

The Wanderer

Summer 2016 Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of *The Wanderer*.

This occasional newsletter will cover important information and stories for those interested in Plains-wanderer conservation and management. As a priority it will provide updates on progress we are making towards fulfilling actions listed in the National Recovery Plan for the Plains-wanderer. If you have articles that may be of interest to others, please send copies to the editor David Baker-Gabb at Elanus@bigpond.com

The Plains-wanderer: a Commonwealth priority

Ashley Leedman

Department for the Environment

Over the last 12 months the Plains-wanderer has become a conservation priority for the Australian Government. Reports of ongoing declines over recent years in New South Wales and Victoria prompted the Commonwealth to re-invigorate the recovery planning process, with a view to creating a new National Recovery Plan for the species. To this end, the Commonwealth helped organise a stakeholder workshop in October 2014, bringing together key representatives to identify the common threats to the species and to develop recovery actions. A draft recovery plan was produced from the workshop and circulated to participants for further refinement. The revised draft plan was endorsed by the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee, and Environment Minister Hunt agreed to release it for a three-month public consultation period, which closed on 18 December 2015. Copies of the draft plan can be obtained at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-plans/comment/draft-plains-wanderer>.

Besides leading the recovery planning process, the Australian Government has also undertaken a re-assessment of the listing status of the species. The Plains-wanderer was previously listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, but the over-

whelming evidence of ongoing and significant declines led to the species being recently up-listed to Critically Endangered. In recognition of their deteriorating status, the species was also included in the recently released 'Threatened Species Strategy' as an Australian Government conservation priority. The Threatened Species Strategy can be found at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/strategy-home>

The Australian Government also recently hosted a workshop with New South Wales to discuss the potential for establishing a captive breeding program for the Plains-wanderer. The rationale for creating such a program is to help the population through this period of very low numbers while working to improve key habitat sites for release. The workshop was well attended by stakeholders and there was general support for the captive breeding plan. Work on the plan is ongoing.



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Left: Female Plains-wanderer in native grassland that has ideal structure, NSW Riverina.

Photo: David Parker

Plains-wanderer captive breeding workshop

*Matt Cameron, South West Region,
Office of Environment and Heritage*

In August 2015, conservation biologists and wildlife husbandry experts met in Canberra for three days to discuss the proposition of establishing a captive population to support Plains-wanderer recovery efforts. The workshop was organised by the NSW Office of Environment, hosted by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, and facilitated by the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.

The workshop concluded that a captive breeding program was an essential short-term measure for ensuring the long-term viability of Plains-wanderers in the wild.

Importantly, a captive population would reduce the risk of extinction, buying time for us to improve habitat condition to the point that wild populations are viable and self-sustaining. A captive program will also generate birds for release that will allow us to: (1) test alternative site management approaches and confirm appropriate management regimes, and (2) boost wild numbers, reducing small population risks and kick-starting recovery. The first step of the captive program is to refine husbandry techniques, and this work is currently under way. We have also started work on the second step, which is securing funding and support from potential partners. Once these are in place and all necessary approvals obtained, work will commence on the construction of facilities and establishment of the founder population.

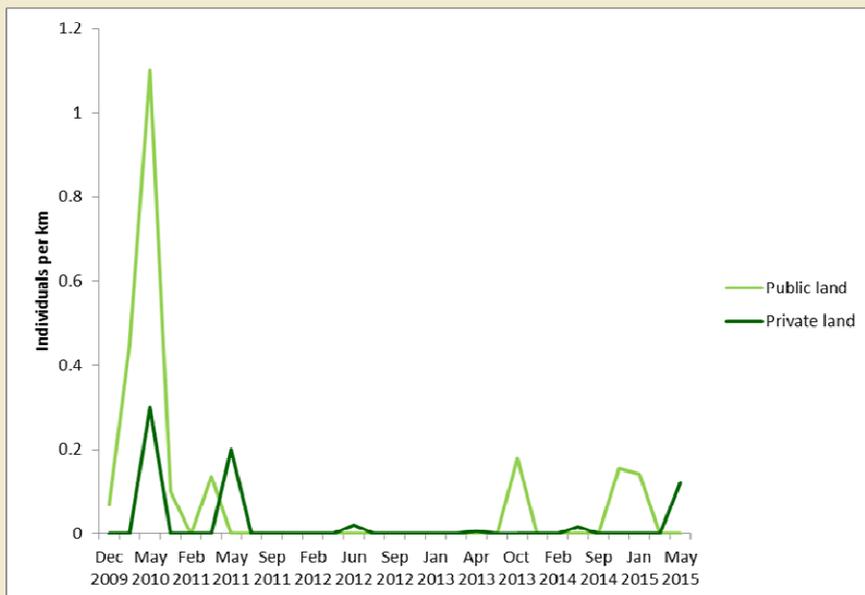
...a captive breeding program [is] an essential short-term measure for ensuring the long-term viability of Plains-wanderers in the wild.

