

BIRD ROUTES OF BARADINE & THE PILLIGA



*The Glossy Black Cockatoo
(an endangered species) is
common in the Pilliga Forest*



*The Spotted Bowerbird is
common to the district*

Between the foothills of the Warrumbungle Mountains, the Great Western Plains and the vast forests of the Pilliga, lie a series of rewarding and readily accessible bird trails.

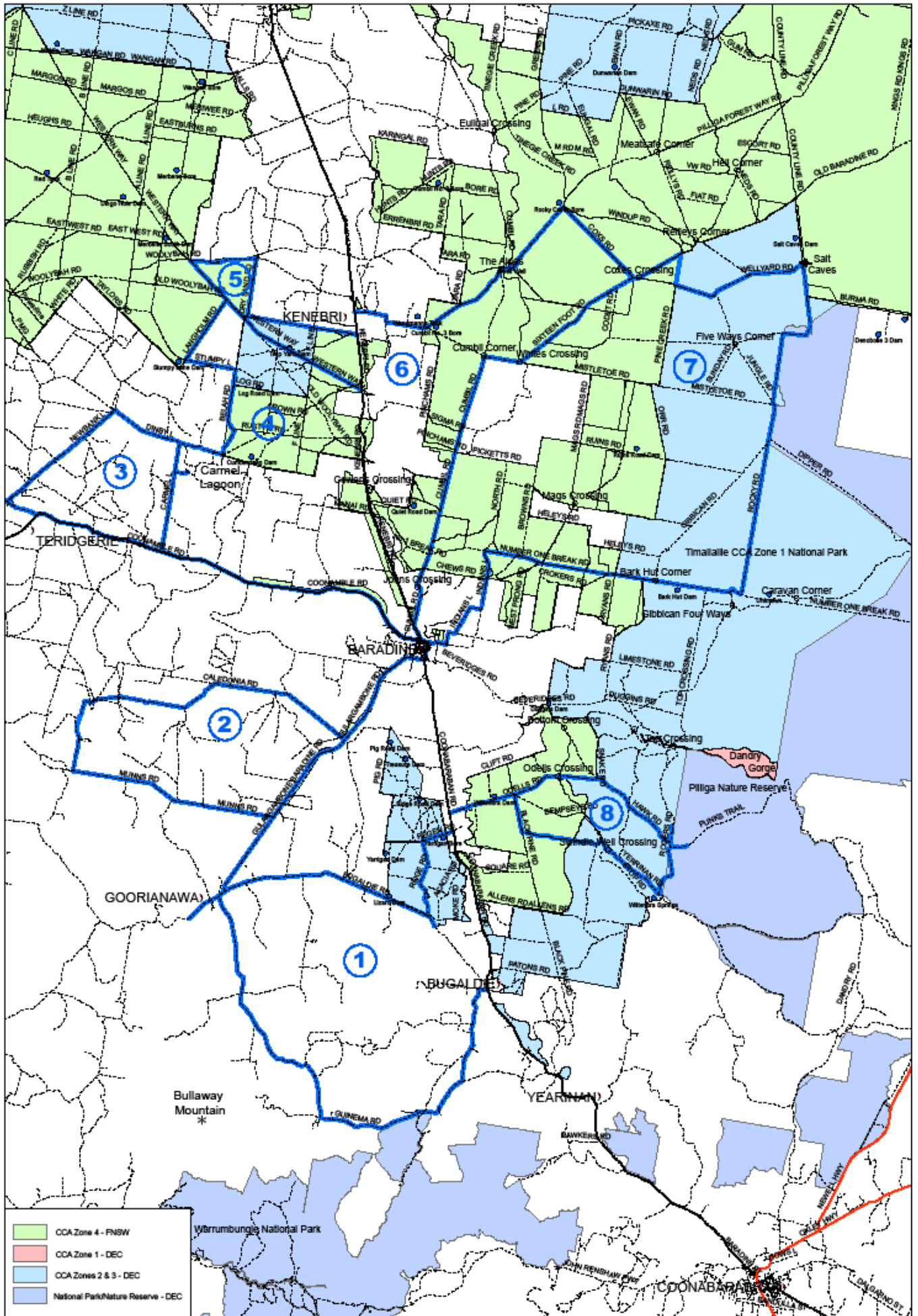
These trails have been chosen to provide the bird enthusiast with an opportunity to view the impressive list of birds to be found throughout the district. The visitor can generally gain an introduction to the diverse and picturesque habitats of the region. This brochure will guide you through the various routes and tell you a little about each one. The bird recording forms enable you to record what you see. All sightings are valuable. Understanding bird movements is necessary to plan for their protection. We hope that through this brochure knowledge would become the by-product of enjoyment.

