

## CRRP BIRD SURVEYS – NOTES October 22, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 – 10:00am WST

**NB Survey done a couple of weeks earlier than usual due to imminent restoration work scheduled for CREEC;** long-term work on the WaterCorp sewerage connection at Greenfield St Bridge meant a slight detour for one group but doubtful it would have affected the bird counts in the area.

**Weather:**

- Fine, mild, max 24 degrees but very overcast all morning; tide 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 with the survey after a 12 month break, especially in light of the messing around with dates.
- Thanks to Mandy & Carolyn, who distributed Snake Bite Kits and record cards, and to Miriam, who provided the taxi-service back to Route 4 starting point – and the record cards, which we use.
- It was great to have some new people support us, as well as interested CRRPV Volliers, who also did a sterling job of pitching in, unasked, with the jobs of clearing tables, washing up and bringing in furniture after morning tea.
- Thanks too to the dedicated CRRPV team of Marie & Jo, 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; also to George for his support with food prep and with records after the survey.
- Thanks to Bill Lambe for photos of cuckoos which were invaluable in confirming a new species for our records.

**Number of participants:** A total of 23 people.

- Team numbers of 3 - 5: 20 surveyors (8 BWA Members; 7 CRRPV members (several are also BirdLife members) plus 5 others.
- 3 extra CRRPV Members organised morning tea.

**Overall species total this survey:** 66 (average for Nov surveys is 66.8; for all **39 surveys** is 64.9).

**Total birds:** 1738 birds.

**New species added:** ONE – a Black-eared Cuckoo! Totally unexpected as it is way out of its usual arid areas, but was confirmed by several very experience birders. There also have been reports of a few dry-country birds in the SW of WA recently.

**Species breeding:** 12 recorded this survey (average is 7-8; Nov 2022, 16 recorded).

Black Swan, Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Little Black Cormorant, Eurasian Coot, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Galah, Magpie, Brown Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Rainbow Lorikeet.

**Nesting:** 5 other species were listed as showing nesting activity (carrying nesting material, sitting on nest etc) but breeding not confirmed: White-faced Heron, Striated Pardalote, Raven, Silveryeye, Yellow-rumped Thornbill.

**Higher numbers than usual:**

- **Galah (146):** Highest ever but possibly includes some of the same birds seen on several routes; of note was a flock of 50 flying upstream towards Castledare.

- **Australian Ringneck (20):** Highest record since Nov 2015.
- **Western Gerygone (32):** Highest ever; numbers have gradually built up.
- **Australian Raven (125):** Not the highest but well above average.

**Lower numbers than usual:**

- **Australasian Darter (4):** Lowest ever; gradually declining.
- **Little Pied Cormorant (4):** also lowest ever.
- **Singing Honeyeater (15):** average is around 30; peak of 60 in April 2009.
- **Magpie-lark (7):** Lowest ever recorded; seems to be a gradual decline.

**Total species recorded on all surveys is now 110.** *NB This includes Corella spp and White-tailed Black-Cockatoo spp.*

**Of interest:**

- **Spotless Crane (1):** Route 6; rarely recorded these days; not recorded regularly since April 2019; most recent records were Nov 2022, Nov 2020.
- **Southern Boobook** – found on Route 6 near Leige St – well done Bowen! Only other records were April 2009 & March 2015.

**Other notes:**

- **Waterbird numbers** continue to stay low: Australasian Grebe and A. Darter, Great Egret, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Dusky Moorhen.
- Masses of down feathers seen in a dead tree on Route 5 (along the 'Seed Orchard' track); indicated a **duck's nest**. No sign of ducks & unable to confirm species; MB & AB suggested it could possibly be a Shelduck due to dark down feathers.
- **Straw-necked Ibis (1):** Very strange to see only one; greater numbers also recorded on previous two Nov surveys.
- **Cuckoos:** 3 species recorded – **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** (a regular visitor; small numbers recorded in Nov); **Black-eared Cuckoo** – new species for CRRPV records (see note earlier); **Pallid Cuckoo** – only other survey record is April 2013; used to be heard occasionally but not for a long time; heard by CRRPV members earlier this year.
- **Western Wattlebird** – a possible sighting at west end of the CREEC car-park; very unusual for the Park; only 4 other records: Nov 2014, 2011 and 2008, and April 2007.