

## **Diurnal birds in the Bungawalbin Creek catchment, northern New South Wales, with a focus on spatial and temporal changes in reporting rates of declining woodland birds**

**Dennis G. Gosper and Carl R. Gosper**

Birds at 41 sites in grassy dry open sclerophyll (eucalypt) forests and woodlands in eight State Forests in the Bungawalbin Creek catchment, Richmond River District, northern New South Wales, were surveyed across all seasons from February 2004 to July 2006. One hundred and eight diurnal species were detected, including 11 state listed threatened species and a further 17 temperate woodland species considered to be of conservation concern. No introduced species were found. Results suggest that the bird assemblages of the Bungawalbin Creek middle catchment dry forests have remained largely intact over the 25 years following a previous study (1977–80), and confirm the persistence of populations of a range of threatened taxa and other species identified as declining or subject to local extinction on the adjoining tablelands and slopes of northern New South Wales. The study area is a stronghold for declining temperate woodland species such as Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*, Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*, Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* and Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*. Evidence for lower recent reporting rates was found, however, in Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*, Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*, Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*, Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*, Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans* and Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*.

## **Breeding diets of four raptor species in the Australian tropics**

**T. A. Aumann, D. J. Baker-Gabb and S. J. S. Debus**

The breeding diets of four diurnal raptor species were studied, by analysis of pellets, prey remains, stomach flushes of trapped birds and feeding observations, in the Top End of the Northern Territory and in the Kimberley region (northern Western Australia) in 1988–89. These were the Black-breasted Buzzard *Hamirostra melanosternon*, Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*, Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides* and Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*. The Buzzard and Brown Goshawk were vertebrate generalists (mammals, birds and reptiles), the former also taking birds' eggs, and the latter also taking many invertebrates. The Little Eagle took mostly birds, with few reptiles and even fewer mammals. The Hobby took small birds and flying insects. This study complements another, concurrent study of the raptor community in the Top End, by characterising the feeding niches of an additional four diurnal species out of the ten now studied in some detail. The remaining 14 species (of the 24 that make up the diurnal raptor assemblage in northern mainland Australia) require further attention in the tropics.

## **SEABIRD ISLANDS No. 265 Leo's Island, Easter Group, Houtman Abrolhos, Western Australia**

**C. A. Surman and L. W. Nicholson**

**SEABIRD ISLANDS No. 266**  
**Newman Island, Easter Group, Houtman Abrolhos,**  
**Western Australia**

**C. A. Surman and L. W. Nicholson,**

**BANDING SNIPPET**  
**Pink Robins**

**John Farrell and Jeff Hardy**