

# **HUNTER REGION**

**OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

## **ANNUAL BIRD REPORT**

**Number 2 (1994)**

**ISSN 1322-5332**

**Photo here**

**Produced by Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc**



# HUNTER REGION OF NSW

## 1994 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 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:

The Secretary  
Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 24  
New Lambton NSW 2305

Cover photograph: to be advised  
(Photographer: Gary Weber)

Date of Issue: August 22 1995

ISSN: 1322-5332

© Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc

# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
FOREWORD	
INTRODUCTION	1
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR	3
SYSTEMATIC LIST	4
Introduction	4
Birds	5
ESCAPEES	48
LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS	48
UNCONFIRMED RECORDS	49
OBSERVER CODES	50
APPENDIX – THE HUNTER REGION	

## FOREWORD

In introducing the second annual Bird Report of the Hunter Bird Observers Club I would like firstly to congratulate members of the club who responded so willingly to the idea of sending in observations for possible publication. There was an increase of 20% in the contributors for the 1994 Report compared with the previous year. Not every observation is necessarily published, but the information you send makes it possible to define more closely normal distribution, changes in range and frequency, breeding status and the incidence of rare and accidental species.

The value of a Bird Report can be seen when you consider the following: the status of twenty nine species was revised to include breeding details; it appears that Shining Bronze-Cuckoo is present in the Hunter during winter whereas traditionally it was thought to migrate; the residential status of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo was previously uncertain – we can now say that it is a common breeding resident; the Hunter has two newly established local residents – the Long-billed and Little Corella. We all knew that, just as we know that Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeet breed in the Hunter but the Club does not actually have any confirmed breeding records!

In common with the RAOU and the NSW Field Ornithologists Club, the Hunter Bird Observers Club has a Records Appraisal Committee whose task is to assess rare and unusual sightings. Most of you will appreciate that, if someone reports seeing, for example, a Letter-winged Kite in the Hunter, details would need to be checked before that record became part of the Bird Report. If you are sending in a rare bird report, try to include as many details as you can. If your bird cannot be verified it will be published as an unconfirmed sighting which will alert people to its possible presence. Most birdwatchers have a list of unconfirmed sightings tucked away in their notes!

When our editor, Alan Stuart, completed the 1993 Bird Report he, no doubt, breathed a sigh of relief and thought it would be easier next time. But another historic ornithological event occurred early in 1995 when the monograph *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories* appeared. Taxonomy is concerned with the classification of organisms into groups based on similarities of structure, origin etc, and this book significantly changed the taxonomic order of our avian fauna. The list now begins with Ostrich and ends with Common Myna! (Yes, it is an Australian list). For example, the Magpie-lark (once known as Peewee) is now situated between Restless Flycatcher and Rufous Fantail. To be in line with current scientific findings, this meant that Alan had to change the order on his computer and to individually change records received in the old taxonomic order. We are fortunate to have this most dedicated person as our editor.

We look forward to receiving your records for the 1995 Bird Report. Enjoy your birdwatching during the coming months.

Ann Lindsey  
President, Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc  
August 1995



## INTRODUCTION

This Report summarises the status of bird species within the Hunter Region of NSW between January 1 and December 31, 1994, 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 8 years, or which were reported in the inaugural 1993 Bird Report, are referred to in the Report, regardless of whether any 1994 observations were reported. 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.

On the above basis, the Report describes the regional status of 330 bird species. Of this total, 306 species 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 (for cases where the species is on the NSW Review List – comprising species reported less than 1.5 times per year in seven of the past ten years).

The approach of using only the recent formal records generates an incomplete list of species that may be recorded within the Hunter Region. Many additional species will have been recorded by individuals but not reported to HBOC. Now that a more concerted effort is being made to collect (and verify) these interesting other records, it is expected that the list of Hunter Region species will expand. This Report includes 18 species which were not listed in last year's inaugural Report.

The information in this Report is forwarded to the NSW Field Ornithologists Club for use in preparation of an Annual Bird Report for NSW. Specific observations data are sent also to the NSW Bird Atlassers Group for use in preparation of an *Atlas of NSW Birds*.

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 Cities 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 *Atlas of Australian Birds* and 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.

Maps showing the delineation of the Hunter Region, and the grid references, are included as an appendix to this Report.

An annual Bird Report for an area will often include a reference to the weather conditions that prevailed during the year. For smaller areas, this is readily done. However, because of the large, diverse nature of the Hunter Region, information of this type is difficult to include into our Reports. 1994, though, was an exceptional year and some commentary should be made. As was the case for most of eastern Australia, the Hunter Region was subjected to a severe drought during much of the year. The entire Region was affected, most particularly the central and western parts. Then, in January and again in October, the extreme dry conditions led to devastating bushfires in many areas. Both the drought and the bushfires had an impact; one striking example was the large influx of woodswallows in many locations during October. Many other effects will become apparent after careful analysis.

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,
- 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)  
August 6, 1995



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for the 1994 year in the Hunter Region included the following sightings (presented in taxonomic order):

- King Quail *Coturnix chinensis* near Bungwahl, December and also heard at Kooragang Island, February
- Several reports of Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* at Shortland, September - November
- Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* at Seal Rocks, July
- Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* at Forster, November
- White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* at Booti Booti N.P., January
- Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* at Myall Lakes N.P., October
- Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* at Wallis Lake, November and at Swansea, December
- Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* at Newcastle Harbour, November
- Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus* at Seal Rocks, June
- Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* at Edgeworth, September
- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans* at Woodville, September
- Adult and immature Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* together Blackbutt Reserve, December.
- Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* at Sharpe's Creek, April
- Barn Owl *Tyto alba* at East Maitland, August
- Large numbers of Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* at several locations, January
- Large numbers of Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* at Howes Valley/Kindarun in May and during August – October
- Large numbers of woodswallows (several species) at many locations, October
- Rufous Songlark *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi* at Woodville and Kurri Kurri, October and at Fullerton Cove during October – December
- Brown Songlark *Cinclorhamphus cruralis* at Bowman's Creek, October and Wallis Lake, November

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

### INTRODUCTION

Bird species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows that of Christidis and Boles in the 1994 RAOU publication *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories* (ISBN 0815-2233). This publication resulted in significant changes to the taxonomic order, and some changes to nomenclature, of Australian birds. Readers should note these changes when seeking to compare information from this 1994 Report to that in the 1993 Report, which was based upon an interim taxonomic list.

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; some revisions have been made to the status descriptions used in the 1993 Report.

Definitions of the terms used 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;

**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 as part of an Appendix to this 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: 2 (*Revised from Category 1*)

Rare; may be recorded in W of the Region

On Oct 3, two birds were recorded to NW of Bylong (C7) (STA) and one bird near Cassilis (B5) (HAS). A total of 12 birds were in the area around Wollar (cells B6, B7 & C7, straddling the boundaries of the Region) on Sep 22 (JUT).

### **Australian Brush-turkey** *Alectura lathami*

RAOU No: 008 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded south of Wootton (P6) Mar 3 (GED), at Chichester Dam (M6) Mar 19 and Dec 3/4 (PHP, HBOC), Wingham Brush (Q4) Mar 20 and Oct 6 (MVBW), Gloucester River (L5) Jun 12 (HLP), Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Oct 30 (HTH), Barrington Tops (L5/M5) Nov 6 (HLP), Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT), Valentine (M10) date? (GED). 6-20 birds were at Wingham Brush Apr 25 (STA) and Crowdy Head/ Harrington Sep 6/7 (HAS). Also recorded (numbers not noted) at Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 and Wingham Brush Jun 18 (MVBW) and at Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA). Active mounds were found at Chichester Dam (in Dec) and Valentine (M10).

### **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

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Local resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded in E of Region, mostly as groups of 1-5 birds. Six birds were recorded at SBS Jul 10 (PHP, HAS). Further inland, 4+ birds were recorded at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA), and 25 birds at Main Creek (K5) Oct 30, flushed in groups of 5-7 while mustering cattle (JUT). Birds were with young in Myall Lakes N.P. (cell P8) Jan 18 (TUD).

### **King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*

RAOU No: 012 HBOC Category: 3

Status uncertain. (*New to list*)

Recorded (numbers not noted) at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). Also reported as heard calling at KI Feb 7 (GED).

### **Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*

RAOU No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 1*).

Local breeding resident.

Routinely recorded all year at SWC, with c 50 birds present Mar 12 (LIA), and also sometimes at the adjoining NWR. Only other sighting was of five birds at Seaham (M8) Jun 14 (ROD).

### **Plumed Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*

RAOU No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 3*)

Bird of passage.

A flock of 180-200 birds was recorded at Doughboy Hollow near Singleton (J8) May 23 and May 30 (WAR1) and Jun 15 (JUT). Birds were also recorded at this location in 1993.

**Wandering Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

RAOU No: 204

HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident and bird of passage.

50+ birds were at NWR Aug 5 and 28 (CLT, GED), and lesser numbers were also recorded there on Mar 21 (FOC) and Nov 20 (PHP/STA). Only other report was from Stockton (M10) Mar 27 (CBOC) - numbers not noted. A pair with three young were at NWR Mar 21.

**Blue-billed Duck** *Oxyura australis*

RAOU No: 216

HBOC Category: 2 (*Amended from Category 3*)

Rare, has bred.

No records.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

RAOU No: 217

HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident. (*Revised from: Local resident*)

1-5 birds were often recorded at Pokolbin (J9) (MOA, LIA) and KI (HBOC, STA); sightings also at SWC May 22 (WCR), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Jun 29 (TUD) and Nov 17 (MOA), NWR Oct 15 (YAR) and Buchanan (L9) Dec 15 & 25 (YAR).

6+ birds were at Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR) and Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP). The NWR observation of an adult with a single downy young bird is apparently the first breeding record by HBOC for the Region.

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

RAOU No: 214

HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

A single bird was recorded at SWC Sep 30, Oct 31 and Nov 6 (ALP, WAR2). Four birds were at the adjoining NWR Oct 30 and 5 birds Nov 5; Two birds also recorded there Dec 2 (FOC, CBOC). A captive population (11m, 6f) remains established at SWC but no breeding activity has yet occurred.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

RAOU No: 203

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. 100-200+ birds at Stingaree Point (L11) Jan 9 and Feb 10 (LIA), Myall Lakes N.P. (Q7) Feb 13 (TUD), Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), KI Nov 20 (STA), Swansea (L11) Dec 25 (YAR); 300+ at Oyster Cove (N9) Sep 28 and 600+ at The Broadwater, Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Oct 24/26 (BLM). It is reported that *c* 500 birds were in Wallis Lake (Q6/R6) all year and an estimated 1000+ birds in the overall Myall Lakes area (TUD). Breeding records for the Region were received for all months from May to December.

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

RAOU No: 202

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; 35% of records were of 6-20 birds. 50+ birds were recorded at BbR Aug 28 (STA) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA), and 100+ at Morisset (K11) Apr 20 (LIA) and Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR). Five breeding records in Aug/Sep, and birds were breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point Nov 18 and also in late Dec (MOA, NBA).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

RAOU No: 948

HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

Pairs were recorded at Brightwaters (L11) Apr 12 (LIA) and in Myall Lakes N.P. (Q7) Sep 5 (TUD), a single bird at Violet Hill (P7) Nov 18 (MOA), and six birds at BbR Jun 19 (STA).

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*

RAOU No: 208

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. All records from inland were of <20 birds, but around large fresh waters in E of Region, numbers >20 were often recorded. 51-100 birds were at SBS Jan 16 and Jun 18 (HAS), Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Mar 12 & Jul 13 (TUD), SWC Aug 7 and Nov 13 (STA), BbR Aug 28 (STA) and Minmi (L10) Aug 28 (OCG). 100+ birds at BbR Jun 19 (STA) and 200 at Morisset (K11) Feb 22 (LIA). Birds were with young at SWC in Jan, Sep and Oct (ROD), and in Myall Lakes N.P. Feb 17 (TUD).

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchotis*

RAOU No: 212                      HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

20-50 birds were recorded at both Irrawang Swamp (M9) and Seaham (M8) Aug 4 (GED), Belmont Swamp (L11) late Nov (LAK), and >50 birds were at Minmi (L10) Aug 28 (OCG). 20+ birds were regularly recorded at SBS during Jun-Aug, with 50+ on Aug 17 and 100+ on Aug 7 (LIA, HAS, OCG). 6-20 birds were at Muddy Lake (K11) Jun 5 (LIA), Teralba (L10) Jun 11 (YAR), Bolwarra (L9) Jun 14 (ROD), Richardson's Swamp (M9) Jun 14 and Aug 4 (GED), and frequently in the Gloucester area (N5) (TUD). A further 16 records were of 1-5 birds – at SWC/ NWR (frequently), and KI, SBS, Seaham, Muddy Lake, Minmi, Raymond Terrace (M9), Bombah Point (P8) and Harrington (S4); these records spanned the year. Records were also received of birds (numbers not noted) at Bolwarra (L9) Feb 22 (ROD), Pokolbin (J9) during Apr (MOA), and regularly at Seaham during Nov/Dec (HWT).

**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis*

RAOU No: 211                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region. High numbers (100's) at Minmi (M10) during Aug-Oct, peaking at nearly 1000 birds on Oct 12 (OCG). 51-100 birds were at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA) and SBS Jun 5 & 18 (LIA, HAS); 21-50 birds were also at SBS Jan 16, Jul 24 and Aug 7 & 17 (HAS, OCG), Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 and Raymond Terrace (M9) Jul 31 (YAR), SWC Oct 16 and Nov 20 (ROD, STA) and NWR Oct 3 (CLT). The most westerly record was from Broke (I9) in Apr (MOA).

**Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*

RAOU No: 210                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region. High numbers (100+) at SBS Jan 16 and during Jun-Aug (HAS, LIA) and at Dora Creek (L11) Feb 10 and Muddy Lake (K11) Jun 5 & 15 (LIA). 50-100 birds recorded at KI Jun 5 (LIA), Minmi (L10) Jun 25, Sep 5 and Oct 16 (YAR, OCG) and NWR Nov 20 (PHP/STA). A further 13 records were of 21-50 birds. The most westerly record was from Seaham (M8) Jun 14 (ROD).

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

RAOU No: 209                      HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

**Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

RAOU No: 213                      HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

1-5 birds were recorded at Muddy Lake (L11) Jun 5 (LIA), Teralba (L10) Jun 11 (YAR), SBS Aug 7 (HAS), Broke (I9) Aug 14 (OCG), Minmi (L10) Sep 5 (OCG), Belmont Swamp (L11) late Nov (LAK) and regularly at Seaham (M8) during Nov/Dec (HWT). 6-20 birds were at SBS Jun 5 & 18 (LIA, HAS) and Muddy Lake Jun 5 & 15 (LIA).

