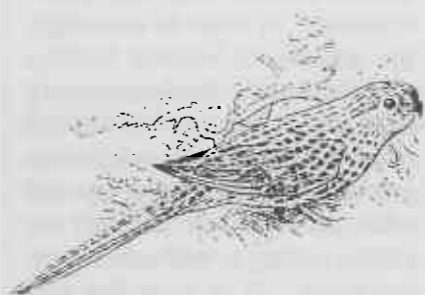


Western Ground Parrot Survey



THE western ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*) is a Critically Endangered species. Confined to the dense heathlands of the south coast, clearing for agriculture and unsuitable fire regimes have condensed its range down to just 3 known sites: Cape Arid NP, Fitzgerald River NP and the Waychinicup-Manypeaks area. In 1998, volunteers surveyed the Waychinicup- Manypeaks area to try to determine how many birds were still present.

The birds are located by call, as they are difficult to see in the dense low vegetation that they inhabit. They call just after sunrise and just before sunset. Surveying the birds consists of having a line of "Listeners", 200m apart, recording the time and direction of calls. "People became charged with the mystery of the dusk and night hours and the excitement of having heard ground parrots. Even the mosquitoes were forgotten (well, almost)..." says the Birds Australia report on the project. Approximately half of the suitable habitat in the area was surveyed and three sub-populations were located, containing a total of 29 birds.

A "Friends of the Ground Parrot" group has been set up in Albany. If you are interested in being part of future surveys, contact them at CALM, Albany.

For the full story, read "Report on Western Ground Parrot Survey at Waychinicup and Manypeaks". 1999. Birds Australia, WA Group.