

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report: No 3

Date: 8/10/04

Time of visit: 8.30am to 1300

Dear Bird Buddies

To-day I went to the estuary. It was hot and the northerly was blowing like hell. For a small moment there was nobody on the beach, no footprints, no dogs and at a glance no birds either. The wind had swept the beach clean.

I eventually located the usual bunch of seagulls and terns at a fair distance up the beach, all huddled down but still no Little Terns. The Red-capped Plovers that are usually found just inside the fence were sheltering further up the creek. I could only locate 4 of the 6 adults that I usually see but this time there were two very tiny chicks scratching at the water edge. The nesting plovers (Masked Lapwings) were nowhere to be seen. David reported at the meeting on the 4th that the eggs had hatched, 2 chicks, so hope they are OK.

A couple of hours later, just as I was leaving a gusty cool wind blew in from the south. A very welcomed relief.

Adit

20/10/04. The wader survey kit did not arrive, however I was contacted by the local representative Bob Orhlman (not sure if this is correct spelling) who lives in Byron and some of you may know. He says they have been surveying the site over a period of months and the week-end of the 16th would probably be the last survey. He said he would send me the report.

Here's my list of birds

Beach

Seagulls x 31

Crested Terns x 28

Inside Fence – Mouth of Creek

Red-capped Plovers x 4 plus 2 chicks

Welcome Swallows x 2

Pacific-golden plover x 1

Rainbow Bee-eaters x 2 (still attending their nest)

Flying Over

Osprey x 1

Inner Creek

Pelican x 1
Pied Oyster x 2 (no chicks sighted)
Pacific Golden Plover x 24
White Ibis x 8
White-faced Heron x 2
Black Cormorant x 10
Great Egret x 1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper x 26
Black-winged Stilts x 16
Bar-tailed Godwits x 3
Common Greenshank x 1

Surrounding Bush

Brush Wattle Bird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird,

Regards Jan



White-faced Heron