

## Birds seen in the Wee Waa / Pilliga / Burren Junction / Merah North / Culgoora and Yarrlie Lake area since 2000

# BIRD LIST

<b>WHITE EYE &amp; ALLIES</b>	White-eyed Woodswallow Masked Woodswallow White-bellied Woodswallow Fairy Martin Welcome Swallow White-backed Swallow
<b>OLD WORLD WARBLERS</b>	White-winged Warbler Rufous Whistler Rufous Songlark Brown Songlark White-winged Triller*
<b>WHEATEAR, SHRIKE-THRUSH</b>	Grey Shrike-thrush
<b>WOODSWALLOW</b>	Black-faced Woodswallow Dusky Woodswallow
<b>BUTCHERBIRD, CURRAWONG</b>	Grey Butcherbird
<b>FLOWERPECKER, SUNBIRD</b>	Australian Magpie Mistletoebird
<b>FINCH, SPARROW</b>	Zebra Finch Double-banded Finch Red-browed Finch Diamond Firetail Plum-headed Finch House Sparrow
<b>PPT</b>	Richard's Pipit
<b>ROBIN</b>	Jacky White Red-capped Robin
<b>HOODED ROBIN</b>	Eastern Yellow Robin
<b>OLD WORLD WARBLER</b>	Golden-headed Cisticola* Australian Reed-Warbler

<b>CUCKOO-SHRIKE, TRILLER</b>	Ground Cuckoo-Shrike Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike
<b>TEECREEPER</b>	White-throated Teecreeper
<b>SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER</b>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
<b>STINT, SANDPIPER, ALLIES</b>	Marsh Sandpiper
<b>LEATHAM'S SHRIKE</b>	Leatham's Shrike
<b>SNIFE, CURLEW, ALLIES</b>	Common Greensnake Common Greensnake
<b>PARROT, ROSSELLA</b>	Brown Falcon Nankeen Kestrel
<b>PARROT, ROSSELLA</b>	Red-winged Parrot Crimson Rosella Eastern Rosella Pale-headed Rosella Australian Kingneck Blue Bonnet
<b>CRANE, RAIL, GALLINULE</b>	Purple Swamphen Australian Spotted Crane Black-tailed Native-hen Dusky Moorhen Eurasian Coot
<b>SWIFT</b>	White-throated Noddy* Eurasian Coot
<b>COMMONANT, SHAG, PELICAN</b>	Little Black Cormorant Great Cormorant Little Black Cormorant Australian Pelican
<b>GREY-HEADED LAPWING*</b>	Grey-headed Lapwing*

<b>BEE-EATER, ROLLER</b>	Rainbow Bee-eater* Dollabird*
<b>FAIRY-WREN, GRASSWREN</b>	White-winged Fairy-wren Superb Fairy-wren Variegated Fairy-wren
<b>SCRUBWREN &amp; ALLIES</b>	Speckled Warbler Webbill
<b>YELLOW-THROATED MINER</b>	Yellow-throated Miner Sparry-checked Honeyeater Crimson Chat* Orange Chat*
<b>HONEYEATER, CHAT</b>	White-plumed Honeyeater White-eared Honeyeater Singing Honeyeater Yellow-faced Honeyeater
<b>PARDALOTE</b>	Spotted Pardalote Striated Pardalote
<b>GREY-CROWNED BABBLER</b>	White-browed Babbler

<b>SNIFE, CURLEW, ALLIES</b>	Leatham's Shrike Common Greensnake Common Greensnake
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### TSR'S & AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Agricultural and rural areas are important in the conservation of many plant and animal communities. Remnant vegetation and revegetation plantings on properties, road verges, travelling stock routes, creek lines and inland rivers along with natural and artificial wetlands, dams and channels are common in many agricultural areas.

These areas support many bird species within agricultural landscapes; emphasizing the importance of these areas in conserving bird communities by providing suitable foraging, water points and nesting habitat. Additionally they also provide linkages across the wider landscape by allowing dispersal and movement through vegetation corridors.

### OTHER SPECIES ENCOUNTERED

During your travels you may encounter Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Goanna's, Bearded Dragons, Blue-tongue lizards and Shingleback skinks. You may even observe a Swamp Wallaby, Red-necked Wallaby or Koala along some of the more heavily timbered creek lines or even the seldom-seen Black-striped Wallaby in the Brigalow woodlands.



