

HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Annual Bird Report Number 25 (2017)

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Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

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

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

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

Visit www.hboc.org.au for more details. Membership categories are Single, Family and Junior, and applications for membership are welcomed at any time.

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

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Back cover: Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) by Alan Stuart

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Southern Boobook by Gary Tong

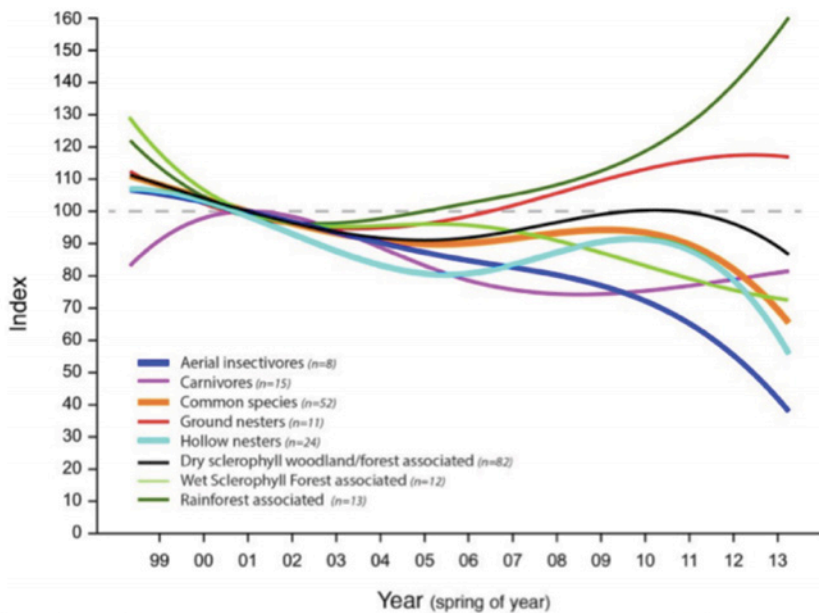
FOREWORD

It's my great pleasure to provide a foreword to the 2017 bird report. The relationship between the Hunter Bird Observer's Club and BirdLife Australia goes from strength to strength. Since well before a formal affiliation of the two organisations in 2014, which reflected both a cultural affinity and many shared aims, the Hunter Bird Observer's Club has contributed significant volumes of high-quality data to the Atlas of Australian Birds project, now informally known as Birddata, and other critical monitoring programs such as Shorebirds 2020. A productive relationship with the BirdLife monitoring program team has meant that this data is well curated and available for a number of purposes. One of the primary outputs is of course this excellent report, but there are a number of other applications, one of which I'd like to mention here.

In 2015 BirdLife Australia produced what I personally think was a landmark report on the State of Australia's Birds, comprised of hundreds of regional trend analyses of terrestrial birds based on 15 years of 500m area and two hectare search data collected by volunteers across the country.

The report adopted a regional and guild approach to the population trend analysis: we felt that this was about the right scale to provide meaningful trends. For some regions, such as Tasmania, the Wet Tropics and Southwestern Australia, there were insufficient data to present analyses at this scale. The East Coast, not unexpectedly given the number of observers living in the region, provided a wealth of data for analysis, and produced some interesting and in cases quite concerning results – see image below; the full report is at:

birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/e-news/soab/indices/East-Coast.pdf



We found that many common species were declining overall across the region in this period, including groups such as aerial insectivores and hollow nesting birds, some woodland birds, and quite a few common species (such as Pied Butcherbird). These sometimes counterintuitive results showed that we have cause to be concerned not only for our many threatened species, but for many unlisted birds as well.

In fact, the survey data pouring into our database resulted in a trend analysis for Dusky Woodswallow, and ultimately the listing of this bird as Vulnerable in NSW in 2016. This process of listing is critical to the conservation of a threatened bird, as it allows for and increases the likelihood of the allocation of resources to that purpose.

What other birds are in trouble? A quick look at the species graphs in the 2015 report suggest that supposedly common insectivores, such as the Rainbow Bee-eater may be in serious decline in the region. And when we look across regions and see consistent declines in many areas, as we see for Southern Boobook, then there is even more cause for concern. This work allows us to create a watch-list of such species to prioritise more detailed analysis.

These results would not have been possible without the dedicated work of many hundreds of volunteers, including more than 200 volunteers in the Hunter region. They show the immense value of the work of your volunteers, particularly in providing the structured monitoring work that goes into the fixed-site survey data we use in these trend analyses.

In 2019 it is our intention to work on the next State of Australia's Birds report, which will present analyses of 20 years of structured monitoring data and be published in 2020. This work will also inform the Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020, which provides national threatened species listing recommendations for all of our birds, and now feeds directly into the Commonwealth process for listing, and therefore conservation investment. All of this work is based to a great extent on the fixed site survey data provided by volunteers.

I want to thank all the birders of the Hunter who have submitted data over the last two decades, encourage you all to continue your amazing efforts, and exhort you to get the maximum value out of those efforts for research and conservation **by concentrating on the fixed-site two hectare surveys** that give us so much power to provide population trends for terrestrial birds. Download the Birddata app, talk with your group about poorly surveyed areas, revisit the fixed sites, and enjoy knowing that your birding is resulting in very real and meaningful knowledge for conservation. It will be fascinating to see what your data tell us about how birds are faring in the Hunter, and across our island continent, in 2020.

James O'Connor

Head of Research, BirdLife Australia

NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

If for no other reason, 2017 would be considered a momentous year because of the significant influx of western birds that occurred in spring (assumed to be in relation to drying inland conditions). However, and remarkably, there also were five additions to the Hunter Region checklist in 2017. And, once again there was a substantial movement of migrating passerines through the lower Hunter in autumn.

Notable records for the year (including some negatives) were:

- **Plumed Whistling-Duck:** 500+ birds at Doughboy Hollow 21 Jul
- **Blue-billed Duck:** A single bird at Walka Waterworks 2 Sep
- **Pink-eared Duck:** A substantial influx to the lower Hunter in June and Aug-Sep
- **Hardhead:** 800 birds at Morpeth WTW 28 Apr
- **Pacific Black Duck:** 1,242 birds at Morpeth WTW 28 Apr and 654 birds 28 Mar
- **Grey Teal:** 3,651 birds in the Hunter Estuary in Mar, also 2,533 birds May and 1,919 birds Oct
- **Chestnut Teal:** 3,836 birds in the Hunter Estuary Mar and 1,000-2,000+ birds over Feb-May (1.0-3.8% of total population).
- **Freckled Duck:** 104 birds at wetlands around Shortland 2 Oct
- **King Quail:** Up to seven birds at Minimbah 21-24 May and 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp several times from Oct
- **Hoary-headed Grebe:** 132 birds at Walka Waterworks 10 May
- **Great Crested Grebe:** 43 birds at Walka Waterworks 13 Apr
- **Brush Bronzewing:** Numerous records from Belmont sites
- **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove:** Several records in Oct-Dec
- **Black-eared Cuckoo:** Several records in Apr and Sep-Oct
- **Oriental Cuckoo:** Six separate birds, recorded from widespread locations
- **White-throated Needletail:** 900+ birds at Hexham Swamp 23 Dec
- **Australian Spotted Crane:** 40 birds at Hexham Swamp 22 Sep and many other records
- **Baillon's Crane:** 23 birds at Hexham Swamp 22 Sep and many other records
- **Eurasian Coot:** ~10,000 birds at White Tree Bay Myall Lakes NP 5 Dec
- **Australian Pied Oystercatcher:** First confirmed breeding record in Port Stephens
- **Red-necked Avocet:** 5,644 birds in the Hunter Estuary in Aug
- **Pied Stilt:** 1,182 birds in the Hunter Estuary in Mar
- **Grey Plover:** Four birds at Harrington 24 Sep and several other records
- **Ringed Plover:** A single bird in the Worimi Conservation Lands 25 Aug
- **Greater Sand Plover:** Up to four birds in Manning Entrance SP in the second half of December and a single bird there 17-20 Jan
- **Oriental Plover:** Ten birds at Hexham Swamp 22 Sep - 2 Oct
- **Banded Lapwing:** A pair breeding at Largs in Sep
- **Australian Painted-snipe:** A female at Ash Island 13 Sep and a male at Cooranbong 29 Sep
- **Little Curlew:** Three birds at Hexham Swamp 29 Sep
- **Eastern Curlew:** Lowest numbers on record for the Hunter Estuary and Port Stephens
- **Bar-tailed Godwit:** Lowest numbers on record for the Hunter Estuary
- **Ruff:** Single birds at Ash Island 1 Nov and Stockton Sandspit 28-31 Dec
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** 3,000-5,000 birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec (3-5% of total population)
- **Red-chested Button-quail:** A female at Hexham Swamp 28 Dec
- **Little Button-quail:** A single bird at Durridgere Rd 24 Sep
- **Australian Pratincole:** 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp 26-29 Sep
- **Oriental Pratincole:** A single bird at Hexham Swamp 21-25 Feb (new for Hunter Region)

- **Kelp Gull:** A single bird at Newcastle Bight (Worimi Conservation Lands) 28 Oct
- **Aleutian Tern:** Up to 15 birds at Manning Entrance SP from 11 Dec (new for Australia)
- **Common Gull-billed Tern:** A single bird at Stockton Sandspit 29-31 Dec (new for Hunter Region)
- **Whiskered Tern:** 320 birds at Hexham Swamp 29 Sep
- **White-winged Black Tern:** 1-2 birds at Manning Entrance SP 17-20 Dec and a single bird at Hexham Swamp 7 Oct
- **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel:** Three birds off Port Stephens 6 Oct and eight birds 15 Oct
- **Northern Giant-Petrel:** Two birds off Swansea 7 Jul and a single bird off Port Stephens 25 Jun
- **Cape Petrel:** There have been no reports since September 2015
- **Cook's Petrel:** A single bird off Port Stephens 12 Nov
- **Mottled Petrel:** Up to 12 birds off Port Stephens 12-13 Nov (new for Hunter Region)
- **Soft-plumaged Petrel:** A single bird off Port Stephens 15 Oct (new for Hunter Region)
- **Grey-faced Petrel:** 120 birds off Port Stephens 12 Nov
- **Buller's Shearwater:** Single birds off Port Stephens 15 Oct and off Swansea 8 Dec
- **Short-tailed Shearwater:** ~10,000 birds per hour were migrating off Port Stephens 13 Nov
- **Little Shearwater:** A single bird off Port Stephens 12 Nov
- **Black-necked Stork:** First confirmed breeding record for the lower Hunter Valley
- **Glossy Ibis:** 61 birds at Hexham Swamp 1 Jan and many other records
- **Australasian Gannet:** 450 birds off Port Stephens 17 Sep
- **Red-footed Booby:** Two birds off Forster 12 Mar
- **Eastern Grass Owl:** A new location was identified, at Minimbah
- **Barking Owl:** Four birds at Durridgere SCA 2 May and two birds at Ulan Rd 21 Mar
- **Forest Kingfisher:** A female at Tomago Wetlands 17-18 Oct
- **Red-backed Kingfisher:** Several western records 26 Sep – 5 Oct
- **Cockatiel:** 31 birds at Blackville 15 Jun and several other records
- **Swift Parrot:** A significant influx to the lower Hunter Valley over mid-May to mid-Aug. Around 10% of the total population was present.
- **Black Honeyeater:** A male and three females at Windy Homestead 1 Oct and 1-2 birds in the Ulan/Durridgere Rd area from 24 Sep for at least a week
- **Crimson Chat:** Two females in the Ulan/Durridgere Rd area late Sep – early Oct and a male at Windy Homestead 1-2 Oct
- **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater:** Numerous records including several coastal ones
- **Regent Honeyeater:** Up to 31 birds in the Cessnock-Ellalong area from late May to mid-August and some other records. Three pairs nested near Goulburn River NP in Oct
- **Yellow-faced Honeyeater:** Once again a substantial autumn migration was noted
- **Pilotbird:** Birds were at three locations along the Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP 21 Sep
- **Southern Whiteface:** Several records
- **Grey Currawong:** An adult and a dependent young were at Mt Coricudgy 9 Dec
- **White-browed/Masked Woodswallow:** Substantial influxes of both species in spring
- **Satin Flycatcher:** Several birds at Gloucester Tops 25 Jan and a bird near Hawks Nest 18 Feb
- **Hooded Robin:** Seven birds at Giants Creek Rd 11 Jun
- **Yellow Wagtail:** Single birds at Hexham Swamp 24 & 27 Dec
- **European Goldfinch:** Only one record, of two birds at Maitland 5 Oct
- **Rufous Songlark:** A notable influx in spring, and two winter records
- **Red-whiskered Bulbul:** Two birds at Galgabba 26 Aug

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 2017. 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, can be less reliable; they were only used when an experienced local birdwatcher had investigated them.

Amazingly, there were five additions to the checklist in 2017: Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*, based on a bird at Hexham Swamp for several days in February, Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata* and Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* from pelagic surveys conducted in October / November, Common Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* from a bird at Stockton Sandspit from late December, and Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus*. The latter was a new species for Australia and resulted in a steady stream of visitors to Manning Entrance SP from mid-December when the group of 15 birds first was reported.

As a result, the Hunter Region checklist now comprises 452 species. In 2017, 375 species were confirmed to have been present – the highest number of species ever recorded in a year. Information about those records is presented in this Report. However, just 108 species were recorded as breeding in 2017 (compared to a median of 127 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2008, 231 species are confirmed to have bred within the Region (and for a further 37 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 food¹. All other situations/behaviours², although interesting and potentially noteworthy, are not treated as confirmed breeding records. To maintain the desired standard for the Bird Report, reporters are requested to correctly specify the type of behaviour. This includes differentiating between young birds being fed in a nest and young birds being fed away from a nest.

The philosophy used for the Bird Reports

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.*
- *Species recorded in the Region are assigned to one of three categories, depending mainly on how common or rare they are. Species assigned to Category 1 are considered relatively common and individual reports of them in general are not tracked. The status of Category 1 species is mainly derived from BLA Atlas data supplemented by regular surveys at the main locations where they occur.*
- *For Category 1 species, only the more notable observations are included into the Report – for example, observations from unusual locations or of exceptional numbers, presence at abnormal times of the year, breeding records.*

Continued overleaf

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

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

- All records of Category 2 and Category 3 species will be vetted and they will be accepted for inclusion into the Reports only if HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) so decides. It is expected that the observer will have made field notes at the time of observation (or very soon afterwards and before consulting a field guide) and/or will have taken a photograph. This rigour greatly assists the RAC in making decisions.
- The RAC reviews the submitted material and takes into account the observer's birdwatching experience and any opportunity they had to eliminate other species. **The RAC seeks to ensure that the observer was able to exclude all other plausible species.** One frequent reason for non-acceptance is that the diagnostic field marks either were not seen by the observer or were not adequately described.
- The RAC may decide each year that some of the reported observations should appear in the Bird Report as Unconfirmed Records, so that the information is not lost and the observer's written report can be re-assessed in a new light if our understandings about the occurrence of the species in the Region change in future.
- The status description for each species is subject to regular review and aims at ensuring that the description reflects the situation current for the year in question.
- Breeding status will be assigned to a species only if definite evidence to this effect has been provided, and that such evidence fits within the definition of what constitutes an acceptable breeding record. If there have been no breeding records for a species for 10 or more years, the breeding status will be amended.

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

Category 1 *A common or relatively common species within the Region, with records generally accepted. The annual status of the species is primarily monitored from its Reporting Rate in the BirdLife Australia Atlas; individual records generally are not tracked.*

Category 2 *An uncommon or relatively uncommon species of special interest for the Region, with all records tracked. Records usually are accepted, although supporting information may sometimes be required in the event of unusual numbers, location or season.*

Category 3 *The species is considered to be of special interest in relation to the Region (and/or for NSW or Australia). Supporting information is required before any record can be accepted for inclusion into the Report.*

The RAC assigns categories and decides whether records can be accepted. For this Bird Report, the RAC members were Mick Roderick (RAC Secretary), Ann Lindsey, Phil Hansbro, Craig Anderson, Allan Richardson, Dick Jenkin and Dan Williams.

BirdLife Australia Atlas Data

HBOC receives each year an updated copy of all data about Hunter Region birds in the BirdLife Australia (BLA) Atlas project database. I thank BLA for this and in particular I acknowledge the support from Andrew Silcocks, the Atlas project manager. The Atlas project commenced in 1998 and now includes >40,000 surveys in the Hunter Region (and >600,000 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 are used in several ways. Distribution maps are generated for many species based on the frequency of records of them in biogeographic sub-areas of the Region, timelines are generated for migratory species, and reporting rates and trends for species are analysed (see Williams and Stuart, *The Whistler* 10: 13-18 for details). I thank Dan Williams for generating the maps and timelines (and the shapefile used to define the Region's boundaries).

In 2017, nearly 3,700 Hunter Region Birddata surveys were submitted to the Atlas – a 37% increase to the average number of surveys submitted each year in over 2012-2016. In part this reflects the continuous improvements being made to the data entry process but it also in part would seem to reflect that local birders have embraced the concept of submitting records to Birddata. Whichever is the case, the result is that the effectiveness of the database for monitoring the status of Hunter Region birdlife is much improved.

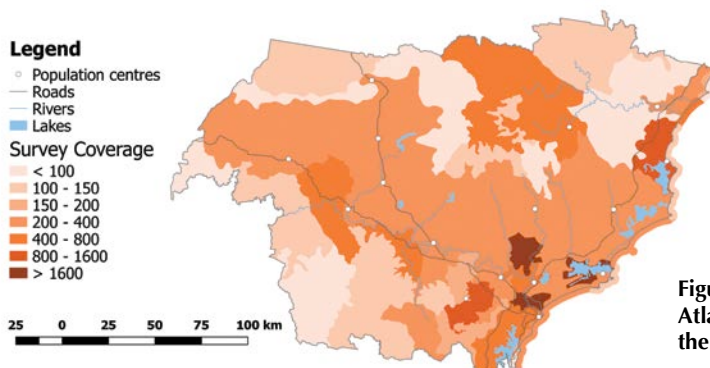


Figure 1.
Atlas survey effort in
the Hunter Region

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.

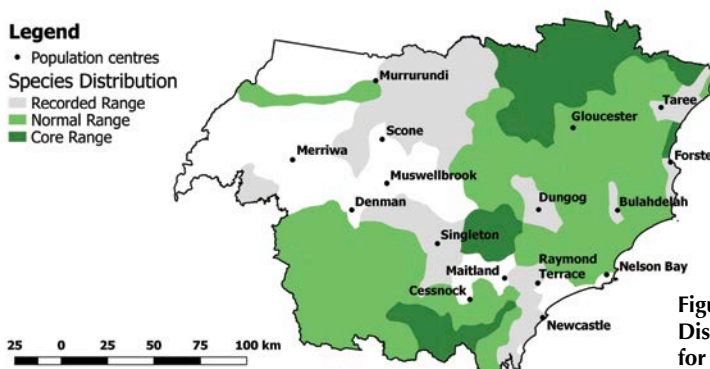


Figure 2.
Distribution map
for Wonga Pigeon



Wonga Pigeon by Steve Merrett

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 bird lists). For this Report, all Atlas records were used to produce maps and timelines. However, only the data from 500m area surveys were used for statistical analyses. Species are more likely to be recorded in 500m surveys than the other main survey type, the 2ha/20-min survey. The long-term 500m RRs for all Category 1 and Category 2 species except pelagic birds (for which data collection is haphazard) are presented within the species profiles (i.e. the coloured boxes). The corresponding RR for 2017 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 2017; and
- The 2017 RR from 500m surveys as a percentage of the long-term RR (for species with RR >1%);

Other Comments

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, MidCoast (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.*

To maximise understandings about how rainfall changes have affected 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 2017. It was very dry in most of eastern Australia including the Hunter Region (especially from March onwards). This affected the distribution and abundance of many species, as described within the main body of the Report.

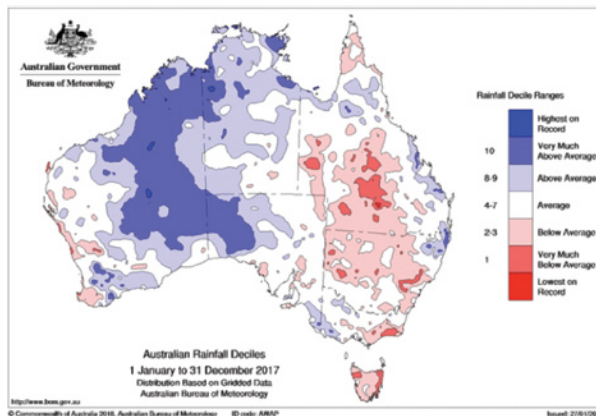


Figure 3.
2017 Australian rainfall pattern

A change in observer behaviour, which had begun to occur in recent years, accelerated dramatically in 2017. Previously, most observers of an uncommon bird or of a bird in an unusual location would make a specific report about that observation; it was relatively easy to collect those direct reports. In 2017, the amount of indirect reporting increased markedly. That is, observers published in Birddata or on eBird a complete list of birds recorded at a site they had visited but did not report their observations any other way. The ongoing improvements to the Birddata portal have been a major factor in this change in behaviour. Overall it is a positive development that complete lists are being archived into electronic databases. However, there needs to be a re-think about how the Hunter Region bird reports are produced as until now they have been based around the practice of direct reporting. This is my final Hunter Region bird report and I know that the incoming editor, Dan Williams, is investigating new approaches.

My sincere thanks go to all the contributors for the 2017 Report.

Alan Stuart

27 August 2018

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).



Kelp Gull by Ian Benson

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

Aleutian Tern

Common Gull-billed Tern

Arctic Tern

Red-tailed Tropicbird

White-tailed Tropicbird

White-bellied Storm-Petrel

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel

New Zealand Storm-Petrel

Light-mantled Sooty

Albatross

Grey-headed Albatross

Shy Albatross

Salvin's Albatross

Broad-billed Prion

Antarctic Prion

Slender-billed Prion

Cook's Petrel

Pycroft's Petrel

Black-winged Petrel

Mottled Petrel

Juan Fernandez Petrel

Soft-plumaged 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, based upon the BirdLife Australia Working List V2.1 (birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy). V2.1 was released in 2017; any changes from the v2.0 Working List are noted within the species accounts. Status descriptions are provided for most species; those descriptions are based upon the Distribution Indices from the BLA Atlas data (where there are sufficient data). The definitions of the terms are:

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

For many 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
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Commentaries in this Report are mostly based upon abundance levels reported in 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



Eastern Grass Owl with prey by Trevor Murray

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

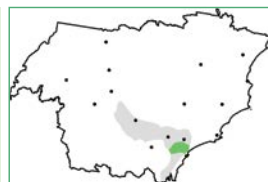
ID No: 001 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Endangered population in the North-east Bioregion**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

Nine birds were recorded along Ringwood Rd / Goulburn River NP 24 Apr (BRG/LIN) and some birds in that area early Jan and 17 Sep (OWS/FAB, MUL). 1-2 birds were at Durrigere Rd 19 Feb (WAB/JOJ) and Durrigere SCA 14 & 16 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** Two records.

Trend: Probably stable.**Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*

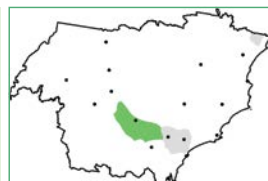
ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident; up to 50 birds often recorded around Shortland.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.0%.

40+ birds were recorded all months at HWC with peak count 86 birds Aug (Table 6). Elsewhere, nine birds were at Ash Island in Feb (Table 3) and 7-8 birds at Wallsend Wetlands 12-13 Mar (HRK, FAB). Several young birds were at Antenna Swamp Sandgate 4 Feb (ROM/WID). **Atlas:** 40 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining; fewer birds are recorded at HWC.

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

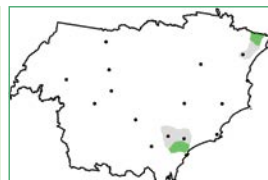
ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.33%.

500+ birds were at Doughboy Hollow 21 Jul and some in that area 16 Jan and 28 Oct (STA, THJ, DDR). 20+ birds were recorded at Rathluba Lagoon over Mar-Jun with peak count 53 birds 22 Mar (Table 27), and some birds were at Upper Lansdowne 21 Jan (MGLB).

Atlas: Seven records, RR 97% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

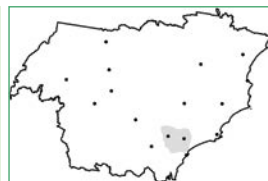
ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.88%.

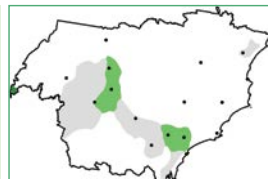
84 birds were recorded at NWR and nearby wetlands 6 Oct and 79 birds 2 Oct (KEM, BEA). 69 birds were at HWC Apr with lesser numbers present Jan-May and Nov-Dec (Table 6). 10-18 birds were in the Hunter Estuary 13-14 Jan and at Tarro 15 Aug and WWW 13 Dec (Table 3, SDI/THJ, Table 22). 1-4 birds were at KI Steel River 1 Jan (ROM/WID), WWW early Jan (KAL, PAR), Morpeth 28 Mar (TBW) and Hunter Estuary 20-21 Oct (Table 3). **Breeding:** A pair was with 8 ducklings near Deep Pond 13 Jan (ROM). **Atlas:** 36 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.16%.

A single bird was at WWW 2 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
(Revised)**Regional status:** Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.1%.

Lower Hunter: 332 birds were recorded at Deep Pond 7 Apr and 650+ birds at Hexham Swamp 18 Jun (ROM, KEM), with 100-102 birds at Morpeth WTW 27 Feb and 11 Aug (Table 23, VGF) and ~70 birds at Wallsend Wetlands mid Jul (ROM). There were occasional counts of lower numbers from these and other locations (see Tables for details). From mid-Aug, numbers began to build at Shortland (NWR and nearby ponds) with peak count of 755 birds 26 Aug and many counts of 500+ birds over 13 Aug – 24 Sep (ROM, others). At this time, numbers were also high at a site near WWW, with peak count ~300 birds 11 Oct (BRG, Table 22, WEP). **Upper Hunter:** 80 birds were recorded at Muswellbrook WWTP 25 Feb (KET) and 220-290 birds 20 Apr and 5 Oct (CLT *et al.*). **Elsewhere:** 24 birds were at Muddy Lake Sep (Table 17) and two birds at Cattai Bridge wetlands 29 Apr (STA). **Atlas:** 60 records, RR 119% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

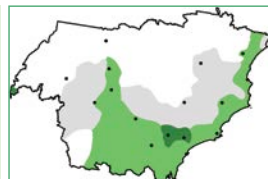
ID No: 198 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2011).

No reports were received for 2017.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 19.7%.

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Mar-Jul, with peak count 429 birds Apr (Table 3). However, in that period there also were three counts of 200+ birds at Hexham Swamp, with peak count 440 birds 18 Jun (KEM, others). 100+ birds were also at Swansea/Lake Macquarie in five months, with peak count 383 birds Dec (Table 11); at Stockton Borehole Swamp Aug-Sep and Nov with peak count 173 birds Nov (Table 20); and at Morpeth WTW Mar-Apr with peak count 195 birds Apr (Table 23). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Apr-Jul. **Atlas:** 382 records, RR 71% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Radjah Shelduck *Radjah radjah*

ID No: 206 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2005-15).

No reports were received for 2017.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare bird of passage.

No reports were received for 2017.

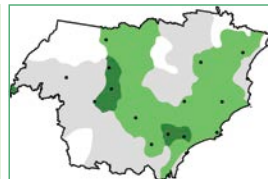
Hardhead *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

(Revised)

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 6.9%.



Notable records: 800 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 28 Apr; numbers were much lower all other months (Table 23). 284 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Oct and 224 birds Apr; the birds were mainly at Deep Pond (Table 3), and 181 birds were at Muddy Lake Aug with 95-100 birds also present Jan and July (Table 17). **Atlas:** 168 records, RR 78% of long-term.

Trend: Uncertain.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1993).

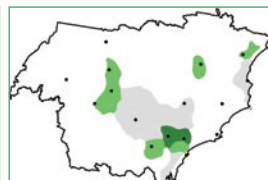
No reports were received for 2017.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 4.1%.



Notable records: 370+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 18 Jun (KEM) and 313 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Mar – this included 131 birds at Tomago Wetlands (Tables 3, 7). 201 birds were at Minmi 11 Apr (ROM/CLT) and 100+ birds at Morpeth WTW Feb and July (Table 23).

Atlas: 55 records, RR 61% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2017.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 30.0%.



Notable records: 1,242 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW 28 Apr and 654 birds 28 Mar; numbers were much lower all other months (Table 23). 480 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan and 150+ birds Feb-Mar, May and Oct (Table 3). 279 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 15 Dec (Table 43) and 100+ birds were at Tocal 20 Mar and 2 May (Table 36, HBOC), Congewai Rd 19

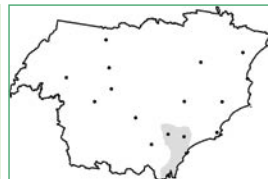
Jun (STA *et al.*), East Cooranbong Sep (Table 18), Chisholm Mar (Table 24) and Louth Park Jun (Table 26). **Breeding:** Birds were with ducklings at BbR 5 Jun and Tighes Hill 2 Aug (LIP, CLT) and also were breeding at Balickera Jul (MUJ). **Atlas:** 725 records, RR 93% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident. (*Most are hybrids; there are very few pure birds.*)

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.54%.



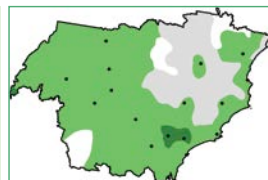
20+ birds were at Wallsend Wetlands 22 Apr (ROM); these were thought to have been released there. There were frequent records of small numbers of birds from several regularly surveyed wetlands (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 27 records, RR 185% of long-term (reflecting birds at some regularly visited sites). **Trend:** There seems no 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 14.8%.



Notable records: 3,651 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary in Mar, also 2,533 birds May and 1,919 birds Oct and there were five other months with 400+ birds (Table 3). Although Tomago Wetlands was an important contributor to these counts (Table 7), most were at Hexham Swamp where there were several other records of 1,000+ birds including in June when the formal survey was not able to be carried out (KEM, others). 2,563 birds were at Morpeth WTW Feb and 1,107 birds Aug; there were several other records of 200-400+ birds (Table 23). Elsewhere, 200+ birds were at HWC Sep and Nov (Table 6), Wallsend Wetlands 17 Aug (Table 9), Chisholm 28 Mar (Table 24), Irrawang Swamp 4 Oct (Table 31) and Fletcher 16 Dec (THJ), and there were several records of 100+ birds (see Tables for details).

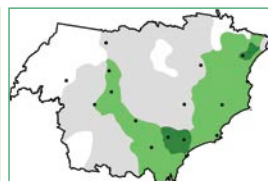
Atlas: 385 records, RR 98% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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.

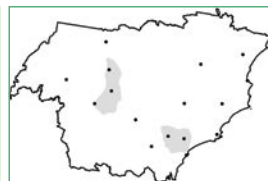
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 22.6%.



Notable records: 3,836 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Mar and 1,000-2,000+ birds were present over Feb-May (Table 3). The main two locations were Hexham Swamp, with peak counts of 2,000+ birds (LIA, others) and Tomago Wetlands with peak count 1,486 birds (Table 7). *The Estuary hosted up to 3.8% of the total species population during this period.* 100+ birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW every month with peak count 430 birds Feb (Table 23). 260 birds were at Irrawang Swamp Dec (Table 31) and 100+ birds at Louth Park Apr and Jun-Jul and Cattai Wetlands Jan (Tables 26, 43). **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Tarro 24 Feb, Tahlee 7 Mar and Hexham Swamp 21 May (THJ, HBOC, PAL). **Atlas:** 573 records, RR 98% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

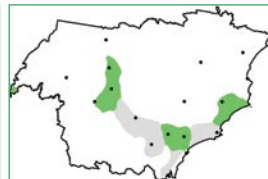
ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.34%.

Three birds were recorded at NWR 15 Aug, with numbers there and at nearby wetlands rising to a peak count of 104 birds 2 Oct (ROM, BEA, others). Elsewhere, seven birds were at Minmi 11 Apr (ROM/CLT) and 2-3 birds at Toronto Wetlands Apr and Aug-Oct (Table 21), Muswellbrook WWTP 20 Apr (ROM/CLT) and Morpeth WTW 28 Apr (Table 23). A single bird was at KI 15 Dec (ROM). **Atlas:** Ten records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.4%.

Two birds were at Pokolbin 10 Sep (LAB) and single birds at Redhead Lagoon 29 May, 26 Jun and Aug-Sep (FAB, Table 12) and at KI in Jun-Jul (Table 3). Some birds were also at Grahamstown Dam 29 Oct (DDR) and Mungo Brush 12 Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** 16 records, RR 32% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 21.5%.

Notable records: 115 birds were recorded at Salamander Bay 1 Jan (STG) and 101 birds in the Hunter Estuary 7-8 Apr (Table 3). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan, Jun and Sep. **Atlas:** 646 records, RR 106% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

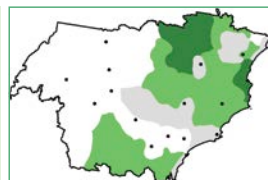
ID No: 200 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

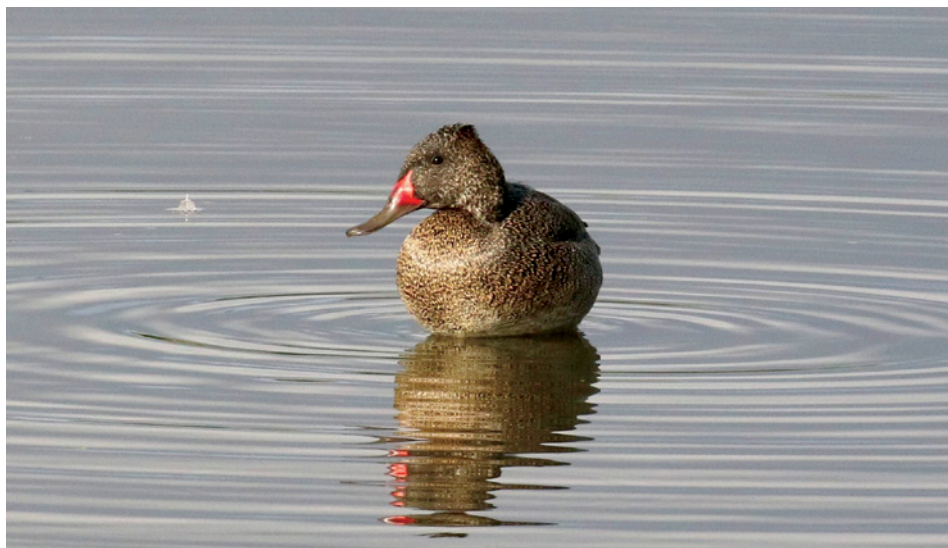
No reports were received for 2017.

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathami*

ID No: 008 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 36 records, RR 70% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.



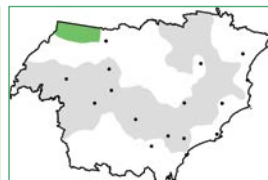
Freckled Duck by George Voss

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

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

Regional status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.25%.



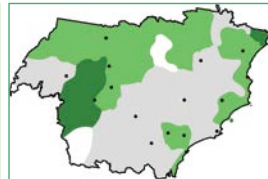
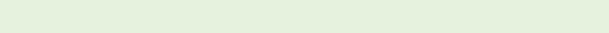
Ten birds were at Windy HSD 21 Mar (WAB/JOJ) and birds were recorded several times at Pitnacree and along Brush Farm Rd 15-26 Mar and at Hexham Swamp during Dec (various observers). Birds also were at Wallalong Rd 29 Oct and Frank Worrell Park Dungog 7 Nov (DDR, HBOC). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus* (Amended from: *ypsilophora*)

ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 3.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 89 records, RR 92% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

King Quail *Synoicus chinensis*

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

Regional status: Rare, possibly overlooked (*last recorded 2014; five records since 1993*).

A group of up to seven birds was often recorded at Minimbah 21-24 May (HBOC, others) and 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp several times from 8 Oct onwards (KEM, BEA, others).

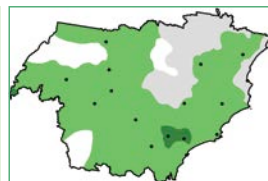
Atlas: Five records.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 11.4%.



Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp Jun-Nov with peak count 55 birds 4 Oct (Table 31). The peak count in the Hunter Estuary was 55 birds Apr (Table 3) and at WWW was 32 birds 15 Jun (Table 22). **Atlas:** 244 records, RR 77% of long-term.

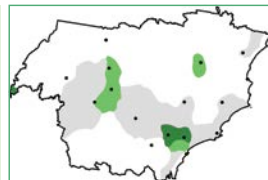
Trend: Probably stable.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.2%.

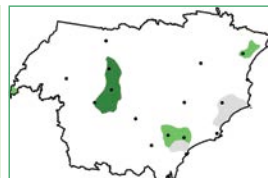


Notable records: Birds were first recorded at WWW 26 Mar when ~20 were present (ROM/WID), and then all months onwards, with peak count 132 birds 10 May and most records being of 50+ birds (Table 22). 45 birds were at Deep Pond 11 May and 21-30 birds Aug and Oct (Table 3), and 16 birds at Stockton Borehole Swamp May-Jun (Table 20). Five birds were recorded at Wenham Cox Rd via Stratford 16 Aug and over the remainder of the year (STA) – uncommon in the Gloucester area. **Atlas:** 47 records, RR 68% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident. 1.0%.



Birds were recorded at WWW every month with peak count 43 birds 13 Apr and 20+ birds Feb-May (Table 22). 13 birds were at Bootawa Dam Tinonee 23 Jun (per ROM) and single birds at Rowans Dam Ulan 14 Apr (ROM/WID) and Stockton Borehole Swamp 26 Nov (Table 20). A bird was taken into care in Newcastle mid Jul and later released at HWC (per LIP).

Breeding: There were many records at WWW, spanning Jan-May and involving several pairs.

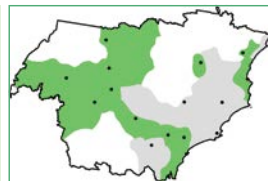
Atlas: 31 records, RR 130% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 4.8%.



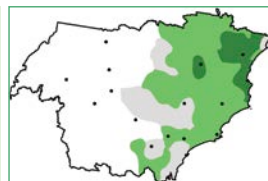
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 156 records, RR 119% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 4.7%.



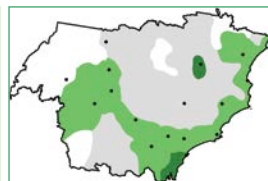
Notable records: 20 birds were at Belmont 8 Jul (CJB). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Aug and Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 56 records, RR 34% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was low for the second year in a row).

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 15.5%.



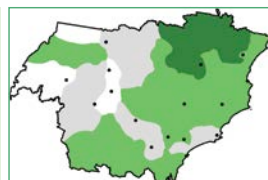
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 496 records, RR 107% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella*

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 5.1%.



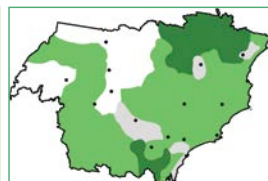
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Aug (MUJ). **Atlas:** 102 records, RR 65% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 6.7%.



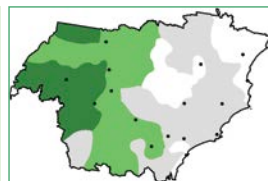
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 112 records, RR 57% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR once again was low).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.2%.



Notable records: Six birds were recorded at Windy HSD 3 May (WAB/JOJ). **Atlas:** 33 records, RR 64% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR once again was low).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

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

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.59%.

There were numerous records of birds at Belmont Wetlands State Park and nearby locations; the highest count was of six birds 28 Sep (FAB, FEG). This included winter records, on 6 Jul and 3 & 14 Aug (FAB). Elsewhere, birds were heard at two locations south of Mungo Brush 11 Nov (WID). **Atlas:** 23 records, RR 153% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (RR reflects regular surveys in a part of the core range).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 23.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest near Singleton 16 Jan and near Stroud 29 Jun (THJ, ZVS). **Atlas:** 694 records, RR 106% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

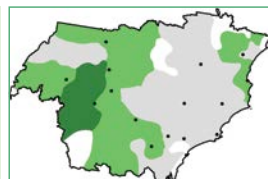
ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Accidental (*last recorded 2016; four records since 1993*).

No reports were received for 2017.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

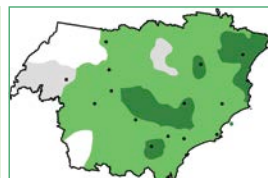
ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.2%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at HEZ 23 Mar after a recent fire (ROM) and six birds were at Minimbah 21 May (HBOC). **Atlas:** 78 records, RR 134% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 17.3%.

Notable records: 14 birds were recorded at Tocal 2 May (HBOC). **Atlas:** 427 records, RR 105% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.28%.

Single birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Glenrock SRA 1 Mar (ALD), Woko NP 6 Apr (TBW), Swans Crossing 17 Jun (MGLB), Bobs Farm Oct (HDM) and Mungo Brush 12 Dec (TBW). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*

ID No: 8839 (Amended)

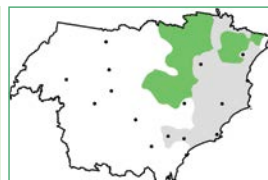
HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2009).

No reports were received for 2017.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.57%.

Seven birds were at Peach Tree Allyn River SF 29 Oct (BRG) and six birds at Woko NP 1 Jan (STD) and Stroud in Apr (per RDB). 3-4 birds were at Main Creek Rd Dungog 5 Jan and 2 Nov (STD) and Mungo Brush 16 Sep (ROM). 1-2 birds were at Copeland SCA 7 Apr (TBW), Woko NP 23 Apr (HBOC), Harrington 28 Apr (STA), Stroud 13 Oct (per RDB) and Allyn River SF 29 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2009; four records since 1993)

No reports were received for 2017.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

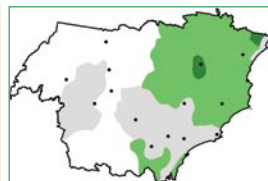
ID No: 021 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain (last recorded 2016; 20+ records since 1993).

Up to eight birds were often recorded in rainforest near Mungo Brush over Oct-Dec (KET, several others). Elsewhere, single birds were at Harrington RF 22 Oct (KEM), Cattai Wetlands 1 Nov (WAB) and Saltwater NP 23 Nov (per ROM). **Atlas:** Seven records.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

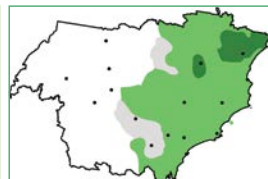
ID No: 027 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.7%.

Notable records: 70+ birds were flying over Stroud 24 Apr and Belmont 26 Sep (LAP, FAB) and 60 birds over Wallsend 2 May (LIG). 40-50 birds were over Dora Creek 6-7 Apr and Galgabba 20 Sep (GOC, ADJ). **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 79% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

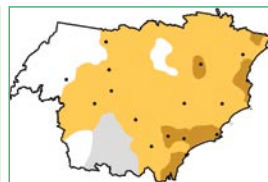
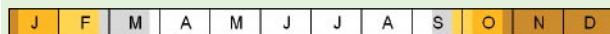
ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 80 records, RR 63% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again, the RR was low).

Eastern Koel *Eudynamis orientalis*

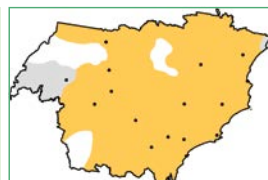
ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. Birds were present into late Mar and the first recorded return was 5 Sep when a bird was at Wangi Wangi (ROB). **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Jan-Apr. The host species reported were Little Wattlebird and Red Wattlebird. **Atlas:** 234 records, RR 99% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

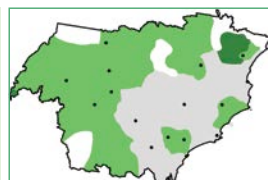
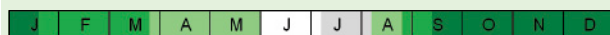
ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.0%.

Notable records: Eleven birds were flying over Dungog together 21 Dec (JED). The first recorded return was 30 Aug when two separate birds were at Toronto (THK). **Breeding:** Australian Ravens and Pied Currawongs both had dependent young at New Lambton 5 Jan (STA, FAA). **Atlas:** 156 records, RR 86% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalus*

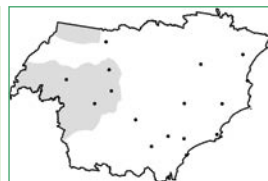
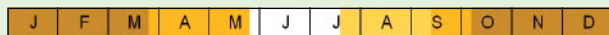
ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant, with regular records in winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.5%.

Notable records: Four birds were at Broughton Island 15 Sep (STA et al.) – the first known records for this location. **Atlas:** 45 records, RR 76% of long-term. **Trend:** A very good year.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

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

Regional status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Single birds were recorded along Durrigere Rd 26-27 Sep and two birds in that general area 2 Oct (ROM *et al.*, WID *et al.*). Single birds were also at Goulburn River NP 15-17 Sep (MUL) and Windy HSD 1 Oct (HBOC), and a bird was heard at Durrigere SCA 14 & 16 Apr (HBOC).
Atlas: Five 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 5.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A very young bird was at Tocal 2 May (HBOC). **Atlas:** 116 records, RR 61% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was below average for the third year in a row).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1992, 2004).

No reports were received for 2017.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

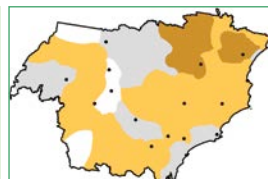
ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident. 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 13.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A chick was in a Flame Robin nest in the Gloucester Tops in spring (KET). **Atlas:** 307 records, RR 88% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly stable (highest RR for some time).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

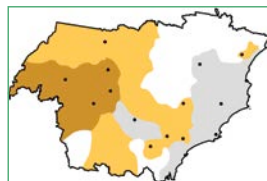
ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.6%.

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 15 Dec (STA/HAC). A late record was of a single bird at Medowie 17 May (ANC). **Atlas:** 18 records, RR 30% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (once again, the RR was well below average).

Pallid Cuckoo *Heteroscenes pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.0%.

Notable records: ~20 birds were recorded along Durrigere Rd 1 Oct (BRG/LIN) and there were many in the upper Hunter 2 Oct (WID). Records from Broughton Island 13 Sep and Cattai Wetlands 15 Dec constituted new locations (ROM, STA/HAC). The first recorded arrival was 24 Aug when a bird was at the Singleton Training Area 24 Aug (ROM). **Atlas:** 40 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining (however, highest RR for some years).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2016; six records since 1993).

In the Barrington Tops, a female was recorded at Barrington Trail 14 Mar and a male at Edwards Trail 16 Mar (FAA). A bird was taken into care near Muswellbrook 9 Mar and was released 12 Mar (PER, BEI). A hepatic female was recorded at Ash Island 4 Apr and then by many other observers until 14 Apr when last seen (WEP, others) and another hepatic female was at Galgamba 2 June (OUM). A bird was recorded at Cattai Wetlands 21 Dec (LYP). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** An exceptional year.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

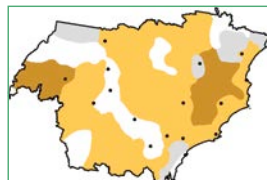
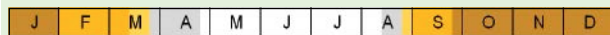
ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Merewether 25 Aug (JAM). **Atlas:** 66 records, RR 63% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again, the RR was low).

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.32%.

Some birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd 19 Feb and at Durrigere SF 22 Mar (WAB/JO)). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

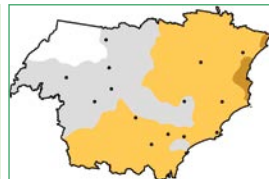
ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.62%.

1-2 birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 14-18 Apr and 2 May (HBOC, LAJ) and Laguna 16-17 Apr (RDB). A bird was sometimes in a nest box at Glendale Jan although apparently not breeding (per NIL). **Atlas:** 13 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

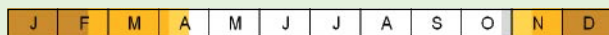
ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Summer migrant; up to 30 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.8%.

Notable records: 900+ birds were flying over Hexham Swamp 23 Dec (ROM) and 200+ birds over Main Creek 3 Nov and Shortland 17 Dec (STD, ROM). 100+ birds were at Swansea 8 Jan, Green Point 15 Dec and Belmont 20 Dec (ADJ, STJ, CJB). **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 36% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

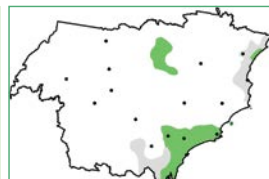
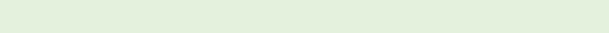
ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.16%.

~25 birds were at Wingen 19 Feb (NEG) and 18 birds at Harrington 2 Feb (per ROM). 1-3 birds were recorded at East Maitland and Forster 14 Jan (BRG, MGLB), and at New Lambton, Fern Bay and Shortland 10 Apr (FAA, BEI, ROM). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Possibly declining.

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.42%.

Several birds were at Broughton Island 22-24 Jun and 12-14 Oct (STA *et al.*) and there were infrequent reports all year of 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp (many observers). **Breeding:** A pair was with 3 chicks at Hexham Swamp 5 Sep (OCG). **Atlas:** 13 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.



White-throated Needletail by Mick Roderick

Buff-banded Rail *Hypotaenidia philippensis*

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

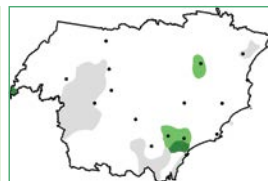
Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds are moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Pairs were with chicks at BbR 2 Jan (LIP), Awabakal NR 2 & 5 Feb (EAC) and Main Creek Dungog mid-Feb (STD).

A Laughing Kookaburra took one of the Awabakal NR chicks. **Atlas:** 53 records, RR 93% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Australian Spotted Crane *Porzana fluminea*

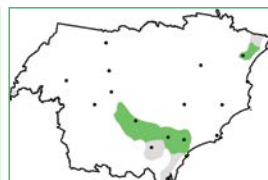
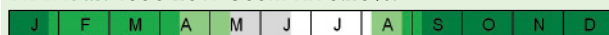
ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.71%.

Hexham Swamp: There were many reports in Sep-Oct (various observers); a systematic count 22 Sep found 40 birds in a ~3km transect (BEA). Also, seven birds were recorded 23 Feb (PAL) and there were records of 1-4 birds 9 May, 2 Jul and 20-21 Aug (WAB, ROM, FAB). A bird was taken by a Swamp Harrier 21 Aug (FAB). **Elsewhere:** Three birds were together at Ash Island 16 Dec (STA *et al.*) and 1-2 birds were recorded at KI Deep Pond 10 Feb (ROM), Morpeth WTW 28 Apr and 28 Jun (Table 23), Cooperook 3 Aug (MGLB), Lakes Estate Forster 2 Sep (MGLB) and WWW 5-6 Sep (Table 22, HBOC). **Atlas:** 20 records. **Trend:** A good year.

Baillon's Crane *Zapornia pusilla*

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

Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.28%.

There were many reports of 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp during Sep-Oct; a systematic count there 22 Sep found 23 birds in a ~3km transect (BEA). There were also several reports of 1-2 birds at Pambalong NR Aug-Nov and Fletcher Sep-Nov. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Lenaghans Flat 1 Sep (THJ), Ash Island 23 Sep and 8 Oct (MCN, LIP), KI Deep Pond 22 Sep (ROM), WWW 10 Oct and 13 Dec (Table 22) and Louth Park Oct-Dec (Table 26).

Atlas: 24 records. **Trend:** A good year.

Spotless Crane *Zapornia tabuensis*

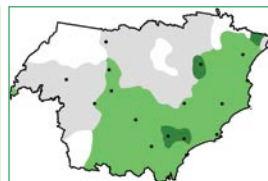
ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)

Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage, more often recorded in times of inland drought.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.31%.

There were many reports of 1-2 birds at Hexham Swamp during Sep-Nov; a systematic count there 22 Sep found 4 birds in a ~3km transect (BEA). Also, 1-2 birds were there 13 May and 15 Aug (SDI/THJ, LIA *et al.*). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Ash Island 11 Mar (STA *et al.*), WWW 10 May and 15 Jun (Table 22), HWC 30 Sep (JED), Pambalong NR 28 Nov (HAC *et al.*) and Fletcher 28 Nov (ROM/NIJ). An adult female was taken into care at Wallsend Wetlands late Mar but did not survive (SIM). **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** A good year.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

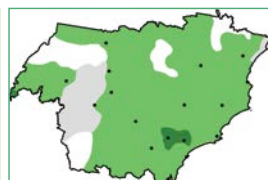
Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds are frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 17.1%.

Notable records: 115 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 18 Jun (KEM), ~80 birds at Whistler Parade Maryland 21 Jun and 45 birds there 7 Dec (THJ). 50+ birds were at HWC Oct and East Cooranbong Nov (Tables 6, 18) and 30+ birds in the Hunter Estuary Apr and Sep-Oct (Table 3) and at HWC Mar and Aug-Sep (Table 6) and Warabrook 16 Oct (Table 8).

Breeding: Birds were on nest at Fletcher 28 Nov (ROM/NIJ) and had chicks at Ash Island 13 May (STA/ MCN). **Atlas:** 423 records, RR 84% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 12.3%.

Notable records: 20+ birds often were recorded at three locations: HWC, with peak counts 51 birds Nov and 45 birds Feb (Table 6); Warabrook, with peak counts 56 birds 16 Oct and 52 birds 20 Jul (Table 8); and WWW, with peak count 28 birds 19 Jul (Table 22). **Breeding:** Birds had chicks at WWW 2 Jan and HWC 10 Oct (MEL, LIP), and were breeding at Antenna Swamp Sandgate 4 Feb (ROM/WDI). **Atlas:** 314 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Tribonyx ventralis*

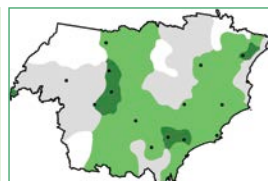
ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Not recorded

Regional status: Rare irruptive visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.19%.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.1%.

Notable records: ~10,000 birds were in White Tree Bay Myall Lakes NP 5 Dec (BEI). Birds were frequently in high numbers at six locations: the Hunter Estuary Oct-Dec with peak count 540 birds 18 Jun and 165 birds Oct (KEM, Table 3); HWC Apr-Dec with peak count 398 birds Jul (Table 6); Stockton Borehole Swamp Apr-Aug with peak count 600 birds 29 Apr (Table 20); WWW all year with peak count 467 birds 13 Apr (Table 22); Morpeth WTW Mar-Sep with peak count 367 birds 22 Aug (Table 23); and Irrawang Swamp Apr-May and Sep with peak count 210 birds 19 Sep (Table 31). 300 birds were at Tuncurry 3 Sep (MGLB) and there were many reports of 50+ birds (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 321 records, RR 120% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Brolga *Antigone rubicunda*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2005, 2014).

No reports were received for 2017.

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Endangered

Regional status: Uncommon resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.08%.



A pair was recorded at Tahlee 7 Mar and 10 & 17 May (HBOC, FLS, WAB/JO) and pairs were also confirmed present at Salt Ash and Little Swan Bay (per WOL). **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Salt Ash early Sep, with two chicks later fledging, and birds had a nest with eggs at Little Swan Bay during Dec (per WOL). **Atlas:** Eleven 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.45%.



There were occasional but regular reports of birds at the two known territories, in Manning Entrance SP and at Dowardee Island/Sunset Beach. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with egg at Corrie Island 4 Oct (FRN/STA) – a new location in Port Stephens. There was circumstantial evidence that the pair at Dowardee Island also bred (MUT). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing.

South Island Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi*

ID No: 744 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2004).

No reports were received for 2017.



Bush Stone-curlew by Steve Merrett

Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds are often recorded at coastal and estuarine locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.2%.

Notable records: 109 birds were recorded in Port Stephens 16 Feb (Table 40); there was no winter survey but similar numbers appeared to be present based on visits to sub-sections of the Port (WOL, Table 39). In formal surveys of Worimi Conservation Lands, the peak count was 67 birds 23 Jun and with several records of 50+ birds (Table 38); however 92 birds were present 29 Aug and also 64 birds 22 Aug (LIA *et al.*, CAS). The majority of these birds were at Birubi Beach which also accounts for some high counts in Table 37. 41-49 birds were at Forster 10 & 19 Mar (MOA) and in the Manning Estuary 23-24 Feb (Table 42). 30+ birds were in the Hunter Estuary (mainly at Stockton Sandspit) Sep-Nov (Table 1). **Breeding:** A pair nested at Winda Woppa from mid-Sep, with a single chick hatching ~15 Oct (FRN) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for Port Stephens*. Later, a second pair nested nearby but the eggs were predated in mid-Dec (FRN). Two other nests with eggs were found inside Port Stephens in mid-late Oct – on Corrie Island and Dowardee Island (FRN/STA, MUT) – the outcomes from these attempts are unknown. **Atlas:** 230 records, RR 71% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.1%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at/near Newcastle Baths Jan-Jun and Dec, with peak counts 47-49 birds Feb-Mar (Table 10). 41 birds were in Port Stephens 16 Feb, while within the Port 11-18 birds were often at Swan Bay Jan-Jul (Tables 39, 40). 20+ birds were at Broughton Island 22-24 Jun (STA *et al.*). A bird at Tuncurry 4 Sep had a yellow eye-ring and was considered likely to be an intergrade with the northern subspecies *ophthalmicus* (per ROM). **Atlas:** 123 records, RR 126% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable or possibly increasing.

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (*last recorded 2013; seven records since 1993*)

There have been no records since January 2013.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

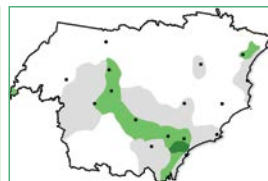
ID No: 148 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Regular visitor. During inland drought, thousands are in the Hunter Estuary.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.2%.

Notable records: Birds began to return to the Hunter Estuary in numbers from mid-Mar. The peak count was 5,644 birds 25-26 Aug, with 1,000+ birds present May-Nov (Tables 1, 2). The greatest numbers were recorded at Stockton Sandspit; Hexham Swamp, Ash Island and Tomago Wetlands were of varying importance during the year. Elsewhere, 98 birds were at Morpeth WTW 27 Jul and lesser numbers in seven other months (Table 23), and 108 birds were at Chisholm 31 May (Table 24). Small numbers were in Port Stephens May-Aug (WOL) – *uncommon here*. **Atlas:** 151 records, RR 135% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*(Revised from: *Black-winged Stilt*)

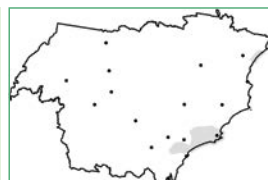
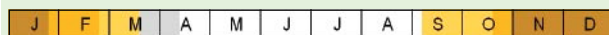
ID No: 146 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 11.3%.

Notable records: Large numbers were in the Hunter Estuary all year, with peak count 1,182 birds Mar and many other counts of 500+ birds (Table 1). Hexham Swamp was the main location; Ash Island, Tomago Wetlands and Stockton Sandspit were of varying importance. Some counts at Hexham Swamp notably exceeded those from the scheduled surveys, in particular ~1,500 birds 18 Jun and 29 Sep, 1,000+ birds 2 Sep and 690 birds 24 Jun (KEM, ROM, BEI). 263 birds were at Stockton Borehole Swamp 26 Dec and 139 birds 29 Oct (Table 20), and 100+ birds at Morpeth WTW Feb, Jul-Aug and Oct (Table 23). Several other wetlands occasionally hosted 50+ birds (see Tables for details). **Atlas:** 230 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

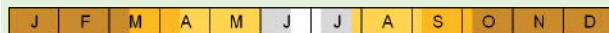
ID No: 136 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.18%.

Four birds were at Harrington 24 Sep (NAK) and single birds there 7 Feb (ERE) and at Worimi Conservation Lands 15 Sep (WID). 1-2 birds were often recorded in Manning Entrance SP 12-31 Dec by the many visitors to the site during that period. **Atlas:** Four records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 137 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.6%.

Notable records: 358 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan and 300 birds Dec, with 100+ birds also present Feb-Mar; Stockton Sandspit was the main site with some sizable counts from Ash Island (Tables 1, 2, 4). 137 birds were in the Manning Estuary Feb and 71-97 birds Mar and Oct-Nov (Table 42), and 154 birds were at Worimi Conservation Lands 20 Oct (Table 38). **Atlas:** 116 records, RR 102% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

ID No: 895 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1967).

A single bird was recorded in the Worimi Conservation Lands 25 Aug (LIA/FRN *et al.*). Despite many people searching for it over the next several days, the bird was not relocated. *The record was accepted by BARC as the 5th record for Australia and the first record for NSW (the 1967 record was not assessed by BARC).*

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

ID No: 770 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2017.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.2%.

Notable records: 30+ birds often were recorded at the Worimi Conservation Lands with peak count 67 birds 7 Apr (Table 38). 15+ birds were in the Manning Estuary in all surveys with peak count 27 birds 23-24 Feb (Table 42). **Breeding:** Birds had nest with eggs and/or runners at Winda Woppa Jan-early Feb and late Dec (FRN) and Ash Island mid-late Dec (STA *et al.*, LIA). **Atlas:** 104 records, RR 48% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was low).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

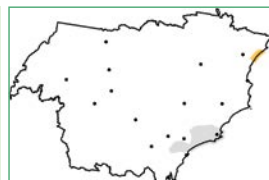
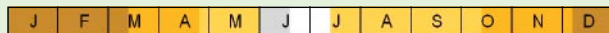
ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Winter migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.4%.

Birds were in the Worimi Conservation Lands Apr-Sep with peak count 93 birds 23 Jun (Table 38). 32-50+ birds were in the Manning Estuary Mar-May but numbers were low after that (Table 42). However, single birds were recorded at Manning Entrance SP Jan-Feb (MUL, Table 42, others) and often during 12-31 Dec by the many visitors to the site at that time. Birds were at Gir-um-bit NP Apr-Aug with peak count 19 birds 22 Jul (Table 39). In the Hunter Estuary, 3-5 birds were occasionally recorded at one of four locations between 30 Apr and 23 Jul (several observers). **Atlas:** 44 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Counts 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.33%.

Single birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit 25 Feb and Gir-um-bit NP 8 Apr (KEM, Table 39). 1-2 were often recorded in Manning Entrance SP, by the many visitors in the second half of December. **Atlas:** Six records.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

ID No: 141 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (last recorded 2013; seven records since 1993).

Up to four birds were sometimes recorded in Manning Entrance SP by the many visitors in the second half of December – most records were of 1-2 birds. A single bird was also present 17-20 Jan (MUL, BEI). **Atlas:** Six records.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2002, 2014).

A flock of up to ten birds was at Hexham Swamp 22 Sep - 2 Oct (BEI, many others). The record was accepted by ORAC as the 35th record for NSW. **Atlas:** Five records.

Hooded Plover *Thinornis cucullatus*

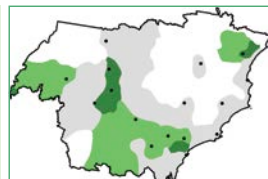
ID No: 138 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental.

No reports were received for 2017.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elsayornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded at medium waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.4%.**Notable records:** 18 birds were recorded at Coopernook Corner 29 Apr (STA).**Breeding:** A pair had dependent young at KI 22 Sep (ROM). **Atlas:** 89 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage.

14 birds were recorded near Windy HSD 3 May (WAB/JOJ). There were several records of birds at Bolwarra/Largs/Pitnacree in Sep / early Oct, with peak count 16 birds 4 Sep (ROM, others). Eight birds were at Redhead 18-19 Aug and 1 Sep (many observers, NIR) and four birds at Belmont beach 7 Aug (CJB). Two birds were at Hexham Swamp 10 Oct (BEA). **Breeding:** A pair had chicks at Largs 7-12 Sep (SDI, others). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

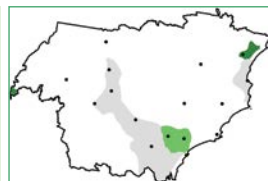
Regional status: Common resident. Up to 20 birds regularly recorded near medium-large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 41.2%.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary all year with peak count Jan 348 birds and 100+ birds Feb-Apr and Nov-Dec (Table 1). In Jan-Apr these counts included 40+ birds at Tomago Wetlands with peak count there 108 birds Apr (Table 7). 73 birds were at Morpeth WTW 31 Jan and 30+ birds Apr-May and Oct (Table 23); 30+ birds were also at Louth Park Mar, Tocal Wetlands Mar, Jun and Oct and Port Stephens 16 Feb (Tables 26, 36, 40).

Breeding: A pair had dependent young at Warners Bay 26 May (CJB). **Atlas:** 964 records, RR 90% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythronyx cinctus*

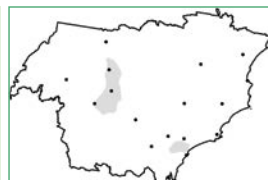
ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.4%.

103 birds including several juveniles were at Whistler Parade Maryland 25 Jul, with high numbers recorded there May-Sep and 1-5 birds occasionally in other months (ROM, others). Elsewhere, eight birds were at Stockton Borehole Swamp 29 Oct (MCM) and 1-5 birds at Hexham Swamp 19 Feb and 21 Jul (LIA, THJ), Coopernook 29 Apr and 3 Aug (STA, MGLB), Total 2 May (HBOC), Ash Island 10 May (STA) and WWW 11 Sep (BRG). **Breeding:** Birds were with chicks at Stockton Borehole Swamp 29 Oct (MCM). **Atlas:** 35 records, RR 63% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

Australian Painted-snipe *Rostratula australis* (Revised from: *Australian Painted Snipe*)

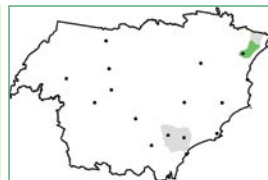
ID No: 170 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Conservation status: EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered**Regional status:** Uncertain (*all records since 1993 have been spring/summer ones*).

A female was recorded at night at Ash Island 13 Sep (ERE/BEC) and a male at Cooranbong 29 Sep (RIA). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** First records since January 2014.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

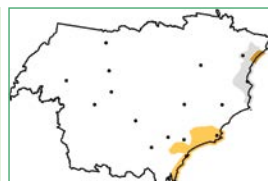
ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.61%.

Up to 5 birds were often recorded at Cattai Wetlands except over Oct-Nov when there were no records (STA, others). **Breeding:** A pair had chicks at Cattai Wetlands 27 Jan and 3 Feb (KET et al., STA). **Atlas:** Nine records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.3%.

Notable records: Port Stephens: 139 birds were recorded 16 Feb in a survey of all the Port (Table 40). 68 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 8 Apr and 29 birds 11 Mar (Table 39) and 23 birds at Corrie Island 4 Oct (FRN/STA). Hunter Estuary: 60+ birds were present Jan and Nov-Dec and 40+ birds Feb-Mar (Table 1). 24 birds were at a recently rehabilitated site on Smith Island 16 Jun (CLT). One bird was present all winter but 36 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 22 Jul (Table 1). **Atlas:** 67 records, RR 56% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.

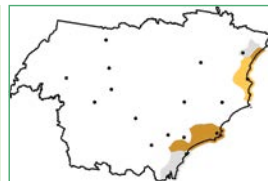
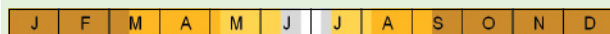
Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

ID No: 151 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2014; six records since 1969).Three birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 29 Sep (ROM/BEA). **Atlas:** One record.**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Critically Endangered

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; 1-10 birds moderately often recorded Sep-Apr; some young birds over winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 10.2%.

Notable records: Port Stephens: 226 birds were in Port Stephens 16 Feb (Table 40) and 100+ birds at Gir-um-bit NP Jan, Mar and Oct-Nov with peak count 182 birds 14 Jan (Table 39). 80 birds were at Corrie Island 11 Jan (FRN). Many over-wintered, including 32 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 22 Jul (Table 39). Hunter Estuary: 100+ birds were recorded Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec with peak count 197 birds Feb (Table 1). Seven birds were present all winter but 19 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 22 Jul (Table 1). Elsewhere: 15-26 birds were in the Manning Estuary Feb and Oct-Dec (Table 42). **Atlas:** 227 records, RR 100% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; up to 20 birds often recorded Sep-Mar; many young birds over winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.3%.

Notable records: Hunter Estuary: The peak counts were 710 birds Dec and 590 birds Oct, with 400+ birds present Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec (Tables 1, 2). 163 birds over-wintered. Port Stephens: 394 birds were present 16 Feb (Table 40). 260 birds were at Corrie Island 11 Jan and 164 birds 4 Oct (FRN, STA). ~20 birds often were recorded at LTP over Jun-Jul and 45 birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 22 Jul (WOL, Table 39). Elsewhere: 100+ birds were in the Manning Estuary Feb and Nov-Dec (Table 42). **Movements:** A female at Stockton Sandspit 4 Oct (WIT) had been banded in New Zealand (at Golden Bay near Farewell Spit) on 13 Dec 2004, hence was at least 14 years old. This bird was also recorded at the Sandspit in spring 2012 on its southward migration (per ROM). **Atlas:** 144 records, RR 59% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

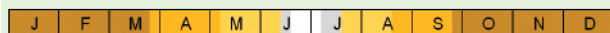
ID No: 815 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2017.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

ID No: 152 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.6%.

169 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan and 51-89 birds were recorded Feb-Apr, Oct and Dec; there were no winter records (Tables 1, 2). Three birds were at Tanilba Bay Apr (Table 41) – records from Port Stephens are uncommon. **Movements:** A bird at Stockton Sandspit 17 Nov had been banded there in 2004 and is a regular returnee (LIA). **Atlas:** 23 records, RR 37% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing slightly (after an 80-90% decline in total numbers over past decades).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

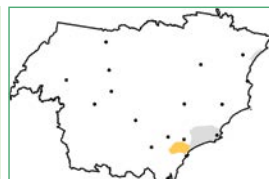
ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Summer migrant: 1-5 birds sometimes recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.1%.