Baradine welcomes you and hopes that you will enjoy what we have to offer

A Note on the Pilliga

The Pilliga Forest is a rewarding experience for bird enthusiasts and seasoned ornithologists alike. Drives in the forest are unlimited. Most roads are clearly sign posted but PLEASE FOLLOW THE MAP; it spoils your day to get lost. Watch for black and gold bird signs to help guide you on your way and remember that many of these roads are bush tracks – drive with caution. There are 50 odd man-made dams scattered throughout the forest and the occasional creek water hole. Koalas favour the Red Gum along the creek beds. Glossy Black-Cockatoos come in to drink about sundown. Tiny bush orchids and many other wild flowers delight the Spring visitors and challenge the botanist.

The Pilliga is a quiet peaceful place to enjoy.



	CCA Zone 4 - NSW
	CCA Zone 1 - DEC
	CCA Zones 2 & 3 - DEC
	National Parks/Nature Reserve - DEC

Route distances are from Baradine and return to Baradine. Measurements are approximate.
Visitors are advised not to undertake these routes in times of extreme fire danger or after heavy rain

- 1. The Bugaldie Bird Route: 68km** A picturesque, scenic drive through the Warrumbungle foothills. Take the Coonabarabran Road from Baradine to Bugaldie; watch for the hippopotamus in the hills as you approach the village! At Bugaldie, take the second road to the right and look for the white patch in the hills- chalk was mined here for many years and produced some spectacular fish fossils. As you follow this road through to the Guinema sign, enjoy the grandeur of the mountains and a great view of Siding Spring Observatory. Turn right at the sign. Watch for Bullaway Mountain on your left. A variation of habitat and several creek crossings provide for a variety of birds along this road. As you enter the better country, beautiful Yellow Box and later, stands of White Box attract many birds – especially honey eaters when flowering. A ramp brings you onto the sealed Gulargambone – Baradine road – turn to the right – cross another ramp and take the Bugaldie road. After 12km watch for the Forest bypass sign; you will find a picnic area on your left and a forest fire lookout tower is on your right 1km after the turn. Follow the built up road back onto the Baradine-Coonabarabran Road.
- 2. Caledonia Road Bird Route: 64km** This route travels 30km through some of the best farming and grazing country in the district. Look for raptors and ground birds along the way. It starts 7.8km from Baradine on the Gulargambone Road at the Caledonia sign; this laned road takes you through private property. Several creek crossings often have small water holes beside the road. Take a left turn at the Caledonia/Barwon sign post. In the early days, Barwon was a very large run, portions of which were cut up for Soldier Settlement after World War 2. The road encircles the Caledonia homestead and becomes the Kinross Road and the creek crossing at this junction provides good birding. Continue on to the Goorianawa-Munns sign post and turn left, this will take you back onto the main road. Turn right here and follow this road for 9km to The Gap, to the crest of the Warrumbungle foothills and a spectacular view of the Goorianawa Valley, home of the famous Goorianawa Station . Watch for Singing Bushlark. As you cross the second ramp, notice a number of attractive Colane trees (locally called Urungie). At the top of The Gap, turn around and enjoy the view on your return journey. When you enter the tree line you will be in stock reserve and forest country. A great number of our bush birds are found in this area and Spotted Bowerbirds and their bowers have been recorded. At harvest time, an early morning or late afternoon drive will reveal most of the district's parrots feeding on spilled grain along the roadside.
- 3. Carmel Lane Bird Route: 60km** A combination of bushland, semi-cleared grazing and tree-lined farming country - two lagoons feature on this drive but they may, however, be dry after periods of low rainfall. Take the Coonamble Road from Baradine and look for several tracks into the bush on your right – they can produce some good bird watching. Turn right into Carmel Lane at the telecommunications tower. Watch for the gate into Carmel Lagoon 4.6km on the right. This lagoon has produced many interesting sightings – nesting Pacific Heron, Pink-eared Duck, Coot, Little Grebe, Black Swan and Marsh Tern to name a few. The Fitzgerald family lives beside the lagoon and have granted permission for visits to this site; please call and acknowledge their generosity. On returning to Carmel Lane, turn right to continue on your route. After a short distance you will turn left into Dinby Lane. Some 1.4km from the turn on the right hand side of the road watch for a Wedge-tailed Eagle's nest in a large Pilliga Box tree. It is in a cleared paddock about 200m from the road; this is a 2006 season nest. If they breed successfully it is hoped they will continue to use the nest for years to come. Please view it from the fence line particularly during the breeding season from mid-June on. Another left turn brings you into Newbank Lane. During good seasons gilgais with their accompaniment of Belah trees provide great habitat for water birds. Along these lanes Belah trees also attract Glossy Black-Cockatoos. Superb Parrots have been viewed in late Autumn and Winter months. Continuing along Newbank Lane, you will cross Teridgerie Creek and just after the crossing another left turn will bring you back onto the Coonamble Road. As you turn back towards Baradine, watch for Teridgerie Lagoon on your right; Whistling Kites nest here. Apostle birds, White-winged Choughs and Blue Bonnet Parrots are a feature of this route.
- 4. Pilliga West Bird Route: 56km** Follow Route 3 to the top of Carmel Lane and turn right—this takes you into the Pilliga State Forest where you turn left. The forest road follows semi-cleared grazing country. This combination attracts many birds. Follow the fence line and turn left into Stumpy Lane. When you come to the Baker's homestead, look for the Spotted Bowerbird's bower beside the road on the right. Please be careful not to disturb anything – Bowerbirds move their bowers periodically, so you may have to search for the new one. A right turn at the end of Stumpy Lane will bring you onto the Western Way. Crested Bellbirds have been seen between here and the first ramp towards Baradine. Follow the Western Way watching for Trapyard Dam on your left: 33 species of birds have been recorded here. The Western Way will take you out to the Pilliga-Baradine Road.

