

# HUNTER REGION OF NSW

## 1998 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://users.hunterlink.net.au/hboc/home.htm>

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

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Cover photograph: Black-backed Wagtail (*Motacilla lugens*)  
(Photographer: Mike Carter)

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# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
FOREWORD	
INTRODUCTION	1
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR	2
SYSTEMATIC LIST	4
Introduction	4
Birds	5
SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS	72
UNCONFIRMED RECORDS	73
ESCAPEES	73
GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS	74
LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS	75
OBSERVER CODES	75
APPENDIX: Black-backed Wagtail <i>Motacilla lugens</i> at Glendale	78
THE HUNTER REGION	82



## FOREWORD

I have always been interested in bird reports, whether they were the "Annual Rarities Reports" published in the journal *British Birds*, or the *Tasmanian Bird Report* of more recent times. So therefore I welcomed the invitation to write the foreword for the Hunter Region of New South Wales' *Annual Bird Report* for 1998. Since 1970 when Allan Rogers, a former Chairperson of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club, commenced the first *NSW Bird Report*, I have been an ardent supporter of the Report and have become over time the Editor of the Bird Report. Since 1970 there have only been four editors on the NSW Bird Reports viz Allan Rogers, Terry Lindsey, Dick Cooper and myself (sometimes jointly with Andy Burton) and we have all maintained a strong interest in the status of birds in NSW and continue to contribute to the Report.

The aims of the NSW Bird Reports have continued to be: To record reported observations of species accidental to NSW; to record observations which more precisely define the normal distribution of birds within NSW; and to record observations which may indicate changes in species numbers, frequency, range and movements. It is therefore interesting to look back to the first report and to see how things have altered as FOC members and others tracked the change in distribution and or abundance in some species. For instance in the 1970 Report, Wandering Albatross were so common that only those reported over December and January were worthy of mention (since then the commercial longline fishing boats have drastically reduced their numbers so that any Wandering Albatross gets a mention in the current reports!); no Streaked Shearwaters were reported but nowadays they are regular summer visitors to the seas of eastern Australia; Brown Treecreepers, Southern Whitefaces and Hooded Robins were regularly reported on the Cumberland Plain west of Sydney but alas they no longer occur!; Crested Pigeons were still expanding their range in to western Sydney, but now they are abundant residents; and there were estimated to be 3 pairs of Red-ored Whistlers in Pulletop Nature Reserve near Griffith, but these had disappeared by the late 1970s! Our reports track these changes in status and allow members of bird clubs to alert authorities to the changes and to seek appropriate action.

Which leads me to the *1998 Hunter Bird Report*, no 6 in the series! Regional bird reports are important to the quality of the *NSW Annual Bird Report* as they are a summary of the best sightings for a region for the year. To have summaries of observations and to be able to track changes in distribution and abundance at a local level enhances the overall picture of change across the State. For a long time there was only the *Canberra (COG) Annual Report*, then in 1985 *Nature in Eurobodalla* was published, which provided information on the birds of Eurobodalla Shire and in more recent years, included Bega Shire as well. *The Hunter Bird Report* followed in 1993, and more recent *Central Coast*, *The Illawarra* and *Blue Mountains Bird Reports* have appeared and soon there will probably be a Tamworth annual bird report. The Hunter Bird Report is of high quality and very comprehensive and a credit to all those people who are associated with its production.

Some of the more interesting sightings for 1998 include seabirds like albatrosses, petrels, Kelp Gulls and Jaegers, birds which have obviously been under-reported in the past. I look forward to the day when the Hunter BOC runs a few pelagic trips to improve the knowledge of seabirds that frequent the Hunter coastline. Observations of Threatened Species such as the Beach Stone-curlews and Bush Stone-curlews are important records for the Report, and with more consistent surveying I hope to find, in future reports, that the Bush Stone-curlews have been found to be more common in the upper Port Stephens area than currently known and that the Beach Stone-curlews occur in mangroves further south than Harrington. The Report contains more records of forest owls and breeding records as well and details of the first confirmed breeding of Mangrove Gerygones in the Hunter Region.

Of course two of the most famous records for the Hunter Region of recent years are detailed in this Report, that is the 7 Yellow Wagtails at Ash Island and adjacent areas in January-March, and the Black-backed Wagtail at Glendale Shopping complex in April. Due to the improved communications that birdwatchers now have available to them, these birds were seen by many people outside of the Hunter as well and gave great delight to all the people who came to see them. Overall a great report and congratulations to the contributors, editorial, and appraisal committee members who have combined to make it happen.

Alan Morris  
August 30, 1999



## 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 during the 1998 calendar year. The information is based upon observation records which we have gathered from a variety of sources.

The 1998 Report describes the regional status of 361 bird species, including 314 species that were recorded during the year. There are two additions to the 1997 species list – Kelp Gull and Forest Kingfisher. Breeding records for 138 species are described, of the total of 197 species that have been 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 accepted.*

*Category 2: records usually are accepted, 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. For 1998, the Committee members were Sue Hamonet, Jeannette Stephenson, Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Jim Perry and Jim Imrie.

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 22, 1999

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 1998 included the following (presented in taxonomic order):

- Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta* off Port Stephens, August
- Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos* off both Port Stephens and Swansea Heads, July
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* at Glendale, April
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* at Hexham Swamp, June, and SWC, August
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* at Cundletown, July and August, and at Purfleet, September
- Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* heard at Glenrock SRA, August
- Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis* – first confirmed breeding record since 1988
- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* – large numbers again present at Cedar Hill Drive, December
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* at Cedar Hill Drive, January-March
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at SWC, January and Ash Island, February
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* at Ash Island and Kooragang Island, February
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* at Wyee February
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus* nesting at Harrington, February and April, and also present there in November.
- Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus* – first confirmed breeding records
- Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* at Newcastle Baths, December
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* at Newcastle, February-April, and at Harrington April
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* at Bobs Farm, May (possibly escapees) and Goulburn River National Park, June
- Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* breeding at Blackbutt Reserve, August
- Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* at both Cobark Forest Park and Heaton Gap, January, and Gloucester Tops, September
- Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* at SWC, August, and Gloucester Tops, September
- Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* at Harrington, June, and Bulahdelah, October
- Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayi* at SWC, October
- Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster* – first confirmed breeding record
- Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis* at two locations in Goulburn River National Park, June
- Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens* at Goulburn River National Park, June
- Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* at Chichester State Forest, May, Rookhurst, July, and Chichester Dam, September
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* at Lake Liddell, March, and Bayswater Colliery, January and December
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* at SWC, January, and Ash Island, February-March
- Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens* at Glendale, April



# SYSTEMATIC LIST

## INTRODUCTION

Bird species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows that of Christidis and Boles in the 1994 RAOU publication *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories* (ISBN 0815-2233).

Definitions of the terms used in status descriptions 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.

*In a departure from previous Reports, a statement about typical distribution and count size is provided as part of the Status description for many of the species. In these cases, only notable exceptions to the generalised statement have been considered for the main body of the Report. This philosophy will be continued in future Reports.*

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.

Most of records received include indications 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 (or a location abbreviation). The relevant grid number (e.g. F7) is also cited, except for some of the more common locations which 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 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: Local resident in W of Region (*Revised from: Uncommon bird of passage*)

In Goulburn River N.P., 4 birds were at White Box Camp (C6) Jun 5/8 and 2 birds were at Lees Pinch (C6) Jun 6/7 and White Box Camp May 8/10 (all HBOC records). Unusually, a bird was also recorded at Saltwater (R4) Oct 1 (MVBW).

**Australian Brush-turkey** *Alectura lathami*ID No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

12+ birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 & 26 (KEM). All other reports were of 1-5 birds – at Careys Trail (K5) Jan 27/28 (KEM), Sharpes Creek (L5/M5) Feb 28 (KEM), Wingham Brush (Q4) May 16 and Nov 22 (MVBW, HBOC), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC) and Barrington House Oct 25 (LIA).

**Stubble Quail** *Coturnix pectoralis*ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Not recorded since 1996.

**Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* A total of 12 birds were recorded at LTP Jun 13 (KEM). A pair were with young at WWW Feb 1 (PEJ) and another pair had a nest with 4 eggs at Bulga (I8) Oct 24 (LIA).

**King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain (not recorded since 1994).

No confirmed records.

**Maggie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident.

Birds were regularly recorded at SWC, with the counts peaking at 80 birds during July (ROD). The only records from elsewhere were of 20 birds at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 10 and some birds also there Mar 5 (TOM), 14 birds at Seaham Swamp N.R. Feb 20 (BID) and 3 birds at Market Swamp (M10) Sep 7 (TOM). Three chicks were present at SWC Oct 30 (LIA).

**Plumed Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage.

About 60 birds were recorded at Doughboy Hollow (J8), a regular location, Jul 2 (NEG). More unusual records were of four birds at SWC Jan 13 (ROD/BIA) and two birds at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 26 (TOM).

**Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

The only records were from SWC and some nearby wetlands at Shortland and Callaghan, and only for Jan and Sep-Dec. Counts peaked at 15 birds Jan 13 (TOM) and 20 birds mid-Sep (BAW). Birds were with young at SWC Oct 14 (BAW).

**Blue-billed Duck** *Oxyura australis*ID No: 216 HBOC Category: 3 (Revised) 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 several records from Grahamstown Dam (M9) - a usual location - with the count peaking at 20+ birds there Feb 22 (HBOC). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were occasionally but widely recorded. 20 birds were at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Mar 31 (TOM) and 10 birds there Apr 13 (HLC).

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

No wild birds have been recorded since 1995. From the captive population at SWC (see 1993 Report), three clutches were hatched (six young on Sep 18, all later taken by an eel, and five young on both Sep 29 and Nov 24). This is the first successful captive breeding outside of the A.C.T. for this threatened species.

**Black Swan *Cygnus atratus***

ID No: 203 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at medium to large waters.

*Notable records:* 500+ birds were at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC) and in MLNP Apr 14 (KEM), and 100-300 birds at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), lower Myall River (P8) Mar 22 (GJC), Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA), Hexham Swamp (L10) Jun 20 & Jul 17 (KEM, LIA), and Lake Boolambyte MLNP (P7) Dec 13 (KEM). Reports of birds nesting or with cygnets all year except during May.

**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 regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at or near fresh to brackish waters.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Deadmans Creek (K9) Jan 4 (CLT), Old Bar (R4) Feb 7 (MVBW) and BbR Apr 7 (HBOC). There were breeding records spanning Sep-Nov, but also a pair were nesting at Cooranbong (K11) Jul 23 (BIA).

**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (*amended*)  
Status: Local resident.

Three records were of hybrids with Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosa*, including an alarming count of 500+ birds present at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC). There were occasional other reports of 1-3 birds, with the most westerly record being from Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC). 6+ birds were at BbR Apr 7 and Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (both HBOC).

A report of two nests at Dora Creek Nov 2, 1991 was received (LIA) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the species in the Region.*

**Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa***

ID No: 208 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at small to large waters.

*Notable records:* 800+ birds were recorded at Lake Boolambyte MLNP (P7) Apr 14 (KEM), 250 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA), and 100+ birds at LTP Mar 20 (KEM) and Stockton STP Jul 12 (LIA). A further seven reports were of 50+ birds. There were several breeding records spanning Aug-Dec.

**Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis***

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Local resident and bird of passage. Occasionally recorded at medium to large fresh waters in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds although with counts of up to ten birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 400 birds were at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA) and 20-25 birds at Hexham Swamp (L10) Aug 1 and Oyster Cove (N9) Dec 11 (both KEM). Some of the birds at Oyster Cove were with dependent young – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

**Grey Teal *Anas gracilis***

ID No: 211 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters throughout the Region as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* 200+ birds were at Hexham Swamp (L10) Jun 20 (KEM) and 59 birds at Doughboy Hollow (J8) Dec 27 (WOR), and a further six reports were of 20-50 birds. Birds had chicks at SWC Sep 16 and LTP Nov 7 (both KEM).

**Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea***

ID No: 210 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded at medium to large fresh waters in E of the Region as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* 250 birds were at Ash Island Feb 9, 200 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11, and 150 birds at KI Dec 19 (all LIA records), and a further four reports were of 51-100 birds. There were breeding records for Jan and Sep-Dec.

**Garganey *Anas querquedula***

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1993*).

Not recorded.

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

ID No: 213                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Bird of passage.

200 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA), 6+ birds at SBS Jan 17 (HSE) and two birds at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Dec 31 (NEG). A dead bird was found at Port Waratah (M10) Apr (CLT).

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were at Bolwarra (L9) Feb 6 (HSE), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), Italia Road (M9) May 17 (OCG), Denman (G7) Jun 7 (STA), NWR Jun 21 (LIA) and Bayswater Colliery (I7) Dec 31 (NEG), 80 birds at Colliery Dam (L10) May 23 (KEM), 100 birds at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Mar 31 (TOM), and 500 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA).

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 061                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at small to large waters as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were at WWW Jan 14 & Feb 3 (KEM, HBOC), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), Newline Road (M9) May 31 (OCG) and SWC Jun 14 (OCG), and 100 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA). Breeding records for Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

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

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

200 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA) and 75 birds at WWW Jul 16 (TAH). Other records were of 1-5 birds at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), Bayswater Colliery (I7) Mar 3 (NEG), Bolwarra STP (L9) Jun 21 (TAH) and KI Aug 17 (ROS), and 8-15+ birds at Bolwarra Apr 9 (LIA), Laguna (I10) Aug 1 (MOA) and WWW Jun 18 & Jul 7 (both TAH).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

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

30 birds were recorded at Lake Pleshett (H6) Sep 11 and 12 birds at Lake Liddell (H7) Mar 31 (both TOM). Other records were from WWW, where nine birds were present Jan 14 and 20 birds Feb 3 (KEM, HBOC), and Grahamstown Dam (M9), where a single bird was present Feb 22 (HBOC), two birds Jul 7 and four birds Oct 24 (both KEM). Birds were on nests on both occasions at WWW.