Notable records: Newcastle Rock Platform: 8-10 birds were recorded Jan-Apr and 11-13 birds Oct-Dec (Table 10). The first reported return was 22 Sep when two birds were present (NIR). No birds over-wintered but a single bird was there May-Jun. Elsewhere: A single bird was at Winda Woppa 8 Feb (FRN) and two birds at Manning Entrance SP 31 Oct (Table 42). **Movements:** A bird present at Newcastle Baths from 27 Oct had been banded at King Island 11 Feb 2015. It was the third year of it visiting the site. Additional detail appears in Vol. 12 of *The Whistler*. **Atlas:** 21 records, RR 100% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.2%.

Up to six birds were sometimes recorded at Stockton Sandspit Jan-Mar and Sep-Nov (Table 1, others). Elsewhere, three birds were at Corrie Island 4 Oct (FRN/STA) and a single bird at Worimi Conservation Lands 15 Sep (WID). **Atlas:** 11 records, RR 33% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.1%

260 birds were at Stockton Sandspit 8 Oct (LIA) and 204 birds 21 Oct; 100+ birds were also recorded there Sep and Nov (LIA, Tables 1, 2). Five birds were at Hexham Swamp 10 Oct (BEA), three birds at Ash Island 21 Oct (STA/MCN) and single birds in the Hunter Estuary Jan and Mar (Table 1) and at Tahlee 10 Oct (FRN) and Manning Entrance SP 18 Dec (MUL). **Atlas:** 31 records, RR 57% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

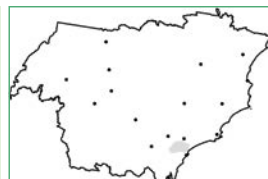
ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A single bird was at Ash Island 1 Nov (WAR), and likely the same bird 21 Oct and 18 Nov (STA/MCN, HAC). Subsequently, a single bird was at Stockton Sandspit 28-31 Dec (JED, others).

Atlas: Nil records.**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Calidris falcinellus*

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Rare summer migrant (last recorded 2014; nine records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

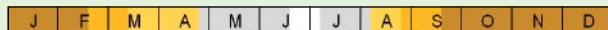
ID No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.4%.

Notable records: At the beginning of the year, numbers in the Hunter Estuary rose rapidly (after birds had begun arriving late Dec 2016). Although the counts from scheduled surveys Jan-Mar were of 700-1,200+ birds, much greater numbers often were recorded. 3,258 birds were at Tomago Wetlands 21 Jan and 5,000 birds in Feb, with 1,100+ birds still present in Mar (Table 7). Birds began to return to the estuary in late Aug, with numbers rising to 4,094 birds 20-21 Oct and remaining high all year (Table 1). Once again birds mostly were at Tomago Wetlands (Table 7) but there also were several records of 700-1,000+ birds at locations around Hexham Swamp, from early Sep. There were very few reports from outside the Hunter Estuary. A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon at Tomago Wetlands 21 Nov (LIA *et al.*). *The Hunter Estuary counts represent 3-5% of the total world population.* **Atlas:** 117 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** It was the fifth successive year of similar high numbers of birds present.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.2%.

The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 240 birds 11 Feb with 198 birds also present Jan and 104 birds Oct (Table 1). The greatest numbers usually were at Hexham Swamp but some birds often were at Stockton Sandspit and Tomago Wetlands (Tables 2, 7). Elsewhere, 20 birds were at Corrie Island 11 Jan (FRN), 14 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 21 Oct (Table 11) and single birds at Corrie Island 3 Jan (FRN), Harrington 2 Feb (per ROM), Worimi Conservation Lands 15 Sep (WID) and Manning Entrance SP late Dec when many people were visiting the area. **Atlas:** 56 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (after decades of decline).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2014).

No reports were received for 2017.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

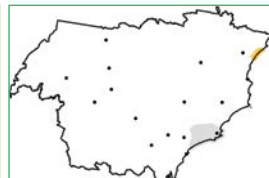
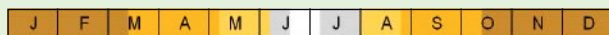
Regional status: Summer migrant: 1-5 birds sometimes recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.9%.

Notable records: 71 birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Mar and 60 birds Oct – the latter were all at Tomago Wetlands (Tables 1, 2), although birds were sometimes at Hexham Swamp in lesser numbers earlier in the month. 17-20 birds were in the Manning Estuary Feb-Mar and Dec (Table 42) and the numbers were rising in late Dec. Six birds were at Oyster Cove 9 Oct (WOL) but all records from elsewhere were of 1-5 birds (see Tables for details).

Atlas: 49 records, RR 38% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.51%.

Eight birds were recorded at Manning Entrance SP 17 Jan and 19 birds 20 Jan (MUL, BEI) and up to 12 birds in the second half of December, by the many visitors to the site at that time. 2-3 birds were at Harrington 24 Mar and 28 Apr (Table 42) and single birds at Worimi Conservation Lands 13 Jan, 15 & 22 Sep and 20 Nov (Table 38, WID). **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** Probably declining (NB more observers in the Manning Estuary than usual).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*

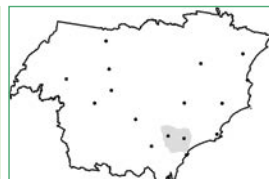
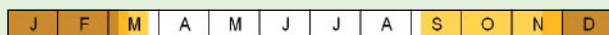
ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2017.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant.

No reports were received for 2017.

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

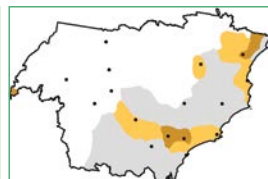
ID No: 939 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1985).

No reports were received for 2017.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

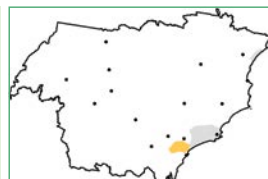
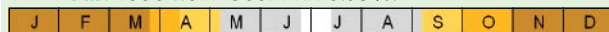
Regional status: Summer migrant; 1-5 birds often recorded from late Aug to mid-Mar.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.5%.

Notable records: 38 birds were recorded at East Cooranbong Nov (Table 18). Three sites had notable counts for prolonged times: Wallsend Wetlands Jan-Feb with peak count 18 birds 15 Jan (KAL, Table 9, others); Bulbul Crescent Fletcher Sep-Dec with peak count 47 birds 28 Nov (ROM/NIJ, others); Irrawang Swamp Oct-Dec with peak count 21 birds 4 Oct (Table 31, WAB). Also 14 birds were at HWC Nov (Table 6) and 12 birds at Lenaghans Flat 27 Nov (GOS/BRM). The first known return was 28 Aug when a single bird was recorded at Cooperook (MGLB).

Atlas: 54 records, RR 51% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining (once again the RR was low).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

ID No: 160 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.93%.

Six birds were in the Hunter Estuary (Fern Bay area) Jan-Feb and five birds Nov-Dec (Tables 1, 2). Single birds were at Fern Bay 8 Apr (ERE) and Manning Entrance SP 16 & 18 Dec (ERE, MUL), and two birds at Fern Bay at 21 & 29 Oct (CLT *et al.*, DDR). **Atlas:** Three records.

Trend: Possibly now stable after 80-90% decline in numbers over past decades.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

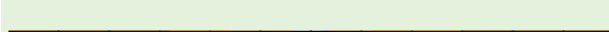
ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.50%.

Single birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary Jan, Apr, Oct and Dec (Table 1) and at Tahlee/Carrington 30 Jan (FLS) and Saltwater NP 23 Feb (STA). **Atlas:** Ten records, RR 78% of long-term. **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.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.6%.

Notable records: Port Stephens: An estimated 100 birds were in Port Stephens 8 Apr (WOL); this included 40 birds at Swan Bay which had occasional other records (Table 39). Hunter Estuary: 41 birds were present Apr, with 20-30 birds recorded Feb-Mar and Oct-Dec (Tables 1, 2). Elsewhere: A single bird was at Manning Entrance SP 17 Jan (per BEI) – *uncommon at this location*. **Movements:** A bird seen intermittently at Swan Bay 26 Mar – 28 Apr had been banded as an adult in July 2012 at its breeding grounds in South Chukotka (P. Tomkovich per WOL). Another bird recorded at Lemon Tree Passage 22 Mar – 12 Apr had been banded as a chick in South Chukotka in 2016 (per WOL). **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 37% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was low).

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2017.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2001).

No reports were received for 2017.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

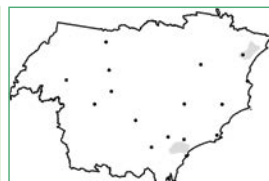
Regional status: Summer migrant: 1-5 birds often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.1%.

Notable records: The peak count for the Hunter Estuary was 122 birds Feb and there were several records of 50+ birds Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec (Table 1). Mostly the birds were at Tomago Wetlands which had 50+ birds Feb-Apr and Dec, with peak count 85 birds Apr (Table 7).

Atlas: 48 records, RR 46% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was low).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at Hexham Swamp 7-13 Jan (SIA, OWS, PAL). **Atlas:** Nil records.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Summer migrant: 1-5 birds often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.1%.

Notable records: Birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, with peak count 52 birds Feb (Tables 1, 2). **Atlas:** Three records. **Trend:** Probably declining.

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

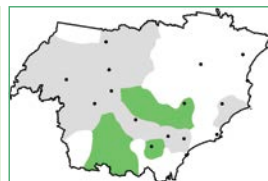
ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (last recorded 2014; six records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.54%.

Single birds were recorded at Timor 18 Sep (HBOC), Cattai Wetlands 24 Sep (MGLB) and Weismantels Rd 19 Oct (CAA), and a dead bird was found at Merewether 30 Sep (MRO). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

ID No: 019 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2005, 2008).

A female was found at Hexham Swamp in the morning of 28 Dec and then was seen again at the same site that night (ROM, KEM). **Atlas:** Nil records.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

ID No: 018 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1996, 2004).

A single bird was at Durrigere Rd 24 Sep (KEM). **Atlas:** Nil records.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

ID No: 173 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2003, 2009, 2013, 2016).

A single bird was recorded several times at Hexham Swamp 26-29 Sep (SIA, others), and two birds were present 29 Sep (ROM/BEA). **Atlas:** Three records.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

ID No: 172 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (New to list).

A single bird was first recorded at Hexham Swamp 21 Feb and thereafter by many observers until it departed in the morning of 25 Feb (STA, others). *The record was accepted by ORAC as probably the 15th record for NSW (many have not been reviewed by ORAC).* **Atlas:** Six records.

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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A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 22 Jan (Table 44).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

ID No: 128 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Summer migrant.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Four birds were recorded in pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 12 Nov and Swansea 8 Dec, and a single bird off Port Stephens 26 Nov (Table 44).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Usual summer migrant.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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12 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 8 Dec and 7-8 birds in Port Stephens surveys Jan and Mar, with lesser numbers present 12 & 26 Nov (Table 44). 1-4 birds were inshore near Nobbys/Newcastle Beach 14 Feb and 5 & 19 Mar (NIR, ROM).

Brown Skua *Catharacta antarcticus*

ID No: 127 (Amended)

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Regional status: Uncommon visitor, more frequently in winter.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Two birds were off Port Stephens during a pelagic survey 17 Sep (Table 44).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Uncommon summer bird of passage.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Single birds were offshore from Dudley 13 Feb (FAB), Blacksmiths 18 Feb (per BEI), Newcastle Baths 2 Mar and Bar Beach 20 Mar (both NIR).

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

ID No: 124 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2004, 2013).

No reports were received for 2017.

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 2017.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

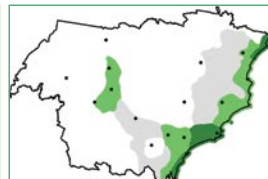
ID No: 972 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (recorded 2003, 2012, 2016).

No reports were received for 2017.

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 100 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 17.0%.

Notable records: 100+ birds were often recorded at five locations: Hunter Estuary most months with peak count 382 birds Feb (Table 1); Newcastle Baths area most months with peak count 450 birds Apr (Table 10); Swansea/Lake Macquarie most months with peak count 251 birds Jun (Table 11); Birubi – Tomaree most months with peak count 339 birds Jun (Table 37); and Worimi Conservation Lands many months with peak count 255 birds Dec (Table 38). 300-500 birds were off Swansea (mainly at Moon Island Jul and Dec (Table 44) 230 birds in Port Stephens 16 Feb (Table 40) and 100+ birds in the Manning Estuary Apr-May (Table 42). A bird took a Little Tern runner at Winda Woppa 1 Jan (MCS), and a dark bird was at Nobbys Beach 18 Jul (BUL). **Atlas:** 584 records, RR 104% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2015; eight records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

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

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2015; five records since 1993).

A single bird was at Newcastle Bight (Worimi Conservation Lands) 28 Oct (BEI, others) – the 6th confirmed record for the Region and the 4th record from Newcastle Bight. **Atlas:** One record.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* (Amended from: *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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Two birds were recorded 35km east of Old Bar 29 Dec (ERE), and a single bird during a pelagic from Swansea 8 Dec (Table 44).

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

ID No: 121 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2013)

No reports were received for 2017.

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus*

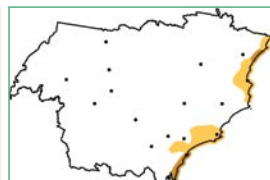
ID No: TBA HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A flock of 13 roosting birds was discovered at Mudbishops Point (in Manning Entrance SP) on 11 Dec (MUL). The site was visited by many observers over the ensuing weeks (and into 2018) and most afternoon counts were of 13-15 birds. The morning counts were more variable as birds often were foraging. *The report was accepted by BARC as the second Australian record; also see the Supplementary Records section.*

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.6%.

Notable records: 200-250 birds were in the Manning Estuary Nov-Dec and 100+ birds Feb; 54 birds were still present late Apr (Table 42). 100+ birds were often recorded around Winda Woppa in Port Stephens Jan-Feb with peak count 179 birds 16 Feb (FRN, Table 40). **Breeding:** Many pairs attempted to breed in Manning Entrance SP late in the year; however because of predation issues, no chicks fledged (THM). The 2016 breeding event at Winda Woppa continued throughout Jan and several runners and fledglings were still present 1 Feb, then in the 2016-17 season there were 49 nests which eventually fledged 28 chicks (FRN). Two nests with eggs were in the Worimi Conservation Lands 20 Nov (FRN). **Atlas:** 64 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** It is encouraging that the Winda Woppa breeding colony has prospered, but breeding in the Manning Estuary has declined.

Common Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

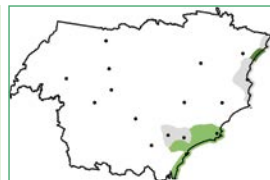
ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Sandspit in the evening of 29 Dec (KEM); subsequently the bird was seen by many others over 30-31 Dec. *The record was accepted by ORAC as the 2nd record for NSW (and just one month after the first record).*

Australian Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*

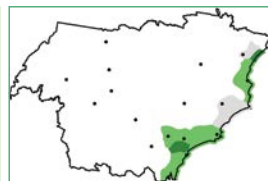
ID No: 8794 (Rev'd) HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.2%.

Notable records: 150+ birds were recorded at Worimi Conservation Lands 20 Oct and numbers were high there over Jun-Dec (Table 38). 30-34 birds were in the Hunter Estuary May-Jun and there were records of 10-20+ birds at/near Stockton Sandspit in May-Jun and Sep-Dec (Tables 1, 2). 10+ birds also were occasionally at Gir-um-bit NP (Table 39). **Atlas:** 149 records, RR 134% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

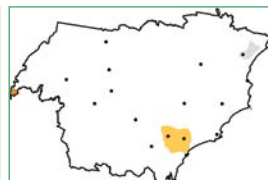
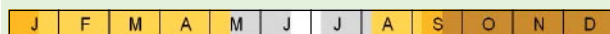
Regional status: Common bird of passage. 1-5 birds moderately often recorded close to the coast.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.8%.

Notable records: 30 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Apr and 11-13 birds at Gir-um-bit NP Jun-Aug (Tables 1, 39). **Movements:** There were records of three different birds that had been banded in Victoria – from Swan Bay 1 May and 2 Sep and Nobbys Beach 8 Oct (WOL, NIR).

Atlas: 96 records, RR 57% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

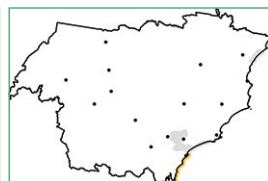
ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Spring migrant and bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.88%.

320 birds were at Hexham Swamp 29 Sep and there many records of lesser numbers both there and at Ash Island in Sep-Nov (ROM/BEA, others). In other months, 1-3 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 1 Jan (ROM/WID), Tomago Wetlands 14 Jan (BEI), Ash Island 20 Jan (LIG), WWW 26 Sep (BRG), Cooranbong 29 Sep (RIA), Cattai Wetlands 1 Nov (WAB) and Deep Pond 16 Dec (STA et al.). **Atlas:** 19 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant.

Two birds were recorded at Manning Entrance SP 20 Dec and a single bird there 17 Dec (several observers), and a single bird was at Hexham Swamp 7 Oct (per ROM).

Trend: Uncertain.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

ID No: 884 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1968).

No reports were received for 2017.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Winter migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.50%.

Up to seven birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Jun-Sep (Table 10) and two birds were off Port Stephens during a pelagic survey 25 Jun (Table 44). Single birds were at Manning Entrance SP 27 Apr, Birubi-Tomaree Jun, Merewether 10 Jul and Worimi Conservation Lands 21 Jul (Tables 37, 38, 42, NIR). **Atlas:** Eleven 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.8%.

Notable records: 44-70 birds were recorded in the Manning Estuary Feb and Nov-Dec, and numbers were rising later in the year (Table 42, others). Birds were at the Newcastle rock platform Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec with peak count 32 birds Jan (Table 10) and 27 birds were at Winda Woppa 16 Feb (Table 40). **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 89% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

ID No: 952 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2017.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.6%.

Notable records: 173 birds were in Port Stephens 16 Feb but 241 birds had been recorded at Winda Woppa 8 Feb (Table 37, FRN). There were high counts regularly at three locations: Newcastle Baths 50+ all months, 100+ May-Sep and peak count 248 birds Jul (Table 10); Birubi-Tomaree 50+ Jun-Sep with peak count 229 birds Jun (Table 37); and Manning Estuary 50+ all surveys, 100+ birds May-Jun and Dec and peak count 224 birds 27-28 Jun (Table 42). **Atlas:** 365 records, RR 104% 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 (last recorded 2016; nine records since 1952).

No reports were received for 2017.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2014; seven records since 1956).

No reports were received for 2017.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

ID No: 005 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 26 Nov (Table 44) and three birds were off the Newcastle rock platform 8 Apr (BEI). **Atlas:** Six records.



Black-bellied Storm Petrel by Mick Roderick

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.

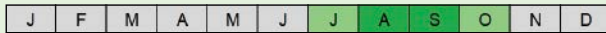


Over Oct-Dec, birds were recorded in all pelagic surveys from Port Stephens and Swansea with 30 present 8 Dec and 15-20 birds in the Oct and Nov surveys (Table 44).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.



1-5 birds were recorded in pelagic surveys from Port Stephens and Swansea Jan and Sep-Dec, and ten birds were present 26 Nov (Table 44).

White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

ID No: 944 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

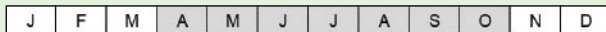
Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2006-07, 2010).

No reports were received for 2017.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2014; six records since 1993).



Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 6 Oct and eight birds on the analogous 15 Oct survey (Table 44).

New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Fregetta maoriana*

ID No: 8092 (Amended) HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2010, 2013).

No reports were received for 2017.

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-spring migrant at >5 km from shore

(Revised from: Uncommon winter migrant).

Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*

ID No: 846 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon winter-spring migrant at >5 km from shore

(Revised from: Uncommon winter migrant).

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

Wandering Albatross: 11 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 12 Nov and 2-3 birds in the analogous Oct surveys (Table 44).**Antipodean Albatross:** 1-3 birds were sometimes off Port Stephens Sep-Nov (Table 44).**Records of unidentified birds:** Four birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 12 Nov and single birds in the analogous 26 Nov and 8 Dec surveys (Table 44).**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 2017.

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*

ID No: 864 (Amended) 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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20-30 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens and Swansea Jun-Aug and a single bird 17 Sep (Table 44).

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 2017.

Black-browed Albatross types

Regional status: Common winter migrant; regularly recorded including from land. It can be a challenge to differentiate *T. melanophris* and *T. impavida* without close views.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* (Amended from: *melanophrys*)

ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Common winter migrant.

Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*

ID No: 859 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Winter migrant.

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

Black-browed Albatross: Five birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 7 Jul and 1-2 birds several times in analogous surveys including some summer records (Table 44).

Campbell Albatross: There were records of 1-2 birds during pelagic surveys Jul-Sep, Nov and Dec (Table 44).

Records of unidentified birds: 1-3 birds often were recorded all year during pelagic surveys (Table 44).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon winter migrant (*last recorded 2016; 16 records since 1993*).

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 from Port Stephens 25 Jun (Table 44).

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 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 closely 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 (*3 confirmed records, in July 2010, March 2015 and July 2016*).

Shy Albatross types ctd

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; records 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 2017. See Supplementary Records.

White-capped Albatross: No reports were received for 2017.

Salvin's Albatross: No reports were received for 2017.

Records of unidentified birds: Eight birds were recorded off Swansea 8 Dec and there were several records of 1-5 birds including in summer months (Table 44).

Giant-Petrel types

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

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

ID No: 937 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon winter migrant.

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

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered

Regional status: Uncommon winter migrant.

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

Northern Giant-Petrel: Two birds were recorded off Swansea 7 Jul and a single bird off Port Stephens 25 Jun (Table 44).

Southern Giant-Petrel: No reports were received for 2017.

Records of unidentified birds: No reports were received for 2017.

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 2017. *There have been no reports since September 2015.*

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 (last recorded 2016; three records since 1993)

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

ID No: 942 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2016; three records since 1993)

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

ID No: 083 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

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



Confirmed records are presented below, then records where the species could not be definitively assigned.

Broad-billed Prion: No reports were received for 2017.

Antarctic Prion: No reports were received for 2017.

Slender-billed Prion: No reports were received for 2017.

Fairy Prion: A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey from Swansea 7 Jul (Table 44).
A poor year.

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.



Seven birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 12 Nov and two birds 22 Jan and 26 Nov (Table 44). **Breeding:** There was 45% breeding success in 2016-17 (with 292 chicks fledged), which was about the long-term norm after three below average years including a very poor 2015-16 result due to predation (per GRL). **Trend:** Possibly recovering.

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

ID No: 918 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic from Port Stephens 12 Nov (Table 44). *BARC accepted the record as the 9th confirmed record for Australia.* Also see Supplementary Records.

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

ID No: 5007 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

No reports were received for 2017.

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 2017.

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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30 birds were recorded during a pelagic from Port Stephens 15 Oct, eight birds 25 Jun and 6 Oct and 3-4 birds in other surveys over Aug-Sep and Nov (Table 44).

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 2 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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Two birds were recorded during a pelagic from Port Stephens 6 Oct and a single bird in a survey off Forster 12 Mar (Table 44).

Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*

ID No: 919 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (New to list)

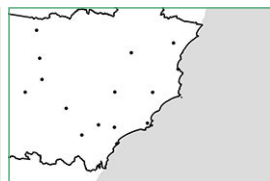
Twelve birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 12 Nov and seven birds the following day (Table 44, WID). These records collectively were accepted by ORAC as the 21st confirmed record for NSW (and the first since 2011).

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer visitor (last recorded 2015; nine records since 1993).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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A single bird was 35km east of Myall Lakes 28 Dec (MID).

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 810 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1988).

No reports were received for 2017.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

ID No: 076 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (*New to list*)

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 15 Oct (Table 44).

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

ID No: 077 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare late winter/spring migrant (*last recorded 2013; six records since 1993*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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No reports were received for 2017.

Grey-faced Petrel *Pterodroma gouldi*ID No: 8681 (*Amended*) HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No**Regional status:** Common all year at and beyond the continental shelf.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Around 120 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 12 Nov and 25 birds 15 Oct (Table 44). Six birds were off Forster 12 Mar and 35km east of Myall Lakes 28 Dec and there were records of 3-4 birds Jun and Nov-Dec (Table 44, ERE). A single bird was off Newcastle 3 Jun (ROM).

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 2017.

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant (*last recorded 2015; 15 records since 1993*).

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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1-2 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys from Port Stephens 15 Oct and 12 Nov (Table 44).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

ID No: 069 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Notable records: There were many counts of 1,000-2,000 birds during pelagic surveys Jan-Mar and Sep-Oct (Table 44) and ~2,500 birds were off Newcastle 5 Mar (ROM). A pale morph bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 22 Jan (ROM). **Breeding:** Several burrows on Broughton Island already had chicks 20 Jan (HBOC) – *early*.

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

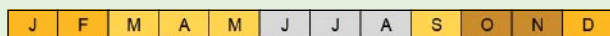
ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant (last recorded 2015; 11 records since 1993).

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys from Port Stephens 15 Oct and Swansea 8 Dec (Table 44).

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.

Notable records: Birds were migrating through at an estimated 10,000 birds per hour during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 13 Nov (WID).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

ID No: 070 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant.

1-4 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys in Oct-Dec (Table 44) and 35km E of Myall Lakes 28 Dec (MID).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

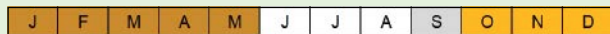
ID No: 771 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2011).

No reports were received for 2017.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

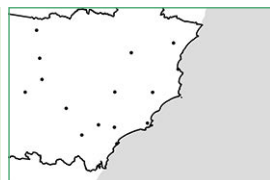
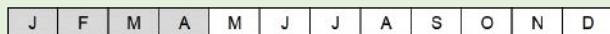
ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Common summer migrant at >1km from shore.

120 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 26 Nov and 100 birds in an analogous survey from Forster 12 Mar (Table 44). There were several records of lesser numbers Jan and Oct-Dec (Table 44).

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant (last recorded 2015; eight records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

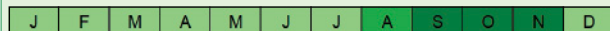
Fluttering Shearwater types

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

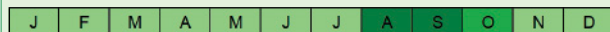
Regional status: Summer migrant and bird of passage in late winter/spring.



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: 10-15 birds were recorded in Aug-Oct during pelagic surveys and 1-3 birds several times in Mar and Oct-Dec, and there was a winter record of a single bird off Port Stephens 25 Jun (Table 44).

Hutton's Shearwater: 15 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 17 Sep and 1-4 birds in analogous surveys Jan, Aug and Nov-Dec (Table 44).

Records of unidentified birds: Birds were recorded in most pelagic surveys over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec with peak count 20 birds 6 Aug (Table 44).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

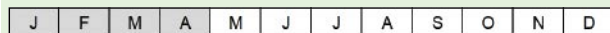
Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2007; two records since 1993).

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic from Port Stephens 12 Nov (Table 44). This was the fourth record for the Region (and only the second live record). It was accepted by ORAC as the 6th confirmed NSW record although there have been many older records not assessed by ORAC.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer visitor (last recorded 2014; five records since 1993).



No reports were received for 2017.

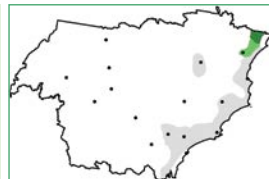
Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

ID No: 085 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2012-13).

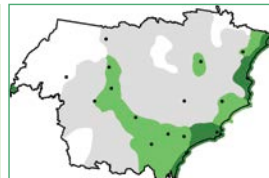
No reports were received for 2017.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
 ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Conservation status: NSW: Endangered
Regional status: Rare resident.
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.62%.



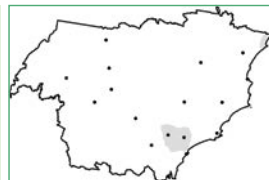
Lower Hunter: There were many records all year of several birds, particularly from Hexham Swamp and occasionally from elsewhere around the estuary including Tomago Wetlands. These records collectively involved at least four adult birds and two immatures (many observers). Mid-Jun, two adults and four immature birds (two of these being younger birds) were recorded at Maryland (per THJ). Also see Breeding. **Harrington/Cooperbrook:** 1-2 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 14 Feb (WAB/JOJ), Harrington 15 Apr (MGLB), Killabakh 5 Aug (MGLB) and Glenthorne (via Taree) 12 Oct (MGLB). **Bulahdelah/Forster:** A pair with two immature birds was recorded at Bulahdelah 13-15 Jan (ERE, CAA). **Gloucester:** Pairs were recorded in the Stratford/Stroud area 16 Jan and 23 Jul (REP, BEP) and a male bird near Stratford 17 Jun (ZVS). **Elsewhere:** A single bird was at Duns Creek 24 Jul (ALG). **Breeding:** A pair began nest building at Tomago at the beginning of March and eventually raised one chick, which fledged 7 Aug and continued to be seen with its parents in the Tomago area for another 1-2 weeks (PCB, LIA, others). *This is the first confirmed breeding record for the lower Hunter although there was strong circumstantial evidence that the Hexham Swamp based pair bred locally in the 2015-2016 season.* An adult male and a begging juvenile were at Whistler Parade 3 Dec (LIA et al.) – *it was not the Tomago juvenile and is further circumstantial evidence of breeding by a Hexham Swamp based pair.* **Atlas:** 52 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 24.2%.



Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded in the Hunter Estuary most months with 100+ birds present Apr, Oct and Dec and peak count 154 birds Apr (Table 3). 129 birds were in Port Stephens 16 Feb (Table 40). 30+ birds often were at Tomago Wetlands, Swansea/Lake Macquarie and the Manning Estuary (Tables 7, 11, 42). **Atlas:** 538 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*
 ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)
Conservation status: EPBC: Endangered NSW: Endangered
Regional status: Rare resident.
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.38%.

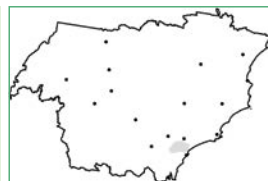


Single birds were recorded at locations around Hexham Swamp 22 Feb, 11 & 20 May, 31 Jul and 28 Nov (ROM, OCG, WEP, BRG/KIR), and at Singleton (flying over) 20 Feb (ALP) and Ash Island 28 Nov (BOH). Also see Supplementary Records. **Atlas:** Four records.
Trend: Probably declining.

Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

ID No: 195 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Rare (last recorded 2016; nine records since 1993).



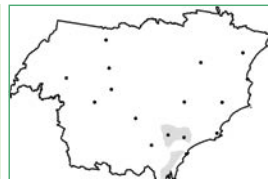
No confirmed reports were received for 2017.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Rare resident.



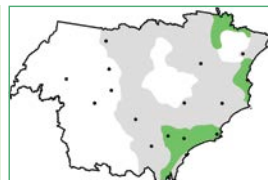
Single birds were recorded at Stockton Creek Morisset 14 Jan (BEI), Boys Walk Dora Creek 19 Feb and Tocal 2 May (HBOC). **Trend:** Probably stable.

Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 47 records, RR 86% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.9%.



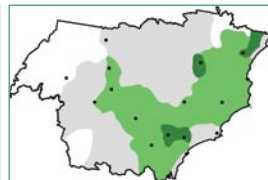
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 80 records, RR 124% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable, but again, more records than usual.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (Amended from: *Ardea ibis*)

ID No: 977 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident. 10-50 birds moderately often recorded.

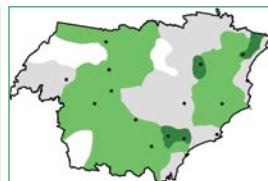
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 12.2%.



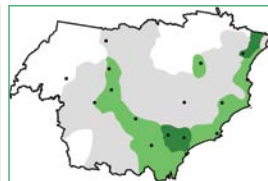
Notable records: 515 birds were at HWC Jan, associated with the breeding colony there, and 100-200+ birds Feb and Nov-Dec (Table 6). 200-500 birds were at Rutherford Jan and Oct-Dec and 296 birds at Tocal Wetlands 30 Mar (Tables 29, 36). **Breeding:** There were 260 nests at HWC 1 Dec (NIG *et al.*) and also many hundreds of nests at Nulama Ponds Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 220 records, RR 70% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was below average).

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

ID No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Regular visitor. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.9%.**Notable records:** Eight birds were in the Hunter Estuary 7-8 Apr and six birds at Anambah 30 Nov (Tables 3, 25). A bird was taken by a Little Eagle at Hexham Swamp 22 Jul (KAL).**Atlas:** 150 records, RR 88% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 19.2%.**Notable records:** There were good numbers all year in the Hunter Estuary (with Tomago Wetlands being an important site); 59 birds were recorded Apr and 24 birds Jan, with many other records of 10+ birds (Tables 3, 7). 27 birds were at HWC Feb and 16-18 birds Mar and Dec (Table 6) and 18 birds were at Toronto Wetlands Nov-Dec (Table 21). **Breeding:** 18 nests were at HWC 1 Dec (NIG et al.). **Atlas:** 399 records, RR 78% of long-term.**Trend:** Probably stable.**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

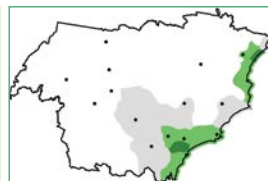
Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.3%.**Notable records:** 10-15 birds were recorded at Morpeth WTW Jan, Ash Island Apr, Swansea May, Belmont Lagoon Jun-Jul and Nov and HWC Oct (Tables 5, 6, 11, 14, 23). **Breeding:** There were four nests at HWC 1 Dec (NIG et al.). **Atlas:** 120 records, RR 89% of long-term.**Trend:** Uncertain (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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 39.8%.**Notable records:** 100+ birds often were recorded in the Hunter Estuary, with peak count 180 birds Jul; Tomago Wetlands was the most important single location (Tables 3, 7). However, 100-200 birds were at Hexham Swamp 24 Jun, 18 Nov and 27 Dec (ROM, LIA). A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon 24 Feb near Broke (JOM), and a bird was seen at the continental shelf during a pelagic survey from Forster 12 Mar (WID et al.). **Atlas:** 926 records, RR 98% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds are occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.6%.

Notable records: 25 birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 22 Jul (Table 11) and 6-9 birds at HWC Feb, Belmont Lagoon Jul, Cold Tea Creek Aug and often in the Hunter Estuary (Tables 3, 6, 13, 14). **Breeding:** There were three nests at HWC 1 Dec (NIG *et al.*).

Atlas: 163 records, RR 82% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

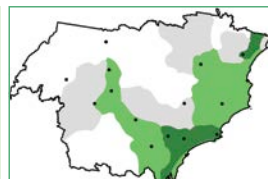
ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.75%.

2-3 birds were recorded at Blueys Beach 22 May & 27 Dec, Broughton Island 22-24 Jun and 12-14 Oct and Birubi/Tomaree in Oct (NED, STA *et al.*, Table 37). Single birds were at Broughton Island 23 Apr (STA *et al.*), Crowdy Head 25 Mar and 29 Apr (STA), One Mile Beach 16 Apr (BRG), Saltwater NP 17 May (WAB/JOJ) and Newcastle Baths 12 Jul (NIR). **Atlas:** 15 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 24.7%.

