

Greater Glider

Scientific name: *Petauroides volans*

Greater Gliders are the largest gliding marsupials in the world. They are about the size of a large fluffy cat and come in a different colours, from almost pure white, to grey to black and black and white. They need old forests and old trees that have large hollows for them to live in that are called dens.

It can take up to 250 years for a eucalypt (a gum) tree to form a hollow big enough for a Greater Glider to live in (this is called a den) and they can use up to 18 den trees within their range. They have small home ranges of about 1-5Ha and they only eat the leaves of certain eucalypt trees.

Sound: Greater Gliders do not make any sounds, except a whoosh as they glide and they can glide up to 100 metres in a single glide and can change direction at 90-degree angles mid-flight. They steer by using their long tails.

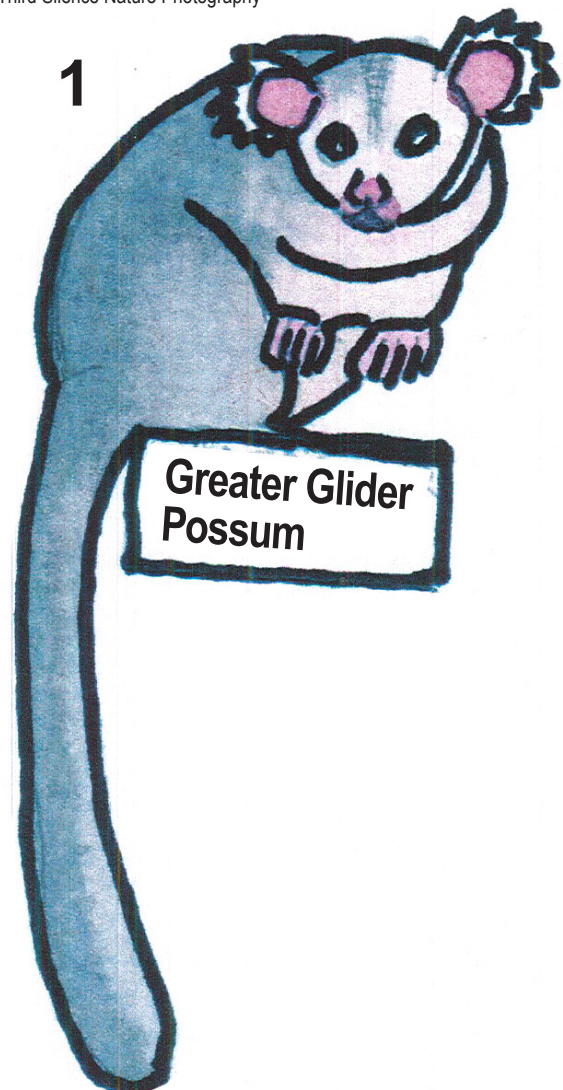
Greater Gliders are marsupials (they have a pouch) and for the first three to four months of their lives, the baby Greater Glider stays in their mother's pouch. Then, they ride on mum's back for up to three more months.

Greater Gliders are threatened by: Fires, losing their old forest and hot nights. When the temperature at night is over 20 degrees they have trouble digesting their food and they can die from hunger if there are too many hot nights in a row.

Where Found: in forests of East Gippsland, such as the Colquhuon Forest near Lakes Entrance and Mt Alfred Forest north of Bairnsdale and other forests and National Parks in East Gippsland.



Photo: Third Silence Nature Photography



Powerful Owl

Scientific name: *Ninox strenua*

Powerful Owls are the biggest owls in Australia and they live mostly in the damp forests of eastern Australia. Powerful owls can grow up to 70 centimetres tall with a wingspan of up to 140 centimetres.

What Powerful Owls eat: Powerful Owls are carnivores (meat eaters) and their main food is possums, though large bats such as flying foxes are also often caught as well as rabbits, rats and mice. Powerful Owls catch their prey using the sharp claws on their feet (called talons). They roost by day, perched in the dense shade of a tree, often with the previous night's dinner held in their talons; Under the shade of a tree, in the daytime is where people most often see Powerful Owls.

Where found: Powerful Owls are found in old open forests and woodlands, as well as along sheltered gullies in wet forests with dense shrubs, especially along creeks. They will sometimes be found in open areas near forests such as farmland, parks and town areas, as well as in remnant bushland patches. They need very old hollow trees to make their nests in.

