

Westgate Park Bird Count

By: Peter Parrington, Rob Youl, Peter Petinatos, Bim Graham, Ursula Dutkiewicz, Claire Kelly, John McRae		Date: Monday 7 September 2026
Weather: Intermittent heavy cloud, stiff S wind - 12 °Cel		
Coverage: Entire survey route completed		Times: 0840 - 1330

Species	Number seen	Species	Number seen
Brown Quail	2	Galah	10
Black Swan	4 + 2*	Little Corella	
Australian Shelduck		Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
Australian Wood Duck		Rainbow Lorikeet	25 + 2*
Pink-eared Duck		Budgerigar	
Musk Duck		Musk Lorikeet	
Grey Teal	1	Little Lorikeet	
Chestnut Teal	19	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	
Pacific Black Duck	2	Eastern Rosella	
Hardhead	4	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	
Australasian Grebe		Fan-tailed Cuckoo	
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	Southern Boobook	
Great Crested Grebe		Barn Owl	
Rock Dove	3	Sacred Kingfisher	
Spotted Turtle-Dove	6	Superb Fairy-wren	35 incl 18 blue + 8* incl 2 blue
Common Bronzewing		White-browed Scrubwren	2
Crested Pigeon	1	Brown Thornbill	1
Darter		Spotted Pardalote	
Little Pied Cormorant	1 + 1*	Eastern Spinebill	
Great Cormorant	3*	White-plumed Honeyeater	20 + 2*
Little Black Cormorant		Noisy Miner	24 -10 Park +2 Todd Rd + 7 CFMEU + 5*
Pied Cormorant		Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	
Australian Pelican		Little Wattlebird	2 + 2*
Eastern Great Egret		Red Wattlebird	41 + 3*
White-faced Heron		New Holland Honeyeater	30
Nankeen Night-Heron		White-naped Honeyeater	
Australian White Ibis	150 + 10*	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	13 + 1*
Little Eagle		Pied Currawong	2
Nankeen Kestrel	1	Rufous Fantail	
Brown Falcon		Grey fantail	

Australian Hobby		Willie Wagtail	8 (nest over freshwater lake)
Peregrine Falcon		Little Raven	28 + 1*
Purple Swamphen	3	Magpie-lark	14 + 3*
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	13	Silvereye	
Eurasian Coot	11	Welcome Swallow	40 + 3*
Pied Stilt	1	Tree Martin	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	Common Blackbird	6
Red-kneed Dotterel		Common Starling	90 + 12*
Masked Lapwing	1	Common Myna	
Latham's Snipe		Red-browed Finch	15
Crested Tern	1*	House Sparrow	11
Pacific Gull		European Greenfinch	
Silver Gull	85 + 50 *	European Goldfinch	2
Number of Bird Species - Wetland dependent & Raptors - 20. Land based - 25 Total			45 species
Other animals: Brush-tailed Possum – in usual hollow. Possum drey near carpark occupied. Frog calls heard S Chain of Ponds.			

* seen at/along Yarra River only

Saltwater Lake level: 0.78 m

Freshwater Lake level: 0.52 m

CFMEU These are added to the park tally

Silver Gull	8	Australian Magpie	4
Noisy Miner	7	Magpie-lark	5
Red Wattlebird	5		

Thanks to bountiful recent rains, both main lakes are nearly full. Nevertheless, two Black-fronted Dotterels were observed, much to the surveyors' surprise given the current limited area of bare shoreline.

During the last month, numerous trees have been cleared along the park's northern boundary, as part of a new data centre construction project. This has probably encouraged Noisy Miners to come into the park from neighbouring landscaped spaces. As it is, almost all birds observed were close to the park boundaries.

Nesting has started for several species, and there are numerous blue males amongst the population of Superb Fairy-wrens.

A further 24 species were recorded on eBird over the last month in addition to today's tally of 45. This indicates how important it is to include these records to get a clearer understanding of the bird diversity that occurs in Westgate Park.

Some observations from Ursula

I was in the park on the 31st August and saw a good number of birds and noticed a couple of Dragonflies. Two days later there were Dragonflies everywhere which attracted many Silver gulls to the park for the feast. Spring has defiantly sprung and the birds looked happy. I managed to get a shot of the Little Grass Bird we have been hearing of late. Also, a Grey Fantail.

Birds are feasting on the nectar of the flowering plants in the park as well as Lerp on the gums.

