

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Chris Lester, Lyn Griffen, John McRae, Rob Youl	Date: Monday 5 June 2023
Weather: - 12 ° Cel; partly cloudy (cirrus), calm	
Coverage: Entire survey route completed	Times: 0840 - 1300

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	4 + 1 dy	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	16
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck	1 ♀	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	4
Grey Teal		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	10 + 1*	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	5	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	9	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	10	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	4	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	3	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	8	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	75 + 2* incl 3 blues
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	1*	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	18
Darter	1*	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	5
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 2*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	18
Great Cormorant		<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	1
Little Black Cormorant	3*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	45
Pied Cormorant		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	4 park boundary + 5 CFMEU
Australian Pelican		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	4 + 3*
White-faced Heron	1	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	35
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	105 + 1*
Australian White Ibis	1 + 20*	<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	1
Royal Spoonbill		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite	1	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Brown Goshawk		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	1
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	6
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	1
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Grey fantail</i>	1
Brown Falcon		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	5
Australian Hobby		<i>Little Raven</i>	6
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	

Purple Swamphen	5 + 1 dy	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	9
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Dusky Moorhen	37	Little Grassbird	1
Eurasian Coot	77	<i>Silvereeye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	50
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	8
Masked Lapwing	2 + 1*	<i>Common Starling</i>	17 + 4*
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	2
Crested Tern		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	2
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	11
Silver Gull	45 + 150*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	16
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...20 Land based 30..... Total			50 Species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum - 2 May absent from usual habitat tree; Common Froglet in some water bodies			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater lake level: 0.94 m

CFMEU - These are added to the park tally.

Silver Gull	4	Spotted Pardalote	2
White-Plumed Honeyeater	7	Australian Magpie	3
Red Wattlebird	6	Magpie-lark	1
Noisy Miner	5	Goldfinch	2
New Holland Honeyeater	10		

Although conditions were unexceptional, and a few common species were not observed, the surveyors had a wonderful day. The appearance in the park over the last month of Red-Browed Finches (often in the company of Goldfinches) was greatly appreciated by all, and is hopefully a sign that these finches will take up residence in the park. Spotted Pardalotes were present in higher than usual numbers with 18 counted, the highest since 33 were recorded in April 2012.

A Black-Tailed Native Hen has been spotted by others along the river, unusual as these birds normally venture south to Melbourne during periods of prolonged/extreme drought. The Musk Duck, the first to be recorded in the park since well before these bird surveys began in 2007, is still in the large freshwater lake. It was first seen on the 12 January Bird Count.

