

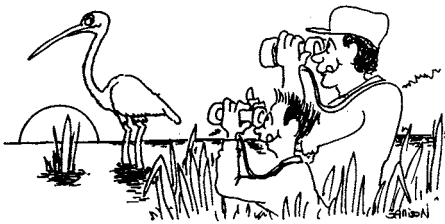
9. Fauna of Port Campbell National Park

Aim

This activity will familiarise students with the main mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish found in Port Campbell National Park. While it is unlikely they will sight any of these on their field trip, students will be making judgements about habitat protection and management strategies.

Materials

- Resource sheet: Fauna of Port Campbell National Park.
- Resource sheet: Animal species list for Port Campbell National Park.
- Native animal field guides.
- Books about native animals.



Activities

1. Create a table similar to the one below.
2. Read the information on fauna in Port Campbell National Park.
2. Complete the list by filling in the blanks beside each number. The last column can be completed during your fieldwork.
3. Write a brief paragraph outlining the main types of animals that are found in this coastal environment.
4. Research additional information about some of the native animals found in Port Campbell National Park. What do they eat? What eats them? What impacts could the pest animals have on them?

Link to Section 2

See also Section 2 of this education resource kit, in particular:
 Parks and Science
 25. Animal antics.
 27. Rufous Bristle-bird investigation.
 28. Muttonbird investigation.

	Number identified in PCNP	Examples (List some key species)	Pest animals (List the number of species and some examples)	Field notes Date:
Mammals				
Birds				
Reptiles				
Amphibians				
Fish				

9. Fauna of Port Campbell National Park

The park provides an important habitat and refuge for many species whose range has been reduced by land clearing further inland.

Mammals

Eighteen mammal species occur in the park. They include easily observed species such as Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Swamp Wallaby and the Common Brushtail Possum usually found in the heathy woodlands. Smaller species including the Southern Brown Bandicoot occur in the park but are much harder to observe.

Several small mammal species including Swamp Antechinus are found in coastal heath and tussock grassland close to the cliff line.

Seven introduced mammals are found in the park: dog, fox, feral cat, rabbit, Brown Hare, House Mouse and Black Rat.

Visitors are not permitted to bring dogs into Port Campbell National Park but dogs and cats from adjoining farms and local towns are occasionally found hunting in the park.



Common Brushtail Possum © MT

Birds

There are 151 species of birds listed for Port Campbell National Park. Several endangered or threatened species live in the park and of these the Hooded Plover, Rufous Bristle Bird, Ground Parrot and White-bellied Sea-eagle are listed under the Flora and Fauna Act. Other notable species include Peregrine Falcon which nest on coastal cliffs, Little Penguin colonies along the base of protected cliffs, and Short-tailed Shearwaters which live in a major colony on Muttonbird Island. Many species of waterbirds inhabit the estuaries, including intercontinental migrants, swamp hens, ducks and egrets.

Introduced birds in the park include Blackbird, Common Starling, English Skylark, House Sparrow, Goldfinch and Greenfinch.

Reptiles

Whites Skink is common and widespread in open heaths. Various lizards are found in the coastal tussock grasslands. The rare Mourning Skink is restricted to heath swamps. Blotched Blue-tongued Lizards are widespread and common. White-lipped Snakes are uncommon and restricted to coastal tussock grasslands.

Amphibians

Ten species of frogs, including the large Green and Golden Bell Frog, have been found in the park.

Fish

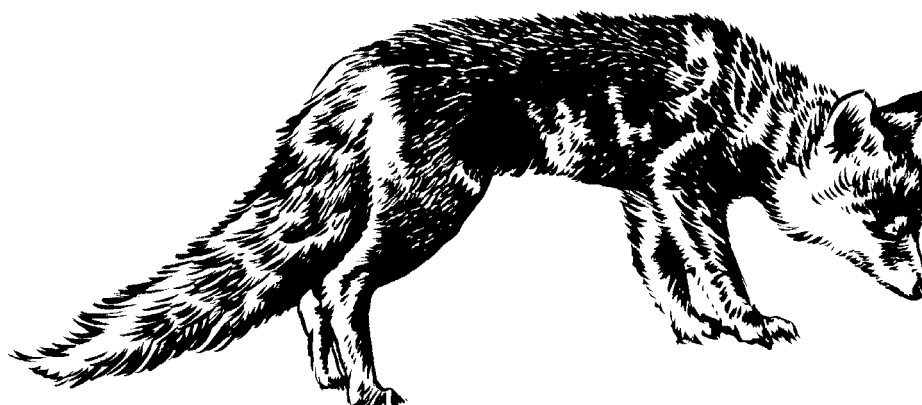
A range of saltwater fish live in the estuaries of the park. In this general region species include Blackfish, which is widespread but appears on the decline, Dwarf Galaxias which are found in slow moving streams, and Grayling, a native fish that is now also rare.

Amateur rock and surf fishermen commonly catch Australian Salmon, Sweep, Parrot-fish, Flathead, Black Bream, Yellow-eyed Mullet, Southern Rock Lobster, Abalone and Yellow-tail Kingfish from the park coastline.

9b. Animal species list for Port Campbell National Park

Common name	Scientific name	Habitat national status
Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Found in vegetated areas. Common.
Swamp Antechinus	<i>Antechinus minimus</i>	Requires dense heathland. Rare and limited.
Dusky Antechinus	<i>Antechinus swainsonii</i>	Requires dense heathland. Abundant.
White-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>	Requires heath ground cover. Common but limited.
Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isoodon obesules</i>	Requires heath ground cover. Common.
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>	Found in forested areas. Common.
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Found in older woodlands. Abundant.
Pygmy Possum	<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Two recorded specimens. Elsewhere common.
Red-necked Wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>	One uncertain sighting. Common to abundant.
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	Parklands adjacent to farmland. Abundant.
Swamp Wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>	Dense heath/woodlands. Common.
Eastern Water-rat	<i>Hydromus chrysogaster</i>	Only one specimen recorded. Sparse to common and limited.
Bush Rat	<i>Rattus fuscipes</i>	Abundant. Areas with dense ground cover.
Swamp Rat	<i>Rattus lutreolus</i>	Common. Areas with dense ground cover.
Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	Regular visitor along coast. Abundant and stable.
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	Beachwashed specimen. Elsewhere common.

Common name	Scientific name	Habitat national status
In adjoining waters		
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	May be sighted June to October. Very rare.
Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Occasionally seen. Widespread and common.
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Occasionally seen. Widespread and common.
Introduced Mammals		
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Grasslands/Open Woodlands. Common.
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Throughout vegetated areas. Abundant.
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Found throughout the park. Abundant.
Feral Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	Found throughout the park. Abundant.
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Prefers areas with human detritus. Abundant.
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Found throughout the park. Abundant.



Red fox © MT