

wildlife matters

australian

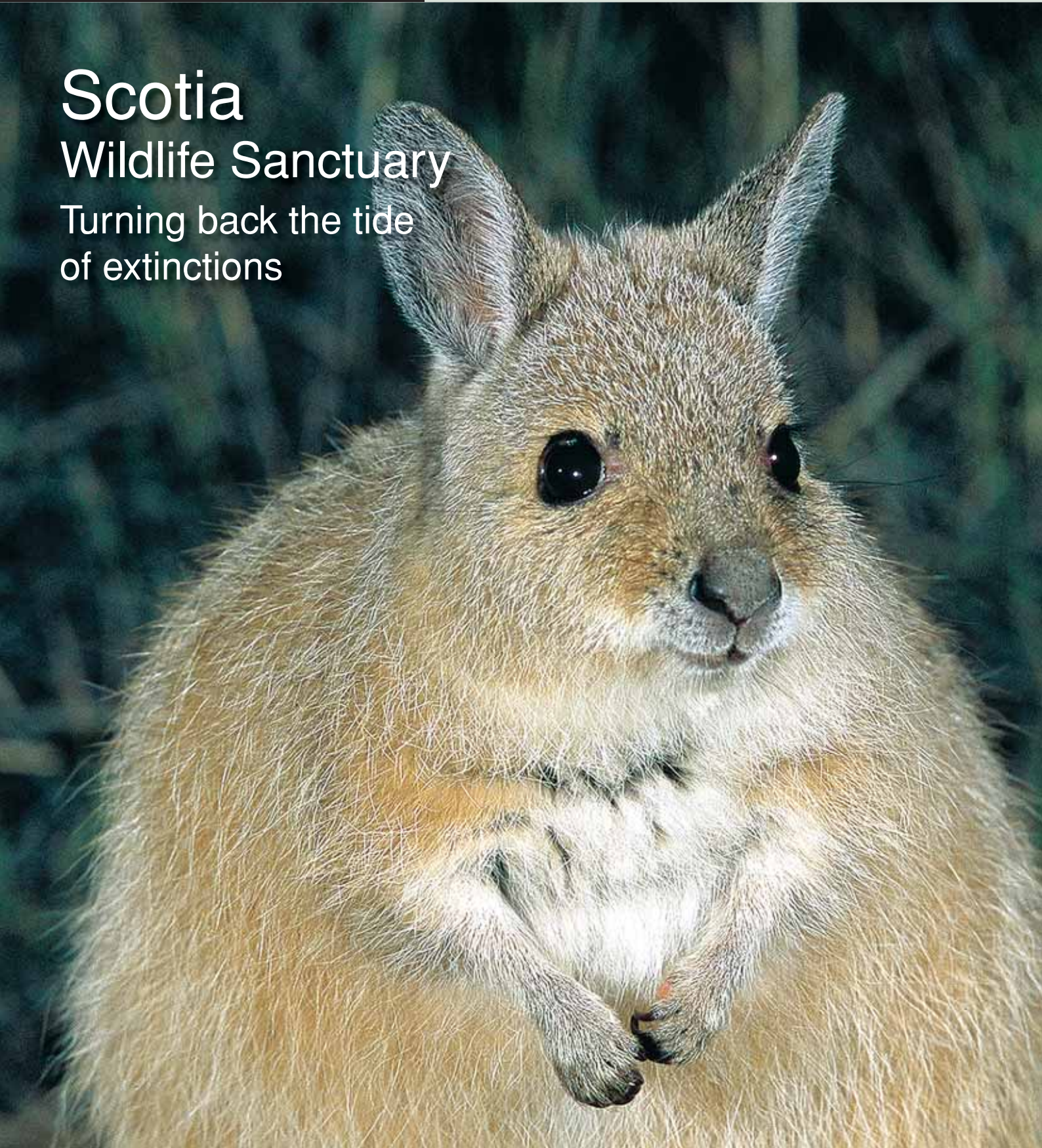


wildlife
conservancy

MAY 2005

Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary

Turning back the tide
of extinctions



saving australia's threatened wildlife



the awc mission

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is dedicated to saving Australia's threatened wildlife and ecosystems. To achieve this mission, our actions are focused on:

- Establishing a network of sanctuaries which protect threatened wildlife and ecosystems: AWC now owns 13 sanctuaries covering 655,000 hectares (over 1.6 million acres).
- Implementing practical, on-ground conservation programs to protect the wildlife at our sanctuaries: these programs include feral animal control, fire management and the translocation of endangered species.
- Conducting (either alone or in collaboration with other organisations) scientific research that will help address the key threats to our native wildlife.
- Hosting visitor programs at our sanctuaries for the purpose of education and promoting awareness of the plight of Australia's wildlife.

about awc

AWC is an independent, non-profit organisation based in Perth, Western Australia. Donations to AWC are tax deductible.

During 2003-2004, over 90% of AWC's total expenditure was spent on conservation programs, including land acquisition. Less than 10% was on development (fundraising) and administration.

