

NARRABRI LAKE BIRD LIST

AUSTRALIAN PELICAN



© James Faris

BIRD LIST

Quail Brown Quail	Pelican Australian Pelican
Ducks, Geese and Swans Magpie Goose* Plumed Whistling-Duck Wandering Whistling-Duck Musk Duck Black Swan Australian Wood Duck Pink-eared Duck Green Pygmy-Goose Australasian Shoveler Grey Teal Northern Mallard Pacific Black Duck Hardhead Blue-billed Duck	Hérons, Egrets, Bitterns White-necked Heron Eastern Great Egret Intermediate Egret Cattle Egret White-faced Heron Little Egret Nankeen Night Heron
Grebes Australasian Grebe Hoary-headed Grebe Great Crested Grebe	Ibis and Spoonbills Glossy Ibis Australian White Ibis Straw-necked Ibis Royal Spoonbill Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Pigeons, Doves Rock Dove+ Spotted Turtle-dove+ Crested Pigeon Peaceful Dove	Eagles, Kites, Goshawks Black-shouldered Kite Square-tailed Kite* White-bellied Sea Eagle Whistling Kite Black Kite Collared Sparrowhawk Swamp Harrier Wedge-tailed Eagle Little Eagle*
Frogmouths, Nighthjars Tawny Frogmouth	Falcon Nankeen Kestrel Brown Falcon Australian Hobby Black Falcon*
Swifts, Swiftlets White-throated Needletail	Crakes, Rails, Swamphens Purple Swamphen Buff-banded Rail Ballions Crake
Darter Australasian Darter	
Cormorants and Shags Little Pied Cormorant Great Cormorant Little Black Cormorant Pied Cormorant	

Australian Spotted Crake Black-tailed Native-hen Dusky Moorhen Eurasian Coot	Eastern Rosella Pale-headed Rosella Australian Ringneck Red-rumped Parrot Budgerigar
Stilts and Avocets Black-winged Stilt Red-necked Avocet	Kingfisher, Bee-eater, Dollarbird Laughing Kookaburra Sacred Kingfisher Rainbow Bee-eater Dollarbird
Plovers, Dotterels and Lapwings Black-fronted Dotterel Red-kneed Dotterel Masked Lapwing	Bowerbird Spotted Bowerbird
Painted Snipe Australian Painted Snipe*	Fairy-wrens Superb Fairy-wren
Snipe, Sandpipers, Godwit Latham's Snipe Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Thornbills, Gergones, Pardalotes White-browed Scrubwren Western Gerygone Striated Pardalote
Gulls, Terns Whiskered Tern Gull-billed Tern Silver Gull	Honeyeaters and Chats Yellow-faced Honeyeater White-plumed Honeyeater Noisy Miner
Cockatoos and Corellas Galah Little Corella Sulphur-crested Cockatoo Cockatiel	Yellow-throated Miner Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Red Wattlebird Brown Honeyeater Blue-faced Honeyeater Noisy Friarbird Little Friarbird Striped Honeyeater
Parrots, Lorikeets, Rosellas Rainbow Lorikeet Musk Lorikeet Little Lorikeet* Australian King Parrot Red-winged Parrot	Australian Babblers Grey-crowned Babbler*

Cuckoo-shrikes and Trillers Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Thrushes, Starlings Common Blackbird+ Common Starling+ Common Myna+
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds, Currawong, Magpie White-breasted Woodswallow Masked Woodswallow White-browed Woodswallow Grey Butcherbird Pied Butcherbird Australian Magpie Pied Currawong	Weaver Finches Plum-headed Finch Chestnut-breasted Mannikin House Sparrow+
Fantails Willie Wagtail	
Crows and Ravens Australian Raven Little Raven Torresian Crow	Taxonomic Order based upon <i>Christidis and Boles (2008)</i>. Christidis L. and Boles W.E. (2008). Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds. CSIRO Publishing.
Monarchs and Flycatchers Magpie-lark	* Threatened Species + Introduced Species
Chough and Apostlebird White-winged Chough Apostlebird	Data sourced from Birddata Atlas (2013), Ememaea Birds Atlas database (2013), Piliiga Forest Bird Observers records (2010-2013), NSW OEH NSW Atlas of Wildlife
Cisticolas, Reed-warblers, Grassbirds Golden-headed Cisticola Australian Reed-warbler Little Grassbird Tawny Grassbird	
Swallows and Martins Welcome Swallow Tree Martin Fairy Martin	

Location and History

Narrabri Lake is located in Narrabri West and is bounded by Moolooabar Street to the south, Ugoa Street to the north, Walowa Street to the west and the Narrabri Showground and sporting fields to the east.

