

CORELLA

Journal of the Australian Bird Study Association

VOLUME 10

JUNE, 1986

NUMBER 2

Corella, 1986, 10(2): 37-45

BEHAVIOUR AND ECOLOGY OF TWO SPECIES OF HONEYEATER

DAVID C. McFARLAND* and PETER F. SALE

School of Biological Sciences, Sydney University, Sydney, NSW 2006.

* Present address: Department of Zoology, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351.

Received 17 September, 1984; Revised 21 November, 1985

During the autumn and winter of 1980, the general behaviour and ecology of New Holland Honeyeaters and Little Wattlebirds was studied in heath and dry sclerophyll forest in the Royal National Park, NSW. The availability of certain foods (flying insects and nectar) was also measured. Both bird species had similar time budgets and engaged in inter- and intraspecific aggression. Hawking activity did not appear to be affected by the abundance of flying insects on either a daily or seasonal basis. Each honeyeater exhibited preferences in the plants used as nectar sources. Even though the abundance of all honeyeaters in the area increased as the density of *Banksia* inflorescences increased, when individual species were examined only two of the five present showed significant relationships.