



WILDLIFE WONDERS

THE WILD SIDE OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD



Otways Wildlife Guide

Mammals, Birds, Tracks & Scats



Contents

About the Otways	3
Otways Map	3
Wildlife in the Otways	4

Mammals of the Otways

Koala	5
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	6
Red-shouldered Wallaby	7
Swamp Wallaby	8
Long-Nosed Potoroo	9
Southern Brown Bandicoot	10
Short-Beaked Echidna	11
Common Ringtail Possum	12
Tiger Quoll	13

Birds of the Otways

Galah	14
Nankeen Kestrel	
Superb Fairywren	
Southern Boobook	
Crimson Rosella	
Willie Wagtail	
Striated Pardalote	15
Pied Currawong	
Gang-gang Cockatoo	
Australian Magpie	
Laughing Kookaburra	
New-Holland Honeyeater	
Eastern Yellow Robin	16
Australasian Gannet	
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	
Wedge-Tail Eagle	
King Parrot	
White-Browed Scrubwren	

The Otways

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the majestic Otways - the Gadubanud, the Gulidjan, the Kirrae Wurrung and the Wadawurrung - and their continuing connection to land, water and culture, and we pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

The Otway Ranges derive their name from Cape Otway, named in 1800 after Captain William Otway (1755-1815).

Renowned for its rugged coastline, wild oceans, secluded beaches, imposing forests, dense fern gullies, pounding waterfalls and quiet rivers, the Otways includes the Otway Forest Park and the Great Otway National Park, which stretches along the Great Ocean Road from Torquay to Port Campbell, Cape Otway to Colac, and up through the Otway Ranges.

Proclaimed in 2005 with the amalgamation of several smaller state, national and local government parks, as well as several private properties, the area now protects over 140,000 hectares for conservation and community.

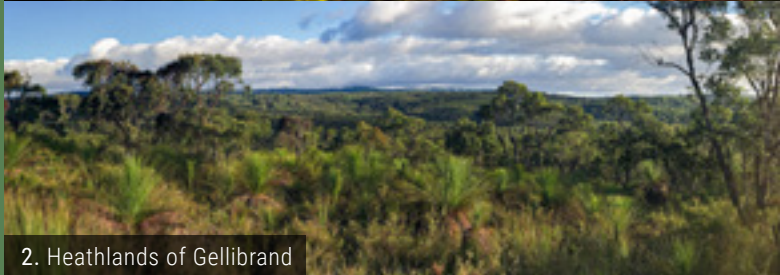
Such a diverse landscape supports an abundance of native flora and fauna species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world, and some of which are rare and threatened. Conservation of the wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend is critical for their continued existence, and indeed the health and resilience of ecosystems.

We hope this guide will help you as you explore this beautiful region. Step softly and look carefully – you will soon come to recognise the flora and fauna and see signs of life all around.

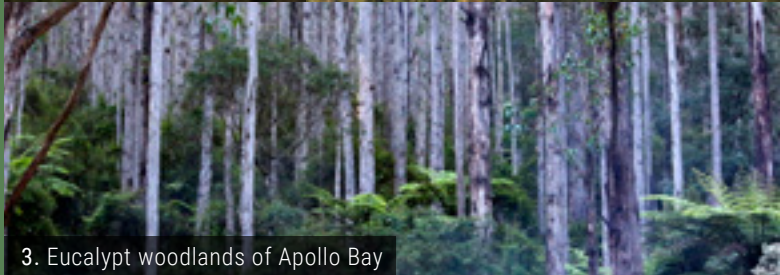
Welcome to the magnificent Otways.



