

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report No 13
Date 17/02/05
Time 0.9.30 -12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

It was very peaceful and serene at the Belongil this morning and for 10 minutes I was alone on the beach and as usual nobody in my favourite place up the creek.

The tide was way out and the birds were scattered, from the Red-capped Dotterels hunkering down in the sand scrapes to the north of the estuary mouth to the Black-winged Stilts on the far-side mudflats in the inner creek. Even the Ospreys are back on the perch, they haven't been there for the last 6 Thursdays.

And most intriguing as we come to the end of summer, some of the Pacific-golden Plovers are showing signs of acquiring their breeding colours, a golden glow on the head and shoulders and black flecks in the breast feathers, also some are looking quite plump. If we are lucky we will see them in full breeding colours before they migrate to NE Siberia and possibly W Alaska, as it's a spectacular transformation. So, a very important time now for the migrating birds while they rest and fatten up for their long flight.

Unfortunately the 10 minutes of solitude was interrupted by an unleashed dog and walker coming from the township side. Even though that was the only dog I saw this morning there were lots of paw tracks inside the fenced area and on the mudflats up the creek and even car tyre tracks on the inside of the fence. I reported that to the Ranger who was going to check if the people currently fishing on the beach are licensed. Binoculars are also useful for checking license plates.

Here's my list of birds for today 17th of February 2005.

Outside fence – beach side

Red-capped Plovers x 12 – (includes, 3 at the mouth and 4 up the creek – not usual for them)

Inside Fence – Mouth of Creek

Pacific Golden Plovers x 29 (includes 20 up the creek)

Little Terns x 22 (yesterday reported by Paul)

Crested Terns x 3

Pied Oystercatchers x 2

Masked Lapwing x 5

Seagulls x 123

Pelican x 1

Pied Oystercatchers x 2

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Flying Over

Welcome Swallow

Brahminy Kite

Rainbow Lorikeets

Inner Creek

Greenshank x 3
Aust. White Ibis x 55 (foraging all over the creek)
Bar-tailed Godwit x 2
Black-wing Stilts x 3
White-faced heron x 3
Little Black Cormorants
Osprey x 2

Surrounding Bush

Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird, Brush Wattlebird, Torresian Crow, Variegated Wren, Eastern Yellow Robin, Superb Blue Wren, Dollarbird, Mistletoebird, Silveryeye.

Regards Jan



Great Egret

Belongil Estuary