



PAINTED BUTTON-
QUAIL

The Painted Button-quail is a small round bird that spends its life on the ground. They have a unique way of looking for food in the leaf litter. They stand on one leg and spin around in a circle, while scratching the ground with the other foot.

Photo: Geoff Park.



BRUSH-TAILED
PHASCOGALE
duwan

duwan in Dja Dja Wurrung language.
The Phascogale is a small carnivorous marsupial with a long, black fluffy tail. They are nocturnal (active at night), searching for insects and small prey. They live in hollows or in nest boxes. Phascogales are declining in numbers but are relatively common in our region.

Photo: Geoff Park.



YELLOW-FOOTED
ANTECHINUS

The Yellow-footed Antechinus is a tiny marsupial. They are closely related to the Brush-tailed Phascogale. They are ferocious little predators, hunting insects and small animals such as lizards. They also eat eggs and nectar. They need many different places to hunt and hide in the bush in order to thrive, including in hollow logs.
Photo: Geoff Park.

Photo: Geoff Park.



DIAMOND FIRETAIL

The Diamond Firetail is a tiny colourful bird that looks for food on the ground. They eat mainly grass seeds, and also use grasses in their courtships dances. They build their nests in prickly plants for protection and will even nest at the bottom of a larger nest made by a bird of prey, like an eagle - for extra protection against would-be nest predators.

Photo: Geoff Park.





MISTLETOE BIRD

The Mistletoe Bird is a lovely little bird that you can find in the bush around the region. The one in the picture is a brightly coloured male. The females are grey and white with pink tummies. They love to eat the berries from a particular kind of plant known as mistletoe and play an important role in spreading this plant around the bush.

Photo: Geoff Park.



BLUE BANDED BEE

Blue-banded Bees are beautiful native bees and important local pollinators. They do a special type of pollination called 'buzz pollination' to access hard to reach pollen. They hold on to the flower and shiver their flight muscles, causing the pollen to shoot out. They collect pollen from all kinds of flowers but do seem to like blue and purple flowers best.

Photo: John Walter.



MICROBAT

yaranmilalwit (bat)

There are many kinds of microbat in the region. These are tiny flying mammals that hunt insects by echolocating (making a sound that bounces back to them) at night. Many make their home in caves and even your house, some are so tiny that they can shelter in the smallest of places, like the crevices in tree bark. The word for bat in Dja Dja Wurrung is yaranmilalwitin.

Photo: Geoff Park.



SWIFT PARROT

wura wura darak

The Swift Parrot, wura wura darak in Dja Dja Wurrung, is one of Australia's rarest birds. There are less than 800 left in the wild. They breed in Tasmania and migrate to the mainland to feed on flowering eucalypts in the cooler months. They love the Box-Ironbark Forests in our region and can often be seen in small flocks in the Muckleford forests from late autumn.

Photo: Chris Tzaros.





ELTHAM COPPER
BUTTERFLY

The Eltham Copper is a very rare butterfly that lives in only a few places in Victoria, including Castlemaine. There are populations at the Botanic Gardens and Kalimna Park! They form special relationships with a type of ant. The ants look after the caterpillars in exchange for food. The butterflies like to eat nectar from many different plants but the caterpillars are very picky and only eat Sweet Bursaria leaves.

Photo: Elaine Bayes.



LONG-NECKED
TURTLE
wurruk

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Photo: Evan Moore.



CUNNINGHAM'S
SKINK
dong dong (lizard)

The Cunningham's Skink lives in big social groups that love to lie in the sun together. They are also known as the crevice skink and like to hide in cracks in rocks. They have special spiky scales that are especially rough on the tail. When wedged into a rock crevice, these scales make it very hard for a predator to pull them out. The word for lizard in Dja Dja Wurrung is dong dong.

Photo: Mez Woodward.



LACE MONITOR
djulyin

The Lace Monitor, djulyin in Dja Dja Wurrung, is a very large lizard growing up to 2 metres long. They are dark grey or black with cream-coloured bands on the body. Lace monitors are quite rare in Victoria. They spend most of their time in trees but come down to the ground to hunt and to lay eggs. They have a forked tongue which lets them taste the air when looking for food.

Photo: Evan Moore.

