

October 2015

Grasstree Park Nature Reserve – Fauna List

The fauna of Grasstree Park

The heathland and woodland vegetation of the reserve is used by a wide variety of native animals. Some animals spend most of their life within the reserve. Others visit regularly, while some just drop in every now and then.

The easiest animals to spot are the birds. Looking up you might see a flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, or higher still, a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles circling. Lower down the Thornbills and Honeyeaters spend their days busily darting in and out of the shrubs.

On the ground there may be parrots feeding on the grass seeds or other species looking for food or nesting materials.

A mob of kangaroos regularly rests in the quieter parts of the reserve.

Reptiles and frogs are also found. The Lowlands Copperhead Snake is a local resident, along with skinks, Bluetongue Lizards and the Jacky

Lizard (Tree Dragon).

More difficult to spot are our nocturnal animals (those that are most active at night). These include the Sugar Glider, Common Ringtail Possum and at least four species of micro-bats.

If you listen carefully you might hear the Eastern Banjo Frog, Spotted Grass Frog and Common Eastern Froglet.



You can help

For our native animals to keep living at Grasstree Park Nature Reserve we need to keep their stress levels down and their homes intact by:

Following the dog regulation signage so there are no off-lead dogs in high conservation areas, and

Keeping to the pathways so we are not trampling their homes or food or disturbing their rest.

Exactly what animals are seen here?

The attached fauna survey results from the Geelong Field Naturalists list the animals found in Grasstree Park.



Fauna survey information from the Geelong Field Naturalists Club

Birds

Notes:

1. Column 1 - Bird-list from early 2000s.
2. Column 2 - Bird-list, GFNC fauna survey 17-20 August 2006.
3. Column 3 - Bird-list, ANGAIR 2012 (Same list from Neil Tucker 15/10/12).
4. Column 4 - Bird-list, GFNC fauna survey 10/05/14.
5. Column 5 - Various individual observations noted as (initials observation).

Species	1	2	3	4	5
Australian Wood Duck				12	
Crested Pigeon			x		
Spotted Dove	x		x	Few	
White-necked Heron			x		
Eastern Great Egret			x		
Australian White Ibis			x	1	
Straw-necked Ibis	x		x		
Black-shouldered Kite		x			
Brown Goshawk		x		1	
Grey (White) Goshawk				1	One seen 23/05/08
Swamp Harrier	x				
Wedge-tailed Eagle	x		x		
Brown Falcon	x			1	
Masked Lapwing				1	
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	x		x	3	
Gang-gang Cockatoo	x				
Galah	x		x	2	
Little Corella				7	
Corella sp				10	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo				30	
Rainbow Lorikeet				6	
Crimson Rosella	x	x	x	15	
Eastern Rosella			x	2	
Blue-winged Parrot			x	2	
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo			x		
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	x		x		
Fan-tailed Cuckoo			x		
Laughing Kookaburra	x				
Superb Fairy-wren	x	x	x	42	
Southern Emu-wren	x	x		8	
White-browed Scrubwren		x	x	4	
Spotted Pardalote			x	2	
Striated Pardalote			x		
Striated Thornbill				1	

Yellow-rumped Thornbill	x		x		
Brown Thornbill			x	7	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	x		x	4	
White-eared Honeyeater				1	
White-plumed Honeyeater	x		x		
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater				1	
Little Wattlebird				3	
Red Wattlebird	x	x	x	2	Nest found 18/03/14
White-fronted Chat	x			5	
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	x				
Crescent Honeyeater	x				
New Holland Honeyeater	x		x	21	
Brown-headed Honeyeater					
White-naped Honeyeater					
Golden Whistler	x			2	Noted 23/05/08
Rufous Whistler	x		x		
Grey Shrike-thrush	x		x	6	Noted 23/05/08
Grey Butcherbird			x	1	
Australian Magpie	x	x	x	5	
Pied Currawong	x	x	x	1	
Grey Currawong		x	x	1	
Grey Fantail	x		x	2	
Willie Wagtail		x	x	1	
Little Raven	x	x	x	42	
Magpie-lark	x			4	
Eastern Yellow Robin	x	x		Few	
Eurasian Skylark	x				
Golden-headed Cisticola	x				
Silvereye	x	x	x	11	
Welcome Swallow		x	x	6	
Bassian Thrush		x			
Common Blackbird	x	x		4	
Common Starling			x	3	
Common Myna				4	
Red-browed Finch	x	x	x	2	
House Sparrow			x	10	
European Goldfinch			x	15	

Notes:

23/05/08: Grey (White) Goshawk, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater (TP obs).

18/03/14: **Little Wattlebird nest** with 2 large, nearly-fledged young, 2.5m up in a fork in a yate, near the car-park (TP obs).

