

5 CHICHESTER DAM

There are several picnic areas available and also toilet facilities. Walking the road between the first picnic areas and those further down below the dam wall can be very productive.

There are generally not many water birds on the dam but cormorants, egrets and coot are the more common. Hoary-headed Grebe, Black Swan and Musk Duck are also possible. You won't miss the bell-like calls of the Bell Miner colony in the vicinity. The dam area is secured overnight by a locked gate and opening hours are:

8am to 4pm – Mon to Fri
8.30am to 4.30pm – Sat & Sun



Rufous Fantail

6 BLUE GUM LOOP TRAIL

This popular 3.5km loop track starts from the Williams River picnic area which lies 500m to the east of the end of the Salisbury Road (about 40km from Dungog). The walking track offers the chance to explore regenerating riverside forests and magnificent subtropical rainforests. The first section to the bridge over the river is accessible to wheelchairs.

Superb Lyrebirds and Australian Brush-turkey should be easily sighted. Other birds include Eastern Yellow Robin, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Satin Bowerbird, Golden Whistler and Brown Cuckoo-Dove. During the spring and summer months Black-faced Monarch, Leaden Flycatcher and Rufous Fantail should all be around. At night it can be possible to see or hear both Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl. **There are picnic tables, BBQs and a toilet available.**

Factfile White-headed Pigeon (*Columba leucomela*)

A large, very distinctive pigeon, the White-headed Pigeon is native to the east coast of Australia. It feeds on fruit and seeds but prefers laurels, particularly the introduced Camphor Laurel. The female is usually duller and greyer than the male. Its call is a loud, repeated Whoo...uk or melancholy ooms.



Powerful Owl

7 UPPER ALLYN RIVER

The Upper Allyn River rainforests start 10km past the junction of Allyn River Road and Salisbury Gap Road (and 40km from East Gresford). Here you will find many locations that offer good birdwatching opportunities. Noisy Pitta (in summer), Superb Lyrebird, Eastern Whipbird and White-browed and Large-billed Scrubwren can easily be seen. Check the fig trees for pigeons and bowerbirds. The roads are good for finding Wonga Pigeons, and if you are lucky, an Emerald Dove.

There are several places worth checking along Allyn River Forest Road, particularly at the river crossings. Allyn River Forest Park and the nearby White Rock Camping Area are also recommended, and there is the possibility of finding a Sooty Owl at night and a Paradise Riflebird by day. Note that these sites are often crowded during school holidays and public holiday weekends. **There are toilet facilities at Allyn River Forest Park and White Rock Camping Area.**

8 WINDEYER STREET DUNGOG

This is a good walking spot especially if you are in Dungog without car transport. From the corner of Myles and Windeyer Streets, walk north along Windeyer Street. The walk takes you through the Myall Creek Rehabilitation Area. When you reach Stroud Hill Road turn right and 150m to the east there is a picnic area on the banks of the Williams River which is also worth a look. Australian King-Parrots and rosellas (Eastern, Crimson) are regularly encountered while Brown Cuckoo-Doves and White-headed Pigeons are present when local plants are fruiting. **BBQs, tables and toilets are available at Frank Robinson Park at the end of the walk.**

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 Enquire for a complete bird list for the area.



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Dungog Area Birding Route

HUNTER REGION



Barrington Southern Slopes



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Dungog Birding Route

This map is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only



1 DUNGOG COMMON

Dungog Common is approximately 200ha of Crown Land situated on the western boundary of the town. To get there, turn into Common Road (unsigned) from Chichester Dam Road, northwest of the intersection of Hooke Street and Scott Avenue. The Common is leased out to a local farmer, and cattle are usually present. Note that the surrounding land is private property. A variety of woodland birds can be seen on the Common, including Jacky Winter, Speckled Warbler and all five of the locally-occurring thornbills. The creek line is fantastic for an array of small birds, such as Red-browed Finch, White-browed Scrubwren, Eastern Yellow Robin and Rose Robin. Both Grey and Brown Goshawk have been sighted here and a variety of colourful rosellas and parrots can be found. Parking is available at the cul-de-sac at the end of Common Road (just past Shelton's Bus Depot; veer left and cross the cattle grid) or you can travel further along the road for about 2km, stopping to birdwatch along the way, until you reach the gates of private properties. **There are no facilities.**

