

# Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Elke Link, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Peter Petinatos, John McRae, Baida Hercus</i>		Date: Mon. 9 February 2025
Weather: - Overcast – clearing – warm – moderate winds		19° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times : 0840 - 1400

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	<b>2 + 9*</b>	<i>Long-billed Corella</i>	<b>6</b>
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	<b>25</b>
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	<b>4</b>
Grey Teal	<b>4</b>	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	<b>37</b>	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	<b>12</b>	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	<b>8</b>	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	<b>4</b>	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	<b>8</b>	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	<b>1*</b>	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>		<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	<b>22 + 1*</b>	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	<b>52 (22 blue) + 1*</b>
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	<b>2</b>	<b><i>Brown Thornbill</i></b>	<b>1</b>
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	<b>3 + 1*</b>	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	<b>17</b>
Great Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Little Black Cormorant		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	<b>2</b>
Pied Cormorant	<b>2*</b>	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	<b>33</b>
Australian Pelican		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	<b>6</b>
Eastern Great Egret		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
White-faced Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron	<b>1</b>	<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Australian White Ibis	<b>1</b>	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	<b>2</b>
Whistling Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	<b>2</b>
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Grey fantail</i>	<b>1 (juvenile)</b>
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	<b>13</b>
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	
Brown Falcon		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	<b>8 + 3*</b>
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	<b>5</b>	<i>Rose Robin</i>	

Buff-banded Rail		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
<b>Australian Spotted Crake</b>		Australian Reed-Warbler	<b>4</b>
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	<b>1</b>
Dusky Moorhen	<b>18</b>	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	<b>87</b>	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	<b>20</b>
Pied Stilt	<b>11</b> (incl 3 juv)	<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Black-fronted Dotterel	<b>3</b> (incl 1 juv)	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	<b>2</b>
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	<b>17</b>
Masked Lapwing	<b>2</b>	<i>Common Myna</i>	<b>3</b>
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	
Crested Tern	<b>5</b>	<i>House Sparrow</i>	<b>22</b>
Pacific Gull		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	
Silver Gull	<b>1 + 60*</b>	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	<b>1 Todd Rd + 2 CFMEU</b>
<b>Number of Bird Species</b> - Wetland dependent & Raptors...22 Land based ...23... <b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>45 Species</b>
<b>Other animals:</b> Brush-tailed Possum in favourite habitat tree; Ringtail Possum Dreys near carpark and Railway Dam			

\* seen at/along Yarra River only

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

Silver Gull		Little Raven	
White-Plumed Honeyeater	<b>1</b>	Rainbow Lorikeet	<b>1</b>
Red Wattlebird	<b>2</b>	Welcome Swallow	
Noisy Miner	<b>2</b>	Pied Currawong	
Australian Magpie		Magpie-lark	<b>1</b>

Two raptors were seen over the park today, but could not be identified. Based on a recent sighting (7/2) reported on eBird it's possible they were either a Brown Goshawk and/or an Australian Hobby. This survey was remarkable for the very low numbers of Silver Gulls observed within and over the park.

Several water bird species have been breeding in the park over the last few months and are continuing to raise their chicks. They include Chestnut Teal, Purple Swamphens and Pied Stilts. A pair of Hoary-headed Grebes are constructing a nest, but are yet to lay eggs.

The continuing dry weather has evaporated water from both major lakes, with the saltwater lake starting to turn pink – a development now obvious to travelers on Westgate Bridge.

The series of fires lit by vandals during the last months of 2024 has had distressing effects. Most were in densely vegetated corners of the park. However, many plants have since recovered through root suckers or epicormic (canopy and trunk) shoots.

Apparently large numbers of bats roosted under the roof of the HWT works. The bat survey group at Westgate Park reports that since it was recently demolished, only one bat has been observed in the park.

<b>Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number seen</b>	<b>Observer</b>
17 Jan	Australian Pelican	4	Martin Butterfield (eBird)
17 Jan	White-faced Heron	1	Martin Butterfield (eBird)
25 Jan	Australian Wood Duck	1	Russell Scott (eBird)
28 Jan	Red-browed Finch	4	Elke Link (eBird)
29 Jan	^ White-faced Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
1 Feb	Little Corella	4	Jon Van Doorn (eBird)
1 Feb	Brown Quail (heard)	1	Elke Link (eBird)
5 Feb	^ Great Crested Grebe	2*	Thomas Shenk (eBird)
5 Feb	Great Cormorant	1	Thomas Shenk (eBird)
5 Feb	Little Black Cormorant	1	Tom Perrett (eBird)
7 Feb	Brown Goshawk (female)	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	Australian Hobby	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	Spotted Pardalote	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	Grey Butcherbird	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	Silvereye	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	^ Red-browed Finch	3	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	European Greenfinch	1	Charles Silveira (eBird)
7 Feb	European Goldfinch	2	Charles Silveira (eBird)
9 Feb	^Australian Pelican	1	Baida Hercus
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>15 Species</b>
<b>Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings</b>			<b>60 Species</b>

