

Rufous Scrub-bird monitoring at the extremities of the species' range (2010–2013)

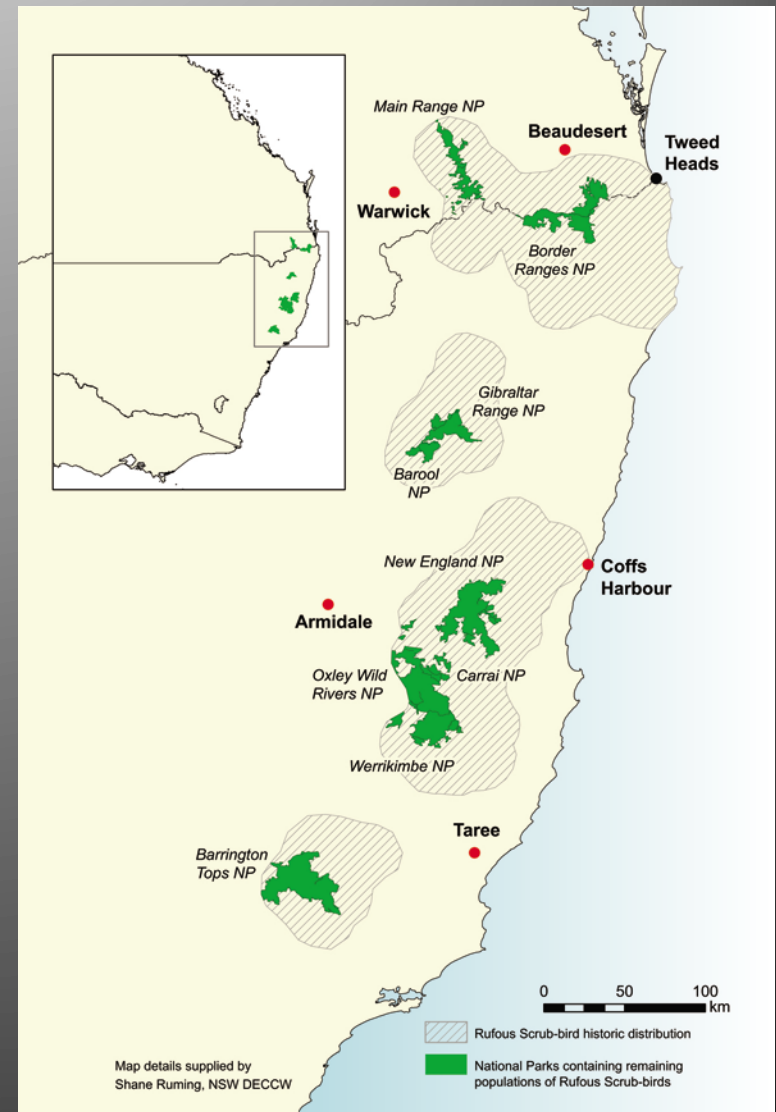
**Mike Newman, Alan Stuart
and Faye Hill**

