



Image – Denise Allardice

NSW & ACT 2020 Twitchathon

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Birdwatching Clubs and Organisations



All Funds Raised for the “Origma Enigma”

We all remember the bushfires of 2019. They roared through the bush not far from all of us, destroying all before them, the forests, our homes and of course billions of animals and the birds we love. Many dead, others dispossessed and starving.



Image – Kim Touzel

Many of the most affected birds included the poor flyers, cryptic species, those found in dense vegetation. The “Origma Enigma” is aimed at helping these cryptic species, the Rockwarbler (Origma), Rufous Scrub-bird, Eastern Bristlebird and Ground Parrot. All identified as species of Priority Concern, nationally, due to the impact of the bushfires. Not only were these birds ill equipped to escape fires, disproportionately large percentages of their ranges were destroyed, as much as 40% for the Origma and Rufous Scrub-bird. Much of this destruction was within 11 Key Biodiversity Areas along the Great Dividing Range down to the coast of NSW. While large areas of forest and heath have burnt, not all is lost to the birds. Sites have been spared and birds still persist, but we need to know where and the size of those remaining populations.

To do this the “Origma Enigma” will address our need to know the current distribution of these birds and their populations loss and use this as a basis for any EPBC up-listing of their threat category and to target conservation actions in terms of type and location. This will be achieved by carefully designed sampling protocols to enable statistical modelling of population decline since the bushfires. Data will be collected both through targeted searches at predetermined locations and by setting up song meters in known or likely habitat. With this population and distribution knowledge the work to save the species can proceed.

Your donations will help this project achieve these goals. Thanks so much for your generosity, it is much appreciated.