

Wildlife of the Coxs River Mammals

Nestled on the western edge of the Blue Mountains, the Coxs River region stretches from the cliffs of Hassans Walls in the north to the Megalong Valley in the south.

The region has a rich natural heritage reflective of the remarkable diversity of habitats present. The wildlife of riverside forests, native grasslands, woodlands, and sandstone escarpments are each unique and include species found nowhere else.

While much of the native vegetation has been cleared, there are a number of public reserves where local wildlife can be seen. Some farmstays and other businesses also offer opportunities for experiencing the region's wildlife.

This guide introduces the common native mammals most likely to be observed. Users should refer to a comprehensive mammal guide for less common and introduced species.

TIPS FOR MAMMAL WATCHING: Most native mammals are nocturnal and best seen by spotlighting in the twilight and pre-dawn. A filter of red cellophane over your torch will help avoid damage to animals' eyes. Unless marked otherwise all lands are private holdings, so always ensure you have landowner's permission.

Antechinus are occasionally seen during the day, and will enter homes and woodpiles for shelter. They are particularly active during the winter mating season. Male Antechinus are semelparous, dying from stress-related disease shortly after their first mating season.

REPORTING RARE WILDLIFE: If you think you have seen any of the species indicated in **RED** you should report your findings. Knowing where these species are helps our community protect them. If possible, take a photo and record the nearest property address.

HELPING YOUR WILDLIFE: Sadly many of the Coxs mammals are in decline and may disappear before future generations can enjoy them.

Assisting wildlife on your property is a great way to get involved, and is easier than you might think. Some key actions to help wildlife are:

- Retain fallen logs and dead trees for habitat
- Plant local trees & shrubs
- Control weeds
- Fence stock from creeklines to reduce erosion

CONSERVATION STATUS: The legal status (if any) under NSW law is listed for each species. All native wildlife is protected.

ABBREVIATIONS:

Protected Lands	Other Public Lands
SCA State Conservation Area	SF State Forest
NP National Park	

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photographs donated by: Alan Kwok: **AK** / Akos Lumtizer: **AL** / Bidgee: **BJ** / Dean Lewis (<http://dl.id.au>): **DL** / © The State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Heritage Protection): **EHP** / Edwin Vella: **EV** / 'Eyeweed': **EW** / George Cruiser: **GC** / Gordan Smith: **GS** / Greg Miles: **GM** / 'Greg the Busker': **GB** / Gus McNab: **GMc** / Jean-Marc Hero: **JMH** / Jonathan Ayres: **JA** / Ken Stepnell/OEH: **KS** / 'LiquidGhoul': **LG** / Lindy Lumsden: **LL** / Mark Fuller: **MF** / Michael Shea: **MS** / Michael Jarman/OEH: **MJ** / Narawan Williams: **NW** / Narelle Power: **NP** / NSW Office of Environment & Heritage: **OEH** / Peter Ridgeway: **PR** / Peter Street: **PS** / Rosie Nicolai/OEH: **RN** / Reiner Richter: **RR** / Retama: **RT** / Ray Williams: **RW**

Cover photo: Squirrel Glider *Petaurus norfolcensis*, © Narawan Williams
Text: Peter Ridgeway

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) was formed to help protect the natural values of the Hawkesbury- Nepean and ensure it continues to be a healthy and productive catchment. This brochure is one of a series of brochures to raise wildlife awareness, promote Landcare, and protect biodiversity. www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au

This project is supported by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government.

Wildlife of the Coxs River: Mammals



Wildlife of the Coxs River Mammals



Macropods



Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

Common in woodland; rare elsewhere. A keystone species.



Eastern Wallaroo *Macropus robustus robustus*

Uncommon, generally valley edges. Readily distinguished by its bulky, shaggy coat.



Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*

Common in shrubby areas and along creeks.

Ground Mammals



Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*

Common resident of grassy areas.



Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*

An uncommon resident of larger woodland remnants.



Brown Antechinus *Antechinus stuartii*

Moderately common in larger woodland remnants; a charismatic animal. Heavily impacted by firewood collection and foxes.

Ground Mammals



Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus*

Vulnerable (NSW). Uncommon and declining. A wide ranging predator, semi-arboreal.



Bush Rat *Rattus fuscipes*

Moderately common in larger remnants with hollow logs; unlike introduced rats the Bush Rat does not climb, and the tail is shorter than the body.



'Common' Dunnart *Sminthopsis murina*

Uncommon in larger remnants with hollow logs.

Other Mammals



Little Red Flying-fox *Pteropus scapulatus*

An occasional visitor; nomadic.



Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

Formerly common, now rare. Frequently killed in Yabbie traps.

GET INVOLVED

The HNCMA can assist with advice and funding to help you manage biodiversity on your property. For more information contact the HNCMA on (02) 6350 3110 or www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au

Possums & Gliders

Possums & Gliders

Microbats

THE COXS RIVER



Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*
Common, especially open, dry country.



Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*
A small gliding possum; common and widespread.



Greater Broad-nosed Bat *Scoteanax rueppellii*
Vulnerable (NSW).
A woodland specialist of the valley floor and edges.



Common Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*
Common, especially thick creekside vegetation.



Squirrel Glider *Petaurus norfolcensis*
An endangered species very similar to the Sugar Glider; restricted to open woodland.



Fishing Bat *Myotis adversus*
Vulnerable (NSW). Uses large feet to 'trawl' water surface catching small fish and insects; rare - e.g. farm dams with old hollow trees.



Greater Glider *Petauroides volans*
A very large glider of tall forests; both grey and white colour morphs are present.



Feathertail Glider *Acrobates pygmaeus*
A tiny glider, easily overlooked but probably quite common.

GET INVOLVED
Landcare is a grassroots movement dedicated to managing local environmental issues. For information on what is happening in your local area contact the HNCMA Regional Landcare Facilitator on (02) 4725 3050 or www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au

