

CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES November 6, 2022

Time: 7:00 – 10:00am WST

Weather:

- Fine, mild, max 27 degrees. No rain, 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.
- 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 and birding knowledge, including Mandy, who distributed Snake Bite Kits and record cards, and to George who provided the taxi-service back to Route 4 starting point – and the support with sandwich-making as usual!
- It was great to have some new people support us, as well as interested CRRPV Volliers.
- Thanks too to the dedicated CRRPV team of Marie, Jo and Claire, who not only provided ample goodies, but again did a superb job of setting up morning tea and cleaning up later, as well as keeping the table well-stocked.
- Miriam's reusable record cards were again used, this time with lanyards, and beaded strings with pencils attached.

Number of participants: A total of 25 people.

- Team numbers of 4 - 5: 22 surveyors (10 BWA Members; 9 CRRPV members (several are also BirdLife members) plus 3 others.
- 3 extra CRRPV Members organised morning tea.

Overall species total this survey: 66 (average for Nov surveys is 66.9; for all 38 surveys is 64.9).

Total birds: 1589 birds.

New species added: None. Overall total of species recorded is still 109.

Species breeding: 16: Far higher than the usual 7-8; previous similar highs in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017

Black Swan, Australian Shelduck, Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Black Duck hybrid, Spotted Dove, Darter, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Kookaburra, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Magpie, Magpie-lark, Raven,

Nesting: 6 other species were listed as showing nesting activity (carrying nesting material, sitting on nest etc) but breeding not confirmed: Little Black Cormorant, White Ibis, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Striated Pardalote, Welcome Swallow.

Higher numbers than usual:

- **Australian Shelduck (21):** Nov numbers have not been this high since 2013-14.
- **Great Cormorant (14):** Usually only 1-5; possibly recorded by several groups as they moved around.
- **Australian Pelican: (26):** Not recorded in these numbers since 2016. NB Personal observation: Nos around Shelley-Riverton have built up over the past few days.
- **Kookaburra (14):** numbers seem to be gradually creeping up.
- **Striated Pardalote (72):** Highest since Nov 2014.
- **Red Wattlebird (74):** Only similar high was in Nov 2019; April numbers tend to be higher.
- **Brown Honeyeater (138):** Nov numbers are usually higher than April; only similar high was in Nov 2014.

- **Tree Martin (20):** Highest for many years.

Lower numbers than usual:

- **Australasian Grebe (3):** Lowest record ever; gradual decline since 2014 – is it more frequent use of the river?
- **Crested Pigeon (1):** Lowest record; species only recorded in CRRP since April 2021 but seen in other areas of the park and further afield.
- **Common Bronzewing (1):** Not easy to pick up but disappointing as we had known of at least 5 in the area last year.
- **Rainbow Lorikeet: (167):** Less than April 2021; otherwise possibly slowly creeping up again.
- **Magpie-lark (7):** Lowest ever recorded; gradual decline. Early counts were around 35-40. Breeding record was a small consolation.

Total species recorded on all surveys remains at 109.

Of interest:

- **Great Egret (1):** Equal lowest record. Never in big numbers, but never not recorded. This one seen flying over area; they are known to move around wetlands.
- **Yellow-billed Spoonbill (0):** Never many but rare to not be recorded at all.
- **Spotless crane (2):** Cryptic so often not recorded; this is the first record since Nov 2020.
- **White-browed Scrubwren (2):** Seen again on Route 3. Rarely recorded

Other notes: