

HUNTER REGION OF NSW

2001 BIRD REPORT

The Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) has produced this annual record of the birds of the Hunter Region of NSW. 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 by the range of activities provided. All HBOC members receive a regular newsletter and have access to a comprehensive range of books, tapes, CDs and videocassettes about Australian and world birdlife that are available for loan. 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 at 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>

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

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(photographer: Chris Herbert)

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FOREWORD

As a member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club committee in 1993 I recall Alan Stuart first raising the possibility of producing an annual report to document the large number of bird records that the club receives. The enthusiasm of the then-committee was more than matched by Alan and a draft page of the first HBOC Annual Bird Report was soon available to the committee. It was apparent to all that producing such a report was going to be a mammoth undertaking. A list of all the birds reported in the Hunter region was easily obtained from Sue Hamonet and Alan assigned each of these a status within the region. The committee then fine-tuned these; a process that is still being undertaken today, thanks to the huge number of records received each year. Collating these records and condensing them into a concise entry for each species is a massive task that seems to only grow each year.

This, the 9th Annual Hunter Bird Report, carries on the great work of the Hunter Bird Observers. Alan Stuart has set a standard that other annual bird reports must meet. HBOC members, and other users of these reports, have become accustomed to the high standard of these reports and I'm sure many almost take this for granted.

One only has to flick through previous reports to appreciate just how our understanding of birds within the Hunter has increased. One major leap has been with seabirds. Contained within the early bird reports were the occasion record of albatross and giant petrels made by select few, usually while fishing well out to sea. In the last couple of years the HBOC has been organising what are now regular pelagic seabirding trips out of Swansea and Port Stephens. Those occasional reports by Jim Perry and others were only the tip of the iceberg with birds that were then listed as highlights now barely rating a mention but replaced by more genuinely rare seabirds such as Tahiti Petrel.

One very satisfying part of the current bird reports for me personally is the wader surveys that are being conducted in the Hunter estuary. I was responsible for these surveys during the mid-nineties and it is important that they are continued. The HBOC, and in particular Chris and Liz Herbert, are to be congratulated for the coordination of these surveys and the efforts being made to bring the plight of our shorebirds and their habitat to the attention of the public.

In my role as national coordinator of the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Effort, I value the role that bird reports such as this play. Undoubtedly the most-read section of the report will be the Highlights of the Year. While the location of rare and exotic birds is becoming an increasing emphasis of many birdwatchers, I believe that the monitoring of our more common birds, often those that are taken for granted, is far more important. I continually lament the lack of records of Regent Honeyeaters at a time when this species was more common as it clouds the extent and timing of the species actual decline. As more species are recognised as declining and the Threatened Species list grows it is imperative that we undertake to gain a true understanding of their decline. Future Recovery Plans for these birds, although one always hopes that such efforts will not be required, will rely greatly on what we are recording now.

Once again I congratulate the HBOC for the effort involved in compiling these valuable reports and encourage all that can to continue to contribute their records, no matter how insignificant they may now appear.

David Geering
Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator
August 28, 2002

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 2001. The information is based upon observation records gathered from a variety of sources.

The 2001 Report describes the regional status of 382 bird species, including 339 species that were recorded during the year. There are 6 additions to the 2000 species list – Kermadec Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Little Curlew, Lesser Yellowlegs, Grey Plover and Great Skua. Breeding records for 109 species are described, of the total of 222 species that have been confirmed to have bred within the Region in the past 10 years.

The Hunter Region is defined 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, and
- The ocean to the east of that area, within 100km of the coastline.

The philosophies that we use when preparing Reports were described in the 2000 Bird 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 2001, the RAC members were Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Fred van Gessel, Terry Lindsey and Phil Hansbro.

The value of the Bird Reports is due to the small army of observers who submit records of what they see during the year. Whether the records are made as a one-off casual observation or as part of a regular and thorough survey program they all are important in helping to continue to build the picture of birdlife in the Hunter Region. Thanks very much to all the contributors for the 2001 Report.

Alan Stuart
July 14, 2002

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 2001 included the following:

- Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* – several records in the latter part of the year
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* – at Kooragang Island Dec 21
- Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* – on a survey SE of Swansea Jan 28
- Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* – on a survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18
- White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis* – on a survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* – at Newcastle Mar 12 and Teralba Oct 5
- Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* – at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1-3 and Martindale Feb 17
- Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* – three birds at Ash Island Oct 28
- Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* – at Ash Island Sep 13-15
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1-3
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* – several records
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* – at Ash Island over Sep 10-12 and Sep 23-26
- Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* – at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1-3
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* – at Tanilba Bay during Oct, and nesting there
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus* – at Harrington Sep 26 and Oct 20, and successfully breeding at Farquhar Inlet in May
- Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* – at Worimi N.R. Jan 20 and Ash Island Nov 26-Dec 15
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – at Ash Island Nov 5
- Great Skua *Catharacta skua* – on surveys SE of Swansea Aug 11 and Sep 15
- Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* – at Green Wattle Creek Mar 4
- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans* – at Bulga Aug 5 and Goulburn River N. P. Sep 30
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* – at Ellalong Oct 15
- Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii* – at Shortland Apr 15 and May 16-30
- Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus* – at Warakeila Apr 23 and Oct 1 (a southern extension to the range in NSW)
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* – resident all year at Giants Creek and breeding there early Oct, and near Ulan Apr 9
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* – at Goulburn River N.P. Sep 30 and Martindale Nov-Dec and nesting there
- Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus* – at Goulburn River N.P. Sep 30 and Telegherry S.F. Oct 7
- White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* – at Goulburn River N.P. Sep 30, Warkworth Oct 1 and Telegherry S.F. Oct 7
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* – at Doyles Creek Dec 1

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 are considered for inclusion into the main body of the Report.

Breeding status is also indicated for each species. 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 the more common locations which are listed later in the Report. Observer codes and location abbreviations are also provided later in the Report.

A semi-quantitative measure of the number of observations of a species for the year is indicated by the progressive terms: **occasionally**; **moderately often**; **often**; **frequently**; **regularly**. Where there are fewer than 12 observations for the year, 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 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Local resident in W of Region.

Three birds were recorded near Wollar (B7) May 20 (JUT) and two birds in Goulburn River N.P. May 25 (GED).

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC), Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 5 and Aug 18 (MVBW), Wang Wauk S.F. (P6) Aug 4 (LIA), Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 8, Mount Allyn (K5) Oct 8 and Barrington House Oct 8 (all GED records).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive (*Revised from: Rare*).

At least eight birds were present at Bolwarra Dec 2 – birds were also heard at this location Jan 1 (TAH). 1-5 birds were at Vacy Jan 6 and Bureen (F7) Feb 17 and several locations between Jerrys Plains and Martindale (G7/H7) Mar 24 (all TAH records). Some birds were recorded near Gloucester Dec 16 (BIA), and a dead bird was found at Arrowfield Jan 28 (ALP).

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

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

Notable records: 15 birds were recorded at Howes Valley May 13 (NEM) and 13 birds at Glen Oak (M8) Sep 30 (MAM). A pair was with one dependent young at TWC late Jan (LPC).

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare, possibly overlooked

No reports received for 2001.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

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

Notable records: 60-70+ birds were recorded at TWC on several occasions between Feb-Aug (HBOC, CCFOC, ROD). Six birds were at a wetland at Uni of Ncle Jan 29/30 and two goslings were present there Feb 12 (TAH). Two goslings were also recorded at TWC Nov 21 (WCR). Reports from elsewhere were of a single bird at Seaham Swamp N.R. Nov 13 (MAM), four birds at Cundletown (R4) Dec 1 (LMB) and nine birds at Chatham (Q4) late Dec (MVBW).

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

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

14 birds were recorded at Rathluba Lagoon Apr 9 (ROS), and five birds at both Hillville (Q4) Mar 1 and Hannam Vale (R3) Apr (MVBW).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

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

15-25 birds were recorded at TWC over Jan-Feb and again in May and then Sep-Oct (many reports). In Dec there was a large influx, with the peak count being of 90 birds Dec 26 (BAW). 1-2 birds were at a wetland at Uni of Ncle Jan 29/30 and Feb 12 (TAH) and at Kotara (M10) Jan 6 (JED).

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

ID No: 216 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental (*last recorded in 1989*).

No reports received for 2001.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

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

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E of the Region. At Grahamstown Dam, counts were often of 10-15 birds but during Oct-Nov the numbers rose, to a peak count of 40 birds Oct 19 (MAM). 12 birds were at Ash Island Jun 12 (BAR), and 6-9 birds were frequently at Morpeth STP early in the year (see Table 1).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare.

There were several records at TWC, received from many observers. On Sep 13, three birds were present, with two of the birds staying on for several days. Three birds were also present Aug 23-27 and Dec 26-31, and eight birds over Nov 8-22. Eight birds were also recorded at Lenaghans Flat Dec 17 (BIA).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

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

Notable records: 300+ birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Apr 21 (MOA) and nearby Lenaghans Flat Sep 1 (MAM). 100-200 birds were at Pambalong N.R. Aug 7 (HBOC), Belmont Nov 3 (GJC), KI Nov 26 (LIA) and Swansea Nov 28 (GJC), and often at Morpeth STP and KI/Ash Island (see Tables 1 and 2). Numbers were high all year in MLNP (TUD). 51-100 birds were recorded at Warabrook (M10) Apr 4 (NIJ), Ash Island May 26 (HWS), KI Jul 14 (OCG), Swansea South Jul 22 (HBOC), Pambalong N.R. Jul 30 (ROD), Swansea Oct 13 (GJC), Worimi N.R. Oct 21 and Dec 16 (HWS) and Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC). Several breeding records were received, spanning Apr-Sep.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

Two birds were recorded at a deep pond on KI Dec 21 (VGF).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Morpeth STP Jun 24 (HBOC) and in the Chichester Dam area Oct 8-10 (OCG), and 21-50 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region. A pair was with 20 young at BbR Sep 28 (LPC), and other pairs had smaller clutches of dependent young at Swansea Sep 3 (ROD), Arrowfield Sep 7 (ALP) and Pokolbin Oct (HED.)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace Jul 1 (MAM) and Kitchener (K10) Aug 4 (TOM) and several times at Grahamstown Dam (MAM). 6+ birds were at Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC). A hybrid with Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosa* was recorded near Raymond Terrace Sep 1 (MAM).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

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

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jan 6 (ALP), Pambalong N.R. Jun 30 and Ash Island Jul 7 (both OCG), and frequently at Morpeth STP (see Table 1). 51-100 birds were at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC), Raymond Terrace Jun 2 (MAM), Rathluba Lagoon Jul 23 (MAM) and Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA). 21-50 birds were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region. Breeding records from TWC and Fingal Bay over Sep-Oct.

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Counts were high at Morpeth STP early in the year, peaking at 242 birds Mar 18 (see Table 1). Birds were also frequently present at KI, with counts rising during the first 8 months of the year to 100+ birds present for several months (see Table 2) and peaking with a count of 192 birds Aug 22 (MOA). Most of the birds were using the Ash Island ponds and a nearby deep pond. Additional to the Table 2 data, 72 birds were recorded at Ash Island Mar 15 (MOA). Elsewhere, 18 birds were at TWC Jul 12 (BAW).

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

ID No: 211

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters throughout the Region as counts of up to 50 birds (*text modified*).

Notable records: Counts often numbered from many hundreds up to 1000+ at both Ash Island and Morpeth STP (see Tables 1 and 2; also many other records were received of high counts at Ash Island). Elsewhere, 1000+ birds were at Lenaghans Flat during Sep (several reports), 120+ birds at Pambalong N.R. Mar 10 (MOA), 170 birds at Newline Road Raymond Terrace Sep 17 and 140 birds at Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 27 (both MAM). In addition, there were 12 reports of 51-100 birds and 30 reports of 21-50 birds, from the E and central parts of the Region. Birds were with ducklings at Arrowfield Jan 18 and May 2 (ALP).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

ID No: 210

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident (*Revised*). Regularly recorded at medium to large waters in E of the Region as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: Counts often numbered from many hundreds up to 1500+ at Ash Island during Feb-Aug (see Table 2; also many other records were received of high counts at the Ash Island ponds over this period including a report from CBOC of 3000+ birds there Feb 14. Elsewhere, 2,000 birds were flying over at Violet Hill MLNP (Q7) Jun 10 (HBOC). 100+ birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 3 and Mar 10 (MOA), Irrawang Swamp Aug 15 (MAM) and Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA), and 51-100 birds at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jan 6 (ALP) and Morpeth STP Jun 24 (HBOC). Birds were with ducklings at Bolwarra Wetland Mar 20 (BPS), TWC Apr 8 (ROD) and Ash Island May 14 (MOA).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1993*).

No reports received for 2001.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

Counts often numbered from many hundreds up to 1000+ at Morpeth STP in the first half of the year (see Table 1). 300+ birds were at Warabrook Jul 27 & 31 (PHP, TAH). Around 200 birds were recorded at Ash Island Jul 8 (ROS), and 20+ birds there Jul 14 (OCG) and 12 birds Aug 29/30 (MOA). There were also several records of 1-5 birds at Ash Island – Feb 24 (HVS), Mar 25 (HBOC), May 14 (MOA), Jun 27 (ROS), Jul 7 (OCG, JED), Aug 16 (MOA). Elsewhere, 12 birds were at SBS Oct 12 (ROM/ROS), six birds at Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA) and two birds at both Irrawang Swamp Jun 4 (MAM) and Pokolbin Aug 1 (HED).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Past records

Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: An estimated 1000 birds were in the MLNP lake system over Apr-Dec, with numbers commencing to decline in Dec (TUD). Approx 1000 birds were also recorded at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jan 21 (LIA). Counts were high at Morpeth STP early in the year, peaking at 639 birds Mar 18 (see Table 1). Elsewhere, 100+ birds were recorded at Violet Hill MLNP (Q7) Jun 10 (HBOC), Stockton STP Aug 19 (ROM), and KI Nov 17 (HWS), 50+ birds at KI Jul 14 (OCG), and 21-50 birds at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC), Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA), Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG) and Seaham Swamp N.R. Oct 30 (MAM).

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 061

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at small to large waters as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Counts were high at Morpeth STP early in the year (see Table 1). 20-30 birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Apr 21 (MOA) and at Grahamstown Dam Jul 22, Oct 19 and Nov 4 (MAM). Many birds were in the MLNP lake system over Apr-Oct (TUD). Birds were with young at Arrowfield Feb 7 (ALP) and also bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

ID No: 062

HBOC Category: 2

Regional Breeding Status: Past records

Status: Bird of passage.

Counts were high at Morpeth STP early in the year (see Table 1). Ten birds were at KI Nov 17 (HWS), and 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region over Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec. Also, two birds were at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jan 21 (NEM). Winter records were of three birds at KI Jun 23 (HWS) and four birds at Violet Hill MLNP (Q7) Jun 10 (HBOC).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Single birds were recorded at Grahamstown Dam during Jul and in early Sep, and then an influx occurred commencing late Sep. From an initial three birds Sep 29, counts rose to a peak of 28 birds present over mid-late Oct (MAM). 15-20 birds remained through Nov and early Dec (all MAM records). The only other reports were from WWW, where up to 20 birds including some juveniles were recorded on several occasions over May/Jun (WMR, TAH, HBOC). Two chicks were present at Grahamstown Dam Dec 12 (MAM).

