

# THREATENED BIRD SPECIES

Birds on the Victorian threatened species list which have been recorded at the Macalister Wetlands Reserve are listed below:

- Australasian Bittern (Botaurus poiciloptilus)
- Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)
- Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)
- Great Egret (Ardea alba)
- Nankeen Night Heron (Nycticorax Calendonicus)
- Royal Spoonbill (Platalea regia)
- White Billed Sea-Eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaste)
- Painted Snipe (Rostratula benghalensis)

Three migratory waders listed under the Japan - Australia Migratory Bird Agreement have been recorded at the Reserve. The Area has traditionally been an important refuge and feeding area for Latham's Snipes, which numbers as high as 200 being recorded.

- Latham's Snipe (Gallinago hardwickii)
- Common Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)
- Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea)



## CONTACT US

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# MACALISTER WETLANDS MAFFRA



Discover the wild and wonderful world of the wetlands along this boardwalk and wider wetlands walk.

Bird hides along the way as well as the saturated soil, provides a sanctuary for Victoria's threatened bird species including Australasian bittern, glossy ibis, little egret, great egret, nankeen night heron, royal spoonbill, white-bellied sea-eagle and the painted snipe. Also meet a couple of migratory birds.



# ABOUT THE WALK

Distance: 2.6km one way

Duration: 40 minutes

Grade: Level 1-2

Start/ finish: Cnr River and Laura Sts

Maffra Wetlands Walk is a 2.6km lightly trafficked trail located near Maffra that features a river and is good for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips, and bird watching.

The perimeter walk around the wetlands lets you take in the tranquillity of the surroundings and there is an abundance of beautiful bird life, native flora and other fauna to be viewed on this picturesque walk.

With gentle hills and no steps, the track is a combination of boardwalks and gravel and is suitable for even the most inexperienced walker.

This trail is great for birding, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring.



# HISTORY OF THE MACALISTER WETLANDS

Originally, the Maffra Wetlands were used for grazing and hunting of water birds, especially the threatened Japanese Snipe.

In 1963, the site was temporarily reserved for a public recreation park managed by the Maffra Shire Council.

In 1986, Maffra Shire Council gained a bicentennial grant to develop the Reserve then a community advisory committee was formed to oversee the project.

Between 1988-89, extensive tree planting was undertaken by the Committee and community volunteers starting in Spring. Boardwalks, bird hides and picnic tables were put in place by local community groups.

In 1997, the lake was deepened and islands formed when the water body dried out.

Through 2002-05, the newly formed Maffra Urban Landcare obtained an Envirofund grant to clear willows and continue revegetation works.

In 2006, the Wetlands celebrated 25 years of community volunteer involvement sponsored by Landcare.