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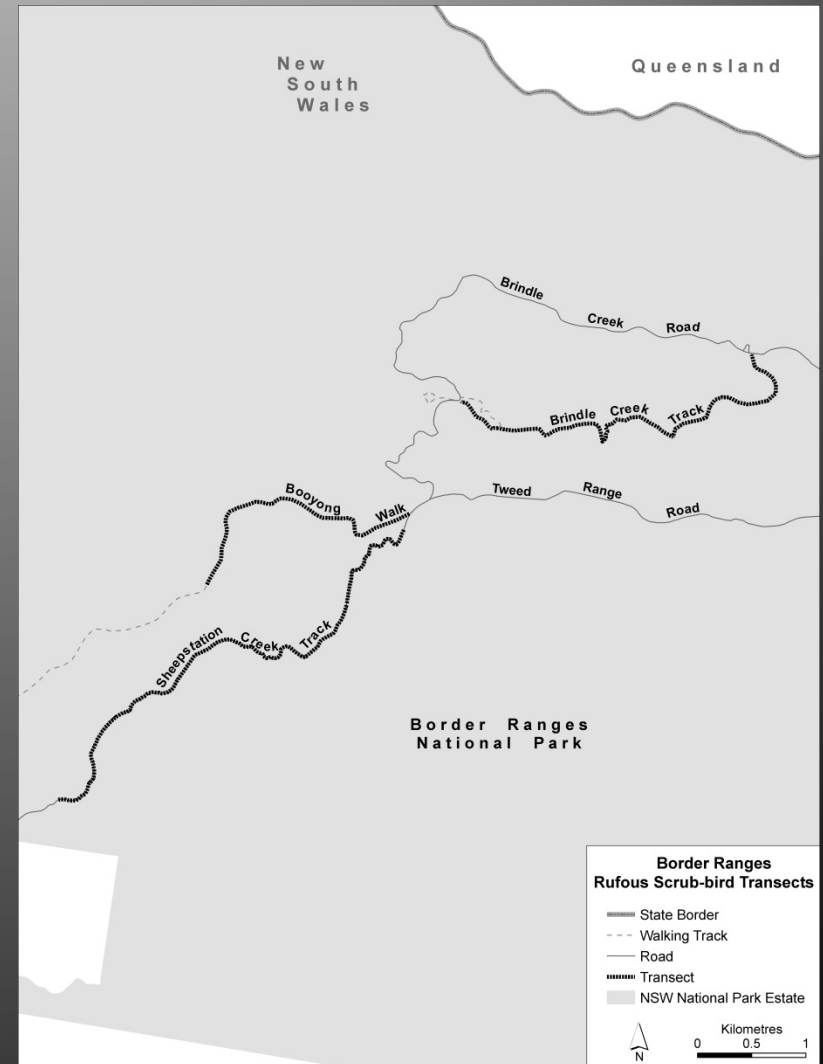
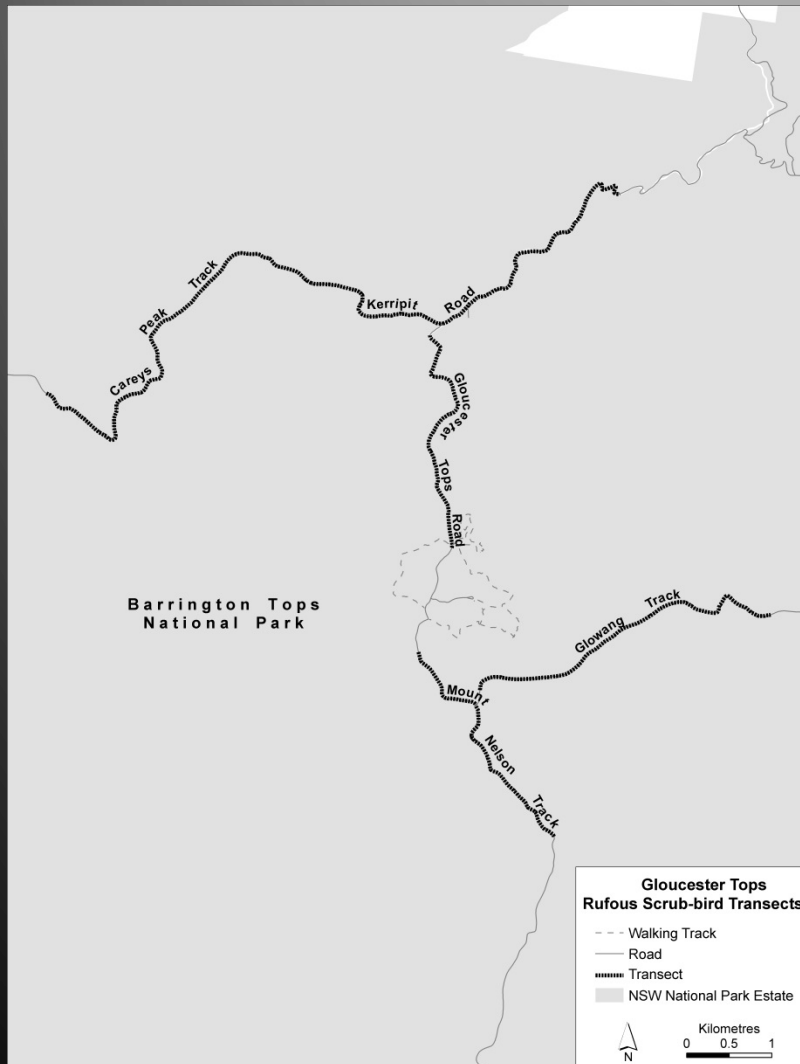


Ferrier - PhD Study 1984

- Five remnant populations.
- Two sub-species.
- Population size estimates
- Decrease from estimated 11,900 territories to 2,400 (1981) since European settlement.
- Calls
- Habitat requirements

