

Bird Census at Lake Claremont

11 January 2026

Note from the census taker:

The morning the bird census was conducted at Lake Claremont was sunny with an easterly breeze, initially cool but becoming warm.

Unusually for this time of the year, there is still water in all parts of the lake. The water gauge shows about 1.6m AHD (see below photo). The bushland is very dry.

We observed 567 individuals of 40 species. The number of individuals is above average and the species count is well above our summer average. Breeding activity was noted for Black Swans, Purple Swamphen and Eurasian Coot.

Worth noting was our sighting of a pair of Inland Thornbills; this pretty little songster is uncommon in the metropolitan area and we have not previously recorded it in our surveys. This is another example of the increasing health of our regenerated bushland.

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



Lake Claremont Bird Census		Summer 2026	Summer average
Common Name	Scientific Name	11/01/2026	
Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae		0.0
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae		4.0
Australasian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis	4	1.6
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis		0.0
Australian Little Bittern	Ixobrychus dubius		0.0
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	8	12.7
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus		0.0
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	10	15.8
Australian Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus australis		2.0
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius		2.2
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides	9	4.5
Australian Spotted Crake	Porzana fluminea		0.4
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis moluccus	16	3.3
Australian Wood Duck	Chenonetta jubata	12	5.8
Baillon's Crake	Zapornia pusilla		0.0
Banded Stilt	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus		0.0
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus	24	6.2
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae		0.8
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elseya melanops		0.8
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris		0.3
Black-tailed Native-hen	Tribonyx ventralis		0.0
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis		0.3
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus		0.2
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	3	1.4
Brown Songlark	Cincloramphus cruralis		0.0
Buff-banded Rail	Hypotaenidia philippensis		0.5
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Zanda latirostris	1	0.4
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia		0.0
Cattle Egret	Ardea ibis		0.0
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea		0.1
Collared Sparrowhawk	Accipiter cirrocephalus		0.0
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia		0.0
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		0.0
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes		0.0
Domestic Duck (Mallard) *			0.0
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa		2.4
Eastern Osprey	Pandion cristatus		0.0
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	139	36.7
Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa		0.0
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla	9	5.8
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		0.0
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		0.0
Great Egret	Ardea alba	2	0.2
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	2	1.5
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa	4	0.5
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis	20	36.8
Hardhead	Aythya australis		1.2
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliiocephalus poliocephalus		0.5
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chalcites basalis		0.0
Inland Thornbill	Acanthiza apicalis	2	0.0
Laughing Dove *	Streptopelia senegalensis *		1.3
Laughing Kookaburra *	Dacelo novaeguineae *		1.6
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris		0.0

Lake Claremont Bird Census		Summer 2026	Summer average
Common Name	Scientific Name	11/01/2026	
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	80	25.9
Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus		0.5
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	7	1.6
Long-billed Corella *	Cacatua tenuirostris *		1.2
Long-toed Stint	Calidris subminuta		0.0
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	12	9.2
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis		0.0
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles		0.0
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata	6	0.0
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides		0.0
Nankeen Night-Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus		0.1
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	1	0.4
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	54	78.1
Pacific Gull	Larus pacificus		0.0
Pallid Cuckoo	Heteroscenes pallidus		0.0
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos		0.0
Pied (Black-winged) Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus	5	32.8
Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius		0.0
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus	10	6.1
Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio	21	18.2
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Malurus assimilis	5	0.1
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus		0.0
Rainbow Lorikeet *	Trichoglossus moluccanus *	18	21.7
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	5	14.6
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythronyx cinctus		1.9
Red-necked Avocet	Recurvirostra novaehollandiae		4.0
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis		0.0
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus banksii	4	0.9
Rock Dove *	Columba livia *		0.0
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	3	0.1
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus		0.4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata		0.1
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae		26.0
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	13	12.1
Singing Honeyeater	Gavicalis virescens	7	5.8
Southern Boobook	Ninox novaeseelandiae	1	0.3
Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens		0.0
Spotless Crake	Zapornia tabuensis		0.0
Spotted Dove *	Streptopelia chinensis *	2	3.1
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus		0.0
Spotted Scrubwren	Sericornis maculatus		0.0
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis		5.2
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	1	0.3
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans		0.0
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides		0.0
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus		0.0

Lake Claremont Bird Census		Summer 2026	Summer average
Common Name	Scientific Name	11/01/2026	
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	1	6.8
Weebill	Smicromis brevirostris		1.2
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	17	14.0
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	4	0.9
Western Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus superciliosus		0.1
Western Wattlebird	Anthochaera lunulata		0.0
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus		0.1
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Phylidonyris niger		0.9
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	5	1.7
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons		0.0
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica		0.1
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	20	16.2
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola		0.0
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes		0.1
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa		0.0
Species		40.0	30.2
Individuals		567.0	464.7

Recorded by David and Sacha Free

* = introduced species