Opportunistic Sightings – Interesting or unusual sightings reported between surveys			
Date	Species	Number	Observer
5 Aug	Buff-banded Rail	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
7 Aug	Brown Goshawk	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
12 Aug	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	1	Bim Graham
16 Aug	Straw-necked Ibis (flying over)	8	Ursula Dutkiewicz
16 Aug	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
16 Aug	^ Brown Goshawk	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
22 Aug	^ Chestnut Teal	35	Sam Bayer (eBird)
22 Aug	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Sam Bayer (eBird)
22 Aug	Grey fantail	1	Sam Bayer (eBird)
24 Aug	White-faced Heron	1	John Daniels (eBird)
24 Aug	Spotted Pardalote	1	John Daniels (eBird)
24 Aug	^ Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	2	Ursula Dutkiewicz
1 Sept	Pallid Cuckoo	2	Elke Link (eBird)
1 Sept	Collared Sparrowhawk	1	Anita Thamm (eBird)
1 Sept	Nankeen Kestrel	1	Anita Thamm (eBird)
1 Sept	^ Red-browed Finch	20	Anita Thamm (eBird)
2 Sept	Australasian Darter	3	Russell Scott (eBird)
2 Sept	Silvereye	2	John Daniels (eBird)
2 Sept	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	1	Ursula Dutkiewicz
2 Sept	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	2	Chen Qi (eBird)
2 Sept	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	2	Chen Qi (eBird)
2 Sept	Eastern Spinebill	2	Chen Qi (eBird)
2 Sept	^ Galah	1	John Daniels (eBird)
2 Sept	^ Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	1	John Daniels (eBird)
2 Sept	Little Grassbird	2	John Daniels (eBird)
2 Sept	^ Australian Reed-Warbler	1	John Daniels (eBird)
3 Sept	^ Brown Quail	2	John Daniels (eBird)
3 Sept	Spotless Crane (heard, recorded)	1	John Daniels (eBird)
3 Sept	Long-billed Corella	2	John Daniels (eBird)
3 Sept	European Greenfinch	5	John Daniels (eBird)
3 Sept	^ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1	Jack Parrington (eBird)
3 Sept	^ White-faced Heron	1	Jack Parrington (eBird)
3 Sept	^ Brown Thornbill	1	Jack Parrington (eBird)
4 Sept	Common Bronzewing	1	Dee Dee (eBird)
6 Sept	Southern Boobook (photo taken)	1	Alexis Goh (eBird)
Sub-Total			24 Species
Total number of species – Survey + Opportunistic Sightings			<u>69 Species</u>

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

Unless stated otherwise, all photographs in this report by Ursula Dutkiewicz



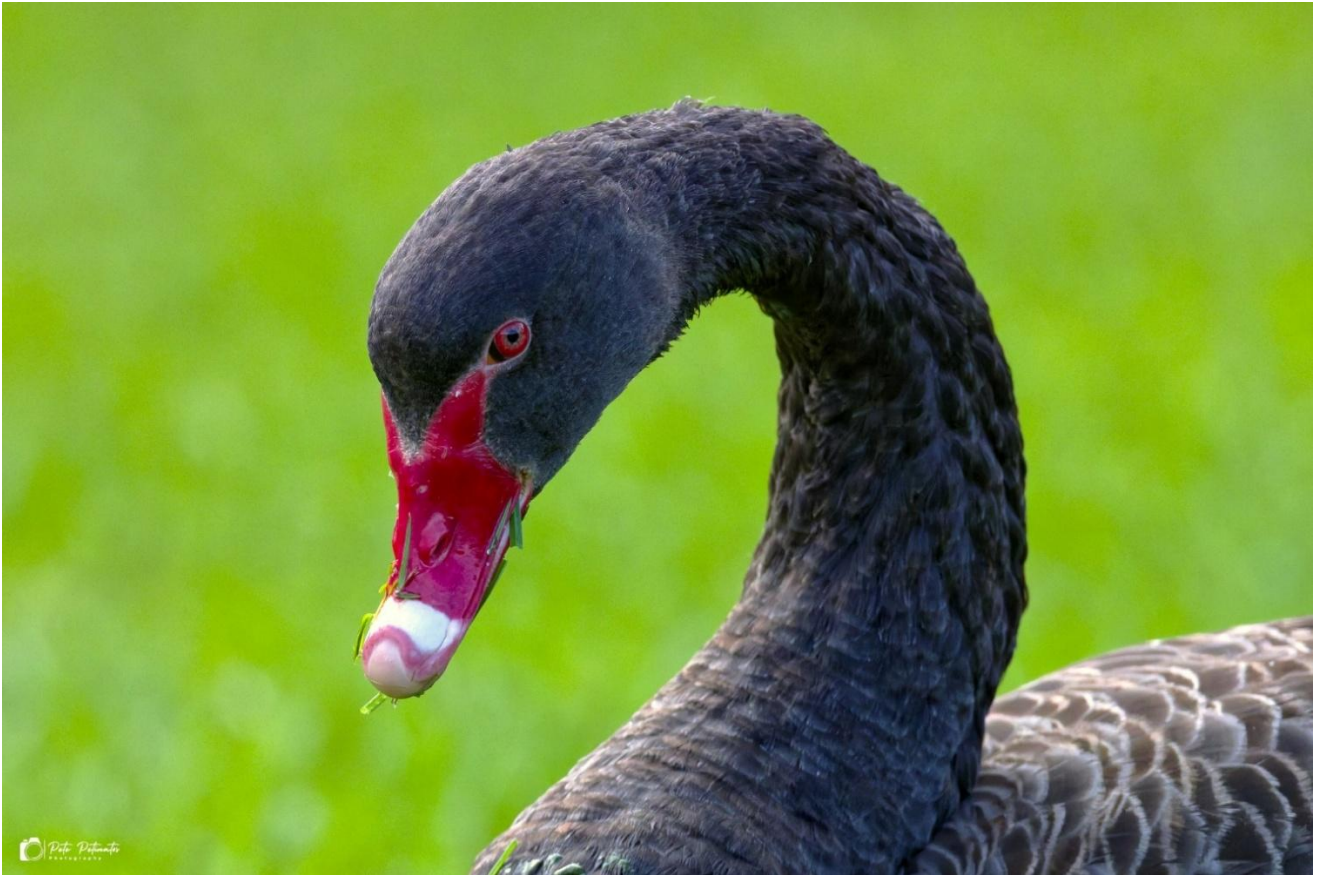
**Two very elusive Brown Quail seen today giving only a brief opportunity to get photographs
– Images by Peter Petinatos**



