

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Lindsay Doig, Ursula Dutkewicz</i>		Date: Monday 13 November 2023
Weather: 12 ° Cel; 5/10 cloud clearing – light breeze		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1400

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	3 + 2*	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	20
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	22 (1 nest)	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	24 (1 nest)	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	8	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	4	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	1
Australasian Grebe	6	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	1
Hoary-headed Grebe	7 + 1*	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	20 + 3*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	10 + 1*	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	110 (52 blue) + 2* (blue)
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	4	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	6
Darter		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	1
Little Pied Cormorant	1*	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Great Cormorant		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	75
Little Black Cormorant	3 + 2*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant	1	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	3
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	35 + 2*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	45 + 2*
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Australian White Ibis	1	<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>	5
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	3
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	10 (1 nest)
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	52
Australian Hobby		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	
Purple Swamphen	4	<i>Flame Robin</i>	

Buff-banded Rail		<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	15
Dusky Moorhen	17	Little Grassbird	
Eurasian Coot	27	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	13 (1 on nest)	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	35 + 2*
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	17 + 2*
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Starling</i>	<80 + 4*
Latham's Snipe		<i>Common Myna</i>	6
Crested Tern	1	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>House Sparrow</i>	5
Silver Gull	120 + 50*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	3
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	7 + 4 Todd Rd + 12 CFMEU + Nil *
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...21... Land based ...25			Total
			46 Species
Other animals: 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	6	Australian Magpie	1
Red Wattlebird	3	Little Raven	7
Noisy Miner	12	New Holland Honeyeater	3

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
5 Oct	^ Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	George Fotheringham
6 Oct	Straw-necked Ibis (flying overhead)	15	Ursula Dutkiewicz
7 Oct	Spotted Crake	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
8 Oct	Rufous Whistler	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
9 Oct	^ Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 Oct	Red-browed Finch	3	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 Oct	Musk Duck	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 Oct	European Greenfinch	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
18 Oct	White-faced Heron	1	George Fotheringham
21 Oct	Australian Hobby	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
26 Oct	^ Musk Duck (one on Yarra River)	2	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
26 Oct	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
27 Oct	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
29 Oct	^ Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
7 Nov	^ Musk Duck	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
8 Nov	Brown Quail	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)

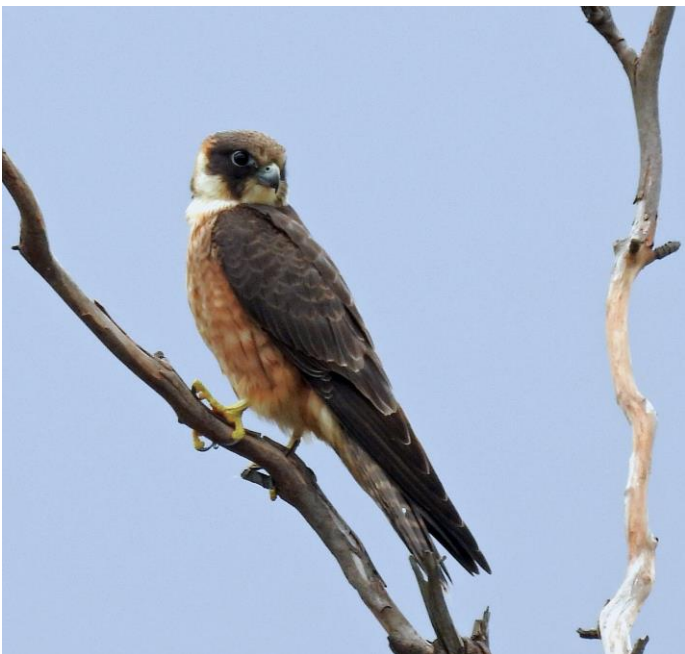
8 Nov	^ Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
9 Nov	Grey Shrike-thrush	1	Steven Waller (eBird)
11 Nov	Little Grassbird	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			13 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>59 Species</u>

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

Unless specified otherwise, all photographs below by Ursula Dutkiewicz.



Juvenile Fan-tailed Cuckoo seen at today's count and an adult calling last month.



The Australian Hobby seen on 21 October.



The Sacred Kingfisher seen on 27 October.



**Immature male Rufous Whistler
They are very occasional visitors to the park
that first appeared in October 2020**



**European Greenfinch
Numbers and frequency of sightings of these
finches have declined in recent years**



Australian Reed-Warbler left and Little Grassbird right.



