

# HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES



## Annual Bird Report Number 23 (2015)

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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](http://www.hboc.org.au) for more details. Membership categories are Single, Family and Junior, and applications for membership are welcomed at any time.

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

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*Front cover:* Logrunner (*Orthonyx temminckii*) Dick Jenkin

*Back cover:* Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*) Dick Jenkin

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Swift Parrot Photo: Mick Roderick

## FOREWORD

The Hunter Bird Observers Club was established in 1976 and has been active continuously for more than 40 years now. I first became involved in 1999. Since that time I have seen it grow from strength to strength and it grows even more vibrant every year. When I first arrived in Newcastle there was already a vibrant club with about 200 members. There were passionate conservationists and lobbyists for the environment. This continues to the current day and the club and its members should be congratulated for the outstanding work in these areas. Notable champions for me are Ann Lindsey, Tom Clarke, Alan Stuart, Mick and Steve Roderick, and I know that there are many more. Notable achievements have been the surprising finding that pulling out mangroves at Stockton Sandpit would be critical for shorebird roosting, and the fight against the fourth coal loader that could see the complete wrecking of Swan Pond and other critical habitat on Ash Island.

Personally, one of the most pleasing observations of the evolution of the club has been the development of the mutually beneficial activities of birding, atlassing and conservation. In 1999 there was no concept of Hunter Region personal lists, no pelagics and a relatively low-key Twitchathon. We were soon able to establish an embryonic list for the Hunter and Richard Baxter and I started running pelagic trips in August 2000. Incredibly, we found 5 firsts for the Hunter Region on that first pelagic including things like Wandering Albatross and Flesh-footed Shearwater. Over the next 10 years or so as a pelagic birding community, we must have found more than 30 new birds for the Hunter. Mick and Steve Roderick took over then and the pelagics continue to go from strength to strength, with new birds for the Hunter being recorded almost every year. Indeed this must be the greatest source of new birds for the area.

This enthusiasm has also spilled over onto to the land and more birding is done now than ever before in the Hunter. People keep competitive lists and regularly enter Twitchathons to raise money for environmental projects. This feeds into atlassing and an ever-increasing understanding of the avian world of the region. This makes major contributions to conservation with identification and monitoring of critical habitats and regular surveys for increasingly rare species, notably Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots. In these ways twitching and birding get people interested and provides the impetus to get out there and go birding which feeds into conservation. The list of notable records at the front of this report is testament to what can be found if we get out there into good habitat. The first HBOC bird report that I have is from 1995 and had 20 notable records – compare that with the 64 notable records that are in this report. However, by no means do we know it all and as a club we continue to make major discoveries. Who would have thought in 2016 we would witness an unprecedented autumn honeyeater passage, but that's for next year's report.....

The bird report has also made leaps and bounds in quality. It has emerged from a professional documentation of the occurrence of birds in the area almost to becoming a field guide as well, with all out of the ordinary records documented, range maps and photos. Birders of the area need to congratulate the compliers, in particular Alan Stuart, for the enormous amount of work that goes in to the collating of all of the records and writing this impressive document. As a member of the Records Appraisal Committee since 2000, I am impressed every year by the veracity of the scientific validity of the records and can categorically state that what it contains is a true and accurate record of state of bird life in the region.

*continued overleaf*

This brings us to today and inevitably the future. Currently the club has almost 350 members, and it is hard to see anything but the club and the bird report continuing to go from strength to strength. This is essential as the environment and natural habitat come under more and more pressure and critical areas such as HEZ continue to be threatened to be carved up for economic gain. It is vital for birders and conservationists alike to continue the observations and surveys, to highlight critical habitat and to fight for the protection of important areas for the birds and their continued enjoyment by future generations.

**Professor Phil Hansbro**

*Phil Hansbro first cut his teeth on birds in the UK from the age of 7, and is now a world birder with approaching 7,000 species on his world list. He has been a member of the Records Appraisal Committee since 2000 (shortly after moving to Newcastle).*



*Diamond Dove Photo: Alwyn Simple*

## NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

2015 was a relatively quiet year after the “highs” of 2013 and 2014. Whilst this perhaps disappointed some, a quiet year in the Hunter Region is still a pretty exciting year for birdwatchers. Below are the most notable records for the year (including some negatives):

- **Blue-billed Duck:** Several Walka Waterworks records and a female at Warabrook 8-20 Aug
- **Pink-eared Duck:** 2,000+ birds in the Region Jul-Aug (highest counts on record)
- **Australian Shelduck:** A pair at Hexham Swamp 10-17 Mar
- **Chestnut Teal:** 1,804 birds in Hunter Estuary March (*1.8% of total world population*)
- **Freckled Duck:** Up to 59 birds at Walka Waterworks early June and also records for some other locations
- **King Quail:** A single bird at Ash Island 15 Feb
- **Diamond Dove:** A single bird at Durridgere SCA 3-6 Apr
- **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove:** Single bird at Harrington 17 Jan and up to five birds at Mungo Brush throughout Oct
- **Black-eared Cuckoo:** Up to four birds near Ulan 12-16 Jan and at least two birds at Durridgere SCA 3-6 Apr
- **Brolga:** A single bird at Martindale 15 Nov
- **Bush Stone-curlew:** A pair with a juvenile at Tilligerry Creek 6 Feb
- **Beach Stone-curlew:** A single bird at Stockton Sandspit for 6-7 weeks Oct-Nov
- **Sooty Oystercatcher:** Highest counts for Port Stephens and Newcastle Baths
- **Black-winged Stilt:** ~2,000 birds at Hexham Swamp 5 Dec
- **Grey Plover:** 1-2 birds at Worimi Conservation Lands 11 Sep and Stockton Sandspit 31 Oct
- **Lesser Sand Plover:** Single birds at Stockton Sandspit 24/25 Jan and 28 Feb
- **Eastern Curlew:** 334 birds in Port Stephens 20 Feb (*>1% of world population*) but the peak count for Hunter Estuary was only 215 birds
- **Bar-tailed Godwit:** Lowest summer and winter counts for Hunter Estuary since the Bird Reports began
- **Black-tailed Godwit:** 96 birds in the Hunter Estuary 17 Jan and 1-2 birds at Port Stephens 20 Feb and Harrington 10 Oct
- **Great Knot:** The first known records for Harrington and several records from Stockton Sandspit
- **Ruff:** Single birds at Cattai Creek Bridge 1 Nov and Tomago Wetlands 17 Nov
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** Once again, 7,000-8,000 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec (*4.5-5% of the total world population*)
- **Wood Sandpiper:** Single bird near Broke in Oct and some Hunter Estuary records
- **Common Noddy:** Single birds off Newcastle 20 Jan and 28 Feb – 8 Mar
- **White Tern:** Single bird at Wybong Road 13 Mar (~125km from nearest coastline)
- **Silver Gull:** 1,200-1,500 birds in Newcastle Baths / Nobbys area 21 May and 9 Jun
- **Pacific Gull:** Two immature birds at Newcastle Baths 21-29 May
- **Kelp Gull:** A single bird at Worimi Conservation Lands 18 Oct
- **Sooty Tern:** 60 birds off Port Stephens 11 Jan
- **Australian Gull-billed Tern:** Peak count of 177 birds in Worimi Conservation Lands 14 Aug
- **Whiskered Tern:** 170+ birds at Hexham Swamp 20 Oct
- **White-winged Black Tern:** The first known record for the Manning Estuary

- **White-fronted Tern:** 130-150 birds at Newcastle Baths 2-3 Aug, and a late record of a single bird 10 Nov
- **Common Tern:** Third successive year of very low counts in the Manning Estuary and numbers were down at most other locations
- **White-tailed Tropicbird:** A dead juvenile bird at Redhead Beach 24 Apr
- **New Caledonian type Storm-Petrel:** An unconfirmed record off Port Stephens 14 Jun
- **Buller's Albatross:** Three birds off Port Stephens 14 Jun and off Swansea 9 Jul
- **Shy Albatross:** A single bird off Port Stephens 3 Mar
- **White-capped Albatross:** A single bird off Port Stephens 13 Sep
- **Gould's Petrel:** Five birds in Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr during stormy weather, and many carcasses on Cabbage Tree Island during the breeding season
- **Kermadec Petrel:** A single bird off Port Stephens 11 Jan
- **White-necked Petrel:** A single bird off Port Stephens 11 Jan
- **Black Petrel:** A single bird off Port Stephens 26 Feb and two birds off Swansea 10 Dec
- **Buller's Shearwater:** 1-2 birds off Port Stephens 11 Jan, 26 Feb and 30 Mar
- **Sooty Shearwater:** 21 birds off Swansea 10 Dec and a winter record off Port Stephens 14 Jun
- **Streaked Shearwater:** 1-2 birds off Port Stephens 3 & 30 Mar
- **Black-necked Stork:** A new breeding pair in the Region and a possible second pair established in the lower Hunter
- **Australasian Bittern:** Single birds at Hexham Swamp 1 & 30 Nov and 1 Dec
- **Black Bittern:** Single birds near Clarencetown 17 Feb and at Cooranbong 9 Jan, 22 Jul and 20 Nov
- **Great Frigatebird:** An adult female around Newcastle Harbour 7-8 Jan
- **Black Kite:**  
The first breeding record for the Region, at Martindale Oct-Nov
- **Eastern Grass Owl:** 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp 1 & 30 Aug and Tomago 29 Sep
- **Red-winged Parrot:** ~20 birds at Cassilis village 3 Apr
- **Swift Parrot:** 15 birds at Ellalong Lagoon 19 Aug and 12 birds at Singleton Training Area 4 Aug, and some other reports of lesser numbers
- **Turquoise Parrot:** A single bird at Paxton 12 Jun
- **Little Lorikeet:** 100+ birds at Tomalpin Woodlands 28 Nov
- **Crimson Chat:** A pair at Wybong Rd 16 Nov
- **Regent Honeyeater:** Single birds at Mungo Brush early Jan and Tomalpin 20 Aug
- **Singing Honeyeater:** Three birds at Millers Dam Ulan 3 & 19 Mar and single birds there 30 Sep and at Lake Liddell 1 Jan
- **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren:** Many records from Tomalpin and elsewhere
- **Masked Woodswallow:** Eight birds flying over Pambalong NR 1 Mar and also some spring records
- **White-browed Woodswallow:** Several large flocks early Oct, including over Newcastle suburbs
- **Hooded Robin:** Single birds at Wambo early May, Yarrowa Rd 9 Jun and Goulburn River NP 14 Oct
- **Plum-headed Finch:** Several records of 1-4 birds



## 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 2015. The information is based upon records from many sources.

There are two additions to the Hunter Region checklist: Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* based on a female recorded around Newcastle Harbour for a few days in January, and Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor* based on a pair seen at Wybong Rd in November. However, Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis* and Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor* have been deleted. They were included based upon records from near Wollar in 1987; a recent review of the details revealed the site was marginally outside the Region.

After the above changes and a careful recount, the Hunter Region checklist currently comprises 446 species. In 2015, 364 of those were confirmed to have been present, and information about those records is presented in this Report.

133 species were recorded as breeding in 2015 (compared to a median of 127 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2006, 240 species are confirmed to have bred within the Region (and for a further 27 species there are pre-2006 records).

For records to be accepted as evidence of breeding there must have been an observation of: a brooding bird; a nest with eggs; a nest with young; or a bird making **repeated** visits to a nest or hollow with food<sup>1</sup>. All other situations/behaviours<sup>2</sup>, although interesting and potentially noteworthy, are not treated as confirmed breeding records. To maintain the desired standard for the Bird Report, reporters are requested to correctly specify the type of behaviour. This includes differentiating between young birds being fed in a nest and young birds being fed away from a nest.



Crimson Chat Photo: Dick Jenkin

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

## The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

This Report introduces a modified approach for how common species of the Region are tracked and reported. Until now we have endeavoured each year to track all records of all species, with highlights mentioned in the Bird Report. However, the BirdLife Australia (BLA) Atlas project generates large data sets for common species, with quantified information about their distribution and detectability. These data provide a clear picture of the status of common species and will become the focus from now on (for common species). This new approach has required amended definitions for “Category 1” and “Category 2” species.

The philosophy for producing Bird Reports is now as outlined below:

- *The checklist will include all species confirmed to have been recorded in the Region. This includes confirmed records from before the Bird Report series began*
- *Species recorded in the Region are assigned to one of three categories, depending mainly on how common or rare they are. Species assigned to Category 1 are considered relatively common and individual reports of them in general are not tracked. The status of Category 1 species is mainly derived from BLA Atlas supplemented by regular surveys at the main locations where they occur*
- *For Category 1 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*
- *All records of Category 2 and Category 3 species will be vetted and they will be accepted for inclusion into the Reports only if HBOC’s Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) so decides. It is expected that the observer will have made field notes at the time of observation (or very soon afterwards and before consulting a field guide) and/or will have taken a photograph. This rigour greatly assists the RAC in making decisions*
- *The RAC reviews the submitted material and takes into account the observer’s birdwatching experience and any opportunity they had to eliminate other 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 diagnostic field marks either were not seen by the observer or were not adequately described.*
- *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 and aims at ensuring that the description reflects the situation current for the year in question.*
- *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** A common or relatively common species within the Region, with records generally accepted. The annual status of the species is primarily monitored from its Reporting Rate in the BirdLife Australia Atlas; individual records usually are not tracked.

**Category 2** An uncommon or relatively uncommon species of special interest for the Region, with all records tracked. Records usually are accepted, although supporting information may sometimes 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/or for NSW or Australia). 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 Mick Roderick (RAC Secretary), Ann Lindsey, Phil Hansbro, Craig Anderson, Allan Richardson, Dick Jenkin and Dan Williams.

## BirdLife Australia Atlas Statistics

HBOC 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 Atlas are from >27,000 surveys over 18 years (this includes the incidental surveys)

This Report details:

- The percentage of 10-minute cells in which each species was recorded (for species with 30 or more records in the database), and the Reporting Rate (RR) *in those cells where the species has been recorded*.<sup>3</sup>
- For species with <30 records over the 18 year period; the number of cells in which they were recorded, and the number of records.
- The number of 10-minute grid cells where the species was recorded in 2015, the total number of records for 2015, and the 2015 RR<sup>4</sup> (for those species with sufficient records that RRs seem meaningful).

<sup>3</sup> 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 2015 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.

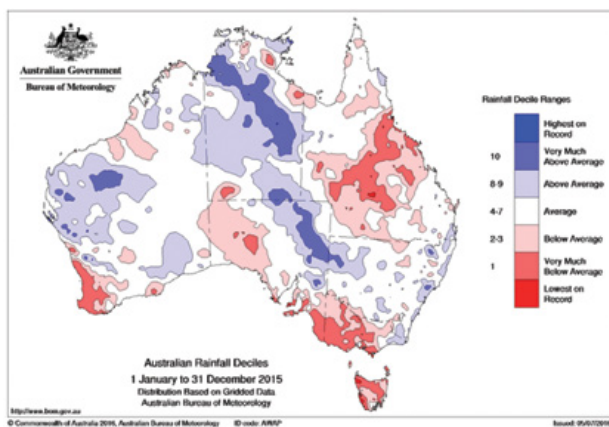
<sup>4</sup> The 2015 RR is for all cells for which the species has been recorded over the full 18 years of the Atlas.

This report also features some other ways of using the Atlas data to inform us about Hunter Region birdlife. These are discussed in a later section (see Innovations in the 2015 Bird Report).

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.

## Other Comments

To maximise our understandings about how rainfall changes have affected our Regional birdlife, it is important to consider both the local and 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. Figure 1 shows the Australian Bureau of Meteorology rainfall map for 2015. The Hunter Region and most of NSW received about average rainfall for the year, or a bit above average.



**Figure 1. 2015 Australian rainfall pattern**

A map of the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report (and is accessible electronically from Google Earth ). This Area of Interest was first defined in 1993 based on 14 local government areas (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 2015 Report.

**Alan Stuart**

18 June 2016

<sup>7</sup> At [http://www.hboc.org.au/resources/documents/hunter\\_region.txt](http://www.hboc.org.au/resources/documents/hunter_region.txt)

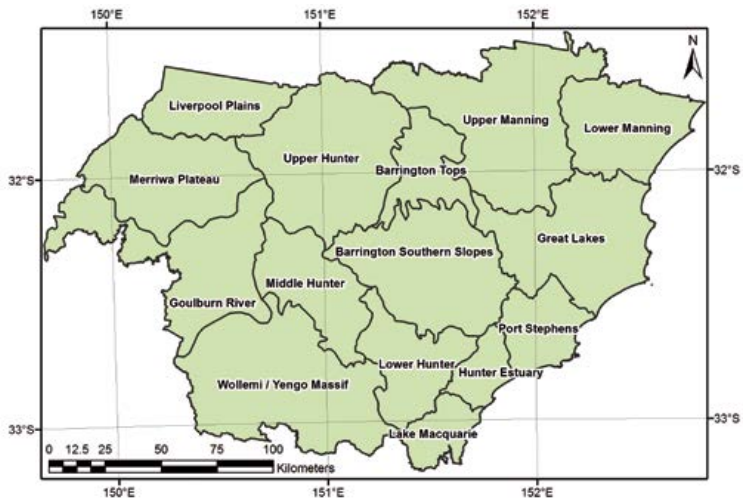
# INNOVATIONS IN THE 2015 BIRD REPORT

This Report introduces three new graphical representations of aspects about Hunter Region birdlife. The intention with all three innovations is to provide readers with readily assimilable information about **where** and **when** species may be expected to be recorded within the Region. The major contributor to developing all of them was Dan Williams. A fourth innovation is also described.

## Species distribution maps

The availability of the Atlas data has allowed species distribution maps to be generated, as described briefly further below. In this Report, for the first time, distribution maps for common species have been included. In previous Reports, some commentary about distribution was contained within the species status description. The distribution maps are far more informative, and therefore the text descriptions about distribution **have been universally removed**. For space reasons, such changes are not indicated in the individual species accounts.

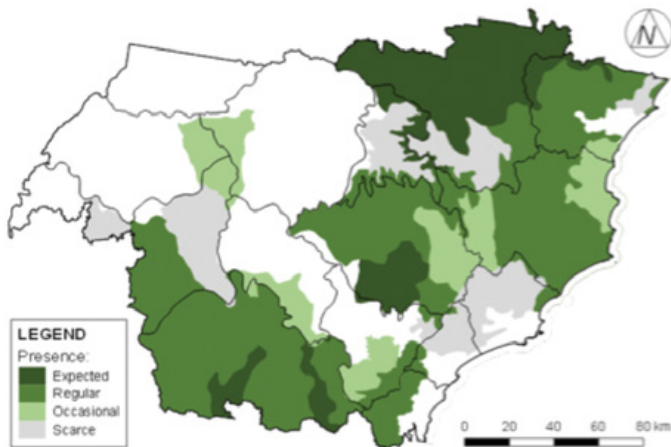
The Hunter Region may be considered as consisting of 15 sub-regions based on broad bio-geographic considerations (Williams and Stuart in prep.). Within the sub-regions (shown in **Figure 2**), a finer classification into primary vegetation categories has generated 60 polygons each consisting of one major habitat type. The groupings into polygons are still broad i.e. although they contain a dominant habitat type, they do include pockets of other habitat types. The selecting of polygon dimensions has involved a compromise between habitat homogeneity and the availability of sufficient records within each polygon. Unless a polygon includes at least 80-90 Atlas surveys, statistical analysis of the data (at species level) potentially introduces unacceptable levels of uncertainty. In time (as the number of Atlas surveys increase) it may become viable to subdivide some of the current polygons.



**Figure 2. Bio-geographic sectors of the Region**

To generate the distribution maps, firstly a Distribution Index (DI) was calculated for each of the 60 habitat polygons. The DI represents the normalised frequency that the species is recorded in that habitat polygon. The calculation is based on analysis of all the records (including Incidental records) for that polygon in the Atlas database. A distribution map for any given species is then able to be generated based on its DI ranges in the various habitat polygons (Williams and Stuart in prep.).

The distribution maps indicate the stronghold for that particular species, and also the areas where records of the species would be considered unusual. We expect this information will greatly assist observers in the field to correctly identify a bird they are seeing. An example is given in **Figure 3**, showing the Wonga Pigeon’s distribution. The map tells us that the most likely places within the Region to record Wonga Pigeon are in parts of the Upper Manning, Barrington Southern Slopes and the Wollemi/Yengo Massif, and to the west of Port Stephens and Great Lakes. By contrast, it would be very unusual to find it at locations within the Hunter Valley, Merriwa Plateau or Liverpool Plains.

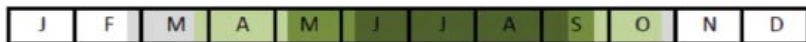


**Figure 3. Distribution map for Wonga Pigeon**

### Timelines for migratory species (non seabirds)

The Hunter Region hosts many migratory species. Most are “summer migrants” but some are not. Every migratory species has arrival and departure dates which are broadly consistent most years but those dates can differ substantially to those for other species. It should be very useful for birdwatchers and researchers to be able to readily appreciate when a species is likely to be present and, conversely, when records could be considered anomalous.

Data from the BirdLife Australia Atlas have been analysed to generate timelines indicating when each migratory species is most likely to be present in the Region. The analysis was based on the number of records in the Atlas for a given species for any given date. A statistical approach (Williams and Stuart *in prep.*) was then used to categorise time periods into one of five categories, namely when the species is: Regularly Present; Usually Present; Sometimes Present, Occasionally Present; Rarely Present. It is not a measure of abundance, merely of presence / absence. An example is shown in **Figure 4**, for White-fronted Tern. The chart shows that these birds are regularly present from early July to mid-September, usually recorded in May and September and sometimes in April and October. They occasionally are recorded in March, but rarely so in January-February or November-December. From the timeline, observers may discern that records of White-fronted Tern in the periods January-April and October-December are noteworthy and important (and that extra care is therefore needed to correctly identify the species).



**Figure 4. Timeline for White-fronted Tern**

In the future (and where there are sufficient data available), these timeline analyses potentially may be applied to sub-regions of the Hunter, and to comparisons between different sets of years.

## Timelines for seabirds

Most of the Hunter Region seabirds are migratory and/or nomadic and usually are only recorded in certain periods of the year (although exceptions can occur). Their breeding biology and seasonal influences, such as ocean temperatures and prevailing winds, introduce an element of predictability as to when they may be present in Hunter Region waters. There can also be an abundance component: relatively large numbers of a particular species might be present at certain times of the year but with lesser numbers being recorded at other times. Therefore, timeline analyses of seabirds based solely on presence / absence potentially overlook an important variable.

Since 2000, there have been approaching 100 trips to the Hunter Region's continental shelf to record offshore and pelagic seabirds. The boats have variously departed from Swansea, Newcastle and Port Stephens (Nelson Bay). On each trip, the numbers of each species were estimated. Analysis of the data from those trips has allowed timelines to be generated for many seabirds. For two months, May and December, where there are fewer local data, any apparent anomalies have been smoothed using knowledge developed in pelagic trips made from Sydney and Wollongong.

To derive seabird timelines, the average number of birds recorded for a given species in each month has been calculated. Five categories have been used to generate the timelines, based on average counts of: a) >30 birds, b) 10-30 birds, c) 2-10 birds, d) <2 birds, and e) no records.

**Figure 5** illustrates this for the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. During June-August, the average counts have been of >30 birds, with progressively lower average counts in September and then May and October. Birds have occasionally been recorded in March-April and November, and there have been no confirmed records in January, February or December.



**Figure 5. Timeline for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross**

## Trend comments

The analyses for most species, excepting seabirds and Category 3 birds, now include a comment about the population trend in the Region. Those comments are based upon an assessment of numbers occurring at well-known sites (for waterbirds and shorebirds), the Atlas Reporting Rates (annual vs longer-term comparisons) and an element of "gut-feel" by the Editor and Records Appraisal Committee members. Hence, the comments should not be treated as being definitive.

# RARITIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## Rare Species for the Region

The species below have been recorded in the 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; 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).



*Red-backed Button-Quail*  
Photo: Nick Thompson

**Cape Barren Goose**

**Radjah Shelduck**

**Garganey**

**Northern Shoveler**

**Cotton Pygmy-goose**

King Quail

Diamond Dove

**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon**

Superb Fruit-Dove

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove

Little Bronze-Cuckoo

Oriental Cuckoo

Brolga

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher**

Banded Stilt

**Kentish Plover**

**Ringed Plover**

Greater Sand Plover

**Oriental Plover**

**Little Curlew**

**Hudsonian Godwit**

Ruff

Broad-billed Sandpiper

**Long-toed Stint**

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

**Asian Dowitcher**

Wandering Tattler

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

**Red-backed Button-quail**

Red-chested Button-quail

Little Button-quail

Australian Pratincole

Black Noddy

Grey Noddy

White Tern

Pacific Gull

Kelp Gull

Bridled Tern

**Black Tern**

Arctic Tern

Red-tailed Tropicbird

White-tailed Tropicbird

**White-bellied Storm-Petrel**

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel

**New Zealand Storm-Petrel**

**Light-mantled Sooty Albatross**

**Grey-headed Albatross**

Buller's Albatross

Shy Albatross

**Salvin's Albatross**

**Broad-billed Prion**

Antarctic Prion

Slender-billed Prion

**Cook's Petrel**

**Pycroft's Petrel**

Black-winged Petrel

Kermadec Petrel

**Juan Fernandez Petrel**

White-chinned Petrel

Black Petrel

Buller's Shearwater

**Great Shearwater**

Streaked Shearwater

**Little Shearwater**

Tahiti Petrel

Common Diving-Petrel

Australian Little Bittern

Lesser Frigatebird

**Great Frigatebird**

**Red-footed Booby**

Brown Booby

Masked Booby

Letter-winged Kite

Forest Kingfisher

Red-backed Kingfisher

Ground Parrot

Budgerigar

Spotted Bowerbird

Black Honeyeater

Pied Honeyeater

Crimson Chat

Orange Chat

Singing Honeyeater

Yellow-throated Miner

Pilotbird

Inland Thornbill

Ground Cuckoo-shrike

Barred Cuckoo-shrike

Little Shrike-thrush

Grey Currawong

Satin Flycatcher

White-eared Monarch

Nutmeg Mannikin

**Olive-backed Sunbird**

Beautiful Firetail

**White Wagtail**

Eurasian Skylark

**Barn Swallow**



## Species of Special Interest for the Region

The species below are of special interest, either because of their conservation status or because they are infrequently recorded. They are **Category 2** species for the Region **and all records of them are tracked**. 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 may be asked for supporting evidence for their identification.

Emu	Common Noddy	Glossy Black-Cockatoo
Magpie Goose	Sooty Tern	Gang-gang Cockatoo
Plumed Whistling-Duck	Whiskered Tern	Red-winged Parrot
Wandering Whistling-Duck	White-winged Black Tern	Swift Parrot
Blue-billed Duck	White-fronted Tern	Turquoise Parrot
Australian Shelduck	Common Tern	Rufous Scrub-bird
Northern Mallard	Little Penguin	Red-browed Treecreeper
Freckled Duck	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Red-backed Fairy-wren
Musk Duck	White-faced Storm-Petrel	Painted Honeyeater
Stubble Quail	Wandering Albatross	Little Friarbird
Great Crested Grebe	Antipodean Albatross	Crescent Honeyeater
Brush Bronzewing	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	New Holland Honeyeater
Brown-capped Emerald-Dove	Black-browed Albatross	Black-chinned Honeyeater
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Campbell Albatross	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater
Black-eared Cuckoo	White-capped Albatross	White-fronted Chat
White-throated Nightjar	Northern Giant-Petrel	Regent Honeyeater
Australian Owllet-nightjar	Southern Giant-Petrel	Western Gerygone
Fork-tailed Swift	Cape Petrel	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren
Lewin's Rail	Fairy Prion	Rockwarbler
Australian Spotted Crane	Gould's Petrel	Southern Whiteface
Baillon's Crane	Providence Petrel	Australian Logrunner
Spotless Crane	White-necked Petrel	White-browed Babbler
Black-tailed Native-hen	White-headed Petrel	Varied Triller
Bush Stone-curlew	Grey-faced Petrel	Olive Whistler
Beach Stone-curlew	Sooty Shearwater	Masked Woodswallow
Grey Plover	Flesh-footed Shearwater	White-browed Woodswallow
Double-banded Plover	Fluttering Shearwater	Little Raven
Lesser Sand Plover	Hutton's Shearwater	Forest Raven
Banded Lapwing	Black-necked Stork	Restless Flycatcher
Red-kneed Dotterel	Australasian Bittern	Spectacled Monarch
Australian Painted Snipe	Black Bittern	Paradise Riflebird
Comb-crested Jacana	Eastern Reef Egret	Flame Robin
Black-tailed Godwit	Glossy Ibis	Red-capped Robin
Great Knot	Square-tailed Kite	Scarlet Robin
Red Knot	Little Eagle	Pale-yellow Robin
Curlew Sandpiper	Spotted Harrier	Hooded Robin
Sanderling	Brahminy Kite	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Pectoral Sandpiper	Black Kite	Diamond Firetail
Terek Sandpiper	Eastern Grass Owl	Plum-headed Finch
Common Sandpiper	Greater Sooty Owl	Yellow Wagtail
Wood Sandpiper	Masked Owl	European Goldfinch
Painted Button-quail	Barn Owl	Brown Songlark
Long-tailed Jaeger	Powerful Owl	White-backed Swallow
Arctic Jaeger	Barking Owl	Red-whiskered Bulbul
Pomarine Jaeger	Black Falcon	Bassian Thrush
Brown Skua	Cockatiel	Russet-tailed Thrush

# SYSTEMATIC LIST

## Introduction

Species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows the BirdLife Australia Working List V2 (<http://www.birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>). The V2 list was released in June 2016 and there were several changes compared to the previous checklist. Those changes included amendments to the scientific names and/or the Common English Names for many species which have been recorded in the Region. *Each change arising from the new checklist is annotated in the main body of the Report.*

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

<b>Resident:</b>	Recorded in all months;
<b>Migrant:</b>	Species that regularly come to an area for a period and then depart;
<b>Bird of passage:</b>	Species present in a suitable area for a relatively short period, and equally likely to be observed in any month of the year;
<b>Common:</b>	Species that one can <b>expect</b> to find on all visits to suitable habitats;
<b>Usual:</b>	Species that one can <b>expect</b> to find on the majority of visits to suitable habitats;
<b>Uncommon:</b>	Species that are recorded infrequently on visits to suitable habitats;
<b>Rare:</b>	Species recorded only a few times a year;
<b>Accidental:</b>	Species recorded less than once per year, over a 10 year average.

For many species, a general statement about typical 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. Distribution maps are shown for common species and some less common ones. Timelines are shown for species with known seasonal movements. 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



*Red-necked Avocet Photo: Trevor Murray*

**Emu** *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered population in the North-east Bioregion

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.1%.



Three birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd 16 Jul (BEI) and two birds near “Poggy” HSD Ringwood Rd 17 Aug (ROM). **Atlas:** One record, from A6. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*

ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 50 birds often recorded around Shortland.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.0%.



**Notable records** Birds were recorded all year at HWC and nearby areas, with peak count 105 birds Jan and Apr (Table 5, others). 50 birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 24 Apr (ROM) with occasional other reports from there of <10 birds (considered to be part of the Shortland population). **Atlas:** 23 records, all from M10, RR 4.9%. **Trend:** Slight decline on the 2014 numbers, after more than a decade of growth.

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

ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.6%.



At two well-known locations, ~300 birds were at Keinbah 15 & 16 Jul (GOJ) and 150+ birds at Doughboy Hollow 24 Jan (ALP) and with some birds also present there 15 Nov (WID). ~20 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 2 Jan (MCS) and 8-12 birds at Tocal 25 Mar (Table 15) and Pokolbin 6-7 Nov (FRP). Up to 12 birds were sometimes flying over Shortland around dusk Aug-Sep (ROM, WID). Lesser numbers were recorded at Cemetery Swamp Singleton 24 Jan (ALP), Tarro 30 Jan (KAA), HWC 28 Feb (LIP), WWW 16 Oct (SDI) and Bulahdelah 5 Nov (ERE). **Atlas:** Six records from four cells. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.1%.



Birds were present almost all year at HWC with peak count of 124 birds 21 Jun (HBOC) and high numbers May-Dec (Table 5). 45 birds were at Fletcher 16 Jul (THJ). There were occasional records of 1-3 birds at Wallsend Wetlands Jan-Feb and Nov (various observers) and two birds were at Cattai Wetlands 17 Dec (Table 19). **Atlas:** 22 records, all from M10, RR 4.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

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

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.5%.

