

Bird list for Soldiers Swamp (West Boundary Rd) 2007-2011

Compiled from records of Rod Bird, Jane Hayes and HFNC

No.	Water birds	Freq	No.	Other birds	Freq
1	Australasian grebe	r	1	Whistling kite	mc
2	Hoary-headed grebe	r	2	Swamp harrier	mc
3	Little pied cormorant	r	3	Brown falcon	mc
4	Little black cormorant	r	4	Nankeen kestrel	mc
5	Great cormoran	vr	5	Welcome swallow	mc
6	White-necked heron	mc	6	Australasian pipit	c
7	White-faced heron	mc	7	Willie wagtail	mc
8	Australian white ibis	mc	8	Red wattlebird	r
9	Straw-necked ibis	mc	9	White-fronted chat	mc
10	Yellow-billed spoonbill	r	10	Magpie-lark	mc
11	Magpie goose	vr	11	Australian magpie	vc
12	Black swan	vc	12	Little raven	mc
13	Australian shelduck	mc	13	Galah	r
14	Pacific black duck	mc	14	Eurasian skylark	mc
15	Grey teal	mc	15	Common starling	vc
16	Chestnut teal	r	16	European goldfinch	vc
17	Australasian shoveller	r	17	Striated pardalote	r
18	Pink-eared duck	r	18	Striated fieldwren	r
19	Hardhead	r	19	White-plumed honeyeater	r
20	Australian wood duck	r	20	Brown songlark	r
21	Purple swamphen	c	21	Silvereye	r
22	Black-tailed native hen	vr			
23	Eurasian coot	mc			
24	Brolga	r			
25	Masked lapwing	vc			
26	Black-fronted dotterel	r			
27	Black-winged stilt	r			
28	Sharp-tailed sandpiper	r			
29	Silver gull	mc			
30	Whiskered tern	r			

Freq. **vr**, 1-2 records; **r**, rare; **mc**, moderately common; **c**, common; **vc**, very common ('frequency of sighting' here gives an approximate idea of the likelihood of seeing a particular species; the estimate is derived from a combination of the number of times the species was seen and, to a lesser extent, the number of individuals seen).

Notes

This is a private wetland of perhaps 10 ha in area. It is a relic of a much greater swamp that has been drained. The remnant has little depth of water in winter and holds water only in small amounts (if at all) in late summer. However, a small dam has been scooped out in the SW corner and that holds water in summer and is favoured by ducks.

An unusual sighting here was that of 10 Magpie Geese in January 2008 – apparently the only record in the last 50 years for the local wetlands. The species was, however, more common in the early days before the vast wetlands in SW Victoria were drained.

The swamp bed and surrounds are heavily grazed when the water subsides and therefore there is little tall fringe vegetation, except for phalaris and a few Blackwoods along the roadside and two remnant trees in the paddock.

The birds may be conveniently viewed from an elevated position on West Boundary Rd, adjacent to the NE edge of the swamp. (West Boundary Rd is about 8 km east of Hamilton, running south off the Hamilton Highway)