



Wet and Wild



2020, Week 4 - Clues

Wonderful Wet & Wild Wetlands

Macquarie Marshes, New South Wales

The Macquarie Marshes is a Ramsar site covering 19,850 hectares in central west NSW and is one of the largest remaining inland semi-permanent wetlands in south-eastern Australia. It includes extensive areas of reeds, River Red Gum woodlands and mixed marsh floodplains, and was listed as a Ramsar wetland of international importance in 1986.

The Macquarie Marshes is part of the traditional land of the Wailwan People who continue to maintain connections to country. The Marshes is particularly outstanding for its value as one of the most important nesting sites for waterbirds in Australia.

Solve 24 clues each week and discover the four Australian organisms they belong to.

1. I am a marsupial, like a kangaroo, although I look more like a mouse and I weigh 16 to 19 grams.
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.
4. I help control mosquitoes by eating the larvae in the water, although I also eat tadpoles.
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.
7. I am silvery, blue-grey with a luminous rainbow colouring on my tail, very colourful, hence my name.
8. I flower in December to April and I'm a food source for several bird species.
9. I grow to a maximum length of 11 cm. The males are more brightly coloured with red/crimson spots.
10. I am a herbivorous waterbird who feeds on seeds of water couch and other plants.
11. I have a black stripe down my face - giving me my common name.
12. My feathers are black and white and my legs are orange.
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.
15. My species was once widespread in southern Australia, but wetlands where I once bred were drained. I now live mainly in northern Australia.
16. I'm an omnivore who eats aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and some algae.
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.
19. I'm a freshwater species and live in NSW and Qld, especially in the Murray-Darling basin.
20. This bird species is listed as vulnerable in NSW and is not found in Tasmania. I was reintroduced to the Hunter Wetlands.
21. I form schools and often kept as pets in aquariums.
22. My leaves are blade like, flat, to 20 cm long and 7 mm wide.
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.