

HUNTER REGION OF NSW

1996 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. All HBOC members receive a newsletter every two months, and have access to a 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. HBOC can be contacted at the address below or by telephone on (02) 4958 5942.

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

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

Cover photograph: Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)
(Photographer: Anon.)

Date of Issue: August 3, 1997

ISSN: 1322-5332

Editor: Alan Stuart

© Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc

CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD	
INTRODUCTION	1
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR	3
SYSTEMATIC LIST	
Introduction	5
Birds	6
UNCONFIRMED RECORDS	71
ESCAPEES	73
SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS	73
OBSERVER CODES	74
LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS	76
THE HUNTER REGION	76

FOREWORD

As I read through the draft for the 1996 Report I realise how much knowledge has been documented over the past four years. However, I am not surprised at the number of gaps which remain as there is often not enough time for us to spend in the field. We know very little, for instance, of the whereabouts and movement of quail and button-quail (quite different families, by the way) and albatrosses are barely recorded. Whilst I agree that tramping through long grass in summer may provide a few hazards, sitting on a headland and staring out to sea in winter can be very relaxing and you will surely be rewarded by the sight of at least one species of albatross.

We don't have a clear picture yet of the breeding habits of even common birds in the Hunter and all such information will be gratefully received along with other more general sightings.

And there are some species for which we have no documented breeding records at all. The Mallard used to raise chicks every year at Dora Creek and probably still does, but we need someone to confirm this in writing.

There are no documented breeding records for Swamp Harrier, Brown Bittern, Australian Hobby, Little Eagle, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Crimson Rosella, Sooty Owl, Australian Owlet-nightjar, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Mangrove Gerygone and several species of fruit pigeons.

Somebody must have seen something!

It would be helpful to be as specific as you can about the location of your sighting. Some places such as Goulburn River National Park cover a vast area and an indication of the actual place would better pinpoint the habitat required by the bird species in question.

I believe we, as a club, have reason to be very pleased with our Bird Reports and I look forward to your contribution to the 1997 Avian Story. Above all, enjoy your birdwatching.

Ann Lindsey

President, Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc

July 30, 1997

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 1996 calendar year. The information is based upon observation records which we have gathered from a variety of sources.

The 1996 Report describes the regional status of 355 bird species, including 311 species that were recorded during the year. There are 8 additions to the 1996 species list, and 3 species are newly confirmed to breed within the Region.

We define the Hunter Region as the area managed by local government authorities for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Merriwa, Singleton, Scone, Murrurundi, Dungog, Gloucester, Port Stephens, Greater Taree and Great Lakes. This corresponds with the area described in the popular tourist maps of the Hunter. A map showing the Hunter Region is included with this Report.

Some of the philosophies which we use when preparing Reports include:

- *The overall list of species will include all species which, since 1987, are confirmed by HBOC to have been present in the Region. Records of rare species from before 1987 mostly would be difficult to confirm, due to the amount of time that has elapsed since the observation. At present, HBOC does not propose to review the earlier records.*
- *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 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 us 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 RAC members - Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Jeanette Stephenson, Jim Perry and David Geering.

Equally important is the contribution from those who have submitted records of their observations during the year. To the regulars and to the newcomers - many thanks, and keep up the good work.

Alan Stuart
July 24, 1997

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 1996 in the Hunter Region included the following sightings (presented in taxonomic order):

- Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* off Port Stephens, March
- Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* at both Seal Rocks and Newcastle, January; off Port Stephens, March; and a dead bird at Merewether, August.
- Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* off Newcastle, July
- White-faced Storm-Petrel *Fregetta gralaria* off Port Stephens March
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* at Newcastle Wetlands Reserve, June; and at Myall Lakes National Park, March & October
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* breeding at Cooperook, October
- Black Kite *Milvus migrans* near Scone, October
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* at Yarrowa, July and August
- Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* at Morisset, August; at Belmont Lagoon, September; and at Glenrock S.R.A., August & September
- Little Button-quail *Turnix velox* at Gloucester Tops, November
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at Kooragang Island, January & November; and at Stockton Borehole swamp, December
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* at Stockton Borehole swamp, December
- Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* at Ash Island, December
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* at Tanilba Bay, Lemon Tree Passage, Oct.
- Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* at Kooragang Island, January
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* at Newcastle, March and April
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* – a dead bird near Pacific Palms, April
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* at Turill, October
- Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* at Sharpes Creek, November
- Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* at Wingham, September
- Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* at Myall Lakes National Park, October
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela* at Copeland Tops, October
- Little Raven *Corvus mellori* at Copeland, September
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis* at Ash Island, August
- Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* at Battery Rocks, 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).

Definitions of the terms used in status descriptions in the Report 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 expect that, with 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: 1-5 birds present; 6-20 birds; 21-50 birds; 51-100 birds; 100+ birds. Commentaries in this Report are based mainly upon abundance levels reported in this way, although many observers report precise numbers (and we encourage this). 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 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).

Four birds were at Murrumbo (D7) Aug 1 and a single bird was there Nov 1 (GED). Three birds were near White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Feb 17 (JUT) and a single bird was there Jun 22 (GED).

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathami*

RAOU No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Birds were recorded in high numbers (10-20) at Barrington House in Aug-Sep (HBOC) and at Copeland S.F. (M4) Sep 28 (CBOC). Other records were from Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB), East Maitland (L9) throughout Jul (GEB, PRK) and Hallidays Point (R5) Aug 17 (MVBW). The record from East Maitland is unusual – a single bird was utilising suburban backyard gardens. Mound building was in progress at Hallidays Point.

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

RAOU No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare (possibly overlooked).

Two birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jul 12 (GED) and a single bird at Honeysuckle Creek Wollemi N.P. (D7) Oct 7 (STA).

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

RAOU No: 011 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at SWC Jan 28 (BAW), Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), KI Mar 2 (LAK) and Apr 19 (GED), BBNP (R6) Apr 19 (TUD), Main Creek (J6) Jun 6 (JUT), SBS Jun 30 and Oct 15 (HAS), Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/21 (HBOC) and Belmont Swamp (L11) during Dec (LAK). The pair present at BBNP were with one young bird.

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

RAOU No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded since 1994.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

RAOU No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

50 or more birds were regularly present at SWC, with the peak count being 93 birds May 14 (ROD); also, 11 chicks were there (with four adults) Feb 5 (LIA). 7-10 birds were recorded at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) during Sep (SJR, CBOC). Two birds were at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA).

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

RAOU No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

Recorded at the regular location, Doughboy Hollow near Singleton (J8), on three occasions – 60 birds Jun 16 (JUT), 200 birds Jul 10 (NEG), 100 birds Sep 2 (BIA).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

RAOU No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

All except one record was from SWC/NWR: 3-6 birds were occasionally recorded there over Jan-Mar and 10-20+ birds during Oct (ROD, TOM, LIA). A pair were with ducklings Mar 3 (NBL). Eight birds were at Tarro Swamp (M9) Oct 13 and some birds were nesting (WCR).

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

RAOU No: 216 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1989.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

RAOU No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

75 birds were at Grahamstown Dam (M9) May 14 (GED) and 6+ birds there Jul 13 (HBOC). All other reports were of 1-2 birds, where numbers were noted: at NWR Jan 9 (STA) and Jun 23 (HBOC), KI Jan 21 (HBOC), Colliery Dam (K10) Jun 2 (CBOC), Ellalong area (J10) Jun 30 (YAR), Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jul 10 (MOA), Grahamstown Dam Oct 27 (TOM) and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Oct 30 (STA).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*RAOU No: 214 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*RAOU No: 203 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. Most records were of <20 birds and only six reports were of 50+ birds. 100+ birds were at MLNP (P8) Apr 25 (YAR), Dora Creek/Stingaree Point (L11) Dec 8 (HBOC) and Ash Island (M10) Dec 10 (GED). There were breeding records in Jan, Jul, Sep, Oct and Dec.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*RAOU No: 207 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

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; around 50% of reports were of 6+ birds. 60 birds were at a single farm dam south of Bunnan (F5) Apr 26 (STA) and 50+ birds were near Vacy (L8) May 4 (HBOC). There were breeding records in Mar, Apr, Aug, Sep, Oct.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*RAOU No: 948 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

Some birds (<5) were at BbR May 7 (HBOC).

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. Almost 50% of reports were of 6+ birds, with all counts of 20+ birds being from the E of the Region. 300+ birds were at Teralba/SBS (L10) Jul 2 (HBOC) and 100+ at SWC Jun 23 (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at SWC in Jan (STA/LIA) and were nesting at Bootawa (Q4) in Sep (MVBW).

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*RAOU No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

Often recorded at SWC – 1-5 birds were there Feb 10 (LIA), early Apr (BRG1), May 21 (ROD), Jul 10 (LIA) and Sep 5 (ROD), and 6-15 birds there Jun 3 & 23 (ROD, HBOC) and Jul 22 (LIA). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Ash Island (M10) Jun 3 (HBOC), SBS Jun 30 (HAS) and Muddy Lake (L11) Sep 15 (TOM); 10 birds were at Teralba (L10) Jul 2 (HBOC), and 40 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Aug 14 (LIA).

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*RAOU No: 211 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded at small to large waters throughout the Region, mostly as groups of <20 birds but greater numbers were not uncommon. 50+ birds were at Teralba (L10) Jul 2 (HBOC) and 233 birds at Ash Island (M10) May 6 (GED). Birds were with dependent young at SWC/NWR during Jan and on Oct 7 (LIA, ROD) and at KI Jan 21 (HBOC).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*RAOU No: 210 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, often in large numbers. The most westerly report was from Tenambit (L9). 700+ birds were at Teralba (L10) Jul 2 (HBOC) and 200+ were at SBS (L10) Jun 30 (HAS). At Ash Island (M10), 400+ birds were recorded Jan 28 & Feb 21 while 685 were present May 6 (GED). Birds had dependent young at SWC/NWR Jan 9 and Oct 7 (STA, ROD).

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
Status: Bird of passage.

Up to six birds were present at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) over Jan-Feb, with one pair nesting and fledging two young (FON). 1-3 birds also were recorded there Mar 3 (TUD), Jun 16 (CBOC), Jul 17 (WCR) and Sep 29 (CBOC). Elsewhere, pairs were at Mandalong (K11) Apr 18 (TOM), SWC Jun 23 (HBOC) and WWW Nov 16 (TAH), and 19 birds were at Morpeth STP (L9) Aug 14 (LIA).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*RAOU No: 215 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded at SWC/NWR and at SBS, and occasionally at fresh waters elsewhere. 21-50 birds were at SWC Jun 23 (HBOC), SBS Jul 10 & 25 and Oct 15 (ROD, TOM, HAS) and Stockton/KI Nov 9 (HBOC), and 60 birds at Bolwarra (L9) Jul 17 (ROD). For a period of 1-2 weeks over late June - early July, 300-500 birds were at SBS (HAS, ROD) and around 1000 birds were in the overall Teralba area (L10, includes SBS) Jul 2 (HBOC).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 061 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters, with all reports being of <20 birds. Five widespread breeding records were received – for Jan and Oct only.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*RAOU No: 062 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Bird of passage.

At Grahamstown Dam (M9), 300 birds were recorded May 17 (GED) and 200+ birds Aug 22 (PRK). Some birds (<5) were also at SBS May 22 (OCG) and Ash Island (M10) Jun 3 (HBOC).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*RAOU No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

In Nov, birds were often recorded at WWW, peaking Nov 19 with four pairs (TAH). A single bird was at Lake Liddell (I7) Sep 25 (TOM) and 20+ birds were at Glenbawn Dam (H5/I5) Oct 7 (FOC).

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*RAOU No: 005 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

A group of c 30 birds were swimming in Port Stephens during Sep (WAC). All other reports were of 1-3 birds, where numbers were noted – at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ), Shoal Bay (P9) Feb 2 (LAK), Stockton Breakwater (M10) Feb 4 (LIC), Nobbys Beach (M10) Apr 6 (LAK), Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 13/16 (BIA) and Coal Point (L11) Dec 26 (HAM). Injured birds were found at Newcastle Feb 29, Shoal Bay Mar 22 and Stockton May 13 - the latter bird died but the other two were successfully treated (NATF).

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*RAOU No: 929 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Not recorded since 1994.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*RAOU No: 075 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*New to list*)

6+ birds were recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ).

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*RAOU No: 078 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local summer migrant.

Birds had nests with eggs at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 13/16 (BIA). An injured bird, which was successfully treated, was found at Nelson Bay (O9) Mar 23 (NATF).

Since 1992, there has been a 60% increase in the number of chicks hatching on Cabbage Tree Island (MVBW).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

RAOU No: 069 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Summer migrant.

Often recorded in groups of 10-100+ or as beach-washed dead birds, along the coast during Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec. 1000+ birds were off Newcastle/Stockton beaches (M10) Jan 15 & 21 (LIA, HBOC), and 500+ off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ). Single beach-washed dead birds were found along Stockton beach Apr 30 (NATF) and May 6 (BOS). Two unusual inland records – of a bird found dead by a roadside at East Maitland (L9) May 3 following storms (PRK) and of an injured bird, taken into care, found at Singleton (J8) May 7 (NATF).

Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*

RAOU No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
 Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

RAOU No: 072 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
 Status: Rare. (*New to list*)

100+ birds were recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ). Three birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ) and a single bird at Newcastle Beach (M10) Jan 15 (LIA). Also, a dead bird was found at Merewether (M10) Aug 30 (NATF).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

RAOU No: 070 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Rare.

Some birds were recorded at Cabbage Tree Island (where birds are often found) during Dec 13/16 (BIA). Single dead birds were found along Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) and Merewether/Burwood beaches (M10) during a survey Nov 10 (HBOC).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 071 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Summer migrant.

Eight birds were recorded off Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ), and 500+ birds offshore from Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Nov 24 (HBOC). A total of 11 dead birds were found along Merewether/ Burwood beaches (M10) and Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) during a beach survey Nov 10 (HBOC). 14 injured birds were treated during the year – up until May 17 and from Oct 29 (NATF); seven of these cases were in May.

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

RAOU No: 068 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
 Status: Bird of passage about inshore waters.

Two birds were recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ), and a single dead bird was found along Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) during a beach survey Nov 10 (HBOC).

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

RAOU No: 088 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
 Status: Uncertain (*New to list*).

A group of at least five birds were feeding behind a fishing boat off Nobbys Head, Newcastle (M10) Jul 18 (TUD).

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 since 1994.

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

RAOU No: 065 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Rare summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ).

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

RAOU No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
 Status: Accidental (*Revised from: Rare*).

Not recorded since 1994.

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

RAOU No: 104 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage about inshore waters.

Low numbers of birds (<10, and usually <5) were moderately often recorded along the coast all year. 20+ birds were seen offshore from Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB) and 50+ birds off Stockton beach (M10) Mar 5 (HBOC).

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

RAOU No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium to large fresh waters in E of Region, mostly as 1-2 birds. Numbers at NWR/SWC were sometimes greater – four birds were there Jun 23 (HBOC) and 6-7 birds Aug 20 and Oct 7 (ROD). Birds had nests at NWR/SWC in Jan, Jun and Aug (STA, HBOC, ROD).

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, with all counts of 6+ birds being from the E of the Region. 21-50 birds were at NWR Jan 9 (STA), MLNP (P8) Apr 25 (YAR), South Swansea (L11) May 21 (MOA), Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA), SWC Oct 1 (HBOC) and Belmont Swamp (L11) during Dec (LAK), and 70 birds were recorded at Swansea South Jul 21 (HBOC). Birds were on nests and had nests with young at NWR, SWC and Toronto Swamp (L11) in Jan (STA, LIA, MOA, HWT), and again at SWC in Oct (ROD).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

RAOU No: 099 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Usual coastal resident.

Moderately often recorded on the coast or at large waters near to the coast. Around 35% of reports were of 6-20 birds with the remainder being of 1-5 birds. Two inland records – a single bird at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 6 (STA) and two birds at North Rothbury (K9) Jun 10 (CLT).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

RAOU No: 097 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters. Counts were generally lower than in 1995, with only around 10% of reports being of >20 birds. 100+ birds were at Green Point (L11) Sep 12 (ROD) and 50+ birds at NWR Jan 9 (STA) and around Newcastle foreshore (M10) Dec 4 (HBOC). In early Jan, birds were nesting at NWR (STA) and Toronto Swamp (MOA, HWT).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

RAOU No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters. Fewer reports than for 1995 and with counts generally lower – around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. A total of 77 birds in four groups flew over Waratah (M10) within a short interval on Feb 9 (CLT); only two other reports were of >20 birds. Birds were nesting at NWR Jun 23 (HBOC) and also had nests with eggs there Aug 20 (ROD).

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 80% of reports were of <20 birds. 100+ birds were in Forster area (R6) Nov 24 (HBOC) and at Market Swamp (M10) Apr 29 (LIA). There were 50-60 nests at Pelican Island BBNP (R6) Jan 2 and 103 nests there Dec 16 (both TUD).

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 188 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Counts at Ash Island (M10) were regularly of 20-50 birds (GED, STA, OCG, HBOC) and with 83 birds present Jan 28 and 125 birds Jul 9 (both GED). 25-30+ birds were also recorded at Tarro swamp (M9) Jun 30 and Jul 2 (SJR) and Morpeth (L9) Jun 27 (PRK), and 72 birds were at Fullerton Cove (M10) Jun 23 (GED). Breeding records from New Lambton (M10) during late Aug-Sep (STA) and Hamilton (M10) Nov (IMK).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

RAOU No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds except when breeding. Six birds were at Ash Island (M10) Dec 31 (STA). Continuing the decline in breeding numbers locally, there were only five breeding pairs at SWC over 1995/96 (HWT) – in comparison, there were 57 pairs in 1987/88. Another two pairs bred at Toronto Swamp (L11) (HWT, MOA). Some birds were nest building again at SWC Oct 7 (ROD).

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*RAOU No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) early Jan (PEJ), Caves Beach (L11) Mar 21 (LAK) and Catherine Hill Bay (L11) Oct 27 (HAM), and two birds at Elizabeth Beach (R6) Nov 24 (STA).

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*RAOU No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

1-2 birds were occasionally recorded near Jerrys Plains (H7) all year (ALP), and also at SWC May 11 and Jun 3 (ROD) and in the Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC). In comparison, in 1995 there were 18 reports for this species.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*RAOU No: 187 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded at medium to large waters in the eastern and central parts of the Region. With two exceptions, all non-breeding reports were of 1-5 birds. 30 birds were in MLNP (cell P8) Apr 25 (YAR) and 20 birds at Tea Gardens (O8) Jun 8 (GED). Continuing the decline in breeding numbers locally, there were only 58 breeding pairs at SWC over 1995/96 (HWT) – in comparison, there were 198 pairs in 1987/88. A further 25 pairs bred at Toronto Swamp (L11) (HWT, MOA). Some birds were nest building again at SWC Oct 7/14 (ROD).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*RAOU No: 186 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in E of Region. 6+ birds were at SWC Oct 1 B (HBOC). Continuing the decline in breeding numbers locally, there were only 20 breeding pairs at SWC over 1995/96 (HWT) – in comparison, there were 453 pairs in 1987/88. Some birds were nest building again at SWC Oct 7 (ROD).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*RAOU No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded, with the most westerly reports being of 30-50+ birds near Jerrys Plains often during Aug-Sep (ALP). The majority of reports from elsewhere were of <20 birds. The breeding population continues to decline. At SWC, there were 221 breeding pairs over 95/96 compared to 1393 pairs in 87/88 (HWT), while at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) there were 270 breeding pairs over the 95/96 season compared to 324 pairs in 94/95 and 700 pairs in 91/92 (HWT). At Toronto Swamp (L11) there were another 12 nests over the 95/96 season (previous breeding numbers at this site are not known).

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*RAOU No: 193 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded at estuaries and coastal lakes. Most reports were of single birds but two birds were at KI Mar 2 (LAK) and Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA), and three birds at Dora Creek (L11) Nov 3 (KBD). An immature bird was present at Belmont (L11) Sep 25 (LIA).

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*RAOU No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

Often recorded at SWC, in varying numbers peaking at 30 birds Sep 30 (LIA). Most reports from elsewhere were of <5 birds (and, mostly, of single birds) – at Toronto Swamp (L11) Jan 10 (MOA) and Mar 20 (TOM), KI/Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC), MLNP (P8) Apr 25 (YAR), Swansea South (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC), Dora Creek (L11) Nov 3 (KBD) and Belmont Swamp (L11) during Dec (LAK). Birds had dependent young at SWC during Jan (LIA) and a juvenile was there Sep 5 (ROD).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*RAOU No: 195 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare (probably overlooked).

Not recorded.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*RAOU No: 196 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records (1994)
Status: Rare.

No confirmed records.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*RAOU No: 197 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

A single bird was seen at NWR Jun 6 (IMK). Birds were also heard regularly at MLNP (cell Q7) during Mar (BIA) and at MLNP (cell P8) Oct 9 (BIA).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*RAOU No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

31 birds were recorded at SWC May 5 (BOS), 6+ birds at Cundletown (R4) May 2 (OCG), 4 birds at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Apr 14 (WCR), and a single bird at Irrawang swamp (M9) Jul 30 (PRK).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*RAOU No: 179 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Frequently recorded in E of the Region, with the most westerly report being from the Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC). Around 30% of reports were of 20+ birds; 100-200 birds were in the Salt Ash/ Medowie area (N9) Jul 13 and at Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (both HBOC).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*RAOU No: 180 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in the eastern and central parts of the Region. Counts were variable, but generally were down slightly compared with 1995 and only around 30% of reports were of 20+ birds.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*RAOU No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in E of the Region – the most westerly report was from the Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC). Around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds, and only one report was of 20+ birds – at KI Jan 21 (HBOC).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*RAOU No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

Two birds were recorded near Jerrys Plains (H7) Aug 2 (ALP).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*RAOU No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (1994)
Status: Bird of passage.

A single bird was at Bulahdelah (P7) Feb 17 (OWS) and three birds in the same area Apr 25 (THF). Two birds also were recorded in MLNP (cell P8) Apr 25 (YAR). *The increased reporting rate of 1995 was not maintained.*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*RAOU No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay (N9) over Jun 20 - Jul 10 (CHS, FOC), Tillegerry Creek (O9) Aug 7 (GED), Tuncurry (R6) Aug 10 (BOD) and late Sep (TUD), Speers Point (L10) Sep 1 (WMR), Belmont South (L11) Sep 6 (CJB), Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Oct 30 (STA) and Harrington (S4) Dec 29 (CBOC). The birds at Tanilba Bay and Tuncurry were at nest trees, but it is not confirmed that breeding was in progress.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*RAOU No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in E of the Region. Pairs with a single young bird were present at both Carrington (O8) and Coral Ville (S3) during Apr (HBOC, MVBW). Three birds were also seen together at University of Newcastle (M10) Jan 9 (TOM).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*RAOU No: 232 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in the central and eastern parts of the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds. A pair had a nest with young at Ash Island (M10) Jun 3 (HBOC).

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

RAOU No: 230 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes (Newly confirmed)
Status: Rare. (revised from:Accidental)

A single bird was on a nest in Coopernook S.F. (R3) Oct 29 (JOI) – this is the first confirmed breeding record by HBOC for the Region.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

RAOU No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded near Scone (H5) Oct 26 (TOM).

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

RAOU No: 228 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with almost all reports being of 1-2 birds. Ten birds, mostly juveniles, were present at Dora Creek (L11) Nov 3 (KBD) and ten birds were also recorded at MLNP (cell P8) Apr 25 (YAR). Birds were nesting at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

RAOU No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident (in coastal north of Region), elsewhere accidental.

Single birds were recorded at Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Jun 29 (CBOC) and Nov 24 (HBOC), Boolaroo (L10) Aug 21 (TOM) and Elizabeth Beach (R6) Nov 24 (STA). Birds were also at Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG) – numbers not noted.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

RAOU No: 226 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Single birds or pairs were frequently recorded at or near large waters, occasionally accompanied by a single juvenile during summer/autumn. A pair had a nest at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Sep 8 (ALP).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

RAOU No: 218 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at BBNP Mar 22 (TUD), Woodville (L9) Apr 6 (NEM), Elderslie (K8) Apr 14 (NBL/BIA), Raymond Terrace (M9) May 16 (GED), NW of Gungah (E6) May 26 (STA/ PHP), Shortland (M10) Jul 10 (HAS), Hexham (M9) Oct (TAH) and near Jerrys Plains (H7) Nov 25 (ALP). The bird near Gungah was an immature.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

RAOU No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Usual resident.

