

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Rob Youl, Peter Parrington, Lindsay Doig, John McRae, Lyn Griffen and Nick Bolitho		Date: 1 March 2021
Weather: Fine to overcast - light SW		Temp 15 C - 19 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	1 + 2*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	29 + 5*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	6	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	22 + 16 D (2)	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	8	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	3 + 6D (1)	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	16 – 1 nest	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	3	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	8	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	33	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	57 (incl 8 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	3
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	19	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Darter		Striated Pardalote	3 (heard LD, PP)
Little Pied Cormorant	3 + 6*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	45 + 2*
Great Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Little Black Cormorant	4 + 2*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	2 + 1*
Pied Cormorant	1*	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	60
Australian Pelican	1	<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	53 + 4*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	10 - in park northern boundary
White-faced Heron	1	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Australian White Ibis	7 + 3*	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Royal Spoonbill	1 + 1 D	<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	1 – possibly 2
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	4 + 1*
Whistling Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Brown Goshawk		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	16
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	14
Brown Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	17 + 1*
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	

Purple Swamphen	2	<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	1
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	1 heard
Dusky Moorhen	23	<i>Silvereeye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	36	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	60
Black-winged Stilt	16 + 2D	Fairy Martin	4
Black-fronted Dotterel	8	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	11
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	35
Masked Lapwing	3	<i>Common Myna</i>	11
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Crested Tern		<i>House Sparrow</i>	40 + 5*
Pacific Gull	2*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Silver Gull	1 + 65*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	7
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors ..25...Land based ..24.... Total			49 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: A dry February has seen the lake levels drop somewhat, and the southern chain of ponds has no water to speak of. The good news is that Westgate Biodiversity – Bili Nursery teams have been weeding extensively throughout the park, which accordingly looks terrific. One negative – continuing heavy public usage means litter builds up in some areas.

Interesting/notable sightings: A satisfying tally for the survey team. The presence of noisy miners along the northern boundary against the HWT fence is concerning. Fairy martins are rare visitors to Westgate. The little grassbird should be observed more frequently given the seemingly ideal habitat, so its readily identified call was welcome.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
9 February	Crested Tern	2	Janine Duffy
16 February	Red-kneed Dotterel	1	Peter Booth
17 February	White-bellied Sea-eagle	1 – photo taken	Steve Law
18 February	Australian Hobby	1	Janine Duffy
18 February	Brown Goshawk	1	Scott Baker
20 February	Long-billed Corella	3	Mark Stephenson
	Brown Thornbill	2	
21 February	Great Cormorant	1	Christopher Brown
21 February	Pied Currawong	1	Ashley Anderson
	Rufous Fantail	1	
23 February	Maned Duck	2	Michael Drake



Juvenile Australasian Grebes clearly showing showing their large flipper like feet



Pair of Australian Pelicans on the large freshwater lake, probably feeding on Gambusia (Mosquito Fish)



Royal Spoonbills



Black Fronted Dotterel

All photos by Ursula Dutkiewicz

Report prepared by Rob Youl robmyoul@gmail.com & Andrew McCutcheon, awmccutcheon1@bigpond.com