

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Ursula Dutkiewicz, John McRae		Date: Monday 9 September 2024
Weather: Clouding over – slight SW breeze – 12.9° Cel		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1320

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail		Galah	
Black Swan	2 + 4 dy	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	24
Pink-eared Duck		Budgerigar	
Musk Duck		Musk Lorikeet	
Grey Teal		Little Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	23	Eastern Rosella	
Pacific Black Duck	5	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Hardhead	6	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe	5	Southern Boobook	
Hoary-headed Grebe	11 + 3*	Barn Owl	
Great Crested Grebe		Sacred Kingfisher	
Rock Dove	3 + 2*	Superb Fairy-wren	64 (incl 16 blue)
Spotted Turtle-Dove	6	White-browed Scrubwren	8
Common Bronzewing		Brown Thornbill	
Crested Pigeon		Spotted Pardalote	3
Darter		Eastern Spinebill	
Little Pied Cormorant	1*	White-plumed Honeyeater	35
Great Cormorant	9*	Noisy Miner	6 Todd Rd + 7 CFMEU + 3* + 4 in park
Little Black Cormorant	10*	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	
Pied Cormorant		Little Wattlebird	6 + 2*
Australian Pelican		Red Wattlebird	59 + 11*
Eastern Great Egret		New Holland Honeyeater	43 + 4*
White-faced Heron		White-naped Honeyeater	
Nankeen Night-Heron		Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Australian White Ibis	5	White-winged Triller	
Straw-necked Ibis		Golden Whistler	
Royal Spoonbill		Grey Shrike-thrush	
Black-shouldered Kite	1	Grey Butcherbird	1
Whistling Kite		Australian Magpie	4
Brown Goshawk	1	Pied Currawong	2
Little Eagle		Rufous Fantail	
Nankeen Kestrel		Grey fantail	20
Brown Falcon		Willie Wagtail	1
Australian Hobby		Little Raven	10 (inc nest) + 6*

Peregrine Falcon		Magpie-lark	10 + 2*
Purple Swamphen	4	Flame Robin	
Buff-banded Rail		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	2
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	1
Dusky Moorhen	18	Silvereye	
Eurasian Coot	51	Welcome Swallow	55
Pied Stilt	2	Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	Common Blackbird	4
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	52 + 1*
Masked Lapwing		Common Myna	5
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	10
Crested Tern		House Sparrow	3
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	
Silver Gull	130 + 30*	European Goldfinch	2
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors 20 - Land based 25 Total			45 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – in usual hollow. Common Froglet calling in railway dam. One Grey Fruit-bat sighted. Several Tiger Snake reports.			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: - 0.8 m Freshwater Lake level: - 0.72 m

CFMEU - These are added to the park tally

Rainbow Lorikeet	4	Red Wattlebird	10
Noisy Miner	7	Silver Gull	11
Little Wattlebird	1		

Recent moderate rains have raised water levels in both major lakes. The Powerful Owl recorded in August remained in the park a few more days, but has not been observed since 12 August. On this overcast and windy day, overall bird numbers and diversity was still substantial. Several species appeared to be preparing to breed.

One concern: few Willie Wagtails have been seen during the last surveys. With demolition operations next door at the former HWT Plant, Noisy Miners may be being forced into the park.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
6 August	European Greenfinch	3	Tom Perrett (eBird)
7 August	^ Spotted Pardalote ♀	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 August	^ Black-shouldered Kite	1	Jonathan Tickner (eBird)
11 August	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	4	Jonathan Tickner (eBird)
11 August	Brown Thornbill	1	Jonathan Tickner (eBird)
11 August	Silvereye	1	Jonathan Tickner (eBird)
11 August	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
12 August	Powerful Owl	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 August	Australian Wood Duck	2	Martin Butterfield (eBird)
14 August	^ Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz

19 August	Golden Whistler ♀	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
24 August	^ Brown Thornbill	1	Javiera Reyes Caceres (eBird)
26 August	Musk Duck ♀	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
5 September	White-necked Heron	1	Peter Parrington, Rob Youl
5 September	^ Red-browed Finch	5	Peter Parrington, Rob Youl
5 September	^ Grey Fantail	10	Peter Parrington, Rob Youl
Sub-Total			10 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>55 Species</u>

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



Female Spotted Pardalote seen on 7 August



Mistletoe in flower. Hopefully recently established mistletoe plants will soon attract Mistletoe Birds to the park



Grey Fantails were present in high numbers on the day of the survey



This immature Golden Whistler has remained in the park for at least four months



This Powerful Owl is a male which can be distinguished by the broad and flatter top of head. The female has a rounder more narrow head



The Powerful Owl roosting in the same place as on the previous Monday, the day of our monthly survey. It has not been seen since 12 August, when this photo was taken.



Male Superb Fairy-wren in full blue plumage. In July no blue males were recorded despite a high count of 73 birds



White-browed Scrubwren



The first Australian Reed-Warblers have returned to the park on 26 August, just before the start of spring.



The first pair of Black-fronted Dotterels seen for a while. Perhaps a sign they may breed here in the park some time soon. Over the previous four months only a single bird was ever recorded



Tiger Snake "it hissed at me to alert me of its presence as I stepped around a log. It was 9.30 am and overcast at the time. I slowly backed away as it remained watching me as I did. I waited until I was a safe distance away and then took it's photo."- Ursula



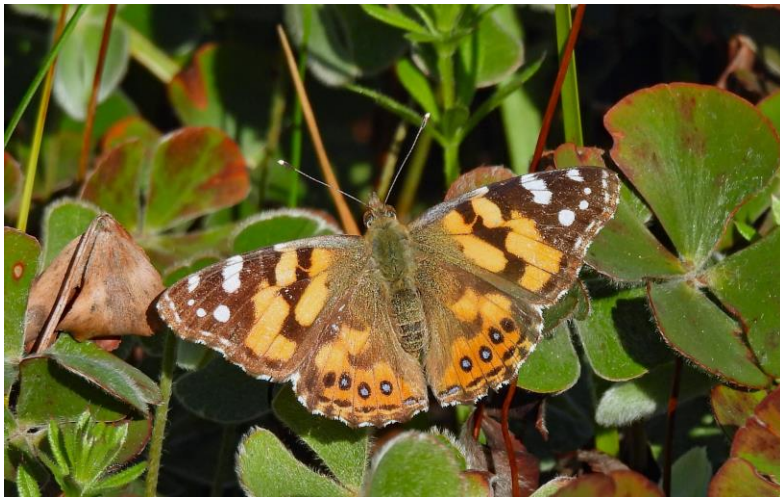
Close-up of the Tiger Snake in a defensive pose, ready to strike



Tau Emerald (*Hemicordula tau*) dragonfly



Only a single Grey-headed Fruit Bat was seen today.
On the August survey eight were counted roosting in the park



Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*



Long-tailed Pea-blue *Lampides boeticus*

All photographs by Ursula Dutkiewicz

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