

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Euan Moore, Elke Link, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Peter Petinatos, Jenny Petinatos, John McRae, Chris Lester, Finn Parrington		Date: Monday 3 June 2024
Weather: Overcast after early morning drizzle – clearing – no wind - 9° Cel		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1315

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 6 dy	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	70 + 16*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	2
Grey Teal	2	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	22	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	2 + 1*	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	5	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	10	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	5 + 5*	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	15	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	10	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	56 incl 3 blues
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	13
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	3	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	10
Little Pied Cormorant	2 + 4*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	35 + 3* - nesting platform observed
Great Cormorant	2*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	2
Little Black Cormorant	50*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	5 + 2*
Pied Cormorant	1*	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	70 + 1*
Australian Pelican		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	43
Eastern Great Egret		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
White-faced Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	<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	1	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	4
Whistling Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	
Collared Sparrowhawk	1*	<i>Grey fantail</i>	1
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	6
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	18
Brown Goshawk	1	<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	8

Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	5	<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Baillon's Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Australian Spotted Crake		Little Grassbird	
Black-tailed Native-hen		<i>Silvereye</i>	2
Dusky Moorhen	14	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	20
Eurasian Coot	75	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Pied Stilt		<i>Common Blackbird</i>	3
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	<i>Common Starling</i>	50
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Myna</i>	3
Masked Lapwing	2*	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	8
Latham's Snipe		<i>House Sparrow</i>	6
Crested Tern	2*	<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pacific Gull	1*	<i>European Greenfinch</i>	1
Silver Gull	55 + 100*	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	5
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	5 Todd Road + 9 CFMEU + 4 park (HWT boundary) = 18
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...23... Land based ...28... Total today			51 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; Common Froglet in several water bodies; Ringtail Possum sighted in small tree.			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake level: - 0.76 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	5	Magpie-lark	4
White-Plumed Honeyeater	2	Welcome Swallow	2
Red Wattlebird	4	Pied Currawong	
Noisy Miner	9	Little Raven	1
Australian Magpie	2	Rainbow Lorikeet	
Willie Wagtail	1	Rock Dove	12

Water levels have been slightly raised by recent showers. Whilst the weather for the survey was unprepossessing, the largest group of observers for a long while enjoyed itself greatly.

The highlights were sighting three raptor species, a Pacific Gull, a spectacular flight of 50 Little Black Cormorants, the frequency of Spotted Pardalotes and the continued good health of the latest batch of six cygnets living with their parents on the freshwater lake.

The frequency of sightings of Brown Goshawks including one in flight today, could well be they are attracted by the high numbers of bush birds present within the park, especially honeyeaters and lorikeets.

Mistletoes have been introduced into the park, by attaching them to specific host trees and shrubs by Gio Fitzpatrick. This could have an enormous potential in increasing the diversity of birds, such as the Mistletoe Bird and other fauna. It appears from the photos of two mistletoe species in this report that they are establishing well.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
8 May	^ Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
8 May	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 May	^ Red-browed Finch	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 May	^ Spotted Pardalote	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 May	Golden Whistler	1 juv	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 May	^ Brown Goshawk	1 adult	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 May	White-faced Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
15 May	Grey Butcherbird	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
25 May	^ Brown Goshawk	2	John Van Doorn (eBird)
30 May	Australian Wood Duck	4	Elke Link (eBird)
30 May	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2	Elke Link (eBird)
Sub-Total			5 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>56 Species</u>

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



Juvenile Brown Goshawk over the park today – photo by Peter Petinatos



Adult Brown Goshawk, 13 May - photos by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Gold Finches left, and Red-browed finches right, find the seeds from Drooping She-oaks a good source of food



Female Spotted Pardalote left, and juvenile Golden Whistler right – All images above by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Grey Butcherbird by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters by Elke Link



A group of fifty Little Black Cormorants flying south over the Yarra River – photo by Peter Petinatos



Three of the six Black Swan cygnets feeding on the large freshwater lake – photo by Ursula Dutkiewicz



This image although admitted by the photographer as very poor provides evidence there is at least one Buff-banded Rail in the park. A significant observation, as this species was last recorded in Westgate Park in July 2018.



Nankeen Night-Heron left, and White-faced Heron right – All photos on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



A male Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri*. Males develop a red stripe down the side of the body
photo by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Common Ringtail Possum asleep within the protective cover of a prickly Bursaria
- photo by Elke Link



Praying Mantis egg cases called an ootheca
- photo by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Grey Mistletoe *Amyema quandang*



Wireleaf Mistletoe *Amyema preissii*