



**BIRD**

***Myiagra inquieta***

**Restless Flycatcher**

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	R	V	-	Resident



Photo: © Tom & Marie Tarrant (www.aviceda.org)

**Conservation Significance**

The species has been described as 'probably declining' within the AMLR.<sup>2</sup> Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.<sup>3</sup>

**Description**

Small to medium sized bird with a glossy blue-black head, small crest, and white below, from the chin to undertail. Blue-black bill surrounded by bristles. Back, wings and tail darker grey, and may be a slight orange brown tint on the breast. Extremely mobile and active bird and able to hover while feeding. Call is a continuous whirring or rasping hisses when hovering.<sup>1</sup>

Often found in the same habitats as the similarly sized and patterned Willie Wagtail.<sup>1</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

Found throughout northern and eastern mainland Australia, south-western Australia and Papua New Guinea. Two subspecies: the southern subspecies, *inquieta*, occurs in the AMLR. The south-eastern populations move north during winter.<sup>1</sup>

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records scattered from the Monarto area, Black Swamp on the Fleurieu Peninsula, and Rowland Flat in the Barossa. Isolated records across the MLR and Adelaide metropolitan

outskirts.<sup>3</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records limited and concentrated on the hills surrounding Adelaide.<sup>3</sup>

In SA has declined in extensively cleared districts (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

**Habitat**

Found in open forests and woodlands and frequently seen in farmland.<sup>1,4</sup> Inhabits *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *E. leucoxylon* and box woodlands in the MLR. Also occurs in open mallee (*E. oleosa*, *E. gracilis*) low woodland to low open forest at the margins of the region. During winter individuals disperse widely, often seen in roadside vegetation (G. Carpenter *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland and Heathy Woodland.<sup>3</sup>

**Biology and Ecology**

Breeding season July to January. Clutch size three to four with incubation of 14 days. Chicks' spend 14 days in the nest. Constructs a small cup-shaped nest of bark and grass bound with spider's web.<sup>1</sup>

Feeds on a variety of invertebrates including spiders and centipedes. Usually feeds alone or in pairs. Rarely comes to the ground, preferring to 'hawk' for insects from perches in the mid-level of the canopy.<sup>1</sup>

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations (Kurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk).<sup>3</sup>

**Threats**

Numbers have declined substantially in some areas due to habitat loss.<sup>4</sup> As with many other 'hawking' insectivorous species, disadvantaged by the deliberate clearing of loose timber (e.g. by firewood collection or fire) which reduces perching opportunities (D. Armstrong *pers. comm.*).

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

**Further information:**

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region  
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999  
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



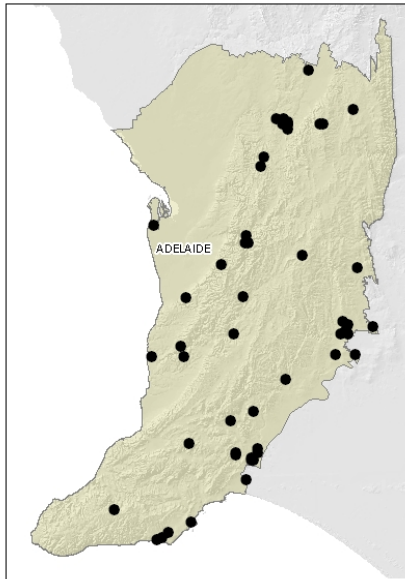


# ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

## Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>3</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

## References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

<sup>1</sup> Australian Museum (2005). *Birds in Backyards: Bird Finder*. Available from <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> (accessed November 2007).

<sup>2</sup> Cale, B. (2005). *Towards a Recovery Plan for the Declining Birds of the Mount Lofty Ranges*. Scientific Resource Document for Birds for Biodiversity. Unpublished Report.

<sup>3</sup> Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

<sup>4</sup> Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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