and Lake Everard Stations during this period. Critical water shortages were experienced during the summer and autumn of 1996. Cockatiels *Nymphicus hollandicus* and Blue Bonnets *Northiella haematogaster* were observed drinking at artificial water points in the Lake Everard Homestead garden at this time.

Heavy rainfall (150+ mm) fell during June to September 1996, leading to substantial runoff and the flooding of Churchill Dam on Yarna. This was followed by huge rains during August to December 1997 (216 mm), which resulted in a lush growth of flowering ephemerals and seeding grasses throughout the western Gawler Ranges. As a result there occurred an influx of nomadic species such as Crimson Chats *Epthianura tricolor*, Masked and White-browed Woodswallows *Artamus personatus* and *A. superciliosus*, Cockatiels and Budgerigars *Melopsittacus undulatus*. Total annual rainfall for 1997 was 301.4 mm. Widespread runoff into dams, like Punkey Plain and Progress, occurred during this year.

Appendix 2 provides an annotated list of all species recorded by Baxter and Paton. Paton's records are from the period 4–7 November 1997,

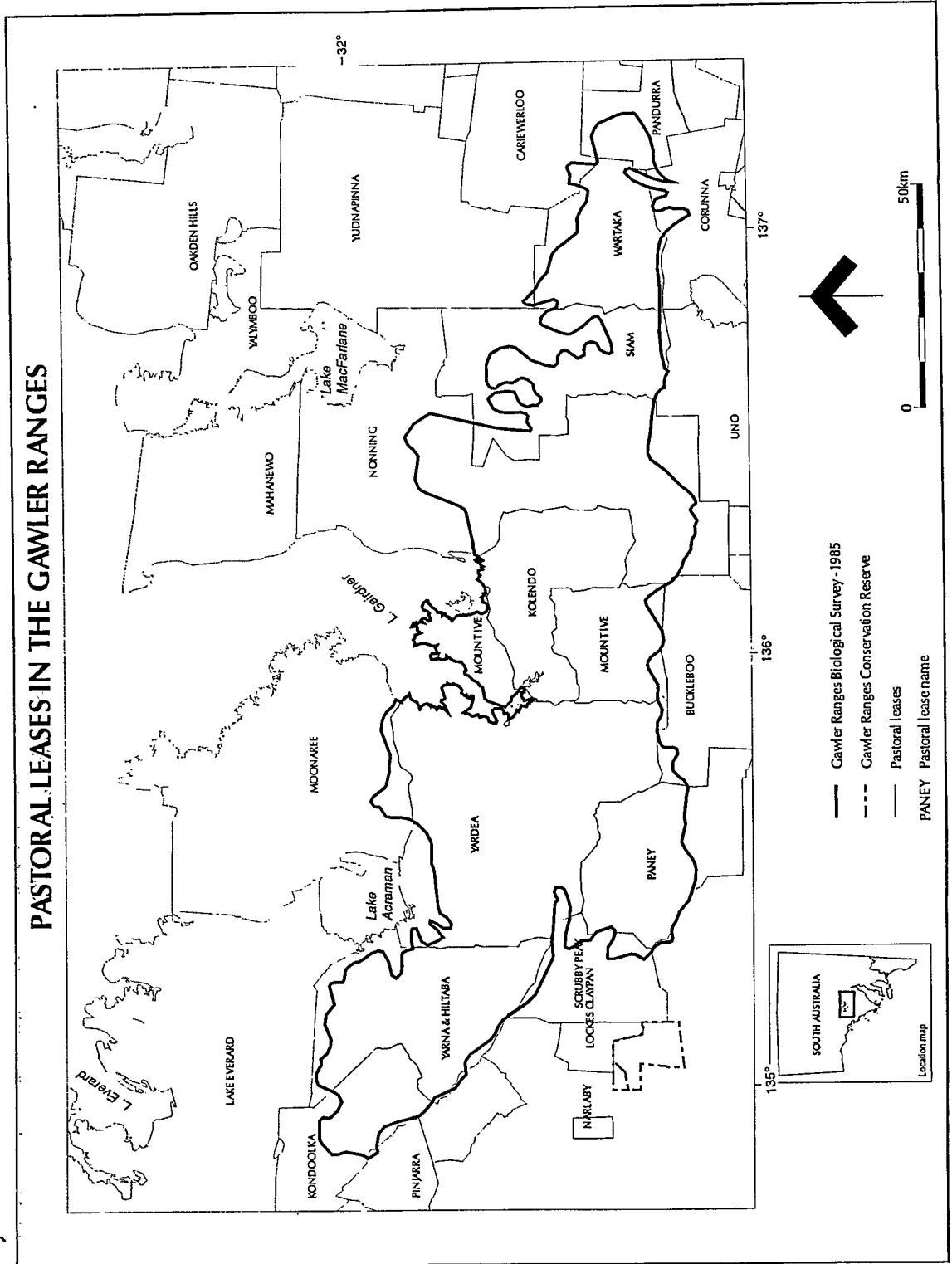


Figure 1. Map of the Gawler Ranges showing pastoral leases, the area of the 1985 Dept of Environment and Natural Resources Biological Survey and the adjacent Gawler Ranges Conservation Reserve.

so all other records are those of Baxter, unless otherwise specified.

DISCUSSION

The annotated list (Appendix 2) presents information on 120 native and three introduced bird species (House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and Mallard hybrid *Anas platyrhynchos x superciliosus*). Clearly this does not represent a complete picture of the birds of the Gawler Ranges over the period 1993 to 1997, as most of the observations were from Hiltaba and to a lesser extent, the adjoining Scrubby Peak area. However we were able to add a few species to the list for the Ranges, to increase the number of observations for some rarely reported species and, more importantly, to summarise habitat and breeding information for a range of birds.

This paper documents the first published records for several species from the Gawler Ranges. While one of us (CB) has seen grasswrens that were thought to have been Striated Grasswrens *Amytornis striatus* in suitable triodia *Triodia* sp. habitat near Waroona Peak, the first confirmed sighting of this species was of a single bird at the summit of Mt Friday on Hiltaba Station in November 1997. The bird called repeatedly, perhaps in response to the observer's 'squeaking', while perched on bare rock and at the base of shrubs. The habitat in which the bird was seen was triodia interspersed with cassias *Senna* spp., rough blue-flower *Halgania cyanea*, common eutaxia *Eutaxia microphylla*, fairy fanflower *Scaevola aemula*, Gawler Ranges grevillea *Grevillea parallelinervis* and other species of shrub. Groves of stunted gums, probably beaked red mallee *Eucalyptus socialis*, and broombush *Melaleuca uncinata* also grew near the summit. Subsequent sightings and specimens taken from near this location in May 1998 confirm that these grasswrens belong to the Flinders Ranges subspecies *Amytornis striatus merrotsyi* (Lynn Pedler pers. comm.).

We have not been able to find published records of any egret species from the Gawler Ranges, thus the record from Lake Everard Station Homestead of an egret, thought to be a Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*, would be the first record for the Ranges. Another waterbird that has been rarely or never reported from the

Ranges is the Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*. This species was recorded for the area in the RAOU Bird Atlas (Blakers *et al.* 1984; data extracted from Robinson *et al.* 1988), but we cannot pinpoint the location of this record. Therefore the record of two adult male birds on Churchill Dam, Yarna, is one of the first, if not the first, record of this species from the Gawler Ranges. Another duck species first reported from the Ranges in this paper is a hybrid between the introduced Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and a Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosus*, which was seen on Churchill Dam. The fact that the bird flew laboriously when pushed into flight makes one suspect that this bird may have been introduced into the area by humans.

Another 26 species recorded in the survey period have been recorded rarely from the Gawler Ranges and these are listed in Table 1, together with the previous records.

Some of these species probably occur in small numbers fairly regularly in the Gawler Ranges, but are not often recorded due to the paucity of observers in the area. Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* and Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* would be in this category. An additional explanation for the paucity of records of the Common Greenshank might be that its incidence in the Ranges is likely to be seasonal because it is a migratory wader. Yet other species appear to occur episodically in the Ranges and are typically highly mobile species that can appear briefly, sometimes in reasonable numbers, almost anywhere. These species include the Black and Pied Honeyeaters *Certhionyx niger* and *C. variegatus*, and the Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida*.

Another group of birds are rarely recorded from the Gawler Ranges because the Ranges represent the northerly limit of their range in South Australia; these birds are more usually found in the southern parts of the Ranges. In this category are the Shy Heathwren *Hylacola cauta*, Southern Scrub-robin *Drymodes brunneopygia* and Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*. There are only three other records of the Golden Whistler from the Ranges: one of a bird in female-phase plumage in black oak *Casuarina pauper* and mallee 25 km N of Angle Vale Swamp in August 1973 (Paton 1975); an uncoloured bird in mallee near Progress Dam, Hiltaba Station (recorded by L. Pedler in Paton 1986); and a single bird seen 5 km NW of

Table 1. Bird species which were recorded during the survey period (1992–97) and documented on fewer than seven other occasions in the Gawler Ranges prior to 1997.

