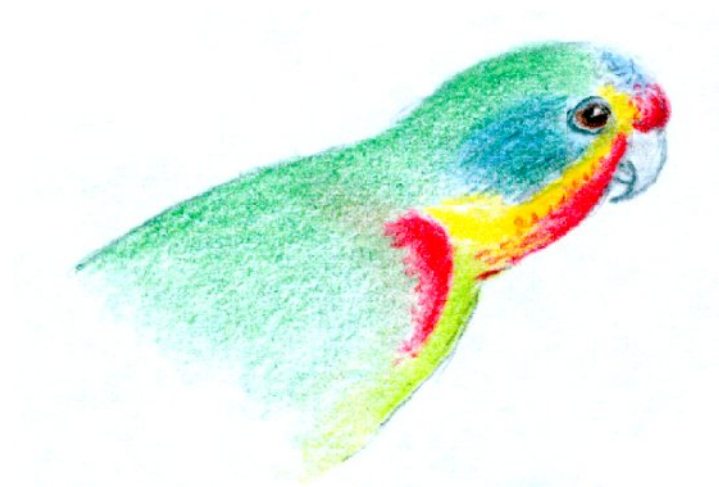


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Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*: 70 birds present in 2008



Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*: newly listed as Vulnerable in NSW

Both sketches by Lois Wooding

FOREWORD

I have pleasure in writing this foreword to the 16th Annual Bird Report for the Hunter Region of New South Wales having had a long and pleasant association with the members of the club.

At a time when many organisations are scaling down on their publications it is good to see this Annual Bird Report thriving and full of interesting observations, which reflect the energy of the HBOC membership. The HBOC is fortunate to have one of the strongest committees, again at a time when many groups are struggling to fill key positions on their committee.

An Annual Report needs to be interesting and provide encouragement for members to work harder to provide as comprehensive a cover as possible of all bird species in the area covered by the report. Declining numbers of our threatened species are of concern but it is only with the effort of contributors to the Annual Report that we can monitor these declines and bring this to the attention of researchers and to government authorities. Worrying trends can also be the increase in the numbers of some species. These can be as big a threat to bird conservation as a result of competition for nest sites or food resources.

The Hunter River estuary is the most important coastal site for migratory waders in NSW despite the fact that the Hunter estuary has suffered extensive degradation as a result of development, particularly over the past 30 or so years. In fact the threats are not abating, with projected development poised to destroy large areas of wetland that are key to the survival of migratory waders in the estuary and in turn are likely to result in a significant impact on the wader populations of NSW.

However, it is at times like this that the HBOC has thrived in the past. One of the major accomplishments of the group was the handling of the threat to 'Big Pond'. This brought the issue to the attention of politicians and government authorities resulting in the production of major reports and an important offset policy and funding being put in place. The fact that Big Pond has been 'reclaimed' and funding for offsets for the site were, to a large extent, ineffective, does not take away what the HBOC achieved.

The Annual Bird Report provides a valuable resource, used by many as a tool to demonstrate the importance of the many sites within the area covered by the Club. It is usually not possible to go back in time to provide data to illustrate the importance of a site facing a development application. However, with the Annual Report now covering 16 years of detailed records we can say with some degree of confidence how important an area may be, and why it should be protected.

In recent years HBOC has highlighted the presence of a lot of species that have undoubtedly been missed in earlier times. This I think is as a result of effort and improved skills rather than an increase in the number of species present in the Hunter region. Pectoral Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler and Wood Sandpiper need expert field experience to locate and identify as only small numbers visit our Wetlands, all be it on a regular basis. Yellow Wagtails are now an annual occurrence. Of course many woodland birds have also been noted in more detail than ever before. These skills are a credit to members of the HBOC who have encouraged others to look carefully at all birds in the field. By really getting to know the common birds makes it more likely to find the 'unusual' species that would otherwise be overlooked.

Some big challenges that remain are cryptic species such as Australasian Bittern and crakes and rails. There are likely to be more birds than those located so far, however locating them requires skill as well as the number of observers to either flush the birds once a year (as the Latham Snipe is counted) in the case of Australasian Bitterns, or locating 'booming' males during the breeding season. Although many people are opposed to the use of play back calls I believe they can be legitimately used to locate crakes and rails once or twice a year. The big challenge then would be analysing the data and habitat characteristics.

Getting to know the needs of various species has been an area of expertise that the Club can be justly proud of. The reinstatement of the Stockton roost site was due to no accident. It took perseverance and overcoming frustration on the part of a dedicated team. A similar dedication will be needed to truly assess the population of the Australasian Bittern and to assess the habitats it requires. Based on overseas studies of similar species it is not just an expanse of reed beds but also a network of channelling within the reed beds where the birds can 'fish'. I hope future reports will include more sightings of this species, or helping to highlight the plight of this bittern due to lack of effective habitat management.

As a professional ornithologist I would like to take this opportunity to point out that it is the 'amateur' 'birdwatchers' that do more to find the less obvious birds and provide the 'man power' for extensive surveys, such as the Regent Honeyeater studies, Birds in Backyards, Australian Bird Atlas and the Shorebirds 2020 projects.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Wilma Barden who worked tirelessly over many years with waders as well as 'her' Freckled Duck breeding program, with little recognition for her efforts (except in these reports of course).

The dedication of a few members, in particular Alan Stuart, in keeping members (and non-members) interested with regular emails, and an impressive website, keeping us up to date with the latest interesting sightings and spurring us on to look out for seabirds off the Nobbys, take part in the now comprehensive biannual wader counts of Port Stephens or help with surveys of our threatened birds. In turn these efforts are showing up in the Annual Reports, such as this one with its long list of highlights for 2008.

It is pleasing to see an increase in the number of tables of data over the past couple of years. This provides a much better picture of changes in the population of species during the year. In some species it is clear that birds are moving through the Hunter during the 'season' and that the numbers of birds that rely on the Hunter are most likely much greater than the maximum count at any one time.

My only criticism of this, and most Australian annual reports, is that they are based on the traditional, northern hemisphere, calendar. As a result any charts or tables for the year split the season into two, instead of working on southern hemisphere 'seasons'.

Phil Straw
11 August 2009

Phil Straw, a Sydney based professional ornithologist, is the Convenor of the NSW Wader Studies Group and Vice-Chairman of the Australasian Wader Studies Group

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 2008. The information is based upon observation records gathered from a variety of sources.

There are four additions to the species list. One relates to a bird in 2008 – Red-footed Booby. The other additions to the list are historical records that came to light recently and were accepted by the Records Appraisal Committee. Lesser Frigatebird and Black Tern are considered to have been accidental visitors to the Region and therefore possibly will re-appear. The other species, Ground Parrot, historically had viable populations within the Region and for completeness this species has been added. The official Hunter Region list now stands at 428 species. For 2008, 344 of these species were confirmed to have been present in the Region and information about those observations is presented in the Report.

125 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2008 (*the lowest number since 2004*). In the 10 years from 1999, 229 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 32 species there are pre-1999 records). *Readers are referred to the 2007 Bird Report for a full description of what constitutes a breeding record that would be acceptable for inclusion into the Bird Reports.*

From 1976, when HBOC was formed, collated information about local birdlife was mainly based on the observations made by the club during its organised activities, supplemented by an informal reporting system for other sightings. Since 1993, with publication of the first annual Bird Report, data collection became more systematic. Also, the past 20 or so years have seen a marked increase in the amount of field work by HBOC members (and too, a much increased membership over that period). This has led to a substantial rise in both the number of species recorded each year and the number of breeding records. Figures 1 and 2 show the results from 1976 to 2008.

Figure 1: Number of species recorded each year

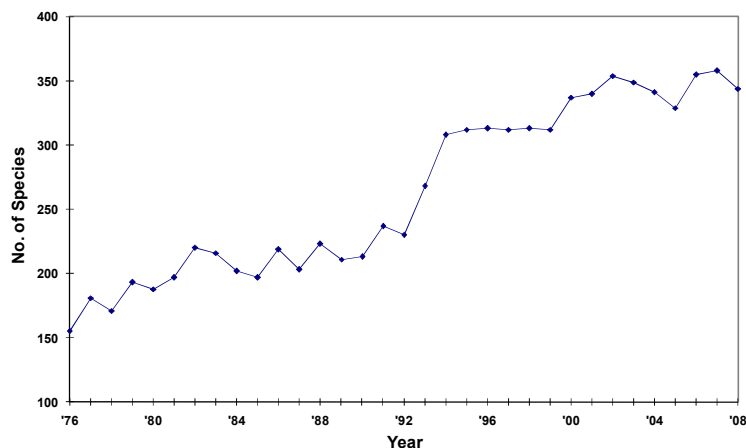
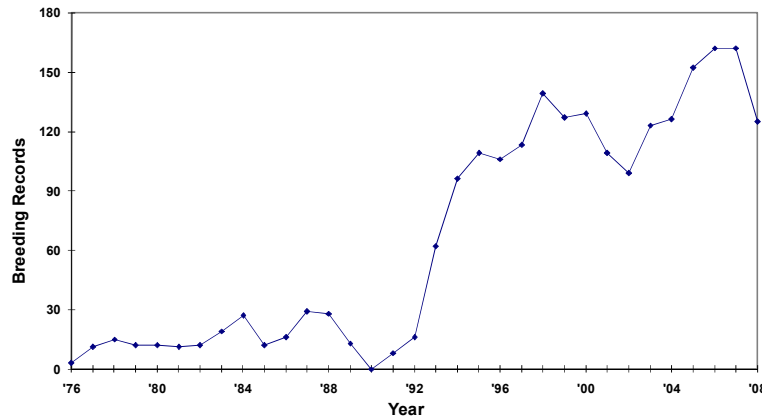


Figure 2: Number of breeding records each year



In August 2009, shortly before publication of this 2008 Report, the NSW Scientific Committee made three changes to the Schedule for the Threatened Species Conservation Act that affect Hunter Region birds. The Gould's Petrel has been re-classified as Vulnerable, not Endangered. This reflects the success of the Recovery Program led by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). The Beach Stone-curlew is now considered Critically Endangered due to its very low population in NSW (estimated by DECCW to be just 13 birds). The Little Lorikeet is now classified as Vulnerable in NSW because of the substantial decline in its estimated population across the state.

Readers will note an increase this year in the number of Tables of data. This reflects an encouraging trend by observers to conduct regular surveys of a particular location. Data from such surveys are inherently far more valuable as a future record than are reports of opportunistic sightings. We do not discourage the latter, but we do encourage the former! The current philosophy is to publish summaries of such regular surveys in the annual Bird Reports (but eventually this may become subject to space limitations) and to encourage that more detailed accounts of the surveys are submitted for the sister HBOC publication, *The Whistler*.

When the Bird Reports were commenced in 1993, HBOC selected an *Area of Interest* ("the Hunter Region") as the focus for the Reports. The core part of it was the land mass nominated in the 1989 Hunter Regional Environmental Plan. HBOC also included ocean to the east of that land mass into its *Area of Interest*. Readers should note that the land area defined in the 1989 Regional Environmental Plan is very similar to, but differs somewhat from, the land area managed now by the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

The 1989 Regional Environmental Plan divided the land mass into three sub-regions, which together encompassed 14 local government authorities. Since that time, some of the local authorities in NSW have been amalgamated. For continuity of record-keeping, HBOC retains the same *Area of Interest* as originally chosen. It is best defined now as:

- The area managed by local government authorities for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock and Port Stephens (the Lower Hunter sub-region),

- The area managed by local government authorities for Dungog, Gloucester, Greater Taree and Great Lakes (Northern Hunter sub-region),
- The area managed by local government authorities for Muswellbrook, Scone and Singleton, and formerly managed by local government authorities for Merriwa and Murrurundi (Upper Hunter sub-region), and
- The ocean within 100km to the east of the Region's landmass.

A map showing the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report.

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 2008, the Records Appraisal Committee members were Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Fred van Gessel, Phil Hansbro, Mike Newman, Craig Anderson and Mick Roderick.

The value of the Bird Reports is due to the many observers who submit details of their sightings. Whether the records are made as a one-off casual observation or as part of a regular 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 2008 Report.

Alan Stuart
2 September 2009

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 2008 included the following:

- Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* - two birds at Goulburn River NP 4 Oct
- Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah* - a pair at Bulahdelah Jul-Aug and 1-2 birds in Myall Lakes NP Nov-Dec
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* - two birds at Morpeth WTW 23 May
- Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* - more than 1,000 birds at Ash Island 20 Feb
- Hardhead *Aythya australis* - more than 1,600 birds at John Browns Lagoon Mulbring 13 Jul
- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* - up to 3 birds at Walka Waterworks Sep-Oct
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* - two birds at Harrington 25 Jan
- Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* - at least 30 birds flying over Newcastle harbour 27 Dec
- Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* - 26 birds on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct
- Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* - 50+ birds off Nobbys beach 29 Jul
- Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* - 81 birds off Nobbys beach 15 Jul
- Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia* - around 10,000 birds off Nobbys beach 24 Aug
- Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator* - 154 birds offshore from Newcastle 31 May
- Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* - a single bird was taken into care at Blacksmiths Beach 24 Mar and successfully rehabilitated
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* - 1-2 birds often at Tomago Wetlands Sep-Nov and single birds at Hexham swamp Feb and Oct
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - single birds at Little Pelican 10 Feb and Brimbin NR 16 Oct
- Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* - around 1,200 birds at Manning River locations 19-21 April
- Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* - single birds at Harrington 22 Feb and 20 Apr, Manning Point 6 Apr, Tomaree NP 18 Jun, Crowdy Head 20 Sep and Birubi Point Sep
- Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis* - 7,924 birds night roosting at Irrawang Swamp 28 Apr and ~1,600 birds at Manning River 12 May
- Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis* - 10 birds including two chicks at Black Neds Bay 18 Sep and three birds at Ash Island 26 Feb
- Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* - two birds at Martindale 8 Oct
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* - several records of breeding pairs from locations around Port Stephens Sep-Nov
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris* - a pair continues to be resident at Manning River, with many records of 1-2 birds, and a single bird was at Saltwater NP 21 Sep
- Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* - 107 birds at Port Stephens 10 Feb and 154 birds there 4 July (1.0-1.5% of the world population)
- Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus* - up to ~55 birds around Newcastle harbour Jan-Apr (>1% of the population of the southern Australian sub-species)
- Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* - 2,718 birds in Hexham Swamp 2 Nov
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* - a single bird at Stockton Sandspit 10-12 Sep
- Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* - 100+ birds at Manning River over Apr-Jun with peak count of 121 birds 2-3 Jun
- Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* - some birds at Mudbishops Point 13 & 25 Jan and 14 Dec

- Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* - first records from John Brown's Lagoon Mulbring since May 2000
- Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* - a single bird at Birubi Point from 24 Sep to 2 Oct
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* - a single bird at Lake Pokolbin 9 Oct
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* - a single bird at Ash Island 3-6 Apr
- Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax* - a female bird at Wingen 31 Oct
- Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus* - a single bird off Nobbys Beach 13 Feb
- Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* - a single bird off Manning Point 23 Mar
- Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata* - a single bird at Old Bar 22 Mar
- Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* - a single bird off Manning Point 23 Mar
- Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus* – a single bird at South Pindimar 29 Jun
- Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – a single bird at Stockton Beach 11 Nov
- Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* - two birds near Merriwa 12 Jan
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* - 70 birds near Branxton 29 May, 20 birds at Galgabba Point 16 Jun and 24 Jul and occasional records of lesser numbers from elsewhere
- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans* - a single bird at Warkworth 28 Aug
- Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris* - single birds at Ash Island Jan and Feb
- Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus* – a pair at Warkworth 19 Nov
- Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* - several pairs successfully completed breeding at Tomalpin in Jan, and small numbers of birds were at Clarendontown late Jan, Manning Point 1 May, Morisset 13 Sep and Quorrobolong Aug-Sep
- White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis* – a single bird at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan
- Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* - five birds near Bunnan 8 Sep
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* - regularly present at Ash Island 11 Feb to 6 Apr, with peak counts of 3+ birds in late Feb, and also single birds at Stockton Beach early Jan and Hexham swamp 11 Jan and 15 Feb
- First confirmed breeding records for Lewin's Rail and Brush Cuckoo

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Introduction

Bird species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows that of L. Christidis and W. Boles in the 2008 CSIRO publication *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds* (ISBN 9780643065116).

Definitions of the terms used in status descriptions for the species in the Report are:

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 Report. Breeding status is also indicated for each species. For species with no confirmed breeding records for at least 10 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 large proportion of records that are received indicate abundance levels for the species present by using the categories: A = 1-5 birds; B = 6-20 birds; C = 21-50 birds; D = 51-100 birds; and 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 are reported.

An ID number is provided for the majority of the 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 code is maintained by Birds Australia as part of the Checklist of Australian Birds (<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au>).

BIRDS

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered population Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident in W of Region.

Two sub-adult birds were at White Box GRNP 4 Oct (HBOC) - *first record for the Region since 2004.*

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathami*

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

Eight birds were recorded at Wingham Brush 19 Mar (STA) and 1-5 birds at Woko NP 14-16 Jan (CLT), Gloucester Tops Jan (RIA), Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM), Mount Sugarloaf 4 Nov (HBOC) and Saltwater NP Apr-Jun, Aug and Oct (STA).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

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

1-2 birds were at Warkworth 16 Jan (RIA), Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and Medhurst Bridge Martindale 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), and 3+ birds at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC). Birds had returned to Bolwarra by 25 Oct but numbers were down on recent years (TAH). Also see Supplementary Records.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

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

Notable records: Four birds and 10 dependent young were at Old Bar Jan (BRG) and a pair had 4 chicks at Crowdy Head 20 Apr (STA). A bird was in a garden at Kotara 8 Oct (NIJ).



Brown Quail: sketch by Grant Brosie

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare, possibly overlooked (*recorded 1994, 2000*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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: Some birds were at Seaham Swamp NR late Oct and 17 Nov (HHB, MAM). A pair had three young at Hexham swamp 14 Dec (NEM). The population in the Shortland area seems to be stable.

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

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

200+ birds were recorded at Doughboy Hollow 19 Oct (LIA/CLT), 65 birds there 28 Jun (NEG), 30 birds 13 Nov (MOA) and 10 birds 20 Feb (RIA). Elsewhere, 18 birds were at PNR 2 Nov (MEL/NIJ), 2 at North Bellbird 10 Nov (HHB) and a single bird at HWC 8-14 Mar (SRM, LIP).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

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

50+ birds were at HWC/NWR 18 Aug and 28 Oct, and Minmi WTW 1 Sep (CLT, GOA, NEM). 30-40+ birds were at HWC Jun and Oct (LIP, ROD) and 2-10 birds 3 Feb and Nov-Dec (HBOC, WID). Elsewhere, 19 birds were at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan (LIA/NEM) and 1-5 birds at PNR 1 Mar (MOA) and Fletcher 3 Dec (NBL). **Breeding:** A bird had ducklings at HWC 15 Oct (ROD).

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

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

1-5 birds were recorded regularly at 3 locations - GTD, Hunter Estuary (principally, Deep Pond) and WWW. 12 birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 16 Aug and 6 birds 19 Apr and 17 May (Table 3), and 6-7 birds were at GTD 14 Jan and 25 Feb (MAM). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Salamander Bay 19 Jul (ROA), Pokolbin 4 Aug (BRG), Ellalong 9 Aug (MOA), Lake Liddell and John Brown's Lagoon Mulbring both 26 Oct (MOA *et al.*) and Hexham swamp 2 Nov (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at KI 16 Aug and WWW 10 Sep (ROM, BAP/MEL).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

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.

Notable records: The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 393 birds 10 Jun, with 200+ birds over Jan-Sep (Table 2). At Port Stephens the peak count was 365 birds in Nov and 200+ birds were present over Aug-Dec (Table 8). 263 birds were at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov and 217 birds 12 Oct (HBOC, LIA *et al.*), and 219 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 15 Nov (Table 15). There were frequent records of 50-100+ birds from sub-areas of these locations; also 50+ birds often at Hunter Estuary locations (Table 3). **Breeding:** There were many records, widespread from the E of the Region, for all months except Jan. There were 17 nests at Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and also many cygnets, and 35 cygnets were present at Morpeth WTW 11 Sep (both LIA *et al.*).

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

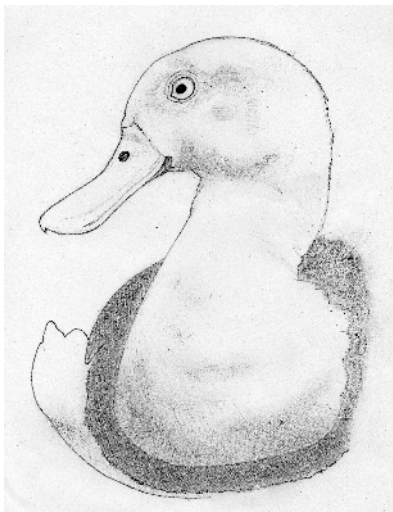
ID No: 206

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2005-07).

A pair was often recorded at Bulahdelah from 25 Jul to 15 Aug (BRG, others), not subsequently seen there. 1-2 birds were sometimes at Myall Lakes NP locations (Tamboi, Myall river Camp, Bombah Point) from 20 Nov onwards (BTS, BIA).



Radjah Shelduck: sketch by Allan Richardson

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Rare (recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03, 2006-07).

A pair of birds was recorded at Morpeth WTW 23 May and 30 Jul (LIA/NEM).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as up to 20 birds near fresh to brackish waters.

Notable records: 90 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 19 Apr (Table 15) and 50+ birds at Hunter Estuary 19 Apr and Port Stephens Dec (Tables 3, 8). 21-50 birds were sometimes at these locations and also at Morpeth WTW 23 May (LIA/NEM), Wallabadah Rock 5-9 Jun (HBOC), WWW 14 May (BAP/MEL), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC), Bulga 14 Oct (KEM/MCR) and PNR 14 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had young at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*), and were breeding at Balickera over Sep-Oct (MUJ).

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

Good numbers were present at Morpeth WTW over May-Nov with the peak count 105 birds 10 Jun (Table 2). 62 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 19 Jul and 22 birds 16 Aug (Table 3). Eight birds were at Ash Island 29 Nov (WID), four birds at WWW 10 Sep (BAP/MEL) and two birds at SSSNR 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and Hexham Swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*).

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

ID No: 200

HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Endangered

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2008.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded at medium-large fresh waters in central and E of Region as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: The peak counts at Morpeth WTW were 269 birds 30 Jul and 127 birds 23 May, with 30-70 birds regularly present Feb-Aug (Table 2). 100+ birds were at Hunter Estuary locations during Apr-Aug with peak count 256 birds 19 Jul; 63 birds also were present there 19 Jan (Table 3). 20+ birds were at Ash Island 5 Feb and HWC 22 Jun (both HBOC) and 16 birds at Hexham Swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*). A White-bellied Sea-eagle took a bird at Ash Island 7 Jun (BIA).

