

# **NATIVE FAUNA OF THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA**



**UPDATE 1 – BIRDS**

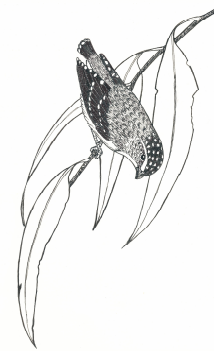
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# **NATIVE FAUNA OF THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

## **UPDATE 1 – BIRDS**

**Judy Smith and Peter Smith**

**May 2021**

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Cover illustration of Sooty Owl by Kate Smith [katesmithart@gmail.com](mailto:katesmithart@gmail.com)

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## Introduction

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area comprises eight reserves: Blue Mountains, Gardens of Stone, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai, Thirlmere Lakes, Wollemi and Yengo National Parks, and Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve. The area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 because its natural values, including the diversity of its fauna, were considered to be outstanding at international level.

In 1998, when the nomination of the Greater Blue Mountains Area for inscription on the World Heritage List was prepared for the Australian Government, it was well known that the area provided habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs but the details were sketchy. The nomination indicated that about 400 native terrestrial vertebrate fauna species had been recorded in the area, including 52 mammal, 265 bird, 63 reptile and more than 30 frog species. However, these included species recorded in the vicinity but not confirmed to occur within the World Heritage Area.

We have been residents of the Blue Mountains, and have observed and kept records of its fauna, for over 40 years. As ecological consultants, we have carried out many fauna surveys in the area. In 1990, we published a book on the local fauna (J. Smith and P. Smith, 1990, *Fauna of the Blue Mountains*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst) and in 2019, from our own records and many other sources, we published a more comprehensive book on the fauna of the World Heritage Area (J. Smith, P. Smith and K. Smith, 2019, *Native Fauna of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area*, P & J Smith Ecological Consultants, Blaxland). Our objective in the latter book was to document the native mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs of the World Heritage Area, with details of the distribution, abundance, habitat and conservation significance of each species. The book was intended to celebrate the outstanding diversity of native fauna in the area, to promote greater appreciation of this fauna, and to provide benchmark information that would be of value for the current and future management of the World Heritage Area.

Our book listed 68 mammals, 254 birds, 74 reptiles and 36 frogs that we considered to have been reliably recorded within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area since European settlement. Sadly, nine mammal species now appear to be locally extinct, including one which is extinct at species level (White-footed Rabbit-rat *Conilurus albipes*), and one which is extinct at subspecies level (an unidentified bettong, either the Tasmanian Bettong *Bettongia gaimardi gaimardi* or the Brush-tailed Bettong *Bettongia penicillata penicillata*, both of which were recorded historically in the near vicinity of the WHA). At

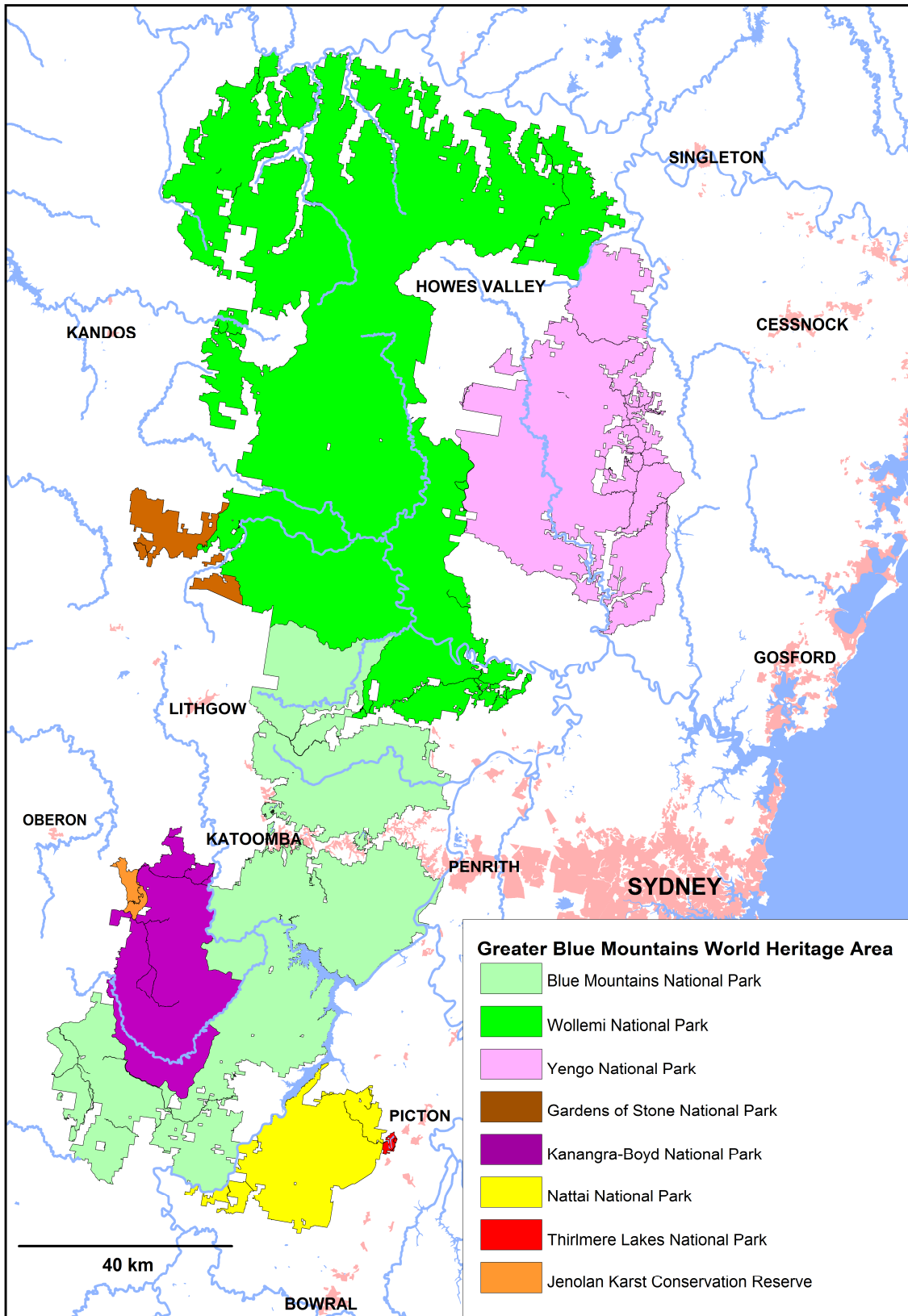
least one frog species, the Green and Golden Bell Frog, last recorded in 1963, may also now be extinct in the World Heritage Area.

While we were writing the book, the World Heritage Area was subject to a severe and prolonged drought accompanied by record-breaking and persistent high temperatures. These extreme conditions, which are a consequence of on-going rapid climate change, culminated in the spring and summer wildfires of 2019-20. The severity and extent of the fires were unprecedented and about 80% of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area was burnt. In early 2020, the wildfires were extinguished by deluges of rain which caused serious flooding and erosion in the World Heritage Area. The full impact on the fauna of these combined events is still to be determined, but it is clear that much more now needs to be done locally to promote the recovery and resilience of the native vegetation and fauna. In the face of the increasing impact of human-induced climate change on the World Heritage Area, it is also clear that local management initiatives will not succeed in the long term unless the issue of climate change is addressed much more seriously at state, national and global levels.

We are continuing to gather information on the Blue Mountains fauna. We intend to provide occasional updates to our book in the form of four annotated checklists (one each for the mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs), which will be made available on the Blue Mountains Nature and Researchgate websites. In this first update, there are two additions to the species list: one nomadic waterbird, the Plumed Whistling-Duck, was recorded within the WHA for the first time in the summer of 2017-18; and one mammal species, the Sugar Glider, has recently been split into three separate species, two of which occur in the WHA (Krefft's Glider and Sugar Glider in a narrower sense). Thus, the native fauna species now known from the WHA include 69 mammals, 255 birds, 74 reptiles and 36 frogs. Seventy-seven of these (28 mammals, 38 birds, 4 reptiles and 7 frogs) are listed as threatened species under either national or state legislation (as of March 2021).

This first update represents the status of the fauna prior to the events of 2019-20 and does not take account of the impact of the drought, heatwaves, wildfires and floods. It is likely that the populations and ranges of many fauna species in the area have been reduced. Many fauna species have become much more threatened and some may have become locally extinct. The changes resulting from the upheavals in 2019-20 are yet to be elucidated and documented. As more information becomes available, we hope to do further updates describing those changes. Updating the checklists is an important and on-going process. If you have additional records or other information, your feedback would be very welcome.

Judy and Peter Smith



## Native bird species recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Status in NSW and Commonwealth legislation: C = critically endangered, E = endangered, V = vulnerable, M = migratory species protected by international agreements, b = Bonn Convention, c = China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, j = Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, k = Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

GBMWA reserves: BMNP = Blue Mountains National Park, GOSNP = Gardens of Stone National Park, JKCR = Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve, KBNP = Kanangra-Boyd National Park, NNP = Nattai National Park, TLNP = Thirlmere Lakes National Park, WNP = Wollemi National Park, YNP = Yengo National Park

Scientific names follow BirdLife Australia (2018). Common names follow Menkhorst *et al.* (2017). 'Recent' records are 2000 or later, otherwise the date of the last record is specified.

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Casuariidae								recent			
Australian Brush-turkey	<i>Alectura lathami lathami</i>	Megapodiidae			recent							recent	recent
Stubble Quail	<i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>	Phasianidae			recent	recent			recent			1977	recent
King Quail	<i>Synoicus chinensis victoriae</i>	Phasianidae			1992					recent			
Brown Quail	<i>Synoicus ypsilophorus australis</i>	Phasianidae			recent	recent			recent			recent	recent
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>	Anatidae			recent	1999	1999			1994	recent	recent	
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	Anatidae			recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent	
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Anatidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>	Anatidae					recent				recent	recent	
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Anatidae			1995					1997	recent	recent	
Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Anatidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	Anatidae			recent	1992	1968			recent	1980-84	recent	
Plumed Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>	Anatidae						recent					
Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>	Anatidae								recent			
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Anatidae	V		recent								
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis rhynchotis</i>	Anatidae								recent			
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Anatidae	V									recent	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>	Podicipedidae			1998					recent	recent	recent	
Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliiocephalus poliocephalus</i>	Podicipedidae			recent					recent	recent	recent	
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Podicipedidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Pacific Emerald-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps longirostris rogersi</i>	Columbidae						recent				recent	1991
White-headed Pigeon	<i>Columba leucomela</i>	Columbidae			recent						recent	recent	recent
Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Columbidae			recent					1997		recent	
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis humeralis</i>	Columbidae			recent					recent		recent	recent

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida placida</i>	Columbidae			recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent
Wonga Pigeon	<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>	Columbidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Topknot Pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>	Columbidae			recent							
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia phasianella phasianella</i>	Columbidae			recent				recent		recent	recent
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes lophotes</i>	Columbidae			recent	recent	1999	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	Columbidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans elegans</i>	Columbidae			recent			1983	1997	1980-84	recent	recent
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus magnificus</i>	Columbidae	V		1989						recent	
Superb Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus superbus</i>	Columbidae	V		recent							
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides strigoides</i>	Podargidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
White-throated Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus mystacalis</i>	Eurostopodidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1985	recent	recent
Australian Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus cristatus</i>	Aegothelidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus pacificus</i>	Apodidae		Mcjk	recent					1980-84	recent	recent
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus caudacutus</i>	Apodidae		V, Mcjk	recent	recent	recent	recent		1980-84	recent	recent
Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Anhingidae			recent		recent		recent	recent	recent	
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos melanoleucos</i>	Phalacrocoracidae			recent		recent	1992	recent	recent	recent	recent
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carboides</i>	Phalacrocoracidae			recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	Phalacrocoracidae			recent				recent	recent	recent	1982
Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius hypoleucos</i>	Phalacrocoracidae			recent		recent		recent	1994	recent	
Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	Pelecanidae			recent				recent		recent	
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis</i>	Ciconiidae	E								recent	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Ardeidae		Mj	recent				recent	recent	recent	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia intermedia</i>	Ardeidae							1997		1992	
White-necked Heron	<i>Ardea pacifica</i>	Ardeidae			recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Ardeidae	E	E						recent		
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis coromanda</i>	Ardeidae		Mj					recent		recent	
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	Ardeidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis australis</i>	Ardeidae	V		1995							recent
Nankeen Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae</i>	Ardeidae			recent	recent		recent	recent		recent	recent
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>	Threskiornithidae							1994	1980-84	1977	1982
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>	Threskiornithidae							recent			

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis moluccus</i>	Threskiornithidae			recent			recent		recent		recent	1982
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>	Threskiornithidae			recent			recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent	
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	Accipitridae			recent	recent	1999	recent		recent	recent	recent	
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus</i>	Accipitridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Accipitridae			recent					recent	recent	recent	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax audax</i>	Accipitridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata subcristata</i>	Accipitridae			recent	recent					recent	recent	
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Accipitridae			recent				recent	recent	1984		
Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Accipitridae	V										recent
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>	Accipitridae			recent	recent		recent			recent	recent	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Accipitridae	V	Mc	recent			1992	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>	Accipitridae			recent		1946		recent	recent	recent	recent	
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Accipitridae	V		recent	recent	recent		1997	1980-84	recent	recent	
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Accipitridae	V		recent						recent		
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora berigora</i>	Falconidae			recent	recent	1999	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent	
Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides cenchroides</i>	Falconidae			recent	recent	undated	recent	recent		recent	recent	
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis longipennis</i>	Falconidae			recent	recent	1986	1997		1980-84	recent	recent	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus macropus</i>	Falconidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>	Falconidae	V								recent		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra australis</i>	Rallidae			recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa tenebrosa</i>	Rallidae			recent		1987		recent	recent	recent		
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis mellori</i>	Rallidae			recent								
Lewin's Rail	<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	Rallidae			recent								
Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus</i>	Rallidae			recent					recent	recent	recent	
Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla palustris</i>	Rallidae								1980-84	recent		
Spotless Crake	<i>Zapornia tabuensis plumbea</i>	Rallidae									recent		
Sooty Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus fuliginosus</i>	Haematopodidae	V		recent								
White-headed Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>	Recurvirostridae							recent	1980-84			
Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Elsyornis melanops</i>	Charadriidae			recent		1987		recent		1997		
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles novaehollandiae</i>	Charadriidae			recent	recent	1988	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Scolopacidae		Mbjk	recent					1980-84	recent		
Red-backed Button-quail	<i>Turnix maculosus pseutes</i>	Turnicidae	V				recent						