Common Name	Previously reported by																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Spotted Harrier														14	15			
Peregrine Falcon												12			15			
Australian Bustard	1																	
Painted Button-quail												12						
Common Greenshank							7	8										18
Inland Dotterel	1													14	15			
Little Corella					5		7	8						14	15			
Cockatiel		2						8				12						
Bourke's Parrot													13					18
Scarlet-chested Parrot						6						12						18
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1								9	10					15			18
Southern Boobook			3				7							14	15			
Rainbow Bee-eater					5									14	15			
Spotted Pardalote	1				5										15			
Shy Heathwren					5?					10		12		14	15			
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater		2												14	15			18
Black Honeyeater														14				
Pied Honeyeater					5									14				
Southern Scrub-robin			3br							10		12		14	15			
Cinnamon Quail-thrush		2						8?				12			15	16		18
Golden Whistler							7	8							15	16		18
White-browed Woodswallow												12		14	15			
Little Woodswallow																	17	
Zebra Finch	1							8			11			14	15	16		
Rufous Songlark	1							8						14	15	16		
Little Crow												12		14	15			

Key to Symbols:

1	Chenery (1903)	11	J.B. Paton 1985 (pers. obs.)
2	White (1913)	12	Joseph and Black (1983)
3	Sutton (1924)	13	Joseph (1984)
4	G. Ragless (pers. obs.) 1968	14	DENR (Robinson <i>et al.</i> 1988)
5	NCCSA (1972)	15	RAOU Atlas records (in Robinson <i>et al.</i> 1988)
6	Ellis 1961 – in NCCSA (1972)	16	S.A. Museum records (in Robinson <i>et al.</i> 1988)
7	J.B. Paton <i>et al.</i> 5/1973 (pers. obs.)	17	Matthew (1992)
8	Spring School Records, 8/1973 (per J.B. Paton)	18	Matthew and Carpenter (1993)
9	J. Finnegan (pers. obs.) in Paton (1985)	br	Breeding record
10	SAOA blue record books, Nos 1–5, 1969–89	?	Unconfirmed record

Scrubby Peak Outstation in August 1985 (Carpenter 1985). Joseph and Black (1983) were doubtful of the veracity of the former record and thought it may have been a Gilbert's Whistler *Pachycephala inornata*, but the subsequent sightings support the original identification.

The Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops* is another typically southern species which reaches the approximate northern extremity of its range at the latitude of the Gawler Ranges. Here it is able to penetrate into the more arid north due to the presence of rocky hills which provide suitable habitat in the form of a low open heath of stunted mallee,

triodia and other shrubs including *Halgania* sp., *Grevillea* sp., *Prostanthera* sp. and *Eutaxia* sp. This same phenomenon occurs further east in the Flinders Ranges, where this species has been recorded as far north as Wilpena Pound but is absent from surrounding rangelands (CB pers. obs.).

Previously, the most northerly record of the Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia* in the Gawler Ranges appears to be that of three birds in mallee 5 km east of Scrubby Peak Homestead (Reid and Eddington in Pedler 1982). The Yandinga Gorge sighting extends the known range of this species about 8 km

further to the north-east. It is quite probable, as stated by Pedler (1982), that this species occurs further north in the Gawler Ranges and the Great Victoria Desert, as large tracts of seemingly suitable mallee habitat extend well inland north and north-west from this location.

Some species of birds appear to be uncommon in the Gawler Ranges, although they are not necessarily uncommon elsewhere. These include the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*, Cockatiel, Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*, Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*, White-browed Woodswallow, Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* and Rufous Songlark *Cinchoramphus mathewsi*. Apart from our records, the Peregrine Falcon has only been noted from Corunna Gorge (Joseph and Black 1983). As this species is usually found in areas with steep cliffs, it is perhaps not surprising that it has only been recorded from the two areas in the Gawler Ranges that provide this habitat. However the apparent rarity of the other species is more puzzling as the habitat in the Ranges does not appear to be a limiting factor for them.

The Cinnamon Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* is regarded as an uncommon species in the Ranges (Robinson *et al.* 1988; Matthew and Carpenter 1993). The one observation of a single bird near Mt Ive Homestead in this report supports that view. This species is moderately common on gibber-chenopod flats at the extreme eastern end of the Ranges (e.g. at Corraberra and Carriewerloo, CB pers. obs.) but appears to be very rare or absent in the far west. This is perhaps not surprising as Hiltaba has little gibber and healthy chenopod shrubland is largely limited to small patches such as that on Punkey Plain. Away from the rocky hills the flats are mostly covered with mallee or unsuitable grassland. The western myall *Acacia papyrocarpa*-chenopod association to the east and north-east, where Cinnamon Quail-thrushes were observed by Joseph and Black (1983), Matthew and Carpenter (1993) and the one in this paper, is largely replaced on Scrubby Peak and Hiltaba Stations by eucalypt associations. This mallee habitat is more suited to the Chestnut Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma castaneothorax*.

There are few published records of the Inland Dotterel *Charadrius australis* from the Gawler

Ranges (Chenery 1903; Blakers *et al.* 1984; Robinson *et al.* 1988). This is at first surprising as this species is observed quite regularly on Wartaka, Carriewerloo and Corraberra Stations at the extreme eastern end of the Ranges (P. Langdon pers. comm. and CB pers. obs.). At these localities it occurs mostly on gibber flats with sparse chenopod cover. The apparent lack of this habitat in the western Gawler Ranges is probably the main reason for the paucity of observations from this area.

The Bourke's Parrot *Neopsephotus bourkii* is another species that appears to be clearly restricted in its distribution in the Ranges by habitat preference. There are few records of this species from the Gawler Ranges and most come from the Barton Sandhills, east of Lake Gairdner, in the vicinity of Mahanewo and northern Nonning (this paper; and Matthew and Carpenter 1993). The habitat in which the species was reported by Matthew and Carpenter (1993) was western myall-mulga *Acacia aneura* woodland, with the latter species dominating. Of the several breeding records, all are of nests in mulga spouts. The only other record from the Ranges is that by Joseph (1984), who recorded a pair in western myall woodland between Nonning and Kolendo, at least 40 km south of the other locations. Joseph speculated that this was an isolated occurrence of the species in the Gawler Ranges, given the paucity of records and the number of bird observers visiting the Ranges. This speculation is probably correct for the western myall and mallee associations of the Gawler Ranges, with the Bourke's Parrot breeding and appearing to be not uncommon in the mulga woodland of Mahanewo and northern Nonning.

As well as recording new species and species rarely recorded in the Gawler Ranges, this survey is noteworthy for the absence of many species previously recorded in the Ranges. Overall 45 bird species that have been recorded in the Ranges were not observed in the six years of this survey. Two out of the 45 are presumed extinct in the Gawler Ranges, as they have not been recorded for many years. They are the Night Parrot *Pezoporus occidentalis*, for which there are no authenticated records from South Australia this century (e.g. see Paton 1975), and the Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*, which has not been recorded in the Ranges since 1923 (Sutton 1924).

The majority of the species recorded from the Ranges but not observed in this survey (29 out of the 45) are waterbirds or birds associated with water, like the Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus* and the Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. Waterbirds, including waders, are generally recorded from dams or swamps in the Gawler Ranges, and often only in wet years. The absence of some waterbird species from this survey is partly a reflection of the generally dry conditions experienced from 1992 to 1996 and partly the lack of survey coverage of major dams and swamps, particularly in the eastern parts of the Ranges.

The remaining 14 species (of the 45) are terrestrial birds and are discussed below. Many of these species have seldom been recorded in the Gawler Ranges, indicating that they are rare in the area. In this category are the Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*, Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*, Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*, Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*, Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*, Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel* and the introduced Rock Dove *Columba livia*.

Most records of the White-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris affinis* are from the northern Gawler Ranges, an area that was not well covered by this survey, so its absence from our list is not surprising. The lack of records for three species gives cause for concern. These are the Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis textilis*, Rufous Fieldwren *Calamanthus campestris* and Redthroat *Pyrholaemus brunneus*. Several authors have suggested that these species have suffered reductions in their range this century and that the reason for this is degradation of their chenopod shrubland habitat through the combined effects of stock and rabbit grazing (Joseph and Black 1983; Robinson *et al.* 1988). The lack of a record of the Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* from this survey is surprising. While it has not been commonly recorded from the Gawler Ranges, there are several records from the 1970s and 1980s from Hiltaba and Paney, where considerable time was spent during this survey. If present in an area it is usually easy to locate because of its aerial habits and frequent calling. The last species not recorded in this survey, but observed previously, is the Little Raven *Corvus mellori*. This bird was reported on two occasions in the late 1970s and early 1980s (Joseph and Black 1983), as well as

in the mid-1980s (Robinson *et al.* 1988). While the common corvid in the Ranges appears to be the Australian Raven *C. coronoides*, the few records of the Little Raven and the Little Crow *C. bennetti* indicate that the situation may be complex. As suggested by Joseph and Black (1983), more work and specimen evidence are required to determine satisfactorily the distribution of corvids in the Gawler Ranges.

