

Westgate Park Bird Count

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Date: 1 November 2021

Weather: Fine, clear, cloudless, light breeze – 18° Cel

Coverage: Entire survey route completed

Times: 0830 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 6 DY	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	12
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	1	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	13 (+ 4 DY - 2 pair)	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	4	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	8 (2 nests, 1 under const)	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	7	Sacred Kingfisher	1
<i>Spotted Dove</i>	9 + 3*	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	56 + 2* (incl 31 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	28
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	4	Brown Thornbill	2
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	3*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	59 + 9*
Great Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Little Black Cormorant	2*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	11
Pied Cormorant		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	77 + 9*
Australian Pelican		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	40 + 2*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
White-faced Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	1
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Australian White Ibis	1	<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>	4
Whistling Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Brown Goshawk		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	13 (nest over FW lake – 3 chicks)
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	37 + 1*
Brown Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	13
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	

Purple Swamphen	7	<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	11
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	2
Dusky Moorhen	14 (+ 5 DY, nest with one chick)	<i>Silvereeye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	8 (10 DY)	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	50 + 2*
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	9
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	24 + 1*
Masked Lapwing		<i>Common Myna</i>	5
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Crested Tern		<i>House Sparrow</i>	6 + 2*
Pacific Gull		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Silver Gull	90 + 40*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	2
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	1
		<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
		<i>Dusky Wood-swallow</i>	
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	1 HWT
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...15 Land based 25.... Total			40 Species
Other animals: Common Froglets, <i>Crinia signifera</i> calling in dam. Tiger snake seen swimming in FW lake. Numerous insects including several dragon fly species. Butterflies including 1 Common Brown, Greenish Grass-dart and Common Grass-blue			

* seen at/along Yarra River only.

Saltwater Lake water level. 0.9 m

The water in both major lakes is at very high levels, with almost all the smaller islands in the Large Freshwater Lake fully submerged. Whilst clearer than usual, the Large Freshwater Lake hosts large patches of green algae but very few water birds with all species in very low numbers.

Continuing excellent rains have brought dense growth in many parts of the park, along with weeds. Clamorous reed warblers are back in number, and the high number of white-browed scrub-wrens indicates that past surveys have generally under-estimated the numbers of this elusive species in Westgate Park.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
10 October	Swamp Harrier	1	William Webster (eBird)
11 October	Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Craig McQueen (eBird)
16 October	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	Aidan Powell (eBird)
16 October	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	Aidan Powell (eBird)
16 October	Red-rumped Parrot	3	Aidan Powell (eBird)
17 October	Great Cormorant	1	Oakley Germech (eBird)
18 October	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
18 October	Masked Lapwing	1	Oakley Germech (eBird)
19 October	Striated Pardalote	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
19 October	Rufous Whistler	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
20 October	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Elke Link (eBird)

20 October	Grey fantail	1	Scott Eaton (eBird)
20 October	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Scott Eaton (eBird)
21 October	Pied Currawong	1	Bryn Pickering (eBird)
21 October	Galah	2	Bryn Pickering (eBird)
25 October	Eastern Great Egret	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
29 October	Tree Martin	2	Luke Halpin (eBird)
29 October	Spotted Pardalote	1	Luke Halpin (eBird)
29 October	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1	Luke Halpin (eBird)
30 October	Black-winged Stilt	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
30 October	Eastern Rosella	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
31 October	Australasian Shoveler	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			22 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>62 Species</u>



This Eastern Rosella is the first seen in the park since February 2016



Sacred Kingfisher seen in the park over the last couple of days



Black Swan with it's very dependent cygnet



Pair of Australasian Shoveler on the Large Freshwater Lake



Eastern Great Egret



The last Black-winged Stilt seen in the park on 30 October. None were seen today, probably due to very high water in the two large lakes

All photos above by Ursula Dutkiewicz

All photos Below by Andrew McCutcheon



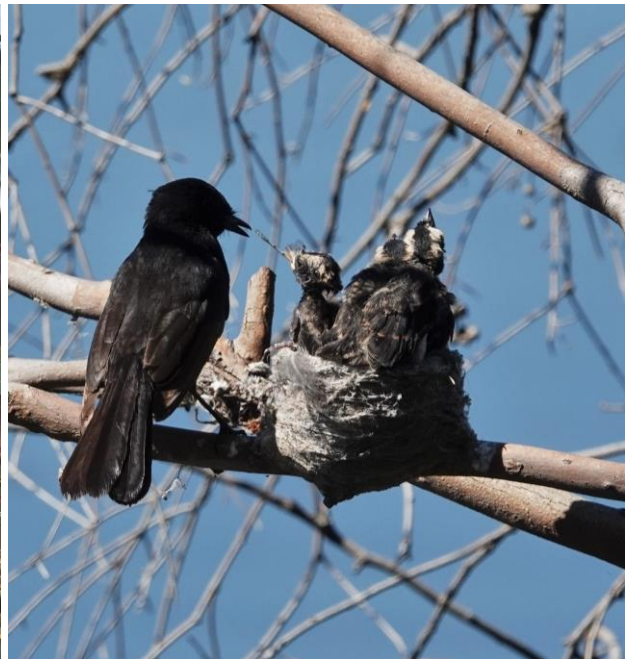
Australasian Grebe on nest of floating algae. Six out of the eight grebes were nesting or constructing a nest



The two most common honeyeaters in Westgate Park today, New Holland and White-plumed Honeyeaters



Rainbow Lorikeet searching for lerps on a Red Gum



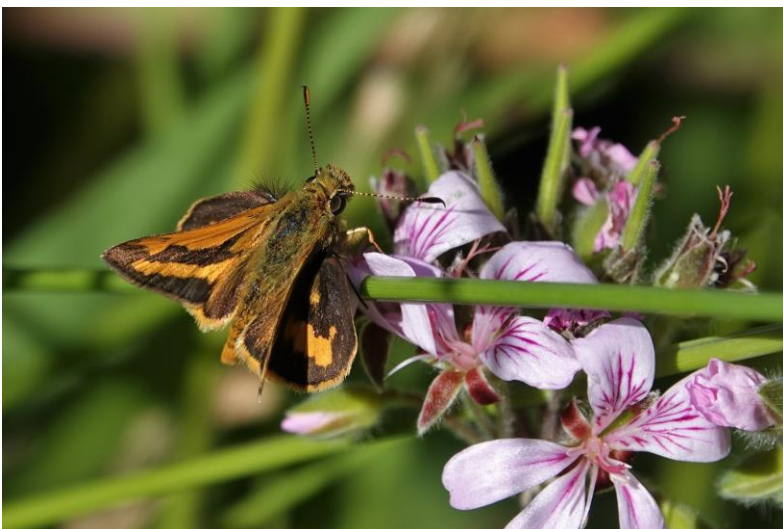
Willie Wagtail feeding a damselfly to one of it's three chicks



Red Wattlebirds are currently breeding in the park – Chick just starting to fly calling for food (left) and juvenile with parent (right)



Dragonflies are abundant in the park – Blue-spotted Hawker (left) and Wandering Percher (right)



Two of five butterfly species seen today – Greenish Grass-dart feeding on *Pelargonium australe* (left) and Common Grass-blue (right)