

# HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Annual Bird Report  
Number 24 (2016)



# 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.

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*Front cover: Hooded Plover (*Thinornis cucullatus*) by Ann Lindsey*

*Back cover: Shorebirds by Ann Lindsey*

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*Yellow-faced Honeyeater by Jim Smart*

## FOREWORD

On 6th May 2016 I stood watching thousands of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and other small birds streaming across a gap in the trees, as I have done every autumn for the past 30 years. The annual honeyeater migration swings unpredictably between barely noticeable and massive, but the experience is timeless. The sense of wonder I feel watching the relentless waves of birds today is quite likely the same feeling Arnold McGill experienced in April 1946 when he first noticed the phenomenon at Blackheath (and later documented in *The Emu*, vol 47).

That morning in May, however, I wasn't in my usual patch in the Blue Mountains: I was in the Hunter Valley at Sugarloaf Gap. If not for the different view in front of me, it could have been Katoomba or Blackheath on a good migration day. But there were other differences, like the Scarlet Honeyeaters. At home we notice very few of these tiny gems flying through; here they comprised about 5% of the flocks. On the other hand, the pardalotes and White-naped Honeyeaters were far less numerous than we'd been seeing in the upper Blue Mountains. Unsurprisingly, the bulk of the birds were Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. In my opinion this species deserves to be a household name in Australia for giving us one of the most extraordinary migration spectacles in the country.

For me, 2016 will likely be remembered as the year of the Great Honeyeater Migration. Records were broken at our regular Blue Mountains counting sites and observers were reporting spectacular numbers in Sydney and further south. In the Hunter, things were even more dramatic. When I read Mick Roderick's email telling me what he'd witnessed on 21st April, I had to double-check that I hadn't misread the numbers. Ten thousand birds streaming across the gap in 20 minutes. And later, even greater numbers at Pambalong!

In 25 years of living directly under a migration path where the birds funnel up a gully in Katoomba, I'd seen some pretty spectacular mass movements at rates of up to 10,000 birds per hour — numbers that were doubted by people who couldn't imagine such a thing. But I'd never witnessed such an intense migration event as I was hearing about this year from the Hunter Valley. By the time I visited on 6th May the numbers had slowed, but I'm glad I got to see a part of this event while it lasted.

All this raises important questions about habitat, flowering, climate and changing migration routes. Maybe one day someone will put tiny satellite trackers on migratory Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, but in the meantime we wonder and speculate. We try to work out the pathways they take; we make guesses at the distance they travel each day; we try and predict where they're heading. We correlate numbers with weather and flowering events. We ask ourselves all these things and more. We might still be a long way from understanding, but it's wonderful to have a network of people across different regions passionate enough to spend their mornings watching and counting birds, comparing notes and contemplating such questions.

And there are unanswered questions like this about any species we care to choose. Surveying, recording and publishing our sightings are vital steps towards understanding what needs to be done to protect them. Despite the rapidly evolving nature of birding culture in the digital age, well-established local groups like HBOC continue to play a crucial role. Local knowledge ensures the perspective to know what's significant and the annual bird reports are a prime example.

This report encapsulates a wealth of knowledge and experience in its pages. The thoroughness, dedication and skill of those involved in its production is obvious, and in particular Alan Stuart who, as usual, has done a fantastic job in pulling everything together with insight and accuracy. The result is both a scientifically valid document and a work of art: useful, informative and a joy for anyone to browse, whether they live in the Hunter Valley or outside the region. I feel honoured to be involved in a small way by contributing this year's Foreword.

### **Carol Proberts**

*Carol Proberts is a well-known bird guide and conservationist based in the Blue Mountains. She is a life member and former President of Blue Mountains Bird Observers Inc. and has been the Guardian for the Blue Mountains Key Biodiversity Area since its formation in 2009. Carol coordinates the annual autumn surveys of the migration of honeyeaters and other passerines through the Blue Mountains.*

## NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

2016 was characterised by heavy inland rainfall in the second half of the year. As a result, many species of waterbird departed then, presumably to go to inland breeding colonies. They were only recorded in low numbers and in some cases were completely absent after June.

Two major fires late in the year affected important sites for dry woodland birds. Large areas of HEZ were destroyed in December, as was a very large area of woodland near Cassilis in a fire which was not fully extinguished until well into 2017. The impacts from both fires seem likely to persist for a prolonged period.

There was a substantial movement of migrating passerines through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May, with birds streaming through Sugarloaf Gap and locations such as Pambalong NR and Minmi. The main species was **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, with many hundreds of thousands estimated to have passed through. Other migrating species estimated in large numbers were **Scarlet Honeyeater**, **Noisy Friarbird**, **White-naped Honeyeater**, **Spotted Pardalote** and **Silveryeye**.

Other notable records for the year were:

- **Blue-billed Duck:** 1-2 birds at Hebden Rd 13 Jan and Walka Water Works 10 Feb and 8 Jun
- **Pink-eared Duck:** 400-600 birds several times at Muswellbrook WWTP Feb-May
- **Grey Teal:** Peak counts of 1,463 birds in the Hunter Estuary Apr and 1,068 birds at Morpeth WTW May
- **Chestnut Teal:** Peak count in the Hunter Estuary 719 birds Apr
- **Hoary-headed Grebe:** 222 birds at Walka Waterworks 8 Jun
- **Great Crested Grebe:** Seven pairs breeding at Walka Waterworks 12 Feb
- **White-headed Pigeon:** 100+ birds at Gloucester 23 Jul and Bobs Farm 3 Aug
- **Brush Bronzewing:** Frequent records from Belmont sites Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec
- **Diamond Dove:** A single bird at Durridgere Rd 6 Dec – the 4th record for the Region
- **Wompoo Fruit-Dove:** 30+ birds at Bingleburra (via East Gresford) 20 Oct
- **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove:** Several records including five birds at Harrington 14 Oct
- **Pheasant Cuckal:** Breeding records from Fosterton Loop 14 Feb and Bobs Farm Dec
- **Black-eared Cuckoo:** A single bird at Giants Creek Rd during Feb
- **Oriental Cuckoo:** A single bird at Walka Water Works 10-15 Feb
- **Fork-tailed Swift:** c.30 birds at Pipers Bay Forster 27 Feb and 20-24 birds at Watagans NP 21 Jan and Kotara 21 Nov
- **Lewin's Rail:** Four sites with multiple records: Broughton Island, Awabakal Nature Reserve, Belmont Wetlands and Hexham Swamp
- **Bush Stone-curlew:** A bird was on nest at Bobs Farm 9 Oct
- **Australian Pied Oystercatcher:** 164 birds in Port Stephens 19 Feb and 120 birds 22 Jul (*1.2-1.6% of the total world population*)
- **Black-winged Stilt:** Peak count of 836 birds in the Hunter Estuary in April
- **Lesser Sand Plover:** Two birds at Manning Entrance State Park 16 Oct
- **Greater Sand Plover:** Two birds at Stockton Sandspit 6-14 Feb and *if confirmed* a single bird at Manning Entrance SP 16 Oct and two birds at Stockton Sandspit 14 Apr
- **Hooded Plover:** An immature bird at Worimi Conservation Lands 22 Jul to 19 Aug
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** 5,000-7,000 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Feb
- **Curlew Sandpiper:** Highest counts in the Hunter Estuary since 2008 (252 birds Jan)
- **Common Greenshank:** Highest counts in the Hunter Estuary since 2004 (108 birds Feb)
- **Wood Sandpiper:** A single bird at Coopernook 25-30 Jan
- **Australian Pratincole:** A single bird at Hexham Swamp 17-25 Sep – the 3rd record for the Region.
- **White Tern:** A single bird during pelagic a survey off Port Stephens 17 Apr
- **Sooty Tern:** A winter record of three birds off Newcastle 6 Jun
- **Little Tern:** A new breeding site established, at Winda Woppa (Port Stephens)



Australian Little Bittern by Mark Simpson

- **Red-tailed Tropicbird:** Two birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Feb
  - **Buller's Albatross:** Three birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Aug and two other records
  - **Antarctic Prion:** Six birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Aug
  - **Slender-billed Prion:** Three birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Aug
  - **Gould's Petrel:** 16 birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 27 Nov
  - **Kermadec Petrel:** A single bird during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 10 Jan
  - **Grey-faced Petrel:** c.200 birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 27 Nov
  - **Sooty Shearwater:** 30 birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 27 Nov
  - **Flesh-footed Shearwater:** 140 birds during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Feb and 100 birds 17 Apr
  - **Black-necked Stork:** At least two pairs in the Lower Hunter
  - **Australian Little Bittern:** The first breeding record for the Region, of a recently fledged bird taken into care at Cameron Park 22 Mar and released at Pambalong Nature Reserve 2 April
  - **Brahminy Kite:** The first confirmed breeding record for Port Stephens
  - **Barking Owl:** A male bird at Durriddgere Rd 6 Dec
- **Swift Parrot:** The largest numbers in the Region since 2012
  - **Turquoise Parrot:** A single bird at Giants Creek Rd 13 Mar
  - **Musk Lorikeet:** A substantial and widespread influx into the Region over May-Nov
  - **Little Lorikeet:** Many hundreds of birds at the Singleton Training Area 17 May
  - **Rufous Scrub-bird:** A new territory was confirmed in the Gloucester Tops
  - **Little Friarbird:** Some birds at Durriddgere Rd 25 Feb
  - **Regent Honeyeater:** The first confirmed breeding in the Cessnock area since 2007/08 and several nests in/near Goulburn River NP mid-Dec; also pairs at Kearsley 19 Jul and Spring Gully Goulburn River NP 20 Nov
  - **Singing Honeyeater:** Single birds at Medhurst Bridge 14 & 29 May – a new location
  - **Pilotbird:** Several birds in the Mount Coricudgy area early Oct
  - **Southern Whiteface:** Some birds along Durriddgere Rd 25 Feb and one bird 29 May
  - **Grey Currawong:** Some birds at Mount Coricudgy early Oct and 8 Dec
  - **Masked Woodswallow:** Some birds along Ringwood Rd 2 Jan
  - **Dusky Woodswallow:** Birds successfully bred at Belmont Wetlands Nov-Dec
  - **Satin Flycatcher:** A male bird in the Gloucester Tops mid Oct
  - **Plum-headed Finch:** 131 birds near Martindale 7 Jun with many other Upper Hunter records during the year, and 5-6 birds at Belmont Wetlands in April
  - **Yellow Wagtail:** A single bird (race *tschutschensis*) at Cooranbong 31 Dec

# 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 2016. The main sources of information are the regular surveys by many members of HBOC, reports made on Hunterbirding and Eremaea (NSW birdline) and at HBOC meetings and in its newsletter, records from Birdata, and written reports sent directly or sometimes indirectly to the editor. Reports from other sources, such as eBird and the numerous Facebook sites now used by birdwatchers, are considered less reliable; they were only used when an experienced local birdwatcher had investigated them.

There was one addition to the checklist: Hooded Plover *Thinornis cucullatus*, based on an immature bird at the Worimi Conservation Lands for several weeks from late July. As a result, the Hunter Region checklist now comprises 447 species. In 2016, 349 of those were confirmed to have been present, and information about those records is presented in this Report.

116 species were recorded as breeding in 2016 (compared to a median of 127 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2007, 236 species are confirmed to have bred within the Region (and for a further 32 species there are pre-2007 records).

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

## The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

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

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**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.*

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**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.*

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**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.*

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HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) assigns categories and decides whether records can be accepted (records of state or national importance are reviewed by the relevant bodies). 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.

The philosophy for producing Bird Reports is 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.*

<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.



- 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 the 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.

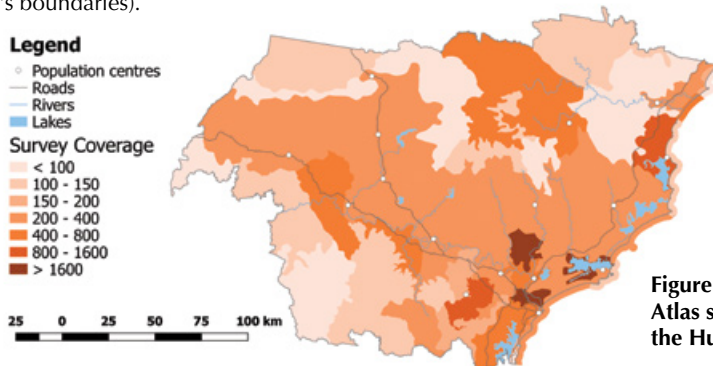


*White Tern off Port Stephens by Tim Strong*

## BirdLife Australia Atlas Statistics

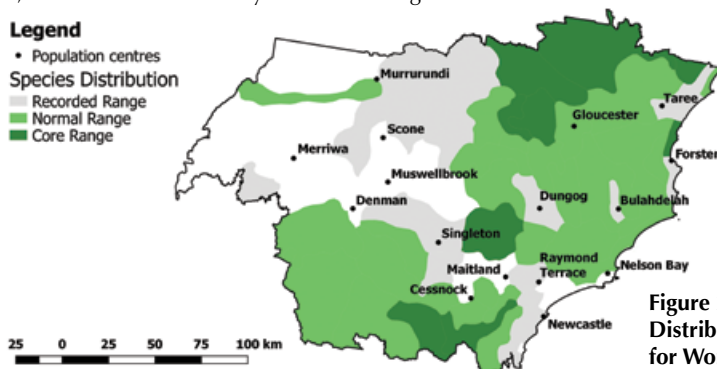
HBOC receives each year an updated copy of all data about Hunter Region birds in the BirdLife Australia (BLA) Atlas project database. We thank BLA for this and in particular we acknowledge the support from Andrew Silcocks, the Atlas project manager. The Atlas project commenced in 1998 and now includes >36,000 surveys in the Hunter Region (and >500,000 individual records). Figure 1 reveals the widespread coverage of Atlas survey effort within the 60 biogeographic sub-regions (and where the gaps are).

In preparing the Bird Report, the Atlas data were used in several ways. Distribution maps were generated for many species based on their Distribution Indices (DI) in each biogeographic sub-area (the DI is a weighted measure of the frequency of records of the species), timelines were generated for migratory species, and reporting rates and trends for species were analysed. We thank Dan Williams for generating the maps and timelines (and the shapefile used to define the Region's boundaries).



**Figure 1.**  
Atlas survey effort in the Hunter Region

An example of the distribution mapping is shown in Figure 2 below, for Wonga Pigeon. For space reasons, the distribution maps in the main body of the report have neither a legend nor a scale indicator; these can be inferred by reference to Figure 2.



**Figure 2.**  
Distribution map for Wonga Pigeon

The Atlas has records for two types of systematic survey: 2ha/20 minute surveys and area surveys (usually 500m radius, can be 5km radius or Fixed Route). There also are some records generated non-systematically (e.g. as incidental records or as longer bird lists). For this Report, all records were used for the maps and timelines. However, only the data from 500m area surveys were used for statistical analyses, 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.

In previous years, we have used an Excel macro to analyse annual and long-term Reporting Rates (RRs), thus enabling comparisons to be made of the two RRs. For 2016 we have moved away from this approach, to a new approach as described below. The reasons for changing include that similar data (definitely not the same data, but that might change in future) can be generated much more easily using the capabilities of the new Birddata portal, and that the Excel analyser had reached its capacity, requiring modifications if it was to continue to be useful. The new approach is to compare the annual RR for each species **from 500m area surveys** with the corresponding long term RR. Species are more likely to be recorded in 500m surveys than the other main survey type, the 2ha/20-min survey. The 500m long-term RR **for the entire Region** is presented within the species profiles (i.e. the coloured boxes). The corresponding 2016 RR is presented as a ratio

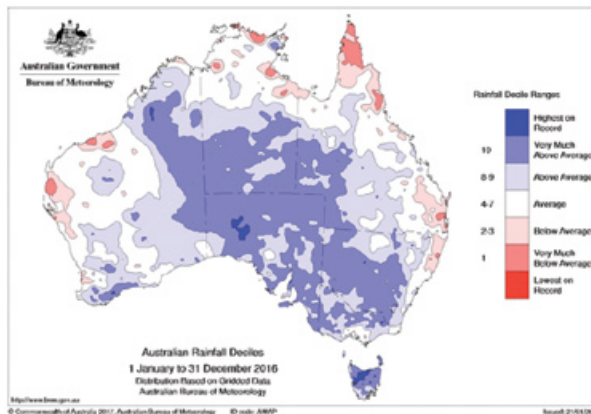
to the long term RR (*for species having long-term RRs greater than 1%*). Small changes are unlikely to be significant; larger changes require sophisticated statistical analysis before they can be considered to be significant. However, RRs differing by more than 30% from the long-term RR would seem to merit attention.

This Report details three specific pieces of data for Category 1 and many Category 2 species, from which readers may be able to discern important information about the status of the species in question:

- The 500m area survey RR in the Region for each selected species over the lifetime of the Atlas;
- The total number of records for the species in 2016; and
- The 2016 RR from 500m surveys as a percentage of the long-term RR (for species with RR >1%);

## 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 3** shows the Australian Bureau of Meteorology rainfall map for 2016. Much of the inland received heavy to very heavy rainfall especially in the second half of 2016. This led to the disappearance of many waterbirds from the Hunter Region: some species were not recorded at all in the latter part of the year and many others were only present in low numbers.



**Figure 3.**  
**2016 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 2016 Report.

**Alan Stuart**

18 June 2016

# 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).

**Cape Barren Goose**  
**Radjah Shelduck**  
**Garganey**  
**Northern Shoveler**  
**Cotton Pygmy-goose**  
King Quail  
Diamond Dove  
**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon**  
Superb Fruit-Dove  
Little Bronze-Cuckoo  
Oriental Cuckoo  
Brolga

**South Island Pied**  
**Oystercatcher**

Banded Stilt  
**Kentish Plover**  
**Ringed Plover**  
Greater Sand Plover  
**Oriental Plover**  
Hooded 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



*Red-backed Kingfisher by Alwyn Simple*

White-tailed Tropicbird

**White-bellied Storm-Petrel**

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel

**New Zealand Storm-Petrel**

**Light-mantled Sooty**  
**Albatross**

**Grey-headed Albatross**

Shy Albatross

**Salvin's Albatross**

**Broad-billed Prion**

Antarctic Prion

Slender-billed Prion

**Cook's Petrel**

**Pycroft's Petrel**

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

# 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>).

Status descriptions are provided for most species. Prior to the 2016 Bird Report, the descriptions were based upon the subjective opinions of RAC members. Now, the Distribution Indices from the BLA Atlas data are the main basis for them (where there are sufficient data). The definitions of the terms 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



*Beach Stone-curlew by 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.06%.

Two birds were at The Drip (via Ulan) 3 Feb (STA) and also birds were recorded in locations in and around Goulburn River NP 2 Jan (NAK) and 24 & 28 Feb (NAK, WAB, LIP). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*

ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

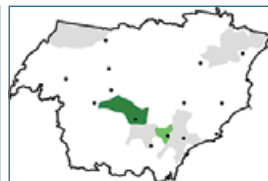
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Resident*); up to 50 birds often recorded around Shortland.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.0%.

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

**Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Possibly declining; fewer birds are being recorded at HWC.

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

ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.32%.

150-200 birds were recorded at Doughboy Hollow 3 Feb and 10 Jul (STA, ALP) and there were occasional records all year of lesser numbers there. Elsewhere, 47 birds were at Rathluba Lagoon 16 Aug (Table 21) and 31 birds at Tocal Wetlands 29 Feb (Table 19), while 10-14 birds were at Peace Park Weston 14-15 Jan (SRM, ROS) and Cemetery Rd Singleton 31 Jan (THJ). There also were reports of some birds at Wallsend Wetlands 14 Jan (FRN), Louth Park late Jan (ROM) and Cattai Wetlands 19-20 Mar (per CAA). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Resident*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.92%.

Birds were often recorded at HWC with the peak count being 29 birds in Jun (Table 6). Up to 14 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar and 13 birds were present 9-10 Dec (Table 3). 30 birds were at Tarro 11 Jun (THJ) and 11 birds at Sandgate Dec (ROM). 1-5 birds were recorded at Wallsend Wetlands 14 & 17 Jan and 16 Dec (THJ, KET, SIA), Tarro 25 Jan (BRG), Morpeth WTW 25 Feb (LIA/BRG) and WWW 30 Dec (MRO). **Breeding:** Pairs had ducklings at Bulahdelah 16 Jan and Deep Pond 9 Dec (GOS, MCS), and a bird was on nest at Sandgate in Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** Ten records. **Trend:** Probably stable.



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

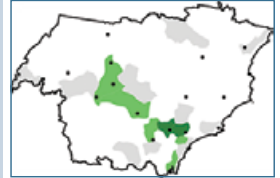
ID No: 216 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.17%.

Two birds were recorded at Hebden Rd 13 Jan (WIT) and at WWW 10 Feb and 8 Jun (MEL, Table 15). **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.0%.

400-600 birds were recorded several times at Muswellbrook WWTP over Feb-May (various observers). 124 birds were at Tocal Wetlands 30 May and 31 birds 29 Feb (Table 19) and 36-57 birds were at Morpeth WTW Feb-Mar (Table 17). Other than that, all counts except at Muswellbrook involved small numbers. In the second half of the year, almost all birds had departed the Region although there were occasional reports of 1-5 birds (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 20 records, RR 83% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (as a nomadic species).

**Cape Barren Goose** *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

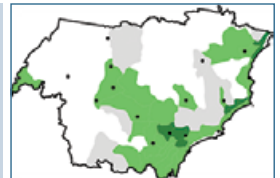
ID No: 198 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 20.6%.

**Notable records:** Birds were often present in high numbers at four locations: Hunter Estuary (50+ most months, 100+ sometimes, peak count 214 birds Feb); Swansea/Lake Macquarie (100+ Mar-May and Oct, peak count 466 birds Mar); Cold Tea Creek / Belmont Lagoon (100+ Jan-Apr); Stockton Borehole Swamp (50+ often, peak count 170 birds in Feb) – see Tables for details. Also, there were 400+ birds near Duckenfield 9 Jan (KYR) and 142 birds in Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 24). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 300 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Radjah Shelduck** *Radjah radjah*

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2005-15; a pair in 2005-8 then a single bird in 2009-15).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

**BLA Atlas:** 25 records.

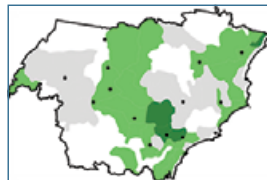
No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.1%.



**Notable records:** Although 50+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Apr (Table 3) the numbers were low at all other locations and from mid-year there were very few reports from anywhere (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 67 records, RR 43% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (may be declining but also affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

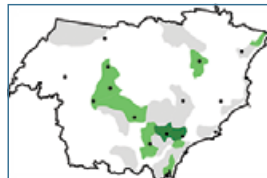
No reports were received for 2016.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Spatula rhynchotis*

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.2%.



**Notable records:** Birds were recorded at various locations in the first half of the year but in low numbers except in the Hunter Estuary (peak count 155 birds), Stockton Borehole Swamp (peak count 35 birds) and Morpeth WTW (peak count 89 birds). From mid-year there were very few reports from anywhere (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 50% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

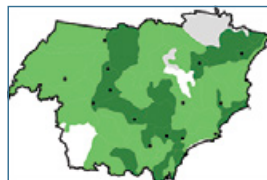
No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 30.2%.



**Notable records:** The important sites were the Hunter Estuary with peak count 214 birds Feb and Morpeth WTW with peak count 131 birds 28 Jun (Tables 3, 17). Also, 20+ birds were at

Ray Lawler Reserve Mar-Aug and 88 birds at Cattai Wetlands 11 May (Tables 17, 25).

**Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Feb-Apr and Aug-Dec. **Atlas:** 428 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Northern Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised*). (*Most are hybrids, e.g. with Pacific Black Duck; there are very few pure birds*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.48%.



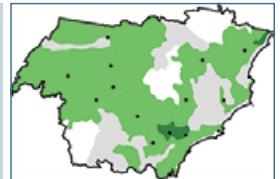
6-8 birds often were recorded at Cold Tea Creek Belmont (Table 11, HBOC); these birds were considered to be semi-domesticated. Four birds, considered to be hybrids with Pacific Black Duck, were at Ash Island 11 Feb (LIG) and also there were occasional reports from Wallsend Wetlands. **Atlas:** Eleven records. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.8%.



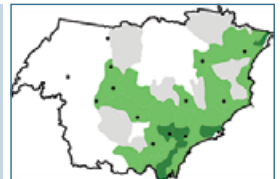
**Notable records:** Numbers were high in the Hunter Estuary Mar-May with peak count 1,463 birds 8-9 Apr and at Morpeth WTW Jan-Jun with peak count 1,068 birds 25 May (Tables 3, 17). Hexham Swamp was the main location within the Hunter Estuary. From mid-year there were very few reports from anywhere (see Tables for details). **Breeding:** Birds were with ducklings at Stockton Borehole Swamp 4 Mar, Seaham Swamp 8 Mar and Riverwood Downs 28 Sep (HCL, WAB, JED). **Atlas:** 176 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**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.

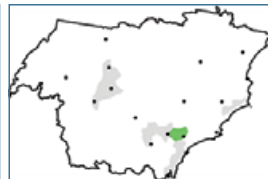
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 22.6%.



**Notable records:** 400+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary Feb-May with peak count 719 birds 8-9 Apr. 100+ birds usually were at Morpeth WTW Feb-Jun and at Tomago Wetlands Mar and May (Tables 3, 7, 17). From mid-year, numbers were low everywhere (see Tables for details) but by Nov-Dec some birds had begun to return and the counts at Morpeth WTW and in the Hunter Estuary again were of 100-300 birds. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan, Mar and Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 359 records, RR 95% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

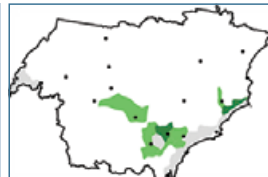
ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

Three birds were at Morpeth WTW Jan (Table 17) and two birds near Morisset early Mar (RIA). Single birds were recorded at Toronto Wetlands 31 Jan (DUP), WWW 26 Feb (FRN) and HWC in Mar (Table 6). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

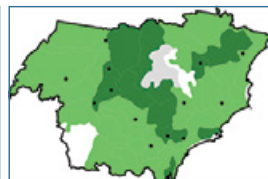
ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.5%.

Three birds were at KI Deep Pond 8 Apr (BEI) and two birds at Hexham Swamp Minmi 26 Jul (WAB/JOJ). Single birds were recorded at Bulahdelah 16 Jan (GOS), Hebden Rd 23 Jan (JOM), Hunter Estuary (Deep Pond) Jan and Mar (Table 3), Pokolbin 27 Mar (FRP), Bombah Point 22 Nov (KET *et al.*) and Mungo Brush 12 Dec (DCD). Some birds were at Grahamstown Dam 14 Jun and 30 Oct but numbers were not noted (HDM, BBB, DDR). **Atlas:** Eleven records, RR 22% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was very low).

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 21.3%.

**Notable records:** 60 birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 20 Feb (Table 9). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Mar, Aug and Oct-Dec. **Atlas:** 359 records, RR 95% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

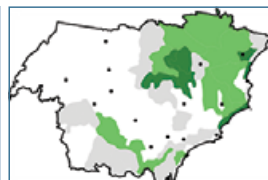
ID No: 200 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002*).

No reports were received for 2016.

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

ID No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.4%.

**Notable records:** 6-8 birds were at Wingham Brush 25 Jan and Yagon (Myall Lakes NP) 11-13 Jun (both HBOC). **Breeding:** Two birds were attending mounds at Wingham Brush 25 Jan. **Atlas:** 36 records, RR 119% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Stubble Quail** *Coturnix pectoralis*

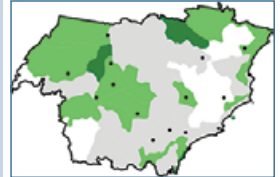
ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncertain, possibly irruptive.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.25%.

~10 birds were near Martindale 7 Jun (STA) and 4-5 birds at Raworth 25 Jan (BRG) and near Parkville 5 Oct (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown Quail** *Synoicus ypsilophora*

ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Belmont Wetlands SP 9 Feb; the eggs hatched on 16 Feb (LAW). Birds were breeding at Broughton Island Feb and had two chicks there 2 Apr (PEJ, RIA/VGF). **Atlas:** 81 records, RR 144% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**King Quail** *Synoicus chinensis*

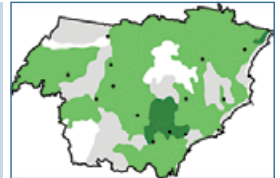
ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

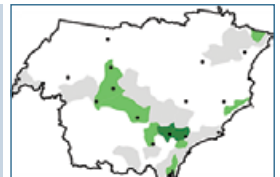
ID No: 061 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 20 birds frequently recorded at small to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 11.7%.

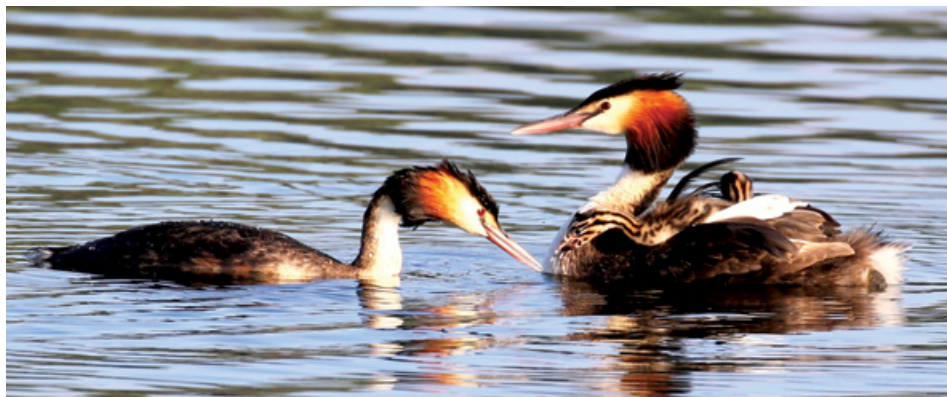
**Notable records:** 51 birds were in the Hunter Estuary in Mar with 20+ birds recorded often over Apr-Aug (Table 3). 19-32 birds were at WWW over Jun-Aug (Table 16). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with eggs at Wallsend Wetlands 14 Jan and chicks 29 Jan (THJ, SIA), and were with chicks at Rowans Dam Ulan 9 Dec (ROM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 97 records, RR 37% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

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

**Regional status:** Bird of passage, more common in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.2%.

**Notable records:** Birds were recorded most months at WWW, with numbers escalating in Feb-Jul to a peak of 222 birds 8 Jun and several other counts of 70+ birds (Table 16, others). Numbers in the Hunter Estuary (principally at Deep Pond) also rose in Apr-May, to a peak count of 59 birds (Table 3) and likewise at Muddy Lake Apr-Jun with peak count 16 birds (Table 14). Six birds were at a dam along Hebden Rd 23 Jan (ALP) and there were occasional reports of low numbers at other monitored wetlands (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 24 records, RR 66% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).



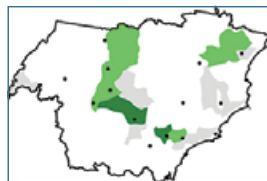
Great Crested Grebe by George Voss

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.94%.



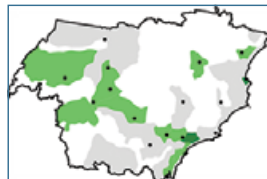
Birds were recorded all year at WWW, with 20+ present over Jan-May then numbers declining to 7-15 birds for the remainder of the year. Some birds were at Grahamstown Dam 14 Jun and 30 Oct (HDM, BBB) and Bootawa Dam 4 Aug (MGLB) but numbers were not noted. Two birds were at a dam along Hebden Rd 23 Jan (ALP). **Breeding:** Six pairs were on nests and another pair had dependent young at WWW 12 Feb and there were several similar reports over Jan-early Mar (SMJ *et al.*, others). **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** Recovered from a poor year in 2015.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.7%.



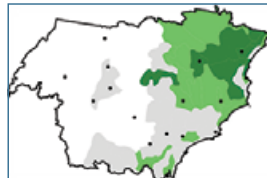
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 59 records, RR 72% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.1%.



**Notable records:** 100+ birds were at Gloucester 23 Jul and near Bobs Farm 3 Aug (ZVS, WOL). 89 birds were at Salt Ash 31 Jul (ROM) and 59 birds there 18 Aug (LIN), and 75 birds were at Swansea 10 Aug (HAS). c.40 birds were at Belmont South 2 Aug (CJB) and 20+ birds at Brunkerville 26 Nov (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Bobs Farm in Mar (HDM) and were breeding at Balickera Apr and Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 49 records, RR 57% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (2016 RR was low but no long-term trend).

