

BIRD ROUTE NO 1

Bird Route No 1 features 'A Trip Down Wallagoot Lane'. A circular drive, starting at the Kalaru Service Station/Store, covers this route and more.

Driving towards Bega the road winds through rural land and overlooks the vast swamp areas. Turning in to Bird Route No 1 (Wallagoot Lane) the commentary covers the next eight kilometres.

Set the trip meter and start! Observers will need to take into account the time of year and previous rainfall (or lack of) when noting the following sightings. That's why birdwatching is so interesting.

On either side of this first section are paddocks which can be feeding grounds to flocks of Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Straw-necked and Australian Ibis, Little Ravens, Australasian Magpies (80 at a time) and Galahs. Any pipits?

At **0.6km** stop before crossing the bridge. Egrets, Little Pied Cormorant, Black Swan, Musk, Australian Wood and Pacific Black Duck, Grey and Chestnut Teal, Eurasian Coot, Australasian Grebe, Welcome Swallows and martins, or even a Red-kneed Dotterel may appear here. On the other side of the bridge the tall gum tree is home to the Whistling Kite.

Continue on to the **1.3km** reading and stop near a big tree on the left. Did you see the flood marker near the road opposite the farmhouse entry? Walk back to be amazed by the heights.

You are now overlooking what might be pasture, swamp or lake depending on the season, but there is usually something good here. Australian Shelduck, Black-winged Stilt, spoonbills, ibis, ducks, Pacific Heron, cormorants and possibly Pink-eared Duck and Australasian Shoveler, like this corner. Check all the post sitters too! Listen as Stubble Quail may be calling from the pasture below. Watch for the Swamp Harrier.

At the **1.6km** mark, beyond the dairy entrance stop near another big tree in summer and find the Dollarbird nest, that's if the Galah has finished with it. White-faced Herons, Black-fronted Dotterels, Masked Lapwings, what else? Don't forget to look along the road edges too for finches, Willie Wagtails, Superb Fairy-wrens, Jacky Winters and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. How do you like all the Starlings?

Between **1.6km - 1.8km** travel slowly and prepare to stop as different views appear and then enter a winding section with small dams worth checking and roadside trees full of sounds. At the **2.5km** mark have another stop where it is safe to pull over for a final glimpse of the swamp - just near the sign to 'Jan and Bill's Place,' if they haven't moved.

Keep going, not forgetting to check the tiny creeks you cross, and from **3.3km** you will be away from the water and have good stands of roadside trees where Eastern Rosellas reside in large numbers, flying up from the grass as you drive through. Maybe the Australian Hobby will surprise you here.

At **5.0km** where the large dead trees stand alone there is sure to be a Brown Falcon, and at **5.3km** you enter Noisy Miner territory as well as Eastern Rosellas, Grey Butcherbird, and Australian Magpie, with many trees containing hollows to check too.

Having passed 'Hujibah' on the left you reach **6.2km** for another patch of bush so go on to the stockyards at **6.4km** and pull in to the left. Walk back along the road or wander in opposite the yards. Rufous and Golden Whistler, Grey Currawong, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Red-browed Finch, Grey Fantail, Fan-tailed, Brush and Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, and honeyeaters.

Moving on again you reach the **7.0km** mark which is Bilyara Gallery and if time permits, a stop here for culture and coffee will be memorable. If you didn't see the White-winged Choughs and Bronzewing Pigeons near the stockyards they may be near the

Gallery. Setting off again prepare for the tight corner at **7.7km** and before turning on to the Sapphire Coast Drive, look along the fences for White-fronted Chats in the corner paddock.

Turning left on to Sapphire Coast Drive will take you north. Prepare to turn left again on to Old Wallagoot Road, with the Racecourse on the left. It is suggested you stop every one kilometre or so and birdwatch along the roadside. White-winged Triller, Leaden Flycatcher, Varied Sittella, Bell Miner, raptors and possibly Double-barred Finch. This will bring you back to the start.

On a few hours leisurely trip a species list of 70 upwards would not be an unreasonable expectation.

