

Westgate Park Bird Count

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| By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Euan Moore, Peter and Jenny Petinatos, Chris Lester, Elke Link, Finn Parrington | | Date: Monday 2 December 2024 |
| Weather: Cirrus clouds, still air, later a rising breeze – 20-28° | | |
| Coverage: Entire survey route completed | | Times: 0840 - 1330 |

| Species | Number seen | Species | Number seen |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brown Quail | | <i>Galah</i> | |
| Black Swan | 6 | <i>Little Corella</i> | |
| Australian Shelduck | | <i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i> | |
| Australian Wood Duck | | <i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i> | 19 |
| Pink-eared Duck | | <i>Budgerigar</i> | |
| Musk Duck | | <i>Musk Lorikeet</i> | |
| Grey Teal | 3 | <i>Little Lorikeet</i> | |
| Chestnut Teal | 41 | <i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i> | |
| Pacific Black Duck | 3 | <i>Eastern Rosella</i> | |
| Hardhead | 9 | <i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i> | |
| Australasian Grebe | 1 | <i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i> | |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | 13 + 3* | <i>Southern Boobook</i> | |
| Great Crested Grebe | 1 | <i>Barn Owl</i> | |
| <i>Rock Dove</i> | 27 | <i>Sacred Kingfisher</i> | |
| <i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i> | 13 | <i>Superb Fairy-wren</i> | 37 (inc 18 blue) |
| <i>Common Bronzewing</i> | | <i>White-browed Scrubwren</i> | 7 |
| <i>Crested Pigeon</i> | 2 | <i>Brown Thornbill</i> | 1 |
| Darter | | <i>Spotted Pardalote</i> | |
| Little Pied Cormorant | 2 + 3* | <i>Eastern Spinebill</i> | |
| Great Cormorant | 3 + 2* | <i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i> | 23 |
| Little Black Cormorant | 2* | | 1 Todd Road + 10 CFMEU + 1 park = 12 |
| Pied Cormorant | 1* | <i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i> | |
| Australian Pelican | | <i>Little Wattlebird</i> | 2 |
| Eastern Great Egret | | <i>Red Wattlebird</i> | 14 + 2* |
| White-faced Heron | | <i>New Holland Honeyeater</i> | 3 |
| Nankeen Night-Heron | 2 | <i>White-naped Honeyeater</i> | |
| Australian White Ibis | 13 | <i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i> | |
| Straw-necked Ibis | | <i>White-winged Triller</i> | |
| Royal Spoonbill | | <i>Golden Whistler</i> | |
| Black-shouldered Kite | | <i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i> | |
| Whistling Kite | | <i>Grey Butcherbird</i> | |
| Brown Goshawk | | <i>Australian Magpie</i> | 6 |
| Little Eagle | | <i>Pied Currawong</i> | 4 + 2 imm in nest |
| Nankeen Kestrel | 1 | <i>Rufous Fantail</i> | |
| Brown Falcon | | <i>Grey fantail</i> | |

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| Australian Hobby | | <i>Willie Wagtail</i> | <i>8 incl 1 nest, 2 imm</i> |
| Peregrine Falcon | | <i>Little Raven</i> | 16 |
| Purple Swamphen | 5 | <i>Magpie-lark</i> | 10 |
| Buff-banded Rail | | <i>Flame Robin</i> | |
| Baillon's Crake | | Golden-headed Cisticola | |
| Australian Spotted Crake | | Australian Reed-Warbler | 5 |
| Black-tailed Native-hen | | Little Grassbird | 2 |
| Dusky Moorhen | 16; 1 nest | <i>Silvereye</i> | |
| Eurasian Coot | 55 | <i>Welcome Swallow</i> | <i>20 + 2 juv</i> |
| Pied Stilt | 5; 1 nest – 1 egg | <i>Tree Martin</i> | |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 1 | <i>Common Blackbird</i> | 5 |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | | <i>Common Starling</i> | 19 |
| Masked Lapwing | 2 | <i>Common Myna</i> | 3 |
| Latham's Snipe | | <i>Red-browed Finch</i> | 3 |
| Crested Tern | | <i>House Sparrow</i> | <i>12 + 1*</i> |
| Pacific Gull | | <i>European Greenfinch</i> | 1 |
| Silver Gull | <i>60 + 40*</i> | <i>European Goldfinch</i> | 3 |
| Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors 24.. <i>Land based 25.....</i> Total | | | 49 species |
| Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – in usual hollow. Long-necked turtles – 10 – several nests. Dead possum discovered – no indications. Possum drey near carpark. | | | |

