

HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Annual Bird Report Number 20 (2012)

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Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

The Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) produces these annual records of the birds of the Hunter Region of NSW. The aims of HBOC are:

- To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat.
- To encourage bird observing as a leisure time activity.

HBOC holds monthly meetings with guest speakers on bird related topics, conducts regular surveys within the Hunter Region, and organises mid-week and weekend outings and occasional camps on long weekends. The range of activities is designed to suit beginners and more experienced birdwatchers equally. All members receive a regular newsletter and are able to borrow without charge from a comprehensive range of books, tapes, CDs and videos about Australian and world birdlife. Visit www.hboc.org.au for more details. Membership categories are Single, Family and Junior, and applications for membership are welcomed at any time.

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

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New Lambton NSW 2305

Front cover: Family of Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris* at Dowardee Island in Port Stephens (Trevor Murray).

Back cover: Beach Stone-curlew family at Soldiers Point (Trevor Murray).

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Laughing Kookaburra sketch by Chris Herbert

FOREWORD

I love birds. They have always been a part of my life and every moment I am awake, sometimes when I'm hardly awake at all, I find myself birdwatching. It is so easily achieved because there are birds everywhere you go, whether you're in natural surroundings or a built environment, the opportunity for enjoying our little mates presents itself.

And they are such fascinating creatures; completely oblivious to the trouble and strife that besets our human world they carry on with their lives in the best possible way they know. Apparently. Well for some that can adapt quickly in a changing world there is a future but regrettably for others the prospects aren't that good at all.

For the most part my birdwatching is a personal thing; I derive great joy and satisfaction from the pursuit and cannot think of a life without making the daily connection with birds and other aspects of nature. Of course I am completely satisfied by this life style but it doesn't just come for free; there is an obligation to actively care for birds and bird habitat.

It all stems back to the day when I realized that an interest in birds could not ignore other facets such as habitat, food preferences, nesting choices etc if a more complete understanding was to be gained. Since that day, the realisation that all these requirements of a bird's life were becoming increasingly more difficult to guarantee has slowly dawned.

For quite some time I felt overawed by the processes that continue to threaten our natural heritage but eventually some opportunities presented themselves to do something. And believe me, there is plenty to do! The difficulties of protecting our natural areas just seems to increase every year (certainly since the last State election) and some of the recent losses make me feel quite ill, but it would be something I couldn't live with if I did nothing.

We don't all get to go work in the bush every day restoring natural areas, we don't always get to make wonderful submissions or representations to various bodies and politicians and we don't amass enough personal wealth to buy all the high conservation areas. How good is it then that as birdwatchers we can do something really positive just by going birdwatching!

Yes, that's right folks, just go birdwatching but follow that up with recording what you have seen and contribute to the wealth of knowledge that manifests itself each year in the latest edition of the Annual Bird Report (ABR).

The ABR has become a well-recognised source of up-to-date information on both the recent and previous status of all the known bird species seen in the Hunter Region. The ABR is a trusted document and very accurately chronicles the fortunes of our birds, the winners, the survivors and the losers.

This ABR is Number 20 and is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved since it was first published. I would particularly like to thank Alan Stuart for his unending devotion and stewardship of this publication.

Tom Clarke

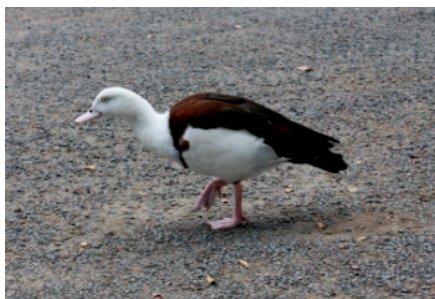
Tom Clarke is a passionate bush regenerator renowned for his contributions to the restoration of shorebird habitat in the Hunter Estuary and woodland bird habitat at many places within the Hunter Valley and Port Stephens. In 2012 he was elected Life Member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club.

NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

Notable records for 2012 included the following:

- Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*: ~1,000 birds at Doughboy Hollow 10 Jul
- Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*: 150 birds at Shortland 31 Jul
- Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*: a single bird at Bulahdelah Jul-Oct and Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*: up to 3 birds in lower Hunter wetlands Mar-May
- Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*: ~1,700 birds in the lower Hunter Valley in October
- Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*: 2,000+ birds at Ash Island 17 Mar (~2% of total population)
- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*: single birds at WWW Jun-Jul and 10 Oct
- Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*: >340 birds in the lower Hunter mid May
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*: ~500 birds together near Neath 28 Dec
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*: ~150 birds off Port Stephens 25 Mar and 21 Apr
- Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*: 18 birds off Port Stephens 14 Oct
- Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*: ~80 birds off Swansea 18 Jul
- Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*: 2-3 birds off Port Stephens 25 Mar and 24 Jun
- Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*: a bird at Newcastle Bight 19 Mar
- Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*: 50 birds off Port Stephens 18 Nov
- Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*: a single bird off Port Stephens 22 Apr
- Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*: 11,000-12,000 birds off Newcastle 27 Aug
- Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*: a single bird off Port Stephens 25 Mar
- Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*: a single bird off Port Stephens 18 Nov
- White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*: a single bird off Port Stephens 22 Apr
- Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*: a single bird off Port Stephens 14 Oct
- Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*: nine birds in surveys at lower Hunter Estuary wetlands 6-14 Oct
- Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*: a single bird at Tea Gardens 9 Nov
- Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 62 birds at Hexham Swamp 25 Oct
- Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*: >5,000 birds roosting at Irrawang Swamp 14 Aug
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*: the pair at Port Stephens successfully bred and is now understood to be the southernmost breeding pair in Australia
- Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*: highest ever summer and winter counts in Port Stephens, and 280-300 birds in the Region in summer
- Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*: 110-130 birds in the Region in summer
- Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*: 6,753 birds in Hunter Estuary 18 Aug
- Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*: an adult bird in the Hunter Estuary from 3 Oct
- Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: 464 birds in the Hunter Estuary in Nov (largest count since 1997); at least 600 birds were present in the Region in Dec
- Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*: a single bird at Stockton Sandspit 19 Dec
- Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*: up to 19 birds at Maryland late Oct - Nov
- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*: 50 birds at Pambalong NR 16 Dec

- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: a single bird at Tomago Wetlands 1 Dec
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*: >1,000 birds in lower Hunter Valley Oct-Dec
- Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*: a single bird at Stockton Sandspit from 19 Dec
- Lowest ever peak counts in the Hunter Estuary for several shorebirds:
 - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 - Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*
 - Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
 - Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 - Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
 - Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
- White Tern *Gygis alba*: two birds off Port Stephens 22 Apr
- White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*: 400+ birds at and offshore of Newcastle Baths 27 Aug
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: first confirmed winter record, at Newcastle Baths 9-15 Jul
- Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*: a single bird at Newcastle Baths 29 Oct to 4 Nov
- Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*: a single bird over Newcastle Baths 21 Dec
- Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*: a single bird at Newcastle Bight 19 Nov
- Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*: 300+ birds roosting/feeding in trees along Failford Rd 21 Jan
- Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*: 2,000+ birds flying through Wallsend 9 Apr
- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*: 25+ birds at Goulburn River NP 26 Oct
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*: 300+ birds in the Region May-Jul including 200+ birds in the lower Hunter late May
- Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*: single birds at Ash Island 6 Jan and Hexham Swamp 11 Oct
- Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*: 1-2 birds at Cattai Wetlands Jul and 11 Nov
- Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*: some birds at Windy Station 22 Sep
- Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*: 150+ birds along Careys Peak Track 16 May
- Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*: a single bird at Seal Rocks mid Aug and some birds at Durrigere Rd 11 Mar, 9 Jun and 3 Sep
- Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*: ~100 birds in the lower Hunter Valley Jun-Jul
- Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*: first confirmed breeding record for the Region
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*: up to four birds at Ash Island Jan-early May



Radjah Shelduck by Craig Anderson



Regent Honeyeater by Mick Roderick

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 2012. The information is based upon records from many sources.

In 2012, the Region “lost” its only endemic, when Gould’s Petrels were found to be breeding on Tollgate Island off southern NSW. However, there were three additions to the Hunter Region checklist, which now comprises 441 species:

- Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* (a record from 2011);
- Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*, recorded in March; and
- Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*, recorded in November.

The Hunter Region comprises a land area of ~3.5 million hectares and ~2.2 million hectares of ocean to the east; it has 280km of coastline. In 2012, 359 species were confirmed to have been present in the Region – *this is the most species ever recorded in the Region in a single year (358 species were recorded in 2007)*. The 2012 records are presented in this Report. Readers may be interested to know that on average for 2000-2012, 348 species have been recorded each year in the Region.

116 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2012 (compared to a median of 126 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2003, 238 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 12 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 food¹. All other situations/behaviours², 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.

From 1976, when HBOC was formed, collated information about local birdlife was mainly based on the observations made by the club during its organised activities, supplemented by an informal reporting system for other sightings. Since 1993, with publication of the first annual Bird Report, data collection became more systematic. Also, the past 20 or so years have seen a marked increase in the amount of field work by HBOC members (and too, a much increased membership over that period). This has led to a substantial rise in both the number of species recorded each year and the number of breeding records. Figures 1 and 2 show the results from 1976 to 2012. It is of concern that the number of breeding records has declined in recent years.

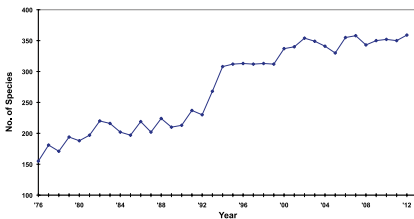


Fig 1: Number of species recorded annually 1976-2012

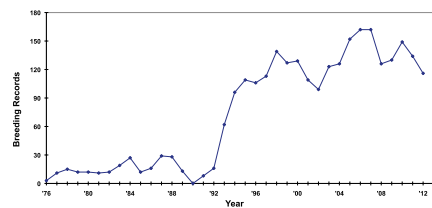


Fig 2: Number of breeding records annually 1976-2012

¹ 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.

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

The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

- *The checklist 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.*
- *In its deliberations, the RAC considers the submitted material plus takes into account the observer's birdwatching experience and the opportunity they had to eliminate any other potential species. **The RAC seeks to ensure that the observer was able to exclude all other plausible species.** One frequent reason for non-acceptance is that the RAC considers that the observer did not see (or did not adequately describe) the diagnostic field marks which would confirm the identification.*
- *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.*
- *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 2012, the RAC members were Sue Hamonet (now retired), Mick Roderick, Ann Lindsey, Fred van Gessel, Phil Hansbro, Mike Newman, Craig Anderson and Allan Richardson.

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 manager. 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. Also our thanks go to Dan Williams who developed the shapefile now used to define precisely the boundaries of the Region.

The BLA Atlas, which commenced in 1998, has records for 3 types of survey: 2ha/20 minute surveys, area surveys (usually 500m radius, can be 5km radius) and incidental surveys (mostly used for capturing records of rarer species or species out of range and usually not submitting a detailed list of other species present in the area). For this Report, only data from 2ha and area surveys have been used for statistics, which are presented for all Category 1 and Category 2 species except pelagic birds (for which data collection is haphazard) and species having no Atlas records. However, the Atlas records from incidental surveys are included in the total number of records for each species. The

Hunter Region data in the BLA Atlas are from >19,000 surveys over 15 years (including 6,150 2ha surveys and 11,329 area surveys. For 2012, there are 2,236 surveys in the Atlas database (1,045 area surveys, 940 2ha surveys and 251 incidental surveys).

This Report details:

- The percentage of 10-minute cells in which each species was recorded³ (for species with 25 or more records in the database), and the Reporting Rate (RR) *in those cells where the species has been recorded*⁴.
- For species with <25 records over the 15 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 1998-2012⁵.
- The number of 10-minute grid cells where the species was recorded in 2012, the total number of records for 2012, and the 2012 RR⁶ (for those species with sufficient records that RRs seem meaningful).

HBOC encourages individuals to send records for the Atlas database (regardless of whatever else they might do with their records). By doing so it 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.

³ 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.

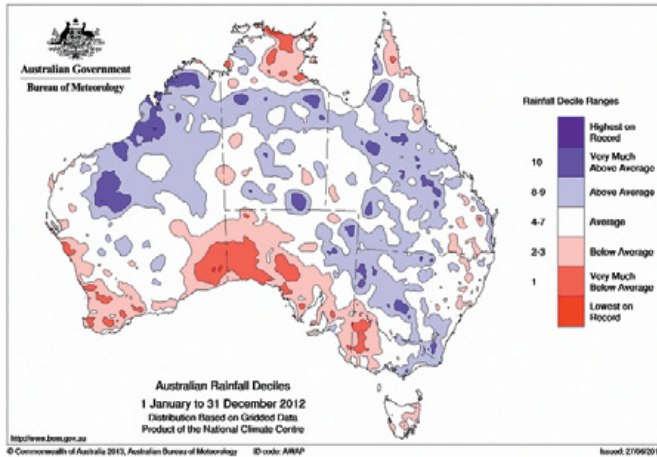
⁴ Reporting Rates (number of times recorded ÷ number of surveys conducted) provide an indication of relative abundance; however, RRs can depend on the type of survey (area surveys are longer duration and generally result in higher RRs). Where the 2012 RR differs from the long term RR, this may in part 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ The 2012 RR is for all cells for which the species has been recorded over the full 15 years of the Atlas.

Other comments

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology rainfall map for 2012 is shown opposite. There seem to have been no significant implications for local bird populations from the local and national rainfall patterns.



2012 Australian rainfall pattern

A map of the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report (and is accessible electronically from Google Maps⁷). 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 2012 Report.

Alan Stuart

18 August 2013

⁷At http://www.hboc.org.au/resources/documents/hunter_region.txt

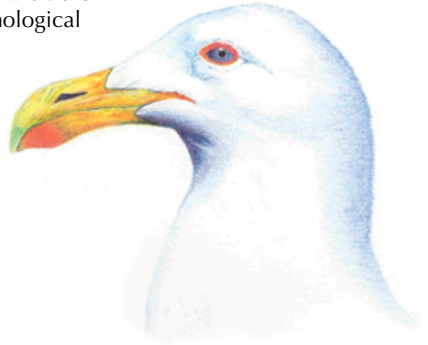
RARITIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Rare Species for the Region

The following species have been recorded in the Hunter Region but are considered rare (in some cases they may be resident or regular visitors but there is very little evidence). They are classified as **Category 3** species for the Region; all 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 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
Freckled Duck
Blue Cape Barren Goose
Blue Radjah Shelduck
Blue Cotton Pygmy Goose
Blue Garganey
Blue Northern Shoveler
Red-tailed Tropicbird
White-tailed Tropicbird
Diamond Dove
Superb Fruit-Dove
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
Blue Pied Imperial-Pigeon
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel
Blue White-bellied Storm-Petrel
Red New Zealand Storm-Petrel
Buller's Albatross
Blue Light-mantled Sooty Albatross
Red Broad-billed Prion
Antarctic Prion
Slender-billed Prion
White-chinned Petrel
Black Petrel
Buller's Shearwater
Red Great Shearwater
Streaked Shearwater
Blue Little Shearwater
Tahiti Petrel
Red Juan Fernandez Petrel
Kermadec Petrel
Blue Cook's Petrel
Black-winged Petrel
Red Pycroft's Petrel
Common Diving-Petrel
Lesser Frigatebird
Blue Red-footed Booby

Masked Booby
Brown Booby
Australian Little Bittern
Letter-winged Kite
Brolga
Red South Island Pied Oystercatcher
Banded Stilt
Red Kentish Plover
Red Ringed Plover
Greater Sand Plover
Blue Oriental Plover
Red Hudsonian Godwit
Blue Little Curlew
Wandering Tattler
Red Lesser Yellowlegs
Broad-billed Sandpiper
Blue Asian Dowitcher
Blue Long-toed Stint
Red Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ruff
Blue Red-backed Button-quail
Red-chested Button-quail
Little Button-quail
Australian Pratincole
Black Noddy
White Tern
Grey Ternlet
Red Black Tern
Arctic Tern
Pacific Gull
Kelp Gull
Budgerigar
Ground Parrot
Little Bronze-Cuckoo
Oriental Cuckoo



Kelp Gull by Chris Herbert

Forest Kingfisher
Red-backed Kingfisher
Spotted Bowerbird
Pilotbird
Inland Thornbill
Pied Honeyeater
Singing Honeyeater
Yellow-throated Miner
Black Honeyeater
Ground Cuckoo-shrike
Barred Cuckoo-shrike
Little Shrike-thrush
Crested Bellbird
Little Woodswallow
Grey Currawong
Satin Flycatcher
White-eared Monarch
Eurasian Skylark
Blue Barn Swallow
Blue Olive-backed Sunbird
Beautiful Firetail
Nutmeg Mannikin
Blue Green-headed Yellow Wagtail
Red White Wagtail

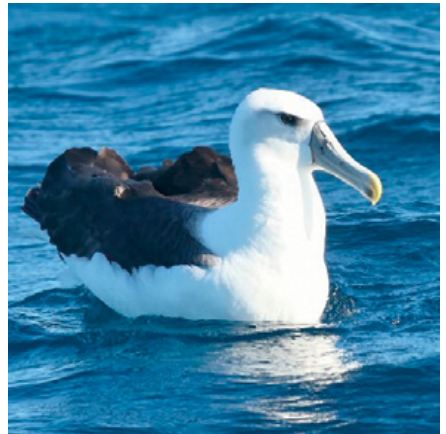
Species of Special Interest for the Region

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



Eastern Yellow Wagtail by Mick Roderick



Shy Albatross by Dick Jenkin

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.

From BLA Atlas: 21 records from six cells, at RR = 5.5%; cell of most interest: C6 (18.5%).

Nine birds were recorded near "Poggy" Station on Ringwood Rd 20 May and two birds were there 8 Apr (ALP). Some birds were also in Goulburn River NP 10 Mar (KEM). **Atlas:** Two records from cell C6

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 = 3.4%; cell of most interest: R5 (37.4%).

1-5 birds were widely and moderately often recorded in wet forest areas in the central and E parts of the Region (many observers). Birds at BbR continue to range into nearby gardens (STA, LIP). **Breeding:** Although breeding was not confirmed, birds were attending mounds at Wingham Brush 7 Jan and BbR 30 Sep (WIT, RIA). **Atlas:** 41 records from eight cells, RR 6.0%

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 0.9%; cell of most interest: G8 (2.6%).

Initially a single bird and rising to 4+ birds were recorded in areas of burnt salt marsh on Ash Island over Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). Other easterly records were of single birds at Hexham Swamp 26 Jan and 6 & 13 Oct (LIA, KEM), Shortland 21 Oct (ROM) and Broadmeadow 4 Dec (WID). Some birds were also recorded at Phoenix Park early Oct (BRG), Lorn 28 Oct (HHB) and Fosterton Loop early Dec (JED). **Atlas:** 11 records, all from cell M10

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: P8 (22.7%).

Notable records: Many pairs and small parties were recorded at Broughton Island 7-9 May, 31 Aug and 16-18 Sep, and the overall Reporting Rate there was 44% (CLT, STA *et al.*). Ten birds were at Ash Island 10 Mar (HAP). **Atlas:** 80 records from 20 cells, RR 13.0%

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare, possibly overlooked (*recorded 1994, 2000, 2010-11*).

No written reports were received for 2012.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded at wetlands around Shortland in counts of up to 50 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.8%).

Birds were recorded all year at HWC, with 50+ present from Apr onwards, peak count 98 birds 13 Jun and 94-96 regularly there in Jun-Jul (LIP/COK, Table 5). 40 birds were at Ash Island 22 Jan and 36 birds 13 Oct, with low numbers sometimes recorded there Jan-Mar and in Nov (HBOC, Table 2, others). Elsewhere, eight birds were at Wallsend 16 Sep (LIG) and three birds at Hexham Swamp 13 Oct (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds had goslings at HWC in Dec (LIP, others). **Atlas:** 32 records, all from M10, RR 5.0%

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: J8 (6.3%).

There were many reports of 50-200+ birds at Doughboy Hollow over Apr-Aug. 387 birds were present 19 May (PEK) then numbers grew even larger, with ~1,000 birds present 10 Jul and 500-600+ birds 26 Jul (HCL, ROS). *These are easily the highest known counts for this location and for the Region.* Elsewhere, 100+ birds were at Majors Lane Cessnock 9 Dec (BEI), 64-74 birds at Hermitage Rd Pokolbin 18 Jan and 1 Feb (ROS), 48 birds at Rathluba Lagoon 9 Jun (MAM), 40 birds at Keinbah 26 Jul (ROS) and ~20 birds at Tarro 7 Apr (THJ). 10-13 birds were recorded at HWC 10 & 16 Jan and Charlestown GC Jan (COK, FEG), and 1-4 birds at Lenaghans Flat 11 Jan (KEM), Wingen 21 Mar (NEG) and Hermitage Rd Pokolbin 9 Apr (SLP).

Atlas: Four records, all from J8**Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.3%).

150 birds were at NWR 31 Jul and Market Swamp 1 Oct (LIA, SLP) and 100-150 birds were regularly in the Shortland area over that period (LIA). 120 birds were at Tarro 6 May (THJ). 20-30 birds were recorded in the Tarro/Woodberry area 11-16 Jan and 7 Apr (ERE, STA, THJ) and at HWC in Mar, May and Oct (Table 5). 6-10 birds were at Tarro early Jan (THJ), HWC in Jan (Table 5), Morpeth WTW 19 Jan (Table 12), Cattai Wetlands Jan and Jun-Jul (Table 19) and Tea Gardens 9 Nov (GOS). 1-5 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary 11 Feb (Table 2), Hexham Swamp 11 Oct (KEM), Wallsend late Oct (per RIA) and occasionally at HWC (Table 5, others).

Breeding: Birds had ducklings at HWC in Mar, then six pairs had nests there 28 Apr (LIP, others). **Atlas:** 17 records from three cells, RR 2.4%**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: M9 (18.8%).

14 birds were at Grahamstown Dam 25 Mar (HBOC) and 1-5 birds there 1 Aug and 27-28 Oct (STA, DDR, VAR). 1-4 birds were present at KI Deep Pond most months with seven birds there 11 Feb (Table 2, others). 1-2 birds were recorded at Pokolbin 8 Jan (STA), Hexham Swamp 12 Mar (Table 8), WWW 8 & 28 Aug and 14 Nov (MEL *et al.*, BRG) and near Ulan 27 Oct (HHB).

Atlas: 22 records from five cells, RR 2.7%**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 2012.

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 = 20.3%; cell of most interest: L10 (57.5%).

Notable records: Many hundreds were present at Morpeth WTW Jan-May with peak count 496 birds 25 Feb (Table 11). 150+ birds were at Port Stephens 20 Feb and Lake Macquarie (Swansea) 18 Sep (Table 15, CJB). Birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary all year, with peak count 163 birds 11 Mar and 83-86 birds Jan and May (Table 2). 50+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 5 Feb (Table 8) and Neranie (Myall Lakes) 21 Apr and 21 Oct (MGLB, CCB).

Breeding: Many pairs had cygnets at Hexham Swamp mid Oct (CLT). There were many other records spanning Feb, Apr-May and Aug-Oct. **Atlas:** 278 records from 23 cells, RR 18.2%

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

ID No: 198 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

No reports were received for 2012. See Supplementary Records.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005-11; a pair in 2005-8 then a single bird from 2009*).

A single bird was recorded at Bulahdelah 10 Jul & 20 Aug (STA), 15 Jul (KEM), 26 Sep (BEI) and 28 Oct (per ROM), and was at Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov (HBOC).

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare (*recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03, 2006-09, 2011*).

From BLA Atlas: 17 records from five cells; cell of most interest: L9 (five records).

Up to three birds were occasionally recorded over 12 Mar - 2 May, ranging between locations on Ash Island and in Hexham Swamp (several observers). A single bird was at Morpeth WTW 19 Jan (Table 12). **Atlas:** Five records from two cells**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 80% of cells, at RR = 23.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.5%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Charlestown GC all months, rising to 100+ over Oct-Dec and peak count 230 birds in Nov (Table 7). 200+ birds were at Cockle Creek in early Feb (IMK, WAR). 50-59 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan and Aug, and 20+ birds in Mar and May-Jul (Table 2). 21-50 birds were also at Tanilba Bay 7 Feb (HBOC), Morpeth WTW 15 May and 8 Dec (Table 12), Kitchener Werakata NP 17 May (BRG) and Gir-um-bit NP 23 Jun and 15 Dec (Table 14). **Breeding:** Birds were with ducklings at Hallidays Point 3 May (MGLB), Lake Glenbawn and Towarri NP both 18 Sep (HBOC), Woodville early Nov and Tocal 28 Oct (both NEM). **Atlas:** 290 records from 44 cells, RR 16.0%

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (22.2%).

Nine birds were at Morpeth WTW 25 Feb (Table 12) and eight birds at WWW 24 Jul (HBOC). All other records were of 1-5 birds: at Singleton WTW 19 Jan (ALP), Morpeth WTW 19 Jan, 21 Jun and 19 Jul (Table 12), Hexham Swamp 5 Feb (Table 8), Muswellbrook WTW 13 Mar (ROM), HWC Mar and Jun (Table 5, others), Ash Island 22 Apr (CLT), Deep Pond 18 May and 12 Oct (ROM), WWW 24 Jun (HBOC) and Cattai Wetlands 11 Jul (Table 19). **Atlas:** 15 records from four cells, RR 2.7%

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

ID No: 200 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Endangered Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2012.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1993).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 = 6.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (30.5%).

Although birds were recorded in the Region more frequently than in 2010 and 2011, almost all reports were of <5 birds. **Notable records:** Birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW all months except Oct-Nov but only in small numbers except for 48 birds 15 May and 35 birds 15 Mar (Table 12). Nine birds were at Muswellbrook WTW 13 Mar (ROM). **Atlas:** 24 records from five cells, RR 2.9%

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2012.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

ID No: 211 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Often recorded at medium-large waters in counts of up to 50 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 13.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (53.6%).

Notable records: Many hundreds of birds were recorded at both Ash Island and Morpeth WTW in Jan and the Hunter Estuary in Feb (STA, Tables 2, 12): the numbers then declined substantially until mid-year. During May-June, numbers began to rise leading to peak counts of 800+ birds at HWC 1 & 8 Oct (LIP), 536 birds in Hunter Estuary 12-13 Oct (Table 2), 690 birds at Morpeth WTW 23 Aug (Table 12), 432 birds at Hexham Swamp 4 Dec (Table 8) and 100-150 birds at Cattai Wetlands 24 Jun (Table 19), Tocal Wetlands 28 Oct (Table 13) and Tomago Wetlands Nov (Table 6). ~1,700 birds were estimated to have been in the lower Hunter Valley in October. **Breeding:** A pair had ducklings at HWC 11 Sep (LIP). **Atlas:** 178 records from 21 cells, RR 12.3%

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 = 22.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (56.4%).

Notable records: 2,000+ birds were at Ash Island 17 Mar (MOA) and 1,109 birds there 3 Apr (LIA). *These counts are 1-2% of the total population.* Numbers at Ash Island and other Hunter Estuary locations were high all year, with 300+ birds in the Hunter Estuary most months including 500+ in four months and a peak count of 756 birds 15-17 Dec (Table 2). 200+ birds were at Morpeth WTW most months with peak count 625 birds 15 May (Table 12). The peak count at Hexham Swamp was 337 birds 4 Dec with 100+ present several other months (Table 8). 300 birds were at HWC 1 Oct (SLP) and several counts of 100+ birds (Table 5). 115 birds were at Tomago Wetlands Dec (Table 6). A bird was taken by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle at Ash Island 6 May (ERE). **Breeding:** Birds had ducklings at Tarro 16 Jan (STA) and were breeding at Balickera Mar and Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 289 records from 20 cells, RR 19.8%



Chestnut Teal by Chris Herbert

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 15% of cells, at RR = 2.0%; cell of most interest: M9 (16.2%).

Ten hybrids with Pacific Black Duck were at Irrawang Swamp Raymond Terrace 26 Aug and six birds there 30 Sep (ALP, SLP). 1-5 birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp 2 Jan, 26 Aug and 28 Oct (BRG *et al.*, DDR, ALP) and Warabrook 26 Mar, Fennell Bay late Aug and Dora Creek 2 Sep (KEM, ROM, GOC). **Atlas:** 12 records from three cells, RR 1.7%

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 = 27.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (78.7%).

Notable records: The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 247 birds 25 Feb; 100+ birds were present most months over Jan-Oct (Table 12). 100+ birds were at Woodberry 16 Jan (STA), Hunter Estuary May, Sep and Nov (Table 2), Hexham Swamp 10 Aug (Table 8) and Tocal Wetlands Nov-Dec (Table 13). 50+ birds were at Hunter Estuary Jan and Oct-Dec, Hexham Swamp May and Nov-Dec (Table 8, NEM), Charlestown GC Jul (Table 7), HWC 1 Oct (SLP), Tocal Wetlands 28 Oct (Table 13) and Pambalong NR 11 Nov (BOH). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Neranie (Seal Rocks) 21 Oct (CCB) and bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 422 records from 37 cells, RR 23.8%

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 in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 7.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (49.7%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary most months, mainly at KI Deep Pond, with peak counts 162 birds Jan and 153 birds Dec (Table 2). ~200 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 15 Sep with 80-100+ present in Jan and Jun-Jul (Table 19). 20+ birds were at Morpeth WTW Jan and Jun-Nov with peak count 129 birds 23 Aug (Table 12). 65 birds were at WWW 13 Jun, with 20+ birds regularly present over Jun-Nov (Table 11). 20+ birds were also recorded at SBL 18 Jan (HCL), HWC Jun-Oct (Table 5) and Raymond Terrace 30 Sep (SLP).