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 15.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Hamilton 31 Aug (ANC). **Atlas:** 259 records, RR 95% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia phasianella*

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*revised from Resident*); 1-2 birds often recorded in well-forested areas.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.3%.



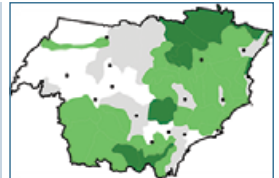
**Notable records:** 20 birds were recorded at Abernethy 2 Aug (HBOC). **Atlas:** 87 records, RR 122% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.0%.



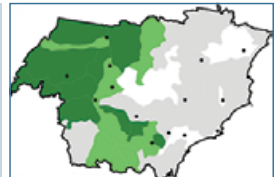
**Notable records:** 10+ birds were at Brunkerville 26 Nov (BRG). **Atlas:** 77 records, RR 67% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR once again was low).

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.3%.



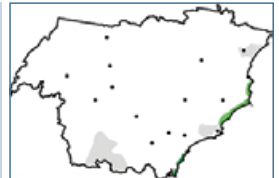
**Notable records:** 17 birds were recorded at Wingen TSR 5 Apr (NEG) and 14 birds were together at Pokolbin 25 Jun (FRP). **Atlas:** 25 records, RR 59% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

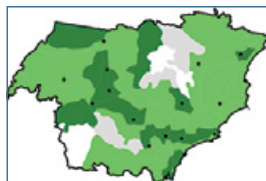
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.54%.



There were frequent records from around Belmont Lagoon and Belmont Wetlands over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, in many cases involving multiple birds (FEG, others). These records have been the first real insights into the size of the local population. Elsewhere, a bird was heard at Awabakal NR 30 Sep (STA). *Inland records are uncommon.* **Atlas:** 27 records (reflecting regular surveys in the core range). **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 22.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at LTP 12 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 373 records, RR 95% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

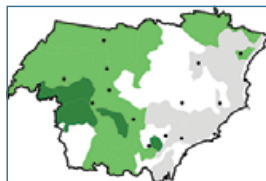
ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1995, 2003, 2015).

A single bird was recorded along Durridgere Rd 6 Dec (BEI) – the 4<sup>th</sup> record for the Region.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*

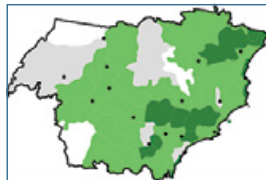
ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (revised from Resident).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.0%.

**Notable records:** 15 birds were recorded at HEZ 13 Jun (LIA) and nine birds at Abernethy 2 Aug (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera in Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 49 records, RR 124% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

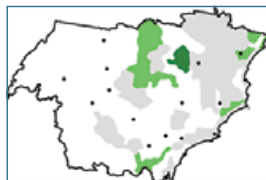
ID No: 032 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 17.2%.

**Notable records:** 15 birds were at Fishery Creek Hexham 21 May (LIA). **Atlas:** 221 records, RR 99% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown-capped Emerald-Dove** *Chalcophaps longirostris*

ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.28%.

Four birds (including a group of three) were recorded at Stanhope 4 Dec (ALP) and two birds were at Tabbil Forest Dungog 28 Sep (per JED). All other records were of single birds (where numbers were noted): at Brettli NR 29 Jan (BEI *et al.*), Glenrock SCA 16 Apr (per ALD), Harrington 28 Apr, 3 Jul and 14-16 Oct (BEI, RIA, MOA *et al.*), Cattai Wetlands 5 May (MGLB), Seaham 9 May (BRG), Yagon Myall Lakes NP 12 Jun (HBOC), Pipers Bay Forster 23 Jun (MGLB), HWC 27 Jun (LIP), Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 30 Aug (STD), Cape Hawke 4 Oct (per ROM) and near Dungog 30 Oct (BBB). The bird at Seaham was an immature which had died after striking a window. **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** More reports than usual.



**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa*

ID No: 026 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2009).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded.

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.59%.

30+ birds were at Bingleburra (via East Gresford) 20 Oct (WID), 5-6 birds at Brett NR 29 Jan (BEI *et al.*) and Woko NP 31 Dec (STD), and 2-3 birds at Copeland SCA 25 Apr (BNSW) and Cape Hawke 4 & 8 Oct (per ROM, KEM). All other records were of single birds (where numbers were noted): at Main Creek Dungog 19 Mar (STD), Glenrock SCA mid Aug to early Sep (per ROM), Nords Wharf 6 Sep (ZOJ), Seal Rocks 19-20 Sep (HBOC), Treachery Bay Seal Rocks 20 Sep (ROM), Johns River 15 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Saltwater NP 16 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Taree 18 Oct (ERE), Bingleburra and Allyn River both 30 Oct (BBB, DDR) and O'Sullivan's Gap RA 12 & 14 Dec (WAB/JA). Also there were several records during the year from the Gloucester riverside park (ZVS). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** More reports than usual.

**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 2016. See Unconfirmed Records.

**Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*

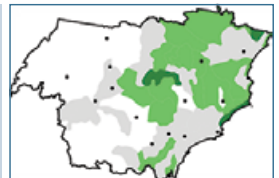
ID No: 021 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain. (Recorded 1994-95, 1997, 2003-08, 2014-15).

Five birds were recorded at Harrington RF 14 Oct (MOA *et al.*) and single birds at Cooranbong 30 Jan (ERE) and Cape Hawke 4 & 8 Oct and 15 Nov (per ROM, KEM, WAB). Also, dead birds were found at Forster 19 Sep (SCP) and Whitebridge 23 Sep (BUK).

**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

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

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.7%.

**Notable records:** ~100 birds were in single trees at Brett NR 29 Jan (BEI *et al.*) and Watagans NP 12 Mar (RIA), and ~100 birds were flying over Pelican Lake Macquarie 11 Aug (ERE). 30+ birds were recorded at Galgabba 27 Jul (ADJ) and West Wallsend 10 Aug (OCG).

**Atlas:** 22 records, RR 95% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.5%.



**Notable records:** Three birds were at Cattai Wetlands 10-11 Dec (SRM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Fosterton Loop 14 Feb (JED) and also bred at Bobs Farm Dec (HDM).

**Atlas:** 64 records, RR 76% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again, the RR was low).

**Eastern Koel** *Eudynamys orientalis*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.2%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. The first reported return was 7 Sep when a bird was heard at Lemon Tree Passage (WOL). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan-Apr and Dec, also a late record of a dependent bird at Shoal Bay 5 May (FRN). The host species reported were Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird and Noisy Friarbird.

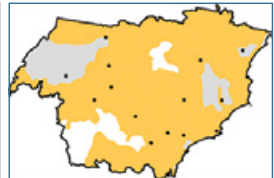
**Atlas:** 170 records, RR 108% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.1%.



**Notable records:** 12 birds were flying over Fletcher 29 Jan (SIA). The first reported return was 17 Aug when a bird was near Morisset (ANC); also a bird was at Salamander Bay 19 Aug (WOL). However, the main wave of arrivals commenced in early Sep. **Breeding:** Birds were being fed by Pied Currawongs at Coal Point 11 Jan (CLT) and New Lambton 27 Dec (FAA).

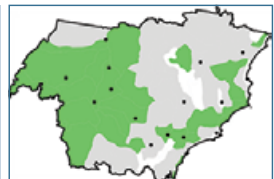
**Atlas:** 105 records, RR 86% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Fledged birds were being fed by Superb Fairy-wrens at Medhurst Bridge 21 Feb (ALP) and by Rufous Whistlers at Rathluba Lagoon 29 Dec (CLM). **Atlas:** Six records, RR 17% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (but, very few records).

**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.

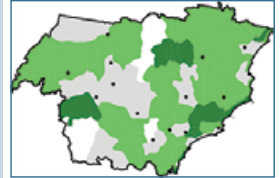
A single bird was recorded at Giants Creek Rd 2 Feb (STA) and then by many other observers during the remainder of the month. **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 62% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again, the RR was below average).

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

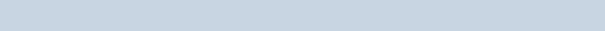
ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

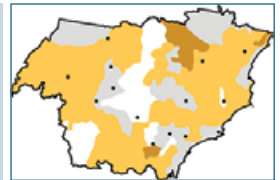
ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 131 records, RR 64% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again, the RR was below average).

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.8%.

**Notable records:** A bird was heard at Green Wattle Creek 23 Aug (WAB) – early return.

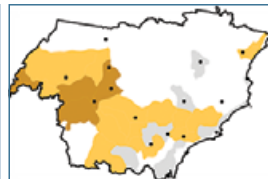
**Atlas:** 17 records, RR 36% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again, the RR was below average).

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Heteroscenes pallidus* (Genus amended)

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.1%.



**Notable records:** An adult and a juvenile bird were together at Pogygy HSD 3 Feb (STA). The first reported return was 9 Oct when a bird was at Medhurst Bridge (MCR). **Atlas:** 18 records, RR 54% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining (once again, the RR was around 50% of the long term average).

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

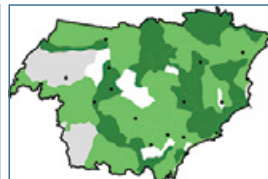
A single bird was recorded at Walka Water Works 10 Feb and then by several other observers until 15 Feb (KYR *et al.*, others).

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.1%.



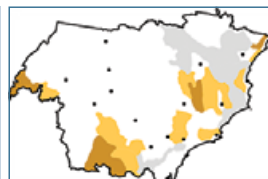
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Sep-Dec. **Atlas:** 33 records, RR 54% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was very low).

**White-throated Nightjar** *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.35%.



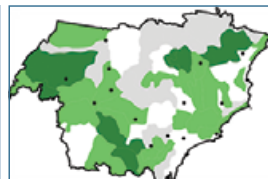
Four birds were recorded along Durrigere Rd 6 Dec (BEI). Some birds were also recorded at Killabakh 20 Feb (MGLB), Yengo NP 27 Mar (ERE), and Main Creek Dungog 1 Oct (STD). A bird was taken into care at Cooranbong mid Jan after being hit by a car; it was successfully released about a week later (per NIJ). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

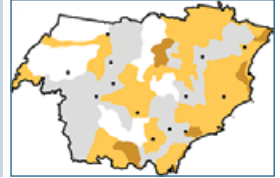
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.65%.



Birds were recorded at Balickera Jan & Oct (MUJ), Killabakh 21 Feb (MGLB), Harrington 19-20 Mar (per CAA), Yengo NP 27 Mar (ERE), Galgabba 24 Sep (MCM), Richmond Vale 9 Oct (KEM), Sharpes Creek 19 & 20 Oct (HBOC), Pipers Bay Forster 23 Nov (MGLB), near Stroud 6 Dec (CLT) and Cassilis Rest Area 6 Dec (BEI). **Atlas:** Ten records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*

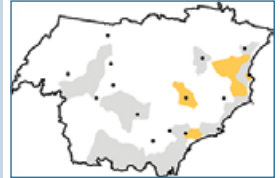
ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 30 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.0%.

**Notable records:** 400+ birds were flying over Earthcare Park Tenambit 6 Dec (HBOC) and 100+ birds over Forster 10 Jan (MGLB), Jewells/Belmont North 20 Nov (FAB), Tahlee 12 Dec (FLS) and Shoal Bay 14 Dec (FRN). The first reported returns both involved three birds – at Bulahdelah 3 Oct and Warabrook 6 Oct (ANC, KEM). **Atlas:** 26 records, RR 56% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining – less records and in fewer numbers than for recent years.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

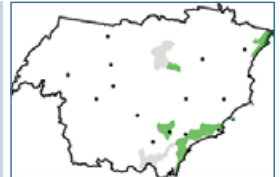
ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.17%.

c.30 birds were flying over Pipers Bay Forster 27 Feb in small groups (per CAA) and 20-24 birds over Watagans NP 21 Jan and Kotara 21 Nov (RIA, KYR). Ten birds were at Shortland 21 Jan (ROM) and a single bird at Old Bar 14 Nov (BNSW). A bird was briefly taken into care at Girvan 6 Dec (ALP). **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Declining – less records and in fewer numbers than for recent years.

**Lewin's Rail** *Lewinia pectoralis*

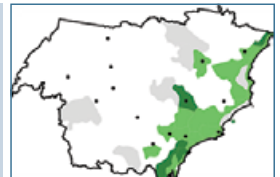
ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.40%.

Four sites had multiple records: Broughton Island, where birds were at several locations on both 18-20 Apr and 10-12 Oct (STA *et al.*); Redhead Lagoon, with single birds recorded five times, Table 10; Belmont Wetlands, with two birds together 21 May (OWS/FAB), three birds 10 Aug (BRG) and a single bird 26 Aug (FAB); and Hexham Swamp with single birds 27 Feb (MOA *et al.*) and 9, 14 & 27 Aug (PAL, OCG, MEL). Also, four birds were recorded at Woods Point Morisset 9 Jul (RIA) and two separate birds in the Gloucester Tops 19-21 Oct (HBOC).

**Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Buff-banded Rail** *Hypotaenidia philippensis* (Genus amended)

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

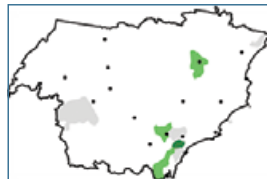
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.6%.

**Notable records:** There were five records from Broughton Island 10-12 Oct (STA *et al.*) – previously had been uncommon at this location. There were frequent records all year from HWC (Table 6). **Breeding:** Birds had chicks at Hexham Swamp 17 Feb (THJ), BbR Jun-Jul (NIJ) and Broughton Island 22 Nov (CAS), and a nest with young at BbR 9 Oct (JED).

**Atlas:** 26 records, RR 108% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Spotted Crane** *Porzana fluminea*

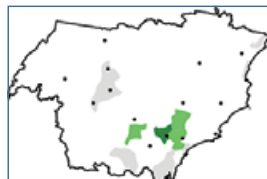
ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.72%.

Single birds were recorded at Broughton Island 18-20 Apr (STA *et al.*) and Hexham Swamp 3 Jul (PAL). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Uncertain (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Baillon's Crane** *Zapornia pusilla* (Genus amended)

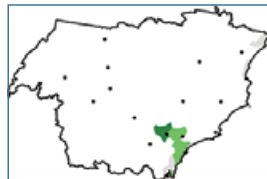
ID No: 050 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage (*Revised*), more often recorded in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.22%.

Two birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 18 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** Uncertain (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Spotless Crane** *Zapornia tabuensis* (Genus amended)

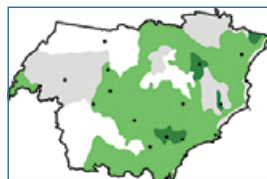
ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage (*Revised*), more often recorded in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.28%.

Several birds were reported to have been at Hexham Swamp 2 Apr (ERE) and single birds were at Little Bittern Pond KI 18 Mar (BEI), Morisset 15 May (RIA) and Hexham Swamp 9 Aug (PAL). **Breeding:** An adult was with two chicks at Hexham Swamp 21 Dec (OCG). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** Uncertain (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

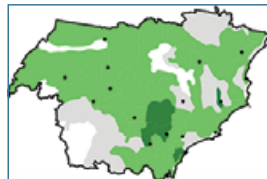
ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds are frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 17.4%.

**Notable records:** 20-40 birds were often recorded at HWC and in the Hunter Estuary Mar-May (Tables 6, 3). **Breeding:** Birds were with a chick at WWW 26 Feb (FRN). **Atlas:** 258 records, RR 68% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 12.3%.

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at WWW (peak count 48 birds 8 Jun) and less frequently at HWC, Muddy Lake and Ray Lawler Reserve (see Tables for details).

**Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Tuncurry 4 Feb (MGLB) and Brunkerville 5 Apr (HBOC), and had chicks at WWW 26 Feb (FRN), Irrawang Swamp 7 Dec (WAB), and Rowans Dam Ulan 9 Dec (ROM *et al.*). **Atlas:** 210 records, RR 90% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

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

**Regional status:** Rare irruptive visitor (*revised from: Uncommon*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.5%.

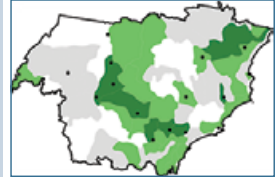
There have been no reports received since May 2013.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 8.8%.



**Notable records:** In the first half of the year, there sometimes were high numbers at four locations in the lower Hunter Valley (see Tables for details): the Hunter Estuary (200-300 birds often, peak count 338 birds); Muddy Lake (peak count 647 birds); Stockton Borehole Swamp (peak count 200 birds) and WWW (200+ birds most months, peak count 699 birds). There were very few records in the second half of the year, and only involving low counts.

**Atlas:** 127 records, RR 70% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Brolga** *Antigone rubicunda*

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

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2005, 2014-15*).

No confirmed records were received for 2016.

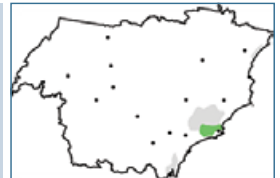
**Bush Stone-curlew** *Burhinus grallarius*

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.07%.



Pairs were at both Little Swan Bay and Bobs Farm 9 Oct (WOL). A bird which had hatched at Cromarty Island Port Stephens 26 Nov 2009 was taken into care at Swan Bay on 6 Sep (almost seven years later) but unfortunately did not survive. The bird was one of a pair recorded at Tahlee for at least two years prior. There were occasional records of this pair early in the year and thence of a single bird (FLS, others). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Bobs Farm 9 Oct (WOL). **Atlas:** Four records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Critically Endangered**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.53%.

There were occasional reports of 1-2 birds in the Manning Estuary and Port Stephens (Soldiers Point area), where there are known to be established pairs (STA, MUT, others). **Breeding:** The Manning Estuary pair was with a juvenile bird 20 Mar (MGLB). **Atlas:** Two records.

**Trend:** Possibly stable.**South Island Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus finschi*

ID No: 744 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Australian Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

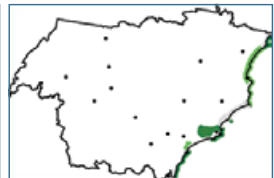
**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Usual resident (*revised from Resident*); 1-5 birds are often recorded at coastal and estuarine locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.9%.

**Notable records:** 164 birds were in Port Stephens 19 Feb and 120 birds 22 Jul (*1.2-1.6% 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 over Feb-Oct with peak count 48 birds June (Table 27). Birds were regularly recorded in 20+ counts in the Worimi Conservation Lands with peak count 54 birds Apr (Table 26) and 23 Jul (KEM). Also 15-30+ birds were in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area Jul-Nov (Table 9) and 20+ birds in the Hunter Estuary Aug-Sep (Table 1). There were no regular surveys at Forster/Tuncurry or Manning Estuary. **Movements:** A bird banded at Red Rock Estuary in October 2014 was regularly present in the Worimi Conservation Lands and a bird banded at Corner Inlet in August 2014 was there on 18 Mar (per LIA).

**Breeding:** Pairs had chicks at Mudbishops Point 27 Oct (STA), Saltwater NP 3 Nov (per BEI) and Harrington 15 Oct (MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 160 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.2%.

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at Newcastle Baths Jan-Apr and Dec with peak count 49 birds Feb (Table 8). 42 birds were in Port Stephens 19 Feb and 37 birds 22 Jul (Table 28) whilst within the Port there were several records of 10+ birds at Gir-um-bit NP (Table 27). Also, 25-30 birds including several juveniles were at Broughton Island 18-20 Apr and 15 birds there 10-12 Oct (STA *et al.*), while 12 birds were at Harrington 28 Apr (BEI). **Atlas:** 92 records, RR 210% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing.



**Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1995-96, 2000-01, 2004, 2012-13).

There have been no records since January 2013.

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

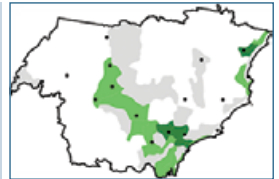
ID No: 148 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Regular visitor (revised from: Usual visitor). During inland drought, thousands are in the Hunter Estuary.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.9%.

**Notable records:** As for 2015, birds were recorded in substantial numbers at many locations within the Hunter Estuary. The peak overall count was 2,726 birds in Jan; most of these birds soon departed the Region. The estuary counts over the ensuing 8 months often were of several hundred birds but they varied considerably including sometimes less than 50 birds; however in June 1,500-2,200 birds were being recorded (Tables 1, 2). Elsewhere, 233 birds were at Morpeth WTW 25 May (Table 17). **Atlas:** 48 records, RR 54% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

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

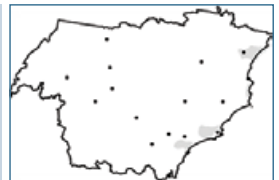
ID No: 146 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 11.5%.

**Notable records:** The peak count in the Hunter Estuary was 836 birds in Apr, with 300+ birds present Feb-Jun (Tables 1, 2). The only other important site was Morpeth WTW, where 100-200+ birds were sometimes recorded Feb-May (Table 17). In the latter part of the year there were almost no birds in the Region. **Atlas:** 85 records, RR 41% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (revised from Uncommon ...).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.19%.No reports were received for 2016. **Trend:** Uncertain.**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.7%.

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Mar, Oct and Dec with peak count 341 birds in Mar and ten birds over-wintering (Tables 1-2, 4-5, 8). Elsewhere, 94 birds were at Harrington 24 Jan (HBOC) and 47 birds 15 Oct (MOA et al.). **Atlas:** 124 records, RR 146% of long-term. **Trend:** Counts were comparable to most recent summer counts.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.0%.



**Notable records:** 20+ birds were often recorded at the Worimi Conservation Lands Feb-Jul and Oct-Nov with peak count 36 birds Apr and Jul (Table 26, WAB). 24 birds were in Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 28) and 30 birds at Harrington 28 Apr (BEI). **Breeding:** Birds had chicks or nests with eggs at Worimi Conservation Lands 18 Feb and 17 Mar (FRN/LIA). **Atlas:** 72 records, RR 57% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

**Double-banded Plover** *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Winter migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.7%.



Birds were recorded in the Worimi Conservation Lands Feb-Aug with peak count of 91 birds 15 Apr (Table 26). 28 birds were in Port Stephens 22 Jul (Table 28) and 20 birds at Harrington 28 Apr (BEI). 8-10 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP Apr and Jul (Table 27) and there were reports of 1-2 birds at Harrington 13 & 24 Jan (BNSW, HBOC), Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 28), Sandbar 3 Mar (MGLB), Morpeth WTW 25 May (Table 17) and Stockton Sandspit Mar-May and 12 Sep (Table 1, BEI, CLM). *It was the earliest ever reported return although there is a record from 14 Jan 2005. Also, it was only the second record for Morpeth WTW.* **Atlas:** 26 records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly stable although counts appear to have declined somewhat.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.34%.



Two birds were at Manning Entrance SP 16 Oct (MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** A typical year.



*Double-banded Plover by Steve Merrett*

**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).

Two birds were first recorded at Stockton Sandspit 6 Feb and they remained until 14 Feb (BIT, others).

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Hooded Plover** *Thinornis cucullatus*

ID No: 138 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

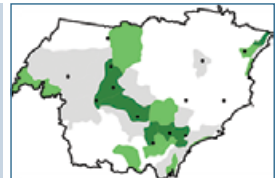
A juvenile bird was found at Worimi Conservation Lands 22 Jul (LIA/FRN). It was seen by many observers over ensuing weeks, until it was last recorded 19 Aug. *This is the first confirmed record for the Hunter Region; reports of some birds in the Port Stephens area in 1928 and 1931 have never been able to be properly assessed.*

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Euseyonis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

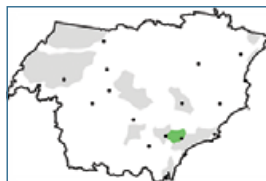
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.6%.



**Notable records:** 53 birds were at Morpeth WTW 25 May (Table 17) and 20+ birds at Stockton Borehole Swamp 4 Mar (HCL) and the Hunter Estuary May-Jun (Table 1). 10-15 birds were recorded at Stockton Borehole Swamp Feb-Mar (Table 15) and at Irrawang Swamp 17 May (WAB). **Atlas:** 71 records, RR 65% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

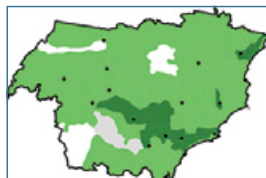
ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.3%.

A single bird was recorded at Bolwarra 20 Oct (WID). **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

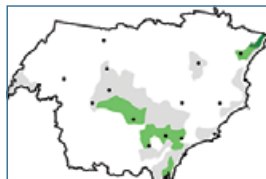
**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 20 birds regularly recorded near medium-large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 41.9%.

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary all year and 100+ birds often; there were very high numbers Feb-Mar and Dec with peak count 196 birds Feb (Table 1, also Tables 4, 7). At Hexham Swamp (within the estuary), numbers escalated in late Dec reaching counts of 150-250+ birds 26-31 Dec (LIA, OCG). There also were high numbers often at Morpeth WTW especially Feb-May, with peak count 105 birds 24 Mar (Table 17). 30-40+ birds were at Port Stephens Feb and Jul (Table 28) and Stockton Borehole Swamp Dec (Table 15).

**Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Aug-Nov. **Atlas:** 696 records, RR 93% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythronyx cinctus*

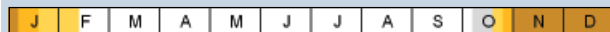
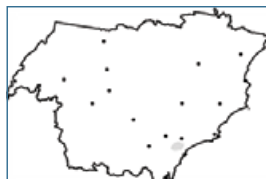
ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.5%.

1-2 birds were recorded at Hunter Estuary 8-9 Jan (Table 1), Cooperook 25 Jan (HBOC), Stockton Borehole Swamp 4 & 13 Mar (HCL, Table 15), and Hexham Swamp 21 Mar (MEL). Several birds were at Ash Island 30 Jul (CLT). **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**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:** A1998-2016 500m RR 0.17%

There have been no records since January 2014.

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.63%.



All records were from Cattaui Wetlands, with peak counts of five birds 25 Jan and 21 May (Table 29, MGLB) and several other records spanning Mar and Sep-Dec (various observers).

**Breeding:** A pair was with two young at Cattaui Wetlands late Jan (STA). **Atlas:** Eight records.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.8%.



**Notable records:** *Port Stephens:* 301 birds were recorded 19 Feb and 67 birds over-wintered there (Table 28). 10+ birds were often at Gir-um-bit NP with peak count 27 birds 18 Jun (Table 27). *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 53 birds 20 Feb with 20+ birds usually present Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec (Table 1). There was one winter record – of five birds 18 Jun (Table 1).

**Atlas:** 76 records, RR 77% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining – numbers 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 2016.

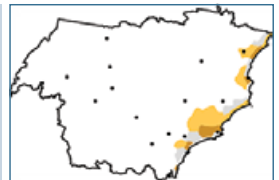
**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant (*revised from: Common ...*); 1-10 birds moderately often recorded Sep-Apr; some young birds over winter.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.5%.



**Notable records:** *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 165 birds 9 Jan with 100+ birds present Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec, and up to 13 birds over-wintering (Tables 1, 2, 7). *Port Stephens:* 263 birds were present 19 Feb and 250 birds 17 Sep (Tables 27, 28). The latter record was from Gir-um-bit NP where 50+ birds were often present (Table 27). 127 birds over-wintered (Table 28). **Atlas:** 172 records, RR 112% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining in the Hunter Estuary and probably also in the other estuaries.

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

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant (*revised from: Common ...*); up to 20 birds often recorded Sep-Mar; many young birds over winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 8.1%.

**Notable records:** *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count was 877 birds 20 Mar with 500+ birds present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec and 121 birds over-wintering (Tables 1, 2). *Port Stephens:* 528 birds were present 19 Feb and up to 82 birds over-wintered (Tables 27, 28). *Elsewhere:* The peak count at Swansea/Lake Macquarie was 63 birds 19 Mar and up to five birds over-wintered. There were no regular surveys in the Manning Estuary but 30 birds were at Manning Entrance SP 16 Oct (MOA *et al.*). **Movements:** Three birds at Stockton Sandspit 29 Jan had been banded there in 2004 (and are regular returnees), whilst another bird there 15 Sep had been banded on the North Island of NZ (HCL, LIA). **Atlas:** 127 records, RR 97% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

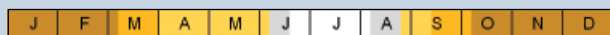
ID No: 152 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.8%.

The peak count in the Hunter Estuary was 107 birds 9 Jan, with 50+ birds recorded Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec and up to 18 birds over-wintering (Tables 1, 2). The only records from elsewhere were of two birds at Pindimar 5 Mar (WOL) and a single bird at Smiths Lake early Oct (FAA) – *uncommon in Port Stephens and first known record for the latter location*. **Movements:** A bird at Stockton Sandspit 29 Jan and 24 Dec was banded there in 2004 and is a regular returnee (HCL, LIA). **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 97% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing slightly (after an 80-90% decline in total numbers over past decades). *Highest winter count since 2005*.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant: 1-5 birds sometimes recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.2%.

**Notable records:** 19 birds were at Catherine Hill Bay 6 Dec (ADJ). At Newcastle Baths, a regular roost site, 10-11 birds were present Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec (Table 8). Elsewhere, seven birds were at Oyster Cove 9 Feb (WOL) and six birds at Broughton Island 16 Nov (CLT).

**Movements:** Birds departed Newcastle Baths from 18 Apr and the first recorded return was 1 Sep (THJ, NIR). A bird at the Baths until 30 Jan had been banded at King Island 11 Feb 2015. It was present again 4-24 Nov (CLM/LIA, THJ). **Atlas:** 17 records, RR 86% of long-term.

**Trend:** Numbers at the Baths have been decreasing in recent years.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.3%.



Several birds were present all year in the Hunter Estuary (mostly recorded at Stockton Sandspit) with peak count six birds 9 Jan and up to three birds over-wintering (Tables 1, 2, and many other observers). Elsewhere, single birds were in the Worimi Conservation Lands Sep and Nov (Table 26). **Atlas:** 29 records, RR 150% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (with a low base).

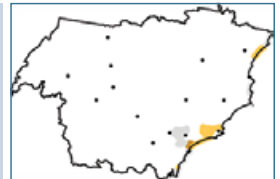
**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*

ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered

**Regional status:** Summer migrant and bird of passage in Sep-Nov.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.2%



The peak count in the Hunter Estuary during the spring migration passage was 182 birds in Oct; by late Oct the movement was over. Numbers were low in the estuary otherwise, except for an influx in Jan when up to 40 birds were recorded (Tables 1, 2). Seven birds were in the Worimi Conservation Lands 23 Nov, with occasional other records of 1-4 birds there Sep-Dec (WAB, Table 26). Elsewhere, 1-4 birds were in the Manning Estuary 22 Sep and 16 Oct (ERE, MOA *et al.*) and Catherine Hill Bay 6 Dec (ADJ). **Movements:** The first recorded return was 29 Aug, when 21 birds were at Stockton Sandspit (CLT). **Atlas:** 31 records, RR 98% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

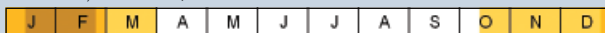
No reports were received for 2016.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Calidris falcinellus*

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

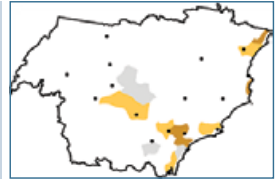
**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (recorded 1994-95, 2003-04, 2006-07, 2012-14).



No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.5%.

**Notable records:** The very high counts in the Hunter Estuary (estimated 5,000-7,000 birds) continued through Jan-Feb, with only c.200 birds present Mar-Apr (Tables 1, 2). The birds were mainly but not exclusively at Hexham Swamp and Tomago Wetlands. Although 338 birds were recorded in the estuary in Sep (Table 1), numbers generally were low until late Dec when another influx began; 600+ birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 27 Dec (LIA). There was a winter record, of a single bird at Hexham Swamp 18 Jun (LIA). Elsewhere, 50+ birds were at Swan Bay 14 Jan (FRN) – *uncommon in Port Stephens*. **Atlas:** 71 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.3%.

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 252 birds 9 Jan with 214 birds also present in Dec and several other counts of 100+ birds (Tables 1, 2). Most records were from Stockton Sandspit, and occasionally Tomago Wetlands; however some birds were at Hexham Swamp 5 Sep (THJ) and eight birds at a recently mangrove-cleared area on Ash Island 23 Sep (per JUN). Also, four birds were at Newcastle Baths Dec (Table 8). There was a winter record, of a single bird at Tomago Wetlands Jun (Table 7). **Atlas:** 45 records, RR 83% of long-term. **Trend:** Highest counts in the Hunter Estuary since 2008.

