

# The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report: No 11

Date: 20/01/05

Time of visit: 08.30 to 12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

As the summer holidays come to an end, the traffic flow to Belongil slowly gets back to normal numbers. The birds hopefully will now get some respite from the constant disturbance. If only they would learn to stay behind the fence.

When I arrived this week and for the first time, the gulls and the Crested Terns were scattered all over the beach, instead of in their usual huddle. No sign of the Little Terns though. The week before I saw a breeding pair, that is, one of the pair had a very yellow beak, but they quickly flew off and I didn't see them again.

There has been less diversity of waders and numbers are down over the last couple of weeks too, I wonder if it's because of the traffic or the high tides! There is lots of exposed sand at low tide though and not one wader.

On the northern beaches (South Golden & Crabbes Beach) over the past few weeks, I've been noticing large numbers of Crested Terns flying in a northwesterly direction. They are flying over the sand dunes and they are all carrying small fish in their beaks. These birds are usually off-shore feeders and I haven't seen them cross the land in this area before. I can only assume there is a large colony on the Tweed River somewhere and they are feeding young ones. Has anyone got a different explanation?

Emma joined me on Thursday and it was nice to have the company and exciting to see the Black-neck Stork (Jabiru) up the creek again. In the past some of us wondered what the purpose of the two piles of palm fronds at the edge of the mangroves served. I can now tell you that the Stork uses them as a perch to survey the scenery, maybe they are also a nest?

## **I will not be at the creek this Thursday 27/1/05**

Here's my list of birds for 20th January 2005.

### **Beach**

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Seagulls  
Red-capped Plovers x 2  
Crested Terns x 8

### **Mouth of Creek**

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Pacific Golden Plovers x 18  
Pelicans x 2  
Pied Oystercatchers x 2

### **Flying Over**

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Welcome Swallow  
Dollar Bird

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## **Inner Creek**

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Dusky Moorhen  
Black-necked Stork  
Sacred Ibis  
Royal Spoonbill  
Little Egret  
Pied Cormorant  
White-faced Heron

## **Surrounding Bush**

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Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Little Wattlebird, Leaden Flycatcher, Koel, Pheasant Coucal, Noisy Friar Bird, Bar-shouldered Dove, Brahminy Kite, Kookaburra, Variegated Wren

Regards Jan



Black-necked Stork