

Scone Area Birding Route



5 PARKVILLE SWAMP

This small swamp, on private property on the left hand side when travelling north, is situated quite close to the road. Pull off the New England Highway on the northern side of Parkville (almost directly opposite the sign for Parkville for vehicles travelling south). Yellow-billed Spoonbills, White-faced and White-necked Herons, Intermediate and Great Egrets often feed around the margins of the pond, with Black-fronted Dotterels also present when the pond begins to dry out. Australasian Grebes, Grey Teal and other duck species are regularly there. **There are no facilities.**

6 BURNING MOUNTAIN NATURE RESERVE

The turn-off towards this interesting physical feature alongside the New England Highway, 4.5km north of Wingen, is well signposted in both directions. **There are toilets and picnic facilities available near the parking area.** From here is a 4.6km return walk to the main attraction, one of the outlets of an underground coal seam that has been smouldering for several millennia. The walk, sometimes passing through private property, provides excellent bush birding opportunities. Striated Thornbill, Weebill, Speckled Warbler, White-throated Treecreeper are regulars here, while Wedge-tailed Eagles and Brown Falcons often are seen, and sometimes a Spotted Harrier or Little Eagle. Black Falcon is also a possibility. Near the start of the walk is a small wetlands which sometimes holds ducks, Dusky Moorhen, Swampphen and Eurasian Coot. In the hotter months, the walk is best tackled early morning or late in the afternoon.



White-necked Heron

7 WINGEN WATERING LANE TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVE

If travelling north on the New England Highway, turn left at Abbott Street (3rd street after the hotel). After crossing the narrow bridge over Kingdon Ponds, follow the gravel road up the hill for another 700m, to the Wingen Cemetery sign. Take the right hand turn and follow the track, keeping the cemetery on your left until you come to a closed gate. Go through this and travel 800m to another closed gate, ignoring a gate to the left, into private property, at 500m. Park near the gate and enter the Stock Reserve, which is long and narrow with private property on both sides. Grey-crowned Babbler, Speckled Warbler and Brown Treecreeper all are regular here, as are Weebill, thornbills, lorikeets, Australian King-Parrot. Brown Goshawks and Collared Sparrowhawks sometimes hunt in the area. If you are feeling adventurous, at the top of the rise is another gate from where the track continues to the boundary of Wingen Maid Nature Reserve. **There are toilets at the Rodeo Grounds in Wingen.**



Yellow Thornbill

GET TO KNOW YOUR EBG

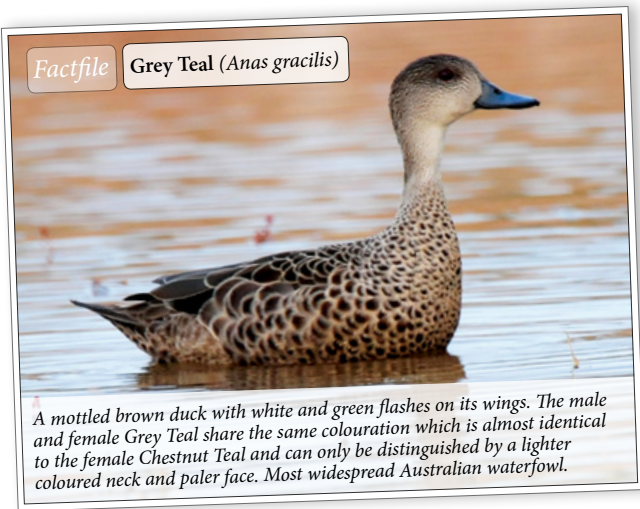
Enjoy your birding while minimising any negative impact on birds. Ethical Birding Guidelines are available from the Birdlife website: www.birdlife.org.au/documents/POL-Ethical-Birding-Guidelines.pdf

