

# HUNTER REGION OF NSW

## 2005 BIRD REPORT

The Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) has produced this 13<sup>th</sup> 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 are able to borrow a comprehensive range of books, tapes, CDs and videos about Australian and world birdlife. Membership categories are Single, Family and Junior, and applications for membership are welcomed at any time.

HBOC can be contacted by telephone on (02) 4952 8569 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://hbo.org.au>

Copies of this report, at \$15.00 each, may be obtained from:

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## FOREWORD

I have had a keen interest in the status of birds and, hence, bird records and bird distribution throughout NSW and the ACT for more years than I should remember. Like many people, my interest began from a desire to know more about the birds I saw and heard each day during my youth.

Through study and membership of bird clubs, I developed a deeper interest which, in turn, pretty much became a compelling pursuit; a pursuit that has provided much enjoyment and personal satisfaction ever since. In my experience, there are few barriers to birding; it can be taken up and continued at any age by all kinds of people and there is still much to learn about Australian birds. In this later respect, every birder has the potential to contribute value to the future of birds and their conservation.

One of the hidden features of bird clubs is that they indirectly encourage people to maintain lists or other records about birds observed. Typically, most birders make lists of the birds seen at particular places. This can be a satisfactory exercise in itself but all the NSW and ACT bird clubs provide the opportunity for members to add their records to a club dataset. These sets of records are used in different ways. Some clubs simply publish the records in newsletters; some clubs use the information to prepare regional lists; HBOC and others also publish an annual bird report; whilst the NSW Bird Atlassers, Cumberland BOC and Canberra OG incorporate collected records into databases for longer-term analyses. Each provides a source of worthwhile information about distribution and historical patterns. The HBOC is probably more outwardly proactive than many bird groups in its support for bird and habitat conservation. Its capacity to support submissions with detailed information based on the data contained in the Annual Bird Reports well demonstrates the fact that every individual's observations can make a difference.

In the foreword to the 1998 Hunter report, Alan Morris noted the considerable benefit to be gained from tracking what is happening to birds year by year. He cited numerous examples of the knowledge gained and the benefits in doing so. In the 2004 report, Mike Newman remarked that the ability to compare change over time was the greatest strength of any series of bird reports.

Annual Bird Reports are heavily reliant on many diligent birders. Each year, these people cover much of the area of interest to obtain the information essential to the compilation of each report. Equally, the reports are dependant upon the collectors/keepers of those records, on those who assess the records, and those who transform the mass of data into each completed annual report.

As a resident of the Hunter until recently, I regularly witnessed the dedicated efforts of Sue Hamonet as she carefully gathered the details of observations reported at HBOC meetings. Unusual records are identified and evaluated by a team of knowledgeable local birders and the resultant set of records is ably converted by Alan Stuart into an especially readable publication. Each person in the whole process is to be roundly applauded for the time given over to these various tasks. The effort is often not as well appreciated as it deserves.

I speak from personal experience here, for I was Editor of the NSW Annual Bird Report for a time in the 1980's. Sifting through thousands of records and compiling them into some semblance of order is a substantial task and, though I produced the 1985 to 1988 issues, the demands of my employment eventually forced me to relinquish the editorial role.

I believe Sue Hamonet and Alan Stuart warrant special recognition for they have ably fulfilled their roles for every Annual Bird Reports of the Hunter Region. And, the HBOC Committee merits a special 'pat on the back' too for continuing to support publication of these reports.

The Hunter region's significance for birds is evidenced by the fact that more than half of all Australian birds have been recorded and many of these are regularly recorded. The highlights section of the report's 2005 edition again emphasizes the level of bird richness and habitat diversity occurring across the area.

It is with great pleasure therefore that I introduce this, the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of, the Hunter Region Annual Bird Report to HBOC members and others interested in the avifauna of the Hunter Region. My hearty congratulations to all who have contributed to its substance and/or publication: a quality presentation, great format and valuable content!!

Dick (R.M.) Cooper  
September 2006

*Amongst Dick Cooper's many contributions to Australian ornithology, he was Coordinator of the NSW Bird Atlassers from 1982-2001 and prior to that, one of the eight Regional Organisers for the first (1976-1981) Atlas of Australian Birds. He has been the Chairman of the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) since 1992, and he produced the NSW Bird Reports for 1985-1988.*





# INTRODUCTION

In this Report, produced by Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC), we present a summary of the status of bird species within the Hunter Region of NSW in 2005. The information is based upon observation records gathered from a variety of sources.

There are four additions to the 2005 species list – Radjah Shelduck, Brolga, Red-chested Button-quail, Budgerigar. However, one species, Cox's Sandpiper, has been removed (there is general recognition now that Cox's Sandpiper is not a full species, but rather that it is a hybrid of Curlew Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper). The official Hunter Region bird list now stands at 415 species. For 2005, 330 of these species were confirmed to have been present in the Region and information about those observations is presented in the Report.

150 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2005 - this is by far the greatest number of records for a calendar year, exceeding the previous peak of 139 species recorded as breeding in 1998. In the 10 years from 1996, 225 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 14 species there are pre-1996 records).

Severe drought conditions persisted for most of the Region throughout 2005. The associated movements of species, especially towards the coast, may account for the larger than usual counts of some species in 2005.

Once again, only a few pelagic surveys were organised in 2005 owing to boat operability problems. Thus, there are fewer records of seabirds than has been the case in previous years.

A map showing the land area of the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report. When the Bird Reports were commenced in 1993, HBOC defined the Hunter Region to be the area encompassed by 14 particular local government authorities (plus the ocean to the east of this). Since then however, some of the local authorities in NSW have been amalgamated. The original definition of the Region is no longer valid, but for consistency we have retained the same geographical area. The Hunter Region therefore is defined now as:

- The area managed by local government authorities for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Scone, Dungog, Gloucester, Port Stephens, Greater Taree and Great Lakes,
- The ocean to the east of that area, within 100km of the coastline, and
- The land areas that formerly were managed by the Shire Councils of Merriwa and Murrurundi.

The philosophies 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 2005, the Records Appraisal Committee 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 many observers who submit records of their sightings 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 2005 Report.

Alan Stuart  
3 August 2006

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 2005 included the following:

- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* - up to four birds at Ash Island 23 Jul and 8 Aug
- Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* - up to four birds at Hunter Wetlands Centre during Jun-Jul and two birds at Coralville 21 May
- Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah* - two birds at Mungo Brush MLNP from 2 Oct onwards
- Hardhead *Aythya australis* - first breeding record for more than 20 years
- Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* - 247 birds at Grahamstown Dam 15 Jul
- Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* - three birds on a pelagic survey 10 Apr
- Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica* - two birds on a pelagic survey 10 Apr
- Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* - single birds at Merewether baths 1 May and Newcastle baths 30 Oct
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - seven birds in a survey 24 Sep and 1-2 birds regularly at Barnsley Sep/Oct; also several other records
- Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis* - more than 25,000 birds in the lower Hunter July
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* - two birds at Bulls Island June and four reports from elsewhere of single birds
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* - numerous records especially from Morpeth STP and Ash Island, and the first ever breeding record
- Brolga *Grus rubicunda* - a single bird at Morpeth 27 Nov
- Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* - up to three birds at Ash Island over Apr-May and at least one bird at Walka Water Works 13 Sep
- Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax* - two birds at Widden Valley 2 Oct
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - 248 birds in Port Stephens 12 Mar (>2% of the Australian migrating population)
- Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* - 350 birds at Ash Island 5 Mar, and 20+ birds over-wintering
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* - breeding attempts at Lemon Tree Passage Mar & Aug and Fenninghams Island Sep, and occasional records at Pindimar
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus* - a pair with a juvenile bird in the Farquhar Inlet area 18 May, 1 Jun and 23 Dec
- Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* - 55 birds at Worimi NR 23 Jul and 53 birds at Stockton beach 16 Jun
- Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* - several records from both the Hunter estuary and Port Stephens
- Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* - a single bird at Stockton Sandspit in Jan
- Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* - 100+ birds at Mungo Brush MLNP 18 Aug, and a breeding attempt near Branxton Sep-Oct
- Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* - breeding records from 3 distinct locations
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - two birds near Cassilis 13 Apr
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* - 160-180 birds in the Cessnock-Aberdare-Pelton area over May-Aug
- Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus* - four birds at Mount Arthur 7 Sep

- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans* - a single bird at Giants Creek 28 May
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* - two pairs in Yengo NP 12-13 Aug
- Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* - several birds in Wollemi NP 2 Oct
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* - records from three locations
- Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* - 2-3 birds at Pelton SF Jun-Jul and 10 birds in Widden Valley during Oct with breeding in progress
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* - two birds at Widden Valley over Oct-Nov and one bird at Martindale 21 Oct
- White-eared Monarch *Monarcha leucotis* - a single bird at Crowdy Bay NP January
- Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta* - first breeding record for more than 20 years
- White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* - 6+ birds at Werakata NP 6 Aug
- Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor* - two birds in Wollemi NP 2 Oct
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafrja javanica* - several records
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis* - 2-4 birds on Kooragang Island 15 Nov and 17 Dec
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - a single bird at Ash Island 13 Nov as well as the usual Mar-Apr records
- Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* - 70-80+ birds near Jerrys Plains 16 Jul and 2 Aug, and 25-30 birds at Singleton 14 Sep and O'Briens Crossing 17 Oct, and 3 other records
- Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans* - 350 birds at Morpeth STP 13 Mar and 300+ birds at Ash Island 27 Dec

# 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;

**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      NSW: Endangered populations      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Resident in W of Region.

No reports were received for 2005.

## **Australian Brush-turkey** *Alectura lathami*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Hallidays Point (R5) 19 Feb (MVBW) and BbR 5 Apr (HBOC) - the latter is proving to be a consistent location. 1-5 birds (where numbers were noted) were at White Rock Chichester SF 22 Jan and 19-20 Nov (TOM, HBOC), Copeland Tops 24 & 25 Jan (TOM), Barrington Tops NP (M5) 1 Mar (TOM), Mount Royal (Callicoma) 1-3 Jun (HBOC), Wingham Brush 4 Aug (MVBW), Yengo homestead (H10) 12 Aug (per MOA) and Barrington House 30 Oct (BRG/MCR).

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

ID No: 009                      HBOC Category: 2              Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive.

1-5 birds were recorded at Warakeila 7 Apr (NEM), Lavis Lane Williamtown (N10) 16 May (MCR), Ellalong 4 Jun (ROM) and Green Wattle Creek 2 Sep (NEM), and some birds were heard at Bolwarra 25 & 27 Feb and Martindale 26 Feb (all TAH records).

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

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

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

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

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 199                      HBOC Category: 2      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded at HWC and adjacent wetlands (especially NWR and Market Swamp) as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* The peak count at HWC was of 66 birds present 27 Jun (MCR). The only record from elsewhere than the wetlands around Shortland was of two birds at PNR 26 Mar (CBOC). Birds were on nests at HWC 12 Sep and Market Swamp 13 Oct (MCR, HBOC) and had goslings at HWC 16 Jan and 12 Nov (WCR), Newcastle University 21 Feb (KEM) and PNR 13 Mar (NBL).

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

ID No: 205                      HBOC Category: 2              Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

12 birds were recorded at HWC 8 Apr (BAW/WCR) and 1-2 birds there 19 Jan, 27 Jun and 12 Sep (TOM, MCR). A pair was with 4 large ducklings at PNR 16 Jan (HAP).

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

ID No: 204                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*).

49 birds were recorded night roosting at NWR 4 Aug (HBOC), and 30+ birds (in daytime) at Charlestown Golf Club 23 Feb (CLT). Most other records were from two sites; HWC and PNR. At HWC, 37 birds were present 12 Sep (MCR) and 6-17 birds 26 Jan, 27 Jun, 12 Jul and 13 & 26 Oct (several observers). At PNR, 18-20 birds were present late Jan and 2-3 birds 26 Mar, 5 Jul and 30 Oct (several observers) and a pair had ducklings there 13 Mar (FOC). Also, 1-2 birds were at the nearby Newcastle University wetlands often over Mar-Oct, rising to 30 birds present there during May and 11 birds present 26 Aug (KEM).

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

ID No: 216                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Accidental (*Recorded 1989, 2002, 2003*).

Four birds (1m, 3f) were recorded at Ash Island Deep Pond 8 Aug and two birds (1m, 1f) there 23 Jul (HWS).

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Up to 10 birds were present every month at GTD and 17 birds were there 17 Nov (MAM, FRN). Birds also were regularly present at both WWW and Ash Island (Tables 2, 3, other records), with peak counts of seven birds on 12 Oct and twelve birds on 12 Mar, respectively. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at HWC 27 Jun (MCR), Leneghans Flat 1 & 5 Jul (LIN, HBOC), Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR), Bombah Point MLNP 29 Oct (FOC) and Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA).

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare.

Four birds were recorded at HWC 19 Jun (FOC) and 1-2 birds there over 25-27 Jun and again over 23-27 Jul (several reports). Also, two birds were at Coralville 21 May (MVBW).

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

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

*Notable records:* 600 birds were recorded at Lake Eraring 11 Dec (HLC). 477 birds were at Morpeth STP 6 Apr and 100+ birds were often there in the first half of the year (Table 1). 300 birds were at Worimi NR/Swan Bay 26 Feb and 195 birds there 16 Dec (HAS, FRN), and 208 birds in Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC). 100-200 birds were at KI/Ash Island Deep Pond 22 Jan, 12 & 20 Mar (Table 3, HBOC), Tarro swamp 20 Apr (MAM), PNR 5 Jul (HBOC) and SBS 6 Nov (HLC). There were many reports from these locations of 20+ birds, and occasionally of 50+ birds. Elsewhere, 50+ birds were recorded at Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA) and 21-50 birds at Taylors Beach 1 Mar (HBOC), Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV), PNR 7 Jul (MAM), Manning River 15 Oct (MVBW), Tahlee/Carrington 23 Oct (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM). There were several breeding records, spanning Jan and Jul-Nov.

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Radjah Shelduck** *Tadorna radjah*  
ID No: 206                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to List*).

Two birds were recorded at Mungo Brush MLNP 2 Oct (BIA), and the birds remained at this location for the remainder of the year (many reports). *Except for presumably the same birds present at Uranga during August, this is the first record for NSW since 1968 (NBL).*

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*  
ID No: 202                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at or near fresh to brackish waters.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC) and Glen Oak 1 & 5 Jun (MAM). There were several breeding records spanning Jan-Feb and late Jul-Dec.

**Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*  
ID No: 200                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
ID No: 948                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Eleven birds were recorded at Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR), and two birds at BbR 5 Apr (HBOC), Fennell Bay 18 Sep (TOM) and Dora Creek 24 Sep (TOM).

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

*Notable records:* 401 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 25 Feb and 250-300 birds there in Mar-Apr (Table 1). 447 birds were at KI/Ash Island 12 Mar and 300-400 birds in Feb and Apr (Table 3). 100+ birds were at KI/Ash Island 22 Jan and 20 Mar (Table 3, HBOC) and at HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep (MCR). 50+ birds were at Irrawang Swamp 14 Feb (LIA/MAM), Bush Haven Balickera 3 May (HBOC) and HWC 19 Jun (HBOC), and regularly at Morpeth STP (Table 1). 21-50 birds were present at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG), Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC), Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR), Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC), Irrawang Swamp 30 Oct and 24 Nov (MAM), PNR 4 Dec (HBOC) and regularly at KI/Ash Island (Table 3). There were breeding records spanning Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchos*  
ID No: 212                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. 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:* 100+ birds were recorded at KI/Ash Island over Feb-Apr, with a peak count of 250 birds on 9 Apr (Table 3). As the counts in the estuary then declined, they rose at Morpeth STP, with 98 birds there 18 May and 120 birds 16 Jun (Table 1). In the latter half of the year, few birds were at either location. 207 birds were present at HWC 27 Jun and 100+ birds there 19 Jun (HBOC, MCR). At PNR, 50+ birds were present 1 Jul (LIN) and 20+ birds 5 Jul (HBOC).



**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis*

ID No: 211                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters throughout the Region as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* 2,055 birds were recorded at KI/Ash Island 9 Apr and 700-900 birds in the two adjacent months (Table 3). 1,576 birds were at Morpeth STP 18 May and 1,381 birds 16 Jun (Table 1). Many hundreds of birds were at Morpeth STP most other months and at KI/Ash Island Jan-Feb and Dec. Elsewhere, 100+ birds were at HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep (MCR), and 50+ birds at Irrawang Swamp 23 Jan (MAM). There were breeding records spanning Jan-Feb and Aug-Nov.

**Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*

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

*Notable records:* 1,000+ birds were recorded at KI/Ash Island over Feb-Apr, 883 birds there 17 Dec and several hundreds in Jan and May (Table 3). The peak count at Morpeth STP was 288 birds 22 Dec; 100-200+ birds often were present and 50+ birds most other months (Table 1). 100-200 birds were at HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep (MCR) and 50-60 birds at PNR 23 Jan (HBOC) and Irrawang Swamp 14 Feb (LIA/MAM). There were breeding records spanning Jan, Apr and Sep-Nov.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

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

No reports received for 2005.

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

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

143 birds were recorded at KI/Ash Island 9 Apr and 122 birds at Morpeth STP 16 Jun (Tables 1, 3). 21-40 birds were at KI/Ash Island Feb-Mar and Leneghans Flat 5 Jul (HBOC), and 6-20 birds at HWC 27 Jun (MCR), Muswellbrook STP 9 Nov (LIN/BRG), KI/Ash Island Nov-Dec and several times at Morpeth STP (Table 1). 1-5 birds were at SSNR 20 Feb and 18 Sep (HLC, KEM), WWW 9 Mar, Mount Arthur 2 Apr (NEG), Irrawang swamp 28 Apr and 11 & 30 May (MAM), Stewarts River (R3) 21 May (MVBW), HWC 25 Jun (LCP), Leneghans Flat 1 Jul (LIN), and Morpeth STP 14 Jul and 22 Dec (Table 1).

