

LOCAL MOVEMENTS OF HONEYEATERS IN A SUB-COASTAL VEGETATION MOSAIC IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

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We examined the local movements of honeyeaters in a vegetation mosaic near Darwin, Northern Territory over a 39-month period using mark-recapture banding and unquantified observations of nectar availability and the presence of birds. Thirty nectar source species provided nectar throughout the year, with the exception of interludes of several weeks between periods of prolific flowering during the Wet season. At least five species of honeyeater were present in the 470 ha study area throughout the study period. Banding returns suggest a moderate level of between-year site fidelity, as well as some local movements between nectar sources and habitats. Mark-resight techniques may prove more effective than mark-recapture techniques in further exploration of the patterns observed.