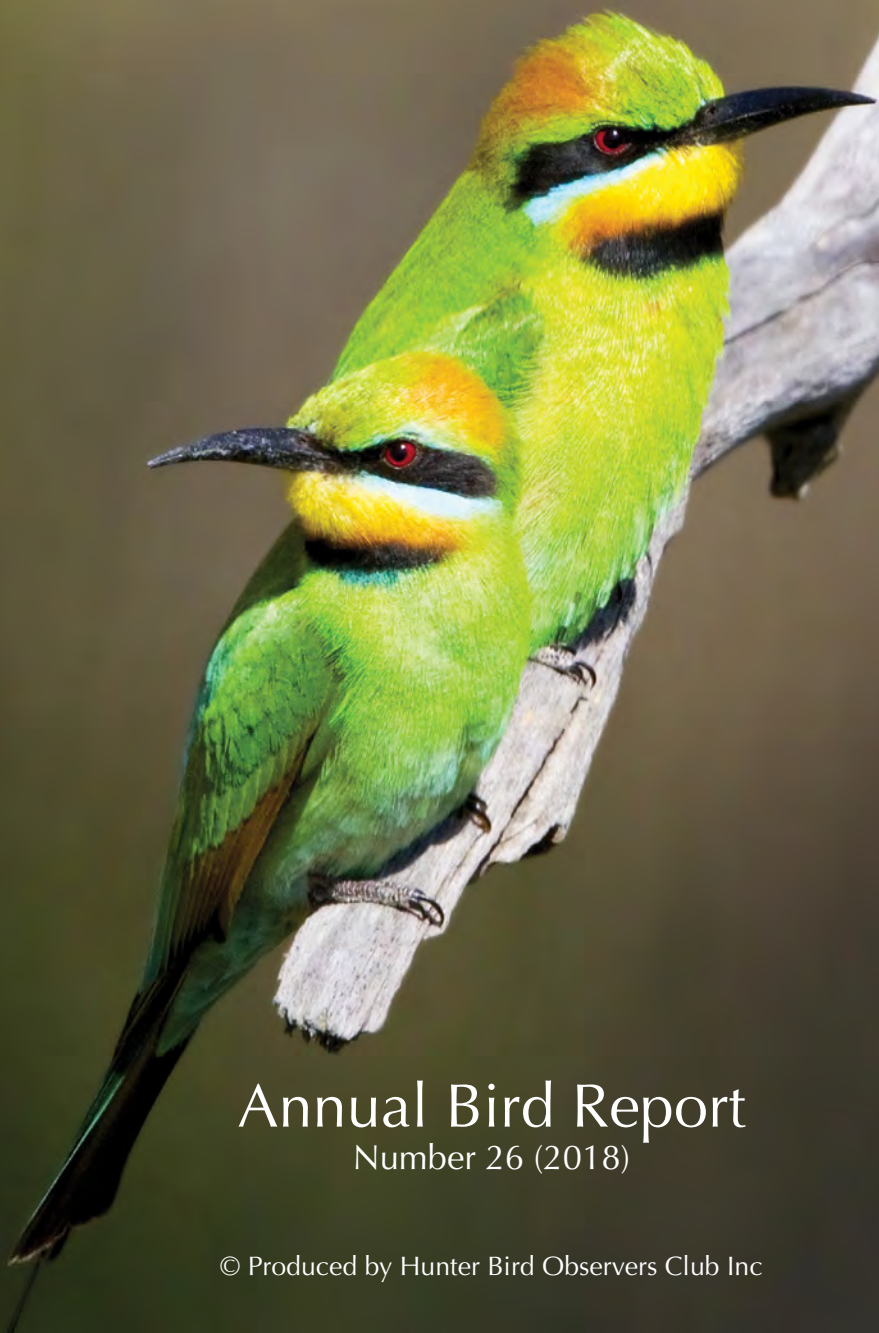


HUNTER REGION OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Annual Bird Report Number 26 (2018)

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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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Black-fronted Dotterel by Jim Smart



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin by Rob Palazzi

FOREWORD

This, the 26th Hunter Region bird report, is the first of them that I have not prepared. Therefore, I was delighted when the new Editor, Dan Williams, invited me to write the Foreword. I'm taking the opportunity to do two things here – to reminisce, and to philosophise about renewal.

My first tentative steps towards producing an annual bird report for the Hunter Region were in the early 1990s. From 1976, when HBOC formed, every outing or camp led to a neatly typed bird list which then was stored in a filing cabinet, essentially buried so far as most birders were concerned. I decided to collate those records into Excel spreadsheets, bound copies of which I made available to the Club's library during 1990-92. Then, in 1992 at a BIGNet meeting of NSW and ACT bird clubs, there was a brief discussion about difficulties in obtaining records for the NSW annual bird reports. That led to a follow-up meeting that I attended in Canberra, solely on that topic. The upshot of the Canberra meeting was that several clubs, including HBOC, committed to preparing regional bird reports.

I don't know that too many other clubs honoured their commitment, but I was determined. I convinced the HBOC Management Committee that a Hunter Region bird report was a good idea and volunteered for the job. Everything had to be organised from scratch: produce a regional bird list and make a first attempt at assigning a status for each species; define an area of interest ("the Hunter Region"); find experts for a new Records Appraisal Committee; produce a record sheet for people to use (the one that HBOC had previously was very basic); encourage people to start submitting their records. Remember that those were pre-electronic times – no email, no internet, and of course no national database.

It was a slow beginning, as what we were asking people to do was quite alien to them. That shows in the inaugural 1993 bird report, which is a decidedly thin product. However, when that report appeared (in mid-1994), it galvanised people into action, leading to a big increase in the number of record sheets we were receiving. We were off! Our only data sources? The HBOC record sheets, sightings reported at club nights, and sightings reported in the newsletters of other bird clubs. Everything was on paper!

Our knowledge about the birds of the Hunter Region was rather basic in the 1990s and I like to think that the bird reports have been an important factor in increasing that knowledge. For example, not one of the Category 3 birds in the 1993 bird report is still Category 3. What we thought of as rarities back then was more a case of under-reporting (and the lack of efficient mechanisms for reporting).

Over the years the bird report gradually evolved. A few years into it, I introduced regional status descriptions and began reporting by exception to those descriptions. Then came tables for the results of regular surveys, and then Hunterbirding began; in its heyday it was a major forum for people to report their local sightings. The next innovation was access to the national database (BirdLife Australia's Birdata) records as a once per year export of data. That allowed us (by now I had some helpers) to include some statistical analyses, but first we had to work out how to analyse the massive amount of extra data. After we were on top of that, we worked out how to generate distribution maps and timelines for migratory species. Along the way, we also started to improve the visual presentation, firstly by scattering a few black and white sketches and eventually by including photos taken by the many talented photographers in our midst.

In the past 2-3 years, there has been a clear change in the way that people deal with their bird records. Before then, mostly all that anyone did was to report their “highlights”. What constituted a highlight was open to interpretation – people with an incomplete awareness of Hunter Region birdlife often over-looked to report some of their important records. Nowadays, most serious birders submit electronic lists to Birddata or eBird and it is a list of everything they saw, not just species that they considered to be the highlights. And so, now we have access to a huge database of records about Hunter Region birdlife. However, it requires a correspondingly greater effort to monitor those databases and to vet the records. Mistakes happen, unfortunately all too often.

By the time of the 2017 bird report, my final one, these changes in preferred reporting method were well underway but I was still working with my old *modus operandi* of capturing the highlights that people reported. Also, I was running out of steam for introducing further changes. It was fantastic news when Dan Williams put up his hand to take over the editorship of the bird reports. It was even better news when he decided he would use the Birddata and eBird records as a major data source (and, that others were offering to help with the vetting process).

I think we’re ready now to generate the next layer of knowledge about the Hunter Region’s birdlife. With the far richer data sources we have now, I think we’re better prepared for identifying how things are changing – which species are prospering, which are declining.

Dan Williams has introduced several innovations for this 2018 bird report, and that’s great. But I do urge Dan to keep on innovating. I really hope that the 2030 bird report, when it comes, will be as different to this 2018 report as 2018 differs from the reports of 10-15 years ago. It’s important to keep finding new and better ways to analyse and present information to readers.

I think you will enjoy reading this 2018 bird report. I certainly have.

Alan Stuart
Previous Editor



Swamp Harrier by Steve Merrett

NOTABLE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR

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

- **Blue-billed Duck** two females at Walka Water Works 9 Aug
- **Pink-eared Duck** c.1500 birds at Shortland Waters Golf Club 15 Sep
- **Australasian Shoveler** c.1040 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun is by far the largest ever count for the Region
- **Pacific Black Duck** 852 birds at Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works 4 Apr
- **Grey Teal** over 5800 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun is by far the largest ever count for the Region
- **Freckled Duck** 182 birds at Shortland Waters Golf Club 2 Jun is by far the largest ever count for the Region
- **Australian Wood Duck** c.400 birds at Shortland Waters Golf Club 9 May is by far the largest ever count for the Region
- **King Quail** regularly recorded in March-April, with up to four birds at Minimbah and three at Crowdy Bay National Park
- **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** regularly recorded in January-March, with up to four birds at Harrington and two at Seal Rocks
- **Topknot Pigeon** a flock of c.200 birds flying south over Worimi Conservation Lands 23 Jul
- **Black-eared Cuckoo** several records in November
- **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** individuals of ssp. *lucidus* photographed at Kurri Kurri and Walka Water Works 6 Oct
- **White-throated Needletail** a few large counts of c.400-500 birds at coastal locations
- **Fork-tailed Swift** c.55 birds at MESP 3 Dec
- **Sooty Oystercatcher** a record count of 54 at Newcastle Ocean Baths in March
- **Red-necked Avocet** 4538 birds in the Hunter Estuary in June
- **Grey Plover** single birds at MESP in January and October-December
- **Pacific Golden Plover** c.500 birds at Stockton Sand Spit 30 Jan
- **Red-capped Plover** a record count of 158 birds in the Hunter Estuary in August, including 155 at Tomago 11 Aug
- **Greater Sand Plover** at least three birds at MESP in January-February and September-December
- **Black-fronted Dotterel** over 50 birds at Ellalong Lagoon 29 May
- **Banded Lapwing** 31 adults and 15 young birds recorded along Smedes Road 1 Oct
- **Masked Lapwing** a record count of 372 birds in the Hunter Estuary in April
- **Red-kneed Dotterel** 129 birds in the Hunter Estuary in August
- **Far Eastern Curlew** lowest numbers on record
- **Bar-tailed Godwit** lowest numbers on record
- **Ruff** a single bird at Stockton Sand Spit between 1-16 Jan and Kooragang Island 1 Feb
- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** 4783 birds in the Hunter Estuary in October
- **Red-necked Stint** c.300 at Stockton Sand Spit 17 Feb and 244 at MESP 5 Dec

- **Terek Sandpiper** lowest numbers on record
- **Little Stint** single bird at MESP from 1-10 Dec (new for Hunter Region)
- **Wandering Tattler** a single bird at Green Point, Lake Macquarie from 12-24 Oct
- **Long-tailed Jaeger** a record count of 13 birds from a Crowdy Head pelagic trip 19 Jan
- **Grey Noddy** a single bird photographed at the end of Newcastle Breakwall 11 Jan
- **Pacific Gull** an immature at the Hunter River mouth from 4-12 Jun
- **Kelp Gull** an immature at Stockton Sand Spit 13 Oct and Newcastle Ocean Baths 20 Nov
- **Aleutian Tern** a peak count of 18 birds early in the year represents a new high for the Region
- **Common Gull-billed Tern** single birds at Stockton Sand Spit 10 May and Worimi Conservation Lands 10 Aug
- **Caspian Tern** a record count of 45 across Port Stephens 13 Jul
- **White-winged Black Tern** a single bird at MESP from 3 Nov to 23 Dec
- **Black-winged Petrel** a single bird photographed from a Crowdy Head pelagic trip 19 Jan
- **Grey-faced Petrel** a record count of c.300 birds from a Swansea pelagic trip 20 Nov
- **Black Petrel** birds recorded from pelagic trips in January, February and November
- **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** c.12 000 birds from Fort Drive 24 Jan
- **Australasian Bittern** a single bird at Hexham Swamp 23 Apr
- **Australian Little Bittern** a single bird at Ash Island 1 Nov
- **Little Black Cormorant** a record count of c.1000 birds at Harrington 10 Jan
- **Pied Cormorant** a record count of 681 birds across Port Stephens 13 Jul
- **Forest Kingfisher** a single bird at Tahlee throughout January
- **Swift Parrot** over 100 birds at Pelton in May
- **Ground Parrot** single birds at Crowdy Bay National Park 4 Mar and 10 Mar and Minimbah 15-18 Mar (first contemporary records for the Region)
- **Little Lorikeet** a record count of c.400 birds at Hunter Economic Zone 13 Nov
- **Black Honeyeater** a single bird at Singleton Heights 7 Oct
- **Crimson Chat** a male photographed at Durrigere State Conservation Area 4 Nov
- **Regent Honeyeater** confirmed breeding event at Hunter Economic Zone in November-December
- **Southern Whiteface** records throughout the year from Durrigere, Goulburn River National Park and Denman
- **Ground Cuckoo-shrike** a single bird photographed at Lake Glenbawn 27 Sep
- **Varied Triller** confirmed breeding for the first time in the Region at Crowdy Bay National Park 1 Dec
- **White-browed/Masked Woodswallow** substantial influxes of both species in spring, with a breeding event at Hunter Economic Zone
- **Little Raven** a potential influx of birds to the Lower Hunter in February, with over 100 birds recorded at Hinton and Congewai
- **Scarlet Robin** confirmed breeding for the first time in the Region at Barrington Tops State Conservation Area 17 Feb

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 2018. The main sources of information are surveys submitted through the BirdLife Australia Birddata and Cornell Labs eBird bird recording databases. These are supplemented, as required, through reports made on Hunterbirding and NSW Birdline or at HBOC meetings, and written reports sent directly or sometimes indirectly to the editor.

There was only one addition to the checklist: Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, based on a bird at MESP from 1 Dec until 10 Dec. The record was submitted to NSW ORAC for appraisal and is pending formal acceptance.

If accepted, the Hunter Region checklist will comprise 453 species. In 2018, 362 of those were confirmed to have been present, and information about those records is presented in this Report.

154 species were recorded as breeding in 2018 (compared to a median of 127 breeding species each year since the Bird Reports started). In the 10 years from 2009, 231 species are confirmed to have bred within the Region (and for a further 84 species there are pre-2009 records).

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

Data Analysis

The substantial amount of survey data submitted through Birddata and eBird enables the analysis and presentation of data to communicate individual species spatial, annual and seasonal distributions and frequency of occurrence. This data analysis is presented for all non-vagrant species recorded in the Region. The Club actively promotes the use of Birddata as a preferred platform for the recording of bird surveys. Previous editions of the Annual Bird Report (ABR) have not considered the holistic inclusion of eBird data, only interesting records that came to light. However, several local bird observers enter data to eBird, which through inclusion provides a larger dataset for analysis. Substantial effort is made in vetting local records submitted to eBird (and Birddata) by Ian Benson and Mick Roderick to ensure a high level of data quality. Thanks is given to both BirdLife Australia and Cornell Labs for making this data available for analysis.

For the purposes of the analyses all records are classified as being either a survey or incidental in nature. Surveys include the Birddata 2 ha, 500 m, 5 km and fixed route searches and shorebirds 2020 counts and the eBird stationary and travelling surveys. Incidental records include the Birddata incidental surveys, bird lists and historical records and the eBird incidental searches. All pre-1998 records are also excluded from the analyses. There is a total of almost 36 000 surveys across the Region between the years of 1998 and 2018, with an additional 9400 incidental records, comprising over 700 000 individual species records.

To account for the variance in species reporting rates due to survey effort, the survey duration is used to provide a weighting to species recorded during the survey, producing a 'weighted reporting rate' (WRR). The method employed to derive an appropriate weighting involved the analysis of reporting rates vs. survey duration for 20 of the most common species. A survey duration of 90 minutes was selected to provide a weighting of 1.0, with weightings for other durations based on their relative reporting rates. The derived relationship is represented by the equation $6 \times \text{duration}^{0.4}$ and is presented in **Figure 1**.

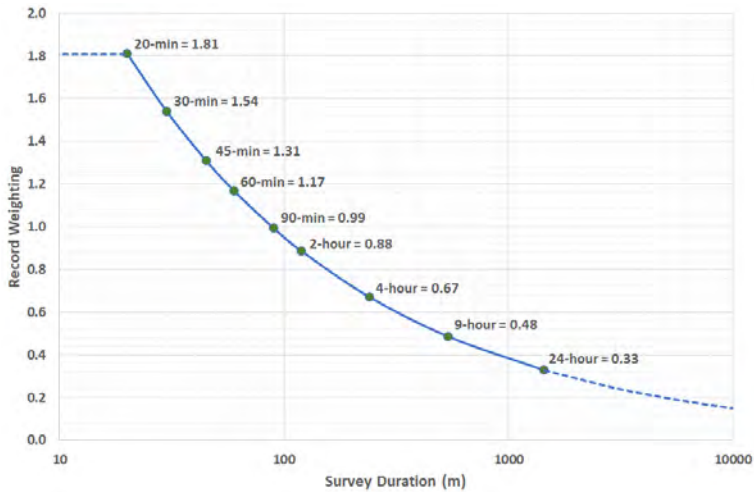


Figure 1 Record Weighting vs. Survey Duration Relationship

Multi-day surveys and incidental records are not considered in the analyses. Weightings for survey durations of less than 20 minutes are capped at 1.81. The WRR is then calculated by dividing the product of a species weighted records by the total number of surveys conducted.

