

HUNTER REGION OF NSW

1997 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;
- To 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 by telephone on (02) 4958 5942 or at the address below. For more information about HBOC, the club's Website is located at:

<http://www.ee.newcastle.edu.au/users/staff/eepcm/hboc/home.htm>

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Cover photograph: Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophris*)
(Photographer: Ann Lindsey)

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FOREWORD

Being an active member of a bird club provides an excellent opportunity to further social interaction and make long-term friends who have mutual interest. In such a social climate it can provide many hours of "pleasurable leisure time activity", and thus help to achieve one of the two aims of HBOC. Much more importantly, however, it provides the opportunity for a contribution to achieve the other HBOC aim "to encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat". The production of this Bird Report for 1997 is a most important component of achieving this aim, especially as it becomes a reference source on what species are using what habitat in what locations in the region, not easily obtained from any other source.

Unfortunately, far too little support is given by governments and funding agencies for effective long-term monitoring, which should be an essential component of the conservation decision-making process in Australia's situation of extreme drought-flood weather cycles and current climate of habitat destruction. There are far too few professional ornithologists to do all the work needed and universities and academics are generally not interested in or prepared to undertake long term monitoring work. HBOC can therefore make a major contribution to filling the gap and is to be congratulated on its efforts.

The observations which go to make up this report are in effect part of a long-term monitoring project on the conservation status of Hunter Valley birds. The cumulative knowledge gathered in successive Bird Reports over the years can make a major contribution to understanding the conservation status of species and the influence of habitat changes on this status. The fact that the observations have been made by amateur bird watchers and not by professional academics should not detract from the value of the work. If the members are given sound instructions in making valid observations, data gathering has been well designed and the publication of the material well vetted, the reports can be of immense importance as input to decision making on conservation measures and development applications. A few examples from this year's report give some indication of the potential importance of the work.

The report of one Australasian Bittern at the Wetlands Centre in September 1997, has particular significance. In my background research for the chapter on Australasia and Oceania in a new book being prepared by Wetland International's Heron Specialist Group entitled ***The Conservation Status of Herons***, I found very little information on the bitterns – because of their cryptic habits their biology is almost entirely unknown. It is listed in ***Threatened and Extinct Birds of Australia*** (Garnett 1992) as "insufficiently known" (i.e. suspected as being endangered, rare or vulnerable, but more information is needed for determining its status), as rare and vulnerable in Schedule 12 of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, has been nominated under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act of Victoria because it has comprised only 1.6% of all bird observations there with only one breeding record since 1970 (personal communication from Martin O'Brien, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment), and as endangered in the Birdlife International publication ***Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds*** (Collar, Crosby and Stattersfield 1994). Its cumulative count over 3 years of observations from 360 wetlands by volunteers for the Birds Australia Murray Darling Waterbird Project was only 40, recorded from only 9 sites (personal communication from Michael Hutchison) and in my 17 years of work at the Shortland Wetlands Centre, I have seen it only once.

The Black Bittern reported at Buttaba July - September is likewise a very important record. It is also listed in Schedule 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act as vulnerable and rare and as a species of special concern in Garnett (1992).

The sighting of large numbers of Latham's Snipe at Cedar Hill Drive in December helps to identify this habitat as being a high conservation value. At some future date, this record may be of significant importance in the event of any possible threats to the location. The bird first became a protected species in NSW in 1976. It was originally classified as a game bird but surveys carried out in Victoria and Tasmania in the 1970s recorded only low numbers, indicating that hunting could not be sustained. Long term records accumulated by HBOC and reported in the Bird Report will help to decipher trends in the local population. It will be interesting to compare the counts with those of the 1985-86 survey organised by Wilma Barden in conjunction with the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Of special interest to me was the entry on the Magpie Goose. At the time of first settlement, the species was widespread along the eastern coastal plain of Queensland, NSW and Victoria. The usual pressures of habitat destruction, hunting and poisoning caused them to disappear from the range, which retreated to the tropical north of the continent. One bird mysteriously appeared in the Hunter region in 1978 and four eventually took up residence at Seaham in 1984. In January 1986, after the birds had disappeared from Seaham, four turned up at Shortland with a gosling in tow. The local birdos refused to believe the report of

the gosling until a photograph of the bird was produced! They disappeared from Shortland soon afterwards but four adults reappeared (presumably the same ones) at Seaham and nested there in 1987. In 1987-89, the newly established Shortland Wetlands Centre reintroduced the species by releasing captive-bred goslings from Victoria and from Darwin at the Centre. The birds nested at Shortland for the first time in 1992 and since then a viable local nesting population has been maintained.

The cumulative data on the Magpie Goose in HBOC Bird Reports will help to document the population trends for the resurgence of the species in the Hunter. The birds obviously travel back and forth between Shortland and Seaham (I have a count of over 40 at Seaham on one occasion) and the reports at Woodberry and Cedar Hill Drive are evidence that the local flock is recolonising the Lower Hunter. The report at Wingen in September is of particular interest and leads to speculation as to whether the geese originated from Shortland or from flocks that have appeared on the north coast in recent years.

I commend the club for its initiative in producing the Bird Report and look forwards to seeing future issues. As the publication evolves in the years to come it will be important to collate and report on the trends emerging for the more important species.

Max Maddock

July 27, 1998

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 1997 calendar year. The information is based upon observation records which we have gathered from a variety of sources.

The 1997 Report describes the regional status of 360 bird species, including 312 species that were recorded during the year. There are five additions to the 1996 species list – Tahiti Petrel, Grass Owl, Sooty Tern, Grey Ternlet and Pilotbird. Breeding records for 113 species are described, of the total of 186 species that are confirmed to have bred within the Region in the past 10 years.

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.

The philosophies which we use when preparing Reports have been described in the 1996 Report. To assist in vetting records, we have classified each species into one of three categories, as described below. The classification reflects, in part, the frequency of reporting.

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

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

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

A Records Appraisal Committee assigns these categories and decides whether each record can be accepted. In 1997, the Committee members were Sue Hamonet, Jeannette Stephenson, Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Jim Perry and David Geering.

Basically normal weather patterns were experienced in the Region for most of the year, but conditions became drier in the latter half as a strong El Nino effect became established in the Pacific Ocean. A potentially more significant environmental condition occurred in late September and October, when large and widespread fires raged out of control in Malaysia and Indonesia. Many migratory species, especially wading birds, return to Australia at around that time each year.

This Report is only possible because of the dedication of a small army of observers who have submitted records of what they have seen during the year. Many thanks to them, and long may they continue!

Alan Stuart
July 20, 1998

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 1997 in the Hunter Region included the following sightings (presented in taxonomic order):

- Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* east of Port Stephens, February
- Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophrys* off Seal Rocks and off One Mile Beach, June
- Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta* off One Mile Beach, June
- Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos* off One Mile Beach, June
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* at Buttaba, July-September and Clarencetown, October
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* at Shortland Wetlands Centre, September
- Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* – breeding record at Coolongolook, August
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* at Crowdy Head National Park, September
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* – recorded in January, September & October
- Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* at Morisset, September and regularly at Glenrock State Recreation Area, over June to early October
- Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia* – breeding record at Myall Lakes National Park, December
- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* – large numbers at Cedar Hill Drive, December
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – at Kooragang Island, March and regularly at Cedar Hill Drive, December
- Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* at Cedar Hill Drive, December
- Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* – several records
- Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus* off Newcastle Baths, June
- Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* at Birubi Point, February
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* – a dead bird at Gwandalan, April
- Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* – a dead bird at Williamtown, May
- Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* – at least six birds at Mount Coricudgy, March (*this represents a range extension for Pilotbird in NSW*)
- Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* at Smiths Lake, June and Bluegum Creek, October
- Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii* – breeding record at Bulga, September
- Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor* at Mount Coricudgy, March
- Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops, October
- Little Raven *Corvus mellori* at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops, October
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* at Bunnan and at Bayswater Colliery, October

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 for the listed species 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: A = 1-5 birds present; B = 6-20 birds; C = 21-50 birds; D = 51-100 birds; E = 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 reported observations generally includes reference to an observer code and to a location (sometimes, a location abbreviation is used instead). The relevant grid number (e.g. F7) is also cited, except for some of the more common locations for which, instead, the grid numbers are listed later in the Report. Observer codes and location abbreviations are also detailed 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**. Where there are fewer than 10-12 observations, all of them are reported.

An ID number is provided with each listed species. This ID number, formerly called the RAOU number, is a unique identifier that does not change even though the scientific and/or common name for the species may do so. The ID number corresponds to that assigned to the species under the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

BIRDS

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon bird of passage in W of the Region (*Revised from: Rare*).

Single birds were recorded at Murrumbo (D7) Jun 6, Jul 11 & 20 (GED). Also, a single bird was at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC) – this is an unusual rainforest location and how the bird came to be there is not known.

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

ID No: 008

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

20+ birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC). All other reports were of <5 birds, where numbers were noted – at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (GED), Wingham Brush

Apr 19 and Sep 8 (MVBW, KEM), Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC), Olney S.F. (K10) Nov 13 and Nov 23/24 (TOM). Active mounds were found at Barrington House Feb 23 and Minmi (L10) Aug 22 (TOM).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare (possibly overlooked).
Not recorded.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

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

Occasionally recorded in the E of the Region. Six birds were at Belmont Swamp during Apr (LAK) and 10+ birds at Bulga Jun 8 and Aug 10 (CBOC); all other reports were of 1-5 birds.

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.
Not recorded since 1994.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

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

Regularly recorded at SWC and nearby wetlands, with numbers peaking at 85 birds at SWC in July (many reports). Often also at Seaham Swamp N.R., with 11 birds there Feb 4 and 24 birds Dec 26 (HBOC, KEM). Elsewhere, 7 birds were at Woodberry (L9) Dec 4 (SJR) and 8 birds at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 8 (TOM). An unusual inland record was of a group of 4 birds flying over Wingen Sep 7 (NEG). A pair were with 8 young at SWC Dec 5 (HWT).

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

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

At the regular location, Doughboy Hollow near Singleton, 90 birds were present May 25, 200 birds Jun 10, and 150 birds Aug 1 (NEG, TOM).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

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

1-3 birds were recorded at SWC in late Oct (KEM, ROD), and eight birds at the nearby NWR Nov 27 (TOM). Reporting rates, and counts, were much reduced from previous years.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

ID No: 216 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Accidental.
Not recorded since 1989.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

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

There were three records from Grahamstown Dam (M9) - a usual location: a single bird was present there Aug 29 (KEM), four birds Oct 26 (LIA), and 10+ birds Nov 29 (STA). Elsewhere, two birds were at Lake Boolambayte MLNP (P7) Apr 27 (KEM) and one bird at Nabitac (Q5) Dec 28 (CBOC).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.
Not recorded since 1995.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

ID No: 203 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters, with most reports being of <20 birds. 200-300 birds were at Lower Myall River (P8) Jan 1 (KEM), Lake Boolambayte MLNP (P7) Apr 27 (KEM) and Coon Island Swansea Sep 26 (ROD). There were breeding records for 8 months of the year - the exceptions being Feb, Apr, May and Dec.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1995.

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at or near fresh to brackish waters. Only around 35% of reports were of >6 birds - this is a slight decrease compared with previous years. 20+ birds were at Swansea Mar 4 (HBOC), SWC/NWR Jun 22 (HLC), Bulga Sep 6 (LIA) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (HBOC). Several breeding records were received, spanning the period Aug-Nov.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

A single bird was recorded at Telarah Lagoon Maitland (L9) Aug 28 (MPM).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

ID No: 208

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters. 100+ birds were at Lower Myall River (P8) Apr 25 (KEM) and SWC Jul 3 (HBOC), and 50+ birds at KI/Stockton Mar 1 (LIA) and Bolwarra (L9) Sep 10 (ROD).

