

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report: No 9
Date: 16/12/04
Time of visit: 09 to 12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

Many thanks to those BBs who organised the Xmas party get-together last Sunday. It was a very enjoyable and pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon, the chocolates were especially scrumptious.

My morning visit to the estuary was delayed yesterday due to rain and by the time I arrived at 12md it was one of those soft intimate days with a warm balmy breeze, and such a delight to sit on the beach and daydream.

The tranquillity was disturbed for about 20 minutes by a barking dog while its silly owner had a short nap!! The barking only stopped when another dog joined it, both dogs unleashed, both from the Sunrise track and both different from the ones I usually see of a Thursday morning. Confrontation was too dangerous as I was still recovering from being agitated by a push by local residents to increase street lighting in my neighbourhood.

Back to the birds and creek..... Major change to the creek mouth again. The high tide was just starting to ebb when I arrived, therefore the creek looked very wide, the course had changed again, and quite deep (chest high) at the mouth and the spit was not visible, being covered by the tide. Most of the 130 plus Crested Terns, including lots of juveniles were at the waters edge inside the fence, but all the Little Terns were on week-end leave again. By the time I left three hours later a very large spit had appeared in the middle of the creek.

Here's my list of birds for 16th Dec. 2004

Beach

Seagulls (and inside fence)

Mouth of Creek

Red-capped Plovers x 6
Pacific-golden Plover x 23 (some also resting in the dunes)
Common Sandpiper x 3
Common Greenshank x 2
Pied Oystercatchers x 2
Ruddy Turnstone x 1
Common Tern x 2 – (with Crested T's moving frequently between inside and outside of fence).
Crested Terns x 135
White-breasted Woodswallows x 2
Black-winged Stilts x 2
Rainbow Bee-eater x 1 (still visiting nest constantly now, so assuming its feeding hatched chicks)

Flying Over

Brahminy Kite x 1

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Welcome Swallow x 2

Whistling Kite x 1

Inner Creek

Black Cormorant x 34

Pied Cormorants x 7

Pacific black duck x 5

Dusky Moorhen x 1

Common Greenshank x 2

Surrounding Bush

Currawong, Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird, Varied Triller, Leaden Flycatcher,
Brown Pigeon (juv) White-cheeked Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin

Have a nice, safe and peaceful Xmas holiday

Regards Jan



Ruddy Turnstone

Photo Reid Waters