

Indigenous Wildlife of Southern Ballarat

Featured in this brochure is a selection of Ballarat's commonly-occurring, and in some cases lesser-known, vertebrate fauna. For some of the 115 native species (particularly non-avian), sighting reports in Southern Ballarat may be infrequent (and historical in some cases), but all have been officially recorded in the region (see map). All fauna warrant monitoring for current local presence – especially given the impact of climate change and ongoing urbanisation on declines and altered movements of species. We hope this brochure will awaken locals to the biodiversity around them, help with species ID, and inspire the next cohort of wildlife monitors!

Bird images usually show typical adult (ad) male (M) forms, while female (F), subadult (juv), and seasonal forms (br, non-br) may also be shown. Photos are not to scale; size measurements are approx length (minus tail for all bar snakes, skinks, dragon; for turtles the metric is shell length).

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Plant a variety of locally native ground covers (e.g. Cranberry Heath), understorey (e.g. Hedge Wattle, Silver Banksia), midstorey (e.g. Blackwood), and overstorey (e.g. eucalypts) vegetation, to provide proper food / shelter for a diverse range of local fauna.
- Include plants that flower at all different seasons, for year-round nectar provisions.
- Widen windbreak margins to more effectively cater for wildlife, especially small birds.
- Preserve old and dead trees where no danger to public safety. Hollows take 60+ years to form, and are needed for shelter / nesting by 20% and 60% of local native birds and mammals, respectively. Install artificial nest-boxes to offset lack of hollow-bearing trees.
- Regard rocks, logs, and leaf litter as useful 'microhabitat' for reptiles, frogs and birds.
- Provide well-maintained (sanitary) water stations at various heights and proximities to shelter, to cater for birds and other fauna (all while ensuring responsible pet ownership)
- If feeding wildlife (mind not to upset their survival instincts), occasionally provide small amounts of foods that meet target species' nutritional needs (avoid bread, mince meats).
- Abstain from toxic chemical applications, to protect small fauna and predators.
- Report injured wildlife to a local registered wildlife carer / rescuer / rehabilitator.
- Safety warning: untrained persons should never handle any wildlife. Stings, scratches and bites can be fatal (e.g. snakes) or require post-exposure medical attention (e.g. bats).
- Record your wildlife sightings on online citizen science databases (e.g. iNaturalist, Atlas of Living Australia, eBird, Birdata, FrogID) to grow the species distribution dataset, used to inform wildlife conservationists. Smart phone app versions are free!
- Join a landcare / environmental advocacy group to learn more about your local area!

CONTACTS

Leigh Catchment Group: leighcg@cable.net.au • leighcatchmentgroup.org
 Facebook: @LeighCatchmentGroup • Instagram: leigh_catchment_group
 Friends of Canadian Corridor: foccinfo@gmail.com • focc.asn.au
 Facebook: @friendsofcanadiancorridor

BIODIVERSITY WEBSITES

Australian Geographic • Ballarat Environment Network • BirdLife Aust • Conservation Volunteers Aust • DELWP • Field Naturalists' Club Ballarat • Gould League • Greening Aust • IUCN Red List of Threatened Species • Landcare Vic Inc. • Land for Wildlife • Parks Vic • Seeding Vic • State-wide Integrated Flora & Fauna Team (SWIFFT) • Trust for Nature • Victorian Frog Group

FURTHER REFERENCES

Franks & Franks (2011) *Nest Boxes for Wildlife: A practical guide*
 Grant (2003) *Habitat Garden: Attracting wildlife to your garden*
 Lindenmayer et al. (2003) *Wildlife on Farms: How to conserve native animals*
 Menkhurst & Knight (2004) *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia*
 Menkhurst et al. (2020) *The Australian Bird Guide*
 Morecombe & Stewart (2010) *Guide to Birds of Australia [Digital Edition]*
 Pizzey & Knight (2007) *Birds of Australia [Digital Edition]*

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Cover photo by Rob Loveband: Brown-headed Honeyeater
Melithreptus brevirostris, 14cm.

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Leigh Catchment Group

Friends of



Canadian Corridor Inc.