News from the Range States

Plains-wanderer survey results from Victoria 2010-2015

*David Baker-Gabb, ecologist and
Mark Antos, Parks Victoria*

In the 16 years 1994-2009 there was only one year with rainfall slightly above the long-term average, whereas there were four droughts among the series of 15 below average rainfall years on the Northern Plains. The current stronghold of the Plains-wanderer in Victoria is the Northern Plains, which are comprised of the Patho Plains west of Echuca and the Avoca Plains west of Kerang. Following this series of dry years, separate surveys by David Baker-Gabb and Mark Antos revealed moderately high numbers of Plains-wanderers on the Northern Plains in 2010 (Figure 1).



Plains-wanderer survey results from Victoria 2010-2015 (cont)

Surveys for Plains-wanderers and monitoring on the Patho Plains during 2010-14 indicated that there had been about a 95 per cent decline in the Plains-wanderer's relative abundance there since 2010.

This population crash was precipitated by historically high rainfall throughout south-eastern Australia in late 2010 and for much of 2011. This resulted in widespread flooding where water covered much of the grasslands for weeks and was followed by a massive surge in grassland biomass which persisted for up to three years. This rampant growth was not initially mitigated by an effective management response such as increasing grazing pressure or burning. Most private paddocks and reserves on the Northern Plains developed an almost uniformly dense tall sward of grass that severely disadvantaged Plains-wanderers, which must have sparse grass to survive. A range of other threatened grassland fauna species were equally disadvantaged by these conditions.

Very low numbers of Plains wanderers were also recorded on the Avoca Plains in 2012. None were recorded in 2014 and 2015. There were no records of breeding anywhere on the Northern Plains between 2011 and mid-2014.

In late 2014 and early 2015, we recorded 39 Plains-wanderers on the Patho Plains. This is merely an incipient recovery because encounter rates in 2015 were still less than half those of 2010. Moreover, breeding was recorded in just four (16%) of 24 paddocks surveyed, and only seven of the birds were adults, the rest (82%) were juveniles or chicks. These results suggest that the emerging recovery has not been fuelled by immigration to the area, but instead, by the very few breeding adults left on the Patho Plains after the major declines of the past four years. These few remnant birds have bred remarkably well. Indeed, different age cohorts of chicks and juveniles indicate that the remnant adults bred successfully in spring 2014, again in the summer of 2015, and then again in autumn 2015. This level of ongoing breeding has not been recorded before in Northern Victoria.

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Below left: Former Plains-wanderer capture site that is too dense due to lack of grazing.

Below: Former Plains-wanderer capture site that is too sparse due to overgrazing.
Photos: David Baker-Gabb



Philip Maher has been closely observing Plains-wanderers in the NSW Riverina for over 30 years and sent this report on his Plains-wanderer observations for 2014 to *Birding-Aus*. Most of the Plains-wanderer observations originate from the Wanganella district. The original 2014 and 2015 reports have been lightly edited to fit into this newsletter.

For those wanting to read updates on Phil Maher's Plains-wanderer excursions and sightings, *The Latest News* on his website <http://www.philipmaher.com> provides all of the details. The website also has some great photos of Plains-wanderers and some rare video footage of Plains-wanderers courting and mating in the field.
Editor.

