## Westgate Park Bird Count

<b>By:</b> Peter Parrington, Elke Link, John McRae, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Andrew McCutcheon & Mike Walsh	Date: Monday 1 May 2023		
Weather: - 13 ° Cel; still air, clouds gradually clearing			
Coverage: Entire survey route completed	Times: 0840 - 1400		

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail		Galah	
Black Swan	4 + 3*	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	35 + 20*
Australian Shoveler	1	Budgerigar	
Musk Duck	1♀	Musk Lorikeet	
Grey Teal		Little Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	24	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Pacific Black Duck	5	Eastern Rosella	
Hardhead	23	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe	24	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Hoary-headed Grebe	8	Southern Boobook	
Rock Dove	8 + 32*	Barn Owl	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	10	Sacred Kingfisher	
			119 (incl 7 blue)
Common Bronzewing		Superb Fairy-wren	+ 5*
Crested Pigeon	5	White-browed Scrubwren	16
Darter		Brown Thornbill	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 6*	Spotted Pardalote	9
Great Cormorant		White-plumed Honeyeater	84 + 2*
Little Black Cormorant	1*	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater 1	
Pied Cormorant		Little Wattlebird	6 + 7*
Australian Pelican		Red Wattlebird	52 + 10*
Eastern Great Egret		New Holland Honeyeater 79 + 3*	
White-faced Heron		White-naped Honeyeater	
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1
Australian White Ibis	3	White-winged Triller	
Straw-necked Ibis		Golden Whistler	
Royal Spoonbill		Grey Shrike-thrush	
Black-shouldered Kite		Grey Butcherbird	
Whistling Kite		Australian Magpie	9
Collared Sparrowhawk		Pied Currawong	2
Little Eagle		Grey fantail	3
Nankeen Kestrel		Willie Wagtail	6
Brown Falcon		Little Raven	17 + 1*
Australian Hobby		Satin Flycatcher	
Peregrine Falcon		Magpie-lark	10
Purple Swamphen	2	Flame Robin	

Buff-banded Rail		Rose Robin	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Dusky Moorhen	31	Little Grassbird 1	
Eurasian Coot	44	Silvereye	
Black-winged Stilt		Welcome Swallow	30
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Tree Martin	
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Blackbird 7 + 2	
Masked Lapwing		Common Starling	33
Latham's Snipe		Common Myna	7
Crested Tern	1*	Red-browed Finch	
Pacific Gull		House Sparrow 51 + 1	
Silver Gull	45 + 90*	Australasian Pipit	
Pied Oystercatcher		European Greenfinch	
		European Goldfinch	2
		·	1 NW corner +
		Noisy Miner	6 CFMEU
Number of Bird Species – Wetland dependent & Raptors19 Land based27 Total			46 Species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; Common Froglet in some water bodies			

<sup>\*</sup> seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: 0.86 m

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

Silver Gull	4	Red Wattlebird	3
Rock Dove	4 Noisy Miner		6
Rainbow Lorikeet	12	Australian Magpie	4
White-browed Scrubwren	1	Magpie-lark	1
White-Plumed Honeyeater	1	Little Raven	7

<u>Habitat:</u> After a wetter than usual April with a total of over 100 mm rainfall, the water level is high in both large lakes. This has provided particularly favorable conditions for deep water diving feeders in the large freshwater lake. Birds such as Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes and Hardheads are currently plentiful, and have been accompanied by a single female Musk Duck – a rarely seen visitor in the park that first appeared in January this year.

The high rainfall also reduced the extreme salinity of the saltwater lake, resulting in a higher than usual number of waterbirds there, especially Eurasian Coots.

Conditions were also good for land-based birds with lots of flowering eucalypts providing nectar for a high number of New Holland Honeyeaters. Superb Fairy-wrens were noticeably plentiful with today's count being the highest ever recorded for this species, a total of 124. Their numbers in Westgate Park have been gradually increasing over the 16+ years we have been undertaking these monthly bird surveys.