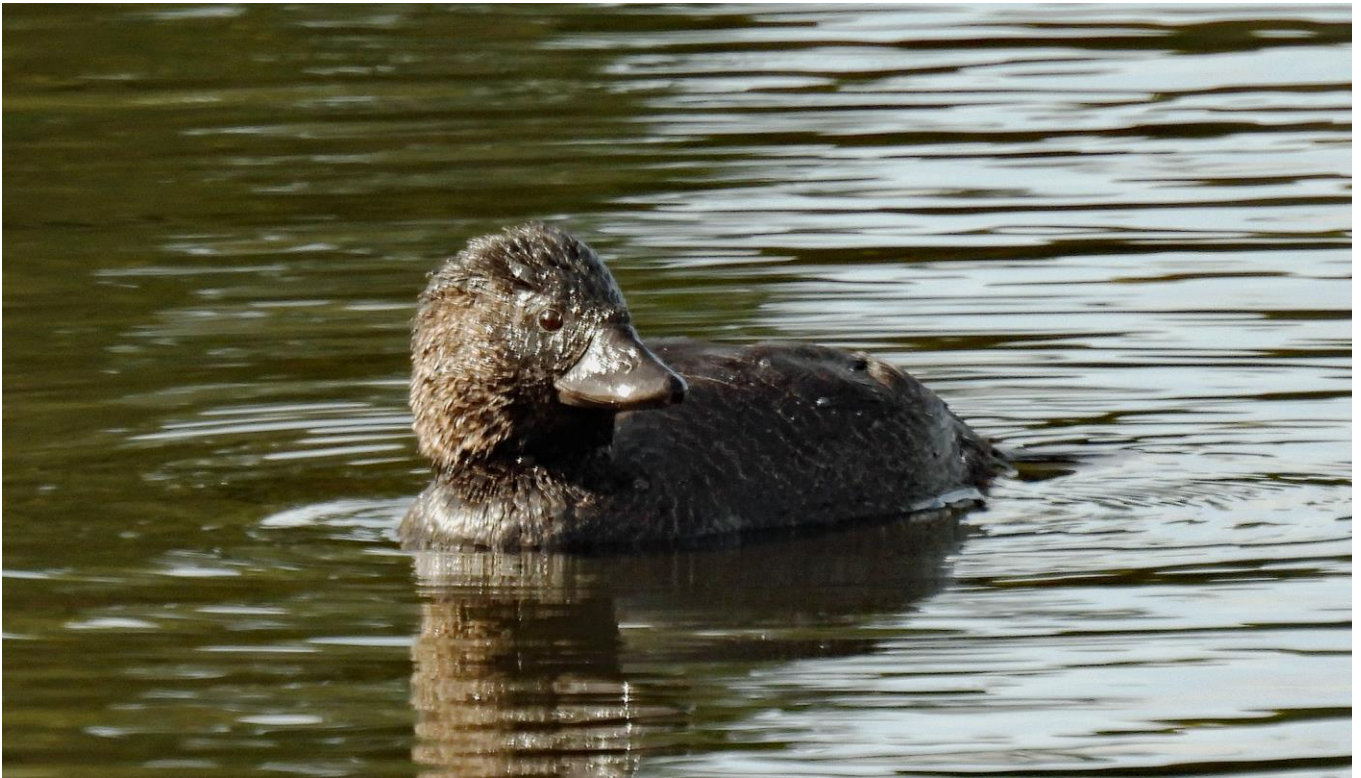
Partly this abundance of species must be due to the hundred millimetres or so of rain falling in the last five weeks. Lake levels are particularly high, which excludes Black-winged Stilts and Black-faced Dotterels, although one of the latter was hanging on around the salt lake.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
2 May	^ Little Grassbird	1	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
2 May	Brown Goshawk	1	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
2 May	White-necked Heron	1	Zebedee Muller (eBird)
2 May	Nankeen Night Heron	1	George Fotheringham
6 May	Little Corella	150	Archer Callaway (eBird)
7 May	Silvereye	4	Rohan Clarke (eBird)
7 May	^ Grey Fantail	2	Rohan Clarke (eBird)
7 May	^ White-faced Heron	1	Rohan Clarke (eBird)
8 May	Australian Pelican	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
8 May	Pacific Gull	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
9 May	Brown Falcon	1	George Fotheringham
11 May	Eastern Great Egret	1	George Fotheringham
12 May	^ Darter	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 May	Brown Quail	1	George Fotheringham
20 May	Australian Reed-Warbler	1	Gareth Pallas (eBird)
20 May	^ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Gareth Pallas (eBird)
21 May	Australasian Shoveler	2	Russell Scott (eBird)
22 May	^ Musk Duck	1♀	Ursula Dutkiewicz
27 May	Pink-eared Duck	1	Leigh Pieterse (eBird)
28 May	^ Eastern Spinebill	1	Elke Link (eBird)
28 May	Black-winged Stilt	1	Elke Link (eBird)
1 June	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	George Fotheringham
3 June	^ Brown Falcon	1	George Fotheringham
4 June	^ Red-browed Finch	3	Hannes Loots (eBird)
4 June	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Hannes Loots (eBird)
Sub-Total			15 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			65 Species

^ This species also seen on today's bird count or recorded more than once in Opportunistic Sightings above



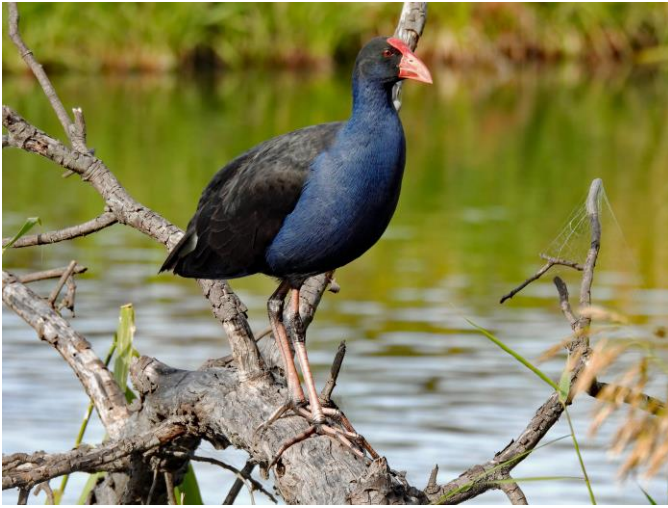
A pair of Australasian Shoveler on the large freshwater lake. The male that was first seen in the May survey has been joined by a female. They departed on or just after 21 May according to the eBird records above.



The female Musk Duck that has been in the park for almost 6 months



Male Darter



Purple Swamphens



Eurasian Coots



Pied Currawong



Welcome Swallow



Sauder's Case Moth *Metura elongatus*



Moth, possibly Genus *Trichiocercus*



**Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*
Fortunately, seen alive more often rather than dead**

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz