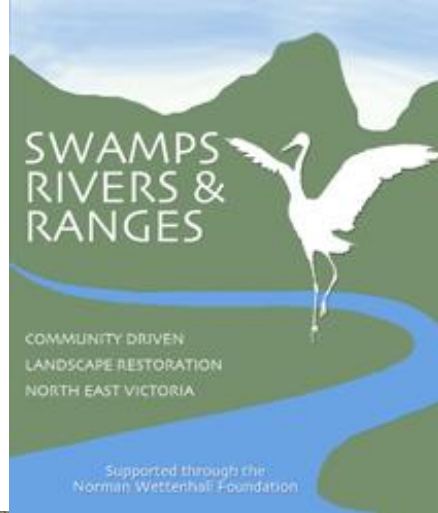


Citizen science: monitoring birds & other wildlife

Swamps Rivers & Ranges

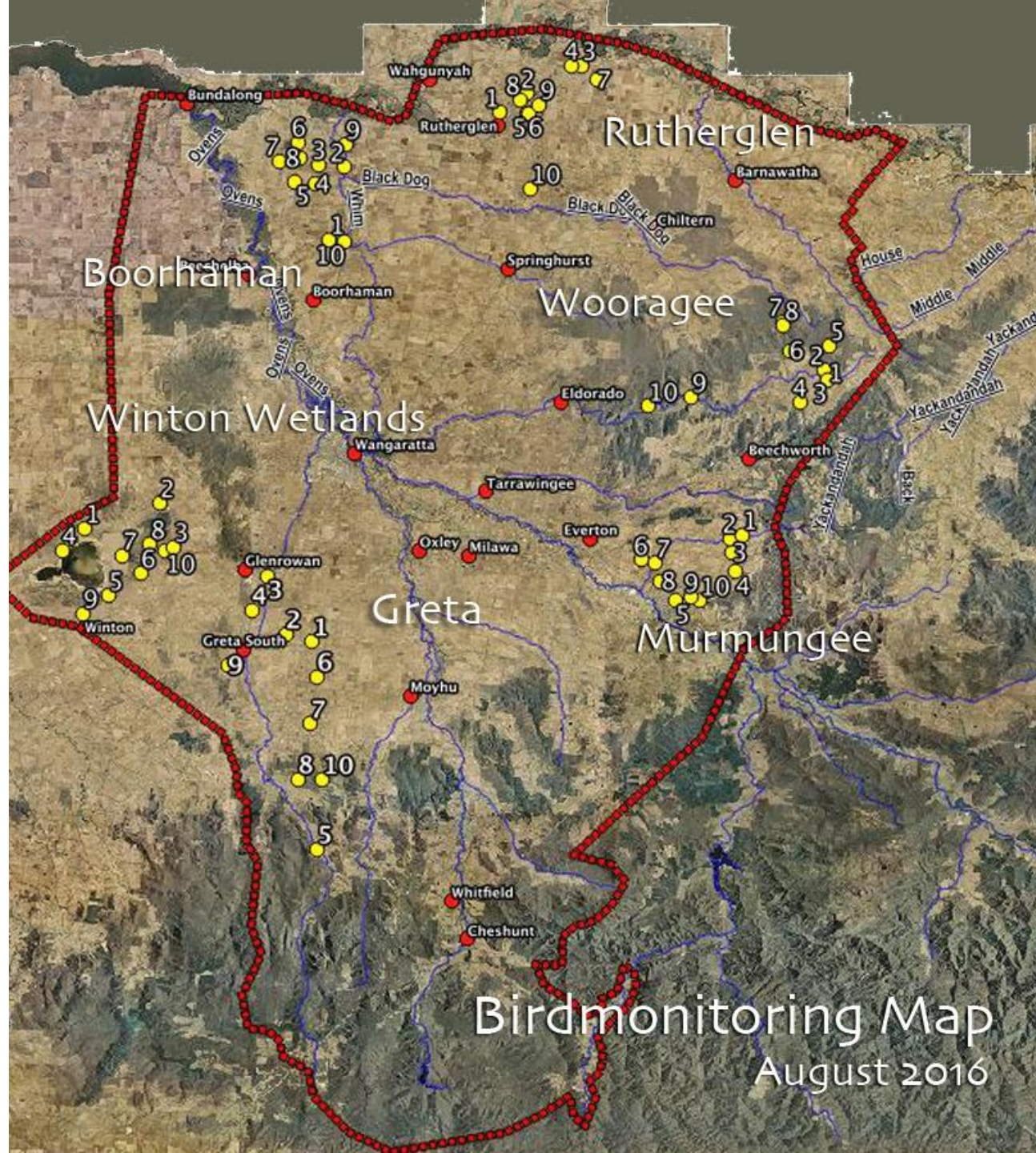
Richard Loyn



Why birds?

- Conspicuous (by sight & sound)
- Diverse (10,000 species)
- Mostly diurnal
- Attractive & interesting
- Omnipresent, numerous
- Echo of wild places
- Hunting instinct
- Great travellers (and we travel to see them)
- They tell us about their environment





Bird monitoring Map
August 2016

Objectives

- To assess changes in bird numbers over time (season & year) in our complex rural landscape
- To detect any differences between habitats, with special attention to sites that have been subject to enhancement by Landcare groups
- To document the bird fauna of the current landscape, as a baseline for assessing effects of future changes (in landscape or climate, positive or negative)
- To enhance community awareness of birds and other wildlife

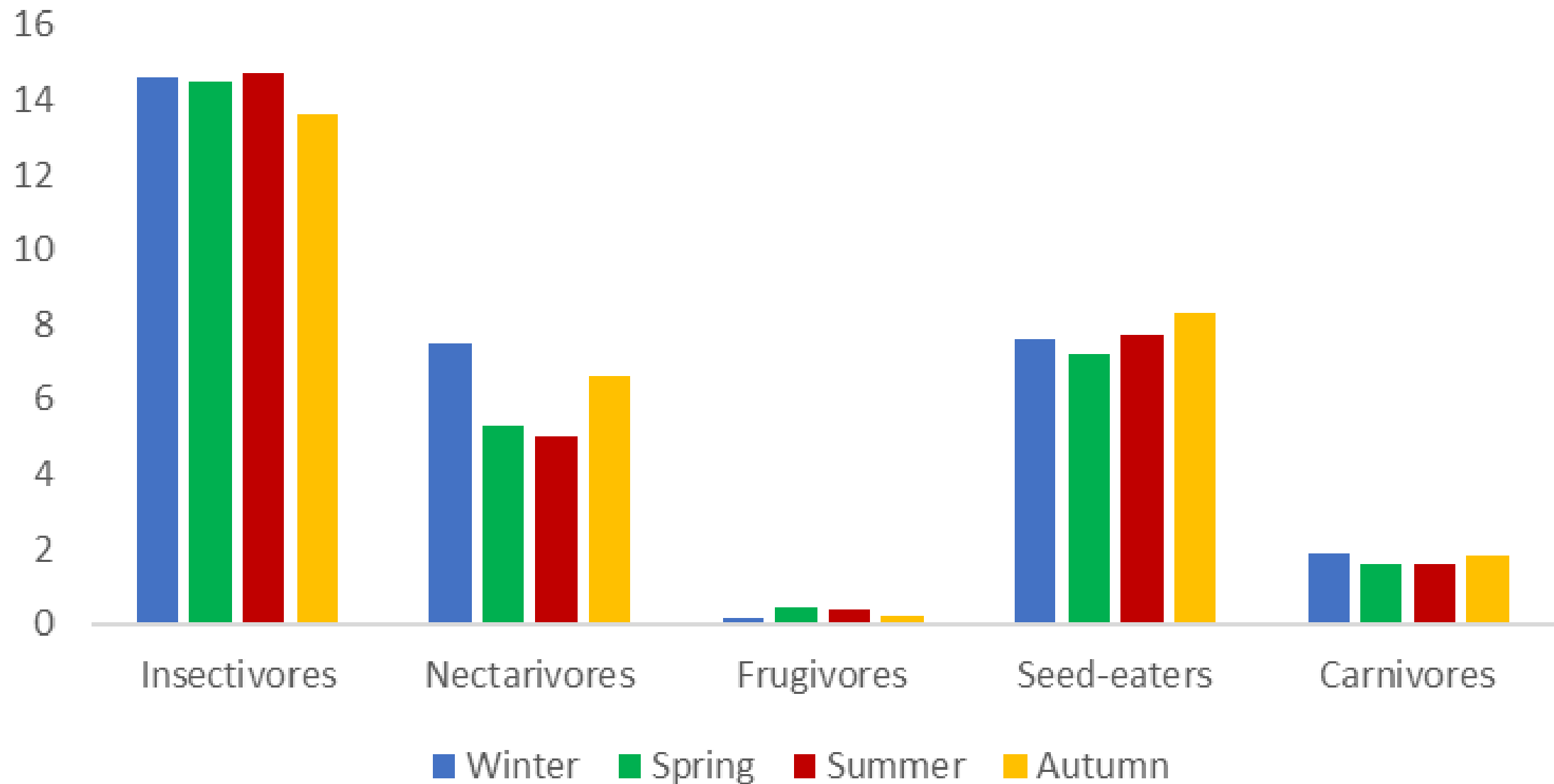
What have we done?

