

CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES November 1, 2020

Time: 7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather:

- Heavily overcast with light rain all morning; no wind and a very cool 16 degrees all morning.
- Pam opted to go ahead rather than cancel at very short notice, or try to reschedule at a later date. Since the earlier survey for 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions, it seemed important to have at least one survey done for 2020.
- Recorders had real problems and birds were hard to hear with rain-gear on; birds were possibly also quieter and less active.

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:

- Special thanks to everyone who turned up to offer their valuable assistance, despite the dismal weather conditions: members of BirdLife Western Australia, Canning River Veggies and several others who also helped out as usual. Without you all, there would have been no bird survey records for 2020.
- Thanks too to the dedicated CRRPV team who provided morning tea, set up and cleaned up later.

Number of participants: A total of 23 people.

- 20 surveyors (9 BWA Members; 8 CRRPV members (several are also BirdLife members), 3 extra helpers.
- 3 extra CRRPV Members who organised morning tea.

Overall species total this survey: 61 (average for Nov surveys is 67.53; for April surveys is 62.88; for all surveys 65.27).

Total birds: 1289 birds; down on previous surveys but not surprising considering the conditions.

New species added: 0

Species breeding: 8 species: Grey Teal, Black Duck, Eurasian Coot, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (also breeding in Nov 2007, nest recorded in Nov 2018, Rufous Whistler, Australian Magpie, Buff-banded Rail (only one previous breeding record on surveys – Nov 2014), Red Wattlebird.
LBC on nest – breeding not confirmed but probable.

Of interest:

- Despite the dismal conditions, there were a number of good sightings: Nankeen Night-Herons, White-winged Trillers, Spotless Crakes (2 seen on Route 3) and Buff-banded Rails (2 recorded on Route 1, breeding), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike breeding.
- No raptors – not surprising; no Common Bronzewing though might have been expected with the dull conditions.
- **Australasian Shovelers (2)** – seen on Route 2; not often recorded these days.
- **Nankeen Night-heron (3):** Never big numbers. Seen on Routes 2, 3 & 5; recorded on last five Nov surveys.

Higher numbers than usual:

- **Little Black Cormorant:** (34)
- **White-winged triller (6):** More than usual; previous highs were 5-8 birds in 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2015.

Lower numbers than usual:

- **Black Swan:** (0) Not recorded on last 2 surveys; nos seem to have dwindled since 2015.
- **Australasian Grebe:** (6) Equal lowest number recorded. Nos usually a little higher on April surveys but overall seem to be dropping in numbers – disturbance from river users?
- **Australasian Darter** (9): Lowest record for many years; is this also due to disturbance from river users?
- **Rainbow Bee-eater:** (0) Perhaps due to rain; known to have returned to the area this year.
- **Red-caped Parrot:** (0) Usually very low numbers but recorded on all but one other survey.
- **Australian Ringneck:** (0) Not recorded for the first time.
- **New Holland Honeyeater:** (29) & **Brown Honeyeater:** (61) Both species much lower numbers than usual – again perhaps not so surprising due to the wet weather.

Total species recorded on all surveys still stands at 108.

Extra notes:

- Possibility of a Western Thornbill.
- Route 5: *Teliqua occipitalis*, Western Blue-tongue lizard (deceased) found below Banksia Hill project site – very rare in CRRP.