

Friday 19th February 2021

BICENTENNIAL PARK

Party: Brian Everingham (i/c), Helen Dalton, Ann Nillsen, Valerie Atkinson, Sue Bosdyk, Suzanne Wicks, David Noble and Ken Griffiths

Birds Seen

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Darter | 22. Silver Gull |
| 2. Pied Cormorant | 23. Crested Tern |
| 3. Little Pied Cormorant | 24. Crested Pigeon |
| 4. Great Cormorant | 25. Little Corella |
| 5. Little Black Cormorant | 26. Red-rumped Parrot |
| 6. Black Swan | 27. Superb Fairy-wren |
| 7. Pacific Black Duck | 28. Red Wattlebird |
| 8. Grey Teal | 29. Noisy Miner |
| 9. Chestnut Teal | 30. Willie Wagtail |
| 10. Australian Wood Duck | 31. Magpie-lark |
| 11. Dusky Moorhen | 32. Olive-backed Oriole |
| 12. Purple Swamphen | 33. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike |
| 13. Eurasian Coot | 34. Grey Butcherbird |
| 14. White-faced Heron | 35. Australian Magpie |
| 15. Great Egret | 36. Pied Currawong |
| 16. Australian White Ibis | 37. Australian Raven |
| 17. Royal Spoonbill | 38. Welcome Swallow |
| 18. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 39. Australian Reed-warbler |
| 19. Masked Lapwing | 40. Red-browed Finch |
| 20. Black-fronted Dotterel | 41. Common Myna |
| 21. Black-winged Stilt | |

The bush birds were down, of course, but if anyone is interested you'd pick up lots close by on other walks.

But perhaps my biggest disappointments for this site are the low numbers and species variety for migratory waders. The Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are really the only waders that migrate those long distances along the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.¹

¹ At this site you can download a 2008 report on bird numbers along this flyway. It is time for a comparative update. I suspect it will be a sobering read.

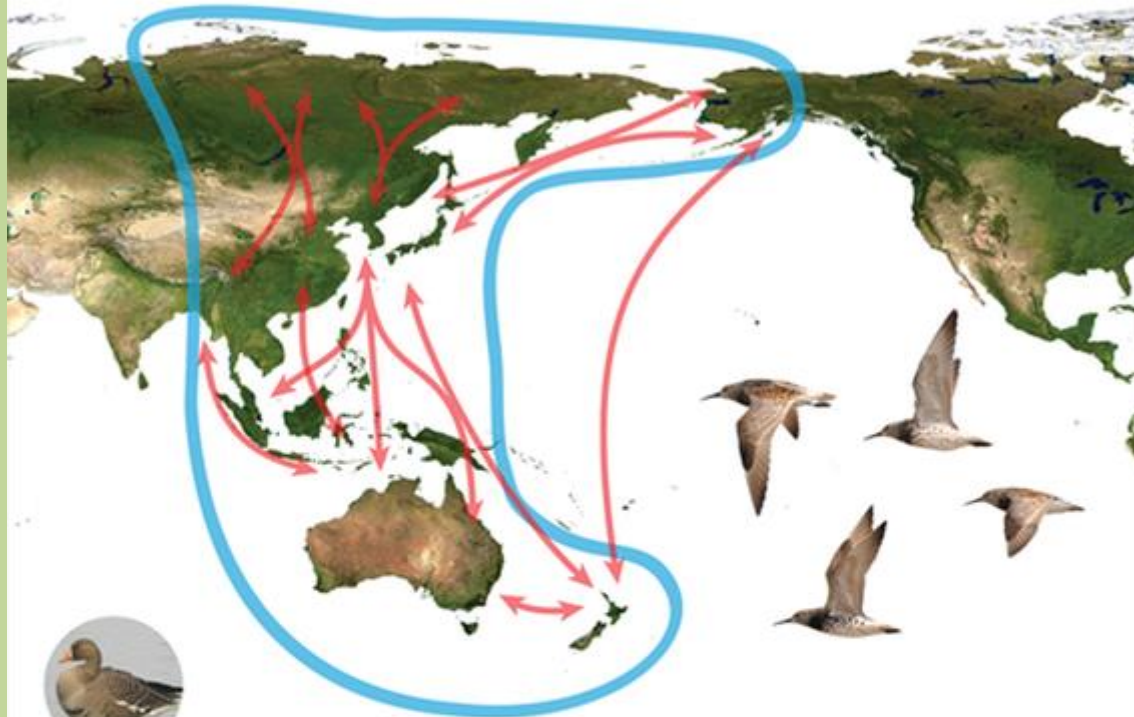
<https://www.environment.gov.au/resource/migratory-shorebirds-east-asian-australasian-flyway-population-estimates-and>