Cover photo: Mala (Ecopix/Wayne Lawler)

australian wildlife conservancy

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Welcome to another edition of *Wildlife Matters*. I hope you will enjoy reading our latest news, with detailed reports on AWC's projects at Scotia, Mornington and Brooklyn as well as selected updates from our other sanctuaries.

With your support, AWC has achieved some remarkable outcomes since the previous edition of *Wildlife Matters*:

- The title to Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary has been transferred to AWC and we have acted quickly to implement priority on-ground management actions.
- At Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary, AWC has completed the establishment of a 4,000 hectare (10,000 acre) feral predator-free area. Initial releases of Bilbies, Boodies, Woylies and Bridled Nailtail Wallabies have been conducted.
- AWC's conservation and research program at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary has identified significant new information about the endangered Gouldian Finch; in addition, we are developing an innovative new tool for measuring the health of populations of endangered species.

Great progress is also being made at other AWC sanctuaries around Australia. Our commitment to delivering practical, on-ground management is as strong as ever and we have invested accordingly. In the last financial year, over 90% of our overall expenditure was dedicated to conservation with less than 10% going to development (fundraising) and administration combined. We are determined to protect our threatened wildlife and threatened ecosystems from weeds, feral animals and altered fire regimes.

Importantly, our supporters know that their donations are making a difference where it really counts – in the field.

You will notice as you read this edition of *Wildlife Matters* that AWC is increasingly working in partnership with a range of organizations – national parks agencies, universities, leading conservation groups such as Birds Australia and companies such as the Sydney Aquarium. Such collaboration enables AWC to achieve even more with our available resources. I look forward to outlining details of some exciting new strategic partnerships over the next few months.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to AWC's dedicated field staff. Our teams in north Queensland, the Kimberley, the southeast and the southwest share a remarkable commitment to conservation. I believe they are among the leading land managers and conservation biologists in Australia, achieving important outcomes for threatened wildlife across the continent. AWC field staff experience difficult and challenging conditions in the course of their duties, yet their passion and dedication is unwavering. On their behalf, I thank you for supporting them and making it possible for AWC to contribute to the survival and recovery of species like the Bilby, the Gouldian Finch, the Woylie and the Northern Bettong.

The achievements set out in the following pages are a direct result of your support. I trust you will enjoy reading about the conservation programs that you have made possible. With your continuing support, AWC will be able to do even more to provide a secure future for our endangered species and ecosystems.

Atticus Fleming
Chief Executive

Brooklyn

Wildlife Sanctuary

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is now the proud owner of Brooklyn Station. Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary, as it is now known, is AWC's 13th reserve. In terms of mammal and bird diversity, Brooklyn is the richest non-government nature reserve in Australia. However, while the title to this wildlife haven now rests securely in AWC's hands, our greatest challenge has only just begun – overcoming the forces that threaten Brooklyn's wildlife such as feral animals, weeds and altered fire regimes.

Thank you to all of AWC's supporters who have contributed generously to our Brooklyn fundraising campaign. Your support, together with a generous contribution from the Australian Government, enabled AWC to proceed with the acquisition of Brooklyn. While the response to our campaign to date has been very strong, we urgently need additional funds to underwrite the long-term management of Brooklyn. This is perhaps AWC's most exciting and challenging project so far. We hope you can help us meet this challenge through your continued support.

The wildlife appears...

As if the mammals and birds of Brooklyn knew that title had passed to a sympathetic owner, some of Australia's rarest species have already revealed themselves to Brooklyn's managers, Mick and Clare Blackman.

- **Cassowary:** An adult Cassowary, with chicks, was sighted near the Mt Lewis road on Brooklyn by Lloyd Neilsen, a leading authority on the birds of north Queensland. According to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brooklyn contains several

thousand hectares of critical habitat for the endangered Cassowary.

- **Brush-tailed Phascogale:** A rarely seen mammal, the Brush-tailed Phascogale, has taken up residence near the Brooklyn homestead. This is one of only a few records of the Phascogale in the Mitchell River valley.
- **Red Goshawk:** Red Goshawks have been sighted on several occasions by AWC staff, confirming Brooklyn as an important site for this threatened raptor.
- **Spotted-tailed Quoll:** A quoll was recently seen on the road at Brooklyn, probably the nationally threatened Spotted-tailed Quoll. The Northern Quoll, recently added to the Federal endangered species list, is also found on Brooklyn.

...and the on-ground management begins.

Mick and Clare Blackman have done an outstanding job in setting up the sanctuary headquarters on Brooklyn and implementing priority management actions.