1. Rainforests of Lorne



2. Heathlands of Gellibrand



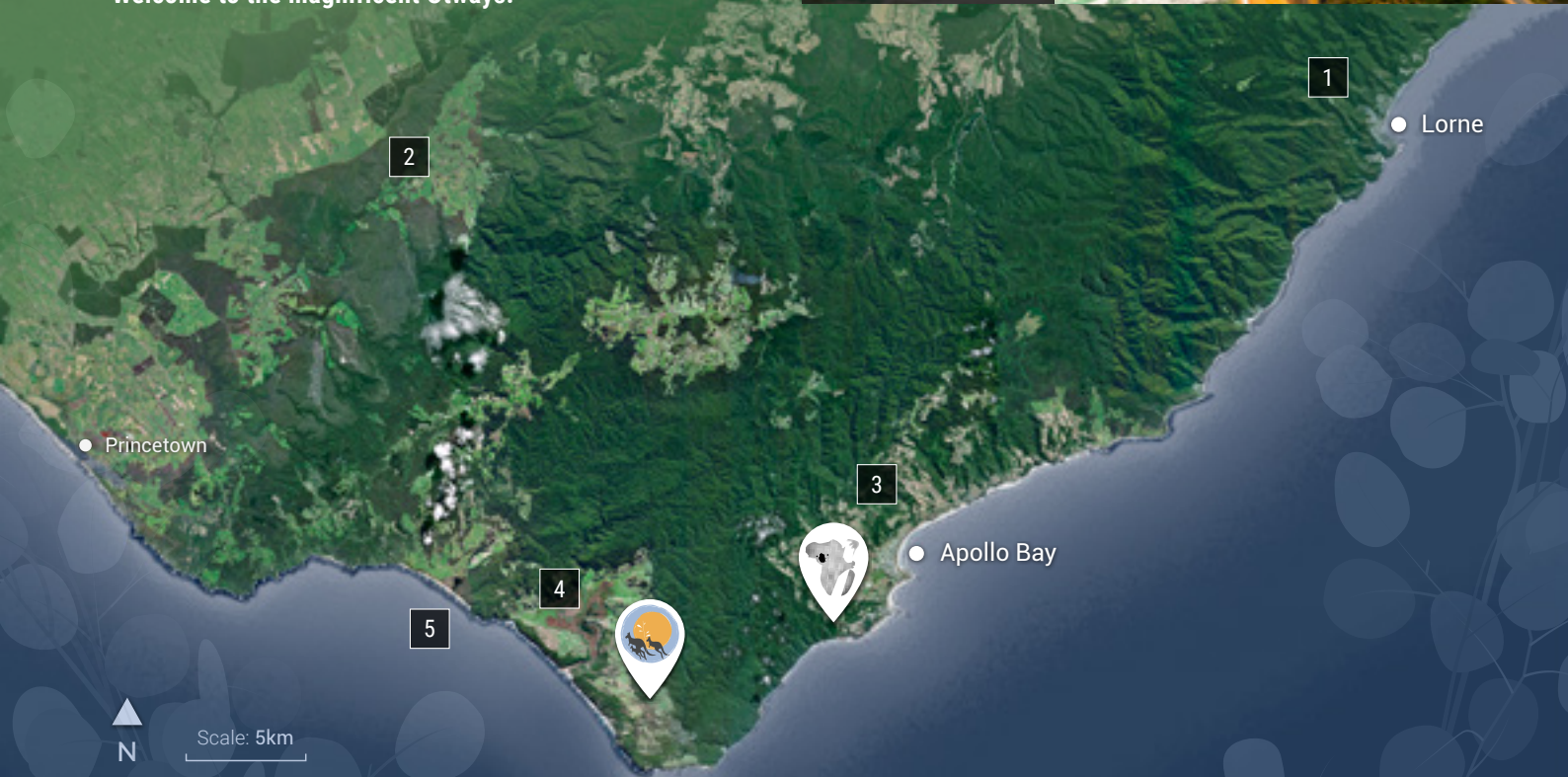
3. Eucalypt woodlands of Apollo Bay



4. Aire River wetlands



5. Limestone coastline



Wildlife in the Otways

Every inhabitant of the Otways is remarkable, and some species are found nowhere else on earth.



The tiny Otways Black Snails are carnivorous and hunt down invertebrates that stray into their path. You might spot their beautiful black, shiny shells glinting in the damp undergrowth. Up in the trees, at dawn and dusk, you may see Sugar Gliders. Just the size of your hand, they launch themselves from the branches, spreading the folds of skin between their legs to glide great distances between the trees. Large white Sulphur Crested Cockatoos wheel in flocks to land in the trees, shattering the silence with their raucous shrieks before taking off again, leaving behind just a couple of feathers, and peace. And high up in the Manna Gums, look carefully for the sleepy koalas, dozing and feeding on the fragrant leaves.

These are just a few of the thousands of species that inhabit the Otways. Nearly all are shy and elusive, and many are nocturnal, venturing out at nightfall to graze or hunt. Seeing them is both a challenge and a privilege – as a wildlife watcher we need to learn to be quiet, calm, gentle and respectful.

Observe a few guidelines:

- Move slowly, speak softly, listen carefully and keep alert.
- Wear soft clothing that doesn't crunch or rub as you walk. Dress appropriately for the terrain and the weather conditions.
- Carry a first aid kit, drinking water, a rain coat and sunhat – weather in the Otways can change quickly and it is important to be prepared.
- Stick to established tracks – moving off the paths may damage vegetation and scare away animals, or trigger a fight response if they feel threatened.
- Never, ever feed wildlife. They have adapted to their own natural diets and feeding them may change their natural behaviours or make them sick.
- Wild animals can have a range of parasites and bacteria, some of which can affect humans. If you want to examine scats, use a stick and wash your hands thoroughly.
- If you accidentally encounter an animal at close quarters, stand still and allow them to move away. If they don't move, back away slowly. Animals in the Otways are not dangerous, but can be aggressive if they feel trapped.
- Watch out for snakes. They will not want to attack or threaten you, they just happen to be using the same path as you. Remain vigilant and relaxed and, if you should see a snake, immediately and calmly alert others in your group, and make sure everyone stands absolutely still until the snake moves away. You can also observe snakes safely from a distance – they are extremely beautiful. For safety always carry a snake-bite bandage in your first aid kit.
- There are many roads and tracks through the Otways, fringed by tall trees, long grass and understorey. Drive carefully, especially at dawn and dusk because animals such as wallabies and kangaroos feed on the vegetation alongside the road. Hard to spot, they need to cross the roads to reach their feeding sites and when alarmed they can jump out suddenly in front of cars.
- **If you see injured animals, contact Wildlife Victoria on 03 8400 7300.** Qualified staff will be able to decide on the best course of action and despatch local wildlife carers to help.



