
MAMMAL RECORDS FROM *THE TASMANIAN NATURALIST*

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SUMMARY

In this report, I examine records of native and introduced Tasmanian mammals contained in the volumes of *The Tasmanian Naturalist*. Eighty-eight papers were identified with mammalian records, and these highlight the important work of naturalists in contributing to knowledge of species occurrence and ecology. This work provides an index of mammal records published in this journal through the years, and may be useful for researchers who are seeking primary source observations on Tasmanian mammals.

METHODS

All volumes of *The Tasmanian Naturalist* were searched for records of mammal species, including the old series: Vol. 1, no. 1 (April 1907) to Vol. 2, no. 4 (April 1911), a subsequent 'new series' published as Vol. 1, no. 1 (October 1924) to Vol. 2, no. 4 (June 1928), and the contemporary series: no. 1 (1965) to no. 126 (2004) (also see Fenton 2004: 143). Records were collated separately for each terrestrial non-flying mammal species and a short description of the records for these species was assembled. Records for bats, seals, dolphins and whales were grouped and tabulated. The review of records was confined to mammal species occurring in Tasmania, and does not include the mammal records for New Zealand which have been published in this journal (i.e. Bryant 1995) or the fossil records (i.e. Scott and Harrison 1911). Common names used follow Strahan (1995).

RESULTS

Mammal records from *The Tasmanian Naturalist* were found in 88 articles published between 1926 and 2004. Only 3 articles (3 %) from <1960 contained mammal records, whereas 13 (15 %) were from 1961 to 1969, 10 (11 %) from 1970-1979, 26 (30 %) from 1980-1989, 24 (27 %) from 1990-1999, and 12 (14 %) were from 2000 to 2005. There is mention of all Tasmanian species of non-flying terrestrial mammals, with records appearing in ≥ 10 articles for platypus, Tasmanian devil, southern brown bandicoot, eastern barred bandicoot, common brushtail possum, common ringtail possum, red-necked wallaby, ru-

fous-bellied pademelon, house mouse, swamp rat, and European rabbit (Table 1).

The table indicates that, over the years, there has been a preponderance of records towards the larger ubiquitous mammals and the introduced species such as the rabbit. Records of inconspicuous small mammals such as the dusky antechinus, swamp antechinus, white-footed dunnart, eastern pygmy-possum, New Holland mouse, long-tailed mouse, brown rat, and brown hare occur in fewer than five articles each.

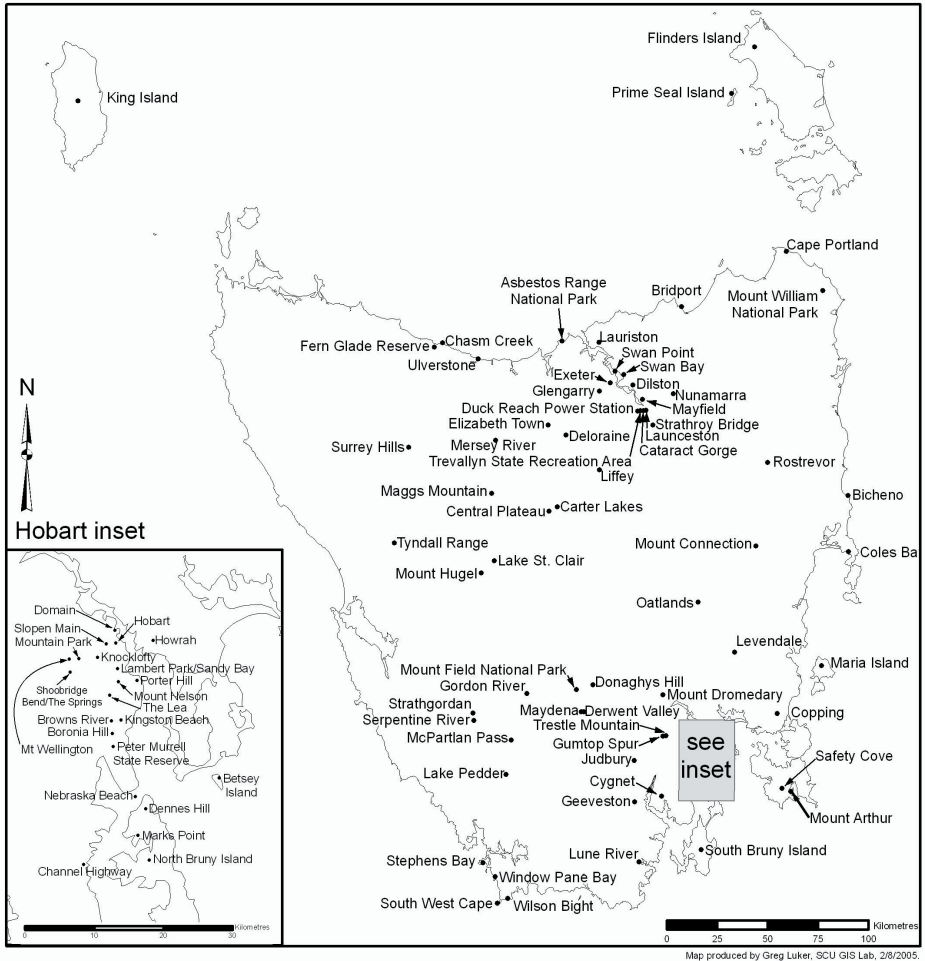


Figure 1: Localities mentioned in the text. Co-ordinates were sourced from the Geoscience Australia online place-name search. Locations are accurate to approximately one minute of latitude/longitude, which is approximately 1.8 km.