- 705 bird surveys at 56 sites over 25 seasonal sessions 2015-21
- 23,946 individual birds recorded on-site
- 175 bird species recorded
- Data largely collated
- Analysis commenced

Additional Projects

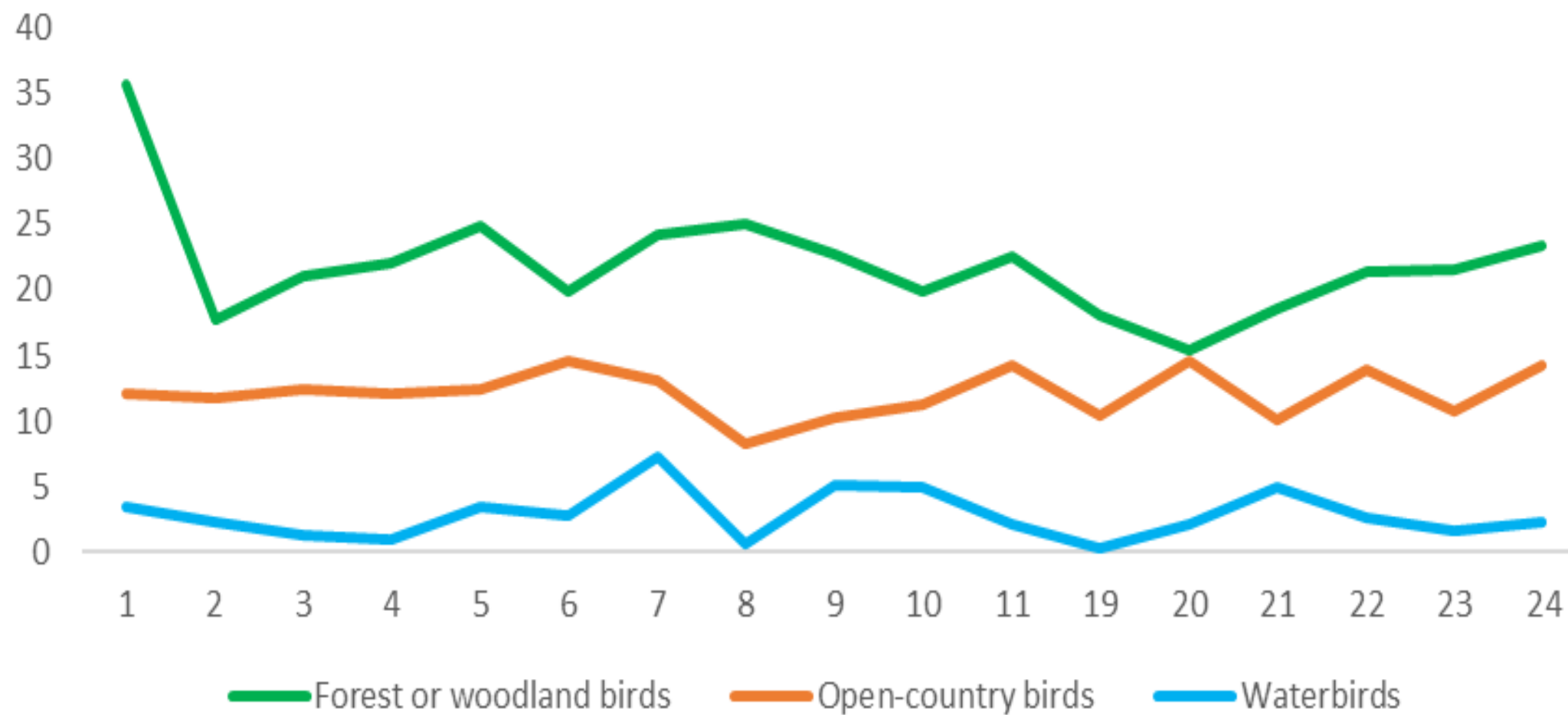
- Bush for Birds (26 extra sites Everton, Eldorado, Stanley, etc) NECMA
- Bushfire Recovery (40 sites Carboor to Abbeyard) NECMA
- Warby-Ovens NP (30 sites in Warby & Killawarra) PV
- La Trobe University (Honours project by Jessica Chapman) LTU
- Nest-box guide published (hard copy & on-line)

