

# HUNTER REGION OF NSW

## 2006 BIRD REPORT

The Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) has produced this 14<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://h boc.org.au>

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

The Secretary  
Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 24  
New Lambton NSW 2305

Cover photograph: Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*)  
Photographer: Allan Friis

Date of Issue: 6 October 2007

ISSN: 1322-5332

Editor: Alan Stuart

© Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc



# CONTENTS

|                                      | <b>Page</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| FOREWORD                             |             |
| INTRODUCTION                         | 1           |
| HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR               | 3           |
| SYSTEMATIC LIST                      | 5           |
| Introduction                         | 5           |
| Birds                                | 6           |
| SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS                | 70          |
| UNCONFIRMED RECORDS                  | 72          |
| CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES              | 72          |
| ESCAPEES                             | 74          |
| ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS           | 75          |
| GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS | 76          |
| OBSERVER CODES                       | 77          |
| MAP OF THE HUNTER REGION             | 79          |



# FOREWORD

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hunter Bird Observers Club in 2006 provided an excuse, if one was needed, to reflect on the many changes and achievements we have witnessed over the years. And certainly chief among these last has been the emergence of the production of an Annual Bird Report. Much has been written previously by others about the value of such a work, giving, as it does, such a valuable historical record of the status of the avian life of our precious Hunter Valley, and I completely endorse those sentiments and congratulate all involved in submitting their personal observations.

It is a privilege to be asked to provide the foreword for this, the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the series. In itself it is a testament to the huge commitment of editor, Alan Stuart, something that we should never underestimate; but also it mirrors the active involvement of a steadily-growing membership. As the number of reported Hunter species shows an upward trend each year, so too does the list of active contributors. More eyes in the field = more birds reported.

In this edition we see an increase of seven species over 2005, and while this is an obviously pleasing trend, it does concern me that perhaps we might overlook the fact that the number of birds of each species has tended to decline. There can be no doubt that this is a flow-on effect from the greatest of our concerns – destruction of habitat. As we know, this is a world-wide problem, but in the Hunter we are certainly not immune to it. A great deal of time is spent by dedicated people within our club in an attempt to stem this fatal haemorrhagic effect. But in spite of our best efforts we continue to lose access to valuable birding sites. Times just get tougher for the birds - and the bird observers.

Nevertheless, each year manages to produce something new and exciting, and 2006 was no exception to this, as we can see by reading the introduction and highlights in this report. Our members find their way into many and varied locations and today's electronic medium provides a fast and effective way to pass on word of interesting sightings. The growing list of pelagic species reflects the value of regular seabird outings, and our thanks are due to those who "go down to the sea in ships".

I commend all contributors for your keen participation. Keep birding, keep alert, and above all, keep reporting your observations.

Sue Hamonet  
3 October 2007

*Sue Hamonet is HBOC's Records Officer and has chaired the Records Appraisal Committee since its inception in 1993. She is a Life Member of Hunter Bird Observers Club.*

# 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 2007. The information is based upon observation records gathered from a variety of sources.

There are seven additions to the 2006 species list – White-bellied Storm-petrel, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Arctic Tern, Inland Thornbill and Yellow-bellied Sunbird. The official Hunter Region list now stands at 422 species. For 2006, 355 of these species were confirmed to have been present in the Region and information about those observations is presented in the Report.

161 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2006 - this is the greatest number of records for a calendar year eclipsing the previous best of 152 breeding species in 2005. In the 10 years from 1997, 226 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 16 species there are pre-1997 records). Although we now have breeding records for many of the species considered to be either resident in the Hunter Region or regular visitors in the breeding season, there are surprisingly many gaps. It is worthwhile to highlight the gaps, which would be an exciting challenge for local birding enthusiasts to attempt to fill. The gaps are:

| <u>No Breeding Records</u> | <u>No recent records (last known date)</u> |
|----------------------------|--|
| Stubble Quail              | Pink-eared Duck (1996)                     |
| Lewin's Rail               | Striated Heron (1972)                      |
| Painted Snipe              | Nankeen Night-Heron (1996)                 |
| Emerald Dove               | Black Bittern (1994)                       |
| Brush Bronzewing           | Baillon's Crake (pre 1987)                 |
| Wompoo Fruit-Dove          | Australian Spotted Crake (pre 1987)        |
| Topknot Pigeon             | Banded Lapwing (1994)                      |
| Brush Cuckoo               | Peaceful Dove (pre 1987)                   |
| Black-eared Cuckoo         | Barn Owl (1972)                            |
| Rufous Scrub-bird          | Grass Owl (1972)                           |
| Chestnut-rumped Heathwren  | Red-browed Treecreeper (1994)              |
| Crescent Honeyeater        | Red-backed Fairy-wren (pre 1987)           |
| Scarlet Robin              | Western Gerygone (1989)                    |
| Olive Whistler             | White-fronted Chat (1997)                  |
| Varied Triller             | Forest Raven (pre 1987)                    |
| Paradise Riflebird         | Skylark (1991)                             |
| White-backed Swallow       | Brown Songlark (1994)                      |
| Red-whiskered Bulbul       |  |

Severe drought conditions persisted for most of the Region throughout 2006. The associated movements of species, especially towards the coast, may account for the larger than usual counts of some species in 2006.

Once again, relatively few pelagic surveys were organised in 2006 (surveys in March, August and October only) owing to boat availability problems. Thus, there are fewer records of seabirds than was the case in 2000-2004.

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 2006, the Records Appraisal Committee members were Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Fred van Gessel, Phil Hansbro and Mike Newman.

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 2006 Report.

Alan Stuart  
25 September 2007

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 2006 included the following:

- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* - 1-2 birds at Walka Water Works 7 Jun and late Aug-Dec
- Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* - nine birds at Ellalong Lagoon 6 May and records of lesser numbers from 5 locations
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* - pairs near Broke late Oct and at Ash Island 11-18 Dec, and four birds at Ash Island 30 Dec
- Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah* - the pair at Myall Lakes NP remained present all year
- White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis* - a single bird on a pelagic survey 26 Mar
- Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii* - a single bird on a pelagic survey 28 Oct
- Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni* - single birds on pelagic surveys 26 Mar and 28 Oct
- Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* - a single bird on a pelagic survey 26 Mar
- Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica* - two birds on pelagic surveys 20 Aug and 30 Oct
- White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria* - a single bird on a pelagic survey 26 Mar
- Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* - a dead bird near Stockton bridge 21 Jan
- Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* - single birds at Bolwarra wetlands 14 Nov and Hexham swamp 8 Dec
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - single birds at Stockton Creek 28 Oct & 7 Dec and at Kilaben Bay 11 Jun
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* - single birds at Kooragang Island 13 May & 18 Dec, Fullerton Cove 3 Jun, Williamtown 28 Jun and Hexham Swamp 26 Sep
- Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* - breeding records from three locations over Nov-Dec, with 88 nests in total
- Black Kite *Milvus migrans* - single birds at Aberdeen 5 Jun and Kooragang Island 23 Sep
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* - more records than usual including for the Hunter estuary
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* - many and widespread records
- Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa* - two birds at Ash Island 2 Feb
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - 424 birds in Port Stephens 26 Feb
- Red Knot *Calidris canutus* - 1,669 birds at Ash Island 18 Oct (*largest known count for the Hunter estuary*)
- Sanderling *Calidris alba* - 46 birds at Mudbishops Point 27 Jan (*largest known count there*)
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* - single birds at Stockton Borehole swamp late Dec
- Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* - a single bird at Stockton Sandspit during Mar
- Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* - up to three birds often at Leneghans Flat 31 Oct to 11 Nov, and four birds present 1 Nov
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* - once again bred at Lemon Tree Passage over Oct-Dec, also records from Harrington 24 Jul and 6 Aug, Balickera Aug and Swansea 21 Aug
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus* - single birds near Forster 11 Aug and Corrie Island 26 Feb, and a pair continued to be resident and breeding at the mouth of the Manning River
- Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* - 77 birds in Port Stephens 26 Feb
- Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* - the largest known counts at both Worimi NR and Mudbishops Point



- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* - single birds at Harrington 27 Jan, Stockton Sandspit 30 Jan and Corrie Island Port Stephens 26 Feb
- Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* - records from Mudbishops Point, Stockton Sandspit, Worimi NR, and 15 birds were in Port Stephens 26 Feb
- Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* - a single bird on a pelagic trip 28 Oct
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* - a single bird at Harrington 23 Nov
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* - three birds at Harrington 23 Nov and single birds there 8 Feb and 2 Jul, and a bird at Myall Lakes NP 11 Nov
- Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* - 20+ birds at Warrah Creek 22 Sep and four birds 18 Nov
- Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* - many and widespread records, including birds were breeding at Coolah Tops 1-3 Oct and Murrurundi 3-7 Oct
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - a male in Goulburn River NP 18 Nov
- Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* - many records all year of a pair at Awaba Forest; and, single birds at Raymond Terrace 11 Jan, Anna Bay 5 May, and Medowie mid Oct
- Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* - 1-3 birds often at Ash Island over Jan-Mar and in Dec and at Crowdy Bay NP over Jan-Feb, and a pair at Tomago
- Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii* - a single bird at Pambalong NR 7 Nov
- Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* - a single bird in the Baerami Valley 12 Jun
- Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis* - a single bird ~30km W of Willow Tree 12 May, two birds there 19-20 Oct and six birds 19 Nov
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* - many records in the W of the Region, and birds reported to be regularly present and breeding in the lower Wybong Valley
- Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* - 6+ birds at Cessnock 30 Jun and several records of 1-2 birds in May-Jul and Sep
- Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* – birds bred near Bulahdelah (*first record in >20 years*)
- White-eared Monarch *Monarcha leucotis* - 1-2 birds at Figtree Crowdy Bay NP 20 & 25 Jan
- Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* - a pair at Fishers Hill Rd Vacy 8 Oct
- Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus* - several records of small numbers, mainly over Sep-Nov, and 1-2 pairs bred near Kurri Kurri in spring (*first known record for the Region*)
- White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* - several records of 20-100+ birds, mainly over Sep-Nov, and birds bred near Kurri Kurri in spring
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* - 10+ birds at Warrah Creek 22 Sep, 8 birds at Bayswater Colliery 13 Feb, 5 birds near Sandy Hollow 22 Sep, and numerous records of 1-3 birds
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis* - up to 8 birds at Kooragang Island Aug-Dec, and a single bird at Tomago 9 Nov
- Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - up to 6 birds present Jan-Mar at Ash Island, and a single bird there 12 Dec
- Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* - ~70 birds near Yarrawa and 37 birds at Widden Valley 28 Oct
- Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - female at Walka Waterworks 3 to ~7 Mar
- Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi* - a large influx into the Bolwarra/Oakhampton area commencing late Sep, and 10+ birds were near Yarrawa 24 Sep
- Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis* - many records, particularly over Sep-Dec
- Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* - first confirmed breeding record for the Region

# 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.

See Escapees.

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

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

Many birds were recorded at Wingham Brush 26 Jul (MOA). 1-5 birds were at BbR often during Aug-Dec (KEM), and at Glenrock SRA 31 Mar and 16 Aug (CLT, KEM), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Cardiff 14 Oct (WEJ), Jones Reserve Rd 28 Oct (HTH), Allyn River 29 Oct (DDR/HHB), Toronto 28 Oct (TOM), Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/ RUR) and Gap Creek Watagans 26 Dec (KEM). Birds had a nest with eggs at Laguna 25-27 Aug (RDB) and were with chicks or juveniles at Woko NP 12 Feb (DBP) and Gap Creek Watagans 26 Dec (KEM), and often in the Coal Point/Kilaben Bay area (per TOM) during the year. *Jones Reserve Rd is an unusual location, being dry woodland, and presumably the bird was in transit.*

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

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

Birds were regularly present at Fosterton Loop during Dec and seven birds were recorded 24 Dec (JED). 1-5 birds were seen or heard at Hunter estuary 29 Apr (HWS), Awabakal NR 20 Aug (HBOC), Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct and 11 Nov (NEG), Fosterton Loop 30 Sep and 23 Nov (HAP/JED), and at several locations in the Bolwarra/Largs/Morpeth area from late Oct through to the end of the year (several observers).

## **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:* At least three pairs with chicks were recorded on Ash Island during Jan-Mar.

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

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

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

*Notable records:* The largest count at HWC was of 68 birds there 10 Nov (KEM) and 50+ birds were frequently recorded. Birds had dependent young at HWC 30 Jan (WCR) and Newcastle University wetlands 20 Feb (KEM) and were nest building at Market Swamp 29 Sep (KEM).

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

ID No: 205                      HBOC Category: 2              Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

300+ birds were recorded at the usual location Doughboy Hollow Singleton in May and on 29 Jun (WRO, MOA) and ~180 birds there 9 Jul (STA/LIA). Two new locations were identified - 150-200+ birds were sometimes present at a farm dam near Craven (N5) during Feb-Apr (DBP, FOC) and 75+ birds were at a piggery dam near Stratford late Aug (DBP).

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

ID No: 204                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident

20+ birds were recorded at a Woodville house dam during Feb (NEM) and 17 birds at Newcastle University wetlands 11 Sep (KEM). 10-13 birds were at HWC 25 Jan (LIP), 5 Feb (STA), 29 Sep and 23 Dec (KEM), and six birds at NWR/Market Swamp 29 Sep (KEM). 1-5 birds were at PNR/Leneghans Flat 19 Mar and 5 Nov (MOA, KEM/MCR), Newcastle University wetlands 20 Feb (KEM), NWR/Market Swamp 2 Sep and 10 Nov (KEM) and HWC 28 Jan, 29 Oct, 10 Nov and 5 Dec (several observers).

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

ID No: 216                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare (*Recorded 1989, 2002-03, 2005*) (*revised from: Accidental*)

1-2 birds often were recorded at WWW during late Aug-Dec (many observers) and also were present there 7 Jun (BRG/MCR).

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

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

Birds were recorded at GTD all year, with the peak count being of 33 birds 24 Mar (MAM) - all other counts were of <20 birds and most were of <10 birds (several observers). Birds were also at WWW most of the year - the peak count was of eight birds 8 Aug and birds were absent in the July survey (Table 2, other observers). 1-2 birds were present at Ash Island Deep Pond 3 Feb and over Jun-Dec (TOM, Table 3) but also eight birds were recorded there 14 Dec (KEM et al). Elsewhere, single birds were at HWC 10 Feb (WCR), Rathluba lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC) and Warabrook 23 Nov and 2 Dec (KEM).

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

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

Nine birds were recorded at Ellalong Lagoon 6 May (HCL). There were records for four other locations: Ash Island Deep Pond, with six birds present 16 Dec, 3-4 birds 14 & 17 Jan and two birds 14 Dec (HWS, LIA et al, KEM et al); Bolwarra lagoon and nearby, with 3-5 birds present 19 Nov - 20 Dec (TOM, TAH, KEM, MEL); Morpeth STP, with three birds present 15 Dec and a single bird 3 Jun (Table 1); WWW, with a single bird present 8 Nov (SMJ/BAP).

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

ID No: 203                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as up to 50 birds at medium to large waters (*text revised*).

**Notable records:** 500+ birds were recorded at Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC) and 466 birds at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM). 200+ birds were at Belmont swamp/lagoon 12 Aug and Galgabba Point 13 Nov (KEM), and in a survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC). 100-200 birds were at Taylors Beach 19 Feb (HBOC), Worimi NR 11 Mar and 18 Nov (HAS), Morpeth STP 17 Mar, 22 Sep and 15 Dec (Table 1), Belmont swamp/lagoon 22 Sep (KEM), KI 23 Sep and 21 Oct (Table 3) and SBS 21 Dec (KEM). There were many records of 50+ birds from KI and Morpeth STP mostly in the second half of the year (Tables 1, 3, other reports). 50+ birds were also at Mungo Brush 13 Aug (KEM) and Worimi NR 27 Aug and 22 Oct (HAS). **Breeding:** There were numerous records mostly spanning Aug-Dec although birds also had cygnets at Ellalong Lagoon 6 May (HCL). A transect across Hexham Swamp 26 Sep located 18 breeding pairs (KEM).

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

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

A pair was present at a dam near Broke late Oct (OCG), and then the same or another pair was recorded at Ash Island 11 Dec (HCL) and then by several observers there over the following week. Then on 30 Dec, four birds (2m, 2f) were recorded there (RIA). Also, three birds were at a farm dam 6km SE of Cassilis (C5) 28 Dec (HNJ).

**Radjah Shelduck** *Tadorna radjah*

ID No: 206                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2005).

The pair at Myall Lakes NP remained present all year at least until mid Nov, with regular reports from three locations in the National Park - Mungo Brush, Bombah Point and Legges Camp. *The October 2005 report of these birds at Myall Lakes NP was accepted by NSW ORAC.*

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at KI 11 Feb and 18 Nov (Table 3) and BbR 31 Oct (KEM). 21-50 birds were often at BbR over Aug-Dec (KEM) and also Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), Clarencetown Rd 23 May (MAM), Glen Oak 26 May (MAM), Marmong Point area 1 Jul (HBOC), Rathluba Lagoon 22 Jul (MAM), KI 26 Aug (HWS), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC), Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC), Buttaba 8 Nov (KEM) and Warabrook 23 Nov (KEM). **Breeding:** There were numerous records, all spanning Aug-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 2006.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Eleven birds were present at Warabrook 23 Nov and nine birds there 2 Dec (KEM). 1-5 birds were recorded at Glen Oak 8/11 Jan and 19 Aug (MAM), WWW 29 Oct and 21 Nov (DDR, KEM), Salamander 23 Aug (KEM), HWC 10 Nov and 5 Dec (KEM, HBOC), Dora Creek 7 Dec (KEM), and often at BbR over Aug-Dec (KEM). Birds were copulating at Warabrook 21 Sep (BIA) and had dependent young at Toronto wetland 25 Oct (KEM). The birds at Glen Oak and at HWC 10 Nov were hybrids with Pacific Black Duck.

**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 50 birds at small to large waters (text revised).

*Notable records:* 453 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 22 Sep and 397 birds 17 Mar (Table 1). 100-200 birds were often at BbR during Aug-Dec and at KI 14 Jan (Table 3), Morpeth STP 8 Jul and 10 Aug (Table 1), Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM) and PNR/Leneghans Flat 2/5 Nov (KEM/MCR). 50+ birds were at Glen Oak 28 Feb (MAM), WWW 14 Jun (Table 2), Salamander 23 Aug (KEM), LTP STP 23 Aug (KEM), KI 21 Oct and 16 Dec (Table 3), Warabrook 23 Nov (KEM), and several times at Morpeth STP (Table 1). **Breeding:** There were numerous records, spanning Feb-Mar and Sep-Nov.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchotis*

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:** The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 155 birds 29 Jul and 20+ birds were there for 8 months of the year including three counts of 50+ birds (Table 3, other reports). Although the monthly January count for the estuary was low, 20+ birds were recorded at other times during the month (LIA et al, TOM). 110 birds were at Morpeth STP 22 Sep and 74 birds there 7 Oct; and 20+ birds were present most months from April onwards (Table 1). 100 birds were at Leneghans Flat 28 Mar (SEP) and 50-52 birds there 19 Mar and 17 Jun (MOA, TOM). 21-50 birds were at Ellalong lagoon 6 May (HCL), HWC 18 Jun, 2 Sep and 23 Dec (HBOC, KEM), Rathluba lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC), Hexham Swamp 26 Sep and Woodberry 28 Dec (both KEM). 11-15 birds were at HWC 12 Jun (BIA) and Leneghans Flat 4-7 Mar (FOC, MOA).

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2006.

**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:** 2,500 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM). The peak count at Morpeth STP was 2,133 birds present 22 Sep (*the highest count there since regular surveying commenced in 2001*) and also 1,727 birds were there 7 Oct (Table 1); many hundreds of birds were present most other months. Counts for the Hunter estuary exceeded 700 birds in Feb and May-Jun with many hundreds present most months except during Jul-Oct when numbers plummeted (Table 3, other observers). 300-350 birds were at Leneghans Flat 17 Jun and 29 Aug (TOM, LIG) and 100+ birds 2-5 Nov (KEM/MCR). 176 birds were recorded at HWC 23 Dec, 103 birds there 10 Nov and 51-100 birds at other times (KEM, other reports). There were records of 50+ birds from six locations elsewhere - Rathluba lagoon, Bolwarra wetland, Irrawang Swamp, WWW, SBS and Hexham Swamp, all for the Sep-Dec period (several observers). **Breeding:** Birds had young at PNR/Leneghans Flat 13 Sep and at HWC 10 Nov and 23 Dec (KEM/MCR).

**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:** The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 1,148 birds at Ash Island Deep Pond 17 Jan (LIA et al). 823 birds were recorded there 14 Jan and 500+ birds for most of the time in the first half of the year; numbers then declined but began to increase again towards the end of the year (Table 3, other observers). 836 birds were at Morpeth STP 7 Oct and 464 birds 22 Sep, for the remainder of the year counts were in the range 80-200+ (Table 1). 200+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM) and 100+ birds at PNR/Leneghans Flat 2 Nov (KEM/MCR). 50+ birds were at HWC 16 May and 18 Jun and PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (MCR, HBOC, KEM). **Breeding:** There were numerous breeding records spanning Mar and Sep-Dec.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1993).

No reports received for 2006.