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
Red-chested Button-quail	<i>Turnix pyrrhorostris</i>	Turnicidae							1983				
Painted Button-quail	<i>Turnix varius varius</i>	Turnicidae			recent	recent			1982	recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Little Button-quail	<i>Turnix velox</i>	Turnicidae			recent							recent	
Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Laridae			recent					1997			
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita galerita</i>	Cacatuidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea gymnopsis</i>	Cacatuidae			recent	recent			1982		recent	recent	
Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>	Cacatuidae			recent								
Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Cacatuidae	V		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	Cacatuidae	V		recent	recent			recent	recent		recent	recent
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla albiceps</i>	Cacatuidae			recent	recent	recent	recent			recent	recent	recent
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Zanda funereus funereus</i>	Cacatuidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Australian King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis scapularis</i>	Psittaculidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna concinna</i>	Psittaculidae			recent	recent						recent	recent
Little Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Psittaculidae	V		recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Psittaculidae	E	C	recent	1995				1997			recent
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Psittaculidae			recent						1980-84		
Turquoise Parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Psittaculidae	V		recent	recent				recent		recent	recent
Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans elegans</i>	Psittaculidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius eximius</i>	Psittaculidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus haematonotus</i>	Psittaculidae			recent	recent	1987				1975	recent	recent
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>	Psittaculidae			recent								
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus moluccanus</i>	Psittaculidae			recent			recent	1994		recent	recent	recent
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis flabelliformis</i>	Cuculidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Heteroscenes pallidus</i>	Cuculidae			recent	recent	1986	1999	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus variolosus</i>	Cuculidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Pheasant Coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus phasianinus</i>	Cuculidae					pre 1990					1977	
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites basalis</i>	Cuculidae			recent	recent	recent	1999			recent	recent	recent
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites lucidus plagosus</i>	Cuculidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black-eared Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites osculans</i>	Cuculidae					recent					recent	
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus optatus</i>	Cuculidae		Mcjk		1990							
Eastern Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis cyanocephalus</i>	Cuculidae			recent			1999	recent	recent	1999	recent	recent
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Cuculidae			recent	recent		1997	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens connivens</i>	Strigidae	V		recent	recent	recent	1998	recent		recent	recent
Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox boobook boobook</i>	Strigidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Strigidae	V		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba delicatula</i>	Tytonidae			recent			recent	recent		recent	
Australian Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Tytonidae	V		recent				recent		recent	recent
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Tytonidae	V		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1996	recent	recent
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus azurea</i>	Alcedinidae			recent			recent	recent	1997	recent	recent
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae novaeguineae</i>	Halcyonidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus macleayii incinctus</i>	Halcyonidae			recent				recent		1993	
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus sanctus</i>	Halcyonidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Meropidae		Mj	recent	recent	1986		1994		recent	recent
Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis pacificus</i>	Coraciidae			recent				recent	recent	recent	recent
Noisy Pitta	<i>Pitta versicolor versicolor</i>	Pittidae			recent							
Superb Lyrebird	<i>Menura novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Menuridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Red-browed Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris erythroptis</i>	Climacteridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Climacteridae	V		recent	recent	1968	recent	recent	1994	recent	recent
White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea leucophaeus</i>	Climacteridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Green Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus crassirostris</i>	Ptilonorhynchidae									1986	recent
Spotted Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus maculatus</i>	Ptilonorhynchidae					recent					
Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus violaceus</i>	Ptilonorhynchidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus cyanochlamys</i>	Maluridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Variiegated Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus lamberti lamberti</i>	Maluridae			recent	recent	1991	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Southern Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus malachurus malachurus</i>	Maluridae			recent			recent			recent	recent
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa leighi</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata lineata</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana nana</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	1999	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla pusilla</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Buff-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides reguloides</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1998	recent	recent
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis</i>	Acanthizidae									recent	recent
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<i>Calamanthus pyrrhopygius pyrrhopygia</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	1986	recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca exsul</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	1997		recent	recent		recent	
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki richmondi</i>	Acanthizidae			recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea olivacea</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Rockwarbler	<i>Origma solitaria</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Pilotbird	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus sandlandi</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	1987	recent	
Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	Acanthizidae	V		recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis citreogularis citreogularis</i>	Acanthizidae			recent			recent	recent		recent	recent
White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis frontalis</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Large-billed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis magnirostra magnirostris</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent		recent			recent	recent
Weebill	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris brevirostris</i>	Acanthizidae			recent	recent			recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus punctatus</i>	Pardalotidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	Pardalotidae								recent		
	subspecies <i>ornatus</i>		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent		
	subspecies <i>striatus</i>		recent									
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	Meliphagidae			recent						recent	
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris tenuirostris</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata carunculata</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera chrysoptera</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	1999		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Meliphagidae	C	C	recent	recent			recent		recent	1999
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Caligavis chrysops chrysops</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Pied Honeyeater	<i>Certhionyx variegatus</i>	Meliphagidae	V								recent	
Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis cyanotis</i>	Meliphagidae			recent						recent	recent
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis virescens sonorus</i>	Meliphagidae									1995	
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Glyciphila melanops melanops</i>	Meliphagidae			recent						1997	
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Meliphagidae	V	V							recent	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus melanops melanops</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta ocularis</i>	Meliphagidae										recent
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala melanocephala</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii lewinii</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris brevirostris</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Meliphagidae	V		recent	recent			1997		recent	recent
White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus lunatus</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Scarlet Honeyeater	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta sanguinolenta</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
White-eared Honeyeater	<i>Nesoptilotis leucotis leucotis</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis citreogularis</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent			recent	recent
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus monachus</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger niger</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent		1993		recent	recent	recent
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Crescent Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent	1986			recent	recent
Striped Honeyeater	<i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i>	Meliphagidae				recent					recent	recent
Fuscous Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula fusca fusca</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent		1994	recent	1980-84	recent	recent
White-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula penicillata penicillatus</i>	Meliphagidae			recent	recent	recent		recent		recent	recent
White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus gilgandra</i>	Pomatostomidae				recent					recent	
Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Pomatostomidae	V								recent	recent
Spotted Quail-thrush	<i>Cinclosoma punctatum punctatum</i>	Cinclsomatidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceus olivaceus</i>	Psophodidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Varied Sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera chrysoptera</i>	Neosittidae	V		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae melanops</i>	Campephagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis robusta</i>	Campephagidae			recent	recent			recent		recent	recent
Cicadabird	<i>Edolisoma tenuirostris tenuirostris</i>	Campephagidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
White-winged Triller	<i>Lalage tricolor</i>	Campephagidae			recent	recent	recent		recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica harmonica</i>	Pachycephalidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Crested Shrike-tit	<i>Falcunculus frontatus frontatus</i>	Pachycephalidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Gilbert's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala inornata</i>	Pachycephalidae									recent	
Olive Whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea olivacea</i>	Pachycephalidae	V				recent				recent	
Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis pectoralis/youngi</i>	Pachycephalidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris rufiventris</i>	Pachycephalidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus sagittatus</i>	Oriolidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black-faced Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cinereus melanops</i>	Artamidae			recent				recent			
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Artamidae	V		recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent
Masked Woodswallow	<i>Artamus personatus</i>	Artamidae			recent	recent		recent	recent		recent	
White-browed Woodswallow	<i>Artamus superciliosus</i>	Artamidae			recent	recent			recent		recent	
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis nigrogularis</i>	Artamidae			recent		1986	recent	recent		recent	recent
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus torquatus</i>	Artamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> subspecies <i>tibicen</i> subspecies <i>tyrannica</i>	Artamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina graculina/nebulosa</i>	Artamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Grey Currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor versicolor</i>	Artamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent	recent
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus bracteatus</i>	Dicruridae			1988							1997	recent
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa alisteri</i>	Rhipiduridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys leucophrys</i>	Rhipiduridae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons rufifrons</i>	Rhipiduridae		Mb	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides coronoides</i>	Corvidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>	Corvidae			recent		recent	recent				recent	
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca cyanoleuca</i>	Monarchidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Monarchidae		Mb	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Monarchidae		Mb	recent		recent	recent				recent	recent
Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta inquieta</i>	Monarchidae			recent	recent	1999	1994	recent			recent	recent
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula rubecula</i>	Monarchidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Spectacled Monarch	<i>Symposiachrus trivirgatus gouldii</i>	Monarchidae		Mb								recent	
White-winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos melanorhamphos</i>	Corcoracidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent	recent
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i> subspecies <i>australis</i> subspecies <i>chrysorrhoea</i>	Petroicidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	Petroicidae	V		1995	recent			recent			recent	
Jacky Winter	<i>Microeca fascinans fascinans</i>	Petroicidae			recent	recent	1988	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent	recent
Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	Petroicidae			recent	1998		recent	recent			recent	recent
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica multicolor boodang</i>	Petroicidae	V		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent	recent
Flame Robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Petroicidae	V		recent	recent	recent	recent		1975	recent	recent	recent
Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>	Petroicidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Horsfield's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>	Alaudidae					1946					recent	
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis exilis</i>	Cisticolidae				1992			recent			recent	
Australian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis australis</i>	Acrocephalidae								recent	recent		
Brown Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus cruralis</i>	Locustellidae						1995				recent	

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
Rufous Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>	Locustellidae			recent	recent			recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Little Grassbird	<i>Poodytes gramineus goulburni</i>	Locustellidae								recent		
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i> subspecies <i>cornwallii</i> / <i>westernensis</i> subspecies <i>lateralis</i>	Zosteropidae			recent recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
White-backed Swallow	<i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>	Hirundinidae			1999	1999						
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena neoxena</i>	Hirundinidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Fairy Martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>	Hirundinidae			recent	recent	1986	recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans neglecta</i>	Hirundinidae			recent	recent	1986	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Bassian Thrush	<i>Zoothera lunulata lunulata</i>	Turdidae			recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum hirundinaceum</i>	Dicaeidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Plum-headed Finch	<i>Neochmia modesta</i>	Estrildidae				1992					1995	
Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis temporalis</i>	Estrildidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Beautiful Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura bella bella</i>	Estrildidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	1997
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Estrildidae	V		recent	recent	1987		recent		recent	recent
Double-barred Finch	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii bichenovii</i>	Estrildidae			recent	recent	1989		recent	1980-84	recent	recent
Zebra Finch	<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>	Estrildidae			recent	1999		1979			recent	
Australian Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae australis</i>	Motacillidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	1980-84	recent	recent

## **Native Bird Species Recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area**

Scientific names follow BirdLife Australia (2017). Common names follow Menkhorst *et al.* (2017). The reserves in which each species has been recorded are listed as: BM (Blue Mountains National Park), GOS (Gardens of Stone NP), J (Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve), KB (Kanangra-Boyd NP), N (Nattai NP), TL (Thirlmere Lakes NP), W (Wollemi NP) and Y (Yengo NP). Unless otherwise indicated, there have been recent records (2000 or later) from each reserve listed. The date of the last record is only shown if it was before 2000. Threatened species listings under NSW and Commonwealth legislation are shown in red. 'Migratory species' are protected under international agreements (B = Bonn Convention, C = China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, J = Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, K = Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement). Terminology for vegetation types follows Keith (2004).

### **Family CASUARIIDAE – EMUS**

#### **Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae novaehollandiae***

Reserves: N

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland and open areas of the Burragorang and Nattai Valleys (Nattai NP). Before European settlement, Emus probably occupied larger, more open valleys throughout the WHA, but as early as 1836, Charles Darwin noted that the Emu had been 'banished a long distance' from the Blue Mountains (Mackness 1950-51). The Emus in Nattai NP are probably not a remnant of the original Blue Mountains Emus but an introduced population, most likely derived from animals imported by landowners at nearby Yerranderie and Yanderra (DEC 2004b).

### **Family MEGAPODIDAE – MOUND BUILDERS**

#### **Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathami lathami***

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It is found in rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest, mainly in the northern part of the WHA. Recent sightings in or near Blue Mountains NP, including the Grose Valley, Jamison Valley, Leura, Woodford, Winmalee and Faulconbridge (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter), suggest that its range is currently expanding southward within the WHA. Its distribution extends further south along the coast to the Shoalhaven River.

### **Family PHASIANIDAE – QUAILS**

#### **Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, W (1977), Y

Rare nomad typically found on the margins of wetlands and in cropland. The few recent records include one from the cleared flats around Red Rock Creek (Gardens of Stone NP, OEH 2012a).

**King Quail *Synoicus chinensis victoriae***

Reserves: BM (1992), N

Rare vagrant recorded at Linden Fire Trail (Blue Mountains NP) in November 1992 (BioNet Atlas) and at Nattai River (Nattai NP) in May 2001 (NSW Bird Atlasers). Also recorded near the WHA at Newnes in 1985 and Medlow Bath in 1989 (Smith and Smith 1990). It occurred regularly in coastal areas east of the WHA in the past, but it is now rarely reported anywhere in NSW (Cooper *et al.* 2014).

**Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus australis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident of dense ground vegetation in heath, swamps, grassy woodland and wet sclerophyll forest. An adult with seven newly hatched chicks was recorded in the vicinity of Nepean Lookout (Blue Mountains NP) in January 2015 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

**Family ANATIDAE – DUCKS AND SWANS**

**Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea***

Reserves: BM, GOS (1999), J (1999), N (1994), TL, W

Rare nomadic visitor to open wetlands.

**Grey Teal *Anas gracilis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W

Uncommon nomadic visitor to open wetlands.

**Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident of open wetlands and larger watercourses. The local population is likely supplemented at times by nomadic visitors from elsewhere.

**Hardhead *Aythya australis***

Reserves: J, TL, W

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands such as Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP), Thirlmere Lakes (Thirlmere Lakes NP) and Blue Lake (Jenolan KCR).

**Musk Duck *Biziura lobata***

Reserves: BM (1995), N (1997), TL, W

Rare nomad, recorded occasionally on open wetlands such as Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Lake Burragorang (Blue Mountains/Nattai NPs). The species may occur more regularly on Lake Burragorang than the few records suggest.

**Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident found in grassy areas near water, including farm dams.

**Black Swan *Cygnus atratus***

Reserves: BM, GOS (1992), J (1968), N, TL (1980-84), W

Uncommon nomad. An occasional visitor to open wetlands such as Lake Burragorang (Blue Mountains/Nattai NPs) and Thirlmere Lakes NP. Some records are birds seen flying over.

**Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni***

Reserves: J

Rare nomadic waterbird recorded at Blue Lake (Jenolan KCR) in the summer of 2017-18 (Anne Musser). Also recorded near Blue Mountains NP at Wentworth Falls Lake in 2008 and at a small dam in southern Woodford in 2005 and 2010 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

**Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus***

Reserves: N

Rare nomad of open wetlands. Recorded on the eastern side of Lake Burragorang (Nattai NP) in November 2014 (BioNet Atlas).

**Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM

Rare nomad of open wetlands. Recorded at Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP) in March 2014 (eBird Australia).

**Australasian Shoveler *Spatula rhynchotis rhynchotis***

Reserves: N

Rare nomad of open wetlands. Recorded on the eastern side of Lake Burragorang (Nattai NP) in November 2014 (BioNet Atlas).

**Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: W

Rare nomad of open wetlands. It breeds in large temporary inland wetlands and disperses widely during droughts, sometimes as far east as coastal NSW. Recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in May 2014 (eBird Australia).

**Family PODICIPEDIDAE – GREBES**

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus australis***

Reserves: BM (1998), N, TL, W

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands such as Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Thirlmere Lakes NP.

**Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus***

Reserves: BM, N, TL, W

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands such as Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP).

**Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident of open wetlands, including farm dams.

**Family COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS AND DOVES**

**Pacific Emerald-Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris rogersi***

Reserves: J, W, Y (1991)

Rare breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It is found in rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest but visits drier habitats in autumn and winter. Small numbers were recorded along the Colo River in 1923 (Kinghorn 1924). In the 1970s, it was regularly recorded along Darkey Creek (junction of Wollemi and Yengo NPs), but the last record there was in 1994 (NSW Bird Atlasers). It was also recorded at Mogo Creek (Yengo NP) in 1991 (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Newsletter). The very few recent records include the vicinity of Koondah Creek (Wollemi NP) in November 2005 (DEC 2006) and the Six Foot Track

(Jenolan KCR) in October 2008 (NSW Bird Atlassers). It was also seen at Faulconbridge, near Blue Mountains NP, in April 2011 (eBird Australia).

### **White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela***

Reserves: BM, TL, W, Y

Rare breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It inhabits rainforest, shrubby wet sclerophyll forest, riverine forest and disturbed vegetation. Its range has expanded in coastal districts of NSW since 1970 (Cooper *et al.* 2014) and it has become established around Springwood since the late 1980s, occurring in Blue Mountains NP but mainly in urban areas outside the WHA. Recent records elsewhere in the WHA include Dunns Swamp and Wheeny Creek (Wollemi NP) and Big Yango Homestead (Yengo NP).

### **Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata***

Reserves: BM, N (1997), W

Rare vagrant that is normally an inland species. It was sighted in Nattai NP in March and April 1997 (BioNet Atlas) and heard calling near Glen Alice Valley (Wollemi NP) in November 2005 (DEC 2006). One was seen in Blue Mountains NP at Blackheath in December 2014 (eBird Australia).

### **Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis humeralis***

Reserves: BM, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident found in various habitats, often near water. The species has been extending its range southwards in NSW since the 1940s (Cooper *et al.* 2014). It was a rare vagrant to the Blue Mountains in the 1980s (Smith and Smith 1990) but is now recorded more regularly in Blue Mountains NP (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter). It has also been recorded at scattered locations in other reserves in the eastern parts of the WHA.

### **Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida placida***

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident found mainly in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest. It is more frequent at lower elevations and has not been recorded in the higher elevation reserves, Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. It has declined in the lower Blue Mountains since the 1980s.

### **Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident that is widespread but most frequently recorded in Wollemi and Yengo NPs. It inhabits shrubby wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest but also

visits drier, more open vegetation nearby. It is generally found in areas with richer soils rather than in typical sandstone forests.

### **Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus***

Reserves: BM

Rare vagrant with two records from Blue Mountains NP: Kedumba Valley in August 2014 (BirdLife Australia Birdata) and Blaxland in November 2016 (Judy and Peter Smith). A coastal species of rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest.

### **Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella phasianella***

Reserves: BM, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It inhabits rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest and is more frequent at lower elevations. Its numbers have increased in the lower Blue Mountains since the 1980s, especially around townships adjoining the WHA, where it feeds on soft fruits and seeds in gardens.

### **Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes lophotes***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1999), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident of open grassy areas. It is more common in neighbouring farmland and urban areas than in the WHA itself. It colonised the Blue Mountains in the 1970s and 1980s (Smith and Smith 1990) as part of a general expansion from inland areas into tablelands and coastal areas (Cooper *et al.* 2014).

### **Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident of grassy woodland and cleared areas. It is widespread but most frequently recorded in Wollemi NP. The species has increased around towns in the lower Blue Mountains since the 1980s.

### **Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans elegans***

Reserves: BM, KB (1983), N (1997), TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It is usually found in sclerophyll forests with a tall dense understorey. There are recent records from Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Yengo NPs, but only old records from other reserves and the species appears to be declining in the WHA.

### **Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus magnificus***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM (1989), W

Rare vagrant with only two records, both single birds. One was seen near Euroka Clearing in Blue Mountains NP in September 1989 (Smith and Smith 1990). Another was seen on Grassy Hill Trail in Wollemi NP in December 2016 (Atlas of Living Australia). It is a rainforest bird that occurred in the Illawarra region to the south-east of the WHA until the 1920s but is now mainly found north of the Hunter River (Cooper *et al.* 2014).

### **Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus superbus***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM

Rare vagrant. A juvenile bird in poor condition was recorded in Blue Mountains NP at Blaxland in February 2007 (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Newsletter). It is a rainforest bird mainly found on the north coast of NSW but it has been repeatedly recorded moving through Sydney in small numbers, particularly in autumn, apparently in a post-breeding dispersal of part of the population from the north coast to the south coast of NSW (Cooper *et al.* 2014).

### **Family PODARGIDAE – FROGMOUTHS**

#### **Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides strigoides***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. A nocturnal species that is often seen perched beside fire trails at night, pouncing to the ground to take moths and other prey.

### **Family EUROSTOPODIDAE – NIGHTJARS**

#### **White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1985), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and New Guinea. Recorded in the Blue Mountains September to March. It is found in dry sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. It is a nocturnal species that feeds in the air, hunting on silent wings for flying insects. It roosts by day and nests on the ground, relying on its cryptic colouration for camouflage.

### **Family AEGOTHELIDAE – OWLET-NIGHTJARS**

#### **Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus cristatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. It is a nocturnal species that roosts by day and nests in tree hollows, and is often seen looking out from the entrance during the day.

## Family APODIDAE – SWIFTS

### Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus pacificus*

Status: migratory species (CJK)

Reserves: BM, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Rare spring-summer non-breeding migrant that breeds in Asia. The few records in the WHA are from scattered locations. It is a highly specialised aerial feeder that is typically recorded flying within a flock of White-throated Needletails.

### White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus caudacutus*

Status: vulnerable (Commonwealth); migratory species (CJK)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread spring-summer non-breeding migrant from Asia. Recorded in the Blue Mountains November to March, occasionally October and April. A highly specialised aerial species, it occurs in flocks, feeding and drinking only in flight and sometimes soaring well over one kilometre above ground. It is rarely seen perching in Australia but at least some roost in trees, although it is also known to fly well after dark and may sleep on the wing.

## Family ANHINGIDAE – DARTERS

### Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*

Reserves: BM, J, N, TL, W

Rare nomadic waterbird found on open wetlands such as Thirlmere Lakes NP, Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP), and occasionally on rivers and larger creeks.

## Family PHALACROCORACIDAE – CORMORANTS

### Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos melanoleucos*

Reserves: BM, J, KB (1992), N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon nomadic waterbird of open wetlands, rivers and larger creeks. It has been recorded in all reserves except Gardens of Stone NP.

### Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo carboides*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, TL, W

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands and rivers. Recent records include Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP), Kedumba River, Glenbrook Creek and Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP), and Blue Lake (Jenolan KCR).

**Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris***

Reserves: BM, N, TL, W, Y (1982)

Uncommon nomadic waterbird of open wetlands and rivers, typically occurring in small flocks. Recent records include Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP).

**Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius hypoleucos***

Reserves: BM, J, N, TL (1994), W

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands and rivers.

**Family PELECANIDAE – PELICANS**

**Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus***

Reserves: BM, N, W

Rare nomadic waterbird found on open wetlands such as Lake Burragorang (Blue Mountains/Nattai NPs), but most records are birds seen flying over.

**Family CICONIIDAE – STORKS**

**Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis***

Status: endangered (NSW)

Reserves: W

Rare vagrant recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in May 2001 (BirdLife Australia Birdata). In NSW, this species is now mainly recorded in coastal districts north of the Hunter River, but it formerly bred on wetlands further south along the Hawkesbury and Shoalhaven Rivers (Cooper *et al.* 2014).

**Family ARDEIDAE – HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS**

**Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta***

Status: migratory species (J)

Reserves: BM, N, TL, W

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands.

**Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia intermedia***

Reserves: N (1997), W (1992)

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands. One bird was sighted in Nattai NP in June 1997 (BioNet Atlas). A dead bird was found in Wollemi NP in 1992 on Appletree Ridge (BioNet Atlas). There have been no recent records.

**White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica***

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon nomadic waterbird of open wetlands, rivers, larger creeks and moist grassland.

**Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus***

Status: endangered (NSW and Commonwealth)

Reserves: TL

Rare nomadic waterbird found in dense vegetation fringing open wetlands and rivers. It feeds in shallow water and builds a platform nest just above the water. It was recorded at Thirlmere Lakes NP in May 2014 (BioNet Atlas). There is no evidence of the species breeding in the WHA.

**Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromanda***

Status: migratory species (J)

Reserves: N, W

Rare nomad of moist grassland and open wetlands. It typically accompanies grazing cattle, feeding on the invertebrates and small vertebrates that they disturb, and also feeding on cattle-ticks. It occurs regularly in farmland east of the WHA, but is only a rare visitor to the WHA. It was recorded on the eastern side of Lake Burragorang (Nattai NP) in May 2014 (BioNet Atlas), and at Coorongoooba Campground (Wollemi NP) in October 2016 (eBird Australia). It is an Asian species that has spread following land clearing and agricultural development. It self-colonised Australia in the 1940s.

**White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident of open wetlands, rivers, larger creeks and moist grassland.

**Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis australis***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM (1995), Y

Rare nomadic waterbird at the western edge of its range, although occasional vagrants occur in inland NSW. It is typically found in dense bands of trees on the margins of open wetlands, rivers and larger creeks. It was recorded in Yengo NP at Drews Creek in January 2005 (DEC 2005b) and at Brush Creek in November 1977 (BioNet Atlas). Two birds (male and female) were seen in Glenbrook Gorge (Blue Mountains NP) in 1995 (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Newsletter). The Drews Creek and Glenbrook Gorge records were in waterside sclerophyll forest in narrow sandstone gorges.

**Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon but widely occurring nomadic waterbird. It roosts by day in dense tree foliage beside open wetlands, rivers and large creeks, and feeds by night in shallow water. Recent records include Glenbrook Gorge (Blue Mountains NP) and Coco Creek downstream of Airly Creek (Gardens of Stone NP).

**Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE – IBIS AND SPOONBILLS**

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes***

Reserves: N (1994), TL (1980-84), W (1977), Y (1982)

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands. It has been recorded from four reserves but there are no recent records.

**Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia***

Reserves: N

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands that has only been recorded in Nattai NP, beside Lake Burragorang.

**Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus***

Reserves: BM, J, N, W, Y (1982)

Rare nomad of open wetlands and moist grassland. Some records are birds flying over.

**Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis***

Reserves: BM, KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Rare nomad of open wetlands and moist grassland. Most records are birds flying over, usually in flocks.

**Family ACCIPITRIDAE – EAGLES AND HAWKS**

**Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus cirrocephalus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1999), KB, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident, mainly in sclerophyll forests. There appears to be an influx of birds to the lower Blue Mountains in autumn.

**Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland.

**Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident. It is mainly found in shrubby wet sclerophyll forest but may also be seen flying over other habitats. Recent records include Govetts Lookout, Glenbrook Gorge, Nepean Lookout Road and Mount Hay Road (Blue Mountains NP), Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Thirlmere Lakes NP.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax audax***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident. It may be seen flying over most habitats in the WHA hunting for its prey, which includes mammals up to wallaby size, birds and sometimes reptiles. It also often feeds on carrion. With a wing-span of up to 2.5 m, it is one of the largest eagles in the world and it makes a majestic sight soaring over the dramatic scenery of the Blue Mountains.

**Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata subcristata***

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

An uncommon breeding resident in the northern half of the WHA. It is at the western edge of its range in Gardens of Stone NP. The WHA is also the southern edge of its range on the tablelands, although it occurs further south in coastal districts. It has increased in the Blue Mountains since the 1980s, when it was considered a rare vagrant (Smith and Smith 1990). Nesting has not been confirmed within the WHA but has been recorded at Lapstone, just east of Blue Mountains NP, in January 2010 (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Newsletter) and December 2012 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

**Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans***

Reserves: BM, N, TL, W (1984)

Rare nomad, usually seen flying low over open wetlands hunting for its prey, which consists mainly of waterbirds, ground birds and small mammals. Most records have come from Thirlmere Lakes NP, most recently in 2016 (eBird Australia). Occasional records in other reserves include Wheeny Creek (Wollemi NP) in 1984 (NSW Bird Atlasers), Jooriland (Nattai NP) in 2002 (BioNet Atlas), and Glenbrook Creek (Blue Mountains NP) in 2015 (eBird Australia). Birds seen in the WHA in autumn and winter may include non-breeding migrants from Tasmania.

**Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: Y

Rare vagrant that is more typical of arid and semi-arid areas. Recorded in the vicinity of Big Yango Homestead (Yengo NP) in May 2013 (eBird Australia).

**Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, W, Y

Uncommon nomad of open grassy areas. More common in adjacent farmland and towns than in the WHA.

