

HUNTER REGION OF NSW

1993 BIRD REPORT

This annual record of the birds of the Hunter Region of NSW has been produced by the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc (HBOC). The aims of HBOC are to:

- Encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat;
- Encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.

HBOC holds monthly meetings and organises regular outings and camps. Beginners and more experienced birdwatchers are equally catered for in the range of activities that are provided by the Club. Members receive a newsletter every two months, and have access to the HBOC's comprehensive range of books, tapes, compact discs and video cassettes about Australian and world birdlife. The membership categories are single, family and junior, and applications for membership are welcomed at any time.

Copies of this report, at \$10.00 each plus \$1.50 (for 1-3 copies) for postage and handling, may be obtained from:

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Cover photograph: Australian Kestrel with prey
(Photographer: Gary Weber)

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FOREWORD

It is with great excitement and pleasure that I introduce the inaugural Bird Report for the Hunter Region, produced as an initiative of the Hunter Bird Observers Club. This club became autonomous in 1981 after earlier functioning as the Hunter Bird Observers Group within the Newcastle Flora and Fauna Protection Society. For Wilma Barden who was a foundation member and continues to be an active member of HBOC, this inaugural report is a "dream come true". The dream has become reality through the dedication of Alan Stuart who has compiled the Report, Peter McLauchlan who devised our map of the Hunter Region and Sue Hamonet who has been the unofficial and now official Records Officer over a number of years. Last but not least are the people who have sent in their observations.

I hope that the Bird Report for 1994 will be twice as large as people continue to send in their records and new people join in. Not every record may be published, but every record is needed even to make the decision not to publish it. If you are in doubt about the importance of your observation, send it anyway.

A Bird Report seeks to improve our knowledge of the distribution, status and breeding frequency of the avian population. Whilst perusing this Report, some of you no doubt will be thinking thoughts such as: "I saw an Olive Whistler last year". Well, it is too late for 1993. I invite and urge you to write down your observations and send them to us to be included in the 1994 Report already in the process of being compiled.

Ann Lindsey
President, Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
July 1994

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Bird Report summarises the status of species within the Hunter Region of NSW between January 1 and December 31, 1993, based upon observation records gathered from a variety of sources. Species which have been recorded by the Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc (HBOC) within the Hunter Region at some time during the past 7 years are referred to in the Report, regardless of whether any observations were reported during the current year. This has been done in order to draw attention to the absence of records for a particular species and perhaps stimulate consideration of the reasons for the absence.

It is recognised that the approach of using only the formal HBOC records has generated an incomplete list of species that have been recorded within the Hunter Region in recent years. Many additional species will have been recorded by individuals but not by HBOC. For example, several vagrant wading birds are not listed in this inaugural Report. It is expected that future annual reports will include an expanded list of Hunter Region species, now that a more concerted effort is being made to collect (and verify) these interesting other records.

The information in this Report is also forwarded to the NSW Field Ornithologists Club, and used in the preparation of an Annual Bird Report for NSW.

The Hunter Region of NSW has been defined as the area described in the popular tourist maps of the Hunter. Thus, the Region is formed by the boundaries of fourteen Local Government Areas — the Municipalities of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock and Greater Taree, and the Shires of Murrurundi, Scone, Gloucester, Merriwa, Dungog, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Port Stephens and Great Lakes.

For the purpose of records collation, the Region has been partitioned into a grid of 10 minute cells (based upon lines of latitude and longitude). This system allows compatibility of data with the RAOU *Atlas of Australian Birds* and with the NSW bird atlas project. There are 153 cells in the Hunter Region, covering the mainland and offshore islands. Each cell has been assigned a unique alphanumeric identifier (between A1 and J15). Maps showing the delineation of the Hunter Region, and the grid references, are included as an appendix to this Report.

A total of 269 species, excluding escaped caged birds, were recorded during the year. All sightings of Category 3 species (under a classification scheme in use by the HBOC) that are included in this Report have been considered and accepted by the HBOC Records Appraisal Committee unless prior acceptance by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee has occurred (in cases where the species of interest is considered rare and endangered for NSW as a whole).

The observation records that form the basis for this Report have been gathered from a variety of sources, including the following:

- official HBOC outings and camps,
- Records Sheets submitted by individual HBOC members,
- Unusual Observation Reports, from individual HBOC members,
- the HBOC 1992/93 Garden Bird Survey (GBS),
- miscellaneous newsletters and publications containing reference to Hunter Region birdlife.

The valuable contributions to this Annual Bird Report from a large number of HBOC members is gratefully acknowledged.

A D Stuart (Editor)

July 1994

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for the 1993 year in the Hunter Region included the following (presented in taxonomic order):

- Garganey *Anas querquedula* - at Market Swamp, Shortland, December
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* - at Cooranbong, June
- Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis* - at Shortland Wetlands Centre, April
- at Miller's Forest, October
- Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris*- at Manning Point, August
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* - at Stockton Borehole swamp, January
- Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* - at New Lambton Heights, July
- at Cedar Brush Nature Reserve, September
- Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* - at Awabakal Nature Reserve, January and June
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - at Kooragang Island, February
- Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima* - at Upper Dartbrook, October
- Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens* - at Widden Valley, October
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* - at Thornton, October

SYSTEMATIC LIST

INTRODUCTION

Bird species are listed in taxonomic order; the nomenclature follows an interim list recommended by the Hunter Bird Observers Club. For the generic groupings from Ratites to Lapwings, the list is based upon the nomenclature of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (HANZAB); thereafter, for all remaining species, it follows the nomenclature of the RAOU Atlas of Australian Birds.

As well as reporting the observation records for each of the species listed, an attempt has been made to describe the overall status of species in the Hunter Region. The status of the listed species is open to review in the future.

Definitions of the terms used in describing the status of a species are:

Common: Species that one can expect to find on all visits to suitable habitats;

Usual: Equally likely to be found in suitable habitats, but not on all visits;

Resident: Recorded in all months;

Migrant: Species that come to an area for a period and then depart;

Local: Species recorded in only a few favoured localities;

Bird of passage: Species present in a suitable area for a relatively short period, and equally likely to be observed in any month of the year;

Visitor: Pelagic species that is present around coastal parts of the Region on a regular basis;

Rare: Species recorded less than 10 times a year;

Accidental: Species recorded less than once per year, on average;

Breeding: Definite evidence exists of the species breeding in the Region.

The format for the observations reported generally includes reference to the relevant grid number (e.g. F7), and observer code and, sometimes, a location abbreviation. A key for this supporting detail is given at the end of the Report.

The majority of records received by HBOC included assignments of abundance levels for each of the species observed, using the following categories: A = 1-5 birds present; B = 6-20; C = 21-50; D = 51-100; E = 100+. Commentaries in this document are based mainly upon abundance levels reported in this way.

BIRDS

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 001 HBOC Category: 1

Rare; may be recorded in W of the Region.

No records.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

RAOU No: 060 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

30 at WWW on May 24 (WIC), and 5 adults with 3 imm (being fed) also there on Jun 6 (WAM).

51-100 birds at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). Also recorded at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 28 (GED).

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

RAOU No: 062 HBOC Category: 1

Status uncertain - apparent bird of passage; has bred.

6-10 birds at Ashtonfield/Morpeth (L9) May 2 (HBOC), a single bird at Lake Glenbawn (H5) Oct 4 (STA).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 061 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Most records were of 1-5 birds; 6-20 seen at Ashtonfield/Morpeth (L9) on May 2 and SWC Jun 20 (HBOC), NWR Oct 9 (STA) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

RAOU No: 005 HBOC Category: 3

Local breeding resident.

No records.

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

RAOU No: 089 HBOC Category: 3

Rare winter visitor to inshore waters.

No records.

Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*

RAOU No: 091 HBOC Category: 3

Rare winter visitor to inshore waters.

No records.

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

RAOU No: 078 HBOC Category: 3

Local breeding summer migrant.

Birds continue to be breeding at Cabbage Tree Island (R9) (CBOC); further details were not available at the time of publication.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

RAOU No: 069 HBOC Category: 2

Summer migrant; has bred on Broughton and Cabbage Tree Islands.

No records.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 071

HBOC Category: 3

Rare summer migrant; has bred on Broughton and Cabbage Tree Islands.

A single bird recorded near Manning River, between Taree & Manning Point (Q4, R4, S4) during May 5-7 (HAS).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

RAOU No: 068 HBOC Category: 2

Visitor to inshore waters.

No records.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

RAOU No: 106 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widespread on large waters all year; mostly 1-5 birds recorded and sometimes 6-20. 21-50 birds at Tarro (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC), Pelican (Lake Macquarie - L11) Aug 10 (HAS), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 18 (HAS), Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest area (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS), NWR Oct 23 (STA) and KI Nov 21 (HBOC). 51-100 at SWC Oct 9 (STA). Over 100 seen along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS).

Australasian Gannet *Sula serrator*

RAOU No: 104 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage about inshore waters.

6-20 birds recorded around Shoal Bay/Mt Tomaree area (P9) Apr 24/25 (STA), 21-50 in Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest area (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS). Also recorded at Swansea Heads (L11) Apr 25 (HBOC).

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

RAOU No: 101 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Stockton Borehole Swamp (L10) Apr 27 (OCG), SWC Jun 20 (ROD), Stockton Sandspit (M10) Oct 13 (OCG) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). 6-20 at Throsby Creek (M10) Aug 27 (CLT) and NWR Oct 9 (STA). Over 20 seen along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS). 4 pairs breeding at SWC Dec 2 (GED).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

RAOU No: 096 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. Most records were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds at Ashtonfield/Morpeth (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC); 21-50 birds at SWC Jun 20 (HBOC), NWR Oct 23 (STA), along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS). 2 dead juveniles on water at Throsby Creek (M10) Nov 7 - no obvious causes of death (CLT). Recorded breeding during winter at NWR (GED).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

RAOU No: 099 HBOC Category: 2

Usual coastal resident.

