

BIRDS OF BELAIR RECREATION PARK

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INTRODUCTION

The Belair Recreation Park, which is situated in the Mount Lofty Ranges nine km S.S.E. of Adelaide, is an area of 835 ha that is very rich in birds, both in variety and numbers. Although much of the Park is devoted to recreational areas for the public, more than half is still reserved as wilderness. A visitor to this reserve must not expect to find, at any one time, all of the bird species which are listed here. Some species are abundant and widespread; others are rare and may occur only as vagrants. Nevertheless throughout the year a large majority of them can quite easily be seen.

The main objectives of this report are to inform the reader of the abundance, status and habitat preferences of each species, and to give an indication of any changes that may have taken place in these respects. The second objective can be achieved by comparing this report to others produced in the past. Reports by J. Sutton (1936) and J. N. McGilp (1953) are good examples of earlier bird studies carried out in the Park.

CLIMATE

The Park experiences a Mediterranean climate, characterised by hot dry summers and cold wet winters. The average annual rainfall is 875 mm, which falls mainly in the winter months, when low temperatures keep surface evaporation to a minimum. Westerly air streams, with low pressure systems and cold fronts, are chiefly responsible for these conditions. The Park's height above sea-level rises from 255 m in the south-western to 490 m in the north-eastern corner. These high altitudes also contribute to heavy rainfall, by causing air masses to be uplifted.

During the survey period the climate was considerably drier than usual, with drought conditions prevailing throughout the State. However, during the winter months of 1978 heavy rain fell and the Playford Lake and Railway Dam were filled to capacity. The Minnow Creek overflowed and flooded the western section of Karka Oval. It was during this extremely wet period that many Black Duck were observed in grassy areas throughout the Park; particularly on the Karka, Willows and Long Gully Ovals.

VEGETATION FORMATIONS

The basic vegetation formations within the Park are savannah woodland and dry sclerophyll

forest. The former covers the lower western sectors and the latter is found chiefly on the higher eastern slopes.

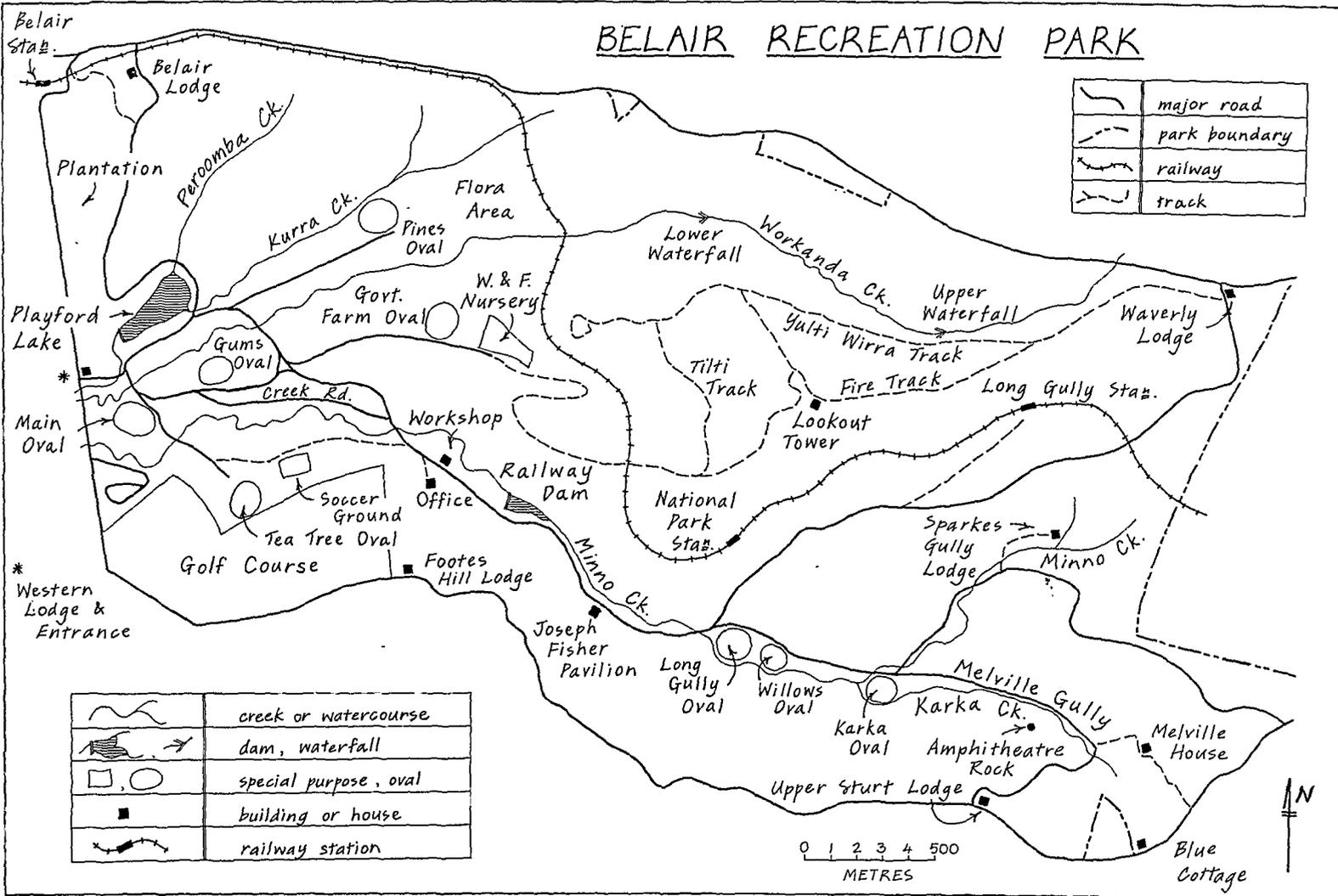
The savannah woodland is a formation which develops on the more fertile grey-brown podsols, and hence comprises large sections of the Park. The dry sclerophyll forest is found where the soils are less fertile. Here the high rainfall causes leaching. It is only in the very south-eastern corner though, where skeletal quartzitic soils are present, that this plant formation still possesses a dense and near complete understorey of sclerophyllous shrubs.

