

Westgate Park Bird Count

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| By: <i>Rob Youl, Peter Parrington, Lyn Griffen, John McRae</i> | | Date: 2 November 2020 |
| Weather: PHASE I: Coastal cloud clearing | | Temp 12-14° C |
| Coverage: Total | 0810-1330 | |

| Species | Number seen | Species | Number seen |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Brown Quail</i> | | <i>Galah</i> | |
| Black Swan | 2 (1 on nest) + 5 DY + 4* | <i>Long-billed Corella</i> | |
| Australian Shelduck | | <i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i> | |
| Australian Wood Duck | | <i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i> | 6 |
| Pink-eared Duck | | <i>Musk Lorikeet</i> | |
| Australasian Shoveler | | <i>Little Lorikeet</i> | |
| Grey Teal | 2 + 8 DY | <i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i> | |
| Chestnut Teal | 17 + 3 DY | <i>Eastern Rosella</i> | |
| Pacific Black Duck | 1 + 5 DY | <i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i> | |
| Hardhead | | <i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i> | |
| Australasian Grebe | 3 (1 on nest) | <i>Southern Boobook</i> | |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | | <i>Barn Owl</i> | |
| <i>Rock Dove</i> | 2 + 2* | <i>Sacred Kingfisher</i> | |
| <i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i> | 8 + 4* | <i>Superb Fairy-wren</i> | 57 + 4* (incl 18 + 3* blues) |
| <i>Common Bronzewing</i> | | <i>White-browed Scrubwren</i> | 13 + 1* |
| <i>Crested Pigeon</i> | 2 | <i>Brown Thornbill</i> | |
| Darter | | <i>Spotted Pardalote</i> | |
| Little Pied Cormorant | 1* | <i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i> | 55 + 7* |
| Great Cormorant | | <i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i> | 2 |
| Little Black Cormorant | 1* | <i>Little Wattlebird</i> | 6 + 7* |
| Pied Cormorant | 4* | <i>Red Wattlebird</i> | 75 + 5* |
| Australian Pelican | | <i>New Holland Honeyeater</i> | 45 + 7* |
| Eastern Great Egret | | <i>White-naped Honeyeater</i> | |
| White-faced Heron | | <i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i> | |
| Nankeen Night-Heron | | <i>White-winged Triller</i> | |
| Australian White Ibis | | <i>Golden Whistler</i> | |
| Straw-necked Ibis | | <i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i> | |
| Royal Spoonbill | | <i>Grey Butcherbird</i> | |
| Black-shouldered Kite | | <i>Australian Magpie</i> | 7 + 2* |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | | <i>Pied Currawong</i> | 1 |
| Brown Goshawk | | <i>Grey fantail</i> | |
| Little Eagle | | <i>Willie Wagtail</i> | 9 (nest at freshwater lake bridge) |
| Nankeen Kestrel | | <i>Little Raven</i> | 24 + 1* |
| Brown Falcon | | <i>Satin Flycatcher</i> | |

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|---|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Australian Hobby | | <i>Magpie-lark</i> | 20 |
| Peregrine Falcon | | <i>Flame Robin</i> | |
| Purple Swamphen | 1 | <i>Rose Robin</i> | |
| Buff-banded Rail | | <i>Eurasian Skylark</i> | |
| Baillon's Crake | | Golden-headed Cisticola | |
| Australian Spotted Crake | | Australian Reed-Warbler | 10 |
| Black-tailed Native-hen | | Noisy Miner | 1 (Todd Road) |
| Dusky Moorhen | 20 + 2 DY | <i>Silvereye</i> | |
| Eurasian Coot | 19 | <i>Welcome Swallow</i> | 20 |
| Black-winged Stilt | 3 + 1 DY | <i>Tree Martin</i> | |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 1 + 1* | <i>Common Blackbird</i> | 13 |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | | <i>Common Starling</i> | 30 + 3* |
| Masked Lapwing | 2 | <i>Common Myna</i> | 9 |
| Latham's Snipe | | <i>Red-browed Finch</i> | |
| Crested Tern | | <i>House Sparrow</i> | 3+ 3* |
| Pacific Gull | | <i>Australasian Pipit</i> | |
| Silver Gull | 60 + 90+ * | <i>European Greenfinch</i> | |
| | | <i>European Goldfinch</i> | 2 |
| Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors 15... Land based 24.... Total | | | 39 Species |
| Other animals: Common Froglets, <i>Crinia signifera</i> calling in dam, and wetlands near FoWP compound and southern chain of ponds. Tiger snake spotted at Railway Dam. | | | |

* seen at/along Yarra River only.

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 followed by a +.

D - Denotes dependent young plus number of separate broods.

Habitat: The main lakes are very full (salt lake marker = c .9m) but levels in the southern chain of ponds have receded. Vegetation is in very good condition, but continuing pandemic restrictions have greatly reduced weeding and planting – by mid November things will have normalised. Litter continues to accumulate but a volunteer does weekly collections. The park remains a lifeline to many local residents.

Interesting/notable sightings:

- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, regular seasonal visitors to Westgate Park normally leave sometime in September or early October at the latest. They are still here in early November as recorded in today's survey.
- The Rufous Whistler recorded and reported by Dan Ashdown on eBird is a first record of this species in Westgate Park. This brings the total number of bird species recorded in Westgate Park to 163.
- A Pallid Cuckoo reported by Josh Gatchalian (eBird) on Oct 17 and photographed by Janine Duffy on the same day. Pallid Cuckoos are very occasional visitors to Westgate Park, and have only been recorded twice as opportunistic sightings since our regular surveys commenced in 2007.
- A dead Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis* in the large freshwater lake, as shown in the background in one of the images of the Australian Reed-Warbler by Janine Duffy. Rising salinity in the lake could be a cause of poor health of these freshwater turtles.

| Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys From eBird and other sources | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Date | Species | Number seen | Observer |
| 6 October | Spotted Pardalote | 1 | <i>Ken Tay</i> |
| 17 October | Rufous Whistler | 1 | <i>Dan Ashdown</i> |
| | Australian Hobby | 1 | |
| 20 October | Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | <i>Scott Baker</i> |
| 17 October | Pallid Cuckoo | 1 | <i>Josh Gatchalian</i> |
| 12 | Silvereye | 2 | <i>Janine Duffy</i> |
| 13 | Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo | 5 | |
| 20 | Pied Oyster-catcher | 1 | |
| 21 | White-browed Scrubwren | 2 | |
| 23 | Sacred Kingfisher | 1 | |
| | Brown Thornbill | 1 | |
| | European Goldfinch | 2 | |
| 18 | Eastern Spinebill | 1 | <i>Luke Halpin</i> |
| 28 | Maned Duck | 2 | |
| | Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike | 1 | |
| | Grey Butcherbird | 1 | |
| | Grey Fantail | 1 | |
| | Brown Thornbill | 2 | |
| | Little Grassbird (heard) | 1 | |
| | Australian White Ibis | 6 | |
| Extra species | | | 18 species |
| | | | TOTAL: 57 species |



One of five Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos seen in the park on 13 October



Australian Reed-Warbler with damselfly. Note dead Snake-necked Turtle in image to the right.



Pallid Cuckoo seen in the park on 17 October



Aust. Pied Oystercatcher on the Yarra River

All photos provided by Janine Duffy

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