

## SEASONAL CHANGES IN RAPTOR NUMBERS AT ARMIDALE, NEW SOUTH WALES

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Transect counts and other observations in 1980 and 1984-1985 revealed a winter low and summer peak in raptor numbers and species diversity at Armidale (N.S.W.). Most of the common species were more numerous in summer than in winter; literature data indicate that these species are correspondingly more numerous in winter than in summer in some climatically less extreme areas in eastern and south-eastern Australia. Some species at Armidale appear to conform to Newton's (1979) movement categories: (a) breeding adults sedentary, surplus birds dispersive (Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*, Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*, some Brown Falcons *Falco berigora* and Australian Kestrels *Falco cenchroides*); (b) local movements (some Collared Sparrowhawks *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*, Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus* and Brown Falcons); (c) migrants (breeding: some Brown Goshawks *Accipiter fasciatus* and Australian Kestrels; wintering: Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*); (d) nomadic or irruptive (Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus notatus*, Black Kite *Milvus migrans*).