Koala

Koalas are specialised folivores (leaf eaters) and their diet consists exclusively of the leaves of a small number (20-30 species) of eucalypts. In the Otways koalas prefer Manna Gum, Messmate, but can also eat Swamp Gum, Brookers Gum, Blue Gum and Mountain Grey Gum.

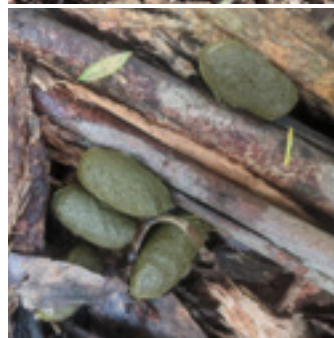
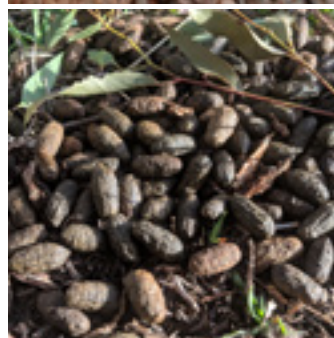
Using their strong claws, koalas can quickly climb the tallest trees and grasp the leaves with their two-thumbed paws. These gum leaves contain toxic compounds so, when weaning, the mother feeds her young joey with her droppings, providing the micro-organisms from her intestine that are needed for digestion. Koalas need to sleep for around 18-20 hours each day to conserve energy and help digest the toxins.

Like many Australian mammals, koalas are marsupials. Their newly born joeys are blind, pink and hairless and weigh less than a gram – rather like a jelly bean. The tiny joey crawls to the pouch, attaches to the mother's teat and stays safely in her pouch for many months until they are big enough to climb onto her back. Koala joeys stay with their mothers for around one year.

Mature males have a scent gland in the middle of their chests that they rub on trees to mark their territory, as koalas prefer to live solitary lives, only coming together to mate in the spring. This gland leaves a brown stain on the males' white chests, which can be useful for identifying sexes in the field.

Koala numbers have been declining in areas inhabited by humans, and they have been particularly affected by land clearing and by deaths from cars and dog attacks. The changing climate, bringing drought and extreme wildfires, is another major threat to their wellbeing and survival.

Too precious to lose, koalas are still relatively abundant in the Otways. Look for them high up in the forest canopy.



Tracks

The most noticeable tracks left by koalas are on the tree trunks where their sharp claws leave scratch marks in the bark.

Tracks on the ground are rarely seen but are distinctive with a 'double thumb' on their forepaw. Their hind paw is angled with a single inner-thumb print, and four forward pointing toes.

Scats

Koala scat is a round elongated oval, greenish brown, with fine plant matter throughout. It is greenest when fresh, and turns a darker brown within a few days. It can look similar to Brush-Tail Possum scat but is generally larger and has a pleasant eucalyptus scent. Look out for piles of koala scat underneath their favourite feeding trees.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo



All kangaroos belong to the Macropodidae family, meaning 'big foot'. Their huge hind feet enable them to move very quickly – as fast as 60km per hour – balancing with their strong muscular tails. They can also swim, use their forepaws to drown predators and they have excellent hearing and keen eyesight.

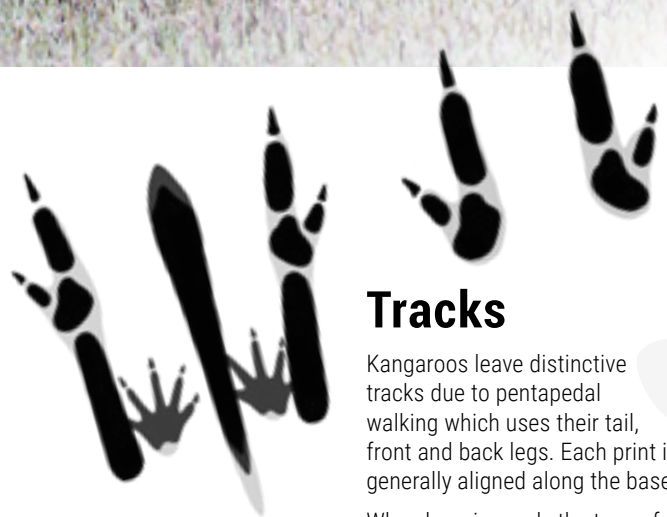
Like koalas, kangaroos are marsupials. Instead of the foetus growing within a placenta, the female gives birth to a tiny, hairless embryo, around the size of a jelly bean after only one month's gestation. The newborn joey climbs from the birth canal to the mother's pouch where it latches on to one of her teats. For at least six months the tiny joey stays in the pouch, then when it has grown sufficiently, it can hop out and move around to eat grass, while staying close to its mother for safety. It takes around 18 months before the joey is independent.