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant: 1-5 birds sometimes recorded (text added).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.5%.

**Notable records:** 28 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 28) and 10-20 birds at Sandbar 3 Mar (MGLB) and occasionally in the Hunter Estuary and Worimi Conservation Lands (Tables 1, 26). **Atlas:** 51 records, RR 73% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (numbers in Hunter Estuary were closer to normal after an exceptional 2015).



**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.58%.

At least six birds were at Harrington 21 Feb, with other records of 1-5 birds in the Manning Estuary (mostly at Harrington) 24 Jan, 22 Sep and 16 & 28 Oct (HUJ, others). A single bird was in the Worimi Conservation Lands 19 Aug and 2-5 birds Oct-Dec (Table 26) and a single bird at Broughton Island 16 Nov (CLT). **Atlas:** 12 records. **Trend:** Probably declining (based on the numbers in the Manning Estuary).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Calidris subruficollis*

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.11%.

No reports were received for 2016.

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

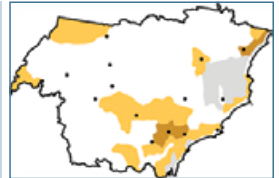
ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant (revised from: Usual summer migrant); 1-5 birds often recorded from late Aug to mid-Mar.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.7%.

**Notable records:** Six birds were recorded at Warkworth 7 Feb (SRM). A bird was at Saxbys Swamp Barrington Tops 14-18 Mar (FAA) – an interesting high altitude record. **Atlas:** 21 records, RR 28% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining (once again the RR was quite low).

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

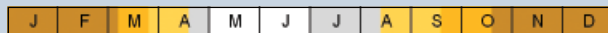
ID No: 160 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.1%.

Two birds were recorded at Harrington 13 Jan (per ROM) – *uncommon location*, and four birds in Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 28). All other records were from around Fern Bay with records spanning Feb-Apr and Oct-Dec and peak count seven birds Feb (Tables 1, 2). **Atlas:** Nine records, RR 43% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly now stable after 80-90% decline in numbers over past decades.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.51%.

1-2 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Feb-Mar and Oct-Dec (Table 1) and single birds at Tahlee 1 Mar and Saltwater NP 16 Oct (HBOC, MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 14 records. **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: 1-5 birds sometimes recorded (*text added*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.0%.

**Notable records:** *Port Stephens:* 33 birds were recorded 19 Feb (Table 28) and 39 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 9 Apr, with lesser numbers there Jan-May and Aug-Oct (Table 27). 26 birds were at Pindimar 11 (STA/WOL) and up to 40 birds at LTP 17 Sep (per WOL). Winter counts were of 16 at Swan Bay 18 Jun (WOL) and 28 birds at Gir-um-bit NP 18 Jun (Table 27). *Hunter Estuary:* The peak count at the Fern Bay roost site was 52 birds 9 Apr and 20+ birds were often recorded; also, up to 13 birds over-wintered (Tables 1, 2, others). **Atlas:** 55 records, RR 83% of long-term. **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 2016.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

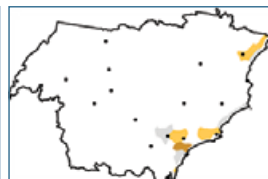
ID No: 809 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

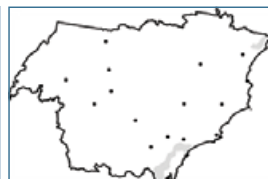
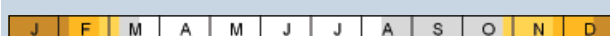
ID No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant (*revised from: Usual summer migrant*): 1-5 birds often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.3%.

**Notable records:** The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 108 birds Feb, with 50+ birds present Feb-Apr and Sep-Dec (Table 1). The main numbers were at Hexham Swamp which was the most important summertime location. In winter, Tomago Wetlands was the main site, with up to 48 birds over-wintering; also 59 birds were there in Dec (Table 7). **Atlas:** 54 records, RR 34% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (perhaps affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

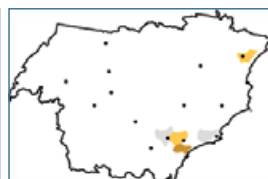
ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (*revised from: Uncommon*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.10%.

A single bird was at Cooperbrook Corner 25-30 Jan (HBOC, ERE). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** Probably stable (with a low base).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant (*revised from: Usual summer migrant*); 1-5 birds often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.3%.

**Notable records:** Records from the Hunter Estuary included 64 birds at Ash Island 19 Feb and 20+ birds in the estuary Feb and Nov-Dec (LIA, Table 1). **Atlas:** 16 records, RR 19% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (perhaps affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Red-backed Button-quail** *Turnix maculosus*

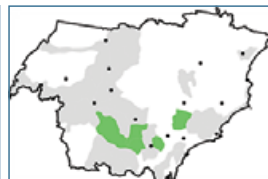
ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1999, 2006-07, 2010-11, 2014*).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varius*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.58%.

Six birds were recorded at Minimbah 14 May (MGLB), four birds at Pelton 23 May (ROM), Singleton Training Area 30 Jun (ROM *et al.*) and Wallaby Scrub Rd 27 Aug (ERE), and three birds at Marrowbone Road TSR Pokolbin 9 Apr (BRM *et al.*). 1-2 birds were at Doyleys Creek Rd 7 Feb (SRM), Wallaby Scrub Rd 3 Jul (ALP), Ellalong 21 Aug (HBOC), Balickera Oct (MUJ) and Jones Reserve Rd 27 Dec (ALP), and several times at HEZ during the year (various observers). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

No reports were received for 2016.

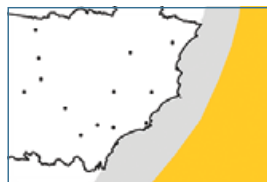
**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*  
ID No: 173 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009, 2013).

A single bird was first recorded at Hexham Swamp 17 Sep, where it remained until it was last recorded on 25 Sep (LIA, many others). *This is the fourth known record for the Region.*



Australian Pratincole by Jim Smart

**Long-tailed Jaeger** *Stercorarius longicaudus*  
ID No: 933 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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No reports were received for 2016.

**Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.

3-5 birds were recorded inside Lake Macquarie 4 Feb and during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens Apr and Nov (HCL, Table 30). Two birds were off Corrie Island Port Stephens 30 Jan (MOA) and single birds off Port Stephens 7 & 17 Feb and off Swansea 26 Oct (Table 30, BNSW).

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

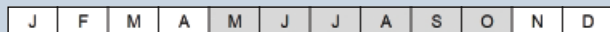
ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant*(revised from: Summer migrant).*

11-15 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens Feb, Nov and Dec (Table 30) and 1-3 birds off Newcastle Baths 6 Jan (ROM/WID) and on pelagic trips from Port Stephens 10 Jan and Swansea 26 Oct (Table 30).

**Brown Skua** *Catharacta antarcticus*

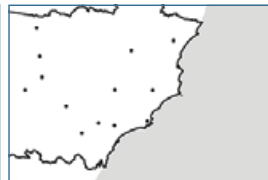
ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul and a single bird on a survey from Port Stephens 7 Aug (Table 30).

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer bird of passage.

No reports were received for 2016.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

ID No: 124 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Grey Noddy** *Procelsterna albivitta*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**White Tern** *Gygis alba*

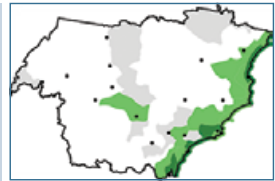
ID No: 972 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A single bird was recorded during pelagic a survey off Port Stephens 17 Apr (Table 30).

**Silver Gull** *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 100 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 17.4%.

**Notable records:** c. 1,000 birds were around Moon Island 21 Jul and 7 Oct (Table 30, STA/JED). Birds were regularly present in large numbers at six other locations (see Tables for details): Swansea/Lake Macquarie (peak count 185 birds Feb; 100+ several months); Hunter Estuary (peak count 396 birds Apr and 100+ Feb-Apr); Newcastle Baths (peak count 940 birds Apr, 800+ Apr-Jun); Worimi Conservation Lands (peak count 340 birds Mar, 100+ Jan-May); Port Stephens (Feb and Jul surveys with peak count 316 birds Feb); and the Birubi-Fingal Head coastline (peak count 355 birds Jun, 100+ Jan-Sep and Dec). **Breeding:** Several pairs had nests with eggs at Broughton Island 10-12 Oct (STA *et al.*) and eggs/pullii were recorded there 16-18 Nov and 1 Dec (CLT, FRN). There were three pullii at Coal Point 20 Oct (per BEI) – *breeding at mainland sites within the Region is unusual*. **Atlas:** 319 records, RR 115% of long-term. **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, 2015).

No confirmed reports were received for 2016.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*

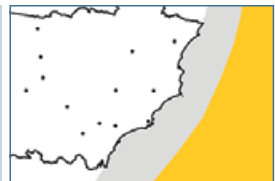
ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 1998, 2007-08, 2012, 2015).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer bird of passage.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Seven birds were off Elizabeth Beach Forster 5 Jan (BNSW) and three birds off Newcastle 6 Jun (ROM, MCR). *It was the first known winter record.*

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

ID No: 121 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.8%.

**Notable records:** 400-450 birds were at Harrington 24 Jan and 15 Oct, and at Old Bar 27 Oct (HBOC, MOA *et al.*, STA). 90 birds were still at Harrington 28 Apr (BEI) and 87 birds were in Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 28). There was a winter record of a single bird off Nobbys Beach 6 Jun (RIA). **Breeding:** Two pairs were nesting at Winda Woppa 15 Jan (MOD). The outcome is unknown; however, many pairs returned later in the year with at least 20 nests present 12 Dec (FRN). Over the breeding season (extending into 2016), 25 pairs nested at least once and many made multiple attempts; 28 birds fledged (FRN). Elsewhere, there was a recently fledged chick at Harrington 26 Jan (HBOC) and birds had a nest at Worimi Conservation Lands 9 Dec (FRN). **Atlas:** 27 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** It is encouraging that a new breeding colony established but breeding in the Manning Estuary appears to be declining.

**Australian Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*

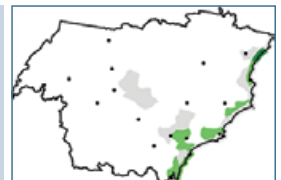
ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.2%.

**Notable records:** Birds were often recorded in the Worimi Conservation Lands Mar-Sep, with peak count 58 birds 19 Aug (Table 26). 9-11 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 9 May and 20 Aug (Table 27). **Atlas:** 57 records, RR 85% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

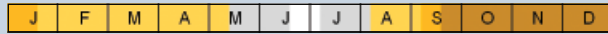
ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded close to the coast.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.3%.

**Notable records:** 43 birds were in Port Stephens 19 Feb and 8-28 birds at Gir-um-bit NP May-Sep (Tables 27, 28). 17-18 birds were in the Hunter Estuary mostly at Stockton Sandspit Mar-Apr and Aug (Tables 2, 3). **Movements:** A juvenile at Stockton Sandspit 4 Apr had been flagged recently in Victoria (HCL). **Atlas:** 80 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

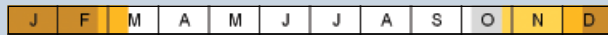
ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Spring migrant and bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.95%.

There were no records until 12 Nov, when six birds were at Hexham Swamp (LIA, Table 3). 1-2 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 9-10 Dec (Table 3) and at Cooranbong 18 Dec (RIA) and John Brown's Lagoon 22 Dec (ROM). An estimated 100 birds were at Hexham Swamp 31 Dec (OCG). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

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

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (*revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.5%.

No reports were received for 2016. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

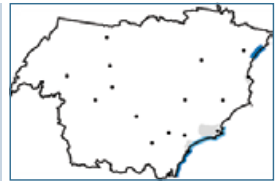
ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

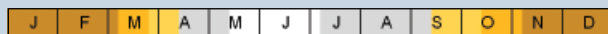
ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Winter migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.58%.

70-90 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Aug-Sep; birds began arriving 30 May and were present until Oct (Table 8, NIR). Five birds were in the Manning Estuary 8-9 Sep (STA) and two birds off Seal Rocks 12 Jun (HBOC), and single birds were at Birubi Point - Fingal Head Mar (Table 25) and Fishermans Bay (O9) 8 Jun (WAB). **Atlas:** 13 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Summer migrant. Often present in large numbers in the Manning Estuary and as up to 10 birds elsewhere.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.0%.

**Notable records:** c.200 birds were at Harrington 24 Jan and similar numbers were present 15 & 28 Oct (HBOC, MOA *et al.*, STA), also several hundred were at Manning Entrance SP 27 Oct (STA). 70 birds were at Newcastle Baths Jan with some birds present Jan-Mar and Sep and Nov-Dec (Table 8). There was a winter record of single bird at Newcastle Baths 22 Jul (RIA).

**Atlas:** 17 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Numbers were back to near normal in the Manning Estuary but below normal at Newcastle Baths.



**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

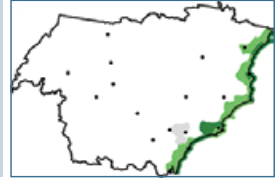
No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.1%.



**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded at at Port Stephens 19 Feb (Table 28) and Worimi Conservation Lands 15 Apr (Table 26), and regularly at Newcastle Baths over Apr-Jul with peak count 400 birds Jul (Table 8). **Breeding:** There were 30 nests at Broughton Island 10 Dec (CAN). **Atlas:** 169 records, RR 98% of long-term. **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, '55, '73, '78, 2000, '06, '09, '11).

Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Feb (Table 30).

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

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

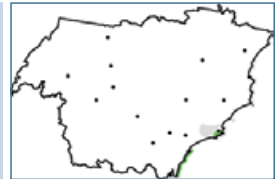
No reports were received for 2016.

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (revised from: Resident).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.12%.

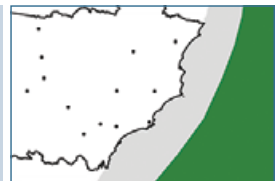


At least eleven birds were coming ashore at Broughton Island 11 Oct (STA *et al.*). Single birds were recorded off Port Stephens heads 13 & 27 Nov (Table 30) and at Sunset Point Tanilba Bay 2 Feb (WOL) – *unusual to be so far up into the Port Stephens estuary.* **Atlas:** Three records.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf.



50 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 17 Apr and 20-30 birds on 26 Oct (off Swansea) and 13 Nov (off Port Stephens). Some birds were also present 7 Aug and 27 Nov (Table 30).

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

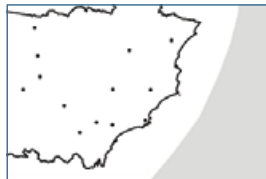


Birds were recorded five times during pelagic surveys although always in low numbers i.e. 1-3 birds (Table 30).

**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 reports were received for 2016.

**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 2016.

**New Zealand Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta maoriana* (Species name amended)  
 ID No: 5038 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No  
**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2010, 2013).

No reports were received for 2016.

### 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.



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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**Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans*  
 ID No: 086 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No  
**Conservation status:** EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered  
**Regional status:** Uncommon winter migrant at >5 km from shore (Revised from: Uncertain).

**Antipodean Albatross** *Diomedea antipodensis*  
 ID No: 846 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No  
**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable  
**Regional status:** Uncommon winter migrant at >5 km from shore (Revised from: Uncertain).

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

**Wandering Albatross:** No reports were received for 2016.

**Antipodean Albatross:** A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 26 Oct (Table 30).

**Records of unidentified birds:** Single birds were seen during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 7 Aug and 27 Nov (Table 30).

**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 2016.

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

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

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 Swansea 21 Jul and 12-15 birds on corresponding surveys off Forster 31 Jul and off Port Stephens 7 Aug (Table 30).

**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 2016.

**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.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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**Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophrys*

ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

**Regional status:** Common winter migrant (Revised from: Uncertain).

**Campbell Albatross** *Thalassarche impavida*

ID No: 859 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

**Regional status:** Winter migrant (Revised from: Uncertain).

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

**Black-browed Albatross:** Eight birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul (Table 30). There were reports of 1-4 birds on other pelagic surveys Aug-Nov (Table 30) and off Moon Island 7 Oct (STA/JED).

**Campbell Albatross:** Eight birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 26 Oct and a single bird on the corresponding 21 Jul survey (Table 30).

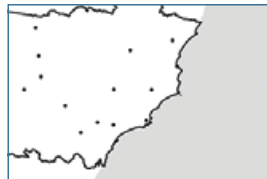
**Records of unidentified birds:** Eleven birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul (Table 30). There were reports of 1-4 birds off Newcastle 6 Jun (MCR) and on other pelagic surveys Jul-Nov (Table 30).

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

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon winter migrant (Revised from: Rare)

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 7 Aug and single birds off Swansea 21 Jul and off Port Stephens 13 Nov (Table 30). *It was the first November record for the Region (ROM).*

**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).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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**Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta*

ID No: 091 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain (*only 2 confirmed records, in July 2010 and March 2015*).**White-capped Albatross** *Thalassarche steadi*

ID No: 861 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain (*3 confirmed records: Sep 2010, Nov 2014 and Sep 2015*).**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; the records were not assessed by ORAC*).

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

**Shy Albatross:** No reports were received for 2016.**White-capped Albatross:** No reports were received for 2016.**Salvin's Albatross:** No reports were received for 2016.

**Records of unidentified birds:** Ten birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 26 Oct (Table 30). There were reports of 2-4 birds on other pelagic surveys Jul-Nov (Table 30) and off Moon Island 7 Oct (STA/JED).

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

**Northern Giant-Petrel:** A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul (Table 30).

**Southern Giant-Petrel:** Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Aug (Table 30).

**Records of unidentified birds:** Nil.

#### Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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No reports were received for 2016. *The first year since 2008 with no records.*



*Southern Giant-Petrel by Mick Roderick*

### Prion types

Fairy Prions *Pachyptila turtur* are frequent winter visitors to the Region, and sometimes they 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*) which may be present.

#### 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 Breeding: No

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

J	F	M	A	M	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 2016.

**Antarctic Prion:** Six birds were confirmed during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Aug (Table 30).

**Slender-billed Prion:** Three birds were confirmed during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Aug (Table 30).

**Fairy Prion:** 40-50 birds were recorded on all three pelagic surveys Jul-Aug (Table 30).

**Records of unidentified birds:** Small numbers of birds were close inshore off Newcastle 7 Jun and 17 Jul (BEI, ROM).

#### 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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16 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 27 Nov, 3-4 birds on the corresponding Jan-Feb surveys and a single bird 13 Nov (Table 30). **Breeding:** Breeding success was just 17.5% for the 2015-16 season (compared with the long-term average of 50%) and also the number of nesting pairs fell by 33% compared with the long-term average (CAN, as reported in Australian Birdlife June 2017 issue). **Trend:** Poor (a new, as-yet unknown threatening process appears to be having a serious impact).

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

ID No: 918 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No confirmed reports were received for 2016.

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

ID No: 5007 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**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 2016.

**Providence Petrel** *Pterodroma solandri*

ID No: 971 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Common autumn to spring visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Birds were encountered during many pelagic surveys although only in small numbers; the maximum highest count was of eight birds 27 Nov (Table 30).

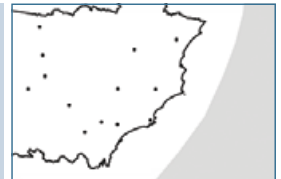
**Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 2 (Revised) Breeding: No

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

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer visitor at & beyond the continental shelf.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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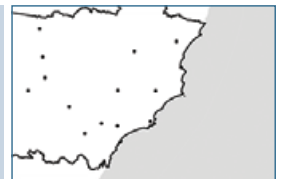
A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 10 Jan (Table 30).

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

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer visitor (recorded 2001, 2004-07, 2011-15).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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No reports were received for 2016.

**Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 810 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

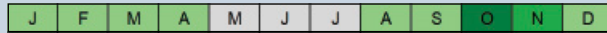
ID No: 077 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Grey-faced Petrel** *Pterodroma gouldi*

ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Common all year at and beyond the continental shelf.

c.200 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 27 Nov and small numbers (maximum count six birds) during several other pelagic trips (Table 30). At least one bird was close inshore from Newcastle Baths 6 Jan (ROM/WID).

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

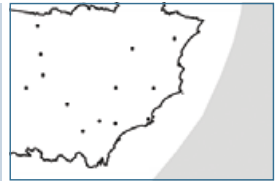
ID No: 915 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni*

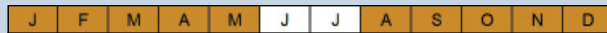
ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

ID No: 069 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

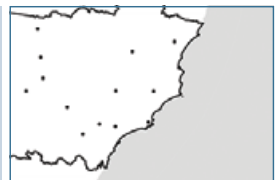
**Notable records:** c.2000 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 26 Oct and all the Jan-Apr and Nov surveys yielded many hundreds of birds (Table 30). 500+ birds were feeding close inshore off Booti Booti NP mid Apr (FLS).

**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).

No reports were received for 2016.

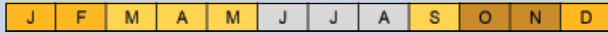




**Short-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna tenuirostris*

ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

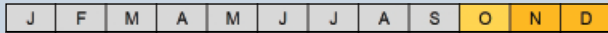


There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

ID No: 070 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant.



30 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 27 Nov (when birds are migrating through the Region) and 1-3 birds in Jan, Apr and Oct-Nov surveys (Table 30).

**Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis*

ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Ardenna carneipes*

ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant at >1 km from shore (*Revised from: Summer migrant ...*).

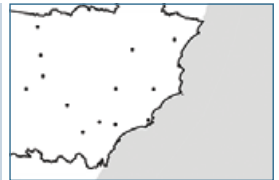


140 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 7 Feb, 100 birds 17 Apr and 20-40 birds in the 10 Jan and 27 Nov surveys (Table 30).

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (*recorded 2000, 2006, 2010-15*).



No reports were received for 2016.

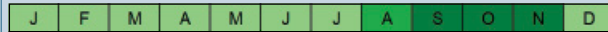
### Fluttering Shearwater types

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 Breeding: No

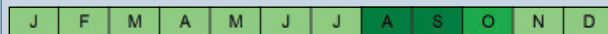
**Regional status:** Summer migrant and bird of passage in late winter/spring.



#### Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 913 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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



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

**Fluttering Shearwater:** 615 birds were estimated present during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul; small numbers were recorded on most other surveys (Table 30).

**Hutton's Shearwater:** Nine birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 10 Jan and two birds 17 Apr, and eight birds in a survey from Swansea 26 Oct (Table 30).

**Records of unidentified birds:** Many thousands were off Newcastle Baths 23 & 25 Aug (NIR, BEI) – *presumed to be mainly Fluttering Shearwaters*. ~15 birds were off Newcastle 17 Jul (ROM) and 1-2 birds off Newcastle Baths 6 Jan (ROM/WID) and off Moon Island 7 Oct (STA/JED).

#### Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

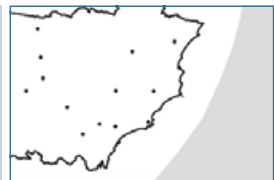
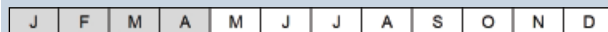
**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2002, 2007*).

No reports were received for 2016.

#### 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 2016.

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

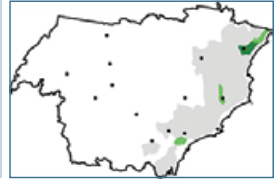
ID No: 085 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

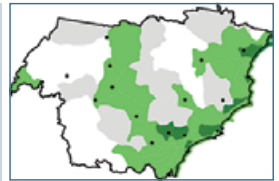
ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.49%.

**Lower Hunter:** There were frequent records all year of 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp; early in the year immature birds were often also present (see *Breeding*). However, two pairs of adults and one immature were at Hexham Swamp 19 Mar (ERE). Elsewhere, a single bird was at Wallsend Wetlands 13 May and several times late June, 1-2 birds were at Tomago Wetlands Feb, May and Oct-Dec, and there were several records of 1-2 birds in the Raymond Terrace/Seaham area over Feb-Jul and again in Nov (numerous observers). *The data suggest at least two pairs in the Lower Hunter.* **Harrington/Cooperbrook:** All reports were of single birds, on 22 & 27 Jan, 8 Feb, 22 May and 5 Aug (various observers). **Bulahdelah/Forster:** Single birds were at Melinga (R3) 5 Feb, Bulahdelah area 16 Oct and Failford 8 Nov (MGLB, CAA). **Gloucester:** A single bird was at Stratford 10 Jun (RIA). *Elsewhere:* Single birds were at Cooranbong 1 Jul and Belmont (flying over) 26 Jul (BNSW, ADJ). **Breeding:** A pair with two immature birds continued to frequent Hexham Swamp during Jan-Feb (last reported together 24 Feb). The family was first recorded in November 2015, and probably bred somewhere in the lower Hunter valley (location of nest not known). **Atlas:** 17 records. **Trend:** Seems positive – records from many locations and a definite 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 25.3%.

**Notable records:** 314 birds were at Morpeth WTW 25 Feb (Table 17) and 152 birds in Port Stephens 22 Jul (Table 28). Birds were often in good numbers at two locations (see Tables for details): Hunter Estuary (50+ most months, peak count 155 birds Apr); Swanssea/Lake Macquarie (20+ most months, peak count 76 birds May). There were occasional records of 40+ birds elsewhere (see Tables). **Breeding:** Birds did not breed at Wallis Lake; high water levels flooded the Pelican Island breeding site and Snake Island was overgrown (MOA). **Atlas:** 371 records, RR 91% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.41%.

Two birds were heard calling at Hexham Swamp 9 Aug (PAL) and single birds were recorded there 16 & 17 Mar, 2 & 26 Apr and 20 Jul (various observers). A single bird was at Ash Island 24 Apr (SRM) and a dead bird was found at HWC 4 Apr (per BLS). **Atlas:** One record.

**Trend:** Uncertain (some habitat loss has occurred).

**Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius*

ID No: 195 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes (Revised)

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

A recently fledged bird (still with some downy feathers) was taken into care at Cameron Park 22 Mar; it had a badly sprained wing. The bird responded well to care and was released at Pambalong NR 11 days later (SIM). *Although it is not known exactly where the bird hatched and fledged, it must have been a local event, making this the first confirmed breeding record for the Hunter Region.*

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

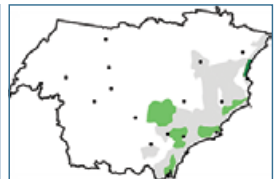
ID No: 196 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Rare resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.09%.

No reports were received for 2016. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

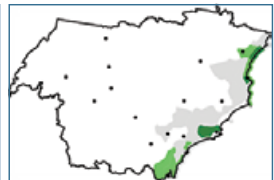
ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.9%.

**Notable records:** 40 were flying over Shortland by day 11 Jan and ~30 birds were roosting at Ironbark Creek Mar (ROM). **Atlas:** 26 records, RR 77% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

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

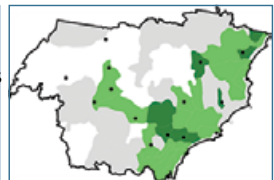
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.9%.

**Notable records:** Five birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary 9-10 Dec (Table 3).

**Atlas:** 66 records, RR 175% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable, but more records than usual.

**Cattle Egret** *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (Revised from: Resident). 10-50 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 12.7%.

**Notable records:** There sometimes were large numbers at two important breeding colony locations (Table 6, STA): HWC (300-500 birds Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec) and Nulama Ponds

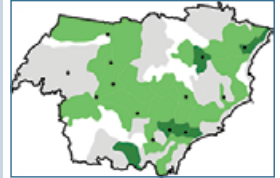
Cundletown (300+ birds Jan and Nov). 248 birds were recorded at Seaham Swamp NR 17 May (Table 23) and 100+ birds at Hunter Estuary Mar, Hands Lagoon Apr, Tocal Wetlands Apr (Tables 3, 21, 24) and East Seaham 12 Apr (GOA *et al.*). **Breeding:** There were 305 nests at HWC 18 Nov (NIG) and several hundred nests at Nulama Ponds Nov (STA), with legacy breeding records for both locations early in the year. There were three nests with young at Toronto Wetlands 26 Jan (HCL). **Atlas:** 150 records, RR 67% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was low).

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

ID No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Regular visitor (*Revised from: Common visitor*).  
1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.9%.



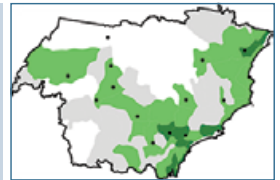
**Notable records:** Nine birds were at Hunter Estuary locations 22-23 Jul (Table 3), six birds at Hexham Swamp 23 Jan (BEI) and five birds at Tocal Wetlands 30 Jan (Table 24). **Atlas:** 47 records, RR 30% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 19.9%.



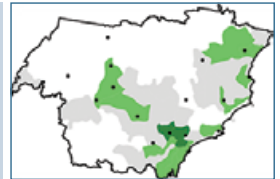
**Notable records:** 45 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 25 Feb, and 25-40 birds in the Hunter Estuary Feb and Dec and HWC Jan-Mar and Oct (Tables 3, 6, 17). There were occasional records of 10+ birds from the various monitored wetlands (see Tables for details). **Breeding:** There were 14 active nests, some with young, at Toronto Wetlands 26 Jan (HCL) and eight nests at HWC 18 Nov (NIG). **Atlas:** 255 records, RR 68% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.4%.



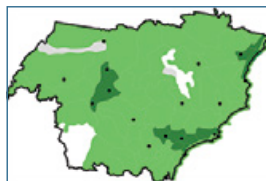
**Notable records:** Numbers often were high around Belmont Lagoon Sep-Dec, with peak count 17 birds Oct (Table 12). Ten birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 23 Jul and eight birds at Morpeth WTW 25 Feb (Tables 9, 17). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Nulama Ponds 25 Jan (HBOC). There were no nests at HWC 18 Nov (NIG). **Atlas:** 61 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 40.0%.



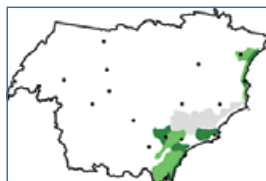
**Notable records:** 50+ birds were always recorded in the Hunter Estuary over Feb-Sep with 130-180+ birds several times and peak count 255 birds Feb (Table 3). In Feb, many of the birds were at Tomago Wetlands (Table 7), while Milhams Pond was a reliable site especially Apr-Aug (Table 5). **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan-Mar (MUJ), were on nests at Cardiff 1 Aug and Broke 20 Nov (MCM, HBOC) and had a nest with young at Lambton 20 Nov (BEI). **Atlas:** 471 records, RR 71% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds are occasionally recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.9%.



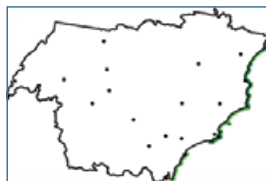
**Notable records:** 15-19 birds were at HWC Feb and Swansea / Lake Macquarie Jul-Aug (Tables 6, 9) and nine birds at Cold Tea Creek / Belmont Lagoon Oct (Table 12). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Muddy Lake 24 Jan (HCL) and there was one nest at HWC 18 Nov (NIG). **Atlas:** 108 records, RR 76% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

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

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.71%.



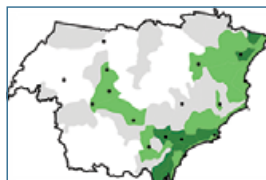
Two birds were recorded in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area May and single birds there Jun and Aug-Oct (Table 25, WAB). Single birds were also at Crowdy Head 27 Jan (KAL), Newcastle Baths Mar and Jun-Aug (Table 8), Broughton Island 18-20 Apr and 10-12 Oct (STA *et al.*), Black Head 2 Jun (MGLB), Seal Rocks 12 Jun (HBOC), Burwood Beach 29 Jun (NIR) and Crowdy Head 9 Sep (STA). **Atlas:** 14 records. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.4%.



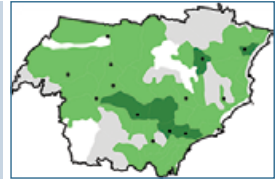
**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded at HWC Jan-Mar and Jul-Dec with peak count 229 birds Nov (Table 6) and 245 birds were at Muddy Lake Dec (Table 14). 100+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary Feb, Jun, Aug and Dec (Table 3) and at Rathluba Lagoon Apr (Table 20). **Breeding:** There were several records from two sites: Muddy Lake, with 40+ nests including some with young 24 Jan and 28 chicks 23 Oct (HCL, RIA); HWC, with 90 birds on nests 26 Aug and 47 nests 18 Nov, also two chicks 18 Mar (all NIG). **Atlas:** 402 records, RR 91% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 13.2%.



