

Westgate Park Bird Count

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Date: Monday 2 February 2026

Weather: Light wind, becoming brisk later in the morning; 7/10 clearing Temp: 15-21° Cel

Coverage: Entire survey route completed Times: 0840 - 1345

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail	1	Galah	
Black Swan	2 nesting + 3*	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	6 + 2*
Pink-eared Duck		Budgerigar	
Musk Duck		Musk Lorikeet	
Grey Teal	9	Little Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	21 + 10*	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Pacific Black Duck	5	Eastern Rosella	
Hardhead	3	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe	2	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Hoary-headed Grebe	11 (2 nesting efforts failed)	Southern Boobook	
Great Crested Grebe		Powerful Owl	1
Rock Dove	3	Sacred Kingfisher	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	13	Superb Fairy-wren	31 (incl 14 blue) + 9* (incl 4 blue)
Common Bronzewing		White-browed Scrubwren	6
Crested Pigeon	5	Brown Thornbill	
Darter		Spotted Pardalote	1
Little Pied Cormorant	2 + 5*	Eastern Spinebill	
Great Cormorant	2	White-plumed Honeyeater	7
Little Black Cormorant	1	Noisy Miner	3 Park + 3 Todd Rd + 7 CFMEU + 4*
Pied Cormorant		Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	
Australian Pelican		Little Wattlebird	4
Eastern Great Egret		Red Wattlebird	26
White-faced Heron		New Holland Honeyeater	5 + 4*
Nankeen Night-Heron	1	White-naped Honeyeater	
Australian White Ibis	7 inc. 2 on ground	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Straw-necked Ibis		White-winged Triller	
Royal Spoonbill	1	Golden Whistler	
Black-shouldered Kite		Grey Shrike-thrush	
Whistling Kite		Grey Butcherbird	
Brown Goshawk		Australian Magpie	5
Little Eagle		Pied Currawong	1
Nankeen Kestrel		Rufous Fantail	
Brown Falcon		Grey fantail	

Australian Hobby		Willie Wagtail	9
Peregrine Falcon		Little Raven	6
Purple Swamphen	6 + 1 dy	Magpie-lark	11 + 2*
Buff-banded Rail		Flame Robin	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	1
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	15	Silvreye	1
Eurasian Coot	93	Welcome Swallow	15
Pied Stilt	11	Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel	5	Common Blackbird	2
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	25 + 1*
Masked Lapwing	2 + 2*	Common Myna	4
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	1+
Crested Tern	12	House Sparrow	20 + 1*
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	1
Silver Gull	50*	European Goldfinch	1
Number of Bird Species – Wetland-dependent & Raptors 22 Land-based 28 Total			50 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – not in usual hollow. Ringtail Possum dreys near car park occupied. Frog calls were not detected.			

* Seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: 0.7 m Freshwater Lake level: 0.2 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Rainbow Lorikeet		Australian Magpie	1
Noisy Miner	7	White-plumed Honeyeater	
Willie Wagtail		House Sparrow	
Red Wattlebird	3	Silver Gull	

Lack of rain during the last two months or so is desiccating the park, and dieback of understory vegetation is common. Nevertheless, in these harsh dry conditions bird diversity remains high, although numbers are down for some species, most notably honeyeaters especially the White-plumed and New Holland Honeyeaters.

Evaporation from the saltwater lake has exposed mudflats, which are attracting Pied Stilts and Black-fronted Dotterels.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys

Date	Species	Number seen	Observer
6 Jan	^Brown Quail	6	Russell Scott (eBird)
6 Jan	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Russell Scott (eBird)
6 Jan	Little Corella	30	Russell Scott (eBird)
7 Jan	^Powerful Owl	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
8 Jan	Galah	2	Christopher Brown (eBird)
8 Jan	Musk Lorikeet	4	Christopher Brown (eBird)
10 Jan	^ Red-browed Finch	5	Naoise Halloran-Mackay (eBird)
10 Jan	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Naoise Halloran-Mackay (eBird)
10 Jan	Peregrine Falcon	1	Naoise Halloran-Mackay (eBird)
14 Jan	Pink-eared Duck	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
17 Jan	Tree Martin	5	David Elliot (eBird)
22 Jan	Fairy Martin	1	Fiona Finlayson (eBird)
23 Jan	Olive-backed Oriole	2	Martin Butterfield (eBird)
23 Jan	Australian Pelican	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 Jan	^ Red-browed Finch	4	Ursula Dutkiewicz
24 Jan	Whistling Kite	1	Fulmarus Glacialis (eBird)
25 Jan	Australian Wood Duck	2	Harit Pathik (eBird)
25 Jan	Little Grassbird	1	Harit Pathik (eBird)
30 Jan	^Powerful Owl	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
30 Jan	Grey fantail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			15 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>65 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 Royal Spoonbill observed today first appeared on 30 January when these images were taken



A single Pink-eared Duck, an occasional visitor to the park appeared for one day on 14 January



