

BIRDS BREEDING IN NARACOORTE DISTRICT, 1941-1971

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This list has been compiled from field notes of personal observations from 1941 to 1971 and covers an area of about 20-25 miles radius around Naracoorte. This area includes open eucalypt forest, mainly red gum (*E. camaldulensis*), blue gum (*E. leucoxyton*) and pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*). Various low sandy ranges are covered mostly by brown stringybark (*E. baxteri*) with some manna gum (*E. huberiana*) and an accompanying mixture of acacias and banksias. Northwards, these ranges carry some small patches of mallee, and several species of casuarinas and teatrees are scattered throughout.

Bool Lagoon is included in the area, and as part of it is now a fauna sanctuary, and the balance a game reserve it is a wonderful breeding place for waterfowl. Bool Lagoon contains from 3000 to 5000 acres of water depending on seasonal conditions. The greater portion of this is covered with tall reeds and rushes, and these together with an area of roughly 100 acres of paperbark teatree about 400 yards from the water's edge provide ideal nesting places for many species.

During the period under review, large tracts have been cleared of nearly all timber, and apart from the two National Parks—Big Heath (5809 acres) and Fairview (2690 acres)—there is only a small proportion of country left untouched.

Many changes have also been brought about by drainage of swamps and watercourses, with a corresponding impact on birdlife. The resulting increase of heavily grassed pastures has also had an adverse affect on those species that require sparsely covered ground for feeding. Some birds have partly adapted to the changed conditions, while others show a startling reduction in numbers.

The dates given are the earliest and latest times at which nests containing eggs have been recorded. Past and present status of species where any significant change has been noticed is also shown. Terms 'rare'

'common,' etc., refer to the numbers of a particular species normally seen, and not to breeding records. Foxes are becoming increasingly severe predators of ground-nesting birds, especially ducks, and feral cats are taking heavy toll of the smaller birds.

No reference has been made to any previously published articles as this is purely a local list of a limited area. Names and sequence are from *A Handlist of Birds of S.A.*, by H. T. Condon, 1968.

1. EMU (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*). Eggs June 14 to August 4. Breeds freely where protected; elsewhere rare.
11. LITTLE GREBE (*Podiceps novaehollandiae*). August 15 to December 29. Prefers small gum swamps. Affected by over-drainage. Numbers diminishing.
12. HOARY-HEADED GREBE (*Podiceps poliocephalus*). September 2 to November 23. Breeds in colonies, often with Marsh Terns. Plentiful.
13. GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*). November 11 to January 11. Nomadic. Only seen in wet years. Requires large expanse of deep water for nesting.
44. BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). October only month when eggs recorded. Rarely seen.
45. LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*). October 6 to November 26. Breeds in colonies with Little Pied. Not as numerous as formerly.
48. LITTLE PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*). September 19 to January 11. Very large colony on Bool Lagoon 1941-42. Now in much smaller numbers. Small groups also nest on other swamps where suitable trees are left.
53. WHITE-FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*). June 27 to September 28. Plentiful.
54. PACIFIC (WHITE-NECKED) HERON (*Ardea pacifica*). September 21 to October 19. Formerly common. Now becoming rare.

58. WHITE EGRET (*Egretta alba*). October 16 to December 2. Nomadic. Irregular. Numerous 1971.
60. NANKEEN NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax caledonicus*). October 25 to December 11. Plentiful, but numbers vary from year to year.
61. LITTLE BITTERN (*Ixobrychus minutus*). December only month when eggs recorded. Very rare.
62. BROWN BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). November 17 to December 8. Fair numbers. More often heard than seen.
63. WHITE IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*). September 20 to December 10. Nomadic. Breeds with Straw-necked Ibis.
64. STRAW-NECKED IBIS (*Threskiornis spinicollis*). September 2 to December 15. Nomadic. Dry years, only a few seen. Wet years, present in thousands. No change in numbers noticed.
65. GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). November 13 to December 20. Nomadic. Irregular.
67. ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea regia*). September 26 to November 6. Early years quite plentiful. Latterly only a few pairs breeding.
68. YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (*Platalea flavipes*). September 1 to November 9. Formerly common. Now only a few pairs scattered throughout area.
80. BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*). Breeds nearly all the year when conditions are suitable. Numerous and increasing.
82. FRECKLED DUCK (*Stictonetta naevosa*). December only month when eggs recorded. Nomadic. Irregular. Rare.
83. CHESTNUT-BREASTED SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadornoides*). June 27 to September 14. Common and increasing.
84. BLACK DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*). October 24 to December 18. Fair numbers, but not as plentiful as formerly.
86. CHESTNUT TEAL (*Anas castanea*). July 3 to November 18. A few usually seen with other ducks. Not plentiful.
87. GREY TEAL (*Anas gibberifrons*). October 15 to November 9. Plentiful, but numbers down on previous years.
88. BLUE-WINGED SHOVELER (*Anas rhynchotis*). September 7 to December 20. Not plentiful. Small flocks with other ducks.
91. PINK-EARED DUCK (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*). October 20 to November 9. Nomadic. Numbers fluctuate. Some years present in hundreds.
92. WHITE-EYED DUCK (*Aythya australis*). September 22 to December 6. Nomadic. Irregular. Some years very large flocks.
94. WOOD DUCK (*Chenonetta jubata*). August 31 to October 10. Not plentiful, but slight increase last few years.
96. BLUE-BILLED DUCK (*Oxyura australis*). September 11 to January 16. Nomadic. Rare.
97. MUSK DUCK (*Biziura lobata*). August 8 to December 8. Fair numbers throughout area.
99. BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus notatus*). June 8 to August 31. Nomadic. Irregular.
105. WHISTLING EAGLE (*Haliaeetus sphenurus*). June 27 to September 26. Common, but diminishing.
107. BROWN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter fasciatus*). September 19 to October 30. Formerly common. Now becoming rare.
108. COLLARED SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*). September 22 to October 26. Rare.
109. LITTLE EAGLE (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*). September 17 to November 11. Rare.
110. WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE (*Aquila audax*). July 19 to October 1. Numbers diminishing. Now rare.
114. SWAMP HARRIER (*Circus approximans*). October 1 to December 6. Nomadic. Common.
117. BLACK FALCON (*Falco subniger*). August only month when eggs recorded. Very rare.
118. BROWN FALCON (*Falco berigora*). August 29 to October 13. Common on plains.
119. LITTLE FALCON (*Falco longipennis*). September only month when eggs recorded. Rare.
120. PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*). August 26 to November 29. Few seen latterly. Becoming rare.
121. NANKEEN KESTREL (*Falco cenchroides*). September 15 to October 17. Common.
123. MALLEE FOWL (*Leipoa ocellata*). October 8 to April 22. Rare.

