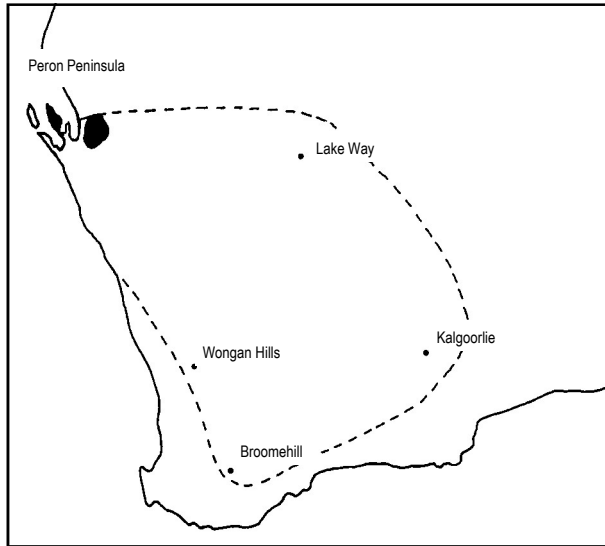


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## Thick-billed Grasswrens in



Solid shading shows present distribution of grasswrens on Peron Peninsula and nearby pastoral properties. Dashed line shows former grasswren distribution.

Since the early 1900s the range of the Thick-billed Grasswren has decreased.

In Western Australia it is no longer found in southern pastoral areas and the wheatbelt. Only on Peron Peninsula and a few adjacent pastoral prop-

## Contact details

Drawings by Belinda Cale

# Help this bird bounce back!



## The Thick-billed Grasswren

it moves  
" like an Indian-rubber ball  
when thrown forcibly  
along the ground "

*(John Gould 1865)*

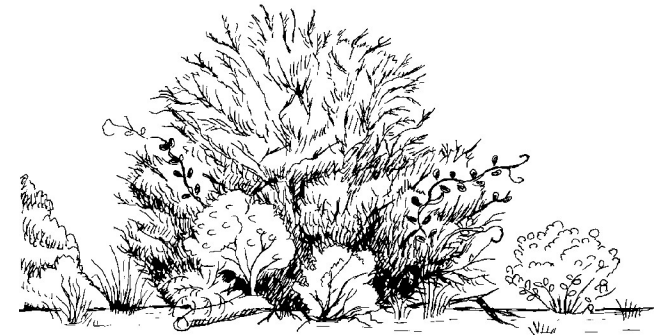
Bounding between low bushes in a fast blur is an elusive bird which could easily be mistaken for a small mammal. At about twice the size of a mouse, the Thick-billed Grasswren is streaky brown with a long tail. It spends most of its time on the ground feeding on insects and seeds.

Patches of dense vegetation low to the ground are vital to the Thick-billed Grasswren for cover and to hide their nest. Changes to the vegetation structure may make grasswrens more vulnerable to predation



Poor Grasswren Habitat

- few dense shrubs low to ground
- little plant diversity
- no climbing plants or multi-species



Good Grasswren Habitat

- dense shrubs with foliage extending to ground
- diversity of plants, often growing in



## How can we help grasswrens bounce

- Develop a grazing management strategy which maintains areas of good grasswren habitat. Often the plant species important to grasswrens are good feed for stock.
- Manage for the long term and prevent overgrazing in drought years.
- Maintain dense vegetation along drain-
- Manage feral goats and rabbits.
- Manage fire to prevent large areas being burnt. Vegetation with a range of fire-ages maintains a mosaic required by native fauna.
- Support the Department of Conservation and Land Management's fox and cat baiting program.

