

Vanishing Birds



George Hickson
Boomi Public School

Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2013, the “Save Our Species” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about threatened species. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Cotton Australia and the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority.

Cotton Research & Development Corporation

Cotton Research & Development Corporation (CRDC) is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian cotton industry.

CRDC invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and extension projects that seek to enhance the environmental, social and economic values associated with cotton production systems for the benefit of cotton industry participants, regional communities and the Australian people.

www.crdc.com.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in NSW and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is helping people in our communities look after the land for future generations. The catchment is located in northern NSW, just west of the Great Diving Range. The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will become Local Land Services in January 2014.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Vanishing Birds

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School: Boomi Public School

This “Save Our Species” Enviro-Stories Education Program sponsored by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Cotton Australia and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority consists of the following books:

- Connor the Murray Cod
- Brave Bronte Brolga
- Kipper the Koala finds his home
- Sophie the Bandicoot
- Vanishing Birds
- Bonnie and Basil’s Baby Chicks
- The Journey to Safety

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The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

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Border Rivers-Gwydir

This book is about three birds that are threatened species. They all live around the Boomi area where I live.

This area is part of a region called the Border Rivers-Gwydir catchment.



Squatter Pigeons

Squatter Pigeons are medium sized pigeons that live on the ground. They are brown with black and white markings on their face and a blue-grey breast with a white V. They have mottled brown wings with green and purple patches.

Squatter Pigeons live on the north west slopes of New South Wales. They are very rare in the southern parts of their range, which is around where I live. They live on grassy woodlands and plains that have sandy soils close to water.



Key: Where they live

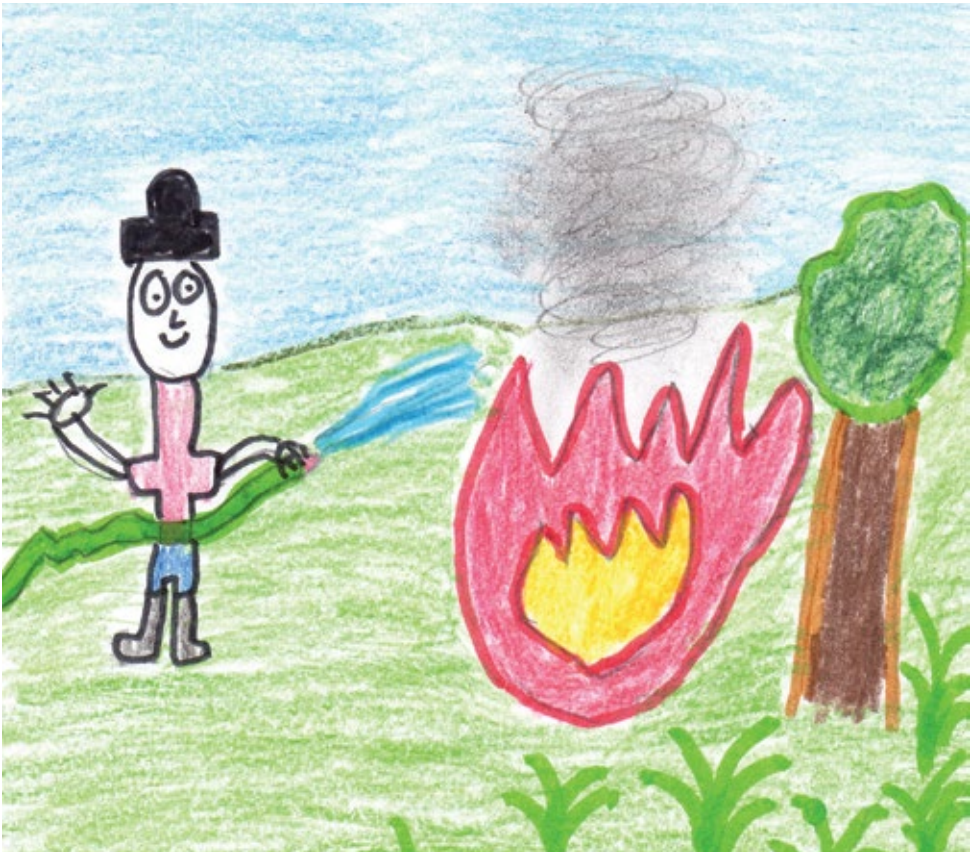


Some of their threats are from clearing of grassy woodlands for farming, being eaten by feral cats and foxes, overgrazing and trampling of nests from stock, competition from rabbits and illegal shooting.