The savannah woodland consists chiefly of Peppermint Box *Eucalyptus odorata*, with Blue Gum *E. leucoxylon* also present and tending to be more dominant in a sclerophyll woodland area north of Pines Oval, where the grey-brown podsols give way to a lateritic podsol. Sheoak *Casuarina stricta* is found here; and many bushes and shrubs typical of the sclerophyll forest of the easterly sector are present. Along the many creeks and the alluvial soils associated with them the River Red Gum *E. camaldulensis* and Manna Gum *E. viminalis* form the dominant trees. Much of the Park is now heavily infested with exotic trees, weeds and herbs; but native shrubs such as the Giant Hopbush *Dodonea viscosa* and Kangaroo Thorn *Acacia armata* still flourish. Most of the native grasses have given way to introduced vigorous herbs, grasses and clovers; but some native species such as the Kangaroo Grass *Themeda australis*, remain.

The dry sclerophyll forest formation consists chiefly of Messmate Stringybark *E. obliqua*, which grows on leached grey-brown podsols. Pink Gum *E. fasciculosa* and Cup Gum *E. cosmophylla* are present in small stands chiefly above Karka Oval. This association contains an understorey of many species of sclerophyllous shrubs and bushes such as *Banksia marginata*, *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* and species of *Leptospermum* and *Hakea*. Larger species present here, and in fact throughout the Park, are the Native Cherry *Exocarpus cupressiformis* and Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*. The latter species regenerates so profusely because of frequent bushfires that in many places it grows densely. The dry sclerophyll forest in spring and summer contains many wildflowers, when members of plant families such as the *Epacridaceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Myrtaceae* and

BELAIR RECREATION PARK

	major road
	park boundary
	railway
	track



	creek or watercourse
	dam, waterfall
	special purpose, oval
	building or house
	railway station



MARCH, 1980

Proteaceae attract a wealth of honey-eating birds.

The numerous picnic areas, ovals, barbecues and tennis courts in the Park are surrounded by English exotic trees which were planted many years ago. It is in these areas, where the majority of the Park's visitors spend their time, that birds such as the Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*, Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguinae*, Little Raven *Corvus mellori* and Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* are readily seen by even the most casual observer.

