

THE ALPHABET BIRD PROJECT

A TO Z OF GEELONG'S THREATENED WETLAND SPECIES

A is for the artistic Australian Painted Snipe **CR**

Rostratula benghalensis


I lay 3-4 cream-coloured eggs with black streaks
See me at Hospital Swamp



B is for the beautiful dancing Brolga **VU**

Grus rubicunda


I dance gracefully at mating season
See me at Sparrowvale, Hospital Swamp, Reedy Lake



C is for the crouching Baillon's Crake **VU**

Porzana pusilla


When I run, I have a peculiar crouching action
See me at Eastern Park, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake



D is for the diving Blue-billed Duck **EN**

Oxyura australis

I dive deep underwater to filter food from soft mud
See me at McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Begola Wetland, Lake Victoria



E is for the elegant Eastern Great Egret **VU**

Ardea modesta

My yellow bill turns black during breeding season
See me at Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp



F is for the fascinating Freckled Duck **EN**

Stictonetta naevosa

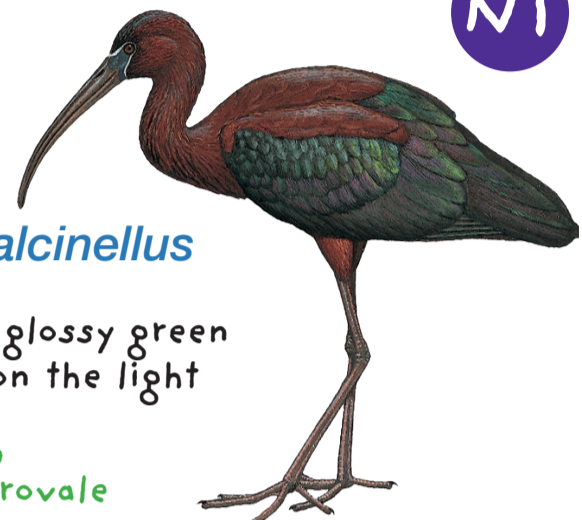
My dark grey to black plumage is covered with small white flecks
See me at McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Bonnyvale Road Wetland, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake



G is for the glowing Glossy Ibis **NT**

Plegadis falcinellus


My feathers can look glossy green or purple depending on the light
See me at Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Sparrowvale



H is for the hunting White-bellied Sea-Eagle **VU**

Haliaeetus leucogaster


I am a skilled hunter, and will attack prey up to the size of a swan.
See me at Point Henry, Lake Lorne, Point Impossible, Lake Connewarre, Reedy Lake



I is for the impeccable Intermediate Egret **EN**

Ardea intermedia

I may nest on platforms of sticks in trees with other herons
See me at Serendip Sanctuary, Lake Lorne, Begola Wetland, Lake Victoria, Hospital Swamp



J is for the Japanese Latham's Snipe **NT**

Gallinago hardwickii

I migrate from northern Japan to Geelong after breeding each year
See me at Jerringot, McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Reedy Lake, Bonnyvale Road Wetland, Indented Head Woodland, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake, Lara Lakeland Wetlands



K is for the kaleidoscopic Azure Kingfisher **NT**

Alcedo azurea

My feet are red with only two forward toes
See me at the Barwon River



L is for the littlest Australian Little Bittern **EN**

Ixobrychus minutus

I am one of the smallest herons in the world
See me at Blue Waters Lake



M is for the marching Magpie Goose **NT**

Anseranas semipalmata


My yellow feet are only partially webbed
See me at Serendip Sanctuary



N is for the nocturnal Nankeen Night Heron **NT**

Nycticorax caledonicus

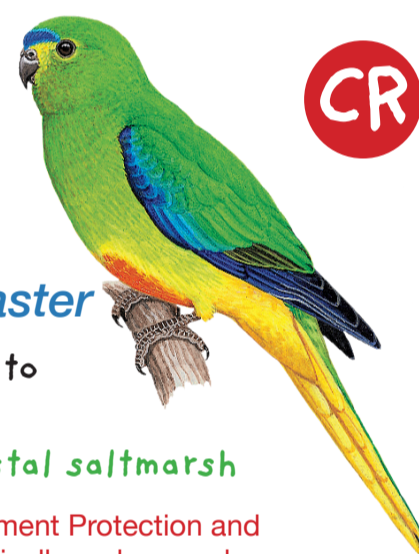
I come out at night to feed. I am also known as the Rufous Night Heron
See me at the Barwon River, Bonnyvale Road Wetland, McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake



O is for the only few Orange-bellied Parrots left **CR**

Neophema chrysogaster


I migrate from Tasmania to Victoria after breeding
See me very rarely on the Coastal saltmarsh
I am also listed under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as critically endangered



P is for the propeller Pied Cormorant **NT**

Phalacrocorax varius

I use my large, webbed feet to propel myself through the water after fish
See me at Bonnyvale Road Wetland, McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Blue Waters Lake, Edwards Point, Shell Foreshore



Q is for the quirky Whiskered Tern **NT**

Chlidonias hybridus

I was once known as 'Marsh Tern'
See me at Reedy Lake, Sparrowvale, Bonnyvale Road Wetland, Begola Wetland



R is for the regal Royal Spoonbill **NT**

Platalea regia

In breeding season I develop a lush white crest on my head with red and yellow patches on my face
See me at Jerringot, Balyang Sanctuary, Lara Lakelands Wetlands, Point Henry, Breamlea, McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake



S is for the shovel billed Australasian Shoveler **VU**

Anas rhynchos


I filter food from the water, using small grooves, on my shovel tipped bill
See me at McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Blue Water Lake, Begola Wetland, Bonnyvale Road Wetland



T is for the tunnelling Lewin's Rail **VU**

Rallus pectoralis


I create saucer shaped nests in dense vegetation with tunnels for fast escapes
See me at Edwards Point, Lake Connewarre, Swan Bay



U is for the underwater Musk Duck **VU**

Biziura lobata


I dive and search underwater for my food
See me at Lake Lorne, Blue Waters Lake, Swan Bay, Lake Victoria



V is for the vocal Australasian Bittern **EN**

Botaurus poiciloptilus

You may not see me, but you can hear my distinctive booming call
See me at Begola Wetland
I am also listed under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as endangered



W is for the white-eyed Hardhead **VU**

Aythya australis

I am also known as White-eyed Duck
See me at Point Henry, Bonnyvale Road Wetland, McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake



X is for the eXtreme Gull-billed Tern **EN**

Sterna nilotica

My diet is extremely varied consisting of small fish, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans, small mammals, insects and their larvae
See me at Avalon Beach



Y is for the yellow-footed Little Egret **EN**

Egretta garzetta


See me at Bonnyvale Road Wetland, McLeods Waterhole, Lake Lorne, Begola Wetland, Blue Waters Lake
Unlike my cousins the souls of my feet are yellow



Z is for the zig-zagging Wood Sandpiper **VU**

Tringa glareola

When startled I zig-zag through the fallen timber in my fresh water wetland home
See me at Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp



THE 6 CATEGORIES OF THREATENED SPECIES IN VICTORIA

- EX** EXTINCT (EX) - No known living individuals
- CR** CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) - Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
- EN** ENDANGERED (EN) - High risk of extinction in the wild
- VU** VULNERABLE (VU) - High risk of endangerment in the wild
- NT** NEAR THREATENED (NT) - Likely to become endangered in the near future
- LC** LEAST CONCERN (LC) - Lowest risk; does not qualify for a higher risk category. Widespread and abundant are included in this category.

DID YOU KNOW IN GEELONG THERE ARE

84 species of threatened birds
9 species of threatened mammals

5 species of threatened fish
3 species of threatened reptiles

2 species of threatened amphibians
4 species of threatened invertebrates

FURTHER INFORMATION

- State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams – <https://bit.ly/2NyOWcR>
- <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/wetlands/article/item/8d2ae1d2f66b786.aspx>
- eBird Australia – <https://ebird.org/australia>
- birdlife Australia – <https://birdlife.org.au>

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