Myiagra inquieta

Conservation Significance
The species has been described as ‘probably declining’ within the AMLR. Within the AMLR the species’ relative area of occupancy is classified as ‘Extremely Restricted’.

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

Often found in the same habitats as the similarly sized and patterned Willie Wagtail.

Distribution and Population
Found throughout northern and eastern mainland Australia, south-western Australia and Papua New Guinea. Two subspecies: the southern subspecies, inquieta, occurs in the AMLR. The south-eastern populations move north during winter.

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

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records limited and concentrated on the hills surrounding Adelaide.

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

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

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland and Heathy Woodland.

Biology and Ecology
Breeding season July to January. Clutch size three to four with incubation of 14 days. Chicks spend 14 days in the nest. Constructs a small cup-shaped nest of bark and grass bound with spider’s web.

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

Aboriginal Significance
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in all Aboriginal Nations (Kaurna, Ngadjuri, Nganguraku, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk).

Threats
Numbers have declined substantially in some areas due to habitat loss. As with many other ‘hawk’ insectivorous species, disadvantaged by the deliberate clearing of loose timber (e.g. by firewood collection or fire) which reduces perching opportunities (D. Armstrong pers. comm.).

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

Map based on filtered post-1983 records. Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMUR.

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


