Westgate Park Bird Count

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| By: Rob Youl, Peter Parrington, Lindsay Doig, Marcus Gwynne, Jo Samuel-King, John Mcrae & Euan Moore. | | |
| Weather: Fine, calm,18o – 25o | | Date: 07/01/19 |
| Coverage: Entire area. | Time start: 08:30 | Time finish: 13:00 |

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| Species | Number seen | Species | Number seen |
| Black Swan | 4 + 4R | Rock Dove | 9 |
| Australasian Shoveler |  | Spotted Turtle-Dove | 20 + 2 R |
| Grey Teal |  | Crested Pigeon | 4 |
| Chestnut Teal | 21+12dy +2R | Galah |  |
| Pacific Black Duck | 9 | Rainbow Lorikeet | 14 |
| Hardhead | 5 | Musk Lorikeet | 3 |
| Pink-eared Duck | 1 | Eastern Rosella |  |
| Australasian Grebe | 9+2dy | Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo |  |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | 14 | Fan-tailed Cuckoo |  |
| Darter |  | Superb Fairy-wren | 44 (12 Blue) |
| Little Pied Cormorant | 3 + 1R | White-browed Scrubwren |  |
| Great Cormorant | 2R | Spotted Pardalote |  |
| Little Black Cormorant | 3 | White-plumed Honeyeater | 73 + 3R |
| Pied Cormorant |  | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater |  |
| Australian Pelican | 3R | Little Wattlebird | 3 + 2R |
| Eastern Great Egret |  | Red Wattlebird | 31 + 1R |
| White-faced Heron |  | New Holland Honeyeater | 12 + 6R |
| Nankeen Night-heron | 4 | Australian Magpie | 6 |
| Australian White Ibis | 10 + 1R | Grey fantail |  |
| Straw-necked Ibis |  | Willie Wagtail | 8 |
| Royal Spoonbill |  | Little Raven | 5 |
| Black-shouldered Kite |  | Magpie-lark | 22 |
| Nankeen Kestrel |  | Flame Robin |  |
| Brown Falcon |  | Golden-headed Cisticola |  |
| Australian Hobby |  | Australian Reed-warbler | 11 |
| Peregrine Falcon |  | Little Grassbird |  |
| Purple Swamphen | 2 + 1dy | Silvereye |  |
| Buff-banded Rail |  | Welcome Swallow | 20 |
| Dusky Moorhen | 34 + 7dy | Common Blackbird | 7 |
| Eurasian Coot | 58 + 7dy | Common Starling | 32 |
| Black-winged Stilt | 15 + 4dy | Common Myna | 25 + 2R |
| Pied Oystercatcher | 2R | Red-browed Finch |  |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 2 | House Sparrow | 39 + 3R |
| Red-kneed Dotterel |  | European Greenfinch | 2 |
| Masked Lapwing | 2 + 1R | European Goldfinch |  |
| Crested Tern | 2R |  |  |
| Pacific Gull |  |  |  |
| Silver Gull | 4 + 26R |  |  |
| Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors……22.. Land based …21.….Total 43 Species | | | |

R = along Yarra River dy = Dependent young

Note: For species seen in large numbers, or for which accurate counting was difficult the number seen is rounded off to the nearest of tens or fives.

Habitat: The large Freshwater and Saltwater lakes are high. Water quality in the freshwater lakes and southern wetlands appears very good. Water quality in the saltwater lake is average with one small lake to the south of the saltwater lake with an algal bloom.

There was very little flowering however the vegetation was looking healthy following recent rain in November – December.

Interesting/notable sightings:

* Reed Warblers were present in the best numbers for some years.
* There has been quite a lot of breeding with dependent young being present for several species of waterbird. Two Australasian Grebes were sitting on nests. There were 4 Black-winged Stilt that appeared to be sitting on nests. These were observed from a distance.
* Nankeen night-herons (4) were in larger numbers than usual. Normally only singles or pairs are seen in the park. All were adult birds.
* Two Pied Oystercatchers were seen flying upstream along the Yarra.
* Australian White Ibis were present in the park. Since the ibis colony relocated they have mainly been recorded as flying over the park. It was unusual to see so many on the ground at one time.
* The Grey Butcherbird reported in the opportunistic sightings was possibly heard during the survey but the call was not verified.

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| Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys | | | |
| Date | Species | Number seen | Observer |
| 1 December | Eastern Great Egret | 1 | George Fotheringham |
| 5 December | White-faced Heron | 1 | George Fotheringham |
| 11 December | Australian White Ibis | 6 | George Fotheringham |
| 11 December | Nankeen Night-heron | 1 | George Fotheringham |
| 12 December | Musk Lorikeet | 8 | George Fotheringham |
| 16 December | Grey Butcherbird | 1 | George Fotheringham |
| 18 December | Pied Currawong | 1 | George Fotheringham |
| 3 January | Grey Butcherbird | 1 | Lindsay Doig |
|  |  |  |  |

Ma le Magp ie - la rk ta ke s to the air.

Photo s by Eua n Moore