Pairs were recorded at WWW 6 Apr and 15 Nov (NAK, WID) with many records of a female present Aug-Dec (Table 13, others). A female was also recorded at Warabrook 8-20 Aug (KEM, others). **Atlas:** Two records, from L9. **Trend:** Similar to most recent years.

**Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.2%.

For the third year in succession, large numbers were in the Region, with records received from widespread locations. 100+ birds were at Morpeth WTW Apr-Sep with peak counts ~1,500 birds 9 Aug and 941 birds 30 Jul (KET/VGF, Table 14) and 100+ birds in the Hunter Estuary (predominantly at Deep Pond) Feb-Apr with peak count 309 birds in Mar (Table 2). Also, 245-347 birds were recorded at HWC Jun-Jul (Table 5). Based on the timings, these records were probably of the same lower Hunter population, comprising an estimated 1,500-1,800 birds after taking into account widespread records of smaller numbers elsewhere. However, ~400 birds were also at Muswellbrook WTW mid Jul, with up to 200 birds also recorded there during Jan (ROM/CLT). **Atlas:** 30 records from four cells, RR 5.1%. **Trend:** At least 2,000 birds were in the Region Jul-Aug, and with high numbers present Jan-Sep. *These are the highest counts on record for the Region.*

**Cape Barren Goose** *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

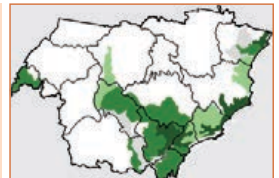
ID No: 198 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2011*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

ID No: 203 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 50 birds widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 20.8%.

**Notable records:** ~1,800 birds were in Wallis Lake 20 Oct including 710 at Pelican Island (MOA). Birds were often present in high numbers at two other locations: Hunter Estuary (50+ most months, 100+ often, peak count 296 birds Apr); Morpeth WTW (50+ most months, 100+ in 5 months, peak count 656 birds 29 Jan) – see Tables 2 and 14 for details. 346 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Dec and 200-250 birds Sep and Nov (HBOC, Table 10) and there were records of 100+ birds from Tomago Wetlands and Port Stephens (Tables 6, 17). **Breeding:** There were many records spanning Mar and Jul-Dec. 10-15 pairs were nesting around Williamstown mid Aug (ZVS) and seven pairs in the Lenaghans Flat/Black Hill area 11 Jul (MRO). **Atlas:** 141 records from 25 cells, RR 13.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Radjah Shelduck** *Radjah radjah* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2005-14; a pair in 2005-8 then a single bird in 2009-14).

A single bird was at Bulahdelah 10 Mar, 21 Apr and 8 Oct (TBW, CAA, ERE).

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage (revised from Rare).

**BLA Atlas:** 25 records from six cells.

A pair was recorded several times at Hexham Swamp over 10-17 Mar (ROM, THJ).

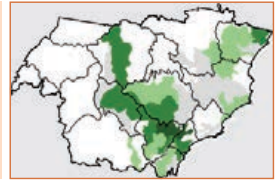
**Atlas:** Nil records.

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident and irruptive visitor. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.9%.



**Notable records** 100+ birds were at WWW May-Jul with peak count 132 birds 10 Jun (Table 13, others). 51 birds were at Morpeth WTW 28 Oct and 45 birds 24 May (Table 14) and 30+ birds at HWC Oct-Nov (Table 5). **Atlas:** 78 records from 11 cells, RR 6.5%.

**Trend:** Fewer birds than usual.

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1993).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Spatula rhynchotis*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds often recorded at medium-large fresh waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.3%.



**Notable records** 80+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan-May (mostly at Deep Pond) with peak counts 369-382 birds Mar-Apr (Table 2). 40+ birds were present at Morpeth WTW most months Jan-Sep with peak count 185 birds 30 Jul (Table 14). ~150 birds were at Lenaghans Flat 21 Jul (ROM/CLT). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 32 records from six cells, RR 4.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*

ID No: 208 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 50 birds regularly recorded at small to large waters.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 28.3%.



**Notable records** The peak count at Morpeth WTW was 335 birds 16 Apr but most records were of <100 birds (Table 14). In the Hunter Estuary, 100+ birds were only present Mar-May with peak count 243 birds in Mar (Table 2). 50+ birds were recorded occasionally at Tocal Wetlands (Table 15) and at WWW 13 May. Unusually, 80-100 birds were in a paddock at Wallarobba 21 Jun (JED). **Breeding:** A pair had ducklings at HWC 12 Jun (per LIP) and there were many records spanning Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 289 records from 38 cells, RR 21.2%.  
**Trend:** Fewer birds than usual.

**Northern Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

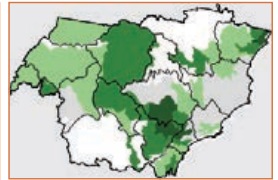
ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident (*Most are hybrids, e.g. with Pacific Black Duck; there are very few pure birds.*)  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.7%.



Five birds were recorded at Cold Tea Creek 11 Aug and two birds 8 Dec (Table 11). ~20 Mallard-types were at Wallsend Wetlands 5 Feb (ROM) and probably had been dumped there. Similarly, up to four birds often recorded at Ash Island/Deep Pond sites over Mar-Apr (several observers) were thought to have been dumped. **Atlas:** Seven records from six cells, RR 1.0%.  
**Trend:** There possibly is no entirely self-sustaining population in the Region.

**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis*

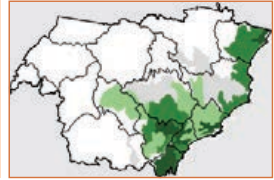
ID No: 211 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 50 birds often recorded at medium-large waters  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.9%.



**Notable records** Numbers were high in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Jun, with peak counts of 2,100+ birds Mar-Apr (Table 2); also 1,161 birds were at Tomago Wetlands Jan (Table 6). Many hundreds of birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW most months, with peak count 710 birds 24 May (Table 14) and many hundreds also were at HWC most months with peak count 401 birds Mar (Table 5). ~300 birds were recorded at Lenaghans Flat 21 Jul (ROM/CLT). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Goulburn River Martindale 29 Oct (ALP) and Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ).  
**Atlas:** 135 records from 22 cells, RR 11.5%.  
**Trend:** A more typical year after the larger influxes of 2013-2014.

**Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*

ID No: 210 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 50 birds regularly recorded at medium-large waters.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 22.6%.



**Notable records** There was an influx into the Hunter Estuary (mainly Deep Pond) over Feb-Apr with a peak count of 1,804 birds in March (Table 2). However, most counts at Morpeth WTW were of <100 birds and the peak counts were 224 birds 16 Apr (Table 14) and ~300 birds 8 Aug (KET/VGF). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Feb-Apr, Aug and Oct-Nov. **Atlas:** 173 records from 18 cells, RR 15.2%. **Trend:** Lower numbers than in recent years but ~1.8% of the total population were recorded in March.

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

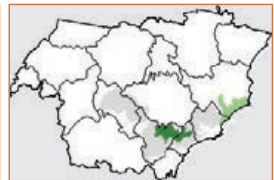
ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised from: 3**)  
 Breeding: No  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Rare (*Recorded 1994-5, 1999-2007, 2013-14*).



After 12 birds were recorded at WWW 28 May (STA), numbers steadily increased over several days to a peak count of 59 birds 3 Jun; they then rapidly declined (SMJ, others). Six birds were at Deep Pond 6 Mar (ALR) and two birds at Grahamstown Dam 13 Jan (MRO *et al.*). Single birds were at Broke Rd Pokolbin 3 Apr (ERE), Morpeth WTW 16 Apr (Table 14), Grahamstown Dam 26 May (TBW), HWC 18 Sep (SRM) and WWW 14 Oct (CLM *et al.*). **Trend:** Situation returning to normality after the sizable influxes of 2013-14.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

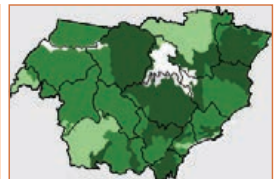
ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.3%.



Five birds were recorded at Grahamstown Dam 15 Nov (WID) and four birds at Deep Pond May and Jul (Table 2). 1-2 birds were often in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Jul (Table 2) and at HWC Jan (Table 5), Grahamstown Dam 26 May (TBW) and WWW Jun-Aug (Table 13). **Atlas:** Two records, from L9, M9. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded (*text simplified*).  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.1%.



**Notable records** 40+ birds were regularly at Charlestown GC with 78-86 birds present Apr-May (Table 8). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Feb-Mar and Jul-Nov. **Atlas:** 204 records from 39 cells, RR 14.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**Cotton Pygmy-goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*

ID No: 200 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

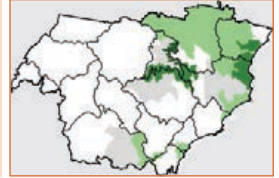
No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.1%.



**Notable records** 8-10 birds were at both Wingham Brush and Saltwater NP 11 Jun (STA).

**Atlas:** 32 records from ten cells, RR 4.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Stubble Quail** *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)

Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncertain, possibly irruptive.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.8%.



Many birds were in the Martindale area 15 Nov (WID) and a group of five birds was flushed from along Martindale Rd 3 Oct (STA). Elsewhere, some birds were heard at Durridgere Rd 16 Jan (ROM) and near Largs 1 Nov (DDR). **Atlas:** Four records, from G7, G8.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

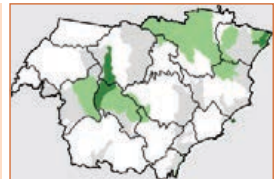
**Brown Quail** *Synoicus ypsilophora*

(*change to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were with chicks at Stockton Sandspit 2 Mar and 6 & 13 Dec (STA, THK, HCL) and Whitebridge 10 Mar (STA).

**Atlas:** 59 records from 15 cells, RR 5.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**King Quail** *Synoicus chinensis*

(*change to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Rare, possibly overlooked (*recorded 1994, 2000, 2010-11, 2014*).

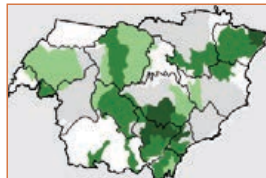
A single bird was recorded at a known location at Ash Island 15 Feb (KYR).

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 061 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 20 birds frequently recorded at small to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 12.4%.



**Notable records** 59 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 30 Jul (Table 14) and 20+ birds at WWW Jun-Sep with peak count 43 birds Aug (Table 13). 41 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Feb but most other records were of <20 birds (Table 2). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Wallsend Wetlands 25 Feb and 8 Nov (SMJ, KYR) and had dependent young at HWC 21 Mar and Tuncurry 6 Aug (LIP, MGLB). **Atlas:** 98 records from 18 cells, RR 8.6%. **Trend:** Fewer birds than usual.

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliocephalus poliocephalus*

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

**Regional status:** Bird of passage, more common in times of inland drought.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.2%.



**Notable records**, The peak count in the Hunter Estuary (mainly Deep Pond) was 87 birds in Apr with 10+ birds usually recorded Mar-Sep (Table 2). 50+ birds were at WWW most months over Jan-Jun and Nov-Dec (Table 13) with peak count 98 birds 27 Mar (SDI). 10+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW Apr-Sep (Table 14) with peak count 32 birds Jun (Table 14).

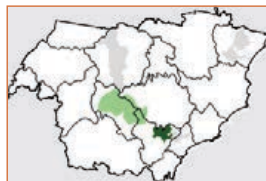
**Atlas:** 24 records from six cells, RR 8.6%. **Trend:** Some decline from the notable influxes of 2013-2014. NB no data for Grahamstown Dam.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.5%.



**Walka Water Works:** 10+ birds were recorded over Jan-May and Nov-Dec with peak count 21 birds 15 Jan (Table 13, others). Birds were absent Jul-Aug despite several visits. **Grahamstown Dam:** Some birds were present 26 May (TBW).

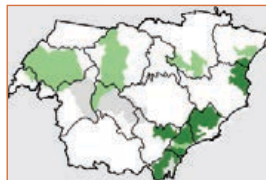
**Atlas:** Eight records, from L9, M9, RR 2.1%. **Trend:** Population at WWW has declined somewhat (and, there were no breeding records).

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at urban locations.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**Atlas:** 101 records from ten cells, RR 8.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

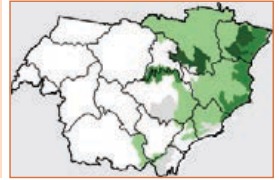
**White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela*

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.6%.



**Notable records** Six birds were recorded at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC).

**Breeding:** Birds were on nest near Stroud 17 Feb (CLT) and bred at Balickera Mar and Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 57 records from 15 cells, RR 6.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

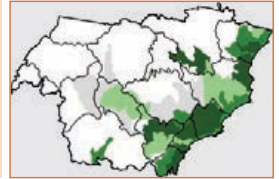
**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 17.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**Atlas:** 189 records from 26 cells, RR 15.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

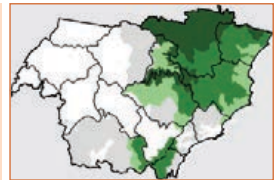
**Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia phasianella*  
(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded in well-forested areas.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.7%.



**Notable records** 10+ birds flushed from along Gloucester Tops Rd 29 Sep (STA *et al.*) and 6+ birds were at Riverwood Downs 14 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 58 records from 21 cells, RR 6.8%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

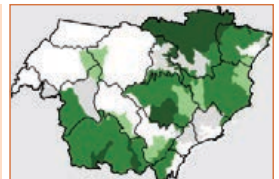
**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*  
(Amended from: *L. picata*)

ID No: 044 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds often recorded in well-forested areas.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.1%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**Atlas:** 51 records from 20 cells, RR 4.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

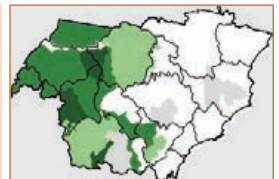
**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.4%.



**Notable records** 6-8 birds were recorded along Ringwood Rd 10 Jun (BEI) and at Abernethy 27 Sep and HEZ 28 Nov (both ALP). **Atlas:** 23 records from 12 cells, RR 3.0%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.8%.



10 birds were in the Fernleigh Track area 15 Oct (FEG/MCR) and 1+ birds at Belmont Lagoon early Nov (LAJ per FRP) and Blacksmiths 6 Nov (GOS). **Atlas:** Two records, from L11.

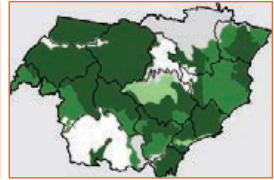
**Trend:** Uncertain.

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at East Seaham 13 Oct (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 267 records from 38 cells, RR 18.9%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2003*).

A single bird was recorded regularly at Durridgere SCA 3-6 Apr (OCG *et al.*) – the 3rd record for the Region.

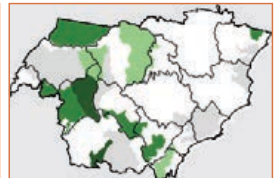
**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.6%.



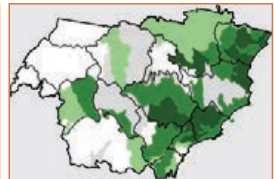
**Notable records** Numbers at Weston increased during May and by 29 May 10+ birds were present (ROS). 10 birds were also at Medhurst Bridge 7 Jun (ALP/SIA). **Atlas:** 24 records from eight cells, RR 3.4%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*

ID No: 032 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 16.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera in Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 156 records from 32 cells, RR 13.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown-capped Emerald-Dove** *Chalcophaps longirostris*  
(change to Common Name and scientific name based on BLA V2)  
ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)  
Breeding: None recorded  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.7%.

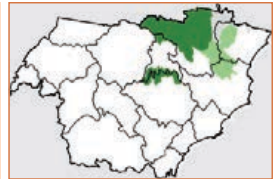


Two birds were recorded at Firefly 7 Feb (MGLB) and single birds at Smiths Lake 25 Jan (HBOC), Hamilton 13 May (ANC), Wingham Brush 11 Jun (STA) and Chichester SF Allyn River 1 Nov (DDR). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells, RR 0.5%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa*  
(change to Common Name and scientific name based on BLA V2)  
ID No: 026 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2009).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*  
ID No: 025 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)  
Breeding: None recorded.  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.9%.



Six birds were together at Bingleburra Rd 16 Aug (ALP) and some birds were also recorded there 2 & 10 Nov (BEI, WAB). Single birds were at Peach Tree Allyn River SF 10 Nov (BRG) and Paterson (Tucker Park) often in late Nov (many observers). Some birds were heard at Dingo Tops 7-8 Feb (ZVS). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*  
ID No: 023 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1996, 1999, 2006, 2009)

No confirmed reports were received for 2015.

**Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*  
ID No: 021 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Uncertain (revised from: Accidental). (Recorded 1994-95, 1997, 2003-08, 2014).

A single bird was recorded at Harrington 17 Jan (KEM). Once again there were many records of up to five birds at Mungo Brush throughout Oct after two birds were found there 4 Oct (ROS).

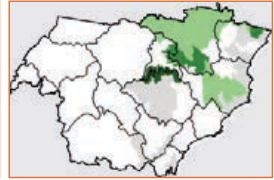
**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.2%.



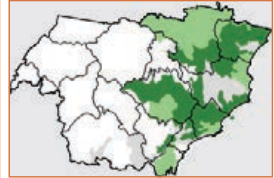
**Notable records** ~100 birds were recorded at Brett 8 Nov (FRN) and 50-70 birds at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC), Stanhope 27 Oct (ALP/WAD) and Belford 15 Nov (WID).  
**Atlas:** 24 records from 14 cells, RR 3.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes (Revised)

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.6%.



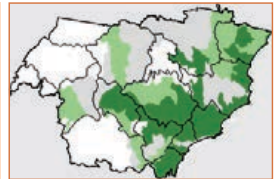
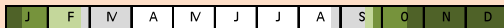
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** An adult was feeding a very young bird at Fosterton Loop 25 Mar, and the young bird was still present 14 Apr. A chick was again recorded at Fosterton Loop 6 Dec (all JED). **Atlas:** 44 records from 13 cells, RR 4.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Eastern Koel** *Eudynamys orientalis*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.3%.



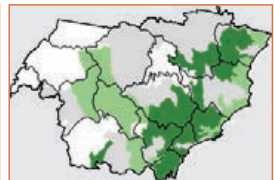
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Young birds were being fed by Red Wattlebirds at Singleton 22 Feb and 2 Apr (ALP) and by Little Wattlebirds at Soldiers Point 9 Apr (MUT). **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was of two birds at Lambton 4 Sep (BEI). **Atlas:** 118 records from 22 cells, RR 8.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.6%.



**Notable records** Ten birds were flying over Guan Gua Creek Bunnan 20 Jan (ROM/CLT), and seven birds flying over Merewether 26 Jan and Wallsend 14 Dec (NED, PAL).

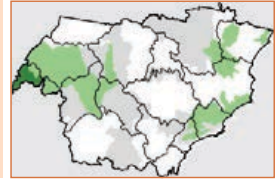
**Breeding:** There were many reports of young birds being fed by Pied Currawongs, spanning Jan and Nov-Dec. **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was of a bird at Carey Bay 29 Aug (HCL).  
**Atlas:** 84 records from 24 cells, RR 6.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant, with regular records in winter.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.8%.



**Notable records** Three birds were recorded at Sedgfield 27 Oct (ALP). **Atlas:** 30 records from 15 cells, RR 2.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chalcites osculans*

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

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 25 records from 15 cells.



Up to four birds were at Bobadeen Rd (cell A6) 12/13 & 16 Jan (ERE, ROM) and at least two birds were regularly recorded at Durrigere SCA 3-6 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** Two records, from B5. **Trend:** Uncertain.

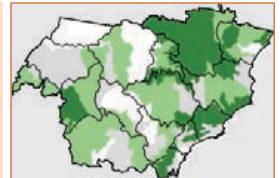
**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chalcites lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant, with regular records in winter.

1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 39 records from 17 cells, RR 3.4%. **Trend:** Uncertain (probably decreasing).

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

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1992, 2004).

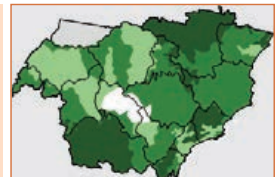
No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.9%.

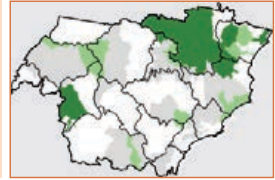


There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 92 records from 32 cells, RR 7.3%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

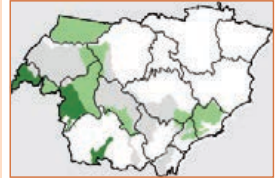
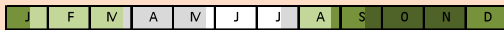
**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Two adults and a juvenile were at Grahamstown Dam 13 Jan (MRO *et al.*). *Whilst not a confirmation of breeding, it is an interesting record.* **Movements:** A bird was at Cattai Wetlands 23 Aug (ANC) – an early return. **Atlas:** 21 records from 11 cells, RR 2.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cacomantis pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded return was 16 Sep, when two birds were at Weston and a single bird at HEZ (ROS, BRG). **Atlas:** 11 records from eight cells, RR 1.3%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was less than 50% of the long term average.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* (*change to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 336 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

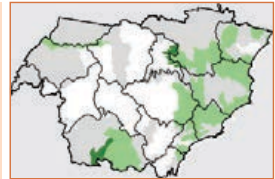
**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1999, 2001-02, 2004*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1

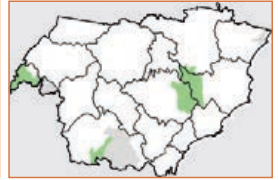
Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting near Lochinvar 13 Oct and at Tahlee Nov (TBW, FLS), and had dependent young at Belmont 21 Feb and Rankin Park 20 Dec (CJB, KET). **Atlas:** 24 records from 13 cells, RR 2.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**White-throated Nightjar** *Eurostopodus mystacalis*  
 ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Summer migrant.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.9%.



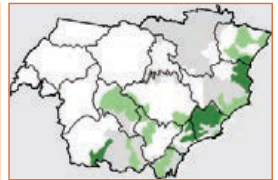
Two birds were recorded at Durrigdere SCA 5-8 Apr and "Witjiweri" HSD Martindale 3-5 Oct (both HBOC) and single birds at Warkworth 9 May (ROS) – a *late record*, and Mount Sugarloaf Rd 12 Sep (KEM) – an *early record*. Two birds were taken into care at Carrington (date unknown) but they died (per NIJ). **Breeding:** Young birds were taken into care at both Eagleton and Duns Creek Rd in Feb, and later released (per NIJ). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells, RR 1.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*  
 ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.6%.



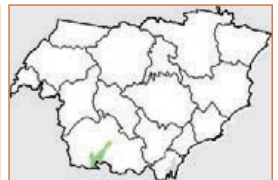
1-2 birds were recorded at Balickera Jan and Nov (MUJ), Smiths Lake 23-25 Jan (HBOC), Sharpes Creek 30 Sep (CAG), Sedgefield Singleton 4-5 & 27 Oct (ALP), Galgabba 19 Oct (per ADJ) and Battery Rocks 1 Nov (DDR). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Pokolbin 11 Nov (BEI). **Atlas:** Eight records from seven cells, RR 2.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*  
 ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 30 birds often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.0%.



**Notable records** ~150 birds were flying over Tighes Hill 16 Dec (CLT) and at Crowdy Head 17 Dec (STA), and ~100 birds were at Carey Bay 10 Dec (HCL). There were three records of 50-70+ birds. **Movements:** Birds were present until at least 23 Mar, when six were recorded at Singleton (ALP). **Atlas:** 34 records from 15 cells, RR 2.8%. **Trend:** Far less incidental records and in fewer numbers than for recent years.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*  
 ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.6%.



12 birds were flying over Crowdy Head 18 Jan (RIA) and a few birds over Edgeworth 2 Feb (OCG). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Less records and in fewer numbers than for recent years.

**Lewin's Rail** *Lewinia pectoralis*  
ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.6%.

**Breeding:** Yes



Two birds were recorded at Broughton Island 31 Mar (HBOC), and single birds at Harrington 18 Mar and 30 Aug (STA), Belmont Lagoon 26 Aug (STA), Gloucester Tops 28 Sep (STA/WAB) and HWC 1 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** Seven records from five cells, RR 1.3%.  
**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*  
ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 **Breeding:** Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had chicks at HWC 28 Feb and 29 Oct (ROM, LIP), Hexham Swamp 2 Mar and 7 Dec (SIA, BEI) and BbR 21 Nov & 2 Dec (LIP). **Atlas:** 25 records from six cells, RR 2.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Spotted Crane** *Porzana fluminea*  
ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) **Breeding:** Yes  
**Regional status:** Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.



Single birds were recorded at Belmont South 7 Apr (HBOC) and in the Hunter Estuary 15 Aug (Table 2). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Baillon's Crane** *Porzana pusilla*  
ID No: 050 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) **Breeding:** Past records  
**Regional status:** Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.5%.



Single birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 15 Aug (Table 2) and at WWW 21 Oct (WAB). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Spotless Crane** *Porzana tabuensis*  
ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) **Breeding:** Yes  
**Regional status:** Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.7%.



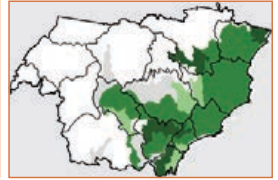
Two birds were at Coopernook Corner Wetlands 23 Feb (STA) and single birds at Belmont South 7 Apr (HBOC) and Tomago Wetlands Jul (Table 6). **Atlas:** One record, from R4. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds are frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 18.5%.



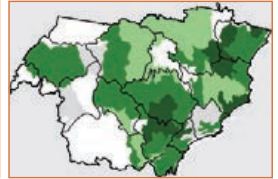
**Notable records** 40-42 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jun-Jul (Table 2). 20+ birds were often recorded at HWC and WWW (Tables 5, 12). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Mar and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 165 records from 20 cells, RR 12.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*

ID No: 056 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 20 birds frequently recorded at small to medium waters and up to 50 birds at medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 14.6%.



**Notable records** 54 birds were recorded at HWC in Jul and 30+ birds were present most months (Table 5). 20+ birds were occasionally at WWW and Charlestown GC (see Tables for details). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at HWC 21 Jun (HBOC) and there were several records spanning Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 128 records from 18 cells, RR 9.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Black-tailed Native-hen** *Tribonyx ventralis*

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

**Regional status:** Uncommon irruptive visitor.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.5%.

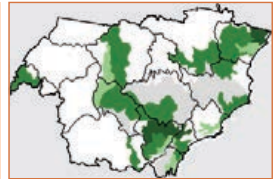
There have been no reports received since May 2013.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

ID No: 059 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 50 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.0%.



**Notable records** ~1,000 birds were at Lake Liddell 1 Jan (ALP). Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at four other locations (see Tables for main details): Hunter Estuary (200+ several months, peak counts 475 birds Jan and 408 birds Dec); HWC (100+ several months, peak count 202 birds Apr); WWW (200+ most months, peak count 403 birds Feb); Morpeth WTW (100+ several months, peak count 245 birds Aug). Also, 232 birds were at Stockton Borehole Swamp 14 Jan (MCE). **Atlas:** 145 records from 11 cells, RR 11.3%. **Trend:** Perhaps returning to normality after the influxes of 2012-2014.

**Brolga** *Antigone rubicunda*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

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

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2005, 2014).

A single bird was recorded at Martindale 15 Nov (WID).

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

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.9%.



Pairs were at Tahlee 11 Jul and Karuah 26 Feb (STA *et al.*, ERE), and single birds at Tahlee 12 Jan (CAA), Fassifern 28 Feb (ERE) and LTP 22 Aug (PEJ), **Breeding:** A pair was with a juvenile at Tilligerry Creek 6 Feb (WOL). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells, RR 1.5%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Critically Endangered

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.1%.



There were regular reports of the pairs in the Manning Estuary and Port Stephens (STA, MUT, others). A single bird was first recorded at Stockton Sandspit 2 Oct (CLT/FOJ), with many subsequent reports until 26 Nov when last recorded. *The only previous known record for the Hunter Estuary was a bird present for a few days in Dec 2002.* **Breeding:** Both the established pairs were sometimes recorded with juvenile birds present – Manning Estuary 11 Jun (STA) Soldiers Point area Feb-Apr (MUT). **Atlas:** Nine records from three cells, RR 1.6%. **Trend:** Improving (from a low base).



Sooty Oystercatchers Photo: Steve Merrett

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus finschi*  
ID No: 744 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2004).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Australian Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*  
ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds are often recorded at coastal and estuarine locations.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 14.7%.



**Notable records** 138 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (~1.3% of the total world 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 46 birds May (Table 16) 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, peak count 43 birds Oct); Worimi Conservation Lands (recorded all months, peak count 55 birds Apr); Manning Estuary (10+ most months, peak count 50 birds Feb); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (1-5 most months, peak count 8 birds Feb and May). Although there were not regular surveys at Forster/Tuncurry, 20 birds were present 17 Mar (STA); also 28 birds were at Birubi Point - Fingal Head Jul (Table 21). *In summer, 220-240 birds are estimated to have been present in the Region.* **Breeding:** Pairs had chicks at Worimi Conservation Lands mid Nov (per FRN) and Harrington Dec (STA). A pair at Stockton Sandspit made several unsuccessful attempts over late Aug-Oct (CLT, others). **Movements:** Birds recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 19 Jun, 14 Aug and 9 Oct had been banded at Red Rock (NSW), Dart Island (Clarence Estuary NSW) and Corner Inlet (Vic) respectively (per LIA). **Atlas:** 138 records from 12 cells, RR 18.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable. *The April count at Worimi Conservation Lands was the highest on record there.*

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*  
ID No: 131 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.8%.



**Notable records** 20+ birds were often recorded at Newcastle Baths with peak count 52 birds Feb (Table 7) while 52 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17). Ten birds were at Broughton Island 31 Mar (HBOC) and 24 birds 20 Aug (HCL). Small numbers were often in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area (Table 21). **Breeding:** Pairs were with juveniles at Winda Woppa 29 Jan and Saltwater NP 1 Feb and 11 Jun (all STA). **Atlas:** 37 records from six cells, RR 5.8%. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing; *highest and equal highest counts on record for Port Stephens and Newcastle Baths respectively.*

**Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*  
ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1995-96, 2000-01, 2004, 2012-13).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 148 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Usual visitor. During inland drought, thousands are in the Hunter Estuary (*text modified*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.4%.



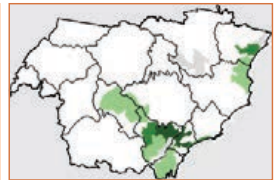
**Notable records** 2,000+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary all months except Mar-Apr, with peak count 5,894 birds Aug (Table 1). Birds ranged widely across the Estuary, with frequent records of large numbers at Ash Island, Tomago Wetlands and Hexham Swamp as well as the usual Stockton Sandspit/Fullerton Cove location. There were also 200+ birds at Morpeth WTW in Aug (Table 14, KET/VGF). **Movements:** Several birds with leg flags were recorded at Stockton Sandspit over Oct-Dec, including some making return visits. Many originated from Victoria, while one bird was from Coongie Lakes, Innamincka (all per CRL). **Atlas:** 80 records from four cells, RR 11.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*

ID No: 146 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.8%.



**Notable records** ~2,000 birds were at Hexham Swamp 5 Dec (LIA). Numbers were high in the Hunter Estuary all year (except Sep), with 400+ birds frequently and with peak count 1,333 birds Mar (Table 1). Most birds were at Deep Pond and Ash Island but with high numbers sometimes also at/around Hexham Swamp. 50+ birds were often recorded at Morpeth WTW with several 100+ counts and peak count 211 birds Aug (Table 14). **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests at WWW 19 Sep (CLM) and pairs were with chicks at Worimi Conservation Lands mid Nov (per FRN) and Stockton Borehole Swamp 8 Dec (HCL). **Atlas:** 125 records from 15 cells, RR 13.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.4%.



Two birds were recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 11 Sep (MEL/CLM) and a single bird at Stockton Sandspit 31 Oct (HCL). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells, RR 0.9%. **Trend:** A typical year.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.9%.

**Notable records** *Hunter Estuary:* The peak counts were 435 birds 28 Feb (MOA *et al.*) and 320 birds 9 Dec (CLT). Both counts were only for birds at Stockton Sandspit (which however was the main site all year). In the regular monthly surveys, many hundreds of birds were present Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec (Table 1, also Tables 3, 4 & 6). *Manning Estuary:* The peak count was 162 birds Dec, with 50+ birds present several other months (Table 18). *Elsewhere:* 21 birds were recorded at Gir-um-bit NP 20/21 Feb and lesser numbers there occasionally (Tables 15, 16). *Over-wintering:* 1-2 birds were in the Hunter Estuary in winter. **Atlas:** 85 records from four cells, RR 13.4%. **Trend:** Counts were less than for 2014 but are comparable to other recent summer counts. *Lowest winter counts for the Region since 2011.*

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1967*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*

ID No: 143 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded along the coast.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.1%.

**Notable records** *Manning Estuary:* 20+ birds were recorded most months with peak count 31 birds Mar and Oct (Table 18). *Port Stephens:* 21 birds present 20 Feb and 11 birds 18 Apr (Tables 15 & 16). *Hunter Estuary:* 17 birds present 15 Aug (Table 1). *Worimi Conservation Lands:* 20+ birds in three months with peak count 61 birds 17 Apr (Table 22). **Breeding:** A total of 5 runners were raised to independence at Stockton Sandspit over Sep-Dec (CLT). A pair had a nest with eggs at Harrington 31 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** 93 records from nine cells, RR 14.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Double-banded Plover** *Charadrius bicinctus*ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Winter migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.7%.

**Worimi Conservation Lands:** 106 birds were recorded 17 Apr, with good numbers present Mar-Aug (Table 22). **Manning Estuary:** The peak count was 53 birds in Jul (Table 18). **Port Stephens:** Up to 17 birds were in Gir-um-bit NP Jul-Aug (Table 16) and six birds at Corrie Island mid Apr (GOS). Some birds were also recorded at Karuah 14 Jul (TBW). **Elsewhere:** Four birds were at Stockton Sandspit 28 Feb (MOA *et al.*) and some birds at Seven Mile Beach Booti Booti NP 14 Apr (MGLB). **Atlas:** 26 records from seven cells, RR 4.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.2%.

Single birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 24/25 Jan and 28 Feb (ROS, BEI, LIA).

**Atlas:** Two records, from M10. **Trend:** A typical year.**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2004-05, 2007-09, 2012-13*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

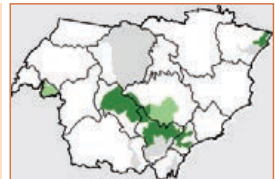
ID No: 142 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Elsayornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded at medium waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.5%.

**Notable records** Birds were recorded all months in the Hunter Estuary with peak counts 31-44 birds Mar-Apr; Phoenix Flats, Milhams Pond and Deep Pond were important locations (Tables 1, 3 & 4, ROM). 18 birds were at Cooperook Corner wetlands 1 Feb (STA). **Breeding:** A pair successfully nested near Deep Pond in Apr (per ROM). A pair had a nest with eggs at Ash Island 12 Sep but it later became flooded (MCN/STA). **Atlas:** 44 records from 11 cells, RR 4.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

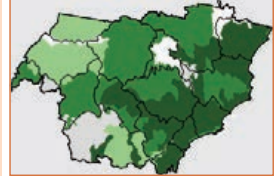


**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.3%.

Some birds were recorded near Largs 1 Nov and at Lorn 15 Nov (DDR, WID). **Atlas:** One record, from M10. **Trend:** Uncertain (very few records, but sites perhaps under-visited).

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 20 birds regularly recorded near medium-large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 36.8%.

**Notable records** 40+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary all months with very high numbers Jan-Mar and Dec, and peak count 238 birds Mar (Table 1). 20+ birds were often at Morpeth WTW and occasionally at Tocal Wetlands (Tables 14, 15), also at Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17) and Stockton Borehole Swamp 8 Dec (Table 20). **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Apr, Jul and Sep-Nov. **Atlas:** 420 records from 37 cells, RR 30.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythrogonys cinctus*ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.9%.

51 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Mar and 17-19 birds Apr-May, with much lesser numbers present Jun-Nov during the formal surveys (Table 1). However, outside of the monthly surveys, 70+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 17 Apr (BEI) and 18-19 birds were sometimes at Milhams Pond May-Jul (Table 4). Elsewhere 1-5 birds were often at Cooperook Corner wetlands (STA) and occasionally at Tocal Wetlands and Stockton Borehole Swamp (Tables 14, 19). Also 1-2 birds were at Lake Liddell 1 Jan and Goulburn River Martindale 29 Oct (both ALP). **Breeding:** A pair was with a juvenile at Tomago Wetlands 15 Sep (STA *et al.*) and another pair had 4 chicks there 20 Oct (LIA *et al.*). Birds had a nest with eggs at Hexham Swamp 24 Oct (LIG). **Atlas:** 27 records from six cells, RR 4.1%. **Trend:** Returned to normality after the influxes of 2013-2014.

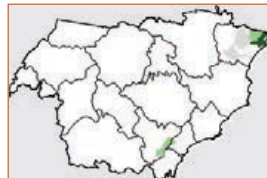
**Australian Painted Snipe** *Rostratula australis*

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

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Uncertain (*all records since 1993 have been spring/summer ones*).**BLA Atlas:** A1998-2015 RR 0.4%

No reports were received for 2015. **Trend:** There have been no records since January 2014.

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*  
ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.3%.



The only records were from Cattai Wetlands where 1-5 birds were regularly recorded (Table 19, others). **Atlas:** 15 records, all from R3, RR 9.3%. **Trend:** Uncertain (*no records from the Hunter Valley*).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.7%.



**Notable records** *Port Stephens:* 135 birds were recorded 20 Feb (Table 17). Birds were regularly around Corrie Island May-Dec with peak count 90 birds Sep and Nov (MOD), and 70 birds were near Dowardee Island 22 Oct (MUT). 17-24 birds were often at Gir-um-bit NP (Table 16). *Elsewhere:* The peak counts for the Hunter Estuary and Manning Estuary were 55 birds Feb and 30 birds Mar respectively (Tables 1, 18). **Atlas:** 71 records from five cells, RR 11.3%. **Trend:** Probably declining – numbers were down compared with recent years.

**Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus*  
ID No: 151 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1969, 1972, 1985-86, 2001, 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*  
ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered  
**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; 1-10 birds moderately often recorded Sep-Apr; some young birds over winter.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 17.6%.



**Notable records** *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count in regular monthly surveys was 215 birds (Table 1). Up to 18 birds over-wintered (Table 1). *Port Stephens:* 334 birds were recorded 20 Feb, mostly at Gir-um-bit NP where 100+ birds were often present including in May (Tables 16, 17). Birds were regularly at Corrie Island May-Dec with peak count 69 birds Nov (MOD). *Manning Estuary:* 30+ birds were often recorded with peak count 43 birds Dec and up to four birds over-wintering (Table 18). **Atlas:** 121 records from seven cells, RR 16.3%. **Trend:** Declining in the Hunter Estuary but the numbers in Port Stephens and Manning Estuary seem more stable. *The peak count in Port Stephens represents >1% of the total world population.*

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; up to 20 birds often recorded Sep-Mar; many young birds over winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.1%.

**Notable records** *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 790 birds with 590-700+ birds Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec and up to 82 birds over-wintering (Tables 1, 9). *Manning Estuary:* The peak count was 182 birds Dec with 100+ birds Jan and Oct and up to 17 birds over-wintering (Table 18). *Port Stephens:* 523 birds were recorded 20 Feb (Table 17). Birds were regularly at Corrie Island May-Dec with peak count 303 birds Oct (MOD), and regularly at Gir-um-bit NP all year with peak count 109 birds 17 Jan (Table 16). Up to 49 birds over-wintered (Table 16). *Elsewhere:* 35-53 birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Jan and Oct-Dec (Table 10) and 46 birds in Wallis Lake 20 Oct (MOA). **Movements:** Numerous flagged birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Feb-Mar and Sep-Nov (LIA, HCL). Many of them had been banded at sites either in Victoria or in the Hunter Estuary, with also one banded in New Zealand and another at Yalu Jiang China. There were numerous examples of site fidelity (all per HCL). **Atlas:** 103 records from five cells, RR 13.1%. **Trend:** Declining. *Lowest summer and winter counts for the Hunter Estuary since the Bird Reports began.*

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1983-84, 1988).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 152 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.3%.

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 96 birds 17 Jan, with some other records of 60-85 birds and up to five birds over-wintering (Tables 1, 9). Two birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17), and a single bird at Harrington 10 Oct (ERE) – *records from Port Stephens are uncommon, and from the Manning Estuary very rare.* **Movements:** A bird flagged in the Hunter Estuary in 2004 was present 9 Nov (HCL). **Atlas:** 51 records from three cells, RR 8.7%. **Trend:** Possibly now stable after an 80-90% decline in total numbers over past decades.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

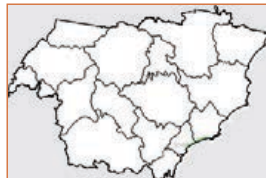
ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.2%.

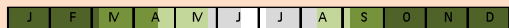
**Notable records** 26 birds were at Catherine Hill Bay 23 Dec (ADJ). The peak count at the Newcastle Baths roost was 16 birds Jan with 10+ birds present Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec and a single bird over-wintered (Table 7). **Movements:** The first returns at Newcastle Baths were 9/10 Sep (NIR/THJ). A bird recorded there 2 Nov had been banded at King Island 11 Feb 2015 (per THJ). **Atlas:** 17 records from four cells, RR 3.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

ID No: 165 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.4%.

Five birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit Nov and 1-4 birds there Jan, Mar-Apr and Sep-Dec (Table 9). Single birds were at Harrington Oct and Dec (Table 18) – *the first known records for this location*. **Atlas:** 18 records, all from M10, RR 6.4%.

**Trend:** Probably stable (with a low base).**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered**Regional status:** Summer migrant and bird of passage in Sep-Nov.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.7%

1-2 birds were present in the Hunter Estuary Mar-May. In the migration passage, the peak count for the Estuary was 700 birds in Oct, with numbers then tailing off through to the end of the year (Table 9). *Actual numbers utilising the Estuary were considerably higher as most birds only stayed for a few days*. There were no reports from elsewhere. **Movements:** The first return was 3 Aug when a single bird was at Stockton Sandspit (LIA); however numbers remained low until early Sep (HCL). Numerous flagged birds were recorded during the migration passage, usually remaining for several days and occasionally longer. Most had been banded in New Zealand, but three birds originated from Chongming Dao China and several from Victoria. There were also birds that had been flagged in South Korea, South Australia and Broome. There were some examples of site fidelity (all per HCL). **Atlas:** 37 records, from M10, S4, RR 6.8%. **Trend:** Uncertain (*the large decline in overall Flyway numbers is not obvious locally*).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1995-96, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2013-14).

Single birds were recorded at Cattai Creek Bridge Harrington 1 Nov and Tomago Wetlands 17 Nov (per ROM, LIA *et al.*).

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Calidris falcinellus* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (recorded 1994-95, 2003-04, 2006-07, 2012-14).

No reports were received for 2015.

### Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

ID No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.9%.



**Notable records** The large influxes into the Hunter Estuary of 2013 and 2014 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 more than 2,000 birds were still in the Estuary 17/18 Apr (Table 1). In the latter part of the year, another influx occurred, commencing mid Aug. From 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 Oct-Dec.* Elsewhere, 45 birds were at Cooperook Corner Wetlands 1 Feb (STA) – a high count for the Manning Valley. *The Hunter Estuary counts Jan-Mar represent 4.5-5% of the total world population.* **Movements:** Birds at Stockton Sandspit 15 Mar and 24 Oct had been banded in Victoria (LIA, HCL). **Atlas:** 69 records from six cells, RR 10.2%. **Trend:** Record high counts in the Hunter Estuary for the third season in a row.

### Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered

NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Summer migrant

(*Revised from: Common summer migrant*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.4%.



In the various surveys within the Hunter Estuary, 150+ birds were sometimes recorded Jan-Feb and 90-100 birds Oct-Dec (Tables 1, 9 in particular). Elsewhere, one bird was at Gir-um-bit NP 15 Aug (Table 16) and some birds at Forster 25 Sep (MGLB). **Movements:** 39 birds had returned to Stockton Sandspit by 31 Aug (HCL). **Atlas:** 44 records, from M10 and N9, RR 7.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable (after several decades of decline).

### Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2003, 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015. See Supplementary Records.

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

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.0%.

**Notable records** 195 birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 15 Mar and the numbers were high there throughout Feb-Mar (HBOC, Tables 1, 9). *The highest counts for the Hunter Estuary since the Bird Reports commenced.* The peak count for the Manning Estuary was 39 birds Mar with 32 birds also present late Jan (Table 18). 13 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 17 Jan (Table 16). **Atlas:** 51 records from seven cells, RR 8.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable. High numbers in Hunter Estuary but low at the other regular sites.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant in NE of the Region.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.

Birds were often recorded in the Manning Estuary with a peak count of 14 birds 31 Jan and one winter record – of a single bird 11 Jun (Table 18). Elsewhere, two birds were at Crowdy Bay 2 Apr (MGLB) and a single bird at the Worimi Conservation Lands 11 Dec (Table 22). **Atlas:** 11 records from three cells, RR 2.6%. **Trend:** Probably declining (based on the numbers in the Manning Estuary).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Calidris subruficollis* (*change to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1979, 2004, 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (*recorded 1995-99, 2001, 2003, 2006-09, 2013*).**BLA Atlas:** 37 records from three cells.

Single birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 21 Feb and Stockton Sandspit 12 Nov (Table 6, LIA). **Atlas:** Nil records.

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

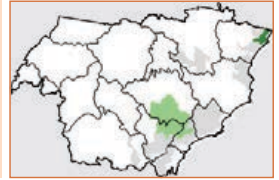
**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1985*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds often recorded from late Aug to mid-Mar.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.2%.

**Notable records** There were high numbers at Wallsend Wetlands mid-Jan, with peak count 53 birds 15 Jan (MCE, others). ~45 birds were at Lenaghans Flat 4 Sep, with several other reports of 10-20+ birds there Jan, Sep and Dec (THJ, others). Also, 14 birds were at East Seaham 13 Oct (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 27 records from nine cells, RR 2.6%. **Trend:** Probably declining.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*ID No: 160 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant (*Revised from: Summer migrant*). **BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.7%.

Two birds were recorded at Harrington 29 Dec (HUJ) – *uncommon at this location*. All other records were from the Hunter Estuary, with 12 birds present Mar (Table 9), 9-10 birds Jan-Feb and 3-4 birds Apr and Nov (LIA, Table 1). **Atlas:** 12 records, from M10, S4, RR 2.4%. **Trend:** Possibly now stable after an 80-90% decline in total numbers over past decades.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.6%.

1-2 birds were sometimes recorded in the regular monthly surveys of the Hunter Estuary (Table 1) but 3 birds were present at KI Dykes 21 Dec at low tide (BEI). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** One record, from M10. **Trend:** Probably now stable (with a low base).

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

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.7%.

**Notable records** *Port Stephens:* ~100 birds were recorded 18 Apr in a survey of the known roost sites; this included 49 birds at Swan Bay where birds were regularly present in lesser numbers all year (WOL, Table 16). Up to 20 birds over-wintered (Table 16). *Hunter Estuary:* 41-42 birds were at Fern Bay/Stockton Sandspit 17 Jan and 17 Apr, with 30+ birds regularly present Jan-Apr and up to 25 birds Oct-Nov (Tables 1 & 9, LIA). **Movements:** A bird at Swan Bay in Apr had been banded as an adult in July 2012 at breeding grounds in South Chukotka Russia (P. Tomkovich). **Atlas:** 42 records from five cells, RR 6.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1999, 2008, 2010).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2001).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.8%.

**Notable records** The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 168 birds Feb (Table 1); this included 101 birds at Tomago Wetlands (Table 6) which was an important site all year. Birds were also recorded in moderate numbers often at Hexham Swamp and occasionally Ash Island. **Atlas:** 18 records from three cells, RR 2.7%. **Trend:** Highest counts since 2004.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

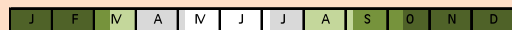
ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant (*occasional records of 1-5 birds*). (Revised from: *Rare summer migrant*). **BLA Atlas:** 30 records from four cells.

Two birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 30 Jan (WAB) and single birds 18 Jan and 27 Nov (JOJ, BEI). Single birds were also at Ash Island 23 Oct – 1 Nov (PAL, others) and near Broke Oct (per JOM) – *an interesting inland record*. **Atlas:** Two records, from M10 and R4. **Trend:** Probably stable (with a low base).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.6%.

**Notable records** 106 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan and 50-91 birds Feb-Mar and Oct (Table 1). Most of the records were from Hexham Swamp, occasionally from Deep Pond and Ash Island. **Atlas:** Eight records from three cells, RR 1.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable after a long period of decline.

**Red-backed Button-quail** *Turnix maculosus* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1999, 2006-07, 2010-11).

No reports were received for 2015. See Supplementary Records.





Wood Sandpiper Photo: Dick Jenkin

**Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varius*  
ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.



Some birds were recorded at HEZ 15 & 30 May and 10 Oct (ROS, MCS). A bird was found dead at East Maitland 25 Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** One record, from K9. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhothorax*  
ID No: 019 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2005, 2008).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox*  
ID No: 018 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1996, 2004).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*  
ID No: 173 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009, 2013).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 933 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.

No reports were received for 2015.

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*ID No: 128 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

Six birds were inside Port Stephens 20 Feb (HBOC). 1-3 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys from Port Stephens Jan-Mar and Jun (Table 23) and offshore from Newcastle 2 & 6 Feb and 24 Mar (ROS, BEI), Shoal Bay 9 Feb (WOL), Broughton Island 31 Mar (STA *et al.*), Burgess Beach Forster 6 Mar (MGLB), Blacksmiths Beach early Nov (GOS), also inside Newcastle Harbour 21 Mar (HAP) and Port Stephens 31 Mar (HBOC). *The June winter record is noteworthy.*

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

10-14 birds were regularly recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens Jan-Mar (Table 23) and 3-5 birds off Newcastle 28 Jan, 2 Feb and 24 Mar (ROS, BEI) and off Swansea 9 Jul (Table 23). One bird was inside Port Stephens 31 Mar (HBOC).

**Brown Skua** *Catharacta antarcticus* (*change to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon visitor, more frequently in winter.

1-2 birds were recorded off Newcastle 3 & 19 Jul (NIR, ROM) and during pelagic surveys off Swansea 9 Jul and off Port Stephens 9 Aug (Table 23).

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer bird of passage (*revised from: Rare*).

Single birds were recorded off Newcastle 20 Jan (ROS) and then regularly there 28 Feb – 8 Mar (many observers).

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

ID No: 124 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2004, 2013*)

No reports were received for 2015.

**Grey Noddy** *Procelsterna albivitta**(change to Common Name and scientific name based on BLA V2)*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1995, 2002*)

No reports were received for 2015.

**White Tern** *Gygis alba*

ID No: 972 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2003, 2012).

A single bird was found at Wybong Road 13 Mar (~17km west of Muswellbrook and ~125km from the nearest coastline). It was taken into care but did not survive (per WTA/ROM). *The weather conditions around this time were normal.*

**Silver Gull** *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 100 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 26.1%.

**Notable records** ~1,500 birds were in the Nobbys Beach/Newcastle Baths area 21 May and 1,200+ birds were foraging or roosting off Newcastle 9 Jun (BEI, RIA). These records coincided with high numbers regularly present around Newcastle Baths Mar-Jul (Table 7). Birds were regularly recorded in large numbers at four other locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 140 birds Dec; 100+ several months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 335 birds Mar and 100+ Jan-Apr and Nov); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 488 birds Mar, 100+ Jan-Apr and Dec) and the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (peak count 571 birds May, 100+ all months). A bird was taken by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle at Swansea 11 Nov (HOB).

**Breeding:** Some birds were nesting on Moon Island 9 Dec (CCB). **Atlas:** 223 records from 19 cells, RR 25.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1994, 1997, 2008-09, 2011-13).

Two immature birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths 21 May, with some intermittent records of them through until 29 May when last reported (NIR, others).

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*

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

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1998, 2007-08, 2012).

A single bird was recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 18 Oct (per LIA).

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer bird of passage (revised from: Rare summer migrant).

60 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 11 Jan and there were 1-2 birds in Newcastle Harbour 8 Jan (STA) and off Newcastle 20 & 28 Jan (ROS).

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

ID No: 121 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2013)

No reports were received for 2015.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

ID No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Summer migrant. Present in large numbers in the Manning Estuary and as up to 20 birds elsewhere.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.9%.

**Notable records** *North:* 170+ birds were recorded in the Manning Estuary Jan and Nov-Dec with a peak count 250 birds Dec (Table 18). There was also a winter record, of a single bird at Mudbishops Point 22 Jul (STA). *Central:* 18 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17) and 70 birds in the Worimi Conservation Lands 16 Jan (Table 22). *South:* The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 27 birds Mar and birds were only recorded Jan-Mar during the scheduled surveys (Table 2). However, birds were often recorded at Stockton Sandspit in Oct with peak count 52 birds 24 Oct (HCL). 46 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 21 Feb and 10-15 birds Oct-Nov (Table 10). **Breeding:** There were five chicks at Fern Bay 16 Jan (per LIA) and birds were feeding fledged young at Newcastle Baths 26 Feb (RIA). **Atlas:** 66 records from five cells, RR 11.1%. **Trend:** More reports, but numbers were much lower than for recent years.

**Australian Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*  
(change to Common Name and scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.4%.

**Notable records** Substantial numbers were recorded in the Worimi Conservation Lands most of the year with 100+ birds Aug-Sep and peak count 177 birds 14 Aug (Table 22). Numbers in the Hunter Estuary generally were low but 52 birds were at Milhams Pond Jun (Table 4) and 40-50+ birds at Stockton Sandspit 23 Apr and 21 Sep (LIA, HCL). 31 birds were recorded at Girum-bit NP 12 Sep (Table 16). **Atlas:** 90 records from eight cells, RR 12.7%. **Trend:** Very high RR, for the second successive year.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded close to the coast.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.8%.

**Notable records** 15+ birds were often in the Hunter Estuary (mainly Stockton Sandspit and KI Dykes) Feb-May with peak count 26 birds Feb (Table 2). Also, 15 birds were at Hexham Swamp 3 Mar (HBOC). **Movements:** Two banded birds at Stockton Sandspit had Victorian connections: A bird recorded Mar-Apr and Sep-Oct had been banded as a *pullus* at Corner Inlet in Dec 2011, another bird present Sep-Oct had been banded as a *pullus* in Port Phillip Bay Nov 2012 (per LIA, HCL). **Atlas:** 82 records from eight cells, RR 10.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Spring migrant and bird of passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.5%.



30 birds were at Hexham Swamp 10 Oct, rising to 170+ birds 20 Oct (Table 2, ROM/CLT). Nine birds were at both Millers Dam Ulan 30 Sep and John Browns Lagoon 4 Oct (ERE, ALP). **Atlas:** Eight records from four cells, RR 1.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.5%.

Single birds were recorded in Newcastle Harbour 21 & 30 Mar (HAP, NIR) and at Harrington 15 Oct and Newcastle Baths 17 Dec (STA, RIA). *The first known record for the Manning Estuary.* **Atlas:** Three records from three cells. **Trend:** Probably stable (from a low base).

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1968*).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

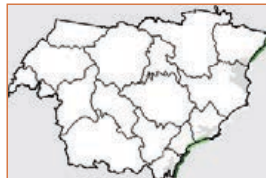
ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Winter migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.1%.



130-150 birds were at/offshore of Newcastle Baths 2-3 Aug (ROM, RIA) and lesser numbers were recorded there or offshore regularly in May-Oct (Table 7). A single bird was at Newcastle Baths 10 Nov (RIA) – *a very late record*. Elsewhere, eight birds were in Port Stephens 10 May and 2-4 birds at Pindimar 17 May and Winda Woppa 19 May (all WOL). Also, 2-3 birds were at Mudbishops Point Jul-Aug (Table 18). **Movements:** Birds first arrived at Port Stephens 10 May, Worimi Conservation Lands 15 May and Newcastle Baths 19 May (WOL, LIA, NIR). **Atlas:** 12 records from four cells, RR 2.4%. **Trend:** Returned to normality after a quiet 2014.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Summer migrant. Often present in large numbers in the Manning Estuary and as up to 10 birds elsewhere.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.4%.

**Notable records** 200 birds were at Newcastle Baths Feb with 30-65 birds regularly recorded there or nearby in Jan-Mar and mid Sep-Dec (Table 7, others). 58 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb and then 20 birds at Corrie Island within Port Stephens 23 Dec (Table 17, MOD). 41 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Feb with 1-2 birds also present Nov-Dec (Table 2), 14-21 birds in the Manning Estuary Feb-Mar and Oct (Table 18) and a single bird at Worimi Conservation Lands 21 Feb (Table 22). **Atlas:** 29 records from six cells, RR 4.3%. **Trend:** The third successive year of very low counts in the Manning Estuary and the numbers also were down at most other locations.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2006, 2008, 2012*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

ID No: 115 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 50 birds are often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 15.8%.

**Notable records** 50+ birds were often at three locations (see Tables for main details): Newcastle Baths (50+ most months, 100+ often, peak count 800 birds May); Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (50+ often, peak count 184 birds Jul); Manning Estuary (100+ most months, peak count 480 birds Dec). Also 234 birds were at Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17) and 100+ birds at the Worimi Conservation Lands Feb and Dec (Table 22). **Breeding:** There were several instances of adults feeding young at Harrington 31 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** 141 records from 13 cells, RR 17.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 107 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1952, 1955, 1973, 1978, 2000, 2006, 2009, 2011*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1956, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2013-14*).

A dead juvenile bird was found at Redhead Beach 24 Apr (MCR).

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.9%.

Six birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 11 Jan (Table 23) and four birds were inside Port Stephens 20 Feb (HBOC). Single birds were at Swansea 10 Mar (ADJ) and Shoal Bay 10 Nov (FRN), and off Cabbage Tree Island 31 Mar (HBOC). A bird was taken into care at Merewether Beach 8 Mar (per ROS). **Atlas:** Two records, from P9.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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40 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jun and some birds in the analogous Jan, Mar and Sep surveys, and on a survey off Swansea in Dec (Table 23).

**White-faced Storm-Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Resident.

80+ birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 9 Aug (Table 23), *the highest count on record*, and some birds in the analogous Jan, Mar, Sep surveys, and on a survey off Swansea in Dec (Table 23). Two birds were in Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr after heavy weather (ROM, others) and two other birds were taken into care around the same time but did not survive (NIJ).

**White-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta grallaria*

ID No: 944 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2006-07, 2010*).

No confirmed reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2006, 2009-10, 2013-14*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**New Zealand Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta maoriana* (*changes to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 5038 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2010, 2013*).

No reports were received for 2015 (but see Unconfirmed Records).

### Wandering Albatross types

**Regional 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 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2002-03, 2006-09, 2011-13*).

J	F	V	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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#### Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*

ID No: 846 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2002-03, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014*).

J	F	V	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Confirmed records of either species are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

**Wandering Albatross:** Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 13 Sep (Table 23).

**Antipodean Albatross:** Two birds were recorded off Port Stephens 13 Sep and single birds 26 Feb, 30 Mar and 14 Jun (Table 23).

**Records of unidentified birds:** A single bird was off Newcastle 17 Jul (MCS).

#### Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*

ID No: 093 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2012, 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015.

#### Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Common winter migrant, regularly recorded including from land.

J	F	V	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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170 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 9 Jul (Table 23), while 130 and 50 birds were found on the analogous surveys off Port Stephens 14 Jun and 9 Aug respectively (Table 23). 62 birds were off Cabbage Tree Island 28 Jun (MOA), and 40-50 birds off Newcastle 2 Jul (ROS). Many birds were close inshore off Port Stephens 29 Jun (MUT), and there were occasional records of <5 birds inshore from Newcastle in Jul and early Sep.

#### Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma*

ID No: 090 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered

**Regional status:** Accidental (*Recorded 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015.



### Black-browed Albatross types

**Regional status:** Common winter migrant; regularly recorded including from land. However, it 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 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2003, 2010-14*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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#### Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*

ID No: 859 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*confirmed records in 2003, 2005-06, 2008-13*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Confirmed records of either species are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

**Black-browed Albatross:** Seven birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Swansea 9 Jul and 1-3 birds off Port Stephens Jan and Aug (Table 23).

**Campbell Albatross:** Seven birds were recorded in a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 13 Jun and a single bird 9 Aug (Table 23). One bird on 13 Jun had been banded off Wollongong as an immature (~2yo) female on 13 August 2000 (per ROM).

**Records of unidentified birds:** 30+ birds were off Newcastle 26 Jun (BEI, ROM) and there were frequent records of lesser numbers there over May-Jul (many observers). Six birds were recorded during a Port Stephens pelagic survey 9 Aug and three birds 13 Sep (Table 23).

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

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Rare (*recorded 2003, 2007, 2012-14*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jun and three birds off Swansea 9 Jul (Table 23).



Buller's Albatross Photo: Mick Roderick

### Shy Albatross types

**Regional status:** Winter migrant; regularly recorded including sometimes from land. Although most birds 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 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*only 1 confirmed record, in July 2010*).

#### White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche steadi*

ID No: 861 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*2 confirmed records: Sep 2010 and Nov 2014*).

#### Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*

ID No: 862 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002-03, 2006, 2008; and were not assessed by ORAC*).

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

**Shy Albatross:** A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens 3 Mar (Table 23).

**White-capped Albatross:** A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens 13 Sep (Table 23).

**Salvin's Albatross:** No reports were received for 2015.

**Records of unidentified birds:** 16 birds were recorded during a Port Stephens pelagic survey 14 Jun, seven birds 9 Aug and two birds 26 Feb and 3 Mar (Table 23). Also, six birds were seen on the analogous Swansea pelagic 9 Jul (Table 23). Single birds were off Newcastle 2 & 18 Jul (ROS, ROM).

### 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.

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

ID No: 937 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon winter migrant.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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#### Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Uncommon winter migrant.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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### Giant-Petrel types ctd

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

**Northern Giant-Petrel:** 1-2 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 14 Jun, 9 Aug and 13 Sep (Table 23).

**Southern Giant-Petrel:** Single birds were off Cabbage Tree Island 28 Jun (MOA) and on a Port Stephens pelagic survey 13 Sep (Table 23).

**Records of unidentified birds:** Single birds were off Newcastle 8, 18 & 19 Jul (BEI, ROM) and off Port Stephens 9 Aug (Table 23).

### Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Winter migrant at >5km from shore.

J	F	N	A	N	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 13 Sep (Table 23).

### Prion types

Fairy Prions *Pachyptila turtur* are frequent winter visitors to the Region, and sometimes approach close to shore. However, it is not always possible to differentiate them from the other prion species (Broad-billed *P. vittata*, Antarctic *P. desolata* and Slender-billed *P. belcheri*).

### Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

ID No: 082 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1973).

### Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2000, 2013)

### Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

ID No: 942 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2002, 2013)

### Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

ID No: 083 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Winter migrant at >10 km from shore.

J	F	N	A	N	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Confirmed records are presented below, then records where the species could not be definitively assigned.

**Broad-billed Prion:** No reports were received for 2015.

**Antarctic Prion:** No reports were received for 2015.

**Slender-billed Prion:** No reports were received for 2015.

**Fairy Prion:** 250 birds were recorded off Port Stephens 9 Aug and 35 birds 14 Jun (Table 23). 16 birds were off Newcastle 1 Jun (RIA) and some birds were positively identified close offshore in mid-July (ROM). Three birds were inside Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr after heavy weather (BEI, ROM, others). A bird was taken by a White-bellied Sea-Eagle off Newcastle 20 Jul (BEI).

**Records of unidentified birds:** ~200-300 birds were close inshore off Newcastle 18-19 Jul and ~50 birds 17 Jul (ROM, MCS). Some birds were off Boat Harbour 27 Jun and early Jul (MUT).

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

ID No: 078 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Summer migrant at >5km from shore, except at its breeding grounds.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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At least five birds were in Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr during heavy weather (BEI, ROM, others). On the same day, a bird was taken into care but it did not survive (per NIJ). **Breeding:** The April storms are understood to have caused considerable habitat damage at the Cabbage Tree Island breeding grounds (CLT). **Trend:** Many carcasses were found on Cabbage Tree Island during the 2015-2016 breeding season.

