

# Wildlife of the Hills Region

## Mammals

The Hills district – incorporating the Hawkesbury, Hills and Hornsby Shires - is a nature lovers dream. The Hills Shire alone is home to more wildlife species than the entire Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In this unrecognised natural jewel on Sydney's outskirts you can visit grassy woodlands, heaths, majestic Blue Gum forests and wide floodplain wetlands – each with their unique suite of native wildlife.

This guide introduces the local mammals of the Hills and where possible the public lands where they can be seen.

**A DISAPPEARING RESOURCE:** Although ringed by National Parks, little of the richer wildlife of the Hills is protected. Without change the Hills unique wildlife may be lost before future generations can enjoy it. This makes it all the more important to get out and experience our natural heritage.

**TIPS FOR WILDLIFE WATCHING:** Most of our mammals are nocturnal, so your best chances are to look in the morning or evening, or to go spotlighting at night. A filter of red cellophane over your torch will help avoid damage to animals' sensitive eyes. Make sure you have permission, keep safe, and record what you see!

**ORGANISED ACTIVITIES:** Boronia Tours run regular bushwalking and spotlighting tours in local reserves of The Hills Shire. Visit [www.sydneymountainsaustralia.com.au](http://www.sydneymountainsaustralia.com.au) for details. Hornsby Shire Council run regular bushwalking & spotlighting tours – visit the Hornsby Council website for details.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** The legal status (if any) under NSW law is listed for each species.

**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 the local community and government protect them. If possible, take a photo and record the nearest street address.

You can report your sightings to the Western Sydney Wildlife Record [westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com). Injured wildlife should be reported to WIRES on 1300 094 737.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Photographs donated by: Alan Kwok: **AK** / Ákos Lumtizer: **AL** / Bidgee: **BJ** / Dean Lewis (<http://dl.id.au>): **DL** / David Pike: **DP** / 'Eyeweed': **EW** / George Cruiser: **GC** / Greg Miles: **GM** / 'Greg the Busker': **GB** / Great Ocean Rd Committee: **GOR** / Gus McNab: **GMc** / Gordon Smith: **GS** / Justin Ratcliffe: **JR** / Jean-Marc Hero: **JMH** / Jonathan Ayres: **JA** / Ken Stepnell/OEH: **KS** / 'LiquidGhoul': **LG** / Lindy Lumsden: **LL** / Michael Jarman/OEH: **MJ** / Narawan Williams: **NW** / NSW Office of Environment & Heritage: **OEH** / Peter Ridgeway: **PR** / Peter Street: **PS** / Rosie Nicolai/OEH: **RN** / Retama: **RT** / Ray Williams: **RW** / 'TeeJayBee': **TJB** /

**Cover photo:** Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Shanes Park © Edwin Vella  
**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 on the fauna in western Sydney to raise awareness, promote landcare / bushcare, and protect biodiversity.

# Wildlife of the Hills Region

## Mammals



Wildlife of the Hills Region: Mammals

### Small Ground Mammals



**Bush Rat** *Rattus fuscipes*  
Common in intact bushland; elsewhere replaced by introduced Black Rat. Black rat has tail longer than body length (shorter in Bush Rat).



**Swamp Rat** *Rattus lutreolus*  
Formerly common, still found occasionally in wet heath and swamp. Long 'guard' hairs and black fur on the feet distinguish from the Bush Rat.



**'Common' Dunnart** *Sminthopsis murina*  
Formerly common. Now rare and occasional only.



**Brown Antechinus** *Antechinus stuartii*  
Common and charismatic small mammal. Similar but uncommon **Dusky Antechinus** (*Antechinus swainsonii*) and **Yellow-footed Antechinus** (*Antechinus flavipes*) not illustrated.

### Small Ground Mammals



**New Holland Mouse** *Pseudomys novaehollandiae*  
Formerly common, especially on sandy soils (e.g. Maroota Sands), now rare or extinct in region.



**Long-nosed Bandicoot** *Perameles nasuta*  
Widespread, becoming more common in areas with fox control.



**Southern Brown Bandicoot** *Isodon obesulus*  
Endangered. Formerly more widespread (e.g. Maroota Forest?) now Berowra Valley RP and Ku-Ring-Gai NP only.



**Eastern Pygmy Possum** *Cercartetus nanus*  
Vulnerable (NSW). A tiny possum of shrubby woodlands; on sandstone. Most common on Maroota Sands and near Porters Rd.

### Arboreal Mammals



**Koala** *Phascolarctos cinereus*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Formerly common in region, now rare e.g. Maroota Forest, east Kurrajong, Berowra Valley RP, Comleroy, and Mt Lagoon.



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



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



**Feathertail Glider** *Acrobates pygmaeus*  
A tiny glider, easily overlooked but actually quite common in region.

### Gliders



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



**Squirrel Glider** *Petaurus norfolcensis*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Larger than the Sugar Glider. Mitchell Park-Cheesemans Rd and Chain o' Ponds-Redbank Ck.



**Greater Glider** *Petauroides volans*  
The largest and rarest of the local gliders, with furry ears. Dark morph shown (also occurs as white individuals). Only confirmed from O'Haras Ck and Maroota Forest.



**Yellow-bellied Glider** *Petaurus australis*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Similar to Greater Glider but bare ears. Two regional populations: east of the river in Mitchell Park, O'Haras Ck and Maroota Forest; and west of the river in Roberts Ck and Chain o' Ponds.

## Large Herbivores



**Swamp Wallaby** *Wallabia bicolor*  
Common in shrubby areas and along creeks.



**Red-necked Wallaby** *Macropus rufogriseus*  
Uncommon.



**Eastern Grey Kangaroo** *Macropus giganteus*  
Common but declining; corridor & open habitat dependent.  
Common Wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*) uncommon, not illustrated.



**Wombat** *Vombatus ursinus*  
Uncommon/declining resident of larger grassy remnants  
e.g. Broadwater.

## Other Mammals



**Echidna** *Tachylossus aculeatus*  
An uncommon resident of large remnants.



**Spotted-tailed Quoll** *Dasyurus maculatus*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Uncommon wide ranging predator; semi-arboreal;  
e.g. Broadwater/Maroota Forest.



**Platypus** *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*  
Still found in the Hawkesbury-Nepean river (rare), Wheeny Ck,  
Roberts Ck, Colo River, and Maroota Forest.



**Water Rat** *Hydromys chrysogaster*  
A rare resident of larger waterways, declining.

## Bats



**Grey-headed Flying Fox** *Pteropus poliocephalus*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Common nomad; no known roosts in region at present.  
The Little Red Flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) is a rare nomad; not illustrated.

## Microbats

The small insectivorous bats that use sonar are called 'microbats'.  
At least 20 species of microbat are found in the Hills, most preferring  
fertile open rural landscapes to reserves. Two species are shown below.



**Fishing Bat** *Myotis advensus*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Uses large feet to 'trawl' water surface catching small fish  
and insects; rare – mostly rural (private) land with hollow trees beside open water.



**Greater Broad-nosed Bat** *Scoteanax rueppellii*  
Vulnerable (NSW). Edges of the Cumberland Plain and transition forest.

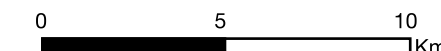
## THE HILLS REGION



### LEGEND

- National Park
- Public Land
- Native Vegetation
- Wetland
- Local Government boundaries

### SYDNEY'S HILLS REGION



Have you seen these animals?... please report sightings of **RED** species to [westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:westernsydneywildlife@hotmail.com) to help us protect our wildlife.