We can help Squatter Pigeons by:

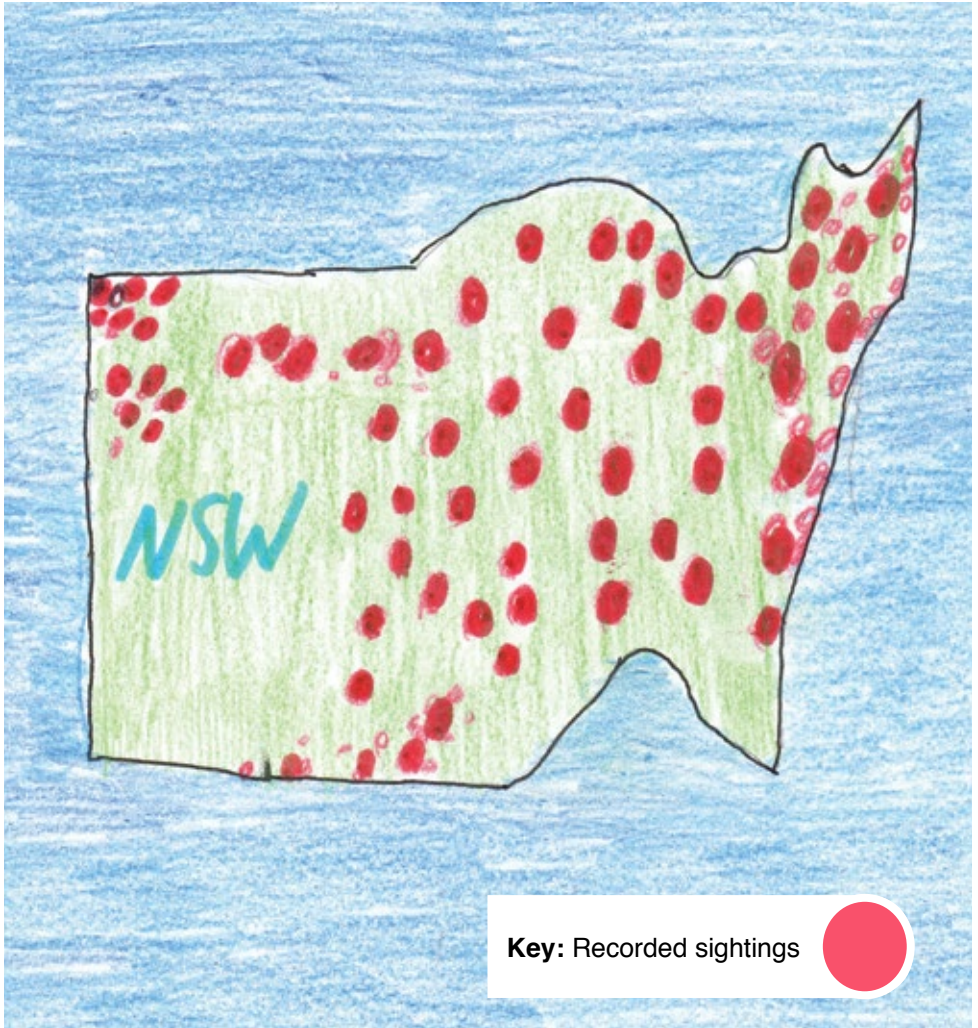
- controlling feral cats, rabbits and foxes;
- not letting cattle graze in breeding areas during spring;
- managing fires to protect native grasses;
- planting native bush corridors to reconnect smaller pieces of habitat.