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes (*Revised from: Past records*)

Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 611 birds were recorded at KI/Ash Island 9 Apr and 200-350 birds there most months over Jan-Jun (Table 3). 252 birds were at Morpeth STP 18 May (Table 1) and 237-280 birds at GTD 25 Feb and 12 Mar (MAM). 100+ birds were at KI/Ash Island 23 Jul and 17 Dec and at HWC 27 Jun (MCR), and 50+ birds at WWW 9 Feb, GTD 29 Apr (MAM) and HWC 12 Sep (MCR). 21-50 birds were at GTD 21 Jan and 13 May (MAM), HWC 19 Jun (HBOC), PNR 7 Jul and 16 Aug (MAM, HLC) and Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR). Birds had ducklings at Muswellbrook STP 3 Feb (MCR/BRG) - *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region for more than 20 years.*

**Table 1 Main Waterbirds at Morpeth STP***(regular surveys led by A Lindsey & M Newman)*

	Jan 6	Feb 25	Mar 13	Apr 6	May 18	Jun 16	Jul 14	Aug 3	Sep 24	Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 22
Black Swan	186	213	158	477	83	192	87	57	48	75	174	101
Aust. Wood Duck	19	10	16	5	9	4	10	7	7	15	23	5
Pacific Black Duck	21	401	280	254	68	90	48	54	82	62	85	92
Aust. Shoveler	20	44	21	14	98	120	42	44	0	1	0	5
Grey Teal	208	138	41	351	1576	1381	300	492	180	360	132	267
Chestnut Teal	51	212	150	124	106	37	230	63	81	158	32	288
Pink-eared Duck	0	0	8	7	11	122	1	0	0	0	0	3
Hardhead	5	29	16	58	252	68	38	9	41	71	5	9
Aust. Grebe	1	27	61	18	16	15	30	41	73	0	1	2
Hoary-headed Grebe	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darter	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	0	5	4	3	0	0	1	1	2	3	0
Little Black Cormorant	9	7	12	2	4	0	0	0	10	7	19	30
Great Cormorant	2	2	0	0	3	44	42	19	0	2	0	1
Aust. Pelican	101	9	7	10	13	18	68	137	13	2	34	83
White-faced Heron	14	4	19	12	21	0	3	2	20	17	25	17
Little Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
White-necked Heron	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Great Egret	5	5	4	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	5	2
Intermediate Egret	9	13	8	6	3	1	0	0	3	1	12	15
Cattle Egret	16	44	58	13	102	9	0	2	24	11	8	4
Nankeen Night Heron	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glossy Ibis	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australian White Ibis	2	2	1	5	99	4	0	1	0	8	1	11
Straw-necked Ibis	0	9	67	400	367	287	33	52	0	0	0	14
Royal Spoonbill	1	30	21	22	10	9	3	0	0	10	9	17
Eurasian Coot	22	21	31	108	40	250	230	216	8	7	2	3

**Table 2 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks***(regular surveys by J Smart, P Baird & L Mee)*

	Jan 6	Feb 9	Mar 9	Apr 13	May 11	Jun 8	July 16	Aug 10	Sep 13	Oct 12	Nov 9	Dec 14
Musk Duck	5	3	0	3	2	5	2	2	5	7	6	3
Black Swan	17	0	5	2	4	6	2	7	3	4	3	3
Aust. Wood Duck	0	0	2	0	3	2	2	0	2	10	12	1
Pacific Black Duck	22	48	12	18	7	9	9	13	17	15	9	6
Aust. Shoveler	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Grey Teal	6	15	11	2	7	1	0	0	6	11	13	9
Chestnut Teal	17	2	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	1
Pink-eared Duck	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardhead	6	52	30	36	22	15	12	20	0	1	8	3
Aust. Grebe	1	9	16	30	37	45	64	30	40	17	11	9
Hoary-headed Grebe	0	0	11	5	0	14	2	18	42	9	0	0
Great Crested Grebe	10	27	12	8	8	6	11	4	4	6	9	11
Little Pied Cormorant	2	3	5	6	5	3	28	7	1	1	1	2
Little Black Cormorant	22	19	15	13	12	18	12	7	7	6	22	10
Aust. Pelican	1	3	0	0	1	2	4	2	0	0	2	3
White-faced Heron	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1
Little Egret	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	2
Great Egret	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Intermediate Egret	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0
Aust. White Ibis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Straw-necked Ibis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Spoonbill	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Swamphen	0	4	2	3	1	4	10	5	6	5	3	4
Dusky Moorhen	3	0	23	13	16	8	5	8	12	5	4	6
Eurasian Coot	47	110	102	102	160	124	119	69	77	105	66	56
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	4	8	6	5	2	0	2	2	2	3	3
Masked Lapwing	6	4	4	1	2	4	2	0	2	4	1	0

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 061 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 115 birds, in two rafts, were recorded at GTD 13 May (MAM). 91 birds were at KI/Ash Island 23 Jul, 73 birds at Morpeth STP 24 Sep and 64 birds at WWW 16 Jul (Tables 1-3). There were many records of 21-50 birds especially over Apr-Oct, from Morpeth STP, WWW, KI/Ash Island, HWC (several observers) and also at Hexham swamp 9 Sep (NEM). Birds were on nest at Tenambit Common 6 Sep (HBOC) and had chicks at Widden Valley 13 Oct (LIN/BRG).

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

ID No: 062

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

Numbers rose substantially at GTD May-Jul, with 166 birds recorded 13 May then rising to a peak count of 247 birds 15 Jul (MAM). Over Aug-Dec most counts were of <20 birds but 40 birds were present 28 Oct (MAM). High counts from elsewhere were 74 birds at Mount Arthur 2 Apr (NEG), 50+ birds at WWW 3 Apr (TAH) and 53 birds at KI/Ash Island 9 Apr. 21-50 birds often were recorded at KI/Ash Island during the year (Table 3), and 6-20 birds at WWW 9 Mar and 10 Aug. There also were several, wide ranging, records of 1-5 birds.

**Table 3 Main Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands***(Surveys conducted at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites)*

	Jan 22	Feb 26	Mar 12	Apr 9	May 7	Jun 25	Jul 23	Aug 20	Sep 17/8	Oct 22	Nov 19	Dec 17
Wand. Whistling-Duck	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue-billed Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Musk Duck	1	4	12	3	0	3	4	5	3	1	2	2
Black Swan	105	61	147	52	20	21	52	32	36	30	30	12
Aust. Wood Duck	0	0	0	6	8	2	15	13	5	13	1	2
Pacific Black Duck	130	311	447	388	18	13	2	10	6	27	21	22
Aust. Shoveler	12	101	187	250	11	37	48	0	0	1	3	6
Grey Teal	110	316	753	2055	866	20	0	0	0	23	10	137
Chestnut Teal	474	1062	1020	1027	255	30	9	53	11	90	75	883
Pink-eared Duck	0	22	39	143	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	6
Hardhead	213	311	369	611	30	200	101	49	14	98	68	124
Aust. Grebe	0	2	9	18	6	35	91	48	25	29	8	0
Hoary-headed Grebe	0	40	34	53	0	40	38	3	42	30	22	37
Darter	2	0	2	8	4	4	3	3	2	3	0	0
Little Pied Cormorant	10	8	6	7	10	5	1	5	2	8	4	5
Pied Cormorant	3	9	20	1	3	6	7	10	12	10	5	10
Little Black Cormorant	12	13	12	15	11	28	24	20	20	35	42	36
Great Cormorant	13	11	13	3	4	2	4	2	25	6	19	9
Aust. Pelican	197	134	153	201	148	73	193	141	25	74	96	145
White-faced Heron	44	50	44	32	58	73	86	69	31	18	30	30
Little Egret	15	7	12	5	4	4	3	3	5	8	12	7
White-necked Heron	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Great Egret	11	3	8	4	2	6	1	2	5	5	14	2
Intermediate Egret	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
Cattle Egret	109	27	18	0	3	0	0	0	2	40	26	5
Striated Heron	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	2
Australian White Ibis	59	120	137	208	77	120	22	26	4	1	51	26
Straw-necked Ibis	0	5	1	24	12	151	294	33	2	0	0	0
Royal Spoonbill	5	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	21

*(See Corrections and Changes for amendments to the 2004 waterbirds survey data)*

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Birds were recorded all year at two main locations, GTD and WWW, mostly as 1-12 birds. 27 birds were at WWW 9 Feb (Table 2), 20 birds at GTD 17 Nov and 70 birds there 10 Dec (MAM). Elsewhere, 15 birds were at Mount Arthur 2 Apr and two birds there 9 Jan (NEG), and some birds at Bootawa Dam 4 Aug (MVBW).

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

ID No: 005                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Six birds were recorded at the mouth of Newcastle harbour 16 Jan (HAP) and four birds in Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) and at Shoal Bay 8 Jul (CLT). Some birds were at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan and two breeding colonies were noted (HLC).

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

ID No: 929                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant at and beyond the continental shelf (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Northern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes halli*

ID No: 937                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant at and beyond the continental shelf (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense*

ID No: 080                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Migrant at >5km from shore. (*Revised from: Winter migrant ....*)

No reports were received for 2005.

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 1997, 2001*). (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 075                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Common summer visitor and bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf. (*Text revised*)

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

**White-headed Petrel** *Pterodroma lessonii*

ID No: 077                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon late winter/spring migrant (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Providence Petrel** *Pterodroma solandri*

ID No: 971                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Common autumn to spring visitor at and beyond the continental shelf. (*Text revised*)

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

**Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer visitor at and beyond the continental shelf. (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

Three birds each having differing plumage (dark, intermediate and light morphs) were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS).

**Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 915                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**White-necked Petrel** *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 2001, 2004*). (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS).

**Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii*

ID No: 918                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1971*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Pycroft's Petrel** *Pterodroma pycrofti*

ID No:                              HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Newcastle 3 Apr and 10 Apr (HPS).

**Breeding:** There are around 1000 breeding pairs on Cabbage Tree Island, with close to 500 chicks fledging each year. Also, around 20 pairs now breed on Boondelbah Island (information from N Carlisle in CBOC's April 2006 Newsletter). *The recovery of this species, which was commenced as a National Parks & Wildlife project in the 1990's, continues to be encouraging.*

**Broad-billed Prion** *Pachyptila vittata*

ID No: 082                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1973*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Antarctic Prion** *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000*) (*Revised from: Uncertain*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Slender-billed Prion** *Pachyptila belcheri*

ID No: 942                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain (*recorded several times in 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur*

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

20+ birds recorded off Newcastle baths 8 Jun and 40+ birds there 25 Jun (both MCR) are considered probably to have been this species.

**White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

ID No: 915                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1968, 2003).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2000).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2000).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

Around 1,500 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr and ~500 birds on the corresponding survey 10 Apr (both HPS). 100+ birds were off Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA).

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

ID No: 975                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 1995, 2000, 2001). (Revised from: Accidental).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 072                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant at >1km from shore.

100+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (STA).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

ID No: 070                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant.

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

*Notable records:* Small numbers of birds were recorded off Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and off Newcastle beach 6 Dec (HBOC).

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant. (Revised from: Bird of passage).

50+ birds were recorded off Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA) and some birds at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC).

**Hutton's Shearwater** *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 975                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage (recorded 2000-2004) (Revised from: Uncertain).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans*

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

A juvenile bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS). An adult and a juvenile bird were off Newcastle 9 Jun (MCR/LIN).

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

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

One bird was off Bar Beach 8 Jun and three birds off Newcastle baths 25 Jun (both MCR).

**Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

1-2 birds were recorded off Newcastle baths 8 & 25 Jun and off Bar Beach 8 Jun (both MCR).

**Buller's Albatross** *Diomedea bulleri*

ID No: 931                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain. (recorded 2003).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 063                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf. (Revised from: Uncertain).

Around 50 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

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

ID No: 065                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records (Revised)  
Status: Resident.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS).



**Black-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta tropica*

ID No: 066                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon visitor (recorded 2002). (Revised from: Accidental)

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS).

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1994, 2000).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

ID No: 104                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Regular non-breeding visitor.

34 birds were recorded off Bar Beach 8 Jun (MCR), 20+ birds off Newcastle baths 25 Jun (MCR/LIN) and ten birds off Redhead 15 Aug (GOC). 1-5 birds were off Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), Nelson Head 2 Jun (CLT), Fingal Bay 12 Jul (TBW), Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA), and Crowdy Bay NP 20 Sep (HBOC), and on pelagic surveys SE of Newcastle 3 Apr and 24 Jul (STA, TOM). Also, uncommon records were of several young birds were fishing within Port Stephens 15 Jun (FRN) and a single bird off LTP in Port Stephens 14 Jun (COD).

**Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

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

**Notable records:** Eight birds were recorded at Coolongolook 11 May (MVBW). 13-24 birds were night roosting at NWR 14 Jul, 4 Aug and 13 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** One bird was on nest at NWR 12 Sep, growing to 8 nests there by 13 Oct (STA, HBOC). A bird also was on nest at nearby Market Swamp 13 Oct (HBOC). Some birds were breeding in a colony with cormorants near Bungwahl (Q7) 4 Dec (GRP) and also were breeding at Toronto Wetland 11 Dec (HLC).

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

ID No: 100                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters, with counts of up to 20 birds often recorded at large waters.

**Notable records:** 44 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) and 28 birds at WWW 16 Jul (Table 2), and 27 birds were night roosting at Market Swamp 13 Oct (both HBOC). **Breeding:** Four birds were on nests at Market Swamp 13 Oct (HBOC). There were 5+ nests at Toronto Wetland 23 Feb and 50 nests there 11 Dec (HLC).

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

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

**Notable records:** 47 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC). 43-78 birds were night roosting at NWR over Jul-Oct, with the peak count being 78 birds 4 Aug (HBOC). 29 birds were at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA) and 16-18 birds at Worimi NR 25 Jun and 23 Jul (HAS). There were several records of 10-20 birds at KI during the year (Table 3). **Breeding:** Seven birds were on nests at NWR 13 Oct (HBOC).

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

ID No: 097C

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

**Notable records:** 160 birds were present at Muddishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA), 120 birds at Hawks Nest 18 Jan (MAM) and 82 birds at Toronto Wetlands 16 Jul (HLC). 21-50 birds were recorded at WWW 6 Jan and 9 Nov, GTD 21 Jan (MAM), Irrawang Swamp 23 Jan (MAM), Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA) and Morpeth STP 22 Dec (Table 1), and regularly At KI/Ash Island in the latter half of the year, and also night roosting at NWR 4 Aug and 13 Oct and at Market Swamp 13 Oct (all HBOC). **Breeding:** Six birds were on nests at Market Swamp 13 Oct (HBOC). There were 3+ nests at Toronto Wetland 23 Feb and ten nests there 11 Dec (HLC).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

ID No: 096

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters, mostly as counts of up to 10 birds.

**Notable records:** 38-64 birds were night roosting at NWR over Jul-Oct, with the peak count being on 14 Jul (HBOC). Also, 14 birds were night roosting at Market Swamp 13 Oct (HBOC). 19-44 birds were at Morpeth STP Jun-Aug with the peak count being on 16 Jun (Table 1). 25 birds were at KI/Ash Island Sep 17-18 and 10-20 birds there on several other months (Table 3). **Breeding:** Two birds were on nests at both Market Swamp and NWR both 13 Oct (HBOC).

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters, mainly as counts of up to 20 birds but with greater numbers not uncommon at large waters.

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were present at KI/Ash Island most of the year, with the peak count being of 201 birds 9 Apr (Table 3). 100+ birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 6 Jan and 3 Aug and 50+ birds there 14 Jul and 22 Dec (Table 1). 197 birds were night roosting at NWR 14 Jul and 119 birds 4 Aug (HBOC). 68 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM) and 55 birds at PNR 23 Jan (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), HWC 27 Jun (MCR) and NWR 13 Oct (HBOC).

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

ID No: 188

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, in counts of up to 20 birds at some favoured habitats.

**Notable records:** 50+ birds often were at KI/Ash Island during the year with the peak count being 86 birds 23 Jul (Table 3). 21-50 birds often were there in the remainder of the year, and at Morpeth STP 18 May and 10 Nov (Table 1) and in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar and at Taylors Beach 1 Mar (both HBOC). Birds were on nest at Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC) and Wallabadah Rock 1-3 Oct (FOC).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

**Notable records:** 15 birds were recorded at KI/Ash Island 22 Jan and 12 birds there 12 Mar and 19 Nov; 3-8 birds were present all other months (Table 3). Five birds were recorded at HWC 12 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** There were three nests at HWC 14 Dec (MAM) and two nests at Toronto Wetland 11 Dec (HLC).

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records (*revised*)  
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Merewether baths 1 May (GOC) and at Newcastle baths 30 Oct (HHB).

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

ID No: 189                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded as 1-2 birds throughout the Region.

*Notable records:* Ten birds were recorded at both Fullerton Cove 26 May (KEM) and Williamtown 13 Jul (CLT), seven birds at Salt Ash Island 21 Jul (KEM) and three birds at Leneghans Flat 10 Sep 9 (HAP).

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds except when breeding.

*Notable records:* 14 birds were at KI/Ash Island 19 Nov and 11 birds there 22 Jan (Table 3), and seven birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM). 3-5 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Jan-Mar and 10 Nov (Table 1), Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV), NWR 14 Jul (HBOC) and several times at KI/Ash Island. **Breeding:** There were 35 nests at HWC 14 Dec (MAM), 5+ nests at Toronto Wetland 23 Feb and 10 nests there 11 Dec (HLC).

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds except when breeding.

*Notable records:* 15 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 22 Dec and there were regular high counts there except during winter (Table 1). 14 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM), seven birds at KI/Ash Island 22 Jan (Table 3) and six birds at HWC 12 Sep (STA). 3-5 birds were present at KI/Ash Island 26 Feb and 17 Dec, PNR 4 Dec (HBOC) and at WWW 16 Jul (Tables 2, 3). **Breeding:** There were nine nests at HWC 14 Dec (MAM).

**Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*

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

*Notable records:* At the night roosting sites of SSNR, HWC and Irrawang swamp, the peak counts respectively were of 400 birds 20 Apr, 176 birds 13 Oct and 38 birds 14 Jul (MAM, HBOC). 321 birds were recorded at Glen Oak 5 Jun and 100-150 birds at Felspar 29 Jun, Irrawang bridge 1 Jul and Raymond Terrace 7 & 17 Jul (all MAM records), and Morpeth STP 18 May (Table 1). **Breeding:** There were 381 nests at SSNR 11 Dec and 182 nests at HWC 14 Dec (MAM), and 60 nests at Toronto Wetland 11 Dec (HLC).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

ID No: 193                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident.

Six birds were recorded at Wang Wauk river near Coolongolook 11 May (MVBW). Three birds were present at KI/Ash Island 22 Jan and 19 Nov, and two birds there 26 Feb and 17 Dec (Table 3) and at HWC 12 Sep (MCR). Single birds were at Warners Bay 21-23 Feb (GOA), Swansea 18 Apr (LIG), Coolongolook 6 May (FRN), Cockle Creek 2 Sep (TOM), Stony Creek (Toronto) 2 Sep (TOM), Harrington 15 Oct (MVBW), Stockton Oct 30 (BRG/MCR), Wyee Point 5 Nov (FOC) and Oyster Cove 22 Nov (MCN). (*all records published*)

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Birds were recorded often at HWC but 152 birds were observed flying off on dusk 13 Oct (HBOC) - this is comparable to the high counts at this roosting site in 2001. Birds also roosted regularly at Wallbridge Reserve, most counts there were of <20 birds but 73 birds were present 3 Dec (MAM). Elsewhere, ten birds were at SSSNR 18 Jul (MAM), six birds at Tahlee/Carrington 23 Oct (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Morpeth 6 Jan (LIA/NEM), Taylors Beach 11 Jan (FRN), PNR 23 Jan (HBOC), Stony Creek Toronto 2 Sep (TOM), SSSNR 13 Sep (TBW), Woodville 30 Oct (NEM), Balickera Oct (MUJ), Kilaben Bay 1 Nov (HBOC) and Toronto Wetland 11 Dec (HLC).

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare resident (*usually overlooked*). (*Revised from: ..... probably overlooked*)

A total of seven birds were recorded in a survey of Dora, Jigadee and Stockton Creeks (all near Toronto) 24 Sep (TOM). A single bird was recorded at Barnsley early Sep (TOM) and then 1-2 birds there for the remainder of the month and into early Oct (many reports). Single birds also were at Ash Island 9 Mar (MCN), Forster 29 May (MVBW), Stony Creek (near Toronto) 2 Sep, Cockle Creek (Northville) 2 & 7 & 30 Sep and Stockton Creek 29 Oct (all TOM). *Many more records than usual: most of the records were from focussed surveys, which supports the view that the presence of this species often is overlooked.*

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

Ten birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM) and seven birds at Morpeth 27 Feb (LIN). 1-5 birds were at Irrawang Swamp several times in Jan (FRN, MAM), Morpeth STP 25 Feb (Table 1), Seaham 12 May (MAM) and PNR 16 Aug (HLC).

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as &lt;20 birds but with counts of up to 50 birds not uncommon.

**Notable records:** Once again, many thousands of birds migrated to the lower Hunter valley. The main night roosting sites were Irrawang swamp and the swamps in the Shortland area. Surveys on dusk at these sites allowed better speciation from *T. spinicollis* than in previous years. The results are summarised in Table 7; probably, around 3,000 birds were present at the peak. There were many corresponding daytime records of several hundred birds in the lower Hunter.

**Breeding:** There were nine nests (two with dependent young) at HWC 26 Jan and also an adult feeding a young bird there (LIA/WEJ). Nesting had recommenced at HWC by 12 Sep (STA) and there were 14 nests there 10 Dec (MAM). 10+ nests were at Toronto Wetland 23 Feb and ten nests again there 11 Dec (HLC), also there were 38 nests at Muddy Lake near Dora Creek 11 Dec (HLC). *This was by far the most prolific breeding year since the Bird Reports commenced.*

**Table 7 Aust. White Ibis Surveys**  
(At major night roosting sites in the lower Hunter)

Date	Apr 14	Jun 5	Jun 15	Jul 6	Jul 14	Aug 4	Aug 24	Sep 23	Oct 12-13
HWC	2,848	nc	1,678	nc	1,602	1,166	nc	nc	639
NWR	nc	nc	141	nc	0	92	nc	nc	3
Market Swamp	nc	nc	nc	nc	59	278	nc	nc	0
Irrawang	nc	12	30	84	41	39	5	26	35
PNR	nc	nc	nc	10	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>2,848+</b>	-	<b>1,849+</b>	-	<b>1,702+</b>	<b>1,575+</b>	-	-	<b>677+</b>

nc: not counted Also, the counts for some other months have not been presented

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

ID No: 180

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

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

**Notable records:** Once again, many thousands of birds migrated to the lower Hunter valley. The main night roosting sites were Irrawang swamp and the swamps in the Shortland area. Surveys on dusk at these sites allowed better speciation from *T. molucca* than in previous years. The results are summarised in Table 8; probably, around 25,000 birds were present at the peak of the migration. There were many corresponding daytime records in the lower Hunter of several hundred birds and upwards to 1,000+ birds. **Breeding:** A pair was copulating at HWC 26 Jan (LIA/WEJ) - this is insufficient to be considered as a breeding record.

**Table 8 Straw-necked Ibis Surveys**  
(At major night roosting sites in the lower Hunter)

Date	Apr 14	Apr 28	May 9	May 30	Jun 5	Jun 15	Jul 6	Jul 14	Aug 4	Aug 24	Oct 12-13
HWC	2,311	nc	nc	nc	nc	1,668	nc	11,856	1,520	nc	201
NWR	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	526	nc	20	0	nc	0
Market Swamp	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1,545	104	nc	0
Irrawang	nc	1,907	4,292	8,196	5,276	8,665	11,153	10,999	3,338	865	32
PNR	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	698	nc	nc	nc	nc
<b>Total birds</b>	<b>2,311+</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10,859+</b>	-	<b>24,420+</b>	<b>4,962+</b>	-	<b>233+</b>

nc: not counted Also, the counts for some other months have not been presented

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

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

*Notable records:* 40 birds were recorded at Leneghans Flat 10 Sep 9 (HAP) and 21-30 birds at HWC 26 Jan and 12 Sep (LIA/WEJ, MCR), Leneghans Flat 28 May (STA), SSNR 18 Sep (KEM) and KI/Ash Island 17 Dec (Table 3). **Breeding:** Three nests (one being built, two with chicks) were at Mount Vincent Rd East Maitland 26 Nov (MAM). 10 pairs were nesting at Paterson Rd Maitland Oct 21 (LIG). Birds were in the company of begging fledged young at Irrawang Swamp 14 Feb and HWC 26 Jan and 10 Dec (LIA/WEJ, MAM). *The most breeding records since the Bird Reports commenced.*

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

ID No: 182                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage. Moderately often recorded throughout the Region as counts of 1-3 birds.

*Notable records:* 15 birds were at Leneghans Flat 5 Jul (HBOC), and five birds at Congewai (J10) 14 Aug (HLC).

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

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

Single birds were at Leneghans Flat 23 Jan (MCR), East Seaham 27 Feb (CLT), Coolongolook 26 Apr and 3 May (TBW, FRN) and Dyers Crossing (P5) 17 May (MVBW).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

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

*Notable records:* Records from the Hunter estuary southwards were of single birds at Cockle Creek/Teralba 3 Apr, 19 Aug and 11 Sep (CLT, SIJ, HLC), Hunter estuary/ Stockton Sandspit 12 Mar and 28 Apr (HWS, CLT) and Wyee Point 26 Apr (MDV). Birds were nesting at Tahlee 23 Aug (FRN) and again on nest in that area 23 Oct (HBOC). Two chicks were banded at Johns River (S3) 4 Aug (MVBW).

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were nesting at Balickera in Oct and Nov and had chicks there 3 Dec (MUJ) and were nest building at Newcastle University late Oct and on nest there 21 Nov (KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* A total of six birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary 23 Jul (HWS). Four birds were at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

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

ID No: 230

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded in the East Maitland/Raymond Terrace area 27 Jan, 19 Feb, 26 Mar and 17 Jun (BRG, MCR, HAP, MAM), and at Manning Point (S4) 5 May (MVBW), Nulama Taree 7 Jul (MVBW) and Karuah 13 Sep (per MOA). Also, a single bird was seen frequently at Cundletown during March (MVBW). Birds nested at Cooperbrook SF (MVBW).

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon visitor to W of the Region, elsewhere rare.

A single bird was recorded at Morpeth 1 Feb (BRG).

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Seven birds were recorded at Belmont Lagoon 26 Apr (CLT) and six birds in the Hunter estuary 12 Mar (HWS). 3-4 birds were at HWC 14 Apr and 27 Jun (LIA, MCR) and Hunter estuary 25 Jun (HWS). Birds had a nest with young at Worimi NR 9 Apr and nested there again later in the year, successfully fledging young by late Nov (HAS).

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

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

Two birds often were present on Bulls Island Port Stephens in the second half of Jun (FRN, COD). Single birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 24 Jan (JED/MCR), Taylors Beach 30 May (CLT), Hunter estuary 18 Sep (HWS) and Harrington 15 Oct (MVBW).

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

ID No: 226

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near large waters, mostly as single birds or pairs and occasionally also with a juvenile.

*Notable records:* Six pairs were recorded around Wallis Lake 11 May (MVBW). Nine birds in total were in the Hunter estuary 23 Jul and six birds 12 Mar (HWS). Four birds were at Hunter estuary 25 Jun (HWS) and at HWC 27 Jun (MCR). Birds had a nest with young at GTD 9 Aug (COD).

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were present in the Hunter estuary 20 Aug (HWS) and at Mt Thorley 13 Sep (ALP). Single birds were recorded at Maitland/Lorn 6 Mar (TAH), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Hannam Vale 27 May (MVBW), Aberdeen 29 May (BRG), Hunter estuary 25 Jun and 23 Jul (HWS), North Rothbury 10 Aug (RIA), Mt Thorley 31 Aug (ALP), North Taree 17 Sep (MVBW) and East Maitland 28 Oct (BRG). The latter bird was a juvenile.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as single birds.

*Notable records:* Totals of 3-5 birds were recorded several times at locations around the Hunter estuary during the year (HWS). Three birds were at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC), Bobs Farm 16 Jan (CLT) and Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM); one of the birds at Broughton Island was an immature. Two birds were recorded at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR), Morpeth STP 16 Jun (LIA/NEM), HWC 27 Jun and 26 Aug (MCR, TOM), Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR), Teralba 2 Aug (HBOC) and Hunter estuary 17 Dec (HWS). A bird was unsuccessfully harriving a Dusky Moorhen on a nest at Woodville 21 May (NEM).

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds.

*Notable records:* Two birds were at Green Point (L11) 14 Apr (CLT), and a pair were with a dependent young at Wingen 15 Jul (NEG).

**Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as single, grey phase birds.

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 15-16 Jan (HAP) and Awabakal NR 6 Jul (BRG) - one bird at Gloucester Tops was a juvenile. Two birds were at Allyn River Forest Park 22 Jan (TOM), PNR 26 Mar (CBOC), HWC 27 Jun (MCR). A pair had a nest with two young at Whitebridge 21 Feb (GOC) and another pair were courting at Newcastle University 1 & 19 Jul (KEM). White phase birds were at Bolwarra 6 Mar (TAH) and Newcastle University wetlands 2 Aug (KEM).

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Warners Bay 26 Feb (CLT), Wollombi 26 Feb (FOC), Taylors Beach 1 Mar (HBOC), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Boarding House Dam 22 May (HBOC), Quorrobolong 30 Jul (FOC), Pelton 30 Jul (TOM), Bolwarra mid-Nov (TAH) and at Balickera in Dec (MUJ).

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

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Six birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 1 May (NEG) and four birds at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG) and Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). Birds were on nest at Rothbury 4 Aug (RIA) and had dependent young at Mount Arthur 1 Oct (NEG). Uncommon easterly records were of 1-2 birds at GTD 9 Aug (COD) and at Balickera in Dec (MUJ).

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Two birds were recorded at Morpeth 5 Feb (BRG), Broke 14 Feb (LAD) and HWC 14 Apr (per LIA). Single birds were at Bolwarra 6 Mar (TAH), Ash Island 11 & 18 Apr (GOC/MCR, LIG), Bush Haven Balickera 3 May (HBOC), Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA), Aberdeen 29 May (BRG), HWC 27 Jun (MCR) and Greta 27 Sep (KEM), and at Hunter estuary 12 Mar, 18 Sep and 22 Oct (HWS).



**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
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:* Birds had a nest with young at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG).

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest at Cardiff South 12 Dec (CLT).

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238                      HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*)                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare*).

There were numerous records of what previously has been considered a rare bird in the Region. Most records were from Morpeth STP where 1-2 birds were recorded most months except Jul-Aug when absent (LIA/NEM). Also, two adults were with two juveniles there 10 Nov and were feeding them - this is considered sufficient to be a breeding record. Two birds were at Hunter estuary 12 Mar (HWS) and single birds at Ash Island 18 Apr (LIG), HWC 26 Jul (COD) and Hexham swamp 9 Sep (NEM).

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

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

*Notable records:* Birds had a nest with three eggs at Forster 12 Aug (MVBW).

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

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

*Notable records:* A total of 11 birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG). Four birds were at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG) and three birds at Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC). Birds were copulating at Tenambit Common 6 Sep (HBOC).

**Brolga** *Grus rubicunda*

ID No: 177                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded at Morpeth 27 Nov (BEA).

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

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

Single birds were recorded at Ash Island 22 Jan (HWS), Crowdy Bay NP 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), Oyster Cove 23 Feb (MCN), Gloucester 15-17 Apr (JOL per FOC) and Widden Valley (E9) 13 Oct (LIN/BRG).

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

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

Single birds were recorded at BbR 18 Feb (MCR/GOC) and Glenrock SRA 26 Aug (TOM), and several times at HWC over Jul-Sep (several reports). It is probable, but not certain, that two birds were present at HWC.

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

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*

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

Single birds were recorded at WWW 3 Feb and 14 Dec (BRG/LIN, MAM) and at Ash Island 22 Oct (HWS).

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Hunter estuary 22 Jan (HWS) and at HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep (MCR). Birds had chicks at PNR 23 Jan and 16 Aug (HBOC, HLC), Newcastle University Feb-Mar and Oct-Nov (KEM) and HWC 12 Sep (MCR).

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep; on the latter date, birds had chicks present (MCR). A bird was on nest at Woodville 21 May and was being harried by a Swamp Harrier (NEM). A pair had a chick at Newcastle University late Feb to early Mar (KEM).

**Black-tailed Native-hen** *Gallinula ventralis*

ID No: 055                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Not recorded  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000-2002*).

Two birds were present at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR) and then there were occasional records of 1-3 birds through Apr-May. A bird was at WWW 13 Sep, with a possible second bird sighted briefly (SMJ/BAP).

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

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

*Notable records:* 200+ birds were recorded at HWC 27 Jun and 100+ birds there 12 Sep (MCR) and at Ash Island Deep Pond 23 Jul (HWS). 50+ birds were also at Deep Pond 12 & 20 Mar (HWS, HBOC), HWC 19 Jun (HBOC) and Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR). Birds had chicks at HWC 12 Sep (MCR).

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

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox*

ID No: 018                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1996, 2004).

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhotorax*

ID No: 019                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Accidental (New to list).

Two birds, an adult female and an immature male, were together at Widden Valley (E9) 2 Oct (STA).

**Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varia*

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

A total of eight birds were recorded at Werakata NP 24 May and five birds there 1 Jun (ROS). Four birds were at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and three birds at both Werakata NP and Pelton SF 7 Jun (ROS). Two birds were present near Warkworth 21 Jun (MOA) and single birds at Pelton SF 24 Jun (LIA), Kurri Kurri Hospital 14 Aug (TOM). Injured birds were found at Black Rock Martins Creek 3 Oct and Green Wattle Creek 27 Sep (both NEM) - the latter bird died after flying into a window.

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

ID No: 168                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Usual summer migrant. Often recorded as counts of up to 5 birds at medium to large wetlands in the E of the Region, from Jan to mid-Mar and from late Aug onwards.

*Notable records:* 120 birds were recorded in a survey of PNR 23 Jan and 66 birds in another survey there 4 Dec (HBOC); also, 55+ birds were recorded in a partial survey of PNR 16 Jan (NEM). 47 birds were at Irrawang Swamp 15 Jan (MAM) and 15-35 birds at other times through Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec (MAM, FRN). 47 birds were at WWW 1 Feb and 32 birds 21 Jan (BRG). 34 birds were at NWR 23 Jan and 18 birds there 13 Oct (MCR, HBOC), while 10 birds were at Woodville 16 Jan (NEM), seven birds at Leneghans Flat 23 Jan (MCR) and six birds at Toronto Wetland 11 Dec (HLC). A single bird at East Seaham 8 Apr (CLT) was a relatively late departure.

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

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

The peak count for KI/Ash Island was 225 birds 12 Mar - this is a low number compared with most of the recent years. Birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary throughout the year, with up to 30 birds over-wintering (Table 4). The only record from elsewhere was of <5 birds at Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR).

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815                      HBOC Category: 3 (Amended)                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1983, 1984 and 1988).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

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

*Notable records:* The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 1450 birds 22 Oct (Table 4) - this is consistent with counts of recent years. 226 birds over-wintered, which is the largest winter count since 2001. The peak counts at Worimi NR were of 227 birds both Oct-Nov; these also are the largest counts since 2001 albeit numbers remain down compared to 2001. 268 birds were recorded in all of Port Stephens, including Worimi NR, in a survey 12 Mar (HBOC). 113 birds were at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA). Three birds were at SBS 6 Nov (HLC) - an unusual location.

**Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus*

ID No: 151 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1969, 1972, 1985-86, 2001).

