

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Elke Link, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Peter and Jenny Petinatos, Andrew McCutcheon, Baida Hercus	Date: Monday 7 April 2025
Weather: Becoming fine with sunny breaks, followed by more cloud in late morning with some slight drizzle before clearing again. Temp: 12° - 18° Cel	
Coverage: Entire survey route completed	Time: 0840 - 1350

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	1 + 3*	<i>Little Corella</i>	
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	6
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck	1 ♀	<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	3
Grey Teal	4	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	75	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	6	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	9	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	4	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	11 + 2*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	23	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	65 (no blue) + 7*
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	19	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	12
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	2
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	3	<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Darter		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	45 + 2*
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 1*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	9 Todd Road + 11 CFMEU + 1*
Great Cormorant	2*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	2
Little Black Cormorant	3 + 3*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	5
Pied Cormorant		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	65 + 3*
Australian Pelican	1*	<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	20 + 7*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
White-faced Heron	1 + 1*	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Australian White Ibis	2	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	4
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	10
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
Whistling Kite		<i>Grey fantail</i>	16 + 2*
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	8
Little Eagle		<i>Little Raven</i>	16
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	13 + 1*
Brown Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	

Australian Hobby		<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Peregrine Falcon		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Purple Swamphen	6	Australian Reed-Warbler	
Buff-banded Rail		Little Grassbird	
Australian Spotted Crake		<i>Silvereye</i>	
Black-tailed Native-hen		<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	45
Dusky Moorhen		<i>Tree Martin</i>	
Eurasian Coot	23	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	2
Pied Stilt	110	<i>Common Starling</i>	25
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Common Myna</i>	4
Red-kneed Dotterel	2	<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	16
Masked Lapwing		<i>House Sparrow</i>	40
Latham's Snipe		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Crested Tern		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	1
Pacific Gull	3*	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	3
Silver Gull	1*	<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
Pied Oystercatcher	5 + 150*	<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors..21.. Land based .29..... Total			50 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; 4 Ringtail Possums around carpark (3 in drey)			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake - 0.4 m Freshwater lake - 0.28 m (estimates – levels very hard to read)

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Crested Pigeon	1	White-Plumed Honeyeater	1
Rainbow Lorikeet	2	Red Wattlebird	9
Musk Lorikeet	3	Australian Magpie	3
Noisy Miner	11	Magpie-lark	2

There has been very little rain over the last two months. However, both major lakes are low, but nowhere near the extremes experienced earlier this century when there was a ford linking the island to the mainland in the freshwater lake. The Salt Lake is brown in colour rather than the usual pink and has a considerable amount of what appears to be blue-green algae along the eastern shoreline. Chestnut Teal were feeding on this alga, sipping it from the surface.

Pied Stilts have apparently left the park for now, but overall waterbird numbers, especially Chestnut Teal have increased somewhat. The team was pleased to spot a female Musk Duck, possibly the same bird that has been in the park for two years or so. Welcome Swallows appeared more abundant, and there were several small groups of Grey Fantails. Brown Thornbills and Red-browed Finches are almost always recorded these days, and the two female Golden Whistlers also indicate the quality of habitat in the park. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters have returned for the cooler seasons.

The mistletoe introduction program has been successful across the park, but some will be lost due to their host trees (mostly acacias) dying in abnormally dry conditions.

Bat boxes are gradually being occupied, with two bat species recorded in recent months by the regular survey team formed specifically for that purpose. They are Gould's Wattled Bat and Little Forest Bat.

Noisy Miner numbers in the park were higher than usual but mostly restricted along the edge of Todd Road and in and around the CFMEU Headquarters.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
7 March	Grey Butcherbird	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
7 March	Pied Stilt	4 (2 juv)	Ursula Dutkiewicz
10 March	Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
10 March	^Australian Pelican	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
12 March	Eastern Great Egret	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
12 March	Long-billed Corella	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
12 March	Eastern Rosella	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
12 March	^White-faced Heron	2	Steven Waller (eBird)
17 March	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	Park Volunteer
24 March	Brown Quail	3	Park Volunteer (Mark)
25 March	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Elke Link (eBird)
25 March	Straw-necked Ibis	20 (flying over)	Elke Link (eBird)
27 March	Little Corella	3	Tom Perrett (eBird)
27 March	Little Grassbird	1	Tom Perrett (eBird)
27 March	Silvereye	4	Tom Perrett (eBird)
27 March	^ Red-browed Finch	10	Tom Perrett (eBird)
31 March	Spotted Pardalote	2	Graham Possingham (eBird)
31 March	^Eastern Great Egret	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
31 March	Rufous Fantail	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
31 March	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
3 April	Masked Lapwing	2	Elke Link (eBird)
3 April	^Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Elke Link (eBird)
Sub-Total			16 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>66 Species</u>

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



Nankeen Night-Heron and Eastern Great Egret on the edge of the freshwater lake
– images by Ursula Dutkiewicz



A family of Pied Stilts on 7 March just before they all departed from the park



**Pair of Australian Pelicans on an island in the freshwater lake on 10 March
– images by Ursula Dutkiewicz**



**blue-green algae along the eastern shoreline of the saltwater lake, and three of about a dozen Chestnut Teal feeding on it
– images by Andrew McCutcheon**



Black-fronted Black fronted Dotterel on the small freshwater lake island off the decking



**Hoary- headed Grebe on incomplete Nest, and on a rare occasion coming out of the water to reveal its unique large webbed feet which enable all grebe species to be strong swimmers
– images by Ursula Dutkiewicz**



Purple Swamphen devouring what appears to be a portion of an aquatic plant tuber



**Australian Pelican and Little Black Cormorant roosting too close for comfort causing a dispute
– images by Ursula Dutkiewicz**



***Willie Wagtail dropping down for an insect on or near the water surface, and two diving feeders a Hardhead and Australasian Grebe on the large freshwater lake
– images by Peter Petinatos***



One of the first Siny-cheeked Honeyeaters to arrive for the cooler seasons and juvenile Rufous Fantail—
images by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Roosting Welcome Swallow and New Holland Honeyeater with a face full of pollen – images by Peter Petinatos



One of two Golden Whistlers seen today and Musk Lorikeet at the CFMEU site
– images left by Peter Petinatos and right by Andrew McCutcheon



**Two nice images of birds in flight over the Yarra River - Australian Pelican top and Crested Tern
– images by Peter Petinatos**