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

ID No: 918 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1971, 2006, 2012, 2014).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 5007 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 955 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2007).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Providence Petrel** *Pterodroma solandri*ID No: 971 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Common autumn to spring visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

15 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 14 Jun and 12 birds on 13 Sep, and with three birds during the analogous surveys on 30 Mar and 9 Aug (Table 23).

**Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer visitor at & beyond the continental shelf.

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 11 Jan (Table 23).

**White-necked Petrel** *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer visitor (recorded 2001, 2004-07, 2011-14).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 11 Jan (Table 23).

**Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 810 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1988).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 077 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon late winter/spring migrant (recorded 2002-03, 2010, 2013).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Grey-faced Petrel** *Pterodroma gouldi* (change to Common Name and scientific name based on BLA V2)ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Regional status:** Common all year at and beyond the continental shelf.

J	F	M	A	N	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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15 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 26 Feb and lesser numbers in analogous surveys in Feb-Mar and Sep (Table 23). 15-20 birds were close inshore off Newcastle 22 May and a single bird 27 Jan (ROM, ROS).

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

ID No: 915 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1968, 2003, 2014).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (recorded 2000, 2006-07, 2010-14).

J	F	M	A	N	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 26 Feb and two birds off Swansea 10 Dec (Table 23).

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna pacifica*

ID No: 069 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant, several hundred birds often recorded.

J	F	M	A	N	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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**Notable records** ~2,500 birds were recorded off Shoal Bay 9 Feb (WOL) and during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 11 Jan (Table 23). 450-800 birds were recorded in the analogous Port Stephens surveys Feb-Mar and Sep (Table 23). 1,000+ birds were off Newcastle 20 Jan and ~600 birds 24 Mar (ROS, BEI). 10+ birds were in Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr after heavy weather (BEI, others). **Breeding:** Some birds were in burrows at Broughton Island 17 Mar (STA).

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

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (recorded 1995, 2000-01, 2009, 2012-13).

Two birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 11 Jan and 26 Feb, and a single bird 30 Mar (Table 23).

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

ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common spring/summer migrant, flocks of up to 100 birds often recorded.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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**Notable records** Many thousands per hour were passing by offshore from Newcastle 7 Oct (BEI). 20+ birds were in Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr after heavy weather (ROM).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

ID No: 070 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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21 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 10 Dec and 1-3 birds in analogous surveys off Port Stephens 11 Jan, 30 Mar and 14 Jun (Table 23). *The winter record is noteworthy.*

**Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis*

ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2011*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Ardenna carneipes*ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Summer migrant at >1km from shore.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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~150 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 11 Jan and 30-60 birds on the analogous surveys Jan-Mar (Table 23). Single birds were off Newcastle 27-28 Jan (ROS, BEI).

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006, 2010-14*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 3 Mar and a single bird 30 Mar (Table 23).

### 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. Most 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: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant and bird of passage in late winter/spring.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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#### Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Bird of passage (*probably overlooked*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Confirmed records are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

**Fluttering Shearwater:** 12 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 13 Sep and two birds 8 Feb and 3 Mar (Table 23). Three birds were off Swansea 9 Jul (Table 23) and a single bird off Newcastle 21 Jul (CAG).

**Hutton's Shearwater:** 70 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 13 Sep and small numbers during many other surveys (Table 23) and off Newcastle 28 Jan (ROS).

**Records of unidentified birds:** 3,000-4,000 birds in two flocks were off Newcastle 2 Aug (ROM) and ~100 birds per hour were passing off Newcastle 7 Oct (BEI). *These are likely to have been predominantly Fluttering Shearwaters.* There were also records off Newcastle of single birds in Jan (ROM, ROS) and 50-100+ birds in Jul (ROM, BEI).

#### Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2015.

#### Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer visitor (*recorded 1997, 2001, 2010, 2013-14*).

No reports were received for 2015.

#### Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

ID No: 085 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2012-13*).

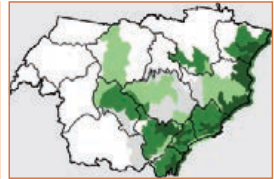
No reports were received for 2015.

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.0%.

**Lower Hunter:** There were frequent records all year of 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp and nearby areas (e.g. Lenaghans Flat, Ash Island, Shortland/Wallsend). There were also several records of 1-2 birds from the East Maitland/Morpeth/Glen Oak area – this possibly was a second pair in the lower Hunter. **Gloucester:** There were regular reports of 1-2 birds in the Gloucester / Craven area during Jul (DBP) and near Stratford 18 Oct and 27 Dec (ERE). **Harrington/Coopernook:** Two birds were at Dyers Crossing 9 Apr and at least one bird at Cattai Bridge 2 Apr (both MGLB). **Bulahdelah/Forster:** 1-2 birds were recorded at Firefly 1 Apr, Nabiac 16 May, Wang Wauk 15 Jun and Failford 3 Dec (all MGLB) and Bulahdelah 28 Oct and 5 Nov (ERE). **Breeding:** A pair was with a juvenile at Bulahdelah 16 Apr (CAA). A pair was with two juveniles at Hexham Swamp 26 Nov (BEI) and there were many records of this family in the remainder of the year. It is uncertain where the pair nested as the birds were already some months old when first recorded (based on a review of images by Black-necked Stork expert Dr Greg Clancy). However, it seems telling that the family was never recorded away from Hexham Swamp. **Atlas:** 12 records from five cells, RR 1.4%. **Trend:** Seems positive – a new breeding pair in the Region and a possible second pair in the lower Hunter.

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded, with frequent counts of up to 50 birds at large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 27.8%.

**Notable records** 213 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17). Birds were often in good numbers at four locations (see Tables for details): Hunter Estuary (50+ most months, peak count 188 birds Apr); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (20+ several months, peak count 87 birds Apr); Morpeth WTW (20+ birds some months, peak count 78 birds Jan); Manning Estuary (20+ most months, peak count 66 birds Jun). **Breeding:** 40+ pairs were nesting at Pelican Island Wallis Lake 19 Oct (MOA). **Atlas:** 246 records from 28 cells, RR 23.0%. **Trend:** In lesser numbers than usual.

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

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

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.7%.

Single birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 1 & 30 Nov and 1 Dec (DDR, per BDO). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain.



**Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius* (change to Common Name and scientific name based on BLA V2)

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

**Regional status:** Rare (recorded 1994-5, 2003-4, 2006, 2009-12).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

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

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 20 records from 12 cells.



Single birds were recorded near Clarendetown 17 Feb (RAL) and at Boys Walk Cooranbong 9 Jan (per MES), 22 Jul (per CAG), and 20 Nov (ERE). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.0%.



**Notable records** 40-50 birds were recorded at HWC 31 Jul (NIG *et al.*) and 25-30 birds at Irrawang Swamp 8 Aug and 11 Oct (WAB, ALP). **Atlas:** 39 records from 11 cells, RR 4.3%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

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

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.3%.



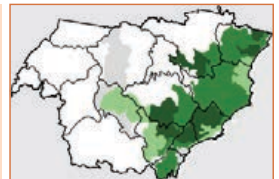
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 27 records from seven cells, RR 3.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident. 10-50 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 15.2%.

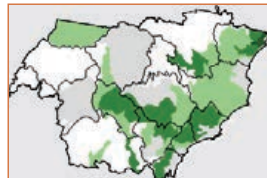


**Notable records** 774 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 29 Jan (Table 14) and 104 birds were at Tocal Wetlands 30 Jan (Table 15). There sometimes were large numbers at two important breeding colony locations (Table 5, STA): HWC (350-400 birds Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec) and Nulama Ponds Cundletown (300+ birds 17 Nov). **Breeding:** 300+ pairs were nesting at Cundletown Feb and Dec (MOT, STA). There were 192 nests at HWC 27 Nov (NIG *et al.*), and the Gloucester colony still had 15 chicks 3 Mar (DBP). **Atlas:** 95 records from 13 cells, RR 8.4%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half of the long term average.

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

ID No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common visitor. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.8%.

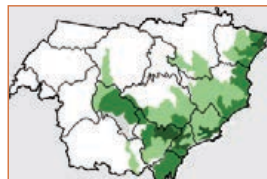


**Notable records** 6-8 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Mar, Sep and Oct (Table 2). **Breeding:** Three pairs had nests with young at Gloucester 3 Mar (DBP) and one pair had a nest with young at Middleton Swamp Shortland late Dec (WBJ). **Atlas:** 52 records from 19 cells, RR 4.7%.  
**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 20.0%.

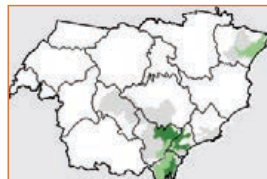


**Notable records** 20+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan, Apr and Oct (Table 2) and at HWC Oct-Dec (Table 5). 10-15 birds were at Morpeth WTW Jan and Mar (Table 14) and HWC Jan-Mar (Table 5). **Breeding:** Pairs continued to be with dependent young at HWC over Jan-Mar (LIP, SRM). Breeding resumed at HWC later in the year, with 25 nests 27 Nov (NIG *et al.*). There was at least one nest at Cundletown 16 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 162 records from 19 cells, RR 13.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable, although the Reporting Rate was below long term average.

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.8%.

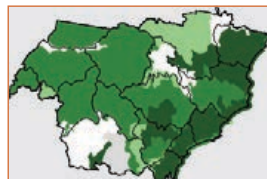


**Notable records** Eight birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan and seven birds there in Nov and at Morpeth WTW 24 Mar (Tables 2, 14). **Breeding:** Pairs continued to be with dependent young at HWC over Jan-Feb (LIP, SRM). There were ten nests at HWC 27 Nov (NIG *et al.*). **Atlas:** 48 records from eight cells, RR 5.1%. **Trend:** Lowest numbers since 2011.

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

ID No: 188 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 34.4%.

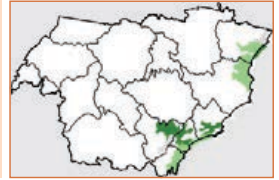


**Notable records** 100+ birds were often recorded in the Hunter Estuary with peak count 226 birds 15 Aug (Table 2). The main locations were Ash Island and Tomago Wetlands, with a peak count of 117 birds at the latter (Table 6). 75 birds were at Hexham Swamp 3 Mar (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair bred at Marks Point Jan-Feb (per LIA) and birds had nests with young at Rutherford 10 Nov and Martindale Rd 17 Nov (KET *et al.*, WAB). **Atlas:** 326 records from 37 cells, RR 25.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds are occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.9%.

**Notable records** 23 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 14 Nov and 18 birds 20 Jun (Table 10). **Breeding:** A pair continued to be with dependent young at HWC over Jan-Feb (LIP, SRM). There were eight nests at HWC 27 Nov (NIG *et al.*). **Atlas:** 58 records from 11 cells, RR 6.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.2%.

Four birds were recorded at Broughton Island 31 Mar (HBOC). Single birds were often in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area (Table 21) and also were at Crowdy Head 2 Apr (MGLB), Boat Harbour 27 Jun (MUT), Burwood Beach 28 Jun (BEA) and at Newcastle rock platform 30 Jun, 8 & 21 Jul (BEI, MRO, NIR). **Atlas:** Seven records, from P8, M10, RR 1.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis moluccus*

ID No: 179 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

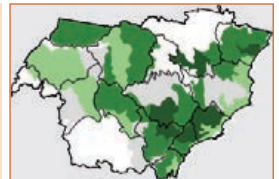
**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 50 birds regularly recorded, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 26.1%.

**Notable records** 556 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary in May and 381 birds in Feb (Table 2). Many hundreds were at HWC associated with the breeding colony, with peak count 473 birds in Nov (Table 5). **Breeding:** Breeding at HWC wound down through Jan-Feb then began again in Jul (several observers). There were 103 nests 31 Jul; this had risen to 125 nests 16 Dec (NIG *et al.*). Also, many hundreds of pairs were nesting at the nearby NWR 25 Nov (LIA). **Atlas:** 208 records from 15 cells, RR 17.7%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

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

ID No: 180 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: No

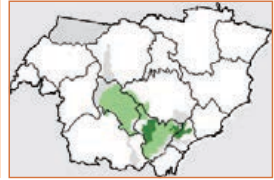
**Regional status:** Usual bird of passage. Up to 50 birds regularly recorded, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.1%.

**Notable records** 1,544 birds were at Morpeth WTW 29 Jan and 817 birds 25 Jun (Table 14). ~800 birds were flying over Wingen 12 Jan (NEG) and 551 birds were at Hexham 20 Jun (LIA). **Atlas:** 85 records from 20 cells, RR 7.2%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes*

ID No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Bird of passage. 1-3 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.2%.



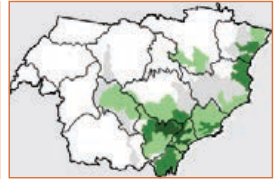
**Notable records** Four birds were at Whittingham (Singleton) 31 May & 17 Jun (ALD, SIA).

**Atlas:** Six records from four cells, RR 0.7%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was about 80% lower than the long term average.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 14.7%.



**Notable records** Numbers were high at Morpeth WTW Jan-Apr with peak count 57 birds 29 Jan (Table 14). 48 birds were at HWC 1 Dec and with high numbers Sep-Dec (Table 5). 100+ birds were at Hexham 4 Feb (OCG) and 37 birds at Cattai Bridge Wetlands 18 Mar (STA).

**Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Newcastle University mid Nov (HRK) and birds had dependent young at HWC 1 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 129 records from 13 cells, RR 10.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Bird of passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.2%.



16 birds were at Lenaghans Flat 12 May (THK) and then there were several records of 20-40 birds at that location between 21 Jul and 11 Sep (various observers). 15 birds were at Hexham Swamp 15 Dec (KET *et al.*). **Atlas:** One record, from Q4. **Trend:** Fewer records and in lesser numbers than recent years.

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2000, 2013*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor*

ID No: 094 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*new to list*).

An adult female with a pink/red orbital ring and pink bill was present around Newcastle Harbour for a few days in January. It was first reported 7 Jan (CJB/GRL, then many others), but several comments from passers-by suggest the bird was present for 1-2 days prior to that. The last report was from around midday 8 Jan with a sighting shortly afterwards near Norah Head on the Central Coast. *The report was accepted by ORAC as the 4th confirmed record for NSW although there are a number of published reports which occurred before ORAC's inception.*



Great Frigatebird Photo: Allan Richardson

Only birds of South Pacific origin, with a blue orbital ring and blue bill, have been reported previously in eastern Australian waters. The Newcastle bird was apparently either from the Indian Ocean or, and probably more likely, the North Pacific; as both have pink bills and red or pink orbital rings.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

ID No: 104 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Regular winter migrant, up to 20 birds often recorded (*text revised*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.6%.

**Notable records** ~280 birds were recorded off Forster 8 Jul (MGLB) and ~250 birds off Newcastle 1 Jun (RIA). There were several records of 50-100 birds off both Newcastle and Port Stephens during Jun-Jul (various observers). **Atlas:** 25 records from eight cells, RR 3.3%

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

ID No: 103 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1985, 2008, 2010, 2013*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

ID No: 102 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1984, 1986, 1991, 1993, 2010-11*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

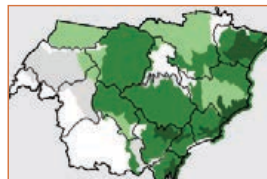
ID No: 105 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1979, 2013).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

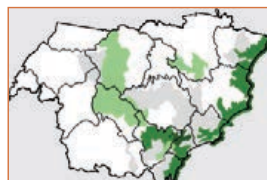
ID No: 100 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded at small to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 22.4%.

**Notable records** 172 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17) and 20+ birds several times at Swansea/Lake Macquarie with peak count 53 birds 9 Aug (Table 10). 41 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 20-21 Mar (Table 2). **Breeding:** There were many nests at NWR 25 Nov (LIA) and at least one nest at Cundletown 16 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 208 records from 38 cells, RR 16.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

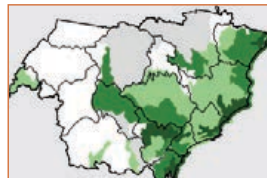
ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 10 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 12.9%.

**Notable records** 41-51 birds were recorded in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area Oct-Nov (Table 21). 33 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17) and there were some counts of 10-15 birds at Newcastle Baths and Gir-um-bit NP (Tables 7, 16). **Breeding:** At least one pair was nesting at Cundletown 16 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 121 records from 20 cells, RR 11.3%. **Trend:** In lesser numbers than usual.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

ID No: 097 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 30 birds frequently recorded at small to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 20.2%.

**Notable records** 660 birds were recorded in Manning Estuary early in the year and 550 birds in Dec, with 160-250 birds also present Oct-Nov (Table 18). 266 birds were in Port Stephens 20 Feb (Table 17), 260 birds at Coal Point 22 Sep (per BEI) and 236 birds at Myuna Bay 12 May (Table 12). There were also records of 100+ birds from around Lake Macquarie in Feb, Jun and Nov (Table 10, GOC). **Breeding:** There were many nests at NWR 25 Nov (LIA) and at least one nest at Cundletown 23 Feb (STA). **Atlas:** 209 records from 29 cells, RR 17.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual coastal resident; 1-10 birds are often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.5%.



**Notable records** 355 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 20 Feb and 142 birds at Gir-um-bit NP within Port Stephens 18 Jul (Table 17, 15). Birds were often present in good numbers at four other locations (see Tables for details): Hunter Estuary (15+ several months, peak count 69 birds Jan); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (10+ several months, peak count 50 birds Apr); Manning Estuary (10+ most months, peak count 34 birds Feb); Birubi Point - Fingal Head (10+ many months, peak count 43 birds Dec). **Breeding:** Some birds had nests at NWR 25 Nov (LIA). **Atlas:** 126 records from 19 cells, RR 12.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae* (amended)

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Several pairs had nests at NWR 25 Nov (LIA) and birds were nesting at Cundletown 23 Feb, 17 Oct and 16 Dec (STA, MGLB) and Islington 29 Oct (STJ). **Atlas:** 104 records from 16 cells, RR 9.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded at estuaries/coastal lakes.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.6%.

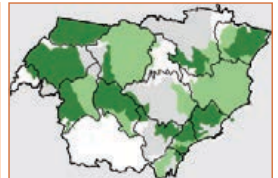


There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Active nests were reported from around Swansea/Galgabba (2 nests), Speers Point, Forster (3 nests), Wallis Lake (6 nests), Tahlee, and Gir-um-bit NP. A pair built a nest on Ash Island late Apr (PAL) but later was dislodged by Peregrine Falcons – *this would otherwise have become the first confirmed breeding record for the Hunter Estuary.* **Movements:** A bird at Ash Island in April had been banded at either the Clarence River or Port Macquarie several years earlier (per CLG). **Atlas:** 82 records from 14 cells, RR 9.6%. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

ID No: 232 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.3%.



**Notable records** Six birds were close together in the Martindale area 10 Apr (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Lake Liddell 1 Jan (ALP). **Atlas:** 46 records from 14 cells, RR 4.0%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

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

ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1977).

No reports were received for 2015.

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

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.5%.

There were many records of 1-2 birds in the Maitland/Cessnock/Raymond Terrace area Mar-Jul (ROS, BRG, others), also 30 May at Raymond Terrace (CAA). Single birds were recorded at Belmont North 10 Feb (ERE), Charlestown GC 8 Mar (FEG/ROM) and Forster 17 Aug (CAA).

**Atlas:** Four records from three cells. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

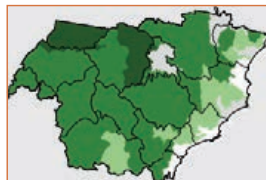
ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Pairs with dependent young were recorded at Adamstown 31 Jan (KYR), Duns Creek 10 Feb (BAP), Blue Gum Hills Regional Park 18 Feb (LIG), Rankin Park 14 Apr (KET) and Edgeworth 3 Dec (OCG). **Atlas:** Six records from five cells, RR 0.7%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting near Broke 3 Jul (JOM) and had a nest with young at Green Creek Murrurundi 17 Aug (per MCS). **Atlas:** 57 records from 29 cells, RR 5.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**Little Eagle** *Hieraetus morphnoides*  
ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)  
Breeding: Past records  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.



Three birds were at Weston 26 Mar & 30 Jun and 1-2 birds occasionally in the Weston/Kurri Kurri/HEZ area during May, Jul and Sep-Oct (all ROS) and 20 Dec (ALP). Single birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp/Ash Island/Shortland 28 Feb, 2 & 7 Mar, 1 Aug and 19 Sep (various observers) and at Mudbishops Point 5 Mar (MGLB), Wingen 13 Apr (NEG), Scone 14 Apr (NEG), Singleton 30 Jun & 2 Jul (ALP), Williamtown 15 Oct (NED) and Stockton Borehole Swamp 8 Dec (HCL). Two birds, of dark and pale morphs, were at Ringwood Rd 17 Aug (ROM). **Atlas:** Six records, from K9, M10. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*  
ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.2%.



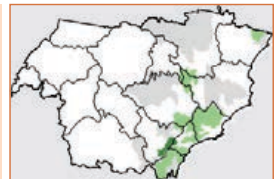
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 62 records from eight cells, RR 6.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*  
ID No: 218 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)  
Breeding: None recorded  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*).  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.8%.



Three birds were in the Martindale area late Jan (BEI) and single birds were recorded there 14 Jan (CLT), 10 & 14 Apr (ROM), 26 Jul & 30 Aug (ALP) and 23 Sep (WAB). Single birds were also recorded at Phoenix Park 19 Apr (FRP), Parkville 30 Apr (NEG), HWC 21 Jun (MCR), Aberdeen 10 Jul (NEG), Tuncurry 6 Aug and Taree 29 Aug (MGLB), and often at Warkworth Mar-Apr (ROS). **Atlas:** Nine records from four cells, RR 1.2%. **Trend:** Returned to normality after the influxes of 2012-2014.

**Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*  
ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
Single, grey phase birds moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.5%.



**Notable records** White phase birds were recorded at Ash Island 18 Apr and near Wingham 19 Sep (PAL, MGLB). **Atlas:** 21 records from 12 cells, RR 2.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

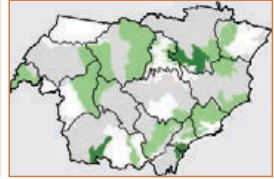
**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 30 records from 13 cells, RR 2.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident. Single birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.8%.



**Notable records** Three birds were at Eraring 6 Feb (WIH). **Breeding:** No confirmed records, but a pair was often together at Main Creek early Oct (STD) and a pair was displaying at Rutherford 10 Nov (KET *et al.*). **Atlas:** 18 records from eight cells, RR 1.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

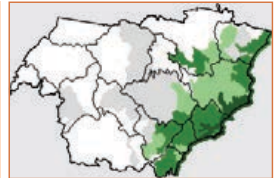
**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

ID No: 226 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded (*text modified*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 15.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. Birds took a Fairy Prion off Newcastle 20 Jul and a Silver Gull at Swansea 11 Nov (BEI, HOB). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Tomago late Jul (MRO *et al.*). **Atlas:** 162 records from 24 cells, RR 15.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

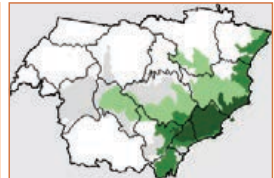
**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded (*text modified*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 16.6%.



**Notable records** Ten birds were flying together over HWC 21 Sep (PEG). **Atlas:** 142 records from 26 cells, RR 13.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.5%.

**North:** There were frequent records from around Port Stephens and northward, including four birds were at Crowdy Head 23 Jul (STA). **South:** Most records in the Hunter Estuary were from May-Aug; this included two juveniles 20 Jun (STA/POJ *et al.*) and some records of adult birds. Also, 1-2 birds were at Hexham Bridge 31 Jan and 1 Nov (MRO, DDR) and Ash Island 15 Feb (KYR). 1-2 birds were recorded at Eraring 8 Apr (GOC) and Swansea area 20 Jun and 9 Jul (ADJ, STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 13 records from five cells, RR 1.7%. **Trend:** Range may be increasing but as yet there are no breeding records from Port Stephens or further south.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes (*Revised*)**Regional status:** Uncommon visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.4%.

**Lower Hunter:** 100+ birds were at Maitland Tip 29 May (ROS) and there were frequent records of lesser numbers at locations around the lower Hunter Valley Apr-Sep (many observers). Also, single birds were at Lenaghans Flat 18 Jan (THJ), Hexham Swamp 27 Nov and 20 Dec (CAA, HBOC) and Tarro 15 Dec (KET *et al.*). **Martindale:** ~10 birds were in the Medhurst Bridge/Martindale/H.H. White Bridge area 10 & 14 Apr (ROM), with many reports of lesser numbers over Apr-Oct (various observers). **Elsewhere:** 1-2 birds were recorded near Parkville 21 Jan (ROM/CLT), Singleton 9 Apr (ROS), Scone 9 Jul (NEG) and Wingen 9 Sep and 4 Dec (NEG). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with one young near H.H. White Bridge Martindale 14 Oct with several subsequent reports over Oct-Nov (BAW/ALP, others); by 15 Nov it had fledged (WID). *This is the first known breeding record for the Region (and is for a species which was rare until recent years).* **Atlas:** 24 records from six cells, RR 3.5%. **Trend:** Increasing in recent years.

**Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*

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

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 27 records from seven cells.

Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 1 Aug and single birds at Hexham Swamp 30 Aug and Tomago 29 Sep (all per MUT). A road-killed bird was found near Taree 14 Sep (ERE). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Greater Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

(change to Common Name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 23 records from 12 cells.



Single birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops Rd 27 Sep (per MEL), Chichester SF Allyn River 1 Nov (DDR) and near Glenrock SCA 20 Dec (THJ). **Atlas:** One record, from K5. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.3%.



Single birds were recorded in Crowdy Bay NP 22 Sep (per BEI) and at Sharpes Creek 30 Sep (CAG). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (amended)

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.4%.



Single birds were at Deep Pond Apr (per ROM), Merewether 28 May (SRM), Taree AP 16 Jul (MGLB), Balickera 16 Sep (MUJ) and Williamtown 29 Sep (per MUT). Birds were taken into care near Nelson Bay mid Mar (per TUJ), and at Newcastle 30 Mar, Cooranbong 10 Jul, Honeysuckle 31 Jul, Swansea 7 Aug, Bolton St Newcastle 8 Aug, Williamtown 24 Sep and Charlestown 21 Sep (all per NIJ). **Atlas:** One record, from N7. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.2%.



There were many and widespread records of 1-2 birds from reserves and well-wooded areas around Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded near Nelson Bay mid Mar (CRN per TUJ) and at Matthews Valley Road Cooranbong 24 & 25 Mar (LOJ), Hawks Nest mid Apr (GOS), Balickera 5 Apr and in May (MUJ), Appletree Flat / Wollemi NP 7-8 Jun (HBOC), Bow Wow Gorge 26 Sep (MOA) and Laguna 2 Sep (RDB). **Breeding:** A nestling was heard at Coal Point 27 Aug (HCL) and birds were feeding fledged young at an undisclosed location 24 Oct (per ALD). **Atlas:** Three records, from H8, M10. **Trend:** Stable (or possibly increasing).

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.0%.

Single birds were recorded at Balickera 9 Jan (MUJ), Floraville mid Jul (per ROM) and Eleebana 29 Aug (GOA). **Atlas:** One record, from E7. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Southern Boobook** *Ninox boobook**(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)*

ID No: 242 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

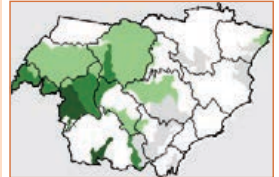
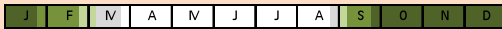
**Regional status:** Resident. 1-2 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 16 records from nine cells, RR 1.4%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was less than 35% of the long term average.

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

ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

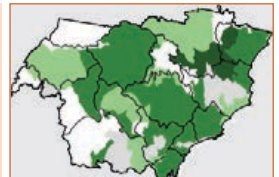
**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 10 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 1 Sep, when some birds were in the Forster/Tuncurry area (CAA). **Atlas:** 44 records from 19 cells, RR 4.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

ID No: 318 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

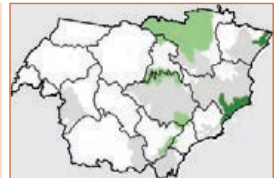
**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.6%.

**Notable records** 14 birds were together at Green Wattle Creek 25 Nov (WAB). **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 9 Sep, when a single bird was at Harrington (WID). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Box Beach, Tomaree NP 9 Jan and Singleton 7 Feb (FRN, ALP). **Atlas:** 101 records from 32 cells, RR 7.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azureus*

ID No: 319 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.6%.

**Notable records** Three birds were at Galgabba 1 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 25 records from 11 cells, RR 3.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

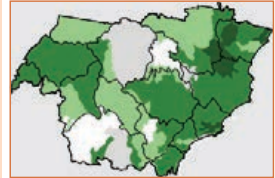
**Regional status:** Rare visitor to the extreme NE of the Region.

No reports were received for 2015.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Some birds over-winter at coastal locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 12.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Brunkerville 3 Jan (MCE) and on nest at Rutherford 10 Nov (KET *et al.*), and also were breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 118 records from 31 cells, RR 9.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

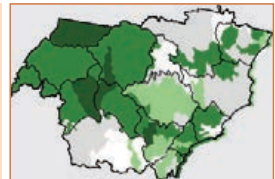
**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 10 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 35.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young on 21 Nov at both BbR and Wingen (LIP, NEG). **Atlas:** 389 records from 56 cells, RR 28.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

ID No: 240 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

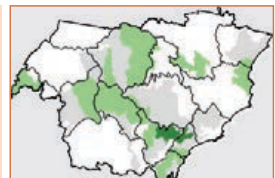
**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.5%.

**Notable records** A bird had taken a Rock Dove at Heatherbrae 12 Sep (PEG) – a large prey item (although not unprecedented). **Atlas:** 68 records from 23 cells, RR 5.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident. Single birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 47 records from 15 cells, RR 4.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

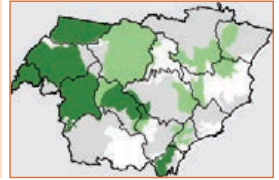
**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 30 records from 12 cells, RR 2.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.6%.



Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 4 Jul (NAK) and single birds there 15 Jul and 20 Dec (ALD, HBOC). Two birds were at Scone 9 May (NEG) and single birds at Shortland 29 Mar, Martindale area 10 & 14 Apr and Maitland Tip 29 May (ROM, ROS). A bird was taken into care near Fletcher in Dec, and later released (per NIL). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Returning to normality after the influxes of 2013-2014.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds are occasionally recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.1%.



**Notable records** A bird took a Yellow-faced Honeyeater at Swansea 24 Jun (ADJ).

**Atlas:** 11 records from five cells, RR 0.9%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

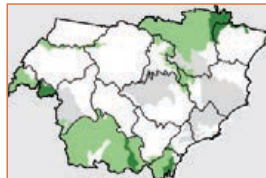


Nankeen Kestrel Photo: Alwyn Simple

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2

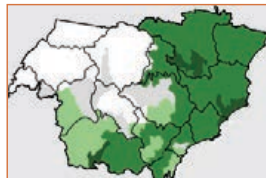
Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.4%.No reports were received for 2015. **Trend:** Uncertain.**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami*ID No: 265 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.7%.

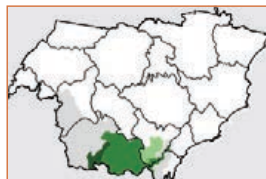
Four birds were recorded at The Ruins Booti Booti NP 24 Feb (MGLB), Tahlee 11 Jul (STA *et al.*) and "Witjweri" Martindale 3-5 Oct (HBOC), and three birds at Ringwood Rd 11 Jun (BEI), Ferndale Park Chichester 20 Jul (NAK), Laguna 2 Sep (RDB) and near Heaton Gap 23 Dec (STA). 1-2 birds were at Sugarloaf SCA 18 Jan, 8 Mar & 21 Aug (KYR), Smiths Lake 23-25 Jan (HBOC), Booti Booti 3 Mar (MGLB), Wyee Point 12 Mar, 27 May and 8 Aug (MDV), Merewether 15 Mar (NIJ), Durridgere SCA 5-8 & 14 Apr (HBOC, RIA), Cassilis Rest Area 15 Jul (BEI), Ellalong Lagoon and Paxton 19 Aug (HBOC), Duns Creek 29 Aug (ALP) and Freemans Waterholes 18 Oct (MAT/STP). **Atlas:** 11 records from nine cells, RR 1.6%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Zanda funereus**(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.1%.

