

# HUNTER REGION OF NSW

## 1999 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 mid-week and weekend outings, and occasional camps. Beginners and more experienced birdwatchers are equally catered for from the range of activities provided. All HBOC members receive a newsletter every two months, and have access to a comprehensive range of books, tapes, CDs and videocassettes about Australian and world birdlife. 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 and by either the postal or Web addresses below. For more information, or to make an e-mail contact, the club's Website is located at: <http://users.hunterlink.net.au/hboc/home.htm>

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Cover photograph: Mixed roosting flock of shorebirds on a Kooragang Nature Reserve dyke (photographer: Chris Herbert)

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# CONTENTS

|                                      | <b>Page</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| FOREWORD                             |             |
| INTRODUCTION                         | 1           |
| HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR               | 3           |
| SYSTEMATIC LIST                      | 4           |
| Introduction                         | 4           |
| Birds                                | 5           |
| SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS                | 57          |
| UNCONFIRMED RECORDS                  | 58          |
| CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES              | 59          |
| ESCAPEES                             | 59          |
| LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS               | 59          |
| GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS | 60          |
| OBSERVER CODES                       | 61          |
| THE HUNTER REGION                    | 63          |

# FOREWORD

Kate Ravich  
Chairperson, Southern NSW and ACT Group  
Birds Australia  
September 16, 2000

# 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 1999 calendar year. The information is based upon observation records which we have gathered from a variety of sources.

The 1999 Report describes the regional status of 365 bird species, including 310 species that were recorded during the year. There are 4 additions to the 1998 species list – Cape Petrel, Red-backed Button-quail, Wandering Tattler and Common Noddy. Breeding records for 127 species are described, of the total of 206 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 later in the Report.

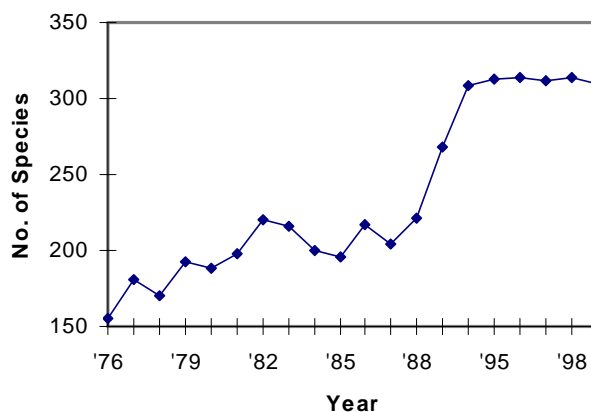
The 1999 Report contains significantly more information about the shorebirds present around the Hunter River estuary than did the prior Annual Reports. In March 1999, HBOC began a program of regular (monthly) surveys of the estuary. These surveys involved counts of shorebirds at all known/likely high tide roosting areas, with several groups participating so that the counts were effectively simultaneous. A species by species overview of the results of the surveys is presented in this Report; in time, a more detailed analysis will be published elsewhere.

This is now the seventh year of production of Hunter Region Bird Reports. Before then, information about local birdlife was mainly based on the observations made by HBOC during its organised activities, supplemented by an informal reporting system for other sightings. It is interesting to note how the capture rate of information has increased since HBOC formed in 1976. The number of species reported each year increased steadily between 1976 and 1992, reflecting HBOC's increased activities (and perhaps, an increase in the collected expertise of its members). The inaugural Bird Report in 1993 resulted in an ~15% increase in species reporting rate, and a similar increase occurred in 1994. Since then, the number of species recorded each year appears to have stabilised.

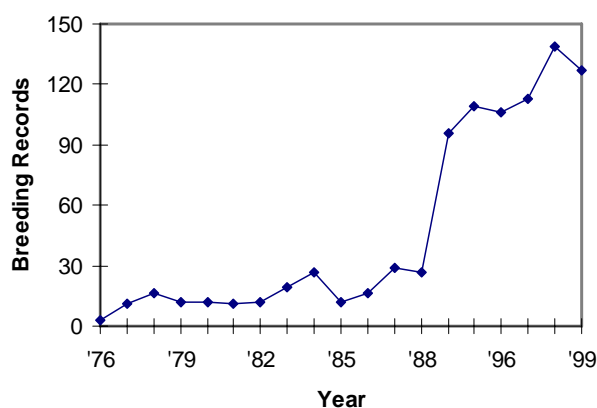
Until 1993, breeding information for Hunter Region species was scanty, with reports averaging around 15 species per year. The introduction of the annual Bird Reports has led to a substantial increase in the capture of information, with 127 species reported as breeding in 1999. Over the same period, the total number of known breeding species in the Region has increased substantially, and now totals 206 species (when limited to only the reports from the past 10 years).

Figures 1 and 2 show the changes in reporting rate for species and breeding species in the Hunter Region between 1976 and 1999.

**Figure 1: Number of species recorded each year**



**Figure 2: Number of breeding records each year**



The philosophies that 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 1999, the RAC members were Sue Hamonet, Jeanette Stephenson, Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Jim Perry and Jim Imrie.

This Report is only possible thanks to a small army of observers who have submitted records of what they have seen during the year. Whether the records have been as a one-off casual observation, or as part of a regular and thorough survey program they are all important in helping to continue to build the picture of birdlife in the Hunter Region.

Alan Stuart  
July 12, 2000

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 1999 included the following:

- Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* at Ash Island Feb 8
- Cape Petrel *Daption capense* off Port Stephens Oct 8
- Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* off Broughton Island early Jan
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* at Walka Water Works Feb 27 and Ash Island Feb 7
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* - several records throughout the year
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes* - much increased reporting rates
- Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* - much increased reporting rates
- Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura* at Coopernook Forest Park Jan, Kooragang Island Oct 13 and regularly at Cundletown all year
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* at Jerrys Plains Jun 12 and Bayswater Colliery Dec 1
- Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* - first confirmed breeding records for the Region
- Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis* at Stockrington Apr 11, Waitui Sep 30 and Myall Lakes National Park Dec 22
- Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa* at Woodville Aug 25
- Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanus* at Fern Bay Dec 11/12
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at Kooragang Island Jan 13
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* heard at Karuah Jul 12
- Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* at Myall Lakes National Park May 10
- Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* at Crowdy Head (S4) Jan 15
- Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* - the first breeding record for the Region since at least the 1980s.
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* heard at Gloucester River Dec 4
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 and Dec 31
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* a dead bird at Port Waratah Apr 29
- Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* at Shortland January
- Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* at Gloucester Tops Sep 11, Copeland State Forest Oct 2 and Watagan State Forest Oct 10 and Nov 3
- Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea* - first confirmed breeding records since 1988

- Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* breeding near Bunnan Nov 21
- Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* first confirmed breeding record since 1988
- Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* at Gloucester Tops Mar 13 and Nov 6
- Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* – several records

#### IN ADDITION

- Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha* A small colony was found near Vacy over Oct 10/11, 1996.



# 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.

For many of the species, a general statement about typical distribution and count size is provided as part of the Status description. In these cases, only notable exceptions to this overall description of Status have been considered for the main body of the Report.

Breeding status, where confirmed, is also indicated. For species with no confirmed breeding records for 10 or more years, the breeding status is described as **Past records**. Where a species is anticipated to breed in the Region but there are no confirmed records, the description **None recorded** has been used.

A considerable proportion of records received indicate abundance levels for the species observed by 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 mostly based 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.

Not recorded.

## **Australian Brush-turkey** *Alectura lathamii*

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

Ten birds were recorded at Smiths Lake (R7) Jul 3 (TUD), and 1-5 birds at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR), Watagan S.F. (K11) Feb 14 (CBOC), Tuncurry (R5) Jul 2 (TUD), Cape Hawke BBNP (R6) Aug 31 (TUD) and NLH Nov 6 (LCP). Some birds (numbers not noted) were also at Barrington House Aug 15/20 (WMR) and in the Copeland area Oct 2/4 (FOC). The NLH record – of two birds – is an unusual location.

## **Stubble Quail** *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

10+ birds were recorded in the Wybong/Bunnan area (F5) Nov 21, at least six birds near Segenhoe (H5) Nov 7 and four birds at Dry Creek Rd (F6) Nov 21 (all NEG records).

## **Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*

ID No: 011                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* 11 birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp Jan (LAK), and birds were with young at MLNP (Q7) Apr 2 (TUD). 14 birds, in several groups, were in this area Dec 22 (KEM).

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

ID No: 012                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare, possibly overlooked (*Revised from: Uncertain*)

No confirmed records.

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

ID No: 199                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident. Often recorded at SWC and adjacent wetlands (especially NWR and Market Swamp) as counts of up to 50 birds. (*NB: description modified*)

*Notable records:* Five birds were recorded at Seaham Swamp N.R. (date tba). Birds had goslings at Market Swamp Jan 2 (LIA) and at SWC Sep 19 (WAR).

## **Plumed Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*

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

Often recorded at the regular location Doughboy Hollow (J8) from Mar-Aug, mostly as counts of 30-60 birds but 230 birds were present Jun 20 and 207 birds Aug 15 (all NEG records).

**Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

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

Up to 12 birds were often recorded at SWC over Jan-May (KEM, ROD, HBOC), with no further records there until late Aug. Regularly recorded at SWC thereafter (many records), with counts rising from 30+ birds initially to a peak of 150+ birds Dec 22 (ROD). Over Jun-Aug, some birds were at a wetland at Newcastle University (TAH), with the count peaking at 17 birds Aug 5/6. Birds had dependent young at Market Swamp Jan 2 (LIA) and SWC Dec 22 (ROD).

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

ID No: 216                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1989.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

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

15 birds were recorded at Grahamstown Dam Apr 30, eight birds there Nov 6 and six birds Dec 26 (all KEM records) and 6+ birds at Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E of the Region.

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Three birds were recorded on Ash Island Feb 8 (COD). At the captive breeding colony at SWC, three clutches were laid and from these, nine ducklings were successfully reared.

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Feb 13 (JUT) and 50+ birds at John Brown's Lagoon May 4 and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (both HBOC). Many birds were at Wallis Lake (Q6) and MLNP (Q7/P8) all year (TUD). Reports of birds nesting or with cygnets for every month of the year.

**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 recorded at Denman Feb 28 (STA), Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and Bolwarra (L9) Sep 20 (BPS), and 21-50 birds were recorded moderately often throughout the Region. Breeding records at Forster Sep 4 (TUD), Pourmalong N.R. Sep 11 (OCG) and Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at KI regularly from late Jan onwards (STP, LIA, HWS), and at Morpeth STP Feb 27 (LIA) and Bolwarra (L9) Apr 5 (TAH). Two birds were at Toronto Wetland (L11) Jul 4 (HLC). A hybrid X with Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* was at LTP Sep 18 (KEM).

**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:* 500+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp (L10) May 15 (KEM). 50+ birds were regularly recorded at SWC over Feb-Jul, with counts peaking at 100-150 birds from late Apr-early Jun (KEM). 50+ birds were at Jerrys Plains (H7) Mar 8 (ALP). Breeding records were received for Jan, Feb, May and over Aug-Oct.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchotis*

ID No: 212                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
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 but with counts of up to 10 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 124 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Feb 27 (LIA) and 50+ birds at Tarro (L9) Feb 26 (LIA) and SBS Aug 26 (OCG). 30+ birds were at Rathluba Lagoon (L9) Jun 30 (ROS) and 16 birds at Teralba (L10) May 27 (ROD). Up to 17 birds were often recorded at SWC over Apr 28-Jul 7 (KEM, WMR, LCP), and at Ash Island Mar 6, May 12 and Jun 26 (HWS, ROM).

**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:* 20+ birds were regularly recorded at SWC over Feb-Aug, with several counts of 50+ birds and peaking at *c* 200 birds Jul 7 (KEM). 150 birds were at Ash Island Mar 6 (HWS) and 100-130 birds at WWW Jan 2 and Jun 20 (TAH, HBOC). 50+ birds were recorded at Ash Island May 16 (HWS) and SBS Aug 26 (OCG), and 21-50 birds at Pokolbin Lake Feb 28 (STA), KI Mar 6 (HWS), Arrowfield (H7) May. There were also records of 21-50 birds from seven other locations.

**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:* 700 birds were recorded at Ash Island Mar 6 (HWS), 600+ birds at Hexham Swamp (L10) May 15 (KEM), 300 birds at KI Mar (HWS) and 200+ birds at Ash Island Jun 26 (HWS). 100+ birds were regularly present at SWC over Feb-Jul, with counts peaking at *c* 300 birds May 12 (KEM). Birds were recorded to be with young in Jan, Feb, May, and over Aug-Oct.

**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.

142 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Feb 27 (LIA), 70+ birds at Stockton STP Jun 6 (IJK), 67 birds at Ash Island Mar 6 (HWS) and 50 birds at Tarro Swamp (L9) Feb 26 (LIA). 42 birds were at SBS Aug 22 (ROS) and c 50 birds there Aug 26 (OCG). 20 birds were at Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC) and 14 birds at Bayswater Colliery Jan 29 (NEG). Seven birds were at Teralba (L10) May 27 (ROD) and SBS Jul 4 (HLC). 1-2 birds were recorded at SWC over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec (many records), KI Jun 26 (HWS) and SBS over Sep-Nov (FRP), and three birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 25 (JED).

**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:* 50+ birds were recorded at SBS Aug 26 (OCG) and 21-50 birds at WWW Jan 2 (TAH), Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC), Rathluba Lagoon (L9) Jun 30 (ROS), SWC over Jul - Aug (KEM), Denman Jul 8 (MOA) and Ellalong Lagoon Jul 31 (MOA).

**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:* 100 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Feb 27 (LIA) and 21-50 birds at Morpeth STP and WWW Jun 20 (both HBOC), LTP Jul 5 and SWC Aug 11 and Sep 1 (KEM records). There were breeding records spanning Jan-May, Aug, Oct and Dec.