Plains-wanderers in the NSW Riverina in 2014

Philip Maher
Australian Ornithological Services P/L

Erratic climatic conditions made 2014 another challenging year for Plains-wanderers. While rainfall varied from property to property in the Wanganella district, March, April, June and September produced much more rain than average, although the September rainfall was particularly patchy. Some months saw a serious shortfall in their averages, particularly January, August, October and December. Despite this, we witnessed the most breeding attempts by Plains-wanderers for many years.

The year was notable for the number of months when Plains-wanderers were either paired up or females were heard calling, indicating breeding was imminent. Birds were recorded paired up ready to breed in February and June, and courting (calling) in March, May and August through to December. After several years of poor breeding results and the two previous years of low rainfall, the Plains-wanderers' interest in breeding in 2014 was spurred on by the year's fickle rainfall, prompting them to attempt to take advantage of favourable conditions whenever they occurred.

Despite all this breeding activity, breeding success only occurred, as far as we know, in October and November, with males with chicks seen on 7 and 29 November and 14 December, with broods of 4, 5 and 3 respectively. The brood of 5 was a very good effort in such dry conditions. In total for the year, we saw about five separate pairs (low compared to the 1980s and 1990s) of which only two are known to have bred successfully. One female is thought to have laid two of the three successful clutches. Despite a dry October and December, they managed to raise at least some of these young to full size, as evidenced by sightings of independent immature birds from late November onwards. Only once (15 November), when two adult females were recorded, did we ever see more than one adult female in a night.

During the year, local landowner Robert Nevinson and/or Phil Maher went out 47 times, four being reconnaissance trips, and missed seeing a Plains-wanderer six times (a 33 year record). Robert, while working, encountered an adult female in the daytime on one occasion. Through 2014, we took out 196 birders, disappointing a total of 11 and pleasing 185.



Left: Male Plains-wanderer in ideal native grassland in NSW Riverina.
Photo: David Parker

Plains-wanderers in the NSW Riverina in 2015

Philip Maher

Australian Ornithological Services P/L

As in 2014, low and erratic rainfall put Plains-wanderers under pressure in the Wanganella district in 2015. Throughout the district, the rainfall was again 50-100mm below the long-term average and crucially, this is the fourth year in succession of below average rainfall. The rainfall varied throughout the district, with Wanganella township recording 330mm, whereas out on the Plains-wanderer property only 267mm fell, a difference of 63mm in only 40 km. Even within the combined Riverina Plains-wanderer properties, rainfall varied by up to 75 mm over a short distance. Of the past 15 years, 11 have been droughts or had well below average rainfall, two have been a bit above average and two have been flood years, in itself problematic for Plains-wanderers.

Under such bleak conditions, no bird could be expected to thrive, nor can they co-exist with livestock when cover is so scarce. This is reflected in the fact that in 2015, the only paddock that still contained Plains-wanderers has had little or no stock in it over the past three years. As for the past 15 years, the irregular rainfall continued in 2015 with severe deficits in February, March, May, September,

October and December. The September and October deficits were the most crucial, coming in prime breeding time for Plains-wanderers and most other species.

Despite all these hardships, Plains-wanderers still managed to breed successfully in 2015 (much to the credit of the Nevinson family in these dry years when grass for sheep feed is scarce). The year got off to a good start with well above average rainfall in January, which triggered breeding. An adult male with two small chicks was recorded in mid-February and a courting pair on 23 February. Immature birds (three to five months old) were recorded in January, March and April. During this period, we suspect we had at least two adult females (each probably with two males) as well as up to four immature birds present in the one paddock. By May, numbers had dropped considerably and only a single male could be located on 25 May. By late July, when we next looked for Plains-wanderers, they had seemingly disappeared. Despite looking for them on four occasions in late July and in August, only a single male was located in an area that appeared marginal at best and it was not seen there again. With only minimal cover, the situation appeared dire. After several nights' reconnaissance, including two nights searching a neighbouring property, with no positive result, we were worried. Then, on our last attempt in late

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Right: Male Plains-wanderer brooding four chicks.
Photo David Baker-Gabb

Plains-wanderers in the NSW Riverina in 2015 (cont)

The species is hanging on, but only just. The problem it has at present in the Wanganella district is there is nowhere for population expansion, with all the surrounding country too bare for them.

