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DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF LANDBIRDS IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW SOUTH WALES

K. A. WOOD

7 Eastern Avenue, Mangerton, New South Wales 2500

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From 1988 to 1991, 15 to 37 teams of observers performed bi-annual, timed counts in 22 sub-areas of the County of Camden. Cumulatively, 92 observers counted 254 886 birds of 243 species. Data from these counts were combined with data from similar counts in seven other sub-areas of the County of Camden from 1982 to 1987 to quantify distribution and abundance of 167 landbird species in six physiographic regions.

INTRODUCTION

The County of Camden (5 500 km²) is an area of land centred approximately on the Hume Highway about 54 km south of Sydney, New South Wales (Fig. 1). The topography comprises a narrow coastal plain abutting prominent escarpment slopes that rise to 600 m above sea level (asl) and a relatively large inland plateaux between 300 m and 800 m asl. Geology, soils and climate are varied and account for a broad range of vegetation communities including rainforest, wet and dry sclerophyll forest, eucalypt woodland and heathland. Such a range of habitats and climates may give rise to patchiness in distribution of landbirds but as yet, no attempt has been made to quantify abundance of species in the different physiographic regions of the County.

Gibson (1977) and Smith *et al.* (1989) listed bird species in the County as rare, scarce, uncommon, moderately common and common. In the larger but overlapping one-degree block ($34-35^{\circ}S$, $150-151^{\circ}E$) of *c.* 10 000 km², Blakers *et al.* (1984) used reporting rates as a measure of abundance. Wood and Simcock (1993) presented the results of bi-annual counts from 1982 to 1987 in the small coastal area (*c.* 800 km²) around Wollongong. In the first counts from 1982-87, the Illawarra District was divided into seven sub-areas (Fig. la) and the abundance of all species was estimated in each sub-area in late autumn and mid-spring. A second series of bi-annual counts was organised by the author from 1988 to 1991 in 24 other sub-areas covering most of the remainder of the County (Fig. la).

The aim of this report is to use combined count data from 1982 to 1991 (first and second counts combined) to quantify the distribution and abundance of landbirds in the six physiographic regions of the County (Fig. lb).

STUDY AREA

The coastal plain is dominated by low hills and flood plains composed mostly of Quaternary alluvium. Its western boundary is the Illawarra escarpment, the crest of which forms an impressive line of sandstone cliffs with steep talus slopes to the south and east. These slopes, up to 200 m wide, are derived from Permian and Triassic sediments in the east and Gerringong volcanics in the south. West of the escarpment, the Woronora plateau (the Southern Highlands) consists of Hawkesbury Sandstone with some deeply incised valleys. The plateau is highest in the south near Mittagong and Moss Vale (mean 700 m asl) and dips gradually northwards to approximately 180 m asl near Camden. Undulating or rolling terrain on the plateau is covered by Wianamatta shales, overlaid with basalt intrusions at high altitudes (Table 1). Detailed geology has been mapped at 1 : 250 000 (Anon. 1996).

Climate is variable due to orographic influences and proximity to the coast. The average January maximum temperatures at Wollongong and Moss Vale are 25.9° C and 21.6° C respectively whereas corresponding minimum temperatures in July are 7.8°C and 1.2°C respectively. Light snow falls a few times every three or four years at elevations above 700 m. Rainfall is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. It is highest along the escarpment (c. 1 600 mm per annum) declining eastwards and westwards. Lowest rainfall (c. 700 mm per annum) is recorded along the Wollondilly River. During the period 1982-1991, drought was experienced in 1982 (Fig. 5 in Wood and Simcock 1993) and 1991 (Fig. 2).

Although 25 per cent of the County has been cleared for agriculture, substantial tracts of natural habitat are preserved as National Parks (c. 23%) and water catchment areas (c. 11%). State Forests comprise about 187 km² (3.5%) of which about 36 km² is planted with Pinus radiata. Physiographic regions 1, 2, 3 and 6 are dominated by dry sclerophyll forest whereas wet sclerophyll forest grows mainly in regions 4 and 5 (Table 1). The largest proportion of heathland and scrubby woodland occurs in region 6. Sub-tropical and warm temperate rainforests are present at scattered sites where rainfall is more than 1 200 mm per year (Mills and Jakeman 1995). Rainforest distribution is highly fragmented as over 70 per cent has been cleared since European settlement (Mills 1987, 1988). Largest total areas of rainforest are near the escarpments in regions 3 (c. 1700 ha) and 4 (c. 2 400 ha). Other natural vegetation is a complex array of more than 60 forest types (Anon. 1989), influenced by abrupt changes in rainfall, topography and soils. Common sclerophyllous forests are from the

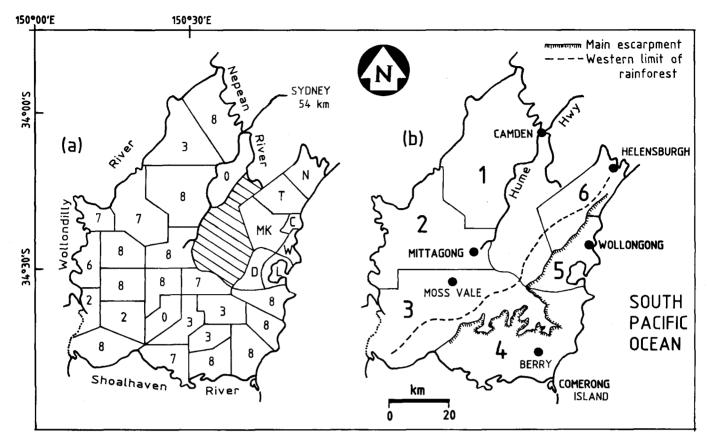


Figure 1. The County of Camden showing (a) seven sub-areas (N, T, MK, C, W, D, L) that were surveyed from 1982-1987 and 24 other subareas, 22 of which were surveyed from 1988-1991. Numbers in the 24 sub-areas indicate the total number of surveys. No surveys were conducted in the water catchment area shown cross-hatched. Figure 1(b) shows six physiographic regions (coded 1-6) for which data were regrouped in this report.