Species Trends

WRRs are calculated for all records across the Region each year to derive long-term species trends. Long-term trend charts are presented for all non-vagrant species. The coloured data points represent the annual WRR, presented as a % on the right y-axis using a logarithmic scale. The grey data points represent annual maxima counts derived from the survey data and previous HBOC Annual Bird Reports, presented as an absolute count on the left y-axis using a logarithmic scale. Peak counts are capped at 10 000.

For migratory species the WRR calculations are limited to the months of September through March for summer migrants and April through October for winter migrants. This is an attempt to establish relatively consistent WRRs between species, enabling direct comparisons of how frequently a species is recorded relative to others. This restriction of months considered in the analysis is signified through the use of gold-coloured data points for summer migrants and blue-coloured data points for winter migrants, as per the examples in **Figure 2**. Species present throughout the year have green-coloured data points.



Figure 2 Sample Species Trend Charts

The species trend charts are a useful means of presenting long-term changes in species observation frequency. However, there are a few limitations that can exhibit themselves as artefacts in the plotted trends. For example, heavy visitations to a site within a given year may raise the calculated WRR for species regularly recorded there. This is evident in the Rufous Scrub-bird trend since regular surveys of the Gloucester Tops began in 2010 and in the sand plovers since the discovery of the non-breeding population of Aleutian Terns at MESP.

The species trends should be considered as a 'first-pass' assessment of all species across the Region and should not be interpreted as being of a comparable scientific rigour to more typical species-specific analyses. However, the analysis provides an indicator to identify species that may be locally declining or increasing in population and for identifying influxes or exoduses of mobile species populations. As mentioned previously, there are limitations to the data analysis that may result in a misleading interpretation. It is hoped that the presentation of species exhibiting interesting trends will inspire readers to undertake further detailed analysis for individual species or localities, potentially for presentation in publications such as HBOC's *The Whistler* or other scientific journals.

Species Mapping

WRRs are calculated for all records across the Region within the extents of 28 individual mapping polygons, for the purposes of presenting species spatial distributions. The polygon extents and number of polygons have been continually refined over a period of years to derive a good balance for clear and informative presentation in the ABR. The mapping polygons and survey coverage within each polygon are presented in **Figure 3**.

Analysis of surveys and records is undertaken for each species in each mapping polygon. The polygons boundaries are then smoothed to produce a cleaner final product for the species maps. A sample distribution map for Wonga Pigeon is presented in **Figure 4**. The major population centres of the Region are depicted for geographical context.

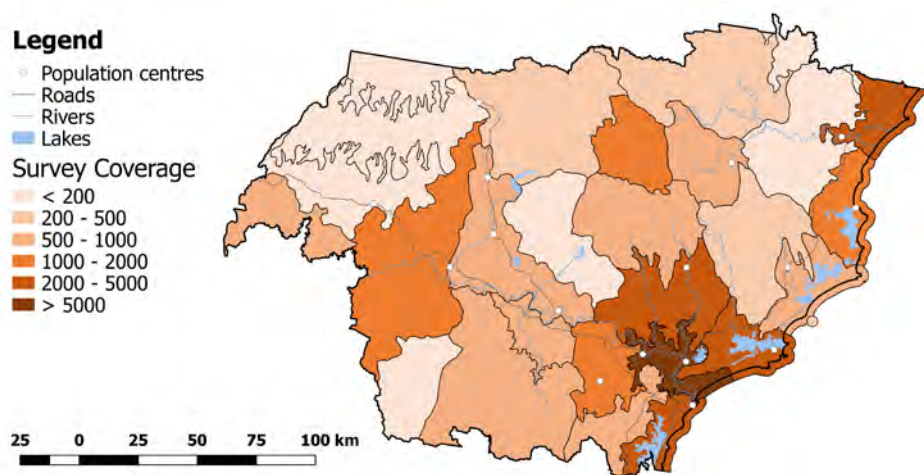


Figure 3 Survey Coverage of the Hunter Region

The mapping of species 'normal range' and 'core range' is determined where individual polygons exceed threshold WRRs. The WRR thresholds are set individually for each species through the identification in natural breaks within the data. The thresholds are typically around 2% for the normal range and between 5% and 30% for the core range, depending on the frequency of records. Scarce or cryptic species have lower thresholds than common ones. The core range mapping is not used for uncommon (HBOC Cat 2U) species. The 'recorded range' of a species is not determined through the WRR, but instead incorporates incidental records as well as surveys. A polygon is mapped as a recorded range if two or more records for a species exist within each polygon. For rare (HBOC Cat 2R) species this is the only range mapping undertaken as a normal range calculation is not considered. Range mapping is not provided for vagrant species (HBOC Cat 3, 4 or 5).

Legend

- Population centres

Species Distribution

- Recorded Range
- Normal Range
- Core Range

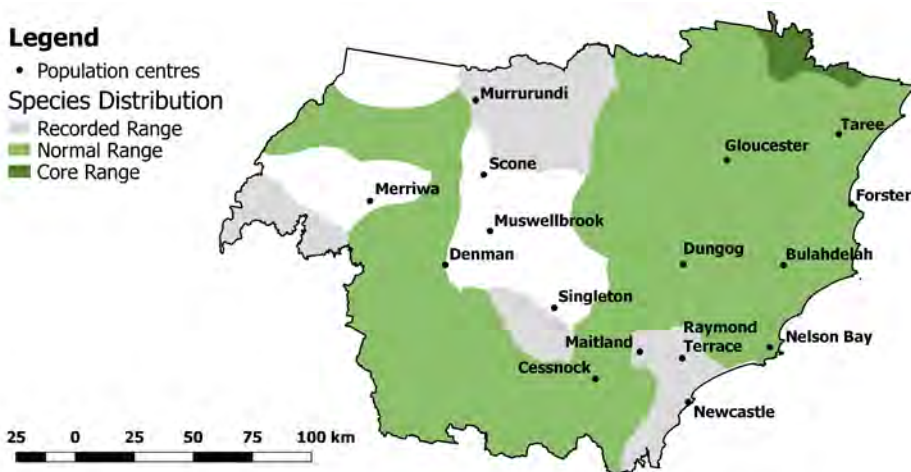


Figure 4 Distribution Map for Wonga Pigeon

As for the species trends, for migratory species the WRR calculations are limited to the months of September through March for summer migrants and April through October for winter migrants. This restriction of months considered in the analysis is signified using gold-coloured mapping polygons for summer migrants and blue-coloured mapping polygons for winter migrants. Species present throughout the year have green-coloured mapping polygons.

Seasonal Distribution

The seasonal distribution analyses use all records for each migratory species within the filtered HBOC composite Birddata and eBird database. It considers both surveyed and incidental records, with no weightings applied. Deriving such data through an automated process and producing a clean informative output presents significant challenges. Therefore, a simplified method is adopted whereby each migratory species has an assumed normal distribution – from 1 July to 30 June for summer migrants and from 1 January to 31 December for winter migrants.

Records are assigned to one of 61 6-day blocks throughout the year and a cumulative frequency distribution is calculated. The middle 68% of records (16% to 84% of cumulative frequency) are plotted as a 'core range'. An additional 14% of records either side of the 'core range' (i.e. to the bounds of 2% and 98% of cumulative frequency) are plotted as a 'normal range'. An additional 1% of records either side of the 'normal range' (i.e. to the bounds of 1% and 99% of cumulative frequency) are plotted as a 'recorded range'. The remaining 2% of records are not plotted. The 6-day data blocks are coloured accordingly and presented on a horizontal bar representing the calendar year.

As for the species trends and distribution mapping, the use of gold-coloured data blocks for summer migrants and blue-coloured data blocks for winter migrants is adopted, as per the examples in **Figure 5**. Species present throughout the year (albeit exhibiting seasonal migration) have green-coloured data blocks.



Figure 5 Sample Seasonal Distribution Plots

Pelagic Species

For pelagic species the species trends, mapping and seasonal distribution analysis only use data recorded during organised pelagic trips sailing from Hunter Region ports, including Crowdy Head, Forster, Port Stephens, Newcastle and Swansea.

A different method has been used to present the mapping and seasonal distributions for pelagic species. The species mapping considers both inshore and pelagic waters, which are coloured accordingly, based on manual interpretation of the data. For the seasonal distributions, manual interpretation of data is also used, colouring individual months accordingly.

CLIMATE AND INDICATOR SPECIES ANALYSIS

The status of most species in the Region remains relatively static, with the data presented within the systematic list indicating as such. However, there are many species for which the status can fluctuate markedly year to year and even at a sub-yearly timeframe. The principal factor influencing many of these species is the Australian climate of cyclical periods of drought. The impact of climatic conditions and extreme weather events can often be observed in the frequency of observation for certain bird species. This section of the report presents additional data and discussion for some of the key indicator species, linking the pattern of observations with the key climatic drivers.

Annual Climate Summary

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology produces annual climate summaries. The 2018 Annual Climate Summary for New South Wales states that:

2018 was the warmest on record for New South Wales for both mean temperature and mean maximum temperature, whilst the mean minimum temperature was fourth-warmest on record. The year was dominated by very dry conditions, with the third-driest January to September on record. October to December saw some relief from the dry, with above average rainfall across parts of the State. Despite this, New South Wales experienced its sixth-lowest annual rainfall on record; its driest year since 2002.

The Bureau also occasionally issues Special Climate Statements, which provide a detailed summary of significant weather and climate events. Three such statements relevant to New South Wales were issued during 2018:

- SCS 64 – Record warmth in the Tasman Sea, New Zealand and Tasmania
- SCS 65 – Persistent summer-like heat sets many April records
- SCS 66 – An abnormally dry period in eastern Australia

These events are summarised below through reproduction of the opening paragraph of each Special Climate Statement respectively:

- SCS 64 – *Sea surface temperatures in the southern Tasman Sea rose to exceptionally high levels in late 2017 and early 2018. These temperatures were far above any others previously observed at that time of year in the region, and extended west from New Zealand to Tasmania and mainland southeast Australia. In parallel with this, land temperatures were well above average in areas near the Tasman Sea warm anomalies, with many records set both in New Zealand and in southeast Australia (especially Tasmania).*
- SCS 65 – *Abnormally warm conditions persisted through large parts of Australia in the first half of April 2018. The heat, which was more characteristic of mid-summer than mid-autumn, was unprecedented in many areas in April for its intensity, its persistence or both. The spatial extent of the heat was also exceptional, with above-average maximum temperatures extending almost nationwide on each day during the first 10 days of the month. Whilst temperatures were not quite as high in the second half of April, they were still widely above average until the last few days in the month, and abnormal warmth continued into early May with some records set in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria (particularly the Riverina and Gippsland) on the 3rd.*
- SCS 66 – *The most intense dry phase of the recent period began in early 2018. The core of the abnormal dryness was in New South Wales, but other areas were also seriously affected, including southern inland Queensland, and central and east Gippsland in eastern Victoria. As the year continued, despite some winter rains along the southern coastal fringe, significant rainfall deficiencies extended to cover much of Victoria (except for the southwest) and large parts of eastern South Australia. It was also an exceptionally dry period (even by the region's standards) in central Australia. The dry period culminated in September 2018, which was Australia's driest September, and second-driest month, on record. Some areas had useful rains in October 2018, the first month in 2018 in which rainfall averaged over New South Wales was above average, although the heaviest rains occurred in coastal northern New South Wales and the southeast quarter of Queensland, outside the regions worst affected by previous dry conditions.*

Figure 6 opposite presents the Bureau of Meteorology seasonal rainfall decile maps across south-east Australia (Murray-Darling basin) for 2018. Each map represents a comparison of three-month rainfall data against the long-term average conditions, with blue areas receiving above average rainfall and red areas below average rainfall. The summer map represents rainfall for December (2017) through February, autumn for March through May, winter for June through August and spring for September through November. The predominantly dry conditions across much of south-east Australia discussed in the Annual Climate Summary are evident.

Figure 7 opposite presents the Bureau of Meteorology sea surface temperature decile maps for Australia for 2018. Each map represents a comparison of monthly data against the long-term average conditions, with orange areas being warmer than average and green areas being cooler than average. The summer map represents sea surface temperatures for January, autumn for April, winter for July and spring for October. The extremely warm seas discussed in the Annual Climate Summary are evident.

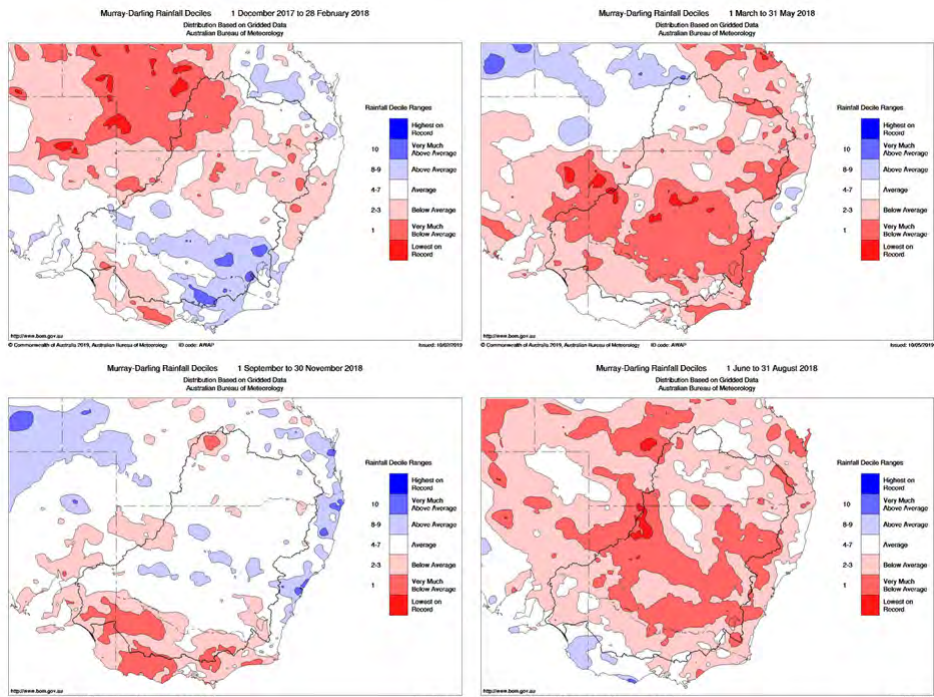


Figure 6 2018 Murray-Darling Seasonal Rainfall Deciles (Sum-Spr, clockwise from top-left)

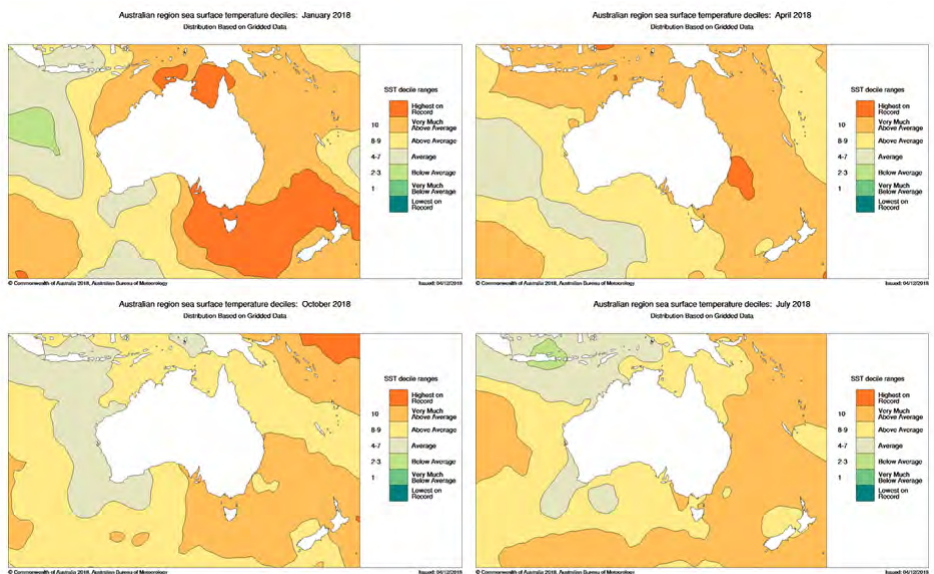


Figure 7 2018 Australian Seasonal Sea Surface Temperature Deciles (Sum-Spr, clockwise from top-left)

Drought Indicator Species

The occurrence of many bird species in the Region is impacted by inland rainfall or drought conditions. Some, such as Pink-eared Duck and Red-kneed Dotterel are highly mobile in response to changing conditions. Others, such as Eurasian Coot and White-faced Heron are more sedentary and only exhibit an exodus from the Region during extreme conditions. This was pronounced in 2010 following the inland rainfall that ended a decade of prolonged drought and following the large inland floods of 2016. Sixteen species that exhibit a pronounced observed response to rainfall and drought conditions were identified through analysis of the annual trend data.