**Notable records** 25-30+ birds were often roosting in East Maitland (SMJ) and 31 birds were flying over Eraring 15 Apr (JOD). 20-25 birds were at Charlestown 10 Jul and Bonnells Bay 12 Jul (GOC, MCE). **Breeding:** A pair was feeding fledged young at Wingen 2 May (NEG). Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm 1 Feb & 1 Nov and were sometimes with dependent young at East Maitland in spring/summer (TBW, SMJ). **Atlas:** 112 records from 25 cells, RR 8.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Gang-gang Cockatoo** *Callocephalon fimbriatum*ID No: 268 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.3%.

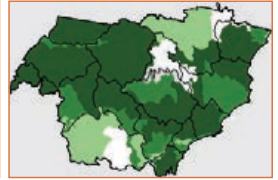
Four birds were at Wambo early May (LIK) and Laguna 15 Nov (RDB) and 1-2 birds at HEZ 6 May (ROS), Laguna 8 Jun (SDI) and Kearsley Werakata NP 16 Jul (RUA/RAS). Some birds were recorded at HEZ 20 Aug (ROM) and Watagans NP 2 Sep and 5 Oct (SIA, HOB). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells. **Trend:** Uncertain.



**Galah** *Eolophus roseicapillus*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 25.8%.



**Notable records** ~100 birds were at Phoenix Park 19 Apr (FRP). **Breeding:** Birds nested at Tahlee in Aug (FLS). **Atlas:** 263 records from 40 cells, RR 17.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.8%.



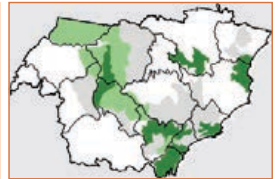
~60 birds were present in paddocks near Raymond Terrace 17 & 18 Mar and up to 40 birds were regularly recorded in the Raymond Terrace area (CAA). 30 birds were recorded at WWW 6 Apr (NAK). Some birds (1-3 when numbers were noted) were also at LTP 10 Feb (TBW), Tanilba Bay 19 Apr (HBOC), Bobs Farm 31 May (TBW), Lochinvar 13 Oct (TBW), Mulbring 1 Nov (DDR) and Woods Point 3 Nov (HBOC), and regularly at Forster (CAA). **Atlas:** 13 records from eight cells, RR 1.9%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was 50% of the long term average.

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded (and much larger flocks occasionally).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.6%.



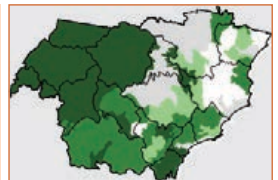
**Notable records** ~400 birds were at Bolwarra 19 Apr (FRP) and 70 birds at WWW 6 Apr (NAK). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm 1 Nov (TBW). **Atlas:** 114 records from 18 cells, RR 9.5%. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*

ID No: 269 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 14.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 160 records from 33 cells, RR 11.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 281 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 21 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 137 records from 38 cells, RR 11.0%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

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

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

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 18 records from four cells.



~20 birds were recorded at Cassilis 3 Apr and two birds at the nearby rest area 3 Jun (MEL, HRK). Two birds were also at Ringwood Rd 17 Aug (ROM). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

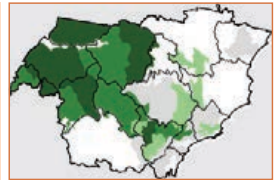
**Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus*

ID No: 295 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.3%.



**Notable records** 30+ birds were recorded at Hexham 15 Jul (ALD). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding in the Quorrobolong area 29 Aug (MOA *et al.*).

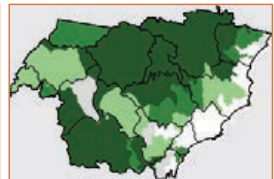
**Atlas:** 57 records from 20 cells, RR 5.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

ID No: 282 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.6%.



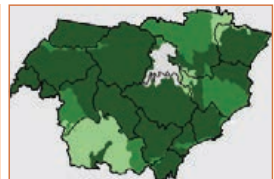
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 94 records from 24 cells, RR 8.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*

ID No: 288 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 34.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Pokolbin 11 Nov (BEI) and were feeding fledged young at Wingen 21 Nov (NEG), and were also breeding at East Seaham 13 Oct (GOA *et al.*) and Bobs Farm 1 Nov (TBW). **Atlas:** 352 records from 40 cells, RR 25.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although RR was relatively low).

**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered

NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Uncommon winter migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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15 birds were recorded at Ellalong Lagoon 19 Aug and 12 birds at the Singleton Training Area 4 Aug (HBOC, ROM/GRL). Eight birds were at Quorrobolong 21 May & 29 Aug (ROM) and six birds near the Wells Camping Ground in Myall Lakes NP 16 May (per ROM). 2-4 birds were near Singleton 3 Aug and at HEZ 21 Aug and Pelton 26 Aug (all ROM). Also see Amendments and Corrections. **Atlas:** Six records from three cells. **Trend:** A quiet year after the larger influxes of 2011-2014.

**Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus* (change to Common Name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 311 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Probably extinct in the wild within the Region (last recorded 1935).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

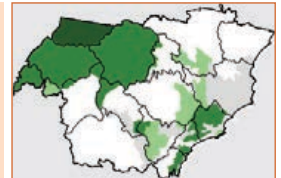
ID No: 302 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.6%.

A single bird was at Paxton 12 Jun (ROM). **Atlas:** One record, from J10. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Irruptive visitor and bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.7%.

**Notable records** 25-30 birds were near Kurri Kurri 28 Nov (ALP). **Atlas:** 27 records from 13 cells, RR 2.5%. **Trend:** Only a minor influx in 2015.

**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

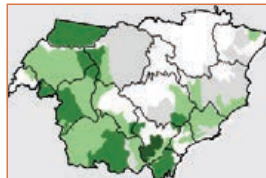
ID No: 260 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.1%.



**Notable records** 100+ birds were recorded at HEZ 28 Nov (ALP) and ~50 birds at Quorrobolong 29 Aug (ROM), and 15-20 birds were at “Witjweri” HSD Martindale 3-5 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 47 records from 13 cells, RR 4.0%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus moluccanus*

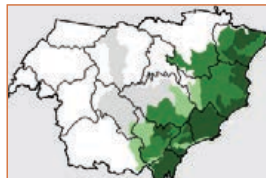
(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 21.1%.



**Notable records** Many birds were at Keinbah mid Dec – *uncommon in the area* (GOJ). 200+ birds were at Wallsend 4 Apr (GOC). **Breeding:** Several pairs had nests at Tahlee in Aug (FLS). Birds were often with dependent young at Dora Creek Mar-Jul (GOC) and were feeding fledged young at BbR 2 Dec (LIP). **Atlas:** 340 records from 37 cells, RR 27.3%. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing.

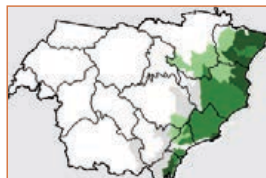
**Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

ID No: 256 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.3%.



**Notable records** Some birds were at Wingen late Nov – *uncommon in the area* (NEG). **Atlas:** 84 records from 17 cells, RR 8.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2005, 2010, 2013).

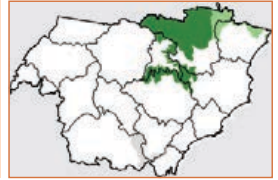
No reports were received for 2015.



Rainbow Lorikeet Photo: Rob Kyte

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

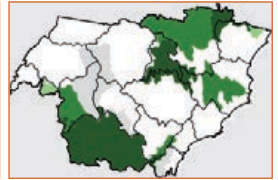
ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon altitudinal migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.3%.

**Mid-Upper Altitudes** Single birds (where numbers were noted) were recorded at Dingo Tops 7-8 Feb (ZVS), White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC), Sugarloaf SCA 8 Mar (KYR), Brunkerville 11 Sep and 1 Nov (BRG, DDR), Main Creek 21 Sep (STD), Sharpes Creek 28-29 Sep (STA *et al.*) and Peach Tree Allyn River SF 10 Nov (BRG). The bird at Dingo Tops was a juvenile. **Lower Altitudes:** Four birds were at O'Sullivan's Gap RA 17 Oct (ALP), and single birds at BbR 25 Jan and 18 May (KYR, LIP), Saltwater NP 6 Mar (HBW), HWC 13 & 24 Apr and 14 May (ROM), Eraring Lake Macquarie 7 Jun (RIA), Black Head 29 Aug (STA), Blue Gum Hills RP 26 Sep (LIG), Fletcher 7 Nov (SIA), Green Point Lake Macquarie 8 & 9 Nov (TOG), O'Sullivan's Gap RA 16 Nov (STA) and Whoota 12 Dec (per MGLB), and frequently at Bennetts Head Forster Jun-Sep (MGLB). **Movements:** A dead bird was at Mayfield 12 Apr (BRR) – probably a bird on passage. **Atlas:** Ten records from six cells, RR 1.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Pokolbin SF 18 Jul (per BEI). **Atlas:** 37 records from 14 cells, RR 5.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rufous Scrub-bird** *Atrichornis rufescens*ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)

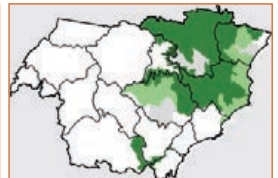
Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident of high altitude open woodlands.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 31.0%.

In visits to 11 known territories in the Gloucester Tops during late Sep, nine of them were confirmed to be occupied, and another possible territory was found (STA *et al.*). There were some complementary records from within the survey area Jan-Feb and Sep. **Atlas:** 20 records, from L5, RR 66.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.1%.

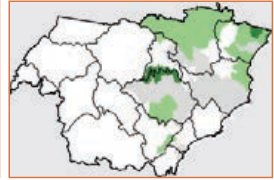
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a fledged young at Saltwater NP 16 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 30 records from 14 cells, RR 8.0%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost 50% more than the long term average.

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

ID No: 684 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes.

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 18 records from ten cells, RR 2.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 10 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 14.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Tahlee Oct (FLS). **Atlas:** 128 records from 35 cells, RR 10.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Spotted Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

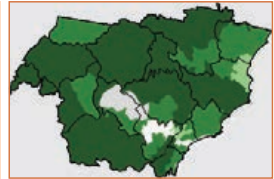
No reports were received for 2015.

**White-throated Treecreeper** *Cormobates leucophaea*

ID No: 558 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 19.3%.



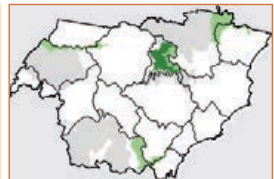
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 180 records from 37 cells, RR 14.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythrops*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.8%.



Several birds were recorded in the Gloucester Tops 28-29 Sep (STA *et al.*); also 1-2 birds were at Upper Allyn-White Rock Camp 15 Feb and O'Sullivan's Gap RA 17 Oct (both ALP), and at two locations near Big Yango HSD Yengo NP 30 Aug (ERE). **Atlas:** Four records from four cells, RR 3.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

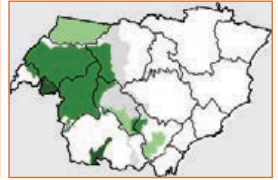
**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.7%.



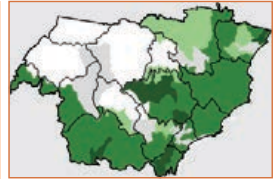
**Notable records** Many birds were at the Singleton Training Area 2 Oct (ROM). **Breeding:** Two pairs were with fledged young at HEZ 7 Oct (ROS). **Atlas:** 32 records from ten cells, RR 9.9%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 100 records from 33 cells, RR 8.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Superb Fairy-wren** *Malurus cyaneus*

ID No: 529 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 46.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Woods Point 3 Nov (HBOC) and were breeding at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ). Also they were reported to breed at Medowie every year (per NIJ). **Atlas:** 545 records from 63 cells, RR 40.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*

ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.2%.



A small group was at Booral 25 Feb (ERE) and single birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 2 Feb (STA) and Salisbury Rd Munni 1 Nov (DDR). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Fosterton Loop 8 Mar (JED). **Atlas:** Seven records from three cells, RR 3.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 22 records from five cells, RR 3.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger*

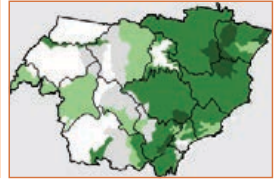
ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2002, 2009, 2013-14).

No reports were received for 2015. See Amendments and Corrections.

**Scarlet Honeyeater** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 149 records from 36 cells, RR 12.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*

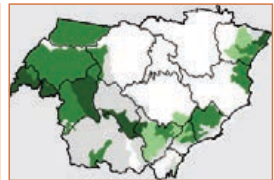
ID No: 598 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon spring-summer visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.2%.

Five birds were recorded in Goulburn River NP 14 Oct and three birds around Ulan 12/13 Jan (ERE) and single birds at "Witjweri" HSD Martindale 4 Oct (HBOC) and near Warkworth 8 Oct (MCD). All other records were from Medhurst Bridge, from when first recorded 30 Aug until at least mid-Nov (ALP, others). **Atlas:** Ten records from four cells, RR 9.6%. **Trend:** The RR was three times the long term average.

**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at "Witjweri" HSD Martindale 4-5 Oct (STA) and were breeding at Belmont 15 Oct (FEG/MCR). At Tuncurry CP 19-26 Oct, a pair initially had a nest with young and then was feeding fledged young (MOA). **Atlas:** 101 records from 22 cells, RR 9.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded, and counts of up to 50 birds during migration passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 20.0%.

**Notable records** During the period of migration passage, 100+ birds were at Hawks Nest mid Apr (GOS). **Breeding:** There were several records spanning late Aug – Nov, including three pairs were on nests at HEZ 10 Oct (MCS, others). **Atlas:** 256 records from 48 cells, RR 19.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.7%.

Two birds were at Guan Gua Creek Bunnan 20-21 Jan and mid Jul (ROM/CLT) and at Burning Mountain NR 24 Feb (ERE), and a single bird was at Ridgeland Rd Bunnan 13-14 Oct (ROM/CLT). One of the Jan birds was a juvenile. **Atlas:** Seven records from five cells, RR 1.2%. **Trend:** Uncertain (never many records any year).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1

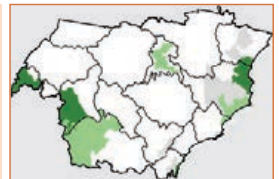
Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 150 records from 14 cells, RR 14.6%. **Trend:** Probably increasing (the RR was almost double the long term average).

**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: None recorded**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 12.6%.

Several birds were recorded in Gloucester Tops 1 Feb and 11 & 28-29 Sep (ERE, STA *et al.*) and some birds 19 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** Eight records, from L5, RR 14.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.9%.

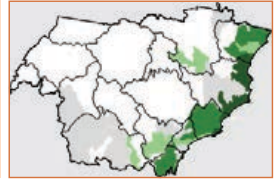
20-30 birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 3 Mar and 8-10 birds 2 Sep (STA). 10-11 birds were also at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr and Riverwood Downs 14 Sep (both HBOC), and six birds at Weston 26 Mar – *noted as uncommon in area* (ROS). 1-5 birds were recorded at Boat Harbour 25 Mar (STA), Tilligerry Habitat 15 Apr (HBOC), Weston 23 Apr (ROS), Caffreys Flat 2 Jul (MGLB), Redhead 31 Jul (THJ) and Gloucester Tops 28-29 Sep (STA *et al.*). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 13 records from eight cells, RR 1.7%. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly stable).

**White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris niger*

ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.6%.



**Notable records** 20+ birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay 19 Apr and Galgabba 1 Sep (both HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 101 records from 23 cells, RR 10.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-eared Honeyeater** *Nesoptilotis leucotis*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.1%.



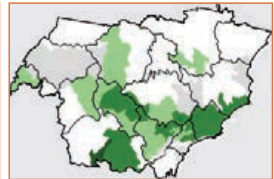
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 12 records from seven cells, RR 1.7%. **Trend:** The RR was less than 50% of the long term average.

**Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*

ID No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds occasionally recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.0%.



**Notable records** 17 birds were in a garden at Mt Hutton 13 Oct (ALD) and 13 birds at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm 1 Nov and also were nesting at Tahlee Dec (TBW, FLS). **Atlas:** 64 records from 21 cells, RR 6.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

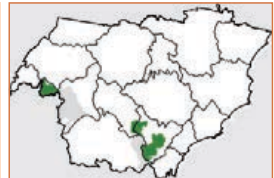
**Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Meliphreptus gularis*

ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.1%.



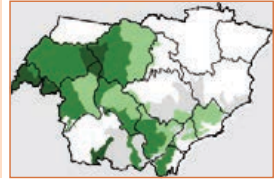
Two small flocks were at HEZ 21 Aug and birds were also recorded there 6 May, 20 Aug and several times in October (ROM/ROS, others). 1-3 birds were recorded at Paxton/Ellalong 19 Aug (HBOC), Widden Valley 3 Oct (ALP), near Kurri Kurri hospital 20 Dec (ALP), and at two sites in Singleton Training Area 4 Aug (ROM/GRL). **Atlas:** 14 records from six cells, RR 6.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable (the high RR reflects a series of focussed surveys at suitable habitat).

**Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris*

ID No: 583 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.4%.



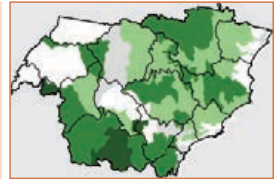
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 41 records from 15 cells, RR 4.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded, with counts of up to 50 birds during Apr-Jul migration passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep and Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 64 records from 24 cells, RR 5.4%. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was relatively low).

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

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.4%.



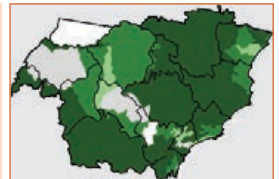
3-4 immature birds were at Awabakal NR 3 Mar (STA) and several birds were recorded there 12 Sep (MCM). **Atlas:** One record, from M10. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 22.0%.



**Notable records** 50+ birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Nov (MUJ) and were reported to breed each year at Medowie (per NIJ). **Atlas:** 195 records from 47 cells, RR 15.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*

ID No: 602 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

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

No reports were received for 2015.

**Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor*

ID No: 449 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*New to list*).

A pair was at Wybong Rd 16 Nov (RIA).

**Orange Chat** *Epthianura aurifrons*

ID No: 450 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2014*).

No reports were received for 2015.

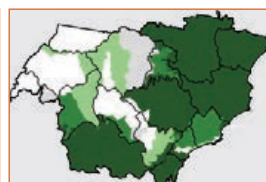
**White-fronted Chat** *Epthianura albigrons*ID No: 448 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.1%.

40+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 16 Jan including a flock of 20+ together and there were reports all year of up to 20 birds (ROM, others). Birds were often recorded at Tomago Wetlands with peak count 17 birds 17 Nov (LIA *et al.*, others). Elsewhere, seven birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 18 Apr and a single bird 21 Feb (WOL *et al.*), 1-3 birds were at Ash Island 8 Jan, 28 Feb and 30 Apr (CLT, CCB, BEI) and a single bird at Millers Dam Ulan 30 Sep (ERE). *The Ulan population is persisting.* **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Tomago Wetlands 7 Jan and 12-15 Sep (MUT, BEI *et al.*, STA *et al.*) and Hexham Swamp mid Oct (LIG), and were breeding at Ash Island 28 Feb (CCB). **Atlas:** 29 records from five cells, RR 4.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Lewin's Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii*

ID No: 605 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

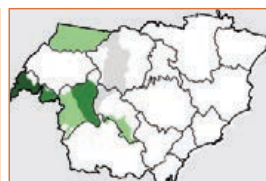
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 15 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 28.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Neranie Myall Lakes NP 21 Oct (STA) and were breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 316 records from 44 cells, RR 26.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.9%.

Many birds (possibly 10+) were recorded in Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC). Four birds were at Medhurst Bridge 30 Aug (ALP) and there were records all year of 1-3 birds from the Medhurst Bridge / Martindale area (many observers). 1-3 birds were also at Durridgere Rd 16 Jan (ROM), Wingen TSR 8 Jun (NEG), Durridgere SCA 11 Jun (BEI), Pokolbin 9 Aug (ERE), Stewarts Brook Rd 5 Sep (per NEG) and regularly at Scone (NOJ per NEG). **Atlas:** 22 records from eight cells, RR 14.6%. **Trend:** Increasing – the RR was much more than double the long term average.

**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 712 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 20.1%.



**Notable records** A single bird was at Broughton Island 31 Mar (HBOC) – possibly (re-) establishing on the Island. **Breeding:** There were several records spanning Feb and Sep-Oct, and a pair was feeding fledged young Eastern Koel at Soldiers Point 9 Apr (MUT). **Atlas:** 208 records from 21 cells, RR 22.1%. **Trend:** Stable, possibly expanding range slightly westwards.

**Regent Honeyeater** *Anthochaera phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2

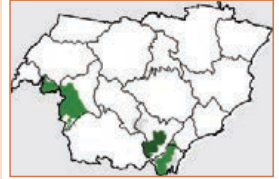
Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered

NSW: Critically Endangered

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.9%.



Single birds were recorded at Mungo Brush Myall Lakes NP 4 Jan (per ROM) and HEZ 20 Aug (ROM). **Atlas:** One record, from R4 (the location is very unusual and may be an error).

**Trend:** Decreasing.

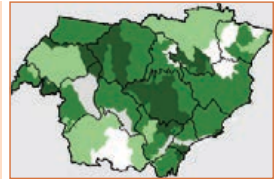
**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 15.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young / dependent young at Fosterton Loop 5 Jan (JED), Pacific Palms CP 19 Oct (MOA) and Wingen 21 Nov (NEG), and were feeding fledged young Eastern Koels at Singleton 22 Feb and 2 Apr (ALP). **Atlas:** 175 records from 29 cells, RR 12.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Singing Honeyeater** *Gavicalis virescens* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

Three birds were recorded at Millers Dam Ulan 3 & 19 Mar and a single bird there 30 Sep (ERE). A single bird was at Lake Liddell 1 Jan (ALP).

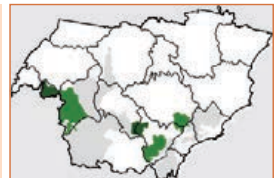
**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Ptilotula fuscus* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.4%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Green Wattle Creek 21 Sep (BRG). **Atlas:** 43 records from nine cells, RR 5.9%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

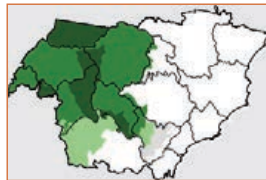
**White-plumed Honeyeater** *Ptilotula penicillatus*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.6%.



**Notable records** A single bird was recorded near Stockton Bridge 18 Apr (WID/KET) – a very easterly record. **Atlas:** 60 records from 19 cells, RR 7.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Caligavis chrysops*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 30 birds regularly recorded, and up to 100 birds during Apr-Aug migration passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 37.9%.



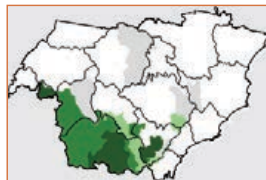
**Notable records** 400-500 birds were flying over Jones Reserve Rd 24 May (ALP). A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon at Swansea 24 Jun (ADJ). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with eggs at New Lambton 18 Sep (LIP) and birds were breeding at Green Wattle Creek 15 Nov (HBOC), Medowie Oct (per NII) and Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 361 records from 50 cells, RR 27.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus melanops*

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-20 birds occasionally recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.7%.



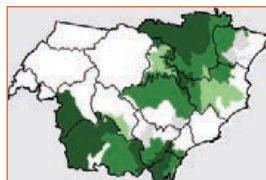
**Notable records** 50+ birds were recorded at HEZ 4 Oct (ALP) and 30+ birds there 10 Oct (MCS) and at Werakata NP 6 Sep (ALP). **Atlas:** 39 records from eight7 cells, RR 6.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 10-30 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.3%.



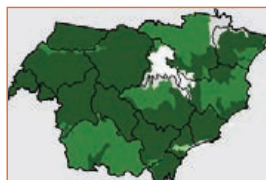
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 60 records from 16 cells, RR 8.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 28.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec. Also, birds were nesting at Dora Creek 8 Jun & 11 Jul (GOC). **Atlas:** 421 records from 49 cells, RR 29.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.1%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 177 records from 39 cells, RR 13.9%. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was almost half the long term average).

**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*

ID No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 14.3%.



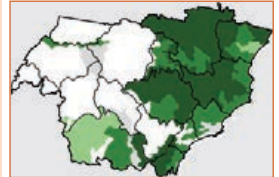
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** *Substriatus* pairs were nesting near Singleton 3 Aug and at Ringwood Rd 17 Aug (both ROM) and *ornatus* pairs were nesting at Sedgefield Singleton 4 Oct and near Parkville 13-14 Oct (ALP, ROM/CLT). A mixed *substriatus* / *ornatus* pair was also nesting at Sedgefield Singleton 4 Oct (ALP). A pair (not identified to subspecies level) was on nest at Tilligerry Habitat 15 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 115 records from 32 cells, RR 9.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was low).

**Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.0%.



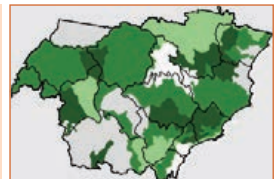
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Galgabba 1 Sep (HBOC) and nests with young at O'Sullivan's Gap RA 17 Oct (ALP), BbR 21 Nov (LIP), and Stanhope 27 Oct (ALP/WAD). **Atlas:** 142 records from 32 cells, RR 13.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*

ID No: 453 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.9%



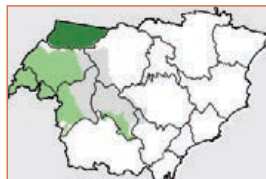
**Notable records** 10+ birds were at Fern Bay 29 Aug (ANC). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Tilligerry Habitat 15 Apr (HBOC). **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 11 Sep, when a bird was heard at Brunkerville (BRG). **Atlas:** 74 records from 22 cells, RR 6.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*  
ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.2%.



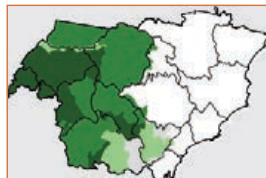
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 17 records from three cells, RR 2.7%. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly stable).

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*  
ID No: 463 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.8%.



Four birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC) and single birds at Martindale ~14 Jan (CLT) and Singleton Training Area 2 Oct (ROM). **Atlas:** Three records, from B5, G7. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly stable).

**Weebill** *Smicrornis brevirostris*  
ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.0%.

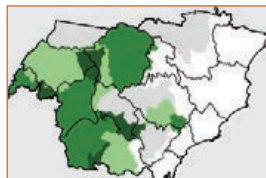


There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 34 records from 12 cells, RR 4.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pilotbird** *Pycnoptilus floccosus*  
ID No: 506 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP.

No reports were received for 2015.

**Speckled Warbler** *Chthonicola sagittata*  
ID No: 504 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.4%.



**Notable records** 10+ birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr and 3 Jun (HBOC, HRK). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobadeen Rd Ulan (A6) 12/13 Jan (ERE). **Atlas:** 28 records from 12 cells, RR 6.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*  
ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Past records  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.3%.



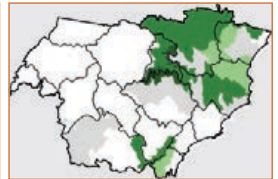
There were many records from HEZ spanning May and Aug-Dec with peak count five birds 22 Aug (ALP, many others). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Wollemi NP 6 Jun (HBOC), Ringwood Rd 17 Aug and Singleton Training Area 2 Oct (both ROM). **Atlas:** Six records from three cells. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*  
ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident in sandstone country.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.3%.



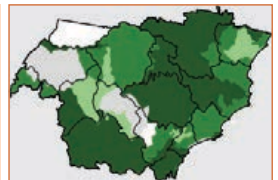
10+ birds were recorded at Wollemi NP (near Appletree Flat) 6-8 Jun (HBOC), and 1-2 birds at Watagans NP 5 Oct (HOB), "Witjweri" HSD Martindale 4 Oct (GOJ) and The Drip 5 Nov (TUJ). **Atlas:** Six records, from A6, H8. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis*  
ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded at rainforest locations.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.3%.



**Notable records** ~20 birds were at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young and with eggs at Sugarloaf SCA 18 Oct (KYR), and a nest with young at Wingham Brush 24 Oct (BEI). **Atlas:** 33 records from ten cells, RR 5.1%.  
**Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis*  
ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-10 birds regularly recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.6%.

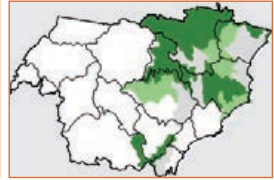


There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 209 records from 41 cells, RR 15.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostris*

ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded at rainforest locations.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 17 records from nine cells, RR 2.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records  
**Regional status:** Rare (recorded 1994, 1998-99, 2001-02, 2010).

**BLA Atlas:** 14 records from seven cells.

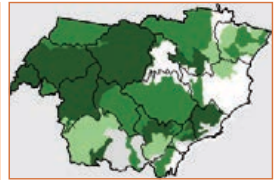


No reports were received for 2015.

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

ID No: 486 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 21 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 77 records from 16 cells, RR 7.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 22.7%.

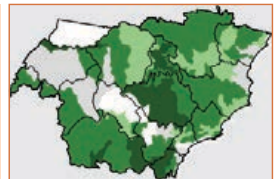


There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 200 records from 33 cells, RR 15.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 12.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Dungog Common 30 Aug (JED) and were breeding at Balickera Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 95 records from 29 cells, RR 7.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Rare in extreme NW of Region.



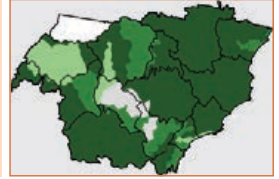
No reports were received for 2015.

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 27.6%.



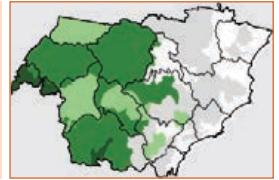
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Tilligerry Habitat 15 Apr (HBOC) and were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ) and Bobs Farm 1 Nov (TBW). **Atlas:** 261 records from 48 cells, RR 21.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides*

ID No: 484 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.5%.



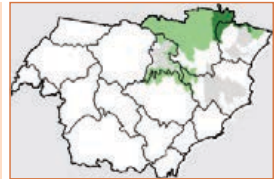
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 19 records from nine cells, RR 2.3%. **Trend:** The Reporting Rate was almost half the long term average.

**Australian Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.



Three birds were at Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 23 May (STD) and 1-2 birds at Dingo Tops 7-8 Feb and early Aug (ZVS, SIA), Chichester SF Allyn River 1 Nov (DDR), White Rock Allyn River SF 10 Nov (BRG) and O'Sullivan's Gap RA 17 Nov (STA). A dead male was found near Heaton Lookout Watagans NP 8 Jan (MAT/STP). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells, RR 1.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

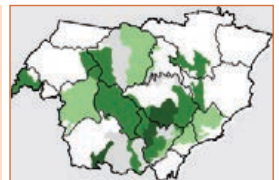
**Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*

ID No: 443 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

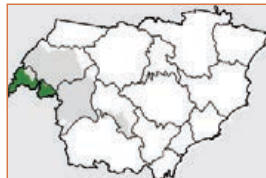
**Regional status:** Resident; parties up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.7%.



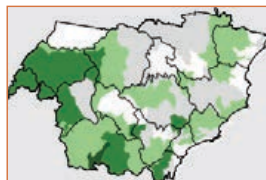
**Notable records** 15 birds were recorded at Wingen TSR 7 Aug and nine birds at Phipps TSR Baerami 3 Oct (NEG, ALP). **Atlas:** 55 records from 16 cells, RR 7.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-browed Babbler** *Pomatostomus superciliosus*  
ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.6%.



