

Mammals of North East Victoria

North East Victoria supports an extraordinary variety of native mammals, ranging from the iconic kangaroos and wombats that roam the open woodlands to the cryptic gliders and rakali in rivers and creeks. These animals play vital roles in their ecosystems, turning soil, dispersing seeds, pollinating plants, and helping to maintain healthy environments.

Unfortunately, many of our mammal species are in decline. Clearing and fragmentation of habitat, slow regeneration of vegetation, and the impact of introduced predators such as cats and foxes have put enormous pressure on wildlife. Climate change and increasing urbanisation add further stress, particularly for species with restricted distributions such as the Mountain Pygmy-possum and Leadbeater's Possum, which are now listed as endangered or critically endangered. Despite these challenges, conservation efforts are making a difference, and communities play a critical role in protecting and restoring habitats. With patience and care, mammals can still be observed in the wild, offering a glimpse into the region's natural heritage. This brochure introduces the mammals of North East Victoria, their habitats and food sources, and provides practical steps you can take to support their survival.



Guide to symbols

Food Sources	Habitat	Distribution
Herbivore	Ground dwelling	W Widespread
Omnivore	Arboreal	A Alpine or subalpine
Carnivore	Riparian/Semi aquatic	U Uplands
		F Foothill forests
		L Lowlands
		R Rare & local in region

Victorian Conservation Status
Listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG 1988)

CE: Critically Endangered, E: Endangered, V: Vulnerable

For more information
wildlife.vic.gov.au
dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/species
australian.museum/learn/animals

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Photo credits

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Cover photo: **Feathertail Glider** – *Acrobates* sp. PHOTO – DP

Back cover photo: **Brush-tailed Phascogale** – *Phascogale tapoatafa* – V. PHOTO – CT

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Monotremes



Short-beaked Echidna – *Tachyglossus aculeatus* WL
PHOTO – SE



Platypus – *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* – V W
PHOTO – CT

Alpine



Mountain Pygmy Possum – *Burramys parvus* – E A
May hibernate for extended periods. PHOTO – MM

Terrestrial mammals



Common Wombat – *Vombatus ursinus* W
PHOTO – SE



Long-nosed Bandicoot – *Perameles nasuta* F
PHOTO – SE



Dingo – *Canis lupus dingo* – V U
PHOTO – DP



Koala – *Phascolarctus cinereus* WL
PHOTO – RL

Possums



Common Brushtail Possum
Trichosurus vulpecula
 WL
PHOTO – RL



Bobuck (Mountain Brushtail Possum)
Trichosurus caninus
 U
PHOTO – MC



Common Ringtail Possum
Pseudocheirus peregrinus
 W
PHOTO – RL



Eastern Pygmy Possum
Cercartetus nanus
 U
PHOTO – MC



Leadbeater's Possum
Gymnobelideus leadbeateri – CE
 RU
PHOTO – ZV

Gliders



Feathertail Glider
Acrobates sp.
2 species likely to occur in our region.
 W
PHOTO – DP



Southern Greater Glider
Petauroides Volans – E
 U
PHOTO – DP



Krefft's Glider
Petaurus notatus
 W
PHOTO – DP



Yellow-bellied Glider
Petaurus australis – V
 U
PHOTO – RB



Squirrel Glider
Petaurus norfolcensis – V
 L
PHOTO – CT

Macropods



Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Macropus giganteus
WL
PHOTO – SE



Swamp Wallaby
Wallabia bicolor
W
PHOTO – DP



Wallaroo
Osphranter robustus – E
RF
PHOTO – MV



Red-necked Wallaby
Macropus rufogriseus
RF
PHOTO – DP



Long-footed Potoroo
Potorous longipes – E
U
PHOTO – EW

Bats



Grey-headed Flying-fox – *Pteropus poliocephalus* – V
L
PHOTO – CT

Microbats

23 species of microbat in Victoria, listed species in our region include:



