

**5 NORTHERN BEACHES**

Wedge-tailed Shearwater

Hawks Nest Beach, at the end of Booner Street, is very popular during holiday periods but at other times can be worth visiting. Shorebirds such as Double-banded Plover, Red-capped Plover, Red-necked Stint are likely especially along Bennetts Beach which lies to the north. White-bellied Sea-Eagles, Brahminy Kites and Ospreys can sometimes be seen patrolling the waters, There are excellent views of Cabbage Tree, Boondelbah and Broughton Islands. The first two of these are breeding grounds for the threatened Gould's Petrel but you are unlikely to see one because they arrive and depart in darkness. Wedge-tailed and Short-tailed Shearwaters also breed on the Islands and in spring and summer many hundreds of them (and sometimes many thousands) can be seen foraging out at sea, sometimes joined by mixed flocks of Fluttering and Hutton's Shearwaters. In winter the shearwaters are replaced by Australian Gannets and mollymawk-type albatrosses, such as Indian Yellow-nosed and Black-browed types. **Toilets are available at Hawks Nest Beach.**

**6 JIMMYS BEACH / YACAABA**

Access is via Jimmys Beach Caravan Park off Coorilla St Hawks Nest. There is a parking area immediately before the Caravan Park or drive slowly through it to another parking area. The walk to Jimmys Beach offers opportunities to see bush birds and birds of prey, then

shorebirds and waterbirds on arriving at the beach. Towards Yacaaba is a low-tide sand-spit used by terns, occasionally Little Terns, and cormorants.

**7 MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK**

Information about the National Park is beyond the scope of this brochure but it is worth noting that it starts only a few kilometres north along Mungo Brush Rd from Hawks Nest. There is very good birding to be had in the area around Mungo Brush ~25km to the north (and which has toilets and bush camping; fees apply).



Pacific Golden Plover

**GET TO KNOW YOUR EBG**  
 Enjoy your birding while minimising any negative impact on birds. Ethical Birding Guidelines are available from the Birdlife website: [www.birdlife.org.au/documents/POL-Ethical-Birding-Guidelines.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/POL-Ethical-Birding-Guidelines.pdf)

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

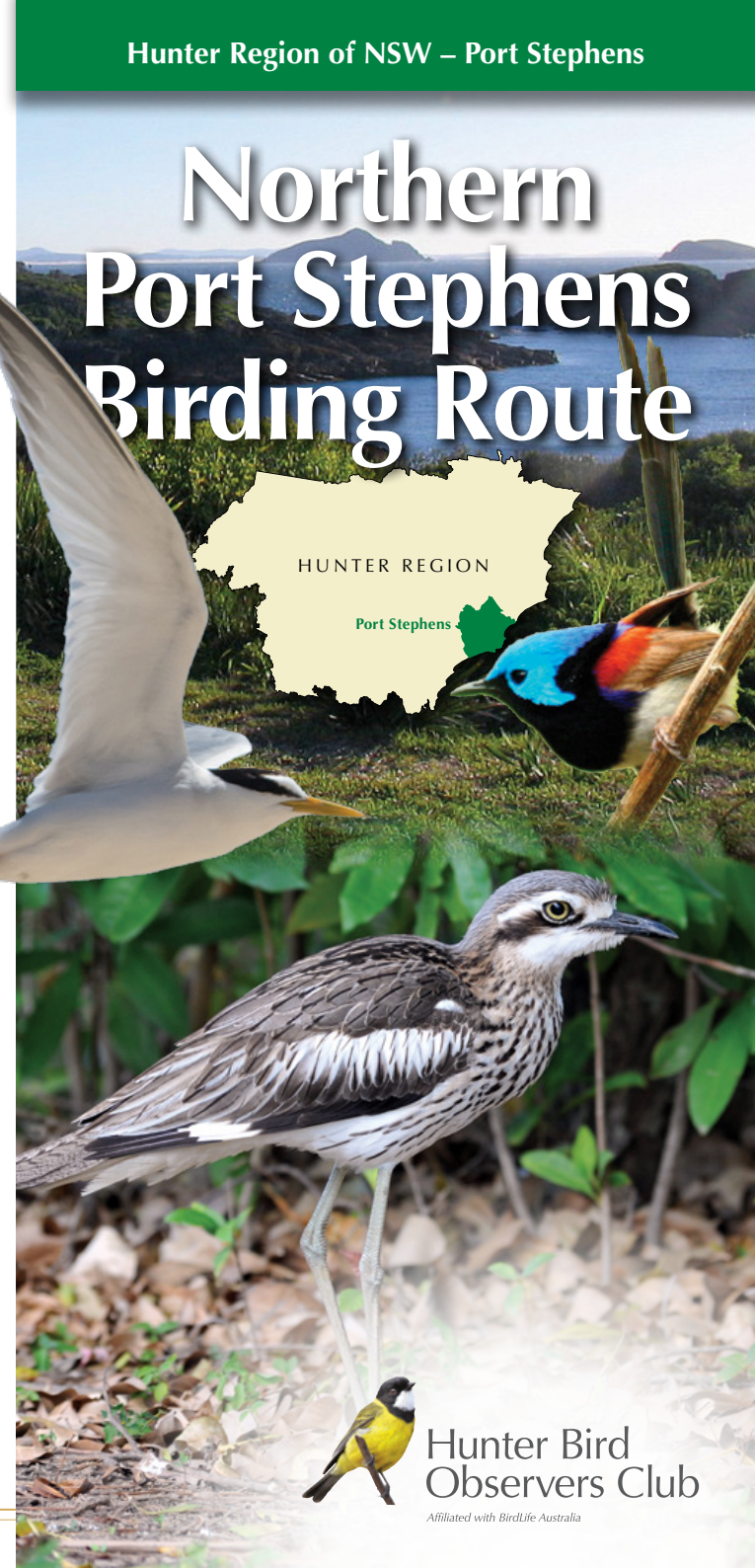
Design & artwork by Rob Kyte 0420 821 460

