

Bird Census at Lake Claremont

31 October 2025

Note from the census taker:

The morning the bird census was conducted at Lake Claremont was warm and mostly clear with a variable breeze. The water level was as high as we have seen at this time of the year, above the 2m AHD (Australian Height Datum) mark (see below photo).

We recorded 387 individuals of 37 species. This is our average number of species but fewer individuals than the average for our spring surveys. Waterfowl numbers were mostly below average. Surprisingly Grey Teal, normally abundant in spring, were not seen. Breeding activity was noted for Pacific Black Ducks, Black Swan, Coot, Red Wattlebird, Raven and Welcome Swallow. A highlight was the Swamp Harrier, which sometimes visits at this time of the year, searching for easy prey amongst the juvenile waterfowl.

The below spreadsheet also shows the average numbers recorded in our previous twenty-four spring surveys.



Lake Claremont Bird Census		Spring 2025	Spring average
Common Name	Scientific Name	31/10/25	
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis	2	4.3
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus	1	25.7
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus	15	13.5
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides	2	5.8
Hardhead	Aythya australis	2	7.2
Australasian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis		3.0
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	37	90.0
Domestic Duck (Mallard) *			0.1
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis		33.1
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea		0.1
Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa		0.1
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata	2	0.1
Australian Wood Duck	Chenonetta jubata	26	4.2
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae		6.5
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliiocephalus poliocephalus		1.6
Rock Dove *	Columba livia *		0.1
Spotted Dove *	Streptopelia chinensis *	2	3.0
Laughing Dove *	Streptopelia senegalensis *		1.8
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes		0.0
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chalcites basalus		0.0
Pallid Cuckoo	Heteroscenes pallidus		0.0
Southern Boobook	Ninox novaeseelandiae	1	0.1
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides		0.0
Buff-banded Rail	Hypotaenidia philippensis		0.1
Australian Spotted Crake	Porzana fluminea		0.2
Baillon's Crake	Zapornia pusilla		0.0
Spotless Crake	Zapornia tabuensis		0.0
Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio	23	16.0
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa		4.5
Black-tailed Native-hen	Tribonyx ventralis		0.3
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	62	84.5
Red-necked Avocet	Recurvirostra novaehollandiae		0.0
Pied (Black-winged) Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus		26.5
Banded Stilt	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus		0.0
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elsayornis melanops		0.4
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythronyx cinctus		0.0
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles		0.0
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus		0.0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata		0.0
Long-toed Stint	Calidris subminuta		0.0
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis		0.0
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos		0.0
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		0.0
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia		0.0
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis		0.0
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola		0.0
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae	1	16.9
Pacific Gull	Larus pacificus		0.0
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia		0.0
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus		0.0
Australian Little Bittern	Ixobrychus dubius		0.0
Nankeen Night-Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus	2	2.3
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica		0.3
Great Egret	Ardea alba		0.6
Cattle Egret	Ardea ibis		0.0

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Common Name	Scientific Name	31/10/25	
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae		1.9
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis moluccus	5	4.9
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis		1.4
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes		0.0
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		0.0
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	3	1.1
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		0.1
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris		0.0
Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius		0.0
Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae		0.0
Eastern Osprey	Pandion cristatus		0.0
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris		0.0
Whistling Kite	Haliastur spheurnus		0.0
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans	1	0.0
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus		0.1
Collared Sparrowhawk	Accipiter cirrocephalus		0.0
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides		0.0
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis		0.2
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus		0.1
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus		0.1
Laughing Kookaburra *	Dacelo novaeguineae *	2	1.1
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus banksii		1.6
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Zanda latirostris		0.0
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla	3	5.3
Long-billed Corella *	Cacatua tenuirostris *		0.0
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	38	13.1
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius	1	3.1
Rainbow Lorikeet *	Trichoglossus moluccanus *	3	18.0
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Malurus assimilis	6	0.1
Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens		0.0
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	23	8.6
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae		0.5
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Phylidonyris niger		0.1
Western Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus superciliosus		0.0
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons		0.0
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	28	22.0
Western Wattlebird	Anthochaera lunulata		0.0
Singing Honeyeater	Gavicalis virescens	5	5.7
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus		0.0
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus		0.7
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	5	1.2
Weebill	Smicronis brevirostris		0.2
Spotted Scrubwren	Sericornis maculatus		0.1
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa		0.0
Inland Thornbill	Acanthiza apicalis		0.0
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae		0.5
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	5	0.7
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	7	8.5
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	1	1.7
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	13	12.9
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa	5	0.4
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	32	14.9
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	4	9.0
Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus	2	3.4
Brown Songlark	Cinclorampus cruralis		0.0

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Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>	31/10/25	
Australian Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus australis		5.5
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans		4.8
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	5	12.0
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	12	2.5
Species		37	37.1
Individuals		387	520.8

Recorded by David and Sacha Free

* = introduced species