

A photograph of a bird, possibly a honeyeater, with its wings fully extended in flight against a clear blue sky. The bird has a dark head, a white eye-ring, and a long, dark, slightly hooked beak. Its wings are dark with lighter, barred patterns on the underside. The tail is also dark with lighter bars. In the bottom right corner, there is a small portion of a green plant with thick, rounded leaves.

HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Annual Bird Report Number 22 (2014)

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Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

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

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

HBOC holds monthly meetings with guest speakers on bird related topics, conducts regular surveys within the Hunter Region, and organises mid-week and weekend outings and occasional camps on long weekends. The range of activities is designed to suit beginners and more experienced birdwatchers equally. All members receive a regular newsletter and are able to borrow without charge from a comprehensive range of books and CDs 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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Curlew Sandpiper by Mick Roderick

FOREWORD

Earlier this year BirdLife Australia launched the *State of Australia's Birds 2015: Headline Trends for Terrestrial Birds* report. This report introduced Bird Indices for terrestrial birds and Australia's Red List Index; a means of tracking trends in the status of Australia's most threatened bird groups.

The Australian Bird Indices (ABI) arose from rigorous scientific analysis of Australia's largest long-term environmental dataset. It is the result of collaboration with thousands of bird observers around the country, and some of Australia's finest scientists, universities, research institutions and government departments.

The indices were developed in response to *The National State of the Environment* report in 2011, which noted that, "Data on long-term trends in biodiversity are limited, making it difficult to interpret the state or trends of major animal and plant groups in most jurisdictions."

The indices are first for environmental monitoring in Australia. The report was a huge achievement.

They stand on the shoulders of giants.

The Hunter Region has contributed enormously to the Atlas – the data used to develop the indices.

When the editor, Alan Stuart, asked me to write a foreword for this Hunter Bird Observers Club 2014 Annual Bird Report I was honoured. After reading over the draft report I am humbled.

I'm awed by the amount and quality of data compiled. The sheer dedication of observers and contributors who volunteer their time collecting, recording, checking, analysing and presenting the data to make up this and previous bird reports is an invaluable contribution to the knowledge that informs the conservation of our precious birds.

Reading over the report a particular site stood out for me. As an *Important Bird and Biodiversity Area* (IBA), and because of the excellent advocacy carried out by HBOC and others to protect the site, I've been aware of the global significance of the Hunter Estuary to our migratory shorebirds for a number of years. This year's Annual Bird Report reiterates what an important role the Hunter Estuary plays for the Region's avifauna. For example, the Hunter Estuary counts of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec 2014 represent 4.5-5% of the total world population. These numbers place the Hunter Estuary in the top 10 list of sites internationally for Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

Of concern however, are the low counts of species such as the Eastern Curlew (low compared with many previous years) and Bar-tailed Godwit (the lowest peak count since systematic surveys began) in the Estuary in 2014.

In the face of mounting evidence, the Australian Government officially recognised the status of two Hunter Estuary migratory shorebirds — the Eastern Curlew and Curlew Sandpiper – as Critically Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) in May this year. The listing recognises that the birds now face a very high risk of extinction in the near future.

The population of Eastern Curlew reaching Australia has more than halved since the 1980s and without urgent conservation action, in the 30 years it takes for the average Australian to pay off their mortgage, species such as the Eastern Curlew may no longer make it to Australia. It deeply troubles me that within my lifetime, it is conceivable that these birds could stop returning to our shores altogether.

continued overleaf

Whilst by far the largest threat to these long-distance migrants is the loss of their staging habitat in the Yellow Sea, many species are facing a death by a thousand cuts here in Australia too. We desperately need Australia, China, Korea and other Asian nations to work together to protect the rich mudflats that fuel the migration of these extraordinary athletes.

Meanwhile HBOC is certainly doing their bit in looking after the habitat in the Hunter Estuary thanks to the efforts of some dedicated members and supporters.

Earlier this year BirdLife Australia's Threatened Species Committee also recommended the Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Red Knot be listed as Endangered based on analysis of monitoring data collected on shorebirds around Australia in the last 30 years. Again, analysis that wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated data collection by so many dedicated volunteers, including many members of HBOC.

Like the 368 or so birds recorded in the Hunter Region in 2014 I have recently chosen habitat on the Mid North Coast to call home. And after reading many of the notable records in this year's bird report I've realised I have personally been remiss in not collecting and sharing information about the birds in and around my property, which has been dubbed by HBOCs current President as the Hunter's 'Northern Outpost'.

So I congratulate the editor and committee, not only on an excellent 2014 Annual Bird Report, but of upholding for another year, a culture committed to the collection of rigorous scientific data and sharing knowledge about birds.

I hope that these reports will form a call to action: for observers to continue the important work they do monitoring Australia's birds; for decision-makers to heed the messages the birds are telling us about the state of our environment; and for action to be taken to protect Australia's beautiful birds.

And of course I'll be keeping my eye out for that elusive Barred Cuckoo-shrike on my property.

Samantha Vine

Samantha Vine is the Head of Conservation at BirdLife Australia where she manages a diverse portfolio of conservation policies, programs and campaigns. Samantha was a founding member of the Places You Love Alliance, the largest alliance of environment NGOs in Australia's history, and now chairs the Management Committee. Samantha sits on the Federal Ministerial Advisory Committee for the Environment, primarily to advise on threatened species matters.

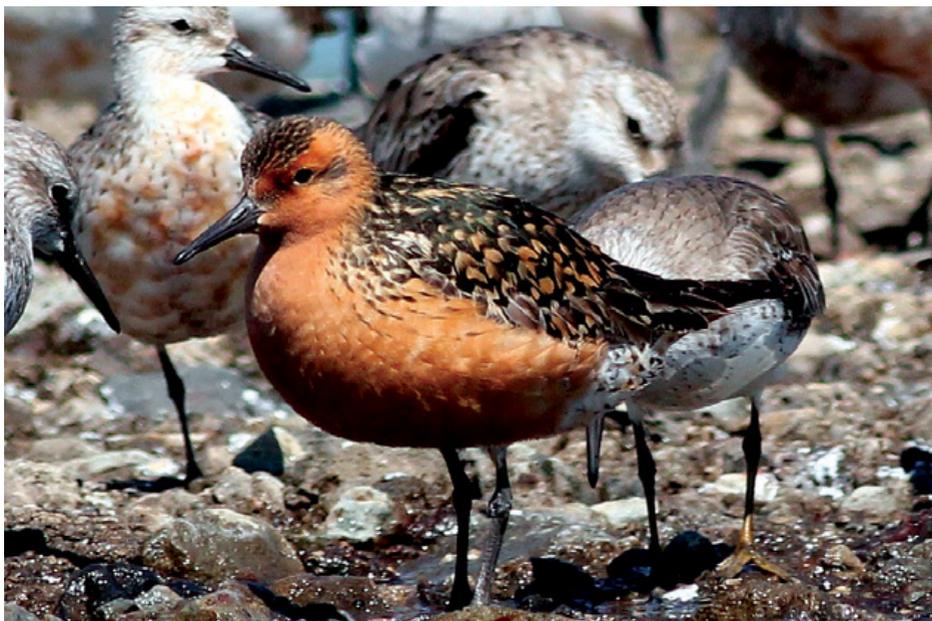
NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

2014 was characterised by a remarkable number of shorebird and waterbird records in the Hunter Estuary, especially at Hexham Swamp and Tomago Wetlands where regular tidal inundations had recently recommenced after many decades of restriction. Also, many seabird species which usually are rare or vagrants in the Region were recorded. Below are the most notable records for the year (including some negatives):

- **King Quail:** Several birds at Ash Island Jan-Feb and three birds at Cattai Wetlands 8 Feb
- **Regent Honeyeater:** several records Jun-Oct although only ever in low numbers
- **Orange Chat:** a single female at Hexham Swamp 29 Nov
- **Black Honeyeater:** a single male at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb
- **Plum-headed Finch:** many records from Kerrabee, Doyles Creek and nearby areas in May with birds feeding young although breeding within the Region could not be confirmed
- **Yellow Wagtail:** up to seven birds at Hexham Swamp and elsewhere Jan-Feb, including a *taivana* subspecies bird, and a winter record of a bird at Hexham Swamp 22 Jun - 8 Jul.
- **European Goldfinch:** a westerly record of a bird at Kerrabee 5 May
- **Plumed Whistling-Duck:** 600-800 birds at Doughboy Hollow 7 Mar
- **Freckled Duck:** 50+ birds in the Region Aug-Sep with many other records during the year
- **Australian Shelduck:** Single birds flying offshore 9 Jul and at Hexham Swamp 12-21 Jul
- **Pink-eared Duck:** 800+ birds in the Region Jul and 600-700 birds Jan-Feb
- **Chestnut Teal:** 1,068 birds in the Hunter Estuary 17-18 Jan (*>1% of total population*)
- **Blue-billed Duck:** Several records, in Jan-Feb, May and Dec
- **White-tailed Tropicbird:** two birds off Port Stephens 12 Jan
- **Hoary-headed Grebe:** 442 birds at Grahamstown Dam Dec and 354 birds Aug
- **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove:** up to four birds at Mungo Brush Myall Lakes NP 27 Sep – 27 Oct and a single bird at Harrington 7 Dec
- **White-throated Needletail:** ~1,000 birds at Myall Lakes Jan and many other large counts
- **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel:** a single bird off Port Stephens 12 Oct
- **White-capped Albatross:** a juvenile bird off Port Stephens 16 Nov
- **Grey-headed Albatross:** two beach-cast birds along Newcastle Bight mid-Jun
- **Buller's Albatross:** five birds off Swansea 24 Jul and two birds off Port Stephens 10 Aug
- **Light-mantled Sooty Albatross:** a single bird off Port Stephens 9 Mar
- **Southern Giant-Petrel:** juvenile birds taken into care in Aug and 4 Nov
- **White-chinned Petrel:** a single bird off Port Stephens 16 Nov
- **Black Petrel:** single birds were off Port Stephens 9 & 30 Mar
- **Sooty Shearwater:** ~24 birds off Swansea 4 Dec
- **Streaked Shearwater:** a single bird off Port Stephens 9 Mar

- **Tahiti Petrel:** single birds off Port Stephens 17 Feb and 9 Mar
- **Kermadec Petrel:** single birds off Port Stephens 23 Feb and 9 Mar
- **Cook's Petrel:** a single bird off Swansea 4 Dec
- **White-necked Petrel:** single birds off Port Stephens 23 Feb and 9 Mar
- **Pied Cormorant:** 544 birds in Port Stephens 14 Jul
- **Black Bittern:** a single bird at Toronto West 30 Apr
- **Square-tailed Kite, Black Kite, Spotted Harrier:** many and widespread records
- **Brolga:** a single bird at Nabiac 5 Feb
- **Lewin's Rail, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Spotted Crake, Spotless Crake:** many birds at Hexham Swamp 9-21 Jul as well other records from there and elsewhere during the year
- **Eurasian Coot:** more than 2,500 birds in the Region in Jan
- **Beach Stone-curlew:** the pairs in the Manning Estuary and Port Stephens both were seen with juveniles
- **Australian Pied Oystercatcher:** 260-280 birds in the Region in summer and 220-240 birds in winter
- **Sooty Oystercatcher:** 110-130 birds in the Region in summer
- **Black-winged Stilt:** 1,576 birds in the Hunter Estuary Dec and 1,000+ birds often recorded
- **Red-necked Avocet:** 5,159 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jul and 4,000-5,000+ birds Aug-Nov
- **Pacific Golden Plover:** 522 birds in the Hunter Estuary in Mar (largest count since 1986)
- **Lesser Sand Plover:** 4-5 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan and Dec and some other records
- **Oriental Plover:** a single bird near Largs 26 Jan – 8 Feb
- **Red-kneed Dotterel:** up to 222 birds in the Hunter Estuary Nov-Dec with other influxes Jan-Feb and Jun-Jul (greatest numbers on record)
- **Australian Painted Snipe:** up to 11 birds at Wallsend Wetlands Jan 7-15
- **Black-tailed Godwit:** peak count of only 132 birds in the Hunter Estuary 20 Mar
- **Bar-tailed Godwit:** lowest peak count on record for the Hunter Estuary (880 birds in Oct)
- **Little Curlew:** up to six birds at Hexham Swamp 30 Nov – 1 Dec
- **Eastern Curlew:** very low peak counts in both the Hunter Estuary and Port Stephens
- **Terek Sandpiper:** 16 birds at Fern Bay 10 & 24 Jan but very low counts at all other times
- **Common Greenshank:** 120 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan 9 (largest count since 2008)
- **Marsh Sandpiper:** 111 birds at Hexham Swamp 28 Nov (largest count since 2008)
- **Wood Sandpiper:** at least one bird at Hexham Swamp 14 Jan - 7 Feb
- **Red Knot:** first confirmed record of the subspecies *piersmai*, in the Hunter Estuary 12 Oct
- **Long-toed Stint:** a single bird at the Kooragang Dykes 22 Nov

- **Pectoral Sandpiper:** up to 3 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar and late Nov onwards
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** 7,000-8,000 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec (placing the Estuary into the top 10 of sites internationally for the species)
- **Curlew Sandpiper:** peak count of only 182 birds in the Hunter Estuary 11 Oct
- **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** a single bird at Hexham Swamp 18-27 Jan
- **Broad-billed Sandpiper:** up to six birds at Hexham Swamp 10-27 Jan, also Feb records
- **Ruff:** 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp 9 Jan – 7 Feb and Stockton Sandspit 10 Apr
- **Common Noddy:** a single bird at Nobbys Breakwater Newcastle 4 Jan
- **Musk Lorikeet:** at least 1,000 birds in the Region Mar-May
- **Red-winged Parrot:** four birds at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb
- **Swift Parrot:** 50+ birds near Singleton 6 Aug and 40 birds at Rathmines 18 May
- **Barking Owl:** a single bird regularly at Green Point during Aug (an easterly record)
- **Eastern Grass Owl:** roosting birds at two locations on Ash Island 7 Feb and 22 Jul
- **Forest Kingfisher:** single birds at Cattai Wetlands 17 Mar and 24 Dec
- **Pilotbird:** four birds at Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec
- **Inland Thornbill:** 5-6 birds at “Windy” HSD 7 Mar and 6-9 Jun
- **Striated Pardalote:** subspecies *substriatus*, *ornatus* and *striatus* all confirmed present
- **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater:** many records, especially over May-Oct



Red Knot by Chris Herbert

INTRODUCTION

In this Report, produced by Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC), we present a summary of the status of bird species within the Hunter Region of NSW in 2014. The information is based upon records from many sources.

There are two additions to the Hunter Region checklist: Grey-headed Albatross, based on beachcast birds found along Newcastle Bight in June, and Orange Chat based on a single female at Hexham Swamp in November. As a result, the checklist now comprises 447 species. In 2014, 368 of those were confirmed to have been present in the Region. Information about the records is presented in this Report.

141 species were recorded as breeding in the Region in 2014 (compared to a median of 127 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2005, 242 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region (and for a further 23 species there are pre-2005 records).

For records to be accepted as evidence of breeding there must have been an observation of: a brooding bird; a nest with eggs; a nest with young; or a bird making repeated visits to a nest or hollow with food¹. All other situations/behaviours², although interesting and potentially noteworthy, are not treated as confirmed breeding records. To maintain the desired standard for the Bird Report, reporters are requested to correctly specify the type of behaviour. This includes differentiating between young birds being fed in a nest and young birds being fed away from a nest.



Adult Australian Magpie feeding fledged young by Steve Merrett

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

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

The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

- *The checklist will include all species which are considered by HBOC as confirmed to have been recorded in the Region. This includes records from before the Bird Report series commenced, when these are brought to our attention and are considered acceptable.*
- *All records will be vetted and they will be accepted for inclusion into the Reports only if HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) so decides. For records of species with relatively few prior records, it is expected that the observer will have made field notes at the time of observation (or very soon afterwards and prior to consulting a field guide) and/or will have taken a photograph. This rigour greatly assists the RAC in making decisions.*
- *In its deliberations, the RAC considers the submitted material plus takes into account the observer's birdwatching experience and the opportunity they had to eliminate any other potential species. **The RAC seeks to ensure that the observer was able to exclude all other plausible species.** One frequent reason for non-acceptance is that the RAC considers that the observer did not see (or did not adequately describe) the diagnostic field marks which would confirm the identification.*
- *The RAC may decide each year that some of the reported observations should appear in the Bird Report as Unconfirmed Records, so that the information is not lost and the observer's written report can be re-assessed in a new light if our understandings about the occurrence of the species in the Region change in future.*
- *The status description for each species is subject to regular review, with the aim of ensuring that the description reflects what is understood to be the current situation. For any year, the main indication of the then-current Hunter Region birdlife will come from considering the status descriptions of the listed species.*
- *For many species, the status description includes mention of the normal distribution range and the typical numbers of birds that are recorded. For those species, only the more notable observations are included into the Report – for example, observations from unusual locations or of exceptional numbers, presence at abnormal times of the year, breeding records.*
- *Breeding status will be assigned to a species only if definite evidence to this effect has been provided, and that such evidence fits within the definition of what constitutes an acceptable breeding record. If there have been no breeding records for a species for 10 or more years, the breeding status will be amended.*

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

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

Category 2 *Records usually are accepted, but supporting information may be required in the event of unusual numbers, location or season.*

Category 3 *The species is considered to be of special interest in relation to the Region, and supporting information is required before any record can be accepted for inclusion into the Report.*

The RAC assigns categories and decides whether records can be accepted. For this Bird Report, the RAC members were Ann Lindsey, Fred van Gessel (in part), Phil Hansbro, Craig Anderson, Mick Roderick, Allan Richardson, Dick Jenkin and Dan Williams (in part). In early 2015, Fred van Gessel stepped down, after serving since 2000; his efforts over that extended time period are much appreciated. He has been replaced by Dan Williams, who contributed to the review of the manuscript for the 2014 Report.

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 or Fixed Route) 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 >25,000 surveys over 17 years (including 7,517 2ha surveys and 14,270 area surveys. For 2014, there are 1,940 surveys in the Atlas database (1,111 area surveys, 434 2ha surveys and 395 incidental surveys).

This Report details:

- The percentage of 10-minute cells in which each species was recorded³ (for species with 30 or more records in the database), and the Reporting Rate (RR) *in those cells where the species has been recorded*⁴.
- For species with <30 records over the 17 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 1998-2014⁵.
- The number of 10-minute grid cells where the species was recorded in 2014, the total number of records for 2014, and the 2014 RR⁶ (for those species with sufficient records that RRs seem meaningful).

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

³ The Region, now defined more precisely using a shapefile, straddles 151 10-minute cells (a few, only marginally). Four cells have had no surveys; therefore, 97% is the present maximum percentage of cells in which a species can have been recorded.

⁴ Reporting Rates (number of times recorded ÷ number of surveys conducted) provide an indication of relative abundance; however, RRs can depend on the type of survey (area surveys are longer duration and generally result in higher RRs). Where the 2014 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.

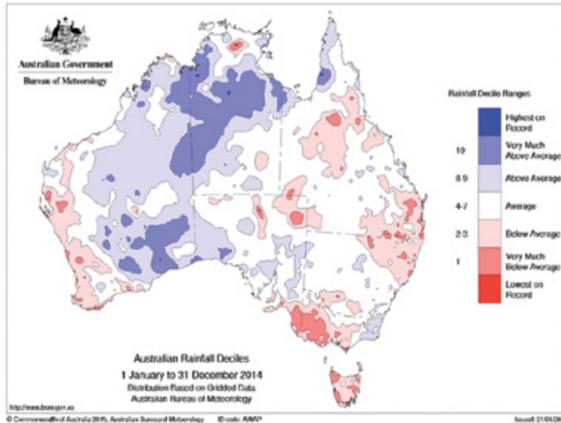
⁵ For example, a cell having a 30% reporting rate from 500 surveys is of “more interest” than one with a 100% reporting rate but only 1-2 surveys conducted in that cell.

⁶ The 2014 RR is for all cells for which the species has been recorded over the full 17 years of the Atlas.

Other Comments

In some previous Reports, a brief commentary has been made about the rainfall pattern for the Region in that year. To maximise our understandings about how rainfall changes have affected Regional birdlife, it is important to also consider the inland rainfall patterns for the year. In times of good inland rain, many waterbirds leave the Hunter Region; conversely, the Hunter is a coastal refuge in times of inland drought.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology rainfall map for 2014 is shown below. Most of NSW and further west had normal rainfall; however drought conditions prevailed in the NE of NSW and SE Queensland which may have had some impact locally. For example, there were an increased number of reports of White-throated Needletails in the Region in 2014.



2014 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 2014 Report.

Alan Stuart

16 July 2015

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

RARITIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Rare Species for the Region

The following species have been recorded in the Hunter Region but are considered 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).



Forest Kingfisher

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
Grey-headed 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
Grey 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
Inland Thornbill
Pied Honeyeater
Singing Honeyeater
Yellow-throated Miner
Orange Chat
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	Eastern Grass Owl
Australian Shelduck	Masked Owl
Blue-billed Duck	Red-browed Treecreeper
Fork-tailed Swift	Red-backed Fairy-wren
Wandering Albatross	Western Gerygone
Antipodean Albatross	Southern Whiteface
Black-browed Albatross	Regent Honeyeater
Campbell Albatross	Little Friarbird
White-capped Albatross	Painted Honeyeater
Southern Giant-Petrel	Varied Triller
Northern Giant-Petrel	Masked Woodswallow
Sooty Shearwater	White-browed Woodswallow
Hutton's Shearwater	Forest Raven
White-headed Petrel	Little Raven
Gould's Petrel	Spectacled Monarch
White-necked Petrel	Paradise Riflebird
Australasian Bittern	Pale-yellow Robin
Black Bittern	Horsfield's Bushlark
Eastern Reef Egret	Bassian Thrush
Square-tailed Kite	Russet-tailed Thrush
Black Kite	Plum-headed Finch
Black Falcon	Yellow Wagtail
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	
Red-winged Parrot	
Swift Parrot	
Turquoise Parrot	
Black-eared Cuckoo	
Sooty Owl	
Barking Owl	



Yellow Wagtail by Allan Richardson

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Introduction

Species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows the BirdLife Australia Working List V1.2 (<http://www.birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>). The V1.2 list differs from V1.1 in fairly minor ways, with the main implications locally being two name changes; these are indicated in the main body of the Report.

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

Resident: Recorded in all months;

Migrant: Species that regularly come to an area for a period and then depart;

Bird of passage: Species present in a suitable area for a relatively short period, and equally likely to be observed in any month of the year;

Common: Species that one can **expect** to find on all visits to suitable habitats;

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

Uncommon: Species that are recorded infrequently on visits to suitable habitats;

Rare: Species recorded only a few times a year;

Accidental: Species recorded less than once per year, over a 10 year average.

For many of the species, a general statement about typical distribution and count size is provided as part of the Status description. In these cases, only notable exceptions to this overall description of Status are considered for inclusion into the Report. Breeding status is also indicated for each species. For species with no confirmed breeding records for at least 10 years, the breeding status is described as **Past records**. Where a species is anticipated to breed in the Region but there are no confirmed records, the description **None recorded** has been used.

Some of the records that we receive indicate abundance levels for the species present by using the categories:

A = 1-5 birds

B = 6-20 birds

C = 21-50 birds

D = 51-100 birds

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 indicating these might be changed in future. The temporary ID codes are those between 5000 and 6000.

BIRDS



Photograph by Allan Richardson

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered population Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in W of Region.
From BLA Atlas: 30 records from six cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: C6 (11.1%).

Four birds were recorded in the Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM) and three birds near Ulan 28 Aug (BEI). A single bird was near the Widden Valley turn-off 9 Mar (AYG). **Atlas:** One record, from cell C6

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: R5 (48.6%).

Ten birds were at Wingham Brush 17 Sep (BEN). Birds were regularly recorded at Saltwater NP, with peak count seven birds 17 Jun (STA, others) and also (in lesser numbers) at Brunkerville and BbR (several reports). 1-5 birds were recorded at Winda Woppa Reserve 30 May (STA), Crowdy Bay NP 9 Sep (STA), Sharpes Creek 15-17 Sep and 21-23 Oct (HBOC) and Red Head 8 Dec (STA). **Breeding:** A very young bird at New Lambton Heights 11 Jan was being attacked by Australian Magpies (AYG). **Atlas:** 38 records from nine cells, RR 3.6%

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 = 0.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (2.2%).

Six birds were seen/heard near Phoenix Park 26 Jan (KEM). 1-5 birds were recorded near Hexham Swamp 29 Jan (LIG) and at Kerrabee 5 May (ROM), Bureen 22 Sep (ROM), Largs area 24 Oct (DTB) and Jones Reserve Rd 4 Nov (ROM). **Atlas:** Six records from six cells

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, mostly in counts of up to 10 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: P8 (28.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 26 records from eight cells, RR 1.6%

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

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

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

At least nine birds in small groups were recorded in a paddock at Ash Island 6 Jan (STA) and there were many subsequent reports of some birds in the same area until late Feb. Also, three birds were found together at Cattai Wetlands 8 Feb (STA). Also see Supplementary Records.

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 eight cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.4%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded all year at HWC with peak count 114 birds in May (Table 5). Away from the Shortland core area, three birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 3 Jan (WID). **Atlas:** 19 records from cells K9 and M10, RR 2.1%

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 = 0.6%; cell of most interest: J8 (7.2%).

600-800 birds were recorded at the regular location Doughboy Hollow 7 Mar and 500+ birds 1 Feb (STA *et al.*, KEM); there also were several reports of lesser numbers present during the year. Elsewhere, 232 birds were at Keinbah (another known location) 7 Jan (ROS), 25 birds at Morpeth WTW 5 Mar (Table 11), 23 birds at Balickera 23 Mar (MUJ), 12 birds at Charlestown GC 12 Feb (FEG) and a single bird at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** Seven 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 = 3.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.1%).

120+ birds were at Tarro 10 Jun and 44 birds 15 Jul (ERE, THJ). 108 birds were at Mayers Flat (Lakes Way) 25 Feb (WOL). 1-4 birds were sometimes at HWC (Table 5); however, nine birds were recorded there HWC 4 Jan (SJE) and birds were often heard flying over Shortland in Jan (ROM). **Breeding:** A pair had ten young at HWC 14 Jan (LIP, SRM). **Atlas:** Nine records from cells K9 and M10, RR 0.5%

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (14.3%).

Birds were regularly recorded at Grahamstown Dam with 20+ birds present Jan-Apr and peak count 32 birds in Feb (Table 14). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were at Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS), Deep Pond KI Jan and Aug (Table 2), WWW May-Jul (Table 9), Port Stephens 14 Jul (Table 13), Mungo Brush Myall Lakes NP 13 Nov (FAA) and Pacific Dunes GC 21 Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** Ten records from three cells

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

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

Status: Rare (*Recorded 1994-5, 1999-2007, 2013*).

20+ birds were often recorded at Morpeth WTW May-Jul with peak count 37 birds 28 Jul (Table 11, others). 30+ birds were at NWR Aug-Sep with peak count 57 birds 14 Aug (LIA, KEM, others). Nine birds were at NWR 3 Jan (KEM), 8+ birds at Muswellbrook WTW 16 Jul (ROM/ CLT) and seven birds near Singleton 30 May (DRG). Elsewhere, 1-4 birds were recorded at Tocal Wetlands 5 Jan (Table 12), Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS), Pambalong NR 8 Jan (ROS), Morpeth WTW Jan, Aug and Nov (Table 11), Deep Pond KI Jan-Feb (Table 2), NWR 12 Feb (KEM), HWC May (Table 5), Muswellbrook WTW 2 Oct (ROM/CLT) and Wentworth Swamp Kurri Kurri 16 Dec (ERE). *Because of the large number of reports for 2014, often accompanied by photographs and/or the birds were seen by many observers, the RAC did not request URRFs for what in most years is a rare bird for the Region.*

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 34% of cells, at RR = 21.4%; cell of most interest: L10 (57.8%).

Notable records: Birds were often present in high numbers at three locations: Hunter Estuary (50+ most months, 100+ often, peak count 270 birds Jan); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (100+ in 5 months, peak count 414 birds Feb); Morpeth WTW (100+ most months, 300+ Jan-Jun, peak count 853 birds 9 Apr) – see Tables for details. 100+ birds were also at Port Stephens 14 Feb (Table 14) and James St Morpeth 23 Mar (SLP). Elsewhere, 79 birds were at Tanilba Bay 15 Dec (ZVS). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Charlestown GC 27 Mar and Ash Island 4 Nov (FEG, HBOC). **Atlas:** 221 records from 17 cells, RR 15.1%

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

ID No: 198 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2011).

No reports were received for 2014.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2005-13; a pair in 2005-8 then a single bird from 2009).

A single bird was at Bulahdelah 15 Feb, 13 Mar and 1 & 5 May (HAP, COD, THJ).

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare (recorded 1984, 1995, 2001-03, 2006-09, 2011-13).

From BLA Atlas: 24 records from six cells; cell of most interest: L9 (5 records).

A single bird was flying offshore from Awabakal NR 9 Jul (ROM). Subsequently a female was at Hexham Swamp 12-21 Jul (various reporters). **Atlas:** Four records, from cells K9 and M10**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds widely and regularly recorded near fresh to brackish waters.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 23.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (71.4%).

Notable records: ~180 birds were at a small dam along Ringwood Rd 2 Feb (KEM). 30+ birds were at Charlestown GC all months with 100+ birds Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec and peak count 119 birds in Dec (Table 8). 90+ birds were at Cattle Lane 1 Feb and Summerhill 3 Feb (KEM, NEM) and 69 birds at Tocal Wetlands Feb (Table 12), and 21-50 birds at Medowie 4 Jan (SLP), Tocal Jan, Sep, Oct (Table 12), Morpeth WTW Jan, May and Dec (Table 11), "Myall View" HSD 25-26 Jan (HBOC), Gir-um-bit NP 15 Feb (Table 13), Hunter Estuary Apr, Sep and Dec (Table 2), "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun (HBOC) and Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC).

Breeding: There were many records, spanning Jun-Dec. **Atlas:** 266 records from 41 cells, RR 15.8%

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 3.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (22.6%).

The peak counts at Morpeth WTW were 724 birds 28 Jul and 445 birds 21 May. Birds were recorded there all year although numbers fluctuated considerably; 100+ birds were also present Jan, Aug and Nov (Table 11). 400-500 birds were at Muswellbrook WTW 15 Jan and 1 Feb (ROM *et al.*, KEM), with 300+ birds present 2 Oct, 150+ birds 16 Jul and 80-90 birds 7 Mar (ROM/CLT, STA *et al.*). 130 birds were at Scone WTW 15 Jan (ROM *et al.*) and 50+ birds at Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS), KI Deep Pond 14 Mar and 19 Dec (ROM) and Tocal 27 Jul (NEM/STA). 21-50 birds were recorded at Deep Pond 17 Jan (ROM), Bolwarra Lagoon early Feb (several observers), Warabrook 16-24 Jul (SLP) and Tocal Wetlands 31 Jul (Table 12). 6-20 birds were often present at Tocal Wetlands (Table 12, NEM, HBOC) and at Scone WTW 1 Feb (KEM), Bolwarra 4 Mar, 21 Jul and 21 Dec (HBOC, SLP, BRG), Hands Lagoon 6 May, 3 Oct and 21 Dec (MRO, SDI, BRG), NWR 21-25 Sep (ROM/WID, LIA) and Wentworth Swamp 16 Dec (ERE). 1-5 birds were recorded at HWC 4 Jan and 8 May (SJE, SRM), Melville Ford Rd 6 Feb (BRG), Singleton WTW 2 Feb (ALP), Hexham Swamp 13 Jun (ROS), Warabrook 29 Jul (SLP), Yango Creek Rd Wollombi 10 Aug (RDB), NWR 5-14 Aug (LIA, FAA, KEM), Hands Lagoon 25 Oct (DTB), Tomago Wetlands Oct (Table 6). *All records reported.* **Atlas:** 29 records from four cells, RR 3.4%. *The highest numbers and most widespread distribution ever recorded for the Region; 800+ birds are estimated to have been present in July and 600-700 birds in Jan-Feb. However, not reflected in Atlas reporting.*

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

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

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 20% of cells, at RR = 5.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (29.5%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Morpeth WTW Apr-Jun with peak count 323 birds 21 May, birds were recorded every month with 74 birds present 28 Jul and 20+ birds Mar and Oct (Table 11, KET). 162 birds were in the Hunter Estuary (mainly at Deep Pond) in Mar and 50+ birds Jun-Jul and Dec (Table 2). 121 birds were at Tomago Wetlands Jun and 49 birds 26 May (Table 12) while ~40 birds were at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM). 30 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 17 Jul, with 15-20 birds also there 26 Apr and 13 Jul (CAA, SIA) and at Deep Pond 17 Jan (ROM) and Hexham Swamp 13 Jun and 12 Dec (ROS, KET). **Atlas:** 51 records from six cells, RR 5.1%.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 58% of cells, at RR = 14.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (55.5%).