124. STUBBLE QUAIL (*Coturnix pectoralis*). November 27 to December 25. Nomadic. Numerous.
125. BROWN QUAIL (*Coturnix ypsilophorus*). January only month when eggs recorded. Rare.
127. PAINTED QUAIL (*Turnix varia*). September 2 to October 9. Rare.
131. BROLGA (*Grus rubicundus*). July 7 to August 22. Partly nomadic. Flocks of 150+ seen occasionally.
132. LEWIN WATER-RAIL (*Rallus pectoralis*). October 26 to November 7. Rare.
133. BANDED LAND RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*). September 26 to December 5. Nomadic. Irregular. Not common.
134. SPOTTED CRAKE (*Porzana fluminea*). November only month when eggs recorded. Not as plentiful as 135.
135. MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*). November 5 to January 17. Common.
137. BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN (*Tribonyx ventralis*). September 17 to October 14. Nomadic. Irregular. Some years present in hundreds.
138. DUSKY MOORHEN (*Gallinula tenebrosa*). August 28 to December 28. Common.
139. SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*). September 11 to December 4. Common.
140. COOT (*Fulica atra*). September 11 to December 19. Common and increasing.
142. PAINTED SNIPE (*Rostratula benghalensis*). August 18 to December 28. Nomadic. A few seen each year.
145. SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Vanellus miles*). April 20 to October 15. Common.
146. BANDED PLOVER (*Vanellus tricolor*). July 15 to October 10. Nomadic. Plentiful in some parts.
150. RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). August 27 to January 11. Nomadic. Common.
155. BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius melanops*). September 27 to January 23. Partly nomadic. Common.
156. RED-KNEED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius cinctus*). October 14 to November 13. Nomadic. Rare.
181. WHITE-HEADED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). October 14 to January 22. Nomadic. Common.
183. RED-NECKED AVOCET (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*). September 13 to October 8. Nomadic. Irregular.
184. SOUTHERN STONE-CURLEW (*Burhinus magnirostris*). August 31 to January 20. Formerly common. Few isolated pairs remaining. Adversely affected by pasture improvement. Diminishing.
190. SILVER GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*). June 22 to September 24. Large colony on island in freshwater swamp.
194. WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*). October to November main period when eggs recorded. Nomadic. Colonies on all suitable swamps.
195. GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*). October 17 to November 26. Nomadic. Irregular. Rare.
205. PEACEFUL DOVE (*Geopelia striata*). November 7 to November 26. Not as plentiful as formerly and diminishing.
207. COMMON BRONZEWING (*Phaps chalcoptera*). August to January 13. Not plentiful, but showing slight increase.
208. BRUSH BRONZEWING (*Phaps elegans*). September only month when eggs recorded. Rare.
211. CRESTED PIGEON (*Ocyphaps lophotes*). September 21 to October 20. First seen 1960. Gradually increasing and coming further south.
212. RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*). October 11 to January 25. Small flocks regularly seen; mostly along Victorian Border. Feeds on seeds of Brown Stringybark.
213. GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*). October only month when eggs recorded. Rare. Feeds on seeds of *Casuarina* species.
214. YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*). November 19 to December 24. Common and increasing, especially near pine forest areas.
216. WHITE COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*). September 7 to November 30. Common, but not as plentiful as formerly.
219. CORELLA (*Cacatua tenuirostris*). September 3 to October 1. Common and increasing.
220. GALAH (*Cacatua roseicapilla*). September 4 to November 10. First seen 1925. Now common and increasing.
221. BLUE MOUNTAIN LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus haematodus*). September 19 to November 11. Nomadic. Affected

- by destruction of eucalypts and becoming rare.
222. MUSK LORIKEET (*Glossopsitta concinna*). August 28 to December 12. Nomadic. Same remarks as 221.
223. PURPLE-CROWNED LORIKEET (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*). August 22 to November 21. Nomadic. Formerly in flocks of hundreds. Now flocks of tens.
224. LITTLE LORIKEET (*Glossopsitta pusilla*). September 17 to November 17. Nomadic. Not plentiful at any time. Now rare.
225. COCKATIEL (*Nymphicus hollandicus*). November 10 to December 8. Not plentiful, but gradually extending southwards and increasing.
229. CRIMSON ROSELLA (*Platycercus elegans*). September 9 to November 16. Suffered heavily from trapping. Now plentiful and increasing.
230. EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*). October 20 to December 13. Same remarks as 229.
231. RINGNECK PARROT (*Barnardius barnardi*). October 7 to November 17. A few pairs around Padthaway-Keppock. Increasing.
233. RED-BACKED PARROT (*Psephotus haematonotus*). September 28 to November 2. Plentiful.
239. BLUE-WINGED PARROT (*Neophema chrysostomus*). December only month when eggs recorded. Nomadic. Large flocks in winter, feeding on thistle seeds.
243. BUDGERYGAH (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). November 4 to December 7. Nomadic. Irregular.
246. PALLID CUCKOO (*Cuculus pallidus*). October 5 to November 24. Nomadic. Irregular.
247. FAN-TAILED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*). September only month when eggs recorded, in nest of Brown Thornbill. Nomadic. Rare.
248. BLACK-EARED CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx osculans*). October only month when eggs recorded. Nomadic. Very rare.
249. HORSFIELD BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx basalis*). August 7 to January 1. Regular visitor. Fair numbers in spring.
250. GOLDEN BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*). October 15 to January 1. Nomadic. Rare.
252. BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*). September 25 to October 9. Rare.
254. BOOBOOK OWL (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*). September 21 to November 2. Formerly common. Now becoming rare.
255. BARKING OWL (*Ninox connivens*). August 17 to September 17. Very rare.
257. TAWNY FROGMOUTH (*Podargus strigoides*). August 28 to December 15. Numbers diminishing.
258. OWLET NIGHTJAR (*Aegotheles cristatus*). September 14 to November 1. Not plentiful.
263. LAUGHING KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo novaeguinae*). September 9 to November 18. Affected by clearing of timber habitat. Diminishing.
265. SACRED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*). November 3 to January 14. Nomadic. Irregular.
266. AUSTRALIAN BEE-EATER (*Meropops ornatus*). December only records of eggs. Nomadic. Rare.
268. HORSFIELD BUSHLARK (*Mirafra javanica*). November 19 to January 3. Common on plains and increasing.
270. WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*). September 12 to November 23. Very common.
272. TREE-MARTIN (*Petrochelidon nigricans*). August 26 to October 30. Common.
273. FAIRY MARTIN (*Petrochelidon ariel*). September 15 to December 22. Nomadic. Several colonies nesting each year.
274. PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). October 10 to December 18. Common.
276. BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina novaehollandiae*). October 1 to January 3. Seen regularly, but not plentiful.
277. LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina robusta*). September 15 to November 3. Rare.
278. WHITE-WINGED TRILLER (*Lalage sueurii*). October 6 to December 1. Nomadic. Irregular.
280. SOUTHERN SCRUB ROBIN (*Drymodes brunneopygia*). August and December. Rare.

