

HUNTER REGION OF NSW

1995 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

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FOREWORD

I suppose reading Bird Reports is, like eating olives, an acquired taste unless started at a very early age. Since, in New South Wales, bird reports have existed only since the seventies, and in the Hunter since the nineties, most of us are still wondering and learning about the actual value of a bird report. In the NSW Bird Report for 1970, which is modestly described by the then editor, Alan Rogers, as a ... "*preliminary report ... intended to act as a guide to contributors for a more comprehensive effort in 1971*" it says about Gould's Petrel:

"552 different birds caught on Cabbage Tree Island between 5 and 12 Dec. It is now thought that the population may be of the order of 2000 birds – greatly exceeding previous estimates"

Twenty five years later in the Hunter Region Bird Report, part of the entry for the same species says:

"The 1994/95 breeding population was 150 pairs, of an estimated world population of around 1000 birds."

You can readily see why bird reports are important.

In the early days of compiling the NSW Bird Report – without the aid of computers, fax machines, the Internet, or the knowledge we now have – all records were accepted and little checking of unusual records was carried out. Long distance phone calls seemed to cost a fortune then. With the benefit of hindsight, some records from those pioneering days are perhaps a little dubious. Nowadays, there are committees to double-check distribution and difficult identification.

By sending in your records, you can contribute to the documentation of the avian population and distribution in the Hunter and the information may one day be used to protect and increase our remaining habitat. Birdwatching is meant to be fun; it is the protection of bird habitat that is a deadly serious game.

This year, there are twenty more "observer codes" than in last year's Report. Even if not published specifically, your information has been used to assess current avian status. Thank you for your continued support, and – *I wonder what you are seeing this year.*

Ann Lindsey
President, Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
July 17, 1996

INTRODUCTION

In this Report, produced by Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc (HBOC), we present a summary of the status of bird species within the Hunter Region of NSW in the 1995 calendar year. The information is based upon observation records which we have gathered from a variety of sources.

We define the Hunter Region as the area described in the popular tourist maps of the Hunter. That is, the Region comprises the local government areas of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Merriwa, Singleton, Scone, Murrurundi, Dungog, Gloucester, Port Stephens, Greater Taree and Great Lakes. As in previous Reports, we have partitioned the Region into a grid of 153 10-minute cells (based upon lines of latitude and longitude) to assist readers to identify the approximate locations for the records which we report. We have assigned a unique alphanumeric indicator to each cell. A map showing the Hunter Region with a guide to cell identification is included at the back of this Report.

The 1995 Report describes the regional status of 347 bird species, including 311 species that were recorded during the year. There are 15 additions to the 1994 species list, and 7 species are newly confirmed to breed within the Region.

As we have noted in previous Reports, it is difficult to generalise any commentary on weather conditions for an area as large and diverse as the Hunter Region. However, 1995 was noteworthy for a very dry August – most if not all locations received no rainfall at all during the month.

Now that we have achieved the milestone of our third Report, it is perhaps appropriate to outline some of the philosophies which we are adopting for the Reports. They include the following:

- *The overall list of species will include all species which, since 1987, are confirmed by HBOC to have been present in the Region. Although HBOC records pre-date 1987, the prior records have not yet been collated.*
- *The status description for each species is to be subject to regular review, with the aim of ensuring that the description reflects the current situation. For any year, the main indication of the then-current Hunter Region birdlife will come from considering the status descriptions of the listed species.*
- *All records will be vetted and no record will be accepted for inclusion into the Reports unless HBOC is convinced of its validity. Information about the records appraisal scheme is presented further below.*
- *Breeding status will be assigned to a species only if definite evidence to this effect has been provided. If there have been no breeding records for a species for 10 or more years, the breeding status will be reviewed.*

To assist in vetting records, we have classified each species into one of three categories, as described below. The classification reflects, in part, the frequency of reporting.

Category 1: all records for the species generally are acceptable.

Category 2: records usually are acceptable, but supporting information may be required in the event of unusual numbers, location or season.

Category 3: the species is considered to be of special interest in relation to the Region, and supporting information is required before any record can be accepted for inclusion into the Report.

A Records Appraisal Committee assigns these categories and decides whether each record can be accepted. This Report owes much to the contributions of our Records Officer, Sue Hamonet, and the other members of the committee - Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Jeannette Stephenson, Jim Perry and David Geering. Many thanks!

Equally as important is the contribution from those who have submitted records of their observations during the year. To the regulars and to the newcomers – thanks, and keep up the good work. To all readers, remember: your records are of little value if they only sit in your drawer at home – send them in and let them become building blocks of our knowledge and understanding of the birds of the Hunter Region.

Alan Stuart (Editor)
July 4, 1996

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 1995 in the Hunter Region included the following sightings (presented in taxonomic order):

- Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* - at Shortland, January/February
- at Arrowfield, December
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* at Ash Island, December
- Bullers Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri* at Cabbage Tree Island, April and December
- Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* at Shortland, January
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* at Gillieston and Hexham, August
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* at Tarro, April
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* at Blandford, October and Bureen, December
- Sanderling *Calidris alba* at Harrington, October
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at Kooragang Island, December
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* – a female ("Reeve") at Kooragang Island, December
- Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* at Kooragang Island, December
- Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* at Swansea, January
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* at Morisset, July and Tahlee, September
- Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* with immature at Blackbutt Reserve, September
- Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* at Cabbage Tree Island, March
- Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* at many locations
- Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus* at Yarra, December
- White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* - at Jerrys Plains, October
- at Yarra, December
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* at Widden Valley, April
- Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* at Widden Valley, April

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.

Definitions of the terms used in status descriptions for the listed species are as follows:

Resident: Recorded in all months;

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

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;

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;

Uncommon: Species that are recorded infrequently on visits to suitable habitats;

Local: Species recorded in only a few favoured localities;

Rare: Species recorded only a few times a year;

Accidental: Species recorded less than once per year, over a 10 year average.

Breeding status, where confirmed, is also described. For species with no confirmed breeding records for 10 or more years, or which are not always recorded each year in the Hunter Region, the breeding status is described as **Past records**. Where a species might be anticipated to breed in the Region, but there are no confirmed records, the description **None recorded** has been used. We hope that, in time, our knowledge of breeding status will grow.

The majority of records we receive include assignments of abundance levels for 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 Report are based mainly upon abundance levels reported in this way. 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 later in the Report. A semi-quantitative measure of the number of observations of a species for the year is indicated by the progressive use of the terms: **occasionally; moderately often; often; frequently; regularly**. As a general rule, where there are fewer than 10-12 observations, all of them are reported.

BIRDS

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 001

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare (may be recorded in W of the Region).

Two birds were recorded at Murrumbo Gap (D7) Aug 11 (GED).

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

RAOU No: 008

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG), Hallidays Point (R5) Jul 22 (JUT), Harrington (S4) Oct 29 (HTH), Ferndale Park (M6) Dec 9/10 (CJB) and Blue Gum Creek (L10) Dec 30 (GRN), and 20+ birds at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

RAOU No: 009

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare (possibly overlooked).

Five birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA), and a single male at Dawsons Hill (J6) May 11 (JUT). Some birds were also at Mount Vincent (L10) Oct 21 (GRN).

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

RAOU No: 011

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Minimbah (Q6) Jun 17 (MVBW), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), near Bulahdelah (P7) Oct 8 (BID), Woodville (L9) Nov 12 (NEM), Stockrington (L10) Nov 17 (GRN), Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (HBOC). 6-20 birds were at Main Creek (J6) Jun 10 (JUT), SBS Aug 13 (HAS), Upper Monkerai (M6) Oct 3/4 (GJC). Birds were also present, numbers not recorded, at Yarratt S.F. (Q3) Apr 22 (MVBW).

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

RAOU No: 012

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

Maggie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

RAOU No: 199

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Birds were recorded all year at SWC/NWR - mostly as 20-50 birds, but 70+ birds were recorded there Sep 23 (MOA). Birds were also recorded at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) - 20+ were present Feb 19 (LIA) and four birds Nov 19 (STA).

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

RAOU No: 205

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

100+ birds were recorded near Singleton (J8) Jun 11 (WAR1), with 15 birds also there Jun 19 (JUT). Single birds were at Arrowfield (H7) Jan 10 (ALP) and BbR Jul 15 (LIP), two birds at Tarro (L9) Dec 11 (SMJ1), and four birds at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 15 (YAR).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

RAOU No: 204

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

The only records received were from SWC/NWR and the adjoining Market Swamp. Reports were mostly of 1-5 birds; 60+ birds were present Oct 29 (MOA) and 20+ birds Nov 7 (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young Mar 8 (BIA).

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

RAOU No: 216

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental. (*Revised from: Rare*)

Not recorded since 1989.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

RAOU No: 217

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded at medium to large waters, mostly as 1-5 birds. Seven birds were at Lake Liddell (H7) Nov 24 (ALP) and six birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Jun 4 (YAR). Also, 6+ birds were recorded at Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (HBOC).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

RAOU No: 214

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Single birds were recorded at Market Swamp (M10) Jan 22 (LIA/BAW) and Feb 6 (LIA/HAS), and two birds at Arrowfield Dec 11/13 (ALP).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

RAOU No: 203

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. c 500 birds were at KI Mar 5 (LIA); five other reports were of 100+ birds. Six breeding records were received - in Jan, Feb, Aug and Dec.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

RAOU No: 207

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental. (*New to list*)

A single male bird was recorded at Ash Island (M10) Dec 31 (NEM).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

RAOU No: 202

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at or near fresh to brackish waters. Over 50% of reports were of 6+ birds, and six reports were of 50+ birds. Birds were on nest at Broke (I9) Sep 24 (HBOC) and with dependent young at Brightwaters (L11) Sep 18 (LIA).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

RAOU No: 948

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Jan 2/4 (BID), BbR Feb 7, Morpeth STP (L9) Mar 19, WWW Jun 6 and Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (all HBOC reports). Birds were also present at BbR Oct 28 (LTP) - numbers were not noted.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

RAOU No: 208

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. Over 50% of all reports were of 6+ birds, and with 20+ birds frequently being recorded at medium to large waters. Around 10% of reports were of 50+ birds. Birds were with dependent young at SBS Jan 26 and Sep 5 (HAS, HBOC), Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 19 (STA) and SWC during Dec (LIA).

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*

RAOU No: 212

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident and bird of passage. (*Revised from: Bird of passage*)

Birds were frequently recorded at SWC/NWR, with 20+ present late Jun and during Jul (WMK, ROD) and lesser numbers at other times. 1-5 birds were also frequently seen at Gloucester (N5) (TUD). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Stockton STP (M10) Jan 22 and Mar 23 (LIA, CBOC), Glen Oak (M8) Feb 18 (LIA), Morpeth STP (L9) Jun 4 (YAR), Cayuga (O4) Jul 3 (OCG) and Ash Island (M10) Dec 31 (NEM). 6-20 birds were at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Feb 23 (GED), Wentworth Swamp (L9) Mar 19 (HBOC) and Ash Island (M10) Dec 30 (MOA), while a total of around 50 birds were recorded in the Morpeth/Seaham area (L9/M9) Feb 18 (LIA).

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

RAOU No: 211

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters, including in the western part of the Region – reports were received for Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and NE of Cassilis (C4) Nov 12 (ALP). Reports were generally of fewer than 20 birds, but greater flocks were not uncommon. 80+ birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) Dec 30 (MOA). Birds were with dependent young at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 6 and SWC during Dec (LIA).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

RAOU No: 210

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region. Around 50 birds were at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 21 (LIA); otherwise, the most westerly records were from the Morpeth (L9) area. Over 35% of reports were of 20+ birds, and with 200+ birds recorded at Ash Island (M10) Dec 31 (NEM) and c 100 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Jun 4 (YAR). Birds were with dependent young at Stockton STP (M10) Nov 11 and Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 19 (STA).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

RAOU No: 209

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993).

Not recorded.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

RAOU No: 213

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (Newly assigned)

Status: Bird of passage.

Two birds were recorded at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 15 (YAR) and in the Morpeth/Seaham area (L9/M9) Feb 18 (LIA), and three birds at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) Nov 19 (STA). A pair nested at the latter site in late Jan, raising three young through early Feb (HWT) – *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

RAOU No: 215

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Birds were recorded regularly at SWC/NWR, Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) and Morpeth STP (L9), and occasionally elsewhere. Numbers were variable, with flocks of 30-50 birds not uncommon. c 200 birds were recorded at Bungwahl (Q7) Jan 13 (LIA) and 100+ at Eurunderee Lagoon MLNP (Q8) Jan 4 (TUD).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 061

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 50+ birds were at WWW Jun 6 (HBOC). Ten breeding reports were received - spanning Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

RAOU No: 062

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

A group of 15 birds were at Morpeth STP (L9) Jun 4 (YAR), and 1-5 birds were at the swamps around Shortland (M10) Apr 15 & Jun 25 (MOA, HBOC) and in the Morpeth/Seaham area (L9/M9) Feb 18 (LIA).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

RAOU No: 060

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Birds were at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 29 (HTH), numbers not recorded.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

RAOU No: 005

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Birds were breeding at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) during Dec, with 220+ being present over Dec 4/8 (CAN/MOA). At nearby Port Stephens, 1-3 birds were present Jan 1/6, Feb 22 and Mar 11 (BID, HDD). Three distressed birds were rescued at Old Bar Beach (R4) in late Mar, following storms (MVBW), and a single bird was at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

RAOU No: 929

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

RAOU No: 078

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local summer migrant.