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis*

RAOU No: 215                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident; has bred.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters. 2000+ birds were at Eurenderie Lagoon (P8) Oct 7 (TUD), 200 at Pokolbin (J9) Aug 13 (LIA), and 100+ at SBS Aug 27

(HAS). 51-100 birds were recorded at Morisset Hospital (L11) Jul 24 (HBOC) and NWR Aug 5 (GED), and 21-50 birds at Bolwarra (L9) Jun 14 (ROD), Pokolbin Sep 25 (HBOC), Denman (G7) Sep 27 (STA) and SWC Oct 30 (ROD).



**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 061                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters; reports of 1-5 birds and 6-20 birds were about equal. 50+ birds were recorded at SBS Jun 18 and 100+ there Jul 10 and Aug 27 (HAS). At SWC, birds were nesting Oct 8/9 (HBOC) and with young Jan 2 and Oct 16 (ROD).

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

RAOU No: 062                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 1*)

Bird of passage; has bred. (*Status previously was uncertain*)

Two birds were at Stockton sewage ponds (M10) Oct 15 & 29 and one bird there Dec 10 (YAR). 6+ birds recorded at SBS Jun 18 (HAS) and 40+ birds at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA). Birds were also recorded at Pokolbin (J9) Aug (MOA).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

RAOU No: 060                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

50 birds were recorded at Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR).

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

RAOU No: 005                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 3*)

Local breeding resident.

Up to three birds were seen regularly each day at Shoal Bay (O9) over Jan 1-7, while a distressed bird was found on Nobby's Beach (M10) during rough seas on Feb 9 (BID, both reports). Two birds, each with a nest with one egg, were recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ). The Native Animal Trust Fund treated six injured or distressed single birds over the Feb-Apr period.

**Southern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus*

RAOU No: 929                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded off Seal Rocks (R7) on Jul 1 (PEJ).

**Gould's Petrel** *Pterodroma leucoptera*

RAOU No: 078                      HBOC Category: 3

Local breeding summer migrant.

One record from Cabbage Tree Island (P9), of birds present during Dec 12-16 (CBOC); this island is the only known nesting site. Nesting success is reported to have increased due to control of predators (mainly Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*), removal of Bird-lime Tree (*Pisonia umbellifera*) plants from around the nesting area and improvements to the design of artificial nest chambers (CBOC, describing the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service program).

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus*

RAOU No: 069                      HBOC Category: 2

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

2000+ birds were recorded off Stockton Beach (M10) Jan 23 (HBOC) and several hundred off Nobby's Beach (M10) Sep 16 (OCG). 21-50 birds at Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 and Bar Beach (M10) Dec 28 (STA); smaller groups off Stockton Beach Feb 19 and Newcastle Beach Aug 20 (STA), Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Aug 21 (HBOC), Seal Rocks (R7) Nov 18 and late Dec (MOA, NBA), Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 12-16 (CBOC), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

RAOU No: 070                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A dead bird was found at a fox den near Forster (R6) on Nov 21 (TUD).

**Short-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 071

HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 3*)

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

100+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Oct 30 E (HTH) and 60+ at Yagon (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA). Three birds were sighted at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA). Birds were also recorded at both Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) and Seal Rocks (R7) in late Dec (NBA) - numbers not noted. A bird was found dead on an island in Cape Hawke Harbour (Q6) - date not noted (TUD).

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

RAOU No: 068

HBOC Category: 2

Bird of passage about inshore waters. (*Previously described as Visitor*)

Approximately 10,000 birds were sighted off Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS). Other records were a single bird at Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ), 10+ birds at Yagon (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA), and unknown numbers at both Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) and Seal Rocks (R7) in late Dec (NBA).

**Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta*

RAOU No: 091

HBOC Category: 3

Rare winter bird of passage about inshore waters. (*Previously described as Visitor*)

No records.

**Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

RAOU No: 089

HBOC Category: 3

Rare winter bird of passage about inshore waters. (*Previously described as Visitor*)

Six birds were recorded off Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ).

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*

RAOU No: 108

HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

An immature bird was recorded at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jan 12 (TUD).

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

RAOU No: 104

HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage about inshore waters.

Several hundred birds were recorded off Bar Beach (M10) Aug 7 (GIM) and Forster Beach (R6) Aug 15 (ROA2), and groups of 50-60 birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ) and in Cape Hawke Harbour (R6) Nov 21 (TUD). 1-5 birds at Dudley/ Awabakal (M10/11) Aug 21 & 27 (HBOC, YAR), Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 and Oct 30 (HAS, HTH), Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA); 6-20 birds were recorded off Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 and Nobby's Beach (M10) Sep 16 (OCG). Birds were recorded regularly all year (including immatures during winter) in Cape Hawke Harbour (TUD); other records were from Harrington (S4) Mar 26/28 (MOA), Seal Rocks late Dec and Forster (R6) late Dec (NBA).

**Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

RAOU No: 101

HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded. Where numbers were noted, all reports except one were of 1-2 birds; the exception was a report of five birds at SWC Sep 26 (ROD).

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

RAOU No: 100

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but greater numbers were often recorded close to the coast. Around 50 birds were at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA), and 20+ birds were recorded in the same area Aug 14 (STJ), and at Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR), Tea Gardens (O8) Nov 17 and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA), Lake St Clair (J6/7) Sep 9 (ALP), Swansea (L11) and Buchanan (L9) Dec 25 (YAR). Birds were nesting at SWC or the adjoining NWR Jan 16, May 14, Oct 3, Nov 20 (ROD, CLT, STA).

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

RAOU No: 099                      HBOC Category: 2

Usual coastal resident.

Frequently recorded; where numbers were noted, around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were at SBS Jul 10 (HAS), Myall Lake (in cell P8) Aug 14 (STJ), Swansea (L11) Dec 27 (YAR).

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

RAOU No: 097                      HBOC Category: 1

Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. 500+ birds were at Brightwaters (L11) Apr 23 & Jun 1 (LIA), and 100+ birds were reported to be at Forster/ Tuncurry (R6) all year (TUD). 60+ birds were present at Myall Lake (in P8) Jul 13 (TUD) and Tea Gardens (O8) Nov 17 (MOA). Birds were on nest at NWR Nov 20 (STA).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

RAOU No: 096                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region; just over 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at KI Jan 23 and Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), and at Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Aug 14 (STJ). 20 pair were nesting at NWR Aug 5 (GED).

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

RAOU No: 106                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widespread on medium to large waters all year; around 75% of reports were of <20 birds. 100+ birds were at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jan 12 (FOC) and KI Oct 12 (OCG), while the resident population at Forster/ Tuncurry (R6) was estimated at 500 birds (TUD). Around 100 nests were on Pelican Island in Booti Booti N.P. Jan 19 and 165 nests there Feb 2 (TUD).

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 188                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as reports of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were at Ash Island (M10) Jun 18 & 22 and Jul 31 (OCG, YAR) and around KI/ Stockton (M10) Aug 15 and Oct 12 (OCG). 100+ birds were at Ash Island May 22 (HBOC), 300 birds at Fullerton Cove (M10) May 10 and 200 birds there Jun 10 (GED). Birds were on nest at Throsby Creek (M10) Sep 4 (CLT).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

RAOU No: 185                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters, predominantly as observations of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded at KI Jan 23 (HBOC), Gloucester (N5) Apr 2 (CLT), in Forster area (R6) Apr 4 (TUD) and Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC).

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

RAOU No: 191                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 3*).

Rare.

A single dark phase bird was seen feeding at Stockton (M10) Jun 4 (MEJ2). Also recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA) - numbers not noted.

**White-necked Heron** *Ardea pacifica*

RAOU No: 189

HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds where numbers were noted. Three birds were at Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR); five birds recorded at Bulahdelah (P7) and seven birds at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) on Nov 18 (MOA).

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

RAOU No: 187                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Revised from: Breeding resident*)

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters; all reports were of <5 birds.

Birds were nesting at SWC Jan 16 (ROD).

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*

RAOU No: 186                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded in Mulbring area (K10) Jun 19 and Jul 5 (HBOC, OCG). Most westerly record was from Pokolbin (J9) Sep (MOA).

**Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*

RAOU No: 977                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Frequently recorded in E of Region; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds recorded at SBS Jul 10 (HAS) and Bulahdelah (P7) Nov 18 (MOA), and 80 birds at Morisset (K11) Apr 20 (LIA). 300+ birds were at SWC Dec 11 (ROD), with nesting in progress. Most westerly record was from Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 (HBOC).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

RAOU No: 193                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Stingaree Point (L11) Jan 9 (LIA), KI Jan 23 & Mar 25 (HBOC, CBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 29/30 & May 25/26 (STA, HAS), Ash Island (M10) May 22, Jun 22 & Jul 31 (HBOC, OCG, YAR), Harrington/ Crowdy Head area (S3/4) Mar 26/28, Sep 6/7 & Oct 15 (MOA, HAS, MVBW), Throsby Creek (M10) Apr 28 (CLT), Morisset Hospital (L11) Apr 29 (LIA), Green Point (R6) Nov 19 (MVBW) and Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK).

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

RAOU No: 192                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident and bird of passage; has bred.

Often recorded at SWC, as 1-5 and 6-20 birds about equally. 30 birds were there Oct 27, and an immature bird was present over Jan (ROD). Also recorded, usually as single birds, at Mandalong (K11) Mar 5 (HDD), Williamstown (N9) Jun 15 (GED), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), Wingham Brush (Q4) Oct 6 (MVBW), regularly at Woodville (L9) Oct 15-31 (NEM), Oxley Island (R4) Oct 19 (MVBW), Ellalong (J10) Oct 20 (MEJ1), Bulahdelah (P7) Nov 18 (MOA), NWR Nov 20 (STA), Belmont Swamp (L11) late Nov (LAK) and Morpeth (L9) Dec 4 (BID).

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

RAOU No: 195                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare, probably overlooked.

A single female was at SWC Jan 25 (FOC), and two birds were seen together at NWR Oct 15 (YAR).

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

RAOU No: 196                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare; has bred. (*Revised from: Status uncertain*)

A pair with a nest with two young were recorded near Krambach (P5) on Dec 31 (NBA) - *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record by HBOC.*

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

RAOU No: 178

HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

1-5 birds were recorded at SWC Mar 12, Oct 3, Nov 9-15, Dec 11 (LIA, WCR, STA, LAK, ROD), and at Raymond Terrace (M9) Nov 24 (TUD). 50+ birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp (M9) in Nov (FOC).



**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

RAOU No: 179 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; records of 1-5 birds slightly outnumbered those of 6-20 birds. There were six reports of 21-50 birds and five reports of 51-100 birds. 100+ birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 and Raymond Terrace (M9) Jul 31 (YAR), and c 200 birds at SWC Dec 11 (ROD).

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis*

RAOU No: 180 HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; the majority of reports were of <20 birds. Six records were of 21-50 birds and two were of 50-60 birds. 100+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC) and at both Seaham (M8) and Craven (N5) Jun 10 (HLP), while c 300 birds were at Morisset (K11) Apr 20 (LIA), Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR) and Kars Springs (F4) Oct 15 (JUT).

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

RAOU No: 181 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*).

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 80% of records were of 1-5 birds. With one exception, the other records were of 6-20 birds; >50 birds were present at Minmi (L10) Sep 5 (OCG). Three nests were recorded at Morisset (K11); these were first observed Jan 31, with 3, 1 and 0 dependent young present (WCR, LIA). The three young at one nest were nearly fully grown, and by Feb 2, had left the nest. The third nest apparently did not produce chicks. *These appear to be the first breeding records by HBOC.*

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes*

RAOU No: 182 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

>5 birds were at Ash Island (M10) Jun 22 and >20 birds at Minmi (L10) Sep 5 (OCG). 1-5 birds were recorded at SBS Jan 16 and Aug 17 (HAS, OCG), cell P7 Apr 2 (TUD), Ash Island May 22, Jul 31 and Aug 16 (HBOC, YAR, GED), Summer Hill (L8) Jun 1 (GED), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), cell Q6 Jun 25 (TUD), Broke (I9) Jul (MOA), Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP), Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 (HBOC), Thornton (L9) Oct 2 (GED), Bishop's Bridge (K9) Oct 13 (YAR), near Singleton (J8) Oct 14 (GED), SWC Oct 27 (ROD), Bowman's Creek (I7) Nov 2 (JUT), Clarencetown (M8) Nov 11 (MOR), Gloucester (N5) Nov 20 (TUD).

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

RAOU No: 183 HBOC Category: 2

Bird of passage; has bred. (*Breeding status revised: past records from Forster area*)

Records of single birds near Raymond Terrace (M9) Jan 30 (MPM), at Harrington (S4) Feb 23 (CBOC), Manning Point (R4) - for several weeks in Mar (MVBW), near Seaham (in cell M9) Nov 27 (GED), Irrawang Swamp (M9) in Nov (FOC), Girvan (O7) late Dec (NBA). Birds were reported to be nesting in Port Stephens area (cell unknown) in Nov (FOC).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

RAOU No: 241 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-2 birds were regularly recorded at Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) and around Wallis Lake (Q6/R6); other records were at Wingham Brush (Q4) Mar 20, Jun 18 and Oct 6 (MVBW), Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ), Barnsley (L10) Sep 10 & 16 (OCG), Boolaroo

(L10) Oct 1 (TOM), both Forster (R6) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA). Birds were on nest at Mungo Brush (P8) Jun 12 (FOC); also reported to be breeding on Wallis Is. (Q6) (TUD).

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

RAOU No: 234                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-2 birds were occasionally but regularly recorded in E of Region. Three adult birds were together at Shortland (M10) in early Feb (MPM), and a pair with a juvenile were recorded at NLH during early Aug (TUB). A pair at Belford (J8) on Apr 5 were seen taking nestlings of Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* (OWS).

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

RAOU No: 232                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

1-2 birds were often recorded, especially in E of Region. Most westerly records were from Gloucester (N5) Apr 2 (CLT) and near Jerry's Plains (H7) Sep 3 (MOA).

**Square-tailed Kite** *Lophoictinia isura*

RAOU No: 230                      HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

RAOU No: 228                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; most reports were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded at Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point area (Q7) late Dec (NBA). Birds were nesting at SWC Feb 12 (CBOC), Forster (R6) Jul 6 and Coopernook S.F. (R3) Nov 3 (MVBW), and nest building at Dora Creek (L11) Sep 14 (STA). The nest at Coopernook contained two young.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

RAOU No: 227                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 3*).