Atlas: 132 records from 14 cells, RR 11.2%

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

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

Status: Uncommon bird of passage (*revised from: Uncommon visitor*)

From BLA Atlas: 24 records from four cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (18 records).

Single birds (females, where noted) were recorded at WWW 13-15 Jun, 14 Jul and 10 Oct (Table 11, KEM, others). **Atlas:** Three records, all from cell L9**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, 2011*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 2012.

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 58% of cells, at RR = 12.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (59.8%).

Notable records: 209 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 15 May with 40+ birds present Jan-Aug (Table 12). 131 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 18-19 May and 40+ Oct-Dec (Table 2). Hence at least 340 birds may have been present in the lower Hunter mid May. 20+ birds were at WWW most months May-Dec with peak count 60 birds 8 Aug (Table 11). 20+ birds were at Hunter Estuary Jan and Mar and HWC Jun-Jul (Tables 2, 5) and SBL 18 Jan (HCL).

Breeding: Birds had dependent young at HWC in Jan (LIP) and Morpeth WTW 15 Mar, 19 Nov and 14 Dec (LIA/ NEM), and bred at Balickera Jun (MUJ). **Atlas:** 176 records from 26 cells, RR 13.2%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (19.8%).

Birds were present at WWW most months with 20+ often there after Jun and peak count 46 birds 12 Dec (Table 11). 63 birds were recorded at GTD 1 Jul and 28 birds 1 Aug (LUD, STA); some birds were also present 27-28 Oct (VAR, HHB). 35 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 18-19 May (mainly at Deep Pond) with 4-12 present most months over Mar-Nov (Table 2). 20 birds were at Morpeth WTW 19 Jul (Table 12). 1-5 birds were recorded at Muswellbrook WTW 13 & 25 Mar (ROM, ALP), Morpeth WTW May, Aug, Sep and Nov (Table 12). Total 13 Jun (Table 13), HWC 22 Jul (HBOC) and Irrawang Swamp 14 Aug (NEM). **Atlas:** 28 records from six cells, RR 3.8%

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (17.6%).

10+ birds were at WWW most months with peak count 23 birds 13 Jun (Table 11, others). Small numbers were recorded at Grahamstown Dam 2 Aug and 27-28 Oct (STA, others) and at Lake Liddell 16 Apr and Glenbawn Dam 17-19 Sep (NEG, HBOC). **Breeding:** There were several breeding records from WWW, spanning Jan-Mar and involving multiple pairs, and birds also had dependent young there 13 Jun (SMJ *et al.*, others). **Atlas:** 15 records from two cells, RR 27.3%

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 29% of cells, at RR = 5.5%; cell of most interest: K11 (30.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Stockton 3 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 34 records from five cells, RR 4.6%

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 36% of cells, at RR = 6.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (43.5%).

Notable records: 10 birds were recorded at Dora Creek 26 Sep (GOC) and 6-7 birds at Medowie several times in late Jan (COD). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Sandy Point Lansdowne 7 Jun (MLGB). **Atlas:** 34 records from 12 cells, RR 7.0%

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 40% of cells, at RR = 17.7%; cell of most interest: L11 (48.6%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at Soldiers Point 26 Aug (ALP). **Atlas:** 71 records from 19 cells, RR 5.1%

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 49% of cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (30.6%).

Notable records: 10 birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC) and 6-9 birds at Allyn River 18 Jan and Copeland SCA 26 Jul (MEL, STA). Three birds were at Harrington RF 16 Sep (STA).**Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 35 records from 16 cells, RR 3.4%**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (2.64%).

Single birds (where numbers were noted) were recorded at Boolambayte 15 Jan (MOA), Harrington RF 18 Feb (MGLB), Balickera May (MUJ), Berrico Gloucester Tops Rd 6 Oct (BRG *et al.*) and Wingham Brush 4 Nov (KEM). **Atlas:** One record, from cell P7**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.0%).

Three birds were recorded at Hobdens TSR 26 Feb and Jones Reserve Rd 8 Apr (both ALP), and 1-2 birds in Yengo NP several times in Jan (BRG *et al.*, KEM, ALP), Goulburn River NP 8 Apr and 14 Oct (ALP, BRG), Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr (DBP *et al.*), White Box 20 May (ALP), Battery Rocks Merriwa 9 Jun (STA), Laguna 31 Aug – 2 Sep (RDB) and Flat Tops Rd Dungog 30 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 35 records from 14 cells, RR 11.2%**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: M11 (23.1%).

Three birds were recorded near Jewells Wetland 28 Oct (DTB) and single birds at Awabakal NR 5 Aug (BLM) and Belmont Lagoon 7 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** Nil records**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 22.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (60.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP 23 Jun (HAS *et al.*) and Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 221 records from 45 cells, RR 12.1%**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2003*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 43% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: G8 (57.1%).

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region. An easterly record was some birds at Cooperook SF 17 Mar (MGLB). **Atlas:** 26 records from 14 cells, RR 7.9%

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 = 16.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (40.5%).

Notable records: 17 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10 Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and ten birds near Kurri Kurri 22 Feb (BRG). **Atlas:** 214 records from 36 cells, RR 12.8%

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia picata (amended)*

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 = 8.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (26.2%).

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Laguna 23-24 Apr (RDB). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 90 records from 20 cells, RR 12.4%

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded.

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: N5 (6.3%).

Eight birds were at Copeland SCA 26 Jul (STA) and 6+ birds at Allyn River 18 Jan and Knorrit Flat 28 Nov (MEL, ERE). Three birds were recorded at Seal Rocks 9 Sep (BNSW) and two birds at Saltwater NP 20 Aug and Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (STA, HBOC). Single birds were recorded at Copeland SCA 11 Feb and 29 Jul (KEM, ROS), Wang Wauk Rd 16 Jul (MGLB), Saltwater NP 15 Sep (STA), White Rock Allyn River 28 Oct (DDR) and Westleys Rd Gloucester 4 Dec (DBP). A bird was taken into care at Kotara late Aug and later released there (per NIJ).

Atlas: 11 records from six cells, RR 10.9%

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

ID No: 023 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1996, 1999, 2006, 2009*)

No reports were received for 2012.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

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

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994-95, 1997, 2003-08*) (*revised from: Rare*)

No reports were received for 2012.

Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

ID No: 026 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2009*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 = 2.5%; cell of most interest: N5 (10.1%).

50+ birds were flying over Singleton 4 Jul (CLT). 21-50 birds were recorded at Allyn River 18 Jan (MEL), Copeland SCA 12 Feb (BRG *et al.*), Rainbow Flat 26 Feb (OCG), Cattai Wetlands Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Darawank 4 Apr (MGLB), Mulbring 21 May (GAB) and Cooranbong 29 Sep (RIA). 12-15 birds were flying over Pelican 18 Sep (CJB). 1-10 birds were at Copeland SCA 11 Feb (KEM), "The Grandis" (Wootton) 1 Mar (MGLB), Manning River 24 Mar (MGLB), Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr (DBP *et al.*), Tuncurry 8 Aug (MGLB), One Mile Beach Forster 19 Aug (per FIW), Soldiers Point 26 Aug (ALP), Rainbow Flat 9 Sep (MGLB), Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC), Lenaghans Flat 28 Oct (DDR) and Harrington RF 30 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** Nine records from seven cells, RR 4.0%

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 48% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting near Seal Rocks 21 Oct (CCB) and had a nest with young at Speers Point Oct/Nov (HAS).

Atlas: 17 records from nine cells, RR 2.0%**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 = 1.2%; cell of most interest: G10 (15.6%).

Two birds were recorded at Finchley Track Yengo NP 7 Jan (BRG *et al.*) and single birds at Kitchener 8 Feb (GOC), Goulburn River NP 10 Mar (KEM), WWW 13 Sep (BRG), Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ) and Knorrit Flat 27 Nov (ERE). A bird was at Ash Island 10 Oct (MCN) – *unusual location*. **Atlas:** Nil records

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.0%).

Two birds were heard calling by day near Kurri Kurri 19 Sep (ROM). Single birds were recorded at Nords Wharf 18 Sep (ROM), Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC), WWW mid Sep (BRG), Laguna 29 Sep – 1 Oct (RDB), Kia-Ora Lookout Gloucester 13 Dec (DBP) and Boarding House Dam 27 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells, RR 3.7%

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 in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: Q6 (16.2%).

~500 birds were flying together near Neath 28 Dec (ROS), and 200+ birds were recorded over Singleton 28 Jan (ALP) and Lambton 26 Feb (ROM). In early Jan, flocks of 100+ birds were flying over Barnsley, Black Creek (Cessnock), Lovedale, Cooranbong and Kurri Kurri, and there were many records of 20-50+ birds from central/east of the Region during that time (many observers). 50+ birds were at Singleton 4 Mar (ALP) but there were few other records of large flocks until late Oct, when 20+ birds were recorded at Wallingat NP 20 Oct and Main Creek Rd 31 Oct (CCB, STD), and 50+ birds at Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB). 100+ birds were near both Bulga Creek and Bulahdelah 27 Dec (ANC), and 50+ birds at Cundletown 9 Nov (MGLB), Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov (HBOC), Soldiers Point 26 Nov (EGD), Toronto West 1 Dec (CRL) and New Lambton 23 Dec (TAN). There also were several records of 21-50 birds, from mid Nov onwards. **Atlas:** Ten records from nine cells, RR 2.3%

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: L11 (3.1%).

~15 birds were recorded at Eleebana 3 Jan (MAC) and six birds at Speers Point 11 Dec (HAS). Two birds were at Singleton 23 Dec (ALP) and a single bird flying over Charlestown in Mar (FEG). **Atlas:** Four records, from cells J8 and M10

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

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

~150 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 25 Mar and 21 Apr, 60 birds 22 Apr and 2-4 birds in Jun, Sep and Nov (Table 21).



Wilson's Storm Petrel by Mick Roderick

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

As for 2011, there were very few reports: 1-2 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 24 Jun, 14 Oct and 18 Nov (Table 21).

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregatta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002, 2006, 2009-10).

No reports were received for 2012.

White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregatta grallaria*

ID No: 944 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2012.

New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Pealeornis maoriana*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

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

5 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Sep and 1-2 birds 21 Apr and 18 Nov (Table 21). One of the birds 23 Sep was a Snowy Albatross *D. e. exulans* and had been banded in the Crozet Islands on an unknown date (per ROM).

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

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

12-15 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 24 Jun, 23 Sep and 14 Oct, and 6-7 birds off Swansea 18 Jul and Port Stephens 18 Nov (Table 21, ROM *et al.*). 1-2 birds were off Newcastle 27 Aug and 1 Sep (ROM/RIA, LIG) and Broughton Island 31 Aug (STA *et al.*), and a beachcast bird was found on Newcastle Bight 21 Nov (NEM/LIA). Three of the birds on 14 Oct were sub-species *impavida*.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

ID No: 091 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Winter migrant. (*qualifying text deleted*)

18 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Oct, seven birds 24 Jun and single birds 23 Sep and 18 Nov (Table 21). A beachcast bird was along Newcastle Bight 21 Nov (NEM/LIA).

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.

~80 birds were following a trawler off Swansea 18 Jul (ROM *et al.*). 35 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 24 Jun (Table 21) and many birds were off Port Stephens 11 Jun (WID). 2-3 birds were off Newcastle 9 Jun and 27 Aug (ROM/RIA).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

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

Three birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 25 Mar and two birds on 24 Jun (Table 21).

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*

ID No: 093 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*new to list*).

A distressed bird was found ashore at Newcastle Bight 19 Mar; it was taken into care but later died (GER/RUN). *The report was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 20th record for NSW.*

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

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

A single bird was recorded off Newcastle Baths 10 Aug and two birds in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Sep (THJ, Table 21).

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.

A single bird was recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 24 Jun (Table 21). Two birds were taken into care from Newcastle Bight 28 May; one later died, the other was released. One of them had been banded in South Georgia in March 2012 (Newcastle Herald, NIJ). A beachcast bird was found in Newcastle Bight 28 Aug (LIA).

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

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

1-3 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens Jun-Oct (Table 21) and a single bird was close inshore off Newcastle Bight 26 Jun, being harassed by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle (NEM/LIA).

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

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 2012.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

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

Five birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 24 Jun (Table 21).

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006-07, 2010-11*).

Six birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 18 Nov (Table 21).

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: 1,000-2,000 birds were recorded off Newcastle 4 Jan and 1 Sep (ROS, LIG) and during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Sep (Table 21). 500+ birds were off Newcastle 27 Aug and off Port Stephens 14 Oct (ROM/RIA, Table 21). An intermediate pale morph bird was 15 km off Swansea Heads 4 Feb (ROM *et al.*) – *this is an uncommon morph for NSW.*

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1995, 2000-01, 2009*).

Two birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 25 Mar (Table 21).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2011*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant at >1km from shore.

70-100 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens Mar-Apr and a single bird 14 Oct (Table 21).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

ID No: 070 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

50 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 18 Nov, four birds 14 Oct and a single bird 24 Jun (Table 21). *50 birds is by far the largest known count for the Region; the birds possibly were on migration.*

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*amended*)

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

Notable records: 900 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 18 Nov and 250 birds 14 Oct (Table 21). The first recorded returns were of four birds off Newcastle 26 Aug and a single bird off Port Stephens 31 Aug (ROM, STA *et al.*).

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006, 2010-11*).

A single bird was recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 22 Apr (Table 21).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant and bird of passage in late winter/spring.

11,000-12,000 birds were estimated to have been off Newcastle 27 Aug and ~5,000 birds 26 Aug (ROM/RIA). 3,000-5,000 birds were also off Newcastle 12 Jul (LIA) and ~2,000 birds off Swansea 18 Jul (ROM *et al.*). 300-400 birds were off Port Stephens 31 Aug and off Redhead 18 Sep (STA *et al.*, ROM). 1-8 birds were recorded in several pelagic surveys off Port Stephens (Table 21) and off Nobbys Beach 6 Jul and 1 Sep (LIA, LIG).



Fluttering Shearwaters by Mick Roderick

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

Eight birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 18 Nov (Table 21). 1-4 birds were off Newcastle Baths 12 Jul and 26 Aug and off Port Stephens 25 Mar and 23 Sep (LIA, ROM, Table 21).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

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

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

No reports were received for 2012.

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 2012.

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 810 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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, 2011*).

A single bird was recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 25 Mar (Table 21).

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 2012.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common all year at and beyond the continental shelf.

Six birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens and up to four birds off Port Stephens 21-22 Apr and 14 Oct (Table 21). *The number of birds recorded has decreased in recent years.*

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*

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

18 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Sep and 4-10 birds in all other surveys over Apr-Oct (Table 21).

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

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

A single bird was recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 22 Apr (Table 21). Some birds (apparently pre-breeding) were ashore on Cabbage Tree Island 17-20 Dec (CLT).

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

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

A single bird was recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 18 Nov (Table 21). *The report was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 10th record for NSW.*

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer visitor (recorded 2001, 2004-07, 2011).

A single bird was recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 22 Apr (Table 21).

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*

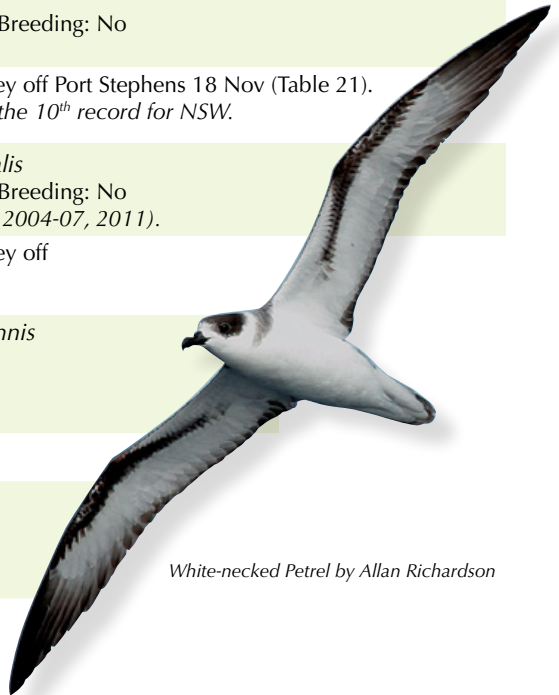
ID No: 955 HBOC Category: 3
NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2007).

No reports were received for 2012.

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

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

No reports were received for 2012.



White-necked Petrel by Allan Richardson

Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

ID No: 085 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*new to list*).

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Oct (Table 21).

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: P9 (15.5%).

1-3 birds, where numbers were noted, were off Burwood Beach 27 Jan (CLT), Newcastle Baths 4 Apr (THJ), Myall River (Hawks Nest) Sep (GOS) and Jimmys Beach (Hawks Nest) 7 Nov (ERE). Some birds were ashore at Cabbage Tree Island 17-20 Dec (CLT). **Atlas:** Nil records

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 13% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: P9 (17.6%).

Notable records: 150 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 24 Jun (Table 21) and 20+ birds in all other Mar-Sep surveys (Table 21). 20+ birds were also off Seal Rocks 11 May (BRG) and ~50 birds off Newcastle Baths 10 Aug (Table 9). 15 birds were feeding inside Port Stephens 31 Aug (STA *et al.*) and 10-15 birds were off Birubi Point – Fingal Bay several times Mar-Jun (Table 16). There were summer records of 2+ birds off Harrington 18 Feb and off Moon Island 21 Feb (OCG, HOB). **Atlas:** 22 records from ten cells, RR 9.6%

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

ID No: 102 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1984, 1986, 1991, 2010-11*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters, in counts of up to 5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (38.6%).

Notable records: There were several records of 10+ birds at Morpeth WTW, with peak count 24 birds 19 Jan (Table 12). 25 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Jul and 13 birds there 20 Feb (Table 15). 6-10 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Mar and Nov-Dec and WWW 10 Oct, and several times at Swansea/Lake Macquarie (Tables 2, 10, 11). **Breeding:** There were ten nests at Chatham 16 Nov (MOA) and birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 19 Apr (GOC).

Atlas: 137 records from 23 cells, RR 9.8%

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 62% of cells, at RR = 21.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (59.4%).

Notable records: 123 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Jul and 52 birds 20 Feb (Table 15). 101 birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jul and 20+ birds Jan and May-Jun (Table 10). 20+ birds were also at Morpeth WTW 25 Feb and Gir-um-bit NP 19 Aug (Tables 12, 14).

Atlas: 313 records from 42 cells, RR 16.7%

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 42% of cells, at RR = 12.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (35.2%).

Notable records: 126 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Jul (Table 15) and 40+ birds were off the Birubi Point – Fingal Bay coastline Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec (Table 16). 20+ birds were in the Newcastle Baths area Feb and Hunter Estuary Oct; 12-15 birds were at these locations several times in Aug-Dec and at WWW Oct-Nov and Manning Estuary Oct (Tables 11, 18). **Atlas:** 138 records from 21 cells, RR 11.3%

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 55% of cells, at RR = 18.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (57.6%).

Notable records: 207 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Apr and 100+ birds there Oct-Nov and at Manning Estuary Sep (Tables 10, 18). 50+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp Jan, Morpeth WTW Mar, Swansea/Lake Macquarie Mar and Dec, Manning Estuary Mar and Dec, Hunter Estuary May, Port Stephens Jul (see Tables) and GTD 1 Aug (STA). 20+ birds were present all months in Hunter Estuary and occasionally at other regularly monitored sites (see Tables). **Atlas:** 332 records from 36 cells, RR 19.3%

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual coastal resident. Often recorded near to the coast in counts of up to 10 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 11.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (37.9%).

Notable records: 164 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Feb and 157 birds 20 Jul (Table 15). 50+ birds were at Manning Estuary 30/31 Oct, Birubi Point/Fingal Bay Nov and Forster/Tuncurry 18 Dec (Tables 16-18). 20+ were birds at Forster/Tuncurry 26 Jan, Gir-um-bit NP 19 Aug and Hunter Estuary Dec, and there were several records of 10+ birds at regularly monitored sites (see Tables). **Atlas:** 123 records from 17 cells, RR 11.6%

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 in 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 = 26.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (56.3%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Ellalong Lagoon 1 Sep (CCB). Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at six locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 118 birds Mar; 50+ many months); Morpeth WTW (peak count 120 birds 22 Nov, 30+ most months); Hunter Estuary locations (peak count 192 birds 21 Apr, 50+ many months); Port Stephens (117 birds 20 Feb, 90 birds 20 Jul); Manning Estuary (peak count 79 birds 18-19 Feb, 30+ most months); Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 134 birds 13 Mar, 100+ most months). Elsewhere, 21-50 birds were recorded at WWW 2 May and 24 Jul (BRG, HBOC), Newcastle Baths area Jun (Table 9), HWC Jul (Table 5), Bolwarra Wetlands 28 Aug (BRG) and Bengalla Rd 8 Sep (CLT). **Atlas:** 270 records from 24 cells, RR 20.4%

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 1.2%; cell of most interest: P7 (14.8%).

Lower Hunter: There were many records of 1-2 birds over Jan-Jul and again in Oct, mainly from Ash Island and locations within Hexham Swamp but ranging as far as WWW, Balickera, East Seaham, Morpeth and Raymond Terrace (many observers). *No Aug-Sep or Nov-Dec records.*

Harrington/Coopernook: 1-2 birds were recorded several times, mainly from locations along Harrington Rd and the Manning River. **Elsewhere:** Single birds were at Craven 5 Jun (per DBP), Bulahdelah area 26 Jun and 2 Jul (ERE, WID), Dungog area 1 Jul and 1 Aug (MEL, JED) and Wallamba River 18 Oct (MGLB). **Atlas:** 15 records from six cells, RR 1.8%

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: L10 (1.5%).

A total of nine birds were recorded in surveys at lower Hunter Estuary wetlands over 6-14 Oct – one at Tomago Wetlands and eight separate birds at various locations within Hexham Swamp (several observers). 1-2 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands over Apr-May and Sep-Oct (Table 6). A single bird was flying over Pindimar 29 Feb (STA) and single birds were at Ash Island 26 Mar and 11 Apr (STA, FEG/FIW). **Atlas:** Nine records from four cells, RR 1.25%

Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

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

Status: Rare.

Single birds were heard at Hexham Swamp 5 Feb (Table 8) and seen at Tea Gardens 9 Nov (GOS). No birds were recorded in evening surveys at lower Hunter Estuary wetlands over 6-14 Oct (*details above*).

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: 18 records from 12 cells, at RR = 0.5%; cell of most interest: L11 (four records).

Two birds were recorded at Stockton Creek Morisset 4 Dec (KEM) and single birds at Hexham Swamp 17 & 25 Jan (BRG, SMJ) and Brush Creek (Dora Creek) 14 Dec (GOC). **Atlas:** One record, from cell K11

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 (22.8%).

Notable records: 30 birds were in the Coralville/Crowdy Head area late Feb (EGD) and 17 birds at Hexham Swamp 13 Oct (KEM). 6+ birds were at Ash Island 28 Feb (OCG) and five birds at Woodberry 16 Jan (STA). There were several records of 3-4 birds at regularly monitored sites (see Tables). **Atlas:** 72 records from 20 cells, RR 5.4%

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 = 18.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (46.6%).

Notable records: 77 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 20/21 Jan although this included 60+ at Ash Island; all other months had 10-16 birds (Table 2, STA *et al.*). At other regularly monitored sites: 10-20+ birds were often at Tomago Wetlands and Hexham Swamp with peak counts 30 birds Dec and 43 birds Oct respectively; 20+ birds at HWC Jan-Feb and 10+ birds Mar and Nov-Dec (Table 5); 39 birds at Morpeth WTW 25 Feb and 11 birds 15 Mar (Table 12); 8-10 birds in Port Stephens Feb and Jul (Table 15) and seven birds at Gir-um-bit NP 13 Oct (see Tables). Elsewhere, six birds were at Woodberry 16 Jan (STA). **Breeding:** Birds bred at HWC Jan-Mar, with 40 nests present 10 Mar (NIG *et al.*, LIP). The colony re-established Nov-Dec although there were no active nests 8 Dec (NIG *et al.*, LIP). **Atlas:** 302 records from 21 cells, RR 19.9%

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 = 7.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (26.3%).

Notable records: 32 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Dec, 23 birds at Hexham Swamp 30 Nov and 19 birds at Woodberry 16 Jan (Table 2, NEM, STA). 23 birds were at Morpeth WTW 19 Jan and 14 birds 15 Mar (Table 12). 10-15 birds were often recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Mar-Jun (Table 10) and at Hexham Swamp 13 Oct, Beresfield 26 Oct and Tomago Wetlands Dec (KEM, ERE, Table 6). There were several records of up to seven birds at regularly monitored sites (see Tables) and five birds were at Pambalong NR 11 Nov (BOH). **Breeding:** There were 15 nests at HWC 10 Mar and eight nests 8 Dec (NIG *et al.*). **Atlas:** 86 records from 14 cells, RR 6.8%

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 in counts of 10-50 birds except when breeding.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 15.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (60.2%).

Notable records: 300-450 birds were at HWC Jan and Nov-Dec and 100+ over Feb-Mar (Table 5). 308 birds were roosting at Gloucester and 240 birds at Booral 25 Jul (both HCL). 100-200 birds were at Morpeth WTW Feb-Apr (Table 12), Duns Creek 9 & 11 Jun (NEM) and Pambalong NR 7 Nov (KEM), and 50+ birds at Ash Island 11 Mar (ALP), WWW 14 Mar (Table 11) and East Seaham 10 Apr (MCN *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds again bred at Gloucester, with 217 chicks present 24 Jan and 334 chicks 9 Mar (DBP). There were 125 nests at HWC 10 Mar and 300 nests 8 Dec (NIG *et al.*). A newly reported colony of ~100 nests was at Chatham 16 Nov (MOA) – but see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** 136 records from 18 cells, RR 10.4%

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 13% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: S4 (12.5%).

Notable records: Three birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 15). Although not a breeding record, two young birds were together at Pindimar 29 Feb (STA). **Atlas:** 22 records from nine cells, RR 2.3%

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 79% of cells, at RR = 31.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (68.3%).

Notable records: Birds often were present in high numbers at three locations: Hunter Estuary (60+ all months, 100+ often, peak count 210 birds 23 Jun); Tomago Wetlands (20+ often, peak count 83 birds Oct); and Hexham Swamp (30+ most months, peak count 89 birds 24 Nov); see Tables 2, 6 & 8 for details. In the Hunter Estuary, the majority of birds were at locations around Ash Island (many observers). 128 birds were at Port Stephens 20 Jul and 58 birds 20 Feb (Table 15). 61 birds were at Morpeth WTW 19 Jan and 20+ over Mar-Apr (Table 12); 20+ birds were also at Cattai Creek 11 Jul (STA), Swansea/Lake Macquarie Aug (Table 10) and Gir-um-bit NP 17 Nov (Table 14). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Gloucester 3 Jan (DBP). **Atlas:** 565 records from 38 cells, RR 31.4%

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 21% of cells, at RR = 9.7%; cell of most interest: M10 (17.7%).

Notable records: 17-20+ birds were recorded at HWC Jan-Feb and 18 birds in Port Stephens 20 Jul (Tables 5, 15). 8+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary most months (mainly at Ash Island) with peak count 14 birds Dec (Table 2), and 8+ birds were often at Swansea/Lake Macquarie over Jan-Jul (Table 10). Six birds were at Forster/Tuncurry 19 Jun (Table 17). **Breeding:** There were single nests at HWC 10 Mar and 8 Dec (NIG *et al.*). **Atlas:** 130 records from 11 cells, RR 12.7%

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.2%; cell of most interest: P9 (14.3%).

2-3 birds were present at Broughton Island 13-24 Jul, 31 Aug and 18-20 Sep, and a single bird 28 Nov; the Reporting Rate in surveys at coastal sites there over Aug-Nov was 26% (ANC, STA *et al.*, CLT). Elsewhere, single birds were around the Birubi Beach – Fingal Bay coastline Jan, Mar and Dec (Table 16) and at Swansea Headland 21 Feb (HOB), Nobbys Breakwall 28 Mar (THJ), Burwood Beach 16 Apr (THJ), Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB), Shelly Beach (Red Head) 29 Oct and Harrington 29 Oct (both STA). **Atlas:** 14 records from seven cells, RR 2.0%

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: M9 (9.3%).

Birds were roosting at HWC most months, with peak count 46 birds 11 Dec; also 37 birds in Jan and 19-28 birds over Aug-Oct (DAP, Table 5). 15+ birds were at Morpeth Common 24 Jan and three birds there 28 Aug (STA, BRG). 18 birds were at Irrawang Swamp 26 Aug and some birds there 2 Jan (ALP, BRG *et al.*). Several birds were flying into Hexham Swamp 11 Oct on dusk (LIA *et al.*), and ten birds were at Seaham Swamp NR 21 Oct (HBOC). There were many records of 1-5 birds from the E of the Region – the most westerly records were from Black Creek Lovedale 8 Feb (CLT), Werakata SCA 27 May (ERE) and Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 34 records from eight cells, RR 4.1%

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: L10 (7.9%).