Single birds were recorded at SWC Jan 1 (LIA) and May 15 (ROD), Bolwarra (L9) Jul 17 (ROD), Dora Creek (L11) Sep 15 (TOM), Raymond Terrace (M9) Sep 29 (CBOC), Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 3 (MVBW) and BBNP Nov 24 (HBOC), and an injured bird, which died, was found at Raymond Terrace Sep 3 (NATF). Three birds were at Hexham Swamp (L10) Apr 21 (HAS). Birds were also present at Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG) – numbers were not noted.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

RAOU No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Reconfirmed)
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds. Birds had a nest with young at Ashtonfield (L9) Dec 8 (ROS). Possible pairs were recorded at Arrowfield (H7) Mar 29 (ALP) and Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) Oct 3 (TOM) – no evidence though of breeding at these sites.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Often recorded in E of the Region, and occasionally elsewhere. Most sightings were of single birds, where numbers were noted; two birds were together at Heatons Lookout Watagan Mountains (K10) Mar 17 (BOD) and Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC). Three reports were of white phase birds.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

RAOU No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Shortland (M10) Feb 11 (LIA), Wingen (H4) Apr 8 (NEG), S of Bunnan (F5) Apr 26 (STA), South Swansea (L11) May 21 (MOA), KI Jul 28 (TOM), Green Wattle Creek (L9) Nov 16 and Dec 6 (NEM), and an injured bird, which died, was found at Hamilton (M10) Jun 7 (NATF).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*RAOU No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-2 birds but occasionally 3 or 4 birds were seen together.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*RAOU No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Boolaroo (L10) Mar 6 (TOM), Hexham (M9) May 8 (GED), South Swansea (L11) Jun 1 (MOA), Salt Ash/Medowie area (N9) Jul 13 (HBOC), Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC), Warkworth (I8) Sep 4 (ALP) and near Jerrys Plains (H7) Oct 26 (ALP). The bird at South Swansea was of dark phase.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*RAOU No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region, as single birds or pairs where numbers were noted. Reports from the E of the Region were less frequent, but not uncommon.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*RAOU No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, with most reports being of single birds. Two birds were perched together at Irrawang Swamp (M9) Jul 2 (PRK). A bird at Warkworth (I8) was observed to be hunting a White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* Feb 1 (ALP).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*RAOU No: 238 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Yarrawa (F7) Jul 21 & Aug 5 (GED). Also, reports of a single bird at a shallow freshwater pond on Kooragang Island on Feb 19 (NBL) and an injured bird at Adamstown (M10) Sep 11 which was successfully treated and released (NATF).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*RAOU No: 237 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

One or two birds were occasionally, but widely, recorded. Birds were breeding in BBNP (R6) Jul 2 (TUD) and also a pair had two young at Dellhurst (J6) Nov 4 (JUT).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*RAOU No: 240 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Frequently recorded throughout the Region, mostly single birds or pairs (where numbers were noted) but sometimes with immatures also present. Eight breeding records were received – mostly from Aug-Dec but also an adult was with three immature birds at Toronto (L11) Feb 20 (TOM).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*RAOU No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident (possibly overlooked).

Single birds were recorded at SWC Apr 23 (WCR) and Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 3 (MVBW), two birds at SWC Nov 15 (LIA), and three birds at Green Point (R6) Dec 26 (CBOC). Some birds were also present at Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Dec 13/16 (BIA).

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*RAOU No: 045 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident (probably overlooked).

At Glenrock S.R.A. (M10), a single bird was recorded Aug 27 and then at least 7 birds were seen and/or heard Sep 2 and 5+ birds Sep 10 (all TOM records). Two birds were seen at Morisset (K11) Aug 6 (LIA) and a single bird there Aug 17 (YAR). A single bird was at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Sep 1 (YAR), and two birds were heard making contact calls there Sep 15 (LAK).

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*RAOU No: 050 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Local resident (probably overlooked).

Not recorded.

Australian Spotted Crane *Porzana fluminea*

RAOU No: 049 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

A single juvenile bird was recorded at Tomago (M9) Apr 24 (WCR).

Spotless Crane *Porzana tabuensis*

RAOU No: 051 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (1988)
Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

Not recorded since 1994.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

RAOU No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Frequently recorded in E of Region, and occasionally elsewhere. Reports were mostly of 1-5 birds except at large waters where higher numbers were often present. 20+ birds were frequently at SWC, with the count peaking at 75 birds May 21 (ROD). Birds had chicks at SWC and KI during Jan (LIA, HBOC) and were nesting again at SWC Oct 14 (ROD).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

RAOU No: 056 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; reports were mostly of 1-5 birds except at medium to large waters where higher numbers were often present. 50+ birds were at SWC Oct 1 (HBOC). There were several, widespread reports of birds with chicks – during Jan, Oct and Nov – and birds were also on nests at SWC during early Oct (ROD).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

RAOU No: 059 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

30-60 birds were regularly present at SWC/NWR during May-Jun (ROD, HBOC), with lesser numbers also there during Sep-Oct (ROD). Occasionally recorded elsewhere, mostly in counts of <10; however, 50+ birds were present at Bolwarra (L9) Jul 17 (ROD).

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

RAOU No: 018 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Nov 16 (VEE). This record seems of considerable significance – as well as being a new species for the official Hunter Region list, the location is quite unusual for the species. The observation was meticulously reported and was very convincing.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

RAOU No: 014 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (*Amended*)
Status: Uncommon resident.

A group of three birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 22 and two birds were also recorded there Aug 23 (GED). Pairs were also at Appletree Flat (H8) Aug 21 (PRK) and Watagan Mountains (K11) Sep 8 (HLC), and single birds at Martins Creek (L8) Mar 24 (NEM) and Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 14 (TOM).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

RAOU No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded near wetland areas in central and E of the Region, with all reports being of <10 birds. The most westerly record was from Pokolbin Lake (J9) where two birds were present Jan 6 (STA). Present until at least Mar 17, when last seen at Woodville (L9) (NEM). The first recorded return was Aug 11, when two birds were at Colliery Dam (L10) (NBL).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

RAOU No: 152 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

300+ birds were regularly recorded around KI from Jan to mid-Apr, and in Dec, with the count peaking at 370 birds Feb 19 (GED). All birds had gone by May 5. On Sep 21, 27 birds had returned, and numbers gradually increased over the next two months (GED). The only record from elsewhere than KI was of a single bird at Swan Bay (N9) Oct 30 (STA).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*RAOU No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common summer migrant.

Over Jan-Apr and from mid-Sep, birds were regularly recorded around KI in large numbers (1000+), and moderately often at coastal mudflats elsewhere, in lesser numbers (usually, <20 birds). Peak count at KI was 3100 birds Dec 13 (GED); 230 birds were still present there May 5 (GED). 100+ birds were at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG) and 60 birds Oct 14 (MVBW). Three winter records – 19 birds at Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA) and Swan Bay (N9) Jun 8 (GED), and 21 birds at Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 7 (GED).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*RAOU No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded around KI until May 10 and from Sep 21, with the peak count being of 69 birds Feb 19 (GED). On Oct 18, however, 160 birds and 21 birds were at the nearby locations of Fullerton Cove and Fern Bay, respectively (GED). The only records from elsewhere were of single birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA) and Harrington (S4) Oct 14 (MVBW). There were no winter records.

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*RAOU No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded around KI until May 10 and from Sep 22, with the peak count being of 600 birds Nov 2; more typical counts over this period were of 100-200 birds (GED). Occasionally recorded elsewhere, mostly as <20 birds, but 30+ were present at Swan Bay (N9) Oct 30 (STA). There were no winter records.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*RAOU No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded around KI until May 10 and from Sep 21, with the peak count being of 131 birds Feb 19 (GED); more typical counts over this period were of 20-70 birds (GED, CLT, HBOC) but 100 birds were also present Jan 16 (LIA). The only other records were of 1-10 birds occasionally at the nearby locations of Ash Island and Fern Bay (STA, TOM). There were no winter records.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*RAOU No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

100+ birds were regularly recorded around KI until Apr 18 and from Sep 20 (GED, NBL, HBOC), with the peak counts being of 350 birds Mar 6 and Dec 13 (GED). The only other records were of a single bird at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Sep 15 (LAK) and 6+ birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 2 and Dec 31 (ALP, STA).

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.

94 birds were present at KI Feb 19 and 70 birds Dec 13 (GED); at other times at KI, birds were recorded only in low numbers (<10 birds) (CLT, GED, ALP). Elsewhere, 10 birds were in MLNP (cell P8) Apr 25 (YAR) and 60 birds at Fern Bay (M10) Oct 18 (GED). There were no records between Apr 18 and Sep 21.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*RAOU No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at Stockton (M10) Jan 21 (HBOC). Some birds (<5) were also there Mar 5 – the precise number was not noted (HBOC).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*RAOU No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded in the KI/Stockton area until mid-Apr (CLT, HBOC) – mostly as 6-20 birds, but 20+ birds were there Jan 21 (HBOC). Elsewhere, 4 birds were at Harrington (S4) Oct 14 (MVBW), 12 birds at both Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Aug 7 (GED) and Swansea (L11) Nov 10 (STA), and 20+ birds at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*RAOU No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

40-50+ birds were regularly recorded feeding or roosting at locations near Newcastle Baths (M10) during Jan-Mar. Only 9 birds remained there by Apr 6 (LAK). There was one winter record – of a single bird at Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA). Otherwise, the first recorded return was when two birds in breeding plumage were at Newcastle Baths Sep 9 (MEJ2) – by Nov 28, 40 birds were again present there (POP). 1-2 birds were also regularly at KI during the migratory period, except in late Sep when the counts peaked at 12 birds (GED).

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 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded at Stockton Sandspit (M10) until Apr 19 and from Sep 22, with the peak counts being of 36 birds Mar 7 and 50 birds Oct 19 (GED). More typical counts were of 5-10 birds (GED, CLT, LIA). Elsewhere, three birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Oct 14 (MVBW). An unusual winter record was of 12 birds at Stockton Sandspit Jun 3 (NBL).

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

All records were from around Stockton Sandspit (M10). Birds were regularly recorded there until May 9 and from Sep 20. In the first part of the year, up to 60 birds were sometimes present, although numbers were greatly variable (GED, CLT, LIA, NBL). 1500 birds were counted there Sep 20 and 2000 birds Sep 22, and counts remained high (200-400 birds) until at least Nov 3; by Dec 13, only 30 birds were present (GED). Some birds also were present in early June – a single bird (bearing a Japanese band) was recorded Jun 2 (NSW Wader Study Group per TOM), and 20 birds Jun 3 (NBL).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*RAOU No: 166 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Four birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Dec 29 (VEE).

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

Birds were regularly recorded around KI until May 11 and from Sep 20, with the peak counts being of 100 birds Mar 7 and 90 birds Oct 19 & Nov 2 (GED). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Harrington (S4) Oct 27 (TOM), Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) Nov 10 and Forster (R6) Nov 24 (both HBOC), two birds at SBS Dec 3 (PEJ), 12 birds at Ash Island (M10) and 15 birds at Swansea (L11) – both records Jan 7 (STA).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*RAOU No: 978 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded on a number of occasions through January at a shallow freshwater pond on KI, having first arrived there the previous month (see 1995 Report). The bird was present until at least Jan 30 (NBL). A single bird was again present there Nov 16, numbers increasing to five birds Nov 17 (YAR). A single bird was also recorded at SBS Dec 4 (HAS).

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

Birds were regularly recorded around KI until Apr 20 and from Sep 20, with the peak counts being of 228 birds Apr 20 (GED) and 400 birds Dec 21 (YAR). Other records were of 20+ birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA), 6+ birds at SBS Dec 3 (PEJ), and an injured bird which was found at Tarro (M9) Apr 16 (NATF).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*RAOU No: 161 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded around KI until May 9 and from Sep 20, with the peak counts being of 2600 birds Feb 19 and 1000 birds Dec 13 (GED). Most counts from KI were of at least several hundred birds except over Apr/May when only 40-60 birds were recorded. Only one report from elsewhere – 10+ birds at Swan Bay (N9) Oct 30 (STA).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*RAOU No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Not recorded.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*RAOU No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Two birds were recorded at SBS Dec 3 (PEJ).

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*RAOU No: 170 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Accidental (probably overlooked).

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island (M10) Dec 10 (GED).

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*RAOU No: 171 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident, more usual in N of Region.

Recorded several times at Colliery Dam (L10) – 10 birds Jun 2 (CBOC), 8+ birds Aug 11 and Sep 28 (CBOC, FOC) and 5 birds Sep 21 (NBL). Also, three birds were recorded at Cooperook (R3) Oct 29 (CBOC).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*RAOU No: 174 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

A bird was heard calling in the early morning at Tanilba Bay (N9) Oct 5, and a pair with two fledglings were present at Lemon Tree Passage (O9) Oct 18 & 21 (all are BLM records).

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*RAOU No: 175 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (revised from: Rare).

Not recorded since 1993.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*RAOU No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Moderately often recorded along the coast, mostly in groups of 1-5 birds. Two groups, of seven and four birds respectively, were seen along the beach at MLNP (P8) Jan 26 (TUD), and eleven birds were also recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 12 & 29 (BLM). Two immature birds were with one adult at Stockton Sandspit (M10) Jan 21 (HBOC).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*RAOU No: 131 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.

Groups of 5-8 birds were often seen roosting at or near Newcastle Baths (M10). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB), Catherine Hill Bay (L11) Jul 4 (GWT), Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 4 (BLM), Cabbage Tree Island Dec 13/16 (BIA) and Harrington (S4) Oct 31 and Dec 29 (MVBW, CBOC),

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*RAOU No: 146 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in E of the Region. At favoured locations, such as KI and SBS, counts were often very high – 50-100+ birds. 300+ birds were at KI Apr 18 (GED), Woodberry swamp (M9) Jun 11 (PRK) and Tarro swamp (M9) Jun 30 (SJR). 10+ birds were on nests at KI late Jan (LIA, HBOC).

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*RAOU No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.

The two immature birds, first recorded at a shallow freshwater pond on KI in December 1995 (see 1995 Report), remained until at least Feb 6 (NBL) and were seen by many observers. By Feb 27, they had departed (NBL).