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*

ID No: 212

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

Up to four birds were frequently recorded at SWC, mainly in the latter half of the year, and five birds at Seaham Swamp N.R. Feb 23 (CBOC). Elsewhere, pairs were at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Apr 22 (LIA), Market Swamp Aug 9 (STA) and Ellalong Lagoon Aug 15 (MEJ1), and single birds at Bolwarra (L9) Sep 10 (ROD) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (HBOC). A pair were copulating at SWC Aug 27 (ROD) - this is not considered to be sufficient for a breeding record.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

ID No: 211

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded in E and central parts of the Region, mostly as <20 birds. Counts at SWC were 20-50+ during Sep-Dec (KEM, LIA), and 20+ birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. Feb 8 (HBOC) and Stockton STP Nov 9 (STA).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

ID No: 210

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, not infrequently as 20+ birds. The most westerly report was from Colliery Dam, where 6+ birds were present Jul 20 (HBOC). At Ash Island, 600 birds were present Apr 1, 100+ birds Mar 1 (both HBOC), and 50+ birds Dec 27 (BID). Counts at SWC frequently exceeded 20 birds, and 100+ birds were there during Apr and on Dec 28 (both LIA), and 50+ birds Jul 3 (HBOC) and Oct 15 (KEM). Elsewhere, 50+ birds were at Stockton STP Mar 1 (LIA), Woodberry (L9) Mar 12 (BID) and Cockle Creek (L10) Nov 23 (CLT). Birds were reported to be with young in Apr, Aug and Nov.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (only recorded in 1993).

Not recorded.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

Birds were recorded at two locations only. 2-3 birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. over Feb 4/8 (HBOC), and 7-10 birds at SBS over Nov 7/8 (TOM, PEJ).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded at SWC in the latter half of the year, and occasionally at other locations in the E of the Region. Counts were generally of <10 birds, but 87 birds were at Bolwarra (L9) Sep 10 (ROD), and up to 110 birds at NWR over late Oct / early Nov (ROD, STA).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 061 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and often recorded at small to large fresh waters, mostly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Marmong Point (L10) May 6 (HBOC), Ellalong Lagoon Aug 15 (MEJ1) and Bolwarra (L9) Sep 10 (ROD), and occasionally at SWC (HBOC, LIA, KEM). Breeding records were received for Mar and Sep-Dec.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

ID No: 062 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Bird of passage.

Around 200 birds were present at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 26 (LIA). The only other records were of single birds at WWW Mar 8 (TAH) and SBS Nov 7 (TOM).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

Three reports were from WWW in the first half of the year. 10 birds were present there Feb 15 (BID) and 12 birds May 5 (STJ) – the latter record included pairs with 4 and 1 dependent young, respectively. A bird with one dependent young was also present Mar 23 (TAH). Elsewhere, 10 birds were at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 26 (LIA).

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

Three birds were recorded at Nelson Bay (O9) Feb (LAK), a single bird at Swansea Mar 4 (HBOC), and five birds were at sea off Stockton Beach Nov 9 (STA). Some birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG).

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Not recorded since 1994.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*new to list*)

A single bird was recorded approximately 40km E of Port Stephens (R9) Feb 25 (PEJ).

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

ID No: 078 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local summer migrant.

The 97/98 season on Cabbage Tree Island had 866 nest sites (for comparison, there were 816 nest sites in 96/97) of which 514 were active (316 in 96/97), and with 493 of the nests having a bird and egg (269 in 96/97). (N Carlile per G O'Connor).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

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

Approximately 10,000 birds were recorded off Seal Rocks Oct 7 (PEJ), and 1000+ birds off Merewether Beach (M10) Feb 5 (STA). Groups of 200-500 birds were also at Nelson Bay (O9) Feb (LAK), Stockton Beach Mar 1 (LIA), and near Moon Island (M11) Dec 7 (PEJ). Some birds were also recorded at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 (LAK), Merewether Beach Feb 6 (STA) and Crowdy Head (S4) Sep 21 (HBOC). Birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG). The birds at Nelson Bay had been following fishing boats returning to the marina.

Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*

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

Not recorded since 1995.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

Some birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

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

Single birds were recorded off Stockton Beach Mar 1 (LIA) and Birdie Beach (??) Nov 23 (FOC).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

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

Approximately 1200 birds were off Caves Beach (L11) Jul 17 (LAK).

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain.

Many birds were recorded off One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 3 (OCG) and a single bird was at Seal Rocks Jun 8 (HBOC).

Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*

ID No: 091 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare winter bird of passage about inshore waters.

Some birds were recorded off One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 3 (OCG).

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare winter bird of passage about inshore waters.

Two birds were recorded off One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 3 (OCG) and a single bird off Caves Beach (L11) Jul 18 (LAK).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

(NB the scientific name used in previous Reports was incorrect)

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

Not recorded.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1994.

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Newcastle Beach Apr 9 & 23 (LIA, KEM), One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG), Boat Harbour (O9) Aug 9 (KEM), Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC) and Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG). 6-20 birds were at Dudley (M11) Apr 26 (GJC), Seal Rocks Jun 8 (HBOC), Forster Aug 23 (KEM) and Crowdy Head (S4) Sep 21 (HBOC).

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

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

Four birds were recorded at NWR Jun 22 (HLC), six birds Oct 29 (ROD) and five birds Nov 5 (STA). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Apr 22 (LIA), Warners Bay (L10) May 9 (WMR), SWC Jul 3 (HBOC), Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC), Port Waratah (M10) in Jul & Aug (CLT), Telarah Lagoon Maitland (L9) Aug 28 (MPM) and Market Swamp Aug 9 & Oct 29 (STA). Two birds were on nests at Market Swamp Aug 9 - one with dependent young and one with eggs - and three birds were on nests at NWR late Oct / early Nov.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

ID No: 100 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters in the E and central parts of the Region. 80 birds were at Coon Island (L11) Aug 2 (MOA), and 100-150+ at Lower Myall River (P8) Apr 25 (KEM) and Belmont Swamp Jun (LAK). 20+ birds were at Belmont Swamp during Mar and Nov (LAK), Swansea Mar 4 (HBOC) and SWC Jul 3 (HBOC). Birds had nests with eggs at Market Swamp Aug 9 and at NWR Oct 29 (STA, ROD), and nests with young at Seaham Swamp N.R. Dec 26 (KEM).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

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

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded close to the coast. 6+ birds were at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

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

Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters. Around 15% of reports were of >20 birds, and 50+ birds were at Belmont Swamp during Nov. Birds were nesting at both Market Swamp and NWR Oct 29 (STA, ROD).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Widely and often recorded; around 70% of reports were of <5 birds. 50+ birds were at SWC.NWR during Jun/Jul and in Nov (HLC, HBOC, STA), and 20+ birds at Belmont Lagoon Nov 16 (STA) and Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC). 54 nests were at SWC/NWR late Jun / early Jul (HLC, HBOC); birds were also nesting at NWR Aug 9 (STA) and Seaham Swamp N.R. Dec 26 (KEM).

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters. 15% of reports were of >20 birds, with 50+ birds at Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC).

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

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

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 20-50 birds were at Ash Island Apr 1 and Dec 30 (LIA, GOD) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (HBOC). Birds nested at Port Waratah and New Lambton (both M10) during Jul-Sep (CLT, STA).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as single birds and always as <5 birds except when breeding. There were eight nests at SWC compared with five in 1996 (HWT), and also four nests at Seaham Swamp N.R. Dec 26 (KEM).

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Merewether Baths (M10) Feb 5 (IJK) and Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 (LAK).

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

ID No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

Single birds were recorded at Parkville (H4) May 19 (NEG), Congewai Creek Road (J10) May 25 (HBOC), Williamtown (N9) Aug 15 (KEM), BbR Nov 23 (STA), Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 29 (STA) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (HBOC). Two birds were at Parkville Sep 26 (NEG) and three birds at Williamtown Oct 27 (KEM).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded at medium to large waters in the E and central parts of the Region. Except when breeding, most reports were of 1-2 birds. However, 6 birds were at Ash Island Mar 1 (LIA), 7 birds at Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 29 (STA) and 25 birds at Tea Gardens (O8) Oct 12 (KEM). Birds again bred at SWC, but there were only 33 nests compared with 58 in 1996/97 (HWT).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds. 15 birds were at Tea Gardens (O8) Oct 12 (KEM) and 20 birds at Ash Island Dec 30 (GOD). 6+ birds were sometimes recorded at SWC, where birds again bred. However, there were only 11 nests compared with 20 in 1996/97 (HWT).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as <20 birds except when breeding. Flocks of 20-50 birds were occasionally reported, however. 2300 birds were feeding on wet pasture at Raymond Terrace (M9) Jul 22 (GED), and c 2000 birds including many almost fledged young were at SWC Dec 28 (LIA). There were 350 nests at Seaham Swamp N.R. compared with 270 in 1996/97, and 206 nests at SWC compared with 221 in 1996/97 (HWT).

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

ID No: 193

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded at estuaries and lakes, mostly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

Often recorded at SWC, and moderately often at other wetlands in the E of the Region. Counts at SWC were usually of 10+ birds, peaking at 38 birds there Oct 15 (KEM). Counts elsewhere were mostly of <5 birds; 6-20 birds were recorded at Stockton Jun 25 (KEM), Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC), Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC) and Stockrington (L10) Dec 20 (LIA).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

ID No: 195

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare (probably overlooked).

Not recorded since 1995.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records (1994)

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Secret Bay Buttaba (L11) Jul 27, Aug 31 and Sep 13 (WAR) and at Clarencetown (M8) Oct 14 (SLJ).

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at SWC Sep 7 (KEM).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

20+ birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) during Dec, with the count peaking at 79 birds Dec 23 (TOM). Four records from SWC - 15 birds were there Feb 23 (CBOC), 14 birds Mar 12 (STA), 8 birds during Apr (LIA), and 2 birds Dec 12 (TOM). Single birds were at Hamilton (M10) Jun 13 (TOM) and Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 29 (STA), and 12 birds at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Dec 10 (TOM).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as <20 birds. However, 3500 birds were feeding on wet pasture at Fullerton Cove (M10) Jul 7 (GED), a mixed flock with Straw-necked Ibis *T. spinicollis*, of 1200 birds total, was near Williamstown (N9) Aug 12 (KEM), and 1000 birds were roosting at SWC during Jul (LIA). 100-500 birds were at Ash Island Mar 1 and Apr 1 (LIA, HBOC), KI/Stockton Mar 1 (LIA) and at SWC during Nov (LIA).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

ID No: 180

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as <20 birds and occasionally in larger flocks. Birds were also recorded in very large numbers sometimes. 100 birds were at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 23 (TOM), 300+ birds at Adamstown (M10) May 25/36 (BLM), 500 birds at Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC), and up to 1000 birds were roosting at SWC in Jul, Sep, Nov and Dec (LIA). Note also the report above of a large mixed flock with Australian White Ibis *T. molucca* Aug 12.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in the E of the Region; around 30% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 30 birds were at Ellalong Lagoon Apr 22 (MEJ1). Birds were nesting at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 8 (TOM).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

ID No: 182

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

Single birds were recorded at Williamstown (N9) Jul 17 (TAH), Black Hill (L10) Nov 11 (TOM), Ash Island Nov 19 (STA) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 & 23 (HBOC, TOM), and two birds at Pokolbin Lake (J9) Apr 22 (LIA). Four birds were at Parkville (H4) Sep 26 and eight birds at Bolwarra (L9) May 5 (both NEG). Some birds were also at Ellalong Lagoon Apr 2 (MEJ1).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes (revised)

Status: Bird of passage.