Powerful Owls live for over 30 years and mate for life. The male prepares the nest, which is usually a vertical hollow in a large old tree, and provides the female and the chicks with a constant supply of food during the early part of the nesting period. The female sits on the eggs and broods the young, emerging later in the nesting period to hunt for food as well. Young birds remain with the parents for several months after fledging and may stay in their parents' territory for over a year.

Threatened by: Powerful Owls need big areas of forest. Fires that burn their old hollow trees they need for nests and cutting down their forest homes is a threat to them. Rat and mice poisons also kill powerful owls, if they eat a sick or dead rat or a mouse that has eaten poison.



Photo: Greg Sharkev



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Powerful Owl

NAME.....

Goanna or Lace Monitor

Scientific name: *Varanus varius*

Goannas, also known as Lace Monitors are one of Australia's largest lizards and can grow to over 2mtrs long. They have strong claws and powerful legs. They are dark grey to black in colour with cream or yellow scales forming bands and blotches or spots. There are usually black bars across the snout, throat and chin. The tongue is long and forked like a snake. Goannas are the only lizards that have a forked tongue.

What goannas eat: Goannas are predators and scavengers eating insects, small mammals, lizards, nestling birds, eggs and dead animals. After a large feed they can go for many weeks without eating. The female Goanna lays from 6-12 eggs - usually in ant nests, particularly those found in trees. The female digs a hole on the side of the termite mound, lays the eggs and then leaves the termites to reseat the eggs inside the nest. She sometimes returns to the nest and opens it up with her strong claws to allow the baby goannas to escape.



Photo: Keltshi. Via Naturekit



Goanna or Lace Monitor

Where found: Most of the time, goannas are up fairly large trees. They forage on the ground but will climb a tree when disturbed. They are found in forests, tall woodlands and open tablelands and slopes.

Goannas are threatened by: clearing and burning forests and destroying termite mounds, that they lay their eggs in and other habitat features such as fallen trees and hollow logs. Foxes and cats also eat young goannas and Goannas can die from eating a rat or a mouse that has eaten poison.

NAME.....

Diamond Firetail Finch

Scientific name:

Stagonopleura guttata

The Diamond Firetail finch is a small bird and one of the most beautiful coloured birds of the finch family. Their size is about 12cm and their weight is just 17 grams (that is the same weight as 17 paperclips).

Diamond Firetails finchs are known for their courtship dance, during which the male Diamond Firetail holds a long piece of green grass in his bill, then flies to a branch where he sits near the female and begins to bob up and down.

Diamond Firetail finchs build a nest with green grass and they line their nest with fine grasses and feathers. To keep their eggs and chicks safe, Diamond Firetails sometimes build their nests into the base of the large stick-nest of a bird of prey such as a Wedge-tailed Eagle.

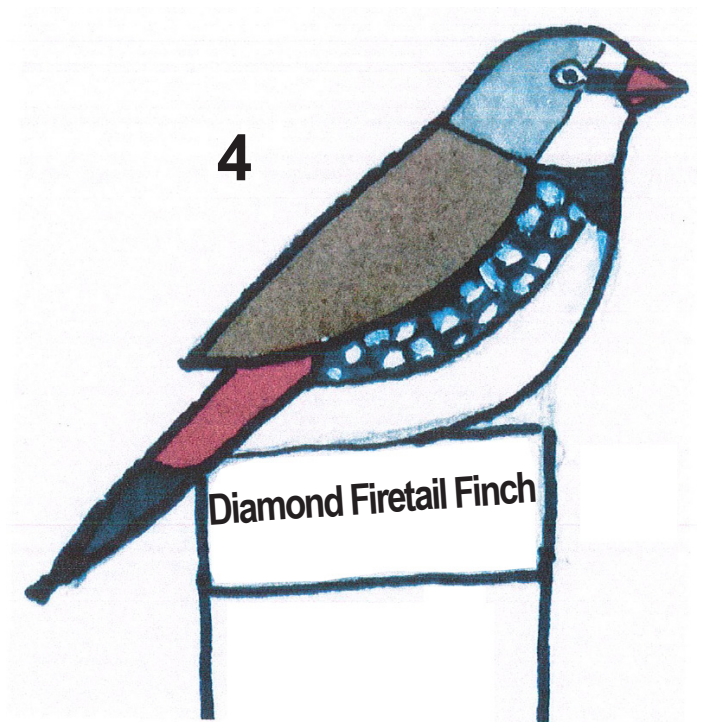
Where they live: Diamond Firetail finchs live in open grassy woodland, heath and farmland or grassland with

What they eat: Diamond Firetails feed on the ground and mostly eat ripe native grass seeds and occasionally they eat insects.

