

Progress Report SP 2017-036

Conservation of the night parrot

Animal Science

Project Core Team

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Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

Conservation of the night parrot

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Context

The critically endangered night parrot has been confirmed breeding in only two locations - one in Queensland and one in Western Australia. The night parrot has not been adequately surveyed across much of its potential habitat, and a lack of knowledge of foraging and roosting habits has hampered progress in understanding the ecology of the species. This constrains possible recovery actions and management relating to resource development proposals. Identifying the conservation requirements of the night parrot is essential for informed management of this poorly known species.

Aims

- Assess the spatial extent of the population in Matuwa/Lorna Glen and surrounding areas, and subsequently the entire Lake Carnegie catchment.
- Determine where the birds are foraging by identifying vegetation types they are using and the spatial relationship between roosting and foraging habitat.
- Determine differences in the vegetation at occupied versus non-occupied roost sites and foraging sites to inform predictive models.
- Engage with Traditional Owners to encourage survey for night parrots and sensitive management for the species.

Progress

- A small number of audio recording units have been deployed in known or suspected night parrot habitat in the east Murchison to detect calls.
- A paper documenting all known calls of night parrots across Australia, including some calls known only from WA, was published in *Australian Field Ornithology*.

Management implications

- Documentation of known night parrot calls will improve survey and monitoring for the species and facilitate a better understanding of their distribution and conservation status.
- Information on distribution will guide conservation management and assessments of the impacts of resource developments on the species.

Future directions

- Deploy autonomous recording units to better understand the area of occupancy and extent of occurrence of night parrots in the Lake Carnegie catchment.