5. Dry Sand Road Bird Route: 63km Take the Pilliga road to Kenebri and just before the village, turn left over the ramp into Eilerslie Road. Watch for the small water hole beside the gully crossing, White-winged Choughs nest here. Open country to the north promotes good bird watching. Turn right over the ramp onto Western Way and right again onto Dry Sand Road. After 1.2km watch on your left for one of the largest White Cypress trees in the forest. Take a left turn after 3.4km and look for a swamp through the trees to your right – it contains water only after good rains. Follow this road through to Western Way. This will take you back to the Pilliga Road where you can turn right back to Baradine or left to commence Route 6.

6. The Central Pilliga Bird Route: 68km This route starts just past Kenebri; turn right over the railway line onto the Pilliga Forest Way. White-backed Swallows and Zebra Finch have been seen at the bridge over Baradine Creek. Follow the Forest Way to The Aloes picnic site; a favoured viewing spot for koalas. The aloes growing beside the wide sandy creek crossing mark the site of an historic homestead. Another 5km brings you to the Rocky Creek Mill site – a popular picnic and camping spot. Many birds, including the Barking Owl, have been recorded here. Take Coxes Road from here, returning to Baradine via Sixteen Foot and Cumbil Roads. Watch for the Cumbil Forest creek crossing. About 200m to the right, rocks in the creek bed contain Aboriginal spear-sharpening grooves. John's Crossing, not far from the town, is a pretty spot on the Baradine Creek; Sacred Kingfishers and Dollarbirds are summer visitors and Honeyeaters are common.

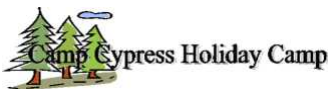
7. No 1 Break – Salt Caves Forest Bird Route: 80km Head east along Warrigal Street, on the northern edge of town, over the bridge and follow the sealed road out of town. At the top of the rise just before the gravel, stop the car and look back – it's worth the effort! After this just follow the map and enjoy this wonderful forest drive. In November/December flannel flowers are a feature. Bark Hut Dam on No 1 Break is worth a visit. The last Mallee Fowl was sighted in the forest mid 1995 – you might see the next one! At the Salt Caves camping site, look for a pleasant walking trail to the Salt Caves Dam. If you can be there at sundown, Glossy Black-Cockatoos come in to drink; more than 200 were seen here during a drought and about the same number of Common Bronzewing were present as dusk fell. Vehicle access to the dam is by County Line Road. Leaving Salt Caves take Wellyard Road. The map shows a diversion up Pine Creek Road – this takes you through a broom plain. On reaching Coxes Road return to Baradine – see No. 6 Route. The King Parrot and Turquoise Parrot (endangered species) plus many others, can be expected on this drive.

