

HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Annual Bird Report
Number 21 (2013)



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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*Front cover: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) at Hexham Swamp
(Rod Warnock)*

Back cover: Two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in battle, Hexham Swamp (Rod Warnock)

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White-faced Heron by Kate Simpson

FOREWORD

When asked to write the Foreword for the Hunter Region Annual Bird Report 2013, I reflected on the many changes that have taken place over the years I have been involved with the Hunter Bird Observers Club (Inc).

Looking back on the developments that have taken place since the HBOC was established in 1976, it is of enormous satisfaction and pride, even though I have not been involved and contributed a great deal in the past 20 years, during which the club has grown to such an extent that we now have so many active members and so many projects to focus on, from wader and water bird surveys to conservation projects.

Credit must go to the many people, who over the many years have been involved and have been instrumental in the clubs' decision making and partaking of these worthwhile projects. These projects are of immense value and could provide the necessary baseline data on which to base decision making by the various governmental bodies.

For those interested in the history of how the formation of the HBOC took place, I briefly outline the events. I joined the former 'Flora and Fauna Protection Society, Newcastle' (F&F for short) in early 1970. In those days only a handful of members were interested and were actively involved in "birdwatching", the majority of the membership were basically more interested in either the flora, mammals, environmental education or habitat conservation. Having said that, we all had similar goals and were all interested in all aspects of the environment and its biota, but some were more interested and had more expertise in certain fields than others.

In 1976, the late Wilma Barden (rest her soul) approached me and several other members interested in birds, and proposed that we form a birdwatching group under the auspices of the F&F and publish our meetings, reports and observations in the F&F journal 'Hunter Natural History'. In those days only eight members were involved but as other members' interests in birds slowly increased, probably due to our activities, more members became involved in bird identification and observations. We were in those days known as the HBOG (Hunter Bird Observers Group). As in so many societies most of the hard work was done by a small dedicated and active voluntary, unfortunately ageing, committee. In 1984 the journal 'Hunter Natural History' floundered and due to lack of a new editor and assistance eventually ceased, and so unfortunately did the F & F.

In 1981 our members, around 39 at that time, unanimously voted to become independent from the F&F, and in 1982 drew up a constitution, which I believe today may still be in its current form and may not have changed very much. We also produced our own newsletter and had the Golden Whistler as our logo and badge, still in use today. In April 1988, in a special meeting convened, the members voted that the club be incorporated as the 'Hunter Bird Observers Club, Inc.' and the final incorporation took place later that year.

In 1986, I moved to the Northern Territory and since then, on my return to NSW in 1989, I'm sorry to say I have not been involved much with the club's activities; this also being due to other interests and commitments.

All that aside, the numerous changes that have occurred in the environment within the Hunter Region and beyond is having a tremendous impact on our avifauna. Not only has the birdlife been greatly impacted by industrialization, insecticides, deforestation, fires, drainage and reclamation, but weather conditions particularly drought, have also caused a great impact on bird populations.

continued overleaf

The abundance of birds have declined, in my humble estimation, by approx 50% (perhaps even more) over the past 30 years and some species have gone locally extinct. Many of the birds heavily rely on insects as a food source; however, these too have declined dramatically in abundance. I can remember the days that I had to wash my car windscreen several times during a drive to Sydney, due to the many insects impacted. This has not happened for quite some time now.

Kooragang/Ash Island is a particular example, where industrialization has destroyed and degraded much of the habitat for waterfowl and waders. I recall the days, early 1970's, that over 70 species of birds, some days more, could be observed just by driving along the railway line. The Stockton Sandspit just abounded with wader species we now consider rare in the estuary, i.e. Broad-billed Sandpiper, Lesser and Greater Sand Plover. In a 10 year survey of the birds on Kooragang/Ash Island we recorded over 200 species of birds, which is about half the number of species recorded in the whole of the Hunter Region, if we don't include the seabirds. That is really remarkable considering it to be so close to industry and the city of Newcastle and demonstrated the very rich diversity and biomass in that environment.

Hexham Swamp is another example, where it took more than 30 years for the authorities to finally open the flood gates; this after many reports were commissioned by the NPWS, NSW and Newcastle City Council suggesting the floodgates to reopen. It now becomes more urgent to retain this as a sanctuary and stop further processes of modification and development in this swamp. The fundamental question is "does our community care enough to save this precious piece of land".

The annual bird reports show the status and many other attributes, such as breeding and commonality, for each species, which over time may alter and alert us that 'something' is happening to the environment in which those species live. This then will give us a reason to focus on that particular aspect. The annual reports are therefore invaluable for the amount of data gathered by the observers and perhaps should contain other environmental data as well. One particular case is that of the Common Myna. In 1972 there were only two pairs of Common Myna in the whole of the Hunter Region, both pairs resident at the former BHP site. Within 10 years that population has expanded and now covers the whole of the Region and beyond. One may ask why this has happened? Many of the waders, finches and fairy-wrens are now declining in numbers; some have not been seen in areas they were common for years. Fairy-wrens in suburbia are becoming locally extinct because of modifications to beautify gardens and giving very little cover to breed and to flee from predators, such as hawks, butcherbirds or cats.

I congratulate the HBOC committee and the editor, as well as the many observers, who contributed their records for publication and shows how much we care for our avian species and the environment.

I would like to thank Sue Hamonet for supplying the dates on the formation of the Hunter Bird Observers Club

Fred van Gessel

Fred van Gessel was the Foundation President of HBOC from 1976-1981. He was a pioneer in establishing the Club's high reputation for scientific study and documentation of the birds of the Region, producing several important papers in the 1970s. Fred has also been a member of the Records Appraisal Committee since 2000.

NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

2013 was a remarkable year for birdwatchers in the Hunter Region. Wave upon wave of visits occurred by species which normally are recorded only rarely or even accidentally in the Region. Many of these visitors were present in apparently unprecedented high numbers. Factors at play included: a cyclone in January which brought in a wave of northern birds; drying conditions inland which brought in a wave of western birds from autumn onwards; severe storms in June/July which brought in a wave of southern birds. Below are the more noteworthy records:



Stubble Quail by Steve Merrett

- **Emu:** eight birds at Ringwood Rd 21 Sep
- **Stubble Quail:** four birds at Ash Island 10 Jan
- **Plumed Whistling-Duck:** ~800 birds at Doughboy Hollow 10 Jun
- **Freckled Duck:** 50-75 birds in the Region from mid Mar onwards
- **Pink-eared Duck:** highest numbers since 2006, involving several new locations
- **Australasian Shoveler:** 332 birds at Morpeth WTW 24 Jul
- **Grey Teal:** >3,000 birds in lower Hunter in spring
- **Chestnut Teal:** >2,000 birds (2% of total population) in lower Hunter Feb-Mar
- **White-tailed Tropicbird:** a single bird over Merewether Heights 31 Jan
- **Peaceful Dove:** the first breeding records in more than 25 years
- **White-throated Needletail:** many more birds than usual, due to very dry conditions in Victoria
- **Fork-tailed Swift:** 40 birds at Corlette 18 Jan and 20 birds at Girvan 27 Mar
- **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** ~200 birds off Port Stephens 28 Apr and ~100 birds off Swansea 14 Apr
- **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel:** a single bird off Port Stephens 23 Jun
- **New Zealand Storm-Petrel:** a single bird off Swansea 14 Apr
- **Buller's Albatross:** 1-3 birds off Port Stephens 23 Jun and 14 Jul
- **Antarctic Prion:** a single bird off Port Stephens 23 Jun
- **Slender-billed Prion:** a single bird off Port Stephens 23 Jun
- **Fairy Prion:** 500+ birds in the Region from 20 Jun to late July
- **Black Petrel:** a single bird off Port Stephens 20 Jan
- **Wedge-tailed Shearwater:** ~4,500 birds off Newcastle 28 Jan
- **Buller's Shearwater:** 1-2 birds off Nobbys Beach 29-30 Jan and off Port Stephens 20 Jan and 24 Mar
- **Short-tailed Shearwater:** 60,000-80,000 wrecked birds over Oct-Dec
- **Streaked Shearwater:** 1-2 birds off Nobbys Beach 29 Jan - 1 Feb and off Port Stephens 28 Apr
- **Fluttering Shearwater:** many thousands of birds off Newcastle several times
- **Tahiti Petrel:** a single bird offshore from Newcastle 29 Jan
- **White-headed Petrel:** a beachcast bird along Newcastle Bight in June
- **White-necked Petrel:** a single bird offshore from Newcastle 29-30 Jan

- **Common Diving-Petrel:** 200-300 birds, mainly off Newcastle beaches and often very close to shore, from 20 Jun to early July
- **Lesser Frigatebird:** at least 10 birds at locations near Newcastle Harbour 29 Jan - 3 Feb and one bird off Boat Harbour (Port Stephens) 30 Jan
- **Australasian Gannet:** 200+ birds off Nobbys Beach 15 Jun and off Port Stephens 23 Jun
- **Masked Booby:** a single bird off Port Stephens 24 Nov
- **Red-footed Booby:** a single bird at Swansea 28 Jan
- **Little Black Cormorant:** highest known count for Port Stephens (910 birds 12 Jul)
- **White-faced Heron:** 522 birds at eastern Hexham Swamp 13 Jun
- **Square-tailed Kite:** many and widespread records
- **Black Kite:** a widespread influx into the Region from mid March, with 300-400 birds in the lower Hunter Valley at the peak
- **Spotted Harrier:** a widespread influx into the Region from mid March
- **Purple Swamphen:** 640 birds at eastern Hexham Swamp 15 Aug
- **Lewin's Rail:** birds at eight locations on Broughton Island 23-25 Sep
- **Australian Spotted Crane:** many birds at Hexham Swamp all year and the first breeding records in more than 25 years
- **Black-tailed Native-hen:** a single bird at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 23 May
- **Beach Stone-curlew:** the pairs in the Manning Estuary and Port Stephens both raised chicks
- **Australian Pied Oystercatcher:** 180-200 birds in the Region all year
- **Sooty Oystercatcher:** 110-130 birds in the Region in summer, and the highest summer and winter counts on record for Port Stephens
- **Black-winged Stilt:** ~2,000 birds at Ash Island 27 Feb
- **Banded Stilt:** a single bird at Deep Pond 11 Jan
- **Pacific Golden Plover:** ~600 birds in the Region in Jan-Feb
- **Grey Plover:** single birds at Gir-um-bit NP 15 Nov and Manning Entrance SP 6 Dec
- **Greater Sand Plover:** single birds at Stockton Sandspit 1-6 Jan and Bennetts Beach 11 Dec
- **Australian Painted Snipe:** up to four birds at Hexham Swamp in late Jan and early Feb
- **Black-tailed Godwit:** second lowest Hunter Estuary peak count (100 birds) since regular surveys commenced in 1999
- **Bar-tailed Godwit:** second lowest Hunter Estuary peak count (953 birds) since regular surveys commenced in 1999; also low counts in Port Stephens
- **Terek Sandpiper:** 17 birds at Fern Bay 13 Mar but only 3-6 birds occasionally in the regular surveys
- **Grey-tailed Tattler:** highest count for Port Stephens since 1980 (124 birds)
- **Common Greenshank:** second lowest Hunter Estuary peak count (87 birds) since regular surveys commenced in 1999
- **Wood Sandpiper:** single birds at Deep Pond/Ash Island 11-12 Jan and Hexham Swamp 9 Feb
- **Pectoral Sandpiper:** several records of single birds at Hexham Swamp and Stockton Sandspit (first records since 2009)
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** highest known counts for the Hunter Estuary (4,500-5,000 birds in Dec; ~3% of the total world population)
- **Broad-billed Sandpiper:** 1-2 birds at Stockton Sandspit 19-26 Jan and up to three birds at Hexham Swamp/Ash Island 14-29 Dec

- **Ruff:** 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp 10-28 Dec (first records since 2007)
- **Australian Pratincole:** a single bird at Hexham Swamp 18 Aug
- **Common Noddy:** single birds at Nobbys Beach 1 Feb and Newcastle Baths 13-16 Mar
- **Black Noddy:** single birds at Nobbys Beach 30 Jan-4 Feb and 28 Feb-3 Mar
- **Bridled Tern:** a single bird at Nobbys Beach 30-31 Jan
- **Sooty Tern:** 100-150 birds at Nobbys Beach 29 Jan with lesser numbers there over the next 5-6 days and at many other locations
- **White-fronted Tern:** 200 birds at Newcastle Baths in August
- **Common Tern:** unseasonal record of a bird at Newcastle Baths 14 Aug
- **Pacific Gull:** single birds at Newcastle Beach 2-3 June and Broughton Island 13 June
- **Red-winged Parrot:** two birds at Cassilis Rest Area 9 Aug & 5 Oct
- **Swift Parrot:** 70-80 birds in the Region during Apr-Aug
- **Budgerigar:** a widespread irruption into the Region from late Mar
- **Forest Kingfisher:** 1-2 birds at Cattai Wetlands Oct-Nov
- **Rufous Scrub-bird:** 26 calling birds at Gloucester Tops 2-5 Sep
- **Spotted Bowerbird:** a single bird at HEZ 31 May
- **Pilotbird:** seven birds at four locations in Wollemi NP 16 Dec
- **Singing Honeyeater:** a new locations near Lake Liddell
- **Regent Honeyeater:** two pairs nest building in Widden Valley 27 Sep
- **White-fronted Chat:** the first record for the Manning Estuary since 2005
- **Black Honeyeater:** a single male bird at Durridgere SCA 6 Oct
- **Masked Woodswallow:** ~100 birds at Durridgere SCA 6 Oct
- **White-browed Woodswallow:** ~1,000 birds at Durridgere SCA 6 Oct
- **Spectacled Monarch:** a single bird at Brunkerville 27 Oct (a range extension for the Region)
- **White-backed Swallow:** the first breeding records since 1983
- **Yellow Wagtail:** some birds at Hexham Swamp Jan-Mar and again in late Dec
- **European Goldfinch:** westerly record of birds at Medhurst Bridge 27 Apr



Budgerigars at Medhurst Bridge by Mick Roderick

INTRODUCTION

In this Bird 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 2013. The information is based upon records from many sources.

For this Report, a new taxonomic order has been used. HBOC is affiliated with BirdLife Australia, which in 2013 produced a revised checklist of Australia's birds (the BirdLife Australia Working List V1.1). The new taxonomy has been adopted by HBOC. As a result, there are several changes to the Hunter Region's checklist:

- A former sub-species of Wandering Albatross which has been recorded in the Region has been elevated to full species status, namely Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*;
- A former sub-species of Black-browed Albatross which has been recorded in the Region has been elevated to full species status, namely Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*;
- Two former sub-species of Shy Albatross which probably have been recorded in the Region have been elevated to full species status, namely White-capped Albatross *T. steadi* and Salvin's Albatross *T. salvini*;
- Two former species which have been recorded in the Region, Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* and Green-headed Yellow Wagtail *M. taivana* are now treated as sub-species of Yellow Wagtail *M. flava*.

A small number of Common Names have changed, as have some scientific names. The details of these changes are presented in the main body of the Report. A few changes (all relatively minor) to the taxonomic order have also occurred.

The net effect from adopting the new Working List was to add three species to the Hunter Region checklist on the basis of there being historical records. There was one other addition: the Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*, which was recorded off Newcastle in January. As a result, the Hunter Region checklist now comprises 445 species. In 2013, 372 species were confirmed to have been present in the Region - this is by far the most species ever recorded in the Region in a single year (360 species were recorded in 2012 and 356 species in 2006 and 2007; all tallies are based on the current taxonomic list).

138 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2013 (compared to a median of 127 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2004, 241 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 23 species there are pre-2004 records).

For records to be accepted as evidence of breeding there must have been an observation of: a brooding bird; a nest with eggs; a nest with young; or a bird making repeated visits to a nest or hollow with food. All other situations/behaviours, 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.

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.

Although we now have breeding records for most of the species considered to be either resident in the Region or regular visitors during their breeding season, there are several gaps. It seems worthwhile to highlight these, which would be an exciting challenge for local birdwatchers to attempt to fill. The gaps are:

No Breeding Records	No recent records (last known date)
Australian Shelduck	Stubble Quail (pre 1987)
Emerald Dove	Blue-billed Duck (1970s)
Brush Bronzewing	Hoary-headed Grebe (pre 1987)
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Black Bittern (1994)
Topknot Pigeon	Striated Heron (1972)
Australasian Bittern	Little Eagle (2001)
Spotted Harrier	Baillon's Crake (pre 1987)
Black-tailed Native-hen	Aust. Painted Snipe (pre 1987)
Cockatiel	Barn Owl (1972)
Red-winged Parrot	Grass Owl (1972)
Turquoise Parrot	Pheasant Coucal (1983)
Barking Owl	Black-eared Cuckoo (1994)
Sooty Owl	Red-backed Fairy-wren (1984)
Rufous Scrub-bird	Western Gerygone (1989)
Pilotbird	Southern Whiteface (pre 1987)
Inland Thornbill	Painted Honeyeater (2001)
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Spotted Quail-thrush (1998)
Crescent Honeyeater	Forest Raven (pre 1987)
Varied Triller	Brown Songlark (1995)
Olive Whistler	Plum-headed Finch (pre 1987)
Scarlet Robin	
Horsfield's Bushlark	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	



*Barking Owl by
Dorien Schulz*

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 this Bird Report, the RAC members included Mick Roderick, Ann Lindsey, Fred van Gessel, Phil Hansbro, Mike Newman, Craig Anderson, Allan Richardson and Dick Jenkin. Many thanks are due to Sue Hamonet who retired from the RAC at the beginning of 2013 after 20 years as the Secretary, and to Mike Newman who moved to new birding pastures in early 2014 after eight years on the Committee. Mick Roderick has taken up the reins as Secretary. Dick Jenkin, who replaced Mike Newman, has contributed to the review of the draft Bird Report and evaluating some late-received URRFs (Unusual Record Report Forms).

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 >21,500 surveys over 16 years (including 7,112 2ha surveys and 12,283 area surveys. For 2013, there are 2,128 surveys in the Atlas database (973 area surveys, 963 2ha surveys and 192 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 recorded⁴.
- For species with <25 records over the 16 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 1998-2013⁵.
- The number of 10-minute grid cells where the species was recorded in 2013, the total number of records for 2013, and the 2013 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.

Threatened species in the Region

Since the previous Bird Report, the NSW Scientific Committee has classified the Black Falcon as Vulnerable in NSW.

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 2013 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.

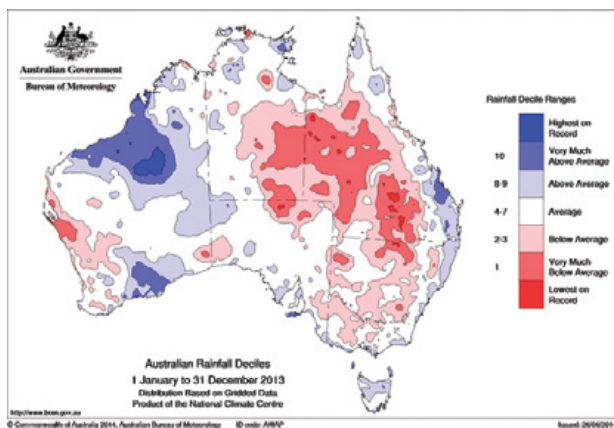
⁵ For example, a cell having a 30% reporting rate from 500 surveys is of “more interest” than one with a 100% reporting rate but only 1-2 surveys conducted in that cell.

⁶ The 2013 RR is for all cells for which the species has been recorded over the full 16 years of the Atlas.

The new BirdLife Australia Working List V1.1 taxonomy resulted in several splits of threatened albatross species. As an interim measure pending any determinations by the NSW Scientific Committee, we have assumed that each threatened species which has been split has (as a minimum) the same status as before it was split. The NSW Scientific Committee has previously determined Wandering Albatross to be Endangered and Antipodean Albatross to be Vulnerable.

Other comments

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology rainfall map for 2013 is shown below; it reveals that much of inland NSW experienced below average rainfall. Some shorter term weather effects were also influential in 2013. In late January, ex-tropical cyclone Oswald (hereafter: "Oswald") reached the Region, bringing with it many coastal and pelagic seabirds that normally are restricted to northern waters. Storms in late February brought some of those tropical seabirds back again. From autumn, drying conditions inland after good years in 2010-2012 brought many western birds into the Region. Then, some severe storms in late June and July brought cold waters and an influx of coastal and pelagic seabirds that normally are restricted to southern waters.



2013 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 2013 Report.

Alan Stuart

23 July 2014

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

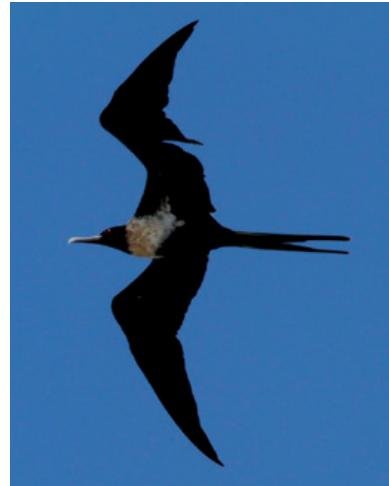
RARITIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

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. 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 Rarities Committee (BARC). Species in **Blue** are rare for NSW and require evaluation by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC).

King Quail
Freckled Duck
Cape Barren Goose
Radjah Shelduck
Cotton Pygmy-goose
Garganey
Northern Shoveler
Red-tailed Tropicbird
White-tailed Tropicbird
Diamond Dove
Superb Fruit-Dove
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
Pied Imperial-Pigeon
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel
White-bellied Storm-Petrel
New Zealand Storm-Petrel
Shy Albatross
Salvin's Albatross
Buller's Albatross
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross
Broad-billed Prion
Antarctic Prion
Slender-billed Prion
White-chinned Petrel
Black Petrel
Buller's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Streaked Shearwater
Little Shearwater
Tahiti Petrel
Juan Fernandez Petrel
Kermadec Petrel
Cook's Petrel
Black-winged Petrel
Pycroft's Petrel
Common Diving-Petrel
Lesser Frigatebird
Red-footed Booby
Masked Booby

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



Lesser Frigatebird by Lorna Mee

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
Barn Swallow
Olive-backed Sunbird
Beautiful Firetail
Nutmeg Mannikin
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

Australian Shelduck

Blue-billed Duck

Fork-tailed Swift

Wandering Albatross

Antipodean Albatross

Black-browed Albatross

Campbell Albatross

White-capped Albatross

Southern Giant-Petrel

Northern Giant-Petrel

Sooty Shearwater

Hutton's Shearwater

White-headed Petrel

Gould's Petrel

White-necked Petrel

Australasian Bittern

Black Bittern

Eastern Reef Egret

Square-tailed Kite

Black Kite

Black Falcon

Lewin's Rail

Black-tailed Native-hen

Bush Stone-curlew

Beach Stone-curlew

Grey Plover

Lesser Sand Plover

Australian Painted Snipe

Wood Sandpiper

Great Knot

Sanderling

Pectoral Sandpiper

Brown Skua

Long-tailed Jaeger

Sooty Tern

Common Noddy

White-winged Black Tern

Cockatiel



Black Falcon by Mick Roderick



Sooty Tern by Gavin Ayre

Red-winged Parrot

Swift Parrot

Turquoise Parrot

Black-eared Cuckoo

Sooty Owl

Barking Owl

Eastern Grass Owl

Masked Owl

Red-browed Treecreeper

Red-backed Fairy-wren

Western Gerygone

Southern Whiteface

Regent Honeyeater

Little Friarbird

Painted Honeyeater

Varied Triller

Masked Woodswallow

White-browed Woodswallow

Forest Raven

Little Raven

Spectacled Monarch

Paradise Riflebird

Pale-yellow Robin

Horsfield's Bushlark

Bassian Thrush

Russet-tailed Thrush

Plum-headed Finch

Yellow Wagtail

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Introduction

Species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows that of BirdLife Australia's Working List V1.1 published in 2013 (the document is available at <http://www.birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>).

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 <i>expect</i> to find on all visits to suitable habitats;
Usual:	Species that one can <i>expect</i> 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 each species – in general, this is a unique identifier that does not change even though the scientific and/or common name for the species may do so. However, BirdLife Australia has assigned ID codes for some species on a temporary basis and has indicated that these might change in future. The temporary ID codes are those between 5000 and 6000.



Rufous Scrub-bird by Allan Richardson



Spotless Crake by Chris Herbert



Swift Parrot by Mick Roderick

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: 23 records from six cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: C6 (16 records).

Eight birds were recorded near "Poggy" Station on Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR) and two single birds at/near Durridgere SCA in early Oct (HBOC, LIA/WEJ). A bird was heard at White Box Goulburn River NP 5 Jun (STA). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells B5 and 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 (46.4%).

1-5 birds were widely and moderately often recorded in wet forest areas in the central and E parts of the Region (many observers). 6+ birds were at Red Head 18 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** There were two active mounds at Wingham Brush 22 Sep (KEM) and an active mound at Red Head 18 Sep and 16 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 30 records from eight cells, RR 2.4%

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 (2.2%).

Four birds were recorded at Ash Island 10 Jan (STA). Some birds were often heard over 15 Mar-2 Apr at various locations around Maitland (BRG). **Atlas:** Five records 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 = 4.1%; cell of most interest: P8 (31.6%).

Notable records: Many pairs and small parties were recorded at Broughton Island during the year and the overall reporting rate there was 53% (STA *et al.*, others). **Breeding:** A pair was with dependent young at HWC 17 Jan (LIP). **Atlas:** 108 records from 16 cells, RR 7.1%

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare, possibly overlooked (*recorded 1994, 2000, 2010-11*).

Although there were no confirmed sightings, birds were reported to have been heard calling at Ash Island 2 & 4 Sep (ROM, KEM).

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 = 4.7%; cell of most interest: M10 (8.2%).

70+ birds were present all year at HWC and 100+ birds frequently, and the peak count was 115 birds in Jul (Table 7). Elsewhere, 52 birds were at Tarro 11 Mar (MEL/SMJ), 10 birds flying near Sandgate 27 Jan (LIG) and 1-4 birds at KI mid Jan (BEI), Seaham Swamp NR 5 Mar and Maryland 29 Dec (BEI, HBOC, ROM). **Atlas:** 12 records from cells M8 and M10, RR 1.5%

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 = 0.7%; cell of most interest: J8 (5.7%).

The peak counts at Doughboy Hollow were ~800 birds 10 Jun and ~500 birds 30 Apr (MEL, SRM); there were several reports of lesser numbers there during the year. Elsewhere, 52 birds were at Tarro 11 Mar (MEL), 25-40 birds at Charlestown GC 25 Feb (Table 8), WWW 13 Mar (SMJ *et al.*) and Tarro 18 Mar (BRG), 18 birds at KI late Jan (BEI), and 1-10 birds at Morpeth WTW 6 Jan (Table 11), Tocal 9 Feb (Table 13), Tarro 11 & 18 Mar (MEL/SMJ, ROM) and Louth Park 1 & 3 Dec (THJ, BRG). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.0%).

87 birds were at NWR 5 Jul (LIA), 53 birds at Tarro 18 Mar (BRG) and 15+ birds at Tarro/Woodberry 16 Feb and 26 Mar (THJ, SMJ/MEL). Some birds were often at HWC with a peak count of 13 birds May (Table 7). All other records were of 1-5 birds – at Pambalong NR 5 Feb (HBOC), Shortland 16 Feb and 24 Nov (ROM), Woodberry 25 Feb (ROM), Tarro/Woodberry 11 Mar (ROM, MEL), Cattai Wetlands 30 Apr (STA) and Tenambit 29 Jun (BRG). **Breeding:** A pair was with 11 ducklings at HWC 23 Apr (LIP). **Atlas:** Eight records, from cells L9 and M10, RR 1.3%

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M9 (20.2%).

17 birds were at Grahamstown Dam 29 Nov (SLP). All other reports were of 1-5 birds, which were often recorded at WWW, Morpeth WTW and Hunter Estuary locations (mostly Deep Pond) (Tables 2, 11, 12) and also at Pacific Dunes GC Medowie 23 Apr (GOA) and Myall Lakes 29 Apr (GOS). **Atlas:** 29 records from five cells, RR 2.5%

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

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

Status: Rare (Recorded 1994-5, 1999-2007).

There was an influx of birds to the Region from mid Mar onwards. Most reports were from the Maitland area, particularly Earthcare Park Tenambit (peak count 47 birds 19 May), Louth Park (peak count 23 birds 30 Nov-3 Dec) and Morpeth WTW (peak count 36 birds 15 Jun). There were many reports of lesser numbers of birds from these and nearby locations such as Tocal and WWW, and from locations around Hexham Swamp/Minmi. Also, 15 birds were at Muddy Lake 20 Aug (HCL) and seven birds at NWR 19 Sep (ROM). **These are the highest numbers ever reported for the Region: 50-75 birds were estimated to have been present for much of the year.**

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 = 22.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (60.1%).

Notable records: 420 birds were recorded at ephemeral wetlands near Hexham 18 Jul (LIA/WEJ) and 300-400 birds at Lake Liddell 5 Feb (ALP), Morpeth WTW 14 Feb and 21 Nov (Table 11) and Mungo Brush 19 Oct (KEM). 200-250+ birds were at Telarah 20 Mar and Louth Park 22 Mar (both BRG) and Swansea/Lake Macquarie Oct and Dec (Table 10). There were many records of 100+ birds especially in Mar-May, but numbers were low over Jun-Aug. **Breeding:** Pairs were with cygnets at Smiths Lake 22 Jan (MGLB) and Balickera Apr (MUJ), and there were many breeding records spanning Jul-Sep. **Atlas:** 261 records from 25 cells, RR 17.0%

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

ID No: 198 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2011*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005-12; a pair in 2005-8 then a single bird from 2009*).

A single bird was recorded at Bulahdelah (Myall River) 27 Feb and 7 & 30 Apr (STA, MOA, GOS) and at Markwell Back Rd Bulahdelah 22 Apr (OSP). In Myall Lakes NP, the bird was reported to have often been in the Bombah Point area Jan-May (per SMJ) and at Korsmans Crossing early Sep (per THJ).

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare (*recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03, 2006-09, 2011-12*).

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

A single bird (a female) was present at Lenaghans Flat 6 Jan (HAP). **Atlas:** Nil records

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 = 24.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (78.1%).

Notable records: 150+ birds were at a dam on Willow Tree Rd (15km N of Merriwa) 20 Jun and 200+ birds in total at two dams along Ringwood Rd 5 Jun (all STA). Birds were present in good numbers all year at Charlestown GC with peak count 130 birds Feb (Table 8). 50+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 6 Jan and Luskintyre 23 Mar (Table 11, BRG). There were many and widespread reports of 21-50 birds. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Cooranbong 3 Sep (HBOC) and with ducklings at Bulahdelah 9 Apr (OSP), Maitland 10 Sep (BRG) and Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS). Birds also bred at Balickera over Jul-Aug (MUJ). **Atlas:** 283 records from 40 cells, RR 16.1%

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (23.3%).

The peak counts at Morpeth WTW were 445 birds 24 Jul and 443 birds 18 Dec; the numbers there and at other wetlands around Morpeth were high throughout May-Oct and lesser numbers were present most other months (Table 11, BRG). 411 birds were recorded at Muswellbrook WTW 2 Oct and 300+ birds there 29 Dec (ROM/CLT, STA). Many birds were using flooded paddocks at Louth Park in late Mar, with peak count 202 birds 22 Mar (BRG, others). 148 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 13 Jun and 64 birds 15 Nov, with lesser numbers recorded in most other months – the birds mainly used Swan Pond and Deep Pond (Tables 2 & 4, others). 100+ birds were at Tenambit 14 Dec (BRG) and 98 birds at Tarro 11 Mar (MEL/SMJ). 12 birds were at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 21 Apr and 11 birds at Bolwarra Wetlands 27 Dec (HCL, BRG). 1-10 birds were recorded at WWW 14 Feb (Table 12), Tarro 26 Mar (SMJ/MEL), Tomago Wetlands Mar & May (Table 5), Singleton WWTP 28 Apr (ALP), NWR 6 Jul (LIA), Port Stephens 12 Jul (Table 15), Yango Creek Rd, Wollombi 30 Jul (NEM) and Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 & 27 Dec (RIA). *These were the highest numbers for the Region since 2006, and they involved several new locations.* **Atlas:** 38 records from six cells, RR 3.8%

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

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

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*

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 = 5.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (31.2%).

Notable records: Birds were present at Morpeth WTW over Jan-Sep with 60+ birds recorded May-Aug and peak count 332 birds 24 Jul (Table 11). 122 birds were at Deep Pond KI 9 Aug and 36-64 birds at various Hunter Estuary locations May-Jun (Table 2). Many birds were using flooded paddocks at Louth Park in late Mar, with peak count 84 birds 22 Mar (BRG, others). 50+ birds were also recorded at Lenaghans Flat 17 May (ROM), Tenambit 19 May (BRG) and Tomago Wetlands: May (Table 5), while 20+ birds were at Ash Island 27 Feb (MOA), Hexham Swamp NR 28 Mar (ROM), Lenaghans Flat 11 Apr (ROM), Tenambit 21 May (BRG) and Tomago Wetlands Aug (Table 5). **Atlas:** 49 records from six cells, RR 3.7%

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 56% of cells, at RR = 14.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (60.0%).