The 1994/95 breeding population was 150 pairs, of an estimated world population of around 1000 birds. Most breeding burrows were at Cabbage Tree Island (P9), but a minor satellite colony was discovered at nearby Boondelbah Island. A 25% increase in breeding success has been achieved as a result of an intensive conservation program. (*Information about the NSW National Parks & Wildlife program was supplied by CAN*). In December, 350 pairs were nesting (CAN/MOA).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

RAOU No: 069

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Flocks of 50-200+ birds, sometimes mixed with Short-tailed Shearwater *P. tenuirostris*, were recorded several times during Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec from beaches around Newcastle. 500+ birds were off Glenrock SRA (M10) Dec 10 (HBOC) and at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ), and 1000+ were at sea off Moon Island (M11) Oct 2 (MOA). Five birds were seen off Stockton Beach (M10) Apr 1 and 10-12 birds off Glenrock SRA Apr 29 (STA).

We were advised that birds breed regularly on offshore islands, such as Broughton Island and Cabbage Tree Island (MOA).

Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*

RAOU No: 975

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental. (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded on Cabbage Tree Island (P9) in April, and another bird was banded there on Dec 18 (CAN). These were only the third and fourth records, respectively, for this species on the island, and the first ever banding of the species in Australia. To date, there has been only one other record in Australia of Buller's Shearwater on land – on Montague Island near Narooma.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

RAOU No: 070

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare.

10+ birds were at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 (MOA), and 3 dead birds were found washed ashore at Glenrock SRA (M10) Dec 10 (HBOC).

We were advised that birds breed regularly on offshore islands, such as Broughton Island and Cabbage Tree Island (MOA).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 071

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. (Revised from: Rare summer migrant)

Many dead birds found along beaches north from Port Stephens in late December (TUD). Single dead birds were also found at Glenrock SRA (M10) Dec 10 (HBOC) and Newcastle Beach (M10) Dec 17 (STA). A mixed flock, with *P. pacificus*, of 150 birds was seen off Stockton (M10) Dec 30 (BIA), and several birds were at Hallidays Point (R5) Mar 2 (MVBW). At least one bird was at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 15 (CBOC), and four birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

We were advised that birds breed regularly on offshore islands, such as Broughton Island and Cabbage Tree Island (MOA).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

RAOU No: 068

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Bird of passage about inshore waters.

20+ birds were recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*

RAOU No: 091

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare winter bird of passage about inshore waters.

Not recorded since 1992.

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

RAOU No: 089

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare winter bird of passage about inshore waters.

Not recorded.

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Fregetta gralaria*

RAOU No: 065

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes (newly confirmed)

Status: Rare summer migrant. (New to list)

Birds were not recorded during the year. However, advice was received (MOA) that breeding occurs each year on Storm Petrel Island (near Broughton Island, cell P8), with birds first arriving in late spring.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

RAOU No: 108

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

RAOU No: 104

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage about inshore waters.

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Mar 18 and Jun 10 (MVBW, HBOC), Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Aug 12/13 (CJB) and Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 (MOA). Six birds were at BBNP (R6) Jan 8 (LIA), 10 birds off Glenrock SRA (M10) Apr 29 (STA) and 20+ at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). Unrecorded numbers were at Hallidays Point (R5) Mar 2 (MVBW) and Yacaaba Head (P9) May 2 (HBOC).

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

RAOU No: 101

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Records, mostly of single birds and always of <5 birds, were from SWC/NWR during Jan-Feb (several reports), Stockton (M10) Jan 22 (LIA), SBS Jan 26 (HAS), Booragul (L10) Apr 9 (KBD), Yarratt S.F. (Q3) Apr 22 (MVBW), Boolaroo (L10) during Jun (BRG), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/ Oct 2 (HBOC), Lake Liddell (H7) Nov 24 (ALP) and Salisbury Gap (L6) Dec 2 (HBOC).

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

RAOU No: 100

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. As in previous years, numbers generally were greater when close to the coast. 75 birds were at Swansea (L11) Feb 5 and 125 birds Mar 25 (YAR), and 100+ were present and nesting at Market Swamp/NWR Oct 29 (MOA) – there were 40 nests.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

RAOU No: 099

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Usual coastal resident.

Occasionally recorded on the coast or at large bodies of water near to the coast, and mostly as 1-5 birds. Four reports were of 21-50 birds, and 200 birds were at BBNP (R6) Jan 8 (LIA). A notable inland record was of a single bird seen several times at Rowleys River (O2) over Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

RAOU No: 097

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (Amended)

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. Numbers were variable, and reports of 20+ birds were often received. Sometimes present in large numbers in the Swansea (L11) area – 100 birds Feb 5, 200 birds Dec 9 and 500 birds Mar 25 (all YAR reports). 80+ birds were at Market Swamp/NWR Oct 29, with 30 nests (MOA); birds were also nesting at this site Feb 4 (STA).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

RAOU No: 096

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. Reports from inland were generally of 1-5 birds, whereas near-coastal reports were often of 20+ birds. 40+ pairs were breeding at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) through Apr-Nov (CAN/MOA), with c 100 breeding pairs present Jun 24 (GED). Birds also bred at NWR, with 38 pairs there Jul 26 (GED) and unrecorded numbers Jun 25 (HBOC).

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

RAOU No: 106

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters; around 70% of reports were of <20 birds. 100+ birds were at Wallis Lake (Q6) Jan 8 and in the Morpeth/Seaham area (L9/M9) Feb 18 (LIA), and around Swansea (L11) Oct 2 (MOA), while 300+ were recorded at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 18 (GED). Birds had four nests, with 40 dependent young, at Pelican Island BBNP (Q6) May 28 (TUD).

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 188

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, mainly as reports of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were often present at Ash Island, with 50+ birds there Feb 6 (LIA). Also, 22 birds were at Morpeth Common (L9) Sep 10 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Throsby Creek (M10) Aug 27 and had a nest with young there Oct 7 (CLT). Birds were also on nest at Throsby Creek Jan 7 (CLT).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

RAOU No: 185

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in E of the Region. Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but 6+ birds were at WWW Jun 6 (HBOC). Some birds had nests with eggs and others were with dependent young at SWC Jan 15 (ROD).

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

RAOU No: 191

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes (*Newly confirmed*)

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Merewether Baths (M10) Jul 12 (WMK) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). As usual, the birds were of dark phase. No breeding records were received specifically for this year, however, information was reported (MOA) that birds breed every year on Moon Island (near Swansea, K11).

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

RAOU No: 189

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds where numbers were noted and always as <5 birds.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

RAOU No: 187

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters. 6+ birds were at Wangi Point/ Myuna Bay (L11) Jul 4 (HBOC); otherwise, all reports were of <5 birds except where birds were nesting. Birds were on nests and with dependent young at SWC Jan 14/15 (STA, ROD) and also were nesting there during Dec (LIA).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

RAOU No: 186

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds except where breeding. 6+ birds were at MLNP (Q7) Jan 2/4 (BID), Minmi (L10) Jan 15 (LIA) and SWC Oct 29 (HTH). A pair had a nest with young at Throsby Creek (M10) Jan 7 (CLT), and 20+ birds were breeding at SWC in Jan and again in Dec (ROD, LIA).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

RAOU No: 977

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Frequently recorded in E of Region – the most westerly record was of 20 birds at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 1 (YAR). Around 40% of reports were of 20+ birds and several were of 100+ birds. Breeding colonies of 200+ birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) and SWC – both colonies were active during Jan-Feb and again during Nov-Dec (many reports).

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

RAOU No: 193

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at KI/Stockton Jan 22, Oct 29 & Nov 11 (LIA, LTP, STA), Cockle Creek (L10) Jan 24 (KBD), Ash Island (M10) Feb 6 & Mar 5 (LIA, HBOC), Harrington (S4) Mar 18 & Jun 10 (MVBW, HBOC), Saltwater (R4/5) Apr 6 (MVBW), Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) May 25 (STM) and Wangi Point/Myuna Bay (L11) Jul 4 (HBOC).

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

RAOU No: 192

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Revised from: Has bred*)

Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

Often recorded at SWC/NWR, in varying numbers up to 50 birds. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Swansea (L11) Jan 20 (YAR), Cockle Creek (L10) Jan 24 (KBD), Beresfield (L9) Feb 7 (BID), Forster Keys (R6) Apr 20 (MVBW), Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) Apr 23 (STA), Wangi Point/ Myuna Bay (L11) Jul 4 (HBOC), Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC), Paterson (L8) Oct 14 & Nov 4 (HBOC), Barnsley (L10) Nov 4 (GRN), Wallsend South (M10) Nov 17 (IMJ) and Woodville (L9) Dec 23 (NEM). Birds were with dependent young at SWC during Dec (LIA), and a juvenile was at MLNP Nov 4 (TUB/ROA3).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

RAOU No: 195

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare (*probably overlooked*).

A single bird was recorded at NWR Jan 18 (GED).

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

RAOU No: 196

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records (1994)

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

RAOU No: 197

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare. (*New to list*)

Single birds were recorded at Hexham N.R. (M9) Aug 22 (MAJ) and Gillieston (L9) Aug 23 (QET).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

RAOU No: 178

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

Two birds were recorded at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Feb 23 (GED).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

RAOU No: 179

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded in E of Region – the most westerly records were from Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 15 & 21 (YAR, LIA). Around 30% of reports were of 20+ birds. 100+ birds were at Minmi (L10) Jan 15 (LIA) and Lemon Tree Passage (O9) May 25 (STM). c 500 birds were at SWC Apr 15 (ROD) and also 200 birds were there during Dec (LIA).

Past breeding records at SWC and Dora Creek in 1988 were advised (MOA).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

RAOU No: 180

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded; 45% of reports were of 20+ birds, and nine reports were of 100+ birds. Large flocks (of up to 300 birds) were regularly at Tarro (L9) during Jan-Feb (BRE), and c 500 birds were at Minmi (L10) Jan 15 (LIA).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

RAOU No: 181

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded in E of Region – the most westerly records were from Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 15 & 21 (YAR, LIA). Around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Pelican (L11) Jun 24 (GJC) and 53 birds at Tarro Swamp (M9) Apr 6 (SMJ1).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

RAOU No: 182

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

Single birds were recorded at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Feb 23 (GED), Morpeth STP (L9) Jun 4 (YAR), Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) Nov 19 (STA) and Lake Liddell (H7) Nov 24 (ALP). Four birds were at Pelican (L11) Jun 24 (GJC), and <5 birds were at WWW Jun 6 (HBOC).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

RAOU No: 183

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records (1994)

Status: Bird of passage.

Recorded on 15 occasions in E of Region throughout the year, all reports were of single birds. Numbers were reported to be increasing in the Port Stephens/Forster area (TUD) – a similar trend may well be occurring for the overall Region.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

RAOU No: 241

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Belmont South (L11) Feb 13 (CJB), Teralba (L10) Mar 7 (POP), Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) May 4 (MVBW), Boomerang Beach (R7) May 23 and Pelican Island BBNP (Q6) May 28 (TUD), Tilligerry Creek (N9) Aug 8 (GED), Old Bar (R4) Oct 5 (MVBW), and frequently at Harrington (S4) and in MLNP. 5 birds were at Harrington Feb 1 (OCG), and a pair had a nest with 1 young there Dec 2 (MVBW). A pair with 1 juvenile were also at Saltwater (R4/5) Apr 6 (MVBW).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

RAOU No: 234

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

1-2 birds were occasionally recorded in E of Region. Three adult birds were at Callaghan (M10) Jan 20 (MPM) and four birds at Bonnells Bay (L10) Feb 21 (HDD). Birds were nesting at Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 18 (MVBW) and seen carrying food at BbR Feb 7 (HBOC).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

RAOU No: 232

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

One or two birds, occasionally three, were often recorded in E of Region. The most westerly records were from Singleton (J8) and Mt Thorley (J8) – regularly seen at both locations (ALP).

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

RAOU No: 230

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

A single bird was recorded at Tarro (M9) Apr 11 (ROA2).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

RAOU No: 229

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Rare. (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded at Singleton (J8) Apr 4 (ALP), and two birds at Aberdeen (H5) May 12 (JUT). Also see Supplementary Records.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

RAOU No: 228

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; all reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds had nests with young at SWC Jun 25 and Wangi Point/Myuna Bay (L11) Jul 4 (HBOC), Cooperbrook Forest Park (R3) Nov 18 (MVBW) and Gillieston (L9) Dec 6 (PRK). A juvenile was at Belmont South (L11) during Dec (CJB).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

RAOU No: 227

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident (in coastal north of Region), elsewhere accidental. (*Revised from: Local resident, etc*)

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Harrington (S4) Feb 1 & Jun 10 (OCG, HBOC), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) May 4 (MVBW), Hexham bridge (M9) May 13 (WCR), BBNP (R6) Jul 5 & 31 (TUD), Old Bar (R4) Oct 5 (MVBW) and Forster (R6) Oct 7/8 (BID).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

RAOU No: 226

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were frequently recorded at or near large waters. A pair nested at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) during Sep, however, the nest became blown out and the single young bird died (CAN/MOA).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

RAOU No: 218

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

Single birds were recorded at West Mayfield (M10) Jan 1 (GED), NWR Jan 9 & 11 (WCR, FOC), Mount Thorley (I8) May 16 (ALP), Hinton (L9) Aug 4 & Oct 9 (NEM) and Jerrys Plains (H7) Nov 14 (ALP). Two birds were at Woodville (L9) area Jan 6 (NEM).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

RAOU No: 219

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Usual resident.