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

ID No: 005

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Local resident.

A single bird was recorded at Port Stephens heads Jul 19 (MAM) and two birds in the same area Nov 29 (JED).

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
 Status: Uncertain.

There were no confirmed records for 2001.

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

ID No: 937 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
 Status: Uncertain.

There were no confirmed records for 2001.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
 Status: Winter migrant at >5km from shore.

No reports received for 2001.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
 Status: Uncertain.

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 (HBOC).

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
 Status: Summer visitor and bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf (*Amended*).

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28, and two birds on another survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

Table 1 Morpeth STP Waterbirds: 2001 Survey Results

	Feb 17	Mar 18	Apr 21	May 5	Jun 23	Jul 22	Aug 26	Sep 29	Oct 15	Nov 23	Dec 7
Musk Duck	6	9	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Black Swan	209	254	183	97	30	11	30	49	100	443	365
Aust. Wood Duck	24	8	4	50	12	3	0	5	13	12	0
Pacific Black Duck	188	85	117	66	59	19	82	67	122	41	36
Aust. Shoveler	32	242	51	29	2	10	3	0	0	0	7
Grey Teal	116	53	94	302	295	413	304	1060	488	59	221
Chestnut Teal	347	62	41	58	19	37	54	67	31	115	48
Pink-eared Duck	191	465	699	1010	130	64	0	0	2	2	2
Hardhead	106	639	209	214	19	22	4	24	3	4	0
Aust. Grebe	71	39	46	79	3	20	0	6	0	0	0
Hoary-headed Grebe	6	56	41	64	11	2	0	1	1	0	0
Aust. Pelican	39	50	31	8	4	8	16	14	21	32	17
Eurasian Coot	33	278	121	221	59	73	161	85	15	18	23
Black-winged Stilt	19	150	90	51	82	73	87	140	149	52	16
Masked Lapwing	40	31	6	264	59	45	25	92	39	18	24

Table 2 Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands: 2001 Surveys
(Surveys conducted at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites)

	Jan 20	Feb 24	Mar 10	Apr 21	May 26	Jun 23	Jul 21	Aug 18	Sep 22	Oct 20	Nov 17	Dec 15
Musk Duck	0	0	0	0	5	2	4	4	0	1	2	0
Black Swan	n.c.	3	47	27	58	52	78	23	23	220	230	212
Aust. Wood Duck	0	0	0	5	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	5
Pacific Black Duck	n.c.	0	22	15	0	2	12	5	12	2	12	3
Aust. Shoveler	n.c.	5	26	32	37	133	133	0	0	0	2	0
Grey Teal	n.c.	32	20	112	200	53	1177*	169	0	0	0	218
Chestnut Teal	n.c.	985	210	1057	100	886	500*	403	0	2	227	505
Pink-eared Duck	n.c.	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardhead	n.c.	0	0	6	10	0	29	0	0	0	102	0
Aust. Grebe	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	5	0	0	0	10	2
Hoary-headed Grebe	n.c.	2	0	0	4	3	2	2	0	3	10	2
Aust. Pelican	128	207	85	63	68	41	61	111	43	84	114	265
White-faced Heron	n.c.	45	48	196	113	116	66	53	44	69	43	72
Little Egret	n.c.	18	6	3	3	6	4	1	1	8	10	7
White-necked Heron	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	3	1	0
Great Egret	n.c.	12	7	11	6	5	6	3	2	8	9	9
Intermediate Egret	n.c.	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	14
Australian White Ibis	81	56	64	60	147	72	27	45	58	93	32	39
Straw-necked Ibis	0	0	1	9	4	6	0	29	0	18	18	0
Royal Spoonbill	n.c.	41	68	35	29	44	21	30	28	20	30	53
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1

n.c = not counted

*These are the counts as reported; they differ in the relative numbers of the two teal spp from reports in other months and it is possible that there may have been some misidentifications due to Chestnut Teal being in eclipse plumage.

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*

ID No: 971 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter visitor at and beyond the continental shelf (*Amended*).

100+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jun 8, and 3-4 birds on other surveys of this area Aug 11 and Sep 15 (HBOC).

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

ID No: 078 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant at >5km from shore, except nocturnally at its breeding grounds.

An estimated 1025 breeding pairs now utilise Cabbage Tree Island. In December, 538 nest sites were found to contain eggs (ROS).

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received for 2001.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

ID No: 083 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant at >10 km from shore.

13 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC).

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Spring visitor at >10km from shore.

No reports received for 2001.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received for 2001.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

ID No: 069 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Often recorded in counts of several hundred birds during Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. (*Amended*)

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

Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 (HBOC).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Summer migrant at >1km from shore (*Revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*)

Around 100 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28, and 30+ birds on a similar survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

ID No: 070 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

No reports received for 2001.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common spring/summer migrant. Often recorded in flocks of up to 100 birds during Sep-Nov (*Amended*).

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

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage.

100+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC) and several hundred birds were sighted off Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC). 12 birds were near the Forster/ Tuncurry breakwater Aug 26 (TUD). Some birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 and SE of Swansea Sep 15 (HBOC).

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

Several hundred birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 15, and two birds on a survey to the same area Aug 11 (HBOC).

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

ID No: 086 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

No reports received for 2001.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Common winter migrant. Regularly recorded during Apr-Nov, including from land.

Seven birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach Aug 6 (LIT). Six birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 and a single bird on another survey to this area Jun 8 (HBOC).

Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*

ID No: 091 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC).

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Common winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

Three birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach Aug 6 (LIT). Five birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 and a single bird on another survey to this area Jun 8 (HBOC).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncertain.

25+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 15, 12 birds on the corresponding Aug 11 survey and two birds on the Jan 28 survey (all HBOC).

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

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

Not recorded since 1994.

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

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

73 birds were recorded off Hawks Nest Sep 4 (ROM) and 30+ birds on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 11 and Sep 15 (HBOC). 6+ birds were off Dudley (M10) Aug 16 (GJC). All other reports were of 1-5 birds: off Spoon Rocks (L11) Jun 17 (STA), Dudley Jun 20 (GJC), Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG), Fingal Bay (O9) Jul and Aug (FRN), Stockton Beach Aug 19 (ROM) and Hallidays Point (R5) Aug 18 (MVBW). *All records are from Jun-Sep – unusual compared to previous years.*

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Birds had nests with young at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC).

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

ID No: 100 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 100+ birds, with 50 nests, were recorded at Toronto Wetlands (L11) Jan 9 (MOA). 21-50 birds were at NWR Feb 6 (HBOC), Ash Island May 14, Jun 6 and Sep 13 (MOA, GJC), Violet Hill MLNP (Q7) Jun 10 (HBOC), Swansea Jun 15 and Nov 28 (GJC), Harrington Jul 21 (OCG) and Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 50+ birds were recorded at NWR Feb 6 (HBOC). 22 birds were present at Corrie Island (O8/9) Oct 28 (SVP) and 10-15 birds at KINR Jan 20 (HWS), Grahamstown Dam Jul 6 (MAM), Myall river (P8) Jul 11 (MAM) and Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

ID No: 097 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters, as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jan 6 (ALP), and 21-50 birds at NWR Feb 6 (HBOC), Harrington Jul 21 (OCG), Morpeth STP Sep 29 (NEM), Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC), and often at Grahamstown Dam Sep-Dec (MAM). There was a single nest at Toronto Wetlands (L11) Jan 9 (MOA).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

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

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 300 birds were recorded at Ash Island Feb 10 (LIA) and 106 birds there Mar 25 (HBOC). Substantial numbers were present in the Hunter estuary all year (for example, see Table 2), with birds usually concentrated onto the KI dykes and also the Ash Island ponds. Elsewhere, 50-60+ birds were at Rathluba Lagoon Jul 23 and Oct 9 (MAM) and 32 birds at Swansea Jun 15 (GJC).

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

ID No: 188 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, in counts of up to 20 birds at some favoured habitats (*text amended*).

Notable records: 100-200 birds were frequently recorded at Ash Island Apr-Jun (for example, see Table 2) and 50+ birds over Jun-Aug. 40+ birds were regularly there all year. Elsewhere, 100+ birds were in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG) and 50-55 birds at Wallalong Road (M9) May 19 (TAH) and Phoenix Park (M9) Sep 2 (MAM). 21-50 birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 3 (MOA), Morpeth STP Feb 17 (LIA), Stockton Sandspit Mar 6 (HBOC), Irrawang Swamp (M9) May 29 (MAM), One Mile Beach Forster Jun 17 (TUD), Phoenix Park Jul 7 (MAM) and Coralville (R3) Jul 21 (OCG). A bird was taken by a Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides* at East Maitland Jun 23 (MAM).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were often recorded on KI, especially Ash Island, peaking at 18 birds there Feb 24 (see Table 2). 6+ birds were also recorded at TWC Feb 6 and Stockton Sandspit Mar 6 (both HBOC). Birds again nested at TWC, with 2 nests there for the 01/02 season –compared with 6 nests the previous season (MAM).

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

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

No reports received for 2001.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

ID No: 189

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Bird of passage*). Moderately often recorded as 1-2 birds throughout the Region.

Notable records: There were many reports of 1-2 birds, particularly from the E of the Region. 3-5 birds were recorded at Parkville (H4) Jan 31 and May 29 (NEG), Arrowfield May 7 (ALP), Ash Island May 14 (MOA), Newline Road Seaham May 29 and Jul 26 (MAM), Pambalong N.R. Jul 30 (ROD) and Mount Thorley (J8) Aug 3 (ALP), and 6-8 birds at Newline Road Raymond Terrace Jun 2 (MAM), Bolwarra Wetland Jun 18 (BPS), Ash Island Jul 7 (OCG), Pambalong N.R. Aug 7 and Nov 4 (HBOC, BRG). Many birds were present in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG). Birds were reported to be nesting near Gloucester Dec 16 (BIA) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: 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: 18 birds were recorded at the Ash Island ponds May 14 (MOA) and 10-15 birds there Jan 3 and Sep 13 & 15 (MOA). 5+ birds were present there most months during regularly conducted surveys (see Table 2). Elsewhere, six birds were at Myall river (P8) Jul 11 (MAM) and five birds at Pambalong N.R. Jan 9 (MOA), and many birds were present in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG). **Breeding:** Birds again nested at TWC, with 16 nests there for the 01/02 season – compared with 26 nests the previous season (MAM). There were 40 nests at Toronto Wetlands Jan 9 (MOA); this breeding site was last noted in the 1999 Report.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: 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: 21 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Mar 18, and 17 birds there both Apr 21 and May 5 (LIA). 5+ birds were often recorded all year at Pambalong N.R. (several observers) and at Ash Island Apr 18/21 and Jul 7 (MOA, OCG) and Swansea South Jul 22 (HBOC). Four birds were at Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA). Birds again nested at TWC, with 14 nests there for the 01/02 season – compared with 21 nests the previous season (MAM).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: 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: 50-100+ birds were often recorded by day at locations in the Seaham/ Raymond Terrace area between mid-July and Oct. Up to 700 birds roosted by night at Seaham Swamp N.R. between mid-Jul and late Oct, and up to 300 birds at Wallalong (M9) in the same period. **Breeding:** Birds again nested at Seaham Swamp N.R., with 417 nests there for the 01/02 season – compared with 430 nests the previous season. There were 350 nests at TWC compared with 276 nests the previous season (all MAM records). Additionally, there were 200+ nests at Toronto Wetlands Jan 9 (MOA).

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

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

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

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

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

Birds were recorded all year at TWC, a usual roost site for the past several years, in counts of <30 birds; however, 293 birds were seen flying off at dusk from TWC Oct 22 and 184 birds Oct 24 (MAM). The maximum counts in previous years have been of <50 birds. Another regular roost site was at Raymond Terrace, where there was a peak count of 22 birds Jul 1 (MAM). Records from elsewhere were of 14 birds at Fern Bay Sep 22 (HWS) and ten birds at Seaham Swamp N.R. Nov 13 (MAM), and 1-5 birds at Toronto Wetlands Jan 9 (MOA), Swansea South Mar 6 and Jul 22 (HBOC), Mungo Brush MLNP Apr 27 (OCG), Harrington Jul 21 (OCG), Wingham Brush Jul 5 (MVBW), and Seaham Swamp N.R. during Oct (MAM).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

ID No: 195 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare (*probably overlooked*).

Not recorded since 1995.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Newcastle Uni Mar 12 (TAH) and Teralba (L10) Oct 5 (OCG).

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Local resident.

A single bird was often recorded at Ash Island over Jun-Oct (many observers). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Branxton (K9) Apr 8 (TAH), Wallis Lake (Q6) May 14 (BAA), WWW Jun 4 (WMR), the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG), Polblue swamp (K4) Oct 22 (MOA) and Awabakal N.R. Oct 28 (POJ).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

Up to 17 birds were often recorded at Pambalong N.R. over Nov-Dec, or at nearby Lenaghans Flat (many observers). 11 birds had also been at Lenaghans Flat Jan 7 (JED) and 6-9 birds there during Apr (ROS). 6+ birds were recorded in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Past records

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: Large numbers of *T. molucca* and *T. spinicollis* migrated to the lower Hunter valley, with the inward movement commencing in Jan and numbers falling away again in Aug-Sep. Four main night roosting sites of mixed flocks were identified – TWC, Irrawang Swamp, Tarro Swamp and Tomago. Numbers peaked in June, when around 20,000 birds were present including 13,509 birds at Irrawang and 4000-5,500 at TWC (WCN). There were many corresponding daytime records of 50-200 birds at or nearby to these locations, including often at Ash Island. Elsewhere, 150+ birds were recorded at Coralville (R3) Jul 21 (OCG) and Toronto Wetlands Jan 9 (MOA) – where there were approx 100 active nests.

It was reported that similar large migrations to the lower Hunter valley were noted in 1999 and 2000. The movement may well be a regular seasonal pattern (WCN).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

ID No: 180

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as <20 birds but with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: See comments above concerning the migration of large numbers of *T. molucca* and *T. spinicollis* to the lower Hunter valley, with four night roosting sites identified and numerous corresponding daytime records of 50-150 birds in mixed flocks at or nearby to those sites. 700+ birds were recorded feeding near Newline Road (M9) Aug 2 (MAM) and 575 birds at Morpeth STP May 5 (LIA). Elsewhere, 100-150+ birds were at Jerrys Plains Mar 7/8 and May 7 and Singleton May 23 (all ALP records), SBS Jul 15 (HAS), Mount Thorley (J8) Aug 3 (ALP) and in the Ellerston area (J3) Sep 2 (LIA).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

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

Notable records: 78 birds were recorded at Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA), and 21-50 birds at Seaham Swamp N.R. Jan 7 (JED), Ash Island Feb 8 (MOA), Stockton Sandspit Mar 10 (HWS), Raymond Terrace Jun 28 and Jul 1 (MAM), Lenaghans Flat Sep 1 (MAM) and Pambalong N.R. Nov 4 (BRG). **Breeding:** A pair was nesting at Morisset Jan 13, and again on Nov 29 (WMR); also, three pairs nested at Rathluba Lagoon during Jan – birds also bred there in 1999 and 2000 (per MAM).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

ID No: 182

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Bird of passage. Moderately often recorded throughout the Region as counts of 1-3 birds.