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 148 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Local resident.

Birds were regularly recorded around KI/Fullerton Cove, in varying numbers but always >20. 3000 birds were present May 30 (NBL), and counts of 500+ birds were quite frequent (GED, NBL, CLT, LIA). There were no records from elsewhere.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*RAOU No: 8006 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Most records were from KI – 42 birds Feb 21 & Mar 7, 23 birds Sep 22 (GED), 4 birds Oct 13 (STA), 50 birds Oct 19, 60 birds Nov 3 and 10 birds Dec 13 (GED). Elsewhere, 4 birds were at Harrington (S4) Oct 14 (MVBW), and 3 birds at Swan Bay (N9) Oct 30 (STA). No records from between Mar 7 and Sep 22.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*RAOU No: 143 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Mar 24 (TOM), Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG), Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) Nov 10 and Forster (R6) Nov 24 (both HBOC), and occasionally at KI, Ash Island (M10) and Harrington (S4). 20+ birds were at Harrington Jan 31 (OCG), and c 50 birds at Ash Island Apr 20, Swan Bay (N9) Jun 8 and KI Jul 21 (all GED records).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*RAOU No: 140 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Local winter migrant.

13 birds were recorded at Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA) and 29 birds at Swan Bay (N9) Jun 8 (GED). A single bird was at KI Jul 21 (GED), and two birds were there Jul 28 (TOM).

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*RAOU No: 139 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Up to 35 birds were present at KI over Feb-Mar (GED, LAK, LIA); by Apr 20 the count had decreased to 7 birds only (GED). No further reports from KI until Nov 9, when <5 birds were recorded there (HBOC); 13 birds were present Dec 13 (GED). The only record from elsewhere was of two birds at SBS Dec 3 (PEJ).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops*RAOU No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Groups of 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded at medium waters in the E of the Region. 6-20 birds were often recorded at Ash Island (M10) during Jan-Apr, and also at a freshwater lake at KI Jan 21 (HBOC), SBS May 22 (OCG), Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jul 10 (MOA) and Weston (K9) Oct 30 (OCG).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*RAOU No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Bird of passage.

Two birds were at Market Swamp (M10) Jan 16 (LIA). At Ash Island (M10), 3 birds were present Apr 19 and 22 birds May 5 (both GED), and 6+ birds Jun 3 (HBOC).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*RAOU No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncertain (*previously considered as: Spring/early summer migrant.*)

Not recorded since 1994.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*RAOU No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; where numbers were noted, around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 60+ birds were feeding on ploughed ground at Morpeth (L9) Jul 17 (PRK) – all other reports were of <20 birds. Birds had nests with eggs at Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB) and at two locations in BBNP Jul 29 (TUD), and had chicks at Shortland (M10) Sep 18 (LIA).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*RAOU No: 945 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*RAOU No: 128 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain.

One or occasionally two birds were moderately often recorded at Newcastle Harbour (M10) over Jan-Apr (LAK, TUB), and single birds off Cabbage Tree Island (P9) Feb 3 (LAK) and Nine Mile Beach (M11) Sep 11 (CLT). At least 6 birds were off Port Stephens (cells Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*RAOU No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Not recorded since 1994.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in coastal/near-coastal areas. Where numbers were noted, around 80% of reports were of >5 birds, and over 20% of reports were of 100+ birds. 1000+ birds were at Coon Island Swansea (L11) May 21 (MOA) and c 2000 birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 28 (GED).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*RAOU No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

20 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit (M10) Apr 5 (CLT) and 38 birds there Apr 7 (LAK). All other reports were of 1-5 birds – at KI/Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC), Mar 2, 23 & 24 (LAK, LIA, CLT) and Nov 9 (HBOC), and at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA) and Jun 3 (HBOC). The two birds at Stockton Sandspit Jan 21 were immatures.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*RAOU No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

Moderately often recorded at estuarine locations and at other large saline or brackish waters, mostly as 1-5 birds. 7 birds were at KI big pond Apr 5 (CLT) and 6 birds at Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA). There were no records over the period Oct-Dec. Two immature birds were at Stockton Sandspit Jan 21 (HBOC).

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*RAOU No: 115 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded along coast; around 60% of reports were of 6+ birds including 20% being of 20+ birds. Birds were with dependent young at KI/Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC).

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*RAOU No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

Not recorded since 1994.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*RAOU No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were moderately often recorded around Newcastle Harbour (M10) and nearby beaches over Jan-Mar and from Nov 10, with counts peaking at c 100 birds Jan 15 and Mar 23 (LIA) and 250+ birds Dec 4/5 (BID). Elsewhere, 50+ birds were at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), 6+ birds at Myuna Bay (L11) Dec 8 (HBOC) and single birds at Swansea (L11) Jan 7 (STA) and Nine Mile Beach (L11) Nov 10 (HBOC).

Little Tern *Sterna albigrons*RAOU No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Birds were occasionally recorded around Newcastle Harbour (M10) and nearby beaches over Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec, mostly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Stockton beach (M10) Mar 5 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Swansea (L11) Jan 7 (STA) and Myuna Bay (L11) Feb 6 (ROD). All other records were from N of the Region, especially at Harrington (S4) where 100+ birds were present Jan 31 (OCG) and late Dec (CBOC, NBL). Harrington breeding reports were: 4 adults in breeding plumage Oct 1; 30 adults in breeding plumage Oct 16; first nest with egg seen Oct 22; 2 nests & 3 eggs Oct 23; 1 nest destroyed by fox Oct 24 (all from PMTW); 200 pairs with 72 young Dec 27 (NBL). Other breeding reports were of a nest with 1 egg (later lost) at Miles Island (Q6) Dec 10 and 2 free-flying young & 1 runner at Little Gibber MLNP (P8) Dec 28 (TUD).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*RAOU No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

6+ birds were recorded at SBS Dec 3 (PEJ).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*RAOU No: 109 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A group of adults and immatures (30+ birds in total) were recorded in Newcastle Harbour (M10) Mar 21 (LAK). Birds were also present Apr 6/7 near the harbour entrance, with some in breeding plumage (LAK).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*RAOU No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Occasionally recorded, with all reports from E of the Region. 20+ birds were recorded at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Sep 15 (LAK) and Newcastle foreshore (M10) Dec 4 (HBOC). The reporting rate is not considered to reflect the true population.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*RAOU No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded in E of the Region, with all records except one being of <5 birds. 50 birds were at Manning Point (S4) Sep 5 (MVBW).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*RAOU No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in E and central parts of the Region, with the greater majority of reports being of 1-5 birds. 11 birds were at Redhead (M11) Feb 27 (GJC). The most westerly records were from the Singleton (J8) area (ALP).

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*RAOU No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded in E and central parts of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. Seven birds were recorded at both Morisset (K11) Jun 22 (GED) and Copeland Tops (M4) Dec 22 (JUT).

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*RAOU No: 033 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Sandbar (R7) Sep 12 (MVBW), Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG), Main Creek (J6) Nov 3 (JUT), The Pines Watagan Mountains (J11) Nov 7 (OCG), Kangaroo Mountain (I6) Nov 21 (JUT), Newcastle Golf Course (M10) Dec 14 (CBOC) and Harrington (S4) Dec 29 (CBOC). Some birds were also at Woko N.P. (M3) Mar 16 (MVBW) and Telegraphy Forest Park (M6) Jun 7/10 (WMR).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*RAOU No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Most records were of 1-5 birds – at Wingen (H4) Jun 20, Sep 6 and Nov 30 (NEG), Broke (I9) Jul 25 (ALP), Belmont Lagoon (L11) Sep 15 (LAK), near Scone (H5) Sep 22 (TOM), Weston (K9) Oct 30 (OCG), Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (NEG) and Redhead (M11) Dec 7 (GJC). Six birds were at Ellalong (J10) Feb 10 and 12 birds Apr 6 (MEJ1), and six birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*RAOU No: 035 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at BBNP (R6) Jan 9 (LIA) and Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC).

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. 20+ birds were at Strathcedar (Q3) Apr 20 (MVBW), Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC) and Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB). Birds were nest building at Mayfield (M10) Mar 11 (CLT) and Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG), had a nest with eggs at Woodville (L9) early Apr (NEM) – 1 egg hatched overnight of Apr 5/6 – and had nests with young at Wingen Sep 6 (NEG) and Buttaba (L11) Oct/Nov (WAR).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*RAOU No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Not recorded
Status: Rare.

No confirmed records.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*RAOU No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Seven birds were at Battery Rocks (E6) May 26 (STA/PHP). All other records were of 1-5 birds – at Barrington Reserve (N4) Jan 26/28 (STA), Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), Battery Rocks (E6) Apr 26 & Jun 8 (STA), Doyles Creek Road (G8) May 26 (STA/PHP), Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (HBOC), near Scone (H5) Sep 22 (TOM). Injured birds, which died, were found at Fenninghams Island (O9) Feb 3, Apr 12 & May 26 and at Toronto (L11) May 11 and Marmong Point (L10) Aug 25 (NATF).

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*RAOU No: 032 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in E and central parts of Region. Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but 6-10+ birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. (M8) Jun 16 (CBOC), Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (HBOC) and in the Stockton/KI area Nov 9 (HBOC).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*RAOU No: 044 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Usual resident.

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

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*RAOU No: 025 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Copeland S.F. (M4) Sep 28 (CBOC) and 4 birds at nearby Copeland Tops Dec 22 (JUT), and 5+ birds were at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Aug 11 (MAG). An injured bird, which was treated and released, was found at Tomago (M9) Jul 27 (NATF).

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*RAOU No: 023 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare (*New to list*).

A road-killed bird was found near Pacific Palms (R7) Apr 19 (TUD).

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*RAOU No: 021 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

No confirmed records.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*RAOU No: 027 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Bird of passage.

1-5 birds were recorded at Cundletown (R4) May 2 (OCG), Swansea South (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC) and Copeland S.F. (M4) Sep 28 (CBOC). Some birds were also at Hannam Vale (R3) Nov 3 (MVBW). An injured bird, which died, was found at Gresford (L7) Sep 22 (NATF).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*RAOU No: 265 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident.

Four birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC), while two birds were seen at Heaton S.F. (L10) Jun 3 (FOC), Awaba (L10) late Aug (MCG), Howes Valley (H10) Oct 26 & Nov 10 (NBL) and Gloucester Tops (L5) Dec 28 (NBL).

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 the Region, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 15% of reports were of 20+ birds, with a flock of 30-40 being often recorded in the Raymond Terrace/Williamstown area (N9/M9) during Aug-Dec (SJR, GED). Birds were feeding young at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*RAOU No: 268 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 14 (LIA) and Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/21 (HBOC), and four birds at Wishing Well Forest Park Watagan Mountains (K11) Aug 8 (HLC).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*RAOU No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Reconfirmed*)
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 60 birds were at Ellalong (J10) Feb 19 and 50 birds there Nov 3 (MEJ1), and 20+ birds were at Wingen (H4) Jun 20 (NEG). All other reports were of <20 birds. A totally grey bird and a dark grey/brown bird were at Woodberry (L9) Jan 1 and Jan 5, respectively (MLR). Birds had dependent young at Wallsend (M10) during Nov (CLT).

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*RAOU No: 272 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

36 birds were recorded at Morisset (K11) Feb 20 (LIA), 22 birds at Brightwaters (L11) Mar 6 (LIA) and 20 at Swan Bay (N9) Aug 16 (PRK). Also, several birds were in a 200+ flock of all four local *Cacatua spp* feeding in a paddock at Belford (J8) Jul 30 (PRK). Two dependent young were in the flock at Brightwaters.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*RAOU No: 271 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded, especially in SE of the Region where flocks of 50-100+ were often present. 200+ birds were at Edgeworth (L10) Mar 6 (OCG). Notably, some inland records also were received – 50-80 birds were at Arrowfield (H7) Feb 20 and <5 birds were near Jerrys Plains (H7) Aug 22 & Oct 2 (all ALP records), and some birds were in a mixed flock of *Cacatua spp* feeding in a paddock at Belford (J8) Jul 30 (PRK).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*RAOU No: 269 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded. Around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds, but flocks of 20-100+ were not uncommon. Birds were nesting at Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*RAOU No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*RAOU No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in E of the Region, usually in groups of <10 birds. However, 20-50 birds were often recorded at locations near both Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie. The most westerly record was of two birds at Clarencetown (M8) Dec 26 (KEM).

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*RAOU No: 256 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded along the coastal fringe of the Region, with around 50% of reports being of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Wyee Point (K12) Jun 18 & 22 (GED, CJC), Little Bay (O9) Jul 12 (MOA) and Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*RAOU No: 258 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Bird of passage.