Notable records: There were frequent records of many hundreds and sometimes 1,000+ birds from three main locations (by many observers, see Tables for most details): Hunter Estuary (300+ most months, 1,000+ 5 months, peak count 2,587 birds Jul); HWC (100+ most months, peak count 214 birds May); Morpeth WTW (500+ most months, peak count 947 birds Jan). Within the Hunter Estuary but mostly outside the formal survey days, ~2,000 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp often in July and 1,000-1,500 birds frequently in Feb (many observers) and there often were high numbers at Tomago Wetlands (100+ most months, 500+ birds Feb-Aug, peak count 1,620 birds Feb). Elsewhere, (see Tables) high numbers were often present at Tocal Wetlands (50+ most months, peak count 173 birds Jun) and Cattai Wetlands (50+ Jul and Nov, peak count 204 birds 8 Feb) while 50+ birds were at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were with young at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb and Cooranbong 11 Oct (KEM, RIA). **Atlas:** 227 records from 22 cells, RR 14.4%.

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 35% of cells, at RR = 23.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (62.2%).

Notable records: There were frequent records of many hundreds and sometimes 1,000+ birds from two locations (by many observers, see Tables for most details): Hunter Estuary (200+ most months, peak count 1,068 birds Jan); Morpeth WTW (100+ Jan-Sep, peak count 700 birds 3 Jan). Within the Hunter Estuary but often outside the formal survey days, there sometimes were high numbers at Tomago Wetlands (100+ Jan-Jul, peak count 941 birds Apr). Elsewhere, 50+ birds were recorded at HWC Mar and Jun (Table 5). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan-Feb and Oct-Nov. **Atlas:** 299 records from 19 cells, RR 20.0%



Chestnut Teal by Dorien Schulz

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 = 1.7%; cell of most interest: M9 (10.0%).

A bird was flying 22km offshore from Port Stephens 16 Feb (BRB) and there was a bird recorded at Throsby Creek 12 Nov (CLT). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Morpeth 12 Aug (TBW). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells

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 = 28.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (86.0%).

Notable records: The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 716 birds in April, with 100+ birds present Mar-May (Table 11). 50+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary several months with peak count 314 birds Nov (Table 2). 146 birds were at Cattai Wetlands Jan and 68 birds Nov (Table 17). **Breeding:** There were numerous records, spanning Jan, May, Jul-Aug and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 416 records from 44 cells, RR 24.0%

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 38% of cells, at RR = 8.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (47.3%).

Notable records: 40+ birds were often recorded in the Hunter Estuary with 100+ birds present in 5 months and peak count 195 birds Nov (Table 2). 177 birds were at Morpeth WTW 28 Oct and 141 birds 9 Apr; there were 20+ birds frequently in Jan-May (Table 11). 200 birds were at Grahamstown Dam Sep and 39-52 birds Jan-Feb and Aug (Table 15). 86 birds were at Warabrook 8 Sep (BEI) and 20+ birds at Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS), WWW 20+ Jan-Feb and Sep (Table 10), Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM), HWC 15 Jun (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 1 Jul (HBOC). **Atlas:** 99 records from 15 cells, RR 7.3%

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 = 0.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (3.8%).

Single birds were recorded at HWC 4 Jan (WID *et al.*), Muswellbrook WTW 15 Jan (ROM *et al.*) and WWW 6 Feb (MCR), and two birds at WWW 21 May and 11 Dec (Table 10). **Atlas:** One record, from cell M10

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 2014.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1956, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2013*).

Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 12 Jan (Table 20).

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 60% of cells, at RR = 12.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (61.5%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were often recorded in the Hunter Estuary with peak count 39 birds Oct (Table 2). 60-68 birds were at Morpeth WTW May-Jun (Table 11) and 20+ birds at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM), Morpeth WTW 9 Apr (Table 11) and WWW 21 May and 9 Jul (Table 10). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Wallsend Wetlands 3 Oct (ROM) and had dependent young at Charlestown GC 28 May (FEG) and Cattai Wetlands 7 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 148 records from 16 cells, RR 10.0%

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 = 3.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (21.7%).

Birds were regularly recorded at four locations (see Tables for main details): Grahamstown Dam (100+ frequently with peak counts 442 birds Dec and 354 birds Aug); WWW (50+ frequently with peak count 138 birds Feb); Hunter Estuary, mostly KI Deep Pond (up to 25 birds often, 70+ birds Jan-Mar with peak count 88 birds Jan); Morpeth WTW (peak count 51 birds May, 20+ birds Jul-Aug). Elsewhere, ~20 birds were at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM) with lesser number 7 Mar and 2 Oct (STA *et al.*, ROM/CLT) and 28 birds at Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS). 1-6 birds were recorded at Wallsend Wetlands 1 & 3 Jan (SJE, WID), Scone WTW 15 Jan and 1 Feb (ROM *et al.*, KEM), Tocal 6 May and 30 Jun (HBOC, Table 12), NWR 9 Aug (FAA) and Cattai Wetlands 9 Sep (Table 17), and occasionally at HWC (Table 5). **Atlas:** 47 records from seven cells, RR 5.4%. *Another very productive year.*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 2.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (17.1%).

Birds were regularly recorded at two locations (see Tables 10 and 15 for details): Grahamstown Dam (recorded most months with peak counts 80 birds Feb and 77 birds Nov); WWW (recorded all months, 20+ birds Jan-Mar). Elsewhere, seven birds were at Lake Liddell 14 Sep (ALP) and a few birds at Lake Glenbawn 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT). **Atlas:** Six records from two cells, RR 0.8%

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 = 6.7%; cell of most interest: M9 (39.1%).

Notable records: 360 birds were recorded in the Maitland/Raymond Terrace area 23 Mar (SLP), as three large groups (Bolwarra 180 birds, Nelsons Plains 110 birds, Duckenfield 70 birds). 30+ birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd Williamtown Jan-Feb with peak count 80 birds 18 Feb (KEM). 80 birds were at Doughboy Hollow 1 Feb (KEM) and 20+ birds at Nobbys/ Newcastle Baths 20 Jul (HBOC). **Atlas:** 183 records from 13 cells, RR 10.5%

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 = 5.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (44.3%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were feeding together near Cooperook 17 Jul (STA) and 12 birds were at Bobs Farm 20 May (TUJ). 5-6 birds were at Salamander Bay 16 Aug (WOL), Grahamstown Dam 21 Sep (HBOC), Raymond Terrace 13 Sep (SLP) and Mungo Brush 27 Sep (GOS *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 48 records from 13 cells, RR 3.3%

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mainly as 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 41% of cells, at RR = 18.0%; cell of most interest: L11 (53.3%).

Notable records: 21 birds were recorded at the Raymond Terrace Cycleway 5 Mar and 14 birds there 1 Apr (SLP), and 6+ birds at Nobbys/Newcastle Baths 20 Jul (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Raymond Terrace 30 Mar and 7 Apr (SLP). **Atlas:** 300 records from 23 cells, RR 19.8%

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. 1-2 birds often recorded in well-forested areas in E and central parts of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 49% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: N5 (27.6%).

Notable records: 11 birds were recorded at Brunkerville 16 Feb (HBOC) and 3-4 birds at Stanhope 19 Jan (ALP), BbR 2 Sep (HBOC), Mungo Brush 1 Oct (JED/STD) and Balickera 19 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 63 records from 20 cells, RR 4.9%

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 = 0.7%; cell of most interest: N5 (2.8%).

Two birds were at Darawank (near Tuncurry) 2 May (THJ), Mungo Brush 1 Oct (JED/STD) and Copeland SCA 31 Dec (MCS), and single birds at Allyn River SF 16 Feb (JED), Glenrock SCA 1 Jun (MRO), Saltwater NP 25 Nov (STA) and a Gloucester garden 29 Dec (DBP). **Atlas:** Four records from four cells, RR ZZ%

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 51% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.8%).

12 birds were recorded at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb and 30 Dec (KEM, STA), Watagans 19 Mar (HOB), Wingen 23 Aug and 14 Sep (NEG), Giants Creek Rd 2 Sep (STA *et al.*), Wingham Brush 17 Sep (BEN), HEZ 26 Oct (DTB), Laguna/Wollombi area 30 Nov (CCB), Owens Gap TSR 23 Dec and Ridglands Rd near Bunnan 23 Dec (both NEG). **Breeding:** Although there were no confirmed records, birds were nest building near Parkville 13-15 Jan (ROM *et al.*) and copulating at Wingen 23 Aug (NEG). **Atlas:** 28 records from 13 cells, RR 2.8%

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 = 0.8%; cell of most interest: M11 (22.1%).

Several pairs were in the Belmont/Awabakal area early Oct and 3+ birds also recorded there 15 Jan – 8 Feb (MCR). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell R6

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 74% of cells, at RR = 23.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (64.3%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at “Windy” HSD 6-9 Jun and Nobbys/Newcastle Baths 20 Jul (both HBOC). **Atlas:** 409 records from 35 cells, RR 22.7%

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

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

Status: Accidental (recorded 1995, 2003).

No reports were received for 2014.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 6.7%; cell of most interest: G8 (48.9%).

Nine birds were recorded at Ridgeland Rd near Bunnan 23 Dec (NEG) and six birds at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Oct (HBOC). 1-5 birds were at Wingen 3 Jan and 17 Oct (NEG), Ridgeland Rd 1 Feb (KEM), Wallaroo NR 17 May (SLP), Giants Creek Rd 29 Jul (NEM *et al.*), Werakata NP 9 Sep (ZVS), Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC), Medhurst Bridge 8-10 Oct (CLT/ GOA) and Brunkerville 30 Dec (MRO *et al.*). Birds were present all year at Balickera (MUJ). **Atlas:** 23 records from nine cells, RR 3.1%

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

ID No: 032 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 56% of cells, at RR = 16.3%; cell of most interest: N5 (41.1%).

Notable records: 30+ birds were at Manning Entrance SP 18 Feb (STA), and 6+ birds at Myuna Bay 4 Feb, Total 6 May, Grahamstown Dam 21 Sep, Blackwater Creek 3-7 Oct and Balickera 19 Oct (all HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan and May-Jun (MUJ) and had a nest with eggs at Martinsville 18 Jul (LIG). **Atlas:** 260 records from 40 cells, RR 16.2%

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 Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 53% of cells, at RR = 8.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (26.6%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were at Brunkerville 30 Dec (MRO *et al.*) and four birds there 16 Feb (HBOC). Four birds were also at Stanhope 19 Jan (ALP) and three birds at Laguna 9-10 Aug (RDB) and Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 65 records from 19 cells, RR 5.0%

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: R5 (7.5%).

Three birds were recorded at Gloucester 1 Nov (DBP) with single birds often in the area Aug-Nov (DBP). Two birds were at Mungo Brush 27 Sep (KEM) and single birds at The Glen NR 11 Jan (DBP), Stroud area 31 Aug (per RDB), Harrington RF 16 Sep (HBOC), Mungo Brush 28 & 29 Sep (ROM/WID), Saltwater NP 4 Sep, 29 Oct and 9 Nov (MGLB, STA, BRG) and Barrington Tops Rd 31 Dec (MCS). **Atlas:** Six records from five cells, RR 2.0%

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 2014.

**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).

There were many records of up to four birds at Mungo Brush Myall Lakes NP, from 27 Sep when first recorded until 27 Oct (GOS *et al.*, many others). Also, a single bird was present there 9 Mar (PUD). A single bird was at Harrington RF 7 Dec (KEM). A juvenile (presumably on migration) hit a window at Tighes Hill 11 Oct – the bird was taken into care but died (per NIJ).

Photograph by Michael Kearns

Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 2.3%; cell of most interest: N5 (11.4%).

An estimated 200 birds were at Myall Lakes NP 24 Sep (GOS) while two flocks, of 70 and 100 birds, flew over Stockton Sandspit 7 Oct (HCL); flocks of 40-60 birds were also flying over the Hunter Estuary 20 & 25 Jun (HCL) and Port Stephens 14 Jul (HBOC). 20+ birds were recorded at Bulahdelah 23 May (CLG), East Seaham 13 Jun (GOA *et al.*), Galgabba 28 Jul (ADJ), Cattai Wetlands 3 Aug (BEI), Fern Bay 20 Aug (BEI) and Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA). Smaller flocks of birds were at Tocal 5 Feb (NEM), Glenrock SCA 3 Jun (HBOC), Galgabba 8 Jul and 4 Aug (STA, ADJ), Cromarty Bay 22 Jul (TBW), Stockton Sandspit 23 Aug and 30 Oct (HCL), Tanilba Bay 31 Aug (ZVS), Cattai Wetlands 5 Sep (HBW), Belmont South 9 Sep (CJB), Mudbishops Point 14-15 Sep (HBOC), Mungo Brush Sep-Oct (several observers), Saltwater NP 9 Nov (BRG) and Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 2 Dec (STD/JED). **Breeding:** A pair was nest building near Bungwahl 29-31 Aug (FAA); however, a follow-up visit to the site 4 weeks later found the nest abandoned (STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 26 records from eight cells, RR 1.9%

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 46% of cells, at RR = 3.6%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Mar and Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 31 records from 13 cells, RR 2.1%

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (15.4%).

1-2 birds were recorded at "Myall View" HSD 25-27 Jan (HBOC), Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC), Fosterton Loop 16 & 17 Oct (ROM/JED), Smiths Lake 31 Oct – 2 Nov (FAA) and Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (STA). A dead bird was found at Carrington Newcastle 11 Dec (per NIJ) – *unusual location*. **Breeding:** Birds had a chick at "Myall View" HSD 25-27 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** Four records, from cells C6, N7.

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 = 3.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (50.8%).

Pairs were recorded at two locations in Goulburn River NP 1 Feb (KEM) and three birds were at Sedgfield 14 Dec (ALP). Single birds were heard/seen at "Myall View" HSD 25 Jan (HBOC), The Drip 23 Apr (ERE), Upper Hunter Valley 13-14 May (ROM/CLT), Fosterton Loop 4 Aug (JED), Speers Point 9 Aug (HAS), Lovedale TSR 16 Nov (HBOC), Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (STA) and Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Breeding:** An adult was with a chick at Balickera 17 & 18 Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** Seven records from four cells, RR 2.5%

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant. Up to 30 birds often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region Oct-Mar.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: Q6 (16.3%).

Birds were present until at least 22 Mar, when recorded at Carey Bay (HCL). Four birds were at Belmont South 29 Aug (CJB) – *a remarkably early return date, or perhaps they were over-wintering birds*. There were no further reports until 13 Oct, when a single bird was at East Maitland (BRG); two birds were also recorded at Girvan 19 Oct (per ALP). However, the main returns dated from 9 Nov. **Notable records:** ~1,000 birds were in Myall Lakes area early Jan (per TAM) and 500+ birds flying over BbR/ New Lambton 30 Dec (BEI). 200-300 birds were at Ellalong/Broke area 8 Jan (ROM), Seal Rocks 10 Feb (ERE), Port Stephens 14 Feb (HBOC), Muswellbrook 7 Mar (STA *et al.*), New Lambton 17 Nov (STA) and Saltwater NP 25 Nov (STA), and 100+ birds at Teralba 10 Jan (COS), Salamander Bay 19 Jan (ERE), Violet Hill 2 Feb (STP/MAT), Singleton 7 Mar (ALP), Wallis Lake 10 Nov (CAA), Belmont South 24 Nov (CJB), BbR 7 Dec (BEI), Swansea 22 Dec (ADJ) and Kotara 30 Dec (NIJ). There were many and widespread records of 30-100 birds in Nov-Dec and Jan-Mar. **Atlas:** 69 records from 17 cells, RR 3.4%. *High numbers for Region.*



White-throated Nightjar by Dick Jenkin

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 = 0.6%; cell of most interest: G10 (9.2%).

~40 birds were flying over Salamander Bay 19 Jan and Singleton 16 Feb (ERE, ALP), and 25 birds near Aberdeen 16 Feb (NEG). 6-10 birds were at Wingen 5 Jan (NEG), Tighes Hill 16 Feb (CLT), Williamtown 12 Feb (KEM), Muswellbrook area 7 Mar (STA *et al.*) and Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA), and 1-5 birds at "Myall View" HSD 25 Jan (HBOC), East Seaham 10 Feb (GOA *et al.*), Wingen 14 Feb (NEG), Charlestown GC early Oct (FEG), Saltwater NP 25 Nov (STA) and BbR 7 Dec (BEI). **Atlas:** 13 records from six cells, RR 0.8%

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

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

40 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 30 Mar and 1-6 birds in the corresponding surveys 9 Mar and Oct-Nov (Table 20). Nine birds were recorded during a survey off Swansea 4 Dec (Table 20).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

2-4 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul and 4 Dec and three birds in a survey off Port Stephens 10 Aug (see Table 20). *Reports continue to be down.*

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregatta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2006, 2009-10, 2013*).

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 12 Oct (Table 20).

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

ID No: 5038 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2010, 2013*).

No reports were received for 2014.

White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregatta grallaria*

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

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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, 2011-13*).

Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*

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: No reports were received for 2014.

Antipodean Albatross: 3-4 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens and Swansea Jul, Aug and Oct (Table 20). Unusually, a single bird was recorded off Port Stephens 12 Jan (Table 20).

Records of unidentified birds: Single birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Swansea 24 Jul and Port Stephens 12 Oct (Table 20).

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*

ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2003, 2010-13*).

Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*

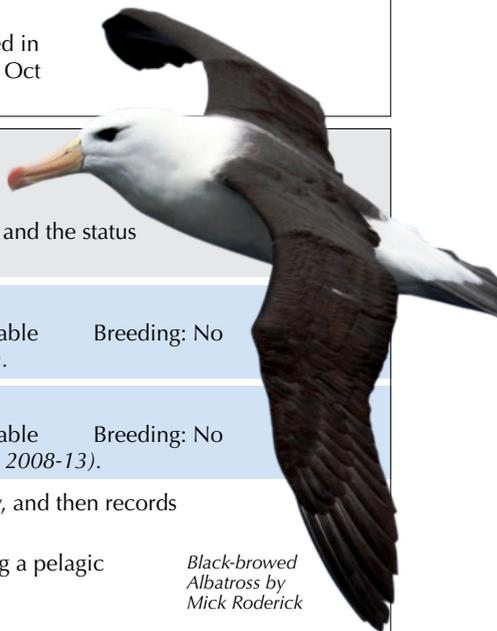
ID No: 859 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2003, 2005-06, 2008-13*).

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

Black-browed Albatross: Five birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul (Table 20).

Campbell Albatross: No reports were received for 2014.

Records of unidentified birds: ~20 birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach 15 Jun (WID) and seven birds during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul. 1-4 birds were off Newcastle 13 Apr, 13 & 20 Jul and 5 Nov (ROM), Burwood Beach 22 Apr (STA) and Port Stephens 17 Jul (per GOS), and several Swansea and Port Stephens pelagic surveys during the year (Table 20). Unusually, single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys 12 Jan and 4 Dec (Table 20).



Black-browed Albatross by Mick Roderick

Shy Albatross Types

Status: Winter migrant; regularly recorded Apr-Nov including sometimes 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* to 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*

ID No: 861 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (*only 1 confirmed record, in September 2010*).

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*

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 2014.

White-capped Albatross: A juvenile bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 16 Nov (Table 20).

Salvin's Albatross: No reports were received for 2014.

Records of unidentified birds: Six birds were recorded on pelagic surveys 16 Nov and 1-5 birds Mar, Jul and Aug (Table 20). A single bird was close off-shore from Newcastle 20 Jul (ROM). Unseasonally, a single bird was present during a survey off Port Stephens 12 Jan (Table 20).

Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma*

ID No: 090 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

Beach-cast birds were found at two locations along Newcastle Bight in mid-June (FRN, POD). *Both records were accepted by ORAC. There are few confirmed records of Grey-headed Albatross in NSW (differentiation from juvenile/immature Black-browed or Campbell Albatross is the main issue).*

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*

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

90 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 10 Aug and 50+ birds in a survey off Swansea 24 Jul (Table 20). A single bird was offshore of Newcastle 13 Jul (ROM).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare. (*Recorded 2003, 2007, 2012-13*).

5 birds were recorded (at times simultaneously) during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul and two birds on the corresponding 10 Aug survey off Port Stephens (Table 20). *Birds have become more regular visitors in winter in recent years.*

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*

ID No: 093 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2012).

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 9 Mar (Table 20). *The record was accepted by ORAC as the 22nd confirmed record for NSW. It is the 2nd confirmed record for the Hunter Region.*

Giant-Petrel Types – It is challenging to differentiate immature Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli* and dark-phased immature Southern Giant-Petrel *M. giganteus* in the field unless a close view is available of the tip of the bill. Most birds visiting the Region are dark-phase birds; there is only one record (in August 2002) of a white-phase Southern Giant-Petrel.

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

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

Status: Uncommon winter migrant (confirmed records 1994, 2000, 2002-03, 2006-07, 2009, 2012).

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

ID No: 937 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon winter migrant (confirmed records 2000, 2002-04, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2012-13).

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

Southern Giant-Petrel: A juvenile bird was taken into care at Merewether Baths 4 Nov but later euthanised, and another juvenile bird was taken into care in Aug and later was released 40km at sea (per NIJ).

Northern Giant-Petrel: No reports were received for 2014.

Records of unidentified birds: A badly decomposed beach-cast bird was found at the Worimi Conservation Lands 13 Jun (FRN).

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant at >5km from shore.

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Swansea 24 Jul and Port Stephens 10 Aug (Table 20).

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

ID No: 082 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1973).

No reports were received for 2014.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2000, 2013)

No reports were received for 2014.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

ID No: 942 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002, 2013)

No reports were received for 2014.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

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

20 birds were present during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul and eight birds off Port Stephens 10 Aug (Table 20).

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 16 Nov (Table 20).

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006-07, 2010-13*).

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 9 & 30 Mar (Table 20).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

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

Notable records: 700-750 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys 23 Feb and 16 Nov, and several hundreds of birds in other surveys over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec (Table 20). ~150 birds were close offshore from Newcastle 13 Apr (ROM). A bird was taken by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle at Submarine Beach Myall Lakes NP 24 Nov (FAA). **Breeding:** Several birds were in burrows at Broughton Island 24-26 Mar (STA *et al.*) and Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA).

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1995, 2000-01, 2009, 2012-13*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

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

~100 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 9 Mar with lesser numbers present through Jan-Mar and in Oct (Table 20).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2011*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

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

24 birds were estimated to be present during a pelagic survey off Swansea 4 Dec (Table 20).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

Notable records: ~2,000 birds were estimated to be present during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 12 Oct (Table 20). 100+ birds were close offshore from Newcastle 16 Apr (NAK).**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 2000, 2006, 2010-13).

A single bird was present during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 9 Mar (Table 20).

Fluttering Shearwater Types – It is difficult to differentiate Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia* and Hutton's Shearwater *P. huttoni* in the field unless a reasonable view is available. The identification of distant birds seen from land is particularly challenging. All the confirmed records of Hutton's Shearwater have involved small numbers of birds. It is believed that when large flocks are in the Region, these predominantly are of Fluttering Shearwaters.**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

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

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage (probably overlooked).

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

Fluttering Shearwater: 1,000+ birds (assumed to be mostly this species) were close offshore from Newcastle 19 Jul with similar numbers present throughout early Jul (ROM). Birds were recorded in most pelagic surveys, mostly as <10 birds however 20 birds were confirmed present 24 Jul (Table 20). A beachcast bird was found at Seven Mile Beach Forster 6 Feb (CAA).**Hutton's Shearwater:** 1-4 birds were confirmed present in two-thirds of the pelagic surveys (Table 20).**Records of unidentified birds:** Birds were recorded on most of the pelagic surveys (Table 20).**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

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

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002, 2007).

No reports were received for 2014.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer visitor (recorded 1997, 2001, 2010, 2013).

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 17 Feb and 9 Mar (BRB, Table 20).

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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).

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 Feb and 9 Mar (Table 20).

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

ID No: 077 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Uncommon late winter/spring migrant (recorded 2002-03, 2010, 2013).

No reports were received for 2014.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

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

~40 birds were estimated to have been present during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 16 Nov and 3-4 birds during most of the other surveys (Table 20).

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.

~50 birds were estimated to have been present during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul, 30-40 birds in the Aug and Oct surveys and three birds in Mar and Nov (Table 20).

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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.

Five birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 23 Feb and single birds 30 Mar and 16 Nov (Table 20). An immature bird was taken into care near Port Stephens Marine Rescue station 11 Apr and later released (per FRN). **Breeding:** At least ten birds had nests with eggs at Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA). A young bird was flying over Broughton Island 26 Mar (STA) – this very likely was a newly fledged bird from a burrow at the known breeding site at the base of Pinkatop (CAN).

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

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

A single bird was present during a pelagic survey off Swansea 4 Dec (Table 20). *The record was accepted by ORAC as the 13th record for NSW.*

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer visitor (recorded 2001, 2004-07, 2011-13).

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 23 Feb and 9 Mar (Table 20).

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

ID No: 085 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2012-13).

No reports were received for 2014.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 1.9%; cell of most interest: P9 (7.9%).

Several birds were returning to burrows at Broughton Island 24-26 Mar (STA *et al.*) and likewise 10+ birds at Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA). Two birds were swimming offshore from Port Stephens 9 Mar (Table 20). **Atlas:** One record, from cell L11.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2000, 2013).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 3.6%; cell of most interest: P9 (17.6%).

Notable records: 120 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 10 Aug and 15-20 birds 30 Mar and 24 Jul (Table 20). 100+ birds were offshore of Awabakal NR 9 Jul (ROM) and there also were many records of 10-30 birds close offshore from Newcastle in Jul (ROM, others). **Atlas:** 43 records from nine cells, RR 4.1%

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

ID No: 105 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1979, 2013).

No reports were received for 2014.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

ID No: 103 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1985, 2008, 2010, 2013).

No reports were received for 2014.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

ID No: 102 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1984, 1986, 1991, 1993, 2010-11).

No reports were received for 2014.

Australasian Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* (Revised from: *Australian*)

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters, in counts of up to 5 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 9.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (42.0%).

Notable records: 21 birds were at Morpeth WTW 3 Jan and 6-10 birds several times (Table 11), while 24 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 14 Jul and nine birds there 14 Feb (Table 14).

Breeding: Seven pairs had nests with young at NWR 17 Dec and two pairs were nesting there 27 Aug (LIA). A pair was nesting at Cundletown 26 Nov (STA). **Atlas:** 115 records from 14 cells, RR 7.9%



Photograph by Steve Merrett

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 66% of cells, at RR = 22.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (57.1%).

Notable records: 144 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 14 Jul and 78 birds 14 Feb (Table 14). 15+ birds were often at Swansea/Lake Macquarie with peak count 57 birds Jul (Table 9). Counts at other regularly monitored sites were unexceptional. **Breeding:** 1-2 pairs were nesting at NWR 27 Aug, 25 Sep and 17 Dec (LIA). **Atlas:** 308 records from 31 cells, RR 18.7%

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 13.0%; cell of most interest: S4 (43.8%).

Notable records: 30+ birds were often recorded in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area, with peak count 110 birds Dec (Table 18). 146 birds were in Port Stephens 14 Jul (Table 14) and 65 birds were at NWR 5 Aug, with 28-40 birds recorded there at other dates in Aug-Sep (LIA, FAA). Many birds were in a mixed feeding flock with Little Black Cormorants (100+ birds in total) at Smiths Lake 29-31 Aug (FAA). There were occasional records of 10-15 birds from regularly surveyed sites (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 185 records from 24 cells, RR 12.2%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 20.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (61.1%).

Notable records: 322 birds were in Port Stephens 14 Feb and 179 birds 14 Jul (Table 14). 400 birds were at Harrington 7 Dec (KEM), 300+ birds at Belmont Lagoon 23 Oct and Lake Macquarie 22 Apr (both FEG), and ~200 birds at Dora Creek 17 Jul (GOC). 100+ birds were recorded at NWR 12 Feb (KEM), Smiths Lake 29-31 Aug (FAA) and in the Manning Estuary 27-28 May and 14-15 Sep (Table 16, HBOC). There were many records of 30+ birds, and occasionally 50+, from regularly surveyed sites (see Tables for details). 50+ birds were also at Green Point Reserve 2 Mar (FEG) and NWR 17 Dec (LIA). **Breeding:** Some birds were nesting at NWR 12 Feb and also nest building there 14 Aug (KEM). **Atlas:** 305 records from 25 cells, RR 19.1%

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 30% of cells, at RR = 13.8%; cell of most interest: S4 (44.8%).

Notable records: 544 birds were in Port Stephens 14 Jul and 244 birds 14 Feb (Table 14). Birds were often present in good numbers at five other locations (see Tables for details): Hunter Estuary (20+ several months, peak count 62 birds Jul); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (15+ several months, peak count 19 birds Aug); Gir-um-bit NP (10+ many months, peak count 35 birds Jul); Manning Estuary (10+ most months, peak count 56 birds Mar); Birubi Point - Fingal Head (10+ many months, peak count 43 birds Dec). 11-17 birds were also at NWR 8 Sep and 17 Dec (LIA). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at NWR 17 Dec (LIA). **Atlas:** 221 records from 19 cells, RR 15.7%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 28.3%; cell of most interest: S4 (63.8%).

Notable records: 188 birds were in Port Stephens 14 Feb and 121 birds 14 Jul (Table 14). Birds were often in good numbers at four locations (see Tables for details): Hunter Estuary (50+ all months, peak count 233 birds Mar); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (50+ many months, peak count 81 birds Apr); Morpeth WTW (40+ birds Jan, Oct and Dec); Manning Estuary (50+ most months, peak count 120 birds Dec). Also, 95 birds were at Forster/Tuncurry 17 Jul (STA). **Breeding:** Three recently hatched chicks were on Pelican Island Wallis Lake 27 Apr and 12+ chicks 4 May (MOA et al.). **Atlas:** 365 records from 27 cells, RR 24.0%

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 = 0.9%; cell of most interest: S3 (6.6%).

Lower Hunter: There were many records all year of 1-2 birds, mainly from locations around Hexham Swamp but ranging as far as Raymond Terrace (many observers). A pair were doing an "Up and Down Display" in the presence of a second female at Hexham Swamp 21 May (WRO). *Harrington/Coopernook:* Two birds were at Cattai Wetlands 3 Feb (RUA) and single birds at/ near there 29 Oct, 24 Nov and 6 Dec (STA, KEM). Single birds were also at Upper Lansdowne 18 Mar (a juvenile) and Lansdowne 31 Mar (both MGLB). *Bulahdelah/Forster:* Single birds were recorded at Krumbach 17 Aug, Pipers Bay Forster 19 Aug and Nabiac 18 Oct (all MGLB). **Breeding:** The pair at Hexham Swamp was often at a nest structure Jul-Oct and in late Dec; however, breeding was not able to be confirmed. **Atlas:** 17 records from five cells, RR 1.0%. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: L10 (1.3%).

Birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 27 Jan, 14 & 19 Aug and 28 Sep (ROS, LIA, ERE) and Tomago Wetlands 28 Sep (LIA). A bird was flying over Edgeworth 15 Feb (OCC). **Atlas:** One record, from cell R3. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

ID No: 195 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare (recorded 1994-5, 2003-4, 2006, 2009-12).

No reports were received for 2014. See Supplementary Records.

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).

A single bird was at Toronto West 30 Apr (DUP). **Atlas:** Nil records

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 49% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: L10 (23.2%).