While females typically give birth to one joey each year, kangaroos are unique in that they are able to keep extra embryos in a dormant state, known as 'embryonic diapause', until the first joey leaves the pouch. The mothers are able to have a juvenile joey at their feet, a younger one in the pouch and a dormant embryo all at the same time. If conditions are harsh (say in times of drought) the embryo will remain dormant until times improve.

Eastern Grey Kangaroos are the second largest of the numerous kangaroo species. Males grow up to 1.8m tall and weigh 60-70kg, while females can reach 1.5m tall and weigh up to 35kg. They like to live in family 'mobs' and can be found grazing on the luscious pasture of the open grasslands or, in hot or chilly weather, sheltering in the woodlands.

Most active between dusk and dawn, kangaroos eat leaves, fern, flowers, fruits and moss. Like cattle, they regurgitate their food, chewing it twice before it passes through their stomach. They prefer to drink from open water sources, but when desperate they can dig deep holes to search for water.

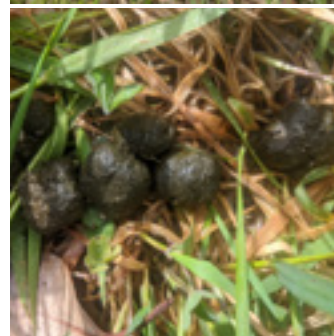
Presently, Eastern Grey Kangaroos thrive in the Otways, but as land is developed they are in danger of losing their habitat.



Tracks

Kangaroos leave distinctive tracks due to pentapedal walking which uses their tail, front and back legs. Each print is generally aligned along the base.

When hopping, only the toes of kangaroos make contact with the ground which can make it harder to distinguish between wallaby tracks. Kangaroo tracks are larger, and have shorter outside toes in relation to the large middle toe, with more separation between the paw pads. The small fused inside toes rarely leave prints.



Scats

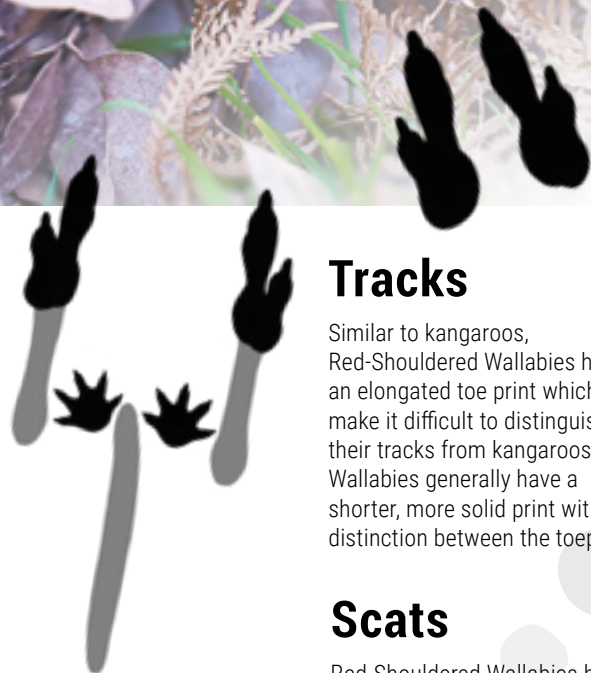
Kangaroos have variable scats depending on the moisture content of their diet. They are a dark colour with a smooth surface, dark brown outside and typically a green-brown colour with vegetation material inside. Scats are around 2-3cm wide, and formed in irregular round or square pellets, sometimes in a connected clump of four to ten pellets.



Red Shouldered Wallaby

The Red-Shouldered Wallaby has a light grey to brown coat, a noticeable reddish brown patch across the back of the neck, a white strip along the upper lip and light inner ear fur. They live in patchy woodland and grassland, and are most common in drier forests. They eat a range of soft grasses, woody shrubs, and herbs. Red-Shouldered Wallabies are a solitary species, usually seen alone or as a mother with her joey.

Red-Shouldered Wallabies are larger and lighter in colour than the swamp wallaby and can be distinguished by the light colour around their ears.



Tracks

Similar to kangaroos, Red-Shouldered Wallabies have an elongated toe print which can make it difficult to distinguish their tracks from kangaroos. Wallabies generally have a shorter, more solid print without distinction between the toepads.

Scats

Red-Shouldered Wallabies have variable scats depending on the moisture content of their diet. They are a dark colour with a smooth surface and green-yellow colour with mixed dense vegetation material. The scats are around 2-3cm wide, and formed in irregular round or square pellets, sometimes with tapered ends. Less commonly they can be connected in a string of four to six pellets.



Swamp Wallaby



Looking very like small kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies are darker than their Eastern Grey Kangaroo cousins and have reddish brown or cream coloured bellies, with dark patches on the tips of their noses, tail, legs and forelimbs. Found throughout the forests and woodlands of the Otways, they tend to live solitary lives and are generally very timid.