^ 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





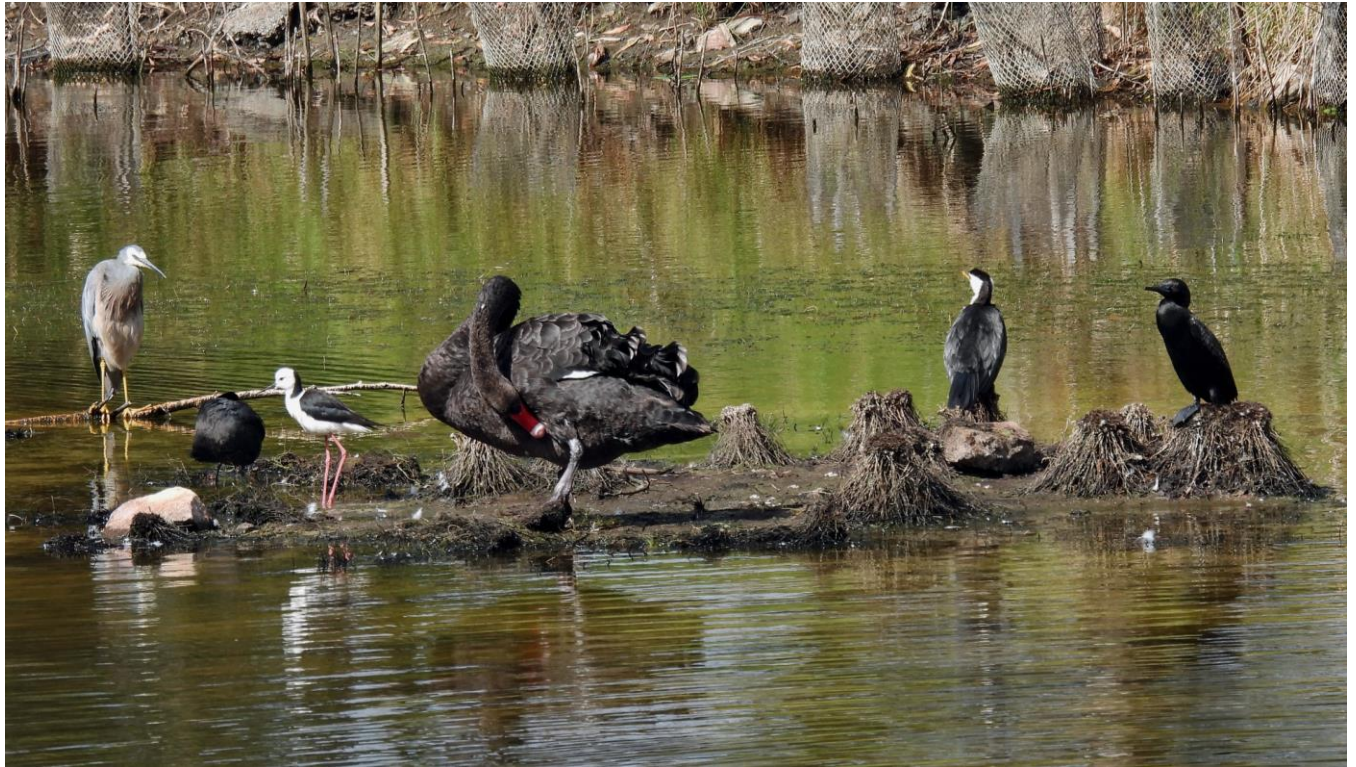


**After photographing a young Tiger Snake I sat on the deck watching the Hoary-headed Grebes building a nest in front of me. Suddenly there were three pairs, and they were all behaving very strangely. I zoomed in on my camera and saw they were ultra-attentive and following a Tiger snake that was swimming across the lake. – Ursula Dutkiewicz 31/01/25**



**The young Tiger Snake referred to above**





**Six species roosting on one small island; Black Swan, White-faced Heron, Pied Stilt, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant and Eurasian Coot.**



**White-faced Heron about to capture a meal, no doubt a *Gambusia* fish.**





**Hoary-headed Grebes courting and nest building**





Chestnut Teal and duckling top and middle left, Hardhead middle right and pair of Grey Teal





**Pied Stilt chicks upper left and adult all standing on one leg on the pink edge of the saltwater lake**



**Adult and immature Pied Stilts in flight. Image by Peter Petinatos**



**Purple Swamphen with chick and Australian White Ibis**





**Red-browed Finches are regularly seen in the park in small numbers, usually three or four.**



**A male Superb Fairy-wren beginning to transition out of its breeding plumage**



**Juvenile Grey Fantail in the park today - Image by Peter Petinatos**

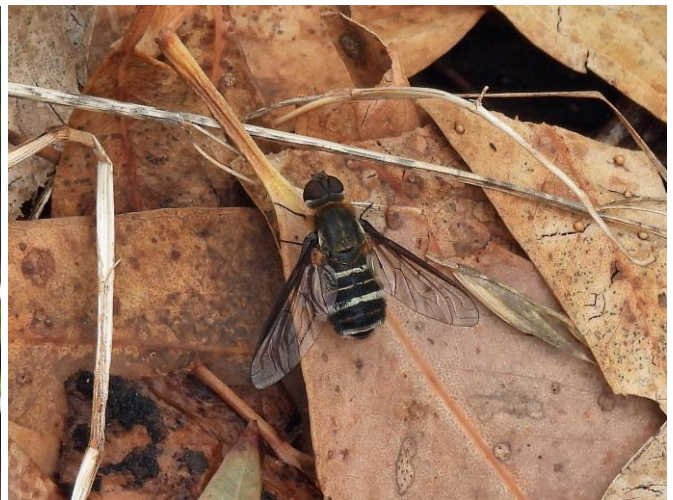




Blue Skimmer *Orthemum caledonicum* dragonfly and nymph casing from which an adult dragonfly has emerged



Sand Wasp, genus *Bembix*



Banded Bee Fly, tribe *Villini*



Blue Flower Wasp *Austroscolia soror*