Seasonal changes in broad guilds

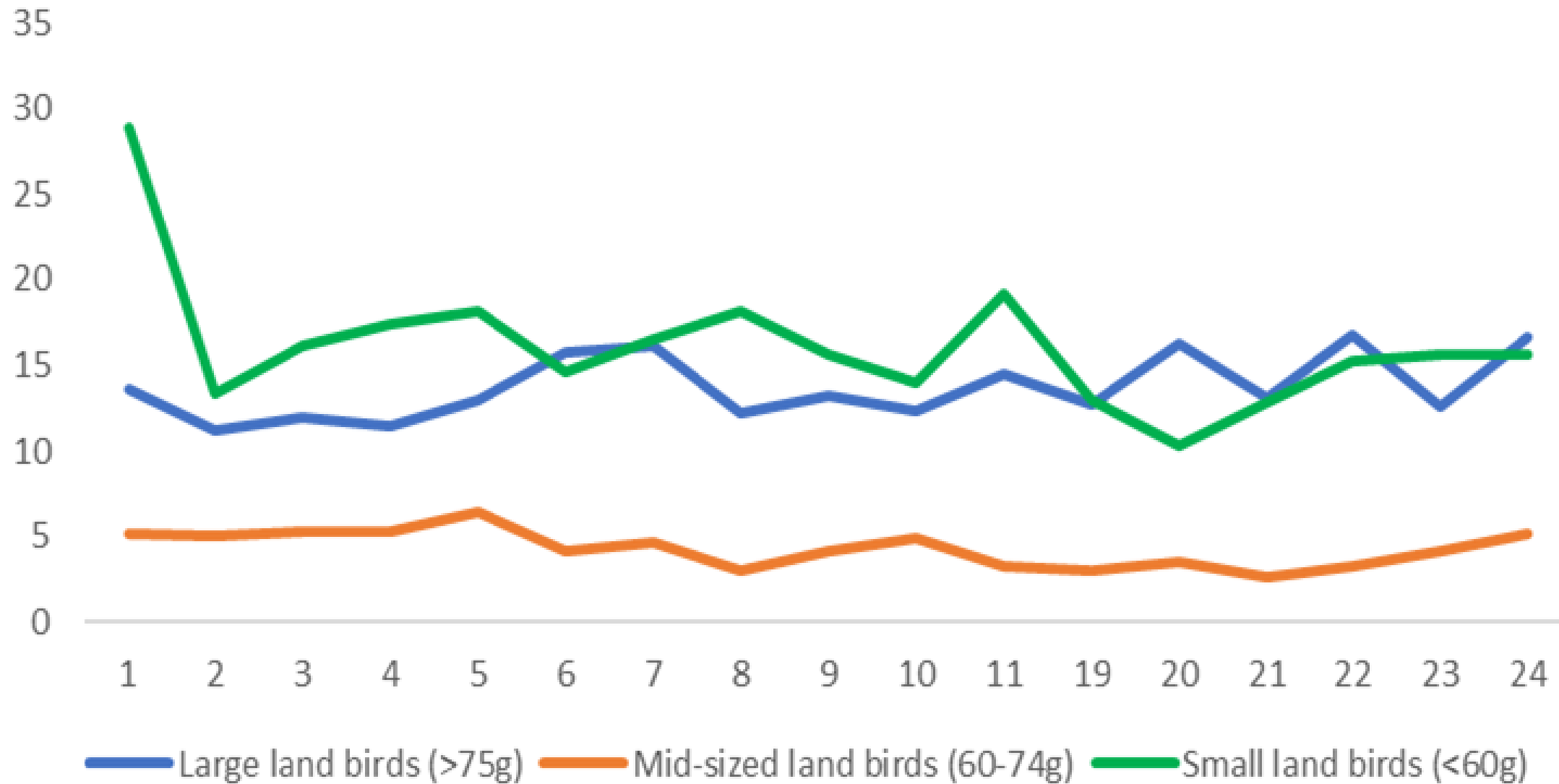




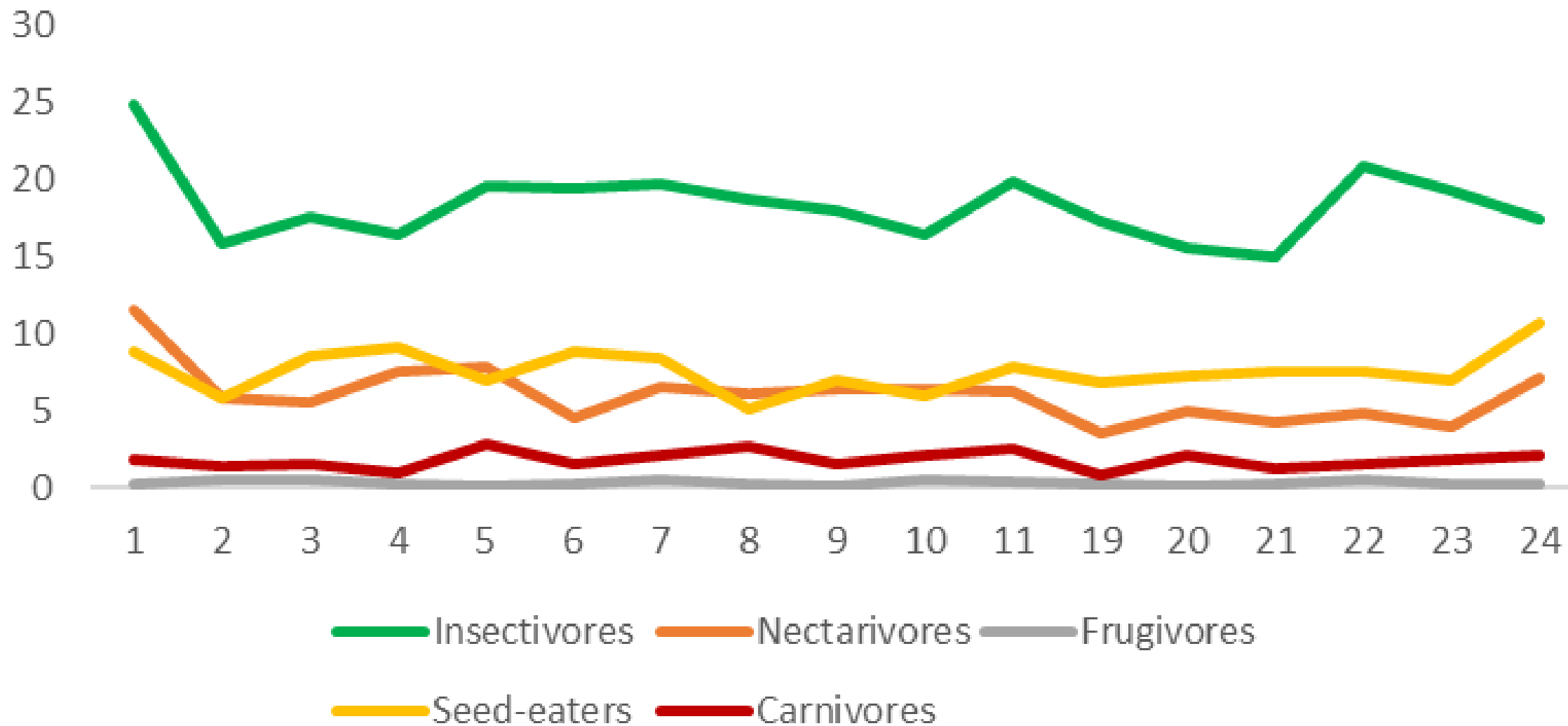
Habitat guilds 2015-21