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

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

50 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Feb 27 (LIA), 15 birds at SBS Jul 4 (HLC) and 14 birds at Tarro Wetland (L9) Feb 28 (SJR). Three birds were also at SBS Mar 21 (HLC). Single birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery Jan 29 (NEG), SWC Aug 11 & 18 (KEM) and Melville (cell?) Oct 3 (TAH).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

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

15-20 birds were sometimes recorded at WWW over Feb 27 - May 1 (OCG, TAH, WMR) and six birds were also there Nov 23 (TAH). Elsewhere, two birds were at Bayswater Colliery Mar 23 (NEG) and eight birds at Grahamstown Dam Nov 6 (KEM).

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

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

50+ birds were recorded at Cabbage Tree Island Dec 10 (CBOC), and single birds at Crowdy Head (S4) Apr 9 (CLT), Swansea Heads May 22 (MOA) and Elizabeth Beach BBNP (R6) Jun 14 (TUD). A few birds (<6) were at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan and there was a nest with young (HLC).

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

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

No confirmed records.

**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense*

ID No: 080                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens Oct 8 (FRP).

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1997.

**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.

Continued efforts by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and volunteers have led to increasing numbers of pairs nesting and successfully raising young on Cabbage Tree Island. Almost 300 chicks were fledged there in the 1998/99 breeding season. NPWS later trans-located 100 of the chicks to nearby Boondelbah Island in the hope that, as adults, they will return there to breed. This will reduce the vulnerability from having a sole breeding location (*this information was taken from CBOC's May - June 1999 Newsletter*). 510 active nests were recorded over November/December, but some of the chicks were being eaten by Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* (NSW NPWS Newsletter).

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

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

Around 5000 birds were recorded off Newcastle Baths (M10) Jan 23 (KEM) and 1000+ birds off Port Stephens Oct 8 (FRP) and off Birubi Point (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC). 100+ birds were also off Broughton Island (P8) in early Jan (HLC). Three birds were recorded off MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM),

**Buller's Shearwater** *Puffinus bulleri*

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

No confirmed records since 1995.

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

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

Some birds were recorded off Broughton Island (P8) in early Jan (HLC).

**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.

A few birds (<6) were recorded off Birubi Point (09) Oct 24 (HBOC). Three beach-washed birds were found at Hallidays Point (R5) in early Jan (WOR), and many dead birds were on MLNP beaches Jan 23 (TUD).

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

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

Not recorded.

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

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

Two birds were on the water off Birubi Point (09) Oct 24 (HBOC) and a single bird was recorded off Forster/Tuncurry early Oct (ALP).

**Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta*

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

Not recorded.

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

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

Not recorded.

**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.

1-5 birds were recorded off Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR), Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG), Belmont Jun 1 (HBOC) and Forster/Tuncurry early Oct (ALP), and 6+ birds off Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC). Some birds were also recorded off Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 and BBNP Sep 19 (MVBW) – numbers were not noted.

**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:* 6-10 birds were recorded at SWC Jan 7 and Mar 17 (KEM), Teralba (L10) May 27 (ROD), Bolwarra STP (L9) Jun 20 (HBOC) and SWC/NWR Nov 2 (HBOC). 12+ birds were at SWC Apr 14 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at NWR May 2/3 (OCG) and again were on nests there Nov 2 (HBOC).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at NWR May 2/3 (OCG), Coon Island Swansea May 22 (MOA), LTP Aug 7 (KEM), Denman Jul 8 (MOA) and Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG). Many birds were present all year at Forster and MLNP (P8) (TUD). Birds were on nests at Market Swamp Jan 2 (LIA) and had dependent young at NWR May 2/3 (OCG).

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

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 recorded at Stockton Sandspit Jan 12 (KEM) and NWR Nov 2 (HBOC). 10+ birds were in the Forster/Tuncurry area early Oct (ALP) and at Market Swamp Jan 2 (LIA), while 6-10 birds were at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC), NWR May 2/3 (OCG), Belmont Jun 1 (HBOC) and Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA). Unusual inland records were of <6 birds at Lake Liddell (H7/I7) Feb 13 (JUT) and John Brown's Lagoon May 4 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at NWR May 2/3 (OCG) and were also nesting there Jul 21 (LIA).

**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, as counts of up to 20 birds (*description modified*).

*Notable records:* 400+ birds were recorded at Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA), and 50+ birds at SWC Apr 17 (ROD) and also at Belmont Swamp during Apr (LAK). Many birds were at both Forster and MLNP (P8) all year (TUD). 21-50 birds were at SWC over Feb-Mar (KEM), WWW Mar 19 (TAH), NWR May 2/3 (OCG), Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG), SBS Aug 26 (OCG) and Belmont Swamp Sep (LAK). Birds were nesting at Market Swamp Jan 2 (LIA) and Toronto Wetland (L11) Apr 11 (HLC), and had dependent young at NWR May 2/3 (OCG).

**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:* 19 birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC), and 20+ birds at SWC Jul 28 (KEM), NWR May 2/3 and Nov 2 (OCG, HBOC) and in the Forster/ Tuncurry area early Oct (ALP). Birds had dependent young at NWR May 2/3 (OCG) and were also nesting there Jul 21 (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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Harrington Apr 9 (CLT) and 51-100 birds in the Forster/Tuncurry area early Oct (ALP) and at KI May 16, Oct 9, Nov 13 and Dec 11 (HWS). 21-50 birds were at Ash Island Mar 6 (HWS), SBS Mar 13 (HLC), KI Apr 17, Jul 17 and Sep 12 (HWS), John Brown's Lagoon May 4 (HBOC), Belmont Jun 1 (HBOC) and Stockton Sandspit Jun 26 (HWS). Birds were breeding at Wallis Lake (Q6) Feb 26 (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:* 123 birds were recorded at Ash Island Jun 26, with 40-70 birds there during Mar-May (HWS). 21-50 birds were at Tarro Swamp (L9) Feb 26 (LIA) and on several occasions at KI (LIA, HWS, KEM). Birds were on nest at SWC/NWR Nov 2 (HBOC) and had a nest with young at Pipers Bay (R6) Sep 19 (MVBW).

**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:* More than 20 birds were recorded around wetlands within SWC/NWR Nov 2 (HBOC), and 6+ birds there Jan 7 (KEM) and at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC). Four pairs nested at SWC over 1999/2000 compared with two pairs in 1998/99 (MAM).

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

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

Two birds were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC) and single birds at Burwood Beach (M10) May 11 (ROM) and Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 28 (MVBW).

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

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

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region. Four pairs were at Cundletown (R4) Jun/Jul (MVBW) and six birds at Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC).

**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:* 15 birds were together in a group at Tanilba Bay (N9) Apr 26, 12 birds at Oyster Cove Mar 13 and 14 birds at Salt Ash (N9) Oct 27 (all KEM records). 6-10 birds were recorded at SWC Apr 28 and Jun 9 (KEM) and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). 40 pairs nested at SWC over 1999/2000 compared with 32 pairs in 1998/99 (MAM). Birds were also nesting at Toronto Wetland (L11) Apr 11 (HLC), and were carrying sticks there Dec 3 (STJ).

**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+ birds were recorded at John Brown's Lagoon Mar 14 (HLC), SWC Aug 11 (KEM) and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC), and 11 birds at the latter location Nov 12 (FRP). 40 pairs nested at SWC over 1999/2000 compared with 12 pairs in 1998/99 (MAM).

**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:* 200+ birds were roosting at Maidens Meadows (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW) and c 100 birds were at Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). 400 pairs nested at SWC over 1999/2000 compared with 296 pairs in 1998/99, and 483 pairs nested at Seaham Swamp N.R. over 1999/2000 compared with 375 pairs in 1998/99 (MAM).

**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:* Three birds were recorded near Wallis Island (Q6) Jan 5 (WOR) and four birds at Warners Bay (L10) Oct 13 (FRP). A juvenile was at Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 (MVBW).

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

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

Up to 35 birds were regularly recorded at SWC all year, and with up to 12 birds being immatures. 50 birds including some immatures were present there Sep 25 (LIA). Elsewhere, 6-12 birds were recorded at Stockton Aug 14 and Nov 27 (HWS, FOC) and often at LTP (KEM). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded near wetlands in the E of the Region.

**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  
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at WWW Feb 27 (TAH) and at Ash Island Feb 7 (STP).

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Maitland (L9) Jan 2 and Jun 3 (NBL, SMJ), WWW Mar 12 (TAH), Ash Island May 15 (STA/SMJ) and Bolwarra STP (L9) Oct 31 (TAH).

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

28 birds were recorded at Pourmalong N.R. Aug 15 (BAR) and 40 birds at SBS Oct 29 (FRP). Six birds were present at Ash Island Nov 8 (BAR) and 1-2 birds at WWW Jan 2 (TAH), SWC Mar 10 (KEM), Bolwarra (L9) Mar 22 (BPS) Pourmalong N.R. Apr 11 and Jul 24 (LIA, BAR) and Pourmalong N.R. Sep 11 (OCG).

**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:* Many hundreds of birds were recorded at Ash Island/KI over Mar-May, with the count at Ash Island peaking at around 500 birds Apr 17 (HWS). Approximately 400 birds were at Hexham Swamp (L10) May 15 (KEM) and 80 birds at Mayfield May 26 (CLT). Birds were nest building at SWC Feb 17 (KEM).

**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 &lt;20 birds but with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 1000+ birds were recorded at Chatham Recreation Grounds (Q4) Jun 12 (MVBW). 120-150 birds were at Singleton (J8) May 20 and 150+ birds at Mount Thorley (J8) Jun 15, Jerrys Plains (H7) Jul 1 and Arrowfield (H7) Sep 14 (all ALP records).

**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:* 22 birds were recorded at both Ash Island and nearby KI Nature Reserve Apr 17 (HWS), and 20+ birds were also at SWC Aug 11 & 18 (KEM) and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). A dependent young was with a small group of adults at Ash Island Mar 6 (HWS).

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

ID No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

1-2 birds were often recorded throughout the Region all year – this being a substantial increase in reporting rate compared with previous years. Bigger counts were of ten birds at Denman Feb 28 (STA), eight birds at Bulga May 23 (FOC/CBOC), seven birds at Ash Island May 16 and five birds there Apr 17 (HWS), four birds near Lochinvar (K9) Mar 14 and at Rutherford (K9) Sep 27 (both TAH), and three birds at Jerrys Plains (H7) Jul 26 (ALP) and SWC Aug 11 (KEM).

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

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region throughout the year. Most sightings were chance events, but a pair was recorded several times at Ash Island and nearby areas over Nov-Dec (SVP). Another pair was nesting at a swamp near Crowdy Head (S4) Oct (MVBW).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: 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 recorded in the Wallis Island area (Q6) Jan 5 (WOR) and three birds at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR) and in the LTP area Jun 5 (KEM). A bird was often present at Belmont Swamp Feb-Jul (LAK). Pairs were on nests at Wallabi Point (R5) Feb 4 (MVBW) and LTP Sep 18 (KEM), and another bird was carrying nesting material at Forster Sep 2 (TUD).

**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:* Three birds were recorded at Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 4 (CBOC) and Rankin Park (M10) Nov 10 (STJ).

**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:* Three birds were recorded at Newcastle University Nov 13 (TAH).**Square-tailed Kite** *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: Yes

Status: Local resident in the NE of the Region, rare elsewhere (Revised from: Rare)

A pair was regularly recorded at Cundletown (R4) all year, and another pair was at Cooperook Forest Park (R3) Jan (both MVBW). A single bird was recorded at KI Oct 13 (BRK).

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Aberdeen (H5) Jan 3 and Mar 20 (FOC, NEG), and at Mount Thorley (J8) Mar 14 (TAH).

**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:* 6+ birds were recorded at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and SWC/NWR Nov 2 (HBOC). Four birds were at LTP Jun 5 and Jul 5, and three birds at SWC Mar 31, Apr 28 and Jul 28 (all KEM records). Birds were nesting at Cundletown (R4) Jun/Jul (MVBW), and Whiteheads Lagoon (L11) Aug 8 (HLC).

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident (in coastal north of Region), elsewhere accidental.

Southernmost records were of single birds at Ash Island May 15, Jul 18 and Aug 11 (HWS, EKP, RDA), SWC Aug 18/19 (KEM, LIC), KI Oct 29 and Nov 28 (LIA, ANC), and Sandgate (M10) Nov 24 (TAH). 1-2 birds were occasionally recorded further north close to the coast, including a pair was present all year at BBNP (TUD).

**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:* Birds with juveniles present were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC), Telarah Lagoon (L9) Apr 30 (SMJ), Belmont May 27 (CJB), John Brown's Lagoon May 29 (STA/PHP), Taylors Beach (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC) and Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC). A pair were at a nest at Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA). The birds at John Brown's Lagoon were feeding their fledged young on a Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*.

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

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

Single birds were recorded at Hands Lagoon (L9) Feb 3 & 22 and Nov 19, Mulbring (K10) Apr 6, Pokolbin May 16 (all TAH records), Ash Island Nov 11 & 20 (ROM, ANC), Morpeth Dec 8 (NEM) and near Liddell (I7) Dec 25 (DBP). A pair were at Bolwarra STP (L9) Feb 23 (TAH).

**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:* Four birds were at SWC Jul 7, with three of them displaying (KEM). Three birds were also displaying at SWC Jul 28 and two birds late Aug/early Sep (KEM). Three birds were at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC).

**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:* Birds had a nest with two young at Balickera (M9) late Nov – both young later were successfully fledged (HBOC/MUJ). A pair was also on nest at West Wallsend (L10) Oct 20 (FRP). Two birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp Mar (LAK), SWC May 12 (KEM), NE of Broke Aug 7 (HLC) and at WWW Nov 23 (TAH).

