

## **Wallatin Wildlife and Landcare Inc.**

### **Bird Banding Project 2006**

Between May 1985 and June 1995 CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, headed by Dr Denis Saunders with support of the Earthwatch Institute and the Kellerberrin/Doodlakine Landcare Community, carried out a major banding program to investigate movements of birds over a 625 sq km area between Kellerberrin and Trayning. The aim of that work was to examine bird use of patches and linear strips of native vegetation in an extensively cleared agricultural landscape.

The specific research questions being addressed were:

1. What species of birds occur in native vegetation along roadsides, and how do the floristic and structure of the native vegetation influence species presence?
2. Over what distance do birds of different species move, and are road verges the major route for their movement between remnants of native vegetation?

Seventy-two species of birds were banded and there were over 14,000 handlings with some birds being caught a number of times. Aspects of the work have been widely published.

It has been over 10 years since the field work was completed and there is a now an opportunity to conduct more field work, again lead by Dr Denis Saunders, on the same research protocol to examine what changes there have been to the bird communities in the same patches and linear strips using the same banding stations as were used in the earlier study. Many of the birds banded in that period may still be alive and there is a superb opportunity to look at longevity and movements over a longer time frame than most studies.

Banding will take place in August 2006 (from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>). Two banding teams will operate with a least 1 A-class bander on each team and 1 other experienced bander supported by 3 volunteers. The project has attracted support from CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and we are negotiating with other organizations for support of the volunteers in the form of accommodation and meals.

Wallatin Wildlife and Landcare Inc are looking for 12 volunteers to support the teams for approximately one week each.

Please contact Mike or Sue McFarlane 90458244, Kit Leake 90459031 or Rose Bowen 90458254 to express your interest.