

CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES April 7, 2019

Time: 7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather: Perfect birding weather – fine, mild, clear. Forecast was for 27°C.

Several groups mentioned feeding parties of small birds early in their surveys.

Tide: Lowish.

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 Peninsula area (towards river from Bacon St) – not usually checked these days but was a good spot for bush-birds.
- 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 and several 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: 18 surveyors (8 BWA Members; 7 CRRPV members, 2 extra people) and 3 CRRPV Members who organised morning tea.

Overall species total this survey: 64 (average for April surveys is 62.80; for Nov surveys 67.63; for all surveys 65.29).

New species added: 0 but several rarely seen species recorded: Barn Owl, Red-capped Robin, Common Bronzewing, Nankeen Night-Heron.

Species breeding: 0 recorded

Of interest:

- **Australian Shoveler:** (19) All on Route 6 (Billabong?) Highest record ever; rarely recorded at all since early 2015.
- **Hardhead:** (23) Highest record ever. Usually in very small numbers; only comparable record was 21 in Nov 2013.
- **Spotted Dove:** (2) Equal lowest record.
- **Common Bronzewing:** (2) not often seen but nice to know they are still around.
- **Little Black Cormorant:** (240) Highest record. Flock of 211 recorded on Route 1. Usually recorded in ones & twos / small groups. Only comparable record was 219 in April 2017.
- **Nankeen Night-Heron:** (2) on Route 3; a bonus – not often recorded.
- **Black-winged Stilt:** Rarely recorded in April – only 2 other records (1 in 2008; 3 in 2012).
- **Silver Gull:** (46) Numbers building up again?
- **Rainbow Lorikeet:** (311) Up a little on previous survey; highest was 536 in Apr 2017. Australian Ringnecks and Red-capped Parrots seem to be hanging on in small numbers but have to compete with the more aggressive lorikeets for nest sites.
- **Barn Owl:** (1) Only 1 other record- April 2007. **Evicted from a hollow by lorikeets.**
- **Weebill:** (53) Close to highest record of 54 in March 2015; numbers fluctuate; usually 15 – 30.
- **Yellow-rumped Thornbill:** (52) Second highest record; Highest Nov 2009 (59); April 2009 (57); much lower for several years.
- **Inland Thornbill:** (1) A bonus – not often recorded.
- **New Holland Honeyeater:** (79) Highest ever record. 70 in March 2015.
- **Willie Wagtail:** (89) Highest ever; nearest was 79 in March 2015. Usually about 30-50.
- **Red-capped Robin:** (1) female, red flush to forehead. Only other record was 1 in April 2010.
- **Tree Martin:** (41) Except for 34 (Nov 2015) & 28 (April 2015), most records have been low (in the 'teens') since 2013.

One raptor seen very late in survey – **unconfirmed** but probably a Brown Goshawk.

Recorded in **Urban Forest Site, burned a week ago (30.3.19):**

1 Kookaburra, 6 Rainbow Lorikeets and 6 Willie Wagtails.

Total species recorded on all surveys still stands at 108.