**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:* Pairs were recorded at Stockrington (L10) Apr 11 (LIA), Waitui (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW) and Williamstown/Fern Bay (M9/M10) Oct (ROM), with the latter pair being both the white phase birds. Single, white phase birds were at Pourmalong N.R. Apr 17 (KEM), South Swansea May 22 (MOA) and Cardiff (L10) Jul 28 (TAH).

**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:* Two birds were recorded at Green Point (L11) Jan 5 (KEM). A bird was eating a Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* at SWC Jun 9 (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:* Two adults and two juveniles were at Bayswater Colliery Jul 11 (NEG) and a bird was on nest at Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA).

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

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

Two birds were mock swooping at each other at Arrowfield (H7) May 18 (ALP). Single birds were recorded at WWW Jan 2 (TAH), Bolwarra (L9) Feb 26 (BPS), KI Apr 17 (HWS), Williamtown May 4, Metford (L9) May 31 (TAH), SWC Jun 2 (KEM) and near Drayton Colliery (H6) Oct 19 & 20 (HLC).

**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 Martindale (G7) during Apr (TAH).

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as single birds.

*Notable records:* A pair nested at Dungog (M7) during Jan and was also reported to have bred there for the two previous years (JED) – *these are the first confirmed breeding records for the Region.*

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

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

Single birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains (H7) Jun 12 and Bayswater Colliery Dec 1 (NEG).

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

*Notable records:* Birds had a nest with young at Bennetts Head (R6) Sep 19 (MVBW).

**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:* Eleven birds were recorded around Bayswater Colliery Aug 21, and a pair was with three dependent young there Nov 18 (both NEG records). Three birds were at Pokolbin Lake Feb 28 (STA) and four birds at SWC Jul 7 (KEM).

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

ID No: 046                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at LTP Jun 5 (KEM), Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA), HRBG Aug 5 (STJ) and Shortland (M10) Dec 5 (LIA), and two birds at Ash Island May 2 (RAP). A pair with ten chicks were at Scotts Creek Road (H3) Dec 22 (DBP).



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

ID No: 045                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*)      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Local resident (*probably overlooked*).

Single birds were recorded at Stockrington (L10) Apr 11 (LIA), Waitui (R3) Sep 30 (MVBW) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

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

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

Not recorded.

**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

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

A group of 4-6 birds was occasionally recorded at Ash Island during Mar-May [several records].

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*

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

Some birds were recorded at WWW Apr 16 (OCG) and SWC May 26 (KEM).

**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:* Some birds were with dependent young at SWC over Feb - Mar and again on Jun 2, and were on nest there Sep 1 (all KEM records).

**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+ birds were regularly recorded at SWC over Jan-Sep, with many counts of 100-150 birds. 200+ birds were there Apr 14 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Wingham Brush (Q4) Mar 4 (MVBW), near Drayton Colliery (H6) Oct 19 (HLC) and at Redhead Oct 20 (GJC). There were many breeding records at SWC and nearby locations over Jan-Apr and in Sep.

**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:* 500+ birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG), and 100-200 birds at Lake Liddell (H7/17) Feb 13 (JUT) and often at SWC over Jun-Sep (KEM). 51-100 birds were recorded at WWW Jan 2 (TAH), Denman Jul 8 (MOA), and several times at SWC over Apr-Jun. (KEM).

**Red-backed Button-quail** *Turnix maculosa*

ID No: 013                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded in a garden at Woodville (L9) Aug 25 (NES).

**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.

Three birds were recorded at Howes Valley May 1 (LIA), Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA) and White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC). Two birds were at Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC), White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE) and Laguna May 8/10 (RDB).

**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:* 115 birds were recorded at Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 in an organised count (HBOC) – this is the same location that was surveyed in 1997 and 1998, and with much greater counts obtained. At least 18 birds were also present there Feb 6 (KEM).

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

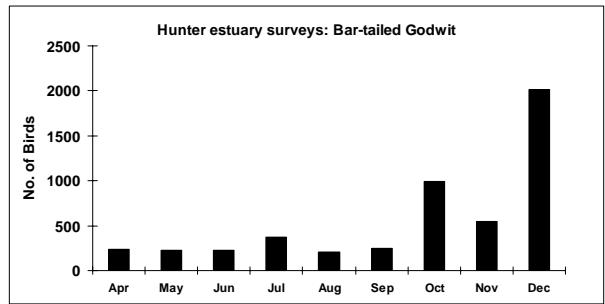
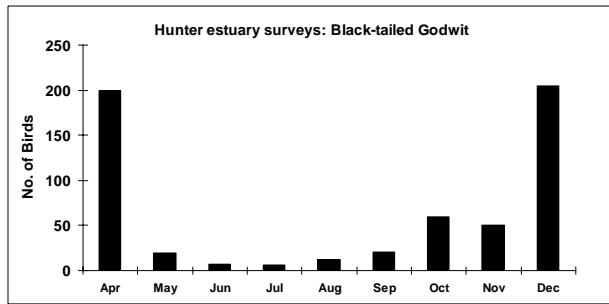
ID No: 152                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were regularly recorded in the Hunter estuary during monthly surveys over Apr-Dec, albeit in low numbers during Jun-Aug (minimum count 6 birds Jul 17 – see chart). The only other records were of 6+ birds at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC) and 4 birds at KI Feb 4 (STP).

**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:* Birds were regularly recorded in the Hunter estuary during monthly surveys over Apr-Dec (see chart), with the minimum count being 210 birds Aug 14. 1000 birds were also recorded at KI Feb 4 (STP). "Summer" counts of 51-100 birds were from Stockton Sandspit Jan 12 (KEM), LTP Sep 18 (KEM) and Pelican Point N.R. (L11) Nov 13 (FRP), while 21-50 birds were at Carrington (08) Jan 24 (HBOC), Oyster Cove Mar 13 and Nov 20 (KEM) and Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA). "Winter" records from outside the Hunter estuary were of up to 10 birds at Coon Island May 22 and Jul 18 (HLC), Harrington Apr 9 and May 6 (CLT, MVBW), Tanilba Bay (N9) Apr 26 (KEM), and regularly at Forster (TUD). Twelve birds were at Stockton Beach Aug 10 (GIK) and 50+ birds at LTP Aug 7 (KEM).



**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

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

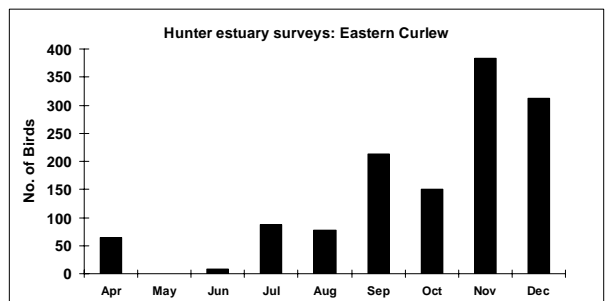
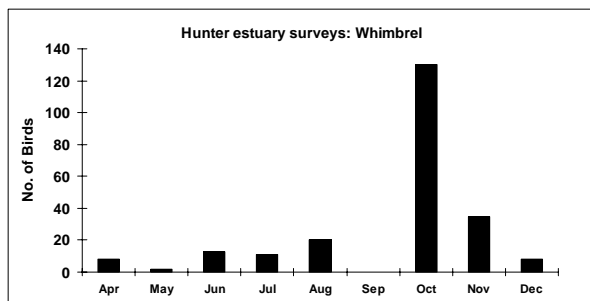
*Notable records:* Birds were recorded all months except Sep during monthly Hunter estuary surveys over Apr-Dec (see chart). Six birds were also recorded at KI Feb 4 (STP). "Winter" records were of a single bird at LTP Jul 5 and three birds there Aug 7 (both KEM). 19 birds were at Taylors Beach (09) Oct 24 (HBOC).

**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:* Birds were recorded all months except May during monthly Hunter estuary surveys over Apr-Dec (see chart). Up to 120 birds were also recorded at Stockton Sandspit Jan 12/13 (KEM, LIA), while a total of 520 birds were at KI Feb 4 (STP).



**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

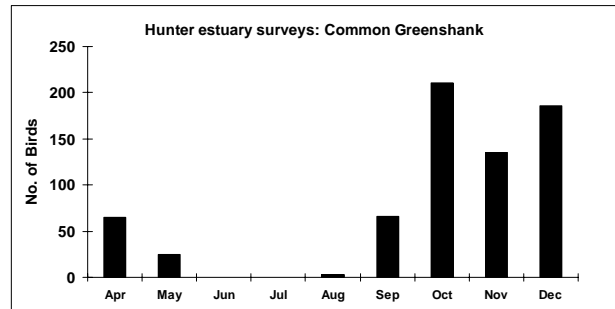
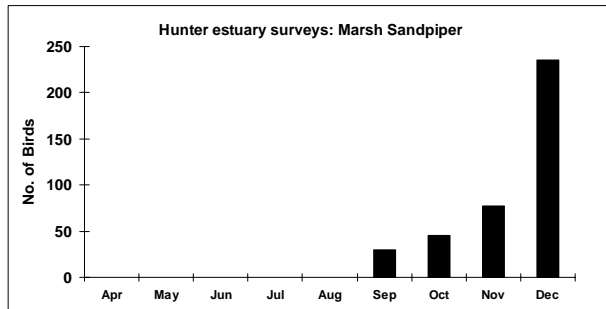
Status: Summer migrant.

In monthly Hunter estuary surveys over Apr-Dec, birds were present from Sep onwards, peaking at 236 birds during Dec – see chart for details. 6+ birds were also recorded at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC), 10 birds at KI Feb 4 (STP), and a single bird at Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM).

### Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

In monthly surveys over Apr-Dec (see chart for details), birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary all months except Jun/Jul, although the August 14 count was only of three birds. The counts peaked at 211 birds in Oct. 200 birds were also at Stockton/KI Feb 2 & 4 (HBOC, STP). Records from elsewhere were of six birds at Green Point (R6) Dec 4 (MVBW) and a single bird at Harrington Dec 30/31 (MVBW).



### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

Not recorded.

### Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

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

54 birds were recorded at Fern Bay Jan 12 (KEM). From wader surveys (see chart for details), birds were generally absent from the Hunter estuary over May-Sep, except for a single bird on the Aug 14 survey.

### Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

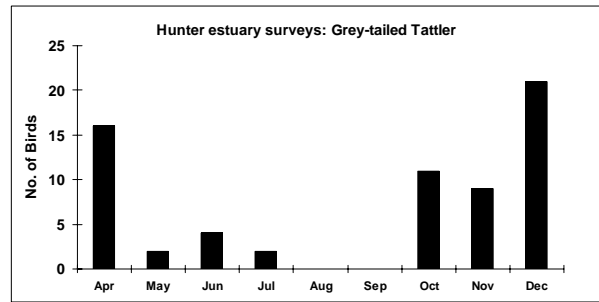
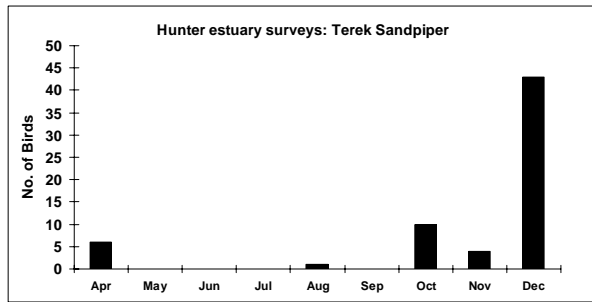
Single birds were recorded at KI Feb 2 & 4 (LIA, STP), Moschetto Creek (Ash Island) Feb 28 and Sep 12 (LIA, HWS) and Bulls Island (O9) Mar 13 (KEM).

### 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:* Birds were recorded all months except Aug/Sep during monthly Hunter estuary surveys over Apr-Dec (see chart). Approx. 80 birds were at Tahlee/Carrington (O8) Jan 24 (HBOC). Winter records from outside the Hunter estuary were of six birds at LTP May 22 and two birds there Aug 7 (both KEM).



### Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanus*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
 Status: Accidental (*New to list*)

A single bird, with a small group of Grey-tailed Tattler *H. brevipes*, was recorded at a roost at Fern Bay (M10) Dec 11 (HWS), and again there Dec 12 (LIA/NEM).

### Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
 Status: Summer migrant.

Small numbers of birds were recorded on the Kooragang N.R. dykes over Sep-Dec (see chart). Other records were of 1-5 birds at Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG), Warners Bay (L10) Oct 3 (FRP) and in Nov (WMR) and Newcastle Baths Nov 2 (BAR). Eight birds were present at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC).

### Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

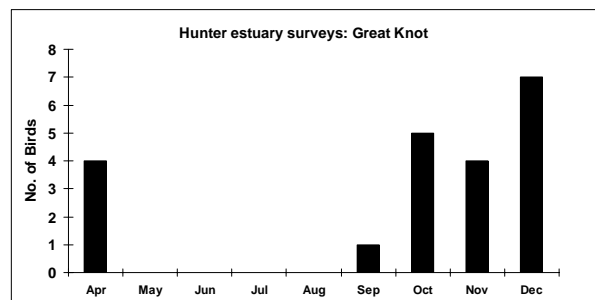
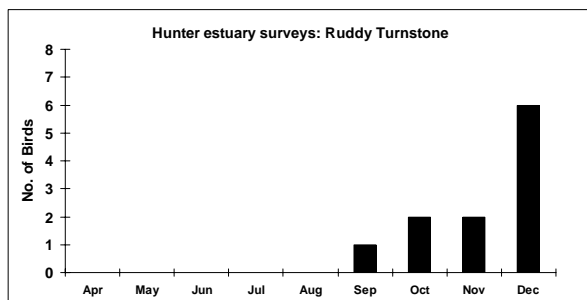
ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
 Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1985*).

Not recorded.

### Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

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

Small numbers of birds (maximum count was seven birds) were recorded in the Hunter estuary in Apr and over Sep/Dec (see chart).



### Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

Significant numbers of birds (peak count 700 birds)

were present in the Hunter estuary over Sep/Oct, when birds were on migration passage, but most birds were gone by Nov (see chart for details). Other records were of two birds at Wallabi Point (R5) Feb 4 (OCG via MVBW) and four birds at Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

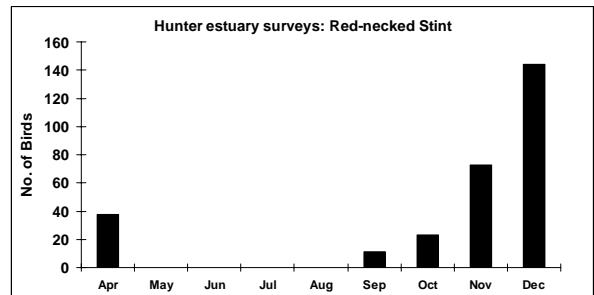
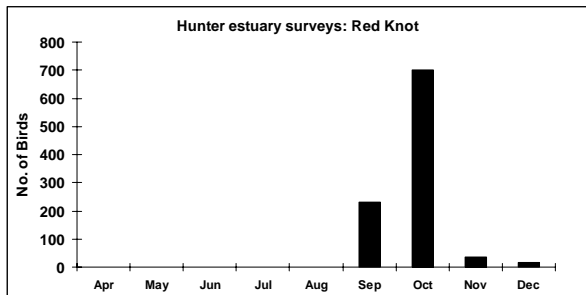
ID No: 166                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare.

No confirmed records.

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

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

From monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary over Apr-Dec, birds were absent over May-Aug, with numbers then steadily increasing each month (see chart). 150 birds were recorded at KI Jan 24 (LIA), 50 birds Jan 8 (STP) and c 20 birds there Jan 2 (KEM), and 12 birds were at Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA).



**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

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

A single bird was recorded at KI Jan 13 (STP).

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

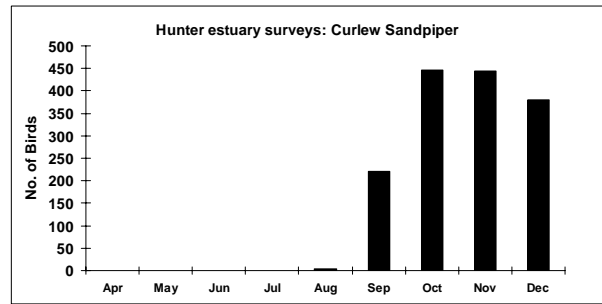
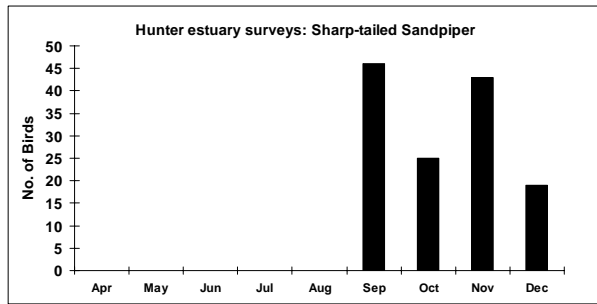
ID No: 163                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at shallow or drying wetlands near to the coast over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* No birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary during monthly surveys, until Sep (see chart). However, two birds were present at Ash Island Aug 22 (ROS), and also at SBS Aug 22 & 26 (ROS, OCG). Up to 250 birds were at a freshwater pond on KI during Jan (LIA, STP) and 83 birds were also at this location Sep 18 (LIA) – considerably more than counted during a survey carried out 6 days earlier.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

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

In the first part of the year, numbers on KI peaked at around 1000 birds Jan 13 (LIA). Birds were present there until at least Mar 21, when a single bird was recorded (KEM). Birds were not recorded again until Aug 14, when five birds were present in the Hunter estuary. By Sep, several hundred birds had returned (see chart for details). The only record from elsewhere was of a single bird at Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA).



**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

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

Not recorded since 1995.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

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

Not recorded.

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

ID No: 170                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Past records  
 Status: Rare (probably overlooked).

Not recorded since 1997.

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

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

At least six birds, including several juveniles, were recorded at the regular location John Brown's Lagoon Mar 14, May 29 and Jun 21 (HLC, STA/PHP, LIA). Two adults and three juveniles were also at Rathluba Lagoon (L9) Jun 30 (ROS), and four birds were at this location in Jul (EKP). Two birds were at Smiths Dam near Coopernook Forest Park (R3) May 15 (MVBW), and single birds at Tarro Swamp (L9) Feb 26 (LIA), Murrays Run Road (J11) May 15 (FOC), Hillville Dam (Q4) Jun 3 (MVBW) and Coopernook S.F. (R3) Dec 29 (MOA). Some birds were also recorded at Myall Lakes (P7) early Apr (IBOC).

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

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

Two pairs of birds were heard at Karuah (N8) Jul 12 (RDA).

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

ID No: 175                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Yes  
 Status: Uncertain

Not recorded.

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Small parties of up to four birds were moderately often recorded all year at coastal sites. Up to 14 birds were present all year at MLNP (P8) (TUD). Seven birds were at Stockton Beach Nov 25 (HLC) and six birds in the Wallis Island area (Q6) Jan 5 (WOR) and at KI Dec 11 (HWS). A bird was feeding a fledged young at Carrington (O8) Jan 24 (HBOC).

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Six birds, including some dependent young, were recorded at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC), four birds at Newcastle Baths Feb 3 (PAR) and three birds at Birubi Point (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC). 1-2 birds were at LTP May 22 (KEM), near Forster early Oct (ALP), Newcastle Baths Nov 8 (LIA), KI Nov 13 (HWS), Little Beach (P9) Nov 13 (WMR), Harrington Dec 4 (MVBW), Cabbage Tree Island Dec 10 (CBOC) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**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:* Birds were recorded in all months except Jul during regular Hunter estuary surveys over Apr-Dec, with the count peaking at 694 birds Apr 17 (see chart). 400 birds were at Tarro Swamp (L9) Feb 26 (LIA) and 100 birds at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC). 20+ birds were at Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC) and SBS Aug 26 (OCG). A chick was with adults at KI Jan 8 (LIA).

**Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

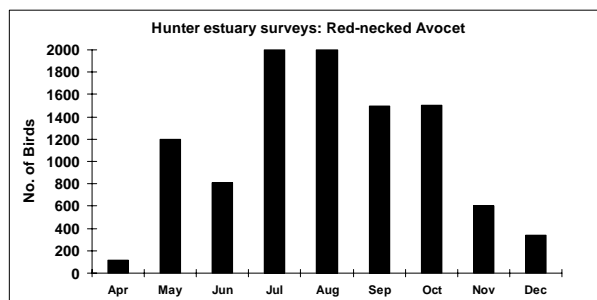
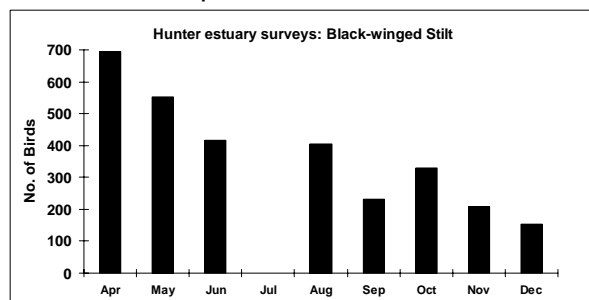
ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1996.

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

ID No: 148 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
Status: Local resident.

Birds were recorded every month during Hunter estuary surveys over Apr-Dec, with peak counts of 2000 during Jul/Aug (for details see chart). 40 birds were also recorded there Feb 2 (STP). The only record from elsewhere was of four birds at Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC).





### **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

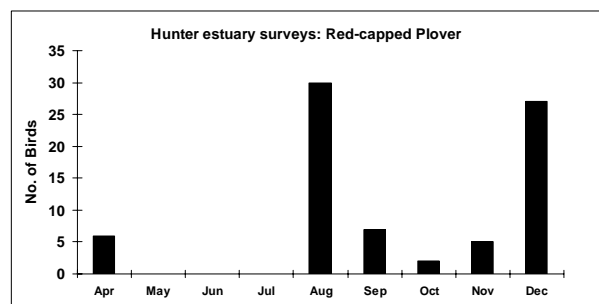
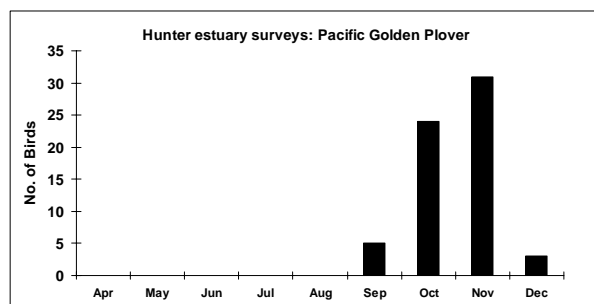
ID No: 8006                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.

Hunter estuary records in the early part of the year were of six birds at KI Jan 2, seven birds at Stockton Sandspit Jan 12 and 46 birds at KI Mar 21 (all KEM records). In the regular monthly surveys that followed, no birds were recorded until Sep (see chart). The peak count was of 31 birds; however, 98 birds were present at Stockton Nov 25 (HLC). Two birds were also recorded at SBS Sep (FRP).

### **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:* Counts during the Hunter estuary surveys varied considerably (see chart) and do not appear to have been comprehensive, as a single bird was also recorded at KI May 23 (BAR) and 36 birds at Stockton Beach Aug 10 (GIK). 20+ birds were also present at KI during Jan (KEM, LIA). Elsewhere, 13 birds were at MLNP (P8) May 10 (TUD) and some birds at Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 (MVBW). A chick was present at KI Jan 8 (LIA).



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

ID No: 140                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

A single bird was recorded at MLNP (P8) May 10 (TUD).

### **Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.

The only record was of four birds at Stockton Sandspit Jan 12 (KEM).

### **Black-fronted Dotterel** *Elseyaornis 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:* Counts during the Hunter estuary wader surveys significantly declined after Aug (see chart). 6-20 birds were recorded at KI Mar 1 (LIA), both Morpeth STP and WWW Jun 20 (HBOC), SBS Aug 26 and Pourmalong N.R. Sep 11 (both OCG).

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

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Bird of passage.

Eight birds were recorded at KI May 23 (BAR) and 6+ birds at SBS Aug 26 (OCG). 1-5 birds were at KI Apr 17 and Jul 17 (HWS), Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC), Pourmalong N.R. Sep 11 (OCG), SBS Sep/Oct (FRP), SWC Nov 2 and Dec 12 (BAW, WMR) and Ash Island Nov 13 (HWS).

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

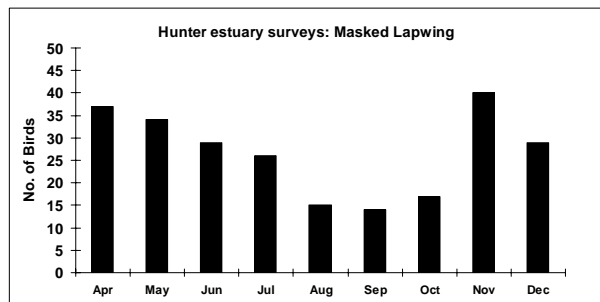
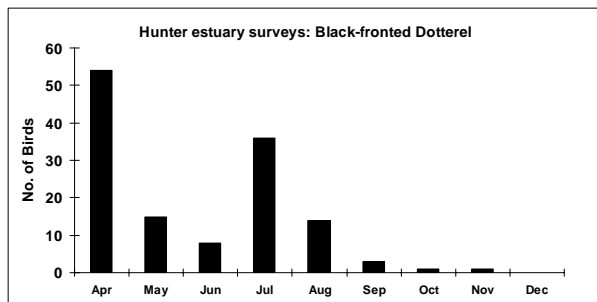
ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare

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:* 25-40 birds were often recorded during Hunter estuary wader surveys over Apr-Dec (see chart). There were several breeding records over Aug-Oct. A bird was taken by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* at John Brown's Lagoon May 29 (STA/PHP).



**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Not recorded. See Supplementary Records.

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

Three birds were recorded at Nobbys Beach Feb 26 (LAK).

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

No confirmed records since 1997.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

Not recorded.

**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:* Around 2000 birds including some young were recorded at Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA) and 500+ birds were at KI Apr 17 (HWS). There were another eight records of 100-300+ birds. A young bird was being fed at Newcastle Baths Nov 8 (LIA), and birds had nests with young and with eggs at Coon Island Dec 12 (MOA).

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

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit (M10) Jan 12, Jun 2 and Sep 30 (KEM, BAR, FOC) and single birds there Jan 13, Feb 2 and Aug 28 (LIA, STP, ROS). Elsewhere, three birds were at Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC), two birds at Tarro Swamp (L9) Feb 26 (LIA) and a single bird at KI Nature Reserve Dec 11 (HWS).

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded at large waters near to the coast. Greater counts were of 19 birds at KI Nature Reserve Apr 17 (HWS) and six birds there May 16 (HWS). 6-10 birds were also present at Ash Island May 16 (HWS), and at Coon Island Swansea May 22 (MOA), Morpeth STP Jun 20 (HBOC) and LTP Jul 5 (KEM).

**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:* Around 200 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Oct 5 (FRP) and Coon Island Swansea Dec 12 (MOA), and 100+ birds at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC). 50-60+ birds were at Harrington Apr 9 (CLT) and Coon Island Oct 24 (MOA).

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

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

Not recorded.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

100+ birds were recorded at Stockton Beach Jan 11 (KEM) and 40 birds at Newcastle Harbour Feb 28 (LIA). 25 birds were at Newcastle Baths Oct 5 (FRP) and four birds there Nov 8 (LIA). Records from elsewhere were of three birds at MLNP (P8) Jan 10 (TUD) and 6+ birds at Harrington Apr 9 (CLT).

