

Fact Sheet Wetland Creatures



Creatues big and small

All fauna species, big and small, play a role in their local ecosystems. Although Ramsar wetlands are frequently recognised by their importance to international migratory shorebirds, they also support and are host to lots of other types of creatures. These creatures, including insects, frogs, reptiles and mammals, contribute to local biodiversity, support food webs and play unique ecological roles.

Insects

Insects are a group of animals that form the start of the animal food chain. Insects are invertebrates that have a three-part body (head, thorax, abdomen) and 3 pairs of jointed legs. There are many groups of insects including dragonflies, mantises, butterflies and beetles, which are represented below.



Blue Ringtail

Image: Bernie Lingham



Mallee Grass Mantis

Image: Justin Grace



Saltbush Blue

Image: Naomi Wells



Striped Ladybird

Image: Bernie Lingham

Frogs

In Australia, frogs solely represent the type of animal called an amphibian - other countries have amphibians like toads, salamanders and newts. Frogs mainly lay their eggs in water where they grow into tadpoles and finally adult frogs that live on both land and in water. They are an important part of the food web being both prey to things like snakes, and predators to things like insects, fish and other frogs.



Common Eastern Froglet

Image: Richard Reiner



Growling Grass Frog

Image: Naomi Wells



Spotted Marsh Frog



Southern Brown Tree Frog

Image: Possum Pete

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Reptiles

Reptiles include lizards, snakes and turtles. They are ectothermic (known as cold blooded), have scales and can reproduce by laying eggs or giving birth to live young. Reptiles have varying diets with snakes being carnivores and some lizards eating both insects and vegetation such as berries. Reptiles tend to prefer dense vegetation including grasses as this protects them from predators like eagles and feral cats.



**Eastern Blue
Tongue**



Tiger Snake



**Lowland
Copperhead**



Metallic Cool Skink

Image: Bernie Lingham

Mammals

Mammals are animals that are endothermic (known as warm blooded), have fur and produce milk. There are 3 types of mammals; monotremes (egg-laying), marsupials (young develop in pouches) and placentals (young develop internally). Due to threats like invasive predators and habitat loss, mammals are not as represented in wetlands compared to other types of animals. Mammals play extremely important roles in ecosystems as predators, promoting new growth through grazing and helping disperse seeds.



**Eastern Grey
Kangaroo**



Burrunan Dolphin

Image: Marine Mammal Foundation



Swamp Wallaby



Rakali

Image: Lachlan Forbes

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<https://australian.museum/learn/collections/natural-science/>

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-list>

<https://www.naturesearch.com.au/>



Listed as
'vulnerable' in the
FFG Act 1988



Listed as 'critically
endangered' in the
FFG Act 1988