Notable records: 100+ birds were sometimes recorded at five sites: Hunter Estuary Jan-May with peak count 321 birds Jan (Table 3); HWC Jan-Feb and Jun-Dec with peak count 337 birds Aug (Table 6); Muddy Lake Jan and Sep-Dec with peak count 293 birds Dec (Table 17), Toronto Wetlands 30 Sep (Table 21); Raymond Terrace Nov-Dec with peak count 377 birds 31 Dec (Table 30). **Breeding:** The period at HWC spanned many months, with 57 nests present 30 Jun, 117 nests 11 Aug and 76 nests 1 Dec (NIG *et al.*). Breeding at Muddy Lake (reported in 2016) continued into Jan-Feb (GOC), and birds also bred at Antenna Swamp Sandgate Jan-Feb (ROM).

Atlas: 688 records, RR 115% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

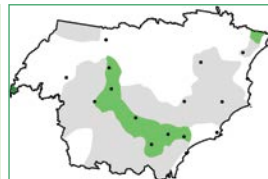
ID No: 180 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Usual bird of passage. Up to 50 birds regularly recorded, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 12.9%.

Notable records: 200 birds were at Rutherford 22 Aug (Table 29). **Atlas:** 286 records, RR 79% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

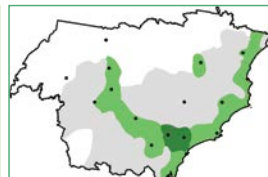
ID No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: No

Regional status: Bird of passage. 1-3 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.1%.

Notable records: Four birds were at Irrawang Swamp 4 Oct (Table 31). **Atlas:** 20 records, RR 43% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was quite low).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

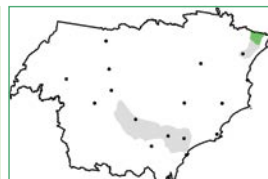
ID No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 14.2%.

Notable records: High numbers were often in the Hunter Estuary Jan-Apr with peak count 90 birds in May and many records of 20+ birds in other months; Tomago Wetlands was the most important site (Tables 3, 7). 20+ birds were also at Cattai Wetlands 3 Feb (Table 43), HWC Jan, Oct and Dec (Table 6) and Swansea/Lake Macquarie 22 Jul (Table 11). **Atlas:** 305 records, RR 85% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.79%.

61 birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 1 Jan; 20+ birds were there throughout Jan (ROM/WID, others). 22-26 birds were also present 18 Jun and 29 Sep (KEM, ROM/BEA), and 12 birds 5 Nov and 2-3 birds 25 Feb and 5 May (KET, ROM). Elsewhere, three birds were at Morpeth WTW Jan-Feb (Table 23). **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

ID No: 095 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2000, 2013).

No reports were received for 2017.

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

ID No: 094 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2015).

No reports were received for 2017.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.8%.

Notable records: 450 birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Port Stephens 17 Sep and 100 birds 6 Oct (Table 44). **Atlas:** 123 records, RR 205% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

ID No: 103 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2013; four records since 1985).

Two birds were recorded during a pelagic survey from Forster 12 Mar (WID *et al.*). The report was accepted by ORAC as the 13th confirmed record for NSW.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

ID No: 102 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2011; six records since 1984).

No reports were received for 2017.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

ID No: 105 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (last recorded 2013; two records since 1979).

No reports were received for 2017.

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

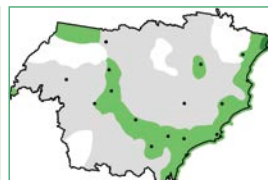
ID No: 100 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded at small to large waters.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 22.2%.

Notable records: 50 birds were recorded at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 24 Jun and 20+ birds there Jul and Nov-Dec (Table 11). 20+ birds were also at Muddy Lake Jan, Port Stephens 16 Feb, Hunter Estuary Apr, Toronto Wetlands 28 Dec (Tables 3, 17, 21, 40) and Rowans Dam Ulan 14 Apr (ROM/WID). **Atlas:** 565 records, RR 88% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 11.5%.

Notable records: Numbers in the Birubi Beach / Tomaree Head area were high in Sep-Dec with peak count 59 birds Dec (Table 37). 10-20 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Jun and Sep, Redhead Lagoon 30 Jan, Muddy Lake Aug, Gir-um-bit NP 19 Aug and Port Stephens 16 Feb (Tables 10, 12, 17, 39, 40). **Atlas:** 219 records, RR 65% of long-term.

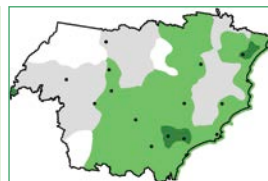
Trend: Probably stable.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 20.8%.



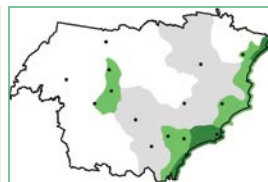
Notable records: 500+ birds were at Corrie Island 3 Jan and 350+ birds there 8 Feb and in the Manning Estuary 7 Dec (FRN, Table 42). 100+ birds were recorded at Port Stephens 6 Feb, Belmont Lagoon Oct and Muddy Lake Jun-Jul (Tables 14, 17, 40). **Atlas:** 449 records, RR 83% of long-term. **Trend:** 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 10.0%.



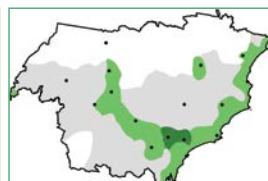
Notable records: 228 birds were at Corrie Island 11 Jan and 221 birds were in all of Port Stephens 16 Feb (FRN, Table 40). 40 birds were in the Hunter Estuary Jan, 53 birds at Swansea/Lake Macquarie Nov and 81 birds at Muddy Lake Jun (Tables 3, 11, 17). **Breeding:** There were ~80 nests at Dowardee Island 19 Jun (FRN). **Atlas:** 294 records, RR 88% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 9.1%.



Notable records: 14 birds were at Rutherford 27 Nov and ten birds 20 Mar (Table 29). Twelve birds were at Warabrook 13 Mar (Table 8). **Breeding:** There were two nests with young at NWR 4 Feb (ROM/WID). **Atlas:** 208 records, RR 91% 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.

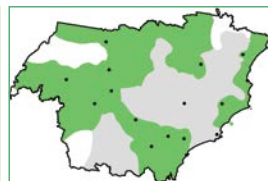
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 4.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were four active nests in Port Stephens 17 May and five active nests 1 Nov (WOL). Pairs were on nests at Ash Island and Morisset 2 Jul (LIA, MCE) and Maitland 23 Sep (NAK), and had a nest with young at Marks Point 22 Aug (FAB). **Movements:** A bird nesting at Ash Island Jul-Sep had been banded at Lake Innes, near Port Macquarie, on 29 Oct 2009 (per PAL). **Atlas:** 227 records, RR 128% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing. First 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 6.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 93 records, RR 55% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

ID No: 233 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

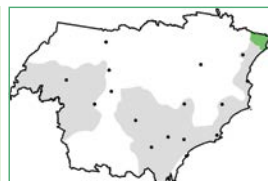
Regional status: Accidental (recorded 1977).

No reports were received for 2017.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

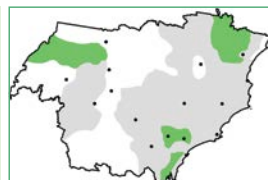
Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.25%.

Autumn-winter records: Single birds were recorded at Lambton 11 Mar (KET), East Maitland 27 Mar (SMJ), Rutherford 31 Mar (WEP), Morisset 16 Jun (ERE), Kurri Kurri often in Mar (ROS), Pambalong NR 28 Apr (ZVS) and Singleton Training Area 15 Aug (ROM), and two birds at Coopernook SF 3 Aug (MGLB). **Spring-summer records:** Single birds were at Wallis Lake 10 Jan (ERE), Rankin Park 23 Jan (KET), Kurri Kurri 3 Feb (ROS), East Maitland 4 Feb (BRG), Kotara 20-22 Feb (KYR), Thornton 24 Feb (BEI), Beresfield 24 Feb (THJ), Coomba Park 28 Feb (MGLB), Bellbird Heights 27 May (MOA) and Awabakal NR 28 Oct (STJ), and two birds at Cattai Wetlands 2 Feb (per ROM). **Breeding:** A pair was at a nest at Coopernook SF 3 Aug (MGLB). **Atlas:** Eleven records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair had three dependent young at Wallsend 21 Dec (KEM). **Atlas:** 14 records, RR 40% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was quite low for the third year in a row).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-2 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 6.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 101 records, RR 50% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was quite low for the third year in a row).



Little Eagle by Allen Friis

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.85%.



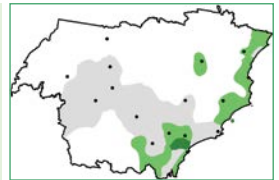
Two birds were recorded near Parkville 5 Sep (NEG) and single birds at Wingen 10 Apr and 13 Oct (NEG), Hexham Swamp 22-23 Jul (KAL, THJ), Shortland 24 Sep (ROM), Harrington 24 Sep (NAK), Windy HSD 1 Oct (HBOC) and Medhurst Bridge 23 Nov (MOA). The bird at Hexham Swamp 22 Jul took a White-necked Heron. **Atlas:** 14 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 9.5%.



Notable records: Seven birds were at Hexham Swamp 24 Jun (ROM). A bird at Hexham Swamp 21 Aug took an Australian Spotted Crake (FAB). **Breeding:** A bird was feeding fledged young at Hexham Swamp 2 Jan (PAL). **Atlas:** 218 records, RR 77% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

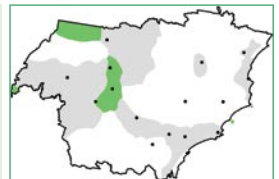
Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage.

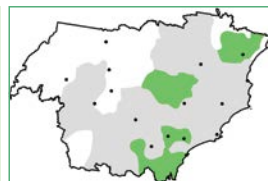
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.48%.



Two birds were at Tomago 26 Aug (FRN) and single birds at Hexham Swamp 25 Feb (ERE), Pitnacree 11 Apr (BAW), Ash Island 10 May (STA), East Maitland 21 May (WEP), Tomago 20 Jul (WEP) and Williamtown 23 Jul (FIM). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** A quiet year.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident. Single, grey phase birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.9%.

Notable records: White phase birds were recorded at Booral 20 & 24 Mar (ZVS), Boys Walk Cooranbong 22 Apr (FAB) and Heatherbrae 22 Aug (ANC). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at BbR 22 Nov (NIJ). **Atlas:** 53 records, RR 53% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

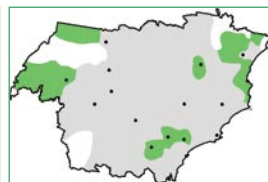
ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.8%.

Notable records: A bird took a Common Myna at Parkville 18 May (NEG). **Atlas:** 68 records, RR 50% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly stable (once again the RR was low).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

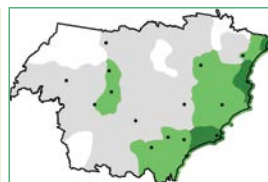
ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident. Single birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 94% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

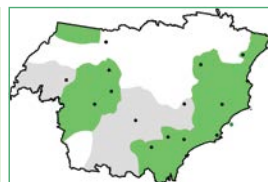
ID No: 226 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Usual resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 14.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Mambo Wetlands 24 Nov (FRN). **Atlas:** 369 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

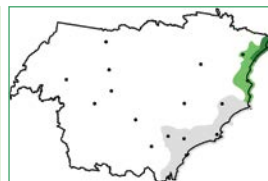
ID No: 228 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 14.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Shortland 29 Aug (KIB). **Atlas:** 296 records, RR 60% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

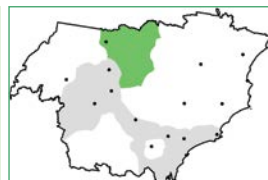
ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident. Only records from south of the Hunter Estuary are tracked.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.6%.

Notable records: There were several April records of 1-2 birds at Galgabba (ADJ. FAB). Single birds were at Fennell Bay 20 May (CON), Mt Hutton 19 Jun (MRO) and Broughton Island 13 Sep (ROM). **Breeding:** A pair once again nested at Lemon Tree Passage, although at a new site, and raised one young which fledged 9 Oct (WOL). **Atlas:** 47 records, RR 113% of long-term. **Trend:** The range is increasing.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.40%.

25 birds were at Hexham Swamp 29 Sep and there were many records of lesser numbers there throughout the year (ROM/BEA, others). 17 birds were recorded between Wingen and Scone 5 Sep (NEG) and 12 birds were hunting over BbR 6 Aug during a hazard reduction burn (per BEI). There were occasional but widespread reports of 1-3 birds, and six birds were near Parkville 14 Sep (NEG, others). **Atlas:** 46 records. **Trend:** Many records but mostly present in low numbers.

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at Tomago late Apr and 28 Nov (MUT, BEI *et al.*), Minimbah 24 May and 25 Jun (STA, CAA) Hexham Swamp 26 Sep and 26 Oct (KEM, DAP) and Ash Island 28 Nov (WAB *et al.*). *Minimbah is a new location.* **Atlas:** Two 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.

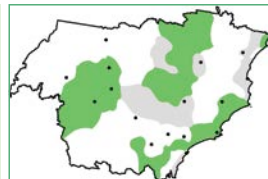
A single bird was at Wallingat NP 11 Feb (MGLB). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records
(Revised)

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon resident.

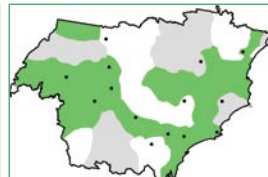


Road killed birds were at Gillieston Heights 17 Jan (per BRG) and Darawank 16 Apr (MGLB), and a bird was heard at Barrington Tops 16 Mar (FAA). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

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

Regional status: Resident.



Single birds were recorded at Balickera Jan (MUJ), Cassilis Rest Area SF 23 Mar (WAB/JOJ), Forster 28 Aug (CAA), Jesmond 22 Sep (PAL), Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and Allyn River SF 29 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

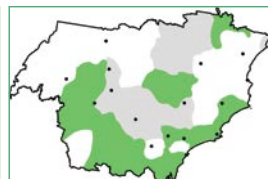
Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.58%.



There were occasional but widespread records all year. **Breeding:** A pair had dependent young at Kilaben 17 Aug (WAR). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

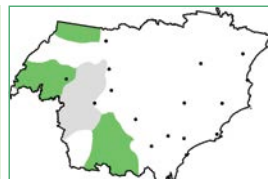
Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

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

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.18%.



Four birds in close proximity were at Durrigere SCA 2 May, where two birds had been recorded 14 Apr (LAJ, HBOC). Also, two birds were at Ulan Rd 21 Mar (WAB/JOJ).

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.

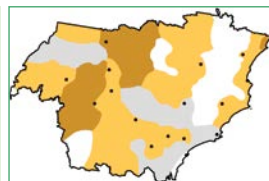
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 3.1%.



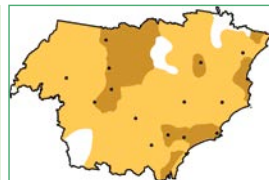
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 29 records, RR 21% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was quite low for the third year in a row).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

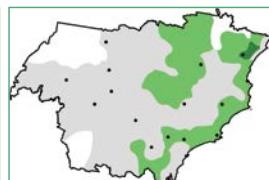
ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; up to 10 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.9%.**Notable records:** Two birds were at Broughton Island 13 Sep (ROM) – *uncommon location*. The first recorded arrival was 17 Aug, when some birds were at Green Point Forster (MGLB).**Atlas:** 81 records, RR 110% 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; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.9%.**Notable records:** The first recorded arrival was 18 Sep, when two birds were at Cattai Wetlands (LAJ). **Atlas:** 207 records, RR 85% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.2%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Main Creek Rd Dungog 5 Jan (STD). **Atlas:** 62 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*

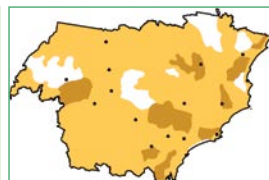
ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

A female was at Tomago Wetlands 17-18 Oct (LIA, others).

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 12.1%.**Notable records:** Winter records were of birds at Hexham Swamp 2 Jul and Darawank 6 Jul (ROM, MGLB). **Atlas:** 275 records, RR 88% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygus*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2002).

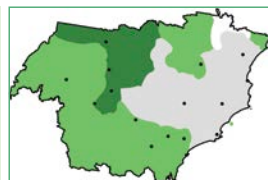
At least seven birds were in the upper Hunter valley from 26 Sep into early Oct, with five birds recorded in the Durrigere Rd / Turill area (many observers) and single birds at Bureen and near Denman (WID, ROS). In the same period, another two birds were recorded at Windy HSD (HBOC). The last report was 29 Oct at Bureen (HHB). **Atlas:** Nine records.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident. Up to 10 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 33.7%.**Notable records:** A bird took a Buff-banded Rail chick at Awabakal NR 2 Feb (EAC).**Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Smiths Lake 2 Nov (MGLB). **Atlas:** 873 records, RR 91% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

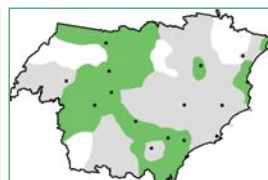
ID No: 240 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-2 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 141 records, RR 67% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

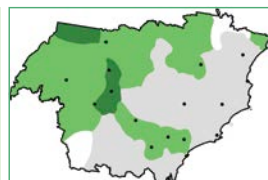
ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident. Single birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair nested at Singleton, the chick fledged 7 Jan (ALP). **Atlas:** 91 records, RR 82% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.2%.

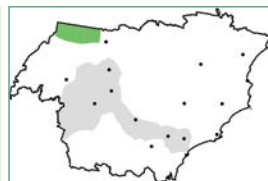
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 77 records, RR 66% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

(Revised)

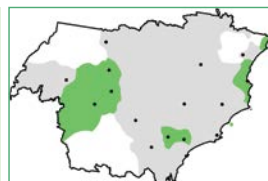
Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.31%.

Two birds were recorded at Cattle Lane (E3) 15 Jun (ROM) and Denman 27 Sep (ROM/BEA), and single birds at Martindale early Jan (OWS/FAB), Hexham Swamp 25 Feb and 26 Jun (ERE, FAB), Scone 29 Apr (NEG), East Maitland 23 Jul and WWW 29 Aug (both BRG). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds are occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.8%.

Notable records: Birds took a White-faced Heron near Broke 24 Feb and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Tomago Wetlands 21 Nov (JOM, LIA *et al.*). **Atlas:** 28 records, RR 56% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

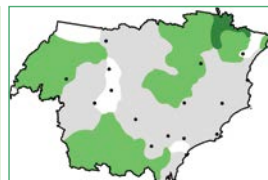
ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** TBA records.

31 birds were at Blackville Rd (E3) 15 Jun (ROM). 1-4 birds were at Windy HSD 21 Mar and 3 May and nearby Cattle Lane 3 May (all WAB/JOJ) and some birds were recorded at Timor 18 Sep (HBOC). **Breeding:** A pair at Blackville Rd 15 Jun was feeding fledged young; however, this is considered insufficient evidence of local breeding. **Atlas:** 11 records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptrorhynchus lathamii*

ID No: 265 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.67%.

Six birds were at Woko NP 14 Mar (STD) and five birds at Durrigere SCA 16 Apr with lesser numbers recorded daily over 14-17 Apr (HBOC). Four birds were at Laguna 2 Oct (RDB), Shoal Bay 21 Nov (FRN) and often at Glen Martin in Mar (HOH), and three birds at Lorn 12 Jan (THJ) and Laguna 11 Nov (RDB) and regularly at Salamander Bay in Jan (LIL). 1-2 birds were at Failford 17 Apr (MGLB), Tahlee 10 May (FLS), Main Creek 12 Jul (STD), Quorrobolong 29 Jul (CCB) and Laguna 3 Sep (RDB). **Atlas:** 17 records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Zanda funereus*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 10.5%.



Notable records: 30-35 birds were recorded at Gateshead 19 Sep and East Maitland 25 Sep (HRK, WED). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 213 records, RR 70% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.46%.



20 birds were recorded at Laguna 21 May and 2-4 birds 4 Jun and often in Sep-Nov (RDB). 14 birds were at Pelton 2 Sep (KEM) and seven birds at Phipps Cutting rest area 12 Jun (KET *et al.*). 1-3 birds were at Kitchener Werakata NP 9 May (ROM), HEZ 10 May (SIA), Pelton 30 May (BAW/JOJ), Putty Rd 21 Jul (STA), Quorrobolong 29 Jul (CCB) and Three Ways Wollemi NP 21 Sep (WAB/JOJ). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at HEZ 10 May and Laguna 21 May (SIA, RDB) – this is considered insufficient evidence for a breeding record.

Atlas: 13 records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla* (Amended from: *E. roseicapillus*)

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 24.1%.



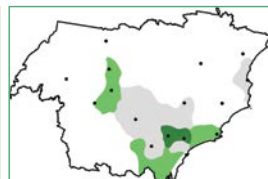
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 536 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds sometimes recorded.

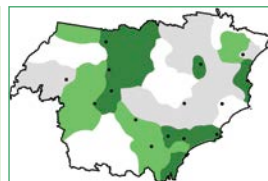
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.1%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 20 records, RR 37% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining (for the third year in a row the RR was well below 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 6.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 320 records, RR 165% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 14.6%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 340 records, RR 86% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 12.9%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 293 records, RR 77% 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:** TBA records.

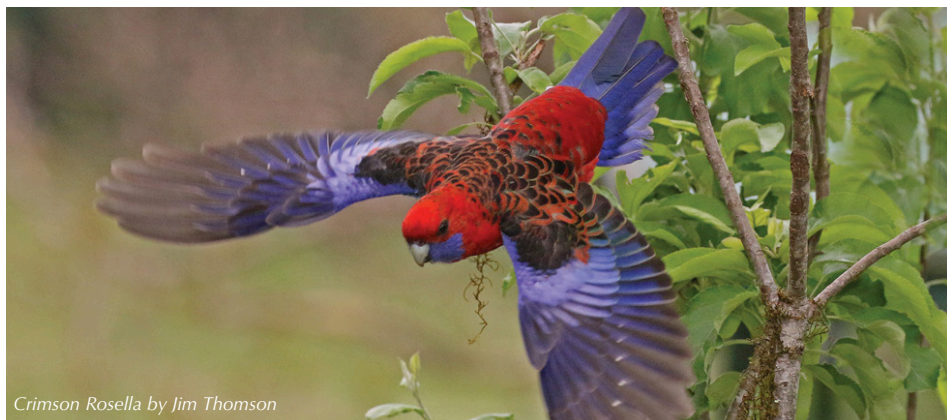
Six birds were recorded at Cassilis 18 Apr, four birds 10 Jun and two birds 2 May (KET *et al.*, LAJ). Five birds were at Windy HSD 21 Mar (WAB/JOJ) and one bird at Turill 10 Jun (KET *et al.*). An easterly record was of a single bird near Denman 5 Oct (ROS). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

ID No: 295 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.9%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Giants Creek Rd 11 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Wallsend Wetlands 5 Jan (THJ). **Atlas:** 126 records, RR 81% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.



Crimson Rosella by Jim Thomson

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 9.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at NLH 30 Oct (LIP). **Atlas:** 168 records, RR 44% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly stable (the RR was very low).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

ID No: 288 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 34.0%.



Notable records: 20+ birds were at Giants Creek Rd 10 & 11 Jun (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Nov (HDM). **Atlas:** 882 records, RR 93% of long-term.

Trend: Probably stable.

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

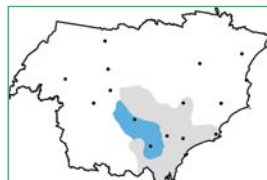
ID No: 309 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: No

Conservation status: EPBC: Critically Endangered

NSW: Endangered

Regional status: Uncommon winter migrant.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.32%.



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Once again there was a significant influx to the lower Hunter Valley commencing mid-May and extending to mid-Aug, with many records from Ellalong, HEZ and locations in and around Werakata NP (ROM, ROS, many others). Around 10% of the total population was present. The peak counts were ~120 birds at Ellalong 25 May, 47 birds at Pelton 26 May and 10+ birds at HEZ 28 Jun. Elsewhere, 2-4 birds were at Singleton Training Area 30 May and 15 & 24 Aug (ROM/GRL). **Atlas:** 15 records, RR 140% of long-term. **Trend:** Good numbers for the second year in a row.

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

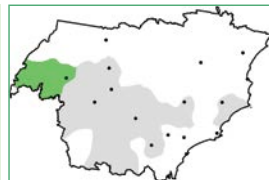
ID No: 311 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncertain. (Revised).

No reports were received for 2017. See Supplementary Records.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

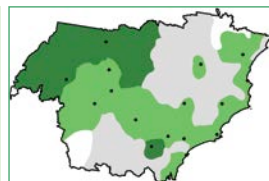
ID No: 302 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident.

Three birds were recorded at Singleton Training Area 15 Aug and Werakata NP 20 Sep (ROM, LAB) and two birds at Giants Creek Rd 11 Jun (NAK). Single birds were at Singleton Training Area 30 May and HEZ 20 Sep (ROM/GRL, ROM). **Atlas:** Four records. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly decreasing).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

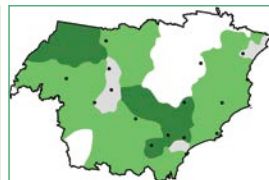
ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Irruptive visitor and bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.6%.

Notable records: 100+ birds were at Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 64 records, RR 67% of long-term. **Trend:** A quiet year after the 2016 influx.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

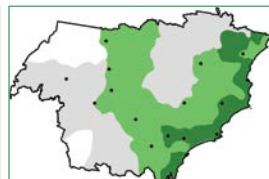
ID No: 260 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident; up to 10 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.6%.

Notable records: ~200 birds were recorded near Ellalong 25 May (ROM) and 100+ birds were at Pelton 22 May and Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct (SIM, HBOC). **Atlas:** 91 records, RR 66% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR again was low).

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus*

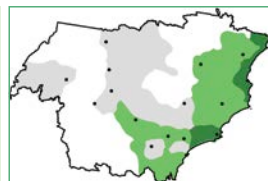
ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 19.5%.

Notable records: Thousands of birds were in the Tomaree Peninsula Jan-Feb (FRN, WOL) – reported as feeding in flowering Red Bloodwood. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Bobs Farm Jan & Oct (HDM). **Atlas:** 904 records, RR 144% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.7%.**Notable records:** Two birds were at Wingen 13 Oct – first records for the location (NEG).**Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Tanilba Bay 5 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 294 records, RR 94% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (RR has improved after two poor years).**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*

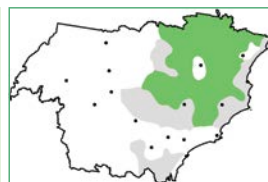
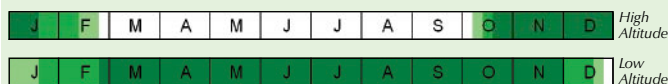
ID No: 310 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

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

No reports were received for 2017.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Altitudinal migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.69%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** Eight 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.7%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 64 records, RR 51% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).**Rufous Scrub-bird** *Atrichornis rufescens*

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

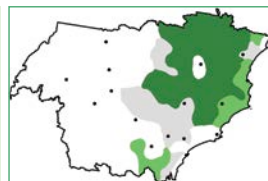
Conservation status: EPBC: Endangered NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident of high altitude open woodlands.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.6%.**Notable records:** Eight of 11 known territories in the Gloucester Tops were confirmed to be occupied in Nov visits, with several supporting records during the year (STA). **Atlas:** 27 records, RR 40% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable. The decrease in RR at least in part reflects access issues to the National Park in Sep-Nov.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.0%.



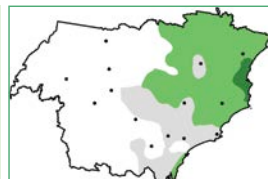
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 37 records, RR 80% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

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

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 1.9%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A pair had nest with young at BbR 19 Nov, fledging two chicks 3 Dec (KYR). **Atlas:** 25 records, RR 51% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 13.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Tanilba Bay 5 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 260 records, RR 63% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculatus*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (*last recorded 2013; four records since 1993*).

No reports were received for 2017.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 18.9%.



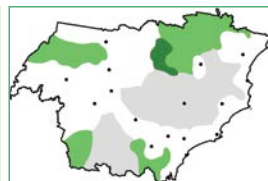
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 426 records, RR 82% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptus*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.66%.



Two birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 22 Aug (KET *et al.*). **Atlas:** Three 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 1.9%.



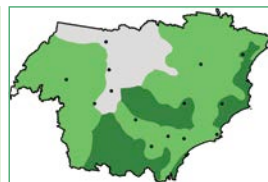
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 73 records, RR 168% of long-term. **Trend:** The high RR is encouraging but in part reflects a series of focussed surveys at suitable habitat.

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 11.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 234 records, RR 93% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 45.8%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Feb and Balickera Oct-Nov (HDM, MUJ). **Atlas:** 1,136 records, RR 95% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.35%.



14 birds in four parties were at Fosterton 22 Jul (JED/WEP). 1-4 birds were recorded at Cattai Wetlands 14 Feb and 26 May (WAB/JOJ, STA), Fosterton 19 Jul (JED), Crowdy Head 5 Sep (MGLB), Stroud 21 Oct (per RDB), near Barrington House 29 Oct (BRG) and near Dungog 29 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 58% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2014; four records since 1993).

A male and three females were recorded at Windy HSD 1 Oct (HBOC) and 1-2 birds in the Ulan/ Durrigere Rd area from 24 Sep for at least a week (KEM, others). **Atlas:** Five records.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.6%.

Notable records: Birds were sometimes present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter in Apr-May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). 50-100 birds were often at Galgabba in that period (ADJ). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct, Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 268 records, RR 115% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

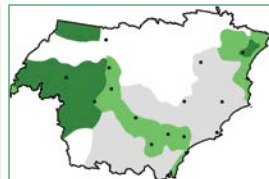
ID No: 598 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: EPBC: Vulnerable NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon spring-summer visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.36%.

Three birds were in the Durrigere Rd / Turill area 2 Oct (per ROM) and two birds at Durrigere Rd 26 Sep (ROM *et al.*), Millers Dam Ulan 26 Oct (KEM) and Medhurst Bridge 23 Nov (MOA). Single birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd 26 Sep and 1 Oct (ROM *et al.*, BRG/LIN), Windy HSD 1 Oct (HBOC) and Ulan 2 Oct (ROM). **Atlas:** 11 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 267 records, RR 127% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing.

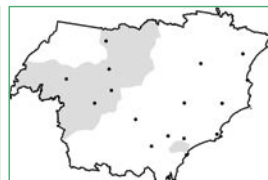
Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded, and counts of up to 50 birds during migration passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 19.1%.**Notable records:** Hundreds of birds were in the Tomaree Peninsula Jan, feeding in flowering Red Bloodwood (FRN) and 200+ birds were at Singleton Training Area 24 Aug (ROM).**Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Nov-Dec and were on nest at Tanilba Bay 5 Dec (MUJ, HBOC). **Atlas:** 439 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

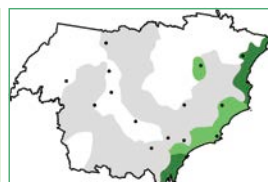
ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

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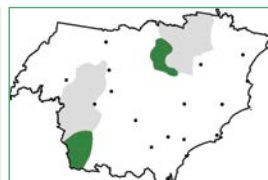
Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.26%.A single bird was recorded at Wingen 10-11 Feb (NEG). **Atlas:** Two records. **Trend:** Probably stable (never many records any year).**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

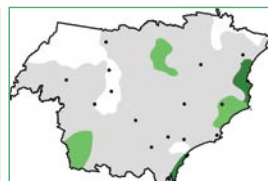
(Revised)

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.9%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 228 records, RR 118% of long-term. **Trend:** Stable, possibly increasing.**Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

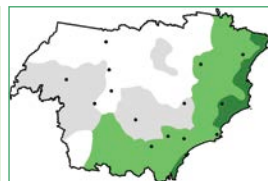
Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.1%.15 birds were recorded at Mt Coricudgy 9 Dec (KEM) and five birds at Gloucester Tops 16 Aug (STA). There were other records from the Gloucester Tops in Feb and Aug-Sep (various observers). **Atlas:** 15 records, RR 13% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (once again the RR was low).**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.4%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Gloucester Tops 20 Apr (STA). **Atlas:** 42 records, RR 54% of long-term.**Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

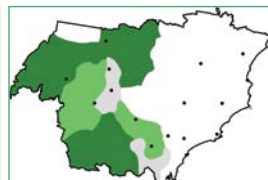
ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 10.8%.

Notable records: Several birds were in the Gloucester Tops 20 Apr (STA) – *uncommon at this location*. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Aug-Sep (MUJ) and feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan and Belmont 6 Jul (HBOC, FAB). **Atlas:** 330 records, RR 116% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-eared Honeyeater *Nesoptilotis leucotis*

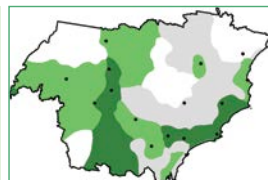
ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.1%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Durrigere SCA 15 & 16 Apr (HBOC). A single bird was at Awabakal NR 28 Feb (ROM) – *unusual location*. **Atlas:** 40 records, RR 71% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (for the third year in a row, the RR was low).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

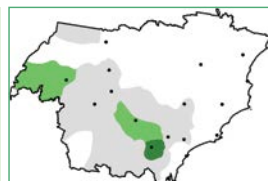
ID No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 207 records, RR 112% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

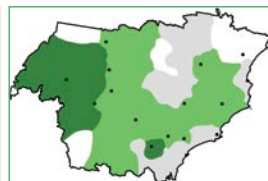
ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.79%.

10-15 birds including several immatures were recorded at Durrigere SCA 14-18 Apr (HBOC) and 12 birds were together at Pelton Werakata NP 16 May (ROM). There were several records of 1-3 birds at HEZ and Pelton (various observers); also 1-2 birds were at Goulburn River NP early Jan and 17 Sep (OWS/FAB, MUL), Ellalong 10 Aug (ROM *et al.*), Singleton Training Area 15 Aug (ROM) and Morpeth WTW 22 Nov (LIA/BRG). **Atlas:** 38 records. **Trend:** Probably stable (the number of records reflects 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.4%.**Notable records:** 20+ birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 15 & 16 Apr (HBOC).**Atlas:** 81 records, RR 97% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus*

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded, with counts of up to 50 birds during Apr-Jul migration passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.5%.**Notable records:** Birds were often present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter in Apr-May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). **Atlas:** 173 records, RR 87% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR has been below average for three years in a row).**Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** *Glyciphila melanops*

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.1%.Three birds were recorded at Awabakal NR 21 May and some birds there Awabakal NR 29 Jul (ROM, BEA). **Atlas:** Four records, RR 25% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining.**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 21.7%.**Notable records:** Thousands of birds were in the Gloucester Tops 20 Apr with high numbers also recorded Feb-Mar (STA). 20+ birds were at Durrigere SCA 16 Apr (HBOC).**Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Nov and were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan (MUJ, HBOC). **Atlas:** 508 records, RR 81% 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 (last recorded 2008; four records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor*

ID No: 449 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2015).

Two females were recorded in the Ulan/Durrigere Rd area late Sep – early Oct (KEM, others) and a male at Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** Four records.

Orange Chat *Epthianura aurifrons*

ID No: 450 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (recorded 2014).

No reports were received for 2017.

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albigrons*

ID No: 448 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.3%.

