

Ground Parrot Study

CALM recently received a grant of \$22,000 from World Wildlife Fund for a study on the microhabitat preferences of the Ground Parrot in the Fitzgerald River area.

The Ground Parrot has undergone a drastic decline in numbers in WA and is now known in this State from only a few localities along the South Coast, and is clearly endangered.

In order to manage the species effectively, we need much more information on the bird's habitat preferences and response to fire.

However, the birds are extremely secretive and difficult to observe as they walk through the dense heathlands to feed.

Much of the grant money will therefore be used to carry out a radio-tracking study to discover basic information about the feeding and habitat requirements of the Ground Parrot.

Field work for this study will be done by consultant biologist Doug Watkins in co-operation with staff from the Wildlife Research Centre at Woodvale.

ALLAN BURBIDGE.