

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	
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis		0.3
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus	10	6.1
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus	24	6.2
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides	9	4.5
Hardhead	Aythya australis		1.2
Australasian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis	4	1.6
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	54	78.1
Domestic Duck (Mallard) *			0.0
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis	20	36.8
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea		0.1
Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa		0.0
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata	6	0.0
Australian Wood Duck	Chenonetta jubata	12	5.8
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae		4.0
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliocephalus poliocephalus		0.5
Rock Dove *	Columba livia *		0.0
Spotted Dove *	Streptopelia chinensis *	2	3.1
Laughing Dove *	Streptopelia senegalensis *		1.3
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes		0.0
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chalcites basalis		0.0
Pallid Cuckoo	Heteroscenes pallidus		0.0
Southern Boobook	Ninox novaeseelandiae	1	0.3
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides		0.0
Buff-banded Rail	Hypotaenidia philippensis		0.5
Australian Spotted Crane	Porzana fluminea		0.4
Baillon's Crane	Zapornia pusilla		0.0
Spotless Crane	Zapornia tabuensis		0.0
Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio	21	18.2
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa		2.4
Black-tailed Native-hen	Tribonyx ventralis		0.0
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	139	36.7
Red-necked Avocet	Recurvirostra novaehollandiae		4.0
Pied (Black-winged) Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus	5	32.8
Banded Stilt	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus		0.0
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elsayornis melanops		0.8
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythronyctes alba		1.9
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles		0.0
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus		0.0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata		0.1
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		26.0
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		0.1
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica		0.1

Lake Claremont Bird Census		Summer 2026	Summer average
Common Name	Scientific Name	11/01/2026	
Great Egret	Ardea alba	2	0.2
Cattle Egret	Ardea ibis		0.0
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	5	1.7
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis moluccus	16	3.3
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis		5.2
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes		0.1
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		0.0
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	7	1.6
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo		0.0
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		0.3
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus		0.1
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans		0.0
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus		0.2
Collared Sparrowhawk	Accipiter cirrocephalus		0.0
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides		0.0
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis		0.0
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus		0.0
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus		0.4
Laughing Kookaburra *	Dacelo novaeguineae *		1.6
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus banksii	4	0.9
Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Zanda latirostris	1	0.4
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla	9	5.8
Long-billed Corella *	Cacatua tenuirostris *		1.2
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	80	25.9
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius		2.2
Rainbow Lorikeet *	Trichoglossus moluccanus *	18	21.7
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Malurus assimilis	5	0.1
Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens		0.0
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	3	1.4
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	1	0.4
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Phylidonyris niger		0.9
Western Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus superciliosus		0.1
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons		0.0
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	5	14.6
Western Wattlebird	Anthochaera lunulata		0.0
Singing Honeyeater	Gavicalis virescens	7	5.8
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus		0.0
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	1	0.3
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	4	0.9
Weebill	Smicronis brevirostris		1.2
Spotted Scrubwren	Sericornis maculatus		0.0
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa		0.0
Inland Thornbill	Acanthiza apicalis	2	0.0
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae		0.8
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	3	0.1
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	8	12.7
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	2	1.5
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	20	16.2

Lake Claremont Bird Census		Summer 2026	Summer average
Common Name	Scientific Name	11/01/2026	
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa	4	0.5
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	10	15.8
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	12	9.2
Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus		0.5
Brown Songlark	Cinclorampus cruralis		0.0
Australian Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus australis		2.0
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	1	6.8
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	17	14.0
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	13	12.1
Species		40.0	30.2
Individuals		567.0	464.7

Recorded by David and Sacha Free

* = introduced species