10/05/14: six (of 11) **Silvereyes** appeared to have chestnut-brown flanks of Tasmanian sub-species. Several (of the 11) were seen feeding on the ripe berries of Kangaroo Apples.

MAMMALS

Species		Notes
Common Brushtail Possum	2000 list	Dreys noted in tall Coast Teatree on 20/08/06 and 11/05/14 surveys.
Sugar Glider	2000 list	
Common Ringtail Possum		
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	2000 list	Noted 14/03/14
Black (Swamp) Wallaby		One photo 18/03/14
Chocolate Wattled Bat		One female caught 15/03/14.
Lesser Long-eared Bat		One female caught 15/03/14
Large Forest Bat		One female caught 15/03/14
Little Forest Bat	2000 list	5M/1F caught 15/03/14, 2M/2F caught 21/03/14
House Mouse		6 caught 11/05/14 survey. 6 caught 24/17/14 survey.
Swamp Rat	2000 list	9 caught 20/08/06 survey. 5 caught 11/05/14 survey.
Brown Rat		2 caught 24/07/14 survey.
Black Rat		2 caught 20/08/06 survey. Photos 18/03/14. 1 caught 11/05/14 survey.
Red Fox	2000 list	Scats noted on all surveys, none seen.
Feral Cat	2000 list	
European Rabbit	2000 list	
		Abundant.

Notes:

2000: a species list without any details of occurrence.

20/08/06: completed 3 night survey with 20 small Elliott traps. 9 **Swamp Rats** and 2 **Black Rats** caught.

14/03/14: one harp trap set overnight under the canopy of Southern Mahogany and Coast Teatree in the SE corner of the reserve, near the Surf Coast hwy/Beacon Bvde intersection. One **Little Forest Bat** caught. Also set 2 harps over the track beside Messmate Road under a Manna Gum canopy.

18/03/14: set 3 movement-activated cameras under Manna Gums, nos. 1 and 2 focused on bait-cages set on the trunks of gums, no.3 focused on a bait-cage set on a stake under large Moonahs. Photographs of **Black Rats** both on the ground and on the tree trunks, and one photograph of a **Black Wallaby**.

18/03/14: one harp trap set over-night under large Scentbark beside the track into the reserve – **nothing caught**.

20/03/14: 2 harp traps set overnight under Manna Gums and Golden Wattles on track beside Messmate Road – 4 **Little Forest Bats** caught.

11/05/14: completed 3 night survey using 40 small Elliott traps set in the “heathland” area. Caught 6 **House Mice**, 5 **Swamp Rats** and 1 **Black Rat**, and noted several dreys of **Common Ringtail**

Possums, a small mob of **Eastern Grey Kangaroos** (up to 30 individuals), **Red Fox** scats and **European Rabbit** scats and diggings.

The site chosen was similar to that of the 20/08/06 survey.

24/07/14: completed 3 night survey using 24 small Elliott traps. Caught **6 House Mice** and **2 Brown Rats**. **Red Fox** and **European Rabbit** scats noted.

HERPS

Species	16/02/15	
Eastern Banjo Frog Spotted Grass Frog Common Eastern Froglet	5 caught. 1 caught.	Heard calling during the 11/05/14 survey, and on the 24/07/14 survey.
Eastern Three-lined Skink Metallic Cool-skink	11 caught. 1 caught	Noted 11/02/15. One sun-basking on split log 08/05/14.
Garden Skink Weasel Skink Blotched Bluetongue Lizard Jacky Lizard (Tree Dragon) Lowlands Copperhead	2 caught. 2 caught.	Many active 18/03/15. Many seen 11/05/14 survey. Noted 09/10/13. One dead specimen found 08/05/14. Noted 26/10/13.

Notes:

2000: species list without any details of occurrence.

09/10/13: **Blotched Bluetongue Lizard** (GGt obs).

26/10/13: **Lowlands Copperhead** (GGt obs).

18/03/14: many **Garden Skinks** active.

16/02/15: completed a **5-day survey** using 4x5m drift fence with 3 buckets and 4 funnels, set along the track that bisects the heathland area. Caught **5 Eastern Banjo (Pobblebonk) Frogs**, **1 Spotted Grass (Marsh) Frog**, **11 Eastern Three-lined Skinks**, **1 Metallic Cool-skink**, **2 Pale-flecked Garden Sunskinks (Garden Skinks)** and **2 Weasel Skinks**.

Common Eastern Froglets heard calling.

The site chosen was the north-east corner of the reserve close to the junction of Surf Coast Highway and Messmate Road.

INVERTEBRATES

Species	Notes	
Yellow Admiral Butterfly Common Brown Butterfly Cabbage White Butterfly Small Grass Blue Butterfly Flower Wasp	Present 14/03/14 Many females on 18/03/14 Present 18/03/14 Present 14/03/14 2005 Reiner Richter	

