



VARIEGATED FAIRY WREN

## YARRIE LAKE BIRD LIST



the lake.

to Yarrie Lake, this road goes around the edge of 3kms then turn right onto a dirt road signposted Gamilaraay Nation. Today they still provide a spiritual and physical connection to their traditions, country and culture. Semi-permanent water bodies such as Yarrie Lake are traditionally important for providing water, food, material resources and camp sites. Aboriginal occupation of the general area is evidenced by scarred trees, stone implements, open camp sites and ceremonial grounds. Yarrie Lake and its surroundings reflect this ongoing connection to Country the Gamilaraay Language, which is used in the naming of numerous local natural features and surrounding localities and properties.

Waterways feature heavily in the traditional cultural practices, stories and songs of the Gamilaraay Nation. Today they still provide a spiritual and physical connection to their traditions, country and culture. Semi-permanent water bodies such as Yarrie Lake are traditionally important for providing water, food, material resources and camp sites. Aboriginal occupation of the general area is evidenced by scarred trees, stone implements, open camp sites and ceremonial grounds. Yarrie Lake and its surroundings reflect this ongoing connection to Country the Gamilaraay Language, which is used in the naming of numerous local natural features and surrounding localities and properties.

### Cultural Values

### Access

Yarrie Lake is located 28kms from Narrabri off the Yarrie Lake Road

and environmental and cultural education.

### Historical

Since the early 1880's the area has been known as Yarrie Lake and the area was formally gazetted in 1896 as a watering reserve for livestock and managed by the Pasture Protection Board. During the early 1900's small parcels of land were set aside for a public school and for the Yarrie Lake hall. From the mid to late twentieth century the area was proclaimed as a reserve for public recreation and for the protection of native flora and fauna. Today the lake is managed by the Yarrie Lake Trust and is used by all members of the public for water skiing, camping, bird watching

### Introduction

visitors to the Narrabri and Wee Waa region.

Yarrie Lake is an important ecological, cultural, historical and recreational site for locals and

also found here.

The lake provides habitat and refuge for over a

hundred and fifty native bird species, including several threatened species, in a largely cleared agricultural landscape. Birds found regularly here range from woodland dependant species to those which prefer wetlands. Many species of birds are also migratory or nomadic and move across the landscape in response to changing food resources or to significant rainfall events. Many native mammal, reptile and amphibian species, several of which are also threatened, are

## BIRD LIST

<b>Rattles</b> Emu	<b>Storks</b> Black-necked Stork*	<b>Players, Dotterel and Lapwings</b> Black-fronted Dotterel Red-kneed Dotterel Masked Lapwing	<b>Treecreepers</b> White-throated Treecreeper Brown Treecreeper*	<b>Cuckoo-shrikes, Trillers</b> Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike White-winged Triller	<b>Reed-Warblers</b> Australian Reed-Warbler
<b>Pheasants and Quail</b> Brown Quail	<b>Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns</b> White-necked Heron Great Egret Intermediate Egret Cattle Egret White-faced Heron Little Egret Nankeen Night-Heron	<b>Button-quail</b> Painted Button-quail	<b>Bowerbirds</b> Spotted Bowerbird	<b>Whistlers, Shrike-thrushes and Allies</b> Golden Whistler Rufous Whistler Grey Shrike-thrush	<b>True Babblers</b> Silvereye
<b>Ducks, Geese and Swans</b> Plumed Whistling Duck Black Swan Australian Wood Duck Grey Teal Pacific Black Duck Hardhead	<b>Ibis and Spoonbills</b> Glossy Ibis Australian White Ibis Straw-necked Ibis Royal Spoonbill Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<b>Gulls, Terns, Noddies</b> Whiskered Tern Silver Gull	<b>Fairy-wrens</b> Superb Fairy-wren White-winged Fairy-wren Variegated Fairy-wren	<b>Orioles and Figbirds</b> Olive-backed Oriole	<b>Swallows and Martins</b> Welcome Swallow Fairy Martin Tree Martin
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b> Common Bronzewing Crested Pigeon Diamond Dove Peaceful Dove Bar-shouldered Dove	<b>Eagles, Kites, Goshawks and Osprey</b> Black-shouldered Kite Square-tailed Kite* Whistling Kite Brown Goshawk Spotted Harrier** Wedge-tailed Eagle	<b>Cockatoos and Corellas</b> Glossy-black Cockatoo* Galah Little Corella Sulphur-crested Cockatoo Cockatiel	<b>Thornbills and Gerygones</b> Speckled Warbler* Weebill Western Gergone White-throated Gerygone Striated Thornbill Yellow Thornbill Yellow-rumped Thornbill Buff-rumped Thornbill Inland Thornbill	<b>Woodswallows, Currawongs, Butcherbirds and Magpies</b> White-breasted Woodswallow Masked Woodswallow White-browed Woodswallow Grey Butcherbird Pied Butcherbird Australian Magpie Pied Currawong	<b>Starlings</b> Common Starling+ Common Myna+
<b>Owlet-nightjars</b> Australian Owlet-Nightjar	<b>Falcons</b> Nankeen Kestrel Brown Falcon Hobby Black Falcon*	<b>Parrots, Lorikeets, Rosellas</b> Red-winged Parrot Superb Parrot* Eastern Rosella Pale-headed Rosella Australian Ringneck Blue Bonnet Red-rumped Parrot Budgerigar	<b>Pardalotes</b> Spotted Pardalote Striated Pardalote	<b>Fantails</b> Grey Fantail Willie Wagtail	<b>Weaver Finches</b> Double-barred Finch Plum-headed Finch Diamond Firetail* House Sparrow
<b>Swifts and Swiflets</b> White-throated Needletail Fork-Tailed Swift	<b>Crakes, Rails and Swamphens</b> Purple Swamphen Australian Spotted Crake Black-tailed Native-hen Dusky Moorhen Eurasian Coot	<b>Cuckoos</b> Shining Bronze-Cuckoo Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<b>Honeyeaters and Chats</b> Yellow-faced Honeyeater Singing Honeyeater White-eared Honeyeater White-plumed Honeyeater Noisy Miner Yellow-throated Miner Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Red Wattle-bird Brown Honeyeater Blue-faced Honeyeater Noisy Friarbird Little Friarbird Striped Honeyeater Painted Honeyeater*	<b>Crows and Ravens</b> Australian Raven Little Raven	<b>Pipits, Wagtails</b> Australian Pipit
<b>Darter</b> Australian Darter	<b>Cormorants and Shags</b> Little Pied Cormorant Great Cormorant Little Black Cormorant Pied Cormorant	<b>Hawk-Owls</b> Barking Owl* Southern Boobook	<b>Australian Babblers</b> Grey-crowned Babbler* White-browed Babbler	<b>Monarchs and Flycatchers</b> Restless Flycatcher Magpie-lark	<b>Taxonomic Order based upon Christidis and Boles (2008).</b> Christidis L. and Boles W.E. (2008). Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds. CSIRO Publishing.
<b>Pelican</b> Australian Pelican	<b>Stits and Avocets</b> Black-winged Stilt Red-necked Avocet	<b>Tree Kingfishers</b> Laughing Kookaburra Red-backed Kingfisher Sacred Kingfisher	<b>Bee-eaters, Dollarbird</b> Rainbow Bee-eater Dollarbird	<b>Chough and Apostlebird</b> White-winged Chough Apostlebird	* Threatened Species + Introduced Species

