

## **Progress Report SP 2012-022**

# **Conservation of south coast threatened birds**

**Animal Science**

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**Project Team**

required

**Program Leader**

required

**Directorate**

required

# Conservation of south coast threatened birds

A Burbidge

## Context

Identifying the conservation requirements of threatened south coast birds, such as the Critically Endangered western ground parrot, Endangered noisy scrub-bird, Vulnerable western bristlebird and western subspecies of the western whipbird, and the Endangered Australasian bittern, will aid *in situ* management of these taxa. Understanding responses to fire and hydrological changes, biological and behavioural characteristics, such as vulnerability to predation, and nesting site requirements are essential knowledge for the conservation of these Western Australian birds (some of them endemic to the south-west) and the development of management programs.

## Aims

- Develop an understanding of the biological and ecological factors that limit the distribution and numbers of south coast threatened birds, including interactions with predators, habitat requirements and response to fire.
- Increase the survival chances of south coast threatened birds and increase their total population size through creation of management prescriptions that will benefit all threatened south coast animals.

## Progress

- An assessment of field testing of performance characteristics of recording units, in relation to scrub-bird and ground parrot calls, has been accepted for publication in *Emu - Austral Ornithology*.
- An analysis of occurrence of Western Bristlebirds in relation to fire over several decades in Fitzgerald River National Park has been submitted for publication.
- Analysis of monitoring data on scrub-birds at Two Peoples Bay has not led to identification of a reason for recent declines, although several potentially contributing factors (including fire and predators) have been identified; a paper has been accepted for publication in *Pacific Conservation Biology*.
- An evaluation of feral cat control and impacts on ground parrots has been submitted for publication in *Wildlife Research*.
- Population monitoring of western ground parrots has continued following another major fire in late 2019, and ahead of a proposed translocation.
- A translocation proposal and risk analyses are being developed ahead of a proposed translocation to be conducted in the next 12 months.

## Management implications

- Knowledge of the biology and responses to threats of south coast threatened birds provides a basis for decision making and management actions for their recovery, especially with respect to introduced predators and fire, in important conservation reserves on the south coast.

## Future directions

- Finalise papers on response to fire by bristlebirds, changes in scrub-bird abundance and acoustic data.
- Continue to develop monitoring analyses and techniques, particularly for ground parrots, scrub-birds and Australasian bitterns, and finish writing up recent survey data.