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

|                         | 19<br>Jan | 16<br>Feb | 17<br>Mar | 8<br>Apr | 18<br>May | 3<br>Jun | 8<br>Jul | 10<br>Aug | 22<br>Sep | 7<br>Oct | 9<br>Nov | 15<br>Dec |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Freckled Duck           | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3         |
| Black Swan              | 41        | 26        | 175       | 89       | 2         | 4        | 97       | 52        | 169       | 73       | 86       | 102       |
| Australian Wood Duck    | 2         | 0         | 7         | 2        | 2         | 2        | 1        | 4         | 0         | 8        | 0        | 24        |
| Pacific Black Duck      | 11        | 63        | 397       | 47       | 6         | 8        | 174      | 196       | 453       | 69       | 59       | 81        |
| Australasian Shoveler   | 1         | 0         | 14        | 29       | 16        | 1        | 32       | 37        | 110       | 74       | 32       | 20        |
| Grey Teal               | 114       | 38        | 150       | 265      | 157       | 42       | 489      | 439       | 2133      | 1727     | 669      | 912       |
| Chestnut Teal           | 91        | 78        | 89        | 138      | 91        | 142      | 225      | 80        | 464       | 836      | 200      | 158       |
| Pink-eared Duck         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 0        | 0         | 578      | 305      | 6         | 22        | 142      | 249      | 258       |
| Hardhead                | 0         | 7         | 78        | 2        | 0         | 1        | 0        | 8         | 300       | 11       | 1        | 3         |
| Australasian Grebe      | 0         | 0         | 12        | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1        | 13        | 29        | 60       | 37       | 0         |
| Hoary-headed Grebe      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1        | 0         | 2        | 0        | 0         | 2         | 2        | 0        | 1         |
| Darter                  | 3         | 0         | 0         | 1        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1        | 5         |
| Little Pied Cormorant   | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 6         | 4        | 4        | 0         |
| Little Black Cormorant  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 8        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 18        | 21       | 25       | 12        |
| Great Cormorant         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1        | 1         | 16       | 91       | 77        | 1         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Australian Pelican      | 130       | 26        | 4         | 30       | 13        | 4        | 6        | 2         | 13        | 10       | 21       | 70        |
| White-faced Heron       | 30        | 8         | 21        | 8        | 1         | 2        | 10       | 7         | 16        | 6        | 20       | 22        |
| Little Egret            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0         |
| White-necked Heron      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2        | 2         | 0        | 1        | 0         | 6         | 1        | 10       | 1         |
| Great Egret             | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0         | 1         | 2        | 3        | 12        |
| Intermediate Egret      | 8         | 0         | 6         | 3        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         | 2         | 1        | 11       | 26        |
| Cattle Egret            | 9         | 42        | 145       | 6        | 20        | 13       | 3        | 25        | 23        | 16       | 2        | 2         |
| Australian White Ibis   | 1         | 4         | 1         | 3        | 0         | 0        | 4        | 1         | 12        | 0        | 2        | 48        |
| Straw-necked Ibis       | 13        | 23        | 30        | 21       | 30        | 1        | 140      | 157       | 160       | 17       | 4        | 1         |
| Royal Spoonbill         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1         | 8        | 13       | 4         |
| Yellow-billed Spoonbill | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         |
| Eurasian Coot           | 4         | 6         | 5         | 6        | 6         | 7        | 17       | 11        | 39        | 119      | 97       | 24        |

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

ID No: 213

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records (*revised*)

Status: Bird of passage.

Hundreds of birds were recorded at Morpeth STP over Jun-Jul and Oct-Dec, with the peak count being 578 birds 3 Jun (Table 1). 50+ birds were present in the Hunter estuary over Nov-Dec (Table 3) - the birds were mostly at Ash Island Deep Pond where 98 birds also were recorded 14 Dec (KEM et al) and 5-10 birds during Jan-Mar (LIA, TOM). 40+ birds were at Muswellbrook STP 17 Sep (KEM et al) and 10-20 birds at Ellalong Lagoon 6 May (HCL), Hexham Swamp 26 Sep and WWW 21 Nov (both KEM). Six birds were at Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct (NEG) and WWW 20 Dec (MEL), and 1-5 birds at Leneghans Flat 29 Aug (LIG), Woodberry 28 Dec (KEM) and occasionally at WWW (Table 2, SHB, TAH, MEL).

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident and irruptive visitor (*text added*). Widely and moderately often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 550 birds were recorded at Hunter estuary (mainly at Deep Pond) 21 Oct and 100+ birds were present Jan 17 and over Nov-Dec (Table 3, LIA et al). 300 birds were present at Morpeth STP 22 Sep and 240 birds at WWW 11 Oct (Tables 1, 2). 51-100 birds were at Morpeth STP 17 Mar (Table 1), GTD 24 Mar (MAM), WWW 8 Aug and Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC), and 20+ birds at Rathluba Lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC), Muswellbrook STP 17 Sep (KEM et al), Hexham Swamp Shortland 26 Sep (KEM), HWC 29 Sep and 10 Nov (KEM), WWW 21 Nov (KEM), Bolwarra wetland 21 Nov and 6 Dec (KEM/SMJ), Warabrook 2 Dec (KEM) and NWR/Market Swamp 17 Dec (CLT et al).

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

|                        | Jan<br>11 | Feb<br>8 | Mar<br>8 | Apr<br>10 | May<br>10 | Jun<br>14 | July<br>11 | Aug<br>8 | Sep<br>13 | Oct<br>11 | Nov<br>8 | Dec<br>13 |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Musk Duck              | 6         | 2        | 3        | 3         | 5         | 3         | 0          | 8        | 2         | 5         | 4        | 4         |
| Black Swan             | 3         | 8        | 4        | 2         | 4         | 3         | 6          | 0        | 1         | 2         | 0        | 1         |
| Aust Wood Duck         | 2         | 1        | 0        | 1         | 4         | 2         | 2          | 4        | 6         | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| Pacific Black Duck     | 11        | 12       | 14       | 12        | 38        | 72        | 5          | 14       | 4         | 7         | 24       | 13        |
| Aust Shoveler          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4          | 0        | 2         | 1         | 1        | 0         |
| Grey Teal              | 30        | 7        | 3        | 8         | 2         | 8         | 14         | 8        | 22        | 31        | 28       | 26        |
| Chestnut Teal          | 20        | 8        | 4        | 12        | 13        | 2         | 4          | 0        | 2         | 2         | 12       | 17        |
| Pink-eared Duck        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 3         |
| Hardhead               | 14        | 18       | 17       | 12        | 18        | 6         | 17         | 52       | 11        | 240       | 2        | 5         |
| Aust Grebe             | 4         | 14       | 13       | 46        | 50        | 29        | 85         | 30       | 11        | 20        | 6        | 17        |
| Hoary-Headed Grebe     | 0         | 4        | 4        | 4         | 4         | 12        | 0          | 12       | 2         | 7         | 6        | 8         |
| Great Crested Grebe    | 11        | 16       | 12       | 22        | 18        | 9         | 0          | 1        | 1         | 2         | 5        | 8         |
| Little Pied Cormorant  | 5         | 6        | 10       | 3         | 9         | 1         | 1          | 0        | 10        | 2         | 12       | 1         |
| Little Black Cormorant | 6         | 44       | 26       | 30        | 12        | 14        | 9          | 1        | 10        | 3         | 17       | 6         |
| Aust Pelican           | 4         | 11       | 1        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 6        | 6         | 2         | 1        | 5         |
| White-faced Heron      | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 1        | 0         | 2         | 2        | 2         |
| Little Egret           | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0        | 0         | 1         | 1        | 0         |
| Great Egret            | 0         | 1        | 2        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| Intermediate Egret     | 0         | 0        | 1        | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| Aust White Ibis        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0        | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0         |
| Straw-necked ibis      | 0         | 3        | 500      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1          | 25       | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| Royal Spoonbill        | 0         | 1        | 2        | 3         | 4         | 2         | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| Purple Swamphen        | 10        | 9        | 9        | 7         | 7         | 10        | 8          | 66       | 7         | 7         | 8        | 12        |
| Dusky Moorhen          | 7         | 11       | 14       | 13        | 7         | 17        | 7          | 15       | 13        | 7         | 13       | 4         |
| Eurasian Coot          | 60        | 85       | 36       | 60        | 37        | 81        | 92         | 136      | 74        | 40        | 91       | 22        |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 3         | 2        | 6        | 3         | 7         | 2         | 3          | 10       | 3         | 1         | 2        | 2         |
| Masked Lapwing         | 6         | 5        | 3        | 4         | 8         | 0         | 2          | 2        | 2         | 2         | 2        | 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:* 51 birds were recorded in a transect across Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM). 85 birds were at WWW 11 Jul and 20+ birds there throughout Apr-Aug (Table 2), and also 21 Nov (KEM). 60 birds were at Morpeth STP 7 Oct and 20+ birds there in Sep and Nov (Table 1). 20+ birds were also at Bolwarra wetland 21 Nov and 6 Dec (KEM, SMJ). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and had chicks at Bolwarra 6 Dec (KEM).

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

|                        | 14<br>Jan | 11<br>Feb | 11<br>Mar | 29<br>Apr | 13<br>May | 24<br>Jun | 29<br>Jul | 26<br>Aug | 23<br>Sep | 21<br>Oct | 18<br>Nov | 16<br>Dec |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Musk Duck              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 1         |
| Black Swan             | 18        | 24        | 47        | 33        | 31        | 25        | 52        | 94        | 108       | 172       | 81        | 74        |
| Australian Wood Duck   | 0         | 52        | 12        | 0         | 0         | 6         | 17        | 21        | 6         | 13        | 58        | 18        |
| Pacific Black Duck     | 124       | 11        | 50        | 41        | 11        | 16        | 0         | 16        | 4         | 62        | 43        | 58        |
| Australasian Shoveler  | 8         | 20        | 74        | 22        | 34        | 91        | 155       | 10        | 13        | 42        | 33        | 63        |
| Grey Teal              | 434       | 712       | 474       | 254       | 769       | 739       | 47        | 11        | 13        | 52        | 60        | 486       |
| Chestnut Teal          | 823       | 652       | 649       | 316       | 612       | 512       | 143       | 39        | 35        | 62        | 124       | 290       |
| Pink-eared Duck        | 10        | 3         | 0         | 4         | 0         | 30        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 59        | 58        |
| Hardhead               | 31        | 0         | 10        | 6         | 9         | 4         | 6         | 0         | 0         | 550       | 272       | 114       |
| Australasian Grebe     | 2         | 1         | 12        | 11        | 37        | 33        | 20        | 23        | 25        | 33        | 48        | 18        |
| Hoary-headed Grebe     | 30        | 0         | 22        | 16        | 12        | 0         | 16        | 35        | 6         | 95        | 53        | 49        |
| Darter                 | 1         | 2         | 4         | 6         | 3         | 3         | 6         | 6         | 5         | 1         | 3         | 0         |
| Little Pied Cormorant  | 7         | 3         | 11        | 8         | 7         | 7         | 5         | 13        | 22        | 9         | 2         | 7         |
| Pied Cormorant         | 16        | 4         | 6         | 3         | 7         | 11        | 5         | 8         | 13        | 20        | 18        | 17        |
| Little Black Cormorant | 15        | 2         | 9         | 2         | 10        | 8         | 13        | 23        | 16        | 36        | 12        | 21        |
| Great Cormorant        | 8         | 6         | 3         | 8         | 2         | 4         | 2         | 2         | 4         | 10        | 11        | 8         |
| Australian Pelican     | 134       | 90        | 242       | 170       | 95        | 105       | 73        | 48        | 110       | 127       | 45        | 120       |
| White-faced Heron      | 57        | 58        | 46        | 50        | 54        | 110       | 135       | 87        | 36        | 53        | 46        | 55        |
| Little Egret           | 7         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 3         | 3         | 3         | 7         | 8         | 6         | 4         | 15        |
| White-necked Heron     | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 3         | 16        | 0         |
| Great Egret            | 22        | 8         | 3         | 1         | 8         | 7         | 7         | 5         | 29        | 10        | 9         | 15        |
| Intermediate Egret     | 6         | 1         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 17        | 2         |
| Cattle Egret           | 17        | 29        | 210       | 23        | 26        | 24        | 0         | 10        | 52        | 11        | 23        | 5         |
| Striated Heron         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| Australian White Ibis  | 62        | 45        | 187       | 61        | 165       | 81        | 50        | 46        | 112       | 64        | 33        | 58        |
| Straw-necked Ibis      | 0         | 14        | 13        | 14        | 6         | 3         | 59        | 47        | 165       | 8         | 15        | 1         |
| Royal Spoonbill        | 13        | 28        | 5         | 23        | 17        | 33        | 25        | 23        | 20        | 8         | 11        | 21        |
| Eurasian Coot          | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 32        | 79        | 200       | 0         |
| Silver Gull            | 389       | 390       | 561       | 127       | 168       | 222       | 9         | 53        | 141       | 274       | 179       | 307       |
| Gull-billed Tern       | 0         | 1         | 4         | 8         | 5         | 3         | 9         | 0         | 15        | 6         | 3         | 0         |
| Caspian Tern           | 0         | 1         | 8         | 3         | 3         | 9         | 6         | 8         | 2         | 0         | 3         | 0         |
| Crested Tern           | 8         | 16        | 8         | 15        | 6         | 4         | 4         | 5         | 11        | 15        | 5         | 11        |

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

ID No: 062 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Records from GTD included 330 birds (with one raft of 300 birds) 19 Dec (KEM), 127 birds 11 May (MAM), 88-95 birds 28 Apr and 9 Jun and 30-54 birds 5 Aug, 9 Sep, 7 & 27 Oct (all MAM) and 22 Dec (KEM). At Ash Island Deep Pond, 100+ birds were present 14 Dec (KEM et al) and 95 birds on 21 Oct; also, 30+ birds there in four other months and some birds most other months (Table 3). Elsewhere, 12 birds were recorded at WWW 14 Jun and 8 Aug (Table 2) and 1-5 birds at Bootawa dam 26 Jul (MOA), Muswellbrook STP 17 Sep (KEM et al), HWC 29 Sep and 5 Dec (KEM, HBOC) and SSNR 13 Nov (MAM), and occasionally at WWW and Morpeth STP (Tables 1, 2).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

230+ birds (including a rafts of 140+ and 70+ birds) were recorded at GTD 19 Dec (KEM). Most other counts there were of <15 birds, with occasional records throughout the year (MAM). 11-22 birds were present at WWW over Jan-May (Table 2) and 8-11 birds also there 17 & 21 Nov although most counts in the latter half of the year were much lower (TOM, KEM, Table 2). Elsewhere, 15 birds were at Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG), nine birds at Bootawa dam 26 Jul (MOA), and 1-5 birds at Lake Liddell 30 Jun (MOA) and Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct (NEG).

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

3-4 birds were recorded at the entrance to Newcastle harbour 20 Mar (LIG) and two birds within the harbour 25 Mar (LIN). Four birds were present off Fingal Head 3 Mar (CLT) and two birds offshore from Belmont 29 Sep (HAM). Some birds were at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT), and a dead bird was found near Newcastle baths early June (per THJ).

**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.

Single birds were recorded on pelagic trips E of Newcastle 28 & 30 Oct (HAP).

**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.

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 20 Aug and three birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Migrant at &gt;5km from shore.

1-3 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 Aug and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer visitor (recorded 1997, 2001).

No reports were received for 2006.

**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.

15-20 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 30 Oct (HPS, HAP), and 200 birds on a similar survey 28 Oct (HAP).

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

ID No: 077                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon late winter/spring migrant.

No reports were received for 2006.

**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.

15-20 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP), and 30 birds on a similar survey 20 Aug (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.

Five individual birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

**Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

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

ID No: 774                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 2001, 2004-05*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

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

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

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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.

Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS) and a single bird on a similar survey 28 Oct (HAP).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Antarctic Prion** *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2000)

No reports were received for 2006.

**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 2006.

**Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur*

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

Around 20 birds were recorded off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR), and a single bird on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni*

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

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 28 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

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

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

**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.

*Notable records:* 2,000+ birds were present off Belmont beach 22 Sep and off Swansea Heads 13 Nov (KEM), and 1,500 birds on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP). 500-1,000 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 20 Aug (HPS), off Swansea Heads 20 Sep and Belmont beach 3 Nov (KEM), and off Newcastle harbour 19 Mar (MOA). Birds were nesting at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT). A bird present on the 26 Mar pelagic had been banded at sea off Wollongong Nov 2002 (HAP).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

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

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

70 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 50 birds on a similar survey 28 Oct (HPS, HAP). 1-5 birds were present off Newcastle beach 29 Oct (DDR), off Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/RUR) and off Newcastle harbour 19 Mar (MOA),

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

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

15 birds were recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP).

**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:* Around 100 birds were present on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 28 & 30 Oct (HAP). The first documented return was when a single bird was recorded on the pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS).

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.

2,000+ birds were present off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR) and 308 birds were off Newcastle Baths 20 Aug (LIA). A mixed flock with *P. huttoni* of 200+ birds was off Belmont beach 12 Aug (KEM). 50-100+ birds were recorded offshore from Nobbys beach 25 Aug and 9 Nov and Swansea Heads 13 Nov (all KEM), and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP). Around 20 birds were off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR) and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS), and six birds offshore from Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/ RUR). 1-5 birds were off Awabakal NR 9 Sep (KEM), Newcastle beach 29 Oct (HHB) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR), and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 30 Oct (HAP).

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

ID No: 975                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage (*recorded 2000-04*).

350 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS), and a mixed flock with *P. gavia* of 200+ birds were off Belmont beach 12 Aug (KEM). 20+ birds were off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR) and 1-5 birds off Nobbys breakwater 24 Aug (RIA) and on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 28 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans*

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

A total of 41 birds was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct - 25 x *gibsonii* and 8 each of *exulans* and *antipodensis* (HAP). On the corresponding survey on 30 Oct, 23 birds were present - 20 x *gibsonii*, 2 x *antipodensis* and 1 x *exulans* (HAP). 1-5 birds (races not always identified) were present on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar (1+ x *gibsonii*) and 20 Aug (1+ x *exulans* and 1+ x *antipodensis*) and offshore from Newcastle beach 24 Jun and 26 Aug and 5 Nov (1 x *antipodensis*) and Swansea headlands 4 Jul (HPS, MCR, HAP).

**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.

1-5 birds were recorded on a pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 Aug and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP), and offshore from Newcastle beach 24 Jun and Swansea 4 Jul (MCR). Two of the birds 28 Oct were of race *impavida* (HAP).

**Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta*

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

Two birds (1 x *salvini*) were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS) and a single bird was close to shore at Saltwater 6 Apr (MVBW).

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

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

30 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS) and 25 birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP). 1-4 birds were offshore from Swansea 4 Jul (MCR), Nobbys beach 24 & 25 Aug (RIA, KEM), and Awabakal NR 9 Sep (KEM).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

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

ID No: 063                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf.

20 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct and ten birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP). Two birds were present on the corresponding 26 Mar survey (HPS).

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

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

1-5 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar, 20 Aug and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

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

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

Two birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 Aug and 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**White-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta grallaria*

ID No: 944                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS). *The report was accepted by NSW ORAC.* (Note: in some publications, the date for this record was erroneously cited as 23 April).

**Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda*

ID No: 107                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*) (recorded 1952, 1955, 1973, 1978, 2000).

A dead bird was found near Stockton bridge 21 Jan (SPJ). Also see Supplementary Records.

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

ID No: 108                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1956, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2000).

No reports were received for 2006. See Supplementary Records.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

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

150 birds were recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 20 Aug including a raft of 45 together (HPS), and 50+ birds off Awabakal NR 20 Aug (HBOC) and Nobby's beach 25 Aug (KEM). 20-30 birds were present on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 30 Oct (HPS, HAP) and off Newcastle beach 24 Jun (MCR). 17 birds were offshore from Mungo Brush 13 Aug (KEM) and 1-10 birds were moderately often recorded all year offshore everywhere. An immature bird was often seen in Newcastle harbour and nearby during June 1-10 (THJ, STA) - it was found dead on Horseshoe Beach 11 Jun with some fishing line around its neck (THJ).

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

ID No: 102                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*new to list*). (recorded 1984, 1986, 1991)

No reports were received for 2006. See Supplementary Records.

**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:* Birds were nesting at NWR/Market Swamp from early Sep onwards, with regular records through to late Dec (several observers). The peak count was of 12 nests 10 Nov (KEM).

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

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

*Notable records:* 200 birds were present at Coon Island 12 Sep (TOM) and 100+ birds at Toronto wetland 7 Dec (KEM), also 112 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC). 21-50 birds were at Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC), KI 23 Sep (Table 3), Swansea Heads 20 Sep and Toronto wetland 25 Oct (both KEM), and often at NWR/ Market Swamp over Sep-Nov (CLT, KEM). **Breeding:** At least ten pairs were nesting at NWR/ Market Swamp over Sep-Dec (CLT, KEM), and there were 35 pairs nesting at Toronto wetland 7 Dec with activities already well underway in late October (KEM). Also, some birds had nests at Belmont swamp 3 Nov (KEM).

**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:** 402 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 56 birds at Worimi NR 24 Jun (HAS). 20-30 birds were at Swansea Heads 20 Sep and 13 Nov (KEM), and 6-20 birds were moderately often recorded at coastal locations. **Breeding:** 12 pairs were nesting at NWR/Market Swamp 2 Sep (KEM); and nesting was still in progress there 17 Dec (CLT et al).

**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:** 600 birds were recorded at Harrington 15-29 Jan (GED), ~180 birds at Mungo Brush 11 Nov (KEM et al) and 112 birds in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC). 21-50 birds were at Toronto wetlands 6 Jun, HWC 18 Jun and Marmong Point 1 Jul (all HBOC) and at WWW Feb-Apr, Morpeth STP Oct-Nov and Kooragang/Ash Island sometimes over Aug-Dec (Tables 1-3). **Breeding:** 16 pairs were nesting at NWR/Market Swamp 10 Nov and some birds had dependent young at Toronto wetland 7 Dec (both KEM).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**Notable records:** 91 birds were present at Morpeth STP 8 Jul and 77 birds there 10 Aug (Table 1). 38 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 29 birds were at NWR 8 Aug (KEM). **Breeding:** Three pairs were nesting at NWR/Market Swamp 2 Sep (KEM), and nesting was still in progress there 17 Dec (CLT et al).