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

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

Notable records: 828 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp (in a full survey) 12 Oct and 905 birds there 2 Nov (HBOC). There was an influx to Morpeth WTW commencing in Apr with many hundreds of birds present for the remainder of the year and peak counts of 970+ birds 10 Jun and 27 Aug (Table 2). 100+ birds were at Hunter Estuary locations Apr-Jun and Oct-Dec with peak count 372 birds 17 May (Table 3, others). 200+ birds were at HWC 14 & 22 Jun (LIP, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at HWC 13 Jan (JOD).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

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

Notable records: An estimated 1,000+ birds were at Ash Island 20 Feb (MOA); in the regular surveys of the Hunter Estuary, 100+ birds were present most of the year with peak count 701 birds 8 Mar (Table 3). 100+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW most months with peak count 467 birds 23 May (Table 2). 380 birds were at Leneghans Flat/PNR 2 Nov (MEL/NIJ), 284 birds at Hexham Swamp (in a full survey) 12 Oct and 353 birds there 2 Nov (HBOC), and 200+ birds at HWC 22 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Leneghans Flat 1 Mar (FOC).

Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 1 (*Amended*) Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Six birds were recorded at Dora Creek 6 Aug and three birds there 11 Aug (GOC). 1-5 birds were at HWC 22 Jun (HBOC), Warabrook 25 Oct (WID) and Raymond Terrace late Oct (HHB).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

ID No: 208 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as up to 50 birds at small to large waters.

Notable records: 831 birds were recorded in a full survey of Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (HBOC) and 332 at some sites there 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*). 100+ birds were at Morpeth WTW over Jan-Jun with peak count of 303 birds 27 Feb (Table 2). 350+ birds were present at Leneghans Flat 1 Sep (NEM), ~200 birds at John Browns Lagoon 13 Jul (ROM) and 100+ birds at HWC 22 Jun (HBOC). 51-100 birds were at WWW 12 Mar and 14 May (Table 1), Hunter Estuary Apr-Aug (Table 3) and Irrawang swamp 22 May and 24 Jun (MAM). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Towarri NP 16 Sep (HBOC) and had young at East Seaham 8 Aug and Tomago Wetlands 18 Nov (both MCN *et al.*) and at WWW 18 Oct (MAM).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: 1,600+ birds were recorded at John Browns Lagoon 13 Jul (ROM). 504 birds were at Morpeth WTW 11 Sep and 262 birds 29 Oct, with 60-150+ birds having been present May-Aug (Table 2). 143 birds were at Hunter Estuary 13 Dec and 60+ were often there Jun-Oct (Table 3). Birds were present all year at WWW with peak count of 200+ birds 18 Oct (MAM) and 182 birds 10 Sep and several other counts of 50+ birds (Table 1). 30+ birds were often at Bedminster swamp with peak count 60 birds 22 Oct (MAM), and 36 birds were at PNR 2 Nov (MEL/NIJ).

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

ID No: 216 HBOC Category: 2 (Amended) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon visitor (*Revised from: Rare*).

1-3 birds often were recorded at WWW over Aug-Dec (Table 1, BRG, LIN).

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

ID No: 107 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1952, 1955, 1973, 1978, 2000, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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 2008.

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 up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at HWC 22 Jun (HBOC), WWW 9 Jul and 10 Sep (Table 1), Hexham swamp Minmi 2 & 17 Nov (HBOC, MEL/NIJ) and in winter at Hunter Estuary locations (Table 3). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at HWC 19 Oct and had young at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan and HWC 2 Dec (all HBOC).

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

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

Status: Resident.

10+ birds were often at Hunter Estuary locations, mainly Deep Pond, with peak count of 38 birds 17 May (Table 3). Birds were frequently at WWW with peak count of 8 birds 14 May (Table 1, MAM, TAH). 1-5 birds were recorded at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 17 May (HAS *et al.*), Morisset WTW 17 May (RIA), Hexham Swamp 1 Jun (CLT), Morpeth WTW 10 Jun and 11 Sep (LIA/NEM), Irrawang swamp Sep-Oct (MAM), GTD 27 Oct (MCR/KEM) and Lake Liddell 13 Nov (MOA).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

10+ birds were regularly at WWW with peak counts 41 birds 14 May & 38 birds 9 Apr (Table 1) - *the highest counts for this location since the regular surveys commenced in 2003*. Elsewhere, seven birds were at Lake Liddell 17 Sep (HBOC) and 1-5 birds there 26 Oct and 13 Nov (MOA *et al.*), eight birds at GTD 14 Jan (MAM) and 1-5 birds 4 Feb and 27 Oct (MAM, MCR/ KEM) and 6+ birds at Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** There was much activity at WWW: two pairs had young and another nest building in Jan (BAP, NIJ): six pairs had young (14+ chicks) mid Feb (BAP, FRA); birds had young 14 May and were on nest 11 Dec (BAP/MEL).

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.

Notable records: 145 birds were feeding in Connolly Park Carrington 18 Dec (STA), 100 birds were at Speers Point 3 Dec (GOC), 90 birds near Nobbys Beach 9 Apr (THJ), and 20+ birds near Newcastle baths 20 Jan (HBOC) and at Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: 21 birds were recorded at Dora Creek 27 Jul and seven birds there 11 Jun (GOC), and birds were present in flocks at Gloucester Park early May (DBP). **Breeding:** A pair was with 3 immatures at Chichester Dam 17 Apr (FIM) and six birds including dependent young were at Dora Creek 5 & 8 Jul (GOC).

Spotted 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.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

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.

Notable records: Seven birds were recorded at Windeyers Creek 8 Aug (CLT) and three birds at Mount Sugarloaf 4 Nov (HBOC).

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

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

1-2 birds were at Forster Jan (BRG), Woko NP 14-16 Jan and 11 Feb (CLT, CBOC), Raymond Terrace 3 Mar (MEL), Wingham Brush 19 Mar (STA), Warkworth 29 Sep – 1 Oct (RIA) and Harrington 26 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

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

15+ birds were present at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct and 6+ birds at Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (both HBOC), and 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the W of the Region. A bird was on nest at Wingen 12 Oct (NEG). Also see Supplementary Records.

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

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

A single bird was recorded at Taylors Beach 19 Jul (ROA).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen 4 May (NEG) and Wallabadah Rock 5-9 Jun (HBOC). There were breeding records for Sep, Nov and Dec. A bird was attacked by a Peregrine Falcon at Wingen late Oct (NEG).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2003*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident, mainly in central and W of the Region.

1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the W and central parts of the Region and at Harrington 20 Sep and 16 & 26 Oct (STA, MCR/KEM). 6+ birds were at Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP) and 12 birds at Richmond Vale 20 Jul (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: 25+ birds were together at Tocal 11 May (NEM) and 30 birds, in two main groups, at Fishers Hill Rd Vacy 1 Nov (TAH). Ten birds were at Warakeila 29 Apr (NEM). There were breeding records from Balickera throughout Jul-Nov (MUJ) - this is understood to have involved repeat attempts.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. 1-2 birds often recorded in well-forested areas in the E and central parts of the Region.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

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

Eight birds were at Woko NP 11 Feb (CBOC) and many birds in a tree together at Allyn River Forest Park 26 Oct (HTH). 1-5 birds were recorded at Woko NP 14-16 Jan (CLT), Copeland Tops SCA 24 Feb (NBL), Allyn river 15 Mar and 26 Oct (MEL, HHB), Wingham Brush 19 Mar (STA), Main Creek Rd Dungog 27 May (TBW per GOA), Saltwater 10 Aug and 21 Sep (DBP, STA), Wallabi Point 1 Sep (DBP) and Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

ID No: 023 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1996, 1999, 2006*)

No confirmed reports were received for 2008.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

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

Two birds were recorded at Harrington RF 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*).

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.

A flock of ~70 birds flew over Gloucester 16 Apr and 30+ birds were often at Gloucester early May (DBP). 30-40 birds were recorded at Gap Creek Watagans 1 Mar (FOC), Peach Tree Allyn River 15 Mar (MEL), PNR (flying over) 21 Mar (MOA), Dora Creek 7 Apr (GOC), Paterson river 20 Oct (NEM), Gloucester 8 Nov (MOA) and feeding regularly at Woodville Nov - early Dec (NEM). 6-20 birds were at Woko NP 11 Feb (CBOC), Martinsville 24 Feb (HBOC), PNR 1 May (CLT), Dungog 27 May (TBW per GOA) and Broadmeadow 12 Dec (RIA), and 1-5 birds at Kurri Kurri Jan (BRG), Morpeth Common 7 Oct (BRG), Cooranbong 9 Oct (RAI) and Harrington 26 Oct (MCR/KEM).

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: Three birds were together at Blackalls Park 11 Aug (DUP *et al.*) and birds were with fledged young at HWC 20 Mar (LIP) and East Seaham 3 Dec (GOA *et al.*). Birds were on nest at Merewether 30 Sep (MAJ) and East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA *et al.*).

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

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

A bird was heard at Werakata NP 22 Feb (GOJ). Also see Supplementary Records.

Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*

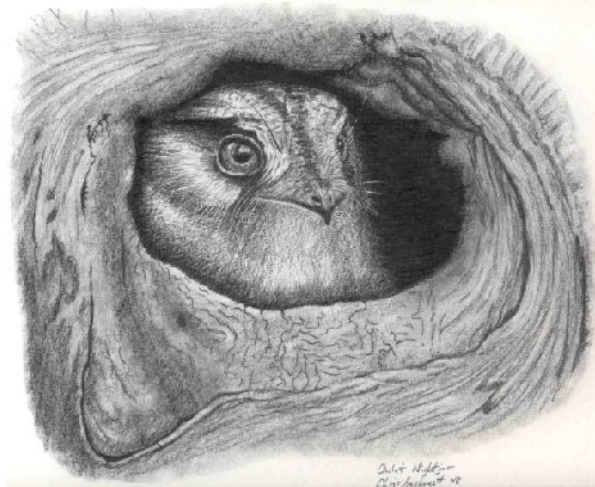
ID No: 331 HBOC Category: 3 (*Amended*) Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1989*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

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

Birds were heard at Kurri Kurri 22 Jan (RIA), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Werakata NP 22 Feb (GOJ), Stockton Creek 25 Mar (RIA), Balickera Apr and Nov-Dec (MUJ), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC), White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM) and Wingen 18 Dec (NEG), and regularly at Martins Creek during Nov (MCR).



Australian Owlet-nightjar: sketch by Chris Herbert

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: Hundreds of birds were recorded west of Branxton 4 Feb (LIG) and 150+ birds at Singleton 20 Feb (RIA). ~100 birds were flying over Newcastle harbour 27 Dec (BRG).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

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

30+ birds were flying over Newcastle harbour 27 Dec (BRG), and a single bird was recorded at Bolton Point 7 Jan (BIA).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

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

~100 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon visitor (*recorded 2002, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2008.

White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

ID No: 944 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2006, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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 26 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct - 25 x *gibsoni* and 1 x *antipodensis* (HAP). A single bird was off Broughton Island 21 Oct (TBW).

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

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

12 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct including 10 x *impavida* (HAP). 1-5 birds were regularly off Nobbys beach over Jun-early Sep, with 12 birds recorded 28 Jun (ROM, HBOC, THJ, ANC) and 50+ birds 29 Jul, sitting on the water (ROM). Two birds were off Broughton Island 21 Oct (TBW) and single birds off Nobbys beach 27 Jul, 29 Nov and 12 Dec (RIA, WID, THJ).

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

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

Seven birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct including 1 x *salvini* (HAP).

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchus*

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

Birds were regularly off Nobbys beach over Jun-Jul (ROM, HBOC, others), mostly as counts of <10 birds but 81 birds in two groups were sitting on the water 15 Jul and 37 birds were following a fishing trawler 7 Jul (ROM).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain. (*recorded 2003, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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.

No reports were received for 2008.

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.

No reports were received for 2008.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084 HBOC Category: 3 (*Amended*) Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

ID No: 942 HBOC Category: 3 (*Amended*) Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded several times in 2002*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000, 2006-07*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna 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 recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP) and 800-1,000 birds were off Nobbys beach 11-12 Mar (SRM, ROM). Many hundreds of birds were off Newcastle harbour/Nobbys beach 20 & 27 Jan, 19 & 21 Mar, 14 Apr, 5 Sep and 24 Dec (THJ, HBOC, ANC), and off Crowdy Head 16 Oct (STA). Birds had returned by 22 Aug, when ~20 were off Nobbys beach (ROM).

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 (*Amended*) Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1995, 2000-01*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

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

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP) and 6+ birds were off Nobbys Beach 20 Jan (HBOC).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

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

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

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

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant and bird of passage (*text amended*).

Around 10,000 birds (count estimated from photographs examined afterwards) flew past Nobbys beach in a flock stretching over 2km 24 Aug (ROM). 80-100+ birds were also off Nobbys beach 27 & 29 Jul (HBOC, ROM) and 5 Sep (ANC) and lesser numbers there 28 Jun and 6 Aug (ROM, THJ). Five birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Bird of passage (*probably overlooked*).

200 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP). At least one bird and probably more was with the large flock of *P. gavia* off Nobbys beach 24 Aug (ROM). A single bird was off Nobbys beach 14 Mar (ROM/RIA).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 1997, 2001*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 810 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 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 2008.

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.

70 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

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.

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

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

Six adult birds were sitting in nest boxes at Boondelbah Island 27 Oct - this was early in the season and no eggs/young were present (CLT). A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP). Also see Supplementary Records.

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

ID No: 918 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1971, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2008.

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 2001, 2004-07*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*

ID No: 955 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Rare visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

No reports were received for 2008.

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

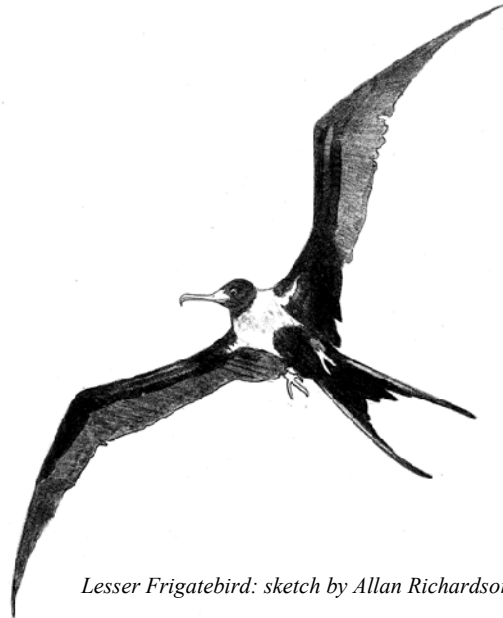
ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Four birds were recorded near Newcastle Baths 8 & 11 Feb (ROM, RIA) and single birds at Fly Point Port Stephens 29 Jan and Boondelbah Island 27 Oct (CLT), and a dying bird was at Nobbys Beach 8 Feb (THJ). Three advanced juveniles were in separate burrows at Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC).

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

See Supplementary Records.



Lesser Frigatebird: sketch by Allan Richardson

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

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

A total of 154 birds were off Newcastle harbour/Nobbys beach 31 May and ~100 birds 29 Jul (ROM), and 70 birds 2 Jun (THJ), and there were many reports of 20-50+ birds there over Jun-early Sep. 20 birds also were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP). 1-5 birds were frequently and widely recorded offshore over Apr-Sep. 1-5 birds were also off Newcastle harbour/Nobbys beach occasionally over Jan-Mar and in late Oct and 7 Dec (THJ, HBOC, HHB), Stockton beach 21 Mar and 28 Oct (MOA, TBW), Crowdy Head 16 Oct (STA) and Harrington/ Manning Point 26 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

ID No: 103 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was rescued on Blacksmiths Beach 24 Mar and sent to Taronga Zoo in Sydney to be taken into care. The bird was released at Michaelmas Cay (Qld) approximately a month later. Also see Supplementary Records.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common 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: 20+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW Apr-May and 10-20 birds were present there most other months between Jan-Aug (Table 2). There was a winter influx to the Hunter Estuary, with 5-7 birds present over Apr-Aug and ten birds 19 Jul (Table 3). Eight birds were at Port Stephens 4 Jul (Table 7). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at HWC 2 Dec (HBOC) and had a nest with young at Nulama Ponds Taree 8 Nov (MVBW).

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

ID No: 100 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters, as up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 100+ birds were often at Port Stephens with peak count 313 birds in Aug (Tables 7, 8). 21-50 birds were at Toronto Wetland 2 Feb (CRL), Swansea/Lake Macquarie 19 Jul and 13 Sep (Table 15) and HWC 2 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were 17 nests at Toronto wetland 2 Feb and 18 nests there 16 Dec (HCL), and birds were nesting at NWR 2 Dec (HBOC). Three nests were at Nulama Ponds Taree 8 Nov (MVBW).

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: 30+ birds were recorded at Port Stephens Feb, Aug and Nov and Morpeth WTW 27 Aug (Tables 2, 7, 8), 20+ birds at Port Stephens 4 Jul and HWC 2 Dec (both HBOC), and 11-20 birds at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 16 Aug (HAS *et al.*) and regularly around the Birubi/Fingal Bay coastline Sep-Dec (Table 5). **Breeding:** Birds were copulating at Muddy Lake 16 Feb (RIA).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

ID No: 097 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: The peak count at Swansea/Lake Macquarie was 233 birds 15 Nov, with high numbers there Jul-Dec (Table 15). 100+ birds were at Manning river Oct-Dec with peak count of 180 birds in Dec (Table 9). Peak count at Port Stephens was 180 birds Dec and 20+ were there Feb and from Jun onwards (Tables 7, 8, CLT). 50+ birds were at Blackalls Park 11 Aug (DUP *et al.*), Hunter Estuary 16 Aug (Table 3) and Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC). There were several records of 21-50 birds: at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan, Apr-May and Nov (Table 2), Hunter Estuary from May onwards (Table 3), Hexham swamp Minmi 2 & 17 Nov (HBOC, MEL/NIJ) and Fennel Bay 16 Sep (GOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at both NWR and HWC 2 Dec (HBOC).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual coastal resident. Often recorded near to the coast as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: The peak count at Port Stephens was 378 birds in Aug and 100-200+ birds were there 10 Feb and from Jul onwards (Tables 7, 8, HAS). 84 birds were at Manning river Jan and 78 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 19 Jul, with several counts of 20+ birds at both locations and at HWC 2 Dec (Tables 9, 14, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at NWR 2 Dec (HBOC).

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: At the areas regularly surveyed, the peak counts were: 204 birds at Morpeth WTW 30 Jul; 162 at Hunter Estuary 13 Dec; 87 at WWW 11 Jun; 195 at Port Stephens in Nov; 61 at Manning river Dec; 62 at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 27 Feb (see Tables). Good numbers were at all these locations most months. Elsewhere, 79 birds were at Hexham swamp 2 Nov and 40-60 birds Sep-Oct (HBOC, LIA, NEM), and 21-50 birds at Dora Creek 21 Jul (GOC) and Tuncurry 17 Nov (STA), and off Newcastle baths 7 Aug and 9 & 12 Sep (THJ). A melanistic bird was regularly in the Maitland area late Dec (various reports).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

Separate groups of 3, 2 and 1 birds were seen in the Mudbishops Point area 10 Jul (MVBW) and 1-2 birds at Cattai Creek/Wetlands 21 Apr and 25 Oct (STA, MVBW). Two birds were recorded near Karuah 11 Mar (NBL) and a single bird in Taree 1 Nov (MVBW). Also see Supplementary Records.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident.

1-2 birds were often recorded at Tomago Wetlands over Sep-Dec (MCN) and at Hexham Swamp locations 15 Feb and during Oct-Nov (LIA, NEM, others). Three birds were heard at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (HBOC). In surveys around dawn/dusk at Hexham swamp, WWW, Ash Island and Tomago Wetlands over 16-23 Nov, birds were only recorded at the latter site (per MEL). Also see Supplementary Records.

Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

ID No: 195 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare.

No reports were received for 2008.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare resident.

Single birds were recorded at Little Pelican 10 Feb (ADJ) and Brimbin NR 16 Oct (STA).

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: 81 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov, 50+ birds there 17 Nov and 9 birds 12 Oct (HBOC, MEL/NIJ, LIA *et al.*), and 15 birds were at Tarro Wetlands 9 Nov (SMJ). 3-5 birds were at Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC), Parkville 12 Aug (NEG), Morpeth WTW 27 Aug (LIA/NEM) and Hunter Estuary 13 Sep (Table 3).

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

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.

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Hexham swamp Minmi 17 Nov (MEL/NIJ) and there were several counts of 50+ birds there during Oct-Nov. ~50 birds were at Teal Waters Ash Island 20 Nov (MCN). The peak at Morpeth WTW was 38 birds 13 Mar with another 3 counts of 10-16 birds (Table 2) and also 20+ birds were present 6 May (HBOC). 15+ birds were recorded at Port Stephens every month with peak count 35 birds in Oct (Table 8). In the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 25 birds over Oct-Nov with 7+ birds present Jun-Dec (Table 3). 20+ birds were also at HWC 2 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had 10 nests and also dependent young at Toronto wetland 2 Feb and 8 nests there 16 Dec (HCL). There were 40 nests at HWC 9 Dec (MAM).

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: 69 birds were recorded at Hexham swamp 2 Nov (HBOC) and 17 birds there 1 Sep (NEM). The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 28 birds 13 Mar, with good numbers present in many other months (Table 3). 4+ birds were at Port Stephens over Apr-Oct with peak count 12 birds Oct (Tables 7, 8). 13 birds were present at Ash Island 30 Dec (STA), an atypical count for this location in 2008 (Table 3). **Breeding:** There were 20 nests at HWC 9 Dec (MAM).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 10-50 birds except when breeding.

Notable records: Over 1,200 birds were in paddocks around the lower Manning river 19-21 Apr after heavy rain - including 500+ birds in one wet paddock near Cattai Creek and several other groups of 150-200+ birds in the Coopernook/Croki area (STA). 200-300 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 27 Feb, Hunter Estuary 17 May, Hexham swamp 2 Nov and Irrawang swamp 21 Nov with many other records of 100+ birds at/near these locations (HBOC, MAM, Tables). **Breeding:** There were 255 nests at HWC 9 Dec (MAM) and 17 nests at Toronto Wetland 16 Dec (HCL). At Seaham Swamp NR, there were 9 active nests 10 Jan, a legacy of the 2007/08 season; however, no birds bred there in the 2008/09 season - *the first time in 20+ years that there was no breeding colony at this location* (MAM).

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

ID No: 193 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations, principally Stockton Sandspit where also 4 birds were present 26 Oct (Table 3, CLT, others). Six birds were at Port Stephens locations in Oct and 3-5 birds often were recorded there (Table 8). Three birds were present at Harrington 20 Apr and 19 Jul, including a juvenile on the latter date (STA). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Speers Point 1 Jan (FIM), Tuncurry 6 Mar (MVBW), Murrays Beach 1 Apr (HBOC), Gwandalan 21 May (RIA), Nords Wharf 22 May (RIA), Throsby Creek 1 Jun (STA), Swan Bay/Worimi NR 19 Jul and 13 Sep (HAS *et al.*), Morisset 23 Aug (NBL), Teralba 12 Oct (MAC), Myuna Bay 8 Nov (WID) and Tomago Wetlands 18 Dec (MCN *et al.*).

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.

Notable records: Numbers were high in winter in Hunter Estuary with peak count 180 birds 17 May, and 50+ birds very often (Table 3). 100-150 birds were in Port Stephens Jun-Jul (Tables 7, 8) and 60-80 birds at Hexham Swamp Sep-Nov (NEM, LIA *et al.*, HBOC). 21-50 birds were at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan (LIA/NEM), Tarro Wetlands 9 Nov (SMJ) and PNR 14 Dec (HBOC).

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: 20+ birds were at Teal Waters Ash Island 20 Nov (MCN) with 11-12 birds recorded there earlier in the month (LIA, Table 3). 5-7 birds were recorded at Port Stephens 4 Jul (Table 8), Morpeth WTW 11 Sep (LIA/NEM), Hexham swamp 2 Nov (HBOC), and also several times in the Hunter Estuary (Table 3). **Breeding:** There were 6 nests at HWC 9 Dec (MAM).

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare.

There were many sightings of 1-2 birds at Birubi Point/Birubi Beach between 26 Aug and 13 Oct (WOL), and single birds were present at Harrington 22 Feb and 20 Apr (STA), Manning Point 6 Apr (BRJ), Tomaree Head 18 Jun and 21 Oct (CLT, WOL) and Crowdy Head 20 Sep (STA).

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

24 birds including six juveniles were at HWC 30 Nov (ROD) with lesser numbers recorded there other months (HBOC, LIP, ROD). The peak count at the Wallbridge Reserve roost site was 66 birds 13 Oct and 20+ birds often were present late Oct-Nov; however, the typical counts were 5-20 birds (MAM). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Kooragang NR 26 Jan (RIA), Stockton Creek 28 Mar (RIA), Seaham Swamp NR 12 May (MEL), Harrington RF 20 Sep (STA), Bengalla Rd (H6) 19 Oct (HBOC), Seaham 26 Oct (DDR), Hexham swamp 2 Nov (HBOC), Irrawang swamp 21 Nov (MAM), PNR 14 Dec (HBOC), Wharf Road 25 Dec (THJ) and Hands Lagoon 29 Dec (TAH). Seven birds were at SSSNR 8 Oct (MAM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

150+ birds were recorded at Leneghans Flat 14 Nov (NBL) and 103-104 birds at Hexham swamp locations 12 Oct and 2 Nov (Table 13), with 14 birds still present there 14 Dec (NEM). 1-4 birds were at Maryland 22 Mar (MDV) and Morpeth WTW 23 May and Nov-Dec (Table 3).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region as counts up to 50 birds, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.

Notable records: 1,004 birds were flying from Maitland tip towards night roosts 16 Dec (MAM) and 156 birds were night roosting at Muddy Lake 16 Dec (HCL). 359 birds were at Hunter Estuary 19 Apr (Table 3) and 100+ birds there 23 Feb and 17 May and at Morpeth WTW 13 Mar (LIA/ NEM) and Bedminster 9 Sep (MAM). 100+ birds at Port Stephens every month with peak count 570 birds Jun (Table 8). Numbers at the Irrawang night roost site were consistent with recent years; there were no counts made at the Shortland night roosting sites. **Breeding:** There were 235 nests at HWC 9 Dec (MAM) - *the highest count ever* - also, 40-41 nests at Muddy Lake 16 Feb and 16 Dec (RIA, HCL) but none at Toronto Wetland 16 Dec where the June '07 storm destroyed many nest trees (HCL).

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, as counts up to 50 birds, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.

Notable records: 1,200+ birds were night roosting at Irrawang swamp Jan-Mar (MAM) and then many thousands of birds there Apr-Sep (see Table) and there were numerous daytime records of 100-200 birds in the Raymond Terrace-Seaham-Maitland area during that time (MAM). ~1,600 birds were in drying paddocks around the lower Manning river 12 May - including 1,050 birds near Ghinni Ghinni Creek and 390 birds near Cattai Creek (STA).

Night-roosting Ibis at Irrawang Swamp*(Surveys by M Maddock)*

Date	28 Apr	22 May	10 Jun	7 Jul	10 Sep	6 Nov	21 Nov	2 Dec	12 Dec
Aust White Ibis	50	0	142	1	29	15	15	11	15
Straw-necked Ibis	7,924	3,648	5,066	3,388	6,786	474	319	228	148
Total birds	7,974	3,648	5,208	3,389	6,815	489	334	239	163

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: 73 birds were present at Leneghans Flat 1 Sep (NEM) and 68 birds there 27 Aug (FOC). 56 birds were at Port Stephens Jul and 20+ birds often over late-autumn-winter (Table 8). 21-50 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan and 17 Dec (LIA/NEM), Nelsons Plains 31 Mar (MAM), Tea Gardens 21 Apr (STA), Morpeth 6 May (HBOC), Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and 2 Nov (LIA *et al.*, TAH/FRN), Teal Waters Ash Island 20 Nov (MCN), and often in the Hunter Estuary in non-winter months (Table 3). **Breeding:** There were four nests at University of Newcastle Wetlands 17 Nov (GOA).

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.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status (*and relatively few birds were recorded in the lower Hunter Estuary*).

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

ID No: 241

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds often recorded at estuaries/coastal lakes northwards from Port Stephens (*text modified*).

Notable records: 1-2 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations, principally near Stockton Sandspit, over Mar-Dec (many reports). A single bird (seen by many observers) was at Denman 13 Mar (FOC/NBL) and another at Clarencetown 13 Oct (RAL) - *both are unusual locations*. Four birds were together at Harrington 12 May (STA) and three birds at Karuah 29 May (CLT). The only reports for the pair at Lake Macquarie were for Jan and Mar-Aug. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Woods Point late May (MVD, others) and 23 Aug (NBL, FOC) but there were no reports of young. *This is the second most southerly nesting pair in NSW* (MOA; a pair breeds at Ulladulla). Elsewhere, birds were nest building at Karuah 21 Aug and nesting at Tahlee late Aug (both WOL).

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: Three birds were at Yarrandi Rd Moobi (G5) 9 Oct (NEG). A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon at Mount Arthur 19 Jul (NEG).

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at Crowdy Head 17 Jan (GED), Weston 12 Feb (ROS), Metford 18 Mar (SEP per MOA), Raymond Terrace 7 Apr and 15 May (HUF, FOC), North Rothbury 3 Apr (ROM), Pokolbin 4 Apr (ROS), Buchanan 17 May (TAH), Harrington 14 Jul (MVBW), Woodberry 20 Aug (TAH), White Box GRNP 5 Oct (STA), Cattai Wetlands Oct (MVBW) and and two birds at Maitland late Mar (BRG).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in the E and central parts of the Region.

Three birds were recorded at Main Creek Rd Dungog 27 May (TBW per GOA). 1-2 birds were at Balickera Jan and Sep-Oct (MUJ), Stockton Creek 2 Mar (RIA), Murrays Beach 10 May (RIA), Green Wattle Creek 4 May (SHB), Stockrington 29 Jul (RIA), BbR 10 Aug (LIP), Hawks Nest 19 Aug (NEM), Forest Rd Duns Creek 20 Aug (NEM), Shortland 27 Aug (VGF), NLH 5 Oct (WID), Green Wattle Creek 26 Oct (HHB), Fletcher 27 Nov (NBL) and Charlestown 16 Dec (NBL). Birds were nesting at Lansdowne (R3) 28 Oct (MVBW). Also see Supplementary Records.

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: Eight birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 17 May and 19 Jul, and 4-5 birds in several other months (HWS), and four birds were at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 17 May (HAS *et al.*). Birds had a nest with young at Newcastle University 17 Nov (GOA). A bird took an Australasian Shoveler at Ash Island 7 Jun (BIA).

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: 14 birds were recorded at Hexham swamp 2 Nov and 12 birds there 12 Oct (HBOC, LIA *et al.*) and 14 Dec (NEM), and 13 birds were on sandbanks at Muddishops Point 13 May (STA). There were nine birds present at Morpeth WTW 30 Jul (LIA/NEM) and Hunter Estuary 8 Mar (HWS). 4-6 birds were at Ash Island late Mar (ROM, BRG) and 26 Oct (MCR/KEM), Minmi late Mar (BRG), Morpeth WTW 27 Aug (LIA/NEM), Hexham swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*), Harrington/ Manning Point 26 Oct (MCR/KEM), HWC 2 Dec (HBOC) and East Seaham 3 Dec (GOA *et al.*). A bird was on nest at East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA *et al.*).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

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

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

1-2 birds were frequently recorded all year at Manning river Estuary locations (STA, others). A single bird was at Stockton Sandspit 15 Jun, 2 Aug and 12 Oct (CLT, ALD) - *uncommon so far south*. Pairs were recorded at Wingham and Diamond Head 7 Apr (both BRJ) and single birds at Fenninghams Island 11 Feb (BTS), Bagnalls Beach 27 Jun (CLT), Little Beach Nelson Bay 14 Jul (ROA), Crowdy Head 20 Sep (STA) and Manning Point 27 Oct (MCR/KEM).

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 recorded near GTD 12 May (STA) and at Wallalong 25 Aug (MAM), Morpeth WTW 27 Aug (LIA/NEM), WWW 13 Sep (BRG/LIN) and HWC Nov (NEM).

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 23 Feb and two birds 18 Oct (HWS), and two birds at Munibung Hill 10 Sep (CLT) and Stockton Sandspit 9 Nov (MCR *et al.*). A juvenile bird was at Gloucester 17 Jun (DBP), and a bird took a Common Starling at Stockton Sandspit 16 Nov (CLT).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus* (Amended)

ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Broke 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), Boat Harbour 25 Jan (CLT), Morisset 16 Feb and 30 Mar (RIA), Hunter Estuary 8 Mar (HWS), Stockton Creek 30 Mar, 9 Jun and 16 Aug (RIA), Balickera Apr and Oct (MUJ), Mount Arthur 21 Jun (NEG), North Rothbury 16 Aug (RIA), Nords Wharf 22 Aug (RIA), White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), New Lambton 19 Oct (WID) and NLH 15 Nov (WID), and two birds at Martins Creek 10-12 Nov (MCR). A pair with fledged young was at Wickham Park Newcastle Sep (KIM).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: Three birds were at Green Wattle Creek 6-11 Nov, where earlier in the season a pair had shown signs of breeding (NEM). Two birds were at HWC 22 Jun (HBOC) and Blue Gum Reserve 11 Oct (FIM). White phase birds were at The Glen NR 10 Jun (DBP) and Maryland 19 Nov (LIG). A pair had a nest at Cattai Wetland 14 Dec 2007 (FOC). Also see Supplementary Records.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded a few km apart near Merriwa (in cell D4) 10 Jul (STA *et al.*) and at Ash Island 30 Mar (ROM), PNR 5 May (CLT), Louth Park 17 May (TAH), Mount Arthur 23 May (NEG), Hexham 24 Jul (TAH), NWR 13 Aug (TAH), Rock Dhu (H2) 4-6 Oct (FOC), and Yarrawa 8 Oct - *the latter being an immature bird (TAH)*. Two birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 13 Sep (HWS).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: Eight birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 16 Aug and 3-5 birds in several other months (HWS). Five birds were at Hexham swamp 2 Nov (HBOC) and 2-3 birds there 12 Oct and 2 Nov (LIA *et al.*, TAH/FRN), 3-4 birds at Tomago Wetlands/flats 17 Jun, 16 Sep and 18 Nov and 2 birds often all year (MCN *et al. others*), and two birds at Ash Island 26 Oct (MCR/KEM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded throughout the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds.

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC) and four birds at Dales Creek Rd (F4) 17 May (NEG) and Hexham swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN). Birds were on nest at Martins Creek early Nov (MCR) and feeding fledged young at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and Mount Arthur 28 Nov-late Dec (NEG). Two pairs doing courtship displays were at PNR 21 Mar (MOA) and a pair was nesting at Warkworth late Aug (RIA).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Three birds were together at SW Hexham swamp 2 Nov with two of them interacting (TAH/FRN). Single birds were recorded at Hexham swamp 11 Jan and 17 Nov (PEK, MEL/NIJ), Kurri Kurri hospital 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Maitland late Mar (BRG), Morpeth 13 Apr (NBL), Fingal Head 9 Jun (ROA), HWC 22 Jun (HBOC), Hunter Estuary 16 Aug (HWS) and Balickera Sep (MUJ).

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: Six birds were recorded at Yarrandi Rd Moobi (G5) 9 Oct (NEG) and four birds at Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC) and Dartbrook area (G5) 9 Oct (NEG).

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

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

Notable records: Three birds were at central Hexham swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*).

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: Four birds were recorded at Morpeth 6 May (HBOC) and pairs at Hexham swamp 11 Jan (PEK), Quorrobolong 9 Aug (MOA), Morpeth WTW 11 Sep (LIA/NEM) and Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC). Birds had a nest with young at Vacy 1 Nov (TAH).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

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

Single birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan, 27 Feb and Apr (LIA/NEM), Mount Arthur 19 Feb (NEG), Bolwarra 6 Apr (NEM), Morpeth 8 Apr (TAH), 10km W of Merriwa 14 Jul (STA *et al.*), Hexham swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN) and Bureen 6 Nov (TAH).

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: Pairs were courtship feeding at Warabrook 7 May and hunting Rock Doves cooperatively at Maitland 6 Aug and Bolwarra 24 Sep (all TAH). A bird caught and commenced eating a Black-shouldered Kite at Mount Arthur 19 Jul and birds at Wingen were hunting Crested Pigeon 26 Oct and Australian King-Parrot 2 Nov (all NEG).

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2008.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

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

Notable records: A bird took a Buff-banded Rail chick at HWC 2 Mar (BIA). A total of 178 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and 134 birds 2 Nov (LIA *et al.*, HBOC). 100+ birds were at Morpeth WTW 27 Feb and 16 Apr, with 20+ birds there most months over Jan-Jul (Table 3). 20+ birds were also at WWW 11 Jun and HWC 22 Jun (Table 1, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had chicks at WWW 9 Jan & 14 May (BAP/MEL), Leneghans Flat 1 Mar (FOC), Tuncurry 6 Mar (MVBW) and HWC 19 Oct (HBOC).

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

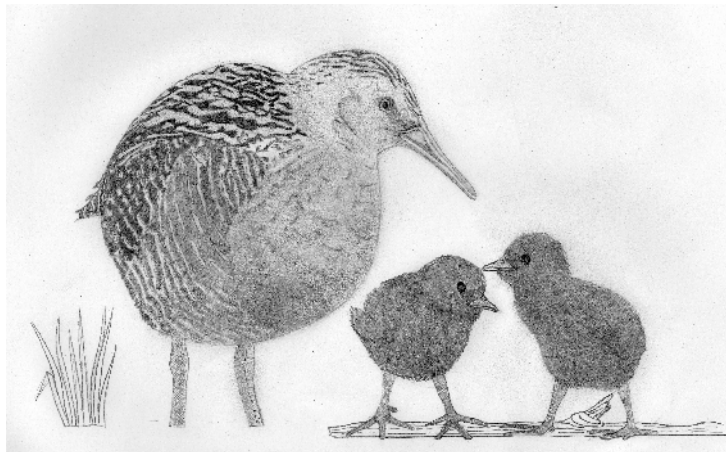
ID No: 045

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident (*probably overlooked*).

Eight separate adult birds were seen/heard at four sites at Black Neds Bay 18 Sep including there was a family with two chicks (SHB) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region*. A single bird was at Ash Island 2 Nov (HAP) and three birds were heard there 26 Feb (VGF).



Lewin's Rail with chicks: sketch by Allan Richardson

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Ash Island 26 Jan, 5 Feb, 13 Mar and 27 Oct (RIA, HBOC, ROM, MCR/KEM), Fingal Bay 20 Jan (SHB), Lake Eraring 16 Feb (RIA), Morpeth Feb and 31 Mar (BRG), Tuncurry 6 Mar (MVBW), Tocal 11 May (NEM), Mambo wetland Salamander Bay 23 Jul (CLT), Balickera Aug-Sep (MUJ), Stockton Sandspit 14 Sep and 26 Oct (CLT, DDR), Dora Creek 1 Nov and 20 Dec (GOC) and Hexham swamp 2 Nov (HBOC), and several times at HWC (various observers). **Breeding:** Pairs had chicks at HWC 12 Jan, 2 Mar and 2 Dec (LIP, BIA, HBOC), Nulama Ponds Taree 8 Nov (MVBW) and Martinsville 20 Dec (GOC). One chick at HWC was taken by Purple Swamphen 2 Mar.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

ID No: 050

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

There were good numbers recorded at Ash Island in Nov: five birds near Teal Waters 20 Nov (MCN) and two birds near Scotts Point 15 Nov (STA *et al.*) - *these two locations are several km apart, which suggests a robust population on Ash Island*. A single bird was seen at Morpeth Common 7 Oct (BRG).

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

ID No: 049

HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*)

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (HBOC) and Ash Island 15 Nov (STA).

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051

HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Single birds were seen at WWW 9 Jul (HBOC) and heard at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN).

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Not recorded
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000-02, 2005, 2007*).

Two birds were recorded at Martindale 8 Oct (TAH).

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 at WWW 9 Jul (BAP/MEL) and HWC 2 Dec (HBOC). Birds had chicks at HWC 3 Feb, 19 Oct and 2 Dec (all HBOC), WWW 9 Jan and 14 May (BAP/MEL) and Toronto Wetland 16 Dec (HCL).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

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

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Morpeth WTW over Apr-Sep with peak count 550 birds 23 May (Table 3). 50+ birds were at WWW over Jul-Dec with peak count 185 birds 20 Nov (HBOC, Table 1). There were ~250 birds recorded at Ellalong Lagoon 2 Aug and 100+ birds at Lake Liddell 17 Sep (FOC, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at WWW 12 Mar and had dependent young there 14 May (BAP/MEL) and at Nulama Ponds Taree 8 Nov (MVBW).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

A single bird was at LTP mid Sep, suggesting it had lost its mate (WOL); however a pair later bred there. A pair was at Little Swan Bay in early Sep but no birds were recorded at Fenningham Island, Salamander, LTP, Big Swan Bay during a survey in late Aug (per CLT). A pair was at Tilligerry Creek 24 Sep (WOL). **Breeding:** A pair at LTP raised two chicks in Nov which were banded 24 Nov (CAS per CLT). Following some local media coverage about this, property owners reported information about other breeding pairs around Port Stephens at that time: pairs with chicks were at Swan Bay and Cromarty Lane Port Stephens (the latter chicks hatched ~18 Oct), and a pair had a nest with eggs at Karuah, unfortunately destroyed by mowing (these details are per ROM/PRC). A pair had eggs at Swan Bay 23 Dec (MAA per CLT). *There are now 4 or perhaps 5 known breeding pairs around Port Stephens.*

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) NSW: Critically Endangered (*Amended*)
Breeding: Yes. Status: Uncommon resident in N of Region (*text modified*).

1-2 birds were often recorded during the year at Manning river (Mudbishops Point/ Harrington) and three birds were there 12/13 May (STA). A single bird was at Saltwater 21 Sep (STA). The pair were with a single young bird at Mudbishops Point in Aug (MVBW).

South Island Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi*

ID No: 744 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

154 birds were recorded in a winter water-based survey of Port Stephens and 107 birds in the summer survey (Table 7) - *these counts represent 1.0-1.5% of the total population and confirm Port Stephens as a Regional stronghold*. The counts were lower in the regular land-based surveys (Table 8) but nonetheless noteworthy and 25 birds were at Oyster Cove Port Stephens 15 May (BLM) which is consistent with the water-based surveys. 40+ birds were roosting at Tuncurry/Forster 6 Mar (MVBW) and 23 birds there 17 Nov (STA). 10+ birds were usually present at Manning River with peak count 22 birds 19/20 Mar (STA), and 5-9 birds sometimes at Hunter Estuary and Swansea/Lake Macquarie locations (Tables 4, 14). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were moderately often recorded and four birds were at Dora Creek Point Lake Macquarie 31 May (MDV). **Breeding:** Five young birds were at Stockton Sandspit 27 Apr and a pair nested there Sep-early Oct but abandoned the nest (CLT). Another pair nested at Stockton Beach in Dec, but the nest was destroyed 15 Dec by king tides and heavy swell (LIA, HLC). A bird at Harrington 20 Sep had been banded as a chick at Bundjalung NP near Ballina 27 Nov 2007 (per STA).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

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

The peak count at the Newcastle baths roost was 36 birds in Mar (see Table 9) - *the largest count ever for this location*. 33 birds were near King Edward Park 23 Feb (KEM) suggesting this to be an alternative roost site for those birds. Many birds also roosted at KI dykes early in the year (Table 4, MOA) and thus some 45-55 birds were at Newcastle locations over Jan-Apr with most dispersing later in the year (*this being >1% of the estimated population of the southern Australian sub-species*). 10-14 birds were often recorded at Port Stephens locations most of the year (Tables 7, 8) and 11-16 birds along the Birubi Point-Fingal Bay coastline over Aug-Dec (Table 5). 13 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 8 Sep, 11 birds 23 May and 8 birds 22 Aug (VGF, CLT). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Pipers Bay Forster 8 Jan (MVBW), Tomaree NP 16 Jun (CLT), Crowdy Head 16 Oct (STA) and Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC), and three birds at Burwood beach 31 Jan (RIA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with egg at Cabbage Tree Island Nov (SIJ per CRL).

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.

Notable records: 2,718 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov and 2,228 birds there 12 Oct (HBOC, LIA *et al.*). 100+ birds were at Hunter Estuary locations Apr-Aug and Oct-Nov with peak count 494 birds 19 Apr (Table 4). The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 295 birds 29 Oct and 40-150+ birds were there over Apr-Nov (Table 3). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Hexham swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*). Birds bred at Balickera Nov-Dec, with chicks hatching 12 Nov (MUJ).

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

ID No: 148

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual visitor. In times of inland droughts, thousands of birds can be present in the Hunter Estuary. (*Revised from: Bird of passage, text added*).

1,000+ birds were present in the Hunter Estuary over May-Dec with the peak count 3,301 birds 15 Nov (Table 4, other observers). Elsewhere, two birds were at Morpeth WTW 29 Oct (LIA/NEM) and three birds at Harrington 12 May (STA).

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 2008.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 194 birds in Feb and 100+ birds often were there over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec (see below, and Table 4). Birds had departed the Estuary by 19 April and the first recorded return was 12 Sep (HLC). 147 birds were recorded at Manning River 19/20 Mar and 96 birds 20/21 Feb, with 20+ birds again present Sep-Dec (Table 10). 43 birds were at Worimi NR 18 Jan, 34 birds at Port Stephens in Mar and 11 birds at Morpeth WTW 29 Oct (Tables 3, 6 & 8), and eight birds at Stockton beach 7 Dec (LIA *et al.*). 1-2 birds were recorded at Harrington Waters 19 Jan (MVBW), Morpeth WTW Nov-Dec (Table 3) and Port Stephens Oct-Nov, where there was also a winter record of two birds in July (Table 8).

Monthly Peak Counts at Hunter Estuary Locations

(From ~weekly surveys by L Crawford & C Herbert. No surveys were done May-August)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
175	194	186	127	46	130	130	155

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A single bird was at Stockton Sandspit over 10-12 Sep (VGF).



Grey Plover: sketch by Grant Brosie

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

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: The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 54 birds 17 May with 40+ birds also present Jun-Jul (Table 4); there also were 21-27 birds at Stockton Sandspit 20 Feb and 1 Mar (NBL, CCFOC), 16 birds 18 Mar (RIA) and 40+ birds 15 Jun (CLT). 20+ birds were recorded at Manning River most months with the peak count 46 birds 19/20 Mar (Table 10), and 20+ birds at Port Stephens (chiefly, Worimi NR) over Apr-Jul (Tables 6, 8). **Breeding:** There were 3 successful breeding events at Stockton Sandspit over Sep-Dec where chicks were also present in Jan (CLT, STA). A runner was present at Mudbishops Point Jan (BRG).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: No
Status: Winter migrant.

The peak count at Manning River (mainly, Mudbishops Point) was 121 birds 2/3 June with 50+ birds present Mar-Aug (Table 10). 20+ birds were still at Mudbishops Point 1 Sep (DBP) and a single bird at Harrington 21 Sep (STA), and two birds had arrived at Mudbishops Point by 22 Feb (FOC). 25-28 birds were at Port Stephens (chiefly, Worimi NR) over Jun-Aug (Tables 6, 8) and 1-2 birds at Smiths Lake 7 Feb (BIA), Ash Island 24 May (OCG) and Stockton Sandspit 15 Jun (CLT). *The counts at Manning River are the Region's highest since the Bird Reports commenced.* Also see Corrections and Changes.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

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

6+ birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and 1-2 birds there 21 Feb and 14 Dec (Table 10). Three birds were at Worimi NR 8 Mar and five birds 18 Oct (Table 6), and two birds at Port Stephens 10 Feb (Table 7).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004-05, 2007-08*).

No reports were received for 2008. See Supplementary Records.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops*

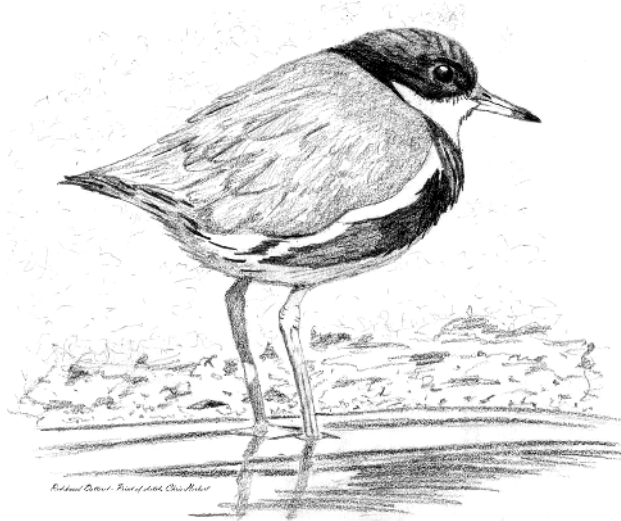
ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 5-16 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW most months between Apr-Dec (Table 3) and 12-17 birds at Hunter Estuary Mar-Jul (Table 4). A pair was with 3 chicks at a lower Hunter minesite 30 Jan (BIA).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

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

The peak count for Hunter Estuary was 95 birds 15 Nov with 34+ birds present Oct-Dec - chiefly occurring at Ash Island where birds were also present in small numbers (peak count 10 birds) over Mar-Sep (Tables 4, 12). 1-2 birds were also recorded at Morpeth WTW 10 Jun and 25 Nov (Table 2), Leneghans Flat 30 Sep (BRG) and Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and 2 Nov (LIA *et al.*, HBOC).



Red-kneed Dotterel: sketch by Chris Herbert

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

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

13 birds were present at Morpeth 20 Oct (HHB) and six birds at Phoenix Park 7 Oct (BRG). Some birds were also at Flat Rd Bolwarra 13 & 20 Sep (RIA). Also see Supplementary Records.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely & regularly recorded in counts up to 20 birds near medium-large waters.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded most months at both Morpeth WTW and Hunter Estuary, with respective peak counts of 174 birds 23 May and 116 birds 19 Jan (Tables 3, 4). 50+ birds also were present in Port Stephens most months with peak count 90 birds in Mar (Tables 7, 8). A total of 169 birds were at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (HBOC) and 80 birds there 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*). 20+ birds were at Mudbishops Point 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and East Seaham 27 Jun (MCN *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 25 Jun (GOC) and were on nest at Cattai Wetland 23 Aug (STA), and there were several breeding records over Sep-Nov.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident, more usual in N of Region.

A single adult bird was at John Brown's Lagoon near Mulbring 31 Aug (ROM/HAP) and then six birds were recorded there 3 Oct and two birds 26 Oct (MOA *et al.*) - *these are the first known records for this location since May 2000*. A single bird was at Oxley Island (R4) 1 May (NBL) - *a new location*. No birds were recorded at the 2007 Craven location in several visits there (DBP).

Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*

ID No: 170 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncertain (*Revised from: Uncommon resident* since all the records have been summer ones).

No reports received since 2006.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

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

Notable records: 29-34 birds were present at Pacific Dunes GC Meadowie mid Dec (TBW, HDM/WOL). The annual survey (on 14 Dec) yielded 18 birds at PNR, 19 at NWR and 7 at Ash Island (HBOC, CLT, MCN); however, numbers were higher at Ash Island in Oct/Nov with peak count 20+ birds at Milhams Pond 29 Oct and 18 birds at Teal Waters 11 Nov (MCN, LIA, Table 4). 7-8 birds often were recorded at East Seaham over Sep-Dec (CLT *et al.*) and then 13 birds there 21 Dec (per GOA). Ten birds were recorded at Winding Creek (M10) 16 Oct (CLT). The first known arrival was a single bird at Hexham Swamp 1 Sep (NEM).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

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

Although most counts in the Hunter Estuary were of <200 birds, the peak count was 371 birds 15 Nov (*highest count since Jan 2003*) and 200+ were present 19 Jan and 23 Mar (Table 3, MOA). Elsewhere, ten birds were at Port Stephens Mar-Apr and 1-4 birds Oct-Dec (Tables 6, 8). Winter records were 4-5 birds at Stockton Sandspit/KI dykes 21 Jun and 13 Jul (Table 3, CLT).

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

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; many young birds remain over winter.

Notable records: The peak count for Hunter Estuary was 1,239 birds 8 Mar, in line with recent years, but most counts were of only ~800 birds (Table 3). 886 birds were at Port Stephens 10 Feb and 638 birds in Oct, with many counts of ~400 birds (Tables 6-8). 100-150 were often at Manning River with peak count 180 birds in Mar (Table 10), and 30-70+ birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie (Table 14). Also, 48 birds were at Forster 10 Dec (MVBW). *On these counts, ~2,400 birds were present in the Region in early 2008. Also, ~600 birds over-wintered*, based on winter counts of ~200, 354, 25-30 and 18-19 birds at the above 4 locations. A bird at Stockton Sandspit 18 Mar had been banded there in Nov 2004 (RIA), and a bird at KI dykes 13 Sep had been banded in Yalu Jiang NR in Liaoning Province China in Apr 2002 (per ROM).

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 2008.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.

261 birds were recorded at Port Stephens 10 Feb and 6-10 birds over-wintered there, with many corresponding records from Worimi NR and other locations (Tables 6-8). The Hunter Estuary peak count was 71 birds 19 Jan and also 37 birds 16 Aug (Table 3). Low numbers sometimes were recorded at Manning River, the peak count was 19 birds 8 Mar (Table 10, 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; many young birds remain over winter.

Notable records: 421 birds were recorded at Port Stephens Oct and 250-350+ birds often, and 52 birds over-wintered (Tables 6-8). The peak count for Hunter Estuary was 392 birds 23 Mar with 30-38 in winter (Table 3) - *the high 2007 count relative to recent years did not sustain*. 10-20+ birds were regularly present at Manning River with peak count 48 birds 19/20 Mar and two over-wintering (Table 10), and 11-18 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 13 Sep and 27 Feb (Table 15). A bird at KI dykes 13 Sep had been banded in Vic (date unknown).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

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

The peak count for Hunter Estuary was 16 birds 19 Jan and no more than six birds were present in the following season (Table 4) - *numbers are continuing to decline*. Five birds were at Port Stephens 10 Feb and 11 birds 4 Jul (Table 7) - the latter being the first winter record since 2002.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Warners Bay 7 Jan (WAR), Port Stephens 10 Feb and Mar (Tables 7, 8) and Hunter Estuary 8 Mar and 15 Nov (Table 4). *Fewer records than usual*.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant. (*Text amended; all records now tracked*)

Good numbers were present at Port Stephens in the first part of the year, with 40+ birds recorded most months in the migration period and peak count 110 birds Apr (Tables 6-8, others). The peak count for Hunter Estuary was 52 birds 19 Jan and 30+ were present Feb-Apr (Table 4). Elsewhere, eight birds were at Black Neds Bay 10 Feb (ADJ) and Mudbishops Point 17 Nov (STA), and a single bird at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 27 Feb (Table 15). There was one winter record - a single bird at Port Stephens 4 Jul (Table 7).

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

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

A single bird was recorded several times at Birubi Point over 24 Sep to 2 Oct (WOL) and was also seen by several other observers over that period.



Wandering Tattler: sketch by Lois Wooding

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 162 birds 15 Nov, with 70-100+ all months in the migration period; nine birds over-wintered (Table 4). 19 birds were recorded at Port Stephens Oct and 5-9 birds there Feb and Sep-Dec (Tables 6-8). Nine birds were at Marks Point 3 & 10 Mar (GOC) and <5 birds at Muddishops Point 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

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

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was only 42 birds 19 Jan (Table 4) - *numbers considerably down compared to most years*. 2-3 birds were at Morpeth WTW Oct-Dec (Table 2).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

A single bird was recorded at Lake Pokolbin 9 Oct (RIA) - despite much searching by several observers in the ensuing several days, the bird was not able to be re-located.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

Birds often roosted at/near Newcastle Baths with peak count of 21 birds in Feb and 12-16 birds regularly present (Table 9); the departure date was 9 Jun and first return 29 Aug. Elsewhere, some birds were recorded at KI dykes 19 Jan (Table 4), Port Stephens 10 Feb and Sep-Oct (Tables 7, 8) and Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

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

90 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary 15 Nov - presumably these were on migration passage since all other reports were of <5 birds (Table 4).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary during the migration passage was 340 birds Oct 18; only a few birds were present over Jan-Mar. Unusually, a bird roosted at Newcastle baths occasionally over Sep-Dec (THJ). The only record from elsewhere was of two birds at Worimi NR 18 Jan (Table 6). Birds banded in Victoria, Kyushu Japan and Auckland NZ (dates all unknown) were at KI dykes 13 Sep (per ROM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant in NE of the Region.

40 birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 14 Dec, 30 birds 17 Nov and 18 birds 13 Jan and 18 Oct (STA) and 5 birds 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*). Also, three birds were at Harrington 21 Sep (STA).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

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

There were many records of 50+ birds at Manning River with peak counts 331 birds 19/20 Mar and 268 birds 16/17 Nov, and at least 18 (possibly, 55) birds over-wintering (Table 10). Most of the birds were present at Mudbishops Point (STA, DBP, MCR *et al.*), where 300 birds also had been recorded in 2007. The peak count at Port Stephens was 50+ birds 8 Mar with 15-27 present Jan and Sep-Nov but strangely none recorded in Feb (Tables 6-8). In the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 21 birds at Stockton Sandspit 1 Mar (CCFOC) and none were recorded at all after April (Table 3) - *these are very low counts for the Estuary*. Elsewhere, some birds were at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (HBOC), Newcastle baths 7 Dec (THJ) and Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

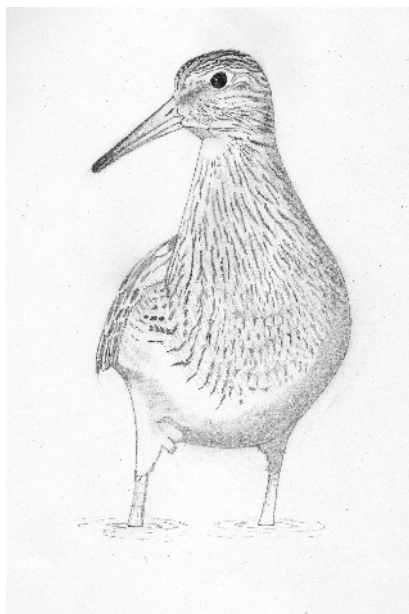
ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant. (recorded 1995-99, 2001, 2003, 2006-07)

A single bird was present at Ash Island 3-6 Apr (GOG, others).



Pectoral Sandpiper: sketch by Allan Richardson

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: A total of 149 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (HBOC) with 90 birds present 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*) and 40 birds 11 Jan (PEK). 87 birds were at Ash Island 20 Sep and 30 birds in Dec (LIA, MCN); also 71 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 13 Sep and 18 Oct (Table 4). There was a winter record of a single bird at Stockton Sandspit 27 Jul (CLT).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 260 birds 19 Jan, with only two other records of >100 birds (Table 4). 87 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 11 Sep (VGF), some presumably on migration passage as only 71 birds were found 2 days later (Table 4). *Unfortunately, the decline in numbers in the Hunter Estuary continues unabated.* Elsewhere, single birds including some in winter were recorded at Manning river 3 Jun and 21 Sep (STA), Worimi NR 19 Jul (Table 6) and Morpeth WTW 25 Nov (Table 2).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant. (recorded 1994-95, 2003-04, 2006-07).

No reports were received for 2008.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental. (recorded 1995-96, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007).

No reports were received for 2008.

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1999, 2006-07).

No reports were received for 2008.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*

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

Three birds were recorded at Werakata NP 11 Jun (FOC) & two birds at Congewai 3 Mar (PEK) and Duns Creek 5 Dec (NEM). Single birds were seen at Green Wattle Creek three times over Oct /Nov and platelets many times - *first records there for many years* (NEM). Single birds were at Gwandalan 16 Feb (RIA), Warkworth 8 & 21 Jul (RIA), Broke Rd 7 Sep (ROS), Quorrobolong 26 Oct (MOA), Martins Creek 4 & 11 Nov (MCR, NEM), Black Rock Rd 11 Nov (NEM) and Uffington SF 18 Nov (NEM). Also, some birds were at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ). *A good year.*

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

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

A female bird was present at Wingen 31 Oct and 1 Nov - the bird was observed for >10 minutes on the first occasion (NEG).

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

ID No: 173 HBOC Category: 3 (Revised) Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003).

No reports were received for 2008.

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (recorded 2001-03, 2007).

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP) and a single bird off Nobbys breakwater 13 Feb (RIA).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

No reports were received for 2008.

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Two birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point Jan (BRG) and single birds around Nobbys break-water/Newcastle harbour 13 Feb, 3 & 21 Mar and 22 Apr (RIA, MOA, ROM), and on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

ID No: 933 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977, 1999*)

A single bird was recorded offshore from Manning Point 23 Mar (HAP).

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

ID No: 124 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004*)

No reports were received for 2008.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

ID No: 972 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2002*)

No reports were received for 2008.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*Revised from: Accidental*)

An immature bird was present at Old Bar 22 Mar (FOC/BIA).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

ID No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Rare*). Occasionally recorded along the coast over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec, and usually in large numbers at the Manning River Estuary.

100-200+ birds were recorded at Manning River Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec (Table 10), and 421 birds 16/17 Nov - these predominantly were present at Mudbishops Point. Some birds had returned to Mudbishops Point by 20 Jul (Table 10). 6-9 birds were at/near Newcastle baths occasionally in Jan-Feb and Nov, and lesser numbers often there over Oct-Dec (THJ, others). 6-10 birds were present at Hunter Estuary 19 Jan (Table 3) and Swansea/Lake Macquarie 27 Feb and 5 Mar (Table 15), and 1-5 birds at Saltwater Reserve 7 Feb (MVBW), Port Stephens 10 Feb and Mar (Tables 7-8), Swansea 30 Mar (per ROM) and Hunter Estuary 19 Jan and 4 on 15 Nov (Table 4).

Breeding: There continued to be breeding colonies at Harrington and Mudbishops Point (STA, MCR *et al.*).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common bird of passage all year (*Revised from: Common migrant, some birds over-winter*).

12 birds were at Hunter Estuary 21 Jun and Port Stephens 4 Jul (Tables 3, 7) and 10+ birds (in 3 groups) were at Stockton beach 3 Aug (FOC). 6-9 birds were recorded at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 21 Jun (HAS *et al.*) and Port Stephens Jun, Manning river 19/20 Jul and Hunter Estuary 13 Sep (see Tables 8, 10, 3). There were several other records of 1-5 birds from these locations, mainly over May-Sep, and also from Newcastle/Nobbys beach in Aug (THJ) and LTP 2 Sep (HBOC).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common bird of passage all year (*Revised from: Common migrant, some birds over-winter*).

1-5 birds were often recorded at five locations: Hunter Estuary, Manning river, Swan Bay/Worimi NR, Morpeth WTW and Port Stephens and greater numbers there sometimes (see Tables). The peak counts were: Hunter Estuary 17-18 birds over Mar-Jun; Manning river 22 birds 19/20 Mar; Swan Bay/Worimi NR 9 birds 16 Aug (HAS *et al.*); Morpeth WTW 6 birds 30 Jul; Port Stephens 43 birds 4 Jul. Elsewhere, six birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 27 Feb & 5 Mar (Table 15) and 1-5 birds at Tuncurry 6 Mar (MVBW), Throsby Creek 1 Jun (STA), Newcastle baths Jun-Jul (THJ), Teralba 18 Aug (DUP *et al.*) and East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA *et al.*).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Spring migrant and bird of passage (*Revised from: Bird of Passage*).

Large numbers were present at Hexham swamp over Oct-Nov, with peak counts of 70 birds 2 Nov and 64 birds 12 Oct (HBOC, LIA *et al.*, others). 12 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 17 Dec and 8 birds 29 Oct (Table 2). Six birds were at Ash Island 20 Sep (LIA) and single birds there 2 Nov (HAP) and at Leneghans Flat Jan (BRG) and GTD 11 Aug (CLT).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

38 birds were in the area around Newcastle baths/harbour 15 Feb, with 25-30 birds recorded at other times that month (THJ) and some birds also present 20 Jan (HBOC).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

See Supplementary Records.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

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

Birds were present off Newcastle/Nobbys beaches from 28 Jun to 10 Sep, with peak count of 75 on 7 Aug (THJ, several others). First record in Manning River was 13 May, with peak count 22 birds 19 Jul and birds present until late Sep (Table 10). Two birds were recorded at Saltwater 2 Jun (STA) and three birds at Port Stephens 4 Jul (Table 7).



White-fronted Tern: sketch by Lois Wooding

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, and usually in large numbers at the Manning River Estuary.

Notable records: 175-300+ birds were recorded at Manning River over Jan-Mar and 600-700 birds there 16/17 Nov (Table 10) - *the latter count is interesting in the context of very few birds present Sep-Oct and Dec*. Birds were present off Newcastle/Nobbys beaches over Jan/mid-Feb and Sep-Dec, with peak counts 50 birds Jan and 68 birds Dec and departure/arrival dates 15 Feb and 25 Sep (THJ, several others). 10-12 birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Feb-Mar (Table 15), Birubi Point-Fingal Bay 24 Sep (Table 5) and Saltwater 17 Nov (STA). A bird at Mudbishops Point 20 Mar was banded at Gippsland Lakes (Vic.) at an unknown date (per STA).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2006*).

A single bird was recorded at Manning Point 23 Mar - it was fishing with Common Terns (HAP).

Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

ID No: 115

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Often recorded along the coast, with counts of up to 50 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: The peak count for Manning River was 638 birds 16/17 Nov and there were many records of 100-200+ birds (Table 10, MCR *et al.*). 228 birds were recorded at Birubi Point-Fingal Bay 13 Jul with several other counts of 50-100+ birds (Table 5). 100+ birds were present off Newcastle/Nobbys beaches most months with peak count 470 birds Aug (THJ, others). 120 birds were at Port Stephens Mar and 65 Apr (Table 8). **Breeding:** More than 100 pairs had nests with young at Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

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

A single juvenile bird was at South Pindimar 29 Jun (WOL).



Pacific Gull: sketch by Lois Wooding

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records (Revised)
Status: Accidental (recorded 1998, 2007).

A single bird was on Stockton beach, ~3km S of Birubi Point, 11 Nov (per MAW). Also see Supplementary Records.

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.

Notable records: 1,104 birds were recorded at Port Stephens Mar and most counts were 300-500+ birds (Table 8). The peak count for Hunter Estuary locations was 543 birds 23 Feb with 200-400 present several other months (Table 3). Peak counts elsewhere were 358 birds at Manning river 14/15 Dec, 360 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 19 Apr and 400 birds at Newcastle/Nobbys beaches Feb, with many reports of 100-200+ birds from these locations (see Tables). **Breeding:** ~100 pairs had nests with eggs/young at Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC), and birds were feeding fledged young at Dora Creek 3 Jul (GOC). A single pair nested at Raymond Terrace from late Nov, with 2 chicks in the nest 13-15 Dec (MAM) - *uncommon behaviour by a normally colonial breeding species*.

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

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

2-3 birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Congewai 3 Mar (PEK) and Mount Royal 23 Nov (CLT *et al.*), and at Wyee Point Mar, Apr, Jul and Oct-Dec including a pair with a single fledged young were there 18 Mar, 12-15 Oct and 9 Nov to 5 Dec (MDV). A single bird was at Sharpes Creek early Jan (RIA).

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: 40-50+ birds were at Raymond Terrace Feb/Mar (HUF) and 35-40 birds at Tuncurry 5 Jan (MVBW), Singleton Feb (ALD) and Tomago Wetlands 15 Jul (MCN *et al.*). 21-30 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 20 May (MCN *et al.*), Shortland 22 Jun and 9 Jul (BOH) and Ash Island 17 Jul (MCN). A pair was with a dependent young at Wingen 20 May (NEG).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

ID No: 268

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Seven birds were recorded at Cooranbong 3 May (RIA). Three birds were at Aberdare SF 3 May (PEK) and Quorrobolong 2 Aug (MOA), and 1-2 birds at Congewai 3 Mar (PEK), Aberdare SF 12 Sep (KEP) and Quorrobolong 2 & 3 Oct (PEK, MOA).

Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*

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: 21-50 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan (LIA/NEM), Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Wingen 4 May (NEG), Morpeth 6 May (HBOC), Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC), Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC), East Seaham 8 Aug (MCN *et al.*), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC) and Nobbys beach 8 Nov (THJ). A bird was on nest at Green Point Lake Macquarie 7 Oct (HBOC).

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272

HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

120 birds were present at Hinton Rd Nelsons Plain 2 Jun (MAM) and 20+ birds at Paterson 23 Nov (WID). Some birds were also at Green Wattle Creek 18 Oct (NEM) and Minmi 27 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: 117 birds were at Dora Creek 21 Jul (GOC) and 50+ birds at WWW 9 Jul (HBOC) and frequently flying over New Lambton (STA). 24 birds were present at Morpeth WTW 25 Nov (LIA/NEM). Numbers in the Gloucester area have been rising over the past 3 years (DBP). Also see Supplementary Records.

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: 35 birds were recorded at Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun, and birds were inspecting hollows at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (both HBOC).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident in the extreme NW of the Region.

Two birds were recorded 5km W of Merriwa 12 Jan (GED).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

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

Notable records: 400-500 birds continued to roost nightly at New Lambton (STA). 100+ birds were at Nobbys beach park 6 & 8 Nov (THJ) and 50+ birds at Oyster Cove 15 May (BLM). 21-50 birds were recorded at SSNR 20 Jan and Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (both MCR *et al.*), Swan Bay/Worimi NR 18 Jan (MEL), Green Point Lake Macquarie 7 Oct (HBOC) and Stockton Sandspit 9 Nov (MCR *et al.*). Three pairs were on nests at Green Point 7 Oct and birds had dependent young at Dora Creek late Jul / early Aug (GOC).

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Murrays Beach 1 Apr (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at The Hill (Newcastle) 13 Jan (GOC) and both Mudbishops Point and Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

~200 birds were recorded at Bolton Point 20 Jan (BIA/FOC), 20+ birds at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and Singleton 20 Feb (RIA) and also many birds near Warrah 5 Sep (DBP). 6+ birds were at Kurri Kurri hospital and SSNR 20 Jan (both MCR *et al.*), East Seaham 8 Feb (CLT), Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun and White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (both HBOC), and 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded throughout the Region particularly in Apr-Sep. Also see Supplementary Records.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

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

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek 4 Jan, 11 Feb and 10 Apr (NEM), near Kurri Kurri hospital 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Congewai 3 Mar (PEK), Murrays Beach 1 Apr (HBOC), 28km N of Gundy 9 Jun (CRL), and 10-20 birds at Green Wattle Creek 14 Mar (NEM), Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC), Quorrobolong 3 Oct (MOA) and White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

ID No: 281 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds widely and frequently recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

Notable records: A bird was attacked by a Peregrine Falcon at Wingen 2 Nov (NEG).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

ID No: 280 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental. (Recorded 1996, 1998-99, 2005-07)

See under Escapees.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

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

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 15 Apr (MCN *et al.*), Dales Creek Rd (F4) 17 May (NEG), Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC) and Hexham swamp Minmi 17 Nov (MEL/NIJ).

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

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

70 birds were recorded near Branxton 29 May (RIA) and 20 birds at Galgabba Point 16 Jun and 24 Jul (LIG), and eight birds were at Widden Valley 3 Jun (ADJ). Four birds were at Avondale College Cooranbong 2 May (RIA) and Forest Rd Duns Creek 18 Aug (NEM), two birds at Cams Wharf 1 May (NBL/FOC) and a single bird at Broke Rd 7 Sep (ROS). No birds were found in surveys in May at some locations where birds had been recorded in recent years (MOA).

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: ~60 birds were together at Wingen during late Apr (NEG), and 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen 4 May (NEG), Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC) and Dartbrook (G5) 9 Oct (NEG). There were 18 birds together at Broadmeadow 20 May (ROM).

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

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

The only record was of three birds at Aberdeen 29 Oct (HAM).

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

ID No: 311 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Extinct in the wild within the Region (*last recorded 1925*).

See Supplementary Records.

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: Two birds were recorded at Ash Island 29 Nov (SHB) - *unusual location but also recorded there in 2007.*

Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Young birds were being fed by Little Wattlebirds at Hamilton 7 Jan and Little Pelican 5 Feb (KEM, ADJ) and a juvenile bird was at Belmont South 13 Feb (CJB). The first recorded arrival was a bird heard at Lambton 30 Aug (ROM).

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: Fledged young were being fed at Cardiff 9 Jan (NBL), Tomago Wetlands 15 Jan (MCN *et al.*) and Cooks Hill 5 Feb (BUD), with Pied Currawong the hosts 9 Jan and 5 Feb. Two juveniles were present at Kotara Jan/Feb (NIJ). The first recorded arrival was a bird at Summerland Point Lake Macquarie 8 Sep (NBL), and a late record was of four birds flying through Newcastle 14 Mar (HAP).

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalis*

ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, some birds are present all year.

15 birds were recorded at Mount Arthur 21 Feb (NEG). All other records were of 1-5 birds, frequently and widespread over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec. Between these times, single birds were recorded at Maitland 6 Apr (TAH), Wingen 24 Apr and 13 May (NEG), Ash Island 14 May and 10 Aug (MCN) and WWW 11 Jun (BAP/MEL). A young bird was being fed by a Superb Fairy-wren at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC). Also see Supplementary Records.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

ID No: 341 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident in the central and W of the Region.

Single birds were recorded at Ash Island 12 Apr (OCG) and Warkworth 28 Aug (RIA).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds are present all year.

There were few winter records - single birds seen/heard at Morpeth 6 May (HBOC), Swan Bay/Worimi NR 17 May (HAS *et al.*), Tomago Wetlands 20 May (MCN *et al.*), Green Wattle Creek 7 Jun (NEM) and Tomago House flats 19 Aug (MCN *et al.*). A young bird was being fed by Yellow Thornbill at Martindale 6 Nov (TAH) and there was a breeding record at Balickera Oct (MUJ).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1992, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

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

A juvenile was often at Wingen over 4-26 May, gradually moulting into adult plumage (NEG). Three birds were at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC) and 1-2 birds near Kurri Kurri hospital 20 Jan (MCR et al.), Wingen 13 Feb (NEG), Airly and Widden 12 Sep (both RIA), Morpeth WTW 29 Oct (LIA/NEM), Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ), Martins Creek 3-5 Nov (MCR) and daily at Woodville in Dec (NEM). Birds arrived at Bolwarra 12 Sep (TAH).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

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

Notable records: A fledged young was being fed by Brown Thornbill at Belmont South 6-7 Sep (CJB).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*revised*)
Status: Summer migrant.

6+ birds were at Martins Creek 3-5 Nov and 1-2 birds often during Nov (MCR). 1-2 birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek 4 Jan (NEM), Gundy 9 Jan (HUM), Woko NP 14-16 Jan (CLT), Kurri Kurri 20 Jan and 20 Feb (MCR *et al.*, RIA), Gloucester Tops 22 Jan (RIA), Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR /NAP), Harrington 25 Jan and 26 Oct (MCR *et al.*), Wingen 13 May - *a juvenile* (NEG), White Box GRNP 4 Oct (STA) Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM), Butterwick 14 Oct (NEM), Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC) and Balickera Jan and Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Breeding:** A dead nestling was found, below a Grey Fantail nest, at Woko NP 14-16 Jan (CLT) - *the first confirmed breeding record for the Region*. Also, a young bird was being fed by Leaden Flycatcher at Isaacs Creek 26-28 Jan (HBOC), and an immature bird was making contact calls consistent with begging at Green Wattle Creek 2-3 Dec but was not observed being fed (NEM).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Two birds were recorded at HRBG 24 Feb (WOA) and Floraville 30 Jul (CLT) and single birds were seen/heard at Kurri Kurri 22 Jan (RIA), New Lambton/BbR 5 Feb, 9 Mar and Aug (STA), Werakata NP 20 Feb (GOJ), Black Hill 3 Mar (RIA), Carey Bay 3 Apr (HCL) and Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC), and at Balickera in Jan, Mar-Apr and Jul-Oct (MUJ).



Powerful Owl: sketch by Chris Herbert

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens (Amended)*

ID No: 246

HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental.

No reports were received for 2008.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 242

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as single birds or pairs.

Notable records: Birds had a nest with two young at Forster 26 Dec (MVBW). Also see Supplementary Records.

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident.

Single birds were seen/heard at Watagans 25 Oct (HAP) and Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident.

Single birds were seen/heard at Werakata NP 22 Feb (GOJ), Murrays beach 30 May, Gresford 25 Oct (HHB), Allyn river late Oct (HHB) and Murrurundi late Oct (per DBP).

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

ID No: 249

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

Single birds were seen/heard near Merriwa 25 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Wingen 16 Dec (NEG), Mount Arthur 19 Dec (NEG) and Ash Island 28 Dec (MCN).

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

ID No: 252 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare resident.

Three birds were recorded at Ash Island 24 Oct (HAP) and single birds there 1 Jan, 5 Jan (TAT) and Feb (BRG). See Supplementary Records.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx 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.

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: Birds were feeding fledged young at Sunshine Morisset 28 Jan (GOC) and Wingen 23 Dec (NEG) and also bred at Balickera Dec (MUJ).

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1998, 2001-02, 2004, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant, some birds over-winter at coastal locations. Widely and regularly recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ), feeding fledged young at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and nest building at East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA *et al.*). Six birds were at Warakeila 30 Oct (NEM). The first arrival was at BbR 10 Aug (LIP) but there were no further reports until recorded at Mandalong 23 Sep (NBL).

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: 50+ birds, with many juveniles, were at Morisset Hospital 28 Jan (SEP). 26 birds were recorded along Carrington-Tahlee Rd 8 Mar (WOL) and 10+ birds at Wollombi Rd 27 Feb and Woods Point 1 Mar (both MOA). The first recorded arrival was at Bow Wow Gorge in mid Sep (FIP).

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: Nine birds were at PNR 14 Dec (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at Mirrabooka 6 Jan and Muswellbrook 31 Jan (both GOC), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and Wingen Jan (NEG), and were nesting at Worimi NR 18 Oct (HAS *et al.*). The first recorded arrival was at Carey Bay 25 Sep (HLC).

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon altitudinal migrant (*Revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*).

Single birds were seen/heard at Peach Tree Allyn river 15 Mar (MEL), Wingham Brush 19 Mar (STA), Hallidays Point RF 16 Aug (MVBW), Allyn river 26 Oct (DDR) and Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM). Two birds were at Sharpes Creek 2-3 Jan (RIA).

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.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident of highland areas (*text amended*).

Two separate birds were recorded at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 2 & 4 Jan (RIA). No further reports were received (*NB: the road to Gloucester Tops was closed for most of the year*).

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

ID No: 558 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as up to 10 birds.

Notable records: Birds were nesting at Towarri NP 16 Sep (HBOC) and were breeding at Balickera over Sep-Nov (MUJ).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptis*

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

Some birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops early Jan and 29 Feb (RIA, CBOC), The Basin Watagans SF 25 May (NBL), Junction Pools Barrington NP 28 Apr (CLT), Lansdowne (R3) 28 Oct (MVBW) and Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC).

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: Several pairs were at Quorrobolong 9 Aug (MOA) and 10+ birds at 28km N of Gundy 9 Jun (CRL). A bird was carrying food at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC) but numbers there were down compared with most previous visits.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

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

6+ birds were at Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM) and 1-5 birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops Jan (RIA), Woko NP 12 & 14-16 Jan (RIA, CLT), Saltwater Reserve 7 Feb and 17 Oct (MVBW, STA), Balickera Feb (MUJ), Gap Creek Watagans 28 Feb (RIA), Allyn river late Oct (HHB), Harrington 16 Nov (STA) and Warakeila 30 Oct (NEM).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

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

1-5 birds were regularly recorded all year at Saltwater NP (STA, MVBW) and there were widespread records from the E and central parts of the Region.

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: Many birds were sometimes in a Gloucester garden, with peak counts 18 birds early May and 20 birds in Aug (DBP). Birds were nest building at Gloucester 12 Aug (DBP).

Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2008.

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Hexham swamp Minmi 17 Nov (MEL/NIJ). There were several breeding records over Jan and Sep-Dec and birds were feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

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

Some birds were at Old Bar 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and Cundletown 23 Dec (MVBW), and two birds were at Warakeila 6 Feb (NEM).

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: Birds were feeding young at Green Wattle Creek 14 Mar (NEM) and breeding at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

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

1-5 birds often were recorded all year at Tomago Wetlands (MCN *et al.*), and at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 18 Jan (MEL), Booti Booti NP Jan (BRG), Gwandalan 5-6 Feb (RIA), Warakeila 6 Feb and 29 Apr (NEM), Balickera Sep and Dec (MUJ), Eccleston 26 Oct (HTH) and Martins Creek 3-5 Nov (MCR). Also see Supplementary Records.

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

ID No: 506 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP (recorded 1997, 2000, 2005-06).

No reports were received for 2008.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

3-4 birds were recorded at Brokenback Ranges Pokolbin 3 Feb (GOJ) and two birds at Warkworth 22 Jul (RIA). Birds had nest with young at Widden Valley 23 Oct (HTH).

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were at Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM) and 1-5 birds at Gloucester Tops Jan, Cooranbong Jun and Warkworth 22 Jul (all RIA), Allyn river 26 Oct (DDR), Gloucester 8 Nov (MOA), Saltwater 17 Nov (STA), Martins Creek 10-12 and 17-19 Nov (MCR) and Mount Royal 23 Nov (CLT *et al.*). A bird was recorded at Warakeila 30 Oct - *the first record there in 13 years of surveys* (NEM).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: A pair was feeding fledged young at Wingen in Jan (NEG), and birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ).

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops Jan (RIA), Harrington RF 20 Mar and 16 Oct (STA), Main Creek Rd Dungog 27 May (TBW per GOA), Warakeila 5 Aug (NEM), Martinsville 29 Aug (CLT) and Mount Royal 23 Nov (CLT *et al.*).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

A pair was recorded at Yengo NP in early Spring, with one bird carrying food (NEM), and single birds were near George Booth Drive 13 & 17 Jul (ROM, RIA).

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 10 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were present at Wingen 9 May and 12 Oct (NEG). Two birds were at Iomar Quorrobolong 3 Oct - not previously recorded at this location (MOA). A bird was carrying food at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC).

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge Martindale and Wambo Colliery Bulga 23 Jan (both MCR/NAP), Wingen 12 Oct (NEG) and Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM), where some birds were nest building. Birds were also nest building and carrying food at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (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: 20+ birds were at Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM). Birds bred at Balickera Jan and Oct-Dec (MUJ) and nested at HRBG 5 Aug and were nest building at Green Point Lake Macquarie 7 Oct (both HBOC).



Brown Gerygone: sketch by Lois Wooding

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.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

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.

1-2 birds were recorded at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Warkworth 22 Jul (RIA) and Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM), and some birds were also at Wambo Colliery Bulga 23 Jan (MCR/NAP) and Pinegrove Rd 25 May (HBOC).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone albogularis*

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: Late/winter records were of birds at Harrington 12 May (STA), Green Wattle Creek 18 Apr (NEM) and HWC 14 Jun (LIP). The first recorded arrivals were at Tinonee 7 Aug (MVBW) and then Seaham 23 Aug (ROM). Birds bred Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ).

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: 20+ birds were often recorded at Martins Creek in Nov (MCR) and at Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM). Birds bred at Balickera Jul-Aug and in Oct (MUJ).

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 Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC) and Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC). Birds bred at Balickera Jan and Oct-Nov (MUJ), were nesting at Wingen early Oct (NEG) and nest building at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM), and were feeding a young Shining Bronze-Cuckoo at Martindale 6 Nov (TAH).

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: 60+ birds were recorded at Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Medhurst Bridge Martindale and Wambo Colliery Bulga 23 Jan (both MCR/NAP) and Wingen 4 May (NEG). Birds were nest building at Gloucester 12 Aug (DBP) and had nests with young at Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep, Rock Dhu 4-6 Oct and Bulga 14 Oct (HBOC, FOC, KEM/MCR).

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: Birds were nest building at Towarri NP 16 Sep (HBOC).

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare in extreme NW of Region (*text added*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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 White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young Fan-tailed Cuckoo at Belmont South 6-7 Sep (CJB).



Brown Thornbill: sketch by Lois Wooding

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*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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: 21-50 birds were recorded at Wingen 9 May (NEG) and several times at Green Wattle Creek in May-Nov (NEM). There were many breeding records spanning Jul-Nov.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were at 28km N of Gundy 9 Jun (CRL). Birds were nest building at East Seaham 8 Aug and on nest there 21 Sep (CLT *et al.*), inspecting hollows at Wingen 26 Sep (NEG) and bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

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

Notable records: Birds were nesting at Tanilba Bay 2 Sep (HBOC) and feeding fledged young at Mount Royal 23 Nov (CLT *et al.*), and bred at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ).

Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus*

ID No: 602 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002-03, 2007*).

A pair was recorded at Warkworth 19 Nov (LAT).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

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

Notable records: Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

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

Notable records: 55 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 18 Oct and 34-49 birds there 4 Jan and 8 Sep (NEM), and 50 birds at Morpeth WTW 11 Sep (LIA/NEM). Birds bred at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ), had a nest with young at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and were nest building at Towarri NP 16 Sep (HBOC) and Wingen 26 Sep and early Oct (NEG).



Yellow-faced Honeyeater: sketch by Chris Herbert

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

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: 10+ birds were at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct and 6+ birds at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun and Towarri NP 16 Sep (all HBOC). Also see Supplementary Records.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded near Kurri Kurri hospital 20 Jan (MCR et al.) and at Richmond Vale 20 Jul (HBOC). Three birds were at Worimi NR 17 May (HAS et al.) - an unusual location.

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: Birds were nesting at Quorrobolong 2 Aug (MOA).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP) and a pair was feeding fledged young at Wingen Jan (NEG).

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Glenrock SRA 3 Jun (COG) and Mount Sugarloaf 4 Nov (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Tierneys Rd Martinsville 24 Feb (HBOC), Main Creek Rd Dungog 27 May (TBW per GOA), Green Point Lake Macquarie 7 Oct (HBOC) and PNR 14 Dec (HBOC). A new colony established at Black Rock Rd Martins Creek from winter onwards (NEM). Birds had a nest with young at Glenrock SRA 3 Jun (COG).

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: 21-50 birds were at SSSR 20 Jan (MCR et al.), Dales Creek Rd (F4) 17 May (NEG), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep, Towarri NP 16 Sep and Lake Liddell 17 Sep (all HBOC), Wingen 12 Oct (NEG) and Martins Creek 17-19 Nov (MCR). Birds were nesting at Lake Liddell 17 Sep and were feeding fledged young at East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA et al.) and Blue Gum Hills Reserve 27 Aug (FOC), and there were three nests at Merewether 30 Sep (MAJ).

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in the W of the Region.

Two birds were recorded at Milbrodale 16 Jan (RIA), Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), and single birds at Wingen 16 May (NEG), Jones Reserve Rd and Doyles Creek Aug and Sep (all TAH), Pokolbin 7 Sep (HUM), Broke 28 Sep (TWD), Martindale 8 Oct (TAH), Bulga 14 Oct (KEM/MCR), Scone 25 Oct (HHB) and Yarrawa 25 Oct (HTH). A pair nested at Sandy Hollow in May, raising three young (per NEG). *Range in the Hunter Region seems to continue to expand.*

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 712 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 at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*). Birds were feeding young Eastern Koels at both Hamilton 7 Jan (KEM) and Little Pelican 5 Feb (ADJ).

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon bird of passage (*Revised from: Uncommon winter migrant*).

No birds were recorded in May in surveys at the regular locations (MOA, RIA). However, up to eight birds were at Quorrobolong 2 Aug - 10 Sep (MOA) and two birds at Morisset hospital 13 Sep (SSN per RIA). 1-3 birds were recorded at Clarencetown several times 16-29 Jan (SLJ) and a single bird was at Manning Point RF 1 May (MVBW) - *first known record for this location, and unusual habitat*. **Breeding:** Six adults with two fledged young and some birds still on eggs were at Tomalpin 4 Jan (MOA) - *this being the remnant of the 2007 breeding event at that location.*

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: Six birds were at East Seaham 3 Dec (GOA *et al.*). Birds were feeding fledged young at Mount Arthur 27 Nov (NEG) and were feeding a young Eastern Koel at Fingal Bay 5-12 Feb (BTS).

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

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

Birds were regularly recorded at Ash Island and Swan Bay/Worimi NR (many observers), with peak count 25 birds at the latter 29 Apr (GOA *et al.*) and numbers apparently stable at Ash Island (STA). 2-4 birds were at Hexham swamp 11 Jan and 2 Nov (PEK, HBOC), and six birds there 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*). Birds had a nest with eggs at Ash Island Jan (BRG), and two pairs nested there late Feb - both pairs successfully fledging young (HOD). Also see Supplementary Records.

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region (*text amended*).

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Belmont lagoon 13 May (TAA) and 21-50 birds at Green Wattle Creek 4 Jan and 18 Oct (NEM), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and Brimbin NR 16 Oct (STA). 6+ birds were at Green Wattle Creek Feb-Apr (NEM), Freemans Waterhole 3 Mar (HBOC), Glenrock SRA 3 Jun (COG), Paradise Park Murrurundi 2 Jul and 6 Sep (NEG, DBP), White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), Butterwick 14 Oct (NEM) and Mount Sugarloaf 4 Nov (HBOC). Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops*

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, of coastal heathlands.

1-3 birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 24-25 Aug and 26 Oct (SHB, DDR), and three birds at Booti Booti NP Jan (BRG).

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

There were frequent records of 1-5 birds from Tomago Wetlands 15 Apr (MCN *et al.*), Stockton Sandspit and HWC (various observers), and also from Ash Island 22 Jan (RIA), Black Neds Bay Swansea 16 Jul (RIA), HRBG 5 Aug (HBOC), Belmont South 6-7 Sep (CJB) and Market Swamp 25 Oct (WID).