There were many records all year from Hexham Swamp including several reports of 10+ birds and a peak count of 35 birds 9 Jul (various observers). Eight birds were at Gir-um-bit NP 16 Dec (MEL et al.) and two birds at Ash Island 23 Jul and Millers Dam Ulan 26 Oct (HRK, KEM). **Breeding:** A newly fledged bird was at Hexham Swamp 1 Jan (ROM/WID). **Atlas:** 92 records, RR 44% of long-term. **Trend:** Declining (the RR was quite low for the third year in a row).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

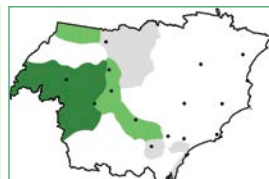
ID No: 605 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 15 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 25.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Bobs Farm Feb and Balickera Oct-Nov (HDM, MUJ) and were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake late Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 672 records, RR 93% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.3%.

Notable records: 20 birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 14 Apr and 15+ birds at Durrigere Rd 30 Sep (HBOC, ERE). There were several near-coastal records – three birds were at HWC 25 Apr (LIP) and 1-2 birds at Ash Island 6 Apr (per ROM), Rutherford 18 Apr (CLM), Galgabba 4 Apr and 20-23 May (ADJ, others) and Tomago Wetlands 17 Oct (LIA et al.).

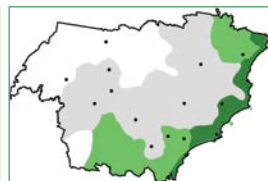
Atlas: 78 records, RR 269% of long-term. **Trend:** Increasing.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 710 (Amended)

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; 1-20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 16.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young Eastern Koels at Fingal Bay 16 Mar and 8 Apr and Dutchmans Beach 27 Apr (FRN, STE). **Atlas:** 486 records, RR 124% of long-term. **Trend:** Range expanding westwards.

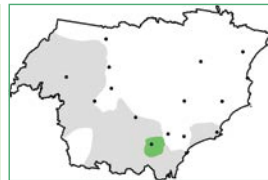
Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

ID No: 603

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: EPBC: Critically Endangered NSW: Critically Endangered

Regional status: Uncommon bird of passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.51%.

Birds were recorded in the Quorrobolong-Ellalong area from late May to mid-August, with peak count 31 birds 3 Aug and several reports of 20+ birds (ROM, others). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were at Milbrodale 15 Jan (JOM), Hulks Road Goulburn River NP 23 Mar (WAB/JOJ), Martindale 8 Apr (MUL), HEZ 8 May (ROM) and Toronto 30 Jul – 6 Aug (BOL, many others).

Movements: A bird at Quorrobolong 20 Jun had been banded in the Capertee Valley as an adult male in Sep 2015 and a bird at Paxton 3 Aug had been banded at Quorrobolong as an adult female in June 2012 (all per ROM). **Breeding:** The 2016 breeding events at Hulks Rd and Goulburn River NP continued into mid-late Jan, with at least 6 pairs having nests and several chicks confirmed to have fledged. Birds bred again at the Goulburn River site in Sep/Oct 2017, with two nests producing fledged young, two failed nests and two pairs present that did not nest (all per ROM based on ANU researchers). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Again there were some local successes in 2017 but the national outlook remains parlous.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638

HBOC Category: 1

Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 16.5%.

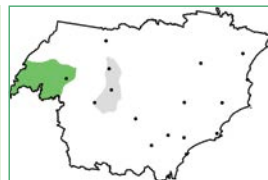
Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 16 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young Eastern Koels at Tighes Hill early Jan and East Maitland Feb-Mar (CLT, SMJ). **Atlas:** 470 records, RR 92% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Singing Honeyeater *Cavicalis virescens*

ID No: 608

HBOC Category: 3

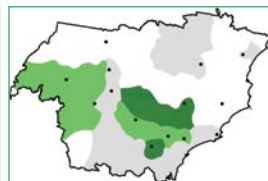
Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd 21 Mar, 14-18 Apr and 2 May (WAB/JOJ, HBOC, LAJ). **Atlas:** Two records.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Ptilotula fuscus*

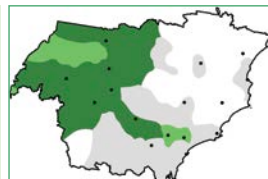
ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.5%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded near Millfield 16 Jul (HBOC). **Atlas:** 84 records, RR 126% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula penicillata*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 140 records, RR 136% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly increasing (the RR was above the long-term average for the third year in a row).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Caligavis chrysops*

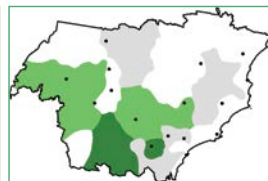
ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 30 birds regularly recorded, and up to 100 birds during Apr-Aug migration passage.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 33.8%.

Notable records: Once again there was a substantial autumn migration, which commenced 15 Apr and lasted approximately 6 weeks overall (many observers). In the lower Hunter during that time, there were reports of many hundreds of passage birds from widespread locations (e.g. Galgabba, Glenrock SRA and Maitland); however the largest numbers again were recorded at Sugarloaf Gap and downstream locations such as Pambalong NR and Minmi. The median and mean counts in that area were 20-25% of the numbers recorded in 2016, implying a more dispersed passage. Supporting such a conclusion was that many thousands of birds were estimated to be in the Gloucester Tops 20 Apr and hundreds of birds were at Woko NP 23 Apr (STA, HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Aug-Sep and Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 946 records, RR 100% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

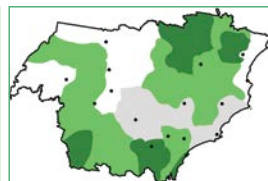
ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-20 birds occasionally recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.1%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Pelton SCA 16 Jul (HBOC). **Atlas:** 92 records, RR 145% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 10-30 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 6.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 180 records, RR 123% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 27.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 996 records, RR 109% 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 2017.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 20.2%.

Notable records: In ~2h at Belford NP 16 Sep, an estimated 630 birds in flocks of 10-80+ passed through, all moving southwards (KEM). 20+ birds were at Durrigere SCA 15 & 16 Apr (HBOC). **Breeding:** Two pairs had nests at Belmont 3 Aug (FAB) and birds were breeding at Balickera Jul, Aug, Sep (MUJ). **Atlas:** 371 records, RR 61% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

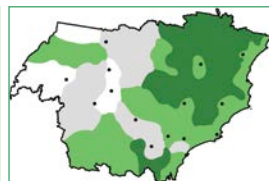
ID No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 12.7%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Durrigere SCA 16 Apr (HBOC). Four *substriatus* birds were at HEZ 8 May and a *striatus* bird was at Belford NP 16 Sep (ROM, KEM). *Melanocephalus* intergrade birds were recorded at Old Bar 31 Oct and Tea Gardens often in Nov (STA, ROA/WOL). **Atlas:** 169 records, RR 37% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 11.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Aug-Dec. **Atlas:** 219 records, RR 80% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

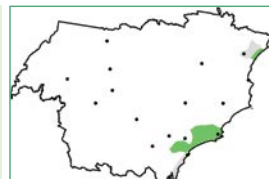
ID No: 453 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.0%

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Stockton 3 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 109 records, RR 52% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

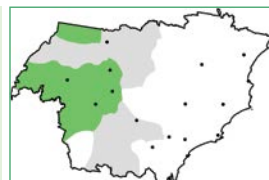
ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records (Revised)

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.7%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 63 records, RR 106% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

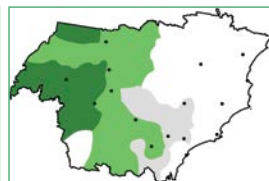
ID No: 463 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.58%.

Several birds were recorded at Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct (HBOC) and some birds were there 7 Apr and 3 May and also at Durridgere Rd 1 Oct (WAB/JOJ, BRG/LIN). **Atlas:** 14 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 107% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

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

Regional status: Resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP.

Birds were recorded at three locations along the Hunter Main Trail Wollemi NP (Three Ways area) 21 Sep (WAB/JOJ). **Atlas:** Four records.

Speckled Warbler *Pyrholaemus sagittatus*

ID No: 504 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

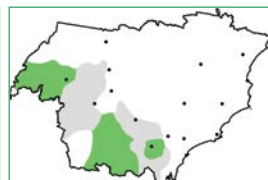
Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 62 records, RR 50% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygia*

(Genus amended)

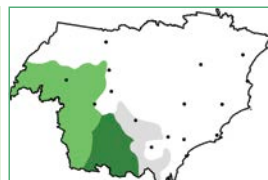
ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.26%.

There were records of 1-2 birds at HEZ 8 May (ROM), Kitchener 11 May (GOJ), Singleton Training Area 15 Aug (ROM) and Durridgere SCA 15 & 16 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 14 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

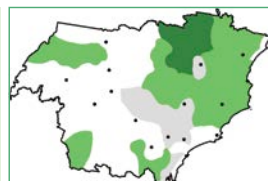
ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident in sandstone country.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.34%.

1-2 birds were recorded at Ringwood Rd 24 Apr (BRG/LIN), Giants Creek Rd 10-11 Jun (HBOC), Sandy Hollow 12 Jun (CLT), Goulburn River NP 17 Sep (MUL) and Timor 18 Sep (HBOC). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded at rainforest locations.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.5%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 92% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 21.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 432 records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

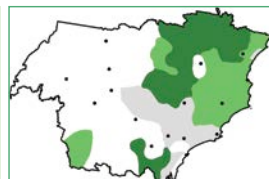
Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

(Amended from: *magnirostris*)

ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-2 birds often recorded at rainforest locations.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.3%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 38 records, RR 78% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Rare

(last recorded 2016; seven records since 1993)



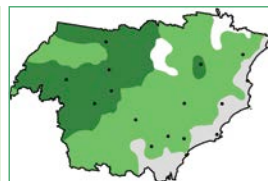
Seven birds were recorded near Merriwa 16 Jun (ROM) and six birds at Durrigere Rd 26 Sep (ROM et al.). 2-3 birds were at Durrigere Rd 15-16 Apr and 24 Sep (HBOC, KEM) and along Ringwood Rd 24 Apr (BRG/LIN). **Atlas:** Six records.



Southern Whiteface by Alwyn Simple

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.3%.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Durrigere SCA 15 & 16 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** 180 records, RR 72% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 21.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Galgabba 4 Sep and Murrurundi 17-20 Sep (ADJ, HBOC) and were feeding fledged young at Tanilba Bay 5 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 390 records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (although once again the RR was below the long term average).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

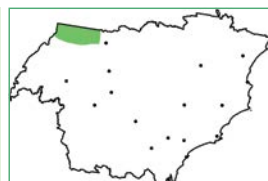
ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 9.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 119 records, RR 39% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*

ID No: 476 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident in extreme NW of Region.

At least three small parties were recorded at Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct and some birds were also there 7 Apr and 3 May (HBOC, WAB/JOJ). **Atlas:** Seven records.

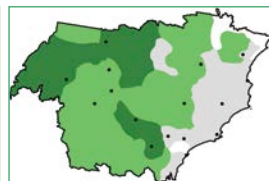
Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 28.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at WWW 2 Sep and were breeding at Balickera Aug-Sep (KEM, MUJ). **Atlas:** 661 records, RR 89% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 2.9%.



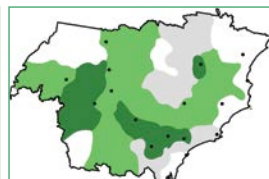
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 61 records, RR 76% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*
 ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Regional status: Resident.
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.37%.



Single birds were recorded near Stroud 21 Apr (per RDB) and at locations in Allyn River SF 29 Oct (BRG, DDR). **Atlas:** Two 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 6.3%.



Notable records: 13 birds were recorded near Millfield 16 Jul and 10+ birds at Gloucester cemetery 26 Jul (HBOC, STA). **Atlas:** 76 records, RR 41% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was quite low for the second year in a row).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*
 ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Regional status: Resident.
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.34%.



There were records all year of up to seven birds from locations around Durrigere/Turill. Ten birds were recorded along Ringwood Rd 24 Apr and some birds there 2 Oct (BRG/LIN, WID). Five birds were at Giants Creek Rd 10 Jun (HBOC) and at least one bird at Millers Dam Ulan 26 Oct (KEM). **Atlas:** Nine records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 3.7%.



Notable records: Nine birds were at Seaham Swamp 24 Jan and six birds at Galgabba 8 Mar (WAB, ADJ). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Seaham 29 Oct (DDR). **Atlas:** 93 records, RR 103% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (possibly stable).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2011; five records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

ID No: 428 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2004; four records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

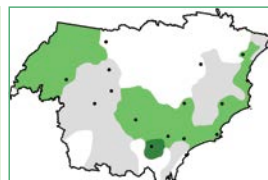
ID No: 424 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident and passage migrant; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 28.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Minmi 8 Aug (TBW). **Atlas:** 612 records, RR 103% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

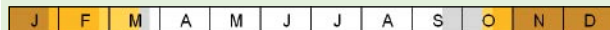
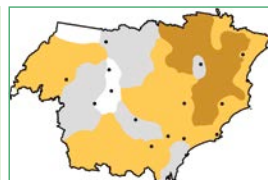
ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.8%.

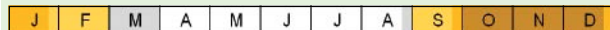
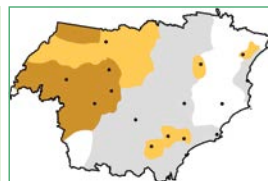
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 54 records, RR 133% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostris*(Amended from: *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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.7%.**Notable records:** The first recorded return was 2 Oct when a bird was at Main Creek (STD).**Atlas:** 44 records, RR 56% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (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.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.5%.

Notable records: A female was at Eagleton 6 Feb (CLT) – uncommon in Port Stephens LGA – and four birds were at Galgabba 25 Sep (ADJ) – uncommon at this location. **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 147% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

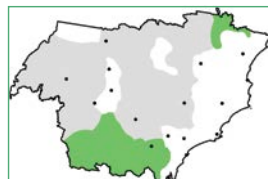
ID No: 431 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.24%

Single birds were recorded at Harrington RF 14 Feb, 26 May and 28 Jun (WAB/JOJ, STA) and at Mungo Brush 11 Nov (WID). **Atlas:** Seven records. **Trend:** Possibly expanding its range.

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

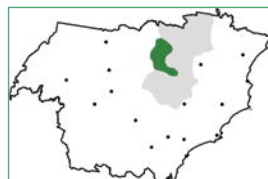
ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.39%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 18 records. **Trend:** More records than usual.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

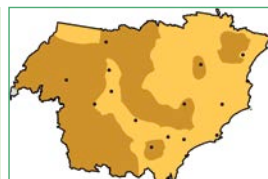
ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.2%.

There often were records from the Gloucester Tops (STA, others). **Atlas:** 19 records, RR 58% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (probably stable).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Some birds over-winter.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 16.0%.

Notable records: The first recorded arrival was 24 Aug, when a bird was at Singleton Training Area (ROM). However, a bird was at Darawank 6 Jul (MGLB). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 272 records, RR 70% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 25.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 571 records, RR 91% 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 2017.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 23.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were regular records of birds breeding at Balickera Aug-Nov (MUJ). **Atlas:** 430 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

ID No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 3.6%.



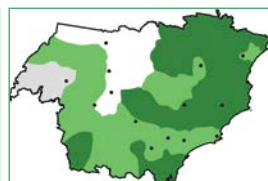
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were with dependent young at Jerusalem Creek mid-Feb (STD). **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 58% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 23.9%.



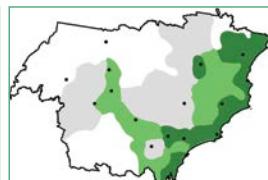
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 529 records, RR 82% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

ID No: 432 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 10.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 357 records, RR 141% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 14.5%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan (HBOC) and on nest at Mungo Brush 14 Nov (KET), and bred at Balickera Nov-Dec (MUJ). **Atlas:** 405 records, RR 119% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 24.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding a Channel-billed Cuckoo chick at New Lambton 5 Jan (FAA). **Atlas:** 547 records, RR 71% 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 (last recorded 2016; six records since 1993)



An adult and a dependent young were recorded at Mt Coricudgy 9 Dec (KEM). *Although not a confirmed local breeding record, it adds to the 2016 report of a pair nesting in the same area, just 100m outside the Region's boundary.*

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

ID No: 705 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 50.7%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Oct-Dec and Bobs Farm Nov (MUJ, HDM). **Atlas:** 1,490 records, RR 104% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 24.0%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Dungog Common 7 Nov and also bred at Bobs Farm Nov (HBOC, HDM). **Atlas:** 595 records, RR 94% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 24.9%.

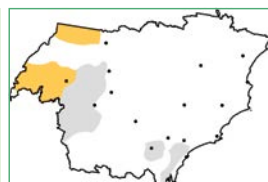
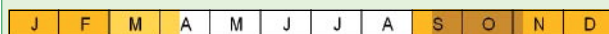
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 686 records, RR 102% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-browed/Masked Woodswallow types

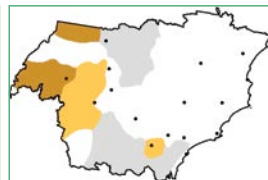
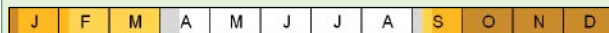
Regional status: Irruptive visitor; almost all records are spring ones. Flocks, often involving both species *A. superciliosus* and *A. personatus*, are sometimes recorded. However, if the flocks are high up and/or moving through quickly, it is not always possible for observers to quantify the numbers for each species. Where identifications have been possible, *A. superciliosus* usually has dominated.

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)

Regional status: Rare irruptive visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.30%.**White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon irruptive visitor.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.60%.

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

Masked Woodswallow: Two birds were at Medhurst Bridge 5 Sep and Hexham Swamp 8 Sep (KET/GOA, ROM). There was a substantial influx to western parts of the Region from late Sep, with hundreds of birds in the Turill/Durrigere Rd area 24 Sep – early Oct (many observers) and at Windy HSD 30 Sep – 2 Oct (HBOC). There also were occasional easterly records of low numbers in that period. **Atlas:** 36 records, RR 600% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

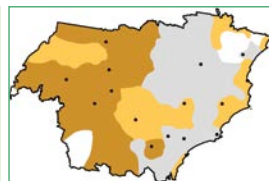
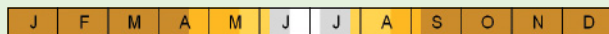
White-browed Woodswallow: 22 birds were at Medhurst Bridge 5 Sep; there were occasional but widespread records from elsewhere of small numbers in Sep (KET/GOA, others). There was a large influx to western parts of the Region from late Sep, with thousands of birds recorded in the Turill/Durrigere Rd area 24 Sep – early Oct (many observers) and 800+ birds at Windy HSD 30 Sep – 2 Oct (HBOC). There also were several easterly records of up to 50 birds in that period, and hundreds were flying over Shortland/Sandgate 24 Sep (ROM *et al.*, others).

Atlas: 50 records, RR 383% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

Records of unidentified birds: 1000+ birds were flying high over Shortland 24 & 29 Sep. ~200 birds were at Bureen 2 Oct and 100+ birds at Main Creek 24 Sep (ROM, WID, STD). Some birds were also at Coomba Park and Forster 25 Sep and both Maryland and Shortland 30 Sep (CAA, ROM).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

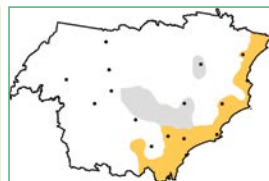
ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Summer migrant; 1-10 birds occasionally recorded. Some birds present all year.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.9%.

Notable records: 70+ birds were recorded at Quorrobolong 4 Sep (ARS). Four birds were at Belmont Wetlands 30 Mar and three birds there 15 Aug (FEG, FAB). Some birds were at Werakata NP 4 Jun (BEI) and there were many records from that general area until late May and from the beginning of Aug. **Breeding:** Birds had dependent young at Martindale 6 Oct (CLM). **Atlas:** 94 records, RR 158% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable. Records from near-coastal locations are uncommon.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 7.2%.

Notable records: The first recorded return was 11 Aug, when birds were at both Belmont South and Cold Tea Creek (CJB, FEG). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with young at Hexham Swamp 18 Nov and were breeding at Balickera Sep-Nov (LIA, MUJ). **Atlas:** 256 records, RR 126% of long-term. **Trend:** The RR was above the long-term average for the third 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 3.7%.

Notable records: The first recorded return was 21 Jan, when a bird was at Tomago (LIA). **Atlas:** 77 records, RR 70% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

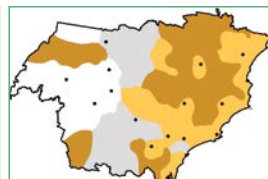
ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 41.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** There were several records, spanning Feb and Nov-Dec. **Atlas:** 1,079 records, RR 99% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 5.1%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 108 records, RR 84% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

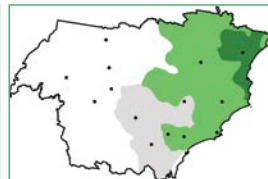
ID No: 361 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident and passage migrant; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 41.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jan (MUJ). **Atlas:** 1,034 records, RR 98% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

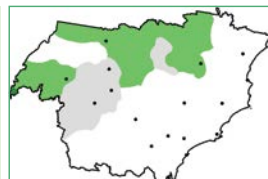
Regional status: Usual resident; up to 10 birds are often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 6.8%.

Notable records: 34 birds were recorded at Lemon Tree Passage 23 Jan (HIP).

Atlas: 164 records, RR 87% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.5%.

~60 birds were recorded at Martindale 28 Feb and 15 birds at Windy HSD 21 Mar (KET, WAB/ JOJ). Some birds were also at Durridgere Rd 19 Feb and 1 Oct (WAB/JOJ, BRG/LIN) and Durridgere SCA 15 Apr (HBOC). **Atlas:** Eight records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

ID No: 868 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 2.5%.

There were widespread coastal records (by various observers) from N of Hawks Nest. Also some birds were recorded at Woko NP 1 Jan and 6 Apr (STD, TBW). **Atlas:** 50 records, RR 96% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

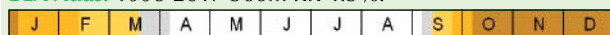
ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 38.4%.

Notable records: A bird took a Little Tern egg at Winda Woppa 3 Jan (FRN). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding Channel-billed Cuckoo chicks at New Lambton 5 Jan (STA). **Atlas:** 1,088 records, RR 102% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.5%.

Notable records: The first recorded return was 10 Sep, when a bird was at Belmont (FAB).

Breeding: A bird was on nest at Tanilba Bay 5 Dec (HBOC). **Atlas:** 91 records, RR 71% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

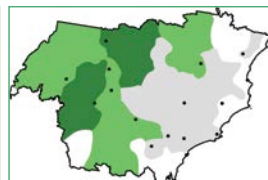
ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Rare summer migrant (*additional text*).

Several birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops 25 Jan (BEI/ANC) and a bird was near Hawks Nest 18 Feb (SHK). **Atlas:** One record.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 728 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.4%.

There were widespread records, mainly from inland locations (by various observers). A bird was at Smiths Lake 27 Jan (HBOC). **Atlas:** 29 records, RR 71% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

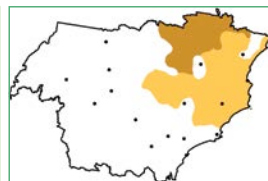
ID No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 20 birds are regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 39.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds bred at Bobs Farm Feb (HDM). **Atlas:** 1,132 records, RR 104% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.1%.

Six birds were at Main Creek 19 Sep (STD). There were several records from Harrington, including five birds were present 24 Sep (NAK, STA). 1-2 birds were at Saltwater NP 23 Feb (STA), Allyn River SF 29 Oct and 19 Nov (DDR, HBOC) and Mungo Brush 14 Nov (KET). Two noteworthy Hunter Valley records were of a bird taken into care at Carrington 10 Apr and later released at Shortland (per BEI), and a bird at Ash Island 14 Nov (KIB). **Breeding:** A bird was on nest at Upper Allyn 19 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 21 records, RR 88% of long-term. **Trend:** Expanding its range.

White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*

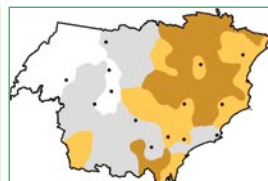
ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Accidental (*revised from: Uncertain*) (recorded 1993, 2003-08)

No reports were received for 2017.

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.9%.

Notable records: The first recorded return was 14 Sep, when a bird was at Glenrock SCA (MCR). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan and Boys Walk Cooranbong 19 Feb (HBOC), and were breeding at Balickera Jan and Nov (MUJ).

Atlas: 63 records, RR 61% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

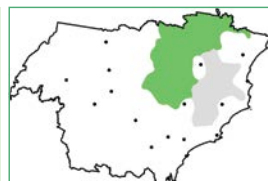
ID No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 6.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 81 records, RR 47% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Paradise Riflebird *Lophorina paradiseus*

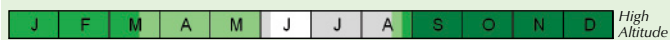
ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.29%.

Birds were recorded at Monkerai NR 25 Jul (KET *et al.*), Gloucester Tops 23 & 26 Oct (STA), Allyn River SF 29 Oct (DDR) and O'Sullivan's Gap 11 & 25 Nov (WID). **Atlas:** Five records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

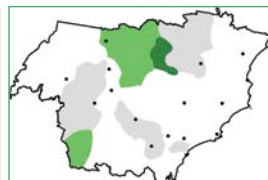
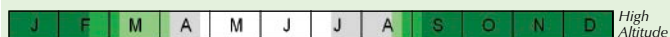
ID No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.8%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 95 records, RR 69% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

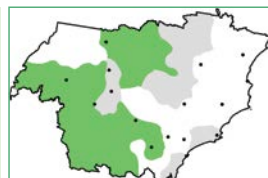
Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Resident (and altitudinal migrant).**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.77%.

High altitudes: Birds often were recorded in the Gloucester Tops Jan-early Mar and from 16 Aug onwards (STA, others). Also, several birds were in the Barrington Tops mid Mar (FAA).

Low altitudes: Four birds were recorded at Merriwa 13 Jun (MCR). **Breeding:** A pair had a nest with a Fan-tailed Cuckoo chick in the Gloucester Tops in spring (KET). **Atlas:** 16 records.

Trend: Uncertain.**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolor* (Amended from: *boodang*)

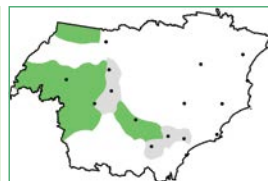
ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable**Regional status:** Uncommon resident and altitudinal migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.60%.

Four birds including a juvenile were recorded at Mt Coricudgy 9 Dec (KEM) and three birds along Giants Creek Rd 11 Jun (HBOC). 1-2 birds were at Gloucester Tops 1 Mar (STA), Durridgere SCA 16 Apr (HBOC), HEZ 13 May (FLS), Singleton Training Area 30 May and 24 Aug (ROM/GRL), Giants Creek Rd 11 Jun (HBOC), Jerrys Plains 1 Jul (FAB/OWS), Paxton 24 Aug (ROM), and both Medhurst Bridge and Martindale 23 Sep (FAB/OWS). A single bird was at Glenrock SCA 7 May (NED) – *unusual location*. **Atlas:** 13 records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.80%.

Four birds were at HEZ 10 Oct (HBOC, KEM, others). There were widespread inland records including at least three pairs were at Windy HSD 30 Sep - 2 Oct, some with juveniles. Easterly records were of a male at WWW from 31 Aug for at least a week (CLM/SDI, others) and single birds at Ash Island 6 Sep and Myuna Bay 26 Sep (both MCN). **Atlas:** 34 records.

Trend: An exceptional year.**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascians*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 8.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were on nest at Dungog Common 7 Nov (HBOC). **Atlas:** 103 records, RR 55% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 24.3%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan and on nest at Tanilba Bay 5 Dec (both HBOC), and were breeding at Balickera Sep-Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 568 records, RR 91% of long-term.

Trend: Probably stable.**Pale-yellow Robin** *Tregellasia capito*

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

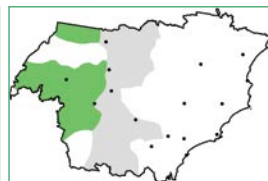
Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.21%.

Two birds were recorded at Coorabakh NP 27 Jan (WID) and three birds at Copeland SCA 8 Nov (DBP). **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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.56%.

Seven birds, including a group of five birds together, were recorded at Giants Creek Rd 11 Jun (HBOC) and four birds (1M, 3F or J) were at Medhurst Bridge 1 Jul (FAB/OVS). There were records all year of 1-3 birds from Medhurst Bridge and Durridgere Rd (various observers); also pairs were at Ringwood Rd 24 Apr (BRG/LIN), Giants Creek Rd 10 Jun (HBOC) and Windy HSD 2 Oct (HBOC). **Atlas:** 14 records, RR 111% of long-term. **Trend:** A good year.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 10.2%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 249 records, RR 108% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

ID No: 572 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (*last recorded 2006; three records since 1985*).

No reports were received for 2017.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

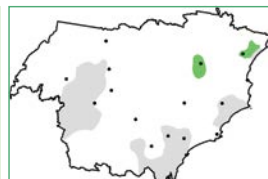
ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Possibly extinct in the wild (*last recorded 1991*)

No reports were received for 2017.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.79%.

There were several records of up to 30 birds at Hexham Swamp in Aug-Sep (various observers) and 20 birds were at KI 10 Mar (ROM). Nine birds including several immatures were at Cattai Wetlands 3 Feb (STA). 1-5 birds were at KI 10 Feb (ROM), Wallsend Wetlands 25 Feb (JOL), Tomago Wetlands 18 Jul and 23 Sep (MRO, FRN) and Forster 22 Jul (MGLB). **Atlas:** 19 records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

ID No: 650 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Accidental (*recorded in 1977*)

No reports were received for 2017.

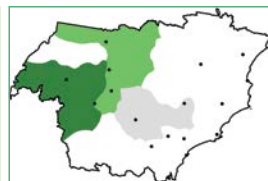
Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Conservation status: NSW: Vulnerable

Regional status: Resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.96%.



Notable records: 15 birds were recorded along Ringwood Rd 24 Apr (BRG/LIN) and ten birds at Durrigere Rd 10 Jun (KET *et al.*). Several birds were at a property near Merriwa 16 Jun (ROM). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Durrigere SCA 16 Apr and feeding fledged young near Merriwa 16 Jun (HBOC, ROM). **Atlas:** 25 records, RR 123% of long-term. **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: 1998-2017 500m RR 22.2%.



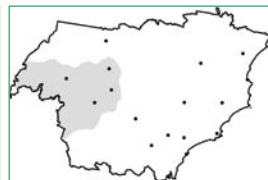
Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Tocal 2 May (HBOC). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Jun (MUJ). **Atlas:** 445 records, RR 80% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

ID No: 661 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Rare.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.10%.



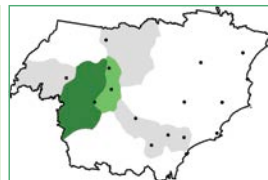
2-3 birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd early Jan (OWS/FAB), Durrigere SCA 16 Apr (HBOC) and Ringwood Rd 24 Apr (BRG/LIN). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** A quiet year.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; up to 10 birds sometimes recorded.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.83%.



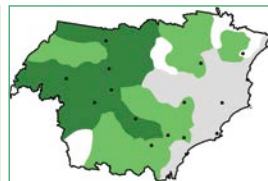
Notable records: 30+ birds were recorded near Singleton 16 Jan and at Brush Farm Rd 26 Mar (THJ, ROM/WID). **Atlas:** 21 records, RR 100% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

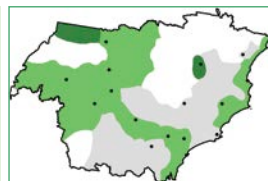
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 5.6%.



There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 107 records, RR 75% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

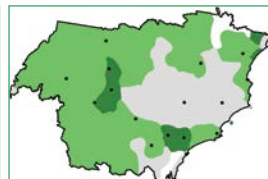
ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident; up to 20 birds frequently recorded around populated areas.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 4.0%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 62 records, RR 38% of long-term. **Trend:** Decreasing (the RR was quite low for the third year in a row).

Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 11.1%.

Notable records: 15 birds were at Wallalong 5 Oct (BRG). **Atlas:** 172 records, RR 54% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain, possibly declining.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*ID No: 877 (*Amended*)

HBOC Category: 2

Breeding: No

Regional status: Rare summer migrant.

Single birds were recorded at Hexham Swamp 24 & 27 Dec (BEI). Also see Supplementary Records. **Trend:** Uncertain.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

ID No: 874 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: No

Regional status: Accidental (race *lugens* recorded 1998).

No reports were received for 2017.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

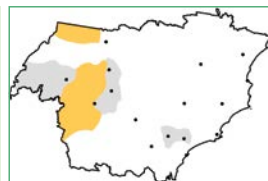
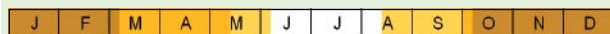
ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.37%.

Two birds were recorded at Maitland 5 Oct (BRG). **Atlas:** Nil records. **Trend:** Probably decreasing.

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 648 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Four birds were at Wallalong 5 Oct (BRG) and single birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd early Jan (OWS/FAB), Hexham Swamp 30 Sep (ERE), Morpeth 30 Sep (ROM) and Ringwood Rd 2 Oct (WID). **Atlas:** Six records. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

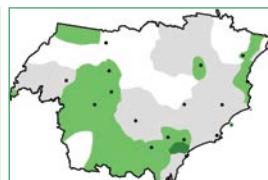
ID No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Accidental (last recorded 2007; six records since 1993).

No reports were received for 2017.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

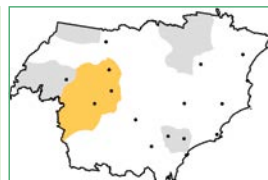
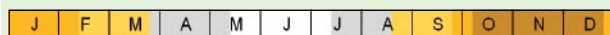
ID No: 525 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Usual resident. Up to 20 birds are often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 11.4%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 173 records, RR 53% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

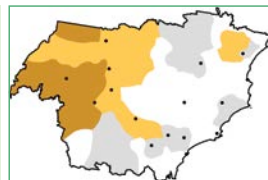
ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Past records (Rev'd)

Regional status: Uncommon summer migrant.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.44%.

20+ birds were recorded at Wallalong 5 Oct (BRG) and ten birds at Hexham Swamp 28 Dec (ROM). There were many coastal and near-coastal records of lesser numbers over Sep-Dec, particularly from Hexham Swamp but including Ash Island, WWW, Stockton Sandspit, Belmont and Warners Bay. The only records from western locations were of single birds at Curra Creek 27 Sep and Windy HSD 29 Sep (BEI, KAA), and three birds in the Blackville / Willow Tree area late Aug (BRG). **Atlas:** 30 records. **Trend:** An exceptional year.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Summer migrant; 1-2 birds sometimes recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.2%.

Notable records: There was a notable influx in spring, which included several coastal and near-coastal records from locations such as Hexham Swamp, Belmont, Ash Island. Associated with this, 20+ birds were recorded at Durrigere Rd late Sep (various observers) and WWW 26 Sep (BRG), and 30+ birds in the Wallalong area 5 Oct (BRG). There were two winter records, of single birds at Durrigere Rd 10 Jun and Medhurst Bridge 1 Jul (KET, FAB/OWS). **Atlas:** 41 records, RR 142% of long-term. **Trend:** An exceptional year.



