

Stockton Sandspit Outing Tuesday March 6, 2019



Photo: Homo sapiens of the curious kind by Andrzej Karpziel

Despite prediction of high temperatures for the day 24 HBOC members arrived at 7.30am eager to see waders, many waders already changing into breeding plumage before their northern migration. There was a cooling breeze off the water which made the outing more pleasant than expected. It was about one hour before high tide so flocks flew in from time to time from the dykes.

We first walked along to the Fern Bay bank where the Grey-tailed Tattlers roost, and found them along with 3 Terek Sandpipers, 1 Common Sandpiper and Whimbrels. Some of these were in the lone mangrove where they gather if disturbed under the bank. We returned to the bridge area and walked the path to the shore so that we could observe the hundreds of Pacific Golden Plover, heads poking up out of the vegetation. They had some Curlew Sandpipers and many Sharp-tailed Sandpipers with them.



Photo: Grey-tailed Tattler by Ted Elks



Photo: Pacific Golden Plover and others by Ray Burton

Further over standing in water were Red-necked Avocets, Black-winged Stilts Bar-tailed Godwits and Eastern Curlew.



Photo: Bar-tailed Godwit by Ted Elks

The full list of 48 bird species observed from and adjoining the Sandspit can be found in this Birdata link.

<http://birdata.birdlife.org.au/survey?id=2911681&h=5ab051a8>

After morning tea and bird call 14 members crossed the road into the Stockton Cemetery area and bike path where we found a variety of species including many White-cheeked Honeyeaters.

The 17 species seen here are listed in the following Birddata list.
<http://birddata.birdlife.org.au/survey?id=2911686&h=db53f0ad>

Thanks to the members who provided telescopes and expertise to make this a very productive outing.

Judi Thomas

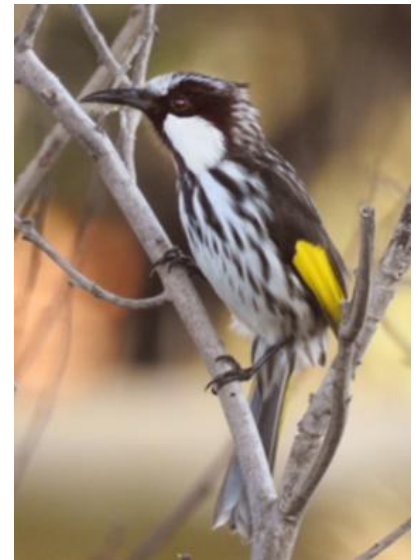


Photo:White-cheeked HE
by Ted Elks