**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:** 175 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), and 100+ birds often at Kooragang/Ash Island with the peak count being of 242 birds 11 Mar (Table 3, other records). 130 birds were at Morpeth STP 19 Jan and 70 birds 15 Dec (Table 1). 20-30 birds were at Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC), NWR 8 Aug (KEM), Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG), Newcastle baths 10 Dec and SBS 21 Dec (both KEM). **Breeding:** A pair were with four young at Pacific Palms 17 Jun (MVBW).

**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 frequently were recorded at Kooragang/Ash Island with the peak count being of 135 birds 29 Jul (Table 3). 100+ birds were at PNR/Lenaghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and 60+ birds at Hexham Swamp 23 Nov (NEM). 20-30 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and at Phoenix Park 16 Jul (MAM), Hexham Swamp 26 Sep, 24 Oct and 8 Dec (KEM), HWC 24 Oct (KEM) and PNR/Lenaghans Flat 2 Nov (KEM/MCR). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at East Seaham 8 Dec (CLT).



**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:** Six birds were recorded around Belmont swamp/lagoon 4 Dec and at Toronto wetland 7 Dec (KEM). **Breeding:** There were three nests at HWC 28 Nov (MAM) and a bird was on nest at Toronto wetland 7 Dec (KEM).

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare.

Three birds were on Moon Island 29 Apr (MOA), and single birds at Merewether beach 28 & 30 Jan, 3 Apr and 1 Sep (HLC, CLT, THJ) and Newcastle Ocean Baths 20 & 26 Aug (LIA, MCR).

**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:** Around 100 birds were recorded at PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov and 50+ birds there 2 Nov (KEM/MCR). Numbers also were high at Hexham Swamp over Sep-Dec with peak counts of 60+ birds present 24 Oct (KEM) and 30+ birds 23 Nov (NEM). 16 birds were at Kooragang/Ash Island 18 Nov (Table 3), ten birds at Morpeth STP 9 Nov and six birds there 22 Sep (Table 1), and eight birds at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC). 3-5 birds were at Williamtown 22 Jun (CLT), Phoenix Park 24 Jun (MAM), HWC 24 Oct (KEM) and Ash Island 1 Nov and 12 Dec (LAL, MCR/RUR).

**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, as counts of 1-5 birds (*text modified*).

**Notable records:** 27 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM), 29 birds at Kooragang/Ash Islands 23 Sep and 22 birds there 14 Jan (Table 3), and 20+ birds at PNR/Leneghans Flat 2 Nov (KEM/MCR). 6+ birds were often present at Kooragang/Ash Island (Table 3, other records) and also at Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), Worimi NR 11 Mar (HAS), PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and Irrawang Swamp 7 Dec (MAM). **Breeding:** There were 15 nests at HWC 28 Nov (MAM) and three pairs were nest building at Toronto wetland 25 Oct (KEM).

**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:** 20+ birds were recorded at PNR/Leneghans Flat 2 & 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and Morpeth STP 15 Dec (Table 1), and 11-17 birds at Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), Kooragang/Ash Island 18 Nov (Table 3), Morpeth STP 9 Nov (Table 1) and PNR 17 Dec (HBOC). 6-10 birds were at Morpeth STP 19 Jan and 17 Mar and Kooragang/Ash Island 14 Jan (Tables 1, 3) and HWC 10 Nov (KEM). **Breeding:** There were six nests at HWC 28 Nov (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:** 300+ birds were at PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov and 200+ birds there 2 Nov (KEM/MCR). The peak counts at the SSNR night roosting site were 200 birds 30 Apr and 190 birds 9 May (MAM). 100+ birds were at Clarendetown Rd Seaham 21 Feb and Morpeth bridge 1 Jul (MAM), and 50+ birds were moderately often recorded. **Breeding:** There were 234 nests at SSNR 13 Nov and 190 nests at HWC 28 Nov (both MAM), and 24 nests at Toronto wetland 7 Dec (KEM).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

ID No: 193

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Two birds were present several times at Stockton Sandspit during Jan and Nov (CLT, MCR, Table 3) and at Tuncurry 29 Apr (WIL) and Buttaba 8 Nov (KEM). Single birds were recorded at Islington 7 Feb (HBOC), Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), Newcastle harbour 19 Mar (MOA), Sandy Creek Cooranbong 5 Apr (TOM), Wallabi Point 22 & 23 Apr (TOM), Galgabba Point 29 Apr (MOA), Old Bar 11 Jun (DBP), Cockle Creek Teralba 27 Aug and 6 Dec (MAC), Swansea 12 Sep (TOM), Belmont area 22 Sep and 4 Dec (KEM) and Fern Bay 29 Oct (HHB), and often at Stockton Sandspit (Table 3, ROM, TOM). (*all records published*)

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records (*revised*)

Status: Resident.

53 birds were recorded at HWC 10 Nov (KEM) and lesser numbers occasionally there over Aug-Dec (several reports). Birds roosted all year at Wallbridge Reserve, with mostly <10 birds present over Jan-Aug, then rising to 20+ birds over Sep-Nov and a peak of 40 birds 17 Nov (MAM). Elsewhere, eight birds were at SSNR 13 Nov (MAM) and 1-5 birds at Toronto wetlands 6 Jun (HBOC), Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW), Toronto wetland 25 Oct and 7 Dec (KEM), PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR), Buttaba 8 Nov (KEM), Balickera 19 Nov and Dec (HBOC, MUJ).

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

ID No: 195

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Bolwarra wetlands 14 Nov (SMJ) and Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM).

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare resident.

Single birds were recorded at Stockton Creek Morisset (a previously known location) 28 Oct and 7 Dec (RIA, KEM) and at Kilaben Bay 11 Jun (HCL).

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident

Single birds were recorded at KI Moat 13 May (HWS) and the adjacent KI Big Pond 18 Nov (HCL), and at Nelson Bay Rd Fullerton Cove 3 Jun (DIM), Williamtown 28 Jun (BID) and Hexham Swamp Shortland 26 Sep (KEM).

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

Birds often were recorded at PNR/Leneghans Flat during Feb-Mar (typically 11-20 birds, peak count 24 birds 4 Mar) and Oct-Dec (20-45 birds typically, peak count 77 birds 17 Dec); also 4-6 birds were present 27 Apr and 4 & 17 Jul (STA, LIN). Many birds were also at Hexham swamp during Nov-Dec, with peak counts of 70 birds 23 Nov and 75 birds 8 Dec (NEM, KEM). 23 birds were at Morpeth STP 15 Dec and 16 birds 14 Dec (LIA/NEM, HAP). 40 birds were at Irrawang Swamp 20 Oct (LIA et al), 12 birds at Rutherford 1 Nov (FRA) and seven birds at Ash Island 15 Oct (LIA), and 1-5 birds at Irrawang Swamp 15 & 18 Jan (MAM, MEL), HWC 25 & 28 Jan (LIP), Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM), Dartbrook 19 Oct (ROM/RIA) and Cemetery Swamp Singleton 29 Oct (ROM).

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as <20 birds but with counts of up to 50 birds not uncommon.

*Notable records:* 300+ birds were at HWC 10 Nov (KEM) and 202 birds were night roosting at Irrawang Swamp 16 Mar (MAM). 100-200 birds were recorded at Rathluba Lagoon 17 Jun (MAM) and PNR/Leneghans Flat 13 Sep and 5 Nov (KEM/MCR). **Breeding:** There were 55 nests at HWC 28 Nov (MAM) and three nests at nearby NWR/Market Swamp 10 Nov (KEM), and 30+ nests at Toronto wetland 7 Dec (KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* 3,815 birds were night roosting at Irrawang Swamp 6 Jul, and 2,000+ birds often in Mar-Apr and Jun-Jul; the May counts were of 1,200-1,500 birds - *overall, these are the lowest counts there since April 2000 (MAM)*. There were many corresponding daytime records of hundreds of birds in the lower Hunter. At other times, 650 birds were at Hexham Swamp 18 Mar (HBA) and 500+ birds at PNR/Leneghans Flat 13 Sep, and 100+ birds were at Barrington village 12 Feb (DBP), Eagleton 17 Feb (MAM), Hinton 28 Feb and 1 Aug (MAM), Hexham Swamp 24 Oct (KEM), Phoenix Park 10 Nov (MAM) and PNR/Leneghans Flat 2 & 5 Nov (KEM/MCR).

**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:* Birds had five nests near Rathluba Lagoon 29 Oct (MAM), and were nest building at Newcastle university 20 Nov (KEM).

**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:* Seven birds were at Buchanan 10 May (MEL), and four birds at SSNR 7 Nov (KEM) and Bolwarra Lagoon 21-30 Dec (TAH).

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

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

A pair with two recently fledged young were in the Cattai Creek area 15-29 Jan (GED), and again in the same area with one juvenile bird 8 Jul (RYB per CLG). Also, two birds were recorded near Bulahdelah 24 Apr (OSP) and at Harrington 23 Jul (MOA) and Oxley Island Manning River 21 Aug (MVBW). Single birds were at Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW) and near Craven 29/30 Oct (PDB) - the latter being a juvenile bird. *There were no records from the lower Hunter valley.*

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded at estuaries/coastal lakes in the NE of the Region, as counts of 1-2 birds unless with young/juveniles. *(text modified)*

*Notable records:* Southerly records were of single birds at Hunter estuary 11 Feb and 20 Nov (HWS, FRN), Fennel Bay 2 Apr (BIA), Toronto wetlands 6 Jun (HBOC), Edmunds Bay Lake Macquarie 30 Jul (HCL), Swansea Heads 20 Sep (KEM), and occasionally at Williams River near Clarendtown during June-Aug (RAL). Also, two birds were at Dora Creek 7 Dec (KEM). Birds were nesting at Cundletown Jul-Sep (LMB).

**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.

A bird fledged at Bolton Point 25 Dec (BIA), and birds were displaying at Wallsend 27 Aug and Kahibah 6 Sep (ROM, KEM). Two birds were at Wangi 6 & 10 Jul (CLT), and regularly at Bolton Point in Dec (BIA). Single birds, where numbers were noted, were at East Maitland 4 Jun (BRG), Newcastle University 14 Aug (KEM) and Glenrock 9 Sep (HAP), and regularly at Balickera Jan-May and Aug-Nov (MUJ). *(all records published)*

**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 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were nesting at Crowdy Head 23 Jul (MOA).

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

ID No: 230                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 1 Apr (LIG), and single birds at Nahiack 29 Jan (GED), Weston 11 Feb, 23-24 Mar and 13 Apr (ROS), Raworth 1 Apr (MAM), Cundletown 23 May (MVBW), Kurri 29 May (ROS), Maitland 24 Jun (TAH), Hawks Nest 25 Nov (JED) and Cooranbong 3 Dec (RIA). Also, there were several records from the Maitland/Kurri area in the first half of the year (ROS). Birds were on nest at Cooperook SF 7 Oct (ROM).

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

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

Single birds were at Aberdeen 5 June (MOA) and KI 23 Sep (HWS).

**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:* 21 birds were recorded at East Seaham 16 Jun (CLT), 13 birds at Hunter estuary 11 Mar (HWS) and ten birds at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep and 24 Oct (KEM). Six birds were at Ash Island 12 Dec (MCR/RUR) and 3-4 birds at Mungo Brush 11 Nov (KEM et al) and Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC). Birds were nesting at Santa Barbara MLNP 17 Jun (MVBW), Beresfield in July (per MOA) and East Seaham 4 Aug (CLT et al), and were nest building at BBNP 18 Mar (MVBW) and East Seaham 16 Jun (HBOC).

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

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

Two birds were recorded at Taree 11 Jun (DBP), Shelly Beach 17 Jun (MVBW) and Stockton Sandspit 16 Jul (CLT). There were several records of single birds at locations around the Hunter estuary over late May-Aug (many reports). Single birds also were at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al), Glenrock NR 6 May (MVBW), Hexham 1 Jun (NEM), Nulama Ponds Taree 6 Jul (MVBW), Birmingham Gardens mid Jul (RUR), Harrington 23 Jul (MOA) and HWC 2 Sep (KEM). The bird at Harrington was an immature. *More records than usual including for the Hunter estuary.*

**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:* Five birds were recorded at KI 19 Mar (MOA) and Tuncurry 29 Apr (WIL), and four birds at Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/RUR). Three birds were at Stockton Sandspit 30 Jan (MCR), Taylors Beach 19 Feb (HBOC), Ash Island 19 Mar and 12 Dec (HBOC, MCR/RUR), Wangi Wangi 8 May (CLT), Marmong Point 1 Jul (HBOC), Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and Belmont lagoon 4 Dec (KEM). Birds had a nest with young near Rutherford 1 Nov (FRA) and a pair was with two juveniles at Worimi NR 24 Jun (HAS).

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were at Ash Island 31 Aug (MCR), and single birds at KI Deep Pond 12 Aug, 23 Sep and Nov (HAP/OCG, HWS, STA), Irrawang Swamp 23 Sep (MAM), Newcastle Sports Ground 6 Oct (CLT), East Maitland 21 Nov (KEM) and Tomago 18 Nov (LIA).

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*revised*)

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:* 6+ birds were recorded at Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM), and four birds at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT) and Hexham Swamp 24 Oct (KEM). Three birds were at PNR/Lenaghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR), HWC 10 Nov (KEM) and Ash Island 14 Dec (KEM et al), and two birds often were recorded in the lower Hunter valley Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec (*mostly not as pairs*). A pair were nesting in reeds at KI Big Pond 18 Nov; with one chick and 3 eggs present (HCL) - *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Hunter Region*. Also, a pair was displaying and carrying nesting material at Hexham Swamp Shortland 26 Sep (KEM).

**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:* There were records of two birds from Cardiff North 2 Apr (PHP), HWC 8 Aug (KEM), Belltrees 2 Sep (TAH), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and Galgabba Point 13 Nov (KEM). Birds were nesting at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ) and had a nest with young at Salts Bay Reserve Swansea 13 Nov (KEM). A bird took a Common Myna at Wingen in autumn (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:* White phase birds were recorded at GTD 14 May (MOA), Newcastle University wetlands 15 May (KEM), Hexham 17 Jun (JED) and Awabakal NR 11 Dec (KEM). Two birds were at Newcastle University wetlands 22 Aug (KEM) and a pair was in courtship display at Belmont 7 Jul (TOM). A bird remained around HWC from 3 May for a week (LIA).

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

ID No: 222                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Minmi 22 Aug (per MOA) and two birds at Taree 11 Jun (DBP) and GTD 22 Dec (KEM). Single birds were moderately often recorded all year in the E and central parts of the Region. A bird carrying a dead Noisy Miner was at a nest with young at Green Point 3 Dec, and was often seen near the nest 20 Oct (both KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* Six birds were recorded at Wingham 25 May (MVBW) and five birds at a location in Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and at Lake Liddell 30 Jun (MOA). 3-4 birds were present at Timor Caves 27 Jan (CLT et al), Cooranbong 5 Apr (TOM), a second location in Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). Near-coastal sightings were of two birds at PNR 9 May and a single bird at Fullerton Cove 21 Jun (both CLT) and, unusually, two birds were ~1km out to sea off Port Stephens 31 May (ROA). Birds were with dependent young at Pacific Palms 20 Oct (RUR).

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

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

Two birds were at Glen Oak 4 Jan (MAM) and single birds at Mount Arthur 26 Jan (NEG), Hannam Vale 8 Feb (DBP), Medowie 10 Mar (MAM), PNR 18 Mar (MOA), Quorrobolong 21 Jul (CCFOC), Rathluba lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC), Kurri Kurri 26 Aug, 18 Sep and 5 Nov (BIA, KEM, MCR), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL), Black Hill 20 Sep (BIA), Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG), Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC) and Cassilis 24 Nov (LIN et al).

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, as counts of 1-2 birds. *(text modified)*

*Notable records:* Birds were copulating at East Seaham 4 Aug (CLT et al) and were on nest at Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC).

**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:* Three birds were recorded at Cardiff South 3 Feb (CLT) and two birds at Masseys Creek Warakeila 19 Apr (NEM).

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.

Four birds were recorded at Morpeth STP 7 Oct (LIA) and 1-2 birds were in that general area 18 Jan, 8 Apr, 3 Jun, 8 Sep, 9 Nov and 14 Dec (LIA, TAT, HAP). Four birds were present near WWW 6 Oct (TAH) and two birds S of Scone 20 Jan (GED) and at Wingen 14 & 16 June (NEG) and Whittingham (Singleton) 19 Aug (TAH). Single birds were at Whittingham 24 Mar (ROM), Boolaroo 7 May (BIA), Stockton Sandspit 27 Aug (HAP), Ash Island 20 Oct and 19 Nov (TAT, MCN), WWW 28 or 29 Oct (LPH), Mount Thorley 28 Dec (GED), Martindale and at Bureen both 31 Dec (TAH). *Many more records than usual - possibly drought related?*

**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 were breeding at Duns Creek Rd 14 Oct (SHB).

**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:* Birds had a nest with young at Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct (NEG).

**Brolga** *Grus rubicunda*

ID No: 177                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005*)

No reports were received for 2006.

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

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

Single birds were often recorded in the E of the Region (with reports from 13 discrete locations). The most westerly record was of a bird on a front lawn at Paterson 29 Oct (HHB). Three birds were at Bolwarra wetlands 19 Nov (TOM) and two birds at HWC 23 Dec (KEM). Birds had chicks at WWW 8 Nov (SMJ) and at City Farm Ash Island in Jan-Feb and during Nov (STA, KWRP, MCN).

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

ID No: 045                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Resident.

Four birds were heard at Black Neds Bay 5 Nov (STA) and two birds heard at Belmont lagoon 22 Sep (KEM). Single birds were seen or heard at Ash Island 29 Mar and 31 Aug (SEP, KEM), Black Neds Bay 7 Jul (TOM) and Fosterton Loop 23 Nov (HAP/JED).

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

ID No: 050                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident.

Six birds (2 individuals and 2 pairs) were recorded at 4 discrete locations on Ash Island 14 Dec (GOA/MCN) and three birds at 3 discrete locations there 16 Dec (STA). Four birds were present at Bolwarra wetlands 19 Nov (TOM), three birds there 23 Nov and 6 Dec (HAP, KEM), and 1-2 birds 21 & 25 Nov (KEM/SMJ, ROS) and 20 Dec (MEL). 1-2 birds were present at WWW 27 Aug, 31 Oct, 8 & 21 Nov and 13 Dec (SMJ, HAP, SMJ, KEM, MEL), Deep Pond Ash Island 5 Sep (ROM), Leneghans Flat 19 Nov and 30 Dec (TOM, RIA) and HWC 5 Dec (HBOC). *This is by far the most number of records received since the Bird Reports were commenced.*

**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

ID No: 049                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident.

Four birds were at Bolwarra Wetlands 25 Nov (ROS) and single birds at Martinsville 20 Jun (FIM) and WWW 21 Nov (KEM).

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

Two birds were together at Ash Island 14 Dec (GOA/MCN) and two birds at WWW 8 Feb (SMJ). Single birds were recorded at WWW 15 Jan, 12 & 14 Feb and 31 Oct (BRG/LIN, HAP), HWC 23 May and three dates in Jun (LIA, BIA, HBOC) and PNR 30 Dec (LIG/TAT per RIA). A pair was with dependent young at Battery Rock 30 Oct (SMJ).

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and 50+ birds there 2 Nov (KEM/MCR) and at HWC 16 May and 18 Jun (MCR, HBOC). There were numerous breeding records from many locations, spanning Jan and Nov-Dec.

**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 16 May (MCR). There were numerous breeding records from many locations, spanning Jan, Apr and late Aug-Dec.

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

ID No: 055                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Not recorded  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000-02, 2005*).

No reports were received for 2006.



**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:* 300 birds were recorded at GTD 3 Sep (KEM) and hundreds of birds at Lake Liddell 30 Jun (MOA). 190-200+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM) and HWC 29 Sep (KEM), and 100+ birds at GTD 15 Jul (MAM), WWW 8 Aug (Table 2), Morpeth STP 7 Oct (Table 3), PNR/Lenaghans Flat 2 Nov (KEM/MCR) and Deep Pond Ash Island 14 Dec (KEM et al). 51-100 birds were moderately often recorded especially at HWC, GTD, WWW and Bolwarra wetland (various observers).

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

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

Two birds were recorded at Deep Pond Ash Island 2 Feb (TOM) (*The report was accepted by NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee*).

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

ID No: 018                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

*The Records Appraisal Committee has decided to review all the reports that have been received for this species. Most reports have been from well-wooded medium to high altitude habitat and this appears to be anomalous.*

**Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

ID No: 019                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005*).

No reports were received for 2006.

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

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

Single birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at BBNP 11 Feb (MVBW), Balickera Sep-Nov (MUJ) and Green Wattle Creek 23 Dec (NEM). A bird was rescued from a swimming pool at Shortland in Feb and later released in the nearby HWC grounds (LIA), and a dead bird was found at Swan St Newcastle (HAP) - *unusual location!*

**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:* In the annual survey at PNR 17 Dec, 97 birds were recorded and also 30 birds at nearby Lenaghans Flat (HBOC). 70 birds were present at Pacific Dunes GC (near Medowie) 21 Nov (MCN). 20-30 birds were often recorded at Bolwarra wetland during Nov-Dec (many reports), Lenaghans Flat in Mar and during late Oct to Dec (many reports) and at Hexham Swamp Shortland 26 Sep (KEM). 15-20+ birds were at PNR 15 Feb (LIG), Irrawang Swamp 15 Jan, 13 Oct and 17 Dec (MAM, MEL) and Ash Island 15 & 18 Oct (LIA et al). 6-10 birds were at PNR 13 Sep (MCR), Lenaghans Flat 4 Nov (LIA et al) and WWW 21 Nov (KEM).