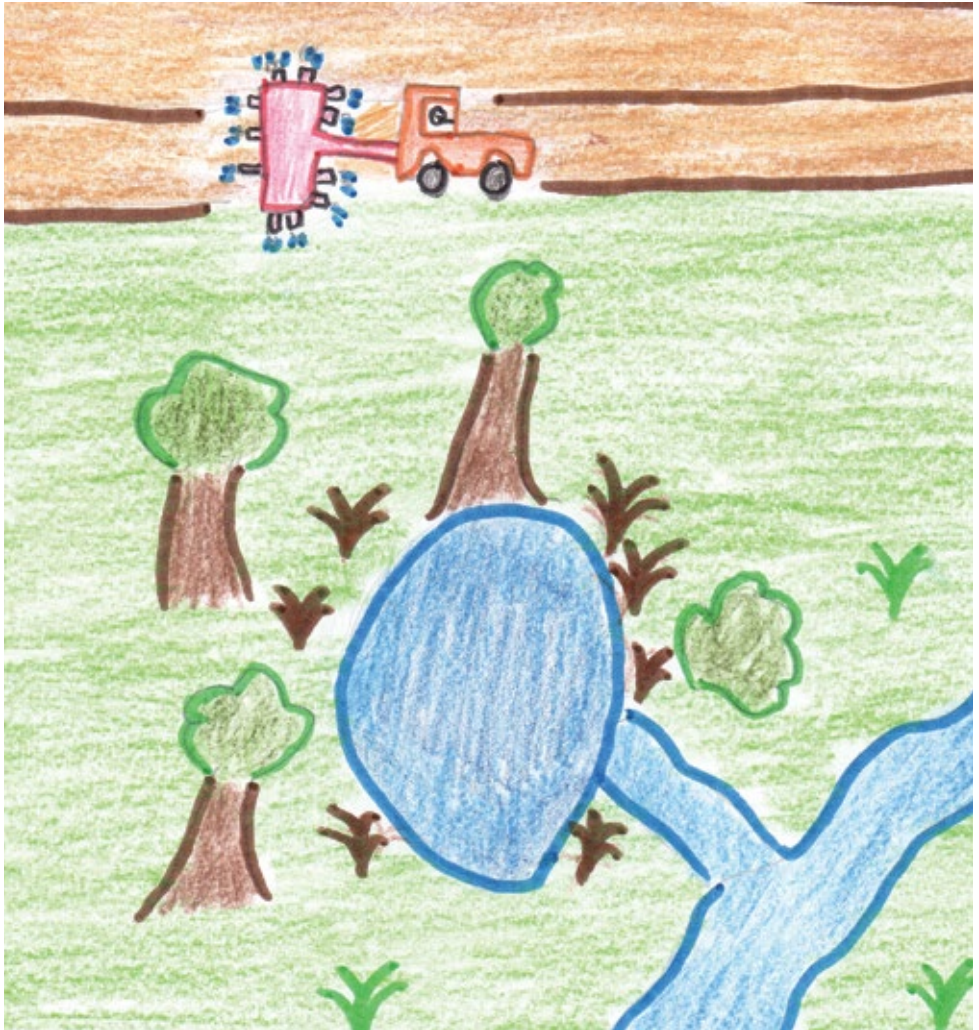
The Australian Painted Snipe



The Australian Painted Snipe is a small endangered bird that wades in freshwater. They have long bills that droop slightly at their tip. They have dark brown heads with a white line around their eyes. Their upper bodies are a grey, ashy colour with blackish blotches and brown to olive wings. Australian Painted Snipes have a white stripe around their shoulders and a white belly. They nest on the ground among reeds.



Most recorded sightings from eastern Australia are from within the Murray-Darling Basin. There are also recorded sightings in northern Australia.

