

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, John McRae, Ursula Dutkiewicz		Date: Monday 5 February 2024
Weather: Overcast, fresh SSW wind		20° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1340

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	1	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	6 + 2*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck	1 ♀	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	8	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	22	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	13 + 6 dy	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	5	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	1*	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	1 (CFMEU)
Hoary-headed Grebe	27	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe	1*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	2	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	9	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	50 (27 blue) + 4* (1 blue)
Common Bronzewing	1	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	9
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	1	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	3
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	2 + 9*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	15 + 3*
Great Cormorant		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	1 Todd Rd + 5 CFMEU
Little Black Cormorant	1 + 6*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Pied Cormorant		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	2*
Australian Pelican		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	34 + 1*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	5 + 2*
White-faced Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Australian White Ibis		<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>	8
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	15
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	8 + 1*
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	7 + 3*

Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	6	<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake	1	Australian Reed-Warbler	8
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	2
Dusky Moorhen	14	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	34	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	80
Pied Stilt	2	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	3
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	12 + 20*
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Myna</i>	6
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	2
Crested Tern	2*	<i>House Sparrow</i>	30 + 10*
Pacific Gull	1	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	1
Silver Gull	18 + 100*	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	3
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...23 Land based ...26			Total
			49
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; no Common Froglets heard; 1 Long-necked Turtle			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt Lake level: 0.86 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	3	Magpie-lark	1
White-Plumed Honeyeater	2	Welcome Swallow	2
Red Wattlebird	8	Little Raven	3
Noisy Miner	5	Rainbow Lorikeet	2
Australian Magpie	3	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1

Despite the poor weather conditions today, the species tally is high. The female Musk Duck may be the same bird that took residence for some months in 2023, and sightings of a Bronzewing Pigeon and an Australian Spotted Crake are of great interest.

Of the smaller birds, in recent months we have observed Brown Thornbills, Red-browed Finches and heard or seen Little Grassbirds. The Great Crested Grebe, a female, was sighted close to the eastern Yarra bank near the punt.

Finally, there were swarms of Welcome Swallows in many corners of the park.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
17 Jan	Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Elke Link (eBird)
19 Jan	^ Fan-tailed Cuckoo (juv)	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
22 Jan	^ Nankeen Night-Heron (imm)	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 Jan	Grey Butcherbird	1	Bird Dude (eBird)
23 Jan	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			3 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			52 Species

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



Great Crested Grebe on the Yarra River



Pair of Hoary-headed Grebes in non-breeding plumage



Juvenile Fan-tailed Cuckoo seen on the 18th and 19th of January.



Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo calling and juvenile?? White-browed Scrubwren



Roosting Masked Lapwing and Chestnut Teal pairs



This wetter than usual summer has been good for the Superb Fairy-wrens in raising their young



Cabbage White Butterflies are in almost plague numbers much to the delight for the fairy-wrens



Black-fronted Dotterel



Immature Nankeen Night-Heron



Common Starling



European Goldfinch



Pair of mating Blue Skimmer dragonflies



Recently fledged Willie Wagtail

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz

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