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster***

Status: vulnerable (NSW); migratory species (C)

Reserves: BM, KB (1992), N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident found along larger rivers including the Coxs, Nepean, Wollondilly and Nattai Rivers, and also sighted flying over Lake Burragorang. The only record from Kanangra-Boyd NP was in the Kanangra Walls–Gingra Range area in June 1992 (NSW Bird Atlasers).

**Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus***

Reserves: BM, J (1946), N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon nomad, mainly occurring along rivers. It is an opportunist, taking a variety of live prey and carrion.

**Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, N (1997), TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident of both forested and open country. It is more common in farmland in the Capertee Valley west of the WHA, where rabbits are more plentiful than in the WHA (Geering 2006). Rabbits have become a major prey item for the species, replacing the small native mammals on which it formerly preyed, many of which are now extinct or severely depleted (NSW Scientific Committee 2010b). It also feeds on birds, reptiles and occasionally large insects and carrion.

**Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, W

Rare breeding resident. Most records are from the eastern parts of Blue Mountains NP. Recent records further west include Mt Cameron (Wollemi NP) and Shipley Plateau (Blue Mountains NP). An inhabitant of sclerophyll forests, it feeds mostly on small birds plucked from the tree tops. It has been recorded nesting regularly at Mt Riverview, just east of Blue Mountains NP, since 2007 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

### **Family FALCONIDAE – FALCONS**

#### **Brown Falcon *Falco berigora berigora***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1999), KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident mainly found in open country, including heathland and recently burnt areas. It is more common in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA, where it occurs widely but irregularly.

#### **Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides cenchroides***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (undated), KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident of open country, including heaths, swamps and clifftops. The undated record for Jenolan KCR is a specimen at the Australian Museum.

#### **Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis longipennis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1986), KB (1997), TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident. It is found in most habitats where there are trees, although it generally avoids denser forests.

#### **Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus macropus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident. It hunts in both open and forested country and is often seen around cliffs, which are its favoured nest sites. It preys on other birds, sometimes of surprisingly large size, which it takes or kills in the air, swooping on them at speeds of up to 390 km per hour, making it the fastest of all birds.

#### **Black Falcon *Falco subniger***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: W

Rare vagrant from the inland. Recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in April 2006 (eBird Australia).

## **Family RALLIDAE – RAILS, CRAKES AND SWAMPHENS**

### **Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra australis***

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, TL, W

Uncommon breeding resident of open wetlands such as Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP).

### **Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa tenebrosa***

Reserves: BM, J (1987), N, TL, W

Uncommon breeding resident of open wetlands, rivers and larger creeks, particularly where shelter is provided by dense reedbeds or similar vegetation.

### **Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis mellori***

Reserves: BM

Rare breeding resident. Recorded only in Blue Mountains NP, including one recent record on the Fairfax Track at Blackheath (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter). It is a secretive species of dense swamp vegetation and may be more common than the records suggest.

### **Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis***

Reserves: BM

Rare breeding resident recorded in Blue Mountains NP west to Katoomba. Another secretive species of dense swamp vegetation that may be more common than the records suggest.

### **Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus***

Reserves: BM, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident of dense aquatic vegetation fringing open wetlands and rivers. Records include Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Woodford Dam (Blue Mountains NP).

### **Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla palustris***

Reserves: TL (1980-84), W

Rare nomadic waterbird found in dense aquatic vegetation fringing open wetlands. Recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in October 2002 (NSW Bird Atlasers) and at Thirlmere Lakes NP in 1980-84 (Turner 1985).

### **Spotless Crake *Zapornia tabuensis plumbea***

Reserves: W

Rare nomadic waterbird found in dense aquatic vegetation fringing open wetlands. Recorded at Dunns Swamp in Wollemi NP (DEC 2006) and at a small dam in southern Woodford, just outside Blue Mountains NP (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter 2014).

#### **Family HAEMATOPODIDAE – OYSTERCATCHERS**

##### **Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus fuliginosus***

Status: **vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM

Rare vagrant. A species of rocky sea coasts and offshore islands for which there is no habitat within the WHA. The only record is a single bird seen flying over Katoomba Falls in April 2015, which was a time of heavy storms around Sydney (Birding NSW Newsletter). The bird was possibly blown inland by the storms.

#### **Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE – STILTS AND AVOCETS**

##### **White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus***

Reserves: N, TL (1980-84)

Rare nomadic waterbird of open wetlands. Recorded in Nattai NP on the eastern side of Lake Burragarang in 2001 and 2014 (BioNet Atlas), and at Thirlmere Lakes NP in 1980-84 (Turner 1985).

#### **Family CHARADRIIDAE – PLOVERS, DOTTERELS AND LAPWINGS**

##### **Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops***

Reserves: BM, J (1987), N, W (1997)

Rare breeding resident found on mud, sand or shingle on the margins of open wetlands, rivers and larger creeks. It has been recorded breeding in Kedumba Valley (Smith and Smith 1990). It nests on the ground near water.

##### **Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1988), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident or local nomad of short grassland and open wetlands. It is often heard calling at night as it flies over. It colonises areas where native vegetation has been cleared and replaced by exotic grassland. More common in surrounding farmland and towns than in the WHA.

## Family SCOLOPACIDAE – SNIPE, SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES

### Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Status: migratory species (BJK)

Reserves: BM, TL (1980-84), W

Rare non-breeding spring-summer migrant that breeds in Japan. It frequents swamps and dense moist herbage fringing open wetlands and watercourses. Recent records include Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and Lacys Tableland (Blue Mountains NP).

## Family TURNICIDAE – BUTTON-QUAILS

### Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus pseutes*

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: J

Rare vagrant. A species of dense grasslands rarely recorded in NSW in recent times, with most records coming from the far north coast (Cooper *et al.* 2016). A population of Red-backed Button-quail formerly occurred near Sydney but died out in about 1912 (NSW Scientific Committee 2005b). The only record from the WHA is a male found dead in the main Jenolan Caves tourist precinct in April 2011 (OEH 2012b).

### Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

Reserves: KB (1983)

Rare vagrant. A species mainly of grassland and cropland, with a wide but patchy distribution in NSW, chiefly in inland areas. A dead bird was found in Kanangra-Boyd NP in November 1983 (BioNet Atlas). It has also been recorded near Blue Mountains NP at Katoomba in 1976 and 1977 (Smith and Smith 1990).

### Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius varius*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB (1982), N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident mainly found in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest. It is rarely encountered in typical sandstone forests with a dense shrubby understorey, preferring forest and woodland on richer soils with a more open, grassier understorey.

### Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

Reserves: BM, W

Rare vagrant, usually found further west. Recorded in Blue Mountains NP at Prince Henry Cliff Walk in October 2016 (Kalang and Milo Morrison- Jones), and in Wollemi NP at Hunter Main Trail in December 2005, Drip Rock Track in September 2007 and Mt Cameron in November 2008 (BioNet Atlas).

## Family LARIDAE – GULLS AND TERNS

### Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*

Reserves: BM, N (1997)

Rare nomadic visitor to large open wetlands and rivers.

## Family CACATUIDAE – COCKATOOS

### Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita galerita*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident. It is often perceived as a recent colonist of the Blue Mountains, but in 1804 the explorer George Caley found them to be plentiful and nesting at the junction of the Grose and Hawkesbury Rivers, and in 1824 Rene Lesson reported large numbers at Springwood (Mackaness 1950-51). Numbers have increased since the 1960s and 70s, when it was considered a rare species in the Blue Mountains (Smith and Smith 1990). It often feeds in farmland and towns outside the WHA but roosts and nests in wet sclerophyll forest within the WHA, well away from its feeding grounds.

### Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea gymnopsis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB (1982), TL, W

Rare breeding resident. The Little Corella has greatly expanded its range throughout Australia since the 1920s and has spread from the most westerly parts of NSW to practically all of the State (Cooper *et al.* 2016). A population became established on the Cumberland Plain in the 1950s and is still increasing, with occasional records in the lower Blue Mountains since the 1980s. The species also occurs in farmland on the western and northern fringes of the WHA.

### Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

Reserves: BM

Rare breeding resident. Recorded sporadically since 2009 around Euroka Clearing and the Nepean River on the eastern edge of Blue Mountains NP (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter). The species was originally restricted in NSW to the southern Riverina, but has spread to the Sydney region and elsewhere in coastal NSW since the 1960s, assisted by escapees and deliberate releases from aviaries (Cooper *et al.* 2016).

### Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

A breeding local nomad that is widespread in the WHA. It is near the northern limit of its distribution and is seldom recorded beyond the northern edge of Wollemi NP and the

adjacent Goulburn River NP. It was a common species in the Blue Mountains in the 1980s, present year round at all elevations (Smith and Smith 1990). It is still moderately common at higher elevations, but is now rarely recorded at lower elevations. In an analysis of Blue Mountains Bird Observers records, Ley (2016) found that reporting rates (the percentage of members' monthly bird lists that include Gang-gangs) have declined progressively from 66% in 1992 to only 16% in 2014. The decline has been most pronounced in the mid Mountains (Linden to Bullaburra; 84% to 9%) and lower Mountains (Lapstone to Falconbridge; 65% to 4%) but has also occurred, although to a lesser degree, in the upper Mountains (Wentworth Falls to Mt Victoria and Mt Wilson; 64% to 28%).

### **Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding local nomad. It moves about widely but there are no records for Jenolan KCR or Thirlmere Lakes NP. It frequents sclerophyll forests and heaths, where it feeds almost exclusively on seeds obtained from cones on she-oak trees and shrubs. Important local food plants are Black She-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis*, Forest Oak *A. torulosa* and Scrub She-oak *A. distyla*. It also requires large old eucalypt trees to provide hollows of sufficient size for nesting. A litter of chewed cones beneath a stand of she-oaks is usually evidence of Glossy Black-Cockatoos, although Crimson Rosellas also sometimes chew the cones.

### **Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla albiceps***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident in open grassy areas. It is more common in surrounding farmland and towns than in the WHA. Originally a bird of the inland, in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it began to spread from western NSW to its current distribution right across the State (Cooper *et al.* 2016). It is now the most widespread parrot in NSW. The Blue Mountains region was colonised in the 1970s and 1980s (Smith and Smith 1990).

### **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Zanda funereus funereus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding local nomad of sclerophyll forests and heathland. At higher elevations, it is less frequent in winter than in summer but occurs in larger flocks in winter, whereas at lower elevations, where it is less common, its numbers do not seem to fluctuate between seasons (Smith and Smith 1990).

## **Family PSITTACULIDAE – PARROTS**

### **Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis scapularis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding local nomad of rainforest and sclerophyll forests. Also frequently seen in gardens in surrounding towns. It is present all year but its numbers fluctuate in each locality as birds move about locally in search of food, which consists mainly of soft fruits and wattle seeds, seldom eucalypt seeds.

**Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna concinna***

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Rare nomad, typically visiting when there is a prolific flowering of certain eucalypts, such as the Rough-barked Apple *Angophora floribunda* and Red Bloodwood *Corymbia gummifera*. It often feeds in mixed flocks with other lorikeets.

**Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon nomad that is widespread but most frequent in Yengo and Wollemi NPs. There are no records from Jenolan KCR. It typically occurs in small flocks, often with other species of lorikeets, feeding on eucalypt nectar and pollen in the canopy of grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest. It comes and goes with the flowering of certain eucalypts, particularly boxes, ironbarks and bloodwoods. In April 2016 a flock of 50 birds was recorded at Boree Track in Yengo NP (Birding NSW Newsletter) and in June 2006 a flock of over 50 birds was recorded at Baerami Creek in Wollemi NP (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report).

**Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor***

Status: endangered (NSW), critically endangered (Commonwealth)

Reserves: BM, GOS (1995), N (1997), Y

Rare non-breeding autumn-winter migrant from Tasmania. It feeds on eucalypt nectar, pollen and associated insects. It has been recorded in Gardens of Stone NP in July 1995 (eBird Australia), Nattai NP in May 1997 (BioNet Atlas), Yengo NP in June 2004 (NSW Bird Atlassers), and Blue Mountains NP (Narrowneck Plateau) in April 2017 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

**Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus***

Reserves: BM, TL (1980-84)

Rare vagrant. Single birds are most likely aviary escapees, especially those in non-natural colouring, but small flocks of green birds are occasionally seen in the Blue Mountains and appear to be vagrants from the inland, occurring especially in times of drought (Smith and Smith 1990).

### **Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, and on the grassy edges of other sclerophyll forests. It favours more fertile habitats along creeks and rivers and adjacent foothills (NSW Scientific Committee 2009c). It feeds on or near the ground in open grassy areas, but shelters in denser cover. Recent sightings include Crown and Red Rock Creeks (Gardens of Stone NP), Mellong Plateau and Baerami Creek (Wollemi NP), upper Burragorang Valley (Nattai NP) and Finchley Track and Mogo Campground (Yengo NP).

### **Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans elegans***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident in sclerophyll forests and, less commonly, grassy woodland and rainforest. It is the most frequently recorded parrot in the WHA. A characteristic species of the Blue Mountains, it is well known and popular with local residents and visitors.

### **Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius eximius***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident of grassy woodland and clearings that is more frequent at lower elevations, although it does also occur in the high elevation reserves Kanangra-Boyd NP and Jenolan KCR. It is more common in surrounding farmland and towns than in the WHA.

### **Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus haematonotus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1987), TL (1975), W, Y

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland and grassland. It feeds entirely on the ground on seeds and soft green herbage.

### **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus***

Reserves: BM

Rare nomadic visitor recorded at Blue Gum Swamp Creek (Blue Mountains NP) in November 2016 and September 2018 (eBird Australia). Its movements follow the flowering of eucalypts and other food plants.

### **Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus moluccanus***

Reserves: BM, J, KB (1984), TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident and nomadic visitor. Its numbers fluctuate and it may become locally common when birds move into the WHA temporarily in response to the flowering of eucalypts such as the Red Bloodwood *Corymbia gummifera*. It is more frequent at lower elevations but appears to be expanding into higher elevations. It has been increasing in numbers and become a resident species in urban areas adjacent to the WHA since the 1980s (Smith and Smith 1990).

### **Family CUCULIDAE – CUCKOOS**

#### **Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis flabelliformis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding altitudinal migrant in sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and rainforest. It is scarce at higher elevations over winter, but common year round at lower elevations (Smith and Smith 1990). This is consistent with a general pattern in NSW of the birds vacating most tablelands regions over winter (Cooper *et al.* 2016).

#### **Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus variolosus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and occurs in the WHA between September and April. It is widespread in sclerophyll forests and rainforest, but less frequent at higher elevations and not recorded in Jenolan KCR.