Brush-tailed Phascogale

M. Macomber

- **Establishing infrastructure:** The humble station homestead has been resurrected and now serves as a temporary sanctuary headquarters.
- **Fencing:** A fence of approximately 25 kilometres has been constructed to prevent cattle invading the sanctuary and to assist in controlling visitor access to the property.
- **Fire management:** Mick is having great success already in implementing a prescribed burning regime that will maintain and restore the integrity of Brooklyn's diverse woodlands.
- **Visitor management:** In the past, there has been a high level of unauthorized access to Brooklyn, with large numbers of people camping along the Mitchell River despite the absence of any facilities. This has led to the degradation of riparian areas. To overcome this problem, AWC has closed Brooklyn to public access until further notice. Our intention is to re-open Brooklyn to strictly controlled visitation after riparian ecosystems have regenerated and appropriate facilities have been established.



Controlling weeds (rubber vine) with fire

M. Blackman

More than 60 threatened species are relying upon AWC to implement practical, on-ground management at Brooklyn. Please help protect this biodiversity hotspot and its threatened wildlife by making a donation to AWC to assist in the conservation of Brooklyn.

Scotia

Endangered Mammal Recovery Project

In a truly historic moment for conservation, four of Australia's rarest mammals have been released into the wild at AWC's Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary in western NSW.

The night of 10 December 2004 should be recognized as a pivotal moment in our battle to save Australia's endangered mammals. In many respects, it was a night just like any other night in semi-arid Australia. The temperature dropped, the birds fell silent and the stars looked spectacular. Elsewhere across inland Australia, very few creatures stirred – the small-medium sized mammals that were once a critical part of these ecosystems were nowhere to be seen. They had disappeared many years ago. However, on this particular night at Scotia, something remarkable was happening: a Burrowing Bettong emerged into the moonlight and began to dig; Woylies hopped about searching for food; a Bridled Naitail Wallaby and her joey rested beneath some shrubs; and a Bilby explored the red sands of Scotia as if re-acquainting himself with a long lost friend.

Animals of all four species had been released at Scotia earlier that evening by AWC staff, led by Dr Joss Bentley, working in co-operation with staff from

the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This historic release was the result of more than 2 years of planning and preparation by AWC and our partners.

Bilbies, Bridled Naitail Wallabies, Boodies and Woylies all disappeared from NSW several decades ago, primarily as a result of cat and fox predation. All four species are officially listed as 'extinct' under NSW legislation.

Now, however, the Bilby, the Bridled Naitail Wallaby, the Boodie and the Woylie are back in the wild in western NSW. They are roaming free within a 4,000 hectare (10,000 acre) feral predator-free area established by AWC at Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary. We intend to increase the size of Scotia's fox and cat free area to at least 12,000 hectares (30,000 acres) by the end of 2006, if we can raise sufficient funds. The larger area will mean significantly greater populations of all four species, providing further insurance against their extinction.

In total, 20 Bilbies, 110 Woylies, 60 Boodies and 80 Bridled Naitail Wallabies have been released at Scotia to date. Several animals from each species were radio-collared, allowing AWC staff to monitor the success of the releases. So far, the results have been encouraging. Survival rates have been very high. In addition, there is evidence that all four species are breeding successfully in their new home and that populations are increasing.

As part of AWC's groundbreaking conservation program at Scotia, a nationally significant biodiversity



Jamie Rockliff, AWC Regional Manager, inspects the Scotia fence

research project is being carried out in collaboration with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Sydney University. This research project is examining various aspects of the ecology of each mammal species as well as issues associated with mammal release techniques and methodologies. We hope the results of this research will help us further develop strategies for releasing mammals in other areas, including areas that are not fenced.



Bridled Naitail Wallabies at Scotia



Radio-tracking Bilbies at Scotia

B. Pratten



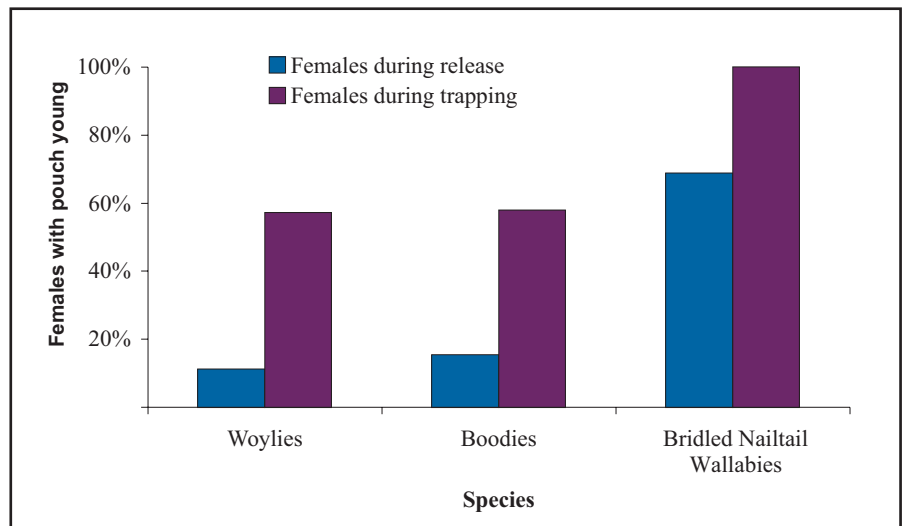
A Boodie is prepared for release

B. Pratten

Detailed progress reports on the initial releases at Scotia will be available on the AWC website in late June. Further mammal releases are scheduled for June and September 2005.