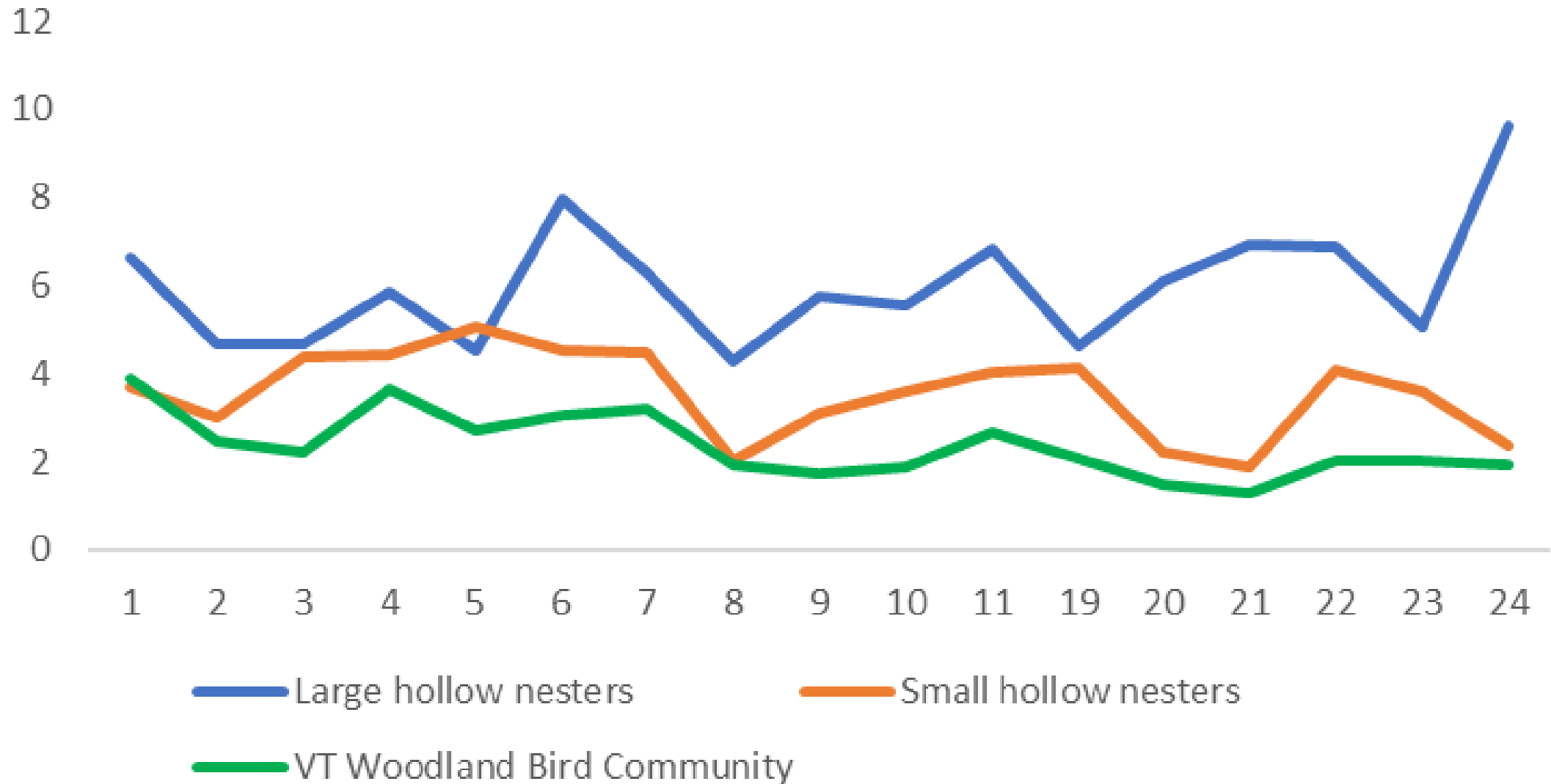
Size guilds 2015-21



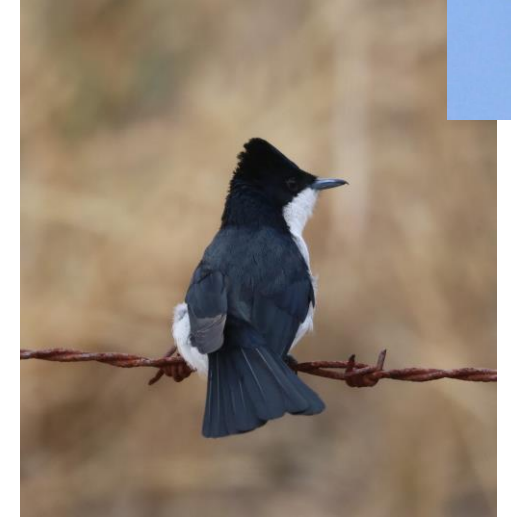
Feeding guilds, 2015-21



Selected other guilds 2015-21

