

The Belongil Estuary Bird and Field Report – Jan Olley

Report No 25
Date 29/12/05
Report for November to December 2005

Hi Everyone,

Three visits to the creek this month but one of them only for an hour. Mostly the days were hot, humid and hazy, except for the visit on the December 1st when the air clarity was startling and the water was a glistening turquoise. Just beautiful!

Compared to last year the terns are spending more time in the creek and inside the fence. They seem to have learnt there is more protection there, but then this summer, there has been more water in the creek and the creek mouth is much wider. The creek is also carving a more northerly course and leaving a long sand-spit on the southern side. A couple of decoy Little Terns is still visible from the north bank, but no sign of nest building from the real ones. Apparently the Red-cap Plover is testing again in the dunes.

A population of about 20-60 Bar-tailed Godwits has joined the Pacific Golden Plovers this year. The Plovers were resident all last summer. My guess is that the fence is providing some protection from the constant interruption by the intrusion of dogs and people and the birds are using the fenced area to their benefit.

Reid reported that earlier in the month the fence had been ripped down several times during the night and people invaded the site, consequently the birds had disappeared until the fence was re-erected.

The dog numbers are way down, but there has been more people activity in the creek such as fishing, boating, spear-fishing and even camping. Normal holiday activity!

I have attached the full list of birds sighted from October to December- in spreadsheet. If a bird is on the list has not got a mark in the column it means they have not been seen in this period, but it has been seen in the past. (Applies to the Excel records)

Happy New Year to you all and a wish for a happy and peaceful 2006.

Cheers Jan



Red-capped Plover
(well camouflaged)

Birds Observed October to December 2005

Australasian Grebe	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Little Black Cormorant	Ruddy Turnstone	Varied Triller
Little Pied Cormorant	Grey-tailed Tattler	Eastern Yellow Robin
Pied Cormorant	Bar-Tailed Godwit	Little Shrike-thrush
Australian Pelican	Eastern Curlew	Spectacle Monarch
Brolga	Whimbrel	Grey Fantail
Great Egret	Common Greenshank	Willy Wagtail
Intermediate Egret	Common Sandpiper	Eastern Whipbird
Little Egret	Black-winged Stilt	Superb Fairy-wren
White faced Heron	Pied Oystercatcher	Variegated Fairy-wren
Striated Heron	Silver Gull	White-browed Scrubwren
Australian White Ibis	Crested Tern	White-throated Gerygone
Royal Spoonbill	Common Tern	Brown Thornbill
Australian Wood Duck	Little Tern	Little Wattlebird
Pacific Black Duck	Whiskered Tern	Noisy Friarbird
Brown Goshawk	Crested Pigeon	Noisy Miner
Brahminy Kite	Bar-shouldered Dove	Lewin's Honeyeater
Whistling Kite	Little Corella	White-cheeked Honeyeater
Osprey	Rainbow Lorikeets	Brown Honeyeater
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Scaly-breasted Lorikeets	Mistletoebird
Australian Brush -turkey	Common Koel	Silvereye
Beach Stone-Curlew	Sacred Kingfisher	Striated Pardalote
Purple Swamphen	Azure Kingfisher	Figbird
Masked Lapwing	Dollar-bird	Magpie Lark
Pacific Golden Plover	Rainbow Bee-eater	Pied Butcherbird
Grey Plover	Tawny Frogmouth	Pied Currawong
Red-capped Plover	White-throated Needletail	Australian Magpie
Red-neck Stint	Welcome Swallow	Torresian Crow