Swamp Wallabies are members of the marsupial family so (like kangaroos and koalas) the female gives birth to a tiny hairless embryo which makes its way through her fur to the safety of her pouch. It remains there for six months or so before venturing out to eat grass but staying close until it is around a year old.

Despite their name, Swamp Wallabies live in a range of habitats throughout the Otways. They avoid open grasslands, farms and paddocks and prefer patches of dense understorey for protection.

They can often be found in or at the edge of the bush, choosing fresh young plants, fungi and ferns, or grazing on the grasses at the side of the road. This makes them particularly vulnerable to cars, which probably cause more deaths than animal predators as these little wallabies are often foraging at dusk and are hard to spot.

Swamp Wallabies are unique in that their gestation takes longer than their oestrus cycle. This means that a Swamp Wallaby can be pregnant with two different offspring, with different fathers, at different ages, in different wombs at the same time, and while still suckling an older 10-12 month old joey.



Tracks

Similar to Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Red-Shouldered Wallaby tracks, Swamp Wallabies have an elongated hind paw print, with two clear toes that are connected to the pad. It can be difficult to distinguish between types of wallabies, but generally Swamp Wallabies prints have a shorter second toe, a larger pad, and are smaller than red-shouldered wallaby prints.



Scats

Swamp Wallabies usually produce unsegmented cylindrical scats making them an easy macropod scat to identify. Typically, scats are 3-4cm in diameter with a black coating and a brown interior when broken. Swamp Wallabies will eat a range of vegetation, including woody plants, which results in a coarse varied texture in their scats.



Long-Nosed Potoroo

Long-Nosed Potoroos are reddish-brown to grey small marsupials that live in both wet and dry forests and coastal woodlands. They weigh around 1kg and grow to 20-25cm tall. At first glance, they look very much like bandicoots, but when they hop away with their front feet tucked into their chests they show a closer resemblance to members of the kangaroo family. Their characteristic long noses are tapered, with a naked patch of skin extending onto the snout. Their tails are semi-prehensile, sparsely-furred and usually have a white tip. They are used to grasp mosses, grass and bark for carrying to their nests.

Long-Nosed Potoroos require low, dense vegetation that enables them to hide from predators and wetter areas that produce their favourite foods – fungi and seeds. Fungi are very important in the potoroos' diet, and they consume around 50 species in the winter months, and more plants, fruits and flowers in the summer.

After sniffing the ground to locate a possible food source, the potoroos use their long, slightly curved claws on their front feet to dig it up. Like bettongs and bandicoots, Long-Nosed Potoroos disturb the soil when they are digging. This keeps the soils in the forest floor healthy and aerated, with the fungi spores released and spread as the animals forage, all contributing to a balanced ecosystem.

Female Long-Nosed Potoroos reach sexual maturity around one year of age, and raise one young per pregnancy, but can produce up to four young each year.

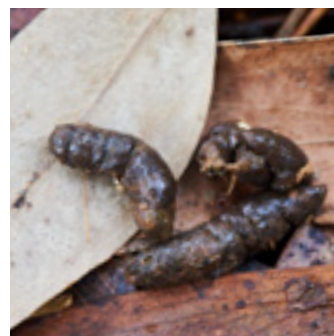
As with most small marsupials, the Long-Nosed Potoroos' major predators are foxes and cats, and much habitat has been lost through urbanisation and agriculture. Inappropriate fire regimes, with more severe and frequent fires, destroy the understorey, taking away the shelter that is vital for small animals.



Tracks

Because of their preference for dense understorey habitat, it is rare to find potoroo tracks. The hind paw leaves two toe claws and a faint trailing imprint, all of which is around 8.5cm long. The forepaw has five claws which is the main way to distinguish potoroo from bandicoot tracks.

It is easier to find the hollow cone shaped diggings formed when potoroos burrow for fungi. These can be found throughout the soil of potoroo's habitat, sometimes partly covered by loose vegetation.



Scats

Potoroo scat is typically 2-3cm long and cylindrical, with a dark brown or black colour, and a smooth mud-like coating. It is rare to find potoroo scat as it is generally buried when they dig for food, or lost in fallen vegetation on the floor of their habitat.



Southern Brown Bandicoot

Southern Brown Bandicoots are shy, small, nocturnal marsupials with backwards-facing pouches. They have a shiny, brindled brown coat, often with a dark black stripe along their back, and with a cream or pale-yellow belly and a short thin tail. They live in a variety of habitats, from heaths and woodlands to rainforests, preferring to build their nests from grasses and other plant materials in the dense vegetation of the understorey.

At night, they emerge to feed on insects, larvae, earthworms and plants. As they search for insects in the soil, they dig using their short powerful front legs to make small conical holes. These help with soil aeration and seed dispersal. Like many smaller native marsupials, Southern Brown Bandicoots help keep the ecosystem healthy.