**Notable records:** 209 birds were at HWC Feb (Table 6). **Atlas:** 106 records, RR 41% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.3%.



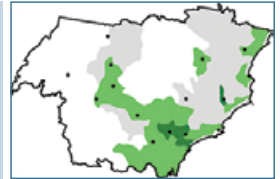
**Notable records:** Five birds were recorded at Warkworth 7 Feb (SRM). **Atlas:** Nine records, RR 20% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.5%.



**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded at Cattai Bridge Wetlands 20 Feb and Tarro 16 Mar (OCG, MRO), and 50+ birds at Hunter Estuary Feb and Jun, HWC May, Rathluba Mar and Seaham Swamp Mar (Tables 3, 6, 20, 23). There were occasional records of 20+ birds from some of those sites (see Tables for details) and at Tarro 11 Jun (THJ). **Breeding:** There were five nests at University of Newcastle 22 Nov (HRK) and birds were nesting at East Maitland 13 Mar and Cooranbong 16 Oct (BRG, WIH). **Atlas:** 189 records, RR 70% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage  
(Revised from: Bird of passage).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.79%.



Birds were often recorded at Hexham Swamp Jan-Feb, Jul and Dec (with peak counts of 15, 52 and eight birds respectively). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Tomago Wetlands Feb (Table 7), Forster mid-April (MGLB) and HWC Dec (Table 6). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Uncertain (perhaps affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor*

ID No: 094 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental.

No reports were received for 2016.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

ID No: 104 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Regular winter migrant, up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.6%.

**Notable records:** c.250 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul and 40-45 birds in the other Jul-Aug surveys (Table 30). c.200 birds were off Newcastle 17 Jul and 100+ birds 6 Jun (ROM, MCR). **Atlas:** 47 records, RR 149% of long-term.

**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 2016.

**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 2016.

**Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

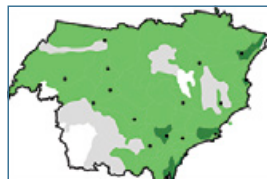
ID No: 105 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 22.9%.

**Notable records:** 149 birds were in Port Stephens 22 Jul and 48 birds 19 Feb (Table 28). 20+ birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Apr and Aug and at Muddy Lake Aug-Oct (Tables 9, 14). **Breeding:** Breeding was confirmed at four locations: Muddy Lake 16 nests 23 Oct and eight nests 24 Jan (RIA, HCL); Toronto Wetlands eight nests 24 Jan (HCL); Forster several nests 19 & 24 Jan (CAA, STA); Nulama Ponds 1+ nest 25 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 303 records, RR 77% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

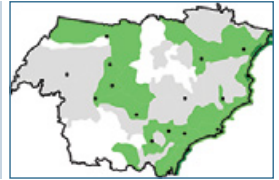


**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 12.4%.



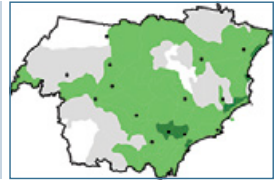
**Notable records:** Numbers were often high in the Birubi Point - Fingal Head area including several records of 20+ birds and peak count 73 birds Feb (Table 25). 46 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 22 Jul and 30 birds at Redhead Lagoon 18 Dec (Tables 10, 28). There were occasional reports of 10-20 birds at Hunter Estuary, Newcastle Baths, Redhead Lagoon, Muddy Lake and Gir-um-bit NP (see Tables). **Breeding:** Several pairs were breeding at Redhead Lagoon late Oct (EAC). **Atlas:** 197 records, RR 103% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 21.6%.



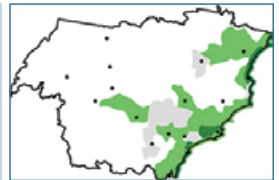
**Notable records:** 400 birds were at Belmont Lagoon in Sep, with 100+ birds present Nov-Dec (Table 12), and 200+ birds were often at Muddy Lake Apr-Aug (Table 14). 322 birds were at Harrington 10-11 Dec (SRM) and 216 birds in Port Stephens 22 Jul (Table 28). There were occasional reports of 100+ birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie, Tomago Wetlands and Port Stephens, and many other records of 80+ birds (see Tables for details). **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests at Muddy Lake 24 Jan and four pairs at Toronto Wetlands 26 Jan (HCL). **Atlas:** 367 records, RR 106% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.5%.



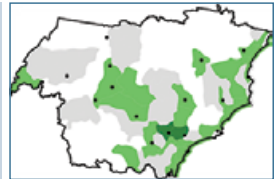
**Notable records:** 609 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 22 Jul and 161 birds 19 Feb (Table 28). 30+ birds were sometimes in the Hunter Estuary (mainly at Stockton Sandspit) Feb and Oct-Dec (Tables 2, 3). **Atlas:** 191 records, RR 96% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

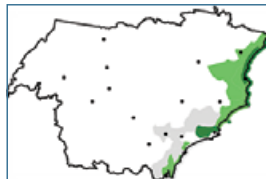
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.3%.



**Notable records:** 15 birds were at Ray Lawler Reserve Morpeth 9 Feb and in Port Stephens 22 Jul, and nine birds at Stockton Borehole Swamp 14 Feb (Tables 15, 18, 28). **Breeding:** Several pairs were breeding at Forster 19 & 22 Jan (CAA, STA) and birds had a nest with young at Toronto 22 May (per CLT). **Atlas:** 125 records, RR 92% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

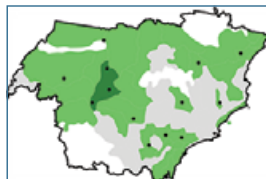
**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded at estuaries/coastal lakes.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were many records especially from locations north of the Hunter Estuary and also birds were on nest at Woods Point Lake Macquarie 7 Aug and were with fledged young there early Dec (MCE, WAR). Birds were on nest at Broughton Island 10-12 Oct, with chicks confirmed in the nest 10 Dec (STA *et al.*, CAN) – *this seems to be the first confirmed breeding record for the island.*

**Atlas:** 110 records, RR 133% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing. As yet, there have been no Hunter Estuary breeding records.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 80 records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

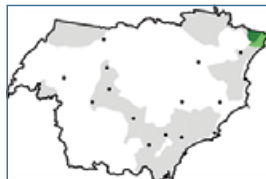
ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

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

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.28%.

**Autumn-winter records:** Three individuals were around East Maitland in May (BRG) and there were several records of 1-2 birds in the Maitland/Cessnock/Raymond Terrace area Apr-Jul (ROS, BRG, others). Single birds were recorded infrequently from locations around Lake Macquarie, also from around Cessnock/Kurri Kurri, Shortland, Coopernook, Forster and the Watagans (many observers). **Spring-summer records:** Single birds were at Mt Hutton 5 & 20 Feb (ALD), Giants Greek Rd 6 Feb (LIP), Shortland Feb (LIA), Watagans NP 17 Oct (WAB), Boolaroo 1 Nov (LIG) and Belmont 7 Dec (FAB). **Breeding:** Although not treated as a confirmed breeding record, a juvenile was at a nest at Coopernook SF 1 Jan (RIA). **Atlas:** Six records.

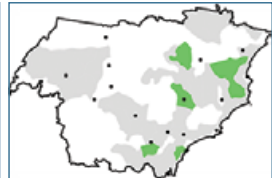
**Trend:** Probably stable; mainly autumn-winter records.

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.1%.



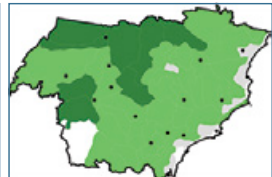
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** Four records, RR 21% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).

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

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Pairs had a nest with young at Wards River 29 Sep (STA) and were with a juvenile at Main Creek Dungog 19 Mar (STD). **Atlas:** 56 records, RR 53% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).

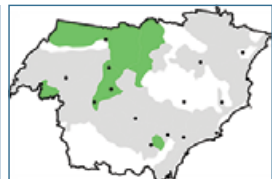
**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Resident*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.88%.



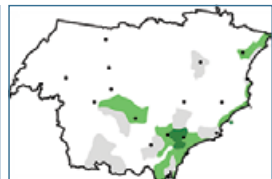
At least three birds were at HEZ 15 May (HBOC) and two birds at Kurri Kurri 3 Jul (FAB/ OWS). Single birds were recorded at McCullys Gap (H5) 21 Jan (CLT/NED), Wingen 9 Feb (NEG), Pambalong NR and Ash Island 27 Feb (MOA *et al.*), Deep Pond 18 Mar (BEI), Old Bar area 19-20 Mar (per CAA), Kooragang Island 12 Apr (NED), WWW late Apr (CLM), Minmi 24 May (TBW), East Maitland 25 May (BRG), Diamond Beach 2 Jun (MGLB), Lenaghans Flat 21 Jun (THJ), Awabakal NR 5 Jul (FAB/OWS), HEZ 22 Jul (BEI) and Belmont 16 Sep (FAB). The bird at Wingen was dark phase. **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Probably stable; mainly autumn-winter records.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.7%.



**Notable records:** 12 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 30 Dec (ERE). **Atlas:** 114 records, RR 72% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.



Spotted Harrier by Alan Stuart

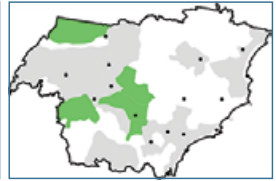
**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.50%.



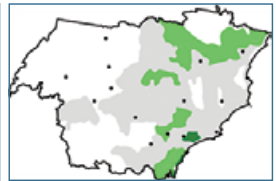
Two birds were at Martindale 31 May (PAL), Parkville 11 Aug (NEG) and Martindale 16 Oct (BEI). Single birds were recorded at McCullys Gap (H5) 21 Jan (CLT/NED), East Maitland early Mar and 15 Aug (BRG), Martindale 30 Apr, 9 & 17 Jul and 15 Sep (PAL, ROM, THJ *et al.*, STA), Pipers Bay Forster 22 May (MGLB), Ash Island 18 Jun (STA/MCN), Warkworth 26 Jul (KET *et al.*) and Bolwarra 22 Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident. Single, grey phase birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.9%.



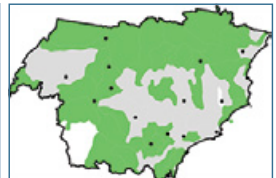
**Notable records:** White phase birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 4 Jul, Booral 7 Dec, Tomago 29 Sep and 4 Dec and Johns River 15 Oct (HAR, ZVS, JLA, MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 33 records, RR 133% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.1%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Bobs Farm in Dec (HDM). **Atlas:** 44 records, RR 75% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 14 records, RR 72% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

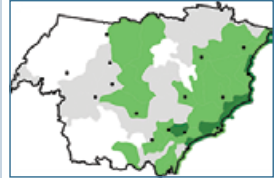
**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

ID No: 226 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable (*Revised*)

**Regional status:** Usual resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.9%.



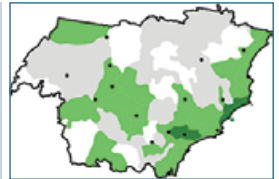
**Notable records:** Up to eight birds including several juveniles were at Broughton Island 18-20 Apr (STA *et al.*). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Hexham Swamp 19 Jul (LIG). **Atlas:** 228 records, RR 93% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 15.0%.



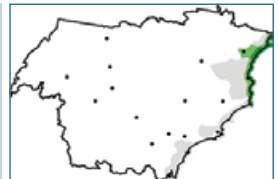
**Notable records:** 13 birds were riding thermals over Tomaree NP 15 Apr (ERE), and 11 birds were at Hexham Swamp 6 Mar (BEI). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 12 Apr & 9 Aug (GOA *et al.*) and had dependent young at Seal Rocks 19-20 Sep and Harrington 15 Oct (HBOC, MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 194 records, RR 67% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident. Only records from south of the Hunter Estuary are tracked. (*Text modified*)

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.5%.



**Notable records:** Two birds were at Muddy Lake 26 Jun and Swansea early Sep (RIA, ZOJ), and single birds at Eraring 17 Apr (GOC), Galgabba 20 May (ADJ), Catherine Hill Bay 3 Apr and early Sep (ERE, ZOJ). **Breeding:** A pair nested at Lemon Tree Passage commencing late May, eventually fledging two chicks (the younger of which was taken into temporary care, after falling from the nest). In late Oct the pair made another attempt, this time unsuccessful (all WOL). *These are the first confirmed breeding records for Port Stephens and extend the known breeding range by ~150km (the Manning Valley was the previous known southern limit).* Locals reported that the pair had bred at the site since 2012 (per WOL). Also, a pair had a nest with young at Harrington 15 Oct (MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 24 records, RR 88% of long-term. **Trend:** The range is increasing southwards.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

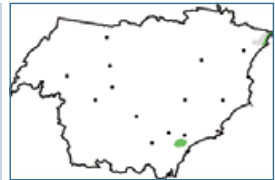
ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.32%.

Eleven birds (in groups of 2-5) were at Wallsend Wetlands 1 Jul and eight birds at Scone 12 Nov (OWS, NEG). There were intermittent records all year of 1-4 birds in the lower Hunter Valley, and from the Martindale area Mar-May and Oct (various observers). Also, 1-2 birds were at Scone 4 Jan and 15 Dec (NEG), Singleton 16 Mar and 20 Jun (ALP) and both Aberdeen and Muswellbrook 15 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 20 records. **Trend:** Returning to normality after the 2013-2015 influx.

**Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*

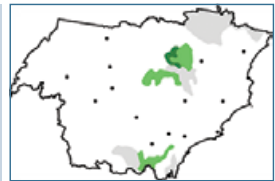
ID No: 252 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare resident*).**BLA Atlas:** 27 records.

Three birds were in the Tomago area 19 Dec and two birds 17 Nov and early Dec (per MUT) and single birds at Crowdy Bay NP 25 Jan (HBOC) and Tomago Wetlands 19 Mar (BEI). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Greater Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*

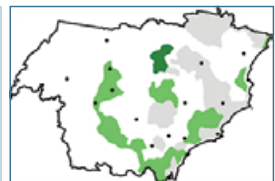
ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare resident*).**BLA Atlas:** 25 records.

No detailed reports were received for 2016. **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare resident*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.12%.

A male was recorded at Seal Rocks May (ERE) and dead birds were found near Cameron Park 31 Aug and Gloucester 20 Sep (BEI, BEI). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

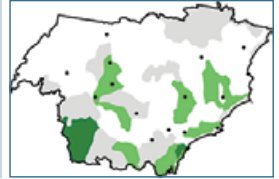
ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.11%.

Single birds were at Warners Bay 25 Jun (ROM), Forster 3 Aug (MGLB), Phoenix Park 19 Aug (BRG), Broke 27 Aug (ERE), Bandon Grove 16 Oct (JED) and Firefly 19 Dec (MGLB), and there were two road-killed birds were along the Hunter Expressway 1 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

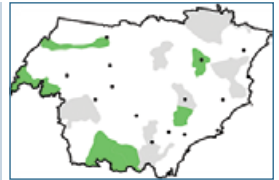
ID No: 248 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.64%.

There were many and widespread records of 1-2 birds from reserves and well-wooded areas around Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (various observers), and there were several records from Balickera (MUJ) and Laguna (RDB). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Coomba Park 12 Feb (MGLB), Watagans NP 12 Mar (RIA), Keinbah 5 May (GOJ), Tahlee early May (FLS), Richmond Vale 9 Jul (ROM), Sugarloaf SCA 28 Aug (KYR) and Mungo Brush 7-8 Sep (per BEI). A bird taken into care at Rankin Park and which later died was found to have lead poisoning (per MIJ). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Coal Point 8 Sep (DUP) and were with chicks at Glenrock 18 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

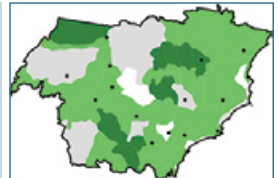
ID No: 246 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare resident*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.19%.

A male was at Durridgere Rd 6 Dec (BEI). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Southern Boobook** *Ninox boobook*

ID No: 242 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident. 1-2 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 21 records, RR 33% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).

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

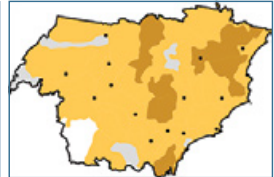
ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant (Revised from: Summer migrant); up to 10 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded return was 28 Aug when two birds were at Forster (CAA); birds were widespread soon afterwards. **Atlas:** 57 records, RR 164% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing (once again the RR was quite high).

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

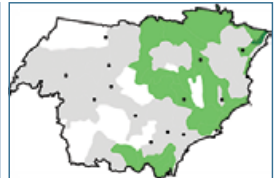
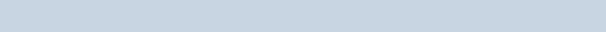
ID No: 318 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant (Revised from: Summer migrant); 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded return was 19 Aug (an exceptional record), when a single bird was at Salamander (WOL); the widespread arrival was not until late Sep. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Awabakal NR during Dec (EAC). **Atlas:** 146 records, RR 84% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 39 records, RR 88% of long-term. **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 confirmed reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 12.2%.

**Notable records:** Five birds were fishing together at WWW 13 Feb (ALP). Late-departing or winter records included single birds at Saltwater NP 11 May (NEG) and Mudbishops Point 6 Jun (DBP). **Movements:** Birds had returned to many Manning Valley sites by 8-9 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Dungog 8 Nov and were feeding fledged young at Lansdowne 16 Jan (FRN, MGLB). **Atlas:** 210 records, RR 104% of long-term. **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 2016.

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident. Up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 34.0%.



**Notable records:** A bird killed an Eastern Yellow Robin at Main Creek early Jan (LAT).

**Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at NLH 23 Nov and Wingen 17 Dec (LIP, NEG).

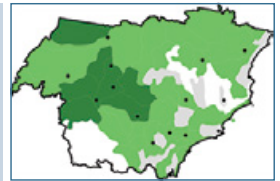
**Atlas:** 514 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

ID No: 240 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-2 birds frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.4%.



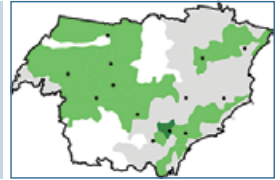
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 82 records, RR 66% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with two young at Morpeth 6 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 56 records, RR 70% of long-term.

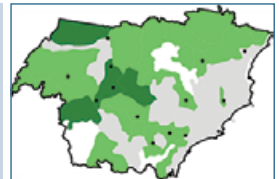
**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

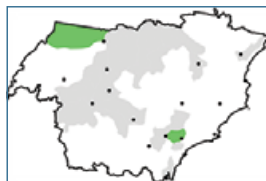
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 23 records, RR 20% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

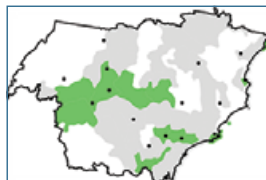
ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.34%.

Pairs were in Scone 15 Mar and 9 Jun (NEG) and single birds at Bishops Bridge early Mar (ROS), Scone 4 May (NEG), Nelson Plains 31 May (WAB), Martindale area late May and 11-12 Jun (ROM, OWS), East Maitland 20 Jul and Raymond Terrace 31 Aug (both BRG). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Returning to normality after the influxes of 2013-2014.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

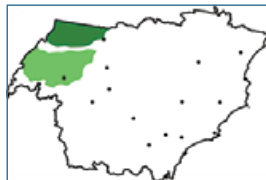
ID No: 237 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds are occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.9%.

**Notable records:** A juvenile was taken into care at Snapper Island Port Stephens in late Nov and later released (per WOL). **Breeding:** A pair regularly nests at the Tomago smelter (per WOL). **Atlas:** 13 records, RR 63% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

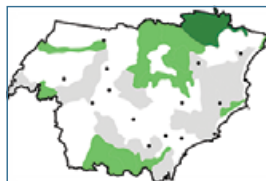
ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.08%.

No reports were received for 2016. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

ID No: 265 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.73%.

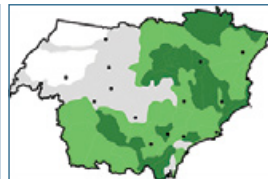
Twelve birds were recorded at Neranie 19 Sep (HBOC), eight birds at Baerami Creek 27-28 Feb (LIP) and six birds at Wallaby Scrub Rd 10 Dec (ERE). There were frequent records from Wyee Point and Laguna with respective peak counts four birds 9 May and five birds 23-24 Apr (MDV, RDB). Elsewhere three birds were at Sugarloaf SCA 21 Jan (KYR) and 1-2 birds at Brunkerville 21 Feb (HBOC), Giants Creek Rd 24 Feb (WAB), Watagans NP 27 Feb (RIA), Main Creek Dungog 19 Mar (STD), Yengo NP 27 Mar (ERE), Failford 18 May (MGLB), Neranie mid Sep (per NIR), Baerami Creek 1-3 Oct (HBOC), Heaton's Lookout mid Oct (MAT) and Cooranbong 30 Dec (ERE). **Atlas:** Eleven records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Zanda funereus*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.9%.



**Notable records:** An estimated 60 birds were near Raymond Terrace 27 Feb (ZVS) and 47 birds at LTP 18 Sep (WOL). 20-25 birds were at Barrington Tops 14-18 Mar and Argenton 8 Sep (FAA, CAG). **Breeding:** Birds were with young at Bobs Farm Mar and breeding there Nov-Dec (HDM). **Atlas:** 119 records, RR 57% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

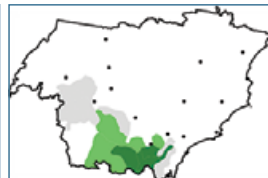
**Gang-gang Cockatoo** *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

ID No: 268 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.46%.



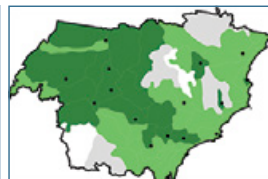
20+ birds were in Watagans NP mid Feb in flocks of 4-6 (HOB). There were several records of 1-2 birds from Laguna (RDB) and from around HEZ / Werakata NP (various observers) and 3-5 birds were there 14 Apr and 30 May (THJ, SDI/CLM). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Watagans NP 5 Feb (KET), Sandy Hollow area 27 Feb (LIP), Yengo NP 26-27 Mar (per MOA), Richmond Vale Rd 13 Apr (GRL), Freemans Waterhole 7 May (MAT/STP), Ellalong 21 Aug (HBOC) and Mount Coricudgy early Oct (RIA). **Atlas:** Five records. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.8%.



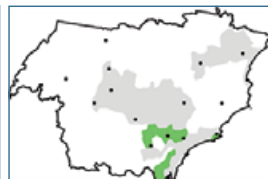
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Bobs Farm Nov (HDM) and had a nest with young at Riverwood Downs 10-11 Dec (JED). **Atlas:** 287 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds sometimes recorded (*text added*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.3%.



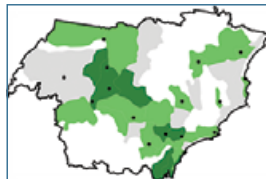
**Notable records:** 20 birds were at Tarro 25 Jan (BRG) and Tanilba Bay (gathering to roost) 21 Dec (FRA). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 3-7 Apr and 2-7 Jun (GOC). **Atlas:** Eight records, RR 19% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining; for the second year in a row the RR was well below 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.2%.



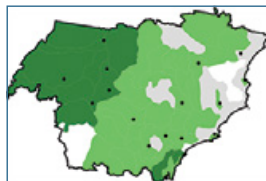
**Notable records:** 200+ birds were recorded at Bureen / Martindale 7 & 12 Jun (STA, MCR *et al.*) and 200+ birds were night roosting at Warners Bay 18 Jun (PAR). 70-90 birds were at Kotara 4 Feb, Hexham Swamp 12 Oct and Tanilba Bay 21 Dec (KYR, WAB, FRA). Several birds at Belmont had been poisoned in early May (per KYR). **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Dora Creek 11 Apr (GOC) and bred at Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 162 records, RR 177% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.7%.



**Notable records:** c.270 birds were together in a paddock at Appletree Flat 15 Sep (STA).

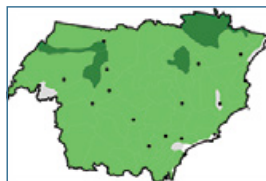
**Atlas:** 197 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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

ID No: 281 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 13.2%.



**Notable records:** 100+ birds were at Gloucester 23 Jul (ZVS). **Breeding:** Several birds were nesting in the Murrurundi area in Oct (ADJ). **Atlas:** 198 records, RR 92% of long-term.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

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

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

**Regional status:** Rare resident.

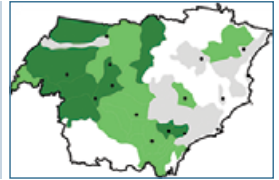
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.11%.



1-2 birds were often recorded at Cassilis Rest Area or in Cassilis (various observers). Elsewhere, some birds were at Pogy HSD 24 & 25 Feb and Giants Creek Rd 24 Feb (both WAB) and Goulburn River NP late May (ROM). **Atlas:** Ten records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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

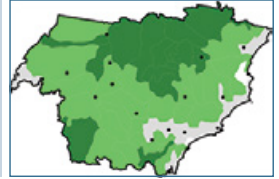
ID No: 295 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*). Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.0%.

**Notable records:** 52 birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 15 Mar (MCE), 30+ birds together near Martindale 7 Jun (STA) and 20+ birds at Drying Rd 27 Feb (ALP) and Giants Creek Rd 3 Mar (ALP, OCG). **Atlas:** 79 records, RR 99% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

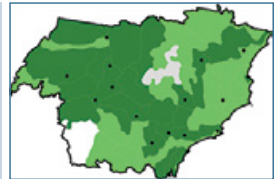
ID No: 282 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Several birds were nesting in the Murrurundi area in Oct (ADJ). **Atlas:** 147 records, RR 78% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 34.1%.

**Notable records:** 38 birds were together at Wingen 2 Jul (NEG). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 19 Nov and also bred at Bobs Farm Nov (NEG, HDM). **Atlas:** 490 records, RR 87% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.30%.

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The first reported arrival was 24 Apr, when three birds were flying over Shortland (ROM), and birds were in the Region until 12 Sep when two birds were at HEZ; the latter was also the last record for NSW (BirdLife Australia). Birds were regularly recorded at three main locations over May-Sep (many observers): Singleton Training Area (peak count 133+ birds 30 Jun); Quorrobolong/Ellalong (peak count 40+ birds late Aug); HEZ/Werakata NP and nearby (peak count 14 birds 31 May). Elsewhere, 14 birds were flying over Shortland 8 Sep (ROM), six birds were at Old Brush 9 Jul (ROM) and 1-2 birds at Murrays Beach 17 May and 11 Sep (LAT), Martins Creek 18 May (ERE), North Arm Cove 10 Jul (HID) and Balickera 10 Aug (MUJ).

**Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Largest numbers since 2012, and likely to have been because of the prolific flowering of Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*).

**Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus*

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 2016.

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

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

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.16%.



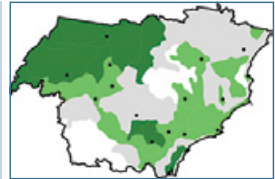
**Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Irruptive visitor and bird of passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.7%.



**Notable records:** There was a substantial and widespread influx into the Region over May-Nov, peaking in Sep-Oct when many thousands of birds were estimated to have been present.

**Atlas:** 75 records, RR 142% of long-term. **Trend:** Major influx in 2016.

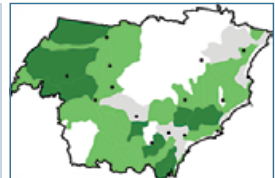
**Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.8%.



**Notable records:** Many hundreds of birds were at the Singleton Training Area 17 May (ROM/GRL) and 100+ birds were at HEZ 13 Apr and 15 May (GRL, HBOC), and Quorrobolong 30 May (ROM). There was an easterly influx in Mar-May with many records of up to 20 birds from suburbs around Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. **Atlas:** 82 records, RR 80% of long-term.

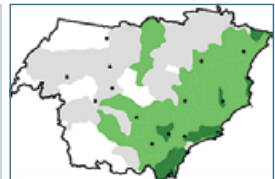
**Trend:** The RR was improved, compared with a poor 2015.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus moluccanus*

ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 18.3%.



**Notable records:** An estimated 1,000 birds were flying through Toronto to a night roost 19 Apr (MCE). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Jul (HDM). **Atlas:** 428 records, RR 124% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 122 records, RR 62% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was low).

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

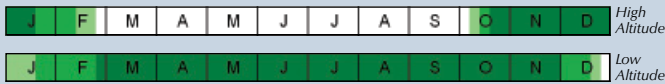
No reports were received for 2016.

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Altitudinal migrant (Revised from: Uncommon altitudinal migrant).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.73%.



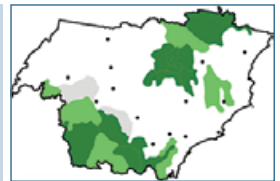
**Notable records:** A bird at Main Creek 17 Aug was the earliest ever recorded return there (STD). **Breeding:** A very young bird with an adult was at BbR 8 Nov and likely had fledged there (KIB/NIJ). **Atlas:** 15 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.0%.



**Notable records:** Four birds were recorded at Laguna 11-13 Jun (RDB). **Atlas:** 48 records, RR 82% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

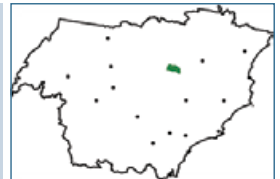
**Rufous Scrub-bird** *Atrichornis rufescens*

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

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

**Regional status:** Resident of high altitude open woodlands.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.8%.



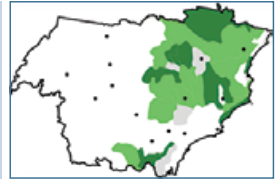
In visits to 11 known territories in the Gloucester Tops 19-21 Oct, ten were occupied and a new territory was confirmed in the survey area (HBOC). There were some complementary records in Apr and Sep-Nov (STA, others). Another new territory was occupied over Oct-Nov but a fire in late Nov destroyed the habitat (STA). **Atlas:** 46 records, RR 102% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.0%.



**Notable records:** Four birds were at Cape Hawke 4 Oct (per ROM). **Atlas:** 38 records, RR 145% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing (once again the RR was much above 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.0%.



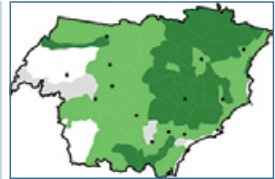
**Notable records:** 13 birds were at Cape Hawke 8 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** 31 records, RR 122% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.2%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were with begging young at Green Wattle Creek 16 Mar (WAB). **Atlas:** 168 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Spotted Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

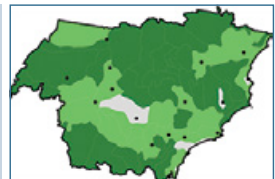
No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 19.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Richmond Vale 9 Oct (KEM) and were breeding at Balickera Aug-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 335 records, RR 105% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.



**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythroptera*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.74%.



There were 11 records in the Gloucester Tops 19-21 Oct (HBOC) and some complementary records in Apr-May and Sep (STA, others). Also, some birds were in The Watagans early Jul (FAB) and the Mount Coricudgy area early Oct (RIA). **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

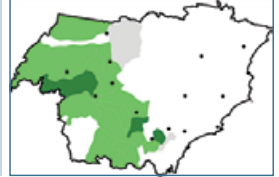
**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.7%.



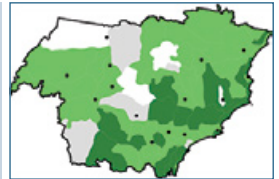
**Notable records:** There were 5-6 resident pairs in HEZ (ROS). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo at Medhurst Bridge 21 Feb (ALP). **Atlas:** 49 records, RR 203% of long-term. **Trend:** The high RR is encouraging but in part reflects a series of focussed surveys at suitable habitat.

**Variigated Fairy-wren** *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 11.7%.



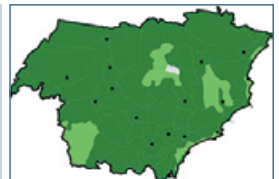
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ) and had a nest with young at Eagleton 5 Dec (CLT). **Atlas:** 144 records, RR 87% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 45.9%.



**Notable records:** Some birds were recorded in the Gloucester Falls area 26 Apr (WAB/JOJ) – *very uncommon at high altitude*. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ) and Bobs Farm Dec (HDM), and were feeding fledged young at East Maitland 24 Dec (SMJ). **Atlas:** 624 records, RR 90% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Red-backed Fairy-wren** *Malurus melanocephalus*

ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.35%.



