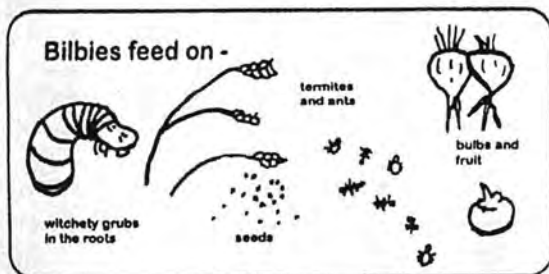


LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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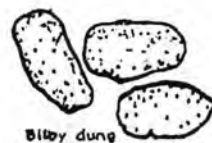
FEEDING SITES



Bilbies dig into the soil in search of food items. These feeding sites can be found in open ground, at the base of shrubs and forbes, at ant nests and termite mounds. They may scratch and dig away soil to a depth of 12cm. The sites are easy to see and within 100m of a burrow.

SCATS

Bilby scats are easy to recognise. Each piece is about 2.5cm long by 1.2cm wide, cylindrical and smooth on the outside. Pieces usually contain a lot of sand with fibre and insect remains. They are found at feeding sites, sometimes buried in the soil thrown up by digging.



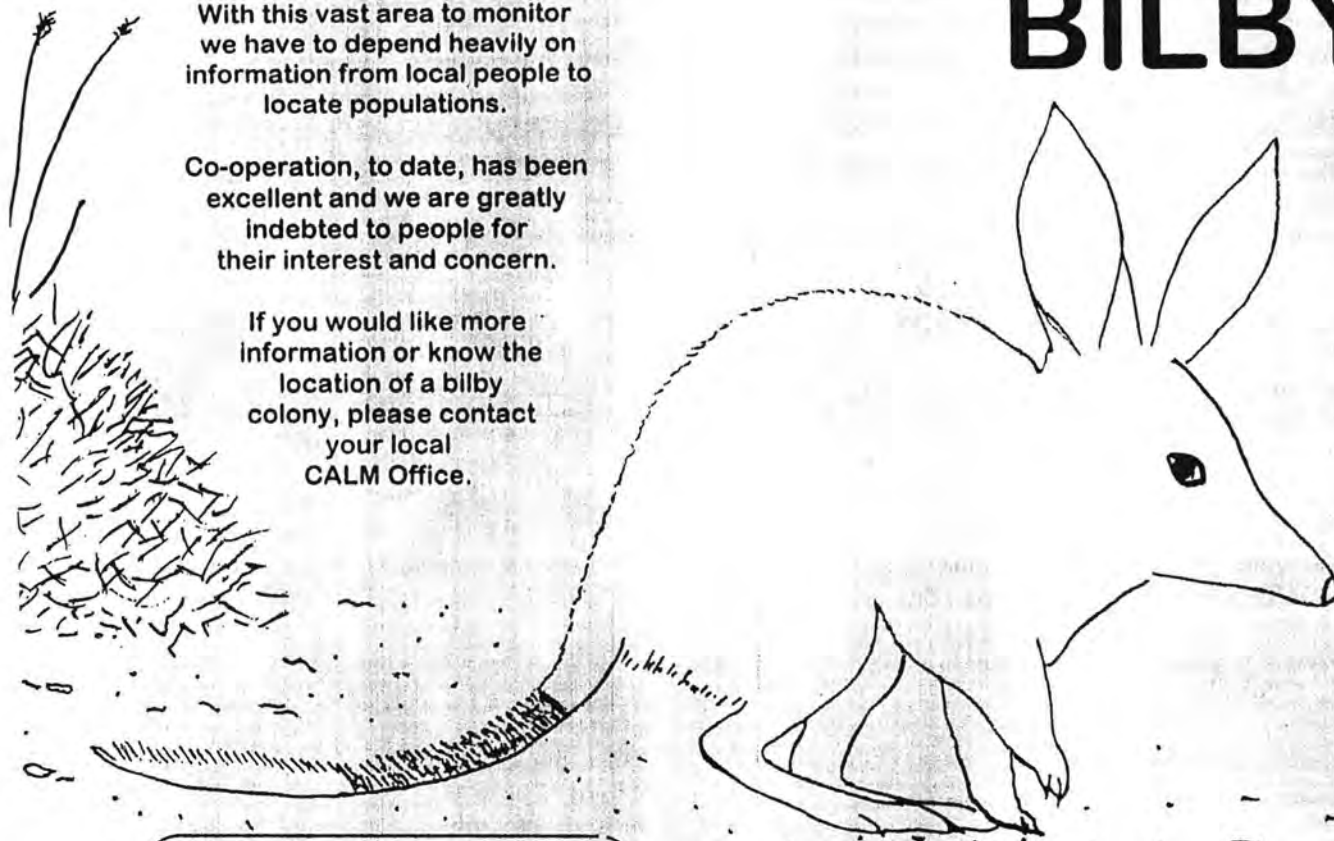
- Rabbits have fibrous, uniform round pellets.
- Echidna dung is wider in diameter and extruded in one piece. The ends are broken rather than moulded.

LOCATING BILBY COLONIES

Isolated colonies of bilbies may still exist in many parts of arid, northern Australia. With this vast area to monitor we have to depend heavily on information from local people to locate populations.