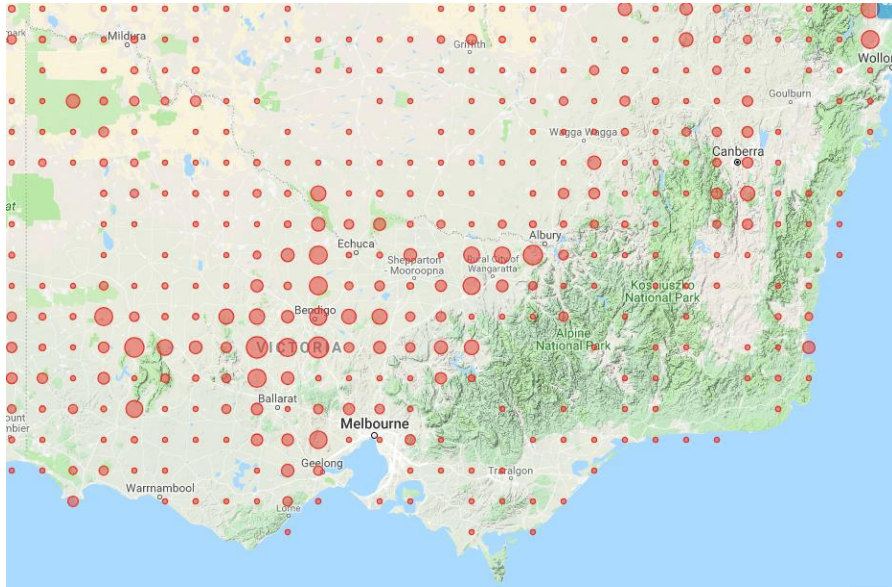


Some decreasing species

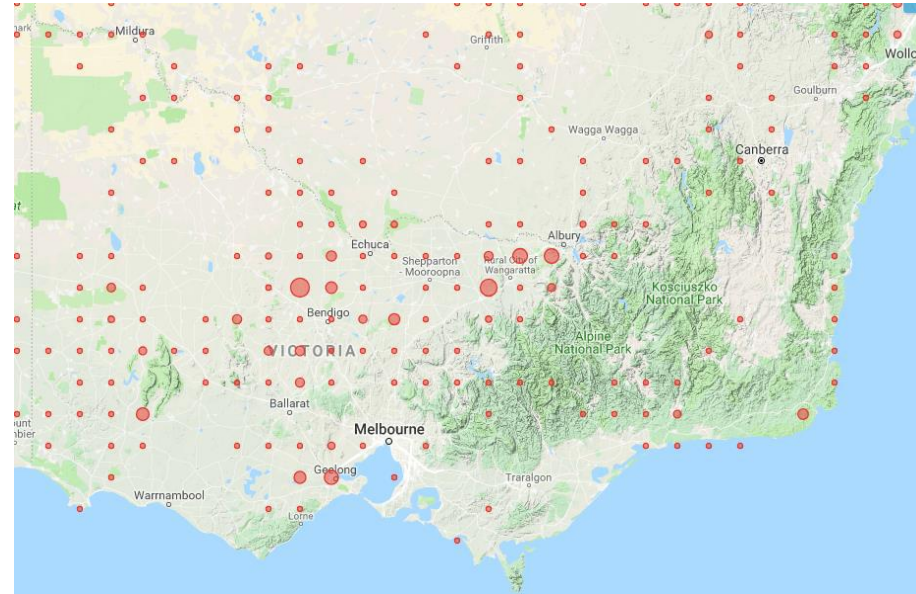


Restless Flycatcher (Birdlife Australia, Birdata)

