



# Moulting Lagoon

## GAME RESERVE (RAMSAR SITE)

### ACCESS AND FACILITIES

Moulting Lagoon is located about midway along Tasmania's east coast. It can be accessed at the following points from Coles Bay Road (C302):

- Top Bank (17.3km north of Coles Bay, 9.7km south of A3)
- Kitty's Mistake (Middle Bank) (15.3km north of Coles Bay, 11.7km south of A3 – 4WD access only)
- Flacks Road (10.8km north of Coles Bay, 16.2km south of A3, then 3.8km to car park – 2WD access with care)
- Point Meredith (via River & Rocks Road, 8.6km north of Coles Bay, 18.4km south of A3, then 2.8km to car park)

There are no facilities at these sites. Some bush camping is available at Buckley's Rocks, off River & Rocks Road. No formal walking tracks exist in the reserve.

Moulting Lagoon is a large, internationally recognised wetland at the northern end of Great Oyster Bay on the east coast of Tasmania. It is an important breeding ground for various waterfowl and wetland birds, and also a destination for migratory birds. As such, it is an excellent place for bird-watching, although due to the sheer size of the lagoon, some species may be difficult to spot.

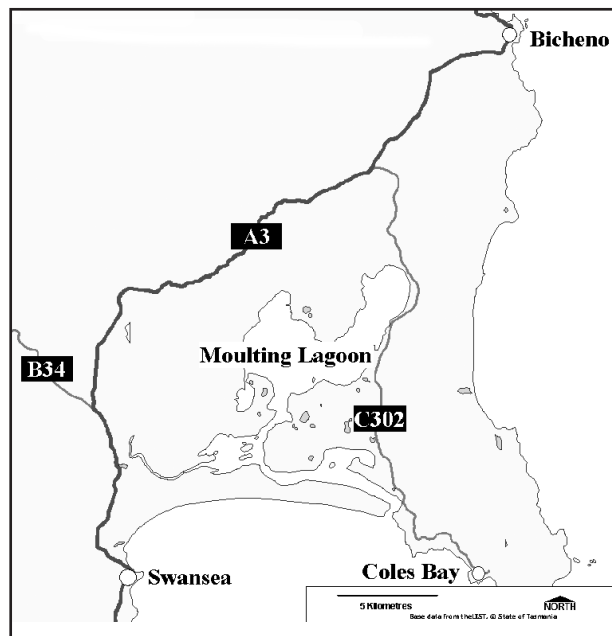
It also contains rare and significant wetland flora and fauna, as well as being an area of extraordinary beauty.

The name Moulting Lagoon comes from black swans shedding their flight feathers. These can often be seen piled up along the shoreline.

In addition to its natural significance, the lagoon is important for cultural values, such as its importance to the Aboriginal community, and its continuing use by the local community for a variety of recreational and commercial activities, including duck hunting.

### NATURAL VALUES

Moulting Lagoon has been recognised as a significant natural wetland on a state, national and also at an international level.



The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty that deals with the conservation and wise-use of the world's wetland areas. 'Ramsar' is the name of the city in Iran where the convention was signed in 1971. Australia was an early signatory to this convention, and both Moulting Lagoon and the neighbouring Apsley Marshes (on private land) are on the Ramsar list.

Moulting Lagoon is listed primarily for its importance as a breeding ground for waterfowl. It holds the largest concentration of black swans in Tasmania, with an average between 8,000 and 10,000 swans living in the lagoon. Up to 18,000 have been recorded in times of drought. As well as fauna, the lagoon is important for its rare wetland and coastal flora.

One of the most conspicuous plants in the reserve is beaded glasswort, a low growing succulent which covers large areas of foreshore. At any time of year the tips of the plant can turn deep red, adding a splash of colour to the shores of the lagoon.

The Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and the China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) are two agreements which protect the passage of migratory birds between our countries, and the maintenance of their habitats.

The Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve hosts several birds listed on these agreements, including the largest known flocks of migratory common greenshank in Tasmania.

### **CULTURAL VALUES**

Moulting Lagoon has significant cultural values. At the time of European settlement Moulting Lagoon was part of the territory occupied by the Oyster Bay nation. Wildlife around Moulting Lagoon, black swan eggs in particular, was an important food source to Aboriginal people. The majority of bands in this nation used the lagoon on a seasonal basis, while the Linetemairrener people lived at the lagoon year round.

Since European settlement, recreational hunting has been a common use for the lagoon, owing to the large numbers of ducks and swans. Up to 150 duck hunters still use the lagoon, mostly from the local area. While it is important to protect native species, the Ramsar Convention acknowledges that wise-use of wetlands is also important, and the open season between March and June is well regulated to ensure that the harvest of birds is sustainable. On the road in to Coles Bay, you may have noticed structures on the surface of the lagoon – these are actually duck hunters' hides.