No reports were received for 2005. See Supplementary Records.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

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

*Notable records:* 136 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary 9 Apr (Table 4) - the best numbers since 2001. In a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar, a total of 248 birds were present - *this represents >2% of the Australian migrating population, a significant record, that represents a further improvement to the high numbers counted in the 2004 survey.*

**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

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

*Notable records:* The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 443 birds Sep 17-18 (Table 4); this represents a continuing decline in numbers in the estuary. Around 400 birds were at Worimi NR 20 Nov and 300+ birds often were there (Table 6). Thus, 700-800 birds were present in the Region during year. Only 80 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), whereas 250+ birds were at Worimi NR in Port Stephens the following day - much remains to be learnt! Elsewhere, 35 birds were at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan and 20+ birds there 8 Feb (STA, BRG/MCR),

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

124 birds were in the Hunter estuary 22 Jan with numbers declining over the subsequent months (Table 4). However, 99 birds were at Ash Island 3 May, for one day only (SPJ) - it is supposed that these birds were on migration passage. Similarly, 20+ birds were at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR), just 2 days after a total of 14 birds were counted in the entire estuary. There were no records from elsewhere in the Region.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

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

The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 166 birds 12 Mar (Table 4) - this is consistent with previous years. No birds over-wintered. Eight birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC); there were no other reports from elsewhere.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2001*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

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

The peak count during the regular surveys was 28 birds 22 Jan; however 33 birds were recorded at Fern Bay 1 Jan (STA) and 28 birds there 14 Jan (CLT). Also, there were 22 birds present 13 Mar (FOC) and 19 birds 17 Dec (MOA) - compared to much lower counts in the formal surveys for those months. Similar situations arose in 2003 and 2004, and the presence of an additional unidentified roost site seems likely.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

4-6 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary in Jan, Oct and Dec (Table 4) - these are good numbers compared with recent years. Also, three birds were present 7 May - possibly these were on migration passage as no birds were recorded in the April survey.

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

ID No: 155                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant. Occasionally recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, as counts of up to 5 birds (*text modified*)

*Notable records:* 47 birds were in the Hunter estuary 12 Mar (Table 4) - the largest known count since 1998. 52 birds were recorded in a survey at Pindimar Bay Port Stephens 3 Jan (STA/LIA) - re-affirming the importance of that site for the species. Nine birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) and seven birds were at Tahlee/Carrington 23 Oct (HBOC). Four birds over-wintered in the estuary and there were 15 birds at Worimi NR 25 Jun but none in any other month (Table 6) - this is unusual compared to recent years.

**Wandering Tattler** *Heteroscelus incanus*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

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

20 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) - most of the birds were near Oyster Cove. Birds often were present at Newcastle baths during Dec with the peak count being 17 birds on 28 Dec (THJ). Up to 6 birds were occasionally recorded at this location during Jan and Oct (LIA) and there was also a winter record of two birds present 8 Jun (MCR). Four birds were at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC) and two birds near Oyster Cove 13 Feb (HBOC).

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

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

All records were for the Hunter estuary; 15 birds were present 18 Sep but all other reports were of <10 birds and mostly were of 1-4 birds (Table 4, other reports). There was one winter record, of three birds present 25 Jun.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*

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

600+ birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary in both Sep & Oct during the southern migration passage (Table 4). 20-30 birds were present most non-winter months, but there was a count of 70 birds on 26 Feb. A single bird over-wintered. The only record from elsewhere was of a single bird at Worimi NR 20 Aug (Table 6).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare.

29 birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 30 Jan (STA) and c20 birds there 8 Feb (BRG/MCR). There were no records from elsewhere.

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

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

During the regular monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, 20-70 birds were present most months including up to 26 birds over-wintered (Table 4). However, 350 birds were present at the main ponds at Ash Island 5 Mar (SPJ/LIT) - presumably these birds were on migration passage since they were not found on surveys of many locations around the estuary on the day before and after. Elsewhere, 59 birds were at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA) and 6+ birds there 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), 23 birds were at Worimi NR 26 Feb and 4+ birds there 13 Mar (Table 6) and two birds were at Morpeth STP Sep & Oct (Table 5) and in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC). *350 birds is the largest known count since 1995 for the estuary. It is also encouraging that some birds once again over-wintered - until 2004, this had not occurred for nearly a decade.*

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant. (recorded 1995-1999, 2001, 2003) (text modified)

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

*Notable records:* 500-600+ birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary (mainly, Ash Island) over Jan-Mar during the regular monthly surveys, and the counts for the remainder of the year were of <40 birds (Table 4). However, 1,675 birds were at Ash Island 5 Mar (SPJ/LIT) and 1,613 birds there 3 May (SPJ). Possibly these records were for birds on migration passage. Elsewhere, 141 birds were at Morpeth STP 10 Oct (Table 5) and 40-50 birds at Morpeth STP 6 Jan (Table 5), WWW 21 Jan (BRG) and Irrawang Swamp 23 Jan (MAM) and Worimi NR 13 Mar (Table 6). No birds over-wintered, but seven birds had returned to the Hunter estuary by 10 Aug - unusual to be so early. *The March and May counts are the highest known ones for the estuary (but not for the Region) since records began to be collected in the late 1960's.*

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

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

The only records were from the Hunter estuary. The peak count was of 461 birds present 19 Nov (Table 4). There were no records for May-Jun, but late winter records were of three birds present 23 Jul, 12 birds 3 Aug and one bird 20 Aug (Table 4, SPJ). Only 18 birds were recorded in the 18 Sep survey (Table 4), but 150 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 10 Sep (HAP) and 40+ birds there 4 Sep (CLT) - perhaps these early records were of birds on migration passage.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1979, 2004).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 167                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant (Revised from: Accidental). (recorded 1994-95, 2003-04).

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

ID No: 934                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental. (recorded 1995-96, 1998, 2001, 2004).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

ID No: 170                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare (probably overlooked). (recorded 1996, 1997, 2000-2001, 2004)

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 171                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident, more usual in N of Region.

No reports were received for 2005 (*this is unprecedented since the Bird Reports commenced*).

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

ID No: 174                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

A pair were recorded several times at LTP over Feb-Mar and Sep-Nov (several reports). They had a juvenile (understood not to have survived) there in March (FOC) and were nesting in a park at LTP 23 Aug (FRN). A single bird was recorded at Fenninghams Island (O9) 6 Sep (FOC) and a nest with one egg was at this location 27 Sep (MAA). There also were occasional records from a property near Pindimar (R Economos per MOA). See also Supplementary Records.

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

ID No: 175                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

A juvenile bird that had fledged in late 2004 was with two adults at Mudbishops Point 1 Jun (per MOA). Two adults and a juvenile were also recorded at nearby Manning Point 18 May and 23 Dec (both FOC). Two birds were present at Harrington 30 Jun (MVBW).

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

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

30 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) and 26 birds at Harrington 30 Jan (STA). 6-20 birds were at Tuncurry 4 Jan (MVBW), Marks Point 7 Feb (WEJ), Old Bar (Mudbishops Point) and Harrington 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), Tanilba Bay 11 Aug (KEM) and regularly in the Hunter estuary (mainly, Stockton Sandspit and KI dykes) over Jan-Jun (Table 4). 1-5 birds, where numbers were noted, were at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC), Manning Point (S4) 5 May (MVBW), Birubi Point 20 Jul (CLT), MLNP 4 Oct (CBOC), Harrington 15 Oct (MVBW), Tahlee/Carrington 23 Oct (HBOC), Stockton Sandspit occasionally (Table 4) and Worimi NR often (Table 6).

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

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

21-22 birds were recorded near Newcastle baths 14 May and 8 Jun (MCR), and six birds there 20 Jan, 24 Oct and 28 Dec (LIA, THJ). 6-8 birds were present at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC) and Hunter estuary (mainly, KI dykes) 25 Jun and 22 Oct (Table 4). 1-5 birds were at Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), Merewether Baths 10 Apr (GOC), Fingal Bay 6 May (FRN), Caves Beach 9 May (GOC), Nelson Head 2 Jun (CLT), Birubi Point 20 Jul (CLT), Redhead 15 Aug (GOC) and occasionally in the Hunter estuary (Table 4, other reports). Birds were breeding on Broughton Island in Jan (HLC).

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

ID No: 146                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were present in the Hunter estuary (mainly, Ash Island) all year, mostly in counts of many hundreds except over Sep-Nov. The peak count was 762 birds present 9 Apr and 650+ birds were also present in the two adjacent months (Table 4). 203 birds were at Morpeth STP 22 Dec, 20 birds on 6 Apr and 50+ birds several other times (Table 5). Elsewhere, 42 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM) and 23 birds at Irrawang Swamp 18 Dec (MAM).



**Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1995/6, 2000, 2001, 2004).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

1000+ birds were present in the Hunter estuary from Feb onwards, with the peak count being of 4,208 birds 25 Jun (Table 4). The Jan count of only 82 birds is unusual considering that 2000+ birds had been present throughout the second half of 2004. 230 birds were at Morpeth STP 22 Dec (Table 5) - good numbers for this location. 28 birds were at Morpeth STP 6 Jan, 16 birds at Oyster Cove 10 May (MCN) and two birds at Worimi NR 16 Dec (Table 6).

*Since June 2001, 1000+ birds have been in the Hunter estuary on 85% of the regular monthly surveys, and 3000+ birds on 31% of those surveys. These represent significant proportions of the estimated total population of 107,000 birds (Delany & Scott, Waterbird Population Estimates).*

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

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

238-239 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary 26 Feb and 7 Mar (Table 4, LIA/SPJ), and 100+ birds 12 Mar and 19 Nov. The peak count at Worimi NR was of 28 birds 9 Apr (Table 6). Elsewhere, 93 birds were at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA) and 20+ birds there 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), 25 birds at Oyster Cove 22 Nov (MCN), five birds at SBS 6 Nov (HLC) and a single bird at Morpeth STP 24 Sep (Table 5). No birds over-wintered. *The Feb-Mar counts for the Hunter estuary are the largest since 1997.*

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare (recorded 2001-4).

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were present in the Hunter estuary most months, with a peak count of 73 birds 12 Mar (Table 4) - these are good but not exceptional numbers for the estuary. 6+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC), Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and Worimi NR 26 Feb, 13 Mar and 20 Aug (Table 6). **Breeding:** There were numerous breeding records from Stockton Sandspit during Jan and from late Aug, involving at least 3 pairs (CLT).

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

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

At least 55 birds were present at Worimi NR 23 Jul and 31+ birds there 20 Aug (Table 6). Also, 53 birds were recorded in one location along Stockton beach 16 Jun (ROS). *These are the highest known counts ever for Worimi NR and for Port Stephens, and also are the largest counts for the overall Hunter Region since 1978.* Elsewhere, 11 birds were at Hexham Swamp 5 May (CLT, HID), 6-8 birds at Worimi NR 26 Feb and 9 Apr (Table 6), and 1-5 birds at Stockton Sandspit 14 & 26 Jan, 2 Mar and 18 Sep (CLT, COD, HWS), Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR).

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Eight birds were recorded at Worimi NR 26 Feb (Table 6) and 6+ birds at Stockton Sandspit 20 Mar (HBOC). 1-5 birds were at North Pindimar 3 Jan (STA/LIA), Stockton Sandspit 22 Jan, 11 Feb and 12 Mar (HWS, MCR), Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) and Worimi NR 13 Mar, 9 Apr and 10 Sep (Table 6).

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Sandspit 14 & 26 Jan (CLT).

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Euseyonis melanops*

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

*Notable records:* 30 birds were in the Hunter estuary 23 Jul and 10-20 birds regularly over Feb-Aug (Table 4). Most of the birds were at Ash Island, from where there were also records of 20+ birds 20 Mar and 11 Apr and 3 May (HBOC, GOC/MCR, SPJ). 12 birds were 5km N of Seaham 20 Feb (HLC) and at Mount Arthur 1 May (NEG). Birds had a nest with eggs & young at Mount Arthur 1 Oct (NEG) and were on nest near Paterson 9 Nov (NEM).

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

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

Some birds were present at Milhams Pond Ash Island from late Feb until late June (Table 4, other reports). Until mid-Apr, 1-10 birds were being recorded but numbers then built up. 78 birds were present 20 Apr and the peak count was of 122 birds 7 May (MCN, HWS). Five birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 1 May (NEG) and 1-2 birds at Irrawang Swamp 15 Jan and 14 Oct (FRN, MAM) and HWC 9 Feb and 25 Sep (WCR, STA).

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

Two birds were recorded at Bolwarra 26 Oct (TAH).

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* Large numbers were present in the Hunter estuary over Jan-May and again in Dec, peaking at 116 birds 26 Feb, and 30+ birds were present all other months (Table 4). Numbers also were high at Morpeth STP, with 90+ birds present 25 Feb and 6 Apr and 40+ birds in several other months (Table 5). 25 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM). Birds had chicks at HWC 12 Sep (MCR), Seaham 11 Nov (MAM) and Ash Island 17 Nov (STA).

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*

ID No: 133

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Table 4 Hunter Estuary Wader Surveys***(Surveys conducted at high tide roost sites)*

	Jan 22	Feb 26	Mar 12	Apr 9	May 7	Jun 25	Jul 23	Aug 20	Sep 17/8	Oct 22	Nov 19	Dec 17
Black-tailed Godwit	155	200	225	144	8	30	7	28	27	138	115	200
Bar-tailed Godwit	641	1103	810	122	99	226	163	121	492	1450	1050	782
Whimbrel	4	43	72	136	8	0	6	4	66	23	81	30
Eastern Curlew	89	391	227	55	50	122	75	137	443	250	358	434
Marsh Sandpiper	124	112	73	14	1	0	0	0	0	7	53	65
Common Greenshank	153	152	166	48	24	0	0	0	7	77	91	44
Terek Sandpiper	28	0	6	19	0	0	0	0	2	18	24	3
Common Sandpiper	6	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Grey-tailed Tattler	31	1	47	15	2	4	4	4	10	9	14	17
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Great Knot	2	4	2	1	0	3	0	0	15	8	0	1
Red Knot	28	70	31	20	1	0	1	4	632	600	45	25
Red-necked Stint	70	22	74	0	21	22	26	12	31	51	29	46
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	665	539	560	20	0	0	0	7	26	28	13	36
Curlew Sandpiper	381	131	68	10	0	0	3	1	18	215	461	204
Pied Oystercatcher	12	12	16	14	10	10	8	5	1	2	2	7
Sooty Oystercatcher	0	3	0	4	0	8	2	0	3	6	0	0
Black-winged Stilt	141	478	676	762	718	364	321	180	73	14	20	115
Red-necked Avocet	82	2899	2930	3324	4019	4208	2315	2500	3001	2850	1828	1274
Pacific Golden Plover	86	239	149	66	0	0	0	0	0	87	199	23
Grey Plover	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-capped Plover	44	24	73	1	22	34	44	19	34	32	20	27
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lesser Sand Plover	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	14	12	13	18	15	30	10	1	4	0	3
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	6	0	12	122	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	96	116	108	81	63	39	40	47	37	48	48	90

(See *Corrections and Changes* for amendments to the 2004 wader survey data)

**Table 5 Morpeth STP Wader Counts***(regular surveys led by A Lindsey & M Newman)*

	Jan 6	Feb 25	Mar 13	Apr 6	May 18	Jun 16	Jul 14	Aug 3	Sep 24	Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 22
Latham's Snipe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Red-necked Stint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	46	12	19	0	0	0	0	0	25	141	0	0
Black-winged Stilt	58	0	2	120	0	83	73	90	35	6	0	203
Red-necked Avocet	28	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	230
Pacific Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	64	99	49	96	43	34	14	28	32	20	52	47

**Table 6 Wader Surveys at Worimi NR and Swan Bay***(Surveys conducted at high tide)*

	Jan 22	Feb 26	Mar 13	Apr 9	May 10	Jun 25	Jul 23	Aug 20	Sep 10	Oct 22	Nov 20	Dec 16
Bar-tailed Godwit	42	33	138	33	4	57	0	26+	59	227	227	25
Whimbrel	5	7	0	1	1	6	0	0	2	0	4	0
Eastern Curlew	350+	300	250+	17	0	20	0	320	266	73+	400	370
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Stint	0	23	4+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	4	41+	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied Oystercatcher	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	3	0	2
Red-necked Avocet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pacific Golden Plover	18	8	26	28	0	0	0	0	4	10	3	0
Red-capped Plover	0	8	7	3	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	0
Double-banded Plover	0	8	0	6	0	0	55+	31+	3	0	0	0
Lesser Sand Plover	0	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	1	2	2	0	4	9	2	<6	2	<6	6	0

**Great Skua** *Catharacta skua*

ID No: 980      HBOC Category: 2      Breeding: No  
 Status: Uncertain (recorded 2001-2003).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945      HBOC Category: 2      Breeding: No  
 Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128      HBOC Category: 1      Breeding: No  
 Status: Summer migrant.

No reports were received for 2005.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

ID No: 933                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain.

No reports were received for 2005.

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1994, 1997).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1998).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded along the coast and at near-coastal waters, with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* Many hundreds of birds were regularly present in the Hunter estuary, except during Jul-Aug, and the peak counts were of 851 birds 7 May and 636 birds 26 Feb (HWS). 460 birds were at Morpeth STP 18 May (LIA/NEM), 300+ birds at Kilaben Bay 1 Nov (HBOC) and 100-200 birds at Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), Newline Rd 17 Mar (MAM), Newcastle baths 8 Jun (MCR) and Rathmines 1 Nov (HBOC).

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

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

12 birds were present at Stockton Sandspit 26 Mar (CBOC) and 6+ birds at Worimi NR 20 Aug (HAS). 1-5 birds were at Stockton Sandspit often over Jan-Oct and Dec 10 (HWS, CBOC) and at Worimi NR 10 May and 25 Jun (HAS).