#### **Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus phasianus***

Reserves: BM (pre 1990), W (1977)

Rare vagrant recorded before 1990 in Blue Mountains NP at Jamison Valley, and near the WHA at Colo Valley, Mount Tomah and Leura (Smith and Smith 1990). Also recorded in Wollemi NP at Cowparlor Creek in October 1977 (NSW Bird Atlassers). It was recorded in 2001 at Mount Victoria, either in or near Blue Mountains NP (NSW Field Ornithologists Newsletter). Usually a sedentary species mainly found in coastal regions, it inhabits rank grassland and shrub thickets, mostly beside streams or wetlands.

#### **Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB (1999), TL, W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and Indonesia, although some birds remain in southern Australia all year. It is mostly recorded in the WHA October to March but with occasional records in winter, including one at Baerami Creek (Wollemi NP) in June 2006 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report). It is generally found in open country and is more common in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA.

### **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus plagosus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread cuckoo recorded in the WHA all year. Two subspecies are likely to occur in the WHA but only one has been confirmed. Subspecies *plagosus* is a moderately common partial spring-summer breeding migrant that is widespread in the WHA and inhabits sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. This subspecies vacates areas west of the Great Dividing Range over winter but is only a partial migrant in eastern NSW (Cooper *et al.* 2016). Subspecies *lucidus* breeds in New Zealand and migrates to the Solomon Islands, with only vagrant occurrences in Australia, including one bird caught at Shaws Creek just outside the eastern edge of Blue Mountains NP in June 1975 (Smith and Smith 1990).

### **Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans***

Reserves: GOS, W

Rare partial spring-summer breeding migrant in the north-west of the WHA, found in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest. Its movement patterns are unclear. It is present all year in NSW but is much more frequently recorded in late winter and spring, and also varies in distribution and abundance from year to year (Cooper *et al.* 2016). Recent records include Baerami Creek in Wollemi NP in September-October 2007 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report), and Red Rock Creek in Gardens of Stone NP in November 2010 (OEH 2012a).

### **Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus optatus***

Status: migratory species (CJK)

Reserves: BM (1990)

Rare vagrant that breeds in Asia and migrates in the non-breeding season to Indonesia, New Guinea and northern Australia. It occurs in Australia mainly between November and March. It was recorded in Blue Mountains NP west of Mulgoa in 1990 (BioNet Atlas). It has also been recorded in the vicinity of the WHA at Winmalee in the late 1970s, Springwood in 1986 and Newnes in 1986 (Smith and Smith 1990).

### **Eastern Koel *Eudynamis orientalis cyanocephalus***

Reserves: BM, J (1999), KB, N, TL (1999), W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and is present in the Blue Mountains October to April. It has been recorded in all reserves except Gardens of Stone NP, but it is more frequent at lower elevations and around human habitation. It feeds mainly on soft fruits, often those of garden plants, and typically lays its eggs in the nests of Red Wattlebirds or Noisy Friarbirds.

### **Pallid Cuckoo *Heteroscenes pallidus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1986), KB (1999), N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland. Recorded in the Blue Mountains July to March. It is widespread but most frequently recorded in Wollemi and Yengo NPs. It is generally restricted to grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, but occurs in other habitats when migrating.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1997), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and is present in the Blue Mountains September to March. It is more frequent at lower elevations. It is a bird of rainforest and sclerophyll forests but in the Blue Mountains it is most often seen near human habitation, where garden plants provide a good source of the soft fruits on which it feeds. In spring, its honking calls are perhaps the loudest bird calls in the area. Its eggs are laid in the nests of Pied Currawongs or Australian Ravens and, unlike other cuckoos, it may lay two or more eggs in the nest, leaving its poor hosts to raise a brood of huge cuckoos. It is the largest parasitic cuckoo in the world.

**Family STRIGIDAE – HAWK OWLS**

**Barking Owl *Ninox connivens connivens***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB (1998), N W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident found in grassy woodland and partially cleared areas, but also in sclerophyll forests. It is typically associated with relatively fertile soils and often near watercourses. Breeding has been confirmed near Burma Road (Jenolan KCR) in 2005 (OEH 2012b) and near Fitzgeralds Creek, Warrimoo, not far from Blue Mountains NP, in 2015 (Karleen Waldron). Other recent localities include Red Rock Creek, Crown Creek, Back Creek and a gully east of Southern Link Trail (Gardens of Stone NP), Big Yango Homestead and Mogo Campground (Yengo NP) and Baerami Creek and Coorongooba Campground (Wollemi NP).

**Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook boobook***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident. It is seldom reported between May and July, probably because the birds stop calling at this time of year, not because of migration. Boobooks stop calling over winter in the Australian Capital Territory but radio-tracking has shown that they are still present (Olsen 2011). Boobooks inhabit sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and rainforest in the WHA, and are also common in adjoining farmland and towns. They roost by day in dense foliage or small caves.

**Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident recorded in all reserves except Thirlmere Lakes NP. In the 1980s, it was considered a rare resident with breeding unconfirmed (Smith and Smith 1990). It has since increased markedly and is now frequently recorded, including breeding records in gullies and valleys where large old trees provide hollows of sufficient size for nesting. By day it roosts in dense foliage in rainforest or shrubby wet eucalypt forest. By night it feeds in these habitats and in nearby dry sclerophyll forest.

### **Family TYTONIDAE – MASKED OWLS**

#### **Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto alba delicatula***

Reserves: BM, KB, N, W

Uncommon nomad of grassy woodland and open country. It is more common in adjoining farmland than in the WHA. It roosts in tree hollows or caves, rarely in dense foliage as the hawk owls do.

#### **Australian Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. It roosts during the day in tree hollows, dense foliage or caves and feeds at night in forest and woodland with an open understorey and sparse ground layer vegetation. It usually nests in eucalypt hollows but has also been recorded nesting in caves. A long-time roost was discovered in 2006-07 near the junction of Yengo and Little Jimmys Creek in southern Yengo NP (DECC 2008c).

#### **Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1996), W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident at the western edge of its range. The species has increased markedly in the Blue Mountains since the 1980s. It typically roosts and nests in rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies but may forage more widely in adjoining habitats. Nests are in tree hollows, but roosts may be in either tree hollows or caves and sandstone overhangs. In Jenolan KCR, it has been recorded roosting in a number of caves, including the Devil's Coach House, Nettle and Arch Caves, The Ballroom and Dreamtime Cave. Owl pellet deposits in the caves at Jenolan, which may be both Sooty Owl and Australian Masked Owl pellets, date back some 20,000 years. Analysis of these deposits has revealed dramatic changes in the local small mammal fauna since European settlement (Morris *et al.* 1997). Recent localities for the Sooty Owl include Murphys Glen, Dantes Glen, Glenbrook Creek, Leura Falls Creek (Blue Mountains NP), Carne Creek, pagodas east of Baal Bone Gap, Capertee-Glen Alice Road (Gardens of Stone NP), Old Bulga Road,

Wellums Creek (Yengo NP), Appletree Creek (Wollemi NP) and Colong Caves (Kanangra-Boyd NP).

#### **Family ALCEDINIDAE – RIVER KINGFISHERS**

##### **Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus azurea***

Reserves: BM, KB, N, TL (1997), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident, widely but sparsely distributed along rivers, major creeks and large open wetlands. A true kingfisher, it feeds by diving into the water to take fish and other aquatic animals.

#### **Family HALCYONIDAE – TREE KINGFISHERS**

##### **Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae novaeguineae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. Their jovial chuckling calls are heard mostly in the early morning and late afternoon, when the entire family group joins in a communal chorus.

##### **Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii incinctus***

Reserves: BM, N, W (1993)

Rare vagrant, well south of its normal range. Recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in September 1993 (NSW Bird Atlassers), on Wanganderry Lookout Trail (Nattai NP) in November 2003 (DEC 2004b), and at Blue Gum Swamp Creek (Blue Mountains NP) in February 2006 (NSW Bird Atlassers).

##### **Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus sanctus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and New Guinea. Recorded in the Blue Mountains September to March. An inhabitant of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland, it takes its prey from the ground or from vegetation.

#### **Family MEROPIIDAE – BEE-EATERS**

##### **Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus***

**Status: migratory species (J)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1986), N (1994), W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in northern Australia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and eastern Indonesia. Recorded in the Blue Mountains

September to March. The species appears to be declining in the lower Blue Mountains. It hawks for insects in open country and is more common in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA. It breeds in loose colonies, nesting at the end of a long tunnel dug into loose dirt or sandy soil. There are old nesting records from the Colo, Nepean and Coxs Rivers (Smith and Smith 1990).

#### **Family CORACIIDAE – ROLLERS**

##### **Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis pacificus***

Reserves: BM, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and is present in the Blue Mountains September to February. It is found at lower elevations, including valleys of the upper Blue Mountains, but not on the more elevated plateaus. It is an aerial feeder in forest and woodland where the tree canopy is relatively open, and also in farmland and towns adjoining the WHA. It swoops for insects from high exposed vantage points.

#### **Family PITTIDAE – PITTAS**

##### **Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor versicolor***

Reserves: BM

Rare vagrant with only one WHA record at Glenbrook Creek near Springwood (Blue Mountains NP) in November 2009 (NSW Field Ornithologists Club Newsletter). It is usually found further north, although records from the Central Coast and Sydney area have been increasing (Cooper *et al.* 2016).

#### **Family MENURIDAE – LYREBIRDS**

##### **Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common breeding resident found in sclerophyll forests and rainforest throughout the WHA. It is typically an inhabitant of gullies but may also be encountered on ridges with a dense shrub layer, especially after rain. It feeds and builds its display mounds on the ground but roosts and nests in trees or on rock ledges. It is an iconic Australian species for which the WHA is a stronghold. The males make spectacular shimmering dancing displays on their mounds, accompanied by loud singing, including mimicry of the calls of a variety of other bird species, and sometimes other sounds such as motorbikes.

#### **Family CLIMACTERIDAE – TREECREEPERS**

##### **Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident. It is widely but patchily distributed in wet sclerophyll forest, shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. It spends its day climbing eucalypt trees hunting for invertebrates on the bark. It forages on rough-barked eucalypts but unlike other treecreepers, it also often forages on smooth-barked eucalypts.

**Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus victoriae***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1968), KB, N, TL (1994), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident with scattered records in grassy woodland on higher fertility soils, often along creek flats and lower slopes. It is rarely found in sclerophyll forests or at higher elevations. It forages on eucalypt trunks and branches like the other treecreepers, but also on the ground and on fallen timber. Recent localities include the Burragorang and Nattai Valleys (Nattai NP), creek flats and lower escarpment slopes of north-eastern Wollemi NP, and the north-east of the Pantoneys Crown Portion of Gardens of Stone NP.

**White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea leucophaeus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. It forages predominantly on the trunks and branches of rough-barked eucalypts, but also occasionally on the bark of non-eucalypt trees and shrubs.

**Family PTILONORHYNCHIDAE – BOWERBIRDS AND CATBIRDS**

**Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris***

Reserves: W (1986), Y

Rare nomad at the western edge of its range, typically found in rainforest and in shrubby wet sclerophyll forest with rainforest elements. It has been recorded at Coolawine (Wollemi NP) in October 1986 (BioNet Atlas) and at Milbrodale (Yengo NP) in February 2012 and May 2014 (BioNet Atlas). This species may be confused with female and immature Satin Bowerbirds. The name 'catbird' comes from its distinctive cat-like calls.

**Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilorhynchus maculatus***

Reserves: J

Rare vagrant well east of its normal range. There have been two records, both from Jenolan KCR: two birds in February 1993 (Morris and Burton 1995) and one bird in November 2017 (Atlas of Living Australia).

**Satin Bowerbird *Ptilorhynchus violaceus violaceus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident in rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest, less often in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. Some birds stay in the same locality all year but others wander more widely. Males construct elaborate twig bowers surrounded by large collections of mostly blue-coloured objects, both natural and man-made. The bowers are display sites to attract females for mating. All nesting and rearing of the young is done by the females. It is frequently found in gardens in neighbouring towns and is well known to local residents.

#### **Family MALURIDAE – FAIRY-WRENS AND EMU-WRENS**

##### **Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus cyanochlamys***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in areas where shrub thickets providing cover are interspersed with grassy open areas for feeding. A common species in farmland and townships around the WHA. More common at higher elevations than the Variegated Fairy-wren.

##### **Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti lamberti***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1991), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident that is widespread but less common at higher elevations. It inhabits sclerophyll forests and heaths. It feeds on or near the ground like the Superb Fairy-wren but generally keeps to dense shrubby vegetation, rarely venturing far from cover. More common at lower elevations than the Superb Fairy-wren.

##### **Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus malachurus***

Reserves: BM, KB, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It is usually found in swamps and adjacent heathland, mainly at middle and high elevations, probably because that is where most of the swamps are. There have been occasional records at lower elevations, including Glenbrook Gorge (Blue Mountains NP) in April 2010 (eBird Australia).

#### **Family ACANTHIZIDAE – THORNBILLS, SCRUBWRENS AND GERYGONES**

##### **Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa leighi***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident of open grassy areas, grassy woodland and forest edges. An insectivorous species that forages mainly on the ground. More common in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA.

##### **Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata lineata***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common breeding resident throughout the WHA in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. An insectivorous species that forages in the eucalypt canopy.

**Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana nana***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1999), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident, recorded from every reserve, although no recent records from Jenolan KCR. Found on higher fertility soils in grassy woodland, shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and River Oak *Casuarina cunninghamiana* riverine forest. Also found in townships and farmland adjacent to the WHA. It is generally absent from typical sandstone forests. An insectivorous species that forages in large shrubs and trees, including eucalypts but often other genera such as *Casuarina*, *Callitris*, *Acacia* and *Melaleuca*.

**Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla pusilla***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common breeding resident throughout the WHA in sclerophyll forests, rainforest, heath and swamps. An insectivorous species that forages mainly in the shrub layer rather than the tree canopy.

**Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides reguloides***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1998), W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest. The species has declined in the lower Blue Mountains since the 1980s, in conjunction with its decline on the Cumberland Plain to the east of the Blue Mountains. An insectivorous species that forages on the ground and also on the bark and foliage of shrubs and trees.

**Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis***

Reserves: W, Y

Rare breeding resident at the eastern edge of its current range. The species formerly occurred east of the WHA in western Sydney but is now extinct there (Hoskin *et al.* 1991). Found in grassy woodland and also in neighbouring farmland. Records in the WHA include Big Yango Homestead (Yengo NP) in April 2003 (NSW Bird Atlassers) and the Baerami Valley (Wollemi NP) in October 2004 (DEC 2005a).

**Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygius pyrrhopygia***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB (1986), N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident that occurs widely but sparsely in heath and dry sclerophyll forest on ridges. Feeds on or near the ground and nests in dense low vegetation.

**Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca exsul***

Reserves: BM, GOS (1997), KB, N, W

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, mostly on the western and northern edges of the WHA. The species occurs mainly west of the Great Dividing Range in NSW but also in the Hunter Valley north of the WHA (Cooper *et al.* 2016). In the WHA it is at the eastern edge of its range, although vagrants are occasionally reported east of the WHA. Recent records include a single bird at Baerami Creek (Wollemi NP) in June 2007 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report) and a single bird at Murphys Glen (Blue Mountains NP) in May 2017 (eBird Australia).

**Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki richmondi***

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It is widespread in the WHA but more frequent at lower elevations and no records from Gardens of Stone NP. It inhabits rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest with rainforest elements. Some movement of birds occurs in winter, probably only local movements to warmer sites such as ridges at lower elevations.

**White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea olivacea***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that mainly occurs in the Blue Mountains between September and April. Most birds winter in Queensland but a few sometimes remain in the WHA over winter. It is found mainly in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, rarely in typical sandstone forests, except during migration.

**Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in areas with extensive rock outcrops. It is usually found on sandstone but also occurs on limestone in Jenolan KCR. It is an insectivorous species that forages on rock outcrops and nests in caves. The only bird species endemic to mainland NSW, it is restricted to a radius of about 250 km around Sydney and is near the western and northern limits of its distribution in the WHA.

**Pilotbird *Pycnoptilis floccosus sandlandi***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL (1987), W

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident at the northern and western limits of its range. Most records are from Blue Mountains and Wollemi NPs. No records from Yengo NP and Jenolan KCR. It is mainly found in shrubby wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest but ranges onto ridges where there is dense cover. Its name 'pilotbird' refers to

its habit of following feeding Superb Lyrebirds, taking invertebrates disturbed or exposed by their raking of the ground litter.

### **Speckled Warbler *Pyrrholaemus sagittatus***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest. It feeds and nests at or near ground level but often goes up into shrubs and the lower branches of trees if disturbed or when it moves to a new location. It is a declining species in NSW and is now rare east of the WHA in Western Sydney, where it was once common (Cooper *et al.* 2016). Within the WHA, there is extensive habitat in Nattai NP and breeding has been recorded in the Burratorang Valley (DEC 2004b). Other recent records include Red Rock Creek, Airly Creek and tributaries of Crown Creek in Gardens of Stone NP (OEH 2012a); Wolgan Valley and creek flats and lower escarpment slopes in the north of Wollemi NP (DEC 2005a, DECC 2009); and Nowlands Creek and the junction of Big Yengo and Mountain Creeks in southern Yengo NP (DECC 2008c).

### **Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis citreogularis***

Reserves: BM, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident at the western edge of its range. Often near streams, it is found in rainforest and in shrubby wet sclerophyll forest and riverine forest with rainforest elements, such as stands of Black Wattle *Callicoma serratifolia*. Its presence is often revealed by its characteristic large enclosed hanging nests, which are typically suspended over a stream like a bundle of flood debris. It is an insectivorous species that forages mainly on the ground, less often in the shrub layer.

### **White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis frontalis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident of rainforest, sclerophyll forests, heaths and swamps. It is a species of dense ground and shrub vegetation that feeds and nests at or near ground level. It is more numerous in gullies than on ridges.

### **Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra magnirostris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident that is at the western edge of its range. Found in rainforest and in shrubby wet sclerophyll forest with rainforest elements. One bird caught and banded at Blue Gum Swamp Creek (Blue Mountains NP) lived there for at least nine years (Smith and Smith 1990). It is an insectivorous species that forages mainly on the bark of shrubs, trees and vines.

### **Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris brevirostris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Moderately common breeding resident of grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, absent from typical sandstone forests. It is generally found at lower elevations, including valleys in the upper Blue Mountains. No records from the higher elevation reserves, Kanangra-Boyd NP and Jenolan KCR. An insectivorous species that forages mainly on eucalypt foliage.

### **Family PARDALOTIDAE – PARDALOTES**

#### **Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus punctatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident or local nomad of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. Numbers increase in autumn and winter when there is an influx of non-breeding migrants from the south, arriving in migratory flocks that sometimes number over 50 birds. Forages in eucalypt foliage for insects and especially lerps (sugary coverings secreted by sap-sucking insects). Nests are built inside tunnels dug in the ground.

#### **Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus ornatus* and *P. striatus striatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread species, with two subspecies recorded in the WHA. Subspecies *ornatus* is a breeding resident or local nomad that is present all year. It nests in grassy woodland and in wet sclerophyll forest on basalt caps, and also in neighbouring farmland, but is only a sporadic non-breeding visitor to sclerophyll forests on sandstone. Subspecies *striatus* is a non-breeding autumn-winter migrant from Tasmania that occurs in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. This subspecies has only been confirmed in Blue Mountains NP but is likely to be much more widespread in the WHA during autumn and winter. A third subspecies, *substriatus* of inland NSW, may also occur in the WHA but has not been confirmed. It has been recorded near the WHA at Broke and Tarana (Australian Museum specimens). Striated Pardalotes forage in eucalypt foliage for insects and especially lerps, and nest in tree hollows.

### **Family MELIPHAGIDAE – HONEYEATERS**

#### **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis***

Reserves: BM, W

Rare visitor from adjoining farmland. This species is more typical of woodland and scrub in inland NSW, but it also occurs in the Hunter Valley. It is frequently recorded in farmland to the west and north of Wollemi NP but there have been very few records from the WHA. It was recorded in Wollemi NP on the Sandy Hollow to Rylstone Road in September 2006 and in the Reubens Trail-Baerami Creek area in April 2009 (Atlas of Living Australia). It was recorded in Blue Mountains NP on Shaws Ridge in March 2007 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

### **Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris tenuirostris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common breeding resident throughout the WHA in sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland, heath and swamps. In addition to the resident population, there is an influx of birds to the Blue Mountains over autumn and winter, when banksias and other nectar-rich shrubs are in flower.

### **Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata carunculata***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common breeding species found in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland throughout the WHA, but more common at higher elevations. There appears to be both a resident breeding population that moves about locally following the flowering of banksias, eucalypts and other plants (including garden plants in adjacent townships), and a large influx of non-breeding migrants that move into the Blue Mountains from the south in autumn and winter when the main banksia species flower.

### **Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera chrysoptera***

Reserves: BM, GOS (1999), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident at the western edge of its distribution, found in shrubby dry sclerophyll forest, heath and swamps. It is widespread, but more common in the northern half of the WHA and no records from Jenolan KCR. The species has increased around towns in the lower Blue Mountains since the 1980s.

### **Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia***

**Status: critically endangered (NSW and Commonwealth)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y (1999)

A rare, highly nomadic species that is declining and critically endangered. It feeds on nectar, mainly from eucalypts and mistletoes, and also on insects. Favoured habitats include box-ironbark grassy woodland when eucalypts are flowering, and River Oak *Casuarina cunninghamiana* riverine forest when Needle-leaf Mistletoe *Amyema cambagei* is flowering. It has been recorded sporadically in the WHA, including during the breeding season, but there are no confirmed breeding records. However, the four key breeding areas for the species include two adjacent to the WHA: the Capertee Valley and the Hunter Valley (Department of the Environment 2016). There have also been multiple sightings of Regent Honeyeaters in Yerranderie State Conservation Area, which lies between Blue Mountains NP and Nattai NP. Recent records in the WHA include: Nattai National Park beside Lake Burragorang in January 2002, between Burnt Flat and Ben Har in April 2015, April 2016 and August 2017 (BioNet Atlas) and near Jooriland in September 2018 (eBird Australia); Blue Mountains NP at Blaxland in November 2002 (Judy and Peter Smith); Gardens of Stone NP at Red Rock Creek in January 2001 (BioNet Atlas) and at Red Rock Creek and Coco Creek in November 2010 (OEH 2012a); and Wollemi NP at two locations between Kings Creek and

Mount Arndell in October 2004 (DEC 2005a), at Baerami Creek in June 2006 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report) and at Coorongooba Campground in March 2016 (Birding NSW Newsletter). Regent Honeyeaters are also occasionally sighted in Blue Mountains townships adjacent to the WHA (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

**Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Caligavis chrysops chrysops***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident and non-breeding autumn-winter migrant in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. Many birds are present all year but in April and May there is a massive northward migratory movement through the WHA of birds from southern NSW and Victoria. Huge numbers of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters are seen flying over by day, accompanied by White-naped Honeyeaters, Silvereyes and other species. Most just pass through but many stay for the winter, feeding on flowering banksias and other plant species. The return migration takes place between August and November, but involves far fewer birds, possibly because many of the young birds that take part in the autumn migration have died over winter.

**Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: W

Rare vagrant well east of its normal range. It was recorded at Reubens Trail (Wollemi NP) in September 2007 (NSW Bird Atlassers).

**Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis cyanotis***

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Rare breeding resident in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland in the north of the WHA (Wollemi and Yengo NPs), with occasional records further south in Blue Mountains NP.

**Singing Honeyeater *Gavicalis virescens sonorus***

Reserves: W (1995)

Rare vagrant from inland NSW recorded at Baerami Valley (Wollemi NP) in January 1995 (BioNet Atlas). It has also been recorded near Blue Mountains NP at Glenbrook from May to July 2013 (eBird Australia).

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops melanops***

Reserves: BM, W (1997)

Rare breeding resident of heathland, chiefly at higher elevations. It is at the western edge of its range. All recent records have come from Blue Mountains NP and include Kings Tableland, Lockleys Pylon, Butterbox Point and Mount Banks.

### **Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta***

Status: vulnerable (NSW and Commonwealth)

Reserves: W

Rare spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in northern Australia. The WHA is at the eastern edge of the Painted Honeyeater's current range but it formerly occurred regularly on the Cumberland Plain east of the WHA (Hoskin *et al.* 1991). A specialist feeder on mistletoe fruits, it inhabits dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and River Oak *Casuarina cunninghamiana* riverine forest, especially where there are abundant mistletoes.

Movements follow the fruiting seasons of different mistletoe species. It was recorded in Wollemi NP in grassy woodland in Lee Creek Valley in January-February 2006 (DEC 2006) and in Widden Valley in November 2009 (BirdLife Australia Birdata). It was recorded along the Wollondilly River close to both Blue Mountains NP and Nattai NP in December 2014, January 2015, December 2018 and February 2019 (BioNet Atlas). Breeding was confirmed close to Blue Mountains NP in Kanimbla Valley in December 2013 to January 2014 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

### **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops melanops***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common breeding resident that is widespread but most records are from Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Yengo NPs and there are none from Jenolan KCR. It is most frequent at lower elevations, including valleys of the upper Blue Mountains. It lives in scattered colonies in sclerophyll forests with a dense shrub layer, often along streams.

### **Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta ocularis***

Reserves: Y

Rare vagrant only known from three records in Yengo NP: Judge Dowling Range in October 1986 (NSW Bird Atlassers), Little Darkey Camp Road in March 2006 (BioNet Atlas) and the north-east corner of the reserve in January 2001 (BioNet Atlas). The WHA is on the southern fringe of the species distribution.

### **Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala melanocephala***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident that is widespread in the WHA but most frequent at lower elevations, including valleys of the upper Blue Mountains. It lives in colonies and may be locally common in grassy woodland and around cleared areas. It is a common species in neighbouring towns and farmland. Throughout their distribution, Noisy Miners have increased since European settlement in areas where eucalypt forest and woodland has been fragmented by clearing for agricultural and urban development. They are aggressive birds and act cooperatively to actively exclude other bird species from their colonies. 'Aggressive exclusion of birds from woodland and forest habitat by abundant Noisy Miners' has been

listed as a key threatening process under NSW threatened species legislation (NSW Scientific Committee 2013b).

**Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It lives in localised colonies in shrubby wet sclerophyll forest. The number of colonies in the WHA has increased since the 1980s. Bell Miners feed chiefly on lerps, the sugary coverings secreted by sap-sucking psyllid insects found on eucalypt foliage. The insect itself is left alive and eventually secretes another lerp. Each colony vigorously excludes from its area other bird species that are more destructive feeders. As a result of this 'farming' of the lerp-insects, the eucalypts remain heavily infested and suffer from dieback. Such is the extent of increase of Bell Miner colonies across NSW, including the WHA, that 'Forest eucalypt dieback associated with over-abundant psyllids and Bell Miners' has been listed as a key threatening process under NSW threatened species legislation (NSW Scientific Committee 2008).

**Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii lewinii***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident near the western edge of its range, found in rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies. The birds move about more in autumn and winter, and venture out of the gullies into dry sclerophyll forest on ridges. The species has become more common in Blue Mountains townships adjoining the WHA since the 1980s. It feeds on nectar, insects and soft fruits, including those of garden plants.

**Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris brevirostris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest, less often in wet sclerophyll forest. The birds occur in small flocks that stay in the same locality but move around over a large home range.

**Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis gularis***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, N (1997), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident. Black-chinned Honeyeaters were more widely distributed in NSW in the past but have always occurred at low densities. The species has declined in numbers and its range has contracted (NSW Scientific Committee 2001a). Once moderately common on the Cumberland Plain to the east of the WHA, it has declined there since the 1960s. Most recent records in the WHA are from the north, such as along the southern escarpment of the Hunter Valley, where it is found in box-ironbark grassy woodland on

creek flats and lower slopes where soils are relatively fertile. It feeds on eucalypt nectar and insects and its numbers fluctuate as it moves in response to eucalypt flowering patterns.

**White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus lunatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident and non-breeding autumn-winter migrant. It is present in good numbers all year but there is a huge influx of birds from southern NSW and Victoria moving through the WHA in autumn, when they can be seen flying over by day, together with Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Silvereyes and other species. Most just pass through the WHA but many remain over winter. The return migration in late winter and spring involves far fewer birds. The species is largely confined to wet sclerophyll forest in spring and summer but is more widespread in autumn and winter, although still favouring wet sclerophyll forest.

**Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta sanguinolenta***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and is present in the Blue Mountains August to April. It inhabits grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest, mainly at lower elevations.