20+ birds were recorded at Cassilis (B5) Oct 23 (CBOC), and three birds at Wingen (H4) Sep 6 (NEG). Some birds (<5) were also at Wingen Jun 20 (NEG). Eight birds were at Little Bay (O9) Jul 12 (MOA).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*RAOU No: 260
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and moderately often recorded, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. 25 birds were at Morisset (K11) Mar 4 (LIA).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*RAOU No: 281
Status: Usual resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Widely and often recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Large numbers were frequently at Ellalong (J10) during Mar-Apr, with the count peaking at 30 birds Mar 17 (MEJ1).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*RAOU No: 280
Status: Accidental (*New to list*)

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

A single bird was recorded at Turill (B5) Oct 7 (HAS).

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*RAOU No: 282
Status: Usual resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Widely and moderately often recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 30 birds were at Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 6 (SJR).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*RAOU No: 288
Status: Common resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were in Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC) and at Wingen (H4) Sep 6 (NEG), and 50+ birds in Salt Ash/Medowie area (N9) Jul 13 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Shortland (M10) Sep 30 (BIA), and 12-16 immatures were together at NLH Dec 23 (HIM).

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*RAOU No: 309
Status: Rare.HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised from: 3*)

Breeding: No

A single bird was at Wyee (K12) Jun 8/9 (CBOC, FOC).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*RAOU No: 295
Status: Resident.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Widely and often recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Large numbers (20+ birds) were often present at Arrowfield (H7), with the count peaking at 50+ birds Jun 17 (ALP). 20+ birds were also at Bowmans Crossing (H7) Jan 6 (STA) and Buchanan (L9) Aug 2 (PRK). Birds were inspecting hollows for nesting sites at Singleton (J8) Jul 28 and Aug 3 (ALP).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*RAOU No: 302
Status: Uncommon resident.

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

20+ birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Mar 23 (BIA). Two birds were at Murrumbo (D7) Aug 15 and four birds there Aug 21 (GED). Four birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 23 (GED) – birds were also heard there Jun 8/10 (HBOC).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*RAOU No: 336
Status: Accidental.

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Not recorded since 1994.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*RAOU No: 337
Status: Usual summer migrant.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

First recorded return was Aug 17 when a single bird was present at Green Wattle Creek (L9) Aug 17 (NEM). Birds began to be widespread from early Sep, and were moderately often recorded, as single birds or pairs, for the remainder of the year. There were no reports for the first part of the year.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*RAOU No: 339
Status: Summer migrant.

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Birds were seen or heard at Vacy (L8) Jan 6 (HBOC), Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC), SWC Sep 5 (ROD), Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG) and Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (NEG).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

RAOU No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, always as <5 birds. Around 80% of reports were for the period May-Nov.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

RAOU No: 341 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

RAOU No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant, some birds may be present all year.

Single birds were recorded at Wallaroo S.F. (N8) May 3 & 7 (BOS), Shortland (M10) Jul 16 (LIA), Awaba (L11) Jul 30 (TOM) and Tomago (M9) Sep 7 (LIA). A young bird was being fed by Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* at SWC in early/mid Jan (LIA).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

RAOU No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds are present all year. (Text revised)

Widely and often recorded, as 1-2 birds where exact numbers were noted. 40% of records were for the period May-August. A young bird was being fed by Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana* at SWC Oct 2 (WMR), and an adult bird was being fed by another adult at Tahlee (O8) Oct 30 (STA).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

RAOU No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1992).

Not recorded.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

RAOU No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded, with most reports being from the central and E of the Region. The most westerly report was from Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG). A bird was heard at New Lambton until Apr 4 (STA), and the first recorded return date was Sep 19, when a bird was at Kahibah (M10) (BAW). Widespread returns commenced on Sep 27. A young bird was being fed by Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* at Warners Bay (L10) Feb 2 (WMR).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded in the central and E of the Region. Birds were present until at least Feb 26, when heard for the last time at Wallsend (M10) (CLT). First recorded return was Sep 4, when a single bird was at Toronto (L11) (TOM). Arrival dates elsewhere in the Region mostly spanned the following three weeks.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

RAOU No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Single birds or pairs were recorded at Garden Suburb (M10) Jan 4 (PEJ), Barrington Reserve (N4) Jan 26/28 (STA), Belmont Lagoon (L11) Mar (LAK), Tanilba Bay (N9) Oct 4 (BLM), Forster (R6) Nov 27 (WMK), Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Dec 1 (GJC) and at Redhead (M11) Jan 10, Dec 7 & 22 (GJC). Some birds were also at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG) and Awabakal N.R. Oct 10 (GJC). Injured birds were found at Redhead Jan 16 and Bobs Farm (O9) Oct 15 (NATF).

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

RAOU No: 248 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at Glendale (L10) Jan 9 (PET), Buttai (L9) Feb 27 & Mar 5 (PET), The Basin Watagan Mountains (J11) Mar 16 (BOD), Dudley (M10) Jun 16 (FOC), Allworth (N8) Jul 31 (PET), and BbR Nov 23 (LIP), and birds were heard at Korsmans MLNP (P7) May 2 (TUD) and Hallidays Point (R5) Jun 4 (PET). An injured bird was found at Swansea (L11) Aug 12 (NATF).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

RAOU No: 246 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare.

Not recorded – but see Supplementary Records.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*RAOU No: 242 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Very few reports were received – birds were at Toronto (L11) Jan 15 & Apr 4 (TOM), Singleton (J8) Jan 28 (ALP), Buttaba (L11) Mar 21 (TOM), Green Wattle Creek (L9) Apr 10 (NEM), Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC), and near Scone (H5) Sep 25 (TOM). 14 injured birds were treated during the year (NATF).

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*RAOU No: 253 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Sharpes Creek Gloucester Tops (M5) Nov 15 (NBL).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 250 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3) Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare.

The only record which could be confirmed was of a single bird was recorded at Wingham (Q4) Sep 22 (BEM).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*RAOU No: 249 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3) Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident, probably under-recorded). (Revised from: Rare)

A single bird was regularly seen and heard at Dellhurst (J6) over April/ early May, often calling at dusk (JUT). Single birds were also at Rutherford (L9) Apr 10 (SMJ), Nesca Park Newcastle (M10) Apr 28 (MEJ2), Fullerton Cove (M10) May 24 (GED), Arrowfield (H7) Jul 16 (ALP), WWW Aug (TAH) and Sandgate (M10) Nov 6 (BID). 13 injured birds were treated during the year – 10 of these were in Sep (NATF). The Nesca Park sighting was in daytime, and the bird was being mobbed.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*RAOU No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Only occasionally recorded formally, but 90 injured birds were treated during the year (NATF). Birds were on nest at University of Newcastle (M10) Sep 11 (MPM) and had dependent young at Dellhurst (J6) Nov 3 (JUT) and Rankin Park (M10) Nov 13 (STJ). The nest at the University was also used in 1995.

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*RAOU No: 330 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

An injured bird, which was treated and released, was found near Mount Sugarloaf (L10) Feb 4 (NATF).

Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*RAOU No: 331 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1989).

Not recorded.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*RAOU No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Toronto (L11) Apr 4 (TOM), Dawsons Hill (J6) Jul 10 (JUT) and Wingen (H4) Oct 26 (NEG), and an injured bird was found at Singleton (J8) Jul 24 and successfully treated (NATF). The bird at Dawsons Hill was sunning itself in daytime.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*RAOU No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were occasionally recorded over Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec, mostly in small groups but sometimes in greater numbers. 40+ birds were at Warkworth (I8) Jan 10 (ALP) and Jewells (M11) Nov 13 (LAK) and 80 birds at Ellalong (J10) Dec 2 (MEJ1). Three birds were at Belmont Lagoon (L11) in Mar (LAK).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*RAOU No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Not recorded.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*RAOU No: 319 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (1988)
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Toronto Swamp (L11) Jan 10 (MOA), SWC May 9 (WCR), Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC), Weston (K9) Oct 30 (OCG) and Ellalong Lagoon (J10) Dec 28 (MEJ1), and two birds were in MLNP (P8) Apr 25 (YAR).

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. 20+ birds were in the Salt Ash/Medow area (N9) Jul 13 (HBOC) and at Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG). Birds were nesting at Fassifern (L10) Aug 24 (EAS/DUP), had dependent young at Toronto Swamp (L11) Jan 10 (MOA), and were carrying food at Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG).

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, always as <5 birds. Few records after early Mar, until the first recorded return near Scone (H5) Sep 25 (TOM). However, winter records were of birds at Stockton (M10) Apr 5 and May 11 (CLT, LIA), Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA), Tahlee/ Carrington (O8) Jun 8 (GED), MLNP (P8) Jun 8/10 (CJB) and Dora Creek (L11) Jun 12 (TOM). Birds had dependent young at both SWC and Broadwater MLNP (P8) in Jan (LIA, TUD).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

RAOU No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.

1-5 birds were recorded at Bowmans Crossing (H7) Jan 6 and Oct 8 (STA, ALP), Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), Wollombi/Bucketty area (I10/11) Feb 4 (YAR), BBNP (R6) Sep 19 (TUD), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Oct 4 (HAS), Warakeila (L6) Oct 19 (NEM), Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 20 (HBOC) and Ashtonfield (L9) Dec 8 (ROS), and 6+ birds at Milbrodale (I9) regularly over Sep 20/22 (HBOC).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

RAOU No: 318 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.

Widely and frequently recorded. Only around 5% of reports were of >5 birds, and with 20+ birds at Eccleston (K6) Feb 3 (HBOC). Birds were present until at least Mar 2, when last recorded at Singleton (J8) (ALP). The first recorded return was Sep 29, when a single bird was at Arcadia Vale (L11) (KEB). Within one week, birds were widespread. Birds were on nests at Carey Bay (L11) Nov 13 (HLC), Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG) and Clarencetown (M8) Dec 26 (KEM), and were carrying food at Vacy (L8) Jan 6 (HBOC).

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

RAOU No: 352 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

One or more birds were at Gap Creek Watagan S.F. (K11) Apr 27/28 (BIA), Copeland Common (N4) Oct 5 and Dec 28 (NBL) and Copeland Tops (M4) Nov 16 and Dec 22 (NBL, JUT).

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Common resident.

Birds were seen or heard at Cobark Park (L4) Jan 27 (STA), Dingo Tops Bulga S.F. (O2) Feb 1 (MVBW/OCG), Telegraphy Forest Park (M6) Feb 25 and Jun 7/10 (HBOC, WMR), The Mountaineer (M5) Feb 25 (HBOC), Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 17 (YAR), Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Mar 25 (TOM), Mount Vincent (L10) May 22 (OCG), Dunns Creek (L8) Jun 1 (HBOC), Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 26 and Sep 14 (OCG, TOM) and Kundibakh (P4) Oct 19 (MVBW).

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

RAOU No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 28 (CBOC).

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*

RAOU No: 558 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds and all being of <20 birds. Most reports of 6+ birds were from Jun-Jul.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

RAOU No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were recorded on three occasions – at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 17 (YAR) and Nov 16 (CBOC), and Dilgry Circle Barrington Tops (L4) early Sep (TAT).

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 White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 and Oct 4 (HBOC, HAS).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*RAOU No: 529 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 6+ birds including 25% being of 20+ birds. 64 birds were at Warakeila (L6) Apr 12 (NEM) and Eccleston (K6) Apr 28 (LIA), and also 50+ birds at KI/Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC). Birds were feeding young at Woodberry (L9) Nov 1 (SJR).

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*RAOU No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in central and E of Region, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21, White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 and Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (all HBOC records), and at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Dec 1 (GJC).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*RAOU No: 541 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

Single birds were recorded at Coral Ville (S3) Feb 9 (MVBW) and Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Oct 27 (TOM), and five birds at Harrington (S4) Dec 29 (CBOC). The bird at Coral Ville was an immature.

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*RAOU No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident, locally common.

Occasionally recorded in E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), Morisset (K11) Mar 22 (TOM) and Belmont Lagoon Sep 11 (LIA). There were three immature birds with two adults at SWC Jan 2 (LIA).

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*RAOU No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Sep 22 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (both HBOC). Six breeding reports received – spanning Aug-Oct.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*RAOU No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC) and Warakeila (L6) Jul 27 (NEM).

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*RAOU No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Six birds were at Howes Valley (H10) Sep 14 (LIA); some birds were also recorded at GRNP (C6) Feb 17 (JUT) and Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 6 (OCG).

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*RAOU No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Dingo Tops (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG), Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 17 (YAR), Olney S.F. (J11) Apr 18 (TOM), Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 6 and Sep 14 (OCG, TOM) and Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (LIA). Some birds were also at Telegherry Forest Park (M6) Jun 7/10 – numbers were not noted (WMR).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*RAOU No: 488 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 Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Oct 24 (GJC).

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*RAOU No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Meyers Flat MLNP (Q7) Jan 9 (TUD), Cobark Park (L4) Jan 27 (STA), Dingo Tops (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG), Cooperook S.F. (R3) Feb 17 (MVBW), Telegherry Forest Park (M6) Feb 25 (HBOC), Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC), Awaba S.F. (K10) Jul 6 (YAR), Mount Vincent (L10) Sep 14 (TOM) and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Oct 30 (STA). Birds were feeding fledged young at both Meyers Flat and Cooperook S.F.