Table 1 presents a summary of the 16 key indicator species, comparing annual WRRs for 2018 against the long-term average. Overall, the indicator species show an increased presence in the Region compared to the long-term average expectancy. This is to be expected given the dry conditions that persisted for much of the year. The woodland and open habitat species show a much more pronounced above average WRR than is exhibited by the wetland species. This could potentially reflect that whilst there was some inland rainfall in 2018, it may have been enough to activate inland wetlands but insufficient to reinvigorate drier habitats affected by the prolonged drought conditions.

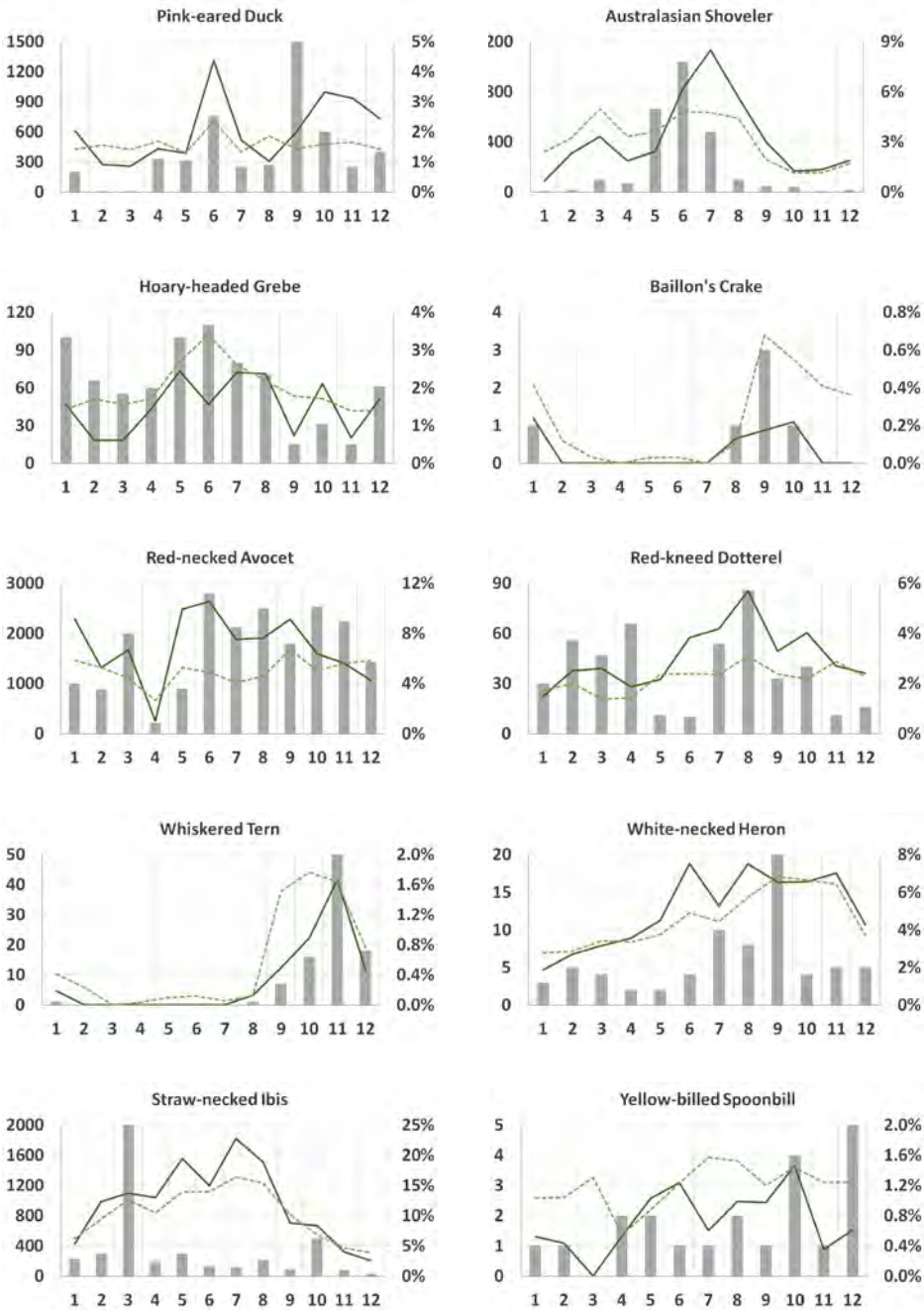
Table 1 Comparison of 2018 and Long-term Reporting Ratios for Drought Indicator Species

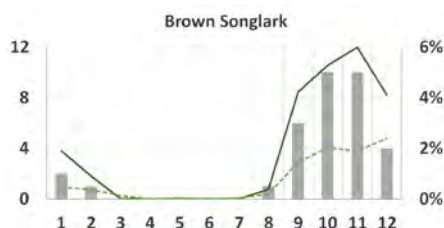
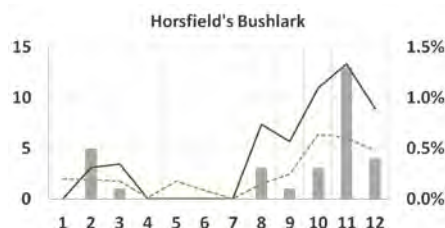
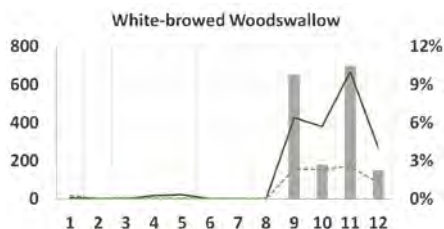
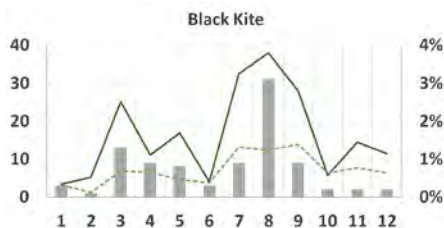
Species	Long-term WRR	2018 WRR	Ratio
Pink-eared Duck	1.6%	2.1%	1.3
Australasian Shoveler	3.0%	2.9%	1.0
Hoary-headed Grebe	1.9%	1.5%	0.8
Baillon's Crake	0.3%	0.1%	0.3
Red-necked Avocet	5.1%	6.8%	1.3
Red-kneed Dotterel	2.2%	3.0%	1.4
Whiskered Tern	0.6%	0.4%	0.6
White-necked Heron	4.7%	5.0%	1.1
Straw-necked Ibis	10%	11%	1.1
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1.2%	0.7%	0.6
Spotted Harrier	0.5%	0.4%	0.9
Black Kite	0.7%	1.6%	2.2
White-winged Triller	1.5%	2.0%	1.3
White-browed Woodswallow	0.9%	2.7%	3.1
Horsfield's Bushlark	0.3%	0.5%	1.9
Brown Songlark	0.9%	2.3%	2.7

Charts are presented below for the key indicator species, providing a comparison of 2018 monthly WRR (dark-green solid line) to the long-term average (light-green dotted line). These are presented as a % on the right y-axis. Peak monthly counts are represented by the grey bars, with values presented on the left y-axis.

Many of the species show a reduction in numbers and/or WRR from January through May, perhaps in response to the inland summer rain. As the dry conditions persist through autumn and winter there is an increased presence of many of the indicator species throughout this period

of the year. There is a notable decline in many species within November and December, likely attributable to the inland spring rainfall. The increased presence of Brown Songlark in January and February is the tail-end of a large influx of this species to coastal areas in 2017.





Nectarivorous Indicator Species

2018 was generally a very poor year for Eucalypt blossom in south-eastern Australia, and in the Hunter Region it was no exception. This was particularly the case through the cooler months when no large blossoming events of key winter-flowering Eucalypts such as White Box (*E. albens*) or Swamp Mahogany (*E. robusta*) occurred. It wasn't until spring that a major blossom event of Broad-leaved Ironbark (*E. fibrosa*) and Grey Ironbark (*E. paniculata*) attracted large numbers of nectarivores to the Lower Hunter woodlands.

Typically, the largest flocks of Swift Parrots are seen early in the season as birds arrive back in mainland areas from their Tasmanian breeding grounds. This was certainly the case in the Hunter, with a flock of 100 birds found at Pelton (Werakata SCA) in May, followed soon after by 30 birds at Ellalong Lagoon. A few weeks later 35 birds were found in the Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ). From July until their departure in September lesser numbers were seen, except for a flock of 21 birds at Cooranbong in early September. All the large flocks of Swift Parrots and most of the smaller groups were recording feeding on lerp. The Cooranbong birds were feeding on Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) blossom as well as lerp and some small aggregations of birds were also found on blossom.

The lack of blossom during autumn-winter saw one of the longest periods with no reports of Regent Honeyeaters anywhere in their range – nearly six months between January and July. This 'drought' was broken by birds found in coastal habitats in the Hunter Region, most notably a

flock of up to six birds found in the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, where birds were found feeding on the blossom of Blackbutt (*E. pilularis*) trees (itself not a known regular feed tree for Regent Honeyeaters).

Of significance was that the Lower Hunter forests were the only location where Regent Honeyeaters were detected breeding in NSW for the entire 2018/19 season. This breeding occurred in HEZ, with birds found in early November and monitored for the remainder of the year and into early 2019, though given the age of some juvenile birds found they would have been nesting in HEZ since early October at least. A total of 36 birds were found, including nine juveniles from five confirmed separate broods. Birds were feeding on the blossom of Broad-leaved Ironbark and Long-flowered Mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe vitellina*). Grey Ironbark (*E. paniculata*) was also flowering, attended by many other nectivorous species but not observed being used by Regent Honeyeaters.

Charts are presented below for the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater, providing a comparison of 2018 monthly WRR (dark-green solid line) to the long-term average (light-green dotted line). These are presented as a % on the right y-axis. Peak monthly counts are represented by the grey bars, with values presented on the left y-axis.

Several species in the Region are locally nomadic in response to blossom events and the availability of nectar. The Musk Lorikeet and Noisy Friarbird are useful indicator species for this due to their relative ease of detection. **Figure 8** presents the spatial distribution of Musk Lorikeet across the Region in 2018 for six bi-monthly seasons:

D– J December (2017) and January – dry summer

F– M February and March – wet summer

A– M April and May – autumn

J– J June and July – winter

A– S August and September – pre-spring migration

O– N October and November – spring breeding season

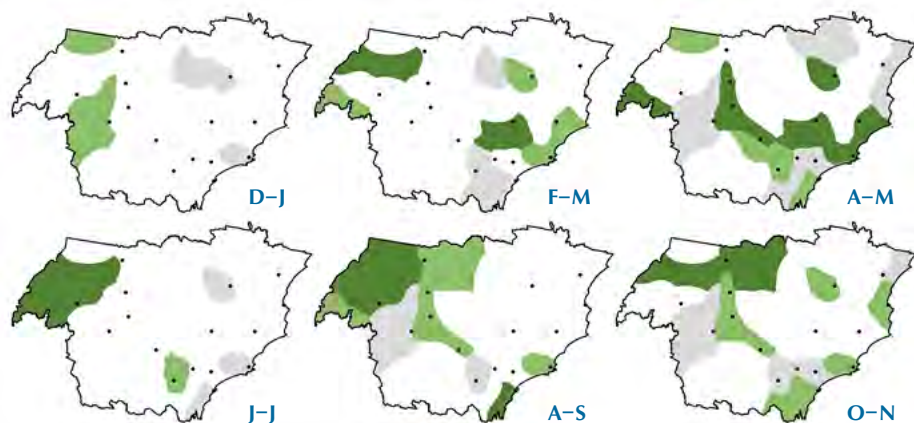


Figure 8 2018 Seasonal Distribution of Musk Lorikeet (Dec-Jan through Oct-Nov, clockwise from top-left)

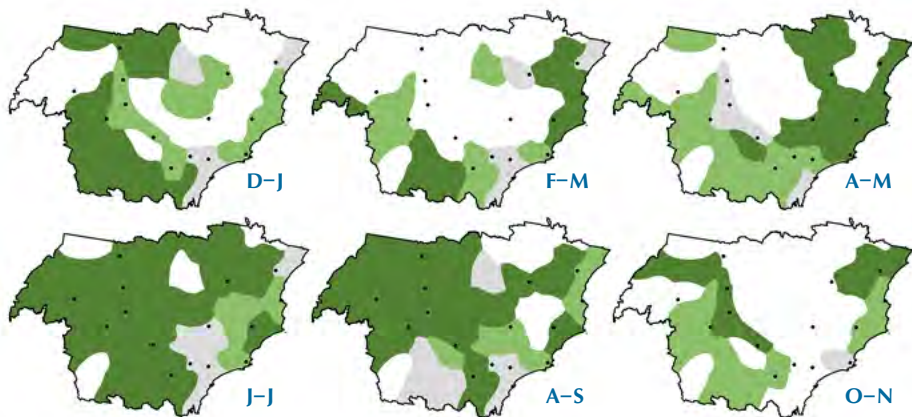


Figure 9 2018 Seasonal Distribution of Noisy Friarbird (Dec-Jan through Oct-Nov, clockwise from top-left)

Migratory Shorebird Summary

HBOC has been coordinating monthly surveys of shorebirds and wetlands since 1999. This data is invaluable for understanding the health and habits of the species populations that depend on these habitats for their livelihood. Regular surveys are undertaken across the Region, including:

shorebird roost sites and wetlands across the Hunter Estuary, such as Stockton Sandspit, Fern Bay, Hexham Swamp, Ash Island, the Hunter Wetlands Centre, Tomago Wetlands, Warabrook, Wallsend Wetlands and Newcastle Ocean Baths sites around Lake Macquarie, including Redhead Lagoon, Cold Tea Creek, Belmont Lagoon, Woods Point, Myuna Bay, Muddy Lake, East Cooranbong Wetland, Stockton Borehole and Toronto Wetlands Hunter River floodplain sites, such as Ray Lawler Park, Walka Water Works, Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works, Waterford Estate, Anambah Road, Louth Park, Rathluba Lagoon, McGeachies Run, Heritage Park, Raymond Terrace Reserve, Irrawang Swamp, Bolwarra Lagoon, Hands Lagoon, Seaham Swamp, Gillieston Heights and Tocal Wetlands sites around Port Stephens, including Birubi Beach to Tomaree Head, Worimi Conservation Lands, Swan Bay and Gur-um-bit National Park, Tanilba Bay and boat-based biannual surveys shorebird roost sites and wetlands across the Manning Estuary, such as at Harrington, MESP and Cattai Wetlands.

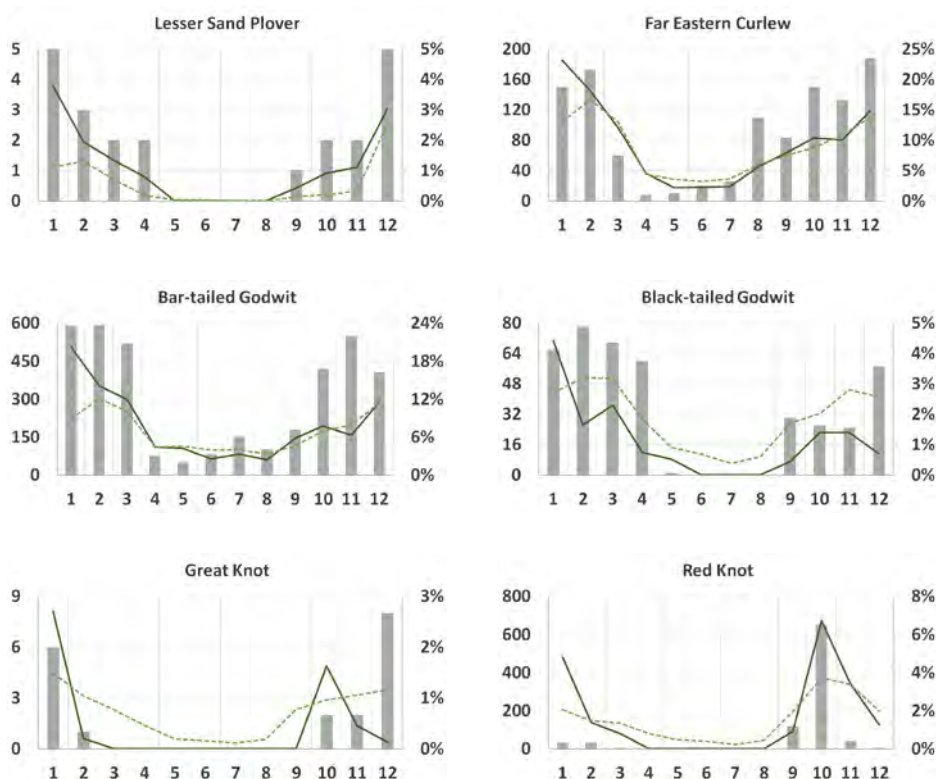
These surveys are conducted through volunteer effort and thanks is given for the tireless efforts of all involved. The results of these surveys provide a valuable contribution to the data analysis and presentation for many species in this report. The species counts gathered through these surveys are also an important data resource for the Club, national and international conservation efforts. This is particularly the case for the migratory shorebirds, many of which are listed as threatened species, as presented in **Table 2**. Those species that are rare or vagrant to the Region are omitted due to a lack of data. For each species the 2018 peak count is provided, together with peak count trends over the past ten and 20 years. The trend values represent the annual relative change in peak count across the period, proportional to the average peak count of the period. The status of each species is summarised as being either 'stable', in 'recovery' or in 'decline', based on the 10-year and 20-year trend data.