2 FOSTERTON LOOP

This is a 20km loop road, starting from the northern edge of Dungog – it winds its way through some very fertile and scenic farmland, crosses the Williams River, and returns onto Stroud Hill Road about 3km north of Dungog. Most of Fosterton Loop is sealed road but there are some dirt stretches on the eastern side of the Loop. After about 2.2km you will come to some bends in the road where the river comes close. This is a great spot for general bush birds. There are several farm dams along the way that often host a variety of ducks, egrets, herons and ibis. The river crossing, about 10km from the start of the Fosterton Loop, is also a fantastic spot for a variety of bush birds. Double-barred Finch and Red-browed Finch can usually be seen in this area. There are also some great swimming holes at the bridge and it can be quite crowded on a hot summer's day. Continue on and keep your eye out for fig trees. If they are fruiting Topknot Pigeons, Satin Bowerbirds and Australasian Figbirds may be present. **There are no facilities.**

3 CABBAGE TREE ROAD

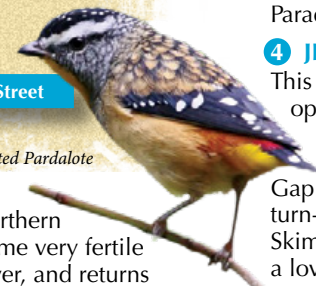
Travel north 2km along Monkerai Road from the intersection with Stroud Hill Road and then veer left onto Main Creek Road. The 8.8km drive along Main Creek Road takes you through farmland and there are many birds potentially to be found alongside the road and on dams. Common species include Red-rumped Parrot at the dairy and White-winged Chough, while herons and ibis and a variety of water birds are in the area. Further along, in the early morning, Pheasant Coucal, Buff-banded Rail and Brown Quail can often be seen. There is a fork at the end of Main Creek Road with Skimmings Gap Road on the left and Cabbage Tree Road on the right. The first 1.3km of Cabbage Tree Road (up to the second causeway) passes through private property, so please stick to the track. Some commonly encountered species are Russet-tailed Thrush, Green Catbird and Australian Logrunner. Summer visitors include Black-faced and Spectacled Monarch, Leaden Flycatcher, Rufous Fantail, Brush Cuckoo and Noisy Pitta. Rarer visitors, but which are known to breed in the area, are Paradise Riflebird and Pacific Baza. **There are no facilities.**

4 JERUSALEM CREEK

This is one of many places with good birdwatching opportunities within the Barrington Tops National Park. It can be accessed from Dungog via Chichester Dam Road and Wangat Trig Road, or by taking Skimmings Gap Road from its junction with Cabbage Tree Road. The turn-off to the picnic area is 300m east of the intersection of Skimmings Gap and Wangat Trig Roads. Jerusalem Creek has a lovely 4km return walk through pristine rainforest and some amazing birds can be found on this walk. Species towards the southern extremity of their distribution include Pale-yellow Robin, Australian Logrunner and Paradise Riflebird (often first located from its distinctive "rifle shot" call). Common birds include Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, White-throated Treecreeper, Wonga Pigeon, Satin Bowerbird and Superb Lyrebird, while Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwren are likely. During the spring and summer months, Leaden Flycatchers, Rufous Fantails and Black-faced Monarchs are also present. Both Bassian and Russet-tailed Thrush occur here so you will need to carefully check which species you find. **There are picnic tables, a BBQ and toilet available.**



Grey Goshawk



Spotted Pardalote



Red-browed Finch



Satin Bowerbird



Black-faced Monarch

Red-rumped Parrot