

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Maurita Harney</i>		Date: 7 Nov 2022
Weather: Cloudless initially, but change on the way (rain mid afternoon)		17 ° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 – 1315

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 4 dy*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	16
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	14	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	1 + 1*	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead		<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	1	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	6 + 2*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	11 + 2*	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	48 incl 29 blue + 5* incl 1 blue
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	2	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	7
Darter		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	1	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	1
Great Cormorant	1*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	45 + 3*
Little Black Cormorant	6*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	1 + 7*
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	48
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	43 + 4*
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	1
Australian White Ibis	2	<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>	6 + 1*
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	7
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	13
Australian Hobby		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	11
Purple Swamphen		<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	7
Dusky Moorhen	13 + 2 dy	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	9	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	15 + 5*
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	7 + 1*
Masked Lapwing		<i>Common Starling</i>	12 + 4*
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	2
Crested Tern		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	9 + 6*
Silver Gull	80 + 30*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	See CFMEU
Number of Bird Species – Wetland dependent & Raptors 13..... Land based 23..... Total			36 species

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Common Froglets in ponds near compound and Southern Chain of Ponds. Brush-tailed possum in tree near compound.

Salt lake level: **1.01 m**

CFMEU

Silver Gull	1	Willie Wagtail	1
White-Plumed Honeyeater		Magpie-lark	
Red Wattlebird	3	Rainbow Lorikeet	3
Noisy Miner	7	Rock Dove	2
Australian Magpie	1		

Both major lakes are very full – more than for at least a decade. Accordingly, wetland species numbers are down, mostly because of the current depth of these water bodies and many other newly formed areas of water offering good feeding opportunities outside the park. On the other hand, although the survey results were modest, several interesting species have been observed this month, notably the Brown Quail, Olive-backed Oriole, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Sacred Kingfisher. Presumably the Yarra floodwaters are polluted, which reduces the river's appeal to the usual suite of water birds. Currently, park volunteers, working under George and Gio, are painting and installing a range of nest boxes to encourage greater numbers of birds and bats. A Tiger Snake was observed on the day of the survey, and a Snake-necked Turtle wandering by the railway line – see photos by Ursula Dutkiewicz.

The survey team would like to pay tribute to the late Daniel Gilmore, a professional zoologist who visited the park often and was generous with his advice and encouragement. He leaves many friends behind.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
11 October	Brown Quail	2	Gio Fitzpatrick
16 October	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
18 October	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Leigh Pieterse (eBird)
11 October	Brown Quail	1 (heard)	Leigh Pieterse (eBird)
18 October	Little Grassbird	1	Leigh Pieterse (eBird)
18 October	Hardhead	5	Leigh Pieterse (eBird)

24 October	Olive-backed Oriole	1	George Fotheringham
24 October	Peregrine Falcon	1	Gio Fitzpatrick
26 October	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
27 October	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Gio Fitzpatrick
27 October	Common Bronzewing	1	Gio Fitzpatrick
28 October	Sacred Kingfisher	1	George Fotheringham
4 November	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	2	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
4 November	Long-billed Corella	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
4 November	Little Corella	5	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
4 November	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
4 November	^ Noisy Miner	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
Sub-Total			13 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>49 Species</u>

^ This species also seen on today's bird count



This image clearly shows why the Red Wattlebird got its common name



Eurasian Coots are nesting and breeding at the moment



Magpie-larks and Willie Wagtails build neat nests that are firmly glued to a single branch. In the case of the former using mud, and the latter spiderwebs



White-browed Scrubwren in full song



Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis* wandering along the old railway line looking for a new area of water



Tiger Snake

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz