

# Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, John McRae, Elke Link</i>		Date: 4 April 2022
Weather: At first bright, light SW wind, 16° Cel – then overcast , brief shower		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1340

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	5 (3 immature)	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	10 + 20*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	12
Grey Teal	4	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	25 + 3*	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	5	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	3	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	14	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	8 + 17*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	14 + 2*	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	90 (5 blue) + 6*
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	14 + 8*	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	16
Darter		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	3 + 4*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	60 + 1*
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	4 (1 Todd Rd, 3 in park)
Pied Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican	2*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	7 + 4*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	60 + 5*
White-faced Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	67 + 30*
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	2	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
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>	
Collared Sparrowhawk or Brown Goshawk	1	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	10
		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	6
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	24 + 6*
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	13
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	12 + 1*
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Purple Swamphen	3	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	9 + 1*
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	1* (female)

Baillon's Crake		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Dusky Moorhen	<b>48</b>	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	<b>15</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	<b>2 + 3 juvenile</b>	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>65</b>
Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>8</b>	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>7</b>
Masked Lapwing	<b>1</b>	<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>35 + 32*</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>15</b>
Crested Tern	<b>1*</b>	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>48 + 11*</b>
Silver Gull	<b>40 + 70*</b>	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors 19... Land based 25.... <b>Total</b>			<b>44 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Common froglet in Railway Dam and HWT boundary ponds. Brush-tailed possum in usual place - open hollow of damaged eucalypt.			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only.

Salt Lake level. 0.62 m

Highlights of the survey were the high number of Grey Fantails – possibly four separate groups, and sighting a of a female Flame Robin along the Yarra in the planted shoreline belts frequently used by fishermen for shelter.

The three almost fully grown stilts are likely to be the same nestlings that avoided, with parental help, an attacking Collared Sparrowhawk one month ago.

The Rufous Fantail seen on 22 March was in a very poor condition and may not have survived.

Note from Andrew McCutcheon – At the very same time this female Flame Robin was recorded and considered to be a very early arrival for Westgate Park, I (AWMcC) was up on the Bogong High Plains near Falls Creek where lots of Flame Robins are still present in very good habitat conditions with lots of food in the form of insects around. As these robins typically migrate to lower altitudes in late autumn/early winter and Melbourne is particularly dry at the moment, it makes me wonder where this bird along with other sightings by Gio and David Eades not so far away have come from, and why so early?

<b>Opportunistic Sightings</b> – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
21 March	<b>Brown Quail</b>	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
22 March	Brown Thornbill	<b>1</b>	Rebecca Gelsi (eBird)
22 March	<b>Rufous Fantail</b>	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
26 March	<b>Rose Robin</b>	<b>1</b>	Gio Fitzpatrick, Rob Youl
27 March	Grey Butcherbird	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
27 March	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
30 March	<b>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</b>	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
31 March	<b>Brown Falcon</b>	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>8 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b><u>52 Species</u></b>



**Female Flame Robin along the Yarra River, an earlier than usual visitor – photo by Peter Parrington**



**Little Pied Cormorant with Yabby in Large Freshwater Lake – photo by Ursula Dutkiewicz**





**One of three immature Black Swans**

*– photos by Ursula Dutkiewicz*



**Female Chestnut Teal**



**Grey Teal, Australian White Ibis and juvenile Black-winged Stilt – photos by Ursula Dutkiewicz**



**Female Superb Fairy-wrens - photo by Ursula Dutkiewicz**