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: .79 m; Freshwater Lake level:

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---|
| Rock Dove | | Grey Butcherbird | |
| Rainbow Lorikeet | | Australian Magpie | 1 |
| Noisy Miner | 10 | White-plumed Honeyeater | 1 |
| Willie Wagtail | 2 + 2 imm | House Sparrow | 1 |
| Red Wattlebird | 1 | Silver Gull | |

This survey did not obtain the high number of species compared to recent counts, however it was still very satisfactory. Water levels have risen due to recent rain, for example the Saltwater Lake level was 0.75 m on 4 Nov – now it is 0.79 m. The Freshwater Lake level was not recorded.

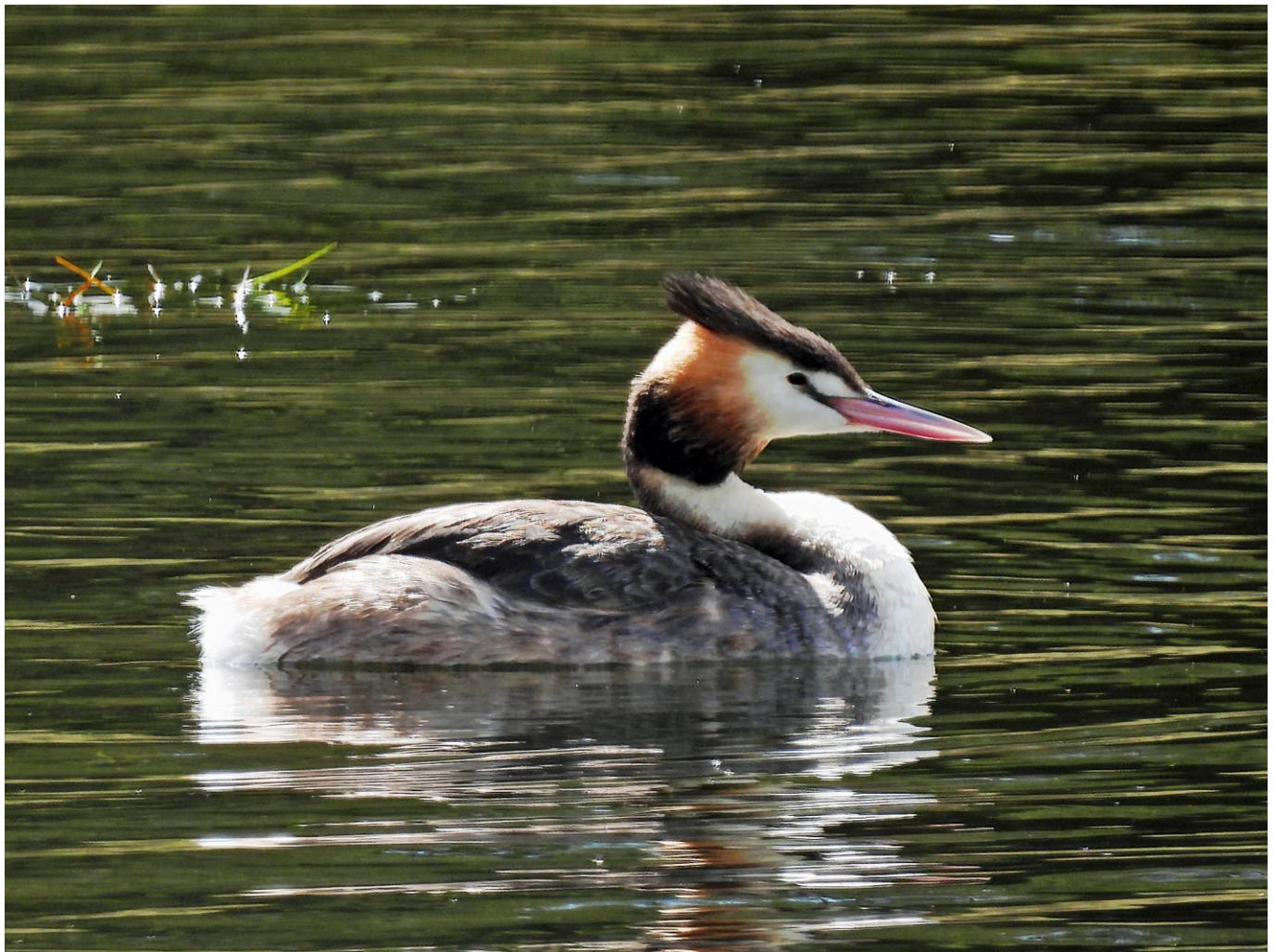
Rarely seen species continue to visit the park including the single Great Crested Grebe seen today and on 18 November. Other notable sightings include a Pink-eared Duck, Eastern Spinebill, Sacred Kingfisher seen recently and a Buff-banded Rail in earlier in November.

| Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Date | Species | Number seen | Observer |
| 6 Nov | Buff-banded Rail | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 8 Nov | White-faced Heron | 1 | Archer Callaway (eBird) |
| 8 Nov | ^ European Greenfinch | 1 | Archer Callaway (eBird) |
| 8 Nov | Grey Butcherbird | 1 | Archer Callaway (eBird) |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 8 Nov | Grey fantail | 1 | Archer Callaway (eBird) |
| 8 Nov | Crested Tern | 1 | Archer Callaway (eBird) |
| 18 Nov | ^ Great Crested Grebe | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 20 Nov | Black-shouldered Kite | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 20 Nov | Sacred Kingfisher | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 22 Nov | ^ Brown Thornbill | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 26 Nov | Eastern Spinebill | 1 | Molly Fisher (eBird) |
| 27 Nov | Pink-eared Duck | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| Sub-Total | | | 9 Species |
| Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings | | | <u>58 Species</u> |

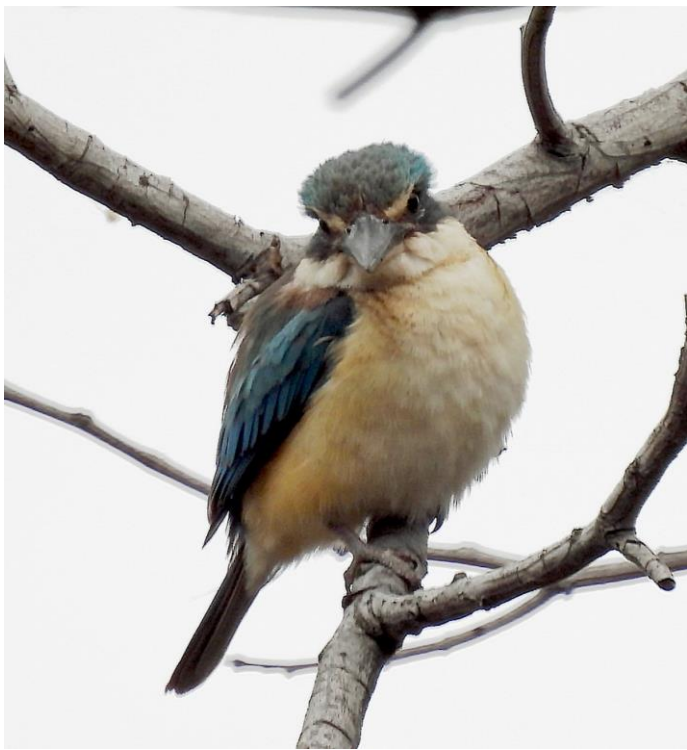
^ This species also seen on today's bird count or recorded more than once in Opportunistic Sightings above

Unless specified otherwise, all photographs below by Ursula Dutkiewicz



A Great Crested Grebe made another appearance on the Freshwater Lake on 18 November.

Not sure whether it is the same individual first seen on 11 October.