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC), and 4-7 birds around Port Stephens Heads (P9) Feb 11 & 26 (MOA, OCG) and in late Oct (OSP, OCG). Single adult birds were present at Stockton Apr 9 (CBOC), Swansea Channel (L11) Dec 16 (HAM) and Seal Rocks Dec 24 (PEJ). Birds at Broughton Island and Seal Rocks had chicks.

**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.

Not recorded.

**Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera*

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

Not recorded since 1996.

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

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

Not recorded.

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

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

Occasionally recorded over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec, with most reports being of several hundred birds. 1000 birds were seen off Newcastle Baths Nov 9 (ROS) and an estimated 10,000 birds off Seal Rocks Oct 7 (PEJ). A few birds (<20) were recorded around Newcastle Harbour/Stockton Apr 5/6 (BIA, OCG).

**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.

At least 10 birds were present off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 11 (MOA), and 6+ birds off Newcastle heads Dec 1 (HBOC).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

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

Not recorded.

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

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

100+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC) and off Boat Harbour (O9) Nov 10 (HBOC), and 600+ birds off Port Stephens (P9) Nov 14 (KEM). A single bird was present off Stockton beach Mar 1 (LIA). Some birds at Broughton Island had nests with eggs.

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

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

1000+ birds were recorded off Caves Beach/Moon Island (L11) Jun 11 & Jul 10 (PEJ, LAK); 500 birds still remained in this area Jul 15 (LAK). Many hundreds of birds were 1-3 km off Port Stephens (P9) in mid-July (FUF). 20-50 birds were off Newcastle Baths Nov 9 (ROS) and off Port Stephens Oct 23 (OCG).

**Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris*

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

Not recorded.

**Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta*

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

A single bird was recorded 4km off Port Stephens (P9) Aug 14 (PEJ).

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

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

Flocks of up to 12 birds were often recorded 1-3 km off Port Stephens (P9) in mid-July (FUF), and nine birds were recorded off Swansea Heads (L11) Jul 15 (LAK).

**White-faced Storm-Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*

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

Not recorded since 1996.

**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.

20+ birds were recorded off Port Stephens (P9) mid-Jul (FUF) and Nov 14 (KEM), and 6-20 birds offshore from Mungo Brush (P8) Apr 12 (KEM), Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) May 30 (KEM) and Swansea Heads (L11) Jul 15 (LAK). 1-5 birds were off Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC), Stockton Apr 6 and Jul 12 (OCG, LIA), Newcastle Baths Apr 13 (WMR), Port Stephens Oct 23 (OCG) and Mungo Brush Dec 17 (KEM).

**Darter *Anhinga melanogaster***

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds but with records of up to 6 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 10 birds were at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA) and 8+ birds at SWC Sep 23 (KEM). Birds had nests with young at NWR during Jun (ROD, LIA) and at Market Swamp (M10) Dec 23 (KEM).

**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, with counts of up to 20 birds often recorded at large waters.

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were at Belmont Swamp (L11) during Jan/Feb (LAK), Swansea Heads (L11) Mar 17 (OCG), SWC during Sep/Oct (KEM), and Market Swamp (M10) Dec 23 (KEM), and 50+ birds were at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at NWR Jun 5 (ROD) and at Market Swamp Dec 23 (KEM).

**Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius***

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes (Revised)  
Status: Usual coastal resident. Often recorded near to the coast, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds and occasionally in greater numbers.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Broughton Island (P8) during Jan (HLC) and Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC). Birds had 30 active nests at NWR Jun 21 (LIA) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

**Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris***

ID No: 097 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters, with counts of 20+ birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were at Swansea Heads (L11) Mar 17 (OCG), around Tea Gardens area (x) Apr 11 and at Market Swamp (M10) Dec 23 (both KEM). There were 38 active nests at Market Swamp Dec 23; birds also nested there Jun 5 (ROD) and were nest building at SWC Oct 21 (KEM).

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters, mostly as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* 100 birds were at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA) and 50+ birds at Coon Island (L11) Sep 18 (OCG), and 21-50 birds at Broughton Island (P8) during Jan (HLC), Port Stephens (P9) Feb 26 (OCG), Stockton STP Mar 1 (LIA) and NWR Jun 21 (LIA). There were 40 active nests at NWR during Jun (ROD, LIA).

**Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus***

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters, mainly as counts of up to 20 birds but with greater numbers not uncommon at large waters.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at KI/Stockton Jul 5 and Aug 4 (CLT, HBOC), LTP Aug 15 and lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 (both KEM). More than 50 pairs were nesting at Pelican (R6) Feb 3, and there were over 50 dependent young there Mar 6 (TUD).

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

ID No: 188 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds except at some favoured habitats.

*Notable records:* 20-50 birds were often recorded at Ash Island over Jan/Feb and Dec; and approximately 200 birds were there Jan 19 (OCG). 83 birds were at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Mar 22 (TOM) and 50+ birds at Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC). On Jul 12, 76 birds were at Fullerton Cove and a further 30 birds were nearby at KI (CLT). There were several breeding records over Sep-Dec.

**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 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* An uncommon inland record was of a single bird near White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 15 (HBOC). Only two pairs nested at SWC compared with 8 nests there in 1997/98 (HWT).

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

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

Three birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) during Jan (HLC).

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

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

Moderately often recorded throughout the Region, although particularly in the eastern part, and usually as single birds. A total of ten birds were in the LTP area Mar 21, nine birds around Raymond Terrace Jul 17, and 20+ birds in the Williamtown area Jul 31 (all KEM reports).

**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, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds except when breeding.

*Notable records:* Seven birds were at Ash Island Feb 12 (LIA) and LTP Mar 20 (KEM), and six birds at Bolwarra (L9) Apr 27 (BPS). 6+ birds were also at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 and Toronto (L11) Nov 3 (both HBOC). The number of nesting pairs at SWC was reported to be about the same as for 1997/98 (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 counts of 1-2 birds except when breeding.

*Notable records:* 6-20 birds were recorded at LTP March 14 and Colliery Dam (L10) May 23 (KEM) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 12 & 19 (LIA, HBOC), and 20+ birds at lower Myall River (P8) Mar 22 (GJC). The number of nesting pairs at SWC was reported to be about the same as for 1997/98 (HWT).

**Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 10-50 birds except when breeding.

*Notable records:* 500-600 birds were at Edgeworth (L10) Aug 11 (OCG) and 150 birds at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Mar 5 (LIA), and 50+ birds were at Bolwarra (L9) Apr 9 (LIA), Newline Road (M9) May 31 (OCG) and SWC Jul 8 (GOC). There were 295 nests at SWC (compared with 205 nests in 1997/98) and 375 nests (up from 350 in 1997/98) at Seaham Swamp N.R. (HWT). Birds were also nesting at Toronto (L11) Nov 3 (HBOC).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

ID No: 193 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded at estuaries and coastal lakes, mostly as single birds and sometimes as pairs.

*Notable records:* Four birds, including one juvenile, were recorded at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC).

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

Regularly recorded at SWC, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds, and occasionally recorded elsewhere usually as counts of 1-5 birds. 33 birds were at SWC Aug 29 (LIA). Several records included reports of juvenile birds.

**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: Yes (*Amended*)  
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Glendale (L10) Apr 6 (NBL).

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp near Maryland (L10) Jun 20 and at SWC Aug 5 (both KEM).

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage.

40 birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 1, and counts of up to 20 birds there for the remainder of the month (TOM). The only other record was of a single bird at SWC Dec 30 (KEM).

**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 but with counts of up to 50 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG), LTP Aug 15 (KEM) and Federal Park Swamp (M10) Sep 12 (CLT), and 100+ birds at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC), Ash Island Feb 28 (STA) and Kerang (R4) Oct 1 (MVBW). 200 birds were at Woodville (L9) Jul 28 (NEM). At SWC, a known roosting site, c 1000 birds were present May 13 (LIA).

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

ID No: 180 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as <20 birds but with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were at Ash Island Mar 4 (ROD), Newline Road (M9) May 31 (OCG), Hinton (L9) Jun 27 (GOD), Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC) and Kerang (R4) Oct 1 (MVBW), and 200 birds at Tarro Feb 9 (MPM) and Ash Island Feb 12 (LIA).

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 30 birds were at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 20 (TOM). 20+ birds were regularly recorded at SWC over Aug-Oct, with the count peaking at c 50 birds Sep 16 (KEM). Two westerly records - of single birds at Lake Liddell (H7/17) Apr 13 (HLC) and Denman (G7) Oct 8 (LIA). Birds were feeding fledged young at Woodville (L9) Apr 5/6 (NEM).

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

ID No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage.

1-2 birds were recorded at SWC Jan 9 (OCG), Woodville (L9) May 16 (NEM), Bolwarra (L9) Jun 20 (TAH), Oyster Cove (N9) Jun 20 (KEM), Mandalong Aug 11 (HDD), SWC Sep 2 & 9 (KEM), Singleton Sep 11 (TOM), Maitland (L9) Sep 26 (TAH) and Denman (G7) Oct 5 (STA). Two birds were present at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) throughout Jan, and three birds were there Jan 21 (TOM).

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

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Bird of passage.

Single birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace (M9) Jan 26, Apr 13 & Oct 20 (FOC, TBO, ROS), Hillville Dam (Q4) May 13 (MVBW), Cooranbong (K11) May 23 (BIA), Old Bar (R4) May 25 (MVBW), Bungwahl (Q7) Apr 1 (PEJ) and Forster (R6) Jul 30 (TUD), and pairs at Tea Gardens (O8) Jan 27 (CBOC), Harrington Mar 12 (MVBW), Mandalong (K11) Mar 24 (FOC) and Coomba Park Road (Q5) Apr 17 (TUD). Three birds were at Woodberry (L9) Sep 27 (SJR) and a pair were with a juvenile at Tea Gardens Jul 20 (WRT).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Local resident*). Occasionally recorded at estuaries and coastal lakes, more frequently in the NE part of the Region, and mostly as counts of 1-2 birds unless with young/juveniles.

*Notable records:* Five birds were together at Johns River (S3) May 7 (MVBW) and also five birds along the river near Coolonglook (Q6) Oct 13 (MVBW). Five active nests were reported during the year, all from the NE.

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident. Occasionally recorded as 1-2 birds in the E and central parts of the Region.

*Notable records:* A pair were displaying at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Oct 18 as were three birds at Dunns Creek (L8) Oct 24 (both NEM). Birds had a nest with young at Tingira Heights Mar 10 (WMR) and near Dungog (M7) Nov 22 (PEH).



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

ID No: 232                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Two birds were also recorded at Broughton Island (P8) over Jan 5/22 (HLC). Birds were displaying at KI/Stockton Mar 22 (HBOC) and a pair were with dependent young at Salt Ash (N9) Dec 21 (KEM).

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

ID No: 230                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Cundletown (R4) Jul 29 and over Aug 25/28 (LBM), and at Purfleet (Q4) Sep 4 (TUD).

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

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

Single birds were recorded at Stockton (M10) Mar 30 (LIA/WMR), Stratford (N5) Mar (TAT), Scone (H5) Aug 5 (NEG) and Aberdeen (H5) Oct 12 & Nov 11 (NEG), and two birds at Wingen (H4) Apr 9 (NEG).

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* A total of at least 30 birds were recorded along the lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12, including groups of 9 & 11 birds together (KEM); 6+ birds were also recorded at this location Mar 22 (GJC). Birds were nesting at Shortland (M10) Apr 30 (LIA).

**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 Shelly Beach BBNP (R6) Feb 12 and May 15 (TUD), Harrington Feb 21 and Nov 22 (OCG, HBOC), Dumaresq Island (R4) Mar 5 (MVBW) and Wingham (Q4) May 16 (MVBW), and two birds at Wingham Feb 12 (MVBW).

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

ID No: 226                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near large waters, mostly as single birds or pairs and occasionally also with a juvenile.

*Notable records:* Four birds were at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC) and a total of 11 birds were recorded along the lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 (KEM). At Swansea (L11) Sep 19, a bird was seen to take a fully grown Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* and later the same bird or another took a chick from a colony of Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* (BOCA). At Fingal Bay (P9) Nov 6, a bird took an adult Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* (LIA/PHP).

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

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

Single birds were recorded at Hinton (L9) Jan 24 (NEM), Raymond Terrace (M9) Jan 28 (KEM), Morpeth (L9) Apr 30 (NEM), SWC Jun 14 (OCG), Bayswater Colliery (I7) Jun 20 (NEG) and Bolwarra STP (L9) Jun 21 (TAH). A pair were at Jerrys Plains (H7) Sep 11 (STA). The bird at Hinton was a juvenile.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

*Notable records:* Three birds were at SWC Mar 11 and along the lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12/18 (both KEM), and four birds at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC). There were several records of juvenile/immature birds, and of pairs displaying – but these are insufficient to confirm breeding in the Region.

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds.

*Notable records:* Pairs were recorded at SWC Feb 17 and Aug 12 (KEM), Buttaba (L11) Sep 8 (TOM), Dry Creek Road (F6) Oct 5 (STA), and Yarrowa (G7) Dec 19 (TAH). Two juvenile birds were at SWC Dec 2 (KEM).

**Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as single, grey phase birds.

*Notable records:* Two birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Dec 3 (NEM) and three birds at Yarrowa (G7) Dec 19 (TAH). White phase birds were present at Mount Vincent (L10) Apr 5 (OCG), West Wallsend (L10) Oct 14 (OCG) and lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 (KEM).

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

ID No: 222                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, usually as single birds.

*Notable records:* Pairs were recorded at Yengo N.P. near Putty (G10) May 9 (LIA) and LTP Sep 19 (KEM), and a juvenile bird at SWC Sep 23 (KEM).

