

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

Report No 26  
Date 25/4/06  
January to April 2006

Hi Everyone,

I've been a bit remiss, my reports through cyber space have been somewhat limited for the year, if fact nil. Anyway, this is an end of the migratory season report and as it is the first report for the year, I hope the year for you all, to date, has been rewarding.

Visiting the estuary have also been limited, January was far too hot, I was away all February, only managed a couple of peeks in March but I've been three times this month, including today. There's lots to tell.

Many species of birds are still visiting the estuary, but the whole beach has totally changed. I think it was the March flood which altered the exit point for the creek, well north of where it opened in the June flood. It is an entirely different scene from 12 months ago, when the creek was being artificially opened. All the dunes that were protecting the land have all gone and currently the tides are washing over the total spit, including the nesting area and up to the grassy dunes on the eastern side, as well as up to the high banks of the Becton property. Surprisingly the recently condemned Bay-side hut still stands, but at the current pace of erosion, not for long.

The BBB fence protecting the nesting and roosting site has been washed away three times this year and is currently down again. Without the fence the space is immediately invaded by people and dogs from the Manfred Street end, even though the signs are still present. Today I watched a family from the opposite bank, the child and a white fluffy dog were even chasing the birds. They knew what the mad women waving arms at them meant, as they immediately grabbed the dog in their arms and left the area.

Except for three, the Bar-tailed Godwits had left the site by the 10<sup>th</sup> March, I assume on their northerly migration, The Pacific Golden Plovers have been showing strong breeding colours for some time were gone today. Over the season there have been up to 40 of them at the estuary with 28 still present on the 12<sup>th</sup> April. About 13 Red-capped Plovers remain in residence as well as a couple of Lesser Sand-Plovers. Also, still remaining is the pair of Oystercatchers and the lone Greenshank. Over January, a Sooty Oystercatcher also was sighted at the creek mouth; they usually hang about rocky shorelines.

The Little Terns have been at the beach all season, in various numbers although no signs of nesting. I didn't see any today but they have been present the few times I visited this year, there were heaps of adult and juvenile Crested Terns.

The Ospreys are building their nest. My last two visits have seen he/she picking straw and sticks off the beach and re-arranging them in the nest on top of the pole at the back of the estuary. The beach and estuary banks are littered with debris so no limit of choice for them. The remaining shorebirds also use the debris; it makes good camouflage, as they are undetectable unless they move.

The riparian strip has been pretty quite, but today the Scarlet Honeyeaters, not seen since September were feeding on the flowering Melaleucas, also more numerous and active were the Grey Fantail's, usually down from the hills at this time of year.

A big thank you must go to BB's Reid, Dave and their mates for making the effort on 'Clean Up Australia' day (well it was actually the following week-end) in March for removing 116 types and other rubbish from the inner creek.

For those who are interested find attached, in spreadsheet, bird observation for Jan-March.

Ciao for now

Jan



Belongil 25/4/06



New creek opening 25/4/06

## Birds Observed Belongil Estuary January to April 2006

Little Pied Cormorant	Pheasant Coucal
Little Black Cormorant	Sacred Kingfisher
Pied Cormorant	Azure Kingfisher
Black-neck Stork	Dollar-bird
Australian Pelican	White-throated Needletail
Striated Heron	Welcome Swallow
Great Egret	Fairy Martin
Little Egret	Varied Triller
White faced Heron	White-breasted Woodswallow
Australian White Ibis	Eastern Yellow Robin
Royal Spoonbill	Restless Flycatcher
Australian Wood Duck	Rufous Whistler
Pacific Black Duck	Leaden Flycatcher
Brahminy Kite	Grey Fantail
Whistling Kite	Willy Wagtail
Osprey	Eastern Whipbird
White.-bellied Sea Eagle	Superb Fairy-wren
Australian Brush -turkey	Variegated Fairy-wren
Dusky Moorhen	White-browed
Purple Swamphen	Scrubwren
Pacific Golden Plover	Brown Thornbill
Masked Lapwing	Noisy Friarbird
Lesser Sand-Plover	Brush Wattlebird
Double-banded Plover	Noisy Miner
Red-capped Plover	Blue-faced
Latham's Snipe	Honeyeater
Bar-Tailed Godwit	Lewin's
Eastern Curlew	Honeyeater
Common Greenshank	White-cheeked
Pied Oystercatcher	Honeyeater
Black-winged Stilt	Scarlet Honeyeater
Silver Gull	Brown Honeyeater
Gull-billed Tern	Silvereye
Crested Tern	Mistletoebird
Common Tern	Striated Pardalote
Little Tern	Figbird
Crested Pigeon	Magpie Lark
Bar-shouldered Dove	Spangled Drongo
Brown Pigeon	Pied Butcherbird
Galah	Grey Butcherbird
Rainbow Lorikeets	Pied Currawong
Scaly-breasted Lorikeets	Australian Magpie
Eastern Rosella	Torresian Crow
Brush Cuckoo	
Common Koel	