

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, John McRae, Elke Link	Date: 12 January 2023
Weather: - 19° Cel – light WNW wind, clouded, clearing – 86 % RH	
Coverage: Entire survey route completed	Times : 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 4 juv*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	28
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck	1	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	3
Grey Teal	2	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	43 + 3 juv	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	15	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	2	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	21	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	13 + 3*	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	69 (incl 22 blue) + 1 (blue)*
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	4	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	16 + 1*
Darter		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	7 + 1*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	50 + 4*
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	1 HWT, 2 Park, 4 Todd Rd = 7
Pied Cormorant	2*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	4 + 7*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	35 + 2*
White-faced Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	10
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	4	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	2
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		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	7
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	7 + 2 dy
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	15
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Purple Swamphen	3	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	14 + 2*

Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Dusky Moorhen	26 + 4 dy	Australian Reed-Warbler	8
Eurasian Coot	2	Little Grassbird	
Black-winged Stilt	6 + nest with 3 eggs	<i>Silvereeye</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	70
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	3
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Starling</i>	60 + 2*
Common Sandpiper	1	<i>Common Myna</i>	8 + 2*
Crested Tern		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	20 + 13*
Silver Gull	40 + 25*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	5
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	1
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...19... Land based ...26... Total			45 Species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum back; Common Froglet in some water bodies			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: **0.98 m**

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Silver Gull	3	Willie Wagtail	1
White-Plumed Honeyeater	2	Magpie-lark	2
Red Wattlebird	4	Little Raven	
Noisy Miner	7	Rainbow Lorikeet	4
Australian Magpie	3		

A memorable survey. Common Sandpipers had long been expected, but this seems to be the first time the species has been recorded, in this case near the tug pier on the lower Yarra River. (There is a dead seal nearby on the riverbank.) The female Musk Duck is also most unusual, although again one would expect this species to be present from time to time, especially when the water level is high in the large freshwater lake.

No raptors and only two Eurasian Coots sighted (unusually low). But Black-winged Stilts are back and nesting, after an absence of some six months.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
9 December	Rufous fantail	1	Aaron Kleinhenz (eBird)
9 December	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	Aaron Kleinhenz (eBird)
9 December	Little Grassbird	1	Christopher Brown (eBird)
12 December	Brown Thornbill	2	Charlie Sonnemann (eBird)
15 December	Brown Quail	1	George Fotheringham
Sub-Total			5 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>50 Species</u>

^ This species also seen on today's bird count



There were three dependent young on the day this photo was taken (4 Dec), but only two were seen today



Australasian Grebe



Little Pied Cormorant



Sand Wasps *Bembix* sp. happily feed on nectar. They also hunt flies to provision their larvae in sandy burrows. I have seen them take March flies off my legs to feed their young in East Gippsland (A McC).



Yellow Admiral *Vanessa itea* feeding on nectar from a flowering Baeckea



Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* feeding on nectar from a flowering Baeckea



Small flies on the water surface

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Welcome Swallows at rest (Peter Parrington)



Black-winged Stilt on nest, Horseshoe Lagoon (Peter Parrington)



***Amyema preissi* Wire-leaf Mistletoe Near Railway Dam (Peter Parrington)**



Little Pied Cormorants (Peter Parrington)



Nankeen Night-heron (Elke Link)



Female Musk Duck (Elke Link)