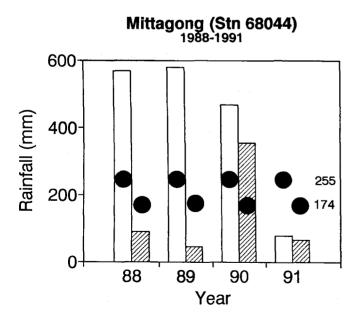


Figure 2. Rainfall from 1988–1991 at Mittagong Climatological Station No. 68044. Grouped data are presented for the three consecutive months before each count in late autumn (clear bars) and mid-spring (stippled bars). Closed circles show corresponding 108-year mean rainfall. Rainfall from 1982–1987 is similarly presented elsewhere (see Fig. 5 in Wood and Simcock 1993).

Blackbutt and Sydney Blue Gum-Bangalay Leagues on the escarpment slopes and from the Scribbly Gum-Stringybark-Silvertop Ash Leagues on the plateau (Anon. 1989). The Messmate-Brown Barrel League is represented at high altitudes.

METHODS

From 1988 to 1991, survey teams performed timed counts (Smith 1986) each year at the end of May (late autumn) and the end of October (mid-spring). A survey team was defined as the occupants of one vehicle. Experienced observers acted as team leaders and determined the routes to be travelled, census locations and stop durations within each sub-area. Some Nature Reserves (Barren Grounds, Wirrimbirra, Thirlmere Lakes, Cecil Hoskins and Bass Point) and *Pinus radiata* mono-culture habitats were not surveyed because extant avifauna is well documented. Comerong Island was not visited.

Individual birds of all species were counted while observers were walking, travelling or stopped. 'Squeaking' was sometimes used to aid detection. Each team consistently applied a counting procedure that was most effective in evenly sampling the habitats in its assigned sub-area. All birds seen or heard were recorded as well as the number of observers, hours of observation, and distance travelled while counting. This counting procedure was identical to that adopted in the first 1982–87 counts (see Wood and Simcock 1993). In essence, the only difference between the methods used in the first and second counts was the length of the survey period each autumn and spring each year from 1982 to 1987, teams performed counts over a nine-day period in each autumn and spring from 1988 to 1991. This

nine-day survey period was introduced to offer teams a choice of count day and an opportunity to census more than one sub-area if willing. With the experience gained from the first counts, it was thought that such flexibility might be necessary to adequately sample all sub-areas, even though some double-counting may occur. Despite such flexibility, only 22 of the 24 sub-areas were surveyed and only 138 surveys were conducted in total instead of a possible 192 (Fig. la).

Observation effort varied markedly between regions (Table 1). For example, the team-hours spent observing in Berry escarpments was five times greater than in Northern shale (630.8 team-hours vs 126.6 team-hours). Observation density (team-hours/km²) was 10 times greater in Wollongong escarpments than the Northern shale (1.3 teamhours/km² vs 0.1 team-hours/km²). Because there were marked variations in observation effort, observation density, counting procedure and observer ability, count data were not considered amenable to significance testing.

In terms of overall coverage, there was an average of 1 567 km travelled during each survey in regions 1–4 (Table 2) and 507 km travelled during each survey in regions 5–6 (Table 2 in Wood and Simcock 1993). Even if all birds 50 m each side of the roads driven were counted, only 207 km² or 3.7 per cent of the County area would be surveyed each season. As mentioned earlier, most censusing was performed at regular stopping points rather than while driving, but nevertheless, the effective coverage of the County was likely to be some three or four orders of magnitude less than 3.7 per cent.

As for the first counts, birds per team hour (X) was the most appropriate measurement for comparisons of regional abundance. The ratio Xmin/Xmax gives a measurement of evenness in distribution across all regions. Overall abundance is calculated by summing the number of individuals counted in late autumn (Na) and mid-spring (Ns). As the number of team-hours expended in both seasons was similar (1193.1 vs 1266.2), the seasonal abundance ratio Na/Ns (or Ns/Na) provides an indication of the relative abundance of species in late autumn and mid-spring. Migrant species that are present at the end of October and absent at the end of May or vice versa provide high seasonal ratios. Throughout this report, species were defined as migratory if: (1) the seasonal abundance ratio was greater than 10 (irrespective of the number of individuals counted) or (2) the seasonal abundance ratio was greater than 5 and the number of individuals counted was greater than 500. Using this criterion, only the resident Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* (Ns/Na = 37.5, n = 77) qualified erroneously as a migrant species (see Smith *et al.* 1989).

RESULTS

From 1988 to 1991, 92 observers counted a total of 254 886 individuals of 243 species. For each year, the number of individuals counted in autumn (32 592–41 943 individuals) was greater than the number counted in spring (25 452–29 758 individuals) (Table 2). Conversely, the number of species recorded in spring (187–201 species) was consistently greater than the corresponding number recorded in autumn (157–175 species). Raw data on observation effort and number of individuals of all species in all sub-areas are available from the author.

When data for 1988–91 were combined with data from the first counts (1982–87), there was a total of 167 landbird species. Abundance of 125 species, each with more than 50 individuals in total is mapped in the

Region	1	2	3	4	5	6
General name	Northern shale	Central sandstone	Southern sandstone	Berry escarpments	Wollongong escarpments	North-eastern forests, woodlands and heath
Primary geology	Wianamatta shale	Hawkesbury sandstone	Wianamatta shale, Hawkesbury sandstone and Robertson basalt	Shoalhaven volcanics	Illawarra coal measures and quarternary alluvium	Hawkesbury sandstone and Narrabeen sandstone
Approximate area ¹	1 150 km ²	950 km ²	1 350 km ²	850 km ²	400 km ²	400 km ²
Altitude (asl)	100–300 m	300–500 m	500–800 m	0–600 m	0-500 m	100–300 m
Human population ²	13 120	16 570	16 650	24 750	203 980	16 050
Survey period	198891	1988-91	1988-91	1988-91	1982-87	1982-87
Total team-hours ³ (A) (S)	62.8 63.8	186 224.5	180 211.8	330.5 300.3	248.8 258.8	185 207
Annual rainfall (mm)	700–900	700-1 000	700-1 800	1 000-1 800	1 000-1 600	1 000–1 400
Vegetation and land use (area %	6)					
Rainforest	0	0	1.5	3	1	1
Wet sclerophyll forest	11	8	25	36	27	30
Dry sclerophyll forest	68	75	37	35	20	40
Pinus radiata forest	0	0	3	0	0	0
Open woodland ⁴	20	15	30	19	12	0
Heath and scrub woodland	0	0	0.5	2	0	20
Wetland	0	0	1.5	2	9	5
Urban	1	2	1.5	3	31	4

TABLE 1

Environmental chacteristics of each physiographic region and total sampling effort from 1982–1991. A = late autumn, S = mid-spring.

