



FAUNA IDENTIFICATION RESOURCES

Fauna Categories and Identification Resources

The Western Port Seagrass Partnership is seeking photos of living specimens of animals found in the Western Port Region. We are seeking these photographs from the community in order to create a public record of the species found in the region.

We are also requesting that photographers attempt to identify the common or scientific name of the species being submitted using the linked guides and indexes provided below.

Helping to identify the species will assist with the efficiency of uploading your contribution and will provide a great learning experience about how plants are identified and grouped.

To help identify the species you have photographed we have provided a few aids and tips.

These include the main categories (classes) and the major families of animals, a list of fauna listed for the region as part of the Biosphere submission, and a number of links to web pages that may prove useful.

We suggest that you use field guides in the first instance (eg: What Bird is That?, What Mammal is That?, etc) and look at ecosystem types (eg: Marine, Coast, Freshwater, Forest etc) to narrow down the options. If you can narrow it down to a family of animals you can then use Google or the suggested web sites to search for descriptions and images of the species within that family. Complete identification may sometimes be difficult, but we request that you do your best.

Format of information required

- Class
- Family
- Common name
- Scientific name
- Source: Location / Photographer
- Information about species: (web link)
- Photo

Preferences

We request that you take photos of animals living in their natural habitat rather than deceased specimens, and where possible capture some of the habitat they are living in. Where there are marked differences in male, female or juvenile forms, we would like to have these too. In some species like insects there are different life cycle stages, such as caterpillars, and we are happy to have these as well.

NB: All photos must be sourced from the Western Port region.



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Marine & Coastal Animals: (Alphabetic Listings)

Annelida	(Worms)
Anthopoda	(Crabs, Shrimp, Crayfish)
Brachiopods	(Lamp Shells)
Chordata	Sea Squirts, Tunicates)
Coelenterata	(Anemones, Corals, Jellyfish)
Echinodermata	(Sea Cucumbers, Urchins, Starfish)
Mammalia – Carnivora	(Seals, Sea lions)
Mammalia – Cetacea	(Whales, Dolphins)
Mollusca – Cephalopods	(Cuttlefish, Octopus, Squid)
Mollusca	(Shellfish, Chitons, Limpets, Sea snails)
Mollusca	(Nudibranchs / Sea Slugs)
Pisces	Fish, Sharks, Rays) (Refer table 5)
Porifera	(Sponges)

Avian Fauna (Birds): (Alphabetic Listings)

Accipitridae	(Osprey, Kites, Eagles)
Aegothelidae	(Owlet-nightjar)
Alcedinidae	(Kingfishers)
Anatidae	(Swan, Ducks)
Anhingidae	(Darter)
Anseranatidae	(Magpie Goose)
Apodidae	(Needletail, Swifts)
Ardeidae	(Herons, Egrets, Bitterns)
Burhinidae	(Stone-curlew)
Cacatuidae	(Cockatoos)
Casuaridae	(Emu)
Charadriidae	(Plovers, Dotterels, Lapwings)
Ciconiidae	(Stork)
Columbidae	(Pigeons, Doves)
Coraciidae	(Dollarbird)
Cuculidae	(Cuckoos)
Diomedidae	(Albatrosses)
Euostopodidae	(Nightjar)
Falconidae	(Falcons)
Fragatidae	(Frigatebird)
Giareolidae	(Pratincoles)
Gruidae	(Brolga)
Haematopodidae	(Oystercatchers)
Halcyonidae	(Kookaburra, Kingfishers)