OBSERVATIONS

This bird list is based upon observations made by me while working in the Park, and more importantly while on bush walks in free time for the purpose of bird study. The bird watching excursions that I have undertaken number over 200; and the entire area has been systematically covered to take in all areas at all seasons of the year. The period of observation was from March 1976 to August 1978.

INDICATIONS OF STATUS

On the basis of my observations I have compiled a key for the abundance and status of each bird species. The status of an individual species is listed as either resident, spring-summer migrant, transient or vagrant. In classifying birds for their abundance I have put them into five different categories. These are as follows — abundant, common, frequent, occasional and rare. In cases where a species has been observed on only one or two occasions dates of these sightings have been included. Breeding is represented by Br, and probable breeding by Br?. An asterisk in front of a bird's name denotes it to be an introduced species.

ANNOTATED LIST

EMU *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

Resident, several birds released from the former fauna enclosure. Usually seen in open woodland areas of the western sector.

HOARY-HEADED GREBE

Podiceps poliocephalus.

Rare, vagrant. Three birds observed irregularly on the Playford Lake since 11 April 1978. Seen in partial breeding plumage.

AUSTRALIAN PELICAN

Pelecanus conspicillatus

Rare, vagrant. One sighting of a single bird on Playford Lake, 26 February 1978.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Occasional, transient.

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris

Rare, vagrant. A single bird on Playford Lake, 20 June 1977.

LITTLE PIED CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos

Resident. A single bird resided on the Railway Dam throughout the current survey period.

WHITE-FACED HERON

Ardea novaehollandiae

Occasional, throughout the year on ovals, golf course and in the vicinity of Playford Lake.

PACIFIC HERON *Ardea pacifica*.

Rare, vagrant. A single bird flew over the workshop, 10 December 1976.

GREAT EGRET *Egretta alba*

Rare, vagrant. One flew over the Playford Lake on 13 February 1977.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

A resident pair on the Playford Lake. One is a pinioned bird. Latest breeding produced one young, 20 August 1978. One record of a vagrant on the Playford Lake, 1 July 1978.

PACIFIC BLACK DUCK *Anas superciliosa*

Common, resident and transient, Br. Many tame birds on the Playford Lake. Several wild birds usually seen on Railway Dam.

*MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common, resident, Br. Restricted to Playford Lake. Steps should be taken to eradicate these birds from this area as interbreeding with the Pacific Black Duck is occurring.

GREY TEAL *Anas gibberifrons*

Four pinioned birds have resided on the Playford Lake throughout the survey period.

WHITE-EYED DUCK *Aythya australis*

Rare, vagrant. Four, on the Playford Lake, 30 August 1978.

MANED DUCK *Chenionetta jubata*

Frequent, resident and transient, Br. Numbers fluctuate considerably. Flocks of 25 birds recorded on Gums Oval and the Golf Course during the summer months.

MUSK DUCK *Biziura lobata*

Rare, vagrant. A single bird on Playford Lake, 2 August 1977.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

Elanus caeruleus

Rare, vagrant. One hovering over grassy slopes south-west of Melville's House, 11 November 1976.

WHISTLING KITE *Haliastur sphenurus*

Rare, vagrant. A single bird flew over the Karka Oval, 31 January 1978.

BROWN GOSHAWK *Accipiter fasciatus*

Frequent, resident, Br. This species was observed almost daily throughout the spring and summer months, but was seldom seen in winter.

COLLARED SPARROWHAWK*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

Rare, vagrant. One bird in the Sugar Gum plantation just south-west of the Belair Lodge from 13 to 16 January 1978.

LITTLE EAGLE *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Rare, vagrant. One on 21 June 1977, west of Pines Oval.

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE *Aquila audax*

Occasional, transient.

BROWN FALCON *Falco berigora*

Rare, vagrant. A single bird flew over the Flora Area on 6 October 1977.

AUSTRALIAN HOBBY *Falco longipennis*

Frequent, resident. A pair roosted on a dead pine tree on the south side of Playford Lake almost every night.

AUSTRALIAN KESTREL *Falco cenchroides*

Rare, vagrant. A single bird was observed from the lookout tower on 14 January 1978 during a period of extensive bushfires.

