

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)

This project received financial support from the



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 the habitat requirements.

**EAST GIPPSLAND
BIRD OBSERVERS CLUB**
E-mail: editor@egboc.org.au
www.egboc.org.au

Bird Observers Club of Australia
(PO Box 185, Nunawading Vic 3131
183-185 Springvale Road, Nunawading Vic 3131
Phone: 03 9877 5342 or 1300 305 342 (toll free)
Fax: 03 9894 4048
Email: information@birdobservers.org.au
Web: www.birdobservers.org.au

EAST GIPPSLAND BIRDING GUIDE

NICHOLSON SWAN REACH



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike - David Hollands

Guide No. 5
in a series of guides prepared by
the East Gippsland Bird Observers Club

BIRDWATCHING AROUND NICHOLSON & SWAN REACH

This guide starts on the Princes Highway at Swan Reach at the start of the Metung Road, then heads back to Bairnsdale.

There are numerous spots along the Tambo River that one can pull into and watch the river and look for birds. Here are a few of our favourite places.

1. Stocks Creek

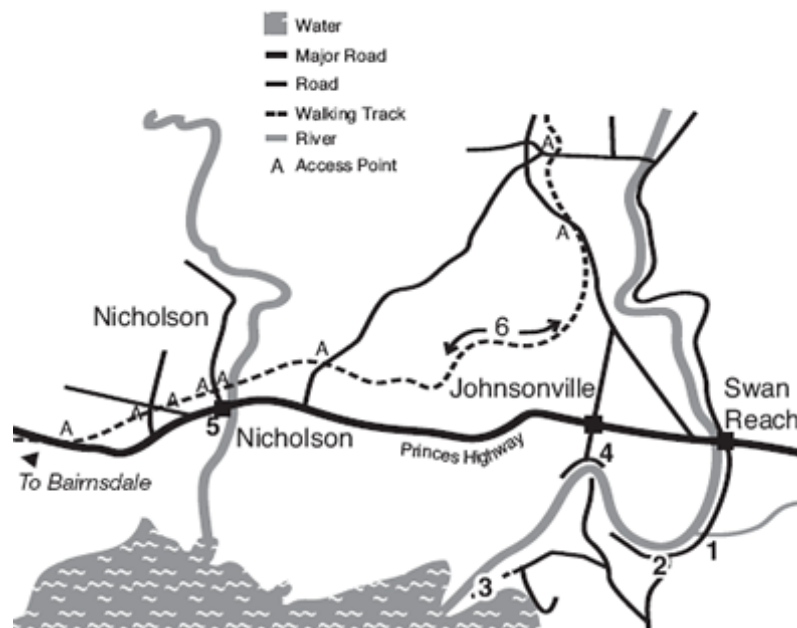
Heading south from the Princes Highway, approximately 2 km along the Metung Road, you cross Stocks Creek on a little white bridge. Park your car safely in one of the pull off spots for fishing and walk back to the bridge area. There is a wetland behind the bridge on the eastern side. This wetland is formed by a natural warm spring and it is surprising what can be seen here. One day we were lucky to see Magpie Geese. However, Latham's Snipe, Duck, Spoonbill and Egret are more common. The bushes along the banks of the creek are home to Superb Fairy-wren and Thornbill.

2. Rough Road

Continue south along the Metung road for another 1 km. Turn right into Rough Road. There is a car park, toilet and picnic area when you first turn in. The track is open to vehicles but a walk down beside the river is more worthwhile. Depending on the season and type of day raptors – White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite, Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite and Nankeen Kestrel may be seen. Black-fronted Dotterel, White-fronted Chat, Golden-headed Cisticola are also possible along the paddock side of the track.

3. Reynolds Road

Return to Metung Road and continue south, turning right into Punt Road. You have a choice of spots along this road, all worthy of a look. At the end of Punt Road where the road ends at the Tambo River (there used to be a punt across the river here) many waterbirds can be seen. However, a preferred spot is to turn left off Punt Rd into Reynolds Road and follow this for approx 1.8 km before turning right. At the end of this track you are near the mouth of the Tambo River. Walk from the parking area out on to a spit of land for a view of the mouth and the birds to be found there, including Little, Fairy, Crested and Caspian Tern, Egret, Cormorant, Azure Kingfisher and a number of raptors.



If heading on to Metung go to Guide No. 6; Otherwise continue on with this guide which takes in Nicholson and Johnsonville on the highway back to Bairnsdale.

4. Harry Clues Park, Johnsonville

Turn left off the Highway at Johnsonville into Punt Road. (This is the northern end of the same Punt Rd on the other side of the Tambo River.) At the bottom of this road is a boat ramp, car park, toilet and bbq area beside the river. You can walk in either direction which may provide sightings of Black-shouldered Kite, Azure Kingfisher, thornbills and waterbirds. A great spot on a hot afternoon or for an evening bbq and a spot of birdwatching.

5. Nicholson Boat Ramp

Heading west towards Bairnsdale along the Princes Highway you cross the Nicholson River – turn left immediately over the bridge into the picnic, playground and boat ramp area. There is a swamp behind the toilet block that when it has water in it can provide sightings of the Little Grassbird, the Clamorous Reed-Warbler and the Golden-headed Cisticola. Even if you don't see them you should hear them! A walk under the bridge, along the river brings you to one of the access points to the East Gippsland Rail Trail. (A brochure with full information on this Trail is available from the tourist information centre in Bairnsdale.) Just a short walk west along the rail trail takes you behind Bosse's Swamp with many bird sightings possible – Egret, Swamphen, Moorhen, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Nankeen Kestrel.

6. Rail Trail

The letter A on the map indicates the Access points to the Rail Trail in this area – Princes Highway, Sandford's Lane, Lane Road, Sarsfield/Nicholson Road, Nicholson/ Tambo Upper Road, Mossiface/ Swan Reach Road.