Table 1. Number of papers with mammal species records in *The Tasmanian Naturalist*.

Common Name	No. of papers	Sources (see page following table)
Short-beaked Echidna <i>Tachygllossus aculeatus</i>	9	1-10
Platypus <i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	12	4, 6, 7, 11-19
Thylacine <i>Thylacinus cyanocephalus</i>	4	20-23
Tasmanian Devil <i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>	10	6, 7, 9, 14, 22, 24-28
Quoll spp. <i>Dasyurus</i> spp.	3	11, 29, 30
Spotted-tailed Quoll <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	3	9, 26, 31
Eastern Quoll <i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>	9	6, 7, 9, 14, 27, 28, 32-34
Antechinus spp. <i>Antechinus</i> spp.	2	26, 35
Dusky Antechinus <i>Antechinus swainsonii</i>	2	6, 14
Swamp Antechinus <i>Antechinus minimus</i>	5	36-40
White-footed Dunnart <i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>	1	41
Southern Brown Bandicoot <i>Isodon obesulus</i>	11	1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 18, 35, 40, 42-45
Eastern Barred Bandicoot <i>Perameles gunnii</i>	11	1, 5, 6, 7, 18, 27, 35, 43-47
Common Wombat <i>Vombatus ursinus</i>	8	1, 5, 7, 9, 27, 30, 31, 48
Common Brush-tail possum <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	18	1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 18, 20, 27, 28, 31, 35, 37, 46, 49-52
Pygmy-Possum spp. <i>Cercartetus</i> spp.	2	18, 29
Little Pygmy-Possum <i>Cercartetus lepidus</i>	8	1, 5, 7, 9, 26, 41, 53, 54
Eastern Pygmy-Possum <i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	5	5, 26, 40, 53, 55
Sugar Glider <i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	6	5, 7, 20, 33, 42, 56
Common Ringtail Possum <i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>	16	1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 18, 20, 26, 31, 35, 41, 46, 57-59
Southern Bettong <i>Bettongia gaimardi</i>	9	1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 18, 30, 32, 60
Long-nosed Potoroo <i>Potorous tridactylus</i>	9	1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 18, 27, 35, 46

Table 1 contd.
No. of papers **Sources (see page following table)**

Common Name	No. of papers	Sources (see page following table)
Eastern Grey Kangaroo <i>Macropus giganteus</i>	1	61
Red-necked Wallaby <i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>	10	1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 20, 27, 28, 49
Rufous-bellied Pademelon	10	2, 5, 7, 9, 20, 27, 28, 31, 37, 62
Bat spp.	13	5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 26, 28, 55, 63-67
Unidentified rodent spp.	2	30, 55, 68
Water Rat <i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>	9	1, 7, 9, 17, 18, 37, 42, 69, 70
House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i>	14	6, 18, 28, 35, 37, 41, 42, 46, 54, 55, 68, 69, 71, 72
New Holland Mouse <i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	2	31, 47
Long-tailed Mouse <i>Pseudomys higginsii</i>	5	5, 26, 39, 40, 41
Broad-toothed Rat <i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>	6	5, 29, 39, 40, 69, 73
Swamp Rat <i>Rattus lutreolus</i>	10	5, 18, 26, 31, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 69
Black Rat <i>Rattus rattus</i>	7	7, 18, 28, 31, 42, 69, 71
Brown Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	5	6, 7, 18, 35, 69
Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	2	34, 88
House Cat <i>Felis catus</i>	9	1, 5, 7, 23, 37, 43, 46, 68, 71
European Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	18	5, 6, 7, 18, 23, 35, 42, 43, 46, 54, 68, 71, 73-78
Brown Hare <i>Lepus capensis</i>	4	6, 35, 43, 72
Goat <i>Capra hircus</i>	2	5, 73
Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	1	61
Seals	10	30, 34, 68, 74, 76, 79-83
Dolphins	3	34, 84, 85
Whales	5	30, 34, 85-87