There were intermittent records all year of pairs / small parties at Cattai Wetlands (various observers). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Killabakh 19 & 21 Feb (MGLB), Crowdy Head 14 Oct (MOA *et al.*) and Fosterton Loop 16 Oct (JED). **Atlas:** Eight records.

**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Southern Emu-wren** *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.2%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 32 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

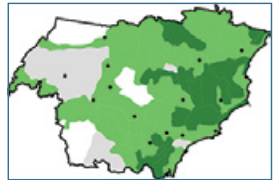
No reports were received for 2016.

**Scarlet Honeyeater** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.4%.



**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 25 Jan (HBOC). Birds were often present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). Although no formal count was organised, many thousands (as a conservative minimum) were estimated to have passed through over a 17 day period (ROM, WID, many others). **Atlas:** 176 records, RR 104% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.35%.



J F M A M J J A S O N D

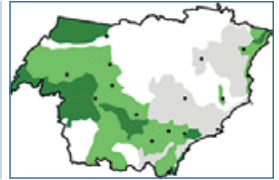
All records were from around Medhurst Bridge; up to four birds were present Sep-Oct (various observers). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.1%.



**Notable records:** A single bird was recorded at Gloucester 14 Jun (DBP) – *very uncommon in the Avon Valley*. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Belmont Lagoon 26 Aug and Ash Island 15 Oct (FAB, MCN) and had a nest with young at Hunter Valley Gardens Pokolbin 10 Oct (JED).

**Atlas:** 187 records, RR 183% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing.

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); up to 20 birds regularly recorded, and counts of up to 50 birds during migration passage.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 19.5%.



**Notable records:** An all-white bird was at King Edward Park 16 Jul (NIR). 100+ birds were recorded at HEZ / HEZ 13 Apr and 15 May (GRL, HBOC) and Quorrobolong 30 May (ROM). Birds were often present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). Although no formal count was organised, many hundreds (as a conservative minimum) were estimated to have passed through over a 17 day period (ROM, WID, many others). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at HEZ 29-30 Nov (WAB, ROM) and had an Eastern Koel chick in their nest at Riverwood Downs 10-11 Dec (JED). **Atlas:** 301 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage (*Revised from: Bird of passage*).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.28%.



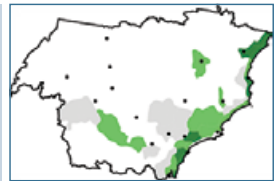
Some birds were at Durrigere Rd 25 Feb (WAB). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable (never many records any year).

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

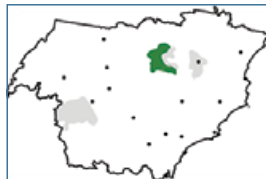
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.7%.



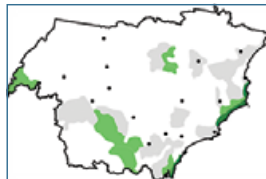
**Notable records:** 11 birds were at Cold Tea Creek Belmont 17 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 135 records, RR 106% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing.

**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*  
ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.3%.



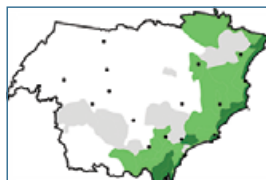
Some birds were recorded in the Barrington Tops 14-18 Mar (FAA). All other records were from the Kerripit Rd / Gloucester Falls section of the Gloucester Tops, spanning Apr-May and Sep-Oct and often involving birds at multiple locations (various observers). **Atlas:** Eight records, RR 35% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was low).

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*  
ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 (Revised for 2017) Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.5%.



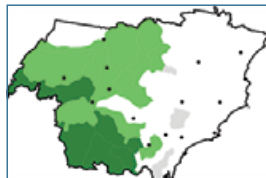
**Gloucester Tops:** 50+ birds including many juveniles were in the area around the Falls carpark for several weeks in late May (STA, GOA/KET), with records of lesser numbers there and at Kerripit Rd late Apr (WAB/JOJ). Up to three birds were at Sharpes Creek 19-21 Oct (STA *et al.*). **Awabakal NR:** 50+ birds were recorded 4 Sep and 5-10 birds 30 Sep (STA). Some birds were also there 30 Oct (DDR) and at Fernleigh Track Redhead 30 Jan (THJ). **Elsewhere:** 10-12 birds were at Pinny Beach 6 Mar (THJ), Yagon Myall Lakes NP 11-13 Jun and Seal Rocks 12 Jun (HBOC), and some birds were at Khappinghat Reserve 2 Jun (MGLB). **Atlas:** 31 records, RR 76% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris niger*  
ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident (Revised from: Resident); up to 20 birds regularly recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.6%.



**Notable records:** Some birds were in the Gloucester Falls area 26 & 28 Apr and 31 May, and at Kerripit Rd Gloucester Tops 27 Apr (WAB/JOJ, GOA/KET) – *uncommon at high altitude*.  
**Atlas:** 167 records, RR 124% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-eared Honeyeater** *Nesoptilotis leucotis*  
ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Usual resident (Revised from: Resident); 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.1%.



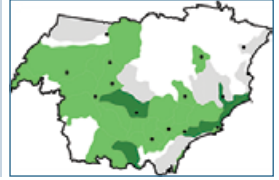
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 23 records, RR 42% of long-term. **Trend:** For the second year in a row, the RR was less than 50% of long term average.

**Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*

ID No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.9%.



**Notable records:** 29 birds were recorded at Stonebridge GC Cessnock 10 Apr (ERE), 15 birds at Ellalong 21 Aug (HBOC) and 11 birds at East Seaham 14 Jun (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 102 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

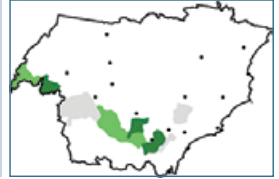
**Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Melithreptus gularis*

ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*);

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.62%.



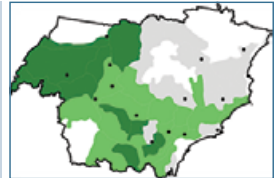
Fifteen birds including a flock of nine were recorded at HEZ 11-12 Aug and there were several reports of 1-5 birds there or nearby in May-Jul and Sep-Nov (ROM, others). Several birds were at the Singleton Training Area 17 May (ROM/GRL) and 1-3 birds were at Pogy HSD 24-25 Feb (WAB), Galgabba 10 Aug (ADJ), Ellalong 21 Aug (HBOC), Baerami Creek 1-3 Oct (HBOC) and Richmond Vale 22 Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** 17 records. **Trend:** Probably stable (the number of records 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.5%.



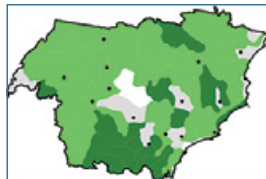
**Notable records:** c.20 birds were at Battery Rocks 10 Jul (STA). **Atlas:** 53 records, RR 104% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.



*Brown-headed Honeyeater by Trevor Murray*

**White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus*

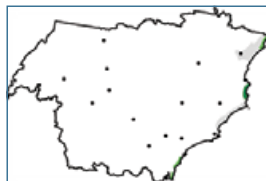
ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded, with counts of up to 50 birds during Apr-Jul migration passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.6%.

**Notable records:** 200+ birds including many juveniles were at the Singleton Training Area 17 May (ROM/GRL) and 100+ birds at Quorrobolong 30 May (ROM). 50+ birds were recorded at HEZ 15 May and Yagon 19 Sep (both HBOC). Birds were often present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). Although no formal count was organised, many thousands (as a conservative minimum) were estimated to have passed through over a 17 day period (ROM, WID, many others). **Atlas:** 95 records, RR 72% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was relatively low).

**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** *Glyciphila melanops*

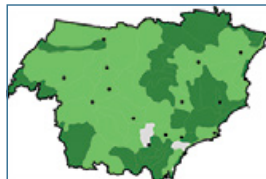
ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.2%.

Single birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 26 Jun and 30 Sep (THK, STA). **Atlas:** Two records, RR 9% of long-term. **Trend:** Decreasing.

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 22.2%.

**Notable records:** Many birds were in the Gloucester Tops late Apr (WAB/JOJ) and 20+ birds at Yagon Myall Lakes NP 11-13 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Seal Rocks ~20 Sep (ROM) and also bred at Balickera Jan & Sep-Oct (MUJ) and Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 294 records, RR 87% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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 2016.

**Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor*

ID No: 449 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2015*).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Orange Chat** *Epthianura aurifrons*

ID No: 450 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2016.

**White-fronted Chat** *Epthianura albigrons*

ID No: 448 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998–2016 500m RR 4.6%.



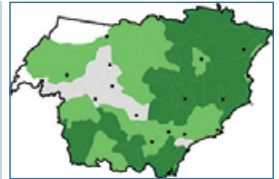
There were many reports spanning Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec of up to 16 birds at Hexham Swamp, and of up to 13 birds at Tomago Wetlands, spanning May-Nov (various observers). 3-7 birds were sometimes recorded at the Worimi Conservation Lands Jun-Aug (FRN, others) and 5-9 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 20 Feb and 12 Nov (MEL/HAS *et al.*). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Tomago Wetlands 3 Nov and were carrying nesting material at Hexham Swamp 14 Aug (LIA, OCG). **Atlas:** 62 records, RR 58% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was 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:** 1998–2016 500m RR 25.5%.



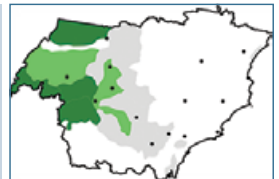
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Balickera Jan and Bobs Farm Dec (MUJ, HDM). **Atlas:** 428 records, RR 106% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident (Revised from: Uncommon resident).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998–2016 500m RR 1.0%.

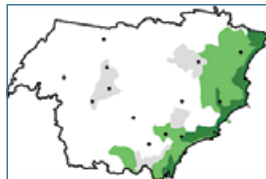


**Notable records:** 5+ birds were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 12 Jun and 3 Jul (MCR *et al.*, ALP) and three birds at the Giants Creek Rd corner 2 Feb (STA). Unusual easterly records were of single birds at Lambton 12 Jan (ERE) and Pambalong NR 31 Jul and 1 Aug (THJ, ROM), also a bird was at Luskintyre 19 Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** 39 records, RR 334% of long-term.

**Trend:** Increasing (which may be linked with changing climatic conditions: see McAllan & Lindsay (2016). *Aust. Field Ornith.* **33:** 125–132).

**Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 712 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

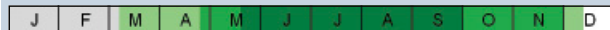
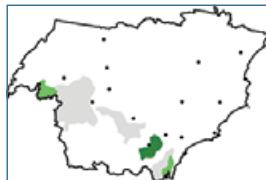
**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 15.6%.

**Notable records:** Westerly records included 1-2 birds at HEZ 22 Mar and Seaham 14 Jun (both WAB) and East Maitland Sep (BRG). Four birds were at Broughton Island 2 Jun (ANC) – *highest count since birds arrived there in 2014*. **Breeding:** There were many records, spanning Jan-May and Sep-Oct and including instances of birds hosting young cuckoos (refer to those entries).

**Atlas:** 249 records, RR 113% of long-term. **Trend:** Expanding its range westwards.

**Regent Honeyeater** *Anthochaera phrygia*

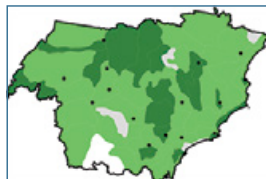
ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** EPBC: Critically Endangered NSW: Critically Endangered**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.55%.

Pairs were recorded at Kearsley 19 Jul and Spring Gully Goulburn River NP 20 Nov (both per ROM) and two adults and a juvenile at Kitchener 18 Nov (ZVS). In December, at least 15 birds were regularly recorded at locations in or near Goulburn River NP including ten birds on private property at the boundary of the Region (per ROM). **Breeding:** The juvenile bird at Kitchener 18 Nov was assessed to be only 1-2 weeks old and therefore is considered to have fledged nearby (per ROM). This is the first confirmed breeding in the Cessnock area since the well-documented breeding event in HEZ in 2007/08. A pair at Hulks Rd Goulburn River NP was nesting mid-Dec, with two young fledging late-Dec, and there were at least four active nests on the private property with at least four young fledged (all per ROM based on information from ANU researchers). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** There were some local successes in 2016 but the national outlook remains parlous.

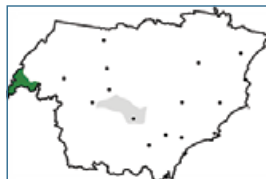
**Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 16.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests at Riverwood Downs 28 Sep (JED) and a pair had a nest with young at HEZ 22 Nov (ROM). Birds were feeding young Eastern Koels at Swansea 15 Mar (WAB) and HWC 12 Apr (TBW).

**Atlas:** 232 records, RR 85% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

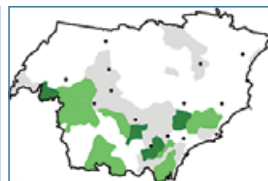
**Singing Honeyeater** *Gavicalis virescens*ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 2 (*Revised*) Breeding: Yes**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare resident*).

Two birds were recorded at Durridgere Rd 2 Feb (STA) and single birds at Medhurst Bridge 14 & 29 May (PAL, ROM).



**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Ptilotula fuscus*

ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

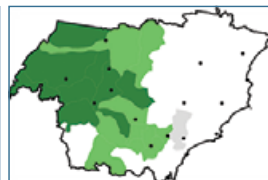
**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.4%.

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were at HEZ 15 May (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with young at Richmond Vale 9 Oct (KEM). Birds bred at HEZ but there were no adults responding to a begging chick 19 Dec after a major fire (ROM). **Atlas:** 48 records, RR 83% of long-term.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**White-plumed Honeyeater** *Ptilotula penicillata*

(Species name amended)

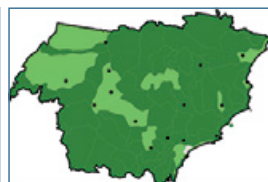
ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident;  
1-20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 83 records, RR 157% of long-term. **Trend:** The RR was above the long-term average for the second year in a row.

**Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Caligavis chrysops*

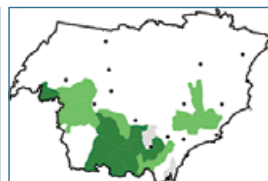
ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 30 birds regularly recorded, and up to 100 birds during Apr-Aug migration passage (*text simplified*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 33.7%.

**Notable records:** There was a substantial autumn migration through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May, with hundreds of thousands of birds streaming through Sugarloaf Gap and then locations such as Pambalong NR and Minmi. Often, especially on clear still mornings, 5,000-10,000 birds per hour were estimated to have been passing through, and sometimes up to 20,000 birds per hour. However, the hourly estimates varied considerably over the 17 day period (ROM, WID, many others). *This mass migration behaviour occurs annually in the Blue Mountains but has never before been documented at such a scale in the Hunter Region.* In the same period, there also were many reports of lesser numbers on migration passage through other parts of the Hunter Valley. The return migration passage was less obvious but 2 flocks each of ~500 birds flew through Hexham Swamp 14 Aug (OCG). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan & Oct-Nov (MUJ) and had a nest with young at WWW 11 Oct (JED). **Atlas:** 554 records, RR 102% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus melanops*

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

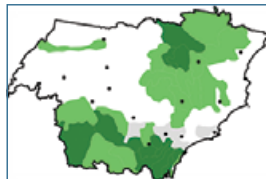
**Regional status:** Resident; 1-20 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.9%.

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were recorded at HEZ / HEZ 4 Jan and 15 May (MRO, HBOC).

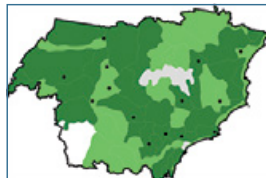
**Breeding:** There were many records spanning late Aug – Oct. **Atlas:** 49 records, RR 136% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*);  
10-30 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.0%.**Notable records:** 47 birds were recorded at Abernethy 2 Aug and 36 birds at Laguna 11-13 Jun (HBOC, RDB). **Atlas:** 68 records, RR 77% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 27.2%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Hamilton 31 Aug (ANC) and also bred at Balickera Aug-Sep (MUJ). Pairs had a nest with young at Hunter Valley Gardens Pokolbin 10 Oct (JED) and were feeding fledged young at Belmont North 29 Dec (CJB). **Atlas:** 521 records, RR 96% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula*

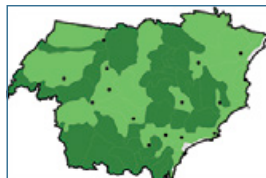
ID No: 635 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 2003, 2009*).

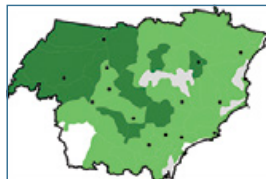
No reports were received for 2016.

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 21.1%.**Notable records:** 25-30 birds (both adults and juveniles) were together near Singleton 27 Feb (ALP). Birds were sometimes present in low numbers amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). Also, several flocks of 40-50 migrating birds (~20% being Spotted Pardalotes) were in the Parkville area 2-4 May (ROM/CLT). **Breeding:** Seven pairs were nesting in woodlands around Cessnock 12-13 Sep (ROM); birds were also nesting at BbR 23 Nov (LIP) and breeding at Balickera Aug-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 274 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*

ID No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*);  
1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 13.7%.**Notable records:** 15 birds were together at McCullys Gap (H5) 17-19 Apr (CLT/NED) and several flocks of 40-50 migrating birds (~80% being Striated Pardalotes) were in the Parkville area 2-4 May (ROM/CLT). Sub-species *striatus* was confirmed present at HEZ 15 May, Singleton

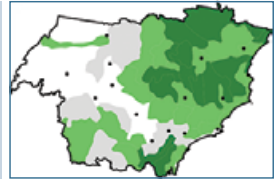
Training Area 30 Jun (both ROM) and Morisset Hospital 2 Jul (RIA). A *substriatus* bird was at HEZ 30 Nov – an easterly record (ROM). Birds of sub-species *ornatus* were associating with *striatus* birds 30 Jun (ROM/RIA). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at McCullys Gap (H5) 17-19 Apr (CLT/NED). **Atlas:** 189 records, RR 61% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 11.9%.



**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Watagans NP 16 Oct (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 172 records, RR 86% of long-term.

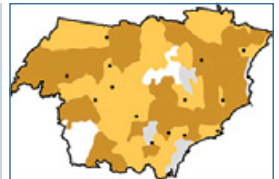
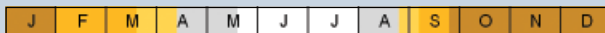
**Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*

ID No: 453 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant (*Revised from: Summer migrant*); 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.6%



**Notable records:** 1-2 late-departing birds were at Wallaby Scrub Rd 15 May and the Singleton Training Area 17 May (ALP, ROM/GRL). **Atlas:** 108 records, RR 67% of long-term.

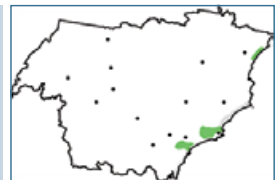
**Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.8%.



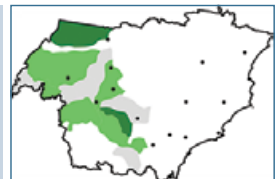
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 18 records, RR 51% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.58%.



Single birds were recorded at Wallaby Scrub Rd 31 Jan and Fossickers in Goulburn River NP 3 Feb (ALP/THJ, STA). **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly stable).

**Weebill** *Smicronis brevirostris*

ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); up to 20 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 47 records, RR 60% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Pilotbird** *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

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

**Regional status:** Resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP (*Revised from: Uncommon*).

Several birds were in the Mount Coricudgy area early Oct (RIA).

**Speckled Warbler** *Pyrholaemus sagittatus*

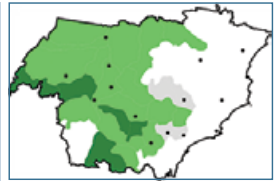
(Genus and Species name amended)

ID No: 504 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-5 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.2%.



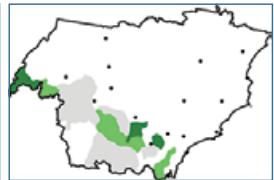
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 40 records, RR 49% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining (once again the RR was low).

**Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.21%.



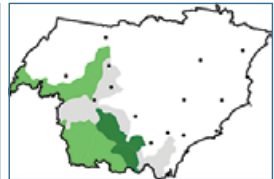
A few birds were recorded at HEZ 30 Nov (ROM) and single birds at Appletree Flat 7 Feb (SIA/ALP), HEZ 27 Feb (SRM) and Ellalong 21 Aug (HBOC). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rockwarbler** *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident in sandstone country.

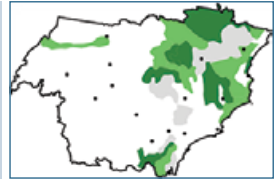
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.33%.



1-2 birds were recorded several times during the year at Laguna (RDB) and at Putty Rd 28 Feb (ALP), near Bunnan early May (CLT/ROM), The Watagans early Jul (FAB) and Durrigere Rd 13 Dec (WAB). **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis*

ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-5 birds frequently recorded at rainforest locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 44 records, RR 136% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis*

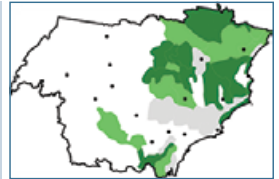
ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-10 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 22.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 290 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostris*

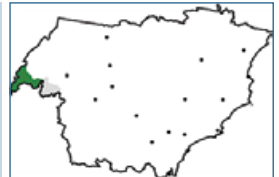
ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded at rainforest locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 146% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

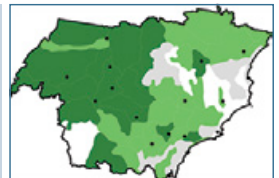
ID No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Rare (*recorded 1994, 1998-99, 2001-02, 2010*).**BLA Atlas:** 16 records.

Some birds were recorded at two locations along Durrigere Rd 25 Feb (WAB) and one bird there 29 May (ROM). **Atlas:** Two records.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 19 Nov (NEG). **Atlas:** 112 records, RR 71% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 21.8%.



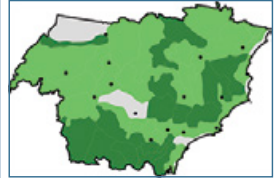
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 256 records, RR 77% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (although once again the RR was relatively low).

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.1%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at East Seaham 9 Aug (GOA *et al.*) and had dependent young at HEZ 30 Aug (KET). **Atlas:** 113 records, RR 64% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was low).

**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident in extreme NW of Region (*Revised from: Rare ...*).



No reports were received for 2016.

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 28.5%.



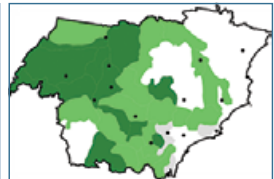
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera and Bobs Farm Nov (MUJ, HDM), had nests at Sugarloaf SCA 28 Aug and 3 Oct (KYR) and were feeding fledged young at Sandy Creek Rd 4 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 434 records, RR 106% of long-term. **Trend:** 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.0%.



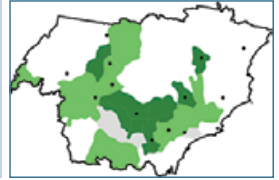
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Richmond Vale 9 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** 27 records, RR 45% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).

**Australian Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*  
ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident.  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.41%.



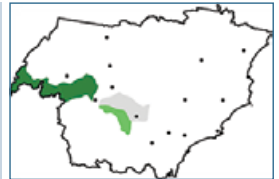
Three pairs were at Copeland SCA 1 Dec (STA) and a pair and a female were recorded at O'Sullivan's Gap RA 22 Nov (KET *et al.*). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Watagans NP 12 Mar (RIA), Red Head 9 May (COD), Coorabakh NP 17 Jul (HBOC), Cellito Beach/Sandbar 20 Sep (HBOC) and O'Sullivan's Gap RA 5 & 12 Dec (SIA, WAB). **Atlas:** Seven records.  
**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.8%.



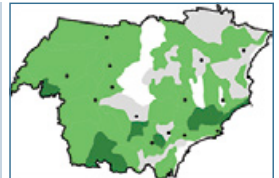
**Notable records:** 18 birds in two groups were at Wingen TSR 5 Apr (NEG) and 10-11 birds at Giants Creek Rd 2 Feb (STA), Gloucester cemetery 1 Dec (STA) and Seaham Park 18 Dec (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Oakleigh HSD Quorrobolong 27 Aug (CCB) and had dependent young in the Bulga area 27 Aug and 10 Sep (ERE). **Atlas:** 48 records, RR 30% of long-term. **Trend:** The RR was very low in 2016.

**White-browed Babbler** *Pomatostomus superciliosus*  
ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes  
**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Uncommon resident*).  
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.29%.



6+ birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 3 Jan and five birds at Bureen 17 Jul (THJ *et al.*). There were regular reports of up to four birds along Giants Creek Rd (various observers). Some birds were also at Ringwood Rd 2 Jan (NAK), Jones Reserve Rd 17 Jan (at two locations) and 21 Feb (ALP) and Durrigere Rd 7 & 13 Dec (BEI, WAB). **Atlas:** 12 records. **Trend:** More records than usual.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.7%.



**Notable records:** 10-12 birds were recorded at Jones Reserve Rd 21 Feb (ALP), East Seaham 12 Apr (GOA *et al.*) and Neranie 19 Sep (HBOC). Seven birds were together at Curracabundi NP 24 Mar (STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 39 records, RR 61% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly stable).



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike by Allen Friis

**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 2016.

**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).

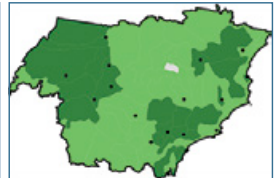
No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 28.7%.



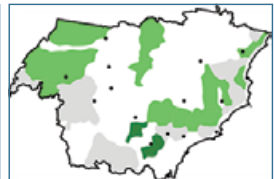
**Notable records:** 17 birds were recorded at East Seaham 12 Apr (GOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 418 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.7%.

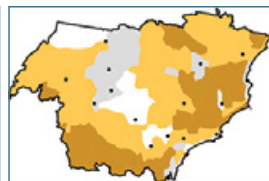


**Notable records:** Six birds were at Ellalong 21 Aug (HBOC) and a dark morph bird at Jones Reserve Rd 17 Jan (ALP). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at HEZ 2 Jan (WID). **Atlas:** 46 records, RR 181% of long-term. **Trend:** The high RR is encouraging but in part reflects a series of focussed surveys at suitable habitat.



**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

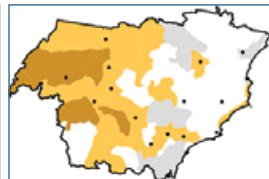
ID No: 429 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded Jan to mid-Mar and mid-Sep onwards.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded return was 30 Aug, when a bird was at HEZ (KET/GOA). **Atlas:** 46 records, RR 79% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor*

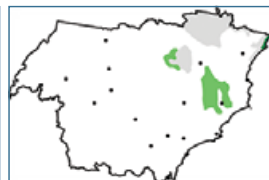
ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant. 1-2 birds occasionally recorded Oct-Feb (*text added*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.4%.

**Notable records:** A juvenile was recorded at Giants Creek Rd 7 Feb (SRM). **Atlas:** Seven records, RR 58% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly stable (affected by inland rain in 2016).

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

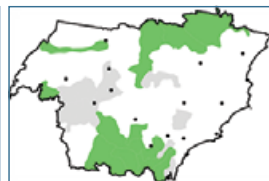
ID No: 431 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.22%

1-2 birds were recorded at Harrington 24-25 Jan, 28 Apr, 3 & 7 Jul (HBOC, BEI, RIA, MGLB) and at Saltwater NP 5 May, Crowdy Head 7 Jul, Black Head 12 Jul (all MGLB), Cape Hawke 8 Oct (KEM) and Mungo Brush 27 Dec (BNSW). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Expanding its range.

**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinlosoma punctatum*

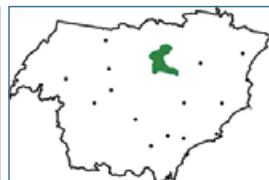
ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.34%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

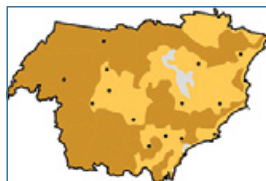
ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.2%.

There were 14 discrete records from a 5,000ha area of the Gloucester Tops over 19-21 Oct, with some complementary records from the same area Apr and Sep (HBOC, others). Also, some birds were recorded in the Barrington Tops 14-18 Mar (FAA). **Atlas:** 28 records, RR 128% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*

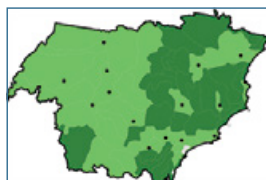
ID No: 01 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Some birds over-winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 16.6%.

**Notable records:** There were two records from the Gloucester Tops 19-21 Oct (HBOC) – unusual to be at high altitude. A winter record was of two birds near Martindale (MCM). Birds had returned to several Manning Valley sites by 8-9 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Riverwood Downs 10-11 Dec and feeding a fledged young Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo at Rathluba Lagoon 29 Dec (JED, CLM). **Atlas:** 220 records, RR 94% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 25.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Tuncurry 4 Feb (MGLB). **Atlas:** 368 records, RR 92% of long-term.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

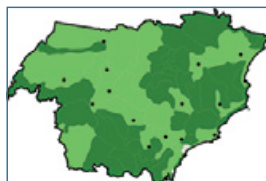
ID No: 413 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncertain (recorded 1996).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*

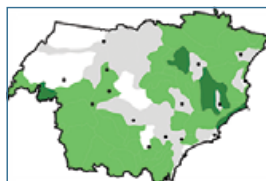
ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Eagleton 5 Dec (CLT) and breeding at Balickera over Oct-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 300 records, RR 85% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Crested Shrike-tit** *Falculculus frontatus*

ID No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 37 records, RR 98% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Brunkerville 21 Feb and O'Sullivan's Gap RA 26 Oct (HBOC, WAB/JOJ). **Atlas:** 333 records, RR 97% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 9.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 170 records, RR 103% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.1%.



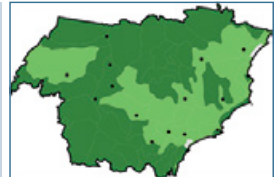
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Morpeth 6 Dec (HBOC) and were on nests at Riverwood Downs 10-11 Dec and Tanilba Bay 16 Dec (JED, FRA). They also bred at Bobs Farm Jan and Balickera Dec (HDM, MUJ). **Atlas:** 258 records, RR 125% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 25.5%.

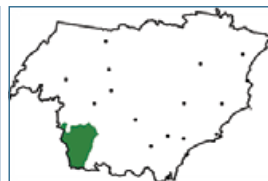


**Notable records:** 45 birds were recorded at Abernethy 2 Aug (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 19 Nov and also bred at Bobs Farm Jan (NEG, HDM). They were feeding Channel-billed Cuckoo chicks at Coal Point 11 Jan, Rankin Park 15 Jan and New Lambton 27 Dec (CLT, KET, FAA). **Atlas:** 352 records, RR 83% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident of highlands in far SW  
(recorded 1995, '97, 2005, '07, '09).



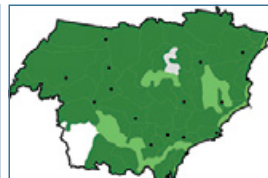
Six birds were in the Mount Coricudgy area early Oct including two birds within the Region and a pair was nesting 100m outside the boundary (RIA). Two adults and a juvenile were recorded within the Region at that location 8 Dec (WID).

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*

ID No: 705 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 50.3%.



**Notable records:** An all-black bird was at Grahamstown Dam 27 Jun (ALD) and 1-2 white-backed birds at East Maitland Sep-Dec (BRG). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Aug-Dec (various observers); also a pair was nest building at Medhurst Bridge 17 Jul (ALP).

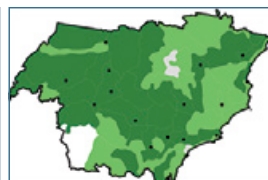
**Atlas:** 828 records, RR 97% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

ID No: 700 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.0%.