More records were from the north of Newcastle than from the south. 1-5 birds recorded around Shoal Bay area (R9) Apr 24/25 (STA), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 18 (HAS), Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 28 (OCG), Tea Gardens/ Hawks Nest area (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS), KI Oct 10 (STA), Tanilba Bay Nov 21 (HBOC). 51-100 birds along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS). Also recorded at KI Jan 24 (HBOC) and Tanilba Bay area Jul 24 (STJ). Records from S of Region were 6-20 birds on W side of Lake Macquarie (K11) Mar 9 (LIA) and also at 3 GBS sites.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

RAOU No: 097 HBOC Category: 1

Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. 1-5 and 6-20 numbers were about equally recorded. 21-50 birds at Throsby Creek (M10) Jun 17 (CLT), NWR Oct 9 and Oct 23 (STA). 51-100 birds along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS). Recorded breeding during winter at SWC, NWR (GED).

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

RAOU No: 100 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. Most records from inland were of 1-5 birds; closer to the coast or very large lakes, 1-5 and 6-20 numbers were about equally recorded. Along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 3-9, 21-50 birds were recorded each day, with a total of 100+ sightings (HAS). Recorded breeding during winter at SWC (GED).

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*

RAOU No: 189 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

All reports were of 1-5 birds - at Dora Creek/Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA), Minmi (L10) Apr 29 (OCG), Ashtonfield/Morpeth (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC) and Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA).

White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 188 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as sightings of 1-5 birds. 6-20 recorded at Mandalong (K11) Mar 8 (LIA), near Vacy (L7) Apr 9/11 (CLT), Ashtonfield/Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Tarro (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC), SWC Jun 20 (HBOC) and KI Nov 21 (HBOC). 21-50 at KI Oct 10 (STA); over 100 birds along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

RAOU No: 977 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely recorded in E of region; over 50% of reports were of >5 birds. 21-50 recorded at Mandalong (K11) Mar 8 (LIA), Minmi (L10) Apr 24 (OCG) and lower Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS). 51-100 at Mandalong (K11) Mar 11 (LIA) and Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC); over 100 recorded at Shm Feb 21 (STA) and lower Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS). 500 pair at SWC during summer of 92/93 (173 birds tagged), and 504 pair at Shm, 129 birds were tagged (GED).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

RAOU No: 187 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Frequently recorded at medium and large waters in E of region, predominantly as observations of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds recorded in Dora Creek/Quorrobolong area (K11) Mar 9 (LIA) and at Manning River locations - Q4 May 3/4 and R4 May 7 (HAS). Inland records of 1-5 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). 57 pairs at SWC during summer of 92/93 (GED).

Little Egret *Ardea garzetta*

RAOU No: 185 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Moderately often recorded at medium and large waters in E of region, always as observations of 1-5 birds. Minmi (L10), KI and SWC were favoured sites. Regularly seen along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 3-9 (HAS). 20 pairs at SWC during summer of 92/93 (GED).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

RAOU No: 186 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Moderately often recorded at medium and large waters in E of region, always as observations of 1-5 birds. Minmi (L10) and SWC were favoured sites. 70 pairs at SWC during summer of 92/93 (GED).

Eastern Reef Egret *Ardea sacra*

RAOU No: 191 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

No records.

Striated Heron *Ardea striata*

RAOU No: 193 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Several sightings along Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 3-9, including 6-20 in cell R4 on May 7 (HAS), Also recorded (1-5 birds) at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG), Morisset (K11) Mar 5 (LIA), KI Mar 12 (OCG), Swansea (L11) Apr 25 (HBOC), Stoney Creek, Toronto (L11) Apr 26 (CLT), Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 7 (OCG), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 28 (OCG), and frequently at Buttaba (L11) and Lemon Tree Passage (O9) (GBS reports).

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

RAOU No: 192 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident and bird of passage; has bred.

Several sightings of 1-5 birds along Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 3-9 (HAS) and at SWC — 1-5 birds on Jun 20, Oct 10 and Oct 31 (ROD) and 6-20 on Jun 20 (HBOC) and Jun 27 on nearby property (ROD). Also recorded at KI Oct 13 (OCG). Sightings of 1 at BbR Sep 27 (STA) and 2 on a TV antenna in Belmont South (L11) Nov 9 (CJB) were unusual records for this species.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

RAOU No: 195 HBOC Category: 3

Rare, probably overlooked.

No records.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

RAOU No: 196 HBOC Category: 3

Status uncertain.

No records.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

RAOU No: 183 HBOC Category: 2

Bird of passage.

Several records of 1 and 2 birds at Mandalong (K11) over Feb - Apr (LIA, WAR1), with 1 seen eating a small snake on Feb 6 (LIA). 1 at Tea Gardens (O8,9) May 19 and 2 on Jun 5 (WCR). 1 at Cooranbong (K11) May 7 (RIA) and 1 flying E over Weston (K9) Apr 5 (WCR). Also recorded near Bulahdelah (P7) Jul 26 - numbers unknown (CBOC).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

RAOU No: 178 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

Large numbers (51-100) at Minmi (L10) Apr 24 and Jul 21 (OCG); 21-50 also recorded there on Jun 6 (WAM, IMK). Lesser numbers also recorded for this area on Apr 27 and 30 (OCG). Several records of 1-5 birds at SWC — on Apr 20 and May 6 (MUM), May 15 (HUA), Jun 14 (WAR2), Jul 27 (WAM), Sep 9 (WIG), Sep 19 and 29 (ROD), Oct 2 & 6 (WAM). Also recorded in Cessnock area Feb 21 (CBOC).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

RAOU No: 179 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; 1-5 and 6-20 numbers were about equally reported. Records of 21-50 at Morisset (K11) Apr 16 (LIA), Awabakal (M10) Aug 15 (CLT), Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC), SWC Oct 9 (STA) and Belmont Sth (L11) where a flock of 24 roosted at night over Aug/Sep (CJB). 51-100 birds at SWC Jun 20 (HBOC), and over 100 at Morisset May 11 (LIA) and along Manning River (Q4) over May 3-4 (HAS).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

RAOU No: 180

HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, usually in numbers >20. Records of 51-100 birds at Woodberry (L9) Mar 23 (SMJ), Denman (G7) Jun 14 (STA) and Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC). Over 100 birds

along Manning River between Taree & Wingham (Q4) May 3-4 (HAS) and Morisset (K11) May 11 (LIA).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

RAOU No: 181 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Frequently recorded, mostly in the E of the Region; 75% of records were of 1-5 birds and the remainder of sightings were of 6-20 birds.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

RAOU No: 182 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

1-5 birds recorded at Toronto (L11) in Jan (HJL), SWC on May 7 & 21 (GED, WAM) and Jun 20 (HBOC), and at Minmi (L10) May 14 (OCG), Fullerton Cove (M10) Jun 13 (GED) and KI Sep 28 (CLT).

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

RAOU No: 199 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

Only records were from SWC (where >20 birds present) and the adjacent NWR, and at Shm. 10-20 nesting attempts and approx 40 juveniles produced at SWC (GED). 4 adults and 8 goslings seen at Shm on May 2 (HWT).

Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

RAOU No: 204 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident and bird of passage.

Often recorded at SWC and adjacent wetland areas (NWR, Market Swamp). 21-50 present at SWC in Jan (FOC) and on Jun 20 (HBOC). 8 adults and 18 imm at Market Swamp Feb 23 (BAW).

Plumed Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

RAOU No: 205 HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

A flock of approximately 340 birds was recorded near Singleton (J8) Aug 9 (JUT).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

RAOU No: 203 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. Large numbers (over 100) at Minmi in April (OCG), KI on Sep 28 (CLT) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) on Oct 17 (MPM). 51-100 recorded at Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong area (K11) and Muddy Lake (L11) on Mar 9 and Mulbring (K11) Mar 11 (LIA), and around Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC). With dependent young at NWR Oct 9 and Oct 23 (STA).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

RAOU No: 214 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

A captive breeding population of 17 birds (11m, 6f) has been established at SWC (HWT).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

RAOU No: 208 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. Most records from inland were of 1-5 birds; numbers of 6-20 were recorded at Denman (G7) Jun 14 (STA), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17

(JUT) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). Around large fresh waters in E of Region, numbers >20 were often recorded. Over 100 at Minmi over much of Apr and on Jul 21 (OCG), and along the Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS). 51-100 recorded at Morisset May 11 (LIA) and SWC Jun 20 (HBOC). With dependent young at NWR Oct 23 (STA).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

RAOU No: 209 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

Single male in full breeding plumage present at Market Swamp, Shortland from Dec 4 to 10. Reported by G Pittar but seen subsequently by a great many HBOC members (and others). Understood to be the first NSW record for this bird. (*Record accepted by NSW ORAC*).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

RAOU No: 948 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) and Toronto (L11) Mar 9 (LIA), and at Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM). Birds occasionally recorded at Brightwaters (L11) (LIA).

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

RAOU No: 211 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Recorded in high numbers (51-100 and sometimes over 100) at Minmi (L10) during Apr (OCG) and on Jun 20 (HBOC) and Jul 21 (OCG). Frequently recorded elsewhere in the Region — 21-50 birds were at SWC Jun 20 (HBOC).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

RAOU No: 210 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. High numbers at Minmi during Apr (50-100 birds) and on Jun 20 and Jul 21 (100+) (OCG, HBOC). 100+ along Manning River between Taree & Manning Point (Q4, R4, S4), May 5-7 (HAS). 51-100 at KI Mar 12 (OCG) and SWC Jun 20 (HBOC). With dependent young at NWR Oct 23, in numbers 21-50 (STA).

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

RAOU No: 212 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

High numbers at Minmi during Apr (50-100+ birds) and on Jul 21 (100+) (OCG). Also recorded there in low numbers (<6) in Jun (WAM, HBOC). 1-5 birds at WWW Jun 6 (WAM) and SWC Jun 20 (ROD); 21-50 at Morpeth sewage works (L9) May 2 (HBOC).