Sacred Kingfisher beside the dam behind the bridge



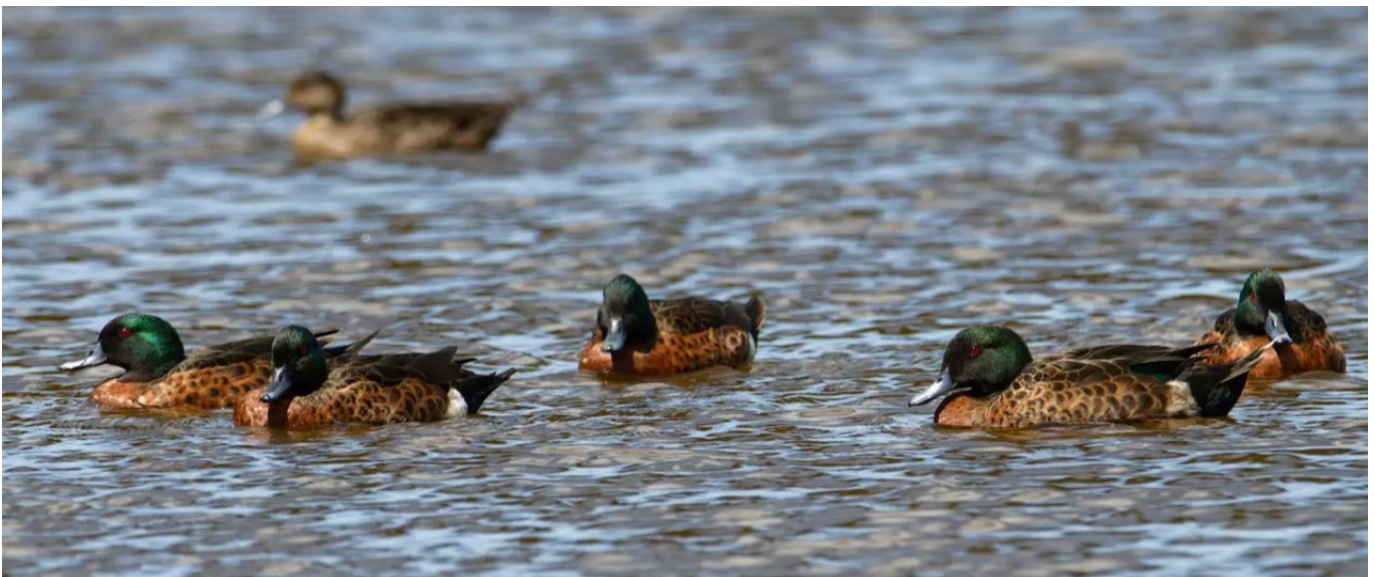
**A single Pink-eared Duck on the Fresh Water Lake near the bridge,
and one of two Nankeen Night-Herons seen today**



A rare sighting of a pair of Hoary-headed Grebes out of the water attempting to build a nest and mating. The nest was gone on the 27th after a night of rain. Note the disproportionately large flipper like feet Today it appeared they are attempting to construct another nest.



Little Pied Cormorant with Yabby and Little Black Cormorant drying its wings



Little Black Cormorant, and raft of male Chestnut Teal – images by Peter Petinatos



Dusky Moorhens constructing a nest and Buff banded Rail on edge of Fresh Water Lake near Compound



Family of Welcome Swallows taken on 18 November above, and two days later below



Willie Wagtail with 3 chicks in the nest demonstrates with this sequence of images the rapid growth of the chicks commencing on 15 November. By 27 November the juvenile Willie Wagtails have left the nest.



**On 13 November Several Snake-Necked Turtles were seen out and about in the park.
It appears they were looking for places to lay eggs.
In the right image the turtle has almost completed an excavation and about to lay.**



Close up images of a Snake-necked Turtle left, and Tiger Snake



Tiger Snake crossing the path near BBQ



Leafcutter bee, genus *Megachile* on Trigger plant flower and Ladybird Beetles



Mating pair of Australian Garden Maggot flies, *Bibio imitator* and Sand Wasp, genus *Bembix*



Moths, genus *Triciocerus* and a Tailed Emperor *Polyura sempronius* taken on the same tree (15 Nov) where they were found two weeks earlier during the last survey.