

PLANT FOOD RESOURCES OF BIRDS IN COASTAL DUNE COMMUNITIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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The plant food resources of birds, namely nectar, flower parts, leaves, exudates, seeds, elaiosomes and fruits, were recorded in coastal dune communities at several locations along the New South Wales coastline. This paper lists all the observed plant food types (73 in total) used by 53 bird species, from 58 plant species. Notes are included on the more unusual and interesting food items and foraging techniques. The majority of observations add to the current range of specifically known bird foods. Of particular interest was the diversity of the diet of many species, particularly in the previously unknown use of nectar and fleshy fruit resources.