(Revised)

Notable records: 14 birds were recorded at Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA), and 4-6 birds at Parkville (H4) May 29 (NEG) and at some swamps in the Raymond Terrace area – Newline Road Swamp Jun 2 and Aug 20, Irrawang Swamp Oct 10 & 31 and Cox's Swamp Oct 19 (all MAM records).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

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

There were 26 records of 1-2 birds from 17 distinct locations in the E of the Region, all from the Hunter River and locations further north. Two pairs were at Ash Island Apr 25, within a few hundred metres of each other (OCG). Also see Supplementary Records.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Three birds were recorded in the Harrington area Oct 20 (OCG). Birds were on nests at Forster, Tuncurry and Cockatoo Island Wallis Lake (Q6) locations Aug 8 (all MVBW records), and had dependent young at Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG) and Forster Sep 6 (ROA).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Cundletown (R4) Jun 3 (MVBW) and Dungog Jul 1 (JED). Birds were nest building at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

ID No: 232 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Ash Island Mar 25 (HBOC) and four birds at Arrowfield June 5 (ALP). Birds were on nest at Ash Island Jan 3 (MOA) and West Waratah (M10) Nov 1 (STA).

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Local resident in the NE of the Region, rare elsewhere.

1-2 birds were often recorded in the East Maitland/Thornton/Bolwarra area over Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec (many observers). Other records were of single birds at Cundletown (R4) several times during Jan (MVBW), Morpeth STP Feb 17 (NEM/LIA), Newcastle Uni May 14 (TAH) and Coopernook S.F. Aug 2 (MVBW).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon visitor to W of the Region, elsewhere rare.

A single bird was recorded at Wingen Feb 11 (NEG) and two birds at Maitland Nov 3 (HEM).

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

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

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 11 and Apr 18 (ROD, MOA), and three birds at Irrawang Swamp Jan 6 (KDB) and Ash Island Sep 25 (MOA). There were several breeding records, spanning Feb, Jun and Sep-Dec.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

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

Two birds were recorded around Newcastle harbour Apr 11 and May 20 (NEM, HBOC), and a single bird there Jul 21 (HWS). All other records were from N of the Hunter River: 1-2 birds were at Harrington Jan 12 (MAM), Hallidays Point (R5) Apr 5 (MVBW) and Taree May 3 and Nov 1 (CBOC, MVBW), while a pair were reported to be resident in Booti Booti N.P. (TUD).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

ID No: 226 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Six immature birds were recorded at Ash Island Feb 24 (JED), and also four birds were there Feb 8 (MAM). Three birds were at Oyster Cove Sep 9 (BLM) and Fingal Bay Dec (FRN).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

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

Single birds were recorded at Tenambit (L9) Jan 11 (NEM), Wallarobba (M7) Jan 28 (per MEC), Scone Apr 12 (NEG), Ash Island Apr 26 (LAT), Bolwarra May 4 and Dec 28 (TAH, STA), Jerrys Plains May 18 (ALP), Arrowfield Aug 31 (MOA), Yarrawa Sep 20 and Dec 2 (TAH) and Martindale Dec 2 (HLC).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Ten birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp Jul 1 (MAM). Birds were nest building in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG) – *this is not considered sufficient evidence for a breeding record.*

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

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

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 8 (ROD) and near Warkworth Aug 5 (VEE). Birds were nesting at BbR Oct 2 (HBOC) and TWC Nov 15 (BRG), and a juvenile was at Cundletown (R4) Jul 24 (MVBW).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as single, grey phase birds.

Notable records: Two birds were recorded together at Tocal Apr 14 (TAH), TWC May 8 (LIA), BbR Jul 22 (LPC) and Quorrobolong Aug 4 (FOC). The Tocal record was of a white phase bird and a grey phase one. A pair was nesting at Mount Vincent during Oct/Nov (FIP) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record since at least the mid-1980's.*

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

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

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

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

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

Notable records: Ten birds were recorded at Curricabark Road (L3/M3) Aug 11 (BAA) and eight birds at Camerons Flat (I4) May 31 (BAA). 6+ birds were also at Bolwarra Aug 20 (BPS) and in the Ellerston area (K3) Sep 2 (LIA). Three birds were at Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA), Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), Arrowfield Jul 3 (ALP) and Yarrawa Sep 20 (TAH). The nearest coastal record was of a single bird at Raymond Terrace Mar 29 but birds were also several times recorded at nearby Glen Oak (MAM).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Single birds were occasionally but regularly recorded throughout the Region. Three birds were at Wingen Jul 28 (NEG), and two birds at Pambalong N.R. Mar 10 (MOA), Arrowfield Apr 5 (ALP), Bayswater Colliery Aug 25 (NEG) and near Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA). A pair again nested at Bayswater Colliery during Oct (NEG). A bird took a White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* at East Maitland Jun 23 (MAM).

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)
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: Four birds were recorded in the Ellerston area (K3) Sep 2 (LIA) and three birds at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG). A bird was on nest at Arrowfield Sep 28 and in early Nov had two young in the nest (ALP) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region since at least the mid 1980's.*

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

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

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E8) May 10 (NIJ) and two birds at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC) and Waitui mid-Sep (MVBW).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

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

Two birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains Aug 19, with one bird carrying an Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*. Single birds were recorded at Bayswater Colliery Feb 10 and Nov 8, and Aberdeen Apr 11 (all NEG records).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

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

Notable records: Birds were nesting at Tomago late Aug/early Sep (CLT/LIG).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra Wetland on four occasions over Mar-Aug (BPS), near Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA) and at Martindale Dec 7 & 9 (OCG). Three birds were at Ash Island Jul 22 (MOA) and Pokolbin Dec (HED). A bird was on nest at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

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

Two birds were recorded near Forster Jan 6 (MVBW) and at Ash Island Feb 24 (JED) and Cox's Swamp (M9) Oct 25 (MAM). Single birds were recorded several times at four locations – Pambalong N.R. (MOA), Ash Island (ROS, STA), Fingal Bay (FRN) and TWC (JED, WCR), and also at Dungog Jul 1 (JED). A dead bird was found at Newcastle Hospital, an unusual urban location, Oct 30 (per HAP). Birds were reported to have bred at TWC (WCR).

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

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

Three birds were heard calling at Copeland Tops S.F. Dec 15-16, and one bird was seen briefly (BIA).

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

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

Single birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Nov 4 (BRG) and Morpeth Nov 23 (LIA).

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

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

Up to four birds were often recorded at two locations on Ash Island (many observers). Four birds were also at a swamp at Gloucester Oct 22 (MOA), and two birds at Lenaghans Flat Jan 7 (JED). A dead bird was found at Sandgate Oct 26 (WCR).

Spotless Crane *Porzana tabuensis*

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

Six birds were recorded at a swamp at Gloucester Oct 22 (MOA). There were many reports of 1-2 birds during Jan, from local wetlands that were drying out – records were received for Pambalong N.R., (many observers), TWC (many observers) and Bangalay Reserve (LAK). Single birds were also recorded at Warabrook (M10) Apr 4 (NIJ), Morpeth STP Jun 24 (HBOC) and Ash Island Mar 3 and Nov 28 (CCFOC, CBOC).

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC), Pambalong N.R. and Lenaghans Flat Sep 1 (both MAM), and 20+ birds at Coralville (R3) Jul 21 (OCG). Birds were with chicks at Nulama Wetlands (Q4/R4) Jun 7 (MVBW) and Booti Booti N.P. Dec 7 – this was the first breeding record for the Park (TUD). Birds also bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

ID No: 056 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 20+ birds were recorded at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC) and Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA). Birds were with chicks at TWC Jan 4 (ROD), Arrowfield May 2 (ALP) and Pokolbin Oct (HED).

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Not recorded
Status: Accidental.

A single bird was often recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1-7 (several observers), and a single bird was at Martindale Feb 17 (TAH).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

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

Notable records: An estimated 1000 birds were together at Bombah Point MLNP over Apr-Dec (TUD). Around 500 birds were recorded at Ellalong Lagoon Aug 14 (MEJ) and 300 birds at Lake Liddell Dec 28 (STA). 100+ birds were often at Rathluba Lagoon over Jul-Nov, with the count peaking at 230 birds Oct 9 (MAM). 100+ birds were also at a pond on KI Jul 14 (OCG) and Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG). 51-100 birds were at Warabrook (M10) Apr 4 (NIJ), Rathluba Lagoon Jul 7 and Dec 3 (MAM), SBS Jul 15 (HAS) and Lenaghans Flat Sep 25 (MOA). Birds were reported to have bred at TWC (WCR).

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa*

ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1999*).

No reports received for 2001.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

ID No: 018 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1996*).

No reports received for 2001.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Three birds were recorded at Bulga Aug 5 (VEE) and a single bird at Booti Booti N.P. Oct 13 (MVBW).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Jan to mid-Mar and from late Aug onwards.

Notable records: Only 35 birds were present at Pambalong N.R. during an annual survey there Dec 8 (HBOC) – this was the lowest count in four years of surveying. 20+ birds were present at Pambalong N.R. during Jan (MOA), and 10 birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 12 (MAM).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded every month (see Table 3), although only 1-2 birds over-wintered. The count from the March 10 survey was low, but 130+ birds were recorded next day roosting in the usual location on KI (MOA). No birds were recorded at Worimi N.R. during the regular surveys, but a single bird was there Oct 21 (ROS).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 and at Worimi N.R. Port Stephens during monthly surveys (see Tables 3 & 4) and with many corresponding reports from other observers. Elsewhere, 30 birds were recorded at Corrie Island (08/9) Jun 24, 78 birds there Aug 12 and 80 birds Oct 28 (SVP), and ten birds at Coon Island Swansea Jul 15 (HAS).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

ID No: 151 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

Three birds were recorded at Ash Island Oct 28 (HHB). Also see Supplementary Records.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Jul-Sep during monthly surveys in the Hunter estuary (see Table 3) and frequently also at Worimi N.R. (Table 4) albeit in low counts. However, counts outside of the surveys were sometimes greater. Thus, 60 birds were recorded in the KI area Mar 11 (MOA), 20 birds at Stockton Jul 24 (NBL), 1-2 birds at Ash Island Aug 29/Sep 8 (MOA) and two birds at Worimi N.R. Oct 21 (ROS). Elsewhere, 13 birds were at Harrington Jan 12 (MAM) and 11 birds at Corrie Island (08/9) Oct 28 (SVP).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 regularly recorded in the Hunter estuary and at Worimi N.R. Port Stephens during monthly surveys (see Tables 3 & 4) and with many corresponding reports from other observers. Elsewhere, eight birds were recorded at Corrie Island (08/9) Jun 24 and 34 birds there Oct 28 (SVP).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded during Jan-Feb, Apr and Sep-Dec (see Table 3), and with many corresponding reports from other observers. However, some counts outside of the surveys were greater: 6-8 birds were recorded at Ash Island late Apr (MOA, LAT) and 15-16 birds there late Sep (MOA). Elsewhere, 10+ birds were recorded at Morpeth STP from late Sep onwards, with the count peaking at 43 birds Nov 23 (LIA). Four birds were at Irrawang Swamp Nov 1 (MAM) and three birds at TWC Dec 30 (BAW).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded every month except May (see Table 3), and with many corresponding reports from other observers. However, some counts outside of the surveys were greater: 24 birds were recorded at Ash Island Sep 2 & 11 (ROS) and a single bird at Ash Island May 24 (MOA). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Aug 26, Sep 29 and Oct 15 (LIA, NEM), and Worimi N.R. Feb 24 (HVS).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Sep 13 (LIA) and then by many observers over the next two days. *This record is of national significance, and a report was submitted to BARC (Birds Australia Records Committee).*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

A single bird was recorded at Pambalong N.R. over Jan 1-3 (several observers).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded during Jan-Apr and Oct & Dec (see Table 3). However, some counts outside of the surveys were greater: 12 birds were recorded at KI Mar 3 (CBOC), 23 birds at Stockton Sandspit Mar 25 (HBOC), four birds at Fern Bay Apr 2 (HLC) and a single bird there Sep 2 (ROS). Elsewhere, some birds were at Old Bar (R4) Feb 1 (MVBW).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

1-2 birds were sometimes recorded at three locations in the Hunter estuary (the KI dykes, Hunter River Stockton Wreck and Scotts Point Ash Island) over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec (HWS). In total, four birds are considered likely to have been present.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant. Occasionally recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded every month with a decline in numbers during winter (see Table 3). However, some counts outside of the surveys were greater. Thus, at the usual Fern Bay roost site, 11 birds were recorded Mar 25 (HBOC), 16 birds Apr 2 (HLC) and five birds Jun 27 (ROS). Some birds were also recorded at Worimi N.R. over Jun-Aug and in Dec (Table 4) and 34 birds there Oct 21 (ROS). Elsewhere, eight birds were at Coon Island Swansea Jul 15 and four birds there Jul 22 (HAS, HBOC).

Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanus*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1999*)

No reports received for 2001.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

28-29 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Mar 16 and Apr 2 (ROS, JED). 1-5 birds were at Newcastle Baths Jul 13 (WMR), Moon Island Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC), KI Oct 20 and Dec 15 (HWS) and Ash Island Dec 2 (STA).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded during Feb-Apr and Sep- Dec (see Table 3). However, one count outside of the surveys was greater: 12+ birds were at KI dykes Mar 11 (MOA). Elsewhere, two birds were at Coon Island Swansea Jun 22 (STA).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

Small numbers were recorded during Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec from monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary (see Table 3). Counts during the passage migration peaked at 1100 birds Sep 22 (HWS), with the earliest record of the migration being of 400 birds at Stockton Sandspit Sep 8 (LIA).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded over Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec (see Table 3), and with many corresponding reports from other observers. However, some counts outside of the surveys were greater. Five birds were at Ash Island May 14 (MOA), and three birds there Aug 29 and over subsequent days, increasing to seven birds by Sep 14 (MOA). In the same period, nine birds were recorded at Stockton Sep 11 (ROS). 94 birds were at Ash Island Dec 31 (STA/WMR). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Mar 16 (ROS), Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC), Irrawang Swamp (M9) Oct 31 and Nov 1 (MAM), Bedminster Swamp (M9) Oct 31 (MAM), Saltwater Reserve (R4) Nov 17 (MVBW) and occasionally at Worimi N.R. (Table 4), while seven birds were at Corrie Island (08/9) Oct 28 (SVP). The Newcastle Baths record is an unusual location.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

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

Four birds were recorded at Worimi N.R. Dec 16 (HAS) and single birds at Ash Island Jan 4 & 11 (STA, LIA) and Morpeth STP Dec 7 (LIA).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

ID No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec (see Table 3), and with many corresponding reports from other observers. However, there also were many records of much greater counts. Thus, 400-500 birds were recorded at Ash Island Jan 4 & 11 (STA, LIA), Nov 30 (MOA) and Dec 31 (STA, WMR). There were several records of 20+ birds there during the first half of Sep, with the counts peaking at 78 birds Sep 8 and 90 birds Sep 25 (MOA). 10-20 birds were often recorded at Ash Island over Apr to mid-May (MOA). Elsewhere, birds were recorded regularly at Morpeth STP, from an initial two birds there Aug 26 increasing steadily to a peak count of around 200 birds there Nov 23 and Dec 7 (LIA, NEM). Thirteen birds were also at SBS Nov 3 (ROS).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded over Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec (see Table 3), and with many corresponding reports from other observers. Additionally, 63 birds were recorded at Ash Island May 14 (MOA) and single birds at Fern Bay/Stockton Sandspit Jun 27 and Jul 2 (ROS). Elsewhere, some birds were regularly recorded at Morpeth STP over Sep-Dec, with the count peaking at ten birds Oct 15 (LIA, NEM).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

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

There were no confirmed records.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

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

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island over Sep 10-12 (MOA, BAR, OCG) and again over Sep 23-26 (CBOC, MOA, VEE).