Sources for Table 1: 1 Briggs 1965; 2 Milledge 1969; 3 Ziegeler 1971; 4 Hird 1993; 5 Taylor and McQuillan 1994; 6 Hird 1995; 7 Taylor *et al.* 1997; 8 Wapstra *et al.* 2000; 9 Hird 2000; 10 Wall 1979; 11 Wall and Wall 1972; 12 Tyson 1980; 13 Taylor *et al.* 1991; 14 Taylor and McQuillan 1994; 15 Hird and Paterson 1995; 16 Otley and le Mar 1998; 17 Rakick *et al.* 2001; 18 Driessen 2003; 19 Munks *et al.* 2004; 20 Crowther 1926; 21 Anon 1966a; 22 Sharland 1975; 23 Bryant and Harris 1994; 24 Anon 1966c; 25 Sharland 1967; 26 Mumbray 1992; 27 Hird and Hammer 1995; 28 Brereton *et al.* 1996; 29 Wallis *et al.* 1977; 30 Ziegeler 2004; 31 Green and Scarborough 1990; 32 Anon 1982; 33 Klettenheimer and Salamon 1997; 34 Grove 2004; 35 Ziegeler 1970; 36 Andrews 1967; 37 Whinray 1971; 38 Scarborough and Green 1989; 39 Driessen and Comfort 1991; 40 Driessen *et al.* 2002; 41 Linton 1928; 42 Green and Rainbird 1985; 43 Green 1965; 44 Anon 1966b; 45 David 1982; 46 Green 1982; 47 Brown *et al.* 1999; 48 Hird 1986; 49 Thomas and Wall 1966; 50 Murray 1977; 51 Neyland 1999; 52 Duncan 2000; 53 Wall 1985; 54 Green *et al.* 1988; 55 Green *et al.* 1986; 56 Wall 1994; 57 Munks 1999; 58 Munks 2000; 59 Munks and Taylor 2000; 60 Driessen and Hocking 1990; 61 Duncan 1992; 62 Barker 1983; 63 Green 1966; 64 Tyson 1981; 65 Woinarski 1986; 66 Rounsevell 1980; 67 Green and Rainbird 1984; 68 Jones 1984; 69 Green 1967; 70 Dartnall 1969; 71 Pye 1984; 72 Spencer 2004; 73 Bryant 1992; 74 Sharland 1966; 75 Shepherd 1975; 76 Rounsevell 1984a; 77 Skira 1984; 78 Fearn 1988; 79 Ingham 1984; 80 Fletcher and Shaughnessy 1984; 81 Rounsevell 1984b; 82 Dartnall 1971; 83 Burton 1986; 84 Green and Scott 1985; 85 Wapstra 1991; 86 Wall 1981; 87 Lord 1924; 88 Bryant 1995..

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR TERRESTRIAL NON-FLYING MAMMALS

Note: Localities mentioned in the text are shown in Figure 1.

SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA (*TACHYGLOSSUS ACULEATUS*)

Records of the echidna from *The Tasmanian Naturalist* include mention of its occurrence on Flinders Island (Milledge 1969), North Bruny Island (Ziegeler 1971; Hird 2000) and Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994). According to Briggs (1965), the echidna is ‘common’ at Safety Cove and ‘seem very numerous’ at ‘Slopen Main’. Wall (1979) reported on an echidna unconcerned at the smell of humans. Hird (1993) reported that an echidna which had almost drowned was rescued from part of an estuary at an undisclosed location in south-eastern Tasmania. They are ‘regularly sighted’ in the Mount Nelson area (Hird 1995) and have been reported from Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997). The most recent record is provided by Wapstra *et al.* (2000), who reported observations of echidnas using tree hollows.

PLATYPUS (*ORNITHORHYNCHUS ANATINUS*)

Platypuses can be seen at Lake St. Clair occasionally, and one has been seen at Shadow Lake near Mount Hugel (Wall and Wall 1972). Road-killed platypuses have been found near Nunamarra, Strathroy Bridge near Launceston, near Glengarry and near Exeter (Tyson 1980). Taylor *et al.* (1991) provide 22 records and observations of the platypus from various localities including Plenty River in the Derwent Valley, Mount Field, and Carter Lakes on the Central Plateau. These records included a roadkill specimen from the Deloraine bypass, and a dead platypus which had apparently been fed upon by wedgetailed eagle *Aquila audax*. They are also known from Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994), Sandy Bay (Hird 1995), King Island (Hird and Paterson 1995), near Duck Reach Power Station (Taylor *et al.* 1997), Surrey Hills area (Otley and le Mar 1998), Chasm Creek, northeast of Burnie (Rakick *et al.* 2001) and in Browns River 'near the Lea' (Driessen 2003). Hird (1993) reported observations of platypus utilising estuarine habitats, and Munks *et al.* (2004) report on the structure of platypus nests found in a cave.

THYLACINE (*THYLACINUS CYANOCEPHALUS*)

Anon (1966a) reported that 'from the back country reports continue to filter in about the supposed occurrence' of the thylacine. It was stated that recent reports from the West Coast had been 'accepted by game authorities as indicating that in this wild region the thylacine is still living'. Sharland (1975) made some remarks on the old Battery Point zoo in Hobart which apparently had 'a number of thylacines' in the 1920s. The most recent mention of the thylacine was by Bryant and Harris (1994), who attributed its demise to the 'persecution and hunting pressure from settlers'.