STUBBLE QUAIL *Coturnix pectoralis*

A male bird found dead on the road just opposite Joseph Fisher picnic area on 30 November 1977.

PAINTED BUTTON-QUAIL *Turnix varia*

Rare, one bird observed in the Flora Area on 7 August 1977, amongst tussocks of Kangaroo Grass *Themeda australis*.

BLACK-TAILED NATIVE-HEN*Gallinula ventralis*

Resident. A small pinioned population exists on the Playford Lake.

DUSKY MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Common, resident, Br. Found on Playford Lake and Railway Dam.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Rare, vagrant. One, observed in reed beds at Railway Dam, on 13 May 1976.

COOT *Fulica atra*

Frequent, transient. Usually visits in the summer months. A good number of this species have taken up residence on the Playford Lake and Railway Dam since January 1978; and it appears that they may stay throughout the year.

MASKED LAPWING*Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

Occasional, resident, Br. A pair nest on the Golf course each year. Four young were produced in October 1977, and another one in August 1978.

PEACEFUL DOVE *Geopelia placida*

Rare, vagrant. A pair, on railway line above Woods and Forest Nursery, 27 May 1978.

COMMON BRONZEWING *Phaps chalcoptera*

Common, resident, Br.

BRUSH BRONZEWING *Phaps elegans*

Occasional, resident, Br? Favours areas with a dense understorey.

CRESTED PIGEON *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Occasional, resident, Br. A small population exists in the area between the Office and Golf course. A pair nested in a White-flowering Marri *Eucalyptus calophylla alba*, just north of the Office each year.

***FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*

Rare, vagrant.

SPOTTED TURTLE-DOVEStreptopelia chinensis*

Frequent, resident, Br. Restricted to open woodland areas. Most numerous in vicinity of the Woods and Forest Nursery and along the railway line, where it feeds on seeds contained in manure which has fallen from the stock cars.

YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO*Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Occasional, transient. Chiefly a summer visitor, when flocks feed on pine cones and the seeds of *Banksia marginata* bushes.

GALAH *Cacatua roseicapilla*

Frequent, resident, Br.

RAINBOW LORIKEET*Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common, resident, Br. Numbers fluctuate considerably from season to season. Most numerous in the spring and summer months, when food from flowering eucalypts is greatest.

MUSK LORIKEET *Glossopsitta concinna*

Common, resident, Br. Numbers diminish considerably in the early winter period, when this species and the former are largely dependent on the flowering Blue Gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* for food.

PURPLE-CROWNED LORIKEET*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*

Frequent, Br. Absent from the park during May and June when food supplies are low.

CRIMSON ROSELLA*Platycercus elegans subsp.*

Abundant, resident, Br. Widespread throughout the park.

EASTERN ROSELLA *Platycercus eximius*

Common, resident, Br. Confined to the open woodland areas; most numerous on Long Gully and Willows Ovals.

RED-RUMPED PARROT

Psephotus haematonotus

Frequent, resident, Br. Numbers fluctuate considerably. Most common in winter and spring. On several occasions over 30 birds were observed feeding on the Main Oval throughout July 1977.

PALLID CUCKOO *Cuculus pallidus*

Rare vagrant. One observed near Upper Sturt Lodge on 3 March 1977.

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO

Cuculus pyrrhophanus

Frequent Br. Observed regularly throughout the late winter, spring and early summer months, when its mournful trilling call was frequently heard. Stopped calling and became scarce or absent for rest of the year.

BLACK-EARED CUCKOO

Chrysococcyx osculans

Rare, vagrant. One near northern boundary on 30 June 1977.

HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO

Chrysococcyx basalis

Occasional, spring-summer migrant, Br? More often heard than seen. An adult bird, on 3 October 1976, crashed into the kitchen window of Upper Sturt Lodge. The bird fell to the ground and was immediately attacked by a flock of Striated Thornbills *Acanthiza lineata*. I rescued the cuckoo, which appeared dead, but later recovered fully.

SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO

Chrysococcyx lucidus

Rare, vagrant. Only one record of this migratory bird on 6 December 1977 in dry sclerophyll forest of the south-eastern sector of the park.

