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Great Egret  
Intermediate Egret  
Chris Herbert

*Eastern Great Egret and Intermediate Egret: sketch by Chris Herbert  
Both species continue to breed at Hunter Wetlands Centre*

## FOREWORD

It was a great pleasure to visit the Hunter Region for the first time in February 2010 to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Birds Australia Southern NSW and ACT Group (BASNA), which was hosted by Hunter Bird Observers Club. At the AGM I presented a talk about the future of the Atlas of Australian Birds Project and the role of the participation of regional bird groups in supporting the project. Listening to the other presentations given at the AGM that day, it became apparent that the rich and diverse wildlife that occurs in the Hunter Region faces considerable conflict from the expansion of industry and residential development. In the face of these looming threats, the Hunter Bird Observers Club should be applauded for its commitment to conserving the remaining habitats that occur in the region. The best way to fight these proposed developments is to present reliable information about the species that occur in the habitats which are under threat. It is very pleasing to me that HBOC and the Birds Australia Atlas project are now collaborating in the capture and reporting of bird records. By working in co-operation with the Atlas Project, the Hunter Bird Observers Club is ensuring that the best possible data can be presented in an effort to save these vulnerable habitats.

It is the role of a good regional Bird Report to provide a snap-shot of the birdlife that occurs within the Region. Although this includes records of rarities, unusual records, continuing population trends and the like, it is also important to record some of the less unusual aspects of the avifauna as well. In this way, the ornithologists of the future will be able to gain a complete picture of the situation in the Hunter Region in 2009, rather than a blinkered view distorted by a fixation on the novel or the unusual. This allows for a more complete understanding of the avifauna in the Region. Thus it is heartening to see this 2009 Bird Report embracing this inclusive concept and presenting data for many of the more common species which have received little mention in previous years. The statistics presented for those more common species would not exist unless a number of very keen observers had submitted their records to the Atlas project over many years. Also, I was delighted with the response from local bird watchers when it was first announced that the Atlas project data for the Hunter Region would be made available to Hunter Bird Observers Club for conservation and other purposes. The number of records for 2009 was about double that for 2008 reversing a downward trend for the previous years. For future years, I encourage Hunter Region bird watchers to supply even more records to the Atlas project – in that way, we will even further increase our knowledge about the distributions of the regional avifauna and therefore be in a far stronger position to defend their territories from unintended impacts.

This Bird Report documents the Hunter Region's rich avifauna and presents data in a way that both educates readers and encourages them to continue their efforts to record the birdlife that occurs in this beautiful part of the world. It is a landmark issue which demonstrates the value of systematic data recording and submission.

By collaborating with the Atlas Project, Hunter Bird Observers Club has ensured that both organisations will benefit from this relationship. The precision of the data contributed to the Atlas Project will be improved by the quantity of data emanating from the region, while the Atlas will continue to contribute to the value of the Hunter Region Bird Report series. With this being the first year that Atlas data have been presented in this Report, it is hoped that more analyses of the birdlife of the Hunter Region will be undertaken in the future. In light of this, all members of Hunter Bird Observers Club should be encouraged



# 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 2009. The information is based upon records from many sources.

There are four additions to the species list – Pied Imperial-Pigeon (recorded in 2009) and Ringed Plover, Masked Booby, Barn Swallow (all from historic records that have recently returned to light). With these additions plus a careful re-count of all the prior records, the official Hunter Region list now stands at 437 species. For 2009, 350 of these species were confirmed to have been present in the Region and information about those observations is presented in the Report.

129 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2009. In the 10 years from 2000, 229 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 33 species there are pre-2000 records). For records to be accepted as evidence of breeding there must have been an observation of: a brooding bird; a nest with eggs; a nest with young; or a bird making repeated visits to a nest or hollow with food<sup>1</sup>. All other situations/behaviours<sup>2</sup>, although interesting and potentially noteworthy, are not treated as confirmed breeding records. To maintain the desired standard for the Bird Report, reporters are requested to correctly specify the type of behaviour. This includes differentiating between young birds being fed in a nest and young birds being fed away from a nest.

## New reporting feature

Recently, HBOC received a copy of all of the data about Hunter Region birds that were in the Birds Australia (BA) Atlas project database. The BA Atlas commenced in 1998, and the 12 years of Hunter Region data represents a total of 291,941 records from the database, involving 12,217 discrete surveys (8,339 area surveys and 3,878 2ha/20 minute surveys). We thank BA for providing the data and in particular we acknowledge the very enthusiastic support received from Andrew Silcocks the BA Atlas project coordinator. Analysis of the Atlas data, led by Mike Newman and Ian Martin, has produced rich additional information about Hunter Region birdlife. For all Category 1 and Category 2 species, excepting pelagic birds (for which data collection is haphazard) and any species having no records in the database, the Bird Report now presents statistical data relating to the 12 years of records and the 2009 outcomes from Atlas surveys.

It is important to note that statistics are most meaningful in situations where the number of records is high – therefore, it is the statistical data for common species that merit the most attention. The corresponding data for the less common species potentially are distorted by such things as “hot spots”, targeted surveying, and preferential/selective reporting practices. Nevertheless, data for less common species generally are presented in this Report.

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<sup>1</sup> For species that are known to have bred previously in the Region, evidence of nest building (bird actually sighted at the nest) or birds feeding newly fledged young away from a nest is also treated as a breeding record. However, such evidence is not sufficient for acceptance as a breeding record for rare species or for species for which there are no breeding records for the Region in the previous 10 years.

<sup>2</sup> Such as, birds seen in courtship display, copulating, carrying nesting material (but the nest not observed), carrying food, feeding juveniles not at a nest.

The availability now to HBOC of statistics about more common species fills a gap that has long existed with respect to the Bird Reports. Resource constraints have meant that limited attention has been able to be paid to the status of common species – with the risk that trends, both declines and increases, may have been overlooked.

From a conservation perspective, it is important that these trends are recognised early and appropriate action taken. While the new information progresses us towards this goal, a word of caution is necessary – it is the trends that matter rather than the year-on-year changes, which can have a range of explanations for why they have occurred.

Drawing on the records from the BA Atlas database, the 2009 Bird Report details:

- For species with 20 or more records in the database over the 12 year period:
  - the percentage of 10-minute Hunter Region grid cells in which the species was recorded<sup>3</sup>, and
  - the Reporting Rate (RR) *for those cells where the species has been recorded*.<sup>4</sup>
- For those species with 1-19 records over the 12 year period:
  - the number of cells in which they were recorded, and
  - the number of records.
- The “cell of most interest” for the species over 1998-2009.<sup>5</sup>
- The number of 10-minute grid cells where the species was recorded in 2009, the total number of records for 2009, and the 2009 Reporting Rate (*for those species with sufficient records that Reporting Rates seem meaningful*).

Time constraints have prevented a more in-depth analysis of the 2009 Atlas records, and so there will sometimes be duplication i.e. the Atlas database will include records that were obtained from other sources and which are presented in detail in the Bird Report. In future years, it is anticipated that such duplication will be eliminated.

### Threatened species in the Region

In 2009, the NSW Scientific Committee made several changes to the Schedules for the Threatened Species Conservation Act that affect Hunter Region birds, and further changes in 2010, during the preparation of this Report. Newly listed threatened species are: Spotted Harrier, Little Eagle, Little Lorikeet, White-fronted Chat, Varied Sittella, Scarlet Robin and Flame Robin. Australian Pied Oystercatcher was reclassified as Endangered, and Beach Stone-Curlew as Critically Endangered. These additions mean that there now are 74 threatened species in the Hunter Region – a

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<sup>3</sup> The Hunter Region straddles 149 10-minute cells (in a few cases, only marginally). Four cells have had no surveys – therefore, 97% is the present maximum percentage of cells in which a species can have been recorded.

<sup>4</sup> Reporting Rates (number of times recorded ÷ number of surveys conducted) provide an indication of the relative abundance for species; however, RRs can differ depending on the type of survey that was conducted (2ha / 20 minute survey vs area surveys which usually have much longer durations and hence a higher RR). Where the 2009 RR differs from the long term RR, this difference may in part be due to a change in the ratio of the two survey types. The impact of these biases will vary from species to species. The reader will note that for many species the 2009 reporting rates are lower than the long-term 12 year values. In-depth analysis is required before any conclusion can be drawn concerning the extent to which this may indicate a decline in the population of some species. In future Bird Reports, such comparisons may become possible.

<sup>5</sup> For example, a cell having a 30% reporting rate from 500 surveys is of “more interest” than one with a 100% reporting rate but only 1-2 surveys conducted in that cell.

very sad position indeed. On a more positive note, Gould's Petrel was reclassified from Endangered to Vulnerable in 2009.

### Important Bird Areas

During 2008-2009, various Australian locations were proposed for listing as an Important Bird Area (IBA) – an international classification based on criteria defined by Birdlife International and administered locally by Birds Australia. During the preparation of this 2009 Report, seven sites that lie inside or straddle the Hunter Region were declared IBAs: Hunter Estuary IBA (based on records for several waterbird species), Lake Macquarie IBA, Hunter Valley IBA and Mudgee-Wollar IBA (all based on Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot records), Cabbage Tree Island/Boondelbah Island IBA (based on Gould's Petrel records), Barrington Tops/Gloucester Tops IBA (based on Rufous Scrub-bird and six rainforest species), and Greater Blue Mountains IBA (based on Rockwarbler and five other species). From 2010, the Hunter Region Bird Reports will present data from monitoring of the key species in each IBA.

### The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

Over the years, the philosophy used in preparing these Reports has evolved, and it is now best expressed thus:

- *The bird list for the Hunter Region will include all species which are considered by HBOC as confirmed to have been recorded in the Region. This includes records of species from before the Bird Report series commenced, where such records are brought to our attention and are considered able to be accepted.*
- *All records will be vetted and they will only be accepted for inclusion into the Reports if HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) so decides. For records of species with relatively few prior records, it is expected that the observer will have made field notes at the time of observation (or very soon afterwards and prior to consulting a field guide) and/or will have taken a photograph. This rigour greatly assists the RAC in making favourable decisions.*
- *Non acceptance for publication in the Bird Report does not necessarily mean that the RAC considers the observer mis-identified the bird. **The RAC seeks to feel sure that the observer was able to completely exclude all alternative identifications.** In some cases, diagnostic field marks may not have been described adequately by the observer, or there may have been contradictory descriptions of field marks.*
- *The RAC may decide each year that some of the reported observations should appear in the Bird Report as Unconfirmed Records, so that the information is not lost and the observer's written report can be re-assessed in a new light if our understandings about the occurrence of the species in the Region change in future.*
- *In making these decisions, RAC members operate independently and then collegially, with close scrutiny of all submitted material but also taking into account opinions about the observer's ability/opportunity to eliminate alternative identifications.*
- *The status description for each species is subject to regular review, with the aim of ensuring that the description reflects what is understood to be the current situation. For any year, the main indication of the then-current Hunter Region birdlife will come from considering the status descriptions of the listed species.*
- *For many species, the status description includes mention of the normal distribution range and the typical numbers of birds that are recorded. For those species, only the more notable observations are included into the Report – for example, observations from unusual locations or of exceptional numbers, presence at abnormal times of the year, breeding records.*

- *Breeding status will be assigned to a species only if definite evidence to this effect has been provided, and that such evidence fits within the definition of what constitutes an acceptable breeding record. If there have been no breeding records for a species for 10 or more years, the breeding status will be amended.*

### Other comments

Readers will note a further increase to the number of Tables of data, reflecting the 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.

A map showing the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report. This *Area of Interest* was first defined in 1993 based on 14 local government authorities (LGAs). Since that time, some LGA amalgamations have occurred in NSW, and the Hunter Region is best collectively defined now as:

- *The area managed by LGAs for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock and Port Stephens (the Lower Hunter sub-region),*
- *The area managed by LGAs for Dungog, Gloucester, Greater Taree and Great Lakes (Northern Hunter sub-region),*
- *The area managed by LGAs for Muswellbrook, Scone and Singleton, and formerly managed by LGAs for Merriwa and Murrurundi (Upper Hunter sub-region), and*
- *The ocean within 100km to the east of the coastline.*

To assist in vetting records, we have classified each species into one of three categories, as described below.

*Category 1: All records for the species generally are accepted (records from well outside the known distribution range for the species may require substantiation).*

*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.*

The Records Appraisal Committee assigns these categories and decides whether records can be accepted. For 2009, the Committee members were Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Fred van Gessel, Phil Hansbro, Mike Newman, Craig Anderson and Mick Roderick.

My sincere thanks go to all the contributors for the 2009 Report.

Alan Stuart  
1 September 2010



## NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

Notable records for 2009 included the following:

- Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* – a male with four chicks at Goulburn River NP 22 Oct
- Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* – c.500 birds near Doughboy Hollow 19 Oct
- Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah* – a single bird still present, with several records from Myall Lakes NP and Bulahdelah
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* – a single bird at Hexham Swamp 5 May
- Grey Teal *Anas gracilis* – 1,366 birds at Morpeth Wastewater Works 20 Sep
- Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* – 1,188 birds in the Hunter Estuary 28 Mar
- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* – ten birds at Walka Waterworks 4 Aug
- Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* – a bird taken into care at Stroud 17 Feb and a single bird off Merewether Baths 30 Mar
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* – a bird found dead at Merewether Heights 1 May
- Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* – a single bird near Bulahdelah 11 May
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* – three records of 500+ birds Nov-Dec
- Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* – 50-60 birds at Newcastle 28 Nov and Ash Island in Jan
- Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica* – two birds off Port Stephens 1 Oct
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacificus* – 2,500+ birds off Port Stephens 1 Oct
- Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri* – a single bird off Merewether Baths 30 Mar
- Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes* – 200+ birds off Port Stephens 19 Mar
- Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris* – 8,000-10,000 dead birds on Stockton Beach 16 Nov and 3,000 birds feeding inside Port Stephens 29 Oct
- Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri* – 150+ birds off Port Stephens 1 Oct
- Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera* – first known breeding record from Broughton Island
- Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* – records from four distinctly separate locations (Hunter Estuary, Bulahdelah, Coopernook/Harrington and Forster)
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* – up to 4 birds at Tomago Wetlands Apr-Sep
- Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius* – a single bird at Ash Island 14 Mar
- Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* – 1-2 birds many times at Birubi Point Aug-Oct and Newcastle rock platform Jul-Sep
- Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* – first breeding records for several decades
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* – 1-2 birds often recorded in the Hunter Estuary
- Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* – up to six birds often at Hexham Swamp in Oct and single birds at several other locations Oct-Dec
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* – two pairs experiencing breeding success in the Port Stephens area in Nov-Dec
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris* – the pair at Manning Estuary had a nest with eggs 18 Nov after two prior breeding attempts, and a single bird was at Pindimar in Nov
- Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* – 210-240 birds in the Region in Feb and 200-220 birds in July
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – two birds at Newcastle Bight 16 Nov and 9 Dec and a single bird at KI Dykes 4 & 12 Dec
- Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* – single birds at Manning Entrance State Park 10 Nov and Newcastle Bight 16 Nov
- Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* – up to four birds at John Brown's Lagoon in June and 1-2 birds sometimes at Cattai Wetlands

- Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis* – 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp 6 Jan and 19 Feb
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* – lowest count ever for the Hunter Estuary
- Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* – at least 926 birds in the Region in Feb
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – nine birds at Hexham Swamp in Jan and some birds there in March
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* – three birds at Hexham Swamp 2-3 Jan and Ash Island 3-6 Mar, and a single bird at Morpeth WTW 17 Dec
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* – 2,460 birds at Morpeth WTW 21 Nov – *the highest known count in the Region from a single location.*
- Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella* – single birds at Ash Island 31 Jan, 1 Feb and 28 Mar
- Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* – several records of single birds in March
- Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* – the second most successful documented breeding season ever for the Manning Estuary
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* – a single bird at Stockton 7 Feb
- Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus* – a juvenile bird at Harrington 30 Apr
- Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* – a major influx into the Region from early autumn, persisting into October
- Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* – largest numbers recorded for the Region
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* – a single bird at Goulburn River NP 31 Oct and three females/juveniles near Cassilis 8 Nov
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* – 30 birds in Werakata NP 25 May and records from four other locations
- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans* – some records from Goulburn River NP in Oct-Nov, including of a juvenile with Speckled Warblers
- Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris* – single birds at Ash Island 17 Mar, 8 Nov and 6 Dec, and a dead bird near Hunter Region Botanic Gardens early Sep
- Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula* – a single bird at Seal Rocks 13 Mar
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* – many records of 1-5 birds from widespread locations in the W of the Region over Apr-Dec and in particular in Oct
- Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* – 40 birds in Werakata NP 3 Jun and 4 Jul and records from three other locations
- Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger* – eight birds at Sandy Hollow 25 Oct to mid Nov and a single bird at Walka Waterworks 6-7 Dec
- Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus* – a single bird at Saltwater NP 24 Jun
- Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* – two birds at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct and 1 Nov and two birds at Hunter Wetlands Centre in May
- Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* – up to 8 birds at Medhurst Bridge Martindale in Nov-Dec and records from many other locations in the W of the Region
- Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus* – records from several locations in October
- Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor* – a single bird at Nords Wharf 12 Aug
- White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis* – not recorded, for the first time since 2003
- Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* – up to ten birds at Bowmans Crossing and 1-2 birds at Goulburn River Wollar Rd and near Jerrys Plains, all in Oct-Nov
- Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella* – a small population in the lower Hunter Valley.

# 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 cell 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: Yes (*revised*)

Status: Resident in W of Region.

From BA Atlas: 17 records from five cells, at RR = 9.44%; cell of most interest: B6 (20.7%).

A single bird and a male with 4 well advanced chicks were recorded at two locations at/near GRNP 22 Oct (ROM) and also a single bird at GRNP 31 Oct (HHB) and two birds there 15 Nov (HAP). **BA Atlas:** Two records from cell B6. Also see Escapees.

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

ID No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 3.69%; cell of most interest: M5 (31.1%).

Six birds were recorded at Copeland SCA 22 Feb (DBP) and 6-10 birds at Wingham Brush in Jul, 10 Aug and 1 Oct (MVBW, STA). 1-5 birds were often present at Saltwater NP (STA) and also recorded at Myall Lakes NP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Williams River 21 Jun (WID), Booti Booti NP 30 Jun (BUM), Hallidays Point and Red Head 15 Aug (both MVBW), Duns Creek 16 Aug (NEM), NLH 5 Sep and Oct (WID, LIP), Black Head (R5) 6 Sep (STA), Millfield 9 Sep (GRJ), Glenrock SCA 21 Oct and 25 Dec (WID), Watagans 1 Nov (WID), Jerusalem Creek (M6) 3 Nov (NEG), Telegherry FP (M6) 3 Nov (NEG) and Yaraandoo (L8) 26 Nov (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were tending mounds at Saltwater NP 11 Aug and 17 Nov (STA). **BA Atlas:** 37 records from 12 cells; RR 8.20%.

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

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 1.13%; cell of most interest: D2 (9.1%).

Several birds were at Morpeth 10 Mar (BRG) and some birds were also recorded at Krambach early Nov (BIA) and Tomago 15 Dec (MCN). **BA Atlas:** Three records from two cells.

### **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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 4.30%; cell of most interest: S3 (16.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** 19 records from 14 cells; RR 2.69%.

### **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 2009.

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

ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Often recorded at wetlands around Shortland as counts of up to 50 birds (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 5.15%; cell of most interest: M10 (9.3%).

The highest count at HWC was 75 birds in Nov (SRM). Elsewhere, four birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 18 Jan (NEM) and a single bird was flying over Deep Pond 10 Jan (ROM). **BA Atlas:** Eight records from two cells.

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

ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 1.02%; cell of most interest: L10 (2.53%).

Most records were from the usual location, Doughboy Hollow, with 200-220 birds present 19 Apr and 13 Jun (STA, NEG) and some counts of lesser numbers. However, ~500 birds were feeding in nearby paddocks 19 Oct (ROS/RIA) – *easily the highest count ever for this species in the Region*. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at PNR 2 Jan and 3 Mar (NBL, JOD). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell J8.

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

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 3.88%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.6%).

27 birds were at HWC 18 Oct (LIP) and also some birds present there 16 Jan, 18 Oct, 21 & 24 Dec (WIT, LIP, WID). 5 birds were present at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC) and two birds at Cattai Wetlands 28 Feb (NBL) and PNR 28 Feb (CCFOC). **BA Atlas:** Four records from two cells.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 4.27%; cell of most interest: L9 (13.6%).

Birds were recorded sometimes at GTD in Jan-Feb, with peak count of 22 birds 1 Feb (STA, WID); up to six birds were also recorded 15 Jul and 24 & 27 Nov (STA, LUD, EGD). Some birds were present in the Hunter Estuary all months, rising to counts of 9-12 birds in winter (Table 3). There were many records all year of up to five birds at WWW and single birds were often recorded at HWC (many observers). Three birds were at Ellalong Lagoon 1 Aug (MOA *et al.*) and a single bird there 23 Aug (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had ducklings at WWW 15 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 17 records from five cells; RR 4.31%.

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Rare.

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 27.8%; cell of most interest: L10 (64.1%).

**Notable records:** Many birds were in Port Stephens all year, with several counts of 300-400+ birds and 500+ present 8 Feb and in Dec (Table 8, also see Table 7). 500+ birds were also present at Morpeth WTW 26 Feb and 7 Apr (Table 2). 100+ birds were recorded at Belmont Lagoon 1 Jan and 13 Mar (STA), Myall Lakes NP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Hexham Swamp 19 Feb and 8 May (Table 14), Morpeth WTW 13 Mar, Hunter Estuary May-Jul and Pindimar 4 Dec (STA). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Feb-Mar, Jun-Jul, and Aug-Nov. **BA Atlas:** 135 records from 23 cells; RR 20.2%.

**Radjah Shelduck** *Tadorna radjah*

ID No: 206                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2005-08).

Only one bird remains of the pair that has been present for several years in the Myall Lakes NP area; it was recorded at Bulahdelah 14 Apr (FOC), 4 May (BRG/GOA) and 18 Jul (MOA), and at Myall Shores Resort 17 Aug (per MOA).

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare (recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03, 2006-08).

A single female bird was recorded at Hexham Swamp south 5 May (LIG).

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds widely and regularly recorded near fresh to brackish waters.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 85% of cells, at RR = 30.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (73.6%).

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were at East Seaham 14 Feb (MCN *et al.*) and 20+ birds at Morpeth WTW 5 Jan and 17 Dec (Table 2), Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC), WWW 3 Feb and in Nov-Dec (SRM, Table 1) and Port Stephens several times (Table 8).

**Breeding:** Birds had ducklings at Stewarts River (R3) 24 Apr (STA), Balickera Jul-Aug (MUJ), Hallidays Point 15 Aug (MVBW) and Woodville 28 Aug (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 182 records from 42 cells; RR 19.3%.

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

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 5.31%; cell of most interest: L9 (26.4%).

100+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary over May-Oct, with peak count 267 birds 27 Jun (Table 3). 111 birds were at WWW 6 Jan, but there were no further records from there until early Nov when up to 3 birds were sometimes present for the remainder of the year (Table 1, BRG). Modest to good numbers were present at Morpeth WTW during the regular surveys, peaking at 57 birds 7 Apr and several other counts of 20+ birds (Table 2). However, 130 birds were recorded at Morpeth locations on 28-29 Jul (LIA). Elsewhere, seven birds were at both Hexham Swamp 19 Feb (LIA) and HWC 19 Jun (LIP), and there were lesser numbers at HWC in early June (LIP, SRM). **BA Atlas:** 15 records from five cells; RR 4.78%.

**Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*

ID No: 200                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchos*

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Up to 10 birds often recorded at medium-large fresh waters in central and E of Region  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 8.49%; cell of most interest: L9 (32.8%).

**Notable records:** 148 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 15 May and 30-60+ birds there in several other months (Table 2). The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 95 birds 19 Sep and two other counts of 50+ birds (Table 3). 20-21 birds were sometimes at HWC over Jul-Aug (LIP, SRM). *Far fewer large counts than is normally the case.* **BA Atlas:** 36 records from nine cells; RR 6.95%.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 17.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (59.7%).

**Notable records:** 1,366 birds were at Morpeth WTW 20 Sep and 1,176 birds 7 Aug, with 100+ present throughout Feb-Nov and many records of 700+ birds (Table 2). 743 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 13-14 Nov with many records of 200-400+ birds over Mar-Dec (Table 3). 350 birds were at Hexham Swamp 17 Aug, 229 birds 8 May, and 100+ on 2 Mar (Tables 14a, b). 115 birds were at HWC 13 Dec (LIA/NEM), and 50+ birds there 15 Nov and 18 Dec (LIP) and at WWW 6 Jan (Table 1). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Cattai Wetlands 5 Sep (STA). **BA Atlas:** 144 records from 33 cells; RR 17.0%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 28.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (45.8%).

**Notable records:** 1,188 birds were recorded in Hunter Estuary 28 Mar with regular counts of 500+ over Jan-Apr; subsequently most records from there were of 100-250 birds (Table 3). 328 birds were at Morpeth WTW 7 Aug and 309 birds 26 Feb, with 100+ birds on the majority of other surveys (Table 2). 500 birds were at Hexham Swamp 8 May with 100+ present Mar-Jun; birds then were absent until Dec and with 137 birds present by 31 Dec (Table 14a, HID). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Cattai Wetlands 5 Sep (STA) and Toronto Wetland Oct 20 (HCL). **BA Atlas:** 125 records from 16 cells; RR 17.3%.

**Northern Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 2.76%; cell of most interest: M9 (8.7%).

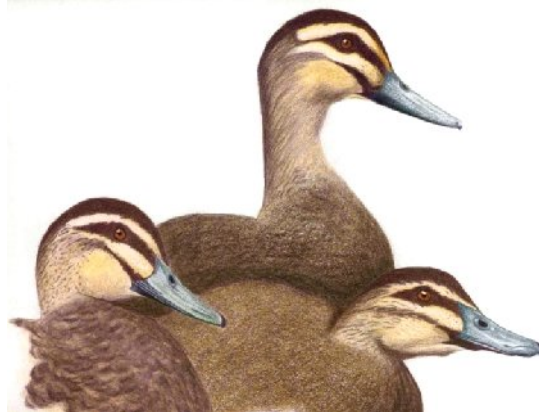
6+ birds were at Dora Creek May/June (GOC) and Wallbridge Reserve Raymond Terrace 16 Oct (KEM/MCR), and two birds at Belmont Lagoon 14 Jul (STA). **BA Atlas:** Nine records from four cells; RR 1.93%. *There seem to be very few birds in the Region that are not hybrids of an endemic duck species, such as A. superciliosa (ROM).*

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 84% of cells, at RR = 32.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (84.6%).

**Notable records:** 348 birds were present at Morpeth WTW 26 Feb and ~180 birds in Mar-Apr; most birds then dispersed (Table 2). In the Hunter Estuary, 100+ birds were present most months except Mar-Jul; the peak count was 243 birds 19 Dec (Table 3). Hexham Swamp had 229 birds 8 May and 100 birds 2 Mar – again there was a general dispersal until Dec when numbers began to rise peaking at 220 birds present 27 Nov (Tables 14a & b, HID). ~120 birds were at Port Stephens in Mar and Aug and 78 in May (Table 8), and 70 birds were at WWW 7 Apr (Table 1). **Breeding:** A pair had dependent young at HWC Nov (SRM).

**BA Atlas:** 245 records from 46 cells; RR 25.3%.*Pacific Black Ducks: sketch by Chris Herbert***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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 9.06% cell of most interest: L9 (47.5%).

**Notable records:** Birds were present all year at WWW with peak count 107 birds 10 Sep and 40+ present over Oct-Dec (Table 1); also 34 birds were recorded there 22 Jul (STA). In the Hunter Estuary, birds were present most months with 50+ recorded Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec and peak count of 125 birds 19 Dec (Table 3). Also birds were present most months at Morpeth WTW with the peak count an unusually low 29 birds 7 Apr (Table 2). **BA Atlas:** 51 records from 14 cells; RR 6.87%.

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

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

Status: Uncommon visitor.

From BA Atlas: 17 records from four cells, at RR = 0.67%; cell of most interest: L9 (ten records).

Single birds were recorded at WWW 5 Jan and 3 Feb (SMJ *et al.*, SRM). There were no further reports until 8 July, when seven birds were present (SMJ/BAP); for the remainder of the year 5+ birds were often recorded (Table 1, many other observers). The peak count was ten birds present 4 Aug (BRG/LUD). *These are the highest known counts for the Region.* **BA Atlas:** Six records from cell L9; RR 2.99%.