One of the objectives of AWC's Scotia Endangered Mammal Recovery Project is to have the Bilby, the Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, the Bettong and the Boodie all removed from the 'extinct' list in NSW. Such an outcome would provide a real demonstration of the potential to turn back the tide of mammal extinctions in Australia.

You can help increase the size of the feral predator-free area at Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary. A donation of \$1,000 will build 100 metres of fencing to protect endangered mammals such as the Bilby.



Comparison of the percentage of females carrying pouch young at the time of release in December and during the February trapping session, illustrating successful breeding since release.

Operation Mala Recovery

The mainland Mala is one of the rarest mammals in the world. It is listed as extinct in the wild, being found only in 4 semi-wild populations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and at Scotia.

On 13 October 2004, AWC and the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission (NTPWC) conducted a joint operation to airlift 19 Mala from the Northern Territory to Scotia. The precious cargo landed at Scotia in the late afternoon and were released later that night into a specially constructed 100 hectare fenced area dubbed 'the Mala Paddock'. The environment in the Mala Paddock provides everything a Mala could want – lots of spinifex for food and shelter and no foxes or cats.

Unfortunately, one Mala failed to survive the long flight. However, the other 18 animals joined 12 Mala that were already at Scotia and we now have a thriving Mala population.

AWC extends its appreciation to the Sydney Aquarium for its generous sponsorship of the translocation. Together, AWC, the NTPWC and Sydney Aquarium have helped provide a much more secure future for the endangered Mala.



Mala arrive at Scotia after the flight from the NT

B. Pratten

Conservation and Research at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary



Radio transmitter

Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary in the Central Kimberley is one of northern Australia's most important nature reserves. Covering 312,000 hectares (770,000 acres), AWC's largest sanctuary is a stronghold for endangered species such as the Gouldian Finch.

Key management challenges for AWC at Mornington include implementing one of Australia's largest destocking programs and developing an innovative new approach to fire management. Underpinning AWC's on-ground management is a leading biodiversity research program focused on unlocking the secrets to the survival of the Gouldian Finch and other declining species. In the article below, AWC ecologists Sarah Legge and Steve Murphy summarise the first twelve months of the Gouldian Finch Recovery Project.



Longtailed Finch with radio transmitter

Most AWC supporters will be well aware of the plight of the Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura Gouldiae*). Once a common bird across Australia's northern savannas, Gouldians are now restricted to a few small, scattered populations. Other tropical seed-eating birds have also declined in recent decades, but none have declined as dramatically as the Gouldian Finch.

The endangered Gouldian Finch has been the focus of much research, debate and concern for almost 20 years. The National Recovery Team, on which AWC plays a key role, believes that the most likely reason for the Gouldian's decline is that widespread changes in land

management (eg, cattle grazing, altered fire regimes) have worsened a period of 'natural' food shortage for seed-eaters in the early wet season. During this period, most grasses are flowering and therefore ripe seed is scarce. Seed-eaters, including Gouldians, may have to fly a long way to find the sparsely scattered food. Even during the best years, birds may be in poor condition during this period. Accordingly, any land management change that results in even less seed being available during this period - such as an increase in large, hot wildfires at the end of the dry season - could push individual birds 'over the edge' and cause a crash in the population.

As appealing as this "austerity" hypothesis sounds, it remains an educated guess with little direct evidence to support it. In order to help guide the national Gouldian recovery effort, AWC's first task was to test this hypothesis rigorously at Mornington. We split the problem into two parts:

- First, we needed to find out whether Gouldians are working harder (i.e. flying further) for their food in the wet.
- Second, we needed to test if Gouldians experience a period of physiological stress that could underpin an annual population crash.



A Gouldian Finch at Mornington

How far should a Gouldian fly?

A simple way to answer this question is to ‘read’ the wings of the birds. Birds that fly short distances have broad and rounded wings; however, this makes for slower, less energetically efficient flight. For sustained flight, birds opt for longer, more pointed wings; extreme examples include swifts and albatrosses.

Over the last year, we have traced the wings of several hundred finches that we have caught on Mornington: see the accompanying diagram which illustrates typical wing outlines for four species of finch. Notice that the Crimson and Double-barred Finches have relatively rounded, broad wings. This fits with what we know about their ecology – they live in thicker vegetation, making only short flights between patches of cover. The wing outlines of the Longtailed and Gouldian Finches show that they fly longer distances because their wings are relatively narrower and more pointed. The Gouldian is even more extreme in this respect than the Longtailed Finch. In other words, compared to the other finches, Gouldians ‘feel the need for speed’. This means Gouldians should be able to fly further than other finches during the wet season to locate patches of seed.

