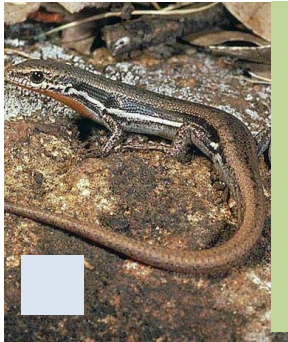


Reptiles of Bendigo Creek

Look out for us in summer . . .



Boulenger's Skink

I am one of the most common skinks in the box-ironbark country. I love areas with fallen branches and leaf litter where my colours help me hide. You'll see me sunbaking in warmer weather but I'll scuttle away quickly if scared.

Common Long-necked Tortoise

I search in the creek for water creatures but you may see me sunning myself on a snag or rock. I roam overland after heavy rain but will pull my neck under my shell or spray you with smelly wee if you try to touch me.



Stumpy-tailed Lizard

I am a slow-moving reptile you might see out in sunny areas. My camouflage colours and texture keep me safe, as does my tail, that looks very much like my head to trick my predators. If threatened, I inflate my body and hiss loudly.

Lace Monitor

If you notice birds making a noisy fuss, look up . . . they could be trying to shoo me from my resting place on the trunk of a tree. I'm a prehistoric looking fellow and I like to eat other reptiles, baby birds, eggs and small mammals.

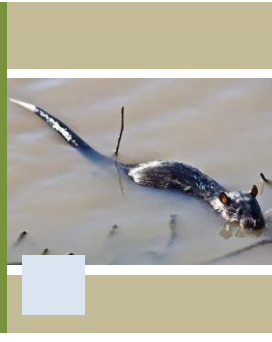


Mammals of Bendigo Creek

Look out for us at dusk . . .

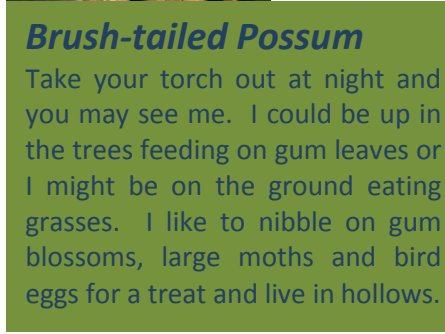
Native Water Rat

I'm most active at sunset and in the night until dawn as I dive and hunt for bugs, yabbies, fish and frogs. Only the top of my head and back can be seen as I swim but my white tail tip might be easy to spot as I climb on land.



Sugar Glider

I rely on hollows in old gum trees to survive but will use nest boxes if I have to. I sleep during the day and hunt up in the trees at night searching for beetles and moths under bark, sap on trunks and nectar and pollen from blossoms.



Brush-tailed Possum

Take your torch out at night and you may see me. I could be up in the trees feeding on gum leaves or I might be on the ground eating grasses. I like to nibble on gum blossoms, large moths and bird eggs for a treat and live in hollows.

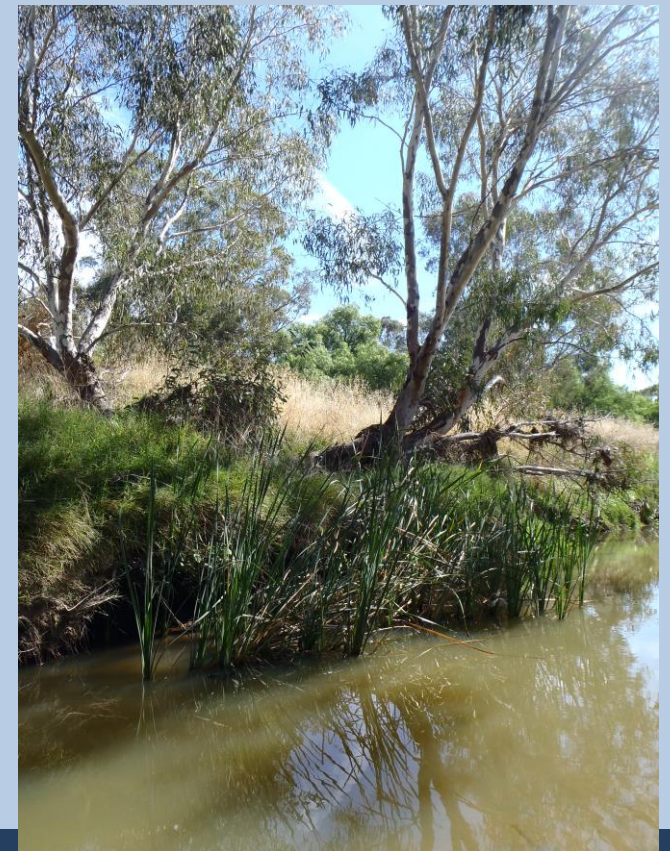


Eastern Grey Kangaroo

If you're nice and quiet you might see me in along some parts of the Bendigo Creek. I rest under the shade of bushes and trees during the day and come out to more open areas to graze on native grass and weeds in the late afternoon.

