

5 WOODBERRY & TARRO WETLANDS

Woodberry is an extensive, degraded wetland where waterfowl and other wetland species can be seen including Australasian Shoveler and Pink-eared Duck. Good views of open water are limited. Leave the New England Highway near the Tarro Interchange and join Anderson Drive. Turn into Lawson Avenue then left into Frewin Avenue. Vacant land on the corner of Waterbush Crescent affords a distant view of the wetland.



Australian Hobby

Nearby Tarro Wetland can be viewed from Tarro Recreation area, 0.5 km along Anderson Drive from Tarro Interchange. Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, herons, spoonbills feature and Golden-headed Cisticola and Australian Reed-Warbler call from the Common Reed beds.

6 HEXHAM SWAMP WEST

“Kite Bluff”, a lay-by with house and brick fence on Lenaghans Drive 2.8 km from its junction with the M1 Sydney direction provides an overview of this vast swamp. Further south, 0.6 km, you can pull into a short road leading to a private property on the eastern side. Look for Glossy Ibis as they are often present as well as several other species of common waterbirds. Continue on for 0.5 km to Lenaghans Wetland on Access Road 61-75. On both sides of the track are ponds which support a variety of waterbirds and ducks. **Please respect private property.**



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

7 PAMBALONG NATURE RESERVE

This freshwater wetland has recently become overgrown making it difficult to see Latham’s Snipe which was once common here. Several species of waterbirds can still be seen and it is worth a visit. It is good for raptors, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Australian Hobby, Swamp Harrier. Turn west off Lenaghans Drive onto Stockrington Road and then right onto Cedar Hill Drive. You can park at the bottom of the hill and look around from there.

8 WALLSEND WETLANDS

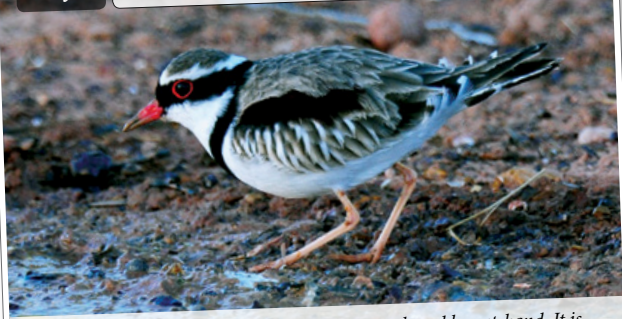
Wallsend Wetlands are adjacent to Ironbark Creek and consist of two ponds. Australian Painted and Latham’s Snipe are sometimes present over Spring/Summer. Good numbers of other waterbirds can be seen. One pond is easily viewed from the Bunnings car park off Minmi Road, just west of the Cowper/Cameron Roads traffic lights. The second can be viewed from Minmi Road about 200 metres west of the Bunnings roundabout. An alternative viewing spot for the latter is the car park for Wallsend Swimming Centre near Frances Street, Wallsend. Please note that this area is private property. **Please note that this area is private property.**

Newcastle Wetlands Birding Route



Factfile

Black-fronted Dotterel (*Euseyonis melanops*)



This small wader has a distinctive black face-mask and breast-band. It is widespread throughout Australia and is usually found in pairs near shallow margins of freshwater wetlands, lakes, rivers and also open ground with gravel or mud. It is seldom seen near saltwater or seashores.

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www.hboc.org.au

HBOC meets at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, off the roundabout at Sandgate Road, Shortland. Also, monthly outings on first Tuesday and third Sunday of each month – check our website for details.