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

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:* 300+ birds were recorded at sea off Hallidays Point/Diamond Beach (R5) early Jan (WOR) and 82 birds around Newcastle Baths Jan 23 (KEM). 20+ birds were in the Wallis Island area (Q6) Jan 5 (WOR). A young bird was with four adults at MLNP (P8) Jan 26 (TUD).

**Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*

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

Not recorded since 1997.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

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

Two birds were recorded at KI Sep 18 (LIA).

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

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

A single bird was recorded at Harrington Apr 24 (FOC).

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded at Crowdy Head (S4) Jan 15 (WOR).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at SWC Jul 7 and Aug 18 (KEM).

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

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

50+ birds were recorded at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG), and 10+ birds were present at both Dyers Crossing (P5) and Forster all year (TUD). 1-5 birds (where numbers were noted) were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region.

**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+ birds were recorded at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and SWC/ NWR Nov 2 (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at SWC Jul 7 & 28 (KEM). Birds were on nest at Malabula (O9) Nov 7 (KEM).

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

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG), and 1-5 birds at Sandbar (R7) Jan 3 (WOR), Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Jan 15 (WOR), Main Creek (M6) and Telegherry River (M6) Feb 21 (both HBOC), Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 (MVBW), Ferndale Park (M6) Apr 24/26 (FOC), Neranie MLNP (Q7) Jul 10 (TUD), Charlestown (M10) Aug 11 (WMR), Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC).

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Copeland Forest Preserve Jan 26 (LIA), SWC Feb 26 (BAW) and Glenrock SRA Aug 22 (BMA). The SWC record is an unusual location.

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

30 birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and 6+ birds at Wingen Sep 19 (NEG) and White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE) and Oct 1/4 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region. Some birds at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 were displaying and copulating – *this is not considered to be sufficient for a breeding record*,

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

1-2 birds were seen or heard at Belmont Swamp over Jan/Feb and Sep/Oct (LAK). Some birds (<6) were also recorded at Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG), Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (both 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:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Owens Gap (G5) Jun 6 (NEG), Wollemi N.P. (F8) Aug 8 (ALP) and SWC/NWR Nov 2 (HBOC). Several breeding records over Sep-Dec.

**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.

11 birds were recorded at Salt Ash Mar 6 (KEM) and 6+ birds at Howes Valley May 23 (HBOC) and LTP Jun 5 (KEM). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded throughout the Region.

**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:* 6-20 birds were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region. 20+ birds were at Salt Ash Mar 6 (KEM).

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Usual resident.

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region. A bird was on nest at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC) and the egg later successfully hatched (MUJ) – *this is the first breeding record for the Region since at least the 1980s.*

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

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

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Allyn River (K5) Jan 9 and Oct 31 (LIA, HTH), Lathams Dam (S3) Sep 2 (MVBW), Bolwarra Heights (L9) Sep 21 (TAH), Chichester Dam (M6) Dec 5 (TAH), and in the Copeland/Copeland S.F. area Mar 14 and Apr 18 (CBOC, HBOC). 5+ birds were at Copeland S.F. Oct 2 (CBOC). The bird at Bolwarra Heights was injured, and later died.

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

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

A bird was heard at Gloucester River (M5) Dec 4 (EKP).

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

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

Not recorded. See Supplementary Records.

**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

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

Up to 20 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. 100+ birds were at Coopernook Forest Park (R3) May 15 (MVBW), and 50+ birds at Allyn River (K5) Jan 9 and Oct 31 (LIA, HTH) and Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC). 57 birds were flying over SWC May 12 and 23 birds on Mar 31 (KEM). 21-50 birds were also recorded at Belmont South over Jul/Aug (CJB), Gwandalan (L11) Aug 3 (STJ) and Fosterton Loop (K6) Nov (JED).

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

ID No: 265 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)

Status: Uncommon resident.

15 birds were recorded at White Box Camp Feb 28 (STA) and four birds there Aug 6/8 (HSE), and five birds were at Wingen Sep 19 (NEG). 1-3 birds were occasionally recorded in the central and E of the Region, with several reports from Wyee Point (K12) and Laguna being of pairs with 1 immature bird (MDV, RDB). Birds were feeding a dependent young at Laguna Oct 29/31 and Nov 28 (RDB) – *this is the first breeding record for the Region since the 1980s.*

**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:* 30 birds were recorded at Cundletown (R4) Oct 2 (MVBW), 40 birds at Waitui (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW), 50+ birds at Bulahdelah (P7) Apr 30 (KEM) and 80 birds at Oyster Cove Nov 20 (BLM).

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

ID No: 268 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Eight birds were recorded at Letter A (J11) May 29 (FOC), 6+ birds at Watagans S.F. Feb 14 (CBOC), and three birds at John Brown's Lagoon May 29 (STA/PHP). 1-2 birds were recorded at Laguna Jan 2, May 8/10 and Jun 11/12 (RDB), and a pair was with a dependent young at this location Sep 11/12 and Nov 28 (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:* Up to 75 birds were present in the Forster area all year (TUD). 20+ birds were recorded at Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG), LTP May 22 (KEM), Martindale (G7) May 23 (ALP) and Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG). Birds were nest building at LTP Jul 5 and Aug 7 (KEM).

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

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

50+ birds were recorded at LTP Aug 7, and 20-25 birds there Feb 27 and Jul 5 (all KEM records). Five birds were at Little Beach (P9) Nov 13 (WMR), and a bird was heard at Singleton (I8) Jan 1 (WOR).

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

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

100+ birds were recorded at Arrowfield (H7) Jul 1 (ALP) and New Lambton Nov 18 (STA), and 30-35 birds at Jerrys Plains (H7) Nov 24 (ALP). 6+ birds were present at Bolwarra Jun 14 (BPS), and 1-5 birds at WWW Apr 16 (OCG), LTP Aug 7 (KEM), Little Beach (P9) Nov 13 (WMR) and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). Some birds were often recorded in the SWC/NWR area, peaking at 20+ birds there Nov 2 (HBOC).

**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:* 300+ birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains (H7) Apr 21 and 120-150 birds there Apr 28 (ALP). 50+ birds were at Arrowfield (H7) Jul 28 (ALP). There also were records of 21-50 birds from seven other locations throughout the Region. Birds were on nest at SWC Nov 2 (HBOC).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

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

Several birds were recorded near Borambil (C5) May 25 (OSP) and a single bird was at Tenambit (L9) Dec 28 (ROM). The latter was most probably an escapee.

**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:* Up to 100 birds were recorded in the Forster area during winter (TUD), and 40+ birds were there early Oct (ALP). 50+ birds were at Speers Point/Teralba (L10) Mar 2 (HBOC) and LTP May 22, Jun 5 & Jul 5 (all KEM). 21-50 birds were at Tanilba Bay (N9) Apr 26 (KEM), LTP Aug 7 (KEM), Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG), Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG) and Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at LTP May 22 and Sep 18 (KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at LTP May 22, and 20+ birds there Jun 5 Jul 5 and Aug 7 (all KEM records). 20+ birds were also in the Wallis Island area (Q6) Jan 5 (WOR).

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

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

6+ birds were at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Jan 24 (NEG), and at least 10 birds were at Speers Point Mar 13 (HSE). 1-5 birds were recorded at Stockrington (L10) Apr 11 (LIA), White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE), Cams Wharf (L11) May 22 (MOA), Burning Mountain N.R. Oct 26 (NEG) and Dry Creek Rd (F6) Nov 21 (NEG). Some birds were also at Myall Lakes (P7) early April (IBOC) – numbers were not noted.



**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:* 50+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE), and 21-50 birds at Pourmalong N.R (L10) Apr 17 (KEM), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), White Box Camp Aug 6/8 and Oct 1/4 (HSE, HBOC), and south of Bunnan (F5) Nov 21 (NEG).

**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:* 40-50 birds were recorded at Ellalong Mar 15 (MEJ1), and 20+ birds at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Jan 24 (NEG) and Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG). 6-20 birds were present at Laguna Feb 6 (RDB), White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE) and Wingen Sep 19 (NEG).

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

ID No: 280 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

Two birds were recorded at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 and Dec 31 (HSE, STA). A single bird, most probably an escapee, was present at Hamilton (M10) Dec 31 (ROM).

**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:* 50+ birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Owens Gap (G5) Jun 6 (NEG), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG), Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG), Wingen Sep 19 (NEG), Taylors Beach (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC), Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM), Green Point (L11) Dec 7 (HBOC) and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). A bird was on nest at Malabula Sep 19 (KEM).

**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

A dead bird was found at Port Waratah (M10) Apr 29 (CLT).

**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 White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE) and Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC).

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

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

Up to six birds were recorded several times during the year at White Box Camp (several reports), and also in MLNP (Q7) (TUD, KEM). Three birds were recorded at Kerrabee (D7) Oct 30 (LIA) and a single male bird at Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM).

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

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

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*

ID No: 337                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant

Unusually, two birds were recorded SE of Merriwa (E6) Jul 5 (MOA), a single bird at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE) and two birds at Yarrunga (J9) Aug 7 (HLC). There were no further records until mid-Sep. Also, there were no records from the first half of the year. 6+ birds were at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC).

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), Bolwarra (L9) Mar 22 (BPS), Laguna Oct 29/31 and Nov 28 (RDB), Bangalay Reserve (L11) Nov 6 (HSE), Williamtown Nov 14 (WMR), Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC), Dry Creek Rd (F6) Nov 21 (NEG), LTP Dec 26 (KEM), and at three locations in MLNP over Dec 21/22 (KEM).

**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:* 6+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE). Birds were being fed by Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris* at Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 and by an unidentified host at Green Point (L11) Dec 7 (both HBOC). A young bird was with two Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops* at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR), and another young bird was visited by both Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata* and Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis* at Kiwarra S.F. (Q4) Jan 15 (WOR) – neither species was seen to be feeding it.

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

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

No confirmed records.

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

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

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, and three birds were recorded occasionally. Winter records were of single birds at Cardiff (L10) May 12 (BAR), LTP May 22 (KEM) and White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE), and a single bird was at SWC from Jul 28 onwards (KEM). Young birds were being fed by Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* at SWC Jan 7 and in MLNP (cell Q7) Dec 22 (both KEM records), and by Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan 3 (WOR).

**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. Five birds were at Belmont Swamp Feb (LAK) and four birds at LTP Sep 18 (KEM). 40% of records were for the period May-Aug. There were only two records for Jan and one record for both Feb and Dec.

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

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

Not recorded.

**Common Koel** *Eudynamys 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:* A young bird was being fed by Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* at SWC Jan 7 & Feb 3 (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:* Eight birds were recorded flying over SWC Aug 22 (STA), ten birds were at Jerrys Plains (H7) Nov 15 (ALP) and 6+ birds were at Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). Young birds were being fed by Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* at North Arm Road (O8) Jan 24 (HBOC) and at The Ruins BBNP Mar 16 (TUD).

**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:* Four birds were heard at LTP Sep 18, and several birds were heard in the Salt Ash/Oyster Cove area Nov 20 (both KEM records).

**Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua***

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

Single birds were recorded at BbR Jun 2 and Jul 3 (LPC) and at Medowie (N9) Nov 1 (ANC). Birds were also heard at White Box Camp May 22 (HSE), New Lambton Jun 8 (STA), Laguna Oct 29/31 (RDB) and Balickera (M9) Nov 20 (HBOC). A bird was at Cabbage Tree Island over Nov/Dec. eating young Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera* (NSW NPWS Newsletter).

**Barking Owl *Ninox connivens***

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

Not recorded since 1997.

**Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae***

ID No: 242                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as single birds or pairs.

*Notable records:* Birds had a nest with four eggs at Shortland (M10) Nov 3 (ANB).

**Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa***

ID No: 253                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*)                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Sep 11 (FOC), Copeland S.F. (M4) Oct 2 (CBOC), Boarding House Dam Watagan S.F. (K11) Oct 10 (ROM) and Nov 3 (FOC).

**Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae***

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

A single bird was recorded at Copeland S.F. (M4) Oct 2 (CBOC). An injured bird was found by a roadside at Forster May 4 (TUD), and a dead bird by a roadside at Wallsend (L10) Nov 28 (CLT).

**Grass Owl *Tyto capensis***

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

Not recorded.

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

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

Single birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery Sep 20 and Parkville (H4) Sep 21, and two birds at Wybong (f6) Nov 21 (all NEG records).

**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:* Birds were on nest at Pipers Bay (R6) Sep 19 (MVBW) and were with young at Pipers Bay Oct 21 (MVBW) and New Lambton Nov 13 (STA).

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

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

A single bird was at Copeland Common (M4) Apr 18 (HBOC). A pair, with a single egg, was recorded at Balickera (M9) Nov 21 & 28 (HBOC, HLC) – the young bird was first recorded on Dec 25 (MUJ).

**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.

Three birds were recorded at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC), and birds were heard at this location May 21/23 (HSE) and at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). Some birds (numbers not noted) were also present at MLNP (P7) early April (IBOC) and in the Copeland area Oct 2/4 (FOC/CBOC).

**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 recorded at Arrowfield (H7) Mar 2 (ALP) and 50-70 birds at Wallabi Point (R5) Feb 4 (MVBW), Muswellbrook (H6) Nov 21 (NEG) and Singleton (J8) Dec 26 (ALP). 21-50 birds were recorded at Bulga Jan 9 (LIA), Arrowfield Jan 22 (ALP), Belmont Swamp Jan (LAK), Muswellbrook Feb 18 (NEG), Taree (Q4) Mar 6 (NEG), Bulga Oct 31 (CBOC), Malabula (O9) Nov 14 (KEM), Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC) and Fosterton Loop (K6) Dec 27 (JED).

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

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

Two birds were recorded at Laguna Mar 5 (RDB).

**Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea*

ID No: 319                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mainly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

*Notable records:* Six birds were recorded at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC). A pair had a nest with young in a creek bank at Balickera during Oct - the young died when the creek level rose after heavy rain. Birds are reported to use the same nest hole every year (MUJ). Birds were with dependent young at SWC Feb 10 (KEM). *These are the first confirmed breeding records since 1988.*

**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:* Birds were on nest at LTP Sep 16 and had a nest with young there Nov 11 (both KEM). Birds were nest building at Green Point (L11) Oct 24 (HSE) and also breeding there Dec 7 (HBOC).

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324                      HBOC Category: 3              Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1998).

Not recorded.

**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:* At least ten birds were recorded at Taylors Beach (09) Oct 24 (HBOC) and in the Salt Ash/Oyster Cove area Nov 20 (KEM). 6+ birds were at Tahlee/ Carrington (08) Jan 24 (HBOC) and LTP Sep 18 (KEM). The only winter record was of a single bird at LTP Jul 5 (KEM). There were several breeding records over Oct/Nov.

**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:* Around 90 birds were recorded at Muswellbrook (H6) Feb 18 and 26 birds at Wingen Mar 4 (both NEG). 70+ birds were at Salt Ash Mar 6, moving through in groups of 4-12 birds (KEM).

**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:* 6+ birds were recorded at LTP Feb 27 (KEM2), Green Point (L11) Oct 24 and Dec 7 (HSE, HBOC), SWC/NWR Nov 2 (HBOC), Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM) and Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). Two birds were on nests at Clarencetown Dec 26 (KEM).

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

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

Several birds were present in the Copeland area Oct 2/4 (FOC/CBOC) and at Waitui (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW). 1-2 birds were recorded at Copeland Forest Preserve Jan 26 (LIA), Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 13 (CBOC) and Barrington House Sep 4 (JED).

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the central part of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at Laguna May 8/10 (RDB) and Watagan S.F. (K11) Nov 4 (BAR). A bird was carrying food at Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 3 (OCG) – *this is not considered sufficient to be a breeding record.*

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

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Local resident.

Two specific surveys were conducted by Birds Australia at sites around Gloucester Tops and The Mountaineer (cells L5/M5), involving transects at 65 sample sites. 12 birds were detected by sight or by call on the Nov 6 survey, and 8 birds on Dec 4 (EKP). Single birds were also seen at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 13 and Nov 10 (CBOC, JED), and two birds were heard there Sep 11 (BIA).

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

ID No: 558 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of &lt;10 birds and predominantly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* A bird was on nest at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC), and a pair had dependent young at Wingen Sep 19 (NEG). Birds were also seen carrying food at Ridglands Rd (G6) Nov 21 (NEG) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythrops*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

10+ birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 13 (CBOC) and some birds were also there Sep 8 (BIA). Eight birds were at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG). 1-5 birds were present at Watagan S.F. (K11) Feb 14 (CBOC), Gap Creek Watagans N.P. Feb 27 (FOC), Mandalong Valley (K11) Mar 6 (TAH), Ferndale Park (M6) Apr 24/26 (FOC), Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 3 (OCG) and Mount Sugarloaf (L10) Aug 12 (OCG).

**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:* Large numbers, sometimes in excess of 20 birds, were often recorded at White Box Camp (HBOC, HSE, STA) and with much breeding activity noted over Oct 1/4 – birds were variously inspecting hollows, displaying, carrying food, and with dependent young. 20+ birds were also recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). Nearest coastal records were of some birds at Mount Vincent (L10) Jan 26 (OCG) and Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA).

**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 Red Creek Widden Valley (D9) Jun 13 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Malabula (O9) Nov 14 and Tickerabit MLNP (Q7) Dec 21, and were feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalix* at SWC Jan 7 and in MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (all KEM records).

**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 LTP Aug 7 and Sep 18 (KEM). There were several breeding records over Nov/Dec.

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

ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

Several birds including at least 2 males were recorded at Pitlochry Road (O4) Oct 8 (BIA).

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

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, locally common.

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E of the Region. 26 birds were at Salt Ash Mar 6 and 17 birds in the same area Nov 20, and 14 birds were at LTP Jun 5 (all KEM).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Howes Valley May 1 (LIA), White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE), Owens Gap (G5) Jun 6 (NEG), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC). Some birds were nest building at Pokolbin Jul 25 and there were several breeding records over Aug/Oct.

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded near Owens Gap (G5) Jun 6 (NEG), and 6-20 birds at SWC Mar 31 and Apr 14 (KEM), Howes Valley May 1 (LIA), White Box Camp May 21/23 and Oct 1/4 (HSE, HBOC), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG).



**Pilotbird** *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

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

Not recorded since 1997.

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*

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

1-2 birds were regularly recorded all year at Laguna, and a bird was on nest there Oct 29/31 (RDB). 1-2 birds were also recorded at Watagan S.F. (K11) Feb 14 (CBOC), Milbrodale (H9) May 23 (CBOC), Mount Vincent (L10) Apr 14 and Aug 10 (OCG, BAR) and Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). Seven birds were in the Owens Gap (G5) area Jun 6 (NEG).

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

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

20+ birds were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG) and 6-20 birds at both Copeland Forest Preserve and Copeland Common Apr 18 and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (all HBOC). Some birds were also at Telegherry River (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), Boarding House Dam Watagans N.P. (K10) Feb 27 (FOC), Barrington House Aug 15/20 (WMR) and Waitui (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW). Birds had nests with eggs or young at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG), Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC) and at Waitui.

**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:* A bird was on nest at SWC Sep 1 (KEM).

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

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

6+ birds were recorded at Copeland Forest Preserve Apr 18 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds were at Mount Vincent (L10) Jan 26 (OCG), Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), Boarding House Dam Watagans N.P. (K10) Feb 27 (FOC), Telegherry River (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), Gap Creek Watagans N.P. Feb 27 (FOC), Myall Lakes (P7) early April (IBOC), Waitui (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW) and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC). At Gap Creek, birds were feeding young and at Main Creek birds were feeding a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*.

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

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

Three birds were recorded at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC), two birds at Killingworth (K10) Oct 22 (LIA) and a single bird at Old Bar (R4) Aug 5 (MVBW).

**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 Howes Valley May 1 (LIA) and Wingen Sep 19 (NEG). Birds had a nest with young at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Jan 24 (NEG).

**Weebill** *Smicrornis 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:* 50+ birds were recorded at Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Jan 24 (NEG), Wingen May 13 (NEG), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC). Some of the birds at White Box Camp were nest building, and a bird was on nest at Murrumbo (D7) Mar 12 (LIA).

**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 Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC). Birds had many nests at Waitui (R3) Sep 8/11 (MVBW), and were nest building at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded at mangrove areas as counts of 1-5 birds.  
*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC).

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare.  
Two birds were recorded at Bulga Jan 2 (LIA) and at White Box Camp Feb 28 and Dec 21 (STA). Three birds were at Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG).

**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:* 15 birds were recorded at Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 31 (FOC) and 6+ birds at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC). Winter records were of single birds at Medowie (N9) over Jun/Jul (COD) and at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE) and Toronto (L11) Aug 11 (HLC). Birds had a nest with young at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC).

**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 in MLNP (cell Q7) Dec 22 (KEM). Birds were nest building at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE) and there were also several breeding records over Sep/Nov. Birds were feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR).

**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 Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Jan 24 (NEG), Howes Valley May 1 & 23 (LIA, HBOC) and Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC). Birds were nest building near Sandbar (R7) Jan 3 (WOR) and had dependent young at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC) and Wakefield (L10) Oct 22 (LIA).

**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 Howes Valley May 23 (HBOC) and birds were on nest near Drayton Colliery (H6) Oct 19/20 (HLC).

**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:* 20+ birds were often recorded at SWC over Feb/Mar and at Oyster Cove Mar 13 and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (all KEM records). There were several breeding records (nest building, on nest) during Aug, and birds had dependent young at Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM).

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* A bird was on nest at Milbrodale (H9) Aug 7 (HLC), and birds had dependent young at LTP Nov 13 and Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (both KEM).

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident in W of Region.

1-5 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 21/23, Aug 6/8 and Oct 1/4 (HSE, 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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG), Salt Ash Mar 6 (KEM), John Brown's Lagoon May 4 (HBOC) and White Box Camp May 23 (ALP). There were several breeding records over Jan/Mar and Sep/Dec, including birds were feeding a young Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea* at SWC Jan 7 & Feb 3 (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 in MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM), and 21-50 birds at Harrington Apr 9 (CLT), HRBG Jul 6 (HBOC), Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC), Belmont Swamp Sep (LAK) and the Forster/Tuncurry area early Oct (ALP). Birds were nest building at Malabula (O9) Oct 17 (KEM), had a nest with young at Coon Island Swansea Oct 24 (MOA) and were on nest at LTP Nov 11 (KEM).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG), and 6+ birds at White Box Camp May 21/23 and Aug 6/8 (HSE) and Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (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:* 150+ birds were at Wollemi N.P. (F8) Aug 8 (ALP) and c 100 birds at Tanilba Bay (N9) Apr 26 (KEM). 51-100 birds were recorded at Salt Ash Mar 6 (KEM), John Brown's Lagoon May 4 (HBOC), Pourmalong N.R. Apr 17 (KEM) and LTP Jun 5 (KEM). Birds had nests with young at Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Jan 24 (NEG) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM), and were nest building at Laguna Jan 2 (RDB) and Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM).

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: Yes (Revised)

Status: Bird of passage.

Four birds including dependent young were recorded at Ridglands Rd near Bunnan (F5) Nov 21 (NEG).

**Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

More than 50 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 21/23, and 10+ birds were also there Aug 6/8 (both HSE). At least two birds were present at Widden Brook (E7/E8) Nov and a bird was heard at Jerrys Plains (H7) Dec 4 (both TAH).

**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:* Seven birds were recorded at Malabula (O9) Feb 14 (KEM) and six birds at Singleton (J8) Apr 13 (ALP) and LTP May 22 (KEM).

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Red Creek Widden Valley (D9) Jun 13 (HBOC) and Teralba (L10) Oct 13 (YOR), and 50+ birds at Pourmalong N.R. Apr 17 (KEM) and at Swansea (L11) Sep 7 (HBOC).

**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 John Brown's Lagoon May 4 (HBOC). There were many breeding records spanning Jan-May and in Sep.

**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 Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG). Birds had a nest with young at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC).

**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:* More than 300 birds were present at Pourmalong N.R. Apr 17 (KEM) and 100+ birds at John Brown's Lagoon May 4 (HBOC) and White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE). Birds were carrying food at Laguna Jan 2 (RDB) and had dependent young in MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM). A pair was feeding a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis* at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR).

**Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993, 1998).

A single bird was recorded at Wingen Oct 24 (NEG).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen Sep 19 (NEG), and 6-20 birds at White Box Camp May 21/23 and Oct 1/4 (HSE, HBOC) and Pokolbin Jul 25 (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:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and at two separate locations near Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA). A bird was on nest at Laguna Sep 11/12 (RDB) and birds had a nest with young at Glenrock SRA Mar 7 (RAP).

**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:* 50+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE) and 30+ birds there May 21/23 (HSE/ALP). 21-50 birds were also recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Quorrobolong (K10) Jul 31 (MOA) and Milbrodale (H9) Aug 7 (HLC). Birds were nest building at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC).

**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 Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). An unusual coastal record was of a single bird often present at SWC from late Mar to early Jul (KEM, LIA). A bird was carrying food at Ridgeland Rd (G6) Nov 21 and another was on nest at Ridgeland Rd near Bunnan (F5) Nov 21 (both NEG).

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

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

1-5 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Broke Road (I9/J9) Oct 31 (ROM) and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (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 in W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds (*description modified*).

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Howes Valley May 1 (LIA) and Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 4 (CBOC).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Pourmalong N.R. Apr 17 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

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

Up to 14 birds were regularly recorded all year at SWC (many reports). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded elsewhere at locations close to the coast. Inland records were of six birds at Freemans Waterhole (K10) May 30 (MDV) and five birds at Metford (L9) Dec 8 (STJ). Birds had dependent young at SWC Mar 10 (KEM).

**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.

Two birds were recorded at Polblue Swamp (K4) Jan 3 (FOC), and at least two birds were at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 13 (CBOC).

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

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

20+ birds were recorded at Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG) and 8-10 birds were at Awabakal N.R. Jan 22 (GJC) and Swansea Heads May 22 (MOA). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded elsewhere in the E of the Region. An inland record was of a single bird at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**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 Salt Ash Mar 6 and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (both KEM), and 21-50 birds at Oyster Cove Mar 13 (KEM), HRBG Jul 6 (HBOC) and Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM). Birds had dependent young at MLNP Dec 22 and at SWC in late Aug (KEM).

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

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

Many birds were reported to be resident at BBNP (R6) (TUD). Some birds (<6) were recorded Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG), and a single bird at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**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 LTP Jun 5 (KEM) and HRBG Jul 6 (HBOC).

**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:* 300+ birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22, with some birds nest building (KEM). 50+ birds were at Stockrington (L10) Apr 11 (LIA) and there were eight records of 21-50 birds in the E of the Region, spread year-round. Some birds were on nest and others were nest building at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC).

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

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

Around ten birds were regularly recorded all year in the KI/Ash Island area, but with the counts peaking at c 50 birds over Mar/Apr (several reports). Records from elsewhere were of six birds at Hexham Swamp (L10) May 15 and some birds at LTP Sep 18 and Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (all KEM records).

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascians*

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 Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Yengo Creek (I10) Sep 4 (FOC).

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolor*

ID No: 380                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Six birds were recorded at Morisset Hospital (K11) Aug 22 (MDV) and four birds at Mount Arthur Muswellbrook (H6) Jun 7 (NEG) and Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC). Pairs were recorded at Howes Valley May 1 & 23 (LIA, HBOC), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and Broke Aug 1 (BAR), and single birds at Myall Lakes (P7) early April (IBOC), White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE/ALP) and Howes Valley Aug 7 (LIA).