Native fauna of the Bendigo Creek

A Family Field Guide



Proudly produced by



Northern Bendigo
Landcare
Group

"Building Community Through Conservation"

with funding from the Victorian Government's
Victorian Landcare Grants

Birds of the Bendigo Creek

Listen out for us . . .

Look up for us . . .

Look to the water for us . . .

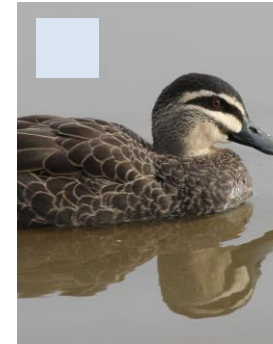


Crested Shrike - tit

If you hear the sound of tearing bark, look up – it may be me ! With my cool rock star looks, I search for insects in gum trees by ripping the bark from branches and peeking underneath. My yellow chest also gives me away.

Whistling Kite

I soar in the skies above water and farmland with my wings in the shape of an 'M', in search of dead animals and live prey. I build a large stick nest in tall trees close to the creek and call with a falling whistle before 4-5 rising notes.

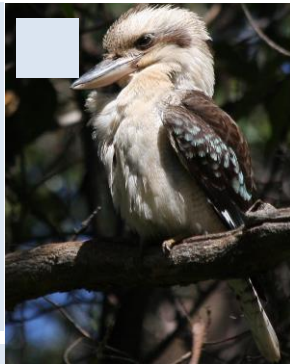


Pacific Black Duck

I like to puddle around in the calm sheltered waters of Bendigo Creek but also enjoy areas of open water nearby. I am quite dull in colour apart from a flash of purplish-green on my wing and a bandit-like eye band.

Laughing Kookaburra

You'll be sure to start smiling as my happy laughter fills the bush. My cackles let other birds know which part of the creek is my home. I lay eggs in a tree hollow and eat insects, worms, frogs & yabbies with my strong beak.



Dusky Woodswallow

I glide in circles overhead, chasing flying insects for my lunch. When I land on a branch I usually swivel my tail as I get settled. My blue beak is quite distinctive and white stripes on my outer wings help you find me.

Sacred Kingfisher

I'm a stout little fellow with an over-sized beak. You might not notice me sitting on a branch like a statue, but once I spy a fish you'll see a flash of bluey-green swoop down to the water as my patience is rewarded with a slippery catch.

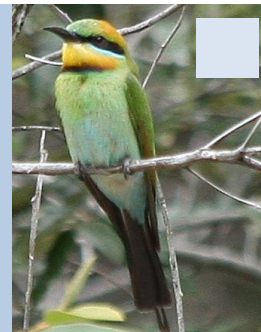


Noisy Miner

I am bold and curious. I like to spend time with my other Noisy Miner friends. We feed together, breed together and boss other birds around with our constant piping 'pwee-pwee-pwee' calls. I feed on nectar, fruits & insects.

Rainbow Bee-eater

I visit the Bendigo Creek in the spring and summer. After waiting patiently on an exposed branch I swoop like an acrobat through the air to catch them in flight. I don't make a stick nest . . . I tunnel into sandy creek banks to lay my eggs.



Clamorous Reed-warbler

I'm a talented song-bird with a beautiful melodic call, but camouflaged so well that you'll rarely see me. I spend my time hidden in the water reeds, prizing insects and balancing delicately on upright stems with my thin legs.

Musk Lorikeet

You'll probably hear me before you see me. I zoom past with parrot friends on my way to the next flowering gum where I blend in with the green leaves and use my brush-tipped tongue to eat sweet pollen and nectar.



Welcome Swallow

From below you'll notice my forked tail as I catch insects mid-air that hover above the water. Bendigo Creek also provides me with the mud I need to build my cup-shaped nest and sheltered bridges to build my nest under.

Dusky Moorhen

You might see me pecking on the bank for insects and worms but if I'm disturbed I'll scoot to the water and all you'll see is my white rump disappearing into the water reeds. It's here, well-protected, that I build my nest.



Birds of the Bendigo Creek

Look to the vegetation for us . . . in the grasses, amid the shrubs and among the branches

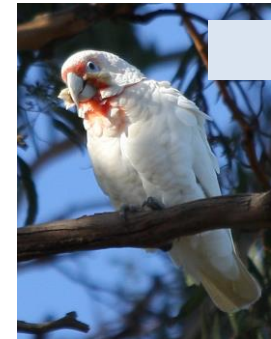


Australian Magpie

I am one of the first birds you will hear in the morning, singing in a new day. My bold colours make me easy to spot and you will most certainly know I'm around if I swoop you in the spring to defend the blue-green eggs in my nest.