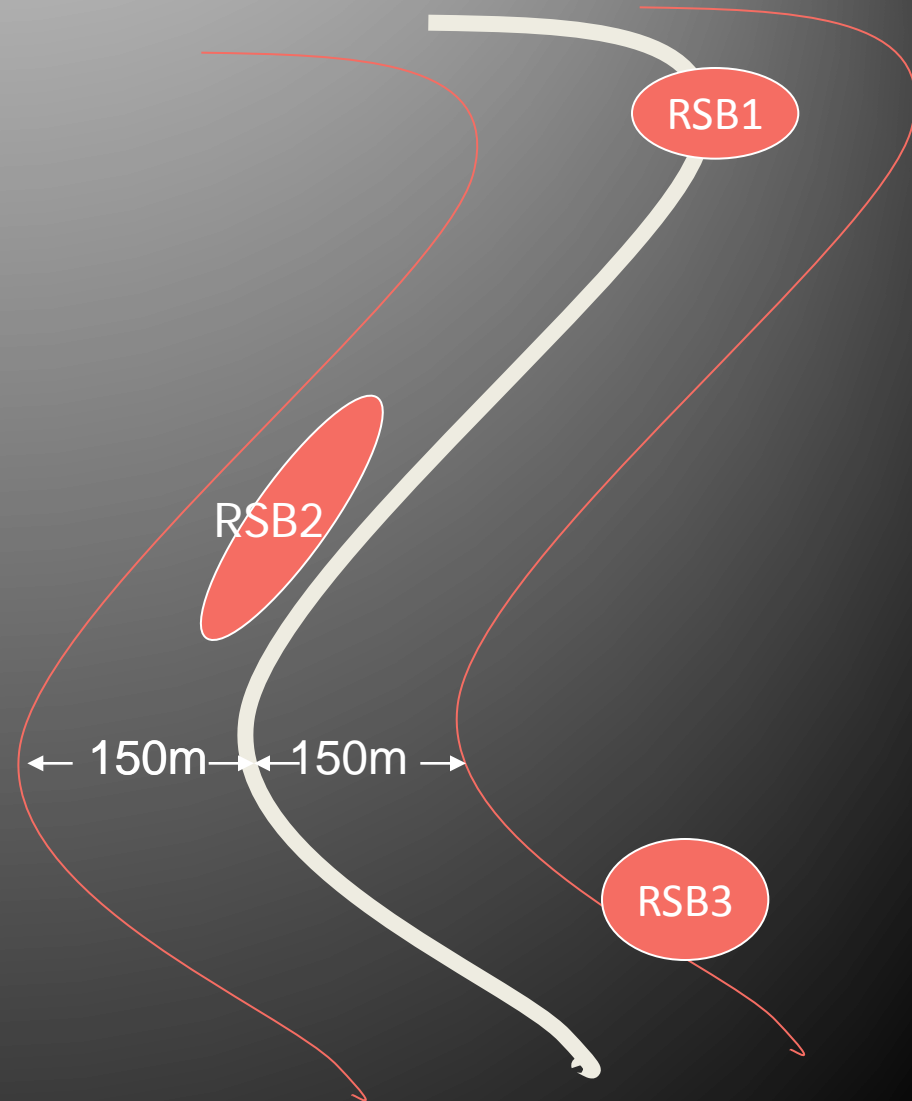


Transects

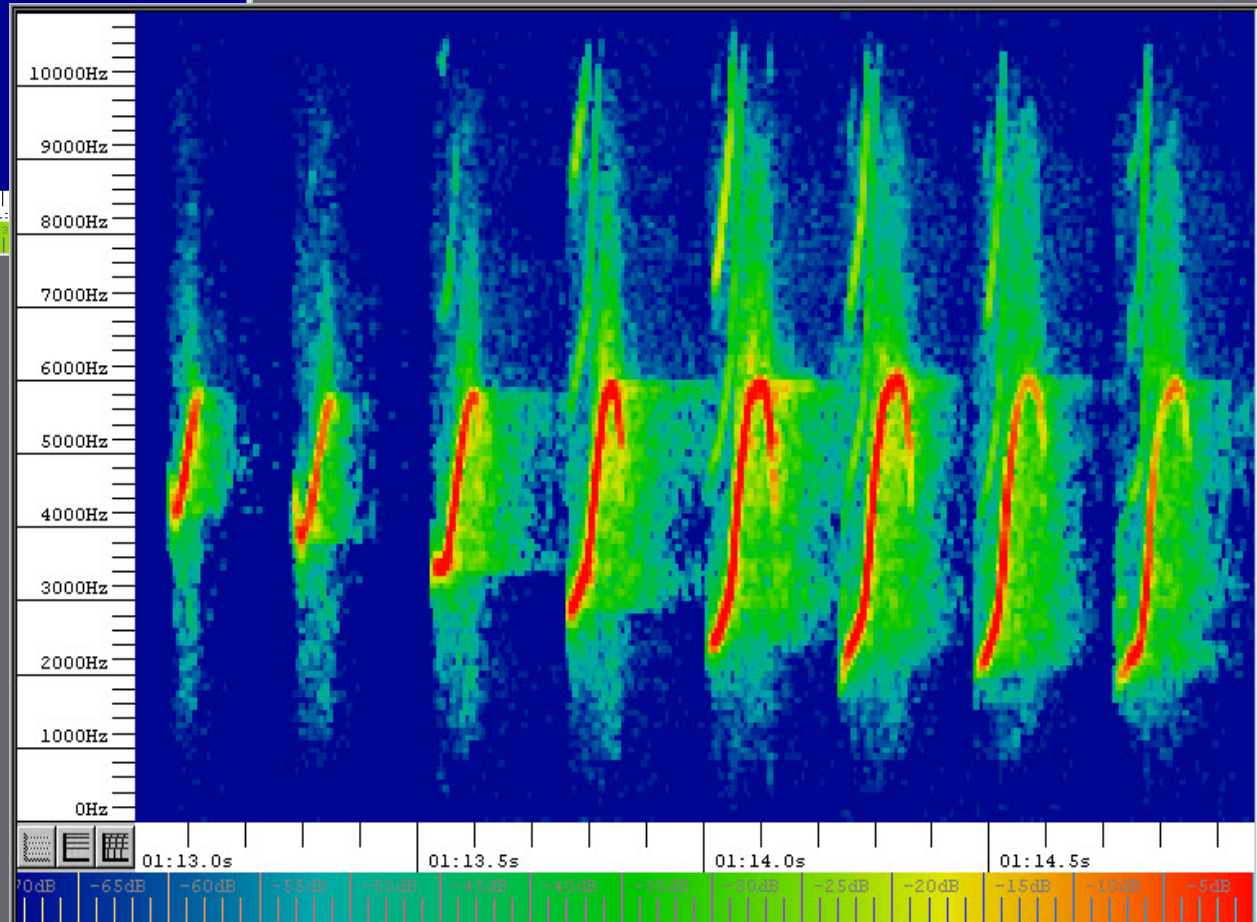
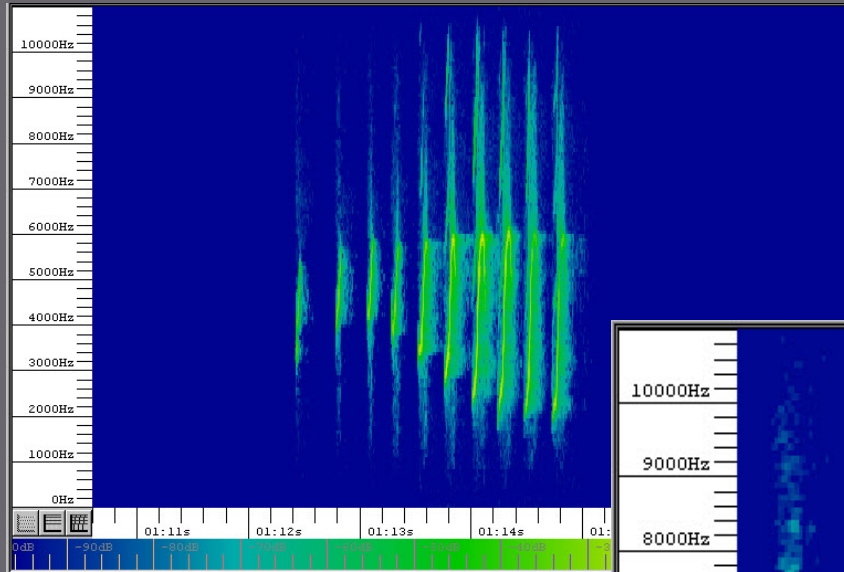


Ferrier's Territory Search Approach

- Intensive Surveys 1981/82 at Gloucester Tops and Border Ranges
- 18 km of transects (along tracks and roads) surveyed on 18 days at each location
- All territories detected within 150m each side of transect
- RSB most easily detected between September and December
- Detection favoured by high humidity, good visibility and low wind



