



Gould's Wattled Bat

BATS AT BANNISTER CREEK

BANNISTER Creek is a tributary of the Canning, and runs through the suburbs of Lynwood and Canning Vale. The Bannister Creek Catchment Group have been working on the rehabilitation of the river reserve since 1990. In 1999 they commissioned Kyle Armstrong, Dept of Zoology, UWA, to survey the bats in the reserve.

Two bats were recorded, Gould's Wattled Bat, *Chalinilobus gouldii*, and White-striped Freetail Bat, *Tadarida australis*. Both of these were foraging over the reserve, though no roosts could be found. It is possible that other, harder to detect, bats may also be present.

These bats are very important ecologically as predators of night-flying insects. The study shows that the greatest threat to their survival in the area comes from loss of roosting sites. This could occur as trees die, from *Armillaria* fungus or human activity, or as suitable hollows become occupied by feral bees. It is recommended that the feral bees are controlled and that bridges or other sites be designed as bat roosts, including perhaps adding bat roosting boxes.

For further information contact Julie Robert or Judy Fisher, Bannister Creek Catchment Group, phone 9458 6746.