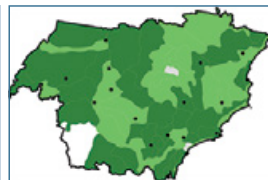
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Apr (MUJ) and Bobs Farm Aug & Nov (HDM), and had a nest with young at Tanilba Bay 16 Dec (FRA). **Atlas:** 329 records, RR 83% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Grey Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus*

ID No: 702 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan & Dec (MUJ) and Hamilton 31 Aug (ANC), had nests with eggs/young at Ash Island 15 Oct and Kotara 14 Nov (MCN, KYR) and were feeding fledged young at Belmont North 29 Dec (CJB). **Atlas:** 378 records, RR 103% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

### White-browed/Masked Woodswallow types

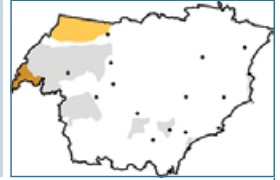
**Regional status:** Irruptive visitor; almost all records are spring/summer ones. Flocks, often involving both species *A. superciliosus* and *A. personatus*, are sometimes recorded. However, if the flocks are high up and/or moving through quickly, it is not always possible for observers to quantify 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.

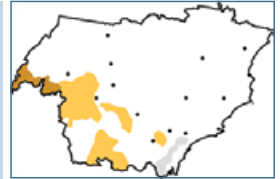


#### White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon irruptive visitor.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.40%.



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

**Masked Woodswallow:** Some birds were recorded near Pogygy 2 Jan (NAK). **Atlas:** One record.

**Trend:** Uncertain.

**White-browed Woodswallow:** 30 birds were at Durrigere Rd 9 Dec (ROM *et al.*) and 6+ birds near Pogygy HSD Ringwood Rd 2 Jan (NAK). Some birds were also recorded at Durrigere SCA 3 Jan (NAK), Ridgeland Rd Bunnan 13 Jan (ROM/CLT), Durrigere Rd 7 Dec (BEI) and Ringwood Rd 15 Dec (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Ridgeland Rd 13 Jan.

**Atlas:** Ten records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Records of unidentified birds:** Nil.

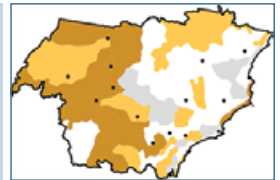
#### Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable (*Revised*)

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-10 birds occasionally recorded. Some birds present all year.

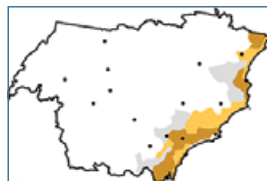
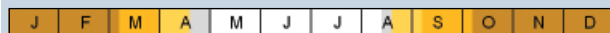
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.5%.



**Notable records:** 120 birds were drinking at a dam along at Wambo Rd Bulga 19 May (BRG/LIA). Winter records were of 16 birds at the Singleton Training Area 30 Jun (ROM *et al.*), 12 birds at HEZ 22 Jul (BEI) and 2-3 birds there 9 Jul and early Aug (BEI, CLM). 1-2 birds were recorded at Belmont Wetlands 16 Sep and 20 Nov (FAB). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at McCullys Gap (H5) 21 Jan (CLT/NED) and nesting at two locations in HEZ 29 Nov (WAB). There was a nest with eggs at Belmont Wetlands 21 Nov, and the chicks had hatched by 9 Dec (OWS). **Atlas:** 48 records, RR 136% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable. Records from near-coastal locations are uncommon (and breeding records from there are remarkable).

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.0%.

**Notable records:** 35-40 birds were night roosting at Hexham Swamp 16 Mar (ROM) and 26-29 birds were at Cold Tea Creek Belmont 17 Apr (HBOC) and Irrawang Swamp 7 Dec (WAB). There were winter records of 1-2 birds at Swansea 18 Jul (STH), Shortland 26 Jul (LIG), Cattai Wetlands 26 Jul (CAG) and Eraring 31 Jul (RIA). **Movements:** 60-70 birds assumed to be on migration passage were roosting at Ash Island 8 Apr (STA/MCN). The first recorded return was 7 Aug when two birds were at Belmont Lagoon (THJ). **Breeding:** Two pairs were feeding fledged young at Hexham Swamp 4 Dec (LIA/WEJ) and birds were breeding at Balickera Apr and Oct-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 128 records, RR 146% of long-term. **Trend:** The RR was above the long-term average for the second year in a row.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 3.8%.

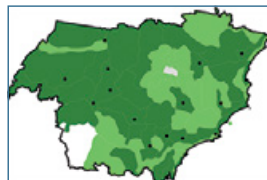
**Notable records:** A single bird was at Gloucester 19 Feb (DBP) – *uncommon in this area*.

**Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 15 Jan, of a single bird at Lorn (NAK). There were no further reports until 15 Feb when a bird was at Belmont (MCE) and then three birds were at Tomago Wetlands 16 Feb (FRN). A late departing bird was recorded at Seaham 13 Dec (KET).

**Atlas:** 27 records, RR 65% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*

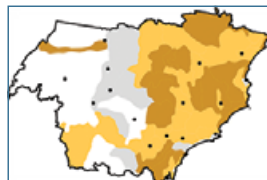
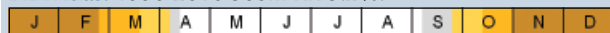
ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 41.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Seal Rocks ~20 Sep (ROM), were on nest at Morpeth 6 Dec (HBOC) and also bred at Bobs Farm in Dec (HDM). **Atlas:** 619 records, RR 100% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 20 Sep when a bird was at Seal Rocks (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 85 records, RR 106% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 41.2%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Green Wattle Creek 11 Oct (JED) and were breeding at Balickera over Oct-Dec (MUJ).

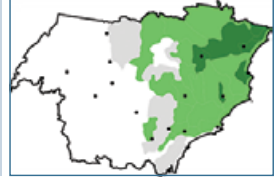
**Atlas:** 601 records, RR 94% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.9%.



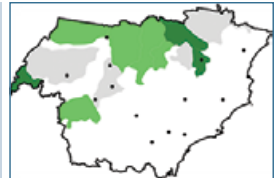
**Notable records:** A bird at Marrowbone Road TSR Pokolbin 9 Apr (BRM *et al.*) might represent a further range extension. **Breeding:** Three pairs bred at Bobs Farm in Dec (HDM) and a bird was on nest at Dungog 8 Nov (FRN). **Atlas:** 105 records, RR 83% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably expanding their range.

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.7%.



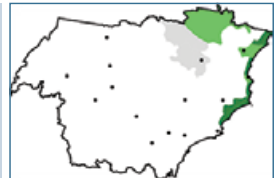
130 birds were flying over Durrigere Rd 7 Dec (BEI). 30+ birds were recorded along Ringwood Rd 2 Jan and some birds there 26 Feb (STA, NAK, WAB). Elsewhere, some birds were at Curracabundi NP 24 Mar (STA *et al.*) and Gloucester 27 Jul (CLM). **Atlas:** 25 records, RR 86% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*

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

**Regional status:** Resident.

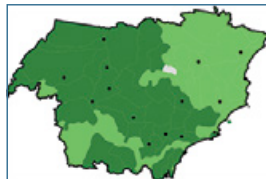
**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 2.6%.



1-2 birds were often recorded at both Saltwater NP and Harrington (STA). Birds were at several locations around Myall Lakes NP 11-13 Jun and 18-20 Sep including five birds at Neranie 19 Sep (all HBOC). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 25 Jan (HBOC), Cooperook SF and near Old Bar 19-20 Mar (per CAA), Crowdy Head 28 Apr (BEI), Mungo Brush 7-8 Sep (BEI) and Woko NP 2 & 31 Dec (STA, STD). **Atlas:** 22 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

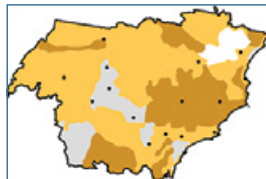
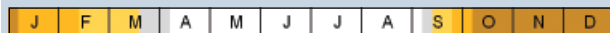
ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 38.2%.

**Notable records:** 60 birds were feeding on an oval at Redhead 23 Mar (ADJ) and 36 were at Kotara 18 Nov (KYR). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wingen 19 Nov and 15 Dec (NEG). **Atlas:** 590 records, RR 104% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

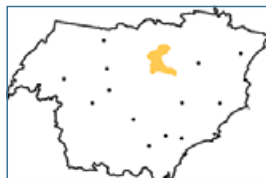
ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** The first recorded arrival was 14 Sep, when a bird was at Main Creek Dungog (STD). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Seal Rocks 15 Nov (WAB). **Atlas:** 70 records, RR 90% of long-term.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

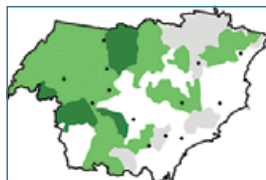
ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant.

A male was photographed in the Gloucester Tops in mid-Oct (ROG).

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.5%.

Two birds were recorded at Wingen 11 Jun (NEG) and single birds at Pogy HSD 2 Jan (NAK), Jones Reserve Rd 17 Jan (ALP), Putty Rd 28 Feb and 27 Nov (ALP), Sandy Hollow area 28 Feb (LIP), McCullys Gap (H5) 13 Mar and 17-19 Apr (SRM, CLT/NED), Curracabundi NP 24 Mar (STA *et al.*), Wingen 3 Apr and 25 May (NEG), Cassilis 27 Apr (HRK), Bulga 19 May (BRG/LIA), Silverthorn HSD 26 May (STA), Medhurst Bridge 10 Jun (MCM), Martindale 3 & 26 Jul (ALP, KET *et al.*), HEZ 31 Jul (FAB/OWS) and Durridgere Rd 7 & 13 Dec (BEI, WAB). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Durridgere Rd 13 Dec (WAB). **Atlas:** 18 records, RR 84% of long-term.

**Trend:** Probably stable.



**Maggie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*

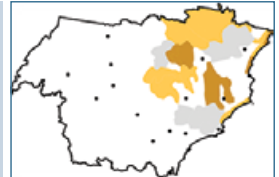
ID No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 20 birds are regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 38.8%.

**Notable records:** 50-100 birds were recorded at Williamstown several times over May-Jul and Sep (FAA) and at Morpeth WTW 25 May and 25 Feb (BRG/LIA), Hexham Swamp west 26 Jul (WAB/JOJ) and Martindale 7 Jun (STA). Also, 30-40 birds were at Hexham Swamp 18 Jun (LIA) and Gloucester 18 Aug (FAA). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Doughboy Hollow 31 Jan and Belmont Lagoon 26 Aug (THJ, FAB) and had nests with young at Pokolbin 10 Oct and Riverwood Downs 10-11 Dec (JED). **Atlas:** 575 records, RR 92% of long-term.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**Spectacled Monarch** *Symphoricarthus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant (*Revised from: Uncommon summer migrant*).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.1%.

There were regular records of 1-5 birds from Harrington RF and Saltwater NP; birds had returned to those sites by 8-9 Sep (STA, others). 1-2 birds were often recorded at O'Sullivan's Gap RA Sep-Dec (various observers) and also at Main Creek Dungog 20 Sep (STD), Seal Rocks 20 Sep (ROM), Sharpes Creek 20 Oct (HBOC), Allyn River 30 Oct (DDR), The Grandis Myall Lakes NP 22 Nov (KET *et al.*) and Coorabakh 10-11 Dec (SRM). They were recorded at several locations in the Manning Valley 8-9 Sep and 27-28 Oct (STA). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at O'Sullivan's Gap 18 Oct (WAB) and were with dependent young at Harrington 23-26 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 25 records, RR 179% of long-term. **Trend:** Expanding its range.

**White-eared Monarch** *Carterornis leucotis*

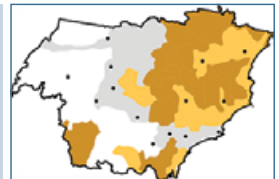
ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain (*Recorded 1993, 2003-08*)

No reports were received for 2016.

**Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis*

ID No: 373 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

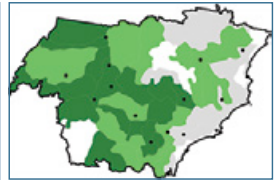
**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds are moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Movements:** Birds had returned to several Manning Valley sites by 8-9 Sep (STA). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Harrington 22-26 Jan and were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec (HBOC, MUJ).

**Atlas:** 94 records, RR 141% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

ID No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 6.4%.**Notable records:** 63 birds were recorded at McCullys Gap (H5) 17-19 Apr (CLT/NED).**Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Quorrobolong 27 Aug (MOA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 52 records, RR 52% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).**Paradise Riflebird** *Lophorina paradisea*

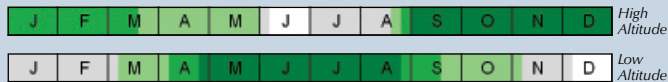
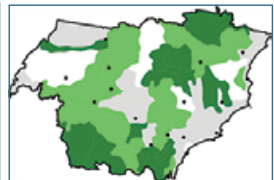
ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.31%.

There were nine records in the Gloucester Tops over 19-21 Oct including some which were of more than one bird (HBOC). 1-2 birds were recorded at Gloucester Falls 28 Apr (WAB/JOJ), Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 27 Aug & 22 Sep (STD), Tapin Tops 25 Oct (SIA), O'Sullivan's Gap RA 26 Oct (WAB/JOJ), Jerusalem Creek and Allyn River 30 Oct (BBB, DDR) and Copeland SCA 1 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*

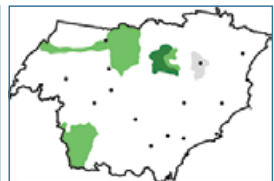
ID No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 70 records, RR 93% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*

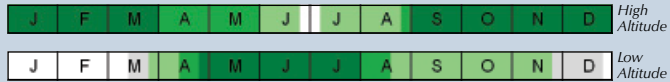
ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident (and altitudinal migrant).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.87%.

**High altitudes:** Many birds were in the Gloucester Tops Sep-Oct (various observers) and some birds were at the Barrington Tops 14-18 Mar (FAA) and Mount Coricudgy early Oct (RIA). **Low altitudes:** Up to three birds were recorded near Martindale (at the H. H. White Bridge) Jun-Jul (ROM, others) and a female was at Hexham Swamp 16-26 Jul (KEM, others). A pair was at Silverthorn HSD 26 May (STA). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica boodang*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident and altitudinal migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.64%.

1-2 birds were recorded at two locations in the Singleton Training Area 17 May and 30 Jun (ROM/GRL) and there were several records from around Bulga over May-Jun (various observers). 1-2 birds were also at Marrowbone Road TSR Pokolbin 9 Apr (BRM *et al.*), Kitchener 13-14 Apr and 2 Aug (GRL, THJ, KET/GOA), Warkworth 30 Aug (STD), Gloucester Tops 2 Sep (THK) and Mount Coricudgy early Oct (RIA). Two unusual easterly records were of a male at Tingira Heights 15 Jun & 7 Aug (FAB) and a female at Awabakal NR 4 Jul (HAR). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii*

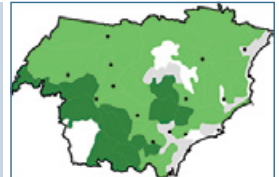
ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.73%.

Three pairs were recorded at Wambo Rd Bulga 25 Apr (LIA/WEJ) and there were 4-5 birds there 19 May and 27 Aug (BRG/LIA, ERE). 1-2 birds were at Durrigere SCA 3 Jan (NAK), Jones Reserve Rd 17 Jan (ALP), Pogy HSD 13 Mar (SRM), Dangerfield Road Rouchel 20 Apr (BEJ) and Bulga 10 Sep (ERE). One of the birds at Pogy was a juvenile. **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly declining).

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident (*Revised from: Resident*); 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 8.4%.

**Notable records:** 20+ birds were in the Medhurst Bridge area 12 Jun (THJ). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Jones Reserve Rd 3 Jan (WID). **Atlas:** 76 records, RR 59% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was quite low).

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 24.5%.

**Notable records:** A bird was killed by a Laughing Kookaburra at Main Creek in early Jan (LAT). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan and Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 382 records, RR 99% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Pale-yellow Robin** *Tregellasia capito*

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.22%.

1-2 birds were recorded at Cabbage Tree Rd Main Creek 27 Aug (STD), O'Sullivan's Gap RA 21 Sep and 5 Dec (ERE, SIA) and Copeland SCA 1 Dec (STA). **Atlas:** Four records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.55%.

A male and two females were recorded at Medhurst Bridge 17 Jul and a pair there 3 Jul (THJ *et al.*, ALP). There were several records Feb-Mar of a pair at Giants Creek Rd (various observers) and birds were at two locations along Durrigere Rd 9 Dec (ROM *et al.*). 1-2 birds were also at Wollar Rd 24 Feb (WAB), Durrigere Rd 25 Feb and 13 Dec (WAB), Wallaby Scrub Rd Mar and late May (ROM), Martindale Rd 31 May (PAL) and Wambo Rd Bulga 27 Aug (ERE). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Decreasing.

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 143 records, RR 105% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (*recorded 1985-86, 2006*).

No reports were received for 2016.

**Nutmeg Mannikin** *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Possibly extinct in the wild (*last recorded 1991*)

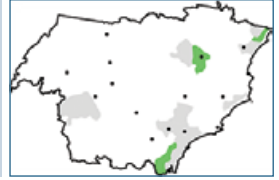
No reports were received for 2016.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.81%.



There were several records of up to 40 birds at Hexham Swamp Jul-Oct (various observers); also 30+ birds were near the H.H. White Bridge (via Martindale) 6 Jun (ROM) and 15-16 birds at Tomago Wetlands 17 Sep and Neranie Myall Lakes NP 19 Sep (FRN, HBOC). 1-5 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 11 May (STA), Finnian Park (Grahamstown Dam) 14 Jun (HDM) and Bootawa 19 Nov (MGLB). **Atlas:** 14 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Beautiful Firetail** *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded in 1977) (Revised from: Rare).

No reports were received for 2016. See Amendments and Corrections.

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Conservation status:** NSW: Vulnerable

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.93%.



There were several records of up to 15 birds at Medhurst Bridge Jun-Jul (various observers). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Goulburn River NP 3 Feb (STA), Durrigere Rd 25 Feb (WAB), Pogy HSD 28 Mar (LIA), Ridgeland Rd early May (ROM/CLT), Singleton Training Area 17 May and 30 Jun (ROM/GRL), Martindale 16 Oct (BEI) and Ringwood Rd 15 Dec (ROM).

**Atlas:** 15 records. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 22.6%.



**Notable records:** 50+ birds were recorded at HEZ 30 May (LIA) and 30-40 birds at Pokolbin 25 Jun and Tomago Wetlands 17 Sep (FRP, FRN). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan, Mar-Apr and Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 317 records, RR 105% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Plum-headed Finch** *Neochmia modesta*

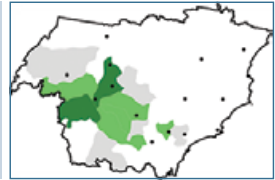
ID No: 661 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Rare.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.11%.

131 birds were recorded near the H.H. White Bridge (via Martindale) 7 Jun with 80+ birds there 6 Jun and many other records of lesser numbers in the ensuing week (WAB/JOJ, ROM, others). Subsequently there were several reports of up to ten birds at nearby Bureen in Sep-Oct (various observers). Birds were recorded at several locations in the Upper Hunter 11-13 Mar including near Poggy HSD (SRM). Some birds were also at Giants Creek Rd 6 & 29 Feb (LIP), Jones Reserve Rd 21 Feb (ALP), Bylong Valley Way (F7) 27 Feb (LIP), Ulan area early Mar (ROM), Durrigere Rd 7 Dec (BEI) and O'Brien Crossing 9 Dec (ROM *et al.*). A remarkable easterly record was of a group of 5-6 birds photographed at Belmont Wetlands in mid-Apr (OWS/FAB); possibly this involved escapees but it was a relatively large flock. **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** A very good year.

**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*

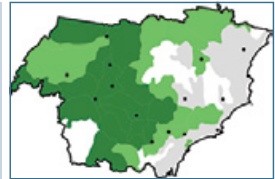
ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds sometimes recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.84%.

**Notable records:** 50+ birds were at Bureen 26 Jul (KET *et al.*) and 20-50 birds at Cemetery Rd Singleton 31 Jan (THJ), Millers Forest 1 Jun (ZVS) and Pitnacree 13 Sep (BRG), and in the Martindale area often in Jun (several observers). Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 21 Mar (MEL) – records from the Hunter Estuary now are uncommon. **Atlas:** 15 records.

**Trend:** Probably stable.**Double-barred Finch** *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

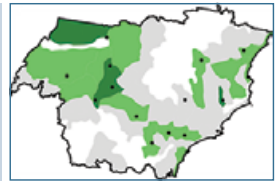
**Regional status:** Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.7%.

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were in the Baerami Creek area 1-3 Oct (per LIA).

**Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Broke 20 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 62 records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

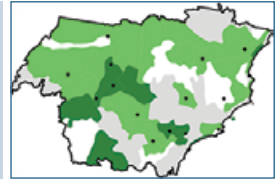
ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual resident; up to 20 birds frequently recorded around populated areas.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 4.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 38% of long-term. **Trend:** Decreasing (once again the RR was quite low).

**Australasian Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

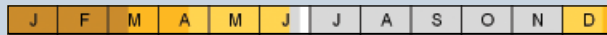
ID No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 10.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 117 records, RR 85% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 8611 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.19%.

A single bird (of race *tshutschensis*) was recorded at a private property in the Cooranbong area 31 Dec (RIA). **Trend:** Uncertain.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

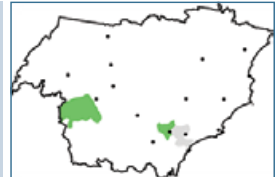
ID No: 874 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

**Regional status:** Accidental (race *lugens* recorded 1998).

No reports were received for 2016.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

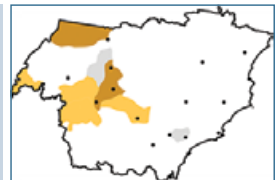
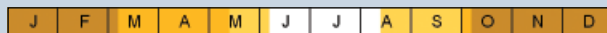
ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.42%.

Three birds were at Phoenix Park Rd 19 Aug and some birds near Maitland 30 Oct (BRG, DDR). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

**Horsfield's Bushlark** *Mirafrja javanica*

ID No: 648 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.09%.

Five birds were recorded in the Martindale area Oct 30 (HHB), three birds at McCullys Gap (H5) 21 Jan (CLT/NED) and two birds near Parkville 5 Oct (ROM). Single birds were at Durrigere SCA 3 Jan (NAK), Giants Creek Rd 3 Mar (OCC), Baerami Creek 3 Oct (PAL), Martindale are 16 Oct (BEI) and Jones Reserve Rd 27 Dec (ALP). **Atlas:** Five records. **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).

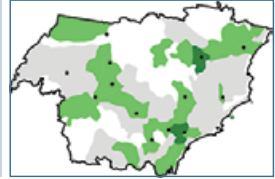
No reports were received for 2016.

**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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 11.4%.



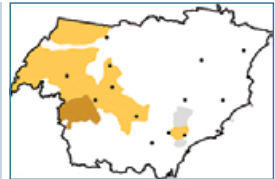
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 123 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but once again the RR was low).

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.41%.



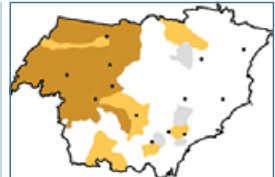
Single birds were recorded at Giants Creek Rd 6-7 Feb (LIP, SRM), Baerami Creek Rd 2 Oct (THJ) and Durrigere Rd 9 & 13 Dec (ROM *et al.*, WAB). **Atlas:** Four records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-2 birds sometimes recorded

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.1%.



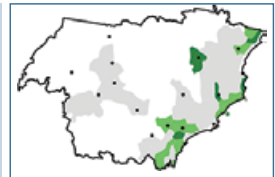
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 19 records, RR 159% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Tawny Grassbird** *Cincloramphus timoriensis*

ID No: 523 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident; 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.7%.



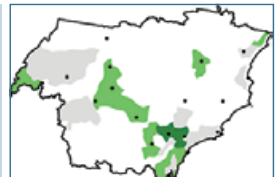
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 102 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Little Grassbird** *Poodytes gramineus* (Genus amended)

ID No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

**Regional status:** Resident. 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.3%.

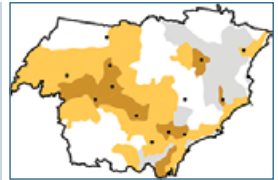


There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 45 records, RR 54% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was low).



**Australian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis*

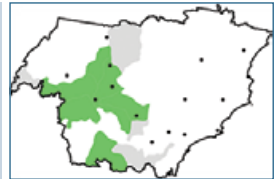
ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Usual summer migrant. 1-10 birds often recorded and some birds over-winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 7.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 86 records, RR 94% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

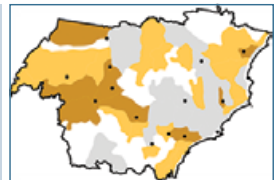
ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.24%.

Five birds were recorded in the Bureen/Martindale area 13 Mar and 26 Jul (THJ, KET *et al.*) and three birds there 15 Sep (STA). Five birds were also at Denman 30 Aug (STD). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Ridgeland Rd early May (ROM/CLT), Broke 27 Aug and 20 Nov (ERE, HBOC) and Giants Creek Rd 8 Nov (WAB). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel*

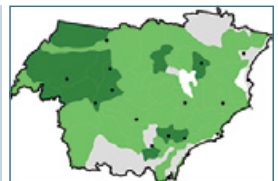
ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Summer migrant; up to 20 birds frequently recorded and small numbers over-winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.0%.

**Notable records:** 100+ birds were at Irrawang Swamp 7 Dec (WAB). There was a winter record of ten birds at Hexham Swamp west 26 Jul (WAB/JOJ). **Movements:** By 12 Aug there had been widespread records. **Breeding:** There were 30+ nests at the Oakhampton Rd colony 18 Aug (CLM). Some birds were still breeding at the Cundletown colony 25 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 58% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly 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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 5.6%.

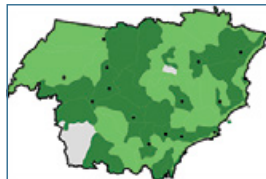
**Notable records:** c.1,000 birds were at Hexham Swamp 12 Dec and 500+ birds 26 Dec (LIA), and 200+ birds at East Maitland 15 Mar (BRG). Up to ten birds were in the Gloucester Falls area 28 Apr and 17 May (WAB/JOJ, STA) – *uncommon in this area*. **Breeding:** Birds were using hollows at Luskintyre 19 Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** 88 records, RR 83% of long-term. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 37.9%.



**Notable records:** 100+ birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 7 Feb, Woodberry late May and Ash Island 18 Jun (HBOC, SMR, STA/MCN). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Lambton 14 Oct (KYR) and were breeding at Balickera Aug and Oct (KYR, MUJ). **Atlas:** 607 records, RR 101% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

ID No: 879 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

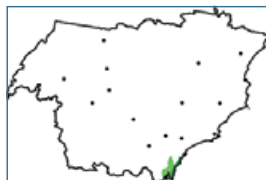
No reports were received for 2016.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

**Regional status:** Uncommon resident (Revised from: Resident).

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.36%.



Four birds were recorded at Pinny Beach Swansea 5 Mar (ROM). **Atlas:** One record.

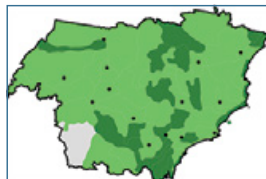
**Trend:** Uncertain.

**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.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 26.1%.



**Notable records:** Several hundred birds were flying over North Lambton 18 Sep and 100+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 3 Jul (BEI, PAL). Birds were often present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter over 21 Apr - 8 May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). Although no formal count was organised, many thousands (as a conservative minimum) were estimated to have passed through over a 17 day period (ROM, WID, many others). **Breeding:** Birds had nests with young at East Seaham 9 Feb and Broughton Island 10-12 Oct (GOA *et al.*, STA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 424 records, RR 92% of long-term.

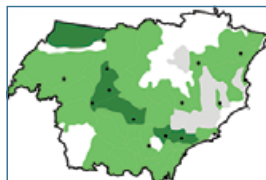
**Trend:** Probably stable.

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident; up to 50 birds frequently recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 14.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 128 records, RR 53% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again the RR was low).

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* (Genus amended)

ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Common resident (*Revised from: Usual resident*); up to 50 birds often recorded.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 17.1%.



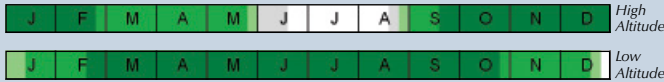
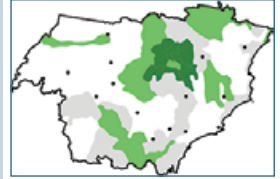
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 244 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 1.7%.



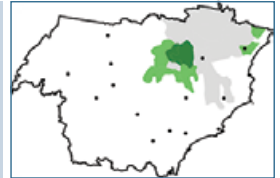
Seven birds were recorded at "Grevillia" Watagans NP 19 Feb (HOB) and 4-5 birds several times at Brunkerville (various observers). There were many and widespread records of 1-2 birds. **Atlas:** 19 records, RR 99% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

**Russet-tailed Thrush** *Zoothera heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

**Regional status:** Resident.

**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.54%.



Four separate birds were recorded in Copeland SCA 1 Dec (STA). Some birds were also at O'Sullivan's Gap RA 21 Sep (ERE), Sharpes Creek 22 Sep and 19-21 Oct (STA, HBOC), Johns River 15 Oct (MOA *et al.*), Bingleburra 20 Oct (WID) and Allyn River 30 Oct (DDR).

**Atlas:** Eight records. **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:** 1998-2016 500m RR 0.21%.



**Notable records:** At least 4 birds were present at Hunter Valley Gardens Pokolbin 10 Oct (JED).

**Breeding:** Birds were breeding at WWW Feb (HAS). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre-2016 records detailed below:

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**Maggie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*

Birds were often recorded in small numbers at Redhead Lagoon over July-Aug 2008 (EAC).

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**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

A single bird was at Redhead Lagoon 29 Dec 2015 (FRP).

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**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

A single bird was at Belmont Lagoon 24 Dec 2015 (FRP).

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**Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*

A single bird was at Sassafras Conservation Area (Taree district) 18 Nov 2015 (P. Segal per GRL).

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

A single bird was at Belmont Lagoon 24 Dec 2015 (FRP).

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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.*

**Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*

A single bird was reported to have been at Glenrock SRA 17 Aug.

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**Tropicbird** *Phaethon spp*

A bird (reported to have been a Red-tailed Tropicbird) was taken into care at Stockton Beach late Feb and sent to Taronga Zoo.

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

A single bird was reported to have been off Port Stephens 27 Nov. A detailed report has been sent to BARC for review.

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**Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus*

A report of a single bird at Cape Hawke on 28 March 2002 recently came to our attention. Although the record is unconfirmed, the description was plausible (based on a brief observation with no vocalisation heard). The observer has now been contacted and an URRF has been requested. *Historically, birds have bred in this area and it warrants a closer modern study.*

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**Frigatebird** *Fregata spp*

A bird was flying over Elizabeth Beach Forster 7 Jan – it was too distant for the observer to be able to identify which species (ERE).

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*Pink-eared Duck* by Jim Smart

## 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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**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* (NB: this species is also known as Indian Ringneck).  
A single bird was at North Lambton 31 Mar (BEI).

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**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
A single bird was at Adamstown 13 Dec (KYR).

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## AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

**Beautiful Firetail** *Stagonopleura bella*

This species remains on the Hunter Region checklist based on a record from the Widden Valley (near Red Creek) during an HBOC camp in February 1977 (observers F. van Gessel and W. Barden). However, reports from the North Rothbury area in 2009 are now believed to be connected with then-current local avicultural practice.

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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 sketches and are acknowledged accordingly within the document.