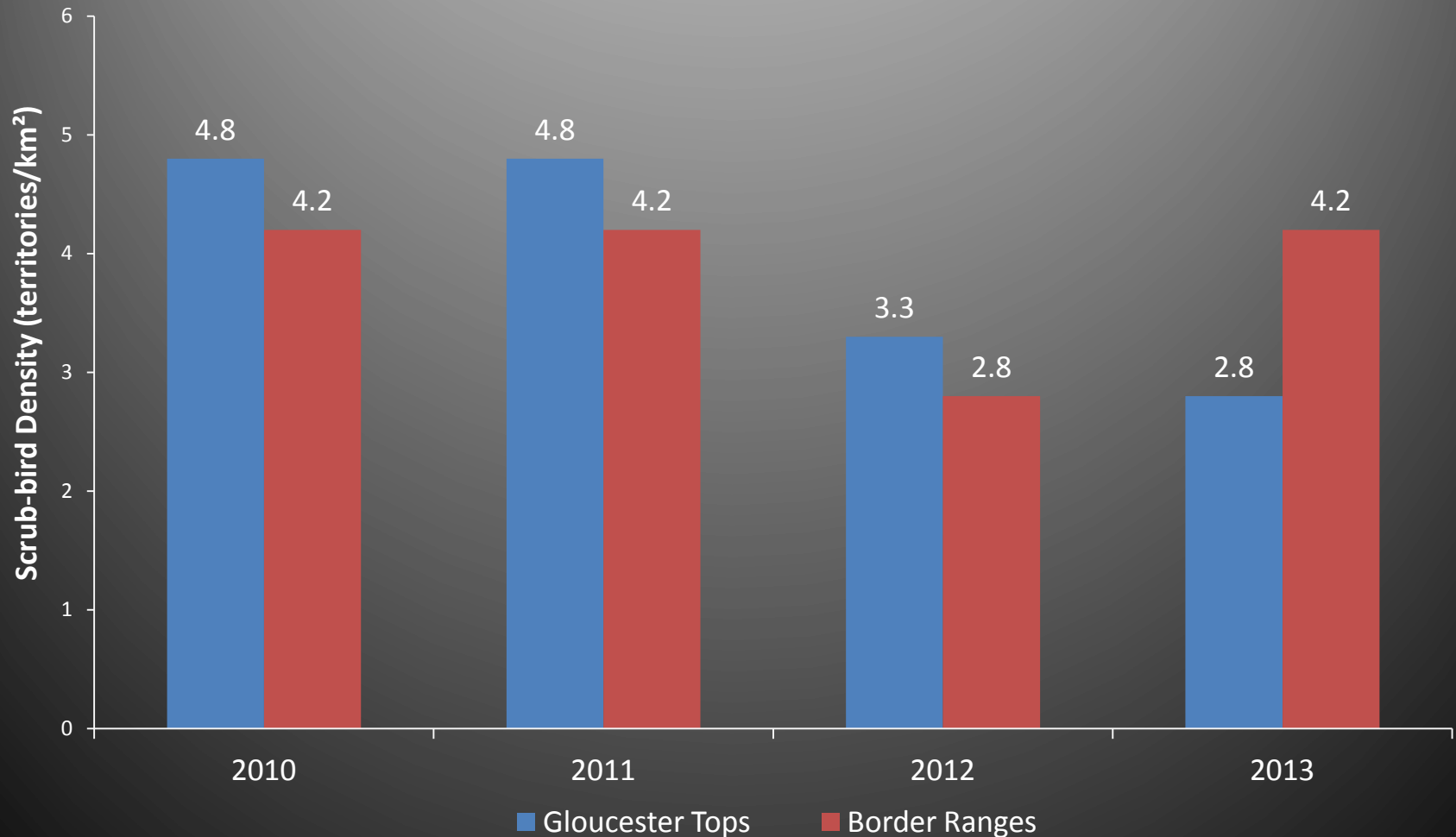
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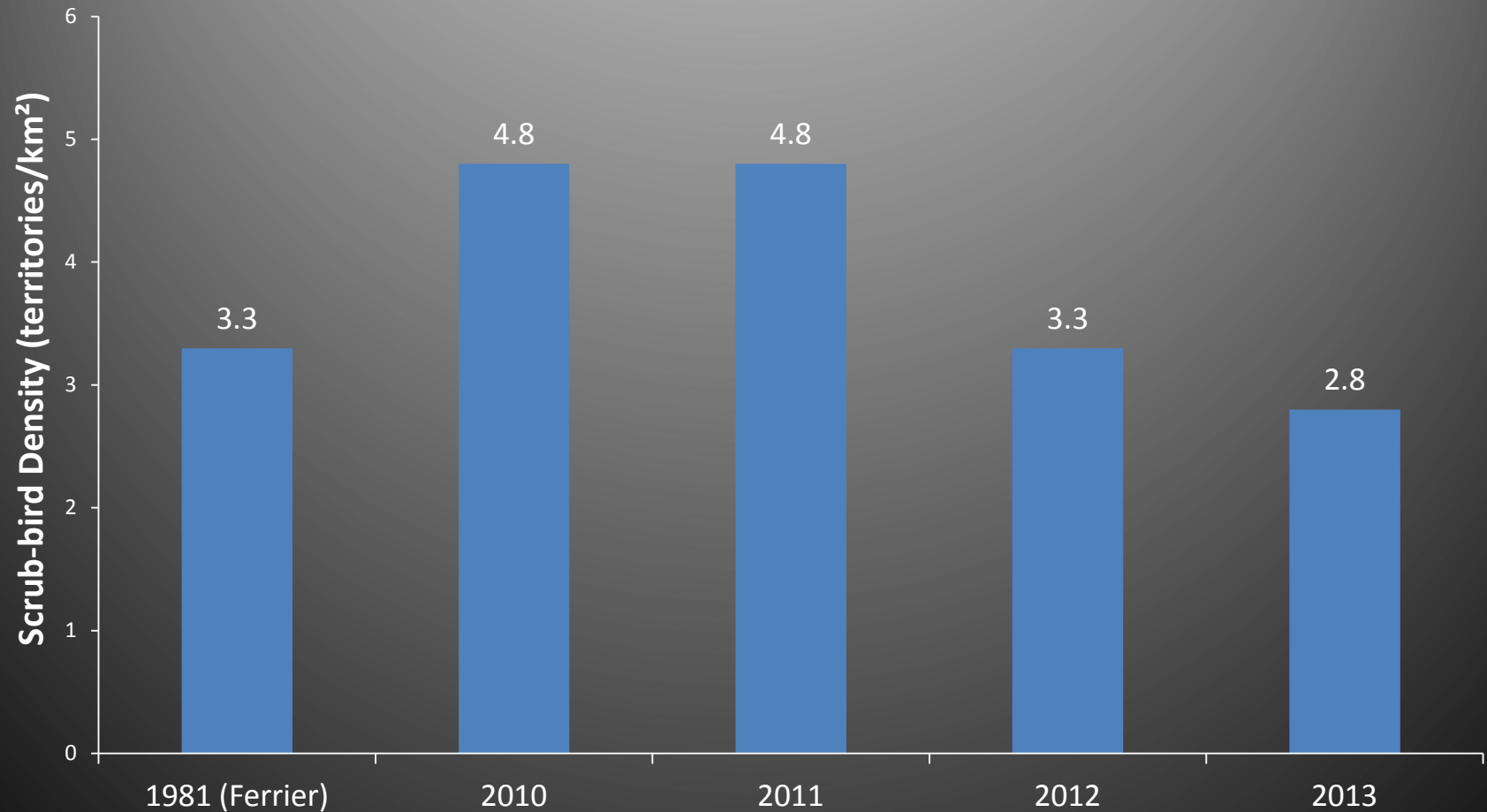
Survey Summary

	Gloucester Tops	Border Ranges
Number of 1 km transects	20	12
Ferrier transects used	75%	0%
Territories found	33	15
Detected every year	19	6
Detection probability	60% (97%)	40% (87%)

Comparison of Scrub-bird territory densities between study areas



Comparison with Ferrier's results at Gloucester Tops



Review of Method

- Territories successfully identified by walking transects using trained volunteers.
- Emphasis on confirming known territories.
- How often do we need to repeat surveys?
- Use a standard method.

Threats

- Habitat changes under passive management.
- Selective logging opened up rainforest (Border Ranges).
- Drier climatic conditions.
- Wildfires (Gloucester Tops).

Future Directions

- Improved estimate of species generation time.
- Relate core area monitoring to whole of range status.
- Habitat suitability assessment – requires partnerships.

Advocacy

- Dissemination of results (4 publications, including AFO June 2014).
- Liaison with stakeholders (NPWS).
- Presentations but not yet to local communities.
- Support of EPBC listing.

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