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

ID No: 224                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at Congewai Valley (J10) Apr 19 (HBOC) and Lees Pinch GRNP (C6) Jun 6/7 (HBOC), and five birds at Bow River (D6) Jun 8 (STA), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and Sparkes Creek (F4) Jul 17 (NEG).

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

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

Recorded several times at SWC (KEM, TOM, ROD, BAW), including two birds there Jul 3 (BAW). Elsewhere, single birds were occasionally but widely recorded. Two birds were at Lambs Valley (K8) Jun 29 (GOD), and a bird was carrying food at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Oct 12 (NEG).

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, as counts of 1-2 birds, and less frequently in the E of the Region.

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at Wingen (H6) Mar 16 (NEG). A bird was carrying a snake at Shortland (M10) Nov 1 (BIA).

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as single birds.

*Notable records:* Two birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jun 21 (HBOC) and three birds at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Mar 18 (NEG). A bird was carrying a Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* at Shortland (M10) Apr 11 (HIM). Two adults were with a young bird near Barrington (N4) Mar 1 (KEM).

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

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

Not recorded.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Local resident*). Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

*Notable records:* A pair were on nest at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Sep 3 and had a single fledgling there Nov 27 (NEG). A bird was feeding on a Rock Dove *Columba livia* near Clarendetown (M8) Aug 31 (TAT). At Wingen (H6), birds were observed to attack, unsuccessfully, a Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis* May 22 and a Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes* Jul 11 (NEG).

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

ID No: 240                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded, usually as single birds or pairs.

*Notable records:* Four birds were recorded at Polblue Swamp (K4) Jan 25/26 STA). A bird successfully attacked a House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* at Mayfield Nov 27 (KEM). A pair were copulating at Battery Rocks (E6) Oct 5 (STA).

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

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Local resident*).

Single birds were recorded at SWC Jan 18 and May 6 (NBL, KEM), Antennae Marsh Sandgate (M10) Jan 23 (LIA), WWW Feb 3 (HBOC), Harrington Feb 21 and Dec 28 (OCG, CBOC) and Oyster Cove (N9) Dec 11 (KEM). Three birds were in the Cams Wharf area (L11) Jan 23 (BMA). An adult was with a chick at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 3 (NEM).

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

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

A bird was heard at Glenrock SRA Aug 31 (TOM).

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

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

Single birds were recorded at SWC Jan 13, 15 & 23 (CBOC, BAW, KEM), and three birds there Jan 16 (BIA).

**Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea***

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

Up to three birds were frequently recorded at SWC during Jan (many reports). Elsewhere, a single bird was recorded at WWW Feb 3 (HBOC) and three birds at Ash Island Feb 22 (NBL).

**Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis***

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

Up to six birds were frequently recorded at SWC during Jan and until mid-Feb (many reports). Three birds were with a single chick at SWC Jan 12 (TOM) – this is the first confirmed breeding record since 1988.

**Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio***

ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters, in counts of up to 20 birds at medium waters and up to 50 birds at large waters.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Mar 5 and Jun 21 (LIA, HBOC) and SWC May 12 (KEM). Many reports of birds on nest or with chicks during Sep-Dec, also of copulation during May-Sep.

**Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa***

ID No: 056 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded, in counts of up to 20 birds at small to medium waters and up to 50 birds at medium to large waters.

*Notable records:* 50-100+ birds were often recorded at SWC during Jul-Oct (several reports), peaking at 123 birds there Aug 5 (KEM). 50+ birds were at Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC). There were many reports of birds that were on nest or had chicks during Jan-Apr and Jul-Dec.

**Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra***

ID No: 059 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* 1000+ birds were recorded at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Mar 31 and 1500+ birds there Apr 13 (TOM,HLC). 100-300 birds were at SWC during Jul/early Aug (KEM, ROD), 200 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA), and 50+ birds at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), Bayswater Colliery (I7) May 31 (NEG) and Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at SWC Oct 5 (ROD), Hands Lagoon (L9) Dec 19 (TAH) and Bayswater Colliery (I7) Dec 31 (NEG), and had dependent young at WWW Feb 3 (HBOC).

**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  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Four birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and three birds at Widden Valley (E9) May 10 (PEJ). Single birds were at Wambo Road Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek (L8) Oct 11 (NEM) and near Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM). At Garden Suburb (M10), a bird was attacked and killed by an Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* (PEJ).

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

ID No: 168                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. Often recorded as counts of up to 10 birds at medium to large wetlands in the E of the Region, from to Jan to mid-Mar and from late Aug onwards.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were regularly recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) during Jan, with the count peaking at 100 birds Jan 15 (TOM), and 230 birds were present there in an organised count Dec 19 (HBOC). The most westerly records were of a single bird near Pelaw Main (J10) Feb 20 and three birds at Bayswater Power Station (H6) Sep 11 (both TOM).

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

ID No: 152                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

200 birds were recorded at KI Mar 21 (LIA); also a single bird there Jan 23 (LIA) and 6+ birds Mar 22 (HBOC). Two birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA).

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

ID No: 153                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, in counts of up to 20 birds, and with many young birds remaining over winter.

*Notable records:* Summer counts at KI peaked at 770 birds Mar 21 (LIA), while elsewhere 50+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 9 (BLM), LTP Mar 14, Oct 31 and Dec 8 (KEM) and Taylors Beach (O9) Nov 10 (HBOC). During winter, 300+ birds were at KI Jul 5 (CLT) and c 600 birds there Jul 12 (several reports), while elsewhere 50-75 birds were at LTP during May/Jun, 12 birds at Swan Bay (N9) Jun 21, and three birds at Oyster Cove Apr 17 & a single bird there Jun 27 (all KEM records).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant (*Revised from: Common summer migrant*). Occasionally recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were at KI/Stockton Mar 22 and Taylors Beach (O9) Nov 10 (both HBOC). Winter records were of four birds at KI Jul 5 (CLT) and 20 birds there Jul 12 (OCG/PEJ), and two birds at LTP May 9 and Jun 21 (KEM).

**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats – as counts of up to 20 birds during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, and as counts of 1-5 birds during May-Aug.

*Notable records:* High summer counts were from KI/Stockton, where 30 birds were recorded Jan 23, 55 birds Mar 21, 100+ birds Mar 1 & Sep 7 and c 200 birds Sep 23 (LIA, TOM), and from Oyster Cove (N9) and Taylors Beach (O9), where 30+ birds were present Oct 24 and Nov 10 respectively (KEM, HBOC). Many birds remained at KI/Stockton through winter, with 50+ birds often being recorded during Jun/Jul and peaking at 120 birds there Jul 12 (OCG/PEJ).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Up to 15 birds were often recorded at Ash Island during Feb (STA, LIA, MOA), and 30+ birds were there Mar 8 (CBOC). 6+ birds were at KI Mar 22 (HBOC), and a single bird was there Nov 21 and two birds Dec 19 (LIA). The only other record was of a single bird at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Jan 7 (TOM).

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

Birds were occasionally recorded at KI/Stockton and Ash Island over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, with counts at KI peaking at 35 birds Mar 21 (LIA) and 30 birds Sep 23 (TOM), and counts at Ash Island peaking at 16 birds Feb 22 (MOA). A single bird was at Ellalong Lagoon (J10) Feb 9 (TOM). Winter records were of single birds at KI Jul 12 (CLT) and Swansea (L11) Aug 9 (STA).



**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

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

Up to six birds were frequently recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) from Jan 11-Mar 18 (NEM, TOM).

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

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

20+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG). All other records were from KI/Stockton – c 20 birds were there Feb 22 (CBOC) and Sep 7 (TOM), 6+ birds Jan 23 and Mar 22 (LIA, HBOC), and 1-5 birds Mar 21, Apr 5 and Nov 1 (LIA, BIA, CBOC).

**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 Port Waratah (M10) Feb & Nov (CLT), and two birds at KI Feb 8 (NBL).

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

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant. Occasionally recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at KI/Stockton Apr 5 (CBOC) and LTP Mar 14 & 20 (KEM). Winter records were 14 birds at Stockton Jul 12 (OCG/PEJ), 16 birds at LTP Jun 21 and 18 birds there Aug 11/15 (KEM), and two birds at Swansea (L11) Aug 9 (STA).

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant (*Revised from: Usual summer migrant*).

12 birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC) and seven birds at Horseshoe Beach (M10) Aug 8 (STA). All other reports were from Newcastle Baths, where 20-25 birds were recorded Jan 4, Apr 12 and Dec 1 (STA, WMR, HBOC).

**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.

A single bird was recorded at KI Jan 13 (CBOC), two birds there Jan 23 and ten birds Mar 21 (both LIA).

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*

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

All records were KI/Stockton – 20 birds were there Jan 23 (LIA), 50 birds Mar 21 (LIA), single birds Jan 13 and Mar 22 (CBOC, HBOC), and four birds Apr 30 (LIA).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

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

Not recorded since 1996.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

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

Often recorded at a freshwater pond at KI, with the count peaking at 278 birds Dec 19 (LIA), and with around 80 birds regularly there all months over Apr-Nov. The only other records were of 78 birds at Crowdy Beach (S4) Jul 4 (MVBW) and four birds at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

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

One and occasionally two birds were recorded several times at SWC Jan 7-18 (OCG, LIA, NBL) and Ash Island Feb 8-22 (BIA, LIA, VEE).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

ID No: 163

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at shallow or drying wetlands near to the coast over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50-100 birds were recorded at SWC Jan 8, SBS Jan 19 (both TOM) and KI/Stockton Mar 22 (HBOC), and 100+ birds at SWC Jan 7 & 10 (LIA), Ash Island Feb 9 & 12 and Mar 8 (LIA, CBOC) and KI Mar 21 (LIA). 300+ birds were at KI Apr 5 and 200+ birds Apr 11 (CBOC, BIA).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

Up to 20 birds were often recorded at KI over Jan-Apr and occasionally from late Sep. 40 birds were there Jan 23 (LIA), 50+ birds Apr 5 (CBOC), and 300 birds Mar 21 (LIA). Records from elsewhere were of two birds at SBS Jan 19 (TOM), and a single bird at Ash Island Feb 12 and 20 birds there Mar 9 (both LIA). Only one winter record – of 59 birds at KI Aug 1 (KEM).

**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.

Single birds were recorded at Ash Island Feb 9 & 28 and KI Feb 22 (STA, VEE).

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

ID No: 170

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare (probably overlooked).

Not recorded.

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

ID No: 171

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, more usual in N of Region.

At least seven birds were present at Colliery Dam (L10) May 23 (KEM), and three birds were recorded at Hillville Dam (Q4) Jun 20 (MVBW).

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

ID No: 174

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

A single bird was present at Wyee (K12) Feb 1 (IJK), and a pair of birds were heard at Karuah (N8) Nov (RDA).

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

ID No: 175

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes (*Newly recorded*)

Status: Uncertain (*Revised from: Accidental*)

A pair had a nest with one egg at Harrington Feb 21; four days later there was a chick (MVBW). Nesting, by the same or another pair, also occurred there in April, with the egg hatching Apr 10 and the young present for three days before disappearing (MVBW). *These appear to be the first confirmed breeding records for the Region.* A pair was also recorded at Harrington Nov 8 (MVBW) and a single bird there Nov 22 (HBOC). The latter bird was eating chicks of nesting Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* (LBM).

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

Pairs and small parties of up to five birds were moderately often recorded along the coast. Six birds were recorded at Port Stephens (P9) Apr 11 (KEM), eight birds at Horseshoe Beach (M10) Aug 8 (STA), ten birds at Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 9 (BLM), and 13 birds on Stockton Beach (cell N9) Dec 5 (BID). Birds were reported to be relatively common in the Myall Lakes/Forster area (TUD) – at least three pairs are resident at Forster, breeding every year, and another three pairs are resident in the Little Gibber MLNP area (Q7).

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Newly confirmed*)

Status: Uncommon resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Port Stephens (P9) Feb 11 & 26 (MOA, OCG), Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA), Shelly Beach BBNP (R6) Jul 27 (TUD), Tahlee (O8) Aug 8 (KEM), and several times at locations near Newcastle Heads - on Jan 4 & 17, Apr 12/13, Aug 18 and Dec 1 (many reporters). Seven birds, with dependent young, were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) during Jan (HLC) – *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

**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 as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* c 60 birds were recorded at KI Jul 12 (CLT, OCG/PEJ) and Hexham Swamp (L10) Aug 1 (KEM), and 100+ birds were at Hexham Swamp Jun 20 (KEM). There were many reports of 20-50 birds during the year, from seven different sites. Uncommon westerly records were of six birds at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Apr 13 (HLC) and at Doughboy Hollow Singleton (J8) Dec 27 (WOR). Birds had dependent young at SBS Jan 17 (HSE).

**Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1996.

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

ID No: 148

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Local resident.

500 birds were recorded at KI Jul 5 (CLT) and 600 birds there Jul 12 (CLT, OCG/PEJ). Nine birds were recorded along Stockton Beach Apr 5 and another bird nearby at Stockton sandspit (BIA/CBOC).

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 8006

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Moderately often recorded at KI/Stockton until Apr 5, and from Oct 8. Counts were variable, but often of >20 birds and peaked at 94 birds Jan 23 and c 70 birds Mar 1 and Dec 19 (all LIA records). 300+ birds were at Ash Island Mar 8 (CBOC), but only 30 birds were recorded there Mar 9 (LIA). 18 birds were present at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC); some birds were also there Feb 5 (MVBW). A single bird was recorded at Oyster Cove (N9) Apr 17 (KEM).

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

ID No: 143

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded along the coast, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were regularly present at a large freshwater pond at KI over Jun-Aug - counts peaked at c 100 birds Jun 26 (GOD) and 70 birds Jul 12 (CLT). More than 30 birds were also there Nov 21/22 (LIA, KEM).