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

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

17 birds were recorded at Worimi NR 20 Aug, nine birds there 25 Jun, four birds 10 May and a single bird 22 Jan (all HAS). 11-14 birds were in the Hunter estuary (mainly, at Stockton Sandspit) in surveys over Mar-May and 1-5 birds there most other months (HWS). Three birds were at Morpeth STP in surveys over Jun-Aug (LIA/NEM) and 3 Feb (BRG/MCR), and single birds there in the Apr & May surveys. Five birds were in Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), and single birds at Marks Point 7 Feb (WEJ) and Crowdy Bay NP 20 Sep (HBOC).

**Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*

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

*Notable records:* 149 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), 100 birds including six begging young at Newcastle baths 20 Jan (LIA) and 92 birds including ten juveniles at a beach at Crowdy Bay NP 29 Jan (STA). 50+ birds were at Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and off Newcastle 9 Jun (MCR).

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

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

Eight birds were present at Newcastle baths 8 Jun (MCR) and four birds at Worimi NR 23 Jul (HAS). A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant. Frequently recorded along the coast over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

100+ birds were at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA) and 20+ birds there 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and at Newcastle foreshore 6 Dec (HBOC).

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

ID No: 117                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare summer migrant, except around the mouth of the Manning River (*Revised from: Moderately often recorded along the coast over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds.*)

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point Bar 30 Jan (STA) and 50+ birds there Feb (BRG/MCR). Some dependent young were present on the latter date.

**Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*

ID No: 120                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1997, 2001, 2002, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

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

Five birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 6 Jan, four birds there 22 Dec and a single bird 10 Oct (LIA/NEM). 1-2 birds were in the Hunter estuary 3 Feb and 17 Dec (LIA/NEM, HWS).

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

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

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island 30 Oct (BRG/MCR).

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977 & 1999*)

No reports were received for 2005.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

ID No: 124                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004*)

No reports were received for 2005.

**Grey Ternlet** *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2002*)

No reports were received for 2005.

**White Tern** *Gygis alba*

ID No: 972                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were at Fitzgerald bridge 8 Nov (MAM) and c50 birds at Morpeth bridge 30 Jun (MAM). 20+ birds were at Stockton Sandspit 20 Mar (HBOC).

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

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

30 birds were feeding together on the ground at Bulahdelah 29 May (R Payne per MOA). 6+ birds were at Scone 17 Apr (NEG) and Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC), while 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E of the Region. Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct and Nov (MUJ).

**Spotted Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mainly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds nested at Merewether over Jan/Feb, raising one young (WKM), and were on nest at HWC 12 Sep (MCR).

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

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

A total of eight birds, in three groups, were on the road between Sharpes Creek and Kerrapit Rd 14 Sep (STA), and 6+ birds were present at Gloucester Tops 24 Jan (MCR/JED) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). 1-5 birds often were recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

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

Two birds were at Glenrock SRA 16 Jun (GOC) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), and single birds at Chichester Dam 23 Jan (JED), Bobs Farm 8 Feb (HDM), Copeland Tops 25 Feb (TOM) and Awaba SF 14 Aug (TOM).

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

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

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. 20+ birds were at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident

No reports were received for 2005.

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV), Worimi NR 25 Jun (HAS) and Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC). Birds were nest building at HWC 12 Sep (MCR), on nest at Newcastle University 6 Sep-10 Oct and 21 Nov (KEM) and had dependent young at LTP 11 Sep (KEM) and at Wingen during Oct (NEG).

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Not recorded  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2003*).

See Escapees.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia striata*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA), Wambo Rd Bulga Aug (MCR/GOC) and Widden Valley 13 Oct (LIN/BRG). 1-5 birds were at Richmondvale 22 Jan (JED), Jones Reserve Rd 3 Feb (BRG/MCR), Milbrodale Road Broke 22 Mar (HDM), Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC), Mount George (P4) 22 Apr (MVBW), Eraring 25 Jun (MCR), Pelton SF 6 Jul (MCR), Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC) and Wingen Nov (NEG).

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 24 Jan and 8 Feb (JED, MCR, BRG), and 10+ birds at Aberdeen 2 Jun (BRG). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Aug, Oct and Nov (MUJ).

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

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

1-5 birds were often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. An unusual urban record was of a single bird in a garden at NLH 7 Feb (ALG).

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

ID No: 025                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: None recorded.  
Status: Resident.

Two birds were at Copeland Tops SCA 24-25 Feb (TOM) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), and single birds at White Rock 23 Jan (TOM), Allyn River 28 Jan and 30 Oct (BRG/MCR), Mount George (P4) 22 Apr (MVBW) and Barrington House 30 Oct (HTH).

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

ID No: 023                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Accidental (*Revised from: Rare*). (*recorded 1996, 1999*)

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

A juvenile bird was recorded at Harrington 8 Feb (BRG/MCR).



**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

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

100+ birds were recorded at Mungo Brush MLNP 18 Aug (CBOC) and 42 birds in the Watagans 27 Apr (NBL). 20-25 birds were at Lambs Valley 17 Sep (BCN) and Belmont South Oct (CJB), and flying over HWC 19 Jun (HBOC). 6+ birds were at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), Melinga (R3) 7 Apr, Manning Point (S4) 5 May and Stewarts River (R3) 21 May (all MVBW). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.  
**Breeding:** A bird was on a nest near Branxton 25 Aug, with a second bird in attendance, and was again seen on the nest there 29 Sep (RIA). At the next visit, in late Oct, the nest was deserted. *Although it is likely that the birds bred, this is not considered to be a definite breeding record.*

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*

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

Six birds including a dependent fledged young were present at Wyee Point 26 Jul (MDV). Also, six birds were at Pleasant Valley near Wingen 8 Mar (NEG). Three birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 20 Sep and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC), and 1-2 birds at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Wang Wauk (P6) 17 May (MVBW), Mt Faulks Rd Watagans 22 May (HLC) and Bulahdelah 29 May (R Payne per MOA).

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 24 Jan (MCR/JED), Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC), Wyee Point 27 Jun (MDV) and Mungo Brush MLNP 18 Aug (CBOC). Birds had dependent young at Mungo Brush area MLNP 12 Nov (HBA).

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

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

18 birds were recorded at Watagan SF 20 Apr (FAA per FOC). 1-4 birds were at Boarding House Dam 22 May (HBOC), Sawyers Gully 3 Jun, Quorrobolong 21 Jun (MOA), Howes Valley 31 Jul (CBOC) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

**Galah** *Cacatua roseicapilla*

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). 21-50 birds were at Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC), Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV), Seaham 28 Jun (MAM), Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG) and Newcastle University 24 Oct (KEM) and were inspecting hollows at Widden Valley early Oct (HBOC).

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

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

20+ birds were recorded at Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV) and 6+ birds at HWC 12 Sep (MCR). 1-5 birds were at Morpeth STP 6 Jan, 13 Mar, 10 Oct & 10 Nov (LIA/NEM), PNR 5 Jul (HBOC), Worimi NR 20 Aug (HAS), Tenambit 6 Sep (HBOC), Wyee Point 5 Nov (FOC) and Glen Oak 7 & 14 Oct (MAM).

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised from: None recorded*)  
Status: Resident.

Around 150 birds were flying over KI 19 Nov (STA). 70 birds were at Blackalls Park 28 Jul (TOM) and 50-100 birds often were at New Lambton (STA). 20-30 birds were at Nelsons Plains 14 Oct (MAM) and Morpeth STP 22 Dec (LIA/NEM), and 6-20 birds at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG), Morpeth STP 13 Aug (LIA/NEM), HWC 12 Sep (MCR) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the E of the Region (several observers) and also at Wingen 13 Aug (NEG). Birds had a nest with young at Kings Gap 9 Nov (LIN/MCR) - *the first confirmed breeding record for the Region.*

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

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E9) 13 Oct (LIN/BRG) and Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). 50+ birds were at Rankin Park 9 Jul and Widden Valley 30 Sep - 4 Oct (both HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG), Wingen 10 Jan (NEG) and Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV). Birds were inspecting hollows at Widden Valley 30 Sep - 4 Oct and on nest at Tenambit Common 6 Sep (HBOC).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

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

See Escapees; no other reports were received for 2005.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

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

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV), Glen Oak 10 & 11 Jun (MAM), Teralba 2 Aug (HBOC) and Newcastle foreshore 6 Dec (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Rathmines 1 Nov (HBOC) and had dependent young at Whitebridge 25 Oct (GOC).

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

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

*Notable records:* Birds were feeding fledged young at New Lambton Jun/Jul (STA) and were on nest at Wangi 20 Oct (GOC).

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Bird of passage.

6+ birds were recorded at Wingen 7 Mar (NEG), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Pelton SF 15 Jun and 6 Jul (ROS, MCR) and Blackalls Park 28 Jul (TOM). 1-5 birds were at Pleasant Valley near Wingen 8 Mar (NEG), Toronto 11 Apr (TOM), Awaba 22 Apr (TOM), Pelton SF 15 Jun (ROS), Ravensworth 12 Jul (TOM), Wingen 13 Aug (NEG), Kurri Kurri 14 Aug (TOM), Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC) and Wallabadah Rock 1-3 Oct (FOC). Birds were on nest at Blackalls Park 31 May (HLC) and were feeding fledged young at Green Wattle Creek 29 Oct (BRG/MCR) and Timor caves Nov (HLC). *Interesting follow-ups to the exciting 2004 breeding record.*

**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Pelton SF 6 Jul (MCR) and 21-50 birds at Widden Valley 13 Oct (LIN/BRG) and Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Clarencetown 18 Sep (KEM) and were inspecting hollows at Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBA).

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

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (both HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Wingen in Jan and Dec (NEG).

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

ID No: 280                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental. (Recorded in 1996, 1998, 1999)

Two birds were recorded near Cassilis 13 Apr (FOC).

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were with dependent young at Wingen during Dec (NEG).

**Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG), at Pleasant Valley near Wingen 8 Mar (NEG) and Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC). There were several breeding records covering Jan, Aug-Oct and Dec.

**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

Large numbers of birds were recorded in the Cessnock-Aberdare-Pelton area over the period May-Aug, from an initial 3 birds near Pelton 21 May until last recorded 13 Aug; an estimated 160-180 birds were present at the peak in Jun-Jul (ROS, many other reports). Mostly the birds were utilising Pelton SF, Werakata NP and Aberdare SF. Records from beyond this general area were of 1-5 birds at Toronto 18 Mar (TOM), Branxton 3 May (ROS), Weston 12 Jun (ROS), Nulama Taree 7 Jul (MVBW), Ravensworth 14 Jul (TOM) and Balickera in Aug (MUJ), and 20-23 birds at Eraring Power Station 25 Jun (MCR) and Ravensworth 12 Jul (TOM).

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

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

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were recorded at both Warabrook Reserve and NWR 12 Jul (MCR), Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Bolwarra 24 Oct (TAH).

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

Four birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 7 Sep (NEG).

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

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

3-4 birds were recorded at Quorrobolong 21 Jun (MOA) and at Wambo Rd Bulga 24 Jul and in Aug (HBA, MCR/GOC). 1-2 birds were at Scone 28 Mar (FOC), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Quorrobolong 4 Jun (ROM), Wambo Rd Bulga 12 Aug (LIN) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*

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

Birds were recorded frequently at Balickera over Oct-Dec (MUJ), but there were unusually few reports received from elsewhere for 2005. Birds were recorded several times at locations in the Widden Valley during late Sep and in Oct (several reports) and at BBNP late Sep (MVBW) and the Timor Caves area Nov 12-13 (HBOC), and a young bird was being fed by a Figbird near Bolwarra 5 Dec (TAH).

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

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

Single birds were seen or heard at Wingen 2 Jan (NEG), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA), Widden Valley (several locations) late Sep and Oct, Gloucester 6 Oct (FOC), White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), Heatherbrae 22 Nov (EKP), Balickera in Nov/Dec (MUJ) and Medhurst bridge Martindale 10 Dec (TAH).

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

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

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

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

ID No: 341                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident in the central and W of the Region (*Revised from: Accidental*).

A single bird was recorded at Giants Creek 28 May (HBA).

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

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

Single birds were occasionally but widely recorded in the Region during Sep-Dec. The only report for Jan-May was of a bird at Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC). Winter records were of birds heard at Wyee Point 7 Jun (MDV) and Wambo Rd Bulga 24 Jul (HBA).

**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

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

There were fewer reports than usual but birds still were occasionally but widely recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. Just over 50% of the reports were for the period May-Aug.

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

ID No: 345                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1992, 2004).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Common Koel** *Eudynamys scolopacea*

ID No: 347                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual summer migrant. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Young birds were being fed at Cessnock 30 Jan (BAV), Corlette 28 Jan (CLT) and LTP 4 Feb (KEM). The Cessnock host species was Red Wattlebird, and Little Wattlebird at LTP.

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

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

*Notable records:* 5+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Separate juvenile birds were being fed by Pied Currawong and Australian Magpie at Belmont South 8 Feb (CJB).

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

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

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

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

A pair were nesting at BbR in late May (LCP/STA) and there were frequent records of birds being heard or seen there and in nearby suburbs over Jan-Jul (several observers). 1-2 adults were recorded with two juvenile birds at Mirrabooka near Morisset 19 & 23 Oct (FOC, HLC). Single birds were also recorded at Ravensworth 13 Jul (TOM), Green Point (L11) 26 Jul (TOM), Bush Haven Balickera in Aug (MUJ), Awaba area 1 & 19 Aug (TOM, CLT), Carey Bay 7-8 Sep (CRL), Sharpes Creek 13 Sep (STA), Croudace Bay 2 Nov (ROM) and Weakleys Flat 24 Nov (EKP). *Another good year.*

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Accidental.

2 pairs were recorded (one pair seen, the second pair heard) in Yengo NP 13 Aug - at Yengo homestead (H10) and nearby Spring Arm Gully (R Payne per MOA), and a single bird was seen at Yengo homestead 12 Aug (per MOA).

**Southern Boobook** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

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

*Notable records:* A pair was with three dependent young at Green Wattle Creek 2 Jan (NEM).

**Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

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

Two young birds were seen and another two birds were heard at Copeland SF 24 Jan (MCR/JED). A pair came to a garden at Toronto 3 Aug and two birds were also recorded at Awaba SF 5 & 11 Aug (all TOM). Single birds were seen or heard at Wallingat SF 29 Mar (TOM), Awaba 31 Jul (TOM), Bow Wow Gorge Mt Vincent 23 Oct (FIP), Telegherry SF 29 Oct (HHB) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC).

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

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

A pair was nesting at Awaba SF from late May, successfully raising two young over May-Jul (TOM, other observers). Two birds were recorded at Taylors Beach 10 May (ROM), and single birds were seen or heard at Copeland SF 24 Jan (MCR/JED), Barrington Tops NP (L5) 2 Mar (TOM), Awaba Forest 18 Apr and 1 & 8 Aug (TOM), Nelson Bay Rd 22 Apr (COD), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Ravensworth 13 Jul (TOM), Bobs Farm 1 Oct (COD), Palmers Creek (L11) 2 Oct (TOM), Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 2 Oct (ROM) and East Gresford 29 Oct (HHB). *A good year.*

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

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

Two birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 6 Aug (NEG). Single birds were at Fosterton Loop Dungog 18, 26 & 31 Jan (JED), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Denman area 5 Jun (BRG), Morpeth 23 Jun (BRG), Nelsons Plains 24 Jul (NEM), both Murrumbo and Sandy Hollow Oct 29 (BRG/MCR), HWC 3 Nov (LCP) and Salamander Bay 13 Dec (TBW). A bird was found dead by the roadside at Fullerton Cove 10 Aug (COD), and three separate dead birds were by the roadside at ~5 km south of Wingen 25 May (NEG).

**Grass Owl** *Tyto capensis*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

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

*Notable records:* Four birds were recorded at Green Point 8 Dec (CLT) and birds also had dependent young at Oyster Cove 22 Nov (TBW) and Seaham 9 Dec (HBOC).

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

ID No: 330                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Summer migrant

Two birds were recorded at Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 2 Oct (ROM) and single birds at Balickera in Jan and Dec (MUJ), Gloucester Tops 15-16 Jan (HAP), Brandy Hill Seaham 20 Mar (CAR) and Wallingat NP 29 Mar (TOM). A nest with one egg was at Green Wattle Creek 2 Jan (NEM).

**Spotted Nightjar** *Eurostopodus argus*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*

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

1-2 birds were seen or heard at Fosterton Loop Dungog 31 Jan (JED), two locations in Copeland Tops 24 & 25 Feb (TOM), Barrington Tops NP 1 Mar (TOM), Awaba SF area 22 Apr and 5 & 11 Aug (TOM), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Green Point (L11) 26 Jul (TOM). Birds were with four dependent young at Oyster Cove 18 Oct (MCN).

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* Around 200 birds were recorded flying over Fosterton Loop Dungog 26 Jan and 24 Dec (JED) and Bolton Point Lake Macquarie 30 Dec (BIA). 21-50 birds were at Green Point Eleebana 1 Feb (HBOC), Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA) and Carey Bay 17 Dec (HLC).

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

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

300+ birds flew over Nobbys Breakwater 9 Feb (BRG/MCR). 21-50 birds were recorded at Warabrook 19 Feb (MCR), Williamtown 4 Mar (COD) and in the Branxton area 4 Mar (FOC). 1-10 birds were at Crowdy Bay NP 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), Hallidays Point (R5) 19 Feb (MVBW), Dungog area 20 Feb (HBOC) and Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC).

**Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea*

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

*Notable records:* Four birds were recorded at Coolongolook SF 3-4 May (FRN).

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were with dependent young at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG), PNR 23 Jan and Oyster Cove 13 Feb (both HBOC).

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Red-backed Kingfisher** *Todiramphus pyrrhoptera*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds may be locally resident. Widely and regularly recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan, Oct and Nov (MUJ) and were nest building at Kilaben Bay 1 Nov (HBOC).

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were present at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC) and 6-20 birds at another Widden Valley location 9 Nov (LIN/BRG) and Oakhampton 14 Dec (MAM).