This begs the question – how far are Gouldians travelling to find food? For a small but fast-moving bird like the Gouldian

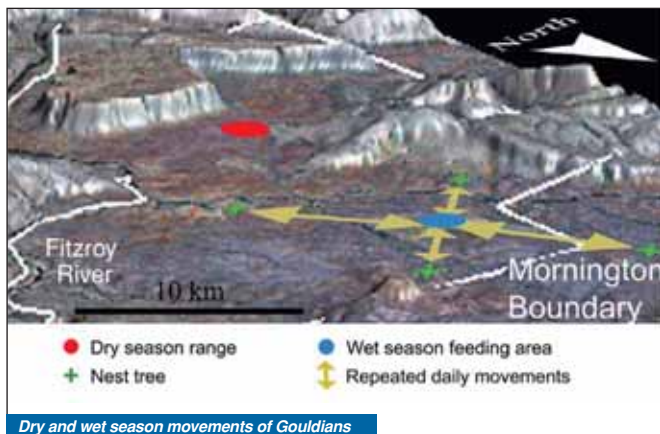


Wet season habitat for Gouldians on Mornington

Finch, there is only one way to tackle this problem - radio-telemetry. Using tiny transmitters, weighing just 0.4g, we radio-tracked Gouldians almost constantly for about two weeks in the dry season, and a further five weeks in the wet season.

We assumed that the birds would need to fly further in the wet if wet season food plants are rare. In fact, our study showed that birds did move into different areas during the wet season to forage, but that they also commuted from these feeding areas to breeding (nesting) areas (even before nest building began). In fact, these linear commutes were repeated during the course of a day, with the effect that our little 13g Gouldians were flying up to 17km in a day! In contrast, during the dry season Gouldians tended to centre around two main water holes within about 2.8km² where large areas of food (sorghum seed) were accessible.

The behavioural obligation to visit nests regularly during the day has important implications if areas of wet season grasses become rare in the landscape. Our analyses of wing shape show that Gouldians are adapted to relatively long-distance flight, suggesting it is probably normal to fly reasonable distances between feeding and breeding areas. However, there must be an upper limit for the Gouldian. If the impacts of cattle grazing and altered fire regimes result in feeding and nesting patches becoming separated by greater distances, birds will suffer and may become physiologically stressed as they try to fly between them. If patches become too widely separated and Gouldians can no longer afford ‘energetically’ to cover the distances involved, birds may suffer reduced reproductive success. Both of these processes are likely to have a negative effect on Gouldian populations, leading eventually to a population decline.



Dry and wet season movements of Gouldians



Measuring finch wings



Searching for Gouldian Finches on Mornington

Is the wet season a bad time for Gouldians?

Every bird we catch is fitted with a numbered aluminium band and a unique combination of coloured plastic bands so that we can easily recognise the bird's identity from afar by using binoculars. Over time, regular resighting of colour-banded birds will tell us whether birds are more likely to die during the wet season.

However, the trouble with following banded birds and waiting to see when they die is that it takes a long time for the patterns to emerge. We needed a more immediate and direct way of assessing how the Gouldians were faring, so we borrowed some techniques from

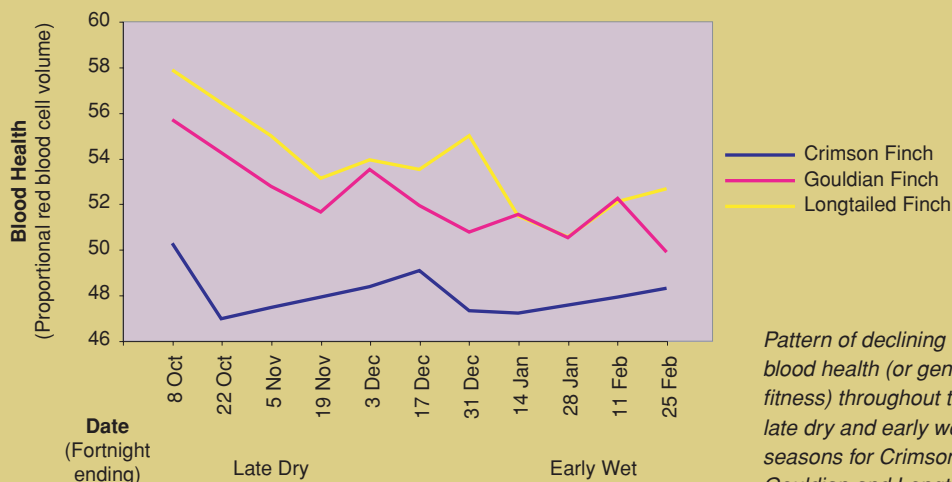
physiological medicine. We have been using several methods for measuring the health of a bird, but one of the most interesting concerns the rate of red blood cell synthesis.

