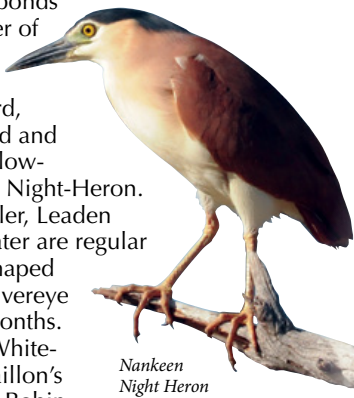


5 RAY LAWLER PARK, MORPETH

This picturesque park is located off Edward Street Morpeth. Its manicured lawns and small ponds are home to a surprising number of species and over the years 115 species have been recorded.

Common species include Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Blue-faced and Striped Honeyeater, parrots, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and Nankeen Night-Heron. Eastern Koel, White-winged Triller, Leaden Flycatcher and Rainbow Bee-eater are regular Summer visitors, whilst White-naped Honeyeater, Rose Robin and Silvereye are present during the colder months. Rarities include Black Falcon, White-headed and Topknot Pigeon, Baillon's Crake, Buff-banded Rail, Flame Robin, Regent Bowerbird and Plumed Whistling-Duck.

There are picnic facilities, toilets and a play ground.



Nankeen Night Heron

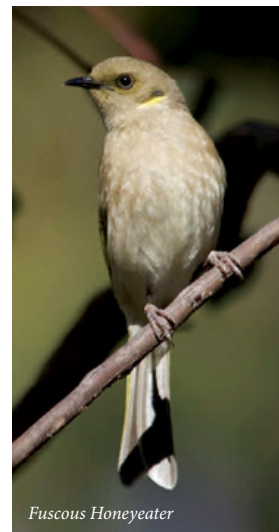
6 GOSFORTH

The locality of Gosforth is found at the end of Anambah Road which meets the New England Highway just west of Rutherford. The area is mostly private property but road-side birding is possible along Anambah Road and Valley Street, Gosforth. Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-necked Heron, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel, Latham's Snipe and Black-necked Stork are sometimes seen on the wetlands and small dams in the area. The vegetation in the area is drier than that found to the east so holds a few more western species like Weebill, Speckled Warbler, Jacky Winter and Double-barred Finch.

There are no facilities.

7 EARTHCARE PARK, TENAMBIT

This council-owned reserve is located off Metford Road, Tenambit. A former grazing property, Earthcare Park is being restored by local groups and now attracts many species of bird such as parrots, honeyeaters, thornbills, pardalotes and fairy-wrens. Below the vegetated hill lies a freshwater wetland system and extensive reed beds which are home to a wide range of waterbirds. Purple Swampphen and other waterfowl, grassbirds and Golden-headed Cisticola are common while Australasian Bittern, crakes, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin and Black-necked Stork turn up from time to time. A wide range of birds of prey also inhabit the area. **There are no facilities.**



Fuscous Honeyeater

8 HANDS LAGOON

This wetland is situated on the western side of Paterson Road, shortly before the junction with Flat Road. There is a small pull-in bay adjacent to some water supply infrastructure. This spot offers good views of most of the Lagoon; it is also possible to walk partway around it. Eurasian Coot, Black Swan and a variety of other waterfowl can usually be found there. Large flocks of Long-billed Corella sometimes are present nearby. Australasian Bittern and Spotted Harrier have been recorded there, while a solitary Cotton Pygmy-goose put in a rare appearance in 2002.

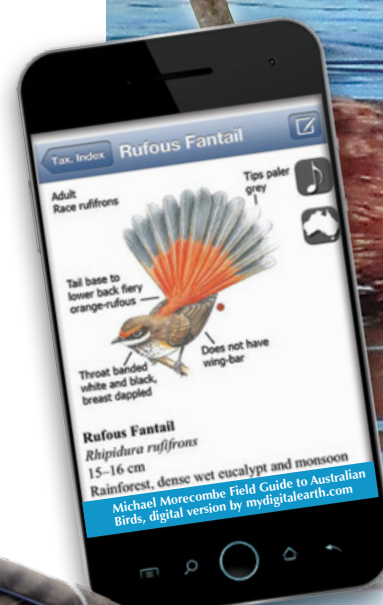
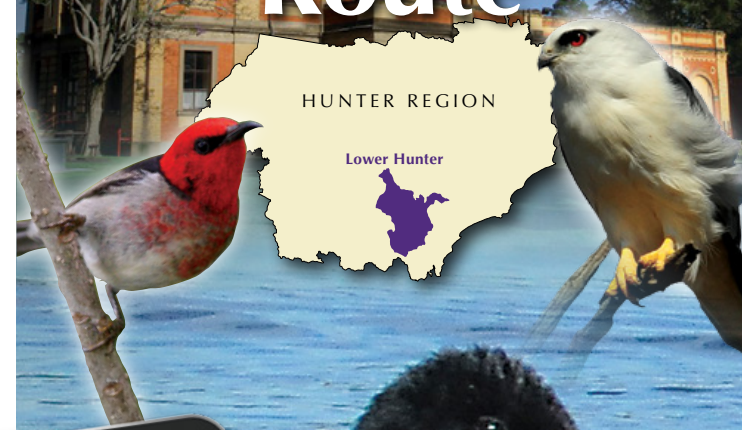
Prepared (Nov 2013) by Grant Brosie and Alan Stuart for: Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. PO Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305