Prior to 1893 the land comprising the present lake originally formed part of the Cooma Run, after which time it was dedicated as 'Dangar Park' in the town of Narrabri West for use by the community. During the mid-twentieth century the area was primarily used for grazing livestock until the 1960's when interest was raised in converting the low lying area to an artificial lake. Over the next few decades plans were developed and approval sought to create the lake. Work began on the lake in 1989 and continued till 1991. Flooding rains in May of 1991 filled the lake to capacity and the Narrabri District Lake Scheme was officially opened in October 1991.

Cultural Values

The Gamilaraay Aboriginal People have lived upon the plains and hills of the Narrabri region for hundreds of generations. The rivers, waterholes and wetlands of the area are traditionally important in providing food, water and material resources. They allow movement across an often dry landscape and formed important sites where different groups come together for trade and ceremonies. Waterways feature heavily in traditional stories and songs and today still provide a spiritual connection to Country and Culture. The Narrabri Lake and its surroundings are culturally significant and reflect this connection to Country through the use of Gamilaraay in naming local natural features and many of the surrounding streets.

Environmental Education

The lake provides a locally unique and easily accessible site for environmental education and awareness programs including National Parks Discovery and Environmental Youth conference programmes, World Wetlands Day and Waterwatch activities and local school environmental excursions.

Hydrology

The lake was formed by damming the ephemeral O'Briens Creek, possibly an old channel of the Namoi River. Excessive inflows into the lake from heavy rainfall or major floods flow from the south-east to the north-west and spill over the weir and flow into the Namoi River.

When full, the lake covers an area of approximately 30 hectares and water backs up O'Briens Creek from the weir for 1.8km. The lake averages 1 metre in depth, decreasing in depth from the weir at the northern end to the wetlands at the southern end. The lake occasionally dries out during extended dry periods.

Access

A circuit pathway extends around the lake and is suitable for pedestrian and cycle access. Vehicle parking is available on adjoining streets, in the Rugby Club car park on the eastern side of the lake, and along the foreshore in Walowa Street.



Narrabri Shire Visitor Information Centre

02 6799 6760

www.visitnarrabri.com.au

Natural Values

Whilst the present lake is an artificial water body, and surrounded by urban development, it is a significant wetland site and provides important habitat for wetland, woodland and open country bird species including several threatened and migratory species (refer to Species List). Two islands created at the southern end of the lake provide roosting and nesting habitat for many species particularly egrets and ibis.

The vegetation of the lake is dominated by various Eucalypt and Acacia species around the margins and foreshore and reed beds of Cumbungi (*Typha orientalis*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Jointed Twig-rush (*Baumea articulata*) and vegetation mats of Slender Knotweed (*Persicaria decipiens*) grow out into the lake. Mature Bimble Box (*Eucalyptus populnea* subsp. *bimbi*) trees growing around the lake indicate higher ground and provide nesting hollows for birds and other fauna.

Persicaria Mats

Dense mats of Slender Knotweed (*Persicaria decipiens*) provide excellent cover and feeding sites for Magpie Geese, Purple Swamphen, ibis and spoonbills etc.



Weir

The elevated weir wall provides a good perching and diving platform for darters and cormorants. Egrets are also regularly seen fishing from here.

The Islands

The Islands provide a safe refuge and support the nesting of several egret species and Australian White Ibis. Nankeen Night Herons, cormorants and darters also roost here.



Eucalypts, Acacias and adjacent open grasslands

The strip of trees along the lake foreshore and surrounds offer roosting, nesting and foraging sites for a suite of parrots and cockatoos species, honeyeaters, raptors, babblers and other woodland / open country species. Several duck species and other waterfowl use the grass banks and playing fields for foraging.



Cumbungi and Phragmites reed beds

These reed beds provide good habitat in the way of nesting sites, food resources and refuge for fairy-wrens, reed warblers, grassbirds, snipe, crakes, rails and swamphens as well as weaver finches. Narrow channels of open water provide feeding opportunities and offer good cover for many duck species and other water birds.



Mudflats and Open Water

Mudflats exposed on the edges of open water provide plant and invertebrate food resources for several species of ducks, lapwings, dotterels and waterfowl. Shallow to deeper open water provides habitat for small fish and frogs upon which spoonbills and pelicans feed.

