

# AMAZING!

**I**N 2001, Czech entomologist Dr Svatopluk Bily was in WA collecting beetles and had travelled to the large area of uncleared land north of the Lake King - Norseman Road. One day, while photographing wildflowers, he noticed 'a little stripey squirrel' and photographed it. Off he went back home, reporting, as required, on all the insects his collecting licence had allowed him to take, but he didn't think to mention the 'squirrel'.

And there things might have rested except that, on a subsequent



trip to WA, a visit to a numbat reintroduction site in the Stirling Range with a local person, prompted a discussion on numbats. Dr Bily showed his holiday snaps to WA entomologist Mike Powell and zoologist Barb Jones who got very excited and confirmed what he had

recorded - a numbat, of course! Wildlife experts have assumed that numbats have been extinct in the area for at least 50 years, based on observed declines and extinctions elsewhere.

If there are numbats, perhaps there are other mammals too? Peter Orell and the Western Shield team are off on a field trip this October, let's hope they make some exciting finds!

So please folks, if you see something interesting, photograph it. You never know what an amazing record you might be making!