

## The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report no: 15  
Date: 10/3/05  
Time of visit: 10am to 12.30

Dear Bird Buddies

Last week, fifteen people from the Brunswick Valley bird club visited Belongil and were enthralled by the bird sightings, over 40 species in three hours. Two weeks previous, in a visit to Whian Whian, only 5 species were sighted all morning. My surveys are usually 2ha surveys of the estuary, as I don't include the birds I see from the Resort car park/golf course, on route to the creek. Last week, however every bird species sighted was included in the survey. As it was an expanded area from my customary visit, I'm calling it a 5ha Belongil area survey and in the future I/we plan to do this every three to four months.

To-day, and as it was last week, the creek mouth closes over at low tide, the water level in the inner creek remains high and hence there are no mud flats for the birds. The waders usually seen at low tide are absent, although some do gather at the mouth. Last week no Terns except for 3 Crested Terns, but today there were 74 Little Terns and 84 Common Terns. As Paul reported during the week, a lot of the birds are in breeding colours and they were all roosting on the inside of the fence and on the pebbly sand spit. (It's about time they read the signs).

Weather patterns seem to be changing so maybe the Little Terns breeding patterns are also changing. Anything is possible in nature, so let's not give up just yet. The Pacific Golden Plovers are plump and glowing golden and a few have very speckled black breasts now with a distinct white "s" extending from the eye to the body.

Activities on the beach! Well, today lots of naked men, so a girl REALLY has to watch where she points her bino's!! One dog from the town end. Last week there was a huge campsite behind the beach dunes (between the spit and the houses) that could be seen from the inner creek. This week the campers have gone but there seems to be lots of rubbish left behind, chairs, bins etc. we may have to clean it up next workbee.

Combined list of birds for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

### **Outside fence – beach side**

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Red-capped Plovers x 15 (and still in residence up the beach)

### **Mouth of Creek**

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Pacific Golden Plovers x 52;

Little Terns x 82;

Common Terns x 85;

Crested Terns x 14

Pied Oystercatchers x 2

Greenshank x 1

Seagull; Little Black Cormorant; Pelican, Masked Lapwing, Striated Heron.

### **Flying Over**

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Brahminy Kite, Osprey, Whistling Kite, White-throated Needletail, White-breasted Woodswallow, Fairy Martin, Welcome Swallow, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Rainbow Lorikeets

### **Inner Creek**

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Little Black Cormorants x 6

Black-winged Stilt x 6

### **Surrounding Bush**

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Lewin's Honeyeater, Whipbird, Brush Wattlebird, Brown Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Superb Blue Wren, Currawong, Dollarbird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Restless Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Mistletoe Bird, Azure Kingfisher, Bar-shouldered Dove, Leaden Flycatcher, Eastern Rosella, Rufous Whistler, White-browed Scrubwren, Noisy Friarbird, Brown Thornbill, Silvereye,

### **Around Golf Course**

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Latham's Snipe; Crested Pigeon; Galah, Purple Swamp Hen, Willy Wagtail, Noisy Miner, Magpie Lark, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Blue-face Honeyeater, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Australian Magpie

Regards Jan



Rainbow Bee-eater