**White-eared Honeyeater *Nesoptilotis leucotis leucotis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and heath. It feeds mainly on insects and insect and plant exudates that it obtains from bark and foliage, less often on nectar and soft fruits.

**Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis citreogularis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, W, Y

Rare nomadic visitor from west of the Great Dividing Range. Recent records include Nioka Gate (2018) in Gardens of Stone NP (eBird Australia), McKeowns Valley (2018) in Jenolan KCR (Roger Lembit), Wheeny Creek campground (2015) and Dunns Swamp (2012) in Wollemi NP (Atlas of Living Australia), and Mogo Campground (2015) in Yengo NP (eBird Australia).

**Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus monachus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common spring-summer breeding migrant, with some birds present all year. Movements are complex and poorly understood, but most of the population moves north in autumn and

returns in late winter and spring. It occurs in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland throughout the WHA, but is more frequent at lower elevations.

**White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger niger***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB (1993), TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident at the western edge of its range. It occurs widely but is most frequent at lower elevations in the northern half of the WHA. It favours heathland with good sources of nectar, such as the Heath-leaved Banksia *Banksia ericifolia*.

**New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae novaehollandiae***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding species in swamps, heath, sclerophyll forests and rainforest. It is sedentary in areas with a year-round supply of nectar and plant exudates, elsewhere it is locally nomadic in response to the flowering of its food plants. As well as the birds resident in the Blue Mountains, there is an influx of non-breeding visitors over autumn and winter, when banksias and other nectar-rich shrubs are in flower.

**Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB (1986), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident and non-breeding autumn-winter migrant. It is resident in rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies at high and middle elevations, but only an occasional visitor to lower elevations. There is an influx of birds over autumn and winter, probably from the high country of southern NSW and Victoria.

**Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata***

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest on relatively fertile soils in the north of the WHA, with most records from Wollemi NP. It is at the southern edge of its range on the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range, but it occurs further south in inland NSW.

**Fuscous Honeyeater *Ptilotula fusca fusca***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB (1994), N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident and non-breeding autumn-winter migrant. Widely recorded but no records from Jenolan KCR. The resident population occurs in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest on relatively fertile soils around the edges of the WHA. There is an influx of non-breeding migrants from the south in May to September, when the species occurs more widely and in a wider range of habitats, including sclerophyll forests, heath and adjacent towns. An unusually large congregation of Fuscous Honeyeaters and

White-plumed Honeyeaters (over 100 birds of each species) was recorded at Baerami Creek in Wollemi NP in June 2007 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report).

**White-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula penicillata penicillatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident in grassy woodland along watercourses in the western parts of the WHA, with sporadic records elsewhere. It is a very sociable species, with individuals continually interacting with each other. It feeds on insects, lerps and nectar, with most of its food obtained in eucalypts.

**Family POMATOSTOMIDAE – AUSTRALIAN BABBLERS**

**White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus gilgandra***

Reserves: GOS, W

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest on relatively fertile soils in the north of the WHA, with most records from Wollemi NP. More common in grassy woodlands on the western slopes and plains, it is at the eastern edge of its range in the WHA.

**Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: W, Y

Rare breeding resident in the north of the WHA, where it is at the southern edge of its range on the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range. In NSW, it occurs mainly on the western slopes and plains, but also in coastal areas north from the Hunter Valley. The species has declined in numbers and disappeared from large parts of its former range (NSW Scientific Committee 2001d). In the WHA, it is typically found in small family groups (two to four members) on the lower slopes of the southern escarpment of the Hunter Valley, where soils are relatively fertile and support box-red gum-ironbark grassy woodland. Recent records include Baerami Creek in Wollemi NP in September-October 2007. Small flocks were recorded at Wheeny Creek in October 1923, in or near what is now southern Wollemi NP (Chisholm 1923), but there have been no recent records in this vicinity.

**Family CINCLOSOMATIDAE – QUAIL-THRUSHES**

**Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum punctatum***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in dry sclerophyll forests. It is an insectivorous species that feeds and nests on the ground. When disturbed, it flies off with a quail-like whirr of wings and a flash of white at the end of the tail.

## **Family PSOPHODIDAE – WHIPBIRDS**

### **Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus olivaceus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident of shrubby wet sclerophyll forest, rainforest and other habitats where there is tall, dense, moist undergrowth. It is a species that is more often heard than seen. The well known whipcrack call is made by the male. The 'choo-choo' notes which follow immediately and seem to be part of the same call are made by the accompanying female.

## **Family NEOSITTIDAE – SITTELLAS**

### **Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera chrysoptera***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. It feeds on insects gleaned from eucalypt bark, moving up and down the trees, unlike treecreepers, which only move upwards. Favoured foraging sites are rough-barked eucalypts and dead branches on live trees. It occurs in small flocks that wander over large home ranges.

## **Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE – CUCKOO-SHRIKES AND TRILLERS**

### **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae melanops***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident and spring-summer breeding migrant in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. Recorded mainly from September to April at higher elevations but present all year at lower elevations. The migratory population winters in northern Australia.

### **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis robusta***

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland. Mainly found at lower elevations, with no records from the high elevation reserves, Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. It is present all year and nests along the eastern escarpment of the Blue Mountains, but is rarer and more irregular in occurrence elsewhere in Blue Mountains NP (Smith and Smith 1990).

### **Cicadabird *Edolisima tenuirostris tenuirostris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and occurs in the Blue Mountains October to March, sometimes April. It is found in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland at lower elevations, including valleys of the upper Blue Mountains. Records on the high plateaus are rare. It is named after its call, which resembles that of a cicada.

**White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in northern Australia and is present in the Blue Mountains October to April, mainly in grassy woodland. It occurs widely in the WHA but there have been no records from Kanangra-Boyd NP. Its numbers and distribution fluctuate between years. Recent records include over 10 birds at Baerami Creek, Wollemi NP, in September-October 2007 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report).

**Family PACHYCEPHALIDAE – WHISTLERS AND SHRIKE-THRUSHES**

**Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica harmonica***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident in sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and rainforest. It feeds on invertebrates and small vertebrates taken from the ground and from the bark and foliage of eucalypts. Its prey includes the eggs and chicks of small birds.

**Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus frontatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident of wet sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. One bird caught and banded at Blue Gum Swamp Creek (Blue Mountains NP) lived there for at least nine years (Smith and Smith 1990). It is an insectivorous species and often uses its strong bill to tear apart hanging eucalypt bark to get at its prey.

**Gilbert's Whistler *Pachycephala inornata***

Reserve: W

Rare vagrant from inland NSW. Recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in April 2003 (BirdLife Australia Birdata).

**Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea olivacea***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: J, W

Rare vagrant. This subspecies is more typical of southern NSW and eastern Victoria. Recorded in Wollemi NP at Glen Gallic Trail in November 1997 (BioNet Atlas) and Reubens Trail in April 2009 (NSW Bird Atlasers), and in Jenolan KCR in May 2018 (eBird Australia).

**Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis pectoralis/youngi***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident and altitudinal migrant. Movements are poorly understood but may be mainly local. In spring and summer, it favours shrubby wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest in gullies, where it nests. In autumn and winter, numbers decline at higher elevations but appear to increase at lower elevations, when the birds are seen not only in gully forests but also in dry sclerophyll forest on ridges (Smith and Smith 1990). The northern subspecies *pectoralis* and southern subspecies *youngi* intergrade in the WHA (Schodde and Mason 1999).

**Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris rufiventris***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and occurs in the Blue Mountains mainly September to April, although some birds occasionally remain in the WHA over winter. It is found in grassy woodland and in both dry and wet sclerophyll forests.

**Family ORIOLIDAE – ORIOLES**

**Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus sagittatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common spring-summer breeding migrant that is present in the Blue Mountains mainly between August and April. Some birds may remain over winter but most migrate to Queensland. It inhabits sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and rainforest, mainly at lower elevations, including valleys of the upper Blue Mountains, rarely on the high plateaus.

**Family ARTARMIDAE – WOODSWALLOWS, BUTCHERBIRDS AND CURRAWONGS**

**Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus melanops***

Reserves: BM, N

Rare vagrant east of its normal range. Recorded in the Nattai River catchment (Nattai NP) in August 2003 (Morris 2006) and in Kedumba Valley (Blue Mountains NP) in October 2015 (BirdLife Australia Birdata).

**Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus***

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common spring-summer breeding migrant that is present in the Blue Mountains mainly between September and May. Some birds may remain over winter but most of the population moves to northern inland Australia. It is an inhabitant of grassy woodland, shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, heath and clearings. It feeds on insects captured in mid-air, either above or below the tree canopy, whereas other woodswallows generally feed above the canopy.

### **Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W

Rare spring-summer breeding migrant from northern and inland Australia. It favours grassy woodland and farmland but it is an aerial feeder and may be seen flying over any habitat. It is encountered most often within flocks of the more common White-browed Woodswallow.

### **White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant from northern and inland Australia that occurs in the Blue Mountains mainly between September and December. It is an aerial feeder that is absent in some years but in other years occurs in large flocks that either pass through the WHA or else stay to nest and then move on. A flock of about 700 birds was recorded in October 2006 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter). Like the Masked Woodswallow, it favours grassy woodland and farmland but may be seen flying over any habitat.

### **Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis nigrogularis***

Reserves: BM, J (1986), KB, N, W, Y

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland, shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and cleared areas, mainly on the northern and western edges of the WHA and in adjacent farmland. Most records are from Wollemi NP, but there have been sporadic records elsewhere to as far south and east as Burnt Flat Creek in Nattai NP in 2002 (SCA Special Area Fauna Survey). In NSW, the species is mainly found west of the Great Dividing Range and in coastal districts north from the Hunter Valley. In the WHA, it is at the eastern edge of its inland range and at the southern edge of its coastal range. The song of the Pied Butcherbird is arguably the most beautiful of all bird calls.

### **Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus torquatus***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in grassy woodland, sclerophyll forests and cleared areas. It is an aggressive predator that preys on a mixture of invertebrates and small vertebrates and is much feared by smaller birds. The name 'butcherbird' derives from its habit of stashing uneaten food in tree forks and other sites.

### **Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen tibicen* and *G. tibicen tyrannica***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in grassy woodland and open areas. It is more common in neighbouring farmland and towns than in the WHA. Black-backed subspecies *tibicen* is the usual form and has been recorded from every reserve. There are also a couple of old records (Kanangra-Boyd NP in 1971 and Yengo NP in 1975) of white-backed subspecies *tyrannica*, which replaces subspecies *tibicen* further south in NSW. Subspecies *tyrannica* has also been recorded regularly since at least 2016 just south of the WHA at Wombeyan Caves.

### **Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina graculina/nebulosa***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident and altitudinal migrant that forages in most habitats but nests mainly in wet sclerophyll forest. It is present at all elevations throughout the year, but banding studies have shown a local movement of part of the population from higher to lower elevations in autumn, returning in late winter and spring (Farrell 1995). Flocks of over 50 birds form in autumn-winter. Possibly the residents are breeding adults while the altitudinal migrants are young non-breeding birds. Northern subspecies *graculina* and southern subspecies *nebulosa* intergrade in the WHA (Schodde and Mason 1999).

### **Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor versicolor***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident of middle and upper elevations, with occasional records at lower elevations, mainly in autumn and winter. The southern escarpment of the Hunter Valley, at the northern end of the WHA, is the northern edge of its range. It is found in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland, and also scavenges in picnic areas.

## **Family DICRURIDAE – DRONGOS**

### **Spangled Drongo *Dicruris bracteatus bracteatus***

Reserves: BM (1988), W (1997), Y

Rare non-breeding autumn-winter migrant from northern NSW and Queensland, occasionally recorded at other times of year. It is a coastal species at the western edge of its range. Part of the breeding population in north-eastern NSW migrates north to winter in Queensland and New Guinea, while part of the population goes in the opposite direction, migrating south to winter in southern NSW and Victoria. It was recorded at Big Yango Homestead (Yengo NP) in March 2016 (Birding NSW Newsletter). Older records include the Growee Trail (Wollemi NP) in February 1997 (Central CRA Fauna Survey) and Minnehaha Falls (Blue Mountains NP) in February 1988 (Smith and Smith 1990). There have been occasional recent sightings near Blue Mountains NP in townships along the Great Western Highway between Lapstone and Leura (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

## Family RHIPIDURIDAE – FANTAILS

### Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa alisteri*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common, widespread breeding species in sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and rainforest. Its movement patterns are complex. On upper Blue Mountains plateaus, it is a spring-summer breeding migrant, present from September to May, that winters in northern and inland Australia. In the lower Blue Mountains and in valleys of the upper Blue Mountains, it is present all year. This may be because there is a resident breeding population at lower elevations or else because when the breeding birds migrate north they are replaced at lower elevations by non-breeding migrants from the south. The birds that breed locally are subspecies *alisteri*. Birds in the WHA in autumn-winter are likely to include subspecies *albiscapa*, which breeds in Tasmania (Schodde and Mason 1999). However, the occurrence of subspecies *albiscapa* in the WHA has not been confirmed.

### Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys leucophrys*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident. It is found mainly in open habitats and cleared areas and avoids dense forest. It is more common in neighbouring farmland and towns than in the WHA. It is an insectivorous species that takes prey both on the ground and in the air and has a characteristic and well known habit of continually wagging its fanned tail from side to side.

### Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons rufifrons*

Status: migratory species (B)

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and New Guinea and is present in the Blue Mountains September to April, sometimes May. It is found mainly in rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies, especially when nesting, but it is more widespread in late summer and autumn, when it may be found in dry sclerophyll forest on ridges as well as in gully forests.

## Family CORVIDAE – RAVENS AND CROWS

### Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides coronoides*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident, found in both forested and open areas, and in adjacent farmland and towns. It is an omnivorous species with a diet that includes invertebrates, vertebrates, plant matter, carrion and refuse.

### **Little Raven *Corvus mellori***

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Rare breeding resident or local nomad in the western half of the WHA, with occasional records further east, such as at Wheeny Creek campground (Wollemi NP) in 2002 (BirdLife Australia Birdata). It is at the eastern edge of its range, but occasional vagrants are recorded east of the WHA. It is typically found in open areas, including adjacent farmland, rather than in dense forest.

### **Family MONARCHIDAE – FLYCATCHERS AND MONARCHS**

#### **Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca cyanoleuca***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident. A ground-feeding insectivore that is often found near water, it requires open areas for feeding, trees for nesting and a supply of mud for nest building. It is more common in neighbouring farmland and towns than in the WHA. Also known as the Peewee, which is a rendition of its distinctive call.

