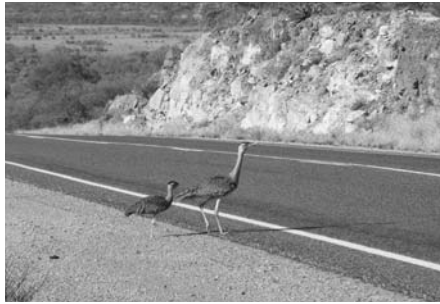


# 8

## THREATS AND CONSERVATION



*The imperious Bustard strides no more  
Across the grassy waste;  
The gallant Ruff deserts the shore  
He trampled into paste;  
The Oriole falls, a flaming sprite,  
Before the unsparing gun;  
Whilst thou by some diviner right  
Dost wanton in the sun.*

*Arthur Benson 'The Sparrow'*

The Australian bustard's decline from regions where it was formerly common is cause for concern and a sign of its susceptibility to changes wrought since European settlement. These declines have been variously attributed to hunting, pesticides, altered fire regimes, pastoralism,