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

RAOU No: 213 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

51-100 at Morpeth sewage works (L9) May 2 (HBOC). 1-5 recorded at SWC Sep 19 and Nov 28 (ROD).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

RAOU No: 215 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident; has bred.

Recorded at SWC over Jun Sep and Oct in low numbers. 6-20 at Morpeth sewage works (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC), NWR Oct 9 (STA) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). 21-50 recorded at NWR Oct 23 (STA).

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

RAOU No: 202 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were approximately equal. 21-50 birds at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA),

Minmi (L10) Apr/May (OCG) and Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS). 51-100 at Dora Creek (L11) Mar 10 (LIA) and Stockton Borehole Swamp (L10) Apr 27 (OCG). Over 100 at Minmi Jul 21 (OCG). Nesting at Thornton (L9) Sep 26 (MPM).

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

RAOU No: 216 HBOC Category: 3

Rare, has bred.

No records.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

RAOU No: 217 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Recorded (numbers not noted) at KI Jan 23/24 and Mar 12 (OCG, HBOC). 6-20 at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). Low numbers regularly recorded at Grahamstown Dam (M9) (GED).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

RAOU No: 241 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

Regularly seen along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) May 3-9 (HAS). Also recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S4) Mar 11 (OCG), Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ) and Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Manning River (R4) May 7 and Hawks Nest Sep 19.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

RAOU No: 232 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded, all reports were of 1-5 birds.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

RAOU No: 234 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

Pairs recorded at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Apr 25 (FOC), Rankin Park (M10) Jun 4 and Jul 11 (IMK, HIM) and Wangi (L11) Jul 17 (WAR). 1 bird at Cardiff (L10) Nov 9 (PHP), 6 at Rankin Park Jul 4 (WCR). Recorded at 4 sites in total in the 1992/93 GBS.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

RAOU No: 230 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

Single bird recorded at Cooranbong (K11) Jun 14 (LIA).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

RAOU No: 227 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident (in coastal north of Region), elsewhere accidental.

Regularly seen along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9, 10-20 birds in total (HAS).

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

RAOU No: 228 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; all reports, with one exception, were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds recorded along Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 5-7 (HAS). 2 juveniles at SWC Dec 5 (BAW). Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

RAOU No: 221 HBOC Category: 1

Resident; has bred.

Widely and regularly recorded; all reports were of 1-5 birds.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

RAOU No: 222 HBOC Category: 1

Resident; has bred.

1-5 birds recorded at Heatons Lookout (K11) Mar 11, Morisset Hosp (L11) Apr 14 (LIA), Murdering Gully (M11) May 30 (CLT), E Maitland (L10) Jun 27 (MPM), Thornton (L9) Sep 26 and Oct 16 (MPM).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 220 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), Quorrobolong (K10) Feb 7 (LIA), BbR Mar 3 (WCR), SWC Apr 21 (ROD), Mrdrng Gully (M11) Jul 3 (CLT), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT) and Allyn R (K5) Oct 6 (STA), and at 2 GBS sites (ALG, PEJ). Sightings at BbR and Allyn R were of white phase birds.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

RAOU No: 226 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Moderately often recorded, at or near large waters, always in numbers of <5. Mainly coastal and near-coastal records received but also seen at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM), and at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC) and Thornton (L9) Sep 26 (MPM). Seen regularly along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9, 10-20 birds in total (HAS). With dependent young at Bayswater.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

RAOU No: 224 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Moderately often recorded, always in numbers of <5. Generally, only inland records were received - the closest coastal sightings were at Dora Creek (L11) Mar 10 (LIA) and Crowdy Bay N.P. (S4) Mar 11 (OCG).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

RAOU No: 225 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Dora Creek (L11) Mar 10 (LIA), Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA), Awabakal (M10), Jun 14 (CLT), SWC Jun 20 (HBOC), Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC) and NWR Oct 23 (STA), and at 2 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

RAOU No: 218 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

Single birds recorded at SWC Apr 16 (ROD) and at Millers Forest (M9) Oct 30 (GED).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

RAOU No: 219 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Mayfield (M10) Feb 22 and Mar 7, Minmi (L10) Apr 30 and Jul 21 (OCG), Tarro (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC), SWC Jun 27 (ROD) and KI Sep 28 (CLT). Also recorded at 3 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

RAOU No: 237 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Mayfield in Jan (CLT), SWC Mar 28 (WCR), Brightwaters (L11) Mar 24 and during Apr (LIA), Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/5 (STA), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM), and at 5 sites (mostly, once only) in the 1992/93 GBS. Also recorded at Wollombi Jun 27 - numbers unknown (CBOC).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

RAOU No: 235 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

All records were of 1-5 birds - in Mayfield area (M10) in Mar, May and Nov (CLT), Woodberry (L9) Mar 25 (SMJ), Vacy area (L7) Apr 9/11 (CLT), Morisset Hosp (L11) Apr 14 (LIA), WWW Jun 6 (WAM), SWC Jun 20 and Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 and NWR Oct 23 (STA), and at 7 GBS sites. In the WWW record — seen to hunt & catch a European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

RAOU No: 239 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

All records were of 1-5 birds - Woodberry (L9), Mar 3 (BID), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S4) Mar 11 (OCG), SWC Apr 22 (ROD), Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS), Main Creek (K5) May 23 and Sep 18 (JUT), Tarro (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC), Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM), and at 3 GBS sites.

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

RAOU No: 240 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded. Most reports were of 1-5 birds; 6-20 recorded at Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ) and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathami*

RAOU No: 008 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

6-20 birds recorded near Barrington House (L5) Feb 21; active mound found (HBOC). Other records were of 1-5 birds - at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), Craven S.F. (O5) Nov 10 (STJ), Myall S.F. (O7) Dec (STJ).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

RAOU No: 009 HBOC Category: 2

Rare, possibly overlooked.

No records.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

RAOU No: 010 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident, possibly overlooked.

1-5 birds recorded at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG), SWC Apr 22 (ROD), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC) and SWC Nov 3 (GED). 6-20 seen near shores of Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) May 3-7 (HAS) and at Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 (JUT). Birds at Fame Cove were feeding with flock of Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclusoma punctatum*.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

RAOU No: 014 HBOC Category: 2

Rare, possibly overlooked.

1-5 birds recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC). "Many" birds were present in Pokolbin S.F. Jan 14 (CBOC).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

RAOU No: 046 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident, possibly overlooked; has bred.

Single birds recorded at SWC Jan 17 (BAW) and Stockton Sewage Works (M10) Sep 7 (IMJ).
Also recorded in Stockton area Oct 31 (FOC).

Lewin's Rail *Dryolimnas pectoralis*

RAOU No: 045 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident, probably overlooked.

No records.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

RAOU No: 050 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident, probably overlooked.

A single bird was recorded at SWC Dec 26 (BID).

Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea*

RAOU No: 049 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident, probably overlooked.

No records.

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

RAOU No: 051 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident, probably overlooked.

No records.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

RAOU No: 056 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 21-50 recorded at Mandalong (K11) Mar 8 (LIA), Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) and Muddy Lake (L11) Mar 9 (LIA), Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), SWC Jun 20 (HBOC) and Oct 9 (STA). With dependent young at Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6, SWC Oct 9 and NWR Oct 23 (STA).

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

RAOU No: 058 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in E of Region. High numbers (100+) at Minmi, April (OCG) and along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) May 3-9 (HAS). 21-50 at Dora Creek (L11) Mar 10 (LIA) and SWC Jun 20 (HBOC) and Oct 9 (STA).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

RAOU No: 059 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely but infrequently recorded. 21-50 birds at Mulbring (K11) Mar 9 (LIA) and SWC Jun 20 (HBOC); 51-100 at Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA); 100+ at Muddy Lake (L11) Mar 9 (LIA). Elsewhere, 1-5 and 6-20 birds about equally recorded.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

RAOU No: 171 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding resident, more common in N of Region.

Only records were from Mulbring (K11) in early Mar; 6 birds were present including an immature (LIA).

Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus grallarius*

RAOU No: 174 HBOC Category: 3

Local breeding resident.

Heard regularly at Lemon Tree Passage (O9) during Jan - Mar (BLM); birds have often been seen in this area in previous years.

Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris*

RAOU No: 175 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Manning Point (S4) Aug 20 (MVBW).

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

RAOU No: 170 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental, probably overlooked.

No records.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

RAOU No: 130 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Lemon Tree Passage (O9) in Jan and May (BLM), along Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS), at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 7 and Aug 19 (OCG, HAS), Swansea Flats (L11) Aug 10 (HAS), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 28 (OCG), KI Oct 13 (OCG), Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

RAOU No: 131 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

1-5 birds at Swansea (L11) Apr 25 (HBOC) and Newcastle Baths (M10) Oct 13 (PAR).

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

RAOU No: 133 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 60% of sightings were of 1-5 birds. High numbers (21-50 or 51-100) at Minmi in Apr and Jul (OCG), along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4), May 3-9 (HAS), at Dora Creek/Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA). Nesting at Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

RAOU No: 135 HBOC Category: 2

Spring/early summer breeding migrant.

Seven birds were recorded at KI on Oct 14 (GED).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

RAOU No: 137 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Over 100 birds at KI Feb 15 (OCG) and Dec 1 (GED). Only other records were also from the KI/ Fullerton Cove area — on several dates over Jan/Feb and from early Oct to Dec (GED, HBOC, OCG).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

RAOU No: 132 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage, has been known to breed.

1-5 birds regularly recorded in Minmi (L10) area from Apr to Jun (OCG, HBOC). Also recorded at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

RAOU No: 139 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Only records were of 1-5 birds at KI Feb 6 (GED) and Oct 10 (STA).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

RAOU No: 140 HBOC Category: 1

Local winter migrant.