Single birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Ash Island (M10) Feb 6 (LIA), Morpeth/ Seaham area (L9/M9) Feb 18 & Jun 4 (LIA, YAR), Harrington (S4) Mar 18, Jun 10 & Dec 2 (MVBW, HBOC), Old Bar (R4) Oct 5 (MVBW), Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 & 15 (MOA, CBOC), Beresfield (L9) Dec 12 (SMJ1), and regularly at SWC.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

RAOU No: 221

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Black Neds Bay (L11) Jul 21 and Yallambie (I11) Aug 27 (OCG), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), Mount Sugarloaf (L11) Nov 11 (YAR) and Arrowfield (H7) Dec 29 (ALP).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 220

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

Single birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at NLH Jan 29 (LIP), BbR Feb 11 & Oct 28 (HAS, LTP), Swansea South (L11) Jul 11 (HAS), Buttai (L9) Jul 23 (HBOC), Swansea (L11) Jul 25 (CJC), Tocal (L8) Aug 20 (PRK), SWC Sep 2/3 (HBOC), Shortland (M10) Nov 19 (HIM), Mount Vincent (L10) Dec 8 (OCG), Fullerton Cove (M10) Dec 22 (GED) and Green Wattle Creek (L9) Dec 23 (NEM). Birds at Swansea, Tocal and Mount Vincent were of white phase. The bird at NLH was eating a Noisy Miner *Manorina melanoccephala*.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

RAOU No: 222

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Medowie (M9) Feb 18 (YAR), Ash Island (M10) Mar 5 (HBOC), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) Nov 19 (STA).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

RAOU No: 224

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

One or two birds, occasionally up to four, were recorded moderately often in the central and W of Region. Birds were on nest at Yallambie (I11) Aug 27 (OCG).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

RAOU No: 225

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

Single birds were seen at Arrowfield (H7) Jan 10 & 23 (ALP), Medowie (M9) Feb 18 (YAR), Cardiff (L10) Mar 3 (STJ), Redhead (M11) Apr 2 (GJC), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Yarratt S.F. (Q3) Apr 22 (MVBW), Singleton (J8) Jun 18 (ALP), Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Jun 27 (GJC), and Stockton (M10) Nov 11 (STA).

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

RAOU No: 239

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were occasionally recorded – mostly in the central and W of the Region. Three birds were at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 and five birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 17 (HBOC).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*RAOU No: 235
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Occasionally but widely recorded; all reports were of single birds. A bird at Wingham Park (Q4) was observed to be eating a Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Nov 22 (MVBW).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*RAOU No: 238
Status: Rare. (*New to list*)

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Single birds were recorded at Blandford (H3) Oct 28 (HTH) and Bureen (G7) Dec 11 (GED).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*RAOU No: 237
Status: Local resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

One or two birds were occasionally recorded. Four birds and two young were at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 (MOA). A bird at BbR May 21 was carrying a possum (ORB).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*RAOU No: 240
Status: Usual resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

One or two birds, occasionally three, were frequently recorded throughout the Region. A pair had a nest with 3 young at Arrowfield (H7) during early Dec and four birds were together there Dec 29 (ALP). A pair were copulating at Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*RAOU No: 046
Status: Local resident (*possibly overlooked*).

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

A single bird was recorded at Wallingat S.F. (Q6) Sep 1 (NBL), and two birds at Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 18 (MVBW). Birds were heard at SWC Sep 2/3 (HBOC).

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*RAOU No: 045
Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

A dead immature bird was found at Forster Marina (R6) Apr 8 (ROA2).

Baillon's Crane *Porzana pusilla*RAOU No: 050
Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Single birds were seen at SWC Jan 1 and Sep 2/3 (ROD, HBOC), and at Hillville (Q4) Feb 18 (MVBW). Two birds were recorded at SWC Jan 13 (BID).

Australian Spotted Crane *Porzana fluminea*RAOU No: 049
Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Two birds were at Gloucester (N5) Dec 31 (TUD).

Spotless Crane *Porzana tabuensis*

RAOU No: 051

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes (1988)

Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

Not recorded.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

RAOU No: 058

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Frequently recorded, especially in E of region. Around 20% of reports were of 21-50 birds. Birds had chicks at SWC during Dec (LIA).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

RAOU No: 056

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded – where numbers were noted, 55% of reports were of 6+ birds. Regularly present at SWC/NWR in high numbers (21-100) and were breeding there Sep 2/3 and during Nov-Dec (several reports). Birds had dependent young at Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (HBOC) and also were nesting at Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 18 (MVBW).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

RAOU No: 059

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 40% of reports being of 20+ birds. 100+ birds were at SBS Jan 26 (HAS) and Lake Liddell (H7) Nov 24 (ALP), and c 500 at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 15 (YAR). Some birds at SBS Jan 26 had dependent young.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

RAOU No: 014

HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised from: 2*)

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident. (*Revised from: Rare, possibly overlooked*)

Single birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Jan 19 (TUD), Bootawa (Q4) early Jun (MVBW) and Mount Sugarloaf (L11) Nov 11 & 17 (YAR), two birds at Martins Creek (L8) Sep 9 (HBOC), Woodville (L9) Oct 21 and Green Wattle Creek (L9) Oct 28 (NEM) and Watagan S.F. (K11) Nov 3 (LIA). Four birds were at Putty (G10) Sep 3 (BIA).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

RAOU No: 168

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Last recorded at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 6 (LIA), and at Woodville (L9) Mar 17 (NEM); however, two birds were at Mulbring (K10) Apr 15 (NEM). First recorded returns were Sep 6, when two birds were at Irrawang Swamp (M9) (PRK) and one bird at SWC (BIA). Greatest numbers recorded were 20 birds at Market Swamp Dec 30 (BIA).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

RAOU No: 152

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Frequently recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10), with *c* 300 birds present during Jan-Feb and 40 birds still remaining Apr 4 (GED). Four birds had returned Sep 10 (QUT) and five birds were recorded there Oct 14 (YAR). Other records were of 1-5 birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 4 & 11 (GED) and Swan Bay (N9) Mar 9, and 6+ birds at Harrington (S4) Feb 1 (OCG).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

RAOU No: 153

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Often recorded around coastal mudflats, with numbers of 21-50 not uncommon. Generally absent from mid-April, but small numbers were recorded at Tea Gardens (O8) May 2 (HBOC), Lemon Tree Passage (O9) May 25 (STM) and Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC). First recorded return was Sep 10, when 150 birds were at KI Sep 10 (QUT). 1000-2000 birds were frequently recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) during Jan-Feb and in Oct (GED, YAR). Around 200 birds still remained there Apr 4 (GED).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

RAOU No: 150

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Regularly recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10), and occasionally at other coastal mudflats. Greatest numbers at KI/Fullerton Cove were *c* 500 birds Jan 22 (LIA); counts of 200+ birds were common over Jan-Feb and numbers of 100+ persisted until at least Apr 4 and 13 birds over-wintered (GED). Elsewhere, records were mostly of 1-5 birds, including at Tahlee (O8) Aug 14 (OCG). 20+ birds were at Harrington (S4) Feb 1 (OCG).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

RAOU No: 149

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Frequently recorded around coastal mudflats. Reports were mostly of <20 birds, except at Harrington (S4), where 50+ birds were present Feb 1 (OCG), and in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10). Here, counts over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec were often of 100-500 birds, and with *c* 1000 birds recorded Oct 14 (GED, YAR). Birds were present until at least Apr 7, when three birds were recorded at Swansea (L11) (MOA). A single bird was at Throsby Creek (M10) Aug 19 (CLT); by Sep 10, 330 birds were at KI (QUT).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

RAOU No: 159

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were present until at least Apr 4, when 50 were recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) (GED). First recorded return was Sep 9, when 8 birds were at Ash Island (M10) (YAR). Apart from at these two locations, where birds were often recorded, the only other report was of <5 birds at SBS Jan 26 (HAS). Greatest numbers at KI were 433 birds Feb 6 (GED), and at Ash Island 160 birds Jan 17 (GED).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

RAOU No: 158

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Frequently recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) and at Ash Island (M10) and Swansea (L11), no reports were received from elsewhere. Present until at least Apr 7, when 4 birds were at Swansea (MOA). First recorded return was Sep 9, when 5 birds were at Ash Island (YAR). Peak numbers at KI were 170 birds Feb 21 and 208 birds Mar 30 (GED). At least two birds over-wintered (GED).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

RAOU No: 154

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant.

Not recorded since 1993.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

RAOU No: 160

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Often recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10), with peak numbers of 154 birds Feb 6 (GED). The only other records were of <20 birds at Harrington (S4) Feb 1 & Dec 30 (OCG, CBOC). Present in the KI/Fullerton Cove area until at least Apr 4, when 20 birds were recorded; birds had returned by at least Oct 29 (HTH).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

RAOU No: 157

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Rare summer migrant*).

Two birds were recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) Feb 6 & 21 (GED), and a single bird there Nov 11 (STA).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

RAOU No: 155

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Frequently recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) over Jan-Mar; numbers typically were of 10-35 birds, peaking at 38 birds Feb 21 (GED). Birds were also recorded at Swan Bay (N9) Mar 9, Swansea (L11) Apr 7 (MOA) and Pelican (L11) Oct 2 (MOA), all in numbers of <20 birds.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

RAOU No: 129

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

1-5 birds were sometimes recorded at KI over Jan-Mar (GED, YAR, CBOC). Other records were of 6+ birds at Black Neds Bay (L11) Apr 4 (HBOC), 7 birds at Swan Bay/Pelican (L11) & 2+ birds at Moon Island N.R. (M11) Oct 2 (MOA), and 6 birds at Newcastle Baths (M10) Dec 17 (STA).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

RAOU No: 939

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1985).

Not recorded.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*RAOU No: 165 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3) Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant. (Revised from: Rare summer migrant)

1-5 birds were sometimes recorded at KI over Jan-Mar and from Sep 10; 10 birds were present Apr 4 and 20 birds Feb 6 (GED, LIA, QUT, YAR). One winter record – of 5 birds at KI Jul 29 (GED).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*RAOU No: 164 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded at KI over Jan-Mar, in numbers of <20 birds (GED). However, 80 birds were present there Sep 10 and 100 birds Oct 14 (QUT, YAR). Four birds were at Harrington (S4) Mar 18 & Oct 29 (MVBW, HTH), and 9 birds at Swan Bay/Pelican (L11) Oct 2 (MOA).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*RAOU No: 166 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare. (New to list)

Four birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Oct 28 (HTH).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*RAOU No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded at three locations – Swansea (L11) (as 70-100 birds), KI (mostly as 20-50 birds) and Ash Island (M10) (as 1-20 birds) – over Jan-Mar 25 and from Sep 9 (GED, YAR, LIA). 400 birds were at KI Dec 30 (MOA).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*RAOU No: 978 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare. (New to list)

A single bird was first recorded at a shallow freshwater pond on Kooragang Island on Dec 16 (BIA), and several times subsequently at the same location during the remainder of the year.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*RAOU No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

Peak numbers were 465 birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 11 (GED) and 600 birds at KI Dec 30 (MOA). Birds were recorded several times at both these locations over Jan-Feb and from Sep 9. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at SWC Jan 14 (STA) and Harrington (S4) Dec 26 (MVBW), and 20+ birds at SBS Jan 26 (HAS) and Coon Island (L11) Mar 28 (MOA).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

RAOU No: 161

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Peak numbers in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) were c 1500 birds Jan 17 (GED); counts of 200-600 birds were common at this location over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. Birds were occasionally recorded elsewhere, mainly in numbers of <20 birds. One winter record received – of 60 birds at KI Jul 29 (GED).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

RAOU No: 167

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*Revised from: Summer migrant*).

Two birds were recorded at KI Mar 5 (LIA).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

RAOU No: 934

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant. (*New to list*)

A single female (a "Reeve") was first recorded at a shallow freshwater pond on Kooragang Island on Dec 18 (BIA), and the sighting confirmed (LIA/BAW) Dec 21. There were no further reports.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

RAOU No: 170

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental (*probably overlooked*).

Not recorded since 1992.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

RAOU No: 171

HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised from: 2*)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, more usual in N of Region.

