



Red-capped Plover

4 BROKE ROAD DAM

This large wetland is located on Broke Road (opposite the Hunter Valley Gardens). The wetland itself is on private property but good views can be achieved from the roadside. Please take care to pull off the road safely – there can be a lot of traffic along this road, especially on weekends.

Look out for small waders like Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel, Red-capped Plover and Pied Stilt on the margins and shallows. A good diversity of waterbirds including cormorants, ducks, egrets, herons, ibis and spoonbill species as well as Black Swan, Australasian Darter, Dusky Moorhen and Eurasian Coot have all been recorded here.

Public toilets are located near the playground at the rear of the Hunter Valley Gardens retail and café precinct.



Factfile Pokolbin Distillery mural

Call in to Pokolbin Distillery (2198 Broke Road) to see an impressive 30-metre mural, painted on the building's exterior by Sydney artist Thomas Jackson. It depicts the critically endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater, and the Pokolbin Mallee, a vulnerable species of Eucalypt tree found in a single population in the Pokolbin area.

5 HUNTER DISTILLERY

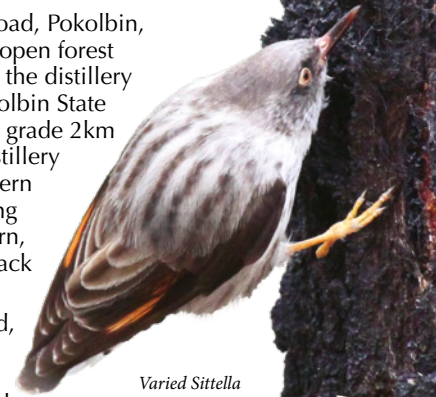
Located at 1686 Broke Road, Pokolbin, the property features dry open forest habitat west and south of the distillery building and adjoins Pokolbin State Forest. An easy-moderate grade 2km loop walk starts at the distillery carpark skirting the northern edge of the dam, following along the eastern, southern, and western fencelines back to the carpark.

Look out for Mistletoebird, Double-barred Finch, White-eared Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, Red-rumped Parrot and Striated Pardalote, along with threatened species such as Grey-crowned Babbler, Little Lorikeet and Varied Sittella.

A range of waterbird and grassland species may be seen around the dam and in surrounding paddocks.

Opening hours are 10am – 5pm, 7 days.

Please register your presence on-site at the Distillery Door.



Varied Sittella



HUNTER REGION

Lower Hunter



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Birding Routes are available to download from the HBOC website

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 the first Tuesday and third Sunday of each month – check our website for details.



Produced with the kind support of:



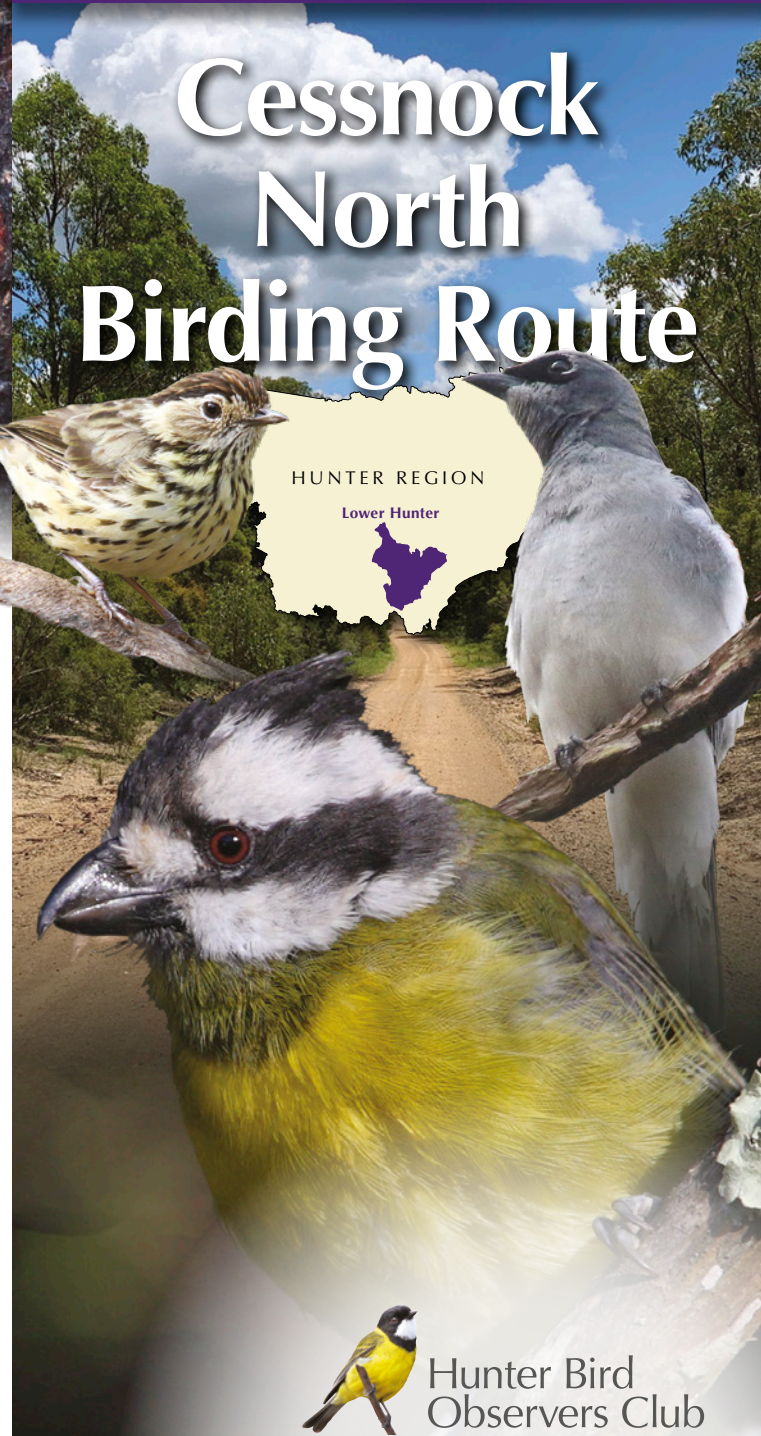
HBOC acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land featured in this birding route, the Wonnarua People and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We hope you enjoy your birdwatching on Wonnarua Country.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust and Local Land Services. HBOC gratefully acknowledge the following photographers: Allen Friis, Rob Kyte, Rob Palazzi, Mick Roderick, Jim Smart, Alan Stuart, Jim Thomson and Chris Tzaros.