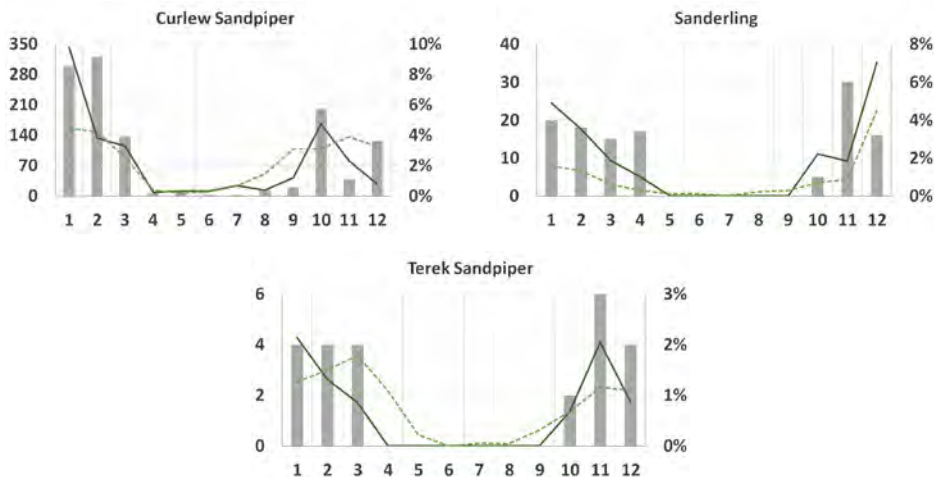
This analysis shows an almost universal state of decline over the past 20 years. However, many species show some degree of recovery over the past ten years and so their populations may currently be stable. This is not the case for Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit and Terek Sandpiper though, which are showing a continuing decline. Terek Sandpiper is the worst affected with a peak count of six birds, down from 16 birds ten years ago and 73 birds 20 years ago.

Table 2 Threatened Migratory Shorebirds Summary

Species	2018 Peak Count	10y Trend	20y Trend	Status
Lesser Sand Plover	5	+1.2%	-6.1%	Stable
Far Eastern Curlew	173	-10%	-5.4%	Decline
Bar-tailed Godwit	592	-5.4%	-4.3%	Decline
Black-tailed Godwit	100	-2.0%	-6.4%	Decline
Great Knot	8	+5.2%	-10%	Stable
Red Knot	650	+1.7%	-2.7%	Stable
Curlew Sandpiper	320	+4.4%	-7.6%	Stable
Sanderling	30	-0.7%	+1.4%	Stable
Terek Sandpiper	6	-15%	-11%	Decline

Charts are presented below for the threatened migratory shorebird species, providing a comparison of 2018 monthly WRR (dark-green line) to the long-term average (light-green line). These are presented as a % on the right y-axis. Peak monthly counts are represented by the grey bars, with values presented on the left y-axis.





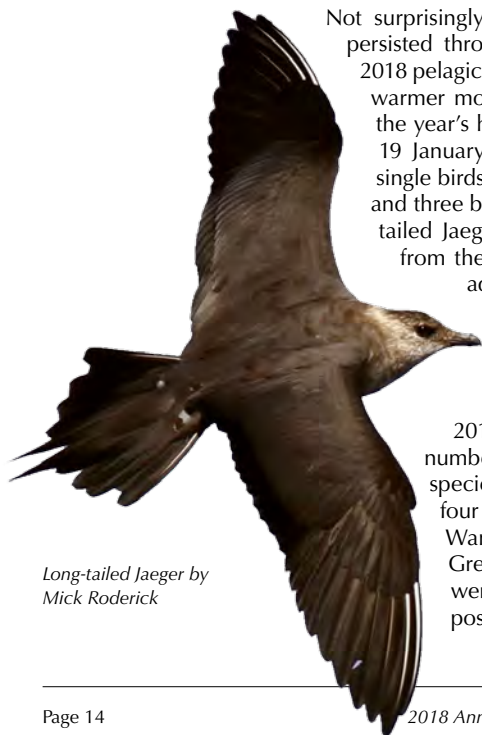
Pelagic Species Summary

Regular pelagic trips have been organised from the Region since the year 2000, largely from the ports of Swansea and Port Stephens, but also from Newcastle, Forster and Crowdy Head. In 2018 a total of seven trips went ahead:

- 19 January from Crowdy Head
- 20 May from Port Stephens
- 3 November from Swansea
- 20 November from Swansea
- 11 February from Port Stephens
- 2 August from Swansea
- 11 November from Port Stephens

Not surprisingly given the warm sea surface temperatures that persisted throughout the year, the overall productivity of the 2018 pelagic trips was relatively low. As would be expected, the warmer months produced the more notable birds, including the year's highlight of a Black-winged Petrel observed on the 19 January trip. It was a good year for Black Petrels, with single birds observed on the 19 January and 11 February trips and three birds on the 20 November trip. A count of 11 Long-tailed Jaeger on the 19 January trip is the largest recorded from the Region and a single Sooty Tern was a welcome addition to the 11 November trip list.

The winter trips offered little in terms of diversity with no whalebirds, giant petrels or Buller's Albatross recorded on any of the trips – the first time this has occurred since 2011. The best trip for overall species diversity and numbers was that of 20 November, when a total of 18 species were recorded outside of the heads, including four Wandering-type Albatross (with two confirmed Wandering and one Antipodean) and an estimated 300 Grey-faced Petrel. Of interest was that all the petrels were in a state of wing moult, suggesting a potential post-breeding dispersal.



*Long-tailed Jaeger by
Mick Roderick*

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species are listed in taxonomic order, based upon the BirdLife Australia Working List V3.0 (<http://www.birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>). V3.0 was released in 2019; any changes from the v2.1 Working List are noted within the species accounts.

Species Categorisation

Each species recorded in the Hunter Region has been assigned a category denoting the status and significance of its occurrence:

Category 1 A common or relatively common species within the Region, with records generally accepted. The data captured within surveys submitted through Birdata and eBird is generally sufficient. However, some species may warrant the submission of incidental records, depending on the context of the observation. These species are denoted with a sub-category suffix:

- C species of a cryptic nature that may not be captured in sufficient frequency through surveys
- L species for which the location of the observation may be of significance, due to a restricted range and/or localised distribution
- M species for which regular movements are observed, such as seasonal and altitudinal migration, or are nomadic/irruptive in response to local and/or regional conditions. The capturing of incidental records is beneficial, particularly at the front and back end of such movements when the frequency of observations is sparse

Category 2 A species of special interest for the Region, for which the submission of incidental records is strongly encouraged. Records usually are accepted, although supporting information may sometimes be required in the event of unusual numbers, location or season. The assignment of a species to Category 2 status is predicated upon meeting one or more of the following criteria and is denoted by the corresponding sub-category suffix:

- R species that are rarely recorded within the Region, but are not considered vagrant
- U species that are uncommon in the Region
- T species that are not uncommon in the Region, but that have either a nationally (EPBC) or State (NSW) threatened status and therefore it is important that they are tracked to monitor their status

Category 3 The species is considered a vagrant to the Region and initial records of these species should be submitted to the HBOC Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) for review.

Category 4 The species is considered a vagrant to NSW and requires evaluation by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC).

Category 5 The species is considered a vagrant to Australia and requires evaluation by the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC).

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. Additionally, the regular vetting of records submitted through Birdata and eBird is undertaken by Ian Benson and Mick Roderick.

The RAC reviews the submitted material and accounts for 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 threatened species status is also coded for each species as V for vulnerable, E for endangered and CE for critically endangered, and is denoted alongside each species together with the HBOC category in the following format:

EPBC | NSW | HBOC

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. Species which have a confirmed breeding status are denoted with a 'BR' or 'br' suffix for current (last ten years) or previous confirmed breeding, respectively. Where a species is anticipated to breed in the Region but there are no confirmed records, the 'nr' suffix (none recorded) is used.

Species Changes

Individual species names and categorisations are constantly subject to review, being impacted by changes to the adopted taxonomy, threatened status and breeding status or frequency of occurrence in the Region. Changes in name and/or categorisation from the 2017 ABR are provided below. The changes to species categorisation are too numerous to list individually because of the new refined system adopted for this ABR. Therefore, only species moving between Cat 2 and Cat 3 are listed:

King Quail is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Mallard is an updated common name (previously Northern Mallard)

Red-tailed Tropicbird is now a Cat 2_R species (was previously Cat 3)

Wompoo Fruit-Dove now has the scientific name *Ptilinopus magnifica* (previously *P. magnificus*)

Topknot Pigeon's breeding status has been updated to 'previous records' (previously 'none recorded')

White-throated Needletail is now listed nationally as 'vulnerable' (previously unlisted)

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Wandering Albatross is now listed nationally as 'vulnerable' (previously 'endangered')

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross is now listed nationally as 'vulnerable' (previously unlisted)

Shy Albatross is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

White-capped Albatross is now listed nationally as 'vulnerable' (previously unlisted)

Soft-plumaged Petrel is now listed nationally as 'vulnerable' (previously unlisted)

Black Petrel is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Buller's Shearwater is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Streaked Shearwater is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Tahiti Petrel is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Australian Little Bittern is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Great Pied Cormorant is an updated common name (previously Pied Cormorant)

Common Ringed Plover is an updated common name (previously Ringed Plover)

Greater Sand Plover is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Hooded Plover is now listed nationally as 'vulnerable' (previously unlisted) and in NSW as 'critically endangered' (previously unlisted)

Far Eastern Curlew is an updated common name (previously Eastern Curlew)

Ruff is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Broad-billed Sandpiper is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Little Stint is new to the list

Brown Noddy is an updated common name (previously Common Noddy)

Grey Noddy now has the scientific name *Anous albivittus* (previously *A. albivitta*)

Silver Gull now has the scientific name *Larus novaehollandiae* (previously *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*)

Pacific Gull is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Greater Crested Tern is an updated common name (previously Crested Tern)

Brown Skua now has the scientific name *Catharacta antarctica* (previously *C. antarcticus*)

Oriental Dollarbird is an updated common name (previously Dollarbird)

Forest Kingfisher is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo now has the scientific name *Zanda funerea* (previously *Z. funereus*)

Ground Parrot's breeding status has been updated to 'none recorded' (previously 'no')

Spotted Bowerbird now has the scientific name *Ptilonorhynchus maculata* (previously *P. maculatus*)

Black Honeyeater is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Singing Honeyeater is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

Mangrove Gerygone's breeding status has been updated to 'confirmed' (previously 'past records')

Pilotbird is now a Cat 1_L species (previously Cat 3)

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren now has the scientific name *Calamanthus pyrrhopygius* (previously *C. pyrrhopygia*)

Inland Thornbill is now a Cat 2_U species (previously Cat 3)

Eastern Shrike-tit is an updated common name (previously Crested Shrike-tit)

Common Cicadabird is an updated common name (previously Cicadabird), it also has the scientific name *Edolisoma tenuirostre* (previously *E. tenuirostris*)

Varied Triller's breeding status has been updated to 'confirmed' (previously 'no')

Grey Currawong is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3), the breeding status has also been updated to 'none recorded' (previously 'no')

White-breasted Woodswallow now has the scientific name *Artamus leucorhynchus* (previously *A. leucorhynchus*)

Satin Flycatcher is now a Cat 2_R species (previously Cat 3)

White-eared Monarch's breeding status has been updated to 'none recorded' (previously 'no')

Paradise Riflebird now has the scientific name *Loporrhinus paradisea* (previously *L. paradiseus*)

Scarlet Robin now has the scientific name *Petroica boodang* (previously *P. tricolor*), the breeding status has also been updated to 'confirmed' (previously 'none recorded')

Zebra Finch now has the scientific name *Taeniopygia castanotis* (previously *T. guttata*)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail is an updated common name (previously Yellow Wagtail), it also has the scientific name *Motacilla tschutschensis* (previously *M. flava*)

Species Descriptions

Individual species descriptions for Category 1 and Category 2 species contain a summary of the status within the Region and an interpretation of the long-term species trend data. Sub-species known to occur or expected to potentially occur within the Region are also identified. Status descriptions are provided for most species; those descriptions are based on the calculated WRR (where there is 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 <i>expect</i> to find on all visits to suitable habitats;
Usual	Species that one can <i>expect</i> to find on the majority of visits to suitable habitats;
Uncommon	Species that are recorded infrequently on visits to suitable habitats;
Rare	Species recorded only a few times a year;
Accidental	Species recorded less than once per year, over a 10-year average.

For many 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 and trends are shown for all Category 1 and Category 2 species. Calendar timelines are shown for species with known seasonal movements.

There is then a brief summary of notable 2018 records for each species, sub-divided for ease of reference using coloured text codes, including 'BR' for breeding records, 'DT' for early and late dates of migratory species, 'CT' for peak counts and 'LC' for records where the location is unusual or of interest.

Individual species descriptions for Category 3, Category 4 and Category 5 species contain a summary of the previous records of that species in the Region and then the details of any records for 2018 are provided.

The format for the reported observations generally includes reference to an observer code and to a location (or a location abbreviation). 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.

BIRDS



Australasian Grebe by Rob Palazzi

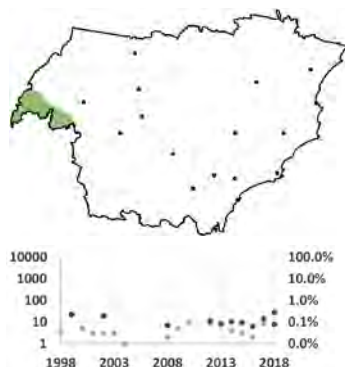
Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident, restricted principally to Goulburn River National Park and other lowland woodlands of the Goulburn Valley. Birds recorded in the Williamstown-Salt Ash and Ellalong areas are not wild birds.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR No confirmed breeding, but four immature birds were at Summerhill Road 28 Jun (ROM). **CT** Eight birds at Durrigere Road 12 Jun (WAB, JOJ); Four Birds at Millers Dam, Ulan Road 23 Apr (ROM). **LC** Two birds present at The Rivers, GRNP from 3-5 Sep (BRM) were the most easterly records for the year.

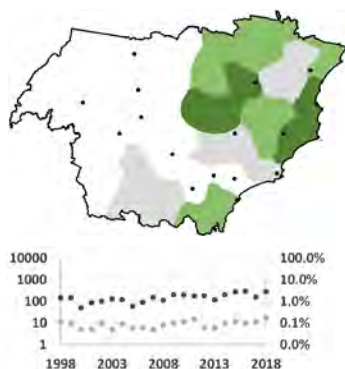


Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathami*

1^{BR}

Resident of wet forests throughout the east of the Region. The population in the region appears to be increasing, consistent with an expansion of range to the south, as reflected within the long-term trend.

BR Dependent young were at Wingham Brush NR 23 Jan (MUL) and 12 Nov (REC), and Gloucester Tops Campground 27 Nov (COJ). **CT** Many observations of over ten birds were made at Wingham Brush NR, with a peak count of 17 11 Jan and 11 Dec (ANF). **LC** Western records at Mount Dangar 1 Jun (GRL) and Ringwood Road, GRNP 27 Aug (ROM).



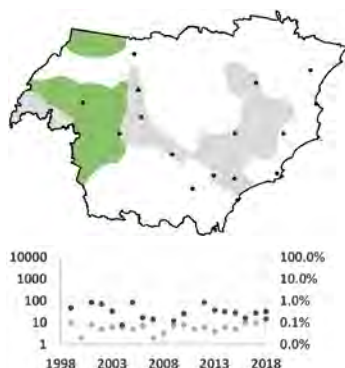
Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

1_M^{nr}

Uncertain, possibly irruptive. Detected principally by call, often within seeding grasslands or cultivated areas.

The long-term trend is difficult to interpret, but occasional irruption years are evident.

CT A peak count of 15 birds at Wallalong Road 1 Dec, with six birds there 12 Nov (BRG); Six birds at Hexham Swamp 15 Dec (KEM). **LC** A single bird at Gloucester WWTP 17 Nov (MUL) was the only record in the Region for the year from outside of the Hunter Valley.