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

No reports were received (*NB: the road to Gloucester Tops was closed for most of the year*).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

20+ birds were at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and 10+ birds at Awabakal NR 25 Aug (SHB). 1-5 birds were recorded at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek 18 Oct (NEM), Awabakal NR 26 Oct (DDR) and near Kurri Kurri late Oct (HHB).

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

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.

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

10+ birds were recorded at Tomalpin 3 Aug - the birds were at three locations including six birds at one spot (ROM). Eight birds were also present there 17 Aug (ROM). 6+ birds were at Towarri NP 16 Sep (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Kurri Kurri hospital area 20 & 22 Jan and late Oct (MCR *et al.*, RIA, HHB), George Booth Drive 16 July (RIA), Aberdare SF 12 Sep (KEP), and at Quorrobolong several times over Aug-early Oct (MOA, PEK).

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.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

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: Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct (MUJ).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

ID No: 641

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Richmond Vale 20 Jul, Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep and Lake Liddell 17 Sep (all HBOC) and at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 15 Nov (HAS *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds nested at Edgeworth 8 Oct (WAL) and Belmont late Nov (SMG), and had fledged young at Mount Arthur 27 Nov (NEG). An immature bird was at Bolwarra 9 Nov (TAH).

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: 50+ birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 20 May (MCN *et al.*) and Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC), and 21-50 birds at Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Wingen 4 & 9 May and 12 Oct (NEG), Morpeth 6 May (HBOC) and Tomago Wetlands 17 Jun (MCN *et al.*). There were breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Nov.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

No reports were received for 2008.

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 Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP) and five birds at Oyster Cove 15 May (BLM). A bird was on nest at Bolwarra 31 Oct/Nov (TAH).

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon spring-summer visitor to the W of the Region.

Two birds were at Martindale 8 & 23 Oct and 6 Nov (TAH), and 6+ birds at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

ID No: 443

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

23 birds were recorded at Wingen 12 Oct (NEG) and 6-10+ birds at Beresfield Jan (BAW), SSNR 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Wambo Colliery and Bulga 23 Jan (both MCR/NAP), Kurri Kurri 9 Apr (ROM), East Seaham 11 Apr and 8 Aug (CLT/MCN *et al.*), Wingen 9 May (NEG), Forest Rd Duns Creek 28 Aug (NEM), Doyles Creek 7 Sep (TAH), Quorrobolong 3 Oct (MOA) and Kitchener 22 Oct (GOC). 1-5 birds were present at Gloucester Tops 6 Jan (RIA), Singleton 21 Feb (RIA), Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC), Butterwick 31 Jul (NEM), Merchants Rd Duns Creek 28 Aug (NEM), Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM), Clarencetown 13 Oct (RAL), Gloucester cemetery 8 Nov and Gloucester GC 9 Nov (MOA), and frequently at Balickera (MUJ). **Breeding:** There were records from Yengo NP 5 Apr (per MOA), Millfield 20 Apr (MEL/JOD), Wingen 6 & 12 Oct (NEG), Balickera Oct (MUJ) and Fishers Hill Rd Vacy 1 Nov (TAH). Also see Supplementary Records.

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

ID No: 445

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in central and W of Region (*text added*).

Some birds were recorded at Doyles Creek Mar and Sep-Dec (TAH).

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

A family group was at Copeland SCA 8 Nov (MOA) and three birds at Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM). 1-2 birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek 3 Jan (RIA), Woko NP 14-16 Jan (CLT), Copeland Tops SCA 24 Feb (NBL) and Williams River Barrington NP 24 Aug (MEL). A pair with an immature was at Frying Pan camp Barrington Tops 16 Nov (LIG).

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

Four birds were recorded at Werakata NP 9 Apr (ROM) and three birds at Corrabare SF (J10) 20 Apr (MEL/JOD).

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 recorded at Green Wattle Creek Feb-Mar and Jul-Dec, with the peak count 17 birds 18 Oct (NEM). Birds had dependent young at Martins Creek 17-19 Nov (MCR).

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: A bird was carrying food at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993-94, 2000, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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.

Notable records: Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ).

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Kurri Kurri hospital area 20 & 22 Jan and late Oct (MCR *et al.*, RIA, HHB), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Werakata NP mid Feb (GOJ), Congewai 3 Mar (PEK), Black Rock Rd 18 May (NEM), George Booth Drive 17 Jul (RIA), Quorrobolong 19 Aug, 10 Sep and 3 Oct (MOA), Green Wattle Creek Sep-Dec (NEM), White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), Balickera Oct & Nov (MUJ), Martins Creek 3-5 Nov (MCR), Duns Creek 27 Nov (NEM) and East Seaham 3 Dec (GOA *et al.*).

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 2008.

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: Two pairs were at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC).

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

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

Birds were present at Bolwarra in lesser numbers than for recent years and they arrived later (TAH) - *this likely reflects the pattern for the overall Region for which there were no records received of >5 birds*. 1-5 birds were recorded at Bulga, Wambo Colliery and Kings Gap 23 Jan (all MCR/NAP), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Stockton Creek 8 Feb (RIA), WWW 6 & 26 Oct and 8 Nov and Doyles Creek 2 & 6 Nov (all TAH), Green Point Lake Macquarie 7 Oct (HBOC), Rock Dhu (H2) 4-6 Oct (FOC), Black Rock Rd and Martins Creek 11 Nov and Duns Creek 24-27 Nov (both NEM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

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

Single birds were recorded at Harrington RF 19 & 25 Jan (GED, MCR *et al.*), Wingham Brush 21 Jan (GED) and Manning Point 21 Sep (STA).

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.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

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

Birds were recorded at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 2 Jan (RIA) and Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC). (NB: the road to Gloucester Tops was closed for most of the year).

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.

Notable records: Birds were feeding fledged young at Tierneys Rd Martinsville 24 Feb (HBOC).

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: The first recorded arrival was at Green Wattle Creek 8 Sep, and 28 birds were present there 18 Oct (NEM).

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

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 breeding at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ).

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

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.

Notable records: 30+ birds including many juveniles were at Saltwater 17 Oct (STA) and 20+ birds at Harrington 25 Jan and 26 Oct (MCR *et al.*).

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: Six birds were at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), and birds were nesting at HRBG 8 Nov (MOA).

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Frequently recorded at medium to large fresh waters in 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 PNR 14 Dec (HBOC) and birds were feeding fledged young at Belmont Lagoon 25 Nov (CLT). The first recorded arrival was 16 Aug, when birds were at both Swan Bay/Worimi NR and Cameron Park (HAS *et al.*, BRG).

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare irruptive visitor (*recorded 1994-95, 2001-02, 2006-07*).

Some birds were recorded near Kurri Kurri hospital in early Jan (ROS).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

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

Many birds were present near Kurri Kurri hospital early Jan (ROS) and some birds were at Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP).

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 recorded at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC). The first recorded arrival was 10 Sep, when birds were at Quorrobolong (MOA). Late/winter records were 1-5 birds at Wingen 9 May (NEG), Black Rock Rd 18 May (NEM) and Gungal area (E6) 10 Jul (STA *et al.*). A bird was on nest at Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

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

Notable records: Birds had dependent young at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 17 May (HAS *et al.*) and at University of Newcastle 15 Oct (GOC), and were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

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

Notable records: Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ), nest building at Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC) and on nest at Swan Bay/Worimi NR 18 Oct (HAS *et al.*).

Australian Magpie *Cracticus 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: 20+ birds were recorded at Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and Dales Creek Rd (F4) 17 May (NEG). There were several breeding records, spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

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

Notable records: Approx 105 birds were at Bureen 3 Aug (TAH). 21-50 birds were recorded at Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC), White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC) and Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM). Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen Jan (NEG) and Shortland Oct (LIA).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon resident of highlands in the far SW of the Region (*Revised from: Accidental*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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: 1-2 birds were recorded at Harrington 19 Jan and 20/21 Mar (MVBW, STA), HWC 3 Feb and 8 Mar (HBOC, SRM), Tomago Wetlands 19 Feb (MCN/GOA) and Saltwater 22 Feb (STA).

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region from Jan until mid-Apr and from late Sep onwards, as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: A bird occasionally was at a Woodville garden late Nov-early Dec - *uncommon location* (NEM). Birds bred at Balickera Jan and Nov-Dec (MUJ) and were on nest at Martins Creek 17-19 Nov (MCR).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*

ID No: 361

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: 26 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 8 Sep and 20 birds there 4 Jan (NEM). There were breeding records for Jan and Oct-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: Birds were nest building at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC), on nest at Martins Creek 10-12 Nov and HWC 2 Dec (MCR, HBOC), and feeding fledged young at Wingen Jan (NEG).

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: 210 birds were feeding in a dense flock in a cut lucerne paddock at Hinton 18 Feb (MAM). Birds were nest building at Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC), and nesting at Nobbys beach lighthouse 9 Sep (THJ), Merewether 30 Sep (MAJ) and Wingen 2 Nov (NEG).

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

ID No: 868

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point and Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (both MCR *et al.*) and Forster Jan (BRG), and 1-5 birds at Harrington 20 Sep, 26 Oct and 16 Nov (STA, MCR/KEM) and Crowdy Bay NP 27 Oct (MCR/KEM).

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

Large flocks often were present in the area Craven-Woko-Curricabark (DBP). Birds raised young at Gloucester early Feb (DBP).

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded as up to 10 birds in the area bounded by Dungog, Gloucester, Maitland and Port Stephens (*text modified*).

Notable records: Birds remain resident at Shortland (LIA) and also were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 15 Jan (MCN *et al.*), Quorrobolong 3 Aug (ROM), HWC 21 Aug (VGF) and Hexham swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN). Birds were nesting at Booral 8 Nov (MOA).

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: Six birds were at Green Wattle Creek 4 Jan, nine birds 18 Oct and 11 birds 5 Dec (NEM). Birds were feeding a young Brush Cuckoo at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

A pair was regularly present at Fishers Hill Rd Vacy from Oct (TAH) and birds were recorded at Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

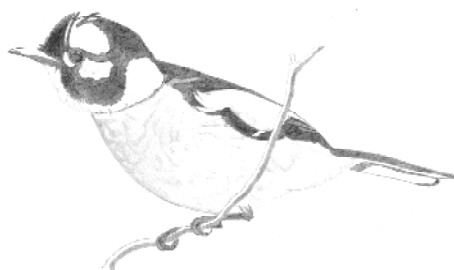
ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Kings Gap and Wambo Colliery 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Wingen 4 May (NEG), Fosterton Loop 25 May (BUD), Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC), Warkworth 7 & 22 Jul (RIA), Ash Island 1 Aug (LIP) and Mount Sugarloaf 4 Nov (HBOC) A pair was feeding fledged young at Wingen Jan (NEG).

White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*

ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (Revised from; Accidental).

A single bird was recorded at the usual location in Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (MCR *et al.*).



White-eared Monarch: sketch by Allan Richardson

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: 6+birds were at Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM) and birds were breeding at Balickera Oct (MUJ) and Martins Creek 17-19 Nov (MCR). The first arrival was at Bow Wow Gorge mid Sep (FIP).

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

1-4 birds were recorded regularly at Harrington RF Jan-Mar and Sep-Nov (MVBW, MCR *et al* , STA), and at Sharpes Creek 1-4 Jan (RIA), Fig Tree Crowdy Bay NP 21 Feb (STA), Allyn river 26 Oct (DDR), Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM) and Martins Creek 17-19 Nov (MCR).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

ID No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: 21-50 birds were at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan and 11 Sep (LIA/NEM), Irrawang swamp 28 Apr (MAM), Phoenix Park 13 May (MAM) and Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC). There were numerous breeding records, spanning Jan, Apr and Oct-Nov.

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.

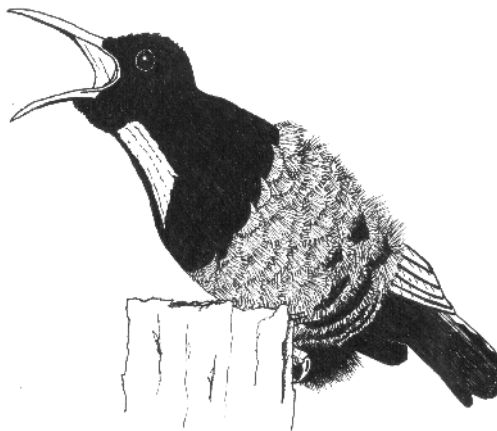
Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Wambo Colliery Bulga 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), Forest Rd Duns Creek 28 Aug (NEM), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep and White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (both HBOC). Birds were nesting near Warrah 5 Sep (DBP).

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were present at Gloucester Tops 29 Feb (CBOC/NBL) and Allyn River FP 15 Mar (MEL), and single birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek 3 Jan, Gloucester Tops Rd 4 Jan and Carsons Lookout Gloucester Tops 6 Jan (all RIA), Telegherry SF late Oct (HHB), Gloucester Tops 19 Nov (FOC) and Mount Royal 23 Nov (CLT *et al.*).



Paradise Riflebird: sketch by Grant Brosie

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: Nine birds were at Green Wattle Creek 14 Mar (NEM) and 6+ birds at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC). Some birds were on nest at Quorrobolong 3 Oct (MOA) and White Box, and birds were feeding fledged young at Tierneys Rd Martinsville 24 Feb (HBOC).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

Pairs were recorded at North Rothbury 20 Jun and Warkworth 21 Jul, and a female bird at the latter location 7-8 Jul (all RIA), and a bird was at Nulkaba in Aug (ROM). Some birds were Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC).

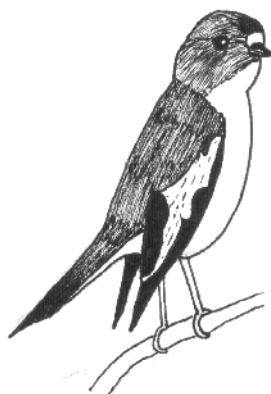
Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

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

Five birds were recorded at White Box GRNP 4-6 Oct (HBOC) and some birds at Wambo Colliery 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), Pinegrove Rd 25 May (HBOC) and Warkworth 7-8 Jul (RIA).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

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



Many birds were present at Polblue 8 Sep (DBP). Two birds were present at Wingen 4 & 9 May and four birds there 24 Aug (NEG), and some birds were at Barrington Tops 25-31 Dec (FOC).

Flame Robin: sketch by Grant Brosie

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: Birds were “abundant” at Peach Tree Allyn River 13-15 Mar (MEL).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

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

Four birds (including 1 adult male) were present at Doyles Creek Rd 25 May (HBOC). 1-2 birds were recorded at Wambo Colliery Bulga 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), 28km N of Gundy 9 Jun (CRL) and Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM). Birds were sometimes recorded in the Warkworth area over Jul-Aug, including 6 birds 21 Jul (RIA).

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

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

Single birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek 3 Jan (RIA) and Gloucester Tops 29 Feb (CBOC).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

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

Notable records: Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingham Brush 19 Mar and Brimbin NR 16 Oct (STA) and nesting at Quorrobolong 9 Aug (MOA) and Martins Creek 17-19 Nov (MCR). Birds also bred at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ). Also see Supplementary Records.

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafrja javanica*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Warkworth 16 Jan (RIA), Bolwarra 7 Oct (BRG) and Moobi (G5) 9 Oct (NEG), three birds at Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*) and four birds near Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP).

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare (*recorded 1994, 1996, 2003, 2005-07*).

No reports were received for 2008.

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: 21-50 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 20 Mar, 21 Oct and 18 Nov (MCN *et al.*) and Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and 2 & 17 Nov (LIA *et al.*, MEL/NIJ). Also see Supplementary Records.

Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident. Widely and often recorded near medium to large waters during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at SW Hexham swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN) and PNR 14 Dec (HBOC). Birds were feeding fledged young at HWC 2 Dec (HBOC).

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

ID No: 523 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region (*text modified*).

Notable records: Six male birds were recorded at HWC 26 Aug (VGF) and 6+ birds at SW Hexham swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN),

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region (*text modified*).

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at locations within Hexham swamp 12 Oct and 2 & 17 Nov (LIA *et al.*, TAH/FRN, MEL/NIJ).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

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

20+ birds were present at Bureen 1 Oct and Martindale 8 Oct (both TAH), nine birds at Moobi (G5) 9 Oct (NEG) and 6+ birds at Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), Dartbrook (G5) 9 Oct (NEG) and Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in Jan and over Sep-Dec and there was a winter record of two birds at 28km N of Gundy 9 Jun (CRL). Birds were reported to have nested at Wingen late Dec (per NEG). Also see Supplementary Records.

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central/west of Region.

10+ birds were present in the area around Kings Gap 23 Jan (MCR/NAP), four birds at Yarrawa Creek 20 Dec (TAH) and three birds at Tomago Wetlands 16 Sep (MCN *et al.*). 1-2 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary 19 Jan, 5 Feb and 19 Apr (HWS, HBOC), Flat Rd Bolwarra 20 Jan (MCR *et al.*), Tomago Wetlands Jan, Feb & May (MCN *et al.*), Balickera Sep (MUJ), Bureen 1 & 8 Oct (TAH), Moobi (G5) 9 Oct (NEG), Largs 8 Nov (TAH) and Mount Arthur 27 Nov (NEG). Also see Supplementary Records.

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: A bird was on nest at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), and birds bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ).

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

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

Several birds were present at Warkworth 29 Sep and Wollombi Brook 30 Sep (both RIA) and Widden Valley 23 Oct (HTH).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and as counts of up to 50 birds near medium to large waters.

Notable records: 300 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 30 Jul and 100+ birds there 3 Jan and at Ash Island 5 Feb (LIA/NEM, HBOC). 50+ birds were at Bulga 23 Jan (MCR/NAP) and Hunter Valley Gardens 14 Oct (MCR/KEM). Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Nov (MUJ).

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; small numbers over-winter. 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: 100-200+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and 2 Nov (LIA *et al.*), and 20+ birds at Lake Liddell 17 Sep (HBOC) and Wingen 6 Oct (NEG). Some birds were still present 6 May, when recorded at Morpeth (HBOC), and the first arrival was 13 Aug when some birds were at WWW (MEL *et al.*). **Breeding:** A large colony (50+ nests) was active at Hexham Swamp Oct-Nov (LIA *et al.*) and ~ 10 pairs were on nests and nest building at Battery Rocks 4 Oct (STA).

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

ID No: 359

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; small numbers over-winter. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp 10 Jan (MAM) and Tomago Wetlands 16 Sep (MCN *et al.*). The first return was 8 Aug when 6+ birds were at East Seaham (MCN *et al.*); however, 15-20 birds were at Wallarobba near Dungog 16 Jun (NBL).

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

A single bird was recorded at Caves Beach 2 Jan, and a bird was at Barnsley 22 Aug (BUB) - *this being a new location for the species within the Region.*

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek 3 Jan and Carsons Lookout Gloucester Tops 6 Jan (both RIA), Gloucester Tops 29 Feb (CBOC/NBL), Crosslands 4-6 Apr (RIA), Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/ KEM), Allyn River 26 Oct (DDR), Balickera Aug (MUJ) and Mount Royal 23 Nov (CLT *et al.*).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

There were records of single birds at Sharpes Creek 2-4 Jan (RIA), Forster Jan (BRG), Wingham Brush 19 Mar (STA), Copeland FP 26 Oct (MCR/KEM) and Allyn river 26 Oct (DDR).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, in locations in the Maitland/Cessnock area.

Numbers were fewer in the Lorn/Bolwarra/Maitland area compared with recent years (TAH). Two birds were at WWW 11 May (BRG). Birds may be resident in Murrurundi (ROM).

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: A bird was taken by a Brown Goshawk at Stockton Sandspit 16 Nov (CLT), and a bird was carrying food at SW Hexham Swamp 2 Nov (TAH/FRN).

Common Myna *Sturnus tristis*

ID No: 998

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: There were 20+ birds at Wingen 4 May (NEG), and 48 birds were together in one paddock with horses near Croki 20 Apr (STA).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarina jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1985-86, 2006).

No reports were received for 2008.

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 up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge Martindale 23 Jan (MCR/NAP).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

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

Notable records: 20+ birds were present at Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC). Birds were on nest at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and Martins Creek Nov (MCR), and nest building at Bengalla Rd (H6) 19 Oct (HBOC).

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

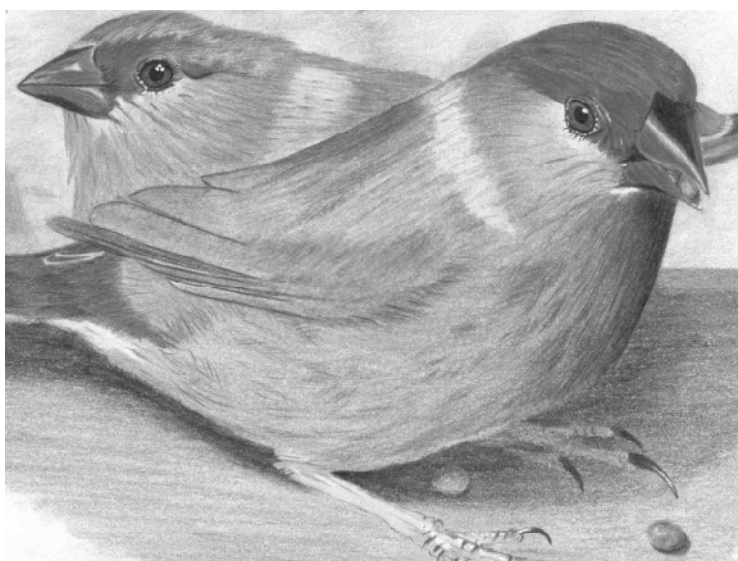
ID No: 661 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare.

Five birds were recorded near Bunnan 8 Sep (per GED).

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

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

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Rock Dhu (H2) 5-9 Jun (HBOC) and Green Wattle Creek 8 Sep (NEM), and 21-50 birds at Gloucester early Feb (DBP), WWW 11 Jun (BAP/MEL), Richmond Vale 20 Jul (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek 13 Aug (NEM), Lake Glenbawn 14 Sep (HBOC) and Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC) and nesting at Dianella Martins Creek 3-5 Nov (MCR) and Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ).



Red-browed Finch: sketch by Chris Herbert

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

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

30 birds were at 28km N of Gundy 9 Jun (CRL). All other records were of 1-5 birds - at Kings Gap 23 Jan and Bulga 23 Jan (both MCR/NAP), Isaacs Creek Reserve (I3) 26-28 Jan (HBOC), Renmark (I3) 28 Jan (STA), Jones Reserve Rd Mar (TAH), Ringwood Rd (C6) 21 Mar (STA), Warkworth 22 Jul (RIA), Wambo Rd Bulga 14 Oct (MCR/KEM) and Martindale Oct & Nov (TAH), and moderately often at Doyles Creek where also a bird was carrying nesting material 8 Oct (TAH). Also see Supplementary Records.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977*).