Notable records: There were frequent records of many hundreds and sometimes 1,000+ birds from four main locations (by many observers, see Tables for most details): Hexham Swamp (1,000+ birds Oct-Dec and peak count 2,052 birds 12 Oct); Tomago Wetlands (peak counts 1,622 birds May and 1,240 birds Mar); Morpeth WTW (1,000+ birds several times and peak count 1,306 birds 26 Oct) and Hunter Estuary (peak count 1,050 birds 17 Mar and 973 birds 15/16 Nov). Also, 635 birds were in flooded paddocks at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG). Elsewhere, 100+ birds were at HWC Aug-Oct and Tocal Wetlands Sep and Nov (Tables 7, 13) and 50+ birds at Seaham Swamp NR 21 Jul (HBOC), Stockton Borehole Lagoon 5 Nov (JOD) and sometimes at Cattai Wetlands: over Aug-Dec (Table 19, others). *At least 3,000 birds (and possibly >4,000 birds) were in the lower Hunter in spring.* **Atlas:** 247 records from 28 cells, RR 15.3%



Grey Teal by Steve Merrett

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 = 24.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (67.4%).

Notable records: There were frequent records of many hundreds of birds from four main locations (by many observers, see Tables for most details): Hexham Swamp (peak count 440 birds 11 Apr); Hunter Estuary (peak counts 1,560 birds 17 Mar and 896 birds 8/9 Feb); Morpeth WTW (peak count 366 birds 27 Mar) and Tomago Wetlands (peak count 228 birds Jan). 100+ birds were at Louth Park 22 Mar and Tarro 26 Mar (BRG, SMJ/MEL) and Stockton Borehole Lagoon 15 Dec (PEG). *At least 2,000 birds (and probably >3,000 birds) were in the lower Hunter in Feb-Mar; these counts are 2-3% of the total population.* **Breeding:** Pairs were with ducklings at Swansea 22 Apr, Belmont 3 Oct and Hawks Nest early Oct (ADJ, HBOC, GOS). **Atlas:** 287 records from 22 cells, RR 18.4%

Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (*Most are hybrids, for example with Pacific Black Duck; there are very few pure birds.*)

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 2.0%; cell of most interest: M9 (15.2%).

1-5 birds were recorded at Singleton 12 Jul (ALP), Ash Island 23 Aug (ROM), Cooranbong 3 Sep (HBOC), Telarah 8 & 10 Sep (BRG) and WWW 11 Sep (MEL *et al.*). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells H8 and K11

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 = 29.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (93.4%).

Notable records: 500+ birds were at Avon Wetlands Gloucester 29 Jan (DBP) and 315 birds in flooded paddocks at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG). There were frequent records of 50+ birds from three main locations (by many observers, see Tables for most details): Hexham Swamp (peak counts 157 birds 27 Aug and 154 birds 13 Jun); Hunter Estuary (peak count 187 birds 10/11 May); Morpeth WTW (peak count 122 birds 27 Mar). 168 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Nov (STA) and 50+ birds at WWW 13 Mar (Table 12), Tarro 26 Mar (SM)/MEL), Doughboy Hollow 28 Apr (ALP), Tocal 27 May (Table 13), Gloucester CP 15-18 Sep (HBOC), Tomago Wetland Sep (Table 5) and Cattai Wetlands 19 Oct (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Apr and Tocal 27 May (MUJ, NEM). **Atlas:** 471 records from 46 cells, RR 25.8%

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident and irruptive visitor. Up to 20 birds widely and moderately often recorded at medium to large waters.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 8.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (51.7%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were often recorded in the Hunter Estuary, with peak counts 208 birds Aug and 125 birds Dec (Table 2), and also at Morpeth WTW, with peak counts 92 birds 21 Nov and 66 birds 15 Jun (Table 11). Mostly, the Hunter Estuary birds were on Deep Pond. 100+ birds were at John Browns Lagoon 21 Apr (HBOC) and 51-100 birds at WWW 14 Aug (Table 12), Muddy Lake 20 Aug (HCL), Muswellbrook WTW 2 Oct (ROM/CLT) and Stockton Borehole Lagoon 4 Nov (HBOC). There were numerous records of 21-50 birds. Unusually, birds were often recorded at farm dams and similar small bodies, frequently in association with Eurasian Coots (various observers). Also, some instances of cooperative feeding with Hoary-headed Grebes were noted. **Atlas:** 171 records from 23 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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (4.4%).

Two birds were recorded at WWW 8 May and single birds there 19 Apr, 5 May and 12 Jun (Table 12, BRG *et al.*). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells L9 and L11**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 2013.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1956, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2000).

A single bird was recorded over Merewether Heights 31 Jan (GOJ) – *becoming the 6th record for the Region.*

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 59% of cells, at RR = 13.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (66.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were often recorded at Morpeth WTW over Jan-Sep, with an exceptional peak count of 152 birds 27 Mar (Table 11). 20+ birds also were often in the Hunter Estuary (peak count 77 birds 10/11 May) and WWW (peak count 66 birds 12 Jun) and at HWC Apr-May and Tocal Apr, May and Aug – see Tables for details. Elsewhere, 20+ birds were recorded at Telarah 20 Mar and Louth Park 22 Mar (both BRG), John Browns Lagoon 21 Apr (HBOC), Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*), Grahamstown Dam 4 Jun (HBOC) and HWC 16 Jun (HBOC). **Atlas:** 212 records from 28 cells, RR 12.6%

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 18% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (22.1%).

~100 birds were at Deep Pond 6 Apr (ROM); although some birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary every month, the next highest count was 23 birds Jul (Table 2). Birds were often recorded at Morpeth WTW, with high numbers present May-Aug and peak count 225 birds 24 Jul (Table 11). Birds also were often at WWW, with peak counts 75 birds 10 Apr and 50+ birds 11 Oct (Table 12, BRG). 110 birds were in flooded paddocks at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG) and 83 birds were recorded at Grahamstown Dam 29 Nov (SLP). 20+ birds were near Gosforth 20 May and at Abermain WTW 3 Aug (BRG, MCE), and there were many and widespread reports of <20 birds including from several new locations. *It was an exceptional year.* Some instances of cooperative feeding with Hardheads were noted. **Atlas:** 65 records from ten cells, RR 6.0%

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 = 3.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.9%).

Birds were recorded every month at WWW, mostly in counts of 10+ and peak count 36 birds 10 Apr; the numbers were high over Jan-May (Table 12). Elsewhere, 15 birds were at Grahamstown Dam 29 Nov and some birds there 4 Jun (SLP, HBOC), eight birds at Lake Liddell 5 Feb (ALP), six birds at Bootawa Dam Tinonee 4 Jul and a single bird at Neranie Bay Myall Lakes NP 25 Jun (both MGLB). A single bird was offshore from Newcastle Bight 26 Mar (LIA).

Atlas: Nine records from five cells, RR 2.5%**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at urban locations.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: K11 (28.8%).

Notable records: 30-40 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 3 Feb and 3 Dec (ALP, HBOC). **Atlas:** 55 records from ten cells, RR 4.9%

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 = 6.1%; cell of most interest: N5 (42.9%).

Notable records: 118 birds were feeding together at Gloucester CP 15-18 Sep (HBOC). 30 birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 3 Oct (SLP), 20 birds at Dora Creek 12 Jun (GOC) and seven birds at Saltwater NP 22 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** 50 records from ten cells, RR 3.5%

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 = 18.4%; cell of most interest: L11 (54.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair attempted to nest at Shoal Bay mid-Oct but the nest was damaged (FRN). **Atlas:** 144 records from 22 cells, RR 9.7%

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 = 6.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (31.7%).

Notable records: Seven birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 26 Sep (SLP), and six birds at Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR) and Woko NP 17 Sep (HBOC). Six birds were together at Gloucester Tops Rd 23 Oct (STA/CJB). 3-5 birds were at The Basin Watagans NP 17 Feb (HBOC), along Gloucester Tops Rd 3 Sep (STA), Glenrock SCA 15 Sep (HBOC), Copeland Tops SCA 16 Sep (HBOC), Harrington RF 17 Oct and Cattai 8 Nov (both STA). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ).

Atlas: 67 records from 23 cells, RR 5.5%



Brown Cuckoo-Dove by Dorien Schulz

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 = 0.9%; cell of most interest: N5 (2.6%).

Two birds were recorded at Wallaroo NP 6 Oct (SLP) and single birds at Wang Wauk 23 Jan and Sandy Point 31 Jan (both MGLB), Copeland Tops SCA 16 Sep and 31 Oct (HBOC, STA), Harrington RF 24 Sep (TAH), Pipers Creek Myall Lakes NP 3 Oct (GOS) and near Gresford 27 Oct (HHB). **Atlas:** Five records from five cells

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.8%).

5-6 birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR) and Owens Gap Hill TSR 28 Dec (STA), and three birds at Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC). 1-2 birds were at Fosterton Tops Trail 22 Apr (JED/STD), Jones Reserve Rd Wollemi NP 25 Apr and 29 Dec (ALP), Singleton Training Area 2 May and 9 Oct (HBOC), Werakata NP 19 May (HBOC), Wallaby Scrub Rd 19 May (ALP), Wybong/Upper Wybong 4 Aug (WTA), Wingen 5 Oct (NEG), Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and Brunkerville 27 Oct (DTB). **Atlas:** 32 records from 18 cells, RR 3.0%

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: M11 (22.7%).

Six birds were present at Awabakal NR 12 Oct (BEI) and several birds were also there in late Aug and late Sep (AYG). Four birds were recorded at Redhead 9-13 Sep (RIA) and Myall Lakes NP 21 Sep (KEM), and single birds at Belmont 1 Oct (HBOC) and Myall Lakes NP early Oct (GOS).

Atlas: Two records, from cells L11 and R6**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 = 24.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (70.4%).

Notable records: 54 birds were recorded at Mt Vincent 21 Apr (HBOC). 20+ birds were at Girum-bit NP 9 Mar and 13 Jul (MEL/WOL *et al.*). **Breeding:** There were several breeding records spanning late Jul-Oct. **Atlas:** 275 records from 46 cells, RR 15.3%

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

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

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)

Status: Resident, mainly in central and W of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 7.1%; cell of most interest: G8 (48.9%).

5-6 birds were at Freeway Business Park Beresfield 3 Aug and Yarrat SF (Q4) 11 Jun (both ROM) and four birds at Giles Rd Seaham 5 Mar (HBOC). 1-3 birds were moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region. Easterly records were of birds at North Pindimar 25 Jan and Boys Walk Cooranbong 12 Jan and 24 Aug (STA, RIA). **Breeding:** Birds bred at a property near Broke during late Oct, at the same site where they successfully bred in 2012 (FRA). **These are the first confirmed breeding records in more than 25 years.** **Atlas:** 26 records from 12 cells, RR 3.4%

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 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 16.9%; cell of most interest: N5 (39.2%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*), Grahamstown Dam 4 Jun and Avondale College Cooranbong 3 Sep (both HBOC). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Cattai Wetlands 5 Oct (ANC/GRL). **Atlas:** 265 records from 33 cells, RR 15.7%

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia picata*

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 the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 9.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (26.7%).

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Awaba SF 10 Feb (GOC), Laguna 23-25 Aug (RDB), Green Wattle Creek 5 Sep (NEM) and Saltwater NP 20 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 124 records from 20 cells, RR 8.3%**Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*

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

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: R5 (7.7%).

10+ birds including two pairs were at Copeland Tops SCA 31 Oct (STA) and there were three more records of up to five birds at this location over Sep-Oct (various observers). 1-2 birds were recorded at Bowman River Rd 16 Jun (DBP), White Rock Allyn River 31 Aug (MEL), Saltwater NP 22 Sep (KEM) and near East Gresford 27 Oct (HHB). **Atlas:** Nine records from five cells, RR 2.2%**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 2013.

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).

A bird was heard calling at Saltwater NP 20 Sep (STA).

Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

ID No: 026 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2009).

No reports were received for 2013.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: N5 (10.9%).

60-80 birds were recorded at "Karama" Curracabundi NP 16 Feb (DBP), Maitland Vale Road 15 Mar (BRG), Gloucester 23 May (DBP) and Pambalong NR 27 Sep (MCR), and 30-40 birds at Taree 24 May (DBP) and Upper Allyn 28 Jul (TUJ). 1-10 birds were at Sharpes Creek 22 Mar (CCB), Shortland 19 Mar (ROM), Wishing Well Watagans NP 31 Mar (RIA), Sharpes Creek 10 Apr and 2-5 Sep (EGD/MUT STA *et al.*), Wangi Wangi 14 Apr (RUD), Metford 8 Sep (BRG), Copeland Tops SRA 16 Sep (HBOC), Westleys Rd Gloucester 18 Sep (GOA *et al.*), Mungo Brush 21 Sep and 19 Oct (both KEM), Belmont 3 Oct (HBOC), Ash Island 10 Oct (ROM), Tocal Oct (NEM), Allyn River 27 Oct (DDR), East Gresford area 27 Oct (HHB) and Cabbage Tree Island 18 Dec (CLT). **Atlas:** 28 records from 14 cells, RR 2.0%

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 44% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 30 records from ten 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 12% of cells, at RR = 1.1%; cell of most interest: G10 (15.4%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Sawpit Ridge Scone 23 Jan (CLT), Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and Minmi 14-15 Nov (ROM). A bird was taken into care at KI in mid-Oct (per ROM) – *considered to be an unusual location although there was a nearby record in 2012.* **Breeding:** A bird was with a dependent young at Raymond Terrace 10 Feb (WIN). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.8%).

Some birds were recorded at Balickera Feb and Sep-Oct (MUJ), Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Sharpes Creek 3 Sep (STA *et al.*), Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR), Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC), Cassilis Rest Area 26 Oct (HHB) and Black Hill 16 Nov (ROM).

Breeding: See Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 2.1%

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant. Up to 30 birds are often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: Q6 (16.1%).

Notable records: 300-400 birds were at Corlette 16 Jan (ERE), Viney Creek (O8) 25 Jan (STA), Shortland 10 Mar (ROM) and Stockton Sandspit 4 Dec (HCL), and 200-300 birds at Tea Gardens 3 Jan (ERE), Stockton 29 Jan (ROS), Elernore Vale 13 Nov (WAR) and Frying Pan Creek 30 Nov (ANC). 100-200 birds were recorded at Arcadia Vale 22 Jan (ROM), Nelson Bay 22 Jan (EGD), Singleton 24 & 29 Jan (ALP), Lambton 10 Feb (ROS), Minmi 16 Feb (ROM), North Arm Cove area 8 Nov (SJE), Singleton 22 Nov (ALP), Tomago 2 Dec (LIA/MCN), and Shortland 4 Dec (ROM). There were many records of lesser numbers. *Extremely dry conditions in Victoria in early 2013 led to more birds than usual being present in the Hunter Region (TAM).* Birds were present until at least 2 Apr, when ten birds were recorded at Singleton (ALP). The first recorded return was 10 Oct, when 12 birds were at Anna Bay (FAA) but there were no further reports until early Nov. **Atlas:** 44 records from 18 cells, RR 2.4%

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (9.2%).

40 birds were flying over Corlette 18 Jan (ERE) and 20 birds were at Girvan 27 Mar (per ALP). All other records were 1-4 birds – at Gloucester Tops 6 Jan (JED/STD), Lambton and Shortland 10 Feb (ROS, WID), Viney Creek and Tilligerry SRA 25 Jan (STA, ERE) and Belmont 11 Mar (MCE). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells N9 and O9

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
 Status: Bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf.

~200 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 28 Apr and 10-30 birds on corresponding surveys 23/24 Mar, 23 Jun and 23 Nov (Table 21). ~100 birds were also recorded during a pelagic survey from Swansea 14 Apr (Table 21).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Resident.

1-3 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 20 Jan, 28 Apr, 14 Jul, 11 Aug and 23 Nov (Table 21). A dead bird was found inland at Carrington (Newcastle) 17 Jan (BEI) and a bird was taken into care from along Newcastle Bight 1 Mar (GER).

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
 Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2006, 2009-10*).

A single bird was present during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun (Table 21).

New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Oceanites maoriana* (Revised from: *Pealeornis maoriana*)

ID No: 5038 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
 Status: Accidental (*recorded 2010*).

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 14 Apr (Table 21). *The report was accepted by BARC as the 6th record for Australia*

White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Wandering Albatross Types – Status: Uncommon winter migrant at >5 km from shore. However, it can be a challenge to differentiate *D. exulans* and *D. antipodensis* in the field and the status of each species locally is not fully resolved.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

ID No: 086 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: No
 Status: Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2002-03, 2006-09, 2011-12*).

Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* (*new to list*)

ID No: 846 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
 Status: Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2002-03, 2006, 2008, 2010*).

Confirmed records of either species are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

Wandering Albatross: At least one bird was present during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jul (ROM).

Antipodean Albatross: No reports were received for 2013.

Records of unidentified birds: Four birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jul and single birds in the corresponding surveys 23 Jun and 11 Aug (Table 21). A single bird was off Nobbys Beach 19 Jun (ROS).

Black-Browed Albatross Types – Status: Common winter migrant; regularly recorded Apr-Nov including from land. However, it very often is a challenge to differentiate *T. melanophrys* and *T. impavida* in the field and the status of each species locally is not fully resolved.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys* (Revised from *T. melanophrys*)
ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2003, 2010-12*).

Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida* (*new to list*)
ID No: 859 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2003, 2005-06, 2008-12*).

Confirmed records of either species are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

Black-browed Albatross: At least one bird was recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 Jun and 14 Jul (ROM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Campbell Albatross: At least one bird was recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 Jun and 14 Jul (ROM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Records of unidentified birds: 50 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun and 30-40 birds were frequently present offshore of Newcastle over 17-21 Jun (several observers). 1-5 birds were often recorded in the latter area during Jun and on 20 Apr and 8 Aug (ROS, ROM). 1-5 birds were also recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 14 Jul, 11 Aug and 23 Nov (Table 21) and off Fingal Bay 18 Jun (WOL), Boat Harbour 9 Jul (TBW) and Bennetts Beach (Hawks Nest) early Oct (GOS).

Shy Albatross Types – Status: Winter migrant; regularly recorded Apr-Nov including from land. Although most birds present locally are thought to be White-capped Albatross, it is very challenging to differentiate the three species in the field. Prior to the recent upgrading of *T. cauta* and *T. steadi* into separate species, few observers attempted to identify them to what then was sub-species level. Similarly, reports of Salvin's Albatross in 2002-2008 were not thoroughly scrutinised because it was considered to be a sub-species (albeit a rare one).

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*
ID No: 091 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*only 1 confirmed record, in July 2010*).

White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche steadi* (*new to list*)
ID No: 861 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*only 1 confirmed record, in September 2010*).

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* (*new to list*)
ID No: 862 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002-03, 2006, 2008; these records were not assessed by ORAC*).

Confirmed records are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

Shy Albatross: No reports were received for 2013.

White-capped Albatross: No reports were received for 2013.

Salvin's Albatross: No reports were received for 2013.

Records of unidentified birds: 11 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun, and 5-6 birds in the corresponding 14 Jul and 23 Nov surveys (Table 21). 1-2 birds were recorded sometimes recorded off Nobbys Beach in June (several observers).



Campbell and Black-browed Albatross by Mick Roderick

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*

(Revised from Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchos*)

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common winter migrant. Regularly recorded Apr-Nov including from land.

Around 60 birds were recorded off Newcastle 17 Jun and 20 birds 19 Jun, with other reports of lesser numbers there in mid-late Jun (ROM/RIA, ROS, others). 30 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 14 Jul and 11 Aug, and nine birds 23 Jun (Table 21). Single birds were off Crowdy Head 24 Jun and off Boat Harbour 25 Jul (STA, MUT).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare. (recorded 2003, 2007, 2012).

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun and a single bird in the 14 Jul survey (Table 21).

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*

ID No: 093 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2012).

No reports were received for 2013.

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant at and beyond the continental shelf.

No reports were received for 2013.

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.

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jul and two birds in the 23 Jun survey (Table 21).

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun (Table 21).

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun (WID *et al.*). *This is the 2nd confirmed record for the Region.*

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun (WID *et al.*). *This is the 3rd confirmed record for the Region.*

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

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

200-300 birds were close offshore from Newcastle/Stockton 19 & 30 Jun and 21 Jul (ROS, ROM /WID, FRP) and 150 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun, also 80 birds 14 Jul (Table 21). There were many reports of lesser numbers off Newcastle/Stockton between 15 Jun and 21 Jul (many observers). In this period, there also were several reports of birds off Boat Harbour near Port Stephens, mostly of low numbers but 50+ birds were present 25 Jul (MUT, others). Elsewhere, 80 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jul and seven birds 11 Aug (Table 21), ~20 birds off Merewether Beach 16 Jun (GOC), 6+ birds off Broughton Island 16-22 Jun (ANC), and 1-5 birds off Crowdy Head 24 Jun (STA) and Booti Booti NP 3 Jul (MGLB). Also, beachcast birds were found at Stockton, Manning Entrance SP and Catherine Hill Bay in late Jun (ROS, STA, TAA). *It was estimated that more than 500 birds were in the Region's waters at the peak of the influx.*

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 2000, 2006-07, 2010-12).

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 20 Jan (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: ~4,500 birds were offshore of Newcastle 28 Jan during severe weather; high numbers persisted for another two days (ROS, WID, others) and ~1,000 birds in rafts of ~100 birds were again present 28 Feb (LIA). During pelagic surveys off Port Stephens, 1,800 birds were recorded 20 Jan and 500-600 birds on 23-24 Mar and 28 Apr (Table 21). Many hundreds were off Newcastle Bight 26 Mar including 50+ birds feeding within 5m of the shore (LIA).

Breeding: Many birds were at burrows at Broughton Island 23-24 Sep (STA *et al.*).

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 1995, 2000-01, 2009, 2012).

In the wake of Oswald, two birds were often present off Nobbys Beach 29 Jan with at least one bird still present 30 Jan (several observers). Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 20 Jan and a single bird 24 Mar (Table 21).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

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

Status: Summer migrant at >1km from shore.

70-80 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 Mar and 28 Apr, and 15-40 birds in the corresponding surveys 20 Jan, 24 Mar and 23 Nov, also 60 birds in a survey off Swansea 14 Apr (all Table 21). Some birds, peak count 10+, were close offshore of Newcastle 30-31 Jan (ANC, others).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2011).

No reports were received for 2013.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

ID No: 070 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 20 Jan and two birds 24 Mar (Table 21).

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: There was a winter record of a single bird off Nobbys Beach 19 Jun (ROM *et al.*) while three late-departing birds were off Port Stephens 28 Apr (Table 21). 300-500+ birds were recorded off Newcastle 28 Jan during severe weather conditions and 400 birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Nov (ROS, WID, Table 21). During much of Oct, many thousands of birds were regularly recorded very close offshore of Newcastle beaches, with the peak count being ~10,000 birds 15 Oct (ROM/LIA). Also, thousands of birds were sometimes off the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline in Oct (WOL). Subsequently, there was a substantial wreck, with dead and dying birds reported from many coastlines between Old Bar and Swansea over mid Oct/early Nov and straggling into early Dec. An estimated 50,000 dead and dying birds were found along Newcastle Bight 10 Nov (RUN); *this suggests 60,000-80,000 wrecked birds for the Region over Oct-Dec.*

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006, 2010-12*).

In the wake of Oswald, 1-2 birds were often recorded off Nobbys Beach 29 Jan-1 Feb (many observers), and a single bird during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 28 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.

4,000+ birds were recorded off Newcastle 9 Jul, ~3,000 birds 15 Oct and 1,000-2,000 birds 30 Jun and 8 Aug (RIA, ROM/LIA). There also were several reports of lesser numbers there over 15-30 Jun and again in late Oct (various observers). In the wake of Oswald, up to ~20 birds were often off Newcastle in late Jan and early Feb (ROS, others) and two birds were taken into care (per NIJ). Birds often were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens, with peak counts 60 birds 11 Aug, 20 birds 23 Mar and 15 birds 14 Jul (Table 21); there also were occasional records of small numbers seen close to shore (EGD, WOL). Elsewhere, a single bird was off Swansea 14 Apr (Table 21).

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 & 24 Mar and single birds 20 Jan and 11 Aug (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 2013.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer visitor (*recorded 1997, 2001, 2010*).

In the wake of Oswald, a single bird was recorded close offshore from Newcastle 29 Jan (LIA/ NEM).

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon summer visitor at & beyond the continental shelf (recorded 2001, 2005-06, 2011-12).

No reports were received for 2013.

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

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

A beachcast bird was found along Newcastle Bight Jun (GER per LIA).

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

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

More than 100 birds were close offshore from Newcastle 3 Jun (ROM). 1-5 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 20 & 23 Jan and 23 Nov and off Newcastle 2-3 Mar, 15 Jun and 8 Aug (Table 21, ROM). A single bird was off Broughton Island late Jun (ANC).

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.

1-3 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 Jan, 14 Jul, 11 Aug and 23 Nov; also two birds off Swansea 14 Apr (Table 21). *Very few records.*

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

ID No: 5007 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2013.

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.

1-2 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 20 Jan and 24 Nov (Table 21). In the wake of Oswald, four birds were taken into care 31 Jan/1 Feb (per NIJ). **Breeding:** A bird known to be more than 45 years old had a nest with egg at Cabbage Tree Island 18 Dec (per CLT).

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

ID No: 918 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1971, 2006, 2012).

No confirmed reports were received for 2013.

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer visitor (recorded 2001, 2004-07, 2011-12).

In the wake of Oswald, at least one bird was close offshore from Newcastle 29-30 Jan (ROM, MCR).

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

ID No: 085 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2012).

Birds were in the Region, often very close to shore, from 20 June for ~12 days (many observers) – there were no reports after 2 Jul. At the peak 200-300 birds were estimated to be present. Most records were from offshore of Newcastle but this probably reflects the behaviour of observers as much as that of the birds; there were several reports (usually of lesser numbers) from Port Stephens (peak count 36 birds, WOL) and occasionally further northwards. Ten dead birds were found on Redhead Beach 27 Jun and two more along Newcastle Bight late Jun (per LIA). *This incursion into northern waters appears unprecedented as is the behaviour of feeding in inshore waters, which normally only occurs near the breeding grounds (ref: HANZAB Vol 1). The relatively few dead birds found shows that a major wreck did not occur which in turn suggests that the birds were not starving.*

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: P9 (8.2%).

Two birds were recorded off Salamander Bay 22 Apr (EGD) and a single bird during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Mar (Table 21). **Breeding:** 6+ birds were returning to burrows at Broughton Island 24 Sep (STA et al.). **Atlas:** One record, from cell P8

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

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

In the wake of Oswald, at least 10 individual birds were recorded at coastal locations adjacent to Newcastle Harbour between 29 Jan and 3 Feb (many observers). Also, one bird was off Boat Harbour (Port Stephens) 30 Jan (EGD).

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

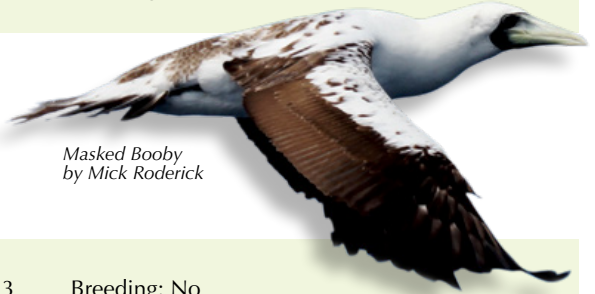
ID No: 104 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No
Status: Regular non-breeding visitor, with 1-5 birds often recorded close offshore Mar-Oct.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: P9 (18.2%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach 15 Jun and during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun, and 120 birds and 70 birds during the corresponding 14 Jul and 11 Aug pelagics (ROM, Table 21). 15-25 birds were off Swansea 14 Apr and Port Stephens 28 Apr (Table 21). In the wake of Oswald, single birds were off Newcastle 30 Jan – 3 Feb (several observers) and off Boat Harbour 30 Jan (EGD), and a single bird was off Saltwater NP 7 Feb (MGLB). **Atlas:** 40 records from nine cells, RR 4.1%

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 24 Nov (Table 21). The dark iris suggested it was race *fullagari* which breeds on Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. *This is only the 2nd confirmed record for the Region.*



Masked Booby
by Mick Roderick

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

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

A pale intermediate morph bird was roosting late afternoon on 28 Jan at Lake Macquarie Marine Rescue Station (on the headland of the entrance to Swansea Channel), after severe weather (RIA, others). *The record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 12th confirmed record for NSW. It is the 4th record for the Hunter Region.*

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 2013. See Supplementary Records.

Australian Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

(Revised from: Australasian Darter *A. 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 30% of cells, at RR = 9.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (45.1%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW Mar-May with peak count 40 birds 27 Mar (Table 11). 39 birds were in Port Stephens Jul and 25 birds in Feb (Table 15), and 28 birds flew over Shortland 10 Mar (ROM). The peak count in the Hunter Estuary was 14 birds in Apr (Table 2). **Atlas:** 150 records from 18 cells, RR 9.9%

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 64% of cells, at RR = 23.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (63.2%).

Notable records: 298 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 12 Jul and 89 birds 11 Feb (Table 15); also within Port Stephens 123 birds were at Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS) and 99 birds in the Winda Woppa area 12 Dec (AMS). 100+ birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jul and Oct with 30+ often present over Jan-Jun (Table 10). 25 birds were at Tomago Wetlands May (Table 5). **Atlas:** 286 records from 35 cells, RR 16.5%

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 13.5%; cell of most interest: S4 (42.5%).

Notable records: 170 birds together were flying over Hunter River Ash Island 20 Sep, with 51 birds having been recorded earlier that day at Hunter Estuary sites (ROM, Table 2). 30+ birds were present most months around the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline, with peak count 56 birds in Nov (Table 16). 43 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 12 Jul and 22 birds 11 Feb (Table 15), while 45 birds were at Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS). 26 birds were at Morpeth WTW 9 Aug and there were occasional records of 10-15 birds from regularly surveyed sites (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 194 records from 28 cells, RR 13.5%

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

ID No: 097 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 30 birds are widely and frequently recorded at small to large waters (*text revised*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 20.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (66.0%).

Notable records: 910 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 12 Jul and 475 birds 11 Feb (Table 15) – *the highest known counts for the Port*. Within the Port, 116 birds were at Soldiers Point 26 Sep, 102 birds at Hawks Nest early Oct and ~80 birds at Soldiers Point 8 Jun (MUT, GOS). 307 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Oct and 100+ birds there Feb-Mar, 200-250+ birds at Forster/Tuncurry 28 Aug and Manning Estuary Oct-Nov, and 100-150+ birds at Manning Estuary Jan and Aug (see Tables). There were many records of 30+ birds at regularly surveyed sites (see Tables), and also at Myuna Bay 2 Apr, John Browns Lagoon 21 Apr (both HBOC) and Stockton Borehole Lagoon 15 Dec (PEG). **Atlas:** 336 records from 30 cells, RR 20.7%

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual coastal resident. 1-10 birds are often recorded near to the coast.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 29% of cells, at RR = 14.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (44.8%).

Notable records: 229 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 12 Jul and 174 birds 11 Feb (Table 15); also 68 birds were at Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS) and 43 birds at Gir-um-bit NP Jun (Table 14). 20+ birds were often present at Forster/ Tuncurry and in the Manning Estuary, with peak count 98 birds 28 Aug and 52 birds 19 Sep respectively (Tables 18, 17). 45 birds were in the Newcastle Baths area Feb and 20 birds Jul (Table 9). 10+ birds were often at Hunter Estuary and Swansea/Lake Macquarie, with the peak counts at both locations being 26 birds (Tables 2, 10). 15+ at Gir-um-bit NP Jan-Aug and 10+ birds sometimes around the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (Tables 14, 16). **Atlas:** 194 records from 20 cells, RR 14.8%

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds are widely and regularly recorded, with frequent counts of up to 50 birds at large waters (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 29.7%; cell of most interest: S4 (65.1%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were present all months in the Hunter Estuary with peak counts 445 birds 13 Mar (HCL) and 221 birds 8-9 Mar (Table 2). 100-150+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 17 Mar (ROM), Telarah 20 Mar (BRG), Swansea/Lake Macquarie May (Table 10), Port Stephens 12 Jul and 11 Feb (Table 15), and most months at Forster/Tuncurry (Table 17). 200+ birds were at central Wallis Lake 10 Oct (Table 17). 50+ birds were often at Swansea/ Lake Macquarie and Morpeth WTW (Tables 10, 11). **Breeding:** 50-60 chicks were in a colony at Snake Island Wallis Lake 10 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 324 records from 28 cells, RR 22.8%

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: S3 (7.4%).

Lower Hunter: There were many records all year of 1-2 birds, mainly from locations around Hexham Swamp and Shortland but ranging as far as Maitland, Richmond Vale and Raymond Terrace (many observers). *Harrington/Cooperbrook:* Three birds were at Cattai Bridge 5 Aug and two birds there 19 Sep (MGLB, STA). Single birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 19 Oct and 8 Nov (KEM, SJE) and at Moorlands 5 Feb (ERE). *Bulahdelah/Forster:* Two adults and 2 juveniles were near Bulahdelah 4 Jan (BRG) and single birds were recorded near Nabiac 1 Jan (per WOL) and 23 Jan (MGLB), Bulahdelah 21 Mar, 3 Jun and 26 Jul (OSP, MGLB, ERE), Failford 1 Apr (MGLB) and Krumbach 10 Nov (per WOL). *Elsewhere:* A single bird was at Congewai Rd 6-8 Jan (per CRL) and 11 Jul (ERE). **Atlas:** 17 records from nine cells, RR 0.6%

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 = 0.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (1.4%).

A bird was regularly recorded at Bittern Corner Ash Island 4-16 Sep and occasionally thereafter until 2 Oct (many observers). Elsewhere, single birds were at Tomago Wetlands 26 Jan, 21 May and Aug-Sep (MCN, LIA, Table 5), Tenambit Common 15 Mar (BRG) and Hexham Swamp 25 Mar and 27 Oct (Table 6, DTB). There were no targeted dusk surveys. **Atlas:** Nine records, from cells L10 and M10

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (Revised from: Australian Little Bittern *I. dubius*)

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

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

From BLA Atlas: 20 records from 12 cells, at RR = 0.4%; cell of most interest: L11 (five records).

