

# Westgate Park Bird Count

<b>By:</b> Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Ursula Dutkiewicz, John McRae, Chris Lester, Jenny and Peter Petinatos, Elke Link, Mark Stanley		<b>Date:</b> Monday 7 October 2024
<b>Weather:</b> Clouding over – 10/10; NW wind, brief drizzle – 15° Cel		
<b>Coverage:</b> Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1340

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 4 dy	<i>Little Corella</i>	2
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	21
Pink-eared Duck		<b>Blue-winged Parrot</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Musk Duck</b>	<b>1 ♀</b>	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	5	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	15	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	5	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	12	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	3	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	8 + 1*	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	6 + 2*	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	9 + 1*	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	49 (incl 21 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	6
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	3	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
<b>Darter</b>	<b>1*</b>	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	1
Little Pied Cormorant	1*	<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
Great Cormorant	2*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	38 + 4*
			1 Todd Road + 11 CFMEU + 8* + Nil in park
Little Black Cormorant	2*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	
Pied Cormorant	1*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	3 + 2*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	48
White-faced Heron	1	<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	37 + 2*
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis	47 + 7* (all but one flying over)	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<b>White-winged Triller</b>	<b>1 ♀</b>
Royal Spoonbill		<b>Golden Whistler</b>	<b>1 immature</b>
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	1
Brown Goshawk		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	7 + 3*
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
<b>Nankeen Kestrel</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Rufous Fantail</i>	
Brown Falcon		<i>Grey fantail</i>	2

Australian Hobby		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	5
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	10 (incl nest) + 18
Purple Swamphen	6	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	8
<b>Buff-banded Rail</b>	<b>1</b>	<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	13
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	1
Dusky Moorhen	17	<i>Silvereye</i>	<b>4</b>
Eurasian Coot	80 + 6*	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	20
Pied Stilt	9	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	7
<b>Red-necked stint</b>	<b>1*</b>	<i>Common Starling</i>	26 + 30*
Masked Lapwing	2 + 1*	<i>Common Myna</i>	7
<b>Pied Oystercatcher</b>	<b>2*</b>	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	<b>12</b>
Crested Tern		<i>House Sparrow</i>	8 + 10*
Pacific Gull		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	9
Silver Gull	50 + 70*	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	10 + 3*
<b>Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent &amp; Raptors 29 ... Land-based 32</b>			<b>Total</b>
			<b>61 species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Brush-tailed Possum absent from usual hollow. Common Froglet calling in railway dam. One Grey-Headed Fruit Bat sighted.			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: - 0.8 m; Freshwater Lake level: n/a

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

Rock Dove	2	White-plumed Honeyeater	11
Rainbow Lorikeet	7	Australian Magpie	2
Noisy Miner	11	Pied Currawong	
Willie Wagtail	1	Little Raven	2
Red Wattlebird	5	Silver Gull	6

Continuing moderate rains have maintained water levels in both major lakes. On this overcast and windy day, overall numbers were exceptional, with some rarities encountered. Several species appeared to be breeding. There is quite a lot of recent algal growth in the freshwater lake.

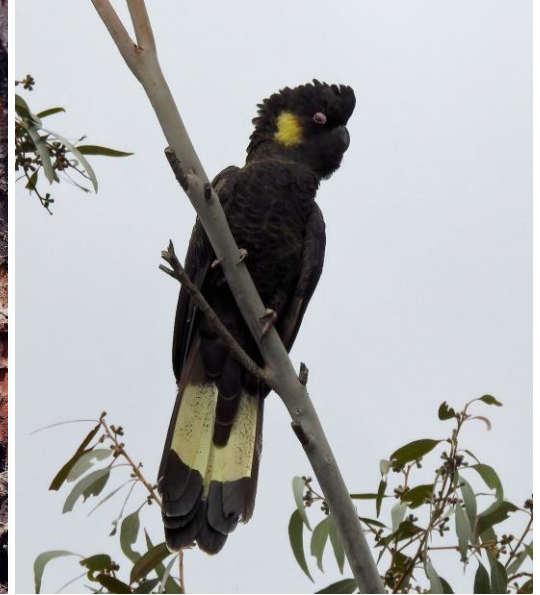
A high number of species that are only occasionally seen have been recorded on today's survey, the most notable being a Blue-winged Parrot, White-winged Triller, Red-necked Stint and a pair of Pied Oystercatchers along the Yarra River. Sightings by our photographer Ursula and those recorded on eBird for September are no less impressive. They include a Pink-eared Duck, 20 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, White-necked Heron and Intermediate Egret in breeding plumage.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys</b>			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
11 September	<b>Pink-eared Duck</b>	<b>1</b>	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
11 September	<b>^ Buff-banded Rail</b>	<b>2</b>	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
11 September	Crested Tern	<b>2</b>	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
11 September	<b>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</b>	<b>1</b>	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
11 September	Brown Thornbill	<b>1</b>	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)