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

ID No: 140

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

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

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Feb 22 (CBOC). All other records were from KI – two birds were there Feb 28 (CBOC), three birds Apr 5 & 11 (CBOC, BIA), 20 birds Jul 1 (PEJ) and five birds Aug 1 (KEM).

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Four birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA). All other reports were from KI – ten birds were there Jan 23 (LIA), 6+ birds Mar 22 (HBOC), a single bird Nov 22 (KEM) and four birds Dec 19 (LIA).

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

ID No: 144

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Around 50 birds were recorded at a large freshwater pond at KI Jun 26 and Jul 5, and 40 birds were there Jul 12 (GOD, CLT). Large numbers were also present at SWC over Jan/Feb (several reports) with the count peaking at 37 birds Jan 24 (BAW). 11 birds were at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Apr 18 (NEG) and 12 birds at Ash Island Jul 12 (CLT). Birds had dependent young at SWC Jan 16 and Feb 3 (TOM, LIA) and were on nest at Bayswater Colliery Sep 2 (NEG).



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

ID No: 132

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*revised*)

Status: Bird of passage.

Around 30 birds were recorded at a large freshwater pond at KI Jun 26, and also 13 birds there Jul 5 and six birds Jul 12 (GOD, CLT, LIA). Birds were regularly recorded at SWC and nearby wetlands in Jan (several reports), with the SWC count peaking at ten birds Jan 6 & 10 (TOM, LIA). Ten birds were at WWW Feb 3 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 22 and Jun 26 (TOM, GOD), Ellalong Lagoon (J10) Feb 9 (TOM), KI Apr 11 (BIA), Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Apr 13 (HLC), and several times during the year at SWC (several reports). Birds had chicks at Market Swamp (M10) Jan 8, SWC Jan 10 and Ash Island Jan 22 (TOM, LIA) – *these are the first confirmed breeding records in the Region for over ten years.*

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

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

Not recorded since 1994.

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds not uncommon near medium to large waters.

*Notable records:* 20-50 birds were recorded at SWC Jan 9 (OCG), SBS and Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG, TOM), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), KI Mar 21 (LIA) and Hexham Swamp (M10) Jul 17 (LIA), and 100 birds at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA). There were some high counts from Cedar Hill Drive (L10) – 82 birds there Feb 20, 134 birds Mar 22 and 100 birds Mar 30 (TOM). There were many breeding records, spanning Jun-Sep.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

No confirmed records since 1995.

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Uncertain.

1-3 birds were occasionally recorded around both Newcastle Heads and Swansea Channel between Feb 2 and Apr 10 (several reports).

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

No confirmed records.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Newcastle Baths Dec 19 (MUR).

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded along the coast and at near-coastal waters, with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 300 birds were at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA); seven other records were of 100+ birds. 42 birds were recorded inland at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Apr 13 (HLC). Birds had dependent young at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC), and also bred at Swansea (L11) in Sep. A White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* was seen to take a chick from the Swansea breeding colony Sep 19 (BOCA).

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

ID No: 111

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Resident.

Seven birds were recorded at Ash Island Sep 10 (LIA) and three birds at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC). All other records were from KI/Stockton – 1-5 birds Jan 23, Mar 21/22 and Sep 23 (LIA, HBOC, TOM), 23 birds Apr 11 (CBOC) and 30 birds Jul 5 (CLT).

**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. 20+ birds were recorded around Swansea Heads/Coon Island (L11) Mar 17 (OCG) and off Port Stephens (P9) Nov 14 (KEM), and 6-20 birds at LTP Aug 11 & 15 (KEM). Birds were feeding immatures at LTP Jun 12 and Aug 11 (KEM) – *this is not considered sufficient for a breeding record.*

**Crested Tern *Sterna bergii***

ID No: 115                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Often recorded along the coast, with counts of up to 20 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14/15 and Nov 22 (STA, HBOC), off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 26 (OCG) and at Horseshoe Beach (M10) Aug 8 (STA), and 50+ birds at Harrington Feb 21 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC), and were also feeding immatures at Newcastle Baths Jan 4 & 23 (STA, KEM) and Dudley Beach (M10) Feb 18 (WEJ).

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

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

A single bird was recorded at Horseshoe Beach (M10) Aug 8 (STA).

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

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

Frequently recorded near Newcastle Heads, and occasionally elsewhere along the coast, until Apr 11 and from Oct 23. Counts at Newcastle were often of 50+ birds, peaking at 170 birds Mar 11 (LAK) and then at 100 birds Dec 1 (HBOC). Elsewhere, most counts were of <10 birds.

**Little Tern *Sterna albigrons***

ID No: 117                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded along the coast over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 32 birds were at KI/Stockton Mar 22 (HBOC) and 60+ birds there Jan 13 (CBOC) and at Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA). 100+ birds were at KI Mar 8 (CBOC) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC), and 300+ birds at Harrington Dec 28 (CBOC). Birds were on nests at Wallis Lake Nov 1 (FOC) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC) and had runners and fledglings at Little Gibber MLNP Dec 31 (TUD).

**Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata***

ID No: 120                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus***

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

Seven birds were recorded at Ash Island Dec 20 (LIA).

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

ID No: 109                      HBOC Category: 2 (Revised)                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Birds, many in breeding plumage, were often recorded around Newcastle Heads between Feb 28 and Apr 11, with counts peaking at c 40 birds there Apr 5 (many reports). At least one bird was also present at Harrington Apr 26 (MVBW).

**Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea***

ID No: 982                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1995.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Moderately often recorded around Newcastle and suburbs, and less frequently at other townships, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* Many hundreds of birds were often recorded throughout the year at Port Waratah (M10), with the count peaking at c 800 birds during Aug (CLT) and with breeding records over Feb-May, Aug and Dec. 50+ birds were at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC). Two records of birds being taken by Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – near Clarencetown (M8) Aug 31 (TAT) and at Port Waratah Jun (CLT).

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

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*).

Occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mainly as 1-5 birds. 18 birds were at Tea Gardens (O8) Jul 20 (WRT) and 20+ birds at Lansdowne (R3) Mar 21 (MVBW).

**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, mainly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20-50 birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 21 (OCG), Woodberry May 18 (SJR), SWC Oct 21 (KEM), Port Stephens (P9) Oct 23 (OCG), Belmont Swamp Nov (LAK) and Newcastle Dec 1 (HBOC). Birds were on nests at LTP Oct 11 and SWC Dec 23 (both KEM).

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

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

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. Three birds were at Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Mar 7 (HBOC).

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

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

Single birds were recorded at Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (BIA), Careys Trail (K5) Jan 28 (KEM) and NLH Jun 5, Jul 15 and Aug 15 (HIM, LPC). An unusual record was of a single bird at SWC Jan 23 and during Feb (BAW). Some birds were also recorded at BbR Apr 7 (HBOC) – numbers not noted.

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Wingen (H4) Jan 26 and Sep 18 (NEG), Lees Pinch GRNP (C6) Jun 6/7 (HBOC), Tea Gardens (O8) Jun/Jul (WRT), Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (HBOC), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 15 (HBOC), Dry Creek (G4) Sep 27 (NEG) and Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM), and 6+ birds at Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (both HBOC). Some birds were also at Bulga (I8) Oct 24 (LIA) and Redhead (M11) Nov 15 (GJC).

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 13, LTP Jun 12 and Oyster Cove (N9) Dec 11, and two birds at Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 and Shelly Beach Dec 14 (all KEM records). A male and a female were regularly recorded at Belmont Swamp (L11) during Nov (LAK). Six birds were at Oyster Cove Jun 27 (KEM).

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 21 (OCG), Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC) and Port Stephens (P9) Oct 23 (OCG). Birds nested at SWC during Sep/Oct and again in Nov, and also were on nests at LTP Sep 27 and Malabula (O9) Nov 8 (all KEM records).

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Not recorded  
Status: Rare.

No confirmed records since 1995.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia striata*

ID No: 030                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident.

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds. 20+ birds were at Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 (HBOC) and Bootawa (Q4) Nov 4/6 (OCG), and 6-20 birds at Fenninghams Island (O9) Mar 14, Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 and Salt Ash (N9) Dec 21 (all KEM records).

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

ID No: 032                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Nov 4/6 (OCG), and 6-20 birds regularly at Belmont Swamp (L11) Jan-Mar and Nov (LAK) and at Old Bar (R4) Mar 21 (MVBW), Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 13 and Dec 14 (KEM), Italia Road (M9) May 17 (OCG), Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (HBOC), Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21, Oyster Cove (N9) Dec 11 and Salt Ash (N9) Dec 21 (all KEM records).

**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, mostly as single birds and always as <5 birds.

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

ID No: 025                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Local resident.

12 birds were in a single tree at Copeland Forest Preserve (M4) Sep 20 (NBL). Three birds were near Brettie (N2) and two birds near Gloucester (N5) Dec 3 (both COD). Single birds were recorded at Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (BIA), Careys Trail (K5) Jan 27 (KEM), Bootawa (Q4) Nov 5 (MVBW) and Eleebana (L11) Nov 12/16 (STD).

**Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*

ID No: 023                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare .

Not recorded since 1996.

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

ID No: 021                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Not recorded.

**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Bird of passage.

Occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region; reports of 1-5 birds and 6-20 birds were about equal. 20+ birds were at Allyn River (K5) Oct 25 (LIA) and Snapper Island N.R. (N9/O9) Oct 31 (KEM), and 50+ birds at Doyles River S.F. Jul 26 (MVBW).

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

ID No: 265                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as 3-4 birds. Six birds were at Wingen Mar 19 (NEG), seven birds at Violet Hill MLNP (P7) Dec 13 (KEM2) and eight birds at Sharpes Creek (L5/M5) Feb 28 (KEM).

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

ID No: 267                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* An estimated 130-150 birds were recorded at Bulahdelah (P7) Jul 6 (OCG), and 20-25 birds were at Grahamstown Dam Feb 4 (SJR), Broke Road (I9) Jul 25 (HBOC) and Edgeworth Oct 14 (OCG).

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

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

30+ birds flew over Kurri Kurri in two groups Aug 11 (KEM2) and 6+ birds were at Congewai Valley (J10) Apr 19 (HBOC). All other reports were of 1-5 birds – at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Mar 2 (TOM), Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 (HBOC), Darkey Creek (I9) Mar 20 (NEG), Speers Point (L10) Aug 12 (HSE), Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 2 (TOM), Yango Creek Road (I10) Oct 14 (RDB) and Laguna (I10) Nov 14 and Dec 6 (RDB).

**Galah** *Cacatua roseicapilla*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, as counts of up to 10 birds in the E of the Region and up to 20 birds further inland.

*Notable records:* 20-50 birds were recorded at Wingen (H4) Jan 26 and Mar 31 (NEG), LTP Mar 20/21 and Dec 8 (KEM), Laguna (I10) Aug 1 (MOA) and Redhead (M11) Aug 25 (GJC). Birds were on nest at SWC May 12, Oct 28 & Nov 11 (KEM) and Wingen Sep 18 (NEG), and had dependent young at LTP March 14 and SWC Aug 5 (KEM). (See also the Long-billed Corella report below).

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

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident (Revised from: Local resident).

Occasionally recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. Counts at LTP were often high, peaking at 50+ birds Mar 20 and 87 birds Dec 28 (KEM). 20+ birds were also recorded at WWW Jan 14 (KEM), Bolwarra (L9) Sep 20 and over late Oct/ early Nov, and Hands Lagoon (L9) Dec 19 (all TAH records). Birds were inspecting hollows at LTP March 14 (KEM). A hybrid with Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla* was regularly being fed at Rainbow Flat (R5) over Jan-May (MVBW).

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

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

50 birds were recorded at SWC May 19 and up to 25 birds were often present there over Oct/Dec (ROD). 21-50 birds were also recorded at Fennell Bay (L11) Aug 10 (TOM), Salamander Bay (O9) Aug 31/Sep 4 (CLT) and Oyster Cove (N9) Dec 11 (KEM). Birds were occasionally recorded elsewhere, with counts of 1-5 and 6-20 birds being about equal.

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

ID No: 269 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at BbR Apr 7 (HBOC) and Dry Creek (G4) Sep 27 (NEG), and 100+ birds at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 15 and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (both HBOC).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

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

Not recorded since 1995.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC). 21-50 birds were at Redhead (M11) Mar 20 (GJC), Anna Bay (O9) Jul 9 (HBOC), Salamander Bay (O9) Aug 31/Sep 4 (CLT), Nelson Bay (O9) Oct 23 (OCG), and often at LTP (KEM). Birds were on nest at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC), Clarencetown (M8) Sep 6 and LTP Sep 27, and had dependent young at Tahlee (O8) Aug 8 and LTP Nov 8 & Dec 8 (all KEM records).

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

ID No: 256 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Revised)  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded near to the coast, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were often recorded at LTP, and birds were on nest there Aug 15 and had dependent young May 9, Jun 5 and Nov 8 (all KEM). Birds were also inspecting hollows at LTP during Mar (KEM). *These appear to be the first confirmed breeding records for the Region.*

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Bird of passage.

Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region during Apr-Aug, with around 50% of reports being of 6+ birds. 20+ birds were at Wyee Point (K12) Apr 9 (MOD) and LTP May 9 (KEM), and c 50 birds at Ellalong May 2 (MEJ1). Inland records were of two birds at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Aug 19, four birds at Wingen (H4) Nov 9 and 6+ birds there Jan 26 (all NEG records).

**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of <10 birds but with greater numbers being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Toronto (L11) Mar 17 (TOM), and at Salt Ash (N9) Apr 4, lower Myall River (P8) Apr 11 and LTP Apr 17 (all KEM reports). Birds were nesting at Rainbow Flat (Q5) Jul 20 (MVBW).

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

ID No: 281                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Around 20 birds were at NLH Mar 11 (LPC). An unusually coloured bird, with blue replacing normal green and white replacing normal red colourations, was recorded at Rankin Park Feb 3 (IJK).

**Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus***

ID No: 280                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Four birds (possibly escapees) were recorded at Bobs Farm (O9) May 20 (DIM). Two birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 8 (HBOC).

**Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans***

ID No: 282                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 (KEM) and Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Apr 5 (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Feb 1 (STA) and were inspecting hollows at Dry Creek (G4) Sep 27 (NEG).

**Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius***

ID No: 288                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at WWW Jan 14 (KEM), and there were many records of 21-50 birds. Birds had dependent young at Whitebridge (M10) Jan 4 (GOC) and were nesting at Hillville Dam (Q4) Jun 20 (MVBW). There were several breeding records over Sep-Nov.

**Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor***

ID No: 309                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded with a flock of Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* at North Arm Cove (O8) Sep 2 (HID).

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

ID No: 295                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Milbrodale (I9) May 9 (LIA), Lambs Valley (K8) Jun 29 (GOD) and Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC). Flocks of 30-60 birds were often seen flying to roost at Woodville (L9) late Jul (NEM).

**Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella***

ID No: 302                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Up to six birds were regularly recorded all year along the Old Gibber Track (Q7) and at nearby locations (TUD). Elsewhere, four birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) May 9 (HBOC), three birds at Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM), two birds at Widden Valley (E9) May 10 (PEJ) and Cooranbong (K11) Aug 3 (BIA), and single birds at Ellalong May 9/10 (MEJ1) and Muswellbrook (H6) Jul 30 (NEG).

**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: Summer migrant (*Revised from: Usual summer migrant*)

Occasionally but widely recorded, as single birds where numbers were noted. No reports after Mar 20, when a bird was heard at Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 (HBOC). The first recorded returns were of birds at Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 2 (TOM) and Putty (G10) Sep 14 (BIA).

**Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus***

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

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds where numbers were noted. Two birds were at lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 and three birds there Dec 17, and two birds at Violet Hill MLNP (P7) Dec 13 (all KEM records).

No records from after Jan 7, when present at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) (TOM), until Oct 14 when present at Yango Creek Road (I10) (RDB).

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

ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as <5 birds.

*Notable records:* An adult and an immature bird were together at Cobark River (M4) Feb 1 (STA).

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

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

Two birds were recorded at Wambo Road Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC).

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

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

1-2 birds were often recorded at SWC, and occasionally elsewhere, during Jan and from Sep 17 onwards. Three birds were at SWC Oct 30 (LIA) and Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM), and four birds at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 24 (KEM). Single birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L8) May 4 (NEM), Malabula (O9) Jun 6 (KEM) and Bolwarra (L9) Jul 12 (TAH). A young bird was being fed by Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyanens* at SBS Jan 17 (HSE).

**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 moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-2 birds. Four birds were with a juvenile bird at Belmont Swamp (L11) Nov (LAK). There was only one record over the period May-Aug – of a single bird at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Aug 19 (NEG). *In previous Reports, around 40-50% of records have been for the period May-Aug.*

**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 over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were present until at least Mar 17, when heard at Swansea Heads (L11) (OCG). The first recorded return was Sep 19, when heard at LTP (KEM). A nestling was being raised by Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* at SWC Dec 30 (KEM).

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

ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common summer migrant. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 15 birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 5 (TOM). Birds were present until at least Feb 26, when recorded at Toronto (L11) (TOM). The first recorded return was Sep 5, when heard at LTP (KEM). Nestlings were being raised by Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* at LTP Jan 8 and again on Dec 25 (KEM).

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded in the E of the Region, usually as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Five birds were at LTP Nov 7, six birds at Oyster Cove (N9) Dec 11 and seven birds there Oct 24, and 8+ birds at Tanilba Bay (N9) Nov 21 (all KEM records).

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

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

1-2 birds were moderately often seen or heard at BbR or nearby NLH over Mar-Sep, and a pair were with a single dependent young at BbR Aug 31 (several reports).

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

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

Not recorded.



**Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae***

ID No: 242 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded.

*Notable records:* A total of 10-15 birds were recorded at night at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 19 (NBL).

**Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa***

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

Pairs were recorded at Cobark Forest Park (L4) Jan 23/24 (STA) and Sharpes Creek Road Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 19 (NBL), and a single bird at Heaton Gap (K10) Jan 10 (TOM).

**Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae***

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

Single birds were recorded at SWC Aug 29 (LIA) and Sharpes Creek Road Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 19 (NBL).

**Grass Owl *Tyto capensis***

ID No: 729 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded at Harrington Jun 25 and a road-kill bird at Bulahdelah (P7) Oct 29 (both BEM records).

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

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

Single birds, including sometimes as road kills, were often recorded during the year in cells H4 and H5 (NEG). A single bird was also at Hinton (L9) Oct 8 (GOD).

**Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides***

ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as single birds or pairs.

*Notable records:* Seven birds were recorded at Speers Point (L10) Jan 15 (HSE). Birds were on nest at Lambton (M10) Sep 2/9 (CJB) and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC), and had dependent young at Pipers Bay (R6) Oct (MVBW) and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (KEM).

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

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

Three birds were recorded at Harrington Dec 28 (CBOC), and single birds at Newcastle University (M10) Sep 2 (TOM) and Clarendetown (M8) Nov 9 (ROS).

**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  
Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Heaton Gap (K10) Jan 22 (TOM), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 and Jun 5/8 (HBOC), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC) and Yango Creek Road (I10) Oct 24 (RDB).

**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 over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 150+ birds were at Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 and 100+ birds at Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (both KEM records), and 50+ birds at Speers Point (L10) Jan 2 (HSE) and Warners Bay (L10) Dec 20 (ROD). 21-50 birds were recorded at Muswellbrook (H6) Feb 10 (NEG), LTP March 14 (KEM), Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 17 (KEM), Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC) and Argenton Dec 3 (CLT).

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

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

A single bird was recorded at Speers Point (L10) Jan 2 (HSE).

**Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea*

ID No: 319 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (*Not since 1988*)  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mainly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at both lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 and Myall Shores MLNP (P8) Dec 16 (both KEM).

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as <10 birds and usually as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* A mostly white bird with only a few pale brown marks on its wings was at Teralba (L10) May 10 (GRN). There were several breeding records in Sep and again in Dec.

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayi*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at NWR Oct 25 (CLT).

**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 over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Over May-Aug, single birds were moderately often recorded near to the coast. Two birds were at Coon Island Swansea (L11) Jun 26 (FOC) and Stockton Jul 5 (CLT), and three birds at Swan Bay (N9) Jun 21 (KEM). Birds were nesting at Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC) and had a nest with young at SWC Dec 2 (KEM).

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

ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant. Occasionally but widely recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of <10 birds.

*Notable records:* c 60 birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14 (STA), and 20+ birds were also there Feb 5 (MVBW) and at LTP Mar 20 (KEM). First recorded return was to the Paterson area (L8) Sep 13 (TAH).

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

ID No: 318 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant. Widely and frequently recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were present until at least Mar 23, when a single bird was at Scone (H5) (NEG). The first recorded return was Sep 19, when a single bird was at LTP (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Whitebridge (M10) Jan 4 (GOC), Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC), Wingen (H4) Jan 26 (NEG) and Green Wattle Creek (L8) Feb 1 (NEM).

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

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

Single birds were recorded at Floraville (L11) Apr 20 (WMR) and Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 19 (NBL), and two birds at Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (FOC). In the unusual record from Floraville, the bird was feeding in the garden of a house.

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Usual resident (*Revised from: Common resident*). Often recorded in the central part of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* A total of ten birds were seen or heard along Careys Trail (K5) Jan 28 (KEM). A juvenile was at Mount Vincent (L10) Sep 9 (OCG).

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

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

A single bird was recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 19 (NBL).

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

ID No: 558 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of <10 birds and predominantly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG) and also were carrying food at LTP Oct 29 (KEM).

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

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

Three birds were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Feb 1 (STA), and single birds at Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (BIA) and Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 1 (KEM). "Many" birds were at Gloucester Tops Sep 19 (NBL).

**Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus***

ID No: 555 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10, and 6+ birds were there Jun 5/8 and Aug 15 (all HBOC records). 6+ birds were also at Wingen (H4) Jan 26 and Isaacs Creek (I3) Jun 14 (NEG). Birds were on nest at Battery Rocks (E6) Sep 11 (STA) and were carrying food at Wingen Sep 18 (NEG).

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

ID No: 529 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and often as counts of 21-50 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Italia Road (M9) May 17 (OCG) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC). There were numerous breeding records spanning Sep-Dec, and also birds were feeding a juvenile Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* at SBS Jan 17 (HSE).

**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 as counts of up to 1-5 birds and frequently as up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at SWC Feb 3 (LIA) and at several locations, including SWC, over Sep-Dec (KEM).

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

ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

Single birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M4) Oct 30 (NEM) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC), a pair at Harrington Feb 5 (MVBW), and three birds there Dec 28 (CBOC).

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

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident, locally common.

Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds. 23 birds were at Salt Ash Dec 21 and 15 birds at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Oct 24 (both KEM). Birds had dependent young at Grahamstown Dam Oct 24 and Nov 12 (KEM, COD).

**Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus***

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* Birds were nesting at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG), Yango Creek Road (I10) Oct 14 (RDB), Laguna (I10) Nov 14 (RDB) and Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM).

**Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus***

ID No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at SWC Oct 21 and Nov 4 and LTP Sep 19 (KEM), and at Milbrodale (I9) Dec 12 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at SWC Sep 16 and LTP Sep 19 (both KEM).

**Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus***

ID No: 506 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded.

**Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria***

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Mount Vincent (L10) Mar 12 and Sep 9 (OCG), Hoyes Creek Wollemi N.P. (H8) and Callemondah Wollemi N.P. (H8) Sep 19 (both LIA), Yango Creek Road (I10) Oct 24 (RDB) and Laguna (I10) Dec 6 (RDB).

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

ID No: 493                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Occasionally recorded in rainforest and wet gully areas, mostly as 1-5 birds. 6+ birds were at Cobark Forest Park (L4) Jan 23/25 (STA) and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC). Two birds were nesting at Copeland Tops Forest Preserve (M4/5) Oct 7 (GOD).

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

ID No: 488                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as counts of 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Cobark Forest Park (L4) Jan 23/25 (STA), BbR Apr 7 (HBOC), Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC) and Redhead (M11) Dec 8 (GJC). There were several nesting records from SWC over Sep-Nov (KEM), and birds also were feeding young at Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 17 (KEM) and Newcastle University (M10) Nov 2 (TAH).

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

ID No: 494                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 (KEM), Cobark Forest Park (L4) Jan 23/25 (STA), Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Jan 27 and Sharpes Creek (N5/ M5) Mar 1 (both KEM). 6+ birds were at Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Mar 7 and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (both HBOC), and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (KEM). Some birds were also at Saltwater (R4) Mar 21 (MVBW) – numbers were not noted.

**Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

A single bird was recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 (HBOC), and some birds were at Mount Vincent (L10) Mar 12 (OCG) – numbers were not noted.

**Speckled Warbler** *Chthonicola sagittata*

ID No: 504                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC). A bird was carrying food at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG).

**Weebill** *Smicromis brevirostris*

ID No: 465                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and at Bulga (I8) Jul 25 and Sep 12 (HBOC, LIA). Birds were nest building at Bluegum Creek (L10) Sep 2 (TOM) and Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM).

**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 as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of 21-50 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Snapper Island N.R. (N9/O9) Oct 31 (KEM), and 21-50 birds were at Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Mar 7 (HBOC), Mungo Brush (P8) Apr 12 (KEM), Glenrock S.R.A. (M10) May 30 (KEM), Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19, Bulga (I8) Jul 25 and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (all HBOC records). Birds had a nest with young at Harrington Feb 5 (MVBW), and there were several breeding records over Sep-Nov (HBOC, KEM, OCG, MVBW).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Resident. Often recorded at mangrove areas as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at KI/Stockton Mar 22 and Taylors Beach (O9) Nov 10 (both HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Stockton bridge Mar 21 (LIA) – *this appears to be the first confirmed breeding record for the Hunter Region.*

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare.

Three birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Sep 2 and two birds at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (both NEG). Some birds were also at Bulga (I8) Oct 24 (LIA) – numbers were not noted.

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

ID No: 453 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant. Widely and frequently recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were present until at least Mar 21, when recorded at Saltwater (R4) (MVBW). The first recorded return was of a bird heard at Wingen (H4) Aug 24 (NEG), and then at both Green Wattle Creek (L8) and Newcastle University (M10) Sep 3 (NEM, TAH). Birds were on nest at Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM).

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Italia Road (M9) May 17 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Malabula (O9) Sep 13 and Oct 25, Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 24 and LTP Nov 18 (all KEM records).

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

ID No: 484 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen (H4) Mar 31 (NEG) and Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC).

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

ID No: 486 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at WWW Feb 3 (HBOC), Bolwarra (L9) Feb 6 (HSE), Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 (HBOC) and Lambs Valley (K8) Jun 29 (GOD). Birds were feeding young at Bolwarra (L9) Oct 31 (TAH), were on nest at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG), and were nest building at Clarencetown (M8) Jul 7 (KEM) and Cooranbong (K11) Jul 23 (BIA).

**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 21 (OCG), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Jun 27 and Sep 12, Clarencetown (M8) Sep 6 and SWC Oct 21 and Dec 2 (all KEM records). There were several breeding records at SWC over late Oct-early Dec and birds also had dependent young at LTP Nov 18 and were nest building at Malabula (O9) Sep 13 (all KEM records).

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*). Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) May 9 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at LTP Sep 19 (KEM).

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncommon resident in W of Region.

At least six birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8, and also a single bird was nearby at Lees Pinch GRNP (C6) Jun 6/7 (both HBOC).

**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at LTP Mar 20/21 (KEM) and Old Bar (R4) Aug 6 (MVBW). Birds had nests with young at Wingen (H4) Nov 7 (NEG) and SWC Dec 23 (KEM), and also were on nest at Wingen Sep 18 (NEG) and Newcastle (M10) Dec 1 (HBOC). Birds had a Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* in a nest at SWC Dec 30 (KEM).

