

Regent Bowerbird

# BIRDING LOCATIONS of the LOWER MID NORTH COAST

Including the Lower MANNING VALLEY  
surrounding TAREE and the  
WALLIS LAKE area around FORSTER / TUNCURRY

2017 edition  
Prepared By Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers Inc.

## THE LOWER MID NORTH COAST

The Lower Manning Valley surrounding Taree and the Wallis Lake area around Forster / Tuncurry are each a paradise for birdwatchers. Numerous National Parks, State Forests and Nature Reserves contain a variety of natural vegetation types including rainforest, woodland, coastal heath and tidal estuaries hosting many species of birds.

The Lower Mid North Coast is fringed by endless kilometres of white sandy beaches, crystal clear waters and rugged cliffs providing many opportunities to view seabirds as well as dolphins and whales. Visitors will enjoy easy access to most areas by conventional vehicles, with 4 wheel drive(s) tracks available for the more adventurous. Many species of waterbirds, bushbirds and raptors, including nests, can be viewed along the pristine waterways of The Manning River or Wallis Lake. Regular cruises are available and small self-skipped boats can be hired. Accommodation is available to cater for all needs.

The list includes the land and freshwater birds reliably recorded in the Manning Valley and Great Lakes are as well as the common seabirds to be seen from the coast. Some have been seen only once or a few times in recent years, or are known now only from a small area while others can be seen any day in appropriate habitat. Any unusual sightings or suggestions regarding this brochure may be forwarded to the address below and would be greatly appreciated.

Manning Valley Birdwatchers Inc  
PO Box 281  
Forster NSW 2428

## BIRDING LOCATIONS and VEGETATION TYPES

1	Hannam Vale & Coorabakh NP	C D F R	23	Tip Road	F H O W
2	Coopernook State Forest	C F W	24	Darawank War Memorial Park	C F L
3	Cattai Wetlands	C D F R W	25	Tuncurry Area	C F L M
4	Harrington	C F H L M O R W	26	Pebbly Beach & Bennetts Head	C H O
5	Crowdy Bay NP	F H O W	27	Pipers Creek & Pipers Bay	C L
6	Oxley Island	C D F L M	28	Cape Hawke Lookout	C F H O R
7	Mitchells Island	C D F H L M	29	Green Point	C H L M W
8	Manning Point	H L M O W	30	Booti Booti NP	F H L O R W
9	Mudbishops Point Reserve	C F H L M O	31	Wallingat NP	C D F L R
10	Old Bar	C F H O W	32	Smiths Lake / Myall Lakes NP	F L M W
11	Saltwater NP	F H L O R	33	Seal Rocks	F H O R W
12	Dawson Cemetery Road	C F L			
13	Brimbin NR	F L			
14	Yarratt SF	F			
15	Boorganna NR	C D R		<b>Codes</b>	
16	Wingham Brush	C F L R		C - Cleared / Farming / Grazing	
17	Bootawa Dam	C D F		D - Dam	
18	Hillville Dam	C D F		F - Forest	
19	Kiwarra SF & Talawahl NR	F		H - Coastal Heath	
20	Old Soldiers Road	C D F		L - Lake / River	
21	Khappinghat NR	F H W		M - Mudflats / Mangroves	
22	Hallidays Point	C D F H L M O R		O - Beach / Cliffs / Ocean	
				R - Rainforest	
				W - Woodland	

## BIRDING LOCATIONS of the LOWER MID NORTH COAST

It is recommended to read this brochure in conjunction with a more detailed road or tourist map. All references within this brochure are made to either the Manning Valley (Ed 13) and / or Great Lakes (Ed 23) Cartoscope's Tourist Maps (town maps).

Generally locations 1-15 originate from Manning Valley Visitor Information Centre (Taree - G3), locations 16-19 originate from Wingham Brush (Wingham - D3) and locations 20-33 originate from the Great Lakes Visitor Information Centre (Forster - D3).

