

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Bim Graham, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Lyn Griffen, Elke Kink, Jackie Kerr, Claire Kelly, John McRae			Date: Monday 3 August 2026
Weather: Clearing, light N wind, 7°Cel			
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1330	

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail		Galah	
Black Swan	4	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	35 + 3*
Pink-eared Duck		Budgerigar	
Musk Duck		Musk Lorikeet	
Grey Teal	2	Little Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	19	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Pacific Black Duck	6 + 8 DY	Eastern Rosella	
Hardhead		Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe		Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Hoary-headed Grebe	3 + 2*	Southern Boobook	
Great Crested Grebe		Barn Owl	
Rock Dove	5	Sacred Kingfisher	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	2	Superb Fairy-wren	42 incl 18 blues + 2* incl 1 blue
Common Bronzewing		White-browed Scrubwren	11
Crested Pigeon		Brown Thornbill	
Darter		Spotted Pardalote	
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 1*	Eastern Spinebill	
Great Cormorant	6*	White-plumed Honeyeater	32
Little Black Cormorant		Noisy Miner	16 Park nil + Todd Rd 6 + CFMEU 10 + * nil
Pied Cormorant		Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2
Australian Pelican		Little Wattlebird	6 + 2*
Eastern Great Egret		Red Wattlebird	30
White-faced Heron		New Holland Honeyeater	30
Nankeen Night-Heron		White-naped Honeyeater	
Australian White Ibis	80	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Straw-necked Ibis		White-winged Triller	
Royal Spoonbill		Golden Whistler	
Black-shouldered Kite		Grey Shrike-thrush	
Whistling Kite		Grey Butcherbird	1
Brown Goshawk		Australian Magpie	5
Little Eagle		Pied Currawong	3
Nankeen Kestrel		Rufous Fantail	
Brown Falcon		Grey fantail	
Australian Hobby		Willie Wagtail	7

Peregrine Falcon		Little Raven	50
Purple Swamphen	6	Magpie-lark	8 + 1*
Buff-banded Rail		Flame Robin	
Baillon's Crake		Golden-headed Cisticola	
Australian Spotted Crake		Australian Reed-Warbler	
Black-tailed Native-hen		Little Grassbird	1
Dusky Moorhen	17	Silvereye	
Eurasian Coot	25	Welcome Swallow	20
Pied Stilt	4	Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	Common Blackbird	4
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	100+
Masked Lapwing	1	Common Myna	
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	21
Crested Tern		House Sparrow	7 + 1*
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	
Silver Gull	25 + 60*	European Goldfinch	3
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors 16 - Land based 23 Total			39 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – in usual hollow. Possum drey near car park occupied. Frog calls detected – Common Froglet.			

* Seen at/along Yarra River

Saltwater Lake level: 0.7 m

Freshwater Lake level: 0.35 m

CFMEU: These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	7	Red Wattlebird	5
Rainbow Lorikeet	2	White-plumed Honeyeater	1
Noisy Miner	10	Australian Magpie	1

Recent rains have raised levels in the major water bodies, and with the Little Ravens carrying nesting material, the brood of eight young Pacific Black Ducks after displaying mating behaviour, and a White-browed Scrubwren with a bill full of insects, possibly returning to feed young in a nest suggests breeding in the park is well under way.

The most significant sightings for July in the park were a Southern Boobook, two visits by a single Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, and very brief glimpses of a Buff-banded Rail and Little Grassbird both of which evaded Ursula's camera.

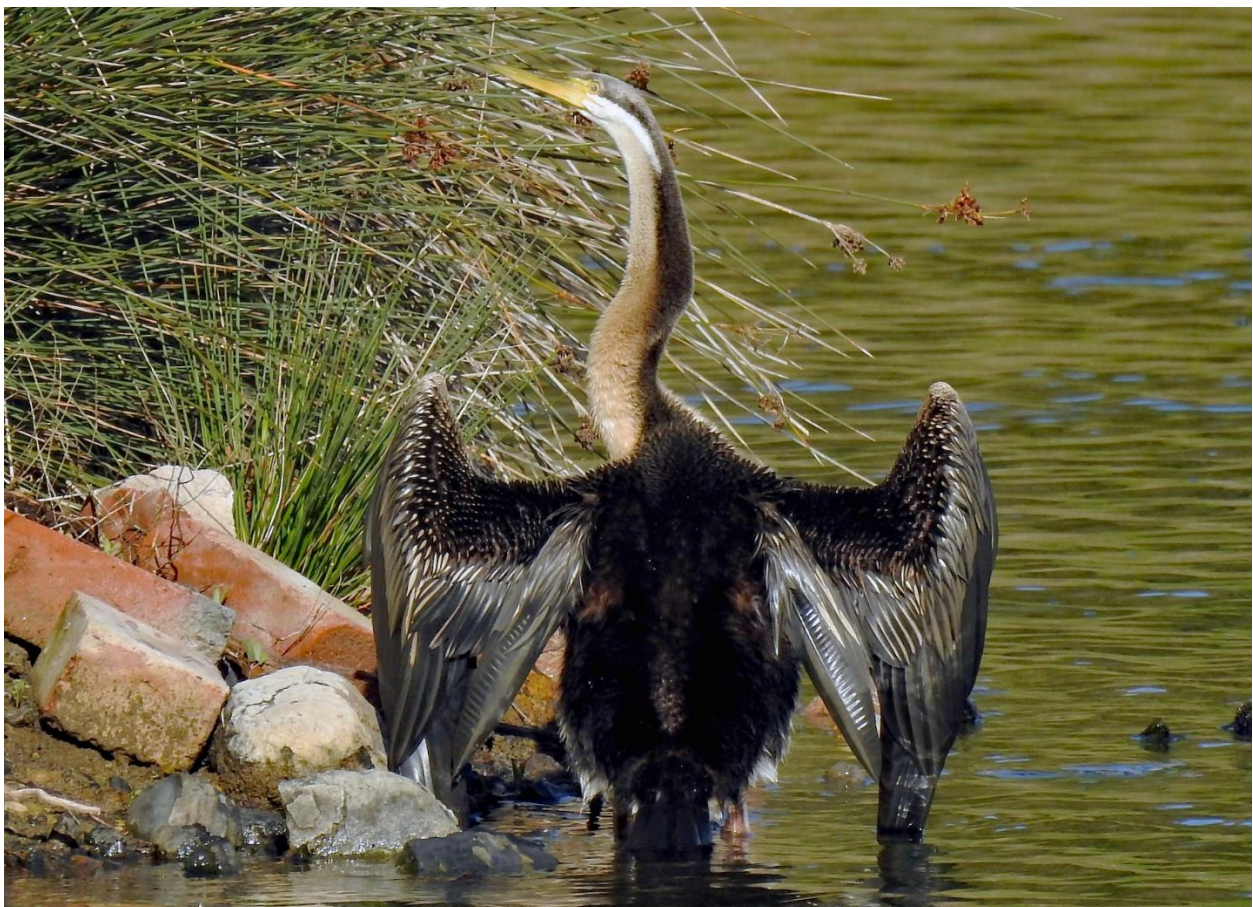
The number of male Superb Fairy Wrens moulting from brown to blue plumage has increased dramatically over the last few weeks – 57 were counted with 9 blues on the 6 July survey, and today 44 were counted with 19 blues. Moulting was noted by two other completely unrelated species, Black Swan and White-browed Scrubwren, with the former being rendered flightless and the latter just not looking its best.