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Cessnock North Birding Route



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Cessnock North Birding Route

This map is for illustrative purposes only and the scale is approximate



1 ASTILLS TRAIL, WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

From Cessnock, follow Maitland Road (B68) towards Abermain, then turn left onto Old Maitland Road at East Cessnock. Turn left on Ironbark Lane and follow the signs to Astills Picnic Area.

Astills Trail (opposite the picnic area) is an easy grade 2km loop walk. It begins and ends near the picnic area and features the tall open structure of Lower Hunter Spotted Gum – Ironbark Forest and the lower canopy and denser understorey of the endemic Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland (both are endangered ecological communities).

Some birds to look out for in the canopy include Eastern Crested Shrike-tits (listen for them tearing at the bark of trees), Rufous and Golden Whistlers, heath-loving birds such as White-eared and White-cheeked Honeyeaters, and Eastern Spinebills. Threatened woodland birds

seen here include Black-chinned Honeyeater, Speckled Warbler, Scarlet Robin, Dusky Woodswallow, Varied Sittella and Grey-crowned Babbler.

The Park is rarely busy and at the picnic tables you can sit quietly, and enjoy close encounters with small bush birds such as fantail, fairy-wren, finch, robin, pardalote and thornbill species.

There are no toilet facilities in the Park, however, service stations and public toilets are located a 10-min drive away in Cessnock.



Double-barred Finch

2 GIBSONS LOOP, WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

This section of Werakata NP (near Sawyers Gully) is accessed by turning off Old Maitland Road onto Native Dog Hill Road (unsealed 2WD) and driving 3.3km to the corner of Gibsons Loop Road. Pull off on the left-hand side near some large sandstone boulders which block vehicle access to a pleasant walking trail through Lower Hunter Spotted Gum – Ironbark Forest.

This area provides productive woodland birding in open forest dominated by Spotted Gum, Ironbark and Grey Gum with a shrubby understorey. A high diversity of bush birds can be found in this habitat, particularly when blossom or lerp is available. Threatened woodland bird species recorded here include Dusky Woodswallow, Little Lorikeet and Varied Sittella. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for Swift Parrots, which have been found here in the past. It is also a reliable site for Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, whose alarm calls may alert you to the presence of a roosting bird of prey along the riparian vegetation bordering London Creek.

There are no toilet facilities, however, service stations and public toilets are located a 10-min drive away in Cessnock.

3 SHIRALEE TRAIL, WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

This rectangular piece of Werakata NP is best accessed off Bathurst St, Abermain. Turn left off Bathurst St onto the Shiralee Trail (an unsealed 2WD road). Birdwatching along the Trail can be enjoyed by driving along and stopping at various points, riding mountain bikes or bushwalking along the roadside.

This patch of Lower Hunter Spotted Gum – Ironbark Forest protects several threatened flora species, and has a diverse shrub layer of Melaleuca, Acacia, Callistemon, and prickly shrubs including Blackthorn and Coarse Bitter Pea. Bush birds to be found here include resident Yellow-tufted and Fuscous Honeyeaters, the cryptic Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, as well as threatened Dusky Woodswallow, Black-chinned Honeyeater and Little Lorikeet. There is also the chance of spotting a critically endangered Regent Honeyeater or Swift Parrot when the Spotted Gums are flowering. Other species of interest include Painted Button-quail, Peaceful Dove, Jacky Winter, Buff-rumped Thornbill and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike.

Spring is a particularly pleasant time to visit when the Park's diverse wildflowers and orchids are in bloom.

There are no toilet facilities in the Park, however, service stations and public toilets are located close by in Abermain.



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater



Eucalyptus pumila or Pokolbin Mallee is a vulnerable species of eucalyptus tree found in a single population in the Pokolbin area.



2km |-----|

