

IV BIRDS OF WILROY NATURE RESERVE

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INTRODUCTION

Information on status of birds of reserves throughout the wheatbelt is being accumulated as part of the biological survey outlined by Kitchener (1976). This paper presents data on Wilroy Nature Reserve (for location and details see Dell, Introduction this report).

Until now little was known of the status of birds in the northern wheatbelt since agricultural clearing. Sedgwick (1953) discussed the status of birds at Caron *ca* 120 km south of Wilroy at a time when agriculture was expanding rapidly in the region. Although Sedgwick's locality is a considerable distance from Wilroy it is the only substantial paper on birds of the northern wheatbelt and therefore is the only source of comparison.

Data on Wilroy were obtained by G. Harold (7-15 July 1975), Dell (10-11 July 1975, 14-20 May 1976 and 20-26 September 1976) and P.J. Fuller (20-26 September 1976). Status of birds is listed in the ascending order of scarce, uncommon, moderately common and common after taking cognizance of status elsewhere in the wheatbelt. Vegetation locations mentioned are from Muir (this report), which should be consulted for habitat details. Nomenclature follows Storr (1979).

ANNOTATED LIST

Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

Scarce; shrubland, heath and paddocks. Recorded only in September when footprints, scats and occasional birds were noted in shrubland and heath. Scats contained seed cones of Quondong (*Santalum acuminatum*). A dead bird found in September.

Mountain Duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*)

Scarce; several birds flying over Reserve at night in May and July.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Scarce; farmland. Two pairs on telephone poles between Wilroy and Mullewa in July.

Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

Scarce; mallee and shrubland. Single bird flying over Reserve in September.

Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*)

Scarce; one over Reserve in May.

Little Eagle (*Aquila morphnoides*)

Scarce; overhead. Single birds recorded twice in May, in July and in September.

Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*)

Scarce; overhead. One above shrubland in July.

Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*)

Scarce; mallee. One recorded in loc. 2.9 in September.

Australian Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)

Uncommon; shrubland, heath and farmland. Pairs or single birds over loc. 3.50, 4.1 and farmland in July; and over loc. 4.1 and railway siding in September. Total of 5 in July and 3 in September.

Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)

Old nest mound in shrubland loc. 3.51. Mound had a mature *Casuarina acutivalvis* growing in the middle; this shrub was probably more than 20 years old. Old mounds in freshly cleared paddocks east of Tardun (at ca 40 km southeast of Wilroy).

Banded Plover (*Vanellus tricolor*)

Uncommon; overhead and in paddocks. Four sightings of up to 3 birds over Reserve (mainly at night) in May. Two in paddock in July.

Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*)

Uncommon; shrubland, occasionally mallee. Singly or up to 3 birds; total of 2 in May and 9 in September. Recorded in loc. 3.47 in May and loc. 2.4, 3.9, 3.33, 3.34, 3.47, and 3.49 in September. Several were feeding on spilt wheat at rubbish tip in September.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee, shrubland, heath, paddocks and along railway line. Most sightings were of pairs; groups of up to 12 birds gathered to feed on spilt wheat especially along railway line and rubbish tip. Recorded in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.9, 3.9, 3.37, 3.47, 3.49 and along railway line in May; in loc. 3.37, 3.45, 3.47, 3.50, along railway line, in rubbish tip, and in paddocks in July; in loc. 1.3, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.19, 3.34, 3.37, 3.41, 3.49, 3.53, and along railway line in September. Cooing and displaying in May, July and September.

Ring-necked Parrot (*Platycercus zonarius*)

Common; woodland, mallee, shrubland, and edges of paddocks. Most sightings in May, July and September were of pairs, although groups of up to 40 were feeding in paddocks in May. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.2, 3.4, 3.9, 3.21, 3.22, 3.40,

3.47, 3.49, 3.52 and paddocks in May; in loc. 1.3, 2.4, 3.20, 3.37, 3.50, along railway line and paddocks in July; in loc. 1.2, 2.1, 2.4, 2.8, 2.9, 3.2, 3.13, 3.21, 3.41, 3.53 and paddocks in September.

Mulga Parrot (*Platycercus varius*)

Uncommon; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Most sightings were of pairs; total seen in May was 6, in July was 20, and in September was 7. Recorded in loc. 3.47 and 3.49 in May; in loc. 2.9, 3.29, 3.33, 3.35, 3.50 and edges of paddocks in July; in loc. 1.3, 2.4 and 2.9 in September. Records in May and September were during severe drought of 1976 compared to records in July 1975 which was a good rainfall year (see Dell, Introduction this report); differences in counts are probably result of drought rather than indications of seasonal variations.

