

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Elke Link		Date: Monday 4 March 2024
Weather: Clear, light wind		15-18 ° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 1*	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	22
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	4*
Grey Teal	4	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	31	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	12	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	3	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	2	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	11	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	6	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	16	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	62 incl 6 blues
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	6
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	6
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	5+ 2*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	10
Great Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Little Black Cormorant	1	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	4 + 4*
Pied Cormorant		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	33
Australian Pelican	2*	<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	7 + 5*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
White-faced Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Australian White Ibis		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	3
Whistling Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1 juv	<i>Grey fantail</i>	
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	5
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	13
Brown Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	6
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	2	<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	

Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	5
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	22	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	29	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	13
Pied Stilt	6	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	2
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	14
Masked Lapwing	2	<i>Common Myna</i>	
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	7
Crested Tern		<i>House Sparrow</i>	28
Pacific Gull	2*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Silver Gull	5 + 30*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>European Goldfinch</i>	10
		<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
		<i>Dusky Wood-swallow</i>	
		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	Nil Todd Road + 4 CFMEU + nil * + nil park
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...20... Land based ...22... Total			42 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum in usual habitat tree, with a second adult seen near Railway Dam in tree with one young; Common Froglet not heard			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt Lake level: 0.7 m (0.86 m last month)

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull		Magpie-lark	2
White-Plumed Honeyeater	1	Welcome Swallow	5
Red Wattlebird	2	Pied Currawong	
Noisy Miner	4	Little Raven	
Australian Magpie		Rainbow Lorikeet	
Willie Wagtail			

Broadly speaking, surprisingly sparse results for seemingly reasonable morning weather.

There were low numbers of Welcome Swallows and Silver Gulls, but on the other hand satisfying observations of a group of six Brown Thornbills, a similar-sized mob of Red-browed Finches, plus a young Collared Sparrowhawk. Moreover, in keeping with sightings in street trees from other parts of the South-Port area, Musk Lorikeets were browsing in yellow gums in flower along Lorimer Street. We counted four individuals, but quite likely there were other foraging groups nearby.

The Yarra River section, however, was almost devoid of birdlife around the middle of the day.

In the two-three weeks since the last survey, the level of the saltwater lake has gone down considerably. This must encourage shoreline birds such as stilts and dotterels, the latter of which numbered three, possibly four, this survey.

