

Threatened Fauna

The Corangamite coastline with its diversity of native vegetation and marine environments provide critical habitat to a variety of threatened fauna species (see Table).



Photo: Female Powerful Owl. Photograph Fiona Hogan



Photo: Orange-bellied parrot. Photograph Trevor Pescott

Table: Some of the threatened species of the Corangamite coast.

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Anseranas semiplamata</i>	Magpie Goose
<i>Charadrius rubricollis</i>	Hooded Plover
<i>Dasyornis broadbenti</i>	Rufous Bristlebird
<i>Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed (Tiger) Quoll
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl
<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill
<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>	Smoky Mouse
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse

Orange-bellied Parrot

Neophema chrysogaster

Status: Critically endangered, there are only approximately 150 individuals in the wild¹.

Location: Migratory species, breeds in Southwest Tasmania (summer), and spends winter along the coasts of Victoria and South Australia².

Habitat: In Victoria, the Orange-bellied Parrot mainly occurs in saltmarsh communities where they feed in winter. Other associated coastal vegetation is also important in providing shelter to individuals².

Threats: Habitat destruction and alteration, especially of critical saltmarsh habitat on the mainland. Predation from introduced species e.g. cats and foxes, competition from introduced seed-eating birds and associated risks and stresses of migration².





Photo: Hooded Plover. Photograph Glen Ehmke, Birds Australia

Hooded Plover *Charadrius rubricollis*

Status: Vulnerable (Victoria). In Victoria there are approximately 600 individuals³.

Location: Along the southern Australian coastline (WA, SA, VIC, TAS and southern NSW). Hooded Plovers also inhabit inland saltlakes, but only in south-western Australia³.

Habitat: Mainly confined to ocean beaches, but have been recorded on adjacent rock platforms, inlets and lakes. Hooded Plovers nest on the open spaces of the beach itself³.

Threats: Disturbance from human activity and domestic dogs resulting in nest and egg destruction and predation from introduced species³.



Photo: Rufous Bristlebird. Photograph Trevor Pescott

Rufous Bristlebird *Dasyornis broadbenti*

Status: Threatened (Victoria)

Location: Sub species *Dasyornis broadbenti subsp. broadbenti*, is found within the coastal zone from Anglesea westwards to the Glenelg River. There is a gap in its distribution around Warrnambool creating two separate populations of Rufous Bristlebird in Victoria⁴.

Habitat: Dense coastal vegetation made up of *Leptospermum sp.* and has been recorded in the forested valleys of the Otway Ranges⁴.

Threats: Loss of habitat for agriculture and coastal urban development, increased predation by introduced pests e.g. foxes and cats and wildfire or inappropriate burning regimes⁴.





Photo: New Holland Mouse.. Photograph © The State of Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment/J Poynton

New Holland Mouse

Pseudomys novaehollandiae

Status: Vulnerable (Victoria)

Location: Occurs in small isolated populations east of Melbourne along the coast and a small population near Anglesea on the Corangamite coastline⁵.

Habitat: Regenerating heathlands, woodlands with a heathy understory, open forests and sand dune communities. The population at Anglesea occurs in open forest/woodland of Brown Stringybark with a heathy understory⁵.

Threats: The New Holland Mouse has a restricted distribution and occurs in small isolated populations mainly as a result of previous habitat clearing. Current threats include inappropriate burning regimes and predation from introduced species e.g. foxes and cats⁵.



Photo: Growling Grass Frog. Photograph Christine Walsh

Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*

Status: Vulnerable (Nationally), Threatened (Victoria).

Location: The Growling Grass frog was once common across south-eastern Australia including Tasmania and extended through much of Victoria. It is now present in small isolated populations in the Melbourne area and south-west Victoria⁶.

Habitat: Still or slow moving water with emergent vegetation such as reeds, rushes and sedges, e.g. wetlands, creeks, farm dams and irrigation channels⁶.

Threats: A number of threats have resulted in the decline and continue to threaten populations, some include:

- draining or in-filling water bodies
- habitat degradation, through reduced water quality, land clearing and other human disturbances
- Chytrid fungus (Disease)
- increased predation by introduced fish species e.g. Mosquito fish⁶.





Photo: Spotted-tailed Quoll. Photograph Trevor Pescott

Spotted-tailed (Tiger) Quoll

Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus

Status: Vulnerable (Nationally), Threatened (Victoria).

Location: The Spotted-tailed Quoll once occurred across eastern Australia, including Tasmania. In Victoria the species was thought to occur throughout much of the State. Currently there are only small isolated populations confined to remote mountainous areas of eastern and south-western Victoria, including the Otway Ranges of the Corangamite region⁷.

Habitat: Spotted-tailed quolls are found in a range of forest types, from dry woodlands to moist montane forests. In the Corangamite region they favour moist rainforest and wet forests of the Otway Ranges⁷.

Threats: Habitat loss and fragmentation from land clearing since European settlement has resulted in the decline. Other threats include:

- Increased competition/predation by introduced species e.g. foxes and cats
- Poisoning, by 1080 baits used to control introduced species.
- Reduced habitat quality, due to inappropriate fire regimes⁷.



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Photographs

Photographs courtesy of Fiona Hogan, Christine Walsh, Glen Ehmke (Birds Australia), Trevor Pescott and The State of Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment.

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