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*Nankeen Night-Heron: sketch by Chris Herbert
Peak count of 42 birds at the Hunter Wetlands Centre in 2011*

FOREWORD

I had a dream last night. I was in a hall with hundreds of people with a grumpy MC – birdo Max Maddock. I had on my lap his complete diaries of bird observations (there were volumes and they were heavy) and I opened the first book and saw his first ever scratching – 1 something (the species must not have been important to the dream).

In the dream I asked Max if he could remember what his first ever bird recording was – he could! His mood lightened and the crowd celebrated his achievements since the very first ‘1 something’ record. That ‘1 something’ was enough to inspire him to continue recording birds and be involved in rehabilitating habitats so that ‘1 something’ could be 2 or 10 or 1000. That ‘1 something’ was enough to inspire others to start looking, and recording and to re-vegetate landscapes or to protect what habitat is left for birds.

I woke up with a start and wondered what that was all about and then thought about the Lorax, the powerful Dr Suess children’s story of a mythical creature that “speaks for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.” The Lorax also speaks for the swammy swans that sing out in space and how people had come to a beautiful place and that over time by exploiting the beauty of what the natural landscape had to offer people destroyed it! The swammy swans could not sing a note – they had all gone! As had the brown barbaloots and the humming fish – all their habitat gone - nowhere to live. “Catch” said the old man. “This is the last seed, treat it with care, give it clean water and feed it fresh air – plant a forest and protect it from axes that hack and the Lorax and all of his friends can come back!”

I asked myself why was I thinking all this in the middle of the night and then remembered only hours before Alan Stuart from HBOC asked me to write the forward of the 2011 HBOC annual Bird Report and I had thought ‘what will I write about?’

All of these thoughts happened in only a few minutes and I looked at the clock and it was 5.30am, my other senses then sharpened and all I could hear was birds outside calling – the dawn chorus. I got out of bed to listen and enjoy the crisp cool air. My body became engulfed in bird song and I thanked Alan Stuart and Max Maddock for jolting me out of my office and house bound world to reconnect with birds. Something the HBOC have been doing for years and something for which they can be very proud.

HBOC members have been collecting and recording and disseminating information about the birds of the Hunter for over 35 years.

The value of this information to influence land use planning decisions leading to conservation outcomes cannot be under estimated. The ability of the HBOC to interpret their recordings into stories that assist land managers to protect habitats and to guide rehabilitation efforts is invaluable.

I look forward to many more years of enthusiastic involvement with the talented, professional and world class group, the HBOC.

The Hunter Bird Observers Club speaks for the birds, in a world that has forgotten to listen to the beauty, and to value their dawn chorus.

Mick Murphy
Hunter Coast Area Manager
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
31 August 2012

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 2011. The information is based upon records from many sources.

There is one addition to the Hunter Region's checklist – the Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*, which was recorded in April and November 2011 during pelagic surveys. The checklist now has 438 species.

In 2011, 348 species were confirmed to have been present in the Region, and information about those observations is presented in this Report. Readers may be interested to know that on average for 2000-2011, 346 species have been recorded each year in the Region¹.

134 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2011 (compared to a median of 126 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2002, 236 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 13 species there are pre-2002 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 food². All other situations/behaviours³, 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.

The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

- *The list will include all species which are considered by HBOC as confirmed to have been recorded in the Region. This includes records from before the Bird Report series commenced, when these are brought to our attention and are considered acceptable.*
- *All records will be vetted and they will be accepted for inclusion into the Reports only 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 decisions to accept.*
- *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 ensure that the observer was able to completely exclude all alternative identifications.** In some*

¹ Semi-regular pelagic surveys commenced in 2000: the annual average between 1993 (which is when the Bird Reports began) and 1999 was 305 species (i.e. pelagic trips add 30-40 species to the annual list).

² For species known to have bred in the Region in the previous 10 years, 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.

³ Such as, birds seen in courtship display, copulating, carrying nesting material (but the nest not observed), carrying food, feeding juveniles not at a nest.

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 consider the submitted material and also take 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.*

To assist in vetting records, we have classified each species into one of three categories:

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 RAC assigns categories and decides whether records can be accepted. For 2011, the Committee members were Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Fred van Gessel, Phil Hansbro, Mike Newman, Craig Anderson and Mick Roderick.

[Birdlife Australia Atlas data](#)

HBOC now receives each year a copy of all data about Hunter Region birds in the Birdlife Australia (BLA) Atlas project database. We thank BLA for this and in particular we acknowledge the support from Andrew Silcocks, the Atlas project coordinator. We also thank Ian Martin, who developed an Excel macro that allows the Atlas database to be quickly and reliably interrogated, and cell by cell data for any selected species to be presented visually for easy analysis.

The Atlas commenced in 1998, and the 14 years of Hunter Region data are from a total of 15,166 surveys (10,067 area surveys and 5,099 2ha/20 minute surveys). For 2011, there are 1,498 surveys in the database (910 area surveys and 588 2ha surveys). Previously for the data extractions the Region was defined based on a set of 10-minute grid cells. Readers should note that an electronic map ("shapefile") is now used to more

accurately define the Hunter Region boundaries when extracting Atlas records. This has led to exclusion of some records that previously were included, and caused small changes to some of the statistical data if compared to the previous Bird Report.

This Report includes statistics from the 14 years of Atlas records (i.e. since 1998) and from 2011, for all Category 1 and Category 2 species except pelagic birds (for which data collection is haphazard) and species having no Atlas records. The Report details:

- The percentage of 10-minute cells in which each species was recorded⁴ (for species with 25 or more records in the database), and the Reporting Rate (RR) *in those cells where the species has been recorded*.⁵
- For species with <25 records over the 14 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 1998-2011.⁶
- The number of 10-minute grid cells where the species was recorded in 2011, the total number of records for 2011, and the 2011 RR⁷ (for those species with sufficient records that RRs seem meaningful).

In the previous Reports, the results for Incidental Surveys have not been included in the analysis. Incidental Surveys mostly involve reports of uncommon birds, without a detailed list of other species present in the area. As such, they potentially can distort the statistics about Reporting Rates. However, as the aim of these Bird Reports is to indicate the status of all species in the Hunter Region, the Atlas records from Incidental Surveys have now been included into the total number of records for each species.

HBOC encourages individuals to send records for the Atlas database (regardless of whatever else they might do with their records). Doing so helps identify any changes occurring to a species' status (i.e. the size of the population, and its distribution) at both the regional and national level. Such knowledge is central to our ability to identify the need for conservation measures and monitor their effectiveness.

Threatened species in the Region

In 2011, the NSW Scientific Committee reviewed the status of the Curlew Sandpiper. Prior to that, it did not appear in the list of threatened species. There has been a substantial collapse in numbers visiting each year, and it has now been classified as Endangered in NSW.

⁴ The Region, now defined more precisely using a shapefile, straddles 151 10-minute cells (a few, 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.

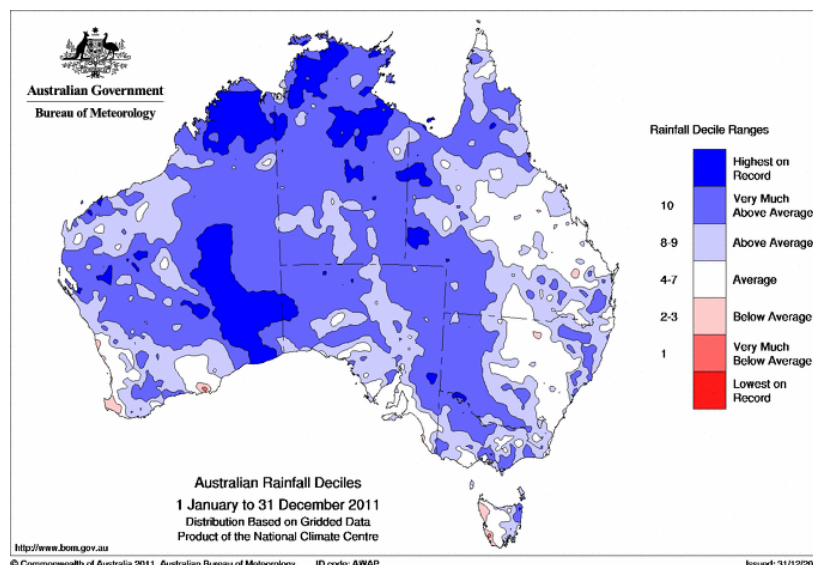
⁵ Reporting Rates (number of times recorded ÷ number of surveys conducted) provide an indication of relative abundance; however, RRs can depend on the type of survey (area surveys are longer duration and generally result in higher RRs). Where the 2011 RR differs from the long term RR, this may in part be due to a change in ratio of survey types. As the effect varies from species to species, in-depth analysis is required before drawing conclusions about population changes.

⁶ 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.

⁷ The 2011 RR is for *all cells* for which the species has been recorded over the full 14 years of the Atlas.

Other comments

In some previous Reports, a brief commentary has been made about the rainfall pattern for the Region in that year. To maximise our understandings about how rainfall changes have affected Regional birdlife, it is important to also consider the inland rainfall patterns for the year. In times of good inland rain, many waterbirds leave the Hunter Region; conversely, the Hunter is a coastal refuge in times of inland drought. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology rainfall map for 2011 is shown below; much of inland Australia received above average rainfall in 2011 and rainfall in the Hunter Region was about average. 2011 saw the gradual return of waterbird species which had disappeared from the Region the previous year in response to the breaking of the prolonged inland drought. The counts at regular survey areas, such as Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works, Hunter Estuary, Walka Water Works, rose accordingly.



2011 Australian rainfall pattern

A map of the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report (and is accessible electronically from Google Maps⁸). 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 of the coastline.*

My sincere thanks go to all the contributors for the 2011 Report.

Alan Stuart
29 July 2012

⁸ At http://www.hboc.org.au/resources/documents/hunter_region.txt

RARITIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Rare Species for the Region

The following species have been recorded in the Hunter Region but are considered rarities (in some cases they may be resident or regular visitors but there is very little evidence about it). They are classified as **Category 3** species for the Region. Reports of them require supporting documentation before they can be accepted for publication in the Bird Report. Observers are requested to take detailed notes in relation to any sightings, and to submit them to the Records Appraisal Committee. Species in **Red**: are rare for Australia and will require consideration by the Birdlife Australia Records Committee (BARC). Species in **Blue** are rare for NSW, and require evaluation by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC).

King Quail	Lesser Frigatebird	Pacific Gull
Freckled Duck	Red-footed Booby	Kelp Gull
Radjah Shelduck	Masked Booby	Budgerigar
Cotton Pygmy Goose	Brown Booby	Ground Parrot
Garganey	Australian Little Bittern	Little Bronze-Cuckoo
Northern Shoveler	Letter-winged Kite	Oriental Cuckoo
Red-tailed Tropicbird	Brolga	Forest Kingfisher
White-tailed Tropicbird	South Island Pied Oystercatcher	Red-backed Kingfisher
Diamond Dove	Banded Stilt	Spotted Bowerbird
Superb Fruit-Dove	Kentish Plover	Pilotbird
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Ringed Plover	Inland Thornbill
Pied Imperial-Pigeon	Greater Sand Plover	Pied Honeyeater
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	Oriental Plover	Singing Honeyeater
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	Hudsonian Godwit	Yellow-throated Miner
New Zealand Storm-Petrel	Little Curlew	Black Honeyeater
Buller's Albatross	Wandering Tattler	Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Broad-billed Prion	Lesser Yellowlegs	Barred Cuckoo-shrike
Antarctic Prion	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Little Shrike-thrush
Slender-billed Prion	Asian Dowitcher	Crested Bellbird
White-chinned Petrel	Long-toed Stint	Little Woodswallow
Black Petrel	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Grey Currawong
Buller's Shearwater	Ruff	Satin Flycatcher
Great Shearwater	Red-backed Button-quail	White-eared Monarch
Streaked Shearwater	Red-chested Button-quail	Eurasian Skylark
Little Shearwater	Little Button-quail	Barn Swallow
Tahiti Petrel	Australian Pratincole	Olive-backed Sunbird
Juan Fernandez Petrel	Black Noddy	Beautiful Firetail
Kermadec Petrel	White Tern	Nutmeg Mannikin
Cook's Petrel	Grey Ternlet	Green-headed Yellow Wagtail
Black-winged Petrel	Black Tern	White Wagtail
Pycroft's Petrel	Arctic Tern	

Species of Special Interest for the Region

The following species are of special interest for the Region, either because of their conservation status or because their distribution within the Region is not well understood (or may be changing). They are classified as **Category 2** species for the Region. Observers are requested to provide details of location, date and the numbers of birds present. For cases that do not fit the known seasonal or geographical distribution, observers will be asked for supporting evidence for their identification.

Emu	Common Noddy
Australian Shelduck	White-winged Black Tern
Blue-billed Duck	Cockatiel
Fork-tailed Swift	Red-winged Parrot
Wandering Albatross	Swift Parrot
Shy Albatross	Turquoise Parrot
Southern Giant-Petrel	Black-eared Cuckoo
Northern Giant-Petrel	Sooty Owl
Sooty Shearwater	Barking Owl
Hutton's Shearwater	Eastern Grass Owl
White-headed Petrel	Masked Owl
Gould's Petrel	Red-browed Treecreeper
White-necked Petrel	Red-backed Fairy-wren
Australasian Bittern	Western Gerygone
Black Bittern	Southern Whiteface
Eastern Reef Egret	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Black Kite	Regent Honeyeater
Black Falcon	Little Friarbird
Lewin's Rail	Painted Honeyeater
Black-tailed Native-hen	Masked Woodswallow
Bush Stone-curlew	White-browed Woodswallow
Beach Stone-curlew	Forest Raven
Grey Plover	Little Raven
Lesser Sand Plover	Spectacled Monarch
Australian Painted Snipe	Paradise Riflebird
Great Knot	Pale-yellow Robin
Sanderling	Horsfield's Bushlark
Pectoral Sandpiper	Bassian Thrush
Wood Sandpiper	Russet-tailed Thrush
Brown Skua	Plum-headed Finch
Long-tailed Jaeger	Eastern Yellow Wagtail
Sooty Tern	

NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

Notable records for 2011 included the following:

- King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis* – seven birds at East Seaham 8 Feb
- Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata* – peak count of 76 birds in May at Shortland
- Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* – several new locations were reported
- Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah* – a single bird at Bulahdelah 3 Feb, 10 Apr and 19 Oct
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* – a single bird at Hexham Swamp 18 Dec
- Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* – 4,497 birds in the lower Hunter 9 Apr (~4.5% of the world population)
- Hardhead *Aythya australis* – 450 birds at Stockton Borehole Swamp 4 Sep
- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* – single birds several times at WWW
- Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* – an immature bird inland at Stratford 23 Mar
- Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* – ~500 birds flying over Nulama Ponds 7 Apr
- White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis* – at least six birds near Tahlee 7 Apr
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* – 125 birds off Port Stephens 15 Apr and ~100 birds off Swansea 21 Apr
- Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni* – three birds off Port Stephens 20 Nov
- Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* – single birds off Swansea 21 and off Port Stephens 20 Nov
- Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* – single birds off Nobbys Beach 23 Jan and off Port Stephens 27 Feb and 20 Mar
- Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* – a single bird off Port Stephens 1 Apr
- White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis* – a single bird off Port Stephens 1 Apr
- Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* – a single bird close inshore off Saltwater NP 30 Mar
- Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* – 581 birds in the northern part of Lake Wallis 8 Nov
- Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* – about 1,000 birds in Wallis Lake in late year
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* – five calling birds in Hexham Swamp 16 Oct
- Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius* – single birds at Tomago Wetlands 15 Mar and 20 Dec and Pambalong NR 16 Oct
- Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* – largest ever nesting colony at HWC
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* – records from Newcastle, Bungwahl, Harrington and Dora Creek as well as from Port Stephens
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris* – a new pair present in Port Stephens, and the pair in the Manning Estuary bred successfully
- Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* – highest known counts for Port Stephens and Forster/Tuncurry, and 270-290 birds estimated present in summer
- Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythronyctes cinctus* – returned in Sep, after 21 months absence
- Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis* – up to 7 birds at Ash Island in early Nov
- Lowest ever peak counts in the Hunter Estuary for several shorebirds:
 - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
 - Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 - Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
 - Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

- Red Knot *Calidris canutus* – ~1,000 birds at Ash Island on migration passage 9 Oct
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* – ~1,600 birds (1% of the Flyway population) at Ash Island 12 Nov
- Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* – a few birds offshore from Newcastle Baths 17 Jan
- Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata* – two birds off Port Stephens 19 Mar and 20 Nov
- Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* – about 770 birds in the Region in Dec
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* – several records in Jan-Apr and Dec
- White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata* – 100-130 birds around Newcastle Baths Aug-early Sep
- Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus* – a young bird at Nobbys Beach 4 Jun
- Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* – ~400 birds at Broke Rd Pokolbin during Feb
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* – peak count of 102 birds at Dora Creek 23 Aug, and 30 birds at Eraring 11 Aug plus birds at other locations in Apr-May
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* – heard near Bulahdelah 2 May and at Pokolbin 29 Dec, and a dead bird was found 10km S of Muswellbrook 20 Apr
- Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris* – single birds at Lavis Lane 25 Aug and Tomago Wetlands 4 Nov
- Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii* – several records at Cattai Wetlands and 3 birds at Yarratt SF Lansdowne 29 Dec
- Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens* – 26 confirmed territories in the Gloucester Tops
- Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus* – several records of a single bird at North Rothbury and Rothbury
- Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* – 15-16 birds at Morisset late May
- Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* – a single bird at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct
- Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima* – two birds flying over Ulan Coal Mine 27 Dec
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela* – a bird at Cape Hawke 3 Aug and 16 Oct, suggesting a range extension for this species
- Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus* – a few birds at Broke 18 Sep and near Kurri Kurri Sep-Oct
- White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* – many hundreds near Kurri Kurri in Sep-Oct
- Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito* – two birds at Violet Hill Rd Myall Lakes NP 11 Jun, at the coastal southern limit of the range
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* – two birds at Ash Island 29-31 Dec

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 regularly 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: Species that one can **expect** to find on the majority of visits to suitable habitats;

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.

Some of the records that we receive 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 Birdlife Australia as part of the Checklist of Australian Birds (<http://www.birdlife.org.au>).

BIRDS

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered population Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in W of Region (*Revised from: Resident in W of Region*).
From BLA Atlas: 19 records from six cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: C6 (18.8%).

No reports were received for 2011.

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

ID No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: R5 (33.0%).

15 birds were recorded at Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC). Birds were present all year at Saltwater NP, with peak count seven birds 26 Feb (STA), and also are resident at BbR where they often range into nearby gardens (STA, LIP, others). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Black Head 24 Feb (STA), Williams River Tops Rd and Allyn River FP 4 Mar (both STA), Yagon (Myall Lakes NP) 19 Sep (HBOC), Smiths Lake area 20 Sep (HBOC), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Sharpes Creek (Barrington Tops NP) 18-20 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at BbR 4 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 36 records from ten cells, RR 6.3%

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: G8 (2.3%).

The arrival date at Bolwarra was 16 Oct and small numbers were present there for at least a few weeks, until the observer departed the area (TAH). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), Ringwood Rd 30 Oct (DDR), and at Balickera over Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** Nil records

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of up to 10 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: S3 (15.6%).

Notable records: 16 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP) and 15+ birds at Floraville Quarry 11 Jul (HRK). 10-11 birds were at Wallabi Point 18 Jul (STA), Stockton Sandspit 18 Jul (BMA) and Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*). **Breeding:** A pair was with three chicks at Tomago 4 Mar (LUD). **Atlas:** 50 records from 14 cells, RR 5.4%

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare, possibly overlooked (*recorded 1994, 2000, 2010*).

Seven birds were recorded at East Seaham 8 Feb (GOA *et al.*).

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded at wetlands around Shortland as counts of up to 50 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.5%).

The peak count in Shortland was 76 birds at the Wetlands Centre in May, with 70+ birds also recorded in March and June (Table 5, LIP, MOA). Over Oct-Dec, these birds began to use Ash Island, with numbers growing from a single bird 14 Oct to 20 birds 31 Oct (SVP) and peaking at 70 birds 30 Dec (CLT/GOA). *These are the largest counts on record for Ash Island.* Elsewhere, a single bird was recorded at Ironbark Creek Wallsend 3 Oct (LIG). Also see Supplementary Records. **Breeding:** There were many records at HWC, spanning Jan-Feb, Apr and Oct-Dec (many observers). 15 goslings were present 23 Oct (LIP). Some goslings were also at Ash Island over Nov (MCN, BRG). **Atlas:** 19 records from cell M10, RR 4.5%

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 0.93%; cell of most interest: L10 (2.6%).

The peak count at the usual location, Doughboy Hollow, was 163 birds 24 Apr, with lesser numbers present many other months but no birds recorded there in Dec (ALP, others). Several new locations were reported: 200+ birds at Cashmere Lane Upper Lansdowne 3 Aug (COD); 70+ birds at Keinbah 22 Oct with lesser numbers having been present there intermittently over preceding weeks and 60+ birds in the same area in Dec (GOJ, ROS); 18 birds at Pokolbin 21 Dec (ROS); 4 birds at Hermitage Rd Pokolbin over Feb-Apr (SLP), 2 birds at George Booth Drive 18 Oct and occasionally at other times (ROS); and some birds at Morpeth Common during Feb (BRG/KIR). **Breeding:** A pair was with six ducklings at Morpeth Common 8 Feb, but only one remained 25 Feb (KIR/BRG, LIN). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells J8 and Q3

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.8%).

The peak counts at HWC were 122 birds in Aug and 101 birds in May, with 45-69 birds there over Sep-Nov and lesser numbers most other months (Table 5). 125 birds, presumably the same flock, were present at nearby NWR 31 Jul and 87 birds there 6 Aug (LIA). 12 birds were at Morpeth WTW 19 Nov and two birds there 14 Dec (Table 11), while a few birds arrived at Cattai Wetlands early Dec, rising to a peak count of 14 birds 12 Dec (FIW, Table 16). **Breeding:** A pair had dependent young at HWC 30 Jan, with additional records of them through Feb (LIP, LIA). **Atlas:** 16 records from three cells, RR 3.5%

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: M9 (20.0%).

Birds were present most months in the Hunter Estuary, mostly at Deep Pond, with the peak count being 10 birds 13 Aug and 7-8 birds in Oct & Dec (Table 1). The peak count at WWW was six birds, on three occasions, and with lesser numbers present several other times (Table 10, BRG). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Mambo Wetlands (Port Stephens) 19 Jan (CLT) and John Browns Lagoon 3 Jul (ALP). **Breeding:** A pair was with dependent young at Kooragang Island 19 Feb (HWS). **Atlas:** 24 records from cells L9 and M10, RR 5.3%

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Rare (*Recorded 1994-5, 1999-2007*).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 20.6%; cell of most interest: L10 (60.1%).

Notable records: About 850 birds are estimated to have been present in Wallis Lake late in the year (STA, Table 14). The peak counts within the Hunter Estuary were 178-182 birds Jul/Aug, with 50+ birds most months (Table 1). 100+ birds were at Morpeth WTW all year with most counts being of >150 birds and the peak count being 363 birds 15 May (Table 11). The peak count for Port Stephens was 391 birds in Nov, with other records there of 100+ birds. 100+ birds were also recorded at Galgabba Point in Mar and 28 Dec (Table 9, STA) and at Hexham Swamp 13 Sep and 16 Oct (Table 7). **Breeding:** There were many and widespread records, spanning every month of the year. **Atlas:** 241 records from 22 cells, RR 23.5%

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005-10*).

A single bird was recorded at Bulahdelah 3 Feb, 10 Apr and 19 Oct (ERE, MOA).

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) Breeding: No
Status: Rare (*recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03, 2006-09*).

A single bird was recorded at Hexham Swamp 18 Dec (LIA).

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 24.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.9%).

Notable records: Although the counts at Morpeth WTW generally were low (Table 11), 200+ birds were present there 9 Apr (NEM). 50+ birds were recorded at East Seaham 8 Feb (GOA *et al.*), Singleton WWTP 24 Apr (ALP), near Warkworth 22 May (HBOC), and at Port Stephens Sep and Nov (Table 13). 47 birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 17 Sep (Table 1) and 43 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in Apr (Table 9). **Breeding:** There were several records spanning Sep-Nov. 23 ducklings were together in one group at Wingen 12 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 216 records from 36 cells, RR 16.3%

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (22.9%).

As was the case in 2010, birds essentially were absent from the Region. There only were 3 records: three birds at WWW 20 Jul (Table 10) and two birds at both Morpeth WTW 28 Jul (Table 11) and Ash Island 30 Dec (LIA). **Atlas:** Two records from cell L9

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 6.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (31.6%).

Notable records: Early in the year, birds continued to be absent from the Region. The first recorded return was 19 Feb, when two birds were at KI Deep Pond (ROM). However, there were only occasional records of 1-5 birds for most of the year, except at Morpeth WTW where 26 birds were recorded 15 May and 23 birds 28 Jul (Table 11). 75 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 11-12 Nov but with very few present other months (Table 1). Ten birds were at HWC 9 Aug but no other records (LIP, Table 5). **Atlas:** 14 records from cells L9 and M10, RR 3.1%

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (55.9%).

Few birds were in the Region in the first six months, then numbers rose substantially (returning to normal). **Notable records:** 100+ birds were at Morpeth WTW from Apr onwards, with peak counts 1,293 birds 14 Aug and 1,119 birds 28 Jul (Table 11). Many hundreds were present in the Hunter Estuary over Jul-Nov (mainly at Ash Island), with peak counts of 1,196 birds 11-12 Nov and 720 birds 16 Jul (Table 1). 300+ birds were also at HWC over Aug-Nov, with peak count 700 birds 12 Sep (Table 5, LIP). Possibly >900 birds were at Hexham Swamp during Oct, based on counts of 451 and 500 birds at the Hexham and Minmi sides on 16 & 24 Oct; also 100+ birds were present in May, Aug and Dec (Tables 7a, 7b). 50+ birds were recorded at WWW over Sep-Nov (Table 10) and SBS 31 Dec (FRP). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Morpeth WTW in Feb (LIA). **Atlas:** 116 records from 18 cells, RR 11.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 23%; cell of most interest: L9 (56.6%).

Notable records: A count at 20 sites in the lower Hunter Valley on 9 Apr yielded 4,497 birds including 1,800 at Hexham Swamp, 1,388 at Deep Pond, 908 at Ash Island and 220 at Morpeth WTW (many observers). *This is about 4.5% of the world population, also the highest known count (2,296 birds) for the Hunter Estuary.* The numbers of birds at Ash Island, Deep Pond and Hexham Swamp had been rising in Feb/Mar, and many hundreds of birds were at the two Hunter Estuary sites all year (Tables 1, 7, other observers), including 620 birds at Ash Island 30-31 Dec (LIA). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec, and there were ten pairs with dependent young at Morpeth WTW in Feb (LIA). **Atlas:** 214 records from 18 cells, RR 21.1%

Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (*Most are hybrids, for example with Pacific Black Duck; there are very few pure birds*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 2.2%; cell of most interest: M9 (14.5%).

10-20 hybrid birds were often present at the picnic areas of BbR (STA), and up to 5 birds were at Dora Creek over Sep-Oct (GOC). Single birds were recorded at HWC Feb, Mar and Nov (Table 5). **Breeding:** A pair had 8 ducklings at Dora Creek 30 Oct (GOC). **Atlas:** 14 records from four cells, RR 2.9%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 27.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (80.1%).

Notable records: The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 554 birds 28 Apr, and several hundred birds were present there from at least 8 Apr, through until early spring (NEM, Table 11). 100+ birds were at Hebburn Dam 16 Apr and Singleton WWTP 24 Apr (both ALP), HWC 16 Jul (LIP) and Hexham Swamp 24 Oct ((Table 7b). 50+ birds were frequently at Hunter Estuary locations with peak count 191 birds 18-19 Mar (Table 1). 50+ birds were also recorded at HWC 27 Apr (LIP), Singleton WWTP 19 Jun (ALP) and SBS 31 Dec (FRP). **Breeding:** There were widespread records spanning Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec, and there were five pairs with dependent young at Morpeth WTW in Feb (LIA). **Atlas:** 335 records from 45 cells, RR 24.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (48.3%).

