

Kanyapella Forest

Located east of Echuca, Kanyapella Basin is the remains of a former lake which resulted from earth movements. When the lake drained, winds blew sand from the dry lake bed to form sand dunes. The wetland filled in times of flood until drainage channels and embankments were built some years ago. Man's interference has caused deterioration of the ecosystem.

A management plan has been prepared. Water will sometimes be allowed to enter an area of rushes and red gum in winter and be allowed to evaporate or drain away as summer approaches. Only 6% of the area is to be deliberately flooded so that the basin can be used as a flood amelioration basin should a major rain event occur.

A Black Box Grassland area will not be deliberately flooded: some endangered birds depend upon it. It is hoped to rejuvenate the shrub layer and a section of sand dune. As a result of the conservation measures, it is hoped that Brolga will return to this forest, that Bush Stone Curlews will continue to survive and that water birds will breed here. There are no picnic tables, toilets or other facilities in the forest.

This forest is part of the proposed Lower Goulburn River National Park.

Wyuna River Reserve

Located alongside the Goulburn at the northern end of Waradgery Road, Wyuna River Reserve covers 170 hectares (400 acres). Wyuna is derived from a koori word, Waioona, which means clear water.

Jointly managed by Wyuna Landcare Group, the irrigation committee of Goulburn Murray CMA and Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment, the reserve is one of the best natural areas remaining in northern Victoria, indicative of pre-European vegetation. The dominant trees are River Red Gum, Grey Box and Yellow Box. There is a good middle layer. The ground layer includes Leafy Templetonia (*Templetonia stenophylla*), Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*) and Dwarf Native Cherry (*Exocarpus stricta*). In fact, more than 110 plant species have been identified in the reserve. Squirrel Gliders still live in the reserve.

Grey-crowned Babbler

In Victoria, the Grey-crowned Babbler is classed as endangered.



Fortunately, however, there are several colonies in northern Victoria and southern NSW. One colony lives near the Wakiti Church (see map on the reverse side of this sheet). They make loud "yahoo" calls and build many grass roosts. Hopefully, the old box trees and introduced trees around the church will be retained for the birds.

Yambuna Bridge and James Bridge Road gives access to the Picola and Barmah areas (see Birding Guide 1: Barmah)

Other guides in this series:

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

plus a list of birds found in the above areas.

Guides can be downloaded in colour from our web site at http://users.mcmedia.com.au/~stocky/boca_echuca.html

Birding spots of northern Victoria and southern Riverina

Kanyapella and Wyuna



Brown Thornbill by David Ong

This birding guide has prepared for you by Dallas Wyatt and Keith Stockwell of the Echuca and District Branch of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia. The birding tour described can be taken over one or several days.

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A day-long birding tour east of Echuca

This 125km tour of Kanyapella Basin and Wyuna, designed by Dallas Wyatt, should only be attempted in dry weather. Odometer/trip metre readings are distances from Echuca Post Office, Pakenham Street.

Cross the railway line and follow Pakenham Street to Goulburn Road. Goulburn Road becomes Bangerang Road. Turn left at Simmie Road if you wish to visit the Echuca Village section of Echuca Regional Park. If it contains water, look out over a wetland on private property alongside Bangerang Road 8.7km from Echuca (don't enter private property).

