

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Rob Youl, Peter Parrington, Jackie Kerr, George Fotheringham			Date: Monday 6 September 2021
Weather: Fine, clear 10° Cel			
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0830 - 1315	

Bird names and taxonomic order in accordance with the Australian Checklist, Christidis L. & Boles W.E. (2008)

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo</i>	5
Black Swan	1 + 2*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	26
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	3	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	18	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	4	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	10	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	2	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	9	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	62 + 2* (incl 11 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	7
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	4
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	1
Little Pied Cormorant	1	<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
Great Cormorant	2*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	37 + 4*
Little Black Cormorant	2*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	1 (HWT)
Pied Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	2
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	50 + 2*
White-faced Heron	1	<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	40
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	1 + 1*	<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>	
<i>Brown Goshawk</i>	1	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	1
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	6
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	9 + 1*
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	34
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Purple Swamphen	5	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	16
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	

Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	2
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	12	Silvereye	
Eurasian Coot	31	Welcome Swallow	90 + 5*
Black-winged Stilt	4	Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Common Blackbird	7
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	8
Masked Lapwing		Common Myna	5
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	
Crested Tern		House Sparrow	36 + 1*
Pacific Gull		Australasian Pipit	
Silver Gull	100 + 60*	European Goldfinch	8
Pied Oystercatcher		European Greenfinch	
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors... 19 Land based 24 Total			43 Species
Other animals: Common Froglets, <i>Crinia signifera</i> calling in dam, wetlands near FoWP compound, Windmill Soak, Todd Road and against Bridge.			

* seen at/along Yarra River only.

Salt lake water level. 0.8 m

Habitat: Following regular and substantial rain both major lakes are at high levels not seen for some time. This means that several species of water birds have dispersed to some of the many other wetlands in the region. Many passerine species are flourishing and breeding. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have been frequently observed.

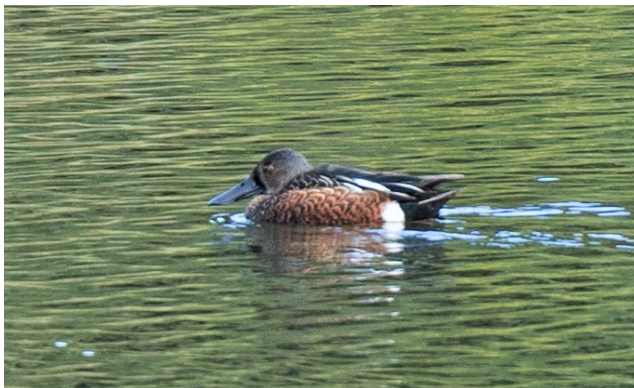
The survey team also saw a Brush-tailed Possum with a young offspring high in a red gum near the Friends compound.

It is gratifying to see considerable increases in the number of Welcome Swallows soaring across the park

The number of visitors to the Park indicates it remains a very important outlet for nearby residents and workers during the Covid era.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
6 August	Long-billed Corella	30	Michael Drake (eBird)
8 August	Masked Lapwing	1	Elke Link (eBird)
12 August	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Janine Duffy (eBird)
14 August	Grey Butcherbird	1	Luke Halpin (eBird)
14 August	Galah	3	Luke Halpin (eBird)
14 August	Crested Tern	1	Michael Drake (eBird)
15 August	Straw-necked Ibis	20	Ken Tay (eBird)
16 August	White-necked Heron	1	Michael Drake (eBird)
16 August	Australasian Shoveler	4	Ken Tay (eBird)
17 August	Australasian Darter	1	Janine Duffy (eBird)
17 August	Eastern Great Egret	1	Michael Drake (eBird)
17 August	Australian Pelican	1	Michael Drake (eBird)
18 August	Eastern Spinebill	1	Michael Drake (eBird)
18 August	Golden Whistler	1	Christopher Brown (eBird)

18 August	Golden Whistler	2	Christopher Brown (eBird)
18 August	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2	Christopher Brown (eBird)
18 August	European Greenfinch	1	Elke Link (eBird)
19 August	Pied Currawong	1	Elke Link (eBird)
20 August	Australian Hobby	1	Michael Drake (eBird)
20 August	Crested Pigeon	2	Michael Drake (eBird)
28 August	Royal Spoonbill	1	Cathy Maguire (eBird)
28 August	Pied Cormorant	1	Cathy Maguire (eBird)
2 September	Little Grassbird	1	Elke Link (eBird)
2 September	Hoary-headed Grebe	1	Elke Link (eBird)
Sub-Total		23 Species	
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings		<u>66 Species</u>	



Three of the four Australasian Shoveler seen on the Large Freshwater Lake on 14 & 16 August



White-necked Heron seen on 16 August and Eastern Great Egret on 17 August

All photos by Michael Drake