8. Butlers Lane Bird Route: 52km A colony of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters is a feature of this route – but be prepared to walk. Look for Spotted Quail-thrush, also Turquoise Parrots, Little Lorikeets and many Honeyeaters when the eucalypts are flowering. Take the Coonabarabran Road out of Baradine; 9.5km turn left into Butlers Lane. After crossing Bugaldie Creek watch for Black Pine Road. Turn right and then left into Swindles Road. Swindles Well Crossing over Yearinan Creek is a pleasant rest spot – no facilities. Azure Kingfisher and Regent Honeyeater have been seen here. A long permanent waterhole is a short distance upstream. Opposite this is a long ridge with wonderful views of Siding Spring Observatory and the tumbling rock formation of the Warrumbungles. As per your map, follow Yearinan Road before turning left into Rodgers Road. Just past a sharp creek crossing, look for the Nature Reserve sign on the right. This is Punk's Trail which is a NPWS managed trail not open to public vehicular access. However, a kilometre or so walk will bring you to the Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters; Crested Bellbirds have been heard calling here. An attraction to this area is the presence of Mugga Ironbark – a wonderful bird tree, particularly when flowering. Most have pink flowers, but here you will find pink and cream flowering trees growing side by side. Lorikeets and Red Wattlebirds join the Honeyeaters competing with the ever domineering Friarbirds. Look for Dusky Woodswallows. To continue this drive take Hawk Road to the north of Punk's Trail. Watch for the turn into Odells Well Road, Odells Creek Crossing is a picturesque rest site. Turn right after the crossing to return to Butlers Lane. An interesting adjunct to this route can be found on Rodgers Road north of Hawk Road; here you will find a large area of the Ancient Cycads – *Macrozamia polymorpha*. The eastern side of the road was burnt in a major fire in late 1997, the fire was contained along Rodgers Road, leaving the western side of the road unburnt. After the fire the Cycads on the burnt side of the road fruited prolifically while the unburnt area showed no sign of fruiting. Further north, the road crosses a rocky crest. Rather than cross the crest, look for a small hill east of the road; from the top of this hill look out over the tree tops to the Warrumbungle Mountains - an interesting diversion in the heart of the forest.



In the Warrumbungle mountains
 Not far from Bugaldie
 A hippopotamus lies sleeping
 With his back against the sky
 He has been there for quite a while
 Five million years or more
 And not a soul has seen him move
 Or even heard him snore
 But I have a secret thing to tell
 It might give you quite a shock
 For right in the middle of that hippos head
 I found a big flat rock
 It was gleaming and it was glistening
 From the waters of a spring
 And with this secret knowledge
 I planned a wondrous thing
 I stood upon a certain road
 Not one inch either way
 While a stiff breeze from the sou sou west
 Made a certain tree top sway
 Straight above my head
 There shone a big round shiny moon
 I held my breath
 For I was sure it had to happen soon
 And then for just two seconds
 With no one else to see
 That big black hippopotamus
 Winked his eye at me.

David Johnston



For more information contact
 Baradine Rural Transaction Centre on 02 68431166 or
 Coonabarabran Visitors Information Centre on 1800 242881

This revised brochure was prepared by ornithologist David Johnston
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Baradine identity and amateur ornithologist, David Johnston has been on the track of birds for most of his seventy odd years. He took up the interest as a boy of six and through school was in the Gould League of Bird Lovers.

His journey through the world of birds has resulted in writing and producing the Bird Routes of Baradine and the Pilliga with his wife, Mary.

David hopes this brochure will help others enjoy identifying the many and varied birds found in the Pilliga region. He encourages the use of the report sheet to assist community-based monitoring.



