



MEDIA RELEASE

Cinnamon Quail-thrush

Staff at Alice Springs Desert Park have spent the past week celebrating the first known captive breeding of two Cinnamon Quail-thrush.

The Park's Curator of Zoology, Bruce Pascoe, said last Thursday's fledgling was a tremendous achievement that would provide a greater insight into the social dynamics and natural history of the secretive bird.

"We have tried breeding them since the park opened eight years ago, with particular effort over the past three seasons and last Thursday morning we saw two fledglings leave the nest, so to say we are happy about it would be an understatement," Mr Pascoe said.

"These birds are a cryptic arid-zone species so there are some knowledge gaps in their natural history, so how they grow and develop will be very interesting.

"There was only an 11-day fledgling period which is actually quite brief for most birds so we are eagerly anticipating how they will be raised.

"We will also keep a close eye on the parents as we don't know how territorial they might become as their young become older."

Cinnamon quail-thrush are about 20cm long and weigh about 50g when fully grown and are similar to the chestnut quail-thrush, which is a vulnerable species.

Park Manager, Gary Fry said information gained about the Cinnamon Quail-thrush from this breeding could assist land and species managers make some decisions on how to best protect the more threatened Chestnut Quail-thrush.

Mr Pascoe said last week's successful breeding of Cinnamon Quail-thrush came after recently swapping different males with females keen to lay eggs.

"One of the things about husbandry is that you learn more with each step you take and therefore build upon that knowledge," Mr Pascoe said.

"Both Gary and I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in the first known captive breeding of these native Australian species."

Media note – For more information contact Bruce Pascoe on 8951 8722

Ends

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