Notable records: 30 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan and 22 birds Aug; most of the birds were at Tomago Wetlands (Tables 2, 6). 16-20 birds were at Lenaghans Flat 5 & 11 Jan (SLP, KEM) and Minmi 16 Jan (KEM), and eight birds at Gateshead 21 Aug (HUB). 5-6 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 1 Jul (HBOC), Tocal 31 Oct (Table 12) and Ash Island 4 Nov (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Gloucester 4 Apr – *the second successful breeding by this pair in the 2013-14 season* (DBP). **Atlas:** 125 records from 23 cells, RR 7.4%

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

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 41% of cells, at RR = 20.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (50.7%).

Notable records: At regularly surveyed sites, numbers varied considerably (see Tables). The peak counts were: Hunter Estuary 31 birds Jan; Tomago Wetlands 12 birds Oct; HWC 19 birds Dec; Swansea/Lake Macquarie 3 birds Jun; Tocal 10 birds Oct; Morpeth WTW 25 birds Nov; Port Stephens 16 birds Jul. 34 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Jan with 13-20 birds often recorded in Jan-Feb (KEM). 27 birds were at Minmi 16 Jan (KEM) and 15 birds at Raymond Terrace 15 Feb (TUJ). **Breeding:** There were five nestlings at HWC 9 Feb and eight pairs had nests there 16 Dec (NIG). **Atlas:** 309 records from 23 cells, RR 19.6%

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 27% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (26.5%).

Notable records: 11-15 birds were at Milhams Pond Ash Island Apr-May (Table 4), 13 birds at Morpeth WTW 13 Apr and 11 birds in Hunter Estuary: 11 in Dec (Tables 2, 11). 5-7 birds were recorded at HWC Jan, Oct and Dec and Morpeth WTW Mar (Tables 5, 11). **Breeding:** There were five nestlings at HWC 9 Feb and one pair had a nest there 16 Dec (NIG). **Atlas:** 43 records from eight cells, RR 3.0%

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 42% of cells, at RR = 15.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (64.5%).

Notable records: 380-400 birds were at Gloucester 28 Aug after rain (DBP). There were large numbers at two important breeding colony locations (Table 5, STA): HWC (450 birds Jan, 200+ birds Nov-Dec) and Nulama Ponds Cundletown (500-600 birds 8 Feb). ~100 birds were at Hexham Swamp 2 & 17 Jan and Morpeth WTW Apr (KEM, Table 11). There were 50+ birds at East Seaham 10 Feb (GOA *et al.*) and Tocal Feb-Apr (Table 12). **Breeding:** 150-200 nests were at the Cundletown colony 8 Feb and 25 Nov (STA); 184 nests at HWC 16 Dec with 65 nestlings there 9 Feb (NIG), and 60 nests at Gloucester mid Dec with 100+ chicks there 14 Jan (JED/STD, DBP). **Atlas:** 180 records from 15 cells, RR 11.4%

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

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

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: Q6 (18.6%).

Notable records: Four birds were recorded in Port Stephens 14 Feb (Table 14) and three birds in the Hunter Estuary Feb and Dec (Table 2) and at Myuna Bay 4 Feb (HBOC). An adult and a juvenile bird were together at Tighes Hill 11 May (CLT). **Atlas:** 47 records from seven cells, RR 4.2%

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 = 34.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (72.3%).

Notable records: Birds often were in high numbers at three locations (Tables 2 & 6, LIA, KEM, others): Hunter Estuary (50+ all months, 200+ often, peak count 339 birds Mar); Tomago Wetlands (50+ most months, peak count 123 birds May); and Hexham Swamp (100+ Jan-Mar, peak count 281 birds 27 Feb). 111 birds were at Little Swan Bay Port Stephens 18 Jun and 93 birds 30 May (WOL), and 43-47 birds at Port Stephens 14 Feb & 14 Jul (Table 14). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Wallsend 13 Sep (PAL). **Atlas:** 634 records from 38 cells, RR 38.1%

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 = 10.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (19.0%).

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Feb and 6-7 birds several times in Jan-May (Table 2). 10-12 birds were at HWC Jan-Feb and Swansea/Lake Macquarie Feb-Mar (Tables 5, 9). **Breeding:** One pair was nesting at HWC 16 Dec (NIG). **Atlas:** 159 records from 12 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 8% of cells, at RR = 1.2%; cell of most interest: P8 (17.0%).

Birds were often recorded from four locations: Broughton Island (six birds together 4 Jan (HCL), several birds 24-26 Mar (STA *et al.*), single bird 24-25 Sep (CLT)); Birubi Point - Fingal Head (single birds Feb-Mar and Jun-Jul, Table 18); Stockton area (single birds often Mar-Apr and also 26 Oct (HCL, NAK)); Newcastle Rock Shelf locations (single birds Jan and Jul-Aug (Table 7, THJ/NIR)). Elsewhere, single birds were at Shoal Bay 10 Feb (WOL), Diamond Head 25 Mar (CJB), Pebbly Beach Hallidays Point 24 Sep (BEN) and Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1

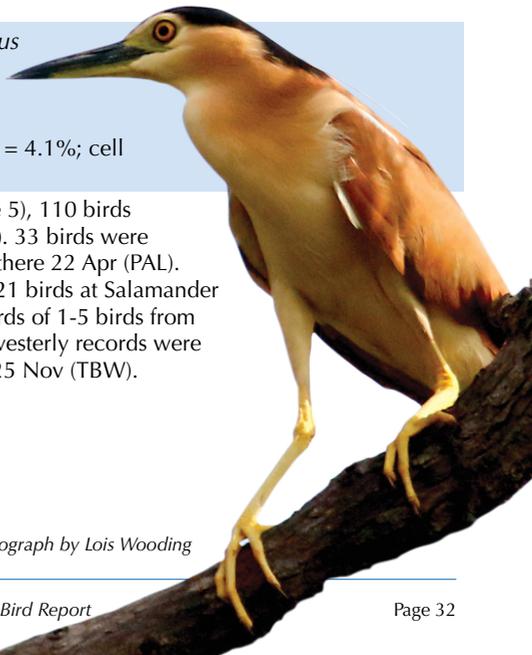
Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 26% of cells, at RR = 4.1%; cell of most interest: O9 (11.8%).

Although most counts at HWC were small (Table 5), 110 birds were departing there at dusk 28 Oct (ROM/WID). 33 birds were at Hexham Swamp 14 Feb (KEM) and 15+ birds there 22 Apr (PAL). 23 birds were at Stockton 14 Oct (per CRL) and 21 birds at Salamander Wetlands 24 Nov (WOL). There were many records of 1-5 birds from 15+ locations in the E of the Region – the most westerly records were from Tocal 5 Feb (NEM) and Riverwood Downs 25 Nov (TBW).

Atlas: 39 records from eight cells, RR 3.5%



Photograph by Lois Wooding

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: L10 (7.1%).

80+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 7 Mar (OCG). There were 20+ birds in the Hexham Swamp/Lenaghans Flat area 11 Jan, Jun-Jul and 21 Oct as well as some records of lesser numbers (KEM, THJ, HBOC, HAP, others). 18-19 birds were at Singleton Cemetery swamp 2 Feb and Morpeth WTW 21 May (ALP, Table 11), and 1-5 birds at Raymond Terrace 21 Feb (TUJ), Morpeth WTW 5 Mar (Table 11), Hexham Swamp/Deep Pond 15 Mar (Table 2) and Irrawang Swamp 6 Apr (SLP). **Atlas:** 14 records from seven cells, RR 1.6%

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus* (Revised from: *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 35% of cells, at RR = 26.2%; cell of most interest: O9 (56.5%).

Notable records: 488 birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 6 Jul and 472 birds at HWC Dec (ROM, Table 5), and 200-400 birds were sometimes recorded around Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb and NWR 14 Aug (KEM). There were several records of 100+ birds in the Hunter Estuary and at HWC (Tables 2, 5), and at Tomago Wetlands Jan (Table 6), Morpeth 4 Mar (NAK) and Gloucester 28 Aug (DBP). **Breeding:** Breeding at HWC wound down through Jan-Feb then began again in Jul (several observers). There were 43 nests 14 Jul (NIG) – *compared with 250-350 nests there each winter in 2011-2013*; this had risen to 114 nests 16 Dec (NIG). Also, 150-200 pairs were on nests or with chicks at the nearby NWR 25 Sep, breeding having been underway from early Aug (LIA). **Atlas:** 456 records from 19 cells, RR 29.8%

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 = 13.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (45.8%).

Notable records: 440 birds were in the area between Raymond Terrace and Bolwarra 23 Mar (SLP). 100+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 30 Jan (KEM), Morpeth 4 Mar (NAK) and East Seaham 8 Apr and 13 Jun (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 219 records from 25 cells, RR 12.1%

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 = 15.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (47.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary Feb-Jul with peak count 95 birds Apr (Table 2). 30-50+ birds were often at Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb (several observers) and 51 birds at Tomago Wetlands Oct (Table 6). 25-50 birds were at Seaham NR 10 Jan (SLP), Morpeth WTW Jan and Oct (Table 11), NWR 12 Feb (KEM), Raymond Terrace 15 Feb (TUJ), Hexham Swamp Minmi 9 Aug (LIA) and HWC Nov-Dec (Table 5). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Clarencetown 8 Feb (SLP). **Atlas:** 182 records from 15 cells, RR 12.4%

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 = 3.3%; cell of most interest: J9 (19.2%).

Notable records: 18 birds were at Morpeth WTW Jan and 4-7 birds some other months (Table 11). Nine birds were recorded along Melville Ford Rd and five birds at Millers Forest 6 Feb – numbers had increased in the Maitland area in Feb (BRG). Eight birds were at Seaham NR 10 Jan (SLP) and 4-6 birds at Elderslie 21 Jan (ALP), Bolwarra Lagoon 8 Feb (BRG), HWC 10 Feb (SRM) and Hexham Swamp 11 Feb (CJB). **Atlas:** 23 records from seven cells, RR 1.8%

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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 19% of cells, at RR = 6.4%; cell of most interest: S4 (34.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded around Wallis Lake 3-5 May (MOA *et al.*). Four birds were together at Lake Macquarie 10 Mar and four birds together at Karuah 27 Jul (both CIR) – near to known nest sites. The most inland record was of a bird at WWW 8 Jul (TBW).

Breeding: At least five pairs were nesting at locations around Lake Macquarie in winter (CIR), at least four pairs around Port Stephens (STA, probably an under-estimate), 5-6 pairs around Wallis Lake/Forster (CAA) and 10-12 pairs around the Manning Estuary (CRB). **Hence there were 25-30 pairs breeding in the Region.** **Atlas:** 77 records from 14 cells, RR 6.2%

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 = 7.5%; cell of most interest: M9 (19.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 114 records from 17 cells, RR 7.2%

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1977*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 0.4%; cell of most interest: Q4 (7.1%).

There were many records of 1-2 birds in the Maitland/Cessnock/Raymond Terrace area Feb-Jun (ROS, BRG, others), also 29 Nov at Raymond Terrace (SLP). There were also several records of single birds from locations all around Lake Macquarie Jan-Apr (various reporters) and Belmont 29 May and 3 Aug (ERE, EAC *et al.*). Single birds were in the Coopernook/Cattai Wetlands area 15 & 17 Mar, 23 May and 5 Sep (various observers) and two birds 6 Sep (ERE). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Pacific Palms 3 May (MOA *et al.*), Seahampton 3 Jul (ERE), Crowdy Bay NP 17 Jul (STA), Singleton Training Area 9 Sep (ROM) and Shortland 11 Dec (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Coopernook SF early-mid Dec (KEM, JED/STD). **Atlas:** 16 records from ten cells, RR 1.1% **Notable increase in the Reporting Rate.**

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: M8 (23.6%).

Nine birds were at Coal Point 16 Jul, with 2-3 birds regularly in the preceding weeks (HCL). 1-2 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region (many observers). A westerly record was of a single bird near Parkville 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT). **Breeding:** An adult was feeding a fledged young at Rankin Park 6 Mar (POJ). Birds had nests with young at Dora Creek 21 Apr (GOC), Laguna/Wollombi area Nov (per MOA) and Coopernook SF 7 Dec (KEM). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Five records from five cells.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

ID No: 226 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near large waters, mostly as single birds or pairs and occasionally also with a juvenile.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 15.8%; cell of most interest: N9 (39.3%).

Notable records: Four birds were at Grahamstown Dam 21 Sep and Mudbishops Point 25 Nov (HBOC, STA). Birds took a Red-necked Avocet at Hunter Estuary 28 May and a Wedge-tailed Shearwater at Submarine Beach Myall Lakes NP 24 Nov (HCL, FAA), and Wedge-tailed Shearwater chicks at Broughton Island in autumn (STD). **Atlas:** 258 records from 21 cells, RR 16.9%

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 40% of cells, at RR = 16.7%; cell of most interest: P8 (50.5%).

Notable records: Ten birds were at Pambalong NR 16 Jan (KEM) and 4-5 birds at Lenaghans Flat 5 & 11 Jan (SLP, KEM) and Hexham Swamp 27 Jun (SIA). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Soldiers Point 14 Apr and Hawks Nest 21 Sep (MUT, GOS). **Atlas:** 235 records from 24 cells, RR 15.0%

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (20.0%).

Manning Valley and North: 1-2 birds were at Croki early Jun (GOS), Crowdy Head 17 Jul (STA), Saltwater NP 4 & 15 Sep (MGLB, HBOC) and Manning Point 2 Oct (MGLB). **Records again were less than normal.** **Forster/Great Lakes:** One bird was at Wallamba River 16 Feb (MOA). **Port Stephens/mid-North:** Single birds were at Hawks Nest early Feb (DWJ), Shoal Bay 10 Feb (WOL) and Karuah area 14 Feb (HBOC). **Hunter Estuary:** Single adult birds were sometimes recorded Feb-Mar, and often during Jun-Jul (many observers). An immature bird was occasionally also present Jun-Jul and 13 Sep (HCL). **Elsewhere:** Single birds were at Swansea 3 Apr (ADJ), Lake Macquarie 17 Aug (CIR), Lake Munmorah SCA 21 Sep (CIR) and Awabakal NR 18 Nov (EAC). **Atlas:** 38 records from ten cells, RR 3.2%

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: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 0.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (1.3%).

50+ birds were around Hexham Swamp 27 Jan (GOS) and 27-30 birds near Scone 13-15 Jan and 30 Oct (ROM *et al.*, NEG). 6-10 birds were at Pambalong NR 5 Jan (WID), Lenaghans Flat 11 Jan and 29 Mar (BNSW, ERE), Weston 24 Apr (ROS), Green Wattle Creek 27 Jul (STA *et al.*) and Largs area 21 Sep (ROM/WID). There were many records all year of 1-3 birds, widespread although mainly from towards the east. **Atlas:** 17 records from four cells, RR 1.1%

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 56% of cells, at RR = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (32.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were at "Myall View" HSD 25 Jan (HBOC) and Bobs Farm 11 Feb (WOL). A bird took a Common Starling at Wingen 8 Jan (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Coopernook mid Dec (JED/STD) and also bred at Bobs Farm Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** 46 records from 14 cells, RR 3.3%

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 37% of cells, at RR = 1.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (43.1%).

Notable records: Two birds were exchanging food at Tomago 18 Nov (LIA/MCN) and an adult and juvenile were at Raymond Terrace 20 Dec (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Broke 9 Sep (FRN) and bred at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 19 records from 11 cells, RR 1.3%

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 28% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: M8 (14.6%).

Notable records: A white phase bird was at Ryhope 21 Nov (GOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with two young at BbR 4 Jan; the younger white phase nestling did not survive (KYR). **Atlas:** 21 records from eight cells, RR 1.5%

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

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

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: G7 (3.9%).

Once again there were many and widespread records all year of 1-2 birds throughout the Region, including many from near-coastal locations such as Hunter Estuary, Wallis Lake and Manning Estuary. Also, a bird was again recorded at Broughton Island, over 24-26 Mar (STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 20 records from seven cells, RR 1.0%

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded in the E of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 9.3%; cell of most interest: L10 (28.0%).

Notable records: Five birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 2 Jan and four birds there 19 Jan (KEM). **Atlas:** 125 records from 11 cells, RR 7.9%



Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. 1-2 birds widely and often recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 9.3%; cell of most interest: J9 (33.3%).

Notable records: 11 birds were near carrion at Moonan Brook 3 Nov (ERE) and five birds at Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (KEM). 3-4 birds were recorded at Wingen 17 Feb (NEG), Belford 9 Mar (AYG), Kankool 11 Mar (BEI) and Pages River 19 Apr (NEG). **Breeding:** A pair was at a nest at Medowie 27 Sep (TUI). **Atlas:** 58 records from 23 cells, RR 3.4%

Illustration by David Fleming

Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225

HBOC Category: 1

NSW: Vulnerable

Breeding: Past records

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: H7 (7.9%).

Two birds were at Wingen 18 Apr (NEG). Single birds were often recorded around both Weston and Shortland in Apr (ROS, ROM), and at Richmond Vale 1 Feb (GOC), Muswellbrook 1 Feb (KEM), Scone 1 Feb (KEM), Parkville 6 Feb (NEG), Pambalong NR 17 Feb (MOA), Doughboy Hollow 12 Apr (THJ), East Maitland 21 Apr (BRG), Weston 26 May and late Dec (ROS), HEZ 5 Nov and 18 Dec (ROM) and Tenambit 21 Dec (BRG). **Atlas:** 14 records from seven cells, RR 0.3%

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 74% of cells, at RR = 8.7%; cell of most interest: J9 (47.3%).

Notable records: Six birds were at "Windy" HSD 1 Feb (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Charlestown GC Jul-Aug (FEG) and Hexham Swamp 11 Oct (LIA) and nesting at Wingen 3 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 99 records from 25 cells, RR 6.4%

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 = 4.8%; cell of most interest: H7 (21.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Tomago 18 Nov (LIA/MCN). **Atlas:** 30 records from 11 cells, RR 1.6%

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 45% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (14.0%).

Notable records: Birds took a Yellow-faced Honeyeater at East Maitland 9 May, House Sparrow at Wingen 11 Jul and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Stockton Sandspit 11 Nov (BRG, NEG, HCL).

Breeding: Birds were nest building at Merewether GC 10 Nov (MRO). **Atlas:** 49 records from 13 cells, RR 3.4%

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 = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (4.2%).

Central/West: 1-2 birds were recorded near Parkville 13-15 Jan and 15 Jul (ROM/CLT), Wingen 11 Mar (NEG), Muswellbrook 16 Jun and 11 Jul (CLT, RIA), Singleton 15 & 18 Jul (ALP), Denman 5 Sep (ROS) and Martindale 18 Dec (ROM). Lower Hunter Valley: There were steady reports all year of single birds in the Hexham Swamp/Minmi area (many observers). Two birds were at Wallalong 23 Apr (BRG) and single birds at Thornton 12 Jan (BRG), Louth Park 13 Jan (BRG), Ash Island 24 Jan (MEL), Largs 26 Jan (ROS), Grahamstown Dam 1 Apr (HBOC) and East Maitland 22 Apr (BRG/KIR). **Atlas:** 12 records from four cells, RR 0.5%

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 = 2.2%; cell of most interest: K11 (6.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 29 records from seven cells, RR 1.8%

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

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

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005*)

A single bird was flying over Nabiac 5 Feb (ATD) – *the second confirmed record for the Region since the Bird Reports commenced. There are unconfirmed (but plausible) records from early to mid-20th Century from the Manning Valley and occasionally the Hunter Valley.*

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 47% of cells, at RR = 18.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (76.5%).

Notable records: 160 birds were at Hexham Swamp Minmi 9 Aug (LIA) and 95 birds at Morpeth WTW 9 Apr (Table 11). Numbers often were substantial at some other regularly surveyed sites (see Tables for details): Hunter Estuary (30+ many months with peak count 100 birds Apr); HWC (40+ most months with peak count 84 birds Jul and Aug); Tomago Wetlands (60+ 3 months with peak count 96 birds Apr); Charlestown GC (20+ many months with peak count 27 birds Jul); WWW (20+ most months with peak count 38 birds Jun). 20+ birds were at Pambalong NR 16 Jan and Hexham Swamp 1 Jul (KEM, HBOC). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan-Feb, Aug, Nov-Dec. **Atlas:** 219 records from 26 cells, RR 14.0%

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 = 0.6%; cell of most interest: P8 (7.1%).

Up to three birds were often recorded at Hexham Swamp 9-21 Jul (HCL, others) and a single bird there 2 Jan (KEM). Birds were heard at two locations at Broughton Island 24-26 Mar (STA *et al.*) and Fosterton Loop Dungog 16-17 Oct (JED, ROM). Single birds were also at Mambo Wetlands 30 Jan (EGD), Polblue Swamp 11 Mar (ERE) and Shortland 23 Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** seven records from three cells, RR 0.5%

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 2.3%; cell of most interest: S3 (8.9%).

Five adults were feeding at a seed tray at Wangi Wangi late May (JOD). Up to eight birds were often recorded at Hexham Swamp 9-21 Jul (HCL, others) and single birds there sometimes in Jan and Sep-Oct (various observers). 1-2 birds were recorded several times during the year at both HWC and Hunter Estuary (Tables 2, 5). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 11-15 Jan (LIN, others), Ash Island 23 Jan and 6 Feb (MEL, STA), Harrington 8 Feb (STA), Smiths Lake Feb (BNSW), WWW 8 Jul (TBW), Bulahdelah 13 Aug (STA), Tighes Hill 9 Aug and 22 Dec (CLT), Warabrook 9 Sep and 17 & 24 Oct (BEI, SLP), Anna Bay 25 Sep (MUT) and Lavis Lane 1 Oct (KEM). **Breeding:** There were records from five locations, spanning Jan and Nov-Dec.

Atlas: 44 records from eight cells, RR 2.9%**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 ten cells, at RR = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (1.9%).

Three birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 11 Jan and a single bird there 10 Jan (KEM, ROM) and in the Hunter Estuary 14 Feb (Table 2). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell M10

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

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

Birds were often in Hexham Swamp when conditions were favourable: in Jan and early Feb, up to ten birds were recorded (KEM, many others); and in mid-Jul 15-20 birds were present (HCL, many others); also up to three birds were there Sep-Oct and Dec (RIA, others). These counts are also reflected in the Table 2 data. Elsewhere, 2-3 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 15 Jul and 23 Sep (STA *et al.*, LIA) and a bird was heard at Tenambit 21 Dec (BRG). **Breeding:** A pair had chicks at Hexham Swamp 20 Jan (SIA). **Atlas:** 42 records from cells M9, M10, RR 3.3%

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in seven cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: M11 (3.0%).

Birds were recorded in Hexham Swamp when conditions were favourable: in Jan, 3-4 birds were present (ROM, others); and 5-6 birds in mid-Jul (HCL, many others). Elsewhere, two birds were in the Hunter Estuary (at KI Deep Pond) Mar, Jul, Sep and Nov (Table 2) and single birds at Wallsend Wetlands 8 & 16 Jan (COS, LIN), "Myall View" HSD 25 Jan (HBOC), Ash Island 8 Feb (JED/STD) and WWW 6 Feb (MCR). **Atlas:** 13 records from cell M10, RR 3.0%

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 = 0.6%; cell of most interest: L10 (1.9%).

No reports were received for 2014.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

ID No: 056 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded, in counts of up to 20 birds at small to medium waters and up to 50 birds at medium to large waters.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 58% of cells, at RR = 14.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (61.3%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 1 Jul (HBOC). 20+ birds were recorded at HWC most months with peak count 60 birds Apr (Table 5) – *lower numbers than usual*. 20+ birds were at Charlestown GC most months over Mar-Sep (Table 8) and WWW 21 May (Table 10). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 125 records from 22 cells, RR 7.8%

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 39% of cells, at RR = 9.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (54.2%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at seven locations (see Tables for main details): Hunter Estuary (200+ most months, 300+ often, peak count 1,339 birds Jan); HWC (60+ many months, peak count 238 birds Nov); WWW (200+ most months, peak count 415 birds Jan); Morpeth WTW (300+ many months, peak count 1,040 birds Jan); Tocal (50+ Jun-Aug, peak count 125 birds Jun); Cattai Wetlands (50+ Mar and May). Also, 120 birds were at Raymond Terrace 21 Feb (TUI). *More than 2,500 birds were in the Region in Jan (and, unfortunately, there were no surveys at Lake Liddell where several hundred birds are often present)*. In the Hunter Estuary, birds mostly utilised Deep Pond early year and Swan Pond late year. **Atlas:** 188 records from 22 cells, RR 13.4%

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 = 0.9%; cell of most interest: O9 (1.4%).

There were three reports of pairs from around Port Stephens: Swan Bay area 14 Feb (Table 14), Carrington 30 Apr (STA) and LTP during Oct (TNW). One of the birds at Carrington had been banded as a chick at Cromarty Lane, Bobs Farm 26 Nov 2009 (per MOA). **Breeding:** In late Nov, a pair at Cromarty Lane had successfully raised two young and a pair was nesting at Lemon Tree passage (per FRN). Birds were nesting at Little Swan Bay 20 Dec (WOL). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells N9, O9

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus giganteus*

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Critically Endangered Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in five cells, at RR = 1.1%; cell of most interest: R4 (10.2%).

There were frequent records of the pairs at Manning Entrance SP (Table 16, others) and Soldiers Point/Dowardee Island (MUT, WOL, others). For the latter, records included 1-2 birds sometimes at LTP Jul-Aug and Nov (TNW), Tanilba Bay 31 Jul (per WOL), Carrington 4 Sep (STA) and Pindimar 19 Dec (STA). **Breeding:** Both pairs were sometimes recorded with juvenile birds present – Manning Estuary 28 May (STA) and Soldiers Point area Feb-May (MUT). The timing of these sightings and the prior behaviour suggests both pairs again bred successfully. **Atlas:** Nine records from three cells, RR 1.3%

South Island Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi*

ID No: 744 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2004).

No reports were received for 2014.

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 15.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (50.2%).

Notable records: 162 birds were in Port Stephens both 14 Feb and 14 Jul (~1.6% of the total population once again confirming Port Stephens as a species stronghold). Within the Port, 20+ birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP in several months with peak count 41 birds May (Table 13) and there were some records of 20-50 birds at Dowardee Island/Soldiers Point (MUT, others). Birds were regularly recorded at four other locations (see Tables for main details): Hunter Estuary (recorded all months, 10+ most months, peak count 26 birds Apr); Worimi Conservation Lands (10+ most months, 20+ often, peak count 36 birds May and Dec); Manning Estuary (10+ most months, peak count 41 birds Feb); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (1-5 most months, peak count 8 birds Dec). Although there were not regular surveys at Forster/Tuncurry, 48 birds were present 16 Feb, 62 birds 9 Mar (MOA) and 12 birds 17 Jul (STA). *In summer, 260-280 birds are estimated to have been present in the Region, and 220-240 birds in winter.* **Breeding:** A pair at Stockton Sandspit successfully fledged a chick (CLT). It hatched 29 Sep and fledged 15 Nov. **Atlas:** 179 records from 11 cells, RR 16.4%

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 = 5.8%; cell of most interest: P8 (32.1%).

The peak at the Newcastle Baths roost was 52 birds in Mar (*largest count on record*), with 35+ birds over Jan-Apr and 20+ May and Dec, and some birds present all year (Table 7). Also, 16-18 birds were at KI Dykes Apr and Dec (Table 2); these may have been some of the Newcastle Baths birds. In Port Stephens, 37 birds were present 14 Feb and 34 birds 14 Jul including many at Gir-um-bit NP (Tables 13, 14). 7-8 birds were in the Manning Estuary Mar and Jun (Table 16) and 4-8 birds often in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area (Table 18). Elsewhere, up to ten birds were at Broughton Island 24-26 Mar and 24 Sep (STA *et al.*, CLT), six birds were at Burwood Beach 22 Apr and 14 Jun (STA, THJ), four birds at Diamond Head 25 Mar (CJB) and 1-2 birds at Broughton Island 13 Jan (HCL), Merewether Baths 11 Jan (MRO), Forster/Tuncurry 16 Feb (MOA), Saltwater NP 19 Mar (STA), Crowdy Head 9 Sep (STA), Cabbage Tree Island 8-10 Dec (FAA) and Swansea/Lake Macquarie 20 Dec (Table 9). **Atlas:** 61 records from seven cells, RR 6.2%. *110-130 birds are estimated to have been in the Region in summer.*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

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 20% of cells, at RR = 12.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (35.2%).

Notable records: 400+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary all year, with 1,000+ birds often recorded and peak count 1,576 birds Dec (Table 2). The two main sites were Hexham Swamp and Ash Island; both had many records of 300-1,000+ birds, several hundred birds were occasionally at other sites around the Hunter Estuary. Outside of the Estuary, 200+ birds were often at Morpeth WTW with peak count 277 birds Oct (Table 11), and 68 birds were at Green Point Wallis Lake 11 May (MGLB). **Breeding:** Although there were no confirmed records, birds were copulating at Stockton Sandspit 9 Aug (CLT). **Atlas:** 234 records from 12 cells, RR 18.1%

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 6% of cells, at RR = 9.2%; cell of most interest: M10 (13.1%).

Notable records: For most of the year, more than 2,000 birds were in the Hunter Estuary although many birds departed Mar-Apr (Table 1). The peak count was 5,159 birds Jul and there were 4,000-5,000+ birds present throughout Aug-Nov (Table 1). Birds were more dispersed than previous years, with many records of 500-1,000+ birds feeding at Hexham Swamp, Ash Island and Tomago Wetlands. In Sep, ~2,000 birds were night roosting at Tomago Wetlands (LIA). Some birds were often at Morpeth WTW, with peak count 144 birds Jul but numbers varying considerably (Table 11). Elsewhere, small numbers were at Belmont South 17 Feb (CJB), Newcastle Baths in May (Table 7) and Wentworth Swamp Kurri Kurri 16 Dec (ERE).

Movements: Details obtained for flagged birds seen at Stockton Sandspit revealed several birds making repeat visits to the Hunter Estuary, including four birds first banded in 2004 and a bird banded in 1999. There were several birds that had been flagged at locations in Victoria and one from Coongie Lakes, South Australia (information via HCL). **Atlas:** 120 records, from cells L9, M10, RR 13.8%

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1995-96, 2000-01, 2004, 2012-13).

No reports were received for 2014.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 8.5%; cell of most interest: R4 (22.3%).

Hunter Estuary: The peak count was 522 birds in Mar with many hundreds of birds present Jan-Apr and Dec (Table 1, also Tables 3, 4, 6 and below). *This is the largest count since 1986 and the third highest on record.* **Manning Estuary:** The peak count was 170 birds Feb, with 100+ birds present several other months (Table 16). **Elsewhere:** 19 birds were recorded at Gir-umbit NP 11 Jan and some birds were also there Jun-Sep (Table 13). 1-5 birds were at Broughton Island 23-25 Sep (CLT) and Pelican Island Wallis Lake 4 May (MOA et al.). **Over-wintering:** Up to nine birds were in the Hunter Estuary and up to 13 birds in the Manning Estuary in winter, and up to seven birds in Port Stephens (Tables 13, 14). **Atlas:** 114 records from seven cells, RR 12.4%

Table A. Monthly Peak Counts at Hunter Estuary Locations*(Excludes Tomago and Hexham sites. No survey in December)*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
365	270	433	52	10	9	9	8	61	147	112

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 31 records from seven cells.

No direct reports were received for 2014. **Atlas:** One record, from cell R6

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 10.3%; cell of most interest: N9 (28.8%).

Notable records: Birds were recorded in good numbers at three locations (see Tables for main details): Manning Estuary (15+ birds most months, peak count 29 birds Aug); Worimi Conservation Lands (10+ birds many months, peak count 64 birds Apr); Hunter Estuary (10+ birds occasionally, peak count 20-24 birds Jan-Feb). **Breeding:** Four pairs were nesting at Stockton Sandspit 9 Aug and some pairs had chicks there 25 Oct (CLT, WIT). **Atlas:** 105 records from seven cells, RR 10.3%

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 = 2.7%; cell of most interest: R4 (15.0%).