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

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

*Notable records:* Ten birds were flying together at Bolton Point Lake Macquarie 30 Dec (BIA), and six birds including dependent young were at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG). Also, birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan (MUJ).

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

1-2 birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 15 Jan (HAP), Copeland Tops 25 Feb (TOM), Allyn River Chichester SF 30 Oct (GED), Barrington House 30 Oct (GED) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). The bird at Gloucester Tops was a recently fledged juvenile.

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were in the area around White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov and some birds were displaying (HBOC).

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

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded along Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 3 & 13 Sep (LIN, STA), and a single bird in that area 24 Jan (MCR/JED).



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

ID No: 558

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* Birds were with dependent young at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG) and were breeding at Balickera in Aug and Oct (MUJ).

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

ID No: 560

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records (*revised*)

Status: Uncommon resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Kerrapit Rd/Gloucester Tops 24 Jan, 3 & 13 Sep (JED, LIN, STA), Watagans 22 May (HBOC) and Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC).

**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), and 5+ birds were at Quorrobolong 4 Jun (ROM).

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

ID No: 529

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and often as counts of 21-50 birds.

*Notable records:* There were several breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec, also birds were carrying food at PNR 5 Jul (HBOC).

**Variiegated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 1-5 birds and frequently as up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC) and Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA). A pair had dependent young at LTP 17 Nov (KEM) and an adult male was preening a near-adult male at HWC 26 Jan (LIA/WEJ), and birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan, Oct and Nov (MUJ).

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

ID No: 541

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

Three birds were recorded at Warakeila 7 Apr (NEM).

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

ID No: 526

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, locally common.

Five birds were recorded at Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA), and 1-3 birds at Warakeila 27 Jan (NEM), Crowdy Bay NP 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), Bush Haven Balickera 3 May and 1 Aug (HBOC, MUJ), PNR 3 Jun (HAP), Grahamstown Dam forest 9 Aug (TBW), Tahlee 23 Aug (TBW), Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA), Barrington House 30 Oct (HTH), Wye Point 5 Nov (FOC) and Oyster Cove 22 Nov and 13 Dec (MCN). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct (MUJ).

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA) and 20+ birds at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC). As well as several breeding records in Oct-Nov, birds were nesting at Glenrock SRA 2 Jun (GOC), Rankin Park 9 Jul (HBOC), Balickera in Aug (MUJ) and Howes Valley 31 Jul (CBOC).

**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*

ID No: 976

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and 20+ birds at Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). 6-10 birds were at Wingen 2 Jan (NEG), Ravensworth 13 Jul (TOM) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Birds were inspecting hollows at Wingen 13 Aug (NEG).

**Pilotbird** *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

ID No: 506

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1997, 2000*).

Several birds were recorded along the Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 2 Oct (ROM), particularly in the area of Mount Coricudgy (E9) where several birds also were present in 1997.

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Three birds were present at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC).

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

ID No: 493

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were present at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov and a bird was on nest (HBOC). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the Gloucester Tops, Allyn River, Chichester SF and Copeland Tops areas during the year (several observers), and also at Wallingat NP 30 Mar (TOM) and Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC).

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

ID No: 488

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as counts of 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were present at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov, with some dependent young (HBOC). Birds had nests with young at Newcastle University 22 Mar (KEM) and Olney SF Mandalong 15 Aug (MOA), and were feeding a fledged young at HWC 28 Aug (STA).

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

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

20+ birds were present at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov, with some dependent young (HBOC). 6+ birds were at Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA), and 1-5 birds at White Rock 21 Jan (TOM), Saltwater Reserve (R4) 22 Jan (MVBW), Allyn River 28 Jan and 30 Oct (BRG/MCR), Copeland Tops SCA 25 Feb (TOM), Wallingat NP 30 Mar (TOM), Melinga (R3) 7 Apr (MVBW), Mungo Brush 12 Apr and 18 Aug (TBW, CBOC), Gloucester Tops 3 Sep (LIN), Barrington House 30 Oct (HTH) and Bolwarra 6 Dec (TAH). Birds were feeding dependent young ~7km south of Dungog 20 Feb (HLC).

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

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

1-2 birds were present at Jones Reserve Rd 3 Feb (BRG/MCR), Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA), Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC), Finchley Track Yengo NP (H10) 3 Sep (NEM), and at various locations in/near Awaba SF 9 Feb, 22 & 28 Apr, May, 8 Aug and 1 Oct (all TOM).

**Speckled Warbler** *Chthonicola sagittata*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC) and were carrying food at Wingen 2 Jan (NEG).

**Weebill** *Smicrornis brevirostris*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA) and Wambo Rd Bulga 24 Jul and Aug (HBA, MCR). Birds were nesting at Milbrodale Road Broke 22 Mar (HDM), Anvil Hill 22-25 Apr, Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (all HBOC).

**Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of 21-50 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 7 Sep (NEG) - an uncommon westerly location. Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct and Nov (MUJ).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were with dependent young at Stockton Sandspit 23 May (MCR).

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident in the W and central parts of the Region. (*Revised from: Uncommon bird of passage ....*).

Single birds were recorded at four different locations along Jones Reserve Rd 19 Mar, 2 Apr, 29 Oct and 12 Nov (TAH). 1-2 birds were at Wambo Rd Bulga 3 Feb, 7 Aug and 2 Oct (BRG/MCR) and three birds there 24 Jul (HBA). Single birds were at Milbrodale Road Broke 22 Mar (HDM), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Pine Grove Rd 17 Jul (HBA). Also see Supplementary Records.

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

ID No: 453

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. Widely and frequently recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Winter records were of 1-2 birds at Ravensworth 12-14 Jul (TOM), Martins Creek 5 Aug (NEM), both Keinbah and Sawyers Gully 11 Aug (GOJ) and Mungo Brush MLNP 18 Aug (CBOC). 6+ birds were recorded at two locations in the Widden Valley several times in early Oct (various reporters) and at Wambo Rd Bulga 2 Oct (BRG). Birds had dependent young at WWW 3 Feb (BRG/MCR) and were nest building at Widden Valley 30 Sep-4 Oct (HBOC).

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at LTP 17 Nov (KEM) and were breeding at Balickera in Oct (MUJ)

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

ID No: 484

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Wambo Rd Bulga 3 Feb and 24 Jul (BRG/MCR, HBA).

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

ID No: 486

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). Birds had dependent young at Wingen 10 Jan and in Oct (two pairs) (NEG) and were nest building at Wingen 15 Jul (NEG) and Widden Valley (E9) 13 Oct (LIN/BRG).

**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Bush Haven Balickera 3 May (HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). Birds were nest building at Hobarts Rd Karuah NR 14 Sep (STA) and had dependent young at LTP 17 Nov (KEM) and Wingen Dec (NEG).

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

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

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at King Edward Park Newcastle 6 Dec (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at Wingen Jan, Oct and Dec (NEG) and at LTP 17 Nov (KEM), and were feeding a young Common Koel at East Cessnock 30 Jan (BAV).

**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 20 Sep (HBOC) and Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA).

**Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 21 Oct (LIA).

**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were at Wambo Rd 24 Jul (HBA) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Widden Valley 3 Oct (HBOC) and were feeding young there 21 Oct (LIA).

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded (flying over) at HWC 14 Apr (per LIA) and at Pleasant Valley near Wingen 8 Mar (NEG), and 20+ birds were at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Crowdy Bay NP 20 Sep and were both on nest and nest building at Widden Valley 30 Sep - 4 Oct (all HBOC) and also nest building at Clarendetown 18 Sep (KEM) and breeding at Balickera in Oct, Nov and Dec (MUJ).

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

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

Three birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and a single bird along Jones Reserve Rd 19 Mar (TAH).

**Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia*

ID No: 603                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

Three birds were recorded at Pelton SF 8 Jun (ROS) and 2-3 birds there 6 & 12 Jul (MCR, SAD). On 2-3 Oct, a total of eight birds were present along a 500m stretch of Widden Creek (E9) and several were on nest or nest building. Subsequently, in late Oct and into mid-Nov another pair was found to be nesting ~10km away also along Widden Creek (E8) - several reports.

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

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG) and Glen Oak 15 Nov (MAM). Birds were with dependent young at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG), Pelican Reserve 15 Jul (MDV) and Bolwarra Nov (TAH) and were with juveniles several times at Glen Oak over Feb-Mar and Sep-Oct (MAM).

**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

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

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

**Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula*

ID No: 635                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

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

*Notable records:* There were several breeding records spanning Apr and Aug-Nov.

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

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

*Notable records:* Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct and Nov (MUJ).

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

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

*Notable records:* A pair had a nest with young at LTP 17 Nov (KEM) and also birds were breeding at Balickera in Aug, Oct, Nov and Dec (MUJ).

**Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993, 1998, 1999, 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Pleasant Valley near Wingen 8 Mar (NEG), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA).

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

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Pelton SF 6 Jul (MCR) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). Birds had a nest with young at Widden Valley (E9) 2 Oct (HBOC) and were feeding dependent young at two sites at 1km NE of Pelton 13 Aug (MOA).

**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*

ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Pelton SF 6 Jul (MCR) and birds were nest building at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

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

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr and birds had dependent young at Morpeth Common 6 Sep (both HBOC).

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

ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

Seven birds were recorded at Pelton SF 6 Jul (MCR) and 5+ birds at Ellalong 4 Jun (ROM). Three birds were at Wambo Rd Bulga 24 Jul (HBA) and single birds at Aberdare SF 13 Jun (LIA), Pelton SF 12 Jul (SAD), Kurri Kurri Hospital 30 Jul and 14 Aug (TOM) and Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBA).

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

ID No: 583 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: 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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Rosemount Rd (near Denman) 16 Jul (HBA).

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

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of 21-50 birds being not uncommon over Apr-Jul.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Pleasant Valley near Wingen 8 Mar (NEG). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Nov (MUJ).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Bobs Farm 8 Feb (HDM), Stockton Sandspit 20 Mar (HBOC), BbR 5 Apr (HBOC), Taree 7 Jul (MVBW), Warabrook Reserve 12 Jul (MCR) and Harrington 15 Oct (MVBW), and several times at HWC over Jun-Sep (several reports).

**Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993, 2001, 2003*).

Two birds were often recorded at one location along Widden Creek (E8) from 21 Oct to mid-Nov (several reports). Also, a single bird was at Medhurst Bridge Martindale 21 Oct (LIA). It could not be confirmed that the birds at Widden Creek were breeding.

**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

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

Six birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 15-16 Jan (HAP), and 1-2 birds at Barrington Tops NP (L5) 2 Mar (TOM), Kerrapit Rd/ Gloucester Tops 24 Jan, 3 & 13 Sep (JED, LIN, STA) and Gloucester Falls 14 Sep (STA).

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

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

20+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA). 1-5 birds were present at Kerrapit Rd 24 Jan and 13 Sep (JED, STA), Crowdy Bay NP 24 Jan (JED/MCR), Barrington Tops NP (L5) 2 Mar (TOM), One Mile Beach Tomaree 8 Mar (HDM), Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC), HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep (MCR), Gloucester Falls 14 Sep (STA) and BBNP late Sep (MVBW). Some birds at Awabakal NR 15 Sep were nest building and others feeding fledged young (STA).

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

ID No: 632                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of up to 50 birds being not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 24 Jan and 8 Feb (JED/MCR, BRG), Gloucester Tops 24 Jan (MCR/JED), and HWC 27 Jun and 12 Sep (MCR).

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

ID No: 593                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records (*Revised*)  
Status: Resident.

1-4 birds were recorded several times at Awabakal NR during Jul-Sep (BRG, LPC, STA).

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were nest building at Tahlee/Carrington 23 Oct (HBOC) and were breeding at Balickera in Nov and Dec (MUJ).

**Black Honeyeater** *Certhionyx niger*

ID No: 589                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2005.



**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*

ID No: 590      HBOC Category: 3      NSW: Vulnerable      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002, 2003).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Scarlet Honeyeater** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586      HBOC Category: 1      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds, and occasionally as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were present every month at Green Wattle Creek - the first winter records in 10 years of surveying there (NEM). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct, Nov and Dec (MUJ).

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

ID No: 448      HBOC Category: 1      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Birds were recorded at three locations occasionally during the year - Ash Island and Stockton Sandspit in the Hunter estuary and Worimi NR. Most reports were of <10 birds, but 20+ birds were at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR) and 30 birds in the estuary 17 Dec (HWS) - with most of the birds being on Ash Island. The peak count at Worimi NR was nine birds present 10 Sep (HAS).

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

ID No: 377      HBOC Category: 1      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA) and Wambo Rd Bulga Aug (MCR/GOC). 6-20 birds were at Jindabella near Dungog 20 Feb (HBOC), Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Wambo Rd Bulga 7 Aug (BRG). A bird was on nest at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct and another pair was nest building only ~20m away (HBOC).

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolor*

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

Three birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and 1-2 birds at Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA), Bulga 21 Jun (MOA) and Howes Valley late Jul (CBOC).

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

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

6+ birds were recorded at Wambo Rd Bulga 3 Feb (BRG/MCR) and 3-4 birds there 24 Jul and 7 Aug (HBA, BRG). 3-4 birds were also at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Mount Arthur 1 May (NEG). 1-2 birds were near Jerrys Plains 3 Apr (TAH) and at Bulga 21 Jun (MOA).

**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382      HBOC Category: 1      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

16+ birds were recorded in the Polblue Swamp area 4 May (CLT). 1-2 birds were at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 2 Mar, 3 & 13 Sep (TOM, LIN, STA), Barrington Tops NP (L5) 2 Mar (TOM), Gresford Rd Dungog 23 Jul and 9 Aug (JED) and Gloucester Falls 14 Sep (STA).

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*

ID No: 384                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant). Often recorded in counts of 1-5 birds in low and mid altitude areas during Apr-Aug and at mid to high altitudes in the remainder of the year.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). Birds had a dependent chick at Gloucester Tops 16 Jan (HAP). A single bird was recorded at HWC 19 & 27 Jun (HBOC, MCR) - not common at this location.

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

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

11 birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), and 1-5 birds were at Wambo Rd Bulga 3 Feb and 2 Oct (BRG/MCR), Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC), Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA), Warkworth 21 Jun (MOA), Singleton Army Range 5 Dec (LEN) and Jones Reserve Rd 21 Oct (LIA).

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

ID No: 396                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

A single bird was recorded at Jerusalem Creek 23 Jan (JED).

**Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest at Green Wattle Creek 2 Jan (NEM) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), and had nests with young at Wingen 2 Jan (NEG) and Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA). Also, birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct, Nov and Dec (MUJ) and a bird was carrying food at Jindabella near Dungog (M7) 20 Feb (HBOC).

**Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 16 Jan (HAP), Saltwater Reserve (R4) 22 Jan (MVBW), Jerusalem Creek 23 Jan (JED), Allyn River Forest Park 23 Jan (TOM) and Allyn River Chichester SF 30 Oct (GED).

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

ID No: 443                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* 23 birds were recorded at Wingen 13 Aug (NEG), 12+ birds at 1km NE of Pelton 13 Aug (MOA) and 10+ birds at Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC). There were four active nests at Branxton Aug (RIA) and birds also were nesting at Quorrobolong 30 Jul (FOC), Gloucester 8 Aug and 12 Sep (DBP) and Seaham cemetery 9 Nov (MEL). Birds had dependent young at East Seaham Aug/Sep (CAR) and were nest building at Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC), and also were breeding at Balickera in Oct (MUJ).

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

ID No: 445                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

No reports were received for 2005 (*this last happened in 1997*).

**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* There were no exceptions to the general description of status.**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinlosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded at several locations at/near Awaba SF during Apr-May, Jul and Sep (TOM), and also at Laguna 12-13 Feb (RDB), Toronto Reservoir Ridge 30 May (TOM), Pelton SF 7 Jun (ROS), Tomalpin (W side) 31 Jul (GOJ), Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBA), 1 at Watagans SF 13 Aug (GOC), Bow Wow Gorge Mt Vincent 27 Sep (FIP) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC).

**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

ID No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest at Black Creek (1km S of Kitchener) 13 Aug (MOA) and also were breeding at Balickera in Aug (MUJ).**Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*

ID No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Ten birds were recorded at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC) and 3+ birds at Nulama Taree 7 Jul (MVBW) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at Jindabella Dungog (M7) 20 Feb (HBOC) and Oyster Cove 13 Dec (MCN) and were breeding at Balickera in Dec (MUJ).**Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No confirmed reports were received for 2005.

**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident, of highland areas.

Three birds were recorded at Kerrapit Rd/ Gloucester Tops 24 Jan (MCR/JED) and two birds in the same area 15-16 Jan (HAP).

**Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 10 birds and mostly as &lt;5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were with dependent young at Allyn River 28 Jan (BRG/MCR), Jindabella Dungog (M7) 20 Feb and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (both HBOC), and were breeding at Balickera in Dec (MUJ). 20+ birds were at White Rock 19-20 Nov.

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Widden Valley (E8) 9 Nov (LIN/BRG). Birds had dependent young at PNR 23 Jan and 4 Dec, and two pairs were nest building at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (all HBOC), and were breeding at Balickera in Jan and Oct (MUJ). A winter record was of a single bird at Bluegum Hills Regional Park 5 Jul (HBOC).

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

ID No: 413                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1996*).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

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

*Notable records:* A bird was with dependent young at Jindabella near Dungog (M7) 20 Feb (HBOC) and birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct and Nov (MUJ).

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

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan (MUJ).

**Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*

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

6+ birds were at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov and one bird was on nest there (HBOC). 1-2 birds were recorded at White Rock 22 Jan (TOM), Allyn River Forest Park 22 & 23 Jan (TOM) and 30 Oct (BRG/MCR), Jerusalem Creek 23 Jan (JED), Crowdy Bay NP 24 Jan (JED/MCR), Harrington 30 Jan (STA) and Barrington House 30 Oct (HTH).

**White-eared Monarch** *Monarcha leucotis*

ID No: 376                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993, 2003, 2004*).

Single birds were recorded at Fig Tree Crowdy Bay NP 24 & 29 Jan (JED/MCR, STA) - this is the same location as for the 2003 and 2004 records. Also see Supplementary Records.