Early in the year, birds continued to be scarce in the Region; about midyear numbers began to rise. **Notable records:** 550 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 24 Oct (Table 7b). 450 birds were at SBS 4 Sep but this had fallen to 50+ birds on 31 Dec (HCL, FRP). The counts in the Hunter Estuary rose from Sep, with the peak count being 148 birds 10 Dec (Table 1). 58 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 2 May with high numbers persisting most subsequent months and peak count 100 birds 12 Dec (Table 16, FIW). 20+ birds were at John Browns Lagoon 3 Jul, rising to ~100 birds 30 Oct (ALP, HHB). **Atlas:** 78 records from 16 cells, RR 8.8%

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

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

Status: Uncommon visitor.

From BLA Atlas: 20 records from four cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (14 records).

Single birds were recorded at WWW 6 Jan, 9 Jun, 14 Oct, 12 Nov and 11 Dec (Table 10, HCL). **Atlas:** Nil records

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

ID No: 107 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1952, 1955, 1973, 1978, 2000, 2006, 2009*).

An immature bird was found inland at Stratford (N5) 23 Mar after a storm; it was taken into care and subsequently released (DBP). (*This was initially reported as White-tailed Tropicbird and the record may appear as such in some other forums*).

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 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 12.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (58.5%).

There were not many birds in the Region in the first half of the year, and then numbers rose (returning to normal). **Notable records:** 50+ birds were at Morpeth WTW May-Aug with peak count 129 birds 28 Jul (Table 11). 20+ birds were at Hunter Estuary locations often over May-Nov, with peak count 60 birds 11-12 Nov (Table 1). 39-54 birds were at Hexham Swamp Oct-Nov (Table 7b). 20+ birds were at WWW most months over May-Oct (Table 10) and at HWC in Jul (Table 5). **Breeding:** There were several widespread records spanning Oct-Dec, also a pair had chicks at HWC in Mar (SRM). **Atlas:** 132 records from 19 cells, RR 13.4%

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

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

Status: Bird of passage, more common in times of inland drought (*Revised from: Resident*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.4%).

Although 30-40 birds were recorded at GTD 12 Jun (LUD), there were few birds in the Region most of the year. Some had returned to WWW by 6 Jan but in the subsequent months they were absent or in low numbers only, until late Sep-Dec when 8-14 birds were present (BRG, Table 10). At Deep Pond, there was only one record, of a single bird on 18 Mar, until 8-11 birds were present over Aug-Oct (Table 1). **Atlas:** 15 records from three cells, RR 3.4%

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (16.2%).

Present all year at WWW, mostly as 10-15 birds but with peak count of 37 birds on 11 Mar (Table 10). Elsewhere, single birds were at Morpeth WTW 7 Sep and 14 Dec (Table 11). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at WWW 11 Mar (MEL) and two adults each with dependent young were present 30 Apr (MOA). **Atlas:** Ten records from three cells, RR 31.3%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 5.9%; cell of most interest: M9 (30.2%).

Notable records: 104 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 13 Aug (HWS), 60 birds at Speers Point 1 Jan (GOC) and 41 birds at Seaham Weir 21 Aug (HBOC). 20+ birds were at Stockton Sandspit 20 Mar (HBOC), North Arm Hunter River 3 Nov (HCL) and Merewether 30 Nov (GOC). **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests with eggs North Arm Hunter River 25 Oct and nests with young there 3 Nov (HCL). **Atlas:** 43 records from nine cells, RR 7.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (30.2%).

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded at Kahibah 6 Aug (WID) and 13 birds at Dora Creek 4 Jun and 13 Jul (GOC). Many birds are resident in Gloucester and there were lots of juveniles present there in Jun (DBP). Seven birds were at Dora Creek 30 Jun (GOC) and six birds at Nelson Bay Rd 13 Aug (WOL). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep and Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 27 records from nine cells, RR 8.3%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 19.0%; cell of most interest: L11 (49.1%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were in Hamilton East 16 Feb (ANC). 10+ birds were present most months at HWC (per SRM), and 6+ birds at Leneghans Flat 17 Apr (ALP). Many young birds were at New Lambton in spring (STA). A single bird was at Wingen 1 Nov – *the first known record for this location* (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Islington 13 Jan (GOC) and were breeding at Balickera in Feb (MUJ). **Atlas:** 114 records from 20 cells, RR 12.5%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (29.9%).

Notable records: Seven birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct and four birds there 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). Four birds were together at Williams River Tops Rd 4 Mar (STA) and three birds at NLH 5 Jun (LIP). **Atlas:** 45 records from 20 cells, RR 4.4%

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

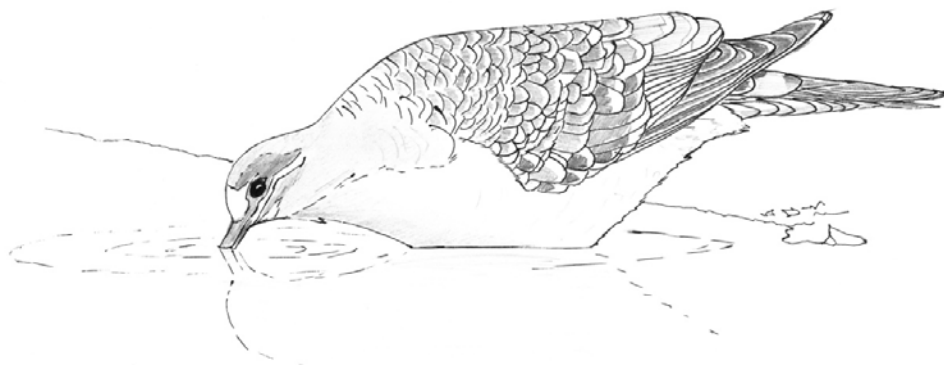
ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: N5 (4.7%).

Two birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 13 Dec (STA) and Kiwarrah SF 28 Dec (NSWBA). A single bird was often recorded at BbR over Jan-Jul (NIJ, others), and single birds were also at Seal Rocks 16 Jul (BMA), HWC 23 Oct and 14 Nov (LIP), Tuncurry/Darawank area 5 Dec (FIW) and near Tinonee late Dec (per COD). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells P8 and R5

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.0%).

Six birds were recorded at Hobdens TSR 15 May (ALP) and 2-3 birds at Violet Hill Rd (Myall Lakes NP) 1-4 Jun (HBOC), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and along Baerami Creek Rd 2 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 19 records from 12 cells, RR 3.6%



Common Bronzewing: sketch by Allan Richardson

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 1.1%; cell of most interest: M11 (23.4%).

Some birds were at Mudbishops Point 13 Jan (OCG), Redhead 15 Jan (LIN) and Awabakal NR in Nov (POJ). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell R6

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 23.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (62.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded near Warkworth 22 May and at WTW 7 Jun (both HBOC), and at Swan Bay/Gir-um-bit NP 19 Dec (HAS/MAC). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at NLH 28 Sep (LIP) and New Lambton late Nov (LIR), and dependent young at Dora Creek during Jan (GOC). **Atlas:** 228 records from 36 cells, RR 17.9%

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident, mainly in central and W of the Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 8.0%; cell of most interest: G8 (48.8%).

Ten birds were recorded at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and 5+ birds at Kitchener (in Werakata NP) 22 Apr and 1 May (WID, ALP), and with some reports of 1-2 birds there in the weeks before and after. 1-2 birds also were at Medowie 24 Apr (LUD), Putty Rd Milbrodale 15 May (ALP), Kitchener 2 Sep (BRG/LIN), Inlet Rd Bulga 20 Sep (BRG), Kurri Kurri area 17 Oct (BRG) and Hobdens TSR 26 Dec (ALP). **Atlas:** 11 records from seven cells, RR 10.9%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 15.8%; cell of most interest: M8 (33.4%).

Notable records: 22 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec, with 6-8 birds also there 9 Jul and 8 Oct (all FIW/JRR *et al.*). 14 birds were at Belmont Lagoon 14 Mar (BRG), and 6-9 birds at Yaraandoo (L8) Mar, Apr and Aug and Kitchener 8 May (ALP). Breeding: Birds bred at Balickera in Aug and over Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 187 records from 31 cells, RR 15.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 9.2%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.0%).

Notable records: Nine birds were feeding together in Curricabundi NP in Feb (DBP). **Atlas:** 88 records from 15 cells, RR 17.6%

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded.
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 3.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (11.3%).

Two flocks totalling 20 birds were recorded at Woko NP 6 May (EGD). Four birds were present at Curricabundi NP 29-31 Aug (DBP *et al.*), and single birds at New Lambton 22 Jul (NIJ), WWW 1 Sep (BRG), Cardiff 1 & 8 Oct (COG), Harrington RF 13 Oct (LIG) and Barrington Tops 30 Oct (HHB). The New Lambton bird (*a southerly record for this species*) had been injured and was taken into care. **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superb*

ID No: 023 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental (recorded 1996, 1999, 2006, 2009)

No reports were received for 2011.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

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

No reports have been received since 2008.

Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

ID No: 026 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2009*).

No reports were received for 2011.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: K5 (37.5%).

Many birds were present in Gloucester Apr-Jun, and this was reported to be an annual event (DBP). About 500 birds (in flocks of 50-100) flew over Nulama Ponds heading north 7 Apr and 140 birds flew over O'Sullivan's Gap 19 Mar (both MGLB). Several flocks including one of ~100 birds flew over the Moorland area 19 Apr (MOT), and 60-80 birds in several flocks flew over a site 15 km E of Singleton 17 Jun (DGG). 10+ birds were recorded at Wallingat NP 23 Feb (STA), Gap Creek Watagans 14 Mar (HOB), Tomago 19 Apr (MCN) and Duns Creek 15 Aug (NEM). 1-10 birds were recorded at The Gap (Watagans) 7 Mar (STP/MAT), North Arm Hunter River 15 Apr (HCL), Wallamba River early May (FIW), Galgabba Point 1 Jul (HRK), Tomago 19 Jul (MCN), Duns Creek 25 Aug (NEM), Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC), Harrington RF 13 Oct (LIG) and Barrington Tops 30 Oct (HHB), and often at Saltwater NP over Jun-Nov (STA, ROS). **Atlas:** 20 records from six cells, RR 2.7%

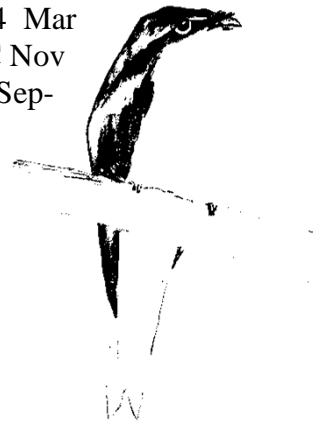
Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (16.3%).

Notable records: 5-6 birds were in the Branxton/Gresford area 4 Mar (BRG). Three birds were recorded at Floraville 27 Oct (HRK) and HWC Nov (per SRM). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan, Mar, Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 23 records from 11 cells, RR 3.2%



Tawny Frogmouth: sketch by Sally Stuart

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (15.6%).

At least six birds were together near Carrington/Tahlee at dusk 7 Apr (ROM/FIW). Pairs were recorded at George Booth Drive 13 Jan (RIA) and Green Wattle Creek 4 Dec (NEM), and single birds at Watagans 29 Oct (DTB) and Copeland 30 Oct (MMT). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with egg at Beresfield 17 Nov (PEK). A pair bred near George Booth Drive, with an egg in nest 23 Feb and a dependent young 28 Feb and 5 Apr (RIA, ROM). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells L8 and M3

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (51.6%).

Four separate birds were in the Branxton/Gresford area 4 Mar (BRG), and single birds at Kurri Kurri 4 Feb (MAC2), Buttaba 10 Aug (CRL), Baerami Creek 1-3 Oct (HBOC), Goulburn River NP 29 Oct (DDR), Watagans 29 Oct (DTB), Cassilis Rest Area 30 Oct (HHB), Rothbury 3 Nov (ROS) and Sedgfield (J8) 13 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells B5 & E8

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: Q6 (15.3%).

Notable records: A flock of 200+ birds was at the northern part of Lake Macquarie 15 Jan, with reports of it from Warners Bay and Speers Point (WAR, HAS). Over 12-13 Feb, there were several widespread reports of 100-200+ birds – at Kahibah/Elernmore Vale, Mt Thorley, Singleton area and Warkworth area (WID, BRG). 200+ birds were also recorded near Karuah 20 Nov and at Crowdy Head 31 Dec (ERE), and large numbers of birds were all along the coast between Nobbys and Merewether Beaches 16 Nov (BRG). 50+ birds were often at both Awabakal NR and Belmont over Nov-Dec (WID). 21-50 birds were recorded at Marmong Cove 17 Jan (HCL), Carey Bay 12 Feb and 30 Nov (HCL), Cameron Park 11 Mar (ROM/ GRL), Bulga 19 Mar (ERE), Kurri Kurri 16 Nov (ERE), Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Newcastle University 29 Dec (FRP). Birds were present until at least 18 Mar, when a single bird was at Awabakal NR (STA). The earliest known arrival was 25 Oct, when two birds were recorded at Forster (CAA). **Atlas:** 19 records from ten cells, RR 2.5%

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.84%; cell of most interest: L11 (3.3%).

About 30 birds were at Hawks Nest 7 Nov (WIT). The only other record was of two birds at Woods Point Morisset 1 Feb (HBOC). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: No

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

Good numbers were present in April, with 125 birds recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 15 Apr and 60 birds on 1 Apr (Table 19), and ~100 birds off Swansea 21 Apr (ROM *et al.*). 42 birds were recorded in the 22 Oct Port Stephens survey and 25 birds on both 19 Mar and 20 Nov (Table 19).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

There were very few records – three birds during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 30 Jan and single birds on the corresponding surveys 22 Oct and 20 Nov (Table 19). **Breeding:** An estimated 215 pairs breed in the Broughton Island Group, compared with an estimated 1,500 pairs in the 1970's, and thousands of pairs in the 1930's before rats were introduced (CAN).

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (Revised from: Uncommon visitor) (recorded 2002, 2006, 2009-10).

No reports were received for 2011.

White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

ID No: 944 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2006-07, 2010).

No reports were received for 2011.

New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Pealeornis maoriana*

ID No: TBA HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2010).

No reports were received for 2011.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

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

There were very few records – three birds during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 22 Oct and two birds on the corresponding 30 Jan survey (Table 19), and a single bird off Merewether Beach June (THJ). *One bird on 22 Oct was at least 43 years old, having been banded as an adult in the Crozet Island in the southern Indian Ocean in 1975 (per SMJ).*

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.

1-2 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys from Port Stephens 1 & 15 Apr and 22-23 Oct (Table 19), off Nobbys Beach 4 May and off Redhead Beach 15 Jun (ROS).

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

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

A bird was taken into care at Cabbage Tree Rd Tomago 26 Jul and sent to Taronga Zoo for attention (LUD). Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys from Port Stephens 19 Mar and 22 Oct, and two birds on the corresponding survey 15 Apr (Table 19).

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common winter migrant. Regularly recorded during Apr-Nov, including from land.

There were very few records – a single bird during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 15 Apr (Table 19), and a beach-cast bird at Merewether Beach 14 Aug (ERE).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant at and beyond the continental shelf.

No reports have been received since July 2009.

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2011. See Unconfirmed Records.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: No
Status: Winter migrant at >5km from shore.

The only record was of a single bird in a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 22 Oct (Table 19).

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 2011.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

ID No: 083 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: No
Status: Winter migrant at >10 km from shore.

No reports were received for 2011.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 2000, 2006-07, 2010).

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 20 Nov and a single bird in the corresponding survey 15 Apr (Table 19).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

ID No: 069 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Several hundred birds often recorded Jan-Mar and late Aug-Dec.

Notable records: Thousands of birds were offshore from Newcastle/Stockton 13 Jan, 28 Feb, and on several dates during March (ROM, THJ, ROS). There were other reports of several hundred birds in the same area over Jan-Feb (THJ, RIA, ALD). 1,200 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 20 Nov, and several hundred birds most other surveys, none of which were in winter (Table 19). 100+ birds were on Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*). **Breeding:** An estimated 90,000 pairs breed in the Broughton Island Group, compared with ~22,000 pairs in the 1970's; however, the methodology for the earlier estimates is uncertain (CAN).

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 1995, 2000-01, 2009).

No reports were received for 2011.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded ~12km off Swansea 21 Apr – the bird was present for several hours (ROM *et al.*). Another bird was off Port Stephens 20 Nov (Table 19). *The Swansea record has been accepted by BARC. There was an unprecedented influx to southern Australia in 2011.*

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

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

Birds were recorded in every pelagic survey from Port Stephens (but there were no winter surveys), with the peak count being 80 birds 19 Mar and 60 birds the following day (Table 19). Some birds were also recorded off Swansea 21 Apr and 11 Dec (ROM *et al.*, ROS/RIA) and off Stockton Breakwater 11 Mar (ROS).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

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

Four birds were recorded during pelagic surveys from Port Stephens 30 Jan and 19 Mar, and a single bird 20 Jan (Table 19), and a single bird was also off Nobbys Beach 13 Jan (ROM).

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: 150 birds were present during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 20 Nov (Table 19). **Breeding:** An estimated 700 pairs breed in the Broughton Island Group, compared with an estimated 2,900 pairs in the 1970's; however, the methodology for the earlier estimates is uncertain (CAN).

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006, 2010*).

Single birds were recorded close inshore off Nobbys Beach 23 Jan (RIA) and off Port Stephens 27 Feb and 20 Mar (ERE, Table 19).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant and bird of passage in late winter/spring (*text added*).

30 birds were offshore from Newcastle Baths 4 Aug (RIA). 3-4 birds were recorded on most Jan-Apr pelagic surveys from Port Stephens and single birds on the corresponding 23 Oct and 20 Nov surveys (Table 19).

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

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

1-2 birds were off Port Stephens 20 Mar, 22-23 Oct and 20 Nov, and also off Swansea 11 Dec (Table 19, ROS/RIA).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 1997, 2001, 2010*).

No reports were received for 2011.

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer visitor at and beyond the continental shelf (*recorded 2001, 2005-06*).

An intermediate phase bird was present during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 1 Apr (Table 19).

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

ID No: 077 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon late winter/spring migrant (*recorded 2002-03, 2010*).

No reports were received for 2011.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: No
Status: Common all year at and beyond the continental shelf (*Revised from: Common summer visitor and bird of passage*).

Some birds were recorded in most of the pelagic surveys off Port Stephens, with the peak count being ten birds 1 Apr and 20 Nov (Table 19).

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*

ID No: 971 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Common autumn to spring visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

Small numbers were recorded in several of the pelagic surveys off Port Stephens, with the peak count being just three birds 1 Apr (Table 19). NB there were no winter surveys.

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.

Single birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 30 Jan and 20 Nov (Table 19). A bird was taken into care from between Broughton Island and the mainland mid Mar; it had a broken wing and was later euthanised (HMA). **Breeding:** The colonies on Cabbage Tree and Boondelbah Islands continue to do well. It is now known that ~15 pairs breed at sites within the Broughton Island Group (CAN).

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

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

A single bird was present during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Apr (Table 19).

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*

ID No: 955 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2007).

No reports were received for 2011.

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: P9 (17.9%).

Port Stephens: Three birds were present at Dutchmans Bay 25 Jan and 1-2 birds there 19 Jan and 7 Feb (all CLT). 1-2 birds were at LTP 4 Jan (EGD), Little Beach 7 Jan (SMJ) and Salamander Beach 6 May (CLT). Elsewhere: Five birds were off Newcastle Baths 16 Jan (RIA) and 1-2 birds at Dudley 17 Mar (CLT), Glenrock SCA 21 Apr and 20 May (CLT), Nobbys Breakwater 15 May (WHP) and Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*). A dead bird was found at Merewether Beach 11 Jan (per CLT). **Breeding**: An estimated 70 pairs are known to breed in the Broughton Island Group (CAN). **Atlas**: Two records from two cells

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports were received for 2011.

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 3.6%; cell of most interest: P9 (19.6%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were offshore from Newcastle Beach 5 Jul (THJ). 55 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 20 Mar and 50 birds 15 Apr (Table 19). 20 birds were off Celito Beach 20 Sep and ten birds offshore from Yagon (Myall Lakes NP) 19 Sep (both HBOC). Eight birds were off Newcastle Bight 19 May (MAW *et al.*) and seven birds near Crowdy Head 5 Aug (STA). **Atlas**: 22 records from 11 cells, RR 3.1%

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

ID No: 103 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1985, 2008, 2010).

No reports were received for 2011.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

ID No: 105 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1979).

No reports were received for 2011.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

ID No: 102 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1984, 1986, 1991, 2010).

A single bird was close inshore off Saltwater NP 30 Mar (Tomaree Birdwatchers per MEL).

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 8.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (37.7%).

Notable records: 54 birds were in northern Wallis Lake 23 Nov (Table 14). 40 birds were at Morpeth WTW Nov-Dec and 16-25 birds in Jan-Feb (Table 11). 8-11 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary locations 11-12 Nov and 10 Dec (Table 1), WWW 5 Apr, 14 Oct and 12 Nov (Table 10), and sometimes in Port Stephens (Table 13). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 23 Dec (GOA *et al.*) and feeding dependent young at Dora Creek 9 Feb and 1 Nov (GOC) and Ellalong Lagoon 27 Feb (HCL). **Atlas:** 113 records from 16 cells, RR 12.2%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 59% of cells, at RR = 21.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (58.5%).

Notable records: 60+ birds were at Port Stephens in every survey, with peak counts of 211 birds 18 Jul and 169 birds in Apr (Table 13). 110 birds were in the northern part of Wallis Lake 8 Nov and 50+ birds in the central part of it 23 Nov (Table 14). 40-45 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in Aug and Oct (Table 9), and 72 birds at Morpeth WTW 14 Dec (Table 11). A very high count for Morpeth WTW. **Breeding:** There were 9+ nests at NWR 31 Jul and 6+ nests still present 6 Aug (LIA). **Atlas:** 212 records from 26 cells, RR 16.3%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 12.4%; cell of most interest: S4 (33.6%).

Notable records: 63 birds were in the coastal section between Birubi Point and Fingal Head 14 Nov (Table 17), 38 birds in the northern part of Wallis Lake 8 Nov (Table 14) and 31 birds in Port Stephens 18 Feb (Table 13). 20+ birds were at Broughton Island 8-10 Nov (CLT) and KI Dykes 15 Dec (HCL), and 11-20 birds at Hunter Estuary locations (mainly KI Dykes) 22 Jan and 10 Dec (Table 1), Morpeth WTW 19 Nov (Table 11) and in the Manning Estuary 27 Nov (Table 15). **Breeding:** Many young birds were present at Crowdy Head 12 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 86 records from 17 cells, RR 9.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 53% of cells, at RR = 18.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (57.3%).

Notable records: 581 birds were in the northern part of Lake Wallis 8 Nov and 112 of these were at Forster/Tuncurry 24 Sep (Table 14). 415 birds were in Port Stephens 18 Jul and 86-104 in Feb and Nov (Table 13). 207 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Nov and 80-100+ recorded in this area in Apr, Jun and Nov (GOC, WAR, Table 9). 100+ birds were also recorded at Newcastle Baths in Sep (Table 8), Morpeth WTW 14 Dec (Table 11). Elsewhere, 21-50 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 25 Jan (Table 16), Morpeth WTW Jan-Feb (Table 11), Hunter Estuary 7 May and 15 Oct, Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC), and often in the Manning Estuary with peak count of 96 birds 24-25 Jan (Table 15). Again there was no breeding recorded at the regular locations NWR/Market Swamp and Toronto Wetland. **Atlas:** 190 records from 26 cells, RR 15.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 11.9%; cell of most interest: S4 (35.4%).

Notable records: 31 birds were at NWR 9 Apr (LIA). 16-17 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Nov-Dec and 12-13 birds in Jan and Jul (Table 1). **Breeding:** 22 birds were on nests at NWR 9 Apr, and up to 5 pairs were again nesting there late Jul-Sep (all LIA). **Atlas:** 109 records from 11 cells, RR 14.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 27.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (55.6%).

Notable records: About 1,000 birds are estimated to have been present in Wallis Lake late in the year (STA, Table 14). 90+ birds were in Port Stephens in all surveys with peak counts of 142 birds in Apr and Nov (Table 13). 40+ birds were often at Hunter Estuary locations with the peak count being 107 birds 10 Dec (Table 1). 20+ birds were regularly at Swansea/Lake Macquarie with peak count 79 birds in May (Table 9). The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 186 birds 9 Feb but the monthly counts varied greatly (Table 11). **Breeding:** A colony of approximately 100 pairs was on Snake Island NR in Wallis Lake; egg-laying was underway in early August and many chicks of various ages were present late Nov (CRG/CRB, STA). **Atlas:** 210 records from 21 cells, RR 23.1%

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.31%; cell of most interest: P7 (13.9%).

Lower Hunter: There were many records of 1-2 birds in Jan and particularly over Apr-Sep, mainly from PNR, HWC and locations within Hexham Swamp but ranging as far as Bolwarra, Kurri Kurri and Raymond Terrace (many observers). *No post-September records.*
Harrington/Cooperook: 1-2 birds were recorded often during the year, mainly from Cattai Wetlands and locations along Harrington Rd. A pair and a juvenile were in paddocks near Cattai Creek 1 Jan and 14 Feb (ROM, SRM). Records of single birds at Mudbishops Point 19 Apr (STA) and Moorland (R3) 21 Aug (ERE), and of three birds flying together near Johns River (S3) 19 Mar (ERE), are presumed to be from within the territorial range. Elsewhere: Single birds were at Coon Island Swansea 7 May (ADJ), Bulahdelah area 16 Jul (BMA), Nabiac area Jun and 20 Nov (FIW, ERE), Wallamba River Tuncurry 29 Jul (FIW) and Clarendetown area 27 Aug (RAL). **Atlas:** 11 records from six cells, RR 2.2%

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 0.95%; cell of most interest: L10 (1.4%).

An evening survey on 16 Oct found six calling birds: five separate birds in Hexham Swamp and one bird at Tomago Wetlands (several observers). Two Hexham Swamp birds were still present 27 Nov (LIA/BOH). Single birds were also recorded at Stony Creek Lake Macquarie 30 Jun (DUP), HWC Oct and 9 Nov (per SRM, per COK), Hands Lagoon Bolwarra 23 Oct (TAH), Rutherford 26 Oct (TAH), Ash Island 28 Oct (WID), Hexham Swamp 27 Nov (LIA) and Tomago Wetlands 20 & 31 Dec (MCN). **Atlas:** One record, from cell M10

Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

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

Single birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 15 Mar and 20 Dec (MCN), and a bird was heard at PNR 16 Oct (HCL).

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

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

From BLA Atlas: 16 records from 11 cells, at RR = 0.5%; cell of most interest: L11 (four records).

Single birds were at HWC 6 Mar (NIG), Tomago Wetlands 19 Apr (MCN) and in May (per CRL), and near Cessnock 31 Oct (ERE). **Atlas:** One record, from cell K9

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

ID No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common visitor. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded throughout the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 6.2%; cell of most interest: L10 (23.5%).

Although there were reports of 1-2 birds all year, it was not until Aug-Sep that birds began to be more regularly recorded. **Notable records:** Six birds were at Pacific Palms 3 Feb (MGLB) – *the only high count in the first 10 months of the year*. Eight birds were together near Bulahdelah 31 Oct (EGD), seven birds at Tomago Wetlands 20 Dec (Table 6), six birds at Morpeth WTW 19 Nov (Table 11), five birds in a paddock on Failford Rd 23 Nov (STA) and four birds at Leneghans Flat 30 Oct (THJ) and Ash Island 30 Dec (CLT/GOA). Also, several birds were at Hexham Swamp 24 Nov (BIA). **Atlas:** 25 records from 14 cells, RR 3.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 20.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (47.0%).

Notable records: 10+ birds were at Hunter Estuary locations Jan-Feb and from Aug onwards, with numbers rising significantly in Sep-Oct and the peak count being 62 birds 15 Oct (Table 1). Many birds were at Morpeth WTW Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec, with the peak count 71 birds 19 Nov (Table 11). 60 birds were at Hexham Swamp Sep-Oct and 9-13 birds in Jan and Nov-Dec (Table 7). 20+ birds were often in Port Stephens (Table 13) and at Hexham Swamp Jan and Sep (Table 7b). 18 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 18 Oct and 8-10 birds there Nov-Dec (Table 6). All the high counts at HWC were in the breeding season. **Breeding:** 11 pairs had nests at Toronto Wetland 4 Dec (HCL). There were records for HWC in Jan-Feb and then nesting recommenced from early Nov (SRM, LIP, NIG). On 3 Dec, there were 64 nests present (LIA *et al.*) – *this is the largest number breeding in the Region since the Bird Reports began, although substantially lower than the count of 198 pairs nesting at HWC in 1987/88*. **Atlas:** 197 records from 21 cells, RR 22.2%

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in E of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (29.0%).

