

6. Food and Feeding Habits

Most of the seasonal movements of birds in the area were associated with the distribution of food, especially of plant food of honey-eaters and berry-eaters. Fig. 7 summarizes the types of food and feeding habits of 18 species observed in the study area. Seasonal changes of a supply of plant food are summarized in Fig. 8 together with the occurrences of consumer species.

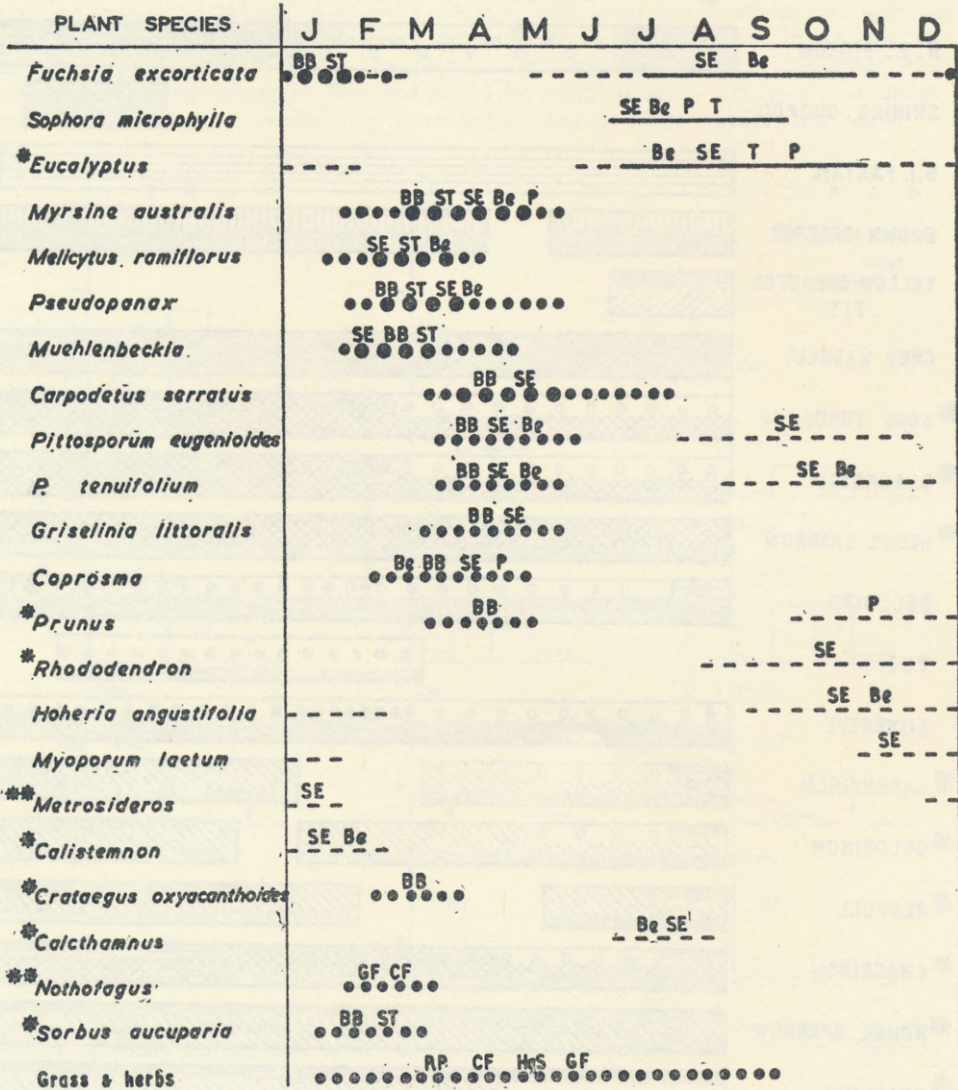


FIG. 8.—Seasonal changes of plant food supply in the upper part of the Botanic Gardens, Dunedin. Flowers providing nectar: abundant supply and high consumption (unbroken line), limited supply and low consumption (broken line); fruits and seeds: abundant supply and high consumption (large dots), limited supply and low consumption (small dots). The associated bird species are indicated in the order of frequency observed. BB: Blackbird; ST: Song Thrush; SE: Silvereye; Be: Bellbird; T: Tui; P: Pigeon; GF: Greenfinch; CF: Chaffinch; RP: Redpoll; HgS: Hedge Sparrow. Planted trees are indicated by one (exotic species) or two asterisks (native species).