# Northern Port Stephens Birding Route



**Factfile** Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

The Red-capped Plover can be found around sandflats or mudflats and is the most common and widespread of Australia's shorebirds. They can often be seen foraging on the margins by running, stopping and pecking for small invertebrates that inhabit the surface. The females are duller than males with less distinct black markings.



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**Hunter Bird Observers Club**  
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# Northern Port Stephens Birding Route

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



### 3 WINDA WOPPA RESERVE

Follow Tuloa Ave through Hawks Nest and then veer right into The Anchorage. At the end of it you will arrive at a pleasant park where both bush and waterbirds can be encountered. Grey-tailed Tattlers and Sooty Oystercatchers often roost near the boat ramp, while Pelicans, all four of the local cormorants and gulls and terns patrol the rich waters or roost on emergent poles. Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets are regulars, as are bush birds such as Grey Butcherbird, Striped and Brown Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren, Willie Wagtail. Whistling Kites, White-bellied sea-Eagles and Ospreys often fly over, and sometimes a Brahminy Kite will put in an appearance. **Facilities include are toilets and picnic tables.**

If you are feeling adventurous, there is an interesting 3-4km return walk starting from behind the toilet block. It eventually brings you to Winda Woppa Point from which there are views of nearby sand banks and across to Corrie Island Nature Reserve. In recent seasons, a Little Tern colony has established on the Point. Shorebirds like to roost at the Point; they fly to Corrie Island for refuge whenever walkers come too close. If you approach carefully, you can be rewarded with views of Double-banded Plovers in the dunes (in winter months) and Red-necked Stints, Red-capped Plovers and the occasional Lesser Sand Plover in summer. Larger shorebirds roost more openly at the Point, along with cormorants, pelicans, gulls and terns. Target to arrive at Winda Woppa Point around the high tide time

### 4 TELFER PARK AND ENVIRONS

Access is from Albatross Ave/Koonwarra Drive in Hawks Nest. Although this Park has fairly limited habitat, favouring lorikeets and large honeyeaters, at low tide some sections of mudflat become exposed. A variety of shorebirds sometimes feed at them, including Bar-tailed Godwits and Eastern Curlews, while Red-necked Avocets have also been recorded. The secretive Buff-banded Rail is sometimes seen foraging in the vegetation at the margins, while Mangrove Gerygones and Grey Fantails can found in the mangroves. A fire trail at the end of Koonwarra Drive, and other fire trails which start from the end of nearby Kiewa Street, provide opportunities to find a range of bush birds. **There are no facilities.**

### 1 PINDIMAR

From the Myall Way turn-off, the road to Pindimar winds through pleasant rolling hills. In summer, flocks of White-throated Needletails are sometimes to be seen hawking above (be sure to check for any Fork-tailed Swifts amongst them). The ponds at the crayfish farm on the left a few hundred metres along are worth a look – there is a small pull-in bay where you can park.

On reaching Pindimar, the small beach immediately in front usually has Grey-tailed Tattlers either roosting at high tide or foraging amongst the exposed mudflats. They are present all year although in smaller numbers in winter. Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit are other common shorebirds in the area, and sometimes a Striated Heron can be observed stalking its prey. The shoreline around Pindimar is accessible from several places along Cabbage St, and you will find birds such as Bar-shouldered Dove and Eastern Yellow Robin as you walk in. It is also possible to walk the shoreline behind the mangroves from Curlew Ave; here you can find Mangrove Gerygone, Yellow Thornbill, Superb Fairy-wren, and a Nankeen Night-Heron is a possibility.

The cryptic Australasian Bittern has been recorded at Pindimar and Bush Stone-curlews apparently are resident but they are very hard to find by day. **There are picnic tables at Pindimar but no other facilities.**

The locations of North Pindimar and Bundabah are also worth visiting (North Pindimar is accessed from Warri St a few hundred metres from the Bundabah turn-off). Both have good access roads leading to long stretches of quiet, relatively undisturbed bush and shorebird habitat.

### 2 TEA GARDENS

The river shoreline hosts large waterbirds such as Great, Intermediate and Little Egret, Pelican, Royal Spoonbill and White-faced Heron – they often perch in numbers on wharves and on poles in the Myall River. The shoreline also attracts Grey-tailed Tattlers, Pacific Golden Plovers, Pied Oystercatchers and Masked Lapwings.

Bar-shouldered Dove



Osprey

Red-necked Avocet

Royal Spoonbill