



CATHERINE CLOVER

BIRDS OF THE FOOTSCRAY DISTRICT

November 15th – December 2nd, 2023

Inquiries : info@fivewalls.com.au

or

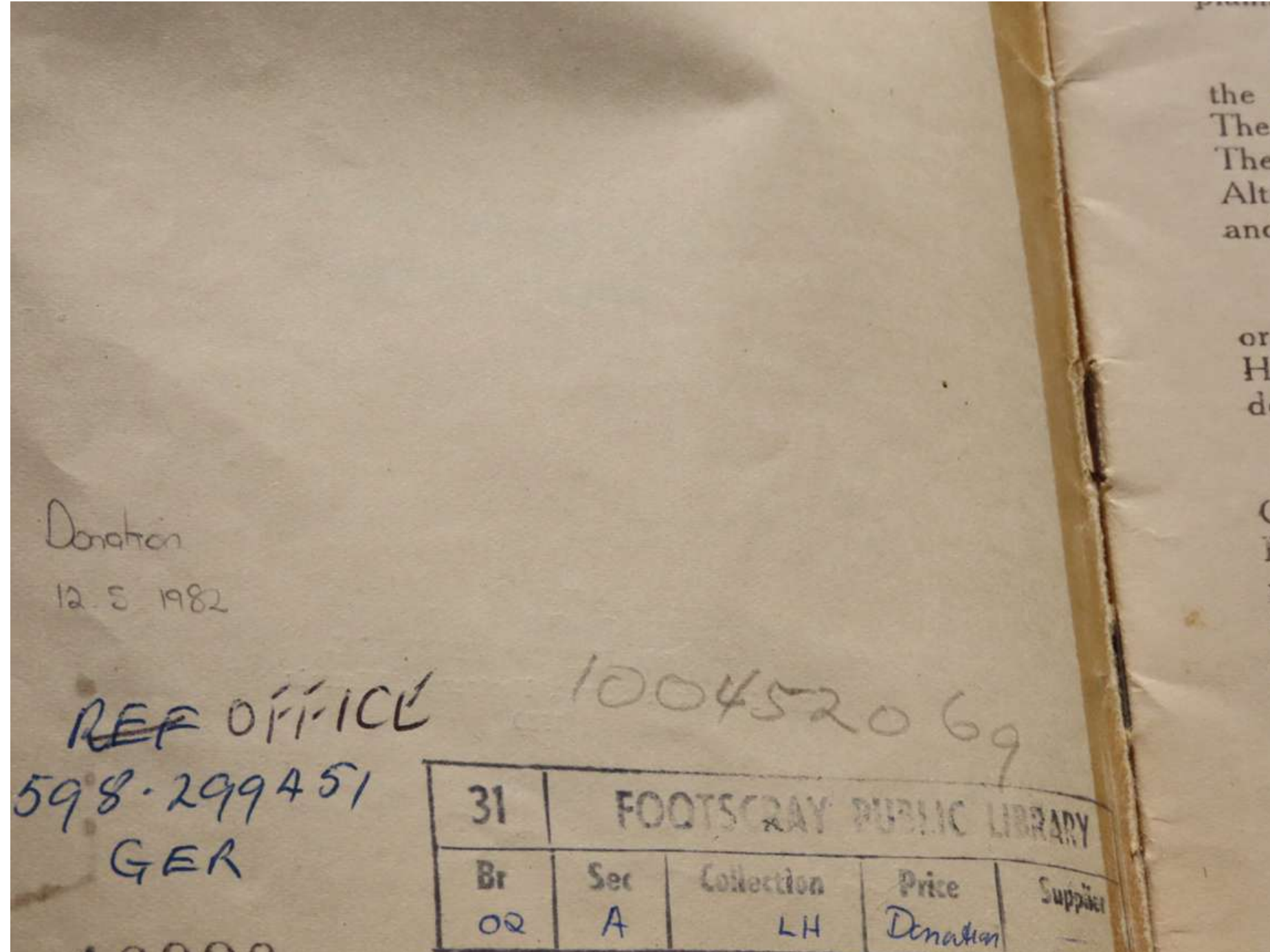
Missy : +61403055344

level 1 / 119 - 121 Hopkins Street Footscray 3011 | fivewalls.com.au | wed - sat 12 - 5pm

