

CRRP SURVEYS – NOTES

DATE: 3.11.13

Time:

7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather:

Fine, mild, part cloudy. Forecast was for 36 degrees but survey period very pleasant.

Low tide.

NB Good winter rains and above average rains in September.

Walks: See maps for details (including modification of Routes 2 & 6 for this survey).

- 1 Riverton Bridge to Bannister Creek (including area between Riverton and Shelley Bridges).
- 2 Kent Street Weir – Greenfield Bridge (south side) + 2a Greenfield Bridge to CREEC (north side).
- 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 + 6a Greenfield Bridge (south side) – Billabong – Nicholson Rd.

NB Routes 2 & 6 each tackled in two sections; results were later combined to provide records consistent with regular routes / records.

NOTES:

Thanks;

- Thanks to members of BirdLife Western Australia, who again provided invaluable assistance.
- It was pleasing to have several City of Canning staff with us as well.
- Thanks also to all those who helped provide morning tea, and to set up and clear away.

Of interest:

- **Overall species total this survey: 73** (compared to average of 64.25 for previous surveys; 66.3 for Nov surveys only). Equal highest record (73 species also recorded in April 2007).
- **Total birds: 1493** birds (1740 in April 2013; 1535 in Nov 2012).
- No new species added this time, although one team photographed a strange-looking duck.
- Species breeding: 18

Low numbers:

- Inland Thornbill (0): Always in very small numbers but the only other surveys where they were not recorded at all were Nov 2011 & April 2004.
- Rainbow Lorikeet (70): Apart from Nov 2011, this is the lowest number recorded since we began counting numbers in 2007.
- Rainbow Bee-eater (8): The lowest since Nov 2007.
- Magpie-lark (10): Equal lowest number with April 2013; numbers peaked in April 2010 but dropped suddenly from March 2012.
- Welcome Swallow (10): Equal lowest with March 2010] both these were well below average of
- Tree Martin (14): Close to equal lowest (13) in 2008] 27 & 35 respectively.

Higher than usual numbers:

- Australian Shelduck (50): previous high 32 in March 2012.
- Hardhead (21): Previous high 10 in Nov 2007.
- Blue-billed Duck (15): Previous high 14 in Nov 2010.
- Little Pied Cormorant (49): Previous highest 19 in April 2011.
- Great Cormorant (17): Previous high 16 in Nov 2012.
- Australian Pelican (31): Previous high 13 in April this year, though locals have reported approx 20 being present over recent months.
- Buff-banded Rail (4): Previous high 2 in April & Nov 2009
- Little Grassbird (9): Previous high 6 in Nov 2008 & Nov 2010.

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