

Bush-stone Curlew Reintroduction to Metropolitan Perth

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The Perth Zoo in collaboration with Caversham Wildlife Park and Whiteman Park has successfully reintroduced Bush Stone-curlews into metropolitan Perth. Thirty birds have been released into Whiteman Park during 2013-2018. Dispersing birds have also been reported from several locations around the Perth metropolitan area during past five years. Most of those have been single records from five different birds, but one bird has proven the greatest of travellers having been seen at no fewer than seven locations and has now completed a circuit of the inner metropolitan area before returning to an earlier haunt. Sightings of dispersing birds and breeding birds reported by members of the public are received by email, i-Phone (with good quality pictures showing coloured leg bands), and from the Australian Bird and Bat Banding office. The resident flock of more than 10 birds provides great viewing for the citizens visiting Whiteman Park who love the 'Road Runners' when they see them strolling around on the grassed picnic area. To date only two birds have been confirmed dead, one having been taken by a goshawk and the other was euthanised after sustaining leg injuries. Breeding and successful fledging of nestlings has been reported every year since 2014. This species provides a case study for how locally extinct fauna species can be reintroduced into suitable habitat within the Perth metropolitan area.



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