In my multidisciplinary art practice I use sound and language as a means of unlearning, as a way to consider knowledge hierarchies in terms of our relationship with other species such as common urban birds. I assemble works using different forms of objets trouvés, one thread of which is concerned with printed matter (the apparent redundancy of newspapers, hard copy books etc). Bird identification field guides have mostly been usurped by apps on our mobile phones these days and the materiality of old second hand paperbacks seems to increase with the passage of time, including the fading paper, the use of typography, hand-written marginalia by previous owners or librarians, library stamps.

The photographs in this exhibition are details from the book Birds of the Footscray District by Jack Jones ('Gerygone'), 1939, a settler-colonial guide to urban bird watching. Despite the author's deep appreciation of the birds' lives in the complex landscape of Footscray in the 1930s, there is no consideration of the traditional owners of the area, the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples, whose knowledge systems are deeply entwined with the lives of all other creatures. According to Wurundjeri Custodian Mandy Nicholson, birds are powerfully symbolic for Wurundjeri people. This absence makes for distinctly uncomfortable reading given our extensive debates around decolonisation today. With an abstraction of the content that may indicate its partial/selective knowledge, the photographs can be understood, at least in part, as a reframing of the guide to generate new meanings, a posthuman contribution to the decolonisation debate.

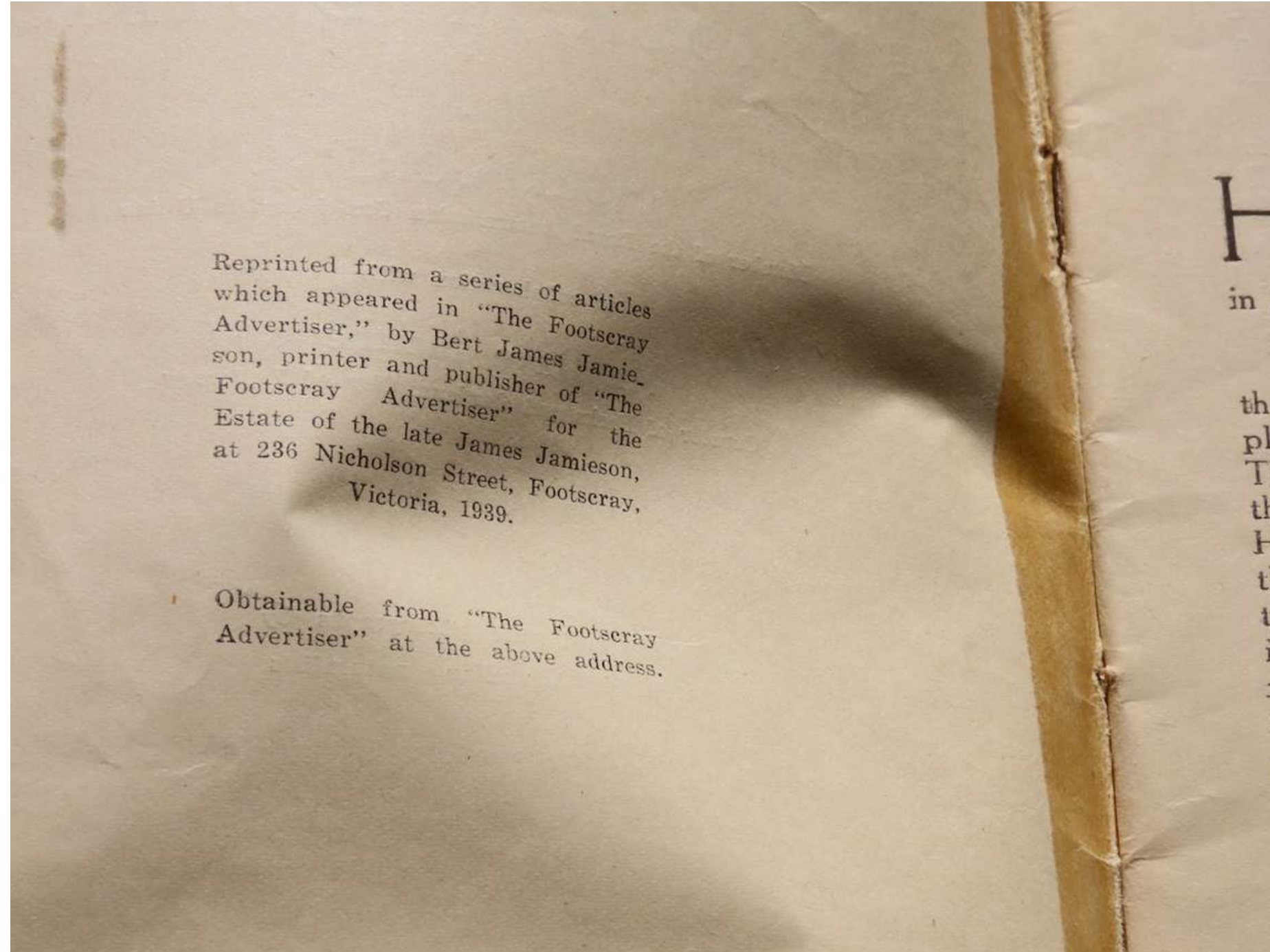




Birds of the Footscray District I
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600

number of species are found there
good rains have fallen. Pro
inent and numerous are the Mag
and Raven, one very high nest bei
used by Ravens every season for t
last six years. At this nest I on
saw a fine study in black and whit
with a little yellow thrown in, whe
a solitary and screeching Whi
Cockatoo flew too close to the nes
causing the brooding Raven to ris
and attack it. After a brief mix-up
the Cockatoo left for distan
ures and

been made to drain the marshes, and gradually the area will be utilized by industry. Today, the Swamps are really man-made, and part of the drainage system; in 1853, so extensive and teeming with wild-fowl was the huge swamp covering this area that two fowlers in one year made £1000 clear profit from ducks and teal shot there for the flourishing and gold-crazed town of Melbourne. Then the old Yarra (now partly filled in) and the Maribyrnong were lined with tea-tree, and the great swamp thick with paper-barks, lignum and samphire.



