



Native vs Non-Native

Wildlife Victoria can only assist with sick, injured and orphaned native species of wildlife, so it's important to know what is native and what is not.

- Rabbits, foxes and deer are non-native species. If you are concerned about a non-native species, it is best to contact your local council or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for advice.
- If the animal is badly injured or sick please contain it and take it to the nearest vet clinic.
- Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between native and non-native bird species or the difference between a small possum and a small rodent, so here are some pictures of common introduced birds and rodent species that are often confused with native species:

Spotted Turtle Dove (non-native), Domestic Pigeon (non-native) vs. Crested Pigeon (native)



Spotted turtle dove



Domestic pigeon



Crested pigeon

The best way to identify a Crested Pigeon is to look for a crest of feathers, similar to a mohawk, on their head. While looking somewhat similar, a non-native domestic pigeon has a smooth head (no crest/mohawk). A Spotted Turtle Dove has a white collar with black spots on the back of their necks, and does not have the crest/mohawk either.

We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **03 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au.



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Black rat (non-native) vs. Bush rat (native)



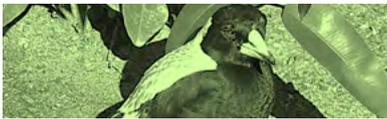
The best way to tell the difference between a native bush rat and an introduced black rat is to have a look at the tail and the body length. Native bush rats have a tail shorter than their body length and round ears. Introduced rats have a tail longer than their body length with little hair on their tails.

Indian Myna (non-native) vs. Noisy Miner (native)



Notice the definitive grey colour of the chest of the Noisy Miner and the yellowish tinge to some of the feathers whereas Indian Mynas are a much darker brown colour with white feathers under their wings.

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Other common birds in your backyard that are introduced species and non-natives:



Did you know that Deer and Foxes are also not native?



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