Notable records: 15 birds were at the Minmi side of Hexham Swamp 14 Sep and seven birds at the Hexham side 26 Mar (Tables 7a,7b). The numbers at Morpeth WTW rose from Sep, to a peak count of 23 birds 14 Dec (Table 11). There were nine birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie locations in Aug and 5-6 birds in Nov-Dec (Table 9). Five birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 11-12 Nov (Table 1) and four birds at Ellalong Lagoon 27 Sep (GRJ). **Breeding:** There were 42 nests at HWC 3 Dec (LIA *et al.*) – *the largest number breeding in the Region since 1993 although substantially lower than the count of 453 pairs nesting at HWC in 1987/88*. **Atlas:** 36 records from four cells, RR 7.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 15.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (65.0%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 22 Mar and 9 Apr (Table 11, NEM), near Cattai Creek Harrington Rd 2 May (STA) and at Darlington 7 Jul (ALP), and roosting at Bulahdelah 5 Aug (STA) and Bolwarra Lagoon during Oct (TAH). 50+ birds were at Manning Estuary 18-19 Apr (STA), Hexham Swamp 22 Apr and 27 Nov (ALP, Table 7), Bridgman Rd 12 Jun (ALP) and Seaham Weir 21 Aug (HBOC). All the high counts at HWC and Gloucester were in the breeding season. **Breeding:** There were records for HWC in Jan-Feb and then nesting recommenced from early Nov (SRM, LIP). On 3 Dec, there were 360 nests (LIA *et al.*) – *this is the in line with many other counts from recent years although substantially lower than the count of 1,393 pairs nesting at HWC in 1987/88.* A colony at Gloucester had ~130 active nests during Feb and also ~100 nests with chicks 20 Dec (DBP) – *this is a new breeding colony.* Once again there was no colony at Seaham Swamp NR. **Atlas:** 102 records from 20 cells, RR 11.3%

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

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

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded at coastal locations.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 4.5%; cell of most interest: S4 (13.5%).

Notable records: Seven birds were recorded in Port Stephens 18 Feb and 18 Jul (Table 13) and three birds in the Manning Estuary 24-25 Jan (Table 15) and at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 12 Mar (Table 9). **Atlas:** 32 records from eight cells, RR 4.6%

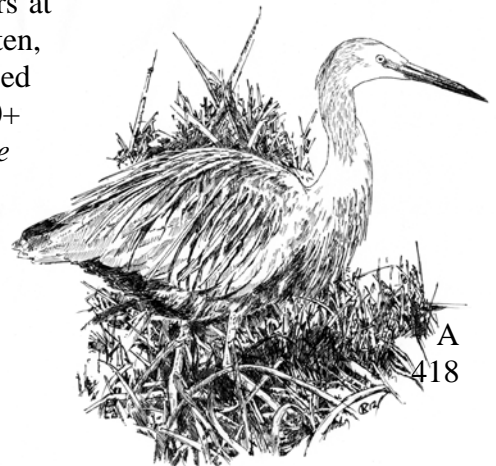
White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

ID No: 188 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds are widely and regularly recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 71% of cells, at RR = 30.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.2%).

Notable records: Birds often were present in high numbers at three locations: Hunter Estuary (40+ most months, 100+ often, peak count 208 birds 15 Oct); Port Stephens (70+ in land-based surveys, peak count 112 birds Sep); and Hexham Swamp (30+ most months, 90+ Feb-Apr, peak count 112 birds 16 Feb); *see Tables 1, 7 & 13 for details.* 54 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 19 Jul (Table 6) and 20+ birds at Tuncurry in Feb (FIW), East Seaham 12 Apr (GOA *et al.*), Tomago Wetlands 19 Apr (Table 6), Morpeth WTW 15 May and 7 Sep (Table 11) and northern Wallis Lake 8 Nov (Table 14). melanistic bird was at Medowie Jan-Feb (LUD). **Atlas:** records from 38 cells, RR 33.2%



White-faced Heron: sketch by Rob Kyte

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 9.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (17.4%).

Notable records: 20 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 7 May and 10-14 birds at Hunter Estuary locations 19 Feb and 15 Oct, Port Stephens 18 Jul and northern Wallis Lake 8 Nov (Tables 1, 7, 13, and 14). **Breeding:** There were three nests at HWC 3 Dec (LIA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 92 records from 12 cells, RR 12.5%

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 1.2%; cell of most interest: P9 (14.3%).

Single birds were frequently recorded between Birubi Point and Fingal Head (Table 17) and at Newcastle Baths 16 May and 10 Oct (ROM, THJ, Table 8), Bar Beach 20 May (NIR), Merewether Rock Shelf 22 May and June (THJ), Catherine Hill Bay 12 Jun (BMA), Glenrock Lagoon 29 Jun (CLT), Seal Rocks 15 Jul and 19-21 Sep (BMA, HBOC), Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*) and Susan Gilmore Beach 6 Oct (THJ). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 1.3%

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: O9 (9.7%).

Birds were recorded at HWC from Aug onwards, rising to a peak count of 42 birds 3 Dec (Table 5, LIP, LIA *et al.*). Some birds were at Balickera over Sep-Dec (MUJ), and a single bird was often recorded at Williams River Clarencetown during Dec (RAL). Elsewhere, small numbers were at WWW 7 Sep (SMJ *et al.*), Saltwater NP 29 Sep and 27 Nov (STA), Seaham Swamp NR 30 Oct (DDR), Werakata NP 31 Oct (ERE), Galgabby Point 1 Nov (HBOC), Stockton Sandspit 3 Nov (HCL), Awabakal NR in Nov (POJ), Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (Table 16), East Seaham 23 Dec (GOA *et al.*) and Bolwarra 29 Dec (TAH, FRP). Also see Supplementary Records. **Breeding:** Although there were no confirmed records, a very young bird was at Balickera in Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 17 records from six cells, RR 3.1%

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: L10 (8.0%).

18 birds were at Hexham Swamp 14 Sep (Table 7b). All other records were from Morpeth WTW, where 1-2 birds were present over May-Jun, 11 birds on 7 Oct and 6 birds on 19 Nov (Table 11). **Atlas:** Six records from three 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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 24.1%; cell of most interest: O9 (52.7%).

Notable records: 221 birds were in paddocks near Cattai Creek Harrington Rd 2 May, with good numbers also present 18-19 Apr (STA). The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 294 birds 7 May but numbers each month varied considerably (Table 1). 282 birds were at Hexham Swamp 16 Feb (Table 7) and 100+ birds at Port Stephens Apr and 18 Jul (Table 13). All the high counts at HWC were in the (extensive) breeding season. **Breeding:** Ten pairs nested at Market Swamp over Sep-Oct and 32 pairs at NWR over late Jul-Sep (LIA). There were records for HWC in Jan-Feb and then nesting recommenced in Jul with 304 nests present 6 Aug (LIP, LIA *et al.*). Breeding continued for the rest of the year, with 303 nests present 3 Dec (LIA *et al.*). *Although the peak nest count is a decrease compared with 2010, it is the second largest breeding colony ever recorded for the Region; also, the total of 607 nests in Aug and Dec exceeds the 2010 total of 574 nests.* **Atlas:** 212 records from 15 cells, RR 24.0%

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

ID No: 180 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual bird of passage. 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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 61% of cells, at RR = 13.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (43.2%).

There were very few records in Jan-Mar and numbers generally were low all year. **Notable records:** 400+ birds were flying over Weston 5 Sep (ROS) and ~100 birds at Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 55 records from 15 cells, RR 6.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 14.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (47.7%).

Notable records: 53 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands late Dec and 42-48 birds at Hunter Estuary 18-19 Mar, HWC 9 & 22 Feb and Hexham Swamp 9 Apr and 18 Dec (see Tables) and at NWR 7 Sep (LIA). 20+ birds were present at Hunter Estuary 19 Feb, 16 Apr and 16 Jul, HWC 23 May, Hexham Swamp 1 Jan, 16 Feb and Sep-Nov, Morpeth WTW 9 Feb and 22 Mar and in Port Stephens Apr (see Tables). **Breeding:** Birds had two nests at Stroud 18 Nov (HCL) and were feeding fledged young at HWC 12 Jan and 24 Nov (LIP). Also some begging young were present at Morpeth WTW Feb & Mar (LIA). **Atlas:** 123 records from 12 cells, RR 13.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.0%).

Although there were occasional reports of 1-2 birds from Feb, it was not until mid Sep that birds became widespread and began to be more often recorded. **Notable records:** Four birds were at Wallalong 10 Oct (FRA) and three birds at Fullerton Cove 20 Nov (HCL). **Atlas:** Five records from three 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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 6.3%; cell of most interest: S4 (30.5%).

Notable records: Eight birds were recorded in the northern half of Wallis Lake 8 Nov (STA/HCL). A single bird was often at Hunter Estuary locations over Mar-Dec, ranging as far as Hexham Swamp and Millers Forest, and with two birds present 20 Mar, 7 Aug and 24 Dec, and three birds 15 Oct (many observers). A pair continued to be reported from southern Lake Macquarie locations; records of single birds from Teralba/Speers Point/Marmong over Sep-Dec may be a different bird. One bird was at Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*), and there was one inland record, of a single bird at Singleton 16 Jan (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Marks Point 7 & 14 Sep (GOC) and Karuah 21 Sep (BRE). Pairs with juveniles were at Dora Creek 7 Jan (GOC) and Woods Point 1 Feb (HBOC). **Atlas:** 68 records from 13 cells, RR 9.3%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 7.9%; cell of most interest: M9 (21.2%).

Notable records: Four birds were at Tomago Wetlands 15 Mar (MCN) and two birds at Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Tomago 22 Jan (OCG). **Atlas:** 26 records from ten cells, RR 3.7%

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1977).

No reports were received for 2011.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 1.9%; cell of most interest: Q4 (10.3%).

All records were of single birds. There were many reports from the Maitland-Cessnock area over Feb-May, and from nearby Werakata NP 31 Oct (ERE) and North Rothbury 12 Nov (NEG). Elsewhere, birds were at Morisset 2 Jul (ERE), Raymond Terrace 26 Dec (HCL) and near Tinonee late Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 2.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (26.6%).

Single birds were recorded at Kotara 13 Apr (NIJ), Glenrock SCA 19 Jun (WID), Fishing Point 30 Jun (HAM), Speers Point 3-8 Jul (HAS), HRBG 9 Jul (THK), Floraville 11 Jul (HRK), Wangi Point 8 Aug (WIH), Green Point 13 Sep (THK), Watagans 30 Oct (DTB), and pairs at Fosterton Loop 3 Jul (JED), Kotara Aug (FRB) and George Booth Drive 20 Sep (ROS). Some birds were also at Balickera Mar, Apr, Oct, Dec (MUJ). **Breeding:** A pair with one young was at Toronto 30 Jan (HCL). **Atlas:** One record, from cell M7

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 15.0%; cell of most interest: P9 (42.7%).

Notable records: 12 birds were recorded along Newcastle Bight 19 May (MAW *et al.*) and 4-5 birds at Burwood Beach 8 Jan (SRM), Hexham Swamp 5 Mar (MOA), Newcastle Bight 13 May and 31 Oct (MAW, NEM *et al.*), Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*) and Ash Island 30 Dec (CLT/GOA). Birds took a Dusky Moorhen at HWC 21 Jun (LIP) and tried to take a Little Penguin off Newcastle Baths 16 May (ROM). **Atlas:** 148 records from 22 cells, RR 13.2%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 16.7%; cell of most interest: N9 (39.6%).

Notable records: Six birds were at HWC 22 Feb and in Dec, with 3-4 birds occasionally also recorded (WIT, LIP, SRM). Three birds were recorded at Dora Creek 30 Jan (GOC), PNR 27 Feb (MOA) and Ash Island 17 Apr (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Yagon (Myall Lakes NP) 19 Sep (HBOC) and carrying nesting material near Paterson 24 Jul (ALP). **Atlas:** 114 records from 20 cells, RR 10.7%

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident in coastal north of Region, elsewhere rare (*Revised from: elsewhere accidental*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: S4 (20.6%).

Manning Estuary and North: There were records all year of 1-2 birds at Manning Estuary locations. Single birds were also recorded at Saltwater NP 22 Mar and 29 Sep, Ghinni Ghinni Creek 20 Jun and Crowdy Head 5 Aug and 12 Dec (STA, FIW, MGLB). *Forster/ Great Lakes:* A pair was at Forster/Tuncurry 22 Mar (STA) and single birds at Cape Hawke 16 Oct (MOT), Hawks Nest early Nov and Bennetts Beach 5 Nov (both WIT). *Port Stephens:* Single birds were recorded at Dowardee Island 24 May (EGD) and LTP 6 Sep (CLT). *Hunter Estuary:* A pair was present 28 Sep (HCL) and single birds were recorded most months from Mar onwards (many observers). *South:* No reports were received. **Atlas:** 30 records from nine cells, RR 4.7%

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon visitor to central and W of the Region, elsewhere rare.
From BLA Atlas: 11 records from eight cells.

Two birds were recorded at Scone 10 Jun (NEG) and single birds near Muswellbrook 25 Apr (HUM), Hinton 16 May (NEM), Nerong 16 Jun (STA) and at both Wingen and Scone 2 Dec (NEG). **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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 53% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (32.4%).

Notable records: Two birds were at Flaggy Creek 7 Sep (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera over Sep-Dec (MUJ).
Atlas: 26 records from 18 cells, RR 2.8%



Brown Goshawk: sketch by Chris Herbert

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 2.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (43.8%).

Notable records: Two males were fighting at Werakata NP 31 Oct (ERE) and pairs were recorded at Clarencetown 14 Dec (RAL) and Black Neds Bay 28 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 12 records from nine cells, RR 7.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (14.7%).

Notable records: Four birds were flying together at Rothbury 2 Nov (CLT). Pairs were recorded at HWC 23 Feb, 9 Mar, 23 May and 9 Aug (LIP) and at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 18 records from eight cells, RR 2.4%

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: H7 (6.6%).

Atlas: Two records from cell M10. No other reports were received.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded in the E of the Region (*text modified*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 24% of cells, at RR = 8.6%; cell of most interest: L10 (28.8%).

Notable records: Six birds including some juveniles were recorded at Ash Island 29 Dec (BRG) and five birds there 30 Dec (CLT/GOA). Five birds were at Tomago Wetlands 15 Mar (MCN). 3-4 birds were often recorded at both Ash Island and Tomago Wetlands. **Atlas:** 76 records from nine cells, RR 12.8%



Swamp Harrier: sketch by Grant Brosie

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 9.6%; cell of most interest: J9 (43.9%).

Notable records: Three birds were together at Bobs Farm 31 Mar (EGD). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Mt Arthur 12 Sep (NEG). **Atlas:** 54 records from 25 cells, RR 7.6%

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 2.0%; cell of most interest: H7 (8.9%).

Two birds were together at Cessnock 11 Feb, and there were five separate sightings of single birds from the Kurri/Weston/Pokolbin area in mid Feb (ROS). Single birds were also recorded at Wingen 10 Mar and 6 Apr (NEG), Tomago Wetlands 19 Apr (MCN), Crowdy Head 2 May (STA), Singleton WTW 19 Jun (ALP), Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Aberdeen 3 Sep (NEG), Weston 6 Sep (ROS), Balickera Sep (MUJ), Kurri Kurri 17 Oct (ROS) and Ash Island 30 Dec (CLT/GOA). The bird at Wingen 10 Mar had taken a Crested Pigeon. **Atlas:** Two records, from cells M10 and S4

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 72% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: J9 (49.2%).

Notable records: Seven birds were at Singleton WTW 19 Jun and six birds 24 Apr (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Tomago 22 Jan (OCG). **Atlas:** 79 records from 25 cells, RR 9.2%

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, as counts of 1-2 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 61% of cells, at RR = 5.2%; cell of most interest: K11 (20.7%).

Notable records: Five birds were present at Quorrobolong 30 Jul (MOA *et al.*) and three birds were together at Bureen 25 Apr (TAH). **Atlas:** 45 records from 20 cells, RR 4.6%

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as single birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (14.6%).

Notable records: Pairs were recorded at Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP) and WWW 21 Sep (BRG), and regularly at Teralba over Aug-Sep (BMA). A bird took a Common Myna at Gloucester early May (per DBP). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Ridglands Rd (F5) 24 Aug (HLC). **Atlas:** 25 records from ten cells, RR 3.2%

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (5.0%).

Three birds (1M, 2F) were at Morpeth 3 Jun (RUD). Pairs were recorded at Bureen 25 Apr (TAH), Scone 10 Jun (NEG), Wingen 12 Jun (NEG) and Raymond Terrace 20 Jun (NEM), and single birds at WWW 30 Aug (BRG), Kurri Kurri 16 Sep (ROS), Scone 5 Dec and Wingen 5 Dec (both NEG). **Atlas:** One record, from cell H5

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: P9 (13.1%).

Notable records: A bird took a Common Myna at Wingen 23 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 13 records from nine cells, RR 2.2%

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 17.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.2%).

Notable records: 103 birds were recorded at HWC 9 Aug (LIP) and 60 birds in Aug, there were 30+ birds present in several other months (LIP, VGF, Table 5). 30-60+ birds were recorded several times in the Hunter Estuary (Table 1) and at Hexham Swamp Sep-Oct (Table 7b). 20+ birds were also at Morpeth WTW 7 Jun (HBOC), PNR 26 Jun (ALP) and Ash Island 18 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 210 records from 26 cells, RR 18.9%

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: 25 records from 9 cells; cell of most interest: S4 (6 records).

Single birds were recorded at KI Deep Pond 19 Feb (ROM), Pourmalong Creek Morisset 6 Aug (ERE) and Copeland 30 Oct (MMT). **Atlas:** Three records, all from cell M10

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: P9 (13.4%).

1-2 birds were often recorded at Dora Creek all year (GOC) and also at HWC over Feb-May and Oct-Dec (several observers). Four birds were at HWC in Dec (Table 5). There were reports of single birds at KI Deep Pond 19 Feb (ROM), Myuna Bay 8 Mar (HCL), Stockton Sandspit 16 Jul (STA), Hexham Swamp 17 Aug (LIA), Leneghans Flat 30 Oct (THJ), Awabakal NR in Nov (POJ), Phoenix Flat Ash Island 1 Dec (HCL) and Clarencetown 1 & 7 Dec (STL), and several times in a garden at Lambton over Oct/Nov (ROM). **Breeding:** There were many records from the E of the Region, inland as far as Singleton, all in December. **Atlas:** 21 records from ten cells, RR 3.8%

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

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

Status: Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought (*Revised from: Resident*).

From BLA Atlas: 20 records from nine cells; cell of most interest: L9 (seven records).

Single birds were recorded at WWW 14 Oct and 12 Nov (SMJ *et al.*). **Atlas:** Nil records**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

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

Status: Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought (*Revised from: Resident*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.4%).

A bird died after hitting a window at Bobs Farm mid Oct (per FAA). **Atlas:** Nil records**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought (*Revised from: Resident*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (2.4%).

There were two separate sightings of a single bird at Marsh Rd Bobs Farm during Dec (BTS). **Atlas:** Nil records

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Not recorded

Status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: L10 (2.2%).

No reports have been received since 2009.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 15.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (58.9%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at HWC most months with several counts of 100+ birds and a peak count of 250+ birds 27 Jul (Table 5, VGF). 40-45 birds were at WWW 5 Apr and 11 Feb (Table 10). 31 birds were at Poppethead Park Kitchener 8 May (ALP). A bird was taken by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle at HWC 21 Jun (LIP). **Breeding:** There were many records at HWC over Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec (several observers) including 21 chicks present 8 Feb (LIA). Birds were on nest at Toronto Wetland 28 Sep (HCL) and had a chick at Weston 7 Dec (GOC). **Atlas:** 165 records from 26 cells, RR 14.6%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 9.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (51.1%).

Notable records: In general, there were very few birds present in the Region in the first half of the year. The exception was at WWW, where 116 birds were recorded 6 Jan and 46 birds 11 Mar (Table 10). 280 birds were at Hexham Swamp 28 Nov (Table 7b). Numbers at the regular survey sites began to rise from mid year, with peak counts of 100+ birds at HWC in Nov, 181 birds in the Hunter Estuary (mainly at Deep Pond) 10 Dec, 116 birds at WWW 11 Dec and 81 birds at Morpeth WTW 14 Dec (see Tables for details). 50+ birds were also at Cattai Wetlands 19 Jul (Table 16) and Hunter Valley Gardens Pokolbin 3 Oct (HCL). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at HWC 22 Feb and 20 Nov (WIT, LIP). **Atlas:** 58 records from ten cells, RR 10.0%

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: O9 (2.9%).

Port Stephens: Pairs continue to be recorded at the known sites (LTP, Bobs Farm, Karuah GC, Karuah) although few reports were received. A single bird was at Tilligerry Creek 11 Aug (WOL). **Elsewhere:** A bird at Newcastle airport mid Feb was taken into care and released at Karuah 18 Feb (ROM); possibly the same bird was present at Stockton 19 Jul (per CLT). 1+ birds were recorded near Bungwahl several times in Feb (LEJ). A single bird was at Harrington Sports Oval during Mar (FIW, STA) and then 2-3 birds at Harrington Waters over Jul-mid Aug (JRR, FIW, STA). A single bird was regularly present at Dora Creek over Jul-Dec (GOC). Also see Supplementary Records. **Breeding:** The pair at LTP had two failed breeding attempts in Jan (ROM). The pair at Bobs Farm fledged a chick in Jan (ROM) which was still present 7 Apr (CAS); they again hatched chicks on 11 Sep but laid a new egg in Nov which suggests the earlier chicks were predated (WOL). **Atlas:** Six records from five cells, RR 7.3%

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Critically Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident in the Manning Estuary, rare elsewhere.
From BLA Atlas: 49 records from five cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: R4 (8.8%).

The pair at the Manning Estuary was often recorded, but only at Manning Entrance SP (STA, others). A pair was on Dowardee Island 20 Jan, with several reports thereafter of them foraging near Soldiers Point (WOL, EGD). *This is now the most southerly pair in NSW.* **Breeding:** The Manning Estuary pair was with a young bird until Aug (STA) and in Sep they hatched another chick which was still present mid Dec (CRB). **Atlas:** 11 records, from cells R4 and O9

South Island Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Endangered

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 12.8%; cell of most interest: S4 (39.0%).

Birds were regularly at six locations (see Tables for main details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak 10 birds in Nov); Hunter Estuary (peak count 42 birds 7 May); Port Stephens (peak 166 birds 18 Feb, 142 birds 18 Jul, 127 birds 14 Dec); Newcastle Bight (peak 10 birds 19 May); Forster/Tuncurry (peak 72 birds 4 Feb); Manning Estuary (peak 18 birds 4-5 Aug). Also, a survey between Old Bar and Crowdy Head 13 Dec found 22 birds (THM/CRB). There were occasional records elsewhere, including two birds at Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*). *These are the highest known counts for Port Stephens and Forster/Tuncurry, but the counts elsewhere were lower than for recent years. In summer, 270-290 birds are estimated to have been present in the Region, and 180-200 birds in winter.* **Movements:** There were 3 records of birds banded outside the Region (as runners): a bird in the Hunter Estuary until at least 15 Apr (banded Broadwater NP Nov 2008); a bird in the Hunter Estuary/Newcastle Bight over Sep-Dec (banded Barry Beach Vic May 2011); and a bird at Port Stephens 18 Jul (banded South Ballina 14 Dec 2009). **Breeding:** There were 19 breeding pairs in the Manning Estuary during the 2010/2011 season, with 1.32 fledglings per pair on average (FAA/THM). Four nests with eggs were along Newcastle Bight in Nov with a runner present late Dec (RUN/GER per NEM). A pair had 3 young near Tuncurry in Nov (STA/HCL). There were several nesting attempts, some successful, in the Hunter Estuary over Sep-Nov and a pair had an advanced young bird at Stockton Sandspit during Jan (HLC, CLT, others). A pair was copulating at Soldiers Point 3 June (EGD). **Atlas:** 107 records from 11 cells, RR 14.0%

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: P9 (15.8%).

The peak count at the Newcastle Baths roost was 42 birds in Mar – *the largest count ever for this location* – with 20+ birds present most months except during the breeding season (Table 8, THJ, NIR). Some birds were also recorded at other Newcastle locations (e.g. KI Dykes, Stockton Sandspit, Merewether Baths) during the year (Table 2, various observers). Birds were recorded most months in the Manning Estuary with peak counts 6-8 birds Jan-Apr (Table 15) and along the Birubi-Fingal coastline with peak count 16 birds 30 Oct (Table 17), and in Port Stephens with peak counts 19 birds 18 Feb and 15 birds 18 Jul (Table 13, various observers). 14 birds were at Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 6+ birds 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Saltwater NP 29 Sep (STA), Forster/Tuncurry Jan-Mar and Sep (Table 14), Hawks Nest 19 Jun (JEC) and Crowdy Head 22 Mar and 28 Sep (STA). *60-70 birds are again estimated to have been present in the Region.* **Breeding:** There was a nest with eggs at One Tree Island NR Port Stephens 3 Nov (JAG), and an adult was with a juvenile bird at Crowdy Head 12 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 46 records from eight cells, RR 7.0%

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

ID No: 146

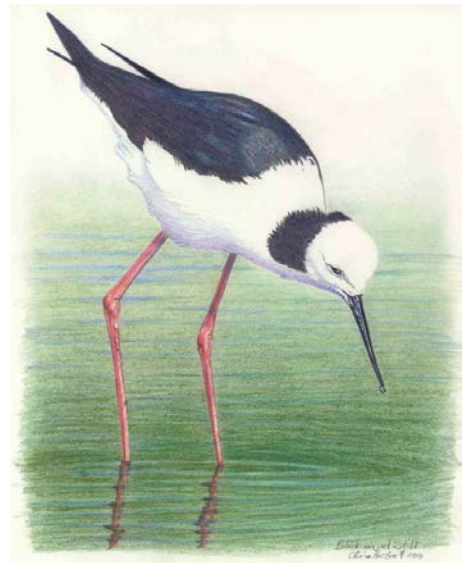
HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded in the E of the Region (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 13.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (37.7%).

There were very few birds recorded in the Region until March. **Notable records:** The peak counts for the Hunter Estuary were 686 birds 16 Apr and 497 birds 7 May, with 100-200+ birds often present from Mar onwards (Table 2, others) and also ~250 birds present late Dec (CLT/GOA, LIA). 100+ birds were at Hexham Swamp over May-Sep, with the peak count being 366 birds 13 Sep (Tables 7a, 7b), and at Morpeth WTW many months over Jul-Dec with the peak count being 121 birds 14 Aug (Table 11). **Breeding:** Many immature birds were present at Stockton Sandspit 16 Jul (LIG). **Atlas:** 78 records from seven cells, RR 13.3%



Black-winged Stilt: sketch by Chris Herbert

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (11.6%).

There were very few birds recorded in the Region until June, except for 15 birds at Ellalong Lagoon 14 Jan (ERE) and 48-50 birds in the Hunter Estuary (mainly at KI Deep Pond) over Mar-Apr (Table 2). Birds returned in many hundreds to the Hunter Estuary from June, and 1,000+ were present over Sep-Oct with a peak count of 1,250 birds 15 Sep (HCL, Table 2). Elsewhere, 41 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 18 Jun (MEL) – *rare in Port Stephens*, six birds at Newcastle Bight 2 Aug (RUN per NEM) and a single bird at Harrington 28 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 27 records from three cells, RR 5.5%

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 2011.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: R4 (17.4%).