Diamond Firetail Finchs are threatened by: Clearing trees and bushes, by fire and by roaming cats. They don't fly very far, so if the gaps in their trees and bushes area get too big, they won't just fly somewhere else.



Photo: JJ Harrison



NAME.....

Swift Parrot

Scientific name: *Lathamus discolor*

There may only be around 500 Swift Parrots left in the wild. Swift Parrots breed only in Tasmania around October to December – to coincide with the flowering of the Tasmanian Blue Gum trees. They make their nests in old tree hollows. Many pairs breed close together and they return to the same nest site each year. Because of this, if their old trees are cut down, they won't breed and may die.



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Swift Parrot

In winter, Swift parrots then fly all the way across Bass Strait to forage on the flowering eucalypts in open forests of the Australian mainland. While on the mainland, they are nomadic, spending weeks or months at some places and only a few hours at others, determined by the supply of nectar. They roost together in their flocks, often in the same tree each night. They are almost always in trees, coming to the ground only to drink.

This year Swift Parrots were seen in big old flowering eucalypt trees on Raymond Island, where they had flown all the way from Tasmania.



Photo: Charles Sharp

What they eat: Swift Parrots feed in the outer canopy of flowering eucalypts, eating mainly nectar, as well as some insects, seeds, and flowers. They are active and chatty when feeding, often hanging upside down. In dry years, when the eucalypts' don't flower very much, Swift Parrots are forced to travel far and wide to find enough food. Some birds fly as far as south-east Queensland, making them the world's longest known parrot migration.

Threatened by: Swift Parrots are threatened by their old trees that they nest in Tasmania being cut down and not being able to find enough nectar from eucalypt trees due to drought, fires and lack of old trees on the mainland.

NAME.....

Grey-Headed Flying-Fox

Scientific name:

Pteropus poliocephalus

Grey headed Flying foxes are called megabats and are one of the largest bats in the world. They navigate by their excellent sight and smell - not by sonar as microbats do.

What Grey-headed flying-foxes eat: Their favourite food is the nectar and pollen of flowering eucalypts, banksias and paperbark trees. They also eat rainforest fruit like lilly-pillies. They will also eat fruit from backyard trees when they are hungry, but it isn't as good for them, or provide them with as much energy as nectar and pollen.

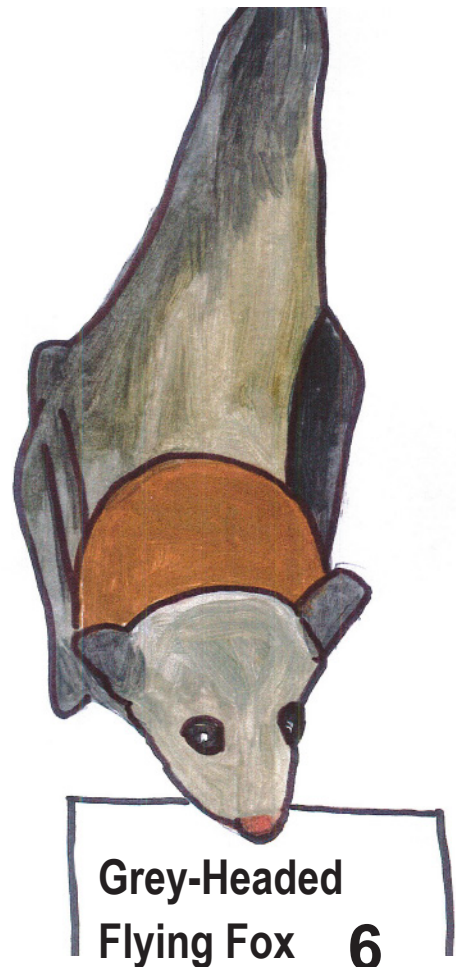
Grey-headed flying foxes are a bit like giant long range bees, with over 100 native trees and shrubs depending on Grey-headed flying foxes for pollination and reproduction. They can fly up to 100kms a night.

Threatened by: Losing forests that they need to supply them with nectar and rainforest fruits all year round. Extreme heat during the day will kill them. They also need rainforest type jungles, often near water or a big river, to roost in in the day to protect them from very hot weather. They are also threatened by people wanting to cut down there trees they roost in during the day, as sometimes people think they are too noisy and smelly.