BIRDS OF BARADINE AND THE PILLIGA

TAXONOMIC LIST

Key	V Very Common	C Common	U Uncommon
	R Rare	M Migratory	B Breeding

This key has been developed by David Johnston based on field experience in the study area. Birds nominated as Endangered or Vulnerable by the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act appear in Bold Type.

Emu		CB Black Kite	UB	Rock Dove	CB
Australian Brush Turkey	R	Whistling Kite	UB	Spotted Turtle Dove	R
Malleefowl	RB	Wedge-tailed Eagle	CB	Common Bronzewing	VB
Stubble Quail	UB	Little Eagle	UB	Crested Pigeon	VB
Brown Quail	UB	Spotted Harrier	UB	Diamond Dove	UB
		Swamp Harrier	R	Peaceful Dove	CB
Magpie Goose	R	Brown Goshawk	UB	Bar-shouldered Dove	CB
Plumed Whistling Duck	UB	Collared Sparrowhawk	UB		
Musk Duck	R	Australian Hobby	U	Red-tailed Black-cockatoo	R
Black Swan	RB	Grey Falcon	R	Glossy Black-cockatoo	CB
Australian Wood Duck	VB	Brown Falcon	UB	Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	UB
Pacific Black Duck	CB	Black Falcon	R	Galah	VB
Hardhead	U	Peregrine Falcon	UB	Little Corella	R
Grey Teal	CB	Nankeen Kestrel	CB	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	R
Pink-eared Duck	UB			Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	VB
Australian Shoveller	R	Brolga	R	Cockatiel	C
Chestnut Teal	R	Buff-banded Rail	R	Rainbow Lorikeet	R
Australasian Grebe	CB	Baillon's Crake	R	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	R
Hoary-headed Grebe	UB	Purple Swamphen	R	Musk Lorikeet	U
Great-crested Grebe	R	Dusky Moorhen	RB	Little Lorikeet	C
		Black-tailed Native-hen	U	Australian King Parrot	CB
Darter	U	Eurasian Coot	UB	Red-winged Parrot	CB
Little Pied Cormorant	C			Superb Parrot	RM
Little Black Cormorant	C	Australian Bustard	R	Crimson Rosella	U
Great Cormorant	U	Little Button-quail	U	Eastern Rosella	CB
Australian Pelican	U	Red-chested Button-quail	R	Pale-headed Rosella	R
		Painted Button-quail	UB	Australian Ringneck	CB
White-necked Heron	CB			Blue Bonnet	UB
White-faced Heron	CB	Latham's Snipe	R	Swift Parrot	RM
Great Egret	U	Painted Snipe	R	Red-rumped Parrot	VB
Intermediate Egret	U			Mulga Parrot	R
Cattle Egret	R	Bush Stone-curlew	UB	Budgerigar	U
Nankeen Night Heron	U			Turquoise Parrot	UB
Australasian Bittern	R	Black-winged Stilt	U	Blue-winged Parrot	R
Glossy Ibis	U	Red-necked Avocet	R		
Australian White Ibis	U			Pallid Cuckoo	CMB
Straw-necked Ibis	C	Black-fronted Dotterel	UB	Brush Cuckoo	RMB
Royal Spoonbill	U	Red-kneed Dotterel	RB	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	C
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	C	Banded Lapwing	UB	Black-eared Cuckoo	U
Black-necked Stork	R	Masked Lapwing	VB	Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	CMB
				Shining Bronze Cuckoo	RM
Pacific Baza	R	Australian Pratincole	RB	Common Koel	RM
Black-shouldered Kite	CB			Channel-billed Cuckoo	CMB
Square-tailed Kite	RB	Silver Gull	R		
Black-breasted Buzzard	R			Whiskered Tern	RB

Birds classified as Rare may be scarce indigenous birds or they may be visitors with some having only a single sighting. Their recording is important to reflect the trend of bird movements generally.

