

The following plant and animal species have been chosen as case studies representing key elements of the Tweed's biodiversity.

Buruwagan | Bush Stone-curlew

Scientific name:

Burhinus grallarius

Common names: Bush Stone-curlew, Bush Thick-knee, Willaroo, Weeloo, Angelbird

Status: Endangered in NSW

Often heard at night, the bird's distinctive call has been described as akin to the call of a screaming woman or baby. In many Australian Aboriginal cultures Bush Stone-curlews have close associations with death and features in many Aboriginal stories across Australia.

Bush Stone-curlews are residents of the Tweed's coastal villages including Fingal, Kingscliff, Chinderah, Hastings Point and Pottsville. They commonly nest in highly modified open areas such as public recreation areas, caravan parks, car parks and private yards, perhaps in an effort to improve predator visibility. In many cases the same nesting sites are re-used in successive years but unfortunately, very few young



birds survive to adulthood. Nesting birds, their eggs and chicks are especially vulnerable to predation by foxes, cats and dogs.

Bush Stone-curlews feed and are active at night. During the day they rest and blend in with their surroundings by squatting on their feet, head out and legs stretched forward under the body. If disturbed, rather than fly off they prefer to crouch or stalk away stealthily and then freeze, making them particularly vulnerable to predators.

The Bush Stone-curlew is also under threat from

habitat clearance, residential development, and road strike by motor vehicles.

How can you help:

- Confine pets to your property and leash them when walking.
- Look out for Bush Stone-curlews when in local parks and gardens. If you see them, please respect their need for space and give them a very wide berth.
- Teach children about Bush Stone-curlews and ask that they do not approach them.
- Report nest sites to Tweed Shire Council.
- Participate in programs in your suburb to protect Bush Stone-curlews when they are nesting or raising chicks.

Photographer Steve Holland. To find out more visit <https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/BushStoneCurlew>