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APPENDIX 1

Gazetteer of localities not shown on Figure 1 but cited in the text.

Angle Vale Swamp	32°14'S, 136°27'E	Nardoo Bank Dam	32°12'S, 135°33'E
Barber Hill	32°12'S, 135°07'E	Narlaby Well	32°19'S, 135°12'E
Buckleboo Homestead	32°48'S, 136°02'E	Nonning Homestead	32°31'S, 136°29'E
Childara Outstation	31°37'S, 134°35'E	Old Paney Homestead	32°34'S, 135°24'E
Childara Rock Hole	31°36'S, 134°34'E	Old Pondanna Outstation	32°28'S, 135°28'E
Churchill Dam	31°42'S, 134°51'E	Paney Homestead	32°35'S, 135°26'E
Conical Hill	32°29'S, 135°24'E	Pheasant Hill	32°34'S, 135°02'E
Corraberia Station	32°27'S, 137°35'E	Pine Lodge	32°27'S, 135°21'E
Corunna Gorge (Corunna HS)	32°41'S, 137°07'E	Pine Well	32°21'S, 135°17'E
Dancing Bob Dam	32°17'S, 135°24'E	Pretty Point	32°11'S, 135°09'E
Donald Plain Reservoir	32°25'S, 135°26'E	Progress Dam	32°15'S, 135°15'E
Dunrossil Outstation	31°41'S, 136°26'E	Punkey Plain	32°16'S, 135°08'E
East Artaming Paddock	32°19'S, 135°36'E	Punkey Plain Dam	32°17'S, 135°08'E
Eureka Bluff	32°28'S, 135°30'E	Scrubby Peak	32°31'S, 135°19'E
Eurilla Hill	32°19'S, 135°06'E	Scrubby Peak Homestead	32°37'S, 135°11'E
Fly Camp	32°30'S, 136°27'E	Scrubby Peak Well	32°33'S, 135°17'E
Fresh Well	32°21'S, 135°18'E	Shearers' Quarters, Hiltaba	32°10'S, 135°05'E
Gardiners Well	32°12'S, 135°32'E	Siam Homestead	32°33'S, 136°43'E
Gardiners Yard	32°13'S, 135°31'E	Stone Dam	32°34'S, 135°21'E
Hiltaba Homestead	32°10'S, 135°04'E	Surprise Dam	32°15'S, 135°07'E
Kododo Hill	32°28'S, 135°21'E	Tank Paddock	32°15'S, 135°39'E
Lake Everard Homestead	31°44'S, 135°10'E	Three Peaks	32°21'S, 135°08'E
Locke Claypans	32°30'S, 135°06'E	Toondulya Bluff	32°07'S, 134°57'E
Mt Centre	32°23'S, 135°12'E	Wallaby Hill	31°59'S, 134°51'E
Mt Hiltaba	32°08'S, 135°03'E	Warners Bore	32°13'S, 135°08'E
Mt Friday	32°13'S, 135°09'E	Waroon Peak	32°15'S, 135°09'E
Mt Ive Homestead	32°26'S, 136°04'E	Waverley Dam	32°01'S, 134°57'E
Mt Pyramid	32°10'S, 135°03'E	Wirraminna South	31°25'S, 136°20'E
Mulga Dam	32°11'S, 135°33'E	Yandinga Gorge	32°32'S, 135°20'E
Mungo Tank	32°13'S, 135°16'E	Yandinga Wells	32°33'S, 135°20'E
		Yardea Homestead	32°23'S, 135°31'E
		Yarna Dam	32°03'S, 135°16'E

APPENDIX 2

The following takes the form of an annotated list of all bird species recorded by Baxter and Paton. Paton's records are from the period 4–7 November 1997, so all other records are those of Baxter, unless otherwise specified. For a commonly reported species, a generalised comment regarding status and distribution is given; for rarely reported species, all sightings are given, with locations and dates. Br = breeding record; N = eggs or chicks in the nest; and F = fledged young. Locations and dates of breeding records are given. * = introduced species.

- Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*. Moderately common and widespread. Br on Hiltaba, Yarna and Yardea Stations during 3/94, 4/94, 10/95, 2/96, and 10/97.
- Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*. 4 flushed from a grassy flat at Pine Well, Hiltaba on 19/8/93; 4+ on Paney Station on 4/11/97; 1 near Progress Dam, Hiltaba, 3/12/97; 1 on Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*. 2 adult males on flooded Churchill Dam, Yarna on 26/1/97.
- Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*. 12 on a dam, Paney Station on 19/8/93; a pair on Churchill Dam, Yarna on 22/9/95 and 26/1/97; 1, 1 km SE Yandinga Wells, Scrubby Peak Station, 5/11/97; 30 on Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea Station on 7/11/97; a pair on Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97.
- *Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* x *superciliosus*. 1 Mallard-Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosus* hybrid on Churchill Dam, Yarna on 24/2/95. The bird had a blue speculum, pale orange legs and when pushed into flight, it flew laboriously and reluctantly around in tight circles over the dam before landing on the water again.
- Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*. 5 on Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 20/4/94; 2 on Waverley Dam, Kondoolka on 2/7/94; 6 on flooded Churchill Dam, Yarna on 26/1/97; 2 on Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea Station on 7/11/97; 5 on Progress Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97; 42 on Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97.
- Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. 2 on Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 20/4/94.
- Hardhead *Aythya australis*. 2 on Waverley Dam, Kondoolka on 2/7/94; 7 on Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97.
- Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*. Br-N, a pair in breeding plumage with 2 chicks on Progress Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97. Also on 3/12/97, two pairs in breeding plumage on Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba. One pair was on the catch hole, the other was on the main dam. The latter pair had a half-grown chick and a nest with eggs, presumably their second clutch.
- Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliiocephalus*. 2 on Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea on 7/11/97.
- White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*. 1 feeding in shallows of flooded Churchill Dam, Yarna on 26/1/97; 1 on Yardea Station on 6–7/11/97.
- Egret *Ardea* sp. A small squat white egret with a yellow bill flew about Lake Everard Station Homestead before landing on the lawn on 11/6/95. It was observed by manager Michael Symons for a brief time before a storm bringing wind and rain came through. Although the identity is not confirmed, the bird was believed to be a *Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* (M. Symons pers. comm.).
- Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*. 1 adult gliding low over a grassy flat at Pine Well turn-off (to Kododo Hill and Pine Lodge) on 27/10/97; one adult gliding over a grassy flat, 3 km SE Pondanna Outstation, Paney on 5/11/97.
- Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*. 1 adult female hunting in tall mallee woodland near Kododo Hill, Paney on 19/8/93; 1 adult female flushed from ground amongst broombush *Melaleuca uncinata* and triodia *Triodia* sp. on a rocky hillside several km SE of Mt Friday, Hiltaba on 22/9/95; an adult male flying low over tall mallee woodland S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba on 27/10/95.
- Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. Moderately common; recorded from Hiltaba and Scrubby Peak Stations during the months of Feb., April, Aug., Oct. and Dec.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*. Widespread and breeding throughout the region. One or two are generally seen perched or soaring high over rocky hills, open chenopod shrubland and grassy plains. Observation localities include: Scrubby Peak, Mount Centre, Pine Lodge and Yandinga Gorge, Scrubby Peak Station; Eureka Bluff and Kododo Hill on Paney Station; Mt Friday, Mt Hiltaba, Punkey Plain Dam and Waroona Peak, Hiltaba Station; and Wallaby Hill and Toondulya Bluff on Kondoolka. Largest gathering was of 15 feeding together on kangaroo carcasses (roo shooters' dump) on 24/2/96.
- Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides*. 1 soaring high over Punkey Plain, Hiltaba on 27/10/95.
- Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*. Occasional sightings of mostly single birds, generally throughout open and lightly wooded plains.
- Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*. A pair perched in a mallee tree on the edge of a grassy plain near Stone Dam, Paney on 20/8/93; a pair perched in a tall mallee at Pretty Point, Hiltaba on 22/2/95; 1 feeding on a freshly caught White-fronted Chat *Ephthianura albifrons* near the shearers' quarters, Hiltaba on 11/6/95; 1 on a western myall *Acacia papyrocarpa* next to the main road on the eastern boundary of Yardea on 26/10/95.
- Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. Pairs occur in a variety of rocky hills throughout the far western Gawler Ranges. Most observations are from Hiltaba Station because the vast majority of time was spent on this station. Records come from Waroona Peak, Barber Hill and Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba and Mt Centre, Scrubby Peak Station. The only observation away from rocky hills was of an adult female gliding low through open bullock bush *Alectryon oleifolium* and acacia *Acacia* sp. woodland about 15 km S of Kondoolka Homestead on 2/7/94.
- Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*. Moderately common and widespread. Noted on all visits throughout rocky hills and open grassland and chenopod plains. Breeds on cliff faces, in hollows and in tree nests of other

