

HFNC Lake Linlithgow & associated wetlands excursion – report for 19 February 2009

Rod Bird

Lake Linlithgow

Members met at 7 am at The Point on Lake Linlithgow. The morning was cool, overcast with a very light breeze. The lake was dry and no waterbirds were seen. On the 19 February there were 12 Australian Magpies on the dry, grassy surface and 1 Wedge-tailed Eagle was seen flying over.

Tabor Wildlife Reserve

We proceeded to Tabor Wildlife Reserve, past Harnath Wildlife Reserve which is 500 m south of LLIN. The entry to Tabor Swamp is on an unmarked road reserve approx. 500 m west of Tabor. This unused public road goes between a weatherboard house on the west side and farm sheds on the east side. There is a gate to open there and another down at the reserve. A stone causeway runs across the swamp area, constructed by the landholders for access to paddocks on the south side of the reserve.

It should be noted that, prior to John Harris (Parks Victoria) removing the grazing from this 48 ha part of the reserve in April 2005 it had been treated as a farm paddock for many decades. Grazing remains on 9 ha upstream. Some 2,500 trees have been planted by PV on the higher parts of the reserve.

Site works included 6 small dams on the floodplain, 7 pools in the drain, 5 earth levees across the drain and floodplain and 3 earth levees remote from the drain to catch water coming from the side slopes. These features are indicated on the map below.



Native flora observed:

- ❖ *Mimulus repens* (see photo)
- ❖ *Juncus pallidus*
- ❖ *Austrodanthonia laevis*
- ❖ *Austrodanthonia* sp.
- ❖ *Poa labillardieri*
- ❖ *Lachnograstis avenacea*
- ❖ *Wilsonia* sp.
- ❖ *Carex* sp. (west end)
- ❖ *Cotula coronopifolia*
- ❖ *Triglochin procerum*
- ❖ *Triglochin striata*
- ❖ *Eleocharis acuta*
- ❖ *Schoenoplectus pungens*
- ❖ *Ozothamnus ferrugineus* (2 bushes)
- ❖ *Chenopodium glaucum*
- ❖ *Melyctus dentata* (Sth bank)



A table of birds seen on this visit and on a more complete survey by Jane Hayes and myself 2 days earlier is presented below.

Wetland	Tabor Swamp	
Observer	JH & RB	HFNC
Survey date	19 Feb 2009	21 Feb 2009
Water depth	Pools & channels only	Pools & channels only
Australasian Grebe	5	
Hoary-headed Grebe	21	4
White-faced Heron	16	13
White-necked Heron	1	
Australian White Ibis	7	5
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	4	
Little Pied Cormorant	1	
Great Cormorant	1	
Straw-necked ibis	32	3
Black Swan	6	6 (incl. 3 dead)
Australian Shelduck	4	
Pacific Black Duck	14	
Dusky Moorhen	2	
Purple Swamphen	13	12
Masked Lapwing	125	>50
Black-winged Stilts	2	
Swamp Harrier	1	1
Black Falcon		1
Brown Falcon	1	4
Black-shouldered Kite	1	
Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	2
Whistling Kite	2	3
Golden-headed Cisticola	8	>10
Red Wattlebird	2	1
White-plumed Honeyeater	2	
Brown Thornbill	4	
Striated Fieldwren	1	3
Willie Wagtail	4	2
Australasian Pipit	19	>50
Brown Song-lark	1	1 (nest-building)
White-fronted Chat	4	>10
Australian Magpie	14	>10
Magpie-lark	6	4
Eurasian Skylark	22	>10
Stubble Quail	2	2
Little Raven	12	>10
Crested Pigeon	1	
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	2	3
Galah	1	
Blue-winged Parrot	60	8
European Goldfinch	>50	>100
Welcome Swallow	1	

We had seen Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (300), Red-kneed Dotterels (>100), Black-winged Stilts (100), Grey Teal (>200) and other species in December 2008.

A survey of birds on this reserve over several months began in 2008 and will be reported by Jane Hayes at the end of 2009.

The 3 dead swans seen on the 21 Feb had probably been caught by foxes whilst they were on the water in the narrow channel (drain). These were not present on the 19 Feb.

Lake Kennedy, Krauses Wildlife Reserve and **Bullrush Wildlife Reserve** were all dry and no survey of any birds present was made.