1-5 birds were recorded at Hillville (Q4) Feb 18 (MVBW), Oxley Island (R4) Apr 6 (CBOC), Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 & Nov 14 (HBOC, CBOC) and Bootawa (Q4) Jul 6 (MVBW). Four adults & two juveniles were at Colliery Dam (K10) Feb 4 (YAR); six birds were also recorded at this location Apr 15 (NEM).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

RAOU No: 174

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Not recorded since 1993.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

RAOU No: 175

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

Not recorded since 1993.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

RAOU No: 130

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

Moderately often recorded along the coast, in groups of up to six birds. 12 birds were at Sand Island Forster (R6) Dec 14 (TUD). A nest with one egg was at Godwin Island Forster (R6) Oct 28 (TUD), and three immatures were at Sand Island Oct 28 (TUD).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

RAOU No: 131

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

1-5 birds were recorded at Newcastle Beach (M10) Feb 5 (BRG), Forster (R6) Feb 23 (ROA2), Black Neds Bay (L11) Apr 4 (HBOC), MLNP (P8/Q8) Aug 26 (OCG), Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 (MOA), Newcastle Baths (M10) Dec 17 (STA) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). Seven birds were at Newcastle Baths (M10) Mar 6 (OCG).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

RAOU No: 146

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Frequently recorded at medium to large waters in E of region; where numbers were recorded, around 80% of reports were of >6 birds. 100-500+ birds were regularly recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) over Jan-Mar. Birds were on nests at Market Swamp/NWR Oct 29 (MOA) and KI Dec 21 (LIA), and had dependent young at SBS Jan 26 (HAS).

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

RAOU No: 147

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental. (*New to list*)

Two immature birds were first recorded at a shallow freshwater pond on Kooragang Island on Dec 9 (GED), and thence by a considerable number of observers at the same location during the remainder of the year.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 148

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Local resident.

1920 birds were recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) Jan 17 (GED); reports of 100-1000+ birds at this location were common over Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec. Occasional but widespread records at medium to large waters elsewhere, all as <20 birds.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

RAOU No: 8006

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Recorded on several occasions in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) during Jan-Mar and in Oct, peaking at 145 birds Feb 6 (GED). Birds were also recorded, in varying numbers up to 20+, at Harrington (S4), Ash Island (M10) and Swan Bay/Pelican (L11) (OCG, LIA, MVBW, MOA).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

RAOU No: 143

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded at four locations – Harrington (S4), Ash Island (M10), Swansea (L11) and KI – during Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec. 50+ birds were at both KI and Harrington Feb 1 (BID, OCG); most other reports were of <10 birds.

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

RAOU No: 140

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 1)

Breeding: No

Status: Local winter migrant.

Not recorded since 1993.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

RAOU No: 139

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Very occasionally recorded in the KI/Fullerton Cove area (M10) over Jan-Feb, peaking at 35 birds Feb 6 (GED). 1-5 birds were also recorded at Swansea (L11) Jan 20, Feb 5 & Dec 9 (YAR).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyonis melanops*

RAOU No: 144

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds. Eight birds were at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 15 (YAR) and Gloucester (N5) May 26 (TUD), and 6+ birds at SBS Jan 26 (HAS). About 50% fewer records were received than was the case for 1994.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

RAOU No: 132

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

Single birds were recorded at SWC Sep 20 & Dec 28 (WCR, ALP) and Irrawang Swamp (M9) Oct 17 (PRK), two birds at SWC during Dec (LIA) and three birds at SWC Oct 29 (HTH). Birds were also at SWC Jan 1 and Sep 2/3 – numbers not recorded. In comparison, there were 25 records for this species in 1994.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

RAOU No: 135

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Spring/early summer migrant.

Not recorded.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

RAOU No: 133

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common 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 26 (HAS) and Wentworth Swamp (L9) Mar 19 (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Ellalong Lagoon (J10) Jan 19 (MEJ1), Quorrobolong Creek (J10) Jan 19 (MOA) and Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC). Birds had nest with eggs at Market Swamp/NWR Oct 29 (MOA) and were with dependent young NE of Cassilis (C4) Nov 12 (ALP).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*RAOU No: 945
Status: Rare. (New to list)

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

A single dark phase bird was recorded at Swansea (L11) Jan 20 (YAR).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*RAOU No: 128
Status: Uncertain. (Previously: Bird of passage)

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3)

Breeding: No

Two light phase birds were recorded at Swansea (L11) Jan 20 (YAR), and three birds were recorded at Newcastle Harbour over March 13-15, after storms (PHP). A single bird was seen at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*RAOU No: 126
Status: Rare.

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Not recorded.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 125
Status: Common resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and regularly recorded in coastal/near-coastal areas; where numbers were noted, around 90% of reports were of >5 birds. Eighteen reports were of 100+ birds, including eight reports of 500+ birds. There were 3000 nests present on islands in Swansea channel (L11) and a further 1000 nests on Moon Island N.R. (M11) on Oct 2 (MOA).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*RAOU No: 111
Status: Bird of passage.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

All records were from the KI/Stockton area (M10) – single birds Mar 5 & 11 (LIA, GED), two birds Jan 22 (LIA), three birds Dec 30 (MOA) and six birds Nov 11 (STA). Birds were also present Oct 29 (HTH), numbers were not recorded.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*RAOU No: 112
Status: Bird of passage.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Recorded on 17 occasions, with six reports being of 6-20 birds and most of the remainder being of 1-5 birds. 30 birds were at Stockton (M10) Jan 22 (LIA). There were no records over the period May-Jun.

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*RAOU No: 115
Status: Common resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (Revised from: Has bred)

Widely and frequently recorded along coast; around 40% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 70 birds were at Swansea (L11) Jan 20 & Feb 5 (YAR), and 100+ birds at Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC). There were 150 nests on Moon Island N.R. (M11) Oct 2 (MOA).

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

RAOU No: 114

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant (*Revised from: Winter migrant*).

Not recorded.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

RAOU No: 953

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were recorded several times at Swansea (L11) and KI/Stockton (M10) over Jan-Mar, with numbers peaking at 100 birds Jan 20 and 80+ birds Jan 11 respectively at the two sites. Elsewhere, five birds were at Coon Island (L11) Mar 28 (MOA) and 20+ birds at Harrington (S4) Feb 1 (OCG).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

RAOU No: 117

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Birds were recorded several times over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec at Swansea (L11), KI/Stockton (M10), Harrington (S4) and around Forster (R6). Counts varied, but often were of 20-50 birds. 200 birds were at KI Jan 22 (LIA). Only one winter record was received – of <5 birds at Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC).

59 nests were at Harrington over the summer of 94/95, with 35 nests active towards the end of the season. Only four fledglings survived the combined effects of bad weather and predation by Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* (MVBW). Two nests (one with eggs, one with young) were at Yagon MLNP (R7) Jan 14 and 13 nests at Miles Island Forster (R6) during Dec (TUD).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

RAOU No: 110

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage (*Revised from: Rare bird of passage*).

Fifteen birds were at KI Nov 18 (YAR). Birds were also present at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 29 (HTH) – numbers were not recorded.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

RAOU No: 109

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Rare*).

A single bird was at SWC Jan 1/2 (BAW) and two juveniles (in non-breeding plumage) at Harrington (R3) Jan 6 (ROA2). Over Feb-mid Mar, birds were recorded several times at Fullerton Cove (M10); c 300 were present Feb 6 and lesser numbers at other times (GED). Of the 32 birds present there Mar 10, several were in breeding plumage (GED).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

RAOU No: 957

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Only recorded occasionally, although reports were widespread. The recording rate probably does not reflect the true population, which mostly is restricted to urban areas for which few reports are received. Birds were nest building at Throsby Creek (M10) Oct 7 (CLT).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

RAOU No: 028

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. With one exception – of a single bird at Stockman Creek Awaba S.F. (L10) May 20 (YAR) – all reports were from the Newcastle area and locations further to the north. 20+ birds were at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG) and Cundletown (R4) Jun 28 (MVBW).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

RAOU No: 989

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. The most westerly reports were from Singleton (J8), where 1-2 birds were regularly present all year (ALP). Birds had nest with eggs at SWC Sep 2/3 (HBOC).

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

RAOU No: 029

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Ferndale Park (M6) Dec 9/10 (CJB) and 20+ birds at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG). Birds had nests (each with a single egg) at Rankin Park (M10) Jul 14 and NLH Sep 24 (LIP), and also were nesting at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

RAOU No: 033

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Main Creek (J6) Mar 14 (JUT), Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/ Oct 2 (HBOC), BbR Oct 28 (LTP) and Stockrington (L10) Nov 17 (GRN). Birds were reported to be regularly present at Main Creek.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

RAOU No: 034

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

50+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC). Elsewhere, records were of 1-5 birds – at Howes Valley (H10) Jan 21 (LIA), Turill S.F. (B5) Feb 4 (JUT), Medowie S.F. (M9) Feb 18 (YAR), Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Wollombi area (I10) May 25 (MOA), Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT), Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA), Ferndale Park (M6) Dec 9/10 (CJB), both Alcheringa (G7) and Doyles Creek (G8) Dec 26 (GED).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

RAOU No: 035

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 1)

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Three birds were recorded at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jan 12 (LIA).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

RAOU No: 043

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 50 birds were at Swansea (L11) Mar 25 (YAR), and birds were displaying at Morisset (K11) Aug 5 (HBOC).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

RAOU No: 031

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Ellalong (J10) Sep 28/30 (MEJ1).

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

RAOU No: 030

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Recorded several times at Howes Valley (H10), in numbers of up to 6+ birds (LIA, HBOC). Surprisingly few reports from elsewhere – 1-5 birds were recorded at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG), Seaham (M9) Feb 19 (STA), Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17, Bobs Farm (O9) May 2 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (all HBOC records), and 50+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

RAOU No: 032

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded, mostly in the central and E of the Region. Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but 6+ birds were recorded at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jan 12 (LIA) and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

RAOU No: 044

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded in the central and E of the Region. All reports were of 1-5 birds.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

RAOU No: 025

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

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Allyn River (K5) Feb 8 (FOC).

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

RAOU No: 021

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Two birds were recorded at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG), and two birds, one of which was injured and later died, were seen near Smiths Lake (R7) Aug 8 (reported to TUD). A single bird at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 (MOA).

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

RAOU No: 027

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Bird of passage.

Occasionally recorded; there were 40% fewer records than in 1994. Most reports were of <20 birds, but 60 birds were at Kangaroo Mountain (I6) Jul 16 (JUT) and 50+ birds at BBNP Jul 21 (TUD).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*

RAOU No: 265

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

16 birds were recorded at Main Creek (J6) Jan 24 (JUT), and substantial (but uncounted) numbers were at Walleroo S.F. (M8) Nov 16 (PAR2/MOA). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG), Barrington House (M7) Mar 9 (TUD), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Commba Park Rd (Q6) Apr 21 (TUD) and Cape Hawke (R6) Jun 21 (MVBW). Birds were also present at Red Creek (D9) Oct 28/29 (FOC) – numbers were not noted.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

RAOU No: 267

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded in central and E of Region; around 55% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder were mostly of <20 birds. 24 birds were at NE of Cassilis (C4) Nov 12 (ALP), 25 birds at West Wallsend (L10) Dec 1 (LIA), and 56 birds at Fullerton Cove (M10) in Jan (GED).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

RAOU No: 268

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA), Olney S.F. (K11) May 27 (MOA), Yallambie (I11) Aug 27 (OCG) and Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT). 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC); birds were also present at nearby Red Creek (D9) Oct 28/29 (FOC) – numbers were not noted.

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

RAOU No: 273

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Common resident.

Birds were widely and regularly recorded. Most reports were of <20 birds, however, counts of 21-50 birds were not uncommon, particularly in the central and W of the Region.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 272

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Groups of 2-5 birds were frequently present at Brightwaters (L11) (LIA), and five birds were recorded at Woodville (L9) Oct 1 (NEM).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

RAOU No: 271

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident. (*Revised from: Local resident*)

Occasionally but widely recorded in SE of Region. Birds were frequently seen at SWC, with 150+ present Jan 29 (ROD) and lesser numbers at other times. Only two records were from N of Port Stephens – single birds were at Wingham (Q4) Jan 4 and Hillville (Q4) Feb 18 (MVBW) – and, possibly, these birds were aviary escapees.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

RAOU No: 269

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 200+ birds were at Arrowfield (H7) Jan 18 (ALP) and 400+ at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

RAOU No: 274

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain. (*New to list*)

Two birds were recorded at Blandford (H3) and five birds at Willow Tree (G2) on Mar 17 (JUT) - at these locations, the birds are considered likely to be part of a wild population. A single bird - considered likely to be an escapee - was recorded at Singleton (J8) Dec 17 (ALP).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

RAOU No: 254

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Amended*)

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded in E of Region; the most westerly record was from Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC). 50+ birds were at Coopernook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC), and 20+ birds at Tahlee (O8) Aug 14 (OCG) and frequently at Brightwaters (L11) (LIA). Numbers increased in Newcastle area in late October/early November (HBOC) – apparently coinciding with local flowering of ironbark trees.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

RAOU No: 256

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded in near-coastal areas throughout the Region. 50+ birds were regularly at Shoal Bay (O9) over Jan 1/6 (BID), and 100+ birds at Coopernook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC). A notable inland record was of <5 birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

RAOU No: 258

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3)

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Bird of passage.