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

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

A pair of birds was recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1-3 (several observers).

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

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

Single birds were recorded near Waitui Jun 9/11 (CBOC) and at Rathluba Lagoon Jul 16 & 23 (ROS, MAM), and two birds at Lenaghans Flat Sep 1 (MAM, NEM).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

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

Two pairs were recorded at Tanilba Bay during Oct and birds were nesting there (BLM).

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Harrington Sep 26 and Oct 20 (MVBW, OCG). An article by H Hole, B Hole and C Mardell (*Australian Bird Watcher*, 2001, 19, 49-54) described a breeding success at Farquhar Inlet in the mouth of the Manning River (R4) during May 2001.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

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

1-5 birds were often recorded throughout the year. 6-10 birds were at Worimi N.R. Feb 14, Sep 22 and Dec 16 (BLM, HWS). 11 birds were recorded at Stockton Bight Dec 3 (HLC), 13 birds at Birubi Point Jul 18 (MAM) and Worimi N.R. Aug 20 (HWS), and 18 birds at Corrie Island (08/9) Aug 12 (SVP).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

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

Records were moderately often received from ten locations throughout the year, mostly of 1-2 birds. Three birds were at Corrie Island (08/9) Aug 12 (SVP) and five birds at Nobbys Head (M10) Apr 21 (CRL). Counts were sometimes greater at Newcastle Baths, with seven birds there Jul 13 (WMR), eight birds Mar 16 & 22 (ROS, LIA), and eleven birds Dec 1 (BLM).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

ID No: 146 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: In monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded all months and mostly in counts of many hundreds (see Table 3), and with many corresponding reports from other observers. This was the most consistent presence in the Hunter estuary for several years. Elsewhere, 100+ birds were recorded at Lenaghans Flat Jun 11 and Sep 1 (MAM) and Morpeth STP Oct 15 (LIA), and 21-50 birds at Newline Road Raymond Terrace (M9) Jun 2 (MAM), Morpeth STP Jun 24 (HBOC), Pambalong N.R. Aug 7 (HBOC) and Irrawang Swamp (M9) Nov 27 (MAM). Birds had nests at Ash Island ponds Jan 3 (MOA) and Robinsons Swamp Oct 7 (MAM), and were with dependent young at Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC).

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Worimi N.R. Jan 20 (HWS) and at Ash Island over Nov 26-Dec 15 (MOA, LIA, HWS).

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

ID No: 148 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage.

Birds were recorded in counts of < 30 at locations in the Hunter estuary over Jan-Mar (several reports). Numbers then rose to in excess of 1600 birds present for 6 months (see Table 3; there were many corresponding reports). The pattern of the influx generally followed that seen in 1999. The only records from elsewhere were of a single bird at Bolwarra Jan 2 (HEM) and two birds at SBS Jun 22 and Jul 1 (ROS).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

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

Birds were occasionally recorded in monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, with 209 birds present Feb 24 but mostly as low counts (see Table 3). However, some birds were overlooked in the surveys as other records provided greater counts. 15+ birds were often present at Ash Island during Apr and until May 14, with a peak count of 32 birds Apr 18 (MOA). 3-4 birds were again there frequently from mid-Aug, rising to a peak of 17 birds Sep 25 (MOA, ROS). 48 birds were at Scotts Point Ash Island Dec 2 (STA). Elsewhere, two birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Oct 15 (LIA) and 20+ birds at Harrington Oct 20 (OCG). "Winter" records were of single birds at Stockton Sandspit Jun 9 (ROM) and regularly at Worimi N.R. (see Table 4).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Nov 5 (HEC).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

ID No: 143 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded along the coast, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 54 birds were recorded at Worimi N.R. Apr 22 and 16 birds there Sep 22, and 14 birds at Ash Island Apr 21 (see Tables). Ten birds were at Hawks Nest Jan 20 (JED).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant.

28 birds were recorded at Stockton Beach May (BAR), and 18-22 birds at Worimi N.R. during Jun/Jul (HWS). Ten birds were at Coon Island Swansea Jul 15 (HAS), six birds at Morpeth STP Jun 23-24 (LIA, HBOC) and four birds at Corrie Island (O8/9) Aug 12 (SVP). Single birds were at Ash Island Mar 31 and Apr 8 (ROS) and Moon Island Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC).

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at Hawks Nest Jan 20 (JED). There were several records from Worimi N.R. – of 22 birds there Jan 20, a single bird Jun 4, two birds Jun 23 and Jul 21 and seven birds Nov 17 (HWS).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 10+ birds were frequently recorded at Ash Island during Feb-Jul, and with 30-40 birds there during Apr (HWS, MOA, OCG). 60+ birds were at Pambalong N.R. Jan 3 and 40+ birds still were present Jan 9 (MOA). 38 birds were at Morpeth STP Jun 23 and 41 birds Jul 22 (LIA). 21 birds were at SBS Jul 15 (HAS) and 15-20 birds at TWC late Jan-Feb 7 (BAW, BRG). Birds had a dependent young at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

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

10+ birds were frequently recorded at Ash Island during May-Sep, with a peak count of 15 birds there Aug 3 (several reports). 6-10 birds were at SBS Nov 3 (ROS), Morpeth STP Nov 23 (LIA), TWC Nov 15 & 23 (BRG, WCR) and Irrawang Swamp Dec 21 (MAM). 1-5 birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1 (OCG), Seaham Swamp N.R. and Lenaghans Flat Jan 7 (JED), TWC Nov 1 (BAW), Robinsons Swamp Glen Oak Oct 11 & 27 (MAM), and often at Morpeth STP during Jun-Dec (LIA) and Irrawang Swamp during Nov/Dec (MAM). Birds had a nest with eggs at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

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

15+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra over Dec 11-22, with the count peaking at 25 birds Dec 18 (TAH, ROS, STA). The birds were not able to be located in the area subsequently.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 50+ birds were regularly recorded at Hunter estuary roost sites during Jan-Apr (see Table 3) and at Pambalong N.R. Jan 3 (MOA), Ash Island Sep 25 (MOA) and Phoenix Park Seaham (M9) Jun 29 (MAM). 21-50 birds were often recorded at Ash Island all year and at Pambalong N.R. Jan 8/9 (ROD, MOA), TWC Feb 6 (HBOC), Phoenix Park Seaham Jul 23 (MAM), KI Sep 25 (MOA), Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG), Harrington Oct 20 (OCG) and Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC). Birds had a nest with eggs at Ash Island May 14 (MOA), and there were many breeding records spanning Jul-Nov.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua* (for consistency we are continuing with this taxonomy, but we anticipate that this will soon be elevated to specific status as **Brown Skua** *Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi*)
ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain (*New to list*)

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 11 and Sep 15 (HBOC).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*
ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

2+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 and 5+ birds on a similar survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*
ID No: 128 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Single birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC) and off the coast from Marks Point Dec 5 (CJB). 2-3 birds were nearly always present in Newcastle harbour during the migration season (LIT).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*
ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No confirmed reports received since 1997.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*
ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received since 1998.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*
ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 3000 pairs were nesting on Moon Island Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC). 500+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Apr 21 (MOA), c 400 birds at KI Dec 15 (HWS), 300+ birds at Stockton Beach Jul 1 (MAM) and Coon Island Jul 15 (HAS), and 200+ birds at KINR Feb 24 and Oct 20 (HWS) and during a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC). Another 10 reports of 100+ birds were received.

Table 3 Hunter Estuary Wader Surveys*(Surveys conducted at high tide roost sites)*

	Jan 20	Feb 24	Mar 10	Apr 21	May 26	Jun 23	Jul 21	Aug 18	Sep 22	Oct 20	Nov 17	Dec 15
Black-tailed Godwit	200	106	30	7	2	1	1	2	27	3	150	185
Bar-tailed Godwit	1204	1400	1100	260	400	300	250	300	500	1073	1352	1160
Whimbrel	6	12	6	21	11	30	0	0	0	87	180	32
Eastern Curlew	492	438	236	90	121	163	126	321	430	420	614	786
Marsh Sandpiper	13	38	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	8	35	90
Common Greenshank	152	156	101	24	0	5	2	8	81	50	126	174
Terek Sandpiper	68	61	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	33
Grey-tailed Tattler	13	23	5	7	5	1	6	9	15	26	36	26
Great Knot	0	4	7	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	8
Red Knot	10	31	4	0	0	0	0	0	1100	459	25	97
Red-necked Stint	25	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	46	54	64
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	51	22	28	3	0	0	0	0	0	49	46	251
Curlew Sandpiper	350	132	0	0	0	0	0	4	100	253	450	439
Black-winged Stilt	222	552	216	159	360	445	495	411	176	92	256	332
Red-necked Avocet	0	0	13	90	800	1611	1725	1691	1621	2000	1600	1200
Pacific Golden Plover	60	209	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	42	0	1
Red-capped Plover	4	1	0	14	0	5	0	2	2	0	0	1
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	14	1	30	13	16	3	4	0	0	6	0
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	12	11	9	10	0	2	0	0
Masked Lapwing	63	62	72	65	14	22	31	16	17	32	35	39

Table 4 Wader Surveys at Worimi Nature Reserve*(Surveys conducted at high tide)*

	Jan 20	Feb 24	Apr 22	Jun 4	Jun 23	Jul 21	Aug 20	Sep 22	Oct 21	Nov 17	Dec 16
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	149	55	57	40	87	c 300	c 300	c 500	300+	89	101
Whimbrel	5	2	0	12	8	4	5	1	0	4	1
Eastern Curlew	218	238	170	117	88	205	410	400+	400+	426	333
Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Greenshank	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terek Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey-tailed Tattler	3	0	0	0	16	26	27	0	0	13	14
Great Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Stint	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-winged Stilt	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Avocet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Golden Plover	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	7	0
Red-capped Plover	2	0	54	10	8	0	1	16	0	26	0
Black-fronted Dotterel	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	0	2	0	2	4	3	4	2	2	6	6+

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

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

1-5 birds were often recorded at locations in the KI area (Ash Island, Stockton, KINR) over Mar-Oct, and 6-8 birds on Jun 23, Jul 21 and Aug 19 (HWS, ROM). Around 50 birds were recorded at Ash Island Sep 14 & 16 (ROS, CHM), with 21 birds also present at Stockton Sandspit Sep 11 (ROS) and 15+ birds at KI Sep 23 (CBOC). Elsewhere, a single bird was recorded at Worimi N.R. Jun 23 and three birds there Aug 20 (HWS).

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

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

1-5 birds were often recorded at large waters near to the coast. Counts were higher during winter, with 6-10 birds at KINR May 26 and Jun 23 (HWS), Coon Island Swansea Jun 22 (STA), Morpeth STP Jun 23/24 (LIA, HBOC), Corrie Island (08/9) Jun 24 (SVP) and Worimi N.R. Jun 23 (HWS), 11 birds at Morpeth STP Jul 22 and 13 birds there Aug 26 (LIA), 13 birds at Worimi N.R. Jul 21 and 17 birds there Aug 20 (HWS).

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

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

Notable records: 50-55 birds were recorded at Stockton STP Aug 19 (ROM) and on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC), and 100+ birds at Newcastle Baths Jul 13 (WMR). A bird taken into care at Wangi Wangi (L11) Feb 2 had been banded as a chick at Phillip Island Victoria Nov 3 1999 (NATF).

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant (*probably under-reported*).

40 birds were recorded off Stockton Beach Aug 19 (ROM) and six birds near the Forster/ Tuncurry breakwater Aug 26 (TUD). Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 15 (HBOC), two birds at Newcastle Baths Jul 21 (ROS) and single birds at Worimi N.R. Jun 23 (HWS) and Stockton Beach Jul 1 (MAM).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

There were some large counts around Newcastle harbour and nearby beaches, with 180+ birds recorded Jan 22 (LAK), 50+ birds Mar 5 (LAK), 30+ birds Mar 11 (MOA), 80 birds Mar 22 (LIA) and 20+ birds Dec 4 (HBOC). All other records were of 1-5 birds: at Croki (R4) Feb 17 (OCG), Nobbys Beach Apr 2 (LAK), Newcastle Harbour Nov 4 (BRG) and Grahamstown Dam Nov 22 (MAM).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Harrington Oct 20 (OCG), and birds were breeding there Dec 1 (MVBW). Birds did not nest at usual location at Forster and no other nesting sites were able to be located in the Forster or Myall Lakes N.P. areas (TUD).

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

7+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 and an adult and a juvenile bird on a similar survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

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

38 birds were recorded at Ash Island Oct 29/30 and nine birds there Sep 14 (ROS). 1-5 birds were at Wallarobba (M7) Jan 1 (MEC), Grahamstown Dam Jul 1 & 6 and Sep 30 (MAM, CBOC) and Ash Island May 14 and Sep 10-13 (MOA).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant (*probably under-recorded*).

Six birds were recorded at Newcastle harbour or nearby beaches Mar 11 & 16 (MOA, ROS), and 12 birds were there Mar 22 (LIA). Two birds were at Ash Island Nov 16 (CBOC) and some birds were also present there Sep 11 (OCG).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1999*)

No reports received for 2001.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1995*)

No reports received for 2001.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 50 birds were recorded at Stockton Jul 1 (MAM).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Glen William (M8) Apr 18 (NIJ), Johns River (S3) Apr 21 (MVBW), Charlestown Jul 1 (WMR), Lansdowne N.R. (Q4) Jul 21 (OCG), Hallidays Point (R5) Aug 18 (MVBW), Kotara (M10) Sep 18 and Oct 1 (NIJ, OCG), Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 28 (GED), Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC) and Copeland Tops S.F. Dec 15-16 (BIA).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 TWC Feb 6 (HBOC). Birds were reported to have bred at TWC during 2001 (BAW).

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

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

34 birds were feeding together at Copeland Tops S.F. Dec 15-16 (BIA) and 6+ birds were recorded in this area Feb 25 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were occasionally but widely recorded.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded near Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jul 22 (JUT) and a single bird at Myall Lakes N.P. Jan 6 (JDB).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), and 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded throughout the Region.

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Rocky Point Nelson Bay Feb 14 (LAK), Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) Jul 21 (OCG), two locations near Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Oct 21 (ROS) and Awabakal N.R. Oct 28 and Dec (POJ, GJC).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA), Harrington Oct 20 (OCG) and East Newcastle Dec 4 (HBOC). Birds were displaying at Pokolbin Aug 1 and had a nest with young there Oct (HED).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Not recorded
Status: Rare (*last recorded in 1995*).