Worimi Conservation Lands: 173 birds were recorded 13 Jun, with good numbers present Apr-Aug (Table 19). Manning Estuary: The peak count was 38 birds in May (Table 16). Unusually, a single bird (in non-breeding plumage) was recorded in Oct and late Nov. Port Stephens: 30 birds were recorded 14 Jul and also 4-13 birds in Gir-um-bit NP Apr-Aug (Tables 13, 14). Elsewhere: Up to three birds were in the Hunter Estuary Mar-Apr (Table 1, HCL) and four birds at Broughton Island 24-26 Mar (STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 45 records from six cells, RR 4.7%

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 = 1.3%; cell of most interest: N9 (7.1%).

Five birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 26 Jan (BRG) and four birds in the Hunter Estuary Dec (Table 1). Also, single birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 22 Nov (MEL *et al.*) and Worimi Conservation Lands 19 Dec (Table 19). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2004-05, 2007-09, 2012-13).

No reports were received for 2014.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

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

A single bird was in a paddock near Largs 26 Jan (WID *et al.*). The bird remained until 8 Feb when last recorded (many observers). *The record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 34th confirmed record for NSW. It is the 2nd confirmed record for the Hunter Region.*

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 32% of cells, at RR = 6.5%; cell of most interest: J9 (23.3%).

Notable records: Birds were recorded all months in the Hunter Estuary with peak counts 29 birds May-Jun; Phoenix Flats and Milhams Pond were the main locations (Tables 1, 3 & 4). Also, ~30 birds were at Hexham Swamp 3 Jul (ROM/WID). Elsewhere, 36 birds were at Ellalong Lagoon 27 Jun (ROM/ROS), 10-15 birds at Wallsend Wetlands 7 & 11 Jan (ROM, ERE) and 6-8 birds at Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS), HWC 12 Feb (KEM) and Coopernook Corner 16 Jun and 13 Dec (STA, ROS). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Wallsend Wetlands 10-17 Jan (STA, LIN), and bred at Coopernook Corner in late year (MOT). **Atlas:** 97 records from 11 cells, RR 8.9%

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (6.8%).

There were substantial influxes into the Hunter Estuary in Jan-Feb, Jun-Jul and Nov-Dec, with peak counts 160+, 213 and 222 birds respectively (Table 1, many other observers). *These*



are the greatest numbers on record for the estuary. Most of the birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp; lesser numbers frequently were at Tomago Wetlands and occasionally at Ash Island (Tables 3, 4, 6). Some birds were also in the estuary May and Aug-Sep (Table 1). Elsewhere, 20-23 birds were at Tocal Jan and Nov and 4-6 birds often (Table 12), 8-11 birds at HWC Jan (Table 5), Pokolbin 7 Jan (ROS), Doughboy Hollow 1 Feb (KEM) and Coopernook Corner Wetlands 13 Dec (ROS), and 1-5 birds at Pambalong NR 5 Jan (SLP), Singleton WTW 2 Feb (ALP), Bolwarra Lagoon 9 Feb (SDI), Cattai Bridge Wetlands 27 May and 16 Jun and Coopernook Corner Wetlands frequently from May onwards (all STA). **Breeding:** Four pairs had a total of ten chicks at Tomago Wetlands 16 Sep and three chicks also were present 28 Oct (LIA, GOA). A pair was with three chicks at Coopernook Corner Wetlands 25 Nov (STA).

Atlas: 73 records from seven cells, RR 5.7%

Photograph by Dick Jenkin

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: 30 records from 13 cells.

17 birds were along Ringwood Rd near Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM) (*a new location*) and 5-10 birds in the Largs / Phoenix Park area late Jan - early Feb and late Oct (many observers).

Atlas: Five records, from cell L9

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 = 36.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (77.9%).

Notable records: 40+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary every month, and 90+ birds often; the peak count was 182 birds in Nov (Table 1). Within the estuary, 20+ birds were often at Tomago Wetlands, with peak count 54 birds in Mar (Table 6). The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 76 birds 5 Jun, with 30+ birds very often recorded (Table 11). **Breeding:** There were records spanning Mar, Jul, Sep and Dec. **Atlas:** 640 records from 42 cells, RR 36.4%

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 6% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: R3 (30.6%).

Birds often were recorded at Cattai Wetlands all year, with peak counts of five birds Aug-Sep (Table 17, BEI, others). Elsewhere, some birds were at The Glen Rd Craven 27 May (TBW) and Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 12 records from cell R3, RR 7.5%

Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*

ID No: 170 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Endangered Breeding: Past records

Status: Uncertain (*all records since 1993 have been spring/summer ones*).

From BLA Atlas: 39 records from five cells; cell of most interest: M10 (21 records).

Some birds were at Wallsend Wetlands Jan 7-15 (many observers). The peak count was 11 birds 7 Jan (ROM/WIT), with 6-8 birds often reported. *These are understood to be the largest counts in Australia in 2014.* **Atlas:** 11 records, from cells L10, M10

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds often recorded in the E of the Region, from late Aug to mid-Mar.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 4.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (18.0%).

Notable records: 59 birds were recorded in a survey by multiple observers of lower Hunter sites 21 Dec – *a low count*. 12-20 birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 8 Jan and 2 Dec (ROS, ADJ), East Seaham 14 Oct (CLT), Lenaghans Flat 21 Oct (HAP) and Ash Island 4 Nov (HBOC), and 6-9 birds at Wallsend Wetlands 7 Jan (ROM), HWC 30 Jan (CJB), Gloucester 1 Feb (DBP), Jacks Rd Gloucester 3 & 23 Feb (DBP) and East Seaham 9 Dec (GOA *et al.*). The first reported return date was 2 Sep, when a bird was Ash Island (KYR). **Atlas:** 55 records from 12 cells, RR 3.9%

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 = 4.0%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.6%).

In formal surveys of the entire Hunter Estuary, the peak count was just 60 birds in Dec (Tables 1, 6). However, 132 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 20 Mar (LIA) and there were records of 86-89 birds there Jan-Feb (KEM, HCL), 63 birds 1 Mar (BNSW) and 95 birds 2 Apr (HCL). **Atlas:** 32 records from cell M10, RR 3.2%

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 over winter.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 13.6%; cell of most interest: N9 (63.5%).

Notable records: *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 880 birds Oct with 400-600+ birds present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec and 138 birds over-wintering (Table 2). *It is the lowest peak count since systematic surveys began, and the lowest winter numbers since 2002.* *Port Stephens:* 535 birds were recorded 14 Feb and 115 birds 14 Jul; at Gir-um-bit NP all counts were of less than 200 birds with a maximum of 35 birds in winter (Tables 13, 14). *Low counts for Port Stephens.* *Manning Estuary:* 100+ birds were present in summer with peak count 158 birds Oct and 25 birds over-wintering (Table 16). *Swansea/Lake Macquarie:* 50-56 birds were present Jan and Mar but most records were of less than 20 birds and no birds over-wintering (Table 9). **Movements:** A bird at Stockton Sandspit 16 Sep had been banded in Victoria in January 2011; it had staged in the Hunter Estuary every spring subsequently. Another bird present 26 Sep had been banded in New Zealand (all per CRL). **Atlas:** 117 records from seven cells, RR 11.3%

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

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

Up to six birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 30 Nov – 1 Dec (RIA/ROS, many others). *The record was accepted by ORAC as the 49th record for NSW.*

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 = 10.4%; cell of most interest: N9 (45.8%).

Notable records: *Port Stephens:* 188 birds were recorded 14 Feb and five birds 14 Jul (Table 13). Although 14 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 14 Jun, most did not remain through winter (Table 13). ~60 birds were at Dowardee Island 11 Jan (MUT). *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 60 birds Oct with 7-8 birds over-wintering (Table 1). *Manning Estuary:* 26-27 birds were recorded Nov-Dec (Table 16). **Atlas:** 80 records from five cells, RR 8.7%

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 over winter.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 18.8%; cell of most interest: N9 (54.4%).

Notable records: *Hunter Estuary:* 100+ birds were present Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec with peak count 186 birds Nov and up to 32 birds over-wintering. *Low counts compared with many previous years.* *Port Stephens:* 190 birds were recorded 14 Feb with five birds in winter (Table 14). As usual, most birds roosted at Gir-um-bit NP where the peak count was 205 birds 22 Nov (Table 13). *Low counts compared with many previous years.* *Manning Estuary:* 35+ birds were often recorded in summer with peak count 46 birds Dec; up to ten birds over-wintered (Table 16). *Highest summer count on record for this site.* *Arrival:* 30 birds had arrived by 29 Jul (HCL). **Atlas:** 125 records from five 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 = 2.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (3.2%).

Apart from five birds at Oyster Cove 14 Feb (Table 14), all records were from the Hunter Estuary. Only 2-4 birds were recorded in formal surveys (Table 1); however 16 birds were roosting at Fern Bay 10 & 24 Jan (KEM) and six birds 27 Nov (FAN). **Atlas:** 17 records from cells N9, M10, RR 2.1%

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: M10 (1.9%).

Single birds were recorded at Kooragang Dykes Feb-Apr and Nov (Table 1) and Newcastle Baths 11 Feb (CJB). **Atlas:** Six records from cell M10, RR 09%

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 = 6.3%; cell of most interest: N9 (24.7%).

In regular surveys of the Port Stephens roost sites, the peak count was 91 birds in Jan and 14 birds over-wintered (Table below, also Tables 13, 14). The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 43 birds Feb with four birds possibly over-wintering (Table 1). Single birds were also at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Nov and Newcastle Baths Nov (Table 7, 9). **Atlas:** 67 records from four cells, RR 7.7%

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
91	45	79	87	13	12	14	14	47	33	71	41

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: M10 (13.3%).

There were many records of 40+ birds Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, with peak count 120 birds Jan (Table 1, others). Up to nine birds stayed in winter. Mostly, the birds were utilising Hexham Swamp and Tomago Wetlands (see Table 6), occasionally Ash Island, and roosting at KI Dykes. **These are the highest counts since 2008.** There were no reports away from the Hunter Estuary. **Atlas:** 64 records from cells M9, M10, RR 6.6%

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in six cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.2%).

In formal surveys of the Hunter Estuary, the peak count was 79 birds in Mar (Table 1); however 111 birds were at Hexham Swamp 28 Nov and 100+ birds 17 Jan and 11 Dec (ROS, ROM). Hexham Swamp was the strongly preferred site although small numbers were sometimes also at Tomago Wetlands (Table 6) and Ash Island. *These are the highest counts since 2008.* Elsewhere, single birds were at Tocal 5 Jan (Table 12) and Morpeth WTW 28 Jul (Table 11), and some birds at Green Point Wallis Lake 18 Oct (MGLB). **Movement:** A bird at Hexham Swamp 4 Jan had been flagged in Taiwan in April 2007 (per LIA). **Atlas:** 54 records from four cells, RR 4.4%

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 1993, 1997-98, 2000-02, 2008-09, 2011-13).

From BLA Atlas: 27 records from three cells; cell of most interest: M10 (16 records).

One bird, possibly more, was at Hexham Swamp between 14 Jan and 7 Feb (several observers). **Atlas:** Seven 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: P8 (10.9%).

The peak count at Newcastle Baths was 14 birds, regularly present in summer, and with two birds over-wintering (Table 7). Birds were occasionally recorded at nearby locations in summer including sometimes at KI Dykes (Table 1, others). Unusually, a bird was at Hexham Swamp 30 Nov (JED). Elsewhere, 2-4 birds were at Broughton Island 2-4 Jan and 24-26 Mar (HCL, STA *et al.*) and 1-2 birds at Port Stephens 14 Feb and Manning Estuary 28 Oct (Table 16). **Atlas:** 23 records from cells N9, M10, RR 2.9%

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 2.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (2.6%).

3-4 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 24 Jan and 6 Feb (KEM) and KI Dykes 22-25 Nov (Table 1, others). Single birds were at Stockton Sandspit 9 Oct (HCL) and a beach in Myall Lakes NP 20 Sep (GOS). **Atlas:** Eight records from cell M10, RR 0.6%

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 eight cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: M10 (4.8%).

In the migration passage, birds began arriving at the Hunter Estuary 23 Aug, with the numbers steadily rising to 64 birds 31 Aug and then beyond (HCL). The peak count was 640 birds 11 Oct; most birds had departed by the following month (Table 1). Six birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 24 Sep (Table 13) and single birds at Manning Estuary Sep-Oct (Table 16) and Green Point Wallis Lake 18 Oct (MGLB). *A confirmed bird of the subspecies piersmai was in the Hunter Estuary 12 Oct (HCL).* (It is only possible to differentiate from subspecies *rogersi* when birds are in breeding plumage, which is not usually the case when birds visit the Estuary).

Movements: More than 30 flagged birds moved through the Hunter Estuary in Sep-Nov, including birds identified as having been flagged at Chukotka and Kamchatka (both in Russia), South Korea, Chongming Dao China and New Zealand (13 birds). **Atlas:** 19 records from four cells, RR 2.1%

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 six cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: R4 (10.3%).

28 birds were recorded in the Manning Estuary 18 Feb and 12-15 birds Nov-Dec (Table 16, KEM). Lesser numbers were present several other months including 1-4 birds in Jun-Jul (Table 16). 1-3 birds were sometimes at the Worimi Conservation Lands including one bird all winter (Table 19). **Atlas:** 19 records from six cells, RR 2.9%

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 7.2%; cell of most interest: R4 (19.9%).

Hunter Estuary: In the formal surveys the peak counts were 136 birds Mar and 114 birds Nov, many birds were present Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec (Tables 1 & 6). There also were records of 134 birds 25 Oct (ROM), ~100 birds 30 Oct and 80 birds 5 Feb (HCL). *The highest counts for the Estuary since 2005 when a large flock was on migration passage, and since 1999 otherwise.*
Worimi Conservation Lands: Birds mostly were present May-Sep with peak count 76 birds 14 Jul (Table 19). **Port Stephens:** Birds were occasionally recorded, with peak counts 14 birds Nov and 12 birds Feb, and one bird possibly over-wintering (Tables 13, 14). **Manning Estuary:** 15+ birds were recorded most months with peak count 41 birds Nov and up to 27 birds in winter (Table 16). **Elsewhere:** Up to five birds were at Green Point Wallis Lake 18 Oct and Cooperbrook Corner Wetlands 25 Nov (MGLB, STA). **Atlas:** 113 records from eight cells, RR 10.1%

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2003).

A single bird was recorded at KI Dykes 22 Nov (WID *et al.*). Despite some effort in the next few days, the bird was not able to be relocated.



Photograph by Dan Williams

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant (recorded 1995-99, 2001, 2003, 2006-09, 2013).

From BLA Atlas: 36 records from three cells; cell of most interest: M10 (31 records).

Up to three birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar, with many records from Hexham Swamp and Stockton Sandspit, and then 1-2 birds were again in recorded in the Estuary from late Nov onwards (many observers). **Atlas:** 19 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 = 7.6%; cell of most interest: M10 (12.0%).

Notable records: The large influx into the Hunter Estuary of 2013 continued over Jan-Mar, with many records of several thousand birds especially from Hexham Swamp and Tomago Wetlands, and occasionally elsewhere. *Most likely, 7,000-8,000 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar.* The formal counts generally are considered to be under-estimates due to difficulties finding birds hidden amidst vegetation, more reliable numbers were obtained from estimates made when flocks were in the air. In late Mar, they began to depart although 820 birds were still in the Estuary 18 Apr (HCL). Up to 30 birds were present in winter (Table 1). In the latter part of the year, another influx occurred, commencing early Sep. The numbers increased dramatically, with many reports of many thousands of birds. *Most likely, 7,000-8,000 birds were again in the Hunter Estuary Nov-Dec* (based on estimates made when flocks were in the air). Although the numbers elsewhere paled into relative insignificance, there were widespread records in Oct-Dec of small numbers at wetlands outside of the Hunter Estuary (see Tables for details). 75 birds were at Cooperook Corner Wetlands 25 Nov (STA) – a high count for the Manning Valley. A bird was taken by an Australian Hobby at Stockton Sandspit 11 Nov (HCL). **Atlas:** 146 records from seven cells, RR 11.4%.

The Hunter Estuary counts Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec represent 4.5-5% of the total world population. These numbers catapult the Hunter Estuary into the top 10 list of sites internationally for Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

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 = 5.4%; cell of most interest: M10 (7.8%).

Within the Hunter Estuary, birds were often foraging at Hexham Swamp, less frequently at Stockton Sandspit and sometimes Tomago Wetlands (Table 6). The peak count for the Estuary was 182 birds 11 Oct, also 116 birds were present 21 Nov (Table 1). No birds were found in winter in the formal surveys; however, ~25 birds were at Hexham Swamp 3 Jul (ROM/WID). Elsewhere, 12 birds were at Worimi Conservation Lands 21 Nov (Table 19) and 1-2 birds at Manning Estuary Jun (a winter record) and Gir-um-bit NP Sep (Tables 13, 16). **Atlas:** 76 records from three cells, RR 7.1%. *Although these were the best counts for the Hunter Estuary since 2010, for comparison, many thousands visited every year until the mid-1990s.*

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1979, 2004).

A single bird was recorded at Hexham Swamp 18 Jan (WRO). It was rediscovered 24 Jan and seen by many observers until 27 Jan when last recorded (WID, others). *The record was accepted by BARC as the 9th confirmed Australian record.*

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, 2012-13).

Up to six birds were at Hexham Swamp 10-27 Jan and a single bird there 8 Feb, and a single bird was at Stockton Sandspit 6-25 Feb (many observers).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1995-96, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2013).

A male and a female were at Hexham Swamp 17 Jan (RIA) and two birds were also recorded there 14 Jan (BEA). There were frequent records of single birds at Hexham Swamp 9 Jan – 7 Feb (many observers) and at Stockton Sandspit 10 Apr (HCL).

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 2014.

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 = 1.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (38.5%).

1-2 birds were recorded near HEZ 15 Jun and 26 Oct (GRN, GOC), and two birds at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** Nil records

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabellae*

ID No: 173 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009, 2013).

No reports were received for 2014.

Brown Skua *Stercorarius lonnbergi*

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

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 24 Jul (Table 20), and single birds offshore from Port Stephens 17 Jul (per GOS) and Newcastle 19 Jul (ROM).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

15 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 4 Dec and 2-7 birds in pelagic surveys Jan-Mar and Nov (Table 20).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 9 Mar and Swansea 4 Dec (Table 20).

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 Swansea 4 Dec and 1-2 birds in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 12 Jan, 9 Mar and 16 Nov (Table 20).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No
Status: Rare (*recorded 1977, 1999, 2008-09, 2011, 2013*)

A single bird was at Nobbys Breakwater Newcastle 4 Jan (WID).

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

ID No: 124 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2004, 2013*)

No reports were received for 2014.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

ID No: 121 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2013*)

No reports were received for 2014.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

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

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 12 Jan and single birds 6 Feb and 9 Mar (BRB, Table 20).

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 as 1-5 birds elsewhere along the coast.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.5%; cell of most interest: R4 (27.0%).

Notable records: *North:* 509 birds ($\pm 20\%$) were estimated to be in the Harrington/Diamond Head area 10 Dec (NPWS). ~200 birds were in the Manning Estuary Feb-Mar and 300-400 birds Nov-Dec (Table 16). *Central:* 17 birds were in Port Stephens 14 Feb (Table 14) and 90+ birds at the Worimi Conservation Lands Nov-Dec (Table 19). *South:* The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 123 birds in Mar with 25+ birds present Jan-Feb and Nov (Table 2). 30 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan and 14 birds in Mar (Table 9). **Breeding:** Many pairs once again bred in the Muddbishops Point/Farquhar area in the Manning Estuary in spring/summer (STA). Nine pairs had chicks at Worimi Conservation Lands 19 Dec (FRN). **Atlas:** 75 records from seven cells, RR 7.2%

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 = 5.1%; cell of most interest: N9 (16.7%).

Notable records: Large numbers were in the Worimi Conservation Lands most of the year with 100+ birds recorded several times and peak count 204 birds 21 Nov (Table 19). ~150 birds arrived on dusk at Tomago Wetlands 23 Sep (LIA/MCN). Many birds were at Stockton Sandspit Jan-Mar and May, with peak counts 97 birds 28 May and 92 birds 10 Jan and several records of 40-50+ birds (HCL, KEM). Also 33 birds were recorded there 12 Jul (Table 2) and 12-13 birds at Gir-um-bit NP Mar-May (Table 13). **Atlas:** 108 records from six cells, RR 10.1%

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 13% of cells, at RR = 9.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (34.7%).

Notable records: 36 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 14 Jul with 10+ birds regularly at Gir-um-bit NP within the Port over Jul-Sep and peak count 20 birds 6 Aug and 15 birds 12 Jul (Tables 13, 14, WOL). 10+ birds were often in the Hunter Estuary (principally at Stockton Sandspit) with peak count 44 birds May (Table 2 and several supporting records). 11 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 16 Apr (Table 9). **Atlas:** 142 records from 12 cells, RR 12.8%

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 = 1.5%; cell of most interest: L10 (5.7%).

94 birds were recorded at Ash Island 10 Oct (Table 2) and 50-80+ birds at Hexham Swamp 3 & 19 Oct and several times in Dec (several observers) and Tomago Wetlands 19 Oct (LIA). There were several reports of lesser numbers at Ash Island and Hexham Swamp in Jan and late Sep to Dec. 8-13 birds were at Morpeth WTW Oct and Dec (Table 11) and a single bird at Grahamstown Dam 26 Feb (SLP). The first recorded return was 13 Sep when a single bird was at Ash Island 13 Sep (STA/MCN). **Atlas:** 12 records from cells L9, M10, RR 0.9%

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 50 records from three cells.

1-2 birds were regularly at Ash Island 7-19 Jan (Table 2, many others) and Hexham Swamp 12-14 Dec (KET, LIA). Single birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point 25 Oct (STA) and often in the Newcastle Baths / Nobbys Beach area Nov-Dec (THJ, NIR, others). **Atlas:** 12 records, from cells M10 & R4

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1968*).

No reports were received for 2014.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Status: Winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 1.0%; cell of most interest: S4 (4.6%).

Nine birds were in the Manning Estuary Aug and single birds Jun and Sep, and up to seven birds around Newcastle Baths Jul and 1-2 birds Jun and Sep (Tables 7, 16). A single bird was offshore from Swansea 24 Jul (Table 20). The arrival date at Newcastle Baths, 8 June, was the same in 2012 and 2013 (THJ/NIR). **Atlas:** Six records from cells M10, R4. *Quietest year since 2006.*

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 = 3.5%; cell of most interest: S4 (17.2%).

Notable records: 300+ birds were in the Manning Estuary Nov and ~150 birds Jan but most birds did not stay for long (Table 16). The peak counts at Newcastle Baths were 90 birds Nov and 60 birds Feb, with 20+ birds present Jan and Apr (Table 7). Numbers were correspondingly high around the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar and probably involved the same birds (Table 2). 18 birds were in Port Stephens 14 Feb (Table 14). **Atlas:** 39 records from six cells, RR 3.9%
A quiet year.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 16.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (55.9%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were often recorded at three locations (see Tables for main details): Newcastle Baths (50+ often, peak counts 300 birds Sep and 260 birds Dec); Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (50+ most months, peak count 217 birds Jun); Manning Estuary (100+ most months, peak count 576 birds May). Also 240 birds were at Forster/Tuncurry 17 Jul (STA), 185 birds at Port Stephens 14 Feb (Table 14) and 50+ birds at the Worimi Conservation Lands Mar and Jul (Table 19). **Atlas:** 174 records from 14 cells, RR 14.5%

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (recorded 1994, 1997, 2008-09, 2011-13).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 2014.

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 26% of cells, at RR = 26.1%; cell of most interest: S4 (62.8%).

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at five locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 311 birds Mar; 100+ many months); Newcastle Baths area (peak count 175 birds May; 100+ many months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 306 birds Jan and 100+ Jan-May); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 503 birds May, 200+ Nov-Dec) and Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (peak count 410 birds Jul, 100+ most months). 175 birds were at Forster/Tuncurry 17 Jul (STA). **Atlas:** 330 records from 21 cells, RR 24.4%

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 36% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: K11 (11.9%).

Six birds were at Freemans Waterhole 7 Apr with lesser numbers there sometimes in Jan-Feb (MAT/STP), and there were frequent records during the year from Wyee Point (MDV). Elsewhere, five birds were at Fern Gully Reserve Nelson Bay 7-21 Aug (ERE) and 3-4 birds at "Myall View" HSD 25-26 Jan (HBOC), Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM), Killabakh 15 Mar (MGLB), Smiths Lake 19-23 Mar (FAA), Tomaree NP 5 Apr (CRN), Lavis Lane 12 Sep (FRN/ LIA), Alum Mountain Bulahdelah 4 Nov (ATD) and Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 2 Dec (STD/ JED). 1-2 birds were recorded at Seal Rocks Feb (BNSW), Murrays Beach 10 Mar (MAT/STP), Rainbow Flat Mar-Apr (MGLB), Curracabundi NP 3 Apr (FAA), North Arm Cove 13 May (TBW), Laguna 12 Apr and 4-5 Oct and 6 Dec (RDB), Sugarloaf SCA 21 Jun and mid Aug (KYR), Cooperook 11 Nov (FAA) and Barrington Tops Rd 31 Dec (MCS). **Breeding:** Birds were with begging young at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb and Wyee Point often Aug-Oct (KEM, MDV). **Atlas:** Six records from five cells, RR 1.2%

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds widely and often recorded in the E and central parts of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 63% of cells, at RR = 11.1%; cell of most interest: N5 (37.3%).

Notable records: 50-60 birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace 15 Feb (AYG) and both Charlestown GC and Cardiff 12 Sep (FEG, SMR). 20-40 birds were at Raymond Terrace 10 Feb (SLP), Warners Bay 18 Jun (POJ) and Boat Harbour 25 Sep (MUT). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at two locations in Gloucester Tops 21-22 Oct (MAT *et al.*) and had begging young at East Maitland Jan-Feb and Dec (SMJ). They also bred at Bobs Farm Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** 109 records from 25 cells, RR 7.0%

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 = 5.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (52.3%).

Eight birds were recorded along the Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec (KEM). There were several records from the Laguna area, with five pairs feeding 20-23 Mar (SDI), eight birds 9 Jun, five birds 9-10 Aug and 1-2 birds 20 Mar and 4-5 Oct and 6 Dec (RDB, GOJ). 1-2 birds were at Freemans Waterhole 23 Jan and 7 Apr (STP/MAT), Millfield 3 Apr (GOJ), Ellalong 20 Jun (ROM) and The Watagans 30 Nov (HOB). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Laguna 9 Jun (RDB). **Atlas:** Nil records

Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 26.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (67.3%).

Notable records: ~200 birds were feeding together at Giants Creek Rd 29 Jul (STA *et al.*) and 123 birds at Phoenix Park 1 Feb (SLP). 57 birds were recorded at Phoenix Park 26 Jan (KEM) and 20+ birds at "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun and Ash Island 4 Nov (both HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 11 Nov and 2-6 Dec (GOC) and were breeding at Charlestown GC Feb and Aug-Sep (FEG) and Bobs Farm Nov-Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** 351 records from 50 cells, RR 20.1%

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 = 4.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (26.1%).

273 birds were recorded at Keinbah 7 Jan (ROS) and ~50 birds at Vacy 24 Feb (NEM). 10+ birds were at Singleton 22 & 23 Oct, and it was noted that numbers have been rising in recent years (ALP). 1-8 birds were at Hinton 1 Feb (SLP), Tenambit 4 Mar (NAK), Seaham 22 Apr and 26 Oct (TBW, DDR), Morpeth 12 Aug (TBW), Quorrobolong 30 Aug (CCB), East Maitland 29 Sep (BRG), Bobs Farm 1 Oct (TBW), Louth Park 25 Oct (DTB) and Grahamstown Dam 29 Nov (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds had a dependent young at Dora Creek 8 Apr (GOC). **Atlas:** 20 records from seven cells, RR 1.7%

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 38% of cells, at RR = 6.6%; cell of most interest: R6 (19.7%).

Notable records: ~500 birds were at Keinbah 7 Jan (ROS) and Warners Bay 22 Mar (FRP), 300-400 birds at Aberdeen 18 Apr (STA) and 200+ birds at Warners Bay Feb-Mar (GOC), and Nobbys 3 Apr and 28 Nov (NIR). 80-100+ birds were at O'Briens Crossing 2 Feb (KEM) and Dora Creek 3 Jan and 3 Mar (COC), and 30-40 birds at Myuna Bay 4 Feb (HBOC), Dora Creek 22 Feb (GOC) and Nobbys Beach 11 Oct (NIR). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Dora Creek 22 Feb (COC) and were breeding at Bobs Farm in Oct (TBW) and Charlestown GC Nov (FEG). **Atlas:** 107 records from 25 cells, RR 7.1%

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 79% of cells, at RR = 15.0%; cell of most interest: G8 (42.0%).

Notable records: 134 birds were at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM) and 100+ birds were often recorded at Rankin Park during June (POJ). 50+ birds were at “Windy” HSD 6-9 Jun and BbR 2 Sep (both HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Charlestown GC Aug-Sep (FEG). **Atlas:** 211 records from 37 cells, RR 13.8%

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

Six birds were recorded at “Windy” HSD 8 Jun and four birds there 7 Mar (HBOC, STA *et al.*), and two birds were 6km N of Scone 24 Jul (NEG). **Atlas:** One record, from cell E2**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 = 21.1%; cell of most interest: L11 (55.3%).

Notable records: 380 birds were flying over Stockton Sandspit 6 Feb (KEM) and 300-400 birds were roosting with Scaly-breasted Lorikeets at Raymond Terrace during late Feb (SLP). 61 birds were at Raymond Terrace Cycleway 1 Apr (SLP) and ~40 birds at Stockton Sandspit 10 Jan and NWR 14 Aug (both KEM). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan and Jun-Dec.

Atlas: 483 records from 31 cells, RR 32.9%

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

ID No: 256 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells, at RR = 11.5%; cell of most interest: R6 (43.6%).

Notable records: 100+ birds were roosting with Rainbow Lorikeets at Raymond Terrace 25 Feb (SLP). 30+ birds were recorded at Winda Woppa 18 Jun (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Charlestown GC 24 Apr (FEG). **Atlas:** 262 records from 24 cells, RR 18.6%

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Irruptive visitor and bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 3.8%; cell of most interest: F4 (22.2%).

From late Feb, there was an influx of birds, with many and widespread reports received of small to medium sized flocks in eastern parts of the Region and isolated reports of larger groups in central and W of the Region (at locations such as Singleton, Cessnock, Scone). ~100 birds were recorded at Pokolbin 20 Mar and ~200 birds in the Broke/Warkworth area late Mar (both ROS). After Jun, there were no records from the east of the Region but records from further west persisted into mid-August. *At least 1,000 birds are estimated to have been in the Region Mar-May.* **Atlas:** 138 records from 26 cells, RR 17.0%

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 49% of cells, at RR = 7.4%; cell of most interest: K10 (30.5%).

Notable records: 32 birds were flying over Shortland 4 Apr (ROM) and ~25 birds were near Ellalong Lagoon 27 Jun (ROM/ROS). Flocks of 14 birds were recorded at both East Maitland 12 Mar and Fosterton Loop 2 Oct (BRG, JED). **Atlas:** 27 records from 15 cells, RR 2.1%

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 = 13.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (47.8%).

Notable records: 100-150 birds were in a paddock at Fosterton Loop 15 Oct (JED). 12 birds were together at Blue Gum Hills RP Minmi 18 Apr (WID). **Breeding:** A pair had a dependent young at Wyee Point 6 Nov (MDV). **Atlas:** 124 records from 35 cells, RR 8.1%

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

ID No: 280 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded
Status: Rare resident in W of Region.

From BLA Atlas: 18 records from four cells; cell of most interest: C6 (eight records).
Four birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells B5 & C6

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

ID No: 282 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded in the central & E of the Region.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 11.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (75.2%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Wingen 3 Nov (NEG) and had dependent young at Gloucester 14 Jan and Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (DBP, HBOC). **Atlas:** 111 records from 25 cells, RR 8.2%

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 = 35.0%; cell of most interest: L9 (74.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Breeding: Birds were with dependent young at Gloucester 14 Jan (DBP) and breeding at Balickera Sep (MUJ), Charlestown GC Sep (FEG) and Bobs Farm Nov-Dec (TBW).