~10 birds were at Durrigere SCA 5-8 Apr and 3 Jun (HBOC, HRK). Some birds were also at Ringwood Rd 17 Aug and Giants Creek Rd 20 Sep (ROM, HBOC). **Atlas:** One record, from B5.  
**Trend:** Uncertain.

**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*  
ID No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.8%.



**Notable records** Six birds were recorded at Tanilba Bay 19 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Sandy Hollow 20 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** 45 records from 23 cells, RR 5.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

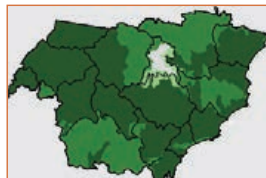
**Ground Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina maxima*  
ID No: 423 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1993-94, 2000, 2004, 2011).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Barred Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina lineata*  
ID No: 428 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded  
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1996, 2000, 2003-04).

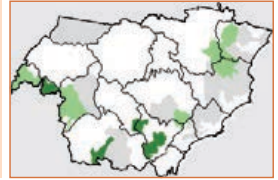
No reports were received for 2015.

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
ID No: 424 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident and passage migrant; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 28.5%.



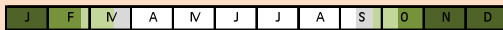
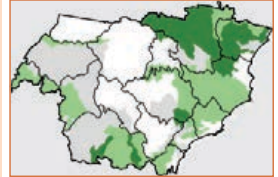
**Notable records** 50+ birds were at Dyrning TSR Singleton 8 Mar (ALP) – probably on migration passage. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Tuncurry CP 21 Oct and One Mile Beach Forster 24 Oct (both MOA) and were with dependent young at East Maitland in Dec (SMJ). **Atlas:** 292 records from 47 cells, RR 21.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*  
 ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.4%.



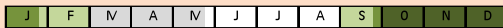
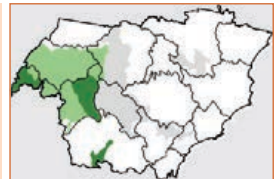
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 27 records from 12 cells, RR 3.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*  
 ID No: 429 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded Jan to mid-Mar and mid-Sep onwards.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 28 records from 13 cells, RR 3.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor*  
 ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Summer migrant.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Sedgefield 27 Oct (ALP/WAB) and had a nest with young at Hexham Swamp 12 Dec; the young later fledged (PAL). **Movements:** The first recorded return was 12 Sep when a bird was heard at Singleton (ALP). **Atlas:** 26 records from 11 cells, RR 3.2%. **Trend:** The RR was almost double the long term average.

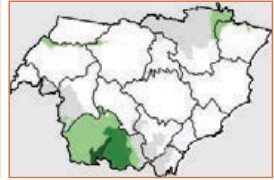
**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*  
 ID No: 431 HBOC Category: 2  
 Breeding: None recorded  
**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.7%



1-2 birds were recorded at Harrington RF 18 Mar, 28 May and 12 Jun (STA, ROM) and a single bird at O'Sullivan's Gap RA 17 Oct (ALP). **Breeding:** No reports received for 2015 but see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Four records, from S4, P7, RR 3.2%. **Trend:** Stable (possibly expanding its range).

**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.9%.

There were several records of up to three birds at HEZ spanning May, Aug and Oct. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Sugarloaf SCA 8 Mar and 18 Oct (KYR), Werakata NP Apr (GOJ), Durridgere SCA 12 Jun and 5-8 Apr (BEI, HBOC), Big Yango HSD Yengo NP 30 Aug (ERE), Putty Rd 13 Sep (ERE) and Watagans NP 5 Oct (HOB). **Atlas:** Six records from five cells, RR 2.4%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)

Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.0%.

Several birds were recorded in the Gloucester Tops in several visits over Sep-Oct (STA, others) and some birds were also present 1 Feb (ERE). **Atlas:** 11 records, from L5, RR 12.0%.

**Trend:** The RR was double the long term average.**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Some birds over-winter (*text modified*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 18.1%.**Notable records** There was a winter record of a single bird at Wingen 23 Jun (NEG).

**Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Ash Island 15 Feb (KYR) and breeding at Bobs Farm 1 Sep (TBW). **Atlas:** 180 records from 40 cells, RR 14.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 24.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 278 records from 48 cells, RR 21.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

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

**Regional status:** Uncertain (*recorded 1996*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*

ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.8%.



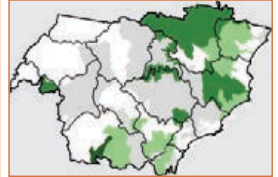
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 227 records from 52 cells, RR 17.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*

ID No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.3%.



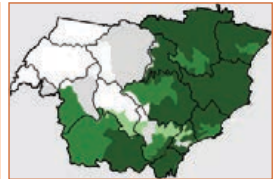
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC). **Atlas:** 21 records from 13 cells, RR 2.2%. **Trend:** The RR was almost half the long term average.

**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 25.3%.



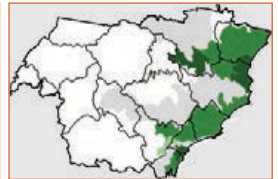
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 283 records from 41 cells, RR 24.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australasian Figbird** *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

ID No: 432 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 9.7%.



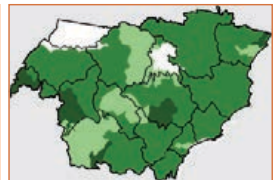
**Notable records** 29 birds were recorded at Hamilton 26 Apr (ANC) and ~20 birds were at Belmont South 7 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Four pairs were nesting at Tuncurry CP 19-26 Oct and a pair was on nest at One Mile Beach Forster 24 Oct (both MOA). **Atlas:** 162 records from 24 cells, RR 14.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*

ID No: 671 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident. 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 13.2%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at HWC 1 Dec (HBOC) and also breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 207 records from 44 cells, RR 16.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

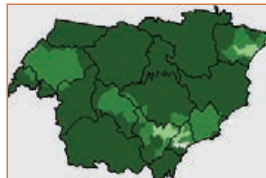
**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident (and altitudinal migrant); up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 25.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records spanning Jan and Oct-Dec including several reports of birds feeding fledged young Channel-billed Cuckoos. **Atlas:** 259 records from 56 cells, RR 19.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident of highlands in far SW of Region (recorded 1995, '97, 2005, '07, '09).

No reports were received for 2015.

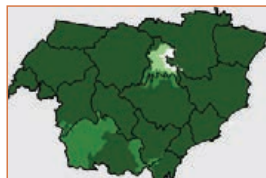
**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 705 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded (text modified).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 48.7%.



**Notable records** 190 birds were together in a paddock along Jones Reserve Rd 4 Oct (ROM/WID). There was a white-backed bird (assumed to be of race *tyrannica*) at Belmont North 27 Sep (CJB) – the 7th such record since the Bird Reports commenced. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Cape Hawke late Oct and Wingen 21 Nov (MOA, NEG), and breeding at Balickera Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 648 records from 62 cells, RR 47.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

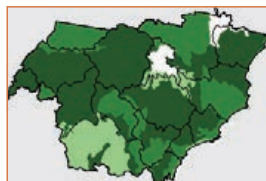
**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

ID No: 700 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.1%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Tahlee Oct (FLS) and were feeding fledged young at Wingen 4 Dec (NEG), and breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 249 records from 42 cells, RR 19.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

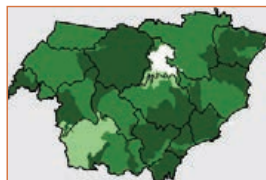
**Grey Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus*

ID No: 702 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 24.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at HWC 1 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 282 records from 37 cells, RR 21.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable.



### White-browed/Masked Woodswallow types

**Regional status:** Irruptive visitor; almost all records are spring ones. Flocks, often involving both species *A. superciliosus* and *A. personatus*, are sometimes recorded. However, if the flocks are high up and/or moving through quickly, it is not always possible for observers to quantify the numbers for each species. Where identifications have been possible, *A. superciliosus* usually has dominated the flock.

#### Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Rare irruptive visitor.

**BLA Atlas:** 20 records from eight cells.

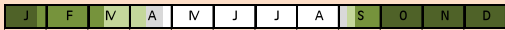


#### White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon irruptive visitor.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.7%.



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

**Masked Woodswallow:** Eight birds were flying over Pambalong NR 1 Mar (RIA *et al.*) – very unusual to have records outside of spring. Seven birds were at Crowdy Bay NP 5 Oct (RIA). A single bird was at HEZ 10 Sep (WAB) – early return, and 1+ birds at Singleton Training Area 2 Oct (ROM), North Lambton 3 Oct (BEI), Mungo Brush 4 Oct (ROS) and Shortland 6 Oct (ROM). **Atlas:** One record, from A6. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**White-browed Woodswallow:** ~400 birds were flying over North Lambton 4 Oct (BEI) and ~200 birds over Shortland 3 Oct (ROM). ~150 birds with some Masked Woodswallows were at Singleton Training Area 2 Oct (ROM) and ~80 birds at Mungo Brush 4 Oct (ROS) and Crowdy Bay NP 5 Oct (RIA).. 30-40 birds were over North Lambton 3 Oct (BEI) and “Witjwieri” HSD Martindale 5 Oct (STA), and some birds were at Hexham Swamp 1 Oct (ROM), Ellalong 2 Oct (NBL per ROM), Medhurst Bridge 3 Oct (STA) and HEZ 4 Dec (LAJ). **Atlas:** Five records from four cells. **Trend:** Uncertain.

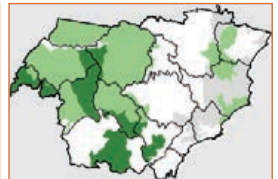
**Records of unidentified birds:** Three separate flocks were flying over Gloucester Tops 21 Oct (ROM). ~50 birds were near Merriwa 11 Oct (STJ) and 30-40 birds flying over Weston 21 Oct (ROS). Some birds were often flying over Shortland in early to mid Oct (ROM).

#### Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-10 birds occasionally recorded. Some birds present all year.

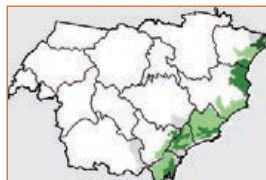
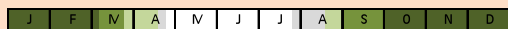
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.5%.



**Notable records** ~40 birds were at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC) and 20+ birds at Green Wattle Creek 29 Aug (ALP). Winter records were of a bird at Bulahdelah 18 Jul and some birds at HEZ 20 Jul (CAA, ROS). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young near Parkville 20-21 Jan (ROM/CLT) and at HEZ 28 Nov and 4 Dec (ALP, THJ), and were on nest at HEZ 18 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 38 records from 14 cells, RR 4.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; 1-10 birds frequently recorded at medium to large fresh waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.6%.

**Notable records** 25 birds were at Raymond Terrace 3 May (MEL). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with eggs/young at Woods Point 3 Nov (HBOC) and Carrington Port Stephens 24 Nov (FLS), were feeding fledged young at Hexham Swamp 27 Nov (BEI) and breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Movements:** Birds departed Shortland 10 May (ROM), while the first recorded return was 15 Aug, when a single bird was at Forster (CAA). By 16 Aug, there were widespread reports. **Atlas:** 99 records from 15 cells, RR 10.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

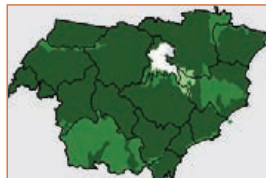
ID No: 673 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Winter migrant and bird of passage; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.9%.

**Notable records** Single birds were recorded near Baerami 8 Apr and at Kurri Kurri 20 Sep CLT, ROS) – *unusual westerly locations*. **Movements:** The first reported returns were 9 Jan, when single birds were recorded at Shortland, Horseshoe Beach Newcastle and Balickera (ROM, NIR, MUJ). **Atlas:** 26 records from ten cells, RR 2.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*

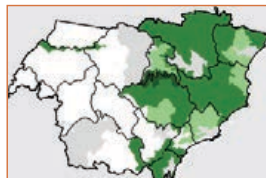
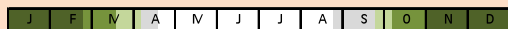
ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 37.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at HEZ 2 Oct (ROS), were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (MUJ), Tuncurry CP 19-26 Oct (MOA) and Bobs Farm 1 Nov (TBW), and feeding fledged young at Wingen 21 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 480 records from 51 cells, RR 34.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 29 Sep when a bird was at Main Creek Dungog (STD). **Atlas:** 63 records from 26 cells, RR 6.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

ID No: 361 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident and passage migrant; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 42.7%.



**Notable records** ~50 birds were at Green Wattle Creek 29 Aug (ALP) – probably on migration passage. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at BbR 20 Sep (LIP) and were breeding at Tahlee 24 Feb (FLS), Balickera Sep and Nov (MUJ), East Seaham 13 Oct (GOA *et al.*) and Bobs Farm 1 Nov (TBW). **Atlas:** 439 records from 52 cells, RR 33.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

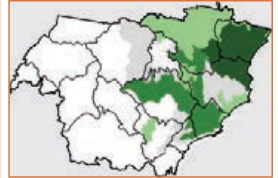
**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 10 birds are often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.1%.



**Notable records** Evidence for the continuing range expansion included birds at Weston 6 May and HEZ 2 Oct (both ROS), and birds driving out Australian Ravens at East Maitland in Aug (SMJ). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Bobs Farm 1 Oct (TBW) and East Maitland in spring/summer (SMJ), and had a nest with young at HWC 1 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 110 records from 18 cells, RR 11.7%. **Trend:** Probably expanding their range.

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.1%.



60+ birds were at Ringwood Rd 12 Jun (BEI) and some birds near Denman 1 Nov (DDR). **Atlas:** 13 records, from N4, N5, RR 3.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

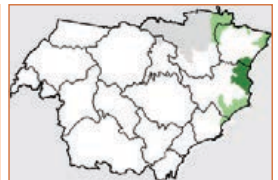
**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

ID No: 868 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Resident.

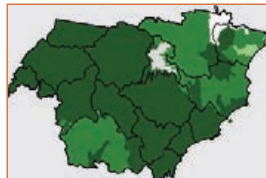
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.5%.



1-2 birds were recorded in Myall Lakes NP at Old Gibber Trail 17 May and Dark Point 20 Oct (HBOC, ANC), and regularly at Saltwater NP and in the Harrington environs (STA). **Atlas:** 24 records from six cells, RR 4.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

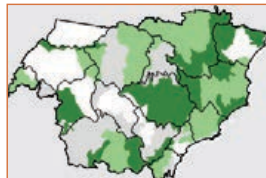
ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 36.4%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at New Lambton 7 Sep and had a nest with young at Martindale 4 Oct (LIP, STA). **Atlas:** 393 records from 61 cells, RR 28.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at Seal Rocks 21 Oct and Dungog Common 24 Oct (STA, JED/STD), and had nests with eggs/young at Stanhope 30 Oct (ALP/WAB) and Bishops Bridge Cessnock 11 Nov (KET *et al.*). **Movements:** The first recorded return was 21 Sep, when a bird was at Main Creek (STD). **Atlas:** 27 records from 21 cells, RR 3.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

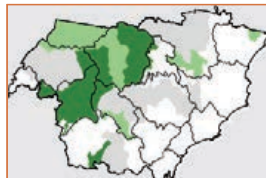
**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (*additional text*).

A bird was heard calling at Kerrapit Rd 9 Oct (STA/KYR).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.8%.



Three birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC). 1-2 birds were at Sugarloaf SCA 18 Jan, 8 Mar and 18 Oct (all KYR), Wingen 21 Jan, 2 May and 3 Aug (all NEG), Ulan area 24 Mar (ERE), Tilligerry Habitat 15 Apr (HBOC), Medhurst Bridge 30 Aug and 1 Nov (ALP, DDR), "Witjweri" HSD Martindale 3-5 Oct (HBOC), and at two locations in the Martindale area 15 Nov (WID). One of the birds at Sugarloaf SCA 8 Mar was a juvenile. **Atlas:** 13 records from nine cells, RR 1.7%. **Trend:** Possibly stable.

**Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*

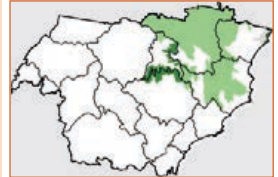
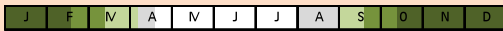
ID No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds are regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 36.8%.

**Notable records** There were several large assemblages reported in May: 38 birds at Kearsley 6 May, 78 birds at Glendale ~19 May, 65 birds at East Maitland 25 May and 46 birds at Maitland 29 May (ROS, BRG). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan and Aug-Nov. **Atlas:** 440 records from 47 cells, RR 28.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Spectacled Monarch** *Symphoricarthus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.7%.

Birds were often recorded Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec at both Harrington (STA, others) and O'Sullivan's Gap RA (many observers). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Sharpes Creek 27 Jan (STA / OCG), Saltwater NP 19 Mar and 16 Oct (STA), Main Creek 6 Oct (STD), White Rock Allyn River SF 10 Nov (BRG) and Seal Rocks 15 Dec (per MGLB). Three birds were at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC). **Movements:** At least one bird remained at Harrington 2 Apr and the first recorded return there was 31 Aug (MGLB, STA). **Atlas:** 18 records from seven cells, RR 3.4%. **Trend:** Probably expanding its range.

**White-eared Monarch** *Carterornis leucotis*

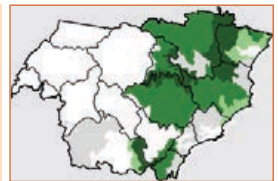
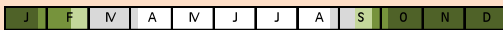
ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain (Recorded 1993, 2003-08)

No reports were received for 2015.

**Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis*

ID No: 373 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds are moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.9%.

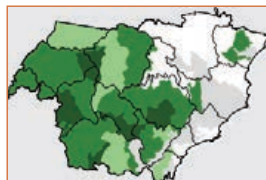
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Movements:** The first recorded return was 16 Sep, when a bird was at Main Creek (STD). **Atlas:** 53 records from 24 cells, RR 5.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

ID No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Medowie 21 Oct (per NIJ) and were breeding at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 3639 records from 19 cells, RR 5.9%. **Trend:** The RR was almost half the long term average.

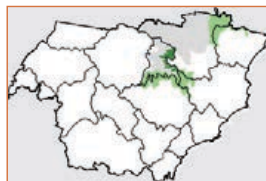
**Paradise Riflebird** *Lophorina paradiseus*

(change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.8%.



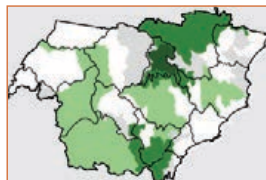
Three birds were recorded at Williams Top Rd 10 Nov (BRG), two birds at Dingo Tops 7-8 Feb (ZVS), and single birds at Gloucester Tops Rd 9 Oct (STA), Chichester SF Allyn River 1 Nov (DDR) and Barrington Cottages 10 Nov (BRG). **Atlas:** Three records, from K5, L5. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*

ID No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant). 1-5 birds often recorded at low-mid altitudes Apr-Aug and mid-high altitudes other months.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Dingo Tops 7-8 Feb (ZVS). **Atlas:** 50 records from 17 cells, RR 4.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

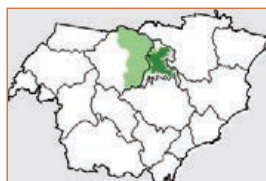
**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.4%.



Pairs were recorded at seven locations in Gloucester Tops 28-29 Sep (STA *et al.*) and two groups were there 27 Jan (STA/OCG). **Breeding:** Two pairs were with juveniles at Gloucester Tops 18 and 27 Jan (MEL, STA/OCG). **Atlas:** Eight records, from L5, RR 6.3%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**)

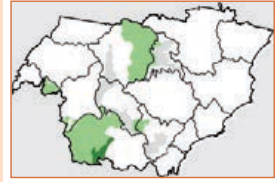
Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (and altitudinal migrant).

(Revised from: Resident ...)

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.



Four birds were together near Parkville mid Jul (ROM/CLT) and three birds at Doyles Creek Rd 24 May (ALP). 1-2 birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC), Werakata NP Kearsley 12 Apr (ALP), Bentwood Valley Estate 17 May (ALP), three locations along Jones Reserve Rd 24 May (ALP), Wollemi NP 7-8 Jun (HBOC), Ringwood Rd 10 Jun (BEI), Singleton Training Area 4 Aug (ROM/GRL), Kearsley 4 Aug (HBOC), Riverwood Downs 14-16 Sep (HBOC) and Kerrapit Rd Gloucester Tops 9 Oct (STA/KYR). **Atlas:** 12 records from eight cells, RR 2.2%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii*

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 3.6%.



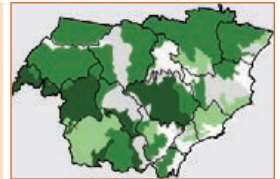
1-2 birds were recorded at Durridgere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC), two locations along Jones Reserve Rd 24 May (ALP), Doyles Creek Rd 24 May (ALP), Appletree Flat 6-8 Jun (HBOC) and Pinegrove Rd 30 Aug (ALP). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells, RR 3.1%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fasciata*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident (Revised from: Usual resident); 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.4%.



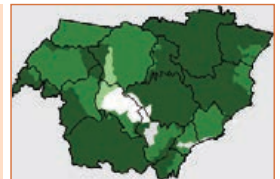
**Notable records** 20+ birds were at Durridgere SCA 3 Jun (HRK). Four birds were together near Pindimar 5 Aug (STA) – records around Port Stephens are uncommon. **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests with young at HEZ early Oct (ROS). **Atlas:** 55 records from 18 cells, RR 5.0%. **Trend:** The RR was less than 50% of the long term average.

**Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis*

ID No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds are regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 25.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Tanilba Bay 17 Jan (ZVS) and Tahlee Jul (FLS), were feeding fledged young at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (HBOC), and also were breeding at Belmont 15 Oct (FEG/MCR) and Balickera Sep-Oct and Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 258 records from 51 cells, RR 20.2%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

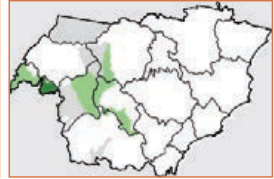
**Pale-yellow Robin** *Tregellasia capito*

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.0%.

Pairs were recorded at O'Sullivan's Gap RA 19 Mar, 29 Aug and 17 Oct (STA, ALP), Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 30 May (JED) and Jerusalem Creek 18 Jul (NAK). **Atlas:** Four records, from M4, P7. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (revised from: Resident).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.3%.

Single birds were recorded at Wambo early May (LIK), Yarrowa Rd 9 Jun (BEI) and Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (ERE). **Atlas:** Two records, from A6, M9. **Trend:** Decreasing.

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 146 records from 34 cells, RR 11.4%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis* (*change to scientific name based on BLA V2*)

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1985-86, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3

Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Possibly extinct in the wild (*last recorded 1991*)

No reports were received for 2015.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*ID No: 657 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.5%.

50+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 16 Aug and 40+ birds near Tomago 6 Aug (PAL, STA *et al.*). Up to 30 birds were regularly visiting a feeding station at Brush Farm Rd Raworth (per LAB). 13 including 6-7 young birds were at Ash Island 21 Mar (STA *et al.*). Some birds were also Cattai Wetlands 2 Jan and 24 Feb (MCS, STA), Killabakh 21 Mar (MGLB) and Bootawa 3 Sep (MGLB). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**Beautiful Firetail** *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3

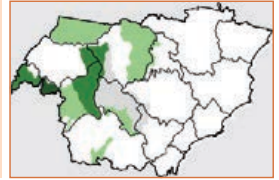
Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Rare (reported in 2009). (Revised from: Rare resident).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

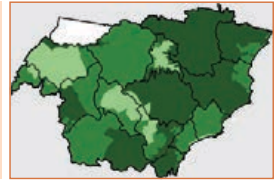
ID No: 652 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.6%.

Eight birds were recorded at Durrigdere SCA 5-8 Apr (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Ridglands Rd Bunnan and Guan Gua Creek Bunnan 20-21 Jan (both ROM/CLT), Durrigdere SCA 10 Apr and 3 Jun (ROM, HRK), Jones Reserve Rd 14 Apr and 24 May (ROM, ALP), Appletree Flat 6-8 Jun (HBOC), Singleton Training Area 4 Aug (ROM/GRL), Martindale 5 Oct (THJ) and Goulburn River NP 14 Oct (ERE). **Atlas:** Nine records from six cells, RR 4.0%. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Red-browed Finch** *Neochmia temporalis*

ID No: 662 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 23.0%.

**Notable records** 200+ birds were together at Yengo NP 30 Aug (ERE) and 50+ birds at Hexham Swamp 4 Jul (NAK). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Brunkerville 3 Jan and Tanilba Bay 17 Jan (MCE, ZVS), and were breeding at Balickera Feb and Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 181 records from 45 cells, RR 14.3%. **Trend:** Probably stable (although the RR was relatively low).

**Plum-headed Finch** *Neochmia modesta*

ID No: 661 HBOC Category: 2

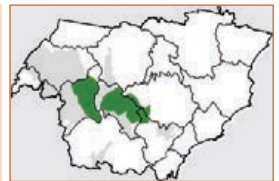
Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Rare.**BLA Atlas:** 25 records from ten cells.

1-4 birds were recorded at Cemetery Lane Singleton 24 & 30 Jan (ALP, SIA) – *noteworthy easterly records* – and at Bureen 7-9 Apr and 15-17 Nov (CLT, WID, WAB) and near Ulan 24 Mar (ERE). **Atlas:** Two records, from G7, J8. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds sometimes recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** 3-4 pairs were nesting near Martindale 29 Oct, within the base of an active nest of a Black Kite (ALP). Birds were also nesting at Maitland 8 Jul and Medhurst Bridge 30 Aug (CLM, ALP). **Atlas:** 14 records from five cells, RR 3.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Double-barred Finch** *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.2%.



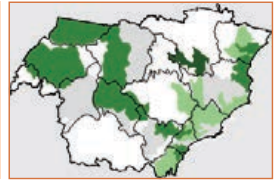
**Notable records** 75 birds were at Wingen 18 May and 40-50 birds at Weston 26 May (NEG, ROS). **Atlas:** 77 records from 20 cells, RR 7.5%. **Trend:** Probably now recovered after the 2004-2009 drought.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds frequently recorded around populated areas.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.7%.



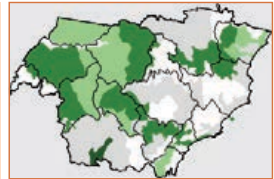
**Notable records** On 16 Mar, 55 birds were recorded at Boolaroo and 40 birds at North Lambton (LIG, BEI). **Breeding:** Birds were nest building at East Maitland 20 Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** 49 records from 11 cells, RR 4.2%. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

**Australasian Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 10.2%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 81 records from 14 cells, RR 8.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.6%.



No reports were received for 2015. *The first time since 2007 that there were no records.* **Trend:** Uncertain.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

ID No: 874 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (race *lugens* recorded 1998).

No reports were received for 2015.

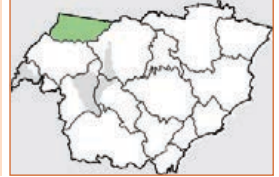
**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.3%.

1-2 birds were recorded at Ash Island 2 Mar and 10 Oct (SIA, STA/MCN), and near Largs 1 Nov (DDR). **Atlas:** One record, from L9. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

**Horsfield's Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 648 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None

recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.9%.

Several birds were recorded in the Martindale/Bureen area 3-4 Oct (ROM/WID, others) and a few birds at Singleton Training Area 2 Oct (ROM). Some birds were also at Bureen 1 Nov and Largs 15 Nov (DDR, WID). **Atlas:** Three records from three cells, RR 3.7%.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

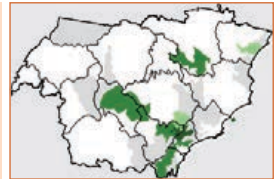
ID No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1994, 1996, 2003, 2005-07*).

No reports were received for 2015.

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*

ID No: 525 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident. Up to 20 birds are often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 11.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 70 records from 11 cells, RR 7.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.0%.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Single birds were recorded at Bobadeen Rd 16 Jan, Largs area 1 Nov and Hexham Swamp 11 Dec (ROM, DDR, THJ). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain.



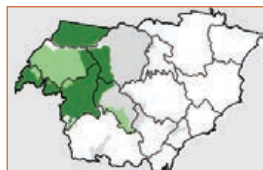
Little Grassbird Photo: Lorna Mee

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.4%.



**Notable records** Five birds were at Goulburn River Martindale 29 Oct (ALP) and 3-4 birds at Bureen 4/5 Oct (STA). **Atlas:** 17 records from eight cells, RR 2.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Tawny Grassbird** *Cincloramphus timoriensis* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 523 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.6%.



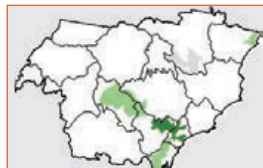
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 48 records from eight cells, RR 6.2%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Little Grassbird** *Cincloramphus gramineus* (change to scientific name based on BLA V2)

ID No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Resident. 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 8.2%.



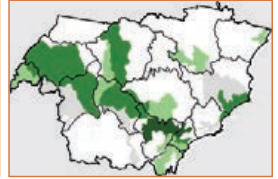
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 46 records from seven cells, RR 5.9%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis*

ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant. 1-10 birds often recorded and some birds are resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 7.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 60 records from 12 cells, RR 5.5%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.4%.



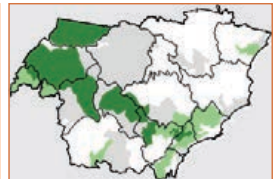
11 birds were recorded at Bobadeen Rd Ulan (A6) 16 Jan (ROM). 3-4 birds were in the Martindale/Bureen area 14 Apr, 9 Jun and 4 Oct (ROM, BEI, STA) and at Durrigere SCA 5-8 Apr and Fordwich Crossing Milbrodale Rd 21 Nov (HBOC, ALP). **Atlas:** Four records from three cells, RR 1.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel*

ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 20 birds frequently recorded and small numbers over-winter.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 6.0%.



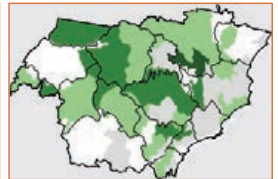
**Notable records** There were winter records of 1-2 birds at Cattai Bridge 13 Jun (STA), WWW 7 Jul (HBOC), Kitchener Werakata NP 4 Aug (HBOC) and Warabrook 8 Aug (KEM). Also five birds were at Pitnacree 14 Aug (BRG) but these probably were returnees. **Breeding:** Active colonies were reported from Cundletown Nov-Dec with peak count 60-70 nests (STA), Singleton 11 Sep with 30-40 nests (ALP) and Martindale during Oct with peak count 30-40 nests (ALP, STA). There was one active nest at Cundletown 23 Feb at the end of the 2014-2015 season (STA). **Movements:** Birds were already present in good numbers at several Upper Hunter locations 20 Aug (ROM). **Atlas:** 56 records from 17 cells, RR 5.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans*

ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 20 birds occasionally recorded. Many birds over-winter.

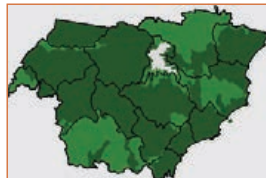
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 5.5%.



**Notable records** Many hundreds were at Hexham Swamp 5 Dec and 40+ birds at Thornton 18 Apr (LIA, BRG). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Wallis Island 19-26 Oct (MOA). **Atlas:** 53 records from 21 cells, RR 4.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident, with influxes in autumn. Up to 50 birds regularly recorded near medium-large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 34.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young near Forster and had a nest with young at Wallis Lake wharf both 19 Oct (MOA), were nesting under Tuncurry Bridge late Oct (MOA) and also were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 427 records from 58 cells, RR 29.8%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1988).

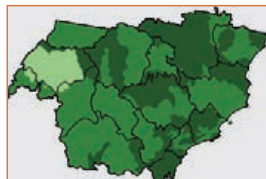
No reports were received for 2015.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 (**Revised**) Breeding: None recorded**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 1.0%.

