

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: <i>Peter Parrington, Jack Parrington, Bim Graham, Rob Youl, Lyn Griffen, Elke Link, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Silvy Chan</i>		Date: Monday 1 September 2025
Weather: - 8/10 cloud clearing, mild		11° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Time: 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
<i>Brown Quail</i>		<i>Galah</i>	5
Black Swan	1 + 2*	<i>Little Corella</i>	3
Australian Shelduck		<i>Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo</i>	72
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	39 + 1*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	
Grey Teal	12	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	80 (incl 20 on salt lake) + 3*	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	3	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	10	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe		<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	11 + 5*	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe		<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	1	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	7	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	20 (8 blue) + 9* (4 blue)
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	10
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>		<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	4
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 11*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	25 + 1*
Great Cormorant	1 + 7*	<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Little Black Cormorant	1*	<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	3
Pied Cormorant		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	45 + 1*
Australian Pelican		<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	23 + 1*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
White-faced Heron		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Australian White Ibis	43 + 5*	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	1♀
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Royal Spoonbill		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	4 + 1*
Whistling Kite		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	3
Collared Sparrowhawk		<i>Grey fantail</i>	1
Little Eagle		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	5
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Little Raven</i>	40 + 3*
Brown Falcon		<i>Mistletoebird</i>	1
Australian Hobby		<i>Magpie-lark</i>	9 + 2*

Peregrine Falcon		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Purple Swamphen	4	<i>Rose Robin</i>	
Buff-banded Rail		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Baillon's Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Australian Spotted Crake		Little Grassbird	
Black-tailed Native-hen		<i>Silvereye</i>	
Dusky Moorhen	12	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	45 + 2*
Eurasian Coot	24	<i>Fairy Martin</i>	2
Pied Stilt	2	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	3
Black-fronted Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	100 + 1*
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Myna</i>	2
Masked Lapwing		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	22
Latham's Snipe		<i>House Sparrow</i>	23 + 2*
Crested Tern		<i>Australasian Pipit</i>	
Pacific Gull		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	5
Silver Gull	20 + 40*	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	2
Pied Oystercatcher		<i>Noisy Miner</i>	2 Todd Road + 15 CFMEU + 4 * + Nil park
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors...15 Land based ... 31... Total 46			46 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum observed; Common Froglet in several water bodies			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Salt lake: 0.88 m Freshwater lake: 0.4 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	10	Australian Magpie	1
White-Plumed Honeyeater		Willie Wagtail	1
Red Wattlebird	4	Little Raven	2
Noisy Miner	15	Rainbow Lorikeet	2

Recent rains have raised water levels, eliminating much of the shoreline habitat – accordingly, no dotterels were sighted this survey.

The highlight of the day was a Mistletoe-bird frequenting a spray of Wiry Mistletoe growing in one of the park's largest and oldest Black Wattle trees. (During the 5 May survey this species was heard calling.) About three years ago, Gio Fitzpatrick inoculated many of Westgate's trees with seeds from various mistletoe species. Obviously, his efforts have been successful.

One apparent aspect of the last several surveys is the continuing and satisfying observation of smaller bird species such as Brown Thornbills, Red-browed Finches, Greenfinches and Golden Whistlers. On the other hand, the numbers of White-plumed and New Holland honeyeaters remain numerous, but somewhat reduced.

Yellow-tailed black cockatoos are appearing all over City of Port Phillip at present, eating seeds, nuts and insects, which are found by stripping bark off trees.

Also of note was a pair of Fairy Martins amongst a flock of approximately 20 welcome swallows.

An irrigation line burst or water main breakdown that has been continuing for several days has resulted in significant drainage into the saltwater lake, causing subsequent increases in water levels. This needs to be attended to urgently by the responsible authority.

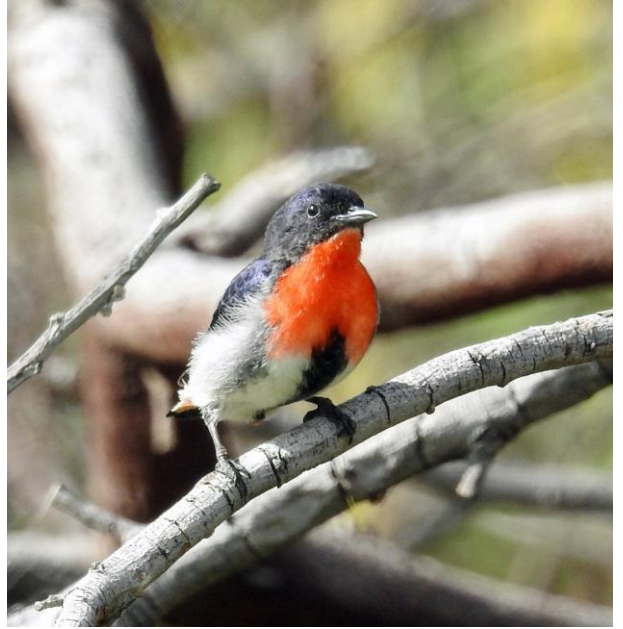
Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
8 August	Black-shouldered Kite	1	Tom May (eBird)
8 August	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Tom May (eBird)
8 August	^Galah	2	Tom May (eBird)
11 August	Crested Pigeon	2	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
11 August	Australasian Grebe	4	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
11 August	Little Eagle	1	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
11 August	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
11 August	Spotted Pardalote	2	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
11 August	Little Grassbird	1 (heard)	Matthew Crawford (eBird)
18 August	Powerful Owl	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
18 August	^Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	35	Ursula Dutkiewicz
20 August	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
27 August	^Pied Stilt	5	Ursula Dutkiewicz
27 August	^Golden Whistler	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			10 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>56 Species</u>

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

Unless specified otherwise all photographs in this report by Ursula Dutkiewicz



The Mistletoebird seen during the survey today, the first recorded sighting of this species for Westgate Park.
One was heard but not seen during the May survey.



The Mistletoebird feeding on mistletoe that was established in the park, demonstrating the success of Gio Fitzpatrick's mistletoe inoculation project. Images: left by Elke Link, right by Ursula Dutkiewicz.



The Powerful Owl with a Brush-tailed Possum on 18 August. Although not seen today it may still be present somewhere in the park as fresh evidence was found on 27 August, but with no confirmed sighting



Over sixty Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flew over the park today. Some came down to feed in the wattles by chewing away the wood to feed on beetle larvae. Also, about 35 were in the park on 18 August



Mating behavior indicates that the Purple Swampheens are almost ready to breed



Five Pied Stilts on the edge of the Salt water lake



Pied Stilt



Masked Lapwing



A Fan-tailed Cuckoo that briefly visited the park on 20 August



Golden Whistlers, an immature male photographed on 22/8 right and juvenile photographed on 27/8 left



Red Wattlebird collecting nesting material on 20/8 and nest 22/8



European Greenfinch



**One of two Fairy Martins seen today
– image by Elke Link**



**Roosting Welcome Swallows. Note the dark breast colour on the bird to the left.
Could it be another species or result of hybridization?**