

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report No: 17

Date: 14/4/05

Time of visit 10.30am to 13.00pm

Dear Bird Buddies,

It's been over three weeks since I last sent a report from the Belongil however I've been down there the last two Thursdays. Bird wise it's been very quiet, the large flocks of Crested Terns have gone, no further sightings of Little Terns, but they have been sighted at Lennox, still in large numbers.

The Golden Plovers have all gone this week and except for a pair of Mongolian (Lesser) Sand-plover no other migratory birds have paid a visit, not on my last two visits anyway.

The Red-cap Plovers and the pair of Pied Oystercatchers remain faithful to the Belongil, and along with a solitary Greenshank they look very lonely. The Red-caps have broken into two camps, about 11 keep moving further up the beach and the other group remain inside the eastern fence.

Since the removal of the western fence, as evident by the number of sand prints, lots of dogs, people and even a horse are visiting the creek edges and even intruding onto the sand banks protected by the East fence. I do have some concerns that the removal of the west fence will send the wrong message.

Many of the bush birds I've been seeing all summer have also gone, but new ones are coming in such as the Grey Fantail and the Scarlet Honeyeater.

List of birds for 7th and 14th April 2005

Mouth of Creek and Beach

Red-capped Plovers x 15

Crested Terns x 1

Pied Oystercatchers x 2

Greenshank x 1

Seagulls,

Masked Lapwing (7th)

Flying Over

Welcome swallow

Tree martins

Inner Creek – on the 7th the water levels low with exposed sand spits – on the 14th level higher, no sand spits exposed and no wading birds except G Egret

Black-winged Stilt (7th)

Striated Heron (7th)

Pacific Golden Plover x 0 (5 last week)

Great Egret

Pied Cormorant (7th)

Surrounding Bush

Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin, Currawong, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, Little Shrike-thrush, Scarlet Honeyeater, Osprey, Brown Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Whipbird, Currawong, Bar-shouldered Dove, Noisy friarbird

Around Golf Course

Crested Pigeon; Willy Wagtail, Noisy Miner, Magpie Lark, Australian Wood Duck,
Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird

Regards Jan



Yellow Robin