

ATTACHMENT E: BIRD MONITORING REPORT



Summary Report of the

Lower Field River Reserve Bird Monitoring

23rd Nov 2019

by John Gitsham

Introduction

A bird survey was conducted to see what bird species are utilising the Lower north and south sections of the Field River Reserve at Hallett cove. A three hour bird survey was conducted by John Gitsham of Birding & Nature Connections from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday 23rd November 2019. The area was divided into four zones (A, B, C and D) for ease of establishing bird habitat usage (this is seen on Maps 1 and 2). Extra attention was to be given to the Itchy Pod trees and the Aleppo Pines to see if any and what bird species are using them, in particular the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Nankeen Night Heron.

Bird Survey results

First of note was the abundance of Monarch butterfly in the reserve, they must've just hatched. The bird survey showed a lot of bird activities a total of 28 species of birds were recorded during the three hour survey, 23 native species and 5 introduced species (See Table One).

Bird species seen are common for urban/coastal areas; there was no showing of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and no positive evidence of roosting Nankeen Night Herons. The Eucalyptus's were flowering, so lots of honeyeater species and Rainbow Lorikeets present. Australian Reed Warblers were calling in the reed beds along the river as it's their breeding time at the moment. Only lone family of Superb Blue Wrens observed in Zone C. A highlight was an Australian Hobby (formerly known as the Little Falcon) that came flying along the River and out across the beach at the river outlet area. There was an abundance of introduced species e.g. House Sparrows, Starlings, Turtle Doves and Rock pigeon's, but that's common in built up urban areas of Adelaide. Overall a pretty good suite of birds observed in a small time frame. I was impressed that there were no Noisy Miners present during the bird survey, not saying they're not around the area, just not there today.

Lower Field River Reserve - Hallett Cove SA, Bird Survey conducted 23rd Nov 2019 9.30am to 12.30pm					
Bird species	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Comments
Grey Teal					On the Beach
Pacific Black Duck					On the River
Pied Cormorant					On the Beach
Crested Tern					On the Beach
Silver Gull					On the Beach
Pacific Gull (juv)					On the Beach
Australian Hobby (Little Falcon)					Flying through the River across the Beach (uncommon)
Spotted (Turtle) Dove*					Mostly at start of river outlet
Crested Pigeon					Near start of river outlet
Masked Lapwing					On the Beach
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)*					Mostly at start of river outlet
Maggie Lark					Near River
Starling*					On the Beach and next to river
Common Blackbird*					Along the River undergrowth
House Sparrow*					Around river outlet vegetation
Willie Wagtail					Along the River
Silver Eye					In the Itchy pod Trees
Australian Reed Warbler					In the Reed along the River
Rainbow Lorikeet					In the Gums and Itchy pod trees
Crimson Rosella (incl. Adelaide Rosella)					In the Gums and Itchy pod trees
Superb Blue Wren					Only seen and heard in Zone C
Red Wattlebird					Almost everywhere
New Holland Honeyeater					Almost everywhere
White-plumed Honeyeater					Mostly towards the back of the reserve area
Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike					Seen only in Zone C
Little Raven					Seen in all Zones
Australian Magpie					Seen in all Zones
28 species observed (23 native sp.)					
* Introduced species (5)					
# Of note, no Noisy Miners were seen or heard during the Bird survey time frame!					
Also no YTBC or nankeen Night Herons were seen or heard during Survey					

Table one



Map 1



Map 2

Summary



In Summary, there was no current evidence of YTB using the Aleppo Pines anywhere along the four zones, although talking to a local resident (Bob) on Osprey drive who lives across the road from a stand of Aleppo Pines (Zone B), Bob a member of the Field River Friends Group informed me that they (YTB) are seen reasonably regularly in the pines along with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and the occasional Short-billed Corella. The three photos above of the chewed Pine cones does indicate some foraging by either YTB or Sulphur Crested Cockatoo's, I was informed that the grass underneath is mowed every fortnight by the local council, and has been cut only recently, so more evidence of chewed cones has gone.

I looked in the Pines for roosting Nankeen Night Herons and couldn't find any at the time. The Itchy Pod trees were being utilised by Crimson Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets and Silver Eyes, these trees are also suitable as nesting habitat for birds as well. I certainly wouldn't cut down the Aleppo's as they are a good food source for the YTB that now depends solely on pines cones as its alternative food source. I certainly would control any new Aleppo pines that shoot along the river reserve, that wouldn't be a problem.

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