

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Lyn Griffen, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Chris Lester, Peter and Jenny Petinatos		Date: Monday 5 May 2025
Weather: - 7/10 cloud, moderate-gusty N wind		Temp range: 14-22° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Time: 0840-1350

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	2 + 6 DY + 2*	<i>Little Corella</i>	7
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	11
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	3	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	48	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	7	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Hardhead	13	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	3	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	10 + 2*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	22	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	35 inc 2 blue + 5*
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	8	<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	9
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	2
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	4
Darter		<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	38
Little Pied Cormorant	2*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Great Cormorant	2*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	1 + 1*
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	27
Pied Cormorant		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	21
Australian Pelican		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Eastern Great Egret	1	<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
White-faced Heron	1	<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Australian White Ibis		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	1
<i>Royal Spoonbill</i>	2	<i>Australian Magpie</i>	3
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	2
Whistling Kite		<i>Grey fantail</i>	2
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	3
<i>Little Eagle</i>	1	<i>Little Raven</i>	2
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Satin Flycatcher</i>	
<i>Brown Goshawk</i>	1	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	7 + 2*
Australian Hobby		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Peregrine Falcon		<i>Mistletoe Bird</i>	1 (heard)
Purple Swamphen	5	<i>Eurasian Skylark</i>	

Buff-banded Rail		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Baillon's Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Australian Spotted Crake		Little Grassbird	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Silvereye	2
Dusky Moorhen	7	Welcome Swallow	22
Eurasian Coot	50	Tree Martin	
Pied Stilt		Common Blackbird	3
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	Common Starling	1
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Myna	2
Masked Lapwing		Red-browed Finch	15
Latham's Snipe		House Sparrow	10 + 2*
Crested Tern	2*	Australasian Pipit	
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	1
Silver Gull	100 + 300*	European Goldfinch	2
Pied Oystercatcher		Eastern Spinebill	
		Noisy Miner	2 Todd Road + 3 CFMEU + 2* Nil in park
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...21 Land based ...23... Total			51 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum in habitat tree; both possum species observed near Todd Road carpark; Common Froglet in several water bodies			

Salt lake 0.45 m Freshwater lake 0.35 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	100	New holland Honeyeater	2
White-Plumed Honeyeater	5	Welcome Swallow	2
Red Wattlebird	5	Magpie-lark	2
Noisy Miner	3		

Water levels in the main lakes continue to fall, which probably encourages waders, such as egrets and herons, to return to the park. The Black Swans have just reared six cygnets, which is unusual in abnormally dry conditions we are now experiencing. In other wetland areas around Melbourne, such as the Eastern Treatment Plant the swans are not breeding.

Besides the two raptors – both photographed beautifully by Peter Petinatos – the highlight was hearing the call of a Mistletoe-bird. We have been waiting for this species to come to the park in response to the program over the last 2-3 years that broadly introduced several species of mistletoe. Mistletoe is a very useful plant in that it increases food supplies for insects and birds by flowering during summer and autumn; provides cover and nesting sites; and recycles nutrients. And the flowers are very appealing.

There have been some very interesting sightings over the last month, particularly an immature female Rose Robin, Southern Boobook (both nicely photographed by Ursula), Yellow-billed Spoonbill and Red-rumped Parrot. The latter, recorded and hopefully correctly identified on eBird could well become established in Westgate Park as the red gums mature. They could make use of the nest boxes already provided.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
9 April	Rose Robin	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 April	Australian Pelican	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 April	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
13 April	Australian Wood Duck	3	Ayush Parag (eBird)
14 April	^Royal Spoonbill	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
14 April	^White-faced Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
15 April	Long-billed Corella	20	John Daniels (eBird)
15 April	Red-rumped Parrot	2	John Daniels (eBird)
15 April	Musk Lorikeet	2	John Daniels (eBird)
19 April	Nankeen Night-Heron	3	Ursula Dutkiewicz
21 April	Musk Duck	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
21 April	Southern Boobook	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 April	Golden Whistler	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 April	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Jason Caruso (eBird)
24 April	^Silvreyeye	2	John Daniels (eBird)
24 April	White-necked Heron	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
24 April	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
24 April	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
25 April	Pied Cormorant	1*	Kevin Bates (eBird)
25 April	Crested Pigeon	2	Kevin Bates (eBird)
25 April	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Kevin Bates (eBird)
3 May	^Musk Duck	1	Archer Callaway (eBird)
3 May	Masked Lapwing	2	Archer Callaway (eBird)
3 May	Australian White Ibis	6	Archer Callaway (eBird)
3 May	^Musk Lorikeet	2	Archer Callaway (eBird)
5 May	^Eastern Great Egret	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			20 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>71 Species</u>

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



Black Swan with cygnets (approx. 10 days old) taken on 30 April. They were first seen on 21 April



Juvenile Royal Spoonbill begging and being fed by parent



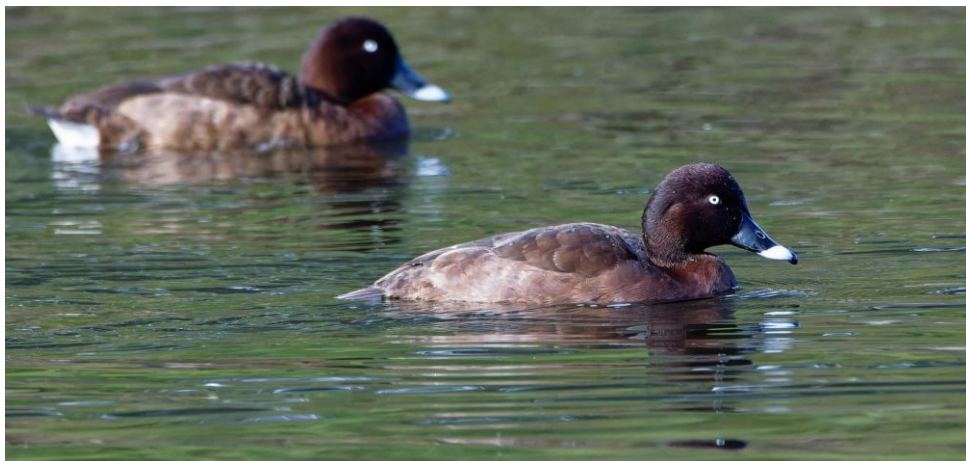
Pair of Australian Pelicans feeding on the large freshwater lake
All images on this page and previous page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



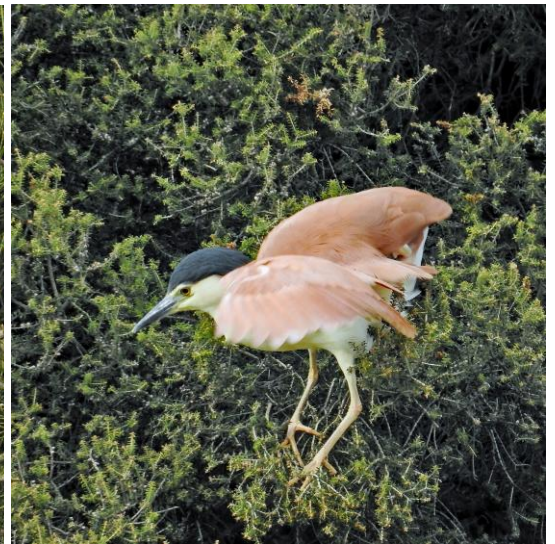
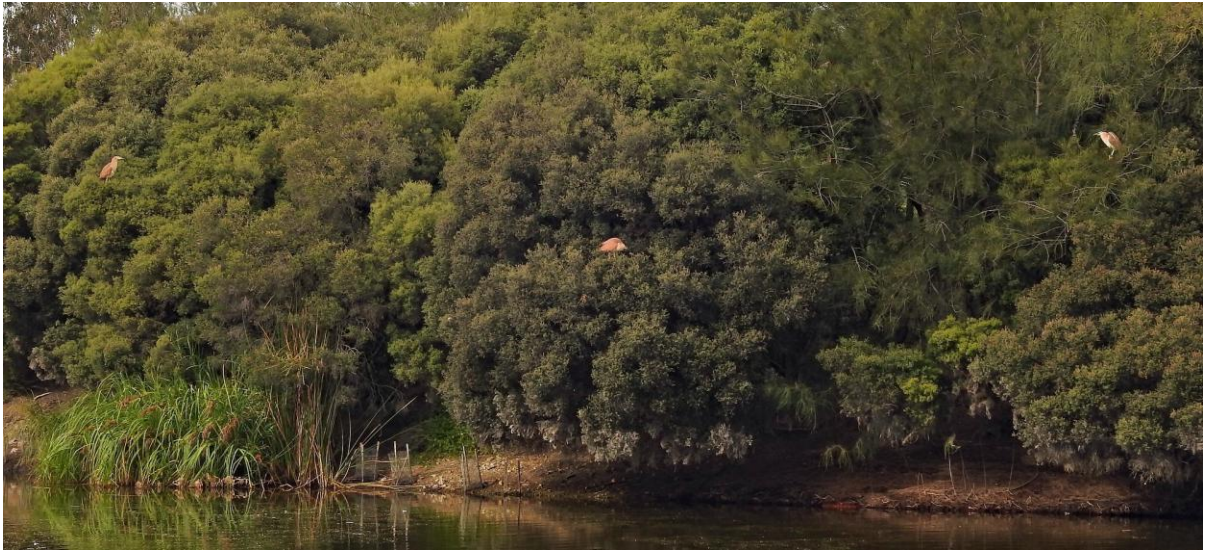
Eastern Great Egret and pair of Pacific Black Ducks