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

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

Six birds (including four immatures) were recorded at Bulga Jan 9 (LIA) and at least six birds were again there May 23 (FOC). Three males were also present there Aug 28 (TAH). 1-2 birds were recorded near Vacy several times during May (TAH) and at Jerrys Plains (H7) May 29 (TAH) and SE of Merriwa (E6) Jul 5 (MOA).

**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

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

Some birds (<6) were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG) and at Gloucester Tops (L5) Mar 13 and Sep 8 & 11 (CBOC, BIA).



**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*

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

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region. Three birds were at Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC).

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*revised*)  
Status: Resident, in west of Region.

Up to six birds were recorded near Jerrys Plains (H7) Jul 31 (TAH) and three birds (one an immature) at Howes Valley Jan 9 (LIA). 1-2 birds were recorded at Wingen May 13 (NEG), White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE), Howes Valley May 23 and Aug 7 (HBOC), Bulga May 23 and Aug 28 (CBOC/FOC, LIA), Jerrys Plains May 29 (TAH) and Vacy Aug 15 (TAH). A pair had dependent young at Wingen Sep 19 (NEG) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region since 1988.*

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

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

Two birds were recorded at Copeland Forest Preserve Jan 26 (LIA) and Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), and a single bird at Copeland Forest Preserve Apr 18 (HBOC).

**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:* Birds were on nest at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC) and had dependent young at Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC) and Tickerabit MLNP (Q7) Dec 21 (KEM).

**Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Watagan S.F. (K11) Feb 14 (CBOC), and 1-5 birds at Copeland Forest Preserve Jan 26, Apr 18 and Oct 2/4 (LIA, HBOC, FOC/CBOC), Waitui (R3) Feb 18/21 and Sep 8/11 (MVBW), Copeland Tops S.F. Mar 14 (CBOC), Coopernook Forest Park (R3) May 15 (MVBW), Barrington House Oct 2 (TAH) and Chichester Dam (M6) Oct 30/31 (FOC).

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

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

Birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region, with around 80% of reports being of 6-20 birds. 20+ birds were at Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 4 (CBOC). Birds had dependent young at Wingen Sep 19 (NEG).

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

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

Birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 21/23, Aug 6/8 and Oct 1/4 (HSE, HBOC), with 6+ birds present Aug 6/8. Nest building was in progress Oct 1/4 (HBOC) – *this is not considered to be sufficient for a breeding record*,

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG).

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

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Kurri Kurri (K9) May 23 (KEM), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Howes Valley Aug 7 (LIA), Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 26 (OCG), Wakefield (L10) Oct 22 (LIA) and Laguna Oct 29/31 (RDB). Two pairs were at Mount Vincent Apr 14 (OCG).

**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:* Birds had dependent young at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG) and at two separate locations in MLNP (Q7) late Dec (KEM), were on nest at Laguna Oct 29/31 (RDB) and were nest building at Howes Valley Aug 7 (LIA).

**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:* Three birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and Bangalay Reserve (L11) Nov 6 (HSE). A young bird was begging from adults at Salt Ash Mar 6 (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.

Six birds were recorded at Kerripit Road Gloucester Tops (L5) Nov 6 (EKP) and a single bird in the same area Mar 13 (FOC).

**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:* Birds had dependent young at Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC) and were carrying food at Mount Vincent (L10) Jan 26 (OCG).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22, with dependent young also present (KEM). Birds also had dependent young at SWC late Jan/early Feb (LIA, KEM). Winter records were of single birds at Islington (M10) Jul/Aug (ROM), SWC Aug 4 (BAW) and White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE), and pairs at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 and WWW Jun 20 (both HBOC).

**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

ID No: 413 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain (*New to list*)

Not recorded, but see Supplementary list.

**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:* 6+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 21/23 (HSE), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC), Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC), Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (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:* Some birds had returned to Mount Vincent (L10) by Aug 26 (OCG). 6+ birds were recorded at Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Jan 15 (WOR), Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG), Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC) and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC). Birds at Pheasant Creek Road had a nest with young.

**Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Four birds were recorded at Copeland Tops S.F. Oct 2/3 and a single bird Mar 13/14 (FOC, CBOC). Two birds were at Copeland Forest Preserve Apr 18 (HBOC) and a single bird Jan 26 (LIA). Single birds were also recorded at Harrington Feb 17 and Apr 9 (CBOC, CLT), Telegraphy River (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), Woodville (L9) Oct 30/31 and Eccleston (K6) Nov 6 (both NEM).

**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:* At least ten birds were present at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 and three pairs were at Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (both KEM). 6+ birds were also recorded at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (both HBOC). A bird was nesting at Chichester Dam (M6) Oct 30/31 (FOC).

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

Around 15 birds were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG). Two birds were at Drayton Colliery (H6) Oct 19/20 (HLC) and single birds at LTP Sep 18 (KEM) and Copeland Tops S.F. (M4) Oct 2 (CBOC).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

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

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region. 6+ birds were at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC).

**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:* Around 40 birds were present at NWR May 3 (OCG), and a single flock of 21 birds was recorded at Singleton (J8) Mar 9 (ALP). There were several breeding records over Sep/Nov.

**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:* 6+ birds were recorded at Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG) and Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Glenrock SRA Nov 7 (RAP).

**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 Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25, Wingen Sep 19 (both NEG) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM). Birds were nesting at Glenrock SRA Nov 7 (RAP) and had dependent young at Wallingat N.P. (Q7) Dec 5 (HBOC).

**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:* Birds were nesting at SWC Jan 7 and Nov 2 (KEM, HBOC) and were nest building at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC).

**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:* Many birds were present at Belmont Swamp over Jun/Aug, with the count peaking at 12 birds in Jun (LAK). Six birds were at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and seven birds at SWC Sep 1 (KEM). "Summer" records were of single birds at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR), Shortland Feb 17 (BAW), SWC Mar 3 (KEM), Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM) and Green Point (L11) Dec 7 (HBOC), two birds at Shortland Feb 17 (BAW) and LTP Feb 27 (KEM2), and four birds at Newcastle University Mar 29 (TAH).

**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 Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG). Birds were nest building at Salt Ash Mar 6 (KEM) and were displaying at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC).

**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 White Box Camp May 21/23. Aug 6/8 (HSE) and Oct 1/4 (HSE, HBOC), and Pokolbin Jul 25 (HBOC). Two birds were at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC).

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429                      HBOC Category: 1              Breeding: Yes (*revised*)

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:* At least six birds were present at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC) and three birds were heard at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM). A bird was on nest at Laguna Jan 2 (RDB).

**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.

A pair and two immature birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp N.R. (M10) Feb 13 (LIA), and a pair at Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC). Three birds (females/eclipse males) were at Denman Dec 30 (STA). Single birds were present at Hands Lagoon (L9) Oct 4, Bolwarra STP (L9) Oct 29, WWW Nov 23 (all TAH records), and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

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

A single bird was recorded at Harrington Feb 27 (CBOC) and some birds (numbers not noted) were also present there May 6 (MVBW).

**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:* 30 birds were recorded at Wingen May 13 (NEG) and seven birds in this area Jun 1 (both NEG). 6+ birds were also at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM). A bird was on nest at Hallidays Point (R5) Nov 20 (MVBW).

**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:* 50+ birds were recorded at Mayfield (M10) May 24 (KEM) and 20+ birds at Old Bar (R4) Feb 4 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG).

**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 SWC over Feb/Mar (KEM), Shortland Apr 22, Belmont Swamp over Mar/Apr (LAK) and Bungwahl (Q7) Mar 13 (NEG). Birds were nesting at Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC) and KI Dec 11 (HWS), and had dependent young at Market Swamp Jan 2 (LIA) and SWC Jan 7 (KEM).

**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:* 40+ birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 and 20+ birds at Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (both KEM). "Winter" records were of 1-5 birds at White Box Camp Aug 6/8 (HSE) and HRBG Aug 15 (TAH). Birds were nest building at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC) and had dependent young at MLNP Dec 22.

**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:* Birds were nesting at Bombah Point MLNP (Q7) Sep 8 (TUD), White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC) and Green Point (L11) Oct 24 (HSE).

**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:* Birds had dependent young at SWC Mar 31 (KEM), Salt Ash/Oyster Cove Nov 20 (KEM), and Moorland (R3) Dec 27 (MOA).

**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 recorded at Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and around 40 birds at Elermore Vale (M10) Apr 18 (CLT). 20+ birds were also present at Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 and Burning Mountain N.R. (H4) Oct 26 (both NEG). There were many breeding records in the latter part of the year, with the earliest being at BBNP (R6) Jul 30 (TUD).

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Copeland Common Apr 18 (HBOC), SWC Jul 7 (KEM), Gwandalan (L11) Aug 3 (HBOC), Milbrodale (H9) Aug 7 (HLC), Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG) and Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG). Birds had nests with young at Shortland Sep 22 (LIA) and LTP Nov 11 (KEM), and were feeding young Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* at North Arm Cove Road (O8) Jan 24 (HBOC) and The Ruins BBNP Mar 16 (TUD).

**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: 2 (*Revised*)      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Two birds were recorded at Jerusalem Creek (M6) Nov 8 (JED), and single birds at Copeland Tops S.F. Mar 14 (CBOC), Barrington House Aug 16 (WMR) and Gloucester Tops Road (L5) Dec 4 (EKP). Birds were also heard at Chichester S.F. (K5) Oct 10 and Gloucester Tops Road Nov 6 (both EKP).

**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:* 20-30+ birds were recorded at LTP Feb 27 (KEM), Redhead Mar 16 (GJC) and Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG). There were several breeding records spanning Apr and Jul/Oct.

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Not recorded.

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

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

25 birds were recorded at Tomalla Road (J3/J4) and 17 birds at Moonan Brook (J4) Jan 25 (both NEG).

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

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

Birds were often recorded in the NE of the Region, with reports of 1-5 and 6-10 birds being about equal. The southernmost records were from the Salt Ash (cell) area. 20+ birds were recorded at LTP Jun 5 (KEM) and Pipers Bay (R6) Aug 21 (OCG). Some birds were also at Copeland Common Apr 18 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Johns River (S3) Sep 2 (MVBW).

**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:* 21-40 birds were recorded at Warkworth (I8) May 5 (ALP), Gresford (L7) Jun 6 (ALP), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Wollemi N.P. (F8) Aug 8 (ALP) and White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC).



**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Waitui (R3) Sep 9 (OCG) and some birds were also there Feb 18/21 (MVBW). Three birds were at Copeland Apr 18 (HBOC) and at least one bird was there Oct 2 (CBOC). Two birds were recorded at Cape Hawke BBNP (R6) May 12 (TUD) and some birds at Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 (MVBW). A pair were with a dependent fledgling at Hallidays Point (R5) Jan 3/16 (WOR).

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

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

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. 6+ birds were at Hallidays Point (R5) early Jan (WOR) and Copeland Apr 18 (HBOC). A newly fledged juvenile was with a group of males, females and other juveniles at Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 (MVBW).

**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:* Birds had dependent young at Kiwarrak S.F. (Q4) Jan 15 (WOR) and Pheasant Creek Road (L4) Jan 25 (NEG).

**Singing Bushlark** *Mirafrja javanica*

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

No confirmed records.

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC) and 6+ birds at Howes Valley May 1 (LIA) and Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG). Some birds at Bayswater Colliery were nest building.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 877                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1993, 1998).

Not recorded.

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

ID No: 781                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded in 1998).

Not recorded.

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Redhead Feb 6 and 50+ birds there Apr 2 (GJC). A bird was on nest at Malabula (O9) Nov 14 (KEM).

**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.  
20+ birds were regularly recorded at Arrowfield (H7), with the count peaking at 50+ birds Jul 28 and with some birds nest building there Aug 4 (ALP). 20+ birds were also recorded at Lochinvar (K9) May 1 (WMR) and Coolmore (H7) May 6 (ALP). Up to 10 birds were occasionally recorded elsewhere throughout the Region.

**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:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay (N9) Apr 26 (KEM), Howes Valley May 1 (LIA), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 and Pokolbin Jul 25 (both HBOC).

**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:* A bird was found caught in a large spider web at Old Bar (R4) during summer – it flew off when released (MVBW). Birds were nest building at Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC), SWC Feb 24 (KEM), Wingham Brush (Q4) Mar 4 (MVBW) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM). Some birds were also on nests at the latter location.

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.  
20+ birds were recorded at Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 and some birds were feeding fledged young there (HBOC). 1-10 birds were occasionally recorded in the W and central parts of the Region.

**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.

1-5 birds were recorded at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC), SWC Feb 10 (KEM) and SBS Oct 24 (HSE). Some birds were also at Myall Lakes (P7) early April – numbers were not noted (IBOC).

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Local resident.

Eight birds were recorded at KI Feb 28 (LIA). 1-5 birds were at KI Feb 2, Apr 17, Jul 17, Aug 14 and Sep 18 (several reports), at Bolwarra (L9) May 3 & 31 (BPS) and at WWW Nov 17 (FRP). Birds were nest building at Shortland Dec 29 (LIA).

**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:* There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

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

ID No: 358                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Bird of passage.

Not recorded.

**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:* 200 birds were recorded at Ash Island Mar 6 (HWS) and 100+ birds at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC), SWC Apr 28 (KEM) and KI Jun 26 (HWS). 51-100 birds were at SBS Mar 13 and Jul 4 (HLC) and Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Bolwarra (L9) Aug 23/30 (BPS), SWC during late Aug and LTP Sep 18 (both KEM).

