

This brochure is a guide to some birding spots within, or close to, Echuca-Moama. There is a separate guide for Perricoota Road Moama and another for birding spots east of Echuca.

Walk along the Campaspe River to its confluence with the Murray River

Drive to the Warren Street exit from Echuca, crossing the Campaspe River. Turn right and park alongside the cemetery. Walk along Holman Street and cut across to a riverside track. This walk is great on a warm summer evening or around noon on a cool winter's day.

Walk downstream along the Campaspe to the river junction (Area Six on the map).

Over 30 species can often be sighted over a few hours. Azure Kingfisher, thornbills, pardalotes, White-plumed Honeyeater and the yellow form of Crimson Rosella are reasonably common. In summer, look for a Dollarbird Rainbow Bee-eater and Sacred Kingfisher. Watch for bush birds as well as water birds.

Once you reach the river junction it is possible to return along an unsealed road. Look for an old quarry. White-backed Swallow is often observed near here.

Bushland alongside Campaspe Esplanade

The west side of the Campaspe River between the Warren Street footbridge and Ogilvie Avenue also affords good birding opportunities (Area Seven on map).

Access is via Campaspe Esplanade. There is a sealed bike/walking track and also unsealed tracks between Campaspe Esplanade and Campaspe River.

Revegetation works are under way to enhance the quality of remnant bushland.

Look for bush birds such as Babblers, thornbills, Olive-backed Oriole, Spotted and Striated Pardalote, Magpie Lark, Willie Wagtail and Peaceful Dove.

Waterbirds and raptors are common along the Campaspe. Occasionally, a platypus is sighted here.

Shinbone Alley

A sealed walking track leads from the Echuca-Moama Visitor Information Centre under the Echuca-Moama road and rail bridges into Banyula Forest. Common birds in the forest include Superb Fairy-wren, White-plumed Honeyeater and the yellow form of Crimson Rosella. A ridge in this River Red Gum wetland called Shinbone Alley was once home to many people until floods caused that part of the town to be abandoned.

This guide outlines some of the birding spots east of Echuca. This guide is one of a series produced by BirdLife Echuca District that can be downloaded from the branch's website, a link to which is on the BirdLife Australia web site www.birdlife.org.au

Other local on-line birding guides:

Barmah Forest	Bendigo
Cohuna & Gunbower Island	Deniliquin
Gulpa Island, Mathoura	Kamarooka Forest
Perricoota Road, Moama	Terrick Terrick National Park
Wyuna and Kanyapella	

For more information, email echuca@birdlife.org.au

Cover photograph:

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE by Murray Chambers. This species is often observed hovering alongside rural roads, e.g. alongside Perricoota Road and Bangerang Road.

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Birding spots of Echuca-Moama



A day birding in Echuca-Moama

A map of Echuca-Moama will assist you to visit the birding spots outlined in this brochure. Maps are available from the Echuca-Moama Visitor Information Centre. A walk into Banyula Forest starts at the centre. Native birds often observed in the park around the centre include Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Noisy Miner, Eastern Rosella, Galah, Red-rumped parrot, Magpie, Willie Wagtail and Welcome Swallow.

Area One: Moama Wetlands

Moama Wetlands (Horseshoe Lagoon Bicentennial Park) is on the southern side of the Echuca and Moama bridge. On the Moama side of the bridge, drive south over the railway and immediately turn right and park near the start of an elevated wooden walkway (GPS 36° 07'S; 144° 45'E).

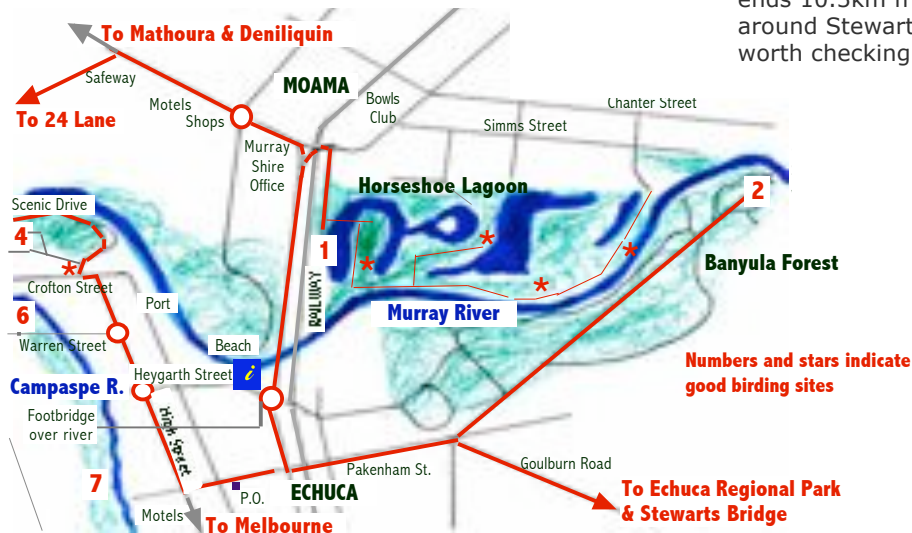
The walkway crosses a horseshoe-shaped lagoon. Birds often observed from the walkway include Black Duck, Darter, Welcome Swallow, Coot, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant and kingfishers.