Gould's Wattled Bat – *Chalinolobus gouldii*
W
PHOTO – SC



Common Bent-wing Bat – *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* – CE
FL
PHOTO – BT

Lookalikes

Antechinus vs Black Rat Distinguishing Features

Animals active during the day and around people are usually black rats or mice, not native species. Black rats have sparsely haired tails longer than their body. Mice have prominent incisors, rounded heads, and a musky smell. Yellow-footed Antechinus are more often found in timbered areas, not homes. Their tails are equal to or shorter than their body, with crinkled, double-lobed ears, sharp teeth, and a long, pointed snout.

Dasyurids

Dasyurids are a family of carnivorous marsupials spread across Australia and New Guinea. Dasyurids are characterised by their biting and cutting teeth.



Brush-tailed Phascogale
Phascogale tapoatafa – V
L
PHOTO – CT



Spot-tailed Quoll
Dasyurus maculatus maculatus – E
U
PHOTO – DP



Yellow-footed Antechinus
Antechinus flavipes
L
PHOTO – RL



Agile Antechinus
Antechinus agilis
U
PHOTO – MC



Dusky Antechinus
Antechinus swainsonii
AU
PHOTO – JH

Rodents



Bush Rat – *Rattus fuscipes*
U
PHOTO – JJ



Broad toothed Rat – *Mastacomys fuscus mordicus* - V
AU
PHOTO – ZV



Smoky Mouse – *Pseudomys fumeus* - E
U
PHOTO – PM



Rakali – *Hydromys chrysogaster*
L
PHOTO – CT

Introduced Species



Red Fox – *Vulpes vulpes*
W
PHOTO – AV



Cat – *Felis catus*
W
PHOTO – SRR



Fallow Deer – *Dama dama*,
Red Deer – *Cervus elaphus*,
Sambar Deer – *Rusa unicorn*
U
PHOTO – SRR



Rabbit – *Oryctolagus cuniculus*,
Hare – *Lepus europaeus*
WL
PHOTO – AV



Goat – *Capra hircus*
U
PHOTO – SE



Pig – *Sus scrofa*
L
PHOTO – JR

Conservation Notes

The survival of all mammal species in North East Victoria depends on the continued availability of healthy, connected habitats and the effective management of threats. Forests, grasslands, wetlands and alpine environments each support unique species, but land clearing, agriculture, roads and urban expansion are increasingly fragmenting these habitats. When natural areas are broken up, mammals lose access to food, shelter and breeding sites, making populations more vulnerable to decline.

Among the most significant pressures are introduced predators such as foxes and cats, which prey on small mammals and threaten species already struggling to survive. Competition from invasive herbivores such as deer, rabbits and goats further degrades habitats by reducing food availability and damaging vegetation. Urbanisation also stresses ecosystems by increasing pollution, noise, light disturbance and the risk of road mortality for animals like wombats and kangaroos.

Despite these challenges, native mammals remain an essential and cherished part of the landscape. Some species are cryptic and rarely seen, while others are more conspicuous in specific habitats and at particular times of day. Observing wildlife requires patience, quietness and respect for the animal's space. By keeping a safe distance, avoiding sudden movements and refraining from feeding or handling, observers can minimise stress to the animal and allow it to continue its natural behaviours. Responsible wildlife watching helps protect the species and provides a more authentic and rewarding experience.

Everyone can play a part in conservation. Simple actions such as planting native vegetation in gardens or on farms, fencing off remnant bush to allow regeneration, and supporting local Landcare and conservation groups can make a real difference. Pet owners can reduce risks to wildlife by keeping cats indoors and dogs under control, especially near bushland and waterways. Joining citizen science projects, such as reporting wildlife sightings or participating in monitoring programs, contributes valuable data to help scientists and land managers better protect these species. Together, these collective efforts help ensure the mammals of North East Victoria continue to survive and thrive for future generations.



Habitat
PHOTO – SE