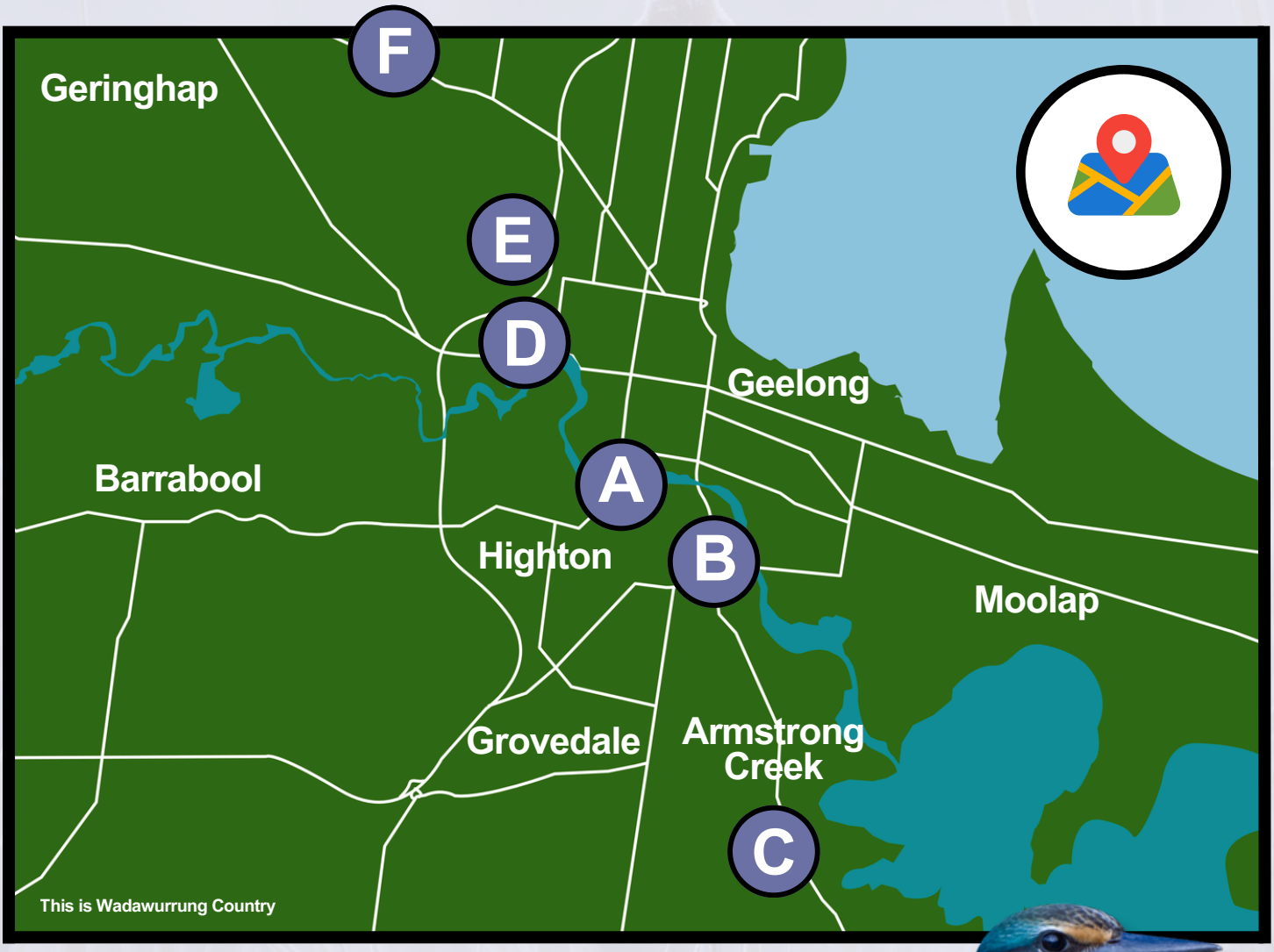
BIRDING TRAILS

Geelong Waterways

This trail visits the Barwon River, Moorabool River and Amstrong Creek. The Barwon River rises in the Otways and flows north-east to Geelong where it is joined by the Moorabool River which flows south from near Ballan. Amstrong Creek flows east from the slopes of Mt Duneed to Lake Connewarre.

All locations are open to the public and easily accessible. Scan the QR code to view eBird Hotspot details.



Getting There

These locations are a short drive from the centre of Geelong.

Birdwatching Tips

- bring binoculars, camera and spotting-scope
- carry drinking water
- wear suitable waterproof footwear
- spray with insect repellent
- be sun safe
- watch out for snakes.

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BIRDING TRAILS

Geelong Waterways

GREY GOSHAWK
GEOFF GATES

A Balyang Sanctuary

1 km, 40 minutes, circuit

Park in the car park at the south end of Marnock Rd.

The sanctuary is located on the site of a swamp modified to slow stormwater runoff into the Barwon River. Reed beds, islands, open water and revegetated areas provide a range of habitats.