The park looks attractive, thanks to the Westgate Biodiversity – Bili Nursery volunteers and the Melbourne City Council-SERCO team. The several localities damaged by arsonists are slowly recovering. Numbers of Common Mynahs appear to be declining in the park.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number	Observer
8 July	Australian Wood Duck	12	Rothco Thrush (eBird)
8 July	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Steve Davidson (eBird)
8 July	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
9 July	Brown Thornbill	2	Thomas Schenk (eBird)
13 July	Australasian Grebe	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
15 July	Brown Goshawk?	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
17 July	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
22 July	Striated Pardalote	2	Jonathan Tickner (eBird)
22 July	Crested Pigeon	1	Jonathan Tickner (eBird)
24 July	Australasian Darter	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
24 July	^ Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
24 July	Southern Boobook	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
29 July	Hardhead	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
2 August	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Lizette Salmon (eBird)
2 August	^ Brown Thornbill	1	John D'Amore (eBird)
Sub-Total			13 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

All photographs in this report by Ursula Dutkiewicz



Australasian Darter drying its feathers



After witnessing mating behavior by a pair of Pacific Black Ducks earlier in the month, the fruits of their labour were on display today – 8 newly hatched ducklings. The image to the right is a lost one Elke lovingly cared for today and reunited with its parents after a long search.



These two waterbird species have not been recorded in the park on this and last month's survey but have briefly appeared during July – the Australasian Grebe on the 13th, and Hardhead pair on the 29th.



Pair of Hoary-headed Grebes and Eurasian Coot



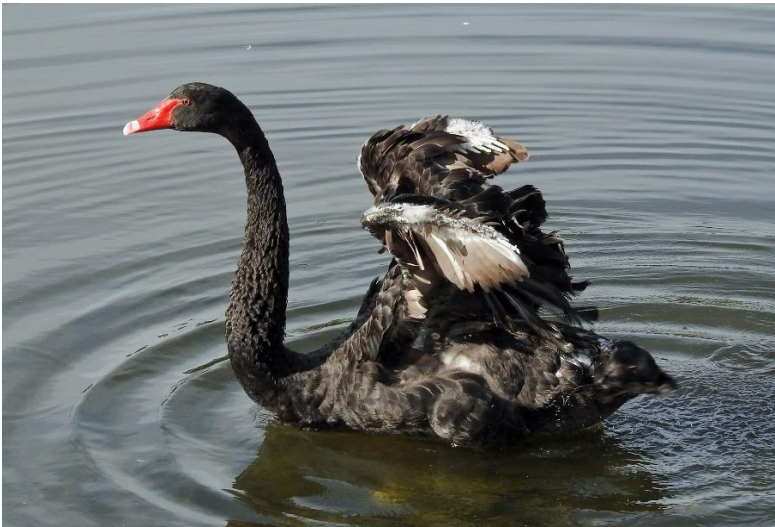
Chestnut Teal feeding on green algae 'soup'



Grey Teal on the Fresh Water Lake on 22 July – only two were seen today



The four Pied Stilts seen today



Black Swan in heavy moult rendering it flightless



Australian White Ibis on 13 July



Southern Boobook roosting in a She oak near the Windmill area



A single Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo appeared twice in the park on July 8 and 24.



Two Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, regular winter visitors to Westgate Park



Loud screeching sounds of Rainbow Lorikeets ring out around the park when the flowering Gum trees are in flower.



Pied Currawong



White-browed Scrubwren with a bill full of insects, possibly returning to feed young and a Welcome Swallow



Two male Superb Fairy-wrens in moul, transitioning into their bright blue plumage



Numbers of Red-browed Finches appear to be steadily increasing in the park. 21 were counted today



Drooping She-oak seeds are an important food source for the Red-browed Finch population in Westgate Park



Grey Mistletoe in flower. They could attract Mistletoebirds which have already been recorded in the park in May & September 2025



The Bird Survey team hard at work but thoroughly enjoying it!

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