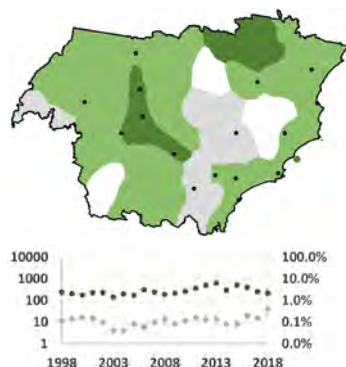
Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus*

1^{BR}

Resident, with up to ten birds moderately often recorded. More common in coastal habitats and in the west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population with a notable influx from 2011 through 2016.

BR Pairs had dependent young at MLNP 21 Jan (PAT), Minimbah 18 Mar (ROM), and Broughton Island 3 Nov (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of c. 40 birds at Minimbah 18 Mar (ROM), with 29 birds there 8 May (WAB, JOJ); 16 birds at Hexham Swamp 5 May (KEM).



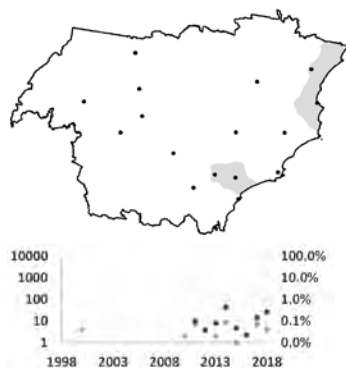
King Quail *Synoicus chinensis*

2^{nr}

Rare, possibly overlooked. Recorded principally in areas of coastal heath and adjacent wetlands.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase, but this might be due to increased survey effort.

CT Regularly recorded at Minimbah, with a peak count of four birds 25 Apr (KEM) and 28 Apr (BEI). Also regularly recorded at CBNP, with a peak count of three birds 3 Mar (KEM, BEA). Other locations include at Cattai Wetlands 2 Mar (DCH) and Hexham Swamp 14 Aug (WAB, JOJ).



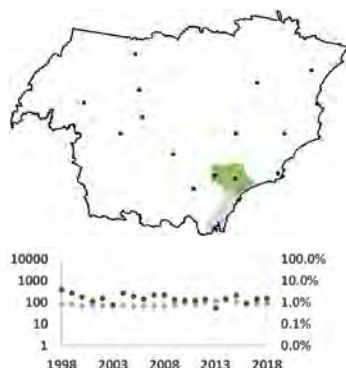
Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

V | 2^{BR}

Resident, comprising principally the Hunter Wetlands Centre population, following re-introduction in the 1980s. Occasionally recorded at other locations in the Hunter Estuary.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A count of 20 birds including four juveniles at the 2HD Swamp, Sandgate 4 Dec (CLM), increased to 30 birds including 6 juveniles 18 Dec (STR); A single bird was sitting on what was likely a nest at Newcastle Wetlands Reserve 15 Sep (KEM). **CT** A count of 91 birds at the HWC 10 Feb (LIP) was the annual peak.



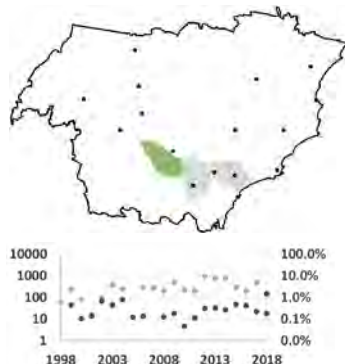
Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

1^{BR}

Resident, recorded principally at small water bodies in the Lower Hunter, especially at Doughboy Hollow. The population in the Region fluctuates in response to irruptive visitors from inland, as evident in the long-term trend.

CT A peak count of 150+ birds at Doughboy Hollow 28 Apr (KEM); 85 birds at Doughboy Hollow 18 Oct (BRM).

LC A record from Salamander Bay WWTP 15 Aug (BUA) is a new location for this species.



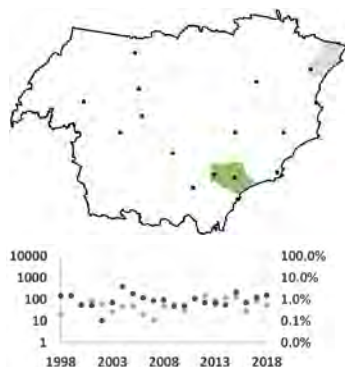
Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

1^{BR}

Resident, with small numbers often recorded at wetland locations of the Hunter and Manning Estuaries. The population in the Region fluctuates in response to irruptive visitors.

The long-term trend is difficult to interpret, but occasional irruption years are evident.

CT A peak count of 55 birds at Rural Drive Swamp, Sandgate 1 Dec (STR) and 52 birds 7 Dec (KEM); 37 birds at the same location 3 Jan (HAC). **LC** Two birds were present at Cattai Wetlands 19 Nov (STJ) and 29 Dec (GIT).



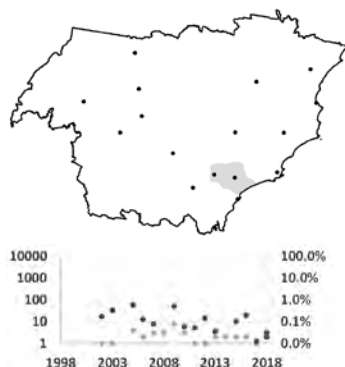
Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

V | 2^R^{br}

Rare visitor, typically in response to inland drought conditions.

The long-term trend is difficult to interpret, but occasional irruption years are evident.

A record of two female birds at WWW 9 Aug (CLM) was the only record for the year.



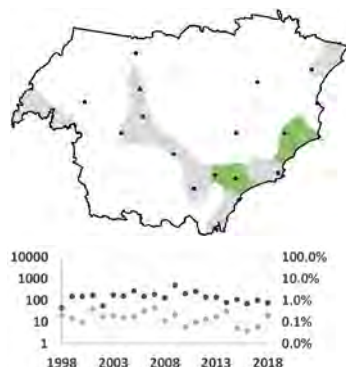
Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

1_L^{BR}

Resident, recorded principally at large water bodies in the Hunter Valley and Myall Lakes.

The long-term trend is uncertain as it may be influenced by survey effort.

BR A female was feeding a young bird at Millers Dam, Ulan Road 4 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 20 birds at Grahamstown Dam 14 Oct (YAO). Otherwise, counts were all below ten birds, most typically of single birds only.



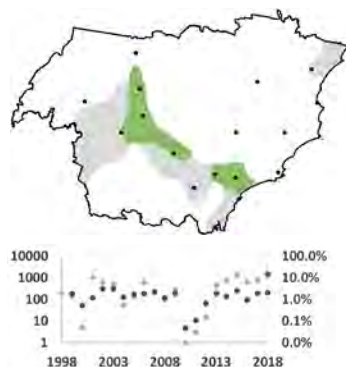
Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

1_M^{br}

Irruptive visitor, typically in response to inland drought conditions.

The long-term trend exhibits notable fluctuations.

CT Counts of up to a few hundred birds were made throughout the year at the key sites of Muswellbrook WWTP, Morpeth WWTP and SWGC. However, numbers dropped at the former in September coinciding with a substantial growth in numbers at SWGC, with c.1500 birds 15 Sep (KEM) and 1400 29 Sep (ROM).



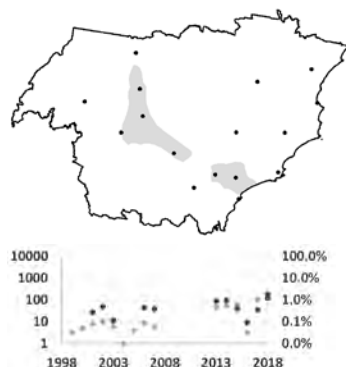
Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

V | 2_U

Uncommon irruptive visitor, typically in response to inland drought conditions.

The long-term trend shows unprecedented numbers since 2013.

CT Peak monthly counts were typically no larger than 50 birds but grew to record numbers over May-Jun. A peak count of 182 birds at SWGC 2 Jun was the largest ever for the Region (BEA), with 161 birds present there 26 May (KEM) and 108 9 May (BEA). **LC** A bird was at Millers Dam, Ulan Road 27 Oct (ROM).



Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

4

Accidental. A single bird was recorded at locations around Newcastle over Apr-Jun 2011. It was the 16th confirmed record for NSW.

No reports were received for 2018.

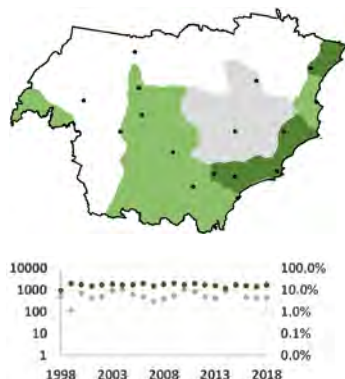
Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

1^{BR}

Common resident. Up to 50 birds widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters, both coastally and within the Hunter Valley.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations across the Hunter Estuary and Lower Hunter, Tocal and Cattai Wetlands. **CT** A peak count of c.450 birds at Coon Island NR, Lake Macquarie 10 Jan (HAC); 356 birds at Morpeth WWTP 4 Apr (LIA); 290 birds at Hexham Swamp 5 May (KEM).



Radjah Shelduck *Radjah radjah*

3

Accidental. A pair was recorded from 2005 to 2009, often observed at Bombah Point, MLNP or at Bulahdelah. From 2009 only a single bird remained, with the last reported sighting 8 October 2015.

No reports were received for 2018.

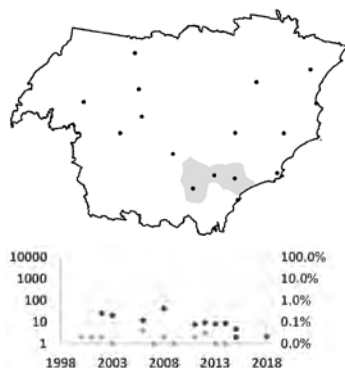
Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

2^R

Rare visitor, recorded principally in the Hunter Valley.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

E | 4

Accidental. A female bird was present at Minmi STP from 3-21 July 2002 and again at Hands Lagoon, Bolwarra from 8-14 October 2002. The Minmi record was accepted by ORAC and attracted many observers.

No reports were received for 2018.

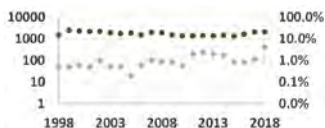
Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations across the Region. **CT** A peak count of c. 400 birds at SWGC 9 May (BEA), with 131 birds there 24 Jan and 98 birds 26 May (KEM); 152 birds at Tuncurry 4 Mar (KEM); 122 birds near Cassilis Rest Area 26 Feb (KEM).



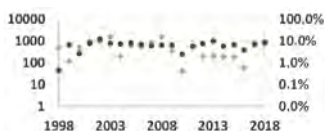
Hardhead *Aythya australis*

1^{br}

Usual resident, with up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters. The population in the Region fluctuates in response to irruptive visitors from inland.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

CT A peak count of 756 birds at Morpeth WWTP 4 Apr (LIA); c. 450 birds at Deep Pond 7 Dec (BEI); c. 350 birds at SWGC 9 May (BEA). Outside of the Hunter Valley, c.100 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 26 July (MOT); 89 birds at Tanilba Bay WWTP 8 Sep (KEM).



Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

4

Accidental. A single male in full breeding plumage was present at Market Swamp, Shortland from 4-10 December 1993, being the only record for NSW.

No reports were received for 2018.

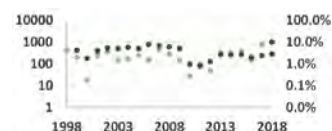
Australasian Shoveler *Spatula rhynchotis*

1^{BR}
M

Resident, with up to ten birds moderately often recorded at medium to large fresh waters. The population in the Region fluctuates in response to irruptive visitors from inland.

The long-term trend shows a population that is currently in recovery, following a crash in 2010.

CT Counts no larger than 100 birds were made throughout most of the year but grew to record numbers over May-Jul. A peak count of 1040 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun (KEM); 662 birds at Morpeth WWTP 28 May (LIA). **LC** Two birds were at Millers Dam, Ulan Road 24 Feb (KEM).



Accidental. An adult male was present at Ash Island from 29 July to 1 August 2002. The bird attracted much local and national interest and was seen by many observers in the short time that it was present. No reports were received for 2018.

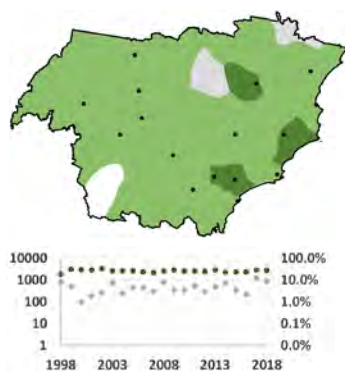
Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 50 birds regularly recorded at small to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations across the Hunter Estuary and Lower Hunter, Tocal, Forster and Cooperook Corner Wetlands. **CT** A peak count of 852 birds at Morpeth WWTP 4 Apr, with 326 birds there 7 Mar and 172 21 Dec (LIA). Outside of the Hunter Valley, c.130 birds were at Cattai Wetlands 9 Feb (HUI), with 103 birds there 25 Jun (STA).



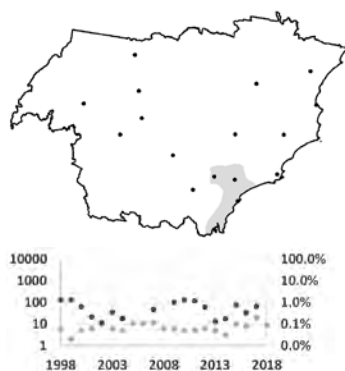
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

2^U

Uncommon resident, with most being hybrids, e.g. with Pacific Black Duck. There are very few pure birds, recorded principally at wetlands in the Hunter Estuary and Lake Macquarie.

The long-term trend is uncertain due to some records of Northern Mallard likely being of hybrids.

BR A pair with dependent young were at Wallsend Wetlands 22 Oct (BEI). **CT** A peak count of nine birds at Wallsend Wetlands 20 Dec (PAL), with seven birds there 31 Jul (KET). Birds were also recorded at Belmont, Galgabba, Morisset, Warabrook, and WWW.



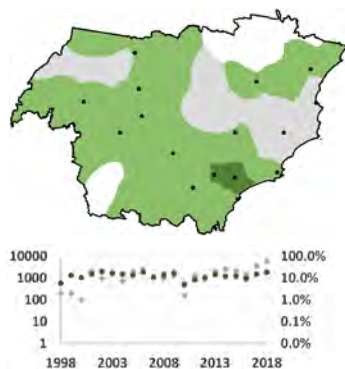
Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 50 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

The long-term trend shows a population that is currently in recovery, following an exodus in 2010.

BR Dependent young were at Ashtonfield 16 Apr (CLM) and 2 Dec (NAK), and Gloucester 1 Jan (DRP). **CT** Numbers in the Region increased over May-Aug, with peak count of over 5800 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun (KEM), which is by far the highest count recorded for them in the Hunter Estuary.



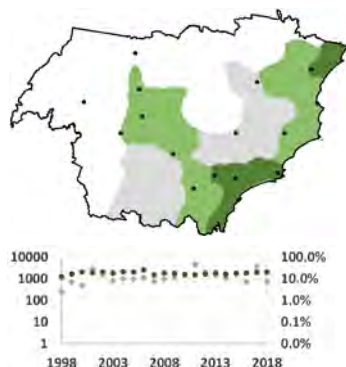
Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 50 birds regularly recorded at medium to large waters. More coastally restricted in range than Grey Teal.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at several locations within the Hunter Estuary, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens. **CT** A peak count of 729 birds at Morpeth WWTP 4 Apr, with 220-250 birds there from Jan through Mar (LIA). **LC** A bird at Millers Dam, Ulan Road 27 Oct (BEI) was an unusual westerly record.



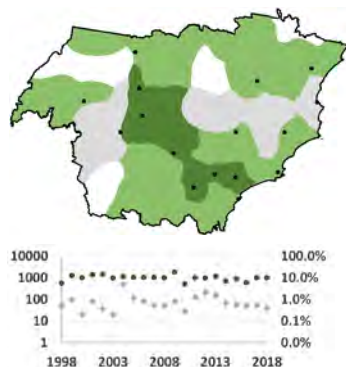
Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds frequently recorded at small to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Hunter Estuary and Lower Hunter. **CT** A peak count of c. 40 birds at WWW 14 Jan and 31 Jan (WPE); 34 birds at Irawang Swamp 15 August (WAB, JOJ); 31 birds at SBS 27 May (MCE); 26 birds at Morpeth WWTP 4 Apr (LIA); 24 birds at the HWC 2 Sep (MOA). Outside of the Hunter Valley, 12 birds at Cattai Wetlands 30 Aug (STA).



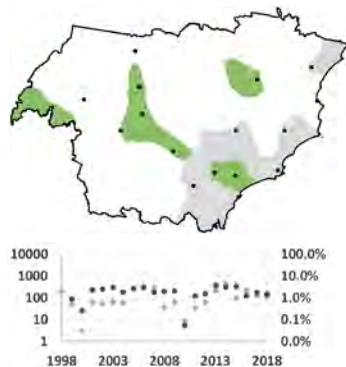
Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

1^{M^{br}}

Irruptive visitor in response to inland drought. Recorded principally at wetland locations in the Hunter Valley.

The long-term trend shows notable fluctuations.