TASMANIAN DEVIL (*SARCOPHILUS HARRISII*)

Sharland (1967) discusses how the devil got its name, and Sharland (1975) made some remarks on the old Battery Point zoo in Hobart (circa 1925-1933) which apparently was the first to successfully breed the Tasmanian devil in captivity. Anon (1966c) states that the Tasmanian devil 'is common among wooded ranges, in parts of lowland scrub, and about the fringe of farms'. At Mount Wellington, devils 'appear to be rare' (Taylor and McQuillan 1994) and found only in 'small numbers' at Gumtop Spur, northwest of Wellington Park (Hird 1995; Hird and Hammer 1995). They have also been recorded at Howrah Hills (Brereton *et al.* 1996), Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997) and Bruny Island (Hird 2000).

SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL (*DASYURUS MACULATUS*)

Green and Scarborough (1990) provided a detailed review of the literature on spotted-tailed quoll, and made an appraisal of the specimens in the Queen Victoria Museum. They presented a distribution map, which was based on their tabulation of 104 previously unpublished records. This valuable work also detailed many observations on spotted-tailed quoll life history. 'Its most favoured habitat' was reported to be 'sclerophyll forest and the edges of rainforest', but populations are also known from 'dry coastal heathlands of the north-east'. Hird (2000) cited that a resident of North Bruny Island 'had trapped a spotted-tail quoll near Dennes Hill in a possum cage', while noting that other evidence for the species on Bruny Island is lacking. It is also noted that Wallis *et al.* (1977) found quoll scats on Strathgordon Road, although whether they were spotted-tailed quoll or its congener the eastern quoll was not ascertained.

EASTERN QUOLL (*DASYURUS VIVERRINUS*)

Eastern quolls have been found at Pandani Hut at Mount Field National Park (Anon 1982), Porter Hill (Hird 1995), Howrah Hills (Brereton *et al.* 1996), and North Bruny Island (Hird (2000). Klettenheimer and Salamon (1997) caught eastern quolls at Mount Dromedary near Hobart, and observed them 'climbing trees up to six metres high quite effortlessly'. Taylor *et al.* (1997) stated that eastern quoll scats 'were abundant on the southern side' of Cataract Gorge Reserve. Taylor and McQuillan (1994) reported that eastern quolls are known from Mount Wellington, although this record has since been acknowledged as erroneous (Hird and Hammer 1995). However, at Gumtop Spur, 20 eastern quolls were caught in April 1995. Recent member observations include one (roadkill) found 3km SE of Copping on Tasman Highway (3 May 2004); and another roadkill quoll (presumably *eastern quoll*) 1.5km S of Copping on Arthur Highway (17 May 2004) (see Grove 2004).

DUSKY ANTECHINUS (*ANTECHINUS SWAINSONII*)

Dusky Antechinus are known from Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994) and from Porter Hill (Hird 1995). The loss of this species 'in bushland in near-urban areas appears to be the norm in southern Tasmania over a range of lowland habitats' (Tas. Field Nats. unpubl. data; cited by Hird 1995), although the species occurs near disturbed habitats in the Cygnet district' (Hird 1995). It has also been suggested that 'predation by feral and ranging domestic cats, and possibly competition

from introduced rodents' are the most likely explanation for such losses (Hird 1995).

SWAMP ANTECHINUS (*ANTECHINUS MINIMUS*)

A significant record of swamp antechinus is provided by Andrews (1967) who captured an albino individual in the vicinity of the junction of the Gordon and Serpentine Rivers, in the south west of the State. Whinray (1971) detailed an old record from Prime Seal Island which was lodged with the British Museum (Natural History) in 1858. Scarborough and Green (1989) extended knowledge of swamp antechinus distribution and habitat preference, and provided records from Bridport, Swan Bay, Dilston, Bruny Island, King Island, Maggs Mountain, Mount Arthur and Elizabeth Town. More recently, this species has been captured at McPartlan Pass in southwest Tasmania (Driessen and Comfort 1991) and at Tyndall Range (Driessen *et al.* 2002).

WHITE-FOOTED DUNNART (*SMINTHOPSIS LEUCOPUS*)

Early portrayals of white-footed dunnart were made by Linton (1928) but there have been no records in the volumes of *The Tasmanian Naturalist* of captures or observation of the species since then.

SOUTHERN BROWN BANDICOOT (*ISOODON OBESULUS*)

Green (1965) described fluctuating populations of southern brown bandicoots (and other mammalian species), following changes in predator abundance. Anon (1966b) credits this species as a predator of grass-eating insects (Corbie: *Oncopera* sp.). Anon (1966b) also comments that 'the greatest number of bandicoots seen by the average observer are dead ones, killed on the roads. Others are killed by dogs and cats and birds of prey'. Records of southern brown bandicoots are from Safety Cove (Briggs 1965), Knocklofty, West Hobart (Ziegeler 1970), Swan Point (Davis 1982), Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994), Mount Nelson (Hird 1995), Cataract Gorge Reserve and adjoining areas of Trevallyn State Recreation Area (Taylor *et al.* 1997), South Bruny Island (Hird 2000), Tyndall Range (Driessen *et al.* 2002), Kingston Beach and at Browns River (Driessen 2003). This species is also recorded from masked owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* pellets (Green and Rainbird 1985).