Atlas: 434 records from 52 cells, RR 25.2%



Eastern Rosella by Kate Simpson

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

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

Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: J10 (7.5%).

50+ birds were at Singleton Training Area 6 Aug with records of 1-10 birds 7 May, 17 Jun and 9 Sep (ROM *et al.*). 40 birds were at Rathmines 18 May with 15 birds still present 22 May (ROS, ROM). 10-15 birds were recorded at Oyster Cove 17 May (per ROM), Charlestown 20 Sep (ZVS) and Blackalls Park 28 Sep (CON), and 5-10 birds at Murrays Beach 28 Sep (LAT). There were 1-5 birds at Jewells 18 May (PEJ/COM), Belmont mid May (per ROM), Murrays Beach 8 Jun and 11 Oct (ERE, LAT), Cooranbong 25 Jun (BEI) and Warabrook 29 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** Three records from cell L11. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

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 = 7.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (37.8%).

Notable records: 15-20 birds were together at Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Woodville 26 Jan (NEM). **Atlas:** 60 records from 17 cells, RR 4.3%

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2005, 2010, 2013*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 0.6%; cell of most interest: C6 (18.4%).

Three birds were recorded at Myall Lakes NP 27 Sep (KEM) and single birds at Singleton Training Area 9 Sep and Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (ROM, STA). **Atlas:** Two records, from cell C6

Eastern Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

ID No: 311 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No

Status: Probably extinct in the wild within the Region (*last recorded 1935*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

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 = 6.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (39.9%).

Notable records: A bird was at The Hill (inner Newcastle) 1-2 Mar – *new for the area* (HAP). **Atlas:** 46 records from 14 cells, RR 3.2%

Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds often recorded in central/E of the Region Oct-Mar.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 9.3%; cell of most interest: J9 (26.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The first recorded arrival was 9 Sep when a bird was at Tighes Hill (CLT). More birds began to arrive about a week later.

Breeding: Young birds were being fed by Red Wattlebirds at Kotara 8 Feb and East Maitland in spring (NIJ, SMJ). **Atlas:** 101 records from 26 cells, RR 6.8%

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant. 1-5 birds often recorded in central/E of Region Sep-Mar.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 54% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: J9 (28.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The first recorded arrival was 26 Aug when a bird was at Tighes Hill (ROM). However, the main arrival commenced from 4 Sep.

Breeding: Two young were in a White-winged Chough nest at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 64 records from 19 cells, RR 4.1%

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalis*

ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant, with regular records in winter.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 2.8%; cell of most interest: M8 (9.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** Ten records from seven cells, RR 0.6%

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 6.1%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.2%).

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at Wallaroo NR 17 May (SLP). **Breeding:** A fledged young was being fed by White-browed Scrubwrens at Sugarloaf Conservation Area 30 Nov (KYR). **Atlas:** 42 records from 19 cells, RR 2.9%

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 1992, 2004).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 14.1%; cell of most interest: M5 (42.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 134 records from 38 cells, RR 8.0%

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 52% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (18.2%).

Four birds were at Balickera 19 Oct (HBOC), with some birds there recorded Jan and Oct-Dec (MUJ). 1-2 birds were at Williamtown 3 Jan (KEM), Weston 6 Sep (ROS) – *early return*, Bobs Farm 1 Oct (TBW), Bungwahl 30 Sep (STA *et al.*), Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC), Martindale Creek 8-10 Oct (CLT/GOA), East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA *et al.*), Sharpes Creek 23 Oct (STA *et al.*), Brunkerville 26 Oct (DTB), Laguna 1-7 Nov (RDB), Ash Island 4 Nov (HBOC), Wingham-Elands Rd 9 Nov (BRG), Laguna/Wollombi area 30 Nov (CCB), Cattai Wetlands 6 Dec (KEM) and Owens Gap TSR 23 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 21 records from 13 cells, RR 1.7%

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 2014.

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 = 2.8%; cell of most interest: E7 (27.5%).

Three birds were at HEZ 11 Sep (ROS) and 1-2 birds at Wingen 14 Sep (NEG), Ellalong 16 Sep (ROM/ROS), Weston 16 Sep (ROM/ROS), John Browns Lagoon 21 Sep (ROM/WID), Parkville 30 Sep – 2 Oct (ROM/CLT), Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ), Wingen early Oct (NEG), Martindale Creek 8-10 Oct (CLT/GOA), East Seaham 14 Oct (GOA *et al.*), Ridglands Rd Bunnan 18 Oct (WID), HEZ 26 Oct (DTB), Laguna 1-2 Nov (RDB), Oxley Island 9 Nov (BRG) and Manning Point mid-Dec (JED/STD). **Breeding:** A young bird was being fed by Yellow-faced Honeyeaters at Newline Rd 26 Jan (SLP). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells G7, K9. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

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 = 1.2%; cell of most interest: M8 (15.7%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Glenrock Lagoon 11 & 18 Jan and 3 Jun (WID, HBOC), Rankin Park 13 Jan and 19-24 Apr (KET), Whitebridge late Jan and 21 Feb (DID, PEG), Balickera Feb-May and Oct (MUJ), "Myall View" HSD 25-26 Jan (HBOC), Woodville 16 Feb (NEM), Murrays Beach 14-16 Apr (LAT), Swansea 16 Apr and 9 Jun (ADJ), Fenaces Crossing Rd Laguna 22 Apr (per MOA), Floraville 20 May (HRK), Laguna 9 Jun (RDB), BbR/New Lambton 25 Jul, 3 Aug and 2 Sep (BEI, FAA, HBOC), Kiwarrak SF 17 Aug (MGLB), Warners Bay 17 Sep (OCC) and Brunkerville 30 Dec (MRO *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Glenrock SCA 2 Aug after nesting there in Jul (per ROM). Two fledged chicks were at Laguna 7 Nov (RDB). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells J10, M10. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 7% of cells, at RR = 2.1%; cell of most interest: M8 (3.5%).

Pairs were recorded at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb and 30 Dec (KEM, STA). A single bird was regularly present at Green Point Lake Macquarie during Aug (many observers) – *unusual easterly location*. **Atlas:** Two records, from cell C6



Barking Owls by Michael Kearns

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 48% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (35.4%).
 There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 20 records from nine cells, RR 1.4%

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded
 Status: Rare resident.
 From BLA Atlas: 22 records from 12 cells; cell of most interest: M5 (five records).
 Birds were recorded at Glenrock SCA 11 & 28 Jan (WID, KEM) and near Sharpes Creek 3 Aug (ERE). **Atlas:** One record, from cell M10

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes
 Status: Rare resident.
 From BLA Atlas: 42 records from 20 cells; cells of most interest: H8, N9, M10 (three records each).
 A bird was heard at Barrington House 17 Oct (ROM). **Atlas:** Nil records

Barn Owl *Tyto alba (amended)*

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records
 Status: Resident.
 From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 0.4%; cell of most interest: G6 (26.3%).
 Birds were recorded at two locations along Ringwood Rd 1 Feb (KEM) and at Pinegrove Rd 2 May (ROM), "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun (HBOC), Hawks Nest 22 Sep (GOS) and Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Four records from four cells

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

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

Status: Rare resident.

From BLA Atlas: 27 records from seven cells; cell of most interest: M10 (12 records).

Birds were disturbed from roosts at two locations on Ash Island 7 Feb (MEL) and 22 Jul (per ROM). **Atlas:** Two records from cell M10**Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azureus (amended)*

ID No: 319 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 39% of cells, at RR = 3.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (20.9%).

Notable records: Pairs were recorded at Wallsend 7 Jan (KEM) and Weston early Sep (ROS).**Atlas:** 29 records from eight cells, RR 2.2%**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 93% of cells, at RR = 35.1%; cell of most interest: R5 (74.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Wingen Jan and Nov (NEG), Charlestown GC Sep (FEG) and Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ), and were feeding fledged young at Owens Gap TSR 23 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 480 records from 66 cells, RR 28.3%**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Rare visitor to the extreme NE of the Region.

Single birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 17 Mar and 24 Dec (CJB, NAK). Also see Supplementary Records.

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrophygius*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 69% of cells, at RR = 12.9%; cell of most interest: N9 (36.7%).

Notable records: Winter records included single birds at Salamander Bay all winter (WOL), Crowdy Head 27 May and Pindimar 30 May (both STA). The first recorded arrival was 9 Sep, when some birds were at Salamander Bay (TUJ/CRN). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Charlestown GC Jan and Sep-Oct (FEG), Tanilba Bay 27 Sep (TUJ), Gir-um-bit NP 11 Oct (WOL et al.) and Awabakal NR 2 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 161 records from 32 cells, RR 9.4%

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 = 3.4%; cell of most interest: G8 (15.2%).

Notable records: ~30 birds were flying over East Maitland in Mar (BRG/KIR). The first recorded arrival was 9 Sep, when some birds were at both Giants Creek Rd and Bureen (ROM).

Breeding: Although there were no confirmed records, several birds were excavating tunnels at Bureen 23 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** 35 records from 16 cells, RR 2.8%

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 67% of cells, at RR = 10.7%; cell of most interest: O9 (23.0%).

Notable records: Six birds were at East Seaham 3 Feb (MUJ). The first recorded arrival was 21 Sep, when some birds were at both Richmond Vale and Hawks Nest (ROM/WID, GOS).

Breeding: There were several records, spanning Jan and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 101 records from 20 cells, RR 6.4%

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon altitudinal migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 16% of cells, at RR = 1.3%; cell of most interest: M5 (16.1%).

Mid-Upper Altitudes: Four birds were at Brunkerville 5 Nov (ROM), three birds 21 Sep and 30 Dec (ROM/WID, MRO *et al.*), and some birds 26 Oct and 11 Nov (DTB, TBW). 1-2 birds were at Allyn River SF 16 Feb and 26 Oct (JED, DDR), Freemans Waterhole 16 Aug (MAT), Sharpes Creek 22-23 Oct (STA *et al.*), Bulga Creek (Q4) 9 Nov (BRG) and Jerusalem Creek 17 Nov (JED). **Lower Altitudes:** 1-2 birds were recorded at "Myall View" HSD 25 Jan (HBOC), Seal Rocks Feb (BNSW), Green Point Lake Macquarie 21 May (TOG) and regularly during Aug (many observers), BbR 14 Jul and 2 Sep (THJ, HBOC), Mungo Brush 9 Mar and 1 Oct (PUD, JED/STD), and Elizabeth Beach 6 Nov (MGLB). **Breeding:** Although not a confirmed breeding record, an adult and a very young bird were together in the Watagans 14 Mar (per BEI). Also, a very young bird was at Olney SF 14 Mar (HAF). **Atlas:** Seven records from five cells, RR 0.8%. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

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 = 7.3%; cell of most interest: M5 (63.6%).

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at Brokenback Range 8 May (GOJ). **Atlas:** 35 records from nine cells, RR 3.7%

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 = 31.0%; cell of most interest: L5 (40.0%).

In surveys in the Gloucester Tops during Sep-Oct, 22 territories were confirmed to be occupied, and another four possible territories were found (STA *et al.*). There were several complementary records from within the survey area Jun-Jul and Nov. **Atlas:** 34 records from cell L5, RR 49.3%

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 = 19.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (73.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young/dependent young at Saltwater NP 15 Sep (HBOC) and Devils Hole Barrington Tops 30 Dec (MCS), and were breeding at Balickera through Aug-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 234 records from 50 cells, RR 14.4%

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrops*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 4.8%; cell of most interest: K4 (34.1%).

Birds were recorded at several locations in the Gloucester Tops 15-17 Sep and 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*) and there were some complementary records from within the survey area Oct-Nov. A single bird was recorded at Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** Ten records from cells L5, Q7, RR 7.4%

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.

BLA Atlas: Recorded in 30% of cells (*some erroneously*), at RR = 8.7%; cell of most interest: E6 (55.7%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Singleton Training Area 9 Sep (ROM) and had a fledged young at Ridglands Rd Bunnan 30 Sep – 2 Oct (ROM/CLT). **Atlas:** 25 records from 13 cells, RR 9.6%



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 30% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M5 (32.1%).

Notable records: 4-5 birds were recorded at Saltwater NP 15 Sep (HBOC), Mungo Brush 27 Sep and 1 Oct (GOS *et al.*, JED/STD) and Brunkerville 30 Dec (MRO *et al.*).

Atlas: 26 records from 12 cells, RR 6.1%

Photograph by Alan Stuart

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 = 2.5%; cell of most interest: R5 (33.6%).

Notable records: 10+ birds were recorded Saltwater NP 29-30 Oct (STA) with 8-10 birds also there 17 Jun and 15 Sep (STA, HBOC), and 10+ birds were at Cattai Wetlands 4 Feb (RUA).**Atlas:** 22 records from nine cells, RR 1.7%**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 = 14.5%; cell of most interest: N5 (50.8%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Oct (HBOC), 12-15 birds at Sharpes Creek 15-17 Sep (STA *et al.*) and 8-10 birds at Saltwater NP 17 Jun (STA). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 126 records from 27 cells, RR 8.5%**Spotted Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 2003, 2010-11, 2013*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 46.3%; cell of most interest: L9 (71.2%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Ash Island 18 Jan (SLP), East Seaham 11 Feb (GOA *et al.*), Tenambit 4 Mar (NAK), Green Wattle Creek 10 Mar (SLP) and Total 6 May (HBOC). A bird was taken by a Grey Butcherbird near Parkville 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT).**Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Feb and Aug-Dec. **Atlas:** 707 records from 69 cells, RR 39.4%**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 (10.7%).

1-5 birds were recorded at Killabakh 15 Mar (MGLB), Fosterton Loop 6 Aug and 17 Oct (JED), Firefly 18 Oct (MGLB) and Cattai Wetlands mid Dec (JED/STD). **Atlas:** Eight records from three cells, RR 2.3%**Variegated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 64% of cells, at RR = 13.9%; cell of most interest: Q6 (38.1%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were at Glenrock SCA 3 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Cooperbrook SF 7 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 101 records from 27 cells, RR 6.6%

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 3.9%; cell of most interest: R6 (16.3%).

There were several records of 1-5 birds at Cattai Wetlands, Tomago Wetlands and Fosterton Loop during the year (many observers) and also at Awabakal NR 21 Jan (KEM), Polblue Barrington Tops 21 Feb and 6 Mar (CLT, FAA), Cooperook Corner 7 Mar (MGLB), Maryland 9 Jul (HCL) and Grahamstown Dam 21 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** Two pairs had dependent young at Tomago Wetlands 28 Oct (GOA). **Atlas:** 18 records from nine cells, RR 1.6%

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

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

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

Four birds were recorded at the known location, Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP, 14 Dec (KEM).

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident in sandstone country.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 9.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (43.4%).

Some birds were in the Brokenback Range 8 May and noted to be commonly recorded there (GOJ). 1-2 birds were at The Drip Ulan 28 Aug (BEI) and Giants Creek Rd 9 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells

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 = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M5 (35.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Feb and Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 33 records from 12 cells, RR 3.6%

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-10 birds are widely and regularly recorded.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 24.0%; cell of most interest: L5 (73.0%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were recorded at BbR 2 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Soldiers Point 25 Sep (MUT) and bred at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). A pair was feeding a young Shining Bronze-cuckoo at Sugarloaf Conservation Area 30 Nov (KYR). **Atlas:** 291 records from 47 cells, RR 18.7%

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*

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 (27.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 36 records from 13 cells, RR 6.1%

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (Revised)

Status: Uncommon resident.

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

A single bird was recorded at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM). **Breeding:** See Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Two records, from cells C6, G7

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 = 10.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (67.7%).

Notable records: Several small groups were at Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (STA) and six birds at "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun and Green Wattle Creek 28 Jun (HBOC, SLP). An easterly record was of a single bird at Eagleton near Raymond Terrace 26 Jun (CLT). **Atlas:** 31 records from 15 cells, RR 7.3%

Weebill *Smicrornis 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 = 6.2%; cell of most interest: H8 (65.4%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 54 records from 17 cells, RR 5.2%

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 = 13.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (70.7%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Raymond Terrace Cycleway 4 & 22 Mar and 13 Sep (SLP) and Submarine Beach Myall Lakes NP 24 Nov (FAA).

Breeding: Birds were on nest at Awabakal NR 2 Dec (HBOC) and had dependent young at Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec (KEM), and bred at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 150 records from 29 cells, RR 10.2%



Brown Gerygone
by Rob Kyte

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 = 4.4%; cell of most interest: M10 (6.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 23 records from four cells, RR 1.2%

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 = 1.9%; cell of most interest: H8 (19.9%).

Six birds were at "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun and four birds 1 Feb (HBOC, KEM). Single birds were at Bureen 8-10 Oct and Wingen 3 Dec (CLT/GOA, NEG). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells, RR 1.0%

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

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 70% of cells, at RR = 11.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (42.2%).

Notable records: Ten birds were recorded at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). A late departing record was of a bird heard at Earthcare Park Tenambit 25 Apr (CLT). The first recorded return was 10 Sep, when a bird was at Cattai Wetlands (STA). **Atlas:** 95 records from 21 cells, RR 6.3%

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 (39.0%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Two pairs were nesting at Ellalong 30 Aug (CCB) and birds were breeding at Balickera Jul and Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 95 records from 23 cells, RR 6.4%

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 = 23.0%; cell of most interest: N5 (55.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ) and had dependent young at Cattai Wetlands 7 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 220 records from 43 cells, RR 13.7%

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 = 11.4%; cell of most interest: N5 (47.0%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were at Duckenfield 23 Mar (SLP). **Atlas:** 119 records from 25 cells, RR 7.0%

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 = 4.7%; cell of most interest: H8 (40.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 22 records from 13 cells, RR 2.0%

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare in extreme NW of Region.

5-6 birds were recorded at "Windy" HSD 7 Mar and 6-9 Jun (STA *et al.*, HBOC).

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 = 27.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (86.6%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were at East Seaham 8 Apr (GOA *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and were breeding at Balickera Aug (MUJ). **Atlas:** 339 records from 54 cells, RR 21.6%

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 2014.

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 83% of cells, at RR = 23.7%; cell of most interest: L8 (50.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan-Feb and Jul-Dec. **Atlas:** 260 records from 55 cells, RR 16.1%

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 78% of cells, at RR = 14.7%; cell of most interest: H4 (60.9%).

The regular presence in the Region all year of the subspecies *substriatus* and *ornatus* (often with overlapping distribution and sometimes cross-breeding – see below) was confirmed (ALP, others). There were also records of the migratory subspecies *striatus* at Black Hill and HEZ during Jun-Jul (HOB, ROM/CLT). **Notable records:** Two flocks of 30+ birds were in Upper Hunter 13-14 May and 30+ birds near Parkville 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT). 25-30 birds were flying over Singleton 11 Apr (ALP), 15+ birds at Singleton Training Area 17 Jun (ROM) and 12+ birds at Wallaby Scrub Rd 3 Aug (ALP). **Breeding:** A *substriatus* pair was nesting at Singleton Training Area 8 Oct (ROM *et al.*). Four *substriatus* pairs were entering nest boxes at Singleton 12 Mar although breeding was not confirmed (ALP). A *substriatus* pair was feeding young at Sedgefield Singleton 20 Sep (ALP). Mixed *substriatus* / *ornatus* pairs had nests with young at Singleton 21 Apr, Lake Liddell 14 Sep and Sedgefield 20 Sep (ALP). Also an *ornatus* pair had a nest with young at Sedgefield 16 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** 144 records from 41 cells, RR 9.1%



Striated Pardalote (race ornatus) by Trevor Murray

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 = 22.4%; cell of most interest: K11 (53.8%).

Notable records: ~30 birds were at Fosterton Loop 16 Oct (ROM/JED). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 375 records from 42 cells, RR 22.4%

Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus*

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

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 28.2%; cell of most interest: R5 (86.9%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at BbR 2 Sep, Saltwater NP 15 Sep and Cattai Wetlands 16 Sep (all HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Saltwater NP 7 Feb (STA) and breeding at Balickera Feb-Mar and Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 350 records from 46 cells, RR 22.8%

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 Sep-Mar, and of up to 100 birds during the Apr-Aug migration passage. From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 91% of cells, at RR = 38.5%; cell of most interest: L8 (79.6%).

Notable records: On 13 Sep, ~2,000 birds in small to medium-sized flocks were passing through Hexham Swamp, 600-700 birds through Singleton and 300+ birds through Shortland (LIA, ALP, ROM). 150-200 birds were on passage at Lake Liddell 14 Sep (ALP) and hundreds at Fosterton Loop 28 Sep (JED). During the northward autumn migration, 800+ birds flew through Singleton 14 Apr (ALP). A bird was taken by an Australian Hobby at East Maitland 9 May (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera through Sep-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 472 records from 61 cells, RR 27.8%

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare resident in W of the Region.

1-2 birds were recorded at the known location at Lake Liddell 14 Sep and 16 Dec (ALP, BEI).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Revised)

Status: Resident. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 51% of cells, at RR = 4.3%; cell of most interest: G10 (57.9%).

Notable records: Seven birds were recorded at a location in Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 27 records from 12 cells, RR 2.6%

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 30% of cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: G10 (60.5%).

Notable records: ~30 birds were at Quorrobolong 17 Aug (HBOC). 2-3 birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay 10-20 Jun (several observers) and Upper Pindimar 18 Jun (STA) – *no records before at either location*. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at HEZ 9 & 11 Sep (ZVS, ROS).

Atlas: 18 records from ten cells, RR 2.2%

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 32% of cells, at RR = 5.6%; cell of most interest: K10 (25.2%).

Notable records: 30+ birds were near Parkville 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT). 6-10 birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay 10-20 Jun (several observers) – *unusual location*. **Atlas:** 27 records from 12 cells, RR 2.7%

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 48% of cells, at RR = 6.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (66.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Lovedale TSR 16 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 66 records from 16 cells, RR 5.8%

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 = 11.5%; cell of most interest: K10 (35.9%).

Notable records: 50-60 birds were in a colony near Gibsons Rd Werakata NP 6 Oct (ALP) and 20+ birds at Glenrock SCA 3 Jun (HBOC). **Atlas:** 47 records from 18 cells, RR 5.1%

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 = 29.0%; cell of most interest: I9 (62.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan-Mar and Aug-Nov. **Atlas:** 479 records from 52 cells, RR 27.3%

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula*

ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2014.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 5.9%; cell of most interest: F6 (28.2%).

Up to five birds often were recorded along Giants Creek Rd Jul-Sep (many observers). There also were many records of 1-5 birds from the Medhurst Bridge/Martindale area in May and Aug-Oct (several observers). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Ridgeland Rd Bunnan 1 Feb (KEM), Jerrys Plains 9 Apr (THJ/NIR), Bureen 2 & 14 May (ROM/CLT), Jones Reserve Rd 2 May (ROM), Singleton Training Area 7 May (ROM *et al.*), Broads Crossing Scone 13-14 May (ROM/CLT), Parkville 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT), Lake Glenbawn 4 Aug (NEG), Warkworth 22 Aug (ROS) and Jerrys Plains 27 Sep (MCM). **Atlas:** 28 records from ten cells, RR 22.3%

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 35% of cells, at RR = 20.1%; cell of most interest: R5 (84.0%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Saltwater NP 15 Sep (HBOC). A single bird was at Broughton Island 23-25 Sep (CLT) – *the first records for this location*. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Hamilton 1 Oct (GOC). **Atlas:** 350 records from 19 cells, RR 25.8%

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

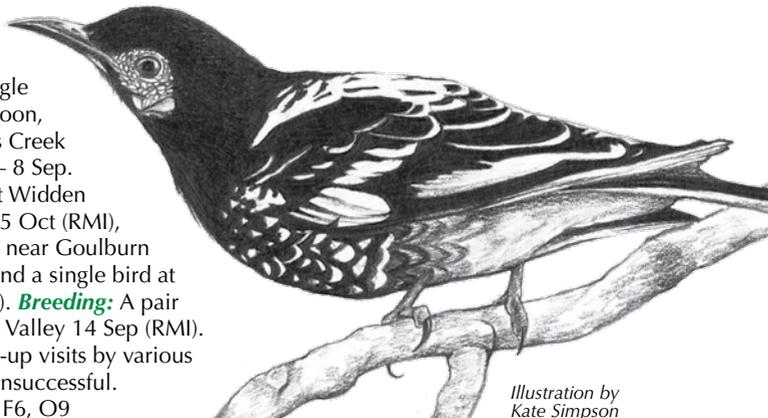
ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Critically Endangered Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: K10 (13.1%).

There were several records of birds at three locations (many observers): Tanilba Bay (on Port Stephens), a single bird 10-20 Jun; Belmont Lagoon, a single bird 3-7 Aug; Giants Creek Rd, up to four birds 18 Aug – 8 Sep. Elsewhere, two birds were at Widden Valley 14 Sep and 5-6 birds 5 Oct (RMI), four birds at Cullingral Road near Goulburn River NP 27 Jul (per ROM) and a single bird at Galgabba Point 11 Oct (PAL). **Breeding:** A pair was nest building at Widden Valley 14 Sep (RMI). Apparently (based on follow-up visits by various observers) the attempt was unsuccessful.

Atlas: Six records from cells F6, O9

**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 75% of cells, at RR = 15.9%; cell of most interest: N5 (46.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec and including birds feeding fledged young Eastern Koels. **Atlas:** 287 records from 40 cells, RR 17.7%

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 9% of cells, at RR = 8.1%; cell of most interest: N9 (21.4%).

There were many records from Hexham Swamp all year, with peak counts 30+ birds 13 Jul and 11 Dec (LIA/WEJ, ROM). Elsewhere, ~20 birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 18 Jan and 1-5 birds often (LIA, COS, others) and 1-5 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 11 Jan and 12 Jul (WOL *et al.*), Ulan 22 Aug (ERE) – *western records are uncommon*, Worimi Conservation Lands 12 Sep (FRN/LIA), and occasionally at Ash Island (STA, others). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Tomago Wetlands 23 Sep (LIA) and there was a young bird at Hexham Swamp 30 Nov (JED).

Atlas: 44 records from five cells, RR 2.9%

Orange Chat *Epthianura aurifrons*

ID No: 450 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird (a female) was present (and photographed) at Hexham Swamp 29 Nov (PEG). The bird was not found again despite several attempts over the ensuing days by various birdwatchers. *This is the first record to be accepted by HBOC although there are some unconfirmed records from the Upper Hunter previously, which unfortunately are lacking in supporting detail.*

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2009, 2013*).

A single male bird was recorded at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM) – *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 66% of cells, at RR = 11.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (29.8%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Balickera 19 Oct and Awabakal NR 2 Dec (both HBOC) and 10-15+ birds at Saltwater NP 7 Feb (STA), Cattai Wetlands 8 Feb (STA), Green Point Lake Macquarie 14 Sep (LIA/WEJ) and Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 17 Nov (JED). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Balickera 11 Nov and 6+ nests there over Sep-Dec (MUJ), and were feeding fledged young at Pacific Palms 3 May (MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 85 records from 27 cells, RR 5.7%

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 = 2.6%; cell of most interest: R6 (17.9%).

A single bird was recorded at Awabakal NR 23 Sep (MCM). **Atlas:** Seven records from cell R6, RR 1.2%

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 = 8.0%; cell of most interest: R6 (26.7%).

Notable records: A bird was heard at Medhurst Bridge 2 May (ROM) – *unusual location.* **Atlas:** 222 records from 12 cells, RR 16.5%

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

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

Status: Resident in Barrington Tops NP.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 12.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (28.3%).

Birds were recorded at many locations in the Gloucester Tops 15-17 Sep and 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*), with complementary records from within the survey area 30 Jun and 12 Jul (STA, ROS). A bird was at Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 16 records from cell L5, RR 15.5%

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 = 3.0%; cell of most interest: R6 (21.3%).

50+ birds were at Awabakal NR 21 Jan (KEM) and up to 20 birds were often recorded at Boat Harbour in May (TUI). 1-5 birds were at Bobs Farm 11 Feb (TBW), Raymond Terrace 22 Mar (SLP), Hawks Nest 20 May (TUI), Redhead 3 Jun (HBOC), Galgabba Point 8 Jul (ADJ *et al.*), Blackwater Creek Widdien Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC), Fosterton Loop 16 Oct (ROM/JED) and Barrington House 26 Oct (DDR), and seven birds at Cockle Creek 5 Jun (PAL). **Atlas:** 30 records from seven cells, RR 2.5%

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 32% of cells, at RR = 11.8%; cell of most interest: R5 (48.9%).

Notable records: 30 birds were within a 2ha area at Galgabba Point 13 May (ADJ *et al.*) and 20+ birds at Smiths Lake 19-23 Mar (FAA). Two birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd 22 Oct (STD) and a single bird at Broughton Island 23-25 Sep (CLT) – **first records at both locations**. A bird was taken by Spangled Drongo at Tanilba Bay 11 Jul (ZVS). **Atlas:** 170 records from 18 cells, RR 11.1%

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 = 2.0%; cell of most interest: C6 (12.6%).

Up to eight birds, when numbers were noted, were recorded at HEZ 11 Jun, 11 Sep, 5 Nov and 18 Dec (ROM, ROS). Three birds were at Richmond Vale 21 Sep (ROM/WID) and some birds were also at Singleton Training Area 7 May and 6 Aug (ROM *et al.*). **Atlas:** One record, from cell C6. **Under-reported in the Atlas.**

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 50% of cells, at RR = 4.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (53.8%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 37 records from 14 cells, RR 3.2%

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 66% of cells, at RR = 8.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (55.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. Several birds were taken by a Spangled Drongo at Tanilba Bay Jun/Jul (various observers). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Oct (HBOC) and were breeding at Balickera Sep-Nov (MUJ).**Atlas:** 53 records from 23 cells, RR 3.5%**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 40% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: J8 (34.2%).

Notable records: 8-10 birds were at Pindimar 30 Apr (STA) and six birds at Quorrobolong 17 Aug (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Upper Pindimar 19 Dec (STA).**Atlas:** 124 records from 18 cells, RR 9.7%**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 = 20.2%; cell of most interest: K10 (50.8%).

Notable records: Many hundreds were flying north between Bulahdelah and Taree 13 Mar (ANC). ~100 birds were at Galgabba Point 22 Feb (ADJ) and 50+ flying over Singleton 4 Apr (ALP). 20+ birds were recorded at Smiths Lake 19-23 Mar (FAA), Raymond Terrace Cycleway 1 Apr (SLP), Giants Creek Rd 18 Aug (ROM), East Maitland 2 Oct (BRG) and Cessnock TSR 6 Nov (GOJ). **Breeding:** A pair was nesting at Sugarloaf SCA 17 Aug (KYR) and there were many and widespread records over Oct-Nov. **Atlas:** 264 records from 51 cells, RR 15.7%**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Bird of passage.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: H8 (1.8%).

Up to three birds were recorded at Ridglands Rd Bunnan 2-18 Oct (ROM/CLT, others). Two birds were at "Windy" HSD 1 Feb (KEM) and single birds near Parkville 14 Jan and at Giants Creek Rd 15 & 18 Aug (all ROM). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells, RR 0.7%**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 42% of cells, at RR = 7.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (43.3%).

Notable records: 12 birds were recorded at Grahamstown Dam 4 Jan and many birds were in the Raymond Terrace/Largs area 19 Jan (both SLP). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Ash Island 4 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 113 records from 26 cells, RR 7.1%

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598 HBOC Category: 2 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 8% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: G8 (9.1%).

12 birds were at Medhurst Bridge 22 Sep (per ROM), and there were several records of 1-3 birds there over the following week. Two birds were at Giants Creek Rd 23 Sep and a single bird near Parkville 14 Jan (both ROM). A single immature bird was at Cattai Wetlands 4 Feb (RUA) –*unusual location*. **Atlas:** Two records, from cells F6 and R3

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 Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 37% of cells, at RR = 8.8%; cell of most interest: J9 (40.3%).

Notable records: 6-10 birds were recorded at Beresfield 12 Jan (THJ), Wingen 30 Jan and 23 Aug (NEG), Pokolbin 2 Feb and 2 Mar (ERE) and Louth Park mid Aug (THD). **Atlas:** 43 records from ten cells, RR 4.0%

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident in central and W of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 10% of cells, at RR = 8.7%; cell of most interest: C6 (18.4%).