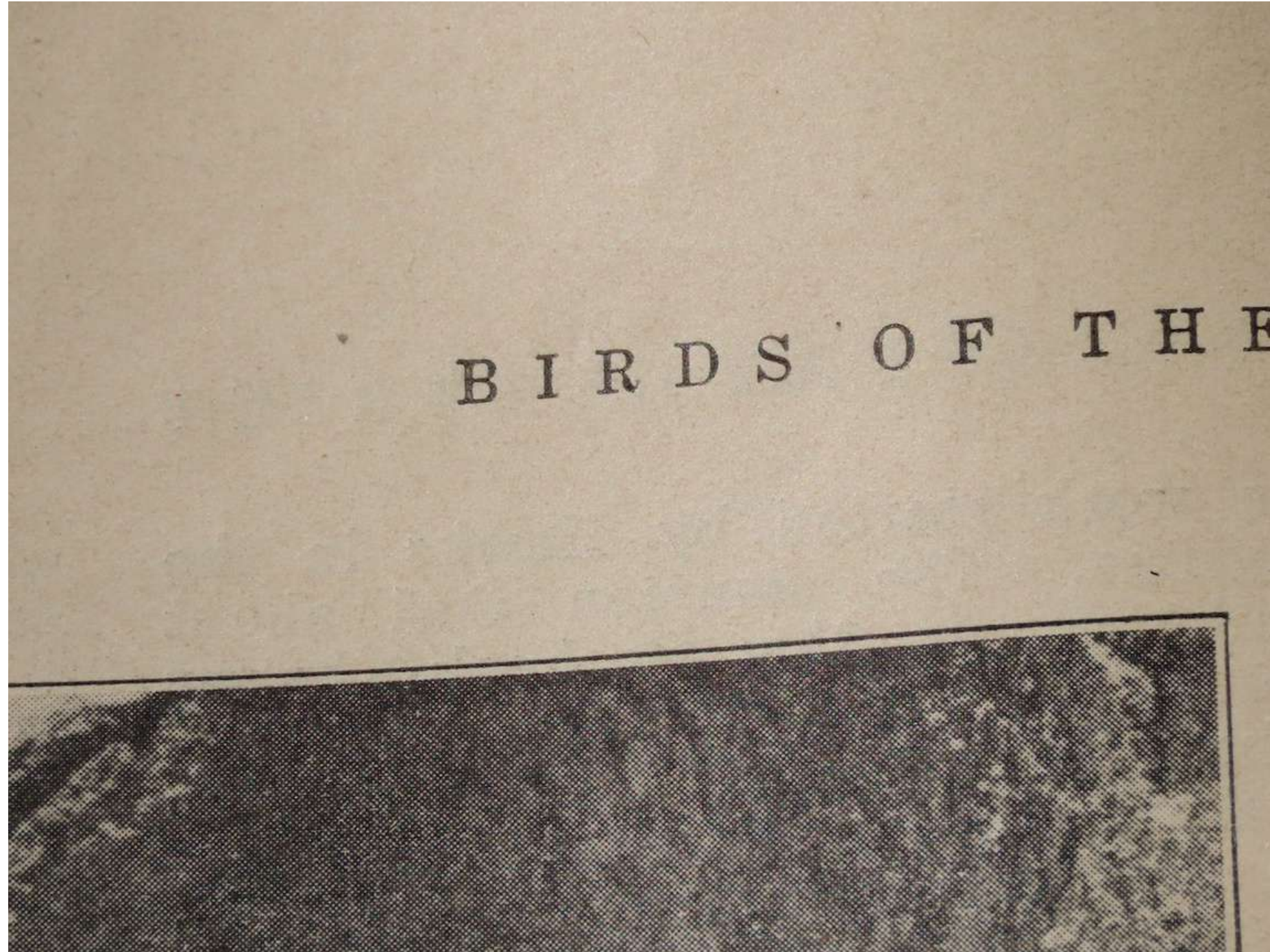
Reprinted from a series of articles
which appeared in "The Footscray
Advertiser," by Bert James Jamie-
son, printer and publisher of "The
Footscray Advertiser" for the
Estate of the late James Jamieson,
at 236 Nicholson Street, Footscray,
Victoria, 1939.

Obtainable from "The Footscray
Advertiser" at the above address.

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BIRDS OF THE





Birds of the Footscray District VI
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600