CT A peak count of c. 110 birds at WWW 13 Jun (MEL); c.100 birds at Grahamstown Dam 20 May (HBOC); c.80 birds at Bootawa Dam 16 Jul (ROM); 56 birds at Lake Liddell 23 Jul (STA); 22 birds at Pokolbin 20 Jul (LAS); 15 birds at SWGC 15 Sep (KEM); 15 birds at Millers Dam, Ulan Road 11 Apr (KEM); 14 birds at Muswellbrook WWTP 28 Apr (KEM).



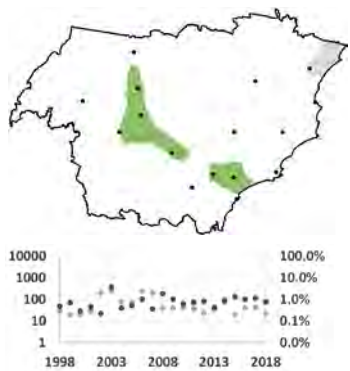
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

1^{BR}

Resident, recorded principally at large water bodies in the Hunter and Manning Valleys.

The long-term trend is uncertain and perhaps is influenced by survey effort.

BR Four nest sites were identified at WWW 14 Mar (CLM). **CT** A peak count of 22 birds at WWW 14 Mar (CLM); 16 birds at Bootawa Dam 16 Jul (ROM); 12 birds at Grahamstown Dam 14 Oct (YAO); four birds at Lake Liddell 23 Jul (STA); Two birds at Lake Glenbawn 6 May (ABC).



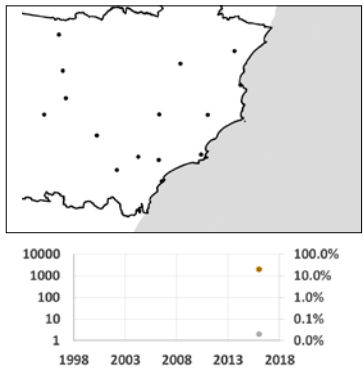
Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

V | 2^R

Rare summer visitor, recorded principally often recorded as birds taken into care following rough weather.

Insufficient pelagic trip data to indicate any trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

3

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: an immature bird from BBNP 12 January 1994; a bird taken into care at Stewarts Brook 21 March 2000; a single bird over Merewether Heights 31 January 2013; two birds on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 12 January 2014; a dead bird found at Redhead Beach 24 April 2015.

Records for the Region also known from 1956 and 1984.

No reports were received for 2018.

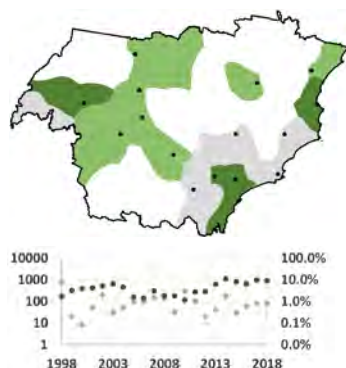
Rock Dove *Columba livia*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds moderately often recorded at urban locations.

The long-term trend is uncertain as it perhaps is influenced by survey effort.

CT Peak counts of 80 birds at Brickworks Park, Wallsend 16 May and 80 birds at Doughboy Hollow 16 Sep (KEM); 70 birds at Tarro 4 July (DON); 60 birds at Buttaba 21 Apr (NIS); 51 birds at Raymond Terrace 21 Apr (HUN, WIJ); 50 birds at Stockton 16 Mar (TBW); 50 birds at Denman 18 Jul (BLG); 50 birds at Heatherbrae 24 Jul (LAN).



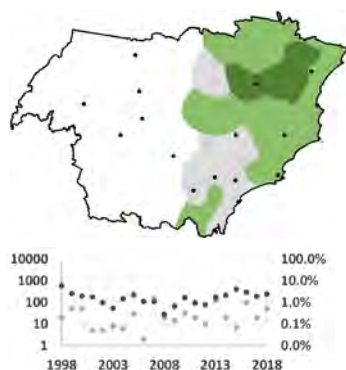
White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

1^{BR}

Resident with several birds moderately often recorded near wet forest locations throughout the east of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with some fluctuation.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a pair was with two juvenile birds at Eagleton 13 Feb (MEN). **CT** A peak count of over 50 birds at Stroud 30 Apr (STA); 25 birds at Wootton 30 Aug (HEL); 19 birds at Saltwater NP 3 Feb (STA); 18 birds at Booral 16 Feb (KEM); 14 birds at Bush Haven, Seaham 9 Oct (STR, STD).



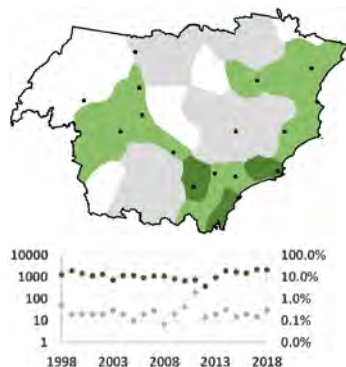
Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with several birds regularly recorded, principally at urban locations and their rural surrounds.

The long-term trend is uncertain as it perhaps is influenced by survey effort.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a few birds were on nests in the Newcastle area. **CT** A peak count of c. 30 birds at North Lambton 4 Jul (BEI); c. 20 birds at Forster in May (CAA); c. 20 birds at Morpeth Common 29 Aug (CLM); 18 birds at Tarro Wetlands 8 Oct (YAO).



Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella*

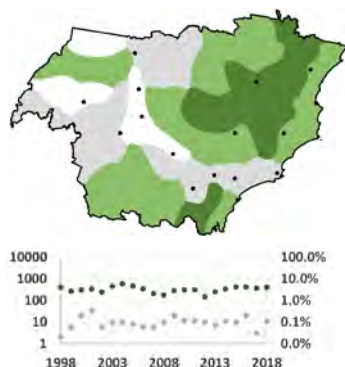
1^{BR}

Usual resident, with a few birds often recorded in well-forested areas.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with some fluctuation.

BR Birds had a nest with eggs at Mungo Brush 23 Jul (TJ).

CT A peak count of 11 birds at Wallingat NP 20 Jan (PAT); Nine birds at Copeland Tops SCA 17 Feb (KEM); Eight birds at Cattai Wetlands 2 Dec (RHC); Seven birds at The Old Brush, Brunkerville 28 Dec (HBOC); Six birds near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK).



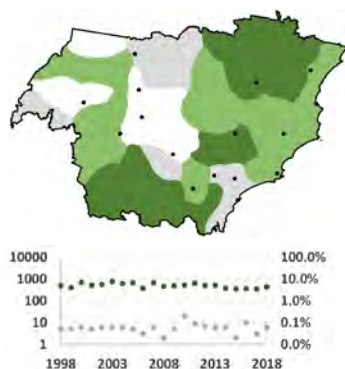
Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

1^{BR}

Usual resident, with a few birds often recorded in well-forested areas. Prefers wet forest, with some apparent movement to drier habitat in the winter months.

Difficult to interpret the long-term trend, but potentially shows a recent population decline.

BR A bird was on a nest at HEZ 25 Nov (LIA) and 1 Dec (CLM). **CT** A peak count of five birds at Gloucester Tops Campground 27 Nov (COJ); four birds at Abernethy 18 Nov (HBOC).



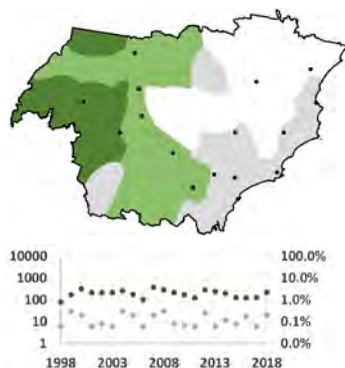
Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

1^{BR}

Resident, with a preference for drier woodland, particularly in the west of the Region, but occasionally recorded in other habitats.

The long-term trend shows some distinct population increases followed by steady declines.

CT Peak counts of c. 20 birds at Goulburn River NP locations 27 Aug and 4 Sep (ROM, BRM); 17 birds at Summerhill Road 29 Jun (ROM); 11 birds at Hebden 17 Oct (MIH); ten birds at HEZ 11 Dec (ROM).



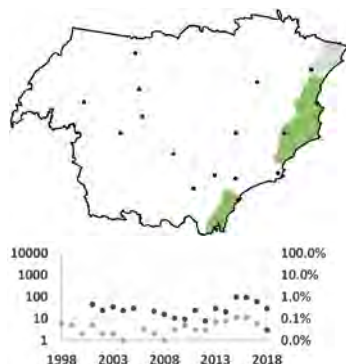
Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

2^{nr}

Uncommon resident, restricted principally to coastal heath locations and adjacent scrublands.

The long-term trend is probably stable, in recent years there has been increased survey effort in the Belmont area.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were copulating at Belmont Lagoon 15 Oct (FEG). **CT** A peak count of three birds at Belmont Lagoon 28 Sep (FEG); Three birds at Munmorah SCA 17 Nov (CIR). Other reported locations include a single bird at Smiths Lake 6 Apr (GOS) and a single bird at Minimbah 27 Sep (KEM).



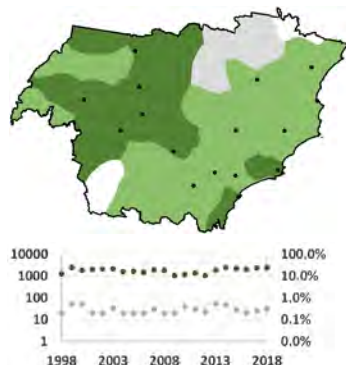
Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were seen exhibiting a variety of breeding behaviour across the Region. **CT** A peak count of 33 birds at Oyster Cove 12 Jul (WOL); c. 30 birds at Black Hill 8 Jul (THJ); c. 30 birds at Tarro Wetlands 30 Nov (CLM); 25 birds at SWGC 26 May (KEM); 23 birds at Wingen 25 Jan (NEG); 21 birds at Bulahdelah 25 Apr (MOA); 21 birds at Whittingham 2 Jun (KRH).



Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

3^{nr}

Accidental. Accepted records; a single bird at Ellalong 28-30 September 1995; a single bird at Kayuga 21 June 2003; a single bird at Durridgere SCA 3-6 April 2015; a single bird at Durridgere Road 6 December 2016.

No reports were received for 2018.

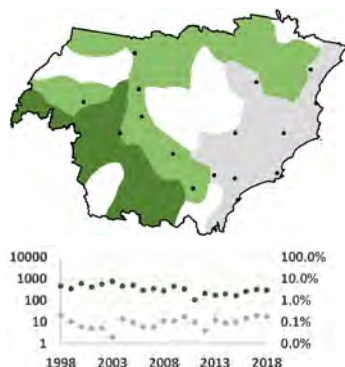
Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

1^{BR}

Usual resident, with several birds often recorded in woodland areas.

The long-term trend is uncertain but may indicate an overall population decline.

CT A peak count of 18 birds at GRNP 8 Aug (BRM); 16 birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); 12 birds at Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM); Ten birds at Bush Haven, Seaham 6 Feb (HBOC); Nine birds at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM); Eight birds at HEZ 5 May (ROM) and seven there 30 Dec (LIA); Seven birds at Denman WWTP 24 Jun (NAK).



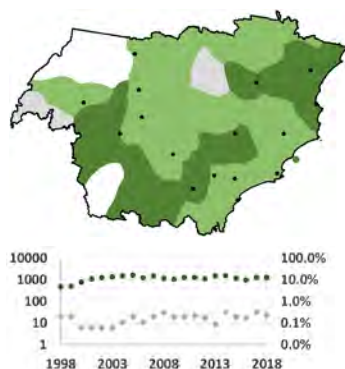
Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

1^{BR}

Usual resident, with several birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with some fluctuation.

BR A pair had a nest with young at HEZ 29 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 22 birds at Belmont Lagoon 22 Feb (FEG); 15 birds at the HWC 19 Mar (COT); 15 birds at Copeland 31 Mar (WAC); 14 birds at CBNP 2 Apr (MUL); Nine birds at Quorrobolong 1 Sep (MOA); Eight birds at Myuna Bay 3 Apr (HBOC); Eight birds at Broughton Island over 20-22 Apr (HBOC).



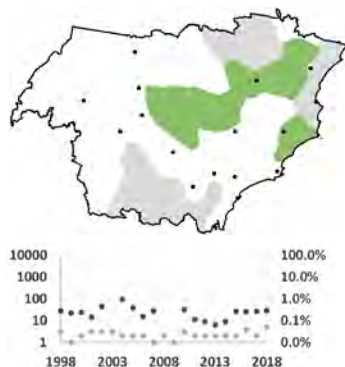
Brown-capped Emerald-Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

2_U^{nr}

Uncommon resident, likely locally nomadic in response to fruiting rainforest trees.

The long-term trend is difficult to interpret, but appears to suggest a relatively stable population.

CT A peak count of five birds at Mungo Brush 28 Oct (WID); Four birds at Bandon Grove 21 Oct (BRR); Three birds near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK); Two birds at Copeland Tops SCA 23 Jan (KET) and again 2 Apr (MOV); Two birds at Coopersnook SF 5 Nov (SMG).



Accidental. A single bird was at Lowreys Road, Bulahdelah 11 May 2009 and accepted by NSW ORAC as the 9th record for NSW. The record was coincident with others across the State. No reports were received for 2018.

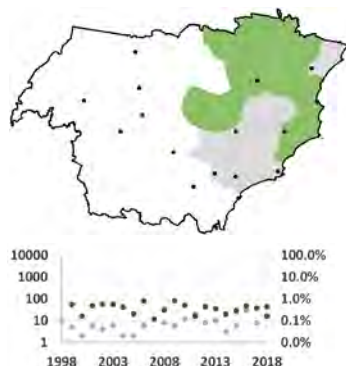
Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnifica*

V | 2^{nr}

Resident, locally nomadic in response to fruiting rainforest trees.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with some fluctuation.

CT A peak count of three birds at Paterson 21 Feb (HAC) and two birds there 14 Aug (STD); Two birds at Copeland Tops SCA 4 Jan (GEG) and again 16 Oct (WEB); Two birds at Allyn River 28 Oct (MOA, EDS). Single birds were also at Woko NP 7 Apr (COJ), Mungo Brush 2 Jan (BUM), Harrington Rainforest 20 Oct (KEM) and Myall View over 25-27 Jan (STA, KAA).



Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

V | 3^{nr}

Accidental, or rare bird of passage. Accepted records: a dead bird retrieved near Pacific Palms 19 April 1996; a bird heard calling at Gloucester River 4 December 1999; a single bird at Harrington 23 November 2006; a dead bird retrieved at Merewether Heights 1 May 2009; two male birds at Booti Hill Track 10 May 2016.

No reports were received for 2018.

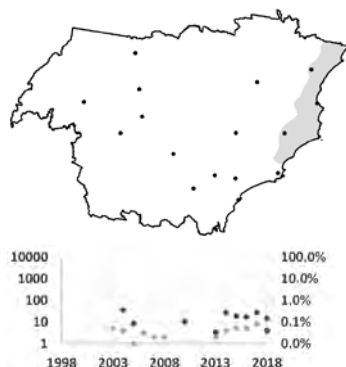
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

V | 2^{nr}

Rare visitor, likely nomadic in response to fruiting rainforest trees. Recorded principally at littoral rainforest locations.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of four birds at Harrington Rainforest 11 Mar (WID, BEI), with two seen there 4 Mar (KEM); Two birds at Seal Rocks Rainforest 14 Jan (KEM). Single birds were also at Mungo Brush 8 Feb (TAM) and again 23 Feb (GOS) and Saltwater NP 8 Dec (STJ).



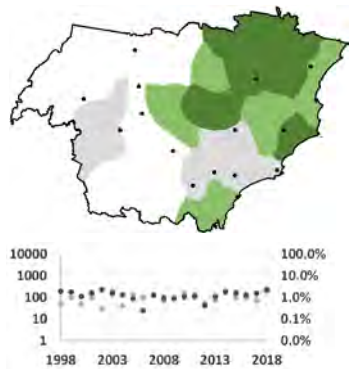
Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

1_M^{br}

Resident, locally nomadic in response to fruiting rainforest trees. Large flocks are occasionally observed.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with some fluctuation.

CT See supplementary records. **CT** A peak count of c. 200 birds flying south over WCL 23 Jul (LIA); 64 birds at North Lambton 30 Jun (BEI); 46 birds at Tinonee 29 Oct (DRA); c. 40 birds at Tahlee 2 May (FLS); 35 birds at Belmont Lagoon 8 Sep (SDE); 34 birds over Maitland 15 Oct (DON); 34 birds over Rankin Park 18 Oct (KET).



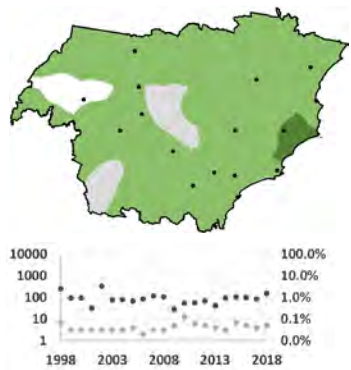
Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

1_C^{BR}

Resident, with a few birds moderately often recorded, principally when active at night, but also at daytime roost sites.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at Carrington 31 Oct and 8 Nov (BEI), Gloucester Tops Campground 30 Nov (COJ), Wallsend 10 Dec (KEM) and Forster in Nov (CAA). Also, several reports of adult birds on nests and immature birds from across the Region.