62 birds were at Hexham Swamp (Minmi side) 25 Oct and 36-42 birds 30 Nov and 12 Dec (NEM); there were also reports of lesser numbers Jan and early Oct (ROM, NEM, others). 18-20 birds were recorded at Pambalong NR 9-11 Nov (JOT, HOB). 1-5 birds were at Morpeth WTW 25 Apr, 21 Jun and 25 Oct (Table 12) and Lenaghans Flat 28 Oct and 4 Nov (DDR, ALP). **Atlas:** 13 records from six cells, RR 1.6%

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 24.0%; cell of most interest: O9 (45.4%).

Notable records: 200+ were present most months at HWC with the peak count 676 birds Sep (Table 5). ~500 birds were roosting at Irrawang Swamp 14 Aug (NEM). 200+ birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary 11 Feb and Gir-um-bit NP 19 May (Tables 2, 14), and 100+ birds at Morpeth WTW Jan and Dec, Hunter Estuary 11 Mar, Broadmeadow 17 Mar, Tomago Wetlands Mar and Adamstown 11 Jun (see Tables, WAR, NIR). **Breeding:** Breeding at HWC wound down through Jan-Mar then birds began nesting again in early Jul (several observers); 345 nests were present 4 Aug and 26 nests 8 Dec (NIG *et al.*). Elsewhere, 20 nests were at NWR 31 Jul (LIA) and 12 nests at Chatham 16 Nov (MOA). **Atlas:** 307 records from 17 cells, RR 22.3%

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 13.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (40.2%).

Notable records: >5,000 birds were roosting at Irrawang Swamp 14 Aug (NEM). 250 birds were roosting at Booral 25 Jul (HCL) and 150+ birds at WWW 2 May and Morpeth WTW 23 Aug (BRG, Table 12). **Atlas:** 91 records from 16 cells, RR 6.7%

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 14.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (45.8%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Feb-Mar and Dec (Table 2) and at Ash Island 7 Apr (SLP), and at Tomago Wetlands Mar and Sep (Table 6). 21-50 birds were at Tarro 16 Jan (STA), Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb and Nov (Table 8, NEM), Morpeth WTW Mar and May (Table 12), Pambalong NR 27 Oct (RIA) and several times at both Hunter Estuary and Tomago Wetlands (Tables 2, 6). **Breeding:** There were 5+ nests at Rutherford 9 Mar (BRG) and birds had dependent young at HWC in Jan and Dec (LIP, others). **Atlas:** 190 records from 16 cells, RR 13.6%

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

ID No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage. Moderately often recorded throughout the Region in counts of 1-3 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 28% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: J9 (20.4%).

Notable records: 5 birds were at Morpeth WTW 22 Nov (Table 12). A bird at Ash Island 19 May was the first record from this location for >2 years (STA/MCN). **Atlas:** 12 records from seven cells, RR 1.5%

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 (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: S4 (31.3%).

Notable records: Three birds were at Broughton Island 7-9 May and 13-24 Jul (CLT, ANC). Single birds were often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations in Jan, Jun and again in Oct, ranging to Maitland, Millers Forest and Worimi Conservation Lands and with two birds present 18 Jan (many observers). A pair continued to be reported from southern Lake Macquarie locations (several observers); records of single birds from Speers Point Mar and Jun (WAR, MAC) may be a different bird. **Breeding:** Birds bred near Soldiers Point and near Tahlee during the year (MUT) and were at a nest at Tuncurry 3 Jul (FIW). **Atlas:** 72 records from 13 cells, RR 7.1%

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 72% of cells, at RR = 7.0%; cell of most interest: M9 (19.3%).

Notable records: Five birds were within ~500m range at Croki 27 Aug (MGLB). **Breeding:** An adult was feeding a fledged young at Woodville mid Jul (NEM). **Atlas:** 95 records from 30 cells, RR 6.5%

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: Q4 (8.7%).

All reports were of single birds. There were many records in the Maitland/Cessnock area in Feb-Apr, Jul-Aug and Oct and ranging as far as Werakata NP and Raymond Terrace. There were also several records from west Lake Macquarie locations in Feb-Apr – coincidences in times of records show this was a different bird. Birds were also recorded at Cattai Wetlands 17 Feb (STA), Viney Creek Rd 7 May (MOA), Cundletown several times in Jun (MGLB), Weston 17 Jun (ROS), Bowmans Crossing 1 Sep (BRG) and Goulburn River NP 28 Oct (HHB). **Atlas:** 14 records from eight cells, RR 1.6%

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 23% of cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: M8 (25.8%).

Four birds were recorded at Eleebana 9 May (GOA). Two birds were at Mulbring 6 Apr (HCL), Quorrobolong 1 Sep (CCB), Wang Wauk 20 Oct (MGLB) and Blue Gum Hills RP 28 Oct (HHB), and single birds at Cessnock 15 Apr (ROS), Scone area 25 Jul (CLT), Balickera Aug (MUJ), Quorrobolong 1 Sep (CCB), Brunkerville 15 Sep (WID), Cooranbong 22 Sep (RIA), Minimi 22 Dec (KEM) and Keinbah 29 Dec (GOJ). **Atlas:** 11 records from six cells, RR 1.2%

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 44% of cells, at RR = 14.7%; cell of most interest: P9 (38.5%).

Notable records: Eight birds were recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 26 Jun and five birds 24 Apr (NEM *et al.*). Five birds were at Broughton Island 8-10 May (CLT) and four birds at Seal Rocks 11 May (BRG). A bird took a Chestnut Teal at Ash Island 6 May (ERE). **Breeding:** Birds successfully nested at HWC, commencing late Jul (LIP, others). **Atlas:** 199 records from 26 cells, RR 12.8%

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 16.0%; cell of most interest: N9 (40.3%).

Notable records: 11 birds were at Hexham Swamp 30 Nov (NEM) and seven birds at Broughton Island 8-10 May (CLT) and HWC 4 Dec (LIP). Four birds were recorded at Karuah 28 Jan (WIL) and Gir-um-bit NP 23 Jun (HAS *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 22 Aug and feeding fledged young there 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*), and were nesting at Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB). **Atlas:** 166 records from 23 cells, RR 11.8%

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (20.9%).

Manning Valley and North: There were records all year of 1-2 birds at lower Manning Valley locations, ranging from Wingham to Crowdy Bay/Saltwater NPs (several observers). Two pairs and two single birds were recorded in May (STA), **Forster/ Great Lakes:** 1-2 birds were at Smiths Lake 22 Apr (MGLB), Hallidays Point 3 May (MGLB), Forster/Tuncurry 8 May (STA), Boomerang Beach 16 Jun (MGLB), Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB) and Black Head 29 Oct (STA). **Port Stephens/mid-North:** Single birds were recorded at Port Stephens 1 Oct (ERE), Soldiers Point 26 Nov (EGD) and LTP 22 Dec (HIP), and also at Broughton Island 8-10 May (CLT). **Hunter Estuary:** A pair was present 27 Dec (BEI) and single birds were recorded Jan-Feb, Aug-Oct and sometimes in Dec (many observers). **South:** No reports were received. **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Tinonee 6 Aug and had a nest with young there 5 Nov (MGLB). **Atlas:** 27 records from eight cells, RR 3.8%

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: 12 records from nine cells.

Four birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 25 Oct (ROM) and single birds at Nulkaba 7 Feb (RIA), Merriwa 5 Aug (KEM), Cessnock 27 Sep (ROS), Rothbury 5 Oct (ROS), Lenaghans Flat and Newline Rd 28 Oct (VAR, HHB) and Wallalong 12 Dec (NEM). An uncommon coastal record was a single bird at King Edward Park often during Aug (THJ). **Atlas:** One record, from cell H4

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 54% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (33.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Quorrobolong 15 Apr (ALP), Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr (DBP *et al.*), Waratah 8 Jul (ANG), Gosforth 28 Aug (BRG) and Tighes Hill 7 Sep (CLT). A bird took a Common Myna at Wingen 31 Dec (NEG). **Breeding:** A bird was with a dependent young at Bobs Farm 12 Dec (HDM). **Atlas:** 32 records from 16 cells, RR 2.4%

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 (42.2%).

Notable records: A bird was at Broughton Island 13-24 Jul – the first record for this location in 13 years of winter visits (ANC). **Atlas:** 19 records from eight cells, RR 1.6%

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 28% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: M8 (14.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with one young at Blue Gum Hills RP 7 Nov (KEM). **Atlas:** 30 records from nine cells, RR 2.6%

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: H7 (6.4%).

All reports were of single birds. There were widespread records from central/W of the Region over Sep-Nov. Birds were also recorded at Rawdon Vale Rd 7 Feb (PEK), Kerabee, Baerami and Yarrowa Rd 28 Mar (all ROM), Denman 10 Apr (CJB), Giants Creek 27 May (GED), Willow Tree 29 Jun (BRG/KIR), near Dungog 29 Jun (JED) and Thornton 16 May and 10 Nov (GOC). Easterly records were of single birds at Deep Pond 18 May (ROM), Flat Island (M11) 23 Sep (THJ/LIG), Belmont Swamp 30 Sep (RIA), Tomago Wetlands 16 Oct (LIA), Raymond Terrace 27 Oct (VAR) and Hexham Swamp 26-28 Oct (several observers). **Atlas:** Seven records from five cells, RR 1.3%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 8.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (27.6%).

Notable records: Two adults and two juveniles were together at Pelaw Main 10 Oct (ROS).

Atlas: 121 records from 11 cells, RR 9.7%

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 81% of cells, at RR = 9.0%;
cell of most interest: J9 (43.9%).

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at
Pembroke Rd 10 Jun and three birds at Woko
NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (both HBOC). Easterly records
were single birds at Stockton Sandspit 26 Jan (CLT)
and Myall Lakes 12 Mar (MAT). **Atlas:** 79 records
from 41 cells, RR 5.9%



Wedge-tailed Eagle
by Rob Kyte

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 1.9%; cell of most interest: H7 (8.7%).

A single bird and two birds together were seen simultaneously at Pelton 26 Jul (ROM) and two birds at Richmond Vale 2 Aug and Blue Gum Hills RP 7 Aug (ROM, BRG). There were many and widespread records of single birds in Jul-Sep (many observers). Single birds were also recorded at Thornton 2 Jan (BRG/KIR), Mulbring 8 Jan (WID), Richmond Vale 11 Feb (GOC), Ash Island 29 Feb (ERE), Cessnock 16 Apr (ROS), Jerrys Plains 29 Apr (ALP), Hexham 23 Jun (STA *et al.*), Medhurst Bridge 16 & 23 Sep and 10 Nov (LIG, ALP, KEM), Aberdeen 12 & 19 Nov (NEG), Darawank 13 Nov (STA) and Singleton 18 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** Five records from four cells, RR 1.0%

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 = 9.1%; cell of most interest: J9 (49.6%).

Notable records: Three birds were at Nobbys Park 6 Dec (THJ). **Atlas:** 81 records from 25 cells,
RR 5.4%

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, usually as single birds or pairs (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 5.3%; cell of most interest: H7 (21.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 48 records from 21 cells,
RR 4.5%

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 44% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (13.3%).

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Milbrodale Rd 13 May (ALP) and WWW 10 Oct
(MEL *et al.*). **Atlas:** 34 records from 12 cells, RR 3.2%

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (4.3%).

Two birds were at Scone 26 & 28 Mar (NEG). All other reports were of single birds – at Ash Island 19 May (MCN/STA), East Maitland 10 Jul (BRG), Scone 1 Aug (MCR), W of Merriwa 2 Sep (KEM), NW of Merriwa 3 Sep (BRG), Tocal 17 Sep (NEM/WAL), Wingen 27 Sep (NEG), Morpeth 1 Oct (ROM), Lenaghans Flat 25 & 28 Oct (ROM, VAR) and Gundy 1 Dec (HUM). A bird took a Rock Dove at Scone 26 Mar (NEG). **Atlas:** Four records from four cells, RR 0.74%

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 35% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: P9 (12.3%).

Notable records: Birds took a Galah at Wingen 5 Feb and a Rock Dove at Scone 26 Mar (both NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Bow Wow Gorge 15 Oct (FIP). **Atlas:** 19 records from eight cells, RR 2.3%

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

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

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005*)

No reports were received for 2012.

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 47% of cells, at RR = 17.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.5%).

Notable records: ~200 birds were at Hexham Swamp 13 Oct and 90 birds 30 Nov (KEM, NEM). Birds were regularly recorded in good numbers at three locations (see Tables for details): Tomago Wetlands (peak count 104 birds Sep; 20+ many months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 74 birds Oct; 20+ most months); HWC (peak count 38 birds Oct, 20+ all months). 20+ birds were also at Hexham Swamp 5 Feb and Charlestown GC Jun (Tables 8, 7). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan, Mar, May and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 253 records from 24 cells, RR 16.5%

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (*amended – there was a 2008 record*)

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: 31 records from ten cells; cell of most interest: P8 (six records).

2+ birds were present at Esmeralda Cove Broughton Island 18-20 Sep and birds were also heard at two other locations on the Island (STA *et al.*). Two birds were at Belmont Swamp 30 Sep and WWW 14 Nov (RIA, SMJ *et al.*). **Atlas:** Six records, all from Broughton Island

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: P9 (13.4%).

Three birds were recorded at Dora Creek 15 Jun and Ash Island 9 Oct (GOC, LIA). Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 20 Jan, Tighes Hill 6 Sep and Ash Island 26 Jan (Table 8, CLT, LIA). There were many records all year of single birds from the E of the Region and also from Gundy 24 Jan (NEG), Narone Creek Wollombi 6 Feb (GRJ) and Broughton Island 13-24 Jul (ANC).

Breeding: Pairs had chicks at HWC 17 Feb and Stockton Sandspit 27 Dec (LIP, THJ). **Atlas:** 23 records from six cells, RR 2.8%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (eight records).

Two birds were recorded at WWW 7 Nov (STA) and single birds there 29 Aug and 29 Dec (MAM, BRG). Two birds were at a mine dam near Ulan 27 Oct (HHB) and single birds at Pambalong NR 5 Nov (KEM) and at several Ash Island locations in Jan and Oct-Nov (KEM, STA *et al.*, MCN, LIA). **Atlas:** Ten records from three cells, RR 1.3%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.1%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 26 & 29 Jan, 26 Jul, 11 Sep and 7 Oct (LIA, KEM, Table 8) and single birds at Ash Island 6 & 10 Jan (LUD, EGD) and near Ulan 27 Oct (HHB).

Atlas: Five records from two cells, RR 0.9%

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: M11 (3.1%).

Single birds were present at Hexham Swamp 26 Jan (LIA), Pambalong NR 7 Nov (KEM) and Ash Island 17 Nov (STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** One record, from M10

Black-tailed Native-hen *Tribonyx ventralis (amended)*

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

Status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 0.7%; 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 58% of cells, at RR = 14.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (61.3%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were present at HWC most months with peak counts 177 birds in Jun (Table 5) and 250 birds 3 Jul (HBOC). 30+ birds were at Hunter Estuary 18-19 May and South Wollombi 19 Aug (Table 2, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were with chicks at HWC Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec (LIP, others), WWW and Bolwarra Wetlands 24 Jan (STA) and WWW 14 Mar (SMJ *et al.*). **Atlas:** 187 records from 24 cells, RR 12.5%

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 = 9.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (51.0%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at five locations (see Tables for details): Morpeth WTW (peak count 938 birds May; 100+ most months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 732 birds Dec; 100+ most months); WWW (peak count 379 birds Nov, 100+ most months); Cattai Wetlands (peak count 245 birds, 50+ often in first half of year); HWC (peak count 322 birds 1 Oct (SLP), 50+ several months). Elsewhere, ~220 birds were at Hands Lagoon 24 Jan (STA) and ~300 at Lake Liddell 16 Apr (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had chicks at WWW 24 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** 110 records from 16 cells, RR 10.6%

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 (3.4%).

A bird was often seen/heard at Dora Creek during the year (GOC). Two birds were at Karuah 28 Jan (WIL) and Bob's Farm 6 Aug (WOL). **Breeding:** A chick hatched at Bob's Farm 28 Sep and was still present 23 Oct (CAS, BNSW). **Atlas:** One record, from O9

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: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: R4 (10.1%).

There were frequent reports of 1-2 birds at Manning Entrance SP and Soldiers Point/Dowardee Island. **Breeding:** There was compelling evidence that the pair in Port Stephens bred commencing in late 2011, and successfully raised a chick which was seen with them often over Feb-Aug. *This is now the southernmost known breeding pair in Australia.* The pair at Manning Entrance SP lost a chick which hatched in spring but had a new chick in Dec (CRB).

Atlas: 13 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 2012.

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 = 13.1%; cell of most interest: N9 (41.8%).

192 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Feb and 154 birds 20 Jul (Table 15) – *the highest summer and equal highest winter counts on record for Port Stephens.* At locations within Port Stephens, birds were present at Gir-um-bit NP all surveys with peak count 50 birds 11 Mar, and 54 birds were at LTP 13 Jun (PEJ). Birds were regularly at five other locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak 9 birds Dec); Hunter Estuary (peak count 13 birds Oct); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 18 birds Apr and Aug); Forster/Tuncurry (peak 38 birds 26 Jan); Manning Estuary (peak 14 birds Nov). Also, a survey between Old Bar and Crowdy Head 14 Dec found 23 birds (THM). There were occasional records from elsewhere, including two birds at Broughton Island 31 Aug (STA *et al.*). *In summer, at least 280-300 birds were estimated to have been present in the Region, and at least 190-210 birds in winter.*

Movements: A bird at Worimi Conservation Lands 31 Jul had been banded as a runner at Bundjalung NP Oct 2010 (per LIA). **Breeding:** Only four Manning Estuary chicks fledged in the 2012/13 season (CRG), and a pair at Stockton Sandspit made four unsuccessful breeding attempts over Sep-Dec (CLT). A pair had a nest with eggs at Broughton Island 18-20 Sep but there was no evidence of successful breeding in mid Nov (STA *et al.*, CLT). **Atlas:** 137 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 10% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: P8 (22.1%).

The peak count at the Newcastle Baths roost was 48 birds in Feb, with 42-46 birds in Mar-Apr (*the largest counts ever for this location*) and some birds were present all year (Table 9, THJ, NIR, SLP). Some birds were also recorded at other Newcastle locations (e.g. KI Dykes, Stockton Sandspit) during the year (Table 1, various observers). 42 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Feb and 28 birds 20 Jul (Table 15) – *the highest summer and winter counts on record for Port Stephens*. 34 birds were at Broughton Island 13-24 Jul, ten birds 7-9 May and 17-20+ birds 31 Aug and 18-20 Sep (ANC, CLT, STA *et al.*). Birds were recorded most months along the Birubi-Fingal coastline with peak count 15 birds in Nov (Table 16). 5-6 birds were at Manning Estuary Feb-Mar (Table 18), Gir-um-bit NP 25 Mar (HBOC) and Forster 21 Jul (MGLB), and three birds at Seal Rocks 11 May (BRG). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Forster/Tuncurry 26 Jan (Table 17), Spoon Rocks 22 Jul (STA), Crowdy Head 16 Sep & 14 Nov (STA), Seal Rocks 19-21 Oct (CCB), Catherine Hill Bay 4 Dec (HBOC) and Cabbage Tree Island 17-20 Dec (CLT). *At least 110-130 birds were estimated to have been present in the Region in summer.* **Breeding:** A pair was with two young at Crowdy Bay 1 Jun (WRC). **Atlas:** 54 records from seven cells, RR 6.3%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 13.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (33.9%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were often recorded at three locations (see Tables for details): Hexham Swamp (peak count 794 birds 24 Nov); Morpeth WTW (peak count 258 birds 22 Nov); Hunter Estuary (peak count 366 birds in Dec). Elsewhere, 51-100 birds were at SBL 18 Jan and 11 Sep (HCL), Tomago Wetlands Sep-Oct (Table 6) and Beresfield 26 Oct (ERE).

Breeding: A bird was on nest near Broke 14 Nov (ROS). **Atlas:** 156 records from nine cells, RR 17.0%

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 eight cells, at RR = 8.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (11.2%).

Birds were present in low numbers in the Hunter Estuary in the first half of the year, and absent in March. From June, numbers increased substantially, to a peak count of 6,753 birds 18 Aug and many thousands present all months (Table 1). Elsewhere, 74-115 birds were at Hexham Swamp Sep-Oct (Table 8), 34 birds at Morpeth WTW 22 Nov and a single bird 25 Oct (Table 12), ~30 birds at Harrington 14 Jan (WIT), 20 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 21 Jan (Table 14) and 2-3 birds at both SBL and Pelican Swansea 30 Sep (RIA). **Atlas:** 76 records from five cells, RR 9.7%

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental

(recorded 1995-96, 2000-01, 2004).

A single adult bird was first recorded in the Hunter Estuary 3 Oct (HCL); it was present for the rest of the year (many observers). Most reports were from Stockton Sandspit and occasionally from KI Dykes and Ash Island (the latter only in Oct).

NB some other sources erroneously cited the arrival date as 5 Sep.



Banded Stilt by Allan Richardson

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: R4 (19.9%).

Hunter Estuary: Some birds were present until early Apr, and the first recorded return was a single bird 29 Aug (HCL, others). The peak count was 464 birds in Nov (*the largest count since 1997*), with 200+ birds present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec (see Table below and Table 1). 62 birds were also recorded at nearby Tomago Wetlands in Dec, with 30+ birds present Oct-Nov (Table 6); these possibly were a subset of the larger group in the Estuary at the time. Manning Estuary: The peak count was 151 birds 18 Dec, with 50+ present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. Elsewhere: 53 birds were at Worimi Conservation Lands 20 Nov (GER); 20-30+ birds at Gir-um-bit NP 21 Jan and 17 Nov (Table 14) and Green Point Wallis Lake mid Nov (CAA); 19 birds at Hexham Swamp 7 Oct (Table 8); and 1-3 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 13 Feb, Morpeth WTW 12 Sep and Tuncurry 29 Oct (Tables 12, 14, 17). Over-wintering: Eight birds were regularly in the Manning Estuary (Table 18) and two birds were at Port Stephens 20 Jul (Table 15). *From the above data, at least 600 birds were in the Region in Dec.* **Atlas**: 70 records from five cells, RR 8.8%

Monthly Peak Counts at Hunter Estuary Locations*(From weekly surveys by L Crawford & C Herbert. No surveys were done Apr-July)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
237	237	246	1	57	215	464	446

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 23 records from four cells.

A single bird was first recorded in the Hunter Estuary 17 Nov (HCL); it was present for the rest of the year (many observers). Most reports were from Stockton Sandspit and occasionally from KI Dykes. **Atlas**: One records, from M10

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental *(recorded 2002).*

No reports were received for 2012.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental *(recorded 1967).*

No reports were received for 2012.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

ID No: 143 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded along the coast, mostly in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 10.0%; cell of most interest: N9 (24.7%).

Notable records: Manning Estuary: 9+ birds every survey, with 20+ birds present in many surveys and peak count 46 birds in Feb (Table 18). Port Stephens: 8-11 birds in the Feb and Jul surveys (Table 15). Hunter Estuary: 6+ birds most months with peak counts 21 birds 3 Apr and 18 birds Jan and Dec (HBOC, Table 1). Also, 15-16 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 11 & 14 Jun (CLT). Worimi Conservation Lands: 6+ birds were recorded in all surveys, with 20+ present Mar-Jun (Table 20). Elsewhere: Seven birds were at Broughton Island 13-24 Jul (ANC).

Breeding: Birds had a runner at Harrington 18 Feb (OCG) and were nesting along Newcastle Bight 27 Mar (NEM *et al.*). As usual there was much nesting activity at Stockton Sandspit, by several pairs from late Jul onwards; four pairs had runners there 14 Oct (CLT). **Atlas:** 81 records from six cells, RR 10.0%

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: R4 (13.0%).

Worimi Conservation Lands: Birds were present Feb-Aug with peak count 105 birds 24 Apr (Table 20). Manning Estuary: Birds were present Feb-Sep with peak count 68 birds 10-11 Jul (Table 18). Also, a single bird was at Sandbar 18 Aug (per FIW). Port Stephens: 37 birds were recorded 20 Jul; also 12 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 23 Jun and 4-5 birds there in May and Aug (Tables 14, 15). Elsewhere: 1-2 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 25 Feb, 26-29 Mar and 3 Apr (several observers) and some birds were at Cellite Beach 18 Aug (MGLB). **Atlas:** 26 records from four cells, RR 24.5%

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 = 1.2%; cell of most interest: N9 (6.6%).

Three birds were recorded at Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 15). Two birds were at Stockton Sandspit 25 Feb (CCB), with single birds recorded there several times Jan-Feb and Dec (HCL, others). A single bird was at Manning Entrance SP 18 Feb (STA). **Atlas:** Six records, from R4 and M10

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004-05, 2007-09*).

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Sandspit 19 Dec (HCL/RIA).

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyornis 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 = 6.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.5%).

Notable records: 25-26 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 22 & 26 Jan and 32 birds 5 Feb; 6-9 birds were present Apr-May and Oct (HBOC, Table 8). 20+ birds were at Ash Island 21 Mar and 11-14 birds earlier that month and in Jun (BRG, MOA, ALP, Table 3). 6-20 birds were at SBL 18 Jan and 11 Sep (HCL), Hunter Estuary Jan and Apr-Jul (Tables 1, 3), Worimi Conservation Lands 23 Feb and 26 Jun (Table 20), Tocal Wetlands 28 Oct (Table 13) and HWC Nov-Dec (Table 5). **Breeding:** Pairs has nests with eggs at Ash Island 28 Feb and Tocal Wetlands 1 Nov, and a pair had chicks at Tocal 28 Oct (OCG, NEM). **Atlas:** 106 records from 13 cells, RR 11.7%

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythronys cinctus*

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (7.0%).

20 birds were at HWC 27 Dec (LIA) and 12 birds at Milhams Pond Jan (Table 4). Birds were present at Tocal Wetlands Sep-Dec with peak count nine birds 28 Oct (Table 13). 6+ birds were recorded at Phoenix Flats Jan, Ulan area 28 Oct and Hunter Estuary Dec (Tables 3 & 7, HHB). 1-5 birds were at Morpeth WTW 29 Jan and Aug-Sep (Table 12), Ash Island 29 Feb, May-Jun, Aug and Dec (ERE, Tables 3 & 4), Hexham Swamp 22 Jan and 25 Oct (HBOC, ROM), Hunter Estuary 21 Jul (Table 1) and HWC Nov (Table 5). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Tocal Wetlands 28 Oct and 1 Nov (NEM). **Atlas:** 25 records from five cells, RR 3.1%

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: 21 records from 13 cells.

Six birds were at Hexham Swamp 4 Dec (LIA) and two birds at Worimi Conservation Lands 28 Aug (Table 20). There were many reports from the Lorn/ Bolwarra area Jan-Feb, Jul-Aug and Oct-Nov, with peak count 16 birds late Oct and 26 Nov (ROM, BEI, others). Single birds were recorded at Phoenix Flat 1 Jul and Booragul 23 Sep (MCN, ANC). **Atlas:** Four records, from L9 and M10

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 78% of cells, at RR = 34.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (75.1%).

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded all months at Hunter Estuary locations with peak count 94 birds Jan (Table 1), Morpeth WTW most months with peak count 116 birds 15 Mar (Table 12), often at Charlestown GC (Table 7), SBL 21 Jan (OCG), Hexham Swamp Jan-Apr (Table 8), Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 15), Tomago Wetlands Feb-Mar (Table 6), Tocal 6 Mar (HBOC) and Manning Estuary 5 Jun (Table 18). **Breeding:** There were many records, the majority in Aug and also Feb, Jun-Jul and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 554 records from 42 cells, RR 30.2%

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident, more usual in N of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 2.7%; cell of most interest: R3 (17.1%).

Birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands most months over Jan-Sep, with peak count seven birds 13 May (Table 19). Elsewhere, single birds were at Lenaghans Flat 25 & 27-28 Oct (ROM, RIA, HHB), Tarro 11 & 13 Jan (per WAR, ERE) and Morpeth WTW 15 May (Table 12). **Atlas:** 11 records from four cells, RR 8.5%

Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*

ID No: 170 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Past records
Status: Uncertain (*all records since 1993 have been spring/summer ones*).
From BLA Atlas: 26 records from four cells; cell of most interest: L10 (11 records).

Following the discovery of 6+ birds at Tumpoaba Reserve Maryland 26 Oct (LIG), there were several records from there until 17 Nov, with the peak count 19 birds 28 Oct (VAR, others). 3-4 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 22 Jan and 5 Feb (HBOC, LIA) and single birds at Ash Island 21 & 24 Jan and 8 Feb (ERE, LIG) and Widden Valley 14 Nov (ROS) – *the latter an unexpected location*. **Atlas:** Six records from three cells

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds often recorded at wetlands in the E of the Region, from Jan to mid-Mar and late Aug onwards.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: AA (19.1%).