11 September	^ Silvereye	8	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
20 September	<b>Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo</b>	<b>20</b>	Ursula Dutkiewicz
29 September	<b>White-necked Heron</b>	<b>1</b>	Elke Link (eBird)
30 September	<b>Brown Quail</b>	<b>2</b>	Steve Law (eBird)
30 September	^ European Greenfinch	4	Steve Law (eBird)
30 September	<b>Intermediate Egret</b>	<b>1</b>	Ursula Dutkiewicz
1 October	<b>Eastern Spinebill</b>	<b>1</b>	John Arbon (eBird)
1 October	^ Brown Thornbill	1	John Arbon (eBird)
1 October	<b>Australasian Shoveler</b>	<b>2</b>	Geoff Hill (eBird)
1 October	^ <b>Buff-banded Rail</b>	<b>1</b>	Geoff Hill (eBird)
1 October	Musk Lorikeet	<b>12</b>	Geoff Hill (eBird)
2 October	<b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>1</b>	Brendan Doohan (eBird)
2 October	Galah	<b>2</b>	Brendan Doohan (eBird)
2 October	Long-billed Corella	<b>1</b>	Brendan Doohan (eBird)
2 October	^ Musk Lorikeet	<b>6</b>	Brendan Doohan (eBird)
2 October	^ Silvereye	<b>6</b>	Brendan Doohan (eBird)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>14 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b><u>75 Species</u></b>

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





**A flock of about twenty Yellow tailed Black Cockatoos feasting in Black Wattles between the compound and Woodlands Walk. The bird on the left is about to consume a beetle larvae (their favourite food) extracted from a wattle.**



**Boisterous group of White-plumed Honeyeaters  
Images by Peter Petinatos**



**Female White-winged Triller**



**A curious Pied Currawong keeping a safe distance from a Tiger Snake, which it disturbed. The snake's tail is just visible on the right.**



**Intermediate Egret almost in full breeding plumage in the dam. In full breeding attire the bill becomes red and the facial skin bright green.**

**This egret species is very rarely seen in the park. The only previous record (since 2007) was in February 2012**



**White-faced Heron**



**Masked Lapwing pair**



**Little Grassbird**



**Although not seen in large numbers over the last few months Welcome Swallows are breeding in the park**



**European Goldfinch and European Greenfinch collecting nest making material  
Higher than usual numbers of both species were recorded today**