3+ birds were at Giants Creek Rd 29 Jul, 29 Aug and 2 Sep (STA *et al.*, ROM). Two separate groups were along Jones Reserve Rd 2 May (ROM) and some birds were also recorded there 28 Sep and 4 Nov (ALP, ROM), and also at Cullingral Road Merriwa 9 Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** 14 records from six cells, RR 10.7%

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 4.5%; cell of most interest: M5 (9.8%).

1-2 birds were recorded at The Glen NR 11 Jan (DBP), Khappinghat NP 6 Apr (ERE), Myall Lakes NP 24 Sep (GOS) and Main Creek 16 Oct (ROM/JED). **Atlas:** Three records, from cells O6 & R5

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 23% of cells, at RR = 3.0%; cell of most interest: G10 (44.7%).

4+ birds were recorded at Singleton Training Area 7 May (ROM *et al.*) and some birds at Sugarloaf SCA mid-Aug (KYR). **Atlas:** One record, from cell N7

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 = 25.3%; cell of most interest: R5 (75.5%).

Notable records: 12 birds were at BbR 2 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 325 records from 41 cells, RR 21.5%

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 56% of cells, at RR = 5.8%; cell of most interest: K11 (16.9%).

Notable records: Groups of five birds were together at Tahlee 13 May (MRA) and Eagleton (Raymond Terrace) 14 Aug (CLT). **Atlas:** 23 records from 13 cells, RR 2.6%

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded 1993-94, 2000, 2004, 2011*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 28.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (58.1%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan, Mar-Apr and Nov. **Atlas:** 372 records from 46 cells, RR 20.5%

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 = 2.5%; cell of most interest: G10 (26.2%).

Three birds were recorded at Weston 28 Mar and a single bird 31 Dec (ROS). 1-2 birds were also at Wingen 19 Apr (NEG), Green Wattle Creek 28 Jun (SLP), HEZ 11 Sep (ROS), Harrington RF 13 Dec (ROS) and Old Bar mid Dec (JED/STD). **Breeding:** A pair was nesting at Old Bar mid Dec (JED/STD). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 0.5%

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 2014.

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 = 3.7%; cell of most interest: M8 (13.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Grahamstown Dam 1 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 28 records from 11 cells, RR 2.1%

White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 1.7%; cell of most interest: F7 (14.7%).

1-3 birds were moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region in Jan and over Sep-Dec (many observers) and with more easterly records at Hexham Swamp often in Jan, Ash Island 24 Jan (MEL), Grahamstown Dam 26 Jan (SLP) and Hexham Swamp 22 Nov (LIA *et al.*). A female was at Tighes Hill 4 Jan (CLT) – *unusual location*. The first recorded arrival was 18 Aug, when a bird was in the Widden Valley (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Fosterton Loop mid Nov (per JED) and were feeding fledged young at Grahamstown Dam 26 Jan (SLP), East Seaham 11 Feb (GOA *et al.*) and WWW 11 Dec (MEL/KYR). **Atlas:** 30 records from nine cells, RR 1.9%.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

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

Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in ten cells, at RR = 3.4%; cell of most interest: S4 (7.9%).

Four birds were at Harrington RF 13 Dec (ROS) and birds were also recorded there 7 Mar and 7 Dec (MGLB, KEM). Single birds were at Mungo Brush 29 Sep (ROM/WID) – *most southerly record for the Region*, and Kylie Beach Crowdy Bay NP mid Dec (JED/STD). **Atlas:** Three records from cell S4, RR 3.6%. *The status has been revised because in several years there have been winter records from Harrington.*

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 = 4.3%; cell of most interest: M8 (17.8%).

Notable records: Three birds (one begging) were at Raymond Terrace 22 Mar (SLP).

Atlas: 23 records from ten cells, RR 1.6%



Photograph by Steve Roderick

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 = 6.7%; cell of most interest: L5 (27.4%).

Barrington Tops: Three birds were heard along Barrington Trail 20 Feb (CLT), and 1-2 birds were at Beean Beean Plain, 3 & 7 Mar (FAA) and Devils Hole 3 Nov (ERE). **Gloucester Tops:** Birds were recorded at several locations 15-17 Sep and 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*), with some other records from the survey area 6 Oct and 15 Nov (ROM/WID, ERE). **Atlas:** 22 records from four cells, RR 16.8%

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 24.8%; cell of most interest: L5 (62.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Sugarloaf Conservation Area 30 Nov (KYR) and with dependent young at Widden Valley 3-7 Oct and Harrington RF 7 Dec (HBOC, KEM). **Atlas:** 325 records from 54 cells, RR 20.4%

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant, some birds over-winter. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded over Sep-Apr (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 82% of cells, at RR = 18.4%; cell of most interest: G8 (54.1%).

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct and 12 birds at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Oct (both HBOC). A bird was near Gloucester Falls carpark 21-23 Oct (STA et al.) – **uncommon high altitude record**. Winter records were of single birds near Scone 15 Jul (ROM/CLT) and at Black Hill 1 Jul and Green Wattle Creek 27 Jul (HBOC, STA). The first recorded arrival was 3 Sep, when a bird was at Columbey NP (STA); birds were widespread within a few days. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Bobs Farm Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** 168 records from 44 cells, RR 9.9%

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

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

Status: Uncertain (*recorded 1996*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 83% of cells, at RR = 24.0%; cell of most interest: M8 (40.6%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Feb-Mar (MUJ). **Atlas:** 243 records from 55 cells, RR 14.8%

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1987*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 39% of cells, at RR = 9.6%; cell of most interest: R5 (45.7%).

Notable records: 33 birds were recorded at Nulama Ponds 19 Apr (MGLB) and 20+ birds at Saltwater NP 7 Feb (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Gloucester 14 Jan (DBP), Pokolbin 15 Jan (BRG) and Saltwater NP 7 Feb (STA), and also were breeding in the Manning Valley mid Dec (JED/STD). **Atlas:** 233 records from 27 cells, RR 15.7%

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 = 12.9%; cell of most interest: Q6 (36.3%).

Notable records: 37 birds were together in Upper Hunter 3 Aug (ALP) and 10-12 birds were recorded at Parkville area 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT), Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and Mungo Brush Myall Lakes NP 13 Nov (FAA). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 145 records from 37 cells, RR 8.9%

White-breasted Woodswallow

Artamus leucorhynchus

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common summer migrant. 1-10 birds frequently recorded at medium to large fresh waters in E of the Region mid-Aug to Apr (*text simplified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 7.6%; cell of most interest: R3 (22.3%).

Notable records: 10-15 birds were recorded at Beresfield 12 Jan (THJ), East Seaham 11 Feb (GOA *et al.*), Williamtown 17 Feb (KEM) and Cattai Wetlands 25 Oct (FAA). Some birds remained until at least 11 May, when recorded at Shortland (ROM). The first recorded arrival was 3 Aug, when two birds were at Belmont

Wetlands (EAC *et al.*); there were no reports from elsewhere until 9 Sep, after which birds were widespread. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

Atlas: 122 records from ten cells, RR 7.5%



Illustration by Dorian Schulz

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare irruptive visitor (*recorded 1994-95, 2001-02, 2006-09, 2012-13*).

From BLA Atlas: 19 records from eight cells; cell of most interest: B5 (four records).

Some in mixed flocks with White-browed Woodswallows were at Mungo Brush 27 Oct (ROS) and some birds were at HEZ 26 Oct (HHB). **Atlas:** One record, from YY cell R6

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 13% of cells, at RR = 0.7%; cell of most interest: G10 (6.2%).

There were many records of up to 40 birds at HEZ over mid Oct-Dec (ROS, others). 30+ birds were at Mungo Brush 27 Oct (ROS), eight birds at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM), six birds at Weston 6 Nov (ROS) and four birds (two adults, two juveniles) near Parkville 14 Jan (ROM).

Breeding: Birds were nesting at HEZ 5 Nov (ROM). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells, RR 0.7%

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant; some birds present all year. 1-10 birds occasionally but widely recorded Sep-Mar (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 50% of cells, at RR = 3.6%; cell of most interest: G8 (24.2%).

Notable records: Many hundreds of birds were recorded during a trip through the upper Hunter 5 May, mainly feeding on locust swarms (ROM). There were winter records of 5-10 birds at HEZ 11 & 17 Jun (ROM) and 20+ birds at two sites at Singleton Training Area 6 Aug (ROM *et al.*), also some records 7-14 May from Jones Reserve Rd and Singleton Training Area (ROM *et al.*). ~12 birds were at HEZ 18 Dec (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds had a dependent young at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** 25 records from ten cells, RR 1.9%

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 = 25.0%; cell of most interest: L11 (45.5%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. A bird took a Superb Fairy-wren near Parkville 15-16 Jul (ROM/CLT). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Gir-um-bit NP 9 Aug (HAS) and there were several records spanning Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 426 records from 53 cells, RR 24.8%

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 = 23.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (51.9%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a fledged young at Grahamstown Dam 1 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 354 records from 53 cells, RR 20.7%

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 92% of cells, at RR = 48.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (88.7%).

Notable records: 43 birds were together in a paddock at Phoenix Park 19 Jan (SLP) and 22 birds in the same area 1 Feb (KEM). A white-backed bird (assumed to be of race *tyrannica*) was at East Maitland in early Aug (BRG). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jul-Dec. **Atlas:** 782 records from 64 cells, RR 44.1%

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant). Up to 20 birds widely and regularly recorded.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 89% of cells, at RR = 25.9%; cell of most interest: L5 (57.2%).

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Edgeworth 1-3 Aug (OCG) and a loose flock of 158 birds at Cessnock 2 May (ROS). ~50 birds were at Dora Creek 15 Jul (GOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Rankin Park 30 Sep (KET). **Atlas:** 348 records from 55 cells, RR 21.1%

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

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

No reports were received for 2014.

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 E of Region Apr-Oct.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 25% of cells, at RR = 5.0%; cell of most interest: R6 (23.1%).

Notable records: 12 birds were at Ash Island 12 Feb and 17 birds at Tomago Wetlands 18 Feb (MCN *et al.*). Eight birds were feeding together at Saltwater NP 28 May (STA). Two birds were at Wingen in autumn from 20 Mar – **only one previous record (1998) at this location** (NEG). The first recorded arrival was 18 Jan, when a bird was at Tomago Wetlands (FRN *et al.*). A bird at Tanilba Bay took several honeyeaters including White-cheeked and White-naped in Jun/Jul (various observers). **Atlas:** 104 records from 18 cells, RR 7.3%

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded in E of Region late Sep to mid-Apr.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 51% of cells, at RR = 5.9%; cell of most interest: K11 (19.1%).

Notable records: Three pairs were at Harrington RF 26 Nov (STA). A bird on migration passage was at the continental shelf ~40 km off Port Stephens 30 Mar (ROM *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Galgabba 22 Nov (ADJ) and had dependent young at Cattai Wetlands 7 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 43 records from 15 cells, RR 3.0%

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

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 90% of cells, at RR = 43.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (75.6%).

Notable records: 50-100 very active birds were at WWW 10 Sep (SMJ *et al.*) – *presumably birds on return migration passage*. 20+ birds were recorded at Black Hill 22 Jul (ROM/CLT). A bird on migration passage was at the continental shelf ~40 km off Port Stephens 30 Mar (ROM *et al.*) – sighted separately to the Rufous Fantail. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Brunkerville 11 Nov and Galgabba 22 Nov (FRN, ADJ), had dependent young at Seaham NR 10 Jan and Swansea 22 Sep (SLP, ADJ) and were breeding at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 543 records from 69 cells, RR 32.5%

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 90% of cells, at RR = 37.6%; cell of most interest: L9 (81.4%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 635 records from 57 cells, RR 35.2%

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 87% of cells, at RR = 36.7%; cell of most interest: L9 (72.1%).

Notable records: 70 birds (feeding on dead fish) were recorded at Morpeth WTW 26 Nov (LIA) and ~30 birds at Worimi Conservation Lands 13 Jun (FRN) and Bureen 8-10 Oct (CLT/GOA). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at BbR 2 Sep (HBOC), New Lambton 9 Sep (LIP), Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and Wallsend 22 Nov (GOC). **Atlas:** 495 records from 58 cells, RR 27.6%

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

Status: Resident, in the NE of the Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 21% of cells, at RR = 3.5%; cell of most interest: R6 (19.9%).

1-2 birds were regularly recorded at Saltwater NP and four birds there 19 Mar and 17 Jun (STA). Three birds were at Harrington 27 May and 1+ birds 11 Aug (STA). A bird was at Cattai Wetlands 16 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 48 records from eight cells, RR 5.3%

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 24% of cells, at RR = 3.2%; cell of most interest: N5 (54.1%).

241 birds were flying near Sandy Hollow 2 Feb and later possibly the same birds were roosting on dusk near Denman (KEM). ~40 birds were at Ridgellands Rd Bunnan 1 Feb (KEM), **Atlas:** 21 records from five cells, RR 2.6%

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 42% of cells, at RR = 8.4%; cell of most interest: R4 (48.4%).

Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Clarencetown 6 Apr (SLP). Some birds were regularly at Shortland all year (ROM, LIA). **Atlas:** 160 records from 22 cells, RR 11.6%

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 5.7%; cell of most interest: Q6 (17.5%).

Notable records: Eight birds were at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and 6+ birds at Sawyers Gully Werakata NP 6 Oct (ALP). A late departing bird was at Wallaroo NP 17 May (SLP). The first recorded return was 16 Sep, when birds were at both Cabbage Tree Rd and Gloucester Tops (STD, RIA). **Atlas:** 39 records from 15 cells, RR 2.5%

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Status: Rare.

No reports were received for 2014. See Supplementary Records.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: G7 (22.1%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM), Giants Creek Rd 29 Jul (STA *et al.*), Timor Rd Murrurundi 22 Aug (ERE), Martindale 28-29 Aug and 28 Sep (CLT, ALP), Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and Ridgellands Rd Bunnan 18 Oct (WID). **Atlas:** 13 records from nine cells, RR 1.1%

White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*

ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: No
Status: Uncertain (Recorded 1993, 2003-08)

No reports were received for 2014.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

ID No: 373 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant. 1-5 birds are moderately often recorded Sep-Mar.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 47% of cells, at RR = 6.0%; cell of most interest: M5 (32.1%).

Notable records: Six birds were at a property at Girvan ~24 Sep (ALP) and 6+ birds at Brunkerville 30 Dec (MRO *et al.*). The first recorded return was 16 Sep, when a bird was at Harrington RF (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 34 records from 17 cells, RR 2.5%

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.
From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 20% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: S4 (15.9%).

Eight birds were recorded at Harrington RF 13 Dec (ROS), and 1-4 birds at Saltwater NP 7 Feb and 11 Sep (STA), Harrington RF 18 Mar and 26 Nov (STA), Barrington House 17 Oct (ROM), Mungo Brush 30 Sep and 2 Oct (STA), Manning Point 2 Oct and mid Dec (MGLB, JED/STD), Sharpes Creek 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*), Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 22 Oct and 17 Nov (STD, JED), Allyn River 26 Oct (DDR), Bulga Creek (Q4) 9 Nov (BRG), O'Sullivan's Gap Rest Area 14 & 26 Nov (WAB, STA), Jerusalem Creek 17 Nov (JED) and Copeland SCA 31 Dec (MCS). **Atlas:** 17 records from seven cells, RR 2.3%

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 84% of cells, at RR = 37.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (89.2%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Gloucester 14 Jan and Merewether 10 Nov (DBP, MRO), were feeding fledged young at Grahamstown Dam 25 Oct (SLP) and also bred at Bobs Farm Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** 578 records from 50 cells, RR 31.6%

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 57% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: H8 (34.6%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and ~40 birds at Wallalong 23 Apr (FRN). **Breeding:** Birds were on nests at Lake Liddell 14 Sep (ALP) and Lovedale TSR 16 Nov (HBOC), and had nests with young / dependent young at Wollombi Brook near Broke 9 Sep (FRN), Ridglands Rd Bunnan 2 Oct (ROM/CLT), Blackwater Creek 3-7 Oct (HBOC), and also bred at Balickera Jan (MUJ). A nest at Blackwater Creek also had two Channel-billed Cuckoo chicks. **Atlas:** 43 records from 19 cells, RR 5.9%

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in nine cells, at RR = 0.8%; cell of most interest: M4 (14.3%).

Two birds were at Jerusalem Creek 17 Oct and 3 Nov (ROM) and single birds at Woko NP 23 Feb (DBP), Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 10 & 16 Sep and 16 Nov (STD), O'Sullivan's Gap Rest Area 18 Sep (WAB), Jerusalem Creek 16 Oct and 17 Nov (JED) and Gloucester Tops 16 Oct (ROM). **Atlas:** One record, from cell M5. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

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 72% of cells, at RR = 10.8%; cell of most interest: G8 (61.5%).

Notable records: Seven birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM). Some birds were at Bucketts Rd Gloucester 26 Aug (DBP) and Fosterton Loop mid Oct (JED) – *uncommon at both locations*. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** 71 records from 20 cells, RR 5.2%



Photograph by Steve Merrett

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: None recorded

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: G10 (33.8%).

Several birds were recorded in the Gloucester Tops 21-23 Oct and two birds there 18 Sep (STA *et al.*). Three birds were at Kitchener 11 Jun (ROM) and 1-2 birds at Scone area 13-14 May (ROM/CLT), Giants Creek Rd 29 Aug (ROM), Gloucester Tops 6 Oct (ROM/WID), Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 14 Dec (KEM) and White Box Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 12 records from eight cells, RR 1.5%

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 = 3.6%; cell of most interest: H8 (34.6%).

1-2 birds were at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM), Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM), "Windy" HSD 7 Mar and 7-9 Jun (STA *et al.*, HBOC), Pinegrove Rd 29 Jul, 28 Sep and 18 Dec (STA, ALP, ROM) and Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair had dependent young at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** Eight records from five cells, RR 4.3%

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 1 NSW: Vulnerable Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 17% of cells, at RR = 3.3%; cell of most interest: L5 (11.9%).

Barrington Tops: Over 18-21 Feb, 14 birds were recorded at Edwards Trail, 13 birds at Little Murrays Creek Feb and at least three groups of 6+ birds along Barrington Trail (all CLT): 45+ birds in total. 1-2 birds were at Polblue 21 Feb and 3-7 Mar (CLT, FAA) and three birds at Devils Hole 30 Dec (MCS). *Gloucester Tops*: Birds were recorded at many locations 15-17 Sep and 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*) and also six birds 20 Sep (BRG). *Elsewhere*: 1-2 birds were at Lake Glenbawn 13-14 May (ROM/CLT) and Timor Rd Murrurundi 22 Aug (ERE). **Breeding**: A pair was with a juvenile in Gloucester Tops 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*). **Atlas**: 17 records from four cells, RR 9.4%

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 57% of cells, at RR = 4.6%; cell of most interest: M5 (35.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas**: 64 records from 9 cells, RR 4.4%**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 = 4.9%; cell of most interest: H8 (14.7%).

There were several records of 2-3+ birds at a location on Giants Creek Rd from mid-Aug to early Sep (various observers). Pairs were recorded at Goulburn River NP 2 Feb and "Windy" HSD 9 Jun (KEM, STA) and two males at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM). **Breeding**: A family of four birds was at Giants Creek Rd 29 Aug (ROM). **Atlas**: Nine records from four cells, RR 8.6%

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 = 1.9%; cell of most interest: M5 (9.8%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Jerusalem Creek 17 Oct and 3 Nov (ROM) and O'Sullivan's Gap 6 & 26 Nov (WAB, STA). **Atlas**: Two records, from cells P7, R3

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

ID No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. 1-5 birds are widely and regularly recorded, and occasionally 6-10 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 80% of cells, at RR = 25.1%; cell of most interest: L8 (48.8%).

Notable records: 14 birds were at BbR 2 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding**: There were many records, spanning mid Aug-Dec. **Atlas**: 308 records from 52 cells, RR 18.7%

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafrja javanica*

ID No: 648 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Uncommon summer migrant in central and W of region.

From BLA Atlas: 30 records from 12 cells; cell of most interest: G7 (five records).

10+ birds were along Yarrawa Deviation Rd 2 May (ROM). 1-2 birds were often recorded in the W of the Region Jan-early Feb and Sep-Oct (many observers). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells.
Under-reported in the Atlas.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1996, 2003, 2005-07*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 37% of cells, at RR = 11.3%; cell of most interest: P8 (40.3%).

Notable records: ~20 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Jan (KEM). A bird was at Nobbys Beach dunes 8 & 10 Jan (NIR) – *unusual location*. **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Hexham Swamp 26 Oct (GOC). **Atlas:** 147 records from 14 cells, RR 9.2%

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 40% of cells, at RR = 7.5%; cell of most interest: L9 (38.2%).

Notable records: 15-20 birds were sometimes recorded at Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb and 10+ birds often (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young near Gloucester 1 Feb (DBP) and nesting at Singleton WTW 2 Feb (ALP). **Atlas:** 77 records from 11 cells, RR 4.0%

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 = 8.7%; cell of most interest: P8 (36.7%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Ash Island early Oct and had dependent young at Gloucester mid Dec (KYR, JED/STD). The Ash Island nest was later destroyed in a fire (KYR). **Atlas:** 101 records from ten cells, RR 7.1%

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 17% of cells, at RR = 8.2%; cell of most interest: L9 (25.1%).

Notable records: 20 birds were often recorded at Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** 60 records from six cells, RR 4.2%

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 34% of cells, at RR = 2.6%; cell of most interest: E6 (25.7%).

20+ birds were recorded in the Martindale area 4 Nov with many supporting reports from around Martindale/Bureen in Sep-Oct (ROM, others). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were present at Wallalong 26 Jan (NEM), Ash Island 21 Feb (SLP), Giants Creek Rd 18 Aug (ROM), Berry Park 14 Sep (SLP), Largs 21 Sep and 25 Oct (ROM/WID, DTB), Jones Reserve Rd 28 Sep (ALP), Ridglands Rd Bunnan 3 & 18 Oct (STA, WID), Singleton Training Area 8 Oct (ROM *et al.*) and Fosterton Loop 18 Nov (per JED). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young near Wallalong 26 Jan (NEM). **Atlas:** Five records from four cells, RR 0.6%. *Under-reported in the Atlas.*

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.1%; cell of most interest: G7 (7.0%).

Single birds were recorded at Largs 24 Oct (DTB) and Ridglands Rd Bunnan 18 Oct (WID).

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 the Region during Apr – mid-May and mid-Jun – Jul.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 79% of cells, at RR = 25.5%; cell of most interest: N5 (49.7%).

Notable records: 56 birds were at Raymond Terrace Cycleway 5 Mar (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds bred at East Maitland in spring (SMJ). **Atlas:** 406 records from 45 cells, RR 23.9%**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 15% of cells, at RR = 1.5%; cell of most interest: G7 (4.7%).

13 birds were recorded in Goulburn River NP 10 Jan (WID *et al.*). Six birds were at Martindale 4 Nov (ROM) and 1-2 birds were recorded at Martindale 2 May and 8-10 Oct (ROM, CLT/GOA), Widden Valley 19 May and 5 Oct (HCL, ERE), Kerrabee Creek 18 Aug (ROM), 5 km W of Sandy Hollow 5 Sep (ROS), Bureen Creek 23 & 27 Sep (ROM, MCM) and Jones Reserve Rd 28 Sep (ALP). **Atlas:** Five records from five cells

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1988*).

No reports were received for 2014.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident, with influxes in autumn. 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 90% of cells, at RR = 34.9%; cell of most interest: L9 (68.7%).

Notable records: 300+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 14 Jan and 20 Dec (KEM, LIA/BOH), and with many records of 100-200 birds there Jan-Feb. ~400 birds were roosting at Raymond Terrace 25 Feb (SLP). 50+ birds were recorded at Ash Island 18 Jan (SLP), Fosterton Loop 15 Feb (JED) and Belmont North 15 Feb (CJB). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Hexham Swamp 11 Oct (LIA) and also bred at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 642 records from 54 cells, RR 34.5%

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 48% of cells, at RR = 6.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (17.4%).

Notable records: ~200 birds were at Hexham Swamp 20 Sep (GOS) and 100+ birds at Bureen Creek 22 Sep (ROM), Martindale Creek 8-10 Oct (CLT/GOA) and Scotts Point Rd Ash Island 4 Nov (LIA). 50+ birds were at Singleton WTW 2 Feb and 9 Sep (ALP) and there were many reports of 20+ birds. Winter records were of 1-2 birds at "Windy" HSD 7 Jun (STA) and Balickera Jun (MUJ), and 25+ birds at Singleton 4 Aug (ALP) – possibly these were newly returned birds. There also were some records in Apr-May. **Breeding:** There were active colonies at Singleton WTW, John St Singleton, Morpeth, Raworth, Oakhampton Rd, Dagworth Rd, Bureen, Singleton Training Area, Cundletown, Ash Island, Hexham Swamp, Cullingrall Road Merriwa, *comprising an estimated 250-300 pairs for the Region*. **Atlas:** 63 records from 11 cells, RR 3.1%

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 63% of cells, at RR = 5.6%; cell of most interest: N5 (32.4%).

Notable records: 700+ birds were flying near Largs on dusk 26 Jan and ~300 birds at Hexham Swamp 30 Jan (both KEM). There were many records of 100-200+ birds at Hexham Swamp in Jan and Nov (various observers); also ~200 birds were near Wallalong 26-27 Jan (NEM) and flying over East Maitland 23 Apr (BRG/KIR). 60-70 birds were foraging over Saltwater NP beach 25 Nov and at Muddishops Point 25 Nov (STA) – *unusual locations*. 60 birds were at Newline Rd 26 Jan (SLP) and 30+ birds at The Wells Myall Lakes NP 24 Nov (FAA). **Atlas:** 97 records from 26 cells, RR 5.8%

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 (30.9%).

Five birds were recorded at Gateshead 1 Jul (HRK) and 1-2 birds at Swansea early May (per ROM), Cockle Creek 4 Jun (BEI) and Martinsville 7 Jul (LIG). **Atlas:** One record, from cell L11

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 31% of cells, at RR = 2.4%; cell of most interest: M5 (27.1%).

1-3 birds were recorded at The Glen NR 11 Jan (DBP), Watagans NP 29 Jan (HOB), Allyn River SF 16 Feb and 22 Oct (JED, DDR), Sharpes Creek 30 Jun and 16 Sep (STA, HBOC), Balickera Apr-May, Jul and Dec (MUJ), Harrington RF 17 Jul (STA), Blue Gum Hills RP 21 Jul (PAL), BbR 8 & 21 Sep (NIJ, PAL), Gloucester Tops 17 Sep and 23 Oct (STA *et al.*), Blackwater Creek 3-7 Oct (HBOC), Brunkerville 26 Oct and 11 Nov (DTB, TBW) and O'Sullivan's Gap Rest Area 14 & 30 Oct (WAB). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Aug-Sep (MUJ) and were feeding a fledged young at Blackwater Creek 6 Oct (LIG). **Atlas:** 13 records from eight cells, RR 1.6%

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 = 4.1%; cell of most interest: M5 (27.1%).

Birds were heard regularly at Sharpes Creek 15-17 Sep and 21-23 Oct (STA *et al.*). 1-2 birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 10 Sep, 22 Oct and 17 Nov (STD, JED), Fosterton Loop 16 Oct (ROM/JED) and Allyn River 26 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** Nine records, from cells M5, Q4, RR 5.7%



Photograph by Dick Jenkin

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 = 0.5%; cell of most interest: K4 (17.6%).

Notable records: A bird was at Gloucester 9 Sep – *the first record for the area* (DBP). Three birds were at Lorn 23 Jan and 1 Jun (NAK, SLP). Birds returned to East Maitland after 2-3 years absence (SMJ). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Weston 28 Mar (ROS).

Atlas: Two records, from cells F7 and N5

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 72% of cells, at RR = 16.8%; cell of most interest: L9 (62.0%).

Notable records: Several hundred birds were at “Windy” HSD 6-9 Jun (HBOC) and ~90 birds at Phoenix Park 26 Jan and Muswellbrook WTW 1 Feb (both KEM). ~60 birds were at Hexham Swamp 11 Jan (KEM). A bird was taken by a Brown Goshawk at Wingen 8 Jan (NEG).

Atlas: 222 records from 20 cells, RR 12.7%

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 66% of cells, at RR = 18.1%; cell of most interest: L9 (67.3%).

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at The Junction 2 Dec (GCL) and had dependent young at Gloucester 14 Jan (DBP). **Atlas:** 289 records from 23 cells, RR 15.3%

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 70% of cells, at RR = 10.5%; cell of most interest: G8 (46.3%).

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at “Windy” HSD 6-9 Jun (HBOC). **Atlas:** 145 records from 35 cells, RR 9.1%

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarina jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded 1985-86, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 18% of cells, at RR = 2.9%; cell of most interest: G8 (23.8%).

Notable records: ~100 birds were at Broads Crossing Scone 13-14 May (ROM/CLT) and ~50 birds at Lorn 1 Feb – noted as often at this area but not in these numbers (SLP). 15+ birds were at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM). **Atlas:** Eight records from four cells, RR 1.2%

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as up to 20 birds in the central and W of the Region, and 1-5 birds in the east (*text modified*).

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 60% of cells, at RR = 7.3%; cell of most interest: G8 (55.8%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct (HBOC) and 20+ birds at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb (KEM). Seven birds were at Galgabba Point 9 Sep (ADJ). There were some records of birds at Stockton Sandspit, where they have been uncommon in recent years. **Atlas:** 91 records from 19 cells, RR 6.5%

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

ID No: 661 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Status: Rare.

From BLA Atlas: 24 records from 11 cells; cell of most interest: C6 (five records).

26 birds were recorded at Kerrabee 18 May (KEM) after reports of lesser numbers there in the preceding 2 weeks (KEM, ROM, others). ~20 birds were near Doyles Creek 5 May (ROM), ten birds at Martindale 14 May and two birds at Bureen 2 May (all ROM). **Breeding:** Although there were no confirmed records, birds were nest building at Bureen 2 May and feeding fledged young there 14 May (ROM) and nest building at Kerrabee 18 May (KEM). NB This species does not build roost structures. **Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 4.5% *Best year since 2005.*

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

ID No: 662 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds widely & regularly recorded, 21-50 birds moderately often.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 81% of cells, at RR = 23.2%; cell of most interest: L8 (43.5%).

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Blackwater Creek Widden Valley 3-7 Oct and 20+ birds at Redhead 3 Jun (both HBOC).**Breeding:** Birds often were breeding at Balickera (MU) and had dependent young at Giles Rd Seaham 7 Oct (HBOC). Pairs were nesting at Charlestown GC 24 Apr (FEG) and the Manning Valley mid Dec (JED/STD).**Atlas:** 247 records from 51 cells, RR 14.9%*Photograph by Bruce Hosken***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 = 5.9%; cell of most interest: G8 (22.1%).

Six birds were recorded at "Windy" HSD 6-9 Jun (HBOC). 1-5 birds were at Medhurst Bridge 2 Feb, 8-10 Oct and 18 Dec (KEM, CLT/GOA, ROM), Jones Reserve Rd 2 & 14 May (ROM/CLT), Singleton Training Area 7 May and 8 Oct (ROM *et al.*), Timor area 22 Aug and early Dec (ERE, GRN), Ridgeland Rd Bunnan several times in Oct and 23 Dec (various observers), Cullingrall Road Merriwa 9 Dec (ROM) and Goulburn River NP 30 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 12 records from seven cells, RR 6.1%

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Status: Rare resident (*reported in 2009*).

No reports were received for 2014.

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 2014.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Uncommon resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 11% of cells, at RR = 1.6%; cell of most interest: L10 (4.6%).

