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CONTENTS

Book Reviews

Transect vs Standardized Search in an Urban Park, Nanango, South-eastern Queensland

Fay Bielewicz & Julian Bielewicz

Abstract

We present the outcomes of a survey of the avifauna of Pioneer Park, a small urban parkland in Nanango, south-eastern Queensland. Two counting methods were employed during February and March 2010 – a Finnish strip-transect as advanced by Järvinen & Väisänen (1975) and the "standardized search" as advocated by Watson (2003). The latter's "lenient stopping rule" was applied in both.

The primary aims of this study were to add to the paucity of literature on birds using Pioneer Park and to compare the effectiveness and efficiency of the two counting methods, especially under the stopping rule as advocated by Watson (2003).

The total number of species recorded in Pioneer Park over the years by the authors amounts to 65. The more common reflect the residential/ ornamental lagoon/parkland environment of Pioneer Park: Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala,* Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes,* Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* along with Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata,* Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* and Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* (personal observation). Species of particular note found in the park include Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius,* Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus,* Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis* and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksia* (Bielewicz & Bielewicz, unpublished data).

Although it has been illustrated that significantly different results can arise when using different counting methods, our study shows little difference between results obtained from transect and standardised searches. Nevertheless, Watson's (2003) assertion that standardised searches are the more time-efficient method was upheld.

Carrion Preference in Australian Coastal Raptors: Effects of Urbanisation on Scavenging

Victoria Thomson, Tim Stevens, Darryl Jones & Chantal Huijbers

Abstract

Ongoing urbanisation and increasing human populations threaten many natural systems including coastal ecosystems. Scavenging coastal raptors are important biological vectors between marine and terrestrial ecosystems and are significantly affected by urbanisation in south-east Queensland, Australia. Little is known on the effects of human activity on Australia's coastal raptor community, including possible influences on foraging ecology. We surveyed four locations on the Gold Coast, Queensland to compare the assemblages and to test whether urbanised locations altered the preference of four Australian coastal raptor species for types of carrion prey of either marine or terrestrial origin (mullet and quail) using baited camera sampling techniques. PERMANOVA analyses showed a significant difference in raptor abundance between urban and non-urban settings. With limited sampling, no significant difference was found for carrion preference. However, a clear trend was seen with White-bellied Sea-Eagles Haliaeetus leucogaster preferring mullet, and Whistling Kites Haliastur sphenurus preferring quail in non-urban settings. No bait was taken in urban locations. This study suggests that increasing urbanisation on the Gold Coast significantly influences where coastal raptors forage. This urbanisation also raises questions concerning the foraging territories and home ranges of these raptors, and whether these effects occur more broadly. The mechanised rubbish collecting practices in place on the Gold Coast also point to concerns about other, more subtle impacts of coastal expansion on the local scavenging community.