

CRRP SURVEYS – NOTES

NOVEMBER 2015 SURVEY (25th survey)

Time:

7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather:

Fine, mild; overcast, humid. Forecast was for 25°C.

High tide.

Walks: See maps for details (available from Pam if you wish).

- 1 Riverton Bridge to Bannister Creek (including area between Riverton and Shelley Bridges).
- 2 Kent Street Weir – Greenfield St Bridge Loop.
- 3 Kent St Rec area and Wilson Park Lake, including wetlands north-east of Castledare and Fern Road.
- 4 Lambertia Flats (east of Bannister Creek) and salt pan area.
- 5 Banksia Hill to Kent St Weir
- 6 Masons Landing – Liege St Wetlands - Greenfield Street Bridge – Billabong – Nicholson Rd.

NOTES:

Thanks;

- To members of BirdLife Western Australia (especially Maris, who filled in at very short notice) and others, who again provided invaluable assistance.
- Also to CRRPV members who accompanied them, or helped provide morning tea, to set up and clear away.
- To Janelle for delivering a tiny duckling to wildlife carers after it was handed to one of the groups by a cyclist.

Congratulations to Sian for completing her 25th survey (she's helped on every one we've done!).

Her team's total species this survey is also the highest ever recorded (54). The only other surveys to crack 50 were Route 1, Nov '08 (50), Route 3, Nov '10 (51), Route 2, Nov '03 & Nov '07 (52) and Route 3, Nov '13 (53).

Number of surveyors: 20 (plus 3 CRRPV Members organised morning tea).

Overall species total this survey: 68 (compared to overall average of 65.42 for previous surveys; 66.3 for Nov surveys only).

Total birds: 1708 birds (1493 in Nov 2013, 1890 in Nov 2014, 2252 in April 2015).

New species added - nil.

Species breeding: 15. Another 2 species (Australasian Darter, Yellow-rumped Thornbill) listed as being at nests but breeding not confirmed.

Of interest:

- **Number of individual birds** seemed considerably lower (there were 544 less than in May 2015; 108 less than in Nov 2014) but was still higher than most Nov surveys; and the number of species was similar to most years.
- **Common Bronzewing (1)** – again recorded, Ferndale Flats area (near Banksia Hill).
- **Splendid Fairy-wren (6)** – recorded most often in Nov; this time **on routes 2, 3 and 6**.
- **White-winged Triller (5)** - again recorded.
- **Little Grassbird (10)** – again in relatively high numbers, and **on all routes except 5**.

Other variations:

Lower than usual numbers:

- **Waterbird species** – apart from **Pacific Black Duck and Grey Teal, most were low in numbers**.
- **Black Swan (1)** – unexpectedly low; the only lower record (0) was in Nov 2011.
- **Australian Shelduck (5)** – also surprising; the only lower records were Nov 2010 & Nov 2011.
- **Yellow-billed Spoonbill (0)** – first Nov survey since 2011 when not recorded at all
- **Hardhead (2)** – numbers gradually built up and have dropped off again.
- **Blue-billed Duck (0)** – usually very low nos but not recorded on either of this year's surveys.
- **Dusky Moorhen (18)** – second lowest record ever.

Higher than usual numbers:

- **Pacific Black Duck (141)** – second highest record.
- **Australian Pelican (32)** – **highest ever recorded**.
- **Galah (100)** – **much higher than usual**. Building up in numbers? Or more mobile so recorded more often?

- **Little Corella (53)** – also seems to be steadily building in numbers.
- **Red-capped Parrot (9)** – equal second highest record, though still low numbers.
- **Kookaburra (13) - highest ever recorded.**
- **Rufous Whistler (29)** – Second highest record.
- **Willie Wagtail (58)** – **highest Nov record, second highest ever.**
- **Raven (111)** – **highest ever**, though similar to numbers for the last two surveys.
- **Swallow (50)** – Equal second highest numbers.

Total species recorded on all surveys still stands at **108**.