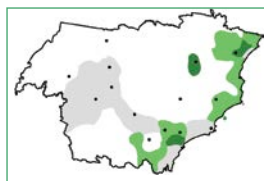
Golden-headed Cisticola by Ann Lindsey

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: 1998-2017 500m RR 7.4%.



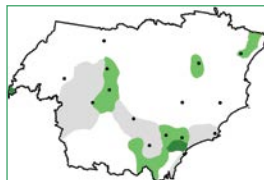
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 124 records, RR 64% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Little Grassbird *Poodytes gramineus*

ID No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Past records

Regional status: Resident. 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 7.0%.



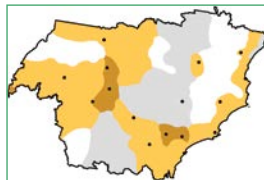
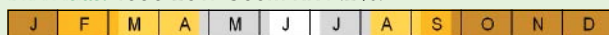
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 135 records, RR 74% of long-term. **Trend:** Uncertain (the RR was low for the third year in a row).

Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

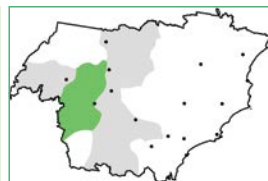
Regional status: Usual summer migrant. 1-10 birds often recorded and some birds are resident.

BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 7.2%.



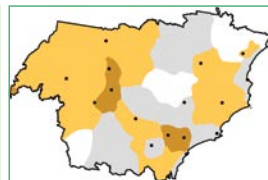
There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 182 records, RR 90% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*
 ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes
Regional status: Uncommon resident.
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 0.24%.



24 birds were recorded at Bobadeen Rd Turill 14 Apr (WID/ROM). All other records were of 1-5 birds: at Martindale 8 Apr (MUL), Denman and Bureen 14 Apr (WID/ROM), Turill 17 Apr, Doyles Creek and Medhurst Bridge 5 Sep (all KET/GOA), Goulburn River NP 17 Sep (MUL) and Durridgere Rd 26 Sep (ROM et al.), and often at Bureen Sep-Oct (various observers). **Atlas:** Six 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 5.1%.



Notable records: ~100 birds were at Windy HSD 7 Apr (WAB) and Hexham Swamp 10 Sep (NIL). There was a winter record of 30 birds at Cattai Wetlands 17 Jul (per ROM) and also some birds were at Darawank 6 Jul (MGLB). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting near Singleton early Jan (ALP) and at Wallsend 4 Feb (PAL), Maryville late Aug (ROM, THJ) and Cundletown Nov-Dec (STA). **Atlas:** 162 records, RR 110% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*
 ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes
Regional status: Summer migrant; up to 20 birds occasionally recorded. Many birds over-winter.
BLA Atlas: 1998-2017 500m RR 5.4%.



Notable records: Several hundred birds were at Hexham Swamp 14 Jan (KAA). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young near Singleton 16 Jan (THJ). **Atlas:** 144 records, RR 80% 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: 1998-2017 500m RR 38.0%.



Notable records: ~1,000+ birds were at Hexham Swamp 19 Feb (LIA). **Breeding:** Birds were breeding at Balickera Aug, Sep, Oct (MUJ). **Atlas:** 1,110 records, RR 100% 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 2017.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: None recorded

Regional status: Uncommon resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.33%.Two birds were at Galgabba 26 Aug (MOA). **Atlas:** One record. **Trend:** Uncertain.**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

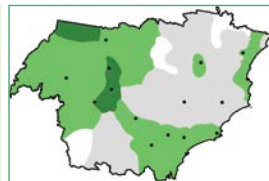
ID No: 574 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident and winter bird of passage; up to 50 birds regularly recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 25.7%.

Notable records: Birds were often present amid the many migrating flocks moving through the lower Hunter in Apr-May (see Yellow-faced Honeyeater entry). 100-200+ birds were often at Galgabba in that period (ADJ) and there also were reports of ~200 birds at Seaham 14 Apr (WAB) and Martindale 17 Apr (WAB, PAL). ~1,000 birds were at Broughton Island 12-14 Oct and 200+ birds 26-28 Jun (STA *et al.*). In June three sub-species were recorded on Broughton Island: *cornwalli* (50-60%), *westernensis* (30-40%) and *lateralis* (~10%). **Breeding:** Birds were feeding fledged young at Smiths Lake 26-30 Jan and East Maitland 4 Feb (HBOC, BRG).

Atlas: 571 records, RR 89% 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 14.2%.There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** 263 records, RR 67% of long-term. **Trend:** Possibly declining (the RR was low for the third year in a row).**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

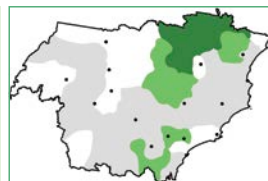
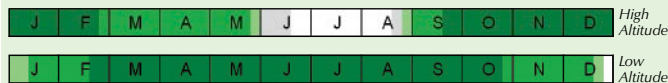
ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Common resident; up to 50 birds often recorded.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 17.2%.

Notable records: A bird was taken by a Brown Goshawk at Parkville 18 May (NEG). **Atlas:** 508 records, RR 103% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable.

Bassian Thrush *Zoothra lunulata*

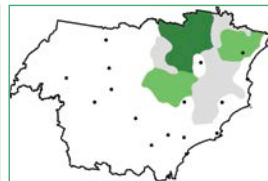
ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 1.6%.

1-2 birds were recorded at Dora Creek Avondale 19 Feb (HBOC), HEZ 23 Mar (ROM), Forster 23 Jul (MGLB) and BbR 26 Jul (BEA), and several times at both Galgabba and Gloucester Tops (many observers). **Atlas:** 21 records, RR 48% of long-term. **Trend:** Probably stable (but the RR was low).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothra heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Breeding: Yes

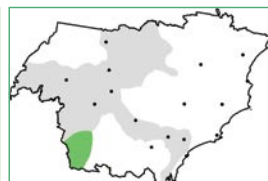
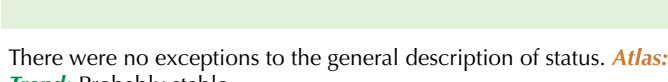
Regional status: Resident.**BLA Atlas:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.50%.

Birds were heard at Main Creek 24 Aug (STD) and Allyn River SF 29 Oct (DDR).

Atlas: Three 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:** 1998-2017 500m RR 0.22%.

There were no exceptions to the general description of status. **Atlas:** Nine records.

Trend: Probably stable.

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre-2017 records detailed below:

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

A single bird was recorded at Singleton Training Area 10 Sep 2013 (HOH).

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus*

Two birds were photographed at Muddishops Point in December 2016; however, they were not identified until a closer examination of the image several months later (MUL). *This record formed part of the BARC submission covering the 2016 and 2017-18 sightings and was accepted as the first record for Australia.*

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*

A bird seen during a pelagic survey off Swansea 9 Jul 2015 had been banded as a first-year bird at Ile Amsterdam (Indian Ocean) 2 Dec 2008 (POC).

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Swansea 21 Jul 2016 (RIA *et al.*).

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

The record of a single bird seen during a pelagic from Port Stephens 27 Nov 2016 was accepted by BARC as the 8th confirmed record for Australia (*this was reported as an unconfirmed record in the 2016 Bird Report*).

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

A bird was recorded in Myall Lakes National Park in Oct 1998 and a nest with three young birds was in Myall Lakes National Park 9 Oct 1972 (SWC Consultancy Report 2001). This is the only known breeding record for the Region.

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

A single bird was recorded at Cape Hawke (near Forster) 28 March 2002 (GAL). *This was the first record for the Hunter Region since 1935 (which was a breeding record, and from the same general area).*

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A single bird (subspecies *tshutschensis*) photographed at Hexham Swamp 21 Apr 2014 (WAR).



Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross by Jim Smart

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports were not able to be accepted – either because of insufficient information at the time of printing or else a non-definitive description was supplied (such that alternative identifications were not able to be eliminated). The information below is for completeness; future Reports will advise of records that have been accepted as a result of supplementary details being provided. *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.*

King Quail *Synoicus chinensis*

A bird was reported to have been at Cape Hawke 29 Apr.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

A bird was reported to have been at Cattai Bridge wetlands 31 Oct.

Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

A bird was reported to have been at Mambo Wetlands 22 Aug and 8 Oct.

Tyto-type Owl *Tyto spp*

Four birds were recorded at Tomago Wetlands 28 Nov (BEI et al.) and a single bird at Ash Island 28 Nov (BOH).

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

A single bird was reported to have been at Martindale 24 Jul.



Regent Honeyeater by Mick Roderick

ESCAPEES

The species below were recorded, but are considered to be escapees rather than part of a self-sustaining wild population. Records of “feral” geese are ignored.

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*.

A single bird was in a paddock at Fullerton Cove 3 Jul (per CLM).

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

At least five birds were at Salt Ash 21 Apr (STG).

Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*

A single bird was at Hexham Swamp 12 Apr (MBE).

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

A single bird was regularly recorded at Forster in May (ERE).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (NB: this species is also known as Indian Ringneck)

Single birds were recorded at Wallalong 9 Jun and Jimmys Beach 10 Jun (LDE, FAA).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For this Bird Report, Ann Lindsey prepared most of the Tables (based on data collected by many people including herself) while Rob Kyte organised images, designed the layout and coordinated the final production. Dan Williams generated all the distribution maps and species timelines. Many others contributed photographs and are acknowledged accordingly within the document.

Alan Stuart – 25 years of editing the Annual Bird Report

Alan has been a member of HBOC for over 30 years. It was in 1993 that Alan first edited the Club's inaugural Annual Bird Report. Back then the report consisted of 88 pages with a total of 272 species recorded for the year. Membership stood at just 150. Over 25 years Alan has dedicated much of his time each year to collating records and observations from a growing number of club members. Today the annual report contains over 170 pages with 375 recorded species. It is printed in colour with a print run of 300 copies. The publication is highly regarded amongst ornithologists in the Hunter Region and beyond. HBOC Committee and members would like to thank Alan for his hard work and dedication over the past 25 years. Fortunately we've not lost Alan to other interests; he now moves on to edit the Club's other publication, The Whistler.

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 sites¹)

	13,14 Jan	10,11 Feb	10,11 Mar	7,8 Apr	11,13 May	23,24 Jun*	21,22 Jul	25,26 Aug*	22,23 Sep	20,21 Oct	17,18 Nov	15,16 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	7	6	4	2	2	2	2	2	30	34	39	5
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	4	14						4	14	4	5
Red-necked Avocet	1	3	124	603	1662	2615	3986	5644	4077	1877	2064	988
Pied Stilt	286	379	1182	746	511	199	661	932	892	616	925	590
Pacific Golden Plover	358	173	145	57	1				48	14	16	38
Red-capped Plover											2	10
Black-fronted Dotterel	10	8	7	27	29	19	41	6	8	10	9	8
Masked Lapwing	348	154	192	153	89	112	93	52	62	77	112	154
Red-kneed Dotterel			1	1	29		4	6	6	0	6	
Whimbrel	74	41	44	30	2	1	36			29	62	71
Eastern Curlew	181	197	105	8	7	7	19	9	107	133	150	116
Bar-tailed Godwit	587	536	560	150	154	161	163		303	590	424	463
Black-tailed Godwit	169	89	81	51	1				4	53	16	71
Great Knot	5		6						2	4		
Red Knot	1		1						100	204	72	12
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	718	863	1229	68	4			24	382	4094	2515	3409
Curlew Sandpiper	198	240	42	6			9	11	41	104	7	58
Red-necked Stint	3	28	71	4						60		
Latham's Snipe									2	4	2	1
Terek Sandpiper	6			1						2	5	5
Common Sandpiper	1			1						1		1
Grey-tailed Tattler	6		30	41		1				21	22	30
Common Greenshank	103	122	92	66					35	64	25	72
Marsh Sandpiper	22	52	43	3							11	33
Silver Gull	260	382	200	71	328	21	138	4	49	138	230	158
Little Tern	10	4								1		12
Com. Gull-billed Tern												1
Aust. Gull-billed Tern				2	34	30	9	9	3		1	
Caspian Tern	1	3	9	30	13	11	2	3	3	2	3	2
Whiskered Tern	23									103	62	
Common Tern	10	11										3
Crested Tern	10	12	39	4	3	8	11	1	10	8	12	7

* Incomplete surveys in June & August

¹ 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
Chestnut Teal	1	940			6							6
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2							2	1	2	1	2
Red-necked Avocet				345	841	2600	3900	4300	3200	4500	4000	820
Pied Stilt	9		140	166	26	104	134	30	30	93	25	150
Pacific Golden Plover	100	10	7	38	1				2	85		300
Red-capped Plover		3										
Masked Lapwing	19	11	3	2	3	4	8	3	17	4	9	5
Whimbrel		3		17	2	1	16		6	4	8	11
Eastern Curlew	136	143	30	5	10	7	7		85	204	121	80
Bar-tailed Godwit	267	506	20	147	179	161	94		28	510		710
Black-tailed Godwit	145			51					9	49		66
Great Knot											1	
Red Knot									3	260	120	4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		500		37						20		2
Curlew Sandpiper				6						10	1	74
Red-necked Stint												24
Terek Sandpiper	6	6		1						2	5	5
Grey-tailed Tattler	6	20	30	41		1				21	22	30
Silver Gull	1	28	2			1		1		3	50	2
Little Tern		2										20
Com. Gull-billed Tern												1
Aust. Gull-billed Tern				2	27	23	5		11	12	25	27
Caspian Tern		2		9	9			2		2	4	1
Common Tern												1
Crested Tern	2	4	1		2		3			2		
Aust. Pelican				2			8					1
Great Egret				2						1		1
White-faced Heron	2	4		2		15	1		4	1	3	
Little Egret	1	1		2	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
Aust. White Ibis	3	6	6	34	3	1		3	1		2	1
Royal Spoonbill			1	11								
Glossy Ibis			2									
Little Pied Cormorant				2						1	1	
Great Cormorant										1		
Little Black Cormorant		1		5		6		2	5	2		
Pied Cormorant	24						10	1	10		1	
Australasian Darter				2		1	1					

Table 3 Waterbirds in the Hunter Estuary
(Multi-observer surveys conducted at high tide roost sites¹)

	13,14 Jan	10,11 Feb	10,11 Mar	07,08 Apr	11,13 May	23,24 Jun*	21,22 Jul	25,26 Aug*	22,23 Sep	20,21 Oct	17,18 Nov	15,16 Dec
Magpie Goose		9										
Wand. Whistling-Duck	18									2		
Pink-eared Duck		1	86	338								
Black Swan	56	16	247	429	240	102	130	99	70	53	45	54
Hardhead	45	64	15	224	4	27	42	7	27	284	126	44
Australasian Shoveler		12	313	42	10	27	16	14				6
Pacific Black Duck	480	219	162	40	172	6	92	61	28	167	31	59
Northern Mallard			1									1
Grey Teal	260	478	3651	524	2533	2	32	884	418	1919	569	78
Chestnut Teal	526	2023	3836	1153	2119	18	98	185	117	48	54	344
Freckled Duck												1
Musk Duck	1					1	1					
Aust. Wood Duck	1	23	14	101	19	14	48	5	4	16	31	14
Australasian Grebe	4	1	4	55	8	21	21	10	9	7	15	10
Hoary-headed Grebe		2	1		45	11		21	3	30	1	
Purple Swampphen	20	9	19	36	9	10	9	12	30	38	11	31
Dusky Moorhen	1	1		3						4		
Eurasian Coot		5	1	73	26	38	72	73	70	165	134	144
Black-necked Stork	2		1	5		1	1	1	2			
Aust. Pelican	70	89	93	154	43	89	59	6	88	106	84	106
Cattle Egret	12	70	5		2	97	7	2			2	2
White-necked Heron				8		4	1	2	2	1		
Great Egret	24	12	11	59	10	10	10	7	13	13	14	10
Intermediate Egret	5	1	0	22		2		1				3
White-faced Heron	56	119	119	129	90	161	180	137	176	97	54	116
Little Egret	6	6	1	8	2	1	6	4	1	7	3	4
Aust. White Ibis	321	288	89	196	106	71	30	36	59	71	67	79
Straw-necked Ibis					7	9	4	8	12			2
Royal Spoonbill	30	57	72	90	16	26	24	11	7	24	34	26
Glossy Ibis	27											
Little Pied Cormorant	12	7	18	27	6	4	7	6	12	12	9	10
Great Cormorant	3	2					2	1	1	4	1	6
Little Black Cormorant	36	14	9	16	4	13	17	12	32	45	28	32
Pied Cormorant	40	8	9	16	1	5	12	2	16	6	20	5
Australasian Darter	2	1	3	2	4	1	3	2		1	3	1

^{*}Incomplete surveys in June & August

¹Some areas were surveyed on different days – the total count for each species has been used



Black-necked Stork by Graeme O'Connor

Table 4 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Phoenix Flats Ash Island
(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pacific Black Duck			9	1		1		4			9	
Chestnut Teal			5	3				5				
Pacific Golden Plover	21	47	64	24					21	38	6	33
Black-fronted Dotterel				2	2	4	2	1				
Masked Lapwing	5	4	8	6	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	2
Eastern Curlew	1	6	37					2	3	1	3	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			5	2					7		27	28
Aust. Gull-billed Tern										1		
White-necked Heron								1		1		
White-faced Heron	1	4	7	12	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	6
Aust. White Ibis	7	10	9	42	16	47	4	2	1	1	8	6

Table 5 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Milhams Pond Ash Island
(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan								2				
Pacific Black Duck	2	3	5	17	49	2	11	14	24	3	4	
Grey Teal	31	8			5			9	33	15		
Chestnut Teal	36	26	6	31	30			20	69	67	59	15
Red-necked Avocet					57	34	14	3	63	120	112	15
Pied Stilt					2							
Pacific Golden Plover									1			
Black-fronted Dotterel					1	1						
Masked Lapwing	2	4	7	5	17	4	2	8	6	8	4	4
Eastern Curlew	6	4	6	3	4	5		6	9	7	5	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	1											
Red Knot									50	32		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper											1	
Aust. Gull-billed Tern				1	1	3	2	9	9	2	3	3
Caspian Tern									1			
Crested Tern					4	1						
Aust. Pelican			1	5				1			1	
Cattle Egret	2											
White-necked Heron					1	3	2		1			
Great Egret	2		2	4	1	1		2	1	1	1	1
Intermediate Egret				10								
White-faced Heron	4	3	7	9	18	16	23	14	12	14	13	13
Aust. White Ibis	39	62	60	46	47	123	21	10	10	14	37	25
Straw-necked Ibis				5	4	11	14	7	2	1		
Royal Spoonbill	3	3	3	1		2	1	2	1	1	3	
Little Pied Cormorant				2	1	1		1		1		1
Little Black Cormorant												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	40	50	65	61	57	64	71	86	66	64	65	56
Wand. Whistling Duck	25	4	17	69	9						34	4
Pink-eared Duck										3		
Black Swan			4	6	5	2	2	11	11	11	8	
Hardhead	1	1	2	3	5	4	4	2	2	2	2	1
Australasian Shoveler				1								
Pacific Black Duck	25	10	29	38	26	48	12	39	37	14	22	9
Northern Mallard	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2		1		1
Grey Teal	55	18	33	38	63	57	141	167	273	190	219	142
Chestnut Teal	7	12	10	16	12	6	10	8	4	2	15	3
Aust. Wood Duck	6	3	3	4	2	3		2	4	6	14	10
Australasian Grebe		2	1	8	6	8	8	7	10	3	6	4
Buff-banded Rail	4								1		1	
Purple Swamphen	12	26	30	20	19	27	16	25	35	58	36	18
Dusky Moorhen	31	45	28	16	23	14	7	15	25	25	51	26
Eurasian Coot	2	7	48	137	300	355	398	371	259	92	166	154
Pied Stilt									3	5	10	22
Black-fronted Dotterel									1			
Masked Lapwing	3	3	3	2	2	2		3	4	6	2	4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									6			
Latham's Snipe									1	4	14	4
Black-necked Stork											1	1
Aust. Pelican	1	2				1	1	2			2	3
Nankeen Night-Heron			1						13	1		1
Cattle Egret	515	136	50		5					4	247	260
White-necked Heron				3			1	1	2	2		
Great Egret	7	27	16	5	2	2	4	1	1	4	6	18
Intermediate Egret	1		1	2	1	2	2	2	4	10	6	4
White-faced Heron	2					3	1	1	4	5	1	55
Little Egret	5	6							2		3	3
Aust. White Ibis	156	231	53	35	41	136	152	337	202	243	196	177
Straw-necked Ibis				1		1						
Royal Spoonbill	24	5	2	1		10	3	4	14	22	6	25
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1	6	5	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	4
Great Cormorant	2		1			1	1	2	1	2		7
Little Black Cormorant	6	3	3	4				1		3	3	2
Australasian Darter		1	1			1	1				2	1

Table 7 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Tomago Wetlands
(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pink-eared Duck				6							
Black Swan	2	11	76	39	84	39	48	10	4	6	4
Hardhead			6								
Australasian Shoveler	12	2	131	5	7	5	8				
Pacific Black Duck	8	5	67	49	71	8	7	10	7		
Grey Teal	4	392	1159	205	924	7	161	3	1400		4
Chestnut Teal	83	1225	1486	614	868	9	48	200			15
Aust. Wood Duck					2	10					
Purple Swamphen			3	21							2
Red-necked Avocet					113		17		6		
Pied Stilt	19		276	44	302	62	44				
Pacific Golden Plover	8	9	35	2							20
Red-capped Plover	1										
Double-banded Plover					5						
Black-fronted Dotterel				7	14		7	1			
Masked Lapwing	51	42	64	108	23	23	16	13	20	23	39
Red-kneed Dotterel				5		4	10				
Eastern Curlew						12	6				
Bar-tailed Godwit									2		
Red Knot									1		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3258	5000	1181	30			17	175	3600	3525	2010
Curlew Sandpiper	25	4	40						8		
Red-necked Stint	14	37							60	2	4
Common Greenshank	24	70	85	58	1			8	11		50
Marsh Sandpiper		11	43	1							31
Silver Gull		1				1					
Aust. Gull-billed Tern				2	1						
Caspian Tern			8	1	6						
Whiskered Tern	3										
Black-necked Stork	2	2		1	1	1	2	1			
Aust. Pelican	4	12	24	56	11	17	60	2	35	11	3
Striated Heron		1		1	1						
Cattle Egret		2							10		
White-necked Heron						1		1			

Table 7 (cont'd) Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Tomago Wetlands
(Monthly peak counts by multiple observers)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Egret	10	4	7	21	3	6	3	4	3	3	7
Intermediate Egret	1					1	2				
White-faced Heron	41	57	54	42	25	77	48	128	68	114	102
Little Egret	1	1			1				1	1	1
Aust. White Ibis	63	50	6	5	12	17	60	17	40	11	3
Straw-necked Ibis				3			15	12	1		
Royal Spoonbill	1	6	49	37		3			7	1	2
Little Pied Cormorant		3	1	2	2	4	3	4	4	4	3
Great Cormorant						1	2				
Little Black Cormorant	3	1	4	1	3		2	27	11	11	7
Australasian Darter		1	3	1					1		

Table 8 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Warabrook
(Regular surveys by R. McDonell)

	16 Jan	19 Feb	13 Mar	30 Apr	18 May	20 Jul	08 Sep	16 Oct	25 Nov	28 Dec
Hardhead		1				1				
Pacific Black Duck	11	24	21	16	17	13	16	22	14	10
Northern Mallard				1	1	1				
Grey Teal		2					5			
Chestnut Teal						2		1		
Aust. Wood Duck	24	13	14	7	20	10	15	9	26	4
Australasian Grebe					2	4	3	2		
Buff-banded Rail	1		1	1				2	1	
Purple Swamphen	16	17	19	8	13	18	3	30	13	34
Dusky Moorhen	30	28	42	36	49	52	34	56	43	25
Eurasian Coot	2	11	31	15	31	32	37	98	43	26
Masked Lapwing	3	14	2	3		2			7	2
Great Egret	2									
Intermediate Egret				1						
Aust. White Ibis	1	1			15			3	1	1
Straw-necked Ibis				6	1	6				
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1	2	1	1	2				
Great Cormorant								1		
Little Black Cormorant	3			1			1	2	3	15
Pied Cormorant		1	2		1	1	2		1	
Australasian Darter	4	5	12		4	6		2		2

Table 9 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Wallsend Wetlands*(Regular surveys by L. Parashou)*

	24 Jan	23 Feb	27 Apr	23 May	22 Jun	27 Jul	17 Aug	20 Sep	19 Oct	17 Nov	21 Dec
Pink-eared Duck					11	2	2	6	2		
Black Swan			1	5	2						
Hardhead			9	4	9	5					
Australasian Shoveler					11	6	8				
Northern Mallard					1		4				
Pacific Black Duck			35	6	14	7	71		8	15	16
Grey Teal		17		35	53	48	227				
Chestnut Teal							7				
Aust. Wood Duck	31		6				9	42	12		
Australasian Grebe			2	5	9	3				1	
Purple Swamphen			3	18	11	3	7	20	11	3	
Dusky Moorhen	3	8			9						6
Eurasian Coot		2	21	75		7	17	46			
Pied Stilt									8	26	
Masked Lapwing	25	9					8				
Latham's Snipe	14	6									
White-necked Heron					1						
Great Egret								1			
Intermediate Egret			1		1				1		
White-faced Heron					1		1				
Aust. White Ibis						42	87				
Little Black Cormorant	1							4	4		
Pied Cormorant							1				

Table 10 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Ocean Baths
((Monthly peak counts by J. Thomas and R. Nicholas))

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher				1			1		2			
Sooty Oystercatcher	39	49	47	42	33	23	14	12	16	15	16	28
Ruddy Turnstone	10	8	8	9	1	1			4	11	13	11
Silver Gull	140	70	75	450	300	240	150	100	20	80	40	150
Little Tern	2	3	2									
Aust. Gull-billed Tern							1		3	1	1	2
Caspian Tern										1		
White-fronted Tern						7	3	7	2			
Common Tern	32	18	25							1	3	19
Crested Tern	55	95	90	55	110	160	248	160	200	70	55	70
Aust. Pelican	5	5	5	6	7	5	9	10	17	7		6
Nankeen Night-Heron					1	1						
Cattle Egret												70
White-faced Heron		4	2	1	4	1	2	3				3
Little Pied Cormorant	1			1	2	1	3	1	1			
Great Cormorant	6	6	7		1	16	5	4	12	9	9	6
Little Black Cormorant	2	2	5		2	5	7	2	3	1		
Pied Cormorant	3	1	1		5	1				1	1	2
Australasian Darter			2		2	5	4		4	2	2	2



Ruddy Turnstone by Steve Merrett

Table 11 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Lake Macquarie*(Regular surveys by multiple observers)*

	11 Feb	11 Mar	08 Apr	13 May	24 Jun	22 Jul	26 Aug	23 Sep	21 Oct	18 Nov	16 Dec
Black Swan	130	163	40	44	8	11	116	21	145	15	383
Chestnut Teal		14				7			8	2	
Aust. Wood Duck			2		11		2		13		4
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	2	2	11	2		2		4	2	6	7
Masked Lapwing		6	8	8	2	1			2		2
Whimbrel	4									2	
Eastern Curlew		1	1						1	2	
Bar-tailed Godwit	42	40	4	8	3	1		8	37	3	11
Curlew Sandpiper									14		
Silver Gull	179	119	80	200	251	173	94	42	118	109	198
Little Tern		1								1	
Caspian Tern		2	1		2	1		1			
Common Tern					1						6
Crested Tern	43	17	5	2	7	15	8	1	7	5	8
Aust. Pelican	29	36	34	34	35	30	32	7	29	19	50
Striated Heron	1	2	1							1	2
Great Egret	2	1			2	2	2		1	1	
Intermediate Egret		2		15			2				
White-faced Heron	1		4	1	2	1				5	3
Little Egret	3	3		5	4	25	4	3		2	3
Aust. White Ibis					2	9	1			1	
Royal Spoonbill			1	12	18	25	13				
Little Pied Cormorant	14	2	5	7	50	31	19	1	6	25	21
Great Cormorant							4		1	1	1
Little Black Cormorant	3	4		12	11	40	81	2	20	14	26
Pied Cormorant	1	19	14	11	5	4	13	3	26	53	12
Australasian Darter		2		1	4	4	1		1	1	1

Table 12 Waterbirds at Redhead Lagoon (Awabakal Nature Reserve)
(Regular surveys by D. & C. Eastham)

	30 Jan	25 Apr	26 Jun	31 Jul	12 Aug	29 Sep	27 Nov	28 Dec
Black Swan					2		1	
Hardhead				13	4	9	6	6
Australasian Shoveler		1						
Pacific Black Duck	39	31	28	35	36	90	21	45
Northern Mallard			1		1			
Grey Teal	2		6	20	26	19	21	37
Chestnut Teal	9	7			11	10	20	24
Musk Duck			1		1	1		
Aust. Wood Duck	10	3	4				2	
Australasian Grebe	10		2		8	15	15	17
Buff-banded Rail	5						2	1
Purple Swampphen			4	5	1		2	
Dusky Moorhen	1							2
Eurasian Coot	1	19	28	13	22	8	2	4
White-necked Heron		1	1		2	1	1	
Great Egret				2				
Intermediate Egret						1	3	
White-faced Heron	1		4	2	3	5		13
Aust. White Ibis	4						8	1
Royal Spoonbill							4	2
Little Pied Cormorant	1	3	6	10	5	2	5	6
Great Cormorant	15						17	2
Little Black Cormorant		1			2	17	12	12
Australasian Darter					1		1	

Table 13 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Cold Tea Creek, Belmont*(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan			30		3	38	9			22
Northern Mallard		3					2	5	3	
Pacific Black Duck		2	4		1			3	3	
Grey Teal						2				
Chestnut Teal	15	9	3		13	9	5	14	16	7
Aust. Wood Duck	7	8		8	4					1
Pied Stilt									1	
Masked Lapwing									1	
Silver Gull	26	28	3	4	4	6	3	4	4	13
Crested Tern					1	2			2	
Aust. Pelican			1	3	1	12		4	18	10
Striated Heron	1	1	2	2				1		1
Great Egret		1		1	2	2	2			
Intermediate Egret	1				1					
White-faced Heron	1		3			1	1		1	1
Little Egret						9	1			3
Royal Spoonbill								1	1	1
Little Pied Cormorant		1		5	2	3	3	3	3	
Great Cormorant	1						1			
Little Black Cormorant	2	2	3	1	1	2	4	3	1	18
Pied Cormorant						1			2	

*Australian Wood Duck by Alwyn Simple*

Table 14 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Belmont Lagoon*(Regular surveys by G. Feletti)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan	9	34	74	24		3	6	40	17	57	73	30
Pacific Black Duck		14	4	1	6	4	3	5	9	14	11	2
Grey Teal		12										
Chestnut Teal	14	15	19	10	34	41	24	45	26	42	42	35
Aust. Wood Duck	13	14	20	6	25	5	3	5	10	8	9	8
Purple Swamphen					1					1		
Pied Stilt		1							2	8	5	
Masked Lapwing										2	2	
Silver Gull	30	30	5	1	3	5	11	3	6	26	37	15
Caspian Tern			2	1	1		2				1	
Crested Tern	1	1				1						
Aust. Pelican	1	29	1	1	1		3	5	2	6	8	
Striated Heron		1	2	2	2		2			1	1	1
Great Egret			4		3	2	8	1	2		1	3
Intermediate Egret			1	1		15	12	8	6	2	10	
White-faced Heron	1	1	7	7	1	2	3		2	2		
Little Egret				1	1		7		1	2	5	1
Aust. White Ibis					1	1	1		5	2	15	1
Royal Spoonbill						1	1	1	3	2	1	
Little Pied Cormorant	2	9	2	3	5	4	8	4	6	11	16	3
Great Cormorant						1	1	2	2			1
Little Black Cormorant	3	40	3	2	21	51	12	4	4	100	30	3
Pied Cormorant	1			1						1		
Australasian Darter				1	2	1	1			1		

Table 15 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Woods Point, Morisset
(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan			21			13			2		9	18
Hardhead						3						
Northern Mallard									2			
Pacific Black Duck	2		25	5	20	20	11	2	4	3	4	3
Chestnut Teal		1		1		2	2		2			3
Aust. Wood Duck	3		1	4		4	1					
Australasian Grebe							1					
Purple Swamphen				1	1		1		2	2	1	1
Dusky Moorhen								1				
Eurasian Coot				1	1	2	4	9	1		1	
Masked Lapwing	1											
White-faced Heron				1		1			2			1
Little Pied Cormorant	2									1		
Great Cormorant	1											
Little Black Cormorant										3		
Pied Cormorant	1		1						1		1	1
Australasian Darter									1			

Table 16 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Myuna Bay
(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan			6			2						2
Chestnut Teal									3			
Australasian Grebe						1						
Masked Lapwing			2	2	3	2						
Silver Gull	4	8	16	24	43	24	5	3	5	4	2	5
Crested Tern						1	4	2	1		1	
Aust. Pelican			2	3	2		2	5	2	3		
Nankeen Night-Heron					1		5	5	4	1		1
Striated Heron					1				1	1		1
Great Egret				1		2	1		1			
White-faced Heron			3	1	1	1	2	1		1	1	
Little Egret				1			1			1		
Aust. White Ibis				1	1		1				1	
Royal Spoonbill							1					1
Little Pied Cormorant			1		1		3	1				
Little Black Cormorant							6					1

Table 17 Waterbirds at Muddy Lake, Dora Creek
(Regular surveys by A. Richardson)

	Jan	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pink-eared Duck							24			
Black Swan	42	11	2	2		2	2		3	9
Hardhead	95	13	19	31	100	181	54		2	9
Pacific Black Duck	20	11	13	13	3	19	8	9	6	15
Grey Teal	4	2	3	2	2	15	11	2	3	27
Chestnut Teal	6		9		2	15	15	4	1	26
Aust. Wood Duck	1						8		3	5
Australasian Grebe	1	4	3	3						
Hoary-headed Grebe			3	2			1			
Dusky Moorhen	12		7	19	6		4	4	3	13
Eurasian Coot	65	24	12	26		27	1	2	1	8
Caspian Tern		1								
Aust. Pelican	3		4	5						2
Great Egret			1	3	10			1		
White-faced Heron							1			1
Little Egret		1		1			2			2
Aust. White Ibis	146	1		16	56	49	105	192	152	293
Little Pied Cormorant	25		1		7	4	19	4	11	11
Great Cormorant			5	2		15	7	2	8	7
Little Black Cormorant	54	46	35	115	151	2	8	20	24	13
Pied Cormorant		3		81	3	1		6	2	2
Australasian Darter		2	2	2		1		1	2	1



Hoary-headed Grebe by Steve Merrett

Table 18 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at East Cooranbong Wetland*(Regular surveys by A. Richardson)*

