

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, John McRae, Mark Stanley		Date: 6 Feb 2023
Weather: - 16° Cel, overcast, still		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 5 dy + 2*	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	30
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Australasian Shoveler		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	1	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	40 + 6 juv	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	7	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	2	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	4	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe		<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	31 + 2*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	27	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	102 incl 25 blues + 1*
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	4	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	15 + 2*
Darter	1	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 8*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	63 + 10*
Little Black Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant	1 + 6*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	3 + 2*
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	25 + 1*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	32 + 4*
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
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>	8
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	3
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel	1	<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	14
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	8
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	9 + 3*
Peregrine Falcon	1	<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	2	<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crane		<i>Golden-headed Cisticola</i>	

Australian Spotted Crane		Australian Reed-Warbler	12
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	32 + 2 juv + 9 dy	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	8	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	60
Black-winged Stilt	8 incl nesting pair	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	5
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	65
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Myna</i>	16
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Crested Tern	2*	<i>House Sparrow</i>	95 + 5*
Pacific Gull		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Silver Gull	110 + 20*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	1
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	5 + 1*
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	2 (Todd Road, HWT) + 2*
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...21... Land based ...23...Total			44 Species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum present; Common Froglet not heard			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: **0.88 m**

CFMEU – these are added to the park tally.

Rainbow Lorikeet	2	Australian Magpie	3
White-Plumed Honeyeater	1	Willie Wagtail	1
Red Wattlebird	3	Magpie-lark	2
Noisy Miner	8	Welcome Swallow	2

A major impression from the survey was the number of younger birds nearing maturity in the case of many species, and the fact that breeding has not stopped yet. Insect life seems diverse, which is good for the ecology.

The very high number of Superb Fairy-wrens (a resident species in the park) recorded during today's count provides strong evidence of this. Also, the low proportion of blue males indicates there must be a high number of juvenile and immature birds making up the count, suggesting a strong breeding success rate over the past year. Water bodies are full and clean.

Volunteer activity is accelerating, with weeding, planting and litter collection.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
15 January	Musk Lorikeet	1	Leo Norman (eBird)
24 January	Australian King-Parrot	2	Greg Butcher (eBird)
25 January	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Christopher Brown (eBird)
1 February	Little Black Cormorant	2	Elke Link (eBird)
6 February	Pink-eared Duck	1	Scott Jamieson (eBird)
Sub-Total			5 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			49 Species



Pair of Black Swans and five cygnets



Grey Teal, left and Chestnut Teal Hybrid with six dependent young



Black-winged Stilt with dependent young and on nest. Also two Masked Lapwings, left



Juvenile Black-fronted Dotterel



Dusky Moorhen feeding chick



Welcome Swallow feeding dependent young



Two blue male Superb Fairy-wrens
Note: One would be a young male still attached to the family group



Darter



Dragonfly, Blue Skimmer *Orthetrum caledonicum*

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz