

Wildlife of the Hills Region

Reptiles

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 reptiles 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 reptiles 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 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. Injured wildlife should be reported to WIRES on 1300 094 737.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photographs donated by: Alan Kwok: **AK** / Ákos Lumitzer: **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: Diamond Python *Morelia spilota*, © Peter Ridgeway
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: Reptiles



Wildlife of the Hills Region

Reptiles

 **Catchment Management Authority**
Hawkesbury-Nepean

Skinks



Cream Striped Shinning Skink *Cryptoblepharus pulchellus pulchellus*
Common and widespread.



Robust Ctenotus *Ctenotus robustus*
A large species of skink, common.



Copper-tailed Ctenotus *Ctenotus taeniolatus*
Common and widespread.



White's Skink *Egernia whitii*
Uncommon but widespread. The similar Cunningham's Skink (*Egernia cunninghami*) not illustrated.



Eastern Water-Skink *Eulamprus quoyii*
Common beside water throughout region.

Skinks



Bar-sided Skink *Eulamprus tenuis*
Common in *Casuarina* forests (often called 'She-oak skink') and other habitats throughout region.



Dark-flecked Garden Skink *Lampropholis delicata*
Common and widespread.



Pale-flecked Garden Skink *Lampropholis guichenoti*
Common and widespread.



Tree-base Litter-skink *Lygisaurus foliorum*
Uncommon and widespread.



Weasel Skink *Saproscincus mustelinus*
Uncommon but can survive in smaller remnants.

Other Reptiles



Wood Gecko *Diplodactylus vittatus*
An uncommon species of larger, intact remnants.



Thick-tailed gecko *Underwoodisaurus millii*
An uncommon species of larger, intact remnants



Broad-tailed Gecko *Phyllurus platurus*
An uncommon species of larger, intact remnants.



Nepean Short-necked Tortoise *Emydura macquarii dharuk*
Hawkesbury-Nepean River and large wetlands. Pure form restricted to upper Nepean and Colo rivers; elsewhere interbred with exotic stock from pet trade.



Long-necked Tortoise *Chelodina longicollis*
Permanent waterholes; in Summer males range widely over dry land seeking new habitat, leading to frequent road-kill.

Other Reptiles & Dragons



Eastern Blue-tongue *Tiliqua scincoides*
Wide-ranging common species of urban fringe.



Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*
Common in larger remnants.



Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*
Common in larger remnants.



Jacky Lizard *Amphibolurus muricatus*
Common in larger remnants. The similar Mountain Dragon (*Rankinia diemensis*) not illustrated.



Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*
Wide-ranging species now uncommon and in decline due to habitat loss and connectivity. **Rosenberg's Monito** *Varanus rosenbergi* - Vulnerable (NSW). Similar to Lace Monitor, however both front and hind legs dotted (no stripes). Very uncommon. Not illustrated.

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

Snakes



Tiger Snake *Notechis scutatus*
Once common in swamps throughout the region this species is now uncommon.



Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus*
Common, especially riverside and swamp habitats.



Eastern Brown Snake *Pseudonaja textilis*
Common in larger remnants.



Whip Snake *Demansia psammophis*
Common and widespread.



Red-naped Snake *Furina diadema*
Reasonably common and widespread but rarely observed – generally nocturnal.

Snakes



Broad-headed Snake *Hoplocephalus bungaroides*
Endangered (NSW), possibly regionally extinct due to continuing bush rock theft.



Common Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulatus*
Common although rarely seen.



Eastern Small-eyed Snake *Cryptophis nigrescens*
Common although rarely seen - nocturnal.



Diamond Python *Morelia spilota*
Common and widespread.
'The distinctive Death Adder (*Acanthophis antarcticus*) is not illustrated but is occasionally found in the region (e.g. Wisemans Ferry)'.



Golden-crowned Snake *Cacophis squamulosus*
Common although rarely seen - nocturnal.

Snakes & Legless Lizards



Three-toed skink *Saiphos equalis*
Uncommon but can survive in smaller remnants; burrows in leaf litter and under embedded woody materials in moist soils.



Scaly-foot *Pygopus lepidopodus*
A common species of larger remnants.



Burtons Legless Lizard *Lialis burtonis*
An uncommon species.



Bandy-Bandy *Vermicella annulata*
Uncommon and declining, this striking nocturnal species burrows in the leaf litter, where it preys on Blind Snakes.



Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops nigrescens*
A rarely seen inhabitant of good quality remnants, where it burrows in leaf litter.

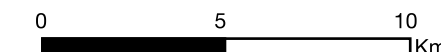
THE HILLS REGION



LEGEND

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

SYDNEY'S HILLS REGION



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