

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report: No 10
Date: 6/01/05
Time of visit: 09 to 12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

It's been three weeks since I last sent a Bird Buddies report. I hope everyone had a pleasant Xmas break and a great New Year. Although it was a very sad one for the Tsunami sufferers, but by the world's generosity it reveals how we can be a caring and compassionate world. So 2005 can only improve from here.

The Belongil Creek remains tidal and interesting in its constant change.

Lots of dogs and lots of people who obviously cannot read or understand the reason for fences, but the birds on the beach somehow cope with it all I guess, especially if they don't want to breed in Byron Bay.

Yesterday when I was there the tide was out and not a single bird on the inside of the fenced area and there was lots of undisturbed sand spits. About 23 Little Terns and 105 Common Terns and 35 Crested Terns along with the Seagulls they insisted on staying outside the fence and being constantly disturbed. Can't they read, don't they understand we have provided this special place for them? Go figure?

The birds that I usually see at the creek mouth were all up the creek feeding on the exposed flats. The Red-caps, in their usual scurrying fashion, as usual were looking for food at the wave's edge. I haven't seen the Rainbow Bee-eaters visiting their hole in the dune for a couple of weeks, so I hope they had a successful hatching.

I have included a PDF attachment of an XL file, for those of you who can access it. This is a record of all the birds I've seen at the Belongil from Sept to Dec 2004. I have also included some sightings recorded by others that I picked up from BB's emails.

Here's my list of birds for 6th January 2005.

Beach side

Seagulls
Red-capped Plovers x 5
Common Tern x 105
Crested Terns x 35
Little Terns x 23

Mouth of Creek

Maned Ducks x 2

Flying Over

Welcome Swallow x lots
White-throated Needletails
Dollar Bird

Inner Creek (due to rain not counted)

Dusky Moorhen
Pacific-golden Plover
Pied Oystercatchers x 2
Bar-tailed Godwit
Eastern Curlew
Sacred Ibis
Masked Lapwing
Royal Spoonbill

Surrounding Bush

Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird, Varied Triller,

Peace and Harmony

Regards Jan



Great Egret

Modified Area of the Golf Course – Belongil Estuary