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were with dependent young near Oyster Cove 13 Feb and also were on nest in the same area 22 Nov (HBOC, MCN), and also were breeding at Balickera in Jan and Oct (MUJ).

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

Three birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 24 Jan (MCR/JED) and a single bird at Barrington Tops NP (L5) 2 Mar (TOM).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 369                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*revised*)  
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep-4 Oct (both HBOC) and four birds at Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). 1-2 birds were at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG), Black Rock Rd Martinsville 11 Jun (NEM), Martins Creek 1 Sep (NEM) and Widden Valley (E9) 13 Oct (LIN/BRG). A pair was on nest at Widden Valley 30 Sep - 4 Oct - *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region at least 20 years.*

**Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*

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

*Notable records:* 30+ birds were recorded at Wallalong 20 Jun, Medowie 1 Jul and PNR 7 Jul (all MAM), and at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM), and 24 birds at Morpeth STP 18 May (LIA/NEM). There were several breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

**Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were at Jerusalem Creek 23 Jan (JED), Belmont Swamp 23 Jan (HBOC), Allyn River 28 Jan (BRG/MCR), Green Point Eleebana 1 Feb and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (both HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Belmont Swamp 23 Jan and Allyn River 28 Jan and also were breeding at Balickera in Jan and Oct (MUJ).

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR). Birds were with dependent young at LTP 17 Nov (KEM) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), and were breeding at Balickera in Oct and Nov (MUJ).

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR) and 10-20 birds at Morpeth STP in all monthly surveys over May-Aug (LIA/NEM). Birds were on nest at Mount Arthur 1 Oct (NEG) and Widden Valley (E9) 3 Oct (HBOC) and had dependent young at East Cessnock 30 Jan (BAV), and were breeding at Balickera in Jan, Oct and Nov (MUJ).

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

ID No: 673

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant and bird of passage. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region over Apr-Oct as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Early records were of a single bird at HWC 26 Jan (LIA/WEJ) and 1+ birds at One Mile Beach Tomaree 8 Mar (HDM). Two birds were still present at LTP 17 Nov (KEM).

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

ID No: 424

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds but mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were nest building at Newcastle University 15 Sep (KEM).

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

ID No: 428

HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1996, 2000, 2003, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 425

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Three birds including two dark phase ones were at Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC) and three birds were at HWC 27 Jun (MCR). 1-2 birds were at Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC), Werakata NP 24 May and 6 Aug (ROS, HBA), Glenbawn Dam and Ellalong both 3 Jun (STA), Pelton SF 7 & 8 Jun and 6 Jul (ROS, MCR), Warkworth 21 Jun (MOA), Quorrobolong 30 Jul (FOC), Martins Creek 1 Sep (NEM), Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct and 13 Oct (HBOC, LIN/BRG) and Jones Reserve Rd 21 Oct (LIA et al).

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429

HBOC Category: 1

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

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

ID No: 423

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993, 1994, 2000, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2005.

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

ID No: 430

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

Nine birds were recorded at Kings Gap 9 Nov (LIN/MCR) and 6+ birds at Widden Valley 13 Oct (LIN/BRG) and in the Doyles Creek area 10 Dec (TAH). 1-2 birds were at Doyles Creek 26 Feb (TAH), Woodville 28 Mar (MCN), Wambo Rd Bulga Aug (MCR/GOC), Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC), Wallabadah Rock 1-3 Oct (FOC), Widden Valley (E8) 13 Oct (LIN/BRG), Irrawang Swamp 24 Nov (MAM) and Ash Island 19 Nov and 7 & 17 Dec (HWS, MCN). Birds were on nests or had nests with young at Bolwarra 24 Oct (2 pairs) and during Nov/Dec (TAH) and at Widden Valley (E8) 9 Nov (LIN/BRG). Also, birds were feeding young at Doyles Creek 26 Feb (TAH).

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

1-2 birds were recorded at Harrington 30 Jan, 8 Feb and 26 Aug (STA, BRG/MCR, MVBW).

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

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

*Notable records:* 2-+ birds were at Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA). Birds were nest building at Morpeth 26 Oct (BRG) and on nest at Widden Valley 3 Nov (LIA/NEM), and were breeding at Balickera in Oct, Nov and Dec (MUJ).

**Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Nov (HBA) and King Edward Park Newcastle 6 Dec (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Saltwater Reserve (R4) 22 Jan (MVBW) and were feeding fledged young near Bolwarra 6 Dec (TAH). Also, a bird was feeding a young Pallid Cuckoo near Bolwarra 5 Dec (TAH).

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

ID No: 543                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: 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:* A bird was feeding fledglings at Irrawang Swamp 24 Nov (MAM) and a pair had a nest with young at Newcastle University 24 Oct (KEM). AT PNR 4 Dec, birds had a nest with young and also were feeding fledged young.

**Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

No reports were received for 2005.

**White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

6+ birds were recorded at Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBA).

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: 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:* There were several winter records, generally of 1-5 birds, from at least seven distinct locations in the central parts of the Region. Also, 40+ birds were near Ellalong 13 Jun (STA) and 15 birds along Jones Reserve Rd 16 Jul (HBOC). Birds were feeding young at Doyles Creek 26 Feb (TAH) and were on nest and had a nest with young at Widden Valley (E8) 9 Nov (LIN/BRG).

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Grey Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest at HWC 12 Sep and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep -4 Oct (MCR, HBOC).

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were feeding fledged young at Worimi NR 20 Aug (HAS) and Glen Oak in early Nov and on 9 Dec (MAM).

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*

ID No: 705                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and occasionally as 21-50 birds especially during Mar-Aug.

*Notable records:* 50 birds were at Phoenix Park 21 Dec (MAM) and 20+ birds at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG). There were breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (both HBOC). Birds were feeding young at Mount Arthur 9 Jan and Wingen 10 Jan (both NEG).

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 1997*).

Two birds were recorded along the Hunter Main Trail in Wollemi NP 2 Oct (ROM).

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Jerusalem Creek 23 Jan (JED), Gloucester Tops 24 Jan and 22 Jul (MCR/JED, MVBW), Telegraphy SF 29 Oct (HHB), Barrington House 30 Oct (HTH), two locations in Chichester SF 30 Oct (GED) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC).

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

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

*Notable records:* Birds were on nest or had nest with young at Wingen 10 Jan (NEG), Carey Bay early Sep (CRL), Morpeth Common and Tenambit Common 6 Sep (both HBOC), HWC 12 Sep (MCR) and at LTP 17 Nov (KEM).

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Single birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and Mungo Brush MLNP 12 Apr (TBW) and two birds at Mungo Brush 12 Nov (HBA).



**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

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

20 birds were recorded at Yarrawa 21 Oct (LIA), and at least one bird was at Ravensworth 12 Jul (TOM).

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: 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, and in counts of up to 5 birds around Hunter estuary wetlands.

*Notable records:* Several records from HWC over Jun-Sep represent the present southern limit of the range. Also, three birds were at Morpeth STP 18 May (LIA/NEM). A bird was on nest at Clarencetown 18 Sep (KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC). Birds were on nests or had nest with young at two locations in Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC) and at Pinegrove Rd Warkworth 1 Oct (HLC).

**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

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

10+ birds were recorded at Allyn River 30 Oct (BRG/MCR) and 6+ birds at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). There were 15 reports of 1-5 birds from the E and central parts of the Region - a higher reporting rate than usual. An unusual record was of a bird at Floraville on the outskirts of Newcastle 14 Apr (CLT).

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

ID No: 684                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes.  
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were present at Jindabella Dungog (M7) 20 Feb (HBOC) and Copeland Tops SCA 25 Feb (TOM), and 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. There were three reports of birds with dependent young - at both WWW and Green Point Eleebana 1 Feb (HBOC, BRG) and Harrington 8 Feb (BRG/MCR).

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC). Birds were copulating at Glen Oak 20 Oct and there was an advanced chick in a nest there in late Dec (MAM). Also, birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct, Nov and Dec (MUJ).

**Spotted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera maculata*

ID No: 680                      HBOC Category: 3 (*Amended*)                      Breeding: No (*Amended*)  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2005.

**Singing Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 648                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

Five birds were present in an area east of Baerami 9 Nov and two birds in the same area 13 Oct (LIN/BRG). Several birds were at Kings Gap 12 Nov (TAH) and also at Singleton Army Range 5 Dec (LEN). Two birds were recorded at Baerami Creek 16 Oct (LIN) and a single bird at Mount Arthur 2 Apr (NEG). Some of the birds at Singleton were displaying - *although not sufficient to be a breeding record this is an interesting report.*

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1996, 2003*).

Four birds were recorded in grassland on KI 15 Nov (STP) and two birds at the same location 17 Dec (HWS).

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

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

*Notable records:* 16 birds were recorded at Ash Island 9 Feb (BRG/MCR).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 877                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant.

There were very occasional records of a single bird at Ash Island between 30 Mar and 11 Apr - this fits generally with the typical pattern of previous years although the duration of the presence and number of birds both were down. A more unusual date was of a single bird recorded at Ash Island 13 Nov (MCN).

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

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

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

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

**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: 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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 30 Jul, 80 birds at Flat Rd Largs 4 May and 60+ birds at 4km E of Jerrys Plains 30 Jul (all LIN). 20+ birds were at Yarraman Estate Denman 24 Apr (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG).

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

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

*Notable records:* 60+ birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 30 Jul (LIN) and 50+ birds at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). 20+ birds were at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 28 May (HBA). Birds were nesting at Widden Valley (E9) 4 & 13 Oct (HBOC, LIN/BRG).

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

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

70+ birds were recorded at 4km W of Jerrys Plains 16 Jul (LIA) and 80+ birds there 2 Aug (LIN). 25+ birds were at Abby Green Singleton 14 Sep (ALP) and 30+ birds at O'Briens Crossing Goulburn River 17 Oct (FOC). Nine birds were at Widden Valley 13 Oct (LIN/BRG) and 1-5 birds at Muswellbrook 3 Feb (BRG/MCR) and Baerami Creek 3 Nov (LIA/NEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* 80+ birds were recorded at PNR 5 Jul (HBOC). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan, Oct and Nov (MUJ), had dependent young at Belmont Swamp 23 Jan and were nest building near Dungog 20 Feb (both HBOC).

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

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

30+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC) and 8-12+ birds at Wallaby Scrub Rd Bulga 18 Jun (FOC), Warkworth 21 Jun (MOA), Wambo Rd Bulga 7 Aug (BRG) and Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct (HBOC). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the W and central parts of the Region.

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

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

No reports were received for 2005.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*

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

Six birds were recorded at PNR 5 Jul (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Jewells Swamp 24 Jan (CLT), PNR 18 Apr (LIG), Leneghans Flat 5 Jul and 30 Oct (HBOC, BRG/MCR) and HWC 9 & 20 Jan, 19 Oct and 13 Dec (several reports).

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Two bird, with three dependent young, were recorded at KI 22 Jan (LIA), and some birds were at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR).

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Six birds were recorded at PNR 16 Jan (HAP). Birds were nest building at Widden Valley (E9) 30 Sep - 4 Oct and had both dependent young and a nest with eggs at PNR 23 Jan (both HBOC).

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

ID No: 358                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Summer migrant.

3-4 birds were present at Fordwich Rd Broke 8 Sep and 14-15 Sep (ALP). 1-2 birds were recorded at Bulga 3 Feb (BRG), 12km past Jerrys Plains 3 Apr (TAH), Fordwich Rd 7 Sep (ALP), Timor Caves (H3) Nov (STA) and at two well separated locations in the Widden Valley (cells E8, E9) during Oct (HBOC, LIN/BRG, HTH).

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Deep Pond 20 Mar (HBOC) and at Morpeth STP during Apr-Jun surveys (LIA/NEM). 50+ birds were at Ash Island 11 Apr (GOC/MCR) and Wambo Rd 24 Jul (HBA). Birds had a nest with young at HWC 12 Sep (STA).

**Tree Martin** *Hirundo nigricans*

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

*Notable records:* 350 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 13 Mar and 100 birds there 18 May (LIA/NEM). 300+ birds were also at Ash Island 27 Dec (LIA/NEM) and 200 birds at Irrawang Swamp 14 Mar (MAM). ~100 birds were at Glen Oak 17 Jan (MAM) and Flat Rd Largs 4 May (LIN). 20+ birds were at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Ravensworth 14 Jul (TOM) and Quorrobolong 30 Jul (FOC). At Irrawang Swamp 14 Feb there was a mixed flock with *H. ariel* of 500+ birds (LIA/MAM).

**Fairy Martin** *Hirundo ariel*

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at PNR 4 Dec (HBOC) and 20+ birds at Mount Arthur 9 Jan (NEG) and there was a mixed flock with *H. nigricans* of 500+ birds at Irrawang Swamp 14 Feb (LIA/ MAM).

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

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

A bird was heard at Whitebridge during Sep (ROM).

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

ID No: 524                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident. Widely and often recorded near medium to large waters during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of up to 10 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were nest building at Morpeth Common 6 Sep (HBOC) and had dependent young at HWC 12 Sep (MCR).

**Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM). Birds were breeding at Balickera in Aug (MUJ).

**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

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

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

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

20+ birds were recorded in the Widden Valley (E8/9) 13 Oct and 9 Nov (LIN/BRG). 1-5 birds were at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Wingen Oct (NEG), Hunter estuary 22 Oct (HWS), Martindale 29 Oct (TAH) and at locations in the Widden Valley several times in Oct.

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

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

Two birds were recorded near Baerami 9 Nov (LIN/BRG), and some birds were at Kings Gap 12 Nov (TAH).

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

ID No: 525                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at PNR 23 Jan (HBOC) and at Hexham Swamp 11 Nov (LIA/NEM).

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

ID No: 574                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident and winter migrant. Widely and regularly recorded all year as counts of up to 50 birds, and as counts of up to 100 birds in the E of the Region during Apr – mid-May and mid-Jun – Jul.

*Notable records:* Birds were breeding at Balickera in Nov (MUJ).

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Yengo NP 14 Aug (R Payne per MOA), Sharpes Creek 13-14 Sep, Gloucester Falls 14 Sep (both STA), Allyn River Chichester SF 30 Oct (GED) and White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC).

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

ID No: 780                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Four birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF 19-20 Nov (HBOC), and 1-2 birds at White Rock 22 Jan (TOM), Allyn River Forest Park 22 & 23 Jan (TOM), Allyn River 28 Jan and 30 Oct (BRG/MCR, GED), Copeland Tops SCA 24 & 25 Feb (TOM), Boarding House Dam 22 May (HBOC), Callicoma Mount Royal 1-3 Jun (HBOC),

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

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

10+ birds were estimated to be present in the Maitland/Lorn/Bolwarra area during Nov/Dec (TAH). Two male birds were at Bolwarra 11 Nov (TAH) and single birds at Bolwarra 30 Oct (TAH), HWC 19 Oct (LIA), Aberdeen and Scone Dec (both NEG).

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

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

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Anvil Hill (G6) 22-25 Apr (HBOC), Morpeth STP 18 May & 16 Jun (LIA/NEM), Lorn 25 Jun and Bolwarra 9 Jul (both MAM).

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

ID No: 998                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and as counts of up to 50 birds in the E of the Region

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

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

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

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

Two birds were recorded at Harrington 4-5 Dec 2004 (MVBW).

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

Two birds were recorded at Cundletown 4-5 Dec 2004 (MVBW).

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

A single bird was recorded at Taylors Beach (Port Stephens) 13 Dec 2004 (FRN).

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

A pair was nesting at Coopernook SF 27 Dec 2004 (FOC).

**Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus*

Single birds were recorded on Kooragang Island Dec 1969 (VGF) and Jan and Aug 1986 (both CBOC) and at Forster in 1972 (Emu 1975) and Wentworth Swamp (near Kurri Kurri) in Jan 1985 (G Holmes/HBOC).

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

A single bird was present at Coopernook 27 Dec 2004 (FOC).

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

Birds nested for several years on a property at Pindimar in the 1990's. In either 1998 or 1999 they successfully raised two young there, but then two nesting attempts over 1999-2002 were unsuccessful. A bird was heard calling in 2003, and since then there have been no records from the property; however birds have been recorded on a property 500-1000m away in 2004 and 2005. (All information from R Economos per MOA).

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

A single bird was recorded at Harrington 4-5 Dec 2004 (MVBW).

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

28 birds were recorded at Old Bar 22 Nov 2004 (MVBW).

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

3-4 pairs nested at Abby Green near Singleton in 2004 (ALP).

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

Three birds were regularly recorded at Fosterton Loop Dungog Oct 2004 (JED).

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

Analysis of data from frequent surveys along Jones Reserve Rd near Jerrys Plains over 2003-2005 has shown that birds were recorded at around 15% of the autumn-winter surveys at all the regular survey sites and at up to 25% of the times at some sites. Birds also were frequently recorded all year at a site near Yarrawa (all information from TAH). On this basis the status has been re-classified to resident. As yet there are no confirmed breeding records for the Region although adult birds have sometimes been observed to be feeding juvenile birds (*this is insufficient to be a confirmed breeding record*).

**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

Three birds were present at Polblue Swamp Barrington Tops NP 29 Dec 2004 (FOC).

**Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*

Four birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 27 Dec 2004 (FOC).

**White-eared Monarch** *Monarcha leucotis*

A single bird was recorded at Crowdy Bay NP (thought to be from the same location as the current records i.e Fig Tree) over 27-30 Sep 1993 (per MOA).

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

At least one bird was present at Harrington 4 Nov 2004 (MVBW).

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

Five birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 27 Dec 2004 (FOC).

## UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports were not accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee – either 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.

### **Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox*

A single bird was reported to have been at a property at Martinsville 8 Dec. (*Report submitted, not confirmed*).

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

A single bird was reported to have been present several times at Ash Island during late Nov and early Dec. (*Assessment of report not yet completed*).

## CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

In some previous issues, records have been reported for a location described as Fitness Road. The correct name is Fitness's Rd.