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

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

In the regular monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, birds were recorded throughout the year, but with only a small number of birds over-wintering (Table 4). The peak count of just 200 birds on 11 Feb is the lowest number since Jan 2001 of recent years. However, there was a record of ~300 birds at KI dykes 19 Mar (MOA). Elsewhere, some birds (<5) were at Swan Bay 11 Nov (KEM et al) and a single bird Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM).

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1983-84, 1988*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**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 of 1,039 birds on 18 Nov which is the lowest number since the regular monthly surveys began in 1999. 215 birds over-wintered in the estuary (Table 4). The peak counts at Worimi NR were of 142-150 birds 11 Mar and 18 Nov (Table 6) although 515 birds were present in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC). 20+ birds were present at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan and 4 Sep (LIN et al, BIA). Winter records from outside of the Hunter estuary were of up to nine birds at Mudbishops Point 30 May and 11 Jun (DBP) and a single bird at Coon Island 4 Jul (HBOC). Sightings from Morpeth STP of five birds 22 Sep and two birds 15 Dec (Table 5) are an unusual habitat records.

**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 2006.

**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:* 424 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) - *this represents ~4% of the Australian migrating population, a significant record, that represents a further improvement to the high numbers counted in the 2005 survey.* The peak count for the Hunter estuary was of 105 birds on 11 Feb and 46 birds over-wintered (Table 4). Elsewhere, there was a winter record of a single bird at Mudbishops Point 30 May (DBP).

**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 at Worimi NR was 410 birds present 27 Aug (Table 6) - the highest count since 2002, while in the Hunter estuary the peak count was 388 birds (Table 4) *which represents a continuing decline in numbers.* 303 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC). Over-wintering numbers in both Port Stephens and the Hunter estuary were comparable to other years of recent times. Notable records from elsewhere were of 40 birds in the Belmont area 3 Nov (KEM) and 24 birds at Swan Bay 11 Nov (KEM et al).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Usual summer migrant.

The peak count for the Hunter estuary during regular surveys was 160 birds 14 Jan and 50+ birds were present over Feb-Mar and Nov-Dec (Table 4). Elsewhere, eleven birds were at Morpeth STP 15 Dec (Table 5) and 1-5 birds at Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM), SBS 22 Dec (TOM) and Tarro Recreation Area 28 Dec (KEM).

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

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

The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 128 birds 11 Feb and 80-110+ birds were present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec, with up to 20 birds over-wintering (Table 4, other reports). Elsewhere, 15 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and a single bird at SBS 21 Dec (KEM).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-02*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

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

44 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary 11 Feb and 16 Dec - *the best counts since 2003*. The birds usually roosted at Fern Bay but sometimes were at Stockton Sandspit in late Dec after rehabilitation work there (CLT). Elsewhere, four birds were at Oyster Cove 26 Feb (HBOC).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

3-5 birds were at Hunter estuary locations over Jan-Mar but subsequently there were very few records (Table 4). Single birds were at Newcastle Baths early Jan (THJ), Oyster Cove 26 Feb (HBOC), Glenrock Lagoon 29 May (CLT), Marmong Point 1 Jul and 1 Aug (HBOC, COF), Booragul 3 Sep (HUL), Speers Point 13 Oct (WRA), KI dykes 29 Oct (HHB) and Hunter estuary 16 Dec (Table 4).

**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

*Notable records:* The peak count for the Hunter estuary was of 38 birds 18 Nov (Table 4), which is in line with recent years, and 20+ birds were present through Jan-Apr and Nov-Dec (Table 4, VEE). The birds usually roosted at Fern Bay but sometimes were roosting at Stockton Sandspit in late Dec after rehabilitation work there (CLT). Once again, four birds over-wintered in the estuary. Elsewhere, 32 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 2-3 birds occasionally at Worimi NR (Table 6).

**Wandering Tattler** *Heteroscelus incanus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

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

Up to 10 birds were roosting almost daily at/near Newcastle Baths Jan-April and the peak count was of 17 birds 11 Jan; no birds were present after 2 May and the first known return was 5 Sep (THJ). 10+ birds were again present over Oct-Dec with the peak count being 17 birds 22 Oct (LIG, THJ, KEM). Single birds were present at Stockton Sandspit 10 Sep (CLT) and at night on Newcastle beach 24 Mar (ROM). Elsewhere, nine birds were in Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and some birds at Swansea Channel 15 Mar (COF) and Moon Island 29 Apr (MOA).

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit or at KI dykes occasionally over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec (Table 4, MOA, HAP). 6+ birds were at Swan Bay 11 Nov (KEM et al).

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*

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

In the Hunter estuary, significant passage of birds had commenced by 23 Sep, with 366 birds present. Subsequently, 1,669 birds were recorded at Milhams Pond on Ash Island 18 Oct (LIA) - *the highest known count for the Hunter estuary*. The next day, 1,210 birds were present with 200 birds at Stockton Sandspit and the rest on Ash Island (LIA), and on 21 Oct 1,472 birds were recorded with 1,150 being at Swan Pond on Ash Island (Table 4, STA) - there were no further reports of this large group. By 18 Nov the numbers had fallen to less than 30 birds, around the typical summer period population size (Table 4). Elsewhere, <5 birds were present at Swan Bay 11 Nov (KEM et al).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant in the NE of the region (*revised from: Rare*).

46 birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 27 Jan (ROM et al) - *the largest count there since the Bird Reports commenced*. Also, 20 birds were present 20 Jan (LIN et al), 14 birds on 7 Oct (ROM) and four birds 12 Nov (HAP). Two birds were at Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

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

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

The peak count for the Hunter estuary was of 72 birds on 18 Nov and 30+ birds were present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec; a few birds over-wintered (Table 4). 50+ birds were recorded at Ash Island 4 Sep (MCR) - presumably the birds were on migration passage since counts during the adjacent regular monthly surveys were much lower. 50+ birds were at Mudbishops Point 7 Oct (TOM) and 20-30 birds there 20 Jan and 4 Sep (LIN et al, BIA). 30+ birds were at Worimi NR over Oct-Dec and up to 16 birds over-wintered (Table 6). Six birds were recorded at Oyster Cove 26 Feb (HBOC) and some birds were at Moon Island 29 Apr (MOA).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant. (*recorded 1995-99, 2001, 2003*)

Single birds were recorded at SBS 29 & 31 Dec (TOM).

**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 at SBS 29 & 31 Dec (TOM), Hexham Swamp 8 Dec (KEM) and Hunter estuary 18 Nov (Table 4), and 300-500 birds at Ash Island Deep Pond 28 Jan (TOM), Ash Island 15 Oct (LIA et al), Hexham Swamp 24 Oct (KEM), Morpeth STP 15 Dec (Table 5), SBS 21/22 Dec (KEM, TOM) and Woodberry 28 Dec (KEM), and 450 birds were loafing in a newly rehabilitated (mangroves removed) part of Milhams Pond Ash Island 18 Nov (STA). 100-300 birds were at Hunter estuary Feb-Mar and Sep-Dec (Table 4, other reports) and Tarro Recreation Area 28 Dec (KEM). 50+ birds were present at Irrawang Swamp 15 Jan (MAM), Worimi NR 22 Oct (Table 6), PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and Hexham Swamp 23 Nov (NEM), and 21-50 birds occasionally at Irrawang Swamp in Jan (MAM) and in Port Stephens 26 Feb (Table 7).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

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

The only records were from the Hunter estuary, with 200+ birds present Jan-Feb, Sep and Nov-Dec and no birds over-wintering (Table 4). 275 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 19 Oct (LIA) - presumably at least some were on migration passage since the count two days later was much lower. *The peak count of 301 birds 11 Feb is the lowest since the regular monthly surveys commenced in 1999.*

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

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2006.

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

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

A single bird was regularly recorded at Stockton Sandspit during Mar (several reports).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2006.

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

ID No: 170                      HBOC Category: 2 (revised)                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncommon resident (revised from: Rare).

A pair was recorded at Leneghans Flat 26 Oct (LIA/NEM) and then birds were regularly reported from this location until 11 Nov (numerous reports). Most records from 31 Oct onwards were of three birds - usually this was two males and one female but occasionally (and credibly) the reverse, and 4+ birds were present 1 Nov (MEL). A single female was again recorded at the same general location 17 Dec (KEM et al).

**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 2006. (From 2001, there has been a clear decline in records for this species in the Region).

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

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

Single birds were recorded at Harrington CP 24 Jul and 6 Aug (MOA, LIN), and also at Balickera Aug (MUJ) and Swansea 21 Aug (FOC). Both the latter birds had leg bands. The Swansea bird had been banded at St Huberts Island (near Woy Woy) in Feb and was last seen with its parents there 15 Aug - this 40-50km dispersal was suggested as the greatest known movement for this species (FOC/PRC). A pair was recorded at LTP 27 Jan (ROM et al) and they hatched a chick at McCann Park LTP 11 Oct which survived and was banded 21 Dec (MAA per CLT).

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

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

There were several reports of the pair resident at the mouth of the Manning River (locations such as Harrington, Manning Point, Mudbishops Point/Farquhar Inlet) during the year, and the birds had a chick there in early Jan (per LIN). A pair was also present near the Forster-Tuncurry bridge 11 Aug (RYB per CLG). A single bird was at Corrie Island 26 Feb (STA) - this is the first known record for Port Stephens.

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus finschi*

ID No: 744                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (New to list).

No reports were received for 2006. See Supplementary Records.

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

77 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC). 10-20 birds were at Harrington 9 & 27 Jan (MEL, GED), Hawks Nest 24 Jan (SHB), Tuncurry 29 Apr (WIL) and LTP 10 Jun (BLM), and 6-7 birds at Farquhar Inlet Manning River Apr (RYB per CLG), Swan Bay 11 Nov (KEM et al) and occasionally in the Hunter estuary (Table 4). 1-5 birds were widely and often recorded at 10+ locations along the coast. **Breeding:** Pairs had young at Stockton Sandspit 26 Apr (CLT) and Sandy Island Swansea 10 Dec (COF). A young bird, presumably the one from April, was found dead at Stockton Sandspit 27 May (CLT).

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

20+ birds were present at Farquhar Inlet Apr (RYB per CLG). 10-20+ birds were roosting almost daily at/near Newcastle Baths throughout Jan-May with a peak count of 24 birds 23 Feb (THJ). In Jan, the birds sometimes moved to the nearby Shepherds Hill rock platform (HEC). 19 birds were also present at Newcastle Baths 5 June (THJ), but records over Aug-Dec were all of <10 birds (several observers) - on 20 Aug, one bird present was an immature (LIA). Birds were often in the Hunter estuary, mostly on KI dykes and occasionally at Stockton Sandspit, with the peak count being 15 birds 29 Apr (Table 4, other reports). Nine birds were in Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and on Merewether Beach 27 May (GOC). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded at nine locations along the coast.

**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 20 birds (*text revised*).

**Notable records:** Many hundreds of birds were present in the Hunter estuary all year except during Sep-Oct and the peak count was 534 birds 29 Apr (Table 4). 280-350 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp several times over late Sep-early Dec (KEM, NEM) and ~200 birds at PNR/Lenaghans Flat 2 & 5 Nov (KEM/MCR). 225 birds were at Morpeth STP 9 Nov and 105 birds there 15 Dec (Table 5). 21-50 birds were at Irrawang Swamp 2 Jan, 16 & 29 Mar and 7 Dec (MAM), PNR/Lenaghans Flat 13 Sep (KEM/MCR), HWC 5 & 23 Dec (HBOC, KEM), Bolwarra wetland 6 Dec, SBS 21 Dec, Tarro and Woodberry both 28 Dec (all KEM). **Breeding:** Ten birds were on nests at Lenaghans Flat 9 Sep (LIG), and birds had nests at HWC 29 Jan (WCR) and Toronto wetland 7 Dec (KEM). A bird was on nest at Ash Island 15 & 18 Oct (LIA).

**Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995-96, 2000-01, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**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 all year except Mar, with the peak count being of 5,032 birds 23 Sep (Table 4). Around 200 birds were at Woodberry 28 Dec (KEM) and 187 birds at Morpeth STP 15 Dec (Table 5), and ~100 birds at Thornton 21 Nov (KEM). Six birds were at SBS 21 & 29 Dec (KEM, TOM) and 1-5 birds at Morpeth STP 19 Jan and 9 Nov (Table 5), Lenaghans Flat 22 Jan (BRG/LIN), Glenrock Lagoon 29 May (CLT), Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM), Bolwarra Lagoon 21-30 Dec (TAH) and SBS 22 & 31 Dec (TOM).

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

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

The peak count from the regular monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary was low compared to most years (Table 4); however, 206 birds were roosting at KI dykes and an additional 24 birds at Stockton on 19 Mar (MOA) and 220+ birds were at Stockton beach 20 Jan - some were roosting and some were flying over (ROS). Around 200 birds were at Mudbishops Point 27 Jan (ROM et al) and 50+ birds there 7 Oct (ROM); also 20+ birds 20 Jan (LIN et al) and 10-12 birds 4 Sep (BIA). 38 birds were in Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), 43 birds at Worimi NR 11 Mar and 32 birds there 22 Oct (Table 6). *These are the highest known counts ever at both Worimi NR and Mudbishops Point.*

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136                      HBOC Category: 2 (*revised*)                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*revised from: Rare*).

Single birds were recorded at Harrington 27 Jan (ROM et al) and Corrie Island 26 Feb (STA).

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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 recorded almost every month in the Hunter estuary with the peak count being 43 birds 18 Nov (Table 4). 26 birds were in Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 20+ birds at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al). 11-15 birds were at Worimi NR Apr-May and 24 Jun (Table 6). **Breeding:** There were at least 10 attempts at Stockton Sandspit over Aug-Dec with many failures and only 2 hatchlings observed; also birds had runners there during Jan (CLT). Birds also had chicks/runners at Phoenix Flats on Ash Island 11 Jan and 15 Nov (MCN, LIA) and Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al).

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

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

20-26 birds were recorded at Worimi NR over Jun-Aug and eight birds there 13 May (Table 6). 8-10 birds, in breeding plumage, were at Mudbishops Point 4 Sep (BIA), and 1-2 birds (where numbers were noted) were at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al), Stockton Sandspit 18/19 Mar (MOA, HBOC), Moon Island 29 Apr (MOA), Coon Island 4 Jul (HBOC), Manning Point 23 Jul (MOA), Harrington 31 Jul (ROM/RIA) and Ash Island 31 Aug (MCR).

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

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

15 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb, with most of the birds at Winda Woppa Point (HBOC). Four birds were at Stockton Sandspit 18 Mar (MOA) and three birds there 4 Mar (per STA), four birds at Worimi NR 18 Nov (Table 6) and several birds at Mudbishops Point 27 Jan (ROM et al).



**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2004-05).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Euseyornis 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:* 46 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary 24 Jun, 33 birds at Ash Island 16 Jun (LIA) and 18-25 birds there in the two preceding months (Table 4). 12 birds were at HWC 1 Jun (LIA) and 6+ birds there 16 May (MCR) and at Irrawang Swamp 13 & 28 Oct and 7 Dec (MAM) and Leneghans Flat 17 Dec (KEM et al).

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

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

12 birds were recorded at HWC 28 Oct (CLT), eight birds 23 Dec and six birds 5 Dec (KEM). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded at locations in the Hunter estuary (mostly, Ash Island) over Jan-May and in Jul and Nov (Table 4, other reports). 1-5 birds were also at Irrawang Swamp often in Jan, and on 18 Nov and 7 Dec (MAM), Bolwarra wetlands/lagoon late Oct-Dec (several observers), HWC 25 Jan, 16 May, 18 Jun, and 29 Oct (several observers), Rathluba lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC), Belmont swamp/lagoon 3 Nov (KEM) and SBS 22 Dec (TOM).

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

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

Four birds were recorded at Phoenix Park Hinton 10 Dec (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 often were present in the Hunter estuary and the peak count was 168 birds 11 Mar (Table 4). Numbers were also high at Morpeth STP and ~100 birds present over Apr-May (Table 5). 100+ birds were at PNR/Leneghans Flat 2 Nov (KEM/MCR) and 51-100 birds at Denman 14 Apr (STA), Hexham Swamp 24 Oct and 8 Dec (KEM) and PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR). 20+ birds were at Stockton Sandspit 30 Jan (MCR) and Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM). **Breeding:** There were numerous records spanning Sep-Dec, and also birds were nesting at Crowdy Bay NP 23 Jul (MOA).

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*

ID No: 133                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003).

No reports were received for 2006.

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

|                        | 14<br>Jan | 11<br>Feb | 11<br>Mar | 29<br>Apr | 13<br>May | 24<br>Jun | 29<br>Jul | 26<br>Aug | 23<br>Sep | 21<br>Oct | 18<br>Nov | 16<br>Dec |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Black-tailed Godwit    | 141       | 200       | 181       | 8         | 3         | 1         | 2         | 19        | 33        | 38        | 117       | 172       |
| Bar-tailed Godwit      | 1000      | 981       | 869       | 192       | 199       | 172       | 215       | 219       | 345       | 800       | 1039      | 809       |
| Whimbrel               | 65        | 105       | 72        | 32        | 29        | 30        | 46        | 36        | 59        | 14        | 65        | 39        |
| Eastern Curlew         | 357       | 388       | 162       | 32        | 45        | 54        | 56        | 234       | 359       | 253       | 239       | 388       |
| Marsh Sandpiper        | 160       | 57        | 64        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 32        | 53        | 93        |
| Common Greenshank      | 115       | 128       | 112       | 17        | 6         | 9         | 20        | 31        | 53        | 82        | 104       | 93        |
| Terek Sandpiper        | 18        | 44        | 22        | 3         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 6         | 4         | 11        | 44        |
| Common Sandpiper       | 4         | 5         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         |
| Grey-tailed Tattler    | 28        | 21        | 11        | 24        | 6         | 4         | 2         | 3         | 15        | 18        | 38        | 28        |
| Ruddy Turnstone        | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         |
| Great Knot             | 4         | 1         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 2         |
| Red Knot               | 10        | 2         | 15        | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 21        | 366       | 1472      | 23        | 25        |
| Red-necked Stint       | 44        | 45        | 41        | 8         | 12        | 8         | 0         | 2         | 2         | 35        | 72        | 67        |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 54        | 289       | 201       | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 21        | 159       | 622       | 88        |
| Curlew Sandpiper       | 200       | 301       | 67        | 5         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 67        | 201       | 134       | 259       | 239       |
| Pied Oystercatcher     | 4         | 6         | 4         | 3         | 4         | 3         | 4         | 2         | 2         | 6         | 7         | 0         |
| Sooty Oystercatcher    | 2         | 5         | 3         | 15        | 10        | 0         | 9         | 6         | 0         | 1         | 6         | 5         |
| Black-winged Stilt     | 226       | 464       | 503       | 534       | 458       | 320       | 360       | 200       | 13        | 24        | 102       | 350       |
| Red-necked Avocet      | 2266      | 1032      | 649       | 2550      | 3775      | 3977      | 3650      | 3180      | 5032      | 3582      | 2436      | 2016      |
| Pacific Golden Plover  | 22        | 18        | 44        | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 55        | 58        | 20        | 27        |
| Red-capped Plover      | 31        | 26        | 20        | 11        | 32        | 23        | 17        | 25        | 20        | 28        | 43        | 10        |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 0         | 3         | 9         | 18        | 25        | 46        | 2         | 3         | 3         | 1         | 7         | 2         |
| Red-kneed Dotterel     | 0         | 4         | 0         | 2         | 5         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 0         |
| Masked Lapwing         | 116       | 71        | 168       | 35        | 78        | 66        | 37        | 29        | 41        | 50        | 93        | 47        |

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

|                        | 19<br>Jan | 16<br>Feb | 17<br>Mar | 8<br>Apr | 18<br>May | 3<br>Jun | 8 Jul | 10<br>Aug | 22<br>Sep | 7<br>Oct | 9<br>Nov | 15<br>Dec |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Latham's Snipe         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0         |
| Bar-tailed Godwit      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 5         | 0        | 0        | 2         |
| Marsh Sandpiper        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 11        |
| Red-necked Stint       | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 37       | 2         |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 4        | 394       |
| Black-winged Stilt     | 1         | 0         | 0         | 20       | 10        | 0        | 7     | 0         | 7         | 26       | 225      | 105       |
| Red-necked Avocet      | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 3        | 187       |
| Pacific Golden Plover  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0         |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| Red-kneed Dotterel     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         |
| Masked Lapwing         | 56        | 74        | 46        | 98       | 102       | 36       | 66    | 45        | 28        | 58       | 54       | 41        |

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

|                        | Mar<br>11 | Apr<br>29 | May<br>13 | Jun<br>24 | Jul<br>29 | Aug<br>27 | Sep<br>23 | Oct<br>22 | Nov<br>18 | Dec<br>18 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bar-tailed Godwit      | 150       | 0         | 2         | 9         | 87        | 61        | 45        | 142       | 62        | 114       |
| Whimbrel               | 5         | 3         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 5         | 2         | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| Eastern Curlew         | 300       | 0         | 5         | 83        | 30        | 410       | 138       | 200       | 350       | 255       |
| Grey-tailed Tattler    | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| Red Knot               | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Red-necked Stint       | 0         | 5         | 14        | 16        | 14        | 14        | 0         | 33        | 37        | 37        |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 63        | 0         | 0         |
| Pied Oystercatcher     | 3         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 2         | 3         |
| Sooty Oystercatcher    | 0         | 0         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 0         |
| Red-necked Avocet      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5         |
| Pacific Golden Plover  | 43        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 32        | 0         | 0         |
| Red-capped Plover      | 0         | 11        | 15        | 7         | 13        | 5         | 2         | 3         | 4         | 3         |
| Double-banded Plover   | 0         | 0         | 8         | 26        | 20        | 22        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Lesser Sand Plover     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 0         |
| Masked Lapwing         | 2         | 14        | 4         | 4         | 3         | 2         | 3         | 6+        | 2         | 4         |

**Table 7 Port Stephens Waterbirds Survey**  
(February 26, 14 HBOC observers)

|                                |     |  |                        |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|--|------------------------|-----|
| Black Swan                     | 200 |  | Common Greenshank      | 15  |
| Aust. Wood Duck                | 30  |  | Terek Sandpiper        | 4   |
| Pacific Black Duck             | 8   |  | Common Sandpiper       | 1   |
| Chestnut Teal                  | 10  |  | Grey-tailed Tattler    | 32  |
| Darter                         | 1   |  | Ruddy Turnstone        | 9   |
| Little Pied Cormorant          | 112 |  | Red-necked Stint       | 6   |
| Pied Cormorant                 | 402 |  | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 40  |
| Little Black Cormorant         | 13  |  | Beach Stone-curlew     | 1   |
| Great Cormorant                | 38  |  | Pied Oystercatcher     | 77  |
| Australian Pelican             | 175 |  | Sooty Oystercatcher    | 9   |
| White-faced Heron              | 27  |  | Pacific Golden Plover  | 38  |
| Great Egret                    | 9   |  | Grey Plover            | 1   |
| Intermediate Egret             | 2   |  | Red-capped Plover      | 26  |
| Striated Heron                 | 1   |  | Lesser Sand Plover     | 15  |
| Australian White Ibis          | 64  |  | Masked Lapwing         | 11  |
| Straw-necked Ibis              | 1   |  | Silver Gull            | 287 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit              | 515 |  | Crested Tern           | 146 |
| Whimbrel                       | 424 |  | Common Tern            | 9   |
| Eastern Curlew                 | 303 |  | Little Tern            | 3   |
| <b>TOTAL WATERBIRDS: 3,065</b> |     |  |                        |     |

**Great Skua** *Catharacta skua*

ID No: 980                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain (*recorded 2001-03*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Six birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS), and 1-2 birds on similar surveys 28 & 30 Oct (HAP). Four birds, in company with many other birds, were at Shoal Bay 24 Mar following behind fishing trawlers (ROA).

