



Birds of Grey Box Woodlands: What is the value of revegetation?

In the *Linking Landscapes and Communities* project, we are using birds as indicators to determine how on-ground works are increasing the diversity of habitats, and therefore birds, in Grey Box Woodlands.

Birds are good indicators of the environmental health of landscapes because they use many parts of the landscape and need a range of habitat types to survive. There are so many different birds using a range of habitats, such as grasses, shrubs and trees, and their food sources are diverse; such as seeds, nectar, insects, reptiles and mammals. Therefore, the diversity of species and abundance of birds in an area can indicate how healthy a landscape is.

Method

Birds were surveyed in the Longwood-Violet Town Plains in autumn and summer 2019. Surveys were conducted to collect baseline data on species and numbers of birds to compare species diversity and abundance in four different 'treatment' types: Grey Box remnants (the best of largely intact remnants that remain); 'old' revegetation (>10 years since planting); 'young' revegetation (<5 years since planting) and control sites (where no works have occurred).

Revegetation sites were selected where incentives have been provided to farmers to carry out revegetation. Remnants were selected as the best examples of Grey Box woodlands on public and private land.

Photos L-R: Striated Pardalote (Chris Tzaros) and Blue-faced Honeyeater and Superb Fairy Wren (McCann Collection).

How are birds using different landscape elements?

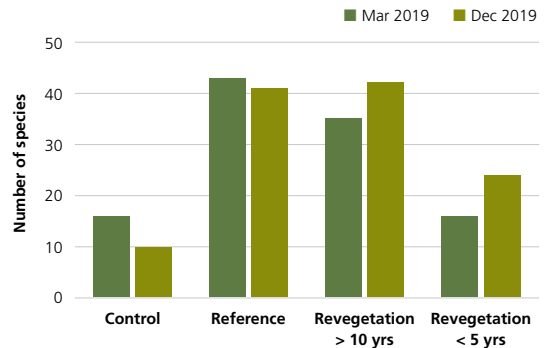
A range of birds were found across the landscape, and each treatment types had both similar and different species. A total of 58 species were recorded at all sites. The most common birds found in all treatments were: Noisy Miner, Magpie, Striated Pardalote, White-Plumed Honeyeater, Yellow Thornbill, Galah and Eastern Rosella.

The greatest abundance and species of birds was found in the remnant sites and revegetation sites greater than 10 years old, with the least amount found in control (open) sites where no works have occurred (see graphs right). Interestingly, some species found in 'old revegetation' sites were different to those found in reference sites, and similarly young revegetation contained some different species to those in control sites, but importantly even young revegetation has more species diversity and abundance than control sites, suggesting that birds can move in relatively quickly when habitat becomes available. The surveys have shown that a heterogeneous landscape is important to conserve a range of species.

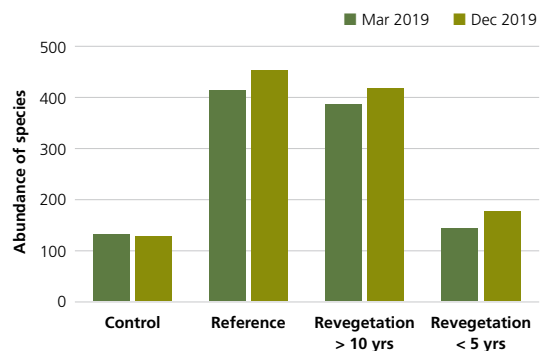
Importantly these early results are showing that revegetation in the landscape is making a real difference in increasing the abundance and diversity of bird species.

This project is part of the *Linking Landscapes and Communities in Grey Box Woodlands* project supported through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Bird species diversity



Bird species abundance



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List of species recorded in the study: Do you have these species? Where are you finding them?

<input type="checkbox"/> Australian Magpie	<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Fantail	<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Whiteface	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Australian Raven	<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Shrike Thrush	<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Pardalote	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Robin	<input type="checkbox"/> Striated Pardalote	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-Chinned Honeyeater	<input type="checkbox"/> Laughing Kookaburra	<input type="checkbox"/> Sulphur Crested Cockatoo	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Faced Honeyeater	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Corella	<input type="checkbox"/> Superb Fairy Wren	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Falcon	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Billed Corella	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Tree Creeper	<input type="checkbox"/> Magpie Lark	<input type="checkbox"/> Varied Sittella	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-Headed Honeyeater	<input type="checkbox"/> Mistletoe Bird	<input type="checkbox"/> Weebil	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Buff-Rumped Thornbill	<input type="checkbox"/> Musk Lorikeet	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Swallow	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Bronzewing	<input type="checkbox"/> New Holland Honeyeater	<input type="checkbox"/> Western Gerygone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Crested Pigeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Noisy Miner	<input type="checkbox"/> White Browed Scrub Wren	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Crested Shrike Tit	<input type="checkbox"/> Noisy Friarbird	<input type="checkbox"/> White-Plumed Honeyeater	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Crimson Rosella	<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Crowned Lorikeet	<input type="checkbox"/> White Winged Chough	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Firetail	<input type="checkbox"/> Raven	<input type="checkbox"/> White-Throated Tree Creeper	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dusky Woodswallow	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-Rumped Parrot	<input type="checkbox"/> Willy Wagtail	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Rosella	<input type="checkbox"/> Red Wattle Bird	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Swallow	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Galah	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-Capped Robin	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-Rumped Thornbill	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Whistler	<input type="checkbox"/> Restless Flycatcher	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Thornbill	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Butcher Bird	<input type="checkbox"/> Rufous Whistler		
<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Crowned Babbler	<input type="checkbox"/> Silvereeye		