

# Westgate Park Bird Count

<b>By:</b> Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Elke Link, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Chris Lester		<b>Date:</b> Monday 1 July 2024
<b>Weather:</b> Clearing after rainy night	7.5° Cel	
<b>Coverage:</b> Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	<b>2 + 5 dy</b>	<i>Little Corella</i>	<b>5</b>
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	<b>28</b>
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	<b>6</b>
Grey Teal	<b>3</b>	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	<b>20</b>	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	<b>9</b>	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	<b>6</b>	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	<b>7</b>	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	<b>5 + 2*</b>	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	<b>6</b>	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	<b>6</b>	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	<b>73 (no blues)</b>
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	<b>16</b>
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	<b>2</b>
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	<b>4</b>
Little Pied Cormorant	<b>2*</b>	<i>Striated Pardalote</i>	<b>1</b>
Great Cormorant	<b>1*</b>	<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	<b>2</b>
Little Black Cormorant	<b>3*</b>	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	<b>29</b>
Pied Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	<b>3</b>
Australian Pelican		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	<b>3 + 3*</b>
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	<b>23 + 2*</b>
White-faced Heron		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	<b>68</b>
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	<b>1</b>
Australian White Ibis		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	<b>2</b>
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Whistling Kite</i>	<b>1</b>	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	<b>7 + 2*</b>
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	<b>3</b>
Little Eagle		<i>Grey fantail</i>	<b>1</b>
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	<b>1</b>
Brown Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	<b>20</b>
<i>Australian Hobby</i>	<b>1</b>	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	<b>6 + 2*</b>
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	<b>5</b>	<i>Rose Robin</i>	

Buff-banded Rail		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Baillon's Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Australian Spotted Crake		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	25	Silvereeye	2
Eurasian Coot	64 + 2*	Welcome Swallow	15
Pied Stilt		Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel		Common Blackbird	3
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	80 + 1*
Masked Lapwing	2	Common Myna	4
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	12
Crested Tern		House Sparrow	17
Pacific Gull	1*	European Greenfinch	1
Silver Gull	60 + 150*	European Goldfinch	2
		Noisy Miner	2 Todd Road + 7 CFMEU + Nil * + 2 park
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors...18... Land based ...35...Total			<b>53 species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; Common Froglet in several water bodies; plus Australian Fur Seal in Yarra near punt			

Salt Lake level: 0.76 m

**CFMEU These are added to the park tally**

Silver Gull	6	Magpie-lark	1
White-Plumed Honeyeater		Welcome Swallow	
Red Wattlebird	5	Pied Currawong	
Noisy Miner	7	Little Raven	1
Australian Magpie	2	Rainbow Lorikeet	2
Willie Wagtail			

Despite the cold and very recent rain, the survey produced gratifying results. Especially pleasing were the numbers of small birds: Red-browed Finches seem to be increasing in number; Golden Whistlers have been present for some months now; Eastern Spinebills have returned; and as usual Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters are in the park over winter.

Moreover, raptors seem to be back. Just as rewarding are the reports and photographs, especially those from Ursula Dutkiewicz, for the month of June.

The Tasmanian Boobook *Ninox leucopsis* is a small brownish owl with dark 'glasses' surrounding yellow eyes and has more extensive spotting on the breast. It is smaller than the mainland Australian Boobook, and the range overlaps in southern Victoria during the winter when some Tasmanian Boobooks migrate north across Bass Strait. The boobook here photographed by Ursula on 5 June appears to fit the description of this subspecies.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings</b> – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
5 June	Tasmanian Boobook?	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
16 June	Musk Duck	1	John Sise (eBird)

