

BOURKE PARROT OR NIGHT PARROT?

In volume I No. 5, the December 1967 issue of the "Fauna Bulletin", on page 21, we published a report which claimed that the Night Parrot was quite common in certain regions of the State.

The Bourke Parrot (Neophema bourkii) like the real Night Parrot (Geopsittacus occidentalis) feeds and waters after dark. This is why the Bourke Parrot is also known in some areas as the Night Parrot. This duplication of common names lead to much confusion, and we suspect that the warden who made the report referred to was really talking about the Bourke Parrot.

The Bourke Parrot was also considered to be very rare apparently a few years ago. It had suffered a population decline over most of its range throughout Australia. In recent years, however, it has recovered and, as the controversial report suggests, it is now comparatively common at least in some areas.

The bird more properly known as the Night Parrot is still extremely rare if it does, in fact, still exist. There are continued reports of its presence, but these have not been confirmed and one is always in doubt about their validity because of this common confusion between the two species due to their nocturnal habits.