

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Toby Plant, John McRae, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Mark Stanley		Date: Monday 4 September 2023
Weather: 14 ° Cel; very windy; variable cloud cover		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1345

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	3	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck	7	<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	30 + 6*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	1	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	12	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	8 + 2*	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	16	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	2
Australasian Grebe	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	1
Hoary-headed Grebe	10 + 2*	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	6	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	7 + 5*	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	50 (inc 11 blue + 1*)
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	2	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	10
Darter	3 + 1*	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	9 + 3*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	1
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	52
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant	4*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	3
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	40 + 5* (one nest noted)
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	30 + 9*
White-necked Heron	1	<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	3
Australian White Ibis	1 - carcass	<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	1 - male
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	8
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	2
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	9 + 1*
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	18 + 3*
Australian Hobby		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	9 + 1*
Purple Swamphen	1	<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	14 + 8* (far bank)	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	32 + 6* (far bank)	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	2	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	40 + 2*
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	6 + 1*
Masked Lapwing		<i>Common Starling</i>	40 + 3*
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	5
Crested Tern	1*	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	6
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	95
Silver Gull	70 + 50*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	3
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	Park 6 + Todd Road 7 + CFMEU 4 + Nil*
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...21... Land based ...29			Total
			50 Species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – one in accustomed habitat tree; one in Casuarina near windmill. Common Froglet in some water bodies. Snakes reported			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: 0.94 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	4	Noisy Miner	4
Red Wattlebird	2	Willie Wagtail	1

Water levels have risen, with the overall species number obviously high from the survey today and the efforts of several other observers reporting on eBird over the last month. We are monitoring Noisy Miner numbers within the park. Numbers are low on today's count, but any encroachment by this species is a concern.

Some pleasant surprises: for example, the White-necked Heron on the southern chain of ponds; the four Darters, at least two of which were young birds (are we now a *dartermbase?*); the continuing presence of Red-browed Finches and the female Musk Duck; and two cuckoo species, Fan-tailed and Horsfield's Cuckoos.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
12 Aug	^ Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	George Fotheringham
13 Aug	Black-shouldered Kite	1	George Fotheringham
18 Aug	Grey Butcherbird	1	George Fotheringham
23 Aug	^ Black-shouldered Kite	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz (photo)
24 Aug	Little Corella	4	George Fotheringham
26 Aug	Australasian Shoveler	2	John Van Doorn (eBird)
28 Aug	^ Spotted Pardalote	1	Steve Law (eBird)

28 Aug	Long-billed Corella	25	Steve Law (eBird)
2 Sept	^ Golden Whistler	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz (photo)
2 Sept	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	1	Caiti G (eBird)
3 Sept	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Archer Gallaway (eBird)
3 Sept	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Archer Gallaway (eBird)
3 Sept	Musk Duck	1	Archer Gallaway (eBird)
17 Sept	^ Australian White Ibis	7	Archer Gallaway (eBird)
Sub-Total			9 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			59 Species

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

All photographs below by Ursula Dutkiewicz



White-necked Heron seen today.



The male Golden Whistler seen in the park over the last two days.



Black-shouldered Kite



Pied Currawong



Pair of Hardheads



Purple Swamphen



The Musk Duck that continues to stay in the park was not seen today - image taken on 18 Aug.



Australasian Grebes in non-breeding attire.



Red-browed finches are now regularly seen in the park



Grey Fantail



Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagentecheri* minus its tail.



Australian Emperor *Anax papuensis* dragonflies. The female behind is laying eggs.