

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Peter Petinatos, Bim Graham, Lyn Griffen, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Chris Lester, Elke Link, James Donner		Date: Tuesday 14 April 2026
Weather: Overcast but clearing		14° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1400

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail		<i>Galah</i>	
Black Swan	6 + 1*	<i>Little Corella</i>	2
Australian Shelduck		<i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i>	
Australian Wood Duck		<i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i>	22 + 6*
Pink-eared Duck		<i>Budgerigar</i>	
Musk Duck		<i>Musk Lorikeet</i>	4
Grey Teal	5	<i>Little Lorikeet</i>	
Chestnut Teal	19 + 2*	<i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	7	<i>Eastern Rosella</i>	
Hardhead	4	<i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i>	
Australasian Grebe	3	<i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i>	
Hoary-headed Grebe	16 + 1*	<i>Southern Boobook</i>	
Great Crested Grebe	3*	<i>Barn Owl</i>	
<i>Rock Dove</i>	18	<i>Sacred Kingfisher</i>	
<i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i>	9	<i>Superb Fairy-wren</i>	29 incl 4 blue + 9*
<i>Common Bronzewing</i>		<i>White-browed Scrubwren</i>	5
<i>Crested Pigeon</i>	3 + 3*	<i>Brown Thornbill</i>	
Darter		<i>Spotted Pardalote</i>	1
Little Pied Cormorant	2*	<i>Eastern Spinebill</i>	
Great Cormorant	1*	<i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i>	11
Little Black Cormorant	7 + 21*	<i>Noisy Miner</i>	Park 7 + Todd Rd 3 + CFMEU 6
Pied Cormorant		<i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i>	
Australian Pelican		<i>Little Wattlebird</i>	4 + 3*
Eastern Great Egret		<i>Red Wattlebird</i>	56 + 2*
White-faced Heron	1*	<i>New Holland Honeyeater</i>	56 + 2*
Nankeen Night-Heron		<i>White-naped Honeyeater</i>	
Australian White Ibis		<i>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</i>	
Straw-necked Ibis		<i>White-winged Triller</i>	
Royal Spoonbill	1	<i>Golden Whistler</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite		<i>Grey Shrike-thrush</i>	
Whistling Kite		<i>Grey Butcherbird</i>	3
Brown Goshawk		<i>Australian Magpie</i>	11
Little Eagle		<i>Pied Currawong</i>	1
Nankeen Kestrel		<i>Rufous Fantail</i>	1*
Brown Falcon		<i>Grey fantail</i>	8
Australian Hobby		<i>Willie Wagtail</i>	8

Peregrine Falcon		<i>Little Raven</i>	12
Purple Swamphen	10	<i>Magpie-lark</i>	17 + 4*
Buff-banded Rail		<i>Flame Robin</i>	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	20	<i>Silvereye</i>	
Eurasian Coot	36	<i>Welcome Swallow</i>	50
Pied Stilt		<i>Fairy Martin</i>	1
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	<i>Common Blackbird</i>	3
Red-kneed Dotterel		<i>Common Starling</i>	13 + 2*
Masked Lapwing		<i>Common Myna</i>	2
Latham's Snipe		<i>Red-browed Finch</i>	3
Crested Tern	2*	<i>House Sparrow</i>	22 + 4*
Pacific Gull		<i>European Greenfinch</i>	1
Silver Gull	20 + 75*	<i>European Goldfinch</i>	4
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors: 19 sp - Land based: 31 sp. Total			50 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – empty hollow. Possum drey near car park unoccupied. Frog calls were not detected.			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: 0.62 m Freshwater Lake level: 0.25 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Rock Dove	2	Grey Butcherbird	
Rainbow Lorikeet	6	Australian Magpie	2
White-plumed Honeyeater		Magpie-lark	1
Noisy Miner	6	House Sparrow	
Red Wattlebird	4	Silver Gull	2

Although conditions on the day were poor, water levels were down and in many cases species numbers were low, the overall number of species – 50 – was encouraging. It included three Great Crested Grebes on the Yarra River, and a fleeting glimpse of a Rufous Fantail.

