

WIIDHAA

AN INTRODUCTION
TO GAMILARAAY

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The title, *Wiidhaa*, is the Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay name of the Spotted Bowerbird, a bird who imitates the voices of many other birds and animals. In the traditional story his many voices attracted people whom he then killed and cooked *wii-dha* (on the fires), and then used their bones to decorate his bower. Today Wiidhaa also uses other objects for this, such as clothes pegs and bottle tops. Maliyan (Wedge-tailed Eagle) found out that Wiidhaa was killing the people. Maliyan overpowered Wiidhaa and then threw him onto the fire, where his brains heated and exploded out the back of his head. The photograph is actually of a Western Bowerbird, which is very similar to Wiidhaa.

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