APPENDIX 2 continued

- species. Br-N, Narlaby Well, Mungo Tank, Pretty Point, Aug. '93, Sep. '95 & Dec. '97. Br-F, Barber Hill, Dec. '97.
- Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*. 6, 1 km SE Yandinga Wells, Scrubby Peak on 5/11/97; 50 near Donald Plain Reservoir, Yardea on 6/11/97; 100 on Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea on 7/11/97; 7 on edge of Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97.
- Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*. 1 in tall spear grass *Stipa* sp. c. 4 km SW of Yardea Homestead, 14/11/92 (R. Henderson pers. comm.). Also, regular sightings of a flock of 5 on Mahanew Station throughout June 1993 (P. Manning pers. comm.).
- Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*. 1 at Old Paney Homestead, Paney Station on 4/11/97.
- Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*. 3 flushed from stunted mallee and broombush cover on upper SE slope of Yandinga Gorge, Scrubby Peak Station on 27/10/97.
- Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. 1 resting on edge of a small flooded borrow-pit on the main Yardea-Hiltaba road, c. 6 km NW of Progress Dam, Hiltaba, on 3/12/97.
- Inland Dotterel *Charadrius australis*. 4 next to Kingoonya road, 3 km NE of Lake Everard Homestead on 11/6/95.
- Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*. Mainly groups of 1-4, but one group of 10, usually seen on roadsides or on open plains, on Yardea, Hiltaba and Nonning, in most years. Br-N?&F, suspected nesting near Warner's Bore, Hiltaba in Sep. '95, and an immature bird with 2 adults E of Yardea Homestead on 28/10/95.
- Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*. 5 on grassy surrounds of Dancing Bob Dam, Yardea on 3/7/94; 1 on grassy flat several km SW of Yardea Homestead on 27/10/97; 1 at Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 3/12/97.
- Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*. Moderately common and widespread throughout mallee and acacia habitat. Observed on Hiltaba, Scrubby Peak, Kondoolka, Yardea, Paney, Buckleboo, Mt Ive and other stations through to Carrierloo in the east. Several sightings of birds feeding under umbrella wattle *Acacia oswaldii*. Generally only one or two seen, but larger numbers congregate to drink at dusk (e.g. 8 drinking from a puddle at Hiltaba shearers' quarters during drought on 23/2/96).
- Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*. Moderately common and widespread, mainly in open grassland and chenopod shrubland with scattered trees. Generally in flocks of less than 10, but the largest flock seen was 24 in bullock bush-chenopod shrubland on Kondoolka on 1/7/94. Br-N, adult on nest in bullock bush, Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, Dec. '97.
- Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*. 3 small doves were flushed from grassy understorey in mallee association on the E side of Mt Friday, Hiltaba on 12/11/92. They flew quickly away, hence the species' identity was not confirmed. However, a Diamond Dove was heard calling at the same locality on 22/9/95 (R. Henderson pers. comm.).
- Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*. Common and widespread; mainly seen feeding on chenopod and grassy plains. Largest flocks noted include 30 on flats at Warner's Bore, Hiltaba on 20/8/93, 50 at Hiltaba Homestead on 2/3/94 and 60+ feeding on open plain near Progress Dam, Yardea on 2/7/94. Up to 10 noted feeding on the unripe seeds of Beckler's rock wattle *Acacia beckleri* on a steep slope of Scrubby Peak, 5/11/97. Br-N, widespread, Aug.-Dec. of most years. Br-F, Dec.-Jan.
- Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*. A small population of about 20 has been observed at Nonning Homestead over the past 5 years. Numbers may be decreasing as fewer were observed during 1997 and the latest observation was of only 6 feeding on a grassy verge near Nonning Homestead on 28/10/97.
- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri*. Due to the significance of this species, which is rated as vulnerable at the State level (Garnett 1992), all sightings are listed here for the period 1993-1997. Br, several observations of breeding in hollows of large bull mallee *Eucalyptus* sp. on Scrubby Peak, Yarna and Hiltaba during the late 1980s and early 1990s. 1993: 10 feeding in native pines *Callitris* sp. 1 km SW of Pine Well, Paney on 19/8/93; several sightings of 2-3 perched in trees on lightly wooded chenopod plains, Hiltaba on 21/8/93; flock of 18 roosting in mallees near the shearing shed at Kondoolka on 21/8/93. 1994: 2 at Hiltaba southern entrance grid on 1/3/94; 22 feeding on paddy melon *Cucumis* sp. seeds with Galahs on chenopod plain near Warner's Bore, Hiltaba on 2/3/94; 5 flying low over, and later perched in, black oak *Casuarina pauper* at Punkey Plain, Hiltaba on 2/3/94; 2 perched in mallee 3 km N of Hiltaba Homestead on 1/7/94. 1995: 12 feeding in native pines on Yardea on 22/2/95; 6 drinking at Warner's Bore, Hiltaba on 24/2/95; 8 flushed out of dry Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 4/5/95; 2 feeding on paddy melon seeds near Barber Hill, Hiltaba on 11/6/95; 3 on flats at Progress Dam, Hiltaba on 22/9/95; 27 perched on trees and low bushes on northern slopes of Waroona peak, Hiltaba on 23-24/9/95; 6 flushed from mallee in gully between Mt Friday and Warner's Bore, Hiltaba on 27/10/95; several heard in tall mallee S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba on 28/10/95. 1996: 4 perched in mallee near Warner's Bore, Hiltaba on 22/2/96; 6 feeding on umbrella wattle seeds and discarding empty pods from foot to ground, alongside mail track, Yardea on 10/7/96. 1997: 12 feeding with galahs on dried seed heads of saffron thistles *Carthamus* sp. in dry drainage channel S of Mt Pyramid, Hiltaba on 25/1/97; 4 perched in black oaks at base of Mt Pyramid on 25/1/97; 10 feeding in dry grassland and perched in mallee alongside the main road, c. 12 km SW of Yardea Homestead, Paney on 28/10/97.
- Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*. Several observed coming to drink at Lake Everard Homestead during an extremely dry period in Jan.-Feb. '96 (M. Symons pers. comm.). All other records are from Oct. and Nov. '97 when there was exceptional grass and ephemeral growth and seed set following heavy rainfall during late winter-early spring: 1 female in a mallee, c. 12 km SW Yardea Homestead, Paney on 28/10/97, flock of 12 flying over road, 3 km SW Yardea Homestead, Yardea on 28/10/97; 2 on Paney on 4/11/97; 1, 2 km ENE Conical Hill, Paney on 5/11/97.
- Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*. Several heard calling in flight over mallee on Scrubby Peak and NE to Pine Lodge, Scrubby Peak on