August, a male with small chicks was found. This meant he had been on eggs back in July as Plains-wanderers take 26 days to hatch. This was an amazing effort as there was very little cover out on the plains at that time. On 18 September, an adult female was located, the first seen since April. By mid-October, there was thought to be a second adult female present and both females probably had two males each. By late November, a third female was possibly present given where they were located in the paddock. However, it was difficult to be certain as the maximum number of adult females seen in any one night was two birds (29 November).

As for the previous year's low, erratic rainfall, breeding was again attempted whenever conditions appeared even marginally favourable. Breeding birds were detected in January, February, August (eggs in July), September, October and November. One young female, about three months of age, was recorded on 24 October, calling for a mate, demonstrating that the species will attempt to breed at a very young age. Broods of chicks were seen in February (male with two chicks), late August (male with two to three chicks), November (male with five chicks that subsequently lost one, with only four chicks seen 12 December) and another in December (male with one chick – different male/chick to 12 December sighting). In early December some immature birds were seen that did not match up with any of our known broods so probably another brood had been raised nearby that we had not detected. It seems likely that five broods of chicks have been raised in this paddock over the twelve-month period, albeit, two of these broods had two chicks and one chick respectively. We do not know how many of these chicks made it to independence. The brood of five chicks was a mighty effort in such bleak conditions and was found in much the same locality as the

five chicks recorded in 2014; it's possible the same adults could be involved.

Quite a few of the earlier broods made it through to independence, going by the number of immature birds recorded in October, November and December. From September through to December 2015, up to 20 Plains-wanderers including chicks and juveniles were estimated to have been in the one paddock.

Climate change and associated extreme weather events are the overriding causal factors limiting the Plains-wanderer to very low numbers. The species is hanging on, but only just. The problem it has at present in the Wanganella district is there is nowhere for population expansion, with all the surrounding country too bare for them. Unless we have a reasonable rainfall in 2016, Plains-wanderers will again be restricted to small, ungrazed or lightly grazed areas. Any surplus birds will have to move quite some distance to find suitable habitat, if they can find any at all.

In summary, in 2015, Robert Nevinson and/or I went out spotlighting for Plains-wanderers with 241 clients (196 in 2014) on 56 nights (43 in 2014). We had 50 successful outings with a total of 230 happy clients. Six searches with a total of 11 clients failed to find a Plains-wanderer, the same number of search failures and disappointed clients as in 2014. Four of these failed searches occurred in late July and August, and two in October. Robert and/or I did three or four reconnaissance trips, of which one was successful.



Inland wanderings: how important is the Outback for Plains-wanderers?

Reece Pedler Natural Resources SA Arid Lands

While Plains-wanderers have recently declined in their known strongholds in temperate NSW and Victoria, things are much less clear in the vast tracts of their range in the arid inland of the continent. The Outback is a place of climatic extremes, where rainfall is low and highly variable. Some years it doesn't rain at all, in other years it won't stop raining. Mostly it is somewhere in between, with patchy rain falling unpredictably in different parts of the inland and creating green 'pulses' at different times and places. After rain has fallen on stony gibber, clay plains or semi-arid grasslands, they can become extremely productive, with vast tracts available for temporary habitation by mobile species that are able to make the most of the good times while they last.

A number of the birds commonly found in Plains-wanderer habitat do just this and arrive in the Outback after rain. The Inland Dotterel, Button and Stubble Quail, Brown Songlark and Banded Lapwing (to name a few) appear in the arid zone when the going is good, but are nowhere to be found during the intervening dry times. Given the smattering of Plains-wanderer records throughout inland Australia, it seems reasonable to assume that this species may also arrive in the Outback after rain; the trouble is that they can be really hard to find when they are there! Even at their best-known sites in the NSW Riverina, it takes on average somewhere between 30 minutes to 4 hours of spotlighting to find just one Plains-wanderer.