**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 637 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Regularly recorded near to the coast as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Redhead (M11) Sep 1 (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA), LTP March 14 and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (both KEM). Some of the birds at Mungo Brush were nest building.

**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA), Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 15 (both HBOC).

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and moderately often as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* At least 200 birds were recorded in the lower Myall River/Bombay Broadwater area (P8) Apr 11, and 50+ birds were at LTP Mar 20, May 9 and Aug 15, Salt Ash (N9) Apr 4, Mungo Brush (P8) Apr 12 and Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 13 (all KEM records). Birds were on nests at Yango Creek Road (I10) Oct 24 (RDB) and Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM), and had dependent young at Laguna (I10) Nov 14 (RDB).

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

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

Not recorded.

**Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia*

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

A group of seven birds were recorded at Wyee Point (K12) in Apr (GED), and up to four birds were often present there over late Apr/early May (MOD). Eight birds at Ellalong May 9/10 (MEJ1). All other records were of 1-2 birds – at Morisset (K11) Apr 25 (NBL), Wyee Point May 27 (FOC), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and Nov 3 (FOC), Broke Road (I9) Jul 25 and Aug 1 & 8 (HBOC, LIA) and Tomago (M9) Aug 8 (OCG).

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

ID No: 641                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Up to ten birds were recorded at Myall Shores MLNP (P8) Dec 16 (KEM2). Birds had dependent young at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Apr 13 (HLC), and a nest with young, which later blew down in strong winds, was at Bolwarra (L9) late Nov (TAH).

**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 as counts of 10-30 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Green Point (L11) May 30 (GJC).

**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and moderately often as counts of 21-50 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM), with many young birds being present. There were also many confirmed breeding records over Sep-Dec.

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

ID No: 605                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds, and often as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 21 and Nov 22 (OCG, HBOC), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC), Bootawa (Q4) Nov 4/6 (OCG) and Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Cape Hawke BBNP (R6) Feb 3 (TUD), and were carrying food and nest building at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC) – *these are the first confirmed breeding records since 1987.*

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

ID No: 614                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident, with influxes in autumn/winter. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 30 birds over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, and as counts of up to 100 birds during Apr-Aug when southern birds are on migration passage.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at LTP Apr 17 and Tahlee (O8) Aug 8 (both KEM records), and 200-300 birds at Bolwarra (L9) Apr 27 (BPS) and at Belmont Swamp (L11) during Apr (LAK). Outside the peak migration period, 50+ birds were flying over Federal Park Swamp (M10) Sep 12 (CLT). Birds had dependent young at Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM).

**Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

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

A single bird was recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 6 (WIT).

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

ID No: 617                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Howes Valley (H10) May 9 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (both HBOC).

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

ID No: 619                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Howes Valley (H10) May 9 (HBOC), White Box Camp May 8/10 (HBOC) and Kurri Kurri (K9) Jul 13 and Nov 3 (KEM). Birds were nest building at Kurri Kurri Nov 3.

**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*

ID No: 613                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC), Broke Road (I9/J9) Jul 25 and Aug 8 (HBOC) and Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM).

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

ID No: 625                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 and Aug 15 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Wingen (H4) Jan 26 (NEG).

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

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

Six birds were recorded at Mount Vincent (L10) Sep 9, and some birds were also there Mar 12 (OCG). Two birds were at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 15 (HBOC).

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

ID No: 583                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident, uncommon in E of Region. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Isaacs Creek (I3) Jun 14 (NEG).

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

ID No: 578                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of 21-50 birds being not uncommon over Apr-Jul.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Congewai Valley (J10) Apr 19 and White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (both HBOC). Hundreds of birds were at Ellalong May 9/10 (MEJ1), and a single flock of >500 birds was recorded at a site along Broke Road (I9) Jul 25 (HBOC).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

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

Up to 12 birds were regularly recorded at SWC (many reports) and birds were nest building there Nov 4 (KEM). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Tilligerry Creek (O9) Mar 15 and Oyster Cove (N9) Apr 17 (both KEM), LTP Apr 17 and Jul 8 (KEM, KEM2), and frequently at Port Waratah (M10) (CLT). 6+ birds were at Oyster Cove Sep 12 (KEM) and Newcastle Dec 1 (HBOC).

**Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1993.

**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

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

Four birds were recorded at Devils Hole (K4) Jan 25 (STA), and a single bird at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 1 (KEM).

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

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

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. 20+ birds were at Awabakal N.R. (M11) Apr 29 (GJC), and 6+ birds nearby at Redhead (M11) Sep 1 (HBOC).

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

ID No: 632                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of up to 50 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp Jul (LAK), LTP Sep 19 (KEM) and Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at SWC Sep 28 and were regularly seen carrying food there during Oct (KEM).

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

ID No: 593                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 13 and Dec 14 (KEM) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC), and two birds at Redhead (M11) May 22 (GJC). Some birds were also at Old Bar (R4) Mar 21 (MVBW) – numbers were not noted.

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 and Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (both HBOC). Birds were nest building at Malabula (O9) Oct 11 and had dependent young at LTP Dec 8 (both KEM).

**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 as counts of 1-5 birds, and occasionally as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Wingham Brush (Q4) Nov 22 (HBOC) and 30+ birds at lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 (KEM). There was also a large influx to Green Wattle Creek (L8) late Dec (NEM). Birds at Wingham Brush were feeding fledged young.

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

ID No: 448                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Birds were regularly recorded at Ash Island and KI, and frequently at LTP, with the counts peaking at 35 birds, 20 birds and 28 birds respectively. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Birmingham Gardens (M10) Jan 7 (TOM), Sandgate (M10) Jan 13 (CBOC), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), NWR Jun 21 (LIA), Hexham Swamp (M10) Jul 17 (LIA) and Redhead (M11) Nov 24 (GJC). Ten birds were at Antennae Marsh (M10) Jan 23 (LIA).

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

ID No: 377                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds, and occasionally in greater numbers.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC), and birds had dependent young at Warakeila (L6) Jan 24 (NEM).

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolor*

ID No: 380                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

1-2 birds were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Feb 1 (STA), Kurri Kurri (K9) Jul 6 & 13 (KEM), Muswellbrook Jul 30 (NEG) and Warkworth (I8) Aug 1 (LIA). Three birds were at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 1 (KEM) and 6+ birds at Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Italia Road (M9) May 17 (OCG) – numbers were not noted.



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

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC) and four birds there Sep 12 (LIA). Single birds were present at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and Fosterton Loop Road (K6) Jul 11 (TAH), and two birds at Warkworth (I8) Aug 1 (LIA). Some birds were also Bulga (I8) Oct 24 (LIA) – numbers were not noted.

**Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea***

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

Eight birds were recorded at Isaacs Creek (I3) Jun 14 (NEG), four birds at Polblue Creek (K4) Oct 4 (TAH), and two birds at both Cobark Forest Park (L4) Jan 31 (STA) and Wingen (H4) Aug 5 (NEG). Single birds were at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Feb 1 (STA) and Wingen Jul 14 (NEG).

**Rose Robin *Petroica rosea***

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

Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of 1-2 birds, and always as <5 birds. Some birds were at Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Mar 7 (HBOC), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC), Dry Creek (G4) Sep 27 (NEG) and Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC); otherwise, all records were for the period Apr-Aug.

**Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata***

ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (Not since 1988)  
Status: Resident, in west of Region.

6+ birds were recorded at Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC) and four birds at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Aug 15 (both HBOC). Three birds were at Howes Valley (H10) May 9 and White Box Camp Jun 5/8 (both HBOC) and at Bulga Sep 12 (LIA). 1-2 birds were recorded at Wingen (H4) Jan 26 and Mar 31 (NEG), Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20, White Box Camp May 8/10 and Lees Pinch GRNP (C6) Jun 6/7 (all HBOC) and at Moonan Flat (J4) Oct 4 (TAH).

**Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito***

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Local resident.

Two birds were recorded at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 (KEM) and Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (HBOC), and a single bird at Copeland Forest Preserve (M4) Sep 20 (NBL).

**Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis***

ID No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds and occasionally as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Nov 4/6 (OCG). Birds were on nest at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG) and also had dependent young there Jan 26 (NEG) and at Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 (KEM) and Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC).

**Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii***

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Local resident.

Birds were heard at Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (BIA), Saltwater (R4) Mar 21 (MVBW) and The Basin Watagan S.F. (J11) Apr 6 (LIG).

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

ID No: 443 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Italia Road (M9) May 17 and East Seaham Road (M9) May 31 (both OCG). Birds had dependent young at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG) and Paterson (L8) Oct 17 (TAH).

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

ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Local resident.

Four birds were recorded at Worundi Creek (E6) Aug 16 (STA/PHP), and 6+ birds there Mar 20 and at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 and Aug 15 (all HBOC records).

**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds had dependent young at LTP Nov 13 (KEM).

**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Revised)  
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Mount Allyn Road (K5) Mar 15 and Apr 4 (NEM), Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Apr 5 (HBOC), Widden Valley (E9) May 10 (PEJ), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 and Jun 5/8 (HBOC) and Putty (G10) Sep 14 (BIA). 6+ birds were at Mount Vincent (L10) Mar 12 (OCG). A pair were with at least one dependent young at Mount Sugarloaf (L10) Oct 11 (IJK) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for over 10 years.*

**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

ID No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at East Seaham Road (M9) May 31 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Violet Hill MLNP (P7) Dec 13 and Tickerabbit MLNP Dec 15 (both KEM).

**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 as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 and Jun 5/8 (both HBOC) and Ashtonfield (L9) Aug 11 (ROS). Birds were nest building at Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3 and had dependent young at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Jan 27 (both KEM).

**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.

Several birds were heard at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 19 (NBL).

**Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 10 birds and mostly as <5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 and LTP Mar 20 (both KEM) and Wingen May 21 (NEG), and were nest building at Snapper Island N.R. (N9/O9) Oct 31 (KEM).

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common summer migrant and local resident. Widely and regularly recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds but mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 1-5 birds were recorded at Johns River (S3) May 7 (MVBW), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) Jun 5/8 (HBOC), Isaacs Creek (I3) Jun 14 (NEG), SWC Jul 29 and throughout Aug (KEM, HBOC, LIA), Ashtonfield (L9) Aug 11 (ROS) and Wakefield (L10) Aug 24 (TOM). There were many breeding records spanning Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec.

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

ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 21 birds were recorded at Bulga (I8) Sep 12 (LIA). Birds had a single dependent young at SWC Feb 3 (LIA) and were carrying food at Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM).

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

ID No: 373 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Bootawa (Q4) Nov 4/6 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 (KEM).

**Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A pair were feeding a single fledged young at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC).

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and from mid-Sep onwards, as counts of up to 5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC), Kurri Kurri (K9) Nov 3, Johnsons Beach MLNP Dec 15 (both KEM) and Maitland (L9) Dec 28 (TAH). There were several widespread breeding records over Oct-Dec.

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Newcastle University Oct 21 (TAH) and pairs at Oyster Cove (N9) Jan 9 (BLM) and Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Feb 1 (STA). The pair at Oyster Cove had a nest with young, which later was predated.

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 369 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Coral Ville (S3) Jan 19 (MVBW), Wingen (H4) Jan 26 (NEG), Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 (HBOC), Congewai Valley (J10) Apr 19 (HBOC), SWC May 5 (BAW), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 and Jun 5/8 (HBOC), Isaacs Creek (I3) Jun 14 (NEG), Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (HBOC), Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC) and Newcastle University Oct 21 (TAH).

**Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*

ID No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG), WWW Feb 3 (HBOC), Nelsons Plains (L9) May 18 (SJR), Newline Road (M9) May 31 (OCG), Heatherbrae (M9) Jul 1 (HBOC), Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC) and Taree (Q4) Jul 26 (KEM). There were many breeding records spanning Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec.

**Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region from Jan until mid-Apr and from late Sep onwards, as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* A bird was still at Congewai Valley (J10) Apr 19 (HBOC), and a bird had returned to Hoyes Creek Wollemi N.P. (H8) by Sep 19 (LIA). 6+ birds were at Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Mar 7 (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC).

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

ID No: 361 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Polblue Swamp (K4) Jan 25/26 (STA), Careys Trail (K5) Jan 28 (KEM), Oyster Cove (N9) Sep 1 (KEM), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC) and Snapper Island N.R. (N9/O9) Oct 31 (KEM). There were several widespread breeding records over Sep-Nov.

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*

ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of 1-5 birds and occasionally as up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* There were several, widespread breeding records spanning Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec.

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

ID No: 673 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Winter migrant and bird of passage. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region over Apr-Oct as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Off-season records were of three birds at NLH Mar 23 (HIM), two birds at NLH Jan 27 (HIM), SWC Feb 27 (LIA) and LTP Mar 20 (KEM), and single birds at NLH Jan 16 (HIM), Belmont South Feb 19/20 (CJB), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), Mirrabooka early Mar (MCG), LTP March 14 (KEM) and Belmont Swamp (L11) Mar (LAK).

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

ID No: 424                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds but mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at New Lambton (M10) Jun 2 (STS) and Oyster Cove (N9) Sep 12 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC) and SWC Nov 11 (KEM), and were nest building at Clarencetown (M8) Sep 6 (KEM).

**Barred Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina lineata*

ID No: 428                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded since 1996.

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

ID No: 425                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Jan 12, Apr 5 and May 4 (NEM), Cobark River (M4) Feb 1 (STA), Grahamstown Dam (M9) Feb 22 (HBOC), Ellalong (J10) May 9/10 (MEJ1), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 (HBOC), Kurri Kurri (K9) Jul 6 and Nov 3 and Seaham Swamp N.R. Jul 7 (KEM). Two birds were along Broke Road (I9/J9) Aug 8 (HBOC).

