

ECO FACTS

Species of concern in Lake Macquarie

Waterbirds



Australian Painted Snipe - *Rostratula australis*

EPBC Act – Endangered and Marine Species,
TSC Act - Endangered

Inhabits shallow ephemeral and permanent freshwater wetlands with vegetation cover and open muddy edges, along the City's coastal strip and Cockle and Dora Creeks. Nocturnal forager on mudflats in shallow water. Feeds on worms, molluscs, insects and some plant matter.

Photo: Ann Lindsey



Bar-tailed Godwit – *Limosa lapponica*

EPBC Act – Migratory and Marine Species

Inhabits tidal mudflats, beaches, wetlands, mangroves, floodplains, estuaries, flooded pastures near estuaries along the City's coastal strip and Cockle and Dora Creeks. Feeds on molluscs, worms and aquatic insects. Arrives in August and leaves in April and May although a few stay. Breeding occurs in Scandinavia, Northern Asia and Alaska.

Photo: Darryl Luck



Latham's Snipe – *Gallinago hardwickii*

EPBC Act – Migratory and Marine Species

Inhabits soft wet ground or shallow freshwater wetlands, swamps, muddy substrates. Habitats are more widespread after rainfall and include riparian areas, floodplains and wetlands in the City. They feed at night, early morning and evening and roost in the day. Feeds on seeds, plants, invertebrates, molluscs, isopods and centipedes. Arrives in Australia in August and in February returns to Japan.

Photo: John Cockerill



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – *Calidris acuminatae*

EPBC Act – Marine and Migratory Species

Inhabits tidal mudflats, estuaries, riparian areas, flooded pastures, ephemeral and permanent wetlands with vegetation cover, open water with muddy edges including Dora and Cockle Creeks and floodplains. Feeds on worms, molluscs, crustaceans, aquatic insects and insect larvae. Migrates to Siberia in March to breed in peat-hummock and lichen tundra of the high Arctic.

Photo: Mick Roderick



Lewin's Rail - *Dryolimnas pectoralis* **Regionally Significant**

Found close to creek lines in riparian areas, swamp forests, freshwater wetlands with dense emergent reeds, sedges, rushes and grasses and weedy drainage lines in the City. Feeds on a variety of aquatic plants and invertebrates.

Photo: Chris Herbert



Black Bittern – *Ixobrychus flavicollis* **TSC Act – Vulnerable**

Inhabits freshwater to estuarine wetlands, riparian areas to larger creeks and streams and swamp forests generally in areas of permanent water and dense emergent aquatic vegetation such as reeds. Feeds mostly at dusk or at night on frogs, reptiles, fish and invertebrates including snails, dragonflies, shrimp and crayfish.

Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography



Double-banded Plover – *Charadrius bicinctus* **EPBC Act – Marine and Migratory Species**

Uses wide beaches, Lake foreshore with sandbanks, tidal mudflats, saltmarsh and occasionally freshwater wetlands with lots of mud and little vegetation. Feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, insects and occasionally seeds and fruit. Migrate to Australia from February to September, nesting on beaches in sand scrapes.

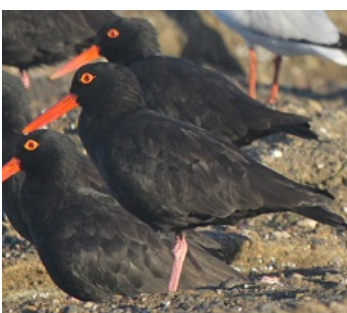
Photo: Ann Lindsey



Red-capped Plover – *Charadrius ruficapillus* **EPBC Act – Marine Species**

Uses wide sandy beaches, coastal lagoons, freshwater wetlands, Lake shore with sandbanks, mudflats, mangroves and coastal rocky shores of the City. Feeds on molluscs, small crustaceans and some vegetation. Nests on beaches in sand scrapes.

Photo: Ann Lindsey



Sooty Oystercatcher – *Haematopus fuliginosus* **TSC Act – Vulnerable**

Inhabits rocky headlands and beaches along the coast and Lake foreshore. Also use mangroves and saltmarsh within the City. Forages on rocky shorelines at low tide on marine worms, starfish, sea urchins, molluscs, crabs and other crustaceans. Breeding occurs on offshore islands.

Photo: Mick Roderick



Australian Pied Oystercatcher – *Haematopus longirostris* TSC Act – Endangered

Uses intertidal mud and sand flats around the Lake foreshore, wetlands and coastal beaches of the City. Feeds on bivalves, molluscs, worms, crustaceans and insects. Nests in a sand scrape on the beach along the vegetation line, generally above the high tide mark.

Photo: Mick Roderick



Little Tern – *Sterna albifrons* EPBC Act – Marine and Migratory Species, TSC Act – Endangered

Inhabits sheltered coastal areas especially sandy beaches. Found around Swansea Channel and the drop over and can occur on the western foreshores of the Lake. Feeds on small fish, insects and crustaceans. Nests are sand scrapes lined with shell grit or small pebbles on sandy beaches in low dunes above high tide mark along the coast and around Marks Point and Swansea Channel Islands.

Photo: Ann Lindsey

Lake Macquarie Waterbird Habitat

- creek lines
- dams & open water
- lake & coast
- wetland vegetation
- floodplain