No reports received for 2001.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

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

The only record received was of some birds at Croki (R4) Feb 17 (OCG).

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Belmont Swamp Apr (LAK), Fingal Bay Jul/Aug (FRN) and Harrington Oct 20 (OCG).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

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

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records (*Revised*)
Status: Local resident.

Six birds were recorded at Copeland S.F Dec 15-16 (HBOC, BIA), and 1-2 birds at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Jan 5 and Oct 28 (LIA, GED), Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC) and Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA). Three birds were at Allyn River Forest Park Oct 8 (GED). Also see Supplementary Records.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

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

There were no confirmed records.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Local resident and bird of passage.

100+ birds were recorded at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 28 (GED) and 21 birds at Nulama Wetlands (Q4/R4) Jun 7 (MVBW). 11-20 birds were at MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC), BBNP Jul 25 & Aug 11 (TUD) and Wallarobba (M7) Sep 30 (MEC), and <10 birds at Myall River S.F. (O7) Mar 17 (HBOC), Swansea South Jul 22 (HBOC), BBNP Sep 3 & 18 (TUD), Allyn River Forest Park Oct 8 (GED), Martins Creek Nov 10 (NEM) and Copeland Tops S.F. Dec 15-16 (BIA).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

ID No: 265 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Eight adults and two dependent young were at Wyee Point Feb 16 and 2-7 birds were often recorded at this location over Jun-Oct (MDV). Six birds were at Fingal Bay Dec (FRN), five birds at Woko N.P. (M3) Jan 27 (CBOC) and four birds at Bulga Aug 5 (CBOC). 1-3 birds were occasionally recorded at other locations in the central and E of the Region.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 25 birds were recorded at Bolwarra Feb 23 (GEP) and 27-28 birds at TWC Aug 16 & 23 (BAW, LPC). A pair were with a single dependent young at Copeland Feb 25 (HBOC) and also were reported to be nesting at East Maitland during Jun (per MAM).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

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

All records were from Laguna, with eight birds there Apr 20-22 and Dec 7-9, and 1-3 birds present Jan 13-14, Feb 2-4, Mar 10-11, Apr 6-8, Jul 20-22 and Aug 17-19 (RDB).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 100+ birds were recorded at Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA) and 60+ birds at Redhead Aug 11 (GJC). 21-50 birds were at Copeland area Feb 25 (HBOC), Bangalay Reserve (M11) May 1 (HBOC), Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), Redhead Sep (GJC), Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA), Singleton Sep 12 (ALP) and Awabakal N.R. Oct (GJC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Allworth (N8) Oct 21 (HBOC).

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

40+ birds were recorded at Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC) and 33 birds at Pokolbin Nov 30 (HED). Up to seven birds were present at Glen Oak (M8) in early Dec and 1-2 birds there Apr 23 and often during Oct-Dec (MAM). 6+ birds were at Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Raymond Terrace Oct 22 (MAM), Seaham Oct 23 (MAM), Pambalong N.R. Dec 8 (HBOC) and Pokolbin Dec (HED).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

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

120 birds were recorded at Swansea Jun 22 (STA) and 100+ birds at Jerrys Plains Jan 26 (ALP) and Tea Gardens Jul 9 (FOC). 50+ birds were at Arrowfield Jan 21 (ALP), Denman Aug 5 (HAS) and Jerrys Plains Aug 14 (ALP). 21-50 birds were present at Arrowfield Jan 11/12 (ALP), Jerrys Plains May 21, Sep 28 and Oct 15 & 31 (ALP), Ash Island Jul 21 (HWS), Awabakal N.R. Nov (GJC) and all year at Forster (TUD). Reports of lesser numbers were moderately often received.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

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

Notable records: 200+ birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains Feb 1 and May 7, and 120+ birds there Jan 17; also 50+ birds Feb 8 & 12, Mar 8, Sep 5 & 28 (ALP). 100+ birds were at Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA) and 50+ birds at Wingen Jul 1 (NEG) and Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA). 21-50 birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains Feb 15 (ALP), Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), Worimi N.R. Jul 21 (HWS), Redhead Oct (GJC), Awabakal N.R. Oct (GJC) and Martindale Dec 7 (OCG). Birds were nesting at Singleton Oct 27 & Nov 3 (ALP).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

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

Five birds were recorded 25km E of Blackville (D5) Sep 15 (JUT).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Swansea South Mar 6 (HBOC), Belmont Swamp Apr (LAK) and East Newcastle Dec 4 (HBOC).

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Diamond Beach (R5) Mar 13 (NEG), MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC) and East Newcastle Dec 4 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at East Newcastle and a pair were feeding fledged young at New Lambton Feb 23 (STA).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

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

Nine birds were recorded at Dungog Dec 10 (JED) and 1-5 birds at MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC), Telarah (K9) Apr (HUF), Wingen Jul 1 and Oct 28 (NEG), Pelton (K10) Aug 4 (TOM) and Cundletown (R4) late Dec (MVBW).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

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

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

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

ID No: 281 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 20+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG), and 10-20 birds at Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC), Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA) and Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA). Birds were feeding fledged young at New Lambton Dec 7 and Polblue swamp (K4) Dec 27 (STA).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA) and Polblue swamp (K4) Dec 27 (STA).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

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

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at Tahlee/Carrington (O9) Jun 30 (OCG), Wingen Jul 1 (NEG), Johns River (R3) Jul 21 (OCG), Wang Wauk S.F. (P6) Aug 4 (LIA), Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA), Ellerston area (J3) Sep 2 (LIA) and Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG). A bird was nesting at Polblue swamp (K4) Dec 27 (STA). A bird was taken by a Black Falcon *Falco subniger* at Jerrys Plains Aug 19 (NEG).

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

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

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Cessnock Jul 5 (MEJ) and 50-60+ birds at Gloucester Dec 23 (MCB) and Pokolbin Jun & Aug (HED). 21-50 birds were at Wallsend May 2 (GOC), Pokolbin Sep, Nov & Dec (HED) and Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA). Birds had dependent young at Pokolbin Dec (HED).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

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

14 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 25 (GED) and 10+ birds near Jerrys Plains Mar 27 (TAH). Present all year in MLNP with peak counts of eight birds (TUD). 6+ birds were at Martindale Dec 7 (OCG) and 1-5 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 26 and Aug 6 (HAS), Jerrys Plains area (G7) Jul 21 (TAH), GRNP (D7) Jul 28 (HAB), Quorrobolong Aug 4 (MOA), GRNP (C6) Sep 30 (ROM/ROS) and Martindale Dec 9 (OCG).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

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

A single bird was recorded at Green Wattle Creek (L9) Mar 4 (NEM).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

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

One and occasionally two birds were moderately often recorded from mid-Sep onwards. Some birds were at Raymond Terrace during Mar (MUJ), but otherwise there were no records for the first part of the year from after mid-Jan. Young birds were being fed by Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* at Cundletown (R4) Jan 8 (MVBW) and Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* at Widden Valley (E8) Dec 2 (TAH).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 3 and Dec 8 (MOA, HBOC), TWC Nov 2 (BAW) and Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC). Some birds, numbers not noted, were at Martindale Dec 9 (OCG).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA).

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

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

Single birds were recorded at Bulga Aug 5 (CBOC) and GRNP (C6) Sep 30 (ROM/ROS). Also see Supplementary Records.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

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

Single birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 3 (MOA), Hexham N.R. Jan 26 (LIA), Copeland Feb 25 (HBOC), Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA), Ash Island Sep 14 (MOA), Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC), Morpeth STP Oct 15 (LIA), Balickera Oct 17 (LIA) and KI Oct 20 (HWS). Two birds were at Morpeth STP Dec 7 (LIA).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

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

Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as 1-2 birds, and with 50% of the records being for the period May-Aug. Three birds were at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG) and 6+ birds at Myall River S.F. (07) Mar 17 (HBOC). A young bird was being fed by Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* at Widden Valley (E8) Dec 2 (TAH).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: A flock of 20+ birds was seen flying southwards near Coomba Park (R6) Sep (VEM). 6+ birds were recorded at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC). A bird was at Watagans S.F. Apr 15 (ROS) – late departure date. Also see Supplementary Records.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

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

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

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

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

Two birds were recorded at MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC) and Laguna Dec 7-9 (RDB), and a pair was with a juvenile at Green Point (L11) Nov (CBOC). Single birds were at Kotara Jan 17 (GIK), Laguna Apr 6-8 (RDB), BbR May 11 (LPC), Buttaba Aug 28 (GRL), Balickera Oct 10 (MUJ), Wallarobba (M7) Oct 20 (JUT), and often at Raymond Terrace Feb-Jun (MUJ). A dead bird was by the roadside at Palmers Creek Toronto (L10) Nov 30 (MOA).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

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

A single bird was recorded at Ellalong Oct 15 (MEJ).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

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

Notable records: A pair was with two fledged young at Shortland (M10) Dec 12 (STA) and there was also a breeding record from Toronto (L11) Nov 17 (BAA).

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Watagans S.F. Nov 3 (ROS), Mount Vincent (L10) Oct (FIP) and Telegraphy S.F. (M6) Oct 7 & 27 (ROS/ROM, HHB). Two birds were at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 7 (GED).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

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

Single birds were recorded at Morisset (K11) Jun 13 (HLC) and Medowie (N9) Aug (COD), and a dead bird by the roadside at Raymond Terrace Oct 21 (HEC).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident (*probably under-recorded*).

Single birds were recorded at East Maitland May 13 (SMJ), Bulga Jun 25 (NEG) and Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 27 (GED). A dead bird was found at KI Jul 10 (LIN) and an injured bird at Cooperook S.F. Aug 2 (MVBW).

Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

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

Not recorded since 1998.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

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

Notable records: There were several breeding records spanning Oct-Dec.

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant (*Amended*)

Single birds were recorded at Laguna Feb 2-4 (RDB) and at Bayswater Colliery Apr 19 and Sep 11 (NEG).

Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*

ID No: 331 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1989*).

No reports received for 2001.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Single birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Gap Creek Watagans N.P. Jan 5 (TOM), Laguna Jan 13-14 and Apr 6-8 (RDB), Wakefield (L10) Apr 6 (TOM), White Box Camp May 26 (HAS) and Cooperook S.F. (R3) Sep 19 (MVBW). Birds had a nest with two young at Tanilba Bay (N9) Oct (BLM).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 200+ birds were recorded at Awabakal N.R. Dec (GJC) and 100+ birds at Tanilba Bay (N9) Oct 28 (GED). 60 birds were at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Warkworth Feb 8 & 15 and Dec 19 (ALP), Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC), Arrowfield Mar 1 (ALP), Pambalong N.R. Mar 3 (CCFOC), two locations near Bulga Mar 9 (LIA), Myall River S.F. (O7) Mar 17 (HBOC) and Telegraphy Peninsula (O9) Oct 27 (CBOC).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

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

20+ birds were recorded at Awabakal N.R. Dec (GJC).

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

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

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

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

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

Notable records: Birds were reported to have bred at TWC in 2001 (BAW).

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

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

A single immature bird was at TWC Apr 15 (ROG) and then it or another bird was recorded often by several observers over May 16-30.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Winter records were of two birds at Worimi N.R. Jun 23 (HWS), and single birds at MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC) and Worimi N.R. Jul 21 and Aug 20 (HWS). Birds had a nest with young at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

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

Notable records: Ten birds were recorded at Awaba (L11) Mar 30 (TOM).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

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

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Barrington House Jan 5 (KDB).

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Jan 5 and Oct 8 & 28 (LIA, GED), Main Creek Dungog (M6) Jan 26 (JED), Woko N.P. (M3) Jan 27 (CBOC), Waitui Jun 9-11 and mid-Sep (CBOC, MVBW) and Telegraphy S.F. (M6) Oct 28 (HHB). Unusual coastal records were of a bird taken into care at Wangi Wangi (L11) Apr 23 and later released, and a bird, which later died, taken into care at Waratah (M10) late Apr (NATF).

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded during a survey of Wollemi N.P. May 12-13 (LIA). Four birds were at Laguna Jun 8/10 (RDB) and three birds there Feb 2-4 (RDB) and at The Firs Stewarts Brook S.F. (K4) Dec 28 (STA). A pair was with a dependent young at Laguna Aug 17-19 (RDB) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

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

Thirteen male birds were recorded in a survey of 68 sites in Barrington Tops N.P. Nov 24-25 (EKP). Birds were also at two locations at Gloucester Tops Nov 23 (BAA) and two locations on Careys Peak Trail Gloucester Tops Nov 25 (BAA).

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*

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

Notable records: Birds had a nest with young at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptis*

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

1-5 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Pheasants Creek Road (L4) Jan 24 (NEG), Mount Vincent (L10) Aug 3 (OCG), Copeland Tops Oct 19 (MOA), Polblue swamp (K4) Oct 21 (MOA), Barrington Trail (K4) Oct 21 (MOA), Careys Peak Trail (K5) Nov 25 (BAA) and Devils Hole Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) Dec 26 (STA).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 26 and Aug 6 (HAS).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

ID No: 529 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Mount Royal N.P. (K7) Apr 25 (NIJ), Ash Island Jul 7 (OCG) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG).

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC). Birds were carrying food at Allworth (N8) Oct 21 (HBOC) and had dependent young at Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC), Worimi N.R. Oct 21 (HWS) and Fingal Bay Nov (FRN).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Harrington Oct 20 (OCG) and 2+ birds at Woko N.P. (M3) Oct 22 (CBOC). Some birds were at Gloucester May (TAM) and Harrington Oct 1 (MVBW) – numbers were not noted. A bird was seen at Warakeila (L6) Apr 23 and then two birds at this location Oct 1 (NEM/LIA) – *this is a southern extension to the range in NSW.*

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Awaba (L11) Mar 30 (TOM), Raymond Terrace Mar (MUJ), Karuah N.R. (N8) Apr 3 (TOM), BBNP May and Oct 13 (MVBW), Violet Hill MLNP (Q7) Jun 10 (HBOC), Allworth (N8) Oct 21 (HBOC), Dawsons Hill (J6) Nov 17 (JUT) and Morisset Nov 29 (WMR). A pair was breeding near Wallarobba (M7) Oct 20 (JUT) and birds were also reported to have bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 in Wollemi N.P. (cell G8) May 12-13 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Swansea South Jul 22 (HBOC), had dependent young at Laguna Aug 17-19 (RDB) were on nest at Balickera (M9) Nov 21 (HBOC), and feeding a young Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* at Widden Valley (E8) Dec 2 (TAH).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded in the Ellerston area (J3) Sep 2 (LIA), and 6-20 birds at Wingen Mar 20 and Oct 28 (NEG), White Box Camp May 26 (HAS), Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG). Birds were on nest at Gloucester (N5) Sep 9 (THR).

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Howes Valley Mar 31-Apr 1 (FOC), Saddlers Creek GRNP Apr 9 (NEM), The Drift GRNP Apr 9 (NEM), Lees Pinch GRNP May 25 (GED), Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), Wingen Jul 1 (NEG), Martindale Valley (F7/F8) Jul 14 (BAA), and frequently at Laguna during visits in the first half of the year (RDB).

