

5 WOODBERRY & TARRO WETLANDS

These are extensive, degraded wetlands where waterfowl and other wetland species can be seen including Australasian Shoveler and Pink-eared Duck. Good views of open water are limited. To view Woodberry Wetland, 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.

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.**



Australian Hobby



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 pond is best viewed from the car park for Wallsend Swimming Centre near Frances Street, Wallsend. **Please note that this area is private property.**

Prepared (March 2023) by Ann Lindsey and Bob Stewart for: Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.
PO Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305

www.hboc.org.au

HBOC meets at 6:30pm 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.

Design & artwork by
Conservation Matters 0420 821460

Newcastle Wetlands Birding Route

HUNTER REGION

Newcastle



Factfile Black-fronted Dotterel (*Elseyornis 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.



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Newcastle Wetlands Birding Route

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



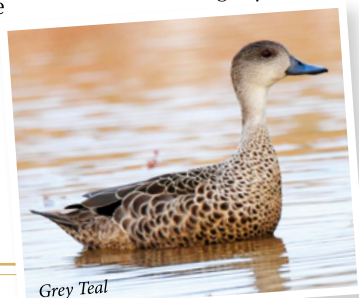
Under the right conditions Newcastle wetlands still support a significant number of common and threatened species despite considerable modification over the past 200 years. They are either part of the greater Hexham Swamp complex or are close by. Ash Island, marked on the map, has its own birding route 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, 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland, is a great place for photographers, beginners and experienced birdwatchers alike as common species can be seen at close quarters. A morning's visit can yield over 50 species of waterbirds and bush birds. Ducks are a feature with Pink-eared and Wandering Whistling-Ducks turning up in times of drought. Pacific Black Duck, Grey and Chestnut Teal are common. Breeding birds include White Ibis, four species of egret, Purple Swamphen and Dusky Moorhen. Magpie Geese are a feature as they are fed every morning. For further information see www.wetlands.org.au

2 NEWCASTLE WETLANDS RESERVE

This belongs to Shortland Waters Golf Club. To access the site from the Golf Club side, you will first need to ask permission. You can also view the wetland from the south-eastern side of Sandgate Road in the vicinity of the last house in a row of houses. This wetland is one of the few freshwater wetlands in the lower Hunter and hosts a number of waterfowl and other waterbird species. Four species of cormorant and Darter breed in the surrounding paperbarks and Latham's Snipe is common over the summer months. Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks turn up during inland drought periods.



Grey Teal

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 Cres.



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. Hartin's Trail 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 right (south) onto a sealed road (left if you are coming from the direction of Tarro); follow the sealed road for approximately 1.1 km to the Aurizon gate which blocks further access. Just before this gate, turn right (west) over a cattle grid and follow the 'birders' signs along an unsealed track all the way to the national park. The directions are signposted and marked as a blue line on the map opposite. It is approximately 1.7 km to the next right hand turn at an unlocked gate. Please close the gate after you have entered. It is then about 40 m to Pipeline Track where you have to make an awkward left turn over cattle grids in order to travel south along Pipeline Track into the national park. The Pipeline Track terminates at Fishery Creek. As you move south you enter Hunter Wetlands National Park. To exit, retrace the route back to the Tarro Interchange. Please drive slowly.