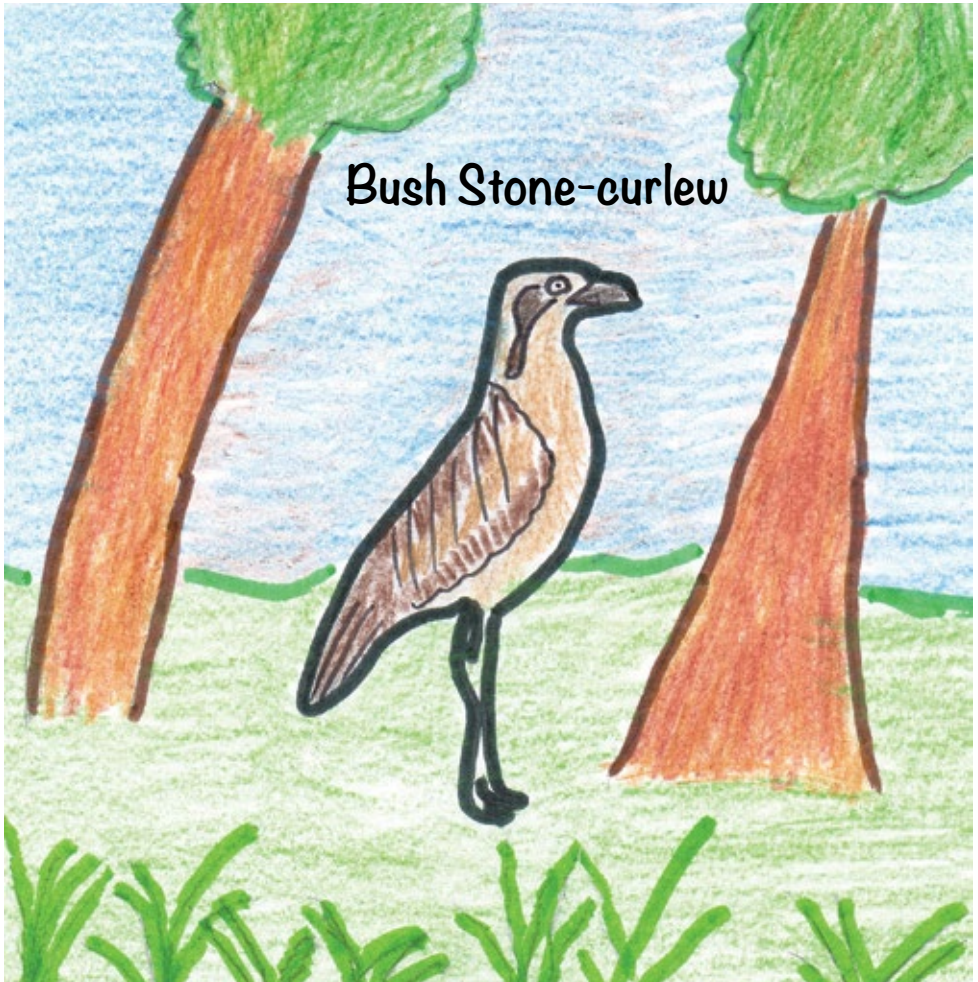


Some of the threats to the Australian Painted Snipe are the drainage of wetlands where they breed, low water quality from pollution, being eaten by cats and foxes, and use of chemicals near wetlands.

We can help Australian Painted Snipes by:

- controlling feral cats, dogs and foxes;
- ensuring healthy water flows in wetlands;
- protecting wetlands from pollution;
- limiting the use of chemicals near rivers.





The Bush Stone-curlew is an endangered bird that is about 55 centimetres tall. They have a grey or light brown back, with black blotches. They have a black band that runs down their neck yellow eyes and long spindly legs.

