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A SURVEY OF THE BIRDS OF TWO AREAS OF SCLEROPHYLL BUSHLAND IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA

The avifauna of two areas of uninhabited sclerophyll bushland, selected for their widely different rainfall and vegetation, was surveyed between November 1977 and May 1979. One of these areas was in the Snug Plains, consisting of regions of wet sclerophyll, wet scrub and sedgeland on undulating hills at an altitude of about 500-600 metres, twenty-six kilometres south-west of Hobart. The other area was typical dry sclerophyll bushland on undulating hills, of relief between 100 and 500 metres, on the eastern bank of the Derwent River just east of Hobart near the Risdon Brook and Flagstaff Gully Reservoirs and embraced the slopes and summits of Mt Direction, Gunners Quoin, Grasstree Hill, Craigow Hill and Flagstaff Hill. Except for a few jeep tracks, both areas were unmodified native bushland, with no artificial clearings or paddocks. Visits were made to each area once or twice a month but not in any regular pattern, resulting in nineteen visits to Snug Plains and twenty-one to Risdon-Flagstaff. No visits were made during July and August. Results of the survey are presented in Table I, which shows the number of visits in which each listed species was seen or heard. Totals of fifty and forty-nine species were observed at Snug Plains and Risdon-Flagstaff respectively.

Of interest are those species which appeared exclusively or predominantly in one or other of the survey areas. For example, if we omit species recorded on less than three visits, then the Swamp Quail, Richard's Pipit, Pink Robin, Olive Whistler, White-browed Scrubwren, Scrubtit, Calamanthus, Tasmanian Thornbill and New Holland Honeyeater were recorded only in the Snug Plains area and, by a test for equality of binomial proportions, the Beautiful Firetail and Black Currawong were observed more frequently there than in Risdon-Flagstaff ($p < 0.01$). Conversely, the Peregrine Falcon, Pallid Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra, Spotted Quail-thrush, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Noisy Miner, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie and Grey Cur-

rawong were recorded only in Risdon-Flagstaff. None of the above observations contradict any notions held about habitats of birds in Tasmania.

The Blue-winged Parrot was seen at Snug Plains during the months November to March and was observed to be nesting in tall eucalypts at the edge of a marshy plain. Because this species was also seen on about one-quarter of the visits to Risdon-Flagstaff, it appears to be more abundant in the forested areas near Hobart than has hitherto been noted. Although the Tasmanian Nativehen and Scarlet Robin have increasingly become associated with man-made artificial habitats such as paddocks and clearings, their occurrence at Snug Plains shows that they still appear in natural habitats. The Brown Thornbill was recorded during each visit to Snug Plains. We have seen this species in similar habitats and elevations in numerous other Tasmanian localities in the past few years and it is clear to us that it has a wide range of habitats, a fact not yet generally acknowledged by many Tasmanian bird observers. The Southern Emu-wren is probably more common in Snug Plains than indicated by the two observations recorded in this survey but its secretive nature makes it difficult to detect. Some other species, such as the New Holland Honeyeater and Beautiful Firetail, occur in many habitats and may have been recorded more often at Snug Plains simply because several individuals may have been resident there. Similarly, a pair of Peregrine Falcons was nesting on Gunners Quoin and these same individuals were seen repeatedly during visits. Perhaps the most exciting single sighting was that of an Orange-bellied Parrot, a rare and endangered species, at Snug Plains on 6 November 1977. A solitary individual emitted its characteristic alarm call as it flew from the ground to a nearby shrub. For several minutes we observed its bright emerald-green upper plumage, which contrasted markedly with that of a pair of Blue-winged Parrots that we had watched closely half an hour earlier.

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TABLE I
Number of visits in which the listed bird species occurred

Species	Snug Plains (wet scl., scrub, sedge)	Risdon-Flagstaff (dry scl.)
Brown Goshawk <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	6	5
Wedge-tailed Eagle <i>Aquila audax</i>	1	1
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	0	1
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	6
Swamp Quail <i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	5	0
Tasmanian Native-hen <i>Gallinula mortierii</i>	5	1
Latham's Snipe <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	2	0
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>	12	7
Swift Parrot <i>Lathamus discolor</i>	6	7
Green Rosella <i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>	19	20
Eastern Rosella <i>P. eximius</i>	0	2
Blue-winged Parrot <i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	7	5
Orange-bellied Parrot <i>N. chrysogaster</i>	1	0
Pallid Cuckoo <i>Cuculus pallidus</i>	0	7
Fan-tailed Cuckoo <i>C. pyrrhophanus</i>	12	16
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>	5	8
Tawny Frogmouth <i>Podargus strigoides</i>	0	2
White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	2	1
Laughing Kookaburra <i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	0	12
Welcome Swallow <i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	2	2
Tree Martin <i>Cecropis nigricans</i>	9	12
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	4	0
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	6	15
White's Thrush <i>Zoothera dauma</i>	2	0
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	5	9
Pink Robin <i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>	4	0
Flame Robin <i>P. phoenicea</i>	15	18
Scarlet Robin <i>P. multicolor</i>	6	15
Dusky Robin <i>Melanodryas vittata</i>	8	16
Olive Whistler <i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	13	0
Golden Whistler <i>P. pectoralis</i>	13	21
Grey Shrike-thrush <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	18	19
Satin Flycatcher <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	6	11
Grey Fantail <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	19	20
Spotted Quail-thrush <i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>	0	3
Superb Fairy-wren <i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	19	21
Southern Emu-wren <i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>	2	0
White-browed Scrubwren <i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	19	0
Scrubtit <i>S. magnus</i>	7	0
Calamanthus <i>S. fuliginosus</i>	18	0
Brown Thornbill <i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	19	21
Tasmanian Thornbill <i>A. ewingii</i>	15	0
Yellow-rumped Thornbill <i>A. chrysorrhoa</i>	0	7
Yellow Wattlebird <i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>	2	7
Noisy Miner <i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	0	12
Yellow-throated Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>	18	21
Strong-billed Honeyeater <i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>	19	16
Black-headed Honeyeater <i>M. affinis</i>	12	21
Crescent Honeyeater <i>Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera</i>	18	17
New Holland Honeyeater <i>P. novaehollandiae</i>	12	0
Eastern Spinebill <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	5	6
Spotted Pardalote <i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	15	20
Striated Pardalote <i>P. striatus</i>	14	19
Silvereye <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	13	14
European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	13	17
Beautiful Firetail <i>Emblema bella</i>	14	2
Dusky Woodswallow <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>	1	9
Grey Butcherbird <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	0	20
Australian Magpie <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	0	4
Black Currawong <i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>	16	2
Grey Currawong <i>S. versicolor</i>	0	20
Forest Raven <i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>	17	21