

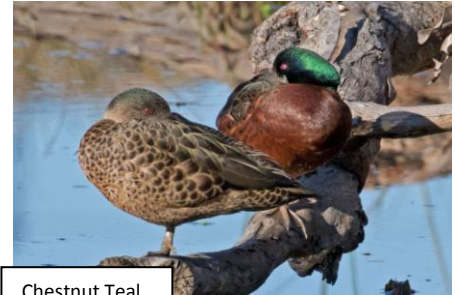
## Mid-week Outing to Pioneer Dairy – 6/August/2019



Purple Swamp Hen

Pioneer Dairy (or Central Coast Wetland) is between Wyong and Tuggerah. It has a freshwater lake which is approximately 400 metres x 150 metres. There are also small swamp and creek bed areas. The surrounding paddocks that we access are approximately 15 hectares with forested fringes. A total of 67 species were recorded, rather good for this time of year.

Eventually we had 22 people, many of us were late due to an M1 traffic 'incident'. Figuring that the waterbirds would be there and visible all day, we decided to cover the paddock, swamp and bush areas first. Heading south, the initial creek bed area revealed Masked Lapwings, lots of Purple Swamp Phens, Pacific Black Duck, White-faced Heron, Long-billed Corella, Dusky Moorhen, Pied Butcherbird and a magnificent, pristine pair of Chestnut Teal posed for us.



Chestnut Teal

The first forested area of mixed, large trees had Grey Fantail, Golden Whistler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, a pair of Figbirds, Red-browed Finch and for a lucky few observers, 6 Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.



We then looped back to our cars for morning tea. A female Masked Lapwing put on a broken wing display to distract us from her nest then returned to defend the area. She had a single egg in a scraping among pebbles and low grass.



The forested area to the north showed us Eastern Rosella, White-necked Heron, Intermediate Egret, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Bell Miner, Bar-shouldered Dove heard and Whipbird heard. There was a fly-over by 70 Straw-necked Ibis in tight formation.



Back to the lake. We saw a total of 12 waterbird species here including Black Swan, Hardhead, Pelican and Australasian Grebe. The real notables were 4 Australasian Shoveller Ducks.



The group also heard what sounded like Torresian Crows. However, after referring a sound clip to Fred van Gessel, later the consensus was that they were Australian Ravens. We did learn that TCs have been in this area for 10 years.

Top left clockwise: Masked Lapwing, Intermediate Egret, Brown Cuckoo -Dove, Hardhead, corvid ?, Australasian Shoveller, White-faced Heron.



Rob McDonell

(photos: Rob McDonell, Rob Palazzi)