



THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team	South Coast Threatened Birds
Reporting Period	Calendar year 2010 Calendar year 2011

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' President.
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
13	Karlene Bain	District Nature Conservation Coordinator, Frankland District

Dates meetings were held	10th May and 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2011
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One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	A full Census of Noisy Scrub-birds was carried out in the Albany Managemetn Zone in 2011 (including Mt. Gardner, Mermaid, Waychincup and Mt Manypeaks). This is the first time since 2006 that a complete population count has been conducted for this species. Six male Noisy Scrub-birds were
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	<p>translocated from Bald Island to the Angove Water Reserve in an attempt to re-establish this sub-population, which was lost to wildfires in 2001 and 2003.</p> <p>The South Coast Integrated Fauna Recovery Project, focused on the protection of habitat for the Critically Endangered Western Ground Parrot, conducted the third year of toxic baits targeting feral cats in the Fitzgerald River National Park, whilst the second year trial was conducted at Cape Arid National Park. Non toxic baits were dropped at Waychinicup National Park, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Many peaks Nature Reserve to look at non target uptake for future toxic bait drops through the critical habitat for all south coast birds covered by this recovery team.</p> <p>The 8 captive Western Ground Parrots continue to be well maintained and have furthered our understanding of their ecology. Two of the younger birds attempted to breed, but this was unsuccessful.</p>
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List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team

See attached minutes

<p>Assessment of progress towards meeting criteria for success (from Recovery Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the recovery actions for south coast threatened birds was integrated.</li> </ul> <p>A full Census of Noisy Scrub-bird, and partial census of Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (western heath) was carried out at Mt. Gardner, Mermaid, Waychinicup and Mt Manypeaks during 2011.</p> <p>Feral predator management (feral cat and fox) was conducted at Fitzgerald River National Park and Cape Arid National Park to provide protection for populations of Western Ground Parrot, Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (western mallee).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All known populations, and any new sub-populations of the extant south coast threatened birds have been censused.</li> </ul> <p>Western Ground Parrot populations were censused during 2011 at Cape Arid National Park by DEC staff. The "Friends of the Western ground Parrot" along with DEC staff carried out census work at Fitzgerald River National Park.</p> <p>The Albany Management Zone (AMZ) was fully censused for Noisy -Scrub bird, and some sub-populations surveyd for Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird (western heath)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A systematic survey for the Rufous Bristlebird (western) has been completed.</li> </ul> <p>Not completed. No funds available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'habitat critical' for each species of south coast threatened birds identified and mapped.</li> </ul> <p>Mapping of the critical habitat for the Western Ground Parrot and Noisy Scrub-bird were updated during 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>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 continued, despite challenges with securing funds. This</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>A greater understand of feral cat home ranges, movements and habitat occupation which will allow more effective baiting and control strategies to ameliorate the threats to South Coast Threatened bird species.</p> <p>Toxic baits are now into their 3rd year trial for the control of predators, targeting feral cats at Fitzgerald River National Park and 2nd year at Cape Arid National Park.</p> <p>Continued non target species uptake studies have shown us low uptake of toxic baits with uptake mostly by species with a high 1080 tolerance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>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.</b></li> </ul> <p>Six male Noisy Scrub-birds were translocated from Bald Island NR to Angove water corporation reserve in May. This translocation proved to be successful in the short term with birds singing and moving throughout the reserve.</p> <p>Survey at Jane National Park did not pick up any birds singing or evidence of their presence from the 2010 translocation. Predator control needs to be carried out here before further translocations can be continued, funding dependant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>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.</b></li> </ul> <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><b>Assessment against criteria for failure (from Recovery Plan)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implementation of the recovery actions for the south coast threatened birds was not integrated.</b> All recovery actions for south coast threatened birds were integrated successfully.</li> <li>• <b>All of the south coast threatened birds have become extinct.</b> Thankfully, this did not occur.</li> <li>• <b>More than 10% of the known sub-populations of the extant south coast threatened birds have not been censused at least once.</b> Within 2011 alone, considerably more than 10% of the known sub-populations of each extant south coast threatened bird species was censused.</li> <li>• <b>The 'habitat critical' for at least one species of the south coast threatened birds has not been mapped.</b> The habitat critical for the Western Ground Parrot was updated during 2010, but has not been reviewed for 2011. This is still to be completed.</li> </ul>

- **A systematic survey for the Rufous Bristlebird (western) has not been completed.**

This was not conducted during 2011.

- **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". In addition consideration of fire management requirements for each taxon are included in the South Coast Regions fire management program.

- **No translocations of any taxa of south coast threatened birds were conducted.**

A trial translocation of six male Noisy Scrub-birds was conducted to Angove water Corporation Reserve (AMZ)

- **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 with volunteers participating in, and in some cases leading, survey trips to census sub-populations. The South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team has six community members.