Where Found: You can see Grey-headed Flying-Fox colonies on the Mitchell River in Bairnsdale and at Sale and Maffra. They come to Gippsland where there are lots of trees blossoming in the forests - like eucalypts, banksias and melaleucas and they move somewhere else when the blossom is gone.



Photo: Lisa Roberts



NAME.....

Glossy Black Cockatoo

Scientific name:

Calyptorhynchus lathami

Where found: It is estimated there are only 35-40 Glossy Black Cockatoos left in East Gippsland and since the bushfires, Glossy Black Cockatoos are only found in coastal forest between Lakes Entrance and Orbost. Nearly half of the Glossy Black Cockatoo's trees they use as homes and the trees they need for food were burnt in 2019/20 bushfires.



Photo: Warren Chad

7 Glossy Black Cockatoo



What Glossy Black cockatoos eat: In East Gippsland, Glossy Black-Cockatoos only eat the seeds in the cones of Black she-oak trees. Some people are planting more Black she oak trees for them, but it can take up to ten years for the Black She-Oak trees to start producing the seed Glossy Black Cockatoos need to eat.

Hollows in old tree are where they make their homes. Glossy Black Cockatoos make nests to lay their eggs and raise their chicks in big tree hollows in old, large eucalypts, that can take up to 200 years to form a hollow big enough for Glossy Black Cockatoos to make a nest in. These nest trees need to be near food and water. Glossy Black-cockatoos stay with their mates for life, often re-using the same hollow year after year.

Threatened by: Burning the Black she-oak trees they depend on for food and cutting down and burning the old hollow trees they need for nests.

NAME.....

The Pookila or New Holland Mouse

Scientific name:

Pseudomys novaehollandiae

Sadly, the Pookila or New Holland Mouse is now classified as extinct in seven out of twelve of its known Victorian locations.

Precious Pookila is no ordinary mouse: The Pookila might be similar in size to the introduced house mouse we all know, but it's also so different. It has larger eyes, rounded ears, a bi-coloured pink and dusky brown tail, and no mousey odour at all. It's just gorgeous.

Where found: You might find Pookilas in the open heathland and banksia forest in Providence Ponds Flora Reserve between Bairnsdale and Stratford. They are also found at Wilsons Promontory.

The Pookila is a **rodent** (like a Guinea Pig or a house mouse) which means it has to chew on hard things like wood and tree roots, to wear down its teeth, as all rodents have teeth that keep on growing.

What do Pookilas eat: They mostly eat native plant seeds, flowers, fruits, leaves and fungi. The Pookila plays an important role in spreading seeds and fungi – that helps the heathland and forests it lives in, to reproduce and regrow.



Photo: Doug Beckers



8 Pookila

Threatened by: The Pookila is under threat from drought, the coastal heathland and forests it lives in being cut down or burnt, as well as introduced predators such as roaming cats and foxes, who eat them. Bushfires and competition from introduced rats and mice, for food and their homes, also put this precious native mouse at risk.

NAME.....

Spotted-Tailed Quoll

Scientific name:

Dasyurus maculatus

Spotted-tailed quolls are about the size of a cat and look cute with their pink noses and soft brown fur with white spots, but they have sharp teeth and claws, are good hunters and are mostly meat eaters (carnivores). Spotted-tailed quolls are mainly nocturnal (awake in the night-time) although they also hunt during the day.