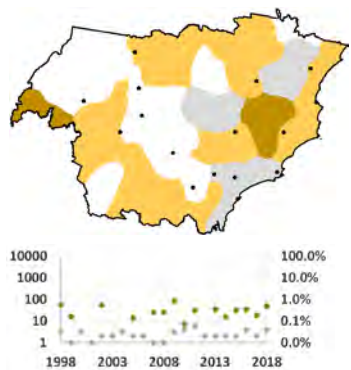
White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

1_M^{BR}

Summer migrant, heard more often than seen.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

DT The latest records were of a bird at Baxters Ridge 14 Apr (WOM) and Coralville 3 Mar (KEM); earliest returning bird was at Martindale 29 Sep (HBOC). **CT** Four birds were near Mungo Brush, MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ), with three birds there 15 Feb (BEI); two birds at Berrico 19 Nov (BRG) and two near Wollombi 5 Dec (JAM).



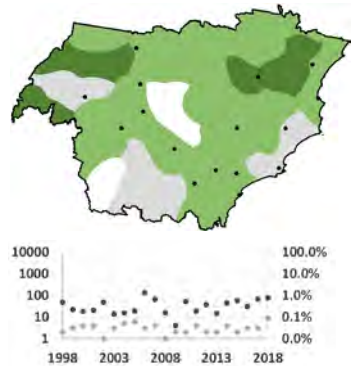
Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

1_c^{BR}

Resident, recorded principally when active at night, but occasionally at daytime roost sites.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Four birds at Smiths Lake 19 Feb, with three there 5 Apr (GOS); Four birds at Ringwood Road, GRNP 11 Mar, with three birds there 24 Feb (KEM); Three birds at Cattai Wetlands 28 Jan (KEM); Two birds near Mungo Brush, MLNP 30 Jan (WAI) and again there 3 Feb (KEM); Two birds near Cobark 17 Feb (KEM).



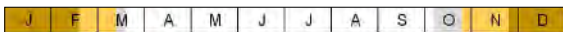
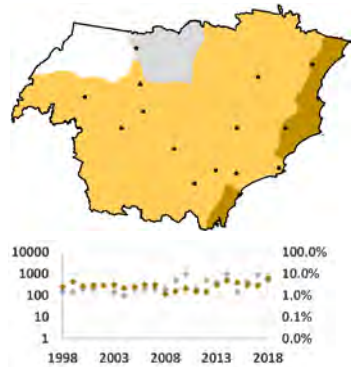
White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

V | | 2_T

Summer migrant, with feeding flocks of up to 30 birds often recorded, sometimes associated with high pressure systems.

The species is known to be in decline, being recently listed as threatened. The WRR data appears stable but may reflect an increased survey effort.

DT The latest record was of 34 birds flying north over Ash Island 14 Apr (HBOC); earliest returning record was of 12 birds at Harrington 4 Oct (BEN). **CT** Peak counts of c.500 birds at Tahlee 12 Mar (FLS), c.450 birds at Coralville 2 Dec (KEM) and c.400 birds at Tomago 18 Dec (HBOC).



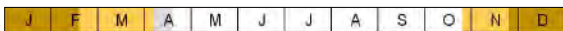
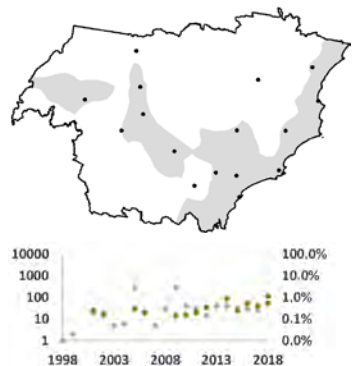
Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

2_U

Uncommon summer migrant, principally recorded as a few birds associating with larger flocks of Needletails, but sometimes recorded in large flocks themselves.

The species is understood to be locally in decline. The WRR data appears stable but may reflect an increased survey effort.

DT The latest record was a single at Stockton Beach 15 Apr (ROM); earliest returning was 24 birds at Ringwood Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM). **CT** Peak counts of 55 birds at MESP 3 Dec (BEI) and of c.50 birds in the same area 11 Jan (DEB).



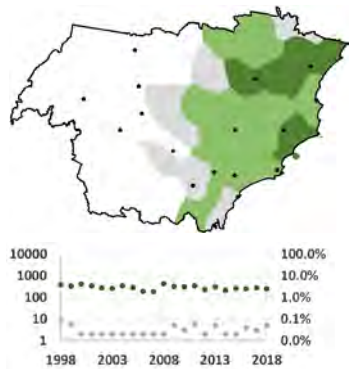
Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

1^{BR}

Resident, with a few birds often recorded throughout the east of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a few records of suggestive breeding behaviour across the Region. **CT** A peak count of five birds at CBNP 2 Dec (KEM); Three birds at Fletcher 19 Oct (KEI).



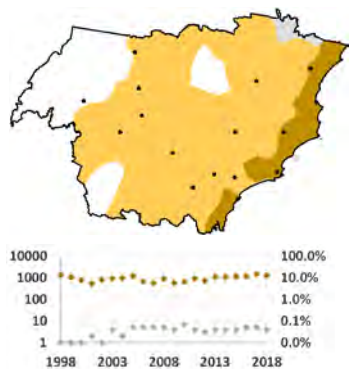
Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

1^M

Usual summer migrant, with several birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A young bird was being fed by Red Wattlebirds at Hamilton 24 Dec (KEM). **DT** The latest records were at Soldiers Point 25 Mar (LIK) and Harrington Rainforest 11 Mar (WID); earliest returning birds were at Forster 8 Sep (WHS) and North Lambton 14 Sep (BEL).



Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

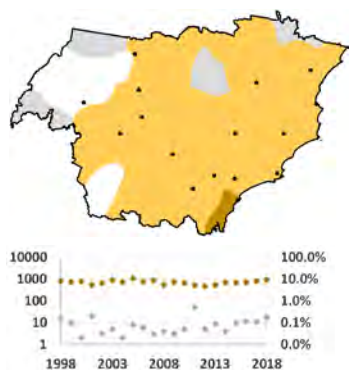
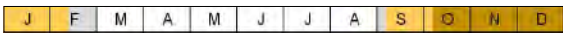
1^M

Common summer migrant, with several birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population

BR Records of young birds in Pied Currawong nests at Wallsend over 2-10 Jan (KEM), Gloucester Tops Campground 30 Nov (COJ) and Forster 26 Dec (MOA).

DT The latest records were at Pambalong NR 3 Mar (MOA) and Hamilton 25 Feb (BEI); earliest returning birds were at Jimmys Beach 5 Sep (INA) and Morisset 6 Sep (MCN). **CT** 17 birds roosting in a tree at Wollombi 14 Nov (JAM).

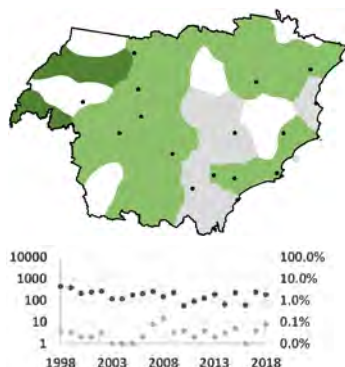


Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalus*

1^{BR}_M

Summer migrant, with regular records in winter. More common in coastal habitats and in the west of the Region. The long-term trend is uncertain and fluctuates.

BR Recently fledged young near Wingen 24 Jan (ROM, CLT). **DT** The latest records were of birds at Tahlee until 30 May (FLS); earliest returning (or possibly overwintering) birds were at Shortland 4 Aug (ROM) and Hexham Swamp 11 Aug (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of eight birds at Roma Road, Merriwa 16 Sep (WID); Three birds at Irrawang Swamp 14 Jan (MEL).



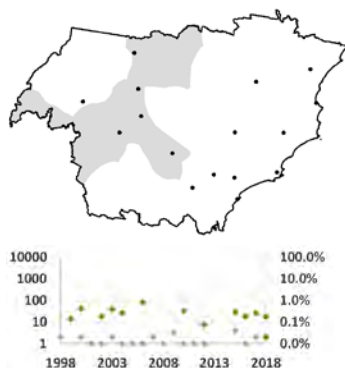
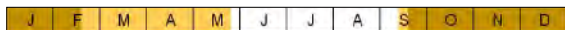
Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

2^{br}_R

Rare summer migrant, recorded principally within the west of the Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Two birds at Durrigere SCA 6 Nov (WAB, JOI); single birds at Roma Road, Merriwa 16 Sep (WID), at Durrigere SCA and two locations on Durrigere Road 4 Nov (KEM), Battery Rock 11 Nov (GOL) and on Summerhill Road 19 Nov (BRG).



Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus*

1^{BR}_M

New Zealand Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

ssp. lucidus

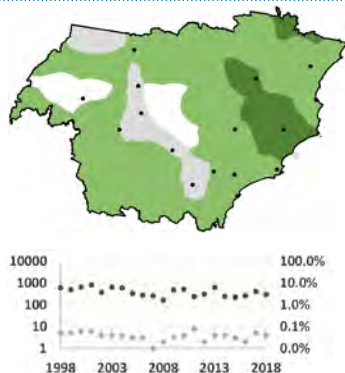
Australian Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

ssp. plagosus

plagosus a summer migrant, with regular records in winter. A few birds moderately often recorded. *lucidus* an uncommon bird of passage.

The long-term trend is uncertain, but may indicate an overall population decline.

SS Individuals identified as *ssp. lucidus* were photographed at Kurri Kurri and WWW, both on 6 Oct (ROM, JED).



Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus*

3

Accidental. A single bird was at East Seaham 20 April 2004. The species has also been previously recorded in the Region in 1992. No reports were received for 2018.

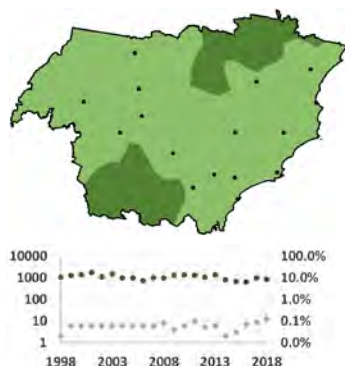
Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with several birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend is uncertain, but may indicate an overall population decline.

BR A young bird being fed by a Large-billed Scrubwren near Boolambayte 10 Dec (WID). **CT** A peak count of 13 birds at Tahlee 11 Apr (FLS); Eight birds at The Rivers, GRNP 8 Aug (BRM); Eight birds at Martindale 28 Sep (HBOC); Five birds at Harrington 4 Oct (BEN); Five birds at Mount Vincent 21 Oct (HBOC).



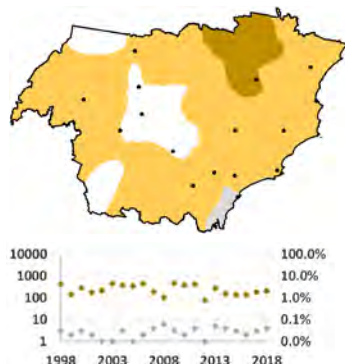
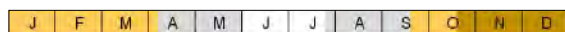
Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

1^{BR}
M

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend exhibits notable fluctuations.

DT The latest records were at Wingham Brush NR 7 Feb (WEP) and Cattai Wetlands 10 Jan (ANF); earliest returning birds were at Gloucester Tops 25 Sep (BEI) and in Olney SF 30 Sep (CAC). **CT** Four birds near Copeland 9 Nov (SOR); Two birds at Cattai Wetlands 1 Jan (FAA) and 13 Dec (GAS), Copeland Tops SCA 16 Oct (WEB), Wingham Brush NR 29 Oct (DRA) and GWC 12 Nov (BRG).



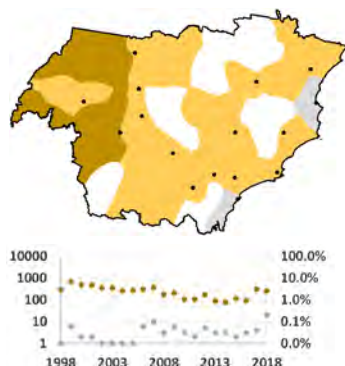
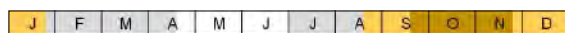
Pallid Cuckoo *Heteroscenes pallidus*

1^{BR}
M

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend indicates a recent population decline. However, an influx of birds to the Region occurred in spring 2017.

BR A young bird was being fed by a Lewin's Honeyeater at Cattai Wetlands 9 Feb (HUJ). **DT** The breeding record was the only record of any birds before the winter period; earliest returning birds were at Rothbury 5 Aug (ROM) and McCullys Gap 27 Aug (CAC).



Accidental. Accepted records: two birds at Edgeworth 30 September 1994; a single bird at Hunter Wetlands Centre 7 January 1999; a single bird at Green Wattle Creek Road 4 March 2001; a single bird at Old Bar 21 February 2002; two birds at Wyee Point 28 November 2004; a single bird at WWW 10-15 February 2016; an influx of multiple birds during 2017, predominantly in March and April.

No reports were received for 2018.

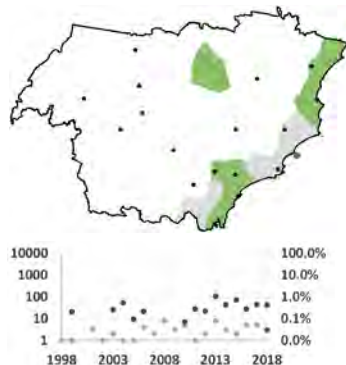
Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

1^{BR}
c

Resident, probably overlooked as more often heard than seen. Recorded principally at coastal wetland locations and the Gloucester Tops but can occur in very marginal habitat, so probably much more widespread than the data suggests.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Three birds at Minimbah 27 Sep (KEM); three birds at Belmont Swamp 2 Nov (BRM, BEJ); birds also at Broughton Island over 19-20 Jan and again 2 Nov (HBOC).



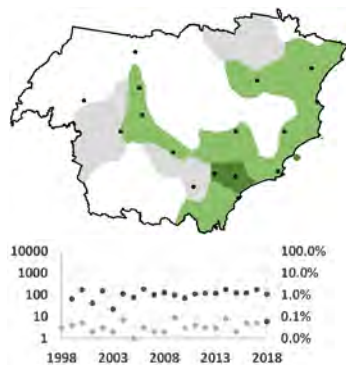
Buff-banded Rail *Hypotaenidia philippensis*

1^{BR}
c

Resident, with a few birds moderately often recorded. Not as reclusive as Lewin's Rail and so recorded more frequently, often sighted.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with some fluctuation.

BR Fledged young were at Lavis Lane, Williamtown 11 Feb (WID) and Hexham Swamp 19 Nov (BRG). **CT** Six birds at Broughton Island 3 Nov (HBOC); Two birds at Whistler Parade, Maryland 8 Aug (WHD).



Buff banded Rail by Rob Palazzi

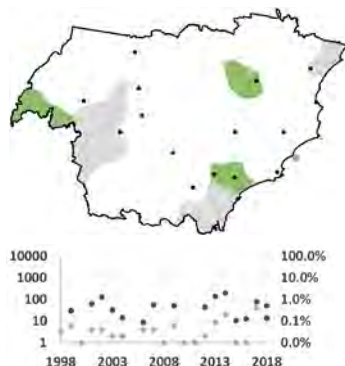
Australian Spotted Crane *Porzana fluminea*

1^{BR}_M

Irruptive visitor, in response to suitable wetland water level conditions.

Occasional influxes evident within the long-term trend data.

CT Four birds at Millers Dam, Ulan 29 Jun (ROM); Four birds at Whistler Parade, Maryland 8 Aug (WHD), with three birds there 14 Apr (HBOC) and 2 Aug (KET); Three birds at Hexham Swamp 5 May (KEM); Three birds at Ash Island 10 Sep (BAA).



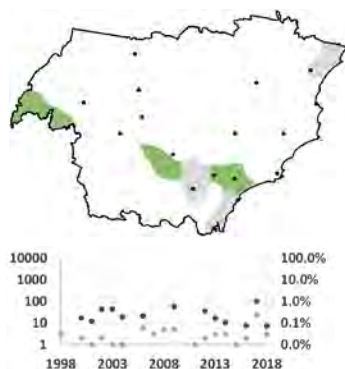
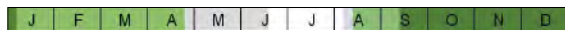
Baillon's Crane *Zapornia pusilla*

2^U_{br}

Uncommon irruptive visitor, in response to suitable wetland water level conditions. Only recorded during the warmer months.

Occasional influxes evident within the long-term trend data.

CT Three birds at Brickworks Park, Wallsend 28 Sep (DOT); Single birds at WWW over 2-4 Jan (MCR, MEL), Hexham Swamp 11 Aug (KEM) and Millers Dam, Ulan 1 Oct (ROM).