Three birds were at Lower Myall River (P8) Jan 1 (KEM) and a single bird at Pipers Bay (R6) Oct 25 (MVBW). Birds had a nest with dependent young at Coolongolook (P6) Aug 30 (DIM).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

A bird was on nest at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 21 and Aug 2 (KEM, HBOC), and two birds were at a nest tree, but apparently not nesting, at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC). Four birds were recorded at Johns River (S3) Sep 28 and Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC). Single birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. Feb 8 (HLC), Belmont Lagoon during May and Jun (LAK), SBS May 6 (HBOC), Williamstown (N9) Jul 22 and KI Dec 21 (both KEM).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region. The most westerly report was from Clarencetown (M8) May 2 (SLJ), where three birds were present. There were no other reports of >2 birds.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

ID No: 232

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, as 1-2 birds. A pair has dependent young at Dungog S.F. (M7/N7) Feb 8 (HBOC), and birds were nesting at Fern Bay (M10) Aug 27 (KEM).

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Crowdy Head N.P. (S4) Sep 21 (STA).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded near Wingen Feb 23 (NEG) and at Aberdeen (H5) Apr 6 & 11 (NEG) and Marmong Point (L10) Aug 16 (BIA).

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

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

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-2 birds. 6+ birds were at KI Feb 22 (CLT) and One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC), and were nest building at Myall Shores N.P. (P8) Mar 3 (KEM).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Wingham Brush Apr 19 (MVBW), Forster Jun 4 and Aug 23 (NBL, KEM), Seal Rocks Jun 4 (NBL) and Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC). The birds at Seal Rocks and Forster Aug 23 were immatures.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

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

Often recorded at or near large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds but sometimes with a juvenile bird also present. Three juvenile birds were at KI Feb 22 (CLT).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

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

A single bird was recorded at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Apr 14 (NEG).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

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

Single birds were moderately often recorded at or near large waters in the E of the Region. Pairs were at Belmont Swamp during Mar and Dec (LAK), Williamtown (N9) May 10 (WMR) and Minmi (L10) Nov 26 (TOM).

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, usually as single birds where numbers were noted. Two birds were at Warakeila (L6) Jan 11 (NEM).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

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

Occasionally recorded in the E of the Region, usually as single birds where numbers were noted. Two birds were at Garden Suburb (M10) Aug 9 (PEJ), Awabakal N.R. Aug 31 and Black Neds Bay (L11) Aug 23 (both GJC).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Shortland (M10) Mar 10 (STA), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Mar 8 and Apr 6 (NEM), Unicomb Walk (L8) Apr 6 (NEM), South Swansea Aug 2 (MOA) and Toronto (L11) Aug 17 (TOM). Two birds were at Olney S.F. (K10) Nov 14 (TOM). The bird at Green Wattle Creek was an immature.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, usually as 1-2 birds. Three birds were at Wallabadah Rock (H2) Apr 20 (GJC).

Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Wingen Mar 31 (NEG), Bulga Apr 22 (LIA), Newcastle University Jun 8 (TAH), One Mile Beach (O9) Jun 13 (GED), Singleton late Jul (TOM), SWC during Aug (HBOC), Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC), Bureen (G7) Oct 25 (LIA), Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC) and Lambs Valley (K8) Dec 26 (GOD). Two birds were at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Aug 15 and Muswellbrook (H6) Sep 20 (both NEG).

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, as 1-2 birds where numbers were noted.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds. Two birds were at Scone (H5) Apr 23 (NEG) and Warakeila (L6) Nov 22 (NEM).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Garden Suburb (M10) Jan 16 (PEJ), Mount Thorley (I8) Sep 12 (GED), Bayswater Colliery (I7) Oct 15 and Manobolai N.R. (F6) Oct 21 (both NEG).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, as 1-2 birds. An immature bird was at Bolwarra (L9) May 31 (TAH), and a pair had 3 young at Cabbage Tree Island Nov 12 (FOC).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

ID No: 240 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as 1-2 birds. Three birds were at Redhead (M11) Feb 1 (GJC) and East Maitland (L9) Oct 25 (LIA). A pair were feeding fledged young at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident (possibly overlooked).

Single birds were recorded at Pelican (M11) Jan 27 (YAR), Wallsend (M10) Oct 3, Market Swamp Oct 13, Forster Nov 6 (MVBW), Newcastle University Nov 14, MLNP (cell unknown) Dec 4 (KEM), SWC Dec 12 and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 8 & 24. A bird also was heard at NWR Nov 9. An adult was with 2 chicks at Mandalong (K11) Dec 12 (all TOM records except where otherwise indicated).

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident (probably overlooked).

1-2 birds were regularly seen or heard at Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) over Jun / early Oct, and a single bird was at Morisset (K11) Sep 13 (all TOM records).

Baillon's Crane *Porzana pusilla*

ID No: 050 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Local resident (probably overlooked).

Single birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 & 24 (HBOC, TOM), and at SWC Oct 26 and Dec 12 (ROD, TOM).

Australian Spotted Crane *Porzana fluminea*

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

Single birds were recorded at SWC Dec 1 & 3 and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 23 & 28, and two birds at SWC Dec 12 (all TOM records).

Spotless Crane *Porzana tabuensis*

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

A single bird was recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (HBOC).

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

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

Often recorded at medium to large fresh waters in the E and central parts of the Region. Around 15% of reports were of 20+ birds, including c 50 birds at Stockrington (L10) Dec 20 and SWC Dec 28 (both LIA). Breeding records were received for Sep and Nov/Dec.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

ID No: 056

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded at small to large fresh waters, mostly as 1-5 birds except at SWC and occasionally elsewhere. Counts at SWC were often of 20+ birds, peaking at 80 birds SWC Jul 15/16 (ROD). 20+ birds were at Market Swamp Jan 24 (LIA), Seaham Swamp N.R. Feb 8 (LIA), Congewai Creek Road (J10) May 25 (HBOC) and Stockrington (L10) Dec 20 (LIA). Breeding records for Mar, May and Oct-Dec.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

ID No: 059

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded at medium to large fresh waters in the E of the Region, mostly as <20 birds. 48 birds were at Bolwarra (I9L9) Sep 10 (ROD), and 120-180 birds at NWR over Aug-Nov (STA, ROD). Birds had a nest with eggs at SWC Oct 29 (ROD).

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

ID No: 018

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1996).

Not recorded.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

ID No: 014

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*newly confirmed*)

Status: Uncommon resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. There were many more reports in 1997 than in previous years. Six birds were at Bulga Sep 6 (LIA) and seven were at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Jun 8 (NEM). Birds had young in MLNP (cell Q7) during Dec (BIA).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

A total of 475 birds (>1% of the total East Asia-Australia Flyway population) were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) during an organised count Dec 20 (HBOC). Numbers had been high there all month (TOM/GED). Low numbers (<10 birds) were at other wetlands around the lower Hunter Valley from late August.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

ID No: 152

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Up to 300 birds were at KI in Feb/early Mar (FOC, LIA, NBL); birds were last recorded there Mar 12 (CLT). Some birds were at Swan Bay (N9) Aug 15 (OCG).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded at coastal mudflats in summer months, with counts variable but mostly of 10-50 birds. At KI, numbers were high in late Feb and Mar, peaking at c 2000 birds Mar 12 (CLT). Several widespread records over May-Aug, notably including 50 birds at Lemon Tree Passage Jul 19 (KEM).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Apart from one report of a single bird at Lemon Tree Passage May 18 (KEM), birds were not recorded after Mar 2 (when three birds were at Stockton bridge), until Aug 2. Then, 10 birds were at Stockton bridge and two birds at Lemon Tree Passage (both HBOC).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded at KI/Stockton in summer months, with peak counts of 135 birds Mar 11 (YAR) and 250 birds Dec 30 (GOD). Moderately often recorded elsewhere, always as <20 birds. Several widespread records of 1-5 birds over May-Jul; 50+ birds were at Swan Bay (N9) by Aug 15 (OCG).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

The only records were from KI over Jan-Mar 13; the peak count was 30 birds Mar 12 (CLT).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

1-3 birds were occasionally recorded at KI, up until Mar 12. The only other report was of two birds at Ash Island Apr 1 (HBOC).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant

Regularly recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) during Dec, with the count peaking at seven birds there Dec 23 (GED/TOM). Single birds were at KI Mar 16 and Dec 8 (FOC, GED).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

ID No: 160 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at Stockton bridge Mar 12 (CLT), and ten birds there Nov 9 (STA). At least six birds were in the Tilligerry Peninsula area (O9/P9) May 8 (OCG).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Single birds were recorded at Stockton Mar 1 (LIA) and Cockle Creek (L10) Nov 23 (CLT).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Sometimes recorded at KI/Stockton until mid-Mar, and from early Aug, mostly as <20 birds. However, 80 birds were there Mar 12 (CLT). Elsewhere, 11 birds were at Lemon Tree Passage Jul 19 (KEM) and 13 birds there Aug 2 (HBOC), and three birds were at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded on the rocks around Newcastle Baths, with counts peaking at c 30 birds (PAR, CLT); ten birds were still present there Apr 23 (KEM). Two birds were at Stockton bridge Mar 1/2 (LIA).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1985).

Not recorded.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

ID No: 165 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

16 birds were recorded at Stockton bridge Mar 12, and 6+ birds were also there Feb 22 (CLT). Two birds were at Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

The only reports were from the KI/Stockton area. On Mar 1, groups of 30 and 6 birds were separately recorded (CCF, LIA). Four birds were there Feb 22 (CLT), 20+ birds Feb 23 (CBOC), five birds Mar 16 (CBOC) and a single bird Sep 21 (HAS).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded at KI, with 50+ birds there Jan 19 (HBOC) and 25 birds Dec 30 (GOD). 50+ birds were at Coon Island (L11) Dec 7 (HBOC). 90 birds were recorded at SBS Dec 19, on Dec 30 the count had increased to 125 birds (TOM). There was one winter record – of 61 birds at KI Jun 5 (GED).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

At least seven and possibly up to ten birds were often recorded at a freshwater pond on KI between Feb 23 and Mar 16 (LIA, CLT, NBL).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

ID No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded at drying freshwater wetlands in the lower Hunter Valley. 360 birds were at KI Feb 1 (CLT) and 60 birds there Dec 30 (GOD). 100-120 birds were at SBS in late Dec (TOM), 33 birds at SWC Dec 28 (LIA), and 23 birds at Ash Island Dec 27 (BID). All other records were of <10 birds.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common summer migrant.

Up to 60 birds were at KI over Mar 1-13 (CLT, LIA); 6+ birds were also recorded there Feb 22 (CLT) and 10+ birds Sep 21 (HAS). 10 birds were at SBS Dec 19 & 30 (TOM).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Not recorded since 1995.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Not recorded.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

ID No: 170 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare, probably overlooked (*Revised from: Accidental*).

A single bird was recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 & 23 (GED, TOM).

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident, more usual in N of Region.

A total of eight birds, including one immature, were recorded at Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC), and a single bird was at Nabitac (Q5) Dec 28 (CBOC).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

Not recorded.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1993.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Occasionally recorded along the coast, mostly as 1-2 birds. Three birds were at Stockton bridge Feb 22 (CLT) and Swansea Mar 4 (HBOC), four birds at Bull Island (O9) Aug 31 (WAR), and five birds at Tanilba Bay (N9) Sep 9 (KEM).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Nelson Bay (O9) Feb (LAK), Newcastle Baths Mar 17 and Apr 23 (STA, KEM), Seal Rocks Jun 8 (HBOC), Tahlee / Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC) and Moon Island (M11) Dec 7 (PEJ). Six birds were at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 (LAK) and Stockton Beach Aug 9 (KEM), and 6+ birds on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

ID No: 146

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region. Most reports were of <20 birds, but 20-50 birds were at Cockle Creek (L10) Nov 23 (CLT), Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 29 (STA), SBS Dec 19 (TOM) and SWC Dec 28 (LIA). Some of the birds at Cockle Creek were with dependent young.