BOOBOOK OWL *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Frequent, resident Br. Several observations of this species were made in areas along Creek Road. Occasionally heard its characteristic "Mopoke" call in Melville's Gully area.

TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides*

Frequent resident, Br. Throughout spring and summer, several sightings of both adults and immature birds in the area from Long Gully through to Karka Oval. Two adults and an immature bird were observed almost daily throughout November and December 1977 whilst perched in a Manna Gum *E. viminalis* on the south side of Karka Oval.

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL

Apus caudacutus

Occasional, summer migrant. Recorded once in January 1977; and on several occasions flocks

of up to 30 birds circled over the park during January 1978.

LAUGHING KOOKABURRA

Dacelo novaeguinae

Common, resident, Br.

SACRED KINGFISHER *Halcyon sancta*

Frequent spring-summer migrant.

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena*

Common, resident, Br. Most numerous in spring and summer.

TREE MARTIN *Cecropis nigricans*

Common, spring-summer migrant, Br. Occasional over-wintering birds.

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE

Coracina novaehollandiae

Frequent, transient, Br. Most numerous in spring and summer when it usually nests high up in Stringybark *E. obliqua* trees. Rarely recorded during autumn and winter months.

WHITE-WINGED TRILLER *Lalage suerii*

Rare, vagrant. This migratory bird was recorded only once. A pair was feeding in open forest near Amphitheatre Rock on 17 January 1978.

*BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Common resident, Br.

WHITE'S THRUSH *Zoothera dauma*

Rare, resident? A pair south-east of Upper Waterfall, 18 June 1977. One in dry sclerophyll forest north of Upper Sturt Lodge, 11 January 1978, and another at Railway Dam, 25 January 1978.

WEEBILL *Smicrornis brevirostris*

Common, resident. This species was always observed within the north-western sector of the park.

LITTLE THORNBILL *Acanthiza nana*

Rare, vagrant. On 11 and 14 December small numbers visited the bird bath in the grounds of Upper Sturt Lodge.

STRIATED THORNBILL *Acanthiza lineata*

Abundant, resident, Br. Favoured habitat is the Stringybark *E. obliqua* forest. Small flocks usually seen in the upper foliage.

YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa

Rare, vagrant. A single record of a small flock feeding amongst grasses within the Flora Area, 16 February 1977.

BUFF-RUMPED THORNBILL

Acanthiza reguloides

Abundant, resident, Br. Widespread throughout the Park; particularly numerous in areas with a grassy understorey.

BROWN THORNBILL *Acanthiza pusilla*

Frequent, resident, Br. Appears to be increasing in numbers. Often seen in association with the White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis* wherever there is dense undergrowth.

WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN

Sericornis frontalis

Common, resident, Br. A denizen of overgrown creek areas and Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* thickets.

SUPERB BLUE WREN *Malurus cyaneus*

Abundant, resident, Br.

GREY FANTAIL *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Common, resident, Br. Usually seen feeding in association with Striated or Buff-rumped Thornbills.

WILLIE WAGTAIL *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Frequent, resident, Br.

RESTLESS FLYCATCHER *Myiagra inquieta*

Occasional spring-summer migrant, Br. Rare winter sightings.

SCARLET ROBIN *Petroica multicolor*

Frequent, resident, Br. Observed regularly through spring and summer, but is seldom seen in winter months. Altitude migration probably takes place.

HOODED ROBIN *Melanodryas cucullata*

Occasional, transient. Chiefly a winter visitor.

GOLDEN WHISTLER

Pachycephala pectoralis

Common, resident, Br.

RUFIOUS WHISTLER

Pachycephala rufiventris

Frequent, spring-summer migrant. Total migration occurs.

GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH

Colluricincla harmonica

Common, resident, Br. Widespread.

CRESTED SHRIKE-TIT

Falcunculus frontatus

Frequent, resident, Br.

VARIED SITTELLA

Daphoenositta chrysoptera

Frequent, transient. This species wanders constantly in search of food. It favours Stringybark *E. obliqua* and Peppermint Box *E. odorata* as feeding trees within the Park.

BROWN TREECREEPER

Climacteris picumnus

Occasional, resident, Br? A small population restricted to the area between Pines Oval and the Woods and Forest Nursery. Usually observed searching for food on the Peppermint Box *E. odorata* trees.