APPENDIX 2 *continued*

- 18–19/8/93, when a yellow-flowering mallee *Eucalyptus* sp. was in bloom; 3 flushed from flowering mallee 4 km W of Mungo Tank, Hiltaba, on 21/4/94; 7 flying overhead in sandhill mallee-triodia habitat c. 20 km SW of Childara Rock Hole, Lake Everard Station on 17/6/94; 6 in tall mallee on southern boundary of Yardea on 4/5/95; 2, 6, and 2 flushed from flowering mallee in dune country W of Mt Centre, Scrubby Peak on 6/5/95; a pair frequenting a hollow in a tall mallee, W of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba on 23/9/95; 6 over tall mallee S of Surprise Dam on 27/10/95; 3 in flowering mallee along old dog fence near Fresh Well, Hiltaba on 9/7/96; 1 in mallee S of Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba on 9/7/97. Br-N?, a pair were frequenting a hollow in a tall mallee W of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 23/9/95.
- Australian Ringneck *Barnadius zonarius*. Quite common and widespread; favours eucalypt associations where it has been noted feeding on *Eucalyptus* spp. fruits and the seeds of cassias *Senna* spp. and nesting in mallee hollows, Aug.–Dec. Ventures into acacia–bullock bush–false sandalwood *Myoporum platycarpum*–chenopod associations at times where ringnecks sometimes feed on the seeds of clover burr *Medicago* sp. More conspicuous than usual along the mail track between Yardea and Hiltaba Homesteads on 16/6/94, when several flocks of 10 or more were flushed from roadside flats. Br-N&F, Pretty Point, Mungo Tank, Narlaby Well, S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba and near Scrubby Peak, Aug. '93, Oct. '94, Sep.–Oct. '95 & Oct.–Dec. '97.
- Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster*. A group of 2 and a single bird in western myall woodland along mail track near Siam Homestead on 18/8/93; 3, 4, 3 & 5 (15) in mulga *Acacia aneura* sandhill country, Wirraminna South and northern Mahanewo, 19/6/94; 2 drinking from leaking pipe at shearers' quarters, Hiltaba on 24/2/95; 1 perched in dead tree along main road on W boundary of Nonning on 24/9/95; 2–4 observed coming into water regularly at Lake Everard Homestead in Jan.–Feb. '96 during an extremely dry period in the Lake Everard–Hiltaba locality and small numbers coming to drink at Lake Everard's Childara Outstation at the same time (M. Symons pers comm.); a pair flushed from trackside in western myall woodland near Yardea woolshed on 9/7/96.
- Mulga Parrot *Psephotus varius*. Moderately common and widespread. As with the Australian Ringneck, very evident along the main road between Yardea and Hiltaba Homesteads on 16/6/94, with several flocks of 6–10 seen. The largest concentration seen was 20 drinking at a puddle near the shearers' quarters at Hiltaba on 22/2/96, during very hot weather towards the end of summer. Br-F, 3 recently fledged juveniles in black oak and mallee on W side of Mt Hiltaba, 23/9/95, and a flock of 9 birds including an adult male feeding a recently fledged juvenile on a grassy *Sclerolaena* spp. covered flat in tall mallee S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 27/10/95.
- Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*. Only one record pre-1997: 3 feeding amongst and over rock slabs at the summit of Waroona Peak, Hiltaba on 27/10/95. Following heavy late winter–early spring rains in 1997 flocks of up to 25 were seen at various locations on Scrubby Peak and Hiltaba Stations and between Nonning and Yardea in Oct., Nov. and Dec. '97. However 100s of Budgerigars were seen on N Yardea between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam and in Tank Paddock on 6–7/11/97.
- Bourke's Parrot *Neophema bourkii*. 3 flushed by vehicle and flew to perch in a dead mulga in sandhill–mulga country on N boundary of Mahanewo, 19/6/94. Also at this time, Paul Manning (manager pers. comm.) said he generally sees '20–30 Bourke's Parrots each year' and that a pair bred (Br-N) in a 5 m high near-vertical mulga spout for three consecutive years near Dunrossil Outstation on Mahanewo. The hollow, with 5 eggs in it, blew down in the third year.
- Elegant Parrot *Neophema elegans*. 2 in open mallee woodland on E side of Scrubby Peak, Scrubby Peak Station on 19/8/93; 2 in mallee–acacia on the edge of an open flat near ruins at Pine Lodge, Scrubby Peak Station on 1/7/94.
- Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida*. Only one observation of this nationally rare species (Garnett 1992). A lone adult female was flushed from under a roadside bullock bush near the N boundary of Yardea (with Moonaree) in Oct. '92. The bird flew to a mallee some 20 m away where the observer was able to view it clearly (R. Henderson pers. comm.).
- Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*. 1 flying along dog fence track in sandhill mallee–triodia, on the W boundary of Lake Everard Station, 17/6/94; 2 separate individuals in vicinity of Mungo Tank and W to the main road, Hiltaba, 22–24/9/95; 1 flying low over open grassland W of Yardea Homestead, 24/9/95 and again on 28/10/97; 1 at Gardiners Yard, Yardea, 6/11/97; heard, between Gardiners Yard and Mulga Dam, 6–7/11/97; heard, Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea Station, 7/11/97; 2 in myall woodland in East Artaming Paddock, Yardea, 7/11/97.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*. 1 heard from mallee-covered slopes of Scrubby Peak, Scrubby Peak Station, 19/8/93.
- Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*. 1 heard from gorge at Eureka Bluff, Paney, 19/8/93; 1 heard from dense grove of black oak, NW of Barber Hill, Hiltaba, 21/9/95; 1 heard near Narlaby Well, Hiltaba, 23/9/95; 1 heard in tall mallee S of Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba, 25/2/97; 1 heard from mallee-covered gorge at Yandinga Wells, Scrubby Peak Station, 27–28/10/97; 1 heard, 2.6 km N of Scrubby Peak Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 4–5/11/97; 1 heard from mallee-covered gorge at Yandinga Wells, Scrubby Peak Station, 5/11/97; 1 heard between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, Yardea Station, 6–7/11/97; 1 heard, Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea, 7/11/97.
- Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*. One heard calling from camp each night in tall mallee along the old telegraph line, S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 5–8 May '95.
- Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*. 1 flushed from tall mallee on S side of Mt Friday, Hiltaba, 19/4/94; 1 perched in stunted mallee on E side of Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba, 19/4/94; 1 heard in mallee S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 6/5/95; 1 roosting in mallee near Hiltaba Homestead, 11/6/95; 2 spotlighted flying over grassy flat near Pretty Point and another the same evening along road SE of Mt Friday,

APPENDIX 2 *continued*

- Hiltaba, 21/2/96; 1 spotlighted along road in dense black oak grove 2 km W of shearers' quarters, Hiltaba, 22/2/96; 1 heard, 2.6 km N of Scrubby Peak Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 4-5/11/97.
- Australian Owllet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*. 1 or more heard from tall mallee with an open grassy understorey at Kododo Hill, Paney, 19/8/93; 2 heard from black oak-bullock bush woodland with mallee nearby on the N side of Waroona Peak, Hiltaba, 1-4/3/94 & 18-21/4/94; 1 flushed from mallee on rocky foothills on E side of Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba, 4/3/94; 1 heard in mallee at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 23/2/94; heard quite frequently in tall mallee woodland S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 5-6/5/95 & 26-27/10/95; heard calling several times during night at Yandinga Gorge, Scrubby Peak Station, 2/12/97; heard, 2.6 km N of Scrubby Peak Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 4-5/11/97.
- Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrophygia*. 1 calling repeatedly from tall mallee woodland near Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 26 & 28/10/95; 1 in black oak-chenopod shrubland on the W side of Barber Hill, Hiltaba, 3/12/97; 1 on Paney Station, 4/11/97.
- Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*. Appears to be a spring-summer visitor with small numbers being present at this time. Seen and/or heard on Hiltaba, Kondoolka, Scrubby Peak, Paney and northern Yardea.
- Rufous Treecreeper *Climacteris rufa*. Common and widespread in mallee associations; Br-N&F: a pair with a recently fledged young near Eureka Bluff, Paney, 19/8/93, a pair nesting in the spout of a dead mallee at Kododo Hill, Paney, 28/10/94; and a pair feeding a recently fledged young on the ground in tall mallee woodland, S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 26/10/95.
- Splendid Fairy-wren *Malurus splendens callainus*. Quite common and widespread, mostly occurring in tall mallee, mallee-black oak-bullock bush and black oak-chenopod associations with occasional sightings of birds several hundred metres away from wooded areas in treeless chenopod shrubland. Also observed in shrubland of cassias, native boxthorn *Lycium australe*, *Rhagodia* sp., spear grass *Stipa* sp. and pearl bluebush *Maireana sedifolia* on flats between rocky hills. Br-N, adults carrying food to a well-concealed nest in a clump of *Rhagodia* sp. bushes at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*. Moderately common and widespread in any area where there is a shrub layer, e.g. under mallee, acacias, black oak and bullock bush and even in chenopod shrubland some distance from wooded areas. Br-N?, vocal, agitated behaviour of adults suggested breeding in dwarf mallee-broombush association on S slopes of Mt Friday, Hiltaba, 27/10/95.
- White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus*. Quite common and widespread in all chenopod shrubland areas. Typically occurs on open plains, but also in bluebush *Maireana* spp. associations beneath a woodland overstorey. Br-F, a family party with at least 1 juvenile on chenopod-covered Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, 28/10/94.
- Striated Grasswren *Amytornis striatus*. 1 clearly seen as close as 4 m in triodia at the top of the range on Mt Friday, Hiltaba Station, 6/11/97. The bird was singing and was observed for 5 minutes, during which time it perched on bare rock and also at the base of small shrubs.
- Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygus*. Heard calling several times in dwarf mallee on slopes of gorge at Yandinga Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 27/10/97.
- Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*. Common, widespread and breeding throughout all mallee areas visited in the W Gawler Ranges. Br-N, noted in small hollows and spouts of mallee in woodland on Hiltaba, Kondoolka, Scrubby Peak and Yarna Stations, Sep.-Dec. of most years.
- Shy Heathwren *Hylacola cauta*. A pair singing and later seen foraging on ground beneath mallee in a small gorge at Stone Dam, Paney, 1/7/94. Br-F, an adult pair with a recently fledged juvenile in low mallee (regenerating after fire) S of Pheasant Hill, Gawler Ranges Conservation Reserve, 26/8/93.
- Weebill *Smicromis brevirostris*. Common, widespread and breeding in mallee associations throughout the region. Br-N, Pretty Point and near Mt Centre, Sep. '95 & Dec. '97.
- Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*. Moderately common and widespread, particularly in understorey of mallee on flats and rocky hills.
- Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza uropygialis*. Common and widespread in mallee, black oak and bullock bush associations on flats, dunes and rocky hills. It has an affinity for black oak stands and can often be heard and/or seen foraging in this habitat. Br-N, in black oak and acacia, Kondoolka and Hiltaba Stations, Aug. '93 & Dec. '97.
- Slender-billed Thornbill *Acanthiza iredalei*. Moderately common in bluebush associations on chenopod plain W of Barber Hill, Mt Friday and Waroona Peak, Hiltaba. This area was in good condition, with healthy pearl bluebush, some blackbush *Maireana pyramidata*, *Rhagodia* sp., ruby saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*, and native boxthorn with occasional spear grass. Generally several small parties of up to 8 were observed and were often first located by call. Seen in this area between May '95 and Dec. '97. Although possibly quite widespread in suitable habitat in the Gawler Ranges, we have not observed it in other locations.
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*. Moderately common and widespread in a variety of habitats. Generally seen in flocks of 2-10. Br-N, in open mallee associations at Pretty Point and near Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba Station and near Kododo Hill, Paney, Aug. '93, Jun. '94 & Dec. '97.
- Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*. Common and widespread, most often in chenopod shrubland, but also in wooded areas with open understorey. The largest flock recorded was of 40 feeding in open chenopod shrubland N of Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 20/4/94. Br-N&F, Aug.-Dec. '93, '94 & '97.
- Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*. Common and widespread throughout the mallee areas of the western Gawler Ranges. The largest number recorded was at least 8 birds in tall mallee woodland at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 20/4/94. Common in the Gawler Ranges Conservation