BUGILBONE RIDGE  
© JAMES FARIS



ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREE  
© JAMES FARIS

### ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

The Gamilaray (Kamilaroi) people have occupied this area for thousands of years. The floodplains and red sandy ridges support a diverse range of plants and animal species many of which were used for food, making canoes, tools and food preparation utensils, shelter, ceremony and trading. Many species of plants and animals were consumed. The river, lagoons and billabongs provided water, food and trees for canoes, and the red sandy ridges provided food as well as higher and dryer camping sites during wet years and floods. Evidence of their past occupation can still be found around some of the waterholes and on the red ridges in the form of scarred and carved trees, and the occasional stone tool.

### WESTERN NAMOI FLOODPLAIN

The alluvial floodplains of the lower Namoi River and the sandy ridges of the Pilliga Sandstones Outwash form a structurally and floristically diverse range of habitats and communities.

The floodplains typically have an open canopy of various Eucalyptus species, a sparse shrub layer and a continuous ground cover of grasses, forbs and herbs. The Pilliga Outwash woodlands in this area are dominated by a denser canopy of various Box, Red Gums and Ironbarks, with a sub-canopy and shrub layer intermixed with grasses and herbs.

The area encompassed in this brochure covers nearly 315,000 hectares and 182 species of birds have been recorded here. Species range from small woodland dependant species to the Emu's of the plains to the raptors of the grassy woodlands to the parrots, cockatoos and waterbirds of the river and creeks.



PIAN CREEK © JAMES FARIS

### NOTE

- All GPS location coordinates are based upon the WGS84 GDA94 datum and given in decimal degrees.
- Distances given are approximations only. Please refer to the bird route signs, directions, map and GPS coordinates for more information.
- Camping is prohibited on TSRs without prior approval and a permit from the local Rural Lands Protection Board office. Please contact either the Narrabri RLPB on 02 6792 2533, or the Walgett RLPB on 02 6828 1047.
- Please contact the local tourist information centre or the local police stations for information on road conditions and closures.



# BIRD ROUTES OF THE WESTERN NAMOI FLOODPLAINS



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### NO. 5. MIDDLE ROUTE TSR

S 30 15.797 E 149 0.654

This TSR is typical of the open north-west floodplain grassy woodlands of Belah, Coolibah, River Red Gum and Myall with stands of Bimbil Box and Inland Grey box.

**DIRECTIONS** – Middle Route is a dirt road that runs from Merah North to Bugilbone Ridge. This road is definitely a dry weather road only. The TSR on the southern side of the route is quite extensive and is up to 7 km wide from the road down to the river. Access to the Namoi River is on a track that crosses the TSR. Turn south onto the TSR from Middle Route Rd approximately 18km from Bugilbone or 31km from Merah North. Follow the trail, taking either fork down to the river.

**BIRDS** – Emus, Blue Bonnets, Galahs, Pale-headed Rosellas, Kookaburras, Masked Lapwings and Ground Cuckoo-shrikes.



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### NO. 6. ROSSMORE LANE TSR

S 30 04.949 E 149 03.778

A section of Plan Creek which is a old channel of the Namoi River fringed by Coolibah, River Cooba, Cumbungi and Lignum with the occasional Grey Box and Red gum.

**DIRECTIONS** – From the Kamilaroi Hwy turn onto Rossmore Lane approximately 11.5km from Burren Junction. Follow the lane for 2.3 km then turn left onto the TSR at the first set of tanks and troughs. Park here and wander either way along this section of the creek.

**BIRDS** – Black-tailed Native-hens, Diamond Doves, Spoonbills, Ibis, Plumbed Whistling-Ducks, Yellow-headed Rosellas, many small bush land birds and the occasional raptor.

### NO. 7. GUNIDGERA CREEK (GUNEDRA TSR)

S 30 12.295 E 149 21.146

A section of Gunidgera Creek. This area is dominated by Coolibah, River Cooba, Cumbungi and Lignum with the occasional Grey Box and Red gum.

**DIRECTIONS** – From Wee Waa travel 8.5 km along the Kamilaroi Hwy towards Burren Junction. The TSR is on the northern side of the highway across from the Larriaman cotton gin.

**BIRDS** – Butcherbirds, Yellow-throated Miners, Rosellas, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Magpie-Larks, Pigeons and Doves.

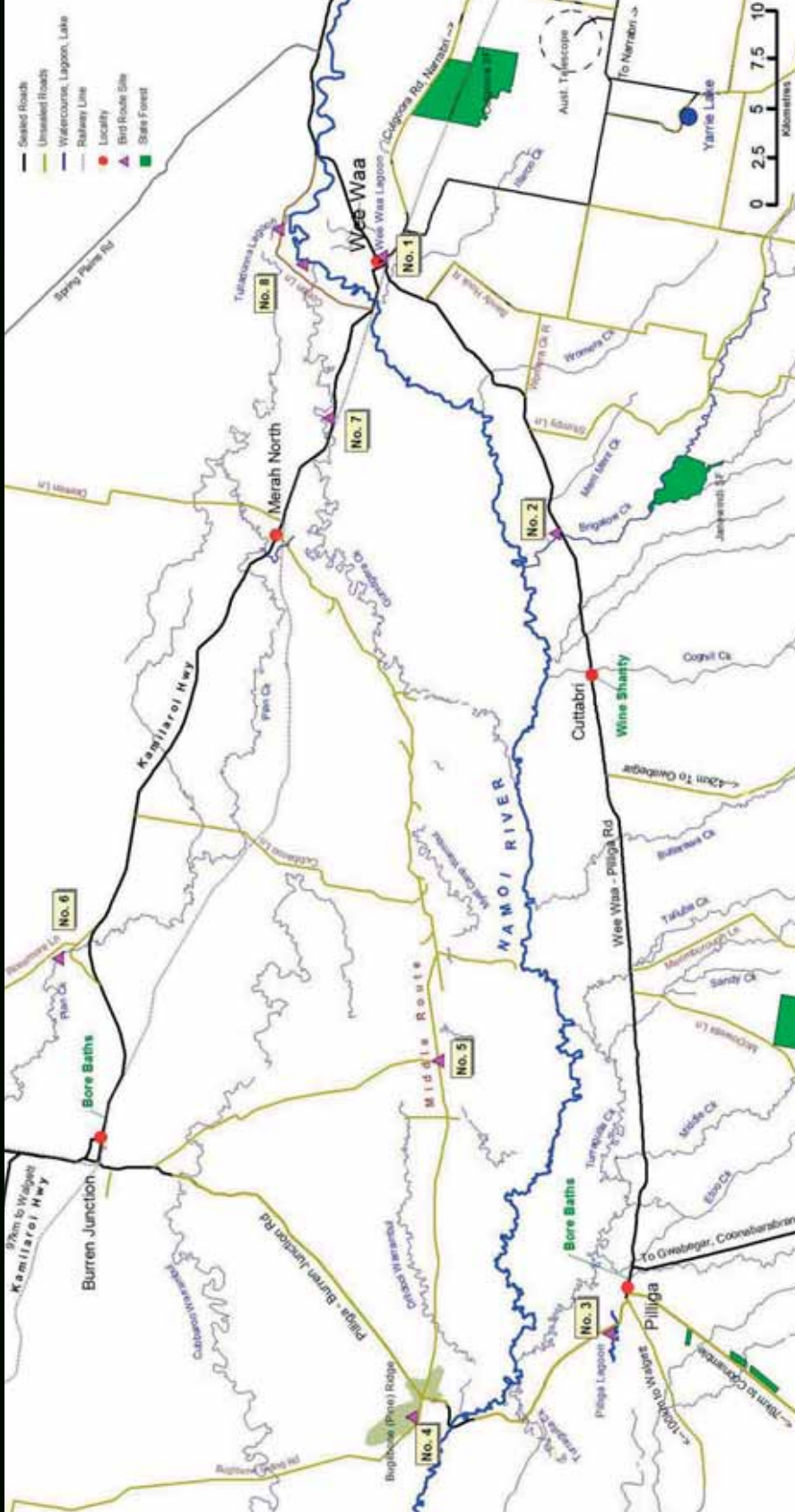
### NO. 8. YELLOWBANK TSR

S 30 11.550 E 149 28.434

**DESCRIPTION** – A popular fishing spot on the Namoi River dominated by old River Red Gums and Coolibah, Quinine and River Cooba.

**DIRECTIONS** – Turn off the Kamilaroi Hwy 1km from Wee Waa onto Cotton Lane. Approximately 4.3 km along turn right onto the TSR and follow the dirt track down to the Namoi River. Further along Cotton Lane you will encounter a small lagoon on the side of the road. This small water body supports a number of small bush birds as well as many waders and waterbirds.