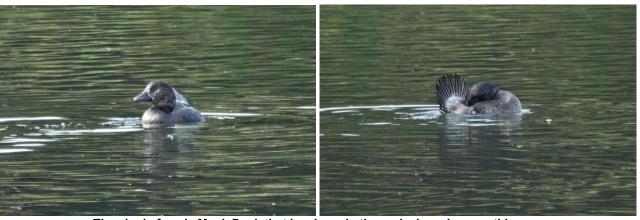
A Black-faced Cormorant was observed by Elke Link on 17 March (see the April report) in the Yarra River on the Westgate Park side. She noted at the time there appeared to be plenty of fish, which the cormorant was successfully feeding on before flying off towards the bay. After seeing a good sized snapper being hauled in by a fisherman on the Yarra River bank, it appears that the water quality in the river is very good now. Hopefully more reports on feeding seabirds in the Yarra will appear soon.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
8 April	White-necked Heron	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
10 April	A Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	7	George Fotheringham
10 April	Masked Lapwing	2	Hans Wohlmuth (eBird)
10 April	Black-winged Stilt	1	Hans Wohlmuth (eBird)
10 April	Australian Pelican	1	Hans Wohlmuth (eBird)
20 April	↑ Brown Thornbill	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
20 April	Golden Whistler	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
24 April	Silvereye	2	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
24 April	Red-browed Finch	4	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
24 April	Striated Pardalote	2	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
24 April	Little Corella	1	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
24 April	Brown Goshawk	1	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
24 April	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
24 April	Straw-necked Ibis	26	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
25 April	Grey Teal	2	Scott Baker (eBird)
25 April	Long-billed Corella	1	Scott Baker (eBird)
27 April	Brown Goshawk	1	Gio Fitzpatrick, Mike Walsh
27 April	Red-browed Finch	2	Gio Fitzpatrick, Mike Walsh
30 April	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Russell Scott (eBird)
Sub-Total		14 Species	
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			60 Species

<sup>^</sup> This species also seen on today's bird count



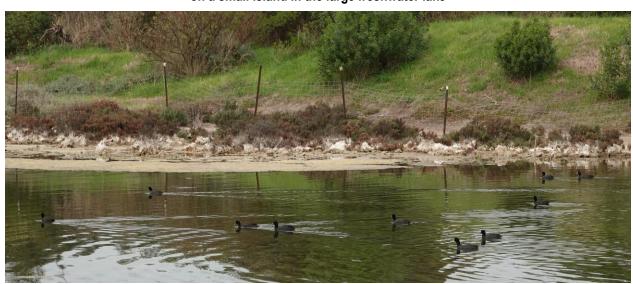
A Black-faced Cormorant feeding on fish in the Yarra River. This is the first record of this species for Westgate Park – Photo by Elke Link



The single female Musk Duck that has been in the park since January this year



A single non-breeding male Australasian Shoveler with roosting Pacific Black Ducks and a Hardhead on a small island in the large freshwater lake



Eurasian Coots on the saltwater Lake - Photos on this page by Andrew McCutcheon



There have been a number of recent sightings of Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes in the park

– Photo left by Ursula\_Dutkiewicz, right by Andrew McCutcheon



Noisy Miner and Rainbow Lorikeet at the CFMEU site - Photos by Andrew McCutcheon



One of two Tussock Skinks *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri* seen sunning in a garden bed near the toilet block. This species is listed as threatened in the Western Volcanic Plains of Melbourne - Photo by Ursula\_Dutkiewicz



Australasian Grebe and Pacific Black Duck - Photos by Ursula\_Dutkiewicz



Welcome Swallow and New Holland Honeyeater - Photos by Ursula\_Dutkiewicz



Little Wattlebird feeding in Coastal Banksia beside the Yarra River – Photos by Andrew McCutcheon