

## CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES April 3, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 – 10:00am WST

**Weather:**

- Fine, mild, c 25 degrees. No rain but the tide was very 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.
- 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 for their valuable assistance, especially those who collected / distributed Snake Bite Kits, which were kindly provided by SERCUL, and to those who offered lifts back to starting points.
- Thanks too to the dedicated CRRPV team who provided morning tea, set up and cleaned up later. Another fantastic job Marie & Jo!
- Miriam's reusable record cards were again used & trialled with a string to attach a pencil.

**Number of participants:** A total of 19 people.

- Team numbers were kept small due to COVID risk. 17 surveyors (9 BWA Members; 6 CRRPV members (several are also BirdLife members) plus one extra and an overseas visitor.
- 2 extra CRRPV Members organised morning tea.

**Overall species total this survey:** 63 (average for April surveys is 62.7; for all 37 surveys is 64.9).

**Total birds:** 1792 birds.

**New species added:** 1 – **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** – Seen on Route 3.

**Species breeding:** 1 - Eurasian Coot – seems late.

- NB Little Black Cormorant – 2 sitting on nest, just east of the weir but breeding not confirmed.

**Higher numbers than usual:**

- **Australian Shelduck (37):** Numbers still high. Highest ever was Nov 2013 (50); since 2016 very low numbers until 2021 when 53 were recorded.
- **Eurasian Coot (227):** Highest record ever. 150 of them at Wilson Lagoon. Other highs were 129 in March 2018 & 174 in April 2013, 103 in April 2014.
- **Grey Fantail (34):** Second highest record; gradual increase since 2014. Other highs: 23 in April 2017; 32 in April 2019; 34 in Nov 2019; 38 in April 2021.
- **Common Bronzewing (4):** Only 1 or 2 recorded previously. CRRPV have known of two breeding attempts but there are no confirmed breeding records as yet.
- **Red-capped Parrot (15; 10 on Route 2):** Highest for many years. Usually occurs in very low numbers; other highs were 16 in March 2012; 9 in Nov 2015.
- **New Holland Honeyeater (102):** Highest ever recorded. Numbers have gradually increased over the years; current strongholds seem to be Wilson Lagoon & Lambertia Flats. Previous highs: 70 in March 2015, 79 in April 2019, 67 in Nov 2019.
- **Yellow-rumped Thornbill (61):** Highest ever. Several records in 40s – high 50s on April surveys; previous highest was 57 in April 2009.
- **Little Grassbird (10):** Not often recorded on April surveys; numbers are more like Nov results.

**Lower numbers than usual:**

- **Australasian Grebe (4):** Lowest record ever; gradual decline since 2014.

**Total species recorded on all surveys has increased to 109.**

**Of interest:**

- **Osprey (2):** Route 1: Two birds seen flying between Duff Rd & Salvia Ct, roughly following the line of Bannister Creek (thought to be an adult and a juvenile). Rarely recorded on surveys and usually seen around Riverton Bridge.
- **Australian Hobby (1):** Recorded on Route 3, close to known nest site of a previous year. Not recorded on a survey since Nov 2017.
- **White-browed Scrubwren (2):** Seen on Route 3. Rarely recorded, though 5 seen in Nov 2021.
- **Bush-birds** are generally doing well, as well as Little Grassbirds.
- **Birds of the river** are fewer in number: Grebes are very low in numbers, and Darter numbers have remained low. Black Swan and Grey Teal numbers are also low. Is this due to greater use / disturbance on the river?
- **Sacred Kingfisher (1):** Unusual for April though they have been known to overwinter occasionally; recorded twice before – April 2008 & April 2016.

**Other notes:**

- **Southern Boobook:** Not recorded on survey (known territory not covered by survey route) but known to have bred in Ferndale Park area late 2021 – early 2022 and raised 2 young.
- **Common Bronzewing:** Personal communication – Miriam Groenewold; 5 bronzewings seen close together at one time, Litoria Flats area.
- **Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo:** Recorded on every April survey since 2009 but not this time though they were heard calling during morning tea, and small flocks seen over a neighbouring suburb all afternoon.
- **Red-capped Robin:** A coloured male was reported at Bebington Park on March 27 (a week prior to the survey) but not seen on the day. Recorded twice before on April surveys in 2010 and 2019.