WHITE-THROATED TREECREEPER

Climacteris leucophaea

Common, resident, Br. Favours the Stringybark *E. obliqua* forest areas.

MISTLETOE BIRD *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Occasional, transient.

SPOTTED PARDALOTE

Pardalotus punctatus

YELLOW-RUMPED PARDALOTE

Pardalotus xanthopygus

Recent research (unpubl.) by J. Cox and N. Reid has revealed that many spotted-type pardalotes in the Mount Lofty Ranges are in fact intermediates between the Spotted and Yellow-rumped Pardalotes. Without knowing of these findings I believed that I identified both forms in the Park, on the usual basis of rump colour. Further studies will need to be carried out to determine the exact status of these two forms within the Park.

STRIATED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus*

Common, resident, Br. This species becomes very vocal in spring and summer, when it is heard in all areas of the Park. Its favourite tree is the River Red Gum *E. camaldulensis*, where it is often found breeding and feeding in large numbers.

SILVEREYE *Zosterops lateralis*

Common, resident, Br.

YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus chrysops

Common, resident, Br. Numbers fluctuate considerably but this species is present in all months of the year. Most numerous in spring and summer.

WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus penicillatus

Common, resident, Br. Restricted to woodland areas of the western sector. This species shows a distinct preference for River Red Gum *E. camaldulensis* habitat, but is also regularly seen in Blue Gum, *E. leucoxylo*n and Peppermint Box *E. odorata* within the Park.

BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER

Melithreptus brevirostris

Occasional, transient. Irregular sightings were made during the winter months when this bird appeared attracted to open woodland areas of the north-western sector.

WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER

Melithreptus lunatus

Common, resident, Br. Most common in Stringybark *E. obliqua* forest areas of the eastern sector.

CRESCENT HONEYEATER

Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera

Frequent, resident, Br. Favours the *E. obliqua* forest areas, where it shows a great liking for the *Banksia marginata* flowers. Visits lower levels in winter.

NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER

Phylidonyris novaehollandiae

Abundant, resident, Br.

EASTERN SPINEBILL

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris

Frequent, resident, Br. Mostly observed in the dry sclerophyll forest areas, where this species exploits the flowering shrubs of the *Epacridaceae* family for nectar.

NOISY MINER *Manorina melanocephala*

Abundant, resident, Br. Confined to open woodland and recreation areas of the Park.

RED WATTLEBIRD *Anthochaera carunculata*

Common, resident, Br. Most numerous in the Pines Oval area.

*GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Frequent, transient, Br. Chiefly a summer visitor. Most numerous in Melville's Gully where a dense growth of exotic weeds and grasses occurs.

*GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Occasional, summer transient. All sightings of this species have been confined to the area between Karka Oval and Melville's House.

RED-BROWED FIRETAIL

Emblema temporalis

Common, resident, Br.

*HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Occasional, resident and transient. Small numbers occur around several Park lodges and along the railway line.

*COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common, resident and transient.

MAGPIE LARK *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Frequent, resident, Br. Usually found near aquatic areas. Breeds in association with the Restless Flycatcher and Willie Wagtail at Railway Dam.

DUSKY WOODSWALLOW

Artamus cyanopterus

Common, Br. Absent for some time during winter period.

GREY CURRAWONG *Strepera versicolor*

Common, resident, Br. Confined almost exclusively to the *E. obliqua* forest areas.

AUSTRALIAN (WHITE-BACKED) MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen leuconota*

Abundant, resident, Br.

LITTLE RAVEN *Corvus mellori*

Abundant, resident, Br. This species is very numerous within the picnic areas, where it scavenges in the rubbish bins.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS RECORDS

If this paper is compared to reports produced in the past it may indicate changes in status and abundance that have taken place. For this reason I have examined papers by Ashby (1936), McGilp (1953), Sutton (1936) as well as other smaller notes.

A total of 106 different species were listed in the current survey; and, of these, 98 were native and eight introduced species. McGilp recorded a total of 93 species of which six were introduced. All of the species recorded by McGilp in his survey of the Park appear in Table 1. A total of 76 species were recorded in both surveys. There were 18 species recorded by McGilp that were not seen in the current survey; and conversely 31 species recorded currently that were absent from McGilp's survey. These species, which were seen in one survey only, are shown in Table 2.