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

1-2 birds often were harassing Crested and Common Terns and Silver Gulls in Newcastle harbour in late Feb (ROM). Single birds were recorded off Nobbys beach 23 Mar (LIN) and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 30 Oct (HAP), and two birds off Swansea Heads 13 Nov (KEM). Four birds, with many other birds, were at Shoal Bay 24 Mar following fishing trawlers (ROA).

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

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

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS) and a single bird on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP).

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2006.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Widely & regularly recorded at near-coastal areas, in counts of up to 100 birds (*text modified*).

*Notable records:* 2000+ birds were at Moon Island 13 Nov with many hundreds nesting, and 1000+ birds were off Swansea Heads 20 Sep (both KEM). 561 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary 17 Mar and 200-400 birds were present most other months except Jul-Aug (HWS). 349 birds were at the Merewether rock platform 28 Jan (HEC), and 200-300 birds at Newcastle rock platform 28-30 Jan (HEC), Merewether Baths area 29 Jan (HEC), Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC), Rathluba Lagoon 17 Jun (MAM) and in the Belmont area 22 Sep (KEM). 100+ birds often were roosting at Newcastle Baths Jan-May with counts of 300+ birds 5 Apr and 1 & 31 May (THJ). There were 8 records of 100+ birds from other locations. A bird with a completely grey head was photographed at Ash Island 2 Mar (FRA). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT) and at Moon Island 13 Nov (see details above).

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

ID No: 111                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Common migrant, some birds over-winter (*amended from: Resident*).

Birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit most months, usually as 3-9 birds (Table 3, other reports) but around 50 birds were present 14 Oct, 15 birds on 23 Sep and 14 birds on 18 Mar (KEM, Table 3, MOA). 13 birds were at Worimi NR 22 Oct and 8+ birds 29 Apr and 13 May (HAS). 6+ birds were at Worimi NR 11 Nov (KEM et al) and 1-5 birds at Ash Island 29 May and 12 & 14 Dec (BRG, MCR/RUR, KEM et al), Harrington 23 Jul and 23 Nov (MOA, MCR/RUR), Worimi NR 27 Aug and 18 Dec (HAS) and Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM).

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

ID No: 112                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: No  
Status: Common migrant, some birds over-winter (*amended from: Resident*).

Birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary (mainly, at Stockton Sandspit and KI dykes) most months, usually as 2-9 birds (Table 3, other reports) but 14 birds were at KI dykes 19 Mar (MOA) and ten birds at Stockton Sandspit 29 Mar (TOM). 1-5 birds were present at Worimi NR most months and seven birds there 27 Aug (HAS). 1-5 birds were also recorded at Burwood Beach 7 Mar (HBOC), Saltwater 6 Apr (MVBW), Coon Island 29 Apr, 4 Jul and 20 Sep (MOA, HBOC, KEM), Tuncurry 20 May (MVBW), Morpeth 11 Jun (BRG), Marmong Point 1 Jul (HBOC), LTP 23 Aug (KEM), Mudbishops Point 4 Sep (BIA), Newcastle baths 9 Nov and Salts Bay Swansea 13 Nov (both KEM).

**Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*

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

*Notable records:* 146 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 70-80 birds at Newcastle baths 25 Aug and 10 Dec (KEM). 20+ birds occasionally were roosting at Newcastle Baths Jan-April and lesser numbers regularly; in May the counts frequently were of 50+ birds and a peak count of 132 birds 29 May (THJ). 21-50 birds were at Coon Island 20 Sep (KEM), Newcastle harbour 22 Oct (LIG) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). Birds were feeding fledged young at Myuna Bay 18 Dec and Newcastle baths 25 Dec, and many birds were carrying food to Moon Island 13 Nov (all KEM).

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

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

1-3 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS) and at Harrington 23 Jul (MOA), Hunter estuary 29 Jul (HWS), Newcastle Baths 27 Aug (per ROM) and Belmont 22 Sep (KEM).

**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 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al) and around 50 birds at/near Newcastle baths 25 Dec and 34 birds there 10 Dec (KEM). Nine birds were at Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 6+ birds at Stockton Sandspit 30 Jan and 19 Mar (MCR, VEE per BIA).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*new to list*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP).

**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.

200+ birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al) and 120+ birds there 27 Jan (ROM et al). 6+ birds were at Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and 1-5 birds at Old Bar 22 Apr (TOM), Stockton Sandspit often over Oct-Dec (CLT, TOM) and Newcastle Baths often during Dec (THJ). (*all records published*) **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Mudbishops Point 20 & 27 Jan. A pair was copulating at Newcastle Baths in Dec (THJ).

**Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*

ID No: 120                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1997, 2001-02, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

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

Around 200 birds were at PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and some birds (numbers not noted) were at this location 29 Oct (DDR). 100-200 birds were often present at Hexham Swamp over late Sep-Dec (several observers). 30 birds were at GTD 27 Oct (MAM) and 20-22 birds at Ash Island 23 Sep and 15 Nov (HWS, LIA et al). 1-10 birds were at Ash Island Deep Pond 2 Feb (TOM), Belmont Lagoon 22 Sep (KEM), Stockton Sandspit 24 Sep (CLT), Hunter estuary 21 Oct (HWS), Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG), Morpeth 14 Dec (HAP) and GTD 19 Dec (KEM).

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

ID No: 109                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*revised from: Summer migrant*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Grey Ternlet** *Procelsterna cerulea*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**White Tern** *Gygis alba*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

ID No: 957                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Moderately often recorded in Newcastle, and less frequently in other towns, as counts of up to 20 birds (*Text modified*).

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at KI 23 Aug (KEM) and 20+ birds at Stockton Sandspit 30 Jan (MCR). Birds were nest building at Stockton Sandspit 23 Sep (KEM).

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

ID No: 028                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in well-forested areas in the E and central parts of the Region as 1-5 birds. (*Text added*)

*Notable records:* Two birds were present in a public park in Charlestown 9 Nov (CRL) and a single bird was at Cardiff 19 Jun (LIN).

**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 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Buttaba 8 Nov and Tanilba Bay 17 Dec (KEM). Birds were on nest at Throsby Creek 7 Feb (HBOC) and nest building at New Lambton 21 Aug (KEM).

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

ID No: 029                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded in well-forested areas in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds. (*Text added*)

*Notable records:* Three birds were at Brunkerville 15 Jan (MCR) and Gap Creek Watagans 26 Dec (KEM). Birds were nesting at Balickera in Sep (MUJ).

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

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

Two birds were recorded at Wingham Brush 26 Jul (MOA) and single birds at Darawank Reserve 20 May (MVBW), Medowie 5 Aug (per CLT) and Glenrock SRA 6 Sep and 1 Nov (KEM).

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

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

6+ birds were at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). 1-2 birds were recorded at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), near Timor Caves 27 Jan (CLT et al), Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN), Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Wingen 12 Jul (NEG), Wallaby Scrub Rd 12 Aug and 24 Sep (VEE), Milbrodale 17 Sep (HBOC), Braye Park Hill 2 Nov (CLT), near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and at Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG).

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

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

2-3 birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 20 Aug, 9 Sep and 1 Dec (HBOC, KEM, MCR/RUR) and at Belmont Lagoon 12 Aug and 4 Dec (KEM). Also, a bird was carrying nesting material at Belmont Lagoon 3 Nov (KEM) - *interesting, but not considered sufficient for a breeding record.*

**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 Tanilba Bay 17 Dec and birds had dependent young at LTP 14 Oct (both KEM).

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia striata*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR) and 1-5 birds at Irrawang Swamp 15 Jan (MAM), Isaacs Creek Timor 28 Jan (MCR), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL), near Milbrodale 17 Sep (HBOC), near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC).

**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 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 11 birds were at Belmont Swamp/Lagoon 3 Nov (KEM) and 6+ birds at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC) and Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/RUR). Birds were on nest at Balickera 19 Nov and in Jul (MUJ), and had fledged young at Wingen 26 Mar (NEG).

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in well-forested areas in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds. (*Text added*)

*Notable records:* Three birds were recorded at Brunkerville 15 Jan (MCR), Laguna 27-29 Mar (RDB) and Mungo Brush 11 Nov (KEM et al).

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

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

Six birds were recorded at Allyn River 29 Oct (KEM) and four birds there 29 Oct (DDR). Three birds were at Wallabi Creek Old Bar 11 Jun and two birds there 30 May (DBP). Single birds were at Saltwater 30 May (MVBW), Copeland FP 7 Sep (DBP) and Fosterton Loop 1 Oct (JED). Some birds were also at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

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

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

A single bird was at Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

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

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

Three birds were recorded at Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and single birds there 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and 2 Jul (FOC). A bird was heard at MLNP 11 Nov (BRG/KEM).



**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

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

100+ birds were at Gloucester 15 Apr (DBP), 34 birds at Green Point 22 Aug (KEM) and around 20 birds were often in the Oakhampton area late Sep (HEM). 6+ birds were at Barrington House 25-26 Mar (MCR) and Allyn River 29 Oct (HHB). 1-5 birds were at Gap Creek Watagans 4 Feb (MOA), Belmont North 22 Oct (COF), Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and Allyn River 20 Dec (MEL).

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

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

Twelve birds were recorded at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ) and six birds at Bombah Point MLNP 15 Jul (LIP). 1-5 birds were at Crowdy Bay NP 20 Jan (BRG et al), The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), Laguna 27-29 Mar and 25-27 Aug (RDB), LTP 23 Apr (VEL), Falbrook Mt Royal 22 May (CLT), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL), Wybong 5 Nov (BIA), GRNP 12 Nov (DBP) and occasionally in the Wye Point-Morisset area during Apr (MDV).

**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:* 20-35 birds were at Tuncurry 15 Mar (MVBW), HWC 11 Jul (BAW), Laguna 25-27 Aug (RDB) and Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ). Eight birds were at Stockton Sandspit 4 Jun (CLT) - an unusual location. Birds had fledged young at Crowdy Bay NP 8 Feb (DBP).

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

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

6+ birds were recorded at The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR) and Yango Creek (I10) 21-24 Apr (HBOC). 2-3 birds were at Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR) and Laguna 27-29 Mar, 25-27 Aug and 11 Sep (RDB) and some birds were at Paynes Crossing 28-30 Sep (BIA) - numbers not noted. A pair had two dependent young at Kitchener 1 Feb (GOC).

**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:* 80 birds were recorded at Fosterton Loop 6 Jan (JED) and Phoenix Park 8 Jul (MAM), and 65 birds at Phoenix Park 3 Jul (MAM). 20+ birds were at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were several records spanning late Aug-Dec (various observers) and also, birds were inspecting hollows at Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC).

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

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

30+ birds were recorded at Worimi NR 18 Dec (HAS) and 22 birds at Newcastle Memorial Park 29 Dec (KEM). 6-20 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 30 Jan (MCR), Wingham 6 Mar (MVBW), Balickera Mar and Oct (MUJ), Salt Ash 12 May (LIG), LTP 23 Aug and 14 Oct (KEM), Dungog-Paterson area 29 Oct (HHB), Worimi NR 18 Nov (HAS) and NWR/Market Swamp 17 Dec (CLT et al). 1-5 birds were at Worimi NR 29 Jul and 27 Aug (HAS), Shortland 8 Aug (KEM), LTP 15 Oct (KEM), Paterson 29 Oct (HHB) and Tanilba Bay 17 Dec (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Tank Paddock Minmi 24 Oct (KEM/MCR) and had dependent young at Memorial Park 29 Dec.

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

150-250 birds were recorded at Shortland 8 Aug, Newcastle University 6 Nov and Warabrook 23 Nov (all KEM), and 100+ birds frequently were seen returning to a roost site in BbR (STA). 50-65 birds were present at HWC 18 Jun (HBOC), Phoenix Park 22 Oct (MAM) and Warabrook 2 Nov (KEM). Up to ten birds were moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, as far inland as Seaham, and also at Gloucester 26 Sep (DBP), Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct and Wingen 26 Oct (both NEG). Birds were on nest at LTP 23 Aug (KEM).

**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:* 450+ birds were recorded at Fordwich Rd 24 Jul (ALP) and 300+ birds there 26 Jul (SMR). 60 birds were at Medowie 11 May (MAM) and 21-50 birds at Jesmond Park/McGregor Park 5 Sep, Fordwich 5 Sep and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (all HBOC). Birds were inspecting hollows at Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct (NEG) and were on nest at Wingen 26 Oct and Newcastle University 13 Nov (NEG, KEM).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident in the extreme NW of the Region (*revised from: Uncertain*).

20+ birds were at Warrah Creek 22 Sep (ROM) and four birds there 18 Nov (HAP).

**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:* 500+ birds were roosting nightly in fig trees at New Lambton Jun-Aug (STA). Around 200 birds were at Cattai Creek Wetlands 8 Aug (MVBW) and c150 birds were flying over GTD 3 Sep (KEM). 21-50 birds were at Marmong Point 1 Jul (HBOC), Coon Island/ Galgabby Point 4 Jul (HBOC) and Belmont 22 Sep (KEM). Two birds were recorded at Wingen 24 Sep - not previously seen in the area (NEG). Several breeding records, spanning Oct-Dec.

**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:* Two birds were recorded at Ash Island 29 May (BRG) - an unusual location. Birds were breeding at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ) and inspecting a hollow at LTP 14 Oct (KEM).

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

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

20+ birds were recorded at Coolah Tops 1-3 Oct (HBOC) and 6-20 birds at "Glen Dhu" Timor 26-29 Jan (CLT et al), Isaacs Creek Timor 28 Jan (MCR), Gloucester 18 & 20 Apr (DBP), Black Rock Rd Martins Creek 21 Apr (NEM), Edgeworth 24 Apr (BOH), Shoal Bay 10 & 25 May (CLT) and Willow Tree 29 Jun (MOA). 1-5 birds were at Fosterton Loop 6 Jan (JED), Glen Oak 16 Jan (MAM), Newcastle University 8 May (KEM), Balickera Jun and Nov (MUJ), Merriwa 10 Jul (VEE) and Wingen 1 Nov (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Coolah Tops 1-3 Oct and others were nest building & inspecting hollows. Two pairs were breeding at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ) and a pair was at the 2004 nest hollow at Blackalls Park 30 Jul (HCL).

**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 10 birds (*Text modified*).

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at "Glen Dhu" Timor 26-29 Jan (CLT et al) and White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). 14+ birds were at Galgabba Point 14 Apr (MOA). Birds were nesting at Quorrobolong 21 Jul (CCFOC) and also were breeding at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ).

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

ID No: 281                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. 1-5 birds widely and frequently recorded in the E and central parts of the Region. (*Text modified*).

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ). 6-20 birds were at Laguna 27-29 Mar (RDB), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Gloucester often in Aug-Sep (DBP) and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were six wide-spread records spanning Aug-Dec.

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

ID No: 280                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental. (*Recorded 1996, 1998-99, 2005*)

A male bird was recorded at the northern boundary of GRNP 18 Nov (HAP).

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ) and 21-50 birds at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (both HBOC). Birds were breeding at both these locations and also had dependent young at Wingen 12 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 at Awaba 8 Sep (KEM) and Wingen 1 Nov (NEG). There were numerous breeding records spanning Sep-Dec; also, birds were nesting at Cundletown during Jul-Aug (LMB) and were inspecting hollows at LTP 23 Aug (KEM).

**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*

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

1-2 birds were heard at Weston 29 May (ROS) and Toronto 18 Jun (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:* 50+ birds flew over Butterwick Rd Woodville towards a roosting site 2 Jun (NEM). Two pairs were on nest at NWR/Market Swamp 10 Nov (KEM) and birds had dependent young at Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG).

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2005*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

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

Five birds were recorded at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). Four birds were in an area near Kurri Kurri Hospital 4 Nov (STA/HAP) and there were several records of 1-3 birds from the same general location over Oct-Nov (various observers). Two birds were at Rosebrook (10km W of Bolwarra) 8 Nov (TAH) and single birds at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR) and Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC).

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1999, 2001-02, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cuculus pallidus*

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

1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were moderately often recorded from late Sep onwards (several observers). 6+ birds were present at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC) and at least five birds were in an area near Kurri Kurri Hospital 4 Nov (STA/HAP). There were no records from any earlier months of the year.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

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

Single birds were present at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), Harrington 20 Jan (BRG et al) and Timor 27 Jan (CLT et al). There were no further records until Aug when a bird was present at Balickera (MUJ), and then 1-2 birds were moderately often recorded over Sep-Dec.

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

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

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). A young bird was being fed by White-browed Scrubwren at BbR 31 Dec (KEM).

**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.

A bird was heard at 3km W of Jerrys Plains 31 Dec (TAH).

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

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

1-2 birds were widely and moderately often recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec. Winter records were of single birds seen or heard at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Crowdy Bay NP 23 Jul (MOA) and Belmont swamp/lagoon 12 Aug (KEM). Fledged young birds were being fed by Brown Thornbill at Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW) and by Variegated Fairy-wren at Awabakal NR 11 Dec (KEM).

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

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

Single birds were at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR) and Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN) and 1-3 birds were frequently and widely recorded over Sep-Dec. Unusually, there were few records during May-Aug - single birds were at Rathluba lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC), Belmont swamp/ lagoon 12 Aug (KEM), Rankin Park 19 Aug (KEM) and Awabakal NR 20 Aug (HBOC). Young birds were being fed by Yellow Thornbill at HWC 10 Nov (KEM) and Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Common Koel** *Eudynamys scolopacea*

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

*Notable records:* A young bird was being fed by Little Wattlebird at LTP 10 Jan (KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* A flock of six birds flew over Ashtonfield 3 Dec (MAM). A nestling was being fed by Pied Currawong at GTD 22 Dec (KEM).

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

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

*Notable records:* A single bird was at Werakata NP 5 Jul (BIA) and an immature bird was at The Hill Newcastle 15 Apr (HAP) - both are unusual locations for this species.

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Two birds were at Floraville 18 Aug (CLT), George McGregor Park 19 Aug and 16 Sep (KEM, HBOC) and Glenrock 27 Aug (HAP) - the latter record was of an adult and chick. Birds were seen/heard in the BbR/New Lambton area 7 Apr, 10 & 20 May, 11 Jun, 27 Aug, 28 Sep and 31 Dec (STA, LIP, KEM), and also at Balickera Feb, Mar and Apr (MUJ), Awaba Forest 5 Apr (TOM), Cardiff 26 Apr (LIN), Sunshine Morisset 20 May (GOC) and Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC). Also, an injured bird was in care at Broke 22 May (TWD).

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246

HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental.

No confirmed reports were received for 2006.

**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 two fledged dependent young at Toronto 15 May and an adult was with two juveniles there 13 Dec (both TOM).

**Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident (*amended from: Rare*).

Single birds were seen/heard at Awaba Forest 16 Jun and 6 Aug (TOM) and Watagans 27 Aug (HAP). A bird was roosting in a small cave at Bow Wow Gorge Mount Vincent 23 Jun (FIP).

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident (*amended from: Rare*).