There was a large influx of birds to the area W of Lake Macquarie during May-July (LIA, DUP), with several sightings at Coal Point (L11), Morriset (K11) and Brightwaters (L11) over this period. Numbers were variable, from 20+ and peaking at 100+ birds. Other records outside this location/period were of a single bird at Brightwaters during Mar (LIA), four birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), and two birds at Bombah Point MLNP (P8) Jun 26 (TUD) and Toronto (L11) Nov 29 (DUP).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

RAOU No: 260

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Swansea South (L11) Jul 11 (HAS) and Morisset Hospital (L11) Aug 5 (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17, Bobs Farm (O9) May 2, Buttai (L9) Jul 23, HRBG Aug 20, Broke (I9) Sep 24 (all HBOC records), and at BBNP (R6) May 22 (TUD) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). A group of 40-50 birds were in the Watagan S.F. (K11) Jan 26 (CBOC). Birds were also at MLNP (P8) May 2 (HBOC), Morisset (K11) Jul 22 (LIA) and Swansea Jul 25 (CJC), with numbers not recorded.

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

RAOU No: 281

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder, with one exception, were of 6-20 birds. 50+ birds were in the Charity Creek/ Rocks Crossing area (P4/O3) Jun 10 (HBOC).

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

RAOU No: 282

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds; 6-20 birds were frequently recorded at mid-altitudes and higher. 20+ birds were at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG) and NE of Cassilis (C4) Nov 12 (ALP). A bird and an Eastern Rosella *P. eximius* were seen together regularly at Salamander Bay (O9) over Apr-Jun (RET), and possibly were paired.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

RAOU No: 288

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Medowie (M9) Feb 18 (YAR), Wangi Point/Myuna Bay (L11) Jul 4 and Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (both HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Howes Valley (H10) and BbR Jan 21 (LIA, STA) and NLH Oct 31 (HIM). Note comments above concerning a possible pairing with Crimson Rosella *P. elegans*.

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

RAOU No: 309

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare. (*New to list*)

A group of at least 10 birds were at Morisset (K11) Jul 10/17 (reported by several observers), and around 30 birds were at Tahlee (O8) Sep 9/10 (VGF).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

RAOU No: 295

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Arrowfield (H7) Dec 29 (ALP). Birds were on nest at KI Dec 30 (MOA).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

RAOU No: 302

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

Six birds were recorded at Red Creek (D9) and a single bird at nearby Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC). A single female was at East Maitland (K9) Jan 27 (MPM), and a pair at Yengo N.P. (I11) Jun (LIA).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

RAOU No: 336

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

RAOU No: 337

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Newly confirmed*)

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded, always as <5 birds. No reports after March, until Aug 25 when first heard again at Cooranbong (K11) (BIA). By early Sep, there had been several records. A young bird was being fed by White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 6 (LIA/HAS) and another (*host species not noted*) at Tocal (L9) Nov 4, with two adult birds in the vicinity (HBOC). A juvenile bird was also at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 4 (STA).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

RAOU No: 339

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Summer migrant.

All records were of single birds, or birds were heard only. Several records during Nov – at Tocal (L9), Tomago (M9), Woodville area (L9) and Fords Rd (R3) (HBOC, MVBW, NEM). Birds were also recorded at Broadwater MLNP (P8) Jan 1 (TUD), Quorrobolong Creek (J10) Jan 19 (MOA), Turill S.F. (B5) Feb 4 (JUT), Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC) and Webbers Creek (L8) Oct 29 (NEM).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

RAOU No: 338

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

RAOU No: 341

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental.

A bird was heard at Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (HBOC).

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

RAOU No: 342

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, some birds may be present all year.

1-2 birds were seen or heard at Stockton (M10) Jan 22 (LIA), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17, Morisset Hospital (L11) Aug 5, SBS Sep 5, Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2, Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (all were HBOC records), Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA), Timor (I3) Nov 11 (JUT). Also recorded on several occasions in the Woodville (L9) area during Sep (NEM) and at SWC over Sep-Dec (several observers).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

RAOU No: 344

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (Newly assigned)

Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds are resident. (Revised: residential status previously uncertain)

Widely and moderately often recorded in the central and E of Region, as 1-5 birds. Around 50% of records were for the period May-Aug. A juvenile was at Belmont South (L11) Aug 5, being fed by two adult birds (CJB).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

RAOU No: 345

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1992).

Not recorded.

Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*

RAOU No: 347

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Widely and often recorded in central and E of Region; all reports were of 1-5 birds. A juvenile was at Singleton (J8) May 3 (ALP), but there were no other records after Apr 1 until recorded again in spring. First heard at Garden Suburb (M10) Sep 11 (PEJ), but apparently birds were not widespread until late Sep. A young bird was being fed by Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* at Newcastle TAFE (M10) Feb 7 (MPM).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 348

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant.

Widely and frequently recorded in the central and E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. Seven birds were flying together at SWC Dec 31 (BAW). No records after Feb, until Sep 2 when birds were in the Woodville (L9) area (NEM). Two chicks were at NLH Feb 3, being fed by Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* (HIM).

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

RAOU No: 349

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at BBNP (R6) Jan 11 (LIA), NE of Karuah (O8) Jan 22 (BID), Oxley Island (R4) Feb 2 (MVBW), Garden Suburb (M10) Jun 1/3 (PEJ), Redhead (M11) Jul 20 (GJC), NLH Aug 9 & Sep 11 (ROA3, HIM), Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 1 (YAR), SWC Nov 7 (HBOC) and Redhead (M11) Dec 24 (GJC), and two birds at One Mile Beach (R6) Dec 26 (CBOC).

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

RAOU No: 248

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Two birds were at BbR Jan 22 – one was eating a Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* (LIP) – and two adults and a single young were at BbR Sep 23/24 (LIP). *Birds also bred at BbR in 1994.* A road-killed bird was found at Hallidays Point (R5) in Jul (JUT).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

RAOU No: 246

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare.

At least one bird was heard at Rankin Park (M10) in Feb (STJ).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 242

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Birds were occasionally, but widely, recorded.

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

RAOU No: 253

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

No confirmed records for the year.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 250

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare.

The only confirmed record was of a single bird at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Mar (MOA). The breeding status is reconfirmed - see Supplementary Records.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

RAOU No: 249

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded near Bulahdelah (P7) Feb 12 and at Ash Island (M10) Feb 17 (both GED), and a dead bird was found in a gully at Dellhurst (J6) Apr 19 (JUT).

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*RAOU No: 313
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

1-2 birds were recorded at Rathmines (L11) Jan 1 (WMR), Mount Sugarloaf (L10) Jan 21 (LIA), Booragul (L10) Jan 22 (WMR), Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) Jan 25 (HAS), Turill S.F. (B5) Feb 4 (JUT), Morisset (K11) Mar 16 (LIA), Jesmond (M10) Mar (BRG), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), NLH Oct 14 (BGB) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). A dead bird was found at Buttaba (L10) Jan 24 (WAR1). The birds at NLH were on nest.

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*RAOU No: 330
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Birds were heard at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (both HBOC records). An adult with nest and one egg were at Old Gibber Track MLNP (Q7) Dec 23 (TUD).

Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*RAOU No: 331
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1989).

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Not recorded.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*RAOU No: 317
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Two birds were seen at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC). Birds were also heard at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Dunns Creek (L8) Apr 23 (HBOC).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*RAOU No: 334
Status: Summer migrant.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

200+ birds were recorded at BBNP (R6) Jan 11 (LIA), and 150-200 birds at Singleton (J8) Jan 29 (ALP). Reports of 20-100+ birds were frequent over Jan-Feb and in Dec. All counts were of <20 birds in other months. Birds were present until at least Apr 14/17, when two birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) (HBOC). First recorded return was Oct 28, when two birds were at Bulga (I8) (CBOC).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*RAOU No: 335
Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Accidental summer migrant*).HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from: 3*)

Breeding: No

Around 30 birds were flying over Rathmines (L11) Jan 1 (WMR), and seven birds over NLH Apr 8 (WCR).

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

RAOU No: 319

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Bungwahl MLNP (Q7) Jan 12 (TUD), Wallis Island (Q6) Jan 30 (TUD), Saltwater (R4/5) Apr 6 (MVBW), Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Tamboy MLNP Apr 11 (TUD), Yarratt S.F. (Q3) Apr 22 (MVBW), Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC), Cayuga (O4) Jul 3 (OCG), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), Johnsons Beach MLNP Oct 5 (NEM), Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC), SWC Nov 4 (YAR), Barnsley (L10) Nov 4 (GRN) and Timor (I3) Nov 11 (JUT).

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

RAOU No: 322

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 85% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds were nesting at Old Bar (R4) Oct 5 (MVBW), Awabakal N.R. (M11) Oct 12 (GJC) and Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (HBOC). A bird was seen to eat a recently fledged Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* at NLH Jan 29 (LIP).

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

RAOU No: 326

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds may be locally resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 17, when birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) and Red Creek (D9) (HBOC). One winter record – of two birds at Stockton (M10) Aug 5 (CLT). First recorded return was Sep 23, when a single bird was at Buttaba (L11) (WAR1); within one week birds were widespread. Birds were nesting at Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (HBOC) and were feeding dependent young at NWR Feb 4 (STA), BbR Feb 7 and Wentworth Swamp (L9) Mar 19 (both HBOC).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

RAOU No: 329

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 14/17, when three birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) (HBOC). First recorded return was Sep 29, when birds were heard at Rowleys River (O2) (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Paterson (L8) and inspecting hollows at nearby Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

RAOU No: 318

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Widely and frequently recorded. Birds were present until at least Mar 21, when recorded at Singleton (J8) (ALP). First recorded return was Sep 22, when a single bird was at Buttaba (L11) (WAR1). More widespread returns did not commence until early Oct.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

RAOU No: 352

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Lemon Tree Watagan S.F. (K11) Dec 3 (FOC).

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 350

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Common resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded in suitable habitat. 6+ birds were at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG).

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

RAOU No: 355

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3)

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Birds were occasionally seen in Gloucester Tops Beech Forest (L5) and also heard at two locations along Gloucester Tops Road (L5) in late Oct (ROA1). A bird was also heard at Gloucester Tops Oct 1 (YAR).

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*

RAOU No: 558

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 85% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC), and birds had dependent young at Allyn River S.F. (K5) Nov 27 (ALP).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptis*

RAOU No: 560

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 1)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident. (Revised from: Local resident)

Two birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), three birds at Heaton Lookout Watagan S.F. (K10) Nov 24 (YAR), and six birds at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 1 (YAR).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

RAOU No: 555

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded in central and W of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at both Table Bay Creek (E9) and Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), and at Timor (I3) Nov 11 (JUT).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

RAOU No: 529

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 6+ birds and including 15% being of 20+ birds. 51-100 birds were at SBS Jan 26 & Aug 13 (HAS), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Aug 12/13 (CJB), and had dependent young at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 and Paterson (L8) Oct 14 (HBOC).

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

RAOU No: 536

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Frequently recorded in central and E of Region, with most reports being of <20 birds and 60% being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at HRBG Aug 20 (HBOC) and Medowie S.F. (N9) Apr 30 (YAR), and birds were nest building at Shoal Bay (O9) over Jan 1/6 (BID) and Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (HBOC).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

RAOU No: 541

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region (*Revised from: Resident, etc.*).

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), Upper Monkerai (M6) Oct 3/4 (GJC) and Harrington (S4) Dec 2 (MVBW).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

RAOU No: 526

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, locally common (*Revised from: Local resident.*).

Sometimes recorded at suitable habitat close to the coast, mostly as 1-5 birds. The furthest inland records were from Stockman Creek Awaba S.F. (L10) in May and on Sep 3 (YAR) and Wallaroo S.F. (N8) Nov 19 (STA). Two immatures were with a small party of adults at Dora Creek (L11) late Jan (LIA).

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

RAOU No: 565

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and in the Wollombi area (I10) May 25 (MOA), and 100+ birds at Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA). There were nine records of birds either nesting or with dependent young – in Apr and regularly over Jun-Oct.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

RAOU No: 976

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds were nesting at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 (HBOC) and seen carrying food at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 and Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC).

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

RAOU No: 505

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Watagan S.F. (K11) Jan 26 (CBOC), Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 (HBOC), Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT) and Wollombi (I10) Oct 22 (HBOC), and 6+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT).

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*RAOU No: 493
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Bungwahl/Sugar Creek (Q7) Jan 13 (LIA), Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG), Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (both HBOC) and Allyn River S.F. (K5) Nov 27 (ALP). 6+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 and Allyn River (K5) Mar 26 (LIA). Birds were also recorded at Hallidays Point (R5) Mar 2 (MVBW) - numbers not noted.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*RAOU No: 488
Status: Common resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT). Birds were with dependent young at SWC Sep 2/3 and Paterson (L8) Oct 14 (HBOC), and at Salisbury Gap (L6) Dec 2 (CLT).

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*RAOU No: 494
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Sometimes recorded in E of Region, mostly as groups of 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*RAOU No: 498
Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked (*Revised from: Local resident*).