**Immature Golden Whistler**



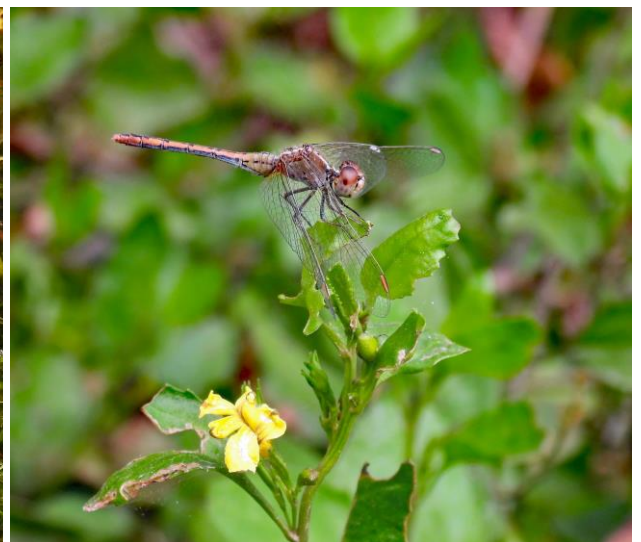
**Black-shouldered Kite**



**Blue Ant *Diamma bicolor*. Wingless female left and male right**



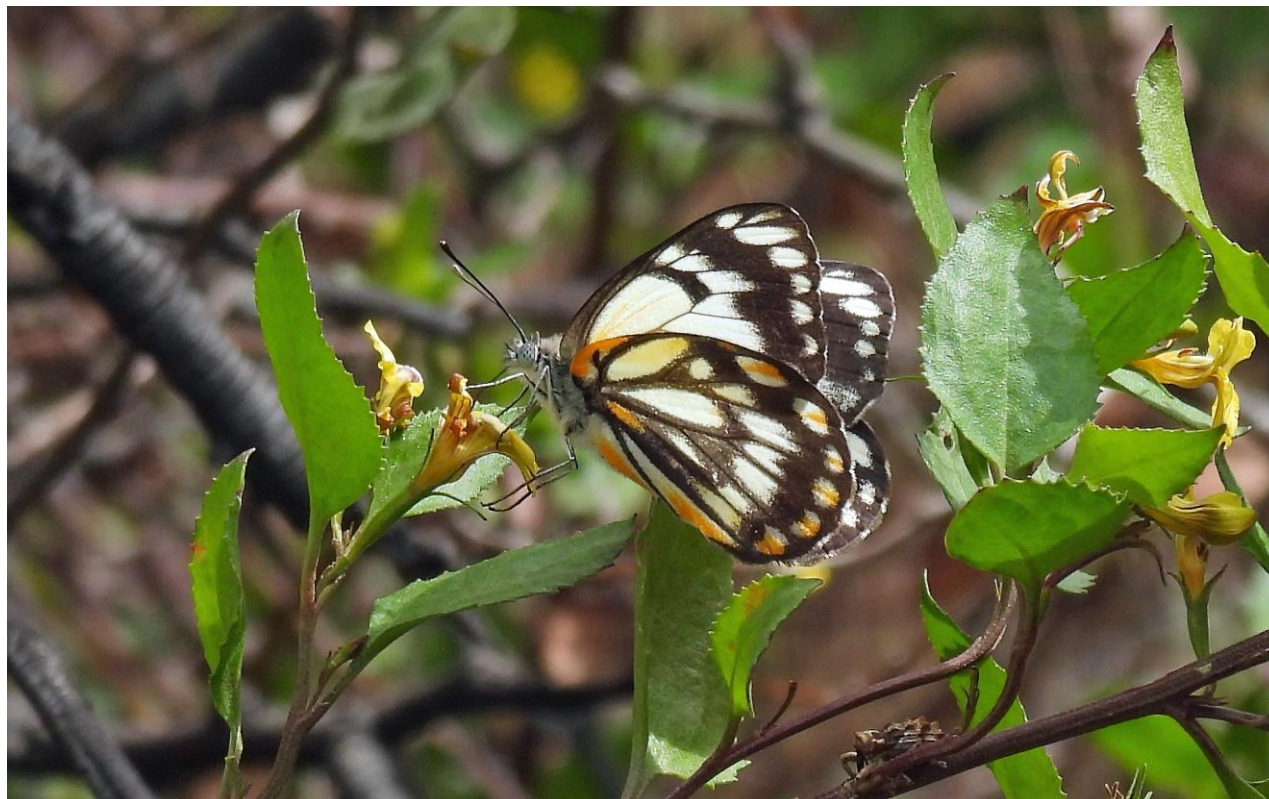
**Australian Emperor *Anax papuensis* laying eggs (female at rear). Note a Damselfly also laying eggs on lower right**



**Wandering Percher *Diplacodes bipunctata* (female) on a Goodenia**



**Long-tailed Pea Blue** *Lampides boeticus*



**One of the earliest Caper Whites** *Belenois java* to arrive in Melbourne after migrating from the drier inland regions where they breed on *Capparis* larval food plants

**Unless specified otherwise, all photographs above by Ursula Dutkiewicz**