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Hydrobatidae.....	(Storm-Petrels 1)
Jacaniidae.....	(Jacana)
Laridae.....	(Gulls, Terns)
Megapodiidae.....	(Bush Turkey, Mallee Fowl)
Meropidae.....	(Bee-eater)
Oceanitidae.....	(Storm-Petrels 2)
Otididae.....	(Bustard)
Pedionomidae.....	(Plains-wanderer)
Pelicanidae.....	(Pelican)
Phaethontidae.....	(Tropic Bird)
Phalacrocoracidae.....	(Cormorants)
Phasianidae.....	(Quail)
Podargidae.....	(Frogmouth)
Podicipedidae.....	(Grebes)
Procellariidae.....	(Petrels, Shearwaters)
Psittacidae.....	(Lorikeets, Parrots, Rosellas)
Rallidae.....	(Rails, Crakes, Hens, Coot)
Recurvirostridae.....	(Stilts, Avocet)
Rostratulidae.....	(Painted Snipe)
Scolopacidae.....	(Stints, Sandpipers)
Spheniscidae.....	(Penguins)
Stercorariidae.....	(Skuas, Jaegers)
Strigidae.....	(Owls, Boobooks)
Sulidae.....	(Gannet)
Thesklornithidae.....	(Ibis, Spoonbills)
Turnicidae.....	(Button-quails)
Tytonidae.....	(Owls)

Terrestrial / Catchment Fauna

Amphibia.....	(Frogs, Newts)
Annelida.....	(Worms & Leeches)
Arthropoda – Arachnids.....	(Spiders)
Arthropoda – Insecta.....	(Insects) (Refer table 4)
Arthropoda – Scorpionida.....	(Scorpions)
Mammalia – Chiroptera.....	(Bats)
Mammalia – Marsupials.....	(Kangaroo, Koala, Wombat)
Mammalia – Monotremes.....	(Echidna, Platypus)
Mammalia – Rodentia.....	(Rats, Mice)
Pisces.....	(Fish) (Refer table 5)
Reptilia.....	(Lizards, Snakes, Tortoises)



Mammal Families

Monotremes

- Ornithorhynchidae (Platypus)
Tachyglossidae (Echidna)

Marsupials

- Acrobatidae (Feathertail Glider, Antechinus, Planigale, Ningauai, Dunnart)
Burramyidae (Pigmy Possums)
Dasyuridae (Quolls, Tasmanian Devil, Phascogale)
Macropodidae (Kangaroo, Wallaby, Nabarlek, Rock Wallaby, Warabi, Tree Kangaroo,
Quokka, Pademelon Wallaroo)
Myrmecobiidae (Numbat)
Notoryctidae (Marsupial mole)
Permelidae (Bandicoot, Bilby,)
Peroyctidae (Spiny Bandicoot)
Petauridae (Sugar Glider, Leadbeaters Possum)
Phalangeridae (Cuscus, Brushtail Possum)
Potoroidae (Potoroo, Rat Kangaroo, Bettong)
Pseudocheiridae (Ringtail Possums, Greater Glider)
Tarsipedidae (Honey Possum)
Thylacinidae (Tasmanian Tiger - extinct)
Vombatidae (Wombat, Koala)

Placental Mammals

- Dugongidae (Dugongs)
Emballonuridae (Sheathtail bat)
Megadermatidae (Ghost bat)
Molossidae (Masstiff bat)
Muridae (Rats – many , Mice – many)
Otariidae (Seals, Sea lions, Fur seals)
Phlocidae (Elephant seal, Leopard seal, Weddell seal)
Pteropodidae (Flying Fox, Fruit bat, Blossom bat)
Rhinolophidae (Horseshoe bat, Wart-nosed bat)
Vespertilionidae (Bentwing bat, Long-eared bat, Wattled bat, Hoary bat, Pied bat,
Myotis, Broad-nosed bat, Pipistelle, Eptesicus)



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Common Insect Types

Blattodea	(Cockroaches)
Coleoptera	(Beetles)
Collembola	(Springtails)
Dermaptera	(Earwigs)
Diptera	(Flies)
Embioptera	(Web-spinners)
Ephemeroptera	(Mayflies)
Hemiptera	(Bugs, Leafhoppers, Cicadas)
Hymenoptera	(Wasps, Bees, Ants)
Isoptera	(Termites)
Lepidoptera	(Moths, Butterflies)
Mantodea	(Praying mantids)
Mecoptera	(Scorpion-flies)
Megaloptera	(Alderflies)
Neuroptera	(Lacewing)
Odonata	(Dragon Flies, Damselflies)
Orthoptera	(Grasshoppers, Crickets, Locusts)
Phasmatodea	(Stick-insects)
Phthiraptera	(Lice)
Plecoptera	(Stoneflies)
Psocoptera	(Psocids)
Siphonaptera	(Fleas)
Thysanoptera	(Thrips)
Thysanura	(Silverfish)
Trichoptera	(Caddis-flies)