Superb Fairy Wren

My active nature, trill call and brilliant blue features make me easy to spot. I strut around proudly with my much duller female friends, nimbly snatching insects among the grass and low shrubs beside the creek.



Long-billed Corella

Don't confuse me with my loud, well-known cousin the Cockatoo. My small crest is white, I have blue skin around my eye and splashes of pink on my face. I eat seeds with my strong beak and spend time with other Corellas.

Galah

I'm a loyal friend, choosing another galah as my mate for life. I gather in larger flocks, chattering away excitedly at sunset or when rain is on its way. I lay my eggs in the hollows of gum trees lined with fresh leaves and wood chips.

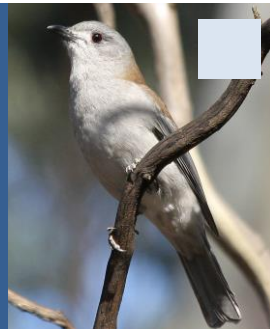


Crested Pigeon

My cool black spiky crest helps me stand out from the crowd along with my barred wings and pinkish ring around my eye. I might give you a fright if I take off nearby as my special wings make a whistling sound in flight.

Grey Shrike-thrush

Nature can teach us valuable lessons . . . I may look dull, but I have one of the sweetest singing voices of all birds. It just goes to show, you should never judge something by its looks and that everything on earth has a talent.



White-plumed Honeyeater

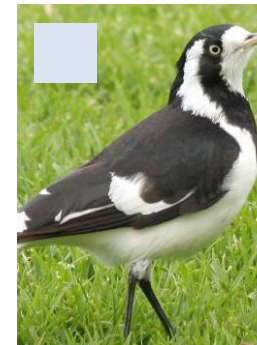
Creeks lined with River Red Gums are my favourite homes. I spend all day busily searching for nectar, fruit, insects and the sugary liquid left behind by leaf-sucking insects. My brush-tipped tongue helps me gather the sticky food I need.

You'll find me either chasing insects from the leaves with amazing acrobatic tricks or perched on a branch constantly fanning my tail. My nest looks like a wine glass with a meticulously built cup above a tapering stem.



Eastern Rosella

I am a very colourful member of the parrot family. You'll often see me flying overhead in pairs, making a high-pitched 'clink-clink' call or feeding on seeds in the grass. I also eat fruit, buds or nectar and usually hold food in my right claw.



Australian Magpie-lark

I am similar to a Magpie but smaller, with a whiter chest and white eye. I use mud collected from the creek bank to build my cup-shaped mud nest. My 'pee-wee' call is sung as a duet with a mate and we take turns to raise our wings when calling.

Striated Pardalote

I am a small bird with a short tail and blunt beak. I move around like an acrobat in search of insects among the leaves, often seen hanging upside down. I nest in a hollow tree or work with my mate to dig a tunnel in the creek bank.



Willie Wagtail

I run around on the ground, wagging my fan tail to flush small insects up from the grass, then I quickly spin around to snap them up. I spend days making a delicate cup-shaped nest of woven spider webs that I defend strongly.



About the Field Guide

This field guide was designed to complement the Northern Bendigo Landcare Group's restoration project between Epsom and Huntly and the Bendigo Creek Trail between Epsom and Kangaroo Flat.

It contains *some* of the birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs that you might see or hear most frequently due to their prevalence, or their conspicuous behaviour; their movement and calls.

You will be more likely to see a greater diversity of species along sections of the trail with better habitat values. You may also see other species along the trail not featured here.



Take this family-friendly guide along as you enjoy the Bendigo Creek and tick the bird, frog, mammal and reptile species off as you encounter them.



Thanks to Anne Bridley of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club for her valued advice and Marlene Lyell of Birdlife Echuca for her stunning bird images.



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



About the Landcare Group

The Northern Bendigo Landcare Group formed in 2007. They are an energetic group, passionate about community building through hands-on conservation of the cultural and natural environment.

They collaborate with a range of groups and organisations to achieve a wide variety of goals including the preservation and enhancement of natural areas, educational activities, community engagement events, monitoring, and offering support to new and existing landholders in the White Hills, Epsom, Huntly and Bagshot areas.