At the semi-arid Bush Heritage Boolcoomatta Reserve in SA, 20-50 hours of spotlighting is required per Plains-wanderer sighting – that's up to 40 times the effort per bird! Except for chance encounters, it's hard to imagine how it might be possible to find them at all in the even more arid parts of the Outback; places where scattered individuals have sometimes been recorded. None-the-less, the evidence is that Plains-wanderers do occur in the vast arid inland. Although supporting lower densities, given its size the Outback could account for a large number of individuals and perhaps provide a buffer against habitat changes in the Plains-wanderers' core higher-rainfall range.

Many of the Plains-wanderer records from the stony plains of outback South Australia have been contributed by some dedicated and skilled observers: 'roo shooters, who spend countless hours spotlighting in Plains-wanderer habitat as part of their nightly rounds. People processing kangaroo meat in the field and pastoral station workers across the Outback of SA have been acting as observers for Natural Resources SA Arid Lands in recent years, but unfortunately just a handful of further records have been elicited.

Although very challenging to investigate in detail, Outback wanderings are likely to be an important part of Plains-wanderer life ecology. Some innovations are needed before we can understand this behaviour; maybe the revolution in miniature satellite tracking technology can help.

...Outback wanderings are likely to be an important part of Plains-wanderer life ecology.



Far left: Ephemeral gibber Plains-wanderer habitat in outback South Australia following heavy rainfall near the site of a Plains-wanderer record on the lower Birdsville Track.

Left: Potential habitat along the Strzelecki Track in mid-2010. Note the hat for scale.
Photos: Reece Pedler.

Landholder profile

The fencing gives Andrew and Faye Bail much more control over grazing.

Andrew and Faye Bail

David Baker-Gabb

Since 2003 Andrew and Faye Bail have had a Trust for Nature (TfN) covenant on 160 ha (c.40%) of their sheep farm on Victoria's Northern Plains. The farm has been in the Bail family for about 60 years. The covenanted block is separate from the rest of the farm and has not been ploughed for over 70 years. Andrew and Faye purchased this block in 2002 from other family members. After coming into contact with TfN they started to gradually change the grazing management. They now try not to overgraze and to not graze the more sensitive areas in spring to let seed set. It is still an important part of the farm and is used in the late autumn, winter and spring to graze ewes and lambs. Plains-wanderers were recorded there in 2010. None were seen there in recent surveys, but the property continues to provide one of the best current examples of Plains-wanderer habitat on the Northern Plains because of the Bail's astute grazing management.

The paddocks under covenant are a mixture of red and grey soils, and 90 plant species have been recorded there. In November 2013 the Northern Plains Conservation Management Network paid to have two paddocks divided in half and fenced to soil type. As a result, the sheep spread out more in the smaller and squarer paddocks, rather than moving in a flock from end to end on the previous longer more rectangular paddocks.

The fencing gives Andrew and Faye much more control over grazing. The paddocks are now grazed to suit each soil type, and after summer or autumn rain, they can choose which soil type to graze first. The grey soils can also be grazed harder while protecting the red soils from overgrazing as the sheep prefer to graze on red soils first and for longer. Winds are predominantly from the south-west. Because sheep habitually graze into the wind they tended to congregate in the south-west corner of the property and overgraze this area, which is predominately red soil. The new fencing has also prevented this unwanted management outcome.

Right: Andrew and Faye Bail addressing a grassland field day audience beside paddocks recently fenced to soil type.
Photo: Kirsten Hutchison

Below: Spring flowers in newly fenced grassland on Andrew and Faye Bails' farm.



Management issues

Aboriginal burning on the Northern Plains

David Baker-Gabb

In her 2012 book, *'An Inch of Rain, a Water History of Northern Victoria'*, Robyn Ballinger has investigated many journals, diaries and publications written by early European settlers who followed the first expedition to the Northern Plains undertaken by Major Mitchell in 1836. One such source was Edward Curr who wrote, *'Recollections of Squatting in Victoria'* in 1883, recording his long history on the Northern Plains, and beginning with his time in the Campaspe to Mt Hope region in the early 1840s.