Single birds were recorded at Cocked Hat Creek Edgeworth 2 Jan, Bombah Point 20 May and Stockton Creek Morisset 17 Aug (COG, SMJ, RIA). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells L11 and P8

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 = 6.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (23.1%).

Notable records: 72 birds were recorded at Telarah 20 Mar and 50+ birds in the Maitland environs 15 Mar, also 30+ birds were in the Millers Forest/Woodberry area 20 Feb (all BRG). 48 birds were at Little Swan Bay 21 Sep (WOL). 10-20 birds were at Tocal 30 Jan (Table 13), Avon Wetlands 29 Jan (DBP), Woodville 8 Mar (NEM), Shortland 8 Mar (ROM), Millers Forest 19 Apr (BRG), Moorlands 6 Jul (MOT), Hexham Swamp 18 Jul (LIA), Raymond Terrace 1 Dec (SLP) and Tomago Wetlands 10 birds Dec (Table 5), and there were many records of 4-9 birds. **Breeding:** A pair was raising 3 young at Gloucester in Apr, one chick had fledged by 12 Apr (DBP). **Atlas:** 170 records from 30 cells, RR 11.2%

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (Revised from: Eastern Great Egret *A. modesta*)

ID No: 187 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-5 birds often recorded in central & E of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 20.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (54.9%).

Notable records: After a period of sustained heavy rainfall, 160+ birds were in the floodplain between Telarah and Gillieston Heights 15 Mar (BRG); there were several other reports of high numbers in the Maitland area from late Feb to mid March. At regularly surveyed sites, numbers varied considerably during the year (see Tables). The peak counts were: Hunter Estuary 31 birds Dec; Tomago Wetlands 19 birds Mar; Hexham Swamp 18 birds Dec; HWC 13 birds Dec; Swansea/Lake Macquarie 8 birds May; Morpeth WTW 26 birds Dec; Port Stephens 23 birds Jul; Forster/Tuncurry 21 birds Aug. **Breeding:** 13 pairs were nesting at HWC 7 Dec (TRP). **Atlas:** 316 records from 32 cells, RR 20.0%

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

1-2 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in E of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (28.8%).

Notable records: 24 birds were in the Telarah area 20 Mar, after a period of sustained heavy rainfall (BRG). 6-10 birds were recorded at HWC Feb and Oct-Dec (Table 7), Swansea/Lake Macquarie Apr-May (Table 10) and Morpeth WTW 27 Mar (Table 11). 3-4 birds were at Tocal Wetlands 30 Jan (Table 13), Woodberry Rd 25 Feb (ROM), Charlestown GC May (Table 8), Bolwarra Wetlands 27 Dec (BRG), and occasionally in the Hunter Estuary (Table 2). **Breeding:** 10 pairs were nesting at HWC 7 Dec (TRP). **Atlas:** 51 records from 11 cells, RR 3.6%

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 42% of cells, at RR = 16.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (70.2%).

Notable records: 250-350 birds were at HWC Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec (Table 7) during the breeding period. 100+ birds were recorded along Woodberry Rd 25 Feb (ROM) and at Morpeth WTW Mar-Apr (Table 11) and near Taree 24 May (DBP), and 68-70 birds were at Hunter Estuary Mar (Table 2) and Doughboy Hollow 28 Apr (ALP). **Breeding:** 50-60 nestlings were at HWC 9 Feb (NIG *et al.*) then 312 pairs were nesting there 7 Dec (TRP *et al.*). The colony at Gloucester relocated to a new site, with 100+ nests present 11 Feb and then ~75 nests 20 Nov (DBP). A large (uncounted) breeding colony was at Nulama Ponds Cundletown late in the year (STA). **Atlas:** 158 records from 20 cells, RR 10.6%

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 = 4.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (12.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 25 records from eight 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 = 35.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (78.7%).

Notable records: A total of 522 birds were present at various places around the eastern side of Hexham Swamp 13 Jun (LIA). Birds often were present in high numbers at three locations: Hunter Estuary (50+ all months, 100+ often, peak count 277 birds Sep); Tomago Wetlands (30+ all months, 50+ often, peak count 150 birds Sep); and Hexham Swamp (30+ often, peak count 205 birds Jun); see Tables 2, 5 & 6 for details. 173 birds were at Port Stephens 12 Jul (Table 15) and 70+ birds at Louth Park 15 Jun (BRG). There were several records of 20-40 birds from the Maitland area late Feb-Mar (BRG, others). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Tighes Hill 27 Jul and Rankin Park 31 Oct (CLT, PAL). **Atlas:** 592 records from 38 cells, RR 33.2%

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are occasionally recorded in the E of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 10.6%; cell of most interest: M10 (22.2%).

Notable records: 22 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie May and ~20 birds in the lower Myall River 5 Apr (EGD). 14-15 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jun and Port Stephens 11 Feb and 12 Jul (Tables 10, 15). 6-9 birds were often recorded in the Hunter Estuary and occasionally at other regularly surveyed sites (see Tables). **Breeding:** Five pairs were nesting at HWC 7 Dec (TRP). **Atlas:** 131 records from 14 cells, RR 10.6%

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 = 1.3%; cell of most interest: P8 (19.5%).

Up to four birds were recorded at Broughton Island 7-8 Apr, 19 Jun and 23-25 Sep (STA *et al.*, ANC). Single birds were often present around the Newcastle-Merewether rock shelf Feb, May-Jul and Sep (many observers) and 1-2 birds were often along the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline Jan-Jul (Table 16, other observers). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Shelly Beach Red Head 27 Feb (STA), Catherine Hill Bay 23 Apr (ADJ), Blueys Beach 7 May and Green Point 5 Sep (both MGLB) and Harrington 6 Dec (Table 18). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** 25 records from seven cells, RR 2.8% (*increased RR is mainly due to Broughton Island surveys*).

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: O9 (10.6%).

70 birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 4 Oct and 96 birds there 4 Dec (SLP). Some birds were present at HWC all year, with higher counts Jan-Feb and peak count 37 birds Feb (NIG *et al.*, Table 7). 1-5 birds were often recorded at Saltwater NP (several observers) and Balickera (MUJ). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC), Woodville Jan-Feb and 27 Sep (NEM), Bulahdelah 27 Feb (STA), Seaham Swamp NR 5 Mar and 21 Jul (HBOC), Morpeth Common 15 Mar and 10 Sep (BRG), Tarro Wetlands 26 Mar (SMJ/MEL), Myuna Bay 2 Apr (HBOC), Gloucester 10 May (DBP), Wingham 4 Jul (MGLB), Seaham Swamp NR 21 Jul (HBOC), Fenninghams Island 27 Aug (TBW), Ash Island 2 Sep (KEM), Dudley 18 Sep (POJ), Bonnells Bay and Wangi Wangi 10 Nov (JOD). **Atlas:** 50 records from 13 cells, RR 3.4%

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: L10 (7.4%).

20+ birds were often recorded at locations in the lower Hunter Valley Jan-Apr and mid-Aug to late Oct, along with several reports of lesser numbers (many observers, also see Tables). The main sites were: Tomago Wetlands (peak counts 45 birds 26 Jan, 36 birds 19 Feb); Lenaghans Flat/Hexham Swamp (peak count 43 birds 27 Sep); Morpeth WTW (peak count 24 birds 14 Feb); Hunter Estuary (peak counts 45 birds 8-9 Feb, 52 birds 12-13 Apr). Elsewhere, two birds were at Louth Park 25 Mar (EGD/MUT) and two birds at Cattai Bridge Wetlands 19 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 17 records from six cells, RR 1.5%

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 36% of cells, at RR = 26.4%; cell of most interest: O9 (56.3%).

Notable records: ~500 birds were in the Millers Forest/Woodberry area 20 Feb (BRG). 100+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary most months (Table 2) with peak count 906 birds 8-9 Mar. 100+ birds were also at HWC most months with peak count 252 birds Jul (Table 7). 235 birds were at Hexham Swamp 27 Feb with 100+ present May and Dec (Table 6);

100+ birds were also at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG) and Tomago Wetlands Mar and Dec (Table 5). **Breeding:** Breeding at HWC wound down through Jan-Feb then birds began nesting again in Jul (several observers); 248 nests were present 28 Jul and 48 nests 7 Dec (TRP *et al.*). Also, 100+ nests and many dependent young were at the nearby NWR 18 Oct (LIA). Elsewhere, birds were on nests and nest building at Muddy Lake 20 Aug (HCL). **Atlas:** 336 records from 28 cells, RR 22.3%



Australian White Ibis
by Rob Kyte

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 61% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (48.7%).

Notable records: 1,000+ birds were in the Millers Forest/Woodberry area 20 Feb (BRG). 1,417 birds were flying over Hexham Swamp 16 Apr (LIA) and 1,000+ birds 26 Jan (ROM) – these birds were going to a roost at HWC; however, there were 300-400 birds feeding at Hexham Swamp 9 Feb, 26 May and 13 Jun (ROM, LIA). 400-600 birds were flying over Millers Forest 12 Apr (BEI). **Atlas:** 185 records from 33 cells, RR 10.7%

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 = 15.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (52.7%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded all year in the Hunter Estuary with peak count 95 birds Jan – most of those birds were at Deep Pond (Table 2, ROM). 20+ birds were often at Tomago Wetlands Jan-May with an exceptional peak count of 119 birds Apr (Table 5). 70 birds were in flooded paddocks at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG) and 62 birds at Morpeth WTW 18 Dec (Table 11). 20+ birds were at Millers Forest/Woodberry 20 Feb (BRG), Hexham Swamp 25 Mar and 13 Jun (Table 6), Lenaghans Flat 28 Sep (THJ), Fullerton Cove 3 Dec (JOD) and HWC May and Dec (Table 7, COK). **Atlas:** 200 records from 20 cells, RR 12.9%

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 = 3.7%; cell of most interest: J9 (19.4%).

Notable records: 13 birds were at Morpeth WTW 18 Dec (Table 11) and 11 birds at Broke 6 Nov (ROS) and Hexham Swamp 15 Dec (LIA). 5-7 birds were often near Broke early Dec (ROS) and birds at Cundletown 20 Jan (MGLB), Hexham Swamp 13 Jun (LIA) and Tenambit 14 Oct (BRG), and four birds were at Newline Rd East Seaham 28 Dec (SLP). **Atlas:** 28 records from 11 cells, RR 2.2%

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (Revised from: Eastern Osprey *P. cristatus*)

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds often recorded at estuaries/coastal lakes.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: S4 (34.9%).

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at Broughton Island 7 Apr (STA *et al.*) and in the lower Myall River 5 Apr (EGD). Three birds were at Soldiers Point 14 Jun (MUT) and Winda Woppa area 12 Dec (AMS). There was an inland record of a bird at Summerhill 11 Dec (NEM).

Breeding: Birds were nesting at East Morisset, Karuah, Gan Gan Hill, Soldiers Point and near Tahlee in Jun-Aug and had dependent young at Nelson Bay (many observers). **Atlas:** 75 records from 11 cells, RR 6.6%

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 62% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: M9 (20.8%).

Notable records: 16 birds were in the Martindale area 23 Apr (ROS), four birds at Singleton WWTP 28 Apr (ALP) and three birds at Seaham Swamp NR 21 Jul (HBOC). **Atlas:** 164 records from 29 cells, RR 10.3%

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977*).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 0.4%; cell of most interest: Q4 (8.2%).

There were many records in the Maitland/Cessnock/Raymond Terrace area all year, mostly of single birds; however, two birds were at East Maitland 3 Jun and Raymond Terrace 9 Jun (BRG, CAA) and three birds were over Woodville 4 Jul (NEM). There were also several records from Newcastle/Lake Macquarie locations in Feb, May, Aug and Nov-Dec. Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Retreat Rd Singleton 10 Mar (ALP), Singleton Training Area 1 Aug (HBOC), Swan Bay 24 Sep (TAH), Hawks Nest 3 Oct (GOS) and Cattai Wetlands 18 Oct (STA), and two birds were at Cooperook SF 20 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** 11 records from seven cells, RR 0.6%

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 22% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (23.8%).

Three birds were at Drying TSR (J8) 5 May (ALP), and 1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region (many observers). In addition to the birds at Drying TSR, other westerly records were birds at Copeland Tops SCA 25 Sep (DBP), Rothbury 18 May (WID) and Kurri Kurri 21 Sep (ROS). **Breeding:** Pairs raised young at Laguna and Branxton over Oct-Dec (per MOA, per SIA), and a pair was with a dependent young at Fullerton Cove 8 Feb (WAS). Birds were displaying at Thornton 10 Sep (BRG) and Barrington House 17-18 Sep (ROM). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Nine records from six cells, RR 0.6%

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 46% of cells, at RR = 16.3%; cell of most interest: P9 (40.1%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Grahamstown Dam 4 Jun (HBOC) and six birds in the lower Myall River 5 Apr (EGD) and at Hexham Swamp 7 Sep (ERE). Four birds were recorded at Soldiers Point 15 May (MUT) and HWC 16 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting near Raymond Terrace 15 Sep (BEI). **Atlas:** 245 records from 28 cells, RR 16.2%

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 = 17.4%; cell of most interest: P8 (51.4%).

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded at Lenaghans Flat 18 Sep (ROM) and 15-16 birds at Louth Park 25 Mar (ROS), Minmi 30 Mar (THJ) and Hexham Swamp 14 Apr (ERE). 9-10 birds were at Hexham Swamp 28 Mar and 7 Sep (ROM, ERE) and six birds at East Seaham 13 Aug (GOA *et al.*). 4-5 birds were at Gillieston Heights 26 Mar (BRG), Lenaghans Flat 14 May (CJB), Hexham Swamp 18 Apr (MOA), Grahamstown Dam 4 Jun (HBOC) and Scone 29 Sep (NEG). **Breeding:** There were two active nests at Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS). **Atlas:** 217 records from 27 cells, RR 14.2%

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

(Revised from: elsewhere rare).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (19.8%).

Manning Valley and North: 1-2 birds were at Saltwater NP 7 Feb (MGLB), Oxley Island 6 Jun (MGLB), Harrington 26 Jul and 1 Aug (DBP, MGLB), Black Head 18 Sep and 19 Oct (STA, MGLB), Crowdy Head 17 Oct (STA) and Mudbishops Point 19 Oct (KEM). **Fewer records than usual.** **Forster/ Great Lakes:** Three birds including a juvenile were at Myall Lake 29 Apr (GOS) and 1-2 birds at lower Myall River 5 Apr (EGD), Tea Gardens 28 Apr (GOS) and Pacific Palms 15 Jun (MGLB). **Port Stephens/mid-North:** 1-2 birds were often recorded (several observers). **Hunter Estuary:** Single birds were often recorded (several observers). **Elsewhere:** Single birds were at Redhead 26 May (ROM), Blacksmiths Beach 7 Jun (ERE), Swansea 13 Jul (ADJ), Eraring 13 & 16 Jul (DUP) and Strzelecki Lookout 21 Sep (THJ). Unusually, a bird was inland at Maitland 25 Sep (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Pacific Palms 15 Jun and had a nest with eggs at Boomerang Beach Sep (both MGLB). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** 19 records from nine cells, RR 2.2%

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: 40 records from 17 cells.

There was a major influx of birds from mid March. *By late April, 300-400 birds were estimated to be in the lower Hunter Valley*, with records from many locations and many observers – including 200+ birds at Howes Lagoon (Maitland) 24-26 Apr (per ROM), 180+ birds in the East Maitland area 5 May and 150 birds over Mt Vincent Rd 31 May (both BRG). In Jun-Jul, there were fewer reports and birds may have dispersed; however, 50+ birds were at Summerhill tip early Jul (BEI), 40 birds at Hexham Swamp 16 Aug (THJ/BLM), 70 birds at Lenaghans Flat 18 Sep and 170-200 birds there 23 Sep (both ROM), ~30 birds often at Summerhill tip during Sep (LIG), 20+ birds at Maitland tip 13 Nov (BRG) and 100+ birds north of Raymond Terrace 13 Nov (BRG). Although there were also reports from elsewhere in the Region from Mar-Aug, in general these were of only small numbers of birds. However, up to 75 birds were at Scone Jul-Aug and 100 birds there 22 Dec (NEG, BNSW). **Atlas:** 29 records from eight cells, RR 1.0%

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 (32.3%).

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Wallaby Scrub Rd 19 May (ALP), Jesmond 14 Aug (KET), Wingen 4 Sep (NEG), Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS) and Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** A bird brought food to a nest near Parkville 2 Oct (ROM/CLT). **Atlas:** 44 records from 21 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 34% of cells, at RR = 1.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (43.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were hunting together at Howes Valley 22 Dec (ERE). **Atlas:** 17 records from six cells, RR 0.9%

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 27% of cells, at RR = 2.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (14.7%).

Notable records: Two birds were at Thornton 8 Sep (BRG) and a white phase bird was near Booral 27 Jan (LIG). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at BbR from 9 Nov onwards (KYR). **Atlas:** 27 records from 11 cells, RR 1.4%

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 0.9%; cell of most interest: I8 (3.9%).

There were many and widespread records all year of 1-2 birds throughout the Region, and with an influx occurring from mid March (numerous observers). This included many records from the Hunter Estuary (several observers). Other easterly records were of single birds at Tea Gardens 29 Apr (GOS) and Cattai Wetlands 1 Nov (HBW) and, unusually, at Broughton Island 7-8 Apr and 16-22 Jun (STA *et al.*, ANC). Four birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains 15 Aug (MOA). **Atlas:** 36 records from 18 cells, RR 2.4% *The Recording Rate was almost treble the long-term average.*

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 24% of cells, at RR = 9.6%; cell of most interest: L10 (28.7%).

Notable records: 14 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 28 Mar (ROM) and 8+ birds there 7 Sep (ERE). **Atlas:** 142 records from ten cells, RR 9.9%

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded throughout the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 8.2%; cell of most interest: J9 (33.6%).

Notable records: 13 birds were circling together over Stroud 25 Apr (PIA) and seven birds were together near Merriwa 25 Oct (BNSW). **Breeding:** Birds nested at Fosterton Loop Dungog Aug (JED), and two adults with two juveniles were at Wingen 4 Jan (NEG).

Atlas: 74 records from 32 cells, RR 4.4%



Wedge-tailed Eagle by
Louise Williams

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: H7 (7.9%).

Two birds were recorded at Weston 1 Dec and single birds several times there over Aug-Nov, including a dark phase bird 22 Sep (ROS). Two birds were over Shortland 16 Jun and single birds there 9 Feb, 21 May, 3 Aug, 14 Nov and 3 Dec (HBOC, ROM). Single birds were also recorded in the Singleton area 9 Feb, 17 Jul & 4 Dec (ALP) and at Richmond Vale 9 Jan (GOC), Wingen 5 Mar and 27 Dec (NEG), Kurri Kurri mid Mar (ROS), Paxton 19 May (HBOC), Muswellbrook 31 May (NEG), Tinonee 4 Jul (MGLB), Harrington 26 Jul (DBP), Hexham Swamp 7 Sep (ERE), Myall Lakes NP 3 Oct (GOS), Jerrys Plains/Martindale area 6 Oct (ALP) and Luskintyre 13 Nov (BRG). **Atlas:** 18 records from 13 cells, RR 1.1%

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 = 9.2%; cell of most interest: J9 (46.9%).

Notable records: Five birds were at Parkville 9 Jul (CLT) and three birds at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC) and Singleton WTW 28 Apr (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Fosterton Loop Dungog 8 Dec (JED). **Atlas:** 83 records from 29 cells, RR 5.1%

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, usually as single birds or pairs.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 62% of cells, at RR = 5.3%; cell of most interest: H7 (21.9%).

Notable records: Four birds were at Singleton WTW 28 Apr (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Lenaghans Flat 27 Sep (GOS). **Atlas:** 45 records from 21 cells, RR 3.1%

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 = 4.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (15.1%).

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 11 Jun (BEI) and two birds at WWW 11 Jan, Raymond Terrace 23 Jan and Hawks Nest early Oct (BRG, SLP, GOS). **Atlas:** 35 records from 12 cells, RR 2.8%

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (4.8%).

Central/West: Five birds (as groups of 2 and 3 birds) were close together near Wingen 9 May and three birds were again present 10 May (NEG). 1-2 birds were recorded at Scone several times over Apr-Dec (NEG, BNSW) and at Curracabundi NP 16 Feb (DBP), Blandford 6 Apr (STA), Singleton 27 Jul (SIA) and Jerrys Plains 5 Oct (LIA/ WEJ). **Lower Hunter Valley:** A single bird was present at WWW 4 Feb (CJB). From mid Mar to late May and over Sep-Oct, 1-2 birds were very often recorded from locations around Maitland, Morpeth and Hexham Swamp (many observers). Two birds were at Carrington Newcastle 18 May and single birds at Shortland 10 Oct and Hexham Swamp 28 Dec (BEI, ROM). There were no reports for Jun-Jul or Nov-late Dec. **Atlas:** Seven records from four cells, RR 1.3%

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds are occasionally but widely recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 2.3%; cell of most interest: P8 (7.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. A bird unsuccessfully attacked Rainbow Bee-eaters at Wingham 22 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** 25 records from 12 cells, RR 1.4%

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

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

Status: Accidental (recorded 2005)

No reports were received for 2013.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 19.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (83.9%).

Notable records: 640 birds were in a small area on the western side of Hexham Swamp 15 Aug and ~250 birds in the same area 15 Sep (HCL, LIA). 50+ birds were often at Tomago Wetlands with peak count 146 birds Apr (Table 5). 30+ birds were present most months at Hunter Estuary locations with an exceptional peak count of 149 birds Dec (Table 2). ~50 birds were at WWW 6 Jan and John Browns Lagoon 21 Apr (ALP, HBOC). There were frequent records of 20+ birds at WWW all year, HWC most months and Hexham Swamp Mar-Apr (see Tables for details), and also at Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Woodberry 19 Apr (BRG). **Atlas:** 228 records from 26 cells, RR 13.9%

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: P8 (7.9%).

Birds were present at eight discrete locations on Broughton Island 23-25 Sep, and with multiple records from several of those locations; there were also records from the Island 7-8 Apr and 16-22 Jun (STA *et al.*, ANC). Elsewhere, three birds were recorded at Redhead 9-13 Sep (RIA) and Hexham Swamp 16 Nov (ROM), two birds at Swansea early Sep (ADJ), and single birds at Tinonee 11 Jun (ROM), Harrington 24 Jun (STA) and Ash Island 4 Sep (ROM). **Breeding:** An adult and chick were at Floraville 14 Nov (LAW). **Atlas:** 19 records from six cells, RR 2.5%

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded in the E of the Region (*Text added*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: S3 (9.8%).

Notable records: Three birds were at Dora Creek 10 Jan (GOC), HWC 11 Jan and 8 Sep (LIP, STA), Anna Bay 11 Mar (MUT) and Speers Point 4 Nov (HBOC). Single birds were recorded at Broughton Island 23-25 Sep and Cabbage Tree Island 18 Dec (STA *et al.*, CLT) – *the first record for the latter location*. The most westerly record was a bird at Gloucester 17 Feb (MGLB), a known location. **Breeding:** There were several records of birds with chicks from the E of the Region Jan-Feb (various observers), and also at Wangi Wangi 18 Oct (JOD). **Atlas:** 29 records from 11 cells, RR 2.1%

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 (2.2%).

Three birds were recorded at WWW 17 Jan and 13 Nov and single birds there 11 & 16 Jan and 11 Oct (BRG, SMJ). Single birds were also at Little Bittern Pond (Kooragang Island) 11 Jan (ROM), Tomago Wetlands Jan and Sep (Table 5), Hexham Swamp 27 Jan and 26 May (ROM, Table 6), and Ash Island 4 & 7 Sep (KEM, ERE). **Atlas:** Nine records from five cells, RR 0.4%

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.7%).

Birds were recorded very often at Hexham Swamp all year (many observers, also Table 6). Although most records were 1-4 birds, nine adult birds were seen 28 Dec (BEI) and there were some other high counts. *It was estimated that 10-20 birds were present at Hexham Swamp Sep-Dec*. Also, birds were often recorded at Tomago Wetlands all year, with peak count three birds Jul (Table 5). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Deep Pond 11 Jan and 15 Nov (ROM), Ash Island 2 & 7 Sep (KEM, ERE) and Anambah (Maitland) 9 Sep (BRG). **Breeding:** Pairs had sets of 3, 2 and 1 downy young at Hexham Swamp 28 Dec (BEI) – *these are the first confirmed records in more than 25 years*. **Atlas:** 24 records from three cells, RR 2.7%

Spotless Crane *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 = 0.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (2.2%).

~12 birds were heard calling at Hexham Swamp early May and 1-2 birds were recorded there 26 Jan, 24 Feb and 18 Aug (ROM). 2-3 birds were present at WWW 10-16 Jan (JOD/MCE, BRG) and 1-3 birds at Ash Island 20 May, 23 Jul, 4 & 7 Sep (several observers). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Bolwarra Wetlands 9 Jan (BRG), Tomago Wetlands 19 Feb (MCN), Tenambit 24 Apr and 13 Nov (BRG) and HWC 16 Jun (HBOC). **Atlas:** 11 records from three cells, RR 0.5%

Black-tailed Native-hen *Tribonyx ventralis*

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 (2.0%).

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 23 May (ROS). **The first record for the Region since 2009.** **Atlas:** Nil records

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 = 15.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (68.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded all months at HWC with 50+ birds present several times and peak count 93 birds Jan (Table 7). 20+ birds were often at Charlestown GC with peak count 53 birds Oct (Table 8), and 20+ birds were at WWW 9 Jan and 14 Aug (Table 12).

Breeding: Birds were with chicks at Weston 27 Mar (GOC). **Atlas:** 185 records from 29 cells, RR 10.6%

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

ID No: 059 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 10.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (57.7%).

Notable records: ~2,000 birds were at Lake Liddell 5 Feb (ALP) and 833 birds in flooded paddocks at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG). Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at seven locations (see Tables for main details): Morpeth WTW (with peak counts 1,186 birds 18 Dec and 457 birds 19 Apr; 100+ Feb-Sep); Hunter Estuary (peak count 1,161 birds Apr; many hundreds Apr-Dec); WWW (peak count 466 birds 13 Mar, 100+ all year); HWC (peak count 221 birds May, 50+ most months); Tomago Wetlands (peak count 600 birds Jul, 100+ Apr-Aug); Hexham Swamp (533-646 birds Apr-May, 1,000+ birds 18 Aug (ROM); Total Wetlands (peak count 92 birds 8 Apr, 50+ most months Apr-Sep). The April Hunter Estuary count included ~950 birds at Swan Pond Ash Island from where there were many other high counts Mar-Jul (STA/MCN, others). Elsewhere, 350 birds were at Muddy Lake 20 Aug and ~280 birds at Mungo Brush 19 Oct (HCL, KEM), and there were numerous records of 50+ birds around the Region. **A very good year.** Unusually, some birds were often at farm dams and similar small bodies, frequently in association with Hardheads (various observers). **Atlas:** 250 records from 30 cells, RR 16.4%

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 = 0.8%; cell of most interest: O9 (1.3%).

A single bird was at Eraring 7 Jan, 28 Feb and 5 Mar (GOC). **Breeding:** A pair bred at Bobs Farm in spring – the first set of 2 chicks were predated and the pair was again sitting on eggs 16 Oct; on 26 Nov they were with two chicks thought to be 3-4 weeks old (per FRN). **Atlas:** One record, from cell R5

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus giganteus* (Revised from: *E. magnirostris*)

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Critically Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare resident (revised from: Resident in the Manning Estuary, rare elsewhere).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most of most interest: R4 (10.2%).

There were frequent records of the pairs at Manning Entrance SP (Table 18) and Soldiers Point/Dowardee Island (MUT, WOL, others), in both cases often in the presence of a third bird (which was generally considered to be a juvenile). Four birds were recorded at Dowardee Island 12 Jul and 27 Aug (Table 15, FRN). A single bird was at Tanilba Bay 12 Oct (per WOL) and an adult and juvenile at Salamander Bay 21 Jun (WOL). **Breeding:** The pair in the Manning Estuary hatched a chick early Jan and then had a nest with egg 7 Nov and a chick 10 Dec (MAC, CRB THM et al.). There was strong evidence that the pair in Port Stephens also raised a chick which was seen with them often over Feb-Aug. **Atlas:** Eight records, from cells R4 and O9, RR 1.6%

South Island Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are often recorded at coastal and estuarine locations (text added).
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 16.2%; cell of most interest: N9 (48.5%).

Notable records: 123 birds were in Port Stephens 11 Feb and 130 birds 12 Jul; within the Port, 30+ birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP Feb-Aug with peak count 44 birds 11 May (Table 14) and there were several records of 20-50 birds at Dowardee Island/Soldiers Point (MUT). Birds were regularly recorded at 6 other locations (see Tables for main details): Swansea /Lake Macquarie (peak count 10 birds Jan); Hunter Estuary (peak count 25 birds Jan); Newcastle Baths (peak count 6 birds May); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 27 birds 9 Jul); Forster /Tuncurry (peak counts 40 birds 13 Mar (CJB), 25 birds 13 Mar); Manning Estuary (peak count 15 birds 19 Nov). Elsewhere, ten birds were at Kyllies Beach Crowdy Bay NP 26 Apr (ERE). **180-200 birds were estimated to have been in the Region all year.** **Movements:** A bird at Manning Entrance SP 28 Aug had been banded at Corner Inlet, Victoria in June 2003 as a 1 year old bird (per STA). **Breeding:** Three pairs lost eggs to a fox mid Oct at Manning Entrance SP (CRB); however, at least two of those pairs successfully raised young subsequently (CRB, STA). Four chicks were found between Harrington and Diamond Beach 10 Dec (THM et al.) and a pair had two chicks at Worimi Conservation Lands 9-10 Dec (LIA). A pair successfully bred at Stockton Sandspit from late Sep (many observers). **Atlas:** 134 records from ten cells, RR 13.7%

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 = 6.2%; cell of most interest: P8 (35.6%).

The peak count at the Newcastle Baths roost was 49 birds in Feb, with 35+ birds over Jan-Apr and some birds present all year (Table 9) – *the numbers at this location continue to rise*. Some birds were also recorded at other Newcastle locations (e.g. KI Dykes, Stockton Sandspit, Merewether Beach) during the year (Table 1, various observers). 42 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 11 Feb and 30 birds 12 Jul (Table 15), with reports all year of lesser numbers from locations within the Port (various observers). *These are the equal highest summer and highest winter counts on record for Port Stephens*. Birds were recorded along the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline all year with peak count 13 birds Jan (Table 16). 20+ birds were at Broughton Island 23-25 Sep with 9-15 birds also recorded there 7-8 Apr and 29 Dec (STA *et al.*, HCL).

Elsewhere, four birds were at Black Head 18 Sep (STA) and 1-2 birds at Wallis Lake 19 Apr (MGLB), Forster 29 May (MGLB), Blueys Beach 7 & 21 & 30 May (MGLB) and Crowdy Head 15 Jul (STA). *110-130 birds were estimated to have been present in the Region in summer.*

Breeding: No reports, but see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** 82 records from ten cells, RR 9.1%

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* (Revised from: *H. 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 19% of cells, at RR = 13.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (37.8%).

Notable records: ~2,000 birds were estimated to be at Ash Island 27 Feb (MOA) and there many reports of several hundred birds there during the year and sometimes from other locations within the Hunter Estuary (Table 1, others). 100+ birds were often recorded at three other locations (see Tables for main details): Hexham Swamp (peak counts 722 birds 5 Jan and 600-700 birds 26 Jan and 10 Dec); Morpeth WTW (exceptional peak count 867 birds 26 Oct); Tomago Wetlands (peak count 394 birds Nov). Elsewhere, 123 birds were at HWC Jan (Table 7) and 50+ birds at Louth Park 22 Mar (BRG) and Stockton Borehole Lagoon 22 Aug and 15 Dec (HCL, PEG). **Breeding:** A pair was with three young at Tocal Wetlands Oct (NEM). **Atlas:** 168 records from 14 cells, RR 13.1%

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 9% of cells, at RR = 9.5%; cell of most interest: M10 (14.5%).

1,000+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Feb (Table 1, MOA) and again over Jun-Dec with peak count 4,710 birds Dec (Table 1). 235-400+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 10-15 Dec (ROM/ROS, LIA), 104 birds at Tomago Wetlands Nov (Table 5) and 42 birds at Morpeth WTW 26 Oct (Table 11), with lesser numbers also sometimes reported from those locations. Elsewhere, 15+ birds were at Tenambit 13 Nov (BRG) and three birds at Pokolbin 18 Nov (ROS) – *both are unusual locations* – and 1-3 birds in Port Stephens 11 Feb, 30 May and 12 Jul (Table 15, WOL). **Movements:** Five birds which had been flagged in Vic were recorded at KI Dykes Aug-Sep (per HCL). **Atlas:** 83 records from four cells, RR 11.2%

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1995-96, 2000-01, 2004, 2012).

A single bird was recorded at Deep Pond 11 Jan (ROM).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11 cells, at RR = 8.9%; cell of most interest: R4 (21.4%).

Hunter Estuary: 400+ birds were recorded Jan-Mar with peak count 459 birds 9 Feb. Only 100-200 birds were present Sep-Nov with numbers rising through Dec to a peak of 349 birds (Table 1, Tables 3-5, Table A). Manning Estuary: The peak count was 141 birds 29 Jan with 80+ birds present Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec (Table 18). Elsewhere: Single birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 14 Feb (NEM) and Pelican Island Wallis Lake 10 Oct (STA) – *uncommon locations* – and 1-5 birds at Hexham Swamp 9 Feb and Oct-Dec (ROM, LIA *et al.*). Over-wintering: Up to three birds in Jun-Jul were in both the Hunter Estuary and Port Stephens and ten birds in the Manning Estuary (see Tables). *From the above data, at least 600 birds were in the Region Jan-Feb.* **Atlas**: 91 records from eight cells, RR 10.7%

Table A. Monthly Peak Counts at Hunter Estuary Locations

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
400	431	395	80	161	199	159	349

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 30 records from seven cells.

Single birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP 15 Nov (MEL *et al.*) and Manning Entrance SP 6 Dec (STA). **Atlas**: Five records from five cells

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1967).

No reports were received for 2013.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 10% of cells, at RR = 11.0%; cell of most interest: N9 (27.1%).

Notable records: Manning Estuary: 20+ birds were recorded most months with peak count 52 birds Jun (Table 18). Port Stephens: Often recorded, although always in counts of <10 birds (Tables 14, 15). Hunter Estuary: Some birds were recorded most months although not always during the monthly whole-estuary surveys. There were several records of 20+ birds, and 37 birds were at Phoenix Flats in Apr and 30 birds at Stockton Sandspit 29-30 May (Tables 1, 3-4, CLT). Worimi Conservation Lands: Birds were present in good numbers Feb-Jul with peak count 37 birds 28 May (Table 20). Elsewhere: Five birds were at Largs 7 Oct (BRG). **Breeding**: Pairs were with young at Manning Entrance SP 17 Oct and 6 Dec and three pairs had young there 7 Nov (STA). Birds were also with runners at Stockton Sandspit several times Sep-Dec (ROM, CLT, HBOC). **Atlas**: 91 records from 11 cells, RR 10.2%

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 = 2.6%; cell of most interest: R4 (14.1%).

Worimi Conservation Lands: Birds were present Feb-Aug with peak count 119 birds 28 May (Table 20). *Manning Estuary*: Birds were present from mid-Feb with the peak count 86 birds Jun-Jul (Table 18). *Port Stephens*: 26 birds were recorded 12 Jul (Table 15) and up to 13 birds at Gir-um-bit NP Apr-Aug (Table 14). *Elsewhere*: Three birds were at Swansea 13 Jul (ADJ) and six birds at Caves Beach 21 Aug (AYG), and a single bird at Newcastle Baths 14 Mar (THJ). **Arrival/Departure Dates**: The first record was 8 Feb, when three birds were at Worimi Conservation Lands (per NEM). An unusually late departing bird was at Harrington 19 Nov where three birds were also recorded 19 Sep (Table 18). **Atlas**: 31 records from seven cells, RR 3.5%

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 = 1.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (7.5%).

No detailed reports were received by HBOC. **Atlas**: Two records, from cells M10 and R4

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

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

Status: Accidental (recorded 2004-05, 2007-09, 2012).

A single bird was often recorded at Stockton Sandspit over 1-6 Jan (several observers) and a single bird was at Bennetts Beach (Hawks Nest) 11 Dec (FAT).



Greater Sand Plover
by Mick Roderick

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2013.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 6.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (19.2%).

Notable records: Birds were recorded all months in the Hunter Estuary with peak count 33 birds in May; Phoenix Flats and Clearwater Pond were the main locations (Tables 1 & 3, ROM). 25 birds were at Louth Park 15 Jun (BRG) and 10-15 birds at HWC Jan (Table 7), Tocal 21 Jan (Table 13), Hexham Swamp 9 Feb (ROM) and Tenambit 21 May (BRG). 6-9 birds were present at Bolwarra 17 Jan (BRG), Hexham Swamp 25 Mar (Table 6), Pambalong NR 11 Apr (ROM), Cooperhooke 24 Jun (STA), Stockton Borehole Lagoon 22 Aug (HCL), HWC 7 Nov (MGLB) and Anambah 13 Nov (BRG). **Breeding**: Pairs had three young at Tocal Wetlands Oct (NEM) and a nest with eggs at Ash Island 27 Dec (LIA). **Atlas**: 99 records from 16 cells, RR 7.3%

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythronyus cinctus*

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (7.8%).

Birds were in the Hunter Estuary Apr-Dec with peak counts 81 birds May and 57-63 birds Jun and Nov-Dec; Milhams Pond was the main location and sometimes Phoenix Flats (Tables 1, 3 & 4). 50+ birds were at Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb with peak count 91 birds 26 Jan; up to 14 birds were also recorded there Mar-May and Oct-Dec (LIA, Table 6, others). There were regular reports from three other locations: Tomago Wetlands (peak count 49 birds Nov); Tocal Wetlands (peak counts 30-34 birds Oct-Nov); Stockton Borehole Lagoon (peak count 19 birds 27 Dec), and there were many and widespread records of 1-10 birds all year from the E and central parts of the Region, including from many new locations. **A very good year. Breeding:** A pair had four runners at Tocal Wetlands Oct (NEM). **Atlas:** 81 records from ten cells, RR 8.5%

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: 23 records from 13 cells.

1-3 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 26 Jan and 18 Aug (LIA, ROM) and at Lorn several times Sep-Oct (various observers). **Breeding:** Birds were with runners at Lorn 27 Oct (HHB).

Atlas: Nil records**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 = 37.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (85.1%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary all months with 50+ present Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec and peak count 112 birds Jan (Table 1). The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 103 birds 19 Apr and 20+ birds were present most months (Table 11). 21-50 birds were also recorded most months at Charlestown GC (Table 8) and at Tomago Wetlands Jan-Mar and Sep (Table 5), Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 Jan (HBOC), Louth Park 22 Mar and 15 Jun (BRG) and Hexham Swamp 25 Mar (Table 6). **Breeding:** There were many and widespread records spanning Jun-Nov. **Atlas:** 586 records from 45 cells, RR 32.8%

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes (Revised)

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: R3 (24.5%).

Some birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands all months with the peak count being five birds Aug-Sep (Table 19). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Woodberry 17-18 Mar (ROM, BRG), Wallambah Rd Firefly 16 Mar (MGLB), Lenaghans Flat 14 & 17 May (CJB) and Oxley Island 6 Jun (MGLB). **Breeding:** An adult was with a chick at Cattai Wetlands 8 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** Ten records from cells R3 and R5, RR 6.3%

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: 29 records from five cells; cell of most interest: L10 (11 records).

Four birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 9 Feb and a single bird there 26 Jan (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell M10

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 19% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (19.9%).

Notable records: 15 birds were at Ash Island 23 Oct (LIA/MCN), and 6-8 birds were recorded at Bolwarra 17 Jan (BRG), Tomago Wetlands Jan (Table 5), Ash Island 15 Oct (MRO), Woodlands 13 Nov (BRG) and Raymond Terrace 1 Dec (SLP). Some birds were present until at least 19 Mar, when recorded at Tomago Wetlands (LIA/MCN *et al.*). The first reported return date was 22 Aug, when a bird was at Hexham Swamp Minmi (NEM); there were several more reports from late Aug. *Very few birds were present in 2013.* **Atlas:** 27 records from ten cells, RR 2.3%

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 = 4.5%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.8%).

The numbers using the Hunter Estuary continue to decline. The peak count was 100 birds 13 Nov (HCL); however some of those must have been in transit as only 74 birds were recorded two days later and in the regular monthly surveys the peak count was 86 birds 9 Feb (Table 1). Up to eight birds over-wintered (the first winter records since 2009). Some birds in the estuary began occasionally to use Tomago Wetlands (Table 5) as well as KI Deep Pond and Ash Island; notably, 62 birds were at Swan Pond Ash Island 9 Mar (LIA/MCN). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 4 Nov (HBOC) and at Tanilba Bay 8 Oct and Gir-um-bit NP Nov-Dec (TBW, Table 14) – records from Port Stephens are uncommon. **Atlas:** 52 records from seven cells, RR 5.9%

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1983-84, 1988).

No reports were received for 2013.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant. Up to 20 birds often recorded Sep-Mar; many young birds remain over winter.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 14.8%; cell of most interest: N9 (65.3%).

Notable records: Hunter Estuary: The peak count was 953 birds 12 Jan; also 774 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 16 Nov (HCL). *It is the second lowest peak count since systematic surveys began.* 600-800 birds were present throughout the migration period, and up to 254 birds over-wintered (Table 1, others). The first significant influx was 26 Sep when 100 birds arrived (HCL). Port Stephens: 366 birds were present 11 Feb (*a very low summer count*) and 308 birds 12 Jul, and 100+ birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP over Jun-Sep (Tables 14, 15) – these are very low counts for Port Stephens. Manning Estuary: 100+ birds were present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec with peak count 160 birds 28-29 Jan; up to 44 birds over-wintered (Table 18). Elsewhere: 20+ birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec with peak count 79 birds in Mar; up to 32 birds over-wintered (Table 10). **Movements:** A bird at Stockton Sandspit 9 Mar had been banded in Victoria, while a bird at the Sandspit 13 Nov had been flagged in the Hunter Estuary in 2004 and is a regular visitor (HCL). **Atlas:** 126 records from ten cells, RR 13.5%

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

ID No: 151 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1969, 1972, 1985-86, 2001).

No reports were received for 2013.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded Sep-Apr.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 11.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (46.7%).

Notable records: Port Stephens: 208 birds were recorded 11 Feb and at least 33 birds over-wintered (Tables 14, 15). Hunter Estuary: The peak count was 82 birds 20-21 Sep 2ith up to 42 birds over-wintering. Manning Estuary: 29 birds were present in Jan and 13 birds Nov, with low numbers in other (non-winter) months. **Atlas**: 79 records from six cells, RR 9.9%

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Common summer migrant.

1-10 birds moderately often recorded Sep-Apr; some young birds remain over winter.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 20.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (55.5%).



Eastern Curlew by Steve Merrett

Notable records: Port Stephens: 355 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 15 Nov with many counts of 150+ birds there Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec (Table 14), also 310 birds were in Port Stephens 11 Feb (Table 15). **This represents >1% of the total world population.** 47 birds over-wintered (Table 15). Hunter Estuary: The peak count was 349 birds 12 Jan (**also >1% of the total world population**) with up to 40 birds over-wintering (Table 1). Birds sometimes utilised Tomago Wetlands and 120 birds were there in Dec (Table 5). Manning Estuary: The peak count was 41 birds 28-29 Jan, and six birds over-wintered. Arrival: 121 birds arrived in the Hunter Estuary 26 Aug. Some birds had already arrived in the Manning Estuary 27 Aug (HCL, STA). **Atlas**: 114 records from seven cells, RR 11.8%

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

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

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in four cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.7%).

The only records were from the Hunter Estuary: 17 birds were at Fern Bay 13 Mar (HCL) but only 3-6 birds were recorded, and only occasionally, in the regular monthly surveys (Table 1).

The regional status for this species has substantially declined. **Atlas**: 15 records, from cells M10 and O9, RR 1.8%

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 = 2.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.3%).

1-2 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec (Table 1, MCN, ROM), and a single bird was at Raymond Terrace 20 Feb (BRG/KIR). **Atlas:** Five records, from cell M10, RR 0.8%

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 = 6.6%; cell of most interest: N9 (23.1%).

In regular surveys of the Port Stephens roost sites, the peak count was 124 birds in Mar and 15 birds over-wintered (Table B, also Tables 14, 15). There were many corresponding records from Gir-um-bit NP (Table 14). *It was the highest count for Port Stephens since 1980.* In the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 36 birds Apr and ten birds over-wintered (*the largest over-wintering numbers on record*). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec (Table 10) and Manning Estuary Nov (Table 18). **Atlas:** 61 records from five cells, RR 7.2%

Table B 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	56	124	90	29	13	15	17	33	84	70	46

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 7.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (15.7%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary (including birds at Tomago Wetlands) was 87 birds Jan (Table 1) – *the second lowest peak count since the regular monthly surveys commenced in 1999.* Up to eight birds over-wintered. Some birds were often recorded at Tomago Wetlands during the year (Table 5) and at Hexham Swamp in Jan, May and Nov-Dec (ROM). The only record from elsewhere was of a single bird at Coopernook Corner wetlands 7 Nov (STA). **Atlas:** 39 records from cells M10 and R4, RR 3.7%

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2001*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (8.6%).

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 67 birds in Dec, all other records there were of <25 birds (Table 1). The counts included some birds at Tomago Wetlands Sep and Nov-Dec (Table 5). *The highest count for the Hunter Estuary since 2010 but still a substantial decline to the pre-2007 numbers.* 2-4 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb; however in Nov-Dec birds began to utilise Hexham Swamp more frequently and the peak count was 59 birds 29 Dec (LIA, ROM). It is not certain if these were additional birds to those recorded in the Hunter Estuary earlier in the month. The only record from elsewhere was of a single bird at Tocal Wetlands 5 Dec (NEM). **Movements:** A bird at KI Dykes in January had been banded in Taiwan in 2007 (per CRL). **Atlas:** 20 records from three cells, RR 2.3%

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-02, 2008-09, 2011-12*).

From BLA Atlas: 20 records from three cells; cell of most interest: L10 (ten records).

Single birds were recorded at Deep Pond 11 Jan, Ash Island 12 Jan and Hexham Swamp 8-14 Feb (ROM, STA). **Atlas:** Three records, from cell M10

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.4%).

The peak count at Newcastle Baths was 18 birds in Nov, with 12-17 birds present most summer months and one bird over-wintering (Table 9); birds were also occasionally recorded at nearby locations in summer including 1-4 birds sometimes at KI Dykes (Table 1, HCL); also, 11 birds were at Stockton Beach 23-24 Feb (BLM). Elsewhere, 3-5 birds were at Broughton Island 8-9 Apr, 24-25 Sep and 29 Dec (STA *et al.*, HCL) and 1-2 birds in the Manning Estuary Jan and Oct-Dec (Table 18) and Port Stephens 11 Feb (Table 15). **Atlas:** 33 records from six cells, RR 4.0%

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

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

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.4%).

1-2 birds were regularly at Stockton Sandspit in Jan (Table 1, several others) and also on 16 Sep, 14 & 16 Nov and 14 Dec (HCL). Elsewhere, a single bird was at Worimi Conservation Lands 28 May (Table 19). **Atlas:** Seven records from cells N9 and M10, RR 0.9%

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 seven cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (5.9%).

Small numbers were recorded in the Hunter Estuary all year, including 1-2 birds in winter (Table 1). In the migration passage, the first record (of a flock of 22 birds) was 26 Aug and the peak count was 409 birds 19 Oct; the main migration passage was completed by mid-Nov, (Table 1, HCL). Elsewhere, single birds were at Tenambit 7 Oct (BRG) – *unusual location*, Newcastle Baths area Jan (Table 9) and Worimi Conservation Lands 18 Sep (Table 20).

Movements: Many flagged birds passed through the Hunter Estuary during Sep-Oct. Mostly, these had been banded in Victoria or sometimes in New Zealand; one bird was banded in South Chukotka (Siberia) as a chick in July 2012 (per HCL). **Atlas:** 37 records from four cells, RR 4.6%

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 = 1.3%; cell of most interest: R4 (8.1%).

The peak count for the Manning Estuary was 18 birds 19 Nov, with 10+ birds present Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec and eight birds 19 Sep (Table 18). A single bird was also recorded at Harrington 13 Mar (MGLB). Elsewhere, three birds were at Worimi Conservation Lands 28 May (Table 20) and at Little Poverty Beach Broughton Island mid Dec (WDA). **Atlas:** 14 records from three cells, RR 3.3%

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: R4 (21.6%).

Manning Estuary: Some birds were recorded all year, with the numbers rising over Oct-Dec to a peak count of 104 birds 6 Dec; up to nine birds over-wintered (Table 18). **Hunter Estuary:** Some birds were recorded at the long-standing Estuary sites over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec (Tables 1, 5); several summer counts were of 20+ birds and the peak count 39 birds 13-14 Dec (most of the birds were at Tomago Wetlands). Also, up to 10 birds were at Hexham Swamp Jan, Nov and mid-Dec (ROM, Table 6). In late Dec, the numbers there began to rise, to a peak count of 70 birds 28 Dec (BEI, others). It is not clear if these were additional birds to the ones recorded 13-14 Dec. There was a winter record of two birds at Stockton Sandspit 11 Jun (ROM). **Worimi Conservation Lands:** 3-9 birds were recorded Mar-May and 19 birds 10 Dec (Table 20). **Elsewhere:** 15 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 15 Nov and a single bird over-wintered there (Table 14). Six birds were at Morpeth WTW 26 Oct and 1-5 birds there 18 Dec (Table 11) and at/near Newcastle Baths Jan and 15 Oct (Table 9, ROM/LIA) Jimmys Beach early Oct (GOS) and Tenambit 7 Oct (BRG). **Atlas:** 74 records from eight cells, RR 8.7%

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2003).

No reports were received for 2013.

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: 16 records from three cells; cell of most interest: M10 (12 records).

Single birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 31 Jan, 8-10 Feb and 23 Dec and Stockton Sandspit 20 Jan, 13 & 19 Mar (many observers). *These are the first records for the Region since 2009.* **Atlas:** Three records, from cell M10

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 Oct-Apr.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 7.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (13.2%).

Notable records: *Jan-Apr:* The influx from 2012 into the lower Hunter Valley persisted, with at least 1,235 birds present based on back-to-back counts at Hexham Swamp (785 birds) and Tomago Wetlands (450+ birds) on 26 Jan (LIA/MCN). The high counts continued well into Mar, before declining to the last known record of 13 birds at Hexham Swamp 15 Apr (LIA). Only small numbers were recorded at non-tidally influenced sites. *Aug-Dec:* The first recorded return was 18 Aug when 14 birds were at Hexham Swamp (ROM). Numbers rose substantially in the lower Hunter Valley from Oct onwards, with 1,000+ birds often being recorded in particular at Tomago Wetlands and Hexham Swamp during Oct-Nov and high numbers sometimes also recorded at KI Dykes and Stockton Sandspit, and occasionally at Ash Island and Morpeth WTW. A simultaneous count on 10 Dec at all those sites (except Morpeth WTW), involving many observers, yielded 3,558 birds – considered an under-estimate due to difficulties finding birds hidden amidst vegetation. ~3,200 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 17 Dec (LIA *et al.*) while 3,000-4,000+ birds were estimated to have been at Hexham Swamp NR 14 Nov and again over 27-28 Dec (ROM, LIA). *Most likely, 4,500-5,000 birds were in the Hunter Estuary in Dec – the highest known counts for the Estuary and comprising ~3% of the total world population.* Once again, the numbers were low elsewhere in the Region although, notably, 50-60 birds were at some wetlands near Cooperook Oct-Nov (STA) – *there are very few prior Manning Valley records.* **Movements:** A bird which had been flagged in Victoria was at Hexham Swamp 26 Jan (LIA). **Atlas:** 109 records from eight cells, RR 10.9%

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 = 5.7%; cell of most interest: M10 (8.7%).

The peak count in the Hunter Estuary was 152 birds 16 Nov; also 127 birds were present 12 Jan (Table 1). Birds were occasionally recorded in modest numbers at Tomago Wetlands, Ash Island and Hexham Swamp during Oct-Dec however 101 birds were at Hexham Swamp 22 Dec (Tables 5 & 6, ROM). It is not clear if these were additional birds to the ones recorded mid-Dec in the rest of the Hunter Estuary. Elsewhere, 12 birds were at Tenambit 9 Oct (BRG) – *unusual location*, and 1-4 birds at Morpeth WTW 14 Feb and 26 Oct (Table 11) and Harrington 8 Nov (Table 18). *Although these were the best counts for the Hunter Estuary since 2010, for comparison, many thousands visited every year until the mid 1990s.* **Arrival:** The first significant influx into the Hunter Estuary was 26 Aug when 13 birds arrived; numbers had increased to 54 birds by 16 Sep (HCL). **Atlas:** 42 records from three cells, RR 5.2%

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1979, 2004).

No reports were received for 2013.

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, 2012).

1-2 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit over 19-26 Jan and then up to three birds were at Hexham Swamp 14-29 Dec (many observers); also a single bird was at Ash Island 19 Dec (RIA). *These are the highest numbers since 2004.*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

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

1-2 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp over 10-28 Dec (ROM, others) – *these were the first records since 2007.*

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa* (Revised from: *T. maculosus*)

ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1999, 2006-07, 2010-11).

No reports were received for 2013.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (38.5%).

Groups of two and four birds were near a burnt area at HEZ 8 Jan, with other records of some birds at HEZ locations 19 Apr, 1 Jun, 9 Aug, 3 Sep, 27 Oct, 7 Nov (ROS, others). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Wallaroo NR 21 Jul (HBOC), Singleton Training Area 1 Aug and 9 Oct (HBOC), Myall Lakes NP 21 Sep (KEM), Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC), Duns Creek 6 Dec and Green Wattle Creek 7 Dec (both NEM) and at Balickera Feb, Jul-Oct and Dec (MUJ). *Atlas:* 13 records from four cells, RR 1.5%

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhotorax*

ID No: 019 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Accidental (recorded 2005, 2008).

No reports were received for 2013.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

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

A single bird was recorded at Hexham Swamp 18 Aug (ROM).

Brown Skua *Stercorarius lonnbergi* (Revised from: *S. antarcticus*)

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Jun and offshore from Nobbys Beach 8 Aug (Table 21, ROM).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

20+ birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach 2 Mar and 17-20 birds during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 20 Jan and 23 Mar (ROM, Table 21). 5-6 birds were also recorded 24 Mar and 23 Nov during Port Stephens pelagics. 1-2 birds were off Nobbys Beach 29-30 Jan and 3 Feb (several observers), Boat Harbour 30 Jan (EGD) and Swansea Heads 30 Jan (CJB) and on pelagics from Swansea 14 Apr and Port Stephens 28 Apr (Table 21).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

Six birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Mar and 1-2 birds on the corresponding surveys 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 28 Apr and 23 Nov (Table 21). 1-2 birds were also recorded several times off Nobbys Beach late Jan-early Feb, also on 23 Feb and 9 Mar (many observers), and a single bird off Boat Harbour 30 Jan (EGD). A bird was taken into care at the Worimi Conservation Lands 5 Mar (GER per LIA).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Nov and a single bird off Nobbys Beach 23 Feb (Table 21, ROS).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

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

A single bird was recorded at Newcastle Baths 13 Mar (BRG) and then by many other observers until 16 Mar. Also, a single bird was seen off Nobbys Beach 1 Feb (HAP).

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

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

In the wake of Oswald, a single bird was often recorded over 30 Jan-1 Feb off Nobbys Beach (many observers). A bird was roosting at Nobbys Breakwall 4 Feb (NIR) – *it is uncertain if this was a different bird but it had an orange object dangling from a leg which the earlier bird did not*. After another storm, a single bird was again often recorded off Nobbys Beach over 28 Feb-3 Mar (ROS, other observers). *There is only one prior record for the Hunter Region.*



Black Noddy by Richard Nicholas

White Tern *Gygis alba*

ID No: 972 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2012).

No reports were received for 2013.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

ID No: 121 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (New to list)

In the wake of Oswald, a single bird was often recorded offshore from Nobbys Beach 30-31 Jan (CRL, other observers). *The record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 14th confirmed record for NSW. It is the first record for the Hunter Region.*

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

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

In the wake of Oswald, 100-150 birds (adults and juveniles) were off Nobbys Beach 29 Jan. Lesser numbers (5-10 birds) were often recorded there over the next 5-6 days and at other coastal and near-coastal locations (many observers). Four birds were taken into care during this time (per NIJ). *These Oswald-records coincided with many thousands of Sooty Terns present all along the NSW coastline (per ROM).*

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

ID No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. During Oct-Mar, present in large numbers in the Manning Estuary and 1-5 birds elsewhere along the coast.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: R4 (27.2%).

Notable records: *North:* A systematic count between Harrington and Diamond Beach on 10 Dec yielded 653 ±75 birds, including 280 ± 25 in breeding plumage (THM *et al.*) – *a similar tally to the 2011 count.* 260-400+ birds were in the Manning Estuary Oct-Dec and 200+ birds Feb-Mar; birds were only absent during June and 22 of them had returned to the Estuary by 19 Jul (Table 18, STA). *Central:* 17 birds were in the Winda Woppa area 12 Dec (AMS) and 33 birds at Worimi Conservation Lands 10 Dec (Table 20). *South:* Birds were often recorded at/near Newcastle Baths with 100+ present Feb-Mar and peak count 140 birds 9 Mar, and with two birds over-wintering there (Table 9, THJ, others). During severe weather 140 birds were near Stockton Breakwater 3 Feb (LIA, ALP). There were occasional records of up to 70 birds at Hunter Estuary locations in Mar and Oct-Nov (several observers) and 142 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 4 Dec (HCL). **Breeding:** 72 pairs were nesting at Manning Entrance SP 6 Dec (CRB/STA) and 11 pairs near the southern end of the Worimi Conservation Lands 9 Dec (LIA). One pair had a nest with eggs at the latter location 8 Feb (NEM). **Atlas:** 62 records from eight cells, RR 7.0%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (13.6%).

Notable records: 126 birds were recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 28 Aug with high numbers present there Apr-Dec (Table 20). In the Hunter Estuary, 121 birds were at Ash Island 23 Jul (ROM/RIA) and 70 birds at Stockton Sandspit 11 Jun (BEI), and there were occasional reports of 30-40+ birds at those locations in Apr and Sep-Oct. 12-16 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP Aug-Sep and 6+ birds often (Table 14), nine birds in the Manning Estuary 19 Sep and eight birds in Port Stephens 12 Jul (Tables 18, 15). **Atlas:** 83 records from 11 cells, RR 8.9%

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 = 10.2%; cell of most interest: N9 (34.9%).

Notable records: 43 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 12 Jul with 10+ birds regularly at Girum-bit NP within the Port over Jun-Sep and peak count 28 birds 10 Aug (Tables 14, 15). 13-14 birds were at Belmont South 18 & 20 May (CJB) and 12 birds at Pelican Island Wallis Lake 10 Oct (STA). There were several reports of 6-10 birds over Mar-Jul (see Tables for main details). Although not treated as breeding records, young birds were begging to adults at Lake Macquarie 24 Apr (CJB) and Pelican Island Wallis Lake 10 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 96 records from nine cells, RR 10.3%

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 = 1.7%; cell of most interest: L10 (5.9%).

Some birds were first recorded at Ash Island 20 Sep, with numbers rising to 100+ by early Oct (ROM). The peak count was 165 birds 18-19 Oct and there were many records of 100+ birds there during Oct-Dec (Table 2, many observers). Birds were also recorded at Hexham Swamp from late Oct, peak count ~200 birds 4 & 16 Nov and several records of 100+ birds during Nov-Dec (Table 6, many observers). *It is not clear if these were additional birds to those recorded at Ash Island.* Elsewhere, 5-10 birds were at Tenambit 9 & 14 Oct (BRG) and a single bird at Newcastle Baths 3 Oct (THJ). **Atlas:** 21 records from cell M10, RR 2.3%

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 32 records from three cells.

A single bird was present at/near Newcastle Baths from late Jan until last reported 12 Feb (Table 9, others). A single bird was recorded at Ash Island 7 Dec with numbers rising to a peak count of six birds 16 Dec (RIA, others). Elsewhere, two birds were at Grahamstown Dam 29 Nov (SLP) and a single bird at Hexham Swamp 10 Dec (ROM *et al.*). **Atlas:** Five records, from cell M10

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1968*).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 1.2%; cell of most interest: S4 (5.3%).

Birds were recorded at/near Newcastle Baths from 8 Jun, with the peak count being 200 birds in Aug and some birds remaining present until mid Nov (NIR, Table 9, ROM). Up to ten birds were in the Manning Estuary Jun-Aug (Table 18). There was an intriguing early record of a single bird near Newcastle Baths 12 Apr (Table 9, THJ). **Atlas:** 16 records from three cells, RR 3.2%

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant. 1-10 birds frequently recorded along the coast Oct-Mar; larger numbers in the Manning Estuary.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: S4 (17.1%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at/near Newcastle Baths Jan-Apr and Nov with peak count 180 birds in Feb-Mar (Table 9). There were also some records of 100-150 birds near Stockton Breakwater late Jan and early Feb (ALP). 43-79 birds were at Manning Estuary Jan-Mar and Dec (Table 18) – *low counts for this location*. 83 birds were at Salamander Bay 6 & 9 Jan (WOL), 43 birds at Port Stephens 11 Feb (Table 15) and 20 birds at Corlette 8-22 Apr (EGD), also 12 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Feb (Table 10). In general, birds were absent from mid Apr, however a bird was at Newcastle Baths 14 Aug (RIA) – *an uncommon winter record*. **Movements:** A bird at Newcastle Baths 10 Nov had been flagged at Gippsland Lakes (Victoria), a distance away of 672 km (per ROM). **Atlas:** 45 records from five cells, RR 4.7%

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 292 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2006, 2008, 2012*).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 17% of cells, at RR = 17.8%; cell of most interest: S4 (57.1%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were often recorded at four locations (see Tables for main details): Newcastle Baths (50+ often, peak count 200 birds Dec); Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (50+ most months, peak count 316 birds May); Forster/Tuncurry (100+ most months, peak count 732 birds 16 Oct); Manning Estuary (100+ most months, peak count 614 birds 17 Oct). Also 50+ birds were at Port Stephens 12 Jul (Table 15), Winda Woppa 12 Dec (AMS) and Worimi Conservation Lands 10 Dec (Table 20).

Breeding: Although not a breeding record, several pairs were copulating at Forster/Tuncurry 16 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 171 records from 17 cells, RR 15.9%

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1997, 2008-09, 2011-12*).

A single juvenile bird was first recorded at Newcastle Beach in the morning of 2 Jun, during stormy conditions (BEI). It frequented the coastline near Newcastle Harbour over 2-3 Jun and was seen by a large number of observers in that period. An adult bird was recorded at Broughton Island 13 Jun (ANC).

These are the 7th and 8th confirmed records for the Region.



Pacific Gull by Chris Herbert

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Accidental (recorded 1998, 2007-08, 2012).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 27.8%; cell of most interest: S4 (63.9%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at six locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 404 birds Apr; 100+ many months); Newcastle Baths area (peak count 900 birds Apr; 100+ several months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 475 birds Jan and 450 birds Mar, 100+ several months); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 500 birds 8 Feb, 100+ several other months); Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (peak count 487 birds Jun, 100+ most months) and Forster/Tuncurry (peak count 215 birds 30 Jan, 100+ Jan-May and Oct-Dec). 560 birds were at Manning Entrance SP 30 Apr (STA) and 500+ birds at Louth Park 15 Jun (BRG), and 362 birds in Port Stephens 11 Feb (Table 15). 140 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jul (Table 21) and 100+ birds were at Winda Woppa 12 Dec (AMS). **Atlas:** 267 records from 20 cells, RR 23.4%

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: K11 (12.2%).

Watagans/Lake Macquarie: 2-3 birds were often recorded at Wyee Point, with four birds present there 1-6 Apr (MDV). 2-3 birds were also recorded several times at Murrays Beach (LAT, LIG) and Laguna (RDB) and also at Congewai Rd 11 Jul (ERE), Freemans Waterholes 27 Aug (MAT/STP), Whitebridge 24 Sep (GRL), Dudley 5-6 Nov (GRL, CIR), Charlestown 2 Dec (AYG) and Three Ways Wollemi NP 16 Dec (STA *et al.*). Central: Four birds were at Gloucester 29 Jan (DBP) and Frying Pan Creek 30 Nov (ANC), and 1-2 birds at Gloucester 30 Jan (DBP), Curracabundi NP 16 Feb (DBP), Woko NP 24 Mar (CCB) and Sharpes Creek 4 Sep (STA *et al.*). Elsewhere: Five birds were flying over Newcastle 20 Mar (BEI) and at Crowdy Bay NP 26 Apr (ERE), and four birds at Wallamba NP 2 Jun (MGLB) and Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). 2-3 birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 7 Feb (MGLB), Nelson Bay 9 Mar (MOA), Grahamstown Dam 21 May and 4 Jun (MRA, HBOC), Lakes Way Smiths Lake 25 Jun (MGLB), LTP Aug (TNW), Smiths Lake 31 Aug (MGLB) and Harrington 2 Nov (TUJ). **Breeding:** Two pairs, each with a dependent young, were in the Watagans area 16-17 Jan (RIA) and an adult was with dependent young several times at Wyee Point (MDV). **Atlas:** 18 records from 11 cells, RR 2.1%

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 63% of cells, at RR = 11.7%; cell of most interest: K11 (29.4%).

Notable records: 40+ birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 27 Mar (MIG per CLT) and 35 birds at Williamtown 12 Dec (STA). Flocks of ~20 birds were sometimes at East Maitland in Jan (SMJ) and at Charlestown 11 Jun and 11 Sep (AYG, RDB). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Wingen 13 Feb (NEG), Bobs Farm Oct & Nov (HDM) and Raymond Terrace 12 Dec (SLP). **Atlas:** 110 records from 32 cells, RR 6.6%

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

ID No: 268 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (52.3%).

~20 birds were together at a waterhole in the Watagans 14 Sep (PAL) and ~15 birds near Pelton Werakata NP 7 Jun (ERE). Three birds were at Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBOC) and Laguna 23-25 Aug (RDB). Two birds were recorded in the Watagans 16-17 Jan and 19 Mar (RIA, STP) and at Laguna 9-10 Mar and 7-8 Sep (RDB), Freemans Waterholes 31 Aug (MAT/STP) and Three Ways Wollemi NP 16 Dec (NEM *et al.*). **Atlas:** Seven records from five cells, RR 2.5%

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 = 27.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (73.4%).

