

Dispersal and survival of threatened Black Cockatoos in South-west WA

Peter Mawson and Rick Dawson

Department of Environment and Conservation, Species and Communities Branch, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington 6151. Peter.Mawson@dec.wa.gov.au

The Department of Environment and Conservation has been actively involved in a program to enhance the capacity of wildlife carers to rehabilitate three species of threatened black cockatoo (Carnaby's, Baudin's and Forest Red-tail) for release back into the wild. DEC staff have now overseen the successful release of more

than 173 (77 banded and 96 unbanded) birds and following the releases in the last three years we are confident that the rehabilitation techniques and release protocols used provide very high survival rates. One of seven Forest-red tailed black cockatoos has been recovered (14km and 2 wks post-release), none of 22 Baudin's black cockatoos and three of 48 Carnaby's cockatoos (up to 10km and 1 mth post-release). A further 189 Carnaby's cockatoo chicks have been banded in the nest, with four of those bands being recovered (up to 103km and 14 months post-banding). One banded bird was recovered at Munglinup during the mass-death event associated with the January 2010 heatwave on the south coast. Carnaby's cockatoo chicks are wild-caught at a range of sites from Coorow in the north, south to Borden and east to Lake King, measured and leg banded to provide data on the survival and dispersal. Breeding has been recorded in two species of rehabilitated cockatoos (Carnaby's and Baudin's) following release in each of two years.

Threatened Species Research Forum



Western Australian Ecology Centre

9th July 2010

A Review of WA Government Research into Threatened Species