EASTERN BARRED BANDICOOT (*PERAMELES GUNNII*)

Like the southern brown bandicoot (and other mammals), populations of eastern barred bandicoot are impacted upon by predator abundance

(Green 1965), praised for limiting grass-eating insects (Anon 1966b), and recorded from the pellets of the Masked Owl (Green 1982). Similarly there are records of eastern barred bandicoots from Knocklofty, West Hobart (Ziegeler 1970), Swan Point (Davis 1982), Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994), Mount Nelson (Hird 1995), north of Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997), and Kingston Beach (Driessen 2003). Hird and Hammer (1995) caught one barred bandicoot on Gumtop Spur, and reported that this species is ‘regularly observed killed on Boyer Road’ in that area. They also reported two further records of this species from Mountain Park on Mount Wellington, one in *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest 200 m below Shoobridge Bend and the other in *E. johnstonii* forest 1.8 km above The Springs. This species is considered ‘nationally vulnerable’ and, in Tasmania, ‘distributed mainly in the north-west, south-east and localised pockets in the north-east, but is largely absent from the midlands’ (Brown *et al.* 1999).

COMMON WOMBAT (*VOMBATUS URSINUS*)

The common wombat is reported from Safety Cove (Briggs 1965), Asbestos Range National Park (Hird 1986), Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994), Gumtop Spur (Hird and Hammer 1995), Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997), North Bruny Island (Hird 2000), South West Cape, Window Pane Bay, and Stephens Bay in the far south-west (Ziegeler 2004). This species is reportedly scavenged upon by spotted-tailed quoll (Green and Scarborough 1990).

COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM (*TRICHOSURUS VULPECULA*)

Crowther (1926) reported that in the years 1923–25 there were 71,576 common brushtail possum skins processed for the fur trade. However, populations survived and in 1965 it was reported that they were ‘common’ at Safety Cove (Briggs 1965). Furthermore, at Lake St. Clair, Wall and Wall (1972) record a population size increase between 1952 and 1972 (Wall and Wall 1972). Other brushtail records are from Lune River (Thomas and Wall 1966), Knocklofty (Ziegeler 1970), Prime Seal Island and Flinders Island (Whinray 1971), Levendale (Duncan 2000), Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994), Mount Nelson area (Hird 1995), Gumtop Spur (Hird and Hammer 1995), the Domain in Hobart (Brereton *et al.* 1996), Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997), Oatlands (Neyland 1999), North Bruny Island (Hird 2000), and Browns River (Driessen 2003). A remarkable observation of the brushtail’s predatory

behaviour on a blowfly was described by Murray (1977). This species is scavenged upon by spotted-tailed quoll (Green and Scarborough 1990) and preyed upon by masked owl (Green 1982).

LITTLE PYGMY-POSSUM (*CERCARTETUS LEPIDUS*)

Linton (1928) states that the 'Little Dormouse Phalanger' occurs 'lower down the slopes, where a water course nourishes fuller vegetation'. She also describes nesting and torpor of the species. Briggs (1965) states this species is 'found occasionally' at Safety Cove, and 'are numerous now that the fires are properly controlled'. Wall (1985) observed four little pygmy-possums about 2 m above ground on a snow gum *Eucalyptus coccifera* whilst on a excursion to Mount Connection on 16 December 1983, also in the Lower Gordon River in 1977, and on 9 March 1984 in a small plant of *Richea dracophylla* on Trestle Mountain. He stated that this species generally occurs in dry forests and heathland. Little Pygmy-Possums are known from Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994). Taylor *et al.* (1997) stated that this species 'will almost certainly occur' at Cataract Gorge Reserve, despite the failure to capture or detect the species during their survey. Similarly, Driessen (2003) did not find pygmy-possums at Kingston Beach, but stated that 'they may also occur in the area but specialised techniques are required to confirm their presence'. Green *et al.* (1988) found this species in the stomach contents of a laughing kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* and they have been found in dasyurid scats (either Tasmanian devil or spotted-tailed quoll) at Donaghys Hill (Mumbray 1992).

EASTERN PYGMY-POSSUM (*CERCARTETUS NANUS*)

Wall (1985) states that the eastern pygmy-possum is found in 'rainforest country' in Tasmania and Green *et al.* (1986) notes the recording of eastern pygmy-possum in the preserved gut of a southern boobook owl *Ninox novaehollandiae*. This species reportedly occurs on Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994). Driessen *et al.* (2002) noted that this species has been trapped in buttongrass moorlands. Wallis *et al.* (1977) found fur of pygmy-possum species in quoll scats, but whether it was the eastern or little pygmy-possum was not determined.

SUGAR GLIDER (*PETAURUS BREVICEPS*)

Wall (1994) reported remains of a sugar glider from Pinnacle Road, Mount Wellington, and in an accompanying editors note it was added

that it was highly likely that the masked owl was responsible. Green and Rainbird (1985) also record this species from masked owl pellets. Taylor and McQuillan (1994) stated that sugar gliders are known from Fern Glade, Mount Wellington. Klettenheimer and Salamon (1997) released 31 sugar gliders, 2/3 bred in captivity, in an area close to Mount Dromedary, and subsequently caught several of these released gliders and also six resident gliders during a monitoring program.