Notable records: 50 birds were recorded at PNR 16 Dec (*the highest count there since 2006*) and 29 birds at Pacific Dunes GC Meadowie 16 Dec (HBOC, per HCL). 7-8 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 21 Aug (MCN), Lenaghans Flat 27 Oct (RIA) and Raymond Terrace 16 Dec (per HCL). The 21 Aug record was the earliest for NSW (per BNSW); also two birds were at East Seaham 22 Aug (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 43 records from ten cells, RR 4.6%

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

ID No: 152 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in eight cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.1%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 97 birds 21 Jan (Table 1). *Once again, this is the lowest peak count on record; the trend since 2003 continues to be one of steady decline*. In the regular monthly surveys, only 50-55 birds were present Feb-Mar; however, 92 birds were recorded at Ash Island Swan Pond 17 Mar and 17 birds were present there 17 Apr (MOA, LIA); in Mar-Apr birds were often at Ash Island. Outside the Hunter Estuary, single birds were at Hexham Swamp 7 Oct, Morpeth WTW 22 Nov and Tomago Wetlands 20 Nov (Tables 6, 8, 12). Once again, no birds over-wintered. **Atlas:** 44 records from three cells, RR 6.1%

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant. Up to 20 birds are often recorded Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec; many young birds remain over winter (*text amended*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 12.6%; cell of most interest: N9 (60.9%).

Notable records: *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 968 birds 15 Dec – an increase on 2011 but still the second lowest peak count since systematic surveys began. 940 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 1 Nov (HCL). 700-800+ birds were present throughout the migration period, and up to 189 birds over-wintered (Table 1, others). *Port Stephens:* 689 birds were present 20 Feb and 122 birds 20 Jul, with 200+ birds also recorded at Gir-um-bit NP Feb and Oct (Tables 14, 15); 100+ birds 6 & 19 Aug and 73 birds 25 Mar (WOL, Table 14, HBOC). An albino bird was recorded several times in Port Stephens (MEL, WOL). *Manning Estuary:* The peak count was 198 birds 13-14 Nov with 100+ birds present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec and up to 55 birds in winter (Table 18). *Elsewhere:* 100+ birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan-Mar (Table 10). **Atlas:** 119 records from eight cells, RR 13.4%

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 2012.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec (*text added*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 9.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (41.0%).

Notable records: *Port Stephens:* 207 birds were recorded 20 Feb and at least seven birds over-wintered; 25-50 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP Jan-Mar but very few were present thereafter (Tables 14, 15). *Hunter Estuary:* Numbers varied considerably; peak counts were 52 birds Sep and 39-42 birds Feb and Dec. Some over-wintering birds were at Stockton Sandspit 24 Jun and earlier that month; there were no other records of them (Table 1, CLT). *Elsewhere:* Up to 23 birds were in the Manning Estuary Jan-Mar and lesser numbers Sep-Dec (Table 18), and 11 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in Jan but all other counts were of <10 birds (Table 10). **Atlas:** 66 records from six cells, RR 7.7%

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant. 1-10 birds moderately often recorded Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec; some young birds remain over winter (*text amended*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 18.6%; cell of most interest: N9 (52.7%).

Notable records: *Port Stephens:* 230 birds were recorded 20 Feb – a low count; however 350+ birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 19 Aug (Tables 14, 15). *This represents >1% of the total world population.* Just seven birds over-wintered (Table 15). *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 244 birds 11 Feb – this also is a low count for the Estuary. Up to 25 birds over-wintered (Table 1). *Manning Estuary:* 20+ birds were present Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec, with peak count 43 birds Feb and 30+ present Jan-Mar (Table 18, MOA). *Arrival:* ~100 birds arrived in the Hunter Estuary 29 Aug (HCL); some birds had already arrived in the Manning Estuary by 20 Aug (STA). **Atlas:** 136 records from seven cells, RR 15.9%

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 = 3.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.1%).

The only records were from the Hunter Estuary: Eleven birds were present 11 Mar (Table 1) and 10+ birds 23 Dec (ROM); all other records were of <10 birds. *The regional status for this species continues to give serious cause for alarm.* **Atlas:** 16 records, all from M10, RR 1.0%

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
 Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

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

1-2 birds were at Hunter Estuary locations Jan, Mar and Aug-Dec (Table 1). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 6 Jan (ROM) and Harrington 26 Jan (STA).

Atlas: 11 records from three cells, RR 1.6%

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 (18.2%).

In regular surveys of Port Stephens roost sites, the peak count was 83 birds in Feb, and up to 14 birds over-wintered; a Feb boat-based survey recorded 66 birds (see Table below and Table 15). 22 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 21 Apr (Table 14). In the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 34 birds Feb and four birds over-wintered (Table 1). Some birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan-Apr and Nov-Dec, with peak count seven birds Feb (Table 10). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Manning Estuary Mar and Aug (Table 18) and Teralba Feb (IMK). **Atlas:** 58 records from four cells, RR 7.5%

Highest Monthly Counts at Port Stephens Roost Sites

(From land-based surveys at roost sites, led by L Wooding & A Stuart)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	79	34	63	7	5	14	15	13	39	42	60

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
 Status: Accidental (recorded 1999, 2008, 2010).

No reports were received for 2012.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: M10 (13.0%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 66 birds 15 Dec – a further decline from 2011 and the lowest peak count since the regular monthly surveys commenced in 1999. One bird over-wintered in the Estuary. Elsewhere, seven birds were at Port Stephens 20 Feb, two birds at Tocal Wetlands 25 Nov and a single bird at Tomago Wetlands Dec (Tables 6, 13, 15).

Atlas: 31 records, from cells M10 and L8, RR 4.3%

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

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 = 5.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.0%).

The peak counts for the Hunter Estuary were 20 birds 18 Mar and 18 birds 20/21 Jan (CLT, Table 1). Single birds were at the nearby Tomago Wetlands Sep-Oct but there were no reports from elsewhere, and no birds over-wintered. *A further decline to the poor numbers of 2011 and the lowest peak count since the regular monthly surveys commenced in 1999.* **Atlas:** Eight records, all from M10, RR 1.2%

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-02, 2008-09, 2011*).

From BLA Atlas: 17 records from three cells; cell of most interest: L10 (2.2%).

A single bird was recorded at Tomago Wetlands 1 Dec (LIA/MCN). **Atlas:** Nil records**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.7%).

The peak count at Newcastle Baths was 16 birds in Oct, with 12-16 birds present most summer months (Table 9); the birds were also occasionally at nearby locations. 1-3 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Oct (Table 1), Broughton Island 31 Aug, 19 Sep and 28 Nov (STA *et al.*, CLT), Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 15) and Manning Estuary Nov-Dec (Table 18). The first recorded return was 31 Aug but one bird was briefly present at Newcastle Baths 13 Jul (THJ). **Atlas:** 13 records from three cells, RR 1.8%

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 = 2.5%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.9%).

The only records were from Stockton Sandspit, where five birds were present 15 Dec, three birds 3 Jan and 1-2 birds after mid Oct (Table 1, others). **Atlas:** 14 records, all from M10, RR 2.2%

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant and bird of passage in Sep/Nov.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.5%).

Birds were absent the Hunter Estuary most of the year until some were present Sep-Dec (Table 1). In the migration passage, the first birds noted (a flock of four) arrived 29 Aug and the peak count was 280 birds 22 Sep with 275 birds also present 13 Oct and 230 birds 1 Nov (HCL, Table 1). Elsewhere, 15 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Nov and five birds Oct (Table 10), 12 birds at Harrington 18 Dec and nine birds 31 Oct (Table 18) and seven birds at Gir-umbit NP 13 Oct (Table 14). **Atlas:** 33 records from four cells, RR 4.5%

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 = 3.4%; cell of most interest: R4 (6.7%).

The peak count for the Manning Estuary was 10+ birds 30 Nov, with nine birds recorded there 18 Dec and 1-3 birds occasionally at other times (ERE, Table 18). Elsewhere, a single bird was at Birubi Beach 12 Dec (WOL). **Atlas:** Seven records, from cells R4 and S4, RR 9.0%

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: R4 (20.2%).

85 birds were in the Manning Estuary 18 Dec and 30+ in the other summer months (Table 18). In the Hunter Estuary, the peak counts were 30 birds 19 Dec and 28 birds 17 Nov whilst 5-10 birds were recorded in Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec and 12 birds at nearby Tomago Wetlands Dec (HCL, Tables 1, 6). Nine birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb, also 1-2 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 24 Jan and 13 Oct (Tables 14, 15, MEL). 1-5 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan, Tuncurry 29 Oct, Morpeth WTW 22 Nov and Tomago Wetlands Nov (see Tables). Two birds over-wintered in the Manning Estuary and a single bird was at Worimi Conservation Lands 31 Jul (Tables 18, 20). **Atlas:** 61 records from six cells, RR 7.5%

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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: 13 records from three cells; cell of most interest: M10 (ten records).

No reports were received for 2012.

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 7.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (9.9%).

Notable records: Up to 40 birds were recorded at Ash Island in Jan (various observers) but birds then were absent for ~8 months. There was an influx to lower Hunter Valley locations from Sep, with >1,000 birds present across the main sites over Oct-Dec. *The counts represent up to ~0.6% of the Flyway population.* The peak counts at Hexham Swamp were 700+ birds 25 Oct and 1,010 birds 4 Dec (ROM, LIA); 150 birds were recorded 11 Oct (LIA *et al.*). At Tomago Wetlands, 405 birds were present 13 Nov and 700+ birds 23 Dec (MCN/ LIA). In the Hunter Estuary, 528 birds were present 12/13 Oct, 300 birds 17 Nov and 257 birds 15 Dec (Table 1, HCL). 145 birds were at Morpeth WTW 22 Nov (Table 12). The first recorded arrival was a single bird at Stockton Sandspit 8 Sep (HCL). **Atlas:** 56 records from three cells, RR 7.3%

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 4.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.0%).

The Hunter Estuary peak count was 126 birds 21 Jan, with 90-100 birds present over Sep-Dec (Table 1, ERE, HCL). *This is a further decline compared with 2011, which at the time was the lowest count on record. For comparison, many thousands visited every year until the mid 1990s.* The only record from elsewhere was of three birds at Harrington 16 Sep (Table 18). The first recorded return was of eight birds at Stockton Sandspit 29 Aug (HCL). **Atlas:** 36 records, from cells M10 and S4, RR 5.3%

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1979, 2004).

No reports were received for 2012.

*Broad-billed Sandpiper by Chris Herbert***Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3

NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant.

(recorded 1994-95, 2003-04, 2006-07).

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Sandspit from 19 Dec onwards (HCL, others).

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 2012.

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

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

Status: Accidental (recorded 1999, 2006-07, 2010-11).

No reports were received for 2012. See Supplementary Records.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 22% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (39.1%).

A group of five birds and three individuals were recorded at Abermain/Kurri Kurri woodlands 1 Jun (ROM) and there were reports of 1-2 birds from this area 29 Feb and several times in Oct (ROS, ROM). 1-2 birds were also recorded at Ash Island 6 Jan (KEM), Yengo NP 7 Jan and 7 Mar (BRG), Green Wattle Creek 16 Feb and 19 Nov (NEM), Balickera Feb and Sep (MUJ) and Quorrobolong 20 Sep (ROS). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with eggs near Kurri Kurri 19 Sep, with young in the nest 7 Nov and the chicks later successfully fledged (ROM, ROS). **Atlas:** 11 records from six cells, RR 1.2%

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 2012.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon visitor, more frequently in winter.

Two birds were recorded on pelagic surveys from Port Stephens 24 Jun and 14 Oct (Table 21).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 25 Mar and 2-5 birds in the Apr and Nov surveys (Table 21). A single bird was off Newcastle Baths 22 Feb (KEM).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

Six birds were recorded on a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 18 Nov and 2-3 birds in the Mar-Apr surveys (Table 21). A single bird was off Newcastle Baths 28 Feb (ROM) and some birds off Harrington 18 Feb (OCG).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

Six birds were recorded on a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 18 Nov and a single bird 25 Mar (Table 21).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare (recorded 1977, 1999, 2008-09, 2011)

No reports were received for 2012.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

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

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 22 Apr (Table 21).

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

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

A single bird was roosting at Nobbys Breakwall 5 Jan (NIR) and a single bird on a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 18 Nov (Table 21).

Little Tern *Sternula albibrons*

ID No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant (*revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*). Over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec, present in large numbers at Manning Estuary and in counts of up to 5 birds elsewhere along the coast.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: R4 (26.6%).

Notable records: Many hundreds of birds were in the Manning Estuary Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec; some were still present 8 May and eight birds had returned by 10 Jul (Table 18). A coastline survey between Old Bar and Crowdy Head 14 Dec yielded 262 birds including 163 in breeding plumage (THM) – a *substantial decline on the previous year's count*. In the regular surveys of the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 62 birds 21 Jan (Table 2); however, 100+ birds were at Stockton Sandspit 24 Nov and 30 Dec (ERE, ROM). 24 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Dec and 13 birds in Feb (Table 10). **Breeding:** There were ~90 breeding pairs at Manning Entrance SP in Nov/Dec; however only 14 chicks were fledged, because of predation by Silver Gulls (CRB, THM). A pair had a nest with egg near Stockton Beach 21 Nov (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 51 records from six cells, RR 6.5%

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded close to the coast all year (*text added*)

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: N9 (10.3%).

Notable records: 130 birds were at Ash Island 27 Oct (RIA). In Sep-Nov, 20+ birds were often recorded at Stockton Sandspit with peak counts 107 birds 8 Sep and 61 birds 14 Oct (HCL, WID). ~100 birds were at Worimi Conservation Lands 20 Nov, with 17-39 birds present 26 Jun, 28 Aug and 21 Nov (GER, Table 20). 17 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 23 Jun (Table 2) and 6-10 birds were at Manning Estuary 20 Aug, Hunter Estuary Sep and Nov, Newcastle Baths Dec (Tables 2, 9, 18). **Atlas:** 51 records from six cells, RR 6.6%

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 12% of cells, at RR = 8.6%; cell of most interest: N9 (33.1%).

Notable records: 22 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Jul (Table 15), and within the Port, 6 birds were present at Gir-um-bit NP both 23 Jan and 15 Sep (Table 14). 11 birds were at Morpeth WTW 15 May (Table 12). 5+ birds were at Hunter Estuary locations often over Jan-Aug with peak count 18 birds 21 Apr (Table 2). 6-10 birds were also recorded at Manning Estuary 22 Mar (Table 18), Morpeth mid Jul (NEM) and Swansea/Lake Macquarie Dec (Table 10).

Atlas: 79 records from eight cells, RR 9.4%

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Spring migrant and bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: L10 (6.2%).

There was an influx to Stockton Sandspit area in late Oct – early Nov, with peak count 95 birds 23 Oct (HCL). Birds were regularly at Morpeth WTW Jun-Dec, with peak count seven birds 22 Nov (Table 12, LIA). 15 birds were at Hexham Swamp 13 Oct, with lesser numbers recorded other times that month and in Jan (KEM, others). Six birds were at Ash Island 13 Oct (ERE). Single birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths 24 Aug (RIA), SBL 11 Sep (HCL) and Taree mid Dec (CAA). **Atlas:** 15 records from four cells, RR 2.4%

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 27 records from three cells.

1-3 birds were often recorded at Ash Island Jan-Feb and occasionally around Newcastle Baths (many observers). 1-2 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 3 Nov, Hexham Swamp 30 Nov and Newcastle Baths Nov (HCL, NEM, Table 9). **Atlas:** 16 records, all from M10

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1968*).

No reports were received for 2012.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 0.9%; cell of most interest: S4 (5.6%).

Birds were recorded at/near Newcastle Baths from 31 May (THJ, Table 9). In Aug there was a substantial influx, with a peak count of 190 roosting birds; additionally, ~300 birds were feeding offshore and 107 birds roosting 27 Aug (Table 9, ROM/RIA). 36 birds were at Manning Estuary 20 Aug but very few other records from there (Table 18). The first recorded return was 12 May, when two birds were at Horseshoe Beach (THJ) and two birds were still present at Newcastle Baths 30 Oct (THJ, ROM). **Atlas:** Ten records from four cells, RR 1.8%

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 1 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 (16.0%).

Notable records: A bird was roosting at Newcastle Baths 9-15 Jul (RIA, others) – *this is the first confirmed winter record*. 300+ birds were at/around Newcastle Harbour/Baths Jan and 100-200 birds Feb-Mar and Oct, and 50-100 birds Nov-Dec (Table 9, others). 300+ birds were in the Manning Estuary 18 Dec but numbers were unusually low for this location in other months (Table 18). 44 birds were present there 7 Mar (MOA). 26 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 15). The last record was 30 Apr, when six birds were at Newcastle Baths, and the first recorded arrival was late Oct (THJ). **Atlas:** 28 records from five cells, RR 3.5%

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2006, 2008).

A one year old bird with very weathered plumage was first recorded at Newcastle Baths 29 Oct (RIA) and thereafter was seen by many observers until it was last recorded on 4 Nov.

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 = 14.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (49.6%).

Notable records: 307 birds were in the Manning Estuary 18/19 Feb and there were many counts there of 100-200+ birds (Table 18). The peak count around Newcastle Baths/Harbour was 350 birds in Aug; also 100+ were recorded many other months (Table 9). 100+ birds were in the Forster/Tuncurry area Oct and Dec and 80 birds Nov (Table 17). 103 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb and 50+ birds were recorded several times along the Birubi Point – Fingal Bay coastline, with peak count 104 birds Jun (Table 16). **Breeding:** A bird was feeding a fledged young at Newcastle Baths 28 Nov (ROM). **Atlas:** 109 records from 14 cells, RR 11.0%

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1994, 1997, 2008-09, 2011).

A single bird was flying over Newcastle Baths 21 Dec (ANC).

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

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

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

A single bird was present at Worimi Conservation Lands 19 Nov (GER per LIA).

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 25% of cells, at RR = 24.2%; cell of most interest: S4 (56.3%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at seven locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 289 birds Nov; 100+ except Aug-Sep); Newcastle Baths area (peak count 800 birds May; 100+ most months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 426 birds 20-21 Jan, high numbers Jan-May and Nov-Dec); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 200 birds 23 Feb, 50+ 3 other months); Birubi-Fingal coastline (peak count 336 birds Feb, 100+ Feb-Nov); Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 276 birds 13 Feb, 100+ most months); and the Manning Estuary (peak count 496 birds 10-11 Jun, 50+ Jan-May). 197 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 15). **Breeding:** A bird was feeding a dependent young at Dora Creek 3 Jan (GOC). **Atlas:** 205 records from 19 cells, RR 18.3%

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

ID No: 265 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: P2 (25.8%).

Watagans/Lake Macquarie: A small flock was at Quorrobolong May-Jun (ROM) and 2-3 birds at Charlestown GC 29 Jan (FEG), Laguna 31 Aug – 2 Sep and 29 Sep – 1 Oct (RDB), Wollombi 27 Oct (BNSW), and at Wyeec Point often Feb-Apr, 29 Jul and Nov-Dec (MOV). Central: Five birds were recorded at Mt Royal Rd 18 Apr (BRG) and three birds at Curricabundi NP 25 Jul (DBP)

et al.). Two birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC), Gloucester 9 Dec and Barrington Tops NP 10 Dec (both DBP). **West:** Five birds were in Goulburn River NP 8 Jul (BRG) and 1-2 birds were recorded there 2 May and 1 Sep (ERE, BRG) and at Flags Rd Gungah 15 Feb (BRG). **Elsewhere:** 20 birds were at Myall Lakes 9 Mar (MAT), and 1-2 birds at Rainbow Flat 15 Feb, 3-5 May and 16 Aug (MGLB), Tenambit 16 Mar (BRG), Tarbuck Bay 21 Apr (MGLB), Talawahl NR 4 Aug (ERE), Wallaroo SF 14 Aug (MEL) and Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov (HBOC). **Breeding:** A female was with a dependent young male at Wye Point from 16 Nov to 29 Dec (MDV). **Atlas:** 12 records from ten cells, RR 4.7%

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 = 11.3%; cell of most interest: K11 (34.4%).

Notable records: 300+ birds were roosting/feeding in trees along Failford Rd early morning 21 Jan (OCG). 60+ birds were at Medowie several times in late Jan (COD) and 20+ birds at Wangi 24 Mar (WIH), Raymond Terrace 11 Jul (HUF) and Charlestown 23 Oct (AYG, POJ). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at the Watagans 25 Mar and Catherine Hill Bay 4 Dec (RIA, HBOC). **Atlas:** 109 records from 32 cells, RR 6.8%

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 (51.6%).

12 birds were recorded at Wollombi 5 May and Kurri Kurri 20 May (GRJ, WID) and six birds at Abermain 15 Jun (ROS). Groups of four birds were at Laguna 1 May (RDB), Quorrobolong 29 May (MOA) and Kearsley (Werakata NP) 30 May (ROS). There were several records of 1-2 birds from locations around both Werakata NP (Apr-Sep) and Quorrobolong (Apr-May and Sep), and also at Yengo NP 7 & 9 Jan and 19 Aug (BRG *et al.*, NEM), Watagans NP 2 Jun (ERE), South Wollombi 19 Aug (HBOC), Laguna 29 Sep – 1 Oct (RDB) and Widden Valley 14 Nov (ROS), and at Martinsville several times in early May (FIM). **Atlas:** 15 records from three cells, RR 14.6%

Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, as up to 10 birds in the E of the Region and up to 20 birds inland.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 26.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (61.0%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC) and 20+ birds at Jones Reserve Rd 26 Feb and Aberdeen 17 Sep (ALP, HBOC). A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon at Wingen 5 Feb (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Duns Creek 26 Oct (NEM) and were with a dependent young at Dora Creek 13 Nov (GOC). **Atlas:** 255 records from 52 cells, RR 14.6%

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (23.3%).

Five birds were at Branxton 19 May (ALP). Single birds were recorded at HWC 17 Feb (LIP), New Lambton 15 Jun (STA), Mulbring 15 Sep and 27 Oct (DTB), Tocal 22 Sep (KEM) and Dungog 28 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** 29 records from eight cells, RR 2.9%

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 6.6%; cell of most interest: K11 (22.1%).

Notable records: A flock of 2,000+ birds was flying through Wallsend on dusk 9 Apr (ROM). 400+ birds were regularly at Thornton late Jul (SLP). ~200 birds were at Charlestown GC Apr and Jul (FEG) and in dunes behind Nobbys Beach 29 Nov (NIR). 100-200 birds were recorded at Dora Creek 2 Feb (GOC), Forster 26 Mar (STA), Charlestown GC May (FEG) and New Lambton 15 Jun (STA). 50+ birds were at Charlestown GC most months (FEG), HWC Jan-Feb and Nov (LIP, others) and Hexham Swamp 24 Nov (LIA). **Atlas:** 65 records from 17 cells, RR 5.2%

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

ID No: 269 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 76% of cells, at RR = 15.2%; cell of most interest: H4 (43.8%).

Notable records: 500+ birds in several flocks were in the Jerrys Plains area 8 Apr (ALP) and ~200 birds at Fordwich 7 Jun (SMR). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Charlestown 23 Mar (FEG). **Atlas:** 133 records from 41 cells, RR 8.3%

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: 21 records from 12 cells (many as escapees); cell of most interest: E2 (four records).

Some birds were recorded at "Windy" Station 22 Sep (KEM).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 18.2%; cell of most interest: O9 (47.9%).

Notable records: 710 birds were roosting at Raymond Terrace 5 Apr (SLP) and a mixed flock with Scaly-breasted Lorikeets of 1,000+ birds was at Warners Bay 9 Nov (OCC). 200+ birds were at Nobbys Park 30 Nov & 5 Dec (THJ) and several hundred were roosting at Rutherford 21 Mar (BRG/KIR). 60-80 birds were flying over Rutherford 20 Oct (BRG). 21-50 birds were at Murrays Beach 13 Jan (HOB), Charlestown GC Mar (FEG), Green Point 1 May (HBOC), Neranie (Myall Lakes NP) 11 May (BRG), Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*), HWC May (LIP), Singleton 19 Jun (ALP), Jesmond Park 7 Aug (HBOC), Soldiers Point 26 Aug (ALP), East Seaham 22 Aug (GOA *et al.*) and Crowdy Head 16 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Dora Creek 31 Jan and dependent young there 13 Nov (GOC). A hybrid with Scaly-breasted Lorikeet was at Dora Creek 16 Oct (GOC). **Atlas:** 330 records from 33 cells, RR 19.9%

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

ID No: 256 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded near to the coast, mostly in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 10.6%; cell of most interest: R6 (43.1%).

Notable records: 62 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and 30 birds at Murrays Beach 13 Jan (HOB). Also note the comments above about a large mixed flock with Rainbow Lorikeets at Warners Bay. **Breeding:** Several birds were nesting at Murrays Beach 13 Jan and birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 12 Nov (HOB, GOC). **Atlas:** 78 records from 19 cells, RR 6.0%

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Irruptive visitor and bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: F4 (23.2%).

Up to 200 birds occasionally roosted at Lambton early in the year (ROM) and 150-200 birds were in the Wybong Creek catchment mid May (MCR). 20-30+ birds were at Flags Rd Gungal 15 Feb (BRG), Pembroke Rd 9-11 Jun (HBOC) and Kearsley 21 May (GAB). 8-10+ birds were at Eleebana 21 Feb (GOA) and Singleton 17 Jul (ALP). 1-5 birds were recorded at Woodville 6 Jan (NEM), Kitchener 3 Mar and 20 May (KEM, ROS), Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG), East Seaham 27 Oct (VAR) and Gloucester area late Dec (DBP). **Atlas:** 33 records from 11 cells, RR 5.3%

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in counts of up to 10 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 8.2%; cell of most interest: K10 (28.2%).

Notable records: ~200 birds were at Pelton Werakata SCA 20 May (ROM/ROS) and there were frequent records of 80-100+ birds from Pelton/Kearsley/Kitchener in Jan and Apr-Jun. 100+ birds were at Quorrobolong 29 May (MOA) and ~50 birds at Ellalong 19 Jun (ROM *et al.*). 20+ birds were at Green Wattle Creek 14 Mar (NEM), Pokolbin 27 Apr (BEG) and Watagans NP 2 Jun (ERE), and 10-20 birds at Woodville 2 Apr (NEM), Green Wattle Creek 9 Apr and 9 May (NEM), Quorrobolong 4 Aug (MOA *et al.*), Wallaroo SF 14 Aug (MEL), Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB) and Speers Point 11 Dec (HAS). **Atlas:** 149 records from 21 cells, RR 18.2%

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 78% of cells, at RR = 14.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (46.5%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Wingen 5 Feb (NEG), and two flavistic birds were at Duns Creek over Jun-Jul (GOJ, NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Wingen 1 Jan (NEG) and bred at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 158 records from 40 cells, RR 9.6%

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

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

Status: Rare resident in W of Region.

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

25+ birds in flocks of 1-5 birds were coming to roost at Goulburn River NP 26 Oct (HHB). 1-2 birds were recorded at Cassilis Rest Area 11 Mar, 4 Aug and 26 Sep (KEM, BRG, WID) and at two locations near Krui River 31 May (ROM). **Atlas:** One record, from C5

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 79% of cells, at RR = 12.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (71.9%).

Notable records: A feeding flock of 80+ birds was at Barnard River Curricabundi NP 25 Jul (STA). 20+ birds were recorded at Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr (DBP *et al.*), Pembroke Rd 10 Jun and Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (both HBOC). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 63.6% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 131 records from 28 cells, RR 10.4%

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

ID No: 288 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 34.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (69.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Woodville 6 Jan (NEM), Pembroke Rd 10 Jun (HBOC) and East Seaham 22 Aug (GOA *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Quorrobolong 1 Sep (CCB) and had dependent young at Wingen 1 Jan and 24 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 476 records from 59 cells, RR 24.5%

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309 HBOC Category: 2

NSW: Endangered Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells,
at RR = 2.0%; cell of most interest: J10 (8.5%).

Seven birds were recorded at Pelton (Werakata SCA) 7 May (ROS/ROM), heralding an influx to lower Hunter Valley locations over May-Sep (many observers). 200+ birds were estimated to be present in the lower Hunter in late May (BirdLife Australia), whilst records from other parts of the Region suggested there were likely 300+ birds present during this time. *These are the highest known counts for the Region and likely to have been because of the prolific flowering of Spotted Gum (Corymbia maculata).* Main locations were woodlands around Kurri Kurri/Cessnock and Quorrobolong/Ellalong. Significant counts included 146 birds at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 20 May and 100 birds 1 September south of Kurri Kurri (ROM/ROS). Although numbers declined from July, ~50 birds were at Singleton Army Base 16 Aug, with 70 birds counted there 30 Aug (ROM/GRL), suggesting the population may have been dispersing. Elsewhere, a few birds were recorded at Watagans NP 2 Jun (ERE), Wallaroo NR 4 Aug (MEL), Balickera 9 Aug (MUJ), Muswellbrook 30 Aug (ERE) and Murrays Beach 2 Sep (LAT). The last record was 26 Sep at Mulbring (per ROM). **Atlas:** 26 records from five cells, RR 6.2%



Swift Parrot by Mick Roderick

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

ID No: 295 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (39.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen 5 Feb (NEG), Jones Reserve Rd 8 Apr (ALP), Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC) and Wallsend late Oct (per RIA). **Atlas:** 68 records from 22 cells, RR 8.7%

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005, 2010*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: C6 (15.6%).

Three birds were at Finchley Yengo NP 9 Feb and two birds in Yengo NP 7 Jan (SRM, BRG *et al.*). Some birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP locations and around Ulan 26 & 28 Oct (HHB). **Atlas:** One record, from F4

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*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region, usually in counts of 1-2 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (40.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records from 16 cells, RR 4.2%

Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds often recorded in central/E of the Region Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 9.0%; cell of most interest: J9 (25.5%).

Notable records: Although the latest record was 24 Apr, when two birds were at Salamander Bay (GOA), there was an interesting late breeding record (*see below*). Departures from most areas were staggered through Mar. The first reported return was 3 Sep, when birds were at Merewether, Nelson Bay and Rutherford (MRO, EGD, BRG). **Breeding:** A bird was being fed by Little Wattlebirds at Saltwater NP 21 Apr (DBP). **Atlas:** 84 records from 20 cells, RR 5.8%

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant. 1-5 birds often recorded in central/E of the Region Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: J9 (30.6%).

Notable records: Five birds were together at Marmong Point 3 Jan (HOB). The latest record was 26 Feb, when a bird was at Sedgfield near Singleton (ALP). The first reported return was 18 Aug, when a bird was at Wingham (per FIW). However, there were no more reports until a bird was at Wangi Wangi 1 Sep (per ROS), and the main arrival was not until mid Sep.

Atlas: 59 records from 16 cells, RR 5.3%

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalus*

ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, with regular records in winter.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (8.8%).

There were widespread reports of birds Jan-Feb, Apr and Sep-Dec. Three birds were together at Nobbys Beach breakwall 15 Sep (THJ) and four birds at Ash Island 15 Sep (ROM) and Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG). The only winter record was a single bird of a bird in Yengo NP 29 Jul (ALP). **Breeding:** Two adults with a begging juvenile were at Wingen 18 Jan (NEG), and a pair was copulating at Belmont Swamp 26 Oct (WID). **Atlas:** 17 records from eight cells, RR 1.5%

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

ID No: 341 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in the central and W of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: 21 records from 13 cells; cell of most interest: G10 (four records).

Single birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG) and Ash Island 30 Oct (NEM) – an unusual easterly location. **Atlas:** One record, from M10**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chalcites lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, with regular records in winter. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded throughout the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 6.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 55 records from 22 cells, RR 3.5%**Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chalcites minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1992, 2004).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 = 3.3%; cell of most interest: E7 (32.6%).

Five birds were recorded along Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG). 1-2 birds were at Darawank 21 Jan (MGLB), Cassilis Rest Area 11 Mar (KEM), Durridgere Rd 3 Sep (BRG), Woodville 3 Oct (NEM), East Seaham 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*), Green Wattle Creek 2 & 21 Oct (HBOC), Irrawang Swamp 27 Oct (VAR), Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov (HBOC), Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ) and Eagleton 13 Dec (CLT). **Atlas:** Seven records from five cells, RR 1.8%**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 = 14.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (40.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 30.3% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 181 records from 41 cells, RR 9.9%**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 = 3.3%; cell of most interest: N5 (18.2%).

Single birds were at Yengo NP 17 Jan (ALP), Balickera Jan (MUJ) and Manning Entrance SP 18 Feb (STA). Most birds returned later than normal, with very few records until Nov. All reports apparently were of single birds – at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC), Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ), Kurri Kurri woodlands 5 Nov (ROM), Weston 7 Nov (ROS), Bulga early Dec (BRG), HWC 4 & 15 Dec (LIP), Eagleton 13 Dec (CLT), Duns Creek 14 Dec (NEM), Total 18 Dec (NEM), Pambalong NR 16 Dec (HCL) and Cattai Wetlands 29 Dec (KEM). **Breeding:** There was a breeding record at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 12 records from eight cells, RR 1.1%

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 2012.

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 1.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (16.2%).

Birds were seen/heard at Murrays Run Bucketty early Jan (MOA), Balickera Feb and Oct (MUJ), Old Bar 5 Mar (MOA), Charlestown 25 Mar (BJR), Eleebana 1 Apr (GOA), Narone Creek Rd early May (GRJ), Kahibah 31 May (GOC), Boys Walk Cooranbong 12 May (HOD), Dora Creek 25 Aug (GOC), One Mile Beach 12 Oct (per RIA) and BbR 28 Oct and 12 Nov (DTB, LIP).

Breeding: A pair bred successfully at BbR over Sep-Oct, fledging two young 10 Oct (NIJ).

Atlas: Three records, from M10 and R4

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (4.0%).

Birds were seen/heard at Goulburn River NP 10 Mar and 1 Sep (KEM, BRG), Boomerang Beach 27 Jul (MGLB) and Cessnock 17 Dec (HOA). **Atlas:** One record, from K10

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 50% of cells, at RR = 4.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (23.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 21 records from eight cells, RR 9.0%

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

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

From BLA Atlas: 17 records from seven cells; cell of most interest: M5 (five records).

Two birds were in the Allyn River area 18 May (BRG). Single birds were seen/heard at Boarding House Dam 28 Jan (RIA), Allyn River 24 May (BRG *et al.*), Bow Wow Gorge 15 Oct (FIP) and Watagans 28 Oct (VAR). **Atlas:** Nil records

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

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

From BLA Atlas: 34 records from 20 cells; cells of most interest: H8, M8 and N9 (three records each)

Birds were often heard/seen at Murrays Beach in Feb, also 27-28 Apr, 26 May, 30 Oct, 2 Nov and 4 Dec (LAT, BRG, KEM). Single birds were also recorded at Allyn River Rd (Gresford) 18 & 24 May and 3 Jun (all BRG). A bird was taken into care at Keinbah 31 Oct and later released (GOJ). **Atlas:** Two records, from M10 and L11

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

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

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: G6 (26.3%).

Two birds were recorded at Allyn River/Gresford area 18 May and 3 Jun and Bureen 8 Jul (all BRG). Single birds were at Forster 29 Apr and 31 Jul (MGLB), Broadmeadow 3 May (ERE), Oakhampton 27 Jul (BRG), Durrigere Rd 5 Aug (KEM), HWC 8 Aug (CRL), Tomago 5 Oct (LIA) and Hexham 11 Oct (LIA *et al.*). **Atlas:** Four records from four cells

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: 19 records from six cells; cell of most interest: S3 (5.0%)

Single birds were recorded at Ash Island 6 Jan and Hexham Swamp 11 Oct (KEM, LIA *et al.*).**Atlas:** One record, from M10**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 = 3.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (20.0%).

Notable records: Two birds were at Brunkerville 19 Feb and Cattai Wetlands 10 Mar (ALP, FIW/JRR *et al.*). **Atlas:** 21 records from ten cells, RR 2.0%**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 = 34.0%; cell of most interest: N9 (66.6%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were at Green Point Lake Macquarie 1 May (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Wingen 18 Nov; the chicks successfully fledged and still were being fed 24 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 439 records from 70 cells, RR 21.6%**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayi*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1998, 2001-02, 2004, 2006, 2010-11*).

1-2 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 24 Jun, 11 Jul and 11 Nov (HCL, STA, MGLB).

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant, some birds over-winter at coastal locations. 1-5 birds widely and regularly recorded Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 68% of cells, at RR = 12.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (39.7%).

Notable records: The latest report was of a bird at Broughton Island 8-10 May (CLT). Winter records were of 1-2 birds at Crowdy Bay NP 11 Jun and Harrington 19 Jun (ANC, STA); birds at Ash Island 3 & 7 Aug (THJ, BRG) and Pindimar 6 Aug (STA) may have been early returns or over-wintering. However, there were no other reports until 18-20 Sep when birds were at

several locations. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Gir-um-bit NP 19 Aug (MEL *et al.*) and were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ). A pair had nest with young in the Kurri Kurri area 21 Nov and the young later successfully fledged (ROS). **Atlas:** 135 records from 28 cells, RR 8.0%

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 53% of cells, at RR = 4.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (34.4%).

Notable records: 20 birds were at Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG) and 12 birds at Hobdens TSR 26 Feb (ALP). Flocks of 4-10 birds were regularly seen flying north over Weston early Jan (ROS). The first reported arrival was 3 Sep, when two birds were at Weston (ROS). **Atlas:** 24 records from 13 cells, RR 7.6%

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 = 10.9%; cell of most interest: O9 (26.6%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were hawking together over Newcastle Link Rd mid Dec and over Shortland 23 Dec (BEI, ROM). The first reported arrival was 30 Sep, when a bird was near Raymond Terrace (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds had a dependent young at Dora Creek 20 Jan – 1 Feb (GOC). **Atlas:** 107 records from 21 cells, RR 6.9%

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon altitudinal migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (14.6%).

Upper Altitudes: Four birds were recorded at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct and Copeland SCA 23 Oct (HBOC, STA), while 1-2 birds were widely and often recorded in Jan and over Sep-Dec. More exceptional records were of birds at Duns Creek 21 Aug (NEM) and Martinsville 3 May (FIM). **Lower Altitudes:** Two birds were at Harrington Jan-Feb (*intriguing coastal summer records*), 9 May and 16 Sep (STA, MGLB) and Crowley Bay NP 11 Jun (ANC). Three birds were at BbR from late Aug onwards (NIJ/KYR). **Breeding:** A pair was nesting at BbR mid Dec but the nestlings were predated 29 Dec (KYR). **Atlas:** 15 records from eight cells, RR 2.0%

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the central part of the Region in counts of 1-2 birds. From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 8.4%; cell of most interest: M5 (59.2%).

Notable records: Three birds were at Laguna 1 May (RDB). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 25.8% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 39 records from 15 cells, RR 4.3%

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
Status: Resident of the Barrington Tops/Gloucester Tops IBA.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in two cells, at RR = 29.1%; cell of most interest: L5 (37.6%).

In surveys in the Gloucester Tops at >1,150m over Aug-Dec there were 35% fewer confirmed territories, attributed to the uncommonly dry spring weather (NEM *et al.*). There were occasional Jan-Feb records from the more accessible parts of the survey area – along Kerripit Rd and Gloucester Tops Rd and near Gloucester Falls. **Atlas:** 39 records from L5, RR 56.8%

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 = 20.0%; cell of most interest: L5 (68.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 75.8% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Aug (MUJ). **Atlas:** 300 records from 46 cells, RR 16.4%

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptis*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: K4 (31.6%).

Some birds were recorded at Old Darky Creek (Yengo NP) 1 Apr (ALP), Three Ways (Wollemi NP) 15 Sep (KEM), Gloucester Tops 6 Oct (BRG *et al.*) and Williams River area 28 Oct (DDR). No birds were recorded in 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** One record, from H9

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 27% of cells, at RR = 9.5%; cell of most interest: E6 (60.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young in Kurri Kurri woodlands 5 Oct and the young later successfully fledged (ROS).

Atlas: 19 records from eight cells, RR 7.1%**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676 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 28% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: M5 (31.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 17 records from 12 cells, RR 3.3%

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 = 2.7%; cell of most interest: R5 (30.2%).

Notable records: Six birds were at Saltwater NP 26 Jan (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Harrington 18 Feb and were feeding fledged young at Saltwater NP 30 Oct (MGLB, STA). **Atlas:** 21 records from seven cells, RR 4.5%

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of up to 10 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 66% of cells, at RR = 15.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (49.4%).

Notable records: 30+ birds were feeding on fruit at Copeland SCA 26 Jul (STA). 11 birds were at Cattai Wetlands Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and ten birds at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC).

Atlas: 160 records from 33 cells, RR 10.3%

Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2010-11).
No reports were received for 2012.

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

ID No: 529 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 89% of cells, at RR = 44.8%; cell of most interest: L8 (75.2%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were at Cattai Wetlands 24 Jun and 48 birds there Mar (HCL, FIW/JRR *et al.*), and 60+ birds at Pembroke Rd 9 Jun (HBOC). 21-50 birds were recorded at East Seaham 14 Feb, 10 Apr and 22 Aug (GOA *et al.*), Cattai Wetlands 17 Feb (STA), WWW 21 Mar and 2 May (BRG), Gir-um-bit NP 19 May (HAS *et al.*), South Wollombi 19 Aug (HBOC), Broad Crossing Aberdeen 17 Sep (HBOC), and several times during the year at HWC (LIP, others), Woodville, Green Wattle Creek and Yarandoo (all NEM).

Breeding: Birds had a nest at Tocal 6 Mar and were with dependent young at Towarri NP 18 Sep (both HBOC), and bred at Balickera Oct and Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 867 records from 73 cells, RR 42.1%



Superb Fairy-wren
by Louise Williams

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: R3 (8.1%).

Some birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 8 Jan, 15 Sep and 11 Nov (KEM, STA, MGLB) and Coralville 14 Jan (WIT), and at up to 3 locations within Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr and 24-26 Jul (DBP *et al.*), and were reported resident at Fosterton Rd (JED). **Atlas:** Five records, from M3 and R3

Variagated 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 64% of cells, at RR = 14.7%; cell of most interest: Q6 (38.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 187 records from 32 cells, RR 10.8%

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 22% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (12.6%).

Birds were reported to be resident at Fosterton Rd, Tomago Wetlands and Black Neds Bay (JED, LIA, HAP). Eight birds were at Cattai Wetlands 30 Oct and some birds 8 & 27 Jan (STA, KEM). 1-5 birds were recorded at Medowie SCA 25 Mar (HBOC), East Seaham 10 Apr (GOA *et al.*), Smiths Lake 21 Apr (MGLB), Curricabundi NP 24-26 Jul (DBP *et al.*), Balickera Jul and Oct-Nov (MUJ), Belmont Swamp 30 Sep (RIA), Hexham Swamp (Minmi) 24 Nov and 12 Dec (ERE, NEM) and North Pindimar 17 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 31 records from five cells, RR 4.4%

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, '05-06, '10).

No written reports were received for 2012.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 9.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (45.7%).

Birds were recorded several times at Laguna (RDB) and at Goulburn River NP 10 Mar and 27 Oct (KEM, HHB), two locations near Krui River 31 May (ROM), Mt Sugarloaf 8 Jul (WID/ LIG), Watagans NP 13 Aug (JED) and Yengo NP 31 Dec (ALP). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells, RR 23.1%**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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (34.2%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at Williams River 18 Jan (MEL). **Breeding:** Although not a confirmed record, birds were nest building at Saltwater NP 15 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 20 records from seven cells, RR 13.6%**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 = 23.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (67.7%).

Notable records: 20-25 birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct and HWC 8 Oct, and 12 birds at HWC Jan and Sep (HBOC, LIP). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 69.7% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at BbR 30 Sep (RIA) and birds were feeding fledged young at East Seaham 9 Oct and Black Head RF 29 Oct (GOA *et al.*, STA). There were records at Balickera Aug-Oct and Dec (MUJ).**Atlas:** 335 records from 53 cells, RR 17.6%**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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (28.8%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Black Head RF 29 Oct (STA) and 5-6 birds at Copeland SCA 12 Feb (BRG *et al.*) and Neranie (Myall Lakes NP) 11 May (BRG). **Atlas:** 19 records from 12 cells, RR 3.8%**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 = 2.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (32.8%).

Four birds were together at Finchley Track (Yengo NP) 7 Jan (BRG). Three birds were recorded at Kurri Kurri woodlands 29 Feb (ROM) and George Booth Drive 2 Sep (WID), and 1-2 birds at Yengo NP 14 Jan (KEM), George Booth Drive 27 May (WID), Abermain 1 Jun (ROM), Kearsley 4 Jun and 13 Aug (JED), Goulburn River NP 8 Jul and 27 Oct (BRG, HHB) and Ridglands Rd Bunnan 31 Jul (MCR). **Atlas:** Five records from four cells, RR 5.4%

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

ID No: 504 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region (*revised*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 11.8%; cell of most interest: H8 (46.5%).

Notable records: Seven birds were recorded at Pembroke Rd 10 Jun (HBOC) and 6+ birds at Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG). Easterly records were of birds at two locations near Gosforth 16 May (BRG). There were no birds at Wingen Reserve late in the year – *the first absence in 25 years* (NEG). **Atlas:** 75 records from 17 cells, RR 13.0%

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 10.9%; cell of most interest: H8 (71.1%).

Notable records: An easterly record was of four birds from a location near Gosforth 16 May (BRG). **Atlas:** 47 records from 14 cells, RR 17.9%

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 in counts up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (69.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Copeland SCA 12 Feb (BRG *et al.*) and Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 24.2% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan and Sep-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 174 records from 26 cells, RR 12.3%

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 4.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 39 records from three cells, RR 5.8%

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 17% of cells, at RR = 5.1%; cell of most interest: H8 (21.8%).

Several birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 30 Sep and some birds 27 Oct (ROS, HHB). Single birds were at Wingen 1 Jan (NEG) and near Singleton 25 Mar (ALP), and some birds at “Windy” Station 22 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** Six records from five cells, RR 4.5%

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 70% of cells, at RR = 11.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (42.4%).

Notable records: A single bird was at Broughton Island 19 Sep (STA *et al.*) – *the first known record for this location*. Six birds were at Green Wattle Creek 21 Oct (HBOC). Late records were five birds at WWW 9 May (MEL) and a single bird at Green Wattle Creek 10 May (NEM). The first recorded return was 16 Aug, when a bird was at Rainbow Flat (MGLB) and then two birds were at Tenambit Common 28 Aug (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 136 records from 28 cells, RR 8.9%

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 13.7%; cell of most interest: L8 (41.1%).There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Aug (MUJ). **Atlas:** 196 records from 28 cells, RR 13.0%**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 23.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (57.0%).**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra Wetlands 24 Jan (STA), Yarandoo Mar and May (NEM), Pembroke Rd 10 Jun (HBOC), Woodville 16 Jun (NEM/LIG) and HWC 3 Jul (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 293 records from 48 cells, RR 16.1%**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

ID No: 486 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 72% of cells, at RR = 12.1%; cell of most interest: N5 (47.5%).**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** Although not a breeding record, birds were nest building at Morpeth Common 28 Aug (BRG).**Atlas:** 126 records from 31 cells, RR 14.5%**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 in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 5.3%; cell of most interest: H8 (42.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 48 records from 18 cells, RR 6.8%**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare in extreme NW of Region.

Some birds were recorded at "Windy" Station 22 Sep (KEM).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 27.1%; cell of most interest: L5 (82.3%).**Notable records:** ~100 birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 93.9% (NEM *et al.*).**Atlas:** 429 records from 61 cells, RR 22.4%

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, 2010).

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 24.6%; cell of most interest: L8 (55.1%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Flags Rd Gungal 15 Feb (BRG) and Green Wattle Creek 9 Aug and 9 Sep; 10+ birds were often at the latter location Mar-Sep (NEM). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 54.5% (NEM *et al.*).

Breeding: Birds bred at Balickera Jan-Feb and Aug-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 420 records from 57 cells, RR 22.2%

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 77% of cells, at RR = 15.9%; cell of most interest: H4 (55.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Flags Rd Gungal 15 Feb (BRG) and 10-15 birds at Inlet Road Bulga 12 Sep (BRG) and Jones Reserve Rd 23 Sep (ALP). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 39.4% (NEM *et al.*).

Breeding: Birds were on nest at Quorrobolong 1 Sep (CCB) and bred at Balickera Nov (MUJ).

Atlas: 231 records from 39 cells, RR 14.2%

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 22.0%; cell of most interest: K11 (53.4%).

Notable records: 150+ birds were present along the first 5 km of Careys Peak Track 16 May with very many still present 23 May (STA). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 36.4% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Aug-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 344 records from 59 cells, RR 17.3%

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 2012.

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 70% of cells, at RR = 29.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (55.2%).

Notable records: ~30 birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC) and 20-24 birds at Cattai Wetlands Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Green Point 1 May (HBOC). 10-15 birds were regularly at Green Wattle Creek over Feb-Sep (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ).

Atlas: 447 records from 51 cells, RR 25.3%

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 in 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 = 38.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (86.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were at Broughton Island 31 Aug, rising to two pairs 18-20 Sep and 27-29 Nov (STA *et al.*, CLT) – *these are the first known records*. 20+ birds were present most months at Green Wattle Creek with 50 birds there 9 Sep (NEM). 50+ birds were also at WWW 2 May (BRG), Kearsley 12 & 19 May (ALP), Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Jesmond Park 7 Aug (HBOC). Outside of the main migration passage, 20+ birds were at Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB) and Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were breeding records at Balickera Aug-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 708 records from 66 cells, RR 35.1%



Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident near Durrigdere SF
(*revised from: Uncertain*).

Some birds were recorded at Durrigdere Rd 11 Mar, 9 Jun and 3 Sep (KEM, STA, BRG).

A single bird was at Seal Rocks mid Aug (MAJ per ROM).

Singing Honeyeater by Allan Richardson

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 50% of cells, at RR = 7.5%; cell of most interest: H4 (45.6%).

Notable records: Ten birds were at Pembroke Rd (C4) 10 Jun (HBOC). **Atlas:** 31 records from 19 cells, RR 13.0%

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (64.3%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Kearsley 12 May and Kitchener 19 May, and ~30 birds at Kearsley 19 May (all ALP). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Laguna 31 Aug – 2 Sep (RDB), Kurri Kurri woodlands 16 Oct (ROS) and Quorrobolong 28 Sep (MOA *et al.*). The Kurri Kurri chicks later successfully fledged (ROS). **Atlas:** 81 records from 13 cells, RR 16.0%

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 (22.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Kurri Kurri woodlands 21 Nov; the chicks later successfully fledged (ROS). Birds had dependent young at Green Wattle Creek 8 Nov (NEM). **Atlas:** 98 records from nine cells, RR 18.9%

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 49% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: G8 (76.7%).

Notable records: An uncommon easterly record was of a single bird at WWW 13 May (PEG).**Atlas:** 61 records from 22 cells, RR 14.3%**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 42% of cells, at RR = 12.5%; cell of most interest: L10 (32.3%).

Notable records: 40+ birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Cooranbong 31 Aug (RIA). **Atlas:** 94 records from 18 cells, RR 9.8%**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 28.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (56.4%).

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 10 Mar and 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Charlestown GC Mar (FEG), HWC Mar-Apr (LIP), Pembroke Rd 10 Jun (HBOC), Jesmond Park area 7 Aug (HBOC), Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC) and Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB). A bird with no grey pigment was recorded intermittently at Woodville Feb-Oct (NEM).**Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*) and had dependent young at Belmont South mid Sep and Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (CJB, HBOC). **Atlas:** 394 records from 55 cells, RR 20.7%**Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula*

ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003, 2009*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in the W of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 5.4%; cell of most interest: F6 (17.9%).

Up to six birds were often at Broke over Apr/May (ROM). Three birds were at Battery Rocks 9 Jun (STA) and both Jones Reserve Rd and Medhurst Bridge 23 Sep (ALP). 1-2 birds were often recorded at both Bulga and Medhurst Bridge (many observers) and at Gosforth 8 Feb (BRG), Rothbury 17 May and 20 Sep (ROS), Milbrodale Rd 17 May and 29 Jul (HCL, ALP), Durrigere Rd 9 Jun (STA), Singleton Army Base 16 Aug (ROM), Widden Valley 14 Nov (ROS) and Jerrys Plains 4 Dec (CLT). **Atlas:** 17 records from 11 cells, RR 9.0%**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 712 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Regularly recorded near to the coast in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 18.0%; cell of most interest: R5 (71.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB). Again, there were records at non coastal locations: 1-2 birds regularly at Woodville from 20 Aug (NEM), Lambton from early Oct (ROM) and WWW 10 Oct (MEL *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a young Eastern Koel at Saltwater NP 21 Apr (DBP). **Atlas:** 169 records from 23 cells, RR 15.6%

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 17% of cells, at RR = 5.2%; cell of most interest: K10 (15.7%).

Birds were present in the lower Hunter Valley from at least 6 May when two birds were present at Kitchener Werakata NP (LYD) through to 28 November when four birds were at woodlands south of Kurri Kurri, in an area where they bred in 2007/2008 (ROS/ROM). Two birds were also near Wakefield 23 Oct in creekline vegetation (per ROM) – *an unusual location*. The peak count during winter was estimated to have been ~100 birds in Jun-Jul (BirdLife Australia). Birds were concentrated at five main sites, being (in descending order of number of birds present) Quorrobolong, Kurri Kurri woodlands, Kitchener (Werakata NP), bushland south of Ellalong Lagoon, and Pelton (Werakata SCA) (many observers). *These are the highest counts for the Region since 2002, substantially exceeding the numbers which have been recorded each year during the past decade. As for the Swift Parrot influx, numbers were likely associated with the prolific flowering of Spotted Gum.* **General:** On 14-15 June at Quorrobolong, nine birds were caught, colour-banded and released, and another five birds were taken into captivity to enhance the captive breeding program at Taronga Zoo (ROM). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** 39 records from seven cells, RR 10.6%

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of up to 20 birds, and mostly as 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 75% of cells, at RR = 15.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (45.9%).

Notable records: ~50 birds were at Kitchener 26 Feb (ALP) and 30+ birds including a flock of 20+ on probable migration were along Careys Peak Track 16 May (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Pokolbin 10 Sep (BRG) and bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ).

Atlas: 179 records from 40 cells, RR 10.1%

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

ID No: 448 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 8.8%; cell of most interest: N9 (22.9%).

Birds were often recorded at Ash Island, with up to 20 birds regularly feeding in a recently burnt salt marsh area during Mar-Apr and frequent reports all year of small parties around the Island (NEM *et al.*, others). There also were regular records all year from Gir-um-bit NP, with the peak count 24 birds 23 Jun (HAS/MEL *et al.*). Up to 16 birds were recorded in swales at Worimi Conservation Lands Feb-Jun – storm damage prevented access to these swales in the remainder of the year (LIA/NEM *et al.*). Some birds were at Hexham Swamp 28 Oct (VAR/HHB). **Atlas:** 100 records from four cells, RR 13.6%

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2009*).

No reports were received for 2012.

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 64% of cells, at RR = 11.8%; cell of most interest: L8 (32.8%).

Notable records: 52 birds were recorded at Woodville 3 Oct (NEM) and 21-50 birds at both Green Wattle Creek and Yarandoo 12 Jan (NEM), Kurri Kurri woodlands 22 Feb (BRG), Pelton (Werakata NP) 22 Apr (ALP), Cattai Wetlands 13 May, 24 Jun and 30 Oct (FIW/JRR *et al.*, HCL, STA/OSP), Kitchener (Werakata NP) 17 May (BRG) and Werakata SCA 27 May (ERE). 11-20 birds were at Woodville 6 Jan and Green Wattle Creek Aug-Sep (all NEM) and 6-10 birds at Cattai Wetlands 10 Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Myall Lakes NP 11 May and 25 Nov (BRG, HBOC), East Seaham 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*), Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB) and WWW 14 Nov (MEL *et al.*). **Breeding:** There were records at Balickera over Sep-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 209 records from 29 cells, RR 12.6%

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops*

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, of coastal heathlands.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: R6 (19.4%).

Two birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 28 Apr (SRM) and some birds at Booti Booti NP 23 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** One record, from M11

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 = 6.8%; cell of most interest: R6 (22.3%).

Notable records: Nine birds were at HWC 17 Feb (LIP). **Atlas:** 74 records from 16 cells, RR 7.4%

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 10.0%; cell of most interest: L5 (22.5%).

10-15 birds were present along the first 5 km of Careys Peak Track 16 May with several still present 23 May (STA). Some birds were also recorded in the Gloucester Tops 26 Jul and 6 Oct (STA, BRG *et al.*) and at Barrington Tops NP 4 Nov (KEM). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 18.2% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** Six records, all from L5; RR 16.2%

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: R6 (21.7%).

20+ birds were recorded at Seal Rocks 11 May (BRG). 15-20 birds were present along the first 5 km of Careys Peak Track 16 & 23 May (STA) and ~20 birds near Merewether rockshelf 24 Aug (THJ). 6-10 birds were at Glen Ora Rd Nabisac 26 Feb (OCG), Seal Rocks/Yagon 19-21 Oct (CCB) and Jewells Wetland 28 Oct (DTB). 1-5 birds were present at Swansea Heads 23 Feb (KEM), Awabakal NR 5 Jun (HBOC), Gloucester Tops 4 Sep (STA/ NEM), Goulburn River NP 27 Oct (HHB) and Catherine Hill Bay 4 Dec (HBOC). A single bird at "Iomar" Quorrobolong 1 Sep was the first record at this site (CCB). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 12.1% (NEM *et al.*).

Atlas: 14 records from eight cells, RR 5.3%

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: R6 (44.4%).

Notable records: 26 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*). Records of 1-2 birds at Duns Creek 26 Jul (NEM) and Gloucester 14 Nov (DBP) were both for the first time at well-surveyed locations. **Atlas:** 112 records from 21 cells, RR 9.0%

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 14% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: K10 (7.1%).

13 birds were in one tree at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 12 May (ROS) and six birds were near Ellalong 19 Jun (ROM). 1-5 birds were often recorded at woodlands around Kurri Kurri/Cessnock and in Goulburn River NP (many observers); also at Yengo NP 17 Jan and 28 Feb (ALP), George Booth Drive 27 May (WID), Ellalong 19 Jun and 5 Aug (ROM *et al.*, LIA) and Singleton Army Base 16 Aug (ROM/GRL). Two birds were at Coomba Park 23 Oct (ERE) – an easterly location. **Atlas:** 18 records from six cells, RR 12.9%

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 in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 6.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.1%).

Notable records: Uncommon easterly records were of 1-5 birds in suburban Maitland 9-11 Feb and Myall Lakes NP 25 Nov (BRG, HBOC). **Atlas:** 54 records from 20 cells, RR 7.2%

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 65% of cells, at RR = 9.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (58.6%).