6-20 birds at Minmi (L10) Apr 21, also recorded there on Apr 22 and 27 (OCG).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

RAOU No: 143 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident; has bred.

Over 100 birds at KI Feb 15 (OCG); also recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S4) Mar 11 (OCG), Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS), KI Oct 10 (STA) and Throsby Creek (M10) over Nov 12-26 (CLT).

Black-fronted Plover *Elsyornis melanops*

RAOU No: 144 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely but infrequently recorded, at medium waters. 35% of reports were of 6-20 birds.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

RAOU No: 146 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded, at medium to large waters, with abundance levels varying considerably but mainly >6. 75 birds at KI on Feb 6 (GED); over 100 were at KI Feb 23 (GED) and at Tarro (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC).

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 148 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Only records were from KI. Only 1-5 birds were there in early Feb (GED), but approximately 2500 overwintered (VGF). An estimated 1500 birds were present on Oct 14, and around 1000 birds were there on Dec 1 (GED).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

RAOU No: 129 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

6-20 birds to the north of Bar Beach (M10) Mar 27 (WIC), Throsby Creek (M10) Sep 29 and Nov 20 (CLT), along eastern shore of Lake Macquarie (L11) Oct 5 (WAM) and at Newcastle Baths (M10) Oct 13 (PAR). 24 birds at Speers Pt (L10) Oct 13 (WAR2). 1-5 birds were also recorded at KI on Oct 14 and Dec 1 (GED).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

RAOU No: 149 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

Widely recorded around coastal waters north of Newcastle. Over 100 were at KI over Feb/Mar - maximum number was 900+ on Feb 6 (GED, OCG). Approximately 260 overwintered on KI (VGF), while numbers of 100-300 were recorded there during Oct/Dec (STA, OCG, GED). No records from south of KI.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

RAOU No: 150 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

Regularly recorded at KI to Mar and from Oct; 51-100+ birds were frequently there with maximum count of around 250 on Dec 1 (GED, OCG). Also records of 1-5 birds at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 and Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Nov 21 (HBOC).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

RAOU No: 154 HBOC Category: 3

Rare summer migrant.

1 bird recorded at Stockton Borehole swamp (L10), Jan 26/27, feeding with Black-winged Stilt
Himantopus himantopus (HAS).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

RAOU No: 155 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

6-20 birds were recorded at KI Feb 6 and Feb 23 (GED) and at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC). 9 birds overwintered on KI (VGF). Unknown numbers were also recorded at KI Jan 23/24 (OCG, HBOC).

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*

RAOU No: 157 HBOC Category: 2

Rare summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at KI on Dec 1 (GED), and a dark phase bird was recorded there on Feb 13 (CBOC).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

RAOU No: 158 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Regularly recorded at KI/ Fullerton Cove over Jan-Mar; groups of 150-200 were frequently seen (GED), but lesser numbers were more typically recorded. 35 birds overwintered on KI (VGF). By Oct 14, numbers there had increased to 75, with 100+ birds present on Dec 1 (GED). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded along Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS) and 6-20 at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

RAOU No: 159 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

200-300 birds were recorded at KI/ Fullerton Cove Feb 6 and Feb 23 (GED); numbers of <20 were recorded there at other times in Jan/Feb and from late Sep (OCG, HBOC, CLT, GED). 6 birds overwintered on KI (VGF); 75 birds were present there by Oct 14 (GED).

Terek Sandpiper *Tringa terek*

RAOU No: 160 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Regularly recorded at KI in Feb, with peak numbers around 125 (GED); also recorded there (numbers unknown) on Jan 23 and Mar 12 (OCG). 55 birds were at Fern Bay (M10) on Dec 1 (GED).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

RAOU No: 168 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Only records were from SWC and adjoining wetlands, from October. Estimates of 60 at Market Swamp Nov 3 (GED) and 70 on Dec 6 (LIA).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

RAOU No: 939 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

RAOU No: 152 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

300-400 birds regularly recorded at KI and Fullerton Cove over Feb/Mar (GED, FOC). Approx 200 were at KI on Oct 14; numbers were back to around 400 again on Dec 1 (GED).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

RAOU No: 153 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

Widely recorded around coastal waters. High numbers frequently recorded at KI, peaking in Feb at around 2000 birds (GED). Similar numbers were present there on Oct 14, while around 5000 birds were recorded on Dec 1 (GED). Elsewhere, 6-20 birds were recorded along Manning River (R4)

May 7, and at Swansea Flats (L11) Aug 10 and Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 18 (HAS); 21-50 birds were at Lemon Tree Passage Nov 21 (HBOC).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

RAOU No: 164 HBOC Category: 2

Summer migrant.

15 birds were recorded at Fullerton Cove Feb 4 and around 100 birds at KI on Oct 14 (GED).

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 165 HBOC Category: 3

Rare summer migrant.

No records.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

RAOU No: 163 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Around 200 birds were recorded at KI Feb 23 and approximately 1000 were there on Dec 1 (GED). 1200 were present on KI Nov 6 (FOC). Also recorded (numbers unknown) at KI Jan 23/24 (OCG, HBOC) and Minmi during Apr (OCG).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

RAOU No: 162 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at KI on Dec 1 (GED).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

RAOU No: 161 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

High numbers (usually 100+) regularly recorded at KI (OCG, GED, CLT, HBOC). Approx 1500 birds were at the nearby Stockton Sewage Works on Feb 6 and 800 at Fullerton Cove Feb 17 (GED). Present on KI until at least Mar 12, when 51-100 birds were recorded (CLT). Latest autumn record was of 1-5 birds at Minmi (L10) Apr 24 (OCG). Earliest recorded return was Sep 28, when 21-50 birds were at KI (OCG). On Oct 14, around 1500 birds were again recorded at Stockton Sewage Works (GED).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

RAOU No: 128 HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

No records.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 125 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Regularly recorded in suitable areas near the coast, often in high numbers. 51-100 birds at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA), Throsby Creek (M10) Jun 17 (CLT), Pelican (L11) Aug 10 (HAS), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Nov 21 (HBOC). Over 100 birds seen at Toronto (L11) Mar 9 (LIA), along lower Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), and at SWC Jun 20 (HBOC) and Oct 9 (STA). The 6th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 2.8.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

RAOU No: 110 HBOC Category: 1

Rare bird of passage.

1-5 birds at Tarro (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

RAOU No: 111 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

6-20 birds recorded at KI Oct 13 (OCG).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

RAOU No: 112 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

Sometimes recorded, near large waters — 1-5 birds at KI Feb 15 (OCG), along Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) May 5-7 (HAS), at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun (OCG), Swansea Flats (L11) Aug 10 (HAS), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 18 (HAS), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 28 (OCG). 6-20 birds recorded at Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS), KI Oct 13 (OCG).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

RAOU No: 953 HBOC Category: 2

Summer migrant.

No records.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

RAOU No: 114 HBOC Category: 2

Winter migrant.

Records at KI on Feb 15 and Mar 12 (OCG) may possibly have been *S. hirundo*; no other records were received.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

RAOU No: 117 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Reports to FOC were from Harrington (S4) — 20 pair (with 8 nests) there on Jan 15 and 54 pair (some nesting) on Nov 18 — and Forster/ Toncurry (R5, 6) — 35-50 pair there on Jan 15 and 5 pair (some nesting) on Nov 18. Also recorded (numbers were not noted) at KI on Feb 15 and Mar 12 (OCG).

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

RAOU No: 115 HBOC Category: 1

Common resident; has bred on Broughton Island.

Regularly recorded in suitable areas near the coast; slightly less frequently so than for the Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* and in fewer numbers. 21-50 birds at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA) and Minmi (L10) Apr 27 (OCG); 6-20 birds recorded along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) on most days over May 3-7 (HAS), Minmi (L10) May 13 (OCG), Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC) and at KI Mar 12 and Oct 13 (OCG).

Rose-crowned Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus regina*

RAOU No: 021 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

No records.

Wompoo Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

RAOU No: 025 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

No records.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

RAOU No: 027 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

High numbers (51-100 birds) at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). Also recorded (1-5 birds) along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS) and at Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 (JUT).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

RAOU No: 028

HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

21-50 birds recorded at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8, P8, R9) Sep 18 (HAS). Other reports were of 1-5 birds — at Riverwood Downs (N6)

Feb 13/14 (STA) and along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), and also in several suburban records from around the Newcastle area (HIM, THF, OCG, ALG).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

RAOU No: 957 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

The 19th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.1. Occasional records from beyond the greater Newcastle conurbation. 21-50 birds in Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC). Nest building at NWR Oct 9 (STA).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

RAOU No: 989 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in E of Region; 93% of records were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds recorded at Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA), Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) and Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (HBOC). The 7th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 2.7.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

RAOU No: 029 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

All records were of 1-5 birds — at Mulbring and Quorrobolong (K10) Feb 7 (LIA, HBOC), Barrington House (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Mandalong (K11) Mar 8 (LIA), Congewai Valley (J10) Jul 10 (MEJ), Wingen (H4) Jul 26 (JUT), Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA), and at 2 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

RAOU No: 030 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Widely and often recorded; all reports were of 1-5 birds.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

RAOU No: 032 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely but somewhat infrequently recorded; all reports were of 1-5 birds.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

RAOU No: 033 HBOC Category: 2

Resident.