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

ID No: 107 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A bird was taken into care at Stroud 17 Feb after a tropical low pressure system moved south into NSW; the bird was released off Nobbys Beach 26 Feb (ERE/Newcastle Herald). Also, a single bird was recorded Merewether Baths 30 Mar (HOG).

**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 2009.



**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 15.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (57.4%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at WWW Apr-Dec, Morpeth WTW May-Aug and Hunter Estuary most months, with peak counts respectively of 80 birds 9 Jun, 71 birds 15 May and 46 birds 25 Apr (Tables 1-3). 20+ birds were also at Hexham Swamp 8 May, 17 Aug and 28 Oct (Table 14) and Mt Arthur 16 Aug (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at HWC Oct-Nov (SRM). **BA Atlas:** 134 records from 26 cells; RR 15.9%.

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

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

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.97%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.0%).

65 birds were at Mt Arthur 16 Aug (NEG). Birds were present most months at WWW, usually in modest numbers until Oct-Dec when 40+ birds were often recorded and peak counts ~60 birds 26 Dec and c. 50 birds both 9 Oct and 29 Nov (Table 1, WID, TAH, FRA); 48 birds were also present 22 Jul (STA). 29 birds were at GTD 15 Jul, with many also present 26 Oct and 24 Nov (STA, LUD, EGD). Some birds were recorded all year in the Hunter Estuary, with peak count 43 birds 13-14 Nov (Table 3). Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 1 & 5 Oct (WID). **BA Atlas:** 14 records from five cells; RR 3.66%.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 3.08%; cell of most interest: L9 (13.0%).

Birds were recorded every month at WWW, with 20+ present there Jan-May and in Dec, and the peak count 41 birds 11 Feb (Table 1). Six birds were at GTD 27 Nov (LUD) and 1-5 birds there 1 Feb and 24 Nov (STA, EGD) and at John Browns Lagoon 10 Mar (ROM), Mt Arthur 16 Aug (NEG) and Bootawa Dam Aug and 1 Oct (MVBW). **Breeding:** Birds were on nests and nest building at WWW 6 Jan and had chicks there 13 Jan and 3 Feb, and again on 15 Oct (BAP *et al.*, SEP, SRM, KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from three cells; RR 6.06%.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at urban locations (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 8.08%; cell of most interest: R6 (22.8%).

**Notable records:** 32 birds were recorded at Merewether Beach 28 Apr (GOC). **BA Atlas:** 21 records from nine cells; RR 4.02%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 8.30%; cell of most interest: Q7 (61.0%).

**Notable records:** 12 birds were recorded at Salt Ash 15 May (BTS) and 6+ birds at Stewarts River (R3) 24 Apr and Saltwater NP 6 Oct (both STA). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ) and were collecting nesting material at Gloucester mid Aug (DBP). **BA Atlas:** 26 records from nine cells; RR 5.05%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 23.3%; cell of most interest: L11 (59.1%).

**Notable records:** Seven birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP/Swan Bay 25 Apr (MEL *et al.*). A bird was taken by a Grey Goshawk at Weston 3 Dec (ROS). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 91 records from 21 cells; RR 11.0%.

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

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds often recorded in well-forested areas in E and central parts of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 7.87%; cell of most interest: Q2 (55.2%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were feeding at Copeland Tops SCA 20 Dec (BRG) and 10+ birds were in the Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC). Four birds were at Glenrock SCA 22 Nov (WID). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 49 records from 18 cells; RR 7.25%.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 1.31%; cell of most interest: J6 (6.25%).

Single birds were recorded at Mungo Brush (MLNP) 13 Jan (WIT), Cabbage Tree Island 20 Jul (CLT), and Copeland Tops SCA 20 & 24 Dec (BRG, WID). The bird at Mungo Brush was an immature. **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell P7.

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 5.69%; cell of most interest: C6 (38.3%).

Six birds were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), Washpools Towarri NP 14 Nov (STA) and Mogo Creek 22 Nov (MEL), and 1-5 birds were recorded at Wingen TSR 17 Mar, 21 Jul and 13 Oct (NEG), Woods Point 13 May (CCB), Jerrys Plains 21-22 May (CLT), Pine Grove Rd 24 May and 5 Sep (WID), Jones Reserve Rd 6 Jun (WID), Wallaroo NR 6 Sep (MEL), Big Dicky Dans TSR (K3) 14 Sep (STA), Sandy Hollow area 23 & 24 Oct (CCB), GRNP 15 Nov (HAP), Columbey NP 27 Nov (HBOC) and Pokolbin 26 Dec (WID). Birds were nest building at Broke Common 8 Nov (BRG). **BA Atlas:** 33 records from 18 cells; RR 5.27%.

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.64%; cell of most interest: M11 (16.5%).

There were frequent reports of 1-3 birds from Belmont Swamp/Belmont Lagoon in Jan, Oct and Dec (many observers). Also, a juvenile was at Awabakal NR 6 Dec (WID). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell M10.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 30.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (66.4%).

Birds were nesting at Wingen Sep, Nov and late Dec (NEG), and had dependent young at Dora Creek 1-8 Jan (GOC). **BA Atlas:** 151 records from 45 cells; RR 15.8%.

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia striata*

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 10.1%; cell of most interest: G8 (53.0%).

12+ birds were at Big Dicky Dans TSR (K3) 14 Sep (STA). There were many records of 1-5 birds in the central and W of the Region, and near-coastal records from Saltwater NP 11 Jan (STA), Medowie 8 May (LUD), Balickera Apr and Jun (MUJ), Lansdowne 21 Nov (MVBW) and Harrington 31 Oct (WID). **BA Atlas:** 41 records from 17 cells; RR 8.04%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 51% of cells, at RR = 18.5%; cell of most interest: M8 (42.9%).

**Notable records:** Birds bred at Balickera Jul (MUJ) and were feeding fledged young at Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 119 records from 27 cells; RR 14.2%.

**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 E and central parts of Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 10.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.7%).

**Notable records:** Five birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) 26 Nov and three birds there 5 Nov (NEM), and four birds at Bulls Run Rd Laguna 13-14 Jun (RDB). **BA Atlas:** 69 records from 25 cells; RR 8.51%.

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

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 4.61%; cell of most interest: K5 (24.4%).

Four birds were feeding in a fruiting tree at Cabbage Tree Rd Barrington Tops 14 Jun (ERE) and 3+ birds were at Copeland Tops SCA 20 Dec (BRG). 1-2 birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 25 Feb and 11 Aug (STA), Copeland Tops 22 Apr (ROM), Harrington RF 25 Jul and 7 Oct (MVBW, STA), East Seaham 21 Aug and 8 Sep (HBOC), Copeland SCA 17 Sep (DBP), Clarendetown 22 Sep (SLJ), Allyn River 1 Nov (HHB) and Barrington Tops 29 Nov (LIG). **BA Atlas:** 11 records from six cells; RR 7.28%.

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

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

A bird was found dead at Merewether Heights 1 May after flying into a window (per ROM).

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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Pied Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula bicolor*

ID No: 026                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*new to list*).

A single bird was at Lowreys Rd (6km west of Bulahdelah) 11 May (RAA); the report was accepted by NSW ORAC. There were other records of the species from northern NSW and Sydney from about the time of this observation.

**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 3.32%; cell of most interest: K5 (39.0%).

Around 100 birds were at Allyn River 18 Mar (MEL) while 70-100 birds were at Gloucester 20-21 Apr (DBP). 60 birds were at Port Stephens 27 Jul (STA) and ~50 birds at Manchester Rd Barrington 22 Dec (WID). 15-20 birds were recorded at Harrington RF 10 Aug (STA), One Mile Beach Forster 14 Aug (MVBW) and Frying Pan Barringtons NP 8 Jul (TAT). Ten birds were at Hawks Nest 15 Jul and Snapper Island 25 Sep (CLT, FAA) and 1-5 birds at Harrington RF 15 Mar (STA), Mayfield 8 Jul (CHP), Brambles Reserve Tuncurry 17 Jul (MVBW), Copeland SCA 17 Sep (DBP), PNR 15 Oct (MCR), Gloucester Tops 25 Nov (NEM/STA) and Barrington Tops 29 Nov (LIG). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from 11 cells; RR 2.19%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 5.32%; cell of most interest: M8 (22.5%).

**Notable records:** Five birds were seen at Gloucester Tops 13 Sep (BIA) and four birds at Merewether 8 Feb (DUP). **Breeding:** There were many records in Oct and Dec. **BA Atlas:** 19 records from seven cells; RR 2.73%.

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

ID No: 330                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 1.80%; cell of most interest: G10 (14.9%).

Single birds were recorded at Duns Creek 12 Jan (NEM), Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 24 Jan (HBOC), Ash Island 19 Mar (FOC) and Mt Arthur 16 Sep (NEG). Birds returned at Duns Creek 31 Aug and had a nest with egg there 3 Dec and dependent young 10 Dec (NEM). **BA Atlas:** Seven records from three cells.

**Spotted Nightjar** *Eurostopodus argus*

ID No: 331                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1989*).

No reports were received for 2009.

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

ID No: 317                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 5.00%; cell of most interest: G10 (49.2%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 14 Sep (BIA), Balickera Sep (MUJ), Gloucester Tops 20 Sep (BIA), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC) and Jerrys Plains 31 Oct (HHB). **BA Atlas:** Eight records from three cells; RR 3.45%. Also see Supplementary Records.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 4.32%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.3%).

**Notable records:** 500+ birds were recorded over Newcastle 26 Nov (ROM), Broadmeadow 25 Nov and 8 Dec (WID, ROS) and Shoal Bay/Nelson Bay 22 Dec (FRN), and 100+ birds at Swansea 17 Jan (ADJ) and Hawks Nest area 10-17 Jan (WIT). A flock of ~ 200 birds was circling high above Myall Lakes NP 24 Jan (HBOC). 50+ birds were at Cessnock 21 Feb (NEG) and Dudley 6 Dec (WID), and 30-50 birds at Myall Lakes NP 15 Nov (BIA), Nelson Bay 7 Dec (EGD), Speers Point 25 Dec (HAS) and Broke 30 Dec (BIA). There were many other records of 20-30 birds. The first recorded return was three birds at Harrington RF 7 Oct (STA) – *relatively early*. **BA Atlas:** 17 records from 12 cells; RR 2.33%.

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

ID No: 335

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.37%; cell of most interest: G10 (8.96%).

~60 birds were flying over The Hill Newcastle 28 Nov (HAP) and 50+ birds at Ash Island Jan (BRG). Around 20 birds were at Swansea 17 Jan (ADJ) and Lambton 18 Dec (ROM), ten birds at Speers Point 25 Dec (HAS) and 1-5 birds at Hawks Nest 13 Jan (WIT), Dudley 6 Dec (WID) and Broadmeadow 8 Dec (ROS). **BA Atlas:** Two records, from two cells.

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

ID No: 063

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf.

15 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul, six birds on the analogous survey 19 Mar and four birds on 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

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

ID No: 065

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes (*revised*)

Status: Resident.

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul and a single bird there 1 Oct (ROM/STA). Also see Supplementary Records.

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

ID No: 066

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon visitor (*recorded 2002, 2006*).

Two birds were recorded together on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

**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 2009.

**Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans*

ID No: 086

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Endangered

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

One bird (sub-species *gibsoni*) was recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA), and a single bird was off Port Stephens late Jan (BIA).

**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.

10-12 birds were close off Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM), and a single bird off Newcastle Baths 2 May (BRG). Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul, and a single bird (sub-species *melanophris*) on the corresponding survey 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

**Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta*

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

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul and a single bird 1 Oct (ROM/STA) – all birds were of the *cauta* sub-species.

**Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

ID No: 089      HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised from: 2*)      Breeding: No  
Status: Common winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

15 birds were recorded in-shore and 20 birds near the continental shelf during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul, and three birds on the analogous survey 1 Oct (ROM/STA). A single bird was off Myall Lakes NP 4 Jul (BUM).

**Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri*

ID No: 931      HBOC Category: 3 (*Revised*)      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain. (*recorded 2003, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA).

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

ID No: 937      HBOC Category: 2      NSW: Vulnerable      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant at and beyond the continental shelf.

Two birds were positively identified (with four other Giant-Petrels) offshore from Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM), and a single bird was offshore from Newcastle Baths 2 Jun (LIN).

**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense*

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

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA).

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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Antarctic Prion** *Pachyptila desolata*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**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 2009.

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

ID No: 915                      HBOC Category: 3 (*Revised*)                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1968, 2003*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917                      HBOC Category: 3 (*Revised*)                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000, 2006-07*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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:** 2,500+ birds (mostly feeding at ~4km offshore) were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Oct (ROM/STA) and ~1,000 birds off Nobbys Beach 1 Nov (THJ). 1,000+ birds off Seal Rocks 13 Mar were probably *A. pacificus* (BRG/LIN). Several hundred birds were off Nobbys Head 7 Feb and 12 Aug (MOA *et al.*, ROM) and Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA). 50+ birds were at Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) – *late departure*. See Supplementary Records.

**Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri*

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

A single bird was seen off Merewether Baths 30 Mar (HOG).

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Ardenna carneipes*

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

200+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA). 20+ birds were off the Newcastle foreshore 26 Apr (WID) and 10+ birds off Nobbys Head 7 Feb (MOA *et al.*) and Newcastle Baths 1 Apr (ROM). A single bird was off Seal Rocks 13 Mar (BRG/LIN).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

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

No reports were received for 2009. See Supplementary Records.

**Short-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna tenuirostris*

ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Common spring/summer migrant. Often recorded in flocks of up to 100 birds during Sep-Nov.

**Notable records:** 2,500 birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach 25 Oct and 1,000+ were again present 10 Nov (ROM). 600-700 birds were feeding inside Port Stephens 28 Oct in many rafts, rising to ~3,000 birds 29 Oct in rafts of 100-250 and no birds present 30 Oct (ROA).

Some 8,000-10,000 dead/dying birds (based on an estimated average density of 25-30 per 100m) were along Stockton Beach 16 Nov (NEM/STA) – this reflected a major wreck that occurred for the species in SE Australia in early Nov. Dead birds were present from at least 1 Nov (IVT). Several beaches further to the north of the Region were assessed over 17-18 Nov and these had few/nil beachcast birds (STA); however, 111 dead birds were at Mudbishops Point 10 Nov (DBP). There were few surveys made at any beaches in the south of the Region, but Redhead Beach had 16-17 dead birds in a small area surveyed (POJ).

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant and bird of passage.

~500 birds were off Nobbys Beach 10 Nov (ROM). Eight birds were feeding with a group of Silver Gull and Crested Tern 30m off Stockton Breakwater 20 Jul (ERE). 1-2 birds were recorded on a Port Stephens pelagic survey 2 Jul (ROM/STA) and off Birubi Point 17 Oct and Nobbys Beach 1 Nov (RIA, HHB), and a beach-cast bird at Newcastle Beach 17 Feb (ROM).

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

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage (*probably overlooked*).

Single birds were recorded during a Port Stephens pelagic survey 1 Oct (ROM/STA) and off Nobbys Beach 25 Oct (ROM).

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 810 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

No reports were received for 2009.



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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

Ten birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and some birds off Port Stephens late Jan (BIA). A beach-cast bird was found near Nobbys Beach 17 Feb and, unusually, a bird was close offshore from Nobbys Beach 20 Apr after two days of high winds (both ROM).

**Providence Petrel** *Pterodroma solandri*

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

15-20 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 19 Mar and 2 Jul, and then 150+ birds on 1 Oct (ROM/STA) – *the latter being the highest known counts for the Region.*

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

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA). A bird had a nest with egg at Broughton Island in Dec (Birds Australia news bulletin) – *this is the first documented breeding record for this location; there are now three islands off Port Stephens where the birds are known to breed.*

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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**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 2009.

**Black-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma nigripennis*

ID No: 955                      HBOC Category: 3 (*Revised*)                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2007*). (*revised from: Rare visitor at and beyond the continental shelf*).

No reports were received for 2009.

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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

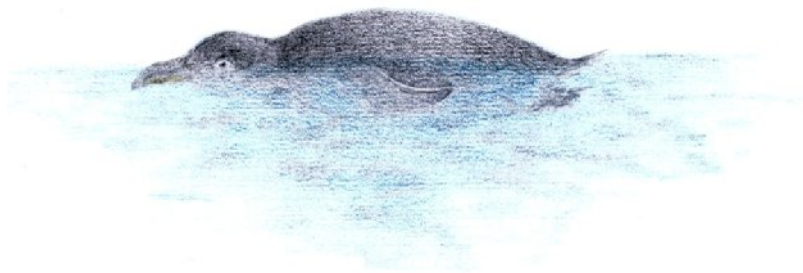
ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 4.93%; cell of most interest: P9 (13.1%).

Five birds were in Port Stephens 11 Apr (WID) and four birds off Hawks Nest 8 May (EVM). 1-3 birds were recorded off Seal Rocks 13 & 23 Mar (BRG/LIN, MCR/KEM), Shoal Bay 18 Mar (CLT), on Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) and in Port Stephens 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

**Breeding:** Some birds were on eggs and others had dependent young at a small island off Seal Rocks late Jan (FRA), and a chick was in a burrow at Broughton Island 17 Jan (HCL). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell P8. See Supplementary Records.



*Little Penguin: sketch by Lois Wooding*

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

No reports were accepted for 2009.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

ID No: 104 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Regular non-breeding visitor, with 1-5 birds often recorded close offshore Mar-Oct (*text added*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.56%; cell of most interest: P9 (23.2%).

**Notable records:** 150+ birds (mostly feeding at ~4km offshore) were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Oct and 30 birds (20 in one raft) on the analogous survey 2 Jul (ROM/STA). 35 birds were off Nobbys Beach 18 Apr and 7-9 birds 30 Apr/1 May (THJ) and 20 birds off Crowdy Beach 26 Jan (ERE). 12 young birds were inside and around Port Stephens mid May (BTS) and six birds on 27 Jul (Table 8), and 7-8 birds often off the Birubi Point – Fingal Head coastline May-Aug (Table 5). **BA Atlas:** Six records from five cells.

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*

ID No: 103 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985, 2008*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

ID No: 105 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1979*) (*New to list*).

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 2009.

**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters, as counts of up to 5 birds (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 9.13%; cell of most interest: L9 (36.2%).

**Notable records:** Seven birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 5 Jan and Ellalong Lagoon 23 Aug (Table 2, HBOC), and 7-11 birds at Hunter Estuary locations Apr-Aug (Table 3).**Breeding:** Five pairs had nests with young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 58 records from 18 cells; RR 7.63%.**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 63% of cells, at RR = 9.13%; cell of most interest: L9 (57.1%).

**Notable records:** 100-150+ birds were recorded most months at Port Stephens with the peak count 473 birds 8 Feb (Table 8). 101 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie locations 27 Mar (Table 13), 50+ birds at Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest 25 Oct and 20-30 birds at NWR 18 Jan and PNR 13 Dec (all HBOC). **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests with young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC). The nesting event at Toronto Wetland in late 2008 continued into Jan and had resumed again in Dec (HCL). **BA Atlas:** 143 records from 33 cells; RR 15.6%.**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters, as up to 10 birds (*text simplified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 15.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (41.0%).

**Notable records:** 21 birds were present at Hunter Estuary locations 17 Oct and 14 birds 10 Jan (Table 3). 29 birds were in Port Stephens 8 Feb (Table 8) and 12 birds at Manning Estuary 17-18 Dec (Table 9). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC) and there were 18 nests there 8 Jun (LIA). **BA Atlas:** 58 records from 19 cells; RR 8.22%. See Supplementary Records.**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 21.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (60.9%).

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded many times at Port Stephens with peak count 194 birds 27 Jul (Table 8). A count of 282 birds at Manning Estuary 17-18 Dec was exceptional for that site in 2009 (Table 9). 200+ birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie locations 7 Feb and 19 Dec (Table 13). 20+ were at Hunter Estuary locations most months with peak count 56 birds 10 Jan (Table 3). 50+ birds were present at WWW 6 Jan and Tea Gardens/ Hawks Nest 25 Oct (Table 1, HBOC), and 21-50 birds at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC), WWW 3 Feb, 7 Apr and 15 Oct (SRM, Table 1, KEM/MCR), Dora Creek 10 Jun (GOC), GTD 15 Jul (STA), Stockton 4 Aug (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp North 15 Oct (KEM/MCR). **Breeding:** Eight pairs had nests with young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 119 records from 27 cells; RR 13.9%.**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 28% of cells, at RR = 14.9%; cell of most interest: S4 (45.3%).

**Notable records:** ~300 birds were recorded in Port Stephens in the Feb and Jul boat-based surveys and 70-100+ in the land-based surveys (Table 8). 104 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie locations 20 Jan, and 73 birds 24 Oct with some other notable counts in Aug-Dec

(Table 13). 104 birds were also at NWR 8 Jun (LIA). 30+ birds were at Manning Estuary in spring/summer with peak 68 birds 17-18 Dec (Table 9), and 20+ birds were at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC) ) and there were 47 nests there 8 Jun (LIA). **BA Atlas:** 39 records from ten cells; RR 7.18%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 34.5%; cell of most interest: S4 (70.9%).

**Notable records:** Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at six locations: Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 69 birds 14 Nov; 30+ most months); Morpeth WTW (peak count 97 birds 5 Jan, 30+ in summer months); Hunter Estuary locations (peak count 205 birds 7 Feb, 50+ most months); Port Stephens (peak count 246 birds May, 100+ most months); Manning Estuary (peak count 94 birds 24-25 Apr, 30+ most months); Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 89 birds 7 Oct, 60+ other months) – see Tables for details. A very dark bird was present at Maitland Tip early Jan (many reports). **BA Atlas:** 129 records from 32 cells; RR 18.4%.

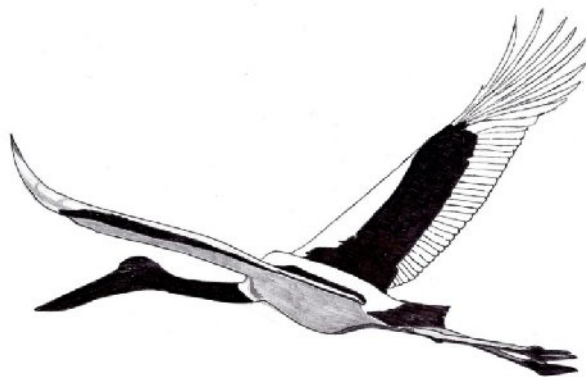
**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.41%; cell of most interest: S3 (11.2%).

An immature bird was taken into care at Lilli Pilli, Gymea Bay in Sydney and subsequently released at HWC on or about 18 Jan (per MOA/LIP). There were several records from Ash Island over the following ~ 2 weeks but none more until a single bird was recorded 23 Oct (MCN) and more reports of it over Oct-Nov (MCN, STA, ROS). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded S of Bulahdelah several times in May (ERE, MVBW, STA), and at Harrington Rd 1 Jul (MVBW), Pipers Bay Forster 26 May and Johns River 11 Nov (both MVBW), and a pair flew over Forster 27 Aug (MVBW). Thus, birds were recorded at four distinctly separate locations (Hunter Estuary, Bulahdelah, Cooperook/Harrington and Forster). **Breeding:** An adult and 3 immatures were near Cattai Creek (Harrington Rd) 19 Mar (SMJ/MEL), and two chicks were banded at a nest near Bulahdelah Oct (CLG). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.



*Black-necked Stork: sketch by Allan Richardson*

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.06%; cell of most interest: P5 (5.00%).

2-4 birds were regularly recorded at Tomago Wetlands over Apr-Sep (MCN, Table 12), and single birds near Deep Pond KI 10 Jan (ROM) and at Hexham Swamp 8 May (LIA). **BA Atlas:** Seven records from two cells (M10; six records).

**Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius*

ID No: 195                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island 14 Mar (HAP).

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare resident.

From BA Atlas: 12 records from eight cells; cell of most interest: L11 (four records).

Three birds were recorded at Barnsley 14 Jan (HCL) and single birds there 26 Feb and 24 Dec (BRG/LIN, WID). Single birds were also at Black Neds Bay 27 Jan (ADJ), Scotts Point Ash Island 15 Mar (HAP) and near Vacy 19 Oct (TAH). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

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

ID No: 189                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common visitor (*amended from: Resident*). Moderately often recorded as 1-2 birds throughout the Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 8.27%; cell of most interest: L10 (25.1%).

**Notable records:** Seven birds were together at Jones Island 31 May (STA). **BA Atlas:** 40 records from 19 cells; RR 5.03%.

**Eastern Great Egret** *Ardea modesta*

ID No: 187                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. 1-5 birds often recorded at medium to large waters in central & E of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 24.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (48.4%).

**Notable records:** ~50 birds were at Ash Island 15 Nov (MCN) – *compared with just 28 birds recorded in the entire Hunter Estuary 13-14 Nov (see Table 3)*. There were four records of 20+ birds for the Hunter Estuary. Most land-based surveys of Port Stephens recorded 20-40+ birds and the peak count was 62 birds Jan (Table 8). 18+ birds were at Hexham Swamp North 18 Oct and 8-11 birds often present in both of the survey areas in Hexham Swamp (Tables 14a, b).

**Breeding:** 48 pairs were nesting at HWC 22 Dec (HBOC). The nesting event at Toronto Wetland in late 2008 continued into Jan and had resumed again in Dec (HCL). **BA Atlas:** 99 records from 24 cells; RR 14.9%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 10.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (31.6%).

**Notable records:** 44 birds were at Morpeth WTW 13 Mar and 25 birds 26 Feb (Table 2). 20+ birds were often present at Hexham Swamp, especially the Minmi side, with peak count 31+ birds 17 Jan (Tables 14b, a). 11-12 birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 10 Jan and 19 Feb (Table 3) and 6-7 birds at Port Stephens Jan and Mar, Swansea/Lake Macquarie May Jul & Oct, Tomago 17 Nov and HWC 18 Dec (Tables 8, 12, 13, LIP). **Breeding:** Seven pairs were nesting at HWC 22 Dec (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 34 records from 13 cells; RR 4.83%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 20.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (65.5%).

**Notable records:** Many birds were at Morpeth WTW Feb-Mar, with peak count 315 birds 26 Feb (Table 2). 50+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp NR 19 Feb (Table 14), Leneghans Flat 3 Mar (JOD), Doughboy Hollow 2 May (NEG) and Cattai Creek 31 May (STA).

**Breeding:** 155 pairs were nesting at HWC 22 Dec (HBOC). Nesting commenced at Seaham Swamp NR late Oct but was abandoned after 2-3 weeks (MAM). The nesting event at Toronto Wetland in late 2008 continued into Jan and had resumed by Dec (HCL). *Breeding continues to decline in the lower Hunter Valley.* **BA Atlas:** 66 records from 16 cells; RR 8.70%.

#### **Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

ID No: 193 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded at coastal locations (*text added*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 6.29%; cell of most interest: S4 (18.8%).

**Notable records:** Five birds were recorded at Port Stephens locations in Jan (Table 8). **BA Atlas:** 11 records from six cells; RR 3.25%.

#### **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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 37.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (55.4%).

**Notable records:** Birds often were present in high numbers at three locations: Hunter Estuary (50+ most months, peak count 140 birds 25 Apr); Port Stephens (50+ most land-based surveys, peak count 153 birds Aug); and Hexham Swamp (~20 most months, peak count 89 birds 2 Jan). See Tables 3, 8 & 14 for details. **BA Atlas:** 242 records from 42 cells; RR 25.9%.

#### **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, as 1-5 birds.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 11.5%; cell of most interest: M10 (23.2%).

**Notable records:** The peak count at Hunter Estuary locations was 10 birds 28 Mar (Table 3) and 10 birds were at Port Stephens 27 Jul (Table 8) and Ash Island 15 Nov (MCN). **Breeding:** 2 pairs were nesting at HWC 22 Dec (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 36 records from ten cells; RR 6.59%.

#### **Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncommon resident (*revised from: Rare*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 1.52%; cell of most interest: P9 (8.08%).

1-2 birds were recorded many times at locations near Birubi Point over Aug-Oct (WOL), and there were many records of an adult and an immature bird, usually together, at locations around Newcastle rock platform/Susan Gilmore Beach/Bar Beach over Jul-Sep (many reporters). Elsewhere, two birds were at Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) and Seal Rocks 13 Mar (BRG/LIN), and single birds at Glenrock Beach 13 Apr (WID), Crowdy Head 31 May, 12 Jul and 3 Sep (STA, MVBW) and Saltwater NP 5 Sep (STA). **BA Atlas:** Four records from three cells.

#### **Nankeen Night-Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*revised from: Past records*)  
Status: Resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 5.11%; cell of most interest: M8 (10.9%).

24 birds were recorded at Snapper Island Port Stephens 25 Sep (FAA), and 11 birds at Seaham Swamp NR 21 Aug and 16 Oct (DBP, KEM/MCR). Birds frequently roosted at Wallbridge Reserve Raymond Terrace, with the numbers highest over Apr-Nov when maximums of 9+ birds were recorded each month and a peak count of 17 birds in Nov (MAM). Six birds were at HWC 25 Apr (WID) and four birds there 18 Dec (LIP) and at Stockton Sandspit 5 Oct (WID). 1-2 birds were occasionally recorded (many observers) at the following locations: HWC, Redhead Lagoon, Balickera, Port Stephens, Hexham Swamp, Belmont Swamp, PNR, Hunter Estuary. **Breeding:** Seven nests, several with young, were at Shortland 11 Oct (LIA) and with two pairs still nesting there 22 Dec (HBOC). A young bird, unable to fly, was at Snapper

Island 26 Mar (GHR/CLT). *These are the first confirmed breeding records for several decades.*  
**BA Atlas:** 30 records from nine cells; RR 4.91%.

#### **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.96%; cell of most interest: L10 (7.82%).

Birds often were recorded at locations around Hexham Swamp / Leneghans Flat all year, with peak counts 42 birds 7 Dec and 38 birds 28 Oct (Table 14, other reporters). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Ellalong Lagoon 1 Aug (MOA *et al.*) and HWC often in Dec (many observers).

**BA Atlas:** Six records from four cells.

#### **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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 29.6%; cell of most interest: O9 (58.8%).

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were present in Port Stephens most months with peak count 440 birds Mar (Table 8). 229 birds were at Hunter Estuary 23-24 May and 100-200 birds at Hexham Swamp 2 & 17 Jan and 7 Dec, East Seaham 28 Apr (MCN *et al.*), Cattai Creek 31 May (STA), Tomago Wetlands 18 Aug and HWC 18 Dec (LIP). **Breeding:** 203 pairs were nesting at HWC 19 Oct and 20 pairs 22 Dec (both HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 145 records from 21 cells; RR 20.0%.

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

ID No: 180 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual bird of passage (*Revised from: 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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 65% of cells, at RR = 18.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (48.7%).

**Notable records:** 500+ birds were together in paddocks at Cattai Creek 31 May and Jones Island 13 Jul (STA), and 500+ birds were roosting at Salt Ash 2 Jul (ROM/STA). 100+ birds were at Morpeth WTW Feb-Apr with peak count 432 birds 13 Mar (Table 2). 200+ birds were at Muswellbrook 30 Apr (NEG) and Hunter Estuary 23-24 May (Table 3), whilst 100+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2 Mar (Table 14), Tomago Wetlands 18 Aug (MCN), Congewai Rd 23 Aug (HBOC) and Muswellbrook 15 & 16 Dec (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 95 records from 22 cells; RR 11.0%.

#### **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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 18.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (52.5%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at both Hunter Estuary and Port Stephens locations most months, with peak counts 64 birds 7 Feb and 38 birds Aug, respectively (Tables 3, 8). 42 birds were at Ellalong 21 Mar (MOA *et al.*) and 28 birds at WWW 11 Mar (Table 1). **Breeding:** Several pairs had begging young at Hexham Swamp 17 Jan (NEM), and birds were with dependent young at HWC Feb and Dec (SRM). **BA Atlas:** 89 records from 17 cells; RR 11.7%.

#### **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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 5.84%; cell of most interest: J9 (18.9%).

**Notable records:** Four birds were at PNR 6 Dec and seven birds there 26 Dec (LUD, WID).

**BA Atlas:** 11 records from seven cells.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 7.56%; cell of most interest: S4 (36.7%).

**Notable records:** There were regular reports of 1-2 birds at Lake Macquarie locations around Morisset/Dora Creek and Swansea/Cams Wharf, and single birds were often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations, including Teralba, over Mar-Aug. Two birds were at Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) – *not previously reported from this location*. Three birds were together at Manning Entrance SP11 Jan, where a bird was seen to take a Red-necked Stint 5 Sep (both STA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with a chick at Tuncurry Aug (MVBW), and pair was with a dependent young at Gir-um-bit NP 19 Dec (HAS *et al.*). Birds were also nesting near Karuah in Jun (CLG/ROM). The nest of the pair at Lake Macquarie fell down and they were seen at a new nest at Woods Point Morisset 13 May and 4 Oct (MDV, ADJ) but there was no evidence of successful breeding there. **BA Atlas:** 21 records from nine cells; RR 6.89%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 61% of cells, at RR = 10.7%; cell of most interest: S3 (24.8%).

**Notable records:** Five birds were recorded at Tomago 19 May (MCN), four birds at Mt Arthur 16 Aug (NEG) and three birds at Tank Paddock Minmi 5 Jul (NIJ). **BA Atlas:** 39 records from 21 cells; RR 5.51%.

**Letter-winged Kite** *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977*).

No reports were received for 2009.

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

ID No: 230

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 0.90%; cell of most interest: Q4 (10.7%).

There were frequent records of single birds in the Maitland/Raymond Terrace area in both Jan and Mar, and also 6 Jun and 23 Nov (many observers). 1-2 birds were recorded at Cooperook/Harrington/Crowdy Bay NP locations 28 Feb, 8 Apr, 12 Jul, 10 Aug and 4 Sep (several observers). Elsewhere, single birds were at Morisset 18 Apr (ERE), Blue Gum Reserve Minmi 19 Sep (ERE), Wallabi Point 17 Nov and Sandridge Rd Manning Point 17 Nov (both STA). **Breeding:** A pair was attending a nest at Cooperook Forest Park 22 Aug (MVBW). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell K10.

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 3.16%; cell of most interest: M8 (16.5%).

Five birds were often at Nords Wharf 29 Mar-23 Apr – two pairs and a juvenile bird – and three adult birds were there 28 Aug (ERE). Two pairs were at Woodville 13 Jan (NEM) and three birds there 20 Jan (NEM) and at East Maitland 9 Jun (GLK). 1-2 birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Balickera Mar, Aug and Nov-Dec (MUJ), Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC), Belford 31 May (per HCL), Belmont 9 Jun (GIA), Kotara ~17 Jun (ROS), Seaham 16 Oct and 2 Dec (MCR, MEL), Eleebana 20 Oct (GOA) and Duns Creek 5 Dec (NEM). **Breeding:** Pairs had dependent young at Nords Wharf Mar/Apr (ERE) and Freemans Waterhole 15 Sep (COF). **BA Atlas:** Eight records from five cells.



**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 20.8%; cell of most interest: P9 (51.5%).

**Notable records:** Five immature birds were present at Ash Island 5 Mar (ROM), and four birds were recorded at Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT). An immature bird became tangled in fishing tackle on Stockton Beach 16 Nov – the bird was extricated by an NPWS officer (STA/NEM). **BA Atlas:** 81 records from 21 cells; RR 12.5%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 21.2%; cell of most interest: P8 (58.4%).

**Notable records:** Seven birds were present at Hexham Swamp 17 Jan (NEM), HWC Feb and May (SRM) and Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT), and six birds at HWC Oct and Dec (SRM).

**Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Beresfield late Jul (per LIA) and East Seaham 21 Aug and 8 Sep (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 83 records from 18 cells; RR 10.6%.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

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

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 3.05%; cell of most interest: S4 (20.5%).

Single birds were often recorded in the Hunter Estuary over Feb-May, late Jul-Aug and Oct, and two birds sometimes in Mar/Apr and Oct (many observers). *Uncommon to have birds in the Hunter Estuary for such an extensive period.* There were many reports all year of 1-2 birds in the Manning Estuary. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 9 Apr and 6 Oct (DBP, STA), Manning Point 24 Jun (STA), Crowdy Head 24 Jun & 4 Sep (STA), Croki 2 Jul (MVBW), Elizabeth Beach 19 Sep (MVBW), Wingham 1 Oct (MVBW) and Booti Booti NP 18 Nov (STA). **BA Atlas:** Four records from three cells.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon visitor to central and W of the Region, elsewhere rare (*Text amended*).

From BA Atlas: Seven records from six cells.

Single birds were often recorded in the Maitland/Morpeth/Woodville area in Mar/Apr and at East Maitland 7 Feb (ROS) and HWC Sep (SRM). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 53% of cells, at RR = 5.07%; cell of most interest: M8 (18.6%).

**Notable records:** Two birds were at Wingen 26 Feb (NEG) and West Wallsend 10 Jun (ERE).

**Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep ND and Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 28 records from 16 cells; RR 3.70%.

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds (*text added*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 2.52%; cell of most interest: G10 (41.8%).

**Notable records:** A bird took a Red-browed Finch at Violet Hill Rd 25 Jan (STA). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from ten cells; RR 1.81%.

**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. From BA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 3.45%; cell of most interest: M8 (9.69%).

**Notable records:** Two birds were at HWC Apr (SRM) and Skimmings Gap Rd Barrington Tops 14 Jun (BIA). White phase birds were recorded at Lovedale Rd Cessnock 21 Mar (ERE), Wingen 22 Mar (NEG), HWC 25 Apr (WID), Cromarty Bay Port Stephens 20 May (CLT), Bulahdelah 26 May (MCN) and Green Wattle Creek 11 Sep (NEM). A bird was eating a Spotted Dove at Weston 3 Dec (ROS). **BA Atlas:** 18 records from seven cells; RR 2.90%.

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.15%; cell of most interest: G7 (2.68%).

Two birds were recorded at Mt Arthur 18 Jul (NEG). Single birds were there 13 Sep and 4 Dec (NEG) and at Tomago Wetlands 17 Mar and 21 Jul (MCN *et al.*), 20km NW of Merriwa 19 Apr (STA) and Bayswater power station 12 Sep (NEG). A bird was hunting over vacant land at Hamilton 28 Aug (ROM) – *an uncommon urban record*. One bird at Mt Arthur 18 Jul took an Australian Pipit. **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region (*text amended*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 12.7%; cell of most interest: L10 (28.7%).

**Notable records:** Six birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 17 Aug (NEM), four birds at Tomago Wetlands 1 Sep (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 15 Nov (NEM), and three birds at PNR 13 Dec (HBOC). A bird took eggs of a Purple Swamphen at Cooranbong 13 Nov (SHP). **BA Atlas:** 63 records from 12 cells; RR 11.8%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 12.4%; cell of most interest: M3 (45.2%).

**Notable records:** Six birds were recorded at Mt Arthur 10 Feb, 10 Jul and 16 Aug (NEG). Three birds were at Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC) and Medhurst Bridge Martindale 21 Oct (STA/JED). **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests (one nest with young) at Mt Arthur 16 Nov where birds were also recorded on nest 10 Jul and 16 Aug, and a bird was on nest at Bayswater power station 12 Sep (all NEG). **BA Atlas:** 59 records from 24 cells; RR 7.41%.



Wedge-tailed Eagle: sketch by Chris Herbert

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 2.67%; cell of most interest: H7 (8.65%).

A pair was recorded at Kooragang NR/Ash Island 2 Jan (ERE). All other records were of single birds – at Ash Island 8 Feb (MOA *et al.*), Wingen 3 Jun (NEG), Bureen Rd 6 Jun (WID), Werakata NP 8 Jun (MOA), Rainbow Flat 6 Sep (STA), Big Dicky Dans TSR (K3) 14 Sep and 14 Nov (STA), Bowman's Crossing and Jones Reserve Rd 21 Oct (both STA/JED).

**BA Atlas:** Five records from four cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 76% of cells, at RR = 13.7%; cell of most interest: J9 (55.7%).

**Notable records:** Eight birds were present at Mt Arthur 16 Aug (NEG). **Breeding:** A pair had newly fledged young at Merewether 21 Nov (THJ) and Ash Island mid to late Dec (MCN). **BA Atlas:** 43 records from 21 cells; RR 5.73%. Also see Supplementary Records.

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, as counts of 1-2 birds.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 6.26%; cell of most interest: H7 (21.1%).

**Notable records:** Three birds were at Carrington 15 Jan (EVM). **BA Atlas:** 28 records from 17 cells; RR 3.52%.

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 5.26%; cell of most interest: L9 (15.9%).

**Notable records:** Two birds were at East Seaham 3 Mar (HBOC), and two young birds were hunting insects over paddocks at Violet Hill Rd 25 Jan (STA). A bird was carrying off a Noisy Miner at New Lambton 22 Jun (STA), and a bird attacked a Channel-billed Cuckoo at Ash Island 18 Nov, unsuccessfully (ROS). **BA Atlas:** 25 records from 17 cells; RR 4.08%.

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.36%; cell of most interest: L9 (15.9%).

Two birds were in the Wallalong/Hinton area 30 Jan (NEM), and single birds at Morpeth 9 Aug (BRG), Hexham Swamp 24 Sep (NEM), Bolwarra 17 Oct (ROM) and Sandy Hollow 28 Oct (KEM/MCR). A bird predated a Curlew Sandpiper at Morpeth WTW 23 Oct (NEM/LIA).

**BA Atlas:** Four records from four cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 3.00%; cell of most interest: G6 (27.3%).

**Notable records:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Crowdy Head 17 Nov (STA). **BA Atlas:** 11 records from eight cells.

**Brolga** *Grus rubicunda*

ID No: 177                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005*)

No reports were received for 2009.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds are widely and frequently recorded at small-large waters.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 21.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (71.3%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were often at Hexham Swamp with peak count 107 birds 7 Dec (Table 14a, b). 46 birds were together at one pond at Cattai Wetlands 5 Sep (STA), and 21-50 birds were recorded at WWW frequently (SRM, Table 1) and at Cattai Wetlands 18 Apr (MVBW), Ellalong Lagoon 23 Aug (HBOC), Leneghans Flat 15 Oct (KEM/MCR) and HWC 15 Nov and 18 Dec (LIP). **Breeding:** Birds were with chicks at HWC Jan (SRM), PNR 13 Dec (HBOC) and Newcastle AP 16 Dec (LUD). **BA Atlas:** 155 records from 28 cells; RR 18.9%.

**Lewin's Rail** *Lewinia pectoralis*

ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident (*additional text deleted*).

From BA Atlas: 16 records from nine cells; cell of most interest: S4 (four records).

Three birds were recorded at Ash Island 14 Mar (HAP) and 1-2 birds at Belmont Swamp/Lagoon 13 Jan (BRG), Black Neds Bay 30 Jan (ADJ), Ash Island 8 Mar and 17 Apr (LUD, ALD), Dora Creek 20 Mar (GOC) Crowdy Bay NP 7 & 9 Apr (WID) and Killabakh Aug (MVBW). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

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

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 3.01%; cell of most interest: S3 (16.8%).

1-2 birds were often recorded at HWC, Ash Island and Hexham Swamp (many observers), and at Dora Creek 7 Jan and 2 & 27 May (GOC), Belmont Swamp/Lagoon 13 Jan (BRG), Shortland Driving Range Jan (MRA), Stockton Sandspit 29 Mar and 8 Nov (CLT), Crowdy Bay NP 7 & 9 Apr (WID), Gloucester 12 Aug (DBP), near Cooperook 5 Sep (STA), Awabakal NR 20 Sep (HBOC), Hexham Swamp 5 Oct and 27 Nov (WID, HID) and Taree late in the year (MVBW). **Breeding:** Birds had chicks at HWC 18 Oct (LIP), Medowie 18 Dec (ALD) and Cromarty Lane Bobs Farm 23 Dec (MOA). **BA Atlas:** Five records from three cells.

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

ID No: 050 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: 19 records from eight cells; cell of most interest: L9 (7 records).

Several birds were frequently present at Corner Pond Ash Island in Oct, with the peak count five birds there 1 Oct (LUD, many others). Five birds were at PNR 10 Oct (ALD, BRG), and 1-2 birds at Scotts Point Ash Island 10 Jan and 8 Nov (STA *et al.*, MCN), Morisset GC 6 Sep and 5 & 18 Oct (ERE), HWC Sep (SRM), WWW early Oct and 6 Dec (BRG), Leneghans Flat 10 Oct (RIA), Morpeth Common early Oct (BRG), PNR 11 Nov (SHB) and Tenambit Common 13 Dec (BRG). **BA Atlas:** Two records from cell I9.

**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 4% of cells, at RR = 1.73%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.43%).

4-6 birds were often recorded at Hexham Swamp over Aug-Nov (LIA, WID, KEM/MCR). Single birds were at three separate locations on Ash Island 9 Jan and several times in Oct (ERE, STA, NEM, ROM). **BA Atlas:** One record from cell M10.

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 3% of cells, at RR = 1.14%; cell of most interest: L9 (2.90%).

1-2 birds were frequently present at Corner Pond Ash Island in Oct (many observers). Single birds were recorded at Scotts Point Ash Island 31 Jan and 28 Feb (NBL, CCB), WWW 11 Feb and 15 Oct (SMJ *et al.*, ROM), Tenambit 11 Feb (BRG), PNR 1 Oct and 5 Nov (BRG, SHB), KI Long Pond 11 Oct (LUD) and HWC 13 Dec (LIA/NEM). **BA Atlas:** Three records from two cells.

**Black-tailed Native-hen** *Gallinula ventralis*ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 2 (*revised from: 3*) Breeding: Not recordedStatus: Uncommon irruptive visitor (*revised from: Accidental*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 1.05%; cell of most interest: L10 (2.30%).

A single bird was first recorded at Corner Pond Ash Island 29 Sep (MCN) and thereafter by many observers for several weeks. Within a few days, some birds were found at Hexham Swamp, with the peak count there rising to six birds 16 Oct (WID, ROM, others). There were many records from both sites during Oct and early Nov. Also, single birds were at HWC 11 & 25 Oct (WID, LIP), Leneghans Flat 10 Oct (RIA), Williamtown AP 21 Oct (FRN), Watagan Creek Rd Laguna 30 Oct (per MOA), WWW 1 Nov and 6 & 9 Dec (HHB, BRG, SMJ *et al.*) and Bolwarra Wetlands 13 & 16 Dec (BRG/TAH). *These records coincided with a widespread irruption of the species into coastal/near-coastal NSW.* **BA Atlas:** Nil records.



*Black-tailed Native-hen: sketch by Lois Wooding*

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 61% of cells, at RR = 18.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (58.8%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at HWC 15 Nov and 18 Dec (LIP) and at WWW several times (Table 1). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at HWC Jan-Feb, May and Oct-Nov (SRM) and at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 116 records from 26 cells; RR 13.0%.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

ID No: 059

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Up to 50 birds widely and often recorded at medium to large waters.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 12.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (56.5%).

**Notable records:** The peak count at WWW was 230 birds 10 Sep, with 100+ birds present over Jul-Dec and 50+ birds all year (Table 1). In the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 140 birds 23-24 May but birds were absent on several occasions (Table 3). Peak count at Morpeth WTW was 112 birds 7 Apr (Table 2). 70 birds were at Ellalong Lagoon 23 Aug (HBOC). *Far fewer numbers than usual for the Region.* **BA Atlas:** 65 records from 15 cells; RR 9.21%.

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

ID No: 174

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Endangered

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: 12 records from six cells; cell of most interest: O9 (six records).

Most of the records obtained were derived from monitoring/support programs for breeding birds in the Port Stephens area – almost no reports were received of any non-breeding birds, except for a single bird recorded at LTP many times during the year. Breeding pairs and their outcomes were as follows: Swan Bay: A pair nested successfully in early 2009, with a 7 week old male chick banded 7 Mar which remained with them until Aug when driven off (500m away) and which was still present at Swan Bay mid Nov. A second pair with a chick was also in the Swan Bay area early in the year. The first pair made 3 unsuccessful attempts to breed in the latter part of the year – eggs laid in Sep disappeared after ~ 2 weeks, two chicks hatched in Oct but disappeared about 20 Oct, and the pair re-nested in mid Nov but no chicks were ever seen. Bobs Farm/Fenninghams Island: Two chicks hatched 17 Sep but both disappeared. A second clutch of two chicks hatched 26 Nov, with one chick surviving to be banded in Jan 2010; the family by then had relocated to Cromarty Lane. Sources – CAS, MOA, PRC, MAA, *The Curlew Crier*. **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell N9. Also see Supplementary Records.

**Beach Stone-curlew** *Esacus magnirostris*

ID No: 175

HBOC Category: 2

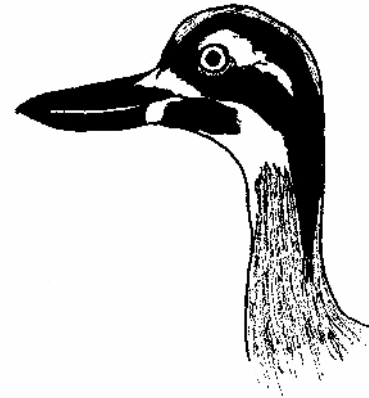
NSW: Critically Endangered

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident in the Manning Estuary, rare elsewhere (*text modified*)

From BA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 1.09%; cell of most interest: R4 (6.41%).

The pair at Manning Estuary remained present: 1-2 birds were regularly recorded at Manning Entrance SP (formerly known as Mudbishops Point) over Jan-Jun and Aug-Sep (Table 9, STA, DBP) and at Harrington Beach SP 25 Jun and 1 Jul (STA, MVBW). A single bird was seen at Pindimar in Nov (ECR per ROM) – *this is only the second known record for Port Stephens.* **Breeding:** The pair made three attempts to breed at Manning Entrance SP – they lost their egg in early Jan and again in late Oct (CRG, THM) but by 18 Nov they again had a nest with one egg at Charlies Island in the State Park (CRB). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell R4.



*Beach Stone-curlew: sketch by Grant Brosie*

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

ID No: 744

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Australian Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 16.3%; cell of most interest: S4 (46.1%).

Birds were regularly recorded at six locations (based on many reports – see Tables for main details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 14 birds 10 Jan); Hunter Estuary (peak count 20 birds 19 Sep); Newcastle Bight (peak count 13 birds 16 Jul); Port Stephens (peak counts 134 birds 8 Feb and 122 birds 27 Jul); Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 18 birds 18 Nov); Manning Estuary (peak count 19 birds 24-25 Feb). There were occasional records from elsewhere. *In summer, 210-240 birds are estimated to have been present in the Region, and 200-220 birds in winter.* Four birds recorded at Newcastle Bight, KI Dykes and Lemon Tree Passage at various times all had been banded in the Ballina area as chicks (see Stuart in **Stilt**, 2010, **57**, 18-20).

**Breeding:** A pair made three breeding attempts at Stockton Sandspit over Aug-Dec, ultimately yielding 2 chicks which were still alive late Dec (CLT). Four pairs nested in Manning Entrance SP late in the year and all successfully raised chicks Nov (CRB, THM), and two pairs had chicks at Harrington Beach SP in Dec (STA). Three pairs were nesting along Newcastle Bight 18 Nov (MAW) – apparently these attempts all failed – and a pair had a nest with egg at KI dykes 19 Sep but the egg was gone within a week (NEM, LIA). **BA Atlas:** 37 records from nine cells; RR 12.8%.

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*ID No: 131 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 4.35%; cell of most interest: P9 (12.1%).

The peak count at the Newcastle Baths roost was 39 birds 7 Apr (see Table 15) – *the largest count ever for this location* – and 20+ birds roosted at Newcastle locations (Baths, Dykes) most of the year (Tables 4, 15). Birds were recorded most months along the Birubi-Fingal coastline with peak count 13 birds 9 Feb (Table 5), and most months in Port Stephens with peak counts 13 birds 8 Feb and Aug (Table 8, also Table 7). Three pairs were on Broughton Island 3 Dec (MRA) and seven birds there 7-9 Apr (CLT). There were occasional records from elsewhere. *60-70 birds are estimated to have been present in the Region in 2009.* Three birds in Port Stephens 21 Sep had yellow eye rings (STA *et al.*), as did 3 birds at KI Dykes 24 May (NEM) and several birds at Newcastle Baths over Jan-Mar (THJ) – this characteristic is usually associated with the northern sub-species *ophthalmicus* which is generally considered not to occur in NSW. **BA Atlas:** 11 records from six cells. Also see Corrections and Changes, and Supplementary Records.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 17.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (39.4%).

**Notable records:** 150+ birds were present in the Hunter Estuary most months over Mar-Dec, with peak counts 538 birds 19 Dec and 419 birds 28 Mar (Table 3). 424 birds were at Morpeth WTW 21 Nov with high numbers there over Aug-Nov (Table 2). The peak count at Hexham Swamp was 248 birds 6 Jan and with 216 birds present 28 Oct (Tables 14 a, b). 83 birds were at HWC 13 Dec (LIA/NEM). **BA Atlas:** 54 records from ten cells; RR 10.4%.

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

ID No: 148

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual visitor. In times of inland drought, thousands of birds can be in the Hunter Estuary.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 11.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (17.1%).

Relatively few birds were present in the Hunter Estuary Jan-May but numbers then rose and 1000+ were present Jul-Dec with peak count 6000+ birds 13-14 Nov (Table 4). 124 birds were at Morpeth WTW 21 Nov and some birds present Jan and Oct (Table 2) and four birds were recorded at Port Stephens Oct (Table 8). **BA Atlas:** 11 records from three cells.

**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 2009.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 8.84%; cell of most interest: N9 (16.1%).

150+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary during the main migration period with peak count 215 birds mid Nov (see table below, Table 4). Birds were present in the Hunter Estuary until 10 April, and returned 11 Sep (HCL). In the Manning Estuary, the peak count was 152 birds 17-18 Nov and with 50+ birds present all months during the main migration period. 65 birds were at Newcastle Bight 16 Nov (NEM/ STA) but these are believed to be part of the Hunter Estuary population, which sometimes roosts in the dunes along the Bight (HCL). In that context, it is interesting that the Estuary numbers rose from 148 to 215 around that time (HCL) i.e. almost by the same number of birds as recorded at the Bight. Elsewhere, birds were only recorded in Port Stephens over Jan-Mar with peak count 28 birds 8 Feb (Tables 7, 8), and a single bird was recorded at Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest 12 Jan and 25 Oct (WIT, HBOC). *From the above data, 363 birds were present in the Region in Nov.* There was one winter record – of four birds at Manning Estuary 25 Jun (STA). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from four cells.

**Monthly Peak Counts at Hunter Estuary Locations**

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
173	176	180	121	37	110	215	247

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Seven records from cell M10.

Two birds were recorded at Newcastle Bight 16 Nov and 9 Dec (NEM *et al.*) and a single bird at KI Dykes 2 Oct and several times in Dec (HCL). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (New to list).

See Supplementary Records.



**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 14.0%; cell of most interest: N9 (27.4%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Manning Estuary most months with peak counts 49 birds 17-18 Nov and 40 birds 24-25 Feb (Table 9). 30 birds were at Newcastle Bight 16 Jul (Table 6) and 37 birds at Port Stephens 8 Feb (Table 8). The peak count in monthly surveys of Hunter Estuary was 12 birds 17 Oct but 15 birds were at Milhams Pond Apr (Table 10). There were 14 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 25 Apr (Table 7). **Breeding:** There were eight nesting attempts at Stockton Sandspit in 2009 – despite some failures, these yielded several fledged young (CLT). Also there were two runners at Harrington 18 Dec (STA). **BA Atlas:** 26 records from six cells; RR 9.59%.

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

ID No: 140

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 2.85%; cell of most interest: N9 (13.5%).

Birds were present at Manning Estuary Feb-Sep with peak count 66 birds in Jul (Table 9). 106 birds were recorded at Newcastle Bight 3 Mar and seven birds there 16 Jul (Table 6). 16-26 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP Jun-Aug and four birds there 25 Apr (Table 7), and 1-2 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 16 & 28 Feb (LIG, CCB), Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) and Coon Island 17 Apr (WID). **BA Atlas:** Eight records from four cells.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Two records from two cells.

Six birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP 28 Mar (Table 7) and single birds at Manning Entrance SP several times in Jan-Feb (Table 9, STA), Kooragang Dykes 6 Nov (HCL) and Stockton Sandspit 13 & 21 Dec (WID). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141

HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2004-05, 2007-08).

Single birds were present at Manning Entrance SP 10 Nov (DBP) and Newcastle Bight 16 Nov (STA/NEM).



*Greater Sand Plover: sketch by Allan Richardson*

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

See Unconfirmed Records.

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Elseyaornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 8.65%; cell of most interest: J9 (25.5%).

**Notable records:** The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 23 birds 25 Apr but 34 birds were at Ash Island 28 Feb (Table 4, CCB). 34 birds were also at Ellalong 21 Mar (MOA *et al.*). 22 birds were at Morpeth WTW 11 Jul and 10-15 birds there 15 May (Table 2) and at Hexham Swamp 8 May and Jul-Aug (Table 14a), Newline Rd Swamp 16 Oct (MCR) and HWC 18 Dec (LIP). **Breeding:** Pairs were with chicks at Hexham Swamp 1 Sep (LIA), HWC 17 Oct (LIP), Paterson Nov/Dec (NEM) and Bolwarra Wetlands 13 Dec (BRG/TAH), and were copulating at Newcastle AP 16 Dec (LUD). **BA Atlas:** 36 records from 13 cells; RR 5.71%.

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

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 4.16%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.59%).

Birds were present most months at Ash Island with peak count 83 birds 17 Oct but most records were of <30 birds (Tables 4, 10). However, outside the monthly surveys, 43 birds were present mid May (MCN, SRM), 45 -47 birds late Sep (MCN) and 17 birds 19 Jun (CLT). Elsewhere, 11 birds were at Hexham Swamp 8 May and 6+ birds early Oct (Table 14, WID), four birds at Newline Rd 16 Oct (MCR) and 1-2 birds at Morpeth WTW 5 Jan (Table 2), Ellalong 21 Mar (MOA *et al.*) and HWC 15 Sep (LIP). **Breeding:** Pairs had chicks at Hexham Swamp 15-16 Oct (KEM/MCR, ROM). **BA Atlas:** 14 records from three cells.

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (*revised*)

Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

From BA Atlas: 13 records from 11 cells.

Birds were recorded at Phoenix Park Rd near Maitland from 27 Sep onwards; five pairs were present 1 Nov but most reports were of lesser numbers (WID, others). **Breeding:** A pair had chicks at Phoenix Park Rd early Nov (WID). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell J8.

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely &amp; regularly recorded as up to 20 birds near medium-large waters.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 39.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (78.8%).

**Notable records:** There were 340 birds at Hexham Swamp 2 Jan but the numbers quickly dropped away (Table 14). 50+ birds were at Morpeth WTW most months over Jan-Aug with peak count 101 birds 25 Feb (Table 2), and 50+ birds at Hunter Estuary locations on five occasions but mainly summer months, and the peak count 114 birds 7 Feb (Table 3). Also, ~80 birds were recorded in Port Stephens in the land-based surveys over Jan-May (Table 8). **Breeding:** There were many records – for Jan, May, Jul and Sep-Nov. **BA Atlas:** 250 records from 43 cells; RR 26.8%.



Masked Lapwing: sketch by Chris Herbert

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 1.80%; cell of most interest: L10 (3.22%).



1-2 birds were recorded at John Brown's Lagoon several times in Jun and 1 Nov, and four birds there 21 Jun (ROM/GRL, HCL, others). Two birds were at Cattai Wetlands Aug (MVBW) and from 11 Nov onwards (CRB), and a single bird there 18 Apr (MVBW). **BA Atlas:** Two records from cell L10.

*Comb-crested Jacana: sketch by Allan Richardson*

**Australian Painted Snipe** *Rostratula australis*

ID No: 170      HBOC Category: 2      NSW: Endangered      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Uncertain (*all records since 1993 have been summer ones*).  
From BA Atlas: 13 records from two cells; cell of most interest: L10 (ten records).

A pair was present at Hexham Swamp 6 Jan (BRG), and a single bird was there 19 Feb (LIA).  
**BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 6.21%; cell of most interest: L9 (24.6%).

**Notable records:** ~30 birds were at a pond on Cabbage Tree Rd Ash Island 18 Jan (ERE), 27 birds at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC) and 21 at Teal Waters Ash Island 6 Jan (LIA *et al.*). In the annual survey on 13 Dec, 18 birds were at PNR and 52 birds at 13 other locations – in particular, 17 birds at Bolwarra Wetlands (HBOC, BRG/TAH, many others). The departure date was 15 Mar when last recorded at both Duns Creek and Woodville (NEM), and birds were first recorded at Hexham Swamp 13 Aug (LIA) and Salamander Estate 19 Aug (WOL). **BA Atlas:** 48 records from 13 cells; RR 9.86%.

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

ID No: 152      HBOC Category: 1      NSW: Vulnerable      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 5.95%; cell of most interest: M10 (8.39%).

The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 165 birds 7 Feb (*the least numbers since the Bird Reports commenced; the trend since 2003 continues to be one of decline*), with perhaps only one bird over-wintering (see Table 4). Elsewhere, six birds were recorded in Port Stephens 8 Feb and with 1-2 frequently present in the non-breeding season (Table 8, WIT). **BA Atlas:** Three records from three cells.

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

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**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 14.7%; cell of most interest: N9 (56.5%).

**Notable records:** The peak count in Hunter Estuary was 1,084 birds 19 Dec with ~800-900 present in summer and 164 birds over-wintering (Table 4). In Port Stephens, the peak count was 641 birds 8 Feb and 340 birds were present in winter (Table 8). Up to 295 birds were recorded in the Manning Estuary in summer months and 20-25 birds over-wintered. Many summer counts at Swansea/Lake Macquarie were of 60-80+ birds and up to 6 birds during winter. There was also a winter record of seven birds at Forster/Tuncurry 13 Jul (STA). *Numbers down on those for recent years.* **BA Atlas:** 33 records from six cells; RR 9.54%.

**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 2009.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 12.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (41.3%).

Only 40 birds were recorded in the boat-based survey of Port Stephens 8 Feb – *numbers substantially down on previous years* – and 24 birds in winter (Table 8). Counts were low in the Hunter Estuary, with peak count 42 birds 13-14 Nov and 3-4 birds during winter (Table 4), and all counts in the Manning Estuary were of <10 birds (Table 9). *A poor year.* **BA Atlas:** 14 records from five cells; RR 5.36%.

**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, in counts of up to 20 birds; many young birds remain over winter (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 24.7%; cell of most interest: N9 (53.0%).

**Notable records:** 551 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 8 Feb (Table 8) – *this represents around 1.4% of the total world population and Port Stephens continues to be an internationally significant location for this species.* In winter, 223 birds were present in all of Port Stephens 26 Jul (Table 8); 290 birds were recorded solely at Gir-um-bit NP 25 Aug (Table 7) but this may have included some birds on migration passage. The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 328 birds 7 Feb (~1% of the world population) with 38-39 birds present in winter (Table 4). In the Manning Estuary, birds were present all year with peak counts 49 birds 17-18 Dec and 47 birds 24-25 Feb (Table 9) and small numbers were also recorded at Swansea and Forster/Tuncurry (Tables 13, 16). *At least 926 birds were in the Region in Feb.* **BA Atlas:** 42 records from seven cells; RR 14.5%.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

ID No: 160

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 3% of cells, at RR = 3.95%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.20%).

The peak counts for the Hunter Estuary were 15 birds 29 Mar and 11 birds 17 Oct; most counts were of less than five birds (FOC, Table 4). Elsewhere, four birds were at Oyster Cove 23 Mar (WOL). *The numbers in the Region continue to decline alarmingly.* **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell M10.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 2.60%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.81%).

Two birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 13-14 Nov and single birds 22 & 28 Mar, 18 Aug, 17 Oct and 19 Dec (Table 4, HAP, BRG). **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells.

**Grey-tailed Tattler** *Tringa brevipes*

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 7.17%; cell of most interest: N9 (17.0%).

106 birds were recorded in Port Stephens Mar and 31-60 in other summer months, with one winter record of a single bird 27 Jul (Table 8). There was an interesting late record of 25 birds at Gir-um-bit NP in Port Stephens 25 Apr (Table 7). 27 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 13-14 Nov with several other records of 12-19 birds (Table 4), also 20+ birds were recorded there 29 Mar (ERE) in contrast to just eight birds the previous day. Seven birds were present at Swansea 24 Oct and 1-2 in other summer months (Table 13). A single bird was at Manning Estuary Oct-Nov (Table 9). **BA Atlas:** Six records from four cells.

**Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1999, 2008*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 12.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (21.7%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 119 birds 10 Jan; ~80 birds were present in all the summer months and 4-5 birds over-wintered (Table 4). 13 birds were recorded at Port Stephens Jan-Feb but only one bird in latter part of year (Table 8). Three birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 31 Dec (HID) and two birds there 12 Sep and 7 & 14 Dec (Table 14, HID). Six birds were at Marks Point 28 May (GOC) and a single bird at Morpeth WTW 21 Nov (Table 2). **BA Atlas:** Nine records from five cells.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2001*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 9.02%; cell of most interest: M10 (12.2%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was only 47 birds 10 Jan (Table 4) – *numbers remain low after the plummet that occurred in 2008*. A single bird was at Morpeth WTW 5 Jan (Table 2). **BA Atlas:** Four records from two cells.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-02, 2008*).

A flock of nine birds were present at Hexham Swamp 2 Jan (LIA/STA), with occasional other records of 3-9 birds there Jan and Mar (several observers). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant (*revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 2.33%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.23%).

Birds often roosted at/near Newcastle Baths with peak count of 17 birds most summer months (Table 15); the departure date was 24 Apr and first return 31 Aug (THJ). 17 birds were also at Horseshoe Beach Newcastle 9 Mar (THJ). Elsewhere, five birds were at Manning Entrance SP17 Nov (STA), four birds at Newcastle Bight 9 Dec (Table 6) and three birds at Oyster Cove 23 Mar (WOL) and Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT), and 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp 2 Jan (Table 14), Manning Entrance SP Sep-Oct (STA), Newcastle Bight 16 Nov (Table 6) and Hunter Estuary 19 Dec (Table 4). The bird at Hexham Swamp was an immature, and it was also recorded at Ash Island in Jan. **BA Atlas:** Six records from three cells.

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

ID No: 165 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in three cells, at RR = 3.87%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.73%).

1-2 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan and Oct-Dec (Table 4) and two birds at Harrington Beach SP 12 Jan (STA). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 2 (*revised from: 1*) Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 5.72%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.53%).

Only 355 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary during the migration period, with 23-77 present for the remainder of year and 1-3 birds in Jan-Feb. Elsewhere, one bird was at Gir-umbit NP 25 Apr and two birds on 14 Nov (Table 7). Banded birds from Victoria (4 birds), New Zealand (3 birds), NW Aust (4 birds) and China (Shanghai) were recorded in the Hunter Estuary during the Sep-Oct migration period. **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell N9.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in NE of the Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 4% of cells, at RR = 0.91%; cell of most interest: N10 (17.6%).

Birds were present in the Manning Estuary Jan-8 Apr and Oct-Dec, with peak count 26 birds 24-25 Feb and, unusually, one bird there 25 Jun (Table 9, WID, STA). *First known winter record*. A single bird was at Newcastle Bight 9 Dec (Table 6). **BA Atlas:** Three records from two cells.

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

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 10.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (12.2%).

140 birds were recorded at Manning Entrance SP10 Jan (ERE) – with an additional 34 birds at Harrington 12 Jan (STA) – and 50+ birds were present in the Manning Estuary most summer months with up to four birds recorded in winter (Table 9). There was a peak count of 22 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 24 Oct and 10-20 birds were there most summer months (Table 13) – including also a late record of seven birds at Coon Island 17 Apr (WID). 41 birds were present at Port Stephens 8 Feb and 21-30+ birds Mar and Oct (Table 8, 7). 11 birds were at Hexham Swamp 18 Oct and 1-3 Sep and Nov (Table 14), and 1-5 birds at Morpeth WTW Oct-Nov (Table 2), Newcastle Baths 10 Nov (ROM) and Newcastle Bight 9 Dec (Table 5). Surprisingly, there was only one record from the Hunter Estuary – of 28 birds there 19 Dec (Table 4). A bird was taken by an Eastern Osprey at Manning Entrance SP 5 Sep (STA). **BA Atlas:** 11 records from three cells.

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

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2009.

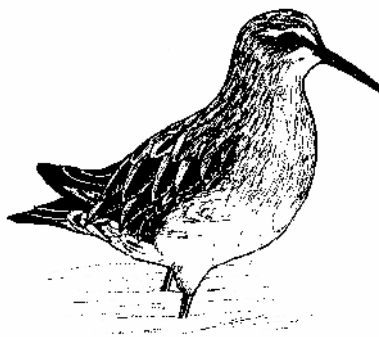
**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant. (*recorded 1995-99, 2001, 2003, 2006-08*)

From BA Atlas: Seven records from three cells; cell of most interest: L9 (four records).

Three birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2-3 Jan (LIA, ROS/RIA) and three birds were at Ash Island 3-6 Mar (ROM, STA, WID). A single bird was at Morpeth WTW 17 Dec (Table 2).

**BA Atlas:** One record from cell L9.

*Pectoral Sandpiper: sketch by Grant Brosie*

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

ID No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at coastal ephemeral wetlands over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 10.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (14.9%).

**Notable records:** 2,460 birds were at Morpeth WTW 21 Nov – *the highest known count in the Region from a single location*. The numbers present there rose over Sep-Oct and then declined substantially in Dec (Table 2). However, counts in the Hunter Estuary rose inversely, peaking at 1,045 birds 19 Dec (Table 3), as did the numbers at Hexham Swamp which peaked at 680 birds 22 Nov (Table 14). Several hundred birds were also at Hexham Swamp in Jan (Table 14). *In Nov, more than 3,000 birds were present in the lower Hunter Valley.* **BA Atlas:** 14 records from five cells.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 7.37%; cell of most interest: M10 (11.0%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 229 birds 13-14 Nov and with 164-200 present most summer months (Table 4). Counts were more consistent than usual but the trend remains one of declining numbers. Elsewhere, birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW Sep-Nov with 13 birds present Oct-Nov (Table 2) and at Hexham Swamp Oct-Dec with 10 birds present 22 Nov (Table 14). A bird was predated by Black Falcon at Morpeth WTW 23 Oct (NEM/LIA). **BA Atlas:** Six records from four cells.

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

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1979, 2004).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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 2009.

**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 2009.

**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 2009.

**Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varius*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 1.93%; cell of most interest: G10 (37.3%).

Two birds were recorded at Duns Creek 21 Jan, 12 Nov and 11 & 19 Dec, and three birds there 12 Jan (NEM). 1-2 birds were at Quorrobolong 21 Mar (ERE), Werakata NP 29 May (ROS), Green Wattle Creek 22 Sep (NEM) Wingham Brush 1 Oct (MVBW), Stroud Road 3 Oct (JED), Balickera Oct and Dec (MUJ), Widden Valley 4 Nov (NEM), Green Wattle Creek 8 Nov (NEM), Washpool Towarri NP 14 Nov (STA), Columbey NP 27 Nov (STA) and at Yaraandoo (L8) 1 Dec (NEM). *Unusually, one bird was at HWC 11 Oct (LIA).* **BA Atlas:** 17 records from eight cells; RR 3.01%.

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

ID No: 019 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (recorded 2005, 2008).

No reports were received for 2009.

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

ID No: 018 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

No reports were received for 2009.



**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*

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

Single birds were recorded at Ash Island 31 Jan and 1 Feb (HAP, FRA, BRG/LIN) and 28 Mar (STA/MCN).

**Brown Skua** *Stercorarius antarcticus*

ID No: 980                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncertain (*recorded 2001-03, 2007-08*).  
From BA Atlas: One record, from cell M10 in 2007.

A bird was taken into care at Belmont and released, after several weeks, off Nobbys Beach 26 Feb (Newcastle Herald article), and a single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.  
From BA Atlas: Seven records from seven cells.

Four birds were recorded offshore from Newcastle 2 Apr (ROM), three birds on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and a single bird off Seal Rocks 23 Mar (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: No  
Status: Summer migrant.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 0.88%; cell of most interest: O9 (1.76%).

12-13 birds were recorded offshore from Newcastle 2 Apr (ROM), 3-4 birds off Seal Rocks 13 Mar and late Mar (BRG/LIN, ROM/HAP), two birds on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and single birds off Hawks Nest early Jan (WIT) and at Crowdy Bay 7 Apr (WID). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell P8.

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

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare (*revised from: Accidental*) (*recorded 1977, 1999, 2008*)

Single birds were recorded off Seal Rocks 13 & 26 Mar (BRG/LIN, RIA/ROM), off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and off Merewether Baths 30 & 31 Mar (HOG, ROM). Also, a dead bird was found at Manning Entrance SP 10 Nov (DBP).

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**White Tern** *Gygis alba*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Grey Ternlet** *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982

HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1995, 2002)

No reports were received for 2009.

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscata*

ID No: 120

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant.

No reports were received for 2009.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

ID No: 117

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Endangered

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant. Over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec, usually present in large numbers at Manning Estuary and in counts of up to 5 birds elsewhere along the coast (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 4.33%; cell of most interest: S4 (27.3%).

**Notable records:** 200+ birds were recorded in Manning Estuary 1 & 24/25 Feb and often in Nov; two birds had returned there by 13 Jul (Table 9, ERE, STA, DBP). 10+ birds were present at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec with the peak count 40 birds 14 Nov (Table 13). 48 birds were at Saltwater NP 25 Feb (STA) and 28 birds at Newcastle Bight 9 Dec (Table 6). Most counts at Newcastle Baths were of <6 birds (Table 15); however, 18 birds were present late Oct (ROM). 12 birds were at Crowdy Beach NP 26 Jan (ERE). Most counts for Hunter Estuary were small (Table 4) but some birds were often present at Stockton Sandspit over Nov-Dec with peak count 20 birds 22 Nov (ROM/WID, others). **Breeding:** Although the colony at Manning Entrance SP (Mudbishops Point) had many problems, with a total of 170 eggs/chicks taken by foxes Jan-Mar (CRB), the Harrington colony had good success; overall, the 2008/9 season was the Manning Estuary's second most successful season on record, with 162 chicks fledged (article in Great Lakes Extra, 19 Mar). Only seven pairs were nesting at Manning Entrance 18 Nov (CRB). Birds attempted to form two new breeding colonies – at the southern (Fern Bay) end of Newcastle Bight and on a sand island in Swansea Channel. 32 nests with eggs were present at Fern Bay mid Dec; most of the eggs were predated soon after (many were taken away, some were broken at site) and the colony was abandoned (MAW). Three nests with eggs were at Swansea Channel 29 Nov (ROS, ROM, COF) – despite signage being erected, after a few days the level of disturbance by humans led to abandonment (COF). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from five cells.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

ID No: 111

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Common bird of passage all year.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 5.51%; cell of most interest: N9 (11.3%).

72 birds were recorded along Newcastle Bight 16 Nov and 42 there 9 Dec (Table 6). 26 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 25 Apr (Table 3); most were at Stockton Sandspit where ~20 birds were also recorded 21 Jun (LIG) and 6+ birds 10 Oct (HBOC). Seven birds were at Manning Entrance SP 30 May (STA). 1-5 birds frequently were recorded at Hunter Estuary, Port Stephens, Manning Estuary and Newcastle Baths (see Tables) and at Morpeth WTW 18 Jun and 7 Aug (Table 2) and Saltwater NP 13 Jul (STA). **BA Atlas:** Nine records from five cells.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded close to the coast all year (*text added*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (31.3%).

**Notable records:** 8-15 birds were recorded in Port Stephens in land-based surveys in winter, and 36 birds 27 Jul in a boat-based survey; 11 birds also were there 8 Feb and 21 Sep (Tables 7, 8, STA *et al.*). 11-19 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Mar-Jun and 1-5 birds all other months (Table 3). Seven birds were at Forster 13 Jul (STA) and six birds occasionally at Manning Estuary (Table 9). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded all year. **BA Atlas:** 26 records from five cells; RR 7.72%. Also see Unconfirmed Records.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Spring migrant and bird of passage.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 2.49%; cell of most interest: L10 (5.75%).

~200 birds in two flocks were at Leneghans Flat 16 Oct (ROM) and there were several records of lesser numbers from Leneghans Flat /Hexham Swamp mid Oct to early Nov (Table 14, other reports). 44 birds were at Ash Island 17 Oct and 1-2 birds 7 Feb and 19 Dec (Table 3), eight birds at Market Swamp 24 Sep (TAH) and four birds at Hexham Swamp 1 Jan (LIA/STA). Six birds were at Morpeth WTW 11 Jul (*very early arrival*) and 2-4 birds there Aug-Sep and Dec (Table 2). **BA Atlas:** Nine records from two cells.

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

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Eight records from two cells.

A single bird was recorded at Stockton 7 Feb (MOA *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1968*).

No reports were received for 2009.

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

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant.

From BA Atlas: 19 records, from seven cells; cell of most interest: S4 (four records).

1-3 birds were in the Manning Estuary Apr-Jun then the numbers rose, to a peak count of 40 birds 4-5 Sep (Table 9). Birds were present at Newcastle Baths Jul-Sep with ten birds recorded there in Aug (Table 15). Six birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 25 Jul (Table 13) and 1-5 birds at Port Stephens 23 Mar and 27 Jul (WOL, Table 8), Newcastle Harbour 20 May (ERE), Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM), Stockton Beach 2 & 4 Aug (WID, HBOC), and on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA). **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells.

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant. Frequently recorded along the coast in Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as 1-10 birds, and in larger numbers in the Manning Estuary (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 3.96%; cell of most interest: S4 (19.7%).

**Notable records:** 300+ birds were recorded in the Manning Estuary Feb-Mar and 100+ there Nov-Dec (Table 9), and 300+ birds also at Newcastle Harbour/Baths 25 Oct and in Nov, with 70+ present Jan-Feb and Dec and 115 birds 22 Feb and 2 Apr (Table 15, ROM). 114 birds were at Saltwater NP 25 Feb (STA). Some birds on Newcastle Beach 24 Oct had been banded at Gippsland Lakes at an unknown date (per ROM). **BA Atlas:** 15 records from four cells; RR 5.49%.

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea***

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2006, 2008*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii***

ID No: 115 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 50 birds are often recorded along the coast (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 20.7%; cell of most interest: S4 (55.6%).

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded most months at Newcastle Baths/Harbour with the peak count 600 birds in Aug (Table 15), and also in most months at Manning Estuary with many records of 200-300+ birds (Table 9). 300 birds were along the Birubi-Fingal coastline 17 Nov and 50+ birds several times (Table 5). 250-269 birds were at Port Stephens Mar and 29 Oct, 112 birds 8 Feb and 50+ birds Jan and Aug (Table 8, ROA). **Breeding:** Some birds were breeding at a small island off Seal Rocks late Jan (FRA). **BA Atlas:** 37 records from ten cells; RR 10.7%.

**Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus***

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1997, 2008*).

A juvenile bird was at Harrington 30 Apr (RIA).

**Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus***

ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1998, 2007-08*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae* (Amended)**

ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 100 birds are widely &amp; regularly recorded at near-coastal areas.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 33.6%; cell of most interest: L11 (49.9%).

**Notable records:** Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at six locations: Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 369 birds 19 Dec; 100+ many months); Newcastle Baths area (peak count 700 birds May; 200+ Jan-Apr); Hunter Estuary locations (400-700+ over Jan-May and numbers rising again Nov-Dec); Birubi-Fingal coastline (peak count 324 birds 20 Mar, 100+ most months); Port Stephens (832 present in Jan; 400+ many times); Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 179 birds 11 Aug, 50-100+ other months) – see Tables for details. Elsewhere, 200+ birds were in the Manning Estuary 24-25 Feb and 30-31 May (Table 9), 153 birds at Newcastle Bight 9 Dec (Table 6) and 100 birds at Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT). **Breeding:** Some birds were breeding at a small island off Seal Rocks late Jan (FRA). **BA Atlas:** 84 records from 15 cells; RR 18.8%.

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

ID No: 265                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 5.32%; cell of most interest: P2 (24.6%).

Large numbers were sometimes recorded in the Wollombi area, including 30 birds 3 Aug (GRJ), 20 birds 11 Dec (TAH) and 12 birds 15 Jan & 10 Feb (DUP). 12 birds were at Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC), eight birds at Ellalong Lagoon 23 Aug (HBOC) and seven birds at Nords Wharf 30 Apr and Skimmings Gap Rd Barrington Tops 14 Jun (both ERE). All other records were of 1-5 birds, with many reports from Wyee Point over Feb-Dec (MDV, CCB) and at Manning Point 3 Jan (BIA), Seaham 10 Jan (MEL), Toronto 4 Mar (JOD), Bucketty (I11) 4 Apr (per MOA), Crowdy Bay NP 25 Apr (ROM), Gwandalan 9 Jun (ROS), Topi Gums MLNP early Jul (BUM), Nelson Bay 15 Jun (DMP), Cams Wharf 18 Jun (ERE), Nords Wharf 7 Aug (ERE), Ellalong 23 Aug (HBOC) and Watagans 13 Dec (STP/MAT). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wyee Point early Jan (MDV), Watagans 15 Jan (GOC), Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and Wyee Point 6-9 Sep (MDV). **BA Atlas:** 11 records from five cells.

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

ID No: 267                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds widely and often recorded in the E and central parts of Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 65% of cells, at RR = 14.8%; cell of most interest: S3 (38.4%).

**Notable records:** 30 birds were recorded at Wollombi 17 Aug (GRJ) and 20 birds at Edgeworth 27 Jul (BOR). 12+ birds were regularly roosting at Raymond Terrace (HUF). **Breeding:** A pair had a dependent young at Watagans 15 Jan (GOC). **BA Atlas:** 70 records from 25 cells; RR 8.36%.

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

ID No: 268                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 7.41%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.7%).

Eight birds were recorded at Pines Camp ground, Watagans 8 Jun and 2-3 birds in the same general area 20 Sep and 6 Dec (ERE, WID, STP/MAT). Four birds were at Ellalong 7 Jun (ROM) and 1-2 birds at Martinsville 7 Mar (GOC), Milbrodale (I9) 2 May (CCB), Laguna 16 May (RDB), Pelton Werakata NP 3 Jun (LIL) and Murrays Run 22 Nov (FIM). A pair was with a begging young at Little Yengo Mountain (H10) 3 May (CCB). **BA Atlas:** Seven records from five cells.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 33.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (67.0%).

**Notable records:** Hybrids with Little Corella were at Tanilba Bay in Feb (SAW). **BA Atlas:** 215 records from 47 cells; RR 22.1%.

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

ID No: 272                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 5.97%; cell of most interest: L9 (22.3%).

125+ birds were recorded in the Woodville/Butterwick area 8-9 Jan (NEM), and 12+ birds at Swan Bay 26 May (HAS/MAC). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Forster 14 Apr (MVBW), Mulbring 20 Sep (WID), Morisset 5 Oct (GOC), WWW 15 Oct and 9 Dec (KEM/MCR, SMJ *et al.*), Seaham Swamp NR 16 Oct (KEM/MCR) and Cessnock 1 Nov (WID). **Breeding:** Birds

had a dependent young at Dora Creek 18 Jan (GOC) and were preparing a nest hollow at Morisset 6 Aug (LUD). **BA Atlas:** 14 records from five cells; RR 2.63%.

#### **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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 7.67%; cell of most interest: O9 (21.1%).

**Notable records:** ~80 birds were at Dora Creek 29 Sep and 45 birds there late Apr/early May (GOC), and 120 birds were present at HWC Jan (SRM). 21-50 birds were recorded at Yarrowonga Park 8 Jan (GOC), at Jerrys Plains 21-22 May and 9 Nov (CLT, STA). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC) and Dora Creek late Apr/early May (GOC). **BA Atlas:** 39 records from 17 cells; RR 5.35%.

#### **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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 21.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (32.2%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at McGregor Park/Jesmond Park 1 Dec (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 119 records from 43 cells; RR 13.1%.

#### **Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident in the extreme NW of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: 16 records from six cells; cell of most interest: E2 (eight records).

See Escapees; there were no other reports received for 2009.

#### **Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

ID No: 254                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 20.7%; cell of most interest: O9 (60.3%).

**Notable records:** 150+ birds were at Nobbys Park 8 Nov (THJ), and 21-50 birds at Cooranbong 10 Mar (GOC), Gir-um-bit NP/Swan Bay 26 May and 25 Aug (HAS *et al.*), Speers Point 2 Jun (HBOC) and McGregor Park/Jesmond Park 1 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Belmont Swamp 14 Jul (STA). Many hundreds continue to roost at night in Lambton (STA). **BA Atlas:** 171 records from 25 cells; RR 21.2%.

#### **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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: S3 (59.2%).

**Notable records:** Birds were nesting at Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest 25 Oct (HBOC) and at Manning Entrance SP 10 Nov (DBP). **BA Atlas:** 77 records from 18 cells; RR 11.4%.

#### **Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Irruptive visitor and bird of passage (*revised from: Bird of passage*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 4.73%; cell of most interest: H4 (28.4%).

There was a major influx into the Region early autumn, with 1,000+ birds present by Mar 15, rising to several thousand by June and persisting into Oct (many observers). Birds were widespread during this time, including coastal records of large numbers, such as ~1,000 birds at Nords Wharf 20 Jun (ERE), ~300 roosting at Eleebana early Jul (GOA) and ~200 roosting at Lambton (ROM). There were occasional records of smaller numbers over Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec, mainly from the central and W of the Region. **BA Atlas:** 68 records from 23 cells; RR 8.67%.

**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 10 birds.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 10.1%; cell of most interest: K10 (28.9%).

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were regularly recorded in Werakata NP (mostly around Pelton) over May-Jun, and 30 birds still present 4 Jul (ROM, others). 100+ birds were also at Ellalong 17 May (ROM). 20+ birds were present at Mt Faulk Rd Watagans 26 Feb (GOC), near Kurri Kurri mid Mar (ROM), and at Seal Rocks 29 Mar (ROM/HAP). 10+ birds were at Nords Wharf 17 Mar to 5 Apr (ERE) and Blue Gum Hills Minmi 26 Nov (BRG). 12 birds flew over Stockton Sandspit 29 Mar (ERE) and ten birds were at Lambton 13 Sep (ROM/ROS), with several other coastal records. *Largest numbers recorded for the Region; also it is uncommon to have birds in such numbers at the coast.* **BA Atlas:** 78 records from 22 cells; RR 9.96%.

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

ID No: 281                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds widely and frequently recorded in E and central parts of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 17.6%; cell of most interest: Q7 (64.4%).

**Notable records:** 25+ birds were recorded at Wollombi (I10) 2 May (CCB), 17 birds at Wingen 16 Dec (NEG) and 13 birds at Yaraandoo (L8) 26 Nov (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 26 Feb and again nested there mid Sep (NEG), and also were nesting at Balickera Jan (MUJ) and inspecting a hollow at East Seaham 8 Sep (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 109 records from 33 cells; RR 11.5%.

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

ID No: 280                      HBOC Category: 2 (*revised from: 3*)                      Breeding: None recorded (*revised*)  
Status: Rare resident in W of Region (*revised from: Accidental*).  
From BA Atlas: Nine records from three cells; cell of most interest: C6 (six records).

A single bird was recorded at Goulburn River NP 31 Oct (HHB) and three females/juveniles were near Cassilis 8 Nov (KIM per ROM). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

ID No: 282                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded in the central & E of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 15.2%; cell of most interest: C3 (91.4%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Little Murrays Hut Barrington Tops NP 24-26 Feb (CLT *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 98 records from 39 cells; RR 11.7%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 91% of cells, at RR = 44.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (71.9%).

**Notable records:** 60 birds were together near Green Wattle Creek 8 Jan (NEM), and 20+ birds were recorded at East Seaham 14 Feb (MCN *et al.*), Wingen TSR 17 Mar (NEG), Jerrys Plains 21-22 May (CLT), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct and PNR 13 Dec (both HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 8 Sep (HBOC) and Gir-um-bit NP 17 Oct (HAS *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 303 records from 39 cells; RR 31.0%.

**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Endangered                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 2.98%; cell of most interest: J10 (6.94%).

Most records were from locations in Werakata NP – predominantly sites near Pelton and Kearsley, also some records from near Abermain and Kitchener. Birds were present in the NP from mid May until last recorded 16 Aug (ROM, others). The maximum count was 30 birds 25 May (25 near Kearsley and 5 near Abermain). Elsewhere, 12 birds were at Speers Point 28 Mar (NBL), 9+ birds at Gir-um-bit NP 26 May (HAS/MAC), nine birds at Nords Wharf 28 May and four birds there 3 Sep (ERE), and six birds at Rathmines 8 Jun (BUR per RIA). **BA Atlas:** Three records from three cells.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 51% of cells, at RR = 11.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (44.1%).

**Notable records:** Up to 26 birds often were at Wingen early May (NEG), and 25 birds were at WWW 11 Mar (SMJ *et al.*). 15 birds were at Broadmeadow 7 Aug (PEK). **BA Atlas:** 70 records from 22 cells; RR 8.67%.

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

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

See Escapees; there were no other reports received for 2009.

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

ID No: 302                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Uncommon resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.83%; cell of most interest: C6 (22.2%).

Approx 15 birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 21 Mar (BUD), and 1+ birds at Baerami Creek 9 Nov (STA/NEG). A population continues to exist in Myall Lakes NP, principally around The Moors and coastal forest along the Old Gibber track, and 6-12 birds are often recorded there (FAA, MIF, CBR). **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells. Also see Supplementary Records.

**Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region, usually as counts of 1-2 birds. (*revised from: Occasionally recorded ....*)  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 9.24%; cell of most interest: Q7 (59.3%).

**Notable records:** 5+ birds were recorded 8km W of Gloucester 22/23 Dec (WID). **BA Atlas:** 43 records from 17 cells; RR 6.27%.



**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: J9 (32.1%).

**Notable records:** Birds were present until at least 1 Apr, when two birds were recorded at Soldiers Point Port Stephens (ERE). The first return was 3 Aug, when a bird was present at Hamilton (ROM). The widespread return was not until mid Sep. **Breeding:** There were many records spanning Jan-Mar, mostly with Red Wattlebirds as hosts and Little Wattlebirds on two occasions (several observers). A bird at Medowie 8 Dec was being fed by Noisy Friarbirds (LUD). **BA Atlas:** 50 records from 21 cells; RR 5.90%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 10.3%; cell of most interest: J9 (34.0%).

**Notable records:** Birds were present until at least 12 Apr, when a juvenile was recorded at Glenrock SCA (WID). The first return was 13 Aug, when a bird was present at Bulahdelah about 5 weeks earlier than usually recorded there (BIA). The widespread return was not until ~3 weeks later. **BA Atlas:** 57 records from 22 cells; RR 6.57%.

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

ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, with regular records in winter. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded throughout the Region. (*text added*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 3.81%; cell of most interest: M8 (11.1%).

**Notable records:** Three birds (one was very young) were at Bowman's Crossing Hunter River 21 Oct (STA/JED) and three birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 19 Sep (HWS). The only winter records were of single birds at Dianella Martins Creek 19 July (HBOC), HWC Jul (SRM), Ash Island 18 Aug (BRG), Nords Wharf 19 Aug (ERE) and Martindale 31 Aug (TAH). *The August records may have been early returns?* **Breeding:** Fledged birds were being fed by Yellow Thornbills at HRBG 10 Jan (WIT) and by White-throated Gerygones at Pine Grove Rd 1 Nov (WID). **BA Atlas:** 30 records from 13 cells; RR 4.19%.

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chalcites osculans*ID No: 341 HBOC Category: 2 (*revised from: 3*) Breeding: Past records (*Amended*)

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

From BA Atlas: 17 records from 11 cells; cell of most interest: G10 (four records).

There were several records from Goulburn River NP: a juvenile was with Speckled Warblers and two other birds were heard calling 15 Nov (HAP), and a single bird 31 Oct (HHB). Also, a single bird was at Gloucester 10 Dec (DBP). *The circumstance with the juvenile is a probable but unconfirmed breeding record.* **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chalcites lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, with regular records in winter. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded throughout the Region. (*text added*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 7.67%; cell of most interest: P8 (28.6%).

**Notable records:** Winter records were of birds at HWC May-Jul (SRM), Balickera Jun (MUJ), Ash Island late Jun-Sep (MCN), Belmont Lagoon 14 Jul (STA), Dianella Martins Creek 19 July (HBOC), Tomago 21 Jul (MCN), Stockton 4 Aug (HBOC), Gloucester mid Aug (DBP), Saltwater NP 11 Aug (STA), Balickera Aug (MUJ), Yaraandoo (L8) 19 Aug (NEM), Congewai Rd 23 Aug (HBOC) and Columbey NP 27 Aug (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 60 records from 19 cells; RR 7.02%.

**Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chalcites minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2009.

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cacomantis pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 4.75%; cell of most interest: E7 (32.6%).

6+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 5 Oct (WID), and two birds at Wingen 10 Nov –7 Dec (NEG). Single birds were at Ash Island 18 Jan (ERE), Balickera Jan and Sep-Dec (MUJ), Bolwarra 6 Sep (TAH), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), Jones Reserve Rd 21 Oct (STA/JED), 2 locations at Widden Valley 24 Oct (CCB), Sandy Hollow 24 Oct (CCB), Bulga 8 Nov (BRG), Medhurst Bridge 9 Nov (STA/NEG) and PNR 13 Dec (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 21 records from 12 cells; RR 2.93%.

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

ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as &lt;5 birds.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 16.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (37.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** 154 records from 38 cells; RR 16.5%.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 4.30%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.1%).

A group of three birds were in courtship display at Baerami Creek 23 Oct (CCB), 2+ birds were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC) and two birds at Yaraandoo (L8) 26 Nov (NEM). Single birds were recorded at White Tree Bay MLNP 13 Jan (WIT), Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Dianella Martins Creek 19 July (HBOC), Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ), Baerami Creek 21 Oct and 9 Nov (STA *et al.*), Sandy Hollow 23 Oct (CCB), Yaraandoo (L8) 29 Oct (NEM), Belltrees 15 Nov (STA/NEG), Minmi 15 Nov and 13 Dec (NEM,HBOC), WWW 23 Nov (SMJ *et al.*), Columbey NP 27 Nov (HBOC) and Belmont Swamp 22 Dec (WID). *Very uncommon to have July records.* **Breeding:** Birds were being fed by White-browed Scrubwrens at Green Wattle Creek 9 Jan (NEM) and bred at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 31 records from 13 cells; RR 4.68%.

**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 2009.

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 2.23%; cell of most interest: M8 (10.2%).

1-2 birds were seen/heard at Cromarty Bay Port Stephens 5 Jan (CLT), Cooranbong 4 Apr (ROM), Werakata NP 31 May (ROM), Gwandalan 9 Jun (ROS), Balickera Aug, Sep and Dec (MUJ), Sheridan Reserve Adamstown 12 Sep (MUM), Rankin Park (McGregor Park) 12 Oct (LIN), and at BbR 17 Apr and 10 Sep and several times at a roost tree in Nov-Dec (ALD, STA, WID). **BA Atlas:** Three records from two cells.

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246                      HBOC Category: 3                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Rare resident (*Revised from: Accidental*)

No reports were received for 2009.

**Southern Boobook** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 6.54%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.7%).

**Notable records:** Four birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 13 Sep (BIA) and three birds were together at Seaham 2 Dec (MEL). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at BbR early Sep (ALD). **BA Atlas:** 17 records from nine cells; RR 2.43%.

**Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

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

From BA Atlas: Eight records from four cells; cell of most interest: M5 (four records).

Single birds were seen/heard at Copeland SCA 25 Jun (DBP), near Edgeworth in Apr (RIA) and near Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 14 & 20 Sep (BIA). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

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

From BA Atlas: 15 records from ten cells; cells of most interest: H8 & N9 (three records each).

Single birds were recorded at Belmont South several times in early Sep (CJB *et al.*) and at Soldiers Point Port Stephens 4 June (ERE). An injured bird was found near Wards River 3 Sep – its left wing had broken and the bird was euthanised by a vet (DBP). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Eastern Barn Owl** *Tyto javanica*

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 0.94%; cell of most interest: D2 (31.8%).

Three birds were present at Ash Island 10 Jun and Tomago 15 Dec (both MCN), and there were additional records of single birds at Ash Island over Aug-Dec (MCN, ALD). There were several records of single birds from locations near Newcastle CBD: 27 Apr (HAP), 27 Jul (ALD), 27 Aug (GRL) and several times in early Sep (various observers). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Merewether 22 Jul and 22 Aug (NIR), Honeysuckle late Jul (per ROM), Toronto 5 Aug (HCL), Eleebana 5 Sep (GOA), Swansea 28/29 Sep (ADJ), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), Warkworth ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA), Martindale 31 Oct (HHB) and Mt Arthur 20 & 27 Dec (NEG). **BA Atlas:** Three records from three cells.

**Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*

ID No: 252 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare resident.

From BA Atlas: Five records from four cells.

Single birds were recorded at Ash Island 17 Mar, 8 Nov and 6 Dec (ROM, MCN), and a dead bird was found near HRBG early Sep (per STA).

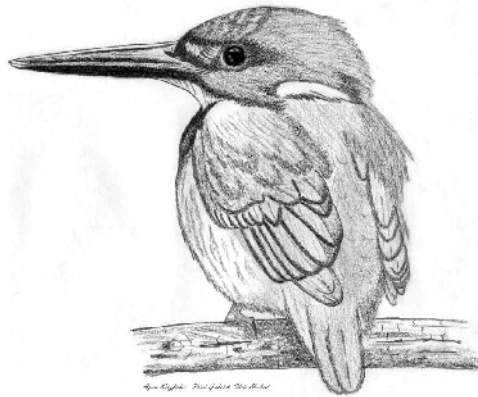
**Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azurea*

ID No: 319 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, as single birds (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 5.02%; cell of most interest: M8 (27.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** 21 records from ten cells; RR 3.29%.



*Azure Kingfisher: sketch by Chris Herbert*

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as &lt;10 birds and usually as 1-5 birds.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 94% of cells, at RR = 44.2%; cell of most interest: O9 (67.8%).

**Notable records:** 15+ birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC).

**Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Wingen 22 Oct (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 306 records from 56 cells; RR 30.8%.

**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 2009.

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**Red-backed Kingfisher** *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 71% of cells, at RR = 16.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (47.0%).

**Notable records:** Two birds over-wintered at Stockton Sandspit (ALD), and a single bird was present at Manning Entrance SP 2 Jul (MVBW). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC), Snapper Island 25 Sep (FAA) and Speers Point 28 Nov (WAR), and were inspecting a hollow at Green Wattle Creek 17 Sep (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 113 records from 35 cells; RR 12.2%.

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

ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. Up to 10 birds occasionally but widely recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 5.21%; cell of most interest: E7 (41.9%).

**Notable records:** 16 birds were at Raworth 6 Mar (BRG). The first recorded arrival was 15 Aug, when some birds were at Wollombi (TAH); most reports were from late Aug onwards. **BA Atlas:** 36 records from 23 cells; RR 4.79%.

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

ID No: 318 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. 1-5 birds widely and frequently recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec (*text modified*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 67% of cells, at RR = 14.1%; cell of most interest: O9 (32.2%).

**Notable records:** 35 birds were at Medowie 8 Dec (LUD) and 16 birds together at Toronto 28 Oct (CRL). The first recorded arrival was 14 Sep, when some birds were at Nords Wharf (ERE). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Belmont Lagoon 1 Jan (STA), Dora Creek 18 Jan (GOC) and Cooranbong 29 Dec (HST), and were carrying food at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 80 records from 30 cells; RR 8.96%.

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon altitudinal migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 4.20%; cell of most interest: K5 (19.5%).

3-4 birds were at Copeland Tops FP 20 & 24 Dec, including one juvenile 20 Dec (BRG, WID), and a single bird was recorded there 29 Nov (LIG). Also, four birds were at Barrington House 16 Oct (ROM). Single birds were recorded at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Apr (ROM), Harrington RF 9 Apr and 10 Aug (WID, STA) and Barrington House 7 Nov (LIG). **BA Atlas:** Four records from three cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 15.1%; cell of most interest: M5 (62.2%).

**Notable records:** Four birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 13 Sep (BIA), and three birds at Watagans 26 Feb (GOC) and Laguna 7 and 13-14 Jun (RDB). **BA Atlas:** 34 records from 19 cells; RR 10.3%.

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

ID No: 355                      HBOC Category: 2                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: None recorded  
Status: Resident of the Barrington Tops/Gloucester Tops IBA (*text amended*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 6.17%; cell of most interest: L5 (13.3%).

All records were from Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops, with six birds seen/heard 14-15 Sep, four birds (3m,1f) seen 13 Sep (both BIA) and 1-2 birds seen/heard 20 Sep and 29 Nov (BIA, LIG).  
**BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 24.9%; cell of most interest: C6 (76.5%).

*Notable records:* Birds were breeding at Balickera over Aug-Nov (MUJ) – *this is understood to have involved multiple events*. **BA Atlas:** 189 records from 50 cells; RR 19.9%.

**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythroptis*

ID No: 560                      HBOC Category: 2                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 7.70%; cell of most interest: C3 (28.6%).

5+ birds were recorded at Gap Creek Watagans NP 25 Jul (ERE), and 1-2 birds at Gloucester Tops 13 & 20 Sep and 25 Nov (BIA, STA/NEM). **BA Atlas:** Six records from four cells.

**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Usual resident. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 8.70%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.7%).

*Notable records:* 12 birds were recorded at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct, where also a pair was feeding fledged young (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 18 records from seven cells; RR 4.40%.

**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 5.57%; cell of most interest: K5 (34.1%).

Up to six birds were present along Main Creek Rd / Cabbage Tree Rd, north of Dungog 13-14 Jun (ERE) and several birds were at Seal Rocks 26 Mar (ROM). 1-2 birds were recorded near Fassifern 1 Jan (BIA) and at Balickera Jan (MUJ), Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Copeland SCA 22 Feb (DBP), Bucketty (I11) 4 Apr and 2 May (CCB), Saltwater NP 9 & 25 Apr and 10 Nov (DBP, STA), Gap Creek Watagans NP 25 Jul (ERE), Hallidays Point 15 Aug (MVBW), Duns Creek 16 Aug (NEM), Kilaben Bay 3 Nov (COG), Yaraandoo (L8) 1 Dec (NEM) and Manchester Rd Barrington 22 Dec (WID). **BA Atlas:** 17 records from nine cells; RR 4.15%.

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

ID No: 684                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes.  
Status: Resident. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded in forests in the E of the Region (*text added*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 3.53%; cell of most interest: R5 (33.9%).

*Notable records:* Five birds were at Saltwater NP 13 Jul with up to four birds often recorded there (STA), and four birds were at Nords Wharf 20 Jun (ERE). 6+ birds were at Blue Gum Hills Minmi 7 Jul (HBOC). Three male birds were recorded at Glenrock SCA 22 Nov and also three birds there 25 Oct (WID). **BA Atlas:** 25 records from eight cells; RR 4.31%.

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 10 birds (*text amended*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 69% of cells, at RR = 18.5%; cell of most interest: Q7 (69.5%).

**Notable records:** Many birds were at Gloucester 9 Apr (DBP). **BA Atlas:** 124 records from 31 cells; RR 14.5%.

**Spotted Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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 (*text amended*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 94% of cells, at RR = 52.7%; cell of most interest: L8 (70.0%).

**Notable records:** Birds had a nest with young at Big Dicky Dans TSR (K3) 14 Nov (STA), were breeding at Balickera Jan and Oct-Dec (MUJ), and were nest building at Green Wattle Creek 11 Sep (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 446 records from 67 cells; RR 44.5%.

**Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 2 (*revised from: 1*) Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 2.90%; cell of most interest: Q6 (6.47%).

Three birds were at Dungog 9 Sep (MEL) and a pair was at Manchester Rd Barrington 22 Dec (WID). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell L8.

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

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Up to 10 birds are regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region (*text amended*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 18.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (61.2%).

**Notable records:** Several pairs with fledged young were at Harrington 29 Oct (DBP), and birds were nest building at Green Wattle Creek 11 Sep (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 142 records from 27 cells; RR 15.4%.

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

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (*additional text has been deleted*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 4.61%; cell of most interest: M8 (17.4%).

Birds were regularly recorded at Tomago Wetlands all year with peak count of 10 birds 19 May (MCN). 1-5 birds were present at Hawks Nest 12 Jan (WIT), Limekilns Rd Tea Gardens 12 Jan (WIT), Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC), HWC 4 Feb and May (LIP, SRM), Bowman River Rd Barrington 21 Feb (DBP), Cromarty Bay Salamander 13 Mar (HDM), Tank Paddock Minmi (FIM/HUL), Salts Bay 17 Apr (WID), Belmont Lagoon 16 May (LUD), Cattai Wetlands mid Aug (MVBW), Balickera Aug and Oct (MUJ), Hexham Swamp 18 Oct (LIA) and Murrinburrimbah Swamp Tomaree NP 15 Dec (EGD). **BA Atlas:** 28 records from nine cells; RR 5.83%.

**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 2009.

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 14.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (49.2%).

1-5 birds were recorded often at Laguna over May-Aug (RDB) and also at Little Yengo Mountain (H10) and Langhorns Creek Yengo NP (H10) 3 May (both CCB), Wollombi 15 Aug (TAH), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), two locations in Widden Valley 4 Nov (NEM), Mogo Creek 22 Nov (MEL) and Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (BIA). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting near Middlebrook late Sep (per HCL). **BA Atlas:** Nine records from six cells.

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

ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 6.89%; cell of most interest: M5 (40.5%).

20+ birds were at Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and 1-5 birds were recorded at Williams River 11 Jan and 21 Jun (WID), Copeland FP 22 Feb (MVBW), Jerusalem Creek (M6) 22 Mar and 3 Nov (HBOC, NEG), Blue Gum Hills Minmi 7 Jul (HBOC), Gap Creek Watagans NP 25 Jul (ERE), Saltwater NP 11 Aug and 5 Sep (STA), Hallidays Point 15 Aug (MVBW), Gloucester Tops 13 Sep (BIA) and Copeland Tops SCA 24 Dec (WID). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and Black Head (R5) 6 Sep (STA), and were nest building at Red Head (R5) 6 Sep (STA). **BA Atlas:** 22 records from 11 cells; RR 6.32%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 28.5%; cell of most interest: M8 (51.6%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at HWC 15 Nov and 18 Dec (LIP). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a Brush Cuckoo at Green Wattle Creek 9 Jan (NEM) and had nests with young at Gloucester early Oct (DBP) and Toronto Wetland Oct 20 (HCL), and were nesting at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 241 records from 42 cells; RR 25.1%.

**Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostra*

ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 5.61%; cell of most interest: M5 (35.1%).

1-5 birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 11 Jan, 24 Jun and 5 Sep (STA), Mungo Brush MLNP 13 Jan (WIT), Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Copeland FP 22 Feb (MVBW), Harrington RF several times in Apr and 10 Aug (STA, WID), Duns Creek 29 Apr and 2 Oct (NEM), Gap Creek Watagans NP 25 Jul (ERE), Yaraandoo (L8) 19 Aug (NEM), Jerusalem Creek (M6) 3 Nov (NEG) and Balickera Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 22 records from 12 cells; RR 4.92%.

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

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

Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 3.90%; cell of most interest: G10 (31.3%).

1-2 birds were at W of Pelaw Main 26 Feb (GOC), Kitchener 5 Jul (BIA) and Goulburn River NP 31 Oct and 15 Nov (HHB, HAP). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell B6.



**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 13.1%; cell of most interest: H8 (44.4%).

**Notable records:** 12 birds were at Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC) and six birds at Wingen TSR 17 Mar (NEG). Small parties were recorded at 3 locations at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 44 records from 16 cells; RR 9.15%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 9.74%; cell of most interest: H8 (71.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** 45 records from 20 cells; RR 8.49%.

**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 (*text amended*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 16.4%; cell of most interest: M6 (71.7%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Harrington RF 11 Jan (STA), nest building at Wingham Brush 1 Oct (MVBW), and bred at Balickera over Sep-Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 139 records from 33 cells; RR 17.0%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 6.31%; cell of most interest: M10 (8.92%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** Nine records from three cells.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.16%; cell of most interest: H8 (22.2%).

Six birds were recorded in Goulburn River NP 15 Nov (HAP) and a bird there 31 Oct (HHB), and four birds were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** Two records from cell G6.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 72% of cells, at RR = 14.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (26.0%).

**Notable records:** Birds were last recorded 29 Mar, at Ash Island (FOC), and the first return was 30 Jul when a bird arrived in Gloucester and birds were widespread in the area soon after (DBP). **Breeding:** Birds nested at Balickera Jan and Oct (MUJ) and were nest building at Belltrees 15 Nov (NEG/STA), and were feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo at Pine Grove Rd 1 Nov (WID). **BA Atlas:** 97 records from 30 cells; RR 11.2%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 16.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (40.6%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Dianella Martins Creek 19 July (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 107 records from 26 cells; RR 11.9%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 78% of cells, at RR = 28.6%; cell of most interest: M8 (56.9%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Jerrys Plains cemetery 16-17 Apr (CLT), Stockton 4 Aug (HBOC), Yaraandoo (L8) 19 Aug (NEM) and Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 8 Sep (HBOC) and were feeding an immature Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo at HRBG 10 Jan (WIT). **BA Atlas:** 215 records from 37 cells; RR 22.5%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 76% of cells, at RR = 14.6%; cell of most interest: G7 (48.2%).

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC) and 21-50 birds at East Seaham 8 Feb (HBOC) and Jerrys Plains 16-17 Apr (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Gloucester 16 Sep (DBP). **BA Atlas:** 102 records from 33 cells; RR 11.1%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 55% of cells, at RR = 7.07%; cell of most interest: H8 (41.5%).

**Notable records:** Field studies in Columbey NP 29 Sep and 27 Nov revealed many pairs/small parties to be present, with a reporting rate of 33% (NEM/HBOC). 25-30 birds in many small parties were also at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Limb of Addy 3-5 Oct. **BA Atlas:** 42 records from 18 cells; RR 5.42%.

**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Rare in extreme NW of Region.  
From BA Atlas: Three records from cell E2.

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 31.8%; cell of most interest: L5 (76.7%).

**Notable records:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 21 Aug and had a nest with young there 8 Sep (HBOC), and also bred at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 290 records from 54 cells; RR 29.7%.

**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*).  
From BA Atlas: 13 records from six cells; cell of most interest: C6 (six records).

No reports were received for 2009.

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 84% of cells, at RR = 29.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (51.8%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen TSR 17 Mar (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Aug-Sep (MUJ), and had dependent young at BbR 12 Oct (LIP). Many pairs were nesting at Werakata NP Kitchener 16 Aug (MOA *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 233 records from 49 cells; RR 24.0%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 17.4%; cell of most interest: H4 (71.6%).

**Notable records:** ~40 birds were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 122 records from 39 cells; RR 12.6%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 26.7%; cell of most interest: Q7 (78.0%).

**Notable records:** Birds returned to a New Lambton garden after many years absence (DOG). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and bred at Balickera Sep-Dec (MUJ) – *this is understood to have involved multiple events*. **BA Atlas:** 205 records from 47 cells; RR 21.4%.

**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*

ID No: 602 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002-03, 2007-08*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 70% of cells, at RR = 33.3%; cell of most interest: R5 (84.3%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and bred at Balickera Jan and over Sep-Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 270 records from 52 cells; RR 29.6%.

**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 Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, and of up to 100 birds during the Apr-Aug migration passage.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 93% of cells, at RR = 44.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (77.1%).

**Notable records:** ~200 birds were recorded at Black Neds Bay 12-13 May (ADJ) and a flock of several hundred birds were flying south at Mt Arthur 3 Sep (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera over Oct-Dec (MUJ). A nest at Abermain was demolished by Noisy Friarbirds 16 Sep (GRN). **BA Atlas:** 433 records from 61 cells; RR 43.4%.

**Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental.

No reports were received for 2009.

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

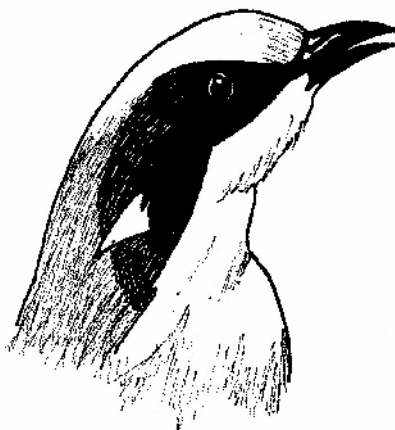
ID No: 617                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Past records  
Status: Resident. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 7.32%; cell of most interest: C6 (48.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** 30 records from 14 cells; RR 6.00%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 8.51%; cell of most interest: G10 (64.2%).

**Notable records** 20+ birds were recorded at Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 45 records from 14 cells; RR 7.43%.



*Yellow-tufted Honeyeater: sketch by Grant Brosie*

**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*

ID No: 613                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Up to 20 birds are moderately often recorded in W and central parts of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 8.10%; cell of most interest: L8 (20.5%).

**Notable records:** Birds were numerous at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 1 Jul (ROM). **Breeding:** Two pairs were on nests near Neath 18 Nov (ROM). **BA Atlas:** 47 records from 11 cells; RR 7.34%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (66.5%).

**Notable records:** A single bird was at HWC 20 Aug (SRM). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 56 records from 20 cells; RR 8.72%.

**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. 10-30 birds moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 16.7%; cell of most interest: L10 (32.9%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Catherine Hill Bay 7 Apr (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 107 records from 25 cells; RR 20.4%.

**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 (*text modified*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 36.2%; cell of most interest: H4 (87.6%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at East Seaham 3 Mar (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at East Seaham 8 Sep (HBOC) and bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 261 records from 50 cells; RR 26.6%.

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

ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

A single bird was photographed at Seal Rocks 13 Mar (BRG/LIN) – *very unusual to be at a coastal location*.

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

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in the W of the Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 6.85%; cell of most interest: F6 (17.4%).

There were many records of 1-5 birds from widespread locations in the W of the Region over Apr-Dec and in particular in Oct when birds were regularly recorded in the west (many observers). Birds have been very regularly present in Bulga for several years, and were seen daily there during Oct (HAR). **BA Atlas:** 19 records from seven cells; RR 25.3%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 22.9%; cell of most interest: R6 (65.6%).

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 25 Jan (WID) and 20+ birds at Morisset 6 Jun (DUP) and Awabakal NR 20 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding young Eastern Koels at Belmont Lagoon 13 Mar (STA) and Anna Bay 7 Dec (ROS). **BA Atlas:** 93 records from 16 cells; RR 18.9%.

**Regent Honeyeater** *Anthochaera phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 9.11%; cell of most interest: K10 (12.6%).

Most records were from locations in Werakata NP – predominantly at sites near Pelton and Kitchener, also some records from near Abermain in the NP. Birds were present in the NP from late May until last recorded 4 Aug (ROM, ERE, GRL, others). The maximum counts were 40 birds 3 June (at Pelton) and 4 Jul (at two sites). One bird at Pelton had been banded in either Capertee Valley or Bundarra; the bird was at least 9 years old and was >130km from where banded (Source: TBN Newsletter). Elsewhere, eight birds were at Richmond Vale 19 Aug (ROM/GRL), at least 3 birds south of Neath 20 Oct (ROM/GRL) and two birds were at Wards River 15 Nov (per DBP) – *a new location but only briefly present*. **BA Atlas:** Nine records from two cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 19.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (50.4%).

**Notable records:** Birds were nesting at Wingen mid Sep (NEG) and were feeding young Eastern Koels at Nobbys Beach 10 Jan (THJ), six locations in the Hawks Nest area 10-17 Jan (WIT) and Wingen 11 Feb (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 136 records from 41 cells; RR 14.4%.

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

ID No: 448

HBOC Category: 1

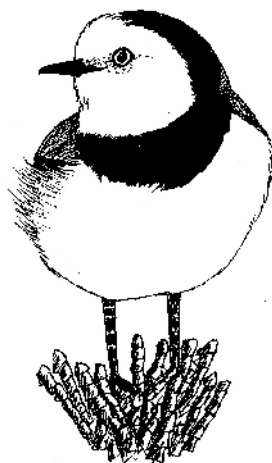
NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 11.1%; cell of most interest: N9 (26.5%).

Birds were regularly recorded at Ash Island and Gir-um-bit NP (many observers), but with no counts of 20+ birds at the former and all counts <10 birds at the latter. 11 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 22 Nov (WID). 6+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 15 Oct and 1-5 birds several other times in Jan-Feb, Aug and Oct (several observers). New locations were Tomago Wetlands, with six birds present 23 Apr and two birds 16 Jun (MCN), and Newcastle Bight, with 1-2 birds recorded there 16 Jul, 16 Nov and 9 Dec (LIA *et al.*). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with 3 eggs at Teal Ponds Ash Island 28 Feb (CCB). **BA Atlas:** 24 records from three cells; RR 8.00%. Also see Supplementary Records.



*White-fronted Chat: sketch by Grant Brosie*

**Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589

HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

A flock of up to eight birds were regularly recorded at Sandy Hollow from 25 Oct until mid Nov (CCB, many others). Also, a single male bird was at WWW 6-7 Dec (BRG, LIN).

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 13.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (37.3%).

**Notable records:** Many birds were at Blue Gum Reserve, Minmi 19 Sep (ERE). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera over Aug-Nov (MUJ) – *this is understood to have involved multiple events*. **BA Atlas:** 90 records from 27 cells; RR 10.1%.

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** *Glyciphila melanops*

ID No: 593

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, of coastal heathlands.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 13.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (37.3%).

6-8 birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 6 & 21 Dec (WID), and 2-3 birds there 25 Jan and 19 Sep (WID, EVM). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 8.36%; cell of most interest: R6 (16.3%).

6+ birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 1 Sep (HBOC) and 3-5 birds regularly there over Apr-Oct (MCN). 1-5 birds were at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC), Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Salts Bay 17 Apr (WID), HWC 25 Apr and 15 Nov (WID, LIP), Stockton 4 Aug (HBOC), Blue Gum Hills Minmi 7 Jul (HBOC), Belmont Lagoon 14 Jul (STA), Stockton Sandspit 2 Aug and 5 & 10 Oct (WID), Hamilton 28 Aug (ROM), Coon Island 26 Sep (WID), Maitland 17 Nov (TAH) and Bolwarra 8 Dec (TAH). **BA Atlas:** 36 records from 12 cells; RR 7.86%.

**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

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

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 4.07%; cell of most interest: L5 (10.0%).

A single bird was at Saltwater NP 24 Jun (STA) – *unusual to get coastal records in the Region*. Birds were recorded at three locations around Mt Corker/Wombat Creek (K5) 4 May (NEM) and at Gloucester Tops 6 Jun and 13 Sep (ERE, BIA). **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells.

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 3.98%; cell of most interest: R6 (22.8%).

20+ birds were at Awabakal NR 25 Jan and 20 Sep (WID, HBOC) and there were occasional records of lesser numbers present there. 1-5 birds were recorded at Belmont Lagoon 1 Jan and 17 May (STA, WID), Glenrock SCA 24 Jan and 12 & 13 Apr (WID), Bucketty (I11) 2 May (CCB), Morisset 13 May (CCB), Booti Booti NP 30 Jun (BUM) and Topi Gums Hawks Nest early Jul (BUM). **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 17.3%; cell of most interest: R6 (41.3%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 25 Jan and Crowdy Bay NP 7 Apr (both WID). **BA Atlas:** 69 records from 14 cells; RR 11.9%.

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

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

Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 2.87%; cell of most interest: C6 (9.88%).

Birds often were recorded in Werakata NP over Jun-Aug, concomitant with regular visits there to monitor Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters. The peak count was seven birds present at a site near Kitchener 11 Jul (ERE). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded near Pelaw Main 26 Feb (GOC) and at Baerami Creek 23 Oct (CCB) and Goulburn River NP 31 Oct (HHB). **BA Atlas:** Four records from three cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 6.70%; cell of most interest: B6 (58.6%).

**Notable records:** Birds were feeding dependent young at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Wingen TSR 17 Mar (NEG) and Broke 16 Oct (MOA *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 39 records from 20 cells; RR 5.06%.

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

ID No: 578

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec, and counts of 21-50 birds are not uncommon over Apr-Jul.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 64% of cells, at RR = 12.2%; cell of most interest: G10 (56.7%).

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were at Bulls Run Rd Laguna 7 & 13-14 Jun (RDB). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 95 records from 26 cells; RR 10.7%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 7.29%; cell of most interest: G10 (52.2%).

**Notable records:** 6+ birds were at Hawks Nest 10-17 Jan (WIT), Jerrys Plains cemetery 16-17 Apr (CLT) and Gir-um-bit NP 26 May and 27 Jun (HAS *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Gir-um-bit NP 25 Aug (HAS *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 47 records from 18 cells; RR 7.09%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 25.8%; cell of most interest: C6 (71.6%).

**Notable records:** 600+ flew over PNR 31 Mar and 130+ 1 Apr, and then several hundred birds flew through in 3 hours on 17 Nov (all CLT) and several flocks of 15-20 birds were moving through Wingen early May (NEG). 1000+ birds were at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Apr (ROM). 21-50 birds were recorded at Catherine Hill Bay 7 Apr (HBOC), Wingen 10 Nov (NEG) and PNR 13 Dec (HBOC). Birds completely demolished the nest of a Yellow-faced Honeyeater at Abermain 16 Sep (GRN). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a young Eastern Koel at Medowie 8 Dec (LUD). **BA Atlas:** 236 records from 57 cells; RR 24.1%.

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 22% of cells, at RR = 1.44%; cell of most interest: G2 (15.4%).

Two birds were at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct and 1 Nov (KEM/MCR, LIA) and two birds at HWC May (SRM). **BA Atlas:** Four records from four cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 8.66%; cell of most interest: G8 (38.4%).

**Notable records:** Nine birds were at Tomago 19 May (MCN) and six birds in Goulburn River NP 15 Nov (HAP). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Wallbridge Reserve Raymond Terrace 16 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 76 records from 22 cells; RR 9.71%.



**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 5.96%; cell of most interest: G8 (7.57%).

Birds were first recorded at Medhurst Bridge Martindale 31 Aug (TAH) and there were many subsequent reports. The numbers rose, to a peak count of eight birds present in the area 24 Nov and 19 Dec (EGD, TAH). A pair was reported as nest building early Nov (ERE) but there were no further reports about this. Elsewhere, birds were found at several locations in Goulburn River NP 30-31 Oct (HHB) and at Warkworth ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA), Widden Valley 15 Nov (NIJ) and Kings Gap 5 Nov (TAH). *An unusually prolific year.* **BA Atlas:** Five records from three cells.

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

ID No: 443                      HBOC Category: 1                      NSW: Vulnerable                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident. Parties of up to 5 birds are moderately often recorded in the central and W of Region (*text added*).  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 11.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (36.1%).

15 birds were recorded at Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC) and 12 birds at Wingen 29 Sep – the latter a larger group than usually present there (NEG). 6-10 birds were at Kitchener 6 Jan (CLT), Wingen TSR 17 Mar and 21 Jul (NEG), Jerrys Plains 16-17 Apr, 21-22 May 23 Jul (CLT, ADJ), East Seaham 28 Apr and 21 Aug (MCN *et al.*, HBOC), Doyles Creek 2 Jun (CLT) and Bulga 26 Dec (WID). 1-5 birds were regularly recorded at Balickera (MUJ), and moderately often at locations around Bulga (BRG, ALD, WID) and Wingen (NEG); 1-5 birds were also present at Ellalong 10 Mar and 3 Sep (ERE), Heatons Gap 21 Mar (MOA *et al.*), Quorrobolong 10 Apr (WID), Millfield 18 Apr (NEG), East Seaham 8 Sep (HBOC), Raymond Terrace 28 Sep (HUF), SSNR 16 Oct (KEM/MCR), Sandy Hollow and two nearby locations 23-25 Oct (CCB) and Krumbach early Nov (BIA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Woodville Aug/Sep (NEM) and were nesting at Sandy Hollow CP 21-23 Oct (CCB). **BA Atlas:** 80 records from 18 cells; RR 11.2%.

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

ID No: 445                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Uncommon resident in central and W of Region.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 11.5%; cell of most interest: C6 (23.5%).

Three groups (of 6, 8 and 15 birds) were recorded at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (STA/HBOC) and ~ten birds at 2km E of Sandy Hollow 31 Oct (HHB). Some birds were at Doyles Creek 31 Aug & 7 Oct (TAH). A number of small families are present in Wybong area (MUM). **BA Atlas:** Three records from two cells.

**Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii***

ID No: 434                      HBOC Category: 1                      Breeding: Yes  
Status: Resident.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 10.8%; cell of most interest: Q2 (36.2%).

Pairs were recorded at Myall Lakes NP 24-26 Jan (HBOC), Copeland SCA 22 Feb (DBP), Allyn River 18 Mar (MEL) and Gloucester Tops 13 Sep (BIA). **BA Atlas:** Five records from three cells.

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

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 22% of cells, at RR = 5.82%; cell of most interest: G10 (49.2%).

A total of ten birds were recorded at Millfield 3 Sep (GRJ) and seven birds (including four together) at Mogo Creek 22 Nov (MEL). 1-2 birds were at Pine Grove Rd 24 May (WID), Stockyard Creek Trail Paynes Crossing 7 Jun (ERE), Bulls Run Rd Laguna 13-14 Jun (RDB), Boree Track Bucketty (I11) 22 Aug (GRJ), Millfield 2 Sep (GRJ), Glenrock HSD (K2) 14 Sep (STA) and Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** Eight records from six cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 67% of cells, at RR = 29.8%; cell of most interest: R5 (80.2%).

**Notable records:** Eight birds were recorded at Yaraandoo (L8) 9 Nov (NEM), and birds bred at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 220 records from 37 cells; RR 23.7%.

**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

ID No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds (*text revised*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 55% of cells, at RR = 8.29%; cell of most interest: K11 (18.3%).

**Notable records:** Many birds were at Pelton Rd/Boundary Rd in Werakata NP 8 Jun and a large group in the same general area 16 Aug (MOA *et al.*). Ten birds were at Martins Creek 18 May (NEM) and 6+ birds at Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct and were feeding fledged young at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (both HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 26 records from 13 cells; RR 4.02%.

**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 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 35.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (54.8%).

**Notable records:** Birds were feeding fledged young at NWR 18 Jan (HBOC) and Wingen 26 Feb (NEG), and bred at Balickera and Wallsend Nov (MUJ, CLT). An immature bird was begging to the nesting pair at Wallsend 14 Nov (CLT). **BA Atlas:** 259 records from 49 cells; RR 26.6%.

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

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 4.43%; cell of most interest: G10 (25.4%).

Seven birds, including one being a dependent young, were within a 100m radius near Neath 18 Nov (ROM). 1-2 birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Bowman River Rd 21 Feb (DBP), East Seaham 3 Mar (HBOC), Pelton 24 May (WID), Firefly (Forster) 30 Aug (ERE), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC), Goulburn River NP 31 Oct and 15 Nov (HHB, HAP) and Green Wattle Creek 8 Nov (NEM). **BA Atlas:** Nine records from five cells.

**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 2009.

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded Jan to mid-Mar and mid-Sep onwards (text amended).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 5.17%; cell of most interest: M8 (18.2%).

**Notable records:** Three birds were present at Yaraandoo (L8) 26 Nov (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 26 records from 16 cells; RR 3.61%.**White-winged Triller** *Lalage sueurii*

ID No: 430

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 2.65%; cell of most interest: F7 (17.2%).

A total of 12 birds were recorded at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), and five birds were at Hexham Swamp 16 Oct (ROM). 1-2 birds were present at East Seaham 8 Feb (HBOC), Ash Island 10 Mar (FRA), Apple Tree Flat mid Mar (BUD), HWC Sep (SRM), WWW 15 Oct (KEM/MCR), Hexham Swamp 15 Oct (KEM/MCR), Pine Grove Rd 1 Nov (WID), Kings Gap 5 Nov (TAH), Bulga 8 Nov and 26 Dec (BRG, WID), Belltrees 15 Nov (NEG/STA), Bolwarra 29 Nov (TAH), Medhurst Bridge 12 Dec (ALD) and Doyles Creek 19 Dec (TAH). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 8 Feb (HBOC) and nest building at Warkworth ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA). **BA Atlas:** Seven records from four cells.

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 4.39%; cell of most interest: S4 (12.8%).

Single birds were at the Myall Lakes NP locations White Tree Bay 13 Jan and Violet Hill Road 23-26 Jan (WIT, HBOC), and several times at Harrington RF (STA, WID, MVBW), including 1-2 birds were present there 25 Jun and 10 Aug (STA) – *these are intriguing winter records, although reports from late Aug have been received from Harrington RF in previous years.* **BA Atlas:** Eight records from four cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 6.54%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.7%).

**Notable records:** 6+ birds were at Doyles Creek 27 May (TAH) and four birds together at Harrington RF 24 Apr (STA). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 29 records from 13 cells; RR 3.90%.**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405

HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident of highland areas.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 4.23%; cell of most interest: L5 (21.7%).

Three birds were at Junction Pools Barrington Tops NP 25 Feb, and 1-2 birds there 24 Jan and at Murrays Hut Barrington Tops NP 24-26 Feb (all CLT) and Gloucester Tops several times in Sep (HAP, BIA) and 25 Nov (STA/NEM). **BA Atlas:** Two records from cell L5.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 28.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (52.1%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and 15 birds at Yaraandoo (L8) 19 Aug (NEM). A single bird was in a garden at Lambton 5 Mar (ROM) – *unusual location*. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road 23-26 Jan (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 244 records from 53 cells; RR 25.2%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 23.7%; cell of most interest: G8 (55.7%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). The first recorded arrival was 9 Aug at Gloucester (DBP). There was a winter record of a single bird at Ash Island 22 Jun (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Krambach early Nov (BIA). **BA Atlas:** 215 records from 52 cells; RR 22.0%.

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

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

Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1996*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 88% of cells, at RR = 30.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (49.6%).

**Notable records:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan (MUJ) and were nesting at Martins Creek 26 Nov (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 242 records from 57 cells; RR 25.0%.

**Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 10.0%; cell of most interest: R5 (55.4%).

**Notable records:** 45+ birds were at Scenic Drive Merewether 11 Jan and many birds at Terrace St Newcastle 16 Dec (both THJ). 20+ birds were recorded at Gregson Park Hamilton 27 Apr (WID). **BA Atlas:** 56 records from 17 cells; RR 8.68%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 15.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (30.3%).

**Notable records:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and nest building at Krambach early Nov (BIA). **BA Atlas:** 129 records from 38 cells; RR 13.3%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: L10 (23.7%).

**Notable records:** 25+ birds were present at HWC 17 Jan (WIT). Birds were present until at least 2 May when six birds were recorded at Bucketty (I11) 2 May (CCB). Some birds had returned to Salamander Estate Port Stephens by 5 Aug (WOL), and widespread in the following 2 weeks (other observers); however, there were also winter records of 20+ birds at Toronto 9 Jun (DUP) and some birds at WWW 28 Jul (CJB). **BA Atlas:** 30 records from nine cells; RR 6.21%.

**Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare irruptive visitor (*recorded 1994-95, 2001-02, 2006-08*).

From BA Atlas: Seven records from five cells.

15-20 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 16-17 Oct (ROM, WID) and Seaham 16 Oct (MCR), ten birds at 3 km west of Cassilis 16 Oct (MOA *et al.*), 6+ birds at Medhurst Bridge 21 Oct (STA/JED), and some birds at Goulburn River NP 22 Oct (ROM). **BA Atlas:** Two records from cell G8.

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

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 1.06%; cell of most interest: G8 (3.78%).

100+ birds were at Seaham 16 Oct (MCR), 50-60 birds near Jerrys Plains ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA) and 40+ birds at Rothbury 11 Dec (ROS). 20-30 birds were recorded at Kearsley early Oct (ROM), Hexham Swamp 16 Oct (ROM), 3 km west of Cassilis 16 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Medhurst Bridge 21 Oct (STA/JED). Smaller flocks were at Hexham Swamp 17 Oct (ROM, WID), Werakata NP 20 Oct (ROM), Goulburn River NP 22 Oct (ROM) and Warkworth 22 Oct (ROS/RIA). An unusual coastal record was of two birds at Stockton 16 Oct (HCL). **BA Atlas:** Five records from three cells.

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; some birds are present all year. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-10 birds, mainly over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 5.99%; cell of most interest: G8 (25.4%).

**Notable records:** A winter record was of some birds in Werakata NP 8 Jun (WID, MOA). Birds were present until at least 2 May when six birds were recorded at Bucketty (I11) (CCB). Some birds had returned to Nords Wharf 19 Aug (ERE) and Congewai Rd 23 Aug (HBOC).

**Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Washpools Towarri NP 11 Jan (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 14 records from seven cells; RR 2.22%.

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No reports were received for 2009.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 30.8%; cell of most interest: L11 (46.9%).

**Notable records:** A bird was carrying a dead Eastern Yellow Robin at Saltwater 25 Feb (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had a dependent young at Dora Creek 18 Jan (GOC). **BA Atlas:** 203 records from 44 cells; RR 21.0%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 28.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (47.5%).

**Notable records:** Birds had nests with young/dependent young at Adamstown 6 May (POP), Awabakal NR 20 Sep (HBOC) and Gir-um-bit NP 17 Oct (HAS *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 183 records from 44 cells; RR 19.0%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 93% of cells, at RR = 59.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (87.2%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Leneghans Flat 15 Oct (KEM/MCR). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Toronto Wetland Oct 20 (HCL) and Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest 25 Oct (HBOC), and were on nest at Bengalla Dairy 26 Sep (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 456 records from 73 cells; RR 46.0%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 91% of cells, at RR = 33.8%; cell of most interest: O9 (49.2%).

**Notable records:** Birds were nesting at Wingen mid Sep (NEG) and feeding fledged young at Junction Pools Barrington Tops NP 24 Jan (CLT *et al.*). **BA Atlas:** 230 records from 66 cells; RR 23.1%.

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Uncommon resident of highlands in the far SW of the Region.

A single bird, with many Pied Currawongs, was at Nords Wharf 12 Aug (CAM).

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 6.74%; cell of most interest: R6 (27.2%).

**Notable records:** Five birds were together at Anna Bay Tomaree NP 24 Sep (ANC). The earliest arrivals were of single birds at Forster mid Jan and Wingham mid Jan (MVBW, FIW) and at HWC 11 Feb (BRG/LIA). The last known record was of a bird at Harrington 31 Oct (WID). **BA Atlas:** 27 records from nine cells; RR 4.52%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 8.68%; cell of most interest: M8 (20.1%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded over a large area at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC). Birds were present until at least 12 Apr, when a single bird was recorded at Glenrock SCA (WID). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 50 records from 14 cells; RR 6.58%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 91% of cells, at RR = 49.7%; cell of most interest: L8 (75.6%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Washpools Towarri NP 11 Jan (NEG), were nesting at Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC) and Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ), and were nest building at Harrington RF 7 Oct (STA). **BA Atlas:** 428 records from 63 cells; RR 43.4%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 93% of cells, at RR = 45.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (80.0%).

**Notable records:** Birds had dependent young at Washpools Towarri NP 11 Jan (NEG) and were nesting at Wingen mid Sep (NEG) and Giles Rd Seaham 6 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 341 records from 63 cells; RR 34.7%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 92% of cells, at RR = 45.7%; cell of most interest: L11 (62.6%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp North 15 Oct (KEM/MCR) and HWC 18 Dec (LIP). **BA Atlas:** 346 records from 57 cells; RR 34.9%.

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Status: Resident, in the NE of the Region (*text added*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 4.27%; cell of most interest: R6 (12.5%).

**Notable records:** Ten birds were at Seal Rocks 23 Mar (KEM/MCR). 1-5 birds were regularly recorded at both Harrington and Saltwater NP (STA, WID) and at Myall Lakes NP early Jan and 23-26 Jan (BIA, HBOC), Booti Booti 30 Jun (BUM), Manning Entrance SP13 Jul (STA) and Snapper Island 25 Sep (FAA). **BA Atlas:** 14 records from four cells; RR 5.96%.

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 2.21%; cell of most interest: N5 (22.9%).

Large flocks were often present all year from Craven north to Woko NP and adjacent areas (DBP). 1-5 birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd 6 Jun (WID), Cassilis Park 7 Jun (WID), Barrington Reserve 16 Sep (STA), Belltrees 15 Nov (NEG/STA), two locations in Lambs Valley 29 Nov (TAH) and Manchester Rd Barrington 22 Dec (WID). **Breeding:** Birds bred near Gloucester early Jan (DBP). **BA Atlas:** Ten records from three cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 9.73%; cell of most interest: R6 (36.5%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Eccleston 21 Jun (WID). Around the limit of the range, single birds were recorded at HWC 30 Jan (LIP) and Hexham Swamp 25 Sep (WID). **BA Atlas:** 48 records from 15 cells; RR 7.02%.

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. Up to 5 birds are moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and from mid-Sep onwards.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 7.74%; cell of most interest: M8 (18.6%).

**Notable records:** The first recorded arrival was 31 Aug at Nords Wharf (ERE). **Breeding:** Birds were copulating at Wingen 13 Oct (NEG) and on nest at Krambach early Nov (BIA). **BA Atlas:** 64 records from 21 cells; RR 7.81%.

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare.

Some birds were at Barrington Tops 29 Nov (LIG).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 4.73%; cell of most interest: G8 (21.1%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Gloucester occasionally mid Aug & on 9 Apr – having been absent in summer (DBP), and at Bulga 24 May (WID), Rutherford 25 Jun (MCM), Coopla Bridge (N2) 16 Sep (STA), Widden Valley 24 Oct (CCB), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC) and Mogo Creek 22 Nov (MEL). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from ten cells.

**White-eared Monarch** *Carterornis leucotis*

ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Uncertain (*Recorded 1993, 2003-08*)

No reports were received for 2009. This was despite several visits to the location where birds previously had been recorded (ROM).

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

ID No: 373 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds are moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 8.61%; cell of most interest: M8 (20.3%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were present at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC). The first arrival was 17 Sep when recorded at Green Wattle Creek (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and bred at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ), and were nest building at Krambach early Nov (BIA). Many immatures were present at Bowman River Rd 21 Feb (DBP). **BA Atlas:** 58 records from 18 cells; RR 8.35%.



**Spectacled Monarch** *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 2.04%; cell of most interest: S4 (16.2%).

There were many records from Harrington RF until late Apr (including an immature bird present 15 Mar) and birds had returned by 7 Oct (STA, others). Many birds were at Copeland Tops SCA 24 Dec (WID) and 1-2 birds recorded there 17 Sep and 20 Dec (DBP, BRG). Elsewhere 1-2 birds were at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC) and Crowdy Bay NP 25 Apr (ROM). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from seven cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 86% of cells, at RR = 44.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (87.2%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Leneghans Flat 15 Oct (KEM/MCR). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 304 records from 56 cells; RR 31.1%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 14.1%; cell of most interest: H8 (37.0%).

**Notable records:** 26 birds were at Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan, where some birds were feeding fledged young (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 81 records from 29 cells; RR 11.6%.

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 5.69%; cell of most interest: L5 (8.33%).

Single birds were recorded at Allyn River 18 Mar (MEL), Skimmings Gap Rd Dungog 25 Apr (ERE) and Barrington Tops 14 Jun (BIA). **BA Atlas:** One records from cell K5.

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascians*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 15.3%; cell of most interest: G8 (61.1%).

**Notable records:** Birds were on nest at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** 77 records from 22 cells; RR 9.24%.

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 2.37%; cell of most interest: G10 (32.8%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Gloucester Park ~23 Apr (DBP), Doyles Creek 27 May (TAH), Goulburn River NP 7 Jun (WID), West Wallsend 10 Jun (ERE), Bulls Run Rd Laguna 13-14 Jun (RDB) and Tomago 13 Jul (OCG), and at Werakata NP near Kitchener 4 & 11 Jul and 4 & 19 Aug (ROM *et al.*, ERE, BRG/LUD). **BA Atlas:** Five records from four cells.

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

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 4.84%; cell of most interest: H8 (35.6%).

11+ birds in several pairs/parties were at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), including two males interacting (one then joined a female), and 6+ birds were at Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC) and Warkworth ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA). 1-2 birds were recorded several times at Jerrys Plains – 21-22 May, 23 Jul, 5 & 12 Dec (CLT/ADJ, DGG, ALD) – and at Pine Grove Rd 24 May, 5 Sep, 1 Nov and 26 Dec (WID), Wingen 23 Apr (NEG), Goulburn River NP 31 Oct (HHB), Martindale 19 Dec (TAH) and Wambo Rd Bulga 26 Dec (WID). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **BA Atlas:** Five records from three cells.

**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant). (*text amended*)

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 2.89%; cell of most interest: K4 (63.3%).

6+ birds were recorded at two locations in Barrington Tops NP – Junction Pools 24 Jan and Little Murrays Hut 24-26 Feb (CLT). Three birds were present at Wingen 24 Jul (NEG) and 1-2 birds at Little Murrays Hut 19-22 Jan and Junction Pools 25 Feb (CLT) and Manchester Rd Barrington Tops NP 22 Dec (WID). **BA Atlas:** Four records from two cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 5.39%; cell of most interest: M5 (24.3%).

**Notable records:** The latest lowland record was of a bird heard at Green Wattle Creek 2 Sep (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 21 records from 14 cells; RR 2.65%.

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, in west of Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 5.69%; cell of most interest: G6 (33.3%).

