

# Fauna at Reedy Swamp:

Source: Reedy Swamp Environmental Management Plan 2003.

## 3.6.2 Fauna

- Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve provides an important refuge for native fauna in the SIR.
- The diverse range of habitats provided by the River Red Gum woodland, open water and rushland supports a range of native fauna, particularly waterbirds.
- The size of the Reserve, and its position along the Goulburn River corridor, enhance the conservation values of this site.
- A total of 147 species (Appendix 2. See below) have been recorded in or around Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve.
- It must be noted that the species listed in Appendix 2 below are observed in the general area of Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve and although some species may appear on the list, they may not necessarily exist within the wetland and reserve area. For example, the degree of river connection will influence the presence of Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*).

### 3.6.1.1 Mammals

Mammal species identified for Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve include possums, gliders, bats, rodents and kangaroos.

Many of these species are totally dependant on tree hollows for their survival.

Yellow-footed Antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*) – hollow dependant  
Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) – hollow dependant  
Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) – endangered and hollow dependant  
Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) – hollow dependant  
Feathertail Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) – hollow dependant  
Little Red Flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) – occasional vagrant  
White-striped Freetail Bat (*Tadarida australis*) – hollow dependant  
Southern Forest Bat (*Vespadelus regulus*) – hollow dependant  
Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturinus*) – hollow dependant  
Gould's Wattle Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*) – hollow dependant  
Inland Broad-nosed Bat (*Scotorepens balstoni*) – hollow dependant  
Large Forest Bat (*Vespadelus darlingtoni*) – hollow dependant  
Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*)  
Black Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*)  
Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*)

### 3.6.1.2 Birds

There are 72 species of birds recorded for Reedy Swamp (Appendix 2 see below) includes colonial nesting waterbirds, water fowl and bushland bird species. The floating couch grass and giant rushes bordering the open water are the principal wildfowl refuges, along with the dead trees and logs which are the primary roosts.

As some of the recorded waterbirds are international migratory species the land manager has an obligation to protect their habitat under international agreements like China Australia Migratory Birds Agreement 1996 (CAMBA) and Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement 1996 (JAMBA). Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) is listed under JAMBA and CAMBA, and the White-bellied Sea-eagle is listed under CAMBA (ANCA 1996). Both have been recorded at Reedy Swamp (Roberts 1981). Similarly, Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*) are now listed under the same international conventions.



**Plate 7: One of the friendly inhabitants of Reedy Swamp, a juvenile Tawny Frogmouth (Photo: Melva Threlfall)**

Great Egrets, as well as Herons, and Sacred and Straw-necked Ibises. Sacred Ibis regularly breed in large numbers in the south-west of the wetland and counts of over 1000 birds have been regularly recorded (R. Weber *pers. comm* 1999). Many water birds require a flood event to begin breeding (Leslie 1995; Kingsford 1998) and as a result are vulnerable to the changing water levels and when water levels drop dramatically many species like Ibis, Swans and Pelicans desert their nests (Kingsford 1998). This highlights the need to be able to maintain periods of inundation at appropriate times of the year as part of a more controlled wetting regime.

### 3.6.1.3 Reptiles

Nine reptile species have been identified for Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve.

Common Long-necked Tortoise (*Chelodina longicollis*)

Murray River Tortoise (*Emydura macquarii*)

Marbled Gecko (*Phyllodactylus marmoratus*) – partially tree hollow dependant

Olive Legless Lizard (*Delma inornata*)

Tree Goanna (*Varanus varius*) – partially tree hollow dependant

Garden Skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*)

Gray's Blind Snake (*Ramphotyphlops nigrescens*)

Tiger Snake (*Notechis scutatus*)

Yellow-bellied Water Skink (*Euamprus heatwolei*)

### **3.6.1.4 Amphibians**

Nine species of frog have been identified for Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve.

Southern Bullfrog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*. ssp. Unknown)

Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)

Bibron's Toadlet (*Pseudophryne bibronii*)

Plains Froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*)

Common Froglet (*Crinia signifera*)

Sloane's Froglet (*Crinia sloanei*)

Plains Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria paraewingi*)

Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*) - partially dependant on tree hollows

Warty Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – vulnerable

### **3.6.1.5 Fish**

The Crimson Spotted Rainbowfish (*Melanotaeniidae fluviatilis*) and the Flat-headed Galaxias (*Galaxias rostratus*) have been recorded as present for Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve. They are both classified as “insufficiently known” under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* (FFG) 1988.

The Crimson Spotted Rainbowfish (*Melanotaeniidae fluviatilis*) were last noted in 1991/92 during the conduction of an electrofishing equipment trial by field staff from the Kaiela Fisheries Research Station (Douglas pers comm 2001).

The Flat-headed Galaxias' (*Galaxias rostratus*) reproduces during August to September and spawns for up to one month (Native Fish 2000). Little more is known about this species' life history.