**The Nankeen Night-Heron seen during today's count
– Photo by Lyn Griffen**

**One of three Red-browed Finches seen
on 11 October**



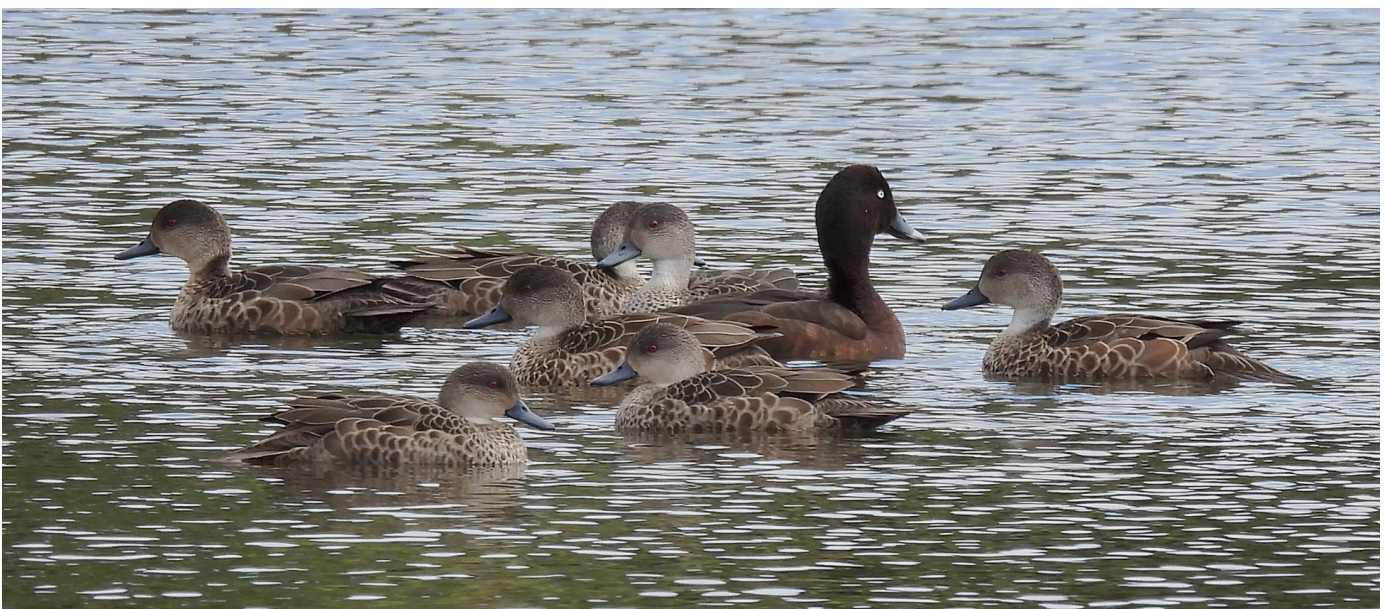
Dusky Moorhen chick and recently fledged Welcome Swallows



Pink-eared duck with two Hoary-headed Grebes



Spotted Crake feeding along the water's edge on the wetland near the compound.



Grey Teal and Hardhead



The female Musk Duck. Note the wings are small in relation to the body size, a good reason why they almost always dive to get away from danger rather than take flight.



Little Pied Cormorant



Ringtail Possum



Common Blue-tongue Skink *Tiliqua scincoides*.

Apologies for the late delivery of this report, which, thanks especially to the remarkable efforts of Ursula Dutkiewicz, clearly indicates the continuing range of interesting and sometimes unexpected birds visiting Westgate Park.

Water levels remain high, attracting more Grey Teal than usual. Stilts have returned in modest numbers, and, of unusually high numbers of Superb Fairy Wrens, almost half are 'blue' – breeding males and those seeking to breed in the future. Sightings of a Brown Quail and a Grey Shrike-thrush are very welcome, compared with a group of six or so Noisy Miners buzzing each other on the access track to the compound. Note that Noisy Miners are generally only observed along park boundaries. The female Musk Duck has been resident since last March - we are hoping a mate materializes. Interestingly, the number of Clamorous Reed-warblers has strengthened over the last 2-3 years.

Report prepared by Rob Youl robmyoul@gmail.com & Andrew McCutcheon, awmccutcheon1@bigpond.com