

## BIRDS IN PINUS PINASTER PLANTATIONS

### A Frequency Count II

by

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Observation into the presence and relative abundance of avifauna species in coastal P. pinaster plantations resulted in a frequency table for the period October 1971 to March 1972. A similar table was illustrated in Forest Notes (Vol. 9, No. 3) for the previous six month period.

Thirty nine visits were made to pine plantations by Dwellingup fire research staff during the latter six month period compared to 49 visits during the previous six months. The frequency table (tab. 1) gives bird species, number sighted, number of visits in which individual species were sighted and number of individual species sighted per visit.

During the April-September cycle a total of 2,466 birds were sighted whilst only 1,256 sightings were recorded during the present cycle. Allowing for the reduced number of visits to plantations, the expected number of sightings would have been 1,963. The discrepancy would no doubt be largely accounted for by day-lengthening during the 'warm' season since bird activity would be confined largely to the early daylight hours i.e. outside of visiting times.

In all, 39 bird species were encountered throughout the year, there being 31 in the cool and 25 in the warm season. Irrespective of time, season or migratory habit, the fifteen most common birds have been listed in table two. The data included in this table was taken from 88 plantation visits over one year.

It is appreciated that not all of the birds listed make their habitat in the plantations but all do to some extent find sustenance therein.

Frequency Table (1)

Birds Observed in Pinus pinaster Plantations

October 1971 - March 1972

NAME	NO.	NO. SIGHTING VISITS	NO. PER VISIT
White tailed cockatoo	869	16	54.31
28 Parrot	94	22	4.27
Magpie	64	19	3.37
Butcher bird	39	22	1.77
Splendid wren	36	9	4.00
Raven	31	11	2.82
Little wattle bird	24	12	2.00
Golden whistler	24	14	1.71
Kookaburra	10	7	1.43
Grey fantail	9	6	1.50
Western shrike thrush	9	6	1.50
Scarlet robin	8	6	1.33
Fairy wren *	8	1	8.00
Bronzewing pidgeon	7	5	1.40
Rainbow birds	6	2	3.00
Quail	4	2	2.00
Emu	3	2	1.50
Wedgetailed eagle	2	2	1.00
Sacred kingfisher	2	2	1.00
Yellow tailed thornbill	2	1	2.00
Pipit	1	1	1.00
Yellow robin	1	1	1.00
Frogmouth owl	1	1	1.00
Little eagle	1	1	1.00
Pidgeon (domestic)	1	1	1.00

\* Fairy wrens - female - possibly the red winged blue wren

Frequency Table (2)

15 Most Common Species April 1971 - March 1972

NAME	NO.	NAME	NO.
White tailed cockatoo	2,512	Scarlet robin	46
28 parrot	294	Golden whistler	45
Magpie	186	Kookaburra	34
Grey butcher bird	76	Yellow tailed thornbill	27
Little wattle bird	71	Pipit	23
Raven	65	Bronzewing pidgeon	14
Splendid wren	65	Emu	5
Grey fantail	56		