286. WHITE-BROWED BABBLER (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*). July 30 to January 14. Seen regularly. Not numerous.
288. LITTLE GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus gramineus*). September 28 to December 8. Common in reedy swamps.
289. REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*). October 20 to December 13. Common in creeks and reedbeds.
290. GOLDEN-HEADED FANTAIL WARBLER (*Cisticola exilis*). October 20 to January 3. Plentiful in crops and rushes.
291. BROWN SONGLARK (*Cinclorhampus cruralis*). November 11 to January 10. Nomadic. Plentiful.
292. RUFOUS SONGLARK (*Cinclorhampus mathewsi*). October 16 to December 16. Nomadic. Irregular. Rare.
293. WHITE-FRONTED CHAT (*Ephthianura albifrons*). August 6 to November 17. Common.
297. WHITEFACE (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*). July 11 to October 16. Formerly common. Now becoming rare.
302. WEEBILL (*Smicronis brevirostris*). December only month when eggs recorded. Rare.
304. STRIATED THORNBILL (*Acanthiza lineata*). August 22 to December 10. Common.
305. YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL (*A. chrysorrhoa*). July 15 to December 26. Common.
306. BUFF-TAILED THORNBILL (*A. reguloides*). October 1 to November 25. Common.
310. BROWN THORNBILL (*A. pusilla*). August 22 to October 16. Common.
311. SCRUB-WREN (*Sericornis frontalis*). July 30 to November 1. Not plentiful.
312. CHESTNUT-TAILED GROUND-WREN (*Hylacola pyrrhopygia*). July 29 to January 2. Rare.
314. STRIATED FIELD-WREN (*Calamanthus fuliginosus*). August only month when eggs recorded. Becoming rare.
321. SOUTHERN EMU-WREN (*Stipiturus malachurus*). September 22 to January 2. Small groups throughout heath country.
324. SUPERB BLUE WREN (*Malurus cyaneus*). September 26 to January 3. Common.
328. VARIEGATED WREN (*Malurus lamberti assimilis*). October only record of eggs. Rare.
330. GREY FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). September 26 to December 3. Common.
332. WILLIE WAGTAIL (*Rhipidura leucophrys*). September 12 to January 20. Common.
335. RESTLESS FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra inquieta*). October 6 to December 15. Not plentiful.
336. JACKY WINTER (*Microeca leucophaea*). August 29 to January 2. Common.
337. SCARLET ROBIN (*Petroica multicolor*). August 7 to November 23. Nomadic. Common.
338. RED-CAPPED ROBIN (*Petroica goodenovii*). October 8 to December 23. Nomadic. Irregular. Rare.
341. HOODED ROBIN (*Petroica cucullata*). September 5 to December 13. Not common.
342. YELLOW ROBIN (*Eopsaltria australis*). August 12 to November 15. Rare.
343. GOLDEN WHISTLER (*Pachycephala pectoralis*). October only month when eggs recorded. Rare.
344. RUFOUS WHISTLER (*Pachycephala rufiventris*). October 9 to December 12. Diminishing.
348. GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla harmonica*). August 7 to November 22. Common.
349. EASTERN SHRIKE-TIT (*Falcunculus frontatus*). October 19 to November 19. Rare.
350. CRESTED BELLBIRD (*Oreqica gutturalis*). October 18 to December 12. Rare.
353. BLACK-CAPPED SITTELLA (*Neositta chrysoptera*). September 11 to November 26. Affected by destruction of stringybark habitat. Diminishing.
354. BROWN TREE-CREEPER (*Climacteris picumnus*). September 6 to December 7. Not as plentiful as formerly.
356. WHITE-THROATED TREE-CREEPER (*Climacteris leucophaea*). September 10 to November 16. Becoming rare.
358. MISTLETOE-BIRD (*Dicaeum hirsutinaceum*). September 23 to November 12. Nomadic. Plentiful when mistletoe is fruiting.
359. SPOTTED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus punctatus*). October 5 to December 30. Rare.

