

CRRPV BIRD SURVEYS – OVERVIEW

- Surveys are carried out twice a year, in early April and early November.
- Bird Surveys were begun in November 2003 and have continued for each of the years following.
- Surveys are done in Fixed-route Monitoring style, with pairs or small groups of observers walking a series of set routes and recording the birds seen.
- Surveys are carried out by members of Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, with assistance from members of Birds Australia Western Australia (soon to be BirdLife Australia).
- Initially 5 routes were used. In April 2009 an extra route was added, enabling coverage of most of the regional park.
- Surveys begin at 7:00am and end at approximately 10:00am.
- Since November 2007 an attempt has also been made to count numbers of birds seen, in order to provide a comparison for future reference.
- Six routes currently in use are;
 1. Riverton Bridge via Adenia Lagoon to Bannister Creek Bridge & return.
 2. Kent Street Weir to Greenfield Street Bridge and return, including Carden Lakes, Wharf St Development and the lower Council Lakes.
 3. Kent Street Weir recreation areas (Wilson Park), including the car-park, the wetland east of Castledare and Wilson Lagoon.
 4. Bannister Creek Bridge (end of Adenia Rd) via Lambertia Flats to the bigger drain on dual-use-path leading from Spey Place to Banksia Hill.
 5. From the drain on the dual-use-path to Kent Street Weir via Banksia Hill, the river channel below Banksia Hill and the Seed Orchard.
 6. Masons Landing to Liege Street Development Site, then on to Greenfield St Bridge, round to Nicholson Rd Bridge and return.

NB Walks 1, 2, 3 & 6 are 'loop walks', ie return to the starting point; Walk 4-5 starts and ends in different places and is recorded in two sections.

Records are as an Excel document: CRRPV Bird Surveys.xls

Sheet 1: A composite record of observations for all surveys.

Sheet 2 onwards: A breakdown of records for specific routes for each survey.

Records are maintained by CRRPV and have also been lodged with Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC), City of Canning, Birddata and Birds Australia Western Australia Database.

SURVEY: 6 November, 2011

Survey No: 17

Time: 7:00 – 10:00 am WST

Weather: Fine, mild, overcast, light SW wind. Approx 22 degrees.

Tide: High. Water levels high in all areas, due to recent rain.

Observers: 20 (names available from CRRPV).

RESULTS / NOTES:

Total species overall: 65 (compared to average of 63.55 for previous 16 surveys; average for November surveys only: 65.88).

Total birds: 1262 (Compared to 1834 in April 2011; 1537 in Nov 2010; 1538 in Nov 2009; 1295 in Nov 2008)

Species breeding: 7

Pink-eared Duck, Grey Teal, Australasian Grebe, Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Australian Magpie and Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

NB Nests were also recorded for White-faced Heron and Striated Pardalote, though breeding was not confirmed.

New species: Nil

Species not seen at all but expected:

Black Swan: None seen, the only other times none recorded were Nov 03 & Nov 04. NB. 10 Black Swan & several cygnets seen near between Riverton & Shelley Bridges on Nov 11.

Australian Shelduck: first survey ever not recorded.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill: None; none also recorded on previous two Nov surveys.

Inland Thornbill: Usually seen in small numbers.

Mistletoebird: Numbers always very low in Nov but recorded on previous surveys.

Species with lower numbers than usual:

Eastern Great Egret: (1) Usually about 4.

Dusky Moorhen: back to 2007-8 levels.

Silver Gull: (2) Possibly because café area not checked due to lack of time.

Rainbow Lorikeet: (29) In most recent years numbers have been around 200.

Red Wattlebird: (42) Usually between 60 and 100.

Species with greater than usual numbers:

Pink-eared Duck: Not often recorded but 8, including young this survey.

Laughing Dove: (23) Highest number recorded.

White-faced Heron: Numbers still high (13) and nest site recorded.

Laughing Kookaburra: (8) Highest record.

Splendid Fairy-wren: Highest number recorded.

White-browed Scrubwren: (3) Rarely recorded.

Weebill: (29) Well above previous highest record.

Western Wattlebird: (3) Very rare in park; only 2 previous survey records.

White-winged Triller: (8) Previous highest number 4.

Rufous Whistler: (28) Highest number recorded. Usually about 18.

Grey Butcherbird: (12) Highest number recorded.

Australian Reed-Warbler: (13) Well above previous numbers recorded.