

5 BELMONT WETLANDS STATE PARK

This reserve is a large area of natural bushland, sand dunes and reedy marshes between Redhead and Belmont. The Fernleigh Track runs through the Park, however the best birdwatching is from the unsealed fire trails. The Kalaroo Fire Trail runs the length of the Park roughly parallel to the Fernleigh Track, and can be accessed from Kalaroo Road near Railway Crescent, from the Merlevue Fire Trail off the end of Merlevue Street, or from Belmont Lagoon (see access details in the Belmont Lagoon section). The Kalaroo and Merlevue Fire Trails support a good variety of birds including the Variegated Fairy-wren, Dusky Woodswallow and Brush Bronzewing. Occasional visitors to the Park include the Brown Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo and Crested Shrike-tit. The Red-whiskered Bulbul may occasionally be seen along the Merlevue Fire Trail entry point.

There are no toilet facilities.

www.belmontwetlands.com.au

6 BELMONT LAGOON

Belmont Lagoon is an area of open water habitat situated between the ocean and the Lake. The Belmont Lagoon Spit is a good place from which to observe waterbirds, and can be accessed from the track along Cold Tea Creek – a modified creek which runs east-west across the southern part of the lagoon. The Cold Tea Creek track is accessible from Capri Close, off Pacific Highway, or from the corner of Beach Street and Ocean Park Road – take the footbridge across the creek to join the Track.



Caspian Tern

White-breasted Woodswallows congregate in trees and on the powerlines along the Cold Tea Creek Track in early August before dispersing into surrounding habitat for the spring and summer months. Waterbirds such as the Black Swan, Chestnut Teal and Royal Spoonbill use the lagoon. Caspian Terns and White-bellied Sea Eagles are often seen fishing in the Lagoon. Ospreys fish in the deeper waters of Cold Tea Creek, and can be found perching and/or feeding on the power poles beside the canal. A variety of other raptors may be seen.

There are no toilet facilities.

www.visitlakemac.com.au



Brown Honeyeater

Prepared (April 2019) by Mandy McDonald for:
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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 first Tuesday and third Sunday of each month – check our website for details.

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North East Lake Macquarie Birding Route

HUNTER REGION

Lake Macquarie



Factfile Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*)



This medium sized bird has a striking black and white striped head and neck, a small crest that is often held flattened over crown, a black or green throat, and a short heavy bill with hooked tips. Found in eucalypt forests and woodlands, forested gullies and along rivers in drier areas it forages in trees tearing at or probing bark for insects with its short strong bill.

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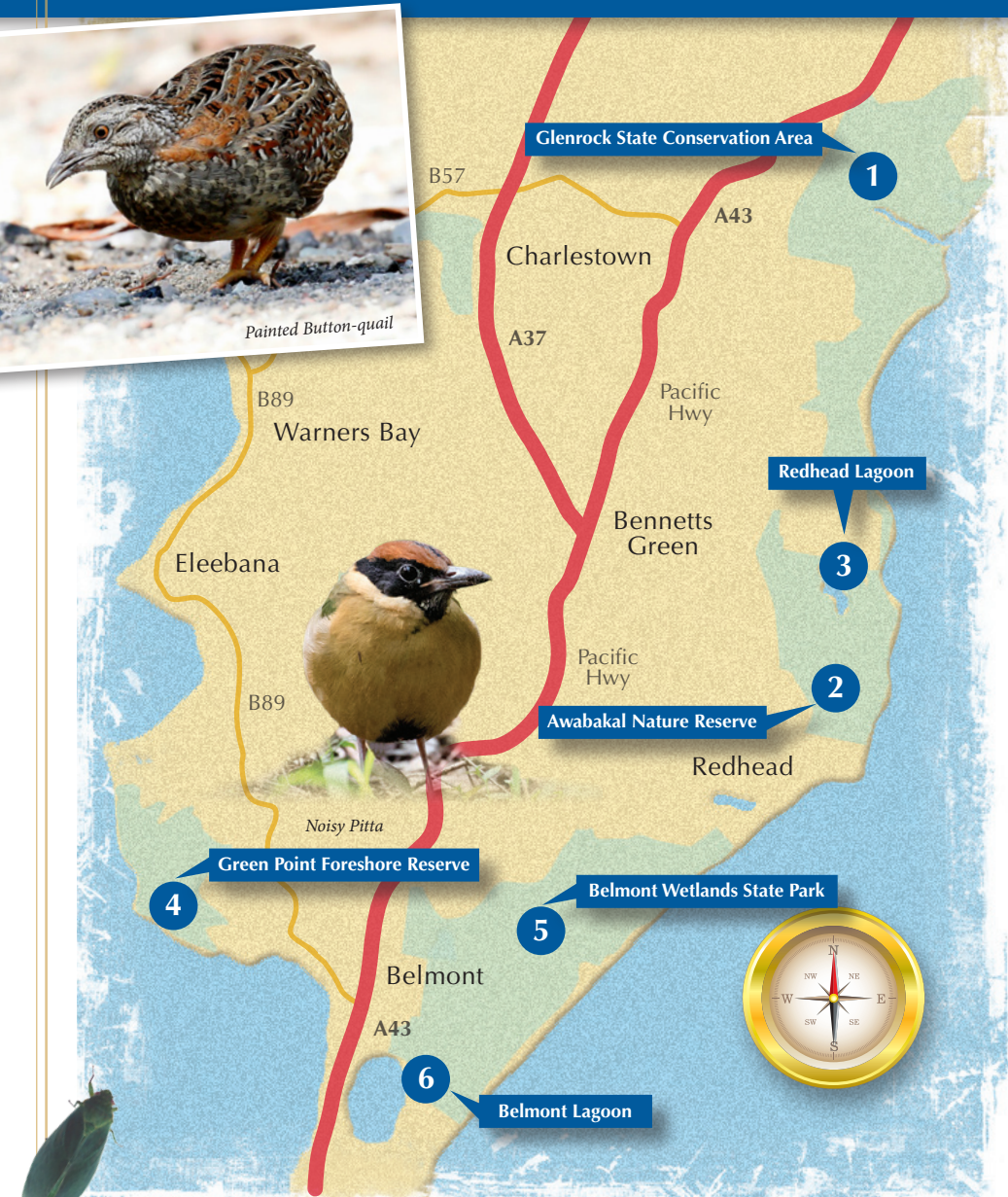


Hunter Bird
Observers Club

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North East Lake Macquarie Birding Route

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



Painted Button-quail

Noisy Pitta



1 GLENROCK STATE CONSERVATION AREA

This park in northeast Lake Macquarie and Newcastle comprises over 500 hectares of native vegetation, headlands and beaches, creeks and waterfalls and Glenrock Lagoon. The northern section of the park can be accessed via Hickson Street, off Scenic Drive, Merewether – this entrance provides good opportunities for viewing White-bellied Sea Eagles and birds of the coastal scrub and heath. In the south, the best access is from the Yuelarbah Carpark, off Burwood Road, Kahibah. Signage at the carpark provides clear directions for the picnic area on Flaggy Creek (wheelchair accessible, 600 metres) and through to Glenrock Lagoon and the beach (2km). Powerful Owls are often seen in the vicinity of the carpark. Birds commonly seen and heard along the Yuelarbah Track include Eastern Whipbirds and Golden Whistlers. Regent Bowerbirds, Bell Miners and Powerful Owls frequent the rainforest along the creek. Other birds to look out for include Rose Robins (in winter) and Lewin's Rail around Glenrock Lagoon.

There are no toilet facilities.
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

2 AWABAKAL NATURE RESERVE

This Reserve contains one of the largest remaining coastal heath communities in the region. It is a good location for observing heathland birds such as Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater and Bar-shouldered Dove. The reserve can be accessed from

Redhead in the south (off Alison Street), or from Ocean Street Dudley in the north. The main track runs north-south through the reserve. From the Dudley entrance there are also tracks leading to Redhead Lagoon (to the west) and to Awabakal Viewpoint (to the east). Awabakal Viewpoint offers extensive coastal views, including the possibility of whales. Look out for White-bellied Sea Eagles cruising up and down the coast.

There are no toilets facilities.
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

3 REDHEAD LAGOON

This is a perched freshwater lagoon at the northern end of Awabakal Nature Reserve. It can be accessed via Ocean Street Dudley as described above. The loop track circumnavigating the lagoon is 2.4 km of mostly flat terrain. Grey Goshawk has been seen here in addition to a variety of waterbirds and bush birds in the surrounding forest. Waterbirds include Musk Duck and Australasian Grebes. Sacred Kingfishers are often seen around the lagoon over summer.

4 GREEN POINT FORESHORE RESERVE

This Reserve is situated on the Lake Macquarie foreshore between Valentine (access from Dilkera Avenue) and Belmont (car park off The Shores Way). The Foreshore Walk follows the Lake edge for 3.5 km from end to end. Bush birds are common at this site. White-bellied Sea Eagles nest in the Reserve and are often seen flying above. Barking Owls and Powerful Owls have been recorded roosting in the Littoral Rainforest, approximately 600m into the Reserve from the Valentine entrance.

The Reserve can also be accessed from Green Point Drive, Belmont, where Brown Quail occasionally forage in the low shrubs and grass alongside the cycleway. Across the open grassy area the cycleway heads north through a Paperbark forest where Noisy Pitta and Bassian Thrush are often seen. Further along the cycleway, there is the possibility of Painted Button-quail in the drier forest at the end of Leichhardt Road.

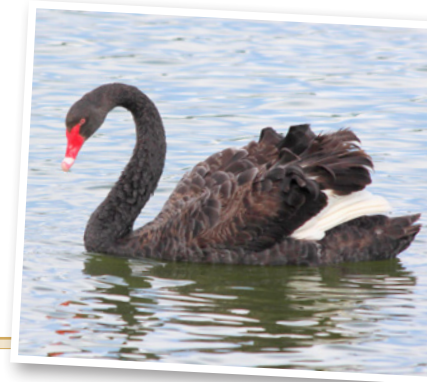
There are toilets at The Shores Way entrance.

There are also toilet and BBQ facilities at the Sea Eagle Park picnic area.

www.visitlakemac.com.au



White-bellied Sea-Eagle



Black Swan

Good examples of coastal woodland, heath, wetlands and pockets of littoral rainforest still exist in the urban north-east of Lake Macquarie. This guide describes birding sites between Glenrock and Belmont Lagoon.

The sites listed in this brochure are under the management of National Parks & Wildlife Service, Lake Macquarie Council or a State Park Trust - it is recommended that the relevant websites be visited for more detailed maps and up-to-date access information.