

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Ursula Dutkiewicz, John McRae, Elke Link, Andrew McCutcheon		Date: Monday 4 November 2024
Weather: Light SW breeze, cloud gradually lifting – 14° Cel		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1350

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail		Galah	3
Black Swan	2 + 3 juv; 6*	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	22
Pink-eared Duck		Budgerigar	
Musk Duck		Musk Lorikeet	
Grey Teal	5	Little Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	31 + 3*	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Pacific Black Duck	6	Eastern Rosella	
Hardhead	4	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe	1	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Hoary-headed Grebe	13 + 1*	Southern Boobook	
Great Crested Grebe		Barn Owl	
Rock Dove	40 + 1*	Sacred Kingfisher	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	21	Superb Fairy-wren	45 (26 blue) + 2*
Common Bronzewing		White-browed Scrubwren	15
Crested Pigeon	3	Brown Thornbill	
Darter		Spotted Pardalote	
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 1*	Eastern Spinebill	
Great Cormorant	1 juv*	White-plumed Honeyeater	29 + 4*
Little Black Cormorant	7*	Noisy Miner	5 Todd Road + 16 CFMEU + 5* + 1 park = 27
Pied Cormorant		Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	
Australian Pelican		Little Wattlebird	2 + 2*
Eastern Great Egret		Red Wattlebird	31 + 5*
White-faced Heron	1	New Holland Honeyeater	23
Nankeen Night-Heron		White-naped Honeyeater	
Australian White Ibis	9 + 1* overhead; 2 on ground	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Straw-necked Ibis		White-winged Triller	
Royal Spoonbill		Rufous Whistler	1
Black-shouldered Kite	1	Grey Shrike-thrush	
Whistling Kite		Grey Butcherbird	1
Brown Goshawk		Australian Magpie	5 + 2*
Little Eagle		Pied Currawong	2 nesting
Nankeen Kestrel	1	Rufous Fantail	
Brown Falcon		Grey fantail	

Australian Hobby	1	Willie Wagtail	5 (1 on nest)
Peregrine Falcon		Little Raven	27 + 4*
Purple Swamphen	3	Magpie-lark	10 + 1*
Buff-banded Rail		Flame Robin	
Australian Spotted Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Australian Reed-Warbler	10
Dusky Moorhen	5	Little Grassbird	2
Eurasian Coot	70 + 4 chicks on nest	Silvereye	
Pied Stilt	9	Welcome Swallow	35 + 2*
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	Common Blackbird	11
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	6
Masked Lapwing	2 + 2*	Common Myna	4
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	6
Crested Tern		House Sparrow	13
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	1
Silver Gull	120 + 50*	European Goldfinch	4
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors .24... Land based .27. Total			51 species
<p>Other animals: 2 Brush-tailed Possum – one in usual hollow and one in a she-oak near dam. Common Froglet calling in railway dam and from north boundary ponds. Approx 10 Common Brown <i>Heteronympha merope</i> butterflies emerging earlier than usual, and 2 Tailed Emperor <i>Polyura sempronius</i> butterflies.</p>			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: - 0.75 m

Freshwater Lake level: - 0.65 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Welcome Swallow	4	White-plumed Honeyeater	3
Rainbow Lorikeet	2	Australian Magpie	2
Noisy Miner	16	Pied Currawong	
Little Raven	3	Magpie-lark	1
Red Wattlebird	4	Silver Gull	15
New Holland Honeyeater	4	Willie Wagtail	1

The park is becoming very dry after little or no rain over the last 2-3 weeks, but the water in all the main water bodies – large freshwater lake, saltwater lakes, dam and Horseshoe Lake remain at a high level.

Although the Rufous Whistler was the only unusual sighting today, there were a lot more seen during October including a Great Crested Grebe in the freshwater lake, covey of of elusive Brown Quail which were seen with 8 chicks crossing the walking track alongside the container terminal, a Common Sandpiper along the Yarra River, a Sacred Kingfisher reported twice during the month and a White-necked Heron.

Ursula Dutkiewicz observed on an earlier visit a large mob of Noisy Miners by the Large Freshwater Lake. Hopefully this does not happen frequently as smaller birds could be driven off by too much Noisy Miner intrusion and activity.

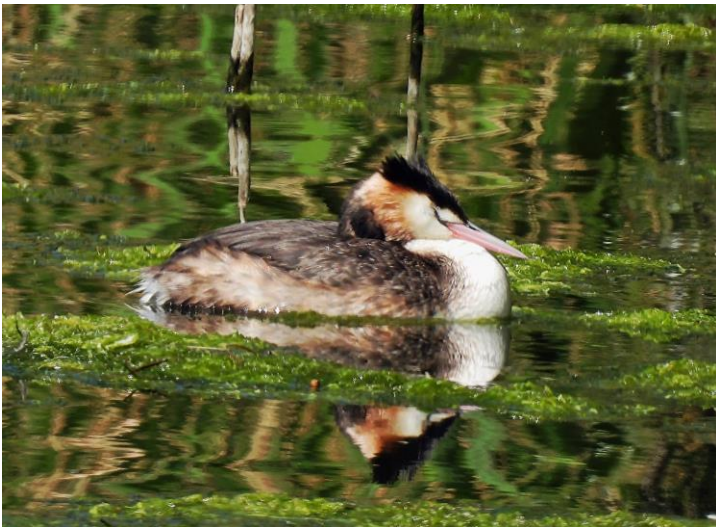
On the night of Sunday 3 November vandals lit a fire alongside the entry track. Apparently, it was quickly extinguished, as there were no hotspots the next morning when the survey team arrived.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
9 October	Musk Duck	1	Steve Law (eBird)
9 October	Brown Thornbill	1	Steve Law (eBird)
9 October	^ European Greenfinch	4	Steve Law (eBird)
11 October	Great Crested Grebe	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
12 October	Brown Quail	2 + 8 chicks	Andrea Lie & Kev Bates (eBird)
12 October	Common Sandpiper	1	Andrea Lie & Kev Bates (eBird)
13 October	^ Black-shouldered Kite	1	Russell Scott (eBird)
13 October	^ Nankeen Kestrel	1	Russell Scott (eBird)
14 October	White-necked Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
14 October	^ Galah	2	Tom Perrett (eBird)
15 October	Sacred Kingfisher	1	Tom Perrett (eBird)
15 October	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Tom Perrett (eBird)
16 October	Grey Fantail	1	Tristan Meffre (eBird)
21 October	^ Sacred Kingfisher	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 October	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 October	Cattle Egret	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
27 October	^ Musk Duck	1	Ian Moore (eBird)
28 October	White-faced Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			12 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>63 Species</u>