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region from Jan to mid-Mar and from mid-Sep onwards, as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Around six birds were present at Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Bootawa (Q4) Nov 4/6 (OCG, MVBW) – *this is not considered to be sufficient evidence to confirm the breeding status for the Region.*

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

ID No: 423                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1994.

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

ID No: 430                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant.

1-5 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at SWC Feb 3 (LIA), Ellalong Lagoon (J10) Feb 9 (TOM), Harrington Feb 21 (OCG), Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 (HBOC), Bulga (I8) Oct 24 (LIA), SWC Oct 28 (KEM), Kerrabee (D7) Dec 6 (TAH) and Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM).

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Local resident.

A single bird was recorded at Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (BIA) and a bird was heard at Harrington Nov 22 (HBOC).

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

ID No: 671                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Bluegum Creek (L10) Jun 21 (HBOC), Oyster Cove (N9) Sep 12 (KEM), Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (HBOC) and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Morpeth (L9) Feb 3 (KEM).

**Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*

ID No: 432                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, especially at locations near to the coast, as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14/15 (STA), Newcastle Dec 1 (HBOC) and Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (KEM). At Santa Barbara BBNP (R6) Dec 12, five birds were on nests and another had a nest with young (TUD), and there were also four nests with young at Mungo Brush Dec 17 (KEM).

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

ID No: 543

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. Frequently recorded at or near medium to large fresh waters in the E of the Region over Jan-Apr and from mid-Aug onwards as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp (L11) Mar (LAK) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 19 (HBOC), and often at SWC over Sep-Nov. Birds again had many nests at SWC over Sep-Dec (KEM, ROD, TOM) and also were breeding at Cedar Hill Drive Jan 5 (TOM), KI Oct 8 (GOD) and Belmont Swamp Nov (LAK). Two birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp during Jul (LAK).

**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 since 1996.

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncertain. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-10 birds, mainly over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

*Notable records:* 16 birds were recorded at Salt Ash (N9) Dec 21 (KEM). Records for the period Apr-Aug were of ten birds at Kurri Kurri (K9) Jul 13 (KEM), eight birds at Salt Ash Apr 4 and regularly at Malabula (O9) through Apr (both KEM), and 1-5 birds at Shelly Beach MLNP (Q7) Apr 13 (KEM), White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 and Aug 15 (HBOC), Kurri Kurri Jul 6 (KEM) and Old Bar (R4) Aug 6 (MVBW). Birds had dependent young at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Mar 21 (NEM) and Shelly Beach Dec 14 (KEM), and were nest building at Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 17 (KEM).

**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 as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Italia Road (M9) May 17 (OCG), East Seaham Road (M9) May 31 (OCG), Tomaree N.P. (P9) Dec 6 (HBOC) and LTP Dec 8 (KEM). Birds were on nest at SWC Nov 4 (KEM) and had dependent young there during Dec (KEM) and at Myuna Bay (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC) and LTP Dec 8 (KEM).

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

ID No: 700

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Italia Road (M9) May 17 and East Seaham Road (M9) May 31 (both OCG) and Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Apr 5 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at WWW Jan 14 (KEM), SWC Aug 13 and Dec 9 (ROD, KEM) and Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 24 (KEM).

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*

ID No: 705

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and occasionally as 21-50 birds especially during Mar-Aug.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Ash Island Jan 19 and Newline Road (M9) May 31 (both OCG). White-backed race Birds (*G. tibicen hypoleuca*) were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Feb 1 (STA), Maitland (L9) Mar 11 (FON) and Coolongolook (P6) Oct 23 (MVBW), and an albino bird was at Duckenfield (L9) over Mar/early Apr (BID). A White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* was seen to take a fully grown bird at Swansea (L11) Sep 19 (BOCA). There were numerous breeding records spanning Aug-Dec.

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant). Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (both HBOC) and New Lambton (M10) May 31 (STA). There were several breeding records spanning Sep-Dec. A pair were raising a Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* at Warners Bay (M10) Jan 26 (THR).

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain.  
Not recorded.

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

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

Adult male birds were recorded at Rookhurst (N4) early Jul (TAT) and Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC). Four birds, including one adult male, were at Chichester S.F. (M5) May 11 (TAT).

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds and occasionally as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Stewarts Brook (J4) Jan 11 (NEG) and there were several breeding records spanning Aug-Dec. A pair were rearing three young Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaebollandiae* at LTP Jan 8, and the same or another pair were rearing a single young Channel-billed Cuckoo there Dec 25 (both KEM).

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Four birds were recorded at Cobark River (M4) Feb 1 (STA) and two birds at lower Myall River (P8) Dec 12 (KEM). Some birds were also at Gloucester Tops (L5/M5) Jan 24/25 (BIA) – numbers were not noted.

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Local resident (*Revised from: Uncommon local resident*).

Around 70 birds were recorded at Belltrees (I4) Jan 26 (STA) and c 20 birds at Tomalla (K4) Feb 8 (NEG).

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

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

Birds were moderately often recorded near to the coast in the N of the Region - the most southerly records were from Oyster Cove (N9). All reports were of <20 birds and around 60% were of 1-5 birds. A bird was on nest at Wingham Brush (Q4) Nov 22 (HBOC).

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

ID No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region, and occasionally in the E, mostly as counts of 6-20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Mount Vincent (L10) Apr 5 (OCG), and birds were nest building at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Aug 19 (NEG).

**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Heaton Gap (K10) Jan 22 (TOM), Copeland S.F. (M4) Jan 25 (BIA), Careys Trail (K5) Jan 28 (KEM), Massey Creek S.F. (K6) Mar 7 (HBOC), Mungo Brush (P8) Apr 12 (KEM), Wingham Brush (Q4) May 16 (MVBW), Monkerai (N6) Jul 17/19 (HBOC), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC), Copeland Forest Preserve (M4) Sep 20 (NBL), Hallidays Point (R5) Oct 17 (MVBW) and Barrington House (L5) Oct 25 (LIA).

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

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

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. 15 birds were at Allyn River (K5) Oct 25 (LIA).

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 (HBOC). Birds were feeding young at NLH during Oct/Nov (LPC) and were nest building at Clarencetown (M8) Nov 20 (SLJ).

**Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica***

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

A single bird was recorded at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Mar 31 (TOM), three birds at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Jan 24 and five birds there Dec 5 (both NEG).

**Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

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

Not recorded since 1996.

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

ID No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG), and significant numbers (up to 20 birds) were also present there over Feb/Mar (STA, LIA, ROD). Birds had a nest with young at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Nov 12/16 (NEG).

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

ID No: 877 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993).

Two birds of the race *M. flava similina* were recorded at SWC Jan 7 (LIA) and 1-2 birds occasionally there until Jan 17 (several reports), and three birds were recorded nearby at Market Swamp (M10) Jan 16 (BAW/TOM). There were no further records, until two birds were found at Ash Island Feb 8 (BIA). Up to seven birds were often recorded there subsequently, with the birds remaining until Mar 4, when last recorded. Their presence stirred much interest locally and nationally.

**Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens***

ID No: 781 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A solitary female bird with an injured foot was recorded at Glendale (M10) from Apr 4 to Apr 9. *This is the first accepted NSW record for the species, which is a rare visitor to Australia. The bird aroused much interest locally and nationally. A more detailed report is presented in the Appendix.*

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Frequently recorded at or near populated areas as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were nest building at Malabula (O9) during Oct and at SWC Dec 30 (KEM). A bird was taken by a Nankeen Kestrel *Falco venchroides* at Mayfield (M10) Nov 27 (KEM).

**Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata***

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

20+ birds were recorded Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at WWW Feb 3 (HBOC), KI Jul 12 (CLT) and Bayswater Colliery (I7) Dec 31 (NEG). 1-5 birds were at Bolwarra (L9) Apr 9 & 27 and late Oct (LIA, BPS, TAH), Dry Creek Road (F6) Oct 5 (STA), Denman (G7) Oct 5 (STA) and Yarrowa (G7) Dec 19 (TAH).

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

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Worundi Creek (E6) Mar 20 and Howes Valley (H10) May 9, and 50+ birds at Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (all HBOC records). Some birds at Worundi Creek were nesting, and birds were also nest building at Green Wattle Creek (L8) Feb 15 (NEM).

**Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta***

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

Not recorded since 1996.

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

ID No: 662 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and moderately often as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* 50-60 birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 15 & 21 (TOM) and SWC Sep 9 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Green Wattle Creek (L8) May 4 (NEM) and there were several other breeding records spanning Oct-Dec.

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*ID No: 652 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

20+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E9) May 10 (PEJ) and Isaacs Creek (I3) Jun 14 (NEG), and some birds (<5) were also at White Box Camp GRNP (C6) May 8/10 (HBOC).

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 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.

60 birds including immatures and some dependent young were recorded at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA). Elsewhere in the E of the Region, 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded. A bird was nest building at SWC Nov 4 (KEM).

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident.

Birds were frequently recorded at Bolwarra (L9) all year (HSE, BPS, TAH), with counts peaking at 12 birds over Aug-Oct. Elsewhere, birds were recorded at Market Swamp (M10) Jan 8 & 21 (TOM, LIA), Port Waratah Feb and Nov/Dec (CLT), KI Jul 5 (CLT), East Maitland (L9) Aug 8 (BRG), BbR Aug 31, Ash Island Sep 10 and WWW Oct 25 (all LIA records) and Hands Lagoon (L9) Dec 13 & 19 (TAH). Reports of 1-5 and 6-20 birds were about equal.

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of 1-5 birds, and occasionally as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) Jan 5/22 (HLC). Birds were nest building at LTP Dec 8 and Violet Hill MLNP (P7) Dec 13 (KEM).

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

Four birds were recorded at Milbrodale (I9) May 9 and two birds there Sep 19 (LIA). Some birds (<5) were also at Wambo Road Bulga (I8) Jul 25 (HBOC).

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and as counts of up to 50 birds near medium to large waters.

*Notable records:* 1000 birds were recorded at Ash Island Mar 4 (ROD), and 200 birds there Jan 19 (OCG) and at Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (LIA). 100+ birds were at KI Jul 12 (CLT) and Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 12 (LIA), and there were 13 reports of 51-100 birds. There were several breeding records spanning Aug-Dec.

**Tree Martin** *Hirundo nigricans*ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* Around 500 birds were recorded at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Jan 20 (TOM), and 100+ birds at Bolwarra (L9) Apr 9 and Morpeth STP (L9) Apr 11 (both LIA) and Shelly Beach (Q7) Dec 14 (KEM). 20+ birds were at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 19 (HBOC) and Myall Shores MLNP (P8) Dec 17 (KEM).

**Fairy Martin** *Hirundo ariel*ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant; some birds appear to be resident. Frequently recorded at medium to large waters in the E and central parts of the Region from Jan to mid-Mar and from early Aug onwards, as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 200 birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 19 (OCG), and c 100 birds at Cedar Hill Drive (L10) Dec 12 (LIA). Counts at SWC peaked at 75 birds Jan 7 (LIA) and were mostly of 20+ birds (many reports). Off-season records were of 1-5 birds at NWR Jun 21 (LIA), Hillville Dam (Q4) Jun 20 (MVBW), Lambs Valley (K8) Jun 29 (GOD) and Hexham Swamp (M10) Jul 17 (LIA). Birds once again nested at SWC over Sep-Dec, with around 30 active nests (many reports). There were several other nesting records spanning late Aug-Dec.



**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Swansea Heads (L11) Mar 17 (OCG), and a single bird at Belmont Swamp Jan and Nov (LAK).

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

ID No: 524

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident. Widely and often recorded near medium to large waters during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at WWW Jan 14 (KEM) and regularly at SWC (many reports). Winter records were of <5 birds at LTP Jun 27 (KEM) and SWC Aug 29 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at SWC Dec 30, and were nest building there during Oct and at LTP during Nov (KEM records).

**Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*

ID No: 523

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Local resident*). Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* c 20 birds were recorded at Salt Ash (N9) Dec 21 and eight birds at SWC Aug 19 and Sep 16 and Oyster Cove (N9) Oct 17 (all KEM records). 6+ birds were also at Grahamstown Dam (M9) Nov 12 (COD). Birds were nest building at Oyster Cove Jan 21 (KEM).

**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Four birds were recorded at Antennae Marsh Sandgate (M10) Jan 23 (LIA).

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

1-5 birds were recorded on Oct 5 at Dry Creek Road (F6), Battery Rocks (E6) and near Bunnan (F5) (all STA records), and at Bayswater Colliery (I7) Oct 29 (NEG) and two separate locations near Yarrawa (G7) Dec 19 (TAH).

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncertain.

Single birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) during Jan (HLC) and Yarrawa (G7) Dec 6 (TAH), and a pair at Yarrawa Dec 19 (TAH).

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

ID No: 525

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) during Jan (HLC).

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

ID No: 574

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident and winter migrant. Widely and regularly recorded all year as counts of up to 50 birds, and as counts of up to 100 birds in the E of the Region during Apr – mid-May and mid-Jun – July.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp (L11) during Jul (LAK). 50+ birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp during Mar (LAK) and at Snapper Island N.R. (N9/O9) Oct 31 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Sharpes Creek (L5/M5) Feb 28 and SWC Dec 9 (both KEM).

**THRUSH SPECIES**

Both *Zoothra* species occur in the Hunter Region, but field identification is difficult. For completeness, all records received are reported below as either confirmed identifications or as unidentified birds.

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothra lunulata*

ID No: 779

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

Two birds were at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Jan 27 (KEM), Chichester Dam (M6) Sep 19/20 and Towarri N.P. (H5) Oct 16/17 (both HBOC), and single birds at Cobark Forest Park (L4) Jan 25 (STA) and Barrington House (L5) Oct 25 (LIA).

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

ID No: 780

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain.

There were no confirmed records.