10-15 birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 8 Jan (SJE), Bobs Farm 11 Feb (WOL) and Kerrabee 19 May (HCL). 1-5 birds were recorded at Wallsend Wetlands 7 & 22 Jan (KEM, DBP), Goulburn River NP 2 Feb (KEM), Lenaghans Flat 1 Mar (BNSW), Coopernook Corner 7 Mar (MGLB), Killabakh 15 Mar (MGLB), Cattai Wetlands 15 Mar and mid Dec (CJB, JED/STD), Kerrabee 5 May (ROM), Hexham Swamp 6 Oct (THK) and East Seaham 26 Oct (SLP). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Kerrabee 19 May (HCL). **Atlas:** 11 records from five cells, RR 0.9%

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Frequently recorded at or near populated areas in counts of up to 20 birds.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 46% of cells, at RR = 6.9%; cell of most interest: N5 (34.6%).

Notable records: ~50 birds were at Wallalong 10 Mar (SLP). A bird was taken by an Australian Hobby at Wingen 11 Jul (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Shortland 23 Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** 45 records from 12 cells, RR 2.9%

Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* (Revised from: *Australian*)

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 = 10.1%; cell of most interest: L10 (20.3%).

Notable records: Six birds were at Ash Island 11 Jan (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Fosterton Loop 28 Sep; the chicks were fledged by 17 Oct (JED/STD). **Atlas:** 121 records from 30 cells, RR 7.2%

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Status: Rare summer migrant.

From BLA Atlas: 47 records from two cells; cell of most interest: M10 (46 records).

Up to seven birds were at Hexham Swamp from 7 Jan to at least 15 Feb, including one of race *taivana* (WID, many others). A single bird was again recorded at Hexham Swamp 22 Jun - 8 Jul (THK, others). Elsewhere, single birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 7 Jan (per ROM) and Ash Island 24 Jan (MEL). **Atlas:** 13 records, all from M10. *It was the first ever winter record and the first confirmed taivana record since 2003.*

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

ID No: 874 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Status: Accidental (race *lugens* recorded 1998).

No reports were received for 2014.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Status: Resident.

From BLA Atlas: Recorded in 12% of cells, at RR = 1.4%; cell of most interest: L9 (5.1%).

1-2 birds were recorded at Wallalong 26 Jan (NEM), Lorn 1 Feb (SLP), Largs 1 Feb and 25 Oct (SLP, DTB), Pitnacree 6 Feb (BRG) and Louth Park 25 Oct (DTB). Also, a bird was at Kerrabee 5 May (ROM) – *unusual location*. **Atlas:** Five records from three cells

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre-2014 records detailed below:

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*

A pair and a group of three birds (2F, 1M) were recorded at two separate locations near Ironbark Creek Wallsend in early to mid-1970s (RIA).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 2 Dec 2013 (GOC).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Three birds were recorded at Kurri Kurri 22 Nov 2013 (GOC).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Three separate records of single birds at Morisset (Vets Corner Wetland) in the late 1980s have been accepted, also single birds at Don Morris Walk University of Newcastle (early 2000s) and near Deep Pond February 2006 (all RIA). These records, the first four in particular, considerably increase the known range for Little Bitterns in the Hunter Region.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

A pair raised three young at Fernaces Crossing Rd Laguna Oct-Dec 2013 (per MOA).

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus giganteus*

One bird was at Forster 3 April 2009 (BEN).

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

52 birds were recorded at Dora Creek 27 Dec 2013 (GOC).

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

A single bird was recorded at Cattai Wetlands 30 Dec 2010 (RIA).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

Four birds were at Stroud 15 Dec 2013 (RDB).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

Three birds were at Stroud 15 Dec 2013 (RDB).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

A male bird was photographed in the northern part of the Watagan Forests 25 Oct 2013 (HOB). *The majority of records come from the greater Barrington Tops (at altitudes of >500m) so it is significant to have confirmation from The Watagans.*

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

Birds had a nest with egg at Bulls Run Road Laguna in Sep 1983 although the nest was subsequently abandoned (RDB) – *this is the only known breeding record for the Region.*

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports were not able to be accepted by the 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.*

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

A single bird was reported to have been off Old Bar Beach 15 Sep. However, there was insufficient evidence available to eliminate other similar-looking dark *Procellaria* petrels (*close views are required in order to separate Black, White-chinned and Westland Petrels*).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

A single bird was reported to have been at Stockton Sandspit 21 Sep; a submission to ORAC was not able to be accepted due to lack of sufficient detail.

AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

Reports of some over-wintering Broad-billed Sandpipers in Fullerton Cove in July 2004 have been withdrawn – the birds were Curlew Sandpipers.

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 often reported at Salt Ash Nov-Dec.

Barbary Dove *Streptopelia risoria*

A bird was at Gloucester 29 Dec (DBP).

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

A bird was recorded at Bellbird 26 Aug (ROM).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (NB: this species is also known as Indian Ringneck).

A bird was regularly recorded all year at Shortland (ROM).

Major Mitchell Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri*

Two birds were at Brandy Hill (Seaham) 2 and 22 Dec (per GRN).

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

A female was at North Arm Cove 13 May (TBW/FRN).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

A bird was at Soldiers Point 1 Mar (ANC).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

A bird was at Hexham Swamp 1 Dec (SMJ/MEL).

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. 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)

	17, 18 Jan	14, 15 Feb	14, 15 Mar	16 Apr	17, 21 May	13, 14 Jun	11, 12 Jul	7, 9 Aug	11, 13 Sep	10, 11 Oct	21, 22 Nov	19, 20 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	16	13	6	26	14	14	13	6	24	23	11	13
Sooty Oystercatcher				16		2					3	18
Black-winged Stilt	958	976	1177	1142	1104	1459	941	661	406	416	1391	1576
Red-necked Avocet	3212	2769	519	629	1652	2478	5159	4439	4800	4799	5091	3732
Pacific Golden Plover	322	186	522	393	10	7	9	9	15	53	48	248
Red-capped Plover	3	20	2			9	16	3	5	3	13	4
Double-banded Plover				2								
Lesser Sand Plover												4
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	1	9	16	29	29	26	8	7	7	5	7
Red-kneed Dotterel	7	28			1	213	61	22	19		222	117
Masked Lapwing	108	91	151	104	91	92	63	41	67	83	182	143
Latham's Snipe		1							2	1		1
Black-tailed Godwit	4	38		55	1				6			60
Bar-tailed Godwit	423	678	414	111	119	116	138	104	140	880	684	581
Whimbrel	47	55	41	18	7	8	7	3	2	60	6	29
Eastern Curlew	186	177	69	19	22	25	32	66	124	143	104	171
Terek Sandpiper	2	2	3	2					1			4
Common Sandpiper		1	1	1							1	
Grey-tailed Tattler	38	43	16	39	5	4		4		18	27	32
Common Greenshank	120	46	75	38	2	9	22	22	40	86	94	54
Marsh Sandpiper	21	14	79				1	12	8	21	14	55
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	1								1	
Great Knot											3	
Red Knot			1						92	640	34	1
Red-necked Stint	20	25	136	55	1				27	45	114	48
Pectoral Sandpiper			1								1	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2961	3205	3411	289	18	1	30		1873	563	4546	2434
Curlew Sandpiper	79	40	98	1	4			6	36	182	116	32

*Results now include Hexham Swamp, which in previous years was surveyed separately

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

Table 2 Waterbirds of the Hunter Estuary*
(Surveys conducted at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites¹)

	17, 18 Jan	14, 15 Feb	14, 15 Mar	16 Apr	17, 21 May	13, 14 Jun	11, 12 Jul	7, 9 Aug	11, 13 Sep	10, 11 Oct	21, 22 Nov	19, 20 Dec
Musk Duck	1							4				
Freckled Duck	1	1										
Black Swan	270	36	15	75	91	247	101	84	215	159	132	57
Aust. Wood Duck	10		8	38	15	6			38	9	13	26
Pink-eared Duck	31	2	77			4						83
Australasian Shoveler	17	49	162	72		68	68				5	98
Grey Teal	436	1894	2414	501	65	1584	2587	2631	31	19	1418	338
Chestnut Teal	1068	538	386	1056	210	397	369	433	30	75	311	299
Pacific Black Duck	18	126	93	41	24	61	71	62	34	61	314	19
Hardhead	118	142	102	10	58	63	86	47	3	114	195	22
Australasian Grebe	24	29	36	18	33	27	18	37	26	39	11	4
Hoary-headed Grebe	88	75	71	14	17	20	11	4	8	27	26	5
Australasian Darter	2	3	1	7	5	2	5	7	6	5	2	2
Little Pied Cormorant	4	14	12	6	8	7	6	8	10	8	11	10
Great Cormorant	4	8	9	3	5		12		1	1	1	1
Little Black Cormorant	45	37	30	40	29	25	16	24	29	47	31	54
Pied Cormorant	7	21	23	9	5	14	62	6	19	23	54	46
Aust. Pelican	79	128	233	151	122	80	98	58	78	127	122	114
Black-necked Stork			4			1		1				
White-necked Heron	30	1		2	1	1		22	1	4	1	
Great Egret	31	17	23	11	10	12	8	15	13	11	6	14
Intermediate Egret	4	1	1					1			11	2
Cattle Egret	36	13	15		43						1	9
Striated Heron	2	3	1	2							1	3
White-faced Heron	110	193	339	283	203	256	83	51	153	136	330	95
Little Egret	6	20	7	4	7	4	5	4	3	5	2	3
Nankeen Night-Heron									1			
Glossy Ibis			4									
Aust. White Ibis	83	204	163	165	32	39	19	79	82	45	81	86
Straw-necked Ibis			1	10	22	2	9	14			3	1
Royal Spoonbill	11	25	81	95	59	59	22	16	25	2	4	16
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		2	1	1								
Purple Swamphen	31	70	70	100	20	17	32	38	41	19	19	22
Buff-banded Rail							1	1		2		
Baillon's Crake		1										

Table 2 is continued on the next page

Table 2 (cont'd) Waterbirds of the Hunter Estuary*

	17, 18 Jan	14, 15 Feb	14, 15 Mar	16 Apr	17, 21 May	13, 14 Jun	11, 12 Jul	7, 9 Aug	11, 13 Sep	10, 11 Oct	21, 22 Nov	19, 20 Dec
Aust. Spotted Crake		4		1			10	2	6	1		
Spotless Crake			2				2		2		2	
Dusky Moorhen		7	1									
Eurasian Coot	1339	448	170	204	218	215	320	380	324	847	770	314
Little Tern	35	82	123						2	1	27	4
Gull-billed Tern	1			3	1		33	6				
Caspian Tern	2	1	16	13	44	25	8	5	10	8	4	4
Whiskered Tern									1	94		
White-winged Black Tern	2											
Common Tern	43	81	22	2								
Crested Tern	1	3	1	10	4		7	2	1	2	4	2
Silver Gull	306	220	208	265	183	66	43	29	15	81	99	98

* Results now include Hexham Swamp, which in previous years was surveyed separately

¹ Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

Table 3 Waterbirds at Phoenix Flats (on Ash Island)

(Maximum monthly counts from surveys by N. McNaughton)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chestnut Teal	20	2		2				2	1			
Pacific Black Duck		2		8					3			
White-necked Heron											2	
Great Egret						1		1	1			
Cattle Egret	2											
White-faced Heron	5	3	3	7	3	3	3	1	4	4	2	3
Aust. White Ibis			2	6	5	17	1	9	9	2		
Straw-necked Ibis				7	2	3						
Black-winged Stilt									5			
Red-necked Avocet							1					
Pacific Golden Plover	45	46	29	23					14	68	85	33
Black-fronted Dotterel		1	2	6	9	13	3	5	1			
Red-kneed Dotterel								2	2			
Masked Lapwing	1		2	2		2	4	5	2	4	2	2
Eastern Curlew		1						9	3	1		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper											44	32

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										
Grey Teal	26	2	12		7	6	6	7	2	4	7	30
Chestnut Teal	36	11	37	27	46	56	42	4	8	16	47	44
Pacific Black Duck	6	5	17	6	11	15	18	9	3	6	2	3
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1		2	1	1		2		1	1	1
Aust. Pelican	3	1	6			1				3	1	1
White-necked Heron									1			
Great Egret	1	1	1	1	2	2			1	1		1
Intermediate Egret				11	15							
Cattle Egret	7	1									3	2
White-faced Heron	16	27	17	59	28	27	12	4	9	8	8	15
Little Egret	1											
Aust. White Ibis	24	20	34	31	65	23	4	10	4	18	15	22
Straw-necked Ibis					6	17	15					
Royal Spoonbill	1	1	6	4		1	1	1		1		2
Black-winged Stilt							12	8				
Red-necked Avocet	36						14	104	34	25	10	17
Pacific Golden Plover	21	38	26	19					1		2	39
Red-capped Plover					2	5	5	2				
Black-fronted Dotterel				6	6	12	10	5	2			
Red-kneed Dotterel	23				7	9	9	7	3			
Masked Lapwing	8	7	2	9	9	9	5	3	4	4	6	5
Latham's Snipe										1		
Bar-tailed Godwit										1	1	
Eastern Curlew	4	4	5		1	1	2	9	3	4	4	5
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10									20	32	34
Gull-billed Tern						5	5		1	2	2	

Table 5 Waterbirds at Hunter Wetlands Centre*(Highest monthly counts from surveys by P. Lightfoot, R. & M. Stewart, others)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Magpie Goose	102	90	110	85	114	97	102	90	90	70	83	97
Wandering Whist-Duck	1				1					1	2	4
Freckled Duck					1							1
Black Swan	2	2	2		2	2	4	3	3	2	4	4
Aust. Wood Duck						1	1					
Pink-eared Duck	1				1			1				
Australasian Shoveler					12	5						
Grey Teal	163	210	90	99	214	146	64	200	197	158	186	75
Chestnut Teal	42	22	67	38	46	64	9	16	10	15	35	12
Pacific Black Duck	25	17	35	23	15	24	39	34	10	23	25	16
Hardhead	4	6	3	2	5	5	6	8	17	33	27	18
Australasian Grebe	9	4	3	4	11	12	12	20	18	12	15	6
Hoary-headed Grebe				1	3	2			1	2		2
Australasian Darter	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1	1	9	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
Great Cormorant	1	4	1						6	1		2
Little Black Cormorant	8	7	8	1		1		1			1	2
Pied Cormorant						1						
Aust. Pelican	2	15			1	1		10	7	3	2	1
White-necked Heron	1	1							1		1	1
Great Egret	9	4	10	3	2	1	1	2	3	9	5	19
Intermediate Egret	6	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	5
Cattle Egret	450	78	4	1	1						206	200
White-faced Heron	1	1	3	3			3	1				
Little Egret	10	10	2	1	2	1				2		1
Nankeen Night-Heron	2	1		1		1			1	3	1	2
Aust. White Ibis	133	138	52	29	68	67	97	157	197	199	356	472
Straw-necked Ibis				1		10		nc	36			1
Royal Spoonbill	9	4	6	2		1	1	3	7	5	41	21
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		5										
Purple Swamphen	39	48	46	43	42	51	84	84	48	17	62	49
Buff-banded Rail	2	2		nc							2	1
Dusky Moorhen	15	30	27	60	38	18	29	28	22	36	30	21
Eurasian Coot	71	16	28	13	39	66	129	116	133	182	238	80
Black-winged Stilt	24	4	23	10			4	2			5	
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	8										

Table 5 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Hunter Wetlands Centre

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Red-kneed Dotterel	8	1										
Masked Lapwing	7	7	3	6	2		3	2	1	1	2	1
Latham's Snipe	5	3										

nc: some birds were present but the numbers were not counted

Table 6 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands
(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan		5		23	26	53	36	4	36	33		
Pink-eared Duck										1		
Australasian Shoveler		7		3	49	121	4					
Grey Teal	21	1,620	655	259	1,367	746	508	1,107	17	2	4	150
Chestnut Teal	152	135	167	941	189	120	153	86	17	40	51	42
Pacific Black Duck		6	16	44	27	19	25	16	2	35	26	
Hardhead					1							
Australasian Grebe				2								
Australasian Darter	1	2	1		1						1	
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	4	2	3	1	2		1	2	2	2
Great Cormorant			1							2		
Little Black Cormorant		3				1			1	70		33
Aust. Pelican	1		25	1	6					4		3
Black-necked Stork			3									
White-necked Heron	29	1		2		1		21				
Great Egret	5	6	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	12		6
Cattle Egret	6	3	68	9			1	1				2
White-faced Heron	48	92	81	96	123	105	33	20	119	92	52	82
Little Egret										2	1	1
Aust. White Ibis	147	61	46	49	55	6	66	3		67	32	56
Straw-necked Ibis												
Royal Spoonbill		4		10	3		1	1	2	51		14
Purple Swamphen			60	96		5	4		70	4		
Aust. Spotted Crake	1		2				5			3		1
Dusky Moorhen		6										
Black-winged Stilt	10	121			281	107	343	267	38	50	1	31
Red-necked Avocet					535	1	265		2,000	4	29	542
Pacific Golden Plover			1							19		12
Black-fronted Dotterel				1	2	7	5		1			
Red-kneed Dotterel		9					3	17	29	3	10	2

Table 6 is continued on the next page

Table 6 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Masked Lapwing	38	20	54	28	12	27	6	9	48	18	2	9
Latham's Snipe		2							2	1		
Black-tailed Godwit		2			1		5		30			
Bar-tailed Godwit							7	4	35	12		1
Common Greenshank	6	28	25	6		9	10	19	36	10	57	40
Marsh Sandpiper		14	5						1		8	14
Red-necked Stint	5	3	1						26	32	4	38
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1,768	1,726	800	283		1			1,873	2,000	5,008	805
Curlew Sandpiper									10	16	5	12
Gull-billed Tern									155			
Caspian Tern		1		1	1				2	1		
Whiskered Tern										40		
Silver Gull			1									



White-fronted Tern by Dorien Schulz

Table 7 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
Black Swan			3									
Australasian Darter	1		1		1	2	1		1		1	3
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1		1	1	1	1					1
Great Cormorant	10	6	5	3	9	5	5		13	3	8	15
Little Black Cormorant	7	8	3	4	2	12	21		9	6	12	11
Pied Cormorant	6	1	7	8	9	2	3		12		6	4
Aust. Pelican	13	4	25	17	19	20	25	4	29	25	20	6
Great Egret	1											
Cattle Egret												9
Striated Heron											1	
White-faced Heron	1		2	1	3							
Eastern Reef Egret	1											
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	1				2				1			3
Sooty Oystercatcher	35	49	52	49	23	15	3	2	10	10	12	27
Black-winged Stilt											3	
Red-necked Avocet					4							
Double-banded Plover									1			
Masked Lapwing	2	2	3		2	2			1	2		3
Bar-tailed Godwit										25		
Whimbrel	1	1	1	1								
Grey-tailed Tattler											1	
Ruddy Turnstone	14	14	14	13	2	2	2	2	11	14	13	14
Red-necked Stint						1					1	
Common Noddy			1									
Little Tern	51	24	92	10						2	2	1
Gull-billed Tern	1	1	1		1	1	1			1	1	
Caspian Tern	2	1	3						1			2
White-winged Black Tern											1	1
White-fronted Tern						2	7		1			
Common Tern	37	60	3	23						14	90	
Crested Tern	68	120	48	47	80	180	174	78	300	90	73	120
Silver Gull	150	140	154	120	175	120	45	40	25	109	95	90

Table 8 Waterbirds at Charlestown Golf Club*(Systematic surveys by G. Feletti)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck		12										
Black Swan			2									
Aust. Wood Duck	108	100	88	82	57	41	40	30	48	114	116	119
Grey Teal		1		1			2	2			2	
Chestnut Teal					1							
Pacific Black Duck	22	20	31	22	19	13	18	23	10	13	17	16
Hardhead Duck	5	8	5	6	3	4	4	4	3	8	10	2
Australasian Grebe	2	2		1	3	4	3	3	2	1		
Australasian Darter			1									
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	1	1		1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Little Black Cormorant	2	4	1	2			1		1	1	4	4
Great Egret					5		1					
White faced Heron		3	1		1		1	1			1	
Aust. White Ibis											1	
Straw necked Ibis						6			1			
Royal Spoonbill		2			1				1		1	1
Purple Swamphen	26	22	15	23	26	25	27	25	18	18	16	9
Buff banded Rail												
Dusky Moorhen	13	19	25	30	20	22	19	24	20	17	13	13
Eurasian Coot	27	34	43	33	28	43	37	36	38	38	38	24
Black fronted Dotterel		1										
Latham's Snipe	1									1	2	1

Table 9 Waterbirds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie
(Surveys at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites, led by J. Adams)

	15 Jan	12 Feb	12 Mar	9 Apr	21 May	11 Jun	09 Jul	13 Aug	11 Sep	08 Oct	12 Nov	11 Dec
Black Swan	331	414	142	127	48	13	5	4	6	125	16	24
Aust. Wood Duck		11	2	19	15	2	5			8	6	2
Chestnut Teal		14			8	2				2		2
Pacific Black Duck					3							
Australasian Darter		1	1	4		5	2		1	1	1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	10	15	3	21	22	24	57	3		19	12	19
Great Cormorant			2	16			1	1	1			
Little Black Cormorant	39	23	4	39	5	4	13	44	17			22
Pied Cormorant	16	4	13	6	4	5	18	19	8			5
Aust. Pelican	58	61	38	81	48	33	9	50	56	56	29	30
Great Egret			1	2	1	3	2		1	1		
Intermediate Egret	1	2		3	2							
Striated Heron				1		1						
White-faced Heron	1		4	3	4	1	2	3		3	3	9
Little Egret	3	10	12	2	1	1	3	4	4			3
Aust. White Ibis	1		2	5	1			2	1	1		1
Royal Spoonbill				5	13	12	2	4				
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	1	2		2	5	4	4	5	2	4	6	8
Sooty Oystercatcher												1
Masked Lapwing	4	2	3	4	12	5	4	1		2	4	4
Bar-tailed Godwit	56	22	50	16	1	1			12	16	13	16
Whimbrel										3		
Eastern Curlew				2				1		2	2	3
Grey-tailed Tattler											1	
Little Tern	30		14									
Caspian Tern	2	2	4	11	3				4	1		
Crested Tern	32	2	11	1	13	2		20	14	4	2	
Silver Gull	156	184	311	134	14	92	53	93	79			134

Table 10 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks*(Regular surveys led by J. Smart, P. Baird & L. Mee)*

	15 Jan	12 Feb	12 Mar	09 Apr	21 May	11 Jun	09 Jul	13 Aug	11 Sep	08 Oct	12 Nov	11 Dec
Musk Duck					2	2	1					
Black Swan	1	1	11	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3
Aust. Wood Duck		20	11	9	2	6	7	4	2	9	19	9
Grey Teal	9	20	4					9	6	17	9	10
Chestnut Teal		3	1			1	5	4	9	14	17	8
Pacific Black Duck	23	33	8	16	15	8	8	14	16	7	16	11
Hardhead	38	24	12	5	7	5	3	2	20	8	13	7
Blue-billed Duck					2							2
Australasian Grebe	9	12	5	6	21	10	26	10	4	7	4	2
Hoary-headed Grebe	81	138	55	56	93	49	13	3	38	38	80	16
Great Crested Grebe	25	24	23	17	14	9	4	1	3	2	7	13
Australasian Darter	2	2	1						1			
Little Pied Cormorant	5	7	11	9	6	9		3	3	1		
Great Cormorant		2				1		1	1		2	1
Little Black Cormorant	9	14	21	15	1		2		1	4	2	3
Aust. Pelican				1				2		1		
Great Egret			1	3	1	1					1	3
Cattle Egret		10	3		2	15	18			6	7	
White-faced Heron		2		1	1		5	2				
Aust. White Ibis							1	1		1		
Straw-necked ibis		1		13		22						
Royal Spoonbill				2		2			1			
Purple Swamphen	27	24	35	32	16	38	35	31	16	28	11	20
Dusky Moorhen	17	14	14	14	25	9	16	18	13	16	15	13
Eurasian Coot	415	387	355	351	302	195	185	265	167	227	239	236
Black-fronted Dotterel				1								
Masked Lapwing	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	4	2	2

Table 11 Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works*(Regular surveys led by A. Lindsey & G. Brosie)*

	03 Jan	01 Feb	05 Mar	09 Apr	21 May	15 Jun	28 Jul	25 Aug	25 Sep	28 Oct	26 Nov	22 Dec
Plumed Whistling Duck			25									
Freckled Duck	3				23	32	37	1		3		
Black Swan	763	573	531	853	314	301	34	159	245	267	17	111
Aust. Wood Duck	27	12	2	10	29	2		2	11	13	4	49
Pink-eared Duck	141	61	6	10	445	1	724	159	5	78	124	65
Australasian Shoveler	15	3	26	271	323	220	74	14	5	29	8	4
Grey Teal	947	857	512	326	791	450	841	480	431	690	765	38
Chestnut Teal	700	185	226	312	374	235	287	264	118	85	96	98
Pacific Black Duck	97	28	241	716	139	80	31	61	34	20	43	44
Hardhead	23		32	141	44	9			3	177	2	7
Australasian Grebe	15	1	14	22	68	60	1	3		16	4	
Hoary-headed Grebe	15		3	1	51		30	27	3	11		4
Australasian Darter	21	8	3	4	4	2	6	10	4	5	8	6
Little Pied Cormorant	1		3	2					1	5		
Great Cormorant	5	4	1	3	2		13	7	4	12	10	1
Little Black Cormorant	26	7	10	19	5	3		2	4	23	19	8
Pied Cormorant	2	3	1	2		1	3	7	3	3	1	1
Aust. Pelican	48	22	11	18	7	6	14	12	25	41	31	56
White-necked Heron	2				1	1			2	1	1	
Great Egret	21		5	3	2	1	1		1	6	35	3
Intermediate Egret	1		7	13	3	2				1		1
Cattle Egret	2	6	54	100	3	6		20	11	16		6
White-faced Heron	37	6	9	14	12	11		1	1	3	2	1
Little Egret					3					1		
Glossy Ibis			3		19							
Aust. White Ibis		2	2		1	3	2			6	5	11
Straw-necked Ibis	2	2	89	2	3	75	3					14
Royal Spoonbill	32	3		11	12			1	4	30	1	2
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	18	4		1	7		1	2	2	3		4
Purple Swamphen	4	10		95	2	2	7	3	9	4	3	2
Eurasian Coot	1040	45	159	840	570	377	351	284	438	360	20	61
Black-winged Stilt	206		34	135	270	70	138	70	104	277	222	140
Red-necked Avocet	42			1			144	2	70	19	44	9
Black-fronted Dotterel		1	5				3		1			
Masked Lapwing	43	56	65	45	76	91	27	16	20	34	49	34

Table 11 is continued on the next page

Table 11 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works

	03 Jan	01 Feb	05 Mar	09 Apr	21 May	15 Jun	28 Jul	25 Aug	25 Sep	28 Oct	26 Nov	22 Dec
Latham's Snipe										3	3	
Marsh Sandpiper							1					
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	80			1					8	31		
Caspian Tern	2			1	5				1	1	1	1
Whiskered Tern										13		8
Silver Gull						52	3				6	

Table 12 Waterbirds at Tocal Wetlands

(Surveys Jan/Feb led by M. Newman; Surveys Mar-Dec led by P. Baird)

	05 Jan	05 Feb	26 Mar	23 Apr	27 May	30 Jun	31 Jul	29 Aug	30 Sep	31 Oct	27 Nov	30 Dec
Freckled Duck	2											
Black Swan				1		24	12	2	7	1	4	2
Aust. Wood Duck	20	69	15	44		18	13	6	23	28	32	9
Australasian Shoveler					4	2						4
Grey Teal	70	8	42	77	85	173	68	75	39	122	101	51
Chestnut Teal		11	32	28		38	6	7	8	7	4	11
Pink-eared Duck	8	8	10		15	9	31			6		17
Pacific Black Duck	26	6	26	14	3	13	9	8	11	9	19	26
Hardhead					1	1	11					18
Australasian Grebe	4	2	1		2	4	8	4	1	2		1
Hoary-headed Grebe						2						
Australasian Darter	3	2										
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1								6		
Great Cormorant											1	
Little Black Cormorant	10		2			2	1	1	1			
Aust. Pelican	14			5		5	4	4	5	1		6
White-necked Heron	3	1	1		2		1			2	6	
Great Egret	6	5	1				1	4	2	5		10
Cattle Egret	4	55	57	61			1		6	7		11
White-faced Heron	1	1	1				3	1		1	1	1
Straw-necked Ibis		5	1		10	31						2
Royal Spoonbill		2	1	1		1	2	1	2	9	5	1
Yellow-billed Spoonbill						1	1		1		1	
Purple Swamphen	4	2	1					3	4			
Dusky Moorhen		2			1		2	1	1			
Eurasian Coot	27	18	16	27	21	125	71	52	8	11	4	3

Table 12 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Tocal Wetlands

	05 Jan	05 Feb	26 Mar	23 Apr	27 May	30 Jun	31 Jul	29 Aug	30 Sep	31 Oct	27 Nov	30 Dec
Black-winged Stilt	13	5	6		1		11	4	10	11	21	16
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	4	7	2	9	2	6	2	7	10	4	2
Red-kneed Dotterel	23	4	5		5	4			6	6	20	
Masked Lapwing	9	16	16	22		8	9	11	6	16	6	16
Latham's Snipe									1			
Marsh Sandpiper	1											
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1											

Table 13 Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay
(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide)

	11 Jan	15 Feb	15 Mar	15 Apr	17 May	14 Jun	12 Jul	09 Aug	24 Sep	11 Oct	22 Nov	20 Dec
Black Swan	4	2						25	2		6	15
Aust. Wood Duck	4	25	14	2	4	8	2	8	1		8	
Chestnut Teal			2				6	11				
Australasian Darter												
Little Pied Cormorant				2	1		2			3	1	1
Great Cormorant				3	2	7	14			1		
Little Black Cormorant	1		10			11						
Pied Cormorant	2	13	3	6	15	11	35	9	11	14	7	9
Aust. Pelican	4	7		1	1			3				
White-necked Heron	1						1				1	
Great Egret	1	1	6			2	1	2		1		
White-faced Heron	3	10	1	1	11	2		6	6	3	1	4
Little Egret					1		1		1			
Aust. White Ibis			4	7		63				43		
Straw-necked Ibis						49						
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	34	2	27	28	41	7	33	29	14	2		5
Sooty Oystercatcher	2		2	9	4	1	17	2	1	2		
Pacific Golden Plover	19					7	8	9	1			
Red-capped Plover				5	7	18	10	4	7			
Double-banded Plover				4	12	7	13	8				
Lesser Sand Plover											1	
Masked Lapwing	6	6	6	12	15		6	14	6		4	4
Bar-tailed Godwit	118	43	75	20	10	35	20	95	19	177		69
Whimbrel	31		23	17		14	4	4	17	19		14

Table 13 is continued on the next page

Table 13 (cont'd) Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay

	11 Jan	15 Feb	15 Mar	15 Apr	17 May	14 Jun	12 Jul	09 Aug	24 Sep	11 Oct	22 Nov	20 Dec
Eastern Curlew	162	140	77	28	8		1	104	145	185	205	78
Grey-tailed Tattler	3	1	14	31	3	3	9	14	19	2	4	3
Red Knot									6			
Red-necked Stint	5										14	9
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												6
Curlew Sandpiper									1			
Gull-billed Tern	2		12	13	12			4	4	1		1
Caspian Tern		1		1	4	7	15	13	11	2	9	
Common Tern									4			
Crested Tern	8	5	9	5	27	11	5	4	11	8		14
Silver Gull	6	4	1	3	4	9	6	5	2	1	2	33

Table 14 Waterbirds in Port Stephens

(Boat based surveys at high tide, by HBOC members in 6 teams)

	14 Feb	14 Jul*
Musk Duck		1
Black Swan	222	16
Aust. Wood Duck	14	15
Chestnut Teal	27	8
Pacific Black Duck	13	
Australasian Darter	9	24
Little Pied Cormorant	78	144
Great Cormorant	17	146
Little Black Cormorant	322	179
Pied Cormorant	244	544
Aust. Pelican	188	121
Great Egret	14	16
Intermediate Egret		1
Striated Heron	4	
White-faced Heron	43	47
Little Egret	1	3
Aust. White Ibis	59	55
Straw-necked Ibis		4
Royal Spoonbill	1	
Bush Stone-curlew	2	
Beach Stone-curlew		3