Red blood cell synthesis

Animals are constantly producing red blood cells to replace the cells that die. However this costs energy. If a Gouldian is not getting enough food over several days, the rate of red blood manufacture will drop and the number of red blood cells in the blood will drop. We can measure this very simply: we take a tiny blood sample from each bird we catch. The samples are rushed back in a chilled esky to our lab at the Mornington Wilderness Camp. Juggling precious

samples nestled amongst ice cubes in a 4WD on a bumpy dirt track takes some skill! Once in the lab, we spin the samples in a high-speed centrifuge. This separates the red blood cells from the blood fluid and we can measure the proportion of red blood cells to fluid. The higher the proportion, the healthier the bird. When the volume of red blood cells is very low, the birds are anaemic. Red blood cells carry oxygen around the body, so anaemia affects the bird's ability to fly in search of food and to escape predators. Bad news for a little finch.

We have been following the blood health of several finch species for about 6 months. Some of the results for three finch species are summarised in the accompanying graph. Longtailed and



Pattern of declining blood health (or general fitness) throughout the late dry and early wet seasons for Crimson, Gouldian and Longtailed Finches



Blood samples from Gouldian Finches



Implementing an eco-friendly fire regime at Mornington

A. Dudley

Gouldian Finches have a broadly similar ecology – they live in grassy woodlands, they move fair distances over the landscape (as shown by their wing shapes), and they eat similar types of seed. However, whereas Gouldians are endangered, Longtaileds are extremely plentiful, and have actually increased in numbers during the last few decades. In contrast, Crimson Finches live along creeks and rarely venture into the open savanna, they fly shorter distances, and they also eat different sorts of seed.

Crimsons show only the slightest drop in red blood cell volume as the dry season wears on and is replaced by the wet season, suggesting that they experience little trouble finding food during this time. (Note the dip in October – Crimsons moult during this month). The patterns in Longtaileds and Gouldians are quite different – they clearly do it progressively tougher as the seasons change. Although Gouldians dipped more than Longtaileds during February (it is too early to know whether this will be sustained), the decline in red blood cells is generally steeper for Longtailed Finches than it is for Gouldians.

This means that the superabundant Longtailed finch struggled more than the endangered Gouldian during the proposed period of food shortage for seed-eaters. The plot, it seems, has just gotten a little thicker!

What does it mean for Gouldians on Mornington?

Our research suggests that, for the past year on Mornington, Gouldians have done just fine. In fact, we have no evidence that they experienced a period of food deprivation. If changes in land management are causing the decline of Gouldians elsewhere, then AWC's land management at Mornington must be close to the mark. The fact that AWC has been progressively reducing the impact of cattle grazing, and the dramatic topography of Mornington has helped

reduce the impact of wildfires, has probably helped limit any reduction in wet season food resources at Mornington. This is great news for the Gouldian Finch and other threatened seed eating birds and mammals which find refuge on Mornington.

More work is required at Mornington, and other sites across northern Australia, to further test the “austerity” hypothesis and to develop management strategies to address any human-induced decline in wet season food resources. AWC is joining forces with other organisations including Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to undertake such work.

All photos in this article by S. Murphy unless otherwise stated.

One thing that is already clear is that AWC is developing valuable and innovative tools for measuring the impact of land management practices on threatened species. As we continue to destock and manage fire, AWC will continue measuring the health of Gouldians and other key species to make sure we are ‘getting it right’. Moreover, with some tweaking and refining, we should be able to export this technique to other land managers across the tropical north. This will make an enormous contribution to the conservation of northern Australia's imperilled biodiversity.



AWC Sanctuary News

Mt Zero-Taravale

For the third year in a row, the wet season at Mt Zero-Taravale has delivered below average rainfall. The dryer conditions offer one advantage in that they have assisted AWC in addressing one of our priority management challenges – halting the encroachment of rainforest species into the wet sclerophyll forests. AWC is working in collaboration with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to 'test' different fire regimes and their role in maintaining a healthy wet sclerophyll community. These forests are important to endangered species such as the Northern Bettong.

In other news at Mt Zero-Taravale, additional populations of the Sharman's Rock-wallaby have been located on the sanctuary by AWC's manager, Peter Hensler, and Peter Johnston (QPWS). Recent surveys have extended the species distribution to cover the entire sanctuary, confirming it is a stronghold for this elusive and endangered wallaby. AWC would like to thank Dr. Mark Eldridge of Macquarie University who conducted genetic tests to positively identify the species as Sharman's Rock-wallaby.

Buckaringa

Buckaringa Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, is home to an important population of the nationally threatened Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. Management activities at Buckaringa have intensified in recent months with several initiatives:

- baiting of foxes;
- removal of goats;
- the re-establishment of infrastructure; and
- monitoring of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby population.

Faure Island

A second release of Banded Hare-wallabies occurred in May 2005, with a total of 9 animals being translocated to the island in a collaborative effort with the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management. These animals join the 7 Banded Hare-wallabies initially released on Faure Island in 2004. Monitoring by AWC staff has also revealed the recruitment of three new wallabies since the initial release.

Populations of the Shark Bay Mouse and the Burrowing Bettong, released on Faure Island in 2002, are stable and healthy.