Hoary-headed Grebes building a nest and displaying mating behaviour



Although not seen today a single White-faced Heron appeared in the park several times during August - this one was photographed on the 24th



One of four Black Swans in the park today – *Image by Peter Petinatos*



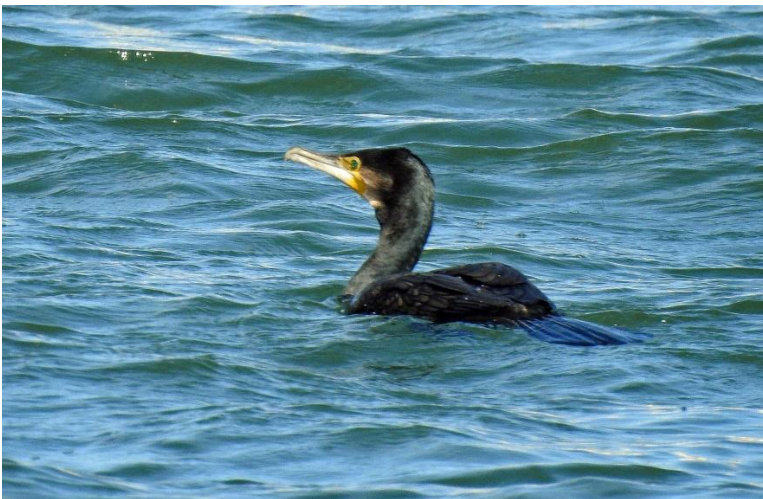
Masked Lapwing searching for prey



Three of four Hardheads seen on 10 August



Australian White Ibis seen today



Great Cormorant on the Yarra River and Little Pied Cormorant drying its wings on the freshwater lake



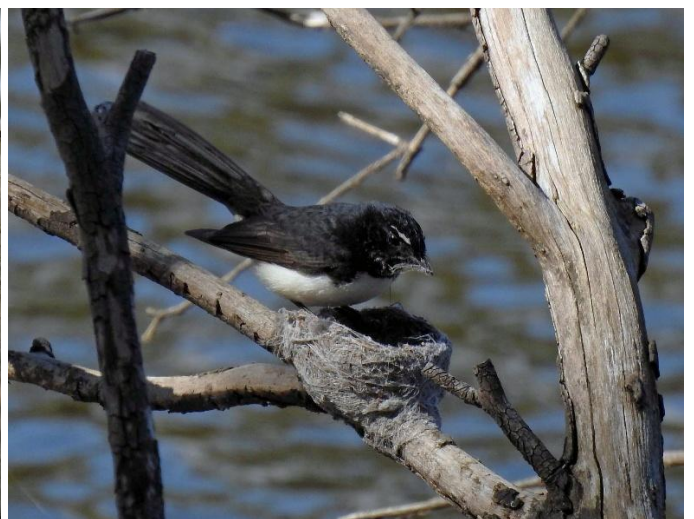
A Little Grassbird that appeared on 2 September, and some of the many Silver gulls in the park that exploited the opportunity to feed on newly emerged Dragonflies



A pair of Black-fronted Dotterels remain in the park despite there being not much shoreline due to high levels in the larger water bodies – *image to the right by Peter Petinatos*



A Brown Goshawk appeared in the park during August, these images were taken on the 16th



Willie Wagtail constructing its nest with spider webs on the edge of the freshwater lake. They are making speedy progress as the left image was taken on 21st of August and the image on the right 5 days later.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos visited the park twice in August. This pair were photographed on the 24th



Immature Pied Currawong



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes have appeared in the park several times over the last few weeks



Two seasonal visitors – Grey Fantail left, and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, right



Two European Goldfinch were recorded today – *image on the right by Peter Petinatos*



Welcome Swallows collecting mud for nest building



**One of 15 Red-browed Finches seen today
– *image by Peter Petinatos***



Grey Butcher Bird with Tussock Skink freshly caught near the Salt Water Lake



**Grey Butcher Bird with Tussock Skink.
These Skinks are listed as an Endangered
species In Victoria**



**Male Superb Fairy-wren almost completely
changed to blue plumage**



Rainbow Lorikeets feasting on Lerp in the gums



Red Wattlebird in wattle feeding on pollen or searching for insects



Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstechari*



Common Blue-tongue *Tiliqua scincoides*



Spotted Ground Swift Spider



Australian Emperor Dragonflies laying eggs