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:

Bellarine Catchment Network (BCN) www.environmentbellarine.org.au info.bcn@environmentbellarine.org.au

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Ph: (03) 5232 9100

www.ccma.vic.gov.au Ph: 5254 1118 **Barwon Coast COM** Ph: 136 186 Coastcare 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 **Bellarine Landcare Group** www.bellarinelandcare.org.au

Friends of the Bluff App www.barwonbluff.com.au/resources/app

Land for Wildlife www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/land-for-wildlife **Trust for Nature** www.trustfornature.org.au Birdlife Australia

www.birdlife.org.au Victorian Frog Group www.frogs.org.au/vfg/ Greening Australia www.greeningaustralia.org.au Victorian Landcare Gateway www.landcarevic.org.au

www.ebird.org

FURTHER REFERENCES: Menkhorst et al The Australian Bird Guide

Field Guide to Australian Birds Field Guide to the Birds of Australia Simpson and Day Wildlife on Farms, How to Conserve Native Mammals David Lindenmayer et al

Gould League 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.

Interpretations and design by Matt Crawley, Michael Day, Maddie Glynn, Christy Jose, Barry Lingham & Naomi Wells.

Cover photograph by John Sharp: Black Wallaby

Birds Birds

Straw-necked Ibis

Common in grassy paddocks

and wetlands. Main breeding

site on Mud Island. TW

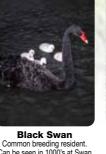


Indigenous Wildlife

of the Bellarine Peninsula

3rd Edition









Australasian Grebe

Common on freshwater

wetlands. Usually in



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

White-faced Heron

Common in shallow

wetlands. DS



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



Black-shouldered Kite

Uncommon resident. Farmland,

open woodland and swamps.

Often seen hovering, NH

Little Egret

Listed as Threatened in Victoria.

Breeds near Queenscliff. MC

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



White-bellied Sea-Eagle

Uncommon. Breeds in the

area. Seen over lakes, bays

Moderately common. Widespread over forest and farmland, MSc



Purple Swampher





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

Black-fronted Dotterel

Common bird of inland lakes,

swamps and farm dams. IM

Red-necked Stint

Widespread on coastal wetlands

and shallow inland lakes. NH

Pied Oystercatcher

Common. Coastal shores

and rock platforms. TP

Double-banded Plover

Common Autumn-Winter migrant

from New Zealand, Coastal

wetlands and inland lakes. NH

Eastern Curlew

Migratory wader.

Very large curved beak.

Estuaries and mudflats. TP



Common. Shorelines of beaches and lakes. NH

Hooded Plover

Uncommon. Breeds on shorelines.

Seen on sandy beaches or

coastal wetlands. NH



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

Red-rumped Parrot

Common. Widespread in

open grassland, farmland

and urban parkland. TP

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Common Spring migrant to

other birds nests. LFO



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



in woodland, farmland and urban areas. MC

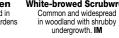


Autumn-Winter migrant from Tasmania to coastal saltmarsh. Critically endangered, TP











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

Brown Thornbill Common. Woodland and forest parks and gardens. IM



Can be seen in 1000's at Swan Bay or Lake Connewarre. TP

Chestnut Teal

Very common breeding resident,

especially in saline wetlands

including Swan Bay. TP

Common Bronzewing

Common. Open woodland

and scrub. JC



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



Tawny Frogmouth Common. Widespread in open grassland, farmland and



Black-browed Albatross Seen in The Rip or offshore





Nankeen Kestrel



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



Common bird of freshwater swamps and river banks. TP









Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Widespread on coastal wetlands

and shallow inland lakes. LFO

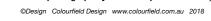
Common Spring-Summer migrant. Common Spring-Summer migrant.

rock platforms. TP



Moderately common breeding resident. In restricted areas of saltmarsh. BL











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





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





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

with bright red beak. Beaches, estuaries and lakes. TP