APPENDIX 2 *continued*

- Reserve in March '95. Br-F, Pretty Point, Dec. '97.
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*. Common and widespread in all wooded areas and adjacent chenopod shrubland. Favours mallee woodland and acacia associations with stands of black oak and bullock bush with flowering and fruiting mistletoe, which is an important food source (pers. obs.). Br-N&F, bird flushed from a nest in a grey mistletoe *Amyema quandang* in a western myall tree, Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, 11/7/96 and immatures noted Aug. '93, Oct. '95, Jul. '96 & Dec. '97.
- Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula*. Moderately common and widespread, favouring mallee associations, particularly taller formations along watercourses and on more fertile plains. However, it can also be found in stunted mallee on rocky hills, in sandhill mallee-triodia associations and in black oak, bullock bush and acacia woodlands scattered through open chenopod plains. Br-F, Hiltaba and Scrubby Peak Stations, Oct. '95 & Dec. '97.
- Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*. Moderately common and widespread, particularly in acacia, black oak and bullock bush woodland amongst chenopod plains. Observations also come from stunted mallee on the summits of rocky hills (e.g. Waroona Peak, Hiltaba). Noted as locally quite common with the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, feeding on the ripe fruits of a *Rhagodia* sp. and mistletoe in a bullock bush-chenopod association near Waroona Peak, 1-3/3/94. Br-F, juvenile in bullock bushes near Waroona Peak, Hiltaba, March '94.
- White-eared Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus leucotis*. Moderately common and widespread in mallee throughout the region. Quite frequently noted in mallee on Scrubby Peak, Paney, Yardea, Hiltaba, Kondoolka, Lake Everard and Buckleboo Stations 1993-97. Sightings from little-visited areas include: the Gawler Ranges Conservation Reserve, 9/3/95; tall mallee woodland along the old dog fence on the W boundary of Hiltaba; and throughout the vast sandhill mallee of Scrubby Peak Station (e.g. Mt Centre, Three Peaks and S towards Locke Claypans) during '96 and '97. Br-F, an adult feeding a dependent juvenile at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 23/2/95.
- Yellow-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus ornatus*. Numbers fluctuate but generally present in mallee associations. At times this species can be locally common (and breeding), e.g. 7 in sandhill mallee-triodia association 5 km W of Narlaby Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 28/10/94; 10+ in tall flowering mallee at Pretty Point, 23/2/95; and 6+ foraging for insects at the same location, 28/10/95. Br-N&F, 5 adults and a recently fledged juvenile in flowering mallee at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 23/2/95; common and breeding (carrying food to nest and several immatures present) in tall mallee S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 27/10/95.
- Grey-fronted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus plumulus*. Numbers fluctuate but generally present in stunted mallee on rocky hills. Can be quite common at times: e.g. 5+ in stunted mallee on N side of Waroona Peak, Hiltaba, 1/3/94; 5 in stunted mallee on Barber Hill and Mt Friday, 19/4/94; and plentiful and quite vocal in mallee on Hiltaba and Scrubby Peak, 9/7/96. Br-N&F, recently fledged juveniles and a nest with 3 eggs on N slopes of Waroona Peak, 3/7/94; also quite common and chasing each other about in flocks of up to 6 over mallee-covered hills of Hiltaba, 12/6/95. At this time this species was defending territories against other birds including Singing Honeyeaters. This breeding behaviour was possibly triggered by recent rainfall.
- Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris*. Moderately common and widespread throughout all mallee areas visited, including Scrubby Peak, Hiltaba and Paney Stations. Observed in flocks up to 10 birds in all years 1993-97 from both stunted and tall mallee associations.
- White-fronted Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris albigrons*. Numbers fluctuate but met with on most visits. At locations where nectar is abundant this species' presence and loud calling make it very conspicuous. Nectar sources exploited include *Eremophila* spp. (including narrow-leaved fuchsia-bush *E. alternifolia*), comb grevillea *Grevillea huegelii* and a yellow-flowering eucalypt, possibly *Eucalyptus socialis*. Recorded from Hiltaba, Kondoolka, Scrubby Peak, Lake Everard, Yardea and Paney Stations, with the biggest group being 30+ moving W through low shrubs and pasture along a dirt road W of the Gawler Ranges Conservation Reserve, 8/3/95.
- Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris melanops*. Uncommon and generally found in small numbers on exposed summits and slopes of rocky hills where stunted mallee, shrubs and triodia provide suitable habitat. Observations from Hiltaba Station come from 1994-95 and include Barber Hill, Mt Friday, Eurilla Hill, Waroona Peak and NW of Progress Dam. Also recorded from the summit of Scrubby Peak, 19/8/93 and from the summit above Yandinga Gorge, Scrubby Peak Station, 26 & 27/10/97.
- Black Honeyeater** *Certhionyx niger*. Only one observation of this highly nomadic species: 3+, all male birds, in an area of shrubland including flowering narrow-leaved fuchsia-bush between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, Yardea Station, 7/11/97. Also recorded by other observers at the same time from the Gawler Ranges: 1 male bird, 9/11/97, Mt Ive Station (Rogers *et al.* 1997).
- Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*. Only one record of this highly nomadic species: 2 male birds in an area of shrubland including flowering narrow-leaved fuchsia-bush between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, Yardea Station, 7/11/97. Also recorded by other observers at the same time from the Gawler Ranges (Cox *et al.* 1997): 6+, 8/11/97, Siam Station; 20+, 9/11/97, Mt Ive Station.
- Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor*. Only recorded during two periods of our observation time: Sep.-Oct. '95 and Oct.-Dec. '97. Small flocks of up to 5 birds were seen quite frequently along the main road between Corunna and Hiltaba, 21 & 24/9/95 and on 26/10/95. Three pairs were flushed from chenopods near Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 27/10/95. Moderately common in small flocks along main roads between Corunna and Hiltaba, and Yardea and Paney, 26 & 27/10/97. Many in chenopod shrubland on N and E Yardea Station 6-7/11/97. Small flocks again present along the main road between Corunna and Hiltaba, 2/12/97 and about 30 foraging in chenopods on Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, 3/12/97. Br-N, between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, Yardea, 7/11/97.