All records were of 1-5 birds - at Barrington House (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Main Creek (K5) May 23 and Sep 18, Kangaroo Mtn (I6) Jul 27 and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (all are JUT reports), BbR Oct 7 and Oct 14 (ALG, OCG).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

RAOU No: 034 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

RAOU No: 035 HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

Single birds recorded at Awabakal Nature Reserve (M10) Oct 29 and Dec 19 (PEJ, CLT).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

RAOU No: 043 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. In the lower Hunter Valley, 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equally recorded. Elsewhere, higher numbers were more commonly encountered, including records of 21-50 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). The 20th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.1.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

RAOU No: 044 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

All records were of 1-5 birds - at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG), Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), Quorrobolong (K10) Feb 7 (LIA), Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Mandalong (K11) Mar 8 and Mar 11 (LIA), nr Vacy (L7) Apr 9/11 (CLT), Mt Vincent (L10) May 5 (LIA), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17, Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC), Giro S.F. (N3) and Myall S.F. (O7) Dec (STJ), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

RAOU No: 265 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Milbrodale (I9) Jun 26 (DIM) and Woodberry (L9) Oct 30 (SMJ). Also recorded in Crowdy Bay N.P. during Oct - numbers unknown (CBOC).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

RAOU No: 267 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) and Toronto (L11) Mar 9 and Morisset (K11) Mar 18 (LIA), and at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Bobs Farm (N9) Jun 21 (DIM), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 18/19 (HAS), Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), SWC Oct 1 (BAW). 6-20 birds recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC). Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

RAOU No: 268 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 and 6-20 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC). Reported to be breeding in Port Stephens area (WCR).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

RAOU No: 273 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. The majority of records in E of Region were of 1-5 birds; notable exceptions were 21-50 birds recorded at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA) and Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS). Numbers were generally higher further inland; 21-50 birds were recorded at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 and Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA) and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC), and 51-100 birds at Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ). Flock of 100+ seen feeding in paddock at Milbrodale (H9), March 20, with 200+ Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *C. galerita* (HBOC). The third most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 3.5.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 272 HBOC Category: 3

Newly established local resident.

Flock of *c* 30 in Morriset area (L11) (LIA) and mixed flock with Little Corella *C. sanguinea* at Lemon Tree Passage (O9) (BLM); both flocks seen regularly. Hybrid x Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

C. galerita at Brightwaters (L11) Jan (LIA). Nest with 1 young at Shoal Bay (R9) during early Jan (BID).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

RAOU No: 271 HBOC Category: 1

Recently established local resident.

The 16th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.3. However, it should be noted that birds were recorded at only a few sites, but the flock numbers per sighting were high. Flock of 100-200 roosting at BbR, flying N in mornings (STA); thought to be same as flock feeding by day at SWC and adjacent Steelworks Golf Club. Mixed flock with *C. tenuirostris* regularly recorded at Lemon Tree Passage (see above), 6-20 birds also recorded in same cell O9 at Shoal Bay Apr 24/25 (STA). Group of 31 birds recorded at Morisset (L11) Nov 17 (LIA). 1-5 birds at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

RAOU No: 269 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

The 8th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 2.4. Recorded over a wide area of the Region; reporting rate outside of the GBS was surprisingly infrequent. Around 60% of records were of 1-5 birds. 51-100 birds recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), and 100+ at Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ). Flock of 200+ feeding in paddock at Milbrodale (H9), March 20, with 100+ Galah *C. roseicapilla* (HBOC).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

RAOU No: 254 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

All records were from near-coastal areas, mainly N of Newcastle where groups of 6-20 birds were often recorded. 51-100 birds at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA) and Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS). S of Newcastle, records of 1-5 birds at Awabakal (M10) Feb 21 (CLT), Morisset (K11) Mar 18 (LIA), Minmi Jul 21 (OCG), Pelican (L11) Aug 10 (HAS). The 17th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.3.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

RAOU No: 256 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

1-5 birds at Morisset (K11) Mar 18 (LIA), Minmi Jul 21 (OCG), Summerland Point (L11) Oct 14 (STA), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Nov 21 (HBOC), Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (HBOC). 6-20 birds along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), and at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 7 (OCG) and Aug 19 (HAS), Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC). 51-100 birds at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA). Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

RAOU No: 258 HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

1-2 birds were regularly recorded at Toronto (L11) during Feb-Apr (HJL).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

RAOU No: 260 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC); 6-20 in Ashtonfield/
Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC). Also heard at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC). Recorded
at 2 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

RAOU No: 281 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely but irregularly recorded, as 1-5 birds or 6-20 birds (approximately equal frequency of recording). Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

RAOU No: 282 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS; widely but irregularly recorded elsewhere with over 50% of reports being of 6-20 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT) and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

RAOU No: 288 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as 1-5 or, less frequently, as 6-20 birds. Records of 21-50 birds at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). The 9th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 2.3.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

RAOU No: 295 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds at Minmi Apr 24 and Jul 21 (OCG), Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 7 (OCG), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Minmi Jul 21 (OCG), Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 18 and Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), NWR Oct 9 (STA), Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM), nr Glenrock (K2) Dec (STJ). 6-20 birds along Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS) and at NWR Oct 23 (STA) and Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Nov 21 (HBOC). Also recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S4) Mar 11 (OCG).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

RAOU No: 302 HBOC Category: 2

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). 2 birds were also recorded at Goulburn River N.P.(C6) May 14 (JUT).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

RAOU No: 337 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Recorded at 5 sites in the 1992/93 GBS, and infrequently elsewhere. Present around the Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), not recorded again until Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC).

Brush Cuckoo *Cuculus variolosus*

RAOU No: 339 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

No sightings recorded; heard at SWC Nov 6 (BAW) and at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*

RAOU No: 338 HBOC Category: 1

Common, residential status uncertain.

Recorded in all months — at 10 sites in the 1992/93 GBS, and frequently elsewhere, generally as <5 birds. 6-20 birds were at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT).

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*
RAOU No: 341 HBOC Category: 3
Accidental.
No records.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

RAOU No: 342 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant, some birds may be present all year.

One winter record, from Tanilba Bay (O9) Jul 24 (STJ). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC), Rankin Park (M10) May (STJ), Awabakal (M10) Aug 15 and Sep 19 (CLT), Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), and Craven S.F. (O5) Nov 10 (STJ). Also heard at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

RAOU No: 344 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant, some birds may be present all year.

No records in the January-March period, but recorded in all other months. Winter records from Belmont South (L11) Jun 5 (CJB), SWC Jun 20 and Jul 27 (WAM) (HBOC), E Maitland (L9) and Garden Suburb (M10) in Jun (GBS), Murdering Gully (M10) Jul 3 (CLT), Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 18/19 (HAS) and Aug 28 (OCG), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC). Also heard frequently in BbR during July (STA).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx malayanus*

RAOU No: 345 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

RAOU No: 347 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer breeding migrant.

Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS, but very few records from outside the greater Newcastle conurbation — at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Lemon Tree Passage and Tanilba Bay (O9) Nov 21 (HBOC), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). A juvenile was present at Beresfield during Feb/Mar (BID).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 348 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer breeding migrant.

Present in autumn until at least the 4th week of March (GBS). Earliest recorded arrival was at SWC Sep 28 (BAW); regularly and widely recorded in the Region (as 1-5 birds) from that date. Report received of one bird being killed by dog, in Jan (CLT). 2 immatures were being fed by Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* at Buttaba (L11) during Jan (WAR1). Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

RAOU No: 349 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Morisset (K11) Mar 18 (LIA), along lower Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS) and at Awabakal (M10) Sep 19 and Nov 14 (CLT). Also heard at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC) and Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (HBOC). Recorded at 7 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

RAOU No: 248 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

A pair were recorded at NLH during early July (VAP, LIP), and a single bird was recorded at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 242 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Recorded at 14 sites in the 1992/93 GBS. Also, heard along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS) and at Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 18/19 (HAS), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA). A dead bird was found at Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC).

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

RAOU No: 313 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Recorded at 6 sites in the 1992/93 GBS; elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 and Swansea (L11) Apr 25 (HBOC), and at Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT). Also heard at SWC Nov 23 (BAW).

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

RAOU No: 317 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC).

White-throated Nightjar *Caprimulgus mystacalis*

RAOU No: 330 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Pair at nest with 1 egg in Sugarloaf Ranges (L10) Dec 4 (GRN).

Spotted Nightjar *Caprimulgus guttatus*

RAOU No: 331 HBOC Category: 1

Accidental, possibly overlooked.

No records.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

RAOU No: 334 HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Often recorded at 9 different sites in the 1992/93 GBS, with an average flock size of 23.4 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Brightwaters (L11) Jan 17 (LIA).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

RAOU No: 335 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental summer migrant.

4 birds were recorded at Awabakal (M10) in mid-June (STJ) - this winter record is very noteworthy. A flock of 17 birds were also recorded at Awabakal on Jan 18 (CLT).

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azurea*

RAOU No: 319 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Regularly seen, in numbers of 1-5 birds/day, along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) May 3-9 (HAS). Also recorded at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Swansea (L11) Apr 25 (HBOC), SWC May 7 (GED), BbR Oct 14 (OCG), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

RAOU No: 322 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. The 15th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds

recorded per site per week) of around 1.4. 2 birds at Mayfield (M10) were observed over Sep/Oct to be excavating 2 nest hollows in adjacent trees, and sharing the digging of both (CLT).

Sacred Kingfisher *Halycon sancta*

RAOU No: 326 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer breeding migrant, some birds may be locally resident.

Although frequently seen along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 3-9 (HAS), there were no records from S of Newcastle after Mar 8, when recorded at Mandalong (K11) (LIA). No records in the Region during Jun-Aug. First recorded arrival in spring was at Edgeworth (L10) Sep 6 (OCG). With nest and young at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), and with dependent young at Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM). Also observed to be inspecting a nest hollow at Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (HBOC).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

RAOU No: 329 HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

1-5 birds at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC) and Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC); 6-20 birds at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC) and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

RAOU No: 318 HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

Not recorded in autumn after the 3rd week of Mar, when recorded at 3 sites for the 1992/93 GBS. Earliest recorded arrival was Oct 13, when observed both at Buttaba (L11) (WAR1) and SWC (BAW). High numbers (estimated at 50-75) recorded near Four Mile Creek (L9) Nov 13, feeding on insects after rain (SMJ). Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

RAOU No: 352 HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

No records.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 350 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Recorded at Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA), Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21, Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Wingen (H4) Jul 26 (JUT), Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC), Craven S.F. (O5) Nov 10 and Giro S.F. (N3) in Dec (STJ).