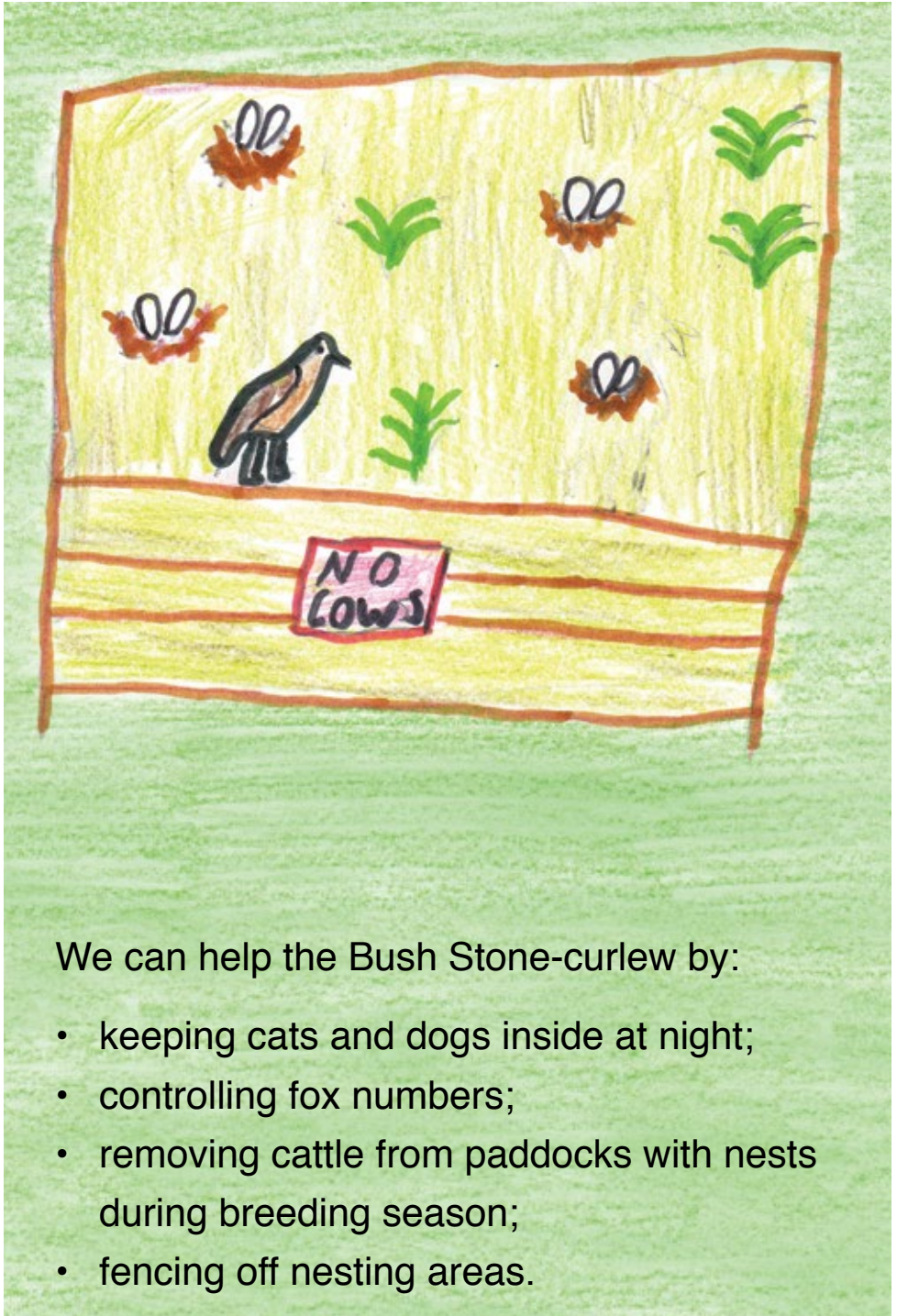
The only place the Bush Stone-curlew is common is in northern Australia. In New South Wales near where I live they are very rare.

Bush Stone-curlews live in open forests with lots of grass and fallen trees.



Some of the threats to the Bush Stone-curlew are being eaten by dogs, foxes and cats, getting their nests trampled by cattle, clearing habitat for farming and disturbances in the areas where there are nesting sites.





We can help the Bush Stone-curlew by:

- keeping cats and dogs inside at night;
- controlling fox numbers;
- removing cattle from paddocks with nests during breeding season;
- fencing off nesting areas.



Thank you!

Thank you for reading my story about these three threatened species. I hope you liked it and learnt some interesting information about how we can try to save these birds.



Bush
Stone-curlew

Australian
Painted Snipe

Squatter Pidgeon



George Hickson
Boomi Public School, Grade 6 2013



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Border Rivers-Gwydir



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