

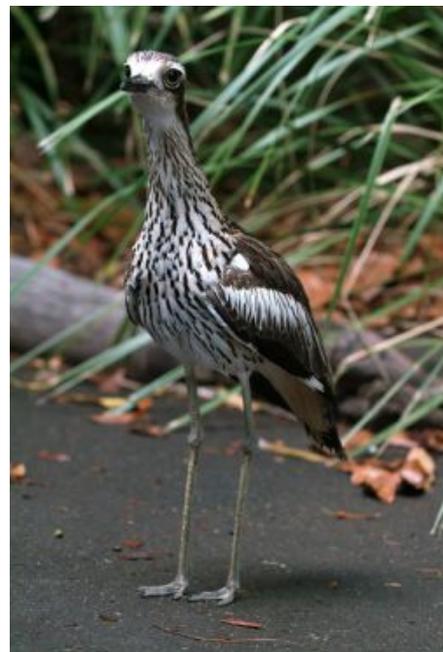


Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Stone Curlews

50 days and the parents teach them to eat food by dropping it in front of them. If danger threatens, the parents will carry their young off under their wings.

Australia Zoo Bush Stone-curlew profiles



Bush Stone-curlew

Eerie wailing calls at night are often the only sign that bush stone-curlew are about. Not only have they become very rare in southern pastoral areas due to disturbance and predation, but they also come out to feed only at night. During the day they rest squatting down on their feet, head out and legs folded forward under the body, blending beautifully in with the ground. If disturbed, rather than fly they prefer to crouch, freeze or stalk stealthily off.

Habitat

Open wooded rangelands, edges of forest and watercourses inland is where you can find the bush stone-curlew throughout Australia. They do avoid sandy or treeless deserts and heavy forest areas.

Diet

Most feeding is done on the ground, the birds pattering along, hunch-shouldered on spindly legs, turning over litter and picking up a variety of insects with their bills.

Breeding

The bush stone-curlew usually breeds once during July and January. Their nest is a scrape or small clearing on bare ground, often near bush or a fallen limb. Two light stone to buff eggs with brown blotches are laid and incubated by both parents. Babies are full grown in about

Feathers

Feathers was born and bred right here at Australia Zoo. He is definitely a favourite amongst the staff with those long legs and big staring eyes. He shares his time here being looked after by the Free Flight Bird Show team and receives lots of love and walks from the Roving crew every day. Feathers was originally thought to be a star in the free flight show but the bright lights and fame were not his style. He now spends his day wandering the zoo grounds greeting patrons and having his photo taken. He is quite a character and often can't control his excitement doing crazy jumps and kicks in the air. There are two species of curlews, bush-stone curlews, like Feathers, and also, beach curlews. They are also known as thick-knee curlews. They will find and eat things such as insects, small reptiles and rodents. Feathers favourite snack when he is out and about is definitely crickets and cockroaches. So if you are lucky enough to adopt Feathers make sure you're not afraid of creepy crawlies.

Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Stone Curlews are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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