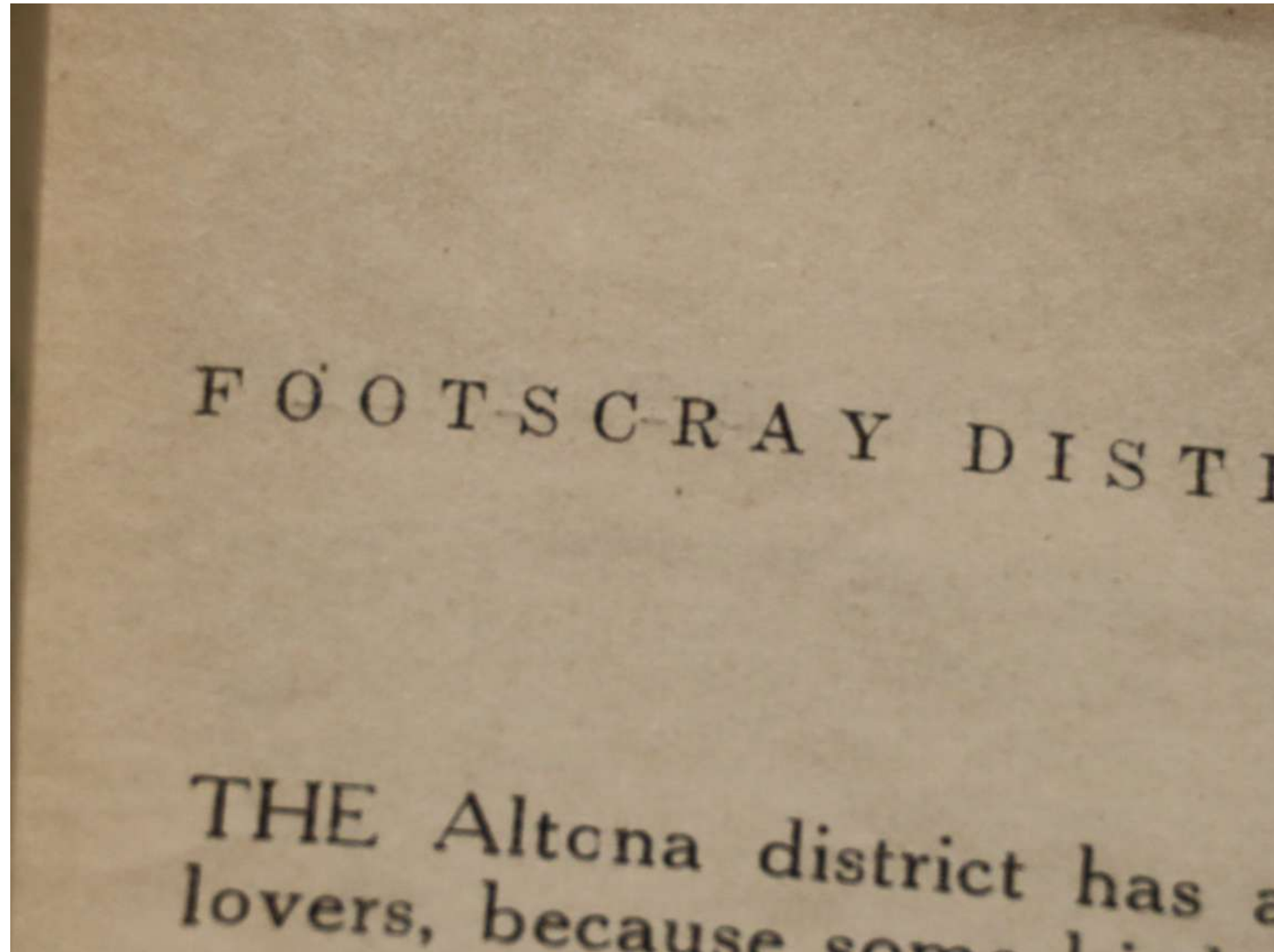




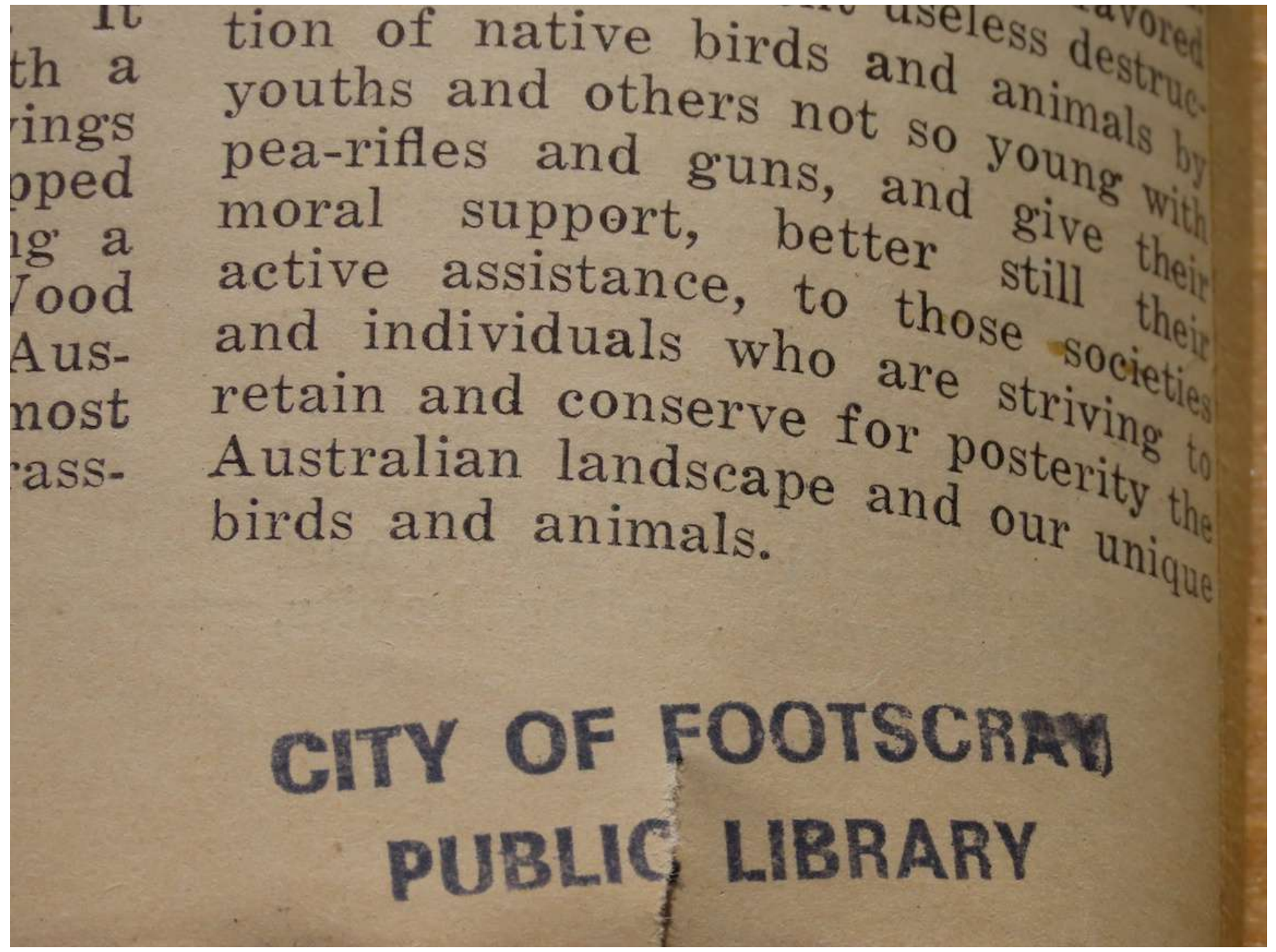
Birds of the Footscray District VIII
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600



Birds of the Footscray District IX
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600



Birds of the Footscray District X
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600



Birds of the Footscray District XI
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600

comprise nine species, and form the majority of the resident bird population. The species are the Black-bird, Song Thrush, Starling, Tree-sparrow, House-Sparrow and Greenfinch (from England), Myna and from the Continent), Turtle Dove (from India). All have flourished at the expense of our native birds. The Park a stronghold of the Greenfinch, the est of the above, and its pretty g is often heard. We in Australia however, may

... is a most attractive bird, seen. The W
olive green back and wings, an
large white ear-patch.

Another casual Honeyeater is
Red Wattle-bird, whose loud, r
cous calls cause passers-by to s
and peer into the foliage—to see
streamlined brownish bird, some
inches in length, which is called th
Red Wattle-bird because of a sma
red wattle just below the ear.

The most beautiful of the nectar
feeding birds to visit
he Little



Birds of the Footscray District XIII
2022
photograph
470 x 360 mm
\$600