Some birds were recorded at Belmont 15 Oct (FEG/MCR). **Atlas:** Two records, from M8 and D9 (the latter is a very unusual location and may be an error!). **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

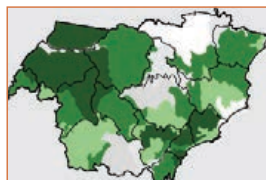
ID No: 574 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident and winter bird of passage; up to 50 birds regularly recorded (text modified).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 25.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at Tanilba Bay 17 Jan and Bingleburra Rd 10 Nov (ZVS, WAB), and were feeding fledged young at Fosterton Loop 8 Mar (JED). **Atlas:** 258 records from 44 cells, RR 19.0%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 50 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 16.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 102 records from 18 cells, RR 8.1%. **Trend:** The RR was 50% of the long term average.

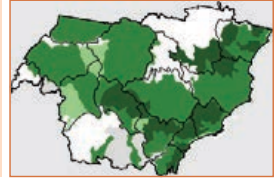
**Common Myna** *Sturnus tristis*

ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 50 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 17.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 210 records from 29 cells, RR 14.7%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

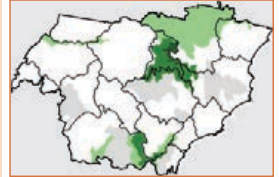
**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 2.3%.



There were repeat records from five locations: White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb (eight birds 15 Feb and some birds 10 Nov (HBOC, BRG)); Gloucester Tops high country (two pairs 28-29 Sep and some birds 27 Jan and 11 Sep (STA, others)); Balickera most months (MUJ)); Green Point (one bird several times Aug-Sep (TOG)) and Galgabba (1-2 birds Aug-Sep (ADJ, HBOC)). Elsewhere, several birds were at Dingo Tops 7-8 Feb (ZVS) and 1-2 birds at HEZ 19 May (ROM), Wingham Brush 11 Jun (STA), Tiona Booti Booti NP 25 Jun (MGLB), Ash Island 14 Aug (PAL), Wallaroo NR 28 Aug (WAB), Bow Wow Gorge 26 Sep (MOA), Sharpes Creek 9 Oct (STA/KYR), Brunkerville 1 Nov (DDR) and BbR 7 Nov (KYR). **Atlas:** 14 records from six cells, RR 2.6%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

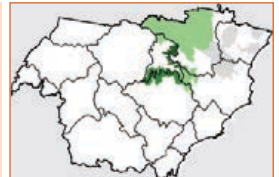
**Russet-tailed Thrush** *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 4.1%.



Two birds were recorded at White Rock Allyn River SF 15 Feb and Jerusalem Creek 18 Jul (HBOC, NAK), and single birds at Sharpes Creek 28-29 Sep (STA *et al.*) and at the White Rock and Peach Tree sites in Allyn River SF 10 Nov (BRG). **Atlas:** Five records, from K5, Q4, RR 4.1%. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991 HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident in many inland towns; 1-2 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2015 RR 0.5%.



**Notable records** Easterly records were of single birds at Carey Bay Wetland 13 Jul and North Lambton 28 Dec (NED/CLT, BEI). A female was in creek-side vegetation at "Witjweri" HSD Martindale 4 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Five records from three cells. **Trend:** Probably stable.

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre-2015 records detailed below:

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**Red-backed Button-quail** *Turnix maculosa*

A single bird was recorded at the Tuncurry racecourse grounds 27 Feb 2014 (THN) – accepted by ORAC (as the first record for NSW since 2012).

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**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Single birds were recorded at Lemon Tree Passage 16 Jan 2007, Taylors Beach in Mar 2007 and Oyster Cove Nov-Dec 2014 (WOL). Generally uncommon in Port Stephens.

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

The 22 Nov 2014 record was accepted by ORAC as the 30th confirmed record for NSW and the 6th record within the past 10 years (this additional detail was not available at the time of printing of the 2014 Bird Report).

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**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

**Breeding:** Although not a confirmed breeding record, some juveniles and adult birds were together at Harrington RF Jan 2008 (CAA).

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## 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.

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**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

A single bird was reported to have been at Glen Martin 9 Apr.

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

A single bird was reported to have been taken into care at Warners Bay 7 Apr.

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**New Zealand-type Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta sp*

A single bird recorded off Port Stephens 14 Jun initially identified as a New Zealand Storm-Petrel (*Fregetta maoriana*) was later recognised as being consistent with an undescribed taxon; the New Caledonian (or 'Coral Sea') Storm-Petrel (*Fregetta sp.*). This was confirmed during discussions with international seabird experts following scrutiny of photographs of the bird. Researchers are endeavouring to capture more specimens of this taxon in Australian and New Caledonian waters in an effort to understand its taxonomic status (to date, only one bird has been captured). Of note, this is the first record of a New Zealand/New Caledonian-type Storm-Petrel in NSW waters during winter.

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**White-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta grallaria*

A single bird seen briefly in Newcastle Harbour 21 Apr after heavy weather may have been this species.

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## AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

The numbers of Swift Parrots at Murrays Beach in 2014 peaked at 20 birds 2 Oct (LAT) – previously reported in the 2014 Bird Report as 5-10 birds on 28 Sep.

The 2014 record of a Black Honeyeater in Goulburn River NP was the 5th known record for the Region – previously reported in the 2014 Bird Report as being the 4th record.

Although large numbers of Regent Honeyeaters definitely were in the Region in 1994, some confusion apparently arose as to the main locations for them. Reports from around Howes Valley (peaking at 150+ birds in May 1994) have recently been re-confirmed. However, reports of 90+ and 150+ birds at Kindarun were in fact in reference to the Howes Valley birds.

## 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.

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**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

A bird was at Waratah West 18 Oct (MEP).

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**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* (NB: this species is also known as Indian Ringneck).

A bird was regularly recorded at Shortland early in the year (ROM), and another was at Weston 23 Apr (ROS).

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**Major Mitchell Cockatoo** *Lophochroa leadbeateri*

One bird was at Coal Point 18 Oct (HCL).

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**Red-faced Parrot-Finch** *Erythrura psittacae*

A bird with the sea-green mutation (Sea-green Parrot-Finch) was at Singleton 20 Oct (per ALP).

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## 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. Dan Williams generated all the distribution maps and species timelines. Many others contributed photographs 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 sites<sup>1</sup>)*

	16, 17 Jan	20, 21 Feb	20, 21 Mar	17, 18 Apr	15, 16 May	12, 20 Jun	17, 18 Jul	15 Aug	11, 12 Sep	9, 10 Oct	14 Nov	11, 12 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	11	2	4	2	2	6	11	24	37	43	27	2
Sooty Oystercatcher			18	6	11	7	6		3	7	7	
Red-necked Avocet	3269	607	616	2300	2191	3536	3527	5894	4996	4235	3077	2092
Black-winged Stilt	596	868	1333	912	405	406	399	250	2	183	350	583
Pacific Golden Plover	316	327	301	6	2	1	1	3	26	65	110	247
Red-capped Plover	3		1	3		6	7	17	8	5		
Black-fronted Dotterel	5	7	31	44	14	0	8	6	3	1	4	3
Masked Lapwing	208	179	238	63	49	41	51	73	66	74	85	205
Red-kneed Dotterel			51	19	17	7	4	4	4	4	4	
Whimbrel	9	55	12	6	1	9	8	6	9	44	8	33
Eastern Curlew	206	215	89	21	11	15	18	100	126	176	142	147
Bar-tailed Godwit	605	790	614	69	75	82	53	76	87	768	590	590
Black-tailed Godwit	96	73	43	32			5	3	2	44	60	78
Ruddy Turnstone												
Great Knot			1								2	3
Red Knot					1					585	18	20
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	5059	3974	5400	2015				2	2047	5358	2060	540
Curlew Sandpiper	153	98	65	5			2	32	26	54	98	24
Red-necked Stint	7	122	135	41					6	14	4	2
Pectoral Sandpiper		1										
Latham's Snipe		2	1					2	2	1		
Terek Sandpiper	10	9		3							3	
Common Sandpiper	1		1						1	1	2	
Grey-tailed Tattler	42	39	30	38	6	5	6	6		25	25	2
Common Greenshank	58	168	81	36	5		10	2	26	40	95	1
Marsh Sandpiper	106	50	59	1				1	29	91	7	

<sup>1</sup> Some 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 sites<sup>1</sup>*)

	16, 17 Jan	20, 21 Feb	20, 21 Mar	17, 18 Apr	15, 16 May	19, 20 Jun	17, 18 Jul	15 Aug	11, 12 Sep	9, 10 Oct	14 Nov	11, 12 Dec
Pink-eared Duck		160	309	265	16	70						
Black Swan	63	251	171	296	264	266	224	68	58	117	38	77
Hardhead	47	11	30	91	5	3	6	1	84	5	5	187
Australasian Shoveler	86	116	369	382	82	4	14					3
Pacific Black Duck	81	95	243	138	100	58	83	66	18	23	19	76
Northern Mallard types					4	3	5			2		1
Grey Teal	360	985	2163	2152	251	221		48	5	5	164	44
Chestnut Teal	131	417	1804	545	95	158	27	42	40	60	224	133
Musk Duck	1	1	2		4	2	4					
Aust. Wood Duck	6	2		16	16	4		2	2	17	4	17
Australasian Grebe		41	5	16	27	12	10	19	19	12		14
Hoary-headed Grebe	2		39	87	15	10	15	7	10			1
Buff-banded Rail								1		2		
Aust. Spotted Crake								1				
Baillon's Crake								1				
Purple Swamphen	24	8	29	15	26	42	40	11	9	16	16	22
Dusky Moorhen	4	4	4			1						
Eurasian Coot	475	29	64	124	99	224	200	2	182			408
Silver Gull	159	341	335	243	96	4	41	4	91	67	162	38
Little Tern	20	24	27									
Aust. Gull-billed Tern	6	2					8	10		8		4
Caspian Tern	8	26	19	27	17	1	3	5	10	3		
Whiskered Tern										30		15
Common Tern		41	2								1	2
Crested Tern	2	21	11	9	9	1	7	4	4	2	5	
Black-necked Stork	1	3										3
Aust. Pelican	116	167	154	188	129	130	59	66	107	133	107	43
Nankeen Night-Heron								9				
Striated Heron	1	2			2	1	1		2		1	1
Cattle Egret	49	1	15	18	13	4	9	22	1		32	0
White-necked Heron		2	7			1	1	5	8	6		
Great Egret	20	9	7	20	9	7	8	9	5	23	7	8

Table 2 is continued on the next page

**Table 2 (cont'd) Waterbirds of the Hunter Estuary\***

	16, 17 Jan	20, 21 Feb	20, 21 Mar	17, 18 Apr	15, 16 May	19, 20 Jun	17, 18 Jul	15 Aug	11, 12 Sep	9, 10 Oct	14 Nov	11, 12 Dec
Intermediate Egret	8	4				2	1	1	1	5	7	2
White-faced Heron	114	136	104	131	69	63	127	226	81	66	12	48
Little Egret	13	3	2	5	1	1	2	4	2	6	8	11
Aust. White Ibis	193	381	106	85	556	69	31	83	36	74	85	81
Straw-necked Ibis	43		5	11	14	51	15	53	1			
Yellow-billed Spoonbill				2						1		
Royal Spoonbill	27	19	46	54	14	13	13	5	17	35	27	10
Little Pied Cormorant	10	7	41	13	10	8	17	8	10	5	4	6
Great Cormorant			2	2	1				1	1		1
Little Black Cormorant	25	21	23	12	26	26	18	7	18	18	21	28
Pied Cormorant	69	21	24	9	40	9	4	18	10	6	11	5
Australasian Darter	1	1	3	1	4	8	7	3	4	3	1	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
Pacific Black Duck				2	4		2		2		1	2
Chestnut Teal					1				2			
Buff-banded Rail		1										
Red-necked Avocet					1				10			
Pacific Golden Plover	23	36	38	28				1	8	42	74	75
Red-capped Plover				9	9				1			
Black-fronted Dotterel	1			8	10			1	2			
Masked Lapwing				3	4	2	4	4	3	2	4	2
Red-kneed Dotterel				1	8							
Eastern Curlew		29	3	10	5							
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				1					8		41	17
White-necked Heron							2					
White-faced Heron	2	2	2	6	3	2	3	1	2	1	1	1
Aust. White Ibis							1		3	2	1	8
Straw-necked Ibis							33					

**Table 4 Waterbirds at Milhams Pond (on Ash Island)**  
*(Monthly maximum counts from surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan			5			2	3	2				
Australasian Shoveler						2						
Pacific Black Duck		2	3	5		9	6	2				2
Grey Teal	3	2	5	5		10		2			2	
Chestnut Teal	37	14	35	32	25	32	22	10	2	6	8	40
Red-necked Avocet	1			1	23	24	20	25	2		19	1
Pacific Golden Plover			6	36					7		15	
Red-capped Plover						10	1			1		
Black-fronted Dotterel				1	8	10	16	6				
Masked Lapwing			4	7	9	10	9	5	2	5	8	5
Red-kneed Dotterel					13	19	14					
Eastern Curlew	3	9	9	2	5				2	1	2	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									5			39
Common Greenshank				1								
Aust. Gull-billed Tern					2	52	1					
Aust. Pelican		4	5	1	1				2		6	
White-necked Heron					1	1	1	1		1		
Great Egret	2	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	
Intermediate Egret			3									
White-faced Heron	6	3	6	10	21	27	33	27	14	2	2	2
Aust. White Ibis	23	26	47	19	108	52	35	1	1	56	16	16
Straw-necked Ibis					4	4	6	13				
Royal Spoonbill		1				21					1	
Little Pied Cormorant				1				2	1		1	1
Great Cormorant			1									
Australasian Darter					1	1						

**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
Maggie Goose	105	87	47	105	69	82	93	90	30	28	32	38
Plumed-Whistling-Duck		2										
Wand. Whistling-Duck	7	7	6	6	71	104	37	92	79		66	50
Pink-eared Duck	3			12	6	347	245		1	1		2
Black Swan	6	6	6	6	5	4	6	4	3	3	7	4
Hardhead	9	2	2	4	4	12	8	12	12	30	41	20
Australasian Shoveler	3	2	1	4	2	8	14	4		1	2	1
Pacific Black Duck	12	14	18	24	25	19	22	36	7	18	21	34
Grey Teal	78	180	401	167	183	210	200	127	90	131	169	185
Chestnut Teal	16	24	22	23	12	2	10	23	8	21	20	22
Freckled Duck									1			
Musk Duck	1											
Aust. Wood Duck			1	3								3
Australasian Grebe	2	3	5	9	9	11	13	15	11	6	4	2
Hoary-headed Grebe					1		6					
Buff-banded Rail	2	7	2			1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Purple Swampphen	38	18	19	24	24	25	9	22	24	17	16	16
Dusky Moorhen	36	37	28	36	46	33	64	26	25	36	33	35
Eurasian Coot	15	10	18	102	202	108	79	71	88	68	112	100
Black-winged Stilt		5										25
Masked Lapwing	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2		2	2
Black-necked Stork											2	
Aust. Pelican	1		1	2	1	1	4	2	3	1	1	3
Nankeen Night-Heron	1					3	10	7		1	2	6
Cattle Egret	400	400	1							2	350	350
White-necked Heron											1	
Great Egret	15	12	10	8	3	2	1	2	1	24	28	35
Intermediate Egret	3	4		1	2	1	2	3	3	6	6	10
White-faced Heron	2			1	2				2	1	2	1
Little Egret	1	4	5	1						8	3	11
Aust. White Ibis	155	266	184	62	36	81	211	319	392	369	473	310
Straw-necked Ibis	40	1	4	1	1	56	1	10		1		1
Royal Spoonbill	5	19	3	2	1	2	2	7	24	33	16	48
Little Pied Cormorant	2	4	4			3	2	4	2	1	2	1
Great Cormorant				1	2	1		1			1	3
Little Black Cormorant	7	7	9	2	2	10	1		1	3	4	5
Australasian Darter	3		2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	2

**Table 6 Waterbirds at Tomago Wetlands**  
*(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pink-eared Duck					8							
Black Swan	16	7	42	131	198	161	173	1	5	30	7	
Australasian Shoveler	2		3	142	82	4						
Pacific Black Duck	4	6	74	62	37	30	31	9		25		
Grey Teal	1161	90		1164	224	31					40	
Chestnut Teal	40	120	9	168	545	125	87	18	20	17	94	
Hoary-headed Grebe							1					
Spotless Crake							1					
Purple Swamphen	1				14	30	41			3	1	3
Red-necked Avocet	940			16	1421	762						
Black-winged Stilt	8	8	3	176	238	212	86	6				2
Pacific Golden Plover		1							1	2	25	31
Red-capped Plover		1		1				12	2			
Masked Lapwing	29	40	112	9	6	13	18	27	9	10	15	29
Red-kneed Dotterel								2	4	5	4	
Eastern Curlew	32	28										
Bar-tailed Godwit			2	1	1							
Ruff											1	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	598	3000	74	326				2	390	348	3200	901
Curlew Sandpiper	5	3		3	1		2	32	13		19	
Red-necked Stint	6	26	88						6		34	
Pectoral Sandpiper		1										
Latham's Snipe			1					2	2			
Common Greenshank	56	101	44	32	1	12	10	35	25			5
Marsh Sandpiper	25	4						1			7	
Black-necked Stork		1										
Aust. Pelican	3	5		6	2					4		3
Striated Heron			1									
White-necked Heron			6						6			
Great Egret	3	1	3	6	2	4	1	1	1	2	6	6
Intermediate Egret						1						
White-faced Heron	31	53	52	62	27	51	108	128	44	22	10	37
Little Egret	1				1						1	4
Aust. White Ibis	60	184	45	4	10	3	3		15	26	31	35
Straw-necked Ibis						13		14				
Royal Spoonbill	4		1	2		1	1				9	
Little Pied Cormorant	4	3	2	5	4	4	1	1		1		1
Little Black Cormorant	45		2		1	2	1		5	7	18	4
Pied Cormorant			1						4			
Australasian Darter			1									

**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
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher			2	2						2	3	
Sooty Oystercatcher	40	52	51	44	30	13	14	21	9	9	23	34
Masked Lapwing				2		2			2	2		2
Whimbrel									1			
Ruddy Turnstone	16	13	15	15	2	1	1		10	12	11	10
Red-necked Stint									1			
Grey-tailed Tattler												2
Common Noddy			1									
Silver Gull	50	95	300	170	650	450	240	60	90	120	98	100
Pacific Gull					2							
Little Tern	20	75	20						1	2	45	12
Aust. Gull-billed Tern			1			1	3	3				
Caspian Tern					2						2	
White-winged Black Tern												1
White-fronted Tern					1	21	80	76	15	50		
Common Tern	44	200	45							30	35	65
Crested Tern	80	70	47	160	800	148	90	64	170	75	140	240
Aust. Pelican	8	14	24	25	25	63	16	14	7	14	8	16
White-faced Heron				1	1				1	1		1
Eastern Reef Egret					1	1	1					1
Little Pied Cormorant	1			1	2	1		1		1		
Great Cormorant	7	8	7	13	5	7	7	8	13	15	8	9
Little Black Cormorant	16	5	2	3	12	18	14	20	12	4	12	12
Pied Cormorant	5	6	5	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	1	1
Australasian Darter	2	1		3	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1



**Table 8 Waterbirds at Charlestown Golf Club**  
*(Systematic surveys by G. Feletti)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Black Swan		2		2	
Hardhead				1	3
Pacific Black Duck	16	25	13	11	11
Chestnut Teal	2				
Aust. Wood Duck	42	42	67	86	78
Australasian Grebe	1				
Purple Swampphen	11	16	11	21	14
Dusky Moorhen	11	15	13	24	13
Eurasian Coot	11	13	8	14	15
Latham's Snipe		1			
Cattle Egret					1
White-faced Heron	1		1		2
Australian White Ibis					1
Straw-necked Ibis		2		1	
Royal Spoonbill		2			2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1		1	1
Little Black Cormorant	3	3	3	1	1
Australasian Darter				1	



*Hardhead* Photo: Steve Merrett

**Table 9 Shorebirds at Stockton Sandspit & Fern Bay**  
(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beach Stone-curlew											1	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher		5	7	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Red-necked Avocet	2206	110		650	420	1400	3100	4700	4500	3500	3000	2090
Black-winged Stilt	187		120	136	175	43	30	83	2	66	44	120
Grey Plover										1		
Pacific Golden Plover	67	435	382	25	1	1	1	5	12	22	13	320
Red-capped Plover	3	20	15	18	3	1	7	6	4	5		
Double-banded Plover		1	1									
Masked Lapwing	49	10	43	16	5	3	4	6	2	1	5	3
Whimbrel	5	6	4	8	1	9	8	7	8	12	8	13
Eastern Curlew	137	119	61	15	4			115	113	150	148	147
Bar-tailed Godwit	603	780	770	79	75	79		81	507	654	673	638
Black-tailed Godwit	96	73	85	32		1	2	6	36	67	60	83
Ruddy Turnstone											1	
Great Knot	1		2	1					3	2	5	4
Red Knot			2	2	1	1		3	400	700	61	28
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		200	1000	26					100	780	235	182
Curlew Sandpiper		150	35		1			42	85	102	94	96
Red-necked Stint		150	110						1	14	6	6
Terek Sandpiper	10	9	12	5							3	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	42	38	30	43	10	5	6	6	20	25	24	8
Common Greenshank										1	1	1



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Photo: Mick Roderick

**Table 10 Waterbirds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie**  
*(Surveys at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites, led by J. Adams)*

	21 Feb	21 Mar	18 Apr	17 May	20 Jun	18 Jul	09 Aug	12 Sep	16 Oct	14 Nov	12 Dec
Black Swan	30	17	44		2	11	10	26		250	346
Pacific Black Duck	2			7							
Chestnut Teal					2						
Aust. Wood Duck	4	26	1	6	15	2	2			20	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	8		3	8	3	4	2	5			4
Masked Lapwing	4	2	6		2			1		2	6
Whimbrel								5	5		1
Eastern Curlew	2							2	1	1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	42	7		8	4				35	42	53
Red-necked Stint									10	15	
Silver Gull	136	100	124	52	90	85	88	64	47	113	140
Little Tern	46									6	
Caspian Tern		2	4		2			2			1
Crested Tern	14	6	2	4	4	5	59	13	1	5	3
Aust. Pelican	41	22	87	18	14	16	19	27	19	38	29
Striated Heron	1	1		1							
Great Egret	2		1			1	1		1	1	
Intermediate Egret		1						1			
White-faced Heron	2	1	3	1	1						
Little Egret	9	3	5	3	18	10		4		23	1
Aust. White Ibis	1	18	1	13	4	9	7				
Royal Spoonbill		4	8	9	16	14	13				
Little Pied Cormorant	9	3	23	2	40	30	53	10	21	10	13
Great Cormorant		2	3	3			9		4		
Little Black Cormorant	100				4	16	4	15	59	114	40
Pied Cormorant	17	3	50	1	3	5	14	9	14	18	4
Australasian Darter	1		2	5	1	1	3	2	2	2	2

**Table 11 Waterbirds at Cold Tea Creek/Belmont Lagoon***(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	14 Apr	25 May	14 Jul	11 Aug	22 Sep	13 Oct	08 Dec
Black Swan	105	44		8	14	10	95
Pacific Black Duck		3					
Northern Mallard				5			2
Grey Teal		1			10		
Chestnut Teal			9	7		16	13
Aust. Wood Duck		6				6	4
Hoary-headed Grebe			2				
Black-winged Stilt							4
Masked Lapwing		2			3		
Silver Gull		2	16	51	1	9	16
Aust. Pelican	5		34	7	9	7	6
Striated Heron		1			1		
Great Egret	1		1	1	1	2	1
White-faced Heron		1			1		
Little Egret	1		2		1		1
Aust. White Ibis		4		1			
Little Pied Cormorant	3	3	2	7	5	2	1
Great Cormorant	2		1	1			
Little Black Cormorant	3	2	11	4	13	1	2
Australasian Darter	1						

**Table 12 Waterbirds at Myuna Bay (Lake Macquarie)***(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	02 Feb	09 Apr	12 May	23 Jun	27 Jul	29 Sep	27 Oct	24 Nov	24 Dec
Black Swan	62	13		2		2	2		
Grey Teal									1
Chestnut Teal						3	1		
Aust. Pelican		3	43	4	4	3	1		1
Nankeen Night-Heron		2	2			2		1	
Striated Heron						1			
Great Egret		1	1			1			1
Intermediate Egret			4						
White-faced Heron			2	1		1			1
Little Egret		1			2				
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2	1		2				
Little Black Cormorant			236		3				
Pied Cormorant			1						

**Table 13 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks***(Regular surveys led by J. Smart)*

	15 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar	8 Apr	13 May	10 Jun	09 Jul	12 Aug	09 Sep	14 Oct	11 Nov	09 Dec
Blue-billed Duck									1	1		1
Pink-eared Duck								6	3	5	2	
Black Swan	2	2	2	2	9	2	2	2	1		2	2
Hardhead	6	39		17	131	132	116	29	35	43	17	7
Pacific Black Duck	11	21	31	26	76	31	9	20	11	5	8	12
Grey Teal	14		10	6	124	13	20	6	8	6	3	14
Chestnut Teal	4	5	8	4	12	8	3	7	4	29	11	6
Musk Duck						1	2	1				
Aust. Wood Duck	4		2	4	4	2	1	3		4	9	7
Australasian Grebe	9	3	7	4	11	30	21	43	24	13	3	6
Hoary-headed Grebe	85	43	85	90	58	51	3	11	17	17	61	71
Great Crested Grebe	21	16	13	14	18	8			4	8	17	12
Purple Swamphen	10	16		15	28	23	19	22	10	13	7	32
Dusky Moorhen	12	16	17	16	26	27	9	12	20	12	15	13
Eurasian Coot	297	403	294	383	175	242	149	261	399	244	330	321
Black-fronted Dotterel			4						1			
Masked Lapwing	2		4	4	2	2	2	9	3	9	3	2
Aust. Pelican			1	2	72							
Cattle Egret		10	42	16	27	20	10	5	5	2		
Great Egret				2	3	1	1	2	1			
White-faced Heron			1	2	4	2	2		2	2	2	
Aust. White Ibis				1	1							
Straw-necked ibis				69	91	30	17					
Royal Spoonbill				3	3	2	1		1			
Little Pied Cormorant		1	3	2	3	4	4	3	1	2	1	2
Great Cormorant	1	1	4	2					4		1	1
Little Black Cormorant	3	2	7	20	5	4		1		6	4	1
Australasian Darter		1	1	2				2		2	1	1

**Table 14 Waterbirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works***(Regular surveys by A. Lindsey & G. Brosie)*

	29 Jan	24 Mar	16 Apr	24 May	25 Jun	30 Jul	17 Aug	21 Sep	28 Oct	18 Nov	20 Dec
Pink-eared Duck	17	27	115	140	323	941	710	482	1	4	6
Black Swan	656	105	218	68	56	28	43	86	61	190	121
Hardhead	13		7	45	13	17	11		51	5	
Australasian Shoveler	46	40	60	11	96	185	37	42	4	7	25
Pacific Black Duck	131	60	335	156	55	33	65	95	16	34	61
Grey Teal	86	381	449	710	190	432	590	213	224	33	194
Chestnut Teal	35	103	224	198	35	74	77	77	104	41	96
Freckled Duck			1								
Aust. Wood Duck	20	7	2	16	1	7	6	3	27	12	8
Australasian Grebe	1	3	5	11	5	59	18	27		1	2
Hoary-headed Grebe	5	4	10	18	32	27	15	16			6
Purple Swamphen	9	6	8	4		11	5	10	4	3	2
Eurasian Coot	47	78	94	154	147	210	245	113	43	27	197
Red-necked Avocet	1	10	1	5		65	219	19			2
Black-winged Stilt	46	129	93	24	114	130	211	84	103	36	54
Black-fronted Dotterel						5	4				
Masked Lapwing	37	23	45	7	16	29	22	23	25	26	16
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper										29	
Aust. Gull-billed Tern	3										
Caspian Tern	5	5	2			1		1			2
Whiskered Tern									5		
Aust. Pelican	78	12	19	15	16	12	11	29	8	23	36
Cattle Egret	774	60	25	17			12	23		31	19
White-necked Heron	1			1				1	2		
Great Egret	13	12	7	2	3	2	2	3	1	3	
Intermediate Egret		7	5		1	1	1			2	1
White-faced Heron	14	6	9	1	2	4	11	1	1	6	6
Little Egret							1		1		
Aust. White Ibis	54		2		3						2
Straw-necked Ibis	1544	6	42	350	817	8	1	28		52	17
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		1	1		1						
Royal Spoonbill	57	55	35	6	2	2		3	19		5
Little Pied Cormorant	14	13	10	2	3			5		5	1
Great Cormorant	1	3	1				2	1		1	3
Little Black Cormorant	86	15	5	2		2		2	41	13	4
Pied Cormorant						1	1			1	1
Australasian Darter	7	5	3	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	3

**Table 15 Waterbirds at Tocal Wetlands**  
(Regular surveys led by P. Baird)

	30 Jan	28 Feb	25 Mar	28 Apr	25 May	28 Jun	31 Jul	28 Aug	30 Sep	30 Oct	30 Nov	31 Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck			8									
Pink-eared Duck		9	19	4	26	10			7	17	13	5
Black Swan	4	7	2		12	16	12	5	6	4	5	2
Hardhead	14	2	19	4					3		3	
Australasian Shoveler	2		1	2	2				1			
Pacific Black Duck	81	65	46	27	35	4	7	29	12	41	82	34
Grey Teal	29	65	92	37	30	32	25	43	45		86	135
Chestnut Teal	12	34	49	21	8	17	2	14	11	36	12	7
Aust. Wood Duck	24	16	12	17	10	4		4	3		18	33
Australasian Grebe		2	7	7	10	6			4			1
Hoary-headed Grebe			8									
Purple Swamphen			3						1		4	4
Dusky Moorhen		2			2							
Eurasian Coot	6		28	7								
Black-winged Stilt	6	2	5		12	6	10	7	13	21	11	13
Black-fronted Dotterel		2	4								2	
Masked Lapwing	34	7	12	10	2	14	16	28	3	10	6	12
Red-kneed Dotterel				1					4	2	1	
Latham's Snipe		4										
Australian Pelican	10	2	3	3	7	5	4	5	7	7	10	4
Cattle Egret	104	78	74				5		6	6	2	
White-necked Heron	1			1		2	1	1	3	1	1	
Great Egret		1			2	1	1	1	1	2		
White-faced Heron	1					1	2					
Australian White Ibis			1									
Straw-necked Ibis		1		2								
Yellow-billed Spoonbill								3				
Royal Spoonbill					1	3	7	2		2	1	
Little Pied Cormorant		1	1			1					1	
Great Cormorant	1		2			2						
Little Black Cormorant		1			1	6			2			
Australasian Darter			1		3							

**Table 16 Waterbirds at Gir-um-bit NP and Swan Bay**  
(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide)

	17 Jan	21 Feb	20 Mar	18 Apr	16 May	21 Jun	18 Jul	15 Aug	12 Sep	10 Oct	12 Dec <sup>1</sup>
Black Swan	13								8		
Chestnut Teal				3	2	2					
Aust. Wood Duck			2		5	4	5			2	4
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	22			31	46	28	25		45	28	13
Sooty Oystercatcher				5	28	5	7				17
Black-winged Stilt	1										
Pacific Golden Plover		21		2	3				5		
Red-capped Plover		9		11			5	6	5	1	
Double-banded Plover				1			17	6			
Masked Lapwing		4	5	5	12	4	5	2	2	7	6
Whimbrel	19	10	17	24					20	21	
Eastern Curlew	167	308			~120			41	105	161	
Bar-tailed Godwit	109	97	16	14	33	15	49	25	50	103	12
Ruddy Turnstone					1						
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									2		
Curlew Sandpiper								1			
Grey-tailed Tattler	4	2	3	49	14	10	20		5	20	1
Common Greenshank	4										
Silver Gull	8	13		6	3	7	10		6	1	1
Aust. Gull-billed Tern			5	3	11		6	5	31	7	
Caspian Tern				2	4	8	10		9	2	
Crested Tern	10	11	2	21	8	12	4		3	3	1
Aust. Pelican	14	2		6	1						
Cattle Egret					3				5		
White-necked Heron						1					
Great Egret	5	1		3	5				1	2	1
White-faced Heron	2	1		2	2	1	5	9	2		
Little Egret					1						
Aust. White Ibis	16			1		1				1	
Little Pied Cormorant	3		1		11	2	13		1		
Great Cormorant				2	3		14			1	12
Little Black Cormorant			12		26	2					
Pied Cormorant	4	7	2	12	9	11	142	7	14	8	
Australasian Darter							1				

<sup>1</sup>The survey could not be completed because the mudflat was impassable.



