



Little Tern

Mudbishops Reserve has several resident species, including Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Brown Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Brown and Yellow Thornbill; also Sacred Kingfisher, Rufous Whistler and Dollarbird visit there in summer.

Beach access is available from Old Bar and ~500m along Mudbishops Point Road. However, the most rewarding access point is from a small car park located ~1km from Old Bar's historic airstrip. An ~2km return walk takes you along the eastern side of the lagoon to Mudbishops Point, then along the beach back to the carpark. The walk circumnavigates a breeding colony for the endangered Little Tern. Small numbers can remain over winter but in summer many hundreds return to breed. It is usually one of the most successful breeding and fledgling sites for Little Terns in NSW. Migratory Common Terns are present in summer, their numbers varying considerably but sometimes many hundreds: in winter they are replaced by low numbers of White-fronted Terns. Recently very rare Aleutian Terns have been recorded in summer.

During the walk, you are likely to encounter Beach Stone-curlews (a pair is resident), Pied Oystercatchers and Red-capped Plovers (there are several breeding pairs of both species). Shorebirds such as Red-necked Stint and Pacific

Golden Plover stay all year (their numbers swell in summer) and in winter they are joined by Double-banded Plovers. The State Park is one of the most reliable spots in NSW to find Sanderlings in summer. Shorebirds such as Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Whimbrel prefer to roost on the islands in the lagoon.

A good variety of non shorebird species can be found in the area around the carpark, including Little Wattlebirds, White-cheeked Honeyeaters, Superb Fairy-wrens, Tawny Grassbirds, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos and Rainbow Bee-eaters (in summer). **Toilets and picnic facilities are available at Old Bar and Mudbishops Reserve.**



White-throated Treecreeper

4 KHAPPINGHAT NATIONAL PARK

Khappinghat NP provides an opportunity to see coastal bush birds such as White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Yellow Robin, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill. The Park is best accessed from Folies Road, which is a southwards turn from the road from the Pacific Highway into Old Bar. The Park can also be entered from Jack Wards Road which involves an eastwards turn from the Pacific Highway. There are many dirt tracks that criss-cross the NP. **There are no facilities.**

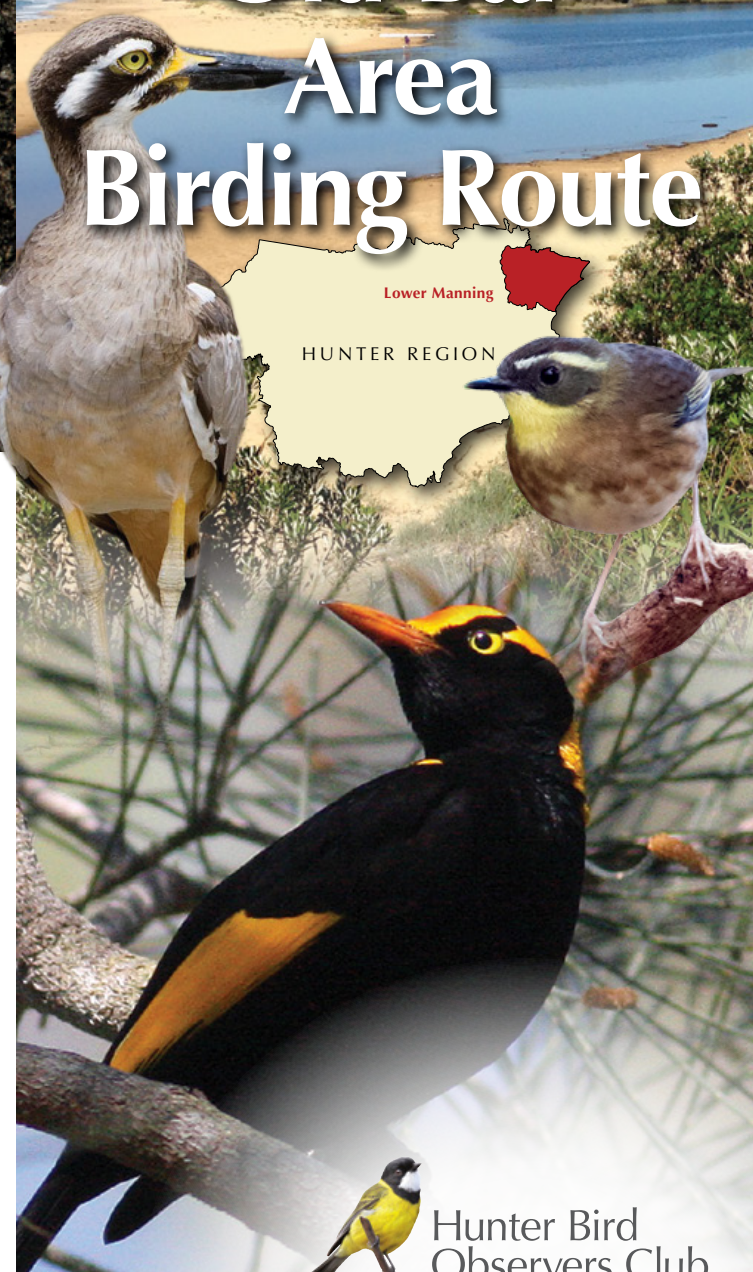
Prepared (July 2018) by Alan Stuart for:
Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.
PO Box 24 New Lambton NSW 2305