Many of the birds featured in Table 2 were occasional or rare visitors to the Park; and were not completely suited to its different habitats. It is understandable therefore, that these species stayed only for short periods, and were absent from either one of the surveys. As the current survey was conducted during a period of State-wide drought conditions, it is to be expected that significantly more waterbirds were seen on Playford Lake and Railway Dam. In fact 17 of the 31 species absent from McGilp's survey were waterbirds; and of these more than half were rare vagrants to the Park. These birds whose nomadic tendencies are triggered under stress conditions, leave drier inland areas to seek refuge in permanent aquatic areas nearer the coast. Many of the remaining birds in Table 2 are more suited to habitats which occur outside the Park. Species such as the Banded Lapwing, Richard's Pipit, Little Thornbill, Red-capped Robin and White-browed Babbler are generally associated with drier scrubs or open grasslands. In addition, the Little Grebe and Little Wattlebird were seen in areas just outside the Park during the current study. Both of these species were recorded regularly in the Wittunga Flower Garden in Blackwood.

However there are certain species whose absence from the current survey warrants discussion here. The Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum* of the Mount Lofty

Ranges has diminished considerably in numbers since European settlement and is now extinct within the Park. The plight of this bird serves as a constant reminder of what could happen to other bird species if proper habitat management is not practised in the future. Presumably habitat alteration, increased firing of the Park and heavier predation by cats *Felis catus* and foxes *Vulpes vulpes* have been major causes of the decline of this terrestrial bird.

The Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* and Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* possess nomadic tendencies, and as a result their visits to certain areas can be irregular and depend to some extent on climatic conditions and subsequent food availability. Nevertheless these two species appear to have become far less frequent in their visits to the Mount Lofty Ranges and in particular to the Belair Recreation Park. Added to McGilp's breeding records of these two species there are also Park records for both birds by J. Sutton (1922). Rix (1938) recorded the Swift Parrot as "numerous" between Hawthorndene and the south-west corner of the Park; and a flock of over 20 birds was recorded at Glen Osmond by Parsons (1922). Cleland (1934) found a nest of Regent Honeyeaters in Waterfall Gully; and another nine birds were recorded in the Park by Jarman (1936). Another record by Jarman (1938) was of 12 birds in the Park, all recorded on the same day.

The Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* is mentioned here as it also appears to be declining in numbers throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges. This species was not recorded at all during the current survey period. In contrast, McGilp (1953), Ashby (1936) and Sutton (1936), all recorded this species in the Park. In addition a Park breeding record by J. Sutton (1922) was of two adults feeding one young. In his review of the "Birds of the National Park" Ashby (1936), recorded this species as being "almost as common" as the White-naped Honeyeater. He added that it was "more in evidence" than its smaller white-naped relative, owing to its much louder call. Today the White-naped Honeyeater is a common Park resident throughout the year, whereas the Black-chinned Honeyeater is very rarely seen. (B. Glover, who lives in land wooded with *E. Odorata* near the south-western corner of the Park, has found that the Black-chinned Honeyeater has declined markedly in the last 20 years (pers. comm.) — Editor).

A detailed study of the three species mentioned here would be most valuable, to determine why this local decline in numbers has seemingly occurred.

As mentioned previously, many of the species recorded only in the current survey, were vagrant waterbirds or introduced species. However, there were certain species present which were recorded as frequent or common residents, and it is perhaps a little surprising that they were not recorded by McGilp. The Dusky Moorhen and Grey Currawong were recorded as common residents, and were in fact found regularly in many areas outside the Park. The Tawny Frogmouth, a frequent resident, may have been overlooked in the previous survey because of its nocturnal habits and effective daytime camouflage. It must be remembered also that McGilp's study encompassed the whole of the Mount Lofty Ranges; and perhaps some of the additional species seen by myself may have been overlooked by him in this area. The Little Falcon was recorded by me as a frequent resident; but only a single pair of birds was involved, and nearly all sightings were from within a small area around the Playford Lake. The Weebill, recorded only in the Park's north-western corner, was not seen in any other areas nearby. It appears more suited to drier woodland and mallee scrub to the north and east of the Park, where it was recorded regularly during the current survey period.