**Table 17 Waterbirds in Port Stephens<sup>1</sup>***(Boat based surveys at high tide, by HBOC members in 6 teams)*

Species	20 Feb
Black Swan	195
Pacific Black Duck	3
Chestnut Teal	16
Aust. Wood Duck	9
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	138
Sooty Oystercatcher	52
Pacific Golden Plover	21
Red-capped Plover	21
Double-banded Plover	3
Masked Lapwing	75
Whimbrel	135
Eastern Curlew	334
Bar-tailed Godwit	523
Black-tailed Godwit	2
Red-necked Stint	4
Grey-tailed Tattler	18
Common Greenshank	1
Arctic Jaeger	7

Species	20 Feb
Silver Gull	249
Little Tern	18
Common Tern	58
Crested Tern	234
Little Penguin	4
Aust. Pelican	213
Striated Heron	3
Great Egret	4
White-faced Heron	36
Little Egret	3
Aust. White Ibis	111
Straw-necked Ibis	1
Royal Spoonbill	2
Little Pied Cormorant	172
Great Cormorant	33
Little Black Cormorant	266
Pied Cormorant	355
Australasian Darter	1

<sup>1</sup>*No winter survey due to poor weather conditions**Grey-tailed Tattler Photo: Alan Stuart*

**Table 18 Waterbirds in the Manning Estuary**  
*(Surveys by A. Stuart at high tide at Harrington and Mudbishops Point)*

	31 Jan 2 Feb	23-24 Feb	18-19 Mar	11-12 Jun	22-23 Jul	30-31 Aug	15-16 Oct	17-18 Nov	16-17 Dec
Black Swan		4	4					2	2
Pacific Black Duck	2								
Australian Wood Duck	5			4	2				
Beach Stone-curlew				2	3				
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	50	11	19		8	13	9	12	13
Sooty Oystercatcher			2						
Pacific Golden Plover	114	72	91				73	88	162
Red-capped Plover	22	19	31	7	21	21	31	23	15
Double-banded Plover	2	4	43	6	53	33	1		
Masked Lapwing	7	4	7	4	4	4	2	2	4
Whimbrel	26	13	30				18	3	7
Eastern Curlew	42	35	16	4	2	24	32	18	43
Bar-tailed Godwit	101	37	54	33	5	17	138	48	182
Ruddy Turnstone									3
Great Knot							1		1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1								
Red-necked Stint	32		39			14	20	16	5
Sanderling	14		1	1		2	7		5
Silver Gull	24	70	39	57	59	71	43	23	37
Little Tern	215	58	73		1		63	170	250
Australian Gull-billed Tern					3				
Caspian Tern	4	4	1	5		4	2		
White-winged Black Tern							1		
White-fronted Tern					3	2			
Common Tern	21		18				14		
Crested Tern	287	32	237	125	61	139	365	93	480
Aust. Pelican	33	15	47	66	45	37	25	40	37
Striated Heron		1	2	1	1		2	1	
Great Egret				1	1				
White-faced Heron		1	2	1		2			
Little Egret				1	3		1		
Little Pied Cormorant				1	1				
Great Cormorant	1	5		1	2	8	7		2
Little Black Cormorant	660	5	61	2	3	2	250	160	550
Pied Cormorant	3	34	4	11	29	12	11	31	18
Australasian Darter					1				

**Table 19 Waterbirds at Cattai Wetlands***(Surveys by A. Stuart)*

	30 Jan	24 Feb	18 Mar	12 Jun	23 Jul	30 Aug	15 Oct	28 Nov	17 Dec
Wand. Whistling-Duck									2
Pink-eared Duck			1						
Black Swan	2	5	14	3	4	4	8	5	14
Hardhead			14	30	20	4			30
Australasian Shoveler			1	6					
Pacific Black Duck		18	32	26	7	21	5	5	30
Grey Teal		3		16		19	2	2	20
Chestnut Teal				6		2			2
Australasian Grebe			1	2	8	3	1		
Purple Swamphen		1						5	6
Dusky Moorhen			3					4	3
Eurasian Coot		3	32	71	2	1		2	4
Comb-crested Jacana	2	1	2	5	4	2	2	2	1
Latham's Snipe									1
Australian Pelican									3
Little Pied Cormorant			1		1	2	1	2	
Little Black Cormorant	2	9	1					2	7
Australasian Darter			1						

**Table 20 Waterbirds at Stockton Borehole Swamp***(Surveys by L. Crawford & C. Herbert)*

	12 Sep	23 Oct	09 Dec*
Black Swan	57	90	68
Pacific Black Duck			2
Grey Teal			1
Chestnut Teal	2		17
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	1	3
Masked Lapwing		3	40
Red-kneed Dotterel	2	1	3
Black-winged Stilt	9	15	
Silver Gull	3		73
Caspian Tern			1
Aust. Pelican	1	2	4
Striated Heron			1
Great Egret	1	2	1
Little Egret			1
Little Pied Cormorant	2	2	5
Little Black Cormorant			1

**Table 21 Birubi Point - Fingal Head Coastline Waterbirds***(Land based surveys by L. Wooding)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher							28					
Sooty Oystercatcher	3		3		2	6	8	6			3	
Masked Lapwing	3		2	4	4							
Arctic Jaeger		1										
Silver Gull	150	251	472	183	571	401	316	199		108	98	301
Crested Tern	19	22	61	50	116	94	184	55		28	29	64
Aust. Pelican	1				6							
White-faced Heron		1		1								
Eastern Reef Egret	1					1	1	1			1	
Little Pied Cormorant	1		1		2	1	1	1		5		
Great Cormorant	5	5	21	2	10	4		5		51	41	12
Little Black Cormorant	7											
Pied Cormorant		2	7	1	2	2	1	3		26	11	
Aust. White Ibis							1	1		1		2
Australasian Gannet	17	7	4		5	7	2	2				

**Table 22 Worimi Conservation Lands Waterbirds***(Regular counts by A. Lindsey, N. Fraser, N. Russell)*

	16 Jan	21 Feb	20 Mar	17 Apr	15 May	19 Jun	14 Aug	11 Sep	9 Oct	11 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	33	20	41	55	4	9	32	13	22	31
Red-necked Avocet										11
Black-winged Stilt									2	
Red-capped Plover	14	1	30	64	4	9	13	5	5	23
Double-banded Plover			52	106	68	25	57	1		
Masked Lapwing							2	1	1	
Red-necked Stint	2			6	1					
Sanderling										1
Silver Gull	119	486	488	230	50	20	46	24	49	154
Little Tern	70	3								
Australian Gull-billed Tern	26	5	26	60	84	1	177	107	37	38
Caspian Tern			1							
Common Tern		1								
Crested Tern	30	163	40	20	10	23		1	5	109

**Table 23 Seabirds Recorded on Pelagic Surveys**

(Counts from surveys to the continental shelf departing from Port Stephens or Swansea and led by M. Roderick or D. Williams. Note that many counts are estimates only)

	11 Jan	8 Feb	26 Feb	3 Mar	30 Mar	14 Jun	9 July*	9 Aug	13 Sep	10 Dec*
Arctic Jaeger	1	1		2	3	1				3
Pomarine Jaeger	12	14	10	12	10					5
Brown Skua							2	2		
Silver Gull	2	1	5	4	6	150	200	8	20	7
Sooty Tern	60									
Caspian Tern					1	1				
Crested Tern	10	11	11	5	5	10	15	6	8	36
Little Penguin	6									
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1				11	40			4	3
White-faced Storm-Petrel	12				1			80	3	2
New Zealand type Storm-Petrel <sup>1</sup>						1				
Wandering Albatross									2	
Antipodean Albatross			1		1	1			2	
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross						130	170	50		
Black-browed Albatross						3	7	1		
Campbell Albatross						7		1		
Black-browed type Albatross								6	3	
Buller's Albatross						3	3			
Shy Albatross				1						
White-capped Albatross									1	
Shy type Albatross			2	2		16	6	7		
Northern Giant-Petrel						1		2	1	
Southern Giant-Petrel									1	
Giant-Petrel type								1		
Cape Petrel									1	
Fairy Prion						35		250		
Providence Petrel					3	15		3	12	
Kermadec Petrel	1									
White-necked Petrel	1									
Grey-faced Petrel		7	15	1	6				1	
Black Petrel			1							2
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	2500	600	550	450	750			3	800	54
Buller's Shearwater	2		2		1					
Short-tailed Shearwater	14	90	7	6	10					11
Sooty Shearwater	3				1	1				21
Flesh-footed Shearwater	150	60	30	60	30					2
Streaked Shearwater				2	1					
Fluttering Shearwater		2		2			3		12	
Hutton's Shearwater	4	8			3	2		1	70	2
Fluttering type Shearwater	5	15	2	2	6		8	15	40	
Australasian Gannet	2				20	65	40	25	35	3

\*Boat departed from Swansea.

<sup>1</sup>See *Unconfirmed Records*. The bird is considered to be a probable "New Caledonian" type.

## 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	RA	Rest Area
GTD	Grahamstown Dam	RF	Rainforest
HEZ	Hunter Economic Zone	RP	Regional Park
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	SCA	State Conservation Area
HSD	Homestead	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre, Australia	SF	State Forest
IBA	Important Bird & Biodiversity Area	SP	State Park
KI	Kooragang Island	TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage	WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
NLH	New Lambton Heights	WWW	Walka Water Works

## GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

*Grid references for commonly visited locations continued:*

Allyn River	K5	Broughton Island	P8
Appletree Flat	H8	Bulahdelah	P7
Arrowfield	H7	Bulga	I8
Ash Island	M10	Cabbage Tree Island	P9
Awabakal NR	M10/11	Catherine Hill Bay	L11
Balickera	M9	Cessnock	K9/K10
Barrington House	L5	Chichester Dam	M6
Battery Rocks	E6	Chichester SF	K5/L5
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Clarencetown	M8
Belltrees	I4	Coon Island (Swansea Channel)	L11
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Cooranbong	K11
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Copeland Common	N4
Black Neds Bay	L11	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Blue Gum Hills RP	K10	Copeland Tops SCA	M4
Bootawah	Q4	Corrie Island	O9
Bolwarra	L9	Denman	G7
Boarding House Dam	K11	Dungog	M7
Boondelbah Island	P9	Durridgere Rd	A6
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Broke	I9	Fingal Bay	O9

Forster	R6	Oyster Cove	N9
Fosterton Loop	M7	Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10
Galgabba Point	L11	Paterson	L8
George McGregor Park	M10	Phoenix Park	L9
Glenrock SCA	M10	Pokolbin	J9
Gloucester	N5	Quorrobolong	K10
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9	Raymond Terrace	M9
Green Wattle Creek	L9	Redhead	M11
Gir-um-bit NP	N9	Ringwood Rd (GRNP)	C6
Hallidays Point	R5	Salt Ash	N9
Harrington	S4	Scone	H5
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Hexham Swamp	L10/M10	Seal Rocks	R7
Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ)	K9	Singleton	I8/J8
Howes Valley	H10	Stockton	M10
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens (HRBG)	M9	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Swan Bay	N9
Irrawang Swamp	M9	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Jerrys Plains	H7	Taree	Q4
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	Tarro	M9
Kings Gap	F7	Toronto	L11
Kitchener (Werakata NP)	K10	Tuncurry	R6
Kooragang Island	M10	University of Newcastle	M10
Kurri Kurri	K9	Vacy	L8
Laguna	I10	Waitui	R3
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Maitland	L9	Wallsend Wetlands ("Bunnings Swamp")	M10
Market Swamp	M10	Warakeila	L6
Martindale	G7	Warkworth	I8
Medowie	N9	Watagans NP	K11
Morisset	K11	Williamtown	N9
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	Wingen	H4
Morpeth	L9	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Mount Arthur	H6	Woko NP	M3
Mount Vincent	K10/L10	Woodville	L9
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4	Wyee Point	L11
Newcastle	M10	Yarrawa	F7
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (NWR)	M10		
New Lambton Heights	M10		
Old Bar	R4		

## APPENDIX 2015 RAC REPORT

Below is a list of cases assessed and decided by the HBOC Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) in 2015. A summary of each case is also provided, along with photographs of some species assessed. A summary of cases assessed by either the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) of birds reported within the Hunter Region during 2015 is also provided.

No.	Species	Location	Date	Status
406	Orange Chat	Hexham Swamp	Nov 29, 2014	Accepted
407	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Harrington	Jan 17 2015	Accepted
408	Buller's Shearwater	off Port Stephens	Jan 11, 2015	Accepted
409	Kermadec Petrel	off Port Stephens	Jan 11, 2015	Accepted
410	Forest Kingfisher	Cattai Wetlands	Dec 24, 2014	Accepted
412	Buller's Shearwater	off Port Stephens	Feb 26, 2015	Accepted
413	Black Petrel	off Port Stephens	Feb 26, 2015	Accepted
414	Streaked Shearwater	off Port Stephens	Mar 3, 2015	Accepted
415	White Tern	near Wybong	Mar 15, 2015	Accepted
416	Freckled Duck	Deep Pond	Mar 6, 2015	Accepted
417	Shy Albatross	off Port Stephens	Mar 30, 2015	Accepted
418	Streaked Shearwater	off Port Stephens	Mar 30, 2015	Accepted
419	Buller's Shearwater	off Port Stephens	Mar 30, 2015	Accepted
420	Diamond Dove	Durridgere SCA	Apr 3, 2015	Accepted
421	White-tailed Tropicbird	Redhead Beach	Apr 24, 2015	Accepted
423	Pacific Gull	Nobbys Beach/Breakwall	May 21, 2015	Accepted
424	Freckled Duck	Walka Water Works	May 28, 2015	Accepted
425	Buller's Albatross	off Port Stephens	Jun 14, 2015	Accepted
426	Buller's Albatross	off Swansea	Jul 9, 2015	Accepted
431	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Mungo Brush	Oct 2015	Accepted
432	Kelp Gull	Stockton Beach	Jun 14, 2015	Accepted
433	Freckled Duck	Walka Water Works	Oct 2015	Accepted
434	Ruff	Near Coopernook	Nov 1, 2015	Accepted
436	Ruff	Tomago Wetlands	Nov 17, 2015	Accepted
437	Brolga	Martindale	Nov 15, 2015	Accepted
438	Crimson Chat	Muswellbrook	Nov 16, 2015	Accepted
439	Black Petrel	Off Swansea	Dec 10, 2015	Accepted

*\*Note that Cases #411, #422 and #435 were not assessed due to a lack of information available to the committee.*



## Case Summaries

**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 aviculturalists (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**

**Case 407:** A **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* was photographed in the rainforest at Harrington on the 19 January 2015. Very clear images were provided, leaving no doubt in the identification. This species is most often reported from coastal rainforest locations in the Region. **Michael Kearns**

**Case 408:** A **Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri* was seen and photographed near the continental shelf on the Port Stephens pelagic on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015. **Case 409**, an intermediate phase **Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta*, was also seen and photographed on the same day. **Mick Roderick et al**

### Case 377:

A **Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii* was seen by several observers at Cattai Wetlands on Christmas Eve, 2014. The submission to the committee by the key observer outlined many of the important aspects required to differentiate this rare species for the Hunter from the more common Sacred Kingfisher *T. sanctus*

**Krishna Nagarajan**

*Photo: Alwyn Simple*



**Cases 412 and 413:** A **Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri* (#412) and **Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni* (#413) were seen and photographed well on the BirdLife Australia Photography Group's pelagic outing on the 26 February 2015. Of interest, the Black Petrel was assessed as having a perforated cornea in the right eye and was likely blind in that eye. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 414:** A **Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas* was seen and photographed on the second BirdLife Australia Photography Group's pelagic outing on the 2 March 2015. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 415:** This case related to a **White Tern** *Gygis alba* that had become disoriented and was found by mine workers on the ground on the 15 March 2015 near Wybong in the Mid/Upper Hunter Valley. The bird was taken into care but subsequently died. **Per Tasman Willis**

**Case 416:** A group of 6 **Freckled Ducks** *Stictonetta naevosa* were observed on Deep Pond by a visiting birder from the UK on the 6 March 2015. The observer was aware of the significance of the observation and submitted an URRF for the record. **Richard Allison**

**Cases 417-419:** These 3 cases were all seen on the Port Stephens pelagic 30 March 2015. 417 relates to an adult **Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta* that was distinguished from the almost identical **White-capped Albatross** *T. steadyi* by the presence of a yellow wash at the base of the bill. 418 relates to a **Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas* seen and photographed well, whilst 419 was a **Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri* which was not photographed but was seen well by an experienced observer who noted all of the salient identifying features of that species. The Shy Albatross is just the second record accepted for the Hunter since the split from White-capped Albatross has been adopted. **Mick Roderick et al**

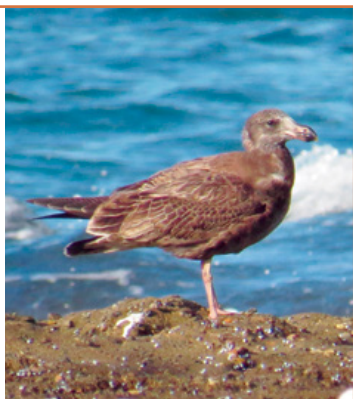
**Case 420:** A single immature **Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata* was observed by a number of people that attended the Easter HBOC camp at Durrigere State Conservation Area on the 4 April. The bird was apparently present for at least a couple of hours after which it was not seen again. This is normally a very inland species and could have been forced closer to the coast due to conditions being unfavourable in its normal range. **Graeme O'Connor et al**

**Case 421:** A juvenile **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* was found beachcast along Redhead Beach on the 24 April 2015 in the wake of the East Coast Low severe weather event that had resulted in many seabirds being forced close to shore, with some not surviving the storm. **Robert McDonald**

#### Case 423:

Two juvenile **Pacific Gulls** *Larus pacificus* were initially discovered hawking inside Nobbys Breakwall on the 21 May 2015. One of the birds was later seen loafing at Newcastle Baths by the same observer. Neither bird was reported again until about 4 days later, when they were relocated on Nobbys Beach. Thereafter they were seen by several observers until approximately the 30 May. This record coincided with a number of reports of juvenile Pacific Gulls northward of their regular range along the NSW coast (e.g. birds at Port Macquarie, Iluka and The Entrance).

**Richard Nicholas**



**Case 424:** A group of 12 **Freckled Ducks** *Stictonetta naevosa* were initially found at Walka Water Works on 28 May 2015, with numbers of birds reported swelling to 59 over the course of the next few days. Lesser numbers persisted into June. **Alan Stuart**

**Case 425:** Three **Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri* were seen on the Port Stephens pelagic on 14 June 2015. One of the three was noted as having a broken leg. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 426:** Three **Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri* were seen on the Swansea pelagic on 9 July 2015. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 431:** Several reports of **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* were received from the rainforest at Mungo Brush during October 2015. **Steve Roderick et al**

**Case 432:** An adult **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* was seen and photographed on Stockton Beach (Worimi Conservation Lands). **Nadine Russell**

**Case 433:** At least one **Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa* was seen and photographed at Walka Water Works, near Maitland, during October 2015. **Marg Clarke**

**Case 434:** A **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*** was seen during the NSW Twitchathon at the Cattai Creek Wetlands, near Cooperook on the 1 November 2015.

**Case 436:** A **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*** was found at Tomago Wetlands on the 17 November 2015.

**Case 437:** A **Brolga *Grus rubicunda*** was seen in flight in the Martindale Valley on the 15 November 2015. Although the observation was brief, all the key identification features were noted and any possible confusion risks were eliminated. **Dan Williams and Stew Betts**

**Case 438:** A small flock of **Crimson Chats *Epthianura tricolor*** were observed from a vehicle near Muswellbrook on the 16 November 2015. This case was heavily scrutinised by the committee, with an opinion sought by a proxy member and a second round of voting taking place before the record was accepted. It was noted that the observer saw the birds clearly and is very familiar with the species. Despite thorough searches immediately after the initial observation, the birds could not be relocated. This is the first confirmed record for the Hunter Region, though as for the Orange Chat, historical reports from the Upper Hunter are known. **Allan Richardson**

**Case 439:** Two **Black Petrels *Procellaria parkinsoni*** were photographed on the Swansea pelagic on the 10 December 2015. **Allan Richardson et al**

### Hunter Region Cases assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2015

**No cases relevant to the Hunter Region were assessed by BARC during 2015. The following cases were assessed by ORAC during 2015:**

#### NSW ORAC Case 633:

**Little Curlew *Numenius minutus***, Hexham Swamp 30 November 2014.

Submitted by Allan Richardson.

**Accepted (49th confirmed NSW record of this species)**

#### NSW ORAC Case 634:

**Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii***, off Swansea 4 December 2014.

Submitted by Mick Roderick

**Accepted (13th confirmed NSW record of this species)**

#### NSW ORAC Case 637:

**Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta***, Kooragang Dykes 22 November 2014.

Submitted by Dan Williams

**Accepted (30th confirmed NSW record of this species)**

#### NSW ORAC Case 638:

**Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor***, Newcastle Harbour 7/8 January 2015.

Submitted by Adam Fawcett, Ian Benson and Mick Roderick

**Accepted (4th confirmed NSW record of this species)**

#### NSW ORAC Case 639:

**Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma***, Stockton Beach (beachcast), 13 and 15 June 2014.

Submitted by Mick Roderick

**Accepted (approx. 31st confirmed NSW record of this species)**

## OBSERVER CODES

Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the Report, every observation by every observer was an important input. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from ALL those listed below. Observers are identified by codes that are made up of letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned.

<b>ABB</b>	BEN ABERNETHY	<b>FAA</b>	ADAM FAWCETT
<b>ADJ</b>	JACK ADAMS	<b>FEG</b>	GRAHAME FELETTI
<b>ALD</b>	DAN ALLEN	<b>FOJ</b>	JULIANA FORD
<b>ALP</b>	PETER ALEXANDER	<b>FRN</b>	NEIL FRASER
<b>ALR</b>	RICHARD ALLISON	<b>FRP</b>	PAUL FREEMAN
<b>ANC</b>	CRAIG ANDERSON	<b>GIT</b>	TOOKIE GILL
<b>BAK</b>	KEN BAYLISS	<b>GOA</b>	ANTHONY GOODEN
<b>BAP</b>	PAUL BAIRD	<b>GOC</b>	COLIN, RACHEL GOODENOUGH
<b>BDO</b>	DOUG BECKERS	<b>GOJ</b>	JOHN GOSWELL
<b>BEA</b>	ALLAN BENSON	<b>GOS</b>	SIMON GORTA
<b>BED</b>	DAVID BERTRAM	<b>GRL</b>	LUCAS GRENADIER
<b>BEI</b>	IAN BENSON	<b>HAP</b>	PHIL HANSBRO
<b>BLS</b>	STUART BLANCH	<b>HAS</b>	SUE HAMONET
<b>BOH</b>	HAYLEY BOYCE	<b>HBOC</b>	OBSERVATION FROM AN HBOC OUTING OR CAMP
<b>BRG</b>	GRANT BROSLIE	<b>HBW</b>	HASTINGS BIRD WATCHERS
<b>BRR</b>	RON BROWN	<b>HCL</b>	CHRIS, LIZ HERBERT
<b>CAA</b>	ASHLEY CARLSON	<b>HDM</b>	DIANNE, MICHAEL HATFIELD
<b>CAG</b>	GRAEME CASTLES	<b>HHB</b>	HUNTER HOME BREWERS TWITCHATHON TEAM
<b>CCB</b>	CENTRAL COAST GROUP OF BIRDING NSW	<b>HOB</b>	BRUCE HOSKEN
<b>CIR</b>	REBECCA CITRONI	<b>HRK</b>	ROD, KAREN HOWIE
<b>CJB</b>	JOHN, BETH COCKERELL	<b>HUB</b>	REPORT POSTED TO HUNTERBIRDING E-MAIL GROUP
<b>CLM</b>	MARGARET CLARKE	<b>HUJ</b>	JULIA HUDD
<b>CLT</b>	TOM CLARKE	<b>HWS</b>	HBOC WADER SURVEYS
<b>COJ</b>	JOHN CONNORS	<b>JED</b>	DICK JENKIN
<b>COS</b>	STEVEN COX	<b>JOD</b>	DI JOHNSON
<b>CRL</b>	LIZ CRAWFORD	<b>JOJ</b>	JEFF JONES
<b>CRN</b>	NORMA CRAWFORD	<b>JOM</b>	MARK JOLLY
<b>DBP</b>	PENNY DRAKE-BROCKMAN	<b>KAA</b>	ANDRZEJ KARPIEL
<b>DDR</b>	DODGY DRONGOS TWITCHATHON TEAM	<b>KET</b>	TOM KENDALL
<b>ERE</b>	REPORT POSTED ON WWW. EREMAEA.ETC (NSW BIRDLINE)	<b>KYR</b>	ROB KYTE

<b>LAB</b>	BRIAN LAUT	<b>POJ</b>	JENNY POWERS
<b>LAJ</b>	JOHN LAWSON	<b>PRA</b>	ANN PRITCHARD
<b>LIA</b>	ANN LINDSEY	<b>RAL</b>	LYN RAYWARD
<b>LIG</b>	GREG LITTLE	<b>RAS</b>	SHOSHANA RAPLEY
<b>LIP</b>	PADDY LIGHTFOOT	<b>RDB</b>	DOT, BOB RAINE
<b>LOJ</b>	JOHN LOMBARD	<b>RIA</b>	ALLAN RICHARDSON
<b>MAC</b>	CHARLES MANN	<b>ROM</b>	MICK RODERICK
<b>MAT</b>	TONI MARSH	<b>ROS</b>	STEVE RODERICK
<b>MCD</b>	DAN MCKENZIE	<b>RUA</b>	ASHWYN RUDDER
<b>MCE</b>	EULA MCKANE	<b>SDI</b>	DINAH STEHR
<b>MCM</b>	MANDY MCDONALD	<b>SIA</b>	ALWYN SIMPLE
<b>MCN</b>	NEVILLE MCNAUGHTON	<b>SJE</b>	JENNY STILES
<b>MCR</b>	ROBERT MCDONALD	<b>SMJ</b>	JIM SMART
<b>MCS</b>	SHAUN MCKAY	<b>SRM</b>	ROBERT, MARGARET STEWART
<b>MDV</b>	DON, VAL MOON	<b>STA</b>	ALAN STUART
<b>MEL</b>	LORNA MEE	<b>STD</b>	DAVID STUART
<b>MEP</b>	PAUL MERRICK	<b>STJ</b>	JOEL STIBBARD
<b>MES</b>	STEVE MERRETT	<b>STP</b>	PETER STRUIK
<b>MGLB</b>	REPORTED IN MANNING GREAT LAKES BIRDWATCHERS NEWSLETTER	<b>TBW</b>	TOMAREE BIRD WATCHERS
<b>MOA</b>	ALAN MORRIS	<b>THJ</b>	JUDI THOMAS
<b>MOD</b>	DREW MORRIS	<b>THN</b>	NICK THOMPSON
<b>MOT</b>	TIM MORRIS	<b>TOG</b>	GARY TONG
<b>MRO</b>	ROB MCDONELL	<b>TUJ</b>	JEAN TUCKER
<b>MUJ</b>	JENNY MUSICKA	<b>WAB</b>	BRUCE WATTS
<b>MUT</b>	TREVOR MURRAY	<b>WBJ</b>	BARBARA, JOHN WILLIAMS
<b>NAK</b>	KRISHNA NAGARAJAN	<b>WID</b>	DAN WILLIAMS
<b>NED</b>	DENZO NEADER	<b>WIH</b>	HELEN WINDON
<b>NEG</b>	GREG NEWLING	<b>WOL</b>	LOIS WOODING
<b>NIG</b>	GEOFF NICHOLLS	<b>WRO</b>	ROD WARNOCK
<b>NIJ</b>	JOY NICHOLLS	<b>WTA</b>	TASMAN WILLIS
<b>NIR</b>	RICHARD NICHOLAS	<b>ZVS</b>	SHELLY ZVINGULIS
<b>NOJ</b>	JENNY NORTON		
<b>OCG</b>	GRAEME O'CONNOR		
<b>PAL</b>	LENE PARASHOU		
<b>PEG</b>	GREG PEARSON		
<b>PEJ</b>	JEFF PETTIFER		

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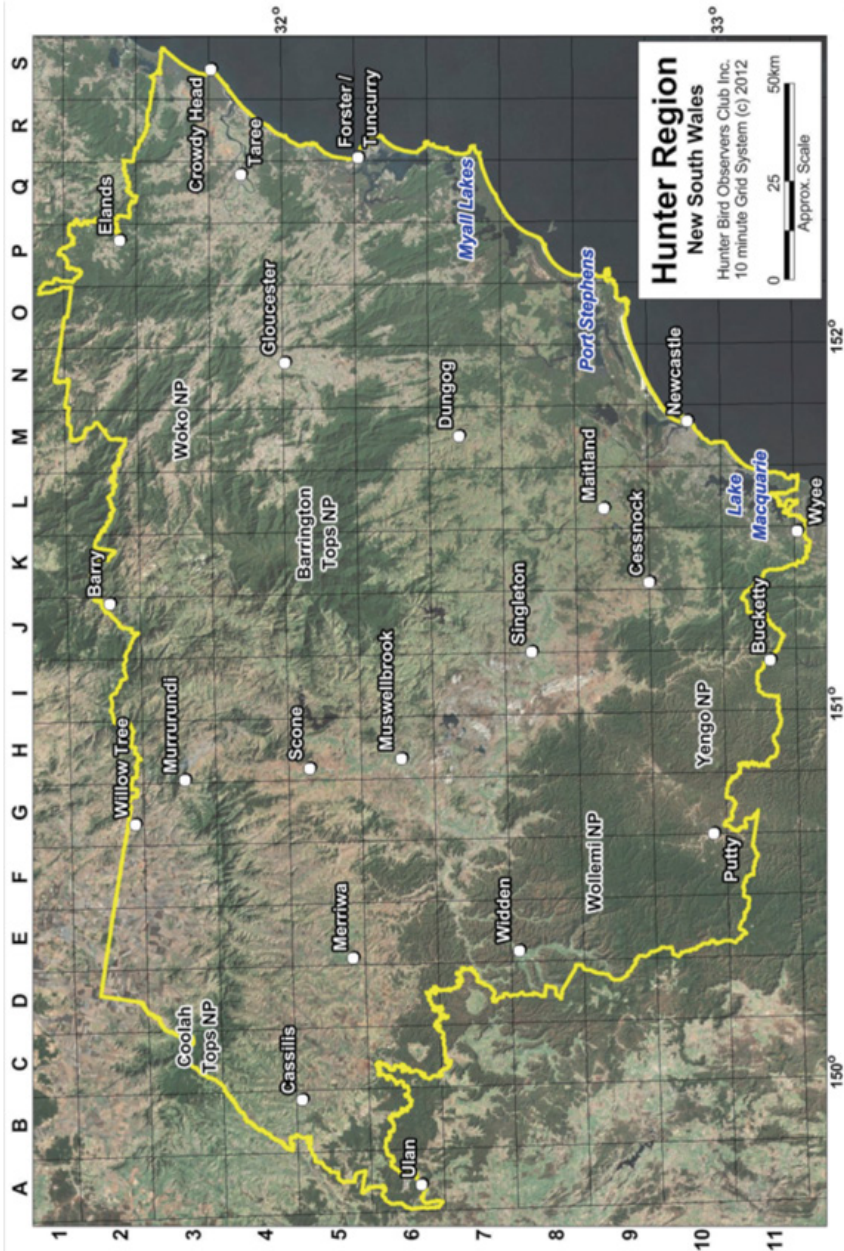


*Yellow-rumped Thornbill*

Thornbill		Warbler, Speckled	88
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Buff-rumped	91	Little	85
Inland	91	Red	85
Striated	90	Weebill	88
Yellow	90	Whimbrel	34
Yellow-rumped	90	Whipbird, Eastern	95
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Bassian	111	Golden	94
Russet-tailed	111	Olive	94
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# MAP OF THE HUNTER REGION

The boundaries of the Region are shown below, with latitude and longitude lines in a 10-minute grid. Each cell in the grid has a unique alpha-numeric identifier, used in the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations. Our thanks go to Dan Williams for generating the new map.





Variegated Fairy-wren (*Malurus lamberti*)

*Photo: Steve Merrett*