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

Most southerly records were at the Hunter River at Hexham/Tomago (M9), where 1-2 birds were recorded May 25 & 30, Jul 15, Aug 20 (HUP, WAG, OCG), and at Fullerton Cove (M10), where one adult bird was recorded Aug 25 (GED). Other sightings were of single birds at Seal Rocks (R7) Jun 29 (PEJ), Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 & Oct 30 (HAS, HTH), Wootton (P6) late Dec (NBA). A bird appeared to be resident all year in the Forster (R6) area (TUD).

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

RAOU No: 226                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

1-2 birds were frequently recorded at or near large waters. Mostly coastal or near-coastal records were received; an exception was a report of a single bird at Arrowfield Stud (H7) Jul 11 (ALP). Other inland records were at Booral (N7) Jun 12 (HLP), Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC) and Buchanan (L9) Dec 25 (YAR).

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

RAOU No: 218                      HBOC Category: 2

Local resident. (*Status revised from Rare, Category 3*)

Single birds were recorded at Woodville (L9) Feb 22 and Sep 1 (NEM), Warkworth (I8) Apr 22 (MOA), SWC Jul 7 & Aug 7 (WCR, STA), Birmingham Gardens (M10) Sep 6, Fern Bay (M10) Sep 11, Jerry's Plains (H7) Oct 2, NWR Nov 15 (all GED records). Several sightings also during the year around the Hinton (L9/10) area (NEM).

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

RAOU No: 219

HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

1-5 birds were often recorded near wetland areas in E of Region. Most westerly records were at Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP) and Morpeth (L9) Dec 4 (BID). A pair of birds were also recorded at Broughton Island (P8) Jun 20 (TUD).

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

RAOU No: 221                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident; has bred.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds - at Charlestown (M10) Jan 10 (TOM), Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Awabakal (M10/11) Mar 19 (CLT), Chichester Dam (M6) Mar 19 (PHP), SWC Mar 27 & Jul 25 (ROD, GED), Kangaroo Mtn (I6) in Mar (JUT), Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 (MVBW), Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Mayfield (M10) Jun 20 & Aug 27 (CLT), Tomago (M9) Jul 11 (OCG), Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (MOA), Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP), Eleebana (L10) Sep 24 (YAR), KI Nov 20 (STA), Buchanan (L9) Dec 25 (YAR), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). The bird at Tomago was exhibiting apparent courting behaviour (passing, then catching a dropped object; 20 min duration) with Grey Goshawk *A. novaehollandiae*.

**Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 220                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

Single birds were recorded at Newcastle Uni (M10) Jan 1 (GED), NLH Jan 20, Apr 1 & Jul 30 (LIP, GED), Belmont swamp (L11) in Mar (LAK), Copeland Tops (M4) Apr 4 (FOC), Glenrock S.R.A. Apr 4 (CLT), Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 (MVBW), SWC Jun 22 (GED), Cardiff (M10) Jul 13 (TOM), Morisset Hospital (L11) Jul 24 (HBOC), Wakefield (L10) Jul 27 (TOM), Morisset (K11) Sep 19 (STJ). Regularly recorded at BbR during Jul-Sep, including white phase birds on Aug 14 & Sep 11 (GED, TOM, STA, YAR). Pairs of birds were displaying at BbR Aug 20 (GED) and Minmi (L10) Aug 28 (WAG); note also the apparent courting behaviour with Brown Goshawk *A. fasciatus*, described above.

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

RAOU No: 222                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident; has bred.

Mostly recorded as single birds – at KI Jan 23 (HBOC), Fern Bay (M10) Aug 2 (GED), Buchanan (L10) Aug 13 (YAR), KI Sep 2 (GED), near Jerry's Plains (H7) and at Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (MOA), Brightwaters (L11) Sep 5 (LIA), Ellalong (J10) Oct 14 (MEJ1), Woodville (L9) in early Nov (NEM), Shoal Bay (P9) Nov 29 (LAK), Mt Sugarloaf (L10) Dec 10 (YAR), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). The bird at Shoal Bay was an immature.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*

RAOU No: 224                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded inland, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were recorded at Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC). Closest coastal sighting was at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). A pair were feeding a single nestling at Hillville (Q4) Feb 11 (MVBW).

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

RAOU No: 225                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Awabakal (M10/11) May 15 (CLT), Broke (I9) in Apr (MOA), Market Swamp (M10) May 27 (MOA), Green Point (R6) Nov 19 (MVBW), Abermain (K9) Dec 11 & 14 (YAR), Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA). A pair were displaying near West Wallsend (L10) Sep 1 (OCG).

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

RAOU No: 239                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Bolwarra (L9) Feb 22 (ROD), Kangaroo Mtn (I6) in Mar (JUT), Ash Island (M10) May 22 & Jun 18 (HBOC, YAR), KI Jun 5 (LIA), Nahiack (Q5) Aug 3 (MVBW), Pokolbin (J9) in Aug & Sep 25 (MOA, HBOC), Myall Lake N.P. (cell Q7) Sep 6 (TUD), Woodville (L9) Sep 23/25 (NEM), Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), Barnsley (L10) Oct 29 (GRN), Jerry's Plains (H7) Nov 29 (ALP), Wallingat (Q6) and Mungo Brush (P8) late Dec (NBA).

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

RAOU No: 235                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds; all records were of <5 birds.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

RAOU No: 237                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at NLH Jan 1 (LIP), Rankin Park (M10) Jan 1 (STJ), BbR Jan 15 (WCR), KI Jun 5 (HBOC), Kurri Kurri (K9) Jun 30 (YAR), Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ), Gloucester Tops (L5) Dec 19 (JUT), Forster (R6) late Dec (NBA). Nesting pairs were recorded at Maclean's Lookout (K10) and Glider Point Rd (J11), with 1 and 2 young respectively, on Dec 2 (FOC). The bird at BbR was eating a pigeon (species not noted).

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

RAOU No: 240                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; where numbers were noted, all reports were of 1-5 birds. A pair raised three young at Arrowfield (H7) - the young left the nest in late Nov (ALP).

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*

RAOU No: 046                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident, possibly overlooked.

Single birds were recorded at Stingaree Point (L11) Jan 9 (LIA), SWC Sep 11 & 26 and Oct 8/9 (ROD, HBOC), Stockton (M10) Oct 31 (CBOC), Saltwater (R4) Nov 6 (MVBW), near Pokolbin (J9) Nov 28 (BID). One bird was recorded to be present all year in cell P8 (TUD). At Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec, a pair with one immature bird were present, and other pairs were also breeding (NBA).

**Lewin's Rail** *Rallus pectoralis*

RAOU No: 045                      HBOC Category: 3

Local resident, probably overlooked.

A single bird was recorded in Myall Lakes N.P. (in cell Q7) on Oct 3 (TUD).

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*

RAOU No: 050                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident, probably overlooked.

Regularly recorded at SWC during Sep - Dec, often in numbers >5; 10+ birds were recorded there over Oct 8/9 (HBOC) and 15 birds on Dec 19 (BID). 1-3 birds regularly seen at a dam at Woodville (L9) during Oct - early Nov (NEM).

**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

RAOU No: 049                      HBOC Category: 2

Local resident, probably overlooked.

Single birds were recorded at SWC on Jan 29, Oct 29, Nov 9 & 15 (ROD, YAR, LIA, LAK).

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*

RAOU No: 051                      HBOC Category: 2

Local resident, probably overlooked.

Single birds were recorded at SWC on Jan 29, Sep 30, Oct 15, 29 & 30 (ROD, GED, YAR, CBOC, ALP).

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

RAOU No: 058

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; most westerly records were at Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP) and regularly at Broke (I9) (MOA). 100+ birds were recorded at SWC Oct 16, and birds with dependent young were present there Sep 26 (ROD).



**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*

RAOU No: 056                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, over 50% of records were of 6-20 birds. 50+ birds were in the Bombah Broadwater area (P8) Jun 1 (TUD) and at SWC Oct 16 (ROD). Birds were nesting at SWC Jan 16 and with dependent young there Jan 29 (ROD), and also recorded with dependent young at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA).

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

RAOU No: 059                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Revised from: Usual resident*)

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as >5 birds where numbers were noted. 200 birds were recorded at Muddy Lake (K11) Jun 15 (LIA); 100+ birds were present there on Aug 7 (LIA) and at SBS Aug 27 (HAS), Lake St Clair (J6/7) Sep 9 and Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP), NWR Oct 3 & Nov 20 (CLT, PHP/STA). Birds were recorded with dependent young at Hillville Dam (Q4) Apr 23 (HBOC).

**Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varia*

RAOU No: 014                      HBOC Category: 2

Rare, possibly overlooked.

A single bird was regularly recorded at Woodville (L9) – a second bird was calling on Apr 24 (NEM). Single bird also sighted at Stockyard Creek, Awaba (L11) Jun 16 (GED), and a pair at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA). Groups of 3, 2 & 1 were flushed at Green Point (L11) Oct 25 and a bird was also heard there Dec 15 (TOM),

**Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*

RAOU No: 168                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Frequently recorded at SWC and adjoining wetlands, in Jan and from Sep. First arrival in Woodville (L9) area was mid-Aug, then seen regularly (NEM). 1-5 birds were recorded at Forster (Wallis Lake) (R6) Nov 26 (ROA2), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec and near Krambach (P5) Dec 31 (NBA). 6-20 birds were recorded at SBS Jan 16 (HAS) and occasionally at SWC/NWR (CLT, YAR).

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

RAOU No: 152                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Around 400 birds were recorded at KI Jan 14 (GED); birds were also recorded there Mar 27 – numbers not noted (CBOC). A single bird was seen at Wallis Lake (cell R6) Nov 26 (ROA2).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

RAOU No: 153                      HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

Often recorded around coastal waters. Around 5000 birds were present at KI Jan 14 (GED) and 400 birds on Aug 7 (CBOC); lesser numbers (20-100 birds) were seen there at other times over Jan-Feb and in Oct. Reports of 21-50 birds at SBS Jan 16 (HAS), Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 29/30 and May 25/26 (STA, HAS), Telegherry (N9) Jan 31 (HAS), Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 and Oct 30 (HAS, HTH), Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Oct 17, Nov 15 & 21 (TUD), Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK), Swansea (L11) Dec 25 & 27 (YAR).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

RAOU No: 150

HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

Often recorded around coastal waters. Around 250 birds were at Fullerton Cove (M10) Jan 14 (GED), but most records were of lesser numbers. 21-50 birds were present at Forster (R6) Jan 5 (FOC) and KI Oct 12 (OCG); 6-20 birds were recorded at KI Jan 23, Feb 19 & Oct 15 (HBOC, STA, YAR) and Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 29/30 (STA). One winter record received – four birds at KI Jun 5 (LIA). In Jan – birds near Forster were feeding on eggs & young of Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* (see below).

**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

RAOU No: 149                      HBOC Category: 1

Common summer migrant.

Often recorded around coastal waters. Numbers at KI were often high – 300 birds were there Jan 14 (GED) and 100+ on Jan 23 (HBOC); elsewhere, most records were of 1-5 birds.

Present until at least May 25/26, when recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) (HAS), and from Aug 7 when 50+ birds were recorded at KI (CBOC).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

RAOU No: 159                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

300+ birds were recorded at KI Dec 18 (CBOC), while 75 birds were present there Jan 14 (GED); 1-5 birds seen Jan 23, Feb 19, Nov 20 (HBOC, STA). Several records at SWC during Oct, peaking with 7 birds on Oct 15 (HBOC, ROD, YAR). Other records were of 20+ birds at Minmi (L10) Oct 12 (OCG) and a single bird at Wallis Lake (R6) Nov 26 (ROA2).

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

RAOU No: 158                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Around 100 birds were recorded at KI Jan 14 (GED), and 20-25 birds at Minmi (L10) Oct 12 (OCG), Tea Gardens (O8) Nov 17 (MOA) and Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK). 1-5 birds were recorded at KI Jan 23, Feb 19 & Oct 15 (HBOC, STA, YAR), Wallis Lake (Q6/R6) Jan 14 (FOC) and Swansea (L11) Dec 25 (YAR). Several sightings at SWC during Oct-Nov, with thirteen birds present Oct 16 (ROD). Also recorded at Harrington (S4) Mar 26/28 - numbers not noted (MOA). 17 birds over-wintered at Stockton sandspit (M10) (VGF).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

RAOU No: 154                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare summer migrant.

No records.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

RAOU No: 160                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

55 birds were recorded at Fern Bay (M10) Jan 14 (GED). Other records were of 1-5 birds at KI Jan 23 & Oct 15 (HBOC, YAR) and Swansea (L11) Dec 25 (YAR), and 6+ birds at KI Feb 19 (STA).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

RAOU No: 157                      HBOC Category: 2

Rare summer migrant.

All records were of 1-2 birds - at KI Jan 14, 23 and Oct 15 (GED, HBOC, YAR) and Forster (R6) Jan 14 (FOC).

**Grey-tailed Tattler** *Heteroscelus brevipes*

RAOU No: 155                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

1-5 birds were recorded at KI Feb 19 & Oct 15 (STA, YAR), Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 and Nov 23 (HAS, TUD), Forster area (R6) in Dec (TUD). 18 birds were at Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK), and 20+ at KI Jan 23 (HBOC). Also recorded at Harrington Oct 15 – numbers not noted (MVBW).

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

RAOU No: 129

HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

50+ birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths (M10) Apr 8 (PHP), and 6-20 birds at KI Jan 23 (HBOC) and Throsby Creek (M10) Sep 23 and Oct 16 (CLT). A further nine records of 1-5 birds were received, either in Jan and during Sep-Dec.

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*  
RAOU No: 939                      HBOC Category: 3  
Accidental.  
No records.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*  
RAOU No: 165                      HBOC Category: 3  
Rare summer migrant.  
Eleven birds were recorded at Wallis Lake (in cell Q6) on Nov 8 & Nov 29, with eight birds there on Nov 21 (TUD). Four birds were recorded at Swansea (L11) Dec 25 (YAR).

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*  
RAOU No: 164                      HBOC Category: 2  
Summer migrant.  
1-5 birds were recorded at KI Jan 23 (HBOC) and Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Nov 8 (TUD); 6+ birds were present at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Oct 30 (HTH).