COMMON RINGTAIL POSSUM (*PSEUDOCHEIRUS PEREGRINUS*)

Crowther (1926) stated that 'the Ring-tailed Opossum is being wiped out. In the old days of the 'possum dog and moonlight shooting it had some chance; now with the deadly spot light it is a systematic massacre'. In 1923-25 there were 1,457,125 ringtail skins processed, and Crowther (1926) anticipated that 'over 250,000' would go through in 1926. In 1949 the ringtail was believed to be 'fairly common' at Lake St. Clair, although there may have been a 'drastic reduction in the population' in that area during the subsequent 20 years (Wall and Wall 1972). However, it has been reported as 'plentiful' at Safety Cove (Briggs 1965) and there are records from Mount Wellington (Taylor and McQuillan 1994), Mount Nelson (Hird 1995) and Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997). Dead specimens have been reported from Knocklofty (Ziegeler 1970), and from 'Victoria Street, Kingston Beach' and 'the Channel Highway' (Driessen 2003). It has also been recorded as prey of the masked owl (Green 1982) and spotted-tailed quoll (Green and Scarborough 1990). This species has been found in dasyurid scats (either Tasmanian devil or spotted-tailed quoll) at Donaghys Hill (Mumbray 1992). Island records are for North Bruny (Hird 2000) and Flinders (Munks 1999; 2000; Munks and Taylor 2000), the latter representing a series of detailed ecological studies.

SOUTHERN BETTONG (*BETTONGLIA GAIMARDI*)

Driessen and Hocking (1990) reviewed information on distribution, habitat and status of bettongs in Tasmania including consideration of the impact of land management practices on populations. They reported that it occurs as far west as the Mersey River in the north, Derwent Bridge in the Central Highlands and National Park, Judbury and Geeveston in the south. Records of this species from *The Tasmanian Naturalist* are for Pawlenna (Anon 1982); Mount Wellington Range (Taylor and McQuillan 1994; Hird and Hammer 1995); Mount Nelson (Hird 1995); Cataract

Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* (1997), Bruny Island (Hird 2000); Browns River (Driessen 2003); Wilson Bight, Stephens Bay and Window Pane Bay (Ziegeler 2004).

LONG-NOSED POTOROO (*POTOROUS TRIDACTYLUS*)

The long-nosed potoroo is 'widespread and common in areas of forest, woodland and heath in Tasmania' (Hird and Hammer 1995). However, Briggs (1965) found it to be 'uncommon' at Safety Cove, and Ziegeler (1970) states that he recorded this species only once in a small gully at Knocklofty, commenting also that it was 'probably wiped out by the [1967] fires' in that area. Green (1982) recorded this species in masked owl pellets, and Taylor and McQuillan (1994) state that they are known from Mount Wellington. Hird (1995) found that long-nosed potoroos were 'common and widespread' at Mount Nelson, and Hird and Hammer (1995) caught a potoroo at Gumtop Spur. Taylor *et al.* (1997) stated that 'this species was trapped in grassy forest on the northern side' of Cataract Gorge Reserve, and that 'it prefers areas with a dense ground cover'. Hird (2000) captured 13 potoroos at Dennes Hill on North Bruny Island, and provided three further records: a male found killed on the road, another seen on a road, and a sighting at Marks Point. Driessen (2003) caught three long-nosed potoroos at Kingston Beach, and one at Browns River. He stated that they appear 'to be relatively common' in the Kingston area as he has had 'high captures rates at Boronia Hill Reserve and at the Peter Murrell Reserve'. He also remarked that 'the public does not often see this species, as it prefers to forage and live where there is good ground cover, rarely venturing out into the open'.

EASTERN GREY KANGAROO (*MACROPUS GIGANTEUS*)

Duncan (1992) studied the diet of eastern grey kangaroos in the midlands through faecal analysis and found that grasses such as *Holcus lanatus*, *Vulpia* spp., *Danthonia* spp. and *Poa* spp. made up a major component of the diet.

RED-NECKED WALLABY (*MACROPUS RUFUGRISEUS*)

Crowther (1926) reported that in 1923-25 there were 281, 663 red-necked wallaby skins processed for the fur trade. 'Huge populations' have been reported for Flinders Island (Milledge 1969), although it is apparently 'very rare' on Mount Wellington 'despite suitable habitat and its presence being recorded in the early days of settlement' (Taylor and McQuillan

1994). Red-necked wallaby are also known from Gumtop Spur (Hird and Hammer 1995), Howrah Hills (Brereton *et al.* 1996), Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997) and Dennes Hill (Hird 2000).

RUFIOUS-BELLIED PADEMELON (*THYLOGALE BILLARDIERII*)

The rufous-bellied pademelon was first recorded for Prime Seal Island as early as 1828, and Whinray (1971) reported they were plentiful there during his visits to this island in 1965 and 1966. He further states that he was 'given the heads of 22 pademelons shot during one of the 1966 visits' and these were deposited with the Monash University Zoology Department and Museum Victoria. This species has also been reported at Flinders Island (Milledge 1969), Dennes Hill, North Bruny Island, and South Bruny (Hird 2000), Cape Portland (Barker 1983), Mount Wellington Range (Taylor and McQuillan 1994; Hird and Hammer 1995), Howrah Hills (Brereton *et al.* 1996) and Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997). This species is recorded as prey of spotted-tailed quoll (Green and Scarborough 1990) and forest raven *Corvus tasmanicus* (Barker 1983).

WATER RAT (*HYDROMYS CHRYSOGASTER*)

The first specimens of the water rat known to science are reported to have been collected from Bruny and Maria Islands (Dartnall 1969). This species was present on Prime Seal Island in the 1920s and 1930s, and Whinray (1971) believed that it should still occur there. Briggs (1965) stated that water rats were 'plentiful' at Safety Cove, and Taylor *et al.* (1997) stated that they are 'reported to occasionally occur' near the Duck Reach Power Station. Hird (2000) found footprints of the water rat on the coast near 'Lauriston' on North Bruny Island, and also reported that this species raided poultry at 'Nebraska'. Driessen (2003) believed that water rats may be present in the Browns River 'as they are known to occur throughout the Derwent estuary'. Other records of water rats in *The Tasmanian Naturalist* include a record from masked owl pellets (Green and Rainbird 1985) and an observation of a water rat being chased by a platypus (Rakick *et al.* 2001).

HOUSE MOUSE (*MUS MUSCULUS*)

Records of the house mouse are from Knocklofty (Ziegeler 1970), Prime Seal Island (Whinray 1971), Macquarie Island (Pye 1984; Jones 1984), Porter Hill (Hird 1995), Domain, in Hobart (Brereton *et al.* 1996), Kingston Beach area (Driessen 2003), Mayfield and Rostrevor (Green *et al.* 1986). Records of predation on the house mouse include those

by masked owl (Green 1982; Green and Rainbird 1985), feral cat (Jones 1984), southern boobook owl (Green *et al.* 1986), laughing kookaburra (Green *et al.* 1988), spotted-tailed quoll (Green and Scarborough 1990), and bluetongue lizard *Tiliqua nigrolutea* (Spencer 2004).

NEW HOLLAND MOUSE (*PSEUDOMYS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE*)

The only mention of new Holland mouse in *The Tasmanian Naturalist* is by Brown *et al.* (1999). They stated that this species is 'rare' and is 'restricted to coastal areas in pockets from Asbestos Range National Park to Cape Portland, and also occurs in Mount William National Park, Bicheno and Coles Bay.

LONG-TAILED MOUSE (*PSEUDOMYS HIGGINSI*)

Green (1967) states that this species is 'an endemic Tasmanian animal and occurs only in the rain-forests and near similar habitat'. Taylor and McQuillan (1994) reported that it 'is widely distributed across a range of habitats', but the highest densities are reached in 'mountain and alpine regions, particularly where boulder screes and rocky ground are present' (citing Stoddart and Challis 1993). The rocky high altitude areas of Mount Wellington were thus identified as providing optimal habitat for long-tailed mouse. This species has also been captured at McPartlan Pass in southwest Tasmania (Driessen and Comfort 1991), and it was noted by Driessen *et al.* (2002) that long-tailed mice have been trapped in buttongrass moorlands. Mumbray (1992) records this species in dasyurid scats at Donaghys Hill.

BROAD-TOOTHED RAT (*MASTACOMYS FUSCUS*)

This species has as its main stronghold 'the buttongrass areas of the western half' of Tasmania (Green 1967; Driessen *et al.* 2002), and heathland copses in the World Heritage Area (Bryant 1992). Records of this species include Shoobridge Bend in 1968 (Taylor and McQuillan 1994) and McPartlan Pass (Driessen and Comfort 1991). Wallis *et al.* (1977) reported that they found a jaw bone of broad-toothed rat in quoll scats by the Strathgordon road, near the start of the old Lake Pedder walking track.

SWAMP RAT (*RATTUS LUTREOLUS*)

The swamp rat (or velvet rat) occurs 'in a wide range of habitat including coastal heath, swamp land, subalpine rain-forest and sedgeland' (Green 1967). A number of authors have commented on its occurrence at

Mountain Park, Mount Wellington and near-urban areas such as Porter Hill and Lambert Park (Taylor and McQuillan 1994; Hird 1995; Hird and Hammer 1995). It has also been found at Donaghys Hill (Mumbray 1992), in sedgeland at McPartlan Pass (Driessen and Comfort 1991), in buttongrass moorlands at Tyndall Range (Driessen *et al.* 2002) and at Kingston Beach (Driessen 2003). Swamp rats have also been recorded as prey of masked owl (Green 1982; Green and Rainbird 1985) and spotted-tailed quoll (Green and Scarborough 1990).

BLACK RAT (*RATTUS RATTUS*)

Records of the introduced black rat in *The Tasmanian Naturalist* are from Macquarie Island (Pye 1984), from spotted-tailed quoll and masked owl prey remains (Green and Rainbird 1985; Green and Scarborough 1990), the Domain (Brereton *et al.* 1996) and Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997). More recent records are provided by Driessen (2003), who made three captures at Kingston Beach and two at Browns River. He stated that they ‘typically occur where there is disturbance to native habitat or in areas close to human dwellings’. An unidentified *Rattus* sp. was found in the pellets of boobook owl by Green *et al.* (1986) at Mayfield, which may have been this species.