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

ID No: 148

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Local resident.

20+ birds were recorded at KI Jan 19 (HBOC).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 8006

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Often recorded at KI/Stockton over Feb-Mar and in Dec, with counts typically being of 60-80 birds. However, 300 birds were present there Feb 23 (CBOC). The only other reports were from Ash Island, where 15 birds were present Apr 1 (HBOC) and 21 birds Nov 19 (STA), and Harrington, where 3 birds were present May 23 (CBOC).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

ID No: 143

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

75 birds were at KI Jun 5 (GED); other reports from there were of 2-4 birds during Feb (CLT), six birds Sep 21 (HAS) and 12 birds Dec 30 (GOD). Elsewhere, two birds were at Swan Bay (N9) May 17 (KEM) and three birds at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC). A single dependent young was with the birds at KI Sep 21.

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Local winter migrant.

28 birds were recorded at KI Jun 5 (GED) and 32 birds at Coon Island (L11) Aug 2 (MOA). Three birds were at Harrington May 23 (CBOC) and at least six birds were at Swan Bay (N9) Aug 15 (OCG).

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

All records were from Stockton bridge – 3 birds were there Nov 9 (STA), 6+ birds Jan 19 and Feb 22 (HBOC, CLT), and 20-21 birds Feb 23 and Mar 2 (CBOC, LIA).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyonis melanops*

ID No: 144

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters around the Region. 20 birds were at Ash Island Apr 1 (HBOC) and 30 birds at a freshwater pond on KI Jun 25 (KEM); three other reports were of 6-20 birds. A lone chick was recorded at SWC Nov 12 (STA).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

ID No: 132

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

Two birds were recorded at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Dec 10 (TOM), three birds at Market Swamp Jan 24 (LIA), and 12 birds at SWC Dec 28 (LIA).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded since 1994.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20-50 birds were at SBS May 6 and Jun 22, and Ash Island Apr 1 (all HBOC records). 100+ birds were at Ash Island Dec 27 (BID). There were many breeding records over Aug-Nov.

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare.

There were no confirmed records.

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain.

6+ birds were recorded approximately 50km E of Port Stephens (R9) Mar 3 (PEJ). A single bird was near Moon Island (M11) Dec 7 (PEJ) and two birds at nearby Pelican (M11) Jan 27 (YAR). Some birds were also recorded at One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*revised from: Rare*).

A single bird was recorded off Newcastle Baths June 2 (PEJ).

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in coastal and near-coastal areas, with around 20% of reports being of 100+ birds. 1000+ birds were at both Swansea Heads and Coon Island (both in cell L11) Sep 26 (ROD), and 500 birds at Ash Island Apr 1 (HBOC).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Resident.

Eight birds were recorded at Stockton bridge Jul 18 (GED), and a single bird at Nobbys Beach (M10) during Aug (LAK).

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded at large coastal waters, mostly as 1-5 birds. Six birds were at Lemon Tree Passage Aug 2 (HBOC) and eight birds at Belmont Lagoon Apr 3 (LAK). There were no records for Jan or for the period Oct-Dec.

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

ID No: 115 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Often recorded along the coast, mostly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 and Nelson Bay (O9) during Feb (both LAK), and at Stockton bridge Mar 1 and Newcastle/Nobbys Beach (M10) Apr 9 (both LIA). 100+ birds were at KI/Stockton Mar 1 (LIA) and Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC).

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

Six birds were recorded at Nobbys Beach (M10) May 19 and two birds at Caves Beach (L11) Jul 18 (both LAK records). Some birds were also recorded at One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

1-5 birds were recorded at Myuna Bay (L11) Feb 16 (STA), KI Mar 12 and Newcastle Baths Dec 5 (both CLT). 6-20 birds were at KI Jan 19 and Mar 1 (HBOC, LIA), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Nov 29 (STA), Newcastle area Dec 2 (HBOC), Soldiers Point (O9) Dec 5 (KEM) and Coon Island (L11) Dec 7 (HBOC).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

ID No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at KI Jan 19 and Mar 12 (HBOC, CLT) and Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC). 20-30 birds were at Stockton bridge Feb 22 (CLT) and Coon Island (L11) Dec 7 (HBOC), and 150+ birds at KI Feb 23 (CBOC). 124 nests were found at Harrington in the 97/98 season, with a total of 294 eggs (2.4 eggs/nest). 110 of the breeding pairs being successful in producing at least one runner, with counts showing that at least 233 fledglings were present. (H Hole per D Geering).

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 (LAK).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage.

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Nov 19 (STA).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Not recorded.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

Not recorded – but see Supplementary Records.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Occasionally recorded in the E of the Region, and with the numbers around Newcastle sometimes being of 100+ birds. There were breeding records for the Port Waratah (Newcastle) area over the period Jul-Oct (CLT).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Six birds were at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Feb 28 (KEM), seven birds at NLH Sep 10 (HIM), 15 birds near Dungog (M7) Jul 5 (TAH), and 30 birds at Vacy (L8) Apr 26 (LIP).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at SWC Mar 12 and Jul 3 (STA, HBOC) and Marmong Point (L10) May 6 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at SWC Oct 16 (LIA).

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Stroud (N7) Aug 29 (HLC), Harrington Sep 21 and Dec 26 (HBOC, CBOC) and Chichester S.F. (K5) Nov 3 (FOC). Eight birds were at Wingham Brush Sep 8 (KEM).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Mar 2 and Dec 26 (KEM).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at SBS Jun 22 (HBOC), while at least 110 were at Newcastle University Feb 20 (MPM).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Not recorded

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

ID No: 030

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

10+ birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 8 (TAH), and 1-5 birds at Wingen Jan 26 (NEG), Bulga Apr 22 and Sep 6 (LIA), Doyles Creek (G8) Jun 8 (HAS), Mulbring (K10) Jul 20 (HBOC), Mount Nellinda (K11) Sep 28 (TOM), Freemans Drive (K11) Oct 12 (TOM), Lemon Tree Passage Oct 18 (KEM) and Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC).

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

ID No: 032

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

1-5 birds were often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region. All reports were of <5 birds, and mostly were of single birds.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at East Seaham (M8) Apr 4 & 13 (MCK) and at Copeland Tops Forest Preserve (M4/5) Oct 26 (NBL). Five birds were at Woko N.P. (M4) Oct 22 (IJK).

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

ID No: 023

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare .

Not recorded.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

ID No: 021

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

A bird was found dead on the verandah of the Gwandalan Public School (L11) Apr 6 (FOC).

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Bird of passage.

1-5 birds were recorded at Woodville (L9) Jul 19 (NEM), Seal Rocks Jul 17 (CBOC), Singleton late Jul (TOM), South Swansea Aug 2 (MOA), Tahlee / Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC) and Ashtonfield (L9) Sep 9 (RBS). Eight birds were at Upper Main Creek (M6) Apr 20 (HBOC), 32 birds at Garden Suburb (M10) Aug 9 (PEJ), 40 birds at Forster Aug 23 (KEM), 50+ birds at Glendon Brook (K8) Aug 3 (WMR), and 100+ birds at Cardiff Heights (M10) Sep 25 (PEJ).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

ID No: 265

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident.

1-3 birds were recorded at Seaham (M8) Jan 15 (MEG), Bulahdelah (P7) Mar 7 (CBOC), North Arm Cove (O8) Mar 18 (MOB), Mount Sugarloaf (L10) May 5 (HAS), Sharpes Creek / Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC). Five birds were at Upper Myall (P8) Apr 12 (CBOC) and Martinsville (K11) Oct 5 (MCG).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptrorhynchus funereus*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region. Around 65% of reports were of 1-5 birds, but flocks of 30-50 birds were at Dawsons Landing Myall River (P8) Feb 28 (KEM), Myuna Bay (L11) Oct 28 (LIA), Awaba (L10) Oct 30 (TOM) and Edgeworth (L10) Nov 10 (OCG). Birds were feeding young at Sharpes Creek / Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

ID No: 268 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

A flock of 50 birds were recorded at Watagan Mountains (cell unknown) Apr 26 (NBL). All other reports were of 1-5 birds, or the birds were heard only – at Sandy Camp, Wollemi N.P. (E8) Feb 3/8 (GED), Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (GED), Doyles Creek (G8) Jun 8 (HAS), Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC), Mount Sugarloaf (L10) Nov 2 (WMR) and Olney S.F. (K10) Nov 13 & 24 (TOM).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. Around 15% of reports were of 20+ birds – these were from widespread areas. Birds were nest building at NLH during Aug (HIM) and at Lemon Tree Passage Oct 18 (KEM), and were on nest at SWC Nov 12 (KEM).

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jan 5 (STA), Morisset (K11) Feb 26 (TOM), Minmi (L10) Sep 4 (TOM), Unicomb Walk (L8) Oct 4 (NEM) and Newcastle University Nov 14 (TOM). 15 birds were at Hands Lagoon (L9) Jun 6 and 28 birds there Jul 5 (both TAH), and 20 birds were at Fingal Bay (P9) Oct 28 (LIA).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, with counts being greatly variable. 200+ birds were at Buttaba (L11) Apr 4 (WAR), and 120 birds at Maryland (M10) Jun 22 (KEM). Inland reports were usually of <10 birds, but notably c 45 birds were at Scone (H5) Aug 9 (NEG).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

ID No: 269 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 100+ birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC) and 200+ at Doyles Creek (G8) Jun 8 (HAS). Birds were on nest at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 20 (NEG).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded as true birds in the wild – but see entry under Escapees.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as flocks of <5 birds. 20+ birds were in the Nelson Bay area (O9) during Feb (LAK) and May 8 (OCG), and at Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 11 (LIA). 50+ birds were at Tanilba Bay May 13 (KEM) and Horse Point (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC).

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

ID No: 256 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded along the coastal fringe, with 25% of reports being of 20+ birds. An unusual inland record was of two birds at Sharpes Creek / Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Bird of passage.

1-5 birds were recorded at Bluegum Creek (L10) Jul 8/9, Sep 5 and Dec 4, and at Kurri Kurri (K9) Dec 23 (all TOM records). Six birds were at Toronto (L11) Nov 24 (TOM), and 6+ birds at Wingen Jan 26 (NEG).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as <10 birds. 11 birds were at Toronto (L11) Feb 25 (TOM), 15 birds at Bluegum Creek (L10) Dec 1 (TOM), and 20 birds at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Mar 2 (KEM).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

ID No: 281

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (newly confirmed)

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Jesmond/BbR Mar 23 (HBOC) and SWC Sep 4 (WAR). Birds were feeding fledged young at New Lambton (M10) Dec 24 (STA) – this is the first confirmed breeding record for over 10 years.

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

ID No: 280

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

ID No: 282

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (newly confirmed)

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC) and Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 23 (NEG). The birds at Cedar Brush were carrying food, and a pair at Wingen had dependent young Dec 26 (NEG) – *these appear to be the first breeding records received by HBOC.*

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

ID No: 288

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded., mostly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Wingen Apr 7 (NEG), Colliery Dam Jul 20 and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (both HBOC). Birds were on nests at SWC Aug 20 (KEM) and Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 20 (NEG), and were with dependent young at Cedar Hill Drive Dec 20.

