

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

Other brochures in this series:

- Barmah Forest
- Echuca-Moama
- Gulpa Creek and Gulpa Island, Mathoura
- Gunbower Island and the Cohuna area
- Kamarooka Forest (a section of Greater Bendigo National Park)
- Kanyapella and Wyuna
- Perricoota Road, Moama
- Terrick Terrick National Park

These brochures can be downloaded in colour free of charge from the Echuca and 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 these brochures.

Whilst in the Deniliquin 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. Furthermore, many shires have commissioned brochures about regional 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.

Deniliquin

Deniliquin is situated alongside the Edward River, in the southern Riverina. It is about 75 kilometres north of Echuca-Moama.

Some parks with lakes are located on one side of Cressy Street, the main shopping street. At the south-eastern end of Cressy Street is Island Sanctuary (GPS 35° 32'S; 144° 58'E), a wetland area alongside The Edward. The parks and Island Sanctuary are good places for a spot of birding.

Some waterbirds which nest in the sanctuary include Great Egret, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, White-faced Heron, Black Duck, Grey Teal and Wood Duck. When the Edward is high, Nankeen Night Herons and White-necked Herons also nest in the reserve.

Blake Reserve, Harfleur Street, (GPS 35° 31' 25"S; 144° 57' 15"E) is a native plant garden created around a small lagoon by the Southern Riverina Field Naturalists Club. This park displays many of the grasses, shrubs and trees which are indigenous to the Deniliquin district.

Another good birding spot, which can be accessed via Wirraway Drive, is in the area bordered by the cemetery, rice mill, abattoir and saleyards (GPS 35° 33'S; 144° 56'E). Waterbirds, including waders, may be observed here.

There are some good birding spots along the Cobb Highway both to the north and south of the town, e.g. near Pretty Pine. In wet years, many birds are attracted to wetlands along the Cobb Highway between Deniliquin and Hay.

Birding spots of northern Victoria and southern Riverina

Deniliquin

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White-fronted Chat by David Ong

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

This brochure has been prepared by Keith Stockwell with the assistance of Tom Wheller.

This and other birding guides can be downloaded in colour from the Echuca & District BOCA web site at http://users.mcmmedia.com.au/~stocky/boca_echuca.html

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Birding spots in Deniliquin

The Deniliquin area is regarded by some as one of Australia's best birding areas.

Area One: Island Sanctuary

This suggested tour commences at the Island Sanctuary, Cressy Street DENILIQUIN (GPS 35° 32S; 144° 58E). There is a public toilet near the entrance to the reserve and in the parklands opposite the shops. When crossing the bridge to enter the sanctuary, look for platypuses and water rats in the lagoon.



Island Sanctuary can also be accessed from the sporting fields to the east of the reserve.

Waterbirds common in the sanctuary include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Black Duck | Maned Duck | Grey Teal |
| Little Pied Cormorant | Little Black Cormorant | White-faced Heron |
| White-necked Heron | Nankeen Night Heron | Great Egret |
| Straw-necked Ibis | Australian White Ibis | Yellow-billed Spoonbill |
| Purple Swamphen | Dusky Moorhen | |

Raptors often observed in or over the sanctuary include Black Kite, Whistling Kite and Collared Sparrowhawk.

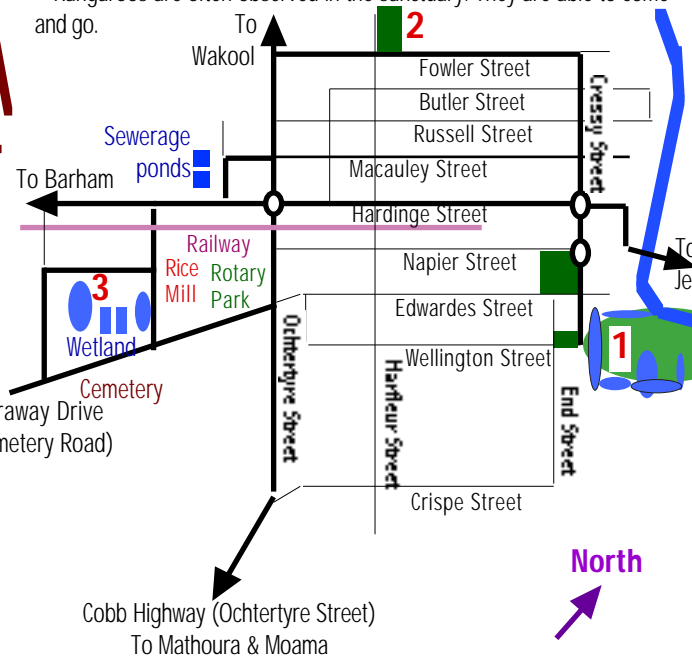
Common bush birds of the reserve include

