

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

Report No 21  
Date 24/8/05  
Time of visit:

Dear Bird Buddies,

Since the last report I've managed several trips to the Belongil not always on Thursdays. At the end of August Sarah and I took a group of North Coast National Park advisory committee members on an early morning survey of the site. They were suitably impressed.

Due to the flooding of the creek in June, the situation in the creek at the moment is very different to the conditions last year when the mouth had silted up. The creek mouth still remains open to the sea and therefore tidal. However slowly over the last couple of months due to eroding sand and wind action the course of the creek edges closer to the base of the sand dunes that are protecting the Becton property. On my visit yesterday there were only a couple of meters of sand between the base of the dunes and creek edge. Becton is obviously trying to deal with the situation by discarding all their garden waste onto the face of the dune.

With exposed sand and mud flats in the inner creek the conditions remain perfect for the migratory birds and on September 1<sup>st</sup> I saw the first of the returning birds, an Eastern Curlew and a Whimbrel and slowly each week there has been other waders including the Golden Plovers. The Black-neck Storks sighted in August have not been sighted again, I don't think anyway. The Beach-stone Curlew Paul reported a couple of days ago I saw again yesterday. The Oystercatcher chick does not look like a chick any more and the Red-cap Plover chick I also saw yesterday, so small it looks like a moving sandgrain. The Striated Pardalote is building a nest in the newly eroded creek bank and a new bird for my observations to the site was a Tawny Grassbird inhabiting the reeds in the inner creek.

Two dogs unleashed and unattended on the beach from the Byron township end.

Bird Sightings for 18th August 2005

### **Mouth of Creek and Beach**

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Red-capped Plovers x 14 (1 on nest - 13 in estuary)  
Double-banded Plovers x 2  
Crested Terns x 14  
Seagulls x 50  
Galah  
Pied Oystercatchers x 2

### **Flying Over -**

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Australasian Gannet  
Little Black Cormorant  
Little Pied Cormorant  
Whistling Kite

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

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Australian White Ibis,  
Masked Lapwing,  
Pelican x 3  
Royal Spoonbill x 2  
Dusky Moorhen  
White face Heron  
Great Egret

**Surrounding Bush**

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Lewin's Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Whipbird, Variegated Wren, Silveryeyes, Scarlet Honey eater, Spangled Drongo, Little Wattle Bird, Brown Honeyeater, E. Yellow Robin, Brown Honeyeater, Bar-shouldered Pigeon, Currawong, Varied Triller, Noisy-friar Bird

Regards Jan



Crested Terns, Common Terns, Little Terns