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

A flock of c 25 birds was seen flying over Cooranbong (K11) Jun 17 (BIA).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

ID No: 295

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, with around 50% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 40 birds were at Tanilba Bay (N9) May 13 (KEM) and 52 birds at Woodville (L9) Mar 3 (NEM). 50+ birds were also in the Tilligerry Peninsula area (O9/P9) May 8 (OCG).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

ID No: 302

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Wollemi Range, Wollemi N.P. (E11) Feb 4 (GED), Goulburn River N.P. Apr 4 (TAH), Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 27 and Dec 26 (KEM) and Pelton (J10) May 12 (STJ). 3+ birds were at Seal Rocks Apr 2 (FOC), and 10 birds at Doyleys Creek (G8) Jul 13 (GED).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1994.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant.

An unusual winter record was of a single bird at Ash Island Jul 5 (GED). In the first part of the year, there were no records from after Jan. The first recorded return was of a single bird at Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 3 (TOM). Widely and moderately often recorded from late Sep onwards, mostly as single birds.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Summer migrant.

Single birds were recorded at Olney S.F. (J11/K11) Nov 24 (TOM) and Green Wattle Creek (L8) Dec 6 (NEM), and several times at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) during Dec (TOM, HBOC). Birds were also heard at Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

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

Widely and regularly recorded, always as <5 birds. As was also noted for 1996, around 80% of reports were for the period May-Nov.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

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

Not recorded since 1995.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

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

Occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as single birds. Two birds were at Coon Island (L11) Dec 7 (HBOC) and four birds at Rathmines (L11) Aug 31 (HLC). Winter records were of a single bird near Bluegum Creek (L10) Jul 8 (TOM), and three reports for Aug. One of the birds at Coon Island was being fed by Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds are present all year.

Widely and frequently recorded, although around 70% of the reports were for the period Aug-Nov. Most records were of single birds, occasionally of two birds. Four birds were at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Sep 7 (NEM), and five birds at Belmont Swamp during Sep (LAK).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

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

Not recorded.

Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*

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

Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region; but 1-2 birds were also present at Wingen during Jan/Feb (NEG). No records from after Mar 10, when a single bird was at Beresfield (L9) (BID), until Oct 1 when a bird was heard at Cooranbong (K11) (BIA). An immature bird was being fed by Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* Toronto (L11) Jan 31 (DUP), and two birds were reared by Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* at Forster during Dec (MVBW).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

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

Widely and often recorded in Jan and then from Aug 29, when four birds were seen at Cooranbong (K11) Aug 29 (BIA). Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but eight birds were at Toronto (L11) Dec 20 (TOM) and at least ten birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC). Two birds were reared by Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* at Forster during Dec (MVBW).

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

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

1-2 birds were occasionally recorded in the E of the Region; a bird was also heard at Woko N.P. (M4) Nov 15/16 (CLT).

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

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

Single birds were seen at Eleebana (L10) May 21 (BKE) and Awaba S.F. (L10) Oct 30 (TOM), and heard at NLH Aug 28 (HIM). A pair with a single dependent young were recorded at BbR during Sep (HPM); a young bird was also present there with one adult bird Nov 30 (LIP).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

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

A single bird was recorded at WWW Mar 29 (TAH).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 242 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Birds were occasionally, but widely, recorded.

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare.

A bird was heard calling at Mount Vincent (L10) during Jan (ZOA).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare.

Dead birds were found by roadsides at Lords Creek (K11) Jun 21, Thornton (L9) Jul 7 and near Bulahdelah S.F. (P6) Nov 9 (all GED records).

Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

ID No: 729 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain (*New to list*).

A dead bird was found by a roadside near Williamstown (N9) May 19 (GED).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident, probably under-recorded).

Single birds were recorded at The Junction (M10) Jun 29 (BLM), Belmont South (L11) Aug 15 (CJB), Aberdeen (H5) Oct 20 (GED), Bayswater Colliery (I7) Oct 27 (NEG) and Wingen Dec 10 (NEG). A dead bird was found by a roadside at KI Jul 23 (GED).

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, as 1-2 birds except when breeding. Three reports were received of pairs having nests with dependent young – all were for early Nov.

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Gloucester (N5) Oct 25 (NBL) and Rankin Park (M10) Dec 20 (IJK), and at each of two locations in Olney S.F. Nov 14 (TOM). Some birds were also present at Stockyard Creek Awaba S.F. (L10) Jan 16 and Feb 5 (TOM), and a dead bird was found by a roadside near Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC).

Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*

ID No: 331 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1989).

Not recorded.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (amended)
Status: Resident.

Birds were occasionally, but widely, recorded. All reports were of <5 birds, where numbers were noted.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. Birds were present until at least Mar 10, when a single bird was at Shortland (M10) (STA). There were no further reports until Nov 1, when 15+ birds were recorded at Garden Suburb (M10) (PEJ). 100+ birds were at Awaba S.F. (L10) Feb 7 (TOM), Woodberry (L9) Dec 3 (SJR), Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG) and Walleroo S.F. (N8) Dec 30 (STA), and 50+ birds at Newcastle Dec 2 (HBOC), Jesmond (M10) Dec 9 (BRG1), Woodberry Dec 9 (SJR) and Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Dec 26 (KEM).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Some birds were recorded at Edgeworth (L10) Dec 24 (OCG).

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

ID No: 319 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (1988)
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Bombah Point MLNP (P8) Apr 25/27 (BIA), Congewai Creek Road (J10) May 25 (HBOC), Horse Point Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC), SBS Jun 22 (HBOC), SWC Oct 5 and Nov 12 & 24 (BAW, KEM, TOM), and MLNP (cell not known) Dec 10 (KEM). Two birds were at Wingham Brush Apr 19 (MVBW) and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 14 (KEM), and four birds at Lower Myall River (P8) Jan 1 (KEM). Some birds were also at Congewai Creek Road Apr 8 (MEJ1).

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, overwhelmingly as <5 birds. Birds were feeding young at Cooranbong (K11) Apr 22 (BIA), and some immatures were with adult birds at Upper Main Creek (M6) Apr 20 (HBOC).

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds may be locally resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC) and at Belmont Swamp during Nov/Dec (LAK). There were seven widespread records from near to the coast for the period May to early Aug, and five breeding records covering Feb and from late Aug onwards.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

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

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19, where some birds also were feeding fledged young (HBOC).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

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

1-5 birds were widely and regularly recorded; notably, c 20 birds were at Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC). Birds were present until at least Mar 4, when a single bird was at Swansea (HBOC). The first recorded return was Aug 29, when two birds were at Medowie (N9) (KEM). However, there were no further reports until Oct 1, from which time birds were widespread.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

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

Single birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC) and Woko N.P. (M4) Oct 22 (IJK), two birds at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), and three birds at Copeland Tops Forest Preserve (M4/5) Oct 26 (NBL).

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

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

Birds were occasionally recorded, mainly in the central part of the Region. 6+ birds were at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC). Where numbers were noted, all other reports were of 1-5 birds.

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

ID No: 355

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Three birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 25 (NBL).

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*

ID No: 558

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 23 (NEG).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrops*

ID No: 560

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Three birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Wollemi Range, Wollemi N.P. (E11) Feb 4 (GED), Sandy Camp, Wollemi N.P. (E8) Feb 3/8 (GED and Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (all GED records), and at Upper Main Creek (M6) Apr 20 (HBOC).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Occasionally recorded in the central and W parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were often present at Wingen, where also a bird was seen to be carrying food Sep 13 (NEG).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

ID No: 529

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 6+ birds including 15% being of 21-50 birds. Birds were nest building at Lemon Tree Passage Oct 18 (KEM) and had two nests with young at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC). Birds were also feeding fledged young at Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC) and Walleroo S.F. (N8) Dec 30 (STA).

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region; reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal. 20+ birds were at Awabakal N.R. Jan 9 (GJC). On Dec 7, birds were feeding young at Swansea South and also feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* at Coon Island (L11) (both HBOC records).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

ID No: 541

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

A single male bird was recorded at Woko N.P. (M4) Nov 15/16 (CLT) and five birds at Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, locally common.

Often recorded in the E of the Region, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Awaba S.F. (L10) Feb 19 (TOM). A bird was carrying food at Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC).

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded. 20+ birds were at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Apr 14 (NEG), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Jun 8 (NEM) and Jesmond Park (M10) Jul 5 (HBOC), but around 70% of reports were of 1-5 birds. Five breeding records were received, including of an early season start where birds were nest building at Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

ID No: 976

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded. Most reports from the E of the Region were of 1-5 birds, whereas counts of 6+ birds were more common from further inland. 20+ birds were at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Apr 14 (NEG). Birds had nests at Lemon Tree Passage Aug 30 and Oct 25 (KEM).

Pilotbird *Pycnophilus floccosus*

ID No: 506

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain (*New to list*).

At least six birds were present Mar 12 at Mount Coricudgy (E9) in the Wollemi N.P. (GED). *This record represents a range extension for Pilotbird in NSW.*

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Mount Sugarloaf (L10) May 5 (HAS), Howes Valley (H10) Jun 9 (CBOC), Bulga Sep 6 (LIA), Watagan S.F. area (K11) Sep 7 (HLC), Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC) and Olney S.F. (K10) Nov 13 (TOM). The bird at Watagan S.F. was nesting.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

ID No: 493

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 and Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (both HBOC). Some birds (1-5, where numbers were noted) were also at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (GED), Woko N.P. (M4) Oct 22 (IJK) and Olney S.F. (K10) Nov 24 (TOM).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

ID No: 488

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, always as <20 birds. A pair had one dependent young at Lemon Tree Passage Oct 18 (KEM).

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*

ID No: 494

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), Upper Main Creek (M6) Apr 20, Harrington Sep 21 and Sharpes Creek (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (all HBOC records), and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 26 (KEM). Some birds also were at Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (GED).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the Lake Macquarie area (cells L10/L11) (TOM) and occasionally elsewhere. Three birds were at Gwandalan (L11) Aug 22 and Awaba (L10) Dec 31 (both TOM), four birds at Walleroo S.F. (N8) Dec 30 (STA), and 6+ birds at Wollemi Range Wollemi N.P. (E11) Feb 4 B (GED).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

ID No: 504

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. A bird was carrying food at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG).

Weebill *Smicromis brevirostris*

ID No: 465

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as >5 birds. 20+ birds were at Bulga Apr 22 and Sep 6 (LIA) and Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC). A bird was carrying food at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, with around 20% of reports being of 20+ birds including 50+ birds being at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC).

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

Birds were regularly present at KI/Stockton, and occasionally were recorded at areas of mangrove elsewhere. Most reports were of 1-5 birds, but 6+ birds were at KI/Stockton Jan 19 and Mar 12 (HBOC, CLT).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records (1987, 1989)

Status: Rare.

Several records from around Bulga – at least two birds were there Apr 13 and Jun 8 (CBOC), four birds Apr 22 and three birds Sep 6 (both LIA). Two birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Aug 18 (NEG) and Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC), and three birds were at Muswellbrook (H6) Sep 20 (NEG).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

ID No: 453

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Present until at least Apr 22, when ten birds were recorded at Bulga (LIA). There were no more reports until Aug 24, when three birds were recorded at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) (HBOC).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 and Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (both HBOC). Some birds were nest building at Sharpes Creek; birds had nests with young at Oyster Cove (N9) Aug 30 (WAR) and Bluegum Creek (L10) early Sep (TOM).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

ID No: 484

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Regularly recorded in the W and central parts of the Region. 20+ birds were at Gwandalan (L11) Jun 3/6 (TOM); all other reports were of <20 birds. Birds were nesting at Cooranbong (K11) Sep 1 (BIA) and had dependent young at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

ID No: 486

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and often recorded, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. 20+ birds were at Wingen May 19 (NEG), Bulga Sep 6 (LIA) and Lambs Valley (K8) Dec 26 (GOD). Birds were nesting at Cooranbong (K11) Sep 1 and also were feeding young there Oct 24 (BIA), and were nest building at Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Killingworth (L10) May 3/6 (TOM), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Jul 12 (NEM) and Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, mostly in the W and central parts of the Region. 20+ birds were at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 23 (NEG); all other reports were of <20 birds. Birds were nest building at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Jul 12 (NEM) and had nests with young at Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 3/5 (TOM) and Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 20 (NEG).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident in W of Region.