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Mount Royal N.P. (K7) Apr 25 (NIJ), Wang Wauk S.F. (P6) Aug 4 (LIA), Nerong (O8) Jun 30 (OCG) and Devils Hole Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) Dec 26 (STA), and 6-20 birds at Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC), Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA) and MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Smiths Beach (S4) Sep 6 (MVBW). Birds had a nest at Waitui mid-Sep (MVBW).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Glenrock SRA Apr 4 (NIJ). Birds were feeding fledged young at Worimi N.R. Oct 21 (HWS) and on nest at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG), and were breeding at Cape Hawke BBNP Aug 1 – *the first breeding record for the N.P. (TUD).*

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Myall River S.F. (O7) Mar 17 and MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (both HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Copeland and Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (both HBOC), Redhead Mar 15 (GJC), Hallidays Point (R5) Mar 15 (NEG) and Wang Wauk S.F. (P6) Aug 4 (LIA). Some birds were also at Gap Creek Watagans N.P. Jan 5 (TOM) and Woko N.P. (M3) Oct 22 (MOA).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

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

There were several records from Awaba/Awaba S.F. (L11) – of single birds at multiple locations. Thus, two birds were recorded in this area Feb 20, one bird Mar 30 (TOM), two birds Apr 1 and three birds Jun 29 (all TOM records). Also, four birds were recorded at Awaba S.F. Jun 18 (BAR) – the number of sites was not noted. Elsewhere, a single bird was at Buttaba (L11) Aug 28 (GRL) and three birds at Medowie S.F. (N9) Oct 8 (GED).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Bulga Aug 5 (CBOC). Birds were carrying food at Wingen Oct 28 (NEG).

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 20+ birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA). Birds were nest building at Wang Wauk S.F. (P6) Aug 4 (LIA) and nesting at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

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

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

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Uncommon bird of passage in the W and central parts of the Region (*Revised from: Rare*).

Single birds were recorded at 2-3 locations near Jerrys Plains Mar 24, Apr 8, Jul 21 and Nov 24 (TAH). Elsewhere, a single bird was at Warkworth Aug 29 (ROS) and two birds at Bulga Aug 5 (VEE) and Bayswater Colliery Nov 8 (NEG).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were at MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC) and Polblue (K4) Dec 27 (STA). Birds had dependent young at Waitui mid-Sep (MVBW) and Fingal Bay Nov (FRN), and were feeding a young Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus* at Cundletown (R4) Jan 8 (MVBW).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

ID No: 484 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA) and were on nest at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), Bolwarra Jul 2 (BPS) and Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA). Birds were on nest at Arrowfield Sep 7 (ALP).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Broke (I9) Nov 13 (NIJ).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA) and MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

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

A single bird was recorded at GRNP (cell C6) Sep 30 (ROM/ROS).

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG) and 20+ birds at East Newcastle Dec 4 (HBOC).

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) Jul 21 (OCG), and 21-50 birds at Diamond Beach (R5) Mar 13 (NEG), Belmont Swamp Apr (LAK), Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG) and East Newcastle Dec 4 (HBOC).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)
Status: Local resident (*Revised from: Accidental*).

Birds were confirmed to be resident all year at Giants Creek (F6) and nested there in early Oct (VCG) – *the first confirmed breeding record for the Region*. A single bird was recorded at the property “Gleniston” (A6) at the extreme W edge of the Region near Ulan Apr 9 (NEM). Interestingly there was also a record of a single bird at Munghorn Gap (just outside of the Hunter Region) Sep 30 (ROS/ROM).

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

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

Notable records: 6-20 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 26 and Aug 6 (HAS), “Gleniston” (A6) Apr 9 (NEM), Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC), Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG) and Martindale Dec 9 (OCG).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 100+ birds were recorded at both Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) and Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG). There were several breeding records spanning Oct-Dec.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

No reports received for 2001.

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

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

Two birds were recorded at Martindale (F7) Oct 24 (SAD via ALP).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra Wetland Aug 6 (BPS). Birds were with immatures at Bolwarra Nov (TAH) and Elernmore Vale (M10) Dec (LAB).

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 10-30 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Glenrock SRA Apr 4 (NIJ), Bangalay Reserve (M11) May 1 (HBOC) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG). 40+ birds were at Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Birds had a nest with young at Pokolbin Oct (HED).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

ID No: 605 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 50+ birds were recorded in the Chichester Dam area Oct 8-10 (OCG), and 20+ birds at Mount Royal N.P. (K7) Apr 25 (NIJ) and Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG). Birds were nest building at Laguna Dec 7-9 (RDB).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 counts of up to 100 birds during the Apr-Aug migration passage (*text modified*).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded in the Chichester Dam area Oct 8-10 (OCG). Birds were on nest at Ellalong Aug 4 (TOM).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1993, 1997, 1998*).

No reports received since 1998.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at "Gleniston" (A6) Apr 9 (NEM), and 6-10 birds at White Box Camp May 26 (HAS), Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA) and Wingen Jul 1 (NEG).

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

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

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

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

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

Notable records: Two birds were at Myuna Bay (L10) Nov 6 (HBOC).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Up to four birds were recorded at Bolwarra Apr-May (HOK, TAH) and a single bird again there Sep 11 (TAH) – uncommon easterly records. Birds had dependent young at Arrowfield Feb 5 (ALP) and a nest with eggs at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

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

Single birds were recorded at Ellalong Feb 22 (MEJ) and Quorrobolong Aug 4 (MOA) and three birds at Wingen Jul 1 (NEG). A flock was at Martins Creek Sep 1 (NEM) and some birds were also at Tahlee/Carrington (O9) Jun 30 (OCG).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

ID No: 583 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
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.

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Morisset Jun 13 (HLC).

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Allworth (N8) Oct 21 (HBOC) and KI Jul 21 (HWS). 1-5 birds were at Croki (R4) Feb 17 (OCG), Diamond Beach (R5) Mar 13 (NEG), Nulama Wetlands (Q4/R4) Jun 7 (MVBW), Swansea South Jul 22 (HBOC), Glen Oak (M8) Sep 30 (MAM) and KI Oct 20 (HWS). Also 1-5 birds were recorded at TWC occasionally through the year – fewer reports from this location than in previous years and in lesser numbers.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)
Status: Accidental.

A single bird was recorded at Big River Camp GRNP (B6) Sep 30 (ROS/ROM). Two birds were present at Martindale Nov 24 (TAH) and were nesting there Dec 1 (FIM). Subsequently they were recorded by many observers over the next few weeks. At least one bird was still present in the Martindale area Dec 29 (TAH). *This is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region since the mid 1980's.*

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

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

Two birds were recorded at Devils Hole Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) Dec 26 (STA). Some birds – numbers were not noted – were at Devils Hole Oct 21 (MOA) and Careys Peak Trail Gloucester Tops Nov 25 and Dec 8 (BAA).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

50+ birds were recorded at Awabakal N.R. Jun 20 – one bird was carrying nesting material (GJC). 6+ birds were at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA) and Harrington Oct 20 (OCG), and 1-5 birds at South Swansea Mar 6 and Apr 28 (HBOC, NIJ), Wallarah Coastal Walk (L11) Jun 17 (STA), Fassifern (L10) Jul 7 (WMR), Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) Jul 21 (OCG) and Fingal Bay Jun and Aug (FRN).

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*

ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 100+ birds were recorded at both Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) and Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG). 50+ birds were at Diamond Beach (R5) Mar 13 (NEG).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) Jul 21 (OCG). A single bird was at Awabakal N.R. Jul 5 (GOC) and two birds there Aug 3 (GJC). Some birds were also at Pinny Beach (L11) Sep 16 (MOA).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 and 20+ birds at Crowdy Bay N.P. (R3) Jul 21 (both OCG).

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

ID No: 448 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Local resident.

Up to 20 birds were regularly recorded at Ash Island but there was a peak count of 62 birds Apr 21 (MOA). Several records also from Worimi N.R. and locations around KI, usually of <20 birds but with peak counts being of 21 birds at KI Apr 21 (HWS) and 34 birds at Worimi N.R. Apr 22 (HWS). An interesting replication of high Apr counts at all three locations; similar patterns have been noted for Apr in previous years. Elsewhere, 12+ birds were at Forster May 3 (TUD) and <5 birds in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG).

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Myall River S.F. (07) Mar 17 (HBOC), Wingen Mar 20 (NEG), Apple Tree Flat May 12/13 (LIA) and Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

1-2 birds were recorded at Howes Valley Mar 31/Apr 1 (FOC), Apple Tree Flat May 13 (LIA), White Box Camp May 25 & 26 (GED, HAS), Belltrees (I4) Jul 1 (JUT), Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA), Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA), Gogs Top Range Sep 2 (LIA), Gloucester Tops Nov 13 (NEM) and Devils Hole Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) Dec 26 (STA).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

15 birds were recorded at Bulga Aug 5 (CBOC) and 6+ birds there Mar 9 and Jun 25 (LIA, NEM). Three birds were also present at Bulga Sep 23, with one bird displaying (HBOC). Elsewhere, records were of single birds at "Gleniston" (A6) Apr 9 (NEM), Warkworth Aug 29 (ROS) and Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA), and pairs at Jerrys Plains Mar 27 (TAH) and Warkworth Aug 5 (VEE).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)
Status: Resident.

5+ birds were recorded at Polblue swamp (K4) Dec 27, four birds at Devils Hole Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) Dec 26 (both STA) and three birds at Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA). Some birds were also at Barrington Trail and Devils Hole Oct 21 (MOA) – numbers were not noted. A pair was with young at Gloucester Tops Nov 13 (NEM) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

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

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the Region. 6+ birds were at Myall River S.F. (O7) Mar 17 (HBOC) and Apple Tree Flat May 12/13 (LIA).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident, in west of Region.

7+ birds were recorded near Jerrys Plains Jun 10 (TAH), 6+ birds at Martindale Dec 9 (OCG) and four birds at Bulga Aug 5 (CBOC). All other records were of 1-2 birds, where numbers were noted: at Jerrys Plains Mar 24 & 27 and Oct 20 (TAH), White Box Camp May 26 and Aug 6 (HAS), Bulga Jun 25 and Sep 23 (LIA/NEM, HBOC), Wingen Jul 1 (NEG), Martindale (G8) Jul 14 & 21 (BAA, TAH) and Warkworth Aug 5 & 29 (VEE, ROS). At Jerrys Plains Oct 20, a male bird was with a dependent young.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

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

Some birds - numbers not noted – were recorded at Waitui Jun 9-11 (CBOC) and Sharpes Creek Trail Gloucester Tops Nov 26 (BAA).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG). Birds had a nest with young at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC) and were carrying food at Wingen Oct 28 (NEG).

Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

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

Two birds were recorded at Barrington House Oct 8 (GED). Some birds – numbers were not noted – also were at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Jan 5 (LIA), Waitui Jun 9-11 (CBOC), Copeland Nov 14 (NEM), Kerripit Road (L5) Nov 15 (NEM) and Gloucester Tops Nov 23 (BAA).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

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

Groups of up to ten birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region. 12 birds were at Mulbring (K10) Apr 15 (WMR) and near Scone (H5) Jun 24 (WAR). Birds had a nest with two young at Black Hill (L10) Dec 9 (MPM).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

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

Groups of 5-10 birds were recorded at White Box Camp May 26 and Aug 6 (HAS) and GRNP (C6) Sep 30 (ROM/ROS), and at two different locations near Jerrys Plains Mar 24 and Jun 10 (TAH). A bird was carrying nesting material at Jerrys Plains Mar 24 – *this is not considered to be sufficient for a breeding record.*

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

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

Notable records: A male bird was carrying food to a female at Redhead Sep 8 (GJC).

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

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

Three birds were recorded at Wollemi N.P. (G8) May 12-13 (LIA), two birds at Laguna Jun 8-10 and Jul 20-22 (RDB), and single birds at Ellalong Feb 22 (MEJ) and Laguna Sep 15-16 (RDB).

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

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

Notable records: Birds were nest building at Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA) and had dependent young at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

ID No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC).

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records (*Revised*)
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1987*).

No reports received for 2001. See Supplementary Records.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident, of highland areas.

5+ birds were recorded in the Polblue Swamp area (K4) Apr 13-14 (ROS), and single birds at Gloucester Falls Oct 20 and Polblue Swamp Oct 22 (both MOA), Kerripit Road (L5) Nov 15 (NEM) and Devils Hole Barrington Tops S.F. (K4) Dec 26 (STA).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

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

Notable records: Birds were with dependent young at Copeland S.F. Feb 25 and were on nest at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Birds were displaying at Wingen Oct 28 (NEG).

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

ID No: 413 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain

There were no confirmed records.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

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

Notable records: Birds were on nest at Tea Gardens (O8) Nov (THR).

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

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

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

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Copeland Feb 25 (HBOC), Copeland S.F. Feb 25 and Nov 14 (HBOC, NEM), Harrington Sep 12 (MVBW), Barrington House Oct 8 & 28 (GED), Telegraphy S.F. (M6) Oct 7 & 27 (ROS/ ROM, HHB) and Copeland S.F. Oct 19 (MOA).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 one bird was at Ellalong Aug 4 (TOM). Birds were feeding a young Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus* at Widden Valley (E8) Dec 2 (TAH).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

Some birds were recorded at Pheasants Creek Road (L4) Jan 24 (NEG) and Kerripit Road (L5) Nov 15 (NEM). Birds at Kerripit Road had a nest.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

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

1-3 birds were occasionally recorded in the Region between late Mar and early Sep. No reports from outside of these dates were received.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 8 (ROD), Morpeth STP Jun 24 and Sep 29 (HBOC, NEM) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG) and were carrying food at Pokolbin Nov (HED).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG), and 20+ birds at Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA), Bolwarra Wetland Jul 2 (BPS) and Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Jun 24 (HBOC), Ash Island Aug 3 & 9 (MOA) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG). Birds were on nest at TWC Sep 1-2 (HBOC) and had dependent young at Harrington Oct 20 (MVBW) and Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

ID No: 673 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 6+ birds were at Belmont Swamp Apr (LAK). "Summer" records were of 1-2 birds at Kahibah Feb 13 (PAP), Rocky Point Nelson Bay Feb 14 (LAK), TWC Mar 3 (CCFOC) and East Seaham Mar 9 (CPR).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

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

Notable records: Birds were on nest at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

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

No reports received for 2001.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek Jan 7 (NEM), Martins Creek Jan 14 and Feb 11 (NEM), Laguna Mar 10-11 and Dec 7-9 (RDB), GRNP (C6) May 21 (JUT), MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC), Martindale Valley (F7/F8) Jul 14 (BAA), Cundletown Jul 24 (MVBW) and Telegherry S.F. (M6) Oct 28 (HHB). Three birds were at White Box Camp Aug 6 (HAS).

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
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: Three birds were recorded at Laguna Dec 7-9 (RDB).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

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

No reports received for 2001.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

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

1-5 birds were often recorded in the E of the Region over Oct-Nov and eight birds were present at MLNP (cell Q7) Oct 21 (ROS). 1-5 birds were also recorded at Pambalong N.R. Jan 1 (OCG), Glenrock SRA Apr 4 (NIJ) and Middle Camp MLNP (Q7) Dec 16 (ASS). Birds at Middle Camp were nesting and also birds were displaying at Wingen Oct 28 (NEG).

