

# Westgate Park Bird Count

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>By:</b> Rob Youl, Andrea Garcia, Jackie Kerr             | <b>Date:</b> Monday 3 July 2023 |
| <b>Weather:</b> Overcast, calm, gradually clearing – 8° Cel |                                 |
| <b>Coverage:</b> Entire survey route completed              | <b>Times :</b> 0840 - 1315      |

| Species                    | Number seen | Species                          | Number seen                   |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Brown Quail</i>         |             | <i>Galah</i>                     |                               |
| Black Swan                 |             | <i>Little Corella</i>            |                               |
| Australian Shelduck        |             | <i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>  |                               |
| Australian Wood Duck       |             | <i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>          | <b>13 + 2*</b>                |
| Pink-eared Duck            |             | <i>Budgerigar</i>                |                               |
| Musk Duck                  |             | <i>Musk Lorikeet</i>             |                               |
| Grey Teal                  |             | <i>Little Lorikeet</i>           |                               |
| Chestnut Teal              |             | <i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>   |                               |
| Pacific Black Duck         | <b>4</b>    | <i>Eastern Rosella</i>           |                               |
| Hardhead                   | <b>6</b>    | <i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i> |                               |
| Australasian Grebe         | <b>3</b>    | <i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>         |                               |
| Hoary-headed Grebe         | <b>2</b>    | <i>Southern Boobook</i>          |                               |
| <i>Rock Dove</i>           | <b>2</b>    | <i>Barn Owl</i>                  |                               |
| <i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i> | <b>1</b>    | <i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>         |                               |
| <i>Common Bronzewing</i>   |             | <i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>         | <b>96 (incl 12 blue) + 4*</b> |
| <i>Crested Pigeon</i>      |             | <i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>    | <b>3</b>                      |
| Darter                     |             | <i>Brown Thornbill</i>           |                               |
| Little Pied Cormorant      | <b>2*</b>   | <i>Spotted Pardalote</i>         | <b>6</b>                      |
| Great Cormorant            |             | <i>Eastern Spinebill</i>         |                               |
| Little Black Cormorant     | <b>3*</b>   | <i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>   | <b>28</b>                     |
| Pied Cormorant             |             | <i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>  |                               |
| Australian Pelican         |             | <i>Little Wattlebird</i>         | <b>5</b>                      |
| Eastern Great Egret        |             | <i>Red Wattlebird</i>            | <b>50 + 4*</b>                |
| White-faced Heron          |             | <i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>    | <b>37</b>                     |
| Nankeen Night-Heron        |             | <i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i> |                               |
| Australian White 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>         | <b>4</b>                      |
| Collared Sparrowhawk       |             | <i>Pied Currawong</i>            | <b>3</b>                      |
| Little Eagle               |             | <i>Grey fantail</i>              |                               |
| Nankeen Kestrel            |             | <i>Willie Wagtail</i>            | <b>3</b>                      |
| Brown Falcon               |             | <i>Little Raven</i>              | <b>10 + 1*</b>                |
| Australian Hobby           |             | <i>Satin Flycatcher</i>          |                               |
| Peregrine Falcon           |             | <i>Magpie-lark</i>               | <b>1</b>                      |
| Purple Swamphen            | <b>7</b>    | <i>Flame Robin</i>               |                               |
| Buff-banded Rail           |             | <i>Golden-headed Cisticola</i>   |                               |
| Baillon's Crake            |             | <i>Australian Reed-Warbler</i>   |                               |
| Australian Spotted Crake   |             | <i>Little Grassbird</i>          | <b>1</b>                      |