Six birds (4m and 2f) were recorded at Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC) and 1-2 birds at Wambo Colliery Bulga 24 May (HBOC) and Goulburn River NP 31 Oct (HHB). **BA Atlas:** Six records from five cells.

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

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 2.88%; cell of most interest: M6 (10.9%).

An immature and adult bird were together at Violet Hill Road MLNP 24 Jan and an adult bird seen at the same location 25 Jan (HBOC) – *this is probably the coastal southern limit of the range (NB birds were recorded in the same general area in 1994 but not during visits in 1998 and 2002)*. Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Allyn River 18 Mar (MEL) and Copeland Tops SCA 20 Dec (BRG). **BA Atlas:** Two records from two cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 29.7%; cell of most interest: L8 (48.6%).

**Notable records:** 20-30 birds were at Sullivans Gap Reserve NP 14 Jan (WIT) and Violet Hill Rd MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan and Aug-Dec. **BA Atlas:** 257 records from 54 cells; RR 26.2%.

**Horsfield's Bushlark** *Mirafrja javanica*

ID No: 648

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central and W of region. (*revised from: Rare*).

From BA Atlas: 19 records from nine cells; cell of most interest: G7 (five records).

Three birds were recorded at Mt Arthur 16 Aug (NEG) – *an early record* – and three birds at Warkworth ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA), and a single bird near Maitland 1 Nov (HHB). **BA Atlas:** One record from cell G7.

**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 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 12.3%; cell of most interest: L10 (29.9%).

**Notable records:** 20-29 birds were frequently at Tomago (MCN). **BA Atlas:** 78 records from 14 cells; RR 11.2%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 9.31%; cell of most interest: J9 (43.4%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at WWW 6 Jan and 3 Feb (BAP *et al.*, SRM) and Hunter Estuary Sep-Oct (HWS). **BA Atlas:** 77 records from 20 cells; RR 9.85%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 9.58%; cell of most interest: M10 (13.3%).

**Notable records:** 20 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan and Aug-Sep (HWS). **BA Atlas:** 67 records from ten cells; RR 17.0%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 11.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (24.9%).

**Notable records:** 20 birds were at Hexham Swamp 2 Mar and 15-17 in Aug-Sep (LIA). **BA Atlas:** 41 records from five cells; RR 8.42%.

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 (revised from: 2) Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 4.87%; cell of most interest: E6 (27.4%).

Two birds were recorded at Washpools Towarri NP 11 Jan (NEG). There were no further reports until 10 Sep, when a bird was recorded at Martindale (TAH). There were other Sep reports, but widespread arrivals were not until mid Oct. **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Washpools Towarri NP 11 Jan (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 26 records from 11 cells; RR 8.18%.

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central/west of Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.95%; cell of most interest: D2 (22.7%).

Four birds were recorded at Tomago 15 Sep (MCN). All other records were of single birds – at Yarrawa 24 Feb (BRG), East Seaham 8 Feb (HBOC), Bayswater power station 12 Sep (NEG), Mt Arthur 13 Sep (NEG), Tomago 20 Oct (MCN), Dingo Gully Rylstone Rd 21 Oct (JED), Wallalong 25 Oct (TAH) and near Maitland 1 Nov (HHB). **BA Atlas:** Five records from four cells.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 29.7%; cell of most interest: L11 (42.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **BA Atlas:** 233 records from 51 cells; RR 23.7%.

**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident (amended from: Summer migrant. There have been winter records in many years).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 1.98%; cell of most interest: G7 (4.46%).

Seven birds were recorded at Scotts Flat Singleton 19 Mar (CLT) and 1-3 birds at Bowman's Crossing Hunter River 21 Oct and 8 Nov (STA/JED, WID), Jones Reserve Rd 21 Oct (STA) and Warkworth ~22 Oct (ROS/RIA). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell H7.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (New to list).

See Supplementary Records.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 94% of cells, at RR = 41.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (68.1%).

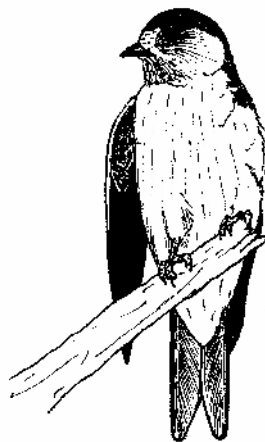
**Notable records:** ~1,000 birds were at Ash Island 3 & 5 Mar (ROM/RIA), and 100-150 birds at Hexham Swamp 2 Mar and 8 May (LIA). **Breeding:** Several pairs bred at Balickera over Aug-Oct (MUJ). 4+ pairs were nesting at Pacific Palms 19 Sep (MVBW) and Big Dicky Dans TSR (K3) 14 Nov (STA). **BA Atlas:** 295 records from 57 cells; RR 26.4%.

**Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel*

ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; small numbers over-winter. Up to 20 birds are frequently recorded at medium to large waters in E and central parts of the Region from Jan to mid-Mar and from early Aug onwards. From BA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 7.73%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.0%).

**Notable records:** 136-160+ birds were at Hexham Swamp over Aug-Nov (LIA, KEM) and 50+ birds at Ash Island 18 Aug (BRG) and Bengalla Dairy 26 Sep (HBOC). Some birds still remained at Balickera in May (MUJ); the arrival date was 4 Aug when 10-15 birds were recorded at WWW (BRG/LUD). **Breeding:** There were 40-50 nests at Hexham Swamp 1 Jan (LIA/STA) and at Big Dicky Dans TSR (K3) 14 Nov (STA). **BA Atlas:** 20 records from 13 cells; RR 2.75%.



*Fairy Martin: sketch by Grant Brosie*

**Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans*

ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; some birds over-winter. Up to 20 birds are occasionally but widely recorded. From BA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 7.21%; cell of most interest: L9 (14.5%).

**Notable records:** 55 birds were present at Hexham Swamp 2 Mar (LIA) and 30+ birds at PNR 13 Dec (HBOC). The arrival date was 18 Aug, when four birds were recorded at Wingen (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 47 records from 20 cells; RR 5.90%.

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

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 7.51%; cell of most interest: M11 (23.1%).

Three birds were at Catherine Hill Bay 7 Apr (HBOC) and a single bird at Salts Bay Swansea 17 Apr (WID). **BA Atlas:** Nil records.

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 3.94%; cell of most interest: M5 (29.7%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Williams River 11 Jan (WID), Violet Hill Road MLNP 23-26 Jan (HBOC), Boarding House Dam 7 Mar (WID), Jerusalem Creek (M6) 22 Mar and 3 Nov (HBOC, NEG), Balickera May and Nov (MUJ), Gloucester Tops 13 Sep (BIA), Watagans 20 Sep (WID), Allyn River 1 Nov (HHB) and Copeland Tops Reserve early Dec (LIG). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from nine cells; RR 3.14%.

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

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 5.03%; cell of most interest: M5 (14.9%).

1-2 birds were at Copeland SCA 22 Feb and 20 & 24 Dec (DBP, BRG, WID), Wingham Brush 10 Aug (MVBW), Sharpes Creek 20 Sep (BIA) and Allyn River 1 Nov (HHB). A pair had a nest at Wingham Brush 8 Nov (FIW). **BA Atlas:** Four records from three cells.

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, in central and W of the Region (*text revised*).

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 1.21%; cell of most interest: K4 (20.0%).

Birds continue to be resident at locations around Maitland/Cessnock. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Little Murrays Hut Barrington Tops NP 19-22 Jan (CLT *et al.*), Merriwa 31 Oct (HHB), Scone 14 Nov and 3 Dec (STA, NEG) and Aberdeen 2 Dec (NEG). A male bird was present at Charlestown 20 Aug (RDB). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell H5. Also see Supplementary Records.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 25.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (65.5%).

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were at Bengalla Dairy 26 Sep (HBOC) and birds had dependent young at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 87 records from 25 cells; RR 11.3%.

**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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 22.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.9%).

**Notable records:** 50 birds were together near Croki (Jones Island) 13 Jul (STA). **BA Atlas:** 143 records from 35 cells; RR 15.6%.

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 71% of cells, at RR = 13.7%; cell of most interest: G8 (45.4%).

**Notable records:** Birds were on nest at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 111 records from 36 cells; RR 12.0%.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarina jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985-86, 2006*).

No reports were accepted for 2009.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 4.82%; cell of most interest: G7 (25.9%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra 17 May and 28 Nov (TAH) and at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 12 records from eight cells; RR 4.14%.

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (53.5%).

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Martins Creek 18 May (NEM). **BA Atlas:** 57 records from 23 cells; RR 6.94%.

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

ID No: 661

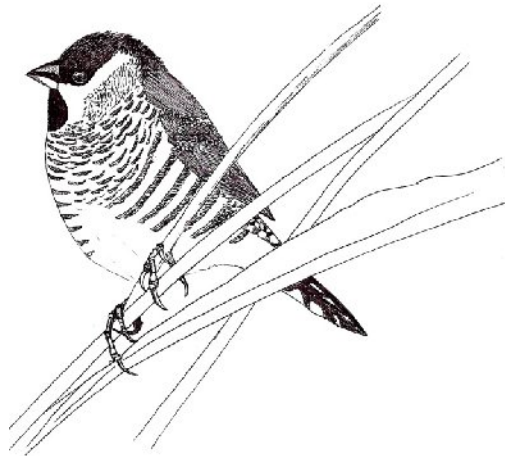
HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare.

From BA Atlas: Nine records from seven cells; cell of most interest: G8 (three records).

Ten birds were recorded at Bowmans Crossing Hunter River 13 Oct and 3-5 birds there 22 Oct and 5 Nov (all RIA). A pair was often recorded at the Goulburn River crossing, Wollar Rd Oct/Nov (ROM, others) and a single bird was near Jerrys Plains 31 Oct (SHB). Also, a single bird was at WWW 6 Dec (BRG). **BA Atlas:** One record, from cell G8.



*Plum-headed Finch: sketch by Allan Richardson*

**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.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 28.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (45.9%).

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were recorded at Violet Hill Road MLNP (P7) 23-26 Jan and 21-50 birds at PNR/Leneghans Flat 7 Jul, Blue Gum Hills Minmi 7 Jul and Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (all HBOC). A bird was taken by a Collared Sparrowhawk at Violet Hill Rd 25 Jan (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan, May, Jun and Oct-Nov (MUJ). **BA Atlas:** 234 records from 53 cells; RR 24.2%.

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident of W and central parts of the Region.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 9.69%; cell of most interest: G8 (20.0%).

12 birds were present at Medhurst Bridge Martindale 19 Dec and nine birds at Doyles Creek 27 May (both TAH). 1-5 birds were recorded at Apple Tree Flat mid Mar (BUD), Goulburn River NP mid Mar, 15 Nov and 31 Oct (BUD, HAP, HHB), near Jerrys Plains 21 Mar (BUD), Wollar 5 Apr (THK), Limb of Addy (G6) 3-5 Oct (HBOC), Jones Reserve Rd 21 Oct (STA/JED), Widden Valley 24 Oct (CCB), Kings Gap 5 Nov (TAH), Medhurst Bridge 5 & 9 Nov and 12 Dec (TAH, STA/NEG, ALD) and Bulga 8 Nov (BRG). **BA Atlas:** Six records from four cells.

**Beautiful Firetail** *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650                      HBOC Category: 3                      Breeding: No  
Status: Rare resident (*Revised from: Accidental*).

Information was received about a small population in the lower Hunter Valley; the location is confidential in order to protect this locally very rare species.

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

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

No reports were received for 2009.

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

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

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 2.23%; cell of most interest: L10 (5.75%).

17 birds were recorded at Kooragang 16 Aug (LUD) and 10+ at Tenambit 11 Feb (BRG). 1-3 birds were often present at Tomago Wetlands (MCN), while 1-2 birds were at Shortland Jan (MRA) and Tenambit Common 13 Dec (BRG). **BA Atlas:** Four records from two cells.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 9.58%; cell of most interest: S4 (29.1%).

**Notable records:** Birds were on nest at Sandy Hollow 28 Oct (KEM/MCR). **BA Atlas:** 25 records from 17 cells; RR 3.70%.

**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.  
From BA Atlas: Recorded in 61% of cells, at RR = 10.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (27.2%).

**Notable records:** 5+ birds were regularly recorded at Tomago Wetlands with peak count 13 birds 19 May (MCN). A bird was taken by a Spotted Harrier at Mt Arthur 18 Jul (NEG). **BA Atlas:** 72 records from 22 cells; RR 8.87%.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*

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

From BA Atlas: One record from cell M10.

No reports were received for 2009.

**Green-headed Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla taivana*

ID No: 8611                      HBOC Category: 3 (*revised from: 2*)                      Breeding: No  
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2003*). (*Revised from: Uncertain*)

No reports were received for 2009.

**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 2009.



**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 2.53%; cell of most interest: L9 (7.25%).

Three birds were recorded at Ash Island 18 Jan and 18 Feb (MCN) and some birds were at Maitland 27 Aug (TAH). BA Atlas: One record, from cell M10.

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre 2009 records detailed below:

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

Over 2001-2006, a pair often used an artificial nest box at Oyster Cove for nesting. There were records of eggs/nestlings there 12 Sep 2001, 4 Oct 2002, 3 Nov 2003, 23 Sep 2004, 5 Jan and 4 Nov 2006 (all MCN).

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

Around 140 pairs breed each year on Boondelbah Island (*BirdLife International (2007) Important Bird Area factsheet: Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands, Australia. Printed 3 May 2010*).

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna pacificus*

Around 1,050 pairs breed each year on Cabbage Tree Island and ~13,000 pairs on Boondelbah Island (*BirdLife International (2007) Important Bird Area factsheet: Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands, Australia. Printed 3 May 2010*).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

Around 45 pairs breed each year on Cabbage Tree Island and ~2,500 pairs on Boondelbah Island (*BirdLife International (2007) Important Bird Area factsheet: Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands, Australia. Printed 3 May 2010*).

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

Around 140 pairs breed each year on Cabbage Tree Island and up to ~100 pairs on Boondelbah Island (*BirdLife International (2007) Important Bird Area factsheet: Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands, Australia. Printed 3 May 2010*).

**Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

A beach-cast bird was found on Newcastle Beach Sep 1979 (details are in Corella, 3, p 42).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

40-50 pairs breed each year on Cabbage Tree Island (*BirdLife International (2007) Important Bird Area factsheet: Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands, Australia. Printed 3 May 2010*).

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

Two birds were at Dudley 8 Dec 2008 (CLT).

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

A pair successfully fledged chicks at Ash Island in Dec 2007 and Dec 2008 (MCN).

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

A pair was with two chicks at Karuah 21 Nov 2005 (per ROM).

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

1-2 pairs breed each year on Cabbage Tree Island (*BirdLife International (2007) Important Bird Area factsheet: Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands, Australia. Printed 3 May 2010*).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

A single bird was recorded four times in 1967 at locations in what is now Kooragang Island – on 18 Feb, 14 Oct, 13 Nov and 12 Dec. (*Reported in McGill A.R. (1969). The Ringed Plover in Australia, Australian Bird Watcher, 198-201*).

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

A single juvenile bird was often present in a garden at Forster during Feb-Mar 2001 (P Harris per M Langdown).

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chalcites osculans*

Birds bred at Green Wattle Creek in 1993, with Speckled Warblers as the host species (NEM).

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

One bird was at Floraville 30 Nov 2008 (CLT).

**Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

Two birds were recorded at Bucketty (I11) December 2008 (per MOA).

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

Two birds were recorded at Doyles Creek 26 Nov 2008 (TAH), and birds bred at Sandy Hollow in March 2007 (DGG).

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

1-2 birds were recorded in Manning Entrance SP in 2005/2006 (THM).

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

A single bird was recorded at Wingen in April 1988 (NEG).

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

Birds bred near Gloucester early 2008 and there also are prior breeding records (DBP).

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

Four birds were at Dudley 8 Dec 2008 (CLT).

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Two birds were recorded at HWC over 5-12 March 1988 (LIA/LIT). The record was accepted by NSW ORAC.

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

A single bird was recorded in a garden in Lambton (Newcastle suburb) 25 July 2008 (ROM).

## CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

- The location previously known as Worimi Nature Reserve has been renamed by authorities as Gir-um-bit National Park which forms part of the newly gazetted Gir-um-bit State Conservation Area. These name changes perhaps have been driven by the desire to avoid confusion arising from the recent gazetting of Worimi National Park and Worimi Regional Park at Newcastle Bight (these are also referred to as the Worimi Conservation Lands).
- It is now considered that the 2009 population of Sooty Oystercatchers roosting at Newcastle locations was over-estimated, due to movements of birds between two main roost sites. A more conservative estimate is that 36 birds were present around Newcastle in early 2009.
- Two new State Parks now exist: Manning Entrance SP and Harrington Beach SP. The former includes the area usually named in previous Bird Reports as Muddishops Point and the latter includes Manning Point (situated opposite Harrington village) and the nearby sandbars in the Manning River.

## UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports were not able to be accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee – either because of insufficient information having been provided by the time of printing or else a non definitive description supplied (such that alternative identifications were not able to be eliminated). 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. As a general comment, it is strongly recommended that detailed field notes be made at the time of sighting of an unusual species (or as soon as possible afterwards) and that photographs be taken if possible – regardless of their quality these can be very helpful for confirming the identification.

### **Giant-Petrel spp** *Macronectes* spp

Four unidentified birds (plus two that were identified as *M. halli*) were close offshore from Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM).

### **Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*

A single bird was reported from Stockton Breakwater 1 Feb – the details of the record were submitted to the RAC but Great Frigatebird *F. minor* could not be eliminated as an alternative identification.

### **Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

A young bird was reported to have been on Ash Island 2 Jan – the details of the record were submitted to NSW ORAC but some alternative identifications could not be eliminated.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

A pair was reported to have been nesting on Pelican Island Wallis Lake from early Oct, and it was also reported that 3-4 pairs have frequently bred at this location in the past 10 or so years. *When confirmed, this will be a new breeding location for NSW where the only previous records are for 1-2 pairs on the far South Coast.*

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

In 2008, birds were reported to be resident in Yengo NP, and a single bird was reported to have been present at Werakata NP in Feb 2008.

**White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*

A single bird was reported to have been at Bolwarra 18-19 Jun.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarina jugularis*

Two birds were reported to have been at Bolwarra 19 Dec – the Records Appraisal Committee has not yet completed assessing the report.

## 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.

**Emu** *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

A single bird at Millfield 10 Oct (GRJ) is known to have been an escapee (per ROM).

**Barbary Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

A bird was seen frequently at “Gleniston” HSD near Ulan over Jan-May (SIA).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Single birds were at HWC Jan (SRM) and Birmingham Gardens 26 Nov (TAH).

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

A single bird was at HWC Jan (SRM).

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

A single bird was present at Glenrock SCA 24 Jan (WID).

## DATA FROM REGULAR SURVEYS

Many areas in the Hunter Region are surveyed regularly and systematically. We encourage this since it helps identify changes occurring to 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 Bird Reports.

**Table 1 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks**

*(Regular surveys by J Smart, P Baird & L Mee)*

	6 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar	7 Apr	12 May	9 Jun	8 Jul	12 Aug	10 Sep	14 Oct	23 Nov	9 Dec
Musk Duck	2	3	2	2	1	3	5	4	2	9	10	5
Black Swan	3	6	4	4	4	6	2	4	3	2	2	2
Aust. Wood Duck	18	9	16	6		3	0	3	9	6	42	23
Pink-eared Duck	111										1	3
Australasian Shoveler	3			4						1	1	1
Grey Teal	54	8	15	90	19	16	6	49	32	38	36	27
Chestnut Teal	37	10	6	23	7	16	31	26	24	5	6	4
Pacific Black Duck	40	22	36	70	8	17	8	12	19	15	22	33
Hardhead	29	34	11	4	9	12	25	24	107	59	42	47
Blue-billed Duck												
Australasian Grebe	12	12	13	21	44	80	42	43	23	33	29	48
Hoary-Headed Grebe	3		1		3	12	7		12	42	26	45
Great Crested Grebe	24	41	22	30	27	7	6	14	15	6	17	28
Australasian Darter			1							2		2
Little Pied Cormorant	14	6	10	21	11	7	2	4	5	5	8	17
Great Cormorant			1									
Little Black Cormorant	66	17	16	30	15	4	1	4	3	15	21	21
Australian Pelican									5	2	1	6
Eastern Great Egret	1	1		4	3	1	1		1	1		
Intermediate Egret									1			
Cattle Egret			19									
White-faced Heron		1		15	3	2	1	2	1	3	3	4
Little Egret								1				
Australian White Ibis		2		21		1	1	3	3	1		2
Straw-necked ibis			45	33	4	24	12	6				
Royal Spoonbill	1		28	5	3	4	5	6	4	6	1	3
Purple Swamphen	6	19	12	7	21	10	8	11	11	12	11	29
Dusky Moorhen	18	12	14	22	8	21	29	35	16	21	11	14
Eurasian Coot	116	71	90	78	58	91	148	144	230	148	188	163
Black-fronted Dotterel			2	1	4	3						2
Masked Lapwing	9	4	5	5	7	6	3	2		4		

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

	5 Jan	26 Feb	13 Mar	7 Apr	15 May	18 Jun	11 Jul	7 Aug	20 Sep	23 Oct	21 Nov	17 Dec
Black Swan	80	550	140	521	62	47	15	15	14	32	63	46
Australian Wood Duck	41		15		18	7	3	5	3	1	6	26
Pink-eared Duck		4	2	57	41				2	35	23	6
Australasian Shoveler	3	2	12	47	148	66	18	33	3	4	43	3
Grey Teal	38	172	252	754	741	252	685	1176	1366	380	830	74
Chestnut Teal	123	309	281	186	147	67	145	328	91	74	195	140
Pacific Black Duck	36	348	186	182	40	34	72	48	13	21	49	22
Hardhead	1	22	1	29	10	2	9	8	13		6	1
Australasian Grebe	1	8	2	8	71	49	49	29	5	6	3	1
Australasian Darter	7		1	4		1		3	2	2	2	4
Little Pied Cormorant		4		4	6			2				
Great Cormorant	2	1	5	2		1		2	2	1	10	3
Little Black Cormorant		10	6	9	7		1		9	6	8	12
Pied Cormorant	2	1								2		1
Australian Pelican	97	31	12	15	11	6	5	2	7	12	24	31
White-necked Heron		1										
Eastern Great Egret	5	10	2	7		1	1	2	2	1		1
Intermediate Egret	4	25	44									
Cattle Egret	23	315	178	84	1			7	3		2	1
Little Egret	1	1	3	4	1	1	2	1			3	
White-faced Heron	17	19	20	6	2	14	2	4	3	1	1	2
Australian White Ibis	13	74	23	12		4						
Straw-necked Ibis		294	432	152	10	3	29	5				3
Royal Spoonbill	3		1		5			1			1	3
Purple Swamphen	4	3		8	9	9	8	8	4	7	8	4
Dusky Moorhen		2				3					1	3
Eurasian Coot	4	57	72	112	33	33	63	14	1		3	
Black-winged Stilt	60		91	107	66	63	52	203	186	255	424	2
Red-necked Avocet	2									64	124	
Black-fronted Dotterel					14	8	22	19			1	
Red-kneed Dotterel	2											
Masked Lapwing	67	101	75	84	97	65	42	60	20	33	29	38
Latham's Snipe												3
Common Greenshank											1	
Marsh Sandpiper	1											
Red-necked Stint										2	2	
Pectoral Sandpiper												1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	102								152	880	2460	26
Curlew Sandpiper									2	13	13	
Gull-billed Tern						2		1				
Caspian Tern			5			5	2	1				1
Whiskered Tern							6	2	2			4
Silver Gull	49					3					4	

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

	10 Jan	7 Feb	28 Mar	25 Apr	23-24 May	27 Jun	25 Jul	22 Aug	19 Sep	17 Oct	13-14 Nov	19 Dec
Magpie Goose	1											
Musk Duck	5	2	9	6	12	9	10	10	7	7	4	1
Black Swan	49	68	61	45	146	134	131	63	38	32	57	35
Australian Wood Duck	11						20	6				
Pink-eared Duck		2		28	129	267	150	187	168	109	1	
Australasian Shoveler	20	56	8	6	8	89		9	95	14	1	4
Grey Teal	20	75	143	253	232	140	300	158	34	269	743	419
Chestnut Teal	530	660	1188	657	102	104	241	253	178	187	439	192
Pacific Black Duck	110	106	23	55	4	25	26	167	206	90	120	243
Hardhead	64	59	40	25	18	12		19	13	74	99	125
Australasian Grebe	23	11	13	46	28	12	20	33	40	45	39	35
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	3	5	5	20	3	6	17	17	3	43	27
Australasian Gannet					1							
Darter	5	3	4	7	9	7	10	11	3	2	4	4
Little Pied Cormorant	8	2	3	9	6	8	5	6	8	4	6	4
Great Cormorant	14	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	8	21	5	1
Little Black Cormorant	56	27	40	11	15	25	26	16	46	29	40	35
Pied Cormorant	17	4		3	7	2	7	9	12	10	7	15
Australian Pelican	88	205	62	144	50	40	54	52	71	75	129	60
Black-necked Stork											1	
Australasian Bittern	1											
White-necked Heron								2				
Eastern Great Egret	14	23	7	4	6	9	3	7	10	26	28	23
Intermediate Egret	11	1		1		3			12	4		2
Cattle Egret	19	28		34		11	43	11	18	1		13
Striated Heron			2					1			1	
White-faced Heron	91	44	54	140	101	82	87	92	30	58	96	49
Little Egret	7	9	10	2	3	4	5	5	9	5	6	9
Nankeen Night Heron	1											
Australian White Ibis	46	38	41	85	229	13	56	64	22	31	41	31
Straw-necked Ibis	1		8		4		9	14			1	40
Royal Spoonbill	33	64	39	33	46	37	29	14	5	26	42	40
Eurasian Coot	60	11		70	140		93	100		43	44	
Little Tern	4										4	2
Gull-billed Tern	1		1	26	2	6	1				1	
Caspian Tern	1	1	11	19	12	15	2	4	2	3	1	2
Whiskered Tern		1								44		2
Common Tern		46	16									3
Crested Tern	15	13	19	14	11			4			7	3
Silver Gull	619	540	485	725	443	67	17	41	81	96	202	143

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

	10 Jan	7 Feb	28 Mar	25 Apr	23-24 May	27 Jun	25 Jul	22 Aug	19 Sep	17 Oct	13-14 Nov	19 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	11	5	17	15	17	18	18	16	20	19	4	5
Sooty Oystercatcher	10	3	3	16	21							9
Black-winged Stilt	12	68	419	183	189	166	270	195	72	170	222	538
Red-necked Avocet	101	100	5	22	21	710	1300	1830	1600	3000	6063	2602
Pacific Golden Plover	155	169	160						36	74	211	207
Grey Plover												1
Red-capped Plover	6	6					6	4	8	12	8	3
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	3		23	3	13	4		3	1	2	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	37	22		2	30	11	3	2	25	83	7	9
Masked Lapwing	72	114	33	34	67	29	32	40	28	43	67	76
Latham's Snipe	8											
Black-tailed Godwit	142	165	158	1	10		1	4	25	35	79	105
Bar-tailed Godwit	799	936	606	141	230	164	164	182	388	918	786	1084
Whimbrel		1			2	3	4	2	10	2	42	19
Eastern Curlew	178	328	49	42	58	39	38	156	236	239	263	255
Terek Sandpiper		3	1	4					3	11	10	
Grey-tailed Tattler		19	8	7	1				12	18	27	
Common Sandpiper			1							1	2	1
Common Greenshank	119	77	79	9	5	4	5	10	50	83	71	70
Marsh Sandpiper	47	11	8						3	14	33	28
Ruddy Turnstone												1
Great Knot	2									1	2	1
Red Knot	3	1							355	77	52	23
Red-necked Stint												28
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1								49	257	276	1045
Curlew Sandpiper	185	164	3					4	90	200	229	181



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

	21 Jan	9 Feb	20 Mar	21 Apr	16 May	29 Jun	21 Jul	18 Aug	28 Sep	20 Oct	17 Nov	20 Dec
Australasian Gannet	1			2	7	8	2	8	5	3		
Little Pied Cormorant		5	1			1	4	3				
Great Cormorant	9	26	7	1			1	3	1	6	10	2
Little Black Cormorant		2	7						2	1	1	3
Pied Cormorant		5							1		7	
White-faced Heron			7			1						
Straw-necked Ibis								1				
Eastern Reef Egret							1		1			
Sooty Oystercatcher	4	13	12	6		2	5	3		9	4	7
Masked Lapwing	2		6	4			4					
White-fronted Tern						1						
Crested Tern	69	19	75	49	17	33	37	56	3	28	300	74
Silver Gull	155	158	324	106	188	115	91	120	60	117	24	115