A Malleefowl mound at Mt Gibson

J. Williams



Crested Shrike-tit

M. Morcombe

Mt Gibson

AWC is implementing a Malleefowl recovery project at Mt Gibson with support from the WWF Threatened Species Network. The project involves fox control, fire management and a monitoring program. In early April, AWC staff and members of the North Central Malleefowl Preservation Group conducted initial monitoring and surveys over a small area of Mt Gibson, identifying one bird and recording many tracks and several inactive mounds. Aerial fox-baiting commenced in May in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and neighbouring properties.

Paruna

On a morning bird-walk at Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary, members of Birds Australia made an exciting discovery: a positive sighting of a Crested Shrike-tit. The south-western subspecies of this bird is listed as near threatened. It has disappeared from a large part of its range, especially in the wheatbelt where it is unable to persist within isolated remnant bushland. Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary connects two National Parks, ensuring large area of habitat (in this case Wandoo woodland) is secured for rare species such as the Crested Shrike-tit.



Shark Bay Mouse on Faure Island

J. Chambers

AWC Staff Recognized for Excellence

Two of the AWC staff team have received awards recognizing their great work in helping to save Australia's wildlife.

Linda Mauger works in AWC's head office in Perth. In February 2005, Linda was identified as one of Western Australia's top '40 under 40' by the WA Business News. This means Linda is recognized as one of Australia's leading young entrepreneurs. Linda plays a critical role in co-ordinating the national operations of AWC, providing a valuable link between sanctuaries around Australia and our head office. She has also been instrumental in the development of the Mornington Wilderness Camp.

In April 2005, **Sally Bart** was named as WA's Young Environmentalist of the Year. Sally is based at AWC's Karakamia Sanctuary where, along with the rest of the south-west region team, she delivers effective, on-ground management at Karakamia, Paruna, Mt Gibson and Faure Island sanctuaries. In addition to her work with AWC, Sally was recognized for her years of dedication to volunteering and environmental work in her local community.

AWC is proud to have Linda and Sally as part of the team and is pleased that their efforts have been recognized with these special awards.



Linda Mauger



Sally Bart

Financial Summary Highlights AWC's On-ground Focus

AWC programs are funded primarily by tax deductible donations from individuals and organisations who share our commitment to the conservation of Australia's wildlife. AWC supporters include major donors, with the capacity to provide substantial financial support, and a broad base of small but regular donors. We value the contributions made by all of our donors who together are helping to build a more secure future for Australia's wildlife.

AWC has a commitment to strong and disciplined financial management. This is reflected in our capacity to ensure that the overwhelming proportion of AWC funds is spent directly on conservation programs. For example, Figure 1 illustrates that during 2003/2004:

- 92% of AWC's expenditure was dedicated to conservation programs, including feral animal control, weed control, fire management, the translocation of threatened species and the acquisition of land for conservation.
- Only 4% of AWC expenditure was on development (fundraising).
- Only 4% of expenditure was on administration.

If capital expenditure on land purchase is excluded, AWC still devoted 83% of its operational expenditure to conservation programs (Figure 2).

This is an exceptional outcome which we believe sets the standard for organisations in our sector in Australia.

By operating efficiently and effectively, with an emphasis on delivering on-ground programs, AWC ensures that your donation has a real impact where it matters - in the field!

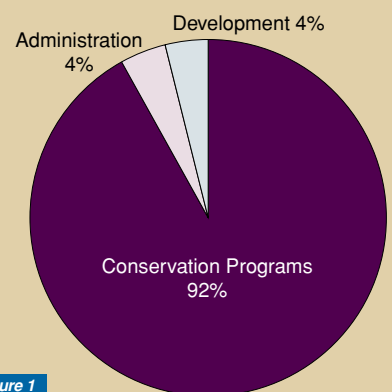


Figure 1

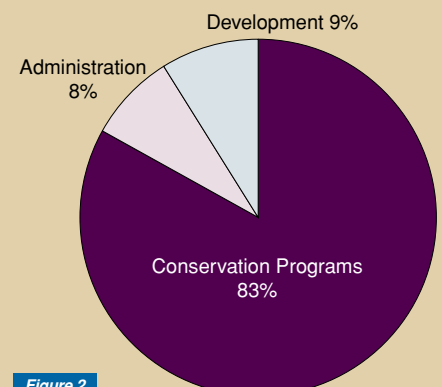


Figure 2



J. Heathcote

A. Dudley

Volunteering at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary

This is your chance to work in one of Australia's most spectacular wilderness areas! AWC needs skilled and committed volunteers to fill the following positions:

- **Handymen/women:** to assist in the construction of a wildlife research centre, bird hides and other tasks; carpentry and metalworking skills desirable; to start as soon as possible for a minimum of 4 weeks.
- **General labourers:** a team of 4 people is required in August to help dismantle, move and re-erect a large machinery shed! Another person is required as soon as possible to help with grounds maintenance at the Wilderness Camp.
- **Weed control:** At least two people are needed to undertake weed control for a period of at least two weeks; starting as soon as possible.
- **Interpretation:** one creative person is required to help establish and decorate the interpretive centre at Mornington; sound knowledge of ecology is required; to start as soon as possible.