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*  
RAOU No: 162                      HBOC Category: 1  
Summer migrant.  
120 birds were at Swansea (L11) Dec 27, while 21-50 birds were recorded there Dec 25 (YAR) and at KI Jan 23 (HBOC). Twelve birds were at Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK), and 1-5 birds at KI Jan 14 (GED), Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Oct 30 (HTH), Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Nov 8 and Forster area (R6) Nov 29 (TUD).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*  
RAOU No: 163                      HBOC Category: 1  
Usual summer migrant.  
Around 1000 birds were recorded at KI Jan 14 (GED); also 28 birds Dec 23 (CLT) and 1-5 birds Sep 11 and Nov 20 (CLT, STA). 15-20 birds were at SWC Oct 15/16 (ROD, YAR), and lesser numbers also there at other times that month and on Jan 2 & Mar 12 (HBOC, ROD, LIA). Several sightings at Minmi (L10) in Oct, peaking at 50+ birds Oct 16 (OCG). Seven birds were at Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK) and a single bird at Swansea (L11) Dec 27 (YAR). Also recorded, with numbers not noted, at Harrington (S4) Oct 15 (MVBW) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*  
RAOU No: 161                      HBOC Category: 1  
Common summer migrant.  
Around 800 birds were recorded at KI Jan 14 (GED); 50+ were still present Jan 23 (HBOC). Reports of 6-20 birds at KI Sep 11, Oct 12 and Nov 20 (CLT, OCG, STA), Minmi (L10) Oct 16 (OCG), Throsby Creek (M10) Oct 21 (CLT), Swansea (L11) Dec 27 (YAR); 1-5 birds were recorded at SWC Oct 8/9 (HBOC), KI Oct 15 (YAR), Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK), Swansea (L11) Dec 25 (YAR).

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*  
RAOU No: 167                      HBOC Category: 3  
Summer migrant. (*New to list*)  
Two birds were recorded at KI Jan 26 and also on Nov 6 (FOC).

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*  
RAOU No: 170                      HBOC Category: 3  
Accidental, probably overlooked.

No records.

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*

RAOU No: 171                      HBOC Category: 2

Breeding resident, more common in N of Region.

1-5 birds were recorded at Hillville (Q4) Mar 20 and Apr 23 (MVBW, HBOC), Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Buchanan (L9) Dec 25 (YAR), Krambach (P5) on Dec 31 (NBA); 6+ birds were at Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC). The records at Hillville (Mar 20) and Bootawa included immature birds.

**Bush Stone-curlew** *Burhinus grallarius*

RAOU No: 174                      HBOC Category: 3

Local breeding resident.

No records.

**Beach Stone-curlew** *Esacus neglectus*

RAOU No: 175                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

No records.

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

RAOU No: 130                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident. (*Revised from: Local resident*)

Moderately often recorded, usually in numbers of 1-5 birds; six birds were at Tea Gardens (O8) Nov 17 (MOA). A pair with two young were recorded at Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Nov 15 (TUD) – *this is the first breeding record reported to HBOC.*

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

RAOU No: 131                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Eight birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths (M10) Apr 8 (PHP), and pairs at Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ) and near Hawks Nest (in cell P9) Jul 6 (TUD). Also recorded at Seal Rocks late Dec - numbers not noted (NBA).

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

RAOU No: 146                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region; where numbers were noted, around 80% of reports were of >6 birds. 51-100 birds were at SBS Jan 16 (HAS), Minmi (L10) Oct 12 (OCG), SWC Oct 16 & 25 (ROD, YAR), and 100+ birds were recorded at KI Jan 23 (HBOC). Immature birds were present at SWC Jan 29 (ROD).

**Red-necked Avocet** *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 148                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

1000-1200 birds were recorded at KI Jan 14, May 10 & Aug 7 (GED, CBOC), and 50+ there Jan 23 (HBOC). Several records of lesser numbers at SWC during Sep-Nov, peaking at eleven birds Oct 16 (ROD).

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

RAOU No: 8006                      HBOC Category: 1 (*RAOU number revised from 137*)

Summer migrant.

Recorded on several occasions at KI during Jan-Mar and in Oct, peaking at around 100 birds Jan 14 (GED), and also at Harrington (S4) during Oct-Dec, peaking at 22 birds Dec 3 (MVBW). A single bird was recorded at Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK).





**Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*

RAOU No: 143                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Breeding status revised from: has bred*).

20+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS), and 6-20 birds at KI Jan 23 (HBOC), Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), Crowdy Head/ Harrington Oct 30 (HTH), Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Oct 17 (TUD). A further eight records of 1-5 birds were also received. A nest with two eggs was found at Harrington (S4) Nov 5 (MVBW), another nest with two eggs at Sand Island in Wallis Lake (Q6/R6) in early Feb was predated, possibly by Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (A B Rose in Australian Birds - an FOC publication).

**Double-banded Plover** *Charadrius bicinctus*

RAOU No: 140                      HBOC Category: 1

Local winter migrant.

No records.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

RAOU No: 139                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

6+ birds were recorded at KI Jan 23 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 and Oct 30 (HAS, HTH) and Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK). Also recorded at KI Mar 27 - numbers not noted (CBOC).

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Elseyornis melanops*

RAOU No: 144                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Often recorded at medium waters; where numbers were noted, around 30% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 21+ birds were at Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Pokolbin (J9) in Sep (MOA) and with dependent young at SWC Oct 16 (ROD).

**Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythrogonys cinctus*

RAOU No: 132                      HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage, has been known to breed.

Frequently recorded from Jun-Dec; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Main sites for records were SBS, Ash Island (M10), Minmi (L10) and SWC/NWR; reports of 1-5 birds also received from Gloucester (N5) Jan 1 (FOC), Lake Liddell (H7) Sep 13 (ALP), KI Nov 20 (STA). 20+ birds were at Ash Island Jun 22 (OCG).

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

RAOU No: 135                      HBOC Category: 2

Spring/early summer breeding migrant.

2-3 birds were at KI in Jul, first recorded Jul 4; up to nine birds were present during Aug with one pair commencing nesting by Aug 25 and a second pair by Aug 29. A single fledgling was present on Sep 18 (all reports are from GED).

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

RAOU No: 133                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 100+ birds were present at SBS Jan 16 (HAS), and 21-50 birds at Chichester Dam (M6) Mar 19 (PHP), Minmi (L10) Oct 12 (OCG), Ash Island (M10) Jun 18 (YAR). Four reports received in Aug-Sep of nests with eggs, and two reports (Sep, Nov) of birds with dependent young.

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

RAOU No: 128

HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

A single bird was recorded in Newcastle Harbour Nov 22, chasing/harassing Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* (LAK).

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

RAOU No: 126 HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded off Seal Rocks (R7) Jun 25 (PEJ).

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 125 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in coastal/near-coastal areas; where numbers were noted, around 85% of records were of >5 birds and with eight reports of 100+ birds. Around 2000 birds were recorded at SWC May 28 (YAR). Birds bred on Statis Rock off Seal Rocks (R7) (TUD).

**Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*

RAOU No: 111 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

39 birds were recorded at KI Mar 22 (FOC) and 30 birds there Sep 23 (GED). All other reports were of 1-5 birds - at KI Jan 23, Feb 19 and Nov 20 (HBOC, STA), Ash Island (M10) May 22 & Jun 18 (HBOC, YAR), Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7, Oct 15 & 30 (HAS, MVBW, HTH), Swansea (L11) Dec 27 (YAR). The Oct 15 record at Harrington included a juvenile bird.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

RAOU No: 112 HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

1-5 birds were recorded at SBS Jan 16 (HAS), KI Jun 5 (LIA), Teralba (L10) Jul 5 (KBD), Nobby's Beach (M10) Sep 16 (OCG), Bombah Point (P8) Sep 21 (TUD), Tea Gardens (O8) Nov 17 (MOA), Swansea (L11) Dec 25 & 27 (YAR), and frequently at Wallis Lake (Q6/R6) (TUD) all year. Birds were also recorded at Forster (R6) late Dec (NBA) - numbers not noted.

**Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*

RAOU No: 115 HBOC Category: 1

Common resident; has bred on Broughton Island.

Widely and often recorded along coast; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ), and 21-50 birds at Merewether Beach (M10) Jul 31 (YAR), Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 and Nelson Bay (O9) Sep 4 (STA), Crowdy Head/ Harrington Oct 30 (HTH) and Swansea (L11) Dec 25 (YAR). Birds were feeding young at KI Jan 23 (HBOC).

**White-fronted Tern** *Sterna striata*

RAOU No: 114 HBOC Category: 2

Winter migrant.

Single birds were recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ) and Merewether Beach (M10) Jul 31 (YAR); <5 birds were also at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

RAOU No: 953 HBOC Category: 2

Summer migrant.

Recorded in high numbers in late Dec: 250+ at Newcastle Baths (M10) Dec 27 (CLT); 100 at Swansea (L11) Dec 27 (YAR); 50+ at Nobby's Beach (M10) Dec 28 (BID). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at KI Jan 23, Feb 19 & Nov 20 (HBOC, STA), and unknown numbers at Harrington (S4) Mar 26/28 (MOA) and Forster (R6) late Dec (NBA).

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

RAOU No: 117

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

21-50 birds were recorded at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Oct 30 (HTH) and Swansea (L11) Dec 27 (YAR), while 6-20 birds were at KI Jan 23 & Feb 19 (HBOC, STA), Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Oct 17 (TUD) and Swansea Dec 25 (YAR). Birds were also recorded (numbers not noted) at Harrington (S4) Mar 26/28 & Oct 15 (MOA, MVBW) and Forster (R6) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

The 1993/94 breeding season for colonies at Forster (R6) and Harrington (S4) was one of the most successful for many years – 48 fledglings were raised from 51 nests at Forster and at least 70 fledglings from at least 76 nests at Harrington (SMP). For the 1994/95 season, there were 59 birds with 13 nests in cell Q6 by Nov 15, 22 nests by Nov 21, 30 nests by Nov 29 (with a further 27 non-breeding birds) and 39 nests with seven runners by Dec 3 (TUD).

At Sand Island in Wallis Lake (Q6/R6), where up to 13 nests were active over Jan/Feb, predation of eggs and young by Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* was noted (A B Rose in Australian Birds - an FOC publication).

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

RAOU No: 110                      HBOC Category: 1

Rare bird of passage.

60+ birds were at KI Sep 30 (GED); lesser numbers (<30 birds) were frequently recorded there over the remainder of the year (CLT, STA, YAR, TUD). 1-4 birds were recorded at SWC in early Oct (WAM, HBOC).

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

RAOU No: 109                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

1-2 birds were recorded at SWC from Dec 26 onward (BAW).

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

RAOU No: 957                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely, but only occasionally, recorded (probably under-recorded, since mostly is confined to cities and towns throughout the Region, from where few reports are received). 100+ birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC).

**White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela*

RAOU No: 028                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Revised from: Usual resident*)

Occasionally recorded, mostly in groups of <20 birds; 21+ birds were present at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC). 90% of records were from Newcastle and further north; most westerly sighting was at Barrington Tops (L5/M5) Nov 6 (HLP). A pair at Munyaree Flat (P3) were carrying nesting material – *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Spotted Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

RAOU No: 989                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Most reports were from E of Region, but regularly recorded at Broke (I9) (MOA) and also present at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA). Around 85% of reports were of 1-5 birds; 25 birds were recorded at Teralba (L10) Jun 11 and Awabakal (M10/M11) Jul 2 (YAR).

**Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*

RAOU No: 029                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Occasionally recorded, mainly as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were present at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC) and Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT). Most records were from E of Region, but birds were present at Kangaroo Mtn (I6) in Mar (JUT). A pair nested in a New

Lambton (M10) garden, in the top of a staghorn, during Aug/Sep, twice raising successfully a single chick (SAD) - *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

RAOU No: 033                      HBOC Category: 2

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Kangaroo Mtn (I6) Mar (JUT), NLH Jul 30 (GED), Wingham Brush (Q4) Oct 6 (MVBW) and Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT), and 6+ birds at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC). Also recorded (numbers not noted) at BbR Jul 29, Sep 10 & 12 (TOM), and Seal Rocks (R7) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

RAOU No: 034                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (MOA) and Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA); 1-5 birds were present near Jerry's Plains (H8) Apr 1 (STA), at Widden Brook (E7) Jul 24 (GED), W of Kerrabee (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), Hawkmount (K10) Nov 5 (YAR), Hollydeen (F7) Nov 19 (GED). Birds were also recorded at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

RAOU No: 035                      HBOC Category: 1

Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Dudley/ Awabakal (M10/11) Aug 27 (YAR); also recorded (numbers not noted) at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*

RAOU No: 043                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; the majority of reports were of 1-5 birds. 50+ birds were at Mayfield (M10) Apr 28 and 30+ there Jul 30 (CLT); 20+ birds were also recorded at Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA) and in cell O8 Jul 22 (TUD). Birds were nest building at Morpeth Common (L9) Sep 22 (ROD) and were displaying at Shoal Bay Sep 3/4.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia striata*

RAOU No: 030                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; most reports were of 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC) and in cell Q5 May 25 (TUD), and 20+ birds at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA).

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*

RAOU No: 032                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded. 20+ birds were at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC); all other reports were of 1-5 birds.

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

RAOU No: 044                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; where numbers were noted, all reports were of <5 birds.

**Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*

RAOU No: 025                      HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

Six birds were recorded at Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT), and 1-5 birds there Feb 14 & Apr 3 (MVBW, FOC) and at Little Beach (O9) Oct 29 (ROA1), Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW), Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA). Also recorded at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 12/16 (CBOC) - numbers were not noted. Little Beach is considered to be an unusual location for this species, and the single bird present may have been displaced by bushfires.



**Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*

RAOU No: 021                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

A pair of birds were recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA).

**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

RAOU No: 027                      HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

Moderately often recorded; around 60% of reports were of 21+ birds. 100+ birds were recorded near Forster (R6) Aug 31 (TUD) and at Pelican (L11) late Nov (CAB); in both cases, smaller flocks had been present over the preceding few weeks (CAB, LAK, TUD).

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

RAOU No: 265                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at Glennies Creek (J7) Jul 27 (JUT), Main Creek (K5) Oct 30 (JUT) and Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 4 (WAI). 1-5 birds were at Bucketts (L5) Jan 1 (FOC), Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Yengo N.P. (I10) May 7 (FOC), Gloucester River (L5) Jun 12 (HLP), Mt Sugarloaf (L10) Jul 20 (WAG), Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC) and Violet Hill (P7) Dec 26 (TUD).

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

RAOU No: 267                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Revised from: Usual resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded. A flock of around 50 birds roosted at Bob's Farm (O9) Aug 8 (DIM), and 34 birds were at Ellalong (J10) Oct 20 (MEJ1). Flocks of 6-20 birds were recorded at Gloucester (N5) Apr 2 (CLT), Ellalong May 11 & Sep 10 (MEJ1), Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR), Morisset (K11) Aug 2 (LIA), Darkey's Creek (H9) Sep (MOA) and Dellhurst (J6) Oct 19 (JUT). Birds were feeding young at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), and a pair were nesting S of Wootton (P6) Mar 31 (GED) - *these appear to be the first breeding records by HBOC.*

**Gang-gang Cockatoo** *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

RAOU No: 268                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Yango Creek (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC), Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), Wollombi (I10) Nov 28 (BID), and 6-20 birds at Wollombi Mar 20 (HBOC) and Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA). 20+ birds were at Putty (G10) in Nov (BID); birds were also recorded at Pokolbin (J9) and Broke (I9) in Aug (MOA) - numbers not noted.

