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MIXED-SPECIES FORAGING FLOCKS IN WINTER AT DRYANDRA STATE FOREST, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WILLIAM E. DAVIS, JR.[1] and HARRY F. RECHER[2]

[1]College of General Studies, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215 USA
[2]Centre for Ecosystem Management, School of Natural Sciences, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup, Western Australia, Australia 6027

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Point counts (n = 100) were used to assess the pattern of bird distribution during winter in Dryandra Woodland near Narrogin, Western Australia. Ninety-two birds were recorded with the majority of individuals (68%) occurring in mixed-species foraging flocks. From mid-July to early August, mixed-species foraging flocks were followed to identify the species present and estimate numbers of individuals of each species. Including birds recorded during point counts, 779 individuals of 41 species were observed in 133 mixed foraging flocks. An Index of Association for species present in three-or-more-species flocks revealed two major groupings of species; a group dominated by Rufous Treecreepers *Climacteris rufa* and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus ornatus*, which was associated with Wandoo *Eucalyptus wandoo* woodlands, and another associated with woodlands where treecreepers and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters were scarce or absent. Both groups usually contained species from at least three foraging guilds suggesting a partitioning of resources within mixed flocks.