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*RAOU No: 498 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

Single birds were recorded at Bucketty (I11) Feb 4 (YAR), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC) and Killingworth (L10) Oct 5 (TOM).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*RAOU No: 504 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in central and W of Region, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. 30+ birds were at Bulga (I8) Jun 30 and 100+ birds there Sep 8 (CBOC). Birds were carrying food at Milbrodale (I9) Sep 22 (HBOC).

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*RAOU No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded in central and W of Region, with most reports being of <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/21 and 50+ birds at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (both HBOC).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*RAOU No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in central and E of Region, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. 20+ birds were at Telegherry Forest Park (M6) Feb 25 and Dunns Creek (L8) Jun 1 (both HBOC) and Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (LIA). Birds were feeding fledged young at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Feb 17 (MVBW).

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*RAOU No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC), Fern Bay (M10) Oct 27 (TOM), Swansea (L11) Nov 10 (STA), Ash Island (M10) Dec 31 (STA), and on many occasions in the KI/Stockton area. 6+ birds were at Ash Island Jan 7 (STA). Although birds were carrying food at Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC), this is considered insufficient evidence for a breeding record.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*RAOU No: 463 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (1987, 1989)
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC), and two birds at Broke (I9) Sep 8 (FOC).

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. Present generally until at least Mar 22, when last recorded around Lake Macquarie (TOM). However, birds were heard at both Vacy (L8) May 4 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (both HBOC). The first recorded return of the migrating population was Sep 6, when seen at Wingen (H4) (NEG). Within days, birds were widespread.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*RAOU No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds and most others were of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Mar 24, Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 and Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (all HBOC records). Birds were feeding fledged young at Cooperook S.F. (R3) Feb 17 (MVBW).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*RAOU No: 484 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in central and W of Region, with all reports being of <20 birds. Birds were nesting at Bulga (I8) Sep 14 (LIA).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

RAOU No: 486 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and often recorded; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were in Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC). A pair was nest building at Cooranbong (K11) Aug 1 and had fledged young on Sep 18 (BIA).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

RAOU No: 471 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. 20+ birds were at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 and Dec 31 (STA) and at Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (HBOC). Birds were feeding a young Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* at SWC Oct 2 (WMR).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

RAOU No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded; around 45% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

RAOU No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident.

Not recorded since 1994.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

RAOU No: 638 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Widely and often recorded, with 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were in the Salt Ash/Medowie area (N9) Jul 13 (HBOC) and at Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG). Birds had nests with young at Wingen (H4) Sep 6 (NEG) and The Ruins BBNP (R6) Sep 25 (TUD), were on nest in the Forster/Tuncurry area Dec 7/8 (ALP), and were carrying food at Wingen Nov 30 (NEG). Birds were feeding a young Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* at Warners Bay (L10) Feb 2 (WMR).

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

RAOU No: 637 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Regularly recorded at suitable near-coastal habitat; around 45% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ), Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Mar 24 (HBOC), MLNP (P8) Jun 8/10 (CJB) and Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG). Birds were nest building at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC), had a nest with eggs at Tomago (M9) Sep 7 (LIA) and were with chicks at Bonnells Bay (L11) Sep 10 (LIA).

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

RAOU No: 585 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, always as 1-5 birds or the birds were heard only.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

RAOU No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 50% of reports were of 6-20 birds, and much larger groups were not uncommon. 100+ birds were recorded at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Apr 14 (LAK) and in the Salt Ash/Medowie area (N9) Jul 13 (HBOC). Birds were carrying food at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (NEG) and had nests with young at Arrowfield (H7) Oct 31 and Nov 15 (ALP) – these were different nests.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

RAOU No: 646 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Bird of passage.

A single bird was recorded at MLNP (P8) Oct 30 (KEM).

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*RAOU No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

Birds were recorded on a few occasions in Goulburn River N.P., especially around White Box Camp (C6) where 10 birds were present Jun 8/10 (HBOC), 4 birds Jun 22 and 8 birds Aug 23 (both GED). Seven birds were also in the National Park Jul 7 & 25 (NBL). Groups of 4 birds were at Merriwa (E5) Jul 19 (NBL) and Wyee Point (L11) over May 18 - Jun 9 (FOC, CBOC). One bird was with a flock of Noisy Friarbird (*Philemon corniculatus*) at Morisset (K11) Apr 27 (NBL).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*RAOU No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were in the Ash Island/KI area (M10) Jan 2 (ALP), at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC), and Ellalong (J10) Nov 26 (MEJ1). A pair were with two fledged young at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Oct 30 (STA), and five immature birds were amongst the party present at Ellalong.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*RAOU No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Reconfirmed)
Status: Resident (revised from: Local resident).

Moderately often recorded in central and E of Region; around 50% of reports were of 6-20 birds and a further 20% were of 20+ birds. Birds were feeding fledged young at Glenrock SRA (M10) Apr 2 (HBOC) – this is the first confirmed breeding record for over ten years.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*RAOU No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 35% of reports being of 6-20 birds and a further 20% of >20 birds. 50+ were at MLNP (P8) Jun 8/10 (CJB). Birds were nesting at Bombah Point MLNP (P7) Jan 1 (TUD) and at New Lambton (M10) during Sep (STA).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*RAOU No: 605 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in E and central parts of the Region, with around 50% of reports being of 6+ birds. 20+ birds were present in Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG) and at Dunns Creek (L8) Jun 1 (HBOC), Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC) and Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*RAOU No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident, influxes in autumn/winter.

Widely and regularly recorded. All counts of 20+ birds were from the period Apr-Oct, while all counts of 50+ birds were in Apr-Aug. 100+ birds were at South Swansea (L11) May 21 (MOA), Coon Island (L11) Jun 1 (MOA) and Tomago (M9) Aug 3 (HBOC), while many hundreds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC). 2000+ birds, in flocks of 100-300, were moving in a south-easterly direction at Redhead (M11) on Apr 26, and a further 1000+ birds passed through on the following day (GJC). Birds were feeding young at Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 20 (HBOC) and were on nest at Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG).

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.

20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Yarrowa (F7) May 26 (STA/PHP), Wingen (H4) Jun 20 and Sep 6 and Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (all NEG records).

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*RAOU No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10, Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/21 (both HBOC) and Honeysuckle Creek (D7) Oct 7 (STA). 1-5 birds were at Jesmond (M10) May 8 and Aug 20 (LIP, BLM), Yarrowa (F7) May 26 (STA/PHP), Ellalong area (J10) Jun 30 (YAR), Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 14 (TOM), Monkerai area (N6) Oct 12 (LIA) and in the Farley/Cessnock area (L/K9) Oct 21 (OCG). Some birds were also at Green Point (L11) Sep 12 (ROD).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*RAOU No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Regularly recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L9) – peaking at 21 birds Aug 17 and with typical counts being of 8-13 birds (NEM). 1-5 birds were NW of Gungah (E6) May 26 (STA/PHP) and at Woodville (L9) Jun 19 (HBOC) and Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 14 (TOM). 20+ birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC), and also 6+ birds there Oct 4 (HAS).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*RAOU No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident in central/west of Region, uncommon elsewhere.

Moderately often recorded in central and W of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. Frequently present at Arrowfield (H7), and an adult was seen feeding a single fledged young there Sep 18 (ALP).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*RAOU No: 580 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Amended)
Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region. (Revised: previously considered to be a bird of passage)

Three birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC) while two birds were there Jul 12 (GED) and in an area slightly north (cell C5) Jul 25 (FOC). Two birds also were in the Wollombi/Bucketty area (I10/11) Feb 4 (YAR), and a single bird at Ravensworth S.F. (I7) Apr 23 (TOM).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*RAOU No: 583 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (Revised)
Status: Resident, uncommon in E of Region.

20+ birds were at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (both HBOC). All other records were of 1-5 birds – at Battery Rocks (E6) May 26 (STA/PHP), Woodville (L9) Jun 19 (HBOC), Wingen (H4) Jun 20 and Sep 6 (NEG), Green Wattle Creek (L9) Jul 7 and Sep 7 (NEM), Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/21 (HBOC), Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 20 (HBOC) and Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (NEG).

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*RAOU No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Tahlee/ Carrington (O8) Apr 21 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (both HBOC records), and at Cams Wharf (L11) Jun 1 (CCF).

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*RAOU No: 597 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (Reconfirmed)
Status: Resident.

Birds were regularly recorded at SWC and around Swansea (L11), and occasionally but widely from elsewhere close to the coast. 6 birds were at Coon Island Swansea Jun 1 (MOA); all other reports were of <5 birds. Birds were nest building at Mayfield (M10) during Nov (CLT).

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*RAOU No: 598 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare.

Not recorded since 1993.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*RAOU No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

10 birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 28 (CBOC), and single birds at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC) and Barrington Tops N.P. (K4) Oct 2 (FOC).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Birds were regularly recorded at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11), and occasionally elsewhere – though mostly from near the coast. An exception was a single bird recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC). 50+ birds were at Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG), and 20+ birds at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ) and Awabakal N.R. Mar 24 (HBOC).

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*RAOU No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Regularly recorded in E of the Region; the most westerly record was from Woodberry (L9) Nov 10 (SJR). Reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal, and 15% of reports were of 20+ birds. 50+ birds were at Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 (OCG).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

RAOU No: 593 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

12+ birds were recorded in Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Nov 24 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Mar 24 and Aug 6 (HBOC), Crowdy Bay N.P. (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB) and Catherine Hill Bay (L11) Aug 11 (YAR). Some birds were also in Pipers Creek area (R6) Mar 7 (MVBW).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

RAOU No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Mar 24 (HBOC).

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

RAOU No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in E of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. The most westerly records were from Martins Creek (L8) Feb 3 and Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/22 (both HBOC). 6-20 birds were at Cams Wharf (L11) May 21 and Jun 1 (MOA, CCF), South Swansea (L11) May 21 (MOA) and Morisset (K11) Jun 29 (CCF).

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

RAOU No: 448 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident

Recorded several times at Ash Island (M10), mostly in counts of <20 but 55 birds were there Apr 18 (GED). Also, several records of 1-5 birds from the KI/Stockton area. 1-5 birds were at Hexham Swamp N.R. (L10/M10) Jan 16 (LIA), Pipers Creek area (R6) Mar 7 (MVBW) and Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC), and 8 birds at Swan Bay (N9) Jun 8 (GED). Birds had dependent young at KI Jan 21 (HBOC).

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

RAOU No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, with around 85% of reports being of 1-5 birds. A juvenile bird was at Singleton (J8) Dec 21 (ALP).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

RAOU No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Cobark Park (L4) Jan 27 (STA), Howes Valley (H10) Apr 28 (NBL), Wyee Point (L11) Jun 22 (CJC) and Wingen (H4) Jun 20, Sep 6 & Nov 30 (NEG).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

RAOU No: 381 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.

Recorded several times at Bulga (I8) – 4 birds were there Jun 30 (CBOC), 12+ birds Sep 8 (CBOC) and a pair Sep 14 (LIA). Two pairs were present near Scone (H5) Sep 22 with one pair again recorded there Sep 25 (TOM). Three birds were at Jerrys Plains (H7) Oct 2 (FOC).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

RAOU No: 382 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 17 (YAR).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

RAOU No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Occasionally recorded, as single birds or pairs where numbers were noted. Only two records were from outside the period Apr-Sep – both for Feb 25, at Telegraphy Forest Park (M6) and The Mountaineer (M5) (both HBOC). An immature male was at Woodville (L9) Apr 27 (NEM).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

RAOU No: 385 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (1988)
Status: Resident, in west of Region.

1-5 birds were recorded at NW of Gungal (E6) May 26 (STA/PHP), Battery Rocks (E6) May 26 & Jun 8 (STA), Wingen (H4) Jun 20 & Sep 6 (NEG), Bulga (I8) Jun 30, Sep 8 & 14 (CBOC, LIA) and Singleton (J8) Dec 18 (ALP).

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*RAOU No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Local resident.

Several birds were present at Copeland Tops (M4) Feb 19 (NBL).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*RAOU No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds with the remainder being of <20 birds. Birds were nest building at Wingen (H4) during Sep (NEG).

Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*RAOU No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Local resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Copeland (N4) Sep 29 (CBOC) and two birds at Copeland Tops (M4) Feb 19 (NBL). Birds also were heard at Cooperbrook S.F. (R3) Feb 17 (MVBW) and Telegerry Forest Park (M6) Feb 25 (HBOC).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*RAOU No: 443 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded; around 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Colliery Dam (L10) Aug 11 (CBOC) and 15 were at Ellalong (J10) Feb 17 (MEJ1). Birds were nest building at Beresfield (L9) Nov 8 (BID).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*RAOU No: 445 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (1987)
Status: Local resident.

Two separate groups of 8 birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC).

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*RAOU No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 90% of reports were of 1-5 birds and all others were of <20 birds.

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*RAOU No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Three pairs were recorded at Goulburn River N.P. (C6) Feb 17 (JUT) and two birds were at Olney S.F. (J11) Apr 18 (TOM). An injured bird, which died, was found at Medowie (N9) Sep 15 (NATF).