Notable records: 21-40+ birds were recorded at White Box (Goulburn River NP) 8 Apr (ALP), Kearsley 12 May (ALP), Kitchener (Werakata NP) 17 & 19 May (BRG, ALP) and Mt Sugarloaf 8 Jul (WID/LIG). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 154 records from 36 cells, RR 9.8%

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

ID No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (48.6%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at WWW 8 Aug (SM) *et al.*. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at North Rothbury 8 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** 51 records from 17 cells, RR 4.2%

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 = 21.1%; cell of most interest: K10 (46.1%).

Notable records: Many hundreds were present at Old Gibber Track (Myall Lakes NP) early May (EGD) and Crowdy Bay NP 11 Jun (ANC), and ~200 birds at Pelton 22 Apr (ALP). 60 birds were at Kearsley 15 Apr (ALP), and 21-50 birds were recorded at Finchley Track (Yengo NP) 7-9 Jan (BRG *et al.*), Flags Rd Gungah 15 Feb (BRG), Quorrobolong 15 Apr and 20 May (ALP, LIA *et al.*), Pelton 22 Apr (ALP), two locations in Myall Lakes NP 11 May (BRG), Kearsley 12 & 19 May (ALP), Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Kitchener 17 & 19 May (BRG, ALP) and East Seaham 22 Aug (GOA *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Quorrobolong 1 Sep (CCB) and bred at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). A pair had a nest with young near Kurri Kurri 10 Oct and the chicks later successfully fledged (ROS). **Atlas:** 324 records from 58 cells, RR 16.7%

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 0.9%; cell of most interest: G6 (10.5%).

A single bird was at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 22 Feb (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records, from R7 (*unusual!*) and K10**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 7.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (49.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Ash Island 6 Nov and were feeding fledged young at Swansea 7 Dec (HBOC, ADJ).**Atlas:** 81 records from 23 cells, RR 6.1%**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 7% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: G8 (12.2%).

Six birds were at Medhurst Bridge 10 Sep (KEM) and there were several reports of lesser numbers there during Sep. Birds were recorded at six sites in the Ulan/Goulburn River NP area 28-29 Oct (HHB) and 2-3 birds in Goulburn River NP 18 & 30 Sep (ERE, ROS). **Atlas:** Four records from four cells, RR 13.8%**Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*

ID No: 443 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Parties 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 (46.5%).

Notable records: 14 birds were at Flags Rd Gungah 15 Feb (BRG) and 12 birds at Wingen 8 Oct (NEG). 7-8 birds were recorded regularly at Beresfield (THJ, others) and at East Seaham 14 Feb, 10 Apr and 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*), Yarandoo 1 May and Duns Creek 21 Aug (both NEM). Six birds were at Nulkaba 13 Mar and Jerrys Plains 13 Apr (both CLT). Three clans were regularly present along 2km of forest road at Duns Creek (NEM). **Breeding:** Although not a confirmed record, birds were nest building at Wollombi 9 Feb (SRM). **Atlas:** 82 records from 17 cells, RR 10.6%

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 = 8.0%; cell of most interest: C6 (21.6%).

Eight birds were recorded at White Box (Goulburn River NP) 20 May (ALP) and 1-5 birds were at locations within the NP 5 Aug and 14 & 27 Oct (KEM, BRG, HHB). Two birds were at Flags Rd Gungal 15 Feb (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds were with a dependent young at Goulburn River NP 30 Sep (ROS). **Atlas:** One record, from C6

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 5.3%; cell of most interest: M5 (12.6%).

Birds were present at three locations in the Gloucester Tops area 7 Oct (WID). Three birds were at Copeland SCA 12 Feb (BRG *et al.*) and two birds 23 Oct (STA), and three birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (47.1%).

Five separate birds were recorded at Kitchener (Werakata NP) 22 Feb (ROM) and there were many reports of 1-2 birds from woodlands in the Kurri Kurri area all year (many observers). Four birds were at Finchley Track (Yengo NP) 7-9 Jan (BRG *et al.*). 1-2 birds were recorded at Jones Reserve Rd 26 Feb (ALP), Yengo NP 7 Mar and 1 Apr (BRG, ALP), Quorrobolong 15 Apr (ALP), Laguna 23-24 Apr (RDB), Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr and 24 Jul (DBP), Howes Valley 17 May (HCL), Mt Sugarloaf 8 Jul (WID/LIG) and Watagans 28 Oct (VAR). **Atlas:** 16 records from eight cells, RR 7.7%

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 67% of cells, at RR = 25.1%; cell of most interest: R5 (65.2%).

Notable records: 11 birds were at Green Wattle Creek Aug-Sep (NEM). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 45.5% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 316 records from 46 cells, RR 17.9%

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

ID No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 6.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (58.2%).

Notable records: 10-12 birds were together at Columbey NP 4 Jun (JED) and ten birds were at Green Wattle Creek 9 Aug (NEM). Eight birds were recorded at Woods Point 28 Feb (CCB), Yengo NP 17 Jan and 29 Jul (ALP) and Goulburn River NP 8 Apr (ALP). Three parties were encountered at Old Gibber Track (Myall Lakes NP) early May (EGD) and two parties at Kitchener 7 Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** 44 records from 21 cells, RR 5.6%

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993-94, 2000, 2004, 2011*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

ID No: 424 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 28.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (51.8%).

Notable records: 20 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 14 Mar (NEM). **Atlas:** 362 records from 53 cells, RR 18.5%**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (26.6%).

Four birds were recorded at Woodville 2 Apr (NEM) and three birds at Kurri Kurri woodlands 21 Sep (ROS) and Yarandoo 6 Nov (NEM). Dark morph birds were at Goulburn River NP 1 Sep (BRG) and near Kurri Kurri 20 Sep (ROS). 1-2 birds were widely and moderately often recorded. **Atlas:** 19 records from ten cells, RR 1.9%**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 2012.

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 52% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.4%).

Notable records: Five birds were near Quorrobolong 12 Feb (ALP). The first recorded return was 15 Oct, when heard at Rainbow Flat (MGLB). **Atlas:** 19 records from 13 cells, RR 3.2%**White-winged Triller** *Lalage sueurii*

ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 1.8%; cell of most interest: F7 (16.9%).

Birds were recorded at six locations in the Widden Valley 14 Nov (ROS). Three male birds were at Lenaghans Flat 1 Oct (ROM). 1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region over Sep-Dec and with more easterly records at Ash Island 2 Jan (MCN), Hexham Swamp 20 Jan (LIA), SBL 30 Sep (RIA), WWW Oct-Nov (BNSW, STA, MEL *et al.*) and Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ). The only records from early in the year were of 1-2 birds at Yengo NP 17 Jan (ALP) and Kurri Kurri woodlands 29 Feb (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Gloucester late Dec (DBP). **Atlas:** 19 records from 11 cells, RR 2.2%**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

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

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: S4 (9.8%).

At least one bird was at Crowdy Bay NP 8 Jan (KEM). **Atlas:** Nil records

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 50% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (47.1%).

Notable records: Ten birds were at Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG) and five birds at Ellalong 5 Aug (LIA). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 34 records from 18 cells, RR 5.2%**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

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

Status: Resident of highland areas.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: L5 (25.8%).

Gloucester Tops: The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 21.2% (NEM *et al.*). A single bird was recorded near The Mountaineer 23 Nov (NEM). **Barrington Tops:** 1-2 birds were recorded in the NP 16-17 Feb and at Polblue 27 Mar and Little Murray 29 Mar (all CLT). **Atlas:** Eight records, from L5 and M5, RR 17.8%**Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 24.4%; cell of most interest: L5 (58.7%).

Notable records: 11 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 66.7% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 419 records from 55 cells, RR 21.5%**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 in counts of up to 20 birds but mostly as 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 18.7%; cell of most interest: G8 (63.0%).

Notable records: Some birds were present until mid May, with single birds recorded at Green Wattle Creek 10 May (NEM), Deep Pond 18 May (ROM) and Ash Island 19 May (MCN/STA). The first reported return was 16 Aug, when birds were heard at a number of mid and upper Hunter locations (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 259 records from 39 cells, RR 14.6%**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

ID No: 413 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1996*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 24.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (77.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 48.5% (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 358 records from 62 cells, RR 17.9%

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

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

No reports were received for 2012.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

ID No: 432 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 8.6%; cell of most interest: R5 (42.4%).

Notable records: 40 birds were at Nobbys Park 14 Dec (THJ) and 20+ birds at Swansea Headland 21 Feb (HOB). Two birds were present at Wingen 26 Sep – *uncommon there* (NEG).

Atlas: 85 records from 19 cells, RR 6.6%

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

ID No: 671 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of 1-5 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 73% of cells, at RR = 13.0%; cell of most interest: Q6 (35.0%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Wingen 5 Feb (NEG) and HWC 1 Oct (SLP).

Breeding: Birds bred at Balickera Dec (MUJ) and a pair was with a juvenile at Wingen 24 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 130 records from 33 cells, RR 8.3%

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Frequently recorded at medium to large fresh waters in E of the Region over Jan-Apr and from mid-Aug onwards in counts of up to 10 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: L10 (20.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Ash Island 7 & 21 Mar (BRG) and 17 birds at Cattai Wetlands 10 Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*). The first reported return was 20 Aug, when some birds were at Ash Island (MEL). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Hexham Swamp 4 Dec (LIA) and birds were with dependent young at Ash Island 22 Jan (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 26 Jan (LIA).

Atlas: 72 records from 12 cells, RR 7.7%

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: 12 records from seven cells.

60+ birds were at Rothbury 5 Oct and 22 birds at Weston 21 Sep (ROS). Some birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 30 Sep and 26 Oct (ROS, HHB) and “Windy” Station 22 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** One record, from 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 (8.0%).

200-250+ birds were at Weston 21 Sep, Muswellbrook 21 Sep and Rothbury 5 Oct (ROS, RIA). ~50 birds were at Blue Gum Hills RP 22 Oct (LIG). Some birds were also recorded at Goulburn River NP 30 Sep and 26 Oct (ROS, HHB) and “Windy” Station 22 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** Seven records from three cells

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; some birds are present all year. Occasionally but widely recorded in counts of 1-10 birds, mainly over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 5.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (29.1%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Quorrobolong 1 Sep (CCB) and Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG). Winter records were of birds at Werakata SCA 2 Jun and Kearsley 4 Jun (ERE, JED); also six late departing birds were at Pelton 12 May (ALP). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young near Kurri Kurri 16 Oct and the chicks later successfully fledged (ROS). Birds were feeding young at Quorrobolong 28 Sep (MOA). **Atlas:** 22 records from ten cells, RR 3.8%

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

ID No: 702 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 24.3%; cell of most interest: L11 (39.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at HWC 6 Sep and were with a dependent young at Dora Creek 17 Jan (LIP, GOC), and bred at Balickera Jan and Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 320 records from 52 cells, RR 16.7%

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

ID No: 700 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 22.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (46.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 280 records from 52 cells, RR 15.2%

Australian Magpie *Cracticus tibicen*

ID No: 705 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in 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 = 46.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (82.1%).

Notable records: 22 birds were recorded at Charlestown GC Mar (FEG). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 28 Nov (NEG) and bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ).

Atlas: 696 records from 73 cells, RR 34.0%**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant). Widely and regularly recorded as up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 89% of cells, at RR = 25.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (58.4%).

Notable records: 50-60 birds were together at Giro Rd 26 Jul (STA). 20+ birds were recorded at Flags Rd Gungah 15 Feb and near Mt Royal 18 Apr (both BRG). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 57.6% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 315 records from 69 cells, RR 15.5%

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 2012.

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 in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 4.9%; cell of most interest: R6 (26.2%).

Notable records: The first reported return was 23 Feb, when two birds were at Tomago Wetlands (MCN); other reports from late Feb/early Mar were received. **Atlas:** 26 records from ten cells, RR 2.9%**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, in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 6.4%; cell of most interest: K11 (23.1%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at Williams River 18 Jan (MEL). The latest record was 21 Apr, when two birds were at Khappinghat NP (DBP). The first reported return was 1 Sep, when two birds were at Brunkerville (MCR). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Green Wattle Creek 2 Jan and BbR 22 Jan (BRG *et al.*, NIJ). **Atlas:** 55 records from 17 cells, RR 4.0%**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa*

ID No: 361 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 89% of cells, at RR = 42.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (80.7%).

Notable records: ~50 birds were recorded at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC). 40 birds on migration passage were at Green Wattle Creek 9 Sep and 24-28 birds Apr and Nov-Dec (NEM). 20+ birds were also at WWW 2 May (BRG). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 75.8% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*) and feeding fledged young at Ash Island 22 Jan (HBOC). There were breeding records at Balickera spanning Jan and Sep-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 724 records from 74 cells, RR 36.3%**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 89% of cells, at RR = 36.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (74.9%).

Notable records: 12 birds were recorded at East Seaham 14 Feb (GOA *et al.*) and Total 6 Mar (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair had nest with young in the Kurri Kurri area 16 Oct and the chicks later successfully fledged (ROS). Birds were feeding fledged young at Barrington Tops NP 10 Dec (DBP). **Atlas:** 517 records from 61 cells, RR 26.7%

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 35.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (64.9%).

Notable records: 40 birds were present at Worimi Conservation Lands 28 Feb and 22-29 birds 27 Mar and 26 Jun (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at HWC 22 Jul (HBOC) and feeding fledged young at Wingen 28 Nov (NEG), and bred at Belmont late in the year (CJB).

Atlas: 520 records from 60 cells, RR 26.3%

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 20% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: R6 (18.5%).

Eight birds were present at Cattai Wetlands 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and 6+ birds at Darawank Reserve 21 Jan (OCG). 1-3 birds were recorded at Old Bar 12 Feb (KEM) and Seal Rocks 11 May (BRG), and often at Cattai Wetlands, Saltwater NP and Harrington (several observers).

Atlas: 26 records from seven cells, RR 19.0%

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 6.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (56.0%).

18 birds were in a cleared area along Ringwood Rd 8 Apr (ALP) and some birds were recorded in the general area mid May, 5 Aug and 1 Sep (ALP, KEM, BRG). Some birds were present at Curricabundi NP 28-30 Apr (DBP *et al.*). **Atlas:** 18 records from four cells, RR 31.0%

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Up to 10 birds are often recorded N of Port Stephens and the range has expanded to the mid Hunter Valley (Maitland/Cessnock/Dungog area), where 1-5 birds are recorded. (*text modified*)

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 8.2%; cell of most interest: R4 (41.7%).

Notable records: Birds were recorded near Mulbring 2 Sep and 27 Oct (WID, DTB) – *this continues to be the southernmost known population*. Some birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp mid-year and 7 Oct (WID, LIA), around Shortland mid Jun and mid Oct (WID, ROM) and at Newcastle Tip 16 Sep (ROS). Birds are displacing Australian Ravens from territories at East Maitland (SMJ). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Bobs Farm 12 Dec (HDM).

Atlas: 64 records from 14 cells, RR 9.3%

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 60% of cells, at RR = 6.1%; cell of most interest: G10 (40.6%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC). Three birds were at Ash Island 2 Nov (STA) – *uncommon location*. The latest record was 11 Apr, when a bird was at Jerrys Plains (CLT). The first recorded return was 11 Sep, when a bird was at WWW (BRG).

Atlas: 62 records from 19 cells, RR 4.3%

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

Barrington Tops NP: Two birds were at the junction of Carter Rd/Scone Rd 10 Dec (DBP) and some birds were at Devils Hole 4 Nov (KEM). There were no records from the Gloucester Tops.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: G7 (26.9%).

Three birds were at Broad Crossing Aberdeen 17 Sep (HBOC). 1-2 birds were present at several locations in Goulburn River NP 30 Sep and there were other records for the NP spanning Mar-Apr and Sep-Oct (ROS, others). 1-2 birds were also at Cattai Wetlands 27 Jan, 17 Feb and 13 May (STA, FIW/JRR *et al.*), two locations in Yengo NP 1 Apr (ALP), Widden Valley 8 Apr and 14 Nov (ALP, ROS), Jerrys Plains 11 Apr (CLT), Beers TSR (SW of Muswellbrook) 29 Apr (ALP), Fordwich Crossing 13 May (ALP), Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep and Towarri NP 18 Sep (both HBOC).

Atlas: 19 records from ten cells, RR 10.1%

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 2012.

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 = 6.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (35.1%).

Notable records: 13 birds were recorded at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC) and 6+ birds at Allyn River 18 Jan (MEL). **Breeding**: Birds were feeding fledged young at Harrington RF 18 Feb (MGLB). **Atlas**: 47 records from 18 cells, RR 6.9%

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (17.6%).

6+ birds were at Harrington RF 30 & 31 Oct and there were regular records of 1-5 birds Jan-Feb and Sep-Nov (STA, others). 1-2 birds were at Dingo Tops NR 1 Jan (ERE), Copeland SCA 8 Jan and 8 & 23 Oct (KEM, TAE, STA), Saltwater NP 26 Jan and 15 Sep (STA), White Rock Allyn River 28 Oct (DDR) and Knorrit Flat 28 Nov (ERE). **Breeding**: Birds had dependent young at Harrington 18 Feb (MGLB). **Atlas**: 16 records from five cells, RR 11.9%

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 35.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (81.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were roosting at Woodville in winter (NEM), and 20+ birds were at East Seaham 9 Oct (GOA *et al.*). **Breeding**: Birds had a nest with young at Barrington Tops NP 10 Dec (DBP) and were breeding at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas**: 498 records from 60 cells, RR 25.6%

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, in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 11.2%; cell of most interest: H8 (36.7%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at WWW 21 Mar (BRG), Yarandoo Mar-Apr (NEM) and Lake Glenbawn 18 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were several records over Oct-Dec. A group in the Gloucester area successfully bred three times during the year (DBP). **Atlas:** 81 records from 22 cells, RR 11.6%

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (Revised)

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M4 (12.9%).

Two birds were recorded at Copeland SCA 23 Oct (STA) and a bird was heard at Jerusalem Creek 21 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding two fledged young at Main Creek Rd 1 Jan (STD) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for the Region*. **Atlas:** Four records from four cells, RR 0.85%

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 70% of cells, at RR = 12.1%; cell of most interest: G8 (70.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Green Wattle Creek during early Nov (NEM). **Atlas:** 129 records from 22 cells, RR 16.4%



Scarlet Robin by Grant Brosie

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 31% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (32.8%).

Three male birds were at Werakata SCA 27 May (ERE) and three birds at Beers TSR (SW of Muswellbrook) 29 Apr (ALP). 1-2 birds were occasionally recorded in Werakata NP and other Kurri Kurri/Cessnock woodlands during Apr-Jul (several observers). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Jerrys Plains 29 Apr (ALP), Curricabundi NP 30 Apr and 24-26 Jul (DBP *et al.*) and Hobdens TSR 22 Jul (ALP).

Atlas: 15 records from eight cells, RR 7.9%

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 = 4.2%; cell of most interest: H8 (37.3%).

Ten birds were recorded at Hobdens TSR 22 Jul and one bird there 26 Feb (ALP). 1-2 birds were at Medhurst Bridge 10 Mar (KEM), Jerrys Plains area 29 Apr (ALP), Durrigere Rd 11 Jun (STA) and Goulburn River NP 1 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** Four records, from H8 and B6, RR 44.4%

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 = 3.1%; cell of most interest: K4 (54.8%).

Barrington Tops: On 29 Mar, six birds were recorded at both Little Murrays Hut and Polblue Trail, and four birds at Polblue Swamp. Four birds were at Barrington Trail 27 Mar and two birds at Polblue 21 Jan (all CLT). *Gloucester Tops*: Birds were recorded three times in 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1150m) over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). A pair was at Gloucester River crossing 4 Sep (STA/NEM) and some birds at Kerripit Rd 21 Oct (KEM). *Elsewhere*: A male and two females were at Wingen 18 Jun and two birds sometimes over Jul-Aug (NEG). 1-2 birds were at Pokolbin 10 Sep (RIA). **Atlas**: Five records from four cells, RR 8.3%

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

ID No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident (and 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 56% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (31.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Gloucester Tops over late Aug-Dec was 36.4% (NEM *et al.*). **Breeding**: Birds were feeding fledged young at Woko NP 28 Sep - 1 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas**: 63 records from 25 cells, RR 4.9%

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 19% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: H8 (16.0%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 10 Mar, 8 Jul, 1 Sep and 14 Oct (KEM, BRG) and at Singleton Army Base 16 Aug (ROM). **Atlas**: Three records from three cells, RR 3.1%

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 = 2.2%; cell of most interest: M5 (10.3%).

1-2 birds were at Dingo Tops NR 1 Jan (ERE), Copeland SCA 11 Feb (KEM), Coorabakh NP 26 Sep (ERE) and Jerusalem Creek 21 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas**: One record, from R3

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 = 25.9%; cell of most interest: L8 (51.5%).

Notable records: 15 birds were recorded at South Wollombi 19 Aug (HBOC) and 10-11 birds at Cattai Wetlands Mar (FIW/JRR *et al.*) and Woko NP 28 Sep - 1 Oct (HBOC). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 57.6% (NEM *et al.*).

Breeding: There were several records, spanning Jan and Aug-Nov. **Atlas**: 401 records from 58 cells, RR 21.9%

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: 22 records from 11 cells; cell of most interest: G7 (five records).

Some birds were recorded at Yarrawa Rd 10 Mar (KEM), Glenarvon Rd 28 Oct (HHB) and Widden Valley 14 Nov (ROS). **Atlas:** One record, from D6

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 2012.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

ID No: 525 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 35% of cells, at RR = 11.5%; cell of most interest: P8 (36.8%).

Notable records: An estimated 40-50 pairs were on Broughton Island 18-20 Sep (STA *et al.*) and 25+ birds 13-24 Jul (ANC); the overall Reporting Rate there in surveys over Aug-Nov was 75%. **Atlas:** 275 records from 16 cells, RR 21.3%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 7.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (34.4%).

Notable records: ~50 birds were at WWW 7 Nov (STA) and 20+ birds at Broad Crossing Aberdeen 17 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** There was a nest with young at WWW 24 Jun and two nests with young 29 Dec (STA, BRG). **Atlas:** 83 records from 12 cells, RR 7.1%

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 19% of cells, at RR = 8.4%; cell of most interest: P8 (33.1%).

Notable records: An estimated 30-40 pairs were on Broughton Island 18-20 Sep; the overall Reporting Rate there in surveys over Aug-Nov was 69% (STA *et al.*). Some birds were at Green Wattle Creek in Oct – *first records for the site in 16 years of surveying* (NEM). **Atlas:** 211 records from 15 cells, RR 16.1%

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 = 8.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (24.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 120 records from five cells, RR 11.4%

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 34% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: E6 (30.4%).

Some birds were recorded often at Glenarvon Rd Bolwarra during Oct (several observers). Three birds were in the Kurri Kurri area 19 Sep (ROM) and 1-2 birds were occasionally recorded, with the most easterly record being Cooranbong. The first reported arrival was 4 Sep when some birds were at Singleton (MCR). **Atlas:** Ten records from eight cells, RR 4.8%

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central/west of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: H10 (10.0%).

A single bird was sometimes recorded at Ash Island Oct-Nov (several observers). 1-2 birds were near Largs 11 Jan and in Goulburn River NP 26 & 30 Sep (KEM, ROS, WID) and some birds at Glenarvon Rd Bolwarra 1 and 29 Oct (ROM, HHB). **Atlas:** Six records, from F4 and M10, RR 1.0%

Silveryeye *Zosterops lateralis*

ID No: 574 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident and winter migrant. Widely and regularly recorded all year in 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 (39.2%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Pembroke Rd 9 Jun and HWC 22 Jul (both HBOC). **Atlas:** 355 records from 55 cells, RR 17.9%

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: G7 (5.9%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Milbrodale Rd 13 May (ALP), Fordwich Crossing 13 May and 15 Sep (ALP, KEM), Goulburn River NP 8 Jul and 14 & 28 Oct (BRG, HHB) and Bulga 12 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** Two records, from R4 (*unusual!*) and H9

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 89% of cells, at RR = 32.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (63.9%).

Notable records: 140 birds were at Tocal 18 Dec (NEM) and ~100 birds at Cooperook Corner 24 Jun (FIW). 50-80 birds were at Ash Island 22 Jan (HBOC), Tocal 6 Mar (HBOC) and WWW 9 May (SM) *et al.*. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 501 records from 62 cells, RR 25.1%

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 = 6.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.3%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Singleton Wastewater Treatment Plant 19 Jan (ALP) and at two locations along Newline Rd 16 Sep (SLP). 20+ birds were at Ash Island 11 Mar and Singleton 11 Aug (both ALP). There were some late departures – a large flock was at Richmond Vale 27 May (WID) and some birds were at Smiths Lake 21 Apr (MGLB). The earliest recorded return was 29 Jul, when three birds were at Milbrodale Rd (ALP); by early Aug birds were widespread. **Breeding:** There were 60-70 nests at Bulahdelah Bridge 31 Oct (STA) and 40+ nests at Singleton WTW Jan (ALP). **Atlas:** 48 records from 11 cells, RR 5.6%

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; many birds over-winter. Up to 20 birds are occasionally but widely recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: N5 (31.3%).

Notable records: 500+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 4 Dec (LIA) and 200+ birds at Morpeth WTW 25 Apr (LIA/NEM). 100+ birds were near Kurri Kurri 29 Feb (ROM) and 50+ birds at Cattai Wetlands 30 Oct (STA/OSP). 20+ birds were recorded at Jones Reserve Rd 26 Feb (ALP) and WWW 8 Aug (SMJ *et al.*). **Atlas:** 66 records from 22 cells, RR 4.8%

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident in extreme SE of Region (*text added*).

From BLA Atlas: Records from eight cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: M11 (32.3%).

A single bird was at Cooranbong 29 Sep (RIA) and some birds at Black Neds Bay 7 Oct (KEM). *Records away from the Swansea area are uncommon but there was a 2010 Cooranbong record.* **Atlas:** Nil records

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 2.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (24.3%).

Gloucester Tops: There were several spring records, including ~20 individual birds were recorded 7 Oct (WID) and eight birds around Sharpes Creek 6 Oct (BRG *et al.*). Up to four birds were at Sharpes Creek May-Jul but there were also winter records of single birds at locations >1,150m 16 May and 26 Jul (all STA). The reporting rate from 33 surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) over late Aug-Dec was 18.2% (NEM *et al.*). A single bird was at The Mountaineer 23 Nov (NEM). **Elsewhere:** Five birds were at BbR 3 Oct (NIJ) and 4-5 birds at Harrington RF 18 Jun (STA) and Boys Walk Cooranbong 29 Sep (RIA). 1-2 birds were at Balickera Jan-Sep and Dec (MUJ) and at Harrington RF 9 May (STA), Brunkerville 10 Jun and 2 Jul (WID), Cape Hawke 19 Jun (STA), Saltwater NP 10 Jul (STA), Boys Walk 25 Aug and late Sep (RIA), Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC), Copeland SCA 23 Oct (STA), Barrington House 28 Oct (DDR) and Mulbring 15 Nov (WID). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with two young at Boys Walk 10 Jul and a bird was on nest in the same general location 29 Sep (both RIA). Birds were also breeding at Balickera Aug (MUJ). **Atlas:** 22 records from 14 cells, RR 3.9%

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: M5 (21.6%).

Three birds were recorded at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC) and 1-2 birds at Dingo Tops NR 1 Jan (ERE), Copeland SCA 8 Jan (KEM), Allyn River 18 Jan (MEL), Wingham Brush 5 Jul (MGLB), Jerusalem Creek 21 Oct (HBOC), White Rock Allyn River 28 Oct (DDR) and Knorrit Flat 28 Nov (ERE), and several times at Sharpes Creek Aug-Oct (STA *et al.*, BRG *et al.*).

Atlas: Four records from three cells, RR 40.0%

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident, 1-2 birds are found in towns/suburbs in central and W of the Region (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: K4 (21.4%).

Notable records: Three birds were at Weston mid Sep (ROS). **Atlas:** Three records, from H8 and L9

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded in counts of up to 50 birds (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 70% of cells, at RR = 16.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (58.2%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Ash Island 7 Jan (OCC) and Worimi Conservation Lands 26 Jun (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 136 records from 30 cells, RR 8.9%

Common Myna *Sturnus tristis*

ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in counts of up to 50 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 64% of cells, at RR = 17.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (65.1%).

Notable records: A bird was taken by a Brown Goshawk at Wingen 31 Dec (NEG).

Atlas: 168 records from 35 cells, RR 9.5%

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 68% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (53.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Wingen 1 Jan – they fledged 3 Jan (NEG). **Atlas:** 112 records from 31 cells, RR 6.7%

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarina jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985-86, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Up to 20 birds are moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: G7 (26.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** Three records from three cells, RR 17.6%

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in counts of up to 20 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 8.0%; cell of most interest: G8 (60.9%).**Notable records:** 50+ birds were recorded Milbrodale Rd 13 May (ALP). 21-50 birds were at Kurri Kurri area 7 Mar (BRG), Mulbring 21 May (GAB) and Wingen 18 Jun (NEG).**Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young near Kurri Kurri 7 Mar (BRG). **Atlas:** 70 records from 23 cells, RR 5.5%**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 recorded at Ringwood Rd Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (BRG). **Atlas:** Nil records**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 81% of cells, at RR = 23.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (45.8%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Woko NP 28 Sep -1 Oct (HBOC) and 100+ birds at Cattai Wetlands 24 Jun (HCL). 50-100 birds were recorded at HWC Apr and Oct (LIP, others), Cattai Wetlands 10 Mar and 13 May (FIW/JRR *et al.*), Pembroke Rd 9 Jun (HBOC), Woodville 16 Jun (NEM/LIG) and Green Wattle Creek 21 Oct (HBOC). 20+ birds were often at Green Wattle Creek (NEM) and at Glen Ora Rd Napiac 26 Feb (OCG), WWW 21 Mar and 8 Aug (BRG, SMJ *et al.*) and Yarandoo May and Aug (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Ashtonfield 2 Feb (MAM) and there were many breeding events at Balickera spanning Jan, Mar and Sep-Dec (MUJ).**Atlas:** 360 records from 56 cells, RR 18.4%Red-browed Finch
by Dorien Schulz**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 22% of cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: G8 (24.9%).