Notable records: 250+ birds were feeding in a paddock 15km N of Merriwa 20 Jun (STA). 50-60 birds were at Manning Entrance SP 17 Oct (STA) – *high numbers for the coast*. 21-50 birds were recorded at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC), Little Dicky Dan TSR (J4) 26 Jan (MEL /JUT), Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC) and Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR). **Breeding:** Three birds were in hollows at Blackalls Park 27 Jul (HCL) and birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 13 Feb (GOC). **Atlas:** 316 records from 52 cells, RR 17.5%

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 = 4.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (28.0%).

~100 birds were recorded twice near Cessnock in mid-Feb (ROS) and a large flock was at Woodberry 16 Feb (THJ). Birds began to be recorded in the Singleton area in Jan and became regular all year there, with a peak count of ~15 birds 13 Nov (ALP). 16 birds were at East Seaham 12 Feb (GOA *et al.*). Elsewhere, six birds were at Dora Creek 1 Oct (GOC) and 1-5 birds at WWW 6 Jan (ALP), Dora Creek 17 Feb and 3 Jul (GOC), Anambah 15 Mar (BRG), Beresfield 17 Apr (ROM), HWC 16 Jun (HBOC), Luskintyre 30 Jun and 10 Sep (BRG), Bobs Farm Sep-Nov (HDM), Seaham 27 Oct (DDR), Mulbring 27 Oct (DTB) and Scone 28 Dec (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 23 Feb and 18 Mar (GOC). **Atlas:** 30 records from nine cells, RR 3.1%

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 37% of cells, at RR = 6.8%; cell of most interest: R6 (19.0%).

Notable records: ~200 birds were recorded at Dora Creek 30 Jun and 100-120 birds several times over Apr-Jun (GOC). ~300 birds were feeding at a grain bin near Scone 28 Dec (STA) and ~100 birds were at Cessnock in mid-Feb (ROS). 35-40 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 9 Mar (MEL *et al.*), Morisset 8 May (CCB) and Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS). **Atlas:** 84 records from 22 cells, RR 5.6%

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 77% of cells, at RR = 15.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (40.4%).

Notable records: 30-40 birds were recorded at Milbrodale Rd 4 Apr and 19 May (ALP), Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ALP), Blackville 20 Jun (STA), Little Millers Creek (F3) 21 Jun (STA), Sandy Hollow 20 Sep (ATR) and Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (both ATR). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 1 Jul (GOC). **Atlas:** 154 records from 46 cells, RR 9.0%

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: 22 records from 12 cells (many as escapees); cell of most interest: E2 (4 records).

Six birds were at Warrah Creek Reserve 21 Jun (STA).

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 = 20.6%; cell of most interest: L11 (55.3%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Gosforth 17 Aug (BRG) and at Charlestown 27 Jan (GOC), and 50+ birds at Galgabba 18 May (ADJ) and Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*). 21-50 birds were at Seaham Swamp NR 5 Mar (HBOC), Myuna Bay 2 Apr (HBOC), Galgabba Point 7 May and 11 Jun (HBOC, ADJ), Gir-um-bit NP 11 May (MEL *et al.*), Catherine Hill Bay 18 May (ADJ), Dora Creek 2 & 4 Jul (GOC), Black Hill 3 Aug (ROM) and Gloucester CP 15-18 Sep (HBOC). Some birds were at Scone 5 Apr and 1 Aug – uncommon there (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Cooranbong 3 Sep (HBOC) and had dependent young at Dora Creek 4 Jul and 11 Sep and 7 Oct (GOC) and Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 335 records from 27 cells, RR 21.1%

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 28% of cells, at RR = 11.5%; cell of most interest: R6 (42.9%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were reported to have been at Crowdy Bay NP 26 Apr (ERE) and Tea Gardens 27 Apr and Hawks Nest early Oct (both GOS). 20-30+ birds were recorded at Catherine Hill Bay 18 May (ADJ), Crowdy Head 15 Jul (STA), Black Hill 3 Aug (ROM), Gosforth 17 Aug (BRG) and Forster 2 Nov (ERE). **Atlas:** 128 records from 22 cells, RR 8.3%

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 = 3.7%; cell of most interest: F4 (22.2%).

60-80 birds were recorded along Willow Tree Rd Merriwa 20 Jun (STA) and 60+ birds were roosting each night at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). 20-25 birds were regularly at Cooranbong early Feb (RIA) and at Drying Rd TSR 27 Jul (ALP) and Wingen 20 Oct (NEG). 8-12 birds were at Wingen 4 Jan (NEG), Warabrook 8-10 Jan (BEI) and Lochinvar 15 Mar (BRG), and 1-6 birds at WWW 10 Jan (JOD/MCE), Gillieston Heights 25 Jan (BRG), Eleebana early Feb and 5 Nov (WIL, GOA), Rutherford 13 Feb (BRG), Bonnells Bay 14 Feb (MCE), Fosterton Loop 14 Feb (JED), Curracabundi NP 16 Feb (DBP), Fallbrook 31 May (RIA), Newcastle 30 Jul (HAP), Saltwater NP 21 Aug (DBP), Wingen 9 Oct (NEG), Bolton Point mid Nov (per MRO), Ash Island 18 Dec (ANC) and Murrurundi 28 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 37 records from 20 cells, RR 2.7%

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 48% of cells, at RR = 8.3%; cell of most interest: K10 (30.9%).

Notable records: Ten birds were at Green Wattle Creek 18 Jul (NEM) and 10+ birds at HEZ 5 Jun (ROS). **Atlas:** 67 records from 11 cells, RR 4.3%

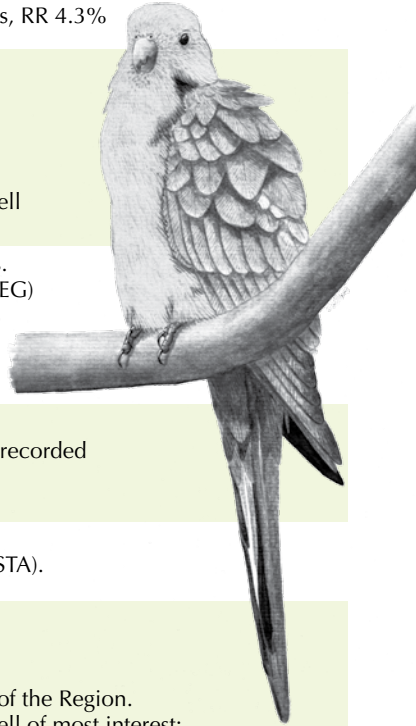
Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

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 = 14.5%; cell of most interest: N5 (46.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Breeding: Birds had a nest with young at Wingen 22 Nov (NEG) and were feeding fledged young at Fosterton Loop Dungog 8 Dec (JED). **Atlas:** 162 records from 34 cells, RR 9.1%

Australian King Parrot by Louise Williams



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).

Two birds were at Cassilis Rest Area 9 Aug and 5 Oct (HAP, STA).

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 = 12.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (75.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC), Little Murrays Creek 13-14 Feb (CLT) and Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds nested at Wingen from late Nov and were feeding fledged young there 8 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 151 records from 31 cells, RR 9.0%

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 = 36.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (81.5%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Green Wattle Creek 7 Jan (NEM), Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*) and Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Wingen 29 Sep (NEG) and feeding fledged young at Shortland 25 Nov (LIA). **Atlas:** 443 records from 54 cells, RR 24.2%

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: J10 (7.6%).

The first reported arrival was 8 Apr when 12 birds were 10km E of Broke (ALP) and the last record was 19 Sep when four birds were near Pelton Werakata NP (ROM). Birds were at three main locations: Werakata NP (recorded Apr-Sep, peak count 30 birds 5 Jul); HEZ (recorded Apr-Jun, peak count 26 birds 5 Jun) and at/near Singleton Training Area (recorded 8 Apr and often in Aug, peak count ~30 birds 5 Aug). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Murrays Beach 11 Jun (LIG), Boys Walk Cooranbong 17 Aug (RIA) and Black Hill 22 Aug (ROM). *It was estimated that 70-80 birds were in the Region during Apr-Aug. Atlas:* 13 records from five cells, RR 0.8%

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 (40.6%).

Notable records: 25 birds were at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC). *Atlas:* 54 records from 21 cells, RR 3.5%

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

Some birds were recorded at ~10km east of Martindale 30 Mar (per LIA); this heralded a widespread irruption into the Region possibly lasting for >7 months. There were no reports between 12 Aug and 2 Oct but some areas where birds had been recorded were less frequently visited during that period. Birds were recorded in eight general locations: *Martindale/Medhurst Bridge* 100+ birds were present 21 Apr (THK) and there were many records from the area through until early May; *Sandy Hollow* 40-50 birds were recorded in the area 23 Apr and 14 May (MEL) and 10-12 birds 10 May (BRG/KIR); *Wingen/Scone* ~30 birds were present at Scone 2 May and some additional (undated) earlier sightings were reported (per NEG), and 14-15 birds were near Parkville 2 Oct (ROM/CLT); *Cassilis* ~30 birds were near the Ulan Rd turn-off 5 May (STD); *Singleton* 10-15 birds were near Mt Thorley 25 Apr (BRG *et al.*) and a small flock at Singleton Training Area 1 Aug (HCL); ~20 birds were recorded near the Training Area 24 Oct (ROM); *Luskintyre* ~30 birds were present several times in late Jul (BTR); *HEZ/Kurri Kurri* 60-70 birds were recorded 31 May (ROS/ROM) with reports of lesser numbers recorded through to 12 Aug (many observers); *North-west:* Several small flocks were often seen at “Windy” Station (HAK). The only confirmed report from elsewhere was of two birds at Ellerston 19 Apr (per ROM). *This irruption is unprecedented in modern times although some other instances apparently occurred in the early 20th Century.*

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

ID No: 302 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.2%; cell of most interest: C6 (20.8%).

Four birds were recorded at three locations in coastal Myall Lakes NP 21 Sep (KEM) – *these are the first records from this location since 2009*. Six birds were at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and some birds at “Poggy” Station on Ringwood Rd 16 Mar (JED) and Singleton Training Area 2 May (HBOC). *Atlas:* Three records from three cells

Eastern Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus* (Revised from: Ground Parrot)

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 2013.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (amended)
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region, usually in counts of 1-2 birds.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (40.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. See Supplementary Records.

Atlas: 65 records from 17 cells, RR 3.9%

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 Oct-Mar.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 9.4%; cell of most interest: J9 (26.6%).

Notable records: An unusual winter record was of a bird heard calling at Shortland 15 Jun (WID). **Departure/Arrival Dates:** Although most birds had departed by early Mar, a bird was heard at Nelson Bay 22 Mar (EGD) and single birds were heard at Newcastle 5 May (NIJ) and seen at Highfields 8 May (JAM). The first recorded return was 31 Aug when a bird was heard at Raymond Terrace (MEL); however, widespread arrivals did not commence until mid-Sep.

Breeding: Birds were being fed by Red Wattlebirds at Wickham early Jan (NED), Singleton 25 Apr and 3 May (ALP) and Medowie 7 May (per RUD). **Atlas:** 112 records from 25 cells, RR 6.5%

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 Region Sep-Mar.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: J9 (28.9%).

Notable records: Nine birds were in fig trees at Tocal 30 Jan (NEM), seven birds were flying over Shortland 2 Mar (ROM) and six birds were at Westleys Rd Gloucester 18 Sep (GOA *et al.*). **Departure/Arrival Dates:** Very few birds were present in Jan-Feb and they were absent from many usual areas. However, a single bird in transit was at Hamilton 20 Mar (HAP) and three birds were flying over Mt Sugarloaf 21 Apr (HBOC). The first recorded returns were 26 Aug when a bird was at Rankin Park (KET) and 30 Aug when a bird was at Maryville (ROS); widespread arrivals did not commence until mid-Sep. **Atlas:** 68 records from 13 cells, RR 4.1%

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalís*

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 = 3.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (9.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 29 records from 11 cells, RR 1.7%

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: 22 records from 14 cells; cell of most interest: G10 (four records).

No reports were received for 2013. See Supplementary Records.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 59% of cells, at RR = 6.5%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.2%).

Notable records: Four birds were together at Cedar Party (Q4) 11 Jun (ROM) and three birds were recorded at Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Laguna 23-25 Aug (RDB), Green Wattle Creek 5 Sep (NEM) and Cattai Wetlands 5 Oct (ANC/GRL). **Atlas:** 99 records from 21 cells, RR 5.7%

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1992, 2004).

No reports were received for 2013.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as <5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 77% of cells, at RR = 14.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (41.3%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Copeland Tops SRA 16 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** A fledged young bird was being fed by White-browed Scrubwrens at Green Wattle Creek 17 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** 213 records from 36 cells, RR 11.7%

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (17.9%).

Five birds were at Cattai Wetlands 8 Nov (STA) and three birds there 18-19 Oct (STA, KEM). 1-2 birds were widely and moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Sep-Dec, with birds present from mid Sep when first recorded at Gloucester CP (HBOC). Also, single birds were recorded at Yarandoo 10 Jan (NEM) and Blue Gum Hills RP 5 Feb (HBOC).

Breeding: A chick was being fed by White-browed Scrubwrens at Barrington House 26 Nov (TBW). **Atlas:** 32 records from 12 cells, RR 2.2%

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 2013.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: E7 (29.8%).

Three birds were at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and Weston 4 Nov (ROS), and birds were recorded at three locations along Jones Reserve Rd 25 Oct (ERE). Single birds were at Balickera Jan, Oct and Dec (MUJ), Tenambit 8 & 10 Sep (BRG), Morpeth WTW 9 Sep (NEM), Weston 22 Sep (ROS), Green Wattle Creek 21 Oct (NEM), Seaham 27 Oct (DDR), LTP 8 Oct (TBW) and Jones Reserve Rd 24 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** 15 records from five cells, RR 1.1%

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.8%).

1-2 birds were recorded at BbR 25 Jan, and 10 Feb and 23-24 Apr (NIJ, others), Mallabula Jan and Jul (TNW), LTP Feb (TNW), Rankin Park 21 & 26 Feb (KET), Murrays Beach 24 Apr and 6 May (STP/MAT, LAT), Dora Creek 27 May (GOC), Eleebana 6 Jul (GOA), Floraville 28 Sep (LAW), Kahibah 13 Dec (GRL), North Lambton 10 Sep (per MCN), Whitebridge Sep (PEG), Balickera Sep-Nov (MUJ) and Glenrock SRA 26 Oct (DTB). **Breeding:** A downy young bird was at McGregor Park 25 Nov (ALD). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 2.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (3.5%).

One bird was seen and another heard at Goulburn River NP 7 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** Nil records

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 47% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (25.5%).

Notable records: A bird hit an office window in Newcastle overnight on 29 Apr leaving behind a detailed image of itself (RIA). **Breeding:** Birds successfully bred at Soldiers Point in Feb (MUT) and at Forster Feb/Mar (CAA). **Atlas:** 36 records from 13 cells, RR 2.0%

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

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

From BLA Atlas: 19 records from nine cells; cell of most interest: M5 (five records).

Single birds were recorded at Firefly 16 Mar (per MGLB), White Rock Allyn River 31 Aug (MEL), Glenrock SCA 15 Sep and 26 Oct (ROM, DTB) and Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR).

Atlas: Nil records

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

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

From BLA Atlas: 35 records from 20 cells; cells of most interest: H8, M8 and N9 (three records each).

A single bird was near Barrington House 18 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** Nil records

Barn Owl *Tyto javanica* (Revised from: Eastern Barn Owl *T. alba*)

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 0.5%; cell of most interest: G6 (26.3%).

Single birds were seen/heard at Louth Park 9 Apr (BRG), Carey Bay 12 Apr (HCL), Bar Beach 18 Apr (THJ), Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC), Forster 18 Jul (MGLB), Ash Island 25 Aug and 7 Sep (ROM, BNSW) and Hawks Nest GC early Oct (GOS). A road-killed bird was found at Bulahdelah 30 Apr (GOS). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells



Eastern Grass Owl by Jim Smart

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: 23 records from six cells.

Single birds were at Ash Island 26 Aug, 2 Sep and 25 Nov (KEM, CAB), Hexham Swamp 19 Feb (ROM) and Tomago Wetlands 11 Oct (MCN). Road-killed birds were found near Nerong 7 Jul and at Pipers Bay Forster 21 Aug (MGLB). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azurea* (Revised from: *C. azureus*)

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 38% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (21.0%).

Notable records: Two birds were at Avondale College Cooranbong 3 Sep and Salamander Bay early Oct (HBOC, WOL). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Weston 13 Jan and bred at Peace Park Weston in Dec (both ROS). *These are the first breeding records since 2000.*

Atlas: 43 records from 13 cells, RR 3.3%

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 = 36.4%; cell of most interest: R5 (73.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. A bird at Awabakal NR 27 Dec had a dead Leaden Flycatcher, which it swallowed whole (FRP). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Ashtonfield 11 Nov and Wingen 22 Nov (BRG, NEG) – the latter chicks did not fledge. Birds also bred at Balickera Jan and Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 503 records from 63 cells, RR 26.3%

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare visitor to the extreme NE of the Region (Revised from: *Uncertain*)

Two birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 18 Oct (STA) and single birds there 19 Oct and 10 Nov (KEM, SJE).

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrophygius*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 Sep-Apr.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 68% of cells, at RR = 13.5%; cell of most interest: N9 (37.7%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Green Wattle Creek 2 Nov and six birds there 7 Jan and 21 Oct (NEM). Winter records were of 3-4 birds at Stockton Sandspit/Fern Bay several times during Jun-Jul (ROM) and single birds at LTP 8 Jul (STA) and Fly Point Nelson Bay 13 Aug (CLT).**Breeding:** There were several records spanning Jan, late Aug, Oct and Dec. **Atlas:** 158 records from 32 cells, RR 8.7%**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*

ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. Up to 10 birds occasionally but widely recorded Sep-Mar.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (33.8%).

Notable records: 40-50 birds were recorded at HEZ 8 Jan (ROS) and Thornton 19 Feb (BRG), and 37 birds at Weston 21 Jan (ROS). 15-20 birds were at Woodlands Estate Thornton 20 Feb and East Maitland 30 Sep (both BRG). Most reports of returning birds were from mid-Sep, however some birds were at Tuncurry 5 Aug and Weston 30 Aug (MGLB, ROS).**Breeding:** There were several freshly built nests at Broads Crossing 27 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 38 records from 17 cells, RR 3.2%**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

ID No: 318 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. 1-5 birds widely and frequently recorded Sep-Mar.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 66% of cells, at RR = 11.4%; cell of most interest: O9 (23.9%).

Notable records: 27 birds were hawking together at Broke 31 Oct (ROS) and groups of 12 birds were at WWW 17 Jan (BRG) and Hawks Nest 18 Dec (STA). Seven birds were hunting together at Jesmond 15 Feb (PEG). Three adults and three juveniles were at Wingen 27 Dec (NEG).**Departure/Arrival Dates:** Departure dates varied considerably, with birds leaving some areas by mid-late Feb but remaining in many other areas until mid-Mar. Also, there were very late records of single birds at Croudace Bay 28 Apr (AYG) and Myall Lake 29 Apr (GOS). The first recorded return was 21 Sep when a bird was at Shortland (ROM); within 1-2 days birds were widespread. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Carey Bay Jan (HCL) and had a nest with young at Washpools Towarri NP 31 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 151 records from 27 cells, RR 8.3%**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon altitudinal migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: M5 (16.3%).

Upper Altitudes: 8+ birds were recorded at Copeland Tops SCA 31 Oct (STA), seven birds at Wishing Well Watagans 23 Mar (RIA) and three pairs at Barrington House 17-18 Sep (ROM). 1-2 birds were widely and often recorded in Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec. Also, a single bird was at Watagans NP 12 May (ERE). **Lower Altitudes:** As would be expected, most records were from cooler months: 1-2 birds were at Wangi Wangi mid Mar (per JOD), Caves Beach 2 Aug (STH), Smiths Lake 25 Aug (ERE), Saltwater NP 27 Aug (STA), Black Head RF 18 Sep (STA) and Firefly (Nabiac) 5 Oct (BRG), while three birds were recorded in BbR 29 Jul (ROM). However, a dead bird, presumably in transit, was found at Rankin Park 9 Nov (per OCG). **Atlas:** 16 records from five cells, RR 1.1%

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the central part of the Region in counts of 1-2 birds. From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 44% of cells, at RR = 8.4%; cell of most interest: M5 (61.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were recorded on the western side of Myall Lakes NP in early Oct (GOS) – *an easterly record*. Three birds were at Upper Allyn 18 Dec (SLP). **Atlas:** 57 records from 14 cells, RR 5.3%

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 = 28.5%; cell of most interest: L5 (36.8%).

Although 26 calling birds were located at Gloucester Tops 2-5 Sep (STA *et al.*), the very dry spring conditions are believed to be the reason why birds did not continue to advertise their territories; overall there was a further decline in the number of confirmed territories identified in 2010-2011. There were occasional records in other months from the more accessible parts of the survey area – along Kerripit Rd and Gloucester Tops Rd and near Gloucester Falls. **Atlas:** 29 records from cell L5, RR 30.4%

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 84% of cells, at RR = 20.8%; cell of most interest: L5 (72.8%).

Notable records: 11 birds were at Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jul-Aug (MUJ) and had a nest with young near Parkville 2 Oct (ROM/CLT). **Atlas:** 300 records from 48 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 20% of cells, at RR = 4.5%; cell of most interest: K4 (33.3%).

Gloucester Tops: Birds were recorded several times in surveys of a high altitude area (>1,150m) of the Tops over late Aug-Dec (NEM *et al.*). Barrington Tops: A small party was at Junction Pools 26-28 Feb (CLT) and some birds were near Polblue 21-22 Mar and 20 Oct (MRO, KEM).

Elsewhere: Groups of 3 and 2 birds were recorded at locations in Watagans NP 17 Feb (HBOC) and some birds were at Dingo Tops 17 Aug (MGLB). **Atlas:** 18 records from 4 cells, RR 8.5%

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 28% of cells, at RR = 8.8%; cell of most interest: E6 (55.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were at Black Hill 22 Aug (ROM) – *an easterly record*. Five birds were at Wingen Reserve 25 Apr – the largest count there in 15 years (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Battery Rocks 5 Oct (LIA) and HEZ 6 Nov (ROS). **Atlas:** 20 records from seven cells, RR 5.3%

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 = 4.2%; cell of most interest: M5 (33.7%).

Notable records: Three birds were at Copeland Tops SRA 16 Sep (HBOC) and Mungo Brush 21 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** 23 records from 11 cells, RR 3.0%**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 28% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: R5 (34.4%).

Notable records: 12-15 birds were feeding on fruiting figs at Saltwater NP 20 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 31 records from 11 cells, RR 2.3%**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 = 15.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (49.3%).

Notable records: 12 birds were at Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR). **Atlas:** 222 records from 32 cells, RR 12.4%**Spotted Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2010-11).

A single bird was recorded at HEZ 31 May (ROM/ROS).

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 = 48.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (76.7%).

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at East Seaham 12 Feb and 9 Apr (GOA *et al.*), Mt Sugarloaf 21 Apr (HBOC), Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC), HWC 16 Jun (HBOC), WWW 2 Jul (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek 18 Jul and 5 Sep (NEM) and Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were several records spanning Jan and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 768 records from 71 cells, RR 40.8%**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 11% of cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: R3 (8.8%).

3-4 birds were recorded at Curracabundi NP 16 Feb (DBP), Rawdon Vale (M4) 23 Mar (CCB) and Cattai Wetlands 19 Oct and 1 & 10 Nov (KEM, SJE, HBW). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 1.8%**Variiegated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 64% of cells, at RR = 15.0%; cell of most interest: Q6 (38.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 149 records from 25 cells, RR 8.4%

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 4.5%; cell of most interest: R6 (13.0%).

Small parties were often recorded all year at four locations – Balickera, Pambalong NR, Cattai Wetlands and Tomago Wetlands. Elsewhere, 1-4 birds were at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 Jan (HBOC), Forster area Jan-Feb and 2 Nov (MGLB, ERE), Grahamstown Dam 8 May and 4 Jun (MRA, HBOC), Redhead 9-13 Sep (RIA), Maryland 6 Nov (ERE) and Manchester Road Barrington 20 Nov (DBP). **Atlas:** 55 records from eight cells, RR 4.3%

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

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

Status: Uncommon resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP.

Seven birds were recorded at four locations in the area around Three Ways Wollemi NP 16 Dec (NEM *et al.*). Five of the birds were seen and the other two birds were heard calling.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident in sandstone country (*text added*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 9.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (43.4%).

The only record received with details was a single bird at Brokenback Ridge Pokolbin SF 14 Feb (GOJ). **Atlas:** One record, from cell C6

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 38% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (34.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR) and 6+ birds at Upper Allyn 18 Dec (SLP). **Breeding:** Three pairs had nests with young/eggs at Yengo NP 31 Aug (HCL) and there were several other records spanning Jan and Sep-Oct. **Atlas:** 44 records from 12 cells, RR 4.8%

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-10 birds are widely and regularly recorded (*text simplified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 25.1%; cell of most interest: L5 (71.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*), Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR) and Belmont 3 Oct (HBOC), and 12 birds were at Glenrock SCA 15 Sep (HBOC). 1-2 birds were present several times at Green Wattle Creek – not usual at this location (NEM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Gosforth 26 Sep (BRG), and were breeding at Balickera Aug and Oct (MUJ). Birds were feeding a fledged young Fan-tailed Cuckoo at Green Wattle Creek 17 Sep (ROM) and a Brush Cuckoo chick at Barrington House 26 Nov (TBW). **Atlas:** 358 records from 48 cells, RR 19.2%

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris* (Revised from: *S. 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 33% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (28.6%).

Notable records: In Watagans NP on 17 Feb, several small parties were recorded at Lyrebird Walk and six birds at The Basin (HBOC). Six birds were present at Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR). Birds were recorded for the first time at four well-surveyed locations: Green Wattle Creek 7 Feb and 18 Jul (NEM), Duns Creek 6 May (NEM), Bush Haven mid Jul (per MEL) and Cattai Wetlands 19 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jul (MUJ) and nest building at Gloucester Tops 22 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** 50 records from 17 cells, RR 5.4%

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (32.3%).

Birds were heard calling at several locations in HEZ 31 May and 5 Jun (ROM/ROS), and two birds were at Singleton Training Area 2 May (HBOC). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells J9 and R5

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 10.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (67.7%).

Notable records: Nine birds (at several locations) were recorded at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and six birds at Jerrys Plains 18 Aug (HBOC). **Atlas:** 49 records from 13 cells, RR 7.0%

Weebill *Smicronis brevirostris*

ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Up to 20 birds are often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 7.1%; cell of most interest: H8 (65.2%).

Notable records: Confirmed records closest to the coast were 1-2 birds at Rutherford 16 Aug, Lambs Valley 8 Sep and Gosforth 8 Sep & 13 Nov (all BRG) and Brandy Hill mid Oct (ANC). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest near Parkville 2 Oct (ROM/CLT) and birds were nest building at Maitland Vale Road 31 Jul (BRG). **Atlas:** 55 records from 22 cells, RR 6.3%

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-20 birds are often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 57% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (69.0%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at The Basin Watagans NP 17 Feb (HBOC), Wallaroo SF 21 Jul (HBOC) and Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Feb, Aug and Oct-Nov. **Atlas:** 187 records from 30 cells, RR 11.0%

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds are often recorded at mangrove areas.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 5.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 20 records from three cells, RR 2.3%

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 = 2.2%; cell of most interest: H8 (20.0%).

6+ birds were at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and at least one bird in the Widden Valley 27 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records, from cells B5 and E8

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea* (Revised from: *G. albogularis*)

ID No: 453 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant. 1-5 birds are widely and frequently recorded Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 69% of cells, at RR = 11.8%; cell of most interest: N5 (40.9%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). Unseasonal records were of single birds at Gosforth 20 May (BRG), Falbrook 31 May (RIA), Woodville 13 & 20 Jul (NEM) and several birds in the area around Yarrat SF (Q4) 11 Jun (ROM). There were also some mid-Aug records – possibly early-returning birds rather than over-wintering ones. By early Sep birds were widespread. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Durridgere SCA 7 Oct (LIA) and were nesting at Cattai Wetlands 1 Nov (HBW). **Atlas:** 119 records from 21 cells, RR 8.4%

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-20 birds are widely and moderately often recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: L8 (38.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Ashtonfield 11 Nov (BRG) and bred at Balickera in Sep (MUJ), and were nest building at Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBOC). **Atlas:** 201 records from 29 cells, RR 11.5%

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-20 birds are widely and regularly recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 77% of cells, at RR = 24.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (54.6%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 Jan, Copeland Common 25-27 Apr, HWC 16 Jun (HBOC) and WWW 2 Jul (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 306 records from 44 cells, RR 16.8%

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

ID No: 486 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-20 birds are widely and often recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 72% of cells, at RR = 11.8%; cell of most interest: N5 (45.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Tuncurry 21 Sep (MGLB) and nest building at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 79 records from 25 cells, RR 4.8%

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

ID No: 484 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-20 birds are often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 55% of cells, at RR = 5.1%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.9%).

Notable records: 25 birds were recorded at Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC). Four birds were at Wingen Reserve 25 Apr – the first time in several years (NEG). The most easterly record was of 5-6 birds at Beresfield 27 Dec (BRG). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young and another pair was feeding fledged young at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 30 records from 12 cells, RR 2.6%

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare in extreme NW of Region.

No reports were received for 2013.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. 1-20 birds are widely and regularly recorded.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 29.2%; cell of most interest: L5 (85.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Mt Sugarloaf 21 Apr (HBOC) and Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*). **Breeding:** Pairs had nests with young at Stockton Creek Morisset 17 Aug (RIA), Myall Lakes NP 21 Sep and Saltwater NP 22 Sep (both KEM), and birds were breeding at Balickera Jul (MUJ). **Atlas:** 489 records from 60 cells, RR 26.8%

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 2013.

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 = 25.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (51.2%).

Notable records: 20-30+ birds were recorded at Wingen Reserve 25 Apr (NEG), Werakata NP 19 May (HBOC), Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (HBOC) and HWC 16 Jun (HBOC), and regularly at Green Wattle Creek over May-Aug (NEM). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan and Jul-Nov. **Atlas:** 394 records from 49 cells, RR 22.3%



Spotted Pardalote by Steve Merrett

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 = 15.8%; cell of most interest: H4 (61.1%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were flying over Singleton 21 Apr (ALP) and 6+ birds were at HWC 16 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Bulahdelah 19 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** 248 records from 41 cells, RR 14.1%

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. 1-20 birds are widely and regularly recorded.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 23.0%; cell of most interest: K11 (54.5%).

Notable records: Birds were abundant in Gloucester Tops 14 Apr (NEM). **Breeding:** Several pairs were nesting at Hawks Nest early Oct (GOS) and birds also bred at Balickera in Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 340 records from 48 cells, RR 18.5%

Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus*

ID No: 602 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2002-03, 2007-08).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 29.7%; cell of most interest: R5 (86.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were regularly breeding at Balickera Sep-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 438 records from 46 cells, RR 24.6%

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident, with influxes in autumn/winter. Widely and regularly recorded 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 = 40.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (79.7%).

Notable records: Many thousands were flying over Ash Island 16 Aug in flocks of ~10 birds over many hours (ERE) and many hundreds were flying through New Lambton 9-13 Apr (STA) and through Singleton 22-24 Apr (ALP). 200+ birds were recorded at Galgabba Point 18 May (ADJ) and 100+ birds at Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ALP), Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Werakata NP and Ellalong Lagoon 19 May (HBOC) and Putty Rd 19 May (ALP). There were many other reports of large numbers in Apr-May. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct (MUJ). Although not a confirmed breeding record, birds were nest building at Lorn 26 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** 654 records from 61 cells, RR 34.7%

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes
Status: Rare resident in W of the Region (*text amended*).

A new location was identified near Lake Liddell, with 4+ birds present 5 Feb (ALP) and 1-2 birds recorded 25 Jan and 2 Oct (per MOA, ROM/CLT). One bird was at a known location along Durrigere Rd 5 Oct (STA).

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 = 5.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (57.9%).

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct and ten birds at Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun (both HBOC). **Atlas:** 31 records from 14 cells, RR 4.1%

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Resident. 1-20 birds are occasionally but widely recorded. From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 28% of cells, at RR = 6.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (60.5%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Werakata NP 19 May (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at HEZ early Sep and were feeding fledged young there 19 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** 41 records from 11 cells, RR 4.8%

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-20 birds are moderately often recorded in W and central parts of the Region. From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 6.1%; cell of most interest: K10 (25.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Green Wattle Creek 27 Sep (NEM). **Atlas:** 68 records from seven cells, RR 6.2%**White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-20 birds are moderately often recorded in W and central Region. From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 7.3%; cell of most interest: G8 (65.3%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR) and Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). Birds were reported to be resident near Telarah Lagoon (BRG) and a bird was at Tarro 11 Mar (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 47 records from 21 cells, RR 3.8%**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

10-30 birds are moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 43% of cells, at RR = 12.7%; cell of most interest: K10 (35.9%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were present in the Stockton Borehole Lagoon/Teralba area 20 Jan (HBOC) and in the Copeland area 25-27 Apr and 16-21 Sep (HBOC, MCR). 20+ birds were at The Basin Watagans NP 17 Feb (HBOC), Galgabba Point 7 May and Cooranbong 3 Sep (all HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Galgabba Point 12 Aug (STH). **Atlas:** 100 records from 21 cells, RR 9.0%**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 87% of cells, at RR = 30.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (68.4%).