¹No surveys were conducted in the water catchment area (c. 450 km², see Fig. 1a).

²Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1991.

³Calculated as the cumulative sum of all hours worked by all teams.

⁴Mainly pastoral land.

		1988	1989	1990	1991	4-yr mean	SE	% increase in seasonal means
Number of teams	(A) (S)	15 35	37 28	23 22	22 22	24.3 26.8	4.6 3.1	10
Team hours ¹	(A) (S)	196.5 261.3	246.5 201.5	163.8 168	152.5 169.6	189.8 200.1	18.2 18.9	5
Team km ²	(A) (S)	1 767 2 150	1 691 1 627	1 429 1 294	1 225 1 353	1 528 1 606	108 169	5
Species ³	(A) (S)	166 201	175 199	157 187	166 193	166 195	3.2 2.7	17
Individuals ⁴	(A) (S)	34 982 28 778	41 943 25 452	35 359 26 034	32 592 29 758	36 219 27 506	1 735 904	32

TABLE 2

Overall summary of results for physiographic regions 1-4 in the County of Camden from 1988-1991.

¹Calculated as the cumulative sum of all hours worked by all teams.

²Calculated as the cumulative sum of all kilometres travelled by all teams.

six physiographic regions (Appendix 1). Abundance and distribution of the remaining 42 species are tabulated in Appendix 2.

Very few species were evenly distributed. Indeed, only two species provided a ratio Xmin/Xmax greater than 60 per cent (Spotted Pardalote Pardalotus punctatus 73% and Fan-tailed Cuckoo Cacomantis flabelliformis 68%). Although 83 species (66%) were recorded in all six regions at some time from 1982 to 1991 (Table 3), six species (White-headed Pigeon Columba leucomela, Rainbow Lorikeet Trichoglossus haematodus. Red-rumped Parrot Psephotus haematonotus, White-throated Needletail Hirundapus caudacutus, Bell Miner Manorina melanophrys and White-fronted Chat Epthianura albifrons) were recorded in only two regions. Musk Lorikeet Glossopsitta concinna, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater **Phylidonyris** melanops and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin Lonchura castaneothorax were seen in only one of the six regions. Numerous species showed preference for either the inland regions 1-3 or the coastal regions 4-6. Gang-gang Cockatoo Callocephalon fimbriatum, Crested Pigeon Ocyphaps lophotes, Common Bronzewing Phaps calcoptera, White-eared Honeyeater Lichenostomus leucotis, Rufous Whistler Pachycephala rufiventris, Common Blackbird Turdus merula, Rufous Songlark Cincloramphus mathewsi and White-winged Chough Corcorax melanoramphos occurred mainly west of the

TABLE 3

Occurrence of 125 regularly observed landbird species in the six physiographic regions of the County of Camdem from 1982 to 1991.

Number of species recorded	Number of regions in which species was recorded				
83	6				
10	5				
16	4				
7	3				
6	2				
3	1				

³Total species observed in all regions.

⁴Total number of individuals of all species in all regions.

escarpment whereas Brown Cuckoo-Dove Macropygia ambionensis, Topknot Pigeon Lopholaimus antarcticus, Wonga Pigeon Leucosarcia melanoleuca, Little Wattlebird Anthochaera chrysoptera, New Holland Honeyeater Phylidonyris novaehollandiae, Lewin's Honeyeater Meliphaga lewinii, Golden Whistler Pachycephala pectoralis and Brown Gerygone Gerygone mouki were most common in coastal habitats. Southern Emu-wren Stipiturus malachurus, Wattlebird, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren Little Hylacola pyrrhopygia Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Dusky Woodswallow Artarmus cyanopterus were species of the heathland and woodland in region 6. Within particular genera, some species were more specialised in their habitat preferences than others. For example, in the Scrubwrens, Yellow-throated Scrubwren Sericornis citreogularis and Large-billed Scrubwren Sericornis magnirostris showed affinity for escarpment whereas the White-browed forests Scrubwren Sericornis frontalis was more evenly distributed. In the Thornbills, Buff-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza reguloides, Yellow-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza chrysorrhoa and Striated Thornbill Acanthiza lineata were clearly most abundant in inland regions whereas Yellow Thornbills Acanthiza nana and Brown Thornbills Acanthiza pusilla were encountered at appreciable rates (birds/team hour) in most of the six regions. The following species were strongly linked to Northern shale habitats: Weebill Smicrornis brevirostris, White-throated Gerygone Gerygone olivacea, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater Lichenostomus melanops, Fuscous Honeyeater Lichenostomus fuscus, Restless Flycatcher Myiagra inquieta and Doublebarred Finch Taeniopygia bichenovii.

Numerically, the Common Starling Sturnus vulgaris was predominant with 53 033 individuals overall, almost four times the number of Australian Magpies Gymnorhina tibichen (14 661 individuals). Other species that were abundant were: House Sparrow Passer domesticus (11 713 individuals), Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena (11 030), Superb Fairy-wren Malurus splendens (9 600), Common Myna Acridotheres tristis (8 775), Crimson Rosella Platycercus elegans (8 214), Silvereye Zosterops lateralis (8 040), Red-browed Finch Neochmia temporalis (7 023) and Australian Raven Corvus coronoides (6 745). Three of these abundant species are introduced.

Twenty-two species were considered migratory, arriving before mid-spring and departing before late autumn. Fourteen had seasonal abundance ratios greater than 50, eight of which were counted only in spring: Common Koel Eudynamys scolopacea, Rainbow Bee-eater Merops ornatus, Dollarbird Eurystomus orientalis, Leaden Flycatcher Myiagra rubecula, Rufous Fantail Rhipidura rufifrons, White-winged Triller Lalage sueurii, White-browed Woodswallow Artamus superciliosus and Rufous Songlark, Migratory Scarlet Honeyeaters Myzomela sanguinolenta (Na/Ns = 29.5, n = 122) were wellrepresented in every spring count in regions 1-4 (n = 116) whereas only three birds were counted in autumn in these regions. They were however, poorly represented in both seasons in coastal regions five and 6 (n = 3). Only two species, defined as migrants, had seasonal abundance ratios greater than 5 but less than 10. These species were the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (Ns/Na = 5.8, n = 910) and the Tree Martin Hirundo nigricans (Ns/Na = 6.4, n = 1234). In every year, the number of Fan-tailed Cuckoos counted in spring was more than the number counted in autumn (seasonal ratio range 2.5-64.5, mean 5.7, n = 10).