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Peaceful Dove | Galah | Long-billed Corella |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | Crimson Rosella (yellow) | Eastern Rosella |
| Red-rumped Parrot | Azure Kingfisher | Sacred Kingfisher (S) |
| Laughing Kookaburra | Dollarbird (S) | Brown Tree-creeper |
| White-throated Tree-creeper | Spotted Pardalote | Striated Pardalote |
| Superb Fairy Wren | White-browed Scrubwren | Weebill |
| Buff-rumped Thornbill | Yellow Thornbill | Striated Thornbill |
| Red Wattlebird | Noisy Friarbird | Little Friarbird |
| Blue-faced Honeyeater | White-plumed Honeyeater | Brown-headed H' eater |
| Varied Sittella | Crested Shrike-tit | Golden Whistler (W) |
| Rufous Whistler | Grey Fantail | Willie Wagtail |
| Olive-backed Oriole | Masked Woodswallow | Pied Butcherbird |
| Maggie | Australian Raven | Little Raven |
| White-winged Chough | Red-browed Finch | Mistletoebird |
| Welcome Swallow | Tree Martin | Reed Warbler (S) |
| Silvereye | House Sparrow | Rock Dove |
| Blackbird | Starling | |

(W) = winter; (S) = summer

Night birds observed in the reserve include Southern Boobook, Barn Owl and Tawny Frogmouth.

Kangaroos are often observed in the sanctuary. They are able to come and go.



Area Two: Blake Reserve

Drive north-west along Cressy Street, around two roundabouts, until Cressy Street ends at a T-intersection. Turn left into Fowler Street. After two crossroads, you will come to Blake Reserve (GPS 35° 31' 25S; 144° 57' 15E), a botanic garden of indigenous plants. It is worth spending up to an hour birding in the garden. The plants on display include Weeping Pittosporum, Eremophila, Senna, Old Man Saltbush, eucalypts, wattles and native grasses.

Many of the bush birds listed above are sometimes observed here. A few waterbirds may be observed on the lake. Often, you will observe some birds which you may not have observed in Island Sanctuary.

In summer, look for the Australian Reed Warbler and Little Grass Bird in the reeds on the opposite side of Fowler Street.

Area Three: wetlands

From Blake Reserve, continue along Fowler Street, turning left into Ochertyre Street at the T-intersection. Continue on around the roundabout and turn right at the stadium into Wirraway Drive (Cemetery Road). On your right is Rotary Park. This may be a suitable spot for a meal break or toilet stop.

Continue on along Wirraway Drive, crossing a canal, until you see a cemetery on your left. The area bordered by the cemetery, rice mill, abattoir and saleyards (GPS 35° 33'S; 144° 56'E) is a great area for waterbirds, including waders. Check out the ponds opposite the cemetery for such birds as Black-tailed Native Hen and Eurasian Coot.

Drive half way around the block and access the wetlands near the truck wash in Saleyards Road. The wetland here is a good spot to look for waders, including Red-kneed Dotterel and Black-fronted Dotterel. Look for the White-fronted Chat. In summer, some migratory waders may be observed here.

Check out the reeds in the pond nearest the rice mill for Baillons Crake and other waterbirds.

It is worth returning to Wirraway Road (Cemetery Road) and driving along it to the south-west for about two kilometres. Immediately before it enters private property, look for Banded Lapwing in the paddocks adjoining the road.

Many ducks and other waterbirds can often be observed on the settlement ponds of the sewerage treatment works at the south-western end of Macauley Street. Enter with permission and at your own risk.

It is possible to observe over 80 bird species in a day within the town of Deniliquin. In summer, migratory birds may enable you to attain an even higher total.