16 June	White-faced Heron	1	John Sise (eBird)
16 June	Black-fronted Dotterel	1	John Sise (eBird)
16 June	Royal Spoonbill	1	John Sise (eBird)
16 June	Little Eagle (pale morph)	1	John Sise (eBird)
16 June	Flame Robin	1	John Sise (eBird)
16 June	Little Grassbird	1	John Sise (eBird)
17 June	^ Silvereye	3	Ursula Dutkiewicz
21 June	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
30 June	Australian White Ibis	3	Thomas Schenk (eBird)
30 June	Crested Tern	2	Elke Link (eBird)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>11 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b><u>64 Species</u></b>

\* seen at/along Yarra River only

**All images below by Ursula Dutkiewicz**

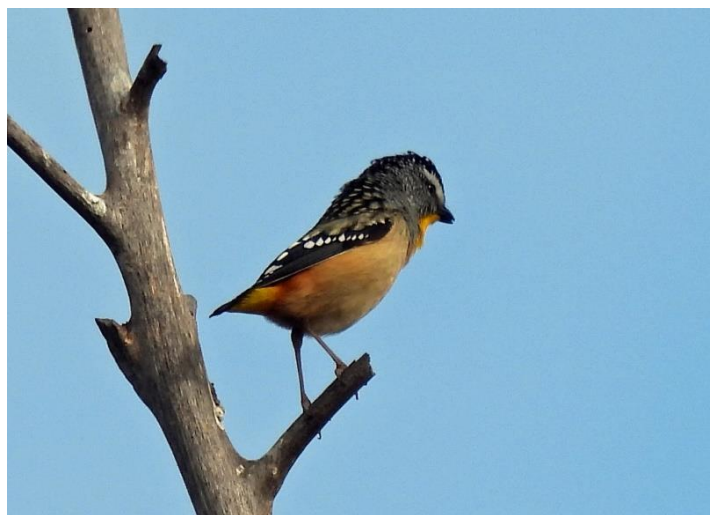




Australian Boobook, possibly the subspecies - Tasmanian Boobook (*Ninox leucopsis*). It was being harassed by many birds including the two White-plumed Honeyeaters in the left image.



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and New Holland Honeyeater with face covered in pollen



Brown Thornbill and Spotted Pardalote



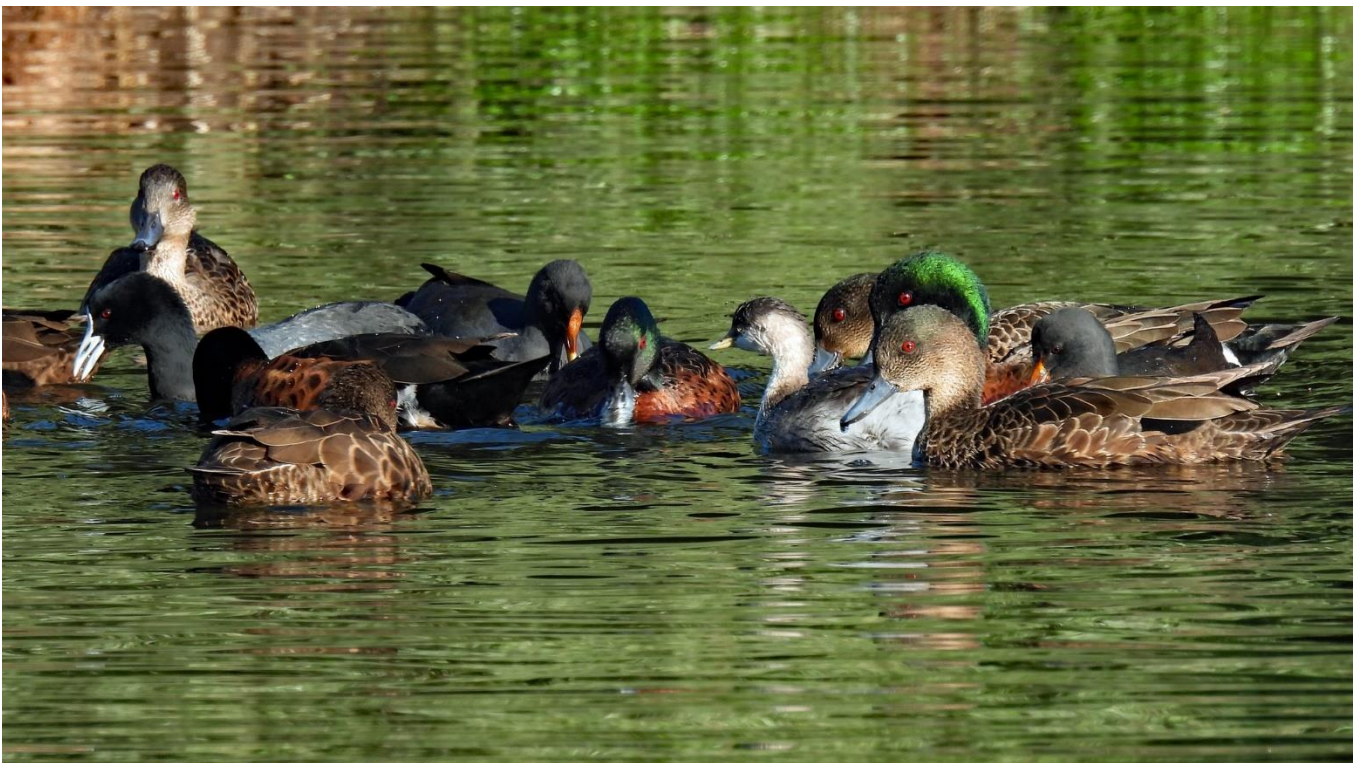
**Red-browed Finches are well established in the park with up to 15 being seen in one sighting, and the population appears to be increasing. Nest, top left indicates they are breeding.**



