



# Hunter Bird Observers Club

*Affiliated with BirdLife Australia*

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc  
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The General Manager,  
Maitland City Council,  
High Street,  
Maitland, NSW 2320  
Sent to: [info@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@maitland.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Evans,

## **Re: Woodlands Estate Reserve at Thornton**

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. has had several complaints from members about vehicular traffic along the tracks on this Reserve. Complaints have been about motor bike riders “hooning around” and 4xwheel drives. It appears that people in 4xwheel drives have found breaches in the fence and actually enter the creek line stirring up the substrate and smashing down vegetation. In addition the creek is being used as a dump site.

This Reserve is important for avifauna and according to BirdLife Australia’s database, Birddata 139 species have been recorded, approximately 25% of bird species in NSW. One of the species is Latham’s Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* which spends the austral summer in south-eastern Australia whence it migrates after breeding in Japan and Sakhalin Island in the northern hemisphere. As a migratory species it is listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as a “matter on national environmental significance”. This species has been present in 40% of surveys conducted on site, a percentage higher than many common species such as Eastern Rosella.

In response to complaints, and on behalf of HBOC, I contacted Maitland Council and logged a complaint. I received a prompt phone call from the Ranger in charge who has noted the Club’s complaint and suggested that police should be notified in the event of inappropriate behaviour on the site.

In the meantime the ranger offered to contact the relevant Council department to have signage erected prohibiting vehicular traffic among other things.

In the interests of promoting a general interest in aspects of biodiversity, Maitland Council might also consider installing educational signage about birdlife in the area.

HBOC thanks you for your response and we look forward to your erecting signage as a matter of some urgency.

Thank you,

Ann Lindsey – Conservation co-ordinator for Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. 21 October 2021

Please contact A. Lindsey [ann.lindsey@bigpond.com](mailto:ann.lindsey@bigpond.com).

