

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

Report No: 20

Date: 4/7/05

Time of visit: 9.30am to 11.30pm

Dear Bird Buddies,

May 19<sup>th</sup> was my last report, incredible how time passes. I only visited once in June and as our summer rains were a bit late this year the creek had obviously been artificially opened on my last visit on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. On this visit, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July, a dramatic and natural change has occurred to the creek alignment. The recent unseasonal torrential rain and resulting floodwaters has removed meters of creek bank and therefore natural bush at the bend, just before the creek flows to the beach. The bank is so undercut I imagine more bush will be lost to the creek over time. All the exit points from the Sunrise Estate, which use to have at the maximum a 1/3 of a meter drop, now, have over a 2-meter drop and directly into the waters of the creek. Even the last exit point before the car access has a two-meter drop. A natural solution to the dogs exiting the tracks too early, I guess. More exposed sand on the eastern side though, at least at low tide. The mouth of the creek is now well opened to the sea and once again lots of natural sand/mud flats are exposed in the estuary at low tide. Logs and debris littered the beach. Sarah says she has picked up three big bags of rubbish, so far.

The birds are still there. The Red-caps were difficult to locate amidst the beach debris, and I didn't see the other dotterels. As it was still raining I didn't hang around too long to search. The two Oystercatchers were up the creek along with lots of Spoonbills, Ibis and Seagulls. Bush birds are still plentiful and the Ospreys appear to be re-constructing their nest.

I will be away from next week to mid August.

### **Mouth of Creek and Beach for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

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Red-capped Plovers x 7  
Double-banded Plovers (9<sup>th</sup> June)  
Lesser Sand Plover x 2 (9<sup>th</sup> June)  
Crested Terns x 45  
Seagulls  
Black-winged Stilt x (9<sup>th</sup> June)

### **Flying Over -**

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Australasian Gannet

### **Inner Creek – Lots of exposed sand/mud**

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Pied Oystercatchers x 2  
Australian White Ibis,  
Pied Cormorant,  
Striated Heron  
Osprey x 2  
Black Cormorants

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Masked Lapwing  
Pelican x 2  
Royal Spoonbill x 20

### **Surrounding Bush**

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Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Whipbird, Superb-blue Wren, Silvereyes, Scarlet Honey eater, Spangled Drongo, Little Wattle Bird, Brown Honeyeater, Little Shrike-thrush, E. Yellow Robin, Brown Honeyeater, Bar-shouldered Pigeon, Currawong, Scaly-breasted Lorikeets.

See you when I get back  
Regards Jan



Pelican