

# Westgate Park Bird Count

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

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

Buff-banded Rail		<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Dusky Moorhen	<b>31</b>	<b>Little Grassbird</b>	<b>1</b>
Eurasian Coot	<b>44</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>30</b>
Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>1</b>	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>7 + 2*</b>
Masked Lapwing		<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>33</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>7</b>
Crested Tern	<b>1*</b>	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>51 + 10*</b>
Silver Gull	<b>45 + 90*</b>	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	<b>2</b>
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	<b>1 NW corner + 6 CFMEU</b>
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> – Wetland dependent & Raptors...19		<i>Land based...27</i>	<b>Total</b>
			<b>46 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; Common Froglet in some water bodies			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: 0.86 m

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

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

Habitat: 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.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
8 April	White-necked Heron	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
10 April	^ 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)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>14 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b><u>60 Species</u></b>

^ 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**