There were many records all year from locations within Awaba Forest of at least one pair of birds (TOM). The pair was copulating 5 Nov (TOM), and a male was circling and calling at 10-15m height for 10+ minutes 7 Mar (BIA). A carcass was found at Awaba Forest 7 Sep (TOM). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 11 Jan (TOM) and near Anna Bay 5 May (HCL et al), and a recently fledged bird was seen two nights in a row at Medowie mid Oct - (CAB per TOM).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

ID No: 249

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Birds were seen or heard near Timor Caves 26-29 Jan (CLT et al), at Waratah 25 Jul (CLT), Lorn 11 Oct (TAH) and GRNP 12 Nov (DBP). Dead birds were found at Telarah 28 Jul (GOJ) and Gloucester 18 Sep (DBP).

**Grass Owl** *Tyto capensis*

ID No: 729                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records (*amended*)  
Status: Rare resident (*revised from: Uncertain*).

Records from Crowdy Bay NP (a well-known location) were of a single bird 25 Jan, three birds 26 Jan (both ROM) and two birds 21 Feb (MVBW). A pair was discovered roosting on Ash Island 23 Jan (HAP) and then there were regular dusk/evening sightings of 1-2 birds in the area over Feb and early Mar (many observers) and a single bird was again present 20 Dec (MEL). Three birds (2m, 1f) were recorded 25 Feb at Ash Island (and seen by 35 observers). A pair is also understood to have been recorded many times during the year at a site at Tomago but unfortunately the details were kept confidential. Also see Supplementary Records.

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

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

*Notable records:* There were numerous and widespread breeding records spanning late Aug-Dec.

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

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

Two birds were recorded at Hawkmount Rd Awaba SF 10 Jan (TOM) and The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), and single birds at Hawkmount Rd 6 Jan (TOM) and Bolwarra 24 Dec (TAH). Birds bred at Balickera, with the chick hatching 16 Jan (MUJ).

**Spotted Nightjar** *Eurostopodus argus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

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

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

Three birds were recorded at Watagans 27 Aug (HAP), and 1-2 birds at Laguna 4-5 Jan (RDB), Timor Caves 26-29 Jan (CLT et al), The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), Yango Creek Valley (I10) 21-24 Apr (HBOC), Oyster Cove 10 Jun (BLM), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC), Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC), and several times at Balickera over Mar-Apr and Aug-Oct (MUJ). Also, a dead bird was found near Bulahdelah 28 Jun (OSP).

**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:* 200+ birds were recorded at Mungo Brush 11 Nov (KEM et al), Wallingat NP 12 Dec (BIA) and Watagans NP 23 Dec (BIA), and 150+ birds were at Awabakal NR 11 Dec and GTD 22 Dec (both KEM). 51-100 birds were at Craven 17 Jan (per DBP), Widden Valley 1 Mar (BRG), Fingal Head 22 Nov (CLT), BbR 2 Dec (KEM) and Woodberry 28 Dec (KEM). 21-50 birds were at Mt Arthur 16 Jan (NEG), Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR), Hannam Vale 8 Feb (DBP), Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN), Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC), Fosterton Loop 1 Dec (JED), Awaba 21 Dec (KEM) and near Bulahdelah 21 Dec (BIA).

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*  
ID No: 335                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

20+ birds were recorded at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN) and 17 birds at Awabakal NR 11 Dec (KEM). 6+ birds were at Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR) and single birds at Fosterton Loop 1 Dec (JED) and Jesmond 2 Dec (KEM).

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

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

*Notable records:* A total of ten birds were recorded at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC). Birds bred at BbR over mid-Aug-Oct (KEM), were nest building at Glenrock SRA 6 Sep (KEM) and had dependent young at Wingen 1 Nov (NEG).

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*  
ID No: 324                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1998, 2001-02, 2004*).

A single bird was recorded at PNR 7 Nov (SEP).

**Red-backed Kingfisher** *Todiramphus pyrrhoptera*  
ID No: 325                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*  
ID No: 326                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds over-winter at coastal locations (*text modified*). Widely and regularly recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, mostly as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* Winter records of a single birds at KI dykes 24 Jun (LIA) and Salts Bay Swansea Heads 26 Jun (CLT), and two birds at KI dykes 13 May (LIA). There were breeding records spanning Jan and Aug-Nov.

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

*Notable records:* 10+ birds had arrived by 5 Sep near Broke (ALP). Around 30 birds flew over Stockton Sandspit 22 Jan (CLT) - an unusual location. Birds were inspecting holes in a creek bank at Wingen 26 Oct (NEG) and were on nest at East Seaham 8 Dec (CLT).



**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:* A single bird was at Upper Dartbrook 5 Sep (ROM) - an early arrival. Also, the first arrival at Wingen 24 Sep was the earliest in 17 years of observing (NEG). Birds had dependent young/juveniles at Balickera Jan (MUJ), Gloucester 22 Jan (DBP) and New Lambton 25 Jan (KEM).

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

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

Single birds were seen/heard at Harrington 30/31 Jul (ROM/RIA), Copeland FP 7 Sep and 23 Nov (DBP, MCR/RUR), Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW) and Allyn River 29 Oct (DDR).

**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 at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and four birds at Woko NP 11 Mar (per DBP).

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

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 24 Sep and 1 Oct, and three birds were there 29 Oct (HBA, ROM, HAP).

**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 had dependent young at Green Point 20 Oct (KEM), were nest building at Coolah Tops 1-3 Oct and carrying food at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (both HBOC), and nested at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ).

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

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

1-5 birds were recorded at Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR), Gap Creek Watagans 4 Feb (MOA), The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), Gloucester Tops 20 Jan, 24 Sep and 1 Oct (BRG/LIN, HBA, ROM), and Coolah Tops 1-3 Oct (HBOC). A bird at Coolah Tops was carrying food - *interesting, although not sufficient to be a breeding record.*

**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 as 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL).

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 24 Oct and 8 Dec (KEM), and 50+ birds at HWC 18 Jun (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 26 Sep (KEM). An albino male bird was present near Maitland 25 Aug and 1 Sep (FRA, LIP). There were numerous breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

**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 Glenrock SRA 6 Sep, Belmont swamp/lagoon 22 Sep, LTP 15 Oct and Green Point 20 Oct (all KEM). There were several breeding records spanning Jan and Oct-Dec, including birds were feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo at Awabakal NR 11 Dec (KEM).

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

ID No: 541

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

Six birds were recorded at Fosterton Loop 23 Nov (HAP/JED).

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

ID No: 526

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, locally common.

Two groups of four birds were recorded at Warakeila 19 Apr (NEM) and six birds at Crowdy Bay NP 20 Jan (LIN et al). 1-5 birds were present at Warakeila 18 Jan (NEM), Balickera Feb, May, Sep and Nov (MUJ), Awaba SF 13/14 May and 8 Dec (TOM), Awabakal NR 6 & 9 Sep and 11 Dec (LIP, KEM), GTD 3 Sep (KEM), Fosterton Loop 30 Sep (JED), HWC 24 Oct (KEM), Warakeila and Allyn River valley 29 Oct (HTH), Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and Belmont swamp/lagoon 4 Dec (KEM). Also, a pair had a dependent young at Belmont swamp/lagoon 3 Nov (KEM).

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at Yango Creek Valley (I10) 21-24 Apr (HBOC), Mt Sugarloaf 6 Aug and BbR 2 Dec (both KEM), and at two separate locations within Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA). There were numerous breeding records spanning Jan and Aug-Dec.

**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:* Birds were nesting at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct, Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (both HBOC) and Wingen 1 Nov (NEG).

**Pilotbird** *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

ID No: 506

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP (*revised from: Uncertain*) (recorded 1997, 2000, 2005).

A single bird was recorded in Wollemi NP, in the upper part of Baerami Valley 12 Jun (MCR).

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Four birds were present at Mount Sugarloaf 8 Feb (TOM) and 1-2 birds at Martindale 5 Feb (RIA), Monkeyface Lookout Watagans 9 Feb and 18 Aug (TOM), Laguna 27-29 Mar (RDB), Yango Creek Valley (I10) 21-24 Apr (HBOC), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (MCR), Milbrodale 18 Jun (DIM) and Watagans 2 Sep (TOM).

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

ID No: 493

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Brunkerville 15 Jan, The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar and Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR, RUR). 1-5 birds were present at Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR), Barrington House 25-26 Mar (MCR), Wallabi Point Saltwater NP 23 Apr (TOM), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Comboyne 24 Jul (MOA), Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 24 Sep (HBA), Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW), Allyn River 29 Oct (DDR) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). Birds were resident all year at a property near Bulahdelah (OSP). Birds at Copeland FP 23 Nov were nesting.

**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:* Birds were feeding a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo at BbR 31 Dec (KEM), and there were several other breeding records spanning Sep-Nov.

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

ID No: 494

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Brunkerville 15 Jan (MCR), Mungo Brush 13 Aug and 11 Nov (KEM et al) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). 1-5 birds were at Gap Creek Watagans 4 Feb and 26 Dec (MOA, KEM), The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), BBNP 18 Mar (MVBW), Barrington House 25-26 Mar and 29 Oct (MCR, DDR), Wallabi Point Saltwater NP 23 Apr (TOM), Comboyne 24 Jul (MOA), Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 24 Sep (HBA), Green Point 20 Oct (KEM), Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW) and Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

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

ID No: 498

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

1-2 birds were recorded several times at locations within Awaba Forest during Jun, Aug and Dec (TOM, RIA) and also at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), Dingo Creek Baerami 30 Jun (ROM), Morriset Hospital 23 Jul (TOM), near Morisset 2 Sep (ROM) and near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR).

**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:* A bird was carrying food at Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC), and birds were on nest at Wingen 1 Nov (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 at two locations within Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and in an area near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR). Birds were nest building at Milbrodale 17 Sep, Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct and Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 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:* Two birds were near a rainforest area at HWC 16 May (LIA) - *the first known record for HWC*. There were breeding records from Balickera throughout Aug-Dec (MUJ). Birds were nest building at Green Point 22 Aug and BbR 30 Aug (both KEM), and had dependent young at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Often recorded at mangrove areas as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were at Ash Island 12 Dec (MCR/RUR). Birds had a nest with young at Sandy Island Swansea 15 Mar (COF).

**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.

6-10 birds were recorded along Jones Reserve Rd 24 Sep (TAH). Single birds were seen/heard at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), Warkworth 27 Aug (RIA et al), Wallaby Scrub Rd 24 Sep (VEE), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC), Scone 1 Oct (ROM), and at locations near Bulga 1 & 14 Mar, 24 Sep and 22 Oct (BRG/LIN, VEE, HBOC).

**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 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were at Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct and Balickera 19 Nov (both HBOC). A bird was heard at Gloucester 23 Aug (DBP) - *first return*. Birds were nest building at Paynes Crossing 28-30 Sep (BIA) and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC), and were on nest at Balickera 19 Nov and in Dec (HBOC, MUJ).

**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 at Belmont swamp/lagoon 4 Dec (KEM). There were several breeding records spanning mid Sep-Nov including birds were feeding a fledged young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo near Gloucester CP 29 Oct (TBW).

**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare (*New to list*).

A bird was recorded at a location W of Willow Tree, in the far north-west of the Region (*and just barely within the boundary of it*) 12 May (ROM). Subsequently, two birds were seen there 19-20 Oct (RIA) and six birds 19 Nov (HAP).

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

**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 a location in Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). Some birds were on nest and others were nest building at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC), and birds were carrying food at Wingen 26 Oct and had dependent young there 12 Dec (NEG).

**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 at HWC 8 Aug (KEM). There were several breeding records spanning Oct-Nov including birds were feeding a young Shining Bronze-cuckoo at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC).

**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:* 22 birds were at Awaba 8 Sep with three pairs breeding (KEM), and birds had dependent young at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR). Birds were also copulating and nest building at Glenrock SRA 6 Sep (KEM).

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare, in W of Region (*recorded 1994, 1998-99, 2001-02*) (*revised from: Uncommon resident ...*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**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:* Four pairs were nesting at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and three pairs at LTP 14 Oct (KEM). Birds also had nests with eggs/young at Shoal Bay 29 Aug (FRN), HWC 29 Sep (KEM), Sunshine (K11) 9 Oct (GOC) and Wingen 12 Dec (NEG).

**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 Awabakal NR 20 Aug and 11 Dec (HBOC, KEM) and Belmont swamp/lagoon 22 Sep (KEM). Two pairs had dependent young at LTP 14 Oct and birds were feeding a young Common Koel at LTP 10 Jan (both KEM).

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

ID No: 640

HBOC Category: 2 (Revised from 3)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in the W of the Region (*amended from: Resident; and text added*).

Birds were reported to be regularly present and breeding in the lower Wybong Valley, with sightings at many locations (PHC). 1-2 birds also were recorded at Willow Tree 29 Apr (LIN), 7 km SE of Broke on Wollombi Rd 10 Aug (ALP), Warkworth 27 Aug (RIA et al), Yarrawa 6 Sep (ROM), Broke often in late Aug and early Sep (TWD) and Gungal (F6) 18 Nov (HAP).

**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 6+ birds were recorded at a location within Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). A pair was with a fledged dependent young at Belmont North 30 Dec (COF).

**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:* Around 200 birds were present at Cattai Creek Wetlands (R4) 8 Aug (MVBW). Birds were carrying food at Wingen 26 Oct and were with dependent young there 12 Dec (NEG), and were carrying food at Awaba 21 Dec (KEM).

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

Birds has a nest with a single chick at Battery Rock 30 Oct (SMJ).

**Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia*

ID No: 603

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Endangered

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

6+ birds were present at Abermain Park Cessnock 30 Jun feeding on prolific blossom and a single bird there 1 Jul (BAV). Three birds were at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), two birds at 5km E of Wollar 14 May (JUT), and single birds at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL) and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). Two birds were recorded at Gloucester 23 May (DBP) - *there are no known records from this location since at least the 1960's (MOA)*.

**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:* Six birds were recorded at Glen Oak 16 Jan (MAM). Four birds were at Adamstown 8 Apr (POP) - *an unusual location*.

**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 10-30 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were present at Bangalay Reserve 12 Aug (KEM), and 21-50 birds at Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul and McGregor Park/Jesmond Park 5 Sep (both HBOC) and Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). Birds had dependent young at Jesmond Park 5 Sep and at Green Point 3 Dec (KEM), and were nest building at Glenrock SRA 16 Aug (KEM).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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 abundant breeding records spanning mid Aug-Dec.

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

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

*Notable records:* Birds were recorded as breeding at Balickera in Jan and throughout Aug-Dec (MUJ), and had dependent young at Toronto wetlands 6 Jun (HBOC).

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

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

*Notable records:* Thousands of birds were flying over Tomaree Head Port Stephens 28 Apr (CLT). There were numerous breeding records spanning Feb and Sep-Dec.

**Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental.

*The Records Appraisal Committee has decided to review all the reports that have been received for this species. Most reports have been from central parts of the Region and this appears to be anomalous.*

**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 Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN), Yango Creek Valley (I10) 21-24 Apr (HBOC), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL) and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC).

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). Birds had dependent young at Laguna 27-29 Mar and a nest with eggs there 25-27 Aug (RDB). Two pairs had dependent young near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and birds had dependent young and were nest building at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC).

**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were present at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL).

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

ID No: 625

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL).

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

ID No: 580

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

6+ birds were recorded at a location near Kurri Kurri hospital 5 Nov (KEM/MCR), and 1-5 birds at the same location 29 Oct (HHB) and at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL) and Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC).

**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:* 30+ birds were bathing in wet foliage after rain at Awaba SF 14 May (TOM). 30+ birds were also at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN) and a location in Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA). Some birds were at Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC) - *uncommon coastal record*. Birds had dependent young at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC).

**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:* 100+ birds were recorded at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and 20+ birds at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). Birds were nest building at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov and Balickera 19 Nov, and were both nest building and with dependent young at Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (all HBOC).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Up to ten birds were often present in the HWC/NWR area (several observers) and birds were nest building there 29 Sep (KEM). Up to ten birds were also recorded moderately often at Stockton Sandspit and Belmont swamp/lagoon. Elsewhere, 6+ birds were recorded at Taylors Beach 19 Feb (HBOC), Tuncurry 29 Apr (WIL), LTP 23 Aug and 15 Oct (KEM) and Coon Island 20 Sep (KEM), and 1-5 birds at Mudbishops Point 20 Jan (LIN et al), Coon Island 29 Apr (MOA), Crowdy Head 23 Jul (MOA), LTP 14 Oct (KEM), Salts Bay Reserve Swansea 13 Nov (KEM), Worimi NR 18 Nov (HAS), Warabrook 23 Nov (KEM), Ash Island 12 Dec (MCR/RUR) and SBS 21 Dec (KEM).

**Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598

HBOC Category: 2 (*revised*)

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon spring-summer visitor to the W of the Region. (*Revised from: Accidental*)

Six birds including some immatures were at Medhurst bridge Martindale 31 Dec (TAH). Single birds were seen at three locations in the W of the Region (one in the Widden Valley) 15 Oct (NEM/LIA). Single birds were also recorded at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), near Baerami 22 Sep (ROM), Medhurst bridge 28 Oct and 4 Nov (HTH, TAH), Wallaby Scrub Rd 13 Dec (LIG) and 10km W of Jerrys Plains 31 Dec (TAH), and in the Bulga area 22 Oct (HBOC) and 28-29 Oct (several Twitchathon teams). *An exceptional year.*



**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

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

5+ birds were recorded at Devils Hole Barrington Tops and four birds at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 1 Oct (both ROM), and three birds at Gloucester Falls in Aug (TAT). Two birds were at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and some birds at Kerrapit Rd 24 Sep (HBA). An unusual easterly record was of a bird at Arcadia Vale after strong westerlies in Oct (per STA).

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

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

50+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 1 & 11 Dec (MCR/RUR, KEM) and 20+ birds there 20 Aug and 9 Sep (HBOC, KEM). 6+ birds were at Abermain Park Cessnock 30 Jun and 1 Jul (BAV), Salts Bay Reserve Swansea 20 Sep (KEM) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). 1-5 birds were at Glenrock SRA 7 Mar, 6 Sep, 1 Nov and 13 Dec (HBOC, KEM), BBNP 18 Mar (MVBW), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC), Mungo Brush 13 Aug (KEM), Belmont Lagoon 3 Oct (HBOC), Awabakal NR 29 Oct (DDR), Black Neds Bay 5 Nov (STA) and Salts Bay Reserve Swansea 13 Nov (KEM). Birds were with dependent young at Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/RUR).

**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 (*text modified*).

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were at Crowdy Bay NP 20 Jan (LIN et al) and 8 Feb (DBP), 60+ birds at Galgabba Point 14 Apr (MOA) and "huge numbers" at Cattai Creek Wetlands 8 Aug (MVBW). 21-50 birds were at HWC 16 May and 2 Sep (MCR, KEM), Coon Island/Galgabba Point 4 Jul (HBOC), LTP 15 Oct (KEM) and Awabakal NR 1 & 11 Dec (MCR/RUR, KEM). Birds were carrying nesting material at Salamander 23 Aug (KEM).

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

ID No: 593                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident, of coastal heathlands (*text added*)

6-10 birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 20 Aug, 9 Sep and 1 & 11 Dec (HBOC, KEM, MCR/RUR) and 1-5 birds there Awabakal NR 5 Feb, Jun and 9 Jul (RIA, BRG/MCR, ROM). Elsewhere, some birds were at BBNP 18 Mar (MVBW).

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at George McGregor Park/Jesmond Park 5 Sep and Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (both HBOC). Birds were nest building at Coolah Tops and had dependent young at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC).

**Black Honeyeater** *Certhionyx niger*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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:* 20+ birds were recorded at Arcadia Vale 26 Sep (CLT).

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

ID No: 448

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Around 20 birds were present at Hexham Swamp 30 May (CLT) and lesser numbers were there 18 Mar, 26 Sep and 8 Dec (HBA, KEM). 20+ birds were at Ash Island 14 Dec (KEM et al) and birds were recorded at this and other Hunter estuary locations all year, usually in counts of >10 birds (HWS, other reports). Up to seven birds were sometimes present at Worimi NR (HAS). Elsewhere, eight birds were at HWC 24 Oct (KEM).

**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:* 6+ birds were at a location in Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL). Unusually, five birds were in a garden at Woodville 19 Apr (NEM). Birds were on nest at Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC).

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolor*

ID No: 380

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Three birds were recorded at a location in Singleton Army Base and one bird at a second site there 21 May (HBA). Two birds were along Jones Reserve Rd 25 Jun (TAH) and a single bird at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL).

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

ID No: 381

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Seven birds including dependent young were at Wambo Colliery Warkworth 22 Oct (HBOC) and 5+ birds at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN). 1-3 birds were at Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA), Jones Reserve Rd 25 Jun (TAH), Wallaby Scrub Rd 10 Jul and 13 Dec (VEE, LIG), Wambo Rd 12 Aug (VEE), Warkworth 27 Aug (RIA et al), Bulga 24 Sep (VEE), Paynes Crossing 28-30 Sep (BIA), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and Wingen 29 Nov (NEG).

**Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Coolah Tops, had dependent young at Wambo Colliery 22 Oct and a pair was with two immatures at Bulga 24 Sep.

**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Two birds were recorded at Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and a single bird at Gloucester 10-11 Sep (DBP).

**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 Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and many birds were present across Barrington Tops 1 Oct (ROM).

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

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

1-2 birds were at Warkworth 22 Feb (RIA/ROM), Yarrowa 1 Mar (BRG), Bulga area 1 & 14 Mar and 24 Sep (BRG, LIN, VEE), Wallaby Scrub Rd 12 Aug and 24 Sep (VEE), Jones Reserve Rd 24 Sep and 8 Dec (TAH) and Kings Gap 28 Oct (HTH).