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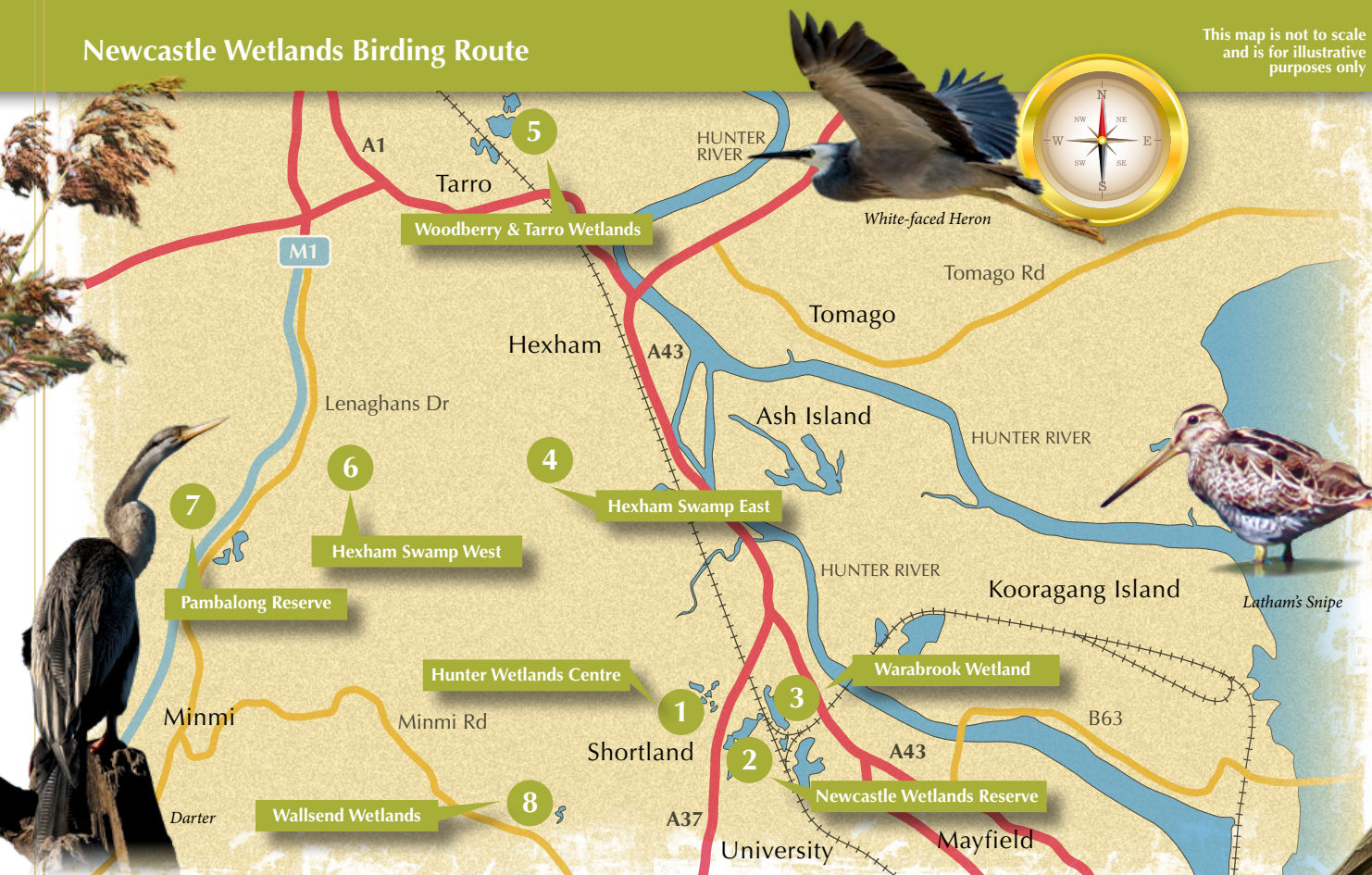


Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Newcastle Wetlands Birding Route

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



Australian Spotted Crake

4 HEXHAM SWAMP EAST

This wetland supports thousands of water birds according to seasons and conditions. The best time to visit is three hours after high tide when water levels are lower and muddy margins are exposed. Telescopes are recommended. In summer thousands of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and other migratory shorebird species, including the occasional rarity, can be seen. The wetland is a favourite place for Black-winged Stilt, Red-kneed Dotterel; Australian Spotted Crake and Buff-banded Rail are reasonably common on muddy edges. Spotless Crake and Lewin's Rail are present but much harder to see. Reports of Black-necked Stork are increasing and at least nine species of raptor patrol the skies. Pipeline Track is an excellent spot from which to see White-fronted Chat, grassbirds, Golden-headed Cisticola, Australasian Pipit and, in late summer, Yellow Wagtail, though not every year.

Shamrock Track which terminates at the rail line runs off Pipeline Track through more wetlands. Access is via the Tarro Interchange on the New England Highway. On the Interchange loop turn onto a sealed road; follow it to a junction where a sign says: "Aurizon NSW LTTSF". At this junction continue straight ahead for 1.1 km. Just before the LTTSF gate, turn right over a cattle grid. Continue on this unsealed road to cattle yards where you turn right (west). Continue to the crossroads where you turn left (south) onto Pipeline Track which runs north/south. From here it is 3 to 4 kilometres of straight track which terminates at Fishery Creek. As you move south you enter Hunter Wetlands National Park. To exit, retrace the route back to the Tarro Interchange. You can make only a left hand turn in the direction of Maitland. For people wishing to travel east, towards Newcastle, the nearest U-turn bay is 1.5 km from the junction of this slip road and the New England Highway.

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NOTE: HBOC has negotiated access for its members to Hexham Swamp.

Under the right conditions Newcastle wetlands still support a significant number of common and threatened species despite considerable modification over the past 200 years. They are either part of the greater Hexham Swamp complex or are close by. Ash Island, marked on the map, has its own birding route available at www.hboc.org.au. You will also need a road directory of the Newcastle area as directions are not detailed.

1 HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE

Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, 412 Sandgate Road, Shortland, off the roundabout has a list of more than 200 species. This is a great place for photographers, beginners and experienced birdwatchers alike as common species can be seen at close quarters. Ducks are a feature with Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks turning up in times of drought. Wandering Whistling-Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey and Chestnut Teal are common. Breeding birds include White Ibis, four species of egret, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen and White-breasted Woodswallow. For further information see www.wetlands.org.au



Grey Teal

2 NEWCASTLE WETLANDS RESERVE

This wetland is one of the few, deep freshwater wetlands in the lower Hunter and is a waterbird refuge during dry inland periods. Four species of cormorant and Darter breed in the surrounding paperbarks. NWR is opposite Hunter Wetlands Centre. You can walk from there or park your car on Sandgate Road. Vehicular access to the Reserve is not permitted and you will need the code for the lock on the gate. This can be obtained from an HBOC committee member.

3 WARABROOK WETLAND

This deep pond, mostly surrounded by houses, supports a variety of ducks and other waterbirds. Blue-billed Duck turns up occasionally. Access is from Pacific Highway west of Mayfield via Warabrook Boulevard to viewing points off Eucalyptus Close and Decora Crescent.



Australasian Pipit