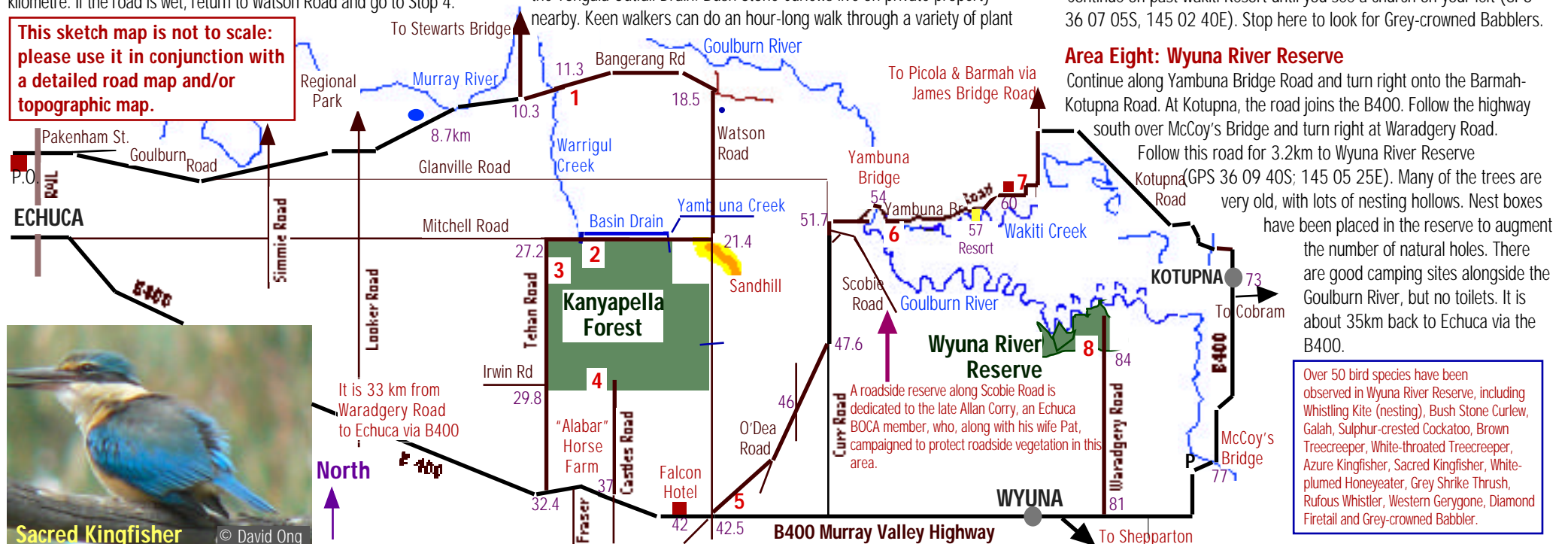
Area One: Warrigal Creek

After 11.3km, stop at the bridge over Warrigal Creek, one kilometre past Stewarts Bridge turnoff. There is nearly always water in the creek. Look for water birds, including Azure Kingfisher and, in summer, Sacred Kingfisher.

Area Two: northern boundary of Kanyapella Forest

Continue along Bangerang Road for another 7km and turn right onto Watson Road (18.5km from P.O.). Follow Watson Road for 3km and turn right onto Mitchell Road (21.4). The road sign may be missing so look for the name "Hobbs" on a post. Drive west through a gate and over a grid for about a kilometre. If the road is wet, return to Watson Road and go to Stop 4.

This sketch map is not to scale: please use it in conjunction with a detailed road map and/or topographic map.



If the road is dry, continue west on Mitchell Road for 4km (alongside a drain) until the road crosses Warrigul Creek 25.5km from the P.O. (GPS 36 08 25S, 144 53 14E). Stop and walk along the levee track which parallels the creek. In particular, look for Peregrine Falcon, Purple Swamp Hen and Black-tailed Native Hen.

Area Three: Grassy Black Box woodland

Continue along Mitchell Road and, 27.2km from the P.O., turn left at Tehan Road. Stop near the intersection and walk south through grassy Black Box woodland. Many birds which rely on a grassy woodland feed here, including Common Bronzewing, Brown Treecreeper, Restless Flycatcher, Varied Sittella, Diamond Firetail, Red-capped Robin and, in winter, Flame Robin. Look for Wedgetailed Eagles soaring overhead.

Area Four: southern end of Kanyapella

After birding here, drive south along Tehan Road to the Murray Valley Highway (B400). Turn left and drive east along the highway for 3.5 kilometres to Castles Road (at a bend). There is an old shearing shed near the corner. Turn left into Castle Road and drive north for 2.8km. Once through the gate, park and walk through a stand of Box trees and alongside the Tongala Outfall Drain. Bush Stone Curlews live on private property nearby. Keen walkers can do an hour-long walk through a variety of plant

associations. Follow the drain and return via Levee Track & Hicks Track.



Area Five: O'Dea Road

Return to the highway and drive south-east for 2.4 kilometres to a road junction. Turn left onto O'Dea Road for about 100 metres and stop. Look for Singing Honeyeater. In spring when it is in bloom, the indigenous grassland, including Drumsticks and Peas, is very colourful.

Area Six: Yambuna Bridge

Continue along O'Dea Road until it ends at Curr Road. Veer left onto the sealed road and travel north for 4 km. Half a kilometre beyond the end of the bitumen, turn right onto Yambuna Bridge Road and cross the Goulburn River. There are lots of side tracks and the birding here is often good.

Area Seven: Wakiti Church

Continue on past Wakiti Resort until you see a church on your left (GPS 36 07 05S, 145 02 40E). Stop here to look for Grey-crowned Babblers.

Area Eight: Wyuna River Reserve

Continue along Yambuna Bridge Road and turn right onto the Barmah-Kotupna Road. At Kotupna, the road joins the B400. Follow the highway south over McCoy's Bridge and turn right at Waradgery Road. Follow this road for 3.2km to Wyuna River Reserve (GPS 36 09 40S; 145 05 25E). Many of the trees are very old, with lots of nesting hollows. Nest boxes have been placed in the reserve to augment the number of natural holes. There are good camping sites alongside the Goulburn River, but no toilets. It is about 35km back to Echuca via the B400.

Over 50 bird species have been observed in Wyuna River Reserve, including Whistling Kite (nesting), Bush Stone Curlew, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Brown Treecreeper, White-throated Treecreeper, Azure Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, White-plumed Honeyeater, Grey Shrike Thrush, Rufous Whistler, Western Gerygone, Diamond Firetail and Grey-crowned Babbler.