**1 & 2** - Refer Manning Valley map (D2)  
Left turn 25.0km northeast along the Pacific Highway into Hannam Vale Road. This scenic drive takes you through the villages of **Stewarts River**, **(1) Hannam Vale** and **Waitui** where the black top ends. Continue along the gravel to Waitui Falls in Comboyne State Forest, and then onto Coorabakh National Park, Lansdowne and **(2) Cooperbrook State Forests** (T,C). Birding can be had all the way up the valley onto the escarpment covering a diverse range of habitat types. Continue along this drive to emerge back on the Pacific Highway at Cooperbrook.

**3** - Refer Manning Valley map (D2)  
Right turn 17.0km northeast along the Pacific Highway into Spring Hill Road and follow the signs to **(3) Cattai Wetlands** (T). There is a scenic walk around a freshwater wetland surrounded by forest.

**4 & 5** - Refer Manning Valley map (D2)  
Right turn 16.0km northeast along the Pacific Highway into Harrington Road. Surrounding **(4) Harrington** (T,C) to the west, north and east is **(5) Crowdy Bay National Park** with the township of Crowdy Head (T) to the northeast.

**6, 7 & 8** - Refer Manning Valley map (D2)  
Cross the Taree Bypass 8.0km south and follow Old Bar Road for 8.0km and turn left towards Manning Point. **(6) Oxley Island** is mainly dominated by farming land and **(7) Mitchells Island** includes Towibakh Nature Reserve and **(8) Manning Point** (T,C).

**9, 10 & 11** - Refer Manning Valley map (D2)  
Cross the Taree Bypass 8.0km south and follow Old Bar Road to the coast. **(9) Mudbishops Point** (T) is north of **(10) Old Bar** (T,C) along a gravel road. The locality of Wallabi Point and **(11) Saltwater National Park** (T) are south of Old Bar along Saltwater Road.

**12** - Refer Manning Valley map (Taree - G3)  
Turn left into Lansdowne Road 1.0km north from the Information Centre and left again into **(12) Dawson Cemetery Road** on the banks of the Dawson River.

**13 & 14** - Refer Manning Valley map (D2)  
Right turn 7.0km west along Wingham Road onto Cedar Party Road for 4.0km. Turn right for **(13) Brimbin Nature Reserve** (T) whilst continuing north arrives at **(14) Yarratt State Forest**.

**15** - Refer Manning Valley map (C1)  
From Wingham Brush turn left 38.0km north along Comboyne Road onto Innes View Road. **(15) Boorganna Nature Reserve** (T) is a rainforest remnant providing spectacular views and birding on the Comboyne Plateau.

**16, 17, 18 & 19** - Reference Manning Valley map (Wingham - D3) **(16) Wingham Brush** (T) provides several short walks on raised boardwalks. Heading south along the Tinonee Road for 5.5km turn right onto the gravel Bootawa Dam Road. **(17) Bootawa Dam** is the water supply for the Manning and Great Lakes areas and can be viewed from the road. Continuing south to the Bucketts Way turn right and then left onto Hillville Road for 2.5km and **(18) Hillville Dam** is located on private property (but can be viewed from the road) on the left. Hillville Road turns to gravel and links up with Possum Brush Road after 5.0km, which traverses both **(19) Kiwarrak State Forest** and **Talawahl Nature Reserve** and exits onto the Pacific Highway. Also reference Manning Valley map (C3).

**20, 21 & 22** - Refer Great Lakes map (E1)  
Right turn 19.5km north along The Lakes Way into **(20) Old Soldiers Road**. This gravel road wanders through farming land before reaching **(21) Khappinghat Nature Reserve**. Continuing south brings you to the seaside village of **(22) Black Head** (T,C) offering both bush tracks and a wheelchair accessible concrete path and picnic area beside a saltwater creek.

**23 & 24** - Refer Great Lakes map (E1)  
Right turn 7.5km north along The Lakes Way into **(23) Tip Road**. This gravel road runs parallel to the coastline with numerous tracks heading east towards the coast offering a variety of coastal vegetation types. 1.0km further along The Lakes Way on the left hand side is the small **(24) Darawank War Memorial Park** (T) on the banks of the Wallamba River.

