

Westgate Park Bird Count

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| By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Peter and Jenny Petinatos, Silvy Chan, Bim Graham, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Lyn Griffen | | Date: Monday 4 May 2026 |
| Weather: Northerly breeze mounting – light cloud | | 12° Cel |
| Coverage: Entire survey route completed | | Times: 0840 - 1315 |

| Species | Number seen | Species | Number seen |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Brown Quail | | <i>Galah</i> | |
| Black Swan | 2 + 1* | <i>Little Corella</i> | |
| Australian Shelduck | | <i>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</i> | |
| Australian Wood Duck | | <i>Rainbow Lorikeet</i> | 12 |
| Pink-eared Duck | | <i>Budgerigar</i> | |
| Musk Duck | | <i>Musk Lorikeet</i> | |
| Grey Teal | 6 | <i>Little Lorikeet</i> | |
| Chestnut Teal | 18 | <i>Purple-crowned Lorikeet</i> | |
| Pacific Black Duck | 3 | <i>Eastern Rosella</i> | |
| Hardhead | 7 | <i>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</i> | |
| Australasian Grebe | 4 | <i>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</i> | |
| Hoary-headed Grebe | 9 | <i>Southern Boobook</i> | |
| Great Crested Grebe | | <i>Barn Owl</i> | |
| <i>Rock Dove</i> | 3 | <i>Sacred Kingfisher</i> | |
| <i>Spotted Turtle-Dove</i> | 7 | <i>Superb Fairy-wren</i> | 60 (5 blue) + 3* |
| <i>Common Bronzewing</i> | | <i>White-browed Scrubwren</i> | 7 |
| <i>Crested Pigeon</i> | | <i>Brown Thornbill</i> | 1 |
| Darter | 1 (female) | <i>Spotted Pardalote</i> | 1 |
| Little Pied Cormorant | 4* | <i>Eastern Spinebill</i> | |
| Great Cormorant | | <i>White-plumed Honeyeater</i> | 6 |
| Little Black Cormorant | 1* | <i>Noisy Miner</i> | 4 Todd Rd + 3 CFMEU + 4* |
| Pied Cormorant | | <i>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</i> | 1 |
| Australian Pelican | | <i>Little Wattlebird</i> | 1 + 3* |
| Eastern Great Egret | | <i>Red Wattlebird</i> | 25 |
| White-faced Heron | | <i>New Holland Honeyeater</i> | 27 |
| 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> | 1 |
| Brown Goshawk | | <i>Australian Magpie</i> | 6 |
| Little Eagle | | <i>Pied Currawong</i> | 4 |
| Nankeen Kestrel | | <i>Rufous Fantail</i> | |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | <i>Grey fantail</i> | |
| Australian Hobby | | <i>Willie Wagtail</i> | 6 |
| Peregrine Falcon | | <i>Little Raven</i> | 5 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Purple Swamphen | 5 | <i>Magpie-lark</i> | 11 |
| 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 | 16 | <i>Silvereye</i> | |
| Eurasian Coot | 23 | <i>Welcome Swallow</i> | 25 |
| Pied Stilt | | <i>Tree Martin</i> | |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 5 | <i>Common Blackbird</i> | |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | | <i>Common Starling</i> | 35 |
| Masked Lapwing | 2 + 2* | <i>Common Myna</i> | 3 |
| Latham's Snipe | | <i>Red-browed Finch</i> | 1 |
| Crested Tern | | <i>House Sparrow</i> | 30 |
| Pacific Gull | | <i>European Greenfinch</i> | |
| Silver Gull | 40 + 270* | <i>European Goldfinch</i> | |
| Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors 18 Land based 24. Total | | | 42 species |
| Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – none in usual hollow. Possum drey near carpark occupied by two Ringtail Possums. Frog calls detected. | | | |

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: 0.6 m; Freshwater Lake level: 0.2 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Rainbow Lorikeet | 2 | Australian Magpie | 1 |
| Noisy Miner | 3 | Magpie-lark | 1 |
| Red Wattlebird | 1 | Silver Gull | 2 |

Water levels in the main lakes have been dropping steadily, encouraging waders to visit and forage. Whilst the good news was that some 20 mm of very welcome rain fell at the weekend, the weather during the survey was not pleasant. Numbers reflect these wintry conditions.

Nevertheless, the month of April included many interesting observations many of which are seasonal migrants/temporary visitors such as Great Crested Grebe, Grey Fantails, Silvereyes (14 were counted on 15 April) passing through and our overwinter stayers, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters.