Hunter Estuary: The peak counts were 279-284 birds over Feb-Mar and 200+ birds were regularly present Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec; no birds over-wintered (see Table next page, and Table 2). Last recorded 8 Apr, when three birds were present; two birds had returned on 1 Sep but the main arrivals commenced from mid Sep (HCL). **Manning Estuary:** The peak count was 99 birds 17 Jan and most summer counts were of 80+ birds; two birds over-wintered (Table 15). **Port Stephens:** 23 birds were present 18 Feb and 15 birds 16 Oct; three birds over-wintered (Tables 12, 13). Also, two birds were at Jimmys Beach 20 Sep (WIT). **Elsewhere:** Eleven birds were at Newcastle Bight 31 Oct (Table 16), and single birds at Forster/Tuncurry 12 Jan and Newcastle Baths Sep (Tables 14, 8). *From the above data, at least 375 birds were present in the Region in Jan.* **Atlas:** 50 records from six cells, RR 8.0%

Monthly Peak Counts at Hunter Estuary Locations

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
254	284	279	82	60	157	218	226

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
 Status: Uncommon summer migrant.
 From BLA Atlas: Ten records from four cells.

At least one bird was at Manning Entrance SP 31 Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** One record, from cell R6

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
 Status: Accidental (recorded 1967).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 10.6%; cell of most interest: N9 (24.3%).

Notable records: Manning Estuary: 7-10 birds were present in the summer months, with numbers rising during May-Sep and the peak count being 33 birds in Jun (Table 15). Port Stephens: 19 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 12 Jun but very few birds were recorded any other month and birds were completely absent in summer/autumn (Table 12). Seven birds were near Hawks Nest 19 Jun (JEC). Hunter Estuary: In the regular surveys, modest numbers were recorded all year, with counts rising midyear to a peak of 31 birds 16 Jul (Table 2). However, 18 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 9 Jan, 11 birds 1 Mar, 21 birds 17 Jun and 22 birds 24 Jul (CLT, HBOC, THJ). Newcastle Bight: Formal counts were not often made but 22 birds were recorded 13 May and 19 birds 31 Oct (Table 18). **Breeding:** As usual there was much nesting activity at Stockton Sandspit over Aug-Dec but only 2 nests produced runners and an attempt in Jan also failed (CLT). **Atlas:** 47 records from five cells, RR 8.6%

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
 Status: Winter migrant.
 From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (11.6%).

General: The first recorded arrival was 26 Feb, when a bird was at Nobbys Beach (NIR). One bird was still present at Gir-um-bit NP 16 Oct (Table 12). Manning Estuary: 20+ birds were recorded Apr-Aug with the peak count being 123 birds in June (Table 15). Newcastle Bight: 50+ birds were recorded Apr-May with a peak count of 137 birds 19 May (Table 18). Port Stephens: 35 birds were present 18 Jul and some birds were at Gir-um-bit NP May-Oct (peak count of 19 birds 12 Jun). Also, 20 birds were near Hawks Nest 8 Jul (JEC). Elsewhere: Two birds were at Coon Island Swansea 9 Apr (MIJ) and single birds at Nobbys Beach 26 Feb, 8 Mar and 6 Apr (NIR). **Atlas:** 11 records from four cells, RR 2.1%

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (7.1%).

A single bird was at Manning Entrance SP 17 Feb (STA). 1-2 birds were often recorded at Stockton Sandspit or roosting at KI Dykes over Jan-late Mar (CLT, Table 2, MOA) and three birds were at KI Dykes 7 Jan & 4 Feb (HCL). A single bird was again in the Hunter Estuary over Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** Nine records, from cells M10 and R4

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2004-05, 2007-09).

No reports were received for 2011.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 6.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (19.2%).

Notable records: Some birds were recorded every month in the Hunter Estuary, with numbers rising during Feb-Apr and the peak count 44 birds 16 Apr (Table 2). 21 birds were at Hexham Swamp 13 Sep (Table 7) and six birds at WWW 10 Aug (MEL *et al.*). Two birds were at Saltwater NP 29 Sep and 13 Dec – *not recorded before at this site* (STA). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with eggs at Hexham Swamp 13 Sep (LIA). **Atlas:** 52 records from five cells, RR 10.6%

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (7.1%).

Some birds returned to the Hunter Estuary in Sep, after an absence of 21 months (*since Dec 2009*). All records were from Ash Island, mostly at Milhams Pond and occasionally the nearby Phoenix Flats. The peak count was 16 birds, in Dec (Table 3, MCN, others). **Atlas:** Nine records, all from cell M10

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon bird of passage.
From BLA Atlas: 17 records from 13 cells.

20+ birds were present along Newcastle Bight 20 Aug and 15 birds (as groups of 5 and 10) 31 Oct (Table 18, NEM); also, three pairs were there in Nov (MAW). 14 birds were at Lorn 13 Oct (MEL) and nine birds at nearby Phoenix Park early Oct (BRG); some birds were still present at Lorn 30 Oct (HHB). Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 13 Sep (LIA) and a single bird at Manning Entrance SP 17 Sep (ERE). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 77% of cells, at RR = 33.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (76.0%).

Notable records: 48+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary all months except Sep-Oct, with peak count being 110 birds 22 Jan (Table 2). The peak count at Hexham Swamp was 189 birds 16 Feb and also 119 birds were there 26 Mar (Table 7). 98 birds were at Morpeth WTW 9 Feb with high numbers also there in Mar and several counts of 30+ birds over Jun-Dec (HBOC, Table 11). 76 birds were at Port Stephens in Apr and 50+ birds were present Feb and Nov (Table 13). ~50 birds were together at Newcastle AP 3 May (STA) and 30+ birds at SBS 31 Dec (FRP).

Breeding: There were many records, spanning Aug-Dec. **Atlas:** 441 records from 39 cells, RR 33.7%

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171

HBOC Category: 1 (Revised)

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident, more usual in N of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: R3 (12.4%).

Birds were often recorded at Cattai Wetlands, with peak counts of seven birds 2 May and 9 Jul and some other counts of five birds (Table 16, other observers). A bird was at Cashmere Lane Upper Lansdowne 3 Aug (COD) – *a new location*. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at John Browns Lagoon 3 Jul and 30 Oct (ALP, HHB, DTB), Leneghans Flat 5 & 13 Nov (LIG, ERE), PNR 16 Nov (BRG), Morpeth WTW 14 Dec (LIA) and Hillview Dam 29 Dec (NSWBA). **Breeding:** Some immature birds were at Cattai Wetlands Feb and Apr (FIW, STA) and a pair was copulating there 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). **Atlas:** Ten records from four cells, RR 16.4%

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 BLA Atlas: 19 records from three cells; cell of most interest: L10 (ten records).

After a bird was recorded at Milhams Pond Ash Island 2 Nov (MCN), birds began to assemble the following day at a swale alongside the nearby Cabbage Tree Rd. The peak count was seven birds, and they disappeared after three days (many observers). Elsewhere, two birds were at a wetland 1km S of Ellalong Lagoon 18 Nov (ERE), and a single bird at PNR 24 Nov (CRL).

Atlas: Three records, from cells M10 and J10

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (20.5%).

Notable records: ~12 birds were at Leneghans Flat 13 Nov and eight birds there 19 Nov (ERE). 6-10 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 5 Jan (LUD), East Seaham 11 Oct (CLT), Hands Lagoon 16 Oct (TAH), Cabbage Tree Rd Ash Island 6-12 Nov (many observers) and Green Point Forster 17 Dec (CAA). The first recorded arrival was 21 Aug, when a bird was at Seaham Park (MEL). *As for 2010, very few records were received during the year.* **Atlas:** 25 records from nine cells, RR 3.6%

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

ID No: 152 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.1%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 116 birds 13 Feb, and 110 birds also were present 10 Dec (Table 2). *This is the lowest peak count on record; the trend since 2003 continues to be one of steady decline.* No birds over-wintered, and the first recorded return was 27 Aug, when five birds were present at Stockton Sandspit (ERE). There were no reports from outside the Hunter Estuary. A bird at Stockton Sandspit 16 Jan had been banded there in November 2004 (RIA). **Atlas:** 19 records, all from cell M10

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 12.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (59.0%).

Notable records: An albino bird was at Oyster Cove 8 Nov (WOL). The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was just 909 birds 15 Oct – *the first peak count of <1,000 birds since systematic surveys began.* 600-800+ birds were present in the migration period, and 180-200 birds over-wintered (Table 2, others). 511 birds were in Port Stephens 18 Feb and 462 birds during Nov, and 227 birds over-wintered (Tables 12, 13). The peak count for the Manning Estuary was 161 birds 12-13 Dec with 100+ birds present Jan-Mar and 38-60+ birds in winter (Table 15). 62-77 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in the summer months (Table 9). 29 birds were at Forster/Tuncurry 10 Dec (Table 14). *The counts at all the regularly surveyed sites were lower than normal.* **Movements:** Two birds at Stockton Sandspit 16 Jan had been banded there November 2004 (RIA). A bird in the Hunter Estuary from late Sep was banded as an adult in January 1996 at Corner Inlet Victoria and was at least 17½ years old (per CRL). **Atlas:** 91 records from seven cells, RR 13.5%

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 2011.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 9.8%; cell of most interest: N9 (40.5%).

Port Stephens: 240 birds were recorded 18 Feb and 36 birds over-wintered (Table 13). 27 birds were at Dowardee Island 20 Jan (WOL) and 10-20+ birds often at Gir-um-bit NP (Table 12). **Hunter Estuary:** Most counts were of 10-30 birds but 53 birds were present 11-12 Nov and 43 birds 15 Oct and 11 Feb, and 36 birds 30 Dec (Table 2, HCL). A small number over-wintered (Table 2). **Elsewhere:** In the migration period, 20-21 birds were in the Manning Estuary in Mar and Dec and small numbers in other months, and 15 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in Mar but all other counts were of <6 birds (Table 9). Single birds often roosted (including in winter) at Newcastle Baths (Table 8, others). **Atlas:** 57 records from six cells, RR 9.0%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 18.7%; cell of most interest: N9 (52.6%).

Notable records: 381 birds were in Port Stephens in Nov, with 342-350 birds also recorded 18 Feb and 12 Nov (Tables 12, 13) – *comparable with most other summers and being ~ 1% of the total world population*. The peak count in the Hunter Estuary was 312 birds 15 Oct (*also ~1% of the world population*). 20-30+ birds were in the Manning Estuary in summer (Table 15) and small numbers were present at Swansea/Lake Macquarie and Forster/Tuncurry (Tables 9, 14). About 100 birds over-wintered, mainly in the Hunter Estuary (61 birds) and Port Stephens (36 birds). **Atlas:** 131 records from seven cells, RR 20.8%

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

ID No: 160 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.1%).

Apart from single birds in Port Stephens 18 Feb and 18 Jul (Table 13), all records were from the Hunter Estuary (Fern Bay/Hunter River North Arm). Very few birds were recorded in the regular monthly surveys (Table 2); however, 27 birds were present 4 Mar (HCL) and some other records of 12-15 birds over late Feb-mid Mar (MOA, HCL). *The regional status for this species continues to give great cause for alarm.* **Atlas:** Nine records, all from cell M10

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 1.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.0%).

Three birds were together at KI Dykes 21 Jan and 22 Dec (HCL) and 1-2 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary regularly over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec (Table 2, other observers). Single birds were near Swansea 28 Jan (FIW) and Boolaroo 11 Feb (HCL) – *few previous records from these locations.* **Atlas:** Six records, from cells N9 and M10

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 5.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (17.1%).

Port Stephens remains the stronghold, with 90 birds recorded in Apr and other counts of 50+ birds, and 23 birds over-wintering (Tables 12, 13). Birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary every month except Jun, with peak counts of 65 birds 1 Mar (HBOC) and 45 birds 10 Dec and at least one bird over-wintering (Table 2). Up to five birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in the migration period (Table 9) and 1-2 birds very occasionally in the Manning Estuary (Table 15). Of the migrating population, the last record was of four birds at Stockton Channel 8 Apr and three birds had returned 4 Oct (HCL). **Atlas:** 34 records from four cells, RR 6.4%

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1999, 2008, 2010).

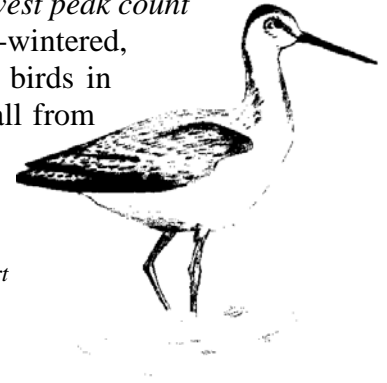
No reports were received for 2011.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 8.4%; cell of most interest: M10 (14.5%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was just 90 birds 22 Jan – *the lowest peak count since the regular monthly surveys commenced in 1999*. No birds over-wintered, and the only reports from outside of the Hunter Estuary were of two birds in Port Stephens 18 Feb and in Sep (Tables 12, 13). **Atlas:** 21 records, all from cell M10



Common Greenshank: sketch by Sally Stuart

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 6.4%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.9%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was just 21 birds 15 Oct. No birds over-wintered, and there were no reports from elsewhere. *Easily the lowest peak count since the regular monthly surveys commenced in 1999; the numbers visiting the Region have plummeted in recent years.* **Atlas:** Ten records, all from cell M10

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-02, 2008-09*).

Two birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 5 Jan (LUD) and a single bird at KI Deep Pond 19 Feb (ROM).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 1.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.9%).

The peak count at Newcastle Baths was 24 birds in Jan, with 14-16 birds present most summer months (Table 8); the birds were also occasionally at nearby locations. 1-3 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Feb and during Oct-Dec (HCL, Table 2), Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*), Port Stephens Nov (Table 13) and Manning Estuary Nov-Dec (Table 15). The first recorded return was 1 Sep, when a bird was at Newcastle Baths (NIR). **Atlas:** 13 records from four cells, RR 2.8%

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

ID No: 165 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.1%).

The only records were from Stockton Sandspit, where six birds were present 1 Nov and four birds 25 Oct (both HCL) and 1-2 birds 21 Jan and occasionally during Oct-Nov (Table 2, HCL, others). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell M10

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant and bird of passage in Sep/Nov (*text added*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 3.6%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.5%).

Small numbers were present in the Hunter Estuary most summer months (Table 2). In the Sep-Nov migration passage, the first birds (a flock of 12) arrived 1 Sep (HLC) and the peak count was ~1,000 birds (at Milhams Pond Ash Island) early morning 9 Oct (MCN). These birds were on passage; only 660 of them were found later that same day – 250 birds at Milhams Pond and 410 birds at the main Ash Island ponds, and the following day only 250 birds were found (all LIA). There were ~100 birds at Stockton Sandspit 8 Oct, 291 birds 15 Oct and 173 birds 18 Oct (CRL, Table 2). Elsewhere, 19 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in Mar (Table 9), and 1-3 birds at Port Stephens locations 19 Jan and in Sep (Tables 12, 13), Forster/Tuncurry 10 Dec (Table 14) and Manning Estuary 27 Nov (Table 15). **Movements:** Two birds in the Hunter Estuary 17 Sep had been flagged in Kamchatka (Russia) and New Zealand respectively (HLC). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant in NE of the Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: R4 (7.0%).

The peak count for the Manning Estuary was 11 birds 27 Nov (Table 15) and there were no reports from elsewhere. **Atlas:** Seven records, from cells R4 and S4

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 7.0%; cell of most interest: R4 (18.2%).

122 birds were in the Manning Estuary 12-13 Dec but only 20-30+ in the other summer months (Table 15). 22 birds were in Port Stephens 18 Feb and 23 in Nov, also one bird was at Gir-um-bit NP 16 Oct (Tables 13, 12). In the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 17 birds 1 Apr (HCL) whilst 13-16 birds were recorded occasionally in Mar and Oct-Dec albeit only rarely during the formal monthly surveys (HCL, Table 2). 1-2 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Sep and Dec (Table 9) and Newcastle Baths 18 Feb and mid Oct (NIR, WOG). Two birds over-wintered in the Manning Estuary. **Atlas:** 25 records from five cells, RR 4.5%

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1995-99, 2001, 2003, 2006-09*).
From BLA Atlas: 12 records from three cells; cell of most interest: M10 (eight records).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 wetlands over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 7.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (10.3%).

Notable records: A flock of at least 1,600 birds was at Swan Pond Ash Island 12 Nov – *this is 1.0% of the Flyway population and Ash Island is therefore a site of international importance for this species*. Birds were present in the Hunter Estuary over Sep-Dec, with numbers rising to the eventual November peak (Tables 2, 3 & 4, others). Also, 212 birds were at Hexham Swamp 27 Nov (Table 7). **Atlas:** 19 records, from cells R6 and M10. Also see Supplementary Records.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered (*revised*) Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 5.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.5%).

The Hunter Estuary peak count was 138 birds 22 Jan and 132-134 birds were also present 10 & 22 Dec (Table 2, HLC). *This is a substantial decline compared with the previous year, which at the time was the lowest count on record. For comparison, many thousands of birds visited every year until the mid 1990s.* The only record from elsewhere was of a single bird at Gir-um-bit NP 13 Aug (Table 12). **Movements:** A bird at Stockton Sandspit 13 Aug had been banded in Victoria some years previously (per CRL). **Atlas:** 16 records, from cells N9 and M10

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1979, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2011.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 (*Revised*) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: NoStatus: Rare summer migrant. (*recorded 1994-95, 2003-04, 2006-07*).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 2011.

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1999, 2006-07, 2010*).

No confirmed reports were received for 2011. See Unconfirmed Records.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (39.1%).

Birds were present in good numbers at Green Wattle Creek 4 Dec after a controlled burn earlier in the year, and a pair was regularly recorded there in Oct-Nov (NEM). 1-2 birds were at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 29 Apr (BRG), Carey Bay 25 Sep (WRK), near Kurri Kurri 28 Oct (WID, HHB), Quorrobolong 30 Oct (CCT), Goulburn River NP 30 Oct (DDR), Copeland 30 Oct (MMT), Rathmines 8 Nov (GOC), and Balickera Mar-Apr and Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 16 records from six cells, RR 5.7%

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 2011.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

ID No: 173 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009).

No reports were received for 2011.

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon visitor, more frequently in winter (revised from: Uncertain).

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens 20 Nov (Table 19).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.

30 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar and 10-20 birds in the corresponding surveys 30 Jan, 20 Mar and 20 Nov (Table 19). 6-8 birds were recorded at sea off Swansea 11 Dec and also several birds 21 Apr (ROS/RIA, ROM *et al.*). A few birds were off Stockton Breakwater 11 Mar (ROS), and 1-2 birds were off Newcastle Beach/Harbour 6 Mar and 1 Jul (MOA, THJ) and off Port Stephens 15 Apr and 22 Oct (Table 19).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

1-2 birds were recorded offshore from Nobbys Beach 12 Mar (LIG), Newcastle Beach Mar (Table 8), Port Stephens 19 & 20 Mar (Table 19) and Swansea Heads 1 Nov (HBOC).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

Seven birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (Table 19). Single birds were offshore from Port Stephens 27 Feb (ERE) and Swansea 11 Dec (ROS/RIA).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: No
Status: Rare (recorded 1977, 1999, 2008-09)

A few birds were offshore from Newcastle Baths 17 Jan (LIG).

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Two birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens on both 19 Mar and 20 Nov (Table 19).

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: R4 (25.8%).

Notable records: A coastline survey between Old Bar and Crowdy Head 13 Dec yielded 726 birds including 246 in breeding plumage (THM/CRB). 300-400+ birds were in the Manning Estuary over Nov-Dec and 200+ birds Jan-Feb; some birds had returned to the Estuary by 19 Jul (Table 15). 40-50+ birds were present in the Hunter Estuary over Feb-Mar, with the peak count being 62 birds 4 Feb (HCL, Table 1). 25-27 birds remained in the Hunter Estuary during late Mar-Apr (HCL), and 31 birds were present 10 Nov with up to 20 birds often recorded during Oct-Dec (HCL). 34 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 18 Feb (Table 13), 30-31 birds along Newcastle Bight over Nov-Dec (Table 18, FAA *et al.*), 23 birds at Newcastle Baths 13 Feb (ROM) and 17 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 9 Apr (Table 9). *In Dec, at least 770 birds were in the Region.* **Movements:** A bird often recorded at Newcastle locations in Oct had been banded at Tokyo Bay Japan. **Breeding:** Despite the loss of Manning Point Spit due to a severe storm in June, there were ~100 nests in the Manning Estuary in Dec including 83 nests at Mudbishops Point with ~250 chicks hatched (CRB). Nine chicks fledged from ~30 nests at the southern side of Newcastle Bight in the 2010/2011 season (per LIA). Also, although not a breeding record, a pair was copulating at Stockton Sandspit 25 Oct (HCL). **Atlas:** 36 records from five cells, RR 6.3%

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common bird of passage all year.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (9.8%).

42 birds were present at Stockton Sandspit 16 Nov and 28-32 birds several other times over late Sep-Nov (HCL); also, 9-10 birds were in the Hunter Estuary (usually at Stockton Sandspit) 13 & 27 Aug (Table 1, BIA). 24 birds were present along Newcastle Bight 31 Oct and eight birds 19 May (Table 18). 1-5 birds were occasionally recorded at Hunter Estuary, Port Stephens and Manning Estuary locations (see Tables) and at Hexham Swamp 15 May (Table 7), Newcastle Baths May and Dec (Table 8) and Morpeth WTW 26 Jun (Table 11). **Atlas:** 19 records from six cells, RR 3.4%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 8.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (33.5%).

Notable records: 24 birds were in Port Stephens 18 Jul and 13 birds in Sep (Table 13), and within the Port, 16 birds were present at Gir-um-bit NP both 7 May and 12 Jun (Table 12). 23 birds were at Hunter Estuary locations (mainly Stockton Sandspit) 19 Feb and 8-10 were often recorded over Feb-Jul (Table 1). ~20 birds were at Pelican Island Wallis Lake 8 Aug (CRG/CRB). 6-10 birds were recorded at Forster/Tuncurry 29 Apr, 16 May and 16 Jun (Table 14), Swansea/Lake Macquarie 7 May (Table 9) and in the Manning Estuary Jun-Aug (Table 15). A bird successfully pirated food from a Crested Tern at Port Stephens 20 Mar (ROM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 71 records from eight cells, RR 5.0%

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Spring migrant and bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 5% of cells, at RR = 1.69%; cell of most interest: L10 (6.2%).

The only record was five birds at Ash Island 15 Oct (MCN/STA). **Atlas:** One record, from cell M10

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 11 records from three cells.

15+ birds were off Stockton Breakwater 28 Apr (LUD) and eight birds at Morpeth WTW 14 Dec (Table 11). Two birds were at KI Dykes 24 Mar (HCL/EGD) and there were several records in March of single birds around Newcastle Harbour. Single birds were also present at Newcastle Baths 13-17 Jan (THJ, ROM, LAM) and Newcastle Harbour 27 Dec (NIR). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells L9 and M10

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1968*).

No reports were received for 2011.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 0.9%; cell of most interest: S4 (5.4%).

Birds regularly roosted at/near Newcastle Baths over May-Oct with 100-130 present over Aug-early Sep (Table 8), and were in the Manning Estuary over Jul-Sep with 33 birds present 4-5 Aug (Table 15). Nine birds were near Hawks Nest 19 Jun (JEC). The first recorded return was 11 May, when a single bird was at Newcastle Baths (ROM) and a single bird was still present at Newcastle Baths 29 Oct (THJ). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells, RR 1.64%

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) 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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (15.7%).

Notable records: At least 445 birds were at/around Newcastle Harbour/Baths in Jan and 200 birds in Dec; birds were present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec but usually in much lower counts and sometimes further into the Estuary (Table 8, also Table 1). Birds were present in the Manning Estuary Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec with peak counts 200+ in Jan-Feb but only low counts over Sep-Dec (Table 15). 240 birds were in Port Stephens 26 Feb including 208 roosting at Corrie Island (ROS) – in comparison, no birds were found in Port Stephens during a comprehensive survey just six days earlier (Table 13). Ten birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 19 Nov (Table 9). Six birds were at Saltwater NP 29 Sep (STA) – *not often recorded at this site*. A single bird was at Morpeth WTW 14 & 19 Dec (LIA/ NEM) – *uncommon location*. The first recorded arrival was 29 Sep, when 30 birds were at Manning Entrance SP (Table 15). **Atlas:** 26 records from five cells, RR 4.6%

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 15.2%; cell of most interest: S4 (49.8%).

Notable records: 586 birds were in the Manning Estuary 27 Nov and there were many counts there of 100-200+ birds (Table 15). The peak count around Newcastle Baths/Harbour was 454 birds in Feb; also 440 were present over Jun-Jul and 150-350 were recorded most other months (Table 8). 369 birds were in the northern part of Wallis Lake 8 Nov and 100+ birds were recorded in the Forster/Tuncurry area over Apr-Jun and Dec (Table 14). 191 birds were in Port Stephens 18 Feb and 100+ birds were recorded several times along the Birubi Point – Fingal Bay coastline (Table 17). 60+ birds were at Port Stephens Apr and Sep (Table 13) and at Saltwater NP 29 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** We were advised that about 30 pairs breed in the Broughton Island Group (CAN). **Atlas:** 108 records from 16 cells, RR 13.6%

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1997, 2008-09*).

A young bird was present at Nobbys Beach in the morning of 4 Jun (THJ) – it was not seen again despite several people searching.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

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

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 24% of cells, at RR = 24.9%; cell of most interest: S4 (56.1%).

Notable records: 1,000+ birds were at Moon Island 28 Dec (STA). 1,000+ birds were also around Newcastle Baths 28 Feb and 16 Mar, and 800+ birds 14 Mar (all THJ). 600 birds were also present there in Apr and 100+ birds Jan-Jun and Sep (Table 8). Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at 7 other locations: Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 465 birds Jan; 100-200+ regularly); Hunter Estuary (438 birds 16 Apr, 270+ Jan-Apr); Newcastle Bight (peak count 179 birds 14 Apr); Birubi-Fingal coastline (peak count 371 birds 9 May, 200+ most months); Port Stephens (808 present in Apr and 532 in Nov); Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 259 birds 30 Mar, 100+ most months over Jan-Jul); and the Manning Estuary (peak count 211 birds 17 Feb, 100+ most months over Jan-Jun) – see Tables for details. Elsewhere, 100+ birds were at Yagon (Myall Lakes NP) 19 Sep (HBOC), Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*) and Swansea Heads 1 Nov (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nests at Broughton Island 8-10 Nov (CLT); about 100 pairs regularly breed in the Broughton Island Group (CAN). There were ten nests at Dora Creek 5 Nov and dependent young were present 29 Nov as well as 18 Feb (GOC). **Atlas:** 177 records from 19 cells, RR 21.4%

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*

ID No: 265

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: P2 (26.1%).

Watagans/Lake Macquarie: Seven birds were at Wollombi 3 Aug and 3-4 birds 8 Mar and 6 Aug (GRJ). 1-2 birds were often at Wyee Point in Feb, Apr, Jul-Aug and Oct-Nov, with a dependent young also present sometimes in Feb-Jul (VDM). Five birds were at Laguna 10 Oct and two birds 18 Jan (RDB), and four birds at Craigmore (Watagans) 20 Apr (BMA). **Central:** 11 birds together and a pair were recorded at Curricabundi NP 29-31 Aug, and several birds there in Feb (DBP *et al.*). Seven birds were at Main Creek Rd 14 Aug (STD) and four birds at Watchimbark NP (M3) 11 May (CLT). 1-2 birds were at Bucketts Range Gloucester 11 Mar (DBP), Upper Rouchel 20 Apr (BMA) and Curricabundi NP 17 May (DBP *et al.*). **West:** Three birds were at Lees Pinch (Goulburn River NP) 30 Oct (ERE), and some birds at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Goulburn River NP 30 Oct (DDR). **Elsewhere:** Six birds were at Violet Hill Rd (Myall Lakes NP) 1-4 Jun (HBOC), four birds at Clarencetown 26 Feb (per WAR), three birds at Nulkaba 21 Feb (ROS) and two birds at Rainbow Flat 1 Jan (MGLB). **Atlas:** 12 records from six cells, RR 10.2%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 11.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (49.5%).

Notable records: 54 birds were at Salt Ash 30 Jan and 43 birds at Weston 28 Mar (both ROS). 20+ birds were at Manning Entrance SP 19 Apr (STA), Wyee 5 Aug (VDM) and Charlestown 21 Aug (HCL).

Breeding: Pairs with dependent young were at Wingen 24 Jan (NEG) and Weston 18 Nov (GOC). **Atlas:** 97 records from 29 cells, RR 7.7%



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo: sketch by Grant Brosie

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 5.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.1%).

