



HUME CITY COUNCIL

FAUNA OF HUME

A guide to identifying
local animal species

INTRODUCTION

As an island continent geographically isolated for over 40 million years, Australia is home to some of the world's most unique wildlife. 83 per cent of our mammal species, 89% of reptiles and 93% of amphibians can only be found in Australia. Hume has different habitats that support many animals. Council strives to conserve and protect our precious natural heritage, with your help.

Biodiversity is a scientific term used to describe the numerous species of animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms that exist, along with all the kinds of ecosystems they are part of (e.g. grasslands, woodlands, wetlands), and their genetic diversity. Biodiversity is the variety of life!

Ultimately, humanity needs nature for the many benefits that biodiversity provides. This long list includes food, fertile soils, clean water and air, medicines, climate stability, to primary production like forestry, fisheries and agriculture. As well as tourism and recreational opportunities, and cultural identity and practices. Connecting with nature enhances peoples' wellbeing, health and happiness.

However, our native plants and animals are facing various threats, leading to their decline and possible extinction. The loss of habitat and the impact of introduced species are the two greatest threats to biodiversity, with climate change predicted to further reduce the ability of many species to survive.

But there is much each of us can do to help nature, in our own backyards, school grounds, workplaces, parks and reserves, along creeks and at wetlands. Just being aware that all these wonderful native animals exist in Hume is a great start.

The *Fauna of Hume* field guide shows most of the native and introduced (*) species of mammals, reptiles, and frogs found in Hume. It does not include any of the freshwater fish or invertebrates (i.e. animals without a backbone like bees, butterflies, spiders, ants etc). For birds, see the *Birds of Hume* companion field guide.



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal living culture as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk and to Elders past and present.

Mammals



Platypus



Short-beaked Echidna



Common Wombat



Koala



Sugar Glider



Common Ringtail Possum



Common Brushtail Possum



Tuar
(Brush-tailed Phascogale)



Fat-tailed Dunnart



Eastern Barred Bandicoot



Eastern Grey Kangaroo



Black (Swamp) Wallaby



Grey-headed Flying-fox



White-striped Freetail Bat



Southern Freetail Bat



Lesser Long-eared Bat



Gould's Long-eared Bat



Eastern Bent-wing Bat



Gould's Wattled Bat



Chocolate Wattled Bat



Eastern False Pipistrelle



Inland Broad-nosed Bat



Large Forest Bat



Southern Forest Bat



Little Forest Bat



Swamp Rat



Rakali (Water Rat)

▼ Introduced species (*)

These are animals not native to Australia, coming from other parts of the world where they evolved. They may also be called exotic or feral species.

Introduced predators like cats and foxes kill millions of native animals every year. While introduced herbivores including rabbits, hares and deer compete with native species by eating plants, or causing soil erosion.



Black Rat*



European Rabbit*



European Hare*



House Cat*



Red Fox*



Fallow Deer*

Reptiles



Lowland Copperhead



White-lipped Snake



Eastern Brown Snake



Red-bellied Black Snake



Eastern Tiger Snake



Little Whip Snake



Striped Legless Lizard



Marbled Gecko



Jacky Lizard (Tree Dragon)



Eastern Three-lined Skink



Large Striped Skink



Cunningham's Skink



Black Rock Skink



Southern Water Skink



Garden Skink



Bougainville's Skink



Tussock
(Pagenstecher's) Skink



Weasel Skink



Common Blue Tongue Lizard



Shingleback,
Stumpy-tailed Lizard #



Eastern Snake-necked Turtle



Frogs



Common Froglet



Plains Froglet



Eastern Banjo Frog (Southern Bullfrog, Pobblebonk)



Striped Marsh Frog



Spotted Marsh Frog



Common Spadefoot Toad



Bibron's (Brown) Toadlet



Southern Brown Tree Frog



Lesueur's Tree Frog



Peron's Tree Frog #



Growling Grass Frog



Verreaux's Tree Frog



Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog #

Species is native to Australia, but Hume is outside its natural range (#)

PHOTO CREDITS

Hume City Council gratefully acknowledges the photographic contributions of various people, who are individually credited in this index. In particular, we thank members of the Craigieburn Camera Club, Australasian Bat Society and ecological experts from Biosis, Bowerbird, Wildlife Profiles and the Arthur Rylah Institute who kindly supplied photos in this field guide.

Thanks to: Alison Lyons, Andrew Haysom, Anna Lanigan, Beverley Van Praagh, Bruce Thomson, Caroline Overbeek, Cassandra Borg, Ian Kitchen, Ian Smales, Ken Walker, Lindy Lumsden, Sally Ryan, Melissa Doherty, Matthew Hyde, Patrick Kavanagh, Peter Robertson, Steve Bourne, William Terry.

You could use this index as a checklist for the species that you've been fortunate to see. Or for an even greater challenge, the critters you've managed to take photos of - good luck!

