

Walks alongside the Campaspe

Campaspe River to river junction (6)

From Victoria Park, it is suggested that you drive back along Dickson Street and turn west at the first roundabout into Warren Street. Once you have crossed over the Campaspe, turn right and park outside the cemetery. In summer, Rainbow Bee-eaters nest in the cemetery. Look for their tunnels in sandy slopes.

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. Over 30 species can often be sighted over a few hours. In summer, look for a Dollarbird, Azure Kingfisher 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 out for an old quarry. If the quarry contains water, look for Purple Swamp Hen and White-backed Swallow.

Campaspe Esplanade bushland (7)

The west side of the Campaspe River between the Warren Street footbridge and Ogilvie Avenue also affords good birding opportunities.

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. There are usually some ducks and other water birds along the Campaspe. Occasionally, a platypus is sighted here.

This is one of a series of birding guides prepared by the Echuca and District Branch, Bird Observation & Conservation Australia.

Other brochures in this series:

- Barmah Forest
- Deniliquin
- Gulpa Creek and Gulpa Island, Mathoura
- Gunbower Island and the Cohuna area
- Kamarooka Forest
- Kanyapella and Wyuna
- Perricoota Road & Perricoota Forest
- Terrick Terrick National Park

These can be downloaded in colour free of charge from Echuca & District Branch's web site.

It is recommended that you refer to good road maps or topographic maps before setting out on the birding trips outlined in the brochures.

Whilst in the area, it is worth visiting the Mathoura area and, in particular, the bird hide located in the Reed Beds alongside the Mathoura to Picnic Point Road.

The East Gippsland Branch has similar brochures on birding spots of East Gippsland, including Marlo, Cann River and Mallacoota Inlet.

Information on birding spots throughout Australia is available on the BOCA web site www.birdobservers.org.au

Furthermore, many shires have prepared brochures on birding spots.

Coloured photographs of birds found in the Echuca-Moama region, recent sightings, information on local bushland reserves and a downloadable bird list are on the web site of the Echuca and District BOCA Branch.

Birding spots of northern Victoria and southern Riverina

Echuca-Moama **3**



Spotted Pardalote by David Ong

This brochure is one of a series of guides prepared by members of the Echuca and District Branch of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA).

Our web site is located at http://users.mcmmedia.com.au/~stocky/boca_echuca.html

By Keith Stockwell. Version 1.3. January 2009

Some birding spots in Echuca-Moama

1 Horseshoe Lagoon, Moama

Horseshoe Lagoon Bicentennial Park is located on the southern side of the iron bridge over the Murray River between Echuca and Moama. 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° 07S; 144 45E).

The walkway crosses a horseshoe-shaped lagoon. On the walkway, look for 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.

Black Swan, White-faced Heron and other water birds can often be seen on a large swampy area east of the river.

Unless the river is in flood, you can do a circuit walk on well-maintained walking tracks. About 40 species can usually be observed over the course of two hours.

Murray Shire and local youths have produced a coloured leaflet on Horseshoe Lagoon. During business hours, copies are usually available from the Murray Shire office.

2 Banyula Forest, Echuca

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. Banyula Forest is best 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. The birding here isn't usually as good as in Horseshoe Lagoon.

3 Echuca Regional Park

Echuca Regional Park comprises a number of bushland areas along the Murray River. One of the best sections for birding can be accessed by following Goulburn Road and Bangarang Road to Simmie Road. Turn left onto Simmie Road. After about a kilometre there is a lagoon alongside Boileau estate which is a good spot for kingfishers and waterbirds. Follow the main track. Return to Bangarang 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 which can be viewed from the roadside but which is on private property. 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.

look for Purple Swamp Hen, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Pelican, Black Swan, Straw-necked and White Ibis, Eurasian Coot and other water birds from the roadside. Please do not enter private property.

4 Victoria Park (Scenic Drive)

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, alongside the Campaspe River. It is worth stopping along here and walking down to 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 near Echuca High School. Once you reach the school oval, it is worth driving around to the back of the school.

At the "back" of the school is Murray Pines Sandhill Conservation Zone. In wetter years, this fenced sandhill is alive with birds. A walking loop can be assessed from an entry gate near the school or via a stile on the far side of the fenced area.

The fenced sandhill is a great spot to look for thornbills, including Buff-rumped, Yellow (Little), Yellow-rumped and Striated Thornbill. 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.

A Boobook is sometimes seen in a tree hollow near the stile. 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.

5. Perricoota Road and 24 Lane, Moama

Another good spot for water birds are some lakes opposite the entrance to the Rich River Golf Club, 24 Lane Moama. Continue along 24 Lane and turn left at Tataila Lane and look for honeyeaters in flowering trees.

There are several bushland reserves alongside Perricoota Road which are terrific birding spots. The Moama State Forest (Five Mile Reserve) is especially good.

We have prepared a separate brochure on Perricoota Road and Perricoota Forest.