12 birds were at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 2 Aug (HBOC), nine birds at Wollombi 1 Mar (GRJ), seven birds at Quorrobolong 1 Jul (MOA) and six birds (3 pairs) at Wollombi 27 Jan (GRJ). 1-5 birds were recorded at Boarding House Dam 20 Feb (HBOC), Kitchener 21-22 & 28-29 Apr and 7 May (several observers), Quorrobolong 30 Jul and 30 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Finchley and Boree Track (both in Yengo NP) 19 Aug (NEM) and Mulbring 30 Oct (DTB). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a fledged young at Kitchener 2 Aug (HBOC). **Atlas:** Ten records from three cells, RR 31.3%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 27.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (63.5%).

Notable records: 37 birds were at Rathmines 12 Nov (GOC) and ~20 birds near Nobbys Beach 9 & 28 Oct (THJ). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Rathmines 12 Nov and Dora Creek 12 Dec (both GOC). **Atlas:** 219 records from 40 cells, RR 17.3%

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (21.9%).

24 birds were recorded at Allandale Rd Cessnock 3 Jul (ALP), 21 birds at Shortland 7 Sep (LIA) and 20 birds at Morpeth WTW 7 Jun (HBOC). 6-10 birds were at East Seaham 8 Feb (GOA *et al.*), Dora Creek 8 Feb and 4 & 20 Mar (GOC), and 1-5 birds at Dora Creek 23 Mar and 7 Apr (GOC), Tuncurry 2 May (STA), HWC Jun, Jul and Oct (LIP), Seaham Park 21 Aug (HBOC), Quorrobolong 29 Oct (DTB) and Belmont South 12 Nov (CJB). **Breeding:** A pair had a dependent young at Dora Creek 1 Feb (GOC). **Atlas:** 27 records from nine cells, RR 3.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 6.8%; cell of most interest: O9 (19.3%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were regularly flying through New Lambton on dusk, towards an unidentified roost site further north (STA). ~200 birds were at Fennell Bay 21 May (GOC) and 100+ birds near Sandy Hollow 22 Apr and at Forster 2 May (both STA) and Dora Creek 2 Aug (GOC). 50+ birds were recorded at Boolaroo 22 Feb (HCL), Warners Bay 13 Mar (GOC), John Browns Lagoon 29 May (ALP) and Shortland 17 Sep (LIA), and often all year at Dora Creek (GOC). 30-40 birds were at HWC Sep and Dec (SRM) and Harrington 28 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 16-23 Jan and 28 Jul (GOC). **Atlas:** 69 records from 16 cells, RR 8.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 16.1%; cell of most interest: H4 (49.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 104 records from 31 cells, RR 9.1%

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident in the extreme NW of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: 17 records from nine cells (many as escapees); cell of most interest: E2 (four records).

No reports were received, other than some Escapees.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 18.4%; cell of most interest: O9 (55.3%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove 5 Apr (HBOC), Dora Creek 31 Jul (GOC), Morisset 31 Jul (ALP), near Nobbys Beach 11 Nov (THJ), and often at HWC over Mar-Apr and Jul-Oct (per SRM). A hybrid with Scaly-breasted Lorikeet was at Dora Creek 16 Oct (GOC). 700+ birds were roosting at Raymond Terrace 5 Apr (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek in Apr, Jun-Sep and Nov-Dec (all GOC) and a nest with young at Speers Point 23 Jul (all GOC). A pair had a nest with eggs at BbR 4 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 263 records from 34 cells, RR 21.8%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: S4 (54.1%).

Notable records: 49 birds were in a Medowie garden 20 Mar (LUD), and many birds were around Port Stephens in late April (EGD). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 31 Jul/1 Aug (GOC). **Atlas:** 110 records from 18 cells, RR 11.1%

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Irruptive visitor and bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: K9 (21.2%).

~400 birds were at Broke Rd Pokolbin during Feb (ROS), while 100+ birds were roosting at Lambton in May (ROM). There were good numbers at Hawks Nest 12-16 Feb (JEC), Port Stephens late Apr (EGD) and Kitchener 30 Apr (ROS), and 1-10 birds at Pelton (Werakata NP) 20 Mar and 22 May (ALP), Green Wattle Creek 24 Mar (NEM), Kilaben Bay 8 May (HCL), Galgappa Point 11 May (CCB), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), Tarro 30 Oct (DTB) and Lambton 2 Nov (ROM). **Atlas:** 21 records from 11 cells, RR 4.8%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 8.0%; cell of most interest: C6 (39.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Port Stephens late Apr (EGD), Morisset 7 Jun (MOA), Quorrobolong 1 Jul (MOA), and 10+ birds at Quorrobolong 11 Mar (ROM/GRL), Morisset 27 Aug (MOA *et al.*), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), Kurri Kurri 23 Dec (ROM) and Yarratt SF Lansdowne 29 Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** 87 records from 19 cells, RR 9.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 14.4%; cell of most interest: Q7 (61.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Medhurst Bridge 17 Apr (SRM) and Rutherford 9 Jun (BRG). 10-14 birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) 16 Mar and 2 Sep (NEM). **Breeding:** A pair had dependent young at Wingen 1 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 136 records from 36 cells, RR 11.4%

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

ID No: 280 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident in W of Region.

From BLA Atlas: 13 records from three cells; cell of most interest: C6 (seven records).

No reports were received, other than some Escapees.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 12.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (73.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Little Murrays Barrington Tops NP 1-3 Feb (CLT/ADJ) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). Hybrids with Eastern Rosella were at Elernmore Vale 27 Aug and near Dungog 31 Aug (WID, JED). The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 82.9% (NEM *et al.*).

Breeding: A pair had a nest with eggs at BbR 4 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 189 records from 31 cells, RR 17.6%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 91% of cells, at RR = 35.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.9%).

Notable records: Around 40 birds were at Wollombi 9 Mar and Fosterton Loop Dungog 10 Dec (GRJ, JED). 23-27 birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) 6 Jan and 3 May (NEM). Hybrids with Crimson Rosella were at Elernmore Vale 27 Aug and near Dungog 31 Aug (WID, JED).

Breeding: Birds had a nest with eggs at BbR 4 Oct (HBOC) and were with dependent young at Wingen 1 Dec (NEG), and were breeding at Black Rock Rd 16 Aug (BRG) and at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 366 records from 48 cells, RR 24.2%

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: J10 (5.8%).

Some birds were at Dora Creek from early Aug until mid Sep (GOC, others). The peak count was 102 birds 23 Aug (ROS), with 60+ birds recorded over 17-25 Aug (GOC, ROS). 30 birds were at Eraring 11 Aug (RIA), 17+ birds at Catherine Hill Bay 30 Apr (ERE), 12 birds at Kitchener 5 May (BAG per RIA) and 3+ birds at Morisset 30 Apr (RIA). Some birds were heard at George Booth Drive in May (RIA). A bird was taken into care early August and released at Eraring (per RIA). **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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 8.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (40.8%).

Notable records: 50 birds were at a property near Warkworth (H8) 22 May (HBOC). 26 birds were at Williamstown 13 Jul (LUD) and 30 birds were regularly present in Maryland late in the year (LIG). 30+ birds were often recorded in Broadmeadow (ROM) – *numbers seem to be rising at this location*. Six birds were at Nobbys Park Newcastle 23 Jun and three birds there 17 Dec (LIN *et al.*, THJ) – *not often recorded at coastal locations*. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Ridgeland Rd (F5) 24 Aug (HCL) and feeding fledged young at Singleton 12 Nov (NEG).

Atlas: 42 records from 17 cells, RR 6.0%

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2005, 2010).

No reports were received for 2011.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: C6 (17.3%).

A pair was recorded at Goulburn River NP 30 Oct (ERE) and single birds near Kurri Kurri 26 & 28 Oct (ROS, WID). **Atlas:** One record, from cell C6

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

ID No: 311 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Probably extinct in the wild within the Region (last recorded 1935 – revised from 1925).

No reports were received for 2011. See Supplementary Records.

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: M8 (41.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 58 records from 20 cells, RR 5.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 9.1%; cell of most interest: J9 (25.9%).

Notable records: Some birds were present until at least 29 Mar, when heard at Nelson Bay (EGD). The first recorded arrival was a bird at Belmont South 2 Aug (CJB); however, there were no further records until 20 Sep when a bird was at Carey Bay (HLC) and a few days later at Raworth (BRG). More widespread arrivals did not commence until 7 Oct. Unusually, there was a winter record of a bird heard, later seen, at Merewether 2 Jun (ALD). **Breeding:** Young birds were being fed by Red Wattlebirds at King Edward Park 9 Jan (THJ), Merewether 10 Jan (NIR), Kurri Kurri 18 Feb (ROS), East Maitland 19 Feb (SMJ) and Lambton 20 Feb (ROM), and by Noisy Miners at Belmont South 10 Feb (CJB). **Atlas:** 79 records from 18 cells, RR 7.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 9.4%; cell of most interest: J9 (30.3%).

Notable records: The first arrival was a bird at Mayfield East 6 Sep (CLT), with more widespread reports commencing almost immediately although some reports appear to have been birds on passage. Separate flocks of 21 and then ~50 birds on passage flew over Nelson Bay 11 Oct (EGD) – large flocks on passage have occasionally been noted before e.g. in 1999 and 2001.

Breeding: Dependent young birds were being fed at Boomerang Beach 1 Jan (MGLB), NLH 23 Jan (TUB), Pacific Palms 3 Feb (MGLB), Cooks Hill 22 Jan (HAP), Forster 7 Mar (MOT) and Belmont South 31 Dec (CJB). The hosts, when mentioned, were Pied Currawongs or Australian Ravens. **Atlas:** 60 records from 19 cells, RR 5.6%

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalıs*

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (8.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. *It is suspected that a decline may be occurring and all records will be tracked in future.* **Atlas:** 14 records from eight cells, RR 2.1%

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

ID No: 341 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon migrant in the central and W of the Region (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*).
From BLA Atlas: 20 records from 13 cells; cell of most interest: G10 (four records).

A bird was at Hulks Rd Goulburn River NP Oct (BRG). **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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 6.4%; cell of most interest: M8 (16.0%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct and four birds there 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). Three birds were at Ash Island 20 Mar (HBOC) and in a Kurri Kurri garden 17 Oct (ROS). **Atlas:** 41 records from 19 cells, RR 3.7%

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (26.6%).

The first recorded arrival was 15 Sep, when a bird was at Pokolbin (ROS). Two birds were at Broke 9 Oct (FRA), and birds were present at 5-6 locations in the upper Hunter 29-30 Oct (HHB). Single birds were also recorded at Green Wattle Creek 11 Oct and 4 Dec (NEM), Medhurst Bridge 28 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Broke 30 Oct (CCT), Cassilis Rest Area 30 Oct (HHB) and Balickera Oct, Nov (MUJ). A bird, presumably on passage, was at Balickera Mar, not having been recorded Jan-Feb (MUJ). **Atlas:** Eight records from five cells, RR 1.3%

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as <5 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 77% of cells, at RR = 14.8%; cell of most interest: M8 (29.5%).

Notable records: 7-8 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct and 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*), and 6+ birds at Johnsons Hill Myall Lakes NP 23 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 173 records from 34 cells, RR 12.8%

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: M8 (10.6%).

3-4 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct and 10/12 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*, STA) and two birds 29 Dec at both Yarratt SF (NSWBA) and Ash Island (BRG). Single birds were recorded at Mt Sugarloaf 24 Mar (GOC), Tomago Wetlands 19 Apr (MCN), Balickera Sep-Dec (MUJ), Johnstone Hill (Myall Lakes NP) 23 Oct (HBOC), Kurri Kurri 29 Oct (HHB), Kitchener 29 Oct (DTB), Hawks Nest early Nov (WIT), Leneghans Flat 13 Nov (ERE), Main Creek Rd 20 Nov (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek 27 Nov & 4 Dec (NEM), Wingen 12 Dec (NEG) and WWW 15 Dec (MEL *et al.*). Birds were heard at several locations in the Region 29-30 Oct (HHB). **Atlas:** 29 records from 14 cells, RR 6.1%

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 2011.

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 2.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (16.5%).

Birds were heard/seen at Balickera Mar, Apr, Sep (MUJ), Violet Hill Road MLNP 11-13 Jun (HBOC), BbR 26 Jun (BOH), Taylors Beach 24 Aug (CLT), Bolwarra Sep (TAH) and Eraring 28 Sep (ECC). **Breeding:** 1-2 birds with an immature bird were sometimes recorded in BbR over Jan-Feb (LIP, ERE) and an adult was with white downy youngster 19 Sep (LIP). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells P7 and M10

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records
Status: Rare resident.

Birds were heard at 5km N of Bulahdelah 2 May (ERE) and Pokolbin 29 Dec (FRP). A dead bird was found 10km S of Muswellbrook 20 Apr (ERE).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 51% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (22.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair bred at Carey Bay, with several sightings of the juveniles late Jan and early Feb (HCL). **Atlas:** 24 records from 11 cells, RR 3.5%

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

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

From BLA Atlas: 18 records from eight cells; cell of most interest: M5 (five records).

Single birds were heard/seen at 3 locations in Barrington Tops NP 4 Feb – along the Scone-Gloucester Rd (ERE). **Atlas:** Nil records

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

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

From BLA Atlas: 32 records from 20 cells; cells of most interest: H8 & N9 (three records each).

See Unconfirmed Records. **Atlas:** Nil records

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

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

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: G6 (26.3%).

Two separate dead birds were found at Ash Island 29 Nov (CLT). Single birds were recorded at Branxton/Gresford 4 Mar (BRG), Pacific Park (Newcastle) 25-26 Jun (NIR, LIN), Tenambit 26 Jul (BRG/KIR), Cooks Hill 9 Aug (HAP), Merewether 9 Aug (NIR), Newcastle West 26 Aug and 6 Sep (CLT), Mt Arthur 12 Sep (NEG), Carey Bay mid Sep (WRK) and at HWC sometimes over Oct-Dec (per SRM). **Atlas:** One record, from cell H7

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

ID No: 252 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare resident.

Single birds were recorded at Lavis Lane Williamtown 25 Aug in daytime (RUN/GER per NEM) and Tomago Wetlands 4 Nov on dusk (MCN).

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: M8 (20.5%).

Notable records: Three birds were at East Seaham 8 Feb (GOA *et al.*) and four birds at HWC Oct (per SRM). **Atlas:** 28 records from 12 cells, RR 3.9%

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 92% of cells, at RR = 35%; cell of most interest: N9 (67.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was carrying food at Wingen 6 Oct (NEG) and birds were breeding at Balickera over Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 365 records from 54 cells, RR 23.7%

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Uncertain (recorded 1998, 2001-02, 2004, 2006, 2010). (Revised from: Accidental)

Two adults and an immature bird were at Yarratt SF Lansdowne 29 Dec (NSWBA). 1-2 birds were present at Cattai Wetlands over Feb-May (STA, FIW) and four birds were recorded there 23 Jul (BRG *et al.*). There were no further records from Cattai Wetlands despite regular monthly visits there (STA).

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 68% of cells, at RR = 13.3%; cell of most interest: N9 (40.5%).

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was at Rothbury 22 Sep (ROS); however there were winter records at Hunter Estuary locations 7 May and 16 Jul (HWS), Woodville regularly in Jun (NEM) and Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul (FIW/JRR *et al.*). 11 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec and six birds there 8 Oct (FIW/JRR *et al.*), and six birds were also at East Seaham 11 Oct (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Marmong Cove 17 Jan (HCL), nest building at Smiths Lake 18 & 30 Sep (FIW), and bred at HWC Oct (per SRM) and at Balickera over Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 118 records from 25 cells, RR 10.0%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 5.1%; cell of most interest: G10 (34.4%).

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was of some birds at Weston 4 Sep and then some were flying over WWW 11 Sep (both ROS). There were 4 reports of large flocks on migration passage: 28 birds at Weston 6 Mar (ROS), ~20 birds at Quorrobolong 11 Mar and Harrington 21 Mar (ROM/ GRL, STA), and 20+ birds at Bulga 20 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** 18 records from 14 cells, RR 4.4%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 65% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: O9 (27.8%).

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was 20 Sep, when a bird was at Hawks Nest (ERE), and widespread reports commenced over the following few days. 30 birds were feeding together at Forster 25 Oct (CAA) and 18 were together at Fosterton Loop Dungog 11 Dec (JED). **Breeding:** Birds were with an immature at Marmong Cove 17 Jan (HCL) and were feeding fledged young at NLH 1 Feb (LIP). **Atlas:** 83 records from 26 cells, RR 6.5%



Dollarbird: sketch by Chris Herbert

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352

HBOC Category: 1 (Revised)

Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon altitudinal migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (16.0%).

In keeping with the normal altitudinal migration pattern, single birds were recorded at Mt Royal 27 Feb (ALP), Allyn River NP 4 Mar (STA), Duns Creek 28 Oct (NEM), Copeland 30 Oct (MMT), Chichester SF 19 Nov (ERE), and at Black Head 4 Apr (MOD), Saltwater NP 3 May and Harrington RF 5 Aug (both STA). Also, four birds, and a nest with one dead bird, were found at Dingo Tops (O3) 31 Dec (NSWBA). More unusual records were of a single bird at Gap Creek Watagans 15 Jan (RIA) – *an easterly summer record albeit from an elevated area* – and a very young bird at Harrington RF 25 Jan and 17 & 21 Feb (STA, MOA) – *suggesting a near-coastal breeding event*. **Atlas:** 15 records from seven cells, RR 9.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 14.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (55.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 43 records from 13 cells, RR 27.0%

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident of the Barrington Tops/Gloucester Tops IBA.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in two cells, at RR = 26.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (35.3%).

The reporting rate from 76 surveys in the Gloucester Tops at >1,150m over Aug-Dec was 35.5% and 26 confirmed territories were identified (NEM *et al.*). The results were supported by some opportunistic records in Feb and May from the more accessible parts of the survey area – along Kerripit Rd and Gloucester Tops Rd and near Gloucester Falls. **Atlas:** 37 records from cell L5, RR 46.6%. *The large number of records and increased reporting rate compared with the previous 13 years reflects the more intensive surveying that has occurred in 2010-2011.*

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 85% of cells, at RR = 21.1%; cell of most interest: L5 (69.1%).

Notable records: The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 80.3% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera during Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 253 records from 43 cells, RR 18.5%

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: K4 (33.3%).

Gloucester Tops: Some birds were recorded 6 Feb, 7 May and 24 Aug (ERE, EGD, STA/ NEM). Birds were recorded just three times in 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). Barrington Tops: Four birds were at Junction Pools 1-2 Feb (CLT/ADJ). Elsewhere: 1-2 birds were recorded at Gap Creek Watagans 16 Jan (RIA), Curricabundi NP 17 May (DBP *et al.*), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Dingo Tops (O3) 31 Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 3.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 7.5%; cell of most interest: E6 (51.4%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct and some birds were feeding young (HBOC). **Atlas:** 13 records from six cells, RR 10.8%

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (30.9%).

Several birds were at Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC) and three birds were at Black Head 26 Apr (MOA). 1-2 birds were often recorded at suitable rainforest locations. **Atlas:** 30 records from 11 cells, RR 5.4%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: R5 (29.6%).

Notable records: 4-7 birds were often present at Saltwater NP (STA, others) and 6+ birds were recorded at Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC). Some birds were at Fosterton Loop, in Aug/Sep – the first known records for this location (JED). **Atlas:** 26 records from ten cells, RR 3.2%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 65% of cells, at RR = 15.3%; cell of most interest: R5 (38.8%).

Notable records: 23 birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) 10 Jun (NEM), attracted to unharvested olives, and 15 birds were at Barnard River (Curricabundi NP) 29-31 Aug (DBP *et al.*). Birds were present in large numbers at Gloucester in Jun (DBP). **Breeding:** A pair bred at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 148 records from 30 cells, RR 12.5%

Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

A single bird was often at North Rothbury during Apr/May and was also recorded at Rothbury 30 Apr and 3 Nov (ROS, ROM, others).

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 44.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (69.1%).

Notable records: 54 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec and 20+ birds were often recorded there (FIW/JRR *et al.*). 20+ birds were also at HWC Feb and Apr-Dec (LIP, SRM), Tomago Wetlands 15 Mar (MCN), Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP), Violet Hill Rd (Myall Lakes NP) 1-4 Jun, Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep, Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct and Ash Island 18 Dec (all HBOC), and often at Yaraandoo and Green Wattle Creek (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan and Oct (MUJ) and had a nest with young at Crowdy Bay Rd 18 Apr (STA). **Atlas:** 595 records from 62 cells, RR 37.9%

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

Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: Q6 (6.3%).

Six birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and 1-5 birds were recorded there 17 Feb, 3 Mar, 17 Sep and 8 & 13 Oct (several observers). Six birds were at Fosterton Loop May 15 (JED) and several pairs along Giro Rd (N3) mid Feb (STA). 1-4 birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 26 Feb (STA), Crowdy Head 20 Jul (STA) and Bucca Wauka (O5) 3 & 4 Oct (WOL). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Martins Creek early Oct (per GOJ) and were feeding fledged young at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec. **Atlas:** Nine records from six cells, RR 4.4%

Variegated 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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 15.2%; cell of most interest: Q6 (37.8%).

Notable records: 30 birds were at HRBG 3 May (HBOC) and 21 birds at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct (FIW/JRR *et al.*). 13-14 birds were also recorded at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul and 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). One bird was recorded at Ash Island 4 Dec (MCN) – *an unusual location*.
Breeding: Birds were feeding fledged young at Tank Paddock Minmi 23 Jan (HBOC), and bred at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 114 records from 27 cells, RR 9.8%

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: M8 (28.1%).

Birds were present every month at Tomago Wetlands with most counts being of 10+ birds and 20-25 birds recorded 18 Jan, 15 Mar and 19 Apr (MCN). Up to ten birds were regularly present all year at Cattai Wetlands (several observers). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at PNR 11 Jan (THJ), Balickera Jan-Apr and Jun (MUJ), Belmont Lagoon 14 Mar (BRG), Fosterton Loop May 15 (JED), Morisset 2 Jul (ERE), 3 locations around Tea Gardens early Nov (WIT) and Old Bar 31 Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** 45 records from seven cells, RR 8.5%

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, 2010*).

No reports were received for 2011.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 10.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (45.8%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Laguna 25 Feb and 10 Oct (GRJ, RDB), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), Goulburn River NP 20 Sep (FRD *et al.*) and Giants Creek Rd 30 Dec (SRM).
Breeding: A pair was with a dependent young at Laguna 25 Feb. **Atlas:** Nil records

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are widely and frequently recorded at rainforest locations (*text added*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 5.1%; cell of most interest: M5 (35.5%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at Peach Tree Allyn River NP 4 Mar (STA), Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC), and Saltwater NP 13 Dec (STA). **Breeding:** Three birds were on nests at Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC), and a bird was nesting near Smiths Lake 20 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 32 records from 12 cells, RR 9.1%

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded; with 6-10 birds not uncommon.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 24.3%; cell of most interest: L5 (68.1%).

Notable records: 15 birds were recorded at HWC Jun, 13 birds in Nov and 16 birds in Oct (per SRM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at BbR 4 Oct (HBOC), were feeding fledged young at Stony Creek Toronto 27 Sep (DUP *et al.*), and also bred at Balickera in Oct (MUJ).
Atlas: 305 records from 42 cells, RR 21.0%

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-2 birds are widely and often recorded at rainforest locations (*text added*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (29.0%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC), and there were good numbers at Black Head 26 Apr (MOA) and Woko NP 6 May (EGD). Four birds were at Saltwater NP 22 Mar (STA) and three birds at Youngville (Mount Royal) 27 Feb (ALP). **Atlas:** 22 records from 12 cells, RR 4.1%

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (32.8%).

Single birds were recorded at Giants Creek 28 May (NEM) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** One record, from cell F6

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 12.1%; cell of most interest: H8 (43.8%).

Notable records: Birds were present in good numbers at Green Wattle Creek 4 Dec after a controlled burn earlier in the year (NEM). 10-15 birds were at Pine Grove Rd 7 May (BRG) and at Hobdens TSR (H8) 26 Dec (ALP), and were present in good numbers at Bulga 19 Mar and Kerrabee 30 Oct (ERE). 6+ birds were at Hobdens TSR 15 May (ALP), Drying TSR (J10) 17 Jul (ALP), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 30 Dec (SRM). Up to four birds were often at an olive grove at Yaraandoo (NEM). **Atlas:** 68 records from 13 cells, RR 18.2%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 11.2%; cell of most interest: H8 (69.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 30 records from 12 cells, RR 18.4%

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 up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 14.1%; cell of most interest: M5 (65.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 3 May (STA), Fosterton Loop 15 May (JED), Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul and 8 Oct (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera over Oct-Dec (MUJ) and were nest building at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct. **Atlas:** 170 records from 29 cells, RR 13.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 22 records from five cells, RR 4.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 5.4%; cell of most interest: H8 (20.8%).

Single birds were recorded at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Wingen 1 Dec (NEG).

Atlas: Nil records**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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 69% of cells, at RR = 11.4%; cell of most interest: L8 (24.2%).

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was 5 Sep, when a bird was heard at Bulahdelah (BIA). 6+ birds were at Rothbury 22 Sep (ROS), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct (FIW/JRR *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Nov-Dec (MUJ).**Atlas:** 83 records from 19 cells, RR 12.8%**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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 13.9%; cell of most interest: L8 (39.8%).

Notable records: 20-21 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 21 May & 11 Aug (NEM).**Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Morisset 3 Aug (ERE). **Atlas:** 127 records from 22 cells, RR 19.1%**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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 23.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (48.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Hobdens TSR 15 May (ALP), HWC 24 Jul (HBOC) and Morisset 31 Jul (ALP). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Myuna Bay 13 Feb (HCL). **Atlas:** 231 records from 41 cells, RR 16.8%**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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 12.0%; cell of most interest: J9 (60.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Giants Creek Rd 24 Aug (HCL). **Atlas:** 73 records from 25 cells, RR 12.7%**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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 55% of cells, at RR = 5.6%; cell of most interest: H8 (41.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 38 records from 19 cells, RR 7.7%**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

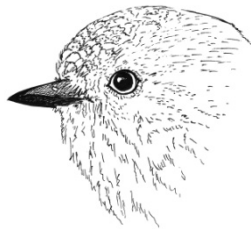
Status: Rare in extreme NW of Region.

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 27.3%; cell of most interest: L5 (82.3%).

Notable records: 60 birds were recorded at Narone Creek Rd (Wollombi) 8 Mar (GRJ) and 20-32 birds at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul, 8 Oct and 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 89.5% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Toronto West 27 Sep (HCL) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), and bred at Balickera over Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 378 records from 51 cells, RR 26.1%



*Brown and Striated Thornbills:
sketches by Allan Richardson*

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 BLA Atlas: 14 records from seven cells; cell of most interest: C6 (six records).

No reports were received for 2011.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded. (*text modified*)
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 24.6%; cell of most interest: L8 (51.6%).

Notable records: The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 56.6% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Kitchener 2 Sep (BRG/LIN), and also bred at Balickera over Sep-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 295 records from 40 cells, RR 21.5%

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

ID No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 15.6%; cell of most interest: H4 (54.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were no confirmed records. Birds were inspecting a hollow at Rothbury 28 Jul (ROS) and nest building at Wingen TSR 15 Sep (NEG). **Atlas:** 184 records from 36 cells, RR 14.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 21.8%; cell of most interest: K11 (48.1%).

Notable records: The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 59.2% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 250 records from 40 cells, RR 18.5%

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 2011.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

ID No: 605 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Up to 15 birds are regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region
(text modified).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 70% of cells, at RR = 29.0%; cell of most interest: L8 (51.9%).

Notable records: 31 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). 8-15 birds were often at Yaraandoo (L8) over Feb-Oct (NEM). **Breeding:** A pair was with dependent young at Morisset 1 Feb (HBOC) and birds bred at Balickera Jan and Sep-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 380 records from 47 cells, RR 27.6%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 91% of cells, at RR = 37.7%; cell of most interest: L8 (77.9%).