Common Fish Types

Acanthuridae	(Surgeonfish)
Arripidae	(Australian Salmon)
Balostidae	(Triggerfish)
Blenniidae	(Blenny species)
Bothidae	(Flounder)
Callorhynchidae	(Elephant Fish)
Carangidae	(Trevally, Dart)
Carcharhinidae	(Grey, Bull & Tiger Sharks)
Chaetodontidae	(Butterflyfish)
Cheilodactylidae	(Morwongs)
Congridae	(Conger-eels)



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Dasyatidae	(Smooth, Black Stingrays etc)
Diodontidae	(Porcupinefish)
Eleotridae	(Gudgeons)
Gadopsidae	(River Blackfish)
Galaxiidae	(Galaxids)
Gobiidae	(Goby species)
Haemulidae	(Sweetlips)
Hemiramphidae	(Garfish)
Heterodontidae	(Port Jackson Shark etc)
Kyphosidae	(Blackfish, Luderick, Zebrafish etc)
Labridae	(Wrasse species)
Lamnidae	(Great White Shark, Mako etc)
Lethrinidae	(Emperors)
Lutjanidae	(Snapper, Mangrove Jack)
Merlucciidae	(Blue Grenadier)
Molidae	(Sunfish)
Monacanthidae	(Leatherjackets)
Mugilidae	(Mullet)
Mullidae	(Goatfish)
Muraenidae	(Moray Eels)
Myliobatidae	(Eagle Ray, Manta Ray)
Neosebastidae	(Perch species)
Odontaspidae	(Greynurse Shark etc)
Ophidiidae	(Ling)
Orectolobidae	(Wobbegongs)
Ostraciidae	(Boxfish, Cowfish)
Platycephalidae	(Flathead species)
Pomacanthidae	(Angelfish)
Pomacentridae	(Anemonefish, Damsel Fish)
Rhinobatidae	(Eastern Fiddler Ray etc)
Sillaginidae	(Whiting)
Scaridae	(Parrotfish)
Sciaenidae	(Mulloway)
Scombridae	(Tuna, Mackerel)
Scorpaenidae	(Lion fish, Scorpion fish)
Sebastidae	(Ocean Perch)
Serranidae	(Cod, Gopers etc)
Soleidae	(Sole)
Sparidae	(Bream, Tarwhine)
Sphyraenidae	(Barracuda)
Sphyrnidae	(Hammerhead Shark)
Syngnathidae	(Pipefish, Seahorses, Seadragons)



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Terapontidae	(Grunters, Trumpeter)
Tetraodontidae	(Toadfish, Pufferfish)
Trachichthyidae	(Orange Roughy etc)
Triakidae.....	(Gummy Shark)
Triglidae	(Gurnard)

Regional Fauna Listed Biosphere Application (please refer to “Fauna Species PDF” on Natural Features page of the Western Port web site) – This is a useful starting place to see what types of plants can be expected to be found in different ecosystems.

Helpful Guides and Indexes

[Marine Life Portal](#)

[Fish](#)

[Freshwater Fish](#)

[Dolphins](#)

[Birds](#)

[Australian Mammals](#)

[Victorian Mammals](#)

[Australian Insects](#)

[Australian Reptiles](#)

Other Hints

1. It is often useful to obtain Field guides, purchased or loaned from libraries, as these are easy to scan for photos that look like what you have photographed and often provide advice about the range of species found in different regions and ecosystems.
2. Once you have a general idea of the family of animal you are dealing with, such as beetles, seals etc, search the web for further information of these families where you will often find photographs or drawings which you can match against.
3. Finally, call on your local experts at DSE, Parks Victoria, bird observers club, field naturalist societies and the Museum of Victoria staff.