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

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

No reports received for 2001.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded in the area around Apple Tree Flat and Wollemi N.P. (G8) May 12-13 (LIA). Birds were on nest at Broke Nov 13 (NIJ), Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC) and Laguna Dec 7-9 (RDB).

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Lambton (M10) Jun 19 (GJC) and East Newcastle Dec 4 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Fingal Bay Nov (FRN) and East Newcastle Dec 4. Birds did not nest at usual locations in Booti Booti N.P. and no other nesting sites were found in the area (TUD).

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common 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: 50+ birds were feeding together at Awabakal N.R. Apr 21 (GJC) and 20+ birds were at TWC Feb 6 (HBOC). Late records were of eight birds at KI May 2 (GOC) and eleven birds at Shortland May 11 (LIA). Birds had dependent young at Pambalong N.R. Dec 8 (HBOC) and also bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

Seven birds were recorded at GRNP (C6) Sep 30 and two birds at Telegerry S.F. (M6) Oct 7 (both ROS/ROM).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

60-80 birds were recorded at GRNP (C6) Sep 30 and Telegerry S.F. (M6) Oct 7, and 40-50 birds at Warkworth Oct 1 (all ROM/ROS records).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant, and some birds are present all year. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-10 birds, mainly over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

Notable records: 35+ birds were recorded at Balickera May 23 (MUJ) and approx 25 birds at Warkworth Oct 1 (ROS/ROM). Birds had dependent young at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1987*).

No reports received for 2001.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

ID No: 702 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Birds were reported to have bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

ID No: 700 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra Wetland Aug 20 (BPS) and Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG). Birds had dependent young at Martindale Dec 9 (OCG).

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

ID No: 705 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Glen William (M8) Apr 18 (NIJ) and Phoenix Park (M9) Sep 2 (MAM), and 21-50 birds at Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA) Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA), Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG) and Dora Creek (L11) Nov 6 (HBOC). Several breeding records were received.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant). Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Arrowfield Apr 24 (ALP) and Wollemi N.P. (G8) May 12/13 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Cooperook S.F. Aug 2 (MVBW).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

Not recorded since 1997.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.

A single bird was recorded at Chichester S.F. (K5) Oct 28 (GED). Some birds were also at Chichester Dam (M6) Oct 8-10 (OCG) and Gloucester Tops Nov 24 (BAA).

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: Birds were nest building at Belmont Jul 8 (ANC) and Coon Island Swansea Jul 15 (HAS), and were on nest at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Four birds were recorded at Mungo Brush MLNP Oct 21 (ROS) and two birds at MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC) and Fingal Bay Aug (FRN).

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

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

Ten birds were recorded at Moonan Brook (J4) Dec 28 (STA). Some birds were also at Myall River S.F. (O7) Mar 17 (HBOC).

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in counts of up to 10 birds in the area bounded by Dungog and Gloucester in the west and Port Stephens to the south. (*Revised*)

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Harrington Oct 20 (OCG). Records from outside the distribution range were of 6+ birds at Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA) and single birds at Copeland Feb 25 (HBOC) and Salisbury (L6) Oct 28 (GED).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Glen Oak (M8) Jul 1 (MAM), Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA), Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC) and Mungo Brush MLNP Oct 5 (OCG).

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

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

Three birds were recorded at Hilldale (L8) Nov 30 (TAH), and 1- 2 birds at Copeland S.F. Feb 25 (HBOC), Woko N.P. (M3) Apr 11 (MOA), Wallingat S.F. (O7) Aug 19 (HBOC), Fingal Bay Sep & Oct (FRN) and Chichester Dam Oct 8-10 (OCG).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

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

Ten birds were recorded at Middle Camp MLNP (Q7) Dec 16 (ASS), and 1-5 birds at Red Head (R5) Mar 15 (NEG), Bangalay Reserve (M11) May 1 (HBOC), Cape Hawke (R6) May 14 (MVBW), MLNP (Q7) Jun 9-11 (HBOC), Waitui Jun 9-11 (CBOC), Wallarobba (M7) Oct 20 (JUT), Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 28 (GED), Mount Vincent (L10) Nov 6 (FIP) and Saltwater (R4) Nov 17 (MVBW).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded in the Chichester Dam area Oct 8-10 (OCG) and 20+ birds at Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Glen Oak (M8) Sep 23 (MAM) and had fledged young at Bolwarra Nov (TAH), and also were reported to be nesting at Seaham over Nov-Dec (CPR).

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

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

Two birds were recorded at Doyles Creek (G8) Dec 1 (NEM).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records (*Revised*)
Status: Accidental.

There were no confirmed records. See Supplementary Records.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

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

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Warabrook (M10) Apr 4 (NIJ), Ash Island Aug 22 (MOA) and Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG). Birds had a nest with eggs at the latter site.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 877 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was present at the usual location at Ash Island Feb 9 (ROS), and often thereafter until Feb 24 when last recorded.

Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens*

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

No reports received for 2001.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

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

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and occasionally in the E of the Region as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were regularly recorded at Arrowfield, with the count peaking at 50+ birds Jul 17 and 40+ birds often present (ALP). 20+ birds were at Wollemi N.P. Jul 14 (LIN) and Martindale Dec 9 (OCG), and 20 birds at KI May 26 (HWS). Birds bred at Arrowfield Jan-Feb and again in Sep, and also had a nest with eggs at Bayswater Colliery Oct 27 (NEG).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat May 12-13 (LIA), Bulga Sep 23 (HBOC) and Martindale Dec 9 (OCG).

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

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

Three birds were recorded at GRNP (C6) May 21 (JUT).

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Glenrock SRA Apr 4 (NIJ) and Morisset (K11) Aug 5 (DUP). Birds were on nest at Balickera Nov 21 (HBOC).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the W and central parts of the Region. Twelve birds were at Bulga Aug 5 (CBOC) and 6+ birds at White Box Camp May 26 (HAS).

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental (*last recorded in 1991*)

No reports received for 2001.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Four birds were recorded at Gloucester Dairy Swamp Oct 22 (MOA) and single birds at WWW Jun 4 & 5 (WMR, HBOC). An unusually few number of reports received.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

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

30 birds were recorded at KI May 2 (GOC), and 1-5 birds at Ash Island Jan 11 (ROD), Morpeth STP Jun 23 & 24 (LIA, HBOC) and KI Aug 18 and Nov 17 (HWS).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Summer migrant (*Amended from: Bird of passage*).

Four birds were recorded at Bulga Aug 5 (VEE) and three birds in the same area Apr 22 (ROS). A single bird was near Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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 Morpeth STP Feb 17 (LIA) and Ash Island Apr 21 (MOA), and 100+ birds at Ash Island Jan 3 (MOA), Pambalong N.R. Mar 10 (MOA) and Morpeth STP Jul 22 and Aug 26 (LIA). 51-100 birds were at Ash Island Jul 7 (OCG) and Pambalong N.R. Aug 7 (HBOC). There were several breeding records.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 1000 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Feb 17 (LIA). 21-50 birds were at Lake St Clair (J6/7) Jan 6 (ALP), Glen William (M8) Apr 18 (NIJ), Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA) and Polblue swamp (K4) Dec 27 (STA).

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 50+ birds were recorded at Singleton Sep 21 (ALP) and KI Oct 20 (HWS). 21-50 birds were at Morpeth STP Feb 17 and Aug 26 (LIA), Grahamstown Dam Jul 22 (MAM), Ellerston (J3) Sep 2 (LIA), KI Sep 25 and Nov 17 (MOA, HWS) and West Waratah (M10) Nov 1 (STA). Winter records were of 1-5 birds at Bulga Jun 25 (NEG), East Seaham Jul 1 (MAM), Morpeth STP Jul 22 (LIA) and Pambalong N.R. Aug 7 (HBOC). Birds had many nests at Singleton Sep 21 and West Waratah Nov 1.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

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

Some birds were recorded at Caves Beach (L11) Sep 16 (MOA).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 6+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra Wetland Aug 13 (BPS). Two birds were at Shortland May 15 (LIA).

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

ID No: 523

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

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

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

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

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at Ash Island Sep 14-15 (MOA).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509

HBOC Category: 2

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

6+ birds were recorded at Martindale Dec 9 (OCG), two birds at Dawsons Hill (J6) Nov 17 (JUT) and a single bird at Yarrawa Sep 20 (TAH).

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508

HBOC Category: 2

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Uncertain.

Three males and a female were at Yarrawa Oct 20 and a pair at Jerrys Plains Oct 20 (both TAH). Some birds were recorded in the Tarro/Shortland area Oct 1 (OCG).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

ID No: 525

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

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

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

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

ID No: 574

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: 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 "Gleniston" (A6) Apr 9 (NEM).

THRUSH SPECIES

Both *Zoothera* species occur in the Hunter Region, but field identification is difficult. In addition to the reports detailed below, some birds were recorded at Gap Creek Watagans N.P. (K11) Jan 5 (TOM).

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.

Three birds were recorded at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 8 (GED), two birds at Wang Wauk S.F. (P6) Aug 4 (LIA) and Stewarts Brook S.F. (K4) Dec 28 (STA), and single birds at Waitui Jun 9-11 (CBOC), Mount Allyn (K5) Oct 7 (GED), Barrington House Oct 8 (GED) Telegherry S.F. (M6) Oct 28 (HHB) and Copeland Nov 14 (NEM). Some birds were also at Copeland Tops S.F. Dec 15-16 (BIA) – numbers not noted.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncertain.

Single birds were recorded at Allyn River Forest Park (K5) Oct 8 & 28 (GED), Barrington House Oct 8 (GED), Telegherry S.F. (M6) Oct 28 (HHB) and Copeland Nov 14 (NEM). Some birds were also at Allyn River Forest Park Jan 5 (LIA) and Copeland Tops S.F. Dec 15-16 (BIA).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

3+ birds were recorded at Polblue swamp (K4) Dec 27 (STA) and a single bird at Gundy (I4) Sep 1 (LIA).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of up to 100 birds.

Notable records: 1000+ birds were recorded at Hexham (a known roost site) May 13 (LIA). 100-200 birds were at Stockton Sandspit Mar 6 (HBOC), Seaham Jun 16 (MAM) and Millers Forest Jul 18 (MAM), and at KI Apr 21, Sep 22 and Dec 15 (HWS).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: 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: 100 birds were recorded at Duckenfield (L9) Jul 18 (MAM) and 50+ birds at Morpeth STP Jun 24 (HBOC). A single bird was at Forster Dec 25 – previously absent from this area (TUD). Birds were reported to have bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the records described below:

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183

A single bird was recorded between Singleton and Muswellbrook Apr 26, 2000 (TBW).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

ID No: 151

The October 2001 sighting is not the first record for this species in the Hunter estuary. Three birds were present in September 1968 and a single bird on December 12 1969 (reported in Hunter Natural History, *A Checklist of the Birds of Kooragang Island*, August 1972).

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

ID No: 175

An article by H Hole, B Hole and C Mardell (*Australian Bird Watcher*, 2001, 19, 49-54) documented four breeding attempts between February 1998 and February 1999. These occurred at two locations near the mouth of the Manning River – Harrington and Farquhar Inlet, and were reported to be the southerly nesting records for the species. All four attempts were unsuccessful. The article also mentions four additional failed attempts between October 1999 and January 2001.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025

A record from 18 Aug 1962 of a pair with 2 fledglings at Gloucester was received (ROA via MOA) – *this is HBOC's first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

ID No: 341

A single bird was recorded at Martindale Dec 28, 2000 (TAH).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

ID No: 348

A flock of 50+ birds was seen flying southwards near Coomba Park Wallis Lake Sep 14, 1999 (VEM).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640

Two birds were recorded at Giants Creek (F6) Apr 10 and Oct 20, 2000 (WCJ). These were reported as unconfirmed observations in the 2000 Bird Report.

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419

An article by I McAllan (*Australian Bird Watcher*, 2001, **19**, 55-59) documented several past records of this species in the Hunter Region, including breeding records from near Scone (1908) and Merriwa (1914), and with several observations from as far east as Singleton up until the 1980s. There have been no reports received for the Hunter Region since 1987.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993

Status: Accidental.

Birds were breeding on KI in October 1991 (VGF). There were two nests present.

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports for 2001 were not accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee – because of inadequate description or insufficient information having been provided by the time of printing. The information presented below is for completeness; future Reports will advise of any records that have been accepted as a result of supplementary details being provided.

Giant-Petrel spp *Macronectes spp*

A juvenile bird was present near Newcastle Baths Oct 12 but a positive identification from Southern Giant-Petrel *M. giganteus* and Northern Giant-Petrel *M. halli* could not be made.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196

Single birds were reported to have been near Dungog Jan 11 and at Stockton Creek (K11) Dec 18.

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233

A single bird was reported to have been at Widden Valley (E8) May 10.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230

A single bird was reported to have been at Buchanan (L9) Jun 23.

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*

ID No: 236

Single birds were reported to have been at Thornton May 2, Bolwarra May 12 and Paterson/Vacy Road May 13.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238

Single birds were reported to have been at Bureen (G7) Feb 17 and Nov 24.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

ID No: 167

A single bird was reported to have been at KI Feb 24.

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147

Five birds were reported to have been at Ash Island over Jul 23-Aug 4.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

ID No: 896

A single bird was reported to have been at KI Sep 26.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

ID No: 021

Two birds were reported to have been at Seal Rocks Dec 15 and Middle Camp MLNP Dec 16.

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

ID No: 413

Birds were reported to have been at Dungog Jan 3.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993

Three birds were reported to have been at Ash Island Aug 4.

ESCAPEES

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

Feral Goose *Anser anser*

30 birds were recorded in the Raymond Terrace area Jul 1 and 26 birds Sep 1 and a bird was on nest there Oct 2. Two birds were at Grahamstown Dam Nov 22 and Dec 14 & 20, and at Irrawang Swamp Dec 11 (all MAM records).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274

Several birds were recorded at Fingal Bay during Jun (FRN).

Superb Parrot *Polytelus swainsonii*

ID No: 277

A male bird was recorded 25 km north of Merriwa Oct 16 (TAH).

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

ID No: 286

Single birds were recorded at TWC Mar 10, Sep 1 and Nov 15 (MOA, STA, BRG) and Ellalong Mar 16 & 23 (MEJ).

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri*

ID No: 270

A single bird was recorded at Bolwarra Nov 11 (TAH).

Red-capped Parrot *Purpureicephalus spurius*

ID No: 290

Single birds were recorded at Redhead several times over Apr-Aug (GJC).

Rose-crowned Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

A single bird was recorded at Thornton Feb 24 (BRG). (*Note: this species is sometimes named as the Indian Ringneck*).