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## DATA FROM REGULAR SURVEYS

Data for waterbirds, shorebirds and seabirds 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>*)

	08,09 Jan	19,20 Feb	19,20 Mar	08,09 Apr	20,21 May	17,18 Jun	22,23 Jul	19,20 Aug	16,17 Sep	14,15 Oct	11,12 Nov	09,10 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2	6	2	2	8	4	2	25	27	13	4	6
Sooty Oystercatcher					4			3	5	8	3	9
Red-necked Avocet	2726	175	614	310	581	322	48	266	105		1	1
Black-winged Stilt	2	354	666	836	484	428					3	
Pacific Golden Plover	140	303	341	47	10	10	9	10	39	103	72	110
Red-capped Plover					1	3	5		2	2		
Double-banded Plover				1	2							
Black-fronted Dotterel	3		5	5	22	29	13	5	4	5	1	5
Masked Lapwing	54	196	187	119	84	114	62	115	41	56	55	191
Red-kneed Dotterel	2											
Whimbrel	35	53	11	23	3	5			21	48	18	45
Eastern Curlew	165	149	35	22	8	12	50	136	132	136	104	161
Bar-tailed Godwit	862	676	877	114	23	113		90	204	525	580	653
Black-tailed Godwit	107	1	96	95	11	8		4	50	45	20	25
Ruddy Turnstone						2						2
Great Knot	6	3			1	3			1	1		1
Red Knot	40								24	180	1	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	171	4463	183	219					338		38	72
Curlew Sandpiper	252	92	34					2	61	152	61	122
Red-necked Stint	4	19	10	9				1	1	1	15	9
Latham's Snipe		1									1	
Terek Sandpiper		7	5								2	6
Common Sandpiper		1	1							1	2	2
Grey-tailed Tattler		33	3	52	14	12	13		22	12	30	16
Common Greenshank	4	108	102	54	6	21		39	64	100	55	62
Marsh Sandpiper		23	1	14					1	4	29	39
Australian Pratincole									1			

<sup>\*</sup>Incomplete survey in January due to flooding

<sup>1</sup>Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used

**Table 2 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Stockton Sandspit & Fern Bay**  
*(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Red-necked Avocet	2425	24	18	640	533	2200	40		546	3		4
Black-winged Stilt	1	2	77	215	4	152	93					9
Pacific Golden Plover	121	20	200	22	7	6	7	7	15	8	7	11
Red-capped Plover		4					5	4	3	2		
Greater Sand Plover		2										
Masked Lapwing	9	22	23	4		10	2		1	7	4	15
Whimbrel	13	14	8	9	3	10				2	3	11
Eastern Curlew	112	142	51	16		4	50	44	124	131	88	137
Bar-tailed Godwit	660	630	520	114	23	113	121		577	590	570	728
Black-tailed Godwit	75	73	96	96	11	8	18		47	65	20	87
Great Knot	3	3		2	1	3	2		1	1		4
Red Knot	20	4							50	182		4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	32	200	207					40	4		36
Curlew Sandpiper	146	156	34					25	100	134	50	214
Red-necked Stint	2	1							2	6		
Terek Sandpiper		7	5								4	6
Grey-tailed Tattler		30	1	52	14	12	13		25	12	20	13
Common Greenshank	1		1	1								
Silver Gull		64	15	4					30	25		5
Little Tern										1		3
Aust. Gull-billed Tern			3	5	8	5	15	1	10	2		
Caspian Tern		2	10	14	1	4	6	6	6	3		2
Crested Tern	1	2	3	2	1	1			2		1	2
Aust. Pelican						19	1		58			
Great Egret				1		1				1		
White-faced Heron		5	2	3		2	1		2	1	1	2
Little Egret	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Aust. White Ibis	33	17		3	16		18		8		6	3
Straw-necked Ibis		1										
Royal Spoonbill				11	9		8					
Little Pied Cormorant		1				2					1	1
Little Black Cormorant				11		1		24	14	3		
Pied Cormorant	16			8		5		2	10	23	30	30
Australasian Darter				1								

**Table 3 Waterbirds in the Hunter Estuary\***  
*(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide roost sites<sup>1</sup>)*

	08,09 Jan	19,20 Feb	19,20 Mar	08,09 Apr	20,21 May	6 Jun	17,18 Jul	22,23 Aug	19,20 Sep	16,17 Oct	14,15 Nov	11,12 Dec
Maggie Goose	7											
Wand. Whistling-Duck	1	14	9									13
Pink-eared Duck	2		10	12	18							
Black Swan	182	214	58	59	18	151	85	111	84	38	64	67
Hardhead	59	62	45	54	29	4						2
Aust. Shoveler	27	55	139	155	155	14						
Pacific Black Duck	42	96	267	63	146	66	5	9	10	2	45	28
Northern Mallard			2		1							
Grey Teal	7	103	1099	1463	1446	57		12	2	2		64
Chestnut Teal	81	538	480	719	418	98	10	3	10	10	299	107
Musk Duck	1		1	3								
Aust. Wood Duck	2	3		3		4	2	6		8	29	7
Australasian Grebe	6	15	51	28	39	18	26	24	11			
Hoary-headed Grebe		1	1	59	28	5	11	2				
Buff-banded Rail												1
Purple Swamphen	19	16	28	39	34	10	13	2	11	5	10	4
Dusky Moorhen	2	1	4	11		16	3		3	1		
Eurasian Coot	248	261	306	338	114	134	77					
Silver Gull	19	175	234	396	85	79	20	42	32	32	64	66
Little Tern		1										2
Aust. Gull-billed Tern			1		8	6	1	2		1	1	
Caspian Tern		4	17	8	4	8		18	1			
Whiskered Tern											6	2
Crested Tern	1	12	6	32	25	5	2	6	1	5	2	7
Black-necked Stork										2		
Aust. Pelican	7	130	94	155	87	78	16	108	86	79	57	60
Striated Heron		1	2	1	1	1				1		5
Cattle Egret	11	54	112	28		13	8	3	3	1	21	6
White-necked Heron			1				9					
Great Egret	6	39	20	8	9	8	6	8	7	18	9	31
Intermediate Egret		4		1	3	2						
White-faced Heron	24	255	172	80	51	189	53	131	61	7	3	31
Little Egret	4	5	2	8	3	2	2	6	6	5	6	3
Aust. White Ibis		156	76	72	34	187	98	106	69	39	80	178
Straw-necked ibis			5	18		32	10					
Yellow-billed Spoonbill						1						



**Table 3 (cont'd) Waterbirds in the Hunter Estuary\***  
*(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide roost sites<sup>1</sup>)*

	08,09 Jan	19,20 Feb	19,20 Mar	08,09 Apr	20,21 May	6,17,18 Jun	22,23 Jul	19,20 Aug	16,17 Sep	14,15 Oct	11,12 Nov	09,10 Dec
Royal Spoonbill	14	63	6	4	13	51	38	19	9	14	9	12
Little Pied Cormorant	3	12	10	15	7	8	1	4	10	9	14	14
Great Cormorant			11		1	1		1	1	2	3	3
Little Black Cormorant	12	26	53	67	10	12		41	29	13	29	50
Pied Cormorant	16	33	4	9	2	9	1	8	12	31	38	34
Australasian Darter	1	5	1	1	2	3			2			1

*\*Incomplete survey in January due to flooding*

*<sup>1</sup>Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used*

**Table 4 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Phoenix Flats (on Ash Island)**  
*(Monthly maximum counts from surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Royal Spoonbill	14	63	6	4	13	51	38	19	9	14	9	12
Little Pied Cormorant	3	12	10	15	7	8	1	4	10	9	14	14
Great Cormorant			11		1	1		1	1	2	3	3
Little Black Cormorant	12	26	53	67	10	12		41	29	13	29	50
Pied Cormorant	16	33	4	9	2	9	1	8	12	31	38	34
Australasian Darter	1	5	1	1	2	3			2			1



*Striated Heron by Gary Tong*

**Table 5 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Milhams Pond (on Ash Island)***(Monthly maximum counts from surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	2		1				2			6		
Pacific Black Duck	3	1	2	5	27	26	16	2				
Grey Teal	2				67	18	3					
Chestnut Teal	16	19	63	63	48	12	23	2	6	2	7	22
Australasian Grebe				4								
Black-winged Stilt					2	2						
Pacific Golden Plover	32		56	4	3	3	3	3	2		18	
Red-capped Plover					2	3			3			
Masked Lapwing	4	4	5	14	23	30	12	4	6	5	4	2
Eastern Curlew	26	7	6	10	10	7	3	4	4	6	6	6
Bar-tailed Godwit			2							12	17	
Aust. Gull-billed Tern					1				1			
Caspian Tern				1								
Crested Tern					2							
Aust. Pelican	3			1					2	1		
Great Egret						1					1	1
White-faced Heron	15	11	6	30	30	28	27	22	5	1	1	1
Little Egret		1										
Aust. White Ibis	81	21	23	26	31	39	5	5	6	36	16	54
Straw-necked Ibis				5	1	11	5					1
Royal Spoonbill	1	2	1	2		2	1	4	1			
Little Pied Cormorant			1	1	1					1		
Little Black Cormorant			1								1	1

**Table 6 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Hunter Wetlands Centre**  
*(Highest monthly counts from surveys by P. Lightfoot, R.& M. Stewart, others)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Magpie Goose	61	15	79	94	91	90	85	92	67	48	51	34
Wand. Whistling-Duck		2		7	4	29	11				9	19
Pink-eared Duck				2	2							
Black Swan	2	2	2	4	1			2	1	12		6
Hardhead	2	1	1	4	6	6	2	12	2	1		
Australasian Shoveler	5		2	8	5	4					4	
Pacific Black Duck	12	21	40	50	39	13	23	36	25	8	32	14
Northern Mallard						1	1		1	1		1
Grey Teal	55	44	50	67	122	85	132	10	1	1	11	69
Chestnut Teal	7	20	32	26	18	10	12	9	15	21	12	45
Freckled Duck			1									
Aust. Wood Duck	1	14	15	1	1	1	1			1	8	5
Australasian Grebe		4	8	6	16	8	10	6	6			
Hoary-headed Grebe				8								
Buff-banded Rail		2		1	1	1	1	1	1			1
Purple Swamphen	23	23	14	21	10	27	36	36	27	11	22	15
Dusky Moorhen	18	11	39	41	29	22	30	25	12	12	10	27
Eurasian Coot	42	20	18	22	19	6	16	16	3	2	3	2
Black-winged Stilt	21											
Masked Lapwing	2	2	4	5	3	2		2	2	2	2	4
Nankeen Night-Heron	3	1	1									1
Cattle Egret	500	400	167	2							299	293
Great Egret	28	34 b	40	4	2	1	3	2	3	33	5	2
Intermediate Egret	5	1	3	1	2	5	1	1	1			1
White-faced Heron	1	7	1				1	1			1	1
Little Egret	5	15	5	2						2		4
Aust. White Ibis	150	122	126	71	63	67	163	165	166	160	229	161
Straw-necked Ibis	50	209	1	1	2				1	2		
Royal Spoonbill	27	1	12	22	61	11	3	6	6	14	3	16
Glossy Ibis												1
Little Pied Cormorant	4	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1
Great Cormorant		1					1				1	1
Little Black Cormorant	4	6	36	10	2	2				3	2	6
Australasian Darter				1	1	1	1	1	1	1		2

**Table 7 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Tomago Wetlands***(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	27	8		1		6	19	2	13	7	22	1
Australasian Shoveler		6		7			1					
Pacific Black Duck	1	4	21	3	19	6	12			5		
Grey Teal	25	94	0	91	30							
Chestnut Teal	3	38	137	82	114		2	19	6	45	48	5
Black-winged Stilt	1						1	1				
Pacific Golden Plover									1			
Red-capped Plover							1					2
Masked Lapwing	22	38	76	33	18	23	24	17	10	10	13	55
Eastern Curlew							13					
Bar-tailed Godwit									200			
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	28	515	148						28	14	3	660
Curlew Sandpiper						1			41			20
Red-necked Stint												1
Common Greenshank	1	2		45	6	30	48					59
Marsh Sandpiper												2
Caspian Tern												1
Black-necked Stork		1									2	1
Aust. Pelican	3	4		1					1	15	3	7
Great Egret	5	4		1	1	1	5	1	2	10		13
White-faced Heron	8	117	16	15	13	14	33	31	6	4		11
Little Egret										3	5	4
Aust. White Ibis	6	21	5	7	5	3	44		17	10	23	37
Straw-necked Ibis		1										
Royal Spoonbill	2	1		1			5			22	3	16
Glossy Ibis		2										
Little Pied Cormorant		3	1	2	3	2	2		2	2	2	
Little Black Cormorant			24	4	1	2	2		1	130	29	27
Australasian Darter												1

**Table 8 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Newcastle Baths/Harbour***(Monthly peak counts by J. Thomas & R. Nicholas)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher						1	1			3		1
Sooty Oystercatcher	44	49	42	30	14	16	11	13	16	7	19	22
Pacific Golden Plover												24
Masked Lapwing	2		1	2	2	2	2		2		3	3
Ruddy Turnstone	11	11	9	3					2	7	10	10
Red Knot									1			
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												1
Curlew Sandpiper												4
Silver Gull	110	65	93	940	850	900	60	58	40	80	60	160
Little Tern											3	
Aust. Gull-billed Tern						1						
Caspian Tern										1		
White-fronted Tern					1	4	10	90	70	2		
Common Tern	70	25	5						4		5	10
Crested Tern	75	70	64	120	400	350	155	90	80	85	75	80
Aust. Pelican	6	15	13	3	15	20	8	9	10	7	9	10
Great Egret	1			1				1				
Intermediate Egret					1							
White-faced Heron	1	1	4	2	2	1	2					
Eastern Reef Egret			1			1	1	1				
Little Pied Cormorant		1	1	1	1		1		1	2		2
Great Cormorant	17	5	5	9	8	8	2	6	8	8	3	12
Little Black Cormorant	8	8	8	8	5	12	12	15	14	12	7	17
Pied Cormorant		2	18	5	6	4	6	4	4	4		6
Australasian Darter	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2

**Table 9 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie***(Regular surveys by J. Adams, A. Taylor, M. McDonald & D. White)*

	19,20 Feb	19,20 Mar	08,09 Apr	20,21 May	17,18 Jun	22,23 Jul	19,20 Aug	16,17 Sep	14,15 Oct	11,12 Nov	09,10 Dec
Black Swan	86	466	135	311	6		6	45	142	11	3
Chestnut Teal			2					3	2	1	2
Aust. Wood Duck	60	15	19	7	3	5				12	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	11	2	2	2	4		2	1	1	1	6
Masked Lapwing	9	13	2	2	6	2	4		2	1	4
Whimbrel			1								
Eastern Curlew	5	1				1	7	1			3
Bar-tailed Godwit	60	63	26	25	3	5	14	28	20	23	35
Silver Gull	185	86	128	175	49	132	52	56	41	96	124
Little Tern		3								2	9
Caspian Tern	1	5		3		1	5			1	
Common Tern		1									
Crested Tern	8	19	13	7	1		7	10	4	5	26
Aust. Pelican	23	22	42	76	49	14	14	45	22	65	30
Striated Heron			1		1					1	1
Great Egret		1	1	1		6	4			1	
Intermediate Egret	2		1			10					
White-faced Heron	1	3	5	6	3	3		1	1	1	
Little Egret	4	2	4	2	2	19	15	6	5	1	
Aust. White Ibis	2		4	21	2		21				
Straw-necked Ibis				2							
Royal Spoonbill				6	7	8	2				
Little Pied Cormorant	5	13	24	15	2		22	12	2	2	14
Great Cormorant	2		2					1	1	1	
Little Black Cormorant	114	3	1	5	2	9	1	54	1	157	44
Pied Cormorant	12	8	5	11	6	5	9	5	4	4	2
Australasian Darter	2	1	2	3	3		1	3		1	

**Table 10 Waterbirds at Redhead Lagoon (Awabakal Nature Reserve)**  
*(Regular surveys by D. & C. Eastham)*

	21 Feb	18 Apr	20 Jun	09 Aug	12 Oct	16 Oct	14 Nov	12 Dec
Black Swan	2	2	2		2		2	1
Pacific Black Duck	27	25	3	6	11	19	29	8
Grey Teal		5						
Chestnut Teal	5	30	2	10	7	3	7	
Aust. Wood Duck	6		6	2	4	10	5	5
Australasian Grebe		10	12		2			4
Lewin's Rail	1	1	1	1			1	
Purple Swamphen	7	4	6	7	2			
Dusky Moorhen	1	3	1	1		1		1
Eurasian Coot	2	2	8					
Great Egret					1			
White-faced Heron	3				1	2	1	
Aust. White Ibis					1			
Royal Spoonbill							1	1
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
Great Cormorant					17	4	2	30
Little Black Cormorant		8				15	17	6
Australasian Darter					2	1		



*Black Swan by Margaret Clarke*

**Table 11 Waterbirds at Cold Tea Creek/Belmont Lagoon Part 1***(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	12 Jan	09 Feb	08 Mar	12 Apr	10 May	28 Jun	27 Jul	27 Aug	25 Sep	25 Oct	22 Nov	27 Dec
Black Swan	70	79	53	19	17	5			6		4	4
Pacific Black Duck				2		1						
Northern Mallard	1	6	6	3		8	6	1	1	5	7	4
Chestnut Teal	3	18	19	12	20		6	2		2	4	1
Aust. Wood Duck	17			3	3							
Aust. Pelican	5	3	4	1	1	7	15	4	8	2	2	11
Striated Heron				1	1				1			1
Great Egret	7	1			1	10		1	1			
Intermediate Egret	1					1						4
White-faced Heron					1		1					
Little Egret		2					2		2			5
Aust. White Ibis			1	2	2					1		
Royal Spoonbill									2			
Little Pied Cormorant			2	2	4	3	2	2	1		1	1
Great Cormorant	2							1	1	1	7	
Little Black Cormorant	35		85	3	2	26	4	9	26	7	2	74

*Royal Spoonbill by Darryl Luck*



**Table 12 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Cold Tea Creek/Belmont Lagoon Part 2**  
*(Regular surveys by G. Feletti)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	104	103	111	104	11		7	4	31
Pacific Black Duck	4	7	1	6	3	2	2	2	1
Grey Teal	32	22	19	12	28				2
Chestnut Teal	9	23	19	37	40	6	2	15	22
Aust. Wood Duck	16	4	6	13	11	5	8		8
Black-winged Stilt	3								
Masked Lapwing	8	1		6	2		2	1	2
Silver Gull	9	12	12	25	32	29	15	18	38
Caspian Tern			1						
Crested Tern			1		1				3
Aust. Pelican	11	10	49	8	39	20	29	12	27
Striated Heron			1	3	1		1	1	2
Great Egret	6		10	3	8	4	4	1	1
Intermediate Egret				1	4	9	17	1	14
White-faced Heron	6	5	11	2	1	1		1	1
Little Egret	4		5	1	1	6	9	1	4
Aust. White Ibis	5			5	3		1		
Straw-necked Ibis					10				
Royal Spoonbill	6	6		1					
Little Pied Cormorant	5		4	4	12	4	2	1	4
Great Cormorant				1	4	2	2		4
Little Black Cormorant	54	1	70	5	24	400	71	102	180
Pied Cormorant				2	1				
Australasian Darter				1					

**Table 13 Waterbirds at Myuna Bay**  
(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)

	12 Jan	09 Feb	08 Mar	12 Apr	10 May	28 Jun	26 Jul	27 Aug	25 Sep	25 Oct	22 Nov	27 Dec
Black Swan	70	79	53	19	17	5			6		4	4
Pacific Black Duck				2		1						
Chestnut Teal	3	18	19	12	20		6	2		2	4	1
Aust. Wood Duck	17			3	3							
Masked Lapwing				5	2	1					6	
Silver Gull	13		4	3	4	34	43	4	2	5	3	35
Caspian Tern								2				
Crested Tern						1						
Aust. Pelican	5	3	4	1	1	7	15	4	8	2	2	11
Striated Heron				1	1				1			1
Great Egret	7	1			1	10		1	1			
Intermediate Egret	1					1						4
White-faced Heron					1		1					
Little Egret		2					2		2			5
Aust. White Ibis			1	2	2					1		
Royal Spoonbill									2			
Little Pied Cormorant			2	2	4	3	2	2	1		1	1
Great Cormorant	2							1	1	1	7	
Little Black Cormorant	35		85	3	2	26	4	9	26	7	2	74



Australian Wood Duck by Alan Stuart

**Table 14 Waterbirds at Muddy Lake***(Regular surveys by A. Richardson)*

	26 Feb	28 Mar	25 Apr	26 Jun	31 Jul	29 Aug	20 Sep	23 Oct	30 Dec
Black Swan	6	10	3	6	2		1	2	4
Hardhead	25	5	25	73	16				5
Australasian Shoveler			5	3					
Pacific Black Duck	9	7	27	9	5	2		3	59
Grey Teal	1		3	4			1		2
Chestnut Teal		2	7	4	3	16	17	7	56
Aust. Wood Duck	2						2		3
Australasian Grebe	3	7	16	6	2				
Hoary-headed Grebe			9	16					
Dusky Moorhen	35	25	28	4	4	13	8	3	8
Eurasian Coot	140	92	647	34		2	2		
Aust. Pelican	3			1			2	2	1
Nankeen Night-Heron	1								
Great Egret				2			1	1	
White-faced Heron	5	1		1	1				
Little Egret	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		
Aust. White Ibis	96	76	11	6		64	77	90	245
Royal Spoonbill				5		1	1	1	
Little Pied Cormorant	13	9	18	4	6	20	28	22	8
Great Cormorant	3	5			1	1	1	12	
Little Black Cormorant	23	43	243	10	237	264	128	22	8
Pied Cormorant	4						2	2	1
Australasian Darter	2	5	3				1		1

**Table 15 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Stockton Borehole***(Regular surveys by M. McDonald)*

	14 Feb	13 Mar	27 Apr	22 May	28 Jun	29 Jul	27 Aug	25 Sep	30 Oct	27 Nov	23 Dec
Pink-eared Duck		2									
Black Swan	57	170	65	44	28	24	40	79	63	88	90
Hardhead			3	34							
Australasian Shoveler	2	11	30	35							
Pacific Black Duck	2	8	2	4							
Grey Teal	9	38	48	8		2					
Chestnut Teal	10	26	34	20			2		3		
Aust. Wood Duck							1				
Australasian Grebe	2	2	4	1	12	2					
Hoary-headed Grebe			1								
Eurasian Coot	65	150	200	97							
Red-necked Avocet		1									
Black-winged Stilt	5	35	18	2	2	8	2	5	2		9
Black-fronted Dotterel	10	12	6	4		5					
Masked Lapwing	8	7	3	1						4	43
Red-kneed Dotterel		1									
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		18									
Latham's Snipe		1									
Silver Gull	44	70	3	1				1	4	39	23
Caspian Tern		1	3	1							
Aust. Pelican	24	17	4	4				1	1	9	
Great Egret		2		1	2		1	4		2	
Intermediate Egret	1	4		2							
White-faced Heron	4	1		1	1		3				
Little Egret	3										
Aust. White Ibis	6									1	2
Royal Spoonbill		1						7	1		
Little Pied Cormorant	3							4			1
Great Cormorant		1		1					1		
Little Black Cormorant		40						1	1	2	
Australasian Darter	9	3									1

**Table 16 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Walka Water Works**  
*(Regular surveys by P. Baird, J. Smart, L. Mee, R. Kyte, M. Clarke)*

	19 Jan	10 Feb	09 Mar	06 Apr	11 May	08 Jun	13 Jul	10 Aug	14 Sep	12 Oct	09 Nov	14 Dec
Blue-billed Duck						2						
Pink-eared Duck				3	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Black Swan	2	2	2	2	3	4	2	5		4	2	6
Hardhead	26	11	13	16	12	14	11	3	1	1	1	24
Australasian Shoveler			2									
Pacific Black Duck	26	18	21	33	19	7	21	13	2	6	8	
Grey Teal	14	26	12	6	24		12	5	3	4	18	12
Chestnut Teal	11	12	65	19	6	2	6	6	21	3	4	24
Aust. Wood Duck	4	2	12	9	8		1	4	3	3	9	11
Australasian Grebe	2	3	7	12	10	32	19	22	9	4	4	6
Hoary-headed Grebe	8	45	80	72	51	222	85	9		1	1	2
Great Crested Grebe	20	21	38	41	28	15	8	7	7	9	13	15
Purple Swamphen	16	8	18	17	25	16	16	8	10	2	5	11
Dusky Moorhen	9	14	22	28	25	48	15	35	40	20	24	21
Eurasian Coot	182	230	315	294	498	699	532	205	19	5	10	39
Black-fronted Dotterel		3	7	2	2	7	1	1				1
Masked Lapwing	3		3	3	2	3		3	2	1	5	2
Aust. Pelican				1		2		1	3		4	
Cattle Egret	3	28	13	30	16	3		4		3	25	
Great Egret					2	4	1	1		1		
Intermediate Egret						2						
White-faced Heron	1			1	2	2	2			1	2	
Little Egret					1	1	2	2	3	1		
Aust. White Ibis	1											
Straw-necked ibis	61		2		80		8					
Royal Spoonbill		1			2	4	5	2				
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1	1	6	3	4	6	4		2	1	1
Great Cormorant		1	2			1	8	2		1	1	
Little Black Cormorant		2	8	7	15	14	4	1		3	3	1
Australasian Darter					1	2	1	1			1	

**Table 17 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works***(Regular surveys by A. Lindsey and G. Brosie)*

	25 Feb	24 Mar	28 Apr	25 May	28 Jun	27 Jul	09 Aug	20 Sep	24 Oct	22 Nov	22 Dec
Pink-eared Duck	57	36		4							
Black Swan	80	44	38	5	119	37	16	49	14	4	9
Hardhead	6	1									
Australasian Shoveler	47	15	87	89	10						
Pacific Black Duck	80	39	11	46	131	30	78	40	22	23	18
Grey Teal	402	716	885	1068	1059	2			4		85
Chestnut Teal	138	133	105	97	133	59	6	40	63	65	250
Freckled Duck	3										
Musk Duck								1			
Aust. Wood Duck	7	4	36				4		10	23	
Australasian Grebe	15	6		3	1	1					
Hoary-headed Grebe	1	2									
Purple Swamphen	3	4	1	5	2	9	2	4	5	3	2
Dusky Moorhen	1	2						2			
Eurasian Coot	105	9	2	2	15		7				
Red-necked Avocet	2	22		233						1	
Black-winged Stilt	211	12	106	154	52	46					15
Double-banded Plover				1							
Black-fronted Dotterel			2	53	7						
Masked Lapwing	50	105	49	66	19	2		25	16	40	46
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	17									
Silver Gull	48	1									
Aust. Gull-billed Tern	1										
Caspian Tern	2		1	3							1
Aust. Pelican	314	10	20	9	10	4	8	19	3	5	2
Cattle Egret	12	13	9	16	6	6	8		6		
White-necked Heron			1								
Great Egret	45	2		3				1		4	
Intermediate Egret	8	2									
White-faced Heron	6	14	4	4	1				1	1	3
Little Egret		2			2		1				
Aust. White Ibis	19	7		1							
Straw-necked Ibis	6	28		4	1	1					
Royal Spoonbill	27	22	2		1				6	1	
Little Pied Cormorant			1	1	1	1		8	1		
Great Cormorant	3		1					1			
Little Black Cormorant	87	7	5	3	4	2	1	4	1	7	3
Pied Cormorant	1	1									

**Table 18 Waterbirds at Ray Lawler Reserve, Morpeth**  
*(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)*

	09 Feb	16 Mar	24 Apr	21 May	30 Jun	21 Jul	16 Aug	12 Sep	18 Oct	11 Nov	29 Dec
Pacific Black Duck	6	38	34	41	36	43	26	20	17	15	15
Grey Teal		6	3	6	3	3					
Chestnut Teal	2	18	11	12	13	14	11	7	2	3	
Aust. Wood Duck					2		2		2		2
Purple Swamphen	5	7	4	6	4	3	7	3	5	8	4
Dusky Moorhen	23	20	14	14	2	1	4	4	3	20	1
Eurasian Coot	10						2				
Masked Lapwing						1	1	1			
Nankeen Night-Heron		2	7	1	9	7	5				1
Cattle Egret			10	1	2	3	17	6	3	14	
Great Egret			1				1			1	
White-faced Heron			1			1					2
Aust. White Ibis		2	4								
Straw-necked Ibis				9	1	20					
Royal Spoonbill			4						1		
Little Pied Cormorant	1										
Little Black Cormorant										1	
Australasian Darter	15	1		1						5	



*Caspian Tern by Steve Merrett*

**Table 19 Waterbirds and Shorebirds at Maitland Sites***(Surveys by M. Clarke)*

	<i>Louth Park</i>							<i>Anambah Road</i>		
	20 May	01 Jun	01 Jul	11 Sep	22 Oct	29 Nov	29 Dec	02 Aug	24 Oct	15 Nov
Black Swan								10	21	6
Pacific Black Duck					6	9	3	12	20	39
Grey Teal	8	6	6			22	5	4	6	2
Chestnut Teal					12	3			8	8
Aust. Wood Duck	29	12	15	6	23	28	15			7
Australasian Grebe		2	1					4		
Purple Swamphen								1		
Black-winged Stilt	5	6	1	3				1		
Black-fronted Dotterel		1	6	2			1			
Masked Lapwing	7	4		1	1	9	6	2	1	1
Black-necked Stork										1
Aust. Pelican	52							4	1	1
Cattle Egret	11	20		20	4		2			30
Great Egret				1	1			1	4	2
Intermediate Egret								1		
White-faced Heron		6		1			2	1	1	
Aust. White Ibis	14		3	15		4		6		
Straw-necked Ibis	8	10	30							
Yellow-billed Spoonbill									3	
Royal Spoonbill								8		
Little Pied Cormorant			1				1			
Little Black Cormorant						2	5		6	1
Australasian Darter							1	1		



**Table 19 (Cont'd) Waterbirds and Shorebirds at Maitland Sites***(Surveys by M. Clarke)**Raymond Terrace Reserve**Telerah Lagoon*

	13 Jun	15 Aug	14 Oct	30 Nov	29 Dec		09 Apr	13 May	11 Sep	29 Nov
Black Swan									10	
Pacific Black Duck	37	16	29	7	5		6	16	13	6
Grey Teal	2				2					
Chestnut Teal	9	7		9	7		7			
Aust. Wood Duck	21	2	20	9	17				8	5
Purple Swamphen		1		1	1			1	3	
Dusky Moorhen	12	10	8	6	6			2		1
Eurasian Coot	16	1					2	4		
Masked Lapwing	2			2				3	2	2
Latham's Snipe					1					
Aust. Pelican			1		2		8		2	
Nankeen Night-Heron	6	6	1							
Great Egret		1								
Intermediate Egret	2									
White-faced Heron	1									2
Aust. White Ibis	69	25	48		1			3		
Straw-necked Ibis	8									
Royal Spoonbill	1	12	4		2					
Little Pied Cormorant		1		1				1		1
Little Black Cormorant	9		5	21	21		7	7	2	1
Australasian Darter			2	1	1		1	4		

*Australian Pelicans by Steve Merrett*

**Table 20 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Rathluba Lagoon, East Maitland**  
*(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)*

	28 Jan	29 Feb	23 Mar	24 Apr	20 May	29 Jun	21 Jul	16 Aug	12 Sep	18 Oct	15 Nov	29 Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck								47				
Pink-eared Duck											1	
Pacific Black Duck	6	1	1	1	1	4			3	1	7	2
Grey Teal									2			
Chestnut Teal		2	4							2		
Aust. Wood Duck	2	3	3				2	6	4	17	26	5
Purple Swamphen	5	3	1	3	3	7	6	12	3			3
Dusky Moorhen	4	3	5	3	3	3	6	6	5	1	1	
Eurasian Coot	5				5	3	3	5				
Masked Lapwing		2	4	2	10	4	2	1		2		
Aust. Pelican								1	7	2		
Cattle Egret	6	2		18		1	1	4		1	1	25
Great Egret				1			2	1				
White-faced Heron	5				1	1						
Aust. White Ibis	30	92	42	120	69	6	1	10	5	10	4	
Straw-necked Ibis				8			1					
Royal Spoonbill	8	15	53	1			1	1	2	8		
Great Cormorant							1					
Little Black Cormorant	4	6	2	10	8		1	1	2		4	
Australasian Darter	3	6	1	1	7				4	1		

**Table 21 Waterbirds and Shorebirds at Hands Lagoon, Bolwarra**  
(Regular surveys by D. Stehr)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pacific Black Duck	P	P	P	20	P	8	3	4	P	P		P
Chestnut Teal	P		P	P								
Aust. Wood Duck	P	20	P	10	42	8	P	12	P	P	P	P
Purple Swamphen	P	P	3	2		6	4	8	P	P		
Dusky Moorhen	P	P	P	2	P	10	3	6	P	P		
Eurasian Coot	P	P		10		8	12	1	P	P		
Masked Lapwing	P	2	6	3	P	P	2			P		
Latham's Snipe	1	P										
Aust. Pelican	P	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	P	6	P	P
Cattle Egret	30	P	11	150			70	100		10	P	P
White-necked Heron			1									
Great Egret	P	P		3		P	2					
Intermediate Egret	P	P	2	1	1					P		
White-faced Heron			13	10		2	2					
Aust. White Ibis	P	P	4	3								
Straw-necked ibis			53	35	1							
Royal Spoonbill	3	P	4	1	1					P		
Little Pied Cormorant	P	P	P				1					
Little Black Cormorant	5	P	P	8			7		P	1		
Australasian Darter	P			1		1	1					