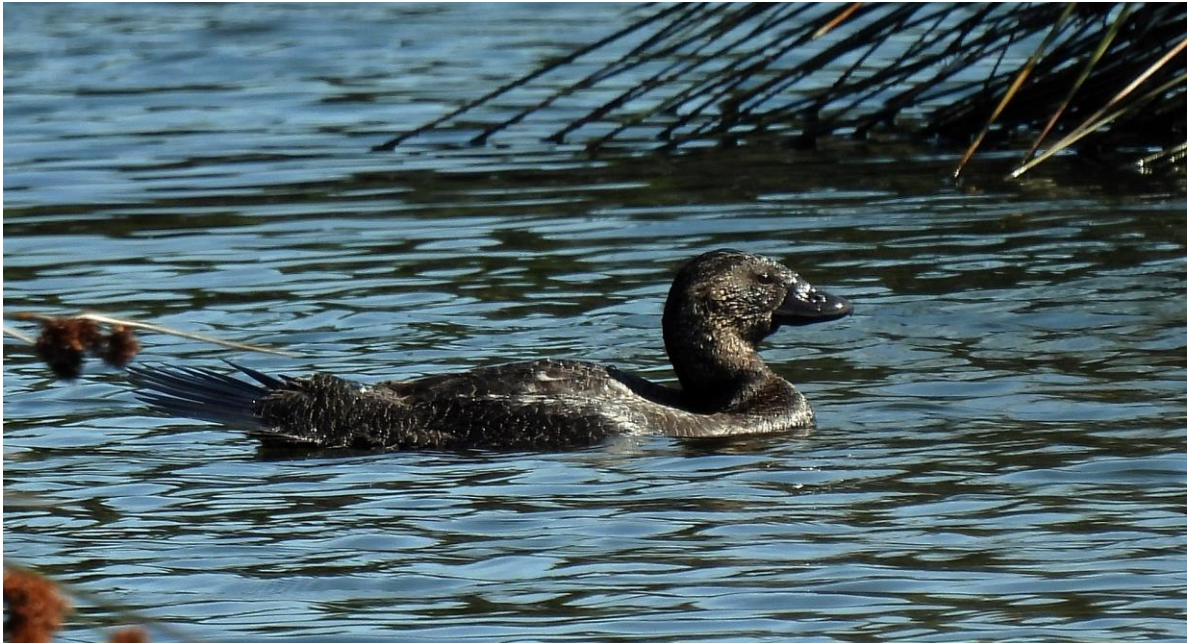
Interestingly, one of the small ponds close to Westgate Bridge is developing quite a pinkish colour.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
10 Feb	Pink-eared Duck	5	Emma Day (eBird)
10 Feb	Tree Martin	3	Emma Day (eBird)
16 Feb	Common Bronzewing	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
17 Feb	Brown Quail	1	Archer (App) (eBird)
17 Feb	Spotted Pardalote	1	Archer (App) (eBird)
17 Feb	European Greenfinch	1	Archer (App) (eBird)
17 Feb	Musk Duck	1	Andrew McConville (eBird)
17 Feb	Australian White Ibis	1	Andrew McConville (eBird)
19 Feb	^ Red-browed Finch	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
25 Feb	^ Musk Duck (female)	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
1 March	^ Red-browed Finch	6	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			8 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			50 Species

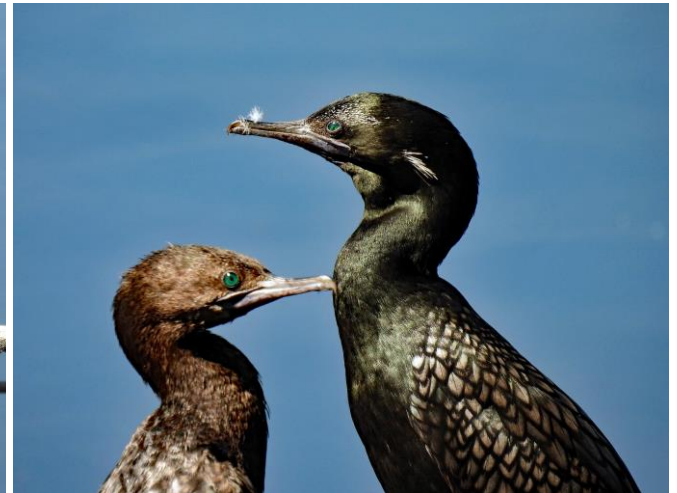
^ This species also seen on today's bird count or recorded more than once in Opportunistic Sightings above



one of the small ponds close to Westgate Bridge changing to a pinkish colour – Image by Elke Link



The female Musk Duck has again made an appearance for at least one week. This is the most recent sighting (25/2)



Little Black Cormorants. Image on the right clearly shows the bright blue-green iris.



Pair of Masked Lapwings



Australian White Ibis

All photographs on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Some recent breeding activity by Chestnut Teal and Black-winged Stilts



Common Bronzewing, seen on 16 February

All photographs on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Male Superb Fairy-wren changing back to non-breeding (brown) plumage, and Red-browed Finches seen on 19 Feb above and four of six seen on 1st March below – photos above by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Juvenile Collared Sparrowhawk, Black-winged Stilts and Black-fronted Dotterel seen today – photos by Elke Link



Australian Emperor dragonflies in 'tandem' position during egg laying



**Large spider, possibly an Australian Golden Orbweaver
photo by Ursula Dutkiewicz**



Brushtail Possum with one young – photo by Elke Link