### **3.6.1.6 Significant species**

There have been 34 significant species of birds and animals identified for Reedy Swamp Wildlife Reserve.

A summary of classification status is seen below (refer Appendix 2 for more detailed information).

Classifications used to describe the state, national and international conservation status of these species are from the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife, 2000 (Appendix 2 See below).

- 2 critically endangered species, both of which are listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988 (FFG).
- 10 endangered species, all of which are listed under the FFG
- 14 vulnerable species, 6 of which are listed under the FFG
- 3 species classified as insufficiently known, of which 1 is listed under the FFG
- 5 species classified as lower risk near threatened, of which 1 is listed under the FFG
- 5 bird species are listed under both JAMBA and CAMBA
- 2 bird species listed only under CAMBA

## Appendix 2: Fauna of Reedy Swamp

Legend:

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| (CST) | Conservation Status in Victoria   |
| CEn   | Critically Endangered   |
| End   | Endangered  |
| Vul   | Vulnerable  |
| R/R   | Rare  |
| LR    | Lower Risk Near Threatened  |
| R/C   | Restricted colonial, breeding or roosting sites                         |
| Ins   | Insufficiently known, suspected of being in one of the above categories |
| Ext   | Extinct   |
| *     | Alien   |
| Cmp   | Comprising several taxa   |
| Ssp   | Sub-species   |
| FFG   | Status under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act                          |
| L     | Listed under FFG  |
| T     | Listed as a threatening process   |
| HDP   | Dependence upon tree hollows  |
| T     | Total Dependence  |
| P     | Partial Dependence  |
| INT   | Species listed on international Treaty                                  |
| C     | China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                |
| J     | Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement                                |

NOTE: This species list includes some species observed in the general area of Reedy Swamp and although some species may appear on the list, they may not have been recorded within the swamp. For example, due to the elimination of natural flooding from the Goulburn River, Murray Cod and Silver Perch are unlikely to be present.

CST FFG HDP INT Species

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Ins   | Brown Quail <i>Coturnix australis</i><br>Peaceful Dove <i>Geopelia striata</i><br>Crested Pigeon <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i><br>Buff-banded Rail <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i><br>Australian Spotted Crake <i>Porzana fluminea</i>   |
| Vul L | Baillon's Crake <i>Porzana pusilla</i><br>Black-tailed Native-hen <i>Gallinula ventratis</i><br>Dusky Moorhen <i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i><br>Purple Swamphen <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i><br>Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i><br>Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i><br>Australasian Grebe <i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i><br>Hoary-headed Grebe <i>Potiocephalus potiocephalus</i><br>Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i><br>Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i> |
| LR    | Pied Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>  |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
|          | Little Pied Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i> |
|          | Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>                      |
|          | Australian Pelican <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>      |
|          | Silver Gull <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>                |
|          | Red-kneed Dotterel <i>Erythrogonyx cinctus</i>          |
|          | Masked Lapwing <i>Vanellus miles</i>                    |
|          | Black-fronted Dotterel <i>Elseyornis melanops</i>       |
|          | Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>         |
| CJ       | Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>               |
| CJ       | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i>        |
| LR CJ    | Latham's Snipe <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>              |
| End L    | Bush Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus grallarius</i>            |
| LR C     | Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>                 |
|          | Australian White Ibis <i>Threskiornis molucca</i>       |
|          | Straw-necked Ibis <i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>       |
| Vul      | Royal Spoonbill <i>Platalea regia</i>                   |
|          | Yellow-billed Spoonbill <i>Platalea flavipes</i>        |
| End L    | Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>                    |
| CEn L    | Intermediate Egret <i>Ardea intermedia</i>              |
| Vul L CJ | Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>                           |
|          | White-faced Heron <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>        |
|          | White-necked Heron <i>Ardea pacifica</i>                |
| LR       | Nankeen Night Heron <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>       |
| End L    | Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>                |
| Vul      | Magpie Goose <i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>               |
| T        | Australian Wood Duck <i>Chenonetta jubata</i>           |
|          | Black Swan <i>Cygnus atratus</i>                        |
| T        | Australian Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>          |
|          | Pacific Black Duck <i>Anas superciliosa</i>             |
| T        | Chestnut Teal <i>Anas castanea</i>                      |
| T        | Grey Teal <i>Anas gracilis</i>                          |
| Vul      | Australasian Shoveler <i>Anas rhynchotis</i>            |
| P        | Pink-eared Duck <i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>      |
| End L    | Freckled Duck <i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>                |
| Vul      | Hardhead <i>Aythya australis</i>                        |
| End L    | Blue-billed Duck <i>Oxyura australis</i>                |
| Vul      | Musk Duck <i>Biziura lobata</i>                         |
|          | Swamp Harrier <i>Circus approximans</i>                 |
|          | Brown Goshawk <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>                |
|          | Collared Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter cirrhocephalus</i>    |
| Vul L C  | White-bellied Sea-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>   |
|          | Whistling Kite <i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>               |
|          | Stack-shouldered Kite <i>Elanus axillaris</i>           |
| P        | Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>                |
|          | Brown Falcon <i>Falco berigora</i>                      |
| P        | Nankeen Kestrel <i>Falco cenchroides</i>                |
| T        | Southern Boobook <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>           |
| End L T  | Barking Owl <i>Ninox connivens</i>                      |
| Vul L T  | Powerful owl <i>Ninox strenua</i>                       |
| T        | Rainbow Lorikeet <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>        |
| T        | Musk Lorikeet <i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>              |

T Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*  
 T Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*  
 T Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*  
 T Little Corella *Cacatua sanquinea*  
 T Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*  
 T Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*  
 T Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
 T Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*  
 T Yellow Rosetta *Platycercus elegans flaveolus*  
 T Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*  
 T Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*  
 LR L P Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*  
 End L T Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*  
 Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*  
 T Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
 Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*  
 T Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*  
 P Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*  
 Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
 CJ Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*  
 Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*  
 Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*  
 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*  
 P Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*  
 T Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*  
 P Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*  
 Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*  
 Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
 Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*  
 Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*  
 Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*  
 Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*  
 Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*  
 Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*  
 P Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*  
 Magpie-Lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*  
 Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*  
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
 White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*  
 End L Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*  
 White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*  
 Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*  
 Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*  
 Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*  
 Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*  
 Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*  
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*  
 Vul L Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*  
 Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*  
 Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*  
 Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*  
 White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
 Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*  
 P Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*  
 Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*  
 T Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*  
 T White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*  
 Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*  
 Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*  
 Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*  
 Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*  
 Vul L Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*  
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*  
 White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*  
 Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*  
 Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*  
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*  
 Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*  
 Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
 Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*  
 Olive-backed oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*  
 White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*  
 Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*  
 Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*  
 Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*  
 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Little Raven *Corvus mellori*  
 P Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*  
 \* Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*  
 \* House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
 \* European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
 \* P Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*  
 Short-beaked Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*  
 Yellow-footed Antechinus *Antechinus flavipes*  
 T Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*  
 End L T Squirrel Glider *Petaurus norfolcensis*  
 T Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*  
 T Feathertail Glider *Acrobates pygmaeus*  
 Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*  
 Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*  
 Black Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*  
 Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*  
 Little Red Flying-fox *Pteropus scapulatus*  
 T White-striped Freetail Bat *Tadarida australis*  
 T Southern Forest Bat *Vespadelus regulus*  
 T Little Forest Bat *Vespadelus vulturnus*  
 T Gould's Wattled Bat *Chalinolobus gouldii*  
 T Inland Broad-nosed Bat *Scotorepens balstoni*

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| T     | Large Forest Bat <i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i>                      |
| *     | Black Rat <i>Rattus rattus</i>                                      |
| *     | House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i>                                     |
|       | Water Rat <i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>                              |
| *     | European Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>                        |
| *     | Brown Hare <i>Lepus capensis</i>                                    |
| * T   | Red Fox <i>Canis vulpes</i>   |
| *     | Dog <i>Canis familiaris</i>   |
|       | Common Long-necked Tortoise <i>Chelodina longicollis</i>            |
|       | Murray River Tortoise <i>Emydura macquarii</i>                      |
| P     | Marbled Gecko <i>Phyllodactylus marmoratus</i>                      |
|       | Olive Legless Lizard <i>Delma inornata</i>                          |
| Vul P | Tree Goanna <i>Varanus varius</i>                                   |
|       | Garden Skink <i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i>                         |
|       | Gray's Blind Snake <i>Ramphotyphlops nigrescens</i>                 |
|       | Tiger Snake <i>Notechis scutatus</i>                                |
|       | Yellow-bellied Water Skink <i>Euamprus heatwolei</i> (WTF)          |
|       | Southern Bullfrog (ssp. unknown) <i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>     |
|       | Spotted Marsh Frog (race unknown) <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> |
|       | Bibron's Toadlet <i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>                       |
|       | Plains Froglet <i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>                         |
|       | Common Froglet <i>Crinia signifera</i>                              |
|       | Stoane's Froglet <i>Crinia sloanei</i>                              |
|       | Plains Brown Tree Frog <i>Litoria paraewingi</i>                    |
| P     | Peron's Tree Frog <i>Litoria peronii</i>                            |
| Vul   | Warty Bell Frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i>                           |
| Ins   | Flat-headed Galaxias <i>Galaxias rostratus</i>                      |
| Ins L | Crimson-spotted Rainbowfish <i>Melanotaenia fluviatilis</i>         |
| End L | Murray Cod <i>Maccullochella peelii peelii</i>                      |
| Vul   | Golden Perch <i>Macquaria ambigua</i>                               |
| CEn L | Silver Perch <i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>                               |
| Cmp   | Carp Gudgeon (1 species) <i>Hypseleotris</i> sp.                    |

\* The final fauna species list is compiled from site specific and surrounding area searches.