

A BANDING STUDY OF THE GREY GRASSWREN *Amytornis barbatus barbatus* IN THE CARYAPUNDY SWAMP OF SOUTH-WESTERN QUEENSLAND

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Grey Grasswrens *Amytornis barbatus barbatus* were studied in an 11 hectare area of tall, dense Lignum *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii* in the Caryapundy Swamp of south-western Queensland between 1984 and 1996. One hundred and ninety-three individuals were captured and banded and 35 (18.1%) individuals were retrapped a total of 46 times. A pair of grasswrens with two recently fledged chicks were observed and later captured in an isolated stand of Lignum approximately 0.5 hectares in area. Most grasswrens were captured during periods of drought, suggesting that the species congregates in prime habitat refuge areas during periods of climatic extreme. The greatest threat to the Grey Grasswren appeared to be habitat destruction by introduced feral and domestic herbivores. Preservation of tall dense Lignum that offers food and shelter to support a high density of Grey Grasswrens during drought is crucial to the conservation of the species.