Little Black Cormorant



 Peter Petinatos
PHOTOGRAPHY

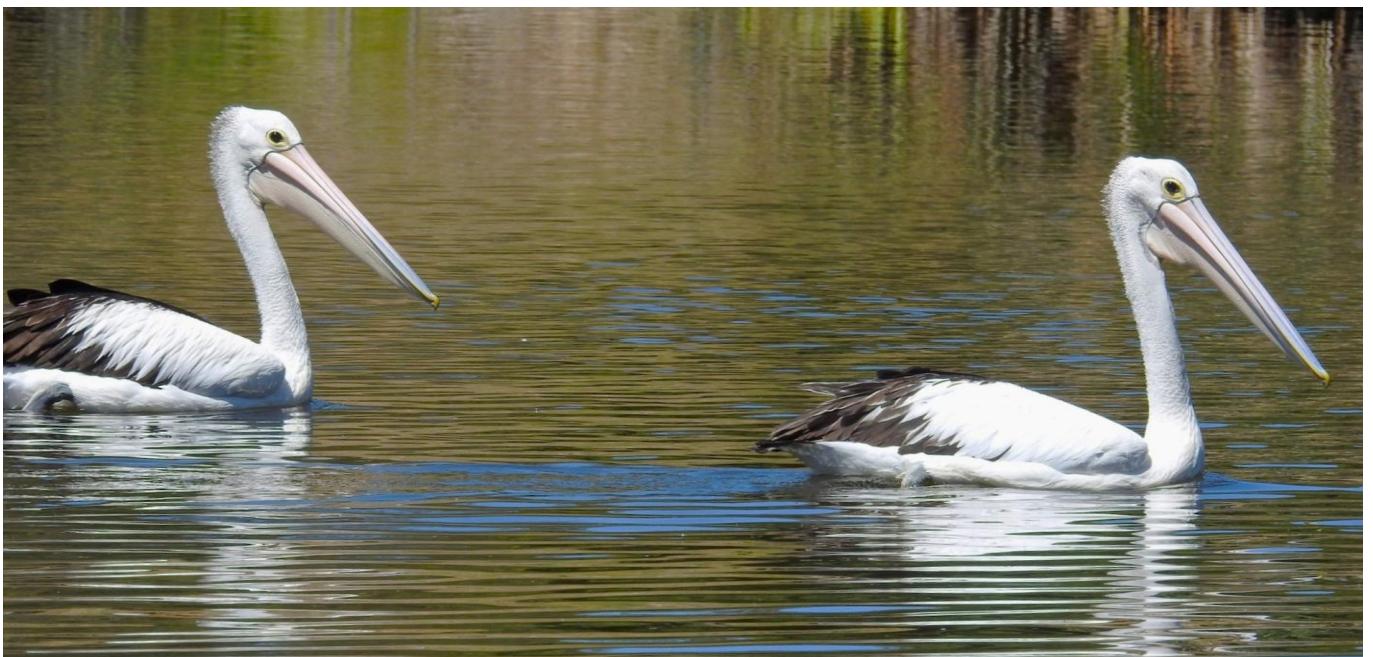


 Peter Petinatos
PHOTOGRAPHY

Birds captured in flight today: Australian White Ibis top, Crested Tern lower left and Pied Stilt lower right
– images by Peter Petinatos



Although two pairs of Hoary-headed Grebes have exhibited courtship and mating behavior, nesting and breeding have not yet been successful.



A pair of Australian Pelicans paid a brief visit to the large freshwater lake on 23 January



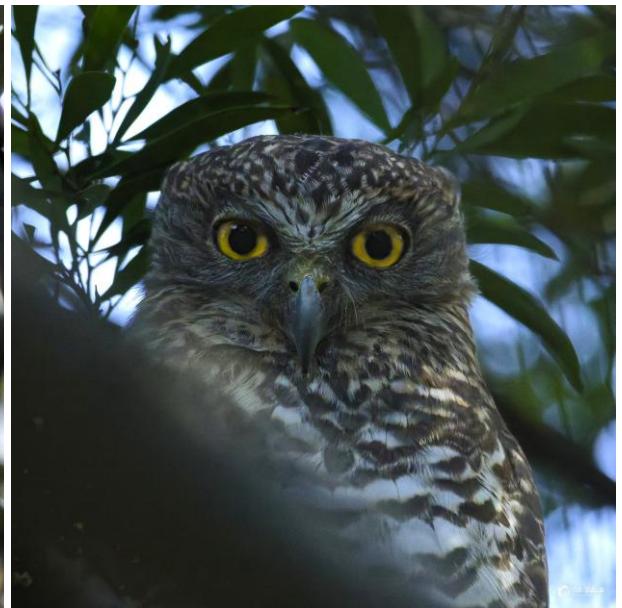
Black-fronted Dotterel on the edge of the saltwater lake



Nankeen Night-Heron on 14 January. It was also seen during today's bird survey



This Purple Swamphen chick recorded in last months survey continues to grow and develop rapidly. This is the sole survivor from a brood of five chicks



The Powerful Owl was being harassed by Red Wattle Birds and a Pied Currawong when the top and left images were taken on 30 January. Note the defensive posture with eyes narrowed and face disc flattened back to the head.

The lower right image taken on today's survey by Peter Petinatos shows the Powerful Owl in a relaxed state but with eyes fully open constantly keeping a watch for any activity nearby.



Superb Fairy-wren breeding couple showing deep affection toward each other



It appears that Casuarina seeds are an important food source for the Red-browed Finches in Westgate Park



This immature Willie Wagtail still retaining some light brown feathers, was most likely raised during breeding activity last year
- image by Peter Petinatos

Welcome Swallows were present in low numbers today



Eastern Snake-necked Turtle. A program to further protect the turtles in Westgate Park is underway utilizing the services of Kai Lane from ERA Ecology and Restoration Australia



Bird survey team at work today