

## Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, John McRae, Lyn Griffen</i>		Date: Monday 3 April 2023
Weather: 11 ° C; light NE breeze		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0845-1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	<b>2 + 5 dy + 4*</b>	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	<b>20</b>
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	<b>1</b>	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	<b>17</b>	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	<b>8</b>	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	<b>15</b>	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	<b>28</b>	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	<b>6</b>	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	<b>7</b>	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	<b>25 + 2*</b>	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	<b>75 (3 blue) + 2*</b>
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	<b>8</b>	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	<b>17</b>
<b>Darter</b>	<b>1</b>	<b><i>Brown Thornbill</i></b>	<b>1</b>
Little Pied Cormorant	<b>3 + 5*</b>	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	<b>45 + 10*</b>
Little Black Cormorant	<b>2 + 7*</b>	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	<b>4 + 7*</b>
Australian Pelican	<b>2</b>	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	<b>39</b>
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	<b>50 + 13*</b>
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron	<b>1</b>	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	<b>1</b>
Australian White Ibis		<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>	<b>3</b>
Whistling Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Pied Currawong</i>	<b>19</b>
Little Eagle		<i>Grey Fantail</i>	<b>11</b>
Nankeen Kestrel		<b><i>Rufous Fantail</i></b>	<b>2</b>
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	<b>11 + 1*</b>
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	<b>11</b>
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	<b>6</b>
Purple Swamphen		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<b><i>Rose Robin</i></b>	<b>1♀</b>
Baillon's Crane		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	

Australian Spotted Crane		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Dusky Moorhen	<b>21</b>	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	<b>12</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>20 + 2*</b>
Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>2</b>	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>4</b>
Masked Lapwing	<b>2 + 2*</b>	<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>5</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>12</b>
Crested Tern		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>36 + 13*</b>
Silver Gull	<b>15 + 90*</b>	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	<b>2</b>
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	<b>3 carpark + 1 Todd Rd + 7 CFMEU</b>
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors...17... Land based 29..... <b>Total</b>			<b>46 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Brush-tailed Possum – absent; Common Froglet – absent; two skinks spotted <b>GIO?</b>			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: 0.72 m

**CFMEU These are added to the park tally.**

Silver Gull		Willie Wagtail	<b>2</b>
White-Plumed Honeyeater		Magpie-lark	<b>1</b>
Red Wattlebird	<b>11</b>	Pied Currawong	
Noisy Miner	<b>7</b>	Little Wattlebird	<b>1</b>
Australian Magpie		Rainbow Lorikeet	<b>3</b>

Recent rains have freshened the park, which looks excellent. On the day of the survey volunteers were weeding, collecting litter and maintaining tracks. The female Rose Robin has been present for a week or more. It was also interesting to see two Rufous Fantails feeding with a flock of eight Grey Fantails, and a Darter flying overhead.

Another point of interest: there are very few blue Superb Fairy Wrens at present in the park.

Comment by Andrew McCutcheon: On my recent travels I have visited several areas that are strongholds for Superb Fairy-wrens including Chiltern, Canberra Botanic Gardens, Mallacoota, and our block at Black Range in NSW, where I was able to identify which was the alpha (breeding) male in a large family group by its black markings on the face and bright blue tail. In all these locations I did not see one male wren in blue plumage; all have changed back into their eclipse plumage. This appears to be consistent with today's bird count at Westgate Pk, indicating some stress in environmental conditions or habitat. This is probably due to less food resources being available.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
11 March	<b>Brown Quail</b>	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
11 March	<b>Golden-headed Cisticola</b>	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
17 March	<b>Black-faced Cormorant</b>	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
18 March	^ Grey Butcherbird	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
18 March	^ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
18 March	^ Grey Fantail	<b>1</b>	George Fotheringham
18 March	<b>Royal Spoonbill</b>	<b>3</b>	George Fotheringham
28 March	Silvereye	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
28 March	Australian Reed-Warbler	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
28 March	<b>Royal Spoonbill</b>	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
29 March	<b>Rose Robin</b>	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
29 March	Black-winged Stilt	<b>1</b>	Mathias Bieber (eBird)
29 March	Purple Swamphen	<b>2</b>	Mathias Bieber (eBird)
30 March	Little Grassbird	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
31 March	White-faced Heron	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
2 April	<b>Musk Duck</b>	<b>1</b>	Zoe Davis (eBird)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>12 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b>58 Species</b>

^ This species also seen on today's bird count



Australian Reed-Warbler seen on 10<sup>th</sup> of March



Masked Lapwing and pair of Black-fronted Dotterels



Hardheads



Royal Spoonbills in the rain



**Little Pied Cormorants**



**Little Black Cormorant**



**Grey-headed Flying-foxes occasionally visit the park**



**Nankeen Night-Heron in a Melaleuca**

**All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz**

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