Co-operation, to date, has been excellent and we are greatly indebted to people for their interest and concern.

If you would like more information or know the location of a bilby colony, please contact your local CALM Office.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WEST KIMBERLEY DISTRICT
PO BOX 65
BROOME
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6725

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IN SEARCH OF THE

BILBY

AGENCIES INVOLVED



WEST KIMBERLEY DISTRICT



SHELL DEVELOPMENT
AUSTRALIA



THE SHIRE OF BROOME

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The bilby is disappearing.

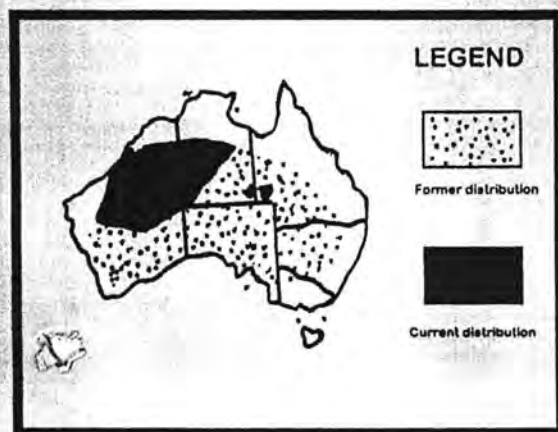
We want people to be on the lookout for this animal and report on any sightings. Locating a population will assist The Department of Conservation And Land Management of Western Australia to ensure the continued livelihood of this unique Marsupial.

This pamphlet will help you identify the signs and tracks made by the bilby.

THE DISAPPEARING BILBY

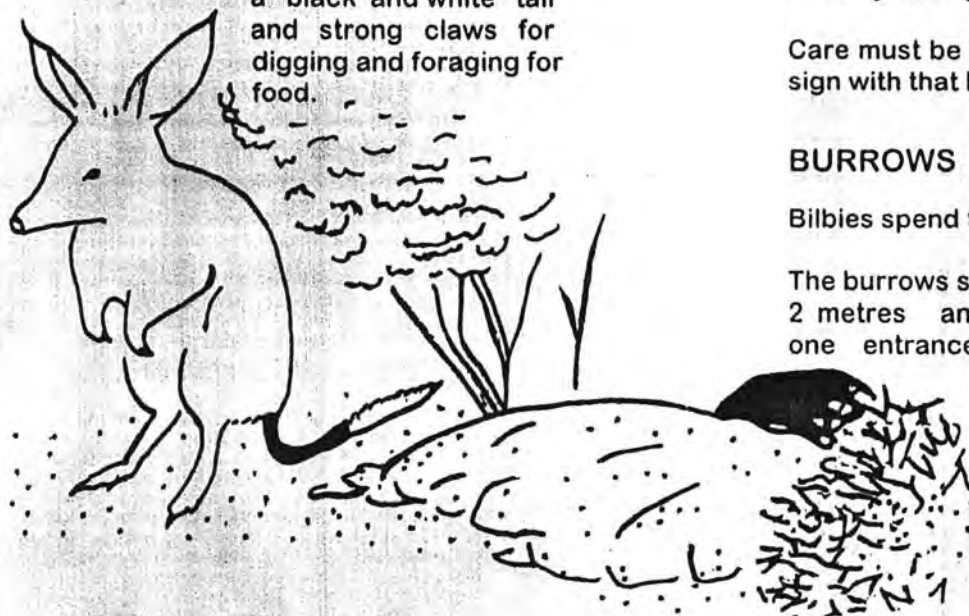
The bilby was once widespread throughout Australia (see Map below), but now only isolated populations exist in some remote areas. Numbers are still declining and the bilby faces extinction.

The reasons for its rapid disappearance are not known. Areas where the bilby is still being found are being mapped and the factors necessary for its survival are being studied.



WHAT THE BILBY LOOKS LIKE

This bandicoot is a bit larger than a rabbit. They have long rabbit-like ears and silky blue-grey fur, a black and white tail and strong claws for digging and foraging for food.



WHERE IT LIVES

These bandicoots can be found in a range of plant communities and land forms as shown in the boxes.

They prefer soft sandy or loamy soils.

Two to five bilbies form a colony and may share an area of several hectares.

Plant Communities		
Woodland	Shrubland	Grassland

Landforms		
Plain	Silt slope	Sand dune

TRACKS AND SIGNS

Bilbies are active at night and are seldom seen. Their burrows, tracks, feeding sites and scats can be used to identify the location of a colony without actually seeing any of the animals.

Care must be taken not to confuse their sign with that left by other animals.

BURROWS

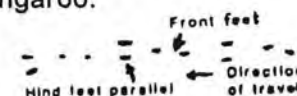
Bilbies spend the day in a deep burrow.

The burrows spiral down to a depth of 1-2 metres and generally have only one entrance. The entrance is circular, about 15cm (6in) wide and often tucked between clumps of spinifex or shrubs. Other burrows may be nearby (within 50 m).

- Rabbit warrens have multiple entrances.
- Goannas make smaller burrows with triangular or crescent shaped entrances.

TRACKS

Bilby tracks are made by front and hind feet like those of a kangaroo.



- They can be confused with the tracks made by a rabbit