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



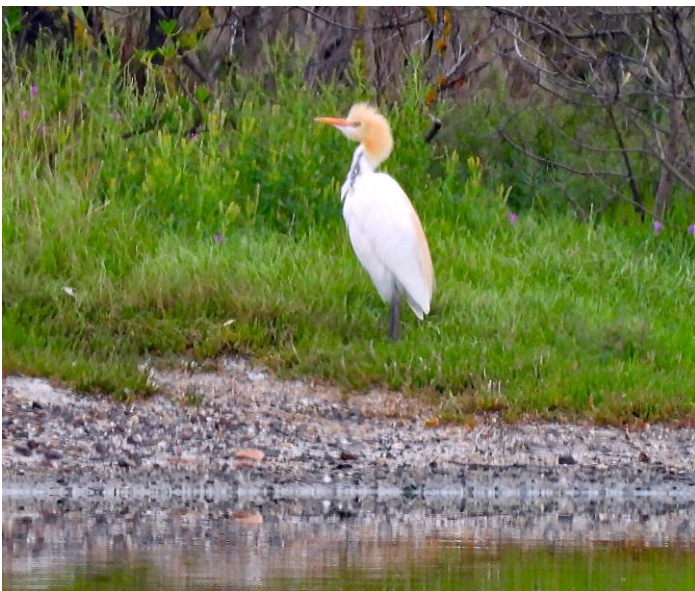
Black-winged Stilts on edge of the saltwater lake



**A single Great Crested Grebe resting on the Fresh water lake.
This is the first record of this species within Westgate Park since these regular monthly surveys begun in
March 2007**



White Necked Heron on the western edge of the Salt Water Lake



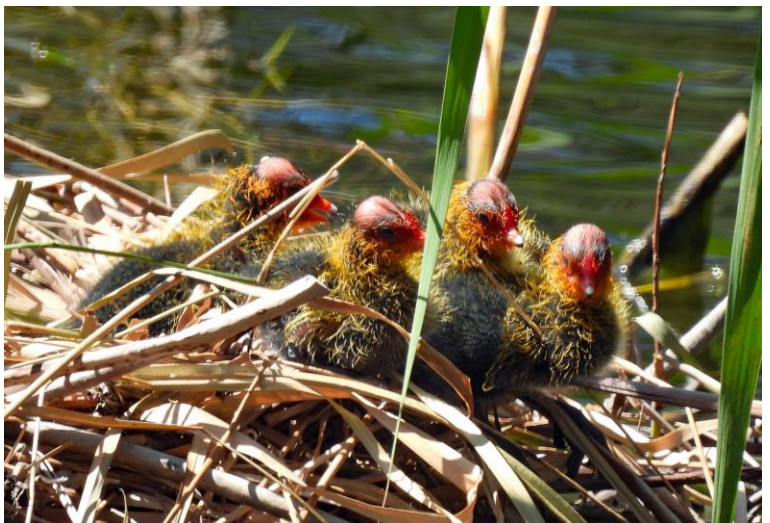
Cattle Egret



White-faced Heron



Willie Wagtail on nest over the edge of the freshwater lake and Pied Currawong on nest near BBQ shelter



Eurasian Coot on nest and four recently hatched chicks on edge of the large freshwater lake



Black-shouldered Kite that has been in the park for at least two months



© Elke Link

The Australian Hobby seen flying high over the park today – photo by Elke Link



Australian Reed-Warbler in full song



Common Brushtail Possum well hidden in a she-oak near the dam – Photo by Andrew McCutcheon



Tailed Emperor *Polyura sempronius*. Two of these large butterflies were attracted to a dying Black Wattle. These uncommon butterflies have a fast and powerful flight, and are readily attracted to fermenting juices from rotting fruit or sap exuding from the trunks of trees, as is the case with this wattle. In the image on the lower right the arrow is pointing to an ant biting the proboscis of this butterfly while sucking sap. The butterfly showed no signs of irritation or concern. - Photos by Andrew McCutcheon



Native bee on Australian Pig Face *Carpobrotus rossi* flower



Male Caper White *Belonoides java*



Male Common Brown *Heteronympha merope*
This is an unusually early emergence of these butterflies,
which is typically later in November or early December
- Photo by Andrew McCutcheon

Unless specified otherwise, all photographs above by Ursula Dutkiewicz