No confirmed reports were received for 2008.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

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

No reports were received for 2008.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

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

6+ birds were recorded at PNR 21 Mar (MOA), Hunter Estuary 17 May (HWS), HWC 14 Oct (LIP) and Bengalla Rd (H6) 19 Oct (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Morpeth 31 Mar (BRG), Hexham Swamp 6 Jul (NBL), Gloucester Tops early Nov (DBP) and Tomago House 8 Nov (MCN *et al.*). Some birds at Bengalla Rd were nest building.

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 20 birds.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Australasian 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: There were 28 birds along Wagtail Way Ash Island 26 Feb (VGF), and numbers were high there throughout Feb. A total of 56 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 17 May (HWS). 6-8 birds were present at Mount Arthur 27 Nov (NEG), Tomago House flats 16 Sep (MCN *et al.*) and central Hexham swamp 12 Oct (LIA *et al.*).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

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

Three birds were recorded at the usual Ash Island location 11 Feb (FRA) and there were many subsequent records of 1-3 birds until mid March. At least one bird stayed longer, and it was last recorded 6 Apr. Possibly, 5 birds were present at Ash Island in late Feb, based on the varying descriptions of plumage that were reported (many observers), but this is not absolutely certain. Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Stockton Beach (in scrub behind the beach) early Jan (BAR) and at a location on the N side of Hexham Swamp 11 Jan and 15 Feb (PEK, NEM).

Green-headed Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla taivana*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*recorded in 2003*).

No reports were received for 2008.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

ID No: 874 (781 = *lugens*) HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*race lugens recorded 1998*).

No reports were received for 2008.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

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

12 birds were recorded at WWW 11 May (BRG) and 7 birds at Hunter Estuary locations 17 May (HWS). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded in the Hunter Estuary during the year, principally at Ash Island (various observers). Some birds were present at Maitland 26 Oct (DDR) and birds were nest building at Tomago Wetlands 18 Nov (MCN *et al.*).

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

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

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

Three birds were present at Tomago Wetlands 18 Dec 2007 (MCN).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Six birds were recorded at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

A single bird was recorded at Darawank NR 14 Nov 2007 (MVBW).

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

There were 30 breeding pairs on Boondelbah Island in 2007. The number of breeding pairs on Cabbage Tree Island has been stable at ~1,000 pairs since 2001 and the numbers on Boondelbah Island have increased steadily from a single breeding pair in 1999. (All information is from D. Priddel, *State Of Australia's Birds 2008*, Birds Australia, p30).

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Three birds (all females) were recorded by A.F. D'Ombra at Cabbage Tree and Broughton Islands over 19-20 Feb 1957; the carcass of a dead bird was sent to the Australian Museum (Hindwood, K.A., *Emu*, 57, 285-286). This event followed the passage of Cyclone Clara through Queensland and into NSW during February that same year, leading to *F. ariel* records as far south as Sydney. Other records brought to notice are of single birds at Swansea 4 Dec 1977 (*Aust. Birds*, 13, 4), Dudley 11 Mar 1984 (*Aust. Birds*, 20, 107) and Forster 2000 (*Aust. Birds*, 33, 14).

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

The 2008 record for this species prompted a recollection of a bird received at Blackbutt Reserve on 4 Aug 1985 and then taken into care (by Wilma Barden). An attempted release at Stockton Beach failed and the bird was taken to Taronga Zoo where it remained for a considerable time before eventually flying off.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Single birds were recorded at Pipers Bay Forster 16 Nov 2007 and Hillville 27 Nov 2007 (both MVBW).

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

In 2007, single birds were seen/heard at Tomago Wetlands 5, 14 & 21 Sep and 18 & 19 Oct, and two birds were heard there 26 & 30 Oct (MCN).

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

The peak count at Wallbridge Reserve in 2007 was 27 birds 12 Nov (MAM) - *the previously reported peak count for 2007 was 18 birds.*

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

Two young birds were in a nest at Coralville 21 Dec 2007 (MVBW).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

A pair had a nest at Cattai Wetland 14 Dec 2007 (FOC).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

Three birds were at Tomago Wetlands 18 Dec 2007 (MCN/GOA).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

3 birds were present at Stockton Sandspit 14 Jan 2007 (CLT). *This was published as an unconfirmed record in the 2007 Bird Report.*

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

Three birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 16 Oct 2007 (MCN).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

There was a single bird at Newcastle Baths Dec 2007 (BRG).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A single bird was recorded at Walsh Island (now part of Kooragang Island) on 13 Jan 1968 and again on 30 Mar 1968 (Rogers, A.E.F., *Emu*, **40**, 1969, p238-239) – the record was accepted by BARC.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

A pair bred successfully on Moon Island in Nov-Dec 1959 (Gwynne A.J. and Gray, D.F., *Emu*, **59**, 141-142).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

Some birds were at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

20+ birds were recorded at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

Two nests with eggs were found in a swamp near Cape Hawke in November 1923, with prior indications of birds present in the area. The eggs from one clutch are in the Australian Museum (record O.63951; 24 Nov 1923) as part of the Bettington-Hyem Collection.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalus*

A single bird was at Tomago Wetlands 18 Dec 2007 (MCN/GOA).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

A pair with 2 young was at Forster 21 Dec 2007 (MVBW).

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

In surveys during 2005 and 2006, five Eastern Grass Owl populations were confirmed within the Tomago/Hexham area of the lower Hunter Valley. These included two birds near Lavis Lane Salt Ash, up to six birds at Tomago Wetlands, and 1-2 birds at Ash Island and two locations within Hexham Swamp (Blundell, A. T., Clulow, S., Peters, K. L. & Kavanagh, R. unpublished).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

Seven birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 3 Mar and eight birds 18 Dec, and 3-5 birds were there 23 Mar and over Sep-Nov 2007 (MCN/GOA).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

A bird was on nest at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

A pair nested at Sandy Hollow in March 2007, raising two young (DRG).

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

1-2 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 15 May, 20 Nov and 18 Dec 2007 (MCN).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

Birds were with dependent young at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

There were five birds present at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

A bird was on nest at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

20+ birds were at Tomago Wetlands 3 Mar and 15 May 2007 (MCN).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Six birds were recorded at Wingen 21 Nov 2007 (NEG).

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

In 2007, seven birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 16 Oct, two birds 20 Nov and four birds 18 Dec (MCN).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

There were two birds recorded near Broke 31 Dec 2007 (FOC).

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

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

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

A bird was reported to have been heard at Copeland Tops SCA 24 Feb.

Giant-Petrel sp. *Macronectes sp.*

A single bird was off Fort Scratchley 5 Sep; the species could not be identified.

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

A bird was reported to have been at Mitchell Island Manning River 16 Jun.

Frigatebird sp. *Fregata sp.*

A single bird was off Newcastle breakwater 7 Feb; the species could not be identified. A single bird was seen flying over Ash Island 23 Mar.

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

A bird was reported to have been at Wallsend 12 Apr.

Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor*

A pair was reported several times from Moobi (near Scone) during mid-Oct; at this time there was an easterly movement of birds in NSW.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

There were two reports of some birds in the Black Creek area near Rothbury – in Jan and June.

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were nesting on Broughton Island in October 2007; this was incorrectly reported as a record for Cabbage Tree Island in the 2007 Bird Report (an Editor error).

A report of 180 Double-banded Plover in Fullerton Cove in June 2004 has been amended; it was in fact a record of a mixed flock of 180 small waders that included 96 Double-banded Plover, 55 Red-capped Plover, 15 Red-necked Stint, 3 Curlew Sandpiper and some unidentified birds.

A report of an Emu at Saltwater NP in October 1998 has been withdrawn (probably an Editor error). Because the population of Emu in the coastal north is classified as Endangered, an attempt was made, unsuccessfully, to verify the provenance of the old record.

ESCAPEES

The species below were recorded in the Region, but are considered to be escapees rather than part of a self-sustaining wild population. Records of feral geese have been ignored.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

A single male bird was at Nulkaba near Cessnock late Apr - the bird was captured and given to an aviculturist at Warners Bay (per ROM).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Single birds were recorded at Cooks Hill 18 Jun (ROM) and Gloucester 12 Aug (DBP).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Single birds were recorded at Edgeworth 4 Apr (BOR) and inner Newcastle 13 Jun (ROM).
(Note: this species is also known as Indian Ringneck).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

A single bird recorded at Karuah Mar (OCG) is considered most likely to have been an escapee.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following abbreviations/acronyms have been used in the Report:

BBNP	Booti Booti National Park	MLNP	Myall Lakes National Park
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve	NLH	New Lambton Heights
BHD	Boarding House Dam (in Watagans)	NP	National Park
CP	Caravan Park	NR	Nature Reserve
FP	Forest Preserve	NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
GC	Golf Club	PNR	Pambalong Nature Reserve
GTD	Grahamstown Dam	RF	Rainforest
GRNP	Goulburn River National Park	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	SF	State Forest
HSD	Homestead	SRA	State Recreation Area
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland	SSNR	Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve
KI	Kooragang Island	WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works (aka Sewage Treatment Plant)
KNR	Kooragang Nature Reserve	WWW	Walka Water Works
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage		

TABLES OF DATA FROM REGULAR SURVEYS

Increasingly many areas in the Hunter Region are being surveyed regularly and systematically. This is only to be encouraged since it helps identify any changes occurring to the habitat in the survey area or to the local status of individual species. Data relating to waterbirds from such surveys are presented in the following section of the Report. Space permitting, this practice will be continued in future annual Bird Reports.

Table 1 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks
(regular surveys by P Baird & L Mee)

	9 Jan	13 Feb	12 Mar	9 Apr	14 May	11 Jun	9 Jul	13 Aug	10 Sep	8 Oct	20 Nov	11 Dec
Musk Duck	2	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	4	4	3	3
Black Swan	9	2		2	1	2	2	4	8	3	4	1
Australian Wood Duck	11	5	8	14	24	3	11	4	1	10	7	2
Pink-eared Duck									4			
Australasian Shoveler						5	3	8	4			9
Grey Teal	6	4	9		13	40	12	8	20	22	24	17
Chestnut Teal	11	4	10	7	25	41	12	3	23	7	14	38
Pacific Black Duck	11	13	56	14	61	30	31	21	24	28	24	20
Hardhead	15	9	12	13	52	6	9	70	182	92	54	2
Blue-billed Duck								1	1			1
Australasian Grebe		2	3	8	6	4	29	19	33	9	5	20
Hoary-headed Grebe				1	8		3	5	2	7	1	4
Great Crested Grebe	10	21	23	38	41	28	17	23	12	17	20	15
Australasian Darter					1			2	2	3	2	1
Little Pied Cormorant	2	2	6	3	5	7	4	7	11	7	3	3
Great Cormorant	1							6	1	3		
Little Black Cormorant	17	8	11	1	3	6	3	9	15	4	4	15
Pied Cormorant									2			
Australian Pelican	1				1		87	33	14		1	
White-necked Heron									1			
Eastern Great Egret			1	1	1	2	2	2	4			1
Cattle Egret							1	1	34			1
White-faced Heron		4		2	1		4	1			1	1
Little Egret							2	2	3			1
Australian White Ibis						6	3	9		7	1	1
Straw-necked ibis					5	3	5	45				
Royal Spoonbill				1			10		4			
Purple Swamphen	3	3	3	8	7	24	12	1	12	12	14	13
Dusky Moorhen	8	8	5	2	11	17	71	23	31	17	8	8
Eurasian Coot	7	9	3	12	39	35		59	86	88	185	93
Black winged Stilt						1	4	5	10	7	5	5
Black-fronted Dotterel						4	3		2			1
Masked Lapwing	3	4	5	4	2	4	3	8	4	6	6	5

Table 2 Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works*(regular surveys led by A Lindsey & M Newman)*

	3 Jan	27 Feb	13 Mar	16 Apr	23 May	10 Jun	30 Jul	27 Aug	11 Sep	29 Oct	25 Nov	17 Dec
Wand. Whistling-Duck	19											
Black Swan	238	239	235	283	356	393	209	226	296	93	104	109
Australian Shelduck					2		2					
Australian Wood Duck		2	4	26	38	18	20		18	1	7	7
Pink-eared Duck	1				30	105	57	52	12	88	32	1
Australasian Shoveler	4	31	39	54	127	69	269	46	6	21		9
Grey Teal	46	64	40	211	414	977	861	970	339	685	283	259
Chestnut Teal	125	195	309	359	467	296	141	98	160	102	61	226
Pacific Black Duck	124	303	259	221	210	256	77	57	98	40	19	70
Hardhead		1	2	2	66	79	156	60	504	262	18	10
Australasian Grebe		4	9	1	11	9	11	15	3		6	
Hoary-headed Grebe						2			1			
Australasian Darter	12	20	17	27	23		13	14	7	3	4	7
Little Pied Cormorant	13	8	8	13	17	3	2	7	3		1	
Great Cormorant	1		1			2	8	34	3	1		3
Little Black Cormorant	38		2	21	21	1	2		4	2	29	14
Pied Cormorant								2	2		1	1
Australian Pelican	102	40	13	53	26	25	204	23	48	48	102	86
White-necked Heron								3				
Eastern Great Egret	7	16	38	14	5	1	3	10	1	2		6
Intermediate Egret	3	7	28	4	13	10	2	6	9			6
Cattle Egret	52	249	196	80	2	5	7		8	1	7	10
White-faced Heron	32	4	4	12	18	4	3	6	1	1	3	10
Little Egret		2	3	3	2	1		3	6	2		
Glossy Ibis					4						1	3
Australian White Ibis	17	9	107	39	7	9		4		4	2	4
Straw-necked Ibis	85	30		6	6	18		1	620			
Royal Spoonbill	23	14	9	21	13	4	1	1		1	6	23
Yellow-billed Spoonbill								1				
Purple Swamphen	39	114	86	110	12	30	29		2	5	6	6
Dusky Moorhen	2		4	4					1			2
Eurasian Coot	63	9	20	268	550	437	398	260	210	122	2	1
Black-winged Stilt	11	5		67	66	119	130	73	42	295	152	27
Red-necked Avocet										2		
Pacific Golden Plover										11	1	2
Black-fronted Dotterel				7	8	5	16	5	11	3	7	8
Red-kneed Dotterel						1					1	
Masked Lapwing	60	164	59	120	174	97	54	57	10	72	64	96
Latham's Snipe										1		
Marsh Sandpiper										2	3	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper								14		4	1	1
Curlew Sandpiper											1	
Caspian Tern		3		2			6	2		2	1	
Whiskered Tern										8		12
Silver Gull						1	1					2

Table 3 Non-wader Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands
(Surveys conducted at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites¹)

	19 Jan	23 Feb	8 Mar	19 Apr	17 May	21 Jun	19 Jul	16 Aug	13 Sep	18 Oct	15 Nov	13 Dec
Musk Duck		5	4	6	6	1	3	12		2		2
Black Swan	35	44	63	61	64	37	76	67	28	90	66	53
Australian Wood Duck	28	6		57	30	20	16	31	3	14		3
Pink-eared Duck							62	22				
Australasian Shoveler	63	5	8	113	90	126	256	151	4		2	2
Grey Teal	30	23	53	218	372	182	34	92	51	147	165	124
Chestnut Teal	103	351	701	550	623	163	351	237	55	183	178	444
Pacific Black Duck	10	27	19	85	95	20	81	85	17	39	24	40
Hardhead	2	1		8	11	63	84	79		78	1	143
Australasian Grebe	1	3	1	29	22	16	37	39	29	9		19
Hoary-headed Grebe	1		4	12	38	1	24	9	14	13		18
Australasian Darter	2	1	1	7	5	5	10	7	3	2		2
Little Pied Cormorant	3	1	9	12	2	2	1	1	6	5	5	8
Great Cormorant	3	1	1					2	2	4	4	5
Little Black Cormorant	5	2	9	2	35	7	58	40	15	20	6	21
Pied Cormorant	5	11	1	2	5	2	4	14	1	4	6	5
Australian Pelican	108	38	64	73	84	47	44	59	64	124	121	162
White-necked Heron							1		5	2		
Eastern Great Egret	1	2	3	4	1	8	7	12	11	25	25	11
Intermediate Egret	2	2	2	1				1	4		3	2
Cattle Egret	11	142	5	64	233	4	4	5	53	20	38	34
Striated Heron	2	1		1			1		1			1
White-faced Heron	45	56	36	53	180	173	116	117	68	58	44	73
Little Egret	4	7	1	1	2		2		6	6	12	5
Australian White Ibis	10	163	48	359	116	43	24	66	55	15	36	59
Straw-necked Ibis				21	123		24	28	29		20	1
Royal Spoonbill	27	45	34	22	14	22	17	16	13	2	21	30
Eurasian Coot					25	31	20	51	52	22		44
Gull-billed Tern				3	3	12	3		6			
Caspian Tern		4	17	18	18	17	12	2	8	8	6	7
Crested Tern	8	8	17	14	2	6	5	9	2	4		4
Common Tern												2
Little Tern	6										4	
Silver Gull	104	543	318	400	235	33	72	37	38	298	218	219

Table 4 Waders in the Hunter Estuary
(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide roost sites)

	19 Jan	23 Feb	8 Mar	19 Apr	17 May	21 Jun	19 Jul	16 Aug	13 Sep	18 Oct	15 Nov	13 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	4	7	5	9	3	3	2	2	3	7	5	5
Sooty Oystercatcher	19	13	15	22		9	1	5	2		1	1
Black-winged Stilt	9	35	96	494	473	319	238	145	11	230	253	57
Red-necked Avocet	70	2		16	1502	2000	1500	1450	2130	2850	3301	2702
Pacific Golden Plover	161	103	181		1				9	130	130	5
Red-capped Plover	18	5	14	23	54	43	41	15	24	11	2	
Black-fronted Dotterel		4	13	12	12	19	17		1	3	1	3
Red-kneed Dotterel			1	1					6	24	95	32
Masked Lapwing	116	108	101	75	83	48	54	39	36	47	74	53
Latham's Snipe		1							1	1	22	11
Black-tailed Godwit	212	135	124	133	1	4			11	64	371	149
Bar-tailed Godwit	764	833	1239	223	246	200	201	135	141	880	474	790
Whimbrel	71	4	16	9				37	1	12		1
Eastern Curlew	276	392	249	29	38	28	59	184	220	248	293	264
Terek Sandpiper	16	12		5	1				2	6	4	2
Common Sandpiper			1								2	
Grey-tailed Tattler	52	36	9	34	5				13	16		17
Common Greenshank	104	71	77	47	9	7	9	1	22	103	162	77
Marsh Sandpiper	42	27	35	1					5	8	35	40
Ruddy Turnstone	1											
Great Knot			1						4	1	90	1
Red Knot	8	4	2						75	340	60	15
Red-necked Stint	19	1	18	9								
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		1	1	2					71	71		4
Curlew Sandpiper	260	81	13						71	122	35	156

Table 5 Coastline Waterbirds (Birubi Point - Fingal Head)*(Land based surveys by L. Wooding)*

	19 Apr	26 Jun	13 Jul	27 Aug	24 Sep	30 Oct	19 Nov	18 Dec
Australasian Gannet		15	2	3	3	2	2	2
Little Pied Cormorant			2	3			2	1
Great Cormorant	2			1	11	14	12	16
Little Black Cormorant					1			
Pied Cormorant	1		1		1	1	5	3
White-faced Heron	1	1	1				1	
Eastern Reef Egret						2		
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher		2	6	2		9		
Sooty Oystercatcher	3			12	12		16	11
Masked Lapwing							2	
Wandering Tattler					1			
Common Tern					10			
Crested Tern	52	88	228	46	104	23	17	54
Silver Gull	190	165	127	52		95	83	115

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

	18 Jan	23 Feb	8 Mar	29 Apr	17 Ma y	21 Jun	19 Jul	16 Aug	13 Sep	18 Oct	15 Nov	13 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2		12	4	8	3	2	2	5	1	18	3
Sooty Oystercatcher						2				1	7	
Black-winged Stilt					3							1
Pacific Golden Plover	43											
Red-capped Plover			5	5	25	15	20+	4	5	8		
Double-banded Plover						27	25+	28				
Lesser Sand Plover			3							5		
Masked Lapwing	2		2	2	2	7	2	3	2			6
Black-tailed Godwit											1	
Bar-tailed Godwit	57	106	341	70	22	80	9	148	140	148	53	39
Whimbrel	5	12	19			8	3	1	9	1		1
Eastern Curlew	236	401	200+	13	64	24	1	204	120	327	350+	166
Grey-tailed Tattler	1		2	21					40	2	2	2
Common Greenshank											1	
Red Knot	2											
Red-necked Stint	15		50+		7			5	20+	16		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2									1		
Curlew Sandpiper							1					

*The data in this table are also included into Table 8

Table 7 Port Stephens Waterbirds A
(Boat based summer and winter high tide surveys)

Species	10 Feb	4 Jul
Black Swan	35	39
Aust. Wood Duck	4	14
Chestnut Teal	11	17
Pacific Black Duck	8	4
Australasian Gannet		5
Australasian Darter	2	8
Little Pied Cormorant	99	235
Great Cormorant	39	21
Little Black Cormorant	39	73
Pied Cormorant	263	223
Australian Pelican	132	174
Eastern Great Egret	6	18
Intermediate Egret	1	8
Striated Heron	1	2
Cattle Egret		1
White-faced Heron	14	104
Little Egret	1	7
Nankeen Night Heron	4	
Australian White Ibis	15	104
Royal Spoonbill		6
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	107	154

Species	10 Feb	4 Jul
Sooty Oystercatcher	10	14
Red-capped Plover	10	
Lesser Sand Plover	2	
Masked Lapwing	46	23
Bar-tailed Godwit	886	354
Whimbrel	261	10
Eastern Curlew	320	52
Terek Sandpiper	5	11
Common Sandpiper	1	
Grey-tailed Tattler	37	1
Common Greenshank	5	
Ruddy Turnstone	5	
Arctic Jaeger	1	
Little Tern	5	
Gull-billed Tern		12
Caspian Tern		43
White-fronted Tern		3
Common Tern	1	
Crested Tern	82	38
Silver Gull	234	165

Table 8a Port Stephens Shorebirds

(maximum monthly counts from land based surveys at 10 major locations in Port Stephens, led by L Wooding)

	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	22	25	29	24	30	22	28	47	42
Sooty Oystercatcher	4	7	10		6	2	3	11	8
Black-winged Stilt		3					12		
Pacific Golden Plover	38			2			1	1	
Red-capped Plover	5	25	15	20	4	5	8		
Double-banded Plover			27	28	28				
Lesser Sand Plover	3,						5		
Masked Lapwing	90	71	59	49	52	39	62	40	63
Black-tailed Godwit	10	10					4	1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	443	273	333	129	281	412	638	449	404
Whimbrel	49	4	14	6	24	20	15	7	14
Eastern Curlew	278	76	27	16	262	193	421	409	262
Common Sandpiper	2								
Grey-tailed Tattler	96	110	7	3		50	44	64	63
Common Greenshank						6	19	8	9
Ruddy Turnstone						8	2		
Red-necked Stint	50	7			5	27	16	26	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper							1		
Curlew Sandpiper				1					