Notable records: 20-30 birds were recorded at Myuna Bay 2 Apr, Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (both HBOC), Drying TSR (J8) 5 May (ALP) and Grahamstown Dam 4 Jun (HBOC).**Breeding:** Birds nested at Shortland Apr-May (ROM) and had dependent young at Mulbring 19 Sep (ROM) and Dora Creek 6 Oct (GOC). **Atlas:** 431 records from 56 cells, RR 23.5%**Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula*

ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2013.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 5.2%; cell of most interest: F6 (19.7%).

1-5 birds often at Medhurst Bridge in Jan, Apr-May, Sep and Nov, with six birds present 25 Apr (ALP, others). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Goulburn River NP 5 Jun (STA), Martindale early Jul (BEI), Wybong/Upper Wybong 4 Aug (WTA), Denman 26 Aug (NEG), Lovedale 25 Aug (per ROM), Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR) and Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). Unusual easterly records were of single birds at Ash Island early Oct (per ROM) and Tomago Wetlands 16 Nov (LIA). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Singleton Training Area 9 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 14 records from eight cells, RR 10.6%

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 712 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-20 birds are regularly recorded near to the coast.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 20.3%; cell of most interest: R5 (84.0%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were present at Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*) and Saltwater NP 16 Jul (STA). Unusual westerly records were of two birds at Thornton 8 Sep (BRG) and at East Seaham 18 Dec (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds were with a dependent young at Redhead 16 Apr (RDB) and bred at Bobs Farm in Oct (HDM). **Atlas:** 243 records from 24 cells, RR 18.4%

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 = 3.5%; cell of most interest: K10 (13.4%).

Three pairs were in the Widden Valley, and with two of the pairs nest building, 27 Sep (ROM); it was not able to be established if a breeding event later occurred. A single bird was recorded at Morisset 13 Dec (MID per ROM). A bird flew into a house window at Cedar Party (Q4) 5 Jun; fortunately it survived (per ROM). **Atlas:** Three records, from cell E8

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 74% of cells, at RR = 16.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (44.8%).

Notable records: Many birds were at Polblue 21-22 Mar (MRO) and 6+ birds were at Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Gloucester 18 Sep (GOA *et al.*) and Merewether 30 Sep (GCL) and bred at Balickera in Oct (MUJ). Birds were feeding Eastern Koel chicks at Wickham early Jan (NED), Singleton 25 Apr (ALP) and Medowie 7 May (per RUD). **Atlas:** 198 records from 33 cells, RR 10.8%

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 = 9.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (22.4%).

Hunter Estuary: About 40 birds in small groups were at Hexham Swamp NR 27 Jan (ROM) and there were several records of lesser numbers there in Oct and Dec (various observers). 45 birds were feeding together 19 Jun at a 2ha site at Ash Island which had previously been burnt (MEL/SMJ). There were several records of lesser numbers of birds from Ash Island in Mar and Aug-Oct (various observers). 1-5 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 19 Feb, Aug and 2 & 14 Dec (MCN, others) and a single bird was at Little Bittern Pond KI 11 Jan (ROM). **Elsewhere:** 1-5 birds were often at Gir-um-bit NP with 11 birds there 11 May (MEL *et al.*). A male bird was at Cooperook Corner Wetlands 27 Aug (STA) – *the first record for the Manning Estuary since 2005 (per CRB)*. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Tomago Wetlands 21 Sep (LIA *et al.*). An adult was with two begging young at Ulan 13 Nov although apparently the nest had been just outside of the Region (per ROM). **Atlas:** 68 records from six cells, RR 7.4%

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002, 2009).

A single male bird was recorded at Durridgere SCA 6 Oct (STL). *This is the 4th confirmed record for the Region.*

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 = 12.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (29.9%).

Notable records: Several hundred birds were sheltering in the breakwater at Harrington 29 Jan, after severe weather (STA). 40+ birds were at Galgabba Point 18 May (ADJ) and 20+ birds at Green Wattle Creek 5 Sep (NEM) and Gloucester CP 15-18 Sep (HBOC). 6-20 birds were present at Charlestown GC 2 Jan (FEG), Galgabba Point 7 May (HBOC), Cooranbong 3 Sep (HBOC), Ash Island 5 Sep (KEM), Thornton 8 Sep (BRG) and Tuncurry 21 Sep (MGLB).

Breeding: Birds bred at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 131 records from 28 cells, RR 7.4%

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops*

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident in coastal heathlands.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: R6 (18.0%).

6+ birds were present at Awabakal NR 19 May and 27 Sep (POJ *et al.*, THJ) and two birds were at Fernleigh Track Belmont 10 Jan (SRM). **Atlas:** 11 records from cells R6 and S3, RR 2.3%

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 26% of cells, at RR = 7.8%; cell of most interest: R6 (25.6%).

Notable records: Some birds were recorded at Tarro 11 Mar (ROM), Maitland 24 Aug (BRG), Telarah 8 & 10 Sep (BRG), Stroud 24 Sep (TBW) and WWW 8 Oct (BRG). *These were the first records at several sites; the westerly spread of this species appears to be continuing.* **Atlas:** 96 records from 16 cells, RR 7.9%

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

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

Status: Resident in Barrington Tops NP (*text added*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 12.4%; cell of most interest: L5 (27.9%).

Gloucester Tops: Many birds were present 4 Jan and 2-5 Sep (BRG, STA *et al.*) and several birds were heard 14 Nov (NEM/STA). 1-2 birds were recorded 24 Apr, 4 & 10 Jul and 22 Sep (STA, KEM). **Barrington Tops:** Birds were heard at three locations along Barrington-Scone Rd 15 Feb (STA). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** 40 records, all from cell L5, RR 31.5%

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 28% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: R6 (21.1%).

Many birds were present at Gloucester Tops 14 Apr (NEM) and Booti Booti NP 5 Sep (MGLB). 6+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 19 May and 12 Oct (POJ *et al.*, BEI) and Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Merewether 9 Mar and 10 Jun (THJ, ROM), Gloucester Tops 2-5 Sep (STA *et al.*), Redhead 9-13 Sep (RIA), Glenrock SCA 15 Sep (HBOC), Tuncurry 21 Sep (MGLB), Awabakal NR late Sep and 27 Oct (AYG, DDR), Bennetts Beach early Oct (GOS), Pheasant Creek Rd 20 Oct (KEM), Kurri Kurri 27 Oct (HHB) and Ashtonfield 13 Nov (BRG).

Atlas: 34 records from 12 cells, RR 3.1%

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

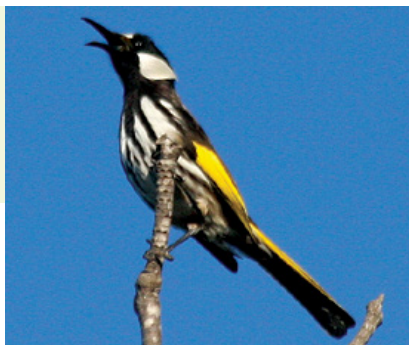
ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1

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 = 12.1%; cell of most interest: R5 (48.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were within a 500m radius at Crowdy Bay NP 24 Jun (STA). A bird was in a Woodville garden 10-19 Jul – unusual there (NEM). **Atlas:** 125 records from 22 cells, RR 7.8%

White-cheeked Honeyeater by Alan Stuart**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 15% of cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: K10 (9.6%).

6+ birds were recorded at Werakata NP 6 Aug (HBOC) with 1-5 birds there 19 May and 7 Jun (HBOC, ERE). 1-5 birds were present at HEZ 31 May, 3 Sep and 27 Oct (ROS, DDR/HHB) and Singleton Training Area 1 Aug and 9 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Eight records from five cells, RR 1.7%

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 = 4.9%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.8%).

Notable records: 20+ at Washpools Towarri NP 7-10 Jun and Durrigdere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). Easterly records were of some birds at Balickera Feb, Coal Point 4 Jul and Soldiers Point 7 Nov (MU), (MUT). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at HEZ 10 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** 49 records from 21 cells, RR 4.0%

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 64% of cells, at RR = 9.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (55.3%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were at Werakata NP 19 May (HBOC) and 50+ birds at Galgabba Point 18 May (ADJ). 20-30 birds were recorded at Curricabundi NP 16 Feb (STA) and Tenambit 3 Jul (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Jul and Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 149 records from 29 cells, RR 8.4%

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 39% of cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (46.1%).

Notable records: 30 birds were at Edgeworth 13 Mar (OCC), 12 birds at Rutherford 10 Sep (BRG) and eight birds at Shoal Bay 7 Jun (per MOA). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan, Jun and Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 81 records from 19 cells, RR 6.5%

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 (51.1%).

Notable records: 80-100 birds were within a 500m radius at Crowdy Bay NP 1 May and 24 Jun and 50+ birds on 15 Jul (STA). 80+ birds were at Drying Rd TSR 5 May (ALP) and 40+ birds at Gosforth 17 Aug (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Feb and Nov-Dec (MUJ), and were nesting at Widden Valley 27 Sep (ROM) and Wingen 22 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 238 records from 55 cells, RR 12.6%

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: G6 (10.5%).

Four birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 23 Apr (ROS) and two birds at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). Some birds were also in the Wybong/Upper Wybong area 4 Aug (WTA).

Atlas: One record, from cell B5**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 41% of cells, at RR = 7.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (42.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Swansea 10 Sep, Widden Valley 27 Sep and Lenaghans Flat 27 Sep (ADJ, ROM, GOS). **Atlas:** 119 records from 28 cells, RR 7.6%**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 8% of cells, at RR = 4.2%; cell of most interest: G8 (8.4%).

20+ birds were in the Widden Valley (at many locations along ~15km of Widden Brook) 18 Nov (ROM). Three birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 24 Nov (ALP) and 1-2 birds there 18 Aug, 21 & 24 Sep and 21 Nov (KEM, ATR, TAH, ERE) and Widden Valley 27 Sep (ROM).

Atlas: Nine records from five cells, RR 8.8%**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 central and W of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 9.0%; cell of most interest: J9 (39.8%).

Notable records: 16 birds in groups of 10 and 6 were at Wingen Reserve 25 Apr and 6-7 birds were there 2 May and 14 Aug (NEG). 12 birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains 18 Aug (HBOC) and up to 10 birds sometimes at Quorrobolong (WBL). 6-7 birds were at Beresfield 16 Feb (THJ), Nulkaba 24 Mar (ERE), East Seaham 13 Aug (GOA *et al.*), Sandy Hollow 20 Sep (ATR) and Beresfield 30 Nov (BOH). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Westleys Rd Gloucester 18 Sep (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 97 records from 16 cells, RR 9.7%

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 9% of cells, at RR = 7.9%; cell of most interest: C6 (20.8%).

10+ birds in three groups were recorded at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC), four birds at Jones Reserve Rd 25 Apr (ALP) and two birds at Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.7%; cell of most interest: M5 (11.2%).

Four birds including a family of 3 birds were recorded at Copeland Tops SCA 20 Oct (KEM), and 1-2 birds were also there 4 Jan and 16-21 Sep (BRG, MCR). In The Watagans NP, some birds were at The Basin 17 Feb (HBOC) and at Wishing Well 2 Apr (RIA). 1-2 birds were at Sharpes Creek Gloucester Tops NP 22 Mar and 2-5 Sep (CCB, STA *et al.*). **Breeding:** An adult was feeding a juvenile at Copeland Tops SCA 20 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** Five records from five cells, RR 1.7%

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinlosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 22% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: G10 (44.7%).

1-2 birds were recorded at HEZ 10 Apr, 31 May, 5 Jun, 9 Aug and 3 Sep (ROS, others). Three birds were at Kitchener Werakata NP 5 Jul (ROM) and 1-2 birds at Curracabundi NP 16 Feb (DBP), Pokolbin SF 21 Feb (GOJ), Pelton Werakata NP 7 Jun (ERE), Mt Sugarloaf 23 Jul (TBW) and Singleton Training Area 1 Aug (HBOC). **Atlas:** Ten records from eight cells, RR 2.0%

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 66% of cells, at RR = 26.4%; cell of most interest: R5 (76.0%).

Notable records: 11-13 birds were at Green Wattle Creek in Jul-Aug (NEM). **Atlas:** 418 records from 41 cells, RR 24.0%

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 55% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (60.0%).

Notable records: 11 birds were together at Woods Point 8 May (CCB) and ten birds were at Gosforth 13 Nov (BRG). 6-8 birds were recorded at Gosforth 15 Mar (BRG), Wingen Reserve 25 Apr (NEG), Morisset Hospital 8 May (CCB) and Ashtonfield 18 May (BRG). **Atlas:** 38 records from 14 cells, RR 3.5%

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 2013.

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 86% of cells, at RR = 29.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (63.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 4 Nov (HBOC) and Raymond Terrace 1 Dec (SLP).

Atlas: 397 records from 49 cells, RR 21.4%**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 38% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (26.2%).

1-2 birds were widely and moderately often recorded. A dark morph bird was at Quorrobolong 27 Jul (CCB). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Cattai Wetlands 1 Nov (HBW). **Atlas:** 28 records from 12 cells, RR 2.4%

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 2013.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

1-2 birds moderately often recorded Jan to mid-Mar and mid-Sep onwards.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The first reported arrival was 17 Sep, when a bird was heard calling in Woko NP (HBOC). There were no more reports until 1 Oct, when birds were present at both Green Wattle Creek and Hawks Nest (NEM, GOS).

Atlas: 43 records from 13 cells, RR 3.4%**White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor* (Revised from: *L. sueurii*)

ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: F7 (15.3%).

20+ birds were at Durrigdere SCA daily over 4-8 Oct (HBOC). 5-6 birds were at Parkville 2 Oct and Ash Island 10 Oct (both ROM), WWW 11 Oct (BRG) and Lenaghans Flat 22 Oct (ROM).

1-3 birds were widely and often recorded in Jan and over Sep-Dec (many observers).

Atlas: 19 records from eight cells, RR 1.0%**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 = 3.4%; cell of most interest: S4 (7.9%).

A single bird was recorded at Harrington RF 1 Aug (MGLB). **Atlas:** One record, from cell R4

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 52% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (44.7%).

Notable records: Six birds were present along Mungo Brush Rd early Oct (GOS). **Atlas:** 33 records from 20 cells, RR 2.4%**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 ten cells, at RR = 6.1%; cell of most interest: L5 (26.2%).

Barrington Tops: 1-2 birds were recorded at Polblue 12-13 Feb (CLT), Little Murrays 13-14 Feb (CLT), Devils Hole 20 Oct (KEM) and Pheasant Creek Rd 20 Oct (KEM), and at unspecified locations 26-28 Feb (CLT; at two sites) and 3 Dec (ERE). **Gloucester Tops:** Several birds were recorded 22 Sep (KEM), 22-24 Oct and 14 Nov (KEM, STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 19 records from three cells, RR 8.3%**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 81% of cells, at RR = 26.0%; cell of most interest: L5 (62.0%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Nov (MUJ) and were nest building at Mungo Brush 21 Sep (KEM) although that is not taken as a confirmed breeding record. **Atlas:** 464 records from 54 cells, RR 25.5%**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 = 19.3%; cell of most interest: G8 (53.8%).

Notable records: 16+ birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek over Sep-Nov and 22 birds were there 7 Dec (NEM). A bird was calling at Gloucester Falls carpark 14 Nov (NEM/STA) – *unusual location although there is a prior record*. Some birds were present until at least 4 Apr when recorded at Gosforth (BRG). However, reports of over-wintering or early-returning birds were received from Giants Creek 25 Jul (NEM), Maitland Vale Road Lambs Valley 31 Jul (BRG), Pambalong NR 3 Aug (ROM), Green Wattle Creek 13 Aug (NEM) and Gosforth 15 Aug (BRG). Widespread reports commenced in early Sep. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 256 records from 46 cells, RR 13.7%**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarrhyncha*

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

Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1996*).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 81% of cells, at RR = 25.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (72.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were no confirmed records although birds were nest building in Myall Lakes NP 21 Sep (KEM).**Atlas:** 345 records from 54 cells, RR 18.4%

Crested Bellbird *Oreica gutturalis*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

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 38% of cells, at RR = 9.0%; cell of most interest: R5 (48.0%).

Notable records: 20-30+ birds were recorded Black Rock Rd 15 May (NEM), Charlestown 10 Jun (RDB), Cooranbong 15 Jun (RIA), Saltwater NP 20 Sep (STA) and Mungo Brush 19 Oct (KEM). **Breeding:** Four birds were on nests and another was collecting nesting material at Mungo Brush 19 Oct (KEM). Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 2 Jan (GOC).

Atlas: 108 records from 17 cells, RR 7.3%

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 72% of cells, at RR = 13.5%; cell of most interest: Q6 (35.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Two pairs were nesting within 30m of each other at Fishers Hill Rd Vacy 25 Nov (NEM). Birds had nests with young at Mungo Brush 19 Oct (KEM) and BbR 25 Oct (THJ), were feeding fledged young at HEZ 6 Nov (ROS) and Washpools Towarri NP 31 Dec (NEG), and also bred at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ).

Atlas: 250 records from 39 cells, RR 13.5%

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Common summer migrant. Frequently recorded at medium to large fresh waters in E of the Region over Jan-Apr and from mid-Aug onwards in counts of up to 10 birds.
 From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 7.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (20.8%).

Notable records: 15-20 birds were at Thornton 19 Feb (BRG) and 17 birds flew over Shortland 26 Aug (ROM).

Departure/Arrival Dates: Most birds had departed by mid-Mar; however, some birds were last recorded at Shortland 17 May (ROM). The first recorded return was 10 Aug when two birds were recorded at Ash Island (MAT *et al.*), there were several more reports over the next few days.

Breeding: There were several records, spanning Oct-Nov.

Atlas: 74 records from 11 cells, RR 5.2%



White-breasted Woodswallows by Rob Kyte

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
 Status: Rare irruptive visitor (recorded 1994-95, 2001-02, 2006-09, 2012).
 From BLA Atlas: 16 records from seven cells.

~100 birds were roosting at night at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC), and 1-4 birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR), Shortland 6 Oct (ROM), Singleton Training Area 9 Oct (HBOC), Ash Island 10 Oct (ROM), Weston 1 Nov (ROS) and Warkworth 25 Nov (ROS). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Four records, from cell B5

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (6.2%).

~1,000 birds were roosting at night at Durrigere SCA 6 Oct and with many birds recorded daily 4-8 Oct (HBOC) and 100+ birds were at Weston 1 Nov and Warkworth 25 Nov (both ROS). 50-60 birds were recorded at Firefly (Nabiac) 5 Oct (BRG) and 20-30 birds at HEZ 19 Sep, Ash Island 10 Oct and Shortland 13 Oct (all ROM). Some birds were also present at Shortland 6 Oct (ROM), Singleton Training Area 9 Oct (HBOC) and HEZ 27-28 Oct (DTB, HHB). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Five records, from cells B5 and K9

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: G8 (24.4%).

Notable records: 30+ birds were recorded at HEZ 31 May (ROS/ROM) (which was also the last reported record) and 20-25 birds were at Parkville 5 Apr (CLT) and Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ALP). Some birds had returned to Pelton Werakata NP 6 Aug (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest near Parkville 2 Oct (ROM/CLT). **Atlas:** 20 records from ten cells, RR 1.5%

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 25.6%; cell of most interest: L11 (45.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Ash Island 27 Oct (THJ) and also bred at Balickera in Jan (MUJ), and were feeding fledged young at Dora Creek 22 Jan (GOC) and Raymond Terrace 1 Dec (SLP). **Atlas:** 346 records from 51 cells, RR 18.7%

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 = 23.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (55.7%).

Notable records: Six birds were at Wingen 9 May (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Tuncurry 21 Sep (MGLB). **Atlas:** 293 records from 48 cells, RR 15.7%

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 91% of cells, at RR = 50.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (96.2%).

Notable records: 283 birds were feeding in paddocks near Wallalong 29 Jul (NEM). Groups of ~20 birds were at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan and East Seaham 12 Feb and 9 Apr (HBOC, GOA *et al.*). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 717 records from 73 cells, RR 37.6%

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 89% of cells, at RR = 26.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (58.3%).

Notable records: Many birds were at Polblue 21-22 Mar (MRO) and Wingen 17 Jun (NEG). One of the birds at Wingen was killed by another one. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 317 records from 60 cells, RR 16.6%

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 2013.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

ID No: 673 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant and bird of passage.

1-5 birds moderately often recorded in the E of the Region Apr-Oct.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 24% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: R6 (23.6%).

Notable records: Eight birds were together at Blueys Beach 3 Jul (MGLB). The first reported return was 10 Feb, when a single bird was at Hexham Swamp (ERE); reports over 19-21 Feb then followed. Some birds were still present at Saltwater NP 22 Sep (KEM), Shoal Bay 30 Sep (FRN) and Forster 16 Oct (MUT). Uncommon westerly records were of single birds at Baerami 21 Apr (THK), Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ROM/WID) and Gloucester 10 Jun (DBP). **Atlas:** 39 records from 11 cells, RR 2.7%

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 (19.5%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at The Basin Watagans NP 17 Feb (HBOC). Some birds were in the Barrington Tops at both Junction Pools and Little Murrays 26-28 Feb (CLT) – *high altitude records are uncommon*. Birds were present until at least 22 Apr, when recorded at Booti Booti NP (MGLB), and the first reported return was 8 Sep, when two birds were at Harrington RF (ERE). **Atlas:** 67 records from 20 cells, RR 3.9%

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* (Revised from: *R. 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 = 45.0%; cell of most interest: L8 (75.6%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were frequently recorded at Green Wattle Creek (NEM) and also at Black Hill 26 Aug (ROM), WWW 2 Jul and 11 Sep (HBOC, MEL *et al.*), Gloucester CP 15-18 Sep (HBOC), Copeland Tops SCA 16-21 Sep (MCR), Awabakal NR late Sep (AYG) and White Rock 18 Nov (MEL). Birds were on migration passage through Duns Creek in late Aug-Sep, with the peak count 40 birds 27 Aug (NEM); numbers also peaked at Black Hill during the same period (ROM). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 722 records from 62 cells, RR 38.2%

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 = 38.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (88.5%).

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Feb and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 510 records from 59 cells, RR 27.2%**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 86% of cells, at RR = 38.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (78.1%).

Notable records: 60 birds were at Scone Tip 1 Aug (NEG) and 20+ birds were recorded at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC), Newcastle 3 & 10 Mar (GOC), Shortland late Mar (ROM), Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*) and Hexham Swamp 12 Oct (LIA). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Carey Bay from 24 Jul, with chicks fledging 24 Sep (HCL). Birds were feeding fledged young at WWW 8 Oct (BRG) and Washpools Towarri NP 31 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 538 records from 60 cells, RR 28.5%**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Status: Resident, in the NE of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: R6 (19.4%).

1-2 birds were regularly recorded all year at both Harrington and Saltwater NP (STA), and at Cooperook 24 Jun (STA) and Mungo Brush 19 Oct (KEM). Three birds were present at Broughton Island 23-25 Sep (STA *et al.*) – *the first known records there*. **Atlas:** 38 records from nine cells, RR 5.1%**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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 6.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (52.7%).

~ 40 birds were recorded near Barrington 10 Apr (EGD/MUT) and 20 birds at Moonan Flat 25-27 Jan (HBOC). 1-5 birds were present at Barrington 22 Mar (CCB), Dungog 25 Jun (NEG), Copeland Tops SRA 16 Sep (HBOC), Westleys Rd Gloucester 18 Sep (GOA *et al.*) and Murrurundi 28 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 23 records from eight cells, RR 5.8%**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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 8.6%; cell of most interest: R4 (47.9%).

Notable records: 30 birds were recorded at Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC) and 20 birds at Westleys Rd Gloucester 18 Sep (GOA *et al.*). Some birds were at Hexham Swamp 16 Sep (LIA) and are resident at Shortland (ROM). **Atlas:** 107 records from 19 cells, RR 8.9%

Leadren 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 = 6.2%; cell of most interest: Q6 (17.4%).

Notable records: 12 birds were recorded in Wallaroo NR 6 Oct (SLP). A late departing bird was near Maitland 11 Apr (BRG). The first recorded return was 11 Sep, when a bird was at Duns Creek (NEM); birds were widespread soon afterwards. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 73 records from 18 cells, RR 3.9%

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare.

A male was present at Gloucester Tops Rd 22 Oct (STA/CJB). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Kerripton Rd Gloucester Tops 4 & 6 Jan (BRG, JED/STD).**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: G7 (23.4%).

Three birds were in the Duns Creek area 6 May – the first records for the location (NEM). 1-2 birds were recorded Ellerston TSR (Pages Creek Rd) 25 Jan (MEL/JUT), Moonan Flat 26 Jan (HBOC), Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Wingen 5 May (NEG), Sandy Hollow TSR 5 Jun (STA), Woodville 10-19 Jul (NEM), Copeland Tops SRA 16 Sep (HBOC), Gloucester CP 15-18 Sep (HBOC), Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR), HEZ 27 Oct (HHB) and Washpools Towarri NP 31 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 19 records from 11 cells, RR 1.3%

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 2013.

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 & Sep-Dec.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 6.5%; cell of most interest: M5 (34.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Departure/Arrival Dates:** A late departing juvenile was near Maitland 11 Apr (BRG). The first recorded return was 8 Sep, when a bird was at Main Creek (JED). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Nov (MUJ).

Atlas: 61 records from 18 cells, RR 3.8%**Spectacled Monarch** *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 19% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: S4 (15.9%).

There were regular records of 1-5 birds at Harrington RF except during Jun-Aug; this included two birds that were still present 29 May (STA, others). Up to four birds were recorded several times at Copeland Tops SCA during Sep-Oct (several observers). 1-2 birds were at Sharpes Creek 4 Jan and 22-24 Oct (BRG, STA/CJB), Barrington House 17-18 Sep (ROM), Saltwater NP 22 Sep (KEM), Black Head 19 Oct (MGLB) and Allyn River 27 Oct (DDR). A bird was at Brunkerville 27 Oct (DTB) – *this is a southern range extension for the Region but birds have been reported at Central Coast sites in recent years.* **Atlas:** 15 records from six cells, RR 1.7%

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 = 38.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (96.4%).**Notable records:** 68 birds were in one paddock at Louth Park 15 Jun (BRG) and 30 birds were recorded at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 Jan (HBOC). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 499 records from 53 cells, RR 26.9%**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

ID No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 10.8%; cell of most interest: H8 (34.8%).

Notable records: 31 birds were present at Drying Rd TSR 5 May (ALP). Easterly records were of some birds near Boomerang Beach Sep (MGLB) and near Old Bar 19 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** 71 records from 21 cells, RR 7.3%**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 0.9%; cell of most interest: M4 (11.1%).

Single birds were recorded at Sharpes Creek 4 Jan (BRG), Fosterton Tops Trail 22 & 25 Apr (JED/STD), Allyn River 27 Jul and 27 Oct (TUJ, DDR), Copeland Tops SCA 20 Oct (KEM) and Gloucester Tops Rd 24 Oct (STA/CJB). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

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 71% of cells, at RR = 11.9%; cell of most interest: G8 (60.9%).

Notable records: 15 birds were recorded at Jerrys Plains 18 Aug (HBOC) and 5+ birds were at Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ROM/WID). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest and another had a nest with young at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 120 records from 26 cells, RR 9.1%**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (33.8%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Singleton Training Area 2 May and 1 Aug (HBOC), Werakata NP 19 May (HBOC), Kitchener 5 Jul (ROM), Jerrys Plains early Jul (BEI), Balmoral/Rathmines 9 Jul (MAT/STP) – *unusual location*, and Gloucester Tops 2-5 & 22 Sep (STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** Five records from four cells, RR 0.6%**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 = 3.5%; cell of most interest: H8 (34.2%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Parkville 4 Apr (CLT), Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ROM/WID), Singleton Training Area 2 May and 9 Oct (HBOC), Goulburn River NP 5 Jun (STA) and Jerrys Plains 18 Aug (HBOC). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Jerrys Plains 18 Aug. **Atlas:** Five records from four cells, RR 1.1%

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 (57.1%).

Barrington Tops: 20+ birds were at Little Murrays Swamp 13-14 Feb with eight birds recorded there 26-28 Feb (CLT). 12+ birds were at Polblue 12-15 Feb and 21-22 Mar, with most of them being brown birds (CLT, STA, MRO). Six birds were at Junction Pools 26-27 Feb (CLT) and Devils Hole 20 Oct (KEM), and 1-3 birds at Edwards Swamp Trail, Junction Pools and Barrington Trail on 26-28 Feb (all CLT). *Gloucester Tops*: There were few records. 1-2 birds were recorded around Kerrapit Rd 2-5 & 22 Sep (STA *et al.*, KEM) and near Gloucester River 14 Nov (NEM/STA). *Elsewhere*: Eight birds were at Segenhoe 6 Jul (NEG), and birds were regularly at Wingen from 5 May onwards (NEG). **Breeding**: A pair was feeding fledged young at Polblue 12-13 Feb (CLT) as were two pairs near Gloucester River 14 Nov (NEM/STA). **Atlas**: 18 records from three cells, RR 5.9%

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 = 4.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (34.1%).

Notable records: Eight birds were recorded at Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC). A female was at Nobbys Breakwall 25 Mar (NIR). **Atlas**: 102 records from 25 cells, RR 5.9%

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 17% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: H8 (14.8%).

1-2 birds were often recorded at Medhurst Bridge all year (several observers). There were no reports from elsewhere. **Atlas**: Three records, from cells F6 and M8, RR 1.8%

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 = 2.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (11.2%).

1-2 birds were present at Copeland SCA 4 Jan and 22 Nov (BRG, DBP) and at Sharpes Creek 5 Sep and 22 Oct (RIA, STA/CJB). **Atlas**: Five records from four cells, RR 0.8%

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

ID No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds widely and regularly recorded, and occasionally 6-10 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 26.3%; cell of most interest: L8 (48.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding**: There were several records, spanning Sep-Dec and birds were also breeding at Balickera over Jul-Aug (MUJ). **Atlas**: 437 records from 55 cells, RR 23.2%

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafra 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).

Two birds were at Largs 7 Oct and Pitnacree 27 Dec (BRG), and single birds near Scone 1 Oct (ROM), and at Singleton Training Area 9 Oct (HBOC) and Lorn 27 Oct (HHB). **Atlas**: Nil records

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

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 36% of cells, at RR = 12.1%; cell of most interest: P8 (44.6%).

Notable records: An estimated 40-50 pairs were resident on Broughton Island (STA *et al.*). A bird in a paddock near Parkville 4 Apr was 1.5km from water (CLT/ROM). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Ash Island 12 Nov (STA). **Atlas:** 248 records from 14 cells, RR 15.7%

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 = 8.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (40.6%).

Notable records: A winter record was of a bird heard at KI Deep Pond 18 Jul (ROM).
Breeding: Many recently fledged birds were at WWW 16 Jan (BRG). **Atlas:** 49 records from 15 cells, RR 3.0%

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 = 9.4%; cell of most interest: P8 (40.1%).

Notable records: An estimated 30-40 pairs were resident on Broughton Island (STA *et al.*).
Breeding: Birds were breeding at Balickera over Jan-Feb (MUJ). **Atlas:** 193 records from 13 cells, RR 14.5%

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (revised)
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 = 9.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (26.8%).
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 90 records from nine cells, RR 7.6%

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 33% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: E6 (26.1%).

A single bird was at Singleton Training Area 1 Aug (ROM *et al.*) but there were no further reports until 7 Sep when a bird was recorded at Ash Island (BNSW). Some birds were at Doyles Creek 24 Sep (TAH), Widden Valley 27 Sep (ROM), Jerrys Plains/Martindale 6 Oct (ALP), Largs and Tenambit 7 Oct (BRG), WWW 8 Oct (BRG), Lenaghans Flat 22 & 27 Oct (ROM, DTB), Hexham Swamp 27 Oct (DTB) and near Maitland 13 Nov (BRG), while 6+ birds were at Durridgere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). Unusually, there were some records from the NE – of single birds at Cattai Bridge 19 Sep (STA), three locations in Myall Lakes NP 21 Sep (KEM) and Carrington (Port Stephens) 11 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 12 records from eight cells, RR 1.5%

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: G7 (7.3%).

A bird was heard at Anambah 13 Nov (BRG). **Atlas:** Nil records

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 78% of cells, at RR = 26.0%; cell of most interest: AA (TBA%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*) and Wingen 11 Jun (NEG). **Atlas:** 367 records from 52 cells, RR 19.4%

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 14% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: G7 (4.8%).

Two birds were at Maison Dieu Singleton 27 Feb (ALP) and single birds in the Bulga/Broke area 19 May (ALP) and at Falbrook 31 May (RIA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young near Broke during late Oct, at the same site where they successfully bred in 2012 (FRA). *These are the first confirmed breeding records since 1983.* **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2013.

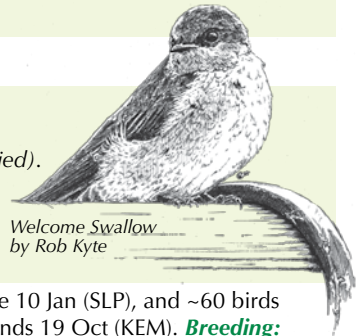
Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident, with influxes in autumn (*text modified*).

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 = 35.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (74.6%).



