

# Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, John McRae, Lyn Griffen, Elke Link, Lindsay Doig, Ursula Dutkiewicz			Date: 7 March 2022
Weather: Humid, clear, 1/10 cloud, 17-22° Cel			
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1315	

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<b>Brown Quail</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	<b>2 + 4</b> immature + <b>2*</b>	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	<b>23</b>
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	<b>1</b>
Grey Teal	<b>7</b> (1 on nest)	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	<b>19</b>	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	<b>7</b>	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	<b>1 + 2</b> dy	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	<b>14</b> incl 1 on nest and 1 immature	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	<b>4</b>	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	<b>27</b>	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	<b>78</b> (incl 12 blues)
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	<b>7 + 1*</b>	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	<b>19</b>
Darter		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	<b>11 + 7*</b>	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	<b>49 + 3*</b>
Little Black Cormorant		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	<b>2</b> (Todd Road and CFMEU)
Pied Cormorant	<b>2*</b>	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican	<b>3</b>	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	<b>1 + 1*</b>
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	<b>21 + 6*</b>
White-faced Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	<b>49 + 3*</b>
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	<b>1</b>	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	<b>1</b>
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>	
<b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>1</b> (hunting young stilts)	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	<b>10</b>
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	<b>4</b>
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	<b>12</b>
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	<b>28</b>
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	

Purple Swamphen	<b>2</b>	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	<b>10 + 2*</b>
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		<i>Rose Robin</i>	
<b>Australian Spotted Crake</b>		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Dusky Moorhen	<b>29</b>	Australian Reed-Warbler	<b>9</b>
Eurasian Coot	<b>10</b>	Little Grassbird	<b>1</b>
Black-winged Stilt	<b>8 + 2 dy + 2 nestlings</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>3</b>	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>15</b>
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Masked Lapwing	<b>4</b>	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>5</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>2 + 2*</b>
Crested Tern	<b>1</b>	<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>2</b>
Pacific Gull		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Silver Gull	<b>5 + 45*</b>	<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>55 + 6*</b>
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	<b>2</b>
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors 21... Land based 25 ..... <b>Total</b>			<b>46 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b>			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only.

Salt lake: 0.7 m

Lake levels are still very high, and the park remains a pleasure to visit. Interesting species this month were a Brown Quail and an Collared Sparrowhawk very actively hunting small stilts – and therefore actively resisted by a group of adults. The dearth of Welcome Swallows and Silver Gulls is concerning and there are few frog calls.

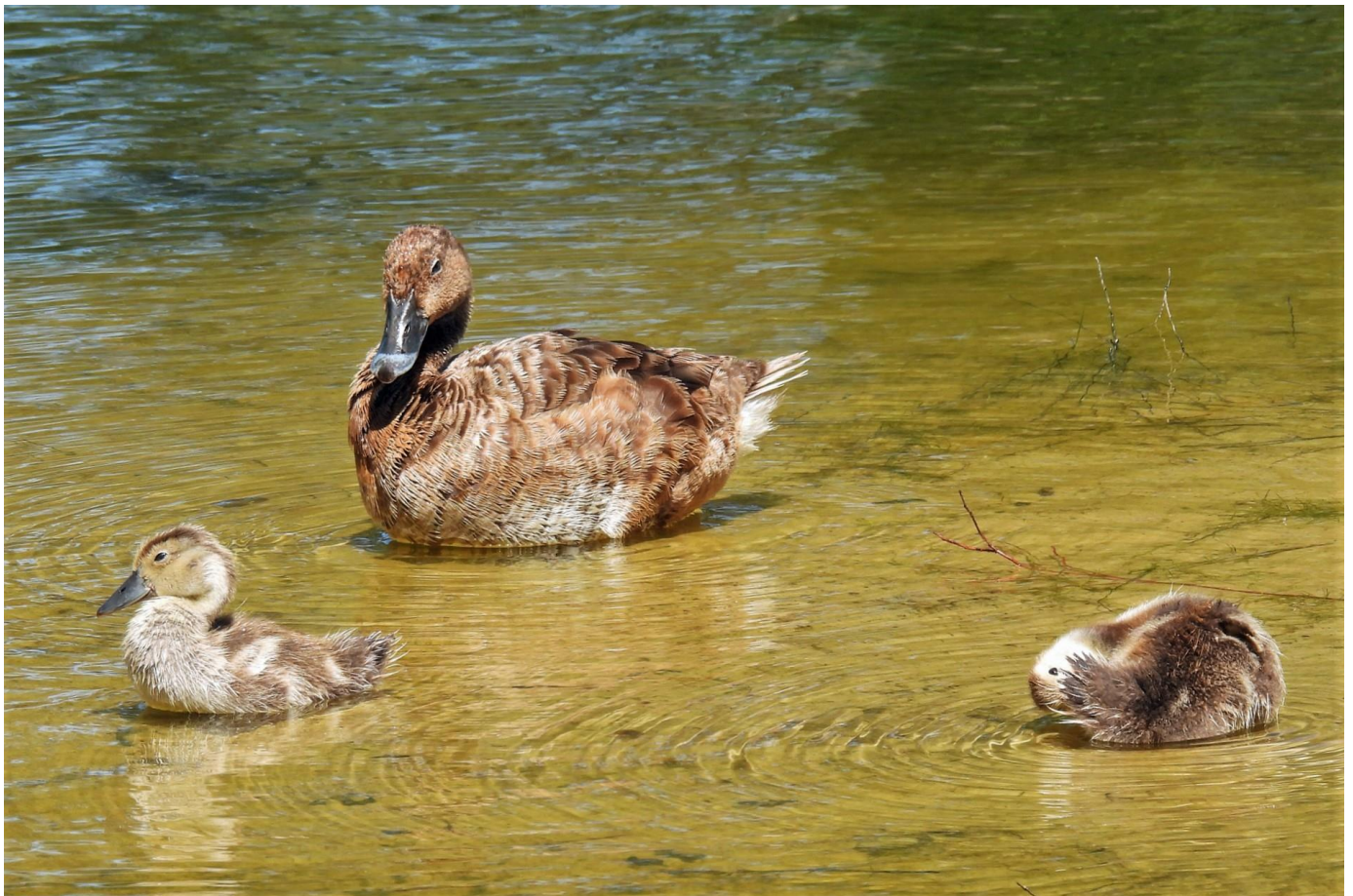
Of great interest is the return of a Brushtailed Possum to a high stump near the site of the old toilets. The animal squeezes in amongst the shards of wood left when the tree snapped in high winds, and can just be seen from the path. Another Brushtailed Possum lived here continuously for four years. After a break of some 12 months the niche, which can't be fantastically comfortable, has been reoccupied.

