

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Rob Youl, Peter Parrington, Janine Duffy (31 May)	Date: 31 May – 1 June 2021
Weather: 1. Fine with light north-east wind. Temp 3 ^o C - 13 ^o C 2. Overcast, light north wind Temp 10 ^o C	
Coverage: Entire survey route completed	Times : 1. 0940-1200 2. 0930-1300

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 2 d	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	70 + 25*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	6	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	7	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	8	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	10	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	17	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	18 + 3*	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	75 incl 11 blue
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	9
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	13 + 2*	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	1
Darter	1*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	5
Little Pied Cormorant	2 + 7*	<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	2
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	40+
Little Black Cormorant	1 + 11*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	2*
Pied Cormorant	2*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	3
Australian Pelican	1*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	2 + 5*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	110 + 15*
White-faced Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	80+
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	2	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Brown Goshawk		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	2 + 1*
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	4
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	5
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	14 + 2*
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Purple Swamphen	5	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	7 + 7*

Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Dusky Moorhen	36	Australian Reed-Warbler	
Eurasian Coot	37	Little Grassbird	
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Silvereeye</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	45
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Masked Lapwing	3	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	11 + 2
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Starling</i>	6 + 2*
Crested Tern	3*	<i>Common Myna</i>	14
Pacific Gull		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Silver Gull	130 + 70*	<i>House Sparrow</i>	17 + 22*
Pied Oystercatcher	2	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	2
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	2
		Dusky Wood-swallow	2
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...20 Land based 28.... Total			48 Species
Other animals: Common Froglets, <i>Crinia signifera</i> calling in dam, and wetlands near FoWP compound.			

* 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: As areas of vegetation mature and become more established, new bird species are appearing, some of which are staying for longer periods. Based on regular sightings over the last two months Eastern Spinebills are a good example.

The park really needs good rain. Volunteers are doing weeding, but the return of Covid restrictions reduces output. Current level of Salt lake .64m.

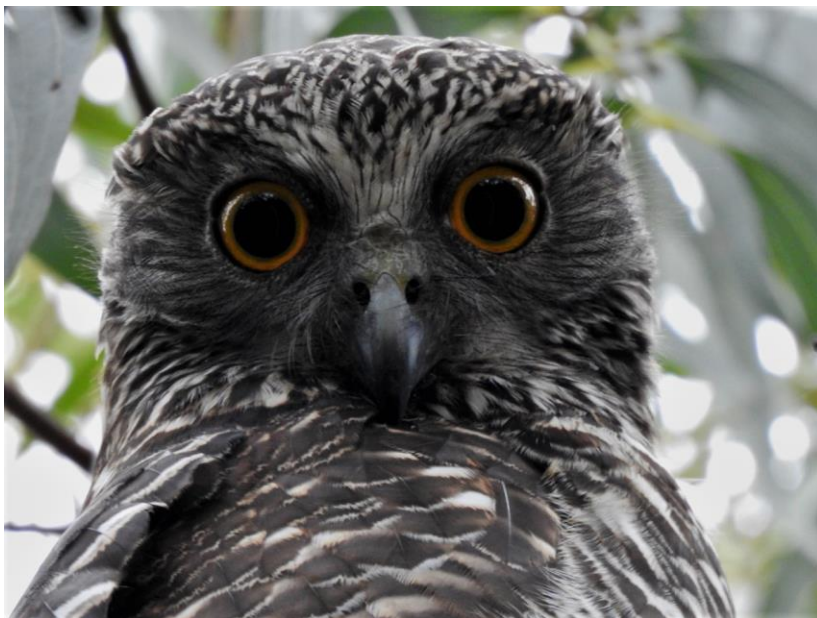
Interesting/notable sightings: A Powerful Owl was found roosting in the park in mid-May for at least two days, a first for Westgate Park.

The pair of Dusky Woodswallows flying overhead are the first record of this species in the park.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
5 May	Grey Fantail	2	Janine Duffy (eBird)
12 May	Powerful Owl with Ringtail Possum	1	Holden Sayers (photo)
13 May	Powerful Owl	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz (photos)
22 May	Straw-necked Ibis	30	Andy & Meg Crawford (eBird)
	Little Eagle	1	
29 May	Royal Spoonbill	1	Elke Link (eBird)
31 May	Great Cormorant	2	Janine Duffy (eBird)
Sub-Total			6 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>54 Species</u>



A Powerful Owl High up in a eucalypt in the north west corner of Westgate Park (near the dam)



Close up image of the Powerful Owl and a day earlier with a Ringtail Possum
Images top and lower left by Ursula Dutkiewicz, and lower right by Holden Sayers