Notable records: 400 birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 10 Jan (SLP), and ~60 birds at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 Jan (HBOC) and Cattai Wetlands 19 Oct (KEM). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jul-Dec. **Atlas:** 571 records from 60 cells, RR 30.2%

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 = 6.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (19.2%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Deep Pond 9 Aug (ROM) and 20-30+ birds at Stockton Borehole Lagoon 20 Jan (HBOC) and flying over Shortland 6 Aug (ROM). A late-departing bird was at Medhurst Bridge 25 Apr (ALP), while there were winter records of 1-2 birds at Grahamstown Dam 4 Jun (HBOC), Morpeth WTW 15 Jun (LIA/BRG) and Cattai Bridge 15 Jul (STA). By mid-Aug birds were widespread. **Breeding:** Colonies were found at Oakhampton, Louth Park and Raymond Terrace on 10 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** 57 records from 18 cells, RR 4.5%

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 62% of cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: N5 (30.3%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 14 Feb (NEM) and ~100 birds at Irrawang Swamp 19 Dec (MEL). 40-50+ birds were at Junction Pools (Barrington Tops) 1-2 & 26-27 Feb (CLT/ADJ) and 20+ birds at Thornton 19 Feb (BRG). Winter records were of 20 birds at Cattle Lane (Warrah Creek) 21 Jun (STA) and 1-5 birds at Morpeth WTW 15 Jun (LIA/BRG), HWC 16 Jun (HBOC) and Quorrobolong 27 Jul (CCB), also some birds were at Tocal 27 May (NEM) and near Baerami 31 May (NEG). **Atlas:** 63 records from 22 cells, RR 3.7%

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident in extreme SE of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Records from eight cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: M11 (31.8%).

Two birds were at Catherine Hill Bay 30 Jul (ADJ) and a single bird at Boys Walk Cooranbong 17 Aug (RIA). Some birds were often heard at Redhead over 9-13 Sep (RIA). **Atlas:** Nil records**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: M5 (27.8%).

There were many records all year from locations in The Watagans, Allyn River and Copeland Tops SCA, also at Sharpes Creek (with up to six birds sometimes present) and Balickera. Elsewhere, some birds were at Green Wattle Creek 7 Jan (NEM), Galgabba Point 9 Jan (THJ), Pacific Palms 9 Mar (MOA), BbR 29 Jul (ROM), Main Creek Rd 13 Aug (TBW), Smiths Lake 25 Aug (ERE), Barrington House 17-18 Sep (ROM), Minmi mid Sep and 13 Oct (ROM), Green Point Lake Macquarie Sep (TOG) and Brunkerville 27 Oct (DTB). A high altitude record was of a bird at Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 4 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Boys Walk Cooranbong 17 Aug (RIA). **Atlas:** 41 records from 11 cells, RR 4.2%

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (24.6%).

Five birds were at Wingham Brush 22 Sep (KEM) and three birds at Main Creek 8 Sep (JED). 1-2 birds were recorded at Copeland SCA 4 Jan, 16 Sep and 27 Oct (BRG, HBOC, TUJ), Cattai Wetlands 27 Apr (MGLB), Copeland Common 25-27 Apr (HBOC), Barrington House 17-18 Sep (ROM) and Allyn River 27 Oct (DDR), and many times at Sharpes Creek over Sep-Oct (STA et al.). **Breeding:** Birds were with a dependent young at Wingham Brush 22 Sep (KEM).

Atlas: 12 records from four cells, RR 5.1%**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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: K4 (18.8%).

Notable records: A single bird was recorded at Moonan Flat 25 Jan (MEL/JUT).**Atlas:** Three records, from cells K5 and K10

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 = 17.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (67.4%).

Notable records: ~200 birds were in a cleared paddock along Ringwood Rd 5 Jun (STA).**Atlas:** 98 records from 29 cells, RR 6.1%**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 = 18.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (74.2%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were roosting along Beaumont St Hamilton 18 Jul (STA) and 160 birds were at Victoria St Carrington 15 Mar (BEI). 40 birds were together at Shortland 27 Jan (WID). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Speers Point 4 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 188 records from 31 cells, RR 10.6%**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 69% of cells, at RR = 10.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (46.2%).

Notable records: 15 birds including five juveniles were at Medhurst Bridge 24 Nov (ALP).**Atlas:** 147 records from 32 cells, RR 8.5%**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarina jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985-86, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Up to 10 birds are sometimes recorded in the central and W of the Region (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: G7 (23.4%).

Notable records: 48 birds were at Gillieston Heights 19 Apr (BRG) and 20-25 birds at Singleton WTW 28 Apr (ALP) and Ringwood Rd 21 Sep (ATR). 10+ birds were recorded at Louth Park 9 Apr and Luskintyre 10 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 1.5%**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 58% of cells, at RR = 7.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (54.7%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Black Rock Rd 29 Apr (NEM). Up to eight birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 6 & 19 Jan and 8 Jun (CLT, ROM per MOA) – *uncommon location nowadays*. **Breeding:** There were some reports of nest building in Sep-Dec but no confirmed breeding record. **Atlas:** 61 records from 25 cells, RR 4.0%

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).

No reports were received for 2013.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

ID No: 662 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds widely & regularly recorded, 21-50 birds moderately often.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 24.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (43.3%).

Notable records: 69 birds were recorded at Green Wattle Creek 5 Sep and 22-23 birds there 7 Jan and 3 May (NEM). 21-50 birds were at Mt Vincent 21 Apr (HBOC), Awabakal NR 19 May (POJ *et al.*), HWC 16 Jun (HBOC) and Cattai Wetlands 19 Oct (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Washpools Towarri NP 27 Dec (NEG) and were feeding fledged young at Thornton 19 Feb (BRG) and Battery Rocks 5 Oct (LIA), and also were breeding at Balickera Jan-Feb and Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 308 records from 45 cells, RR 16.6%

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 = 6.1%; cell of most interest: G8 (22.2%).

6-8 birds were recorded near "Poggy" Station Ringwood Rd 5 Jun (STA), Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC), Medhurst Bridge 24 Nov (ALP) and Wingen 27 Dec (NEG), and 1-5 birds at Moonan Flat 26 Jan (HBOC), "Poggy" Station 16 Mar (JED), Medhurst Bridge 23 & 25 Apr (several observers), Ridglands Rd Bunnan 21 Jun (STA), Martindale 30 Apr (SRM), Goulburn River NP 5 Jun (STA), Jerrys Plains early Jul (BEI) and Wybong/Upper Wybong area 4 Aug (WTA). **Breeding:** Although not a confirmed breeding record, birds were nest building at Durrigere SCA 4-8 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 14 records from eight cells, RR 6.0%



Diamond
Firetail by
Alan Stuart

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident (*reported in 2009*).

No reports were received for 2013.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records
Status: Possibly extinct in the wild (*last recorded 1991*)

No reports were received for 2013.

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 = 1.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (4.7%).

50+ birds in several flocks were at Hexham Swamp 18 Aug (ROM). 12 birds were at Tenambit 13 Nov (BRG) and 3-10 birds at KI mid Jan (BEI), Tenambit 19 & 21 May (BRG), Hexham Swamp NR 16 Aug (THJ/BLM) and Ash Island 4 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells L10 and M10

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 45% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (32.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were reported to breed each year under Stockton Bridge (VGF). **Atlas:** 38 records from 11 cells, RR 2.8%

Australian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* (*Revised from: Australasian Pipit*)

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 60% of cells, at RR = 10.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (23.4%).

Notable records: 11 birds were recorded at Tocal Wetlands Oct (NEM). **Atlas:** 201 records from 20 cells, RR 12.8%

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*New to list: replaces M. taivana and M. tschutschensis*)

Some birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp occasionally over Jan-Mar, with the peak count being four birds 24 Feb. The last known record was 6 Apr when a single bird was present (ROM, others). 1-2 birds were again recorded often at Hexham Swamp over 20-31 Dec (many observers). Single birds were also recorded at Ash Island 6 Apr and 30 Dec (ROM, STJ). All reports involved birds of the race *M. flava tschutschensis*.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

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

No reports were received for 2013.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (5.4%).

1-5 birds were recorded several times at Ash Island over Jul-Oct (several observers) and in the Lorn/Largs area several times over Sep-Dec (BRG). Some birds were also at Medhurst Bridge 27 Apr (JED) – *records from central/west of the Region are very uncommon*. **Atlas:** One record, from cell M10

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre 2013 records detailed below:

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

Some birds at Oyster Cove had nests (in a box) with eggs or chicks 4 Oct 2001, 3 Nov 2003, 2 Jan 2004, 23 Sep 2004, 5 June 2006 and 15 Sep 2006; after a subsequent fire there have been no further breeding records and the birds now rarely roost in the box (MCN).

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys*

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 24 Jun 2012 and some young birds in 2011 (ROM).

Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*

Single birds were recorded off Newcastle 24 Jul 2005 and during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Apr 2011 (ROM).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Two birds were recorded at Seal Rocks 1 July 1993 (NEM). The details were submitted to NSW ORAC (at the time, Brown Booby was on the ORAC watch list) and the record was accepted (*Australian Birds* (1994). **30**: 7). The report only recently came to our notice.

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

A bird was at Gandja-baa (an island of the Broughton Group) Dec 2011 (*Corella* **37**: 69-70).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

Two adult birds were at Fosterton Loop Dungog July 2011 (JED).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

A young bird was in a nest at Tinonee 5 Nov 2012 (MGLB).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

A pair had a nest with one young at Gandja-baa (an island of the Broughton Group) Dec 2011 (*Corella* **37**: 69-70).

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

A pair was with chicks in Cooranbong in 1983 (RIA) – *the first confirmed breeding record for the Region*.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

A Supplementary Record in the 2009 Bird Report noted that birds were breeding at Green Wattle Creek (in Woodville) in 1993, with Speckled Warblers as the host species. The date of this record has been amended to 29 September 1994. Two or possibly three young birds were present at Green Wattle Creek that day, each being fed by a separate pair of Speckled Warblers (NEM).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

A pair successfully nested at Bolton Point in 2011 (per MRO).

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

A bird was recorded near Wollombi in July 1999 (RDB); this record suggests that Crescent Honeyeaters may move to lower altitude in winter (*also see the 2009 Bird Report for another low altitude winter record*).

Woodswallow *Artamus* spp

A hybrid of White-browed and Masked Woodswallow (*Artamus superciliosus* & *A. personatus*) was recorded at Brawboy (F4) 16 Oct 2012 (NEG *et al.*). These two species are very similar genetically (and behaviourally) but examples of their inter-hybridisation are rare (ref: Robin, Heinsohn & Joseph "Boom and Bust", pp 212-213).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

30+ birds were in a paddock near Broke in 2006, more than 1 km distance from water (ALP).

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.*

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

A single bird was reported to have been briefly present in a creek bed at Durrigere SCA 7 Oct.

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhоторax*

Four birds were reported to have been near Parkville on 18 Apr 2012.

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.

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

A bird was in the Bellbird area for ~2 months before being (re-)captured and taken to Hunter Valley Zoo 9 Oct (Cessnock Advertiser).

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

A female silver mutation bird was recorded at Rutherford 27 Aug (BRG).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

A single bird was at Shortland 15 Feb (ROM).

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

Two birds were recorded at Maryland 13-15 Feb (per ROM).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Two birds of the northern race (Red-collared Lorikeet *T. h. rubitorquis*) were present at Swansea 28 Oct (ADJ).

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*

Two birds were recorded at Sedgfield Singleton 15 Feb (per ALP).

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

3-4 birds were often recorded at a property near Craven during Aug-Sep in company with Double-barred and Red-browed Finches (per DBP).

ATLAS DATA ANALYSIS

The BirdLife Australia Atlas database, with 16 years now of data for the Hunter Region, allows opportunities to gain insights about any changes which may be occurring 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 2013 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 2013 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 2013 (with long term RR >2%)		
Emu	Pallid Cuckoo	Crested Shrike-tit
Magpie Goose	Brush Cuckoo	Dusky Woodswallow
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Barking Owl	Restless Flycatcher
Peaceful Dove	Southern Boobook	Red-capped Robin
Little Penguin	Rockwarbler	Hooded Robin
Intermediate Egret	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Pale-yellow Robin
Striated Heron	Mangrove Gerygone	Australian Reed-warbler
Latham's Snipe	Western Gerygone	Rufous Songlark
Common Greenshank	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Marsh Sandpiper	Regent Honeyeater	Common Starling
Great Knot	White-browed Babbler	Zebra Finch
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Australian Logrunner	House Sparrow
Red-rumped Parrot	Varied Triller	

The highlighted species also had >50% decrease in Reporting Rate in 2012

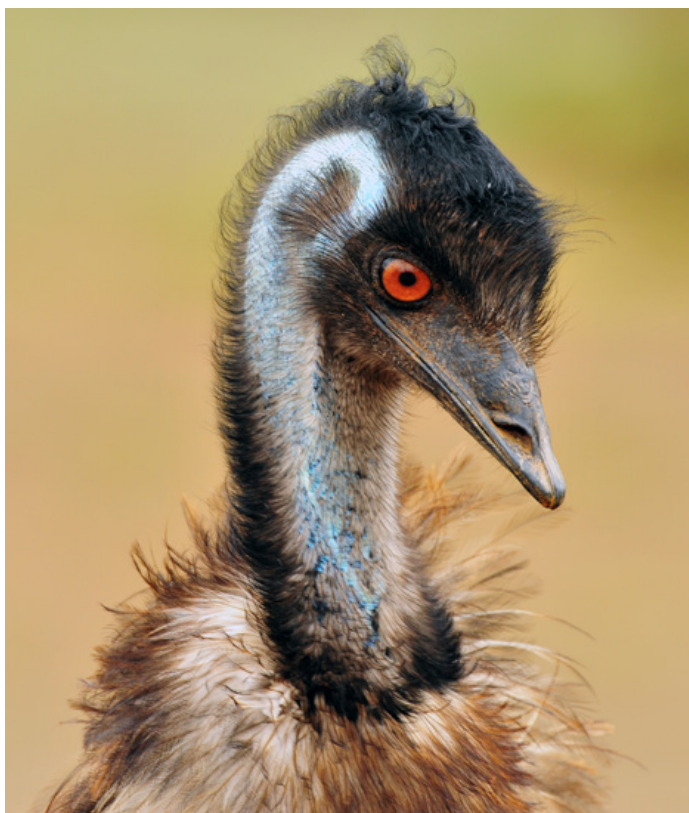
Species with >50% Increase in Reporting Rate in 2013 (with long term RR >2%)

Brown Quail	Comb-crested Jacana	Crescent Honeyeater
Hoary-headed Grebe	Ruddy Turnstone	Painted Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Little Tern	Flame Robin
Eastern Reef Egret	Gull-billed Tern	Tawny Grassbird
Eurasian Coot	Red-browed Treecreeper	Bassian Thrush
Red-kneed Dotterel	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	

The highlighted species also had >50% increase in Reporting Rate in 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For this Bird Report, Ann Lindsey prepared most of the Tables (based on data collected by many people including herself) while Rob Kyte organised images, designed the layout and coordinated the final production. Peter Alexander devised the format for the Index. Many others contributed photographs and sketches and are acknowledged accordingly within the document.



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)

	11, 12 Jan ²	8, 9 Feb ²	8, 9 Mar	12, 13 Apr	10, 11 May	21, 22 Jun	12, 13 Jul	9, 10 Aug	20, 21 Sep ²	18, 19 Oct ²	15, 16 Nov ²	13, 14 Dec ²
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	25	6	2	4	4	4	4	4	17	20	14	11
Sooty Oystercatcher					5	2		1		7	3	
Black-winged Stilt	605	551	327	295	392	254	469	141	464	678	775	432
Red-necked Avocet	1026	596	256	59	147	1567	3186	3508	3600	2410	2837	4710
Banded Stilt	1											
Pacific Golden Plover	430	459	424	51	7	3	1		72	85	154	174
Red-capped Plover	12	22				13	27	20	11	10	7	17
Black-fronted Dotterel	8	15	21	20	33	14	8	24	3	8	6	5
Red-kneed Dotterel					81		12	13	15	9	60	57
Masked Lapwing	112	110	61	69	40	41	22	36	75	60	67	70
Latham's Snipe	2									1		3
Black-tailed Godwit	71	86	69	17	4	2	8	6	16	49	74	53
Bar-tailed Godwit	953	686	602	289	259	229	254	253	227	756	682	744
Whimbrel	8	50	7	15	20	29	42	11	82	60	4	26
Eastern Curlew	349	170	67	15	19		40	96	232	177	198	189
Terek Sandpiper	4	3	6								5	
Common Sandpiper	1								1	2	1	
Grey-tailed Tattler	23	33	30	36	15	10	10	10	18	30	9	26
Common Greenshank	87	36	50	5	8		8	4	38	49	75	65
Marsh Sandpiper	12	19	11						2	25	23	67
Wood Sandpiper	1											
Ruddy Turnstone									1		1	2
Great Knot	2										1	1
Red Knot	13	9	5	3	1	2	2	2	123	409	84	1
Red-necked Stint	28	28	19	6					5	7	4	39
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	680	441	96	88				1	1240	2320	2009	2201
Curlew Sandpiper	127	72	1						26	108	152	124

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

²Numbers for Jan, Feb, Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec include data from Tomago surveys.

Table 2 Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands*(Based on data collected during Hunter Estuary shorebirds surveys presented in Table 1)*

	11, 12 Jan ²	8, 9 Feb ²	8, 9 Mar	12, 13 Apr	10, 11 May	21, 22 Jun	12, 13 Jul	9, 10 Aug	20, 21 Sep ²	18, 19 Oct ²	15, 16 Nov ²	13, 14 Dec ²
Musk Duck		2	4	4	1	1	3	2			1	1
Black Swan	4	64	55	135	86	119	93	48	49	21	76	98
Australian Wood Duck		36	2	1	25	4	6	20			4	34
Pink-eared Duck			7	7	38	148		5			64	2
Australasian Shoveler		4	4	4	64	36		122			4	5
Grey Teal	557	123	376	275	782	699	364	226		53	973	769
Chestnut Teal	662	896	165	585	417	452	35	185	17	93	165	195
Pacific Black Duck	59	43	61	78	187	90	37	15	70	52	73	54
Hardhead	72	19	37	96	70	26	36	208		73	51	125
Australasian Grebe	45	10	11	74	77	25	16	30	7	42	10	41
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	17	5	6	8	4	23	3	15	3	2	21
Australian Darter	2	6	3	14	10	4	7	8	6	3	5	
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2	4	6	6	7	5	8	9	5	16	8
Great Cormorant	5	9	6	6	5		6	7	51	3	5	9
Little Black Cormorant	35	35	15	37	33	23	59	91	62	54	34	18
Pied Cormorant	16	10	11	5	6	4	7	12	11	21	26	11
Australian Pelican	134	186	221	121	90	74	67	55	71	76	105	152
White-necked Heron	1	5		8	8	6	5	3	9	1	9	8
Great Egret	14	10	1	6	9	10	9	7	24	10	19	31
Intermediate Egret	3	1		2	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	1
Cattle Egret	37	3	68	9			1	1		20		9
Striated Heron			1		1	2			1			
White-faced Heron	149	222	82	80	57	167	155	96	277	75	176	164
Little Egret	6	3	3	6	4	9	7	9	9	8	7	3
Glossy Ibis		42		52						3		
Australian White Ibis	143	574	906	152	44	81	71	19	114	34	119	167
Straw-necked Ibis			10	6	5	4		9	42		2	
Royal Spoonbill	95	60	35	43	35	34	72	20	24	31	76	40
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		2				1	1	1				
Purple Swamphen	37	30	23	38	52	63	84	35	35	25	42	149
Buff-banded Rail	1	1	1									
Baillon's Crake	1											
Aust. Spotted Crake	2										1	
Spotless Crake		1										

Table 2 is continued on the next page

Table 2 (cont'd) Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands

	11, 12 Jan ²	8, 9 Feb ²	8, 9 Mar	12, 13 Apr	10, 11 May	21, 22 Jun	12, 13 Jul	9, 10 Aug	20, 21 Sep ²	18, 19 Oct ²	15, 16 Nov ²	13, 14 Dec ²
Dusky Moorhen			4	7	4				2	1		4
Eurasian Coot	28	83	46	1161	665	397	688	301	261	178	612	350
Little Tern	130		70								24	62
Gull-billed Tern				3	4	9	13	1				
Caspian Tern	4	8	22	11	15	1	6	2	1	1	4	2
Whiskered Tern									23	165	97	155
White-winged Black Tern												1
Common Tern	5			3								
Crested Tern	5	4	5	3	1	1		16	4	2	4	7
Silver Gull	475	262	76	152	160	58	18	10	6	20	138	126

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

²Numbers for Jan, Feb, Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec include data from Tomago surveys.

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			2									
Chestnut Teal			1		9						2	
Pacific Black Duck	2	2	2	4	5		3				4	
White-necked Heron					3	3	5	1				
Great Egret	1											1
White-faced Heron	11	1	2	12	11	2	5	2	2	2	2	13
Australian White Ibis				6	5	40	13	3				2
Straw-necked Ibis			1	1		2		1				
Royal Spoonbill				1								
Pacific Golden Plover	34	23	13	21					2	17	37	81
Red-capped Plover			25	37				1				
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	6	7	8	10	6	8	9				2
Red-kneed Dotterel					37	23						
Masked Lapwing	2	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	5	2	2	1
Eastern Curlew		7	19	5					1			1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		3	2								37	11

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				1	4	2	2					
Pink-eared Duck						7						
Australasian Shoveler		3					4					
Grey Teal				8	12	12	6	7		10	50	4
Chestnut Teal	19	14	6	33	36	34	16	49	26	39	69	16
Pacific Black Duck	24	45	7	15	20	29	26	31	24	11	7	5
Hardhead					2	3						
Australasian Grebe			16									
Hoary-headed Grebe				5								
Little Pied Cormorant		1								2	1	1
Australian Pelican	3	4	31	1						1	1	2
White-necked Heron				1	3		1	1			1	
Great Egret	4	1	2	2	2	3	1			1	2	1
Intermediate Egret	1			1								
Cattle Egret	15										46	6
White-faced Heron	27	19	18	26	48	36	67	34	23	36	47	31
Little Egret					1				1			
Australian White Ibis	35	22	87	35	19	24	74	1	18	21	44	85
Straw-necked Ibis			2	4	7	1	5		1			
Royal Spoonbill		3	1		3		2			1	2	1
Yellow-billed Spoonbill						1	1					
Purple Swamphen										1		1
Red-necked Avocet					1							51
Pacific Golden Plover	29	20	1	11						17		
Red-capped Plover	1			2	1							
Red-kneed Dotterel				28	49	63	11	17	24	17	23	12
Masked Lapwing	4	5	10	9	12	10	6	5	8	13	8	8
Bar-tailed Godwit										2		
Eastern Curlew	10	7	12	1				3	2	4	7	4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	15							1	6	16	133	103
Gull-billed Tern							1	1	1			

Table 5 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands
(Highest monthly counts, by various members¹)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	8	26	36	150	88	73	57	20	7	2	14	16
Pink-eared Duck			2		2							
Australasian Shoveler			16	4	50	2		34				5
Grey Teal	61	58	1240	300	1622	140	420		25	340	860	669
Chestnut Teal	228	18	187	71	123	48	41		2	70	35	177
Pacific Black Duck	3	1	48	21	25	34		31	50	20	5	14
Australasian Grebe			2		8		1					
Hoary-headed Grebe						1						
Australian Darter				2	4						1	
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	3	1	25		1	1	3	1	6	4
Great Cormorant	2											
Little Black Cormorant	6	11	2	15	14	2		1	7	1	12	4
Pied Cormorant				1	1		1					
Australian Pelican	3		7	5						1	1	1
Australasian Bittern	1				1			1	1			
White-necked Heron	2	4	2	1	1	1		4	4	4	7	10
Great Egret	3	3	19	17	6	7	7	5	5	2	7	
Intermediate Egret	2				2							
Striated Heron					1							
White-faced Heron	78	120	91	46	63	36	59	98	150	127	127	95
Little Egret		1		4	1	2	4	3	2	1		1
Glossy Ibis	45	42	8									
Australian White Ibis	28	79	131	45	33	63	55	84	81	16	44	143
Straw-necked Ibis					17			97	36			6
Royal Spoonbill	20	27	16	119	22	9	10	23	2	15	11	14
Yellow-billed Spoonbill												2
Purple Swamphen	11	11	108	146	76	60	48	12	52	7	21	131
Baillon's Crake	1								1			
Aust. Spotted Crake		1	2		1	3	1	1	1	2	1	
Spotless Crake		1										
Eurasian Coot			40	130	150	100	600	451				1
Black-winged Stilt	238	227	21	233	93	34	50	223	223	40	394	304
Red-necked Avocet											104	8
Pacific Golden Plover	35	2							4		1	1
Red-kneed Dotterel					17	8		11	15	2	49	25
Masked Lapwing	32	32	32	19	6	10	11	9	25	10	16	10
Latham's Snipe	8		1							1		2
Black-tailed Godwit		1		16				4				
Bar-tailed Godwit									4		3	

Table 5 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands¹

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Eastern Curlew			1	15								120	
Common Greenshank		14	1			2		4	13	11	1	10	
Marsh Sandpiper									2		5	19	
Red-necked Stint									2		3	28	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	668	435	397	30					92	400	1636	1884	3199
Curlew Sandpiper									5		7	12	
Gull-billed Tern			1								2		
Caspian Tern				3	2			1					

¹Maximum count reported, from up to 3 site visits per month and 4 site visits in Jan, Oct and Dec

Table 6 Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp

(Systematic surveys from Hexham side, led by A Lindsey)

	5 Jan	27 Feb	25 Mar	11 Apr	26 May	13 Jun	18 Jul	27 Aug	15 Sep	12 Oct	9 Nov	21 Dec
Black Swan		47	68	102	12	12	19	22	6			23
Australasian Shoveler			6									
Grey Teal	330		284	150	711	15	444	220		2052	1650	1000
Chestnut Teal	30	6	345	440	272		90	45		364	60	300
Pacific Black Duck	6	14	35	79	3	154	74	157	14	77	36	17
Hardhead				4								
Australasian Grebe			3	13								
Hoary-headed Grebe				2	18	5						
Australian Darter				1								
Little Pied Cormorant	2		4	5		2	1				2	
Great Cormorant				1								
Little Black Cormorant		3	15	2				1		1		
Australian Pelican	5	17	22	5		4	1	17	6	1		24
Black-necked Stork			2									
Australasian Bittern			1									
White-necked Heron		1	1	1						1		
Great Egret	15	1	12	2		1	3		8	1	4	18
Intermediate Egret			2									2
Cattle Egret	1		6	1								
White-faced Heron	29	19	58	19	65	205	72	81	147	118	40	33
Little Egret			1	2		3	2					2
Australian White Ibis	41	235	34	13	137	44	25	6	28	31	3	114
Straw-necked Ibis		45	4		380	11						
Royal Spoonbill	2		49	8	8	22	4				1	13
Yellow-billed Spoonbill						3						

Table 6 is continued on the next page

Table 6 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Hexham Swamp

	5 Jan	27 Feb	25 Mar	11 Apr	26 May	13 Jun	18 Jul	27 Aug	15 Sep	12 Oct	9 Nov	21 Dec
Purple Swamphen	4		26	37	11	2	1			2		
Buff-banded Rail	1		2		1	1	1	1				
Baillon's Crake					2							
Aust. Spotted Crake				2	1		2	2	4	3	1	1
Dusky Moorhen							2	4				
Eurasian Coot			17	533	646			60				
Black-winged Stilt	722		5	17		3	57	172	55	1	374	365
Red-necked Avocet					6				2			56
Red-capped Plover												3
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	3	9				1		4			
Red-kneed Dotterel	24	15	14	9						2	12	
Masked Lapwing	10	30	49	1	2	3	5	13	8	24	10	5
Common Greenshank					1						4	1
Red-necked Stint											3	10
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1057	43							12	22	2520	2480
Curlew Sandpiper											3	11
Caspian Tern			1	4								
Whiskered Tern											32	25
Silver Gull		1										



Buff-banded Rail by Chris Herbert

Table 7 Waterbirds at Hunter Wetlands Centre*(Highest monthly counts from surveys by P Lightfoot, R & M Stewart, K Conway, others)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Magpie Goose	98	102	75	110	102	115	95	103	75	102	80	105
Wandering Whist-Duck		6	9	11	13	1					1	10
Black Swan	2	2	2	3	6	4	3	2	2			1
Australian Wood Duck		2	1	4	2		1	5	1			
Australasian Shoveler	1	1		2	5	10			1	1		
Grey Teal	55	4	2	42	51	45	2	167	150	150	45	75
Chestnut Teal	12	18	12	36	74	50	17	4	6	10	2	43
Pacific Black Duck	22	35	10	12	41	20	16	40	24	8	6	21
Hardhead	2	4		21	15	6	17	23	16	17	18	12
Australasian Grebe	2	15	14	32	36	20	18	19	8	3	9	14
Hoary-headed Grebe				2	4	3						
Australian Darter					1	2	1			1		1
Little Pied Cormorant	2		4	7	3	7	1	3	1		2	3
Great Cormorant	2			6	1	3					1	
Little Black Cormorant	3	2	1	4	5	1			4	8	2	3
Australian Pelican	3	3		1	1	2		4	1	2	5	2
Black-necked Stork							1			1		
White-necked Heron				1	1		1			1		
Great Egret		6	1	4	2	4		1	1	5	11	13
Intermediate Egret	1	6	1	2	1	1		1	2	8	6	10
Cattle Egret	250	250						5			300	350
White-faced Heron	1	2		3	1	1		1	2	1	2	1
Little Egret	3	4	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	1	2	8
Nankeen Night Heron	16	37	1	7	4	3	7	1	3	5	5	2
Australian White Ibis	80	150	10	44	100	80	252	281	250	200	65	186
Straw-necked Ibis		125	30	10	2	1	15					
Royal Spoonbill	5				26	6		2	1	12	3	3
Yellow-billed Spoonbill										1		
Purple Swamphen	22	33	15	22	52	50	40	42	45	23	31	14
Buff-banded Rail	3		3	1	1				3		2	
Spotless Crake						1						
Dusky Moorhen	93	37	30	53	87	20	24	52	30	33	53	24
Eurasian Coot	16	59	53	148	221	140	159	155	160	120	56	95
Black-winged Stilt	123							10	4	62	5	
Black-fronted Dotterel	15	2								3	8	
Red-kneed Dotterel											2	
Masked Lapwing	4	5	3	4	3	2	5	3	3	4	3	2
Latham's Snipe	3											
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper										2		
Silver Gull												25

Table 8 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		25										1
Black Swan						2	2					
Australian Wood Duck	111	130	88	84	73	93	41	48	47	76	121	106
Chestnut Teal	2							2	2		2	
Pacific Black Duck	9	14	8	12	12	10	11	12	24	24	18	19
Hardhead	9	1	1	5	3	5	2	2	4	4	3	2
Australasian Grebe	1	3	1	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	
Australian Darter									1			
Little Pied Cormorant	2	2	3	1				2	2	1	2	
Little Black Cormorant	4	3	2						3	4	2	2
Pied Cormorant	1							1				
White-necked Heron	1	1										
Great Egret	1				4							
White-faced Heron	1	3	9		1			2	1	4	1	
Little Egret												
Australian White Ibis			2	4								
Straw-necked Ibis	4	1				4						
Royal Spoonbill									1			
Purple Swamphen	8	9	4	12	10	9	12	16	21	19	21	16
Buff-banded Rail					1	1						
Dusky Moorhen	15	28	20	29	34	37	29	27	53	38	16	18
Eurasian Coot	15	11	5	10	20	29	42	43	35	44	30	39
Black-fronted Dotterel										1		
Masked Lapwing	38	39	39	43	15	44	21	18	30	29	28	46
Latham's Snipe	1										1	

Table 9 Waterbirds at Newcastle Baths/Harbour*(Monthly peak counts from frequent surveys led by J Thomas & R Nicholas)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Australian Wood Duck				2								
Black-browed Albatross						2				1		
Wedge-tailed Shearwater				25	1	3	30	200	100	100	50	20
Short-tailed Shearwater				6				20	100	4000	500	
Fluttering Shearwater						20	100	300	100	20	10	
Australasian Gannet	2		1	1	3	10	50	40	3	4		1
Australian Darter				1	2	5	2	3	1	1	3	1
Little Pied Cormorant					1	1	10	2	1	1	1	
Great Cormorant	14	8	6	5	8	7	6	6	12	5	10	6
Little Black Cormorant	10	8	8	60	35	12	12	12	6	12	12	7
Pied Cormorant	10	45	12	1	8	9	20	6	4	2	7	1
Australian Pelican	7	14	12	12	17	27	25	28	14	14	6	6
Great Egret		1	1	1	1	1						
Australian White Ibis					2							
White-faced Heron		1	6	2	2	1		1				
Eastern Reef Egret					1	1	1					
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher				1	6	2		1	1	2	4	1
Sooty Oystercatcher	35	49	44	38	12	14	16	9	15	12	11	15
Red-necked Avocet							1					
Double-banded Plover			1									
Masked Lapwing			2		4		2	6	2	4	2	2
Bar-tailed Godwit									1			
Whimbrel	1	1	1						1	1	1	1
Ruddy Turnstone	14	11	12	12	1		1	1	15	17	18	12
Red Knot	1											
Red-necked Stint	4									2	2	3
Pomarine Jaeger			2									
Common Noddy			1									
Little Tern	52	132	140	2		1	2	1	2	4	4	4
Gull-billed Tern			1		1	1	1	3		1	1	1
Caspian Tern	2	1	3									1
Whiskered Tern										1		
White-winged Black Tern	1	1										
White-fronted Tern				1		8	100	200	70	20	6	
Common Tern	130	180	180	80					8	60	150	20
Crested Tern		167	47	17	32	20	50	150	70	37	75	200
Pacific Gull						1						
Silver Gull	150	130	3	900	500	300	50	90	80	60	90	75