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

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

Three birds were recorded at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

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

**Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes (*revised*)  
Status: Resident.

Three birds were at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and 1-2 birds at Copeland Common 29 Jan (BRG/LIN), Copeland FP 7 Sep (DBP) and Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW). Birds had a nest at the base of a large *Lantana* clump near Bulahdelah 16 Aug, and in the same area in December a juvenile bird was recorded (OSP). *This is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region in more than 20 years.*

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

ID No: 443                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. (*Expanded status description has been removed, all records now are tracked*).

A total of 26 birds were recorded at locations around Quorrobolong 21 Jul (CCFOC). 6-20 birds were regularly at Butterwick for 3 weeks over Feb (SHB) and at Wambo Rd Bulga 2 May (MCR/MEL), Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA), Seaham 11 Jun (MAM), Wingen Stock Reserve 12 Jul (NEG), Wambo Colliery Warkworth 22 Oct (HBOC), Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG) and Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC). 1-5 birds were regularly at Balickera all year (MUJ) and Glen Oak Jan-Jul (MAM), and at Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA), Rathluba lagoon 23 Jul (HBOC), Wambo Rd Bulga 12 Aug (VEE), Warkworth 27 Aug (RIA et al), Wallaby Scrub Rd 24 Sep (VEE), 10km past Jerrys Plains 24 Sep (TAH), Seaham 28 Sep (MAM), Paynes Crossing 28-30 Sep (BIA), Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW), Paterson 29 Oct (HHB), Wingen 1 Nov (NEG) and PNR 7 Nov (SEP). Birds were on nest at Vacy 5 Nov (TAH).

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

ID No: 445                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident (*revised from: Resident*).

Nine birds were recorded at White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL) and five birds at 12km W of Jerrys Plains 8 Dec (TAH).

**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:* 10+ birds were at Green Point 20 Oct (KEM), and birds had dependent young at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinlosoma punctatum*

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

Two birds were at Watagans 15 Jul (COF) and single birds at Mount Sugarloaf 8 Feb (TOM), Awaba Forest 23 Jul (TOM), Monkeyface Lookout Watagans 18 Aug (TOM) and Laguna 11 Sep (RDB).

**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:* 20+ birds were at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and Old Gibber MLNP 11 Nov (KEM et al), and were feeding fledged young at Taylors Beach 19 Feb (HBOC).

**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 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were nesting at Balickera over Sep-Oct (MUJ).

**Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded (*amended*)  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

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

Some birds were recorded at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 24 Sep and 1 Oct (HBA , ROM).

**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, mostly as <5 birds.

*Notable records:* Birds were nesting at Balickera Dec (MUJ).

**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 Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC). There was a winter record of a single bird at HWC 18 Jun (HBOC). There were breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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:* Birds were nesting at Balickera Oct (MUJ) and had dependent young at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC).

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

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

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

**Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*

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

Four birds were recorded at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and 1-2 birds, where numbers were noted, were at Figtree Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (ROM), Copeland FP 7 Sep (DBP), Gloucester CP 29 Oct (TBW) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

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

ID No: 376                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 1993, 2003-05).

Two birds were recorded at Figtree Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (ROM) and a single bird there 20 Jan (LIN et al).

**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:* Four pairs were at Green Point 20 Oct (KEM). There was a winter record of a female bird at Aberdare SF 13 Jul (BIA). Single birds were recorded at Hamilton 9 Apr (ROM) and Cardiff 12 Apr (LIN) - both were noted as unusual locations and perhaps the birds were in transit. Birds were carrying food at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC) and breeding there in Dec (MUJ), and were on nest at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC).

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

A pair was at Fishers Hill Rd Vacy 8 Oct (TAH).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 369                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct and some birds were nest building (HBOC). 1-2 birds were at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), Isaacs Creek Timor 28 Jan (MCR), East Seaham 28 Mar (CLT), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Wingen 16 Jun and 26 Oct (NEG), Millfield 23 Jul (HBOC), Wallaby Scrub Rd 12 Aug and 24 Sep (BIA), Belltrees 12 Aug (TAH), Hunter river Maitland 19 Sep (HEM) and Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG).

**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:* A total of 150+ birds were in paddocks near Phoenix Park Hinton 29 May (MAM). 20+ birds were at PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG). There were several breeding records spanning late 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:* 6-20 birds were at Balickera 19 Nov (HBOC), Glenrock SRA 7 Mar and 1 Nov (HBOC, KEM) and Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). Birds were nesting at Balickera Dec (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 at Belmont swamp/lagoon 4 Dec (KEM). There were abnormally low winter numbers at Green Wattle Creek and this winter decline was also noted at some other locations (NEM). There were several breeding records spanning late Sep-Dec.

**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 at PNR/Leneghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR) and Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG). There were several breeding records spanning Sep-Nov.

**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:* Six birds were recorded at Tuncurry 20 Feb (MVBW). Two birds were at HWC 7 Mar (SHB) and single birds at Belmont 2 Feb (CJB), Throsby Creek 7 Feb (HBOC), HWC 23 Feb (WCR) and Cundletown 21 Mar (MVBW). A single bird was at Wallsend 29 Oct (CLT) - last known departure.

**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 10 birds (*text modified*).

*Notable records:* 20 birds were at Belmont North 19 May (COF). Birds were nest building at Gloucester 20 Sep & early Oct (DBP) and Scone 28 Oct (KEM), and were nesting at Balickera Nov (MUJ).

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

ID No: 428 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1996, 2000, 2003-04*).

No reports were received for 2006.

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

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Three birds were recorded at Yango Creek Valley (I10) 21-24 Apr (HBOC). 1-2 birds were at Wingham 12 Jun (MVBW), Quorrobolong 21 Jul (CCFOC), Harrington 23 Jul (MOA), Cattai Creek Wetlands 8 Aug (MVBW), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC), near Kurri Kurri hospital 29 Oct (HHB), Lake Glenbawn 14 Nov (NEG) and GTD 19 Dec (KEM). Also, birds were on nest at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC).

**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:* A single bird was at Laguna 27-29 Mar (RDB) - last known departure.

**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 2006.

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

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

Three birds were at Isaacs Creek Timor 28 Jan (MCR) but there were no further records until mid Sep when a significant influx occurred and 1-5 birds then were frequently and widely recorded in the Region during Sep-Dec. 11 birds were recorded at Yarrowarra Rd Baerami 18 Nov (HAP), four pairs were in the Swansea -Galgabba Point area 13 Nov (KEM) and 6+ birds were at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR) and Wambo Colliery Bulga 22 Oct (HBOC). *An exceptional year.*

**Breeding:** Birds were nest building at East Seaham 8 Dec (CLT) and a pair was carrying food at Belmont 4 Dec (KEM).

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Some birds (numbers not noted) were at Harrington 20 Jan (LIN et al), Figtree Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (ROM) and Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

**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:* Birds had dependent young at Newcastle University 26 Sep (TAH), and were on nest at Myuna Bay 18 Dec (KEM).

**Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*

ID No: 432 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, as counts of up to 20 birds (*text modified*).

*Notable records:* 50+ birds including 12 breeding pairs were at Mungo Brush 11 Nov (KEM et al). Birds were nesting at: Swansea in Oct - five pairs (ADJ);, Warabrook 20 Nov - two pairs (KEM); and Glenrock SRA 13 Dec - one pair (KEM).

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

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common summer migrant. Frequently recorded at / near medium to large fresh waters in the E of the Region over Jan-Apr and from mid-Aug onwards as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Jewels Swamp Redhead 5 Mar (RDB) and PNR/Leneghans Flat 22 Aug and 5 Nov (MOA, KEM/MCR). There were breeding records from SBS, Belmont swamp/lagoon and PNR/Leneghans Flat over Nov-Dec.

**Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)  
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

A mixed flock with *A. superciliosus* (100+ birds in total) was recorded at Weston 23 Sep (ROS). A mixed flock of ~150 birds was again recorded at Weston 14 Oct - the flock was then noted to be roosting in an area near Kurri Kurri Hospital (ROS). Subsequently, <10 birds including juveniles were often recorded at the roost site through Oct and early Nov. A pair was observed to be feeding fledged young there 4 Nov (STA/HAP), and it has been concluded that breeding did occur at the site (*this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region*). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Yarrawa Rd (F7) 29 Oct and Pinegrove Rd (I8) 30 Oct (both HTH) and single immature birds at Belmont swamp 22 Sep (KEM) and Wingen 1-2 Nov (NEG).

**White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

Several hundred birds were recorded at Pinegrove Rd (I8) 30 Oct (HTH). Note the above comments about mixed flocks with *A personatus* at Weston/Kurri Kurri 23 Sep and 14 Oct. 50+ birds were often recorded at the Kurri Kurri roost site through Oct and early Nov and with several breeding records. 50+ birds were also at Belmont swamp 22 Sep (KEM) and Medhurst bridge Martindale 4 Nov (TAH), and around 70 birds in total at various locations in the west of the Region 15 Oct (NEM/LIA). 20-30 birds were at Yarrawa and Medhurst bridge 28 Oct (both HTH). 6+ birds were at 10km W of Jerrys Plains 31 Dec, some birds there 8 Dec, and a pair was at Wallalong 25 Nov (all TAH).

**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:* 20+ birds were at a location at Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA). Ten birds were at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct and had a nest with young and were nest building there (HBOC).

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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:* There were several breeding records in Aug-Sep and Dec.

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

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

*Notable records:* Birds had a nest with young at Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW) and were with dependent young at East Seaham 8 Dec (CLT).



**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 8 Jul (MAM) and Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM). There were many breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec; also, birds were nest building at Cessnock 1 Jul (BAV).

**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 Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). Many birds arrived into Gloucester early Apr (DBP). There were several breeding records over Sep-Dec and also birds had dependent young at Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR).

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 1997, 2005*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at Barrington Tops NP 17 Aug (CBOC), Chichester SF Sep (TAT) and Allyn River 29 Oct (HHB).

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds and occasionally as counts of up to 50 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were recorded at PNR/Lenaghans Flat 5 Nov and 21-50 birds there 13 Sep and 2 Nov (KEM/MCR) and at Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM). There were several breeding records spanning Sep-Dec and also birds were nest building at HWC 18 Jun and Awabakal NR 20 Aug (both HBOC) and Newcastle University 19 Jul (KEM).

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

ID No: 868 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Four birds were recorded at Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR).

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

Around 80 birds were recorded at 5km SW of Sandy Hollow 30 Jun and a large flock again near Sandy Hollow Jul (ROM), and 40+ birds at Widden Valley 1 Mar (BRG). Six birds with some Australian Raven were near Aberdeen 17 Dec (HAP) and 1-5 birds at Wingen 19 Apr (NEG), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC) and Baerami 22 Sep (ROM). Birds were noted to be resident at Gloucester (DBP).

**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. (*Text modified - all records in lower Hunter valley now tracked*).

*Notable records:* Some birds were recorded several times at HWC over May-June and Sep-Dec (HBOC, MCR, KEM). Three birds were at Hexham Swamp Shortland 26 Sep and a single bird there 8 Dec, and a single bird was at Teralba 21 Dec (all KEM). There have been no records from Ash Island since 2003, but birds have been resident at HWC since 2003.

**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, as counts of up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50 birds were recorded at Quorrobolong 21 Jul (CCFOC) and 20+ birds at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN) and a location in Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA). Birds had dependent young at Brunkerville 15 Jan (MCR) and were on nest and with dependent young at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC).

**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were seen/heard at Brunkerville 15 Jan (MCR), Gloucester Tops 20 Jan (BRG/LIN), Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR), Woko NP 12 Feb (DBP), The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), Barrington House 25-26 Mar (MCR), Wallabi Point Saltwater NP 23 Apr (TOM), Wallabi Creek Old Bar 30 May (DBP), Gloucester 29 Oct (TBW), Allyn River 29 Oct (DDR), Mungo Brush 11 Nov (KEM et al) and Gap Creek Watagans 26 Dec (KEM).

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

ID No: 684 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes.

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR) and 3+ birds at Saltwater 6 Apr (MVBW). 1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region - including birds in a suburban garden at Cardiff Heights May and 31 Aug (per LIA). A bird was nest building at Green Point 20 Oct and an adult was with an immature bird there 13 Dec (KEM).

**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:* 15 birds often were at a birdbath at Gloucester Sep/Oct (DBP). Birds were breeding at Murrurundi 3-7 Oct (ADJ) and had a nest with young at BbR 31 Oct (KEM). A single fledged young birds was at Speers Point 18 Sep (HAS).

**Spotted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera maculata*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2006.

**Singing Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 648                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

10+ birds were recorded at Warrah Creek 22 Sep (ROM) and eight birds at Bayswater Colliery 13 Feb (NEG). Five birds were W of Sandy Hollow 22 Sep (ROM), three birds at Mt Arthur 11 Nov (NEG) and Largs/Woodville area 10 Dec (TAH), and 2+ birds at Yarrawa 21 Oct and Bureen 8 Dec (both TAH). Two birds were at Bolwarra 11 Dec and Largs/Phoenix Park 24 Dec (TAH) and a single bird at Flat Rd Bolwarra 25 Nov (ROS). *An exceptional year.*

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare (*recorded 1994, 1996, 2003, 2005*). (*Revised from: Accidental*)

Birds were present several times in open grassland on KI late in the year - three birds were there 26 Aug, one bird 23 Sep, eight birds 21 Oct and six birds 16 Dec (HWS). *This is the same location as for the 2005 records.* Also, a single bird was recorded at Tomago 9 Nov (LIA et al).

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

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

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were at Ash Island 19 Mar (HBOC), 15+ birds at Bayswater Colliery 13 Feb (NEG) and ten birds at Mt Arthur 11 Nov (NEG). Birds twice raised young at Stockton Sandspit during the year (CLT) and had a nest with young at Mt Arthur 14 Oct (NEG).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 877                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Several birds were recorded at/near the usual location at Ash Island (many observers), with the peak count being six birds 6 Feb (STA). The first record was of two birds 8 Jan (ROM) and at least one bird remained present 28 Mar (MCN). *This is the longest duration of stay since the Bird Reports commenced.* All birds present seem to have been of the race *simmilina* - in some other years, *taivana* birds have also been recorded. Unusually, a bird was also present at Ash Island 12 Dec (MCR/RUR).

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

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**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:* Two pairs were on nest at Tanilba Bay 14 Oct (KEM).

**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:* 20+ birds were at Flat Rd Bolwarra 25 Nov (ROS).

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

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

*Notable records:* 21-50 birds were recorded at Cooranbong 13 May (TOM), a location at Singleton Army Base 21 May (HBA) and Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC).

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

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

Around 70 birds were recorded near Yarrawa and also 37 birds at 1.5km into the Widden Valley 28 Oct (both HTH). Two birds were at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR) and three birds at Martindale 25 Jun (TAH).

**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:* 40 birds were at Cockle Creek 7 Mar (TOM) and 34 birds at Wingen 16 Jun (NEG). Birds were nesting at Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and Balickera Dec (MUJ), and were nest building at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Nov (HBOC).

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident of W and central parts of the Region (*text added*).

1-5 birds were recorded at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), Timor Caves 26-29 Jan (CLT et al), Warkworth 22 Feb (RIA/ROM), Jones Reserve Rd 25 Jun (TAH), Medhurst bridge Martindale 20 Aug (TAH), White Box Camp 1-2 Sep (MCR/MEL), Mt Arthur Colliery 14 Oct (NEG), Wambo Colliery Warkworth 22 Oct (HBOC) and in the Kurri Kurri Hospital area 3 & 14 Nov (LIN, BRG),

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

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

No reports were received for 2006.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*

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

Ten adults and ~50 immature birds were at PNR 29 Mar (SEP per MOA) and 12-15 birds there 29 Mar (HOD) - also many birds were reported to have been present in early Jan (ROM). 44 birds were at Hunter estuary locations 13 May (HWS) and six birds at Hexham Swamp Shortland 26 Sep (KEM). 20 birds were recorded in a garden at Teralba 6 Dec (MAC). 1-5 birds were at Tank Paddock Minmi 18 Mar (HBA), HWC 25 Apr (LIP), Cattai Creek Wetlands 8 Aug (MVBW), Warabrook 2 Sep (KEM), Hexham Swamp west 26 Sep (KEM), KI 24 Jun and 29 Oct (HWS, HHB), Minmi Rd Wallsend late Nov (RUR), Balickera Dec (MUJ), and Belmont swamp/ lagoon 4 Dec (KEM).

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

12 birds were at Hunter estuary locations 16 Dec and 1-5 birds several times in Mar and on 29 Apr and 29 Jul (HBOC, SEP, HWS). Six birds were at Tomago 18 Nov and seven birds at Maitland 21 Nov (KEM). 1-5 birds were at Morpeth STP 10 Aug and 22 Sep (LIA), Maitland 29 Oct (DDR), WWW area 29 Oct (HHB) and Tarro 28 Dec (KEM).

**Yellow-bellied Sunbird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 572                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A female bird was present at Walka Waterworks 3 March and occasionally again recorded over the next few days (F Hackney per SMJ). When first encountered, the bird was trapped in a spider web and was rescued. *The report was accepted by NSW ORAC.* This is the 4<sup>th</sup> distinct NSW record with two of the three other records being from the Hunter (see Supplementary Records).

**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:* 6+ birds were at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Mar (BRG/LIN) and Wambo Colliery Warkworth 22 Oct (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Wambo Colliery 22 Oct, and had dependent young at Timor Caves 27 Jan (CLT et al), GTD 19 Dec and HWC 23 Dec (both KEM).

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

ID No: 358                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Summer migrant.

Five birds were recorded at Wambo Rd Bulga 12 Aug (VEE per BIA) and four birds at Wingen 28 Sep (NEG). 1-2 birds were at Bolwarra Lagoon 7 Aug (TAH), Fordwich 5 Sep (HBOC), Oakhampton early Oct (HEM), Bulga 22 Oct (CLT), Widden Valley and Yarrowa 28 Oct (both HTH), Wingen 12 Dec (NEG) and Wallaby Scrub Rd 13 Dec (LIG).

**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:* 400+ birds were at Hunter estuary locations 11 Feb, 224 birds 29 Jul (HWS) and 100+ birds 19 Mar and Aug 25 (HBOC, HWS). 50 birds including many juveniles were at Wallbridge reserve 21 Jan (MAM). There were many breeding records over Jan and Sep-Dec.

**Tree Martin** *Hirundo nigricans*

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

*Notable records:* 200 birds were recorded at Milhams Pond Ash Island 15 Nov (LIA et al). 21-50 birds were at Morpeth STP 16 Feb (LIA), Belmont swamp/lagoon 3 Nov, Kurri Kurri hospital area 5 Nov, Jesmond 2 Dec, Hexham swamp 8 Dec and Tarro 28 Dec (KEM, MCR).

**Fairy Martin** *Hirundo ariel*

ID No: 360

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; small numbers over-winter (*text modified*). 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 up to 20 birds.

*Notable records:* 50+ birds were at Hexham swamp 8 Dec and some were nesting (KEM). A westerly record was of eight birds at Wingen 19 Jan (NEG), and there were winter records of 1-5 birds at HWC 18 Jun (HBOC) and Ash Island 15/16 Jul (HAP). Birds were nesting at Ash Island 19 Nov (MCN) and nest building near Milbrodale 17 Sep (HBOC).

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

ID No: 990

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Salts Bay Swansea 28 Jun and 20 Sep (CLT, KEM), Belmont Lagoon 3 Oct (HBOC), Belmont swamp/lagoon 3 Nov and 4 Dec, and Galgabba Point 13 Nov (all KEM).

**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:* 40+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 24 Oct and 8 Dec (KEM) and 20+ birds at PNR/Lenaghans Flat 5 Nov (KEM/MCR). Birds had a nest with young and were with dependent young at Bolwarra wetland 6 Dec and were carrying nesting material at HWC 10 Nov (KEM).

**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 1-5 birds.

*Notable records:* 20+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT) and 19 birds at Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM).

**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 1-2 birds.

*Notable records:* 17 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 24 Oct and 13 birds 8 Dec (KEM).

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

There was a large influx into the Bolwarra/Oakhampton area commencing late Sep (TAH, HEM) and which peaked at 28 birds around Bolwarra 2 Oct (TAH) and five birds at Oakhampton 1 Oct (HEM). Also, at least ten birds were in the Yarrawa area 24 Sep (TAH). 1-5 birds were widely and moderately often recorded in the Region over Oct-Dec. 6+ birds were at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR). Birds were feeding a fledged young at Largs 10 Dec (TAH).

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central/west of Region (*revised from: Uncertain*).

Six males and three females were in the Mt Arthur area 11 Nov (NEG), three males and five females at Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM) and 6+ birds at Widden Valley 5 Jan (MCR), Warrah Creek 22 Sep (ROM) and Largs/Woodville area 10 Dec (TAH). Five birds were at Mount Arthur 25 Sep and 14 Oct (NEG), and four birds at Bolwarra area 2 Oct (TAH). Single birds were seen/heard at Hexham Swamp 26 Sep and 24 Oct (KEM), Bolwarra 30 Sep, 4 Oct and 22 Dec (TAH), Woodville 29 Oct (HHB), SSSNR 7 Nov (KEM), Stockton Sandspit 15 Nov (VGF), Bureen 8 Dec (TAH), Morpeth STP 15 Dec (LIA) and Largs/ Phoenix Park area 24 Dec (TAH). *An exceptional year.*

**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:* 100+ birds overall were at Hexham swamp 8 Dec (KEM). 20+ birds were at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT) and Ash Island 14 Dec (KEM et al). Birds were nest building at East Seaham 8 Dec (CLT) and carrying food at GTD 19 Dec (KEM).

**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 up to 100 birds in the E of the Region during Apr – mid-May and mid-Jun – Jul.

*Notable records:* 1000+ birds in many large flocks were moving through Eleebana 24 Jul (GOA). Birds were nest building at Toronto wetland 25 Oct (KEM).

