

MOVEMENTS OF TWO EXPERIMENTALLY DISPLACED BROWN TREECREEPERS *Climacteris picumnus* IN A MATRIX OF WOODLAND AND PASTURE

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Previous work found that Brown Treecreepers *Climacteris picumnus* were unable to disperse to isolated woodland patches in the New England Tablelands, northern New South Wales. I attempted to understand dispersal behaviour by testing how Brown Treecreepers react to landscape patterns while moving. I radio-tagged two male Brown Treecreepers on their resident territories and released them on territories two kilometres away. I expected to follow the return paths of these birds across a matrix of pastures and woodlands within hours of release. The male that I moved to a new territory connected directly to the original territory by woodlands returned within four days. The male that I moved to a new territory which was isolated from the original territory by cleared land did not return. The post-release movements of both males were confined to woodlands. These observations reveal the limited movement behaviour of male Brown Treecreepers and provide anecdotal evidence that non-wooded habitat is a barrier to dispersal in this species.