1998-2004 (RR = 6.3%)



2014-2019 (RR = 2.7%)

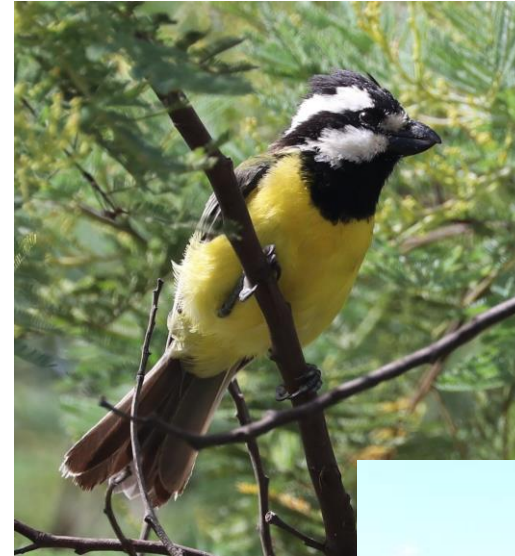




Some increasing species



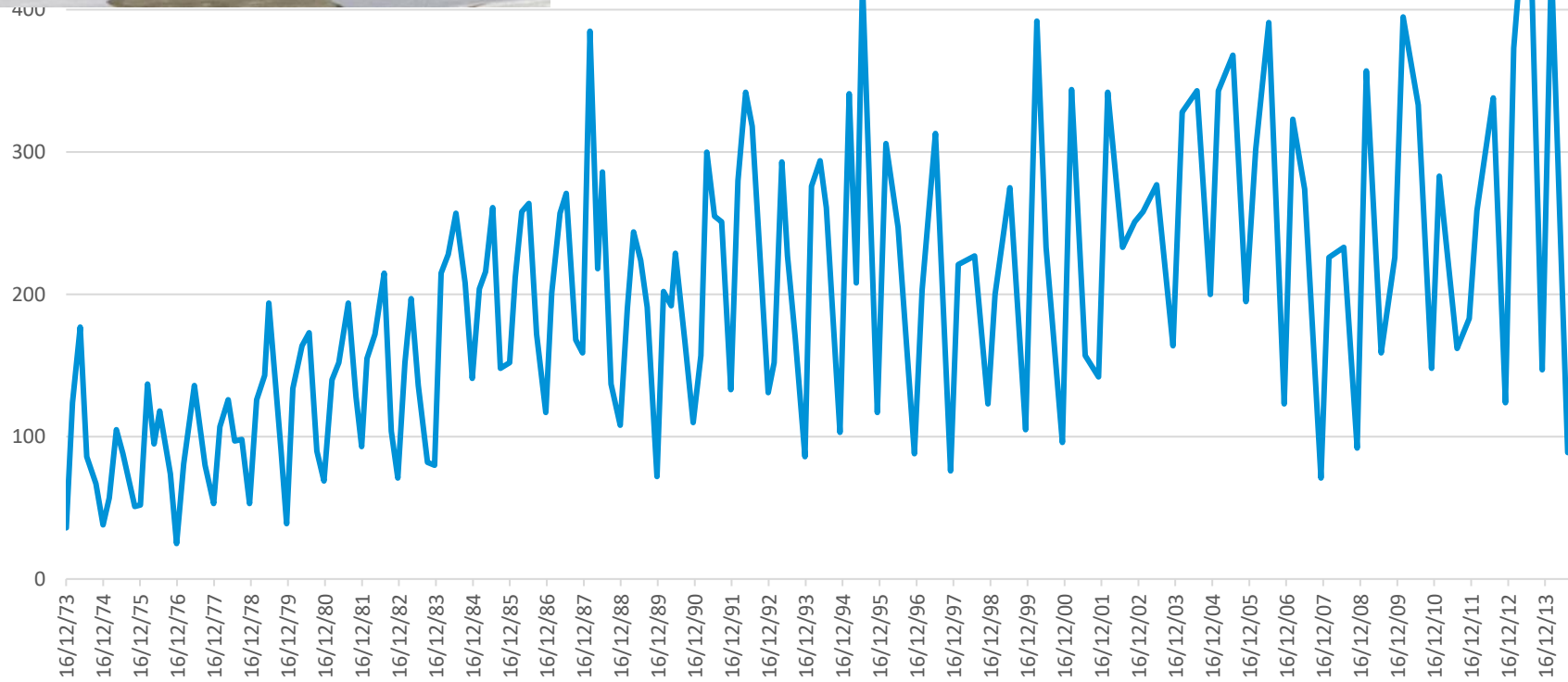
Some other species



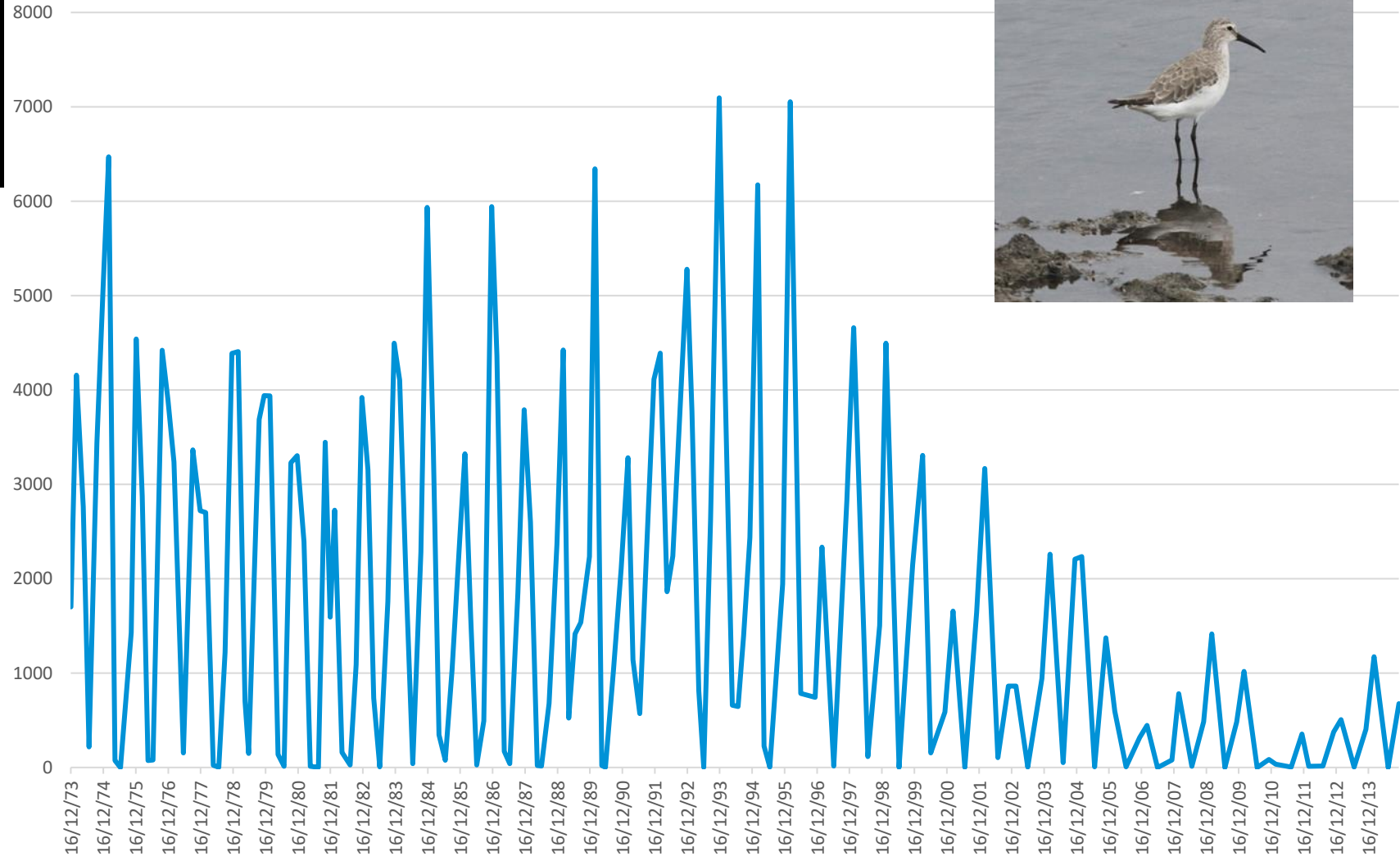
Solutions for carbon, birds & biodiversity

- New woody vegetation:
 - provides habitat for woodland birds & other wildlife
 - sequesters carbon
 - may reduce need to harvest native forest
- Protecting remnant vegetation and wetlands:
 - avoids releasing carbon
 - protects remnant natural habitats
- We can learn from each other, with many common goals

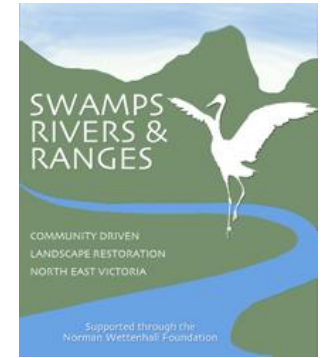
Pied Oystercatcher



Curlew Sandpiper



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- Wettenhall Environment Trust for funding and support



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