A simpler site to explain how it works can be accessed at

<https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/components/fauna/birds/ea-flyway.html>



East Asian – Australasian Flyway of migratory waterbirds



Migratory waterbirds need international cooperation

The conservation of migratory waterbirds will be effective only with the cooperation of all countries in a species' migration path. The East Asian – Australasian Flyway is one of the nine global systems for waterbird migration which directly link important sites and habitats. It encompasses 22 countries and is home to over 50 million migratory waterbirds, including shorebirds, Anatidae (ducks, geese and swans), cranes, and seabirds from over 250 different populations. The Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway was launched in 2006 as an informal and voluntary initiative of participating governments, non-government organisations and waterbird experts. It aims to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitats and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.

www.eaaflyway.net © 2011 Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway
Designed by Kim Minsoo (EAAFP, min-soon.kim@eaaflyway.net)
Photographs: Choi Chang-yong, Kaname Kenya, Crane Wu, He Chuan, Smith Subbot



The EAAFP Secretariat is hosted by The Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City

Ref: <https://www.theoverwinteringproject.com/the-east-asian-australasian-flyway.html>

But let us first look at the birds around Belvedere Lake in the Bicentennial Park!



Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus miles*)



Darter (*Anhinga novaehollandiae*)



OK, so the Darter got too much attention!²

² <https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/australasian-darter>

Because of its long and slender neck, the Australasian Darter is sometimes called the snakebird. Usually inhabiting freshwater wetlands, darters swim with their bodies submerged beneath the water's surface, with only the sinuous neck protruding above the water, enhancing its serpentine qualities. Darters forage by diving to depths of about 60 centimetres, and impaling fish with its sharp, spear-like beak. Small fish are swallowed underwater, but larger ones are brought to the surface, where they are flicked off the bill (sometimes into the air) and then swallowed head-first.



Juvenile Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)



Silver Gulls or birdwatchers: take your choice of caption



Valerie convincing Ken to take a trip to Kalyarr



Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*)



Female Superb Fairy-wren



And the male (*Malurus cyaneus*)



Young Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*): really a fantail



Young Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

And as this is Sue's favourite!



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³ <https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/black-winged-stilt>

The long, slender bill of the Black-winged Stilt is used like a pair of fine tweezers as the bird forages by pecking at tiny invertebrates on the water's surface. Although this is its most common feeding method, stilts have been recorded using at least nine different methods to feed. They usually forage by wading in water up to belly deep, but also feed along the muddy margins of wetlands, regularly forming large, noisy feeding flocks, often in association with Banded Stilts and Red-necked Avocets.

(a pity we didn't see the Red-necked Avocets. They have probably moved to inland wetlands now the drought has broken)



Suaeda australis – Seablite



Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)



And one doing calisthenics



Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*)



Black-fronted Dotterels (*Elseyornis melanops*)



Great Egret (*Ardea alba modesta*)

ie it is the Eastern Race



Samphire Blue (*Theclinesstes sulphitus*) on Samphire (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*)



Einadia nutans subsp. *linifolia*



And I think this is *Stephania japonica* (Snake Vine)

With just a few images of the site to close!









Brian Everingham