1-5 birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 10 Mar, 8 Jul (at three locations), 1 Sep and 14 Oct (KEM, BRG), and at Jones Reserve Rd 26 Feb (ALP), Wallaby Scrub Rd 13 May (ALP), Ridgeland Rd 31 Jul (MCR) and Aberdeen 17 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Ridgeland Rd 31 Jul (MCR). **Atlas:** 11 records from four cells, RR 9.6%**Beautiful Firetail** *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident (*reported in 2009*).

No reports were received for 2012.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Status: Possibly extinct in the wild (*last recorded 1991*) (*Revised from: Accidental*)

No reports were received for 2012.

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 (4.8%).

~30 birds were at Hexham Swamp 22 Aug (LIG) and some birds there 29 Jan and 12 Mar (KEM, LIA). ~25 birds were at Tomago 21 Aug (MCN). **Atlas:** Six records, from L10 and M10 cells, RR 0.9%

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Frequently recorded at or near populated areas in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 7.3%; cell of most interest: S4 (20.9%).

Notable records: 60+ birds were recorded at Stroud Road 14 Mar (CLT). **Atlas:** 30 records from ten cells, RR 17.1%

Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly in counts of 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 10.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (22.6%).

Notable records: 13 birds were recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 26 Jun (NEM *et al.*) and 12 birds at Ash Island 22 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 225 records from 17 cells, RR 15.3%

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

ID No: 877 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant.

Some birds were present at Ash Island from the beginning of Jan (they were found initially in late 2011), until last recorded there on 2 May (many observers). Most reports were of a single bird or occasionally two birds; however 3-4 birds were recorded 8 & 17 Jan and several times in mid-late Feb. *In all previous years, the latest date for birds to have been present was 11 April.*

Green-headed Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla taivana*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2003*).

No reports were received for 2012.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*ID No: 874 (*781 = lugens*) HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: NoStatus: Accidental (*race lugens recorded 1998*).

No reports were received for 2012.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (5.6%).

Ten birds were recorded at Ash Island 12 Oct (BEI) and six birds 2 Jan (BRG *et al.*); there were other reports of 1-2 birds Jan-Feb. Five birds were at Telarah 7 Mar (BRG) and 1-2 birds at WWW 21 Mar (BRG) and Largs/Bolwarra 15 Jun, 28 Aug and 28 Oct (BRG, DDR/HHB).

Atlas: Six records from three cells, RR 0.82%

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre 2012 records detailed below:

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

A single bird was recorded at locations around Newcastle over Apr-Jun 2011 (several observers). In reviewing the record, NSW ORAC considered the likely provenance, and concluded it was a wild bird (*becoming the 16th confirmed record for NSW*).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

A single bird was at Hexham Swamp 26 Dec 2011 (LIA *et al.*).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

Records of single birds off Swansea 21 Apr 2011 and off Port Stephens on 20 November 2011 (*both reported in the 2011 Bird Report*) were accepted by BARC.

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

There was a breeding colony at Chatham near Taree in 2011 – no estimate was made of the number of nests present (MOA).

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

A single bird was at Hexham Swamp 26 Dec 2011 (LIA *et al.*).

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

A single bird was at Hexham Swamp 26 Dec 2011 (LIA *et al.*).

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

A single bird was recorded at Indian Head Crowdy Bay NP 11 Dec 2011 (WEP/PRS). *The record was accepted by NSW ORAC.*

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

A single bird was recorded in the car park to the Bulga Coal Mine office (9km N of Broke) in planted flowering gum trees 12 Aug 2011 (UEC) and three birds were observed during a fauna survey on land near Bunnan 17 May 2011 (per ROM).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

A single male bird was recorded at Tomalla (Barrington Tops) in Oct 2010 (GAB/FAT).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

A pair was feeding fledged young at Sharpes Creek January 2008 (RIA).



White-backed Swallow by Grant Brosie

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.*

Giant-Petrel *Macronectes* spp

A bird was rescued at Tea Gardens 9 Jun but did not survive (per NIJ). Single birds were close to shore off Newcastle Beach 9-10 Jun (ROM, THJ).

Storm-Petrel *Fregetta* spp

A report of a White-bellied Storm-Petrel at the continental shelf 27 February 2010 (reported as an Unconfirmed Record in the 2010 Bird Report) was not accepted by NSW ORAC.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Two birds were reported to have been together in Woko NP 30 Sep.

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

In the 2011 Bird Report, where it was reported that an egg had been laid by a pair of Bush Stone-curlews at Bobs Farm in November, it was speculated that an earlier hatched chick had been predated. Information now received from Alan Morris is that this is not necessarily the case as Bush Stone-curlews frequently lay another clutch regardless of the fate of the first clutch.

Some of the previously published shorebird count data from the regular Hunter Estuary surveys were found to be incorrect, following a thorough review for potential instances of double-counting. Apart from a handful of records, detailed below, the changes are minor and details are available by contacting HBOC. These are the significant changes:

- December 2001: 529 Eastern Curlews not 786; also Common Sandpipers were recorded in January, February, October and December
- 2002: 24 Terek Sandpipers not 44 and 24 Grey-tailed Tattlers not 38; also Sooty Oystercatchers were recorded in May, August and November
- May 2011: 200 Bar-tailed Godwits not 540

In recent Bird Reports, some records have been ascribed to the location “Newcastle Bight”. Most of those records derive from regular surveys of the Worimi Conservation Lands. The latter is a major subset of the overall Bight. Where appropriate, records are now reported as being from WCL (records from other locations in Newcastle Bight will continue to be reported accordingly).

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.

Barbary Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

5-6 birds were recorded at Millfield 19 Aug (NIJ).

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Birds are regularly present in nearby New Lambton gardens near Blackbutt Reserve (STA).

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

A single bird was at Belmont South 21 Aug (CJB).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

Single birds were at Morpeth 19 Aug (VGF) and Nobbys Park area 26-28 Oct (THJ).

Star Finch *Neochmia ruficauda*

A single bird was at Cooranbong 7 Jun (LUK).

ATLAS DATA ANALYSIS

The BirdLife Australia Atlas database now has 15 years data for the Hunter Region. It seems timely to begin to consider what the data may be revealing about changes to the status of species of the Region. One simple way to analyse the data for any given species is to compare its Reporting Rate (RR) in the current year with its average RR over the duration of the Atlas project. Although the results from such analysis must be treated with caution, they do identify that a change has occurred and that an explanation for the change needs to be considered.

Many factors may contribute to a change in RR. The change might indicate that a species is prospering within the Region or that it is in decline. However, it might instead be due to a change in observer effort, for example as a result of commencement or cessation of more frequent visits to an area which is favourable for a particular species. The change in observer effort might be associated with a program of regular surveys, or with reports of an uncommon species at some location which prompts more visits to that location than normal. A change in observer skill can also affect the RR, as can a change in the ratio of 2ha surveys to area surveys (the latter usually record more species). Readers are also referred to the discussion about this matter in the Introduction to this Report.

The two Tables below indicate those species which have a substantial change in RR in 2012 compared with the long term average RR. Only species with long term average RRs greater than 2% are included. Also, the Tables are restricted to those species whose 2012 RRs are >50% higher or >50% lower than their long term average. All these selection criteria are arbitrary and have no statistical basis; perhaps better selection criteria can be identified in future. Readers should refer to the individual species reports for supporting details.

There are other ways by which the Atlas data could (and should) be analysed. The Tables provide insights about step-changes that appear to have occurred for the more common species of the Region. Changes for those species which are more slowly declining or prospering over longer periods of time are not identified by this approach, nor are changes occurring for uncommon or cryptic species (i.e. those with relatively low RRs).

Species with >50% Decrease in Reporting Rate in 2012 (with long term RR >2%)		
Australasian Shoveler	Brush Cuckoo	White-browed Babbler
Spotted Dove	Powerful Owl	Varied Triller
Little Penguin	Barking Owl	Paradise Riflebird
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Red-browed Treecreeper	Pale-yellow Robin
Terek Sandpiper	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Marsh Sandpiper		

Species with >50% Increase in Reporting Rate in 2012 (with long term RR >2%)

Australian Brush-turkey	Rainbow Bee-eater	Painted Honeyeater
Brown Quail	Rufous Scrub-bird	Spotted Quail-thrush
Great Crested Grebe	Regent Bowerbird	Olive Whistler
Common Bronzewing	Rockwarbler	Forest Raven
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Little Raven
Topknot Pigeon	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Restless Flycatcher
Australasian Gannet	Weebill	Spectacled Monarch
Double-banded Plover	White-eared Honeyeater	Scarlet Robin
Black-fronted Dotterel	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Red-capped Robin
Comb-crested Jacana	Fuscous Honeyeater	Flame Robin
Sanderling	White-plumed Honeyeater	Golden-headed Cisticola
Little Tern	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Tawny Grassbird
Gull-billed Tern	Regent Honeyeater	Russet-tailed Thrush
Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-fronted Chat	Zebra Finch
Little Lorikeet	Crescent Honeyeater	House Sparrow
Swift Parrot	New Holland Honeyeater	Australasian Pipit
Southern Boobook	Black-chinned Honeyeater	



Red-capped Robin by Dorien Schulz

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 Shorebirds in the Hunter Estuary
(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide roost sites¹)

	20, 21 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar	21 Apr	18, 19 May	23 Jun	21 Jul	18 Aug	15, 17 Sep	12, 13 Oct	16, 17 Nov	15, 17 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	10	8	4	7	5	4	4	12	13	12	5	11
Sooty Oystercatcher	1		6	6	3		1				7	
Black-winged Stilt	258	27	2	249	321	322	272	166	98	42	103	366
Red-necked Avocet	68	17		54	120	1028	3501	6753	4487	2937	4024	2615
Banded Stilt										1	1	
Pacific Golden Plover	237	167	191						10	131	142	356
Grey Plover											1	1
Red-capped Plover	18		2	8		11	13	7	6	10	11	18
Lesser Sand Plover	1	1	1									
Black-fronted Dotterel	6	3		6	2	6	12	4	1	2	1	4
Red-kneed Dotterel							1					7
Masked Lapwing	94	74	49	42	54	39	34	23	35	34	60	58
Latham's Snipe										1		
Black-tailed Godwit	97	50	55	1					5	37	84	71
Bar-tailed Godwit	873	826	805	185	172	144	189	205	190	775	862	968
Whimbrel	16	39			5			3	52	9	2	42
Eastern Curlew	241	244	134	17	12	16	25	120	2	165	202	192
Terek Sandpiper		7	11	1					7	8	9	7
Common Sandpiper	2		1					1	1	1	1	1
Grey-tailed Tattler		22	34	28	5	4	4	4	9	30	28	29
Common Greenshank	59	55	33	7	1	1			16	40	65	66
Marsh Sandpiper	18	8	2									1
Great Knot	1									1	1	5
Red Knot									47	275	47	22
Ruddy Turnstone										2		
Red-necked Stint	6	10	5							9	28	10
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	12									528	183	237
Curlew Sandpiper	126	30							56	97	28	91

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used
NB The data in Table 2 are collected during the above shorebird surveys

Table 2 Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands*(Based on data collected during Hunter Estuary shorebirds surveys presented in Table 1)*

	20, 21 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar	21 Apr	18, 19 May	23 Jun	21 Jul	18 Aug	15, 17 Sep	12, 13 Oct	16, 17 Nov	15, 17 Dec
Maggie Goose	1	1								36		
Wand. Whistling-Duck		2										
Musk Duck	1	7	4		3	1	2		2	2	2	1
Black Swan	86	43	163	52	83	37	28	24	40	23	37	24
Australian Shelduck					2							
Australian Wood Duck	59	2	23	11	31	25	24	55		4		
Pink-eared Duck					1					4		15
Australasian Shoveler	3	7		5	4							
Grey Teal	68	125		57	193	8	10	26	155	536	214	458
Chestnut Teal	521	40	456	423	625	753	418	61	309	667	303	756
Pacific Black Duck	56	17	25	26	121	41	28	26	142	76	117	86
Hardhead	162	56	27	4	71	90	110		114	31	67	153
Australasian Grebe	26	1	28	6	131	16	15	10	18	44	58	76
Hoary-headed Grebe			4	5	35	4	9		9	7	12	
Darter	5	3	6	4	3	3	2	3	5	4	6	9
Little Pied Cormorant	12	11	11	3	8	5	9	4	10	11	7	7
Great Cormorant	2	4	1	1		1		15	5	25	12	2
Little Black Cormorant	26	47	63	45	68	55	33	46	31	32	28	65
Pied Cormorant	11	8	4	10	3	3	5	5	7	7	11	22
Australian Pelican	74	71	35	192	110	44	75	173	42	81	94	68
White-necked Heron	4								3	4	1	
Eastern Great Egret	77	12	14	11	16	10	10	12	14	16	13	13
Intermediate Egret	1	1		1		2			2	6	2	32
Cattle Egret	20	5	40	2		2			3		4	
Striated Heron	1	1									1	
White-faced Heron	189	81	125	65	189	210	83	145	122	109	62	81
Little Egret	11	6	12	4	12	6	10	2	12	8	8	14
Australian White Ibis	65	204	187	57	54	8	4	61	45	35	49	71
Straw-necked Ibis	2				10	1			11	2	1	
Royal Spoonbill	7	64	76	40	32	29	16	2	2	2	12	61
Yellow-billed Spoonbill					1							1
Buff-banded Rail										1		
Baillon's Crake	1											
Spotless Crake											1	

Table 2 (cont'd) Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands

Purple Swamphen	60	36	60	45	44	34	27	3	29	74	36	62
Dusky Moorhen	12	1	14		36	1	17		1	4	4	3
Eurasian Coot	201	155	134		413	138	148		200	148	382	732
Little Tern	62		6								30	61
White-winged Black Tern		1										
Gull-billed Tern	1				1	17	4	1	6	3	7	
Caspian Tern	5	17	10	18	6	2	9	4	3	2	2	2
Common Tern	12										27	21
Crested Tern	11	27	11	13		7	2		3	1	1	1
Silver Gull	426	106	231	237	189	53	24	32	118	51	196	395

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
Grey Teal							5	2				
Chestnut Teal	4	8	7	6			2	4				
Pacific Black Duck		4	6	3		5	4					
Eastern Great Egret							1		1			
White-faced Heron	6	10	4	6	3	19	9	8	1	1	2	2
Australian White Ibis		5	4	3	18	36		38	17			
Straw-necked Ibis					7							
Royal Spoonbill						2						
Pacific Golden Plover	18	9	17								8	23
Red-capped Plover					2							
Black-fronted Dotterel			3	6	7	14	10	7	3			
Red-kneed Dotterel	6				3							
Banded Lapwing							1					
Masked Lapwing	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	6	5
Eastern Curlew	1	1	1	3								
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1											

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			5									
Grey Teal			3	2	24	2	3	2	1		16	11
Chestnut Teal	22	6	4	23	22	45	31	19	17	25	44	28
Pacific Black Duck	22	2	5	4	6	4	5	16	2	6	9	27
Australasian Grebe			1	2								
Little Pied Cormorant	1		1								1	
Little Black Cormorant											1	
Australian Pelican	1	1	2	1	1						1	1
White-necked Heron						1						
Eastern Great Egret	5	1	1	1	2	2	1	1		1	1	1
Intermediate Egret		1										
Cattle Egret				32	19						3	1
White-faced Heron	27	20	11	20	30	63	70	86	34	22	25	54
Little Egret		1										
Australian White Ibis	9	44	5	42	43	21	37	20	5	1	7	49
Straw-necked Ibis					8		1	3	4	1		
Royal Spoonbill	1	2	2	1	6	2	1	2				1
Buff-banded Rail								1				
Black-winged Stilt						2						
Red-necked Avocet								237	129	96		
Pacific Golden Plover										7	6	1
Red-capped Plover						4						
Black-fronted Dotterel				1			2					
Red-kneed Dotterel	12				3	3		2				3
Masked Lapwing	14	9	16	11	24	12	20	5	7	10	7	8
Bar-tailed Godwit	3											
Eastern Curlew	5	5	7	10	3		1	18	5	5	4	4
Common Greenshank			3									
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	5									8	8	

Table 5 Waterbirds at Hunter Wetlands Centre*(Highest monthly counts from surveys by P Lightfoot, R & M Stewart, others)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Magpie Goose	15	49	30	57	76	96	94	89	60	45	86	85
Wandering Whist-Duck	12	5	30	4	24				1	22		13
Black Swan	7	3	4	2	4	3	3	5	2	4		
Australian Wood Duck	6	2	6	4	1	1	2	2		2	2	3
Pink-eared Duck			1			5						
Australasian Shoveler				<i>nc</i>								
Grey Teal	46	4	5	5	37	228	200+	151	507	800+	400+	176
Chestnut Teal	33	14	6	40	33	50	111	105	50	110	26	16
Northern Mallard					1	1	1				1	1
Pacific Black Duck	28	17	15	45	45	31	30	34	28	22	43	17
Hardhead	17	8	10	2	3	22	30	27	40	26	16	2
Australasian Grebe	13	4	12	18	15	20	26	14	18	9	5	4
Darter	3	2	1			2	2	1	1	1		1
Little Pied Cormorant	2	3		2	1	3	4	3	5	2	4	1
Great Cormorant		1				1	1	5	4		2	2
Little Black Cormorant	30	12	10	5	7	2	16	3	2	8	4	4
Pied Cormorant							1					
Australian Pelican	5		2	2	1		30	3	1	6	20	4
White-necked Heron											3	3
Eastern Great Egret	20+	20+	17	3		2	3	1	1	6	10	11
Intermediate Egret	6+	6+	4	1	1	1	2	2	3	9	7	10
Cattle Egret	300+	100+	106	1							450	400+
White-faced Heron	1	2		1	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	1
Little Egret	17	20+	20	3	1	3	2			1	4	3
Nankeen Night Heron	37	4	6			2	4	19	21	28	9	11
Australian White Ibis	300	200	200	96	280	206	366	648	676	650	400	350
Straw-necked Ibis				<i>nc</i>		<i>nc</i>	30	2		11	2	
Royal Spoonbill	8	5	6	6	12	10	1	1	3	6	11	10
Buff-banded Rail	1	3			1		1				2	2
Purple Swamphen	33	28	30	25	30	34	35	35	35	38	34	23
Dusky Moorhen	127	100	100	103	177	122	135	101	73	58	130	120
Eurasian Coot	57	29	15	28	25	56	50	121	106	131	36	26
Black-winged Stilt					2						9	64
Black-fronted Dotterel											6	14
Red-kneed Dotterel											1	20
Masked Lapwing	8	3	3	4	3	5	5	7	2	8	10	10
Latham's Snipe											2	2

nc: some birds were present but the numbers were not counted

Table 6 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands
(Systematic surveys led by N McNaughton)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun*	Jul	Aug*	Sep*	Oct*	Nov*	Dec*
Black Swan	2	2	2		3	2	4	6	10	10	7	10
Grey Teal											125	70
Chestnut Teal	11	25	35		86	48	26	5		7	78	115
Pacific Black Duck	2	5	35		12	3	11	15	23	10	28	27
Australasian Darter	2		1								2	
Little Pied Cormorant		1				1	1		1	1	2	6
Little Black Cormorant	39	3	4	1	1		1		7	5	8	33
Great Cormorant	2											
Australian Pelican		3									7	1
Australasian Bittern				1	1				1	2		
White-necked Heron	4								3	3	3	1
Eastern Great Egret	1	10	5		14	28	16	3	3	13	20	30
Intermediate Egret	2									2	2	11
White-faced Heron	17	20	32		34	30	4	22	46	83	51	53
Cattle Egret	1											
Little Egret	1					2				3		3
Glossy Ibis												5
Australian White Ibis		61	100		5	1		32	55	14	59	36
Straw-necked Ibis									13			
Royal Spoonbill		45	54		8	16		27		72	11	29
Purple Swamphen	24	17	11	1	38	16	92	99	104	34	29	40
Australian Spotted Crake									1	1		
Black-winged Stilt					1	50	23	33	94	119	12	5
Pacific Golden Plover										35	38	62
Black-fronted Dotterel									2			
Red-kneed Dotterel									1			
Masked Lapwing	2	34	29	3	2	10	2	4	10	8	5	20
Latham's Snipe	2		1					7	3			2
Black-tailed Godwit											1	
Eastern Curlew									1			
Common Greenshank												1
Marsh Sandpiper									1	1		
Wood Sandpiper												1
Red-necked Stint											2	12
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									62	122	405	416
Caspian Tern		1										
Crested Tern		1										

*Maximum count reported, from 2 or more site visits in the month

Table 7 Waterbirds at Charlestown Golf Club*(Systematic surveys by G. Felletti)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck	13											
Black Swan		1				1					1	
Aust. Wood Duck	58	43	54	65	58	56	84	84	84	137	230	125
Chestnut Teal	2	2		2		2	2	2	2	2		
Pacific Black Duck	14	9	8	17	6	33	52	16	16	22	23	14
Hardhead		2				14	13	3	2	6	8	
Australasian Grebe	1	1		1				1	2			
Australasian Darter	1	1							1			
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1	2	1		1	1	1	2	2	7	
Little Black Cormorant	4	4	2	4	1	2		2	3	2	2	4
Great Cormorant										2		
White-necked Heron										1		
Intermediate Egret	1	1		1			1		1	1	1	1
White-faced Heron	1	1	1	2	2	2	1		2		1	1
Little Egret					2				1			
Australian White Ibis					1				9			2
Straw-necked Ibis							20				1	1
Royal Spoonbill		1			1			1			1	
Purple Swamphen	4	5	11	9	9	23		13	17	8	14	18
Buff-banded Rail	1											
Dusky Moorhen	8	5	17	18	12	22	22	21	20	20	17	26
Eurasian Coot	4	2	1		2	6	6	6	5	12	14	13
Black-fronted Dotterel										3	3	
Latham's Snipe										1		1
Masked Lapwing	28	21	25	30	17	20	18	31	21	19	33	38

*Red-necked Avocet and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper by Trevor Murray*

Table 8 Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp
(Systematic surveys from Hexham side, led by A Lindsey)

	20 Jan	5 Feb	12 Mar	27 Apr	10 May	29 Jun	26 Jul	10 Aug	11 Sep	7 Oct	24 Nov	4 Dec
Musk Duck			1									
Black Swan	56	83	75	47	56	29	44	58	30	41		
Pink-eared Duck		3										
Grey Teal	53	5			15						50	432
Chestnut Teal	187	9	71	35	148					110	250	337
Pacific Black Duck	36	11	35	18	89	34	12	110		40	14	98
Hardhead			3									
Australasian Grebe				5	3	12						
Australasian Darter		2	1									
Little Pied Cormorant	14	3	2	2	5	6	2	1	6	1		
Great Cormorant		1		3				1				
Little Black Cormorant	68	25	20	20	9				13	1		1
Australian Pelican	13	5	11	5		1		5	7	3	1	
Australian Little Bittern		1										
White-necked Heron									1			
Eastern Great Egret	31	1	2	1	2	4	5	11	19	43	12	2
Intermediate Egret	3											
Cattle Egret	9	35	11									
White-faced Heron	69	19	39	3	44	11	1	33	37	86	89	66
Little Egret	1	2		1	1		1	2	1			
Australian White Ibis	23	4	21	36	21	4	42	2	32	23	13	12
Straw-necked Ibis							5		1			
Royal Spoonbill	47	50	5	1	8	2	7	3	7	5	9	5
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1											
Purple Swamphen	1	28	6	18	3	3	2		6	4	2	
Buff-banded Rail	2	1		1	1				1		1	
Australian Spotted Crake							2		2	1		
Black-winged Stilt		300	2	6	178	39	61	17	176	194	794	153
Red-necked Avocet									74	115		
Pacific Golden Plover										19		
Black-fronted Dotterel	26	32	2	6	7	2	2		4	9	1	
Banded Lapwing												6
Masked Lapwing	32	29	31	20	10	13	5	1	10	6	8	17
Aust. Painted Snipe		3										
Latham's Snipe	1	1										
Black-tailed Godwit										1		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												1010
Caspian Tern			3	1	2							
Silver Gull			3		60							

Table 9 Waterbirds around 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
Black Swan							9	3				
Yellow-nosed Albatross						10						
Southern Giant-Petrel								1				
Northern Giant-Petrel							1					
Wedge-tailed Shearwater									1,000+	nc	nc	
Little Penguin				2								
Australasian Gannet			4	3	3	3	5	~50			3	
Australasian Darter	1		1	1	2	4	4	2	3	5	5	
Little Pied Cormorant	1	6	1		2	2	2	2		1	1	1
Great Cormorant	9	23	5	3		1	2	15	6	8	15	15
Little Black Cormorant	7	18	22	9	5	8	18	16	31	2	2	24
Pied Cormorant	1	6	1			1	2		5	4	4	1
Australian Pelican	2	12	16	12	9	40	9	8	14	22	3	3
Eastern Great Egret								1				
White-faced Heron	1	1	1	1	3	1	1				2	1
Cattle Egret			22									
Striated Heron			1									
Nankeen Night-Heron	1											
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher			1					1				
Sooty Oystercatcher	33	48	46	42	18	18	8	9	8	12	11	24
Masked Lapwing		5	2	2	6	2	2	2	2	1		
Whimbrel		1	1	1					1	1	1	1
Grey-tailed Tattler											1	
Ruddy Turnstone	13	12	13	14			1		8	16	14	15
Red-necked Stint		1						1	1	1		1
Pomarine Jaeger		1										
Sooty Tern	1											
Little Tern	4									3	2	1
Gull-billed Tern						2		1	1			8
Caspian Tern			1	2							1	
White-winged Black Tern											1	
White-fronted Tern	1				5	9	65	190	40	30		
Common Tern	300+	140	200	50						80	120	20
Arctic Tern										1	1	
Crested Tern	300+	160	70	80	175	60	170	350	170	94	104	300
Silver Gull	300+	120	250	300	800	400	100	130	30	50	120	250

nc: some birds were present but the numbers were not counted

Table 10 Waterbirds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie
(Monthly maximum counts from high and low tide surveys led by J Adams)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Musk Duck					1							
Black Swan	101	80	3	3	110	12	96	71	65	150	59	160
Australian Wood Duck	7	5	12	4	32	6	30	5	2		20	15
Chestnut Teal	3						3			3	2	2
Australasian Darter	5	1	7	4	6	6	6	5	4	5	7	1
Little Pied Cormorant	24	8	7	3	23	22	101	16	19	16	16	15
Great Cormorant	5	3		1			4			2		1
Little Black Cormorant	15	15	98	207	16	4	13	8	38	166	132	56
Pied Cormorant	17	29	12	44	32	12	15	10	38	28	33	14
Australian Pelican	59	63	118	58	99	18	42	24	31	64	26	68
Eastern Great Egret	3		1							4	1	
Intermediate Egret	7	1	13	1	11	14	1	2	1	3	1	3
Striated Heron		1	2	1			1			2		1
White-faced Heron	4	6	8	4	5	7	14	32	2	6	10	10
Little Egret	9	8	2	3	9	3	10	4	3	2	2	6
Australian White Ibis		4	6	1	12	8	8	4	4	8		1
Straw-necked Ibis					1							
Royal Spoonbill			12	6	9	14	15	2	2			
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	7	6	8	4	2		6	8	6	7	7	9
Black-winged Stilt											1	
Masked Lapwing	7	5	4	5	6	2	4	4	2	5	5	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	110	109	104	3	2	13	37	5	14	53	45	52
Whimbrel	11	2	2							8	2	4
Eastern Curlew	9	6			1			4	2	6	1	2
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	7	4	3							1	3
Red Knot										5	15	
Red-necked Stint	1											
Little Tern	3	13	7								2	24
Caspian Tern		3	3	1	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	3
Common Tern												6
Crested Tern	18	21	16	2	3	4	6		7	2	5	18
Silver Gull	161	135	175	139	226	207	288	32	22	276	289	272

Table 11 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks*(Regular surveys by J Smart, P Baird & L Mee)*