AWC will provide food and accommodation in large tents (sleeping in beds) for volunteers staying more than two weeks. We will also provide transport from Broome. Contact: Alex Dudley (alex@d@australianwildlife.org or 08 9191 4619).

we urgently need your help

yes, I want to help awc save australia's endangered wildlife at places like brooklyn, scotia and mornington wildlife sanctuaries

Name: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
 Address: _____
 _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Country: _____
 Telephone: W) _____ H) _____
 E-mail: _____

MONTHLY PLEDGE

I wish to become a regular supporter and give a tax deductible donation **each month** of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$ _____
Other (minimum \$10)

I wish to pay by: **Direct debit from my bank account**
Please fill in Direct Debit Request (see opposite).
 Credit card - Please fill in details below or call (08) 9226 0340.

DONATION

I am unable to give monthly but would like to make a **single tax deductible** donation of:
 \$100 \$250 \$1000 \$5000 \$ _____
Other (minimum \$10)

I wish to pay by: **Credit card** - Please fill in details below or call (08) 9226 0340.
 Cheque/Money Order - (enclosed)
Payable to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund.

Credit Card Details

Mastercard Visa AMEX Bankcard Diners

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Card Number Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name: _____
 Signature: _____

Direct Debit Request

I / We request that you draw by way of the Direct Debit System, \$ _____ per month, for the payment of a monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund.

My/Our Account details are

Institution: _____
 Account Name: _____
 Account Number: _____ BSB: _____

I / We acknowledge that this Direct Debit Request is governed by the terms of the "Direct Debit Client Service Agreement" (below).

Signature: _____
 Printed Name in Full: _____ Date: _____

Commemorative Plaque

I have donated \$250 or more or made a monthly pledge of \$25 or more. Please commemorate my name on a plaque at Brooklyn.

Bequests

I am interested in making a bequest in my will. Please send me some information.

Information

Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to receive news and information on our latest initiatives and progress.

Your Direct Debit Client Service Agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy ("our", "we" or "us"), ABN 36 068 572 556

Our Commitment to You, Drawing Arrangements:

1. We will advise you, in writing, the details of your monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy (amount, frequency, commencement date) at least 3 calendar days prior to the first drawing. Thereafter each drawing will be made on the 15th day of each month (or part thereof as specified).
2. Where the due date falls on a non-business day, the drawing will be made on the next working day.
3. We will not change the amount or frequency of drawings arrangements without your prior approval.
4. We reserve the right to cancel your monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy if three or more drawings are returned unpaid by your nominated Financial Institution and to arrange with you an alternative payment method.
5. We will keep all information pertaining to your nominated account at the Financial Institution, private and confidential.
6. We will promptly respond to any concerns you may have about amounts debited to your account.
7. We will send a receipt within 45 days of the conclusion of the financial year summarizing your entire year's gifts for tax purposes.

Your Rights:

1. You may terminate your monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy at any time by giving written notice directly to us (PO Box 1897 West Perth WA 6872), or through your nominated Financial Institution. Notice given to us should be received by us at least 5 business days prior to the due date.
2. You may stop payment of a monthly donation by giving written notice directly to us (PO Box 1897 West Perth WA 6872), or through your nominated Financial Institution. Notice given to us should be received by us at least 5 business days prior to the due date.
3. You may request a change to the donation amount and/or frequency of the monthly donations by contacting us on (08) 9226 0340 and advising your requirements no less than 5 business days prior to the due date.
4. Where you consider that a drawing has been initiated incorrectly (outside the monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy arrangements) you may take the matter up directly with us on (08) 9226 0340, or lodge a Direct Debit Claim through your nominated Financial Institution.

Your commitment to us, Your responsibilities:

1. It is your responsibility to ensure that sufficient funds are available in the

nominated account to meet a drawing on its due date. (You may be charged a fee by your Financial Institution if the account details are incorrect or there are insufficient funds in the nominated account when we attempt to deduct donations.)

2. It is your responsibility to ensure that the authorisation given to draw on the nominated account, is identical to the account signing instruction held by the Financial Institution where your account is based.
3. It is your responsibility to advise us if the account nominated for transactions with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund is transferred or closed.
4. It is your responsibility to arrange a suitable alternative payment method with us if the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund drawing arrangements are cancelled either by yourselves or by your nominated Financial Institution.
5. Please enquire with your Financial Institution if you are uncertain whether direct debit functions are available on your account. (You may be charged a fee by your Financial Institution if the direct debit facility is not available on your account.)



Please post this form to:

australian wildlife conservancy - Reply Paid 1897 West Perth WA 6872 Phone: 08 9226 0340 www.australianwildlife.org ABN 36 068 572 556