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
Black Swan	157	48	15	49	121	70	34		105	245	185	256
Australian Wood Duck	14	16	26	11	21	30	4	2	2			9
Chestnut Teal	9	2		12			16					
Hoary-headed Grebe						3	4					
Australian Darter	2		2	3	5	4	6	3	3	5	1	1
Little Pied Cormorant	34	68	14	54	71	19	100	11	21	102	5	12
Great Cormorant	3			4	2	2	4		1	2		3
Little Black Cormorant	19	117	156	18	29	17	30	18	63	307	21	27
Pied Cormorant	14	26	2	4	11	18		15	17	2	20	7
Australian Pelican	52	102	48	69	106	42	77	18	18	15	25	80
Great Egret	4	3		2		8	5		1			2
Intermediate Egret	4	1	1	7	8	1				1	1	1
Striated Heron	1	1	1									
White-faced Heron	10	21	3	9	3	8	5	2	4	4	1	1
Little Egret	4	5	3	8	22	14	4	8	3	3	8	1
Australian White Ibis	1	10	5	8	4	2		3	8			
Royal Spoonbill	1	3		13	13	17	3	7	2		5	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	10	9	2	4	3	2	3	4	2	4		7
Masked Lapwing	1	2	9	4	1	4	5	5	6	1	2	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	53	40	79	15	10	32	25	3	3	27	41	36
Whimbrel	4	5		2								
Eastern Curlew	2	3						2	3	1	2	
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	5	1								2	1
Little Tern	6	16									3	24
Caspian Tern		1	7	5	7	5	4		5	1	1	
White-fronted Tern				4								
Common Tern		12	1									
Crested Tern	18	29	13	32	12	2		9	1	6	1	
Silver Gull	182	51	135	404	280	123	216	9	34	73	152	133

Table 11 Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works
(Regular surveys led by A Lindsey & M Newman)

	6 Jan	14 Feb	27 Mar	19 Apr	17 May	15 Jun	24 Jul	9 Aug	1 Sep	26 Oct	21 Nov	18 Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck	1											
Musk Duck	1				1		1	1	1	1		
Freckled Duck			3	3	4	36	5	2		4		4
Black Swan	83	343	250	276	40	111	12	5	17	72	391	259
Australian Wood Duck	88	4	4	35	9	12	8	6	3	33	9	18
Pink-eared Duck	2	14	16		63	12	445	260	80	9	2	443
Australasian Shoveler	9	11	27	19	84	135	332	63	13			
Grey Teal	414	122	152	202	668	1019	540	864	1258	1306	428	438
Chestnut Teal	358	208	366	207	166	170	254	126	249	263	92	246
Pacific Black Duck	81	79	122	54	41	49	67	76	49	29	87	39
Hardhead	20		30	16	13	66	37	16	35		92	12
Australasian Grebe	22	48	152	87	37	21	22	17	32		1	13
Hoary-headed Grebe		3	7	18	182	72	225	121	7			8
Australian Darter	11	6	40	27	20	7	6	4	7	5	3	14
Little Pied Cormorant		1	6	15	1	2	1				1	3
Great Cormorant	8	2	5			4	15	26	5	7	1	7
Little Black Cormorant	5	2	1	17	5	1	1	2	3	2	1	12
Pied Cormorant			2	4	1	2	4	1	2	2		3
Australian Pelican	39	21	49	50	55	16	10	54	60	57	63	92
Black-necked Stork	2											
White-necked Heron									1			
Great Egret	3	6	12	2	1	2	2		2	6		26
Intermediate Egret	1	1	9	1								1
Cattle Egret		73	165	144	16			3	16	3	3	
Little Egret				3	1	1						
White-faced Heron	12	3	7	19	5	16		2	3	6	2	3
Glossy Ibis	2	24										
Australian White Ibis	6		6	12			1				2	1
Straw-necked Ibis		9	9	10	4	9	24	28	4		34	5
Royal Spoonbill	2	12	12	7	4	5	1	3		2		62
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1		2		1		2			3		13
Purple Swamphen	5	1	1		1	9	7	5	2	8	3	1
Dusky Moorhen	4		2			1	1					1
Eurasian Coot	93	377	410	457	164	450	300	112	180	56	52	1186
Black-winged Stilt	193	46	164	67	81	130	200	9	225	867	33	149
Red-necked Avocet	6	10			6					42		4
Pacific Golden Plover		1										
Black-fronted Dotterel						4		2				

Table 11 is continued on the next page

Table 11 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works

	6 Jan	14 Feb	27 Mar	19 Apr	17 May	15 Jun	24 Jul	9 Aug	1 Sep	26 Oct	21 Nov	18 Dec
Red-kneed Dotterel	2	5	1									
Masked Lapwing	79	19	78	103	67	33	41	72	42	20	23	32
Latham's Snipe										1	2	
Red-necked Stint										6		1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper										240		137
Curlew Sandpiper		1								4		
Gull-billed Tern				2								
Caspian Tern	2		3	3	3			1	3	1		1
Silver Gull						2		2			22	

Table 12 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks
(Regular surveys by J Smart, P Baird & L Mee)

	9 Jan	13 Feb	13 Mar	10 Apr	8 May	12 Jun	10 Jul	14 Aug	11 Sep	9 Oct	13 Nov	11 Dec
Musk Duck			1	2	1	3	3	1	2	1		
Black Swan	2	3	11	2	2	3	3	2		1		2
Australian Wood Duck	26	23	45	12	12	16	3	4	8	10	12	23
Pink-eared Duck		1										
Grey Teal		1		26	6	13	18	27	28	6	7	50
Chestnut Teal	2	14	9	12	23	12		17	29	51	2	11
Pacific Black Duck	19	18	51	19	14	1	5	22	20	43	12	14
Hardhead	25	12	11	13	16	13	4	63	23	9	19	15
Blue-billed Duck					2	1						
Australasian Grebe	23	13	15	26	41	66	19	36	21	65	9	8
Hoary-headed Grebe	36	2		75	7	20		9	12	3	5	56
Great Crested Grebe	19	28	34	36	24	12	4	5	8	12	15	12
Australian Darter	5	4	3	2	1	1		1	1	2	1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	6	12		12	8	6	13	6	1	3	7	2
Great Cormorant		2	7			1		1		2		
Little Black Cormorant	3	13	8	23	17	9	1	4	5	9	3	7
Australian Pelican				1			1	2	4	3	3	3
Great Egret	5			2		1		1	1	1		
Cattle Egret	1	24	19	3				5	4		6	
White-faced Heron	1	1	3	2	3	1	2	2		1	2	
Australian White Ibis	1		3									21
Straw-necked Ibis			40	2								
Royal Spoonbill	1				1	1	4				1	
Purple Swamphen	21	20	12	21	19	34	23	36	29	22	34	20
Dusky Moorhen	21	15	15	18	7	9	14	24	9	15	10	7
Eurasian Coot	353	430	466	238	152	154	163	143	103	189	311	281
Black-fronted Dotterel		2		2		2		2				
Masked Lapwing	2	2	7	6	2	2	2	6	5	2	2	5

Table 13 Waterbirds at Tocal Wetlands
(Regular surveys by L Walsh and M Newman)

	9 Jan	13 Feb	13 Mar	10 Apr	8 May	12 Jun	10 Jul	14 Aug	11 Sep	9 Oct	13 Nov	11 Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck			3									
Freckled Duck					7	5						
Black Swan	12	2	2	11	27	44	28	20	8	5	5	5
Australian Wood Duck		8	26	16		2	13	15	21	30	45	20
Australasian Shoveler		6		2	11	14	15	2				
Grey Teal	39	4	12	15	53	27	48	9	103	41	102	56
Chestnut Teal		6	5	7	20	7			2		2	8
Pacific Black Duck	7	16	17	43	41	82	30	14	17	14	9	16
Hardhead			22	5	5	3	5	8	4	1	1	11
Australasian Grebe			4	22	17	22	10	29		3	5	4
Hoary-headed Grebe					6	8	5		16	4	4	
Australian Darter				2	4			1		1	1	
Little Pied Cormorant	4		1	1		4	1		1			
Great Cormorant									1		4	1
Little Black Cormorant	8	2		7	4	4	1	5	3	2		4
Australian Pelican	8	6		1				5	11		3	
White-necked Heron		11	1	1	1	2	1					1
Great Egret				2		3		1	1	1	1	
Intermediate Egret	1	3										
Cattle Egret	25				8	10			23	46	24	
Little Egret												
White-faced Heron	1	1	1	3	1	3		3	1			1
Australian White Ibis				2	4			3	1			4
Straw-necked Ibis		35		74	1			20	4		6	10
Royal Spoonbill	1	3		1	5	7		2	2	1	1	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill									2		1	
Purple Swamphen		1	1	5	6	12	3	4	2		2	2
Dusky Moorhen		1		3	1		2	4	1			
Eurasian Coot		1	11	92	83	54	68	47	63	16	23	33
Black-winged Stilt	14				2	5	2	2	5	8	13	4
Black-fronted Dotterel	10	1					2		4	4	5	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	6				1	2		3	10	30	34	8
Masked Lapwing	2	3	5	10	5	17	20	10	7	5	1	5*
Latham's Snipe	1										1	
Marsh Sandpiper												1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper											6	

Table 14 Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay
(Surveys conducted at high tide)

	13 Jan	9 Feb	9 Mar	13 Apr	11 May	22 Jun	13 Jul	10 Aug	21 Sep	15 Nov	14 Dec
Black Swan	22				2				26	6	1
Australian Wood Duck	6				17	13	10	2	6+		
Chestnut Teal			15						2		
Australian Darter			1			1	2				
Little Pied Cormorant	6	19		1		3	7	3		2	5
Great Cormorant	1	1	1	3		1	3	12	2		
Little Black Cormorant			1				62			1	
Pied Cormorant	15	14	15	15	13	43	33	18	6	4	8
Australian Pelican					1	3	2	2		1	
White-necked Heron											3
Great Egret	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1		
Intermediate Egret					1						
White-faced Heron	15	5	3	10	19	10	15	10		3	2
Little Egret		2	3		1	1	1				
Aust. White Ibis	6			4	24	46	15		4		6
Straw-necked Ibis					9		30+				6
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	6	38	39	44	37	34	47	30	16	6	20
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	1			1		4	2	3	2	1
Pacific Golden Plover	1			4	9		2				
Grey Plover										1	
Red-capped Plover			1		4	5	2	7		3	1
Double-banded Plover				1	4		13	11			
Masked Lapwing		5	5	4	4	11	12	4	6	9	5
Black-tailed Godwit										2	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	26	40	52	57	46	145	107	132	187	75	98
Whimbrel	19	17	41	28	10	12	30	31	24	10	18
Eastern Curlew	248	230+	152			5		181	176	355	176
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	1	10	24	10	2	7		14		2
Red-necked Stint						1	1			15	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									12		1
Gull-billed Tern	8			5	6	1	7	16	12	3	8
Caspian Tern		3	2		4	13	28	18	12	1	
Crested Tern	8	22	5	23	48	9	12	3	6		2
Silver Gull	1		2	4	6	2	2	2	7	3	9

Table 15 Waterbirds in Port Stephens*(Boat based surveys at high tide, by HBOC members in 6 teams)*

Species	11 Feb	12 Jul
Black Swan	10	
Australian Wood Duck	4	23
Pink-eared Duck		2
Chestnut Teal	3	5
Pacific Black Duck	6	8
Hoary-headed Grebe		20
Australian Darter	25	39
Little Pied Cormorant	89	298
Great Cormorant	22	43
Little Black Cormorant	475	910
Pied Cormorant	174	229
Australian Pelican	166	198
Great Egret		23
Intermediate Egret		1
Striated Heron	6	1
White-faced Heron	28	173
Little Egret	15	15
Australian White Ibis	34	92
Straw-necked Ibis		114

Species	11 Feb	12 Jul
Beach Stone-curlew		4
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	123	130
Sooty Oystercatcher	42	30
Red-necked Avocet	1	3
Pacific Golden Plover		3
Red-capped Plover	4	8
Double-banded Plover		26
Masked Lapwing	35	26
Bar-tailed Godwit	366	308
Whimbrel	208	33
Eastern Curlew	310	47
Grey-tailed Tattler	56	15
Ruddy Turnstone	2	
Little Tern	2	
Gull-billed Tern		8
Caspian Tern	6	43
Common Tern	43	
Crested Tern	49	57
Silver Gull	362	127

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	4			1	2		12	5	3	5	4	5
Little Pied Cormorant	3	5	2	1					1			
Great Cormorant	42	32	33	34	24	9	30	40	38	23	56	32
Little Black Cormorant			1									
Pied Cormorant	5	11	9	3	7		7	12	16	15	15	2
White-faced Heron		1	1		1	2	1		1	1		
Eastern Reef Egret	1		1									
Straw-necked Ibis					1				1			
Sooty Oystercatcher	13	2	7	2	2		4	6	9	4		7
Masked Lapwing	2	2	2	2		2	2	2			2	6
Caspian Tern			1									
Crested Tern	49	126	80	135	316	42	99	86	1	43	29	74
Silver Gull	337	151	378	290	316	252	487	288	99	233	98	316

Table 17 Waterbirds at Wallis Lake/Forster/Tuncurry*(Surveys by A Stuart at intermediate tide at Wallis Lake entrance, except where noted)*

	30 Jan	27 Feb	13 Mar	30 Apr	29 May	11 Jun	16 Jul	28 Aug	18 Sep	10 Oct ¹	16 Oct	3 Nov	7 Dec
Black Swan								13	6		10	18	9
Australian Wood Duck			2			4		4			8		11
Chestnut Teal										14			
Short-tailed Shearwater											1		
Australian Darter	1	1	2		1	2		3			1	1	
Little Pied Cormorant		2				1		1	2	2	1		
Great Cormorant	3	1	2	1	2		3	1	3	1	1	5	5
Little Black Cormorant	17	95	4	10	2		6	250	4		3	7	22
Pied Cormorant	28	18	7	12	5	10	42	98	42	42	47	19	84
Australian Pelican	64	104	120	95	108	110	134	95	70	200+	119	114	85
Great Egret	1		1	2	1		4	21	1		2	1	
Intermediate Egret								1					
Striated Heron			1					1			1		
White-faced Heron		1		1	3		12	7	13	1	4	4	
Little Egret	1		1		1	8		5			1		
Australian White Ibis			1					2	1				
Royal Spoonbill								1					
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	14	16	25	13	4	2	4	4	6		11	14	18
Sooty Oystercatcher	2												2
Pacific Golden Plover										1			
Masked Lapwing			2	2		2	2		2			2	
Bar-tailed Godwit		6	14			4				1	2		
Eastern Curlew											1		
Gull-billed Tern						1							
Caspian Tern		2		4		8	10		3	12		3	1
Common Tern		1											
Crested Tern	143	73	125	110	260	580	240	178	315	13	732	52	178
Silver Gull	215	127	160	80	110	100	55	13	55	13	155	211	164

¹*This survey covered the central part of Wallis Lake (in the general vicinity of Green Point-Pelican Island)*

Table 18 Waterbirds in the Manning Estuary
(Surveys by A Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Mudbishops Point)

	29-30 Jan	27-28 Feb	13-14 Mar	30 Apr	29-30 May	24-25 Jun	15-16 Jul	27-28 Aug	19-20 Sep	17-18 Oct	7-8 Nov	6-7 Dec
Black Swan	8	5	7	14		6		2	5	4	2	5
Australian Wood Duck			4		6							
Australian Darter			1		1			1				
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	3		2						1	
Great Cormorant	5	11	7			2		5	1	1	8	3
Little Black Cormorant	144	4	10	5	6	4	6	156	3	231	251	8
Pied Cormorant	30	26	30	25	19	14	10	47	52	16	36	44
Australian Pelican	23	24	26	22	22	10	25	23	15	28	22	26
Great Egret			1	1			2	1				
Striated Heron			1		1							
White-faced Heron			2			2	2			1	5	
Little Egret			1						1		1	1
Eastern Reef Egret												1
Beach Stone-curlew				3	3	1	3	3		1	1	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	14	9	7	8	7	6	4	13	11	5	15	8
Pacific Golden Plover	141	117	115	9		10	1	16	89	110	94	137
Grey Plover												1
Red-capped Plover	28	5	29	44	32	52	23	20	25	23	25	28
Double-banded Plover		1	25	48	75	86	86	26	3		1	
Masked Lapwing		2	2			4	2	1	1	4	4	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	160	158	155	71	37	28	44	39	49	126	128	130
Whimbrel	29	5	6	2					8	6	13	
Eastern Curlew	41	32	29	9	7	6	6	24	36	32	36	34
Grey-tailed Tattler											2	
Ruddy Turnstone	1									1	1	2
Sanderling	14	15							5	10	18	14
Red-necked Stint	26	4	8	7	6	5	9	12	21	55	63	104
Curlew Sandpiper											2	
Little Tern	95	241	200	80	12		22	25		330	260	415
Gull-billed Tern					2		5	2	9	1	3	4
Caspian Tern	5	3	5	2	5		6		3		1	
White-fronted Tern						10	8	4				
Common Tern	60	79	65							1	1	43
Crested Tern	564	352	330	340	170	100	42	207	381	614	26	93
Silver Gull	39	69	90	560	75	40	75	9	9	14	52	54

Table 19 Waterbirds at Cattai Wetlands*(Surveys done by A Stuart)*

	30 Jan	27 Feb	30 Apr	29 May	24 Jun	15 Jul	28 Aug	19 Sep	17 Oct	8 Nov	8 Dec
Wandering Whist-Duck			3								
Black Swan	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	3	3
Grey Teal	2	2	16	2		2	52	60	11	80	49
Chestnut Teal		2		2		3	8	4			
Pacific Black Duck	4	6	15	22	18	24	22	39	33	168	56
Hardhead						27	15	17			37
Australasian Grebe	2	2	3	5	5	1	4	6	3	3	3
Hoary-headed Grebe						2	3				
Australian Darter											1
Little Pied Cormorant		1			1						
Great Cormorant			1						2		
Little Black Cormorant		2						2	2		5
Australian Pelican									5		
White-necked Heron				1				2	1	1	
Great Egret			1			1				2	
White-faced Heron	1		1					1		1	
Straw-necked Ibis							2				
Royal Spoonbill						1					
Purple Swamphen		2				10			2		2
Dusky Moorhen			2								
Eurasian Coot	6	10	15	12	10	21	39	31	29	5	69
Comb-crested Jacana	1	3	4	3	4	4	5	5	3	2	3
Latham's Snipe									2		

Table 20 Worimi Conservation Lands Waterbirds*(Regular counts by A.Lindsey/M.Newman/N.Russell/R.George)*

	8 Feb	26 Mar	3 Apr	28 Jun	9 Jul	20 Aug	18 Nov	10 Dec
Hardhead		25						
Great Cormorant		1						
Pied Cormorant			1		2	1		
White-necked Heron								1
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	17	21	24	24	27	22	22	17
Black-winged Stilt		1	1					
Red-necked Avocet	30							
Red-capped Plover	17	36	20	37	32		5	7
Double-banded Plover	3	104	86	119	54	42		
Black-fronted Dotterel				1	1			1
Masked Lapwing					1			
Great Knot				1				
Red Knot							1	
Sanderling				3				
Red-necked Stint		3	3	9				19
Little Tern								33
Gull-billed Tern	1	18	62	69	57	126	74	67
Common Tern		6						
Crested Tern	38	49	11	2	16	11	3	95
Silver Gull	500	340	219	125	55	2	28	207

*Great Cormorant by Kate Simpson*

Table 21 Seabirds recorded in Pelagic Surveys

(Counts from surveys to the continental shelf departing from Port Stephens led by M. Roderick and S. Roderick)

	20 Jan	23 Mar	24 Mar	14 Apr*	28 Apr	23 June	14 Jul	11 Aug	23 Nov
Wilson's Storm-Petrel		30	14	100	200	15			10
White-faced Storm-Petrel	2				3		1	2	1
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel						1			
New Zealand Storm-Petrel				1					
Wandering-type Albatross*						1	5	1	
Black-browed-type Albatross*						50	5	3	3
Shy-type Albatross						11	6	2	5
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross						9	30	30	
Buller's Albatross						3	1		
Northern Giant-Petrel						2	3		
Cape Petrel						1			
Antarctic Prion						1			
Slender-billed Prion						1			
Fairy Prion						150	80	7	
Black Petrel	1								
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1800	550	600	80	540			7	150
Buller's Shearwater	2		1						
Flesh-footed Shearwater	15	70	40	60	80				20
Sooty Shearwater	1		2						
Short-tailed Shearwater	11	3	3		3				400
Streaked Shearwater					1				
Fluttering Shearwater	1	20	5	1		4	15	60	
Hutton's Shearwater	1	3	3					1	
Great-winged Petrel	5					2			2
Providence Petrel				2		2	2	3	1
Gould's Petrel	1								2
Little Penguin		1							
Australasian Gannet	4	2	8	15	25	200	120	70	
Masked Booby									1
Brown Skua						1			
Pomarine Jaeger	17	20	5	1	1				6
Arctic Jaeger	2	6	1		2				1
Long-tailed Jaeger									3
Sooty Tern	12								2
Crested Tern	6	3	7	8	9	12	15	20	4
Silver Gull	10	4	4	11	50	40	140	40	5

*See the albatross species accounts in main body of the Report for additional information

*Boat departed from Swansea

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

AP	Airport
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve
CP	Caravan Park
FP	Forest Preserve
GC	Golf Club
GTD	Grahamstown Dam
HEZ	Hunter Economic Zone
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
HSD	Homestead
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre of Australia
IBA	Important Bird Area
KI	Kooragang Island
KNR	Kooragang Nature Reserve
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage

NLH	New Lambton Heights
NP	National Park
NR	Nature Reserve
NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
PNR	Pambalong Nature Reserve
RF	Rainforest
RP	Regional Park
SCA	State Conservation Area
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
TSR	Travelling Stock Route
WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
WWW	Walka Water Works



Antarctic and Fairy Prions by Mick Roderick

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Grid references for commonly visited locations continued:

Allyn River	K5	Broke	I9
Appletree Flat	H8	Broughton Island	P8
Arrowfield	H7	Bulahdelah	P7
Ash Island	M10	Bulga	I8
Awabakal NR	M10/11	Cabbage Tree Island	P9
Balickera	M9	Catherine Hill Bay	L11
Barrington House	L5	Cessnock	K9/K10
Battery Rocks	E6	Chichester Dam	M6
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Chichester SF	K5/L5
Belltrees	I4	Clarencetown	M8
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Coon Island (Swansea Channel)	L11
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Cooranbong	K11
Black Head	R5	Copeland Common	N4
Black Neds Bay	L11	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Blue Gum Hills RP	K10	Copeland Tops SCA	M4
Bootawah	Q4	Corrie Island	O9
Bolwarra	L9	Denman	G7
Boarding House Dam	K11	Dungog	M7
Boondelbah Island	P9	Durridgere Rd	A6
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10



Nankeen Kestrel by Steve Merrett

Fingal Bay	O9	Old Bar	R4
Forster	R6	Oyster Cove	N9
Fosterton Loop	M7	Pambalong Nature Reserve	
Galgabba Point	L11	(PAMBALONG NR)	L10
George McGregor Park	M10	Paterson	L8
Glenrock SCA	M10	Phoenix Park	L9
Gloucester	N5	Pokolbin	J9
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5	Quorrobolong	K10
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Green Wattle Creek	L9	Raymond Terrace	M9
Gir-um-bit NP	N9	Redhead	M11
Hallidays Point	R5	Red Head	R5
Harrington	S4	Ringwood Rd	
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	(Goulburn River NP)	C6
Hexham Swamp	L10/ M10	Salt Ash	N9
Howes Valley	H10	Saltwater NP	R4
Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ)	K9	Scone	H5
Hunter Region Botanic		Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Gardens (HRBG)	M9	Seal Rocks	R7
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Singleton	I8/J8
Irrawang Swamp	M9	Singleton Training Area	
Jerrys Plains	H7	(Aust. Army)	I9/J9
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	Stockton	M10
Kings Gap	F7	Stockton Borehole Lagoon	L10
Kitchener (Werakata NP)	K10	Swan Bay	N9
Kooragang Island	M10	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Kurri Kurri	K9	Taree	Q4
Laguna	I10	Tarro	M9
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	Toronto	L11
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Tuncurry	R6
Maitland	L9	University of Newcastle	M10
Market Swamp	M10	Vacy	L8
Martindale	G7	Waitui	R3
Medowie	N9	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Morisset	K11	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	Warakeila	L6
Morpeth	L9	Warkworth	I8
Mount Arthur	H6	Watagans SF & NP	K11
Mount Vincent	K10/L10	Williamstown	N9
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4	Wingen	H4
Newcastle	M10	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve		Woko NP	M3
(NWR)	M10	Woodville	L9
New Lambton Heights	M10	Wye Point	L11
		Yarrawa	F7

OBSERVER CODES

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

ADJ	Jack Adams	FAT	Tim Faulkner
AKM	Michael Akrill	FEG	Grahame Felletti
ALD	Dan Allen	FIW	Win Filewood
ALP	Peter Alexander	FOC	Reported in Birding NSW (Field Ornithologists Club) newsletter
AMS	Stephen Ambrose	FRA	Allen Friis
ANC	Craig Anderson	FRN	Neil Fraser
ATR	Richard Atkins	FRP	Paul Freeman
AYG	Gavin Ayre	GCL	Clark Gormley
BAP	Paul Baird	GER	Robyn George
BEI	Ian Benson	GOA	Anthony Gooden
BIA	Birding-Aus (Internet group)	GOC	Colin, Rachel Goodenough
BLM	Max Blanch	GOJ	John Goswell
BOH	Hayley Boyce	GOS	Simon Gorta
BRG	Grant Brosie	GRJ	Robert, Janine Greig
BTR	Trevor, Rae Black	GRL	Lucas Grenadier
CAA	Ashley Carlson	HAK	Keith Harris
CAB	Boyd Carney	HAM	Matthew Hamonet
CBOC	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	HAP	Phil Hansbro
CCB	Central Coast Group of Birding NSW	HAS	Sue Hamonet
CIR	Rebecca Citroni	HBOC	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	HBW	Hastings Bird Watchers
CLT	Tom Clarke	HCL	Chris, Liz Herbert
COD	Dick Cooper	HDM	Dianne, Michael Hatfield
COG	Garth Cooksey	HHB	Hunter Home Brewers Twitchathon team
COK	Ken Conway	HIP	Peter Hirst
COS	Steven Cox	HOB	Bruce Hosken
CRB	Brian Crisp	HRK	Rod, Karen Howie
CRL	Liz Crawford	HUB	Report posted to Hunterbirding e-mail group
DAP	Paul Davidson	HWS	HBOC Wader Surveys
DBP	Penny Drake-Brockman	JAM	Mavis Jackson
DDR	Dodgy Drongos Twitchathon team	JED	Dick Jenkin
DTB	Dry-throated Buzzards Twitchathon team	JOD	Di Johnson
DUP	Pam Durie	KET	Tom Kendall
EAC	Chris Eastham	KIR	Rob Kilkelly
EGD	Darryl Eggins	KYR	Rob Kyte
ERE	Report posted on www.eremaea.com (NSW Birdline)	LAK	Keith Laverick
FAA	Adam Fawcett	LAT	Toby Lambert

LAW	Winsome Lambkin	RUN	Nadine Russell
LIA	Ann Lindsey	SIA	Alwyn Simple
LIG	Greg Little	SIM	Mark Simpson
LIL	Liz Livanos	SJE	Jenny Stiles
LIN	Nick Livanos	SLP	Philip Slack
LIP	Paddy Lightfoot	SMJ	Jim Smart
MAC	Clare Manning	SRM	Robert, Margaret Stewart
MAT	Toni Marsh	STA	Alan Stuart
MCE	Eula McKane	STD	David Stuart
MCL	Clare Manning	STH	Helen Stevens
MCN	Neville McNaughton	STJ	Jeanette Stephenson
MCR	Robert McDonald	STL	Leone Storm
MCS	Shaun McKay	STP	Peter Struik
MDV	Don, Val Moon	TAH	Harold Tarrant
MEL	Lorna Mee	TAM	Mike Tarburton
MGLB	Reported in Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers newsletter	TBW	Tomaree Bird Watchers
MID	David Miller	THJ	Judi Thomas
MIG	Geoff Mitchell	THK	Karen Thumm
MOA	Alan Morris	THM	Mick Thomas
MOT	Tim Morris	TNW	Tilligerry Nature Watch newsletter
MRA	Ray McLean	TOG	Gary Tong
MRO	Rob McDonnell	TRP	Paul Trute
MUJ	Jenny Musicka	TUJ	Jean Tucker
MUT	Trevor Murray	TWN	Tilligerry Nature Watch report
NAK	Krishna Nagarajan	VGf	Fred van Gessel
NED	Dennis Neader	WAS	S. Walker
NEG	Greg Newling	WBL	Brian, Lyn Watts
NEM	Mike Newman	WDA	David Wiedemann
NIG	Geoff Nicholls	WEJ	Judy Westphal
NIJ	Joy Nicholls	WID	Dan Williams
NIR	Richard Nicholas	WIL	Leslie Wilson
OCG	Graeme O'Connor	WIN	Narrawan Williams
OPS	Paul Osborn	WOL	Lois Wooding
PAL	Lene Parashou	WTA	Tasman Willis
PEG	Greg Pearson		
PEK	Kristy Peters		
PIA	Alfred Piper		
POJ	Jenny Powers		
RAF	F. Rainsford		
RDB	Dot, Bob Raine		
REB	Bob Rech		
RIA	Allan Richardson		
ROM	Mick Roderick		
ROS	Steve Roderick		
RUD	David Rushton		

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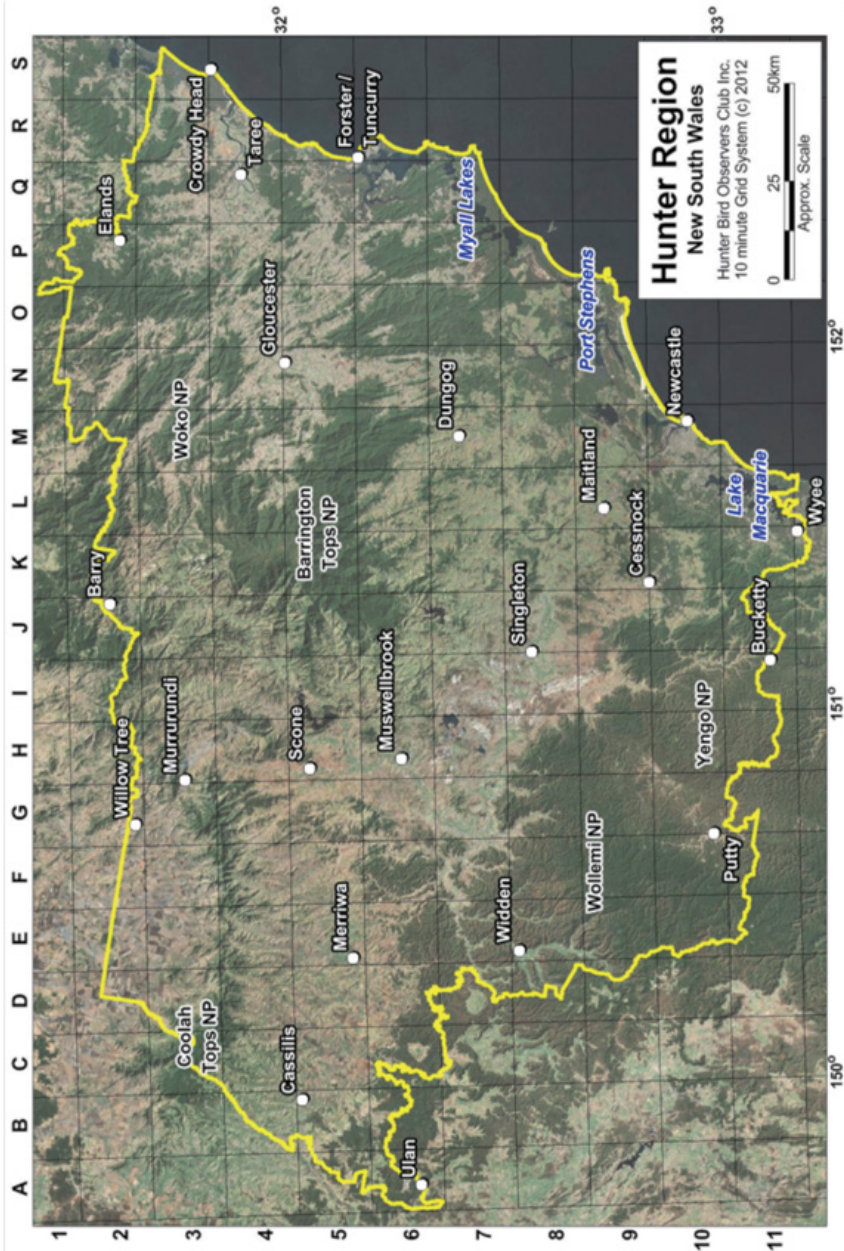
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Red	75
Weebill	70
Whimbrel	47
Whipbird, Eastern	79
Whistler	
Golden	81
Olive	81
Rufous	81
Whistling-Duck	
Plumed	10
Wandering	10
Whiteface, Southern	72
Woodswallow	
Dusky	83
Little	83
Masked	82
White-breasted	82
White-browed	83
Y	
Yellowlegs, Lesser	48



Ruff by Trevor Murray

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.





Rufous Scrub-bird: a resident bird of the Barrington Tops and Gloucester Tops
Sketch by Louise Williams