Regarding low numbers, Superb Fairy-wrens are a case in point with a low count last survey and the same prevailing this month. Very few males in blue plumage were observed. Similarly, there were no raptor sightings today, although a juvenile Brown Goshawk has been seen a couple of times during March. Some observers thought there may have been a Collared Sparrowhawk in the park, but after looking at some distant images that were taken, all appear to be the same Brown Goshawk. The rounded end to the tail indicates the latter.

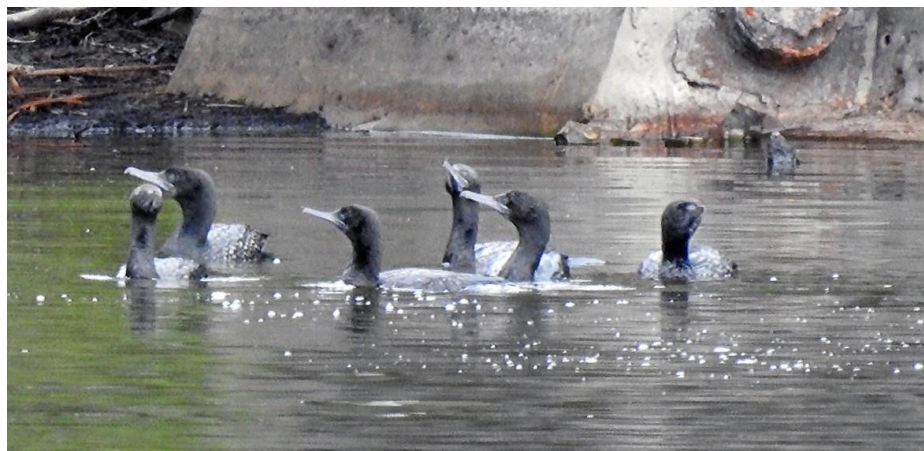
However, the range of water birds in the park is encouraging, as are the widespread sightings of Welcome Swallows, with an attendant Fairy Martin. Unfortunately, several cygnets have disappeared most likely due to fox predation. A fox control program is underway.

More broadly, the month of March produced several other very rewarding sightings, many captured by our superb photographer, Ursula Dutkiewicz. Thank you, Ursula, and Peter Petinatos, for your many graphic and beautiful images that contribute so much to our surveys.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number	Observer
4 March	Brown Quail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
8 March	^ Crested Pigeon	9	Skylark Klease (eBird)
9 March	Nankeen Night-Heron	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 March	Brown Goshawk	1	Elke Link (eBird)
11 March	^ Rufous Fantail	1	Elke Link (eBird)
11 March	^ European Goldfinch	6	Elke Link (eBird)
13 March	Australasian Shoveler	1	Elke Link (eBird)
13 March	Darter	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
14 March	Silvereye	3	Chris Donner (eBird)
16 March	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 March	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
23 March	^ Australasian Shoveler (pair)	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
25 March	Little Grassbird	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
25 March	^ Rufous Fantail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
29 March	^ Brown Quail	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
29 March	^ Musk Lorikeet	4	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
29 March	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
29 March	^ Grey Fantail	14	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
29 March	^ Crested Tern	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
29 March	Flame Robin (female)	1	Josh Gatchalian (eBird)
30 March	^ Australasian Shoveler (pair)	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
31 March	^ Darter	1	Charlotte Khoo (eBird)
31 March	Striated Pardalote	2	Charlotte Khoo (eBird)
8 April	Eastern Great Egret	1	Lauren Fanning (eBird)
13 April	Masked Lapwing	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
13 April	Brown Thornbill	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
13 April	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	Mark Stanley (eBird)
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



Six Little Black Cormorants taken near the walk over Bridge in the large freshwater lake



Three Great Crested Grebes, one White-faced Heron, 21 Little Black Cormorants, and Crested Terns spotted on the Yarra River suggest the water quality is currently healthy with plenty of small fish.



Dusky Moorhens are almost always present in good numbers around the freshwater lake.