Males and females prefer solitary lives and establish home ranges that vary in size, depending on habitat. They breed up to four times a year and have the shortest gestation period (about 11 days) of any marsupial. They can give birth to up to five young which are underdeveloped and furless, measuring around 1cm when born, and take three months to live independently.

They tend to travel on all four feet, rather than hopping, but they will occasionally stand to check out their surroundings.

Unfortunately, since European settlement, land clearing and increased bushfire intensity have combined with introduced foxes and cats to significantly reduce the distribution of southern brown bandicoots.



Tracks

Southern Brown Bandicoot tracks are similar to potoroo tracks, but have a wider toe spread on the hind paw, only three pad impressions on the forepaw, and a smaller overall track size. Bandicoots in the Otways inhabit the same types of dense understorey habitats as potoroos, so it is difficult to find their tracks. It is also almost impossible to distinguish tracks between the different species of bandicoot, though the location of the track can be used as a guide.

Scats

Scats of southern brown bandicoots are difficult to find as they often cover their scats with soil while digging for food. Bandicoots have dark 1cm diameter cylindrical scats, with tapering at one end. When fresh they have a strong 'old meat' smell, and will have plant material and insect parts when broken. It is difficult to distinguish bandicoot scats between species.



©Rob Russell



Short-Beaked Echidna

Echidnas are monotremes, a group of egg-laying mammals that include the platypus. Once their single egg has hatched, the smooth and hairless baby echidnas, called 'puggles', are held in their mother's pouch, suckling milk for around 3 months until they start to develop their spines. Still too small to be independent, puggles will stay with their mothers until they are 6 months old, continuing to suckle while also starting to eat ants and termites. Echidnas' beaks are specially designed to poke into rotten logs or ant hills where their long sticky tongue will lap up insects for them to eat.

Echidnas can be found in a variety of habitats, including wet and dry forests, scrublands, grasslands and along coastlines. You will often find them walking along roads or tracks as they move around their large home ranges looking for food.

Their hardened quills provide them with protection from predators, and when threatened they bury themselves into the ground to hide their softer belly.



Tracks

Echidnas have specialised feet for digging into rotten logs, termite mounds or ant hills which makes them easy to identify. Their short legs also mean that they usually drag their feet leaving long, nearly continuous tracks. In wetter areas tracks can be hard to identify, but echidna diggings are distinctive in that they usually form a large dig out, with a unique indentation where their nose was pushed into the soil.



Scats

Echidna scats are long cylinders made of up dirt and insect fragments and variable in shade depending on the local soil colour. When fresh they have a strong earthy smell, but when old they quickly dry out, becoming brittle and often fragmenting into several pieces. They can be found anywhere, but are most common around diggings and ant hills.



Common Ringtail Possum

Common Ringtail Possums can be found anywhere there are large trees, including urban cities, parks and scrubland, though they prefer habitat with continuous trees such as forests. They are nocturnal, and are more easily spotted with a torch after dark. Common Ringtail Possums love eating berries, fruits, flowers, nectar and tree sap. Unique in marsupials, they have a two-stage digestive strategy, so during the day while sleeping, they produce a soft faecal material that they reingest to extract the maximum nutrient value.

They occasionally use tree hollows or artificial nest boxes during the day, but usually will build communal nests out of twigs and leaves called 'dreys'. A group of possums is called a 'passe', for ringtails, this generally consists of a breeding adult pair, their dependant offspring, and immature sub-adult offspring from the previous year. They will nest together for body warmth during winter, and protection from predators.



Tracks

Highly adapted to life in trees, Common Ringtail Possums seldom come down to the ground so it's incredibly rare to find their tracks.

Scats

Although they eat their soft scats during the day, at night they produce a second 'hard' scat of indigestible material. These scats are cylindrical, similar to a koala's except smaller at only 1cm diameter. The surface is typically granulated, with very fine plant material inside, and both ends rounded. They can be deposited singularly, but usually in groups of three to six scats.





Tiger Quoll

Also known as Spotted-tailed Quolls, the Tiger Quoll is the largest carnivorous marsupial on mainland Australia. Related to the now extinct Thylacine, Tiger Quolls are found in rainforests and woodlands across the eastern states of Australia and make their dens in rock crevices, hollow trees and logs.

Lithe, strong predators, Tiger Quolls are marsupials, giving birth to tiny joeys the size of a grain of rice that crawl into the mother's pouch where they stay for two to three months before moving to her back, using their sharp teeth and claws to cling on.

Tiger Quolls prey on small mammals, insects and birds. They are ferocious hunters with extraordinarily strong jaws and can take prey up to five times their own size. They lead solitary lives and can cover considerable distances each night, with home ranges of up to 500 hectares.

Trapped and killed in the past, with bounties offered for their skins, these days tiger quolls are increasingly rare and threatened by foxes, feral cats and dogs, and by destruction of their habitat.

Although they are considered nocturnal, Tiger Quolls enjoy basking in the warm sunshine, so one day you may be fortunate enough to catch sight of one of these precious animals.



Tracks

Tiger Quoll are rare, so it would be extremely rare (though wonderful) to find their tracks.

