

Changes to the WA Museum Checklist from November 2024 (updated May 2025)

Reptiles and frogs

New species of frog. In a continent-wide assessment of *Litoria rubella*, this widespread species was found to be three species. One species (*L. pyrina*) occurs on the east coast; *L. rubella* (common name: red tree frog) occurs in the Kimberley region in WA and also in the Northern Territory and arid regions of Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales; the third species occurs in the Pilbara and inland areas of the Mid-West and has been renamed as *L. larisonans* (common name: western desert tree frog; a WA endemic).

Purser, W.A., Doughty, P., Rowley, J.L., Bohme, W., Donnellan, S.C., Anstis, M., Mitchell, N., Shea, G.M., Amey, A., Mitchell, B.A. & Catullo, R.A. (2025). Systematics of the Little Red Tree Frog, *Litoria rubella* (Anura: Pelodryadidae), with the description of two new species from eastern Australia and arid Western Australia. *Zootaxa* **5594**: 269–315. DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.5594.2.3

Removal of *Chelodina burrangandjii* from the list. A work by Kehlmaier et al. (2025) found that *Chelodina kuchlingi* is not “near extinct” but widespread throughout the Kimberley region. They found evidence for only one *Chelodina* species in the Kimberley (*C. kuchlingi*) although *C. burrangandjii* remains on the Australian Society of Herpetologists lists as occurring in the Top End of the Northern Territory. The name(s) of the Kimberley snake-necked turtles has been unstable the last decade and may continue to be so pending further definitive research.

Kehlmaier, C., Fritz, U. & Kuchling, G. (2025). The taxonomic quagmire of northern Australian snake-necked turtles (Testudines: Chelidae): *Chelodina kuchlingi* – extinct or hiding in plain sight? *Vertebrate Zoology* **75**: 127–145. DOI 10.3897/vz.75.e150370

Birds

Following IOC changes:

- Eastern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes filholi* is split from Western Rockhopper Penguin *E. chrysocome* based on integrative taxonomy including genetic and morphological differences.
- Polytypic Little Heron *Butorides atricapilla* is split from monotypic Striated Heron *B. striata* based on phylogenetic analysis.
- *Ducula bicolor* recognised here as a distinct species.
- *Geopelia placida* is treated as a full species.
- *Himantopus leucocephalus* is treated as a full species.

New Vagrant:

- Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* observed on North Keeling Island 24-26 February 2025

Mammals

No changes.