

# The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report No 7  
Date 18/11//04  
Time of visit 8.30 to 1300hrs

Dear Bird Buddies

There were major changes again to the estuary; the artificial canal that ran in a straight line to the sea last week now has a couple of bends and most of the sand piles have disappeared. The beach was littered in seaweed.

As it was low tide when I was there, all the birds were very active feeding either on the beach or on the large sandspit at the estuary mouth. Feeding time makes it very difficult to get an accurate count as there is lots of coming and going. Counting is much easier at high tide when the birds are usually sitting about with full bellies. There were lots of Crested Terns returning from successful fishing trips. Some of them had a fish clasped firmly in their beaks and were squawking at the same time, presumably announcing their arrival to the group of birds resting on the beach. As they neared the group, one of the resting birds would move away from the main group, I assumed it was the mate, and waited to be fed the offering. The bird with the fish would fly circles around the flock looking to make an impression, but this was hampered by the aggressive seagulls trying to get an easy feed. Often the seagulls won.

Anyway, I have decided that the Little Terns that everyone else observes go on weekend leave on Thursdays.

There were two dogs on the beach, both on leads coming from the Sunrise Estate. A female jogger decides the waters edge is not good enough, jumps the fence and jogs through the protected area, looks at the spit and returns the same way. Another lady, also jumps the fence (actually removes the stake) and takes her child for a swim in the protected area. People with binoculars ARE NOT a deterrent. We have no hope.

Here's my list of birds for 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

## **Beach**

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Seagulls  
Crested Terns about 70  
Whimbrel x 1

## **Mouth of Creek**

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Red-capped Plover x 6 ( 2 feeding amidst the seaweed outside fence)  
Pacific-golden Plover x 28 (none in the dunes this week 1 at water edge)  
Crested Terns  
Seagulls  
Common Sandpiper x 4  
Pelican x 1  
Common Greenshank x 1  
Oystercatchers x 3  
(observed a Red-cap Plover fly into the dunes ? nesting.)

**Flying Over**

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Brahminy Kite

Welcome Swallow

**Inside fence - Inner Creek**

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Black Cormorant x 3

Pied Cormorants x 3

Little Pied Cormorant x1

Great Egret x 1

Sharp-tail Sandpiper x 5

**Surrounding Bush**

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Brush Wattle Bird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird, , Varied Triller, Currawong,  
Torresian Crow.

Regards Jan



Belongil Estuary - Inner Creek