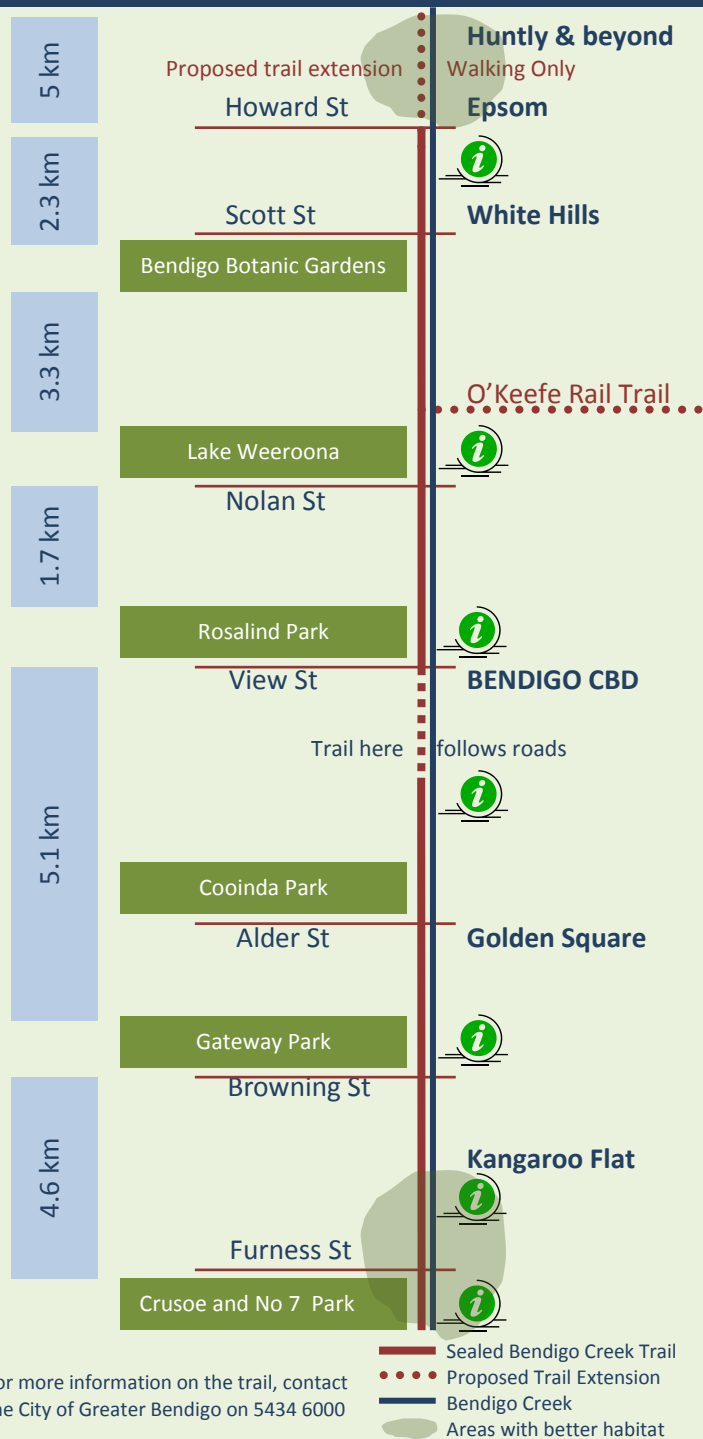
Their Bendigo Creek Restoration Project involves enhancing biodiversity and habitat values between Epsom and Huntly, whilst encouraging greater awareness of and interaction with this often misunderstood waterway. It entails weed control, revegetation, installation of nest boxes, monitoring, signage and community engagement events. They look forward to the trail extension.

For more information about the NBLG see their website:
<http://northcentral.landcarevic.net.au/northern-bendigo>



Field Guide designed by Nicole Howie, Northern Bendigo Landcare Group

The Bendigo Creek Trail



For more information on the trail, contact the City of Greater Bendigo on 5434 6000

Sealed Bendigo Creek Trail
Proposed Trail Extension
Bendigo Creek
Areas with better habitat

Frogs of Bendigo Creek

Listen out for us croaking away . . .



Growling Grass Frog

I am a threatened species but have found a home nearby certain parts of the Bendigo Creek. If I am male I call after rain in spring, summer and autumn with short grunts, ending with a long deep growl . . . 'crok-crok-crok-crok-crawark'.

Pobblebonk

My name helps you remember my call - one single 'bonk'. Although, once I call, my mates often join in and we all love to get together and call lots and lots after rain. I use my arms and legs to burrow backwards into soft mud or sand.



Common Froglet

My series of 'crick crick crick crick' calls are very similar to a cricket. My chirping can be heard coming from plants at the water's edge all day and all year round, most often after rain. I must hide well as I am a favourite meal for water birds.

Spotted Marsh Frog

I am well adapted to urban areas, calling all year round with a long series of 'kuk-kuk-kuk' notes. In dry times I shelter in cracks in the ground under rocks. If looking for me, make sure you return rocks to the way you found them.

