

CHANGES IN THE ABUNDANCE OF SILVEREYES IN A CENTRAL VICTORIAN VINEYARD DURING THE GRAPE RIPENING PERIOD

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Population parameters of Silvereyes in Chateau Leamon, a vineyard in central Victoria, were estimated on the basis of capture-recapture methods employed during the grape ripening seasons 1988–1993, using the Jolly-Seber model, the Peterson model and a model of Seber. In the context of low survival rates, results from the Jolly-Seber model were erratic, and as short seasons yielded few data, the Jolly-Seber model was too wasteful. Populations generally rose during a season, despite the loss of many Silvereyes from the population, indicating that birds moved into the vineyard during the season. Annual survival rates were very low (mean 25% p.a.). The Tasmanian subspecies typically arrived between late March and early April, and formed up to 26% of the total Silvereye population. Few Silvereyes banded in the vineyard were recovered elsewhere.