**Table 6 Newcastle Bight Waterbirds***(Regular counts by Ann Lindsey/Mike Newman/Warren Mayers)*

	3 Mar	16 Jul	16 Sep	16 Nov	9 Dec
Pied Cormorant				2	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	4	13	4	7	6
Pacific Golden Plover				65	
Grey Plover				2	1
Red-capped Plover		30	3	6	5
Double-banded Plover	106	7			
Greater Sand Plover				1	
Ruddy Turnstone				1	4
Sanderling					1
Red-necked Stint					5
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				47	
Curlew Sandpiper				2	
Little Tern				7	28
Gull-billed Tern		6	21	72	42
Caspian Tern				1	
Crested Tern	28	2	3	17	43
Silver Gull		40	32	35	153

**Table 7 Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay\***  
(Surveys conducted at high tide)

	10 Jan <sup>1</sup>	8 Feb	28 Mar	25 Apr	26 May	27 Jun	25 Jul	25 Aug	19 Sep	17 Oct	14 Nov	19 Dec
Black Swan			86				42		100+	100+	50+	100+
Aust. Wood Duck						2				6		
Grey Teal										9		
Chestnut Teal		5	4							18		8
Australasian Darter												1
Little Pied Cormorant			2			4	14	10	6	4		
Great Cormorant								1		4	1	
Little Black Cormorant								1	6			
Pied Cormorant			4	3	5	16	34	6+	12	15	6	8
Australian Pelican		1	2	3		2	2		3	2		1
Eastern Great Egret		1	20	1	2			1	1	2	1	1
Cattle Egret				5								
Little Egret											1	
White-faced Heron			8	9	3	6	3	1	10		5	3
Aust. White Ibis			6+	9	E	8	15	2		3	2	2
Straw-necked Ibis					2							
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	1	5	35	3	4	16	16	31	18	3	2	2
Sooty Oystercatcher				1	2	2	5				1	
Pacific Golden Plover		28	18									
Red-capped Plover		6	8	14		6+		3				
Double-banded Plover				4		20+	26	16				
Lesser Sand Plover			6									
Masked Lapwing	2		2	4	2	5	5	5	2			4
Bar-tailed Godwit	59		186	204	153	18	232	260	78	298	194	70
Whimbrel	1		23						5	1	30	15
Eastern Curlew	9	210	16	8			32	290	120	50+	267	60
Grey-tailed Tattler		2	19	25				6		2		
Marsh Sandpiper											2	
Red Knot				1							2	
Red-necked Stint		13	30+									
Gull-billed Tern				1					3			2
Caspian Tern				2		1	15	12	8			
Crested Tern		12+	46	19	3	1	3	9	3		4	18
Silver Gull		6+	9	3		A	5	3		3	2	5

\*The data in this table are also included into Table 8 <sup>1</sup>The main roost area was inaccessible

**Table 8 Port Stephens Waterbirds***(Surveys at high tide)*

	Jan <sup>1</sup>	Feb <sup>2</sup>	Mar <sup>1</sup>	May <sup>1</sup>	Jul <sup>2</sup>	Aug <sup>1</sup>	Oct <sup>1</sup>	Dec <sup>1</sup>
Black Swan	328	<b>563</b>	168	418	<b>244</b>	463	403	537
Australian Wood Duck	50		1	30	<b>2</b>	27	8	31
Grey Teal	2	<b>20</b>					23	6
Chestnut Teal	49	<b>25</b>	31	79	<b>17</b>	48	63	62
Pacific Black Duck	34		120	78		119	11	20
Australasian Gannet	2			4	<b>6</b>	2		
Australasian Darter	2	<b>1</b>	5	6	<b>7</b>	8	1	3
Little Pied Cormorant	107	<b>473</b>	146	153	<b>183</b>	138	137	68
Great Cormorant	9	<b>29</b>	10	6	<b>10</b>	13	8	9
Little Black Cormorant	159	<b>174</b>	57	108	<b>194</b>	75	171	83
Pied Cormorant	108	<b>297</b>	73	131	<b>305</b>	126	85	90
Australian Pelican	141	<b>152</b>	219	246	<b>95</b>	120	179	143
Eastern Great Egret	62	<b>13</b>	44	33	<b>14</b>	47	19	26
Intermediate Egret	6		6	1	<b>2</b>	1	1	2
Cattle Egret	2		26					
Striated Heron	5		2	2	<b>1</b>	2	1	1
Nankeen Night Heron		<b>1</b>						
White-faced Heron	64	<b>19</b>	84	117	<b>40</b>	153	57	32
Little Egret			3	1	<b>10</b>			
Australian White Ibis	143	<b>97</b>	440	344	<b>277</b>	194	122	117
Straw-necked Ibis				2				
Royal Spoonbill	17	<b>2</b>	29	22	<b>1</b>	38	24	2
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	24	<b>134</b>	70	17	<b>122</b>	62	13	30
Sooty Oystercatcher	10	<b>13</b>		11	<b>9</b>	13		2
Red-necked Avocet							4	
Pacific Golden Plover	2	<b>28</b>	18					
Red-capped Plover		<b>37</b>	8	4	<b>3</b>	3		
Double-banded Plover						16		
Lesser Sand Plover		<b>1</b>	6					
Masked Lapwing	79	<b>29</b>	82	86	<b>16</b>	36	35	43
Black-tailed Godwit	1	<b>6</b>	1				2	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	340	<b>641</b>	613	266	<b>340</b>	307	590	343
Whimbrel	18	<b>40</b>	34	1	<b>24</b>		11	17
Eastern Curlew	151	<b>551</b>	58	4	<b>223</b>	342	159	125
Terek Sandpiper			4					
Grey-tailed Tattler	60	<b>18</b>	106		<b>1</b>	7	48	31
Common Greenshank	13	<b>13</b>				1	1	
Ruddy Turnstone			3					
Red-necked Stint		<b>41</b>	30				21	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper						2		
Gull-billed Tern				2	<b>4</b>	3		2
Caspian Tern		<b>11</b>		8	<b>36</b>	15		
White-fronted Tern			3		<b>1</b>			
Crested Tern	67	<b>112</b>	269	57	<b>29</b>	60	8	37
Silver Gull	832	<b>343</b>	798	729	<b>62</b>	468	190	411

<sup>1</sup> Land based surveys at 10 locations, led by L Wooding <sup>2</sup> Boat based surveys by HBOC members in 5-6 teams (8 Feb, 27 July)

**Table 9 Waterbirds at Manning Estuary**  
(Surveys by A Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Mudbishops Point)

	11/12 Jan	24/25 Feb	14/15 Mar	24/25 Apr	30/31 May	24/25 Jun	12/13 Jul	10/11 Aug	4/5 Sep	6/7 Oct	17/18 Nov	17/18 Dec
Black Swan	38	4	34		2	2	9	24	11	31	17	28
Australian Wood Duck		6		4					6			
Pacific Black Duck						2						
Australasian Darter						1		1				
Little Pied Cormorant		1	3	4	2	13	3	5	7	1	1	
Great Cormorant	3	1	1	2				1	2	9	4	12
Little Black Cormorant	14	1	5	3	3	15	9	1	42	15	6	282
Pied Cormorant	36	52	37	10	6	11	10	16	25	36	36	68
Australian Pelican	56	45	42	94	52	60	36	42	41	40	45	1
Eastern Great Egret				1		2		2	3			
Intermediate Egret				1	1							
Striated Heron		1	2			1		2				
White-faced Heron		2	1	3		1		3	3		4	1
Little Egret	1		1	2				1	1	2	1	
Beach Stone-curlew	2		1	2	2	2			2			
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	14	19	10	9	3	6	16	15	8	8	16	16
Sooty Oystercatcher									2			1
Pacific Golden Plover	45	61	72	6		4		1	13	84	152	83
Red-capped Plover	11	40	1	28	8	8	22	22	12	23	49	16
Double-banded Plover		4	27	53	44	22	66	64	9			
Lesser Sand Plover	1	1										
Masked Lapwing	6	4	3	4	2		5	2	7	4		3
Bar-tailed Godwit	295	135	198	116	78	25	21	78	53	124	293	159
Whimbrel	2	2	1	2				2	8	3	2	
Eastern Curlew	37	47	21	1	3	1	2	11	20	20	23	49
Grey-tailed Tattler										1	1	
Ruddy Turnstone									1	2	5	
Great Knot	2											
Sanderling	10	26	5			1				16	2	11
Red-necked Stint	125	90	54	1	13	4	1	3	11	34	65	36
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												10
Curlew Sandpiper											1	1
Little Tern	151	200	65	2	13		2	5	5	20	240+	70
Gull-billed Tern					7	4	1	1	2		2	2
Caspian Tern		4	4	6	4	6	3	4	4	2	6	
White-fronted Tern				1	3	3	16	23	40	23		
Common Tern	62	330	301	2						10	150+	142
Crested Tern	221	249	114	246	114	302	204	303	72	154	139	80
Silver Gull	88	225	163	70	204	91	47	45	33	30	93	118

**Table 10 Waterbirds at Milhams Pond (on Ash Island)***(Monthly maximum counts from surveys led by N McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	1					2		2			4	2
Grey Teal	4		2	15	15	8			5	10	12	14
Chestnut Teal	35	10	2	51	36	21	6		2	49	20	24
Pacific Black Duck			2	5	3	7	2					2
Australian Pelican			1	2	1							
Eastern Great Egret		1		1			1					3
White-faced Heron	6	2	9	23	35	33	24	10	9	7	11	11
Australian White Ibis	14	2	19	32	29	4	3	5		3	7	3
Straw-necked Ibis			5	2	1	7	5	1	1			
Royal Spoonbill	1				1	2	2	2				3
Purple Swamphen											3	
Red-necked Avocet								1	2			
Red-capped Plover				15				1	2	1		
Black-fronted Dotterel				2		4						
Red-kneed Dotterel	33	21		5	43	8	7		45	75	25	15
Masked Lapwing	2	1	2	4	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	
Latham Snipe					2							
Bar-tailed Godwit				4								
Eastern Curlew	2	3	6	13	4				6	1	1	3
Common Greenshank												1
Red-necked Stint											1	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1								3	5		7
Caspian Tern											1	

**Table 11 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
Chestnut Teal		2		3								
Pacific Black Duck		2										
White-faced Heron		1	8	3	2	2	3	6	1		2	3
Australian White Ibis				23	12							
Straw-necked Ibis					5							
Royal Spoonbill												
Red-capped Plover	3			1			7	5	1	2	6	
Black-fronted Dotterel					2							
Red-kneed Dotterel	16	21		16								
Masked Lapwing	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2
Eastern Curlew		7	1						1			1
Pacific Golden Plover												4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												4
Red-necked Stint		2										

**Table 12 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands***(Systematic surveys led by N McNaughton)*

	20 Jan	17 Feb	17 Mar	23 Apr	19 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	18 Aug	15 Sep	20 Oct	17 Nov	15 Dec
Black Swan		2										
Chestnut Teal	11	5	2	4					3	3		4
Pacific Black Duck	1				1	7		12	16	5		
Australasian Darter		1	1	1	1							
Little Pied Cormorant		2			1			2		1	1	
Little Black Cormorant		9	1									
Pied Cormorant						1						
Australian Pelican	1			1							1	
Australasian Bittern				2	3	2	2	4	4			
White-necked Heron									1			
Eastern Great Egret	2	1		2	1		1				21	
Intermediate Egret											6	
Cattle Egret												
Striated Heron				1								
White-faced Heron	2	11	1	2	8	2	4	5	5		1	4
Little Egret												
Australian White Ibis	12				4	14	5	134	18			1
Straw-necked Ibis					1			109				
Royal Spoonbill	5										4	
Masked Lapwing			3	3			2		3			2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												26
Latham's Snipe			1							1		
Caspian Tern			3									

**Table 13 Waterbirds from Swansea/Lake Macquarie Surveys***(High tide counts from monthly surveys led by J Adams/A Taylor)*

	10 Jan	7 Feb	27 Mar	25 Apr	23 May	27 Jun	25 Jul	22 Aug	19 Sep	24 Oct	14 Nov	19 Dec
Black Swan	45	110	165	4	13	57	233	91	102	139	99	134
Australian Wood Duck			6	6	20					3		2
Australasian Darter			1	1		3		2	2	3	4	2
Little Pied Cormorant		9	101	4	4	14	34	11	6	22	7	14
Great Cormorant	1	3	3	1	2	2	3	9	1	5	3	4
Little Black Cormorant	23	218	67	8	1	16	10	13	13	143	29	213
Pied Cormorant	104	16	11	8	8	9	14	31	14	73	24	35
Australian Pelican	48	64	58	68	32	30	10	50	39	48	69	54
Eastern Great Egret		2	3				2	1	1	6	2	1
Intermediate Egret		1	2	5	7	3	8		1	8	1	1
Striated Heron	2					1			1	1		1
White-faced Heron	3	3	1	1		8		7		7	2	3
Little Egret			8	6		12	8	1		12		1
Australian White Ibis			5		19	9	10	1	1	11		6
Royal Spoonbill				9	12	12	11	6	1			
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	14	10	4	4	9	5	4	6	4	5	8	7
Sooty Oystercatcher										1		
Masked Lapwing	2	2			6			26			1	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	57	84	66	19	11	3	6	8	30	44	83	68
Whimbrel	1										7	9
Eastern Curlew	6	3						3	9	3	2	6
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	2	1					1	2		7	2
Red Knot									8	7		1
Red-necked Stint	15	10	2						20	22	18	1
Little Tern	10	24	11							12	40	16
Gull-billed Tern												
Caspian Tern		3	3				1	4		1	3	2
White-fronted Tern							6					
Common Tern	4	6	8								5	15
Crested Tern	25	68	18	17	3		4	3	18	7	9	18
Silver Gull	117	90	127	142	155	34	89	48	75	194	112	369

*Low tide survey*

**Table 14a Main Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp, Part 1***(Systematic surveys from Hexham side, led by A Lindsey)*

	2 Jan	6 Jan	19 Feb	2 Mar	8 May	8 Jun	22 Jul	13 Aug	12 Sep	18 Oct	22 Nov	7 Dec
Black Swan	6	3	105	54	109	68	6	60	27			
Pink-eared Duck			7									
Australasian Shoveler			15	5	44	9		39	1			
Grey Teal				101	229	68				3		31
Chestnut Teal	36		48	170	500	123						74
Pacific Black Duck	1		23	100	229	33	72	94	11			
Australasian Grebe				4	24	9		3	7			
Little Pied Cormorant	7	4		7		1			7	1	2	1
Little Black Cormorant	1	13							2	5	1	
Australian Pelican	2	6		1	9	11			1	2	6	
White-necked Heron									3	1		
Eastern Great Egret	2	10			1		1	3	9	18	7	1
Intermediate Egret	5	2							11			
Cattle Egret		17	52	11	2							
White-faced Heron	89	52	4	17	13	11	22	17	20	27	13	5
Little Egret	2	7						1		5		
Glossy Ibis				14								
Australian White Ibis	149	30	12	99	9	7	11	16	28	3	11	
Straw-necked Ibis	48	42		135	1	4	10	5				
Royal Spoonbill	13	17		4	1	1			4	3	3	
Purple Swamphen			7	3	45	24	25	11	32			
Buff-banded Rail	2						1	2				
Aust. Spotted Crake								5	5	5	5	
Dusky Moorhen				1								
Black-winged Stilt	210	248	20	3	95	120	11	182	45	115	84	36
Pacific Golden Plover										9		
Red-capped Plover												3
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	4	3	3	11	4	10	10	5			
Red-kneed Dotterel					11				6	1		
Masked Lapwing	340	115	10	45	26	11	3	37	6	38	4	3
Aust. Painted Snipe		2	1									
Latham's Snipe	2	2						2				
Common Greenshank									2			2
Wood Sandpiper	9			9								
Ruddy Turnstone	1											
Red-necked Stint									3	11	1	
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1							2			
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	324	250			53				1	546	680	550
Curlew Sandpiper										3	10	2
Caspian Tern		1										
Whiskered Tern	6	2										
Silver Gull				1								



**Table 14b Main Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp, Part 2**  
*(Systematic surveys from Minmi side, led by M Newman)*

	17 Jan	17 Aug	28 Oct	15 Nov	7 Dec
Wand. Whistling-Duck					1
Magpie Goose	2				
Black Swan	3	93	14	15	1
Australasian Shoveler	2	4		2	4
Grey Teal	7	350	20	40	12
Chestnut Teal	10			2	
Pacific Black Duck	26	34	42	26	109
Australasian Grebe		47	21	10	10
Little Pied Cormorant			1		
Little Black Cormorant					1
Australian Pelican	68		38	8	25
White-necked Heron		8	3	3	
Eastern Great Egret	11			8	1
Intermediate Egret	31+		21	10	25
Cattle Egret	6+			3	
White-faced Heron	22	50	15	20	21
Nankeen Night-Heron				1	
Glossy Ibis			38		42
Australian White Ibis	110+	41	6	40	113
Straw-necked Ibis	27	84	12	43	2
Royal Spoonbill	44		1	4	7
Yellow-billed Spoonbill					3
Purple Swamphen	66		11	43	107
Black-winged Stilt		36	216	1	27
Masked Lapwing	12		9	6	7
Common Greenshank					1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			13	40	
Whiskered Tern			48	5	1

**Table 15 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
Australasian Darter	1	1	1		1						1	
Little Pied Cormorant			1	1				2	3	1	2	1
Great Cormorant	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	6	2	2	5	3
Little Black Cormorant	8	1	12	10	3	2	2	1	6	2	4	5
Pied Cormorant	3	2		1			3			1		
White-faced Heron				1	2	1	1	1	1			2
Australian Pelican	7	4		9	10	2	14	18	14	35	7	4
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher							1	1		1	1	7
Sooty Oystercatcher	19	28	37	39	24	15	12	19	10	18	20	22
Pacific Golden Plover									1		1	
Masked Lapwing		4	2									
Bar-tailed Godwit	2											
Eastern Curlew		1										
Ruddy Turnstone	16	17	17	17				2	8	14	17	16
Red-necked Stint									1	1		
Little Tern	2						6			6	1	2
Gull-billed Tern	1				3		1	2	2	1		
Caspian Tern							1					
White-winged Black Tern	20			25								
White-fronted Tern							2	10	5			
Common Tern	72	70+								24	350	72
Crested Tern	120	144	107	42	177	174	200	600	300	168	130	105
Silver Gull	290	300	230	350	700	88	60	55	60	45	95	75

**Table 16 Waterbirds at Forster/Tuncurry***(Surveys by A Stuart at intermediate tide at Wallis Lake entrance)*

	13 Jul	11 Aug	6 Sep	7 Oct	18 Nov	16 Dec
Little Pied Cormorant					2	
Great Cormorant					2	3
Little Black Cormorant	5	8	11	9	3	8
Pied Cormorant		13	9	1	37	53
Australian Pelican	75	79	67	89	67	85
Eastern Great Egret		1				
White-faced Heron						1
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	15	13	4	12	18	17
Sooty Oystercatcher		2				2
Masked Lapwing		1	2	1	1	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	7				2	9
Eastern Curlew	1	2		1		
Caspian Tern	7	1	4	2	1	
Crested Tern	40	110	56	52	128	396
Silver Gull	85	179	58	72	160	144

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

AP	Airport	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	SCA	State Conservation Area
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
HSD	Homestead	SF	State Forest
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland	SP	State Park
IBA	Important Bird Area	SRA	State Recreation Area
KI	Kooragang Island	SSNR	Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve
KNR	Kooragang Nature Reserve	WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage	WWW	Walka Water Works

## GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Grid references for commonly visited locations are:

Aberdare SF	K10	Cessnock	K9/K10
Allyn River	K5	Chichester Dam	M6
Appletree Flat	H8	Chichester SF	K5/L5
Arrowfield	H7	Clarencetown	M8
Ash Island	M10	Coon Island (Swansea Channel)	L11
Awabakal N. R.	M10/11	Cooranbong	K11
Balickera	M9	Copeland Common	N4
Barrington House	L5	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Battery Rocks	E6	Copeland Tops State Forest	M4
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Corrie Island	O9
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Denman	G7
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Dungog	M7
Black Neds Bay	L11	Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Bootawah	Q4	Fingal Bay	O9
Bolwarra	L9	Forster	R6
Boarding House Dam	K11	Fosterton Loop	M7
Boondelbah Island	P9	Galgabba Point	L11
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	George McGregor Park	M10
Broke	I9	Glenrock SRA	M10
Broughton Island	P8	Gloucester	N5
Bulahdelah	P7	Gloucester Tops	M5/L5
Bulga	I8	Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9
Cabbage Tree Island	P9	Green Wattle Creek	L9
Catherine Hill Bay	L11	Gir-um-bit NP	N9

Hallidays Point	R5	Pokolbin	J9
Harrington	S4	Quorrobolong	K10
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Hexham Swamp NR	L10/M10	Raymond Terrace	M9
Howes Valley	H10	Redhead	M11
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	M9	Salt Ash	N9
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Scone	H5
Irrawang Swamp	M9	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Jerrys Plains	H7	Seal Rocks	R7
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	Singleton	I8/J8
Kings Gap	F7	Stockton	M10
Kooragang Island	M10	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Kurri Kurri	K9	Swan Bay	N9
Laguna	I10	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	Taree	Q4
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Tarro	M9
Maitland	L9	Toronto	L11
Market Swamp	M10	Tuncurry	R6
Martindale	G7	University of Newcastle	M10
Medowie	N9	Vacy	L8
Morisset	K11	Waitui	R3
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Morpeth	L9	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Mount Arthur	H6	Warakeila	L6
Mount Vincent	K10/L10	Warkworth	I8
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4	Watagans SF & NP	K11
Newcastle	M10	White Box Camp (in GRNP)	C6
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve	M10	Williamtown	N9
New Lambton Heights	M10	Wingen	H4
Old Bar	R4	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Oyster Cove	N9	Woko NP	M3
Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10	Woodville	L9
Paterson	L8	Wye Point	L11
Phoenix Park	L9	Yarrawa	F7

## OBSERVER CODES

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

<b>ADJ</b>	Jack Adams	<b>BRG</b>	Grant Brosie
<b>ALD</b>	Daniel Allen	<b>BRL</b>	L Brook
<b>ANC</b>	Craig Anderson	<b>BUD</b>	David Bulbert
<b>BAP</b>	Paul Baird	<b>BUM</b>	Martin Butterfield
<b>BIA</b>	Birding-Aus (Internet group)	<b>BUR</b>	Rob Butler
<b>BOR</b>	Robert Boyce	<b>BTS</b>	Tony, Suzi Burgin

<b>CAB</b>	Boyd Carney	<b>HAR</b>	Richard Harris
<b>CAM</b>	Martin Cachard	<b>HAS</b>	Sue Hamonet
<b>CAS</b>	Susanne Callaghan	<b>HBOC</b>	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
<b>CBOC</b>	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	<b>HCL</b>	Chris, Liz Herbert
<b>CBR</b>	Brett Cann	<b>HDM</b>	Dianne, Michael Hatfield
<b>CCB</b>	Central Coast group of Birding NSW	<b>HEC</b>	Chris Herbert
<b>CHP</b>	Peter Chegwiddden	<b>HHB</b>	Hunter Home Brewers (Twitchathon team)
<b>CJB</b>	John, Beth Cockerell	<b>HID</b>	Dennis Hirst
<b>CLB</b>	Barry Clifton	<b>HIP</b>	Pam Hill
<b>CLG</b>	Greg Clancy	<b>HOG</b>	Glenn Holmes
<b>CLT</b>	Tom Clarke	<b>HST</b>	Steve Happ
<b>COF</b>	Frank Cosgrove	<b>HUF</b>	Florence Humphreys
<b>COG</b>	Garth Cooksey	<b>HUL</b>	Liz Huxtable
<b>CRB</b>	Brian Crisp	<b>HWS</b>	HBOC Wader Surveys
<b>CRJ</b>	John Craig	<b>IVT</b>	Tony Iveson
<b>CRL</b>	Liz Crawford	<b>JAM</b>	M. Jackson
<b>DBP</b>	Penny Drake-Brockman	<b>JED</b>	Dick Jenkin
<b>DGG</b>	Gaye, Graham Drady	<b>JOD</b>	Di Johnson
<b>DMP</b>	Marie, Phillip Diemar	<b>KEM</b>	Michael Kearns
<b>DOG</b>	Greg Douglas	<b>KIM</b>	Marj Kibby
<b>DUP</b>	Pam Durie	<b>LIA</b>	Ann Lindsey
<b>EGD</b>	Darryl Eggins	<b>LIG</b>	Greg Little
<b>ERE</b>	Report posted on <a href="http://www.ere-maea.etc">www.ere-maea.etc</a> (NSW Birdline)	<b>LIL</b>	Liz Livanos
<b>EVM</b>	Mark Evans	<b>LIN</b>	Nick Livanos
<b>FAA</b>	Adam Fawcett	<b>LIP</b>	Paddy Lightfoot
<b>FIM</b>	Melva Fisher	<b>LIT</b>	Terry Lindsey
<b>FIP</b>	Pamela Fitzsimons	<b>LDJ</b>	Denise, John Lombard
<b>FIW</b>	Win Filewood	<b>LUD</b>	Darryl Luck
<b>FOC</b>	Reported in Birding NSW (Field Ornithologists Club) newsletter	<b>MAC</b>	Charles Mann
<b>FRA</b>	Allen Friis	<b>MAM</b>	Max Maddock
<b>FRN</b>	Neil Fraser	<b>MAT</b>	Toni Marsh
<b>GHR</b>	Richard Ghamraoui	<b>MAW</b>	Warren Mayers
<b>GIA</b>	Austen Ginn	<b>MCM</b>	M McCarthy
<b>GLK</b>	Kathleen Gleeson	<b>MCN</b>	Neville McNaughton
<b>GOA</b>	Anthony Gooden	<b>MCR</b>	Robert McDonald
<b>GOC</b>	Colin, Rachel Goodenough	<b>MDV</b>	Don, Val Moon
<b>GOJ</b>	John Goswell	<b>MEL</b>	Lorna Mee
<b>GRJ</b>	Robert, Janine Greig	<b>MET</b>	Trudy Mills-Evers
<b>HAP</b>	Phil Hansbro	<b>MIF</b>	Fiona Miller
		<b>MOA</b>	Alan Morris

<b>MRA</b>	Ray McLean	<b>SEP</b>	Peter Settle
<b>MUJ</b>	Jenny Musicka	<b>SHB</b>	Brett Shields
<b>MUM</b>	Michael Murray	<b>SIA</b>	Alwyn Simple
<b>MVBW</b>	Reported in Manning Valley Birdwatchers newsletter	<b>SLJ</b>	Leone, John Storm
<b>NBL</b>	NSW Birdline report	<b>SMJ</b>	Jim Smart
<b>NEG</b>	Greg Newling	<b>SRM</b>	Robert, Margaret Stewart
<b>NEM</b>	Mike Newman	<b>STA</b>	Alan Stuart
<b>NIJ</b>	Joy Nicholls	<b>STJ</b>	Jeanette Stephenson
<b>NIR</b>	Richard Nicholas	<b>STP</b>	Peter Struik
<b>OCG</b>	Graeme O'Connor	<b>TAA</b>	Andrew Taylor
<b>OLM</b>	Margaret O'Leary	<b>TAH</b>	Harold Tarrant
<b>PEK</b>	Kristy Peters	<b>TAT</b>	Theo Tasoulis
<b>POJ</b>	Jenny Powers	<b>TBW</b>	Tomaree Birdwatchers
<b>PRC</b>	Catherine Price	<b>THJ</b>	Judi Thomas
<b>RAA</b>	Angus Rae	<b>THK</b>	Karen Thumm
<b>RDB</b>	Dot, Bob Raine	<b>THM</b>	Michael Thomas
<b>REB</b>	Bob Rech	<b>TWD</b>	Diane Twose
<b>RIA</b>	Allan Richardson	<b>VGf</b>	Fred van Gessel
<b>ROA</b>	Alan Rogers	<b>WAR</b>	Ray Walker
<b>ROM</b>	Mick Roderick	<b>WID</b>	Dan Williams
<b>ROS</b>	Steve Roderick	<b>WIT</b>	Tom Wilson
<b>RTU</b>	Ann Robotham, Bruce Turnbull	<b>WOL</b>	Lois Wooding
<b>SAW</b>	W Saunders		

# 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.