Foxes roam the park. A juvenile Black Swan was killed in the last several days. If not already commenced a fox control program is urgently required.

| Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Date | Species | Number | Observer |
| 15 April | Crested Pigeon | 1 | Kevin Geary (eBird) |
| 15 April | Brown Goshawk | 1 | Kevin Geary (eBird) |
| 15 April | Silvereye | 14 | Kevin Geary (eBird) |
| 15 April | European Goldfinch | 12 | Kevin Geary (eBird) |
| 17 April | Grey Fantail | 2 | Elke Link (eBird) |
| 17 April | ^ Brown Thornbill | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 18 April | Musk Lorikeet | 4 | Jean Dee (eBird) |
| 19 April | ^ Darter (male) | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 19 April | ^ Collared Sparrowhawk | 1 | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| 23 April | ^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater | 1 | Elke Link (eBird) |
| 23 April | ^ Silvereye | 6 | Elke Link (eBird) |
| 25 April | Great Crested Grebe | 1 | Wendy Deng (eBird) |
| 1 May | ^ Spotted Pardalote | 1 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | Striated Pardalote | 1 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | ^ Brown Thornbill | 1 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | Little Grassbird | 1 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | ^ Silvereye | 3 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | ^ Red-browed Finch | 13 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | European Greenfinch | 1 | Charles Silveira (eBird) |
| 1 May | ^ Red-browed Finch | 1 (juvenile) | Ursula Dutkiewicz |
| Sub-Total | | | 10 Species |
| Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings | | | <u>52 Species</u> |

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

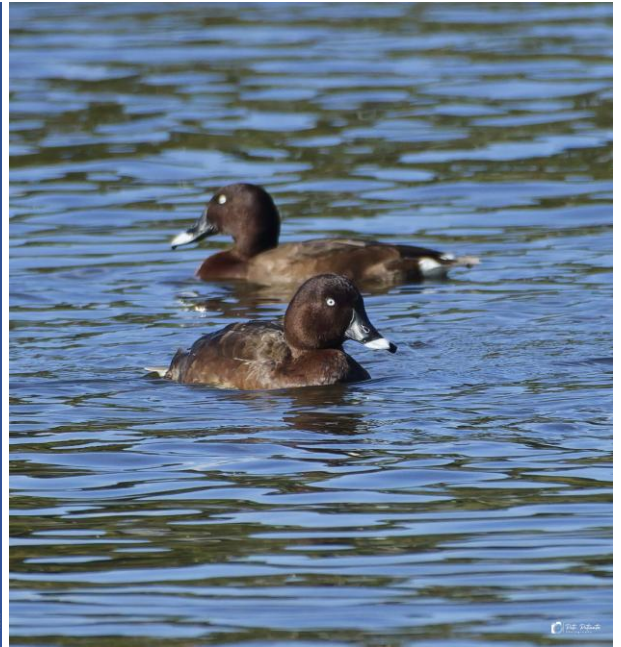
Unless specified otherwise all photographs in this report by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Female Australasian Darter. Despite being great distance fliers there appears to be very little flesh and muscle in the wings, just bone, skin and feathers.



Australasian Darter



Hardhead, both male

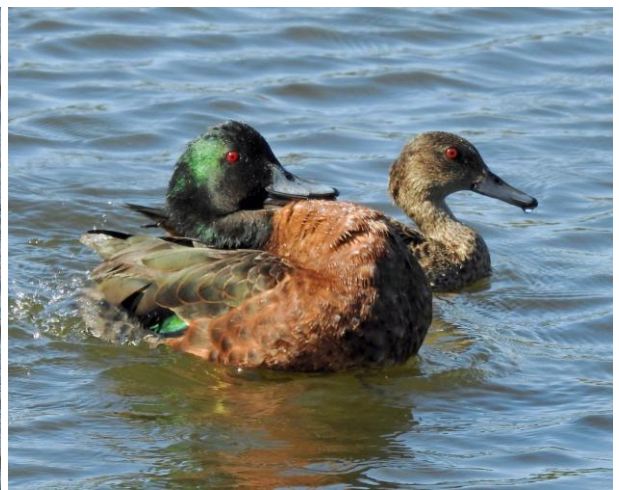


Black Swan & Friends

All images on this page and previous page by Peter Petinatos



There are two subspecies of Masked Lapwing: the southern “Black-shouldered” subspecies, which occurs here in Westgate Park has a black shoulder band and a larger black cap. The northern subspecies lacks the black shoulder band and has a larger yellow wattle.