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Single birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC) and Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*RAOU No: 504
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

6-20 birds were recorded at Turill S.F. (B5) Feb 4 (JUT), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 (both HBOC), Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA) and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT). 1-5 birds were at Howes Valley Apr 9 & May 7 (LIA), Buttai (L9) Jul 23, Martins Creek (L8) and Vacy (L8) Sep 9, Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 and Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (all HBOC records).

Weebill *Smicornis brevirostris*RAOU No: 465
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

1-5 birds were present at Howes Valley (H10) Apr 9 (LIA), Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC), Burning Mountain (H4) Jul 14 (STA), Warkworth (I8) Oct 28 (MOA) and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT). 6-20 birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Howes Valley May 7 (LIA), Buttai (L9) Jul 23 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (both HBOC), and 20+ birds at Howes Valley Sep 24 (HBOC).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

RAOU No: 454

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in E of Region, with over 60% of reports being of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were present at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 and Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC). The sightings at Barrington House and at Dunns Creek (L8) Apr 23 (HBOC) constituted the most westerly of the reports received.

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

RAOU No: 460

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were frequently recorded at Ash Island (M10) and Swansea (L11) and in the KI/ Fullerton Cove (M10) area. Elsewhere, four birds were recorded at Swan Bay/Pelican (L11) Oct 2 (MOA), and unknown numbers at Oxley Island (R4) Jan 6 & Feb 2 (MVBW).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

RAOU No: 463

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records (1987, 1989)

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

RAOU No: 453

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Mostly absent from mid-Apr, when recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) and Red Creek (D9) (HBOC). However, birds were present in the Charity Creek/Rocks Crossing area (P4/O3) Jun 10 (HBOC) and at Bootawa (Q4) Jul 6 (MVBW). First general return was Aug 13, when two birds were recorded W of Nabic (Q5) (TUD), and then Aug 26 when heard at Cooranbong (K11) (BIA). Birds were nest building at Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

RAOU No: 475

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 55% of reports being of 1-5 birds and the remainder mostly of 6-20 birds. 50+ birds were at Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 and HRBG Aug 20 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Wollombi (I10) Oct 22 (HBOC).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

RAOU No: 484

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*).

Occasionally recorded – mainly in the central and W of Region, but birds were regularly at Shoal Bay (O9) over Jan 1/6 (BID). Reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were equal.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

RAOU No: 486

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*).

Widely and often recorded, with all reports being of <20 birds. Birds had nests with young at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), and were seen to be collecting spiderwebs at SWC Dec 27 (LIA).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

RAOU No: 471

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 21-50 birds were at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 20 (LIA), Howes Valley (H10) Jan 21 & Sep 24 (LIA, HBOC), Ash Island (M10) Mar 5 (HBOC) and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT). Birds were nest building at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

RAOU No: 470

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were equal. 21-50 birds were at Howes Valley (H10) Apr 9 (LIA), Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC) and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

RAOU No: 466

HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from: 1*)

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident. (*Revised from: Resident*)

Not recorded.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

RAOU No: 638

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and often recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder were of 6-20 birds. Birds had nest with young at Throsby Creek (M10) Oct 7 (CLT), and were feeding a young Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* Feb 7 (MPM).

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 637

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Regularly recorded at suitable coastal or near-coastal habitat, with 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Aug 12/13 (CJB) and Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (HBOC), and 50+ birds at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

RAOU No: 585

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds or heard only. 6+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Broke (I9) Sep 24 (HBOC).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

RAOU No: 645

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 and Morisset (K11) Aug 5 (HBOC), and Tahlee (O8) Aug 14 (OCG), while 50+ birds were recorded at Morisset (K11) Aug 6 (LIA) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). Over Aug 12/13, flocks of 15-20 birds were recorded at approximately hourly intervals at Cooranbong (K11), heading southwest (BIA).

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

RAOU No: 646

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

Not recorded.

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

RAOU No: 603

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

Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage. (*Revised from: Local bird of passage*)

A group of up to 20 but more typically 3-6 birds were at Morisset (K11) over Jul 9 – Aug 13 (seen by many people), coinciding with local flowering of Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*). 3+ birds were at nearby Swansea South (L11) Jul 9/10 (FOC, TUB/ROA3). At Howes Valley (H10), a regular location, 1-2 birds were recorded Jan 15 (SCC) and Sep 11-22 (RHN), and 20+ birds Mar 26 (FOC). Low numbers (highest count was 8 birds) were also recorded several times in the Widden Valley – around Table Bay Creek (E9) and Red Creek (D9) – Apr 14/17, Oct 14/15 and Oct 29 (HBOC, FOC). Other sightings were of a single bird at Ellalong (J10) Sep 4 (MEJ1), 9 birds at Murrumbo Gap (D7) Jul 14 and 3 birds there Aug 19 (GED).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

RAOU No: 641

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Newly confirmed*)

Status: Resident

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds but 6+ birds were at Howes Valley (H10) Jan 21 (LIA) and Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC). Birds were seen regularly in Singleton (J8) from May 5 to Nov 21 (ALP). The birds at Howes Valley Jan 21 had dependent young – *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC*.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

RAOU No: 633

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

Moderately often recorded in central and E of Region, with reports of 6-20 and 21-50 birds being about equal. 50+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Awaba S.F. (L10) Aug 5 (YAR), while *c* 100 birds were at Awaba S.F. Aug 13 (YAR).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

RAOU No: 634

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 6+ birds including around 20% being of 20+ birds. 50+ birds were at MLNP (Q7) Jan 2/4 (BID). Birds were seen to be carrying food at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2, were nest building at Tomago (M9) Nov 19, and were on nest at Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (all HBOC records).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

RAOU No: 605

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (Amended)

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in E and central parts of Region, with around 70% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were present at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

RAOU No: 614

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident, influxes in autumn/winter. (Revised)

Birds were widely and regularly recorded. Counts were mostly of <20 birds outside of the period Apr-Aug; notably, 50+ birds were recorded at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). The birds at Rowleys River were feeding young.

During Apr-Aug, there were many counts of 20+ birds, and with 100+ birds recorded at Bobs Farm (O9) May 2 (HBOC), Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA), Swansea South (L11) Jul 11 (HAS) and HRBG Aug 20 (HBOC), and several hundreds of birds at Fort Scratchley (M10) Apr 28 (BLM), Rankin Park (M10) May (STJ) and Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Jun 18 (CLT).

At least 2000 birds flew over, travelling north, at Kangaroo Mountain (I6) in a period of 3-4 hours on Apr 21 (JUT), and 1000+ birds flew over, travelling south, at Redhead Bluff (M11) in one hour on Jun 17 (GJC).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

RAOU No: 608

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993).

Not recorded.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

RAOU No: 617

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Turill S.F. (B5) Feb 4 (JUT), Howes Valley (H10) Apr 9 (LIA), Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Wollombi (I10) May 25 (MOA), Buttai (L9) Jul 23 (HBOC), Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT) and Hebden (I7) Dec 31 (ALP), and 6-20 birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Howes Valley May 7 (LIA) and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT). Birds were also present at Widden Valley (E9) Sep 3 (FOC) – numbers were not noted.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

RAOU No: 619

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, with around 50% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA) and Martins Creek (L8) Sep 9 (HBOC), and 50+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

RAOU No: 613

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were at Kurri Kurri (K9) Feb 15 (YAR), Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT) and Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC). 6+ birds were recorded at Upper Monkerai (M6) Oct 3/4 (GJC), and 20+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Buttai (L9) Jul 23 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Swansea (L11) Jul 25 (CJC).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

RAOU No: 625

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (1986)

Status: Usual resident in central/west of Region, uncommon elsewhere.

Birds were present all year at Singleton (J8) and Arrowfield (H7) (ALP). The only other records received were of a single bird at Kurri Kurri (K9) Feb 15 (YAR) and 6+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

RAOU No: 580

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records (1994)

Status: Uncommon bird of passage in central/west of Region.

Two birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

RAOU No: 583

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (1986)

Status: Resident, uncommon in E of Region.

Occasionally recorded in central and E of region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were at Dora Creek (L11) late Jan (LIA), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Bobs Farm (O9) May 2 (both HBOC records).

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

RAOU No: 578

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in E and central parts of Region. Although recorded all year, over 70% of reports were for the period Apr-Aug. 20+ birds were at Swansea South (L11) Jul 11 (HAS) and Buttai (L9) Jul 23 (HBOC), and 50+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA). Some birds at Table Bay Creek had dependent young.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

RAOU No: 597

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident. (Revised from: Local resident)

Regularly were recorded at SWC/NWR and also in the Swansea (L11) area, in numbers of up to 6 birds. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Coopernook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC), Mayfield (M10) during early Jul (CLT), Morisset (K11) Jul 19 & 29 (LIA, ROD), Forster (R6) Aug 12 & Oct 7/8 (CBOC, BID) and KI Oct 8 (STA).

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

RAOU No: 598

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare. (Revised from: Rare bird of passage)

Not recorded since 1993.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

RAOU No: 630

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 1 (YAR).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 631

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Often recorded, mainly near to the coast but there were several records from inland. Around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 21-50 birds were at Awabakal N.R. Apr 1 & Jul 25 (GJC), Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*

RAOU No: 632

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Regularly recorded in E of Region; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. Only two records were from further west than Kurri Kurri (K9) – birds were at Timor (I3) Nov 11 and Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT). 15% of reports were of 20+ birds, with 100+ birds recorded at Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at SWC Sep 2/3 (HBOC) and also were nesting at Morisset (K11) Jul 10–30 (LIA).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

RAOU No: 593

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Regularly recorded at Awabakal N.R. (M10/M11) and nearby Redhead (M11), mostly as 1-5 birds (CLT, GJC, LTP). 6+ birds were at BBNP (R6) Jan 12 (LIA) and Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC), and some birds were also present at MLNP (P8) May 2 (HBOC).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 591

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Dora Creek/Myuna Bay (L11) Aug 5, and 50+ birds at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 and HRBG Aug 20 (all were HBOC records). Birds were nest building at Ashtonfield (L9) Sep 9 (ROS) and had dependent young at Salisbury Gap (L6) Dec 2 (HBOC).

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

RAOU No: 586

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in E of Region, but there were no records during Feb-Apr. Around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

RAOU No: 448

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident

Birds were often recorded at Ash Island (M10) and KI/Stockton (M10). Elsewhere, a single bird was at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jan 22 (CJB), a pair at Woodville (L9) Nov 12 (NEM) and 6+ birds at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Feb 23 (GED). 20+ birds were at Ash Island Feb 6 (LIA) and Nov 18 (YAR), but all records from KI were of <20 birds. Birds at Ash Island had dependent young Feb 6 (LIA) and a nest with eggs Mar 5 (HBOC).

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

RAOU No: 377

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, with around 50% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), and birds were on nest at Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 (HBOC).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

RAOU No: 380

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*).

1-5 birds were recorded at both Table Bay Creek (E9) and Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Yarratt S.F. (Q3) Apr 22 (MVBW), Howes Valley (H10) Apr 30 & May 7 (CBOC, LIA) and Moorland (R3) Nov 18 (MVBW).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

RAOU No: 381

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

On Oct 28, two birds were recorded at Redmanvale (H8) (MOA) and three birds at Bulga (I8) (CBOC).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*RAOU No: 382
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

A total of 34 birds, seen in groups of 2-4, were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Apr 8 (HLP). Other reports were of eight birds at Cobark Lookout (L4) Mar 30 (GJC), single birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) May 4 (MVBW), and a pair at Gloucester Tops Oct 1 (YAR).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

RAOU No: 384

Status: Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant).

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Occasionally recorded in E and central of Region, mostly as 1-2 birds and always as <5 birds. Birds first arrived at Green Wattle Creek (L9) Apr 25 and departed again Aug 6 (NEM), but were still present in the Newcastle area until at least Aug 20, when a pair were recorded at HRBG (HBOC).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

RAOU No: 385

Status: Resident, in west of Region.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (1988)

Single birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Howes Valley (H10) Apr 30 (CBOC), and Wattleponds Rd Singleton (J8) Nov 6 (ALP), and pairs at Bulga (I8) Oct 28 (CBOC) and at Retreat Rd Singleton Nov 6 (ALP).

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

RAOU No: 396

Status: Local resident.

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 1)

Breeding: Past records

6+ birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

RAOU No: 392

Status: Common resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 85% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC). Birds were on nests at Martins Creek (L8) and Vacy (L8) Sep 9 (HBOC), had dependent young at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), and also were breeding at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 4/8 (MOA).

Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

RAOU No: 434

Status: Local resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

A pair were at Watagan S.F. Heaton Lookout (K10) Nov 24 (YAR), and birds were also recorded at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

RAOU No: 443

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Newly confirmed*)Status: Resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

20+ birds were recorded at Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Singleton (H8) Feb 6 (ALP), Wentworth Swamp (L9) Mar 19, Vacy (L8) Sep 9 and Paterson (L8) Oct 14 (all HBOC records), Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT) and Bulga (I8) Oct 28 (CBOC), and 6-20 birds were at Broke (I9) Jan 21 (LIA), Gloucester (N5) Feb 3 (TUD), Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA), Tocal (L9) and Paterson (L8) Nov 4 (HBOC). Birds at Redmanvale had a nest with young – *this appears to be the first breeding record by HBOC.*

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 445

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records (1987)

Status: Local resident.

