

DR CARA SAMBELL – Zoologist

Cara is experienced in applied biodiversity conservation, with a primary research interest in understanding how global patterns of landscape change affect rural biodiversity. Cara completed her PhD (Conservation Biology/Landscape Ecology) in 2019 at La Trobe University in Victoria, supervised by Prof. Andrew Bennett, Dr. Angie Haslem and Dr. Greg Holland. Her PhD investigated the influences of diverse types of land-use and habitat modification on terrestrial bird communities across 900km² of the Strzelecki Ranges (Vic). This research, funded by an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (La Trobe University) and the Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment, contributed greater understanding of land management strategies which enhance biodiversity (e.g. forest bird distribution) in rapidly changing rural landscapes.

Cara's Honours research project (2012, La Trobe University), focused on monitoring bird communities and their behaviour, in different aged revegetation plantings and remnant forest in an agricultural mosaic. She is currently extending this research in carbon offset plantings in Gippsland, Victoria. Cara has been trained in outdoor leadership, safety, risk management and teaching during her undergraduate degree (BA Outdoor Environmental Education). She enjoys using environmental education to empower others to care for and learn from the natural world, and has presented her research for many academic and community audiences across Australia.

Cara is experienced in a range of ornithological methods and survey techniques. At Terrestrial Ecosystems, she is extending her wildlife survey and trapping skills, working with a wide range of West Australian native fauna and feral/pest species management programs.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Applied scientific research – project design and implementation
- Ecological data management, analysis and interpretation (e.g. at a site or landscape scale)
- Ornithological surveys and monitoring programs
- Literature reviews, scientific writing and publication
- Geographic mapping
- Environmental education
- Threatened, feral and pest wildlife assessments and management

QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctor of Philosophy (Conservation Biology/Landscape Ecology) – La Trobe University
- Bachelor of Arts Outdoor Environmental Education (with 1st class Honours) – La Trobe University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Research Centre for Future Landscapes (La Trobe University)
- Ecological Society of Australia
- Birdlife Australia
- Victorian Wader's Study Group
- Goldfields Environmental Management Group Inc

AWARDS

- Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (La Trobe University) & Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment
- West Gippsland CMA Young Landcarer or Sustainable Agriculture Innovator Award
- La Trobe Academic Excellence Scholarship



PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Provide First Aid and CPR - HTLAID003, HLTAID002, HLTAID001 (Feb 2020)
- White Card: Prepare to work safely in the construction industry - CPCCWHS1001 (Feb 2020)
- Firearms Awareness Certificate (Feb 2020)
- RHDV1-K5 Training to authorise users for wild rabbit control (March 2020)
- 4WD training and vehicle recovery - SISODRV302A, SISODRV405A, TLIB2004A (July 2014)
- Ornithological Methods - BIO433 Charles Sturt University (2012)

CAREER SUMMARY

Feb 2020 – current	Zoologist, Terrestrial Ecosystems (WA)
2017 – current	Project manager and principal researcher - the Birds of Wurneet Laang Laang Project, Greenfleet (Vic)
2015 - 2019	PhD (La Trobe University)
2012 - 2017	Academic Tutor (La Trobe University)
2014	Technical Assistant, Ecology Consultants Pty Ltd (Vic)

PUBLICATIONS

Theses

- 2019 Conservation in changing rural landscapes: Responses of bird communities to diverse land-uses and habitats. (PhD)
- 2012 Your land my habitat: Bird response to revegetation ageing in the western Strzelecki Ranges. (Hons)

Journal Articles & Magazines

- Sambell, C. E., Holland, G. J., Haslem, A., & Bennett, A. F. (*in prep*). Do species traits influence forest bird occurrence and use of modified habitats in a rural region?
- Sambell, C. E., Holland, G. J., Haslem, A., & Bennett, A. F. (2019). Diverse land-uses shape new bird communities in a changing rural region. *Biodiversity and Conservation* (28), 3479-3496.
- Sambell, C., & Connelly, C. (2016). Calls of the wild. *Park Watch Magazine*, Victorian National Parks Association, (September 266), 26-27.

Presentations (academic)

- Sambell, C. (2019, November) Conservation in changing rural Australia: Important landscape attributes for diverse bird communities. Ecological Society of Australia Conference, Launceston (Tas).
- Sambell, C. (2019, November) On 'Landscapes that work for biodiversity and people'. Ecological Society of Australia Conference, Launceston (Tas).
- Sambell, C. (2018, November) Future conservation in rural landscapes. La Trobe University Future Landscapes Symposium, Bundoora (Vic).
- Sambell, C. (2018, February) Hanging in there: Forest birds in modified rural Victoria. Victorian Biodiversity Conference, Bundoora (Vic).
- Sambell, C. (2017, February) Rural landscapes of change: The effect of land-use on birds of the Strzelecki hills, Victoria. Victorian Biodiversity Conference, Melbourne (Vic).
- Sambell, C. (2016, November) Rural landscapes of change: The effect of land-use on birds of the Strzelecki hills, Victoria. Ecological Society of Australia Conference, Fremantle (WA).
- Sambell, C. (2014, October). How does rural land-use change in the western Strzelecki Ranges influence bird communities? Deakin University Centre for Integrative Ecology HDR Conference, Warrnambool (Vic).