Brown Goshawk and Little Eagle seen over the park today



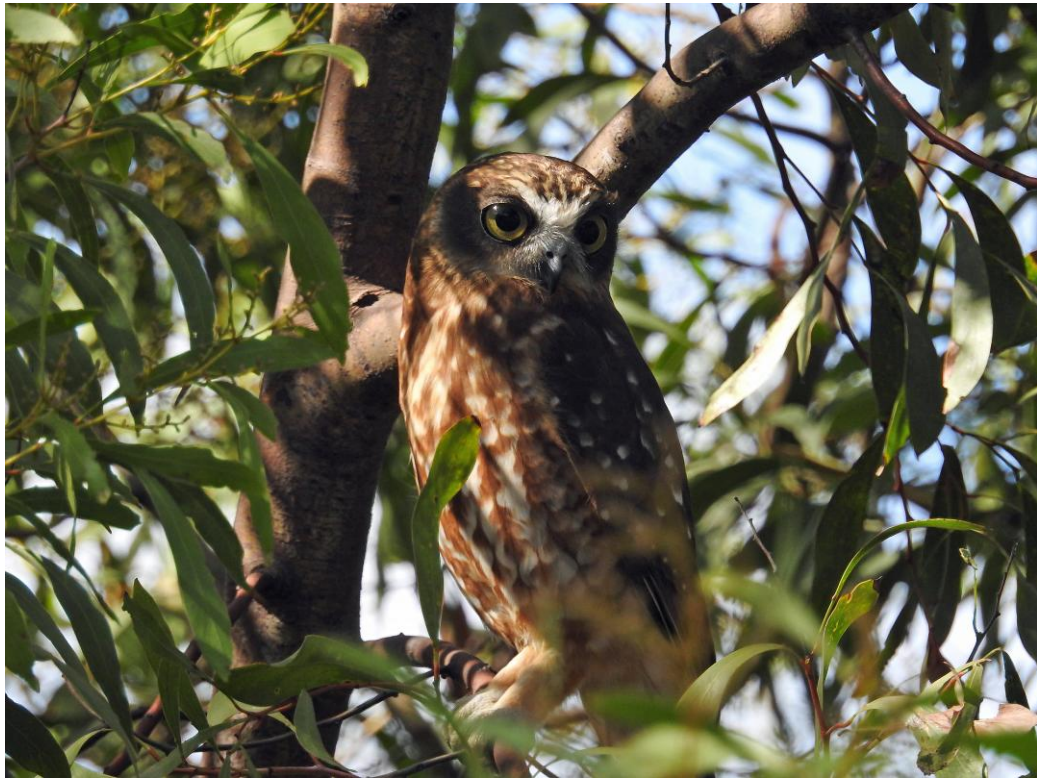
Two of thirteen Hardheads seen today – all images on this page by Pete Petinatos



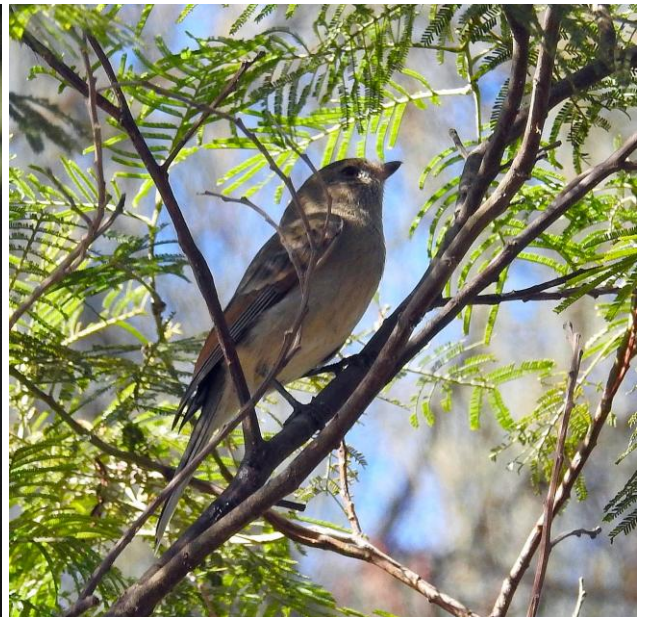
Three Nankeen Night-Herons, two adults, one juvenile roosting on the edge of the large freshwater lake island



Crested Tern with leg band at the edge of the Yarra River - All images on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Southern Boobook roosting in a blackwood on 21 April – images by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Immature female Rose Robin top and left, and immature Golden Whistler right. Rose Robins rarely visit the park in their seasonal movements. The last record was in April 2021 – images by Ursula Dutkiewicz