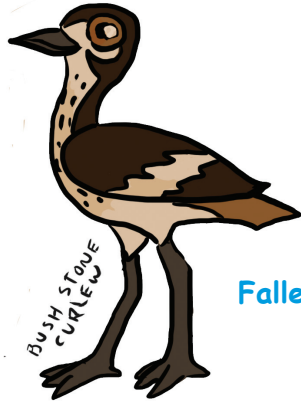


What have we got here



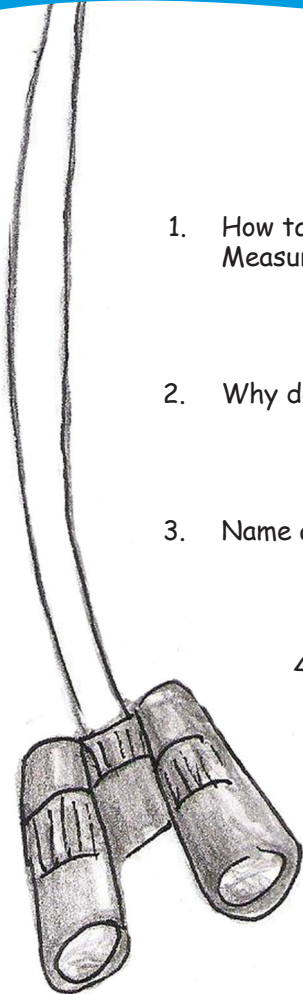
BUSH STONE CURLEW

Fallen timber and native grasses in the Murray Catchment provide homes (habitat) for many animals and birds. One very special bird of these grassy woodlands is the Bush Stone Curlews.

- Bush Stone Curlews live on the ground.
- They stand about 50-60cm tall and are usually found in pairs.
- Bush Stone Curlews have very long legs, knobby knees and a grey-brown body with light and dark streaks that help to camouflage them.
- Curlews are most active at night (nocturnal), which is why they have large yellow eyes that look for food and see predators in the dark.
- As they are nocturnal and very good at hiding, one way that these birds communicate is by a loud call which sounds like 'wer-loooo.'
- Bush Stone Curlews eat small grassland animals such as frogs, spiders, insects, snakes, lizards, crustaceans, as well as seeds and tubers.
- The curlews breed from July to January with two eggs laid in August-November and sometimes another two in November- January.
- They lay their eggs in a shallow scrape on the ground Both males and females look after the eggs and chicks.
- When disturbed, Bush Stone Curlews freeze, staying motionless, often in odd positions to deter predators.
- Although they prefer to walk, they occasionally fly if disturbed during the day
- With the removal of fallen timber and over grazing of native grasses, the Bush Stone Curlew has lost most of its habitat.
- Nesting birds and chicks are especially vulnerable to foxes, feral cats and dogs.
- Due to their rapid decline, the Curlews are now classed as endangered species in NSW under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.
- To help protect Bush Stone Curlews, we need to leave fallen timber around, especially under large trees; keep our native grasses; and eradicate cats and foxes.



ACTIVITIES



1. How tall does the Bush Stone Curlew stand?
Measure this out and see how tall this is compared to you.
2. Why do you think the Bush Stone Curlew has such large eyes? How does this help them?
3. Name and draw two animals that Bush Stone Curlews like to eat:
4. When do Bush Stone Curlews lay their eggs? How many eggs do they normally lay?
5. Describe what the Bush Stone Curlew does when it is disturbed:
6. What are the main threats to Bush Stone Curlews?
7. Why do Bush Stone Curlews need to camouflage themselves?
8. The Bush Stone Curlew is an endangered species - what does this mean?
9. List below some of the ways you can help the Bush Stone Curlew:

- Factsheets compiled by Miss Stacey Staunton-Latimer, Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre,
- Sketches drawn by Crystal Kirk, Year 9 Burrumbuttock
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