**25** - Reference Tuncurry Forster map (C2)  
**John Wright Park** (T), **(B3) Point Road**, **(B2) Bramble Parade wetland and pedestrian / cycleway** and **(A1) Tuncurry Flora Reserve** provide easy access and walking to fill a couple of hours.

**26** - Reference Tuncurry Forster map (E2)  
**Pebbly Beach** (T), **(G3) Bennetts Head** and **(G4) One Mile Beach** (T) provide easy access and walking to fill a couple of hours.

**27** - Reference Forster Keys insert (A5)  
**Pipers Creek** (T) and **(B5) Pipers Bay** provides scenic views across shallow lake flats.

**28** - Reference Great Lakes map (F2)  
Turn left 4.0km south along The Lakes Way onto Cape Hawke Drive and follow this through to **(28) Cape Hawke Lookout**. Apart from the scenic view the hill is covered in littoral rainforest.

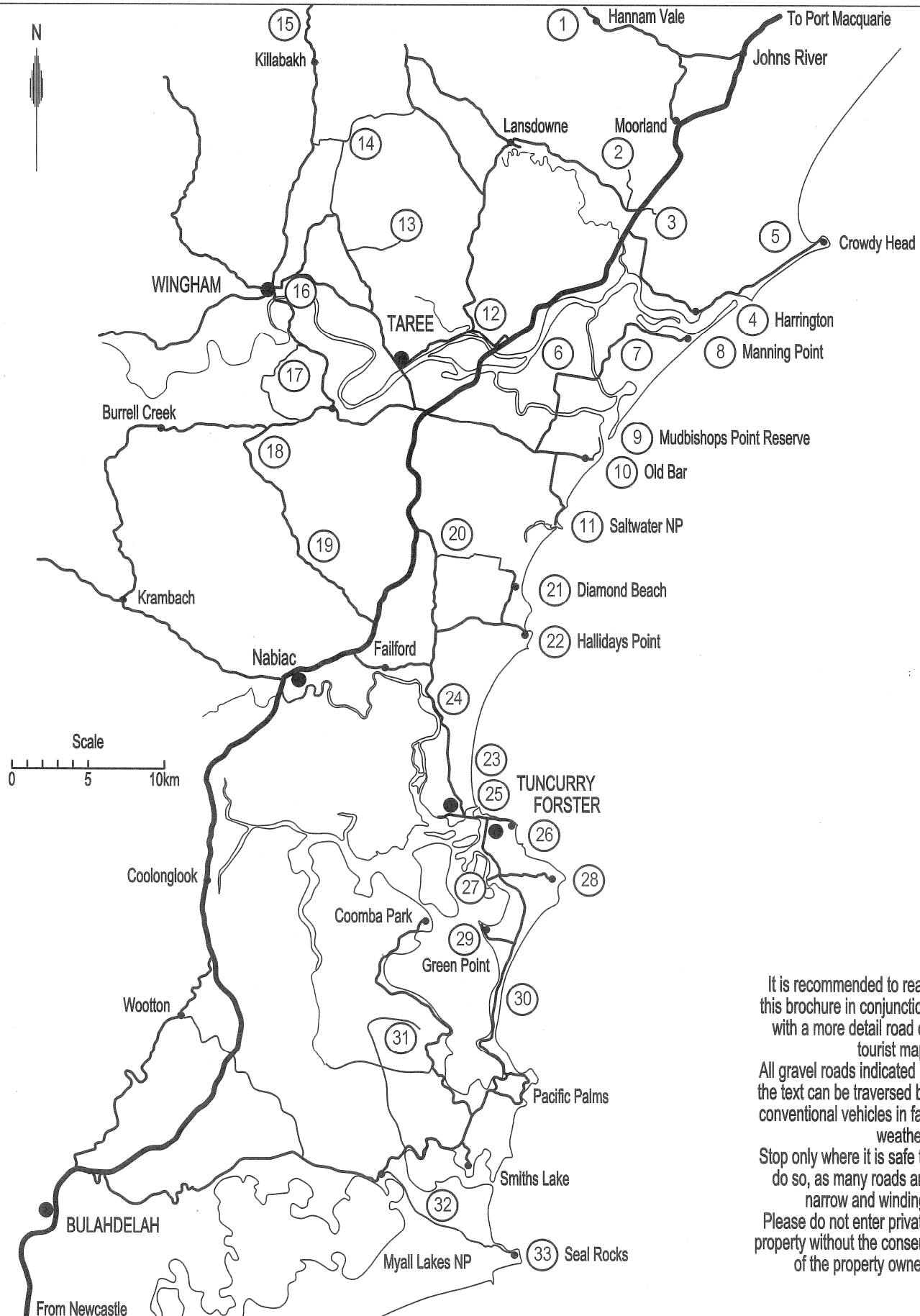
**29 & 30** - Refer Great Lakes map (E2)  
Right turn 9.5km south along The Lakes Way into Green Point Drive and continue through to the end of **(27) Green Point** (T). The vegetation south and east of Green Point is part of **(28) Booti Booti National Park** (T,C) with numerous carparks and walking tracks south of the Green Point turnoff.