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www.hboc.org.au

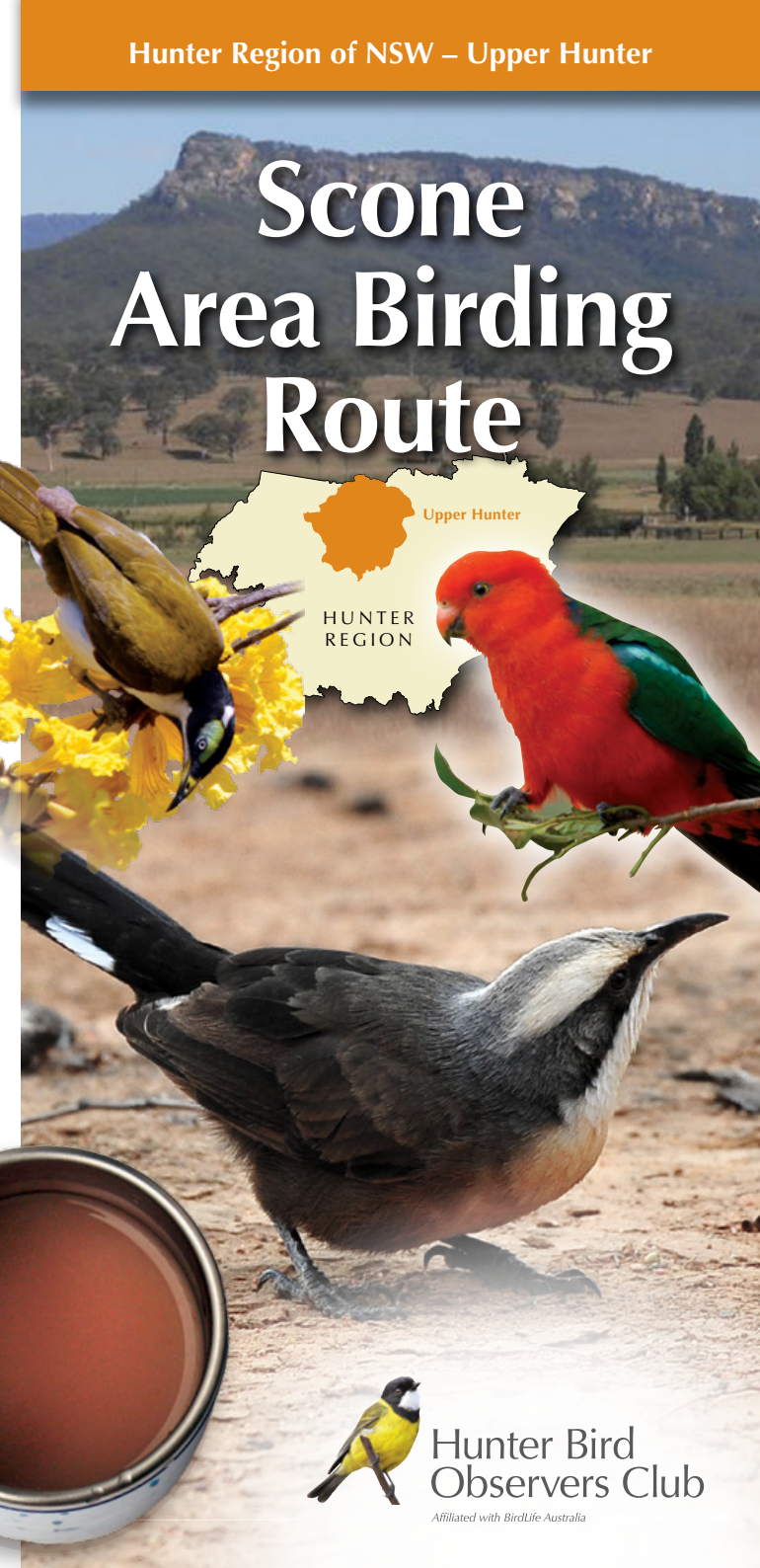
HBOC meets at 7:00pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, off the roundabout at Sandgate Rd, Shortland. Also, monthly outings on first Tuesday and third Sunday of each month – check our website for details.

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Factfile Grey Teal (*Anas gracilis*)

A mottled brown duck with white and green flashes on its wings. The male and female Grey Teal share the same colouration which is almost identical to the female Chestnut Teal and can only be distinguished by a lighter coloured neck and paler face. Most widespread Australian waterfowl.



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Scone Birding Route



1 TOWARRI NATIONAL PARK (WASHPOLS)

From Scone if travelling north, turn left into Liverpool Street at the traffic lights. Turn right into Middlebrook Road after ~1km. There is a T-intersection with Cressfield Road after ~15km. An alternative route is to continue north of Scone on the New England Highway and turn left into Cressfield Road. Brown and Black Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Spotted Harrier and Wedge-tailed Eagle have all been seen along the approach roads.