|  |                  |                            |  |
|--|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Black-tailed Native-hen  |                  | <i>Silvereye</i>           |  |
| Dusky Moorhen  | <b>50</b>        | <i>Welcome Swallow</i>     | <b>90</b>                              |
| Eurasian Coot  | <b>10</b>        | <i>Tree Martin</i>         |  |
| Black-winged Stilt   |                  | <i>Common Blackbird</i>    | <b>2 + 1*</b>                          |
| Black-fronted Dotterel   |                  | <i>Common Starling</i>     | <b>25</b>                              |
| Red-kneed Dotterel   |                  | <i>Common Myna</i>         |  |
| Masked Lapwing   | <b>2</b>         | <i>Red-browed Finch</i>    |  |
| Latham's Snipe   |                  | <i>House Sparrow</i>       | <b>15</b>                              |
| Crested Tern   |                  | <i>Australasian Pipit</i>  |  |
| Pacific Gull   |                  | <i>European Greenfinch</i> |  |
| Silver Gull  | <b>60 + 120*</b> | <i>European Goldfinch</i>  | <b>3</b>                               |
| Pied Oystercatcher   |                  | <i>Noisy Miner</i>         | <b>1 Todd Road +<br/>3 CFMEU + 2 *</b> |
| <b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors...12... Land based ...21..... <b>Total</b> |                  |                            | <b>33 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: 0.98 m

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

|                         |          |                |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Silver Gull             | <b>3</b> | Red Wattlebird | <b>1</b> |
| White-Plumed Honeyeater | <b>3</b> | Willie Wagtail | <b>1</b> |
| Noisy Miner             | <b>3</b> |                |          |

The count is low because the day was unpromising, and the top guns in terms of bird identification were unavailable. Moreover, water levels are very high. Accordingly, the range of waterbirds is low. Surprisingly no teal or Black Swans were seen today.

What is pleasing, however, is the number of *Superb Fairy-wrens* and more *Spotted Pardalotes* than usual (6 is a conservative under-estimate), plus the interesting species noted by the observers below, especially the Southern Boobook.

Visitors will note the number of new nest boxes for birds and bats installed around Freshwater Lake. These were fabricated by CFMEU apprentices for WBBN

| <b>Opportunistic Sightings</b> – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys |                           |                    |                               |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Species</b>            | <b>Number seen</b> | <b>Observer</b>               |
| 10 June  | <b>Musk Duck</b>          | <b>1</b> ♀         | Ursula Dutkiewicz             |
| 10 June  | <b>Red-browed Finch</b>   | <b>4</b>           | Ursula Dutkiewicz             |
| 12 June  | European Greenfinch       | <b>1</b>           | Josh Gatchalian (eBird)       |
| 18 June  | <b>Eastern Spinebill</b>  | <b>2</b>           | Jefferson Burrow (eBird)      |
| 21 June  | Nankeen Night Heron       | <b>1</b>           | Ursula Dutkiewicz             |
| 23 June  | <b>Striated Pardalote</b> | <b>1</b>           | Cezary Carmichael (eBird)     |
| 26 June  | Grey Fantail              | <b>1</b>           | Steve Law (eBird)             |
| 26 June  | <b>Southern Boobook</b>   | <b>1</b>           | Ursula Dutkiewicz             |
| 30 June  | <b>Brown Goshawk</b>      | <b>1</b>           | Lyn Allison, Peter Parrington |
| 1 July   | Grey Teal                 | <b>2</b>           | Carl Handreck (eBird)         |
| 1 July   | Chestnut Teal             | <b>11</b>          | Carl Handreck (eBird)         |
| 1 July   | Black Swan                | <b>5</b>           | Carl Handreck (eBird)         |
| 1 July   | <b>^ Musk Duck</b>        | <b>1</b> ♀         | Carl Handreck (eBird)         |

|   |                     |   |                          |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 July  | Brown Thornbill     | 2 | Ursula Dutkiewicz        |
| 1 July  | <b>Little Eagle</b> | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz        |
| Sub-Total   |                     |   | 14 Species               |
| <b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b> |                     |   | <b><u>47 Species</u></b> |

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

All photos in this report by Ursula Dutkiewicz



*The female Musk Duck that appears to have taken up residence in the Large Freshwater Lake and Black Swans*



***Southern Boobook - a species that may take up the offer of a nest box if installed in the park***



*Immature Nankeen Night Heron and Little Eagle*



*Brown Thornbill left, and Spotted Pardalote right*