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

Ref: OBBR_July18
Design & artwork by
Conservation Matters 0420 821 460

Old Bar Area Birding Route



Factfile Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)

The male Golden Whistler is the emblem of the Hunter Bird Observers Club. It is a common resident of our rainforests and woodlands and its pretty song can be heard all year round. They feed on insects, spiders and other small arthropods usually obtained from the lower or middle tree level.

HBOC gratefully acknowledge the following photographers:
Allen Fritts, Rob Kyte, Ann Lindsey, Steve Merret, Trevor Murray,
Mick Roderick, Alwyn Simple, Alan Stuart and Gary Tong.



Old Bar Area Birding Route

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



Scaly-breasted Lorikeet

bridge and the start of the 1.4km return Nature Walk (which forms part of Khappinghat National Park). The walk winds its way through rainforest, then open forest and finally, paperbark forest alongside Khappinghat Creek.

The very pretty rainforest section of the walk offers another opportunity to find birds that may have been missed in Saltwater National Park. In the more lightly timbered areas further on, species such as White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Yellow Robin and Golden Whistler are joined in summer by Rufous Whistler and Dollarbird. White-faced Herons forage alongside the Creek while many species of cormorants and raptors hunt for fish over the waters. **There are toilets and picnic facilities in Saltwater NP.**

3 MANNING ENTRANCE STATE PARK

This 487ha State Park runs northwards from Old Bar to the southern side of the Manning River's entrance at Manning Point. More than 100 species have been recorded. It includes tracts of littoral rainforests and other native vegetation offering opportunities to see many bush birds. Shorebirds are found here in good numbers especially in summer, and it is an important breeding area for several NSW threatened species in particular Little Tern and Beach Stone-curlew.

The unsealed Mudbishops Point Road (starting from Old Bar) passes through a variety of native vegetation before coming to Mudbishops Reserve. Brown Quail and Bar-shouldered Dove are often seen alongside the road while White-cheeked and Lewin's Honeyeater and Little Wattlebirds flit in the upper foliage. Raptors such as Osprey and White-bellied Sea-Eagle are often seen patrolling the lagoon while gulls, terns and cormorants and the occasional shorebird such as Eastern Curlew can be seen roosting on some of the islands.

White-faced Heron

1 SALTWATER NATIONAL PARK

This small National Park is fronted by a popular surfing beach and the Park itself has significant indigenous importance. In association with that it is sometimes used as a campsite (e.g. summer holidays, Easter). Most other times, it is a quiet and wonderful place for birdwatchers to visit. It offers coastal, estuarine, rainforest and open forest habitats all within a relatively small area, and at least 130 species have been recorded here. Regent Bowerbirds are nearly always present and often joined by Satin Bowerbirds and Green Catbirds. White-browed, Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwrens are resident. Australian Brush-turkeys usually patrol the picnic grounds; some of their mounds can be found in the surrounding undergrowth. Wonga and White-headed Pigeons are often seen, and Topknot Pigeon and Wompoo Fruit-dove have also been recorded. Forest Ravens are the resident corvid while Figbirds can be present in big numbers when the fig trees are fruiting. In summer, both Black-faced and Spectacled Monarchs join the many resident rainforest species. The paperbark

forest contains Nankeen Night-herons although they often are difficult to locate. Silver Gulls and Crested Terns are joined in late summer by Little and Common Terns, while a pair of Pied Oystercatchers often visit. White-bellied Sea-Eagles, Whistling Kites, Ospreys and Brahminy Kites regularly patrol the beaches and lagoon.

Access is via the village at Wallabi Point; the Park lies ~1km further south, at the mouth of Khappinghat Creek. **Toilets and picnic facilities are available.**

2 SALTWATER NATURE WALK

Take the track behind the middle block of toilets in Saltwater NP (it is signposted for Five Islands Walk, an alternative name for this Walk). After ~100m, turn left; another ~200m brings you to a rustic



Little Wattlebird