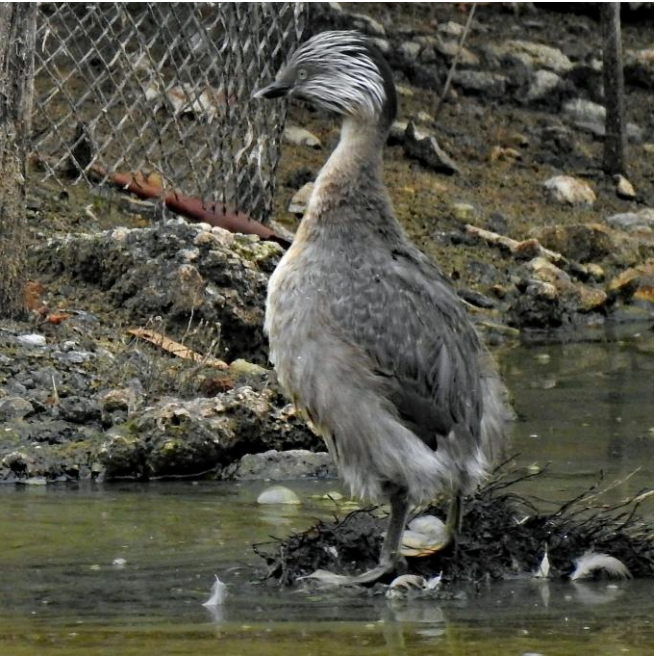
A Rainbow Lorikeet enjoying a good meal of nectar, and a male Superb Fairy-wren in eclipse plumage. Only four males were in blue plumage out of a total of 38 seen today – *images above by Peter Petinatos.*



A Royal Spoonbill (left) that has been in the park for at least two months, and a Yellow-billed Spoonbill that paid a brief visit on 16 March (right)



The Buff-banded Rail which has been seen several times over March around the freshwater lake and dam



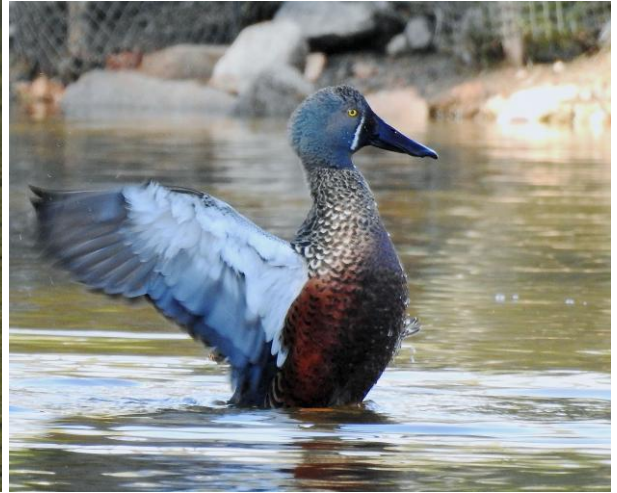
Little Grassbird at the edge of the dam, and Hoary-headed Grebe



Black Swan and three Cygnets on the Fresh Water Lake on 6 March, and Pelican on 9 March



Australasian Swamphen eating a Kangaroo Apple fruit. These birds have a highly varied diet, which also includes reeds, eggs and young chicks belonging to other bird species.



**A pair of Australasian Shoveler visited the park for at least one week from 23 – 30 March
A single female was seen 10 days earlier on 13 March**



Juvenile Brown Goshawk, and a group of New Holland Honeyeaters



There have been a few sightings of Rufous Fantails during March. This one was taken on 25 March



**Grey Fantails can be numerous during March and April in their seasonal migrations.
14 were counted in the park on 29 March**



Resting Welcome Swallows



Little Wattlebird



Nankeen Night-Heron waiting to catch a meal during the day, normally a nocturnal activity



Eastern Snake-necked Turtle in the large freshwater lake



A nice close up image of a Tiger Snake



Blue Flower Wasps, possibly *Austroscolia soror*



Tyde's Sand Wasp *Poalonia tydei*



Fidler Beetle *Eupoecila australasiae*



Moth below and Midge, Genus *Chironomus* above



Barred Skipper *Dispar compacta* – female



Moths, possibly *Delexocha ochrocausta*