

HFNC Lake Linlithgow Excursion - report for 23 February 2002

Rod Bird

Ten members met at 7 am at the Cypress (south corner of the lake near Chatsworth Road).

A list of species and numbers are given in the attached list - as part of a general summary for the past 20 years. There are still gaps to plug in that list, particularly for 1984 (we have no information in the Minute book or files) and 1994 (we did not go that year). With the help of Steve Clark and Murray Gunn I hope to write up the 40 years of records from the lake. The lack of accurate detail in past reports is of concern to that endeavour - we must do better in future.

Total numbers were quite high, especially for Grey Teal (5,500) and Pink-eared Ducks (750), but numbers of Swan (600), Shelduck (350), Hoary-headed Grebe (140) and Eurasian Coot (40) were low. The water level was moderate, some 70 m out from the boat ramp, weather fine, calm and mild. No Hardheads, Freckled Duck, Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck or Great Crested Grebes were seen.

It became apparent to us this year, following 2 years when the lake has been dry in summer, that we need to monitor the other 4 adjacent water bodies more religiously. The numbers on Lake Linlithgow were probably low because the birds were attracted to the other lakes and swamps. The conditions on Lake Bullrush attracted huge numbers of birds (water was still present on much of the swamp, with green meadows punctuated with spoonbills and other birds. Swans had built nests. We could not recall a time when there have been such numbers of birds here, including flights of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers on the margins and Black-winged Stilts in the shallows. This area ought not to be open to duck shooting - all of these adjacent areas should be sanctuaries. That is something that we might try and do something about in future years.

Lake Kennedy

25 Swans, 250 Shelduck, 20 Silver Gulls

Krause's Swamp

1 YB spoonbill, 2 WF Herons, 6 Swan, 25 SN Ibis, 2 W Ibis, 2 Pacific Black Duck

Harnath swamp 500 m south of L Linl (Lake Rd)

50 Swan, 50 Pacific Black Duck, 500 Shelduck, 20 Shovellers, hundreds of Welcome Swallows

Bullrush Swamp

6000 Grey Teal, 5000 Swans, 2000 Eurasian Coots, 8 Wood Duck, 500 Pink-eared Ducks, 20 Shovellers, 3 Red-kneed Dotterels, 50 BW Stilts, 22 YB Spoonbills, 20 WF Herons, 3 WN Herons, 250 ST Sandpipers, 8 W Ibis, 100 Masked Lapwing, 100 Silver Gulls, 2 WT Eagles, 2 Whistling Kites, 1 Stubble Quail, 1 Little Grassbird, hundreds of Swallows and a few Tree Martins

Table 1. Bird list for Lake Linlithgow (*Jenawarra*) 1960-2002
 Compiled from records of Murray Gunn, Steve Clark and Rod Bird

Water birds	Relative abundance							Other birds	Relative abundance						
	er	vr	r	mc	c	vc	ec		er	vr	r	mc	c	vc	ec
Great-crested grebe			*					Black-shouldered kite						*	
Hoary-headed grebe							*	Black falcon		*					
Australasian grebe		*						Black kite	*						
Australian pelican			*					Square-tailed kite	*						
Darter	*							Whistling kite					*		
Little pied cormorant			*					Brown goshawk		*					
Great cormorant			*					Collared sparrow-hawk		*					
Little black cormorant			*					Wedge-tailed eagle			*				
White-necked heron		*						Little eagle	*						
White-faced heron			*					Swamp harrier			*				
Cattle egret		*						Spotted harrier		*					
Great egret		*						Australian hobby				*			
Australian white ibis			*					Peregrine falcon						*	
Straw-necked ibis			*					Brown falcon				*			
Glossy ibis		*						Nankeen kestrel			*				
Royal spoonbill		*						Stubble quail			*				
Yellow-billed spoonbill		*						Southern boobook	*						
Black swan							*	Laughing kookaburra					*		
Plumed whistling duck	*							Welcome swallow					*		
Freckled duck			*					Tree martin		*					
Cape Barren goose			*					Fairy martin					*		
Australian shelduck							*	Richard's pipit			*				
Pacific black duck			*					Black-faced cuckoo-shrike		*					
Grey teal							*	Flame robin		*					
Chestnut teal			*					Restless flycatcher			*				
Australasian shoveller							*	Grey fantail			*				
Pink-eared duck							*	Willie wagtail			*				
Hardhead				*				Golden-headed cisticola			*				
Australian wood duck			*					Brown songlark				*			
Blue-billed duck				*				Brown thornbill					*		
Musk duck			*					Yellow-rumped thornbill			*				
Black-tailed native hen		*						Red wattlebird					*		
Purple swamphen		*						Yellow-faced honeyeater	*						
Eurasian coot							*	White-fronted chat				*			
Brolga		*						Australian magpie lark					*		
Masked lapwing							*	Australian magpie					*		
Red-kneed dotterel			*					Australian raven					*		
Double-banded plover		*						Little raven		*					
Red-capped plover							*	White-plumed honeyeater			*				
Black-fronted dotterel			*					Yellow-tailed black cockatoo				*			
Black-winged stilt				*				Sulphur-crested cockatoo				*			
Banded stilt			*					Long-billed corella			*				
Red-necked avocet			*					Galah			*				
Ruddy turnstone	*							Red-rumped parrot	*						
Marsh sandpiper	*							Musk lorikeet	*						
Greenshank	*							Little lorikeet	*						
Common sandpiper		*						Purple-crowned lorikeet	*						
Latham's snipe		*						Horsefield's bronze-cuckoo	*						
Bar-tailed godwit		*						Little grassbird		*					
Sharp-tailed sandpiper			*					Striated fieldwren			*				
Pectoral sandpiper	*							Common starling					*		
Red-necked stint			*					European gold finch				*			
Curlew sandpiper		*						House sparrow			*				
Silver gull							*	Greenfinch	*						
Whiskered tern							*								
Gull-billed tern	*														

er, extremely rare (one record); vr, very rare (2 or 3 records); r, rare (a few birds sometimes seen); mc, moderately common (a few birds usually seen, occasionally in large numbers); c, common (some birds almost always seen); vc, very common (many birds often seen); ec, extremely common (birds often seen in great numbers, depending on season)