

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Rose Nechwatal		Date: 10 January 2022
Weather: Hot, sultry, light N wind – 21-28 ° Cel		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0830 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	1 + 4 dy + 7*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	4
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	5	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	30	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	4	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	6	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	4	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	5	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	13 + 1*	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	60 + 2* (inc 22 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	2
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	3	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	1
Little Pied Cormorant	2 + 3*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	24 + 2*
Great Cormorant		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	4 (Todd Road)
Little Black Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	1
Pied Cormorant		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	26 + 3*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	15 + 8*
White-faced Heron	1	<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Australian White Ibis		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	2
Brown Goshawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	1
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	13 + 1*
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	4 + 2*
Australian Hobby		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Peregrine Falcon	1 (seen today by George Fotheringham)	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	8 + 2*
Purple Swamphen	1	<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Rose Robin</i>	

Baillon's Crake		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	13
Dusky Moorhen	31 (many young)	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	16 + 2 juv + 4 dy	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	7	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	1
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	2
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Starling</i>	80 + 5*
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	15 + 2*
Crested Tern		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	4 + 6*
Silver Gull	70 + 40*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher	4*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...18 Land based 22 Total			40 Species
Other animals: Common Froglets, <i>Crinia signifera</i> calling in dam.			

* Seen at/along Yarra River only.

Salt Lake level. 0.82 m

Doubtless the hot weather contributed to lower bird numbers. Welcome swallows are a rarity. Water levels have fallen slightly, and some water bodies have minor algal blooms, but the park looks vital and green.

Mistletoe 'implants' are taking and some bird species continue to breed. Moreover, the many regular visiting observers continue to spot unusual and unexpected species.

Seeing a Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater was interesting, as this species generally migrates north in late spring.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
19 December	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Nicole Spillane & Mark Jacobson (eBird)
19 December	Australian Pelican	1	N Spillane & M Jacobson (eBird)
19 December	White-necked Heron	1	N Spillane & M Jacobson (eBird)
22 December	Bassian Thrush	1	Mervyn Marsh (eBird)
22 December	Bassian Thrush	1	Leo Norman (eBird)
22 December	Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Leo Norman (eBird)
22 December	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Leo Norman (eBird)
23 December	European Goldfinch	1	Ken Tay (eBird)
23 December	Australian White Ibis	3	Ken Tay (eBird)
23 December	Little Black Cormorant	1	Ken Tay (eBird)
23 December	Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Ken Tay (eBird)
28 December	European Greenfinch	1	David Nightingale (eBird)
30 December	Little Grassbird	1	Ken Tay (eBird)
7 January	Musk Lorikeet	3	Jack Nguyen (eBird)
7 January	Little Wattlebird	1	Jack Nguyen (eBird)
7 January	Brown Thornbill	2	Jack Nguyen (eBird)
7 January	Fairy Martin	6	Jack Nguyen (eBird)
Sub-Total			16 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			56 Species



The Bassian Thrush recorded by two observers on eBird. Photo by Mervyn Marsh



Australian Reed-Warbler at the edge the large freshwater lake. Photo by Mervyn Marsh



Purple Swamphens are present in lower numbers than usual. Photos by Mervyn Marsh left and Michael Drake right



Australasian Grebe and Chestnut Teal pair with seven ducklings. Photos by Michael Drake



With good habitat conditions the Superb Fairy-wrens continue to breed. Photos by Michael Drake left and Mervyn Marsh right