

WESTERN BRISTLEBIRDS AT NUYTS

At least five (and probably at least seven) Western Bristlebirds were located in the September 2002 monitoring at Nuyts Wilderness, Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Since 1999 and 2000, when we translocated a total of 15 birds from Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve to Nuyts, the birds have had to cope with a major wildfire in March 2001. Monitoring in September 2003 was more difficult because the birds were calling less frequently than expected, perhaps because of unusual seasonal conditions. Given these circumstances, we are encouraged by the numbers of birds recorded during the latest

monitoring.

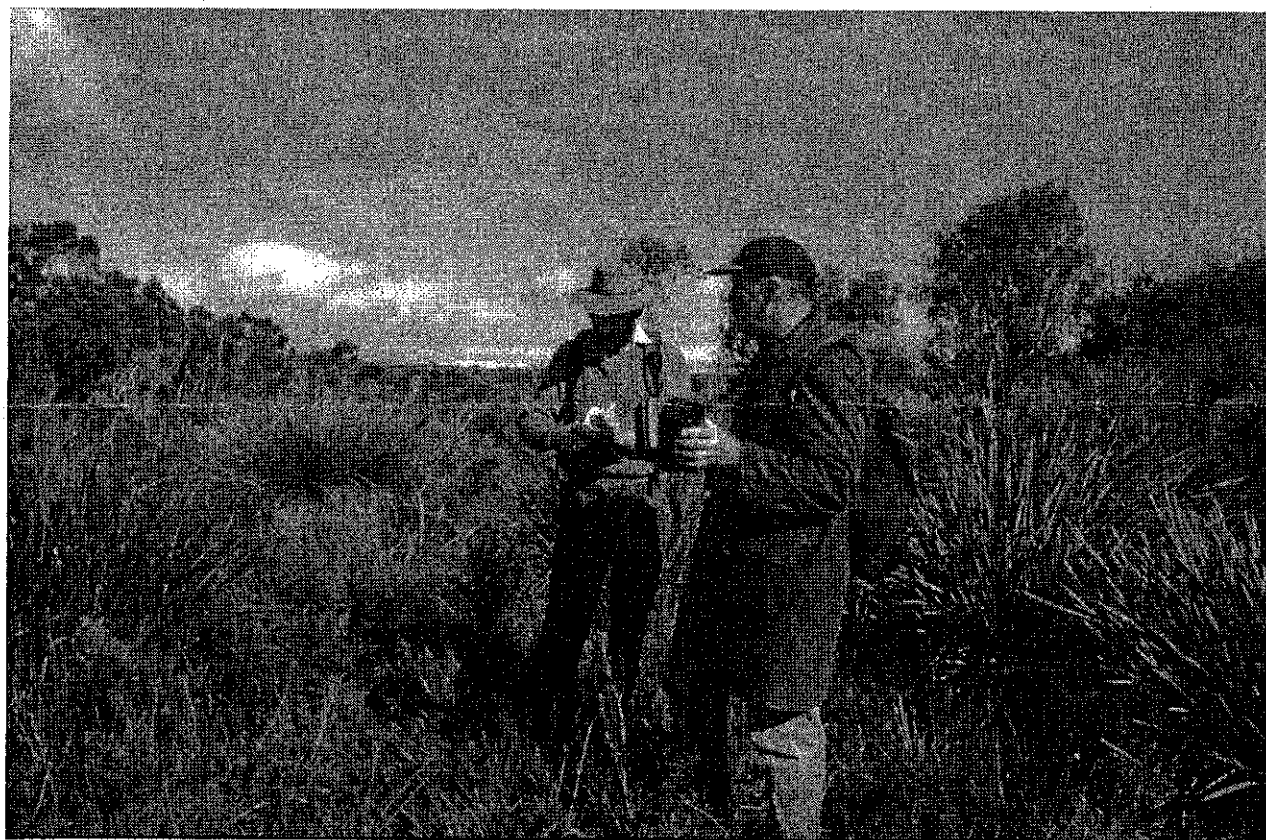
As in the previous year, birds were concentrated in the buffer strip that was burnt in 1998 to provide some protection of the area from wildfire.

At the recent Recovery Team meeting, options for future actions were discussed. It was agreed that putting extra birds into this site would make it too difficult to determine whether the translocation was really successful. (For a translocation to be judged as successful, we would need to demonstrate that breeding had occurred at the site). Instead, we decided to investigate another site a few kilometres away near the

Woolbale Hills. After field inspections and discussions with local CALM staff and other knowledgeable individuals, we feel that a translocation to this site would be viable. This would probably occur in spring of next year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those volunteers and CALM staff members from Albany, Walpole and Perth who have contributed to this program – the dedication to successful conservation outcomes is inspiring, and has been a major factor in our success to date.

Allan Burbidge



ALLAN BURBIDGE & NEIL HAMILTON SURVEYING THE 1998 BUFFER IN NUYTS WILDERNESS FOR WESTERN BRISTLEBIRDS, SEPTEMBER 2002. Photo: Sarah Comer