

Annual Report 2010 Appendix D

The Whistler

At the start of 2010 it was hoped that two volumes might be produced, one featuring Threatened Species and the other a normal non- thematic issue. Unfortunately neither volume was issued.

The manuscript for the Threatened Species volume Whistler 4 has completed the referring and editorial processes and the production steps are well advanced. It contains three papers and a short note. It is expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2011.

Some copy has been received for the more general issue Whistler 5, which it is hoped will be produced later in the year. A pleasing aspect of the material submitted thus far is a number of interesting brief notes concerning bird behaviour. The Editors are keen to encourage this type of material because it provides important documentation of new information on birds as well as broadening the range of contributors to the journal and making interesting reading for the general membership. The opportunity to publish such snippets of information is sadly lacking among the range of publications being produced in Australia at the present time.

Failure to produce a volume of Whistler in 2010 has been frustrating for all parties involved. The underlying reasons are cumulative and the temptation to attempt to rush the publication process and has been resisted because it is important to maintain the high standards set by the previous volumes. However, it is worth reflecting on some of the issues.

Threatened Species is a dynamic subject and changes in the status of species are occurring continually. Consequently, it was necessary to revise the key note paper several times to ensure it reflected the current status of the regulations in NSW. At times these changes were required because of delays caused by the supporting papers and at other times the revisions to the key note paper became the bottleneck. Hopefully, this will be a unique occurrence because it is highly disruptive to the Whistler production schedule.

The protracted process of bringing out a thematic issue of The Whistler has caused delays in the production of normal issues. This means an author with a paper surplus to Whistler 3 will have to wait at least 20 months until their article, which was unsuitable for the Threatened Species volume is published in Whistler 5. There is one such paper and it is an unsatisfactory situation. In addition we have lost some momentum in the Whistler publication process because it is difficult to engender a sense of urgency in prospective authors when there are such long lead times in the publication process.

During the year \$4000 worth of sponsorship was obtained from PWCS which was intended for the future volumes of the Whistler (i.e. Numbers 5 and 6).

Mike Newman
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Joint Editors
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