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Salt Ash Mar 6 (KEM), 80+ birds at Glendonbrook (K8) Mar 7 (WMR), 60+ birds at Pourmalong N.R. Feb 6 (KEM) and 50+ birds at Lambs Valley Road (K8) May 1 (WMR). Two birds were on nests at Clarencetown Dec 26 (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:* Counts at SWC peaked at 50+ birds Aug 18 and many birds once again bred there (KEM). 21-50 birds were also regularly recorded at KI over Sep-Dec (HWS). Elsewhere, 20+ birds were recorded at Wollemi N.P. (F8) Aug 8 (ALP), Mount Sugarloaf Range Road (L10) Aug 12 (OCG) and Seaham Swamp N.R. Nov 7 (STA). Two birds were still present at KI Apr 17 (HWS) and one bird at SWC Apr 14 (KEM), and a single bird was recorded at Hexham Swamp (L10) May 15 (KEM).

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

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Local resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Black Neds Bay Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC), and often throughout the year at Belmont Swamp (LAK). Six birds were recorded at both Cams Wharf (L11) and South Swansea May 22 (MOA).

**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:* Some birds were recorded at Harrington Apr 30 (MVBW) and at Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG). Birds had dependent young at SWC Jan 7 and Mar 17 (KEM) and at Taree (Q4) Dec 27 (MVBW).

**Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*

ID No: 523 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Eleven birds were recorded at Salt Ash Mar 6 and 14 birds in the same area Nov 20 (both 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:* 6+ birds were heard at SWC Jul 28 (KEM).

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

6+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp Oct 1/4 (HBOC), Ridgeland Rd (G6) Nov 21 and Dry Creek Rd (F6) Nov 21 (both NEG). 1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Battery Rocks Feb 28 (STA), SW of Denman Sep 1 (ROS), Wingen Sep 28 (NEG), Drayton Colliery (H6) Oct 19 & 20 (HLC) and Jerrys Plains (H7) Dec 4 (TAH). A bird at Ridgeland Rd Nov 21 was carrying food.

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncertain.

At least six birds were recorded in the Martindale area (G7) Dec 4 (TAH). Two birds were near Drayton Colliery (H6) Oct 19/20 (HLC), and single birds at Broughton Island (P8) early Jan (HLC), Pourmalong N.R. Dec 18 (HBOC) and MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM).

**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:* 50+ birds were recorded on Broughton Island (P8) early 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 – Jul.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp Apr (LAK) and Wingen May 13 (NEG). Outside the main migration times, 50+ birds were at Belmont Swamp Mar (LAK) and Bayswater Colliery Aug 21 (NEG).

**THRUSH SPECIES**

Both *Zoothera* 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** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*)                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain.

Single birds were recorded at Allyn River (K5) Jan 9 (LIA), Polblue (K4) Jan 25 (NEG), Copeland Apr 18 (HBOC), Laguna May 2 & 8/10 (RDB), Table Bay Creek Widden Valley (E9) Jun 12/16 (HBOC), Barrington House Oct 31 (HTH) and Balickera (M9) Nov 19/21 (HBOC). Some birds (numbers not noted) were also at Ferndale Park (M6) Apr 24/26 (FOC), Barrington House Aug 15/20 (WMR) and Chichester Dam (M6) Oct 30/31 (FOC).

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

ID No: 780                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*)                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain.

1-2 birds were recorded at Copeland Tops S.F. Mar 14 and Oct 2 (CBOC), Barrington House Aug 15/20 and Oct 31 (WMR, HTH) and Gloucester Tops Road (L5) Dec 4 (EKP).

**Unidentified Thrush Sightings**

Single birds were recorded at Main Creek (M6) Feb 21 (HBOC) and at Hallidays Point (R5) Jan 3/16 (WOR). Two birds were at Hallidays Point Jan 4 (WOR).

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

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

Single birds were recorded at East Maitland (L9) May 10 (SMJ), Lorn (L9) Sep 6 (MEJ1) and SWC Sep 23 and Oct 8 (BAW/LIA).

**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:* 100-200 birds were recorded at Stockton/KI Feb 2 (HBOC), Ash Island Mar 6 and KI Apr 17 (both HWS). Birds were on nests at SWC Sep 1 and were carrying food at Stockton Bridge Sep 20 (both KEM).

**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:* 50+ birds were recorded at LTP Feb 27 (KEM) and 20+ birds at Wollemi N.P. (F8) Aug 8 (ALP). Birds nested at SWC during Feb and Aug/Sep (KEM).

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

The records below have been accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee:

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 11 1999 (KEM).

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

ID No: 021

Two birds were recorded in littoral rainforest at Harrington over Dec 27/28, 1997 (VEE). *This was presented as an unconfirmed record in the 1997 Bird Report.*

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250

A single bird was recorded near Broke Oct 30, 1993 (VEE).

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

ID No: 330

A record presented in the 1998 Bird report, of three birds at Harrington, was actually a breeding record – a pair was present with a chick.

**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

ID No: 413

A small colony was found to be present in a gully near Vacy over Oct 10/11, 1996 (VGF). It is considered possible that this might be a remnant local population of this species.

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779

Three birds were recorded together at Barrington House Jan 21, 1998 (KEM) - *these birds were reported in the 1998 Report as an Unidentified Thrush Sighting.*

## 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 group of 8-10 birds was reported to be at Arrowfield (H7) Aug 26.

**Buller's Shearwater** *Puffinus bulleri*

ID No: 975

Two birds were reported to be off One Mile Beach Forster Dec 14.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063

A single bird was reported to be off Forster/Tuncurry early Oct.

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

ID No: 929

A single bird sitting on the water off Birubi Point (O9) Oct 24 was identified as a Giant Petrel species but the bird was too far away for a definitive identification to be made (HBOC).

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238

Single birds were reported to be at Jerrys Plains (H7) Jan 31 and Apr 11.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166

A single bird was reported to be at Stockton Beach Nov 25.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945

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

**Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbis*

ID No: 023

A single bird was reported to be at Cardiff (L10) May 10.

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

ID No: 341

A single bird was reported to be near Jerrys Plains (H7) Apr 11.

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

ID No: 423

Three birds were reported to be at Wybong Road (F6) Nov 7.

**Singing Bushlark** *Mirafrja javanica*

ID No: 648

Single birds were reported to be at Dry Creek Rd (F6) and at Bunnan (F5) Nov 21.

## CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

The location near Minmi described in previous reports as Cedar Hill Drive Swamp and occasionally as Minmi Swamp, has now been gazetted as the Pourmalong Nature Reserve and this name has now been adopted for the Bird Reports. The location near Mulbring described in previous reports as Colliery Dam has several other common names including John Brown's Lagoon, Poor Man's Kakadu, Richmond Vale Dam. John Brown's Lagoon is the name that is preferred by



Cessnock City Council, the local regulatory authority, and this usage has now been adopted for these Reports. The location of Bayswater Colliery was incorrectly assigned in previous Reports as being in cell I7 – it is correctly assigned to cell H6 in this Report.

The record in the 1998 Report of two Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* at Allyn River Forest Park, Jan 1998, has been withdrawn.

## 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:

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

ID No: 286

A single bird was often recorded at SWC from early Feb onwards, and appeared to be resident (many records). It associated with Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* and in mid-Aug was seen inspecting hollows (KEM).

## 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                 |               |                            |

## GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Many locations are visited regularly by recorders, and it would be redundant to quote the grid reference for these locations every time that they are cited in the annual Report. Grid references for some commonly visited locations are:

|                               |        |                            |     |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-----|
| Ash Island                    | M10    | Lemon Tree Passage         | O9  |
| Awabakal N. R.                | M10/11 | Market Swamp               | M10 |
| Barrington House              | L5     | Morpeth                    | L9  |
| Battery Rocks                 | E6     | Newcastle                  | M10 |
| Bayswater Colliery            | H6     | Newcastle Wetlands Reserve | M10 |
| Belmont Swamp & Lagoon        | M11    | New Lambton Heights        | M10 |
| Blackbutt Reserve             | M10    | Oyster Cove                | N9  |
| Broke                         | I9     | Pokolbin                   | J9  |
| Bulga                         | I8     | Pourmalong N.R.            | L10 |
| Cabbage Tree Island           | P9     | Redhead                    | M11 |
| Clarencetown                  | M8     | Salt Ash                   | N9  |
| Denman                        | G7     | Seaham Swamp N. R.         | M8  |
| John Brown's Lagoon           | L10    | Seal Rocks                 | R7  |
| Copeland Common               | N4     | Shortland Wetlands Centre  | M10 |
| Copeland Forest Preserve      | M4/M5  | Singleton                  | I8  |
| Copeland Tops State Forest    | M4     | Stockton                   | M10 |
| Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon    | J10    | Stockton Borehole Swamp    | L10 |
| Forster                       | R6     | Swansea, Swansea South     | L11 |
| Glenrock SRA                  | M10    | Vacy                       | L8  |
| Grahamstown Dam               | M9     | Walka Water Works          | L9  |
| Harrington                    | S4     | Watagans S.F. & N.P.       | K11 |
| Howes Valley                  | H10    | White Box Camp (in GRNP)   | C6  |
| Hunter Region Botanic Gardens | M9     | Wingen                     | H4  |
| Kooragang Island              | M10    | Wingham Brush              | Q4  |
| Laguna                        | I10    |                            |     |

## 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>ALP</b>  | Peter Alexander   | <b>HTH</b>  | Hunter Thickheads (Twitchathon)                             |
| <b>ANB</b>  | Bill Anderson   | <b>HWS</b>  | HBOC Wader Surveys  |
| <b>ANC</b>  | C Anderson  | <b>IBOC</b> | Reported in newsletter of the Illawarra Bird Observers Club |
| <b>BAR</b>  | Richard Baxter  | <b>IJK</b>  | Kay, Jim Imrie  |
| <b>BAW</b>  | Wilma Barden  | <b>JED</b>  | Dick Jenkin   |
| <b>BIA</b>  | Birding-Australia (Internet group)                          | <b>JOD</b>  | Di Johnson  |
| <b>BLM</b>  | Max Blanch  | <b>JUT</b>  | Trevor Jurd   |
| <b>BPS</b>  | Class 3A, Bolwarra Public School                            | <b>KBD</b>  | Bev, David Kibble   |
| <b>BRK</b>  | Keith Brandwood   | <b>KEA</b>  | A. Kelly  |
| <b>BMA</b>  | Marie Burgoyne  | <b>KEM</b>  | Michael Kearns  |
| <b>CPR</b>  | Ross, Pat Carlton   | <b>KEM2</b> | Margaret Kearns   |
| <b>CBOC</b> | Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter       | <b>LAK</b>  | Keith Laverick  |
| <b>CJB</b>  | John, Beth Cockerell  | <b>LIA</b>  | Ann Lindsey   |
| <b>CLT</b>  | Tom Clarke  | <b>LIC</b>  | Claire Lindsey  |
| <b>COD</b>  | Dick Cooper   | <b>LPC</b>  | Paddy, Caryl Lightfoot                                      |
| <b>DBP</b>  | Penny Drake-Brockman  | <b>MAM</b>  | Max Maddock   |
| <b>DUP</b>  | Pam Durie   | <b>MDV</b>  | Don, Val Moon   |
| <b>EAS</b>  | Shirley Eagles  | <b>MCK</b>  | Ken McLeish   |
| <b>EKP</b>  | Peter Ekert   | <b>MEJ1</b> | Jenny Meynell   |
| <b>FOC</b>  | Reported in newsletter of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club | <b>MOA</b>  | Alan Morris   |
| <b>FRP</b>  | Paul Freeman  | <b>MPM</b>  | Peter, Margaret McLauchlan                                  |
| <b>GAA</b>  | Anne Gardiner   | <b>MUJ</b>  | Jenny Musicka   |
| <b>GIK</b>  | Ken Gibson  | <b>MVBW</b> | Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers   |
| <b>GJC</b>  | John, Cynthia Grebert                                       | <b>NBL</b>  | Reported to the NSW BirdLine                                |
| <b>GOC</b>  | Colin Goodenough  | <b>NEG</b>  | Greg Newling  |
| <b>HAM</b>  | Matthew Hamonet   | <b>NEM</b>  | Mike Newman   |
| <b>HSE</b>  | Sue, Ed Hamonet   | <b>NES</b>  | Sue Newman  |
| <b>HBOC</b> | Observation from an organised HBOC outing or camp           | <b>OCG</b>  | Graeme O'Connor   |
| <b>HLC</b>  | Liz, Chris, Daniel Herbert                                  | <b>OSP</b>  | Paul Osborn   |
| <b>HOG</b>  | Glen Holmes   | <b>PAR</b>  | Ruth Parker   |
|             |   | <b>PHP</b>  | Peter Phillips  |

|            |                      |             |  |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>POP</b> | Pat Pountney         | <b>SWCN</b> | Reported in Shortland Wetlands Centre newsletter (The Wetlander) |
| <b>RAP</b> | Phil Rankin          | <b>TAH</b>  | Harold Tarrant   |
| <b>RDA</b> | David Rohweder       | <b>TOL</b>  | Len Tolhurst   |
| <b>RDB</b> | Dorothy, Bob Raine   | <b>TUD</b>  | David Turner   |
| <b>ROD</b> | Diane Rogers         | <b>VEE</b>  | Edwin Vella  |
| <b>ROM</b> | Michael Roderick     | <b>WAR</b>  | Rosemary Waymark   |
| <b>ROS</b> | Steven Roderick      | <b>WCR</b>  | Observation reported to Shortland Wetlands Centre                |
| <b>ROT</b> | T Rose               | <b>WEJ</b>  | Judy Westphal  |
| <b>SMJ</b> | James Smart          | <b>WMR</b>  | Marian, Ray Walker   |
| <b>SJR</b> | Judith, Rowley Smith | <b>WOR</b>  | Russell Woodford   |
| <b>STA</b> | Alan Stuart          | <b>YOR</b>  | R Young  |
| <b>STJ</b> | Jeanette Stephenson  |             |  |
| <b>STP</b> | Phil Straw           |             |  |
| <b>SVP</b> | Peggy Svoboda        |             |  |

## 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 Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations.

