



Watershed  
**Landcare**  
Incorporated

# BROWN TREECREEPER



## *Brown Treecreeper (Climacteris picumnus victoriae)* *in the Watershed Landcare region*

### SPECIES PROFILE

The Brown Treecreeper, Australia's largest treecreeper at 16-18 cm, is a grey-brown bird with dark streaking on the lower breast and belly and black bars on the undertail. Pale buff bands across the flight feathers are obvious in flight. The face is pale, with a dark line through the eye, and a dark crown.

Individuals are active, noisy, conspicuous, and give a loud 'pink' call, often repeated in contact, sometimes given in a series of 5 - 10 descending notes. They are gregarious and are usually observed in pairs or small groups of up to 12 birds.

The eastern subspecies of the Brown Treecreepers occur in NSW. They are sedentary and territorial year-round, with territories averaging 4.4ha in size. Breeding occurs from July to February in hollows in standing dead or live trees and tree stumps.

The main habitat of Brown Treecreepers are eucalypt woodlands and dry open forest. They prefer woodlands dominated by boxes, stringybarks or other rough-barked eucalypts, usually with an open grassy understory. Fallen timber is an important habitat component for foraging. They are terrestrial and arboreal in about equal proportions; foraging on trunks and branches of trees and amongst fallen timber, where they peck and probe primarily for insects, with up to 80% of the diet comprised of ants.

*Conservation Status in NSW:*  
**Vulnerable**

### LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

The Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies) is endemic to eastern Australia and predominantly occurs in eucalypt forests and woodlands of inland plains and slopes of the Great Dividing Range.

In the Watershed Landcare region, the species is widespread and often recorded in riparian woodland and on footslopes in locations such as Putta Bucca Wetlands and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

The eastern subspecies has experienced significant population declines due to historical clearing throughout its range.



# BROWN TREECREEPER



Photo credits: Mark Leary, Putta Bucca Wetlands, Mudgee, NSW



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Use livestock grazing practices that maintain or improve habitat, such as rotational grazing.
- Retain dead standing or fallen timber by preventing firewood collection or on-farm practices such as 'tidying up';
- Retain hollow-bearing, dead or living, trees and stumps on your property and on public lands.
- Fence off known habitat to protect natural features and to allow natural regeneration.
- Manage invasive weeds and feral pest species to reduce habitat competition and improve habitat condition.
- Increase remnant vegetation size and connectivity through tree planting.

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Websites that allow you to record your sightings of the Brown Treecreeper (listed right), also enable you to search records for local populations of this species and others.

Information for this fact sheet was sourced from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment. You can visit their website for additional information via the following link:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ThreatenedSpeciesApp](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ThreatenedSpeciesApp)

## REPORT A SIGHTING

Reporting your sightings of threatened species such as the Brown Treecreeper contributes to our understanding of the species' populations in our local area.

The sightings you report may be used in research and conservation programs and will help guide decisions on where government and land management activities will occur.

You can record your sightings online using:

- the NSW BioNet Atlas  
[www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au)
- the Atlas of Living Australia  
[www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au)
- BirdLife Australia's Birdata  
[birdata.birdlife.org.au](http://birdata.birdlife.org.au)