

# Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Rob Youl, Peter Parrington, Lyn Griffen, John McRae		Date: 6 December 2021
Weather: Hot and blustery – humid – + 20° 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 + 4 juv + 3*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	16
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	1 + 3 dy	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	18 + 1 juv + 3 dy	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	5	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	7 (1 nest)	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	16	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	10 + 1*	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	75 (incl 20 blue) + 2* (2 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	8 (nesting in compound)
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	3	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	2
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	6 + 3*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	24 + 1*
Great Cormorant		<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	2 (HWT Todd Rd)
Pied Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	2
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	43 + 3 dy + 3*
White-faced Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	13
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	2	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	1
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>	5 + 1*
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	11 (1 on nest over lake)
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	7 + 2*
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	14 + 3*
Purple Swamphen	2	<i>Flame Robin</i>	

Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	<b>5</b>
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	<b>11 + 1 juv + 6 dy</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	<b>18 + 7 juv + 2 dy</b>	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>14 + 1*</b>
Black-winged Stilt	<b>3</b>	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>5</b>
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>30 + 3*</b>
Masked Lapwing		<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>5</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Crested Tern		<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>16 + 1*</b>
Pacific Gull		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Silver Gull	<b>100 + 60*</b>	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	<b>5</b>
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors...15 Land based... 24			<b>Total</b>
			<b>39 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Common Froglets, <i>Crinia signifera</i> calling in dam. Two Long-necked Turtles in the Large Freshwater Lake on 19 November			

\* Seen at/along Yarra River only.

Salt Lake. 0.95 m

The hot, blustery, and humid weather suppressed a great deal of bird activity. Overall, however the park looks good with larger trees well recovered from the near-drought conditions that prevailed early in 2021. Weeds remain a problem, but the Westgate volunteers are back in action.

The three Weebill reported on eBird on 5 December is a new record of this species in the park.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings</b> – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
8 November	White-faced Heron	<b>1</b>	Janet Bolitho
11 November	Little Grassbird	<b>3</b>	Josh Gatchalin (eBird)
<b>11 November</b>	<b>Golden Whistler</b>	<b>1</b>	Josh Gatchalin (eBird)
<b>11 November</b>	<b>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</b>	<b>1</b>	Josh Gatchalin (eBird)
15 November	Pied Currawong	<b>1</b>	Benedick Furniss (eBird)
17 November	European Goldfinch	<b>2</b>	Michael Drake (eBird)
17 November	Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>1</b>	Michael Drake (eBird)
17 November	Galah	<b>2</b>	George Fotheringham
<b>17 November</b>	<b>Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo</b>	<b>2</b>	George Fotheringham
1 December	Masked Lapwing	<b>2</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
4 December	Straw-necked Ibis	<b>1</b>	Jack Nguyen (eBird)
<b>5 December</b>	<b>Silvereye</b>	<b>3</b>	Mark Stevenson (eBird)
5 December	Grey fantail	<b>2</b>	Mark Stevenson (eBird)
5 December	Grey Butcherbird	<b>1</b>	Mark Stevenson (eBird)
<b>5 December</b>	<b>Weebill</b>	<b>3</b>	Mark Stevenson (eBird)
5 December	Australian Pelican	<b>1</b>	Jack Nguyen (eBird)
5 December	Pied Cormorant	<b>1</b>	Grace Sibley (eBird)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>17 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species</b> – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<b><u>56 Species</u></b>



**Chestnut Teal with six ducklings. Hopefully, the family counted with only three dependent young today is not the same family shown here.**



**Pair of Black Swan cygnets and the single Hoary-headed Grebe on the large freshwater lake**



**With good habitat conditions the Superb Fairy-wrens continue to breed. Female with nest material left and recently fledged nestling right**



**Male Superb Fairy-wren calling, and Australian Magpie with small skink**



**Blue-spotted Hawker *Adversaeschna brevistyla* laying eggs just below the water surface, and two Snake-necked Turtles *Chelodina expansa* in the large freshwater lake**

**All photos by Ursula Dutkiewicz**

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