**Galah** *Cacatua roseicapilla*

RAOU No: 273                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; most reports were of <20 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Telegherry (N9) Jan 31 (HAS), Mayfield (M10) Apr 14 and Tighes Hill (M10) Jul 17 (CLT), Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), New Lambton (M10) Sep 18 (CLT), Ellalong (J10) Oct 20 (MEJ1) and Clarencetown (M8) Nov 11 (MOR).

**Long-billed Corella** *Cacatua tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 272                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from Category 3*)

Newly established local resident.

Eight birds were recorded on the flats between Morpeth & Hinton (L9) Oct 10 and four birds at Woodville (L9) Oct 16 (NEM). A single bird was present at Brightwaters (L11) during Aug - Nov (LIA).

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

RAOU No: 271                      HBOC Category: 1

Recently established local resident.

51-100 birds were recorded at both BbR and SWC/NWR Aug 28 (STA, CLT), with lesser numbers recorded at both locations at other times during the year (ROD, STA, PHP, YAR, CLT). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were noted at Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 (MVBW), Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 and Nov 29 (STA, LAK), Clarencetown (M8) Nov 11 (MOR), and 6-20 birds at Carey Bay (L11) Mar 7 & May 7 (LIA, HLC). A flock of 31 birds was recorded at Salamander Bay (O9) Mar 7 (RET). Birds at Shoal Bay Sep 3/4 were inspecting hollows.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*

RAOU No: 269                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Yango Creek (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Wingen (H4) Oct 15 (JUT) and Singleton (J8) Dec 25 (ALP), and a group of 250+ birds were feeding in area S of Cassilis (B5) Jul 24 (JUT). Birds were nesting at BbR Apr 30 (TOM).

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

RAOU No: 254                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded, more frequently in N of Region. Most westerly record was from Clarencetown (M8) Nov 11 (MOR). It was reported that numbers usual increase in the Forster (R6) area during winter (TUD).

**Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

RAOU No: 256                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded in near-coastal areas. The only reports from S of Newcastle were at Buttaba (L10) in Oct/Nov (WAR1) and Green Point (L11) Oct 25 (TOM). In the Newcastle area, most reports were of 1-5 birds; further north, greater numbers were more common. 100+ birds were at Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA).

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

RAOU No: 258                      HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

6-20 birds were recorded at Jemmy's Creek (C4) Mar 29 (JUT) and Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 12 (YAR). A single bird was at Brightwaters (K11) Aug 2, with a group of Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* and Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *T. chlorolepidotus* (LIA).

**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

RAOU No: 260                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. Birds were reported to be breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Australian King-Parrot** *Alisterus scapularis*

RAOU No: 281                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; where numbers were noted, around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 25 birds were at Dusodie (M6) Jun 12 (YAR).

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

RAOU No: 282

HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded; where numbers were noted, around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen (H4) Oct 15 (JUT).

**Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*

RAOU No: 288                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as <20 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 and Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), and Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA).

Birds at Shoal Bay were inspecting hollows. A bird with non-standard coloration (red areas larger than usual) was recorded at NLH Dec 7 (HIM).

**Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus*

RAOU No: 295                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; where numbers were noted, around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds.

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

RAOU No: 302                      HBOC Category: 2

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Mt Manning (I11) Mar 26 (FOC), Howes Valley (H10) May 8 (MOA), Hawkmount (K10) Nov 5 (YAR), NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 (MOA), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). Birds were also at Mungo Brush (P8) late Dec (NBA) - numbers not noted.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

RAOU No: 336                      HBOC Category: 3

Accidental. (*New to list*)

Two birds were recorded at Edgeworth (L10) Sep 30 (OCG).

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*

RAOU No: 337                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded, always as <5 birds. Present until at least Apr 22/25, when birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) (HBOC). First heard again at Awaba S.F. (K11) Sep 18 (STA), but not widely returned until around the first week of October (SMJ, TUD, HIM, HAS, OCG, CLT).

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

RAOU No: 339                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Unusual winter record at Wingham Brush (Q4) Jun 18 (MVBW). Other records were at Forster area (R6) Nov 26 (TUD), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) Nov 18 and late Dec (MOA, NBA), Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC), Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW), Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT).

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

RAOU No: 338                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident. (*Residential status previously uncertain, breeding status revised*)

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were present at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC). A juvenile was being fed (host species not noted) at Seal Rocks (R7) Nov 18, with two adult birds in vicinity (MOA). *This appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx osculans*

RAOU No: 341

HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

A single bird was recorded at Woodville (L9) Sep 29 (NEM).

**Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx basalis*

RAOU No: 342

HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant, some birds may be present all year. (*Breeding status revised*)

1-5 birds were recorded at Wingham Brush (Q4) Apr 25 (STA), SWC Aug 7, Sep 30 & Nov 15 (STA, ALP, LAK), Mt Vincent (L10) Aug 28 (OCG), near West Wallsend (L10) Sep 1 (OCG), Wingen (H4) and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 15 (JUT), Mayfield (M10) Oct 23 (CLT), Awabakal (M10/11) Nov 12 (CLT), Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC). At Woodville (L9) Oct 15, a juvenile was being fed by Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* (NEM) - *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC. Also, the bird at Mayfield was an immature.*

**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

RAOU No: 344

HBOC Category: 1

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

Widely and moderately often recorded, as 1-5 birds, in very month except February. Around 35% of reports were for the period May-August. Immature birds were recorded at SWC Sep 25 & Oct 30 (ROD) and Belmont South (L11) Oct 16 (CJB).

**Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

RAOU No: 345

HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

**Common Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*

RAOU No: 347

HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer breeding migrant.

Widely and often recorded, as 1-5 birds. No reports after March, until recorded again Oct 1 at Buttaba (L10) (KEB) and Woodberry (L9) (SMJ).

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 348

HBOC Category: 1

Common summer breeding migrant.

Occasionally recorded, mainly in near-coastal cells as 1-5 birds. Earliest recorded arrival date was Sep 24 when a pair were seen at Woodville (L9) (NEM). Birds were widespread by first week of October (GED, TUD, PHP, WAG).

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

RAOU No: 349

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded in E of Region, as 1-2 birds where numbers were noted. Three birds were at Gloucester Tops (L5) Dec 19 (JUT).

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

RAOU No: 248

HBOC Category: 3

Local breeding resident. (*Revised from: Rare*)

Two birds were recorded at BbR Jan 18 (LIP), and a single bird at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 15 (JUT). Birds have been recorded previously at both these sites. An adult and a juvenile were recorded several times at BbR in early Dec (LIP, GED, HAS) - *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

RAOU No: 246

HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

Birds were heard at night at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA), Edgeworth (L10) Nov 25/27 (OCG) and NLH Dec 7 (HIM).



**Southern Boobook** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 242                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Birds were recorded at Brightwaters (L11) Feb 21 (LIA), Woodberry (L9) Mar 16 (SMJ), Kangaroo Mtn (I6) Mar (JUT), Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA), Wingham Brush (Q4) Oct 6 (MVBW), Rankin Park (M10) Oct (STJ), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). Dead (presumed road-kill) birds were found at Ironbark Creek (L9) Mar 7 (MPM), KI May 29 and Fullerton Cove (M10) Jul 26 (GED). A pair with two dependent young were at Tingira Heights (M10) Jan 16 and for 2-3 weeks prior to this date (HAS) - *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

RAOU No: 253                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded at Sharpe's Creek (M5) Apr 3 (FOC).

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 250                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A road killed bird was found near BbR Jul 30 (GED).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

RAOU No: 249                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A single bird roosted at East Maitland (L9) Aug 21 (MPM), and a road killed bird was found near Maitland (L9) Oct 18 (MPM).

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

RAOU No: 313                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-2 birds unless with young also present. Several breeding records were received - birds were on nest at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA) and with dependent young or juveniles at Shortland (M10) early Jan (STA), BbR mid-Oct to mid-Nov (LJN), Seal Rocks (R7) Nov 18 (MOA), Rankin Park (M10) Nov 20 (STJ), Callaghan (M10) early Dec (MPM). Young were blown out of a nest at Woodville (L9) on Nov 6 – adults remained in attendance.

**White-throated Nightjar** *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

RAOU No: 330                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

A single bird was recorded at Mt Sugarloaf (L10) Dec 10 (YAR), and a group of five birds were seen together at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Spotted Nightjar** *Eurostopodus argus*

RAOU No: 331                      HBOC Category: 1

Accidental, possibly overlooked.

No records.

**Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*

RAOU No: 317                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

A single bird was recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC); birds were also heard at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA) and Eleebana (L11) Nov 6 (YAR).



**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*

RAOU No: 334                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

Birds were present until at least Mar 29, when 100+ were recorded at Jemmy's Creek (C4) (JUT). First recorded arrival was Oct 2, when a single bird was seen at Warkworth (I8) (GED). Around 300 birds were recorded at Bonnell's Bay (L11) Feb 22 (LIA), and groups of 51-100 birds at Brightwaters (L11) Jan 6 (LIA), Singleton (J8) Oct 31 (ALP) and Shoal Bay (P9) Nov 29 (LAK).

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

RAOU No: 335                      HBOC Category: 3

Accidental summer migrant.

Flocks of 100-150 birds were recorded at both Mt Thorley (I8) and Warkworth (I8) over Jan 18/20 and a group of 20+ birds at Singleton (J8) Jan 19 (ALP). Two birds were recorded at Woodberry (L9) Jan 8 and on several occasions on Jan 9 (SMJ).

**Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea*

RAOU No: 319                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Usual breeding resident*)

1-5 birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Myall Lake (cell Q7) Feb 13 (TUD), Chichester Dam (M6) Mar 19 (PHP), Wingham Brush (Q4) Mar 20, Jun 18 & Oct 6 (MVBW), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), Violet Hill (P7) Nov 18 (MOA), Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Nov 29 (TUD). Birds were also recorded at Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA) – numbers not noted.

**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. Birds were nesting at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA), and excavating a nest hollow at Sandgate (M10) Aug 6 (CLT).

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*

RAOU No: 326                      HBOC Category: 1

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

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Generally absent in winter, but birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 (OCG), Pokolbin (J9) Aug (MOA). Spring arrival at Steelworks Golf Club (M10) Sep 10 (HIM) and Woodville (L9) Sep 24 (NEM). Birds were nesting in area to NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 (MOA) and at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*

RAOU No: 329                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

Occasionally but widely recorded. First recorded spring arrival was at Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS). Departure date uncertain – no records after Feb 19 when present at Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) (WCR). Over 100 birds were recorded along Hunter & Paterson Rivers from Millers Forest (L9) to Paterson (L8) Oct 22 (BLM) and 50+ birds at Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 29/30 (STA). Many nests were found in the Hunter/Paterson River survey.

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

RAOU No: 318                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Latest autumn record was at Forster (R6) Mar 11 (TUD). First recorded spring arrival was around Paterson River (L9) Sep 8 (BID), when 6+ birds were present. No further records until Oct 1, when birds were recorded at Woodville (L9) and Green Point (L11) (NEM, GED); within one week, birds were widespread. An immature bird was recorded at Mungo Brush (P8) Jun 12 (FOC).

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

RAOU No: 352                      HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT).

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 350                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded in suitable habitat. Six birds were present at Dusodie (M6) Jun 13 (YAR).

**Rufous Scrub-bird** *Atrichornis rufescens*

RAOU No: 355                      HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

No records.

**White-throated Treecreeper** *Cormobates leucophaeus*

RAOU No: 558                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder were of 6-20 birds.

**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythroptera*

RAOU No: 560                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident, possibly under-recorded. (*Breeding status has been revised*)

1-2 birds were recorded at Horse Swamp (K4) Apr 23 (GED), Mt Manning (I11) Jun 4 (FOC), Mt Vincent (L10) Aug 17 (OCG), Seal Rocks (R7) Sep 11/12 (GED), Dilgry Circle (L4) Sep 28 (ALP). A pair were carrying food to a single dependent young in a tree hollow at Barrington Tops (K4) Nov 6 (WAG) - *this appears to be the first breeding record for HBOC.*

**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*

RAOU No: 555                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded in central and W of Region, as 1-5 birds where numbers were noted.

Most easterly records were from Woodville (L9) Apr 24 & Sep 23/25 (NEM) and Mt Vincent (L10) Aug 17 (OCG).

**Superb Fairy-wren** *Malurus cyaneus*

RAOU No: 529                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 55% of reports were of 6+ birds. 100+ birds were recorded at SBS Aug 27 and 51-100 birds there regularly through the year (HAS); 51-100 birds also recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 and KI Jun 5 (HBOC), Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS).

**Variiegated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*

RAOU No: 536                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Often recorded, more frequently in E of Region but birds were present at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC).

Where numbers were noted, all reports were of <20 birds, and around 60% were of 1-5 birds.

**Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*

RAOU No: 541

HBOC Category: 1

Resident, in north of Region.

6+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 (OCG). Pairs were recorded at Bucketts (L5) Jan 3 (FOC) and Harrington (S4) Oct 15 (MVBW), and two males & one female were at Gloucester Tops (L5) Dec 19 (JUT).

**Southern Emu-wren** *Stipiturus malachurus*

RAOU No: 526                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds were frequently recorded at Awabakal (M10/11) area (CLT, WAG, HBOC); 4 pairs were there Aug 27 (YAR). 1-5 birds were also recorded at KI Jan 23 (HBOC), Fullerton Cove (M10) Feb 6 (GED), Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Myall Lakes N.P. (P7) Mar 1 (KBD), Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 and Tomago (M9) Aug 20 (OCG), Hawkmount (K10) Nov 5 (YAR), NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 (MOA). Also recorded at Green Point (R6) Nov 19 (MVBW) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA). Birds were breeding at the latter site.

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*

RAOU No: 565                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were recorded at Yango Creek (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Kindarun (G10) Aug 5 & 13/14 and Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (MOA) and Forster area (R6) Sep 25 (TUD), and had nest with young at Woodville (L9) Sep 23/25 (NEM). Also seen carrying food at Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 2 (BID).

**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*

RAOU No: 976                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds where numbers were noted. 6-20 birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 and Kangaroo Mtn (I6) in Mar (JUT), Woodville (L9) Apr 24 (NEM), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 and Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (MOA).

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*

RAOU No: 505                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Two birds were recorded at Darkey's Creek (H9) Sep (MOA), a single bird at Wingen (H4) Oct 15 and 6+ birds at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT). Old nests were also found at Wingen, which probably is close to the northern extremity of range for the species.

**Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis*

RAOU No: 493                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 and Brunkerville (L10) Feb 20 (HBOC), Dusodie (M6) Jun 13 (YAR), Munyaree Flat (P3) Aug 20 (MVBW), Mt Vincent (L10) Aug 22 (OCG), Barrington Tops (L5/M5) Nov 6 (HLP), Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC), Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT). Birds were also present at Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 (MVBW) and Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC) - numbers not noted.

**White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis*

RAOU No: 488                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT). Birds were on nest at Wallaby Joe Flat (P3) May 21 (MVBW).

**Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostris*

RAOU No: 494                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 and Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Aug 14 (STJ), Heaton Lookout (K10) Sep 4 (YAR). Also recorded, but numbers were not noted, at Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 (MVBW) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA). Six birds with dependent young were at Seal Rocks Nov 18 (MOA).



**Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** *Hylocola pyrrhopygia*

RAOU No: 498

HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at Mt Manning (I11) Jun 4 (FOC), Seal Rocks (R7) Jun 12 (YAR) and Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), and two birds at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA).

**Speckled Warbler** *Chthonicola sagittata*

RAOU No: 504

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), Bulga (I8) Sep 11 (CBOC), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Yango Creek (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC), Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 16 (MVBW), Woodville (L9) Apr 24 & Sep 23/25 (NEM). Birds were also present at Bulga/ Warkworth Sep 3 (MOA), Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC) and Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC).

**Weebill** *Smicornis brevirostris*

RAOU No: 465

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded in W and central areas of Region. 20+ birds were at Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at Martin's Creek (L8) Jun 1 (GED), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 B (LIA) and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC). Most easterly record was from Martin's Creek.

**Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*

RAOU No: 454

HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Moderately often recorded, mostly in numbers of <20 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at BbR Jun 19 (STA) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ). Birds were nest building at Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW) and Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC), and on nests at Wallingat (Q6) and Seal Rocks late Dec (NBA).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

RAOU No: 460

HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Regularly recorded at KI; 6+ birds were there Jan 23. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), SWC Jul 28 (GED), Forster area (R6) Nov 15 (TUD), Swan Bay (L11) Nov 24 (LAK). Birds were also present at Harrington (S4) Mar 26/28 and Sep 6/7 (MOA, HAS).

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

RAOU No: 463

HBOC Category: 2

Rare; has bred.

Single birds were recorded near Jerry's Plains (H7) and at Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) on Sep 3 (MOA).

**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*

RAOU No: 453

HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 1, when heard at Honeysuckle Creek (D7) (STA). Earliest recorded arrival date was Aug 28, when seen at Failford (Q5) (TUD). Next recorded at Brightwaters (L11) Sep 5 (LIA) and thereafter was widespread in the Region.

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*

RAOU No: 475

HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA) and West Wallsend (L10) Oct 17 (OCG).

**Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides*

RAOU No: 484                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded, mostly in W and central areas of Region; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. Most easterly records were at Chichester Dam (M6) Mar 19 (PHP), Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Apr 23 (HBOC) and North Arm Cove (O8) Nov 17 (MOA).

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

RAOU No: 486                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Moderately often but widely recorded, mostly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC). Birds were on nests at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA) and Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW); also seen carrying food at Widden Valley.

**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

RAOU No: 471                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 21-50 birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25, Ash Island (M10) May 22 and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (all HBOC records).

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

RAOU No: 470                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; where numbers were noted, around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT) and Yango Creek (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC).

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

RAOU No: 466                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident, in W of Region.

Birds were recorded, in unknown numbers, near Jerry's Plains (H7) Sep 3 (MOA).

**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

RAOU No: 638                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 100+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS) and 20+ birds at Jemmy's Creek (C4) Mar 29 (JUT). Birds had dependent young at Clarencetown (M8) Nov 11 (MOR).

**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 637                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Regularly recorded at suitable coastal habitat; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 21-50 birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS), Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ) and Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA). Birds had dependent young at Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS).

**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

RAOU No: 585                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds or heard only. 6-20 birds were present at SBS Aug 27, Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 and Warners Bay (L10) Oct 12 (all HAS records), and Warkworth (18) Oct 23 (HBOC).

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

RAOU No: 645                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds where numbers were noted. Larger flocks often occurred where conditions were favourable – 50+ birds were at both Singleton (J8) and Arrowfield (H7) regularly from mid-Oct to mid-Nov (ALP), and 100+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 and Tanilba Bay (N9) May 27 (HAS).

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

RAOU No: 646                      HBOC Category: 3

Bird of passage.

Two birds were recorded at Brightwaters (L11) Jun 6; a dead immature bird without obvious sign of injury was found in the same area on Jun 4 (LIA). 3-5 birds were regularly recorded at Forster (R6) from Jul 24 to Aug 14 (TUD), and single birds were seen at Seal Rocks (R7) Jul 24 (PEJ) and Ellalong (J10) Sep 26 (MEJ1).

**Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia*

RAOU No: 603                      HBOC Category: 3

Local bird of passage, has bred.

Birds were frequently recorded at Howes Valley (H10) – 152+ were there over May 6-27 (MOA), 40-50 on Sep 11 (CBOC), 100 on Sep 28 and 50 on Oct 8 (WAG). 90+ birds were recorded at Kindarun (G10) Aug 5 and 150+ on Aug 13/14 (MOA). Five birds were recorded at Pokolbin (J9) and 6+ birds near Broke (I9) Aug 14 (OCG).

**Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*

RAOU No: 641                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 (OCG) and Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Aug 14 (STJ), and 1-5 birds at Yengo N.P. (I10) Jul 4 A (STJ), Singleton (J8) Nov 11 (ALP) and Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA). 3-4 birds were regular visitors to a Singleton garden during Aug/Oct (ALP). Reported to be common in Myall Lakes N.P. (cell P8) (TUD). Birds were also recorded at Broke (I9) Apr and Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) and Mungo Brush (P8) late Dec (NBA).

**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

RAOU No: 633                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded (often as heard only) in E of Region; most westerly record was at Darkey's Creek (H9) Sep (MOA).

**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

RAOU No: 634                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 50% of reports were of >6 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at BbR Aug 28 and Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA).

**Lewin's Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii*

RAOU No: 605                      HBOC Category: 1

Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. A single bird roosted every night from early June until mid-Dec in a verandah fern basket at NLH (LIP).

**Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus chrysops*

RAOU No: 614

HBOC Category: 1

Common summer breeding migrant, some birds resident all year.

Widely and regularly recorded all year. Many winter (Jun-Aug) records, with around 50% of these being of 6-20 birds and with 51-100 birds recorded at Morisset Hospital (L11) Jul 24 (HBOC) and Hunter Botanical Gardens (M9) Aug 20 (STA). 100+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS). Birds had dependent young at Myall Lakes N.P. (cell P8) Jan 22 (TUD) and were nesting at Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

RAOU No: 608                      HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

**White-eared Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus leucotis*

RAOU No: 617                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), Yango Creek (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC), Yengo N.P. (I10) Jul 4 (STJ), Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds near Wollombi (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC), Jemmy's Creek (C4) Mar 29 and Kangaroo Mtn (I6) in Mar (JUT), Gloucester River (L5) Jun 12 (HLP), Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT). Also recorded at Mt Sugarloaf (L10) Feb 7 (TOM).

**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus melanops*

RAOU No: 619                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Several dozen birds were recorded at Ellalong (J10) Oct 5 immediately after bushfires, and 20 birds there Oct 20 (MEJ1). Elsewhere, 21-50 birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA) and Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), 6-20 birds at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC) and Buchanan (L10) Aug 13 (YAR), and 1-5 birds near Wollombi (I10) Mar 20 (HBOC) and at Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 (HBOC) and Broke (I9) Oct 23 (STA). Birds also recorded at Kindarun (G10) Aug 5 & 13/14 (MOA), and regularly at Green Point (L11) Sep-Dec (TOM). Birds were nesting at Kindarun Aug 13/14.

**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*

RAOU No: 613                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

6-20 birds were recorded at Woodville (L9) Apr 24 & Sep 23/25 (NEM), Allynbrook (L7) Jun 1 (GED), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 (MOA); 1-5 birds were at Beresfield (L9) over Jan/Feb (BID), Buchanan (L10) Aug 13 (YAR), Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT) and Singleton (J8) Dec 25 (ALP). Also recorded at Kindarun (G10) Aug 5 & 13/14 (MOA). Birds at Woodville Sep 23/25 had dependent young.

**White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

RAOU No: 625                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Singleton (J8) Jan 26 (ALP), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), Buchanan (L10) Aug 13 (YAR), Goulburn River (C7) Sep 22 (JUT), Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), Battery Rock (E5) Sep 27 (STA), and regularly at Arrowfield (H7) (ALP). Around 10 birds were at Honeysuckle Creek (D7) Apr 1, with an immature (STA). Birds also recorded at Bulga/ Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (MOA).

**Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Melithreptus gularis*

RAOU No: 580                      HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage; has bred. (*Breeding status has been revised*)

Three birds were recorded at Ellalong (J10) Oct 20 (MEJ1), and a pair were nesting at Buchanan (L10) Sep 9, with two other birds in vicinity (WAG) - *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris*

RAOU No: 583

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 50+ birds were recorded at Ellalong (J10) Apr 25 (MEJ1) and 20+ birds at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA).



**White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus*

RAOU No: 578                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 20+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

RAOU No: 597                      HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

1-5 birds were regularly recorded at SWC/NWR and KI and adjoining suburbs; 20 birds were at KI Jun 5 (LIA). Also frequently recorded elsewhere near the coast, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds about equal.

**Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*

RAOU No: 598                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare bird of passage.

No records.

**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 (M10/11), usually in numbers of 6-20 birds (CLT, YAR). Occasionally recorded elsewhere, with 50+ birds at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA) and 20+ birds at Stockyard Creek, Awaba (L11) Jun 16 (GED), Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ) and Yagon (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA).

**White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris nigra*

RAOU No: 632                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Frequently recorded in E of Region; 6+ birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), otherwise, the most westerly records were at Mt Vincent (L10) Aug 28 and West Wallsend (L10) Oct 9 (OCG). Around 55% of reports were of >6 birds; 50+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS), Morisset Hospital (L11) Jul 24 (HBOC) and Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA). Reported to be a common breeding resident in Forster (R6) area (TUD).

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris melanops*

RAOU No: 593                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident. (*Revised from: Local resident*)

Regularly recorded at Awabakal (M10/11), usually as 1-5 birds (CLT); eight birds were there Aug 27 (YAR). 1-5 birds also recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 (OCG), Catherine Hill Bay (L11) Aug 6 (YAR), Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS). Reported to be common in Forster (R6) area (TUD), and recorded as breeding there late Dec (NBA).

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 591                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS), Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ), Morisset Hospital (L11) Jul 24 (HBOC), Hunter Botanical Gardens (M9) Aug 20 (STA) and near Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC); 50+ birds were at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA).

**Scarlet Honeyeater** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

RAOU No: 586                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, except no records in Jan/Feb. Around 70% of reports for the year were of 1-5 birds, but during Sep-Nov, 50% were of >6 birds and included reports of 21-50 birds at Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA), NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 and Bungwahl/Horse Point (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA).

**White-fronted Chat** *Epthianura albifrons*

RAOU No: 448                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Birds were regularly recorded at KI, Ash Island (M10), Fullerton Cove (M10) and Forster (R6), with peaks of 20+ birds at Ash Island May 22 (HBOC), 40 birds at KI Jul 30 (GED), 17 birds at Forster Jul 6 (MVBW). Four birds were recorded at Stockton (M10) Sep 2 (GED).

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

RAOU No: 377                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Often recorded; around 90% of records were of 1-5 birds. Birds were nest building at Woodville (L9) Sep 23/25 (NEM) and also reported to be breeding at Bungwahl/Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolor*

RAOU No: 380                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

A pair were recorded at Cessnock S.F. (J10) Jul 15 (YAR), and 6+ birds at Barrington Tops (cell K4) Mar 26 (TUD).

**Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii*

RAOU No: 381                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT), Warkworth (I8) Sep 3 (FOC), near Bulga (I8) Sep 11 (CBOC), and 6-8 birds at Bulga/Warkworth Sep 3 (MOA) and Warkworth Oct 23 (HBOC).

**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

RAOU No: 382                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Jemmy's Creek (C4) Mar 29 (JUT), Allyn River S.F. (K5) Sep 25 (ALP), Dilgry Circle (L4) Sep 28 (ALP) and Barrington Tops (L5/M5) Nov 6 (HLP). A pair on nest with three young were at Gloucester Tops (L5) Nov 6 (WAG).

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*

RAOU No: 384                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Occasionally recorded in E of Region; most westerly records were at Manobali N.R. (G6) Mar 3 (JUT) and Kindarun (G10) Aug 5 (MOA). Mainly recorded as 1-2 birds; three birds were at Bulahdelah S.F. (P7) Mar 23 and six birds at NLH Jul 3 (GED). "Many" birds also at NLH Jul 30 (GED).

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

RAOU No: 385                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident, in west of Region.

A single male was recorded at Battery Rock (E5) Sep 27 (STA).

**Pale-yellow Robin** *Tregallasia capito*

RAOU No: 396

HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Bulahdelah S.F. (P7) Mar 23 & Mar 31 (GED), and a single bird in this area Jun 12 (YAR).

**Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis*

RAOU No: 392                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds were on nests at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA), and had dependent young at Bangalay Res. (M11) Nov 26 (CLT), Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW) and near Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC).

**Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*

RAOU No: 434                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Three birds were recorded at Bulahdelah S.F. (P7) Mar 31 (GED), and two birds at Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Apr 6 (MVBW). Birds also heard at Lansdowne S.F. (R3) Sep 1 (MVBW).

**Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*

RAOU No: 443                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Singleton (J8) Feb 10 (ALP), near Gloucester (N5) Apr 2 & Aug 17 (CLT, TUD), Yengo N.P. (I10) Jul 4 (STJ), near Jerry's Plains (H7) Sep 3 (MOA), Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC), Newcastle Golf Club Sep 11 (HIM), Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), Broke (I9) Sep 27 (STA) and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC). 6-20 birds were recorded at Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 & Jul 5 (HBOC, OCG), Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA), near Broke (I9) Aug 14 (OCG), and regularly at Woodville (L9) (NEM).

**White-browed Babbler** *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 445                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident; has bred.

No records.

**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

RAOU No: 421                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Fifteen birds were recorded at Dudley/ Awabakal (M10/11) Aug 27 (YAR).

**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinlosoma punctatum*

RAOU No: 436                      HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Mt Manning (I11) Jun 4 (FOC), Stockyard Creek, Awaba (L11) Jun 16 (GED), Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), Mt Sugarloaf (L10) Nov 25 (STJ), and regularly at Honeysuckle Creek (D7) during Oct (GED).