### **CONTACTS & FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about the area, read the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve Management Plan 2003, available for download from:

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au>

For information about the Ramsar Convention, visit <http://www.ramsar.org>

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# MOULTING LAGOON BIRD CHECK-LIST

| Common Name             | Scientific Name                     | Status |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Black swan              | <i>Cygnus atratus</i>               |        |
| Australian shelduck     | <i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>          |        |
| Black duck              | <i>Anas superciliosa</i>            |        |
| Grey teal               | <i>Anas gracilis</i>                |        |
| Chestnut teal           | <i>Anas castanea</i>                |        |
| Australasian shoveler   | <i>Anas rhynchotis</i>              |        |
| Hardhead                | <i>Aythya australis</i>             |        |
| Blue-billed duck        | <i>Oxyura australis</i>             |        |
| Musk duck               | <i>Biziura lobata</i>               |        |
| Australasian grebe      | <i>Tachypaptus novaehollandiae</i>  |        |
| Hoary-headed grebe      | <i>Polioccephalus poliocephalus</i> |        |
| Great crested grebe     | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>           | R      |
| Australian pelican      | <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>     |        |
| Back-faced cormorant    | <i>Leucocarbo fuscescens</i>        |        |
| Great cormorant         | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>          |        |
| Little pied cormorant   | <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>   |        |
| Little black cormorant  | <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>   |        |
| White-faced heron       | <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>      |        |
| Great egret             | <i>Egretta alba</i>                 | J,C    |
| Little egret            | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>             |        |
| Cattle egret            | <i>Ardeola ibis</i>                 | J,C    |
| Australasian bittern    | <i>Botaurus poiciltilus</i>         |        |
| White-bellied sea-eagle | <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>       |        |
| Wedge-tailed eagle      | <i>Aquila audax</i>                 | V      |
| Swamp harrier           | <i>Circus approximans</i>           |        |
| Peregrine falcon        | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>             |        |
| Brown falcon            | <i>Falco berigora</i>               |        |
| Purple swamphen         | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>          |        |
| Eurasian coot           | <i>Fulica atra</i>                  |        |
| Tasmanian native hen    | <i>Gallinula mortierii</i>          | E      |
| Pied oystercatcher      | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>        |        |
| Sooty oystercatcher     | <i>Haematopus fuliginipus</i>       |        |
| Masked lapwing          | <i>Vanellus miles</i>               |        |
| Lesser sand plover      | <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>          | J,C    |
| Pacific golden plover   | <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>              | M      |
| Hooded plover           | <i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>        |        |
| Double-banded dotterel  | <i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>         | M      |
| Red-capped dotterel     | <i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>      |        |
| Black-fronted dotterel  | <i>Elsyornis melanops</i>           |        |
| Ruddy turnstone         | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>           | M,J,C  |
| Eastern curlew          | <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>    | M,J,C  |
| Whimbrel                | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>            | M,J,C  |
| Common greenshank       | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>             | M,J,C  |
| Common Name             | Scientific Name                     | Status |
| Marsh sandpiper         | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>           | M,J,C  |
| Latham's snipe          | <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>         | M,J,C  |
| Bar-tailed godwit       | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>             | M,J,C  |
| Red knot                | <i>Calidris canutus</i>             | M,J,C  |
| Grey-tailed tattler     | <i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>        | M      |

| Status Key |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| I          | = Introduced                     |
| E          | = Endemic                        |
| R/V/E      | = Rare, Vulnerable or Endangered |
| M          | = Migratory                      |
| J          | = JAMBA                          |
| C          | = CAMBA                          |

|                              |                                     |       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Sharp-tailed sandpiper       | <i>Calidris acuminata</i>           | M,J,C |
| Red-necked stint             | <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>          | M,J,C |
| Long-toed stint              | <i>Calidris subminuta</i>           |       |
| Curlew sandpiper             | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>          | J,C   |
| Silver gull                  | <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>        |       |
| Pacific gull                 | <i>Larus pacificus</i>              |       |
| Caspian tern                 | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>           | J,C   |
| Crested tern                 | <i>Sterna bergii</i>                |       |
| Green rosella                | <i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>      | E     |
| Eastern rosella              | <i>Platycercus eximius</i>          |       |
| Yellow-tailed black cockatoo | <i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>     |       |
| Musk lorikeet                | <i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>        |       |
| Swift parrot                 | <i>Lathamus discolor</i>            | V     |
| Pallid cuckoo                | <i>Cuculis pallidus</i>             |       |
| Southern boobook             | <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>        |       |
| Laughing kookaburra          | <i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>          | I     |
| Superb fairy wren            | <i>Malurus cyaneus</i>              |       |
| Spotted pardalote            | <i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>         |       |
| Striated pardalote           | <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>          |       |
| Yellow-rumped thornbill      | <i>Acanthiza chrysorrha</i>         |       |
| Tasmanian thornbill          | <i>Acanthiza magnus</i>             | E     |
| Brown thornbill              | <i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>            |       |
| Yellow wattlebird            | <i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>         | E     |
| Noisy miner                  | <i>Manorina melanocephala</i>       |       |
| Crescent honeyeater          | <i>Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera</i>     |       |
| New Holland honeyeater       | <i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i> |       |
| White-fronted chat           | <i>Epthianura albifrons</i>         |       |
| Eastern spinebill            | <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i> |       |
| Scarlet robin                | <i>Petroica vittata</i>             |       |
| Dusky robin                  | <i>Petroica multicolour</i>         | E     |
| Spotted quail-thrush         | <i>Cinlosoma punctatum</i>          |       |
| Grey shrike-thrush           | <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>      |       |
| Grey fantail                 | <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>         |       |
| Black-faced cuckoo-shrike    | <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>     |       |
| Dusky woodswallow            | <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>          |       |
| Grey butcher bird            | <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>          |       |
| Australian magpie            | <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>           |       |
| Grey currawong               | <i>Streptera versicolor</i>         |       |
| Forest raven                 | <i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>            |       |
| Skylark                      | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>              | I     |
| Australian pipit             | <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>       |       |
| Welcome swallow              | <i>Hirundo neoxena</i>              |       |
| Tree martin                  | <i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>      |       |
| European greenfinch          | <i>Chloris chloris</i>              | I     |
| Silvereye                    | <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>          |       |
| Common blackbird             | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>             | I     |
| Common starling              | <i>Turdus merula</i>                | I     |

Internet: [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

Visiting Reserves – Moulting Lagoon



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