

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report No 18
Date 14/4/05
Time 10.30am to 13.00pm

Dear Bird Buddies,

The Belongil creek mouth never ceases to amaze me with its constantly changing appearance.

The sandspit, that all summer we were hoping would be used by some Little Terns for nest building has all but disappeared. I'm guessing that the dredger has been in the past two Wednesdays following the storms. Last Thursday the creek was flowing out to sea at a great rate of knots and no sandbars were visible. This Thursday the flow out was much slower but there were new sandbars everywhere, even in the middle of the creek mouth.

The Red-capped Plovers have all moved back inside the newly positioned fence and their northern site is now occupied by three Lesser Sand-Plovers. Yesterday the Red-caps were all a twitch because their area was being invaded by hundreds of Tree Martins, which also included some White-backed Swallows; these swallows are not often seen west of the Dividing Ranges.

The riparian strip along the creek was alive with bush birds as well as masses of mosquitos. No dogs, only dog footprints were visible on the beach, and one jogger who ran right through the fenced area.

List of birds for 21st and 28th April 2005

Mouth of Creek and Beach

Red-capped Plovers x 15

Crested Terns x 3

Willy Wagtail

Magpie

Seagulls,

Flying Over - also landing on the beach

Tree Martins

Black-backed Swallows

Welcome Swallows

Inner Creek – Lots of exposed sand/mud

Pied Oystercatchers x 2

Greenshank x 1

Masked Lapwing

Black-winged Stilt x 8

Great Egret

Australian white Ibis, White faced Heron,

Osprey

Surrounding Bush

Lewin's Honeyeater, Currawong, Grey Fantail, Scarlet Honeyeater, Osprey, Brown Honeyeater, Little Wattlebird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Whipbird, , Noisy Friarbird,

Superb Wren, Silvereyes, Red-browed Finch, Yellow-face Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Rainbow Lorikeets, Spangle Drongo, Whipbird

Regards Jan