There were a number of interesting sightings reported on eBird over the last month. The most notable are a pair of Red-rumped Parrots observed by Elke Link, who wrote '*Flying in from West, landed in tree at small reedy swamp near Wharf Rd. Took off after brief perch. Appeared to be a pair*', and a Spotless Crake observed by Douglas Rowland at the dam wetland, who wrote '*Good views in the small u-shaped wetland on the west side next to Wharf Road*'. This is only the second record in the park of a Spotless Crake, since our regular monthly bird surveys commenced in March 2007. The other sighting was during the March survey in 2016.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
2 February	European Goldfinch	<b>2</b>	Danika Sanderson (eBird)
2 February	Nankeen Night-Heron	<b>1</b>	Leo Norman (eBird)
2 February	Pied Oystercatcher	<b>1</b>	Leo Norman (eBird)
13 February	Eastern Rosella	<b>1</b>	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
13 February	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<b>1</b>	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
14 February	Red-rumped Parrot	<b>2</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
14 February	Fairy Martin	<b>1</b>	Steve Law (eBird)

14 February	Brown Goshawk	1	Steve Law (eBird)
14 February	Hoary-headed Grebe	1	Steve Law (eBird)
19 February	Royal Spoonbill	1	Douglas Rowland (eBird)
19 February	Spotless Crake	1	Douglas Rowland (eBird)
25 February	Pacific Gull	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
25 February	Little Black Cormorant	4	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
5 March	Brown Thornbill	1	Elke Link (eBird)
5 March	Musk Lorikeet	15	Elke Link (eBird)
5 March	Australian Hobby	3	Elke Link (eBird)
5 March	Australian Wood Duck	2	Elke Link (eBird)
7 March	Grey Butcherbird	1	George Fotheringham
Sub-Total			18 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>64 Species</u>

All photos below by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Hardhead parent with two of dependent young still surviving, from the three recorded in the February bird count. It is uncommon to have Hardheads breeding in Westgate Park.





**Roosting Little Pied Cormorants**



**Two of the four Immature Black Swans**



**Juvenile Dusky Moorhen**



**Willie Wagtail**



**Eclipse (young non-breeding) male Superb Fairy-wren  
in the process of losing all of his breeding colours**





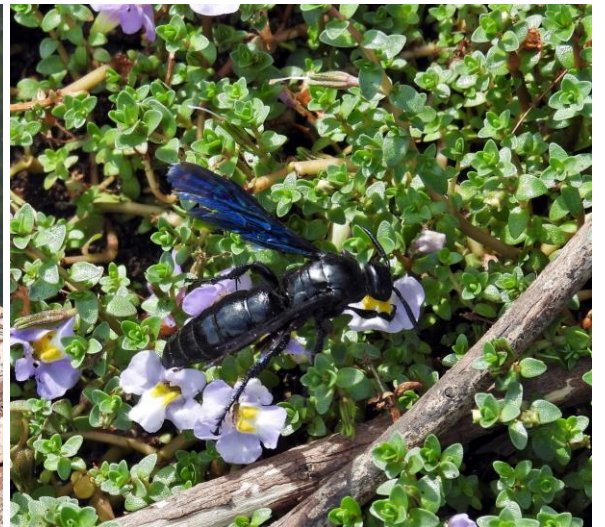
**Snake-necked Turtle** *Chelodina longicollis*



**Tussock Skink** *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri* ? Located on the waters edge near the sign to the Pink Lake. Species still to be confirmed



**Pair of Australian Emperor dragonflies** *Anax papuensis*, with the female behind depositing eggs



**Blue Flower Wasp** *Austroscolia soror*