	Jan	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec*
Black Swan		57	30	12	12	7	2			
Pacific Black Duck	50	6	49	8	30	86	137	63	69	
Grey Teal		3	10			8	13	44	55	
Chestnut Teal	300	4	4				2	1		
Aust. Wood Duck				2			1		1	
Australasian Grebe		1	1	3	2					
Purple Swampphen	1	16	9	7	6	7	36	25	54	7
Dusky Moorhen		1					2	4		
Eurasian Coot		32	25	32	27	24	50	20	12	
Pied Stilt	4	1	8	3	1	15	44	70	49	
Black-fronted Dotterel	1						4	4	5	
Masked Lapwing	3	1					6	4	71	
Red-kneed Dotterel								2	3	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2									
Latham's Snipe	8						4	8	38	
Aust. Painted Snipe							1			
Silver Gull	2									
Whiskered Tern							2			
Aust. Pelican	2			3			1	1		
Cattle Egret							20			
White-necked Heron				1		1				
Intermediate Egret	6							1	1	
White-faced Heron	13	1	3	2	2	3	17	32	18	
Little Egret	1									
Aust. White Ibis						1	9	12	12	
Straw-necked Ibis	3	1				1				
Royal Spoonbill	14							3	3	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill								1		
Little Pied Cormorant		1								
Little Black Cormorant							2			
Australasian Darter	1							1		

*Wetland dry

Table 19 Waterbirds at Ray Lawler Park, Morpeth
(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)

	22 Jan	14 Feb	23 Mar	24 Apr	30 May	27 Jun	24 Jul	18 Aug	28 Sep	30 Oct	22 Nov	21 Dec
Pacific Black Duck	15	22	11	52	35	29	62	85	91	34	18	23
Grey Teal							2	8	12			2
Chestnut Teal	4	2	8	16	18	22	14	29	16	7	9	18
Aust. Wood Duck	4			2	1	7	2		6			2
Australasian Grebe						1	2	4				
Purple Swamphen	8	14	3	1	3	5	4		5	5	3	5
Dusky Moorhen	7	2	3	9	16	12	6	6	1	3	3	1
Eurasian Coot					2	1		2	3	1		2
Nankeen Night-Heron	2	9	13	6	7	9	7	4		1	1	
Aust. Pelican			2									
Cattle Egret	8	5	3	12	6	5	16	12				
White-necked Heron								1				
Great Egret							1			1		
Intermediate Egret											1	
White-faced Heron			1	4					3	1	3	1
Aust. White Ibis			2					1	1	2	2	1
Straw-necked ibis	2	6	33	2	11	3	1					
Royal Spoonbill								1	1			
Little Black Cormorant											1	



Nankeen Night-Heron by Allen Friis

Table 20 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Stockton Borehole*(Regular surveys by M. McDonald)*

	26 Jan	19 Feb	19 Mar	29 Apr	28 May	21 Jun	23 Jul	20 Aug	29 Sep	29 Oct	26 Nov	26 Dec
Black Swan	18	30	99	19	21	16	62	111	106	61	173	50
Australasian Shoveler		1		2					1			
Pacific Black Duck			2									
Grey Teal	3			9					27	5		
Chestnut Teal	8	41	15	78	18				46	1	1	
Australasian Grebe				9								
Hoary-headed Grebe					16	16						
Great Crested Grebe											1	
Eurasian Coot			28	600	500	450	450	250	50		92	
Pied Stilt	15	21	31	29	3	14	22	30	33	139	44	263
Black-fronted Dotterel	4			8			2					
Masked Lapwing	2	2		3	1			2	3	1	1	15
Red-kneed Dotterel									1	8	7	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper										3		
Silver Gull									3	8	2	1
Caspian Tern								1				1
Black-necked Stork							1					
Aust. Pelican	12	9	7	3					1	4	4	1
Cattle Egret		1										
Great Egret	2		1	2		3	1	1	1		2	1
Intermediate Egret		1		3								
White-faced Heron	3	2	3		3	2		1	1	1	1	
Little Egret	1	1	2									2
Aust. White Ibis	1		8					1	1	2	1	
Straw-necked ibis				1			1					
Royal Spoonbill	2	3	1			1				1	1	2
Little Pied Cormorant	3	1	3	1			1			4		2
Great Cormorant						2		1				
Little Black Cormorant			1							6	1	
Pied Cormorant									1			
Australasian Darter		1		1								

Table 21 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Toronto Wetlands
(Regular surveys by N. Cooper)

	28 Jan	29 Mar	23 Apr	24 May	20 Jul	29 Aug	21 Sep	16 Oct	12 Nov	18 Dec
Black Swan		2	2	2		1				
Pacific Black Duck	3	2	3	4		5	2	8	3	1
Grey Teal			2	10		2	6	14	4	2
Chestnut Teal			8	4	2	6	10	2	4	5
Freckled Duck			2			2	2	3		
Aust. Wood Duck		10	2			2	2	7	6	
Australasian Grebe						2	1			
Buff-banded Rail									1	
Purple Swampphen	3	2			1	6	2	2	4	2
Dusky Moorhen	12	3	15	13	6	6	4	6	4	15
Eurasian Coot			6	1	1	12	18	2	10	
Masked Lapwing	2									
Silver Gull						1		1		2
Caspian Tern								1		
Aust. Pelican						1				
Cattle Egret	1		3				29		1	12
Nankeen Night-Heron							4		1	
Great Egret	9	5	2						18	18
Intermediate Egret			3							
White-faced Heron				1	1			1		
Little Egret										1
Aust. White Ibis	13		66	7	8	34	159	26	6	1
Royal Spoonbill	1			1				1		
Little Pied Cormorant	4	2	14		1	3	10	15	5	23
Pied Cormorant		3	3							
Great Cormorant			1				3			
Little Black Cormorant			2	21		12	9	4		4
Australasian Darter		1								

Table 22 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Walka Water Works
(Regular surveys by multiple observers)

	2 Jan	8 Feb	8 Mar	13 Apr	10 May	15 Jun	19 Jul	9 Aug	5 Sep	10 Oct	10 Nov	13 Dec
Wand. Whistling-Duck												12
Pink-eared Duck	1			2	1	1	1	1	230	4	3	4
Black Swan	6	3	4	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
Hardhead	14	21	17	17	42	11	29	22	12	12	12	10
Pacific Black Duck	9	16	11	5	12	18	9	12	10	15	15	15
Grey Teal	1	5		2		11	3	5	6	78	10	28
Chestnut Teal	22	8	19	21	8	16	14	3	12	22	21	18
Aust. Wood Duck	39		22	8	8	6	15	11	8	1	4	1
Australasian Grebe	2	16	16	18	16	31	28		20	14	14	7
Hoary-headed Grebe	3			70	132	89	65	16	30	96	80	66
Great Crested Grebe	14	23	42	43	24	19	15	2	8	3	15	11
Aust. Spotted Crake									1			
Baillon's Crake										2		1
Spotless Crake					1	1						
Purple Swamphen		11	13	22	8	10	12	12	6	10	9	7
Dusky Moorhen	29	21	16	27	16	10	28	22	12	23	24	15
Eurasian Coot	44	116	441	467	217	196	311	290	230	398	369	350
Black-fronted Dotterel			2	1	2	1	2	2	2		1	1
Masked Lapwing	6	3	3	3	3	4		4	2		2	1
Aust. Pelican					1	1	1		31	2	2	
Nankeen Night-Heron										1		
Cattle Egret	1	16	103	16		12	3	20	6			
White-necked Heron					1					1		
Great Egret					1	3	2	3	1	1		
Intermediate Egret									1	1		
White-faced Heron		1	6	1	2		1	1		1		
Little Egret					1	1	1					
Aust. White Ibis									1			
Straw-necked ibis					1		43	6	6	1		
Royal Spoonbill			1			2	3	2		1		
Little Pied Cormorant			6	9	8	6	4	3	2	1		
Great Cormorant							3	5	4	7	2	5
Little Black Cormorant	2	13	15	14	10	19	5	6	1	5		2
Pied Cormorant											1	
Australasian Darter	1	1		2	2	1	2	1			1	

Table 23 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works
(Regular surveys by A. Lindsey & G. Brosie)

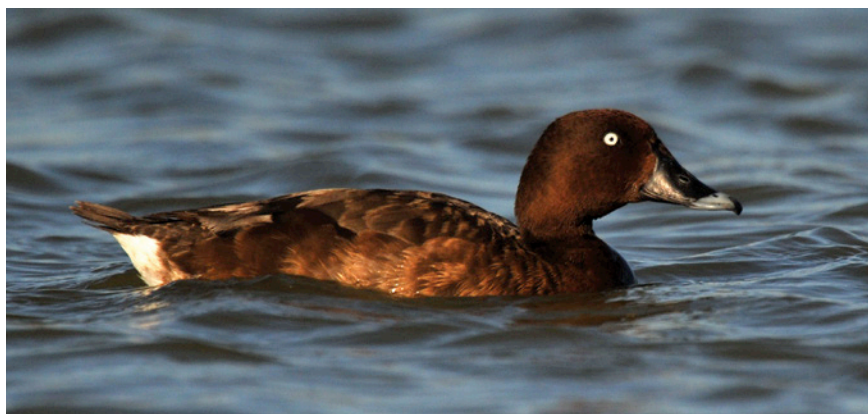
	31 Jan	27 Feb	28 Mar	28 Apr	29 May	28 Jun	27 Jul	22 Aug	22 Sep	16 Oct	22 Nov	27 Dec
Pink-eared Duck	2	102		11	2	20				2		
Black Swan	75	27	176	195	17	11	3			1	23	8
Hardhead		2	49	800	6	36	5	4	2			
Australasian Shoveler	30	101		10	12	73	107	48	2			
Pacific Black Duck	39		654	1242	33	35	12	14	28	35	27	
Grey Teal	178	2563	25	25	433	265	467	1107	332	269	70	
Chestnut Teal	289	430	32	246	173	103	127	252	142	171	194	157
Freckled Duck				3								
Aust. Wood Duck	56	98	7	13	19		1			2	5	
Australasian Grebe		3		1		5	6	3	3			
Hoary-headed Grebe				2	1			1				
Aust. Spotted Crake				1		1						
Purple Swamphen			14	7	4	2	5	6	5	3	1	
Dusky Moorhen		1	1	2			3					
Eurasian Coot	6	34	165	64	105	84	110	367	104	96	31	49
Red-necked Avocet	3	14			32		98	17	3	7	2	
Pied Stilt	2	167		47		63	146	199	39	105	3	47
Black-fronted Dotterel		3		4	10	3	16	13	10			
Masked Lapwing	73	24	29	33	42	13	13	13	20	45	13	
Red-kneed Dotterel							1					
Latham's Snipe		8						1	5			
Silver Gull										13		
Caspian Tern		9		1		1		1				
Black-necked Stork							1					
Aust. Pelican	16	15		12	8	4	6	5	13	4	19	29
Cattle Egret	16	72	150	55			2	15	12	10		
White-necked Heron			3	2				1				
Great Egret	1	1	8	1	5	1	1		4	1	3	
Intermediate Egret	10	3		1							1	
White-faced Heron	3	10	52	8	9	1	3	3	1	6	5	
Little Egret	1						2	2		3	1	
Aust. White Ibis			1	3	1					1		
Straw-necked Ibis			1	6	2	1	1	2		1		
Yellow-billed Spoonbill				1							2	
Royal Spoonbill		5		15	3		1		3		6	
Glossy Ibis	3	3										
Little Pied Cormorant				1					2	1		
Great Cormorant			1		1		1		1	2	3	
Little Black Cormorant	18	6	1	3	2		2	3	11	1	38	8
Pied Cormorant								1	2	2	1	
Australasian Darter	6	3	1	2			1	1	1	1	3	6

Table 24 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Waterford Estate, Chisholm*(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)*

	31 Jan	28 Feb	28 Mar	27 Mar	31 May	30 Jun	25 Jul	31 Aug	30 Sep	28 Oct	24 Nov	31 Dec
Black Swan	4		86	4	16	2				6	7	
Australasian Shoveler			3				8					
Pacific Black Duck	17	22	117	189	2	4			1	11	6	4
Grey Teal	22	53	206	12	10	44	30	43	18	68	17	6
Chestnut Teal	28	52	74	38	69	68	10	6	2	20	6	5
Aust. Wood Duck	12	20			12	4	11			4	5	10
Australasian Grebe	1				1	3					4	
Buff-banded Rail	1											
Purple Swampphen											1	1
Dusky Moorhen				1						2		
Eurasian Coot			140	19		28				1	4	
Red-necked Avocet		2			108			5				
Pied Stilt	6	33	30	35	72	34	54	32			26	
Red-capped Plover		3										
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	3										4
Masked Lapwing	4		9	4	4	4	3	2	2	6		2
Latham's Snipe											1	
Aust. Pelican			3			1						
Cattle Egret	19		90	50							2	
White-necked Heron			1		1							
Great Egret			6	1						1	2	
Intermediate Egret										2	2	
White-faced Heron	1	1	7		2	1						
Straw-necked Ibis			7			3						
Royal Spoonbill		3	3									
Little Pied Cormorant										1		
Great Cormorant										2		
Little Black Cormorant	5			2	1	1				2		
Australasian Darter			5							1		

Table 25 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Anambah Road, Anambah
(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)

	23 Jan	28 Feb	20 Mar	12 Apr	30 May	27 Jun	24 Jul	19 Aug	31 Oct	30 Nov	30 Dec
Black Swan			2	6	12	39	24	3	2		
Hardhead		1		2							
Pacific Black Duck		9	18	35	18		34	15	12	2	10
Grey Teal	7	20	25	2		9		26		6	15
Chestnut Teal			9	12	14	13	10	22			28
Aust. Wood Duck		1	8	6	9			2	1		
Australasian Grebe				9	1	4	10	5	1		
Purple Swamphen								1		6	
Eurasian Coot						14					
Pied Stilt		12	4			4	2	20	1		
Masked Lapwing	2		7	8		2					15
Aust. Pelican	5	5	10	1			5		6	9	67
Cattle Egret					6				50		20
White-necked Heron		1		2	1	1		3		6	
Great Egret				1	1			1	2		
Intermediate Egret				1	1	1					
White-faced Heron	3	2	7	2	2			5	9	3	
Aust. White Ibis					8						
Straw-necked ibis					6		23	13			
Royal Spoonbill		8									2
Little Pied Cormorant					1			1			
Little Black Cormorant	2								9	6	1
Australasian Darter										1	



Hardhead by Alwyn Simple

Table 26 Waterbirds & Shorebirds Gullivers Lane, Louth Park*(Highest monthly counts from separate regular surveys by M. Clarke and D. Stehr)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Swan			2	4	2	1	4	3		6	9	6
Hardhead	1		2							1		
Australasian Shoveler							1	2				
Pacific Black Duck	11	1	20	34	28	100	34	22	2	3	7	10
Grey Teal	9	6	38	12		6	25	28	2	5	20	21
Chestnut Teal		4	40	142	51	122	142	2	4			
Aust. Wood Duck	18	18	30	50	31	29	50	1		2	5	16
Australasian Grebe		2	9	9	5	3	9	5	2	5	6	5
Baillon's Crake										2	2	2
Purple Swamphen						1					2	
Pied Stilt			40	12			12	2			5	3
Black-fronted Dotterel			4		2	1			1	2		1
Masked Lapwing	5	4	40	11	2	2	11	1	2	2	8	4
Red-kneed Dotterel			2									
Silver Gull			50									
Aust. Pelican			2								1	1
Cattle Egret		50	3	20	2		20	10	5	1	2	6
White-necked Heron		1									4	
Great Egret			3									
Intermediate Egret				1							1	
White-faced Heron		3	2	3		4	3	3	1		1	
Little Egret			1				1					
Straw-necked ibis		10	50	3	10	4						
Yellow-billed Spoonbill								1				
Royal Spoonbill	1		3					2	2			2
Little Pied Cormorant			1					1	2	1	2	
Great Cormorant			1		3	8	1				3	
Little Black Cormorant	3		3	1		5	1	1		1	2	8
Australasian Darter		1	2			1						

Table 27 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Rathluba Lagoon, East Maitland
(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)

	20 Jan	15 Feb	22 Mar	27 Apr	25 May	21 Jun	20 Jul	18 Aug	22 Sep	31 Oct	27 Nov	21 Dec
Plumed Whistling-Duck			53	39		24						
Pacific Black Duck			9	6	6	10	4	2		4	3	2
Grey Teal		10										
Aust. Wood Duck	12	8	1	6	14	15	9	15	16	12	17	16
Australasian Grebe						1						
Purple Swamphen		5	1				2	3		2	2	1
Dusky Moorhen	1		2	1	3	3		2		1	2	
Eurasian Coot					1				4	6		
Pied Stilt												3
Masked Lapwing	7	13	9	4	2	5	1		2			2
Aust. Pelican						1			2			
Cattle Egret	6	69	65	12	2	6		5				1
White-necked Heron										1		
Great Egret											1	
White-faced Heron							1				2	
Aust. White Ibis			8		7					1		
Straw-necked Ibis			1	11		17	7					
Royal Spoonbill	16	14							2			
Great Cormorant	1									1		
Little Black Cormorant	1	1							1	2		
Australasian Darter			1						1	2		1



Plumed Whistling-Duck by Lorna Mee

Table 28 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at McGeachies Run, Aberglasslyn
(Surveys by M. Clarke)

	31 Jan	15 Mar	30 Jun	25 Sep	8 Dec
Black Swan			2		
Hardhead		6	1		
Pacific Black Duck	5	25	7	2	1
Grey Teal	1	4		3	6
Chestnut Teal	2	12	4	3	3
Aust. Wood Duck		6	17		
Australasian Grebe		4	3		
Purple Swampphen	3	5	3	1	5
Dusky Moorhen	6	2	5	4	7
Eurasian Coot		7	6		
Pied Stilt			2	2	12
Black-fronted Dotterel		2			6
Masked Lapwing		4			
Latham's Snipe					4
Aust. Pelican				4	
Cattle Egret	4	11	2		
White-necked Heron					1
Great Egret			1		
Intermediate Egret			1	1	
White-faced Heron			6		
Little Egret				1	
Straw-necked ibis			3		
Royal Spoonbill	2		1		1
Little Pied Cormorant		2		1	
Little Black Cormorant	5				1

Table 29 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Heritage Park, Rutherford*(Regular surveys by M. Clarke)*

	23 Jan	28 Feb	20 Mar	12 Mar	30 May	21 Jun	24 Jul	22 Aug	25 Sep	31 Oct	27 Nov	30 Dec
Pacific Black Duck	2	4	7	2	26	19	23	19	9	13	7	6
Grey Teal									2		9	2
Chestnut Teal	3	1	5	7		6	1	6	1	4	5	4
Aust. Wood Duck	17	16	30	18	5	9	7	4	9	26	17	10
Purple Swamphen	1	1		2	2	2	1	4	1	1	1	4
Dusky Moorhen	2	3	3	1	3	5	7	9	3	10	7	8
Eurasian Coot					1		2			1	4	2
Masked Lapwing	2			2	2					2		1
Nankeen Night-Heron		1		1								
Aust. Pelican										1		
Cattle Egret	332			1	10					200	500	250
White-necked Heron				1								
Great Egret						1	1	1				1
Intermediate Egret		1										
White-faced Heron				1		1				1		
Aust. White Ibis								2	6	1	1	
Straw-necked ibis							17	200	1			
Royal Spoonbill						1				1		
Little Pied Cormorant	4	3	1			1		7	10	13	2	
Great Cormorant										1		
Little Black Cormorant	8	18					2		1	9	1	6
Australasian Darter	5	3	10	1	1	1	1	2	3	7	14	8

Table 30 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Raymond Terrace Reserve
(Surveys by M. Clarke)

	22 Jan	28 Feb	19 Mar	28 Apr	07 Jul	14 Nov	31 Dec
Pacific Black Duck	5	27	9	10	19	30	12
Grey Teal					1	2	4
Chestnut Teal		1	2		12	1	8
Aust. Wood Duck	21	32	7	33	15	23	16
Purple Swamphen	1	2			1	2	
Dusky Moorhen	14	6	3	10	15	9	8
Eurasian Coot	2	2	3		7	4	2
Masked Lapwing	4	4	6	2		2	
Latham's Snipe						1	1
Aust. Pelican	1	1	1	3			
Nankeen Night-Heron		4	5	8	12	5	3
Cattle Egret					50		
Great Egret							1
Intermediate Egret						1	
White-faced Heron	1	1	1			1	1
Aust. White Ibis	41	8	52	13	2	120	377
Straw-necked ibis			12		15		
Royal Spoonbill	17	2		3	1		8
Little Pied Cormorant						1	1
Little Black Cormorant	1			2		10	8
Australasian Darter		2				1	1



Latham's Snipe by John Cockerell

Table 31 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Irrawang Swamp*(Regular surveys by B. Watts and J. Jones)*

	24 Jan	21 Feb	08 Mar	11 Mar	09 May	13 Jun	26 Jul	22 Aug	19 Sep	04 Oct	14 Nov	22 Dec
Black Swan			37	27	36	17	10	21	8	2	8	4
Australasian Shoveler					1							
Pacific Black Duck			66	10	47	23	34	46	31	12	14	
Grey Teal			19	30	30	2			93	290	127	70
Chestnut Teal			41	12	12	25		19	33	72	23	260
Aust. Wood Duck			6			5	3					
Australasian Grebe				4	12	23	36	34	24	55	34	5
Purple Swamphen					4						2	
Dusky Moorhen		6			11	2			1			
Eurasian Coot				165	121	29	37	67	210	37	12	
Pied Stilt								2	20	45	69	75
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	1							2		4	2
Masked Lapwing	6	1	4			3	2	7	5	6	8	9
Latham's Snipe								2	4	21	6	14
Black-necked Stork												1
Aust. Pelican			2	1					1		2	19
Silver Gull			21									
Cattle Egret	1			74					10	2	3	5
White-necked Heron					1		1		2	2	2	1
Great Egret							2			1	1	4
Intermediate Egret										1	3	6
White-faced Heron	1		3		1	5	7	1	4	6	2	3
Little Egret											1	3
Aust. White Ibis			3	1	50	6			8	3	1	1
Straw-necked ibis	7		51				1	1	2			
Yellow-billed Spoonbill										4	1	1
Royal Spoonbill			1							4	5	2
Little Pied Cormorant			4			1					3	1
Little Black Cormorant									1	3	6	11

Table 32 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Bolwarra Lagoon*(Regular surveys by D. Stehr)*

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Black Swan		1	2		2					
Pacific Black Duck		3	5		4					3
Aust. Wood Duck	9	9	5		3	30	32	27	18	10
Purple Swamphen		2	6				1			
Dusky Moorhen		5			6	1	3	2	8	2
Eurasian Coot		2								3
Black-fronted Dotterel		1	2							
Aust. Pelican		1			1	2	25			14
Cattle Egret							1			
Great Egret					1	1				
White-faced Heron					1		1			
Little Pied Cormorant		1								1
Little Black Cormorant			1							
Australasian Darter	1	2	1		1	2	1	1	1	1

Table 33 Waterbirds at Hands Lagoon, Bolwarra*(Regular surveys by D. Stehr)*

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Pink-eared Duck							2			
Black Swan				2	2		2			
Pacific Black Duck	7	12	16			2	4			1
Chestnut Teal		2								
Aust. Wood Duck	9		10				3			4
Australasian Grebe		2								
Purple Swamphen	4	4					4	2	4	3
Dusky Moorhen	3	2	2	20	14	11	2		2	4
Eurasian Coot	1	4	16		3	2	5			
Aust. Pelican		7				2	7	12		12
Cattle Egret		60				8		50		
White-necked Heron				1						
Great Egret				2						
Intermediate Egret	1	1								
White-faced Heron	2	1	1				1			
Aust. White Ibis	8		10			2		3		2
Straw-necked Ibis			1				1			
Royal Spoonbill	2		1				2	1		1
Little Pied Cormorant			1				1			1
Little Black Cormorant							1			3
Australasian Darter	1		1				2	1	1	

Table 34 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Seaham Swamp*(Regular surveys by B. Watts & J. Jones)*

	24 Jan	21 Feb	08 Mar	11 Mar	09 May	13 Jun	26 Jul	22 Aug	19 Sep	04 Oct	14 Nov	22 Dec
Black Swan						1						
Pacific Black Duck	2	7	2	3	5	5	6		2			2
Grey Teal						5					2	
Chestnut Teal	13	14	4	6	2	5	2	2		2	3	10
Aust. Wood Duck				5	20		1		10	7		
Purple Swamphen	2	4					1			2	4	1
Dusky Moorhen					1						4	
Eurasian Coot					1			2	5	11	3	8
Masked Lapwing		1	2		2		3				1	
Latham's Snipe		1										
Aust. Pelican		2				1	1	2	5	11	7	16
Nankeen Night-Heron		3									1	1
Cattle Egret		3	3							13		
Great Egret				1	1							
White-faced Heron							1					
Aust. White Ibis				1				1				
Straw-necked ibis				34			2		2			
Yellow-billed Spoonbill												1
Royal Spoonbill		4		5	4	11	11	8	1		1	15
Little Pied Cormorant	1	1			1		1					
Little Black Cormorant	2			1					2		3	
Australasian Darter				1								

Table 35 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Gillieston Heights*(Regular surveys by B. Kinsey)*

	31 Jan	17 Feb	23 Mar	30 Mar	22 May	19 Jun	27 Jul	30 Aug	27 Oct	22 Nov	06 Dec
Black Swan	1					1			3		
Pacific Black Duck	8	15	12	14	12	11	22		22	1	6
Grey Teal							6	3	2		
Chestnut Teal				1	1	5	5	5		1	
Aust. Wood Duck		4		4	12	2	12	2	2		
Australasian Grebe				1			2				
Purple Swampphen		2	6	2	2	2	4	4	4	1	2
Dusky Moorhen				1						1	
Eurasian Coot			2	6	4	4	4	3	6	8	7
Masked Lapwing		4									
Latham's Snipe											1
Aust. Pelican	1	5		1		1				1	
Cattle Egret					16	31					
Great Egret								1	1		1
White-faced Heron	2										
Royal Spoonbill		2				1					
Little Pied Cormorant		1					4	1	2		
Great Cormorant							1	2			
Little Black Cormorant	2	5		1			9	2	3	1	2
Australasian Darter		2	1	1	1	1	1	1			

Table 36 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Tocal Wetlands*((Regular surveys by P. Baird & D. Stehr))*

	31 Jan	28 Feb	30 Mar	31 Mar	31 May	31 Jun	31 Jul	29 Aug	29 Sep	31 Oct	30 Nov	31 Dec
Pink-eared Duck				3						4		
Black Swan	4		2	2	8	5		2		1	1	
Hardhead			3	30		3	5				2	
Pacific Black Duck	4	60	115	89	16	22	2	7	23	61	15	11
Grey Teal		5	1	10	23	14	47	11	4	75	26	
Chestnut Teal			16	22	5	11	19	7		42	35	48
Aust. Wood Duck		40	21	12	42	2	1	17	7	38	26	22
Australasian Grebe		1	3	3	5	7		8		1		
Purple Swamphen	1		8			19		16		4		
Dusky Moorhen			6					6			3	
Eurasian Coot		1		11	73	48	21	2		8		
Black-fronted Dotterel						4		2		2	6	2
Masked Lapwing	6	6	39	18	3	30	4	10	23	40	26	24
Red-kneed Dotterel										6	2	
Aust. Pelican										3	8	
Cattle Egret	15	6	296									17
White-necked Heron	1	4	3	2	2	2		2	2	3	1	2
Great Egret				2			1			2	1	2
Intermediate Egret			1	1				1		1		3
White-faced Heron	1	1	5	1	6	1	1	2	2	1		
Straw-necked ibis	11	5	1	2	2		1	7	7	7	23	
Royal Spoonbill					1	1	1	1		1	1	
Yellow-billed Spoonbill											1	
Little Pied Cormorant		7	6				1	6	1	2	1	5
Great Cormorant	1			1				1		1		5
Little Black Cormorant			4							3	1	
Australasian Darter				1				1				

Table 37 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Birubi Beach to Tomaree Head*(Regular surveys coordinated by L. Wooding)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher			3		30	4		28	5	7		5
Sooty Oystercatcher		4			4	7	8	1	4	9	7	6
Masked Lapwing	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	2			2	2
Silver Gull	312	234	314	169	314	339	178	108	182	21	55	146
White-fronted Tern						2						
Crested Tern	10	65	49	43	22	229	130	71	82	2	22	20
Shearwater sp		500	1000									
Eastern Reef Egret			1						1	2		
Aust. White Ibis	1			1	4			1	1	3	3	2
Straw-necked Ibis				3	3		1			1		
Australasian Gannet				4	7	4	7	4	4	1		
Little Pied Cormorant	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	4	1
Great Cormorant	3	3				2	1	3	23	37	51	59
Little Black Cormorant												1
Pied Cormorant			10	5		1	1	2	4	9	22	20

Table 38 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Worimi Conservation Lands¹*(Regular surveys by A. Lindsey, N. Fraser, N. Russell, J. Tarrant)*

	13 Jan	10 Feb	07 Apr	23 Jun	21 Jul	25 Aug	22 Sept	20 Oct	20 Nov	15 Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	37	37	7	67	44	55	30	19	24	57
Pacific Golden Plover							2	154		
Red-capped Plover	61	48	67	47	59	15	32	36	8	16
Double-banded Plover			72	93	91	16	1			
Red-necked Stint		1	3				1			2
Sanderling	1						1		1	
Silver Gull	183	217	25	108	40	27	38	123	99	255
Little Tern		4							14	23
Aust. Gull-billed Tern				43	65	56	121	150	29	73
White-fronted Tern					1					
Crested Tern	28	22			3	22	1	39		22
Pied Cormorant	1									1

¹No survey in March & May; April survey incomplete

Table 39 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Swan Bay & Gur-un-bit NP
(Regular surveys by HBOC members)

	14 Jan	11 Mar	8 Apr	13 May	24 Jun	22 Jul	19 Aug	13 Oct	18 Nov	16 Dec
Black Swan				9			3	2		
Pacific Black Duck			2							
Chestnut Teal				4	2		2	5		7
Australian Wood Duck	7	10	2	4	2	12	2	2	3	6
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	22	34	19	30	33	25	26	9	4	2
Sooty Oystercatcher	14	16	11	14	8	18		6		1
Red-capped Plover		2	3	8	5	5	4		4	3
Double-banded Plover			4	8	5	19	9			
Lesser Sand Plover			1							
Masked Lapwing	9	6	18	10	8	4	5	7	3	5
Whimbrel	6	29	68	3				10		17
Eastern Curlew	182	130	7		19	32	170	120	151	90
Bar-tailed Godwit	2	58	44	18		45	14	51	4	
Red-necked Stint		1								
Grey-tailed Tattler		19	40	8		5				
Common Greenshank						2				
Silver Gull	3	4	6	4	7	18	24	2	2	4
Aust. Gull-billed Tern		1	1	17	9	9	11	7	8	1
Caspian Tern		9	1	5	11	11	13	1		
Crested Tern	9	9	9	9	15	12	3		1	2
Australian Pelican	1		8			12	5	6		
Cattle Egret		2								
White-necked Heron				1	1		1			
Great Egret		4				2	1	1	1	2
White-faced Heron	4	5	10	8	12		26	14	4	6
Little Egret									1	1
Australian White Ibis		11	17	4	48	10	1			5
Straw-necked Ibis				4		9	20			
Great Cormorant			1	1		1	14			
Little Black Cormorant							6			
Pied Cormorant	7	9	3	4	2	16	20	4	4	10

Table 40 Waterbirds & Shorebirds in Port Stephens*(Boat-based surveys at high tide by HBOC members in 6 teams. No winter survey.)*

	16 Feb		16 Feb
Black Swan	323	Common Tern	27
Pacific Black Duck	5	Crested Tern	173
Chestnut Teal	15	Aust. Pelican	129
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	109	Striated Heron	1
Sooty Oystercatcher	31	Great Egret	2
Masked Lapwing	32	White-faced Heron	31
Whimbrel	139	Aust. White Ibis	28
Eastern Curlew	226	Little Pied Cormorant	33
Bar-tailed Godwit	394	Great Cormorant	12
Red-necked Stint	3	Little Black Cormorant	128
Common Greenshank	2	Pied Cormorant	221
Silver Gull	230	Australasian Darter	1
Little Tern	17		

Table 41 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Sunset Park, Tanilba Bay*(Regular surveys by N. McNaughton)*

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher								2	
Sooty Oystercatcher			3			2			
Black-tailed Godwit	3								
Red-necked Stint	2								
Grey-tailed Tattler				1		6			2
Silver Gull				4	11				2
Aust. Pelican		1							
Great Egret		1					1		
White-faced Heron								1	
Little Pied Cormorant	2	1							
Little Black Cormorant			1						
Pied Cormorant			1			2			

Table 42 Waterbirds & Shorebirds in the Manning Estuary
(Regular surveys by A. Stuart)

	23-24 Feb	24-25 Mar	27-28 Apr	25-28 May	27+28 Jun	31-1 Oct-Nov	7 Dec
Black Swan			2				1
Pacific Black Duck		4					
Aust. Wood Duck						8	
Beach Stone-curlew		1			1	1	
Aust. Pied Oystercatcher	47	8	11	6		7	19
Sooty Oystercatcher	1	2					
Pacific Golden Plover	137	97	1			71	24
Red-capped Plover	27	19	16	17	16	15	19
Double-banded Plover	1	32	58	56	4		
Lesser Sand Plover						1	
Masked Lapwing	4	7	2	4	3		2
Whimbrel		5				2	
Eastern Curlew	15		4	1	1	26	15
Bar-tailed Godwit	117	77	40	13	20	128	116
Ruddy Turnstone						2	
Red-necked Stint	20	17		2		9	19
Sanderling		2	3				5
Silver Gull	76	40	190	179	52	30	98
Little Tern	114	22	54			200	250
Aust. Gull-billed Tern	1		9	6	6	2	4
Caspian Tern	1	5	3	1	2		
White-fronted Tern			1				
Common Tern	44	2				50	70
Crested Tern	66	67	61	183	224	76	168
Aust. Pelican	5	18	36	55	45	14	12
Striated Heron	3			1	3		
Great Egret				1	1		
White-faced Heron		1	4	1	8		
Little Egret	1			1	2	1	
Little Pied Cormorant			1	2	1		1
Great Cormorant		3		1	1	1	2
Little Black Cormorant			15		83		380
Pied Cormorant	7	1		1	3		6

Table 43 Waterbirds & Shorebirds at Cattai Wetlands

(Regular surveys by A. Stuart)

	3 Feb	26 Mar	28 Apr	26 May	29 Jun	31 Oct	15 Dec
Black Swan	8	10	9	5	5		3
Australasian Shoveler				9	15		
Pacific Black Duck	53	27	5	22	46	17	279
Grey Teal		6		19	23	26	139
Chestnut Teal	168			2	4		4
Australasian Grebe		3	4	6	2	2	2
Purple Swampphen		3		3	9	5	2
Dusky Moorhen				5	9		
Eurasian Coot		34	53	61	105		
Latham's Snipe	4						3
Aust. Pelican	7						2
Intermediate Egret	1						1
White-faced Heron	4						
Aust. White Ibis	16						7
Royal Spoonbill	26						
Little Pied Cormorant							1
Little Black Cormorant						4	19
Australasian Darter							1

Table 44 Birds from Pelagic Surveys

(Counts from surveys led by M. Roderick and D. Williams)

	22 Jan	12 Mar ²	25 Jun ¹	7 Jul ¹	6 Aug ¹	17 Sep	6 Oct	15 Oct	12 Nov	26 Nov	8 Dec ¹
Long-tailed Jaeger	1										
Arctic Jaeger									4	1	4
Pomarine Jaeger	7	8						1		4	12
Brown Skua						2					
Silver Gull	4	3	40	300*	3	5	10	3	8	10	500*
Sooty Tern											1
White-fronted Tern			2								
Common Tern	1						3				1
Unidentified 'commic' Tern											1
Crested Tern	20	5	35	40	6	10	20	5	5	4	30
Little Penguin										3	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			1				4	20	15	2	30

Table 44 (cont'd) Birds from Pelagic Surveys
(Counts from surveys led by M. Roderick and D. Williams)

	22 Jan	12 Mar ²	25 Jun ¹	7 Jul ¹	6 Aug [*]	17 Sep	6 Oct	15 Oct	12 Nov	26 Nov	8 Dec ¹
White-faced Storm-Petrel	1					3	1	5	3	10	3
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel							3	8			
Wandering Albatross							3	2	11		
Antipodean Albatross						1		2	3		
Wandering type Albatross									4	1	1
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross				30	25	20	1				
Black-browed Albatross	1			5		1	1		1		2
Campbell Albatross				1	2	1			1		1
Black-browed type Albatross	3	1	1	1		2		2	2		3
Buller's Albatross			1								
White-capped Albatross							1				
Shy type Albatross	4	1				3	1	3	5		8
Northern Giant-Petrel			1	2							
Fairy Prion				1							
Gould's Petrel	2								7	2	
Cook's Petrel									1		
Providence Petrel			8		4	3	8	30	4	3	
Kermadec Petrel		1					2				
Mottled Petrel									12		
Unidentified 'Cookilaria sp.'	1										1
Soft-plumaged Petrel								1			
Grey-faced Petrel		6	4					25	120	3	3
Black Petrel								1	2		
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1500	1200			35	1500	2000	1800	200	450	500
Short-tailed Shearwater	4	1				6	50	35	400	25	15
Sooty Shearwater								4	2		1
Flesh-footed Shearwater	25	100					3	12	1	120	20
Fluttering Shearwater		2	1		15	10	10	3		1	1
Hutton's Shearwater	3				4	15			2	1	2
Fluttering/Hutton's type S'water	10	7			20	10	5	1	1		1
Little Shearwater									1		
Australasian Gannet	3	15	40	20	20	450	100	7	3	5	8
Red-footed Booby		2									

¹ Departed from Swansea ² Departed from Forster
All other trips departed from Nelson Bay (Port Stephens)
* Vast majority of birds associated with Moon Island

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following abbreviations/acronyms have been used in the Report:

AP	Airport	NR	Nature Reserve
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve	NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
CP	Caravan Park	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
KI	Kooragang Island	SP	State Park
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage	TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
NLH	New Lambton Heights	WTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
NP	National Park	WWW	Walka Water Works

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Grid references for commonly visited locations:

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	Durrigere 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	Old Bar	R4
George McGregor Park	M10	Oyster Cove	N9
Glenrock SCA	M10	Pambalong Nature Reserve	L10
Gloucester	N5	Paterson	L8
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5	Phoenix Park	L9
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9	Pokolbin	J9
Green Wattle Creek	L9	Quorrobolong	K10
Gir-um-bit NP	N9	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Hallidays Point	R5	Raymond Terrace	M9
Harrington	S4	Redhead	M11
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Ringwood Rd (GRNP)	C6
Hexham Swamp	L10/M10	Salt Ash	N9
Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ)	K9	Scone	H5
Howes Valley	H10	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens (HRBG)	M9	Seal Rocks	R7
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Singleton	I8/J8
Irrawang Swamp	M9	Stockton	M10
Jerrys Plains	H7	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
John Brown's Lagoon	L10	Swan Bay	N9
Kings Gap	F7	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Kitchener (Werakata NP)	K10	Taree	Q4
Kooragang Island	M10	Tarro	M9
Kurri Kurri	K9	Toronto	L11
Laguna	I10	Tuncurry	R6
Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9	University of Newcastle	M10
Lenaghans Flat	L10	Vacy	L8
Maitland	L9	Waitui	R3
Market Swamp	M10	Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9
Martindale	G7	Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7
Medowie	N9	Wallsend Wetlands ("Bunnings Swamp")	M10
Morisset	K11	Warakeila	L6
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	Warkworth	I8
Morpeth	L9	Watagans NP	K11
Mount Arthur	H6	Williamstown	N9
Mount Vincent	K10/L10	Wingen	H4
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Newcastle	M10	Woko NP	M3
Newcastle Wetlands Reserve (NWR)	M10	Woodville	L9
New Lambton Heights	M10	Wyee Point	L11
		Yarrawa	F7

APPENDIX 2017 RAC REPORT

Below is a list of cases assessed by the Hunter Bird Observers Club Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) in 2017 (or in some cases, early 2018). A summary of each case is provided, along with selected photographs. A summary of cases relevant to the Hunter Region assessed by the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2017 is also provided.