**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 549                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*).

Occasionally but widely recorded; where numbers were noted, reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 20+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Hunter Botanical Gardens (M9) Aug 20 (STA) and had dependent young at Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW).

**Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*

RAOU No: 416

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Occasionally recorded in E of Region; the most westerly records were at Heaton Lookout (K10) Sep 4 (YAR), Woodville (L9) Apr 24 (NEM) and near Maitland (L9) Mar 26 (MPM). Where numbers were noted, all records were of <5 birds.

**Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*

RAOU No: 419                      HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

RAOU No: 405                      HBOC Category: 2

Resident, of highland areas.

A single male was recorded at Polblue Swamp (K4) Dec 19 (JUT).

**Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*

RAOU No: 398                      HBOC Category: 1

Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds were breeding at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA).

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*

RAOU No: 401                      HBOC Category: 1

Common summer breeding migrant; some birds are locally resident.

Three winter records: 1-5 birds at SWC Jun 5 and Morpeth Common (L9) Jul 27 (ROD) and also recorded at Broke (I9) Aug (MOA). Widely and frequently recorded in remainder of year, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds were feeding young at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC) and also breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*

RAOU No: 408                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 90% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds were nesting at Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA) and Buchanan (L10) Aug 14 (WAG), and had dependent young at Bangalay Res. (M11) Nov 26 (CLT). Abundance level described as "numerous, a large influx on usual numbers" in the Buchanan record.

**Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis*

RAOU No: 373                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer breeding migrant.

Widely recorded, with most reports being of 1-5 birds. Present until at least Mar, when recorded at Kangaroo Mtn (I6) Mar (JUT). Earliest recorded arrival date was during Aug, when seen at Pokolbin (J9) Aug (MOA). No further sightings until Oct 1, when two birds were recorded at Green Point (L11) (GED); thereafter, sightings were widespread.

**Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*

RAOU No: 375                      HBOC Category: 2

Status uncertain. (*Revised from: Rare*)

1-5 birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 (HBOC), Crowdy Bay N.P (S3) Oct 15 (MVBW), Lansdowne (R3) Oct 30 (MVBW), Copeland (N4) Nov 20 (TUD), Bangalay Reserve (M11) Nov 26 (CLT), Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW), near Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC), Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT); also recorded in unknown numbers at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (NBA).

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

RAOU No: 365                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Ocasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Groups of eight birds were recorded at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 and at both Seal Rocks (R7) and Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA). Birds at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush were on nest; breeding was also recorded at Seal Rocks late Dec (NBA).



**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

RAOU No: 366 HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Wingham (Q4) in Sep (MVBW), Woodville (L9) over Oct 8-15 (NEM) and Garden Suburb (M10) Oct 29 (PEJ).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

RAOU No: 369 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Irrawang Swamp (M9) Jun 14 (NEM), Singleton (J8) Jul 29 (ALP), Kindarun (G10) Aug 13/14 (MOA), Harrington/Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Murrurundi (H3) Oct 29 (HTH), Arrowfield (H7) Nov 10 (ALP), near Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC). Birds were also recorded (numbers not noted) at Broke (I9) Apr (MOA) and Wingham Brush (Q4) Jun 18 (MVBW).

**Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*

RAOU No: 415 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at SBS Jan 16 (HAS), Grahamstown Reservoir (M9) Jul 9 (YAR) and Minmi (L10) Oct 12 (OCG). Birds were nest building at Wingham (Q4) Oct 6 (MVBW), on nests at SWC Sep 25 & Oct 8/9 (ROD, HBOC) and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), and with young in nests at Warners Bay (L10) Oct 12 & 21 (HAS) and Clarencetown (M8) Nov 11 (MOR).

**Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*

RAOU No: 362 HBOC Category: 1

Usual summer breeding migrant.

Often recorded, as 1-5 birds where numbers were noted. Present until at least Apr 17, when a single bird was recorded at Awabakal (M10/11) (CLT). Earliest recorded arrival in spring was of a single bird at Woodville (L9) Oct 2 (NEM).

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

RAOU No: 361 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Feb 11/12 and Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Woodville (L9) Sep 23/25 (NEM) and Allyn River S.F. (K5) Sep 25 (ALP). Birds had dependent young at Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 29/30 (STA) and were on nests at Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC).

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*

RAOU No: 364 HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20 birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) Jun 18 (YAR) and 24 pair along Paterson River (L9) Sep 8 (BID). Some birds were nest building or on nests in this river survey; nesting was also recorded at Throsby Creek (M10) Sep 4 (CLT), SWC Sep 25 & Oct 8/9 (ROD, HBOC) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA), and birds had dependent young near Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 3/4 (HBOC).

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

RAOU No: 673 HBOC Category: 1

Winter migrant and bird of passage.

Often recorded over Jun-Sep, mostly as 1-2 birds. Present from Mar 2, when recorded at Lansdowne (R3) (MVBW), but also seen at Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 29/30 (STA). Latest record for year was at Crowdy Bay N.P (S3) Oct 15 (MVBW). 20+ birds were at Harrington/Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS).

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 424                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; over 90% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds were on nests at SWC Sep 25 & Oct 8/9 (ROD, HBOC), NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 (MOA) and Harrington (S4) Dec 3 (MVBW), and also seen carrying food at SBS Jan 16 (HAS).

**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*

RAOU No: 425                      HBOC Category: 2

Bird of passage, has bred. (*Breeding status revised*)

1-2 birds were recorded at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Mar 2 (SIM), Kurri Kurri (K9) Jun 30 (YAR), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Woodville (L9) Oct 15 (NEM), Crowdy Bay N.P (S3) Oct 15 (MVBW), Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA), and five birds at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC). A pair was breeding at Buchanan (L10) Sep 8, with other birds in vicinity (WAG) - *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 429                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant.

Occasionally recorded; numbers mostly were not noted. Present until at least Mar 2, when recorded near Maitland (L9) (MPM). Birds were next recorded at Pokolbin (J9) and Broke (I9) during Aug (MOA), but not elsewhere until at Tinonee (Q4) Oct 22/23 (MVBW).

**Ground Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina maxima*

RAOU No: 423                      HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

A single bird was recorded in Myall Lakes N.P. (cell P8) Dec 3 (TUD).

**White-winged Triller** *Lalage sueurii*

RAOU No: 430                      HBOC Category: 1

Summer migrant.

1-2 birds were recorded at Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), SWC Oct 23 & Nov 15 (ROD, LAK), Woodville (L9) Nov 6 (NEM), Baerami (E7) Nov 19 & Fullerton Cove no date (GED), Belmont Swamp (L11) late Nov (LAK). Also recorded at Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA) - numbers not noted.

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

RAOU No: 431                      HBOC Category: 3

Local resident.

Birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Feb 23, Aug 12, Sep 6/7 & Dec 3 (MVBW, CBOC, HAS).

**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*

RAOU No: 671                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded, as 1-5 birds where numbers were noted. Birds had dependent young at Bonnells Bay (L10) Oct 22 (HDD).

**Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*

RAOU No: 432                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Often recorded, mostly in areas close to the coast. Most westerly records were at Morpeth Common (L9) Jul 27 & Sep 22 (ROD). 100+ birds recorded at Harrington/ Crowdy Head

(S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS), and 52 birds at Booti Booti SRA (R6) Jan 26 (FOC). Birds were nest building at Throsby Creek (M10) Sep 4 (CLT), and had nest with two young in cell P8 Dec 12 (TUD). Bred in a small colony at Seal Rocks (R7) Dec 17 (TUD); also reported to be breeding at Forster (R6) late Dec (NBA).

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*

RAOU No: 543

HBOC Category: 1

Summer breeding migrant. (*Amended from: Breeding resident*)

Present until at least May 8, when 11 birds were recorded at SWC (ROD). Earliest recorded arrival date was of two birds at Fullerton Cove (M10) Aug 18 (GED), although widespread reports did not commence until mid-Sep. Birds were on nest at KI Nov 20 (STA), and recorded as breeding at Forster (R6) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*

RAOU No: 544

HBOC Category: 3 (*New to list*)

Rare.

Mixed flocks (numbers ranging to 100+ birds) of this and other *Artamus* species (see this Report) were widely reported in early October at Howes Valley (H9/10), West Wallsend (L10), Kurri Kurri (K9), Myall Lakes N.P. (Q7) and numerous locations around Maitland (L9), Lake Macquarie (L10/11) and Newcastle (M10). The sightings coincided with very strong and gusty NW wind, extremely dry conditions, and heavy dust and smoke from widespread bushfires. A mixed flock with *A. superciliosus* of 50+ birds was seen again at Woodville (L9) over Oct 31 - Nov 6, one juvenile being a possible hybrid (NEM), and a flock of 30+ birds were at Singleton (J8) Oct 28 (ALP). A single bird was recorded at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC).

**White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 545

HBOC Category: 1

Rare.

100+ birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11 (CBOC) and 30+ birds at Woodville (L9) Sep 23/25 (NEM). Mixed flocks (numbers ranging to 100+ birds) of this and other *Artamus* species (see this Report) were widely reported in early October, during unusual weather conditions, at Howes Valley (H9/10), West Wallsend (L10), Kurri Kurri (K9), Myall Lakes N.P. (Q7) and numerous locations around Maitland (L9), Lake Macquarie (L10/11) and Newcastle (M10). A mixed flock with *A. personatus* of 50+ birds was seen again at Woodville (L9) over Oct 31 - Nov 6, one juvenile being a possible hybrid (NEM), and a flock of around 50 birds were at Singleton (J8) Nov 11 (ALP). 6+ birds were also recorded at Crowdy Head/ Harrington (S3/4) Oct 30 (HTH).

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*

RAOU No: 547

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding migrant. (*Amended from: Breeding resident*)

Birds were present until at least May 23, when two birds were recorded at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) (TUD). Earliest recorded arrival was of three birds at Buchanan (L10) Aug 13 (YAR). Mixed flocks (numbers ranging to 100+ birds) of this and other *Artamus* species (see this Report) were widely reported in early October, during unusual weather conditions, at Howes Valley (H9/10), West Wallsend (L10), Kurri Kurri (K9), Myall Lakes N.P. (Q7) and numerous locations around Maitland (L9), Lake Macquarie (L10/11) and Newcastle (M10). Birds had nest with young NE of Karuah (O8) Nov 17 (MOA).

**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, predominantly as 1-5 birds. Birds were on nests at Raymond Terrace (M9) Sep 15 (TUD) and SWC Sep 25 (ROD), and were also with dependent young at Raymond Terrace. Immatures were at SWC Oct 16 and Mirrabooka (L11) Dec 6 (MCG).

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

RAOU No: 700                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Revised from: Usual resident*)

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Craven/ Stratford (N5) Jun 12 (HLP), Seaham (M9) Jun 14 (ROD) and Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC). Two immatures included in the Seaham sighting; birds were also recorded as breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*

RAOU No: 705                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 30% of reports were of 6-20 birds. Birds were on nest at Wallaby Joe Flat (P3) May 21 (MVBW), had nest with young at Tea Gardens (O8) Nov 17 (MOA), and were feeding young at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC).

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

RAOU No: 694                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Widely and frequently recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder were of 6-20 birds.

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

RAOU No: 686                      HBOC Category: 3 (*new to list*)

Rare.

A single female was recorded at Jerusalem Creek near Dusodie (M6) Jun 13 (YAR).

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

RAOU No: 930                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. A flock of 200+ birds were at Fullerton Cove (M10) Sep 28 (BLM), and 21-50 birds were at Morisset (K11) Apr 20 (LIA), Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA), Highfields (M10) Nov 12 (CLT) and SWC Nov 13 (STA). Birds were on nest at Cardiff Heights (M10) Jul 13 (TOM), and had a nest with four young at Mayfield (M10) Oct 27; the birds were fledged sometime between Nov 4 and Nov 11 (CLT).

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

RAOU No: 868                      HBOC Category: 2

Local resident.

Regularly recorded in Forster (R6) area (TUD), and also recorded at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7), Seal Rocks (R7) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

RAOU No: 692                      HBOC Category: 2 (*amended from Category 3*)

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Local resident*).

50+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 (OCG) and Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS). 1-5 birds were at Hillville Dam/ Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Apr 23 (HBOC), Wingham Brush (Q4) Apr 25, Taree (Q4) Jun 11 and Bulahdelah (P7) Jun 13 (STA), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA), Allworth (N7) Nov 27 (HBOC). Reported to be a common breeding resident in Forster (R6) area (TUD). Also recorded at Harrington (S4) Mar 26/28 (MOA), Bungwahl/ Horse Point, Seal Rocks (R7) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

RAOU No: 693

HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Often recorded, mostly as 6-20 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at Green Hills (L9) May 29 (SMJ), Mt Vincent (L10) Aug 28 (OCG) and Murrumbo Gap (D7) Sep 22 (JUT), and 50+ birds at Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA).



**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

RAOU No: 676 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Occasionally recorded, as 1-5 birds. A pair with one immature were recorded at Wingham Brush (Q4) Mar 20 (MVBW).

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

RAOU No: 684 HBOC Category: 1

Resident.

Often recorded in E of Region, usually as 1-5 birds; the most westerly records were at Barrington Tops (L5/M5) Nov 6 (HLP) and Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT). 6-20 birds were recorded at Garden Suburb (M10) Apr 8 and Seal Rocks (R7) late Jun (PEJ) and Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS).

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

RAOU No: 679 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded; around 30% of reports were of 6-20 birds. Adults and six immatures were recorded at Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Apr 6 (MVBW).

**Singing Bushlark** *Mirafrja javanica*

RAOU No: 648 HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

No records.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 647 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident. (*Revised from: Usual resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded, usually as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were at KI Feb 19 (STA) and Morisset (K11) Apr 20 (LIA), and 20+ birds at Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC).

Birds were recorded as breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

RAOU No: 877 HBOC Category: 3

Accidental.

No records.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

RAOU No: 995 HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Frequently recorded around and near populated areas; around 50% of reports were of >5 birds.

**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*

RAOU No: 653 HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident. (*Breeding status revised from: has bred*)

1-5 birds were recorded at Denman (G7) Mar 1 & Apr 1, Murrumbo (D7) Oct 2, Sandy Hollow (F7) Oct 5 and Jerry's Plains (H7) Nov 19 (all GED reports), and 6-20 birds at Jerry's Plains Apr 1 (GED), Arrowfield (H7) Nov 10 (ALP) and Denman Nov 21 (GED). Birds were also seen at Broke (I9) Apr (MOA). 10+ pairs nested at Arrowfield - this is reported to be a regular annual event (ALP).