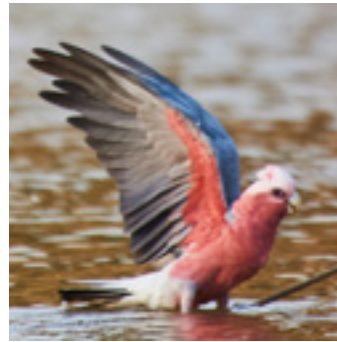


Scats

Tiger Quoll scats have a distinctive musky smell and may contain hairs and bones. They are most likely to be found in prominent places such as on logs, or rocks. In areas of higher quoll population density, quolls may create communal latrine sites where dozens of scats can accumulate.

Birds of the Otways

The habitats of the Otways support hundreds of species of birds, some that live here year round, and others that migrate seasonally. These are just some of the species you are likely to see across the Otways.



Galah

The most common of the cockatoo species, this bird has a bright pink body, grey wings and tail, and small white crest on its head.



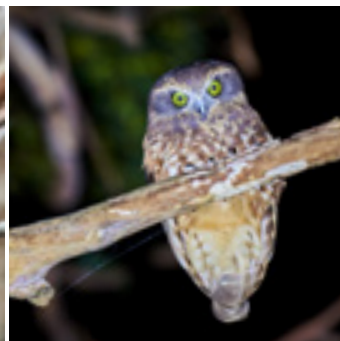
Nankeen Kestrel

One of the smaller birds of prey, this keen hunter can often be seen along coastlines throughout the Otways where it hunts in the open scrub and grassland alongside tracks. It has a white belly and throat, with black wing and tail tips and pale brown upper parts with white cheeks.



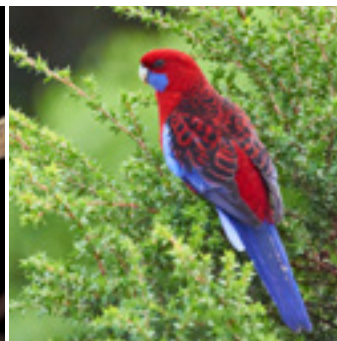
Superb Fairy-Wren

Usually seen in a family group of 4-12, they flutter around dense understorey vegetation throughout the Otways feeding on insects and berries. The fairy-wren is a small sparrow sized bird, with a dull grey-brown upper and cream belly. Females have a rufous streak around the eye, and males have a black throat, tail and eye streak, brilliant blue cap, and cheek flushes.



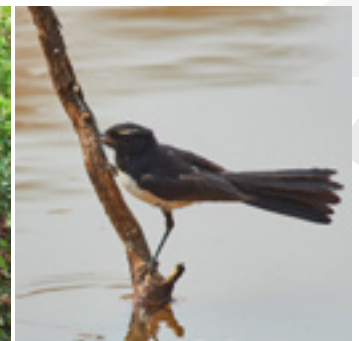
Southern Boobook

The boobook has distinctive dark facial disks, rimmed in white, green eyes and a yellow, short grey beak. Its upper parts are dark brown, its chest is speckled brown and white and becomes solid white down to the tail. Found in woodland and forests of the Otways, pairs will call to each other while hunting in a soft 'Boo book'.



Crimson Rosella

Common throughout the Otways, rosellas can often be seen feeding on seeds and berries on the side of roads, tracks or carparks. They have a bright red body, and vibrant blue along the leading edge of their wings, tail and cheek. Their back and wings have black spots. Juveniles are mottled green that changes into the red of adults as they grow.



Willie Wagtail

A small mostly black bird with a white belly and eyebrows. They are known for their curious personality and their flamboyant tail movements when foraging. Found across Australia, they can be seen throughout the Otways, including in towns, beaches and forests.

Birds of the Otways

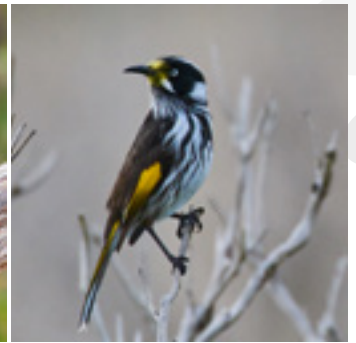
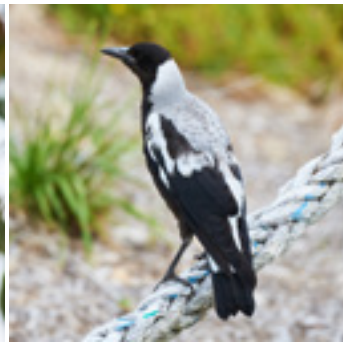


Striated Pardalote

A shy bird, they spend most of their time in tall trees of old forests in the Otways. They have black wings and tail tips, a grey upper body, and a creamy underside with a central yellow patch and a white eyebrow with a yellow patch near the beak.

Pied Currawong

Pied Currawongs are found throughout the Otways in forests and scrubland. They have a large black bill with hooked tip, a black body with a large white crescent towards the end of the wings, a white patch at the base of the tail and a yellow eye on the tail tip. They can form large flocks (up to 200 birds) before pairing off to breed in spring.



