

SILVER GULL PROGRAMME

Dr Ron Wooller from the School of Environmental and Life Sciences at Murdoch University, has been involved with a programme on Silver Gulls during the past year.

In recent years, large numbers of gulls have moved into the Perth metropolitan area, scavenging from open garbage tips and congregating at local water ways.

It is thought that these birds have increased in their inland populations because of the availability of local food sources.

Because of their habits and increased numbers, it is thought that future large concentrations of gulls could contaminate local waterways.

As part of an ongoing study on the birds' breeding sites and movement throughout the metropolitan area, Dr Wooller banded and released 317 Silver Gulls on Carnac Island.

Each bird is banded with four rings, two on each leg. On one leg there is a numbered metal ring with a colour ring above and on the other, two individual colour bands. Each bird has it's own individual number and sequence of colour rings.

Should any of these birds be sighted, Dr Wooller would be most grateful for information, particularly the sequence of the colours, the ring number, the area and the date of sighting.