White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus* sp)

Transient over farmland; 16 birds 13 km south of Wilroy on 19 May.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*)

Uncommon; woodland, mallee, and in farmland. Small groups of up to 7 birds in loc. 2.9 in May and loc. 1.3 in July and September; larger groups of up to 30 birds in farmland in May.

Corella (*Cacatua tenuirostris*)

Scarce; 1 flying over loc. 1.3 in September; 10 in farmland between Wilroy and Mullewa in July.

Galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*)

Common; woodland, mallee, along railway, overhead over Reserve and in farmland. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.8 and 2.9. Pairs at nest hollows in loc. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3 and 2.9 in May. Most sightings were of pairs or groups of up to 10 birds; small groups combine to feed in farmland, around railway siding and along railway. Aggregating into large flocks in May when *ca* 150 were roosting in loc. 1.2 and *ca* 200 were feeding in farmland 13 km south of Wilroy.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*)

Uncommon; single birds recorded in loc. 3.45 in May; and loc. 2.8 and 3.49 in July.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Scarce; woodland and shrubland; calling at night in loc. 3.49, pellets collected from spout of York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) in loc. 1.2 in September. Eight pellets contained *ca* 40 *Mus musculus* skulls.

Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

Scarce; shrubland. Calling at night in loc. 3.50 in July.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)

Uncommon; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Recorded in loc. 2.4 and 3.52 in May, and in loc. 1.3 in September. Fresh nest 3 m up York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) on 24 September.

Australian Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles cristatus*)

Uncommon; woodland and shrubland. Calling at night in loc. 1.2, 1.3 and 3.49 in May; and in loc. 1.2 and 1.3 in September.

Red-rumped Kingfisher (*Halycon pyrrhopygia*)

Scarce; 1 in mallee loc. 2.3 in September.

Sacred Kingfisher (*Halycon sancta*)

Scarce; 1 in shrubland loc. 3.21 in September.

White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*)

Scarce; 3 over loc. 3.48 in July.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Uncommon; ca 15 birds roost in railway siding and feed over Reserve and farmland. Hawking over loc. 3.47, 3.49 and 4.3 in May; along railway in July; and over loc. 1.3 and railway in September. Possibly nesting on rafters in wheat bins at railway siding in September.

Tree Martin (*Hirundo nigricans*)

Uncommon in May and September; flocks of up to 100 birds in transit in July. Five sightings totalled 22 birds in May; 3 sightings totalled 113 birds in July; 2 sightings totalled 5 birds in September. Recorded over woodland loc. 1.2; shrubland loc. 3.4, 3.37, 3.41 and 3.53; and heath loc. 4.1.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Moderately common in paddocks; occasional in Reserve along tracks and railway line. Most sightings were single birds or pairs totalling 5 birds in May, 2 in July, and 27 in September.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)

Moderately common in September, scarce in July, absent in May; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Most sightings were of single birds or pairs, occasionally threes. One in loc. 3.35 in July; 14 sightings totalled 23 birds in September, in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.9, 3.11, 3.37 and 3.49. Many of the September birds were probably in transit.

Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*)

Common in May and September, apparently scarce in July. Woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. Most records were of pairs or single birds; total of 45 in May,

3 in July, and 28 in September. May male/female ratio was 23:22, compared to 18:10 in September. Possibly more males than females were seen in September because females may have been sitting on nests; thus male/female ratios are probably similar in autumn and spring. The apparent low numbers in July can probably be attributed to inclement weather making observation difficult; rain fell on most days during the survey in July. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.4, 2.8, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 3.19, 3.21, 3.35, 3.37, 3.38, 3.42, 3.49, and 3.52 in May; in loc. 3.30 and 4.1 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 3.6, 3.10, 3.11, 3.13, 3.19, 3.22, 3.24, 3.27, 3.37, 3.41, 3.50, and 4.3 in September. A fresh empty nest was found in a mallee in loc. 3.19 on 23 September.

Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)

Scarce; shrubland. Three in ecotonal thickets and dense thickets between loc. 3.42 and 3.44. Thickets were 3-4 m tall and had *ca* 70-80% canopy cover, no lower strata, and abundant leaf litter.

Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)

Uncommon; mallee and shrubland. Single birds or pairs: 5 sightings in May and 5 in September. Recorded in loc. 3.19, 3.21, 3.42, 3.43 and 3.51 in May; and loc. 2.9, 3.15, 3.35 and 3.43 in September.

Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*)

Uncommon; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Mostly single birds, occasionally pairs. Two sightings in May, 1 in July and 11 in September. Recorded in loc. 2.4 in May, in loc. 2.9 in July, and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 3.5 and 4.3 in September.

Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*)

Common; woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. Most sightings were of pairs or single birds. Recorded in loc. 2.4, 3.9, 3.12, 3.19, 3.34, 3.35 and 3.37 in May; in loc. 2.4, 2.9, 3.35 and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 3.5, 3.13, 3.14, 3.20, 3.22, 3.27, 3.35, 3.39, 3.41, 3.49, 3.52 and 4.3 in September.

Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*)

Moderately common; shrubland and heath. Recorded in loc. 3.21, 3.22, 3.45 and 3.50 in May; in loc. 3.44 and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 3.9, 3.11, 3.15, 3.19, 3.21, 3.32, 3.35, 3.41, 3.43, 3.50, 3.52, 3.53, 4.1, and 4.3 in September. Most records were of calling birds. Old nest in loc. 4.3 in September.

Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*)

Common in May, uncommon in July and September; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Most sightings were of single birds, occasionally 2 were together. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 1.2, 2.4, 2.9, 3.6, 3.9, 3.19, 3.33, 3.35, 3.37, 3.42, and 3.53 in May; in loc. 2.8, 2.9, 3.30 and 3.37 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 3.32 and 3.37 in September.

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)

Common; woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath (mostly along tracks and edges of Reserve). Recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.4, 3.2, 3.4, 3.9, 3.12, 3.19, 3.37, 3.44, 3.52 and 3.53 in May; in loc. 3.33, 3.38, 3.49, and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.3, 2.4, 2.9, 3.2, 3.11, 3.18, 3.20, 3.21, 3.28, 3.30, 3.37, 3.40, 3.45, 3.49, 3.50, 3.52, 3.53 and 4.1 in September.

Southern Scrub-robin (*Drymodes brunneopygius*)

Moderately common; mallee, shrubland and heath. Most records were of calling birds. Recorded in loc. 3.19, 3.21, 3.47, 3.49, 3.50, 3.51, 3.52 and 4.3 in May; in loc. 3.30, 3.36, 3.47, 3.48, 3.49, 3.50, 3.52, 3.53 in July; and in loc. 2.9, 3.35, 3.48, 3.49, 3.50, 3.52 and 3.53 in September.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. Mainly in groups of 3 birds, sometimes up to 5. Birds or old nests recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.4, 3.2, 3.4, 3.9, 3.37, 3.43, 3.49, 3.52 and 3.53 in May; in loc. 3.49 and 3.52 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 3.5, 3.11, 3.15, 3.19, 3.30, 3.34, 3.35, 3.41, 3.42, 3.51, 3.52, 3.53 and 4.3 in September. Old nests were in the following plants: *Hakea scoparia* (17), *H. minyma* (8), *Casuarina campestris* ♀ (2), *Banksia benthamiana* (2), *Acacia dentifera* (1) and *Melaleuca eleutherostachya* (1). Birds were lining a nest with seeding grasses in *Hakea minyma* on 16 May.

Western Flyeater (*Gerygone fusca*)

Scarce; woodland, mallee and shrubland. One feeding in *Acacia signata* in loc. 3.49 in May; 2 feeding in eucalypts in loc. 2.9 and 1 calling in loc. 1.2 in September.

Weebill (*Smicronis brevirostris*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Only recorded in eucalypts; most sightings were of groups of 3 or 4 birds. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.9, 3.36 and 3.37 in May; in loc. 2.9 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.9, 3.11, 3.19 and 3.41 in September.

Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*)

Common; woodland, mallee, shrubland, and heath. Mostly in pairs, occasionally singles or threes. Recorded in loc. 2.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.19, 3.21, 3.35, 3.37, 3.42, 3.43, 3.44, 3.49, 3.50 and 3.52 in May; in loc. 2.7, 2.9, 3.19 and 3.30 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 2.1, 2.4, 3.9, 3.11, 3.13, 3.15, 3.19, 3.20, 3.27, 3.30, 3.32, 3.36, 3.38, 3.39, 3.40, 3.41, 3.42, 3.43, 3.44, 3.45, 3.49 and 4.1 in September. Empty nest 3 m from ground among creepers on *Melaleuca* in loc. 3.30 on 22 September.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Groups of 2-5 birds. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.4, 2.9, and 3.12 in May; in loc. 2.9 in July; and in loc. 1.2,

1.3, 2.1, 2.4, 2.7, 2.9, 3.11 and 3.49 in September. Fresh empty nest in loc. 2.9 on 23 September, old nest in *Melaleuca* in loc. 2.4 in May.

