

Chapter 8

Woodland management and conservation

Woodlands are extraordinary environments that support a fascinating and diverse biota. Many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, invertebrates, and plants are restricted to woodlands and occur nowhere else. They are precious parts of Australia's natural heritage and are in danger of being lost. Nearly 75 per cent of declining native birds in south-eastern Australia are woodland birds. The bush stone-curlew was once common and is now in danger of being lost from mainland south-eastern Australia. Losses of biodiversity from woodlands are serious. This is because, for some animal and plant groups, woodlands are more species-rich places than other environments like forests.

RIGHT: Cliff lines are specialised habitats that are important for many species, some of which are found nowhere else in the landscape. The cliff line in this landscape supports extensive Aboriginal rock shelters and the remains of rock paintings.



LEFT: There is a long history of human management of temperate woodlands. Signs of Aboriginal use can still be found in some places such as on this scarred white box tree near Nangus, west of Gundagai. Aboriginal people had many uses for eucalypt bark. They made shelters from bark, as well as bowls (called coolamons), shields, canoes and baby carriers.