Most of the Towarri National Park is closed to the public as it requires passing through private properties. However, the first section of the Park is accessible and offers good birding opportunities. "Washpools" lies on the creek and various waterbirds have been recorded there.

However, bush birds are its main attraction, either in the Park itself or by walking along this section of Middlebrook Road. Ten species of honeyeater have been recorded in the area including White-plumed, White-eared, Brown-headed and White-naped, also Weebills and all five of the local thornbills (Brown,



Brown Treecreeper

Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Striated and Buff-rumped).

Other highlights include Brown Cuckoo-dove, Common Bronzewing and Barn Owl. In summer, Rufous Whistler, White-throated Gerygone and Leaden Flycatcher are present, replaced by Rose Robins in winter. Also look for the western race *substriatus* of Striated Pardalote which occurs in the area. **There are toilets and picnic facilities available, and a grassy bush camping area (for which a fee applies).**

2 OWENS GAP HILL TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVE

If travelling north on the New England Highway, turn left into Liverpool Street at the traffic lights in Scone and follow the signs for Merriwa and Bunnan (by turning right into Satur Road which becomes Bunnan Road). At 19.5km from Scone, and about 1km after the steep descent from Owens Gap, turn right into Gibbergunyah Road. The Stock Reserve begins after the road crosses a stock grid. It is a large reserve with good birding to be had on both sides of the road. Grey-crowned Babbler, Common Bronzewing, Speckled Warbler and Brown Treecreeper are regular here, as are Red-rumped Parrot and Weebill and various species of thornbills, lorikeets and pardalotes. In summer, Sacred Kingfishers and Rufous Whistlers are common. **There are no facilities.**

3 LAKE GLENBAWN STATE RECREATION AREA

Lake Glenbawn SRA may be approached via Scone (15km to the turn-off into the Park entry road) or Aberdeen (13km to the turn-off). This popular fishing and boating location is well signposted coming from either direction. The Lake hosts a range of waterbirds such as Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal and Hardhead, Australasian, Hoary-headed and Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Coot, Pelican, Darter, herons, egrets and cormorants. Many bush birds have also been recorded in the environs, including Crimson and Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot and Galah. Satin Bowerbirds are found around the picnic and camping areas, as are Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Less common birds recorded in the area include Restless Flycatcher and Blue-faced Honeyeater. **There are toilets and picnic facilities available, and a camping area.** A daily entrance fee applies (presently \$10 per vehicle). Cabins and bungalows are also available for hire.

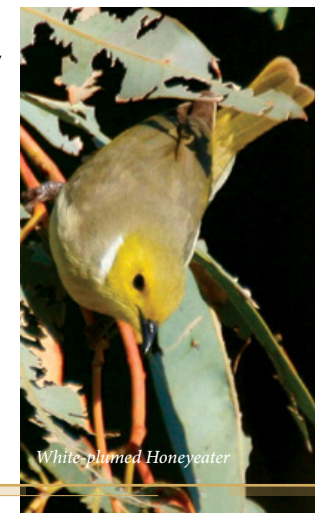


Sacred Kingfisher

4 BROADS CROSSING

From Aberdeen travelling north, turn right into McAdam St (which is signposted for Rouchel; the street name changes to Rouchel Road after ~1km). After 8km, turn left into Brushy Hill Road (which soon becomes Glenbawn Road; it is an alternative route to Lake Glenbawn). The road crosses the Hunter River at Broads Crossing ~100m from the junction. There is a small parking area on the right immediately before the bridge. On weekends Broads Crossing can be a popular swimming hole but at other times it offers peaceful birdwatching opportunities. Various waterbirds may be found there, and an added attraction is to find bush birds along the roadside or beside the River. Superb Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren, White-plumed Honeyeater, Black-faced and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Dusky Woodswallow, Restless Flycatcher have been recorded here. Golden-headed Cisticola and Australian Reed-warbler are found alongside the river while Fairy Martins and Welcome Swallows forage above it. In summer, Rainbow Bee-eaters make their nests in the nearby roadside embankments and in banks along the river. Four species of native finch have been found here – Zebra, Double-barred and Red-browed Finch and the beautiful Diamond Firetail.

There are no facilities.



White-plumed Honeyeater