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

RAOU No: 355 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

No records.

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

RAOU No: 648 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

No records.

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternum*

RAOU No: 358 HBOC Category: 2

Bird of passage.

1-5 birds recorded at Minmi L10 May 7 (OCG) and Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxema*

RAOU No: 357

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; 70% of reports were of >5 birds. The 13th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.5. 51-100 birds recorded at both Dora Creek/ Quorrobolong (K11) and

Toronto (L11) Mar 9 (LIA) and near Vacy (L7) Apr 9/11 (CLT). Over 100 birds at Murdering Gully (M10) Jul 3 (CLT).

Tree Martin *Cecropis nigricans*

RAOU No: 359 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Martinsville (L10) Mar 10 (HBOC), Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 (JUT) and BbR Oct 14 (OCG) and for 3 weeks at one GBS site; 6-20 birds at Minmi (L10) Apr 30 (OCG), Main Creek (K5) May 23 and Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC), Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA) and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). 21-50 birds recorded at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Fairy Martin *Cecropis ariel*

RAOU No: 360 HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant; some birds appear to be resident.

Winter records were of 1-5 birds at Awabakal (M10) Jun 14 (CLT), Minmi Jul 21 (OCG), Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS) and Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC).

Numbers of 6-20 or 21-50 were more typically recorded in summer. Seen to be nest building at KI Oct 10 (STA).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 647 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Most records were of 1-5 birds; 6-20 birds recorded at Tarro (L9) Jun 20 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

RAOU No: 877 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

Single bird at KI on February 21 (CLT) - this appears to be the first record for this bird in the Hunter Region. (*Record accepted by NSW ORAC*).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 424 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds; the remainder were of 6-20 birds. The 18th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.2.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

RAOU No: 425 HBOC Category: 2

Bird of passage.

No records.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 429 HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

All records were of 1-5 birds. Present until at least Mar 20/21, when recorded at Milbrodale (H9) (HBOC). Earliest arrival date recorded was Aug 22, when heard at Buchanan (L10) (HBOC).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

RAOU No: 423 HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

2 birds were recorded at Upper Dartbrook (H5) Oct 24 (JUT).

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

RAOU No: 430 HBOC Category: 2

Summer migrant.

1-5 birds at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). Single male at SWC Nov 14 (PEJ), also recorded there on Nov 28.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

RAOU No: 431 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

3 birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Aug 28 (LOD).

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pyconotus jocosus*

RAOU No: 990 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds at Martinsville (L10) Mar 10 (HBOC).

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

RAOU No: 447 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

1-5 birds at Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), Allyn R (K5) Oct 6 (STA).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

RAOU No: 384 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant).

1-5 birds recorded at Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), E Maitland Apr 4 (MPM), Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Rankin Park (M10) Jun 9 (IMK), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 18/19 (HAS), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC), Allyn R (K5) Oct 6 (STA). Also recorded at Wollombi Jun 27 - numbers unknown (CBOC), and at 3 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

RAOU No: 382 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) in Dec (STJ). 10 birds (8m, 2f) at Barrington Tops Mar 24 (PAR).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

RAOU No: 380 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 (JUT), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). Also recorded at Wollombi Jun 27 - numbers unknown (CBOC).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

RAOU No: 381 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

RAOU No: 385 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident, in west of Region.

No records.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

RAOU No: 392 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 75% of reports were of <5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA). On a nest at Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC).

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*

RAOU No: 377 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Most records were of 1-5 birds; 6-20 were recorded along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS) and at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). Birds on nest at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 and at Stanhope Creek Dec 5 (HBOC). Some birds nest building and others with dependent young at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregallasia capito*

RAOU No: 396 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded in Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

RAOU No: 416 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), Craven S.F. (O5) Nov 10 (STJ), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC); 6-20 birds at Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC). Also recorded at 2 sites in the 1992/93 GBS. Birds were with dependent young at Stanhope Creek.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

RAOU No: 405 HBOC Category: 2

Resident, of highland areas.

No records.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

RAOU No: 398 HBOC Category: 1

Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, usually as 1-5 birds. Records of 6-20 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

RAOU No: 401 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer breeding migrant; some birds are locally resident.

All winter records were of 1-5 birds - at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 6/7 (OCG), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), SWC Jun 20 (HBOC) and in Jul (WAM), Harrington (S4) Aug 16 (FOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 18/19 and Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC). More widely and regularly recorded in summer; 20% of records were of >5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

RAOU No: 408 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 90% of records were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7, Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 and Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

RAOU No: 419 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*
RAOU No: 373 HBOC Category: 1
Usual summer breeding migrant.

Most records were of 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 9/11, when recorded near Vacy (L7) (CLT). Earliest recorded arrival date was Oct 6, when 6-20 birds were recorded at Allyn River (K5) (STA).

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*
RAOU No: 375 HBOC Category: 2
Rare.
No records.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*
RAOU No: 365 HBOC Category: 1
Resident.

All records were of 1-5 birds - at NLH in Jan (ALG), Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG), Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC), near Vacy (L7) Apr 9/11 (CLT), Awabakal (M10) Nov 14 (CLT), Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC), Barrington Tops S.F. (J4) in Dec (STJ). Also recorded in Crowdy Bay N.P. during Oct - numbers unknown (CBOC).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*
RAOU No: 366 HBOC Category: 2
Rare.
1-5 birds recorded at Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*
RAOU No: 369 HBOC Category: 1
Resident.
6-20 birds recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC); all other records were of 1-5 birds - at Quorrobolong (K10) Mar 9 (LIA), Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC), Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Denman (G7) Jun 14 (STA), Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), nr Glenrock (K2) Dec (STJ).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*
RAOU No: 362 HBOC Category: 1
Usual summer breeding migrant.
Recorded at 6 sites in the 1992/93 GBS, but very few records from elsewhere for this species. Some birds were present until June (GBS records), while the earliest recorded arrival date was Oct 6, when recorded at Allyn River (K5) (STA). 6-20 birds were recorded at Laguna (I11) Apr 16 (LIA).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*
RAOU No: 361 HBOC Category: 1
Common breeding resident.
Widely and regularly recorded; around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 and Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC) and Thornton (L9) Oct 3 (BID); 51-100 birds at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA). Recorded on nest at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
RAOU No: 364 HBOC Category: 1
Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 85% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). Nest building at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

RAOU No: 434 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC).

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

RAOU No: 421 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Regularly recorded in suitable habitat; around 85% of records were of <5 birds. 6-20 birds frequently recorded at Awabakal (M10) (CLT), and also at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC) and Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS). Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

RAOU No: 436 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 and Wingen (H4) Jul 26 (JUT), and 6-20 birds at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG). Also heard at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

RAOU No: 443 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Quorrobolong (K10) Mar 15 (LIA), and 6-20 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC). Also heard at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). Frequently recorded at Ellalong (K10) (MEJ).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 445 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident; has bred.

6-20 birds recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

RAOU No: 524 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer breeding migrant; some birds are resident through winter.

Present until at least May 3/4, when recorded at Manning River (Q4) (HAS); however, was heard at E Maitland (L10) Jul 4 (MPM). Earliest recorded arrival date was Oct 9, when 6-20 birds were seen at NWR (STA); however, some birds were already nest building.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

RAOU No: 523 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded at SWC Oct 9 and the adjoining NWR Oct 9 and Oct 23 (STA), and also at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

RAOU No: 522 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Recorded on occasion at KI, Awabakal (M10), NWR and SWC (OCG, CLT, STA, HBOC); no records received from elsewhere in the Region, and no winter records.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

RAOU No: 525 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely recorded at suitable habitat; around 70% of records were of <5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at KI Sep 28 (CLT) and SWC Oct 9 (STA).

Rufous Songlark *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*

RAOU No: 509 HBOC Category: 2

Rare, possibly under-recorded.

1-5 birds recorded near Glenrock (K2) in Dec (STJ), also heard at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

RAOU No: 529 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 55% of records were of 6-20 or 21-50 birds. Seen feeding young at KI on Oct 10 (STA).

Variiegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

RAOU No: 536 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Recorded less widely and less frequently than *M. cyaneus*, and generally in fewer number. Around 65% of records were of 1-5 birds; 21-50 birds were recorded at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC). A pair was seen to be nest building at Belmont Sth (L11) - previously not seen in the area for 2 years (CJB).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

RAOU No: 541 HBOC Category: 2

Resident, in north of Region.

No records.

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

RAOU No: 526 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG), Dora Creek (L11) Mar 10 (LIA), Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) May 5-7 (HAS), Bobs Farm (O9) Jun 21 (DIM), Fullerton Cove (M10) Jul 17 (GED), Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC), and regularly through the year at Awabakal (M10) (CLT). 1 immature bird seen in the Dora Creek record.

Origma *Origma solitaria*

RAOU No: 505 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC); 6-20 birds at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC).

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*

RAOU No: 494 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded in Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Allyn R (K5) Oct 6 (STA), Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC), Giro S.F. (N3) and Myall S.F. (O7) in Dec (STJ). Birds at Cooranbong were nest building.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

RAOU No: 493 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 and Allyn R (K5) Oct 6 (STA); 6-20 birds in Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

RAOU No: 488

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; 70% of records were of 1-5 birds and the balance were of 6-20 birds. Seen carrying food at Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA).

Chestnut-rumped Hylacola *Sericornis pyrrhopygius*

RAOU No: 498 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

No records.

Speckled Warbler *Sericornis sagittatus*

RAOU No: 504 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at both Mulbring and Quorrobolong (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC, LIA) and at Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA); 6-20 birds at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 and 21-50 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC). Also recorded at Wollombi Jun 27 - numbers unknown (CBOC).

