

A LONG-TERM BANDING STUDY OF BIRDS IN A SPOTTED GUM FOREST NEAR CAMPBELLTOWN, NEW SOUTH WALES

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Data on recapture and seasonal and annual variation in capture rates, obtained during a 21-year banding project in Spotted Gum forest 50 kilometres south-west of Sydney, New South Wales, are given for a range of frequently captured species. Six species are shown to be resident, whilst a further five species were probably resident. Four species were migratory. Numbers of four species of honeyeater were positively correlated with the flowers of the main nectar source, the Spotted Gum, but in all four, other factors appear also to have influenced capture rates. The numbers of at least one honeyeater, the Eastern Spinebill, were not correlated with the flowering of Spotted Gum. The New Holland Honeyeater was an irregular, irruptive visitor. Numbers of the Fuscous Honeyeater and White-browed Scrubwren showed long-term trends, the former inexplicably so and the latter in apparent correlation with fluctuations in vegetation and climate.