# Winter Wildlife Survey

## Citizen Scientists Wild life survey in the McKay Gardens

WHO: For beginners and members of the general public (anyone can do this) WHAT DO I NEED: All you need is 20 minutes, a pencil and our survey form. We also recommend the <u>Field Guide to Victorian Fauna</u> app.

**PURPOSE**: The purpose of this survey is to establish a baseline level for wildlife in the Gardens so we can plan strategies for increasing or improving biodiversity. **RESULT**: The information will be entered into a data base that will allow us to measure changes to wildlife species and numbers in the Gardens over time. (We will also publish the results on-line)

WHEN: Anytime, day or evening. Between 30 June and the 6th of July

**HOW**: Down load (or copy) our survey form.

Sit, stand, lie for 20 minutes in **ONE** of the zones indicated on the survey map.

Record all the birds and animals you see during that time.

(If you have a phone or camera you might want to take images of birds or animals but this is not essential)

Send survey form (and images) to contact@mckaygardens.com.au

(Transfer information onto electronic version of form or scan and send to our email address.)

Species name (or common name)	Number of sightings	

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Name:

Email address: (optional)

Date: Time:

#### Zone number:

(Note that zone 1 is currently undergoing construction so you wont be able to access this area)



### Hints and Frequently asked questions.

Surveying animals: Most animals you are likely to see will be birds. If you can't identify the particular bird try giving a description: Is it small or large, does it have distinctive colours, long or short legs, was it on the ground or flying? If possible photograph the animal. We recommend using the <u>Field Guide to Victorian</u> Fauna app to help you identify the creatures you see. You can download this for free onto your phone.

You might also spot lizards or frogs, keep an eye out on the ground too. You can also include rabbits and possums and even cats if you see them. Please **don't** include dogs.

What to do if the bird/animal travels across zones. Simply record any animal that crosses your zone. How do I know if the bird/animal I see is the same one previously seen? You don't. But try not to count the same bird/animal twice. If it is obviously the same bird coming and going across your zone, count it only once.

You can repeat the survey as often as you like between the relevant dates:

We recommend using the <u>Field Guide to Victorian Fauna</u> (Developed by Museum of Victoria) app. <a href="https://museumsvictoria.com.au/apps/field-guide-app-to-victorian-fauna/">https://museumsvictoria.com.au/apps/field-guide-app-to-victorian-fauna/</a>