BROWN RAT (*RATTUS NORVEGICUS*)

Records of the brown rat include Knocklofty (Ziegeler 1970), Trevallyn State Recreation Area (Taylor *et al.* 1997), Porter Hill (Hird 1995) and the Kingston Beach area (Driessen 2003).

HOUSE CAT (*FELIS CATUS*)

Briggs (1965) records a cat chasing a southern brown bandicoot, and Green (1965) described fluctuating populations of this species, following changes in prey abundance. Other records of feral cats are for Prime Seal Islands (Whinray 1971), Macquarie Island (Jones 1984; Pye 1984; Bryant and Harris 1994), and also Patenna (Green 1982) and from Trevallyn State Recreation Area (Taylor *et al.* 1997).

EUROPEAN RABBIT (*ORYCTOLAGUS CUNICULUS*)

Green (1965) describes the drastic reduction of the rabbit in the Tasmanian midlands in 1953, following the introduction of myxomatosis. Sharland (1966) states that the rabbit is ‘well established’ on Macquarie Island, and blames it for ‘eating out natural vegetation’ (also see Jones 1984; Pye 1984; Skira 1984; Bryant and Harris 1994). It has been reported as ‘fairly common’

at Knocklofty (Ziegeler 1970), present on Betsey Island (Shepherd (1975), 'extremely common' in the Liffey Valley (Fearn 1988), present at Mount Nelson (Hird 1995) and Cataract Gorge Reserve (Taylor *et al.* 1997), and 'very common' throughout the Kingston Beach area (Driessen 2003). Bryant (1992) made mention of a rabbit eradication program undertaken in the Strathgordon / Maydena area in 1993. Taylor and McQuillan (1994) noted that 'grazing by rabbits in the alpine areas can cause loss of plant cover, degrade uncommon cushion plants and result in erosion'. Rabbit has also been identified from pellets of masked owl (Green 1982; Green and Rainbird 1985) and southern boobook (Green *et al.* 1986), from the stomach of a tiger snake *Notechis ater humphreysi* (Fearn 1988), and from scats of carnivorous mammals (Taylor *et al.* 1997)

BROWN HARE (*LEPUS CAPENSIS*)

Green (1965) described fluctuating populations of brown hare, following changes in predator abundance. It 'occurs in small numbers' at Knocklofty, West Hobart (Ziegeler 1970) and has been captured at Mount Nelson (Hird 1995). Spencer (2004) noted a rather large bluetongue lizard *Tiliqua nigrolutea* feeding on a juvenile brown hare.

GOAT (*CAPRA HIRCUS*)

Bryant (1992) stated that feral goats 'are causing widespread damage through browsing, soil erosion and spread of disease in a number of regions, particularly the Central Plateau Conservation Area', and also mentioned a control program underway at that time. Taylor and McQuillan (1994) identify that the goat was having serious impact on Mount Wellington and could 'dramatically alter the composition of plant communities'.

FALLOW DEER (*DAMA DAMA*)

Duncan (1992) studied the diet of this species in the midlands and found that dicotyledons (e.g. low-fibre herbs such as *Trifolium* spp., *Viola* spp. and *Geranium* spp. and high fibre browse species such as *Acacia* spp., *Banksia* spp. and *Leucopogon* sp.) occurred consistently in their faeces.

FOX (*VULPES VULPES*)

Bryant (1995) commented that 'As a state we live in constant fear of the introduction of the fox, one species which could potentially cause massive decline of all our small mammals'. Unfortunately this fear might well be realised since one fox was recently seen trotting across farmland at West Gawler Creek, south of Ulverstone (Grove 2004).

CONCLUSION

This review highlights the wealth of information on mammalian species in *The Tasmanian Naturalist* and illustrates the significance of the work of naturalists. It also provides an index of records published in the journal, and should prove to be a useful starting point for researchers seeking information on Tasmanian mammals in the future. However, this review should not be taken as a summary of the state of knowledge concerning Tasmanian mammals, since much important work has been published in many other journals as well as books and published and unpublished reports. For instance, Rounsevell *et al.* (1991) presented comprehensive distribution maps for 34 terrestrial mammal species native to Tasmania. Significant papers dealing with Tasmanian mammals can also be found in the volumes of the *Records of the Queen Victoria Museum* and *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, and also in the references cited in Watts' (1993) *Tasmanian Mammals* and Strahan's (1995) *Mammals of Australia*.

The desirability of further community-based mammal distribution research in Tasmania modelled on the highly successful Mammal Survey Groups in Victoria has been canvassed by Hird (1996). While some of the publications cited here have been based on that model, further mammal research activity in Tasmania has been limited by lack of access to basic survey equipment that in other states (such as Victoria) would be provided by wildlife agencies. This is despite the obvious ongoing, but poorly documented, impact on many mammal species of habitat loss brought about by land clearing and forestry practices.

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