**Table 22 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Bolwarra Lagoon**  
(Regular surveys by D. Stehr)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Black Swan								4
Pacific Black Duck			8	P		2	3	
Chestnut Teal			4	4				
Aust. Wood Duck	P	20			5			
Purple Swamphen	P			2				
Black-winged Stilt					1			
Black-fronted Dotterel					1			
Masked Lapwing				P	2			1
Aust. Pelican		4	43	3	2			
Great Egret			1	1				
Yellow-billed Spoonbill				1				
Royal Spoonbill			10	8				
Little Pied Cormorant			1					

**Table 23 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve**

(Regular surveys by B. Watts, J. Jones, L. Mee)

	16 Feb	8 Mar	29 Mar	17 May	14 Jun	12 Jul	23 Aug	14 Sep	11 Oct	9 Nov	7 Dec
Black Swan					1		1			6	
Pacific Black Duck		5	4	1			1	2	1		5
Grey Teal		3									
Chestnut Teal	8	3	1	23		5	3	6			3
Aust. Wood Duck	3	3	8		11		2	7	13		3
Purple Swamphen	2		2	7	4	4	1				1
Dusky Moorhen	1	2	1	1	1	1					
Masked Lapwing		2		4			4	1	2	2	
Aust. Pelican			2		7		2				
Nankeen Night-Heron		1									
Cattle Egret	1	2	25	248	1						3
Great Egret	2			1							
Intermediate Egret					1						
White-faced Heron	1		1								
Straw-necked Ibis			22								
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		1									
Royal Spoonbill	12	16	61	15	1	3	5	11	6	4	
Little Pied Cormorant			3	2							
Little Black Cormorant	1	1	7							4	2
Pied Cormorant		1									



*Little Black Cormorant by Lorna Mee*

**Table 24 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Tocal Wetlands***(Regular surveys led by P. Baird\*)*

	30 Jan	29 Feb	30 Apr	30 May	28 Jun	29 Jul	31 Aug	27 Sept	28 Nov	30 Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck		31								
Pink-eared Duck	1	31	9	124	13		3			
Black Swan	2	4			2	2	3	6	5	
Hardhead		19								
Australasian Shoveler			5							
Pacific Black Duck	31	41	26		4	4	9	6	26	7
Grey Teal	16	46	112	2	65	66	5	6	9	16
Chestnut Teal	2	11	4		6		9	7	2	3
Aust. Wood Duck	23	32			4	2	9	2	6	14
Australasian Grebe	1	1								
Purple Swamphen		8				7		1	3	
Dusky Moorhen	3	2								
Eurasian Coot	18	1								
Black-winged Stilt	1	4	8	8	6	9	2			
Black-fronted Dotterel	2		6	2				2	6	4
Masked Lapwing	19	3	17	21	29	8	9	8	11	8
Red-kneed Dotterel							2			
Aust. Pelican	8	14	6			1	3			
Cattle Egret		45	177	1	6			2		
White-necked Heron	5		1		2					
Great Egret	2	7				1			1	1
Intermediate Egret									1	
White-faced Heron		2		1			1	1		2
Aust. White Ibis	11	3								
Straw-necked ibis			2		13					9
Royal Spoonbill	3	4	12							
Little Pied Cormorant	1							1	1	1
Great Cormorant						3	1	1		
Little Black Cormorant		1						1		

\* Surveys March &amp; October were not conducted

**Table 25 Waterbirds & Shorebirds Birubi Beach to Tomaree Head***(Coordinated by Lois Wooding)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher					2	5	20	15	28	12	34	
Sooty Oystercatcher			1	4	4	6	2	6	7		9	4
Masked Lapwing			2	2	2	4	4	4	2			2
Silver Gull	261	369	273	283	309	355	198	199	102	87	56	104
White-fronted Tern			1									
Crested Tern	79	82	43	57	63	42	69	19	10	4	11	48
White-faced Heron	2		1									
Eastern Reef Egret			1		2			1	1	1		
Aust. White Ibis		7			4	5		2				
Australasian Gannet				11	5	2	6	5				
Little Pied Cormorant		4		8			1	1	1		1	2
Great Cormorant	1	73		27	24	4		37	29	10	31	12
Little Black Cormorant			14									
Pied Cormorant	4	12	1	15	18	3		7	8		12	3

**Table 26 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Worimi Conservation Lands***(Regular surveys by A. Lindsey, N. Fraser, N. Russell, J. Tarrant)*

	18 Feb	18 Mar	15 Apr	20 May	15 Jun	22 Jul	19 Aug	19 Sep	14 Oct	11 Nov	09 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	38	53	54	19	39	49	32	26	44	39	35
Red-capped Plover	22	27	36	20	18	36	2	1	35	7	1
Double-banded Plover	2	21	91	85	1	79	26				
Hooded Plover						1	1				
Bar-tailed Godwit								15		16	1
Ruddy Turnstone									2		
Great Knot								1		1	
Red Knot								2		4	1
Red-necked Stint	18		4				1		1	10	
Sanderling							1		2	3	5
Silver Gull	283	340	190	176	56	37	31	27	76	44	29
Aust. Gull-billed Tern		18	2	23	1	35	58	18			
Common Tern	2										
Crested Tern	6	27	140	8	95	5	5		7	60	
Great Cormorant							1				

**Table 27 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Gir-um-bit NP, Swan Bay**  
(Regular surveys by members of HBOC)

	9 Jan	20 Feb	19 Mar	9 Apr	21 May	18 Jun	24 Jul	20 Aug	17 Sep	15 Oct	12 Nov	10 Dec
Black Swan	12	22	12	7			3	20		2		
Chestnut Teal		3				6						
Aust. Wood Duck			12		4	7		1		183		
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	3	45	20	27	42	48	44	41	34	29	3	17
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	27	1		12	5		17	12	6		2
Pacific Golden Plover		1	18	3				8				
Red-capped Plover				6	11		2		1	3	4	
Double-banded Plover				10			8					
Masked Lapwing	4	5	9	6	9	8	14	2	5	3	2	8
Whimbrel		15	2	24	14	27		1	15	13		1
Eastern Curlew	106	138	50	16		25	98	68	250	140	90	8
Bar-tailed Godwit	38	55	86	25	31	79	13	52	143	73	6	20
Red-necked Stint		2				3						
Grey-tailed Tattler	2	5	18	39	1	28		1	1	1		
Silver Gull			5	4	4	1		1	4	5	2	2
Aust. Gull-billed Tern					9	1	2	11	1			
Caspian Tern		1	3		13	8	28	17	17			
Crested Tern		8	7	16	7			2	4			
Aust. Pelican				1	4	1						
Striated Heron					1							
Cattle Egret			1		2		24					
Great Egret		1	1				1	1	1	1		2
Intermediate Egret			1	3								
White-faced Heron		1	2	8	6	4	9			1		
Aust. White Ibis		31	37			7	5	1	3		8	
Straw-necked Ibis			20		1	8	1					
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2			2	2			1			
Great Cormorant						13	4	15		2		
Little Black Cormorant		30						1				
Pied Cormorant	1	12	9	5	17	15	22		7	8		8

**Table 28 Waterbirds & Shorebirds in Port Stephens***(Boat based surveys at high tide, by HBOC members in 6 teams)*

Species	19 Feb	22 Jul*	Species	19 Feb	22 Jul*
Black Swan	142	19	Little Tern	87	
Pacific Black Duck	2		Aust. Gull-billed Tern		2
Chestnut Teal	6	6	Caspian Tern	2	43
Aust. Wood Duck	38	4	White-fronted Tern		1
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	164	120	Common Tern	40	
Sooty Oystercatcher	42	37	Crested Tern	165	76
Pacific Golden Plover	1		Aust. Pelican	53	152
Red-capped Plover	24	9	Striated Heron		1
Double-banded Plover	1	28	Cattle Egret	1	
Masked Lapwing	34	42	Great Egret	1	13
Whimbrel	301	67	White-faced Heron	24	35
Eastern Curlew	263	127	Little Egret	1	4
Bar-tailed Godwit	528	82	Aust. White Ibis	24	14
Ruddy Turnstone	3		Little Pied Cormorant	48	149
Red-necked Stint	23		Great Cormorant	17	46
Terek Sandpiper	4		Little Black Cormorant	109	216
Grey-tailed Tattler	33		Pied Cormorant	161	609
Silver Gull	316	179	Australasian Darter	4	15

*\*Boat based surveys on 22 July supplemented by land based visit to Cir-um-bit NP/Swan Bay on 24 July***Table 29 Waterbirds at Cattai Wetlands***(Surveys by A. Stuart)*

	16 Feb	8 Mar	29 Mar	17 May
Black Swan	3	15	7	7
Hardhead	20	3		
Pacific Black Duck	2	88	16	8
Grey Teal	4	26	2	6
Chestnut Teal		3	15	5
Aust. Wood Duck	5			
Australasian Grebe			4	
Purple Swamphen	1	9		
Eurasian Coot		70	1	
Comb-crested Jacana	5	4	3	1
Little Pied Cormorant		1	1	
Great Cormorant	1			
Little Black Cormorant	17		2	6



**Table 30 Birds from Pelagic Surveys***(Counts from surveys led by M. Roderick and D. Williams)*

	10 Jan	7 Feb	17 Apr	21 Jul <sup>1</sup>	31 Jul <sup>3</sup>	7 Aug	26 Oct <sup>1</sup>	13 Nov	27 Nov
Arctic Jaeger		1	5				1		3
Pomarine Jaeger	2	13					5	11	15
Brown Skua				3		1			
White Tern			1						
Silver Gull			6	1000+ <sup>2</sup>	9	20	2	6	10
Crested Tern	6	11	12	50	8	18	2	8	2
Red-tailed Tropicbird		2							
Little Penguin								1	1
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			50			2	30	20	8
White-faced Storm-Petrel	2		2			3		1	3
Wandering type Albatross						1			1
Antipodean Albatross							1		
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross				40	12	15			
Black-browed type Albatross				11	1	4			1
Black-browed Albatross				8		4	2	2	1
Campbell Albatross				1			8		
Buller's Albatross				1		3		1	
Shy type Albatross				2		2	10	2	4
Northern Giant-Petrel				1					
Southern Giant-Petrel						2			
Antarctic Prion						6			
Slender-billed Prion						3			
Fairy Prion				50	40	50			
Gould's Petrel	4	3						1	16
Cook's Petrel <sup>4</sup>									1
Providence Petrel			7	1	3	3	3		8
Kermadec Petrel	1								
Grey-faced Petrel	2	6	2			1		1	200
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	250	400	650				2000	400	300
Short-tailed Shearwater	8	15	4				30	10	25
Sooty Shearwater	1		2				2	3	30
Flesh-footed Shearwater	20	140	100						40
Fluttering Shearwater	4	2	4	615	1	8	2	6	
Hutton's Shearwater	9		2				8		
Fluttering/Hutton's type S/Water	4	2	4	3	7			10	1
Australasian Gannet	1	4	40	45	250	40		6	4

1. Departed from Swansea

2. Despite being outside of the heads, these birds were associated with Moon Island

3. Departed from Forster

4. Pending BARC review.

## 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	Bulahdelah	P7
Appletree Flat	H8	Bulga	I8
Arrowfield	H7	Cabbage Tree Island	P9
Ash Island	M10	Catherine Hill Bay	L11
Awabakal NR	M10/11	Cessnock	K9/K10
Balickera	M9	Chichester Dam	M6
Barrington House	L5	Chichester SF	K5/L5
Battery Rocks	E6	Clarencetown	M8
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Coon Island (Swansea Channel)	L11
Belltrees	I4	Cooranbong	K11
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Copeland Common	N4
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5
Black Neds Bay	L11	Copeland Tops SCA	M4
Blue Gum Hills RP	K10	Corrie Island	O9
Bootawah	Q4	Denman	G7
Bolwarra	L9	Dungog	M7
Boarding House Dam	K11	Durridgere Rd	A6
Boondelbah Island	P9	Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Fingal Bay	O9
Broke	I9	Forster	R6
Broughton Island	P8	Fosterton Loop	M7

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	Williamstown	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		
Oyster Cove	N9		
Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10		

## APPENDIX 2016 RAC REPORT

Below is a list of cases assessed by the Hunter Bird Observers Club Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) in 2016. A summary of each case is provided, along with selected photographs. A summary of cases relevant to the Hunter Region assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2016 is also provided.

No.	Species	Location	Date	Status
441	Kermadec Petrel	Port Stephens pelagic	10 January 2016	Accepted
442	Freckled Duck	Toronto Wetlands	31 January 2016	Accepted
443	Black-eared Cuckoo	Giants Creek	1 February 2016	Accepted
444	Greater Sand-Plover	Stockton Sandspit	6 February 2016	Accepted
445	Red-tailed Tropicbird	Port Stephens pelagic	7 February 2016	Accepted
446	Oriental Cuckoo	Walka Water Works	10 February 2016	Accepted
447	Little Bittern	Cameron Park	22 March 2016	Accepted
448	White Tern	Port Stephens pelagic	17 April 2016	Accepted
449	Singing Honeyeater	Medhurst Bridge	14 May 2016	Accepted
450	Buller's Albatross	Swansea pelagic	21 July 2016	Accepted
451	Hooded Plover	Stockton Beach	22 July 2016	Accepted
452	Buller's Albatross	Port Stephens pelagic	7 August 2016	Accepted
453	Slender-billed Prion	Port Stephens pelagic	7 August 2016	Accepted
454	Antarctic Prion	Port Stephens pelagic	7 August 2016	Accepted
455	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Whitebridge	23 September 2016	Accepted
456	Australian Pratincole	Hexham Swamp	16 September 2016	Accepted
457	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Cape Hawke	4 October 2016	Accepted
458	Pilotbird	Mount Coricudgy	3 October 2016	Accepted
459	Grey Currawong	Mount Coricudgy	5 October 2016	Accepted
460	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Harrington	14 September 2016	Accepted
462	Buller's Albatross	Port Stephens pelagic	13 November 2016	Accepted
463	Diamond Dove	Durrigere Road, via Ulan	6 December 2016	Accepted

\*Note that Case #461 was not assessed due to a lack of information available to the committee.

### List of Unconfirmed Reports

The following cases were assessed by the RAC during 2016 but were not accepted by the protocol majority proportion of committee members.

427	White Tern	Seal Rocks	23 March 2009	Not Accepted
428	Masked Booby	Seal Rocks	23 March 2009	Not Accepted
429	Grey Currawong	Wollemi NP	20 May 2010	Not Accepted
430	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Yarrawa Deviation	19 May 2010	Not Accepted

## Case Summaries

### Case 441

A pale phase **Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta* was seen and photographed near the continental shelf on the Port Stephens pelagic on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Mick Roderick et al**

*Photo by Allan Richardson*



**Case 442** A single **Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa* was observed at Toronto Wetlands on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. As this species was still a Category 3 bird at the time, conformation was requested and an Unusual Record Report Form (URRF) was submitted (and the record accepted unanimously). Freckled Duck has now been 'downgraded' to a Category 2 species in the Region.

**Pam Durie**

**Case 443** An adult **Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx osculans* was found at a well-known birding location in Giants Creek on 1 February 2016. Although this species is a Category 2 bird in the Region, an URRF was submitted by the observer, detailing the sighting and providing accompanying photographs. Several observers visited the site in the ensuing days and found the bird easily. **Alan Stuart**

**Case 444** Two **Greater Sand-Plovers** *Charadrius leschenaultii* were first seen and photographed at Stockton Sandspit on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Several other observers subsequently visited the site and the birds were again found and photographs taken. Although no URRF was submitted, photographs were circulated amongst the committee and all but one member agreed that identification of the birds as Greater Sand-Plovers was correct. **Tony Bischoff**

**Case 445** A **Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda* was seen and photographed about 5 miles inside the continental shelf break on the Port Stephens pelagic on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 446** This case pertains to an **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* that was present for a short period of time during February 2016 at Walka Water Works. The bird was found initially by observers doing the regular monthly bird surveys there, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. The bird was quite distant and no photographs were taken. However, their description of the bird was unmistakably that of an Oriental Cuckoo and the bird was subsequently seen by several people over the course of the next few days. Remarkably, no photographs were able to be taken by any of those subsequent observers, due to the skittish nature of the bird. **Lorna Mee, Jim Smart, Rob Kyte, Marg Clarke**

**Case 447** A recently fledged **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius* was taken into care after being found in a backyard at Cameron Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. The bird was rehabilitated and was subsequently released back into the wild. Given that the bird had only recently fledged (evidenced by downy feathers still on the head) the committee was in agreement that this should constitute a breeding record as the bird would have fledged from very close to the site where it was found. This is the first confirmed breeding record for Little Bittern in the Region. **Mark Simpson**

**Case 448** A **White Tern** *Gygis alba* was observed at close range by all observers on board the Port Stephens pelagic at the continental shelf on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 449** A **Singing Honeyeater *Gavicalis virescens*** was photographed at Medhurst Bridge (Martindale Valley) on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The bird was subsequently found and photographed by other observers at the site. **Lene Parashou**

**Case 450** An adult **Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*** was seen and photographed on the outward leg to the continental shelf off Swansea pelagic, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016. **Allan Benson, Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 451** A juvenile **Hooded Plover *Thinornis cucullatus*** was found at the northern end of Stockton Beach (Worimi Conservation Lands) near Birubi during a monthly survey on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016. The bird was subsequently seen for a period of weeks after the initial observation. This represents an addition to the Hunter Region checklist, though some unsubstantiated historical claims from the Port Stephens area exist. **Ann Lindsey, Neil Fraser**

**Case 452** Three individual **Buller's Albatrosses *Thalassarche bulleri*** were seen and photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016. On the same day several **Slender-billed Prions *Pachyptila belcheri*** and **Antarctic Prions *P. desolata*** were present for the majority of time spent at the continental shelf (as well as numerous of the regular Fairy Prion *P. turtur*). The Slender-billed and Antarctic Prions represent Cases 453 & 454 respectively. **Mick Roderick et al**

**Case 455** A dead **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*** was found at a residence on Burwood Road, Whitebridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016. **Ken Wells per Carol Wells, per Ann Lindsey**

**Case 456** An **Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*** was found on Hexham Swamp 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The bird was subsequently seen by several observers until the 25<sup>th</sup> September after which the bird was not seen again. **Ann Lindsey**

**Case 457** A single **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*** was reported from a fruiting fig tree at Cape Hawke (south of Forster) on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The bird was keeping company with numerous other frugivorous birds including several Wompoo Fruit-Doves. At least one Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove was seen by subsequent visitors to the site during early October. **David Ongley**

#### **Case 458**

A total of eight **Pilotbirds *Pycnoptilus floccosus*** were observed and/or heard calling (some also photographed) between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 on and eastward of the summit of Mount Coricudgy in the extreme west of the Region. This species is considered to be resident in this part of the Region, though records are very few, perhaps due to the difficulty in accessing the area.

**Allan Richardson**

*Photo by Allan Richardson*



**Case 459** A total of four **Grey Currawongs** *Strepera versicolor* were observed near the summit of Mount Coricudgy on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016. More birds, including a pair at nest, were observed just outside the Region slightly to west of the mountain's summit. There are no breeding records of this species in the Hunter Region (or Valley) so this nest of interest as it is highly likely that they would nest inside the Hunter as well. These are the first confirmed Hunter records since 2009 and the first from Mount Coricudgy since September 2007, though as for the Pilotbird, the difficulty in accessing the site doubtless plays a role in the paucity of records. **Allan Richardson**

**Case 460** Several members of Central Coast group of Birding NSW saw a group of five **Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves** *Ptilinopus regina* in the rainforest at Harrington on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016. **Graeme Catt, Alan Morris et al**

**Case 462** A **Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri* was seen and photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The bird had a broken left leg and it is possible that this is the same individual that has been observed on other Hunter pelagic trips. This is the first spring record for this species off the Hunter coast **Mick Roderick et al.**

### Case 463

A **Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata* was observed at close range at a site along Durrigere Road, approximately 18km north-east of Ulan on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The bird was 4km to the south of where a juvenile Diamond Dove was seen on the 3 April 2015 (in Durrigere State Conservation Area; HBOC RAC Case #420). This is just the 4<sup>th</sup> record for the Region.

**Ian Benson**

*Photo by Ian Benson*



## Hunter Region Cases assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2016

No cases relevant to the Hunter Region were assessed by the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) during 2016. The following case was assessed the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) during 2016:

### NSW ORAC Case 652:

An adult male **Red-backed Buttonquail** *Turnix maculosus* was seen and photographed at Tuncurry Racecourse on February 27, 2014 (the first confirmed sighting in NSW since January 2012, which was NSW ORAC Case 545).

**Accepted.** Submitted by Nick Thompson

## 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>ADJ</b>	Jack Adams	<b>FAA</b>	Adam Fawcett
<b>ALD</b>	Dan Allen	<b>FAB</b>	Belle Farley
<b>ALP</b>	Peter Alexander	<b>FEG</b>	Grahame Feletti
<b>ANC</b>	Craig Anderson	<b>FES</b>	Sarah Fenning
<b>BAP</b>	Paul Baird	<b>FLS</b>	Stuart Fleming
<b>BBB</b>	Back o' Bourke Buzzards Twitchathon team	<b>FRA</b>	Andy Frost
<b>BEI</b>	Ian Benson	<b>FRN</b>	Neil Fraser
<b>BEJ</b>	Joshua Bergmark	<b>FRP</b>	Paul Freeman
<b>BIT</b>	Tony Bischoff	<b>GAL</b>	Lee Galloway
<b>BLS</b>	Stuart Blanch	<b>GOA</b>	Anthony Gooden
<b>BNSW</b>	Birding NSW newsletter	<b>GOC</b>	Colin, Rachel Goodenough
<b>BRG</b>	Grant Brosie	<b>GOJ</b>	John Goswell
<b>BRM</b>	Max Breckenridge	<b>GOS</b>	Simon Gorta
<b>BUK</b>	Ken Burgess	<b>GRL</b>	Lucas Grenadier
<b>CAA</b>	Ashley Carlson	<b>HAP</b>	Phil Hansbro
<b>CAG</b>	Graeme Castles	<b>HAS</b>	Sue Hamonet
<b>CAN</b>	Nicholas Carlile	<b>HAR</b>	Richard Harris
<b>CAS</b>	Susanne Callaghan	<b>HBOC</b>	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
<b>CCB</b>	Central Coast Group of Birding NSW	<b>HBW</b>	Hastings Bird Watchers
<b>CJB</b>	John, Beth Cockerell	<b>HCL</b>	Chris, Liz Herbert
<b>CLM</b>	Margaret Clarke	<b>HDM</b>	Dianne, Michael Hatfield
<b>CLT</b>	Tom Clarke	<b>HHB</b>	Hunter Home Brewers Twitchathon team
<b>COD</b>	Dick Cooper	<b>HID</b>	Dennis Hirst
<b>CON</b>	Nathan Cooper	<b>HOB</b>	Bruce Hosken
<b>COS</b>	Steven Cox	<b>HOH</b>	Helen Horn
<b>CRL</b>	Liz Crawford	<b>HRK</b>	Rod, Karen Howie
<b>CRO</b>	Robert Clifton	<b>HUB</b>	Report posted to Hunterbirding e-mail group
<b>CSH</b>	Shaun Corry	<b>HUJ</b>	Julia Hudd
<b>DBP</b>	Penny Drake-Brockman	<b>HWS</b>	HBOC Wader Surveys
<b>DCD</b>	Chris, Dianne Dent	<b>JAM</b>	Mark Jackson
<b>DDR</b>	Dodgy Drongos Twitchathon team	<b>JED</b>	Dick Jenkin
<b>EAC</b>	Chris Eastham	<b>JLA</b>	Laura Johnson
<b>ERE</b>	Report on <a href="http://www.ereamae.com">www.ereamae.com</a> (NSW Birdline)	<b>JOL</b>	Linda Johnson
		<b>JOJ</b>	Jeff Jones



<b>JOM</b>	Mark Jolly	<b>PAL</b>	Lene Parashou
<b>JUN</b>	Nathan Juchau	<b>PAR</b>	Robert Payne
<b>KAL</b>	Andrzej, Lynn Karpziel	<b>PEG</b>	Greg Pearson
<b>KEM</b>	Michael Kearns	<b>PEJ</b>	Jeff Pettifer
<b>KET</b>	Tom Kendall	<b>POJ</b>	Jenny Powers
<b>KIB</b>	Bill Kinsey	<b>RAL</b>	Lyn Rayward
<b>KYR</b>	Rob Kyte	<b>RDB</b>	Dot, Bob Raine
<b>LAB</b>	Brian Laut	<b>RIA</b>	Allan Richardson
<b>LAJ</b>	John Lawson	<b>ROG</b>	Greg Roberts
<b>LAT</b>	Toby Lambert	<b>ROM</b>	Mick Roderick
<b>LAW</b>	Winsome Lambkin	<b>ROS</b>	Steve Roderick
<b>LIA</b>	Ann Lindsey	<b>SCP</b>	Peter Schofield
<b>LIG</b>	Greg Little	<b>SDI</b>	Dinah Stehr
<b>LIP</b>	Paddy Lightfoot	<b>SIA</b>	Alwyn Simple
<b>MAT</b>	Toni Marsh	<b>SIM</b>	Mark Simpson
<b>MCE</b>	Eula McKane	<b>SMJ</b>	Jim Smart
<b>MCM</b>	Mandy McDonald	<b>SMR</b>	Rowley Smith
<b>MCN</b>	Neville McNaughton	<b>SRM</b>	Robert, Margaret Stewart
<b>MCR</b>	Robert McDonald	<b>STA</b>	Alan Stuart
<b>MCS</b>	Shaun McKay	<b>STD</b>	David Stuart
<b>MDV</b>	Don, Val Moon	<b>STG</b>	Graeme Stevens
<b>MEL</b>	Lorna Mee	<b>STH</b>	Helen Stevens
<b>MES</b>	Steve Merrett	<b>STJ</b>	Joel Stibbard
<b>MGLB</b>	Reported in Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers newsletter	<b>STP</b>	Peter Struik
<b>MIJ</b>	John Mills	<b>SYC</b>	Chris Syme
<b>MOA</b>	Alan Morris	<b>TBW</b>	Tomaree Bird Watchers
<b>MOD</b>	Drew Morris	<b>THJ</b>	Judi Thomas
<b>MOF</b>	Feach Moyle	<b>TOG</b>	Gary Tong
<b>MRO</b>	Rob McDonell	<b>TUJ</b>	Jean Tucker
<b>MUJ</b>	Jenny Musicka	<b>VGF</b>	Fred van Gessel
<b>MUT</b>	Trevor Murray	<b>WAB</b>	Bruce Watts
<b>NAK</b>	Krishna Nagarajan	<b>WAR</b>	Rod Warnock
<b>NED</b>	Denzo Neader	<b>WEJ</b>	Judy Westphal
<b>NEG</b>	Greg Newling	<b>WID</b>	Dan Williams
<b>NIG</b>	Geoff Nicholls	<b>WIH</b>	Helen Windon
<b>NIJ</b>	Joy Nicholls	<b>WIT</b>	Trevor Williams
<b>NIR</b>	Richard Nicholas	<b>WOL</b>	Lois Wooding
<b>OCG</b>	Graeme O'Connor	<b>ZOJ</b>	Jenny Zobec
<b>OWS</b>	Stephanie Owen		
<b>PAJ</b>	Jeff Page		

# INDEX OF COMMON NAMES

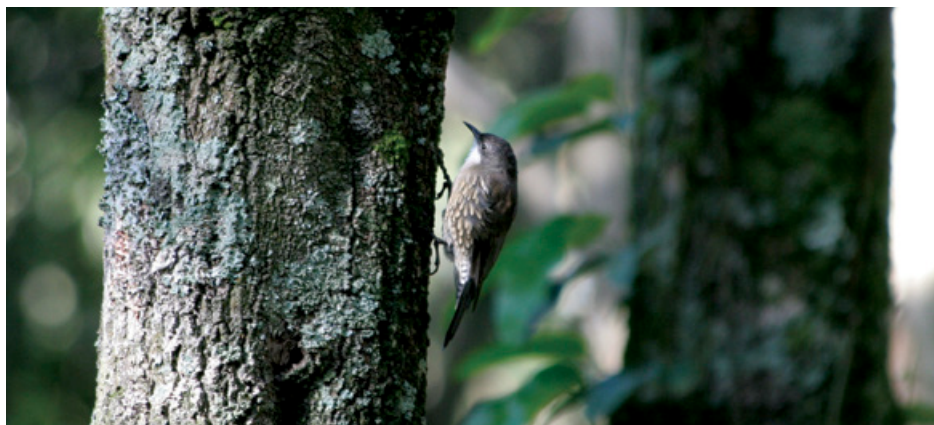
<b>A</b>		Button-quail		<b>D</b>	
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		Pied	92		

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		Rose	99	Latham's	34	
		Scarlet	100			
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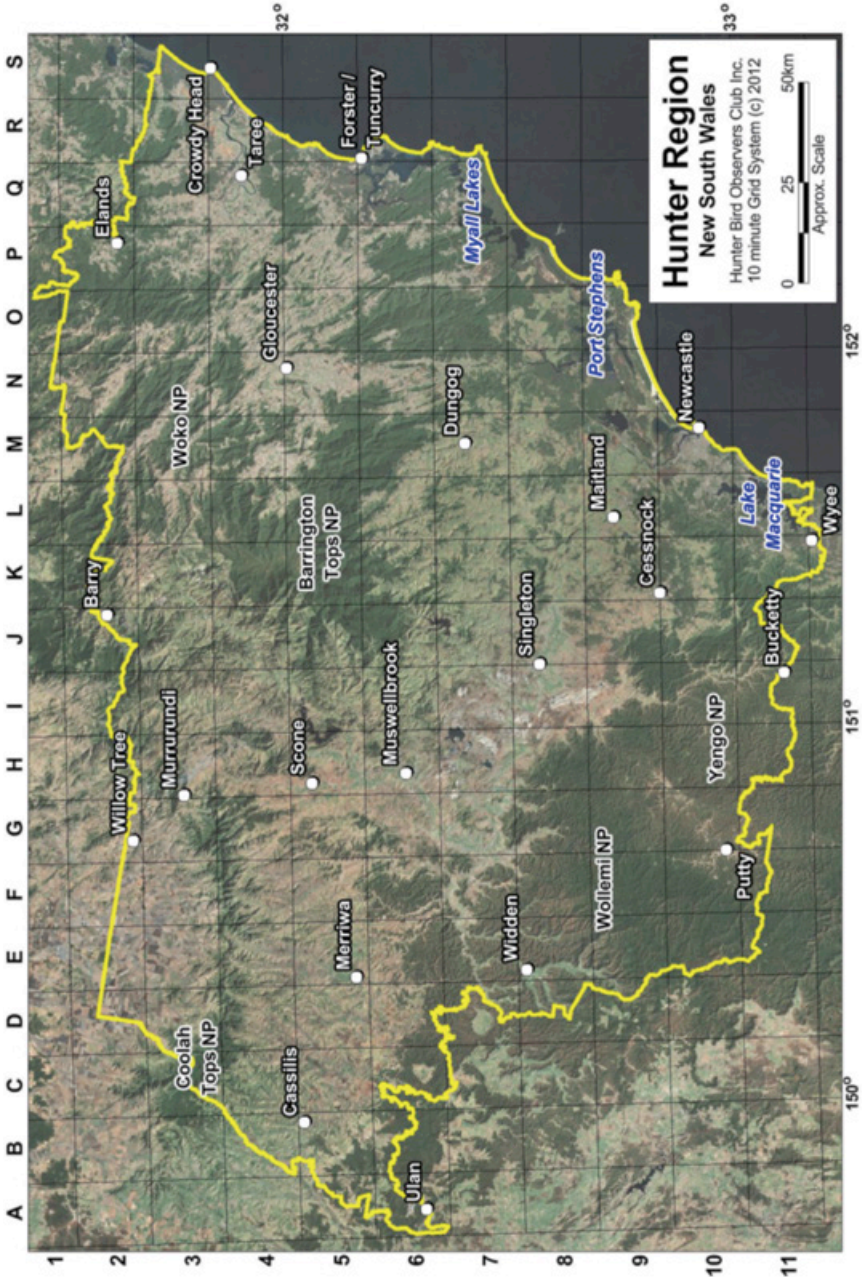
Songlark		<b>T</b>		Tropicbird	
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*White-throated Treecreeper by Gary Tong*

# 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.





Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*)

*Photo: Alwyn Simple*