Edward Curr noted that the early squatters interacted in many ways with the local Aboriginal people and adopted their traditional fire farming practices as they quickly realised how the original occupants had managed the grasslands over many years. Edward Curr wrote: '...the state of the continent when we took possession of it was, as regards flora and fauna, as well as

the conditions of soils and water...attributable to the ways of the people in whose hands we found it...the blackfellow...tilled his land and cultivated his pastures with fire'.

An example of this burning practice by squatters on the Northern Plains comes from an advertisement for the sale of Terrick Terrick Station in June 1853. It stated that on the 'grassy salt bush plains 35 miles north of Bendigo' the run had been burnt early in the season and that 'the feed was now most luxurious'. Such examples of Aboriginal burning practices being adopted by the very first European settlers could help to inform modern managers of grassland reserves.

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Grassland fire on the Northern Plains.
Photo: Trust for Nature

Management issues (cont)

When the next very wet period arrives, there is currently nothing to indicate that Plains-wanderer numbers will not plummet once more. This is a very dangerous situation for a critically endangered species to be in...

The Burning Question

David Baker-Gabb

Since being acquired as reserves over the past 15 or so years, most grasslands on the Northern Plains that are managed by Parks Victoria and Trust for Nature have continued to be periodically grazed by sheep. This could be seen as acceding to the mantra of 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it'. However, we learnt to the Plains-wanderer's great cost in 2010-13 that ongoing grazing management on its own is not without major risks. The cliché 'having all of your eggs in one basket' springs to mind. When the reserves became choked with dense grass following unusually heavy and persistent rain, the necessary stock could not be found to control this rampant grass growth, not least because local farmers were having difficulty managing the grass growth on their own properties. Nearly all of the surrounding private land was overgrown at this time too.

When the next very wet period arrives, there is currently nothing to indicate that Plains-wanderer numbers will not plummet once more. This is a very dangerous situation for a critically endangered species, and so we need to consider expanding our management practices in the Plains-wanderer's long-term interest.

Moreover, in past very dry times, some red soil areas, strongly favoured by both Plains-wanderers and stock, have been overgrazed on reserves, and in those paddocks that are best for threatened plants and animals. At such times, nearly all of the red soil areas on surrounding private land are likely to be overgrazed. The reserve system can act as a drought refuge for Plains-wanderers during dry times, but only if sheep are excluded well before the drought takes hold and remain excluded for its duration. So a single grassland reserve management regime that

focuses solely on grazing, with minor variations in timing, comes with inherent risks.

Broadening management regimes; spreading the risk

The current response of grasslands to very wet and very dry times occurs because the plant species makeup, and hence the structure of grasslands, has been changed markedly by more than a century of continuous grazing by stock. Grazing history has locked reserves into a 'boom-bust' cycle that demands a managed response. According to measurements taken by botanists, when it rained heavily in 2010-11, over 90% of the biomass that choked up the grasslands on red soil was annual grasses; predominantly Rough Speargrass. This speargrass is encouraged by the ongoing grazing of set-stocking management regimes, can form a continuous sward, and is relatively unpalatable. Some conservation-minded graziers are trying to transition their grasslands back to ones that contain many more perennial grasses and herbs, which naturally grow with a more tussocky structure during both wet and dry times, have much greater resilience during droughts, and a greater ability to respond to summer rains. The transition towards a grassland pasture dominated by perennials through the use of grazing animals alone requires more investment in fencing, larger numbers of sheep, and more intensive management of stock than has historically been undertaken on reserves.

Members of the Northern Plains Technical Advisory Group have suggested that reserves could have five management regimes focussed primarily on the red soil areas in different paddocks, and trialled initially for three years. These management regimes include: (i) grazing for weed control, (ii) grazing potentially year round to maintain the structure favoured by

Plains-wanderers, (iii) grazing with spring/summer exclusion of stock to encourage the structure favoured by Plains-wanderers and to allow plants to flower and set seed, (iv) autumn burning, and (v) exclusion of grazing and burning from a few areas such as wetlands where there are sensitive plant communities.

