

Rufous Scrub-bird – Analysis of Results Carey's Peak Trail

The information below is based on the following field work

- Approximately 2.5 km of transect survey during a pilot visit on 28/08/2010
- Approximately 1.0 km of transect survey during the group familiarisation with a RSB territory on 15/09/2010.
- Almost 5km of transect surveyed on 16/09/2010
- 4km of transect surveyed on 17/09/2010

Six territories were assigned on the following basis. The left-hand and right-hand sides of the track are defined for an observer walking from Kerripit Road to Carey's Peak. i.e. the outward survey leg.

Site 1

Bird calling approximately 75m from LHS of track on 15/16/17 September approximately 50 m from start of the transect. This is a previously unknown territory and needs confirmation in October before it can be claimed as a territory.

Site 2

Bird calling approximately 50m from track on RHS on 28/08 and on 15/16/17 Sep. Location approximately 150m on from Territory 1. This is a well known territory known as the Munro Hut RSB.

Site 3

Bird calling on LHS approximately 300m on from Territory 2 and 50m from the track. The GPS coordinates are significantly different from T2. This corresponds with a territory known historically.

All three of the above territories are in Transect CP1. Birds were calling in T1 and T2 at almost the same time on 15/09 and are definitely different birds.

Site 4

Located in transect CP3 and > 0.5 km from Sites 3 and 5.
Recorded on LHS approximately 50 m from track on 28/08 and on 16/09.
However a bird was calling on the RHS on the return through transect 3 on the 16/09 about 100m to the Carey's Peak side of the record on the outward leg of the survey.
And, about 50 m from the track on the 17/09 a bird was calling in an almost identical position on the RHS to the last record on the 16/09 (i.e. where there had been a bird on LHS).

There is ambiguity in these records, which could involve one or two birds. As the sites are close together they will be treated as one bird unless both are heard calling simultaneously. This is not a known territory and needs to be confirmed in October.

Site 5

Located in transect CP4 on the RHS about 50m from the track and more than 500m from either Site 3 or Site 5. Only recorded on 17/09. Needs confirmation in Oct to be claimed as a territory.

Site6

Located in transect CP5 well away from site 6. Again requires confirmation in October to be claimed a territory.

Maximum number of calling scrub-birds = 7. (If two birds are proven to be at site 4)

No of calling scrub-birds where no ambiguity exists = 6

On 16/09 on the outward survey walk when conditions involved high wind and moderate humidity, 4 calling scrub-birds were heard out of a total of 6 identified sites. This is consistent with Ferrier's detection factor of around 61% for these conditions.

Mike Newman, Hunter Bird Observers Club