There have been a number of Chestnut Teal Ducks displaying mating behaviour



A pair of Black Swans appearing to commence nest building

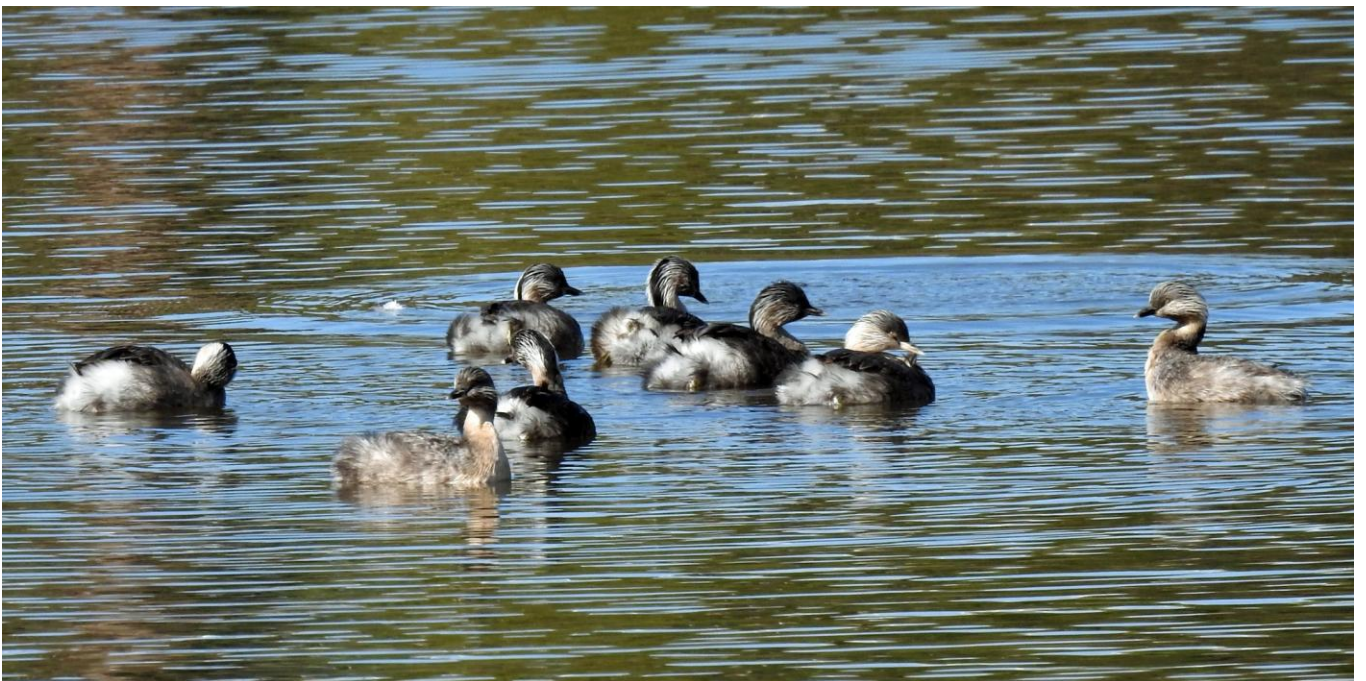


Remains of a Black Swan. The image to the left is of a wing with white primary and black secondary feathers. The grey breast feathers in the image to the right suggest this was a juvenile bird.

This is most likely a fox kill as the remains were near an active fox den. As reported last month, several cygnets have disappeared most likely due to fox predation. A fox control program is urgently required.



Little Pied Cormorant and Royal Spoonbill at rest in unusual but very relaxed postures



A 'raft' of Hoary-headed Grebes relaxing on the large freshwater lake



Juvenile Red-browed Finch

'Most exciting for me was on 01/04/2026 a pair of juvenile Red-browed Finches I spotted in the She Oaks along the Westgate Freeway side of the Fresh Water Lake' – Ursula Dutkiewicz.

This is conclusive evidence that these finches are now breeding in Westgate Park. Thirteen Red-browed Finches were counted in the park by an observer on 1 May and reported on eBird.



Adult Red-browed Finch and female Superb Fairy-wren

Images by Peter Petinatos



Two male Superb Fairy-wrens in eclipse plumage. The wren on the left has one or two tiny blue feathers just behind the eye indicating it was fully blue earlier in the year (you will need to enlarge the image to see it).

Images by Peter Petinatos



White-browed Scrubwren



Two seasonal visitors, a Grey Fantail and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater



The rich brown flanks indicate these Silvereyes are sub-species *lateralis*, which migrate to Tasmania over the summer months. These birds have just returned to the mainland



Family of European Goldfinch. The two birds upper right are juveniles



Pied Currawong with a cocoon



Collared Sparrowhawk. The squared corners of the tail are a diagnostic for this species



A well camouflaged brown Giant Green Slantface *Acrida conica*



A well concealed Orb-weaver spider



Saltbush Blue *Theclinesstes serpentatus*