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Australian magpie: pp 231-232.

Australian Magpie *Cracticus tibicen* (Latham 1801)
1864 Canterbury

The species was liberated in large numbers from Auckland to Otago between 1864 and 1883 (Thomson 1922). They may have been released as early as 1861 on Kawau Island by Sir George Grey. DNA sequence data reveals it is an aberrant ground-dwelling butcherbird (Christidis & Boles 2008). The generic name thus changes from the monotypic *Gymnorhina* to *Cracticus* (butcherbirds). Magpies are polymorphic, with white-backed and black-backed forms being released in New Zealand. These were formerly considered to be subspecies. Black-backed morphs are most common in Hawkes Bay and North Canterbury.