Notable records: Many hundreds in flocks of <10 birds were flying through Smiths Lake 8 May (FIW). 50+ birds were recorded at Oyster Cove 5 Apr (HBOC), Morisset 21 May and 9 Jun and 23 Jul (ROM, ERE, RIA), Pelton (Werakata NP) 22 May (ALP), Buttaba 24 May (HCL) and Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep (HBOC). Outside of the main migration period, 20+ birds were at Green Wattle Creek 20 Feb and often over Aug-Dec (NEM) and at Johnsons Hill Myall Lakes NP 23 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera over Sep-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 529 records from 58 cells, RR 35.4%

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncertain.

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: H4 (45.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 20 records from 11 cells, RR 30.3%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 6.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (59.7%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded in Werakata NP (Kitchener, Pelton) 8 May and 2 & 7 Aug and at Quorrobolong 11 Mar (LIG) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 41 records from 12 cells, RR 13.5%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 6.4%; cell of most interest: K10 (20.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 51 records from nine cells, RR 13.7%

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 8.0%; cell of most interest: G8 (66.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Wingen 27 Sep (NEG). **Atlas:** 30 records from 13 cells, RR 4.8%

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

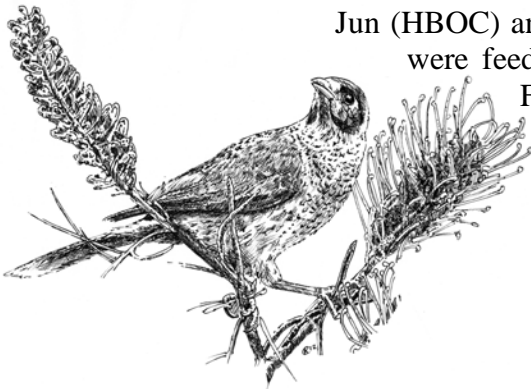
ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 10-30 birds moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 13.5%; cell of most interest: K10 (31.9%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (both HBOC). 20+ birds were recorded at Galgabba Point 11 May and 1 Nov (CCB, HBOC) and Pelton (Werakata NP) 22 May and 7 Aug (ALP). **Atlas:** 93 records from 23 cells, RR 11.7%

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 88% of cells, at RR = 29.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (56.6%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at HWC in May (SRM), Morpeth WTW 7 Jun (HBOC) and Sedgefield Singleton 13 Nov (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a fledged young Eastern Koel at Belmont South 10 Feb (CJB) and had dependent young at Dora Creek 8 Oct (GOC) and HWC 20 Nov (LIP). They also bred at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 324 records from 46 cells, RR 23.6%



Noisy Miner: sketch by Rob Kyte

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula*

ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009).

No reports were received for 2011.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in the W of the Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 7.3%; cell of most interest: F6 (16.9%).

Up to four birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr, 28-30 Oct and 30 Dec (many observers), and 1-2 birds at Giants Creek Rd 18 Apr and 24 Aug (SRM, HCL) and Singleton 28 May (ALP). **Atlas:** Nine records from four cells, RR 27.3%. *There were fewer and less widespread records than have been received in recent years.*

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 19.3%; cell of most interest: R5 (71.0%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Awabakal NR 18 Mar (STA), Crowdy Bay Rd 20 Jul (STA) and Galgabba Point 1 Nov (HBOC). *Two birds were at Woodville from 20 Aug – not before at this location (NEM).* **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Stockton 13 Nov (MEL) and bred at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 231 records from 23 cells, RR 26.1%

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Critically Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon bird of passage.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 7.3%; cell of most interest: K9 (12.6%).

Eight birds were recorded at Morisset 22 May (RIA) and there were regular records from this general area over the following ~11 weeks. The last known record was of 11 birds present 6 Aug and the peak count was 15-16 birds late May with many records of 10-12 birds (RIA, many others). Elsewhere, a single bird was briefly in a garden at Luskintyre 7 Feb (BLT). **Atlas:** 16 records, from cells K11 and L11

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 75% of cells, at RR = 15.5%; cell of most interest: P9 (44.2%).

Notable records: 20 birds were at Oyster Cove 5 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 6 Oct (NEG) and Carrington 11 Dec (GOC), and were feeding young Eastern Koels at King Edward Park 9 Jan (THJ), Merewether 10 Jan (NIR), Kurri Kurri 18 Feb (ROS), East Maitland 19 Feb (SMJ) and Lambton 20 Feb (ROM). **Atlas:** 146 records from 28 cells, RR 11.0%

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

ID No: 448 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 8.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (22.6%).

Birds were often recorded at Ash Island and nearby locations, with the peak count being 22 birds 13 Aug (many observers). The only records from elsewhere were of single birds at Tomago Wetlands 17 May (MCN) and Gir-um-bit NP 13 Aug (MEL *et al.*), 5-6 birds at Hexham Swamp 17 Aug and 13 Sep (LIA), one and four birds at Newcastle Bight 19 May and 31 Oct respectively (MAW *et al.*, NEM *et al.*). *A decline may be occurring.* **Atlas:** 33 records, all from cell M10

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2009*).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 63% of cells, at RR = 11.4%; cell of most interest: M8 (32.1%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were often at Green Wattle Creek over Sep-Dec with 40+ birds 13 Sep and 4 Dec and a peak count of 70 birds 9 Oct (NEM). *These are high numbers for the Region.* 20+ birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) Oct-Dec (NEM) and near Smiths Lake 20 Sep (HBOC), and birds were common at Nelson Bay 30 Mar (EGD), WWW 30 Aug (BRG), Cessnock 4 Sep (ROS) and Werakata NP 31 Oct (ERE). 10-15 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 8 Jan (NEM), Oyster Cove 5 Apr (HBOC), Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul and 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Sugar Creek (Wallingat NP) 20 Sep (HBOC), HWC Sep (per SRM) and Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC). There were 7 other reports of 6+ birds. **Breeding:** There were records at Balickera spanning Sep-Dec (MUJ), and birds were with fledged dependent young at Gloucester 8 Feb (DBP). **Atlas:** 202 records from 32 cells, RR 15.0%

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops*

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, of coastal heathlands.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: R6 (19.1%).

The only report received was of a single bird at Awabakal NR in Nov (POJ). **Atlas:** 14 records, from cells R6 (13 records) and M10

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are often recorded in shrublands at/near coastal locations.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: R6 (21.2%).

Notable records: 14 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct and 11 birds there 9 Jul (FIW/JRR *et al.*). Away from the coast, 1-5 birds were recorded at Seaham 21 Aug and Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep (both HBOC), and 1-2 birds sometimes at two sites around Gloucester (DBP). **Atlas:** 79 records from 17 cells, RR 10.2%

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 10.4%; cell of most interest: L5 (23.3%).

The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 35.5% (NEM *et al.*). Within this area, some birds were at Kerripit Rd 12 Feb (STA). **Atlas:** 28 records, all from cell L5

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: R6 (21.3%).

30+ birds were at Awabakal NR 18 Mar (STA), where birds were also reported to be common in Nov (POJ). 6+ birds were at Gloucester Falls 7 May (EGD), Myall Lakes NP 19 Sep and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (both HBOC). 1-5 birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 10 Feb (STA), Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep and Smiths Lake 20 Sep (both HBOC), Awabakal NR 30 Oct (MMT), Swansea Heads 1 Nov and 28 Dec (HBOC, STA), Galgabba Point 1 Nov (HBOC) and Manning Entrance SP 31 Dec (NSWBA). Birds were recorded ten times in 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 33 records from seven cells, RR 6.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 12.9%; cell of most interest: R6 (43.3%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Morisset 9 Jun and 31 Jul (ERE, ALP) and Crowdy Bay Rd 20 Jul and 5 Aug (STA). Four birds were present at Kitchener 8 May (ALP) – a westerly record. **Breeding:** Two pairs were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 18 Sep (FIW). **Atlas:** 127 records from 18 cells, RR 14.7%

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

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

Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: C6 (13.6%).

Some birds were recorded near Singleton 17 Jul (ALP) and at Kitchener 2 Sep (BRG/LIN), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek 4 Oct (NEM) and Goulburn River NP 30 Oct (DDR). In Oct there were several reports from near Kurri Kurri (ROS, others) and some young birds were recorded there 23 Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records, from K10 and L8

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 6.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (54.7%).

Notable records: 16 birds were at Buttaba 24 May (HCL) and three birds at Bulahdelah 5 Aug (STA) – *uncommon easterly records*. **Breeding:** There were no confirmed records. A pair was copulating at Rothbury 28 Jul (ROS). **Atlas:** 33 records from 15 cells, RR 10.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 63% of cells, at RR = 9.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (54.2%).

Notable records: 150+ birds with many juveniles were recorded at Quorrobolong 11 Mar (ROM/GRL) and birds were also present in good numbers at Pine Grove Rd 7 May (BRG) and Morisset 9 Jun and 23 Jul (ERE, RIA) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera spanning Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 83 records from 18 cells, RR 12.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 6.2%; cell of most interest: G10 (48.6%).

Notable records: Six birds were together at Rutherford 9 Jun (BRG). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Singleton 30 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** 40 records from 13 cells, RR 8.4%

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds widely & regularly recorded, and up to 50 birds moderately often.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 88% of cells, at RR = 21.0%; cell of most interest: K10 (41.9%).

Notable records: Flocks of 10-20 birds and one flock of 43 birds were flying north over Weston 7 Feb; birds were still flying over Weston in large numbers 21 Feb (ROS). Many birds were flying through Smiths Lake 8 May (FIW). Large numbers were present at Nelson Bay 30 Mar (EGD), Port Stephens late Apr (EGD), Morisset 9 Jun and 23 & 31 Jul (ERE, RIA, ALP). ~100 birds were at Crowdy Bay Rd 20 Jul and ~50 birds there 18 Apr and 5 Aug (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Myall Lakes NP 19 Sep and had a nest with young at Main Creek Rd 20 Nov (both HBOC). **Atlas:** 214 records from 48 cells, RR 15.6%

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 0.98%; cell of most interest: G6 (10.5%).

A single bird was recorded at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Nil records

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 7.7%; cell of most interest: G8 (41.9%).

Notable records: 16 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul and 13 birds there 10 Dec (FIW/ JRR *et al.*). **Breeding:** A pair was nesting at HWC 12 Nov (RMS). **Atlas:** 75 records from 20 cells, RR 8.8%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: G8 (10.4%).

Some birds (peak count of 4) were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 20 Sep (TAH), late Oct (several observers) and 29 Dec (SRM). A single bird was at Ellalong 6 Oct (ERE). **Atlas:** Four records, from cells G8 and J10

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 13.0%; cell of most interest: J9 (47.7%).

Notable records: 15+ birds were at Wingen TSR 15 Sep (NEG) and 7-9 birds near Warkworth 22 May (HBOC) and at Wollombi 17 Sep (GRJ) and Sedgefield (Singleton) 13 Nov (ALP). The most easterly records were for Irrawang Swamp 19 Dec (MEL) and regularly at Balickera (MUJ). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Wingen TSR 15 Sep (NEG). A report of nest building at Bulga 22 May (HBOC) is considered more likely to have been birds constructing a roost. **Atlas:** 56 records from 15 cells, RR 12.0%

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in central and W of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 8.7%; cell of most interest: C6 (22.7%).

Two birds were recorded at Giants Creek Rd 30 Dec (SRM). **Atlas:** Nil records

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (13.6%).

1-2 birds were at Gloucester Tops Rd 21 Sep (NEM *et al.*), Seal Rocks 30 Dec (BUD) and Dingo Tops (O3) 31 Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells L5 and Q7

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (51.6%).

1-5 birds were recorded at Kitchener 8 Mar and 24 Aug (KIR/BRG, ALP), Mt Sugarloaf 17 Mar, 27 Apr and 31 May (GOC), Pelton 20 Mar (ALP), Upper Rouchel 20 Apr (BMA), Curricabundi NP 16-18 May and 29-31 Aug (DBP *et al.*), Baerami Creek 2 Oct (STA) and Ringwood Rd 30 Oct (ERE), and some birds (possibly >5) were at Kerrabee (Wollemi NP) 30 Oct (ERE). **Atlas:** Eight records from five cells, RR 7.8%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 66% of cells, at RR = 25.7%; cell of most interest: R5 (65.2%).

Notable records: 10+ birds were at Green Wattle Creek Apr, Jul-Aug and Oct (NEM) and Yagon (Myall Lakes NP) 19 Sep and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (both HBOC). The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 68.4% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 341 records from 37 cells, RR 26.9%

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 53% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: H8 (27.3%).

Notable records: 12 birds were at Oyster Cove 5 Apr (HBOC) and eight birds at Black Rock Rd (Martins Creek) 20 May (NEM) and Tomaree NP 27 May (EGD). Six birds were at Wingen TSR 15 Sep (NEG). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 18 Sep (FIW). **Atlas:** 30 records from 12 cells, RR 7.8%

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1993-94, 2000, 2004).

Two birds were flying over Ulan Coal Mine, in the far W of the Region, on 27 Dec (SCN).

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 86% of cells, at RR = 28.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (52.7%).

Notable records: 23 birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) in July and 15 birds in May – they were feeding on olives (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Galgabba Point 1 Nov (HBOC) and also nested at Main Creek Rd in Nov (STD). **Atlas:** 260 records from 45 cells, RR 17.3%

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (26.6%).

Three birds were recorded at Yarratt SF 29 Dec (NSWBA) and 1-2 birds were at Werakata NP 22 Apr, 24 Aug and 29 Oct (LUD, ALP, DTB), Bucketty 29 Jul (ERE), Martins Creek 16 Aug (BRG), Green Wattle Creek 13 Sep (NEM), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), Myall Lakes NP 23 Oct (HBOC), Rothbury 3 Nov (ROS) and Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). **Atlas:** 20 records from five cells, RR 7.3%

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 2011.

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.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.7%).

Notable records: Five birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). The first recorded arrival was 17 Oct, when a bird was heard near Kurri Kurri (ROS). **Atlas:** 29 records from 14 cells, RR 6.1%

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 1.9%; cell of most interest: F7 (16.4%).

20+ birds were feeding together at Ringwood Rd 30 Oct (ERE) – *the largest grouping reported for the Region*. All other records were of 1-5 birds – at Medhurst Bridge 17 Sep (TAH), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC), near Kurri Kurri mid-late Oct (many observers), Rothbury 3 Nov (ROS), Wingham 17 Nov (ERE), Ash Island mid Dec (MCN), Hexham Swamp 18 Dec (LIA), Kurri Kurri 23 Dec (ROM) and Hobdens TSR 26 Dec (ALP). **Breeding:** There were no confirmed records. A pair was nest building at East Seaham 23 Dec (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** Five records from five cells

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (11.2%).

Two birds were at Harrington RF 3 Mar (LIG) and three birds there 5 Jun (TAH) – *another intriguing winter record at this location*. A bird was recorded at Cape Hawke 3 Aug and 16 Oct (MOT) – *this is a range extension; previously there were no known records south of the Manning Estuary*. **Atlas:** Two records, from cell R6

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (47.2%).

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Morisset 31 Jul (ALP). Two birds were at Wingen TSR 15 Sep – *a very uncommon record for this site* (NEG). **Atlas:** 29 records from ten cells, RR 7.1%

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident of highland areas.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 7.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (26.8%).

Gloucester Tops: Three pairs were reported present 6 Feb (ERE). The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) over late Aug-Dec was 22.4% (NEM *et al.*). **Barrington Tops:** 1-2 birds were at Black Swamp 1 Feb, Junction Pools 1-2 Feb and Little Murrays Trail 2 Feb (CLT/ADJ). **Atlas:** 17 records, all 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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 24.5%; cell of most interest: L5 (58.4%).

Notable records: 29 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct and 24 birds 10 Dec (FIW/ JRR *et al.*). The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 55.3% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Boarding House Dam 20 Feb (HBOC). **Atlas:** 323 records from 49 cells, RR 22.2%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 18.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (54.0%).

Notable records: 16 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 4 Dec (NEM). The first recorded arrival was 25 Aug, when a bird was at Duns Creek (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 185 records from 35 cells, RR 14.5%

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 24.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (82.8%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and seven birds at Kitchener 24 Aug (ALP). **Atlas:** 279 records from 47 cells, RR 19.9%

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: R5 (44.2%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were at Cooks Hill 30 Oct (HAP) and ~40 birds at Eraring 22 May (HCL). Interesting westerly records were six birds at Matilda Place Singleton 12 Nov and three birds at Muswellbrook 13 Nov; the Singleton birds are regularly present there (NEG). **Atlas:** 86 records from 20 cells, RR 8.3%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 13.4%; cell of most interest: Q6 (34.3%).

Notable records: About ten birds were at Galgabba Point 28 Dec (STA). Six birds were at HWC in Feb (per SRM) and Green Wattle Creek 9 Oct (NEM). **Breeding:** A pair nested at Pacific Palms late 2010, continuing into 2011 (MGLB), and birds were breeding at Balickera Jan and Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 147 records from 34 cells, RR 11.5%

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 10 birds (*revised*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 7.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (20.9%).

Notable records: 40-50 birds were at Belmont Lagoon 14 Mar (BRG) and 24 birds at Tomago Rd 19 Apr (CRL). The first recorded arrival was 22 Aug, when 10+ birds were at Mayfield (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Morisset 27 Dec (GOC), and some immature birds were at Hexham Swamp 16 Jan (HCL). **Atlas:** 56 records from 11 cells, RR 7.8%

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare irruptive visitor (*recorded 1994-95, 2001-02, 2006-09*).
From BLA Atlas: Eleven records from seven cells.

A few birds were recorded near Kurri Kurri 17 & 24 Oct, and some were in mixed flocks with *A. superciliosus* at Broke 18 Sep and Kurri Kurri 19 Sep (all ROS). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell K9

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: K9 (7.4%).

A flock of 300+ birds and two flocks of 50-80 birds flew over Broke 18 Sep and ~60 birds flew over Kurri Kurri 19 Sep (ROS). There were no further records until 300+ birds were flying near Kurri Kurri 18 Oct (ROS). There were frequent reports of some birds near Kurri Kurri for the following 4 weeks (several observers) with a peak count of 600+ birds 24 Oct (ROS). The only other record was of some birds at Ringwood Rd 30 Oct (ERE). **Breeding:** Two pairs were nest building at Kurri Kurri early Nov but apparently did not successfully breed (ROM). **Atlas:** Five records, from cells C6 and K9

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: G8 (25.6%).

Notable records: ~80 birds were near Kurri Kurri 18 Nov (GOC) and 10+ birds at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 19 records from eight cells, RR 4.9%

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1987).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 84% of cells, at RR = 24.9%; cell of most interest: L11 (39.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec (MUJ), were feeding fledged young at NLH late Sep (LIP) and had a nest with young at HWC 27 Oct (LIP). **Atlas:** 279 records from 44 cells, RR 19.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 22.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (47.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Morpeth WTW Jan (LIA), Dora Creek 21 Oct (GOC) and Swan Bay/Girum-bit NP 19 Dec (HAS/MAC). **Atlas:** 241 records from 38 cells, RR 25.0%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 92% of cells, at RR = 47.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (83.3%).

Notable records: 27 birds were present at Mt Arthur 12 Sep (NEG). A white-backed bird was at Ellalong Mar-May (MCC) and Tomago Nov (OCG). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 9 Oct (GOC) and a nest with young at Belmont South mid Oct (CJB), and bred at Balickera spanning Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 549 records from 57 cells, RR 37.6%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 26.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (58.4%).

Notable records: ~150 birds in 15 minutes flew over Wingham Brush 5 May (MGLB), and 54 were flying over Weston 29 Jul (ROS). Large numbers were flying over Lambton Park 7 May (WID) and at Wingen 12 Jun (NEG). Many birds arrived at Gloucester in April, and this was reported to be a regular occurrence each year (DBP). Numbers rose at Yaraandoo (L8) over Apr-Sep, to a peak of 22 birds; they were feeding on olives (NEM). **Breeding:** There were many records spanning Sep-Nov, and birds were feeding Channel-billed Cuckoos at Boomerang Beach 1 Jan, Cooks Hill 22 Jan and Belmont South 22 Jan (MGLB, HAP, CJB). **Atlas:** 289 records from 53 cells, RR 20.0%

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon resident of highlands in far SW of the Region (recorded 1995, '97, 2005, '07, '09).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 5.4%; cell of most interest: R6 (25.5%).

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was 8 Feb, when three birds were at Bobs Farm (SRM); however, more widespread reports did not occur until early Mar. A bird was still present at Tighes Hill 9 Nov (CLT) and two birds were at Tinonee 29 Dec (NSWBA) – *the first Dec records for the Region since 1999*. **Atlas:** 37 records from nine cells, RR 5.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: K11 (20.2%).

Notable records: Birds were still present at Ash Island 17 Apr and Glenrock SCA 23 Apr (ALP, WID). The first recorded arrival was 12 Oct when some birds were at Flaggy Creek (CLT). 6+ birds were at Boarding House Dam 20 Feb (HBOC). Birds were recorded just once in 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Mudbishops Point 15 Jan (MGLB) and feeding fledged young at Harrington RF 21 Feb (MOA), and bred at Balickera Jan and Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 43 records from 19 cells, RR 4.2%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 42.0%; cell of most interest: L8 (74.6%).

Notable records: 27 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and 20-22 at Green Wattle Creek 24 Mar and 9 Oct (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan and over Oct-Dec (MUJ) and were feeding fledged young at Redhead 6 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 551 records from 62 cells, RR 35.7%

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded, and occasionally up to 10 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 36.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (76.0%).

Notable records: 20 birds were present at PNR 9 Apr and at Morpeth WTW 7 Jun (HCL, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Redhead 6 Dec (HBOC) and with dependent young at HWC in Nov (per SRM) and Wangi Wangi 12 & 21 Dec (GOC), and also bred at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 406 records from 54 cells, RR 28.0%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 36.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (66.0%).

Notable records: 25 birds were along Newcastle Bight 19 May (MAW *et al.*). Numbers rose at Yaraandoo (L8) over May-Aug, to a peak of 20 birds; they were feeding on olives (NEM). **Breeding:** There were four records over Oct-Nov, and birds were feeding a Channel-billed Cuckoo at NLH 23 Jan (TUB). **Atlas:** 364 records from 52 cells, RR 25.6%

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Status: Resident, in the NE of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: R6 (17.9%).

Nine birds were at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul and up to 5 birds were often present (FIW/JRR *et al.*, STA, others). 1-5 birds were also recorded regularly at Saltwater NP and Harrington (STA) and at Crowdy Bay Rd 20 Jul (STA) and Dingo Tops (O3) 31 Dec (NSWBA). **Atlas:** 38 records from eight cells, RR 7.5%

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, in the Gloucester / Barrington Tops area and around Wollemi NP (*text added*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: N5 (27.9%).

36 birds were near Yarrowa 27 Apr (HCL), and some birds were recorded at Curricabundi NP 16-18 May and 29-31 Aug (DBP *et al.*). Birds are resident in Gloucester (DBP). **Atlas:** 21 records from four cells, RR 18.4%

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: YesStatus: Usual resident. Up to 10 birds are often recorded north of Port Stephens and 1-5 birds south to around Maitland and west to around Dungog (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 8.8%; cell of most interest: R4 (39.7%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded near Mulbring (ROM) – *this continues to be the southernmost known population*. Birds were heard regularly in East Maitland all year (SMJ). Some birds were recorded at HWC Sep and Nov-Dec (SRM). **Atlas:** 79 records from 16 cells, RR 10.1%

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. Up to 5 birds are moderately often recorded Jan-Mar and mid-Sep onwards.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 6.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (40.6%).

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was 1 Oct, when a bird was heard at Baerami Creek (HBOC). Six birds were at Green Wattle Creek 27 Nov and 4 Dec (NEM). **Atlas:** 52 records from 15 cells, RR 5.0%

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

A bird was heard at Careys Peak Track (Gloucester Tops) 10 Feb (STA).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: G7 (23.7%).

Three birds were recorded at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and some birds at Cattai Wetlands 25 Jan (STA), Bulga 22 Apr (WID), Curricabundi NP 16-18 May (DBP *et al.*), Ash Island 21 Sep (BRG) and Stroud 18 Nov (HCL). Birds are resident at Wingen (NEG). **Atlas:** Nine records from seven cells, RR 4.5%

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 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 7.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (33.6%).

Notable records: Late departing birds were at Glenrock SCA 23 Apr (WID) and HWC early May (per SRM). The first recorded arrival was 18 Sep, when a bird was at Tighes Hill (CLT). Six birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC) and “many” birds at Chichester SF 19 Nov (ERE). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera over Nov-Dec (MUJ) and an immature bird was at Copeland FP 10 Feb (STA). **Atlas:** 55 records from 17 cells, RR 8.9%

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: S4 (16.1%).

Up to 4-5 birds were regularly recorded at Harrington RF over Jan-Apr and early Aug-Dec (STA). Three birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC) and 1-2 birds at Darawank 11 Feb (MGLB), Allyn River FP 4 Mar (STA), Saltwater NP 22 Mar and 29-30 Sep (STA, ROS), Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC), Sugar Creek (Wallingat NP) 20 Sep (HBOC), Sharpes Creek 20 Oct (HBOC) and Chichester SF 19 Nov (ERE). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Harrington RF 28 Sep (STA) and two birds on nests at Cabbage Tree Rd 20 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 15 records from five cells, RR 18.5%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 84% of cells, at RR = 36.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (83.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds often congregated in a Woodville garden near dusk during winter (NEM). **Breeding:** A bird was on a nest at Redhead 6 Dec (HBOC) and birds also bred at Balickera in Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 387 records from 46 cells, RR 27.7%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: H8 (35.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 48 records from 17 cells, RR 15.6%

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: M4 (13.3%).

2-3 birds were at Chichester SF 19 Nov (ERE) and single birds at Copeland FP 10 Feb (per STA), Kerri Rd 21 Sep (DBP), Bulga SF ~19 Nov (CRG) and Tapin Tops NP (P2) 22 Nov (ERE). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 68% of cells, at RR = 12.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (60.9%).

Notable records: 14-15 birds were at Yaraandoo (L8) over Jul-Aug (NEM) and 13 birds at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young near Kurri Kurri 17 Oct (BRG). **Atlas:** 106 records from 25 cells, RR 19.8%

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (34.4%).

Two pairs were at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 28-29 Apr (BRG), three birds 6 May (ROM) and some birds also there 21 Apr, 1 May, 3 Jul and 2 Aug (SRM, ALP, HBOC). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: H8 (34.7%).

Four birds were at Hobdens TSR 15 May (ALP) and 1-2 birds were recorded at Bulga 19 Mar (ERE), Jones Reserve Rd 29 Apr (TAH), Pine Grove Rd 7 May (BRG), Giants Creek 28 May (LIA), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Hobdens TSR 26 Dec (ALP). **Atlas:** One record, from cell F6

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: K4 (55.0%).

Barrington Tops: On 3 Feb, six birds were recorded at Little Murrays Hut and 2-3 birds at Little Murrays Trail and Barrington Trail (CLT/ADJ). Three birds were at Edwards Trail 2 Mar (CLT). **Gloucester Tops:** Birds were recorded four times in 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). **Elsewhere:** 1-2 birds were recorded at Watchimbark NP (M3) 11 May (CLT) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Five records, from cells L5 and G10

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

ID No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident (altitudinal migrant). 1-5 birds are often recorded at low-mid altitudes Apr-Aug and mid-high altitudes in other months.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (29.9%).

Notable records: Five birds were at Dungog Town Common 21 Aug (JED/STD). The reporting rate from 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 36.8% (NEM *et al.*). The latest record from low-mid altitude was 16 Sep, when a bird was still at Duns Creek (NEM). However, a bird was already at Gloucester Tops 24 Aug (STA/NEM). **Atlas:** 54 records from 12 cells, RR 11.8%

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident, in west of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 5.4%; cell of most interest: H8 (15.9%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Bulga 19 Mar (ERE), Giants Creek 18 Apr and 28 May (SRM, LIA), Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Goulburn River NP 30 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells F6 and I8

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (11.1%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Copeland FP 10 Feb (per STA), Peach Tree Allyn River NP 4 Mar (STA), The Grandis (Bulahdelah) SF 19 Mar (MGLB), Violet Hill Rd (Myall Lakes NP) 11-13 Jun (HBOC) and O'Sullivan's Gap (Myall Lakes NP) 2 Nov (ERE). *The Violet Hill Rd location appears to be the coastal southern limit of the range. Birds were recorded in the same general area in 1994 and 2009 but not during visits in 1998 and 2002. NB The Grandis is not much further north.* **Atlas:** Four records from four cells

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

ID No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded, and occasionally 6-10 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 26.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (48.9%).