Birds



Masked Lapwing
Vanellus miles
 38cm | (JC)



Latham's Snipe
Gallinago hardwickii
 30cm | (IB)



Little Pied Cormorant
Microcarbo melanoleucos
 58cm | (CT)



Straw-necked Ibis
Threskiornis spinicollis
 70cm | (JC)



Eurasian Coot
Fulica atra
 38cm | (JS)



Dusky Moorhen
Gallinula tenebrosa
 40cm | (JC)



Maned (Australian Wood) Duck
Chenonetta jubata (M, F)
 50cm | (JC)



Pacific Black Duck
Anas superciliosa
 60cm | (JC)



Grey Teal
Anas gracilis
 45cm | (JC)



Australasian (Purple) Swamphen
Porphyrrio melanotus
 48cm | (CT)



Wedge-tailed Eagle
Aquila audax
 110cm | (RT‡; AA‡)



Black Kite
Milvus migrans
 55cm | (AB; CT)



Chestnut Teal (br M, F)
Anas castanea
 48cm | (JC; JC)



Hardhead (M)
Aythya australis
 60cm | (AM‡)



Australasian Grebe (br, non-br)
Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
 25cm | (JC; AB)



Black-shouldered Kite
Elanus axillaris
 38cm | (RL; CT)



Brown Goshawk
Accipiter fasciatus
 50cm | (JC; AM‡)



Brown Falcon
Falco berigora
 50cm | (RL; CT)



White-faced Heron (br)
Egretta novaehollandiae
 69cm | (JC)



White-necked Heron
Ardea pacifica
 105cm | (JC)



Australian White Ibis
Threskiornis moluccus
 75cm | (JS)

Birds



Nankeen Kestrel (M)
Falco cenchroides
 35cm | (AB; AM‡)



Australian (Southern) Boobook
Ninox boobook
 35cm | (JC)



Powerful Owl
Ninox strenua
 65cm | (GO)

Birds



Tawny Frogmouth (ad, juv)
Podargus strigoides
 50cm | (CT)



Australian Owlet-nightjar
Aegotheles cristatus
 24cm | (IB; JS)



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus funereus (F)
 65cm | (RL)



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cacatua galerita
 50cm | (RL)



Long-billed Corella
Cacatua tenuirostris
 41cm | (RL)



Galah
Eolophus roseicapilla
 38cm | (RL)



Eastern Rosella
Platycercus eximius
 33cm | (JC)



Crimson Rosella (ad, juv)
Platycercus elegans
 37cm | (JC)



Rainbow Lorikeet
Trichoglossus moluccanus
 31cm | (RL)



Musk Lorikeet
Glossopsitta concinna
 23cm | (RL)



Crested Pigeon
Ocyphaps lophotes
 34cm | (AB)



Common Bronzewing (M)
Phaps chalcoptera
 36cm | (JC)

Birds



Pallid Cuckoo
Cacomantis pallidus
 33cm | (AB)



Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Cacomantis flabelliformis
 27cm | (RT‡)



Laughing Kookaburra
Dacelo novaeguineae
 47cm | (RL)



Sacred Kingfisher
Todiramphus sanctus
 23cm | (JB‡)



Welcome Swallow
Hirundo neoxena
 15cm | (JC; JB‡)



White-browed Scrubwren
Sericornis frontalis
 13cm | (JC)



Brown Thornbill
Acanthiza pusilla
 10cm | (AM‡)



Striated Thornbill
Acanthiza lineata
 10cm | (IB)



Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Acanthiza chrysorrhoa
 12cm | (AB)



Striated Pardalote
Pardalotus striatus
 11cm | (AM‡; RL)



Spotted Pardalote (M, F)
Pardalotus punctatus
 10cm | (IB; AB)



Superb Fairywren (br M, F)
Malurus cyaneus
 14cm | (AM‡; AB)

Birds



Red Wattlebird
Anthochaera carunculata
36cm | (RL)



White-eared Honeyeater
Nesoptilotis leucotis
22cm | (IB)



White-plumed Honeyeater
Ptilotula penicillata
17cm | (AA#)



Pied Currawong
Strepera graculina
50cm | (JS)



Grey Currawong
Strepera versicolor
50cm | (JC)



White-winged Chough
Corcororax melanorhynchos
47cm | (JS)



New Holland Honeyeater
Phylidonyris novaehollandiae
18cm | (RL)



Eastern Spinebill
Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris
16cm | (RL)



Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Caligavis chrysops
18cm | (RL)



Little Raven
Corvus mellori
50cm | (JC)



Olive-backed Oriole
Oriolus sagittatus
28cm | (IB)



Maggie-lark (M, F)
Gallinula cyanoleuca
30cm | (JC; JC)



White-naped Honeyeater
Meliphreptus lunatus
15cm | (RR#)



Varied Sittella (F)
Daphoenositta chrysoptera
12cm | (AB)



White-throated Treecreeper
Cormobates leucophaea (F)
14cm | (JB#)



Willie Wagtail
Rhipifura leucophrys
22cm | (JC)



Grey Fantail
Rhipifura albiscapa
17cm | (AM#)



Scarlet Robin (M, F)
Petroica boodang
14cm | (AB; AB)



Black-faced Cuckooshrike
Coracina novaehollandiae
36cm | (JC)



Grey Butcherbird
Cracticus torquatus
30cm | (JC)



Australian Magpie
Cracticus tibicen
44cm | (JC)