From this report it can be seen that the Belair Recreation Park is remarkably rich in birdlife; and it is hoped that all of the species present now will be conserved in the future. However, this Park is under continuous pressure from the general public, who visit it in extremely large numbers each weekend for picnicking and sport. The existing facilities and open areas are barely coping with these pressures; and consequently there is much encroachment into natural bushland. Too few people visit this Park for bird-watching, bushwalking or similar activities. Consequently its true natural beauty is not fully appreciated. Nevertheless there does appear to be a growing interest by the public in the Park's natural flora and fauna. With this increasing awareness, it is imperative that effective management and conservation programmes are undertaken, to ensure that a satisfactory balance between recreational areas for the public, and natural wilderness areas for the birds and other animals, is maintained.

TABLE 1
SPECIES RECORDED IN BELAIR RECREATION PARK

By J. N. McGILP

(I = Introduced)

Little Grebe	Sacred Kingfisher	White-throated Treecreeper
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Bee-eater	Mistletoe Bird
White-faced Heron	Welcome Swallow	Spotted Pardalote
Whistling Kite	Tree Martin	Yellow-rumped Pardalote
Brown Goshawk	Fairy Martin	Striated Pardalote
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Richard's Pipit	Silvereye
Brown Falcon	Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Australian Kestrel	White-winged Triller	White-plumed Honeyeater
Painted Button-quail	Blackbird (I)	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Banded Lapwing	White's Thrush	White-naped Honeyeater
Silver Gull	Spotted Quail-thrush	Black-chinned Honeyeater
Peaceful Dove	White-browed Babbler	Crescent Honeyeater
Common Bronzewing	Striated Thornbill	New Holland Honeyeater
Brush Bronzewing	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Crested Pigeon	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Regent Honeyeater
Spotted Turtle-Dove (I)	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Spinebill
Galah	White-browed Scrub-wren	Noisy Miner
Rainbow Lorikeet	Superb Blue Wren	Little Wattlebird
Musk Lorikeet	Grey Fantail	Red Wattlebird
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Willie Wagtail	Goldfinch (I)
Adelaide Rosella	Restless Flycatcher	Greenfinch (I)
Eastern Rosella	Jacky Winter	Red-browed Firetail
Swift Parrot	Scarlet Robin	Diamond Firetail
Red-rumped Parrot	Red-capped Robin	House Sparrow (I)
Pallid Cuckoo	Hooded Robin	Common Starling (I)
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Golden Whistler	Australian Magpie-lark
Black-eared Cuckoo	Rufous Whistler	Masked Woodswallow
Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo	Grey-Shrike-thrush	White-browed Woodswallow
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Crested Shrike-tit	Dusky Woodswallow
Boobook Owl	Varied Sittella	Australian (White-backed) Magpie
Laughing Kookaburra	Brown Treecreeper	Little Raven

TABLE 2
SPECIES SEEN IN ONE SURVEY ONLY

<i>McGillp only</i>		<i>Author only</i>
Little Grebe	Emu	Little Eagle
Banded Lapwing	Hoary-headed Grebe	Australian Hobby
Silver Gull	Australian Pelican	Stubble Quail
Swift Parrot	Great Cormorant	Black-tailed Native-hen
Rainbow Bee-eater	Little Black Cormorant	Dusky Moorhen
Fairy Martin	Pacific Heron	Purple Swamphen
Richard's Pipit	Great Egret	Eurasian Coot
Spotted Quail thrush	Black Swan	Masked Lapwing
White-browed Babbler	Pacific Black Duck	Feral pigeon
Jacky Winter	Mallard (I)	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Red-capped Robin	Grey Teal	Tawny Frogmouth
Black-chinned Honeyeater	White-eyed Duck	White-throated Needletail
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Maned Duck	Weebill
Regent Honeyeater	Black-shouldered Kite	Little Thornbill
Little Wattlebird	Collared Sparrowhawk	Grey Currawong
Diamond Firetail		
Masked Woodswallow		
White-browed Woodswallow		

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