Notable records: 21 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Oct (FIW/JRR *et al.*). 13 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 25 Jul and 6-10 birds in Jan, Aug & Dec (NEM). **Breeding:** There were several reports, spanning Feb and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 366 records from 53 cells, RR 25.6%

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafrja javanica*

ID No: 648 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central and W of region.
From BLA Atlas: 21 records from ten cells; cell of most interest: G7 (five records).

Single birds were recorded at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and Ringwood Rd 30 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** Nil records

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 2011.

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 10.4%; cell of most interest: L10 (31.0%).

Notable records: 26 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 15 Mar and there were several records of 12-20+ present in other months (MCN). 20+ birds were also at East Seaham 8 Feb (GOA *et al.*), Hunter Estuary locations 15 Oct (HWS), Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*) and Ash Island 18 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were no confirmed records. Birds were displaying and nest building at Broughton Island 8-10 Nov (CLT). **Atlas:** 95 records from 14 cells, RR 15.4%

Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident. 1-10 birds often recorded Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec (*text modified*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (32.6%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at HWC 12 Jan (LIP), Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP), WWW 15 Dec (MEL *et al.*) and Ash Island 18 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 75 records from 14 cells, RR 10.4%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 7.5%; cell of most interest: M8 (22.3%).

Notable records: 15 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and 6+ birds at Tomago Wetlands 18 Jan, 20 Sep and 20 Dec (MCN), Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP) and Broughton Island 13-15 Sep and 8-10 Nov (CLT *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Manning Entrance SP 29 Sep (STA) and carrying food at Broughton Island 8-10 Nov and Cattai Wetlands 12 Dec (CLT, STA). **Atlas:** 74 records from 12 cells, RR 12.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 8.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (24.4%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 10 Dec (FIW/JRR *et al.*). **Atlas:** 75 records from five cells, RR 15.7%

Little Grassbird: sketch by Rob Kyte

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: E6 (25.8%).

The earliest known arrival was 20 Sep, when six birds were recorded in the Martindale/Bureen area (TAH) and a single bird at Milbrodale (BRG). Three birds were at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC) and single birds at WWW 21 Sep (BRG), Wingen 27 Sep (NEG), Kurri Kurri 17 & 29 Oct (BRG, DTB), Martindale 29 Oct (CCT), Medhurst Bridge 30 Oct (MOA *et al.*) and Woodville 21-22 Nov (NEM). **Atlas:** 18 records from ten cells, RR 7.0%

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central/west of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.52%; cell of most interest: H10 (10.2%).

At least one bird was at Martindale 29 & 30 Oct (CCT, MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** One record, from cell G7

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 east of the Region during Apr – mid-May and mid-Jun – Jul.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 24.8%; cell of most interest: L11 (39.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 282 records from 46 cells, RR 18.7%

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised) Breeding: Past records

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 1.73%; cell of most interest: G7 (5.5%).

Two birds were recorded at Inlet Rd Bulga 20 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** Nil records

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 up to 50 birds near medium-large waters.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 33.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (64.2%).

Notable records: 112 birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 19 Mar (HWS) and 50+ birds Morpeth WTW 7 Jun (HBOC). 20+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP), Fosterton Loop May 15 (JED), Yaraandoo (L8) 14 Jul (NEM) and Broughton Island 8-10 Nov (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Smiths Lake 18 Sep (FIW), and had nests with eggs/young at Broughton Island 13-15 Sep (CLT *et al.*), Morisset 3 & 25 Oct and Wangi Wangi 11 Oct (all GOC), and bred at Balickera spanning Aug-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 340 records from 54 cells, RR 23.8%

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 east/central of the Region Jan to mid-Mar and from early Aug.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.9%).

Notable records: Some birds were still present 22 Apr, when 6+ were recorded at Hexham Swamp (ALP), and the first known arrival was 24 Aug when a single bird was at Berrico (STA/NEM). 50+ birds were recorded at Singleton WWTP 15 Jan (ALP) and Ash Island 18 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were 5 separate small colonies at Hexham Swamp in spring/summer (LIA). **Atlas:** 29 records from ten cells, RR 5.7%

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; many birds over-winter (*text modified*). Up to 20 birds are occasionally but widely recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 5.6%; cell of most interest: H7 (16.7%).

Notable records: 100 birds were at Irrawang Swamp 19 Dec (MEL) and 50+ birds at Junction Pools (Barrington Tops NP) 1-2 Feb (CLT/ADJ). **Atlas:** 36 records from 19 cells, RR 3.7%**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Records from six cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: M11 (32.8%).

Six birds were recorded at Swansea Heads/Caves Beach 1 Nov (HBOC) and single birds in the same area 27 Jun and 28 Dec (HOB, STA). **Atlas:** Three records, from cell L11**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: M5 (23.4%).

Three birds were at Youngville (Mount Royal) 27 Feb (ALP) and two birds near Eccleston 24 May (NEM) and at BbR 5 Sep (NIJ) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). All other records were of single birds, where numbers were noted: at Gap Creek, Boarding House Dam and Watagans Forest Reserve all 20 Feb (HBOC), Youngville 27 Feb (ALP), Peach Tree Allyn River NP 4 Mar (STA), Gap Creek Watagans 20 Mar (BMA), BbR 13 May (THJ), Carey Bay 1 Jun (WRK), Harrington RF 20 Jul (STA), Copeland 30 Oct (MMT), Watagans 30 Oct (DTB), Tapin Tops NP (P2) (Dingo Tops (O3) Rest Area) 22 Nov (ERE), and at Balickera often over Jul-Nov (MUJ). Also, birds were recorded four times in 76 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 19 records from 11 cells, RR 11.7%

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (20.6%).

Two birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd (Main Creek) 20 Nov (HBOC) and single birds at Saltwater NP 4 Aug (STA) – *coastal records do not occur often*, Sharpes Creek 22 Sep (STA) and Copeland 30 Oct (MMT). A dead bird was found in a garden at Fosterton Loop 16 May (JED).

Atlas: Seven records from four cells**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*ID No: 991 HBOC Category: 1 (*Revised*) Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, in central and W of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: K4 (22.2%).

Birds were reported to be resident and widely distributed in both Kurri Kurri and Cessnock (ROS) and to also be resident at East Maitland and Rutherford (SMJ, BRG). A pair was also regularly present at Raworth (BRG). A pair was at Baerami Creek 3 Oct (STA) – *a non urban location*, and 1-2 birds were also recorded at Singleton 15 Jul (ALP), Wallsend 6 Jun (NIJ) and Morisset 22 Aug (TAH). *The range within the Region seems to be continuing to expand.*

Breeding: A male was feeding an immature bird at Kurri Kurri 4 Jan (ROS). **Atlas:** One record, from cell E8

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 69% of cells, at RR = 18.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (60.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 88 records from 20 cells, RR 11.9%

Common Myna *Sturnus tristis*

ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 50 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 64% of cells, at RR = 17.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (65.8%).

Notable records: Birds were taken as prey by an Australian Hobby at Gloucester early May (per DBP) and by a Peregrine Falcon at Wingen 23 Dec (NEG). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Mirrabooka 1-17 Dec (GOC). **Atlas:** 158 records from 37 cells, RR 12.6%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 69% of cells, at RR = 10.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (46.8%).

Notable records: 14 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 9 Jul (FIW/JRR *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds nested successfully at Wingen during Dec (NEG) and were nest building at Tank Paddock Minmi 23 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 82 records from 26 cells, RR 7.0%

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarina jugularis*

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

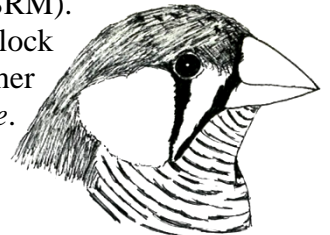
No reports were received for 2011.

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 (*some text removed – all records from the E of Region are now being tracked*).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: G7 (24.6%).

Notable records: Some large flocks were at Medhurst Bridge 17 Apr (SRM). 5-9 birds were at Singleton WWTP 24 Apr and 19 Jun (ALP). A small flock remains resident at Lorn (FRA) and a single bird, in a mixed flock of other finches, was at Keinhah late Feb (GOJ) –*this may have been an escapee*.

Breeding: Birds began nesting at Lorn late 2010, continuing into 2011 (FRA). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells



Zebra Finch: sketch by Grant Brosie

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 55% of cells, at RR = 8.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (52.7%).

Notable records: ~60 birds were at Wingen 10 Jul (NEG) and 40-50 birds at Giants Creek 28 May (LIA) and Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). 23 birds were present in a mixed foraging flock at Black Rock Rd (Martins Creek) 10 May (NEM). Two birds were at Stockton Sandspit 5 Apr (HCL) – *uncommon location*. **Atlas:** 54 records from 17 cells, RR 12.5%

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

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

From BLA Atlas: 16 records from eight cells; cell of most interest: C6 (five records).

Four birds were at O'Brien Crossing (C6) 14 Oct (BRG). **Atlas:** One record, from cell E7

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

ID No: 662 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds widely & regularly recorded, 21-50 birds moderately often.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 23.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (44.1%).

Notable records: Numbers at Green Wattle Creek increased substantially over Jul-Sep, with 40+ birds Jul-Aug and peak count 93 birds 13 Sep (NEM). 20+ birds were regularly present at Cattai Wetlands all year and 50-60 birds were recorded 25 Jan, 2 May and 9 Jul (STA, FIW/ JRR *et al.*). 50-60 birds were also at Narone Creek Rd (Wollombi) 9 Mar (GRJ), Redhead 17 Mar (GOC), Craigmore (Watagans) 20 Apr (BMA) and Wingen 8 Jul (NEG). 20-40+ birds were at Oyster Cove 5 Apr (HBOC), Crowdy Head 2 May (STA), HRBG 3 May (HBOC), Giants Creek 28 May (LIA), Wingen 10 Jul (NEG), Blue Gum Hills RP 6 Sep (HBOC), Neraine (Myall Lakes NP) 21 Sep (SRM), Seal Rocks 19-21 Sep (HBOC), East Seaham 11 Oct (GOA *et al.*), and frequently at HWC over Jan-Mar, May and Aug-Sep (LIP, SRM) and Yaraandoo (L8) between Feb-Oct (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan, May-Jun and Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 279 records from 50 cells, RR 19.1%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: G8 (21.6%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Jones Reserve Rd 29 May (TAH), Baerami Creek Rd 2 Oct (STA) and Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG), and a bird was heard at Baerami Creek 29 Sep-3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** One record, from cell J4

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded (*amended*)
Status: Rare resident (*reported in 2009*).

No reports were received for 2011.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

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

No reports were received for 2011.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 1.8%; cell of most interest: L10 (5.1%).

10-15 birds were present at Redhead 12 Jan (THJ), KI Deep Pond 18 Mar (ROM/LIA), Tomago Wetlands 17 May (MCN) and Tighes Hill 28 Aug (CLT), and eight birds (all juveniles) were at Hexham Swamp 22 Apr (ALP). 1-5 birds were recorded at HWC 12 Jan (LIP), Redhead 15 Jan (LIN) and Ash Island 28 Oct (WID). **Atlas:** Five records, from cells N5 and M10

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: S4 (22.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. *Based on anecdotal reports, the species may be in decline in the Region, mirroring trends seen elsewhere.* **Atlas:** 41 records from 17 cells, RR 5.6%

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 BLA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 9.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (24.4%).

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded at Ash Island 29 Dec (BRG). 14 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 21 Jun and 6+ were present most months (MCN). **Breeding:** There were no confirmed records. A bird was carrying food at Baerami Creek 2 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 101 records from 13 cells, RR 16.1%

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

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

Two birds were present at Ash Island 29-31 Dec (BRG, several others).

Green-headed Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla taivana*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2003*).

No reports were received for 2011.

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 2010.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (6.0%).

Eight birds were present at KI Deep Pond 13 Aug (LIG) and 1-2 birds at Ash Island 15 Oct, 6 Nov and 29 Dec (STA/MCN, ALP, BRG). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell M10

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre 2011 records detailed below:

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

A single bird was flying over Ash Island on dusk in September 2010 (ANC).

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

14 adult birds, and at least one active nest, were present at Snapper Island Port Stephens 25 Sep 2008 (JAG).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

A single bird was present in the Harrington CP 23 July 2006 and four birds were recorded at Farquhar Inlet 20 March 1993 (both MOA *et al.*).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Birds were recorded at Green Point Forster 1 Mar 2003 and 14 Jan 2006 (CAA).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

The peak count on Ash Island in March 2005 is now understood to have been 1,711 birds (SPJ) – this exceeds the count of 1,675 birds mentioned in the 2006 Bird Report.

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

A pair was flushed by a walker east of Myall Lake in November 1935 (Enright, W.J. (1936). *The Emu*, 36: 55-56).

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

A bird was heard at night at Fosterton Loop in October 2010 (JED).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

One bird was at Kerripit Rd 22 Dec 2010 (NEM).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

A pair was feeding fledged young at Martins Creek 13 Dec 2010 (NEM).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

A pair nested at Pacific Palms late 2010, successfully fledging young (MGLB).

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

A single bird was recorded at BbR in 2009 (per NIJ).

Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

At least one bird was in the North Rothbury area several times in July 2010 (per ROM).

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports were not able to be accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee – either because of insufficient information 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.*

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

Single birds were reported to be at HWC mid May and Horns Crossing Rd 20 Nov.

Albatross *Thalassarche spp*

About 100 birds (either Black-browed Albatross or Yellow-nosed Albatross, or both species) were following a fishing trawler distantly off Nobbys Beach 22 May (ROM).

Giant-Petrel *Macronectes spp*

10-20 birds were feeding on a Sperm Whale carcass off Port Stephens 4 Jun; the birds were not able to be identified to species level (EGD). Three single birds were seen 15 Jun – off Nobbys Beach, Bar Beach and Redhead Beach, and a single bird off Nobbys Beach 4 May (all ROS).

Prion *Pachyptila spp*

Two birds were offshore from Redhead Beach 15 Jun (ROS). A bird was taken into care at Medowie 22 Jul but died 2 days later (per LUD).

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

At least one and possibly a second bird was reported to have been at Indian Head Crowdy Bay NP 11 Dec. The record is being assessed by NSW ORAC.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

A possible call was reported to have been heard in BbR 27 Apr.

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 are ignored.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Three birds, in company with various domestic geese types, were in paddocks north of Fullerton Cove between Tomago and Williamtown 28 Apr and mid May (MNE per CLT).

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

A single bird was often recorded at locations around Newcastle (Mayfield, Waratah, Newcastle Beach) over Apr-Jun (several observers); what was possibly the same bird was also present near Oakvale Farm in March (LIL). *Possibly this is a record of a wild bird; NSW ORAC is reviewing a submission.*

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

A single bird was recorded at Cessnock TAFE 19 May (MCC).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Birds were reported at University of Newcastle 1 Apr (MCM) and in Newcastle 14 Jul (THJ).

Atlas: One record, from cell R6

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

A single bird was at a feeder at Krumbach often in late Dec (GIK). **Atlas:** One record, from cell P5.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (*The species is also known as Indian Ringneck*)

A single bird was at Diamond Beach 1 Mar (MOD) and a single bird was associating with Australian King-Parrots at Denman late Apr (per NEG).

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Birds are regularly present in nearby New Lambton gardens near Blackbutt Reserve (STA) and at least one bird was at Warners Bay late December (LAK).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

A single bird was at Redhead 15 Jan (LIN).



Red-capped Robin: sketch by Sally Stuart

DATA FROM REGULAR SURVEYS

Data for waterbirds from regular surveys are presented in this section. *NB for space reasons, only those species which were recorded in the current year are listed.*

Table 1 Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands
(Surveys conducted at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites)

	22 Jan	19 Feb	18/19 Mar ¹	16 Apr	7 May	18 Jun	16 Jul	13 Aug	17 Sep	15 Oct	11/12 Nov ¹	10 Dec
Magpie Goose												9
Musk Duck		3	2	1	1	4	4	10	1	8	3	7
Black Swan	56	56	47	42	73	102	178	182	85	73	89	83
Australian Wood Duck		4		21		13	4	4	47		2	
Australasian Shoveler		2			1		2	8			75	
Grey Teal		16	87	84	137		720	365	319	562	1196	137
Chestnut Teal	363	700	1665	1551	1223	49	500	253	238	504	221	304
Pacific Black Duck	21	99	191	37	44	33	59	57	11	30	42	34
Hardhead					2	7	6	9	24	87	59	148
Australasian Grebe			6	16	20	11	26	44	43	35	60	9
Hoary-headed Grebe			1					8	9	11		
Darter		1	3	2	4	1	3	5	2	5	9	11
Little Pied Cormorant		5	5	1	4	7	6	13	8	13	2	4
Great Cormorant	12	8						9	2	5	9	19
Little Black Cormorant	47	46	19	9	84	3	15	36	19	61	20	22
Pied Cormorant	13	7	5	2	4	1	12	3	7	7	16	17
Australian Pelican	58	48	55	65	39	68	19	69	63	42	38	107
White-necked Heron										3	1	1
Eastern Great Egret	14	10	7	1	4	2	2	15	30	62	14	14
Intermediate Egret		3	2							3	5	2
Cattle Egret	35	15	17				1			16	14	18
Striated Heron			1			1			1	2	1	
White-faced Heron	45	66	47	44	191	38	99	133	100	208	104	98
Little Egret	4	11	5	4	1	1	2	4	6	13	4	5
Australian White Ibis	82	135	30	74	294	5	260	218	69	51	26	25
Straw-necked Ibis					16		5	4	2	2		
Royal Spoonbill	1	29	48	32	31	18	30	8		1	2	14
Purple Swamphen	10	43	17	41	16	8	38	28	8	38	18	30
Dusky Moorhen	7	7	9	2	7	1	1			8	2	5
Eurasian Coot							2		9	90	160	181
Little Tern	11	47	50								5	10
Whiskered Tern										5		
White-winged Black Tern			1									
Gull-billed Tern				1	2			9	2	1		4
Caspian Tern	4	23	13	8	12	13	13	6	1			1
Common Tern	8	14	15								9	5
Crested Tern	9	22	21	13	14	6	12	4	14	1	2	1
Silver Gull	311	270	390	438	80	62	32	15	24	99	98	118

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

Table 2 Shorebirds in the Hunter Estuary
(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide roost sites)

	22 Jan	19 Feb	18/19 Mar ¹	16 Apr	7 May	18 Jun	16 Jul	13 Aug	17 Sep	15 Oct	11/12 Nov ¹	10 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	5	3	31		42	18	21	15	15	11	12	7
Sooty Oystercatcher		5				9	12	9	6	1		6
Black-winged Stilt		37	144	686	497	43	322	128	86	72	276	127
Red-necked Avocet			48	50		136	529	524	1048	1007	720	481
Pacific Golden Plover	250	268	267						31	151	10	219
Red-capped Plover	6	6	4	2	14	19	31	10	8	11	9	10
Lesser Sand Plover	2		2						1	1	1	1
Black-fronted Dotterel	6	19	22	44	5	3	3	4	2	12	8	1
Red-kneed Dotterel										6	1	1
Masked Lapwing	110	103	97	86	81	49	51	48	29	35	53	81
Latham's Snipe											9	
Black-tailed Godwit	95	116	103	41					13	76	58	110
Bar-tailed Godwit	848	795	608	219	540	205	178	223	184	909	785	616
Whimbrel	10	22	19	2	4	2	9	19	31	43	53	18
Eastern Curlew	251	260	79	19	24	35	61	112	148	312	195	194
Terek Sandpiper			8		5					6	7	6
Common Sandpiper		2								1		2
Grey-tailed Tattler	9	8	36	18	8		1	4	11	17	28	45
Common Greenshank	90	83	1	15				2	25	45	68	71
Marsh Sandpiper	8	14	14						2	21	15	11
Great Knot	1										1	
Red Knot	4	2	2				1		82	291	21	13
Wood Sandpiper		1										
Ruddy Turnstone	1									2		
Red-necked Stint			2						1	4	11	15
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									59	327	1602	46
Curlew Sandpiper	138	72	9	2				1	27	117	84	132

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

Table 3 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		1					2	4	2	2
Pacific Black Duck					2	4	1		1	1	2	7
White-faced Heron			7	1	9	6	11	38	2	5	2	13
Australian White Ibis	2	7		16	20	6		49				25
Royal Spoonbill					1							
Pacific Golden Plover	6	3	2							2	15	10
Red-capped Plover					4	3	3					
Black-fronted Dotterel						2	2	7	2	1	2	
Masked Lapwing	8	6	4	5	2	3	4	5	2	2	2	4
Eastern Curlew	2	4	1	5	7	8		1		6	2	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper											28	22

Table 4 Waterbirds at Milhams Pond (on Ash Island)*(Monthly maximum counts from surveys by N McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan							2					4
Aust. Wood Duck											2	
Grey Teal					7		3	2			7	
Chestnut Teal	6	16	7	5	27	13	2	8	10	18	55	15
Pacific Black Duck					3	2		3	2	3	3	1
Australasian Darter												1
Little Pied Cormorant		3					1				1	
Little Black Cormorant												1
Pied Cormorant						1						
Australian Pelican												1
Black-necked Stork		1										
White-necked Heron	1									1	1	
Eastern Great Egret	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		2	4	
Intermediate Egret					1	1						
Cattle Egret	16									2	5	3
Striated Heron											2	
White-faced Heron	28	11	4	14	57	28	67	68	30	30	29	27
Australian White Ibis	16	33	48	23	51	39	12	43	17	21	62	25
Straw-necked Ibis								4				
Royal Spoonbill			1		2	1	1			1		1
Red-capped Plover						1	8	3				
Red-kneed Dotterel									3	9	14	16
Masked Lapwing	6	4	4	4	5	4	3	5	6	16	30	10
Australian Painted Snipe											1	
Bar-tailed Godwit				1	2	34		3		2		3
Eastern Curlew	4	7	7	6	6	6	16	13	3	19	4	6
Common Greenshank												1
Red Knot										250		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper										2	61	40
Gull-billed Tern					4		1			1		
Caspian Tern						1						

Table 5 Waterbirds at Hunter Wetlands Centre*(Highest monthly counts from surveys by P Lightfoot, R & M Stewart, A Lindsey, others)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Magpie Goose	20	43	71	51	76	74	61	70	52	37	20	9
Wandering Whistling-Duck	14	14	14	18	101	13		122	62	69	45	5
Black Swan	3	26	29	17	13	4	9	10	6	10	10	6
Australian Wood Duck	1	11	6	9	2			2	14	nc		2
Australasian Shoveler								10				
Grey Teal	10	4	29	7	15	49	64	479	700	300+	300+	10
Chestnut Teal	42	4	34	83	73	24	124	104	34	7	14	19
Northern Mallard		1	1								1	
Pacific Black Duck	30	95	21	81	29	29	190	42	23	43	30	12
Hardhead	1	1		1	1	10	12	23	17	8	20	6
Australasian Grebe	3	2	6	6	8	14	26	9	13	11	6	4
Darter	1	1	1	nc					nc	1	2	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	4	2	4	3
Great Cormorant	4								1	2		
Little Black Cormorant	4	16	5	1		1			2	10	10	6
Australian Pelican				1	7	5	9	3	1	1		
Eastern Great Egret	21	39	35	1				1	3	8	21	100+
Intermediate Egret	2	1						2		2	3	3
Cattle Egret	100+	100+	57							65	100+	360
White-faced Heron	1	6	2	1			1	1	2	1	1	1
Little Egret		2	2								nc	6
Nankeen Night Heron								6	8	25	40	37
Black Bittern			1									
Australasian Bittern										1		
Australian White Ibis	300+	150	105	39	27	97	220	496	436	300	300+	500+
Straw-necked Ibis						10	9		8	17	2	
Royal Spoonbill	10	42	15	10	23	8	6	10	10	3	3	4
Black-necked Stork				2			1					
Buff-banded Rail		1		1	1	nc				2		4
Dusky Moorhen	57	44	88	37	123	143	85	110	63	54	180	106
Purple Swamphen	19	37	20	23	44	5	60	103	46	37	28	45
Eurasian Coot	2	2	4	8	5	18	20	51	50	86	100+	
Black-winged Stilt										2		
Black-fronted Dotterel		2	1					1				
Masked Lapwing		5	7	4	4	6	2	2	4	9	6	6

nc: some birds were present but the numbers were not counted

Table 6 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands

(Systematic surveys led by N McNaughton)

	18 Jan	21 Feb	15 Mar	19 Apr	17 May	21 Jun	19 Jul	16 Aug	5, 20 Sep	18 Oct	4, 15 Nov	20, 31 Dec
Black Swan			2	2	6	6	2	3	2			
Grey Teal								3				
Chestnut Teal			3	1	35			2	3	13		3
Pacific Black Duck					11	6	12	4	2			
Hardhead											2	
Australasian Grebe					1							
Australasian Darter		1	1						1	1	2	2
Little Pied Cormorant			1	3	3			2		1	1	1
Little Black Cormorant		1		6	3					13	5	11
Pied Cormorant				1		1						
Australasian Bittern												1
Australasian Little Bittern			1									1
Black Bittern				1								
White-necked Heron										1		7
Eastern Great Egret	1	1		3	1	1	1		2	18	10	8
Cattle Egret												6
White-faced Heron	1	9	14	48	13		54	17	14	21	3	9
Australian White Ibis			54	1			18			86	146	26
Straw-necked Ibis											8	
Royal Spoonbill			2							2	19	53
Purple Swamphen				1	1	6	33	2	14	23	39	25
Black-winged Stilt					27							
Masked Lapwing		4		2	5	5	15	4	2			5
Caspian Tern								1				

† Maximum count reported, from 2 site visits in the month

Table 7a Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp*(Systematic surveys from Hexham side, led by A Lindsey)*

	1 Jan	16 Feb	26 Mar	9 Apr	15 May	17 Aug	13 Sep	16 Oct	27 Nov	18 Dec
Black Swan	32		41	25	39	94	104	110	35	91
Australian Shelduck										1
Australian Wood Duck								3		
Australasian Shoveler						4				
Grey Teal				45	190	138		451		148
Chestnut Teal	53	5	1200	1800	648	14	72	54	21	224
Pacific Black Duck	1	3	1	57	2	79	15	10	9	25
Australasian Darter			1					2	7	7
Little Pied Cormorant	2		1			8	3	5	4	3
Great Cormorant								3		
Little Black Cormorant	3		1	2			6	19	20	35
Australian Pelican	18		2	1		11	6	3	10	12
Black-necked Stork				2						
Australasian Bittern									1	
White-necked Heron								1		1
Eastern Great Egret	9	2	3	1	3	3	60	60	13	9
Intermediate Egret			7							
Cattle Egret	24							5	72	8
White-faced Heron	26	112	97	98	30	31	33	85	53	38
Little Egret	3	1	1	3		2	4	5	5	2
Australian White Ibis	49	282	150	36	1	14	21	26	4	43
Straw-necked Ibis										9
Royal Spoonbill	20	27	15	47	1	10	22	35	27	42
Yellow-billed Spoonbill									1	1
Purple Swamphen	5		8		1			1	1	7
Buff-banded Rail					1	1				
Dusky Moorhen							1			
Eurasian Coot								1		
Black-winged Stilt	10		1	3	114	191	366	23		87
Red-capped Plover										
Black-fronted Dotterel			2	1	4	1	21	4	1	
Banded Lapwing							2			
Masked Lapwing	41	189	119	54	7	12	11	4	2	17
Latham's Snipe	2						1	1	4	6
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									212	
Gull-billed Tern					1					
Caspian Tern			1	2						
Silver Gull			2				1			

Table 7b Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp*(Systematic surveys from Minmi side, by M. Newman)*

	31 Jan	14 Sep	24 Oct	28 Nov
Black Swan		14	50	40
Grey Teal		2	500	
Chestnut Teal				2
Pacific Black Duck		37	116	31
Hardhead			550	91
Australasian Grebe			54	39
Little Pied Cormorant		1	8	6
Little Black Cormorant				10
White-necked Heron			31	
Eastern Great Egret	21	22	3	
Intermediate Egret		15		
Cattle Egret	6	14	9	
White-faced Heron		4	10	1
Glossy Ibis		18		
Australian White Ibis	5	13	16	29
Straw-necked Ibis			2	6
Royal Spoonbill		1		
Purple Swamphen	4	40	61	7
Eurasian Coot				280
Black-winged Stilt		180	7	
Masked Lapwing	48	1	5	8
Latham's Snipe		1	1	

