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How to record waterbirds at Perry Lakes

Sustainability starts with you!

Become a Citizen Scientist & make a lasting impact!

FoPL are keen for people to record waterbirds at Perry Lakes. Recording birds using standard methods, will, over time, allow correlation with water depth, wetland vegetation changes and management of the Lakes. If FoPL members and others would like to record waterbirds, the following steps explain how to do so.

1. Download the Birdata app to your smartphone. For an iPhone go to the App Store, for others go to the Google Play. Alternatively go to https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/
2. Create an online account to enable access to data for editing or research
3. Select 'Record Survey' in the App.
4. Select Program ('General Birdata Survey' most commonly used)
5. 5. Search for Site or Location
    a. Map will show where you are in relation to previous surveys at the site. Click on large blue dot to select a new site based on your current location or select a previous site (recommended for repeat surveys)
    b. Select 'Record Survey here' (or 'Allow While Using App')
6. 'Details' will show:
    a. Start date
    b. Start time
    c. Program, select 'General Birdata'
    d. Survey Type – select '2 ha, 20 minute search' (or '500 m area search').
    e. Location Name –Enter Perry Lakes site name (see Standard Wetland Bird Survey Locations) at end of these instructions, e.g. 'Perry Lakes East Lake 1' , or enter name for a new site (previous name will appear if previous site used)
    f. Number of Observers – include the number actually contributing to the observations
    g. All species recorded – toggle this on unless there are unidentified birds
    h. Water Level – use provided categories
    i. Location accuracy – leave as is
    j. Private Survey – best to leave this off so that the data goes to BirdLife's database
    k. Bushfire assessment – use only if fire is relevant to the area.
7. Record Sightings
    a. Start entering name of first species observed then select from 'common local species' drop-down options
    b. Count – add estimated number
    c. Breeding activity – use categories provided
    d. Notes – your own observations
    e. Photos – usually not done during formal survey
    f. Press 'Save' or 'Done' for that observation and repeat for next species observed. Continue until end of time period (App will prompt with 'Times Up' for fixed period survey).
8. Review and Submit
    a. Review details and correct if required. Any information omissions will be shown at this stage
9. Submit Survey
    a. Press to submit
10. Click on 'Review' (top right of this screen); if any problems come up, attempt to fix.
11. Finally, at end of the time entered, normally 20 mins. (The app will tell you when Time's Up), click on 'Review and Submit'.
12. Done!

Notes
1. If you wish you can delete an incomplete survey by swiping to the left, then pressing the red 'Delete'.
2. The survey can be edited within the Birdata account, including adding or deleting species to the survey.
3. The survey can be shared as a link from the App or from the desktop/laptop account
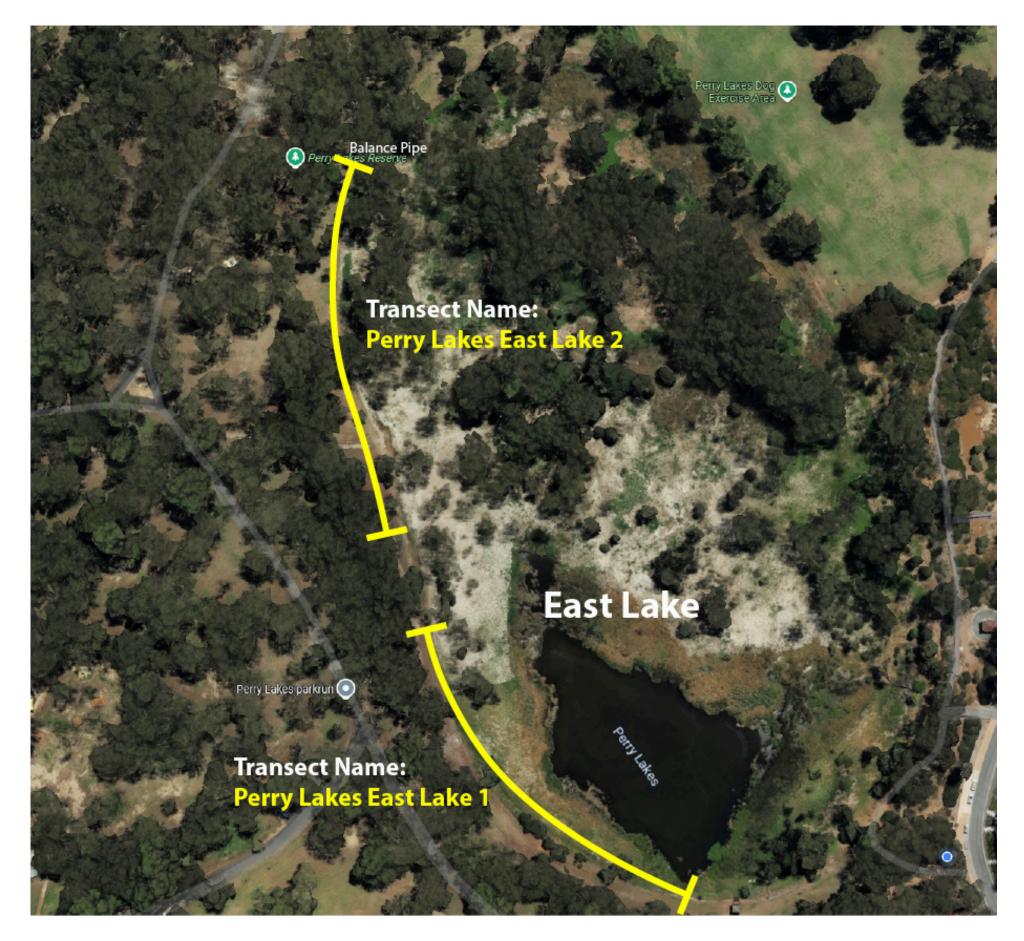
Perry Lakes, Standard Wetland Bird Survey Locations

Description

Perry Lakes West Lake 1
Inlet Pipe westwards. (2ha Survey = 200m X 100m into lake)

Perry Lakes West Lake 2
South west and west from depth measure. (2ha Survey = 200m X 100m into lake)

Description

Perry Lakes East Lake 1
Start opposite the depth gauge, finish opposite the rotunda.
Length 100 m. Spend 20 mins walking along the transect, return if necessary, until the 20 mins are up. If you return, make sure you don't count the same birds twice.
(2ha Survey = 200m X 100m into lake)

Perry Lakes East Lake 2
Balance Pipe south to bench beyond Scout Monument (2ha Survey = 200m X 100m into lake)