APPENDIX 2 *continued*

- Orange Chat *Epthianura aurifrons*. 1 male in a chenopod with White-fronted Chats *E. albifrons*, on W side of Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba, 21/9/95 and small numbers with Crimson Chats along main road to Yardea and on to Scrubby Peak from Corunna, 27/10/97.
- White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*. 3 along main road between Corunna and Hiltaba, 18/8/93; a pair near Yardea Homestead, 22/2/95; 2 pairs in chenopod shrubland NW of Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 5-7/5/95; 10 in chenopod shrubland N of Hiltaba Homestead, 11/6/95; several in chenopod and grassland on W side of Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba, 21-23/9/95; 15 on grassy plain 5 km W of Yardea Homestead, 26/10/97; 4, Gardiners Yard, Yardea, 6/11/97; moderately common, in flocks of up to 12, foraging in chenopod shrubland on Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians*. Moderately common and widespread in taller mallee associations and in black oak groves. Generally seen in pairs or family parties, with scattered sightings from Paney, Scrubby Peak, Yardea, Hiltaba, Kondoolka and Buckleboo Stations 1993-97. Br-F, adult feeding recently-fledged young on low branch of bullock bush in mallee association at Pretty Point, 3/12/97.
- Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*. Moderately common and widespread. Usually seen in open areas of mallee, acacia, black oak and bullock bush woodland, but occasionally recorded from open chenopod plains some distance from trees. Noted as locally common in extensive stand of dense black oak, W and NW of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 23/9/95. Br-N&F, at this locality, 3 eggs in a lichen-covered nest, well-camouflaged on the horizontal branch of a black oak, and a pair with 2 recently-fledged young.
- Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*. A pair in black oak and mallee 1 km S of Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba, 5/5/95; a pair in black oaks near Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 7/5/95; 4, comprising 2 males and 2 females, foraging in pearl bluebush shrubland on W side of Waroona Peak, Hiltaba, 7/5/95; 2 males and 1 female perched on bushes in chenopod shrubland, N of Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba, 25/1/97. Br-F, an adult female feeding small fruits (either from ruby saltbush or native boxthorn) to a recently fledged juvenile, in pearl bluebush shrubland on the S side of Mt Pyramid, Hiltaba, 28/10/94.
- Western Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria griseogularis*. Only observed in the mallee associations of the SW Gawler Ranges: 1 foraging in a moss and lichen-covered rocky area, beneath mature native pines in an otherwise predominantly mallee woodland, on damp south-facing slope at Stone Dam, Paney, 1/7/94; a pair foraging in tall mallee NE of Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 22/2/95; a pair in open mallee woodland near Pretty Point, 23/2/95; 1 in mallee, acacia and dryland tea-tree woodland in sandhill country S of Mt Centre, Scrubby Peak Station, 6/5/95; 1 foraging under 15 m high open mallee in extensive eucalypt belt NE of Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 28/10/95.
- Southern Scrub-robin *Drymodes brunneopygia*. 1 calling several times in mallee on W side of Scrubby Peak, Scrubby Peak Station, 19/8/93; 1 heard several times from mallee-broombush covered slopes of Yandinga Gorge, Scrubby Peak Station, 26/10/95.
- White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*. Common and widespread throughout most habitats. Br-N&F, observations on Hiltaba of adults carrying food to nestlings and several family parties with recently fledged juveniles, Aug.-Dec. 1993-97.
- Chestnut Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma castanotus*. A pair in sandhill mallee-triodia along the dog fence, c. 20 km SW of Childara Rock Hole, Lake Everard Station, 17/6/94.
- Cinnamon Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*. One crossing main road in acacia-chenopod woodland on Mt Ive Station, 18/8/93.
- Varied Sitella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*. 3 feeding in upper branches of tall mallee on W side of Kododo Hill, Paney, 30/6/94; 6 foraging over bullock bushes, mallee and lichen-covered black oaks S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 5/5/95; 1 in black oak in gully between Waroona Peak and Mt Friday, Hiltaba, 27/10/95; a male foraging in upper branches of black oak 2 km SE of Waroona Peak, Hiltaba, 3/12/97; 1 in black oak 1 km NE of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*. Moderately common and widespread. Recorded from mallee on foothills of Scrubby Peak, Scrubby Peak Station, 19/8/93 and 4-5/11/97; heard and seen infrequently in vast sandhill mallee and triodia country of central and northern Scrubby Peak Station, 1993-97; about 10 observations of either single or paired birds in mallee and black oak woodland (and adjoining chenopod shrubland) throughout Hiltaba and parts of Kondoolka Stations, mostly during 1995-97; 1 record from western myall-false sandalwood woodland over chenopods on northern Yardea, 7/11/97.
- Gilbert's Whistler *Pachycephala inornata*. A pair in tall mallee and black oak woodland with a few scattered native cherry *Exocarpos* sp. and an understorey of acacias, cassias, bluebush and scotia bush *Eremophila scoparia*, 3 km S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 10/7/96. The male called quite frequently with a beautiful loud resonating 'yup yup yup yup...' or 'chup chup chup chup...', and was followed by the female as they foraged.
- Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*. A pair, the male singing vigorously, flying and feeding from tree to tree in tall open mallee woodland, on the W side of Kododo Hill, Paney, 30/6/94.
- Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*. Moderately common and widespread, with most sightings during spring in a variety of habitats including mallee, acacia scrubs and black oak. Recorded from Scrubby Peak, Paney, Hiltaba, Yardea, Lake Everard and Kondoolka Stations. Br-F, S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 28/10/95.
- Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*. Moderately common and widespread in mallee, black oak and western myall woodlands. Recorded 1993-97 from Scrubby Peak, Paney, Hiltaba, Kondoolka and Yardea Stations. Several individuals noted with distinct apricot coloured vents, typical of the race *rufiventris*. Br-N&F: adults collecting sheep's wool from ground to line a well-constructed nest in a broken-off trunk of a black oak, near Hiltaba shearing shed, 28/10/94; and a recently fledged immature in mallee at Pretty Point, 27/10/95.

APPENDIX 2 *continued*

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*. 1 feeding over chenopod plain on the E side of Barber Hill, Hiltaba, 19/4/94; 1 foraging in tall open mallee at Mungo Tank, Hiltaba, 5/5/95; 1 at Mungo Tank, 28/10/95; 1 drinking from puddle at shearers' quarters, Hiltaba, 23/2/9; 1 in tall open mallee S of Punkey Plain Dam, Hiltaba, 25/1/97; a pair in open mallee and pasture at flooded Churchill Dam, Yarna, 26/1/97; 1 male in tall open mallee along Matera Well track, Paney, 5/11/97.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*. Few sightings of this species, which could reflect the fact that Hiltaba and the surrounding area experienced drought conditions throughout 1994 and some dams were empty for much of the observation period. 1 just W of Yardea Homestead, 4/3/94; 1 at shearers' quarters, Hiltaba, 28/10/94; a pair at the same place, 5/5/95; a pair at Progress Dam, Hiltaba, 27/10/95; a pair at flooded Churchill Dam, Yarna, 25/1/97.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*. Moderately common and widespread in more open areas, 1993–97. Br-N, a recently deserted nest on piping frame in shearing shed, Hiltaba, 2/12/97.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*. Moderately common and widespread. Recorded 1993–97 from most stations along mail road from Corunna through Mt Ive and on to Yardea, Paney, Scrubby Peak, Hiltaba, Kondoolka and Lake Everard Stations. Br-N, a bird flushed from a nest on horizontal branch of a tall mallee, W of Mungo Tank, Hiltaba, 25/1/97. Several observations of adults with immatures during summer months.

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*. 1 flushed from side of track on a chenopod plain S of Fly Camp, Nonning, 16/6/94; 1 crossing main road near Nonning Homestead, 22/2/95. Br-F, 1 recently-fledged juvenile at a water point, 15 km N of Hiltaba Homestead, Yarna Station, 27/10/95.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*. A spring–summer visitor to the area: a pair in breeding plumage in open mallee woodland, chenopod and grassland near Mungo Tank, Hiltaba, 22/9/95; 1 male in breeding plumage feeding with Dusky Woodswallows *Artamus cyaneus* in chenopod shrubland near Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 23/9/95; 3 separate observations of males in breeding plumage foraging in a mosaic of woodland, chenopod and grassland habitat along main road between Yardea and Pine Well turn-off, 27–28/10/97; 2 male birds, 1 km SE of Yandinga Wells, Scrubby Peak Station, 5/11/97; 1 male, Matera Well track, Paney Station, 5/11/97; 5+ in western myall woodland and acacia–eremophila–cassia shrubland between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, northern Yardea Station, 6–7/11/97; 1 in western myall woodland, East Artaming Paddock, Yardea Station, 7/11/97.

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*. Only recorded in two periods of the observation time: Oct. '95 and Oct.–Nov. '97. A flock of about 50 was noted hawking insects and calling as they moved to the east on an approaching westerly change near Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 27/10/95. Flocks of up to 50 or more were common throughout the Ranges on 27 & 28/10/97. Flocks of up to 20 were noted on Scrubby Peak and Yardea

Stations, 4–6/11/97, but flocks of 50+ were widespread on northern Yardea in the vicinity of Gardiners Well, Mulga Dam and Nardoo Bank Dam, 6–7/11/97. At this time birds were recorded mating (Br?) and also recorded feeding on the nectar of false sandalwood trees and on the fruits of native boxthorn.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*. Small numbers mixed in with the much more common Masked Woodswallow along the main road from Corunna to Yardea and on to Scrubby Peak through Paney, 27–28/10/97. Several pairs also observed throughout Punkey Plain, Hiltaba, 3/12/97. They were in close association with Masked Woodswallows and mostly flushed up from roosts in black oaks around the perimeter of Waroona Peak.

Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*. Common and widespread. Observed on all visits mostly in small flocks of less than 10, but on rare occasions may be seen in flocks of 20 or more. The species is usually conspicuously hawking over chenopod plains with or without acacias, black oak and bullock bush cover. Br-N&F: a nest with 3 eggs in elegant wattle *Acacia victoriae*, near Hiltaba Homestead, 28/10/95; and several observations of adults with immatures, indicative of recent breeding, Sep.–Jan. 1993–97.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*. Moderately common and widespread throughout mallee associations. Br-N&F: adults carrying food to a nest in a hollow of a mallee, between Mt Friday and Waroona Peak, 21/8/93; 4 newly-fledged juveniles in mallee S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 26/10/95 and several other observations of adults with recently-fledged speckled young in mallee associations of Hiltaba, Oct.–Jul. 1993–97. Also recorded breeding 2.6 km N of Scrubby Peak Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 4–5/11/97.

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*. Appears to be a spring–summer visitor and can generally be found on Hiltaba at this time. All observations are from Hiltaba: 6 adults and 2 immatures on Mt Pyramid, 3/3/94 (P. Alexander pers. comm.); a pair suspected of breeding in a small gully several km SE of Waroona Peak, 22/9/95; a pair hawking insects near an escarpment high on the W side of Mt Hiltaba, 23/9/95; a pair, scolding and swooping the observer, on the southern upper face of Waroona Peak, 27/10/95; another pair on the E face of Waroona Peak, 27/10/95; a pair, displaying considerable aggression towards a pair of Dusky Woodswallows, in a small gorge in thick mallee on the S side of Mt Friday, 27/10/95. Br, the presence of immature birds and the aggressive behaviour of 3 pairs indicates that breeding occurred here in 1995. Confirmed breeding records from the western Gawler Ranges come from Mt Centre, Mt Friday and rocky outcrops 23 km SSW of Hiltaba Homestead, in Nov. '87 (Matthew 1992).

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*. Moderately common and widespread throughout all woodland areas. Br-N, adults feeding small young in a nest in mallee at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 23/9/95. Other observations of adults carrying food and family groups with dusky brown immatures, Aug.–Dec., 1993–97.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*. Common and

APPENDIX 2 *continued*

- widespread, generally on chenopod and grassy plains, where parties of up to 6 or more are not uncommon. The largest gathering was of 25 on a chenopod plain near Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 24/9/95. Both white-backed and black-backed birds have been seen, with the former being more common.
- Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*. Moderately common and widespread throughout all mallee habitats.
- Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*. Mostly identified on call, this species is generally quite common and widespread. It is most obvious in the open chenopod and grassland habitats, but is also seen in wooded areas, including mallee, and on the slopes and summits of rocky hills. Br-F, a recently fledged young at shearers' quarters, Hiltaba, 28/10/94.
- Little Crow *Corvus bennetti*. Heard calling in flight as one or more flew over Hiltaba shearers' quarters, 11/6/95. Also several heard calling as they flew overhead, sandhill mulga habitat, Wirraminna South, 19/6/94.
- White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*. Moderately common and widespread in mallee associations. Flocks of up to 10 recorded from Scrubby Peak, Paney, Hiltaba, Buckleboo, Yarna and Yardea Stations, 1993–97. Br-N, two nests, one with adult sitting, in roadside mallee around perimeter of Gawler Ranges Conservation Reserve, 26–28/8/96.
- Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Common and widespread in open grassland, chenopod shrubland and stony habitats. Generally met with in small numbers but a flock of 20+ was recorded on a grassy flat near Hiltaba Homestead, 3/4/94.
- *House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Recorded in small numbers at most homesteads in the Ranges.
- Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*. Only one sighting from the W Gawler Ranges in the observation period: 60+ in acacia and bullock bush woodland, with grassy-ephemeral understorey, near Kondoolka Homestead, 1/7/94.
- Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. 1 calling in flight over mallee at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 20/4/94; 1 heard from tall mallee N of Buckleboo Homestead, 4/7/94; 1 heard at Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 23/2/95; 1 in flowering mistletoe in bullock bush at Three Peaks (5 km S of Hiltaba's Punkey Plain Dam), Scrubby Peak Station, 6/5/95; 1 heard from mallee on E side of Mt Friday, Hiltaba, 21/9/95; 1 calling in flight over black oak woodland, E of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 23/9/95; 1 in tall mallee woodland with bullock bush and black oak, 2 km E of Punkey Plain Dam, 25/1/97; 3+ in western myall-false sandalwood woodland between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, Yardea Station, 6–7/11/97.
- White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*. Generally present in small numbers and often observed several times from the same localities. Moderately common and widespread from Nonning through to Yardea, Hiltaba and Kondoolka, March–April '94; 9 hawking over a chenopod plain, E of Barber Hill, Hiltaba, 20/4/94; 1 over chenopod plain next to Barber Hill, 23/2/95; 3 over grassy plain next to main road 1 km N of Hiltaba Homestead, 24/2/96; 12 hawking over chenopod plain, 1 km N of Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 25/1/97; 3 over Punkey Plain and another 3 over Warners Bore, Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*. Occasional sightings of small numbers of birds, which may partly be due to the drought conditions during 1994 and lack of surface water experienced for most of the survey period: 7 at Kondoolka Homestead, 21/8/93; 1 at shearers' quarters, Hiltaba, 22/2/95; 1 several km NW of Progress Dam, Hiltaba, 8/5/95; 1 over black oaks along main road, 3 km SE of Hiltaba Homestead, 12/6/95; 1 hawking over grassland W of Mt Hiltaba, 21/9/95; 2+ over chenopod shrubland, 1 km S of Mt Pyramid, Hiltaba, 6/11/97. Br-N, Kondoolka Homestead, 21/8/93
- Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*. Quite common and widespread throughout taller mallee formations where it is known to breed during spring and summer. Small numbers noted during autumn–winter visits to Hiltaba and Kondoolka in March, April, June and July '94 and '95. Recorded from Scrubby Peak, Yardea, Paney and Hiltaba Stations, including a record of 20 hawking over and drinking from Punkey Plain Dam, 3/12/97. Br-N: in mallee hollows near Narlaby Well, Hiltaba, 22/9/95; in roadside mallee between Yardea and Pine Well, 27 & 28/10/97; and 2.6 km N of Scrubby Peak Well, Scrubby Peak Station, 4–5/11/97.
- Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*. 1 at Mt Ive Homestead, 18/8/93; heard from open mallee woodland along Matera Well track, Paney, 5/11/97; 2 in chenopod shrubland with groves of western myall and black oak, 2 km N of Dancing Bob Dam, Yardea, 6/11/97; 1 in chenopod shrubland at Gardiners Yard, Yardea, 6/11/97; heard in western myall woodland over chenopod shrubland between Gardiners Well and Mulga Dam, Yardea, 6–7/11/97; heard at Nardoo Bank Dam, Yardea, 7/11/97; a pair in mallee-black oak woodland in a small gorge 2 km SE of Waroona Peak, Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*. 1 in chenopod plain along main road through Mt Ive Station, 18/8/93; a female in chenopod shrubland on E side of Mt Hiltaba, Hiltaba, 21/9/95; 2 in grassy paddock 3 km SE of Old Pondanna Outstation, Paney, 5/11/97; 1 male in chenopod shrubland 1 km S of Mt Pyramid, Hiltaba, 6/11/97; 1 on Yardea Station, 6–7/11/97; 4 separate individuals (including two males) flushed from chenopod shrubland on Hiltaba, 3/12/97.
- Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*. 4 in mallee on slopes of Scrubby Peak, Scrubby Peak Station, 19/8/93; 2 in understorey of mallee scrub, Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 20/4/94; 3 foraging over *Pimelea* sp. bushes in bullock bush–*Rhagodia* sp.–mallee association at Pretty Point, 28/10/95; 3 in mallee–bullock bush association 3 km S of Surprise Dam, Hiltaba, 25/1/97; a small flock of about 6 were heard calling as they moved through mallee scrub in Yandinga Gorge, Scrubby Peak Station, 27/10/97.
- *Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Flocks of up to 30 at most homesteads in the Gawler Ranges: Paney, Scrubby Peak, Mt Ive, Yardea, Kondoolka, Hiltaba and Nonning. In addition 20 were seen over dry short pasture on a flat next to Pretty Point, Hiltaba, 11/6/95. Br, adults were recorded carrying food at Paney Homestead, 4/11/97.