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*RAOU No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded; 40% of reports were of 6-20 birds and the remainder were of 1-5 birds. A pair had dependent young at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (NEG).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*RAOU No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Apr (LAK), Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21, Dunns Creek (L8) Jun 1, White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (all HBOC), Green Wattle Creek (L9) Jun 9, Jul 7 & Nov 16 (all NEM), Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 20 (HBOC) and Ashtonfield (L9) Dec 8 (ROS). Some birds were also at Telegerry Forest Park (M6) Jun 7/10 (WMR) and Bootawa (Q4) in Sep (MVBW). Birds at Ashtonfield had dependent young.

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.

A single bird was at Careys Peak (K5) Aug 4 (PET) and two birds at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 28 (CBOC).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*RAOU No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds and the remainder were of 6-20 birds. Birds were carrying food at Vacy (L8) Jan 6 (HBOC).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*RAOU No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant and local resident.

Many winter records were received, all of < 5 birds – at MLNP (P8) Jun 8/10 (CJB), Woodville (L9) Jun 19 (HBOC), Wingen (H4) Jun 20 (NEG), Morpeth (L9) Jul 17 (ROD), SWC Aug 1 & 20 (BIA, ROD), Colliery Dam (L10) Aug 11 (NBL), and Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 26 (OCG). For the remainder of the year, birds were widely and frequently recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*RAOU No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were in Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG). A bird was carrying food at Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC).

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

Moderately often recorded, mainly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were in Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG) and at Eccleston (K6) Apr 28 and Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (both LIA). Birds were present until at least Apr 6, when recorded at Woodville (L9) (NEM). First recorded return was Sep 22, when present at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) (GJC).

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*RAOU No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

All records were of <5 birds – at Copeland Tops (M4) Feb 19 (NBL), Copeland S.F. (M4) Sep 28 (CBOC), Copeland Common (N4) Oct 5 (NBL), MLNP (P8) Oct 9 (BIA), Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (LIA), Wallingat S.F. (Q6/7) Dec 26 (CBOC) and Harrington (S4) Dec 29 (CBOC).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*RAOU No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded in central and E of Region. Departure date was not noted; first recorded return was Oct 5 when birds were present at Green Wattle Creek (L9) (NEM). Most reports were of 1-5 birds; however, 7-11 birds were often at Green Wattle Creek over Oct-Dec (NEM). Birds had a nest with eggs at Woodville (L9) Feb 18 (NEM).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*RAOU No: 366 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*RAOU No: 369 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded; all reports were of <5 birds.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*RAOU No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 80% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at KI Jan 21 (HBOC), were nest building at Murdering Gully (M10) Sep 15 (STA) and nested at SWC over Aug-Sep and again in mid-Oct (ROD).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*RAOU No: 362 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded in E of Region, mainly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were in Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG). Present until at least May 7, when recorded at BbR (HBOC). The first recorded return was of 2 birds at University of Newcastle (M10) Oct 9 (TAH).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*RAOU No: 361 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Birds were widely and regularly recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Vacy (L8) Jan 6 (HBOC) and Tomago (M9) Sep 7 (LIA).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*RAOU No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were present at Harrington (S4) Jan 31, in Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 and in Ash Island/KI area Aug 7 (all OCG records). Birds had nests with young at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ) and Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA), were carrying food at Swansea (L11) Jan 7 (STA) and were on nest at SWC Oct 14 (ROD).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*RAOU No: 673 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Winter migrant; bird of passage at other times.

Frequently recorded over Apr-Sep, usually as 1-2 birds but 6+ birds were at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC) and Cundletown (R4) May 2 (OCG). There were only three records from outside of the period Apr 21 to Sep 18 and all were in summer months – single birds were recorded at Garden Suburb (M10) Jan 25 (PEJ), Coopers Creek (R3) Nov 3 (MVW) and Dellhurst (J6) Dec 15 (JUT).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*RAOU No: 424 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Birds were widely and regularly recorded. 20+ birds were at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG) and Eccleston (K6) Feb 3 (HBOC), but all other reports were of <20 birds and with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds were on nest at Myall Lakes N.P. (P8) Oct 30 (KEM) and had dependent young at Wallsend (M10) during Nov (CLT).

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*RAOU No: 425 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident. (Revised from: Uncommon bird of passage)

1-5 birds were recorded at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Apr 21 (HBOC), Cundletown (R4) May 2 (OCG), Wingen (H4) in May and Jun 20 (NEG), Woodville (L9) Jun 19 (HBOC), Bulga (I8) Sep 8 (CBOC), Green Wattle Creek (L9) Sep 7 and Oct 5 (NEM) and near Scone (H5) Sep 22 (TOM). The bird at Wingen in May was of dark phase.

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

RAOU No: 428 (New to list) HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

A single bird was recorded at Harrington (S4) Dec 26 (VEE).

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*RAOU No: 429 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Summer migrant.

Single birds or pairs were recorded at Vacy (L8) Jan 6 (HBOC), Milbrodale (I9) Sep 20/21 (HBOC), Kundibakh (P4) Oct 19 (MVW), Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 20 (HBOC), North Arm Cove (O8) Oct 30 (STA), Booti Booti N.P. area (R6) Nov 24 (HBOC), Clarencetown (M8) Dec 6 (STL), Ashtonfield (L9) Dec 8 (ROS) and Goat Hill (L10) Dec 26 (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: Yes (Reconfirmed)
Status: Summer migrant.

1-5 birds were regularly recorded at Singleton (J8) from Oct 5 onwards, with 10+ birds present Dec 24 and 28, and 25-30 birds Dec 31 (ALP). Elsewhere, low numbers (<5 birds) were recorded at Hexham Swamp N.R. (L10/M10) Jan 16 (LIA), near Scone (H5) Sep 22 & 25 (TOM), near Maitland (L9) early Oct (TAH), at SWC Oct 7 (ROD), Stanhope Creek (K8) Oct 20 (HBOC), Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 30 (NEG), WWW Nov 16 (TAH), Lorn (L9) Nov 16 (TAH) and Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG). The pair at Hexham Swamp N.R. were feeding two fledglings - this is the first breeding record by HBOC since 1985.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*RAOU No: 431 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from: 3) Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Copeland Tops (M4) Oct 3 (FOC).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

RAOU No: 671 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded. Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but 6 birds were at Green Wattle Creek (L9) Aug 17 and 7 birds there Sep 7 (NEM). Birds were nesting at Tamboy MLNP (P8) Dec 6 (TUD).

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

RAOU No: 432 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in areas close to the coast, mainly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ) and Throsby Creek (M10) Jun 30 (CLT). At Santa Barbara BBNP (R6) Dec 12, there were 15 active and 33 inactive nests (TUD) – some birds already were on nest or had nests with young in this location Nov 24 (HBOC). Another 5 active nests were found at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 14 (TUD).

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

RAOU No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded in E of the Region, with all reports being of <20 birds and around 60% being of 1-5 birds. Present until at least May 3, when 12 birds were at Fullerton Cove (M10) (GED). The first recorded return was Aug 8, when 2 birds were at SWC (BAW). Birds had dependent young at SWC during Jan (LIA).

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

RAOU No: 544 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Not recorded.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

RAOU No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Four birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) Sep 21 (GED) and an injured bird, which later died, was found at Fennell Bay (L10) Oct 30 (NATF).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

RAOU No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncertain.

Birds were occasionally recorded, mostly in low numbers. The pattern of movement is unclear – birds were present at BBNP (R6) until Jul 2 and then departed (TUD), but a single bird was recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L9) Aug 17 (NEM) and 15 birds at Appletree Flat (H8) Aug 21 (PRK).

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, predominantly as 1-5 birds. Birds were on nest at Awabakal N.R. (M10/11) Sep 15 (STA).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

RAOU No: 700 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at Barrington Reserve (N4) Jan 27 (STA).

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

RAOU No: 705 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 40% of reports were of 6+ birds but only five reports were of 20+ birds. Breeding records were received covering Aug-Dec, but birds also were nesting at Belmont (L11) Jul 18 (TUD).

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. 21-50 birds were at Dry Creek Rd (F6) Apr 26 (STA), Doyles Creek Road (G8) May 26 (STA/PHP), MLNP (P8) Jun 8/10 (CJB), Pilchers Mountain (M7) Aug 25 (HBOC) and Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Milbrodale (I9) Sep 22 (HBOC).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

RAOU No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1995).

Not recorded.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

RAOU No: 686 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

No confirmed records.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

RAOU No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 50+ birds were at BbR May 7 and 20+ birds at Teralba (L10) Jul 2, Salt Ash/Medowie area (N9) Jul 13 and Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jul 21 (all HBOC records).

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

RAOU No: 868 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Upper Monkerai (N6) Oct 5 (LIA) and 10+ birds at Wallis Lake (Q6/R6) Dec 26 (CBOC).

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

RAOU No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 (or 3?) Breeding: Not recorded
Status: Uncommon local resident. (New to list)

Six birds were recorded at Copeland (N4) Sep 29 (VEE). This sighting supports past unconfirmed reports of a relict population of the species existing in the Hunter Region.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

RAOU No: 692 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Barrington Reserve (N4) Jan 26 (STA), Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG) and Smiths Lake (R7) Sep 12 B (OCG). Three birds were again at Barrington Reserve Jan 27 (STA).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

RAOU No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, with over 70% of reports being of 6+ birds – including 50+ birds at Vacy (L8) May 4 (HBOC), and five other, widespread, records of 20+ birds.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

RAOU No: 676 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

A single bird was recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Mar 16 (MVBW), and birds were also at Telegherry Forest Park (M6) Jun 7/10 – numbers not noted (WMR).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

RAOU No: 684 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Most records were of single birds – at Seal Rocks (R7) Jan 1/3 (PEJ), Williamtown (N9) Jun 21 (NATF), Warakeila (L6) Jul 27 (NEM), Eccleston (K6) Jul 27 (HBOC), Manning Point (S4) Sep 5 (MVBW), Sandbar (R7) Sep 10 (MVBW), and near Merewether/Burwood beach (M10) Nov 10 (HBOC). Ten birds, with no adult males present, were recorded at Paterson (L8) Nov 2 (LIA), and a pair were together at a bower at Gap Creek Watagan S.F. (K11) Oct 11 (BIA). Some birds were in the Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 – numbers were not noted (OCG). The bird at Williamtown was dead.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

RAOU No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded; around 35% of reports were of 6+ birds. High numbers (20+ birds) were sometimes present in paddocks in the Chichester Dam area (M6) over Jul-Sep, with the count peaking at 34 birds Aug 1 (SJR). Only 4 adult males were in this group of 34 birds. An active bower was found at Singleton (J8) Dec 25 (ALP).

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

RAOU No: 648 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

RAOU No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island (M10) Aug 24 (OCG).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

RAOU No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were in an area south of Bunnan (F5) Apr 26 (STA) and in the Ash Island/KI area (M10) Aug 7 (OCG). Birds were carrying food at Hexham Swamp N.R. (L10/M10) Jan 16 (LIA) and had dependent young at Goat Hill (L10) Dec 26 (CLT).

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 at or near populated areas, with around 60% of reports being of 6+ birds and almost 25% being of 20+ birds. 50+ birds were Stockton (M10) Mar 5 and 100+ birds around the Newcastle foreshore (M10) Dec 4 (both HBOC). Birds were carrying food at KI/Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC) and had dependent young at Wallsend (M10) during Nov (CLT).

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

RAOU No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

20-40+ birds were frequently recorded at Arrowfield (H7), and nesting took place there (ALP). Elsewhere, a single bird was recorded at KI Mar 2 (LAK) and 4 birds there Mar 12 (LIA), while 10+ birds were in an area south of Bunnan (F5) Apr 26 and 6 birds at Dalwood (K8) Nov 17 (both STA).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

RAOU No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 21-50 birds were at both Battery Rocks (E6) and Doyles Creek Road (G8) May 26 (STA/PHP) and Milbrodale (I9) Sep 22 (HBOC), and 100+ birds in the Paterson/Vacy area (L8) May 4 (HBOC).

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

RAOU No: 661 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare.

A group of 15 birds were recorded at Battery Rocks (E6) Apr 26 (STA).

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

RAOU No: 662 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 6+ birds including 25% being of 20+ birds. 50 birds were at SWC Sep 5 (ROD) and 100+ birds at Dunns Creek (L8) Jun 1 (HBOC). Birds were displaying at Woko N.P. (M3) Mar 16 (MVBW) and were nest building at Wingen (H4) Nov 30 (NEG).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

RAOU No: 652 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded in central and W of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 10 birds were at Battery Rocks (E6) Apr 26 (STA) and 8+ birds at Bulga (I8) Sep 8 (CBOC), while separate groups of 12 and 3 birds were recorded along Flags Road NW of Gungal (E6) May 26 (STA/PHP).