List of Accepted Cases

No.	Species	Location	Date
464	Greater Sand Plover	Farquhar Inlet (Old Bar)	17 January 2017
465	Satin Flycatcher	Gloucester Tops	25 January 2017
466	Satin Flycatcher	Hawks Nest	18 January 2017
467	Oriental Cuckoo	Muswellbrook	10 March 2017
468	Kermadec Petrel ¹	Forster pelagic	12 March 2017
469	Oriental Cuckoo	Barrington Tops National Park 1	4 / 16 March 2017
470	Oriental Cuckoo	Ash Island	4 April 2017
472	King Quail	Minimbah Sandplain	21 May 2017
473	Oriental Cuckoo	Galgabba Point, Swansea	2 June 2017
474	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove ¹	Boys Walk, Cooranbong	30 January 2016
475	Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove ¹	Forster (dead bird)	19 September 2016
476	Shy Albatross	Swansea pelagic	21 July 2016
477	Little Button-quail	Durrigere Road, via Ulan	24 September 2017
478	Crimson Chat	Durrigere Road, via Ulan	24 September 2017
479	Black Honeyeater	Durrigere Road, via Ulan	24 September 2017
480	Red-backed Kingfisher	Durrigere Road, via Ulan	26 September 2017
481	Australian Pratincole	Hexham Swamp	26 September 2017
483	Crimson Chat	Windy Homestead	30 September 2017
484	Black Honeyeater	Windy Homestead	1 October 2017
485	Black-bellied Storm-petrel	Port Stephens pelagic	6 October 2017
486	King Quail	Richmond Vale Railway, Hexham Swamp	9 October 2017
487	Black-bellied Storm-petrel	Port Stephens pelagic	15 October 2017
488	Buller's Shearwater	Port Stephens pelagic	15 October 2017
489	Black Petrel	Port Stephens pelagic	15 October 2017
490	Forest Kingfisher	Tomago Wetlands	17 October 2017
491	Kelp Gull	Stockton Beach	28 October 2017
493	Ruff	Ash Island	1 November 2017
495	Black Petrel	Port Stephens pelagic	12 November 2017
496	Forest Kingfisher	Tahlee	6 December 2017
497	Buller's Shearwater	Swansea pelagic	8 December 2017
498	Grey Currawong	Mount Coricudgy	10 December 2017
499	Greater Sand Plover	Farquhar Inlet (Old Bar)	11 December 2017
500	Red-chested Button-quail	Hexham Swamp	28 December 2017
501	Ruff	Stockton Sandspit	28 December 2017
502	'Black-headed Pardalote'	Lower Manning	1 November 2017
505	Oriental Cuckoo	Cattai Wetlands	21 December 2017

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.

471	King Quail	Cape Hawke	29 April 2017
492	Ruff	Cattai Bridge Wetlands	31 October 2017
494	Little Bittern	Mambo Wetlands	22 Aug / 8 Oct 2017

Case #482 (Orange Chat) was not assessed due to the observer having withdrawn the claimed sighting.

Notes: 1 Kermadec Petrel and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove were revised as Category 2 species following a decision made by the Records Appraisal Committee during July 2017. Kermadec Petrel was recorded once more during 2017 (off Port Stephens 6th October 2017) and there were numerous reports of Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove during the remainder of 2017.

Case Summaries

Case 464 A **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* was first photographed on sand flats at Farquhar Inlet on the 17th January 2017 with 2 birds seen and photographed subsequently on 20th January. **Liam Murphy & Ian Benson**

Case 465 Several **Satin Flycatchers** *Myiagra cyanoleuca* were seen and photographed at Gloucester Tops on the 25th January 2017. The observers raised the possibility of breeding in the area though this was not able to be confirmed. **Ian Benson & Craig Anderson**

Case 466 A male **Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca* was photographed about 2km north of Hawks Nest on Mungo Brush Road and submitted to Birdline NSW. **Kenneth John Sheather**

Case 467 A photograph of an injured **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* was posted on the Australian Bird Identification Facebook page on the 10th March 2017. The bird was found near Muswellbrook and although the identification of the bird was straight forward the fate of the bird was not subsequently known. **Raychle Peach**

Case 468 A dark morph **Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta* was seen and photographed at the continental shelf break on a pelagic trip out of Forster on the 12th March 2017 (this species has subsequently been classified as a Category 2 species in the Hunter). Two Red-footed Boobies were also seen and photographed on the same day (refer to ORAC cases assessed on Page 158). **Mick Roderick et al.**

Case 469 This case pertains to two individual **Oriental Cuckoos** *Cuculus saturatus* (a male and female) found in the Barrington Tops National Park on the 14th and 16th March 2017. Of the 4 Oriental Cuckoo cases assessed by the HBOC RAC in 2017, this was the only case where the birds were not photographed. However, the submission was very detailed and left no doubt as to the identity of the birds seen. **Adam Fawcett**

Case 470

Another **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* record; this one from the Scotts Point Trail, near the end of The Lane, Ash Island. The female 'hepatic morph' bird was seen and photographed by many observers over a period of a week or so.

Peter Weinstock

Photo by Mick Roderick



Case 471 A **King Quail** *Synoicus chinensis* was claimed to have been at Cape Hawke on the 29th April 2017. The committee did not feel that the argument for the case was strong enough and noted that the observer was not 100% about the identification themselves, which was a fleeting glimpse of a bird on a roadside. Not accepted.

Case 472 A covey of up to 5 **King Quails** *Synoicus chinensis* was observed during the HBOC monthly outing to Minimbah Sandplain on the 21st May 2017. Several observers obtained brief views of the birds and some 'proof-shot' images were able to be taken. The birds were subsequently seen by other observers on later dates, with the highest count being of 7 birds.

Alan Stuart et al.

Case 473 A female **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* was photographed at Galgabba Point (Swansea) on the 2nd June 2017. This is a very unseasonal record, though 2017 was to some extent an 'exceptional year' for Oriental Cuckoos in the Hunter Region and elsewhere in NSW.

Mark Oliphant

Case 474 A **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* was photographed at Boys Walk, Cooranbong on the 30th January 2016 (the record was not brought forward until mid-2017).

Maurice Ashton

Case 475 A dead **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* was found at Forster on the 19th September 2016. **Peter Schofield**

Case 476 A **Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta* was photographed on the Swansea pelagic, 21st July 2016. The bird was not identified as a Shy Albatross on the day and was only later confirmed from photographs more than 12 months after the trip was run. This is the much rarer of the two very similar "Shy-type" Albatrosses that occur in the Hunter Region. **Allan Richardson et al.**

Case 477, 478 & 479

Each of these cases came from a single observers' visit to Durrigdere Road (near Ulan) on the 24th September 2017 and heralded a remarkable influx of rare 'western species' into the Hunter Region. Case 477 was a **Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox* that was observed over a great length of time and eventually photographed by the patient observer (the first time this species has been photographed in the region). Whilst the observer was trying to obtain better views of the button-quail a male **Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor* (Case 478) flew over the site and later on the same day a male **Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger* (Case 479) was seen coming down to drink at a waterhole. These were just the second record of Crimson Chat and third record of Little Button-quail for the Hunter Region. Several other observers were able subsequently to see additional Crimson Chats (e.g. two female birds 26/09/2017) and Black Honeyeaters (e.g. two male birds 02/10/2017) at the same site in the following week or so.

Michael Kearns



Photo by Michael Kearns

Case 480

This case represents multiple observations at various locations of **Red-backed Kingfishers** *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*. The first birds were found near the intersection of Durrigere and Ulan Roads on the 26th September 2017. In the ensuing week or so, birds were found at 3 discreet locations along Durrigere Road and at least 5 locations on Ulan Road. Elsewhere in the Region birds were found at Windy Homestead (HBOC camp), Bureen Bridge (the same site as the only previous record of Red-backed Kingfisher, from October 2002) and near Yarrava. A bird was still present at Bureen as late as the 29th October 2017.

Jeff Jones, Mick Roderick and several other observers

Photo by Allan Richardson



Case 481 Concurrently with the discovery of Red-backed Kingfishers on Durrigere Road and Oriental Plovers on Hexham Swamp (refer to page 15 for NSW ORAC case summaries) on the 26th September 2017, an **Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella* was found and photographed, also on Hexham Swamp. Furthermore, two Australian Pratincoles were found along the Old Richmond Vale Railway Line on the 29th September 2017 (concurrently with 3 Little Curlews; refer to NSW ORAC summaries). **Leslie Wilson, Alwyn Simple et al.**

Cases 483 & 484 Both of these cases were from observations made at Windy Homestead on the October long weekend HBOC Camp. A male **Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor* (Case 483) was found and photographed on the 30th September 2017. At least three **Black Honeyeaters** *Sugomel niger* (Case 484) were located and photographed on the 1st October 2017. These cases were assessed separately to #478 and #479 respectively (see above) as they were the only additional records of both species to the Durrigere Road birds. **Eula McKane and George Voss**

Case 485 Three **Black-bellied Storm-petrels** *Fregetta tropica* were photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic, 6th October 2017. **Mick Roderick et al.**

Case 486 A **King Quail** *Synoicus chinensis* was observed along the Old Richmond Vale Railway Line, Hexham Swamp on the 9th October 2017. This report followed an earlier claim of a bird a few days earlier, as well as another sighting of a “probable King Quail” at around the same time. It should be noted that there were other subsequent reports of King Quails heard, seen and photographed at Hexham Swamp during the remainder of 2017. **Alex Berryman**

Cases 487, 488 & 489 Each of these cases relate to sightings made on the Port Stephens pelagic, 15th October 2017. Up to 8 **Black-bellied Storm-petrels** *Fregetta tropica* (Case 487) a singles of **Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri* (Case 488) and **Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni* (Case 489) were photographed on this pelagic trip. **Mick Roderick et al.**

Case 490 An adult female **Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii* was found during a routine survey of Tomago Wetlands on the 17th October 2017 and was subsequently seen on the following couple of days. **Michael Paver, Ann Lindsey et al.**

Case 491 A **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* photographed along Stockton Beach was first reported to a Facebook identification page on the 28th October 2017, seen thereafter by a small number of other observers on that day only. **Ian Benson et al.**

Case 492 A **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* was claimed to have been seen at the Cattai Bridge wetlands on the 31st October 2017. The committee voted against acceptance (including a proxy assessment that was sought under the guidelines of the committee when a decision could not be made amongst standing members) mainly based on the lack of detail in the description of the bird. Not accepted.

Case 493 A **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* was photographed at Swan Pond on Ash Island on 1st November 2017. Prior to that a bird consistent with a Ruff was seen briefly at the same location during the estuary wader surveys (21st October). Subsequently, another bird consistent with a Ruff was observed there during the November wader surveys (18th November) but was unable to be confirmed. It seems reasonable to conclude that there was a Ruff present on Ash Island between at least 21st October and 18th November 2017. **Rod Warnock**

Case 494 Two reports of an **Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius* were made from Mambo Wetlands, on the 22nd August and the 8th October 2017. The committee felt that the observer did not see the bird well enough to rule out other possibilities and relied too heavily on the vocalisations made by the bird(s). They also noted that as the observer was not 100% confident in the identification it would be difficult to accept with the information provided. Not accepted.

Case 495 At least two **Black Petrels** *Procellaria parkinsoni* were seen and photographed on the Port Stephens pelagic, 12th November 2017. Also seen on this day were numerous Mottled Petrels, a Cook's Petrel and a Little Shearwater – refer to Page 15). **Mick Roderick et al.**

Case 496 A **Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii* was reported at Tahlee (on the northern shore of Port Stephens) between the 6th December 2017 up until the 30th January 2018. The bird was observed and was heard vocalising on several occasions during this period. **Stuart Fleming**

Case 497 A **Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri* was seen and photographed on the Swansea pelagic, 8th December 2017. **Mick Roderick et al.**

Case 498 Several **Grey Currawongs** *Strepera versicolor* were seen (with some photographed) in and around the Mount Coricudgy area on the 10th December 2017. Of note was the fact that juvenile birds were present; further evidence that this species is likely to breed in this remote part of the Region. **Michael Kearns**

Case 499 Up to four **Greater Sand Plovers** *Charadrius leschenaultii* were seen by numerous observers over the summer of 2017/2018 (whilst visiting the Aleutian Terns present at the time).

Case 500 A **Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhotorax* was observed and photographed feeding along the Pipeline Track on Hexham Swamp early on the morning of 28th December 2017. The bird was also seen at the same location by an intrepid observer at around 10pm that evening, but was not seen thereafter. As with the Little Button-quail seen at Durridgere Road (Case 477), this was the first time a Red-chested Button-quail had been photographed in the region. **Mick Roderick**

Case 501 A **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* was photographed at Stockton Sandspit on the morning of 28th December 2017 and was subsequently seen by other observers over the following weeks (though the bird was not faithful to the site). **Dick Jenkin**

Case 502 This case relates to observations of at least two **Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus* exhibiting features of the subspecies '**Black-headed Pardalote**' *P.s.melanocephalus*. Three observers made the observations near Old Bar and Tea Gardens during spring 2017. Given some of the plumage features noted, birds initially were identified in the field as Black-headed Pardalotes, though subsequent examination of photographs suggested they were hybrids between *P.s.melanocephalus* and another subspecies of Striated Pardalote. Expert opinion was sought on the matter and the committee accepted both records as hybrid birds, though there was no resolution if the hybridisation had occurred with 'Eastern Striated Pardalote' *P.s.ornatus* or 'Western Striated Pardalote' *P.s.substriatus*, though the observers and committee members did note that *ornatus* was the most likely given the location of the birds. **Alan Stuart, Lois Wooding and Alan Rogers**

Case 505 An **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* was photographed at Cattai Wetlands 21st December 2017, though it did not come to the committee's attention until well into 2018 when it was posted for discussion on Facebook. **Paul Lynch**

Note: Cases 503 and 504 will be assessed during 2018

Hunter Region Cases assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) for 2017

One case relevant to the Hunter Region was assessed by the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) during 2017, being for a Cook's Petrel seen and photographed off Port Stephens 27th November 2016. Two other submissions made to BARC for birds seen during 2017 (Cook's Petrel off Port Stephens 12th November 2017 and Ringed Plover on Stockton Beach [Worimi Conservation Lands] 25th August 2017) were assessed in early 2018 and have been included here for the sake of completeness. Many thanks to BARC Chair, Tony Palliser for this information.

BARC Case 965

A **Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii* was seen on a pelagic trip approximately 24 nautical miles southeast of Port Stephens, NSW on the 27th November 2016. The combination of size, bill shape, plumage, head colour and underwing were all seen well and are supported by photographs. The pale grey tones above, short-tailed jizz, the reduced extent of grey on the neck-sides strongly suggests Cook's Petrel. There have been many unsubstantiated reports from eastern Australia and Cook's Petrel remains a very rare bird. Notwithstanding that this record was only the 8th to be accepted by BARC it has now been removed from the BARC review list (June 2018) and future claims from the Hunter will be subject to review by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC).

Mick Roderick

Photo by Jodi Osgood



BARC Case 984 A **Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii* was seen on a pelagic trip 25 nautical miles south-east of Port Stephens, NSW on the 12th November 2017. The combination of size, bill shape, plumage, head colour and underwing were all described and was supported by photographs. Ratio measurements were obtained from the photographs to help eliminate the similar Pycroft's Petrel *P. pycrofti*. This record was the 9th to be accepted by BARC and as mentioned earlier it has been removed from the BARC review list, with all NSW claims to be assessed by ORAC from hereon. **Alex Berryman & Mick Roderick**

BARC Case 985 A **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* was found standing in a swale behind sand dunes near the Lavis Lane entry point to Stockton Beach (Worimi Conservation Lands), NSW on the 25th August 2017. The bird was seen in association with Double-banded Plover *C. bicinctus* and the submission was supported by photographs taken on the day of the (only) observation. The submission carefully ruled out all other possibilities including the very similar Semipalmated Plover *C. semipalmatus*. This is the 5th confirmed record for Australia and the first for NSW to be accepted by BARC (there are old records of a single bird recorded four times in 1967 on Kooragang Island).

BARC Case 1002 This case related to the enigmatic discovery of **Aleutian Terns** *Onychoprion aleuticus* at Farquhar Inlet, near Old Bar, NSW on the 4th December 2016. The following year on the 11th December 2017 four birds were rediscovered at the same locality and between then and the 8th April 2018 there were regular reports of up to 18 birds (with the maximum number of birds photographed together being 16 individuals). The birds were seen and photographed by many.

The initial identification in 2016 was made through the use of expert opinion. The rediscovery the following season provided many opportunities for close scrutiny thus corroborating the find and to document the transition from non-breeding to breeding plumage. These constitute the first confirmed records for Australia and the Southern Hemisphere, though geolocator studies by Audubon Alaska may have recorded an individual off the Queensland coast in the past (M. Goldstein pers. comm.).

Hunter Region Cases assessed by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) for 2017

The following cases for submissions made to the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) were assessed during 2017 and early 2018. All submissions were for birds observed in the Hunter Region during 2017. Many thanks to NSW ORAC Secretary, Roger McGovern for this information.

ORAC Case 670 Two **Red-footed Boobies** *Sula sula*, one a 3rd year pale morph bird and the other a darker 2nd year bird, were seen and photographed on a pelagic trip out of Forster on 12th March 2017. The birds circled the boat down to a range of 5 metres allowing excellent diagnostic photographs to be taken. The committee accepted the record unanimously and it becomes the thirteenth confirmed record of Red-footed Booby in NSW with most of those records occurring between January and March. **Mick Roderick**

ORAC Case 673 An **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum* was seen at Hexham Swamp on 21st February 2017 and it remained until at least 25th February 2017 being seen by more than 100 observers during that period. The high quality description with excellent diagnostic photographs left no doubt as to the identification and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. There have been only five previous records of Oriental Pratincole to be accepted by NSW ORAC with the most recent being an individual on Lord Howe Island in January 2012. *This is a new species for the Hunter Region list.* **Alan Stuart**

ORAC Case 676

Up to ten **Oriental Plovers** *Charadrius veredus* were first observed along the Old Pipeline Track at Hexham Swamp on the 26th September 2017. Birds were present until at least the 2nd October 2017. The description along with the diagnostic photographs left no doubt in the minds of the committee as to the identity of this bird – Caspian Plover, the only real confusion species, was clearly eliminated. This was the 35th confirmed sighting in NSW and in accordance with NSW ORAC rules (and threshold for frequency of reports) this species has now been removed from the Review List.

Ian Benson

Photo by Alwyn Simple



ORAC Case 679 Three **Little Curlews** *Numenius minutus* were seen and photographed along the disused rail corridor for the Richmond Vale Railway line (northern edge of Hexham Swamp) on the 29th September 2017. The description and diagnostic photographs left no doubt as to the identity of these birds. This is the 52nd confirmed record of Little Curlew in NSW and the first confirmed record since 9th December 2016. **Alex Berryman & Mick Roderick**

ORAC Case 680

A **Soft-plumaged Petrel** *Pterodroma mollis* was seen on a pelagic trip out of Port Stephens on the 15th October 2017. The bird was well observed by all on board over a period of between five and ten minutes and the excellent photographs and description leave no doubt as to the bird's identity. This is the 12th confirmed record for NSW and the first since a sighting off Eden on September 7, 2014 (NSW ORAC Case 625). *This is a new species for the Hunter Region list.*

Mick Roderick & Alex Berryman

Photo by Mark Simpson



ORAC Case 684 Up to twelve **Mottled Petrels** *Pterodroma inexpectata* were seen on a Port Stephens pelagic trip on the 12th November 2017 with up to seven individuals being seen the following day by keen observers that chartered a boat at short notice (treated as a single case). The high quality of the photographs together with the excellent and detailed description left no doubt at all as to the identification of these birds. These sightings constitute the 21st confirmed record of Mottled Petrel in NSW and the first since multiple sightings off Eden in October 2011 (NSW ORAC Case 546). *This is a new species for the Hunter Region list.* **Mick Roderick**

ORAC Case 685 A **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis* was seen by 4 or 5 observers on a pelagic trip out of Port Stephens on the 12th November 2017. Although the sighting was very brief some photographs were obtained which confirmed the identification beyond doubt. This is only the sixth confirmed record for NSW since the species was added to the NSW ORAC Review List in 2011, although there are many reports of sightings and beach cast specimens dating back to 1942. It is also just the second report of an at-sea bird since a record of a bird seen off Sydney in July 2012. This is the third record for the Hunter Region, being just the second confirmed at-sea sighting and also the first time one has been photographed. **Mick Roderick & Alex Berryman**

ORAC Case 687 A **Common Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* was first found (by Michael Kearns) at Stockton Sandspit on the 29th December 2017 (though the submission related to a sighting dated the following day). The bird was present and seen by many observers until the second week of February. The description and photograph clearly demonstrated the diagnostic features of a Common Gull-billed Tern including smaller size, bill profile and smaller dark ear patch. The bird was considered most likely to be of the race *G. n. affinis*. This is only the second record to be accepted by NSW ORAC coming only one month after the previous record from Shoalhaven Heads (NSW ORAC Case 686). It is a new species for the Hunter Region list, though it is noted that a sighting was made on the 22nd February 1991 when the Australian *G. macrotarsa* and Common Gull-billed Terns were lumped as the one species (D. James pers. comm.).

Ann Lindsey

ORAC Case 687 Common Gull-billed Tern, Stockton Sandspit, 12th January 2018

Mick Roderick

OBSERVER CODES

Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the Report, every observation by every observer was an important input. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from *ALL* those listed below. Observers are identified by codes that are made up of letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned.

ADJ	JACK ADAMS	FAB	BELLE FARLEY
ALD	DAN ALLEN	FEG	GRAHAME FELETTI
ALG	GLENN ALBRECHT	FIM	MARK FIDLER
ALP	PETER ALEXANDER	FLS	STUART FLEMING
ANC	CRAIG ANDERSON	FRN	NEIL FRASER
ARS	STEPHEN AVELING-ROWE	GOA	ANTHONY GOODEN
BEA	ALEX BERRYMAN	GOJ	JOHN GOSWELL
BEC	CHADLEY BERANEK	GOS	SIMON GORTA
BEI	IAN BENSON	GRL	LUCAS GRENADIER
BEP	PETER BEARD	HAC	CURTIS HAYNE
BLM	MAX BLANCH	HAP	PHIL HANSBRO
BOH	HAYLEY BOYCE	HAS	SUE HAMONET
BOL	LINDA BOSTELAAR	HBOC	OBSERVATION FROM AN HBOC OUTING / CAMP
BRG	GRANT BRODIE	HDM	DIANNE, MICHAEL HATFIELD
BRM	MAX BRECKENRIDGE	HIP	PAM HILL
BUL	LARAIN BUNT	HOH	HELEN HORN
BUP	PAT BURROWS	HOL	LESLEY HOSKEN
CAA	ASHLEY CARLSON	HRK	ROD, KAREN HOWIE
CCB	CENTRAL COAST GROUP OF BIRDING NSW	HWS	HBOC WADER SURVEYS
CAS	SUSANNE CALLAGHAN	JAM	MARK JACKSON
CJB	JOHN, BETH COCKERELL	JED	DICK JENKIN
CLM	MARGARET CLARKE	JJB	JULIE, BRIAN JACKSON
CLT	TOM CLARKE	JOL	LINDA JOHNSON
CON	NATHAN COOPER	JOJ	JEFF JONES
COS	STEVEN COX	JOM	MARK JOLLY
DAP	PAUL DAVIDSON	KAL	ANDRZEJ, LYNN KARPIEL
DBP	PENNY DRAKE-BROCKMAN	KEM	MICHAEL KEARNS
DCD	CHRIS, DIANNE DENT	KET	TOM KENDALL
DDR	DODGY DRONGOS (TWITCHATHON TEAM)	KIB	BILL KINSEY
EAC	CHRIS EASTHAM	KIR	ROB KILKELLY
ERE	REPORT ON WWW.EREMAEA.COM (NSW BIRDLINE)	KMI	MICHELE KEITH
FAA	ADAM FAWCETT	KYR	ROB KYTE
		LAB	BRIAN LAUT
		LAG	GRAHAM LANGLEY

LAJ	JOHN LAWSON	POC	CHRISTINA PORT
LDE	DEBORAH LEWIS	POD	DAVID PORTER
LED	DAVID LEWIS	POJ	JENNY POWERS
LIA	ANN LINDSEY	WAR	ROD WARNOCK
LIG	GREG LITTLE	RDB	DOT, BOB RAINE
LIL	LIZ LIVANOS	RIA	ALLAN RICHARDSON
LIN	NICK LIVANOS	ROB	BEV RODERICK
LIP	PADDY LIGHTFOOT	ROM	MICK RODERICK
LYP	PAUL LYNCH	ROS	STEVE RODERICK
MBE	BOB, EVELYN MCDONALD	SDI	DINAH STEHR
MCE	EULA MCKANE	SHK	KEN SHEATHER
MCM	MANDY MCDONALD	SIA	ALWYN SIMPLE
MCN	NEVILLE MCNAUGHTON	SIM	MARK SIMPSON
MCR	ROBERT MCDONALD	SMJ	JIM SMART
MCS	SHAUN MCKAY	SRM	ROBERT, MARGARET STEWART
MEL	LORNA MEE	STA	ALAN STUART
MGLB	REPORTED IN MANNING GREAT LAKES BIRDWATCHERS NEWSLETTER	STD	DAVID STUART
MID	DAVID MITFORD	STE	ERIC STICKLEN
MOA	ALAN MORRIS	STG	GRAEME STEVENS
MRO	ROB MCDONELL	STH	HELEN STEVENS
MUJ	JENNY MUSICKA	STJ	JIM STONE
MUL	LIAM MURPHY	SYC	CHRIS SYME
MUT	TREVOR MURRAY	SYP	PAULINE SYKES
NAK	KRISHNA NAGARAJAN	TBW	TOMAREE BIRD WATCHERS
NED	DENZO NEADER	THJ	JUDI THOMAS
NEG	GREG NEWLING	THM	MICK THOMAS
NIG	GEOFF NICHOLLS	VGF	FRED VAN GESSEL
NIJ	JOY NICHOLLS	VOG	GEORGE VOSS
NIR	RICHARD NICHOLAS	WAB	BRUCE WATTS
OCG	GRAEME O'CONNOR	WAR	ROD WARNOCK
OWS	STEPHANIE OWEN	WED	DAVE WELLS
OUM	MARK OUTRAM	WEP	PETER WEINSTOCK
PAL	LENE PARASHOU	WID	DAN WILLIAMS
PAR	ROB PALAZZI	WIT	TREVOR WILLIAMS
PCB	PASCOE, CHRIS & BETH	WOL	LOIS WOODING
PDA	DANIEL POTTER	YWM	MARK WYBURN
PEK	KRISTY PETERS	ZVS	SHELLY ZVINGULIS
PER	RAYCHLE PEACH		

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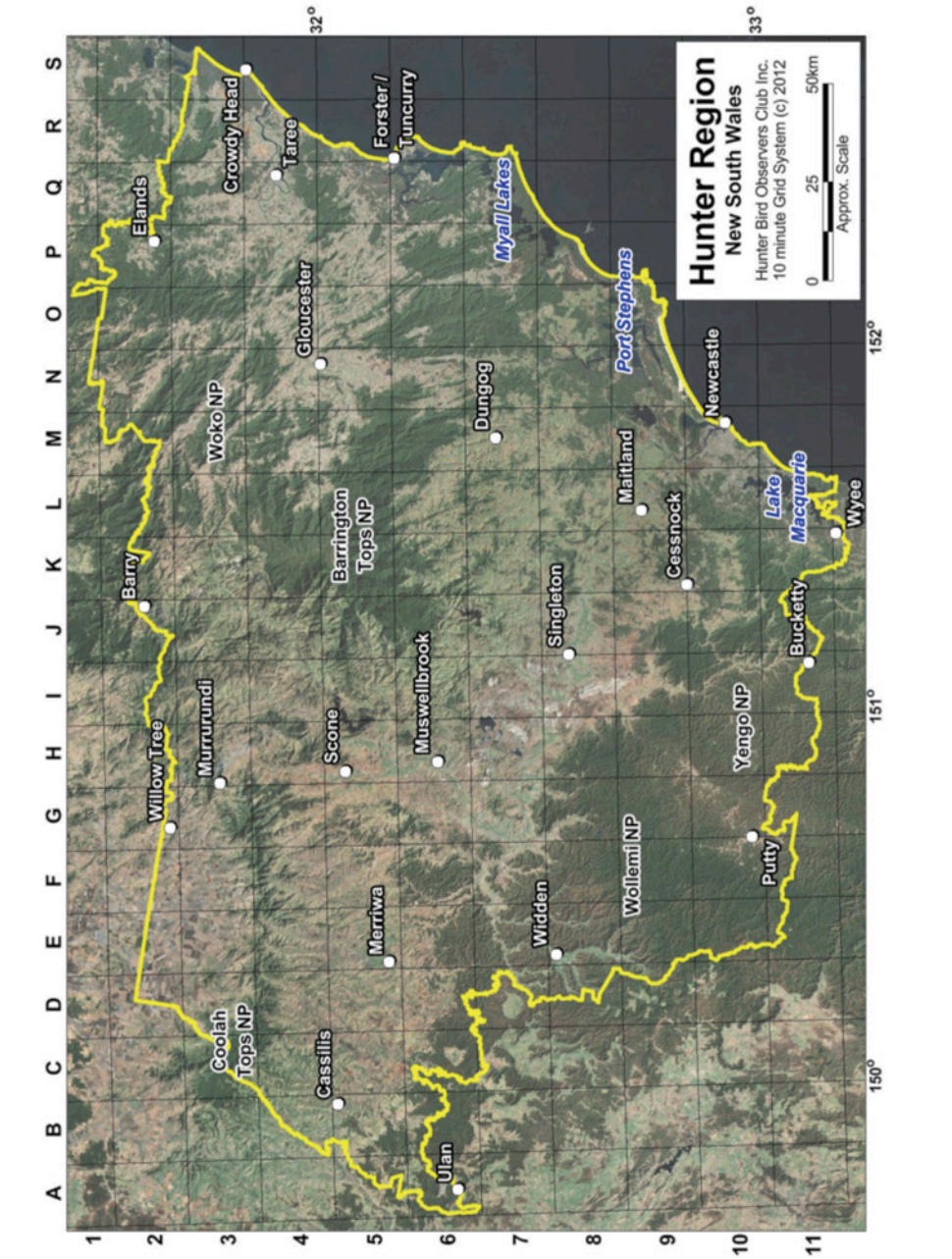
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Rose Robin by Margaret Clarke

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 map.





Black Swans, Hexham Swamp, Hunter Wetlands NP by Rod Warnock

