

Westgate Park Bird Count

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| By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Peter and Jenny Petinatos, Silvy Chan, Bim Graham, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Chris Lester, Lyn Griffen, Baida Hercus, John McRae | | 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 | Silvereye | 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

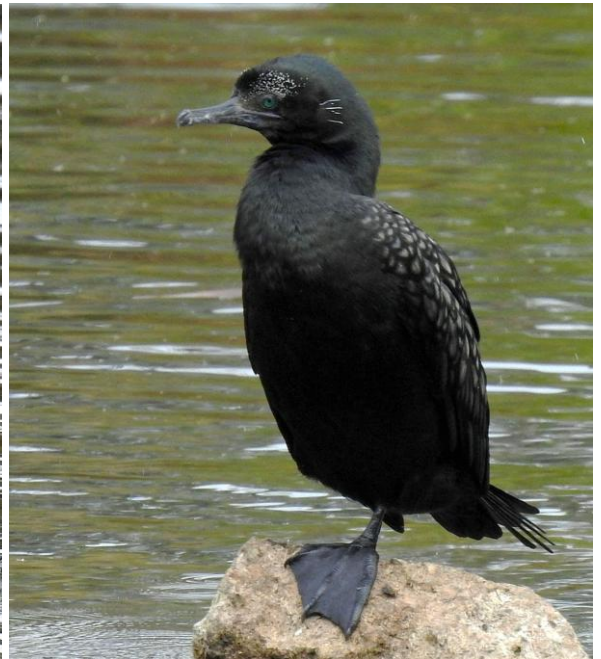
Unless specified otherwise all photographs in this report by Ursula Dutkiewicz



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



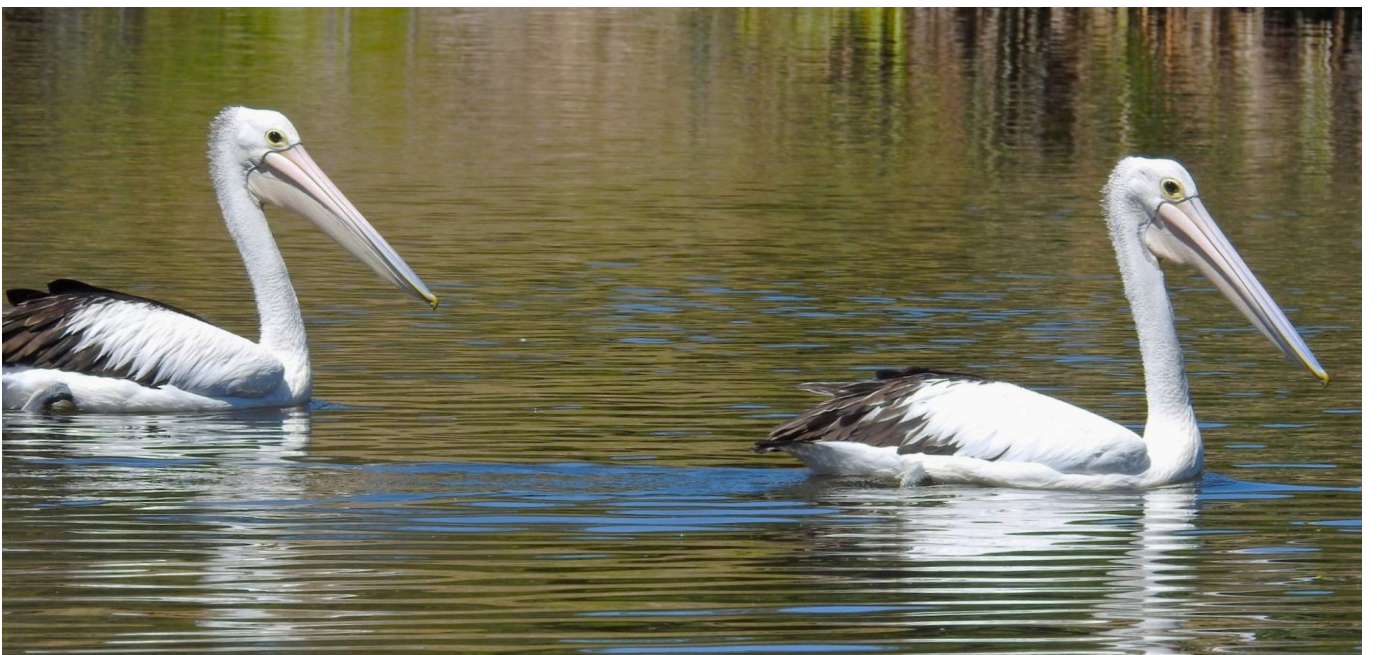
Little Black Cormorant



**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



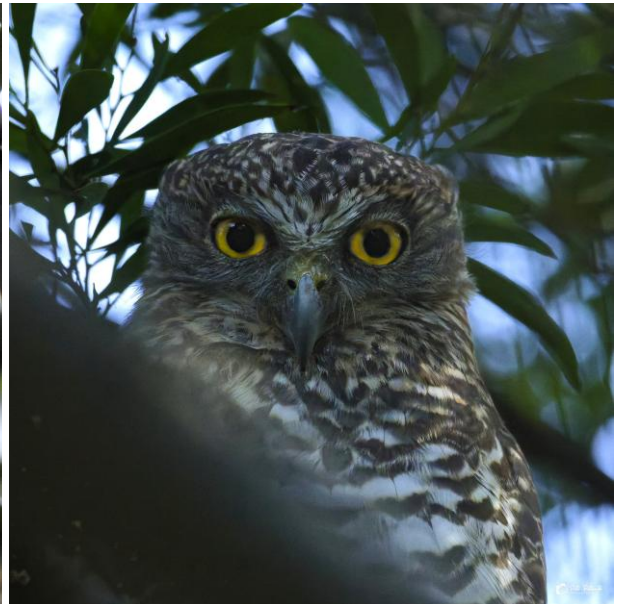
Black-fronted Dotterel on the edge of the saltwater lake



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