

CRRP SURVEYS – NOTES

DATE: 7.4.13

Time:

7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather:

Fine, mild, overcast. Close to high tide.

NB Past summer has been exceptionally hot and dry.

Walks: See map for details

- 1 Riverton Bridge to Bannister Creek (including area between Riverton and Shelley Bridges).
- 2 Kent Street Weir – Greenfield Loop (NOT including Liege Street site)
- 3 Kent St Rec area and Wilson Park Lake, including wetlands north-east of Castledare.
- 4 Lambertia Flats (east of Bannister Creek) and salt pan area.
- 5 Banksia Hill to Kent St Weir
- 6 Masons Landing - Greenfield Street Bridge – Billabong – Nicholson Rd Bridge (including Liege St Wetlands)

NOTES

- Thanks to members of BirdLife Western Australia and of other groups, who again helped out.
- Thanks also to all those who helped provide morning tea, and to set up and clear away.
- **Overall species total this survey:** 63 (compared to average of 64.17 for previous surveys; 62.78 for April surveys only).
- **Total birds:** 1740 birds (1950 in March 2012; 1535 in Nov 2012)

Of interest:

- **Species breeding:** 1 (Australasian Darter)
- **Lowest number ever recorded – 6 species:** Laughing Dove (2), Brown Honeyeater (25), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (2), Rufous Whistler (11), Magpie-lark (100), Aust Reed-warbler (2)
- **Highest number ever recorded – 7 species** Black swan (34), Aust Darter (34), Aust Pelican (21), Spotless Crake (30), Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (129), Grey Fantail (20).
- **Two new species added:**
 - **Pallid Cuckoo** – a first for the surveys; other records suggest it has not been recorded for a number of years, possibly not since 2004.
 - **Eastern Osprey** – a first for the surveys though an Osprey is often seen cruising the river.
- **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (0):** First time not recorded since Nov 2008.

NB Black-shouldered Kite – not recorded on survey and not seen by G & P Agar since 2004, but seen over Wilson Lagoon by Russell (WWAG) 28.11.12; also a recent probable sighting within the park.

Low numbers:

- Australasian Grebe (12): Lowest number since Nov 2008; potentially of concern considering the increased use of the river by canoeists during summer, when the birds are nesting.
- White-faced Heron (9): Lowest since 2010; 13 – 20 over past four surveys.
- Laughing Dove (2): Lowest ever, but previous March survey was highest ever (25).
- Spotted Dove (0): never many but usually recorded.
- Singing Honeyeater (24): Well down; lowest number recorded since Nov 2008.
- Brown Honeyeater: (25) Lowest ever recorded. Only 29 recorded March 2012; average is usually 50 – 100.
- Magpie-lark (10): Lowest ever; previous low 15 in Nov 2011; but highest ever was previous March survey (52)

Higher than usual numbers:

- Black Swan (34): Highest ever; 22 recorded on Wilson Lagoon.
- Australasian Darter (34): Previous high 28 in March 2012; breeding seems to be spread over many months.
- Australian Pelican (21): Usually between 7 and 18; previous high 20 in Nov 2004.
- Australian Hobby (4): Equal highest; known to have bred on east side of Wilson Lagoon last year.
- Spotless Crake (3): Never more than 1 or 2 at most but interesting that more crakes were recorded than Buff-banded Rails this time.

- Eurasian Coot (174): Well up; previous high 89 in April 2009; 120 recorded at Wilson Lagoon.
- Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (129): Previous high 80 in April 2011; one flock of an estimated 80 – 100 birds seen on Route 2 (only 80 recorded).
- Rainbow Lorikeet (219): Numbers usually higher in April but this is the second highest ever recorded – building up again.
- Grey Fantail (20): Previous high 18 in April 2011.

Total species recorded on all surveys now stands at **107**.