**Silvereyes and Golden Whistlers have been consistently present in the park since April this year.**



**Pacific Black Ducks - there were five of these ducks with four displaying like this, presumably one was a female they were trying to impress in a form of courtship.**



**10/06/2024 - There has been a feeding frenzy going on in one of the ponds on the Salt Lake North Edge. Ducks, Moorhens, and Grebes are all circling and feasting on whatever is in the water. This activity has been going on all month or at least each day I have been there this month - Ursula**



**15/06/2024- Black Swan. The black Swan was feeding on the grass near the big tree near the look out. I was photographing it and some people walked past with their dog. The Swan was not happy and attacked the dog. Luckily the owner was able to control the dog by holding the lead up. I was not expecting that to happen. Later I came back and the Cygnets were resting on the grass in the same area. On the 19/06/2024 there were still six Cygnets, on the 21/06/2024 there were only five - Ursula**



**Eurasian Coot, and Buff-banded Rail in the grass under the big tree by the Lookout Hill**



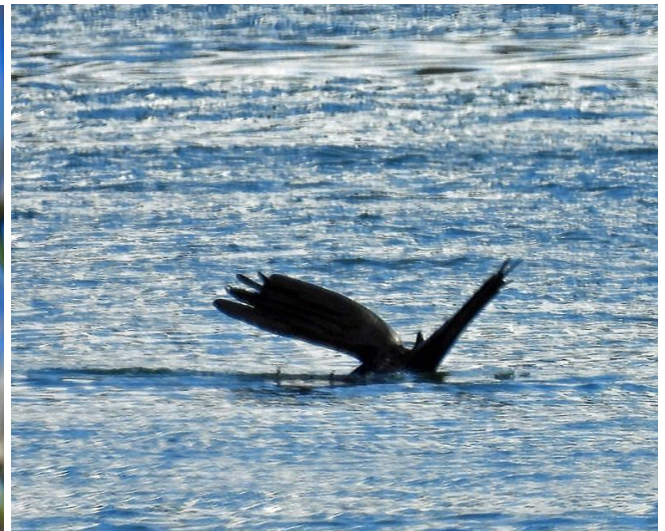
**Welcome Swallow**



**Masked Lapwing**



**Spur-throated Locust *Austracis guttulosa***



**Australian Fur Seal in the Yarra River**