## Hydrology, Geology and Vegetation

Yarrie Lake is a natural wetland located approximately 27km from Narrabri and 22km from Wee Waa by road. It is a shallow, roughly circular water body about 820 metres in diameter. The lake is 2.5 metres deep near the centre and becomes shallower towards the shore edges. The lake is filled entirely by overland flows, following large rainfall events, from a drainage line to the south of the lake. Yarrie Lake can hold water for many years but following prolonged drought the lake may become completely dry.

Yarrie Lake is the largest of several circular water features found in the area. Others include Belah and Round Swamps to the north and Jones Lagoon to the east. Many theories exist as to the origin of these circular water bodies from meteorite impacts to being large gilgais (natural circular depressions in heavy soil). However, the lake is most likely an old wetland or waterhole from an ancient creek line or paeleochannel which formed part of the Pilliga outwash drainage system that flows into the Namoi River.



Whatever the true origin of the lake it has become enlarged and circular though constant wind and wave action over many, many years. Buried beneath the present land surface to the north east of the lake are ancient sand dunes or lunettes created by windblown sand over long periods of time. These lunettes have been dated to around 13,000 years BP, towards the end of the last ice-age, and indicate that the area was once far more dry and arid with open grass and low shrublands dominating the vegetation.

This is in stark contrast to today where the lake is surrounded by native woodlands comprised of several distinct vegetation communities. The higher red sandy ground is dominated by White Cypress Pine, Bimble and Pilliga box, Wilga and Whitewood. The heavier soils support mixed stands of Belah, scattered gum and box trees and small patches of Brigalow. The foreshores of the lake support River Red Gums and Blakely's Red Gum while the swampier, wetter areas support reed beds of Cumbungi and *Phragmites*.



## Woodlands

The woodlands surrounding the lake extend from dense timber close to the lake shore to more open woodlands of Bimble Box and Wilga to the north and east. A complex woodland structure of mature canopy trees, understorey trees and shrubs, and groundcover provide a range of nesting, roosting and foraging habitats for woodland and open country species. Many parrot, grassland, and raptor species are found in the more open areas while the more densely timbered patches support the smaller woodland dependant species such as doves, button-quail, robins, cuckoos, honeyeaters, thornbills, whistlers and babbler.

## Lake

When the lake is full, the open water is a good place to observe many waterfowl species including ducks, cormorants, grebes, pelicans, swans, and occasionally terns and gulls. As the lake dries during droughts, and the water recedes, the open expanses of muddy flats provide excellent feeding areas for dotterels, stilts, egrets, spoonbills, ibis and other waterfowl.



## Wetlands

The wetlands are found to the south east of the lake where the drainage-line empties into the lake. The wetland areas, open paddocks and adjoining woodlands create a complex ecotone where many species of birds are able to coexist in a relatively small area. Reed beds, mudflats, cleared farm land and timbered woodland all converge here and provide habitat and feeding areas for small woodland birds, parrots, waterfowl and waders, crakes, native hens, finches, wrens and birds of prey.