Of the 42 species in Appendix 2, nine were represented by only one individual and a further 10 were seen in only one region. The remaining 23 species were either more common or more evenly distributed. Four of these 23 species (Peaceful Dove Geopelia striata, Brown Treecreeper Climacteris picumnus, Speckled Warbler Chthonicola sagittata and Hooded Robin Melanodryas culcullata) were restricted to the inland regions 1-3 whereas Emerald Doves Chalcophaps indica and Spangled Drongos Dicrurus bracteatus were found only in coastal regions 4-6. Channel-billed Cuckoos Scythrops novaehollandiae, White-plumed Honeyeaters Lichenostomus penicillatus, Cicadabirds Coracina tenuirostris and Long-billed Corellas Cacatua tenuirostris were the most abundant and most evenly distributed species in Appendix 2.

DISCUSSION

This large community effort (2 459 team-hours, Table 1) is the first attempt to quantify distribution and abundance of landbirds within the County of Camden. For 125 species, distribution maps are presented to enable abundance comparisons between physiographic regions and between late autumn and mid-spring. These data update current references that are important for wildlife managers, ecologists and consultants. Species such as the Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* (52 birds overall), Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chryscoccyx basilis* (84), Rock Warbler Origma solitaria (95) and Rufous Fantail (59) were certainly not 'moderately common' in the present study (see Smith *et al.* 1989). Moreover, new evidence has been presented to suggest that the Fan-tailed Cuckoo and the Scarlet Honeyeater are migratory rather than nomadic (see Smith *et al.* 1989). If Fan-tailed Cuckoos are summer migrants near Wollongong and Wangaratta (Cheney 1915) and winter migrants near Brisbane (Slater 1995), the movements of this Cuckoo might mirror those of the Brush Cuckoo Cacomantis variolosus and Pallid Cuckoo Culculus pallidus.

Abundance and distribution of the 42 species that were recorded in small numbers are quantified in Appendix 2. Smith et al. (1989) previously assessed that 27 of these species were not 'rare' but either 'uncommon' or 'scarce'. Twenty-four additional landbird species that have been recorded in the past (see Smith et al. 1989) were not counted in this study. The residency status of these 24 species should now be examined to determine whether small numbers of individuals are present in remote habitats (e.g. King Quail Coturnix chinensis, Turquoise Parrot Neophema pulchella, White-backed Swallow Cheramoeca leucosternus, Regent Honeyeater Xanthomyza phrygia and Black-chinned Honeyeater Melithreptus gularis) or whether these species are represented by only vagrant individuals (e.g. Little Button-quail Turnix velox, Oriental Cuckoo Cuculus saturatus, Olive Whistler Pachycephala olivacea, Brown Honeyeater Lichmera indistincta and Spectacled Monarch Monarcha trivirgatus).

Some aspects of the study impact on the interpretation of results. First, drought was experienced from April 1982 to April 1983 (Wood and Simcock 1993) and also during 1991 (Fig. 2). These periods of rainfall deficiency almost certainly influenced the abundance of Swift Parrots Lathamus discolor, White-browed Woodswallows, Masked Woodswallows Artamus personatus and Black-faced Woodswallows Artamus cinereus (Wood and Simcock 1993, Wood 1994).

Second, the number of individuals counted in autumn was greater each year than the corresponding number counted in spring (Table 2). As in the 1982–87 counts, this phenomenon is attributed to the formation of mixed and single-species flocks in autumn (see Wood and Simcock 1993). Among the landbirds, the Common Starling alone accounted for 17 773 more individuals in autumn than spring (35 383 vs 17 650). Zebra Finches *Taeniopygia guttata*, Double-barred Finches and Red-browed Finches were censused with much higher numbers in autumn than spring probably due to larger flocks in autumn, comprising adults and first-year birds that fledged following breeding after the spring counts.

Third, the small team effort and high counting efficiency in region 1 (Table 1) compared with other regions probably inflated the relative abundance of species such as Australian King-Parrot Alisterus scapularis, Yellow Thornbill and Grey Butcherbird Cracticus torquatus in the Northern shale. Had this region been sampled more extensively, for example by more teams with a range of counting efficiencies, it seems likely that the abundance of these species, calculated as birds per team-hour, would have been less than presented herein.

Fourth, it cannot be assumed that distribution was uniform within a region, as some species occurred in habitat pockets. For example, the largest numbers of Red-whiskered Bulbuls Pycnonotus jocosus and House Sparrows were encountered in the north of region 4 while the largest numbers of Pilotbirds and Eastern Bristlebirds Dasyornis brachypterus were in the east of region 3. Moreover, large but irregular counts of some species tended to bias their perceived distribution in favour of the region in which those large numbers were counted. Such large counts were: 572 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos Cacatua galerita (region 1, May 89), 100 Little Corellas Cacatua sanguinea (region 1, May 89), 150 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos Calyptorhynchus funerus (region 3, May 90), 150 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos (region 2, May 91), 51 Pilotbirds (region 3, May 89), 500 House Sparrows (region 4, May 91), 127 Little Ravens Corvus mellori (region 4, October 90). These irregular large counts also provided large seasonal abundance ratios, sometimes falsely giving the impression of migration. For example, Little Raven (Ns/Na = 9.3) and White-headed Pigeon (Na/Ns = 6.5) showed high seasonal ratios whereas both species are probably nomadic (Smith et al. 1989).

Lastly, as cryptic species were identified mostly by call, their seasonal abundance was biased towards the season in which they called most. Seasonal abundance ratios for these species were indicative of comparative calling rates in the breeding and non-breeding seasons rather than migration. The following cryptic species are breeding residents yet their seasonal ratios were greater than 4: Pilotbird, Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Common Blackbird. All the above impacts demonstrate the need for caution in interpretation of the results.

