

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report: No 5

Date: 4/11/04

Time of visit: 8.30 am to 12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

Again the estuary was not disappointing. A Back-fronted Dotterel and a Curlew Sandpiper seen feeding along the waters edge of the estuary mouth, was exciting. Although without a site history it's difficult to know if these are unusual sightings. There were at least 200 Crested Terns, resting either on the beach or on the sandspit inside the fence. I looked carefully but still no Little Terns. Many of the Crested Terns are in breeding plumage and I did see some elaborate wooing between courting couples. Approaching each other with outstretched wings and raised crests the male offered and then fed the female a small fish, this was followed by some lovy-dovy touching, pecking and posturing and all done while keeping constant eye contact. Some beach walkers disturbed the grand finale.

I didn't see the pair of nesting Rainbow Bee-eaters, or the Pied Oystercatchers to-day.

The water level has fallen a bit and a small spit has opened up on the bend so some of the waders have returned to this spot.

There was one dog on the beach without a lead, but the owner and dog left the beach along the Sunrise Track soon after I arrived. I'm hoping people with binoculars are a deterrent, because even with NVC I still don't feel prepared to approach people.

Here's my list of birds for 4th November 2004

Beach

Seagulls x 110

Crested Terns x 114

Rainbow Bee-eaters x 2 (nesting in bank below house)

Mouth of Creek

Red-capped Plovers x 8

Pacific-golden Plover x 6

Crested Terns x 105

Seagulls x 50

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper x 5

Black-fronted Dotterel x 1

Curlew Sandpiper x1 (I think there were a few more but I was too far away to tell)

Black-wing Stilt x 9

Flying Over

Pied Cormorants x 3
Sacred Ibis x 1

Inside fence - Inner Creek

Black Cormorant x 8
Pied Cormorants x 2
Pacific Black Duck x 25
Dusky Moorhen x 2
Pelican x 1

Surrounding Bush

Brush Wattle Bird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird, Variegated Wren, Brown Thornbill.

See you Monday at the meeting
Regards Jan



A pair of Black Cormorants, Seagulls, Common Terns and Crested Tern (foreground)