



THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team	South Coast Threatened Birds
Reporting Period	Calendar year 2010

Current membership

	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Sarah Comer	Regional Ecologist, DEC South Coast Region, Albany.
2. Exec Officer	Cameron Tiller	Conservation Officer (Integrated Fauna Recovery Project), DEC South Coast Region, Albany.
3.	Deon Utber	Regional Leader, Nature Conservation, DEC South Coast Region, Albany.
4	Alan Danks	Ex Regional Leader, Nature Conservation, now community representative
5.	Allan Burbidge	Principal Research Scientist, Wildlife Research Centre, DEC, Wanneroo.
6	John Blyth	Ex WATSCU, now community and BAWA representative
7	Abby Berryman	Conservation Officer (WGP Captive Project), DEC South Coast Region, Albany.
8	Brenda Newbey	'Friends of the Western Ground Parrot' Coordinator.
9	Shapelle McNee	Consultant, Community member
10	Anne Bondin	Albany Birdwatchers Group, 'Friends of the Western Ground Parrot' Coordinator, Community member
11	David Edmonds	District Veterinarian (Denmark), Community member.
12	Brad Barton	Regional Leader Nature Conservation, Warren Region

Dates meetings were held	5-May-2010 & 30-Nov-2010
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One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for <i>WATSNU</i>	The South Coast Integrated Fauna Recovery Project, initiated after concern expressed by the South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team for the rapidly declining numbers of Western Ground Parrot, conducted the first trial of toxic baits targeting feral cats in Fitzgerald River National Park. Whilst the bait is still only available under a strict research permit, efforts are proceeding to establish feral predator management programs throughout the critical habitat for all South
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	<p>Coast Threatened Bird Species. The establishment of a Western Ground Parrot captive management program saw the capture of 8 individuals that are to be used as an "insurance" against further rapid declines in their "wild" populations.</p>
<p>List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team</p>	
<p>See attached minutes</p>	
<p>Assessment of progress towards meeting criteria for success (from Recovery Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the recovery actions for south coast threatened birds was integrated. Census of the sympatric species Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (western heath) at Mt Gardner, Mermaid, and Waychinicup during 2010. Feral predator management (feral cat and fox) was conducted at Fitzgerald River National Park to provide protection for populations of Western Ground Parrot, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (western mallee). • All known populations, and any new sub-populations of the extant south coast threatened birds have been censused. All Western Ground Parrot populations were censused during 2010. A number of sub-populations of the Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (western heath) within the Albany Management Zone (AMZ) were also censused. No funds have been sourced for full population surveys of any south coast threatened bird species. • A systematic survey for the Rufous Bristlebird (western) has been completed. Not completed. No funds available. • The 'habitat critical' for each species of south coast threatened birds identified and mapped. Mapping of the critical habitat for the Western Ground Parrot and Noisy Scrub-bird were updated during 2010. Further mapping of Western Bristlebird historic data was completed during 2010. • There has been an increase in knowledge of the factors limiting population growth for south coast threatened birds, which has been used for adaptive management. Much effort has been undertaken in this area. The on-going management of fire has continued within south coast threatened bird habitat and greater attention to controlling predation threats has been promoted. An integrated predator management program targeting feral cats, identified by the recovery team as a major influence on the populations of south coast threatened birds, has commenced. This includes providing feedback on the effectiveness of baiting on the activity levels of introduced predators, levels of bait-uptake by non-target species, and the effect of baiting on populations of non-target species. • Translocations of Western Ground Parrots, Western Bristlebird and Noisy Scrub-bird have resulted in the establishment of at least one additional breeding population of each species.

	<p>During 2010, six further Western Ground Parrots were captured for use in the trial captive program for this species. One of these birds subsequently died. A translocation of Noisy Scrub-birds to Jane National Park (Warren Region) was undertaken. Although a couple of birds were known to have been predated within the first few weeks, it is hoped that others have survived. This will be surveyed prior to the 2011 breeding season when male birds commence calling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is active community participation in planning and implementation of the recovery actions for Western Ground Parrots, Western Bristlebirds and Noisy Scrub-birds, including at least 1000 hours per year of volunteer activity and at least two community members on the South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team. <p>Community participation provided an important role during 2010. The Friends of the Western Ground Parrot accepted funding from the "DEC Community Grants" with which to conduct census of ground parrot populations alongside DEC staff. Well in excess of 1000 hours was contributed by volunteers, particularly during threatened bird monitoring in both Albany and Esperance districts, and capture and preparation for translocation. At least 5 community members are represented on the South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team.</p>
<p>Assessment against criteria for failure (from Recovery Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the recovery actions for the south coast threatened birds was not integrated. All recovery actions for south coast threatened birds were integrated successfully. • All of the south coast threatened birds have become extinct. Thankfully, this did not occur. • More than 10% of the known sub-populations of the extant south coast threatened birds have not been censused at least once. Within 2010 alone, considerably more than 10% of the known sub-populations of each extant south coast threatened bird species was undertaken. • The 'habitat critical' for at least one species of the south coast threatened birds has not been mapped. The habitat critical for the Western Ground Parrot was updated during 2010. • A systematic survey for the Rufous Bristlebird (western) has not been completed. This was not conducted during 2010. • The outcomes of investigations of the factors limiting population growth for south coast threatened birds were not used for adaptive management. All outcomes from investigations of the factors limiting population growth of south coast threatened birds have been included in considerations for the DEC South Coast's Adaptive Management Project titled "Integrated Fauna Recovery Program". • No translocations of any taxa of south coast threatened birds were conducted. A further 5 Western Ground Parrots were added to the captive population and a trial translocation of 5 male and 1 female Noisy Scrub-bird was conducted to Jane National Park (Warren Region). • There was little to no community participation in the implementation of the recovery actions for Western Ground Parrots, Western Bristlebird and Noisy Scrub-birds. See above. Community participation is the backbone of recovery programs for

	all south coast threatened birds.
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