	17 Jan	10 Feb	14 Mar	4 Apr	9 May	13 Jun	11 Jul	8 Aug	12 Sep	10 Oct	14 Nov	12 Dec
Musk Duck								1			1	
Black Swan	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	1	3	2
Aust. Wood Duck	5	5	12	22	14	2	2	14	4	8	17	8
Grey Teal	18	3		2		24	9	11	21	18	15	2
Chestnut Teal	12	9	9	16	41	19	11	41	41	33	15	4
Pacific Black Duck	18	13	9	19	12	13	25	24	19	17	14	17
Hardhead	10	10	10	9	16	65	31	20	19	34	30	5
Blue-billed Duck						1				1		
Australasian Grebe	16	5	13	17	27	31	33	60	26	18	37	21
Hoary-headed Grebe	7	1			9	30	26	9	3	22	30	46
Great Crested Grebe	19	13	17	16	22	23	4	14	10	9	11	1
Australasian Darter	4	2	2	2					1	6	3	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1	8	9	9	8	14	12	4	2	10	3
Great Cormorant	1						8		9	14	12	3
Little Black Cormorant	7	13	9	18	7	21	12	6		18	15	5
Australian Pelican						4	4	1				
Eastern Great Egret	2		3	1	1	1	3	1	1	2		1
Cattle Egret	6		50				1	2			2	3
White-faced Heron	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	
Australian White Ibis												1
Straw-necked ibis					24	12	1	18				
Royal Spoonbill					1			3			2	1
Purple Swamphen	21	11	17	21	19	16	23	21	7	13	45	27
Dusky Moorhen	22	10	19	23	19	21	16	21	21	9	17	19
Eurasian Coot	319	98	111	49	68	107	178	166	299	170	379	304
Black-fronted Dotterel											2	
Masked Lapwing	3	5	5	5	12	9	12	3	4	2	4	2

Table 12 Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works*(Regular surveys by A Lindsey & M Newman)*

	19 Jan	25 Feb	15 Mar	25 Apr	15 May	21 Jun	19 Jul	23 Aug	12 Sep	25 Oct	22 Nov	8 Dec
Wandering Whist-Duck	8											
Black Swan	268	496	199	218	175	97	62	48	30	63	54	60
Australian Shelduck	1											
Australian Wood Duck				5	28	4	9	7	4	14	16	41
Pink-eared Duck	2	9				1	3					
Australasian Shoveler	2	7	35	8	48	9	16	8	6			3
Grey Teal	421	19		69	247	285	185	690	507	263	472	272
Chestnut Teal	518	245	245	210	625	220	122	246	356	565	261	128
Pacific Black Duck	131	247	111	228	90	133	95	120	212	102	50	42
Hardhead	61		2	5	15	34	36	129	66	23	23	10
Australasian Grebe	48	49	43	80	209	60	48	55	15	13	20	8
Hoary-headed Grebe					1		20	1	6		3	
Australasian Darter	24	7	6	19	19	5	7	4	10	8	9	13
Little Pied Cormorant	3	23	10	9	2	3	2	1		2		2
Great Cormorant	3	2		2	1	1	3	1	7	4	4	
Little Black Cormorant	18	41	62	16	8		1	9	6	3	3	4
Pied Cormorant	3		1					1	1	1		
Australian Pelican	54	31	17	35	47	35	11	36	48	53	120	38
Black-necked Stork			2			1						
White-necked Heron	3							1		2		
Eastern Great Egret	2	39	11	3	9	7	2	4	1	6	4	6
Intermediate Egret	23		14		3	6	4	2	4	3	6	3
Cattle Egret	3	164	172	165	10	5	12	14	24	25	13	
Little Egret		1			2							
White-faced Heron	61	10	21	25	5	7	5	7	3	5	3	2
Glossy Ibis				1		1				2		
Australian White Ibis	110	7	72	2	5	14			5	19	15	112
Straw-necked Ibis	1		11		1		35	170	4			
Royal Spoonbill	10	8	29	16	29			2		4	1	1
Yellow-billed Spoonbill					1						5	
Purple Swamphen	3	8	3	1	3	7	4	3	3	5	4	12
Dusky Moorhen	2		10		1	1		1			2	
Eurasian Coot	426	859	643	938	640	26	90	178	104	157	25	67
Black-winged Stilt	143	2	2	82	124	100	57	98	165	216	258	154

Table 12 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works

Red-necked Avocet										1	34	
Pacific Golden Plover									1			
Black-fronted Dotterel					2		1	4		3		
Red-kneed Dotterel	5							1	1			
Masked Lapwing	97	46	116	74	74	11	11	24	29	30	30	39
Comb-crested Jacana					1							
Latham's Snipe											1	
Black-tailed Godwit											1	
Bar-tailed Godwit										1	1	
Red-necked Stint											5	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			5						10	2	145	5
Whiskered Tern							1	1	1	2	7	2
Caspian Tern		1		3	11			1	1	1	1	2
Silver Gull	2				2	39						



Sharp-tailed Sandpipers by Chris Herbert

Table 13 Waterbirds at Tocal Wetlands
(Regular surveys by L Walsh and M Newman)

	13 Jun	10 Sep	17 Sep	28 Oct	1 Nov	25 Nov	3 Dec	18 Dec
Black Swan	6	3	1	7	4	3	2	5
Australian Wood Duck	3	23	16	22		23	37	22
Australasian Shoveler								4
Grey Teal	10	33	24	128	50	142	116	49
Chestnut Teal		9	30	27	6		2	25
Pacific Black Duck	27	51	20	51	44	115	110	16
Hardhead	6	7	1	1		8		
Australasian Grebe		1	1			2	1	
Hoary-headed Grebe	2							
Australasian Darter			1					
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2	2	2		1		3
Great Cormorant		1	2					
Little Black Cormorant	2		2	5	nc	3		1
Australian Pelican	1			6	3	4	9	8
White-necked Heron		1				2		
Eastern Great Egret	2	2	2	3	nc	2	1	2
Intermediate Egret						1		
Cattle Egret				5				1
Little Egret						1		
White-faced Heron	2	1	1		nc	1		1
Glossy Ibis						2	2	
Australian White Ibis			1	3		7		
Straw-necked Ibis	10					1		
Royal Spoonbill		5	2	7		13	1	6
Purple Swamphen	4	8	5			1	8	
Dusky Moorhen	2			1				2
Black-winged Stilt		2	2	7	20		8	8
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	1	2	6	2	5	3	1
Red-kneed Dotterel		3	3	9	6	4	8	5
Masked Lapwing	7	2	3	7	nc	4	4	6
Latham's Snipe			2					
Common Greenshank						2		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				1				

nc: some birds were present but the numbers were not counted

Table 14 Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay*
(Surveys conducted at high tide)

	21 Jan	13 Feb	11 Mar	21 Apr	19 May	23 Jun	19 Aug	15 Sep	13 Oct	17 Nov	15 Dec
Black Swan									25		
Aust. Wood Duck			4	2	2	24			4	1	24
Chestnut Teal		2		2	2			6	10		
Pacific Black Duck								2			
Australasian Darter			1				1			1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	4	1	1	3	9	40	2	1		
Great Cormorant	1	2				1	7		3		
Little Black Cormorant					1		9				
Pied Cormorant	2	7	3		1	14	31	15	13	3	3
Australian Pelican		2		1	3		2		4		12
Eastern Great Egret		2	4	1	3	2	1	2	7		
Intermediate Egret							1		1		
Cattle Egret								2	2		
Little Egret		1				1					
White-faced Heron		3	6	1	12	9	8	5	5	27	
Aust. White Ibis		22			246	7	2		4		
Straw-necked Ibis								~30	24		
Royal Spoonbill					5						
Buff-banded Rail										1	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	1	42	50	2	17	13	7	15	7	2	36
Sooty Oystercatcher		2	2	3	2		4	4	2		
Red-necked Avocet	20										
Pacific Golden Plover	21	3								32	
Red-capped Plover					2	2	5	6	3		
Double-banded Plover					4	12	5				
Masked Lapwing		10	4	13	11	12	6	8	2	7	16
Bar-tailed Godwit	22	225	62	18	61	16	105	76	258	4	84
Whimbrel	42	25	50	5	1		8	11	5		
Eastern Curlew	41	80+	159		15		350+	~200	~100	245	
Grey-tailed Tattler				22	2	6	5	8	2		2
Red Knot									7		
Red-necked Stint									2		
Gull-billed Tern						3			4		
Caspian Tern		3			3	6	4	6			1
Crested Tern	28	18	10	6	2	12	5	5	2		5
Silver Gull	3	4	1	2	8	4	2	2	2		3

Table 15 Waterbirds in Port Stephens*(Boat based surveys at high tide, by HBOC members in 6 teams)*

Species	20 Feb	20 Jul
Black Swan	151	14
Aust. Wood Duck	4	5
Chestnut Teal	8	4
Pacific Black Duck	4	
Australasian Darter	13	25
Little Pied Cormorant	52	123
Great Cormorant	17	126
Little Black Cormorant	31	62
Pied Cormorant	164	157
Australian Pelican	117	90
Eastern Great Egret	10	8
Intermediate Egret		2
Striated Heron	3	2
Cattle Egret		5
White-faced Heron	58	128
Little Egret	1	18
Australian White Ibis	80	5
Royal Spoonbill		1
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	192	154

Species	20 Feb	20 Jul
Sooty Oystercatcher	24	28
Pacific Golden Plover		2
Red-capped Plover	8	11
Double-banded Plover		37
Lesser Sand Plover	3	
Masked Lapwing	39	16
Bar-tailed Godwit	689	122
Whimbrel	207	7
Eastern Curlew	230	40
Terek Sandpiper	3	
Grey-tailed Tattler	66	12
Common Greenshank	7	
Ruddy Turnstone	2	
Red-necked Stint	9	
Little Tern	6	
Caspian Tern	2	22
Common Tern	26	
Crested Tern	103	20
Silver Gull	197	78

Table 16 Birubi Point - Fingal Head Coastline Waterbirds*(Land based surveys by L Wooding)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Australasian Gannet			10	14	4	15	6	5	4	2	2	2
Little Pied Cormorant			6					1	1	4	9	10
Little Black Cormorant										6		
Great Cormorant	45	74	67	4	1				43	53	81	49
Pied Cormorant	2	5	12				2		1	17	47	12
White-faced Heron					1			1		1		2
Eastern Reef Egret	1		1									1
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher											3	
Sooty Oystercatcher	5	12	9	8	3			7	4	6	15	4
Masked Lapwing							2			2		4
Crested Tern	36	97	61	60	86	104	17	33	22	60	35	72
Silver Gull	55	336	199	312	338	185	125	227	157	219	137	86

Table 17 Waterbirds at Wallis Lake/Forster/Tuncurry*(Surveys by A Stuart at intermediate tide at Wallis Lake entrance, except where noted)*

	26 Jan	13 Feb	13 Mar	8 May	19 Jun	11 Jul	24 Aug	16 Sep	29 Oct	13 Nov	18 Dec
Australian Wood Duck	9	2	8		5		2				
Australasian Darter			1		3	2	2		1		2
Little Pied Cormorant	12	1	3		1	10	11	1	1	2	7
Great Cormorant	1		1				3	1	2	2	5
Little Black Cormorant	44	9	9	2	6		16	7	18	12	18
Pied Cormorant	4		5	2	8	6	21	23	22	17	62
Australian Pelican	59	84	134	117	115	78	65	113	104	94	111
Eastern Great Egret				2	1	2	4	1		1	1
Intermediate Egret									1		
Striated Heron						1			1		
White-faced Heron		2			1	3		3	3		1
Little Egret		1			6				1		
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	38	16	23	2	2	5	6	4	9	1	7
Sooty Oystercatcher	2										
Pacific Golden Plover									3		
Masked Lapwing		2		3				2			1
Bar-tailed Godwit				8					18	8	
Red-necked Stint									1		
Caspian Tern						1	5	4	1		
Crested Tern	33	28	56	28	28	27	30	24	196	80	155
Silver Gull	125	276	257	167	108	57	80	58	156	202	190

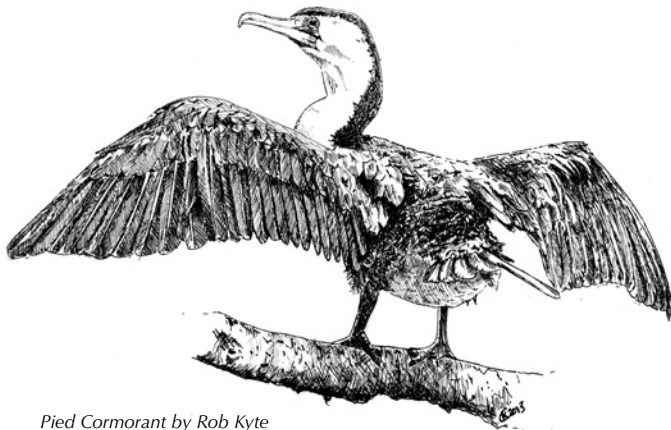
*Pied Cormorant by Rob Kyte*

Table 18 Waterbirds in the Manning Estuary*(Surveys by A Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Mudbishops Point)*

	26-27 Jan	18-19 Feb	22 Mar	8-9 May	5 Jun	10-11 Jul	20 Aug	15-16 Sep	30-31 Oct	13-14 Nov	18 Dec
Black Swan	2	3		15	18	9	5		6	4	1
Australian Wood Duck		17				3	5				
Pacific Black Duck	6										
Little Pied Cormorant			1	1	1	3	1	1			
Great Cormorant	7	2	5	2	1	1	2	10	12	2	10
Little Black Cormorant	21	10	69	15	2	4	77	120	8	4	56
Pied Cormorant	22	6	4	1			17	24	51	18	27
Australian Pelican	27	79	54	36	37	13	30	33	10	38	19
Eastern Great Egret				1			2	1		1	
Striated Heron	1	1									3
White-faced Heron		3	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	3
Little Egret				2		1				1	
Beach Stone-curlew	2	2	2			2					
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	13	14	8	11	7	7	7	8	12	14	11
Sooty Oystercatcher		5	6								
Pacific Golden Plover	51	126	119	8	8	8		11	75	85	151
Red-capped Plover	9	46	41	37	33	24	18	9	11	16	23
Double-banded Plover		1	60	59	64	68	32	2			
Lesser Sand Plover		1									
Masked Lapwing	2	5	4	9	20	6	4	2	1		5
Bar-tailed Godwit	127	189	160	47	55	40	76	87	147	198	173
Whimbrel	23	21	15					4	3	13	3
Eastern Curlew	39	43	9			3	23	24	22	30	35
Common Sandpiper	1										
Grey-tailed Tattler			1				1				
Ruddy Turnstone										1	2
Red Knot									9		12
Sanderling	1		1						3	2	9
Red-necked Stint	53	42	7	6	2		2	19	40	35	85
Little Tern	256	111	321	14		8	28		400+	400+	400+
Gull-billed Tern					1	1	9	4	5		1
Caspian Tern	2	2	7	2	2		4	5	1		2
White-fronted Tern							36	1			
Common Tern	26		6						42	50	300+
Crested Tern	83	307	119	104	67	152	123	72	100+	100+	200+
Silver Gull	109	89	68	85	496	30	10	12	43	35	48

Table 19 Waterbirds at Cattai Wetlands*(Surveys done at varying times, by many different observers)*

	27 Jan	17 Feb	10 Mar	9 May	13 May	24 Jun	11 Jul	15 Sep	30 Oct
Wandering Whist-Duck	6			1		6	9		
Black Swan		14	30	6	14	15	19	10	2
Australian Wood Duck		5					2		
Pink-eared Duck							2		
Grey Teal	11	18		12	24	125	45	75	68
Chestnut Teal	2	11	4				7	4	
Pacific Black Duck	13		45	31	90	204	95	52	
Australian Shoveler	1				5				
Hardhead	109	25	13	13	12	127	82	~200	17
Australasian Grebe	9	9	18	12	12	5	4	4	
Australasian Darter		5	1			1			
Little Pied Cormorant	3		4		2	3	3	2	1
Great Cormorant			1						
Little Black Cormorant	4	6	8			1		5	1
Pied Cormorant					1				
Australian Pelican						3			
White-necked Heron						1		2	3
Eastern Great Egret			1			1		1	2
Cattle Egret			7						
White-faced Heron					4				1
Nankeen Night-Heron	1		1						
Purple Swamphen	5	2	17	2	7	24	7	3	8
Dusky Moorhen	3	3	5	4	8			1	1
Eurasian Coot	112	48	12	60	57	245	110		10
Black-fronted Dotterel									1
Masked Lapwing			2		2				2
Comb-crested Jacana	3	2	4	6	7	1	4	2	
Latham's Snipe	2								

Table 20 Worimi Conservation Lands Waterbirds
(Regular counts by A Lindsey/M Newman/R George/N Russell)

	23 Feb	27 Mar	24 Apr	26 Jun	31 Jul	28 Aug	21 Nov
Australian Wood Duck						4	
Pacific Black Duck				3			
Cape Petrel				1			
Australasian Gannet						3	
Great Cormorant						9	
Little Black Cormorant						7	
Pied Cormorant						10	1
Eastern Great Egret	2						
White-faced Heron	2			1	2	2	
Straw-necked Ibis						1	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	14	16	18	17	11	18	13
Red-capped Plover	6	28	27	20	13	8	10
Double-banded Plover	5	86	105	55	91	30	
Black-fronted Dotterel	7		4	12	3		
Red-necked Stint					1		
Banded Lapwing						2	
Masked Lapwing	3		2	2	2	1	
Little Tern							3
Gull-billed Tern				39	4	24	17
Crested Tern	25	21	12			41	3
Silver Gull	200	154		72	25	47	70



Black-fronted Dotterel by Louise Williams

Table 21 Seabirds Recorded in Pelagic Surveys*(Estimates from surveys to the continental shelf departing from Port Stephens led by M Roderick and S Roderick)*

	25 Mar	21 Apr	22 Apr	24 June	23 Sept	14 Oct	18 Nov
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	150	150	60	2	2	20	4
White-faced Storm-Petrel				1		1	2
Wandering Albatross		1			5		2
Black-browed Albatross	1			12	12	15	7
Shy Albatross				7	1	18	1
Yellow-nosed Albatross	2			35	4	3	
Buller's Albatross	3			2			
Southern Giant-Petrel					2		
Northern Giant-Petrel				1			
Cape Petrel				3	1	1	
Common Diving Petrel						1	
Fairy Prion				5			
Black Petrel							6
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	250	100	80		2000	600	750
Buller's Shearwater	2						
Flesh-footed Shearwater	100	70	100			1	
Sooty Shearwater				1		4	50
Short-tailed Shearwater	20	8	2		2	250	900
Streaked Shearwater			1				
Fluttering Shearwater	5			2	5	8	4
Hutton's Shearwater	1				2		8
Kermadec Petrel	1						
Great-winged Petrel		4	3			3	6
Providence Petrel		10	4	6	18	6	
Gould's Petrel			1				
Cook's Petrel							1
White-necked Petrel			1				
Little Penguin	3						
Australasian Gannet	30	30	20	150	24	12	2
Brown Skua				2		2	
Pomarine Jaeger	10	4	2				5
Arctic Jaeger	2	3					6
Long-tailed Jaeger		1					6
White Tern			2				
Sooty Tern							1
Crested Tern	20	6	5	25	6	3	2
Silver Gull	5	15	10	70	2	14	15

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

AP	Airport
BARC	BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve
CP	Caravan Park
FP	Forest Preserve
GC	Golf Club
GTD	Grahamstown Dam
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
HSD	Homestead
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre of Australia
IBA	Important Bird Area
KI	Kooragang Island
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage
NLH	New Lambton Heights

NP	National Park
NR	Nature Reserve
NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
ORAC	Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee
PNR	Pambalong Nature Reserve
RF	Rainforest
RP	Regional Park
SCA	State Conservation Area
SBL	Stockton Borehole Lagoon
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
WWW	Walka Water Works

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Grid references for commonly visited locations are:

Allyn River	K5
Appletree Flat	H8
Arrowfield	H7
Ash Island	M10
Awabakal NR	M10/11
Balickera	M9
Barrington House	L5
Battery Rocks	E6
Bayswater Colliery	H6
Belltrees	I4
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10
Black Neds Bay	L11
Blue Gum Hills RP	K10
Bootawah	Q4
Bolwarra	L9
Boarding House Dam	K11
Boondelbah Island	P9
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6
Broke	I9
Broughton Island	P8
Bulahdelah	P7
Bulga	I8
Cabbage Tree Island	P9

Catherine Hill Bay	L11
Cessnock	K9/K10
Chichester Dam	M6
Chichester SF	K5/L5
Clarencetown	M8
Coon Island (Swansea Channel)	L11
Cooranbong	K11
Copeland Common	N4
Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Copeland Tops SCA	M4
Corrie Island	O9
Denman	G7
Dungog	M7
Durrigere Rd	A6
Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Fingal Bay	O9
Forster	R6
Fosterton Loop	M7
Galgabby Point	L11
George McGregor Park	M10
Glenrock SCA	M10
Gloucester	N5
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9

Green Wattle Creek	L9	Salt Ash	N9
Gir-um-bit NP	N9	Scone	H5
Hallidays Point	R5	Seaham Swamp NR	M8
Harrington	S4	Seal Rocks	R7
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Singleton	I8/J8
Hexham Swamp	L10/	Stockton	M10
M10		Stockton Borehole Lagoon	L10
Howes Valley	H10	Swan Bay	N9
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens		Swansea, Swansea South	L11
(HRBG)	M9	Taree	Q4
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Tarro	M9
Irrawang Swamp	M9	Toronto	L11
Jerrys Plains	H7	Tuncurry	R6
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	University of Newcastle	M10
Kings Gap	F7	Vacy	L8
Kitchener (Werakata NP)	K10	Waitui	R3
Kooragang Island	M10	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Kurri Kurri	K9	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Laguna	I10	Warakeila	L6
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	Warkworth	I8
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Watagans SF & NP	K11
Maitland	L9	Williamstown	N9
Market Swamp	M10	Wingen	H4
Martindale	G7	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Medowie	N9	Woko NP	M3
Morriset	K11	Woodville	L9
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	Wyeec Point	L11
Morpeth	L9	Yarrawa	F7
Mount Arthur	H6		
Mount Vincent	K10/L10		
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4		
Newcastle	M10		
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve			
(NWR)	M10		
New Lambton Heights	M10		
Old Bar	R4		
Oyster Cove	N9		
Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10		
Paterson	L8		
Phoenix Park	L9		
Pokolbin	J9		
Quorrobolong	K10		
Rathluba Lagoon	L9		
Raymond Terrace	M9		
Redhead	M11		
Ringwood Rd	C6		



Buller's Albatross by Mick Roderick

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	GOA	Anthony Gooden
ALP	Peter Alexander	GOC	Colin, Rachel Goodenough
ANC	Craig Anderson	GOJ	John Goswell
ANG	G. Anderson	GOS	Simon Gorta
AYG	Gavin Ayre	GRJ	Robert, Janine Greig
BAP	Paul Baird	GRL	Lucas Grenadier
BEI	Ian Benson	HAP	Phil Hansbro
BIA	Birding-Aus (e-mail group)	HAS	Sue Hamonet
BJR	Jan, Rob Burns	HBOC	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
BMA	Mathew Blyth	HCL	Chris, Liz Herbert
BSNW	Reported in Birding NSW newsletter	HDM	Dianne, Michael Hatfield
BOH	Hayley Boyce	HHB	Hunter Home Brewers Twitchathon team
BRG	Grant Brosie	HIP	Pam Hill
BTS	Tony, Suzi Burgin	HOA	Arnie Hollyman
CAA	Ashley Carlson	HOB	Bruce Hosken
CAN	Nicholas Carlile	HOD	Diana Hogan
CAS	Susanne Callaghan	HUB	Report posted to Hunterbirding e-mail group
CBOC	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	HUC	Charles Hunter
CCB	Central Coast group of Birding NSW	HUF	Florence Humphreys
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	HUM	Michael Hunter
CLT	Tom Clarke	HWS	HBOC Wader Surveys
COD	Dick Cooper	IMK	Kay Imrie
COK	Ken Conway	JED	Dick Jenkin
CRB	Brian Crisp	JOD	Di Johnson
CRL	Liz Crawford	JOT	Tom Johns
DAP	Paul Davidson	JRR	Rebecca, Rudi Jacobs
DBP	Penny Drake-Brockman	KIR	Rob Kilkelly
DDR	Dodgy Drongos Twitchathon team	KYR	Rob Kyte
DTB	Dry-throated Buzzards Twitchathon team	LAT	Toby Lambert
EGD	Darryl Eggins	LIA	Ann Lindsey
ERE	Report posted on www.eremaea.com (NSW Birdline)	LIG	Greg Little
FAA	Adam Fawcett	LIN	Nick Livanos
FAT	Tim Faulkner	LIP	Paddy Lightfoot
FEG	Grahame Felletti	LUD	Darryl Luck
FIM	Mike Fidler	LUK	K. Luiters
FIP	Pamela Fitzsimons	LYD	Darren Lyons
FIW	Win Filewood	MAC	Charles Mann
FRP	Paul Freeman	MAI	Ian Martin
GAB	Brad Gabriel	MAJ	Jenny Mackay
GED	David Geering	MAM	Max Maddock
GER	Robyn George	MAT	Toni Marsh
		MCE	Eula McKane
		MCN	Neville McNaughton

MCR Robert McDonald
MDV Don, Val Moon
MEC Christine Melrose
MEL Lorna Mee
MGLB Reported in Manning Great Lakes
 Birdwatchers newsletter
MOA Alan Morris
MRO Rob McDonnell
MUJ Jenny Musicka
MUT Trevor Murray
NEG Greg Newling
NEM Mike Newman
NIG Geoff Nicholls
NIJ Joy Nicholls
NIR Richard Nicholas
NSWBA NSW Bird Atlassers
OCG Graeme O'Connor
OSP Paul Osborn
PEG Greg Pearson
PEJ Jeff Pettifer
PEK Kristy Peters
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ROM Mick Roderick
ROS Steve Roderick
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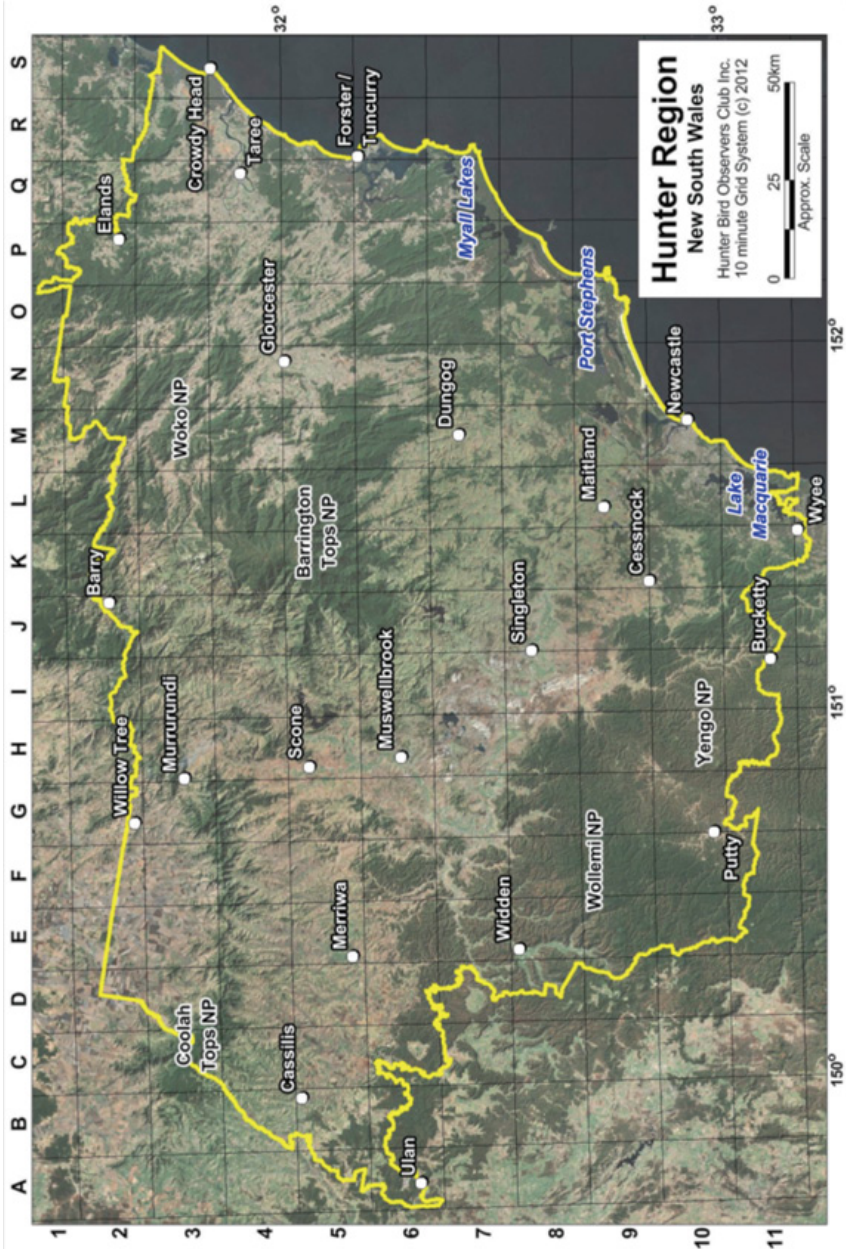
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WAR Ray Walker
WEP Peter West
WID Dan Williams
WIH Helen Windon
WIL Louise Williams
WIT Tom Wilson
WLE Leslie Wilson
WOG Georgina Woods
WOL Lois Wooding
WRC Chris Wright
WRO Rod Warnock



Greater Sand Plover by Dick Jenkin

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.





Eastern Yellow Robin: a common breeding resident of the Hunter Region

Sketch by Louise Williams

