

Indigenous Wildlife of the Bellarine Peninsula

This guide will assist in identifying some of the species you may find on the Bellarine Peninsula, however it is not a complete species list. It should be noted that male, female, juvenile and seasonal bird colourations may vary. Observations and locations are general and species may be found in other areas. Photos are not to scale.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Plant local native plant species so that *local* fauna is supplied with their proper food and shelter.
- Multi-row indigenous vegetation is much more effective and is much better for wildlife than a single row, especially if understorey (shrub) species are included.
- Plant some dense plants for shelter and some prickly indigenous shrubs.
- Include plants that flower at different times of the year.
- Regard low-lying spots as beneficial as frogs and other small wildlife will use them.
- Rocks sited at a safe distance away from the house can provide habitat for lizards and snakes.
- Nest boxes can provide homes for many birds and mammals.
- If feeding wildlife provide only small, irregular amounts of food.
- Water will attract wildlife, especially birds. Trees or shrubs nearby provide cover from predators.
- Preserve old and dead trees if they are not dangerous. Hollows take 60+ years to form. 20% of local native land birds and 60% of local native mammals need hollows for shelter and nesting.
- Join your local environment group to learn more about your local area.

CONTACTS:

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Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Ph: (03) 5232 9100
www.ccma.vic.gov.au

Barwon Coast COM Ph: 5254 1118
Coastcare Ph: 136 186
DELWP Ph: 136 186
City of Greater Geelong Ph: 5272 5272
Bellarine Bayside COM Ph: 5254 4000
Parks Victoria Ph: 131 963
Geelong Field Naturalists Club www.gfnc.org.au

BIODIVERSITY APPS AND WEB SITES:
MV Field Guide to Victorian Fauna www.museumvictoria.com.au/discovery-centre/museum-victoria-apps
www.bellarinelandcare.org.au
www.barwonbluff.com.au/resources/app
www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/land-for-wildlife
www.birdlife.org.au
www.frogs.org.au/vfg/
www.greeningaustralia.org.au
www.landcarevic.org.au
www.ebird.org

Bellarine Landcare Group
Friends of the Bluff App
Land for Wildlife
Trust for Nature
Birdlife Australia
Victorian Frog Group
Greening Australia
Victorian Landcare Gateway
eBird

FURTHER REFERENCES:

Menkhorst et al Slater *The Australian Bird Guide*
Field Guide to Australian Birds
Simpson and Day *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*
David Lindenmayer et al Gould League *Wildlife on Farms, How to Conserve Native Mammals*
The Nestbox Book
Alan & Stacey Franks *Nestboxes for Wildlife*
Menkhorst & Knight *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia*
BCN (see contacts) *Coastal and Inland Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula*

PHOTOGRAPHY:

All photographs shown here have been donated (except for Viridans). Initials are listed at the end of each species comments. Craig Allen: **CA** / Jenny Carr: **JC** / Matt Crawley: **MC** / Perry Davis: **PD** / Dolphin Research Institute: **DRI** / Ray Draper: **RD** / Rosalind Ellinger: **RE** / Lachlan Forbes: **LFO** / Lydia Fucsko: **LF** / Maddie Glynn: **MG** / Jo Heard: **JH** / Neil Hickman: **NH** / Martin Klaubers: **MK** / Barry Lingham: **BL** / Neil Marriott: **NM** / Ian McCann: **IM** ©Department of Sustainability and Environment / Paul McKenna: **PM** / Kurtis Noyce: **KN** / Wendie Opie: **WO** / Parks Victoria: **PV** / Trevor Pescott: **TP** / Martin Scuffins: **MSc** / Jenny Sedgwick: **JS** / Denis Sleep: **DS** / Roger Thomas: **RT** / Chris Tsernjavski: **CT** / Viridans: **Viridans** / Tony Wilson: **TW**.