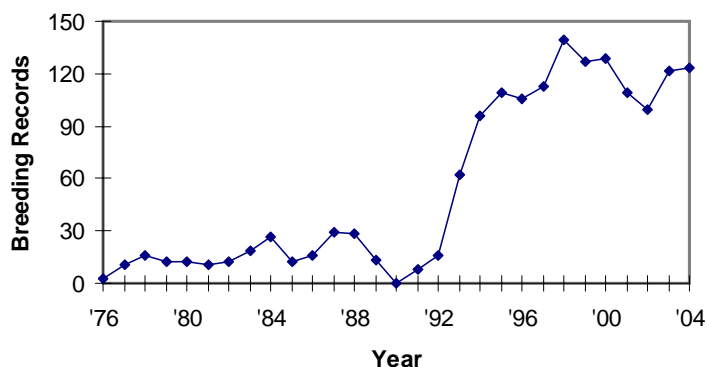
In March 2000, there were 66 Terek Sandpiper in the Hunter estuary, not 55 birds as originally reported. In November 2002 there were 21 Terek Sandpiper in the Hunter estuary, not 44 birds as originally reported, and 15 Grey-tailed Tattler, not 38 birds as originally reported.

Cox's Sandpiper has been deleted from the Hunter Region list - in recognition that this is not considered to be a true species, but rather that it is a hybrid between Curlew Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper.

The Wetlands Centre at Shortland has changed its name to Hunter Wetlands Centre. In previous Bird Reports, the location has been abbreviated to TWC (and before that, SWC). In this Report, the abbreviation HWC is used for sightings at the Wetlands Centre.

Records for a Barking Owl and a Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove in the 2004 Bird Report were incorrectly assigned to Grant Brosie - they were in fact records from Robert McDonald.

In the 2004 report, a graph was presented showing the number of breeding records annually for the Hunter Region; however, several years accidentally were not included. The complete graph is presented below.





Mainly because of a software/programming error, some of the waterbird and wader numbers from the 2004 surveys were incorrectly calculated, and therefore they were wrongly reported in the 2004 Bird Report. Tables with the correct count are presented below.

### Main Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands in 2004

	Jan 17	Feb 7	Mar 6	Apr 17	May 8	Jun 5	Jul 17	Aug 14	Sep 18	Oct 16	Nov 13	Dec 11
Musk Duck												2
Black Swan	11	23	3	90	109	69	49	19	88	163	102	102
Australian Wood Duck							9	10	2	2	3	
Pacific Black Duck	53	26	9	10	2	8	53	3		6	18	1
Australasian Shoveler	2			14			139	65	6			
Grey Teal	150		122	56	302	400	400	429			11	177
Chestnut Teal	606	1015	333	379	483	409	560	197	2	21	185	269
Hardhead		22		3	10	24	39		9	20		
Australasian Grebe				14		3	6	2	5	4		6
Hoary-headed Grebe					1	1		2	1		12	3
Little Pied Cormorant	1	3	3	6	4	7	7	2	3	7	8	4
Pied Cormorant	4	8	12	20	4	3	6	6	3	9	14	6
Little Black Cormorant	7	9	8	7	19	12	10	20	30	26	18	22
Great Cormorant	19	8	4	13	2	2	1	2	3	7	11	7
Australian Pelican	194	158	243	243	117	92	79	112	93	61	126	128
White-faced Heron	44	24	23	67	57	41	44	41	25	11	18	14
Little Egret	9	2	1	2	2	3	6	2	3	6	2	6
White-necked Heron											1	
Great Egret	8	2	3	1	2	1	3	5	4	9	10	2
Intermediate Egret								1	1	2	4	1
Cattle Egret	24	19	20	19		1		4	1		33	8
Striated Heron	2											
Australian White Ibis	9	11	105	110	28	36	24	22	1	2	85	17
Straw-necked Ibis		9	37	46	11	28	26	6	6		2	
Royal Spoonbill	44	60	77	22	11	10	11	18	16	5	16	5

## Hunter Estuary Wader Surveys 2004

	Jan 17	Feb 7	Mar 6	Apr 17	May 8	Jun 5	Jul 17	Aug 14	Sep 18	Oct 16	Nov 13	Dec 11
Black-tailed Godwit	51	250	319	88	26	1	11	2	24	101	85	100
Bar-tailed Godwit	734	1200	1220	220	217	115	142	199	487	1165	1154	1100
Whimbrel	162	5	110	5	3	53	45	44	12	1	91	64
Eastern Curlew	307	478	341	76	58	68	108	94	480	363	429	520
Marsh Sandpiper	125	127	7	3				15		120	22	76
Common Greenshank	295	264	156	72	30	15	11	33	93	115	150	126
Terek Sandpiper										13	7	38
Common Sandpiper	2		3	1					1	2		1
Grey-tailed Tattler	16			26	6		1		11	11	31	37
Ruddy Turnstone									2	1	1	
Great Knot	6	5	7	2	4	3	4	9	3	7	2	6
Red Knot	54	3	8	5	10	4	8		197	560	32	66
Red-necked Stint	85	99	41	2	4	2	5	6		14	48	60
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	325	577	202	1						316	37	115
Curlew Sandpiper	200	350	40						14	420	138	157
Painted Snipe												1
Pied Oystercatcher	10	15	16	11	8	14	8	8	15	8	8	10
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	1	1			3			2	5	1	
Black-winged Stilt	356	521	232	425	453	294	502	490	209	62	82	546
Red-necked Avocet	1555	282	3	6	516	680	853	3500	4503	3800	2330	2654
Pacific Golden Plover	73	3	48	8					7	57	80	99
Red-capped Plover	51	37	10	13	10	19	41	47	6	35	38	14
Double-banded Plover			2	2	1		6					
Lesser Sand Plover	3											
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	9	9	33	14	7	48	3		2	3	1
Red-kneed Dotterel						1	3					
Masked Lapwing	106	120	142	105	105	66	54	38	35	28	32	73

## ESCAPEES

The species below were recorded in the Region during the year, but are considered probably to be escapees rather than part of a self-sustaining wild population. Note that records of feral geese have been ignored – these often do not identify the species involved, also it is considered that the birds often are semi-domesticated (e.g. deliberately or opportunistically fed by visitors).

### **Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

Four birds were present at Richmond Vale 11 Nov (GOC).

### **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** *Cacatua leadbetteri*

A single bird was present at Buttaba 30 Aug (WRO).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Single birds were recorded at Manning Point (S4) 5 May (MVBW) and Kilaben Bay 1 Nov (HBOC).

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

A single bird was recorded at The Junction Newcastle 2 Jun (ROM).

## LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

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

<b>BBNP</b>	Booti Booti National Park	<b>NP</b>	National Park
<b>BbR</b>	Blackbutt Reserve	<b>NR</b>	Nature Reserve
<b>GTD</b>	Grahamstown Dam	<b>NWR</b>	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
<b>GRNP</b>	Goulburn River National Park	<b>PNR</b>	Pambalong Nature Reserve
<b>HRBG</b>	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	<b>SBS</b>	Stockton Borehole Swamp
<b>HWC</b>	Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland	<b>SF</b>	State Forest
<b>KI</b>	Kooragang Island	<b>SRA</b>	State Recreation Area
<b>KNR</b>	Kooragang Nature Reserve	<b>SSNR</b>	Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve
<b>LTP</b>	Lemon Tree Passage	<b>STP</b>	Sewage Treatment Plant
<b>MLNP</b>	Myall Lakes National Park	<b>WWW</b>	Walka Water Works
<b>NLH</b>	New Lambton Heights		

## 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 SF	K10	Hawks Nest	P8/P9
Allyn River	K5	Hexham Swamp NR	L10/M10
Appletree Flat	H8	Howes Valley	H10
Arrowfield	H7	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	M9
Ash Island	M10	Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10
Awabakal N. R.	M10/11	Irrawang Swamp	M9
Balickera	M9	Jerrys Plains	H7
Barrington House	L5	John Brown's Lagoon	L10
Battery Rocks	E6	Kooragang Island	M10
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Kurri Kurri	K9
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Laguna	I10
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9
Bootawah	Q4	Lenaghans Flat	L10
Bolwarra	L9	Maitland	L9
Boondelbah Island	P9	Market Swamp	M10
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Martindale	G7
Broke	I9	Medowie	N9
Broughton Island	P8	Morisset	K11
Bulahdelah	P7	Morpeth	L9
Bulga	I8	Mount Arthur	H6
Cabbage Tree Island	P9	Mount Vincent	K10/L10
Cessnock	K9/K10	Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4
Chichester Dam	M6	Newcastle	M10
Chichester SF	K5/L5	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve	M10
Clarencetown	M8	New Lambton Heights	M10
Cooranbong	K11	Old Bar	R4
Copeland Common	N4	Oyster Cove	N9
Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5	Paterson	L8
Copeland Tops State Forest	M4	Pokolbin	J9
Denman	G7	Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10
Dungog	M7	Quorrobolong	K10
Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Fingal Bay	O9	Raymond Terrace	M9
Forster	R6	Redhead	M11
Fosterton Loop	M7	Salt Ash	N9
Galgabba Point	L11	Scone	H5
Glenrock SRA	M10	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Gloucester	N5	Seal Rocks	R7
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5	Singleton	I8/J8
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9	Stockton	M10
Green Wattle Creek	L9	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Hallidays Point	R5	Swan Bay	N9
Harrington	S4	Swansea, Swansea South	L11

Taree	Q4	Watagans SF & NP	K11
Tarro	M9	White Box Camp (in GRNP)	C6
Toronto	L11	Williamstown	N9
Tuncurry	R6	Wingen	H4
University of Newcastle	M10	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Vacy	L8	Woko NP	M3
Waitui	R3	Woodville	L9
Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9	Worimi NR	N9
Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7	Wyee Point	L11
Warakeila	L6	Yarrawa	F7
Warkworth	I8		

## OBSERVER CODES

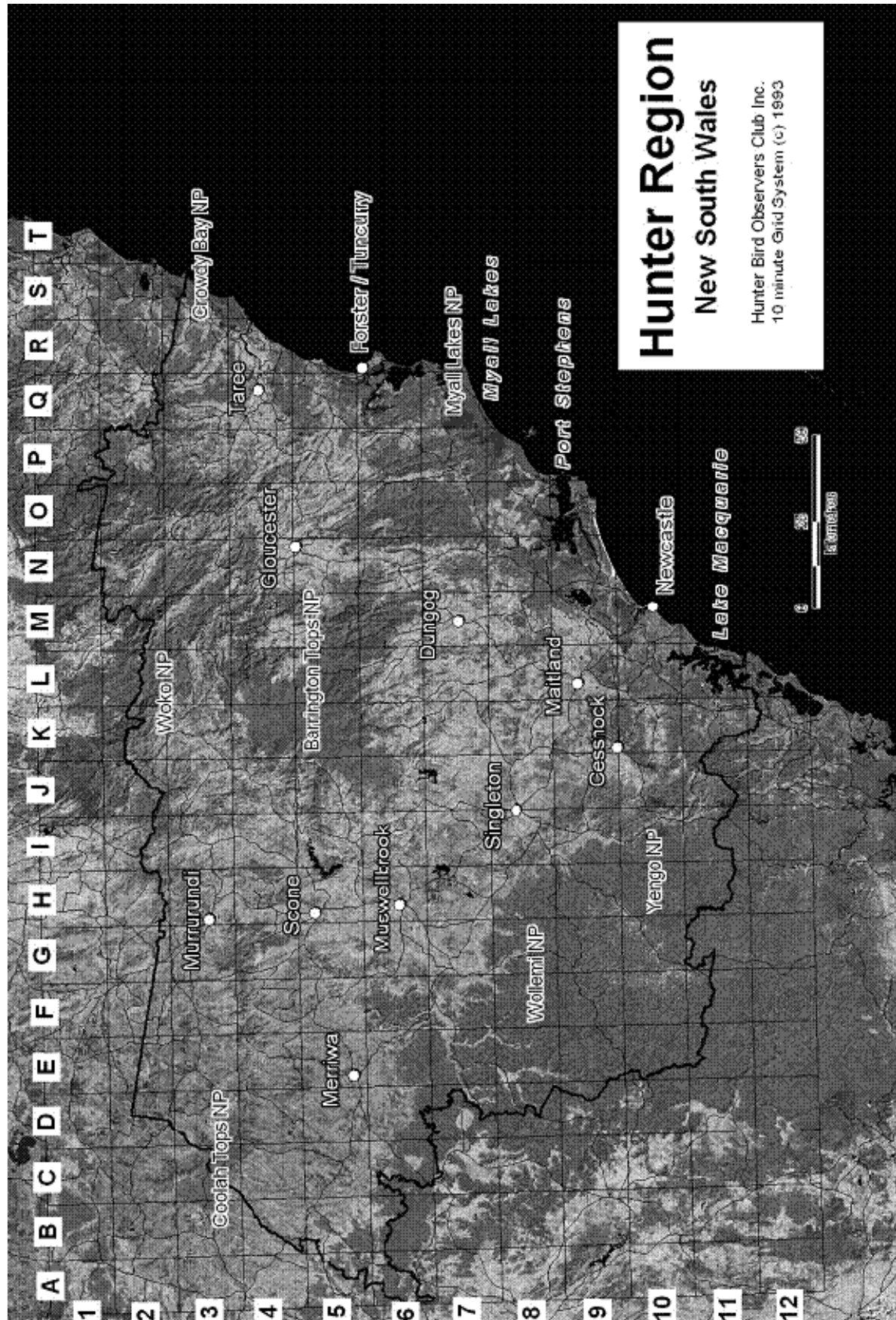
Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the main body of the Report, every observation by every observer was important for the analyses that were made. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from *ALL* those listed below. Observers are identified by codes that are made up of letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned.

<b>ALG</b>	Glenn Albrecht	<b>FOC</b>	Reported in Birding NSW (Field Ornithologists Club) newsletter
<b>ALP</b>	Peter Alexander	<b>FRN</b>	Neil Fraser
<b>BAP</b>	Paul Baird	<b>GED</b>	David Geering
<b>BAR</b>	Richard Baxter	<b>GOA</b>	Anthony Gooden
<b>BAV</b>	Valda Barton	<b>GOC</b>	Colin Goodenough
<b>BAW</b>	Wilma Barden	<b>GOJ</b>	John Goswell
<b>BEA</b>	Allan Benson	<b>GRA</b>	Alison Green
<b>BIA</b>	Birding-Australia (Internet group)	<b>GRP</b>	Phil Grazier
<b>BNC</b>	C & N Brock	<b>HAP</b>	Phil Hansbro
<b>BRG</b>	Grant Brosie	<b>HAS</b>	Sue Hamonet
<b>BRU</b>	Ruth Baker	<b>HBA</b>	HBOC Atlassing Survey
<b>CAR</b>	Ross Carlton	<b>HBOC</b>	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
<b>CBOC</b>	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	<b>HCL</b>	Chris, Liz Herbert
<b>CJB</b>	John, Beth Cockerell	<b>HDM</b>	Diane, Michael Hatfield
<b>CLG</b>	Greg Clancy	<b>HHB</b>	Hunter Home Brewers
<b>CLT</b>	Tom Clarke	<b>HID</b>	Dennis Hirst
<b>COD</b>	Dick Cooper	<b>HPS</b>	Hunter pelagic surveys
<b>CRL</b>	Liz Crawford	<b>HTH</b>	Hunter Thickheads
<b>DBP</b>	Penny Drake-Brockman	<b>HUJ</b>	J Hullick
<b>DUP</b>	Pam Durie	<b>HUL</b>	Liz Huxtable
<b>EKP</b>	Peter Ekert	<b>HWS</b>	HBOC Wader Surveys
<b>FIM</b>	Mike Fidler	<b>JED</b>	Dick Jenkin
<b>FIP</b>	Pamela Fitzsimons	<b>KEM</b>	Michael Kearns
<b>FIT</b>	Trish Firkin		

<b>LAD</b>	Diane Lamb	<b>RDB</b>	Dorothy, Bob Raine
<b>LEN</b>	Nick Leseberg	<b>RIA</b>	Allan Richardson
<b>LIA</b>	Ann Lindsey	<b>ROD</b>	Dianne Rogers
<b>LIG</b>	Greg Little	<b>ROM</b>	Michael Roderick
<b>LIN</b>	Nick Livanos	<b>ROS</b>	Steven Roderick
<b>LPC</b>	Paddy, Caryl Lightfoot	<b>SAD</b>	Debbie Saunders
<b>MAA</b>	Anthony Marchment	<b>SIJ</b>	John Simpson
<b>MAC</b>	Charles Mann	<b>SLP</b>	P Slack
<b>MAM</b>	Max Maddock	<b>SMJ</b>	James Smart
<b>MCE</b>	Eula McKane	<b>SPJ</b>	Jenny Spencer
<b>MCN</b>	Neville McNaughton	<b>STA</b>	Alan Stuart
<b>MCR</b>	Robert McDonald	<b>STK</b>	Kathleen Straw
<b>MDV</b>	Don, Val Moon	<b>STP</b>	Phil Straw
<b>MEL</b>	Lorna Mee	<b>TAH</b>	Harold Tarrant
<b>MOA</b>	Alan Morris	<b>THJ</b>	Judi Thomas
<b>MUJ</b>	Jenny Musicka	<b>TOM</b>	Michael Todd
<b>MVBW</b>	Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers	<b>WCR</b>	Wetlands Centre Record
<b>NBL</b>	NSW Birdline report	<b>WRO</b>	Rosemary Waymark
<b>NEG</b>	Greg Newling	<b>WRA</b>	Ray Walker
<b>NEM</b>	Mike Newman	<b>WEJ</b>	Judy Westphal
<b>PRC</b>	Catherine Price	<b>WKM</b>	Keith, Margaret Woods

# MAP OF THE HUNTER REGION

The map below (prepared by Mick Roderick) indicates the boundaries for the Region, with 10-minute grid lines for latitude and longitude. The cells thus created have unique alpha-numeric identifiers, which have been used in the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations.



# NOTES