Gungahlin

**Horse Park Drive pond - Everist St, Jacka**

This is a new, large pond, with a lot of reeds around the edge. There are a number of Fairy Martin nests under the road bridge, which were in use when I visited. As I wandered back up from under that bridge a dark crake disappeared into the reeds on the Horse Park Drive side of the pond, too far away and too quick for me to identify. There were half a dozen Hoary-headed Grebes on the pond, as well as Grey Teal, Pacific Black Ducks, and Australian Wood Ducks, as well as a pair of Black-fronted Dotterels in the drainage line at one end of the pond. This is yet another pond along Horse Park Drive that is worth further visits.

**Throsby Ponds**

Where are they: beside Horse Park Drive in Throsby, on either side of Bettong Ave. There are three ponds in total (but only one, near Melomys Cct, appears on Google maps). On the first pond an Australasian Grebe was on a nest tucked well into the reeds, found only by scanning along the edges. A scan of the second pond gave a fleeting view of a Baillon’s Crake. All three ponds had some nice muddy edges on the day I visited.

**Flemington Road Ponds**

Where is it: corner of Flemington Road and Morisset Rd, near Mitchell (and currently with light rail construction alongside). I visited on a cold morning, but still managed 26 species. The main pond is quite large, but there are also several small ones, and some areas at the EPIC end which are currently dry but are probably under water at times. There were not a lot of waterbirds, but the rail construction is only metres away and noisy. There is a track of sorts around the main pond, through long grass. I’m not sure I’d want to visit in snake-friendly weather. There are several large clumps of shrubs. A large number of Silvereyes were calling from one such clump, and a few ventured to the top to sit in the sunshine. Red-browed Finches were heard but not seen. Golden-headed Cisticolas sat up nicely on some of the grass stalks, and a Eurasian Skylark could be heard overhead.