



Plains for Wanderers Project

Protecting habitat for the critically endangered Plains-wanderer

Project aims

The *Plains for Wanderers* Project aims to permanently protect and enhance Plains-wanderer habitat on the Northern Plains Grasslands in Victoria, which support one of two core populations nationally. Activities include placing covenants on grasslands to protect privately-owned high quality Plains-wanderer habitat, revegetation to replace lost Plains-wanderer food plants at key public grasslands, revegetation of Buloke woodlands, re-introducing populations of Spiny Rice-flower and Turnip Copperburr, African Boxthorn control to improve habitat, rabbit control to protect revegetation and regeneration, field days to improve landholder knowledge of best practice management & Traditional Owner on Country programs. The Plains-wanderer project is supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the North Central Catchment Management Authority. Key partners include Trust for Nature, DELWP, Traditional Owners, the Northern Plains CMN, Zoos Victoria and Parks Victoria.



About the Plains-wanderer, a very unique & ancient bird



Plains-wanderers. Photo credit: David Baker Gabb

Plains-wanderers are small grassland birds standing to about 12cm tall. They look similar to a quail but are not related and have distinctive yellow legs. The female is a little larger than the male with a rufous patch on her breast and a chequered black & white collar. Plains-

wanderers are the sole surviving member of the ancient Pedionomidae family and have no other close living relatives anywhere in the world. There are estimated to be between 250 - 1000 birds left in the wild. They prefer short, sparse, open grasslands to forage for insects, seeds & leaves. 95% of native grasslands that the Plains-wanderer once occupied have been lost to cultivation and urban development. Habitat loss is still the most major threat to the species, followed by inappropriate habitat management i.e. if grass cover becomes too thick or sparse, they abandon the site. The species was once present from QLD to Victoria but has undergone a serious decline over the past decade. The Plains-wanderer is now critically endangered in Australia and faces the threat of extinction.





Who is Trust for Nature?

Trust for Nature is Victoria's dedicated private land conservation agency. It was established in 1972 under the Victorian Conservation Trust Act to conserve flora and fauna, significant habitat and areas of scenic or natural interest.

Since its establishment, Trust for Nature has helped landowners to establish more than 1,300 in-perpetuity conservation covenants over their land securing significant native vegetation and contributing over 60,000 hectares to Victoria's protected area estate.



What are conservation covenants?

Trust for Nature Conservation covenants are voluntary legal agreements between the Trust and the landowner which set out restrictions and rights relating to future land use. The covenant is attached to the property title as the land changes hands or is sold, ensuring that the natural values of the land under covenant are protected forever. More information about them can be found at www.trustfornature.org.au



Learn more: If you would like more information or are interested in being involved contact:



Right: Male Plains-wanderer with chicks. Photo credit David Parker.

Kirsten Hutchison
Senior Conservation Officer
Trust for Nature
Phone: 0459 168 865
Email: kirstenh@tfn.org.au



Head office: +61 (0)3 8631 5888 - www.trustfornature.org.au