Masked Owl	R	Yellow-throated Miner	CB	Cicadabird	R
Barking Owl	CB	Lewin's Honeyeater	R	White-winged Triller	CMB
Southern Boobook	C	Singing Honeyeater	U	Olive-backed Oriole	C
Barn Owl	U	White-eared Honeyeater	CB		
Tawny Frogmouth	CB	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	CB	White-breasted Woodswallow	CB
White-throated Nightjar	R	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	CB	Masked Woodswallow	UMB
Spotted Nightjar	R	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	R	White-browed Woodswallow	CMB
Australian Owlet-nightjar		UB		Grey-fronted Honeyeater	R
Black-faced Woodswallow		UMB			
		Fuscous Honeyeater	U	Dusky Woodswallow	CB
White-throated Needletail		UM		White-plumed Honeyeater	VB
Little Woodswallow	UB				
Fork-tailed Swift	R	Black-chinned Honeyeater	U		
Azure Kingfisher	R	Brown-headed Honeyeater	CB	Grey Butcherbird	CB
Laughing Kookaburra	VB	White-naped Honeyeater	UB	Pied Butcherbird	CB
Red-backed Kingfisher	RM	Brown Honeyeater	U	Australian Magpie	VB
Sacred Kingfisher	CMB	Painted Honeyeater	RB	Pied Currawong	CB
Rainbow Bee-eater	CMB	Eastern Spinebill	U		
Dollarbird	CMB	Black Honeyeater	R	Australian Raven	VB
		Scarlet Honeyeater	R	Little Raven	U
White-throated Treecreeper		CB			
Little Crow	R				
Brown Treecreeper	CB	Crimson Chat	UMB	White-winged Chough	VB
		Orange Chat	R	Apostlebird	VB
Superb Fairy-wren	VB	White-fronted Chat	R		
Variiegated Fairy-wren	UB	Jacky Winter	VB	Spotted Bowerbird	CB
White-winged Fairy-wren		RB		Red-capped Robin	CB
		Rose Robin	RM	Singing Bushlark	UB
Spotted Pardalotte	CB	Hooded Robin	UB	Richard's Pipit	CB
Striated Pardalotte	CB	Eastern-yellow Robin	CB		
White-browed Scrubwren		U		House Sparrow	VB
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren		UGrey-crowned Babbler	CB	Zebra Finch	UB
Speckled Warbler	CB	White-browed Babbler	UB	Double-barred Finch	CB
		Spotted Quail-thrush	R	Plum-headed Finch	U
Western Gerygone	UB	Varied Sittella	CB	Red-browed Finch	CB
White-throated Gerygone		CB		Diamond Firetail	UB
Weebill	CB	Crested Shrike-tit	UB	Mistletoebird	CB
Inland Thornbill	CB	Crested Bellbird	U	Welcome Swallow	VB
Brown Thornbill	R	Gilbert's Whistler	R	White-backed Swallow	UB
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill		UB		Golden Whistler	U
Tree Martin		CB			
Buff-rumped Thornbill	CB	Rufous Whistler	VB	Fairy Martin	CB
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	VB	Grey Shrike-thrush	CB		
Yellow Thornbill	V			Clamorous Reed-warbler	UB
Striated Thornbill	U	Leaden Flycatcher	UB	Rufous Songlark	CB
Southern Whiteface	UB	Satin Flycatcher	R	Brown Songlark	U
		Restless Flycatcher	UB	Golden-headed Cisticola	RB
Red Wattlebird	R	Magpie Lark	VB	Silvereye	CB
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater		VB		Rufous Fantail	R
Common Blackbird	CB				
Striped Honeyeater	CB	Grey Fantail	CB		
Noisy Friarbird	CB	Willie Wagtail	VB	Common Starling	CB
Little Friarbird	UB				
Regent Honeyeater	RB	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	CB		
Blue-faced Honeyeater	CB	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	U		
Noisy Miner	VB	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	UB		

The appearance of so many Rare and Uncommon birds on this list intensifies the interest of bird watching throughout the region. Those in bold type are nominated by the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act as being endangered or vulnerable in NSW generally. Some of those nominated, such as Brown Treecreeper, Speckled Warbler, Glossy Black-cockatoo and Grey-crowned Babbler are common in the Baradine Area, especially in the Warrumbungle Foothills, the Pilliga Forest and their adjacent farmland, thus emphasising the immense value of well managed forests for endangered wildlife. This Brochure is designed to help keep track of these Rare and Uncommon birds and the Common ones as well. Your sightings will be of great value to establish a record of their movements over the years. Knowledge of bird activity is vital to determine their vulnerability and hopefully to reduce the list of Threatened Species. Welcome to our Monitoring Programme.