Weebill *Smicornis brevirostris*

RAOU No: 465 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at E Maitland (L9) in Apr (MPM), Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), and at Thornton (L9) Oct 3 and Nov 6 (BID, MPM); 6-20 birds at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA). Also recorded, numbers unknown, at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 (OCG) and Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

RAOU No: 454 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

6-20 birds recorded along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), in Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 (HBOC), Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC). 1-5 birds at both Quorrobolong and Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (LIA, HBOC), Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 and Allyn R (K5) Oct 6 (STA), Giro S.F. (N3) and Myall S.F. (O7) in Dec (STJ), and at one site in the 1992/93 GBS. Birds were nest building at Cooranbong and on nest at Stanhope Creek.

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone laevigaster*

RAOU No: 460 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds regularly recorded at KI (HBOC, OCG, STA); other records were from Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC) and Fennell Bay (L10) Sep 29 (LIP).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

RAOU No: 463 HBOC Category: 2

Rare; has bred.

Heard at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

RAOU No: 453 HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

Present until at least the first week of Apr, when recorded at E Maitland (L9) (MPM). Earliest recorded arrival date was Sep 18, when seen at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) (HAS). 6-20 birds were recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). Recorded at 6 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

RAOU No: 475 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 and Nov 21 (HAS, HBOC) and Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

RAOU No: 484 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM) and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC); 6-20 birds at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA). 51-100 birds at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

RAOU No: 486 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Frequently recorded at suitable habitat; reports of 1-5 birds slightly outnumbering reports of 6-20 birds. 21-50 recorded at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA) and 51-100 recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

RAOU No: 471 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; reports of 1-5 birds or 6-20 birds were approximately equal. 21-50 birds recorded at Morisset Hospital (L11) Apr 14 (LIA) and Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 and Nov 21 (HAS, HBOC). Birds were nest building at Thornton (L9) Oct 23 (MPM) and on nest at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

RAOU No: 470 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 60% of records were of 6-20 birds. The remainder of reports were of <5 birds.

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

RAOU No: 466 HBOC Category: 1

Resident, in W of Region.

No records.

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 549 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

21-50 birds recorded at Brightwaters (L11) Mar 24 (LIA); other records were of 1-5 birds at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 and Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Minmi Jul 21 (OCG), Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC), Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM). Recorded at 4 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

White-throated Treecreeper *Climacteris leucophaea*

RAOU No: 558 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 90% of records were of 1-5 birds. Reports of greater numbers (6-20 birds) were all from central or W of the Region - at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 and Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC) and Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrope*

RAOU No: 560 HBOC Category: 2

Local resident, possibly under-recorded.

2 birds recorded in Widden Valley (precise location not noted) Apr 10 (FOC).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

RAOU No: 555 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 (HBOC), Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ) and Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC); 6-20 birds at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

RAOU No: 638 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS), numbers were down to 21-50 the following day (HBOC).

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 637 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Regularly recorded at suitable coastal habitat; around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC). Present throughout the year at Awabakal (M10) (CLT), and often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

RAOU No: 585 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely but infrequently recorded, mainly as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds present at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). 21-50 birds were recorded along Manning River (R4) May 7, and regularly seen or heard in this cell and the adjoining cells (Q4 and R4) over May 3-9 (HAS). A pair were nesting at Fennell Bay (L10) Sep 29 (LIP).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

RAOU No: 645 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 75% of records were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded along Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS) and at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). Some birds at Widden were on nest.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

RAOU No: 646 HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

No records.

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

RAOU No: 603 HBOC Category: 2

Local bird of passage, has bred.

A group of around 10 birds were recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4; nest building was in progress (HBOC).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

RAOU No: 641 HBOC Category: 2

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Wollombi (I10) Apr 16 (LIA), Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA), Millfield (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC), Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS), Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 and Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (HBOC). Recorded at 4 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

RAOU No: 633 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

Recorded intermittently in central and E of Region; around 70% of sightings were of >5 birds. 51-100 birds were at Murdering Gully (M11) Jul 3. Regularly recorded at Minmi (L10) (OCG).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

RAOU No: 634 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 50% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at Minmi (L10) Apr 30 (OCG), Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC). Nest

with young at Widden. The second most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 4.4.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

RAOU No: 605 HBOC Category: 1

Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in central and E of Region; around 80% of reports were of <5 birds. Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

RAOU No: 614 HBOC Category: 1

Common summer breeding migrant, some birds resident all year.

Widely and regularly recorded throughout the year. Although around 75% of winter records (Jun-Aug) were of 1-5 birds, higher numbers were not infrequent, and included reports of 21-50 birds at Murdering Gully (M10) Jul 3 (CLT) and Wingen (H4) Jul 26 (JUT). For the remainder of the year, slightly over 50% of reports were of >5 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at Minmi May 6 (OCG) and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT), and over 100 birds were seen at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA) and in the Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC), and nest building at Thornton (L9) Oct 23 (MPM).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

RAOU No: 608 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

Single bird recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (CJB).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

RAOU No: 617 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded at Mandalong (K11) Mar 8 (LIA), SW Laguna (I11) Apr 16 (LIA), Dellhurst (J6) Jul 16/17 (JUT), Edgeworth (L10) Nov 7 (OCG). 6-20 birds recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21, Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC).

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

RAOU No: 619 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Most reports were of >5 birds — 6-20 birds were recorded at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC), NLH (M10) Apr 10 (ALG), Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2, Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC); 21-50 birds at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 and Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC). Reports of <5 birds at Quorrobolong (K10) Feb 7 and SW Laguna (I11) Apr 16 (LIA).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

RAOU No: 613 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Regularly recorded at Thornton (L9) over Sep-Nov, with peak numbers of 21-50 on Oct 3 (MPM, BID) and also at E Maitland (L9) in low numbers (MPM). Also, records from HBOC of 1-5 birds at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7, Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4, and 6-20 birds at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22. Birds were nest building at Thornton on Sep 26, and with dependent young there on Oct 16.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

RAOU No: 625 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded by HBOC at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21, Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14, Millfield (J10) Jul 25 and Buchanan (L10) Aug 22, and also at Lake Glenbawn (H5) Oct 4 (STA), Thornton (L9) Oct 16 and Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM), and near Glenrock (K2) Dec (STJ). 6-20 birds were at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

RAOU No: 580

HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage; more frequently recorded in W of Region.

No records.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

RAOU No: 583

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Frequently recorded in low numbers at E Maitland (L9) (MPM). Only other records were from HBOC — 1-5 birds at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 and 6-20 birds at Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21, Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 ; also heard at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

RAOU No: 578

HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and occasionally recorded; 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 11/14 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC); 21-50 birds at Wingen (H4) Jul 26 and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT). Birds at Widden had nest with young.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

RAOU No: 597

HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds recorded at KI Jan 23/24 (OCG, HBOC), Tanilba Bay (O9) Jul 24 (STJ), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 18 and Nov 21 (HAS, HBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 28 (OCG), Port Waratah (M10) Aug 31 (CLT), and regularly at SWC and the adjoining NWR (WAM, STA). 6-20 birds at Tanilba Bay Aug 19, and along Manning River May 3-9 (HAS). 21-50 at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC). No records from S of Newcastle.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

RAOU No: 598

HBOC Category: 3

Rare bird of passage.

Single bird recorded at Thornton (L9) Oct 3 (BID).

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

RAOU No: 630

HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

No records.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 631

HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Regularly recorded at Awabakal (M10), usually in numbers of 6-20 birds (CLT). Also reports of 1-5 birds at Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), and at SWC Nov 14 (ROD) and Ellalong (K10) in Nov (MEJ). Also recorded once only at 2 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*

RAOU No: 632

HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Regularly recorded at Awabakal (M10), in numbers of 1-5 birds (CLT), and in similar numbers elsewhere near the coast. 6-20 birds recorded at Awabakal Aug 15 (CLT) and Ellalong (K10) in Nov (MEJ). 21-50 birds at Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 18/19 and 51-100 birds at Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS). Sometimes recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

RAOU No: 593

HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Regularly recorded at Awabakal (M10), usually in numbers of 1-5 birds (CLT). Also recorded in unknown number at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S4) Mar 11 (OCG).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 591 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 85% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Sep 26 (JUT). An immature bird was recorded at Belmont South (L11) Oct 2 (CJB).

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

RAOU No: 586 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Around 65% of records were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), Thornton (L9) Oct 3 (BID) and Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA). Birds had nest with young at Thornton Oct 23 (MPM). No records received between late Apr and late Sep.

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

RAOU No: 448 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Regularly recorded at KI in 1-5 and 6-20 numbers (OCG, CLT, HBOC); no reports from elsewhere.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

RAOU No: 564 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS; widely but infrequently recorded elsewhere with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds and the remainder (none of which were coastal records) were of 6-20 birds.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardolotus punctatus*

RAOU No: 565 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder (mainly non-coastal records) were of 6-20 birds. Birds were nest building at Wollombi (J10) Jul 25 (HBOC).

Striated Pardalote *Pardolotus striatus*

RAOU No: 976 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; most reports were of <5 birds or the bird was heard only. 6-20 birds were recorded at Wingen (H4) Jul 26 (JUT), and 21-50 at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 7 (OCG).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

RAOU No: 574 HBOC Category: 1

Common resident and winter migrant.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 60% of reports were of >5 birds, with 20% of them being of >20 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA) and Tanilba Bay (N9) Aug 19 (HAS). The 10th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.8.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

RAOU No: 996 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds recorded at KI Jan 24 (HBOC) and by CLT in cell M10 at Mayfield May 25, Port Waratah Aug 31 and KI Sep 28. 20 birds were at WWW Jun 6 (WAM).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

RAOU No: 995 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Regularly recorded around and near populated areas, it was the most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 5.9. Approximately 45% of non-GBS reports also were of >5 birds.

Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporalis*

RAOU No: 662 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 50% of reports were of 6-20 birds and 30% were of 21-50 birds; numbers of 51-100 were recorded at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC). Frequently recorded in the 1992/93 GBS. Birds were nest building at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC) and Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM).

Diamond Firetail *Emblema guttata*

RAOU No: 652 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

21-50 birds were recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*

RAOU No: 653 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident; has bred.

No records.

Double-barred Finch *Poephila bichenovii*

RAOU No: 655 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 or 6-20 birds. 21-50 birds were at Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ) and Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

RAOU No: 657 HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at NWR Oct 23 (STA). Also recorded (numbers not reported) at Taree (Q4) Jul 2 (MVBW).

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

RAOU No: 983 HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

No records.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

RAOU No: 999 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 60% of reports were of >5 birds. 51-100 birds were in Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC), and 100+ birds were at Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM). Birds at Bayswater had dependent young; reports of nest building at Bandon Grove (M6) Oct 5/6 (STA) and Thornton (L9) Oct 16 (MPM) were also received. The 4th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 2.9.

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

RAOU No: 998 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were at Minmi Apr 24 (OCG), and approximately 60 birds were feeding on playing fields near Waratah High School (M10) Oct 8 (CLT). The 14th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.4. Birds were nest building at Summerland Point (L11) Oct 14 (STA).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

RAOU No: 671 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Regularly recorded in E of Region; around 90% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Most westerly reports were 1-5 birds at Wingen (H4) Jul 26 (JUT) and 6-20 birds at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC).

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

RAOU No: 432 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Fame Cove (O9) Feb 12 and Minmi (L10) May 13 (OCG), Arcadia Vale (L11) Jul 11 (KEB), Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC); 6-20 birds at Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC), Throsby Creek (M10) Jun 17 (CLT), Belmont Sth (K11) Aug 22 and Sep 7 (CJB) and regularly along Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) over May 3-7 (HAS).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

RAOU No: 673 HBOC Category: 1

Winter migrant and bird of passage.

Earliest records were from NLH in the first week of Feb (LIP), and in early Mar, when 2 birds were seen at Belmont South (L11) (CJB) and an immature was seen at East Maitland (L9) (MPM, on Mar 6). Latest recorded presence was Nov 9/10, for the 2 birds at Belmont South (CJB). Recorded at 13 sites in the 1992/93 GBS; other records were from along the Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS) and at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 7 and Aug 19 (OCG, HAS).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

RAOU No: 679 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Frequently recorded at suitable habitat in central and E of Region; around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Often recorded in the 1992/93 GBS. Birds were nest building at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

RAOU No: 684 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Merewether Hts (M10) July 12 (BGA) and at Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 and Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC); 6-20 birds along Flaggy Creek Track (M10) Apr 28 (WIC) and along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS). Sometimes recorded in the 1992/93 GBS.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

RAOU No: 676 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds recorded along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS) and at Main Creek (K5) Sep 18 (JUT) and Craven S.F. (O5) Nov 10 (STJ). Also heard in Barrington House area (L5) Feb 21 and at Stanhope Creek (K8) Dec 5 (HBOC).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

RAOU No: 693

HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Frequently recorded in central and W of Region; most easterly record was at Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC). Around 65% of reports were of 6-20 birds; 21-50 were recorded at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC) and Thornton Oct 3 (BID). Breeding records were as follows: on nest at Thornton Sep 26 (MPM); with young in nest at Widden Oct 2/4; with dependent young at Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24.

Australian Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

RAOU No: 415 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC) and Dora Creek/Quorrobolong (K11) Mar 9 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA).

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

RAOU No: 543 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Frequently recorded at SWC and the adjoining NWR (BAW, ROD, STA); 6-20 birds present there on Oct 23 (STA). 6-20 birds regularly recorded at Dora Creek (L11) over Jan-Mar (LIA). Other records were 1-5 birds at KI Jan 23/24 (OCG, HBOC), along Manning River (R4) May 7 (HAS), at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC) and occasionally at 2 sites in the 1992/93 GBS.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 545 HBOC Category: 1

Rare.

No records.

Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*

RAOU No: 546 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

RAOU No: 547 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Bonnells Bay (L11) Jan 17 (LIA), along Manning River (Q4) May 3/4 (HAS), at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC), near Glenrock (K2) in Dec (STJ). 6-20 birds were at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Minmi Apr 24 (OCG) and in the Ashtonfield/ Morpeth area (L9) May 2 (HBOC). Birds at Widden were nest building.

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

RAOU No: 548 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

RAOU No: 702 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; only three reports were of >5 birds — at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 (HBOC), Morisset Hospital (L11) Apr 14 (LIA), Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC). Birds at Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens were on nest.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

RAOU No: 700 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; very few reports were from lower Hunter Valley. Only records of >5 birds were from Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA), Milbrodale (H9) Mar 20/21 (HBOC) and Wybong Creek (F4) Jul 6 (STJ).

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

RAOU No: 705 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 35% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Mulbring (K10) Feb 7 and Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC); 51-100 birds at Riverwood Downs (N6) Feb 13/14 (STA). Breeding records were as follows: with nest

and young at Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC) and at Lake Glenbawn (H5) Oct 4 (STA); with dependent young at Cooranbong (K11) Oct 24 (HBOC). The 5th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 2.8.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

RAOU No: 694 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds and remainder were of 6-20 birds. The 11th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.7. Breeding records were as follows: carrying nesting material at Mayfield Sep 19 (CLT); on nest at Hawks Nest/ Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 19 (HBOC) and at Burning Mtn (H4) Oct 5 (STA); with dependent young at Thornton (L9) Nov 6 (MPM) and at Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (HBOC). A pair were attacking an aviary in Mayfield (M10) Aug 11 (CLT).

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

RAOU No: 930 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at KI Feb 15 and Mar 12 (OCG), near Vacy (L7) Apr 9/11 (CLT), at Buchanan (L10) Aug 22 (HBOC). Large numbers (up to 100+) frequently recorded at SWC (STA, HBOC) are also associated with adjacent rubbish tip. The 12th most abundant species in HBOC's 1992/93 GBS, with an abundance level (average maximum number of birds recorded per site per week) of around 1.7. Birds were recorded on nest at Buchanan Aug 22, Widden (E9) Oct 2/4 (HBOC), Bayswater Power Station (H7) Oct 17 (MPM).

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

RAOU No: 868 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

No records.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

RAOU No: 692 HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

2 birds recorded along Manning River, between Taree & Manning Point (Q4, R4, S4), over May 5-7 (HAS).

ESCAPEES

The following additional species were reported in the Hunter Region during the year, but are considered by HBOC to be aviary escapees and not part of a self-sustaining wild population:

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

RAOU No: 031

Ellalong (J10) during early Jan (MEJ).

Port Lincoln Parrot *Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus*

RAOU No: 294

Waratah West (M10) Jun 27 (POI).

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

RAOU No: 286

New Lambton (M10) Jan (STA).

Mallee Ringneck *Barnardius barnardi*

RAOU No: 291

Edgeworth (L10) during Mar - Jun (OCG).

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations for locations within the Hunter Region have been used in this Report:

BbR Blackbutt Reserve (cell M10)

HBG Hunter Botanical Gardens (M9)

KI Kooragang Island (M10)

NLH New Lambton Heights (M10)

NWR Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (M10)

Shm Seaham Swamp (M9)

SWC Shortland Wetlands Centre (M10)

WWW Walka Water Works (L9)

OBSERVER CODES

Observers are identified by codes which are made up of three letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned. Where two or more observers have the same alphabetical code, a numeral has been added to the code to provide a discrete identification.

ALG	Glenn Albrecht	LAK	Keith Laverick
BAW	Wilma Barden	LIA	Ann Lindsey
BID	Doug Biddell	LIP	Paddy Lightfoot
BLM	Max Blanch	LOD	Diana Lock
BGA	Graham & Anne Brown	MAC	Charles Mann
CBOC	Observation reported in newsletter of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club	MPM	Peter & Margaret McLauchlan
CLT	Tom Clarke	MEJ	Jenny Meynell
CJB	John & Beth Cockerell	MUM	M Murray
DIM	Marea Diemar	MVBW	Observation reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers
DOT	Tom Douglass	OCG	Graeme O'Connor
FOC	Observation reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologist Club	PAR	Ruth Parker
GAJ	Jocelyn Gardner	PEJ	Jim Perry
GBS	Reported in the 1992/93 HBOC Garden Birds Survey	PHP	Peter Phillips
GED	David Geering	POI	Ian Powell
GRN	Neil Granter	RIA	Allan Richardson
HDD	Don & Daphne Halliday	ROD	Dianne Rogers
HAS	Sue Hamonet	SMJ	Judith Smith
HIM	Ian & Marta Hamilton	STA	Alan Stuart
HBOC	Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp	STJ	Jeanette Stephenson
HJL	Joyce & Les Hewson	THF	Fay Thomson
HUA	A Hunter	VAP	Peter Vaughan
HUH	Heather Hunzicker	VGf	Fred Van Gessel
HWT	Observation reported in <i>The Wetlander</i> (newsletter of the Hunter Wetlands Trust)	WAM	Marion Walker
IMJ	Jim Imrie	WAR1	Rosemary Waymark
IMK	Kay Imrie	WAR2	Ray Walker
JUT	Trevor Jurd	WCR	Observation reported to Shortland Wetland Centre
KEB	Barbara Kelly	WIC	Charlotte and the late Brian Wibberley
		WIG	Geoff Winning

DEFINITION OF THE HUNTER REGION

The map on the following page illustrates the boundaries for the Hunter Region, with the grid lines indicating latitude and longitude in 10 minute divisions. The cells created by the grid pattern have been assigned a unique alpha-numeric identifier; this alpha-numeric system has been used in the main body of the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations. The use of the grid/alpha-numeric system can be illustrated by way of examples — for instance:

- The town of Taree is located at approximately 31°55'S, 152°18'E — this places it in cell Q4
- The town of Muswellbrook is located at approximately 32°17'S, 150°54'E — this places it in cell H6
- etc

The digitised map was developed by Peter McLauchlan, a past President of HBOC Inc, and his heroic effort in carrying out this complicated exercise is most gratefully acknowledged.