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (*revised*)

Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). 1-2 birds were seen /heard at Boarding House Dam Watagans 1 Feb (MCR), The Basin Watagans NP 3-5 Mar (MCR), Barrington House 25-26 Mar (MCR), Glenrock SRA 4 May (LIN), Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9-12 Jun (HBOC), Green Point 22 Aug (KEM), Mount Vincent 26 Aug (KEM), Coolah Tops 28 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and Allyn River 29 Oct (DDR, HHB, HTH). Also, dead birds were found at Newcastle University 8 May (HAP/POJ) and Copeland FP 7 Sep (TBW per DBP). There were breeding records from Balickera over Aug-Nov (MUJ) - *the first confirmed breeding records for the Region.*

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

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Single birds were at Wingham Brush 26 Jul (MOA), Allyn River 29 Oct (HTH) and Copeland FP 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). Birds were feeding a fledged young near Gloucester CP 29 Oct (TBW).

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident, in locations in the Maitland/Cessnock area (*Revised from: Rare*). **OK?**

Birds were reported to have been present and breeding at Mayne St Murrurundi since 2001 (per DBP), and also to be resident at Kewell Creek near Gundy (BIA). There were many records (from several reporters) for the Maitland area (ranging to Bolwarra/Lorn//Telarah/E Maitland), including six birds were recorded at Maitland 2 Oct (TAH), and birds were reported to be resident there (SMJ). A pair was with two juvenile birds at Merriwa 24 Nov (LIN et al). Elsewhere, single birds were at Kurri Kurri Jun/Jul (BUV), Wallsend 1 Nov (EKP), Singleton and Cessnock 19 Nov (both HAP).

**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:* 500+ birds were at Lorn 2 Jun (NEM) and 100-200 birds at Morpeth STP 18 May, 8 July and 10 Aug (LIA) and Hunter estuary 19 Mar and 29 Jul (HBOC, HWS). There were several and widespread breeding records spanning Sep-Dec.

**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:* Up to 200 birds were wintering in Gloucester - whereas in 2003 and 2004 the winter flocks were of only c30 birds (DBP). Birds had nests with young at HWC 10 Nov (KEM), Wingen 12 Dec (NEG) and Newcastle Memorial Park 29 Dec (KEM). A bird was taken by a Brown Goshawk at Wingen (NEG).

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

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

**Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda*

Several prior records for this species in the Hunter Region were advised to us (information from Alan Morris, the NSW Records Officer). Single birds were recorded at Port Stephens in Feb 1952 (published in *Emu* 52, 214), Broughton Island 12 Jan 1955 (a recently-shot bird, reported in *Emu* 55, 160), Maitland 22 Apr 1978 (*Aust. Birds* 14, 4) and Hawks Nest 16 Apr 2000 (*Aust. Birds*, 33, 13). Also, two beach-cast birds were found at Merewether Beach in Feb 1973 (*Aust. Birds*, 9, 46) and three birds near to Broughton Island in ~Feb 1955 (*Emu* 55, 160). The bird at Maitland was after the passage of a relict cyclone which led to many inland records of Red-tailed Tropicbirds (*Aust. Birds*, 13, 51-54).

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

Several prior records for this species in the Hunter Region were advised to us (information from Alan Morris, the NSW Records Officer). A bird was found alive at Bulahdelah after a storm in Feb 1956 (*Aust. Birds* 13, 51-54 citing McGill 1960 *Handlist of the Birds of NSW*); a dead bird was found in Widden Valley in 1978 (NSW FOC Newsletter June 1978); two birds were at sea ~140km E of Port Stephens 22 Dec 1984 (*Aust. Birds*, 20, 107); an immature bird was at Booti Booti 20 Jan 1994 (*Aust. Birds*, 29, 71); a single bird was 17 naut. miles ENE of Crowdy Head 25 Jan 1999 (*Aust. Birds*, 32, 186).



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

Several records for recent years from the lower estuary reaches of Manning River were received (all reports are RYB per CLG): single birds were frequently near the junction of Coolongolook and Wallingat Rivers in summers; a pair was at Farquhar Park Old Bar in winter 2005; a single bird was at Oyster Channel Old Bar in winter 2004; single birds frequently have been at Chinamans Beach Harrington and Harrington Back Channel; a single bird has often been present in summers at Wallis Lake upper river area.

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

A pair was regularly seen in sea front scrub at Nelson Bay June 2004 to Feb 2005 (ROA).

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

A single bird was at Green Point Forster 23 Dec 2005 (MVBW).

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

A pair was near Crowdy Bay surf club in autumn 2004 (RYB per CLG).

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus finschi*

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Sandspit 3 Feb 2004, associating with Pied Oystercatchers (HAP/BAR). *The record has been accepted by the Birds Australia Records Committee.*

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

Two prior records for this species in the Region were advised to us (information from Alan Morris, the NSW Records Officer): single birds were recorded at Seal Rocks 31 Dec 1984 (J Perry; 20<sup>th</sup> NSW record accepted by NSWORAC) and of Swansea 5 Oct 1986 (25<sup>th</sup> NSW record accepted by NSWORAC). Also, a group of ~15 birds was off Tuncurry in May 1991 (STA).

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

Five birds were recorded at Newcastle rock platform 21 Jul 2005 (HEC).

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

A single bird was at Clarencetown 5 Sep 2004 (KEM).

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

24 birds were recorded at Clarencetown 7 Sep 2003 (KEM).

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

A pair was with dependent young at Swansea 5 Nov 2005 (ADJ).

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

A pair was with dependent young at Swansea 5 Nov 2005 (ADJ).

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

A young bird was being fed by Pied Currawong at Nelson Bay 4 Mar 2005 (ROA).

**Grass Owl** *Tyto capensis*

There have been several prior records for this species that have not been detailed in the Hunter Region Bird Reports:

- Birds bred at Harrington (more likely, this was a record from Crowdy Bay NP) April 1972. Harrington was noted (in Debus et al) as the most southerly breeding location for the species.

- Single bird at Seaham January 1980
- Single bird at Harrington (more likely, this was a record from Crowdy Bay NP) June 1982
- Single bird at Wallingat SF near Bungwahl June 1983
- Road killed bird at Coolongolook September 1989
- One caught in barbed wire fence at Girvan August 1993, which later died. Also, but possibly the same record, a bird was caught in barbed wire fence at Anna Bay 4 Sep 1993, and later died
- An injured bird at Allworth 1993
- A dead bird as found on the highway near Karuah 6 Dec 1993
- A single bird at Bombah Point MLNP 4 Apr 1997

Information sources: *The Grass Owl in New South Wales*, Debus, S.J.S., Maciejewski, S.E. and McAllan, I.A.W., *Aust. Birds*, 31, 29-45; and Alan Morris (NSW Records Officer).

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

Around 200 birds were recorded at Bolton Point 30 Jan 2005 (BIA).

### **Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

Birds had nests with young at Clarencetown 26 Dec 2004 (KEM) and Swansea 28 Dec 2005 (ADJ).

### **Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

Three birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 7 Sep 2005 (NEG).

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

A pair, with one bird on nest, was recorded near Dungog 22 Oct 2005 (VEE per MOA).

### **Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*

There were 14 nests at Swansea Aug-Nov 2005 (ADJ).

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

Two pairs had nests with young at Swansea 2 Nov 2005 (ADJ).

### **Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*

30-40 birds were recorded at Bobs Farm 13 Dec 2005 (HDM).

### **Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

Birds had a nest with young at Clarencetown 7 Sep 2003 and in 2004 were nest building there on 5 Sep and feeding young 26 Dec (all KEM).

### **Yellow-bellied Sunbird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

There are previous records of this species in the Hunter Region (information from NSW Records Officer Alan Morris):

- A female nested at Hawks Nest in Nov 1985, and subsequently re-nested in Jan 1986 when eggs were laid. The bird was seen again in Nov 1986
- A bird was at Stroud 10 Dec 1985 (37km NW of Hawks Nest).

### **Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Two birds were recorded at Wallsend for 7-8 days in mid 2005 (EKP), and a single bird was at Maitland 23 Dec 2005 (SHB).

## 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.

### **Giant-Petrel spp**

A bird was recorded off Nobbys beach 9 Nov but the species identification was not able to be made.

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

A single bird was reported to have been near Timor Caves 15 May.

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

A single bird was reported to have been at Stockton Borehole Swamp 29 Dec.

### **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

A single bird was reported to have been at Ash Island 4 Sep.

### **Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

A single bird was reported to have been on Moon Island 9 Jul.

### **Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

A bird was reported to have been at Eagleton (via Raymond Terrace-Seaham) 22 Jun.

### **Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

A single bird was reported to have been at Baerami Creek Wollemi NP 9 Jun.

## CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

In the 2005 Report, breeding records for egret species at Hunter Wetlands Centre were incorrectly reported (*the data in fact were for 2004*). The 2005-06 season was the poorest for the colony since it established in 1981. Only 98 egret nests were present through the season - a decrease of 95% compared to the peak of 2,101 nests in 1988-89. There were 26 nests for Great Egret, nine nests for Intermediate Egret, two nests for Little Egret and 61 nests for Cattle Egret. (Information from M. Maddock reported in *The Wetlander*).

A report of three Brown Gerygone at Mount Arthur 7 Sep 2005 was an editing error and has been withdrawn.

# 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. 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.

## **Emu** *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

A single bird was recorded in a paddock near Broke 4 May - there was reasonable evidence to suggest it to be an escapee (ALP).

## **Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

A pair was at Green Wattle Creek 5 Nov 2005 - but there is a probability that these birds were escapees from a nearby wildlife park (NEM).

## **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** *Cacatua leadbetteri*

Two birds were at Hannam Vale 31 Mar (MVBW).

## **Western Rosella** *Cacatua icterotis*

Single birds were at Merewether Heights Sep 2004 (WKM) and Brandy Hill Dec 2004 (ART).

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following abbreviations/acronyms have been used in the Report:

|             |                                   |             |   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| <b>BBNP</b> | Booti Booti National Park         | <b>NLH</b>  | New Lambton Heights   |
| <b>BbR</b>  | Blackbutt Reserve                 | <b>NP</b>   | National Park   |
| <b>BHD</b>  | Boarding House Dam (in Watagans)  | <b>NR</b>   | Nature Reserve  |
| <b>CP</b>   | Caravan Park                      | <b>NWR</b>  | Newcastle Wetlands Reserve  |
| <b>FP</b>   | Forest Preserve                   | <b>PNR</b>  | Pambalong Nature Reserve  |
| <b>GC</b>   | Golf Club                         | <b>SBS</b>  | Stockton Borehole Swamp   |
| <b>GTD</b>  | Grahamstown Dam                   | <b>SF</b>   | State Forest  |
| <b>GRNP</b> | Goulburn River National Park      | <b>SRA</b>  | State Recreation Area   |
| <b>HRBG</b> | Hunter Region Botanic Gardens     | <b>SSNR</b> | Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve   |
| <b>HWC</b>  | Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland | <b>STP</b>  | Sewage Treatment Plant ( <i>sometimes called Wastewater Treatment Works</i> ) |
| <b>KI</b>   | Kooragang Island                  | <b>WTW</b>  | Wastewater Treatment Works  |
| <b>KNR</b>  | Kooragang Nature Reserve          | <b>WWW</b>  | Walka Water Works   |
| <b>LTP</b>  | Lemon Tree Passage                |             |   |
| <b>MLNP</b> | Myall Lakes National Park         |             |   |

## GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Grid references for commonly visited locations are:

|                               |        |                                |         |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Aberdare SF                   | K10    | Gloucester Tops                | M5/L5   |
| Allyn River                   | K5     | Grahamstown Dam (GTD)          | M9      |
| Appletree Flat                | H8     | Green Wattle Creek             | L9      |
| Arrowfield                    | H7     | Hallidays Point                | R5      |
| Ash Island                    | M10    | Harrington                     | S4      |
| Awabakal N. R.                | M10/11 | Hawks Nest                     | P8/P9   |
| Balickera                     | M9     | Hexham Swamp NR                | L10/M10 |
| Barrington House              | L5     | Howes Valley                   | H10     |
| Battery Rocks                 | E6     | Hunter Region Botanic Gardens  | M9      |
| Bayswater Colliery            | H6     | Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)   | M10     |
| Belmont Swamp & Lagoon        | M11    | Irrawang Swamp                 | M9      |
| Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)       | M10    | Jerrys Plains                  | H7      |
| Black Neds Bay                | L11    | John Brown's Lagoon            | L10     |
| Bootawah                      | Q4     | Kooragang Island               | M10     |
| Bolwarra                      | L9     | Kurri Kurri                    | K9      |
| Boarding House Dam            |        | Laguna                         | I10     |
| Boondelbah Island             | P9     | Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)       | O9      |
| Booti Booti NP (BBNP)         | R6     | Lenaghans Flat                 | L10     |
| Broke                         | I9     | Maitland                       | L9      |
| Broughton Island              | P8     | Market Swamp                   | M10     |
| Bulahdelah                    | P7     | Martindale                     | G7      |
| Bulga                         | I8     | Medowie                        | N9      |
| Cabbage Tree Island           | P9     | Morisset                       | K11     |
| Cessnock                      | K9/K10 | Moon Island (off Swansea)      | L11     |
| Chichester Dam                | M6     | Morpeth                        | L9      |
| Chichester SF                 | K5/L5  | Mount Arthur                   | H6      |
| Clarencetown                  | M8     | Mount Vincent                  | K10/L10 |
| Coon Island (Swansea Channel) | L11    | Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)     | R4      |
| Cooranbong                    | K11    | Newcastle                      | M10     |
| Copeland Common               | N4     | Newcastle Wetlands Reserve     | M10     |
| Copeland Forest Preserve      | M4/M5  | New Lambton Heights            | M10     |
| Copeland Tops State Forest    | M4     | Old Bar                        | R4      |
| Corrie Island                 |        | Oyster Cove                    | N9      |
| Denman                        | G7     | Paterson                       | L8      |
| Dungog                        | M7     | Phoenix Park                   |         |
| Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon    | J10    | Pokolbin                       | J9      |
| Fingal Bay                    | O9     | Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR) | L10     |
| Forster                       | R6     | Quorrolong                     | K10     |
| Fosterton Loop                | M7     | Rathluba Lagoon                | L9      |
| Galgabba Point                | L11    | Raymond Terrace                | M9      |
| George McGregor Park          | M10    | Redhead                        | M11     |
| Glenrock SRA                  | M10    | Salt Ash                       | N9      |
| Gloucester                    | N5     | Scone                          | H5      |

|                               |       |                          |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)        | M8    | Walka Water Works (WWW)  | L9    |
| Seal Rocks                    | R7    | Wallingat SF             | Q6/Q7 |
| Singleton                     | I8/J8 | Warakeila                | L6    |
| Stockton                      | M10   | Warkworth                | I8    |
| Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS) | L10   | Watagans SF & NP         | K11   |
| Swan Bay                      | N9    | White Box Camp (in GRNP) | C6    |
| Swansea, Swansea South        | L11   | Williamstown             | N9    |
| Taree                         | Q4    | Wingen                   | H4    |
| Tarro                         | M9    | Wingham/Wingham Brush    | Q4    |
| Toronto                       | L11   | Woko NP                  | M3    |
| Tuncurry                      | R6    | Woodville                | L9    |
| University of Newcastle       | M10   | Worimi NR                | N9    |
| Vacy                          | L8    | Wyee Point               | L11   |
| Waitui                        | R3    | Yarrawa                  | F7    |

## OBSERVER CODES

Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the Report, every observation by every observer was an important input. 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>ADJ</b>  | Jack Adams  | <b>CRL</b> | Liz Crawford   |
| <b>ALP</b>  | Peter Alexander                                       | <b>CST</b> | Crested Shrike-Twits (Twitchathon team)                        |
| <b>ART</b>  | Ted Arneson   | <b>DBP</b> | Penny Drake-Brockman   |
| <b>BAA</b>  | A Badger  | <b>DDR</b> | Dodgy Drongos (Twitchathon team)                               |
| <b>BAP</b>  | Paul Baird  | <b>DEL</b> | L Denham   |
| <b>BAR</b>  | Richard Baxter  | <b>DIM</b> | Marie Diemar   |
| <b>BAV</b>  | Valda Barton  | <b>DUP</b> | Pam Durie  |
| <b>BAW</b>  | Wilma Barden  | <b>EKP</b> | Peter Ekert  |
| <b>BIA</b>  | Birding-Australia (Internet group)                    | <b>FIM</b> | Mike Fidler  |
| <b>BID</b>  | Doug Biddle   | <b>FIP</b> | Pamela Fitzsimons  |
| <b>BLM</b>  | Max Blanch  | <b>FOC</b> | Reported in Birding NSW (Field Ornithologists Club) newsletter |
| <b>BOH</b>  | Haley Boyle   | <b>FAA</b> | Adam Fawcett   |
| <b>BRG</b>  | Grant Brosie  | <b>FRA</b> | Allan Friis  |
| <b>BUV</b>  | V Burgess   | <b>FRN</b> | Neil Fraser  |
| <b>CAB</b>  | Brett Campbell  | <b>GED</b> | David Geering  |
| <b>CAR</b>  | Ross Carlton  | <b>GOA</b> | Anthony Gooden   |
| <b>CBOC</b> | Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter | <b>GOC</b> | Colin Goodenough   |
| <b>CHM</b>  | Margaret Chegwidden                                   | <b>GOJ</b> | John Goswell   |
| <b>CJB</b>  | John, Beth Cockerell                                  | <b>HAM</b> | Matt Hamonet   |
| <b>CLG</b>  | Greg Clancy   | <b>HAP</b> | Phil Hansbro   |
| <b>CLT</b>  | Tom Clarke  | <b>HAS</b> | Sue Hamonet  |
| <b>COF</b>  | Frank Cosgrove  | <b>HBA</b> | HBOC Atlassing Survey  |

|             |   |            |                        |
|-------------|---|------------|------------------------|
| <b>HBOC</b> | Observation from an HBOC outing or camp                   | <b>NEM</b> | Mike Newman            |
| <b>HCL</b>  | Chris, Liz Herbert  | <b>OSP</b> | Paul Osborn            |
| <b>HDM</b>  | Diane, Michael Hatfield                                   | <b>POJ</b> | Jenny Powers           |
| <b>HEC</b>  | Chris Herbert   | <b>POP</b> | Pat Pountney           |
| <b>HHB</b>  | Hunter Home Brewers (Twitchathon team)                    | <b>PRC</b> | Catherine Price        |
| <b>HOD</b>  | Doug Howarth  | <b>PHP</b> | Peter Phillips         |
| <b>HPS</b>  | Hunter pelagic surveys                                    | <b>RAL</b> | Lyn Rayward            |
| <b>HTH</b>  | Hunter Thickheads (Twitchathon team)                      | <b>RDB</b> | Dorothy, Bob Raine     |
| <b>HNJ</b>  | Norm, June Harris   | <b>RIA</b> | Allan Richardson       |
| <b>HUF</b>  | Florence Humphreys  | <b>ROA</b> | Alan Rogers            |
| <b>HUL</b>  | Liz Huxtable  | <b>ROM</b> | Michael Roderick       |
| <b>HWS</b>  | HBOC Wader Surveys  | <b>ROS</b> | Steven Roderick        |
| <b>JAJ</b>  | Jaii Jeffries   | <b>RYB</b> | Bret Ryan              |
| <b>JED</b>  | Dick Jenkin   | <b>RUR</b> | Rachael Russell        |
| <b>JOD</b>  | Di Johnson  | <b>SEP</b> | Peter Settle           |
| <b>KEM</b>  | Michael Kearns  | <b>SHB</b> | Brett Shields          |
| <b>LAL</b>  | Lyn Lambert   | <b>SLJ</b> | Leone, John Storm      |
| <b>LIA</b>  | Ann Lindsey   | <b>SMJ</b> | James Smart            |
| <b>LIG</b>  | Greg Little   | <b>SMR</b> | Rowley Smith           |
| <b>LIN</b>  | Nick Livanos  | <b>SPJ</b> | Jenny Spencer          |
| <b>LMB</b>  | Marie, Bob Langdown                                       | <b>STA</b> | Alan Stuart            |
| <b>LPC</b>  | Paddy, Caryl Lightfoot                                    | <b>TAH</b> | Harold Tarrant         |
| <b>MAA</b>  | Anthony Marchment   | <b>TAT</b> | Theo Tasoulis          |
| <b>MAC</b>  | Charles Mann  | <b>TBW</b> | Tomaree Birdwatchers   |
| <b>MAM</b>  | Max Maddock   | <b>THJ</b> | Judi Thomas            |
| <b>MBV</b>  | B & V Murphy  | <b>TOM</b> | Michael Todd           |
| <b>MCA</b>  | Alan McBride  | <b>TWD</b> | Diane Twose            |
| <b>MCN</b>  | Neville McNaughton  | <b>VAR</b> | R Vale                 |
| <b>MCR</b>  | Robert McDonald   | <b>VEL</b> | Lynn Vella             |
| <b>MDV</b>  | Don, Val Moon   | <b>VGf</b> | Fred van Gessel        |
| <b>MEL</b>  | Lorna Mee   | <b>WCR</b> | Wetlands Centre Record |
| <b>MOA</b>  | Alan Morris   | <b>WIL</b> | Louise Williams        |
| <b>MUJ</b>  | Jenny Musicka   | <b>WRO</b> | Rosemary Waymark       |
| <b>MVBW</b> | Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers | <b>WRA</b> | Ray Walker             |
| <b>NBL</b>  | NSW Birdline report                                       | <b>WEJ</b> | Judy Westphal          |
| <b>NEG</b>  | Greg Newling  | <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.