Table 8 Waterbirds at Newcastle Baths/Harbour
(Monthly peak counts from frequent surveys led by J Thomas & R. Nicholas)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Australasian Darter	1		1	8	4	3	1	1	2	1		
Little Pied Cormorant		2	1		6	1	2	2	2	1	2	
Great Cormorant	9	8	3	6	1	2			1	4	8	3
Little Black Cormorant	5	3	13	16	5	9	9	12	120	21	40	9
Pied Cormorant	1	2	4	4	4	3	1	2	2	2	1	
Australian Pelican	1	1	2	6	24	7	9	7	2	5	2	14
Eastern Great Egret		2								1		
Aust. White Ibis					2							
White-faced Heron	1	10	9	1	14	3		1	7	1		
Eastern Reef Egret					1					1		
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher						3	4			2		
Sooty Oystercatcher	36	39	42	26	21	31	14	18	14	14	19	21
Pacific Golden Plover									1			
Double-banded Plover		1	1	1								
Masked Lapwing						2				1		
Black-tailed Godwit												
Whimbrel	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	1					1					1	1
Ruddy Turnstone	24	22	16	15					10	16	14	14
Red Knot										1	1	
Red-necked Stint										1		
Little Tern	6	23	4				8			1	2	2
Caspian Tern		1	1	2			2					
White-winged Black Tern	1			1								1
White-fronted Tern					1	9	50	130	100	25		
Common Tern	445	45	140							60	70	200
Crested Tern	173	454	170	100+	300	440	440	270	350	200	70	150
Gull-billed Tern					1							2
Pacific Gull						1						
Silver Gull	140	160	400	600	450	150	20	23	100	30	40	80
Pomarine Jaeger			1									
Arctic Jaeger			2									

Table 9 Waterbirds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie*(Maximums based on high and low tide counts led by J Adams)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan			142	65	10	2	15	44	26	7
Australian Wood Duck			12	43	6	2		6	6	19
Chestnut Teal		4		13	2		2		9	
Australasian Darter		2	6	4	5	6			1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	2	9	15	3	18	45	22	40	18	13
Great Cormorant							3			3
Little Black Cormorant	34	21	8	10	6	49	80	15	207	28
Pied Cormorant	9	6	27	2	19	28	30	21	19	38
Australian Pelican	26	25	79	56	44	38	47	70	44	54
Black-necked Stork					1					
Eastern Great Egret				4		6	1	2		1
Intermediate Egret	1		1		4	9	1	2	5	6
Cattle Egret				14						
Striated Heron	1	1	3	1	1	2				1
White-faced Heron	1	1	16	19	3	9	3	3	11	8
Little Egret	5	5	6	4	20	2		4	1	1
Australian White Ibis			24	12	5	12	3			
Royal Spoonbill				8	6	5				4
Eastern Osprey						1			2	1
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	4	2	4	4		6	7	6	10	8
Double-banded Plover				2						
Masked Lapwing	2	4	7	5	2	5	1	1	3	5
Bar-tailed Godwit	75	72	98	34		9	24	62	69	77
Whimbrel	6	1	15	1			1	4	2	6
Eastern Curlew	7	8	4	3	1		3	4	1	4
Grey-tailed Tattler	4		5	1			2	2		5
Red Knot			19							
Red-necked Stint							2			1
Little Tern	8		1	17						
Caspian Tern		1	5	5	10	2	2			
Common Tern	6			4					10	
Crested Tern	5	12	34	27		13	15	3	6	9
Silver Gull	465	71	139	162	201	74	235	266	235	275

**No surveys June/July*

Table 10 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks*(Regular surveys by J Smart, P Baird & L Mee)*

	6 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar	5 Apr	12 May	8 Jun	20 Jul	10 Aug	7 Sep	14 Oct	12 Nov	11 Dec
Musk Duck	6		6		4	2	2	3		1		6
Black Swan	1	10	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	4	1
Aust. Wood Duck	12	11		2	7	13	2	3	6	6	6	12
Pink-eared Duck							3					
Grey Teal	4				1	4		1	76	75	53	4
Chestnut Teal	1	4	5	6	10		6	6	27	36	11	1
Pacific Black Duck	17	51	25	26	35	32	23	10	7	20	38	17
Hardhead	4			2	1	5	25	8	18	103	5	4
Blue-billed Duck	1									1	1	1
Australasian Grebe	16	2	12	16	25	26	19	30	22	20	4	16
Hoary-headed Grebe	9			2		4	3	2	2	6	14	9
Great Crested Grebe	14	14	37	7	20	11	5	11	18	10	15	14
Australasian Darter	3			10	1	1	1	2	2	8	8	3
Little Pied Cormorant	8	7	8	4	12	1	2	6	6	3	5	8
Great Cormorant								1	8	3	2	
Little Black Cormorant	27	19	6	8	4	4	1	2	10	6	10	27
Australian Pelican	4				15							4
Eastern Great Egret	1					2		1				1
Cattle Egret	1			7		3	2		4	6		1
White-faced Heron	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2
Australian White Ibis							17		1	7		
Straw-necked ibis								57	15	12		
Royal Spoonbill	8		1									8
Purple Swamphen	13	6	14	6	11	7	15	7	4	11	12	13
Dusky Moorhen	12	45	18	40	16	14	18	20	13	16	12	12
Eurasian Coot	116	17	46	26	8	81	54	61	96	75	96	116
Black-winged Stilt									7	3	1	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2		2					6		2		2
Masked Lapwing	5	4		3	2	5	5	6	3	4	3	5

Table 11 Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works*(Regular surveys by A Lindsey & M Newman)*

	2 Jan	9 Feb	22 Mar	28 Apr	15 May	26 Jun	28 Jul	14 Aug	7 Sep	7 Oct	19 Nov	14 Dec
Wandering Whist-Duck											12	2
Black Swan	288	180	158	306	363	270	130	114	116	299	269	273
Australian Wood Duck	2	9	17	3	11	14	2	1	2	3	3	
Pink-eared Duck							2					
Australasian Shoveler				5	26	13	23	15	6	4	1	1
Grey Teal	2	12	16	177	258	950	1119	1293	378	921	281	190
Chestnut Teal	233	394	214	182	291	131	250	210	153	119	121	86
Pacific Black Duck	71	102	51	554	295	220	275	255	172	194	86	76
Hardhead					5	12	19	24	13		22	86
Australasian Grebe		9	46	35	61	94	129	114	25	33	30	46
Hoary-headed Grebe					5	1				20		
Great Crested Grebe									1			1
Australasian Darter	25	16	1	2	2	1	4	2	1	3	40	40
Little Pied Cormorant	8	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	5	21	72
Great Cormorant	5	4	3		4		2	1	1	7	13	5
Little Black Cormorant	50	60	1	5		2	1	1	16	2	19	115
Pied Cormorant	14	3	2				1	3	3		4	1
Australian Pelican	66	186	40	6	31	6	17	2	22	39	13	11
White-necked Heron									1		6	
Eastern Great Egret	23	28	3	3	5	10	4	3	7	7	71	64
Intermediate Egret			1	1	1	2	1	1	6	6	14	23
Cattle Egret	30	38	136	41	10	37	6	29	46	21	16	11
Little Egret				1				1		1		
White-faced Heron	6	12	21	12	25	9	14	10	25	7	22	8
Glossy Ibis					1	2				11	6	
Australian White Ibis	34	50	15	1		6	1	1	10		11	9
Straw-necked Ibis	13	2			1	5	17	6	11			
Royal Spoonbill	1	27	20	1					5	1	15	11
Purple Swamphen	10	3	4			7		15	1		6	8
Dusky Moorhen		1									2	
Eurasian Coot			1	2			18	12	4		34	81
Black-winged Stilt	2		3	4	7		48	121	113	50	115	116
Black-fronted Dotterel			3						2			
Masked Lapwing	5	98	92	7	17	16	33	32	37	17	25	38
Comb-crested Jacana												1
Latham's Snipe									1			
Common Tern												1
White-winged Black Tern												8
Gull-billed Tern						2						
Caspian Tern		2			1							
Silver Gull								1				

Table 12 Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay*
(Surveys conducted at high tide)

	19 Jan	19 Mar	17 Apr	7 May	12 Jun	13 Aug	17 Sep	16 Oct	12 Nov	10 Dec
Black Swan	5						16	10	19	
Aust. Wood Duck		1				2		7		7
Chestnut Teal	2	1	21	4		3				
Australasian Darter	1									
Little Pied Cormorant	2			1	2	2	2	2	3	
Great Cormorant				3			5		2	
Little Black Cormorant							1		23	
Pied Cormorant	11	1	2		4	8		5	4	1
Australian Pelican		1		2	1	7	2			
Eastern Great Egret				3		2	1	2	1	1
White-faced Heron		1	1	9	2	2	5	4	5	4
Little Egret						1	1	1		
Aust. White Ibis		1		1						
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	4	6	8	19	6	20	2	2	5	9
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	2	3	2	1			1	2	3
Red-necked Avocet					41					
Pacific Golden Plover					3	3	3	15		
Red-capped Plover				4	19	7		1		
Double-banded Plover			1			6				
Masked Lapwing	2	9	5	4	9	8		4	4	5
Bar-tailed Godwit	182	120	62	33	131	82	45	197	190	110
Whimbrel	11	22	14	8		2	22		27	12
Eastern Curlew	173	95	38		53	196		7	350	228
Grey-tailed Tattler		22	18	2	14	16				
Common Greenshank							2			
Red Knot	1						3			
Red-necked Stint								1		
Curlew Sandpiper						1				
Gull-billed Tern						1		1		
Caspian Tern			1	16	16	4	1			
Crested Tern	9	13	10	16	15	2	1		2	1
Silver Gull	9	2	<5			2			2	1

*The data in this table are also included into Table 13

Table 13 Waterbirds in Port Stephens*(Surveys at high tide)*

	Feb ²	Apr ¹	Jul ²	Sep ¹	Nov ¹
Black Swan	237	108	49	119	391
Australian Wood Duck	5	27		50	56
Chestnut Teal	6	16		43	37
Pacific Black Duck		20		10	8
Australasian Gannet				1	
Australasian Darter	9	1	9		10
Little Pied Cormorant	66	169	211	95	83
Great Cormorant	31		7	6	11
Little Black Cormorant	86	28	415	19	104
Pied Cormorant	143	68	61	72	64
Australian Pelican	90	142	109	98	142
Eastern Great Egret	3	26	20	12	28
Intermediate Egret	1	3	1	3	3
Cattle Egret		3	13	2	
Striated Heron	7		7	2	1
White-faced Heron	30	79	77	112	111
Little Egret		4	12	2	
Australian White Ibis	12	133	117	84	59
Royal Spoonbill		29		7	4
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	166	47	142	62	37
Sooty Oystercatcher	19	9	15	1	4
Pacific Golden Plover	23				
Red-capped Plover			5		
Double-banded Plover			35		
Masked Lapwing	54	76	22	33	56
Bar-tailed Godwit	511	156	227	180	462
Whimbrel	240	25	36	24	27
Eastern Curlew	342	59	36	107	381
Terek Sandpiper	1		1		
Grey-tailed Tattler	51	90	23	13	62
Common Greenshank	2			2	
Ruddy Turnstone					3
Red Knot				3	
Red-necked Stint	22				23
Arctic Jaeger	2				
Little Tern	34				
Gull-billed Tern				2	
Caspian Tern	4	5	24	13	
Crested Tern	191	63	47	64	23
Silver Gull	124	808	89	373	532
Black-fronted Dotterel	1				
Beach Stone-curlew			2		
Little Penguin	3	3			

¹ Land based surveys at 10 locations, led by L. Wooding ² Boat based surveys by HBOC members in 6 teams (18 Feb, 18 July)

Table 14 Waterbirds at Wallis Lake/Forster/Tuncurry

(Surveys by A Stuart at intermediate tide at Wallis Lake entrance, except where noted)

	12 Jan	4 Feb	30 Mar	29 Apr	16 May	16 Jun	29 Jul	12 Aug	24 Sep	#8 Nov	23 Nov	23 Nov	10 Dec
Black Swan										350		500+	
Australian Wood Duck	2		18	2	8	1	8						4
Chestnut Teal										1			
Pacific Black Duck										1			
Australasian Darter										54		1	1
Little Pied Cormorant						2	1	2	3	110		50+	3
Great Cormorant		3	1	1	1					38		1	
Little Black Cormorant	9	5	3	1					112	581	6	2	2
Pied Cormorant	38	7	35	14	13	2		1	3	76	4	2	3
Australian Pelican	95	78	122	149	167	108	64	113	91	276	112	550+	65
Eastern Great Egret										22			
Little Egret										10			
Striated Heron		1	1										
White-faced Heron										27		1	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	36	72	41	27	11	2	3	7	4	14	12		12
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	2	1						2				
Pacific Golden Plover	1												
Masked Lapwing	2	2				2				4	3		
Bar-tailed Godwit		17	2	5	3	9			13	16	27		29
Eastern Curlew		8	2	2		1	1				4		4
Red Knot													1
Caspian Tern	1	1		9	6	6		1	1	1		4	
Crested Tern	55	35	54	102	175	112	34	8	79	369	69	2	156
Silver Gull	197	209	259	205	195	51	102	74	63	127	89	9	89

#This survey covered all of northern part of Wallis Lake (with C Herbert & L Crawford)

^This survey covered the central part of Wallis Lake (in the general vicinity of Green Point-Pelican Island)

Table 15 Waterbirds in the Manning Estuary
(Surveys by A. Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Mudbishops Point)

	24/25 Jan	17 Feb	21/22 Mar	18/19 Apr	2/3 May	16, 20 Jun	19/20 Jul	4/5 Aug	28/29 Sep	27 Nov	12/13 Dec
Black Swan	17	17	10	4	16		2	2	3		2
Australian Wood Duck				2	4		2	6			
Chestnut Teal									2		
Pacific Black Duck					2					2	
Little Pied Cormorant					1	1	4		4		
Great Cormorant	9	3	7	4	2			3	1	17	9
Little Black Cormorant	96	4	92	3	11	3	1	3	88	52	75
Pied Cormorant	36	14	7	2					1	28	7
Australian Pelican	15	15	62	30	69	30	18	23	30	35	73
Eastern Great Egret					4			2			
Striated Heron	3			1	1						
White-faced Heron	2	1	1	7	5	1	9	3	3		3
Little Egret							1	1	4		
Beach Stone-curlew				3	3	1	3	3	1		3
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	14	9	6	15	15	6	11	18	12	11	13
Sooty Oystercatcher	7	6	8	6	4	1					1
Red-necked Avocet									1		
Pacific Golden Plover	85	99	50	5		2	2		80	25	98
Red-capped Plover	10	7	7	12	25	33	27	25	24	14	10
Double-banded Plover				28	57	123	61	31			
Lesser Sand Plover		1									
Masked Lapwing	1	3	4	13	6	3	1	2	4	2	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	118	145	134	74	57	48	38	63	90	92	161
Whimbrel	9	3	21	4					6	2	20
Eastern Curlew	30	21	13	7	4	13		9	19	32	33
Grey-tailed Tattler	1								2		
Ruddy Turnstone										1	2
Red Knot										3	
Sanderling	9	10							2	11	4
Red-necked Stint	2	24	33		9	2	1		35	20	122
Little Tern	200+	200+	61	40	28		6	24	50	300+	410
Gull-billed Tern							4		2		
Caspian Tern	1	3	3	5	3	8	8	8		4	1
White-fronted Tern							2	33	1		
Common Tern	200+	200+	112	39					30	15	20
Crested Tern	130	53	59	122	137	86	95	223	128	586	187
Silver Gull	162	211	209	79	119	127	35	33	48	100	90

Table 16 Waterbirds at Cattai Wetlands*(Surveys done at varying times, led by W. Filewood & R. & R. Jacobs, and A. Stuart)*

	25 Jan	18 Apr	2 May	9 Jul	19 Jul	4 Aug	29 Sep	8 Oct	10 Dec	12 Dec
Wandering Whist-Duck									10	14
Black Swan	8	35	35	16	6	3			5	3
Australian Wood Duck								2	1	
Grey Teal				20	12	47	10+	14	20	
Chestnut Teal	10	25	4	6	4	4		22	2	10
Pacific Black Duck	40	30	31	17	93	43	40	19	25	20
Hardhead		8	58	37	30	15	60+	48	68	100
Australasian Grebe			6	6	4	6	3		8	10
Australasian Darter		1					2		5	4
Little Pied Cormorant		1	1	4	4	1	4	2	4	2
Great Cormorant		1							8	
Little Black Cormorant	70	2						4	11	
Pied Cormorant										
Australian Pelican	2		3			2		1	1	
Black-necked Stork				1	2					
White-necked Heron					1					
Eastern Great Egret						1			2	2
Intermediate Egret									2	
White-faced Heron				2						
Nankeen Night-Heron									1	
Australian White Ibis									1	
Purple Swamphen	2	10	2						5	4
Dusky Moorhen		10	17	10					7	10
Eurasian Coot		6	27	20	54	10		9	4	20
Comb-crested Jacana	1	3	7	7	5	1		5	5	
Latham's Snipe								1	1	

Table 17 Birubi Point - Fingal Head Coastline Waterbirds*(Land based surveys by L. Wooding)*

	27 Jan	10 Feb	7 Mar	11 Apr	9 May	20 Jun	18 Jul	16 Aug	26 Sep	30 Oct	14 Nov	5 Dec
Wedge-tailed Shearwater									~150			
Australasian Gannet	3	2	7	15	3	9	7		5	7	2	4
Great Cormorant	10	7	4	2	1			1	4	2	63	14
Pied Cormorant	4	3		1		2				1	13	6
Eastern Reef Egret	1	1	1					1	1			1
Sooty Oystercatcher	6	3			8	2		12	13	16	2	10
Masked Lapwing				5								
Red-capped Plover					1							
Common Tern			1									
Crested Tern	20	17	34	35	159	53	104	105	117	128	11	130
Silver Gull	218	298	231	134	371	100	229	85	233	262	161	282

Table 18 Newcastle Bight Coastline Waterbirds*(Regular counts by Ann Lindsey/Mike Newman/Warren Mayers/Worimi Conservation Lands field officers¹)*

	14 Apr	13 May	19 May	2 Aug	20 Aug	21 Sep	31 Oct	9 Nov	16 Nov
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	9	5	10				6	4	
Red-necked Avocet				6					
Pacific Golden Plover							11		
Red-capped Plover		22	13				19		
Double-banded Plover	77	54	137				10		
Banded Lapwing					20+		15		
Bar-tailed Godwit						4			
Little Tern		3							30
Gull-billed Tern			8				24		
Crested Tern	52	27	7				3		
Silver Gull	179	58	58				143		

¹*In many of the surveys, records were not collected for all of the waterbirds which were present*

Table 19 Seabirds Recorded in Pelagic Surveys*(Counts from surveys to the continental shelf departing from Port Stephens led by M. Roderick and S. Roderick)*

	30 Jan	19 Mar	20 Mar ¹	1 Apr	15 April	22 Oct	23 Oct ²	20 Nov
Wilson's Storm-Petrel		25		60	125	42	6	25
White-faced Storm-Petrel	3					1		1
Wandering Albatross	2					3		
Black-browed Albatross				2	1	2	1	
Shy Albatross		1			2	1		
Yellow-nosed Albatross					2			
Cape Petrel						1		
Black Petrel					1			3
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	400	300	350	80	300	300	500	1200
Flesh-footed Shearwater	20	80	60	20	35	12	8	40
Sooty Shearwater	4	4						1
Short-tailed Shearwater	40	30	15	4	3	50	25	150
Streaked Shearwater			1					
Fluttering Shearwater	4	3	3		3		1	1
Hutton's Shearwater			2			1	1	1
Great Shearwater								1
Kermadec Petrel				1				
Great-winged Petrel	4	3		10	2	1	2	10
Providence Petrel		1		3		1	1	2
Gould's Petrel	1							1
White-necked Petrel				1				
Australasian Gannet	1		55		50	3	4	5
Brown Skua								1
Pomarine Jaeger	10	30	20		2	1		15
Arctic Jaeger		2	2					
Long-tailed Jaeger		7						
Sooty Tern		2						2
Crested Tern	8	3	4	2	7		2	7
Silver Gull	6	6			8	16	12	6

¹*The survey only went half way to the continental shelf, due to bad weather*²*The boat had to return as soon as it arrived at the shelf, due to worsening sea conditions*

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

AP	Airport	NLH	New Lambton Heights
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve	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
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	RP	Regional Park
HSD	Homestead	SCA	State Conservation Area
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre of Australia	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
IBA	Important Bird Area	SF	State Forest
KI	Kooragang Island	SP	State Park
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:

Allyn River	K5	Clarencetown	M8
Appletree Flat	H8	Coon Island (Swansea Channel)	L11
Arrowfield	H7	Cooranbong	K11
Ash Island	M10	Copeland Common	N4
Awabakal NR	M10/11	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Balickera	M9	Copeland Tops SCA	M4
Barrington House	L5	Corrie Island	O9
Battery Rocks	E6	Denman	G7
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Dungog	M7
Belltrees	I4	Durrigere Rd	A6
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Fingal Bay	O9
Black Neds Bay	L11	Forster	R6
Blue Gum Hills RP	K10	Fosterton Loop	M7
Bootawah	Q4	Galgabba Point	L11
Bolwarra	L9	George McGregor Park	M10
Boarding House Dam	K11	Glenrock SCA	M10
Boondelbah Island	P9	Gloucester	N5
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Gloucester Tops	M5/L5
Broke	I9	Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9
Broughton Island	P8	Green Wattle Creek	L9
Bulahdelah	P7	Gir-um-bit NP	N9
Bulga	I8	Hallidays Point	R5
Cabbage Tree Island	P9	Harrington	S4
Catherine Hill Bay	L11	Hawks Nest	P8/P9
Cessnock	K9/K10	Hexham Swamp	L10/M10
Chichester Dam	M6	Howes Valley	H10
Chichester SF	K5/L5	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens (HRBG)	M9

Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Raymond Terrace	M9
Irrawang Swamp	M9	Redhead	M11
Jerrys Plains	H7	Ringwood Rd (GRNP)	C6
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	Salt Ash	N9
Kings Gap	F7	Scone	H5
Kitchener (Werakata NP)	K10	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Kooragang Island	M10	Seal Rocks	R7
Kurri Kurri	K9	Singleton	I8/J8
Laguna	I10	Stockton	M10
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Swan Bay	N9
Maitland	L9	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Market Swamp	M10	Taree	Q4
Martindale	G7	Tarro	M9
Medowie	N9	Toronto	L11
Morisset	K11	Tuncurry	R6
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	University of Newcastle	M10
Morpeth	L9	Vacy	L8
Mount Arthur	H6	Waitui	R3
Mount Vincent	K10/L10	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Newcastle	M10	Warakeila	L6
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (NWR)	M10	Warkworth	I8
New Lambton Heights	M10	Watagans SF & NP	K11
Old Bar	R4	Williamstown	N9
Oyster Cove	N9	Wingen	H4
Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Paterson	L8	Woko NP	M3
Phoenix Park	L9	Woodville	L9
Pokolbin	J9	Wyee Point	L11
Quorrobolong	K10	Yarrawa	F7
Rathluba Lagoon	L9		

OBSERVER CODES

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

ADJ	Jack Adams	BLT	T. Black
ALD	Daniel Allen	BMA	Mathew Blyth
ALP	Peter Alexander	BOH	Hayley Boyce
BAG	Graeme Baldwin	BRE	E. Bradbury
BAP	Paul Baird	BRG	Grant Brosie
BIA	Birding-Aus (Internet group)	BTS	Tony, Suzi Burgin

BUD	David Bulbert	GRJ	Robert, Janine Greig
CAA	Ashley Carlson	GRL	Lucas Grenadier
CAN	Nicholas Carlile	HAD	Diane Hatfield
CAS	Susanne Callaghan	HAM	Matthew Hamonet
CBOC	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	HAP	Phil Hansbro
CCB	Central Coast group of Birding NSW	HAS	Sue Hamonet
CCT	Central Coast Champion Choughs Twitchathon team	HBOC	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	HBR	Brian Hughes
CLT	Tom Clarke	HCL	Chris, Liz Herbert
COD	Dick Cooper	HDM	Dianne, Michael Hatfield
COG	Garth Cooksey	HHB	Hunter Home Brewers Twitchathon team
COK	Ken Conway	HIJ	Jan Hissey
CRB	Brian Crisp	HMA	Max Haste
CRG	Greg Crisp	HOB	Bruce Hosken
CRL	Liz Crawford	HPS	Hunter Pelagic Survey
DAP	Paul Davidson	HRK	Rod, Karen Howie
DBP	Penny Drake-Brockman	HUB	Report posted to Hunterbirding e-mail group
DDR	Dodgy Drongos Twitchathon team	HUM	Michael Hunter
DGG	Gaye, Graham Drady	HUR	R.Hundt
DTB	Dry-throated Buzzards Twitchathon team	HWS	HBOC Wader Surveys
DUP	Pam Durie	IJT	Judy, Tony Iveson
EAC	Chris Eastham	JAG	Geoff James
ECC	C. Eckersley	JEC	Carolyn Jeffery
EGD	Darryl Eggins	JED	Dick Jenkin
ERE	Report posted on www.ere-mae-a.e-t-c (NSW Birdline)	JRR	Rebecca, Rudi Jacobs
FAA	Adam Fawcett	KIM	Marj Kibby
FIW	Win Filewood	KIR	Rob Kilkelly
FOC	Reported in Birding NSW (Field Ornithologists Club) newsletter	KYR	Rob Kyte
FRA	Allen Friis	LAK	Keith Laverick
FRB	B. Fraser	LAM	Amanda Lilleyman
FRD	Dougald Frederick	LEJ	Jenny Lewis
FRN	Neil Fraser	LIA	Ann Lindsey
FRP	Paul Freeman	LIG	Greg Little
GER	Robyn George	LIL	Liz Livanos
GIK	Kim Gillen	LIN	Nick Livanos
GOA	Anthony Gooden	LIP	Paddy Lightfoot
GOC	Colin, Rachel Goodenough	LIR	Ralph Little
GOJ	John Goswell	LUD	Darryl Luck
		MAC	Charles Mann

MAC2	Col Maybury	ROM	Mick Roderick
MAI	Ian Martin	ROS	Steve Roderick
MAT	Toni Marsh	RUD	David Rushton
MAW	Warren Mayers	RUN	Nadine Russell
MCC	Candace McDonald	SAS	Stene Sanders
MCM	M. McRae	SCN	Neville Schrader
MCN	Neville McNaughton	SLP	Philip Slack
MDV	Don, Val Moon	SMJ	Jim Smart
MEL	Lorna Mee	SPJ	Jenny Spencer
MGLB	Reported in Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers newsletter	SRM	Robert, Margaret Stewart
MIJ	John Mills	STA	Alan Stuart
MNE	Neil Mcelhinney	STD	David Stuart
MMT	Menacing Monarchs Twitchathon team	STK	Kathleen Straw
MOA	Alan Morris	STL	Leone Storm
MOB	Bob Moffat	STP	Peter Struik
MOD	Drew Morris	SVP	Peggy Svoboda
MOT	Tim Morris	TAH	Harold Tarrant
MUJ	Jenny Musicka	THJ	Judi Thomas
MUT	T. Murray	THK	Karen Thumm
NEG	Greg Newling	THM	Mick Thomas
NEM	Mike Newman	THR	Ross Thompson
NIG	Geoff Nicholls	TUB	Bruce Turnbull
NIJ	Joy Nicholls	VGF	Fred van Gessel
NIR	Richard Nicholas	VNA	Alwynne van Niekerk
NSWBA	NSW Bird Atlassers	WAR	Ray Walker
OCG	Graeme O'Connor	WHP	Peter Wheatley
PEK	Kristy Peters	WID	Dan Williams
POJ	Jenny Powers	WIH	Helen Windon
POP	Pat Pountney	WIT	Tom Wilson
RAL	Lyn Rayward	WOG	George Woods
RDB	Dot, Bob Raine	WOL	Lois Wooding
RIA	Allan Richardson	WRK	K. Wroe
ROB	Bev Roderick		

MAP OF THE HUNTER REGION

The boundaries of the Region are shown below, 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. Our thanks go to Dan Williams for generating the new map.

