

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Peter Petinatos, Bim Graham, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Chris Lester, John McRae, Elke Link, Mark Stanley		Date: Monday 1 June 2026
Weather: Clouding over, light breeze – rain expected early afternoon		7° Cel
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1315

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail		Galah	
Black Swan	3	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	30 + 5*
Pink-eared Duck		Musk Lorikeet	6
Musk Duck		Little Lorikeet	
Grey Teal	4	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	40 + 2*	Red-rumped Parrot	3
Pacific Black Duck	1	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Hardhead	3	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe	4	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Hoary-headed Grebe	12	Southern Boobook	
Great Crested Grebe		Barn Owl	
Rock Dove	20	Sacred Kingfisher	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	6 + 1*	Superb Fairy-wren	28 (3 blue) + 3*
Common Bronzewing		White-browed Scrubwren	11
Crested Pigeon	1*	Brown Thornbill	2
Darter	1*	Spotted Pardalote	
Little Pied Cormorant	2*	Eastern Spinebill	1 (heard)
Great Cormorant	2*	White-plumed Honeyeater	16
Little Black Cormorant		Noisy Miner	13 - 1 Park, 2 Todd Rd, 10 CFMEU, Nil*
Pied Cormorant		Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2
Australian Pelican		Little Wattlebird	3 + 7*
Eastern Great Egret		Red Wattlebird	38
White-faced Heron		New Holland Honeyeater	27
Nankeen Night-Heron		White-naped Honeyeater	
Australian White Ibis	3	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Royal Spoonbill		Golden Whistler	
Black-shouldered Kite		Grey Shrike-thrush	
Whistling Kite		Grey Butcherbird	1
Brown Goshawk		Australian Magpie	8
Little Eagle		Pied Currawong	2
Nankeen Kestrel		Rufous Fantail	
Brown Falcon		Grey fantail	
Australian Hobby		Willie Wagtail	6 + 1*
Peregrine Falcon		Little Raven	18 + 7*

Purple Swamphen	7	Magpie-lark	17 + 3*
Buff-banded Rail		Flame Robin	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	
Dusky Moorhen	24	Silvereye	
Eurasian Coot	36	Welcome Swallow	20
Pied Stilt		Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Common Blackbird	1 + 1*
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	25
Masked Lapwing	2*	Common Myna	
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	
Crested Tern		House Sparrow	20
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	
Silver Gull	50 + 60*	European Goldfinch	2
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors 14 - Land based 27			Total
			41 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum, usual hollow reoccupied. Ring-tailed Possum drey near carpark occupied. No frog calls heard. Fox scent detected in two areas at the Todd Road end of park.			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: 0.61 m; Freshwater Lake level: 0.2 m approx

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	8	Australian Magpie	4
Noisy Miner	10	Little Raven	1
Red Wattlebird	2		

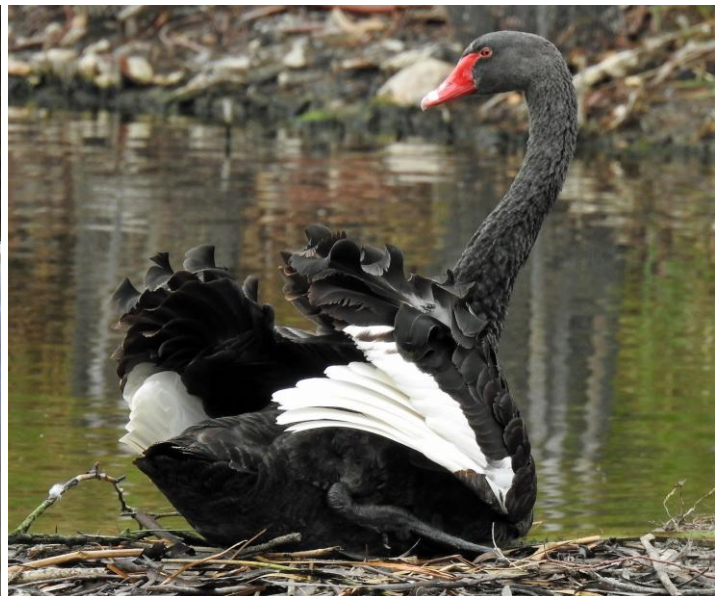
Despite the less than favorable weather the survey results were encouraging, backed up by excellent observations throughout the month. With planting under way, the forecast several days of moderate rainfall will be helpful. This is mostly aimed at restoring ground covers and replacing burnt trees in the various areas subjected to arson over the last 12 months.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number	Observer
6 May	^ Brown Thornbill	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
8 May	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
11 May	Red-browed Finch	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
12 May	^ Darter	1	Skip Russell (eBird)
12 May	^ Australasian Grebe	1	Skip Russell (eBird)
12 May	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	4	Skip Russell (eBird)
20 May	^ Red-browed Finch	10	Ursula Dutkiewicz
20 May	Grey fantail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
29 May	Golden Whistler (immature)	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
Sub-Total			4 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			45 Species

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



Yellow-billed Spoonbill in the park on 8 May



Black Swan about to move off to defend its mate from the advances of another swan

Images by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Hoary-headed Grebe emerging out of the water – they do not do this very often

Images by Ursula Dutkiewicz



The four Australasian Grebes seen today

Image by Peter Petinatos



Chestnut Teal have doubled their numbers in the park compared to recent months



Brawling coots in a two against one fight on the freshwater lake

Images on this page by Peter Petinatos



Pair of Black-fronted Dotterel taken on 25 May - most likely the same pair seen today



Left a Little Wattlebird in one of its favorite trees, a Coast Banksia, and right Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater a winter visitor taken on 15 May

Images on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



One of two Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters seen today



Only 3 of 31 Superb Fairy-wrens were in blue plumage today



One of 11 White-browed Scrubwrens seen today



A not so welcoming Welcome Swallow on sharing its perch

Images on this page by Peter Petinatos



Brown Thornbill taken on 6 May, and the only Grey Fantail seen over the last few weeks on 20 May



White-plumed Honeyeater swallowing a saltbush berry, and immature Golden Wistler on 29 May



Group of ten Red-browed Finches, including at least two immature birds

Images on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Pair of Superb Fairy-wrens snuggling together, male left and female right



White-browed Scrubwren in Coast Banksia



Ichneumonid Wasp – Subfamily *Ophioninae*



Gum Leaf Skeletoniser *Uraba lugens*



She-Oak Moth *Pernattia pusilla*

Images on this page by Ursula Dutkiewicz

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