Cover

Echidna (A Haysom)	Cover
Koala (B Van Praagh)	1

Mammals

Platypus (I Kitchen).....	2
Short-beaked Echidna (A Haysom)	2
Common Wombat (M Doherty)	2
Koala (B Van Praagh)	2
Sugar Glider (B Van Praagh).....	2
Common Ringtail Possum (A Lyons)	2
Common Brushtail Possum (A Haysom).....	2
Tuan (Brush-tailed Phascogale) (W Terry).....	2
Fat-tailed Dunnart (P Kavanagh).....	2
Eastern Barred Bandicoot (C Overbeek).....	2
Eastern Grey Kangaroo (A Haysom).....	2
Black (Swamp) Wallaby (A Haysom)	3
Grey-headed Flying-fox (I Kitchen).....	3
White-striped Freetail Bat (B Thomson).....	3
Southern Freetail Bat (L Lumsden)	3
Lesser Long-eared Bat (I Smales).....	3
Gould's Long-eared Bat (S Bourne).....	3
Eastern Bent-wing Bat (L Lumsden).....	3
Gould's Wattled Bat (I Smales).....	3
Chocolate Wattled Bat (B Thomson).....	3
Eastern False Pipistrelle (L Lumsden)	3
Inland Broad-nosed Bat (L Lumsden)	3
Large Forest Bat (L Lumsden).....	3
Southern Forest Bat (B Thomson)	4
Little Forest Bat (I Smales).....	4
Swamp Rat (S Ryan)	4
Rakali (Water Rat) (S Ryan).....	4
Black Rat (M Doherty)	4
European Rabbit (M Doherty).....	4
European Hare (B Van Praagh)	4
House Cat (M Doherty)	4
Red Fox (S Ryan)	4
Fallow Deer (C Borg).....	4

Reptiles

Lowerland Copperhead (M Doherty)	5
White-lipped Snake (I Smales)	5
Eastern Brown Snake (P Robertson).....	5
Red-bellied Black Snake (P Robertson).....	5
Eastern Tiger Snake (I Smales)	5
Little Whip Snake (M Doherty)	5
Striped Legless Lizard (I Smales).....	5
Marbled Gecko (I Smales).....	5
Jacky Lizard (Tree Dragon) (A Haysom).....	5
Eastern Three-lined Skink (M Doherty).....	5
Large Striped Skink (P Robertson).....	5
Cunningham's Skink (I Smales).....	6
Black Rock Skink (M Doherty).....	6
Southern Water Skink (M Doherty).....	6
Garden Skink (I Smales).....	6
Bougainville's Skink (P Robertson).....	6
Tussock (Pagenstecher's) Skink (M Doherty).....	6
Weasel Skink (I Smales)	6
Common Blue Tongue Lizard (unknown)	6
Shingleback (A Haysom).....	6
Eastern Snake-necked Turtle (A Haysom).....	6

Frogs

Common Froglet (K Walker).....	6
Plains Froglet (I Smales).....	7
Eastern Banjo Frog (K Walker).....	7
Striped Marsh Frog (I Smales).....	7
Spotted Marsh Frog (I Smales).....	7
Common Spadefoot Toad (I Smales)	7
Bibron's (Brown) Toadlet (P Robertson).....	7
Southern Brown Tree Frog (I Smales).....	7
Lesueur's Tree Frog (M Hyde)	7
Peron's Tree Frog (I Smales)	7
Growling Grass Frog (A Lanigan).....	7
Verreaux's (Whistling) Tree Frog (I Smales).....	7
Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (P Robertson)	7

How to help native fauna in Hume

- Create gardens for wildlife by including indigenous plants to provide food and shelter, using a wide range of trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and groundcovers.
- Have clean sources of water that are refreshed regularly in saucers, bird baths or ponds.
- Be a responsible pet owner by keeping cats inside or in cat-proof outdoor enclosures and walk dogs on a lead at all times unless in a designated off-lead area.
- Use wildlife-safe netting on fruit trees (e.g. you can't poke a finger through the holes).
- Install nest boxes with different designs available for various species of wildlife.
- Drive safely to avoid hitting animals on the road.
- If you find an injured animal contact Wildlife Victoria on 03 8400 7300.
- Avoid feeding native animals as human food can be unhealthy for them, attract unwanted vermin, and may adversely effect natural population densities.
- Dispose of litter appropriately, and if need be, pick up the rubbish left by other people.

Get Involved

- Attend Live Green workshops and events to learn about sustainability and nature. Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/livegreen to sign up to the e-newsletter or see upcoming events.
- Join a Friends or other community group who work to restore our natural environment. Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/friendsgroups for contact details.
- Participate in Council's Greening Program, as this free family-friendly calendar of community planting events in parks and reserves helps to establish wildlife habitat.
- Encourage your school to seek donations of indigenous seedlings and garden advice through Council's Seedlings for Schools initiative.
- Contribute to one of the many important citizen science projects that are monitoring nature and wildlife using smart phone apps, like frog censuses or bird surveys.
- Email your fauna observations and photos to faunasightings@hume.vic.gov.au
- Enquire about how Council can provide support in managing rural properties.

Further Information

Use Council's contact details below, or visit the website under the Waste and Environment tab for links to resources and further information, including:

- www.hume.vic.gov.au/discovernature

Hume City Council

1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows
PO Box 119, Dallas, Victoria 3047

Telephone 9205 2200
contactus@hume.vic.gov.au
www.hume.vic.gov.au