Groups of six birds were recorded at Kings Gap (F7) Jan 2 (GED) and Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

RAOU No: 421

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 85% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ).

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinlosoma punctatum*

RAOU No: 436

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Goulburn River N.P. (D7) Oct 4 (JUT), and pairs at Putty (G10) Jan 2 (FOC), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Mount Sugarloaf (L11) Nov 11 (YAR). Some birds were also present at Walleroo S.F. (M8) Nov 16 (PAR2/MOA).

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 549

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

RAOU No: 416

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Birds were sometimes recorded in the eastern and central parts of Region; all reports were of <5 birds.

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

RAOU No: 419

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1987).

Not recorded.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

RAOU No: 405

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident, of highland areas.

Three birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 1 (YAR), and several were present in the Gloucester Tops Beech Forest (L5) in late Oct (ROA1).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

RAOU No: 398

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder were of 6-20 birds. Birds were on nests at Wollombi (I10) Oct 22 (HBOC) and Barnsley (L10) Nov 4 (GRN).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

RAOU No: 401

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant and local resident.

Three winter records – birds were at SWC Jun 4 & 25 (ROD) and Bootawa (Q4) Jul 6 (MVBW). Widely and regularly recorded in the remainder of the year, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 20 (LIA) and were on nest at Blue Gum Creek (L10) Dec 30 (GRN).

The migrating population were present until at least Apr 25, when recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L9) (NEM). The first recorded return was Aug 14, when birds were at Tahlee (O8) (OCG); within two weeks, birds were widespread.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

RAOU No: 408

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds had a nest with eggs at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 (HBOC).

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

RAOU No: 373

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Often recorded in E of Region; around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 15, when recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L9) (NEM). The earliest recorded arrival date was Sep 25, when two birds were at BbR (YAR). Within one week, birds were widespread.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

RAOU No: 375

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes (*Newly confirmed*)Status: Uncommon summer migrant. (*Revised from: Uncertain*)

Single birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Dec 2 & 30 (MVBW, CBOC) and Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 15 (CBOC). Some birds were also at Stockrington (L10) Nov 17 (GRN). A bird was recorded feeding a single young at Harrington Dec 30 (MVBW) - *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record by HBOC for the Region.*

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

RAOU No: 365

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. (*Amended from: Resident*)

Moderately often recorded in E and central parts of Region, usually as 1-5 birds but 6+ birds were present at Blue Gum Creek (L10) Dec 30 (GRN). Birds were on nests at Allynbrook (L7) Oct 14 and Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (HBOC). Present until at least Mar 25, when last recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L9) (NEM). The earliest recorded arrival dates were Sep 24 at Woodville (L11) (NEM) and Sep 30 at Forster (R6) (TUD).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

RAOU No: 366

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Glendon Brook (K8) Dec 26 (ALP).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

RAOU No: 369

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) Jan 21, May 7 & Sep 24 (LIA, HBOC), Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Seaham N.R. (M9) Apr 23 (STA), Buttai (L9) Jul 23 (HBOC) and Swansea (L11) Oct 2 (MOA), and 6+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (both HBOC).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

RAOU No: 415

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were in the Charity Creek/Rocks Crossing area (P4/O3) Jun 10 (HBOC) and at Ash Island (M10) Dec 30 (MOA). Birds were on nests at Tocal (L9) Nov 4 (HBOC) and SWC Dec 28 (ALP), and had dependent young at Forster (R6) Oct 7/8 (BID), Warners Bay (L10) Oct 11 (HAS) and Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

RAOU No: 362

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Often recorded in E of Region; all reports were of 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 25, when a single bird was recorded at Woodville (L9) (NEM). Earliest recorded return was Sep 29, when birds were at Rowleys River (O2) (HBOC).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

RAOU No: 361

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Allyn River S.F. (K5) Nov 27 (ALP), and 50+ birds at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Vacy (L8) Sep 9 (HBOC) and Blue Gum Creek (L10) Dec 30 (GRN), and had dependent young at Salisbury Gap (L6) Dec 2 (HBOC).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

RAOU No: 364

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC). Eight records of breeding were received – in Jan (1 record), Sep (2 records), Oct (2 records) and Dec (3 records).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

RAOU No: 673

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant and bird of passage.

1-2 birds were sometimes recorded in E of Region – the reporting rate was about 50% of that for 1994. Not recorded at Forster (R6) until Mar 30 (TUD), but a bird was heard frequently at NLH over Feb 15-22 (HIM) and a bird was seen at Mayfield (M10) Feb 26 (CLT). No records after Aug 12/13, when birds were heard at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) (CJB).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 424

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Six records of breeding were received – in Jan (1 record), Sep (2 records), Oct (1 record) and in Nov (2 records).

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

RAOU No: 425

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records (1983, 1994)

Status: Uncommon bird of passage (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

1-5 birds were recorded at Nabiac (Q5) Apr 8 (CBOC), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17, Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 and Buttai (L9) Jul 23 (all by HBOC), Woodberry (L9) Sep 7 (MAL), Martins Creek (L8) Sep 9 and Tomago (M9) Nov 19 (both HBOC). The birds at Nabiac and Woodberry were of dark phase.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 429

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded (*Amended*)

Status: Summer migrant.

1-2 birds were seen or heard at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), Forster (R6) Oct 8 (TUD), Kurri Kurri Oct 13 (YAR), BbR Oct 15 (LIP), Howes Valley (H10) Oct 21 (NBL) and Wollombi (I10) Oct 22 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Mount Vincent (L10) Oct 21 (GRN) and Vacy (L8) Dec 28 (CLT).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

RAOU No: 423

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

RAOU No: 430

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records (1985)

Status: Summer migrant.

1-5 birds were occasionally but widely recorded over Oct-Dec, and 10+ were at Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA). 1-2 birds were also present at SWC Sep 20 (WCR) and Ash Island (M10) Sep 29 (MOA).

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

RAOU No: 431

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3)

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

A single bird was at Harrington (S4) Dec 30 (CBOC).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

RAOU No: 671

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with all records being of <5 birds. Birds were displaying at Yallambie (I11) Aug 27 (OCG), nest building at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 (HBOC), on nests at Wollombi (I10) Oct 22 (HBOC) and Ferndale Park (M6) Dec 9/10 (CJB), and had dependent young at BBNP (R6) Jan 8 (LIA). Several immature birds were at NLH Jan 29 (HIM).

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

RAOU No: 432

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Often recorded near to the coast; the most westerly record was from the Morpeth/Seaham area (L9/M9) Feb 18 (LIA). Reports of 1-5 birds slightly outnumbered those of 6-20 birds. Outside of the breeding season, most records were of <20 birds but there were three records of 50+ birds – at The Junction (M10) Jun 12/16 & late Jul (BLM) and Seal Rocks (R7) late Dec (PEJ). Breeding records were as follows:

Jan – 8 nests at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8), 3 nests at Santa Barbara BBNP (R6) and 1 nest at Seal Rocks (R7) (TUD). Also, birds were with dependent young at Throsby Creek (M10) (CLT), and Violet Hill MLNP (Q7) (TUD);

Feb – birds were with dependent young in Morpeth/Seaham area (L9/M9) (LIA);

Oct – 16 nests at Santa Barbara BBNP (R6) (TUD);

Nov – 20+ birds with 17 nests at Santa Barbara BBNP (R6), 6 nests at Tuncurry TAFE (Q5) and 1 nest at Motto Farm (M9) (TUD);

Dec – 10 nests at Santa Barbara BBNP (R6) (TUD), 6 nests at Harrington (S4) and 7 nests at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) (TUD).

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

RAOU No: 543

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded in E of region, with around 55% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Harrington (S4) Feb 1 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at both SWC and KI Dec 30 (BIA, MOA), and were feeding a young Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus* at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 6 (LIA/HAS).

Birds were present until at least Apr 23, when recorded at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M9) (STA). The earliest recorded arrival date was Sep 9, when present at Ash Island (M10) (YAR).

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

RAOU No: 544

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Rare*).

Two birds were recorded at Yarra (F7) Dec 11 (GED).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 545

HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from: 1*)

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Rare*).

Approximately 5000 birds were recorded at Yarra (F7) Dec 11 (GED). Also, eight birds were at Jerrys Plains (H7) Oct 28 (MOA).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

RAOU No: 547

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncertain (*Revised from: Migrant*).

Occasionally recorded, with over 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Although birds were absent from some areas over Apr-Aug, they were not absent generally from the Region. Records over this period were received from – Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Apr 1 (GJC), Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Howes Valley (H10) May 7 (LIA), Harrington (S4) Jun 10 (HBOC), Gloucester Tops (L5) Jul 19 (MVBW). Notably also, the Table Bay Creek and Howes Valley records were both of 20+ birds.

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

RAOU No: 548

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1987).

Not recorded.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

RAOU No: 702

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, almost always as 1-5 birds. Birds had a nest with young at Buttaba (L11) Sep 20 (WAR1).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

RAOU No: 700

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. 6+ birds were at Charity Creek/Rocks Crossing (P4/O3) Jun 10 (HBOC); all other reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds were with dependent young at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC) and Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) Nov 19 (STA).

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

RAOU No: 705

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 50% of reports being of >5 birds. Nine records were of 20+ birds – all were from the period Mar-Aug. Seven breeding records were received – spanning the period Aug-Dec.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

RAOU No: 694

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Widely and regularly recorded; around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (OCG), Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC) and The Basin Camp (J11) May 27 (MOA).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

RAOU No: 697

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental. (New to list)

A bird was heard at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

RAOU No: 686

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Single females or juvenile males were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC) and Telegherry Forest Park (M6) Jun 10 (WMR), and a pair at Gloucester Tops Beech Forest (L5) in late Oct (ROA1).

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

RAOU No: 930

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were frequently at SWC, and 100+ birds were there Jun 25 & 30 (HBOC, WMK). Birds were nest building at Redhead (M11) Jul 20 (GJC) and Mayfield (M10) Jul 13 (CLT), and were on nests at Ashtonfield (L9) Sep 9 (ROS) and Mayfield Sep 27 (CLT).

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

RAOU No: 868

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

Some birds were at Manobalai N.R. (G6) Dec 14 (JUT).

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*RAOU No: 692
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

1-5 birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) and Old Bar (S3) Feb 1 and Maxwells Camp (O2) Feb 2 (all by OCG), Gloucester (N5) Jun 10 (CLT), Martins Creek (L8) Sep 9 (HBOC) and Rocks Crossing Reserve (O3) Oct 2 (STA). 6-20 birds were at Cayuga (O4) Jul 3 (OCG) and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), and 20+ birds at Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Coopernook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 and in Charity Creek/Rocks Crossing area (P4/O3) Jun 10 (HBOC). Some birds were also present at BBNP (R6) Jan 11 (LIA).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*RAOU No: 693
Status: Usual resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Moderately often recorded, with 60% of reports being of 6+ birds. 20+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), and birds had a nest with young at Redmanvale (H8) Oct 28 (MOA).

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*RAOU No: 676
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

1-5 birds were recorded at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jan 11 (LIA), Hallidays Point (R5) Mar 2 (MVBW), Cape Hawke (R6) Apr 20 (MVBW), Coopernook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC), Hallidays Point (R5) Jul 22 (JUT), Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC), Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 18 (MVBW), Allyn River S.F. (K5) Nov 27 (ALP) and Salisbury Gap (L6) Dec 2 (HBOC).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*RAOU No: 684
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Occasionally recorded in E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 10+ birds were at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jan 8 (LIA).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*RAOU No: 679
Status: Usual resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and often recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. A total of 26 birds were present at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 1 (YAR).

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*RAOU No: 648
Status: Rare.

HBOC Category: 3 (Revised from: 2)

Breeding: None recorded

A single bird was recorded at Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*RAOU No: 993
Status: Rare (New to list).

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Not recorded - but see Supplementary Records.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 647

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded in E and central parts of the Region. Around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds, with the remainder being of 6-20 birds. Birds were nest building at Old Bar (R4) Oct 5 (MVBW).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

RAOU No: 877

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993).

Not recorded.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

RAOU No: 995

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded around and near populated areas; around 45% of reports were of >5 birds. 100+ birds were at SWC during Dec (LIA).

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

RAOU No: 653

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

70+ birds were at Millers Forest (M9) Jul 8 (GED). Elsewhere, pairs were recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Dec 22 (GED) and SWC Dec 27 (LIA), and groups of 6-20 birds at Pokolbin (J9) Apr 9 & Sep 21 (STA, VEJ), Howes Valley (H10) Sep 24 (HBOC), Glendon Brook (K8) Dec 26 and Arrowfield (H7) Dec 29 (both ALP). Some escapees were suspected may have been with the birds at Glendon Brook. 15-20 pairs nested at Arrowfield (H7) (ALP).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

RAOU No: 655

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often but widely recorded. Reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. Birds were sometimes present in large numbers at Howes Valley (H10) – 20+ were there Sep 24 (HBOC) and 50+ birds Apr 9 & May 7 (LIA, HBOC). 50+ birds were also at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (both HBOC). Some birds were on nests at Table Bay Creek.

