

A SURVEY OF DIURNAL RAPTORS IN THE RICHMOND RIVER DISTRICT, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1996-99

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Between 1996 and 1999 diurnal raptors were counted using roadside surveys in the Richmond River district in north-eastern New South Wales. A total of 3 101 raptors of 17 species was recorded. Relative abundance of raptors (all species), expressed in terms of individuals per 100 kilometres travelled, was 10.75 birds per 100 kilometres which was markedly higher than had been reported for the area previously. Two species, Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* and Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*, were most frequently recorded, comprising 56 per cent and 24 per cent respectively of all raptors counted. Both species demonstrated marked seasonality associated with autumn-winter movements into the area. Issues relating to vehicle-based surveying of raptors are discussed.