362. STRIATED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus substriatus*). October 23 to November 11. Diminishing.
364. SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). October 3 to February 26. Partly nomadic. Common.
370. YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga chrysops*). October 11 to November 22. Plentiful.
374. WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER (*M. penicillata*). May 24 to December 20. Plentiful, but not as common as formerly.
376. WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER (*M. leucotis*). September 7 to November 5. Rare.
378. BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus brevirostris*). September 16 to November 10. Rare.
379. WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus lunatus*). September 10 to October 2. Nomadic. Irregular. Formerly very plentiful. Diminishing last few years.
380. BLACK-CHINNED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus gularis*). September only month when eggs recorded. Rare.
383. YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*). April 21 to October 12. Very common.
385. TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris melanops*). August 15 to November 24. Nomadic. Irregular.
389. EASTERN SPINEBILL (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*). October 28 to November 20. Rare.
390. NOISY MINER (*Myzantha melanocephala*). September 14 to November 28. Fair numbers, but not as common as formerly.
393. BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER (*Entomyzon cyanotis*). August 22 to November 14. Rare.
396. LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*). July 14 to December 8. Plentiful, but diminishing.
397. RED WATTLE-BIRD (*Anthochaera carunculata*). July 28 to November 24. Partly nomadic. Numbers fluctuate according to flowering of eucalypts.
398. SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*). October only month when recorded. Never plentiful. Now very rare.
399. RED-BROWED FINCH (*Aegintha temporalis*). July 9 to December 3. Rare.
401. BEAUTIFUL FIRETAIL (*Emblema bella*). October 29 to November 30. Rare.
402. DIAMOND FIRETAIL (*Emblema guttata*). October 23 to November 6. Diminishing. Now rare.
405. MAGPIE-LARK (*Grallina cyano-leuca*). August 22 to December 5. Common.
409. MASKED WOOD-SWALLOW (*Artamus personatus*). October 21 to November 24. Nomadic. Irregular. Usually in company with White-browed.
410. WHITE-BROWED WOOD-SWALLOW (*Artamus superciliosus*). October 21 to November 22. Nomadic. Irregular. Some years flocks of hundreds can be seen.
411. BLACK-FACED WOOD-SWALLOW (*Artamus cinereus*). November only month when eggs recorded. Very rare.
412. DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW (*Artamus cyanopterus*). October 11 to December 11. Common.
414. BLACK-WINGED CURRAWONG (*Strepera versicolor melanoptera*). August 9 to October 1. Affected by destruction of habitat. Becoming rare.
416. GREY-BUTCHER-BIRD (*Cracticus torquatus*). September 8 to September 30. Diminishing. Now rare.
417. MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen leucocota*). July 27 to September 9. Common and increasing.
420. AUSTRALIAN RAVEN (*Corvus coronoides*). July 16 to September 3. Common.
421. LITTLE RAVEN (*Corvus mellori*). July main nesting month. Large numbers breed in scattered colony in teatree swamp.

INTRODUCED BIRDS

- SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*). Common and increasing.
- BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*). Increasing in Town area.
- GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*). Common.
- GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*). Rare.
- HOUSE-SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). Common.
- STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Common.