

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report: No 6
Date: 11/11/04
Time of visit: 8.30 am to 12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

My goodness, what a transformation, such a dramatic change. The Belongil Creek is now, once again apparently, tidal. (It seems the creek is artificially opened when it reaches a certain height at the Belongil Bridge) The birds seem to love it, especially the Seagulls and Crested Terns, lots of chattering and splashing in the shallows. Most of the birds have moved off the beach and now reside on the newly created sandspits at the estuary mouth just before the water flows out to sea through the new “canal”. The Pacific-golden Plovers have taken up resident in the sand dunes and the Red-capped Plovers seem to love the tops of the newly created sand piles. The tide was coming in while I was there, and it covered all the exposed land up the creek, therefore no waders beyond the mouth. Will be interesting to see what happens at low tide. No Little Terns on my watch.

Six dogs were on the beach. Three big and unleashed dogs accompanied by a young guy coming from the south. The others were coming from the Sunrise track, one little white terrier (no leash) an Alsatian with weak back leg (leashed) and a leashed) black and white dog, not Dalmatian.

I'll be at the fence tomorrow (18th) at 8.30 am.
Here's my list of birds for 11th November 2004

Beach side

Seagulls x 24
Crested Terns x 11

Mouth of Creek

Red-capped Plovers x 7
Pacific-golden Plover x 18 (probably more in dunes)
Crested Terns x 21 (several courting pairs)
Seagulls x 150
Common Sandpiper x 1
Pelican x 1
Common Greenshank x 1
Oystercatchers x 3 (Parents and teenager I presume)
Rainbow Bee-eater x 1 (pleased to see still visiting nest, as there is only one, the other is probably sitting on eggs)
Pacific Golden Plovers (now residing in the dunes, they move down to the waters edge for swimming, feeding and then move back to the dunes.)

Flying Over

Pied Cormorants x 1
Sacred Ibis x 2
White-throated Needletail (Swift)
Welcome Swallow

Inside fence - Inner Creek

Black Cormorant x 8

Pied Cormorants x 2

Surrounding Bush

Brush Wattle Bird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Osprey, Silvereyes, Rufous Whistler, Whipbird, Variegated Wren, Brown Thornbill, Varied Triller, Pheasant Coucal, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Currawong, and Torresian Crow.

Regards Jan



A Bird Buddie in Action