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 Rd, Shortland. Also, monthly outings on first Tuesday and third Sunday of each month – check our website for details.

Design & artwork by rob@designbridge.com.au 0420 821 460

Maitland Area Birding Route



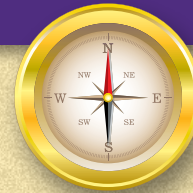
Factfile Weebill (*Smicrornis brevirostris*)

Australia's smallest bird at 8 to 9 cm (3.1 to 3.5 in) long. It is an olive-yellow songbird with a grey bill, brown wings, pale yellow eyes and grey feet. Its tail feathers are brown with a black bar and white spot on the tip of all inner webs but the central pairs. The sexes are similar.



Maitland Area Birding Route

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



Whistling Kite

1 WALKA WATER WORKS

Walka Water Works once supplied Maitland's water needs but is now only used for recreational activities. The reserve is relatively small and contains a wide range of habitats including open water, reed beds, open grassy areas, eucalypt woodland, lantana scrub, floodplains and agricultural land. This range of habitats supports a large variety of birds and a trip list of 40-80 species is always possible. The entrance is at the end of Scobies Lane, Oakhampton. Water birds can be sporadic depending on surrounding water levels. In drought years as many as 9 species of water fowl and 3 species of grebe can be seen on the lake, including Freckled, Blue-billed, Musk and Pink-eared Ducks. Great Crested Grebe are common and regularly breed in the reed beds. Spotted and Baillon's Crake, Buff-banded and Lewin's Rail, Latham's Snipe, Black-fronted Dotterel and Little Bittern can sometimes be seen on the lake's edge. The surrounding bush contains Scarlet Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Variegated Fairy-wren, Dollarbird (summer),

Eastern Yellow Robin, Rose Robin (winter), Bar-shouldered Dove and Mistletoebird. Walka Water Works has excellent picnic facilities and toilets. **Opening hours are 7am – dusk.**

2 WOODLANDS ESTATE, THORNTON

One of the last remaining accessible patches of eucalypt woodland in the Maitland LGA. Woodlands Estate is located off Woodlands Drive, Thornton (access via Whiteley Avenue, Metford). Park your vehicle where Four Mile Creek crosses the road; there are tracks heading north and south from this point. The southern track follows the creek and eventually enters ironbark woodland. The northern track also follows the creek but enters denser habitats. White-throated Trecreeper, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Varied Sittella, White-cheeked Honeyeater, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and Crested Shrike-tit are resident while in Summer Black-faced Monarch, Rufous Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher, Rainbow Bee-eater and White-throated Gerygone are regular. **There are no facilities.**



Rainbow Bee-eater

3 MAITLAND FLOODPLAIN

This extensive area of low-lying agricultural land is located north of the Hunter River between Lorn in the west and the Paterson River to the east. The area is largely privately owned but some good road side birding can be had along Glenarvon Road, Phoenix Park Road and Unicomb Road. Spring and summer are best as species like Banded Lapwing, Horsfield's Bushlark, Rufous and Brown Songlark, White-winged Triller and Stubble Quail are present and vocal.



Horsfield's Bushlark

Zebra Finch, European Goldfinch and Australian Pipit are year round residents. Keep an eye open for Black, Brown and Peregrine Falcon, Spotted and Swamp Harrier, Little Eagle, Black-shouldered, Whistling and Black Kite. A night time drive can produce Barn Owl, Southern Boobook and Tawny Frogmouth.

4 BOLWARRA WETLANDS

This former sewage treatment works has been converted into an attractive wetlands with a small area of adjacent bushland and walking track. Access is from the Bolwarra Sporting Complex on Victoria Road (which runs off Paterson Road) - park your vehicle at the Sporting Complex and it is a short walk downhill to the Wetlands. Latham's Snipe are often present in Summer. A variety of waterfowl can usually be found there, sometimes in large numbers. Black-tailed Native-hen occasionally are present, while Zebra Finch have been recorded in the bush alongside the wetlands. **There are no facilities.**



Zebra Finch