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Mostly in twos and threes, occasionally up to 5 birds. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.2, 3.19, 3.22, 3.37 and 3.41 in May; in loc. 2.9 and 3.10 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.9 in September. Old nest in stump at loc. 1.2 in September.

White-browed Scrub-wren (*Sericornis frontalis*)

Uncommon; shrubland. All sightings were of pairs. Recorded in loc. 3.5, 3.6, 3.9 and 3.21 in May; in loc. 3.52 in July; and in loc. 3.43 in September. Recorded only in densest parts of associations.

Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*)

Common; woodland, mallee, shrubland and heath. Most sightings were of pairs. Recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.9, 3.11, 3.19, 3.20, 3.22, 3.30, 3.37, 3.40, 3.42, 3.49, 3.50, 4.1 and 4.3 in May; in loc. 3.29, 3.30, 3.47, 3.49 and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 3.9, 3.11, 3.19, 3.27, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.41, 3.42, 3.43, 3.44, 3.45, 3.47, 3.50 and 3.52 in September.

Variiegated Fairy-wren (*Malurus lamberti*)

Moderately common; woodland (with patches of understory), shrubland and heath. Recorded in loc. 1.1 and 3.52 in May; and in loc. 3.19, 3.42, 3.45, 3.47, 3.53 and 4.3 in September. In pairs or groups of up to 5 birds. Each group in September had a nuptial-plumaged male.

White-winged Fairy-wren (*Malurus leucopterus*)

Scarce; mallee. Nuptial-plumaged male and 5 birds in female plumage in mallee suckers and roadside debris in loc. 2.9 on 13 July. These birds may have been refugees from samphires further south during heavy rain (see Dell, Introduction this report).

Splendid Fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*)

Moderately common; mallee, shrubland and heath. Recorded in loc. 2.9, 3.5, 3.13, 3.19, 3.21, 3.35, 3.37 and 4.1 in May; and in loc. 2.7, 3.22, 3.37, and 4.3 in September. Most sightings were of groups of about 4 birds. Each group in September had a nuptial-plumaged male.

Brown Songlark (*Cincloramphus cruralis*)

Scarce; farmland. One on telephone pole on 9 July and 2 single birds calling over paddocks on 12 July.

Mistletoe-bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)

Scarce; one flying north over loc. 4.3 in May.

Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*)

Uncommon; woodland and mallee. Several calling in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.8 and 2.9 in September. Some of these birds were in transit southwards.

Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*)

Scarce; shrubland. Occasional birds in loc. 3.41 and 3.44 in July; about 6 in flowering *Grevillea excelsior* in loc. 3.52 in September.

Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*)

Common; woodland, mallee and shrubland. Most sightings were of single birds or pairs. Birds gathering into small groups to feed on flowers of *Grevillea excelsior* in September and on flowers of *Brachysema daviesioides* in July. Recorded in loc. 3.2, 3.5, 3.19, 3.30, 3.35, 3.45, 3.49 and 3.52 in May; in loc. 3.35, 3.45, 3.47 and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 2.3, 2.9, 3.2, 3.6, 3.9, 3.11, 3.21, 3.30, 3.34, 3.36, 3.41, 3.42, 3.46, 3.47, 3.50, 3.51, 3.52 and 3.53 in September.

Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*)

Uncommon; woodland, mallee and shrubland. In groups of 5-7 birds. Recorded in loc. 3.49 in May; in loc. 2.9 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3 and 3.32 in September. Most birds were in eucalypts.

Yellow-throated Miner (*Manorina flavigula*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee, and shrubland. Mostly in groups of 2-6 birds, occasionally as many as 15 feeding on flowering plants. Feeding on flowers of *Hakea coriacea* in July and *Grevillea excelsior* in September. Recorded in loc. 1.1 in May; in loc. 3.34, 3.35, 3.43 and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 2.1, 3.50 and 3.52 in September.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*)

Uncommon, recorded July and September; shrubland. Singly or pairs, occasionally in groups of up to 6 feeding on flowers of *Grevillea excelsior* in September. Recorded in loc. 3.35, 3.43 and 3.50 in July; and in loc. 3.15, 3.37 and 3.52 in September.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*)

Uncommon; shrubland, heath and paddocks. Pairs or groups of up to 9 birds, one group of 30 in paddock in May. Recorded in May, July and September. In loc. 3.4 and paddocks in May; in loc. 3.50 in July; and in loc. 4.3 and paddocks in September.

Zebra Finch (*Poephila guttata*)

Uncommon, recorded only in May; woodland, mallee, shrubland, and paddocks. Groups of 7-9 birds in loc. 1.1, 2.4 and 3.16 and groups of ca 20 birds in paddocks near Tardun.

Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)

Uncommon, recorded only in July and September; woodland, shrubland and paddocks. Single birds or pairs in July, pairs in September. Recorded in loc. 3.50, along railway and in paddocks in July; in loc. 1.1, 1.3 and 3.2 in September.

Black-faced Wood-swallow (*Artamus cinereus*)

Scarce; 2 on telephone pole 2 km south of Wilroy in July.

Pied Butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)

Uncommon; woodland, shrubland and paddocks. Pairs or single birds recorded in paddocks in May; in loc. 3.38, and paddocks in July; and in loc. 1.2, 3.9, 3.21, 3.30 and paddocks in September.

Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee, and shrubland. Pairs or single birds recorded in loc. 1.1, 2.4, 2.7, 3.9 and 3.34 in May; in loc. 3.50 in July; and in loc. 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.49 and 3.52 in September. Empty nest 3.5 m up mallee in loc. 1.2 on 22 September.

Magpie (*Cracticus tibicen*)

Moderately common; woodland, mallee, shrubland and paddocks. Mostly in groups of 2-6 birds. Recorded in loc. 3.41, 3.44, 3.49, 3.52 and paddocks in May; in loc. 2.4, 3.20, 3.37, 3.38 and paddocks in July; and in loc. 1.2, 2.8, 2.9, 3.11, 3.34, 3.52 and paddocks in September. Most sightings in shrubland were along tracks or edge of Reserve.

Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*)

Uncommon; woodland, mallee, and shrubland. Single birds or pairs recorded in loc. 1.1 and 3.35 in May; in loc. 1.1, 2.9 and 3.19 in July; and in loc. 2.1 and 2.3 in September.

Little Crow (*Corvus bennetti*)

Moderately common in transit, otherwise uncommon; woodland, mallee, and paddocks. Several flocks of up to 30 flying north in May and south in September. Pairs in mallee loc. 2.3 and 2.9 in September. Only record in July was of 5 birds at railway siding.

Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*)

Common; woodland, mallee, shrubland, and paddocks. Mostly in pairs, sometimes gathering into groups of up to 20 birds, especially at rubbish tip. Most birds were flying above Reserve, to or from farm paddocks. Nest 10 m from ground in mallee tree (*Eucalyptus* sp.) in loc. 1.2 on 23 September with 2 young between 3 and 5 days old.

DISCUSSION

The survey of Wilroy Reserve and surrounds recorded 68 species of birds. Of these the Black-shouldered Kite, White-tailed Black Cockatoo, and Brown Songlark were recorded only in adjacent farmland, and others, Mountain Duck, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, Spotted Harrier, Banded Plover, Corella, and Mistletoe-bird, were only seen flying over the Reserve.

It is not surprising that shrubland birds are well represented as 72% of the Reserve is represented by this formation. Birds which were well represented in shrubland include Red-capped Robin, Grey Shrike-thrush, Willie Wagtail, Southern Scrub-robin, White-browed Babbler, Redthroat, Brown Thornbill, Variegated and Splendid Fairy-wrens and Singing Honeyeater. Other species mainly found in shrubland include Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler, Crested Bellbird, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, and White-browed Scrub-wren.

Woodland is represented on only 5% of the Reserve, and Muir (this report) states that the number of senescent trees is low compared to other reserves examined in the wheatbelt. Woodland birds were poorly represented, especially species that breed in woodland. None of the hawks were recorded as breeding; and the only common parrots were Ring-necked and Galah. These would certainly breed on the Reserve and also in trees growing in paddocks. It is likely that both of these parrots would compete with other hollow-nesters such as Australian Kestrel, Mulga Parrot, Corella and Barn Owl, which may have contributed to the absence of other species.

A chain of samphire saltflats to the east supports an assemblage of birds not present on Wilroy. These areas were inundated in July 1975 after above-average rains. Species such as Grey Teal, Mountain Duck, White-headed Stilt and Black-tailed Native Hen were common. The White-winged Fairy-wrens on Wilroy may have been refugees from these flooded areas.

Sedgwick (1953) recorded 76 species at Caron. This total included birds recorded on lakes at Bunjil. Nearly all species recorded by me were recorded by Sedgwick also. Rather surprisingly Sedgwick did not record Blue-breasted Fairy-wren or Variegated Fairy-wren. I recorded Variegated Fairy-wren at Wilroy and have noted Blue-breasted Fairy-wren *ca* 50 km south of Caron at Buntine. In general there is little difference between the avifauna at Wilroy and Caron.