

# Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Elke Link, Chris Lester, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Ursula Dutkiewicz		Date: Monday 7 August 2023
Weather: - 10 ° Cel; 90 percent cloud cover, still, clearing		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<b>Brown Quail</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	<b>4 + 1*</b>	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	<b>22 + 5*</b>
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
<b>Musk Duck</b>	<b>1♀</b>	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	<b>4 + 4*</b>	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	<b>9</b>	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	<b>10</b>	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	<b>3</b>	<b>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</b>	<b>1 (heard)</b>
Hoary-headed Grebe	<b>10 + 2*</b>	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	<b>35</b>	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	<b>8</b>	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	<b>72 (incl 7 blue)</b>
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	<b>8</b>	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	<b>7</b>
Darter	<b>2*</b>	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	<b>3</b>
Little Pied Cormorant	<b>2*</b>	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	<b>2</b>
Great Cormorant	<b>1*</b>	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	<b>30</b>
Little Black Cormorant	<b>5*</b>	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant	<b>4*</b>	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	<b>14 + 6*</b>
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	<b>43 + 2*</b>
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	<b>36 + 2*</b>
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Australian White Ibis	<b>4</b>	<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	<b>6 + 1*</b>
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	<b>3</b>
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	<b>4</b>
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	<b>16</b>
Australian Hobby		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	<b>10 + 2*</b>
Purple Swamphen	<b>4</b>	<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Rose Robin</i>	

Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	1
Dusky Moorhen	50	Silvereye	
Eurasian Coot	23 + 7*	Welcome Swallow	70
Black-winged Stilt	2	Tree Martin	1
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Common Blackbird	5
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	35
Masked Lapwing	1	Common Myna	2
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	12
Crested Tern	2*	House Sparrow	23 + 15*
Pacific Gull		Australasian Pipit	
Silver Gull	90 + 60*	European Greenfinch	1
Pied Oystercatcher	2*	European Goldfinch	4
		Eastern Spinebill	
		Noisy Miner	4 Todd Road + 5 CFMEU + 12 within park
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors...23... Land based 29..... <b>Total</b>			<b>52 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; Common Froglet in several water bodies			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only  
Salt lake level: 0.95 m

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

Silver Gull	5	Willie Wagtail	
White-Plumed Honeyeater	2	Magpie-lark	
Red Wattlebird	8	Pied Currawong	
Noisy Miner	5	Little Raven	3
Australian Magpie		Rainbow Lorikeet	6

This survey yielded a higher numerical tally than usual. The several highlights were the return of Black-winged Stilts; a hunting Black-Shouldered Kite watching from one of bridge light standards that killed and devoured a mouse as we watched; two groups of Red-Browed Finches; two Darters on the river and accompanying full house of cormorants; the Brown Quail seen near our Todd Road entrance; and Fantailed Cuckoo clearly heard nearby by two of the survey team. Moreover, at the survey's end we observed Crested Tern and Pied Oystercatchers - one of the latter was feeding avidly in the shallows despite a broken bill.

A negative aspect was the presence of 10-20 Noisy Miners along the lakeside track between the deck and the bridge near Railway Dam; the group was putting up a very noisy chorus. We hope this presence is temporary.

As usual, a special thanks to Ursula Dutkiewicz for her very pleasing and interesting photographs.

<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 July	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	George Fotheringham
12 July	<b>Southern Boobook</b>	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
16 July	^ <b>Red-browed Finch</b>	6	Ursula Dutkiewicz
22 July	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
22 July	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
29 July	Grey Butcherbird	1	John Van Doorn (eBird)
5 August	<b>Brown Goshawk</b>	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
5 August	^ Brown Thornbill	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>5 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b>57 Species</b>

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



*Male Superb Fairy-wren with a yellow flower petal. This behavior is an indication of courtship during which he offers the petal to a female as a favor for enticing her to mate with him.*



*Little Ravens gathering nest material*



*Southern Boobook at its daytime roost in a casuarina*



***This juvenile Brown Goshawk was seen hunting in the area behind the bridge and the windmill.***



***These regurgitation pellets were found in the same location as the Brown Goshawk on August 5. The contents of fine broken bones and feathers indicate they maybe from the goshawk.***



***Red-browed Finches are becoming more plentiful in Westgate Park. Six were seen when these images were taken on July 16.***



*Little Wattlebird left and Brown Thornbill right.*



*The pair of Pied Oystercatchers feeding in the shallows on the edge of the Yarra River today. One had a broken lower mandible but appeared to still be able to feed, as shown on the left image.*

**All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz**

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