

### 3 WARRAH CREEK RESERVE

From the New England Highway about 1km north of Murrurundi, exit onto High Street and follow it to the intersection with Main Street. Another option is to continue on the New England Highway and exit left onto Main Street at Ardglen, shortly after passing through Nowlands Gap. High Street becomes Swinging Ridges Road after the Main Street intersection. Continue for ~15km, to the intersection with Warrah Creek Road. Here is a community hall with surrounding bushland, forming the Warrah Creek Reserve. Cockatiels have been seen in this area, as well as Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Little Corella, Australian King-Parrot and Eastern Rosella. Brown Falcons and Black-shouldered Kites are resident; look for Black Falcons too. **A toilet is available.**

#### FURTHER AFIELD

To the north of Murrurundi are the townships of Quirindi and Wallabadah. At both, there are signposted birding routes directing you to the local sites where birds can be found. These routes were developed by the Tamworth Bird Watchers Group.



Black Falcon



Brown Cuckoo-Dove

### 4 SCOTTS CREEK ROAD

At Blandford on the New England Highway, take Timor Road (Haydons Lane, to the south, is another option off the Highway). After ~3km, there is a left turn into Scotts Creek Road. This 19km mostly unsealed road follows picturesque Scotts Creek through rolling hills. There is private property on both sides and the birding is limited to roadside viewing opportunities. Crimson and Eastern Rosella, Red-browed, Double-barred and Zebra Finch and Yellow-rumped Thornbill are possibilities. Raptors such as Wedge-tailed and Little Eagle can be seen soaring in the thermals, with Brown Falcons, Nankeen Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites lower down. After ~15km, views of the imposing Wallabadah Rock begin. This is Australia's second largest monolith. Scotts Creek Road ends at a private property <1km from Wallabadah Rock. **There are no facilities.**



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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.

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# Murrurundi Area Birding Route



**Factfile** Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

This migratory bird arrives in Eastern Australia around September each year. It prefers open woodland areas and feeds mostly on flying insects. They can often be seen sat on a conspicuous perch in wait for passing prey. Males and females are similar in colour although females are slightly duller.



Hunter Bird Observers Club  
Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

# Murrurundi Birding Route

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



Eastern Koel

## 2 TIMOR CAVES

From Blandford on the New England Highway, drive 21 km along Timor Road to the junction with Crawney Road (also called Jenkins Street). Turn left and go a further 10 km to Sargents Gap Road (also called Isaacs Creek Road). The area beyond this T-intersection contains more than 80 caves, generally on private property. Crawney road and Sargents Gap Road both provide excellent roadside birding. More than 100 species have been recorded in the area, with at least 33 species breeding. 14 species of honeyeater including Fuscous, White-plumed, Brown-headed and White-eared are regular, as are Golden Whistler, Speckled Warbler, fairy-wrens, thornbills, finches and various types of pigeons and parrots. In summer, they are joined by Leaden Flycatcher, Rufous Songlark, Dollarbird, Fairy Martin, Cicadabird, Eastern Koel, Pallid and Brush Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher and Rainbow Bee-eater.

At Isaacs Creek, 2 km along Sargents Gap Road, there are 4 large caves which can be accessed after obtaining permission from the property owner. Bush camping is also possible here, after obtaining permission and a small fee per vehicle. **There are no facilities.**



Rufous Songlark

## 1 PARADISE PARK MURRURUNDI

This Park overlooking Murrurundi has interesting birds and is also worth visiting for its geological features. If travelling north on the New England Highway, turn left at Victoria Street (on the southern side of town) and follow the blue signs to Paradise Park (which requires several turns). Proceed past the golf club on the right, into the picnic area. **There are toilets and picnic facilities available.** There is good birding to be had in the bush around here. Musk Lorikeets are sometimes recorded along with regulars such as White-throated Trecreeper, Brown Thornbill, Superb Fairy-wren, Golden Whistler. A walk along Paradise Road, with edge habitat due to bushland on one side and golf course on the other, is also worthwhile.

At the far end of the picnic area in Paradise Park is a walking track to "The Eye of the Needle". The walk is strenuous in parts and the track maintenance can be sporadic. The walk through "The Eye" is very interesting though and

later there are very good views over Murrurundi. Brown Cuckoo-dove has been seen on this walk and it is also worth watching for Rockwarblers in the rocky areas; this is at about the northern limit of their range.



Leaden Flycatcher

Paradise Park



Musk Lorikeet



Little Eagle