Avian assemblages consist of specialists that occupy ecological niches, and generalists that are more versatile in their habitat requirements (Catterall et al. 1991, Barrett et al. 1994). This study has enabled specialists and generalists to be broadly identified within the County. Rainforest specialists such as Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Emerald Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Black-faced Monarch Monarcha melanopsis, Rufous Fantail, and Green Catbird Ailuroedus crassirostris were present in regions 3, 4, 5 and 6, where rainforest occurs, and absent from region 1 in which there is no rainforest. Species usually considered rainforest specialists (see Smith 1991, Mills and Jakeman 1995) but found in all regions were Wonga Pigeon, Superb Lyrebird Menura novarhollandiae, Pilotbird, Eastern Whipbird Psophodes olivaceus and Satin Bowerbird Ptilonorhynchus violaceus. These five species may not be as closely linked to rainforest as previously thought. Five species were heathland specialists (Tawnycrowned Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Chestnutrumped Heathwren, Little Wattlebird and Beautiful

Firetail Stagonopleura bella) while Rainbow and Musk Lorikeets were virtually restricted to region 4. Inland shale and sandstone specialists included Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (183 birds overall), Pallid Cuckoo (172), Scarlet Honeyeater (122), Common Bronzewing (112), Restless Flycatcher (95), Zebra Finch (66), Fuscous Honeyeater (62), Weebill (54), Rufous Songlark (53), Rainbow Bee-eater (51), Peaceful Dove (32), Speckled Warbler (15), Hooded Robin (14), Brown Treecreeper (7), Southern Whiteface Aphelocephala leucopsis (2), Red-capped Robin Petroica goodenovii (2) and Nutmeg Mannikin Lonchura punctulata (2). Many of these shale specialist species, including the migrants, are at risk of local extinction because their populations are small (<200 birds counted in 8 surveys). Most shale species were present in region 1, yet absent from region 3, the only other region in which Wianamatta shale is dominant (Table 1). Absence of shale species from region 3 is probably due to clearing of almost all vegetation from shale landscapes around Moss Vale and Robertson.

Although 83 species could be broadly considered generalist species (Table 3), only six were encountered at almost the same number of birds per team hour in all six regions. These generalist species were: Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra Dacelo novaeguinea, Spotted Pardalote, Eastern Spinebill Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris, Grey Fantail Rhipidura fuliginosa and Pied Currawong Strepera graculina. Three introduced species deserve special mention because they were among the ten most abundant landbirds. Common Starling (53 033 birds overall), House Sparrow (11713) and Common Myna (8775) all recorded the highest number of birds per team hour in the Northern shale. The impact of these exotic species on the survival of native populations has yet to be determined, but it is well known that Common Starlings and Common Mynas compete with native birds for food and nest sites (see Wood 1995, Pell and Tidemann 1997). Sheer numbers of exotic birds in shale regions may account for the low abundance of shale specialist species.

Throughout a number of regions in Australia, there is a continuing decline in species richness, often leading to local extinctions (Recher and Lim 1990). Species loss is rarely attributed to a single cause but Recher and Lim (1990) predicted an acceleration in extinctions unless clearing of habitats was controlled. In the woodlands of western Sydney, Hoskin (1991) and Keast (1995) showed that six shale-specialist species (Black-eared Cuckoo Chrysococcyx osculans, Brown Treecreeper, Speckled Warbler, Southern Whiteface, Hooded Robin and Redcapped Robin) are virtually extinct. Keast (1995) discussed the process of extinction over the last 50 years and demonstrated that loss of prime habitat was the most significant factor in the demise of these species. In the County of Camden, at least four, probably five landbirds (Australian Brush-turkey Alectura lathami, Bush Stonecurlew Burhinus grallarius, Woompoo Pigeon Ptilinopus magnificus, Australian Ringneck Barnardius

zonarius and Black-eared Cuckoo) are already extinct (King 1893, Gibson 1977, Smith *et al.* 1989) and many others, including those that have been eliminated from western Sydney, are now threatened. As Recher (1993) pointed out, ground-foraging species are most endangered because they are most restricted in their ecological requirements and most exposed to predation and disturbance. It is hoped data presented in this report and knowledge gained from past extinctions are used effectively in conserving the remaining species in the County of Camden.

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APPENDIX 1

Distribution and abundance of 125 species of landbirds with a total of more than 50 individuals observed during bi-annual counts in the County of Camden from 1982 to 1991.

Observation effort was 1 193.1 team-hours in late autumn and 1 266.2 team-hours in mid-spring.

For each species, the number of birds per team-hour in each of the six physiographic regions (both seasons combined) is in proportion to the circle diameter. The largest circle represents the highest number of birds per team-hour (Xmax). The total number of individuals counted in late autumn and mid-spring is shown as Na and Ns respectively.

Abundance of any species in any region can be calculated as follows:

- (1) measure the diameter of the circle corresponding to the region in question,
- (2) measure the diameter of the largest circle,
- (3) calculate the ratio of the smaller to larger diameter as a percentage,
- (4) multiply the calculated percentage by Xmax.

For example, Xmax for the Rock Dove is 2.1 birds per team-hour in region 5. The abundance of Rock Doves in regions 1, 2 and 3 is therefore approximately 50, 20 and 10 per cent of 2.1 birds per team-hour respectively.

For summer migrant species (SM), the total number of individuals counted in mid-spring was at least five times the total number counted in late autumn (see methods).

Corella 22(1)



Rock Dove Columba livia Xmax = 2.1 birds/team hr Na = 2085 Ns = 505



Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera* Xmax = 0.24 birds/team hr Na = 37 Ns = 75



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo Calyptorhynchus funereus Xmax = 2.0 birds/team hr Na = 1577 Ns = 391



Sulphur—crested Cockatao Cacatua galerita Xmax = 7.3 birds/team hr Na = 1881 Ns = 1117



White-headed Pigeon Columba leucomela Xmax = 0.14 birds/team hr



Crested Pigeon Ocyphaps lophotes Xmax = 2.3 birds/team hr Na = 640 Ns = 251



Gang-gang Cockatoo Callocephalon fimbriatum Xmax = 0.41 birds/team hr Na = 255 Ns = 209



Rainbow Lorikeet Trichoglossus haematodus Xmax = 0.71 birds/team hr Na = 387 Ns = 137



Spotted Turtle-Dove Streptopelia senegalensis Xmax = 2.2 birds/team hr Na = 1034 Ns = 757



Wonga Pigeon Leucosarcia melanoleuca Xmax = 0.29 birds/team hr Na = 122 Ns = 275



Galah Cacatua roseicapilla Xmax = 3.2 birds/team hr Na = 2384 Ns = 2120



Musk Lorikeet Glossopsitta concinna Xmax = 0.11 birds/team hr Na = 49 Ns = 23



Brown Cuckoo-Dove Macropygia amboinensis Xmax = 0.24 birds/team hr Na = 90 Ns = 198



Topknot Pigeon Lopholaimus antarcticus Xmax = 1.1 birds/team hr Na = 512 Ns = 839



