

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, John McRae, Lyn Griffen, Euan Moore</i>		Date: 5 Dec 2022
Weather: 15° Cel – windy, overcast		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1300

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>	1	<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	1	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	17
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	32 + 7 dy	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	6 + 4 dy	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead		<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe		<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>	25	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	80 (incl 29 blue) + 7* (incl 3 blue + 1 dy)
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	2	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	5 + 1*
Darter		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	3 + 1*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant	1*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	39 + 6*
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant	5*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	1*
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	21 + 1*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	20 + 5*
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Australian White Ibis	1 + 1*	<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>	9 (incl 1 juv) + 1*
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	1
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	7 + 1 dy – 2 nests, both over water
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	15 + 6*
Australian Hobby		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	

Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	8
Purple Swamphen	1 + 2 dy	<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	9
Dusky Moorhen	20 + 7 dy	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	1	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	12
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	8
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Starling</i>	12 + 3*
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	9
Crested Tern		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	9 + 1*
Silver Gull	80 + 30*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	2
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	3 (Todd Road)
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...14... Land based ...23... Total 37			37 Species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum absent; Common Froglet in some water bodies			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: **1.1 m**

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Silver Gull	4	Australian Magpie	
White-Plumed Honeyeater		Willie Wagtail	1
Red Wattlebird	6	Magpie-lark	1
Noisy Miner	8	Little Raven	4

Carried out on a bleak day, the survey yielded a lower result than usual. However, it was very pleasing to see how much insect life there is, especially, currently, various dragonfly species. Moreover, water levels are higher than for over a decade, eliminating habitat for dotterels and stilts, for example.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
12 November	^ Brown Quail	1	George Fotheringham
27 November	Grey fantail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
1 December	Grey Teal	1	Noam Markus (eBird)
1 December	Australasian Grebe	2	Noam Markus (eBird)
1 December	Brown Thornbill	2	Noam Markus (eBird)
1 December	Silvereye	1	Noam Markus (eBird)
Sub-Total			5 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>42 Species</u>

^ This species also seen on today's bird count



The Purple Swamphen with one its dependent young seen today



Pair of Welcome Swallows, one a juvenile



A recently fledged Red Wattle bird of which there were two chicks, unfortunately the next day one of them was dead on the ground.



Australian Reed-Warbler and Grey Fantail



Close up of Tiger Snake *Notechis scutatus*



A number of dragonfly species were seen in the park today. The left image shows an Australian Emperor *Anax papuensis* laying eggs

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz

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