

## CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES April 11, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 – 10:00am WST

**Weather:**

- Heavily overcast with light showers on and off; wind not significant; cool c 18 degrees.
- Pam opted to go ahead rather than cancel at very short notice – regretted but circumstances would have made it difficult to reschedule.
- The problem of recording in the rain was solved brilliantly by Miriam who produced small, rain-proof cards on lanyards for each team; used with soft pencils (2B, 4B) they can be erased & reused at a later date.

**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 - again: members of BirdLife Western Australia, Canning River Veggies and others. It was much appreciated.
- Thanks too to the dedicated CRRPV team who provided morning tea, set up and cleaned up later.

**Number of participants:** A total of 22 people.

- 19 surveyors (5 BWA Members; 7 CRRPV members (several are also BirdLife members), 2 extra helpers.
- 3 extra CRRPV Members organised morning tea.

**Overall species total this survey:** 60 (average for April surveys is 62.88; for all past 34 surveys is 65.15).

**Total birds:** 1611 birds; conditions not ideal so quite a few small birds were not identified.

**New species added:** 0

**Species breeding:** 2?

- Common Bronzewing on nest; breeding yet to be confirmed but probable; nest will be monitored.
- Little Black Cormorant – sitting on nest, one of 3 near the weir, to be monitored.

**Of interest:** Again, some very special sightings, despite the conditions.

- **Common Bronzewing:** Probable breeding record, a first for CRRP.
- **Waterbirds on Wilson Lagoon:** Larger numbers than seen for some time.
- **Spotted Dove (0):** Usually recorded but not recorded on three other surveys.
- **Swamp Harrier (1):** At Wilson Lagoon; rarely recorded – the last time was in Nov 2015.
- **White-browed Scrub-wren (1):** Seen at Billabong; rarely recorded; next most recent record was Nov 2018.

**Higher numbers than usual:**

- **Australian Shelduck (53):** Highest record for a long time; previous high 50 in Nov 2013.
- **Eurasian Coot (150):** 110 of them at Wilson Lagoon. Other highs were 129 in March 2018 & 174 in April 2013.
- **Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (150):** A single flock of 140 seen on Route 6, flying south-east. Similar big flocks seen in April 2017 (125) & Nov 2013 (129).
- **Grey Fantail (38):** Highest record ever; next highest 32 in April 2019 & 23 in April 2017.

- **Australian Raven (132):** Highest ever. Previous highs were 110 in March 2015, 121 in Nov 2016; 111 in Nov 2015.

**Lower numbers than usual:**

- **Australasian Grebe (5):** Still low numbers; equal lowest number, the other was Nov 2007. Numbers usually mid-high 20's between April 2009 & April 2014; gradual decline since then.
- **Striated Pardalote (6):** Surprisingly low. April numbers are usually in the 30's.
- **Australasian Darter (10):** Still low numbers.
- **Rainbow Lorikeet (113):** Well down on previous three surveys (weather? lack of nectar?). April 2017 was a record high (536) but April numbers are usually low to mid 200s. Nov records are generally higher.
- **Red-capped Parrot (0):** Usually occurs in very low numbers; only 2 other surveys when it was not recorded at all. A concern – is it competition for hollows?

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

**Extra notes:**

- Possibility of a second White-browed Scrubwren on Route 3 (along Castledare railway).
- New Holland Honeyeater: Lots of activity north of Castledare due to a couple of banksias in full flower.
- Little Corellas and Rainbow Lorikeets also reported seeking nesting hollows.
- A large flock of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos reported to be inspecting nest hollows at Kent St Weir area on 9.4.21, a couple of days before the survey.