

Enthusiasts celebrate significant bird find



The night parrot had not been seen in WA for more than a century. Picture: Bruce Greatwich

■ Jakeb Waddell

Kimberley twitchers are in a flap after photographing a bird which has not been seen in WA for more than a century.

Broome birdwatchers, Nigel Jackett, Bruce Greatwich, George Swann and Adrian Boyle, made the discovery during an eight-day expedition, in search of the elusive bird.

They are keeping the location secret, other than it was in WA among spinifex.

The trio captured the images after spotting the curious creature on the morning of March 14.

The night parrot (*pepororus occidentalis*) is known for being one of the most mysterious birds in the world.

There were no sightings of the bird between 1912 and 1979 and sightings since then were extremely rare or unproven, which led to speculation that it was extinct.

Mr Jackett said it was research that helped them to finally discover the bird, not luck.

"I never would have thought I

would see the night parrot," Mr Jackett said. "There were always rumours about possible sightings but never anything concrete.

"It wasn't until it was rediscovered in Queensland in 2013 that I thought it would be possible."

Department of Parks and Wildlife principal research scientist Allan Burbidge said the discovery demonstrates without doubt that the species still persists in WA.

"This finding is significant as well as exciting," he said.

"From here we'll research their habitat preferences and population size.

"This gives us information on where to look for the night parrot in other parts of the State, which is beneficial for us."

Mr Jackett said the group's work was not over and they would now work alongside the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Night Parrot Recovery Team.

"Obviously they can't live in such a tiny population in one spot," he said.

"There must be more out there."

Remote work-for-dole in focus

■ Peter de Kruijff

some people going hungry and not



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The court was told the man later punched McDonald in the face while approaching the door at the charge room at the police station.

In the early stages of restraining the man on the ground, McDonald hit him several times in the upper body and head area, and later grabbed him by the hair and struck him with a knee strike to the upper body, Mr Jupp said.

On moving through the door to the charge room, McDonald propelled the man forward, causing him to hit the floor face first, Mr Jupp said.

In sentencing McDonald, Magistrate Sandie De Maio said he acted in self-defence to subdue the man.

However, after that time she said McDonald used "unnecessary force" and described his actions as "completely unjustified".