

MORE PLACES TO VISIT

While in East Gippsland there are a variety of places to visit. Some can be a quick picnic stop, while at others you may wish to stay awhile or return to, because several are sites for seasonal migrant birds.

Guide

| No. | Location |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | BAIRNSDALE |
| 2. | LINDENOW |
| 3. | MITCHELL RIVER NATIONAL PARK |
| 4. | PAYNESVILLE |
| 5. | NICHOLSON |
| 6. | METUNG |
| 7. | LAKES ENTRANCE |
| 8. | LAKE TYERS |
| 9. | BRUTHEN |
| 10. | BUCHAN |
| 11. | NOWA NOWA |
| 12. | MARLO |
| 13. | OMEO |
| 14. | MALLACOOTA |

East Gippsland Bird Observers Club (EGBOC)

is a local band of bird watching enthusiasts who have formed the local branch of The Bird Observers Club of Australia (BOCA)

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Australian Bird Environment Foundation

the conservation trust of the Bird Observers Club of Australia.

ABEF supports projects:

- Which maintain, improve or extend habitat for birds and other associated native animals and plants.
- Involve the study of the needs of birds in their habitat
- Educate the public to become more aware of birds and their habitat requirements.

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EAST GIPPSLAND BIRDING GUIDE

MARLO



Southern Emu-wren – Ken Sher-

Guide No. 12
in a series of guides prepared by
the East Gippsland Bird Observers Club

BIRDWATCHING AROUND MARLO

After its 500 km journey from the Alps, Marlo, is “*the place where the Snowy River meets the sea*” Over 100 years ago the Snowy River was used by paddle steamers, schooners and ketches for the transporting of seed maize and wattle bark.

1. Marlo

There are many delightful vantage spots (with picnic facilities) overlooking the beach, foreshore and river along the foreshore at Marlo. Dotterel, Tern, Duck and other sea birds are readily observed. Harder to see are Bittern and Crake.

2. The Narrows

Access to The Narrows is approx. 4.5 km from the township of Marlo, along the Marlo – Cape Conran Road. Down steps and a path leading down to a reed-lined lagoon and backwater and a bush reserve where Beautiful Firetail, Azure Kingfisher, Pied Oystercatcher, Spoonbill, Egret, Buff-banded and Lewin’s Rail can be seen.

3. Cabbage Palms

Few plants in Victoria are more interesting than the state’s only indigenous palm, which is restricted to a few acres on the Cabbage Tree Creek and nearby Brodribb River. Baron von Mueller first found them here in 1854. Others can be found many miles north in New South Wales and Queensland. The Koories formerly used the heart of this palm for food, thus the name “Cabbage Tree”. Topknot Pigeon sometimes are seen eating the fruit of the palms
Take the Palms Track off the Marlo-Cabbage Tree Road. A variety of Honeyeater can be seen when the blossom is flowering, certainly Bassian Thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Eastern Whipbird and the Crested Shrike-Tit, Pilotbird, Black-faced Monarch are likely with the Rufous Fantail possible during October to March. You may find the Rose Robin here too.

4. Airport

Another 1.5 km further along from The Narrows or 6 km from Marlo is the road into the airport. There are no facilities at the airport. Walking along beside the airport with the bush to one side produces sightings of Eastern Spinebill, Silveryeye, Pardalote, both Rufous and Golden Whistler. Brown-headed, Lewin’s, White-eared and New Holland Honeyeater can be seen. The Ground Parrot is a possibility here and in the coastal Heath.

5. Burbang Camping Ground

I mention this camping ground because our club has stayed there. It is approx 14.5 km from Marlo. There are others in the township of Marlo and of course at Cape Conran. At Burbang there are a number of walks including: the Beach Walk to a large sand dune; Banksia Walk, Gully Walk, Burbang Circle and the Swamp Trail. Jacky Winter, White-throated Treecreeper, Yellow-tailed and Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Turquoise Parrot, Scarlet Honeyeater, Southern Emu-wren, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater and Swift Parrot have all been recorded at Burbang.

6. Cape Conran

Cape Conran Coastal Park has a wide variety of habitat including Ocean; Beach and Sand Dune Scrub; Estuaries and Rivers; Wetlands and Swamps; Coastal Heathland; Banksia Woodland; Lowland Forest and Warm Temperate Rainforest.

At times the ocean going birds like shearwater and gannet can be seen, some unfortunately beach washed, but they can also be seen out at sea with your binoculars. Grebe, Pelican, Cormorant, Heron and Egret are some estuary birds that will be seen; with raptors seen over Heathland and in Woodlands. Lookout for the Rose Robin, you will probably hear its distinctive “dzeer-dzeer” at the end of the call sounding like a telephone, before you see it. Little and Fairy Tern as well as the more common Tern will be seen on the coast and beaches. The Scarlet Honeyeater can be found in the Banksia Woodland and the Southern Emu-wren in wetlands, heathland and lowland forests.

Call in at the Rangers Office at Cape Conran for further information and maps.