	14 Feb	14 Jul*
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	162	162
Sooty Oystercatcher	37	34
Pacific Golden Plover		5
Red-capped Plover		4
Double-banded Plover		30
Masked Lapwing	47	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	535	115
Whimbrel	188	5
Eastern Curlew	190	5
Terek Sandpiper	5	
Common Sandpiper		
Grey-tailed Tattler	50	14
Grey-tailed Tattler	50	14
Ruddy Turnstone	2	
Red-necked Stint	12	1
Little Tern	17	
Gull-billed Tern	3	4
Caspian Tern	1	36
Common Tern	18	
Crested Tern	185	54
Silver Gull	319	232

*Some surveying took place on 18 July

Table 15 Waterbirds at Grahamstown Dam
(Surveys by P. Slack)

	Jan*	Feb	Apr*	Jun	Jul	Aug*	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Musk Duck	27	32	24	10	2	10	11	15	14	5
Black Swan	7				1	13	3	3	8	15
Pacific Black Duck	11	14	13	3		11	4	2	12	5
Hardhead	52	39	7	1		48	200			
Australasian Grebe	6		10	4	2	2		3		1
Hoary-headed Grebe	123	169	284	73	22	364	46	205	86	442
Great-crested Grebe	29	80	32		5	12	20	9	77	
Little Pied Cormorant	16	15	10	8	2	9	1	3	4	3
Great Cormorant			3	1			4		2	2
Little Black Cormorant	43	74	76	31	42	38	11	10	13	33
Aust. Pelican	2	1	7	4	1	3		1	4	8
Eurasian Coot	25	12	16	12	8	8	10	23	10	6
Whiskered Tern		1								

*2 surveys in Jan, Apr, Aug: highest number shown



Great-crested Grebe by Dick Jenkin

Table 16 Waterbirds in the Manning Estuary
(Surveys by A. Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Mudbishops Point)

	18 Feb	18-19 Mar	27-28 May	16-17 Jun	16-17 Jul	11-13 Aug	09-10 Sep	28 Oct	25-26 Nov	08 Dec
Black Swan	14	15	2			2		3	1	7
Aust. Wood Duck	17									
Little Pied Cormorant			2		3	2		1		
Great Cormorant	6	3	1			5	1	4	5	4
Little Black Cormorant	8	155			25	34	6	26	8	11
Pied Cormorant	27	56	17	11	23	28	9	12	19	43
Aust. Pelican	21	20	109	56	60	37	57	26	61	120
Great Egret		2	1		2		1			1
Striated Heron								1	1	
White-faced Heron		2	2	4		1			1	1
Little Egret					3		1			
Beach Stone-curlew			2	2	1					
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	28	41	8	18	12	10	6	3	11	13
Sooty Oystercatcher		7		8						
Pacific Golden Plover	170	128	4	6	13		31	104	80	120
Red-capped Plover	21	7	20	19	16	29	23	15	23	18
Double-banded Plover	1	10	38	34	29	34	12	1	1	0
Masked Lapwing	5	9	3	3	1	5	5		2	4
Bar-tailed Godwit	126	119	29	23	25	37	36	158	112	115
Whimbrel	3	13	1					5	27	26
Eastern Curlew	35	17	3	4	10	19	27	33	26	46
Ruddy Turnstone								1		
Red Knot							1	1		
Sanderling	28		7	4	1			6	15	7
Red-necked Stint	16		5	15	27	9	23	25	41	12
Curlew Sandpiper				2						
Little Tern	200	190				3		28	303	400
Gull-billed Tern		2	8	12		4	6		5	
Caspian Tern	3	1	3			2	1		0	
White-winged Black Tern									1	
White-fronted Tern				1		9	1			
Common Tern	150	2							309	64
Crested Tern	250	63	576	180	265	210	103	379	135	40
Silver Gull	127	196	115	55	55	8	13	44	49	90

Table 17 Waterbirds at Cattai Wetlands*(Surveys by A. Stuart)*

	18 Feb	18-19 Mar	27-28 May	16-17 Jun	16-17 Jul	11-13 Aug	09-10 Sep*	28 Oct	25-26 Nov	08 Dec
Black Swan	1	2	2	4	2			3		
Aust. Wood Duck								2		
Australasian Shoveler	1	8	8	14	30					
Grey Teal	204	22	6	40	56					65
Chestnut Teal	2	1	2	2	2					2
Pacific Black Duck	146	40	44	44	37		4	5	16	68
Hardhead		3	3	8	1					
Australasian Grebe	4	3	2	6	5	8	5	6+	6	3
Hoary-headed Grebe							1			
Australasian Darter								1		
Little Pied Cormorant			1			1	1	6		
Great Cormorant								3		
Little Black Cormorant							3	8		6
Australian Pelican						1				1
White-necked Heron						1				1
Great Egret					1	2				
White-faced Heron	1				2	4				2
Nankeen Night-Heron									1	
Black-necked Stork										1
Aust. White Ibis						3				
Straw-necked Ibis						1				
Royal Spoonbill						1				
Purple Swamphen	12	6				1	1			12
Dusky Moorhen										
Eurasian Coot	7	52	86	16	2		6		27	14
Comb-crested Jacana	2	2	3	3+	3		5	5		2
Black-winged Stilt	1									
Latham's Snipe	1									1

*Surveyed by 20+ members of HBOC

Table 18 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		5	1	1	10	8	1	18			5
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	9			6		2			2	6
Great Cormorant	60	51	45	30	1	21			25	4	32	110
Pied Cormorant	15	16	23	14		11	2		6	3	17	43
Aust. Pelican					1							
White-faced Heron	1	1		1								2
Eastern Reef Egret		1	1			1	1					
Aust. White Ibis												1
Straw-necked Ibis								1				
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher							2					
Sooty Oystercatcher	4	1	5	2		4	2			5	8	6
Masked Lapwing	2		4	2			2					
Crested Tern	58	49	54	29	35	217	164	33	146	63	13	58
Silver Gull	247	220	283	261	264	323	410	66	172	86	65	133

Table 19 Worimi Conservation Lands Waterbirds*(Regular counts by A. Lindsey, N. Fraser, Worimi Conservation Lands Visitor Service Assistants)*

	18 Feb	18-19 Mar	27-28 May	16-17 Jun	16-17 Jul	11-13 Aug	09-10 Sep	28 Oct	25-26 Nov	08 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	12	12	36	25	25	24	8	13	33	36
Red-capped Plover	17	64*	7	44	25	10	7	7	23	8
Double-banded Plover	1	69	155	173	86	87	2			
Lesser Sand Plover										1
Ruddy Turnstone							1			
Sanderling		2	2	1	1	1	3			1
Red-necked Stint		0	43	2	76	20	2		9	
Curlew Sandpiper									12	
Little Tern									95	92
Gull-billed Tern	102	99	33	94	58	1	100	116	204	46
Caspian Tern						1				
Crested Tern	56	23	3	1	50	1		8	5	23
Silver Gull	156	88	503	78	18	5	30	36	282	291

*Including 25 birds recorded along Newcastle Bight but not on the Worimi Conservation Lands

Table 20 Seabirds Recorded in Pelagic Surveys*(Counts from surveys to the continental shelf departing from Port Stephens led by M. Roderick and S. Roderick)*

	12 Jan	23 Feb	09 Mar	30 Mar	24 Jul*	10 Aug	12 Oct	16 Nov	04 Dec*
White-tailed Tropicbird	2								
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			1	40			6	6	9
White-faced Storm-Petrel					2	3			4
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel							1		
Antipodean Albatross	1				3	2	4		
Wandering type Albatross					1		1		
Black-browed Albatross					5				
Black-browed type Albatross	1				7	2		4	1
White-capped Albatross								1	
Shy type Albatross	1		2		4	5		6	
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross					50	90			
Buller's Albatross					5	2			
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross			1						
Cape Petrel					1	1			
Fairy Prion					20	8			
White-chinned Petrel								1	
Black Petrel			1	1					
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	250	750	250	400		180	300	700	250
Flesh-footed Shearwater	5	60	100	20			35		
Sooty Shearwater									24
Short-tailed Shearwater		20	4	1			2000	40	15
Streaked Shearwater			1						
Fluttering Shearwater	1		2	4	20	6		4	1
Hutton's Shearwater	3	1	4			2		3	1
Fluttering type Shearwater	5	1	5		30	20	7	5	5
Tahiti Petrel			1						
Kermadec Petrel		1	1						
Great-winged Petrel	3	3	4	4	4		3	40	4
Providence Petrel				3	50	40	30	4	
Gould's Petrel		5		1				1	
Cook's Petrel									1
White-necked Petrel		1	1						
Unidentified "Cookilaria sp."							3		

Boat departed from SwanseaNote that many counts are estimates only*

Table 20 (cont'd) Seabirds Recorded in Pelagic Surveys

	12 Jan	23 Feb	09 Mar	30 Mar	24 Jul*	10 Aug	12 Oct	16 Nov	04 Dec*
Little Penguin			2						
Australasian Gannet	1		5	15	20	120	6	7	3
Brown Skua					3	1			
Pomarine Jaeger	3	7	7	2				4	15
Arctic Jaeger			1						1
Long-tailed Jaeger	1		2					1	3
Sooty Tern	3		1						
Caspian Tern			1	2					1
White-fronted Tern					1				
Crested Tern	3	8	6	7	40	7	14	3	110
Silver Gull	2	6	1	6	6	6	7	10	120

*Boat departed from Swansea

Note that many counts are estimates only

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

AP	Airport	NP	National Park
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve	NR	Nature Reserve
CP	Caravan Park	NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
FP	Forest Preserve	PNR	Pambalong Nature Reserve
GC	Golf Club	RF	Rainforest
GTD	Grahamstown Dam	RP	Regional Park
HEZ	Hunter Economic Zone	SCA	State Conservation Area
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
HSD	Homestead	SF	State Forest
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre, Australia	SP	State Park
IBA	Important Bird & Biodiversity Area	TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
KI	Kooragang Island	WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage	WWW	Walka Water Works
NLH	New Lambton Heights		

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Grid references for commonly visited locations continued:

Allyn River	K5	Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6
Allyn River	K5	Broke	I9
Appletree Flat	H8	Broughton Island	P8
Arrowfield	H7	Bulahdelah	P7
Ash Island	M10	Bulga	I8
Awabakal NR	M10/I1	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 Neds Bay	L11	Copeland Common	N4
Blue Gum Hills RP	K10	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Bootawah	Q4	Copeland Tops SCA	M4
Bolwarra	L9	Corrie Island	O9
Boarding House Dam	K11	Denman	G7
Boondelbah Island	P9	Dungog	M7



Pomarine Jaeger by Dick Jenkin

Durridgere Rd	A6
Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Fingal Bay	O9
Forster	R6
Fosterton Loop	M7
Galgabba Point	L11
George McGregor Park	M10
Gloucester SCA	M10
Gloucester	N5
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9
Green Wattle Creek	L9
Gir-um-bit NP	N9
Hallidays Point	R5
Harrington	S4
Hawks Nest	P8/P9
Hexham Swamp	L10/M10
Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ)	K9
Howes Valley	H10
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens (HRBG)	M9
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10
Irrawang Swamp	M9
Jerrys Plains	H7
John Brown's Lagoon	L10
Kings Gap	F7
Kitchener (Werakata NP)	K10
Kooragang Island	M10
Kurri Kurri	K9
Laguna	I10
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9
Lenaghans Flat	L10
Maitland	L9
Market Swamp	M10
Martindale	G7
Medowie	N9
Morisset	K11
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11
Morpeth	L9
Mount Arthur	H6
Mount Vincent	K10/L10
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4
Newcastle	M10
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (NWR)	M10

New Lambton Heights	M10
Old Bar	R4
Oyster Cove	N9
Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10
Paterson	L8
Phoenix Park	L9
Pokolbin	J9
Quorrobolong	K10
Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Raymond Terrace	M9
Redhead	M11
Ringwood Rd (GRNP)	C6
Salt Ash	N9
Scone	H5
Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Seal Rocks	R7
Singleton	I8/J8
Stockton	M10
Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Swan Bay	N9
Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Taree	Q4
Tarro	M9
Toronto	L11
Tuncurry	R6
University of Newcastle	M10
Vacy	L8
Waitui	R3
Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Wallsend Wetlands ("Bunnings Swamp")	M10
Warakeila	L6
Warkworth	I8
Watagans NP	K11
Williamstown	N9
Wingen	H4
Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Woko NP	M3
Woodville	L9
Wye Point	L11
Yarrawa	F7

APPENDIX 1 ATLAS DATA ANALYSIS

The BirdLife Australia Atlas database, with 17 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 2014 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 2014 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% Increase in Reporting Rate in 2014 (with long term RR >2%)		
Hoary-headed Grebe	Musk Lorikeet	Olive Whistler
Rock Dove	Rufous Scrub-bird	Australasian Figbird
Little Tern	Red-browed Treecreeper	Forest Raven
Gull-billed Tern	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Flame Robin
Rainbow Lorikeet	Brown Honeyeater	Hooded Robin
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet		

The highlighted species also had >50% decrease in Reporting Rate in 2013

Continued on next page

Species with >50% Decrease in Reporting Rate in 2014 (with long term RR >2%)		
Emu	Pallid Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater
Brown Quail	Barking Owl	Painted Honeyeater
Wandering Whistling-Duck	Southern Boobook	Grey-crowned Babbler
Musk Duck	Variagated Fairy-wren	Australian Logrunner
Great Crested Grebe	Southern Emu-wren	Spotted Quail-thrush
Peaceful Dove	Rockwarbler	Varied Sittella
Intermediate Egret	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Mangrove Gerygone	Crested Shrike-tit
Brown Falcon	Striated Thornbill	Leaden Flycatcher
Great Knot	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Restless Flycatcher
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Black-faced Monarch
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Fuscous Honeyeater	Jacky Winter
Long-billed Corella	Bell Miner	Rufous Songlark
Little Lorikeet	Regent Honeyeater	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Pheasant Coucal	White-fronted Chat	Zebra Finch
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	House Sparrow
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Black-chinned Honeyeater	

The highlighted species also had >50% decrease in Reporting Rate in 2013



Rock Warbler by Dick Jenkin

APPENDIX 2 2014 RAC REPORT

Below is a list of cases assessed and decided by the Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC) Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) in 2014. A summary of each case is also provided, along with photographs of some species assessed*.

No.	Species	Location	Date	Status
366	Slender-billed Prion	off Port Stephens	June 23, 2013	Accepted
376	Greater Sand Plover	Hawks Nest	Dec 10, 2013	Accepted
377	Ruff	Hexham Swamp	Dec 2013-Feb 2014	Accepted
378	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Hexham Swamp	Dec 2013-Feb 2014	Accepted
379	Pilotbird	Wollemi NP	Dec 16, 2013	Accepted
382	King Quail	Ash Island	Jan 6, 2014	Accepted
384	White-tailed Tropicbird	off Port Stephens	Jan 12, 2014	Accepted
385	Black Honeyeater	Goulburn River NP	Feb 2, 2014	Accepted
386	King Quail	Cattai Wetlands	Feb 8, 2014	Accepted
387	Red-chested Button-quail	Parkville	Apr 24, 2012	Not Accepted
388	Painted Honeyeater	Cattai Wetlands	Feb 4, 2014	Accepted
389	Tahiti Petrel	off Port Stephens	Feb 23, 2014	Accepted
390	Kermadec Petrel	off Port Stephens	Feb 23, 2014	Accepted
391	Satin Flycatcher	Watagan Forests	Oct 25, 2013	Accepted
392	Tahiti Petrel	off Port Stephens	Mar 9, 2014	Accepted
393	Kermadec Petrel	off Port Stephens	Mar 9, 2014	Accepted
394	Streaked Shearwater	off Port Stephens	Mar 9, 2014	Accepted
395	Black Petrel	off Port Stephens	Mar 9, 2014	Accepted
396	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Mungo Brush	Mar 9 2014	Accepted
397	Black Petrel	off Port Stephens	Mar 30, 2014	Accepted
398	Brolga	Nabiac	Feb 5, 2014	Accepted
399	Buller's Albatross	off Swansea	Jul 24, 2014	Accepted
400	Buller's Albatross	off Port Stephens	Mar 30, 2014	Accepted
401	White-chinned Petrel	Old Bar Beach	Sept 15, 2014	Not Accepted
402	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Mungo Brush	Sept/Oct, 2014	Accepted
403	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Tighes Hill	Oct 12, 2014	Accepted
404	Black-bellied Storm-petrel	off Port Stephens	Oct 12, 2014	Accepted
405	White-chinned Petrel	off Port Stephens	Nov 16, 2014	Accepted
406	Orange Chat	Hexham Swamp	Nov 29, 2014	Accepted

*Cases #380, #381 and #383 were not assessed due to either a lack of or unreliability of information available to the Committee.

Case Summaries

Case 366: A **Slender-billed Prion** *Pachyptila belcheri* was seen by several observers on the Port Stephens pelagic on 23 June 2013. The bird was seen at the continental shelf break and was seen in the presence of Fairy *P. turtur* and Antarctic Prion(s) *P. desolata* (RAC Case #367). As with the Antarctic Prion, despite the fact that many observers saw and photographed the bird, the committee felt it prudent that an URF be submitted due to the difficulty in prion identification. The observer thoroughly distinguished the bird from the common Fairy Prions that were around the boat at the same time as well as the Antarctic Prion(s) also present. This is only the 4th accepted record of Slender-billed Prion for the Hunter Region (with all past records coming from 2002 and some pertaining to multiple birds that year). **Allan Richardson.**

Case 376: A **Greater Sand Plover** *Limicola falcinellus* was seen and photographed by a single observer at Bennetts Beach (Hawks Nest) on the 10 December 2013. The bird was apparently gone the next day. The committee voted unanimously to accept the record. **Tim Faulkner.**

Case 377:

A **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* was first observed on the 10 December 2013 on Hexham Swamp, with at least 2 birds (male and female) being seen in the ensuing weeks (with sightings extending into Feb 2014).

Mick Roderick.

Photograph by Allan Richardson



Case 378: Several **Broad-billed Sandpipers** *Limicola falcinellus* were observed over the period December 2013 to February 2014 on Hexham Swamp. The first report was 15 December when 3 birds were seen. Several reports of 3-4 birds were made, with the peak count being of 6 birds on the 27 January 2014. Furthermore, a single bird was photographed on Stockton Sandspit on 4 March 2014. **Allan Richardson.**

Case 379: **Pilotbirds** *Pycnoptilus floccosus* were recorded at several locations in Wollemi NP by 3 observers on 16 December 2013. A total of 7 birds were seen and/or heard, with at least one bird being photographed. Some of these birds were found at locations where the species had been recorded previously (e.g. 2000 and 2010) and it is likely that they are resident in this area. **Ann Lindsey, Mike Newman and Alan Stuart.**

Case 382: Several **King Quail** *Excalfactoria chinensis* were first reported from an area in the north of Ash Island on the 6 January, 2014. A detailed submission was made to the committee and the record was accepted unanimously. It is worth noting that in the interim numerous observers also saw King Quails at the same site. **Alan Stuart.**

Case 384: Two 'white' birds were flushed off the surface of the ocean during the Port Stephens pelagic on Jan 12, 2014. These were soon identified as **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* and were well-photographed. This is the only sighting of any tropicbird on Port Stephens pelagics since they commenced in February 2010. **Mick Roderick.**

Case 385: A **Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger* was observed along Ringwood Road, Goulburn River NP on February 2, 2014. Although no URRF was submitted, photographic evidence was sufficient for the committee to accept the record. **Michael Kearns.**

Case 386: King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis* were seen at Cattai Wetlands on 8 February 2014, including brief sightings of two of the birds near the “causeway” and a call from what was presumed to be a third bird. Other reports of King Quails at Cattai Wetlands have been made in the interim, though these have not been verified. **Alan Stuart.**

Case 387: A group of **Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrothorax* were claimed to have been seen on the 24 April 2012 on private property near Parkville in the Upper Hunter. The submission was made quite some time after the observation by one of two observers. Unfortunately the submission lacked the detail such that other possible confusion species could be sufficiently ruled out and the record was unable to be accepted by the committee.

Case 388: A Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta* was seen and photographed at Cattai Wetlands on the 2 February 2014. Although this species does not normally require a submission to the RAC, the location was considered very unusual for this species and hence confirmation was sought. The submission was supported by a photograph that clearly showed a Painted Honeyeater (possibly an immature bird). **Ashwin Rudder.**

Case 389: A Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* was seen and photographed off Port Stephens on the 17 February 2014. Although no URRF was submitted, the photograph obtained clearly depicted a Tahiti Petrel and the record was accepted by the committee. **Ben Bright.**

Case 390:

An intermediate phase **Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta* was seen and well-photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic on 23 February 2014.

Allan Richardson.

Photograph by Allan Richardson



Case 391: A male **Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca* was photographed along a road in the northern part of the Watagan Forests on 25 October 2013. The status of this species in the Hunter Region is yet to be clarified due in part to the potential confusion with the very similar **Leadon Flycatcher** *M. rubecula*. The majority of records of this species appear to come from the Greater Barrington Tops (at altitudes of >500m) so it is significant to have confirmation from the Watagan Forests. **Bruce Hosken.**

Cases 392-394 were all seen and photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic on 9 March 2014, being **Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata*, **Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta* and **Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas* respectively. This was a particularly successful pelagic trip, as a **Light-mantled Sooty Albatross** *Phoebastria palpebrata* was also seen (assessed and accepted by NSW ORAC, as outlined below). **Mick Roderick, Steve Roderick.**

Case 395: A **Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni* was recorded on the same pelagic as Cases 392-394 above, but in unusual circumstances. The bird was not actually noticed on the day and was identified the following day from an image taken late in the afternoon (on the return to port). **Mick Roderick.**

Case 396: A **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* was observed on the Rainforest Walk at Mungo Brush (Myall Lakes NP) on the 9 March 2014 (a very busy day for the HBOC RAC). Although no photographs were provided, the submission detailed the sighting to the satisfaction of the committee and was the first confirmed sighting of the species in the Region since 2008. **Dean Purcell.**

Case 397: A **Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni* seen briefly on the Port Stephens pelagic on 30 March 2014. Unfortunately no photos were taken. **Mick Roderick.**

Case 398: This case detailed an observation of a **Brolga** *Grus rubicunda* at Nabiac on the 5 February 2014. The bird was observed in flight only but was easily identified by the observer, who had much prior experience with this species in northern Australia. This is only the 2nd record for the Region in recent times, the other being of a single bird at Morpeth in November 2005. **David Atkinson.**

Case 399: A total of 5 **Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri* were seen on the pelagic trip off Swansea 24 July 2014. In fact, all 5 birds were seen around the boat at the same time. Once considered a rarity in NSW waters, this species is now recorded regularly on NSW pelagic trips in winter. **Mick Roderick.**

Case 400: A single **Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri* was seen and photographed well on the Port Stephens pelagic trip 10 August 2014. **Mick Roderick.**

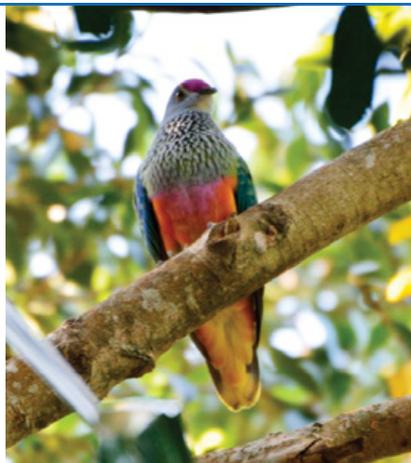
Case 401: A single **White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis* was claimed to have been watched off Old Bar Beach by an observer on 15 September 2014. The committee generally felt that the description was quite brief and that to distinguish between the dark *Procellaria* petrels (e.g. Black, Westland and White-chinned) close views are necessary. The committee wasn't able to accept the record with the information provided.

Case 402:

On the 27 September 2014, 2 **Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves** *Ptilinopus regina* were heard (and one subsequently seen well) along the rainforest walk at Mungo Brush, Myall Lakes NP. The report sparked quite a bit of interest amongst local birders and several birds were heard and seen at the location in the ensuing weeks, with birds present until at least 27 October.

Joshua Bergmark, Nathan Ruser and Simon Gorta.

Photograph by Shaun McKay



Case 403: A juvenile **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* was taken into care after hitting a window in Tighes Hill on 11 October 2014. Photographs of the bird were distributed around the committee, leaving no doubt about the identification of the bird. Unfortunately it did not recover and died later that week. **Joy Nicholls.**

Case 404: A single **Black-bellied Storm-petrel** *Fregetta tropica* was photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic 12 October 2014. Although there was just a single image, it was enough to eliminate potential confusion species and was unanimously accepted by the committee. **Brook Whyllie.**

Case 405: A **White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis* was seen and photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic 16 November 2014. The bird was faithful to the boat for an extended period, enabling views that easily distinguished it from other dark *Procellaria* petrels (e.g. Black and Westland Petrels). This is just the 2nd confirmed record of this species in recent times, with a 3rd being from a beachcast bird from Newcastle in 1968. **Ashwin Rudder.**

Case 406: An **Orange Chat** *Epthianura aurifrons* was seen very briefly and photographed by a single observer on Hexham Swamp on the 29 November 2014. Despite several attempts by other observers to locate the bird the following day, it was just seen on this one occasion. There was some discussion about the provenance of the bird, given that they are kept by aviculturists (though are uncommon and expensive) but it was deemed that there was insufficient evidence to suggest it was an escapee. This is the first confirmed record for the Hunter Region, though historical reports from the Upper Hunter are known. **Greg Pearson**

Hunter Region Cases assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2014

BARC Submission No 806:

New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregatta maoriana* off Swansea, NSW 14th April 2013.

Submitted by: Mick Roderick, Allan Richardson and Mike Kuhl.

Accepted (6th confirmed Australian record of this species)

BARC Submission No 808:

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* on Hexham Swamp, NSW 18th January 2014.

Submitted by: Rod Warnock & Christina Port

Accepted (9th confirmed Australian record of this species)

The following cases were assessed the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) during 2014:

NSW ORAC Case 607:

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata* off Port Stephens on March 9 2014.

Submitted by Mick Roderick.

Accepted (22nd confirmed NSW record of this species; 2nd confirmed record for Hunter Region)

NSW ORAC Case 623:

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* at Phoenix Park 26 January 2014.

Submitted by Dan and Trevor Williams.

Accepted (34th confirmed NSW record of this species; 2nd confirmed record for Hunter Region)

NSW ORAC Case 637:

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* on the Kooragang Dykes (Hunter Estuary) 22 November 2014. Submitted by Dan Williams.

Accepted (30th confirmed NSW record of this species; 2nd confirmed record for Hunter Region)

NSW ORAC Case 639:

Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrystostoma* on Stockton Beach (2 beachwashed birds) 13 & 15 June 2014. Submitted by Mick Roderick.

Accepted (Approx. 30th confirmed NSW record of this species; 1st confirmed record for Hunter Region)

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	DRG	GAYE DRADY
ALP	PETER ALEXANDER	DTB	DRY-THROATED BUZZARDS TWITCHATHON TEAM
ANC	CRAIG ANDERSON	DUP	PAM DURIE
ATD	DAVID ATKINSON	DWJ	JOHN DWYER
AYG	GAVIN AYRE	EAC	CHRIS EASTHAM
BAK	KEN BAYLISS	EGD	DARRYL EGGINS
BAP	PAUL BAIRD	ERE	REPORT POSTED ON WWW. EREMAEA.ETC (NSW BIRDLINE)
BEA	ALLAN BENSON	FAA	ADAM FAWCETT
BED	DAVID BERTRAM	FAN	ANDY FROST
BEI	IAN BENSON	FEG	GRAHAME FELETTI
BEN	NICHOLAS BESWICK	FIM	MELVA FISHER
BEP	PETER BEARD	FRA	ANDY FROST
BIA	BIRDING-AUS (INTERNET GROUP)	FRN	NEIL FRASER
BLM	MAX BLANCH	FRP	PAUL FREEMAN
BOH	HAYLEY BOYCE	GCL	CLARK GORMLEY
BRB	BEN BRIGHT	GOA	ANTHONY GOODEN
BRG	GRANT BROSIE	GOC	COLIN, RACHEL GOODENOUGH
BUP	PAT BURROWS	GOJ	JOHN GOSWELL
CAA	ASHLEY CARLSON	GOS	SIMON GORTA
CAN	NICK CARLILE	GRL	LUCAS GRENADIER
CCB	CENTRAL COAST GROUP OF BIRDING NSW	GRN	NEIL GRANTER
CIR	REBECCA CITRONI	HAF	FIONA HAWKE
CJB	JOHN, BETH COCKERELL	HAP	PHIL HANSBRO
CLG	GREG CLANCY	HAS	SUE HAMONET
CLT	TOM CLARKE	HBOC	OBSERVATION FROM AN HBOC OUTING OR CAMP
COK	KEN CONWAY	HBW	HASTINGS BIRD WATCHERS
COM	MATT CONSTERDINE	HCL	CHRIS, LIZ HERBERT
CON	NATHAN COOPER	HDM	DIANNE, MICHAEL HATFIELD
COS	STEVEN COX	HHB	HUNTER HOME BREWERS TWITCHATHON TEAM
CRL	LIZ CRAWFORD	HOB	BRUCE HOSKEN
CRN	NORMA CRAWFORD	HRK	ROD, KAREN HOWIE
DBP	PENNY DRAKE-BROCKMAN	HUB	REPORT POSTED TO HUNTERBIRDING E-MAIL GROUP
DDR	DODGY DRONGOS TWITCHATHON TEAM	HWS	HBOC WADER SURVEYS
DID	DAVID DIEHM		

JED	DICK JENKIN	PEK	KRISTY PETERS
JOD	DI JOHNSON	POD	DEAN PORTELLI
KET	TOM KENDALL	POG	GREG POWELL
KIR	ROB KILKELLY	POJ	JENNY POWERS
KYR	ROB KYTE	PUD	DEAN PURCELL
LAT	TOBY LAMBERT	RDB	DOT, BOB RAINE
LIA	ANN LINDSEY	RIA	ALLAN RICHARDSON
LIG	GREG LITTLE	RMI	MICHAEL RONAN
LIL	LIZ LIVANOS	ROM	MICK RODERICK
LIN	NICK LIVANOS	ROS	STEVE RODERICK
LIP	PADDY LIGHTFOOT	RUA	ASHWIN RUDDER
MAC	CHARLES MANN	SDI	DINAH STEHR
MAT	TONI MARSH	SIA	ALWYN SIMPLE
MCE	EULA MCKANE	SJE	JENNY STILES
MCM	MANDY MCDONALD	SLP	PHILIP SLACK
MCN	NEVILLE MCNAUGHTON	SMJ	JIM SMART
MCR	ROBERT MCDONALD	SMR	ROWLEY SMITH
MCS	SHAUN MCKAY	SRM	ROBERT, MARGARET STEWART
MDV	DON, VAL MOON	STA	ALAN STUART
MEL	LORNA MEE	STD	DAVID STUART
MES	STEVE MERRETT	STP	PETER STRUIK
MGLB	REPORTED IN MANNING GREAT LAKES BIRDWATCHERS NEWSLETTER	TAM	MIKE TARBURTON
MIJ	JOHN MILLS	TBW	TOMAREE BIRD WATCHERS
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MOD	DREW MORRIS	THJ	JUDI THOMAS
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NAK	KRISHNA NAGARAJAN	WAB	BRUCE WATTS
NEG	GREG NEWLING	WEJ	JUDY WESTPHAL
NEM	MIKE NEWMAN	WID	DAN WILLIAMS
NIG	GEOFF NICHOLLS	WOL	LOIS WOODING
NIJ	JOY NICHOLLS	WRO	ROD WARNOCK
NIR	RICHARD NICHOLAS	WTA	TASMAN WILLIS
OBA	ANDREW O'BRIEN	WTR	TREVOR WILLIAMS
OCG	GRAEME O'CONNOR	ZVS	SHELLY ZVINGULIS
PAL	LENE PARASHOU		
PEG	GREG PEARSON		
PEJ	JEREMY POTTER		

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Brown Goshawk by Trevor Jurd



Eastern Whipbird: a sedentary bird of rainforests, woodlands and coastal scrubs
Sketch by Trevor Jurd