**Unidentified Thrush Sightings**

Four birds were recorded at Mount Vincent (L10) Apr 5 and six birds there Mar 12 (OCG), and a total of eight birds at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 1 (KEM). Three birds were together at Barrington House (L5) Jan 21 and along Careys Trail (K5) Jan 28 (both KEM), and single birds were at Sharpes Creek (L5/M5) Feb 28 (KEM) and Copeland Tops Forest Preserve (M4/5) Oct 7 (GOD).

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Polblue Swamp (K4) Jan 25 (STA), Cooranbong (K11) Aug 26 (OSP) and East Maitland (L9) Dec 13 (MPM).

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of up to 100 birds.

*Notable records:* 1000 birds were recorded in the Hexham area (M10) Apr 2 (ROD), and around 200 birds at Ash Island Feb 9 and Dec 20 (LIA) and SBS Jan 19 (TOM). 100+ birds were also at Newcastle Dec 1 (HBOC). Birds were often recorded as nesting at SWC over Sep-Dec (KEM) and were carrying food at Wingen (H4) Sep 18 (NEG).

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

ID No: 998

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and as counts of up to 50 birds in the E of the Region

*Notable records:* Birds were feeding young at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC) and were often recorded as nesting at SWC over Sep-Dec (KEM).

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

The record below has been accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee:

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

A single male bird was recorded at Copeland S.F. Nov 17, 1996 (VEE) – *this observation was presented as an unconfirmed report in the 1996 Report.*

## UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

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

**King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*

ID No: 012

A pair were reported to be at Tomago (M9) Apr 6.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus carneipes*

ID No: 072

A total of over 500 birds were reported to be off Port Stephens (P9) Nov 14. This is considered to be an unusually high count locally for the species.

**Great Skua** *Catharacta skua*

ID No: 980

Two birds were reported to be off Broughton Island (P8) during Jan.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945

Single birds were reported to be off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 11 and Nov 14. A single bird was also reported to be harassing terns in Newcastle Harbour Mar 25.

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126

Two birds were reported to be at Nobbys Beach (M10) Nov 12.

## ESCAPEES

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

**Indian Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*

ID No: 903

One bird was first seen flying around the Pipers Garden Forster (R6) area Dec 25. It subsequently nested and laid an egg in a garden in the area (TUD).

**Ring-necked Dove** (tentatively identified as *Streptopelia risoria*)

6+ birds were recorded at Dora Creek (L11) Jan 19 (HBOC).

**Pale-headed Rosella** *Platycercus adscitus*

ID No: 286

A single bird was recorded at SWC Dec 9 (KEM).

## 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	Newcastle	M10
Awabakal Nature Reserve	M10/11	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve	M10
Belmont Lagoon & Swamp	L11	New Lambton Heights	M10
Blackbutt Reserve	M10	Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve	M8
Bulga	I8	Seal Rocks	R7
Cabbage Tree Island	P9	Shortland Wetlands Centre	M10
Colliery Dam	L10	Singleton	I8
Ellalong Lagoon	J10	Stockton	M10
Forster	R6	Stockton Borehole Swamp	L10
Harrington	S4	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	M9	Walka Water Works	L9
Kooragang Island	M10	Wingen	H4
Lemon Tree Passage	O9	Wingham Brush	Q4
Market Swamp	M10		

## LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

## 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.

<b>BAW</b>	Wilma Barden	<b>FUF</b>	Frank Future
<b>BEM</b>	Matthew Bell	<b>GED</b>	David Geering
<b>BIA</b>	Birding-Australia (Internet group)	<b>GEP</b>	Peter George
<b>BID</b>	Doug Biddle	<b>GJC</b>	John, Cynthia Grebert
<b>BLM</b>	Max Blanch	<b>GOC</b>	Colin Goodenough
<b>BOCA</b>	Reported in newsletter of the Bird Observers Club of Australia	<b>GOD</b>	Darryl Goldrick
<b>BPS</b>	Class 3A at Bolwarra Public School	<b>GRN</b>	Neil Granter
<b>BRG1</b>	Grant Brosie	<b>HAA</b>	Allyn Hamonet
<b>BMA</b>	Marie Burgoyne	<b>HAM</b>	Matthew Hamonet
<b>CAR</b>	Ross Carlton	<b>HSE</b>	Sue, Ed Hamonet
<b>CBOC</b>	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	<b>HBOC</b>	Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp
<b>CCF</b>	Central Coast group of the FOC	<b>HDD</b>	Don, Daphne Halliday
<b>CJB</b>	John, Beth Cockerell	<b>HID</b>	Dennis Hirst
<b>CLT</b>	Tom Clarke	<b>HIM</b>	Ian, Marta Hamilton
<b>COD</b>	Dick Cooper	<b>HLC</b>	Liz, Chris, Daniel Herbert
<b>DIM</b>	Marea Diemar	<b>HON</b>	Noel Hodgins
<b>DUP</b>	Pam Durie	<b>HPM</b>	Pam, Michael Hely
<b>FOC</b>	Reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club	<b>HWT</b>	Reported in <i>The Wetlander</i> (newsletter of Hunter Wetlands Trust)
<b>FON</b>	Neville Foster	<b>IJK</b>	Kay, Jim Imrie

<b>JAM</b>	Mavis Jackson	<b>PRD</b>	Dorothy Pritchard
<b>JOD</b>	Di Johnson	<b>RDA</b>	David Rohweder
<b>KBD</b>	Bev, David Kibble	<b>RDB</b>	Dorothy, Bob Raine
<b>KEM</b>	Michael Kearns	<b>ROD</b>	Diane Rogers
<b>KEM2</b>	Margaret Kearns	<b>ROS</b>	Steven Roderick (or B. & S?)
<b>LBM</b>	Bob, Marie Langdown	<b>SLJ</b>	Leone, John Storm
<b>LAK</b>	Keith Laverick	<b>SJR</b>	Judith, Rowley Smith
<b>LIA</b>	Ann Lindsey	<b>STA</b>	Alan Stuart
<b>LIG</b>	Greg Little	<b>STJ</b>	Jeanette Stephenson
<b>LPC</b>	Paddy, Caryl Lightfoot	<b>STS</b>	Sally Stuart
<b>MAH</b>	Harold Maher	<b>TAH</b>	Harold Tarrant
<b>MAL</b>	Lesley Marshall	<b>TAT</b>	Theo Tasoulis
<b>MCG</b>	Geraldine McCulloch	<b>TBO</b>	Reported in newsletter <i>The Bird Observer</i>
<b>MEJ1</b>	Jenny Meynell	<b>THB</b>	B A Thibble
<b>MEJ2</b>	Eve, John Moyse	<b>THR</b>	Ross Thomson
<b>MOA</b>	Alan Morris	<b>TOM</b>	Michael Todd
<b>MOD</b>	Don Moon	<b>TUD</b>	David Turner
<b>MPM</b>	Peter, Margaret McLauchlan	<b>VEE</b>	Edwin Vella
<b>MUR</b>	Ross Mulholland	<b>WCR</b>	Observation reported to Shortland Wetlands Centre
<b>MVBW</b>	Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers	<b>WEJ</b>	Judy Westphal
<b>NBL</b>	Reported to the NSW BirdLine	<b>WEL</b>	Lindsay Welch
<b>NEG</b>	Greg Newling	<b>WIT</b>	Ted Wilson
<b>NEM</b>	Mike Newman	<b>WMK</b>	Margaret, Keith Woods
<b>OCG</b>	Graeme O'Connor	<b>WMR</b>	Marian, Ray Walker
<b>OSP</b>	Paul Osborn	<b>WOD</b>	D Woodgate
<b>PEH</b>	Harvey Perkins	<b>WOR</b>	Russell Woodford
<b>PEJ</b>	Jim Perry	<b>WRT</b>	Trish Wraight
<b>PHP</b>	Peter Phillips		
<b>POP</b>	Pat Pountney		

# Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens* at Glendale

Michael Carter

30 Canadian Bay Road Mt Eliza Vic 3930

*Mike Carter is a member of the Birds Australia Rarities Committee. Mike flew to Newcastle to participate in the confirmation of the identity of this rare visitor to Australia. Reproduced below is a condensed version of his write-up for BARC.*

## GENERAL COMMENTS

The presence of this Wagtail became known to HBOC on 4 April 1998 when Roland Payne reported it. Subsequently, Wilma Barden and others confirmed the identification. The find attracted much interest nationally amongst birdwatchers and locally amongst the wider community. The bird disappeared following heavy rain on 10 and 11 April.

The bird frequented the Glendale Shopping Centre, particularly the paved parking area, grassed borders and garden beds in front of the Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon where it was partial to crushed peanuts. At times it sought refuge on the roofs of the Saloon and adjacent buildings. It was sometimes frequenting an adjacent wetland on Winding Creek, opposite the shopping centre, and was also seen in a drainage culvert, containing a trickle of water, located within the shopping centre carparks. In Japan, where this species is common, it typically frequents such built-up, highly populated areas (Tadao Shimba pers. comm.; Wild Bird Society of Japan, 1982).

In addition to eating crushed peanuts it was also seen dismembering a large moth and hunting small insects. When resting, it sought shelter from hot sunshine by sitting in the shade of posts, tree trunks, kerbs or building parapets. Rest periods rarely lasted longer than 40 minutes.

The bird was partially disabled – when hopping, it used only its left leg. Its right foot was swollen at the base of the toes, the sort of damage associated with constricting bands or entanglement with a fishing line. As a consequence of this, when standing, it used its tail as a prop and rested by sitting on its belly.

The large number of photographs that were taken of the bird eliminates the need for a full written description here. However, significant features are addressed in the diagnosis which follows.

## DIAGNOSIS

**Species:** The black eyeline indicates that it was either a Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens* or a White Wagtail *M. alba ocularis*. Nothing in the readily available Australian literature is adequate to resolve the difficult identification problem that the separation of these species presents, so most of the analysis which follows is based on Howell (1990). The most helpful field guide is the American, National Geographic Society (1987). The illustrations in Pizzey and Knight (1997) are incorrect in several regards and are misleading.

**Plumage phase:** It is important to recognise that the bird was close to achieving full breeding (alternate) plumage. This is shown by the fresh grey back, clear white forehead, black from centre of crown continuous down nape sharply cut off from grey of mantle at the neck crease, unsullied white supercilium behind the eye and black shield-shaped breast patch resembling a bib complete with tabs for suspension around the neck and tie around the shoulders. Photographs of breeding plumaged birds in Japan exactly replicate the breast pattern of this bird including the tabs on the bib.

The following six features are diagnostic of *lugens*. I found no contra-indications.

1. Wholly white throat and chin. Typical *ocularis* in this plumage have a wholly black throat and chin and all have much black in this area.
2. Extent of black on the rump. The whole of the lower rump was solidly black as was some (about 1/4 to 1/3) of the upper rump as defined by Howell (1990). The remainder of the upper rump was grey with an abrupt transition between the two. *Ocularis* has less black on the lower rump and none on the upper rump.
3. Robust bill. The bill is clearly conical in shape - that is, broadest and deepest at the base with a uniform taper to the tip. This matches photographs of *lugens* from Japan. The bills of White Wagtails, including *ocularis*, are thinner and more thorn-like i.e. more constant in diameter from a smaller base with a sudden taper commencing towards the tip.

4. White in the flight feathers (remiges). White was present towards the base of primaries p1 to p6 and at the base of all six secondaries. *Ocularis* has no white in the remiges.
5. White shaft to t4. At least a small length at the base of the shaft of the 4<sup>th</sup> rectrice was white. Howell (1990) suggests that *ocularis* never has white in the shaft of t4.
6. Mid grey dorsum and black in scapulars. The general colour of the back, mantle and scapulars was a mid-grey. Thus it was darker and lacked the blue tints and brightness seen in races of White Wagtail including those previously seen in Australia - *leucopsis* and *baicalensis* (Carter, Farnes and Pamment 1995). There was no trace of black in the back or mantle but the exposed portion of the outer row of scapulars contained some black. This contrasted with the adjacent white greater coverts. *Ocularis* never shows this intensity of black.

**Age and Sex:** Two features indicate that the bird was in its first year – the retention of some juvenile greater coverts, and the presence of yellow in the face. A yellow face is a feature of some immature females (Wild Bird Society of Japan 1982). The yellow appeared as a pale wash or stain, most evident on the otherwise white areas just above and forward of the eye and on the rear cheek and ear-coverts. In the moderate amount of white in the remiges, wholly white throat, lack of black on the mantle and back, it resembles an adult female. I had not expected to see so much white in the wings of a first-summer female since it would still retain its juvenile remiges. The wing pattern was more typical of an adult female or perhaps a juvenile male but it seems that some first year females can have this much white (p83-8, Bird Migration Research Center 1983). I therefore conclude that it was a first summer female.

## STATUS

This was the fourth report of *lugens/ocularis* wagtails for the 1997/98 summer. The first was seen near Ingham, Qld, on 23 October and again on 27 November 1997, and the second (of a yellow faced bird) was from Narran Lake near Brewarrina NSW in late November 1997. In both these cases, the identification as *lugens* or *ocularis* was not resolved. An immature *lugens* was present at Broome Sewage Farm from 15 to 26 March 1998 (record written up and being assessed).

Previously accepted reports of *lugens* are from Fraser Island, Qld and Derby WA (Pizzey and Knight 1997). Another record – not yet confirmed but considered likely to be – is of a bird at Lakes Entrance in Victoria in 1985.

These reports contrast with only one accepted *M. alba ocularis* – from Geraldton WA in 1995.

*Lugens* breeds in Japan, the Kamchatka peninsula and on the adjacent coast of continental Asia. Some northern populations migrate south normally reaching S.E. China, Taiwan and the Philippines (Morlan 1981).

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## DEFINITION OF THE HUNTER REGION

The map below indicates the boundaries for the Hunter Region, with grid lines for latitude and longitude in 10-minute divisions. The cells created by the grid pattern have unique alpha-numeric identifiers, which have been used in the main body of the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations.