Of these five options, four are variations on the *status quo*, whereas applying a trial burning regime for three years is novel. Botanists and reserve managers know that you get a big response from desirable grassland plants after fire, but they don't know how many fire cycles it will take before you drive the system predominantly in the more desirable perennial plant direction. Note that there are more than 60 species of threatened grassland plant on the Northern Plains that managers must consider as well as the threatened animals. Some of these threatened plants are persisting only as mature plants with little or no recruitment possible in the presence of ongoing grazing and so their future is bleak without the application of some additional management options.

A likely risk for paddocks under a burning regime is that in between controlled burns individual paddocks will become too dense for Plains-wanderers and other threatened animals. This risk is exacerbated by the inability of reserve managers thus far to get fire authorities to place a sufficiently high priority on achieving burn targets for grasslands when they have competing burn targets in forests. An additional risk is that, while waiting to be burnt, the fuel load will build up in a paddock to a point where a very hot burn is almost inevitable when it is eventually burnt. Hot, all-encompassing burns are undesirable compared to relatively 'cool' mosaic burns. To partially offset this risk for Plains-wanderers, all of the better Plains-wanderer paddocks in this initial trial are slated to remain within the grazing management regimes.

With the aim to transition grasslands to have more perennial plants, it could be argued that there is no point in grazing paddocks after they have been burnt as this would just 'reset the clock' in favour of Rough Speargrass and its annual allies. However, if adhering to this concept comes at the expense of grassy weed control, and the build up of excess biomass and fuel, then there is a counter argument that short-term pulse grazing with large numbers of sheep introduced at key times is necessary.

Recent years have shown that grazing management alone will not guarantee the long-term conservation of the Plains-wanderer in reserves. While we have some indications from field observations that a patchy autumn burn can benefit Plains-wanderers, effectively managing fire in grasslands can be complicated and comes with risks. We will only learn whether it is worthwhile retaining some paddocks in a burning regime if the burning trial is properly conducted. If burns cannot be implemented when required, managed to be 'cool' burns, and monitored effectively afterwards, then there is little point in conducting them.

If burns cannot be implemented when required, managed to be 'cool' burns, and monitored effectively afterwards, then there is little point in conducting them.

Below: Autumn control burn in Glassons Grassland Reserve, Northern Plains.
Photo: Trust for Nature



Recent Events, Publications and Reports

If readers are aware of other recent publications and events now and in the future, please send details and copies to the editor.

Events

Grassland field day in September 2015 organised by Trust for Nature and Northern Plains CMN in a paddock recently covenanted by Bill and Sandra McGillivray

Publications

Baker-Gabb, DJ (2014). The Plains-wanderer: one of Australia's most threatened birds. Trust for Nature *Conservation Bulletin* 61: 10.

Baker-Gabb, DJ (2014). Not happy wanderers. *Australian Birdlife* 3(2): 6-7.

Parker, D, Antos, M, Baker-Gabb, D and Kirkwood, J (2015). Haunting the fields. Securing a future for the Plains-wanderer. *Australian Birdlife* 4(3): 24-27.

Vine, S and Dutson, G (2013). IBAs in Danger: The state of Australia's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. BirdLife Australia, Melbourne.

Reports

Antos, M. (2015). Northern Plains Grassland Fauna Surveys at Terrick Terrick National Park. July 2014-June 2015 Progress Report. Unpublished report to Parks Victoria, Melbourne.

Baker-Gabb D.J. (2015). Plains-wanderer surveys and monitoring on the Northern Plains, Victoria, 2010-2015. Unpublished report to Dept. Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Bendigo.

Dept. Env. (2015). Draft National Recovery Plan for the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*). Department of Environment, Canberra.

Wilson, C, Ingwersen, D and Parker, D (2014). Review of the OEH Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* monitoring data 2001-2014. A report for the Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW. BirdLife Australia, Melbourne.

Below: Grassland field days
Photos: Trust for Nature



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