

CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES March 24-25, 2018

NB Done a week earlier than usual due to early dates for Easter this year.

Time: 7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather: Heavily overcast – not good viewing conditions; cool to mild. Forecast was for 27°/ 28°C.
Tide: Medium high.

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. **Made a detour into Peninsular area (towards river from Bacon St) – not usually checked these days but was a good spot for bushbirds.**
- 3 Kent St Rec area and Wilson Park Lake, including wetlands north-east of Castledare and Fern Road. **This route covered on Sat 24.3.18 due to lack of leaders. Same times; similar weather conditions.**
- 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 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.

Number of participants: 15 surveyors (6 BWA Members, 7 CRRPV members, 2 Friends of Queens Park Bushland), plus 3 CRRPV Members who organised morning tea;

Overall species total this survey: 58 Among lowest for this time of year (average for April surveys is 63.14; for all surveys 65.34).

Total birds: 1976 birds. On a par with other surveys though they vary quite a lot.

New species added: 0

Species breeding: 2 (Australasian Darter, Eurasian Coot).

Of interest:

- **Eurasian Coot:** (129) Only other record higher was April 2007 (174). Usually about 60-65.
- **Rainbow Lorikeet:** (274) Highest was 536 in Apr 2017; but at least 50 in the carpark early Saturday morning – has it become a roost site?
- **No raptors** at all – usually at least a goshawk or sparrowhawk *& often a hobby.
- **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo: (186)** Much higher than other records; possibly some birds recorded by several groups as they covered the park. Previous highs have been over last few years on March/April surveys (53 in March 2015, 58 in April 2017).
- **Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo:** (79) One flock of about 70 in similar area to April 2017 (Adenia). Highest record 129 in April 2013; 125 in April 2017.
- **Welcome Swallow: (0).** Surprising – never recorded 0 before, though numbers have gradually dropped, especially over past 5 surveys.
- **Tree Martin:** (4) Also very low. 5 in Nov 2017; 9 in April 2016.
- **Australian Reed-Warbler:** (1) Apart from April 2010 (0) this is the lowest record ever.

Total species recorded on all surveys still stands at 108.

Extra notes:

- Highlight of the morning was probably the Buff-banded Rail feeding just below the CREEC verandah at morning tea time.
- Splendid Fairy-wren was not recorded on any route, but two people revisited Lambertia Flats later in the afternoon – and found 3 uncoloured fairy-wrens very close to the little car-park at Bannister Creek Bridge. (A walker reported them as being further upstream along Bannister Creek at the start of the survey).