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3rd Edition

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Birds



Black Swan
Common breeding resident. Can be seen in 1000's at Swan Bay or Lake Connewarre. **TP**



Freckled Duck
Uncommon visitor. Sometimes large numbers at Lake Lorne. **BL**



Australian Wood Duck
Very common breeding resident. Often on farm dams or parkland waterways. **TW**



White-faced Heron
Common in shallow wetlands. **DS**



Little Egret
Listed as Threatened in Victoria. Breeds near Queenscliff. **MC**



Straw-necked Ibis
Common in grassy paddocks and wetlands. Main breeding site on Mud Island. **TW**



Pied Oystercatcher
Common. Coastal shores and rock platforms. **TP**



Black-winged Stilt
Common. Shallow freshwater and saline wetlands. **TP**



Red-capped Plover
Common. Shorelines of beaches and lakes. **NH**



Pacific Gull
Large gull. Common along beaches and offshore. Juvenile has brown colouring. **MK**



Rainbow Lorikeet
Common resident. Urban, woodland and riparian zones. **NH**



Eastern Rosella
Common and widespread in woodland, farmland and urban areas. **MC**



Chestnut Teal
Very common breeding resident, especially in saline wetlands including Swan Bay. **TP**



Blue-billed Duck
A breeding resident of Lake Lorne and McLeods Waterhole. **TP**



Australasian Grebe
Common on freshwater wetlands. Usually in pairs. **IM**



Royal Spoonbill
Moderately common resident of saline wetlands. Breeds on Mud Island. **BL**



Black-shouldered Kite
Uncommon resident. Farmland, open woodland and swamps. Often seen hovering. **NH**



White-bellied Sea-Eagle
Uncommon. Breeds in the area. Seen over lakes, bays or ocean. **TP**



Double-banded Plover
Common Autumn-Winter migrant from New Zealand. Coastal wetlands and inland lakes. **NH**



Black-fronted Dotterel
Common bird of inland lakes, swamps and farm dams. **IM**



Hooded Plover
Uncommon. Breeds on shorelines. Seen on sandy beaches or coastal wetlands. **NH**



Red-rumped Parrot
Common. Widespread in open grassland, farmland and urban parkland. **TP**



Blue-winged Parrot
Moderately common. Inhabits open grassland or saltmarsh in Autumn-Winter. **TP**



Orange-bellied Parrot
Autumn-Winter migrant from Tasmania to coastal saltmarsh. Critically endangered. **TP**



Common Bronzewing
Common. Open woodland and scrub. **JC**



Tawny Frogmouth
Common. Widespread in open grassland, farmland and urban parkland. **LFO**



Black-browed Albatross
Seen in The Rip or offshore during winter. **TP**



Whistling Kite
Common. Seen over wetlands, pasture and open woodland. **TP**



Swamp Harrier
Common. Inhabits freshwater wetlands and nearby pasture. **LFO**



Wedge-tailed Eagle
Moderately common. Widespread over forest and farmland. **MSc**



Eastern Curlew
Migratory wader. Very large curved beak. Estuaries and mudflats. **TP**



Red-necked Stint
Common Spring-Summer migrant. Widespread on coastal wetlands and shallow inland lakes. **NH**



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Common Spring-Summer migrant. Widespread on coastal wetlands and shallow inland lakes. **LFO**



Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Common Spring migrant to woodland and forests. Parasitises other birds nests. **LFO**



Superb Fairy-wren
Common and widespread in dense habitat and native gardens with shrub layers. **JS**



White-browed Scrubwren
Common and widespread in woodland with shrubby undergrowth. **IM**



Australasian Gannet
Commonly seen fishing in shallows of bays and ocean. Breeds in Port Phillip Bay. **NH**



Black-faced Cormorant
Moderately common. Seen on offshore reefs and in Port Phillip Bay. **TP**



Australasian Pelican
Common. Breeds on Mud Island. **TP**



Nankeen Kestrel
Widespread on the Bellarine. Seen hovering especially around sand dunes. **DS**



Brolga
Uncommon. Regularly at Reedy Lake or Hospital Swamp. **TP**



Purple Swamphen
Common bird of freshwater swamps and river banks. **TP**



Curlew Sandpiper
Moderately common Spring-Summer migrant to coastal wetlands and shallow inland lakes. **TP**



Caspian Tern
Uncommon. Largest Tern with bright red beak. Beaches, estuaries and lakes. **TP**



Crested Tern
Common. Beaches, lakes and rock platforms. **TP**



Striated Fieldwren
Moderately common breeding resident. In restricted areas of saltmarsh. **BL**



Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Common. Widespread in grassland, farmland, open woodland and urban parks. **PM**



Brown Thornbill
Common. Woodland and forest, shrubland, saltmarsh, urban parks and gardens. **IM**

Birds

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