Little Corella Cacatua sanguinea Xmax = 0.85 birds/team hr Na = 112 Ns = 35



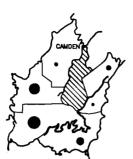
Little Lorikeet Glossopsitta pusilla Xmax = 0.04 birds/team hr Na = 40 Ns = 12



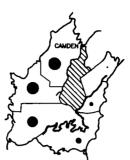
Australian King-Parrot Alisterus scapularis Xmax = 1.1 birds/team hr Na = 732 Ns = 360



Pallid Cuckoo Cuculus pallidus (SM) Xmax = 0.28 birds/team hr Na = 1 Ns = 171



Crimson Rosella Platycercus elegans Xmax = 5.8 birds/team hr Na = 5577 Ns = 2637



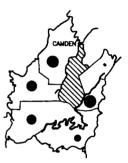
Eastern Rosella Platycercus eximius Xmax = 3.9 birds/team hr Na = 3209 Ns = 1768



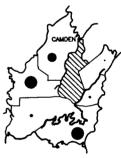
Fan-tailed Cuckoo Cacomantis flabelliformis (SM) Xmax = 0.47 birds/team hr Na = 134 Ns = 776



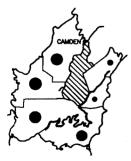
Red—rumped Parrot Psephotus haematonotus Xmax = 1.6 birds/team hr Na = 178 Ns = 52



Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo Chryscoccyx basilis (SM) Xmax = 0.05 birds/team hr Na = 7 Ns = 77



Azure Kingfisher Alcedo azurea Xmax = 0.05 birds/team hr Na = 34 Ns = 26



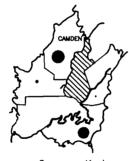
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

Chryscoccyx lucidus (SM)

Xmax = 0.10 birds/team hr

Na = 8 Ns = 164

Laughing Kookaburra Dacelo novaeguinea Xmax = 1.7 birds/team hr Na = 1416 Ns = 1772



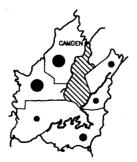
Brush Cuckoo

Cacomantis variolosus (SM)

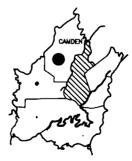
Xmax = 0.09 birds/team hr

Na = 3 Ns = 101

Common Koel Eudynamys scolopacea(SM) Xmax = 0.06 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 51



Sacred Kingfisher Todiramphus sanctus (SM) Xmax = 0.26 birds/team hr Na = 4 Ns = 385

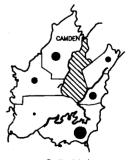


White-throated Needletail Hirundapus caudacutus (SM)

Xmax = 0.21 birds/team hr

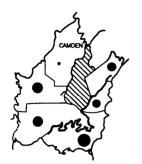
Na = 3 Ns = 91

Rainbow Bee-eater Merops ornatus (SM) Xmax = 0.20 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 51



Dollarbird Eurystomus orientalis (SM) Xmax = 0.22 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 317

Corelia 22(1)



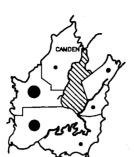
Superb Lyrebird Menura novaehollandiae Xmax = 0.39 birds/team hr Na = 464 Ns = 288



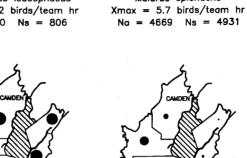
Southern Emu-wren Stipiturus malachurus Xmax = 0.14 birds/team hr Na = 54 Ns = 60



Rockwarbler Origma solitaria Xmax = 0.10 birds/team hr Na = 64 Ns = 31



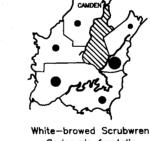
White-throated Treecreeper Cormobates leucophaeus Xmax = 1.2 birds/team hr Na = 690 Ns = 806



Spotted Pardalote Pardalotus punctatus Xmax = 1.03 birds/team hr Na = 1138 Ns = 1088



Yellow-throated Scrubwren Sericornis citreogularis Xmax = 0.38 birds/team hr Na = 135 Ns = 196



Sericornis frontalis Xmax = 1.8 birds/team hr Na = 1334 Ns = 1605

Superb Fairy-wren

Malurus spiendens

Striated Pardalote

Pardalotus striatus

Xmax = 0.74 birds/team hr

Na = 134 Ns = 527



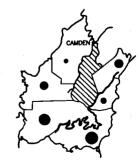
Variegated Fairy-wren Malurus lamberti Xmax = 0.34 birds/team hr Na = 259 Ns = 225



Pilotbird Pycnoptilus floccosus Xmax = 0.16 birds/team hr Na = 2 Ns = 75



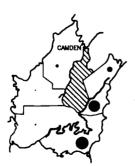
Large-billed Scrubwren Sericornis magnirostris Xmax = 0.17 birds/team hr Na = 72 Ns = 50



Brown Thornbill Acanthiza pusilla Xmax = 1.8 birds/team hr Na = 1723 Ns = 1528



Weebill Smicrornis brevirostris Xmax = 0.15 birds/team hr Na = 33 Ns = 21



Brown Gerygone Gerygone mouki Xmax = 2.4 birds/team hr Na = 1836 Ns = 1251



White-throated Gerygone Gerygone olivacea (SM) Xmax = 0.66 birds/team hr Na = 5 Ns = 323



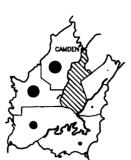
Buff-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza reguloides Xmax = 0.82 birds/team hr Na = 622 Ns = 255



Red Wattlebird Anthochaera carunculata Xmax = 1.4 birds/team hr Na = 1019 Ns = 773



Noisy Miner Manorina melanocephala Xmax = 5.4 birds/team hr Na = 1952 Ns = 2522



Yellow-rumped Thornbill Acanthiza chrysorrhoa Xmax = 2.8 birds/team hr Na = 1778 Ns = 963

Little Wattlebird

Anthochaera chrysoptera

Xmax = 1.2 birds/team hr

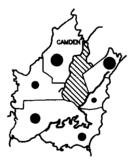
Na = 344 Ns = 419



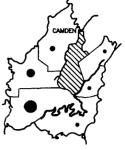
Yellow Thornbill Acanthiza nana Xmax = 1.90 birds/team hr Na = 1357 Ns = 940



Noisy Friarbird Philemon corniculatus Xmax = 1.2 birds/team hr Na = 454 Ns = 517



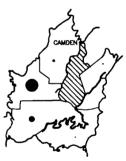
Yellow-faced Honeyeater Lichenostomus chrysops Xmax = 3.7 birds/team hr Na = 4078 Ns = 2203