Eastern Yellow Robin
Eopsaltria australis (ad x2)
16cm | (RL)



Eastern (Crested) Shriketit
Falculculus frontatus (M)
19cm | (RS)



(Australian) Golden Whistler
Pachycephala pectoralis (M, F)
18cm | (JC; AM#)

Birds



Pied Currawong
Strepera graculina
50cm | (JS)



Grey Currawong
Strepera versicolor
50cm | (JC)



White-winged Chough
Corcororax melanorhynchos
47cm | (JS)



Little Raven
Corvus mellori
50cm | (JC)



Olive-backed Oriole
Oriolus sagittatus
28cm | (IB)



Maggie-lark (M, F)
Gallinula cyanoleuca
30cm | (JC; JC)



Willie Wagtail
Rhipifura leucophrys
22cm | (JC)



Grey Fantail
Rhipifura albiscapa
17cm | (AM#)



Scarlet Robin (M, F)
Petroica boodang
14cm | (AB; AB)



Eastern Yellow Robin
Eopsaltria australis (ad x2)
16cm | (RL)



Eastern (Crested) Shriketit
Falculculus frontatus (M)
19cm | (RS)



(Australian) Golden Whistler
Pachycephala pectoralis (M, F)
18cm | (JC; AM#)

Birds



Rufous Whistler (M, F)
Pachycephala rufiventris
17cm | (IB; JC)



Grey Shrikethrush
Colluricincla harmonica
25cm | (RL)



Mistletoebird (M, F)
Dicaeum hirundinaceum
11cm | (RS; AB)



Silveryeye
Zosterops lateralis
12cm | (JC)



Australian Reed Warbler
Acrocephalus australis
17cm | (JC)



Red-browed Finch
Neochmia temporalis
12cm | (JC)

Mammals



Short-beaked Echidna
Tachyglossus aculeatus
44cm | (IB)



Platypus
Ornithorhynchus anatinus
55cm | (RT#)



Brush-tailed Phascogale
Phascogale tapoatafa
26cm | (BF)



Agile Antechinus
Antechinus agilis
11cm | (BV#)



Fat-tailed Dunnart
Sminthopsis crassicaudata
9cm | (BD#)



Koala
Phascolarctos cinereus
70cm | (RL)

Mammals



Common Brushtail Possum
Trichosurus vulpecula
55cm | (BV#)



Feathertail Glider
Acrobates pygmaeus
8cm | (JB#)



Sugar Glider
Petaurus breviceps
20cm | (JB#)



Common Ringtail Possum
Pseudocheirus peregrinus
38cm | (CT)



Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Macropus giganteus
130cm | (RL)



Swamp Wallaby
Wallabia bicolor
85cm | (RL)



Lesser Long-eared Bat
Nyctophilus geoffroyi
5cm | (JS)



Rakali (Water-Rat)
Hydromys chrysogaster
39cm | (JC)



Bush Rat
Rattus fuscipes
21cm | (BV#)

Reptiles & Frogs (Herpetofauna)



Macquarie Turtle
Emydura macquarii
34cm | (BV#)



Eastern Long-necked Turtle
Chelodina longicollis
20cm | (JC)



Eastern Tiger Snake
Notechis scutatus
200cm | (MC#)

Reptiles & Frogs (Herpetofauna)



Eastern Brown Snake
Pseudonaja textilis
200cm | (NG#)



Lowland Copperhead
Austrelaps superbus
150cm | (RR#)



Little Whip Snake
Parasuta flagellum
40cm | (NG#)



White-tipped Snake
Drysdalia coronoides
40cm | (RR#)



Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink
Lampropholis guichenoti
9cm | (JC)



Tussock Skink
Pseudomoia pagenstecheri
15cm | (NG#)



Southern Water-Skink
Eulamprus tympanum
20cm | (RR#)



Cunningham's Skink
Egernia cunninghami
40cm | (RR#)



Blotched Bluetongue
Tiliqua nigrolutea
50cm | (TS#)



Jacky Dragon
Amphibolurus muricatus
23cm | (RR#)



Marbled Gecko
Christinus marmoratus
7cm | (RR#)



Bibron's Toadlet
Pseudophryne bibronii
3cm | (SW#)

Reptiles & Frogs (Herpetofauna)



Common Eastern Froglet
Crinia signifera
3cm | (RR#; RR#)



Southern Brown Tree Frog
Litoria ewingii
4.5cm | (AM#)



Growling Grass Frog
Litoria raniformis
10cm | (NG#)



Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk)
Limnodynastes dumerilii
8cm | (RR#)



Spotted Marsh Frog
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis
4.5cm | (RR#)



Striped Marsh Frog
Limnodynastes peronii
7.5cm | (RR#)

Ballarat Region