Not recorded since 1994.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and often recorded, with all reports being of <20 birds and around 85% being of 1-5 birds. Birds were feeding a young Common Koel *Endynamys scolopacea* Jan 31 (DUP).

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

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

Regularly recorded near to the coast, with around 15% of reports being of 20+ birds including 50+ birds were at Forster Aug 23 (KEM). A pair reared two young Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* at Forster during Dec (MVBW).

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

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

Occasionally, but widely, recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Wingen Apr 7 (NEG) and Bulga Jun 8 (CBOC), and 10+ birds at Bulga Apr 13 (CBOC).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

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

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 40% of reports being of 6+ birds. At least 200 birds were at Horse Point on Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC), and a group of 75 birds were at Mount Nellinda (K11) Dec 13 (TOM). The latter group appeared to be moving northwards; numerous small groups were also moving north over Newcastle Apr 2/3 (BIA).

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

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

Two birds were recorded at Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC), and a single bird near Bluegum Creek (L10) Oct 15 (TOM).

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

Birds were regularly recorded at Ellalong from Mar 30 through Apr, with the peak count being of at least ten birds present Apr 21 (MEJ1). Two birds were also there Aug 5 (MEJ1). Elsewhere, two birds were at Widden Valley (E8/9) Aug 3 and six birds there Oct 5 (MEJ1, FOC), while at Laguna (I10), eight birds were present Oct 12, ten birds Oct 18 and six birds (including one juvenile) Nov 1 (all FOC records).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

ID No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident

Five adults and a juvenile were at Myall Shores N.P. (P8) Apr 27 (KEM). All other reports were of 1-5 birds, where numbers were noted – at Wingen Apr 7 (NEG), Ellalong Apr 8 (MEJ1), Howes Valley (H10) Apr 13 (CBOC), Bombah Point MLNP (P8) Apr 25/27 (BIA), Rutherford (L9) May 27 (SMJ), Bolwarra (L9) May (TAH), Tahlee / Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC), Cessnock (K9) Nov 23 (STA), Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC), Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 26 (KEM) and Nelson Bay (O9) Dec 30 (GOD). At Bombah Point, three adult birds were attending a nest with young.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, with around 40% of reports being of 6+ birds. 50+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 and 100+ at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (both HBOC).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 15% of reports being of 20+ birds. Birds were nest building at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Feb 28 and nesting there Dec 26, and had dependent young at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Aug 29 (all KEM records).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

ID No: 605 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (1987)
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, with around 70% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Tilligerry Peninsula (O9/P9) May 8 (OCG), Fosterton (M6) Jul 5 (TAH), Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC) and Sharpes Creek (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident, influxes in autumn/winter.

Widely and regularly recorded. Whilst counts of 20+ birds were recorded all year, 50% of these were for the period May/Jun. There were several counts of 50-100+ birds for this period, but also during late Aug/early Sep. An estimated 2600 birds on migration were counted in 45 minutes at Bulga Apr 22 (LIA). Birds were feeding fledged young at Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993).

Not recorded.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, the most easterly report was of a single bird at Kurri Kurri (K9) Jan 28 (YAR). 6+ birds were at Wingen Apr 7 (NEG); all other reports were of 1-5 birds where numbers were noted.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded. Around 70% of reports were of 6-20 birds, and 20+ birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Mulbring (K10) Jul 20 (HBOC).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Regularly recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L8) (NEM), and moderately often elsewhere in the W and central parts of the Region. Counts at Green Wattle Creek were mostly of 10-20 birds, but peaked at 22 birds there Nov 8. Reports from elsewhere were of 1-5 birds, except for 6+ birds at Doyles Creek (G8) Jun 8 (HAS). Some birds had dependent young at Green Wattle Creek Oct 18 (NEM).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident in central/west of Region, uncommon elsewhere.

Around 100 birds were at Bulga Apr 22 (LIA), but most other reports were of 6-20 birds – at Wingen Jan 26, Apr 7 and Sep 13 (all NEG), Denman (G7) Mar 27 (LAK), Doyles Creek (G8) Jun 8 (HAS) and Murrumbo Gap (C7) Aug 1 (PHP). Two birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC). An unusual record from E of the Region was of a single bird at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

Five birds were recorded near Bluegum Creek (L10) Jul 8 and two birds there Dec 1 (TOM). A single bird was near Cessnock (K9) Nov 23 (STA). Some birds were also recorded in the Singleton area late Jul – numbers were not noted (TOM).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

ID No: 583 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (1986)
Status: Resident, uncommon in E of Region.

Widely and moderately often recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds and all being of <20 birds.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Upper Main Creek (M6) Apr 20 (HBOC) and South Swansea Aug 2 (MOA). Birds were with dependent young at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Mar 8 (NEM).

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Up to 12 birds were regularly recorded at SWC, and birds were nest building there Oct 15 (KEM). Occasionally recorded at other location near to the coast, mostly as 1-5 birds but 10+ birds were at Swan Bay (N9) May 17 (KEM).

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Accidental (*Revised from: Rare*).

Not recorded since 1993.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

100+ birds were recorded at Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (GED), and 6+ birds at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Myuna Bay (L11) Feb 16 (STA), Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9, Seal Rocks Jun 8, Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Aug 24, Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 and Belmont Lagoon Nov 4 (all HBOC records). Some birds were also at Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 –numbers were not noted (GED).

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*

ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Regularly recorded in the E of the Region, with around 15% of reports being of 20+ birds. 50+ birds were at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 27 (KEM) and 100+ birds at Horse Point on Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC). A pair were with one dependent young at Lemon Tree Passage Oct 18 (KEM).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

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

Single birds were recorded at Pipers Bay (R6) Nov 6 (MVBW) and Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Dec 26 (KEM), and two birds at both Forster Aug 23 (KEM) and Redhead (M11) Dec 5 (GJC). Three birds were at Seal Rocks Jun 20 (CBOC).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

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

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Kilaben Creek (L11) Feb 7 and Aug 11/14 (TOM), Gwandalan (L11) Jun 3/6 (TOM), Fosterton (M6) Jul 5 (TAH) and Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at NLH Jan 14 (HIM) and Mount Nellinda (K11) Dec 7/13 (TOM).

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

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

Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. Birds were with dependent young at Dunns Creek (L8) Apr 5 (HBOC).

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

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

Frequently recorded at KI and Ash Island; the only other reports were of two birds at Wallsend (M10) Sep 13 (CLT) and 5+ birds at Market Swamp Dec 28 (CBOC). Counts peaked at 28 birds at KI Mar 13 (LIA) and 20 birds at Ash Island Apr 1 (HBOC). A pair had a nest with young at Ash Island Mar 1 (FOC).

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians*

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

Widely and often recorded, with around 85% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds had nests with young at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC) and were on nest at Warakeila (L6) Nov 22 (NEM). Also, a bird was carrying food at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

ID No: 380

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 1-3 birds where numbers were noted. Five birds were at Howes Valley (H10) Jun 9 (CBOC).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

ID No: 381

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*newly confirmed*)

Status: Uncommon resident.

All records were from the Bulga area – four birds were there Apr 13 (CBOC), 6+ birds Apr 22 (LIA), 10 birds Jun 10 (CBOC) and nine birds Sep 6 (LIA). On Sep 6, a bird was on nest – *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record by HBOC.*

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

Five birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC), and some birds were also at Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17/22 (GED).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

ID No: 384

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. 75% of all reports, and 100% of those in the E, were for the period Apr-Aug. Most reports were of <5 birds; however, 6+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 and Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Aug 24, and 20+ birds at Sharpes Creek / Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (all HBOC records).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (1988)

Status: Resident, in west of Region.

1-2 birds were recorded at Wingen Jan 26 and Sep 13 (both NEG), and Bulga Apr 22 (LIA) and Jun 8 (CBOC). Three birds were at Bulga Apr 13 (CBOC). Some birds were also near Singleton late Jul (TOM).

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

ID No: 396

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC) and Woko N.P. (M4) Oct 22 (IJK).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

ID No: 392

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 85% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Birds were with dependent young at NLH Jan 19 (HIM) and Wingen Sep 13 (NEG).

Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC) and Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 25 (NBL).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

ID No: 443

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Frequently recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L8) (NEM), and occasionally but widely elsewhere. Most reports were of <10 birds, but 12 birds were at Unicomb Walk (L8) Jul 19 (NEM) and 20+ birds at Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

ID No: 445

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Local resident.

Not recorded.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*reconfirmed*)

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded; around 90% of reports were of 1-5 birds. A pair were with dependent young at NLH Jan 19 (HIM) – *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record by HBOC for over 10 years.*

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region, mostly as single birds or pairs. The most easterly report was of a pair at Fennell Bay (L10) Apr 25 (CAM). 6+ birds were at Wollemi Range in Wollemi N.P. (E11) Feb 4 (GED).

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

ID No: 549

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and often recorded, with reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal. 20+ birds were at Killingworth (L10) May 3/6 (TOM).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

ID No: 416

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. Most reports were of 1-2 birds, but three or four birds were occasionally recorded, and 6+ birds were at Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1987).

Not recorded.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident, of highland areas.

A single bird was recorded at Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant and local resident.

Most records were of 1-5 birds. Notably, 20+ birds were at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Nov 8 (NEM) and Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 (HBOC). Winter records were from Hands Lagoon (L9) May 12 (TAH), Swan Bay (N9) May 17 (KEM), Congewai Creek Road (J10) May 25 (HBOC), SWC Jun 3 (ROD), Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC), Killingworth (L10) Jul 8 (TOM) and Pelican (L11) Aug 2 (MOA). From the final week of Aug, birds were widespread.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

ID No: 408

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with over 95% of reports being of 1-5 birds.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

ID No: 373

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded, mainly as 1-5 birds where numbers were noted. Birds were present until at least Mar 17, when some were at Mount Coricudgy (E9) (GED). The first recorded return was Aug 30, when a bird was heard at SWC (ROD). Birds were feeding fledged young at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC).

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

ID No: 375

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at Wollemi Range in Wollemi N.P. (E11) Feb 4 (GED), and pairs at Barrington Tops N.P. (K4) Feb 15 (CBOC), Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC) and Woko N.P. (M4) Oct 22 (IJK). Four birds were at Copeland Tops Forest Preserve (M4/5) Oct 26 (NBL) and five birds at Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-2 birds. However, 6+ birds were at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 23 (NEG), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Nov 8 and Warakeila (L6) Nov 22 (both NEM) and Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Dec 26 (KEM). There were no records for the period between Mar 2 and Sep 21. Birds were nest building at Cedar Brush N.R. Oct 23 and had dependent young at Warakeila Nov 22.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Bobs Farm (O9) Feb 1 (DIM) and Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 25 (NBL), and pairs at Oyster Cove (N9) Nov 20 (BLM) and Taylors Beach (O9) Dec 27 (GOD). A male and two females were at Bobs Farm Feb 7 (DIM).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 369

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Wingen Jan 26 and Sep 13 (NEG), and Bolwarra STP (L9) Apr 19 (TAH), two birds at Bulga Apr 22 (LIA), and three birds at Denman (G7) Mar 27 (LAK). Some birds were also at Wingen Apr 7 (NEG), Singleton late Jul (TOM) and Murrumbidgee Gap (C7) Aug 1 (PHP/GED).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

ID No: 415

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 75% of reports being of 1-5 birds. There were several breeding records from late Aug to mid Oct.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Occasionally recorded, until Apr 26 when a single bird was at Violet Hill MLNP (P7) (KEM), and from Sep 21 when a single bird was at Harrington (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

ID No: 361

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Birds were widely and regularly recorded. 20+ birds were at Wingen Apr 7 (NEG), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Aug 16 (NEM), Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Aug 24 (HBOC), Bulga Sep 6 (LIA) and Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Cedar Brush N.R. (G3) Oct 23 (NEG) and were feeding fledged young at Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

ID No: 364

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Several breeding records were received, from late Aug to early Dec.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

ID No: 673

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant; bird of passage at other times.

Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region over Apr-Oct, mostly as 1-5 birds but sometimes as 6-10 birds. There were no records for Mar or Nov/Dec; single birds were at NLH Jan 20 (HIM) and SWC Feb 28 (NBL).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

ID No: 424

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 Glendon Brook (K8) Aug 3 (WMR). Birds were feeding fledged young at Myuna Bay (L11) Feb 16 and SWC Nov 12 (both STA).

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

ID No: 428

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

ID No: 425

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident..

1-5 birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) Apr 13 (CBOC), Wakefield (L10) May 14 (TOM), Woodville (L9) Jul 20 (NEM), Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Aug 16 and Sep 7 (NEM), Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC), Unicomb Walk (L8) Oct 4 (NEM), Freemans Drive (K11) Oct 12 & 14 (TOM), Bluegum Creek (L10) Oct 15 (TOM), Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Dec 26 (KEM) and Walleroo S.F. (N8) Dec 30 (STA). The pair at Walleroo S.F were feeding a single fledged young.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, as 1-2 birds where numbers were noted. There were no reports for the period between Mar 9, when some birds were at Surveyors Creek (L10) (TOM), and Sep 21 when a bird was heard at Harrington (HBOC).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

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

Not recorded since 1994.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

ID No: 430

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Single birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) during Jan (PEJ), and Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC).

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC) and a single bird there Dec 26 (CBOC).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

ID No: 671

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6-20 birds were at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Mar 1 (KEM), Swan Bay (N9) Aug 15 (OCG), Swansea South Dec 7 (HBOC) and Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Dec 4 (KEM), and 20+ birds at Glendon Brook (K8) Aug 3 (WMR).

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

ID No: 432

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded near to the coast, mostly as 1-5 birds. 30 birds were at Port Waratah (M10) during Jun (CLT) and 20+ birds at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 26 (KEM). Birds at Mungo Brush had nests with young and with eggs.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Often recorded in the E of the Region until May 17, and from Aug 11. Reports were mostly of 1-5 birds except at Belmont Swamp and SWC. At these two locations, counts peaked at 20+ birds and were usually of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Swan Bay (N9) May 17 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at SWC Dec 23 (LIA).

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Not recorded since 1995.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Not recorded.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

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

Occasionally but widely recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 30 birds were at Swan Bay (N9) May 17 (KEM) and 20+ birds at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG). The reporting rate was steady all year, except for a peak during Sep. Birds had dependent young at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Dec 6 (NEM).

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1987).
Not recorded.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

ID No: 702 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, predominantly as 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at Rankin Park Nov 9 (STJ) and also were carrying food at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

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

Widely and often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. Birds had dependent young at SWC Nov 12 (KEM), and immature birds were recorded several times.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

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

Birds were widely and regularly recorded. Unusually, only one report was of 20+ birds – at Wingen Sep 13 C (NEG). Several breeding records were received covering the period late Aug - mid Oct, but birds were also feeding young at Cooranbong (K11) Apr 22 (BIA).

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Birds were widely and regularly recorded. All reports were of <20 birds and around 85% were of 1-5 birds. A pair reared two Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* at Forster during Dec (MVBW).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*revised from: Accidental*)

Six birds were recorded at Mount Coricudgy in Wollemi N.P. (E9) Mar 17 (GED).

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

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

A single bird was recorded at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

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

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Belmont Swamp Mar (LAK) and Ash Island Apr 1 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Colliery Dam Jul 20 (HBOC) and had a nest with both eggs and young at Lemon Tree Passage Oct 25 (KEM).

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Horse Point on Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC) and Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC).

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek/Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC).

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Four birds were recorded at Forster Aug 23 (KEM), two birds at Fenninghams Island (O9) Jun 9 (TAH) and Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC), and single birds at Malabula (O9) Jun 8 (KEM), Tanilba Bay (N9) Jun 9 (TAH) and Wingham Brush Sep 8 (KEM).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

ID No: 693

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded, mostly in the W and central parts of the Region. Around 25% of reports were of 20+ birds. Birds were on nest at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC).

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Feb 22 (HAS), Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC), Watagan S.F. (K11) during Sep (HLC), Sharpes Creek/ Gloucester Tops (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC), Woko N.P.(M4) Oct 22 (IJK) and Olney S.F. (J11/K11) Nov 15 (TOM).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

ID No: 684

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Five birds were recorded at Harrington Dec 26 (CBOC), three male birds and one female at Dunns Creek (L8) Apr 5 (HBOC), and three birds were at NLH Jan 14 (HIM),. All other reports were of 1-2 birds – at NLH Jan 23 (HIM), Bombah Point MLNP (P8) Apr 25/27 (BIA), Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Apr 26 (CBOC), Harrington and Crowdy Head N.P. (S4) Sep 21 (both HBOC) and Woko N.P. (M4) Nov 15/16 (CLT).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded. Around 35% of reports were of 6+ birds including 20+ birds were at Upper Main Creek (M6) Apr 20 (HBOC). A bird had a bower at Hallidays Point (R5) Dec 6 (MVBW).

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 648

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Four pairs were recorded in the area around Bunnan (F5) Oct 21, and two birds were at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Oct 9 (both NEG).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 647

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region, with around 90% of reports being of 1-5 birds.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 877

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993).

Not recorded.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ID No: 995

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded at populated areas, mostly as 6-20 birds where numbers were noted. 200+ birds were at Woodberry (L9) Mar 10 (SJR).

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

60 birds were recorded at Yarrawa (F7) Jul 20 (GED) and 40 birds at Broke (I9) Aug 17 (NEG). Occasionally but widely recorded elsewhere, mostly as counts of 6-20 birds. A bird was on nest at KI Jan 19 (HBOC).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded. Around 25% of reports were of 20+ birds, including 50+ birds were at Doyle's Creek (G8) Jun 8 (HAS) and Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Jan 4 (NEM) and at Milbrodale Oct 19.

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

ID No: 661

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

ID No: 662

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 6+ birds including 20% being of 20+ birds. 50+ birds were at Dunns Creek (L8) Apr 5 (HBOC) and Green Wattle Creek (L8) Sep 7 (NEM). Birds were nest building near Bluegum Creek (L10) Dec 5/6 (TOM).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Ten birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery (I7) May 24 (NEG) and 1-5 birds at Bulga Jun 8 (CBOC), Howes Valley (H10) Jun 9 (NBL) and Wingen Sep 13 (NEG). Some birds were also in the Singleton area late Jul (TOM). The pair at Howes Valley were feeding young.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983

HBOC Category: 3 (Revised)

Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1991.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Six birds were recorded at KI Jun 5 (GED), and 1-5 birds there occasionally during Feb/Mar (CLT, LIA). Elsewhere, 12 birds were at Dawson River (Q4) Mar 15 (MVBW), five birds at WWW during May (NEM) and two birds at SWC Mar 22 (LIA). Some birds were also recorded at NWR Oct 29 (ROD) – numbers were not noted.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Four birds were recorded at Market Swamp Jan 24 (LIA) and two birds at KI Nov 9 (STA).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 80% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Warkworth (I8) Nov 23, and birds were on nest and also nest building at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (all HBOC records).

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*

ID No: 358

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

Five birds were recorded at Bulga Apr 22 (LIA), two birds at Warkworth (I8) Nov 23 and a single bird at Milbrodale (I9) Oct 19 (both HBOC).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and regularly recorded, in quite varying counts. 300 birds were at Ash Island Apr 1 (HBOC), 200 birds at Bolwarra STP (L9) May 31 (TAH) and 100+ birds at KI Mar 13 (LIA/CLT), Colliery Dam Jul 20 and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (both HBOC). 51-100 birds were at SWC Jul 3 and Aug 30 (HBOC, LIA), Swan Bay (N9) Aug 15 (OCG) and Bolwarra STP Feb 18 (TAH). Several breeding records were received for the period Aug-Sep.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

ID No: 359

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 20 (HBOC) and 150 birds at Bolwarra STP (L9) Feb 14 (TAH).

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

ID No: 360

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

At least six birds overwintered at SWC (HBOC, ROD); summer counts there peaked at 50+ birds with at least 28 nests (many reports). Other winter records were of 20+ birds at Horse Point on Smiths Lake (Q7) Jun 7/9 (HBOC) and 100+ birds at Swan Bay (N9) Aug 15 (OCG). Birds were occasionally recorded elsewhere during the rest of the year, mostly in counts of <10. 12 birds were at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Feb 8 (NEM), 40+ at Ash Island Nov 19 (STA), 20+ at Cundletown (R4) Dec 5 (MVBW) and 30 at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Dec 26 (KEM) and Seaham Swamp N.R. Dec 30 (STA).

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Ten birds were recorded at Swansea South Mar 4 and two birds there Dec 7 (HBOC). A single bird was at Belmont Swamp in Jan, Aug and Nov (LAK).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

ID No: 524

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident.

Regularly recorded at SWC and nearby wetlands, and often elsewhere in the E of the Region. Peak counts at SWC were of at least 20 birds during Sep/Oct (HBOC, KEM), and birds were nest building there Nov 12 (STA) and had dependent young Dec 23 (LIA). All counts from elsewhere were of 1-5 birds.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

ID No: 523

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Often recorded at SWC, with the peak count being ten birds there during Mar (LIA, STA, KEM). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Wallsend (M10) Sep 13 (CLT), NWR Nov 5 (STA), Oyster Cove (N9) Nov 8 (KEM), and six birds at both WWW Mar 8 (TAH) and Cabbage Tree Island Nov 12 (FOC). Some birds (numbers not noted) were also at KI Mar 1 (CCF) and Wallsend Oct 3 (TOM).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Moderately often recorded at wetlands in the E of the Region, as 1-2 birds where numbers were noted.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

A single bird was recorded at NWR Nov 11 (TOM).

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncertain.

A single male bird was recorded at Wybong (F6) Oct 21 (NEG).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

ID No: 525

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Often recorded in the E of the region, with around 50% of reports being of 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at SWC Nov 12 (KEM), and several juvenile birds were at Ellalong Lagoon Apr 2 (MEJ1).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

ID No: 574

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident and winter migrant.

Widely and regularly recorded, with around 65% of reports being of 6+ birds including 25% being of 20+ birds. One third of the reports of 20+ birds, and five of the eight reports of 50-100+ birds, were for the period Apr-May.

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

Single birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Feb 23 (HBOC), Mount Coricudgy (E9) Mar 17 (GED), Warakeila (L6) Aug 9 (NEM), Sharpes Creek (M5/L5) Oct 3/6 (HBOC), Heaton Lookout (K10) Oct 31 (TOM), and at three locations in Olney S.F. (K10) over Nov 14/15 (TOM). The bird at Sharpes Creek was carrying food, but this is not considered sufficient to be a breeding record.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Two birds were recorded at East Maitland (L9) Jun 1 (SMJ), and single male birds at Karuah (N8) Aug 24 (LAK) and Clarencetown (M8) Dec 3 & 5 (SLJ).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident.