Follow the track alongside the lagoon to the Murray and then follow the Murray upstream. Thickets of wattle alongside the Murray afford excellent habitat for thornbills, Red-browed Finch and other bush birds.

Many water birds can often be seen on a large swampy area east of the river.¹

It is usually possible to observe over 40 species here.

¹ A better view of this wetland can be obtained from alongside the Moama Scout Hall, corner West and Berry streets.



Area Two: Banyula Forest

see also the note about Shinbone Alley

Banyula Forest is an area of red gum forest alongside the Murray in Echuca, upstream of the Information Centre and directly across the river from Horseshoe Lagoon Bicentennial Park. There is a walking track that runs from the information centre, under the road and rail bridges and into Banyula Forest.

Banyula Forest can also be accessed via an unsealed track which leaves the junction of Pakenham Street, Goulburn Road and Sutton Street.

Follow the straight unsealed road to the Murray and then stroll alongside the Murray. Paths lead in various directions. Compared to the Moama Wetlands, birding here is sometimes disappointing.

Area Three: Simmie Road Wetlands

There are several good birding spots in bushland alongside the Murray River. Simmie Road wetlands is one of the best birding areas. This area can be accessed by following Goulburn Road and Bangerang Road to Simmie Road. Turn left (north) onto Simmie Road. After about a kilometre there is a lagoon close to the Murray River. It is worth spending at least an hour birding here. Return to Bangerang Road and continue driving east.

Along Goulburn Road, 8.7km from Echuca Post Office and 1.6km before the turnoff to Stewarts Bridge, is a wetland on private property which can be viewed from the roadside. If the wetland contains water, it may be worth checking out.

Turn left at Stewarts Bridge Road (where the bitumen ends 10.3km from the Echuca Post Office). The area around Stewarts Bridge and Shakell's Folly Bridge may be worth checking out.

Photo: WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH by David Ong



Area Four: Victoria Park

At one end of Dickson Street (the continuation of High Street) is a lawn area. Birds observed here often include Eastern Rosella, the yellow form of Crimson Rosella, Grey Shrike Thrush and Long-billed Corella. There are picnic tables and toilets here.

A Scenic Drive commences near the north end of Dickson Street. After about a kilometre, there are some lagoons on the left and these are worth checking out if they contain water. The Murray River is on your right.

After a few kilometres, the riverside track reaches the junction of the Campaspe and Murray rivers. There are picnic tables here.

Continue on the main track (Scenic Drive), alongside the Campaspe River. It may be worth a birding stop somewhere between the Scenic Drive and the Campaspe.

If the river is low you may observe the remains of an old weir. In summer, this area is a good spot to look for the Dollar Bird, Azure Kingfisher and Sacred Kingfisher. Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants may be seen flying along the river.

The drive ends at the site of the now-demolished Echuca High School. It is worth driving to the other side of the old oval to the fenced "Murray Pines Sandhill Conservation Zone". The fence may be in a state of disrepair. At times, this fenced sandhill is alive with birds. The sandhill is a great spot to look for thornbills (including Buff-rumped, Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Striated). In summer, until a few summers back, many Rainbow Bee-eaters used to nest here. Their nests are tunnels dug into the sides of sandy slopes. In summer, Dollarbirds have been observed nesting in this vicinity. Zebra Finches are often observed amongst fallen timber.

White-winged Choughs have a mud roost in a large box tree.

Area Five: Alongside Perricoota Road

Lakes alongside 24 Lane (the road to Rich River Golf Club) are worth checking for waterbirds.

Continue along 24 Lane and turn right (east) at Tataila Lane. Remaining on the roadside, look for honeyeaters in the flowering trees of the golf club. Continue along Tataila Lane to the Cobb Highway (B75) and return to Echuca-Moama.

There are several terrific bushland birding spots that can be accessed from Perricoota Road, including Benarca Forest, "The Five Mile" (Moama Precinct, Murray Valley National Park) and (in dry weather) Perricoota Forest. We have prepared a separate brochure about birding spots along Perricoota Road.