**Double-barred Finch** *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

RAOU No: 655

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident (*Revised from: Resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 21-50 birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Apr 22/25 (HBOC), Fullerton Cove (M10) Jun 23 (GED), Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA) and Goulburn River (C7) Sep 22 (JUT).

Birds were on nests at Wallaby Joe Flat (P3) May 21 (MVBW) and Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 (HBOC) - *these are the first reported breeding records by HBOC.*

**Red-browed Finch** *Neochmia temporalis*

RAOU No: 662                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; 80% of reports were of >5 birds and 30% were of >20 birds. 100+ were recorded at SBS Jan 16 and Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS) and BbR Jun 4 (GED). Birds were recorded as breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

RAOU No: 652                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Timor (I3) May 30 (JUT) and Widden Valley (E8/9) Sep 17/18 (LIA).

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

RAOU No: 983                      HBOC Category: 2

Rare.

No records.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*

RAOU No: 657                      HBOC Category: 1

Local resident.

Groups of 6-20 birds were recorded at KI Jun 5, Sep 11 & Nov 20 (LIA, CLT, STA); 1-5 birds present at Fullerton Cove (M10) Feb 15 & Oct 29 (GED, YAR) and Richardson's Swamp (M9) Oct 1 (GED). Birds were also recorded at SWC Oct 8/9 (HBOC) and Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

RAOU No: 996                      HBOC Category: 1

Local breeding resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at SWC Mar 25 (CBOC), Mayfield (M10) May 13 & Oct 25 (CLT), Ash Island (M10) Jun 18 (YAR), SBS Aug 27 (HAS), KI Sep 11 (CLT), Metford (L9) Sep 22 (BID) and Ellalong (J10) Sep 26 (MEJ1).

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

RAOU No: 564                      HBOC Category: 1

Breeding resident.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were recorded at Pokolbin (J9) Sep 25 (HBOC). Birds were reported to be breeding at Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosternus*

RAOU No: 358                      HBOC Category: 1

Bird of passage.

20 birds were recorded at Ringwood (D6) Apr 1 (GED) and two birds near Bulga (I8) Sep 11 (CBOC).

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*

RAOU No: 357                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; 80% of reports were of >5 birds. About 1000 birds were recorded at KI Feb 19 (STA) and 300 birds at Teralba (L10) Jun 11 (YAR). Birds were nest building at Throsby Creek (M10) Sep 4 (CLT), on nests and also feeding young at

Warkworth (I8) Oct 23 (HBOC), and with dependent young at SWC Nov 13 (STA). Also reported to have bred in Forster (R6) area (TUD).

**Tree Martin** *Hirundo nigricans*

RAOU No: 359                      HBOC Category: 1  
Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; where numbers were noted, reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 60+ birds were recorded at Nabiac (Q5) Aug 3 (MVBW), and 21-50 birds at Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Jun 19 & Aug 28 (TUD). Birds were inspecting hollows at Wallis Lake Aug 28.

**Fairy Martin** *Hirundo ariel*

RAOU No: 360                      HBOC Category: 1  
Summer breeding migrant; some birds appear to be resident.

Only one record over Apr-Jul - 6+ birds were at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 13 (OCG). 6+ birds were recorded at SBS Aug 7 (HAS) and a single bird at SWC (STA); by Aug 27, numbers there had reached 20+ (HAS). Birds were on nest at KI Jan 23 (HBOC), and reported to be breeding at Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pyconotus jocosus*

RAOU No: 990                      HBOC Category: 2  
Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp (L11) late Nov; some birds were also present in Mar (LAK).

**Clamorous Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

RAOU No: 524                      HBOC Category: 1  
Usual summer breeding migrant; some birds are resident through winter.

Occasionally but widely recorded. Winter records were of 1-5 birds at SWC Jun 5 (ROD), Mulbring (K10) Jun 19 (HBOC), SBS Aug 7 (HAS) and 6+ birds at NWR Aug 28 (CLT). Numbers where noted were often greater in other months, with 21-50 birds recorded at NWR Oct 3 (CLT) and KI Sep 11 & Nov 20 (CLT, STA).

**Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*

RAOU No: 523                      HBOC Category: 2  
Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at NWR Aug 28 & Oct 3, Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS), KI Sep 11 & Oct 12 (CLT, OCG), Smith Lake (cell Q7) Oct 3 (TUD), SWC Oct 23 (ROD) and Green Point (R6) Nov 19 (MVBW). Birds were also recorded (unknown numbers) at Hillville (Q4) Mar 20 (MVBW), SWC Oct 8/9 (HBOC) and Forster (R6) late Dec (NBA).

**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*

RAOU No: 522                      HBOC Category: 1  
Resident.

Regularly recorded at SWC from Aug 14 (ROD), and occasionally at other locations with suitable habitat. Winter records, other than at SWC, were at SBS Jun 18 (HAS), Morpeth Common (L9) Jul 27 (ROD) and NWR Aug 28 (CLT).

**Rufous Songlark** *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*

RAOU No: 509                      HBOC Category: 2  
Rare, possibly under-recorded.

A single bird was recorded at Woodville (L9) in early Oct and then a pair on Oct 15 (NEM). Single birds were also recorded at Kurri Kurri (K9) Oct 13 (YAR) and regularly at Fullerton Cove (M10) from Oct 1 to Dec 15 (GED).

**Brown Songlark** *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*

RAOU No: 508

HBOC Category: 3

Rare. (*New to list*)

A single male was recorded at Bowman's Creek (I7) Oct 20, doing its conspicuous songflight (JUT), and another at Wallis Lake (cell Q6) Nov 15 (TUD).

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*

RAOU No: 525                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual resident.

Frequently recorded at suitable habitat; around 50% of reports were of >5 birds. 21-50 birds were recorded at KI Jun 5 & Sep 11 (HBOC, CLT) and Harrington/ Crowdy Head (S3/4) Sep 6/7 (HAS). An immature bird was present at Hillville (Q4) Mar 20 (MVBW).

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

RAOU No: 574                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident and winter migrant. (*Revised to include breeding status*)

Widely and regularly recorded; around 75% of reports were of >5 birds including 25% being of >20 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at Awabakal (M10/11) May 15 (CLT) and Ash Island (M10) May 22 (HBOC), and 100+ birds at Oyster Cove (N9) May 25/26 (HAS), Morisset Hospital (L11) Jul 24 (HBOC) and Hunter Botanical Gardens (M9) Aug 20 (STA).

**THRUSH SPECIES**

The 1993 Report, following then current taxonomy, referred to sightings of White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*. Now, it has been recognised that two distinct species exist; previously these were considered to be races of *Z. dauma*. Both these new species - *Z. lunulata*, *Z. heinei* - occur within the Hunter Region; however, field differentiation is difficult. Observers have been encouraged to make a specific report, but a precise identification has not always been possible. The approach that has been taken is to carefully vet the reports received. Confirmed reports of either *Zoothera* species are described; where there is doubt as to identification, the observation is reported separately.

• **Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

RAOU No: 779                      HBOC Category: 3

Resident.

No records.

• **Russet-tailed Thrush** *Zoothera heinei*

RAOU No: 780                      HBOC Category: 3

Resident.

No records.

• **Unidentified Thrush Sightings**

1-2 birds were recorded at Brunkerville (L10) Feb 20 (HBOC), Kangaroo Mtn (I6) Mar (JUT), BbR Jun 19 (STA), Catherine Hill Bay (L11) Jun 19 (YAR), NLH Aug 6 (LIP), Green Point (L11) Oct 1 (GED) and Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 20 (JUT). Also recorded (numbers not noted) at Wallingat (Q6) late Dec (NBA).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

RAOU No: 991                      HBOC Category: 2 (*New to list*)

Rare.

Eight pair are reported to have become established at Polblue Swamp (K4), in an area of broombush (FOC). A single bird was seen there Apr 23 (GED). 4+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E8/9) Apr 4 (VGF).

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

RAOU No: 999                      HBOC Category: 1

Common breeding resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 90% of reports were of >5 birds including 50% being of >20 birds. Approx 1000 were roosting at Hexham Road Bridge (M9) Mar 3 (MPM), at

what appeared to be a regular roosting site. Birds had a nest with young at Hawks Nest (P8/P9) Nov 17 (MOA).



**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

RAOU No: 998                      HBOC Category: 1

Usual breeding resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 60% of reports were of 6-20 birds and most of the remainder were of 1-5 birds. 100+ birds were at SBS Jun 18 & Jul 10, and 20+ birds there Aug 27 (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:

**Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*

RAOU No: 902

Three birds were recorded in Booti Booti N.P. (R6) on May 5 (TUD).

**Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** *Cacatua leadbeateri*

RAOU No: 270

One bird at Singleton (J8) Dec 25 (ALP).

**Superb Parrot** *Polytelis swainsonii*

RAOU No: 277

Single birds at Mayfield (M10) Jan 7 (CLT) and Marmong Point (L10) Jun 28 (KBD).

**Red-capped Parrot** *Purpureicephalus spurius*

RAOU No: 290

Two birds at Edgeworth (L10) early Jul (OCG).

**Mallee Ringneck** *Barnardius barnardi*

RAOU No: 291

At least one bird at Edgeworth (L10) early Jul (OCG).

## LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

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

**BbR** Blackbutt Reserve (M10)

**HBG** Hunter Botanical Gardens (M9)

**KI** Kooragang Island (M10)

**NLH** New Lambton Heights (M10)

**NWR** Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (M10)

**SBS** Stockton Borehole Swamp(L10)

**SWC** Shortland Wetlands Centre (M10)

**WWW** Walka Water Works (L9)

## UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

The following records could not be accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee for inclusion into the main body of the Report because of insufficient description being available at the time of printing. The records are presented here for completeness; it is intended that future Hunter Region Annual Bird Reports will advise of any of the records which subsequently are accepted.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

RAOU No: 229                      HBOC Category: 3  
Report of a single bird near Aberdeen (H5) May 2.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

RAOU No: 166                      HBOC Category: 3  
Report from Harrington (S4) Sep 4 of a single bird.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

RAOU No: 136                      HBOC Category: 3  
A single bird reported from Harrington (S4) Oct 15.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

RAOU No: 945                      HBOC Category: 3  
Report of a single bird at Swansea (L11) Oct 31.

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

RAOU No: 031                      HBOC Category: 3  
A pair were reported from Howes Valley (H10) Sep 11.

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

RAOU No: 248                      HBOC Category: 3  
Reports of single birds near Bulahdelah (P7) Apr 2 and at Wingham Brush (Q4) Dec 13.

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

RAOU No: 246                      HBOC Category: 3  
Two birds reported from Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) Jan 2 and a single bird from Cundletown (R4) Mar 3.

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 250                      HBOC Category: 3  
Single birds were reported from Copeland Tops (M4) Apr 4, Charlestown (M10) May 24 and in area to S of Broke (cell I9 or I10) Oct 31.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

RAOU No: 249                      HBOC Category: 3  
A single bird was reported from Jesmond (M10) in early Sep.

**White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*

RAOU No: 579                      HBOC Category: 3  
A report of 10+ birds at Myall View homestead (near Bulahdelah P7) Apr 2.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

RAOU No: 993  
Reports of a single bird at KI Aug 1 and two birds there on Aug 4 and Sep 2.



## OBSERVER CODES

Observers are identified by codes which are made up of 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.

<b>ALP</b>	Peter Alexander	<b>LIP</b>	Paddy Lightfoot
<b>BAW</b>	Wilma Barden	<b>MCG</b>	Geraldine McCulloch
<b>BID</b>	Doug Biddell	<b>MEJ1</b>	Jenny Meynell
<b>BLM</b>	Max Blanch	<b>MEJ2</b>	Eve & John Moyse
<b>CAB</b>	Bill Cambridge	<b>MOA</b>	Alan Morris
<b>CBOC</b>	Observation reported in newsletter of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club	<b>MOR</b>	Rex Morris
<b>CLT</b>	Tom Clarke	<b>MPM</b>	Peter & Margaret McLauchlan
<b>CJB</b>	John & Beth Cockerell	<b>MUM</b>	Michael Murray
<b>DIM</b>	Marea Diemar	<b>MUW</b>	Wendy Murdoch
<b>DUP</b>	Pam Durie	<b>MVBW</b>	Observation reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers
<b>FAR</b>	Richard Farrell	<b>NBA</b>	Reported by NSW Bird Atlassers
<b>FOC</b>	Observation reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club	<b>NEM</b>	Mike Newman
<b>GED</b>	David Geering	<b>OCG</b>	Graeme O'Connor
<b>GIM</b>	Mavis Gillies	<b>OWS</b>	Susan Owen
<b>GRN</b>	Neil Granter	<b>PAR</b>	Ruth Parker
<b>HAS</b>	Sue Hamonet	<b>PEJ</b>	Jim Perry
<b>HBOC</b>	Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp	<b>PHP</b>	Peter Phillips
<b>HDD</b>	Don & Daphne Halliday	<b>RER</b>	Roger Reece
<b>HIM</b>	Ian & Marta Hamilton	<b>RET</b>	Tom Reynolds
<b>HJL</b>	Joyce & Les Hewson	<b>ROA1</b>	Alan Rogers
<b>HLC</b>	Liz & Chris Herbert	<b>ROA2</b>	A B Rose
<b>HLP</b>	Leonie & Peter Hansen	<b>ROD</b>	Dianne Rogers
<b>HTH</b>	Hunter Thickheads (Twitchathon team)	<b>SAD</b>	A & D Sullivan
<b>HUP</b>	Peter Hughes	<b>SIM</b>	M. Simkins
<b>HWT</b>	Observation reported in <i>The Wetlander</i> (newsletter of the Hunter Wetlands Trust)	<b>SMJ</b>	Judith Smith
<b>JUT</b>	Trevor Jurd	<b>SMP</b>	Peter Smith
<b>KBD</b>	Bev & David Kibble	<b>STA</b>	Alan Stuart
<b>KEB</b>	Barbara Kelly	<b>STJ</b>	Jeanette Stephenson
<b>LAK</b>	Keith Laverick	<b>THF</b>	Fay Thomson
<b>LIA</b>	Ann Lindsey	<b>TOM</b>	Michael Todd
		<b>TUB</b>	Bruce Turnbull & Ann Robotham
		<b>TUD</b>	David Turner

**VGF** Fred Van Gessel

**WAG** Glynn Walker

**WAI** Ian Watson

**WAM** Marion Walker

**WAR1** Rosemary Waymark

**WAR2** Ray Walker

**WCR** Observation reported to Shortland  
Wetlands Centre

**WMK** Margaret & Keith Woods

**YAR** Richard Yank

## DEFINITION OF THE HUNTER REGION

A map on the following page, developed by Peter McLauchlan of HBOC, 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