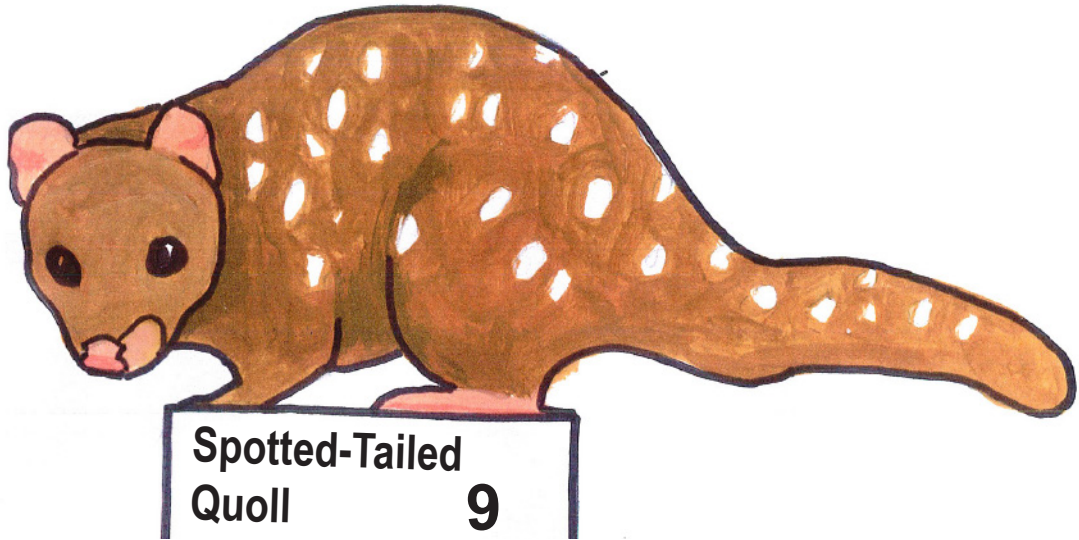


Photo: David Paul

Where Spotted-tailed Quolls live: They need really big areas of forest to roam in. They are very good climbers and they make their homes (dens) in rocky outcrops, small caves, hollow logs and hollows in old standing trees. They use their dens for shelter and to raise their babies that are called joeys. Spotted-tailed quolls are marsupials (they have a pouch for their babies). Quoll joeys are first carried in their mother's pouch until they get too big and then they will ride on her back.

Spotted-tailed quolls are threatened by clearing forests and bush (they need big areas of forest to roam in), cars on roads where quolls have to cross, bushfires and foxes and feral cats who prey on them and their joeys and compete with them for food.

Since 2004 there have been only 26 confirmed sightings of Spotted-tailed quolls in Victoria.

NAME.....

Giant Burrowing Frog

Scientific name:

Heleioporus australiacus

The Giant Burrowing Frog is a large, round, slow-moving frog that grows to about 10 cm long. It is a strong, powerfully built frog, with muscly back legs and enlarged lumps on their feet called so they can burrow really well.

What they eat: Giant Burrowing frogs eat mainly insects including ants, beetles, cockroaches, spiders, centipedes and scorpions. This frog is slow growing and lives for up to 10 years, maybe

Giant Burrowing Frogs lay about 500-800 eggs at a time and the eggs are laid in burrows or under vegetation and dead leaves in small pools near creeks.

After rains, tadpoles are washed into larger pools where they finish growing in pond areas of the creek.

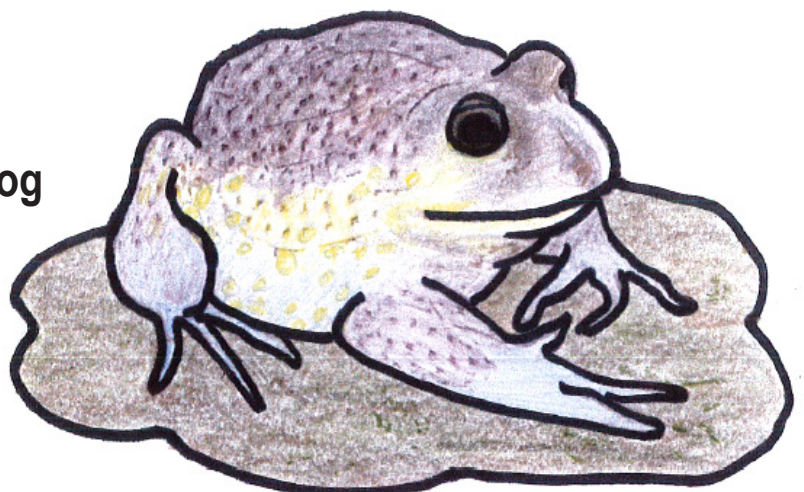


Photo: Brendan Casey

When not in breeding season, the Giant Burrowing Frog spends most of its time up to 300 mtrs away from the creek. During this time, it burrows below the ground or in the leaf litter. Individual frogs occupy a series of burrow sites, some of which are used over and over again.

Threatened by: Giant Burrowing Frogs are threatened by water pollution in creeks, by draining and damming creeks, by cutting down the forest and shrubs around creeks they need to live in, and cats and foxes who dig them up and eat them.

10 Giant Burrowing Frog



NAME.....