**BIRDS** – Eastern Rosellas, Cockatels, Red-rumped Parrots, Little Friarbirds, Kookaburras, Scared Kingfishers, Eastern Yellow Robins, White Plumbed Honeyeaters, Cormorants, Darters and Ducks.



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### NO. 9. MIDDLE ROUTE TSR

S 30 15.797 E 149 0.654

This TSR is typical of the open north-west floodplain grassy woodlands of Belah, Coolibah, River Red Gum and Myall with stands of Bimbil Box and Inland Grey box.

**DIRECTIONS** – Middle Route is a dirt road that runs from Merah North to Bugilbone Ridge. This road is definitely a dry weather road only. The TSR on the southern side of the route is quite extensive and is up to 7 km wide from the road down to the river. Access to the Namoi River is on a track that crosses the TSR. Turn south onto the TSR from Middle Route Rd approximately 18km from Bugilbone or 31km from Merah North. Follow the trail, taking either fork down to the river.

**BIRDS** – Emus, Blue Bonnets, Galahs, Pale-headed Rosellas, Kookaburras, Masked Lapwings and Ground Cuckoo-shrikes.



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### NO. 4. BUGILBONE (PINE) RIDGE

S 30 14.773 E 148 48.546

A red sandy ridge of Cypress, Bimbil Box, Quinine, Wilga, Belah, Budda, and Wild Orange.

**DIRECTIONS** – From Pilliga Lagoon continue towards Burren Junction across the floodplains until you reach a crossroad and the red sandy ridge on the northern side of the crossroads. You can turn west onto the Bugilbone Siding Rd and follow this along for 1.3km until you reach the end of the heavily timbered ridge. A few trails cross through the timber on the ridge and these can be explored by foot or vehicle. These trails lead into private property so please respect the owners and stay on the TSR.

**BIRDS** – Red-capped Robins, White-winged Choughs and Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Common Bronzewing and Blue Bonnet parrots.

### NO. 3. PILLIGA LAGOON TSR

S 30 20.818 E 148 52.269

A large natural wetland surrounded by Cumbungi and Lignum with River Red Gums, Coolibah, Grey Box and Cooba Wattle.

**DIRECTIONS** – From Brigalow Creek follow the Pilliga – Wee Waa Rd for 40km until you reach the township of Pilliga. Along the way there are several side roads and areas and stop to look for woodland birds in a variety of vegetation types. Continue through Pilliga and 700m on the western side of town turn right onto the Burren Junction road. Within 1.5km you will cross the Pilliga Lagoon Bridge. Turn immediately left onto the TSR.

**BIRDS** – Australian Reed-Warblers, Purple Swamp Hens, Plum-headed Finches, Variegated Fairy Wrens, Spoonbills, Ibis, Egrets, Blue Bonnets and Red-rumped Parrots.

### NO. 2. BRIGALOW CREEK TSR

S 30 18.762 E 149 17.782

A deep sandy creek surrounded by Brigalow, Bimbil Box, Pilliga Box, Rough-barked Apple, Red Gum, Carbeen, Wilga, Budda and Warrior Bush.

**DIRECTIONS** – From the Wee Waa Lagoon cross Charles St into Short St, turning left to cross the railway line. Follow the Pilliga signs until you reach Brigalow Creek. Park on the Wee Waa side of the creek. Walk along the vehicular track that follows the creek approximately for 1km until you reach a large (dry) billabong.

**BIRDS** – Speckled Warblers, Brown Treecreepers, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Thornbills, Grey-crowned Babblers and Rufous Whistlers. Keep an eye out for Koalas, Swamp Wallabies and goannas in this area.

### NO. 1. WEE WAA LAGOON

S 30 13.695 E 149 26.596

This natural lagoon formed when the Namoi River changed course many years ago and is ringed by large River Red Gums, Sally Wattle, River Cooba and Coolibah.

**DIRECTIONS** – From Yarrrie Lake or the Telescope cross the wooden bridge over the lagoon turning immediately right into the parking area on the bank of the lagoon. From the Kamilaroi Hwy (Mitchell St) or Rose St turn left onto Charles St until you reach the lagoon. Walk along the northern bank to follow the lagoon.

**BIRDS** – Cormorants, Darters, Kingfishers, Yellow-throated Miners, Galahs and Cockatels