Striated Thornbill Acanthiza lineata Xmax = 3.6 birds/team hr Na = 2272 Ns = 1692



Bell Miner Manorina melanophrys Xmax = 4.6 birds/team hr Na = 399 Ns = 374



White—eared Honeyeater Lichenostomus leucotis Xmax = 1.4 birds/team hr Na = 462 Ns = 437



Yellow--tufted Honeyeater Lichenostomus melanops Xmax = 0.48 birds/team hr Na = 122 Ns = 61



Lewin's Honeyeater

Meliphaga lewinii

Xmax = 2.3 birds/team hr

Na = 1878 Ns = 1534

Fuscous Honeyeater Lichenostomus fuscus Xmax = 0.17 birds/team hr Na = 40 Ns = 22



Brown-headed Honeyeater Melithreptus brevirostris Xmax = 0.40 birds/team hr Na = 174 Ns = 96



White—naped Honeyeater Melithreptus lunatus Xmax = 0.67 birds/team hr Na = 546 Ns = 157

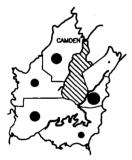
Corella 22(1)



New Holland Honeyeater Phylidonyris novaehollandiae Xmax = 2.4 birds/team hr Na = 1614 Ns = 971



White-fronted Chat Epthianura albifrons Xmax = 0.14 birds/team hr Na = 37 Ns = 89



Rose Robin Petroica rosea Xmax = 0.05 birds/team hr Na = 47 Ns = 23



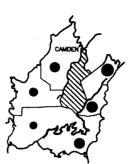
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater Phylidonyris melanops Xmax = 0.57 birds/team hr Na = 154 Ns = 72

Jacky Winter

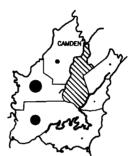
Microeca fascinans

Xmax = 0.28 birds/team hr

Na = 229 Ns = 105



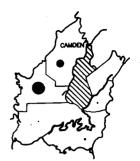
Eastern Spinebill Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris Xmax = 1.4 birds/team hr Na = 1237 Ns = 1630



Scarlet Robin Petroica multicolor Xmax = 0.49 birds/team hr Na = 347 Ns = 74



Logrunner Orthonyx temminckii Xmax = 0.14 birds/team hr Na = 52 Ns = 58



Scarlet Honeyeater Myzomela sanguinolenta (SM) Xmax = 0.22 birds/team hr Na = 4 Ns = 118



Flame Robin Petroica phoenicea Xmax = 0.10 birds/team hr Na = 47 Ns = 25



Eastern Whipbird Psophodes olivaceus Xmax = 1.4 birds/team hr Na = 778 Ns = 1562



Spotted Quail—thrush Cinclosoma punctatum Xmax = 0.10 birds/team hr Na = 40 Ns = 29



Eastern Yellow Robin

Eopsaltria australis

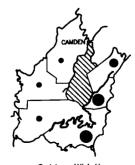
Xmax = 0.73 birds/team hr

Na = 645 Ns = 765

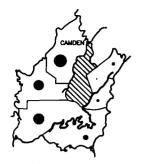
Varried Sittella Daphoenositta chrysoptera Xmax = 0.17 birds/team hr Na = 151 Ns = 59



Crested Shrike-tit Falcunculus frontatus Xmax = 0.13 birds/team hr Na = 68 Ns = 47



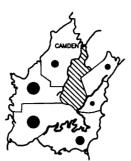
Golden Whistler Pachycephala pectoralis Xmax = 0.62 birds/team hr Na = 487 Ns = 622



Rufous Whistler Pachycephala rufiventris (SM) Xmax = 1.5 birds/team hr Na = 19 Ns = 1806



Restless Flycatcher Myiagra inquieta Xmax = 0.39 birds/team hr Na = 41 Ns = 54



Grey Shrike-thrush Colluricincla harmonica Xmax = 1.2 birds/team hr Na = 882 Ns = 1059



Black-faced Monarch Monarcha melanopsis (SM) Xmax = 0.28 birds/team hr Na = 1 Ns = 447



Rufous Fantail Rhipidura rufifrons (SM) Xmax = 0.05 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 59



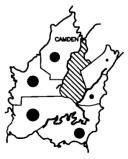
Leaden Flycatcher Myiagra rubecula (SM) Xmax = 0.10 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 107



Grey Fantail Rhipidura fuliginosa Xmax = 2.3 birds/team hr Na = 1374 Ns = 2429



Olive—backed Oriole Oriolus sagittatus Xmax = 0.28 birds/team hr Na = 45 Ns = 245



Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* Xmax = 9.2 birds/team hr Na = 8011 Ns = 6650



Willie Wagtail Rhipidura leucophrys Xmax = 2.4 birds/team hr Na = 1194 Ns = 1400



White-browed Woodswallow Artamus superciliosus (SM) Xmax = 0.75 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 425



Maapie-lark

Grallina cyanoleuca

Xmax = 7.8 birds/team hr

Na = 3218 Ns = 2414

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Coracina novaehollandiae Xmax = 1.4 birds/team hr Na = 349 Ns = 1107



Dusky Woodswallow Artamus cyanopterus Xmax = 0.77 birds/team hr Na = 166 Ns = 396

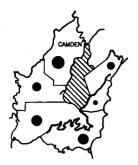


White-winged Triller Lalage sueurii (SM) Xmax = 0.15 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 107

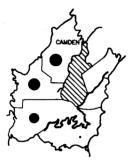


Grey Butcherbird Cracticus torquatus Xmax = 0.86 birds/team hr Na = 434 Ns = 444

Corella 22(1)



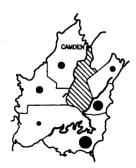
Pied Currawong Strepera graculina Xmax = 3.8 birds/team hr Na = 4956 Ns = 1559



White-winged Chough Corcorax melanorhamphos Xmax = 0.64 birds/team hr Na = 383 Ns = 204



Richard's Pipit Anthus novaeseelandiae Xmax = 1.1 birds/team hr Na = 542 Ns = 657



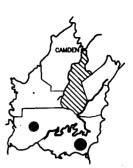
Red-browed Finch Neochmia temporalis Xmax = 4.4 birds/team hr Na = 5050 Ns = 1973



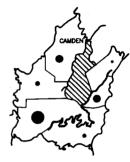
Grey Currawong Strepera versicolor Xmax = 0.14 birds/team hr Na = 55 Ns = 60