**31** - Refer Great Lakes map (E3)  
Right turn 31.5km south along The Lakes Way into Sugar Creek Road. This gravel road traverses farming land before reaching **Wallingat State Forest and National Park**. Within the area is Sugar Creek Flora Reserve (T) offering several short walks and Wallingat River Picnic and Camping Areas (T,C). For **Whoota Whoota Lookout**, follow Sugar Creek Road past Gur-um-bee and Sugar Creek picnic areas, then right turn onto Whoota Whoota Road. Follow this narrow gravel road with care (slippery when wet) for 5km to the lookout for a breathtaking panoramic view across the Wallis Lake area.

**32 & 33** - Refer Great Lakes map (E3)  
0.5km south of Bungwahl, along The Lakes Way, turn left into Seal Rocks Road and then left into Horse Point Road. Bird along the road and trails adjacent to **(32) Smiths Lake**. Opposite Horse Point Road is **Neranie Picnic and Camping** areas on the **Myall Lake** with the village of **(33) Seal Rocks** (T,C) 10.0km further east.

### Codes

T - Toilet  
C - Camping  
C3, D2, D3 etc.- Cartoscope's map reference



It is recommended to read this brochure in conjunction with a more detail road or tourist map. All gravel roads indicated in the text can be traversed by conventional vehicles in fair weather. Stop only where it is safe to do so, as many roads are narrow and winding. Please do not enter private property without the consent of the property owner.