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*RAOU No: 983 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1991.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*RAOU No: 657 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

A flock of 25 birds was recorded at KI Jul 21 & 28 (GED, TOM), and 6-20 birds at Harrington (S4) Jan 31 (OCG), Shortland (M10) early Oct (HIM) and Whitebridge (M10) Aug 12 (GED). 1-5 birds were recorded at KI Jan 21 (HBOC), SWC Feb 5 (LIA) and Ash Island (M10) Jun 3 (HBOC).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*RAOU No: 996 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Reconfirmed*)
Status: Local resident.

A flock of 30 birds was recorded at KI Jul 21 & 28 (GED, TOM), 6 birds at Port Waratah (M10) during Jun (CLT) and 5 birds at Bolwarra (L9) Jul 17 (ROD). Birds had dependent young at Mayfield (M10) during Nov (CLT).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*RAOU No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Swansea South (L11) May 30 (HAS), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8/10 (HBOC), Wingen (H4) Sep 6 (NEG) and Milbrodale (I9) Sep 21/23 (HBOC). Some birds at Wingen were nest building, and also birds were on nest at Ashtonfield (L9) Dec 8 (ROS).

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*RAOU No: 358 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Bird of passage.

12 birds were recorded at Denman (G7) Jul 12 (GED), and 1-5 birds at Kerrabee (D7) Aug 22 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 23 (both GED), near Scone (H5) Sep 22 (TOM), and at Hunter River near Arrowfield (H7) Oct 8/9 (ALP).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*RAOU No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 65% of reports were of 6+ birds including 20% being of 20+ birds. 100-200+ were at SBS Jun 30 and Jul 10 (HAS, ROD). Birds nested at SWC over Aug-Sep (ROD) and had dependent young at Mayfield (M10) during Nov (CLT). Groups of 10-15 passed through, flying south, every 15-20 minutes at Murdering Gully (M10) Sep 15 (STA).

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*RAOU No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*newly confirmed*)
Status: Resident.

100+ birds were recorded at both Hexham Swamp N.R. (L/M10) Jan 16 (LIA) and Lake St Clair (J6/7) Sep 8 (ALP). 6+ birds were at Barrington Reserve (N4) Jan 26/28 (STA), Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (LIA) and Clarencetown (M8) Dec 26 (KEM), and 1-5 birds at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA) and Battery Rocks (E6) Oct 4 (HAS). Also an injured bird, which died, was found at Vacy (L8) Oct 12 (NATF). Many juveniles were at Hexham Swamp N.R., birds were copulating and also inspecting hollows at Lake St Clair, and two birds were on nests at Clarencetown. These reports, especially the last one, are the first confirmation of breeding status for this species in the Hunter Region.

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*RAOU No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant; some birds appear to be resident.

Moderately often recorded in E and central parts of the Region, in varying numbers up to 30+ birds. Only two records from between Feb 10 and Aug 7 – of <5 birds at SBS (L10) Jun 30 (HAS) and SWC Jul 10 (LIA). By Aug 18, ten birds were at SWC and one pair had a nest with eggs (ROD). 13 nests were there on Oct 10 (LIA).

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*RAOU No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

A single bird was recorded at Forster (R6) Jan 21 (TUD), and two birds at Belmont Lagoon (L11) during both Apr and Dec (LAK).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

RAOU No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident.

Moderately often recorded in E and central parts of Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. Birds were sometimes recorded at SWC/NWR over May-Aug (HBOC, ROD) and also at Belmont Lagoon (L11) Jul 21 (HBOC). Birds were carrying food at Federal Park swamp (M10) Nov 30 (CLT).

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

RAOU No: 523 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Reconfirmed*)
 Status: Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 (STA), NWR Jan 9 (STA), KI Jan 21 (HBOC), SWC Jun 6 & 23, Aug 20 and Oct 21 (TOM, HBOC, ROD), Belmont Lagoon (L11) Sep 15 (LAK), Raymond Terrace (M9) Sep 29 (CBOC) and Booti Booti N.P. (R6) Nov 22 & 24 (TUD, HBOC). Some birds were also at Cabbage Tree Island Dec 13/16 – numbers not noted (BIA). Three pairs were nesting at Federal Park swamp (M10) Dec 21 – separation of about 50 m between each nest (CLT). Birds had been seen with dependent young at this site Nov 30 (CLT).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

RAOU No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
 Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded at SWC (ROD, HBOC). 1-5 birds were also at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Jan 6 (STA), Ash Island (M10) Jan 7 and Dec 31 (STA), Toronto Swamp (L11) Jan 10 (MOA), KI Jan 21 (HBOC), WWW Nov 16 (TAH) and Belmont Swamp (L11) during Dec (LAK).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

RAOU No: 509 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (*newly confirmed*)
 Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region. (*Revised from: Rare*)

Two birds were recorded at Glennies Creek (I7) Apr 12 (TOM), Broke (I9) Sep 8 (FOC) and Battery Rocks (E6) Oct 4 (HAS), and single birds at Bowmans Crossing (H7) Jan 6 (STA) and Bulga (I8) Sep 8 (CBOC). Three birds were at Wingen (H4) Nov 30, including one bird on a nest (NEG). This appears to be the first confirmed breeding record by HBOC.

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

RAOU No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Uncertain. (*Revised from: Bird of passage*)

Two birds were at Glennies Creek (I7) Apr 12 (TOM).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

RAOU No: 525 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in E of the Region; 75% of reports were of 1-5 birds and all were of <20 birds. Birds were nesting at Ellalong Lagoon (J10) Dec 28 (MEJ1).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

RAOU No: 574 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Common resident and winter migrant.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 30% of reports being of 20+ birds. No clear winter influx was apparent – the frequency of counts of 20+ birds was fairly constant throughout the year.

THRUSH SPECIES

Both *Zoothera* species (*Z. lunulata*, *Z. heinei*) are found within the Hunter Region. However, field differentiation, except when calling, is difficult. Observers are encouraged to make a specific report, but a precise identification is not always possible. Confirmed reports of either 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.

Two birds were recorded at both Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 17 (YAR) and Olney S.F. (J11) Apr 18 (TOM), and a single bird at MLNP (P8) Jun 8/10 (CJB).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

RAOU No: 780 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
 Status: Uncertain.

Two birds were recorded at Warakeila (L6) Jul 27 (NEM) and 6+ birds at Copeland S.F. (M4) Sep 29 (VEE).

Unidentified Thrush Sightings

Birds were recorded at Cobark Park (L4) Jan 27 (STA), Dingo Tops area (O2/3) Feb 1 (OCG), Telegherry Forest Park (M6) Jun 7/10 (WMR), Eccleston (K6) Jul 27 (HBOC) and Trevor S.F. (M6) Nov 2 (LIA).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

RAOU No: 991 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Single birds were present at Wingen (H4) for one week in early Sep (NEG) and at Sand Bar (R7) Sep 12 (OCG).

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, with over 40% being of 20+ birds. Six widespread reports were of 100+ birds. Some birds were nest building at Wingen (H4) Sep 6 and others were on nest there Nov 30 (NEG); birds also had a nest with young at Stockton (M10) Oct 13 (STA).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

RAOU No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 60% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 100+ birds were at Ash Island (M10) Jun 3 and Salt Ash/Medowie (N9) Jul 13 (both HBOC). Numbers at Singleton are reported to be increasing. Some birds were nest building at Wingen Sep 6 and others were on nest there Nov 30 (NEG), and birds had dependent young at Mayfield (M10) during Nov (CLT).

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

The records below 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. They are presented here for completeness; future Reports will advise of any which subsequently are accepted.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

RAOU No: 080 HBOC Category: 3

Single birds, which were treated but died, were reported to have been found at Anna Bay (O9) Oct 21 and Birubi Point (O9) Nov 24.

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

RAOU No: 078 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported off Cabbage Tree Island in daytime Sep 8. (*The island is the main breeding site for this species but daytime sightings are uncommon.*)

Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca*

RAOU No: 0912 HBOC Category: 3

An injured bird was found at Fingal Bay (P9) Nov 3 – the bird was treated and released.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

RAOU No: 063 HBOC Category: 3

A report of an injured bird found at north Stockton beach (O9) Jan 10 – the bird did not survive.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

RAOU No: 196 HBOC Category: 3

An injured bird was reported to have been found at Corlette (O9) Apr 13 and later died.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

RAOU No: 230 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported to have been near Jerrys Plains (H7) Dec 8.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

RAOU No: 238 HBOC Category: 3

There were reports of single birds at a shallow freshwater pond on Kooragang Island on Feb 19 and at Lorn (L9) in May, and of an injured bird at Adamstown (M10) Sep 11 which was successfully treated and released.

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

RAOU No: 031 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported to be at Howes Valley (H10) Apr 28 – there also have been unconfirmed reports from this location in previous years. A single bird was reported from Ash Island (M10) Apr 19 – at this location, the bird possibly may have been an aviary escapee.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

RAOU No: 021 HBOC Category: 3

A dead bird was reported to have been found at Corlette (O9) May 29 and an injured bird, which later died, at Stockton (M10) Apr 26.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

RAOU No: 250 HBOC Category: 3

Reports were of a single bird at Hallidays Point (R5) Jun 6 and of injured adult birds found at Glendale (L10) Feb 22, Stroud (N7) Jun 6 and Williamtown (N9) Oct 3.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

RAOU No: 463 HBOC Category: 2

A single bird was reported to be near Dungog (M7) Nov 30.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

RAOU No: 686 HBOC Category: 3

A report of a single male bird at Barrington Tops N.P. (K4/L4) Nov 17.

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:

Red-capped Parrot *Purpureicephalus spurius*

RAOU No: 290

Two birds were at Edgeworth (L10) Mar 10 (OCG).

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea*

RAOU No: 675

A single bird was confirmed present in a backyard at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Feb 13 (BAW). The bird was reported to have been in the area for 8-10 days, and was feeding with flocks of Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* and Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*.

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:

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

RAOU No: 246 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was recorded at Cundletown (R4) Mar 3 1994 (LBM).

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.

ALG	Glenn Albrecht	HWT	Reported in <i>The Wetlander</i> (newsletter of the Hunter Wetlands Trust)
ALP	Peter Alexander	IMK	Kay Imrie
BAW	Wilma Barden	JOI	Ian Johnson
BEM	Matthew Bell	JUT	Trevor Jurd
BIA	Birding-Australia (Internet Group)	KBD	Bev, David Kibble
BID	Doug Biddell	KEB	Barbara Kelly
BLM	Max Blanch	KEM	Michael Kearns
BOS	Sam Bosanquet	KIG	Ken Gibson
BRE	E Bradbury	LAK	Keith Laverick
BRG1	Grant Brosie	LBM	Bob, Marie Langdown
BRG2	Graeme Brown	LIA	Ann Lindsey
CBOC	Reported in newsletter of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club	LIC	Claire Lindsey
CCF	Central Coast group of the FOC	LIP	Paddy Lightfoot
CHS	Stuart Chapman	MAA	Audrey Mahaffey
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	MAG	Greg Masters
CJC	John & Carol Carpenter	MCG	Geraldine McCulloch
CLT	Tom Clarke	MEJ1	Jenny Meynell
DUP	Pam Durie	MEJ2	Eve, John Moyses
EAS	Shirley Eagles	MLR	Lesley, Ross Marshall
FOC	Reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club	MOA	Alan Morris
FON	Neville Foster	MPM	Peter, Margaret McLauchlan
GEB	Beryl Geering	MVBW	Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers
GED	David Geering	NATF	Native Animal Trust Fund records
GJC	John, Cynthia Grebert	NBL	Reported to the NSW BirdLine
GRN	Neil Granter	NEG	Greg Newling
GWT	Ted Gwatkin	NEM	Mike Newman
HAM	Matthew Hamonet	OCG	Graeme O'Connor
HAS	Sue Hamonet	OWS	Susan Owen
HBOC	Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp	PEJ	Jim Perry
HDD	Don, Daphne Halliday	PET	Travis Peake
HIM	Ian, Marta Hamilton	PHP	Peter Phillips
HLC	Liz, Chris, Daniel Herbert	PMTW	Reported in the publication Port Macquarie Tern Watch
		POP	Pat Pountney

PRK Keith Priestley
ROD Diane Rogers
ROS Steven Roderick
SJR Judith, Rowley Smith
SMJ James Smart
STA Alan Stuart
STL Leone Storm
STJ Jeanette Stephenson
TAH Harold Tarrant
TAT Theo Tasoulis
THF Fay Thomson
TOM Michael Todd
TUB Bruce Turnbull
TUD David Turner
VEE Edwin Vella
WAC Chris Watts
WAR Rosemary Waymark
WCR Observation reported to Shortland
Wetlands Centre
WMK Margaret, Keith Woods
WMR Marian, Ray Walker
YAR Richard Yank

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)
GRNP	Goulburn River National Park (C6 etc etc)
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)

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:

- i The town of Taree is located at approximately 31°55'S, 152°28'E – this places it in cell Q4
- i The town of Muswellbrook is located at approximately 32°17'S, 150°54'E – this places it in cell H6