Australian Raven Corvus coronoides Xmax = 4.6 birds/team hr Na = 3850 Ns = 2904



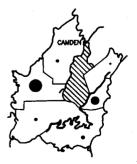
Little Raven Corvus mellori Xmax = 0.23 birds/team hr Na = 21 Ns = 196



Skylark Alauda arvensis Xmax = 0.13 birds/team hr Na = 30 Ns = 120



Double-barred Finch Taeniopygia bichenovii Xmax = 1.2 birds/team hr Na = 238 Ns = 33



Mistletoebird Dicaeum hirundinaceum Xmax = 0.47 birds/team hr Na = 197 Ns = 289



Green Catbird

Ailuroedus crassirostris

Xmax = 0.09 birds/team hr

Na = 33 Ns = 67

House Sparrow Passer domesticus Xmax = 10.5 birds/team hr Na = 5214 Ns = 6499



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin Lonchura castaneothorax Xmax = 0.16 birds/team hr Na = 32 Ns = 77



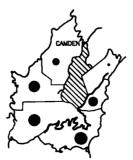
Satin Bowerbird

Ptilonorhynchus violaceus

Xmax = 1.9 birds/team hr

Na = 1062 Ns = 1038

Zebra Finch Taeniopygia guttata Xmax = 0.15 birds/team hr Na = 51 Ns = 15



European Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis Xmax = 0.87 birds/team hr Na = 826 Ns = 817



Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena Xmax = 9.2 birds/team hr Na = 6282 Ns = 4748



Clamorous Reed-Warbler Acrocephalus stentoreus (SM) Xmax = 0.41 birds/team hr Na = 6 Ns = 539



Tree Martin Hirundo nigricans (SM) Xmax = 0.73 birds/team hr Na = 167 Ns = 1067



Little Grassbird Megalurus gramineus Xmax = 0.09 birds/team hr Na = 22 Ns = 47



Fairy Martin Hirundo ariel (SM) Xmax = 1.6 birds/team hr Na = 46 Ns = 1496



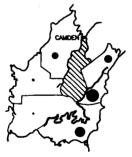
Rufous Songlark Cincloramphus mathewsi(SM) Xmax = 0.09 birds/team hr Na = 0 Ns = 53



Red-whiskered Bulbul Pycnonotus jocosus Xmax = 2.0 birds/team hr Na = 1159 Ns = 857



Golden—headed Cisticola Cisticola exilis Xmax = 1.1 birds/team hr Na = 377 Ns = 562



Silvereye Zosterops lateralis Xmax = 5.7 birds/team hr Na = 4657 Ns = 3383



Bassian Thrush Zoothera lunulata Xmax = 0.07 birds/team hr Na = 31 Ns = 47



Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* Xmax = 0.31 birds/team hr Na = 46 Ns = 194



Common Starling Sturnus vulgaris Xmax = 32.8 birds/team hr Na = 35383 Ns = 17650



Common Myna Acridotheres tristis Xmax = 12.6 birds/team hr Na = 5020 Ns = 3755

APPENDIX 2

Results for 42 landbird species that were recorded with a total of less than 50 individuals during 10 bi-annual counts in the County of Camden from 1982 to 1991. The total number of species, and number of individuals of each species is shown for the six physiographic regions. I = introduced species, AE = aviary escapee.

Species	Region							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	
Australian Brush-turkey Alectuta lathami (AE)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Stubble Quail Coturnix pectoralis	0	5	2	5	0	0	12	
Brown Quail Coturnix ypsilophora	0	5	0	2	9	0	16	
Painted Button-quail Turnix varia	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Emerald Dove Chalcophaps indica	0	0	0	1	10	0	11	
Brush Bronzewing Phaps elegans	1	0	2	2	2	2	9	
Peaceful Dove Geopelia striata	9	22	0	0	0	1	32	
Bar-shouldered Dove Geopelia humeralis	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove Ptilinopus regina	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
Glossy Black-Cockatoo Calyptorhynchus lathami	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	
Long-billed Corella Cacatua tenuirostris	16	0	4	11	9	0	40	
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo Cacatua leadbeateri (AE)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Cockatiel Nymphicus hollandicus (AE)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	
Australian Ringneck Barnardius zonarius (AE)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Swift Parrot Lathamus discolor	0	0	0	0	11	0	11	
Ground Parrot Pezoporus wallicus	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	
Channel-billed Cuckoo Scythrops novaehollandiae	13	9	1	12	7	1	43	
Red-browed Treecreeper Climacteris erythrops	1	9	8	2	8	2	30	
Brown Treecreeper Climacteris picumnus	0	3	4	0	0	0	7	
Eastern Bristlebird Dasyornis brachypterus	0	0	29	0	0	0	29	
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren Hylacola pyrrhopygia	0	9	1	5	0	17	32	
Speckled Warbler Chthonicola sagittata	0	14	1	0	0	0	15	
Southern Whiteface Aphelocephala leucopsis	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	
White-plumed Honeyeater Lichenostomus penicillatus	6	12	2	4	22	0	46	
Crescent Honeyeater Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera	0	0	9	2	0	0	11	
White-cheeked Honeyeater Phylidonyris nigra	0	5	1	0	0	0	6	
Red-capped Robin Petroica goodenovii	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	
Hooded Robin Melanodryas culcullata	1	13	0	0	0	0	14	
Satin Flycatcher Myiagra cyanoleuca	0	5	1	0	2	0	8	
Spangled Drongo Dicrurus bracteatus	0	0	0	2	8	0	10	
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike Coracina papuensis	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	
Cicadabird Coracina tenuirostris	0	12	10	6	5	3	36	
Figbird Sphecotheres viridis	0	0	0	21	0	0	21	
Masked Woodswallow Artamus personatus	2	3	0	0	0	2	7	
Black-faced Woodswallow Artamus cinereus	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Singing Bushlark Mirafra javanica	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Diamond Firetail Stagonopleura guttata	6	27	Ō	Ō	1	1	35	
Beautiful Firetail Stagonopleura bella	ŏ	0	ō	Ō	Ō	1	1	
Nutmeg Mannikin Lonchura punctulata (I)	2	0	Ō	0	0	0	2	
Tawny Grassbird Megalurus timoriensis	ō	Õ	Ō	1	Ō	0	1	
Brown Songlark Cincloramphus cruralis	Ō	0	1	Ō	2	0	3	
Total number of species	10	18	18	17	18	11	42	