



Wet and Wild



2020, Week 4 - Answers Wonderful Wet & Wild Wetlands

Stripe-faced Dunnart (*Sminthopsis macroura*)

1. I am a marsupial, like a kangaroo, although I look more like a mouse and I weigh 16 to 19 grams.
11. I have a black stripe down my face - giving me my common name.
13. I live in native dry grasslands and low dry shrublands, often along drainage lines where food and shelter are better.
14. Removal of fallen logs is a threat to my species as I shelter in them.
23. My species is distributed from central WA, across to western QLD and northern NSW.
24. I am a carnivore. I eat invertebrates, other small mammals and lizards.

Magpie Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*)

2. My call is loud and honking and my feet are only partially webbed.
3. I require wetland shrubs or reeds for nesting in. I especially love cumbungi.
10. I am a herbivorous waterbird who feeds on seeds of water couch and other plants.
12. My feathers are black and white and my legs are orange.
15. My species was once widespread in southern Australia, but wetlands where I once bred were drained. I now live mainly in northern Australia.
20. This bird species is listed as vulnerable in NSW and is not found in Tasmania. I was reintroduced to the Hunter Wetlands.

Australian Rainbowfish, Murray River Rainbowfish, Crimson-spotted Rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia fluviatilis*)

4. I help control mosquitoes by eating the larvae in the water, although I also eat tadpoles.
7. I am silvery, blue-grey with a luminous rainbow colouring on my tail, very colourful, hence my name.
9. I grow to a maximum length of 11 cm. The males are more brightly coloured with red/crimson spots
16. I'm an omnivore who eats aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and some algae.
19. I'm a freshwater species and live in NSW and Qld, especially in the Murray-Darling basin.
21. I form schools and often kept as pets in aquariums.

Water Couch, Knotgrass, Couch *Paspalum distichum*

5. I am a perennial, coarse grass spreading by creeping, wiry runners with dark nodes.
6. I'm found on the edges of wetlands, ponds and wet drains. I may float in shallow water.
8. I flower in December to April and I'm a food source for several bird species.
17. I am present on most continents of the world. Found in or near fresh water, but I tolerate some brackish water.
18. I grow up to a maximum height of nearly 60 cm.
22. My leaves are blade like, flat, to 20 cm long and 7 mm wide.