Widely and frequently recorded, with around 70% of reports being of 6+ birds and 40% being of 20+ birds. 500 birds were at Ash Island Apr 1 and 1000 birds at SBS May 6 (both HBOC). Birds were on nests and also nest building at SWC Oct 15 and Nov 12 (KEM).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

ID No: 998

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident.

Widely and often recorded, with around 60% of reports being of 1-5 birds. Counts were generally higher in the lower Hunter Valley, and included 20+ birds at Belmont Swamp (M11) during Nov (LAK) and at SWC Dec 28 (LIA), 60 birds at New Lambton (M10) Jan 21 (CLT) and 100+ birds at Woodberry (L9) Mar 10 (SJR). Birds were on nests at SWC Nov 12 (KEM).

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:

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded off BBNP (R6) Feb 21, 1995, after heavy storms (WAJ). (*This observation was presented as an unconfirmed record in the 1995 Bird Report.*)

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

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

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233

A single bird was reported to be flying over heath at MLNP (cell Q7) on Dec 10 and Dec 16.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 3

Single birds were reported to be at Cundletown (R4) Mar 8 and Apr 9.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported to be at KI Dec 30.

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 3

An adult and a juvenile bird were reported to be at Caves Beach (L11) Mar 23.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

ID No: 021 HBOC Category: 3

Two birds were reported to be at Harrington Dec 27/28

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Birds were reported to be at NLH Jan 24 and Shortland (M10) during Sep.

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

A single bird was reported to be at Coopernook S.F. (R3) Jan 16.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 3

Single birds were reported to be at Bolwarra (L9) Mar 6 and Seal Rocks Apr 2.

Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

ID No: 729 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported to be at Bombah Point MLNP (P8) Apr 4.

House Swift *Apus affinus*

ID No: 828 HBOC Category: 3

A single bird was reported to be flying over Edgeworth (L10) Dec 24. *There have been very few previous Australian records of this species. The report was referred to the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee and thence to the Birds Australia Rarities Committee and was still under consideration at the time of printing.*

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*
ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 3

A male bird was reported to be at Gloucester Tops (L5) Oct 25.

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:

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Four birds at Mount Sugarloaf (L10) Nov 2 (WMR).

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

ID No: 286

A single bird at Waratah West Aug 1 (BRG1).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274

A single bird at Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) Aug 13 (TOM).

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

ID No: 294

A single bird at Jesmond (M10) Aug 5 (BRG1).

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Many locations are regularly visited by recorders for these annual reports. It is redundant to quote the grid reference for these locations every time that they are cited. Grid references for some commonly visited locations are:

Ash Island	M10
Awabakal Nature Reserve	M10/11
Belmont Lagoon & Swamp	L11
Blackbutt Reserve	M10
Bulga	I8
Cabbage Tree Island	P9
Colliery Dam	L10
Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Forster	R6
Harrington	S4
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	M9
Kooragang Island	M10
Lemon Tree Passage	O9
Market Swamp	M10
Newcastle	M10
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve	M10
New Lambton Heights	M10
Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve	M8

Seal Rocks	R7
Shortland Wetlands Centre	M10
Singleton	I8
Stockton	M10
Stockton Borehole Swamp	L10
Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Walka Water Works	L9
Wingen	H4
Wingham Brush	Q4

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

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

BBNP	Booti Booti National Park
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve
GRNP	Goulburn River National Park
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
KI	Kooragang Island
MLNP	Myall Lakes National Park
NLH	New Lambton Heights
N.P.	National Park
N.R.	Nature Reserve
NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
S.F.	State Forest
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
SWC	Shortland Wetlands Centre
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
WWW	Walka Water Works

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.

BAW	Wilma Barden	HPM	Pam, Michael Hely
BEM	Matthew Bell	HWT	Reported in <i>The Wetlander</i> (newsletter of Hunter Wetlands Trust)
BIA	Birding-Australia (Internet mail group)	IJK	Kay, Jim Imrie
BID	Doug Biddell	KBD	Bev, David Kibble
BKE	K & E Bradbury	KEM	Michael Kearns
BLM	Max Blanch	LAK	Keith Laverick
BRG1	Grant Brosie	LIA	Ann Lindsey
CAM	Margaret Carmody	LIP	Paddy Lightfoot
CBOC	Observation reported in newsletter of the Cumberland Bird Observers Club	MCG	Geraldine McCulloch
CCF	Central Coast group of the FOC	MCK	Kevin McDonald
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	MEG	Graeme Mee
CLT	Tom Clarke	MEJ1	Jenny Meynell
DIM	Marea Diemar	MEJ2	Eve, John Moyse
DUP	Pam Durie	MOA	Alan Morris
FET	Ted Felton	MOB	B. Mollar
FOC	Observation reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club	MPM	Peter, Margaret McLauchlan
GED	David Geering	MVBW	Observation reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers
GIK	Ken Gibson	NBL	Reported to the NSW BirdLine
GJC	John, Cynthia Grebert	NEG	Greg Newling
GOD	Darryl Goldrick	NEM	Mike Newman
HAM	Matthew Hamonet	OCG	Graeme O'Connor
HAS	Sue Hamonet	PAR	Ruth Parker
HBOC	Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp	PEJ	Jim Perry
HDD	Don, Daphne Halliday	PHP	Peter Phillips
HIM	Ian, Marta Hamilton	POP	Pat Pountney
HLC	Liz, Chris, Daniel Herbert	ROD	Diane Rogers
HLP	Leonie, Peter Hansen	RBS	B. & S. Roderick
		RYA	Adrian Ryan

SLJ Leone, John Storm
SJR Judith, Rowley Smith
SMJ James Smart
STA Alan Stuart
STJ Jeanette Stephenson
TAH Harold Tarrant
TOM Michael Todd

WAJ Jill Warner
WAR Rosemary Waymark
WCR Observation reported to
Shortland Wetlands Centre
WMR Marian, Ray Walker
YAR Richard Yank
ZOA Andrew Zoneff

BIRDS OF OPEN-FOREST COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN LAKE MACQUARIE

Michael Todd

23 Excelsior Parade Toronto NSW 2283

Mike Todd is a consultant ornithologist working with Lake Macquarie City Council to develop a biodiversity profile of the Council's area of responsibility. Mike is also a postgraduate student in the Biology Department at the University of Newcastle.

While there have been 303 bird species recorded within the Lake Macquarie catchment area, only a fraction of these are present at any one point, at any one time. It is these birds that are present at a particular site that make up the local bird community. A community is usually made up of bird species that differ in their foraging ecology and preferred habitat within the site. These birds can be divided into what are called foraging guilds. A foraging guild consists of birds that forage in a similar way to each other.

Open-forest is the most common forest type in the Lake Macquarie catchment and so possesses a variety of different bird communities depending on the density and type of understorey as well as the dominant tree types that make up the forest canopy. Three open-forest communities are particularly common in the catchment area:

- *Stringybark* – forest dominated by eucalypts with stringy bark. Red Bloodwood and the Rusty Gum are common associates.
- *Scribbly Gum* – forest dominated by eucalypts with a smooth bark called Scribbly Gums. Often the only large tree present at sites.
- *Ironbark* – forest dominated by eucalypts with coarse, flaky bark called ironbarks. Spotted Gum and Grey Gums are common associates.

Ironbark forests typically possess a greater bird species diversity than the other two communities. The number of species, and the number of individuals within each species can be converted into an index. This index is called a diversity index and it allows sites to be compared with one another. There are a number of different indices but a commonly used one is the Shannon-Wiener diversity index. Its advantage is that it takes into account both how many species are present at a site (species richness) and the overall abundance of birds at a site. Within the Lake Macquarie catchment, ironbark forests have a greater bird species diversity than the other two, that is statistically significant (ANOVA, $p=0.005$). Why is this so?

We can begin an explanation of this by looking at why scribbly gum communities tend to have a lower bird species diversity than the others. The smooth bark of scribbly gums doesn't provide as many notches and crevices for insects as ironbark and stringybark eucalypts do. Also the canopy of scribbly gum communities tends to be more open than the other communities. This is caused by two factors. The trees

themselves have less small branches and leaves than other eucalypts and they also tend to be further spaced apart. Overall this makes for less foraging habitat for many birds. The birds from the bark-foraging guild (treecreepers and the Varied Sittella) are disadvantaged by the smooth bark. Birds that forage in the canopy (pardalotes and warblers) are disadvantaged by the sparse foliage. However, scribbly gum communities often have an understorey that is blessed with more flowering shrubs such as *Banksia* and *Lambertia*, plants which provide foraging habitat for nectarivorous birds such as the Eastern Spinebill and the White-cheeked Honeyeater. Honeyeaters that feed on insects as much as nectar like the Brown-headed Honeyeater are less attracted to the abundant nectar, however, at times scribbly gum communities can possess many more honeyeaters than the other sites and at all times nectarivorous species make up a greater proportion of the total birds at a site (Figure 1). Another way in which the scribbly gum communities differ is in the higher proportion of aerial insectivores such as swallows, swifts and martins in the total population at a site in comparison to other communities.

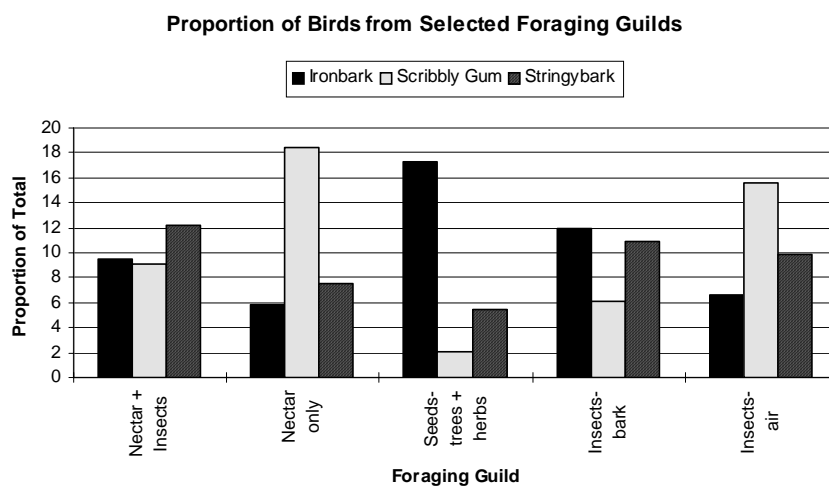


Figure 1 - Proportion of birds in the three open-forest communities.

In contrast to the scribbly gum communities the ironbark communities often have a slightly more open understorey. While this excludes some species such as the Southern Emu-wren and the Chestnut-rumped Heath-wren, it can favour other species such as the Brown Treecreeper. The most diverse site located to date, was an ironbark forest, which possessed on average eight more species than the other sites and more than 25 more individual birds per hour survey. While it lacked some of the dense understorey dwellers such as those mentioned above it contained other species that were not found at the other sites such as the Black-chinned Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper and greater numbers of almost all other species. Ironbark communities on the whole contain a greater representation of birds from slightly more inland areas than do stringybark and scribbly gum communities.

Despite the greater species diversity of ironbark communities, the importance of other open-forest communities should not be forgotten. Scribbly gum communities exist where soil and climatic conditions make them favourable and thus are the most able to provide bird habitat in those areas. While the habitat they provide may not be able to support as many birds as other communities the environment that it

provides is the favoured habitat of many other bird species. It is the variation between one area and another that allows different bird communities to develop and it is this that makes birdwatching such a rewarding and varied occupation.

NOTES

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.

