

## 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 White Ibis, Little Ravens, Australian 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, European Goldfinch, Welcome Swallows and martins 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 always something good here. Australian Shelduck, Black-winged Stilt, spoonbills, ibis, ducks, Silver Gulls, cormorants and possibly Pink-eared Duck and 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. Grey Currawong, Diamond Finch, Red-browed Finch, Grey Fantail, Rufous and Golden Whistler, Fan-tailed, Brush and Shining Bronze-Cuckoo plus other surprises.

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.

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

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 Sitella, Bell Miner, raptors and possibly Double-barred Finch. This will bring you back to the start.

### BIRD LIST FOR THIS ROUTE:

(Incomplete)

1. Stubble Quail
2. Musk Duck
3. Black Swan
4. Australian Shelduck
5. Australian Wood Duck
6. Pacific Black Duck
7. Australasian Shoveler
8. Grey Teal
9. Chestnut Teal
10. Pink-eared Duck
11. Hardhead
12. Australasian Grebe
13. Hoary-headed Grebe
14. Darter
15. Little Pied Cormorant
16. Pied Cormorant
17. Little Black Cormorant
18. Australian Pelican
19. White-faced Heron
20. White-necked Heron
21. Great Egret
22. Cattle Egret
23. Australian White Ibis
24. Straw-necked Ibis
25. Royal Spoonbill
26. Yellow-billed Spoonbill
27. Whistling Kite

28. White-bellied Sea Eagle  
 29. Swamp Harrier  
 30. Grey Goshawk  
 31. Wedge-tailed Eagle  
 32. Little Eagle  
 33. Brown Falcon  
 34. Australian Hobby  
 35. Peregrine Falcon  
 36. Nankeen Kestrel  
 37. Purple Swamphen  
 38. Dusky Moorhen  
 39. Eurasian Coot  
 40. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
 41. Curlew Sandpiper  
 42. Marsh Sandpiper  
 43. Black-winged Stilt  
 44. Pacific Golden Plover  
 45. Black-fronted Dotterel  
 46. Masked Lapwing  
 47. Silver Gull  
 48. White-headed Pigeon  
 49. Common Bronzewing Pigeon  
 50. Crested Pigeon  
 51. Peaceful Dove  
 52. Glossy Black-Cockatoo  
 53. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo  
 54. Gang-gang Cockatoo  
 55. Galah  
 56. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
 57. Australian King Parrot  
 58. Crimson Rosella  
 59. Eastern Rosella  
 60. Brush Cuckoo  
 61. Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
 62. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo  
 63. White-throated Needletail  
 64. Laughing Kookaburra  
 65. Dollarbird  
 66. White-throated Treecreeper  
 67. Superb Fairy-wren  
 68. Spotted Pardalote  
 69. Striated Pardalote  
 70. Brown Thornbill  
 71. Buff-rumped Thornbill  
 72. Yellow Thornbill  
 73. Striated Thornbill  
 74. Red Wattlebird  
 75. Little Wattlebird

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

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

PO Box 180 Pambula NSW 2549  
 Enquiries to 6495 7390 or 6495 6592

**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.

**Pelagic Trips** to view seabirds depart from Eden on the fifth SUNDAY of the month. Bookings essential.