

# Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Andrew McCutcheon, Rob Youl, Peter Parrington and John McRae		Date: 2 March 2020	
Weather: Overcast then becoming sunny with a moderate to strong southwest wind		Temp 13 ° - 17 ° C	
Coverage: Entire survey route completed	Time start: 0845	Time finish: 1300	

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 <sup>R</sup>	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Blue-billed duck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	36
Pink-eared Duck	3	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	20
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	14	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	22	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	6	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	5	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	4	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	11	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	5	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	18	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	40 + 1 <sup>R</sup> (incl 10 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	4
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	11	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	1
Darter	1	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 4 <sup>R</sup>	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	40 + 2 <sup>R</sup>
Great Cormorant		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	2
Little Black Cormorant	4 + 1 <sup>R</sup>	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	
Pied Cormorant		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	40 + 1 <sup>R</sup>
Australian Pelican		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	16 + 1 <sup>R</sup>
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Honeyeater - unidentified</i>	
White-faced Heron	2	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Australian White Ibis	1	<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Royal Spoonbill	1	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Rufous Fantail</i>	1
Brown Goshawk		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	7
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	9
Brown Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	8 + 2 <sup>R</sup>
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Scarlet Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	3	<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crake		<i>Golden-headed Cisticola</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		<i>Australian Reed-Warbler</i>	4
Black-tailed Native-hen		<i>Little Grassbird</i>	

Dusky Moorhen	<b>9</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	<b>25</b>	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>80 + 14<sup>R</sup></b>
Black-winged Stilt	<b>25</b>	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>7</b>	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>5</b>
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>30+</b>
Masked Lapwing	<b>4<sup>R</sup></b>	<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>10</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Crested Tern		<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>16</b>
Pacific Gull		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Silver Gull	<b>28<sup>R</sup></b>	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors... <b>23</b> Land based <b>21</b> <b>Total</b>			<b>44 species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Common Froglet in dam			

<sup>R</sup> = along Yarra River

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

Habitat: The large Freshwater and Saltwater lake levels are high due to after better than average summer rainfall. As with previous months small numbers of diving feeders such as Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Hardheads, Australasian Grebes and Hoary-headed Grebes, the latter being present in higher numbers. Teal numbers have increased slightly while other water birds remain in single or very low numbers. It was unusual to see no Silver Gulls on the Large Freshwater and Saltwater lakes today or elsewhere in the park. The only gulls seen were the 28 along the Yarra River.

There were lower than usual numbers or none at all (Little Wattlebird) of all four honeyeater species regularly seen in Westgate park, most likely because there were almost no flowering trees and shrubs in the park during the summer months.

Interesting/notable sightings:

- A single Rufous Fantail was seen in the vegetation near the Friend's compound today. They are seasonal visitors occasionally seen in the park during March and early April.
- Three Pink-eared Ducks seen filter feeding in a tight circle on the Large Freshwater Lake.
- An unidentified shore bird briefly seen flying away from the southern edge of the Large Freshwater Lake. After some discussion and getting a description of the bird, which I did not see, it is suspected that it was a Latham's Snipe. One was reported by Lucas Brook (*eBird*) on 9 February.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
4 February	Australian Wood Duck	1	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )
9 February	Red-kneed Dotterel	2	George Fotheringham
10 February	Australasian Shoveler	1	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )
11 February	Red-kneed Dotterel	2	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )
12 February	White-faced Heron	1	George Fotheringham
12 February	Nankeen Night-Heron	1	George Fotheringham
12 February	Royal Spoonbill	1	George Fotheringham
17 February	Brown Goshawk	1	George Fotheringham
17 February	Eastern Great Egret	1	George Fotheringham
18 February	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )
18 February	Tree Martin	10	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )
19 February	Brown Thornbill	1	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )
22 February	Grey Butcherbird	1	George Fotheringham
26 February	Little Corella	5	George Fotheringham
26 February	Pacific Gull	1	Andrew McConville( <i>eBird</i> )





**One of four Australian Reed-warblers with a millipede at the edge of the Large Freshwater Lake.**



**Birds seen on the Large Freshwater Lake today**



**Three Pink-eared Ducks swimming in a tight circle feeding on micro organisms**



**Hoary-headed Grebes and Hardheads**



**Roosting female Darter and Little-Black Cormorant**





**Black-winged Stilts on the edge of the Saltwater Lake**



**Purple Swamphen on the dam**