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

RAOU No: 661

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare. (*New to list*)

A group of seven birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 15/16 (HBOC).

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

RAOU No: 662

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*).

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 75% of reports were of 6+ birds including 25% being of 20+ birds. 50+ birds were recorded at SBS Jan 26 (HAS), and 100+ birds at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC), Dora Creek (L11) Aug 30 (LIA) and Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Barnsley (L10) Nov 4 (GRN).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

RAOU No: 652

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) Apr 9 & 30 (LIA, CBOC), Red Creek (D9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Timor (I3) Nov 11 (JUT), and 6+ birds at Howes Valley May 7 (LIA). At Table Bay Creek (E9) over Apr 14/17, 20+ birds were present; some had nests with eggs and others had dependent young (HBOC).

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

RAOU No: 983

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental (*Revised from: Rare*).

Not recorded since 1991.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

RAOU No: 657

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

20+ birds were recorded at Dora Creek (L11) Mar 5 (LIA) and Gloucester (N5) Aug 5 (TUD), and 6-20 birds at Fullerton Cove (M10) Jan 22 & Feb 25 (LIA, GED), SBS Jan 26 (HAS), NWR Feb 4 (STA), WWW Jun 6 B (HBOC) and Gloucester Jun 10 (CLT). Some birds (<5, or else not counted) were also at Tomago (M9) Jan 3 (GED), Oxley Island (R4) Jan 6 & Feb 2 (MVBW) and KI Apr 1 (STA). Birds at SBS had dependent young.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

RAOU No: 996

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at SBS Jan 26 (HAS), Ash Island (M10) Mar 5 & Aug 20 (HBOC, STA) and Windale (L11) Jul 22 (CLT), and 6+ birds at Market Swamp (M10) Feb 6 (LIA) and Ash Island Sep 29 (MOA).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

RAOU No: 564

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 and Dunns Creek (L8) Apr 23 (both HBOC records).

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*

RAOU No: 358

HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from: 1*)

Breeding: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

Not recorded.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

RAOU No: 357

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with over 80% of reports being of >5 birds and 40% being of >20 birds. Six records were of 100+ birds, including c 500 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Jun 4 (YAR). Birds were nest building at Forster (R6) Oct 7/8 (BID), on nests at SWC Sep 23 & Nov 7 (MOA, HBOC) and were with dependent young at Paterson (L8) Oct 14 (HBOC) and Salisbury Gap (L6) Dec 2 (HBOC).

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

RAOU No: 359

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 20+ birds were present at Rowleys River (O2) Sep 29/Oct 2 (HBOC).

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

RAOU No: 360

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; some birds appear to be resident.

Approximately 10 birds overwintered at SWC (GED, ROD) and also 6+ birds were at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Jun 9/12 (HBOC). For the migrating population, the earliest recorded arrival date was Aug 16, when a flock was seen at Teralba (L10) (BIA). Counts of 20+ birds were frequent at SWC, SBS and Ash Island (M10) and were also recorded at Fullerton Cove (M10) Jan 22 (LIA), Yallambie (I11) Aug 27 (OCG), Jerrys Plains (H7) Oct 28 (MOA) and Arrowfield (H7) Dec 29 (ALP). Birds were nesting at Ash Island Sep 29 (MOA), and had nests with eggs and with dependent young at Jerrys Plains Oct 28.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

RAOU No: 990

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Birds were recorded several times in the Swansea/Black Neds Bay (L11) area (MOA, CJC, OCG) with 6+ present Apr 4 (HBOC). Two birds were also present at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 20 (LIA). A single bird was seen at Forster (R6) Nov 19 – this appears to be the first record by HBOC from N of Newcastle.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

RAOU No: 524

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded. Some birds were at SWC over Jun-Jul (ROD, HBOC) but there were no winter records from elsewhere. 20+ birds were at WWW Feb 5 (STA) and SWC/NWR Sep 23 (MOA).

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

RAOU No: 523

HBOC Category: 1 (Revised from: 2)

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

20+ birds were recorded at SWC during Dec (LIA), with 1-5 birds there Oct 29 & Nov 7 (LTP, HBOC) and also at Ash Island (M10) Mar 5 (HBOC), and One Mile Beach (R6) Dec 26 (CBOC).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

RAOU No: 522

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds or as heard only. 6+ birds were at SWC during Dec (LIA).

Rufous Songlark *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*

RAOU No: 509

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare (possibly under-recorded).

Three birds were recorded at Old Bar (R4) Oct 5 (MVBW) and two birds at Warners Bay (L10) Oct 11 (HAS).

Brown Songlark *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*

RAOU No: 508

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3)

Breeding: Yes (Amended)

Status: Bird of passage. (Revised from: Rare)

Single birds were recorded at Yarrowa (F7) Dec 22 and Bureen (G7) Dec 22 & 26 (all GED records), and a group of c 10 birds at Yallambie (I11) Aug 27 (OCG). A pair were with one dependent young at Upper Bowmans Creek (I6) Jan 11 (JUT).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

RAOU No: 525

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (Amended)

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 50+ birds were at SWC during Dec and c 100 birds at Dora Creek (L11) Jul 12 (LIA). Birds were breeding at SWC Jan 13 and in Dec (ALP, LIA).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

RAOU No: 574

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident and winter migrant.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of >5 birds including 25% being of >20 birds. Of the latter, 40% of the reports were from Apr with a further 25% from the period Jun-Jul. 100+ birds were at SWC during Dec (LIA); birds had dependent young there Jan 13 (ALP).

THRUSH SPECIES

Both *Zoothera* species (*Z. lunulata*, *Z. heinei*) are likely to be found within the Hunter Region, according to some authorities. However, field differentiation, except when calling, is difficult. Observers are encouraged to make a specific report, but a precise identification is rarely possible. Confirmed reports of either *Zoothera* species are described below; where there is doubt as to identification, the observation is reported separately.

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

RAOU No: 779

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

At least one bird was heard daily over Jul/Aug at NLH (HIM).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

RAOU No: 780

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

Unidentified Thrush Sightings

Reports were received of single birds at Barrington House (L5) Feb 19 (HBOC), Allyn River (K5) Mar 26 (LIA) and Nabiac (Q5) Apr 7 (CBOC), and three birds at both Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC) and Gloucester Tops (L5) Jul 19 (MVBW).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

RAOU No: 991

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Three birds were at Table Bay Creek (E9) Apr 14/17 (HBOC).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

RAOU No: 999

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 85% of reports were of >5 birds, including 55% being of >20 birds. Six widespread records were of 100+ birds. Birds had nests with young at Jerrys Plains (H7) Oct 28 (MOA) and Stockton (M10) Nov 11 (STA).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

RAOU No: 998

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 6+ birds. Over 15% of reports were of 20+ birds, and 100+ birds were in the SWC/Market Swamp area Apr 15 (MOA). Birds were on nest at SWC Jan 13 (ALP) and also breeding there during Dec and at Brightwaters (L11) (LIA).

ESCAPEES

The species listed below were recorded in the Hunter Region during the year, but are considered to be aviary escapees rather than part of a self-sustaining wild population:

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

RAOU No: 294

Two reports of birds of the Port Lincoln form (race *barnardi*) were received - two birds were at Boat Harbour (O9) Oct 2 (HAM) and two birds at Broke (J9) Oct 24 (PRK). A single bird of the Twenty Eight Parrot form (race *semitorquatus*) was recorded at Broke (I9) Dec 27 (ALP).

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; future Hunter Region Annual Bird Reports will advise of any which subsequently are accepted.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

RAOU No: 230

HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported at Woodberry (M9) Aug 14 (*this location is close to where a confirmed observation of this species occurred on Apr 11*). Also, a pair were reported to be nesting at Kiwarrak State Forest (Q4).

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*

RAOU No: 236

HBOC Category: 3

Single birds were reported in the Seaham/Clarencetown area (M8) Feb 6 and Feb 13.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

RAOU No: 166

HBOC Category: 3

Report of a single bird at Stockton Bridge (M10) Nov 23.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

RAOU No: 982

HBOC Category: 3

A single bird off Booti Booti National Park (R6) Feb 21, after heavy storms. *This report is being considered by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee.*

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

RAOU No: 341

HBOC Category: 3

Report of a single bird at Bobs Farm (O9) Jan 20.

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

RAOU No: 253

HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported in the Olney State Forest (J11) Apr 4.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 250

HBOC Category: 3

Single birds were reported at Yengo N.P. (I11) Jun 5 and in cell I7 Dec 24.

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

RAOU No: 428

HBOC Category: 3

Report of two birds at Harrington (S4) Nov 18.

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

RAOU No: 544

HBOC Category: 3

Six birds were reported at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Apr 1.

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

The following records of previous years, which could not be accepted for inclusion into the Annual Report for the year because of insufficient information being available at the time of printing, have subsequently been accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee:

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

RAOU No: 229

HBOC Category: 2

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded near Aberdeen (H5) May 2 1994 (GED).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 250

HBOC Category: 3

Rare.

A pair were confirmed to be nesting in the Charlestown (M10) area in late May 1994 (GED).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

RAOU No: 993

HBOC Category: 3

Status: Rare

A single bird was recorded at KI Aug 1 1994 and two birds there Aug 4 and Sep 2 (GED).

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

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

BBNP	Booti Booti National Park (Q6/R6)
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve (M10)
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens (M9)
KI	Kooragang Island (M10)
MLNP	Myall Lakes National Park (P7/8, Q7, R7)
NLH	New Lambton Heights (M10)
N.P.	National Park
N.R.	Nature Reserve
NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (M10)
SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp (L10)
S.F.	State Forest
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
SWC	Shortland Wetlands Centre (M10)
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant (e.g. Stockton STP cell M10)
WWW	Walka Water Works (L9)

OBSERVER CODES

Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the main body of the Report, every observation by every observer was important for the analyses that were made. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from *ALL* those listed below.

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.

ALP	Peter Alexander	MCG	Geraldine McCulloch
BAW	Wilma Barden	MEJ1	Jenny Meynell
BGB	Barbara, Garry Bean	MEJ2	Eve, John Moyse
BIA	Birding-Australia (Internet Group)	MOA	Alan Morris
BID	Doug Biddell	MOS	Susan Morris
BLM	Max Blanch	MPM	Peter, Margaret McLauchlan
BRE	Edwina Brady	MVBW	Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers
BRG	Grant Brosie	NBL	Reported to the NSW BirdLine
BUD	Doreen Bull	NEM	Mike Newman
CAN	Nicholas Carlisle	OCG	Graeme O'Connor
CBOC	Observation reported in newsletter of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club	ORB	Bonnie Orr
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	OWS	Susan Owen
CJC	J & C Carpenter	PAR2	Robert Payne
CLT	Tom Clarke	PEJ	Jim Perry
DIM	Marea Diemar	PHP	Peter Phillips
DUP	Pam Durie	POP	Pat Pountney
FLN	Noreen Fleming	PRD	Dorothy Pritchard
FOC	Observation reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club	PRK	Keith Priestley
FON	Neville Foster	QUT	Trevor Qusted
GED	David Geering	RET	Tom Reynolds
GJC	John, Cynthia Grebert	RHN	Regent Honeyeater Newsletter
GLA	Angela Gleeson	ROA1	Alan Rogers
GRN	Neil Granter	ROA2	A B Rose
HAM	Matthew Hamonet	ROA3	Anne Robotham
HAS	Sue Hamonet	ROB	B Roderick
HBOC	Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp	ROD	Diane Rogers
HDD	Don, Daphne Halliday	ROS	Steven Roderick
HIM	Ian, Marta Hamilton	SCC	C Scott
HLP	Leonie, Peter Hansen	SKM	Kevin & Marie Simkus
HSS	S & S M Hardaker	SMJ1	Judith Smith
HTH	Hunter Thickheads (Twitchathon team)	SMJ2	James Smart
HUE	E Huber	SMR	Rowley Smith
HWT	Reported in <i>The Wetlander</i> (newsletter of the Hunter Wetlands Trust)	STA	Alan Stuart
IMJ	Jim Imrie	STJ	Jeanette Stephenson
JUT	Trevor Jurd	STM	Matthew Stephenson
KBD	Bev, David Kibble	TUB	Bruce Turnbull
KEB	Barbara Kelly	TUD	David Turner
LAK	Keith Laverick	VEJ	Jack Verhagen
LAR	Bob Langdown	VGJ	Fred Van Gessel
LIA	Ann Lindsey	WAJ	Jill Warner
LIP	Paddy Lightfoot	WAR1	Rosemary Waymark
LTI	Tunde, Imre Lengyel	WCR	Observation reported to Shortland Wetlands Centre
LTP	Lesticcum Phaoradae (Twitchathon team)	WIS	Steve Wisnieski
MAJ	John Martindale	WMK	Margaret, Keith Woods
MAL	Lesley Marshall	WMR	Marian, Ray Walker
		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°28'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

