

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report No 23

Date 16/10/06

Observations mid September to mid October 2005

Hi Everyone,

The last two visits to the estuary have been at high tide and all the inner sand and mud flats were covered by water. Many of the birds were huddled at the sand dunes at the creek mouth. Due to the heat haze and the distance across the creek from our viewing location, spotting waders, which is difficult at the best of times, was twice as hard. Fortunately, Rex a keen birdo from Nth Ocean Shores who had agreed to help me with identification had a more powerful spotting scope than mine. We were able to identify a Grey-tailed Tattler and some Sharp-tail Sandpipers amidst the 20-30 Golden Plovers. The Grey-tailed Tattler, who migrates from Siberia, is a common visitor to the East Coast but is my first observation at the Belongil site.

In the inner creek the whimbrels take advantage of the palm frond piles and the egrets and cormorants perch on tree branches. It's the breeding season for the egrets and they are particularly beautiful at the moment with their fine lace-like plumes extending either from their neck, back, or breast depending if they are a Great, Intermediate or Little Egret. They comb and groom these breeding plumes for ages.

See you at the meeting tomorrow night 17th 6.30 at Periwinkle.

Regards Jan



Buff-banded Rail