## BIRDING LOCATIONS of the LOWER MID NORTH COAST

## BIRDS of the LOWER MID NORTH COAST

Plumed Whistling-Duck	Dusky Moorhen	Cattle Egret	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Spotted Pardalote	Spectacled Monarch
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Eurasian Coot	White-necked Heron	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Striated Pardalote	Black-faced Monarch
Pink-eared Duck	Beach Stone-curlew	Great Egret	Galah	Brown Gerygone	White-winged Chough
Black Swan	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	Intermediate Egret	Little Corella	White-throated Gerygone	Rose Robin
Hardhead	Sooty Oystercatcher	White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Mangrove Gerygone	Scarlet Robin
Australasian Shoveler	Black-winged Stilt	Little Egret	Australian King-Parrot	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Red-capped Robin
Pacific Black Duck	Pacific Golden Plover	Eastern Reef Egret	Red-rumped Parrot	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Jacky Winter
Mallard Hybrid	Red-capped Plover	Australian White Ibis	Crimson Rosella	White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey Teal	Double-banded Plover	Straw-necked Ibis	Eastern Rosella	Large-billed Scrubwren	Pale-yellow Robin
Chestnut Teal	Lesser Sand Plover	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Musk Lorikeet	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Mistletoebird
Australian Wood Duck	Greater Sand Plover	Royal Spoonbill	Little Lorikeet	Yellow Thornbill	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Australian Brush-turkey	Black-fronted Dotterel	Glossy Ibis	Rainbow Lorikeet	Striated Thornbill	Red-browed Finch
Brown Quail	Masked Lapwing	Australasian Gannet	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Brown Thornbill	Double-barred Finch
Australasian Grebe	Red-kneed Dotterel	Little Pied Cormorant	Noisy Pitta	Australian Logrunner	House Sparrow
Hoary-headed Grebe	Comb-crested Jacana	Great Cormorant	Superb Lyrebird	Grey-crowned Babbler	Australasian Pipit
Great Crested Grebe	Whimbrel	Little Black Cormorant	Green Catbird	Varied Sittella	Golden-headed Cisticola
Rock Dove	Eastern Curlew	Pied Cormorant	Regent Bowerbird	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Rufous Songlark
White-headed Pigeon	Bar-tailed Godwit	Australasian Darter	Satin Bowerbird	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Tawny Grassbird
Spotted Dove	Ruddy Turnstone	Osprey	White-throated Treecreeper	Cicadabird	Little Grassbird
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Great Knot	Black-shouldered Kite	Red-browed Treecreeper	White-winged Triller	Australian Reed-Warbler
Wonga Pigeon	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Square-tailed Kite	Brown Treecreeper	Varied Triller	Fairy Martin
Common Bronzewing	Curlew Sandpiper	Pacific Baza	Variegated Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler	Tree Martin
Brush Bronzewing	Red-necked Stint	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
Crested Pigeon	Sanderling	Little Eagle	Red-backed Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Silvereye
Peaceful Dove	Latham's Snipe	Swamp Harrier	Southern Emu-wren	Crested Shrike-tit	Common Starling
Bar-shouldered Dove	Terek Sandpiper	Spotted Harrier	Scarlet Honeyeater	Eastern Whipbird	Common Myna
Brown-capped Emerald-Dove	Common Sandpiper	Grey Goshawk	Striped Honeyeater	Australasian Figbird	Bassian Thrush
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Grey-tailed Tattler	Brown Goshawk	Noisy Friarbird	Olive-backed Oriole	Russet-tailed Thrush
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Common Greenshank	Collared Sparrowhawk	Little Friarbird	Pied Currawong	
Topknot Pigeon	Marsh Sandpiper	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Brown Honeyeater	Australian Magpie	
Pheasant Coucal	Painted Button-quail	Whistling Kite	New Holland Honeyeater	Pied Butcherbird	
Eastern Koel	Arctic Jaeger	Brahminy Kite	White-cheeked Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Silver Gull	Black Kite	White-eared Honeyeater	Dusky Woodswallow	
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Little Tern	Barn Owl	Blue-faced Honeyeater	White-breasted Woodswallow	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Australian Gull-billed Tern	Southern Boobook	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Spangled Drongo	
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Caspian Tern	Rainbow Bee-eater	White-naped Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail	
Brush Cuckoo	White-fronted Tern	Dollarbird	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Rufous Fantail	
Pallid Cuckoo	Common Tern	Azure Kingfisher	Eastern Spinebill	Grey Fantail	
Tawny Frogmouth	Crested Tern	Forest Kingfisher	White-fronted Chat	Torresian Crow	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Sacred Kingfisher	Lewin's Honeyeater	Little Raven	
White-throated Needle-tail	Short-tailed Shearwater	Laughing Kookaburra	Little Wattlebird	Forest Raven	
Fork-tailed Swift	Black-necked Stork	Nankeen Kestrel	Red Wattlebird	Australian Raven	
Lewin's Rail	Australian Pelican	Australian Hobby	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Leaden Flycatcher	
Buff-banded Rail	Nankeen Night-Heron	Brown Falcon	Bell Miner	Restless Flycatcher	
Purple Swampphen	Striated Heron	Peregrine Falcon	Noisy Miner	Magpie-lark	

The list supplied contains birds more likely to be seen or heard. It does not include pelagics, vagrants or occasional sightings. Any such sightings would be appreciated by the Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers Inc and can be relayed via the attached address.