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Recorders visit many common locations regularly, and it would be repetitious to cite their grid references every time that they are mentioned in the Report. Grid references for commonly visited locations are:

Aberdare S.F.	K10	Broughton Island	P8
Apple Tree Flat	H8	Bulga	I8
Arrowfield	H7	Cabbage Tree Island	P9
Ash Island	M10	Cessnock	K9/K10
Awabakal N. R.	M10/11	Clarencetown	M8
Balickera	M9	Denman	G7
Barrington House	L5	Dungog	M7
Battery Rocks	E6	Copeland Common	N4
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Copeland Tops State Forest	M4
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Bolwarra	L9	Fingal Bay	O9
Boondelbah Island	P9	Forster	R6
Booti Booti N.P. (BBNP)	R6	Glenrock SRA	M10
Broke	I9	Gloucester Tops	M5/L5

Grahamstown Dam	M9	Redhead	M11
Harrington	S4	Salt Ash	N9
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Scone	H5
Hexham Swamp N.R.	L10/M10	Seaham Swamp N. R.	M8
Howes Valley	H10	Seal Rocks	R7
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	M9	Tarro	M9
Jerrys Plains	H7	The Wetlands Centre (TWC)	M10
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	Singleton	I8/J8
Kooragang Island	M10	Stockton	M10
Laguna	I10	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	Worimi N.R.	N9
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Maitland	L9	University of Newcastle	M10
Market Swamp	M10	Vacy	L8
Martindale	G7	Waitui	R3
Morpeth	L9	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Newcastle	M10	Wallingat S.F.	Q6/Q7
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve	M10	Warkworth	I8
New Lambton Heights	M10	Watagans S.F. & N.P.	K11
Oyster Cove	N9	White Box Camp (in GRNP)	C6
Pokolbin	J9	Wingen	H4
Pambalong N.R.	L10	Wingham Brush	Q4
Quorrobolong	K10	Wyee Point	L11
Rathluba Lagoon	L9	Yarrawa	F7
Raymond Terrace	M9		

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 that are made up of letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned.

ADJ	Jack Adams	GRL	Lucas Grenadier
ALP	Peter Alexander	HAB	Brian Hare
ANC	Craig Anderson	HAP	Phil Hansbro
ASS	S Anyon-Smith	HAS	Sue Hamonet
BAA	Birds Australia Atlas survey	HEC	Chris Herbert
BAR	Richard Baxter	HED	Dorothy Heibel
BAW	Wilma Barden	HEJ	Jenny Helman
BIA	Birding-Australia (Internet group)	HEM	Martin Heffron
BID	Doug Biddle	HHB	Hunter Home Brewers Twitchathon team
BLM	Max Blanch	HBOC	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
BPS	Class 3A, Bolwarra Public School	HLC	Liz, Chris Herbert
BRG	Grant Brosie	HOK	Keith Howard
BWA	Wayne Barnden	HUF	Florence Humphreys
CBOC	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	HWS	HBOC Wader Surveys
CCFOC	Central Coast FOC Group	JED	Dick Jenkin
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	JUT	Trevor Jurd
CLT	Tom Clarke	KDB	Dave, Bev Kibble
CHM	Marilyn Chegwiddden	LAB	B Landenberger
COD	Dick Cooper	LAK	Keith Laverick
CPR	Ross, Pat Carlton	LMB	Bob Langdown
CRL	Liz Crawford	LAT	Terry Langworthy
DUP	Pam Durie	LIA	Ann Lindsey
EKP	Peter Ekert	LIG	Greg Little
FIM	Mark Fidler	LIN	Nick Livanos
FIP	Pamela Fitzsimons	LIT	Terry Lindsey
FOC	Reported in NSW Field Ornithologists Club newsletter	LPC	Paddy, Caryl Lightfoot
FRN	Neil Fraser	MAM	Max Maddock
FRP	Paul Freeman	MAS	Sandy MacTaggart
GED	David Geering	MCB	Bruce McKay
GEP	Peter George	MPM	Peter, Margaret McLauchlan
GIK	Ken Gibson	MDV	Don, Val Moon
GJC	John, Cynthia Grebert	MEC	Clive Meadows
GOC	Colin Goodenough	MEJ	Jenny Meynell

MOA	Alan Morris	SAD	Des Samways
MUJ	Jenny Musicka	SMJ	James Smart
MVBW	Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers	SJR	Judith, Rowley Smith
NATF	Native Animal Trust Fund	STA	Alan Stuart
NBL	Reported to the NSW BirdLine	TAH	Harold Tarrant
NEG	Greg Newling	TBW	Reported in newsletter of the Tamworth Birdwatchers
NEM	Mike Newman	THR	Ross Thomson
NIJ	Joy Nicholls	TOL	Len Tolhurst
OCG	Graeme O'Connor	TOM	Mike Todd
PAP	Philip Paterson	TUD	David Turner
PHP	Peter Phillips	VEE	Edwin Vella
POJ	Jenny Powers	VEM	Maret Vesk
PRC	Chris Prietto	VGJ	Fred van Gessel
RAP	Phil Rankin	WAR	Rosemary Waymark
RDB	Dorothy, Bob Raine	WCJ	Caroline, John Wassens
ROA	Anthony Rose	WCN	Reported in The Wetlands Centre newsletter
ROD	Diane Rogers	WCR	Observation reported to The Wetlands Centre
ROG	Graeme Robinson	WMR	Marian, Ray Walker
ROM	Michael Roderick		
ROS	Steven Roderick		

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

Previous Reports include numerous records for "Swan Bay", located on the west side of Port Stephens. These records generally relate to the area adjacent to the southern side of the village of Swan Bay. In 2001, this area was gazetted as the Worimi Nature Reserve and the new name has been adopted for the Bird Reports.

In the 2000 Bird Report, two observers were assigned the same Observer Code of SAD. Dick Sanders made the report of a Eurasian Magpie at Carrington. All other records assigned to SAD were from Des Samways.

BIRD SURVEYS AT MORPETH WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS DURING 2001

Ann Lindsey and Mike Newman

INTRODUCTION

Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works (MWTW) owned by Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) is about 10 km north-east of Maitland and covers an area of 72 ha. The original plant, decommissioned in 2000, was a biological filter works constructed in 1936.

It was recognised that the maturation pond system associated with the original MWTW constitutes an important waterbird habitat with local, regional and state significance. As a condition of the Minister's Approval, for decommissioning the plant, Hunter Water was required to manage the ponds so as to "provide enhancement of wetland and riparian habitats and encourage their use by indigenous and migratory species." (1)

HWC invited Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC) to take part in developing the management plan and as a result members commenced monthly surveys of the avian population in February 2001.

METHODS

Surveys were made monthly between February and December. To determine the impact of the changed conditions, a second survey was carried out in November immediately after heavy rain, which caused flooding of the adjacent farmland.

Surveys typically took three hours and involved two observers following a route around the holding ponds. All species were recorded both on the holding ponds and the adjacent farmland. The extent of the flooding was noted.

Emphasis was placed on estimating the numbers of waterbirds. In most instances the numbers quoted are considered accurate to $\pm 20\%$, usually considerably better. Ducks were often present in very large numbers and were easily disturbed both by our presence during the surveys and by the numerous raptors which frequent the area. Hence, the large flocks of teal and, to a lesser extent, Hardhead and Pacific Black Duck, were particularly difficult to count. In contrast, Pink-eared Ducks tended to congregate tightly and could be more accurately estimated. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers foraged in vegetation in the flooded areas and many could have been missed. Dotterels, in contrast, preferred open areas facilitating accurate counts.

To minimise the risk of double-counting species that moved between the ponds and farmland, an estimate was made of the total number of birds in the area. This number was used as a check against the sum of the individual species counts.

THE BIRDS

83 species of birds were recorded during the surveys. The following discussion is limited to the ducks, waders and other species for which the area is particularly important. Table 1 contains count data for key species.

DUCKS AND SWANS

Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck, Grey and Chestnut Teal were recorded on every survey, but their numbers fluctuated widely. For instance, Black Swan numbers ranged from 11 to 75 between June and 18th November before showing a dramatic increase to 443 on 23rd November following heavy rain which resulted in the flooding of farmland adjacent to the holding ponds.

Pink-eared Duck numbers peaked slightly above 1000 in May, but from August to the end of the year were either very scarce or absent. Michael Todd (pers. com.) has

provided historical records of Pink-eared Duck flocks of 1000 at MWTW on 16th May and 6th July 1986.

Hardhead were abundant between February and May with 639 present in March. This is a large number for the Hunter Region.

Grey Teal increased during the winter months with a peak exceeding 1000 in September. They were usually more numerous than Chestnut Teal.

Australasian Shoveler and Musk Duck were present in the first half of the year but were absent or very scarce after July. The peak shoveler count was 242 in March.

OTHER WATERBIRDS

Flocks of over 50 Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes were present in the first half of the year and then declined in a similar manner to the Musk Ducks. In contrast Darter numbers increased in the latter half of the year to a peak of twelve. Pelicans were always present with a maximum of 50 in March.

WADERS

Thirteen species of wading birds were recorded, eight of which are migratory and five of which breed in Australia. Of the migratory species we found only two in appreciable numbers. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper numbers built up between late August and October to a peak of 220 in November and December. This species fed in a partially flooded, well vegetated pond. It is interesting that this species remained when the area dried out in mid November all the birds being tightly flocked around the one remaining pool, which facilitated an accurate count.

Marsh Sandpipers were absent on the 18th November, but their numbers peaked at 43 on the 23rd November after heavy rain. These birds favour open areas of flooded farmland as evidenced by their immediate response to changed feeding conditions.

Ten Curlew Sandpipers were present on 15th October, but the species was only seen on two other occasions with up to two birds. Latham's Snipe, Common Greenshank and Pectoral Sandpiper were recorded occasionally in very small numbers.

Six Double-banded Dotterel, which breeds in New Zealand (and winters in Australia) were present in June. Black-winged Stilt and Masked Lapwing were recorded on every survey, often in appreciable numbers.

Black-winged Stilt favour feeding in shallow water and were most numerous when the farmland was flooded, between 140 and 150 birds being recorded on three occasions. Their dependence on favourable feeding conditions is demonstrated by the minimum count of 3 on the 18th November when the area had dried out with an increase to 52 on 23rd November after the rain. Masked Lapwing numbers reached 264 in May. This is an exceptionally large flock for the Hunter Region.

Black-fronted Dotterel were most numerous in winter with around 40 present in June and July. Red-kneed Dotterel were present in small numbers in winter and again from October to December, when up to seven were seen.

RAPTORS

MWTW with its abundance of waterbirds attracts raptors with eight species recorded. The larger species, the Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier and White-bellied Sea-Eagle often disturb the birds, particularly the ducks, which makes counting difficult. The three most numerous species were the Black-shouldered and Whistling Kites and the White-bellied Sea-Eagle each being recorded on at least half the surveys. The other five species, the Square-tailed Kite, Swamp Harrier, Collared Sparrowhawk, Australian Hobby and Nankeen Kestrel were only recorded once or twice.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

During February, Tree Martins congregated prior to their autumn migration. Around 1000 were feeding over the flooded farmland and perching shoulder to shoulder on the wires of the boundary fence. Significant numbers of Welcome Swallows (200) and Fairy Martins (50) were also present. After a decrease in the middle of the year the latter species built up towards the springtime but the Tree Martin was absent.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey results for 2001 demonstrate the importance of MWTW for waterbirds, particularly ducks. The decision to manage the ponds in a manner that encourages their use by indigenous and migratory species was of considerable merit.

Based on the 2001 numbers the MWTW may prove to be a stronghold of three species of duck, the Pink-eared, Hardhead and Australasian Shoveler. Numbers of several other species are significant for the Hunter region, particularly the Musk Duck, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes, Sharp-tailed and Marsh Sandpipers, Black-fronted Dotterel and Masked Lapwing.

MWTW is also an important pre-migration congregation point for martins and swallows during autumn.

A recent paper by Hamilton et al (2) suggests that, following changes in waste water treatment technology, fewer nutrients will enter the ponds, which may act adversely on the availability of food for waterfowl. For instance, it will be interesting to see if diving species such as Musk Duck and grebes continue to feed in the deeper water of the holding ponds. We intend to continue these monthly surveys to determine long-term trends in the waterbird abundance.

MWTW is proving important for both indigenous and migratory wading birds. These species are found predominantly on one pond that is maintained with a shallow depth of water. Essentially it is a water meadow that occasionally dries out. The Management of the MWTW have agreed to attempt to manipulate the water level and optimise the habitat for waders. This should benefit species like the Sharp-tailed and Marsh Sandpipers.

The adjacent farmland, which regularly floods after high rainfall and then progressively dries out over a period of several months provides important feeding habitat for a number of species including Black Swan, Grey Teal, several species of egrets and herons, Black-winged Stilt and, at times, Caspian Terns. The muddy margins support dotterel, plovers, lapwings and some of the smaller species of sandpipers. The ability of these species to respond rapidly to flooding is demonstrated by the dramatic increase in numbers on 23rd November after heavy rain occurred compared with 18th November when this habitat was dry.

Birds Australia's Atlas Report (3) describes habitat complexity as the presence of features such as islands, shallow areas for birds to feed, dense tree cover, fencing to exclude grazing stock and trees or logs in the water. MWTW has some, but not all of these features, which explains the relative abundance of some waterbirds. For instance, Chestnut Teal favour areas with high habitat complexity (3). Our results are consistent with this finding. The challenge in managing MWTW is to achieve an appropriate balance in habitat and bird diversity, but to ensure that species like Pink-eared Duck, Australasian Shoveler and Hardhead for which the area may be essential are not disadvantaged.

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3. Natural Heritage Trust - Birds Australia, An Atlas of Australian Birds (1998-2001) Supplementary Report No. 3 Atlas Wetlands, p.13. G. Barrett, A. Silcocks, C. Donnelly, R. Cunningham, R. Poulter, Birds Australia, Melbourne, 2002

Count Data for Key Waterbird Species at MWTW in 2001

	Feb 17	Mar 18	Apr 21	May 5	Jun 23	Jul 22	Aug 26	Sep 29	Oct 15	Nov 18	Nov 23	Dec 7
Musk Duck	6	9	2	6	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black Swan	209	254	183	97	30	11	30	49	63	75	443	365
Australian Wood Duck	24	8	4	50	12	3	–	5	13	18	12	–
Pacific Black Duck	188	85	117	66	59	19	82	57	122	33	41	36
Australasian Shoveler	32	242	51	29	2	10	3	–	–	–	–	7
Grey Teal	116	53	94	302	295	413	304	1060	488	80	59	221
Chestnut Teal	347	62	41	58	19	37	54	67	31	60	115	48
Pink-eared Duck	191	465	699	1010	130	64	–	–	2	2	2	2
Hardhead	106	639	209	214	19	22	4	24	3	3	4	–
Australasian Grebe	71	39	46	79	3	20	–	6	–	–	–	–
Hoary-headed Grebe	6	56	41	64	11	2	–	1	1	–	–	–
Darter	1	1	2	6	–	1	–	3	6	12	12	6
Australian Pelican	39	50	31	8	4	8	16	14	21	13	32	17
Latham's Snipe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Marsh Sandpiper	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	4	–	43	13
Common Greenshank	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–
Pectoral Sandpiper	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	28	98	220	200	200
Curlew Sandpiper	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	–	–	2
Black-winged Stilt	19	150	90	51	82	73	87	140	149	3	52	16
Pacific Golden Plover	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Red-capped Plover	–	–	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	–	1	–
Double-banded Plover	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black-fronted Dotterel	–	–	–	6	38	41	–	–	–	–	1	2
Red-kneed Dotterel	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	3	3	7	5
Masked Lapwing	40	31	6	264	59	45	25	92	39	35	18	24

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.