Table 8b Port Stephens Other Waterbirds*(maximum monthly counts from land based surveys at 10 major locations in Port Stephens, led by L Wooding)*

	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	34	30	45	45	266	249	236	365	357
Australian Wood Duck	22	36	21	20	39	17	12	48	65
Grey Teal		6		5	17	8	2		2
Chestnut Teal	27	13	7	30	32	25	45	18	30
Pacific Black Duck	5	19	5	6	9	3	2	14	42
Australasian Grebe					1				
Hoary-headed Grebe		3							
Australasian Gannet			5	9	2	4			3
Australasian Darter		1	1	6	2	2	5		2
Little Pied Cormorant	75	86	206	142	313	79	60	100	122
Great Cormorant	3		13	13	35	11	9	31	9
Little Black Cormorant	10	1	29	22	48	61	131	74	180
Pied Cormorant	16	14	38	251	378	131	204	214	113
Australian Pelican	128	187	125	165	119	178	168	195	159
Black Bittern	1								
Eastern Great Egret	16	15	30	17	28	25	35	16	24
Intermediate Egret	1	4	6	9	5	5	12		
Cattle Egret	16	1							
Striated Heron	1		3	4	2	4	6	4	5
Nankeen Night Heron	2	1			10			2	
White-faced Heron	59	70	125	151	76	42	41	24	38
Little Egret		2			4		3		
Australian White Ibis	304	236	570	400	226	149	165	165	124
Straw-necked Ibis					3		1		
Royal Spoonbill	14	5	34	56	26	13	23	2	15
Little Tern	2								
Gull-billed Tern		1	9		2	1			
Caspian Tern	10	9	2	16	15	7	4		
Crested Tern	120	65	35	25	41	23	4	28	37
Silver Gull	1104	680	582	242	265	366	305	487	526
Pacific Gull			1						

Table 9 Monthly Peak Counts at Newcastle Baths/Harbour*(Monthly peak counts from frequent surveys by J Thomas)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ruddy Turnstone	20	21	20	16	3	1	0	1	10	12	14	14
Sooty Oystercatcher	24	33	36	32	17	17	18	12	14	12	16	13
White-fronted Tern	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	75	12	0	0	0
Common Tern	50	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	31	68
Crested Tern	140	127	20	67	150	34	300	470	240	426	104	186
Silver Gull	0	400	400	0	350	0	97	300+	35	64	88	95

Table 10 Waterbirds at Manning River
(Surveys by A Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Muddishops Point)

	12/13 Jan	20/21 Feb	19/20 Mar	20/21 Apr	12/13 May	2/3 Jun	19/20 Jul	23/24 Aug	20/21 Sep	16/17 Oct	16/17 Nov	14/15 Dec
Black Swan	26	23	35	11	2		5		5	6	1	35
Australian Wood Duck				6								
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2		1	2	3	13		2		3	
Great Cormorant	1	6			1		1		3	3	8	12
Little Black Cormorant	10	3		2			4	3	34	116	143	150
Pied Cormorant	84	41	10		1	2	6	3	27	25	53	31
Australian Pelican	32	40	42	51	27	40	34	18	24	28	33	61
Striated Heron				3			3					1
White-faced Heron	2	1	10	2	2	1	5		2	1	1	
Eastern Reef Egret		1		1								
Beach Stone-curlew		2	2	2	3		1	2			1	2
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	15	20	22	17	11	13	11	12	8	14	11	13
Red-necked Avocet					3							
Pacific Golden Plover	1	96	147						41	53	29	40
Red-capped Plover	22	44	46	42	30	10	30	21	33	24	35	36
Double-banded Plover			55	111	115	121	87	73	1			
Lesser Sand Plover		1										2
Masked Lapwing	2	2	16	13	4	2	6		6	13	2	3
Bar-tailed Godwit	58	101	180	39	32	25	31	49	39	149	133	171
Whimbrel		1	2	1					6	2	3	2
Eastern Curlew	12	22	48	2	1	2	1	10	13	17	24	32
Grey-tailed Tattler											8	
Ruddy Turnstone	1											
Sanderling	18		24						3	18	30	40
Red-necked Stint	179	80	331	57	3	18	55	51	56	32	268	94
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									2			
Curlew Sandpiper						1			1			
Little Tern	207	150	145	26			5	10	11	160	421	130
Gull-billed Tern						1	6				1	
Caspian Tern		12	22	1	3		3	3	4	1	2	
White-fronted Tern					2		22	11	4			
Common Tern	343	175	187	2					1	4	600+	3
Crested Tern	48	78	115	141	89	17	198	37	196	135	638	249
Silver Gull	62	109	148	57	276	89	31	35	44	59	101	358

Table 11 Waterbirds at Milhams Pond (on Ash Island)*(Maximum monthly counts from surveys led by N McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grey Teal	7			4	11					3		15
Chestnut Teal	2	5	1	35	31	2	12	2	1	6	25	47
Pacific Black Duck			1	5	6				1			
Australian Pelican	1	4			4					1	1	2
Eastern Great Egret	1											1
Cattle Egret										1	8	1
White-faced Heron	3	2	6	11	24	25	35	17	2	16	10	8
Australian White Ibis	4	16	14	37	16	12	1			3	4	6
Straw-necked Ibis			3	7	18	6	8	16	4			
Royal Spoonbill		4	1		1	1				1		1
Red-capped Plover	2				6			14		2		
Red-kneed Dotterel			1	2	10	4	7	1		41	78	34
Masked Lapwing		3	2	7	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3
Latham Snipe		1								7	2	
Eastern Curlew	3	10	5						1		1	5
Common Greenshank				2	1							
Marsh Sandpiper	4											
Red Necked Stint											1	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	4											30
Silver Gull				1								

Table 12 Waterbirds at Phoenix Flats (on Ash Island)*(Maximum monthly counts from surveys by N McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grey Teal		4				3			3			
Chestnut Teal	2	9		2					2	1		
Pacific Black Duck	3	2										
Australian Pelican	3											
White-necked Heron			2									
White-faced Heron	1	3	4	4	16	3	2	1				4
Australian White Ibis		1	1	3	4	18			7			
Straw-necked Ibis				5	40	1	1					
Royal Spoonbill	7											
Red-capped Plover	6	1	15	16	19	20	18	14	9	14	3	1
Black-fronted Dotterel		1			2		1					
Masked Lapwing	2	2	2	2	8	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Latham's Snipe		1										2
Eastern Curlew	3	1							1			
Red-necked Stint	3			2								

Table 13 Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp*(Systematic surveys led by A Lindsey)*

	Area 1			Area 2	
	15 Feb	12 Oct	2 Nov	12 Oct	2 Nov
Black Swan	54	8	12	85	45
Australasian Shoveler				12	
Grey Teal		3	25	237	375
Chestnut Teal	62	6	82	234	227
Pacific Black Duck		2	2	232	521
Australasian Grebe			1	1	9
Australasian Darter				1	
Little Pied Cormorant		5	2	3	
Little Black Cormorant		7	2		2
Australian Pelican	6	14	13	11	18
White-necked Heron			1		1
Eastern Great Egret		32	6	2	18
Intermediate Egret	1			2	9
Cattle Egret			8		4
White-faced Heron	3	39	21	7	5
Little Egret		5			1
Glossy Ibis		5		99	103
Australian White Ibis	17	6	3	41	57
Straw-necked Ibis		29	4	40	20
Royal Spoonbill	10	7	2	15	1
Australasian Bittern	1				
Australian Spotted Crake					1
Buff-banded Rail			1		
Purple Swamphen		30		31	11
Black-winged Stilt		23	153	1717	2300
Black-fronted Dotterel		1	1		
Red-kneed Dotterel					1
Masked Lapwing	25	30	7		79
Latham's Snipe		1			
Bar-tailed Godwit					1
Red-necked Stint			2		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			55	90	34
Whiskered Tern		4		30	

Table 14 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands*(Systematic surveys led by N McNaughton)*

	15 Jan	19 Feb	20 Mar	15 Apr	20 May	17 Jun	15 Jul	18 Aug	16 Sep	21 Oct	18 Nov	18 Dec
Pacific Black Duck		2		2						2		
Australasian Bittern									2	1	1	
White-necked Heron				1							26	4
Eastern Great Egret				2							2	2
White-faced Heron		3	8		4	4		3		2		3
Australian White Ibis										7	1	6
Straw-necked Ibis											32	5
Royal Spoonbill												1
Masked Lapwing						2	2	1		1	1	2
Latham's Snipe												2

Table 15 Waterbirds from Swansea/Lake Macquarie Surveys*(Monthly counts from surveys led by J Adams/A Taylor)*

	27 Feb		5 Mar		19 Apr	17 May	19 Jul	13 Sep	18 Oct	15 Nov	13 Dec	
	<i>Tide</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	
Black Swan		1	1			25	27	42	100	61	219	104
Australian Wood Duck		8	8			90		5				12
Chestnut Teal			1									
Pacific Black Duck			1									
Little Pied Cormorant		5	13		5	14	6	33	41	1		10
Great Cormorant		2	6				2	2	2	3	3	2
Little Black Cormorant		2	1					36	27	221	233	26
Pied Cormorant		29	51	9	10	25	16	78	12	10	18	25
Australian Pelican		56	62	40		30	39	6	39	42	36	49
Eastern Great Egret			1									
Intermediate Egret			2									
Striated Heron			1				1		1			1
White-faced Heron		1	6			6	1		7		2	1
Little Egret			3									
Australian White Ibis		1	1			25	2		4		3	
Royal Spoonbill			3									
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher		4	5				2	6	2	5	7	5
Masked Lapwing		10	3			5	12	6		2		3
Bar-tailed Godwit		66	76		39	18	18	19	33	35	30	14
Eastern Curlew		11	5		5				18	6	2	3
Grey-tailed Tattler			1									
Little Tern			10		6							
Caspian Tern			6		6							
Common Tern			11		12							
Crested Tern		14	24		12	11	5	5	16	3	6	4
Silver Gull		220	238	30		360	77	40	67	94		98

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	Kings Gap	F7
Bolwarra	L9	Kooragang Island	M10
Boarding House Dam	K11	Kurri Kurri	K9
Boondelbah Island	P9	Laguna	I10
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9
Broke	I9	Lenaghans Flat	L10
Broughton Island	P8	Maitland	L9
Bulahdelah	P7	Market Swamp	M10
Bulga	I8	Martindale	G7
Cabbage Tree Island	P9	Medowie	N9
Catherine Hill Bay	L11	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	O9	Oyster Cove	N9
Denman	G7	Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10
Dungog	M7	Paterson	L8
Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10	Phoenix Park	L9
Fingal Bay	O9	Pokolbin	J9
Forster	R6	Quorrobolong	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	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Seal Rocks	R7	Warakeila	L6
Singleton	I8/J8	Warkworth	I8
Stockton	M10	Watagans SF & NP	K11
Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10	White Box Camp (in GRNP)	C6
Swan Bay	N9	Williamstown	N9
Swansea, Swansea South	L11	Wingen	H4
Taree	Q4	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Tarro	M9	Woko NP	M3
Toronto	L11	Woodville	L9
Tuncurry	R6	Worimi NR	N9
University of Newcastle	M10	Wye Point	L11
Vacy	L8	Yarrawa	F7
Waitui	R3		
Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9		

OBSERVER CODES

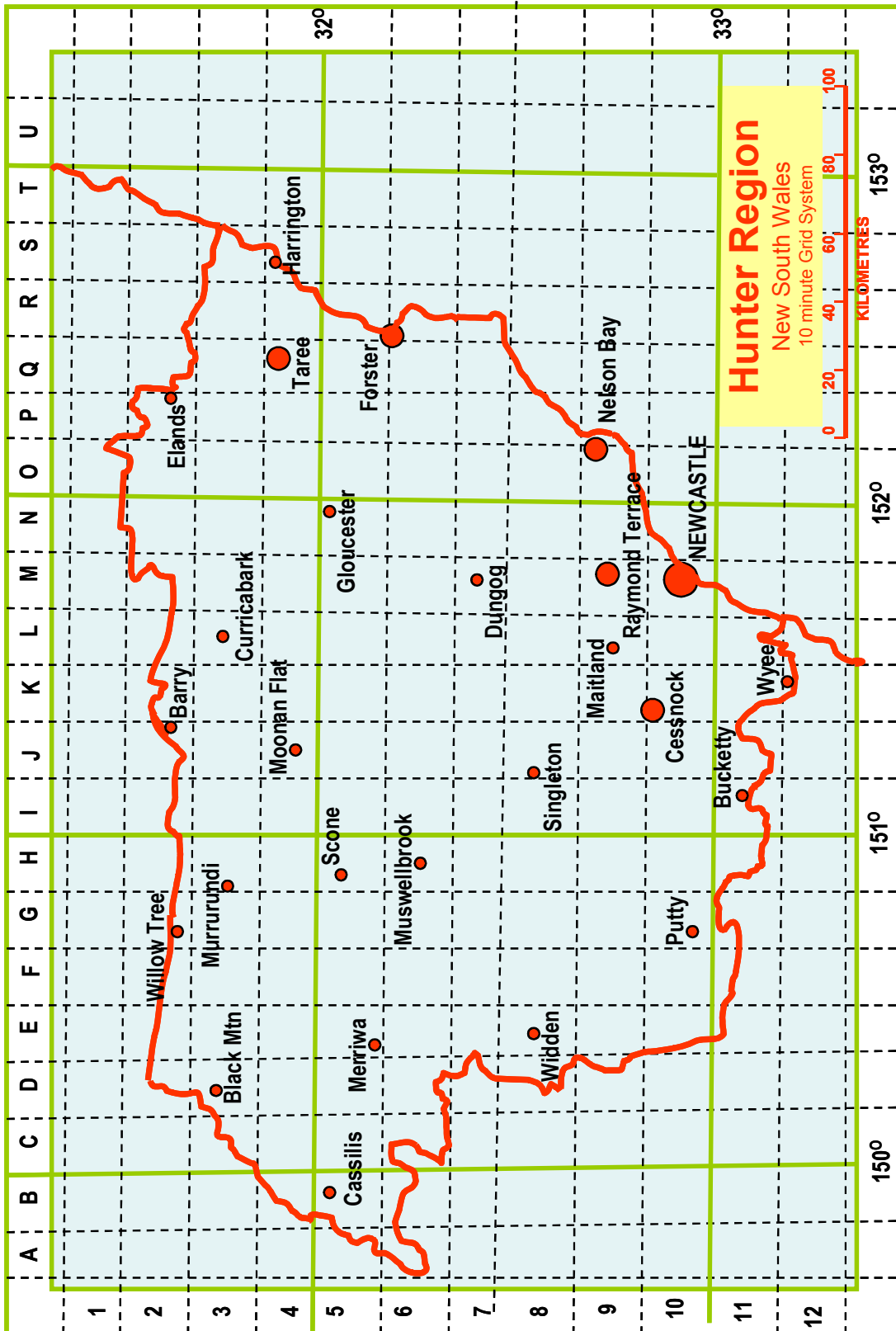
Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the Report, every observation by every observer was an important input. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from *ALL* those listed below. Observers are identified by codes that are made up of letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned.

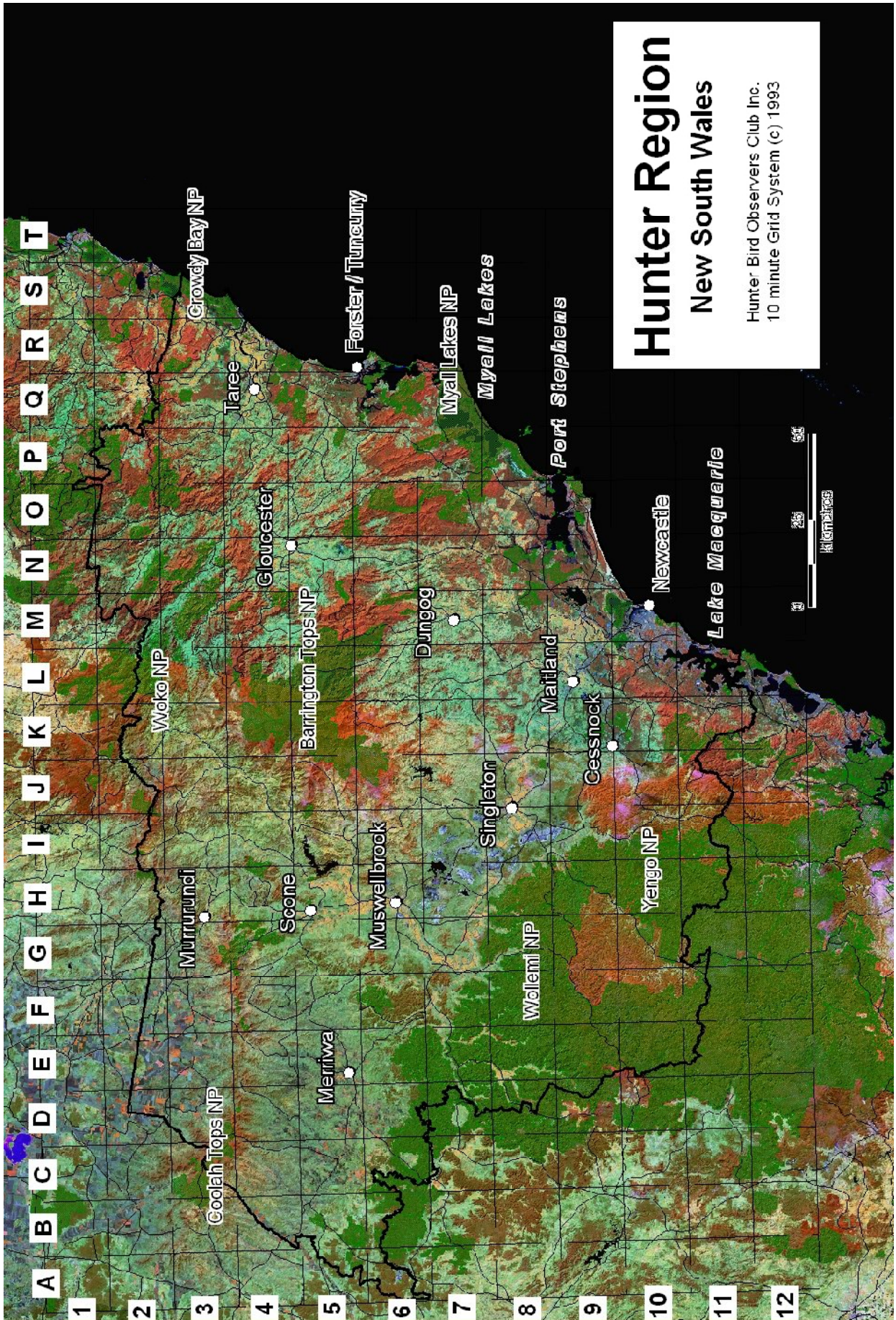
ADJ	Jack Adams	DUP	Pam Durie
ALD	Daniel Allen	DRG	Gaye Drady
ANC	Craig Anderson	EVM	M Evans
BAP	Paul Baird	FIM	Melva Fisher
BAW	Wilma Barden	FIP	Pamela Fitzsimons
BIA	Birding-Aus (Internet group)	FMI	Mike Fidler
BLM	Max Blanch	FOC	Reported in Birding NSW (Field Ornithologists Club) newsletter
BOH	Haley Boyce	FRA	Allen Friis
BOR	Robert Boyce	FRN	Neil Fraser
BRG	Grant Brosie	GED	David Geering
BRJ	Rob, Jan Burns	GOA	Anthony Gooden
BUB	B Burke	GOC	Colin, Rachel Goodenough
BUD	David Bulbert	GOG	Gavin Goodyear
BTS	Tony, Suzi Burgin	GOJ	John Goswell
CAS	Susanne Callaghan	HAM	Matthew Hamonet
CBOC	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	HAP	Phil Hansbro
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	HAS	Sue Hamonet
CLT	Tom Clarke	HBA	HBOC Atlassing Survey
COG	Garth Cooksey	HBOC	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
CRL	Liz Crawford	HCL	Chris, Liz Herbert
DBP	Penny Drake-Brockman	HDM	Dianne, Michael Hatfield
DDR	Dodgy Drongos (Twitchathon team)		

HEC	Chris Herbert	NIJ	Joy Nicholls
HHB	Hunter Home Brewers (Twitchathon team)	NIR	Richard Nicholas
HTH	Hunter Thickheads (Twitchathon team)	OCG	Graeme O'Connor
HOD	Doug Howarth	PEK	Kristy Peters
HUF	Florence Humphreys	PRC	Catherine Price
HUM	Michael Hunter	RAL	Lyn Rayward
HWS	HBOC Wader Surveys	RIA	Allan Richardson
JOD	Di Johnson	ROA	Alan Rogers
KEM	Michael Kearns	ROD	Diane Rogers
KIM	Marj Kibby	ROM	Mick Roderick
LAT	Tony Lambert	ROS	Steven Roderick
LIA	Ann Lindsey	SEP	Peter Settle
LIG	Greg Little	SHB	Brett Shields
LIN	Nick, Liz Livanos	SLJ	Leone, John Storm
LIP	Paddy Lightfoot	SMG	Garry Smith
LDJ	Denise, John Lombard	SMR	Rowley Smith
MAC	Charles Mann	SRM	Robert, Margaret Stewart
MAJ	Julie Maidment	SSN	Simon, Nicholas Short
MAM	Max Maddock	STA	Alan Stuart
MAW	Warren Mayers	TAA	Andrew Taylor
MCL	Len McCarthy	TAH	Harold Tarrant
MCN	Neville McNaughton	TBW	Tomaree Birdwatchers
MCR	Robert McDonald	THJ	Judi Thomas
MDV	Don, Val Moon	TOG	Gary Tong
MEL	Lorna Mee	TOM	Mick Todd
MOA	Alan Morris	TWD	Diane Twose
MUJ	Jenny Musicka	VGF	Fred van Gessel
MVBW	Reported in Manning Valley Birdwatchers newsletter	WAL	Les Walker
NAP	Peter Naylor	WAR	Ray Walker
NBL	NSW Birdline report	WID	Dan Williams
NEG	Greg Newling	WOA	Alison Woolard
NEM	Mike Newman	WOL	Lois Wooding

MAPS OF THE HUNTER REGION

The boundaries of the Region are shown in the two maps which follow, with latitude and longitude lines in a 10-minute grid. Each cell in the grid has a unique alpha-numeric identifier, used in the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations.





Hunter Region
New South Wales
 Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.
 10 minute Grid System (c) 1993