#### **Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis***

**Status: migratory species (B)**

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in New Guinea and occurs in the Blue Mountains between September and March. A coastal species at the western edge of its range, it has been recorded from all reserves except Gardens of Stone NP. It inhabits rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies, especially when nesting, and may also be seen in dry sclerophyll forest when migrating.

#### **Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca***

**Status: migratory species (B)**

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and New Guinea and occurs in the Blue Mountains between August and March. It is a species of sclerophyll forests, especially wet sclerophyll forests, and is more frequent at higher elevations. Records at lower elevations are sporadic, mainly during migration, although it was more regular and possibly nested in some Mountain Blue Gum *Eucalyptus deanei* forests at lower elevations in the 1980s (Smith and Smith 1990).

#### **Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta inquieta***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1999), KB (1994), N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident that is widely recorded but most frequent in Wollemi and Nattai NPs. It is found in grassy woodland and open areas, including neighbouring farmland.

### **Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula rubecula***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and occurs in the Blue Mountains between September and April. It is a species of sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland that is widespread but most frequent at lower elevations.

### **Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus gouldii***

**Status: migratory species (B)**

Reserves: W

Rare vagrant that is usually found further north. There have been two records from Wollemi NP: an unconfirmed call on the Army Trail in February 1997 (BioNet Atlas), and a sighting at Kekeelbon Mountains in January 2009 (eBird Australia).

## **Family CORCORACIDAE – CHOUGHS**

### **White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos melanorhamphos***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident in grassy woodland and open areas, including neighbouring farmland. It is a gregarious species that is usually seen in flocks of up to 12, sometimes more, raking the ground for invertebrates and occasional seeds.

## **Family PETROICIDAE – AUSTRALIAN ROBINS**

### **Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis australis* and *E. australis chrysorrhoa***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident. It is most frequent in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, but is also often found in dry sclerophyll forest, especially where the shrub layer is tall and dense. Subspecies *australis* is the dominant form. Subspecies *chrysorrhoa* was recorded at Honeysuckle Creek in the north-western corner of Wollemi NP in July 2018 (Judy and Peter Smith). This subspecies also occurs regularly to the west of Wollemi NP at Bara and is likely to a regular inhabitant of north-western Wollemi NP.

### **Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata cucullata***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM (1995), GOS, N, W

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland on relatively fertile soils. It is a ground-feeding insectivore that is typically found at the interface of open and wooded areas. The species has declined significantly in range and population in NSW (NSW Scientific Committee 2001e). Sites where it occurs, such as Baerami Creek in Wollemi NP (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report), are often at the edge of the WHA and close to cleared farmland. The

only two records from Blue Mountains NP appear to be vagrants: Mt Werong in October 1980 and the vicinity of Hunt Point in August 1995 (NSW Bird Atlasers).

### **Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans fascinans***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1988), KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident in grassy woodland and cleared areas. May be locally nomadic in winter. It is an insectivorous species that moves from perch to perch in the open, wagging its tail when it alights, and dashing out to take flying insects.

### **Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii***

Reserves: BM, GOS (1998), KB, N, W, Y

Rare breeding resident of grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest. It was formerly more common on the eastern edge of the WHA and was described in 1923 as plentiful from Richmond all the way to Upper Colo (Kinghorn 1924). It is now all but gone from the Cumberland Plain to the east of the WHA. Breeding was recorded near the entrance to Blue Mountains NP in Megalong Valley in 2011 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter), and in Wollemi NP at Baerami Creek in 2007 (Hunter Bird Observers Annual Bird Report).

### **Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolour boodang***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident and altitudinal migrant that is most frequent at middle and higher elevations. It breeds in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and an open understorey with abundant fallen timber is an important part of its habitat (NSW Scientific Committee 2010d). The species is present year-round at higher elevations and in the valleys of the upper Blue Mountains. In autumn and winter, small numbers, including adult males, move to lower elevations. It was a rare but regular non-breeding autumn-winter migrant to Glenbrook-Springwood in the 1980s (Smith and Smith 1990) but not in recent years.

### **Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea***

**Conservation status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, TL (1975), W, Y

Uncommon breeding altitudinal migrant. It breeds in sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland at high elevations, typically on ridges and slopes where there is an open understorey. In the WHA, some birds are present at the highest elevations all year but most move to middle elevations in winter, when they occur in both forested and open areas. Occasional birds appear at low elevations in winter. The species pounces from a perch to take invertebrates on the ground, on tree trunks and on fallen branches and logs.

### **Rose Robin *Petroica rosea***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common and widespread breeding resident and non-breeding autumn-winter migrant. It inhabits rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies during the spring-summer breeding season. In autumn and winter, it becomes scarce at higher elevations but numbers increase at lower elevations and it occurs not only in gully forests but also often in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland on ridges. The increase is due to an influx of non-breeding autumn-winter migrants from southern NSW and Victoria. It may be that the 'resident' breeding population actually migrates north in autumn-winter and is replaced by non-breeding migrants from the south.

### **Family ALAUDIDAE – LARKS**

#### **Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafra javanica horsfieldii***

Reserves: J (1946), W

Rare nomadic visitor that inhabits grasslands and is more frequently recorded in surrounding farmland than in the WHA. It was recorded in Wollemi NP at Coorongooba Campground in October 2016 and October 2017 (eBird Australia), and in Jenolan KCR in May 1946 (NSW Bird Atlassers).

### **Family CISTICOLIDAE – CISTICOLAS**

#### **Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis exilis***

Reserves: GOS (1992), N, W

Rare breeding resident of rank grassland and low, dense, moist vegetation around open wetlands. Also known as the Tailorbird because of its habit of stitching living leaves onto its nest for shelter and camouflage.

### **Family ACROCEPHALIDAE – REED-WARBLERS**

#### **Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis australis***

Reserves: TL, W

Rare spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in northern Australia. It frequents reedbeds and other dense vegetation beside open wetlands and along rivers and creeks. There are recent records from Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in every month between October and February (Atlas of Living Australia). It was a common breeding species at Thirlmere Lakes NP in the 1980s (Turner 1985) but there have been few subsequent records – Couridjah Lake in 1996 and Blue Gum Creek in 2001 (BioNet Atlas). This is probably because of the general scarcity of fauna records for this poorly surveyed reserve and does not necessarily mean that the species has declined.

## Family LOCUSTELLIDAE – GRASSBIRDS AND SONGLARKS

### Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

Reserves: KB (1995), W

Rare and irregular spring-summer migrant that winters in northern inland Australia. Breeding in the WHA is possible but not confirmed. It is a grassland species that is more typical of inland plains but visits coastal areas in times of inland drought. It is more frequent in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA. Recent records in Wollemi NP include a sighting near Reubens Trail at Baerami Creek in September 2007 (NSW Bird Atlassers) and calls heard near the junction of Wolgan River and Rocky Creek in October 2008 (DEC 2009).

### Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in northern Australia and occurs in the Blue Mountains between August and February. Widely recorded in the WHA but no records from the high elevation reserves Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. It inhabits grassy woodland and cleared areas on relatively fertile soils, but is sporadically recorded in other habitats during migration.

### Little Grassbird *Poodytes gramineus goulburni*

Reserves: TL

Rare breeding resident of reedbeds and other dense vegetation beside open wetlands. There have been occasional records from Thirlmere Lakes NP. Its mournful call is often the only indication of its presence.

## Family ZOSTEROPIDAE – WHITE-EYES

### Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis cornwalli/westernensis* and *Z. lateralis lateralis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding species with complex movement patterns. It occurs in most habitats, including adjacent farmland and towns, but favours wet sclerophyll forest for nesting. The WHA is an intergrade zone between northern subspecies *cornwalli* and southern subspecies *westernensis* (Schodde and Mason 1999). Subspecies *cornwalli/westernensis* breeds at all elevations in the Blue Mountains but is rare at higher elevations over winter, while remaining common all year at lower elevations (Smith and Smith 1990). Subspecies *lateralis* is a non-breeding autumn-winter migrant from Tasmania that occurs at all elevations in the Blue Mountains between April and October (Smith and Smith 1990). Subspecies *lateralis* has only been reported from Blue Mountains NP but probably occurs in other WHA reserves as well (the great majority of Silvereye records do not distinguish subspecies). Large numbers of both types of Silvereyes migrate northwards through the Blue Mountains in autumn in company with Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, White-naped Honeyeaters and other species.

## **Family HIRUNDINIDAE – SWALLOWS AND MARTINS**

### **White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna***

Reserves: BM (1999), GOS (1999)

A rare non-breeding visitor to the WHA, but an uncommon breeding resident in more open country both east (Hoskin *et al.* 1991) and west (Geering 2006) of the WHA. There have been no recent records within the WHA.

### **Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena neoxena***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident and spring-summer migrant. It is present all year but its numbers decline over winter at higher elevations (Smith and Smith 1990). Part of the population in south-east Australia appears to be sedentary, while part migrates to Queensland (Pizzey *et al.* 2012). An aerial feeder, it hawks for insects over rivers, open wetlands, swamps, heaths, cliffs and cleared areas, less often over forested areas.

### **Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1986), KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that winters in Queensland and occurs in the Blue Mountains mainly between September and March, although some birds remain over winter. It is more common in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA. It is an aerial feeder that is usually encountered in open country, but may also be seen flying over other habitats, particularly during migration. It nests colonially in bottle-shaped mud nests built on the underside of bridges or rock overhangs, usually above or near water.

### **Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans neglecta***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1986), KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon but widespread spring-summer breeding migrant that occurs in the Blue Mountains mainly between September and May. Some birds remain over winter but most migrate to Queensland and New Guinea. It is an aerial feeder that generally occurs in flocks. It is sometimes seen hawking over dense forest, but mostly in more open areas, including heath, swamps, cliffs and nearby farmland. It nests colonially in tree hollows.

## **Family TURDIDAE – THRUSHES**

### **Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata lunulata***

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident or local nomad of rainforest and shrubby wet sclerophyll forest in gullies. It is sometimes seen in winter in dry sclerophyll forest on ridges, and in gardens in adjacent towns. One bird banded in the lower Blue Mountains was later found at Katoomba, 32 km away (Smith and Smith 1990). It is an insectivorous species that feeds on

the ground and nests in vertical forks in shrubs and trees, usually less than 3 m above ground.

#### **Family DICAEDAE - FLOWERPECKERS**

##### **Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum hirundinaceum***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common, widespread and highly mobile breeding nomad. A specialist feeder on mistletoe fruits, it occurs wherever there are fruiting mistletoes in sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland and River Oak *Casuarina cunninghamiana* riverine forest.

#### **Family ESTRILDIDAE – GRASSFINCHES**

##### **Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta***

Reserves: GOS (1992), W (1995)

A rare vagrant to the WHA with no recent records. It occurs more frequently in farmland west of the WHA, such as the Capertee Valley, where it breeds (Geering 2006), and at Bara in 2021 (Judy and Peter Smith), but it is an uncommon species in the region.

##### **Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis temporalis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common and widespread breeding resident of sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland, heath, swamps and grassy clearings. It is sedentary if there is a year-round supply of grass and other seeds, otherwise it is locally nomadic, moving in response to seeding patterns.

##### **Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella bella***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y (1997)

Uncommon breeding resident at the northern and western edges of its range. Widespread in the WHA but no records from Jenolan KCR. It favours moist sites with a dense shrub layer in wet sclerophyll forest, heath and swamps.

##### **Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata***

**Status: vulnerable (NSW)**

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1987), N, W, Y

Uncommon breeding resident, mainly in grassy woodland and in cleared grassy areas with some trees and shrubs. In NSW, its numbers have declined and its range has contracted and it now occurs mainly west of the Great Dividing Range (NSW Scientific Committee 2001c). Once common on the Cumberland Plain to the east of the WHA, it has all but disappeared from there since the 1960s. In the WHA, it occurs around the northern and north-western boundaries of the area, and in the Burratorang Valley (Nattai NP) in the south-east. It was

considered resident at Wentworth Falls in the 1950s (Smith and Smith 1990) but it is now only a rare vagrant to the upper Blue Mountains plateau, with the most recent record a sighting at Narrow Neck, Katoomba (Blue Mountains NP), in April 2016 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletter).

**Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii bichenovii***

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1989), N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident, although no records from Kanangra-Boyd NP. It is most frequent in Wollemi and Nattai NPs. It inhabits grassy woodland, shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and grassy clearings.

**Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata castanotis***

Reserves: BM, GOS (1999), KB (1979), W

A rare visitor to the WHA, but a moderately common breeding resident in neighbouring farmland in the Hunter and Capertee Valleys (e.g. Geering 2006). Some records in the WHA may be aviary escapees, especially near towns.

**Family MOTACILLIDAE – PIPITS**

**Australian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae australis***

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL (1980-84), W, Y

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident in open grassy areas, sometimes in heath. No records from Jenolan KCR. It feeds and nests on the ground and is more common in neighbouring farmland than in the WHA.

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- NSW Scientific Committee (2010b). Final Determination to list the Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides* (Gould 1841) as a Vulnerable Species in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. NSW Scientific Committee, Hurstville.
- NSW Scientific Committee (2010c). Final Determination to list the Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* (Shaw, 1794) as a Critically Endangered Species in Part 1 of Schedule 1A of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, and as a consequence, to omit reference to the Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* (Shaw, 1794) from Part 1 of Schedule 1 (Endangered species) of the Act. NSW Scientific Committee, Hurstville.
- NSW Scientific Committee (2010d). Final Determination to list the Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang* (Lesson 1838) as a Vulnerable Species in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. NSW Scientific Committee, Hurstville.
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### ***Online Databases***

Records from these databases were treated with caution. Any records that we considered doubtful were ignored.

NSW BioNet Atlas (formerly Atlas of NSW Wildlife) (<http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au>).

Includes records from the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme. Last checked December 2018.

Atlas of Living Australia (<http://www.ala.org.au>). Incorporates records from many sources, including observational records from BirdLife Australia, NSW Bird Atlassers and eBird Australia, and specimen records from Australian and international museums. Last checked December 2018.

eBird Australia (<http://ebird.org/content/australia>). Mainly consulted for further information on eBird Australia records in the Atlas of Living Australia.

Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums (OZCAM) (<http://ozcam.org.au>). Mainly consulted for further information on museum records in the Atlas of Living Australia.

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