BIRD LIST (incomplete) FOR THIS ROUTE:

(Arranged in the order of Christidis and Boles 2008)

1. Stubble Quail
2. Musk Duck
3. Black Swan
4. Australian Shelduck
5. Australian Wood Duck
6. Pink-eared Duck
7. Australasian Shoveler
8. Grey Teal
9. Chestnut Teal
10. Pacific Black Duck
11. Hardhead
12. Australasian Grebe
13. Hoary-headed Grebe
14. White-headed Pigeon
15. Common Bronzewing
16. Crested Pigeon
17. Peaceful Dove
18. White-throated Needletail
19. Australasian Darter
20. Little Pied Cormorant
21. Little Black Cormorant
22. Pied Cormorant
23. Australian Pelican
24. Pacific Heron
25. Eastern Great Egret
26. Cattle Egret
27. White-faced Heron
28. Australian Ibis

29. Straw-necked Ibis
30. Royal Spoonbill
31. Yellow-billed Spoonbill
32. White-bellied Sea Eagle
33. Whistling Kite
34. Grey Goshawk
35. Swamp Harrier
36. Wedge-tailed Eagle
37. Little Eagle
38. Nankeen Kestrel
39. Brown Falcon
40. Australian Hobby
41. Purple Swamphen
42. Dusky Moorhen
43. Eurasian Coot
44. Black-winged Stilt
45. Black-fronted Dotterel
46. Masked Lapwing
47. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
48. Curlew Sandpiper
49. Silver Gull
50. Glossy Black-Cockatoo
51. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
52. Gang-gang Cockatoo
53. Galah
54. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
55. Australian King Parrot
56. Crimson Rosella
57. Eastern Rosella
58. Channel-billed Cuckoo
59. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
60. Fan-tailed Cuckoo
61. Brush Cuckoo
62. Laughing Kookaburra
63. Dollarbird
64. White-throated Treecreeper
65. Satin Bowerbird
66. Superb Fairy-wren
67. Striated Thornbill
68. Yellow Thornbill
69. Yellow-rumped Thornbill
70. Buff-rumped Thornbill
71. Brown Thornbill
72. Spotted Pardalote
73. Striated Pardalote
74. Eastern Spinebill
75. Yellow-faced Honeyeater
76. White-eared Honeyeater

77. Bell Miner
78. Noisy Miner
79. Little Wattlebird
80. Red Wattlebird
81. White-fronted Chat
82. Noisy Friarbird
83. Eastern Whipbird
84. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
85. Cicadabird
86. White-winged Triller
87. Golden Whistler
88. Rufous Whistler
89. Grey Shrike-thrush
90. Olive-backed Oriole
91. Dusky Woodswallow
92. Grey Butcherbird
93. Australasian Magpie
94. Pied Currawong
95. Grey Currawong
96. Rufous Fantail
97. Grey Fantail
98. Willie Wagtail
99. Australian Raven
100. Little Raven
101. Leaden Flycatcher
102. Restless Flycatcher
103. Magpie- Lark
104. White-winged Chough
105. Jacky Winter
106. Scarlet Robin
107. Rose Robin
108. Eastern Yellow Robin
109. Golden-headed Cisticola
110. Australian Reed-Warbler
111. Silvereeye
112. Welcome Swallow
113. Fairy Martin
114. Tree Martin
115. Common Blackbird
116. Common Starling
117. Mistletoebird
118. Double-barrred Finch
119. Red-browed Finch
120. House Sparrow
121. Australasian Pipit
122. European Goldfinch

Other sightings:

BIRD ROUTE NO 1

Bega Valley Shire

Latitude: 36° 45' 00" S
Longitude: 149° 55' 00" E

A TRIP DOWN WALLAGOOT LANE

Centred around the Kalaru area, east of Bega, starting on the Bega to Tathra Road, proceeding via Wallagoot Lane, Sapphire Coast Drive and Old Wallagoot Road. Length approximately 20 kilometres.



Far South Coast Birdwatchers

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Field Outings are held on the second SATURDAY and fourth SUNDAY of each month and occasional weekdays.

Evening Functions are held in Merimbula on the second THURSDAY of February, April, June, August, October and December.