Gang-Gang Cockatoo

Found in wet forests in the Otways, Gang-Gang Cockatoos can gather in flocks of up to 20 individuals. They are a slate grey colour, often with speckled white on the tips of their feathers. The males have a distinctive red head and small crest, and the females have a grey head with speckled red and yellow through their chest.

Australian Magpie

Of no relation to the European Magpie, this feisty black and white bird is conspicuous throughout forests, woodlands and grasslands in the Otways. Their warbling call is a highlight of the dawn chorus. During spring they become territorial around their nest sites and will chase off trespassers, and can remember and recognise humans.

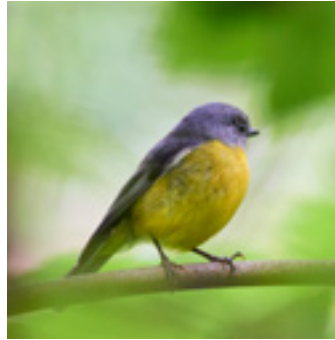
Laughing Kookaburra

The Laughing Kookaburra is named for its rowdy laugh that echoes through the bush. They are found in forests and woodlands, or grasslands with nearby trees. This kookaburra is the largest of the kingfisher family, with a cream body, a brown streak around its eyes or crown, and brown wings speckled with blue. It has a large bill with a dark upper and pale lower.

New-Holland Honeyeater

In the Otways, honeyeaters can be found where there are flowering plants, including forests, grasslands and towns. This small bird has a black back, a white and black freckled chest, white cheek patches and a yellow spot on its wings. While foraging for nectar, they often collect a patch of yellow pollen above their beak.

Birds of the Otways



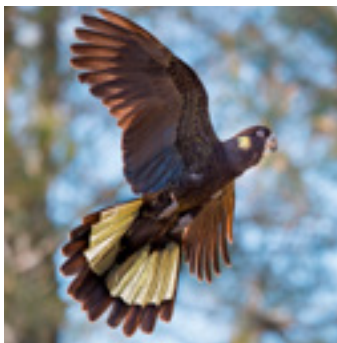
Eastern Yellow Robin

These robins are usually found in pairs or groups of adults and sub-adult offspring in mid-story trees along tracks. They are small birds with a striking yellow chest and underside, olive brown to grey head, back and tail, and a black beak with a dark brown eye. They often have a white streak on their cheek and sometimes a faint white streak on their eyebrows. Their strident peep-peep call can be heard in the forests.



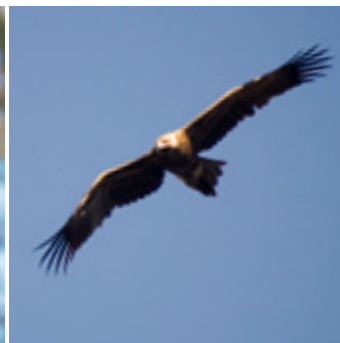
Australasian Gannet

A large seabird which can most commonly be seen diving for fish off the coast, particularly along rocky shorelines. They can travel huge distances and can fly between the Otways and New Zealand in search of food or mates.



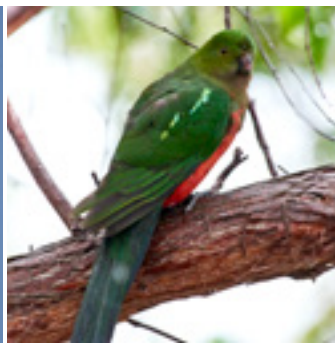
Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo

A black-bodied cockatoo with a yellow tail, and yellow cheek spot. They often travel in pairs or small groups, with individuals calling to each other with beautiful calls. Found across the Otways wherever there are tall trees. A shy bird for its size, they will often startle when approached.



Wedge-Tail Eagle

Australia's largest bird of prey with a wingspan of up to 2.3 metres. Usually seen in flight – its distinctive wedge shaped tail and large size makes it easy to identify. They hunt over open grasslands or woodlands, and usually nest in tall trees. They have large home ranges and will rotate hunting grounds depending on food availability.



King Parrot

One of the royal parrots, King Parrot males have a brilliant red head and underbelly, with green wings and tail, and often a deep blue patch at the base of the tail and a light green strip along their wings. Females are similar, except they have a green head, and a light green to yellow throat patch (pictured). Found near dense forests, they are usually seen in pairs, and can often be spotted in urban areas where there are ample tall trees.



White-Browed Scrubwren

A small but very vocal bird, scrubwrens live in large family groups in dense understory vegetation, particularly around water sources and coastlines. Not a particularly colourful bird, they have a brown back and wings, a grey belly and a speckled white chest. Their distinctive white eyebrows give them a constant scowling appearance.



WILDLIFE WONDERS

THE WILD SIDE OF THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD



©CEC Publishing

www.conservationecologycentre.org

Written by Jack Dickson, Conservation Ecology Centre

Photos by Regent Photography, unless otherwise specified