Walk across the grass behind the toilets and follow the Barwon River upstream towards the Shannon Ave bridge. Australasian Darter and Little Black Cormorant roost and nest in the trees on the opposite bank. Watch out for Superb Fairywren and Red-browed Finch on the grass. The revegetated area between the wetlands and Shannon Ave is good for bush birds including Grey Fantail, White-browed Scrubwren and Golden Whistler (winter and spring). Turn back to take the path between the two main lakes to see a range of waterbirds including Grey and Chestnut Teal, Eurasian Coot, Dusky Moorhen, Pacific Black Duck and Little Pied and Great Cormorant. In late spring and summer listen for the 'kek-kek' call of the Sacred Kingfisher.

B Jerringot

1km, 30 minutes, circuit

Park in the small carpark near the bird hide on the access road to the Belmont Common Golf Course.

Jerringot is a Wadawurrung word that means 'water all around' or 'place of billabongs' and was a camping ground and meeting place of the Wadawurrung people.

Enter the Jerringot Bird Hide which is a great spot to watch for crakes and rails in the swamp vegetation. Circumnavigate the wetland by following the driveway towards the golf club then turn right along the path between the gold course and the wetland. Turn right again along the bank at the southern end of the wetland, and then again onto the elevated walkway along Barwon Heads Rd. Highlights include Latham's Snipe (spring and summer), Hardhead, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebe, Little Grassbird, Australasian Reed Warbler and Buff-banded Rail.

C Waralilly Wetland

5.4 km 1.5 hr, circuit

Park on the side of the road near the Warralily Blvd Playground on Warralily Blvd, Armstrong Creek.

Warralily Wetland has been formed by the rehabilitation of Armstrong Creek as part of the surrounding housing development.

Cross the creek at the playground bridge and walk west along the south side of Armstrong Creek following the walking path along the restored creek line. Take advantage of the many viewing points and bridges to search the wetland for water birds including ducks, Australasian Grebe, White-faced Heron, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant, Black Swan, Latham's Snipe (warmer months) and Black fronted Dotterel. At Horseshoe Bend Rd retrace your steps crossing to the north side of the creek at the Ambrosia Playground. Search the trees and bushes for Eastern Rosella, Superb Fairywren and White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeater and the skies for Black-shouldered Kite and Swamp Harrier.

D Fyansford Common[a] and Red Gum Island[b]

2.8 km, 1 hr 15m, circuit

Park in the Barwon River Trail carpark to the east of the Fyansford Hotel.

Follow the Barwon River Trail downhill behind the hotel through a gravel carpark to the bridge that crosses the Moorabool River. When flooded, the Common retains shallow water which attracts a range of water birds including Black-fronted Dotterel and Royal Spoonbill.

Cross the bridge and turn left in the direction of Buckley Falls. After crossing a second footbridge you will arrive at Red Gum Island. Take the unsealed footpad to the left to make a circuit of the riverine woodland on the island. Turn right when you meet the sealed trail to complete the island circuit and return via the Common. Birds seen in the riverine woodland include Striated and Spotted Pardalote, Grey Shrikethrush, Golden Whistler, Brown Thornbill, Grey Butcherbird, Musk and Rainbow Lorikeet and Superb Fairywren. Watch overhead for raptors such as Wedge-tailed Eagle, Collared Sparrowhawk and Little Eagle.

GOLDEN WHISTLER
GEOFF GATES

AUSTRALIAN SPOTTED CRAKE

HARDHEAD
GEOFF GATES

BIRDING TRAILS

Geelong Waterways

E

Monier Way Park

1.2 km, 40 minutes, return P

Park in Beacon Avenue, Hamlyn Heights, near the freeway overpass at the start of the trail. Follow the trail south as it parallels the Moorabool River to end at The Parade just upstream of the Monier Arch Bridge. Retrace your steps. The rapidly growing plantings provide habitat for Silvereye, Red-browed Finch, New Holland Honeyeater and Eastern and Crimson Rosella. The view across open paddocks to the north-west make this a good place to watch for raptors such as Brown Falcon, Grey Goshawk, Black Kite and Collared Sparrowhawk.

F

Moorabool River Reserve

3.5 km, 2.0 hr, return P

Park in the two-car carpark at the corner of Domain Drive and Vigneron Avenue, Batesford.

The Golden Plains section of the Moorabool River Reserve extends north of the Midland Hwy at Batesford to the Moorabool Viaduct.

Follow the reserve entrance path at the corner of Domain Drive and Vigneron Avenue to the mature River Red Gum lined Moorabool River. Continue north over the mown grass along the west bank of the river checking for Australasian Darter and Great and Little Pied Cormorant. Scan the treetops for Little and Long-billed Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Rainbow and Purple-crowned Lorikeet. Walk through the young River Red Gum woodland and across the old orchard looking for Dusky Woodswallow (warmer months) and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater. As you approach the Moorabool Viaduct watch for Rainbow Bee-eater (warmer months), Eastern Yellow Robin and Eastern Shrike-tit. Turn around at the coppice of deciduous trees before you reach the viaduct and retrace your steps. In the open areas at the back of the housing development watch for Flame Robin (cooler months) and seed eaters such as Red-rumped Parrot, Crested Pigeon, Red-Browed Finch and Common Bronzewing.

Information

- **Geelong Field Naturalists Club** www.gfnc.org.au
- **eBird Australia** www.ebird.org/australia