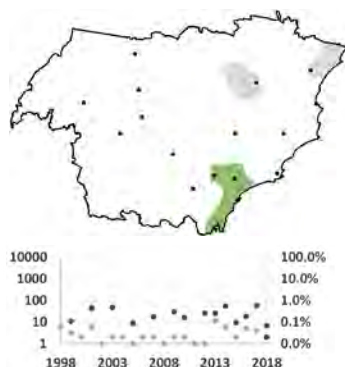
Spotless Crane *Zapornia tabuensis*

2^U_{br}

Uncommon irruptive visitor, in response to suitable wetland water level conditions.

Occasional influxes evident within the long-term trend data.

CT Two birds at WWW 14 Mar and a single bird 9 Aug (CLM); Two birds at Hexham Swamp 15 Dec and a single bird 11 Aug (KEM); A single bird at Ash Island 13 Jan and 14 Apr (HBOC). **LC** Outside of the Hunter Estuary, a single bird seen by the roadside near Stratford 27 Mar (STA).



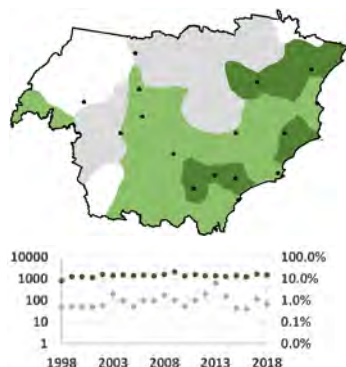
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds frequently recorded, principally at wetland locations throughout the east of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Numerous records of fledged young from across the Region. **CT** A peak count of 66 birds at the HWC 27 Feb (STR), with many other large counts there throughout the year (STR, LIP); c.40 birds at Whistler Parade, Maryland 14 Apr and c.30 there 19 May (HBOC); c.30 birds at Leneghans Drive 16 May (THJ); c.30 birds at Lake Liddell Recreation Park 28 Jan (WAC).



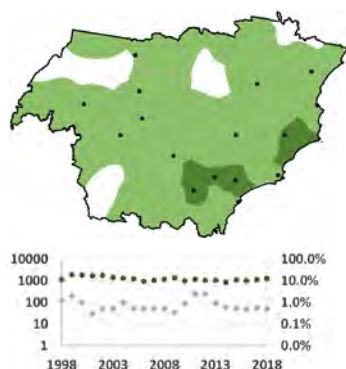
Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds frequently recorded at small to medium waters and up to 50 birds at medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a current stable population.

BR Numerous records of fledged young from across the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.50 birds at WWW 9 May (FLS) and 28 birds there 11 Apr (CLM); 42 birds at Warabrook Wetlands 22 Jan, with many other large counts there throughout the year (MDR); 42 birds at Kitchener 6 May (KEM).

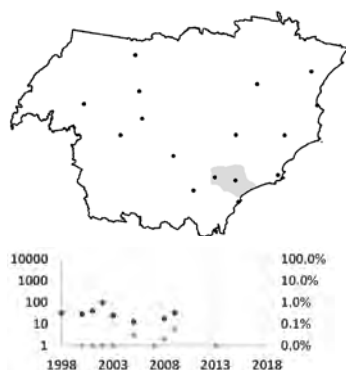


Black-tailed Native-hen *Tribonyx ventralis*

2^{nr}_R

Rare irruptive visitor in response to inland drought conditions. The last influx occurred in 2009, as supported by the long-term trend data.

No reports were received for 2018.



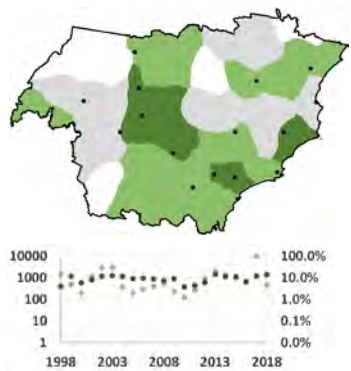
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

1^{BR}

Usual resident, with up to 50 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR A bird was on a nest near Wingham 29 Oct (DRA). **CT** A peak count of 493 birds at WWW 4 Jan and 452 birds there 12 Dec (MEL); 438 birds at Lake Liddell Recreation Park 6 Feb (LAA); c.400 birds at Forster Tuncurry Racecourse 11 Oct (FLS); 360 birds at Deep Pond 7 Dec (BEI); 327 birds at SWGC 17 Aug (KEM).



Brolga *Antigone rubicunda*

V | 3^{nr}

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Morpeth 27 November 2005; a single bird at Nabiac 5 February 2014; a single bird at Martindale 15 November 2015. No reports were received for 2018.

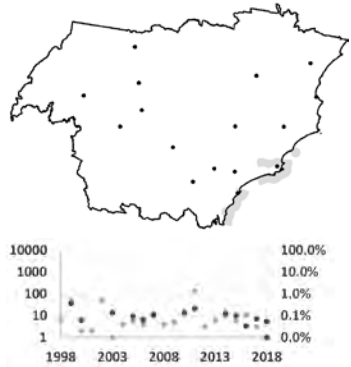
Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

2^U

Uncommon resident, recorded principally from inshore waters of Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie either from land or pelagic trips.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM); A single bird at Bennetts Beach, Hawks Nest 24 Feb (GOS).



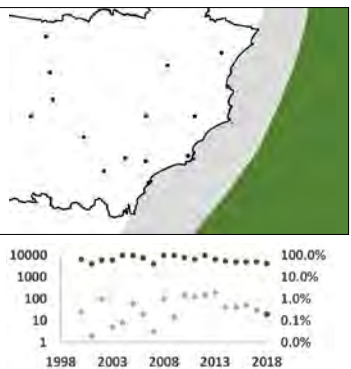
Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

1^M

Bird of passage, principally recorded from pelagic trips at the continental shelf break.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT 20 birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM); three birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); two birds from a Swansea pelagic 3 Nov (BEJ, BRM).



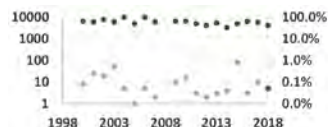
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White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

1^{BR}
M

Resident, principally recorded from pelagic trips at the continental shelf break and breeding on offshore islands. Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT five birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM); two birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); a single bird from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM).



White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

V | V | 5

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 26 March 2006; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 22 January 2007; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 27 March 2010

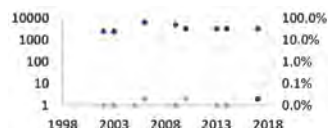
No reports were received for 2018.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

2^R

Rare winter visitor.

No reports were received for 2018.



New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Fregetta maoriana*

5

Accidental. A single bird was photographed at the continental shelf break on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 28 March 2010. The record was accepted by BARC as the 1st for Australia. A single bird was also recorded on a pelagic trip from Swansea 14 April 2013 and was accepted by BARC as the 6th for Australia. Another single bird was recorded on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 14 June 2015. However, New Zealand Storm-Petrel records have subsequently come into question due to the separate identification of the 'New Caledonian' form, which potentially represents a separate species. The situation is unlikely to be formally resolved until the New Caledonian Storm-Petrel is officially recognised scientifically. The currently understood position regarding Hunter Region records is that the 2010 bird is most likely New Zealand Storm-Petrel, with the 2013 and 2015 birds most likely New Caledonian Storm-Petrel. No reports were received for 2018.

WANDERING ALBATROSS TYPES

Uncommon 'winter' migrant in offshore waters. It can be a challenge to differentiate *D. exulans* and *D. antipodensis* in the field and the status of each species locally is not fully resolved.

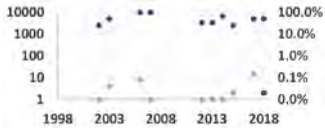


Wandering Albatross

Diomedea exulans

V | E | 2_u

Uncommon 'winter' migrant in offshore waters. Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



Antipodean

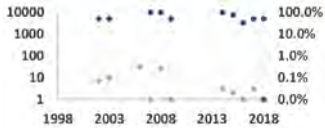
Diomedea antipodensis

V | V | 2_u

Eastern Antipodean Albatross ssp. *antipodensis*

Gibson's Albatross ssp. *gibsoni*

Uncommon 'winter' migrant in offshore waters. The majority of birds recorded are of ssp. *gibsoni* with *antipodensis* being rarer. Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



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

Wandering Albatross: two birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM).

Antipodean Albatross: a single bird from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM).

Records of unidentified birds: a single bird from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM).

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*

4

Accidental. Accepted records: a bird taken into care from Worimi Conservation Lands 19 March 2012; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 9 March 2014. No reports were received for 2018.

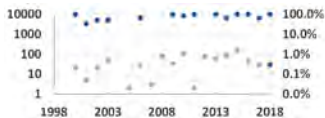
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*

V | | 2_T

Common winter migrant, regularly recorded, including from land.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

DT The earliest record was a single bird off Little Broughton Island 22 Apr (STA); latest record was from NOB 27 Oct (BEI). **CT** c.30 birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); five birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM). **LC** Records from land include up to six birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 17 Jul (BEI), with two seen from there 15 Jul (ROM).



Accidental. Beach-cast birds were found at two locations on Worimi Conservation Lands in mid-June 2014 and the records were accepted by NSW ORAC as probably (it was not on the NSW review list for a long period of time) the 31st for NSW.

No reports were received for 2018.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS TYPES

Common 'winter' migrant, regularly recorded, including from land. It is often a challenge to differentiate *T. melanophris* and *T. impavida* in the field and the status of each species locally is not fully resolved.

DT The earliest record was of four birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM); latest record was from a Swansea pelagic 2 Oct (STA). **CT** c.40 birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 15 Jul, with seven there 8 Jul (ROM).



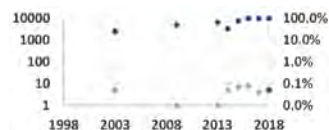
Black-browed Albatross

Thalassarche melanophris

V | V | 2_T

'Winter' migrant, identification confirmed principally from pelagic trips.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



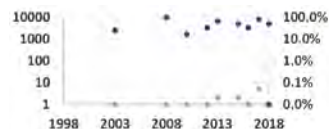
Campbell Albatross

Thalassarche impavida

V | V | 2_T

'Winter' migrant, identification confirmed principally from pelagic trips.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



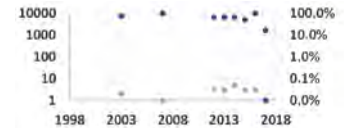
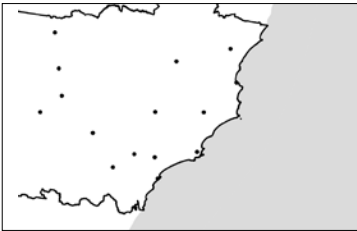
Confirmed records of either species are presented below, and then records for which the species could not be definitively assigned.

Black-browed Albatross: five birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM).

Campbell Albatross: two birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM).

Records of unidentified birds: The earliest record was of four birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM); latest record was from a Swansea pelagic 2 Oct (STA); c.40 birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 15 Jul, with seven there 8 Jul (ROM).

Rare winter migrant, recorded principally from pelagic trips.
Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend
No reports were received for 2018.



SHY ALBATROSS TYPES

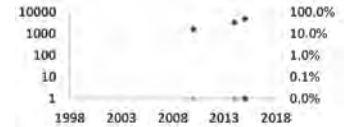
‘Winter migrant’, regularly recorded, including sometimes from land. Although most birds locally are thought to be White-capped Albatross, it is very challenging to differentiate the three species in the field. Prior to the recent upgrading of *T. cauta* and *T. steadi* to separate species, few observers previously attempted to identify them to sub-species level. Similarly, reports of Salvin's Albatross in 2002-2008 were not thoroughly scrutinised.



Shy Albatross

Thalassarche cauta

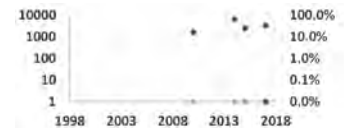
Uncertain (only confirmed records in July 2010 and March 2015).
Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.
No reports were received for 2018.



White-capped Albatross

Thalassarche steadi

Uncertain (only three confirmed records: Sep 2010, Nov 2014 and Sep 2015)
Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



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

Shy Albatross: No reports were received for 2018.

White-capped Albatross: No reports were received for 2018.

Records of unidentified birds: Seven birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); two birds from Swansea pelagics 2 Oct (STA) and 20 Nov (ROM). Records from land include single birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 1 Jun and 5 Oct (ROM).

Accidental. Recorded from pelagic trips in 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2008. However, as these records were prior to recognition as full species the records were not assessed by NSW ORAC. No reports were received for 2018.

GIANT-PETREL TYPES

It is challenging to differentiate immature Northern Giant-Petrel *M. 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.



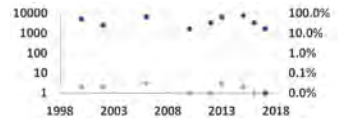
Northern Giant-Petrel

Macronectes halli

V | V | 2_U

Uncommon winter migrant, recorded both from pelagic trips and from shore.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



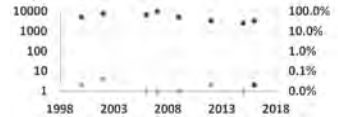
Southern Giant-Petrel

Macronectes giganteus

E | E | 2_R

Rare winter migrant, recorded both from pelagic trips and from shore.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



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

Northern Giant-Petrel: No reports were received for 2018.

Southern Giant-Petrel: No reports were received for 2018.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

1_M

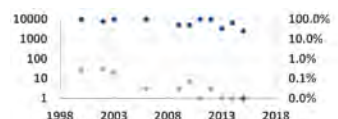
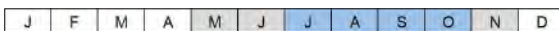
Northern Cape Petrel *ssp. australe*

Southern Cape Petrel *ssp. capense*

Winter migrant in offshore waters.

Pelagic trip data shows a recent decline in local observations.

No reports were received for 2018.



PRION TYPES

Fairy Prions *P. 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*

5

Accidental. Recorded in the Region in 1973.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 5 August 2000; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 23 June 2013; six birds on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 7 August 2016

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

3

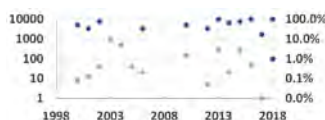
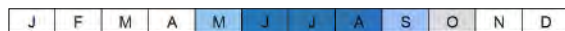
Accidental. Accepted records: four birds on a pelagic trip from Swansea 18 August 2002; two birds on a pelagic trip from Swansea 14 September 2002; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 14 October 2002; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 23 June 2013; three birds on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 7 August 2016

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

1_M

Winter migrant, recorded principally from pelagic trips but sometimes from shore.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



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

Broad-billed Prion: No reports received for 2018.

Antarctic Prion: No reports received for 2018.

Slender-billed Prion: No reports received for 2018.

Fairy Prion: 90 birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); three birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM). Records from land include c.40 from Fort Drive, Newcastle 20 Jul (ROM), with six there 17 Jul (BEI) and two 1 Jun (ROM); four from Boat Harbour 11 Jul (FLS) and a single bird from Port Stephens Heads 21 Jul (BRA).

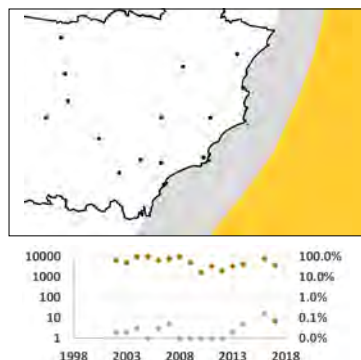
New Caledonian Gould's Petrel ssp. caledonica

Australian Gould's Petrel ssp. leucoptera

Local breeding population is *leucoptera*. However, it is possible that the birds observed at sea are predominantly of *ssp. caledonica*.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

BR An adult bird in a nest box at Broughton Island 19 Dec (STA). **LC** Single bird observed from Fort Drive, Newcastle 22 Mar (ROM).



Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

5

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 28 October 2006; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 18 November 2012; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 4 December 2014; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 12 November 2017

Also recorded in the Region in 1971.No reports were received for 2018.



Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

5

Accidental. Photographed on a pelagic trip from Swansea 12 October 2002. The record has not yet been submitted to BARC and so is not on the list of officially accepted Australian bird species.

No reports were received for 2018.

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*

V | 4

Accidental. A single bird was recorded on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 20 January 2007.

A single bird from a Crowdy Head pelagic trip 19 Jan was accepted by NSW ORAC, being only the 4th record off the NSW coast since 2000.

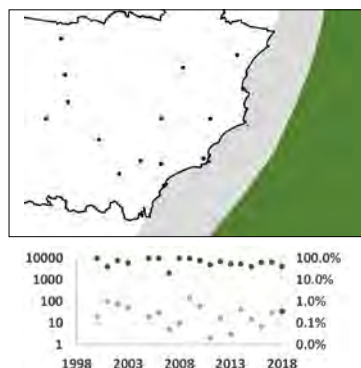
Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*

V | 2_T

Common autumn to spring visitor, recorded principally on pelagic trips at the continental shelf break.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

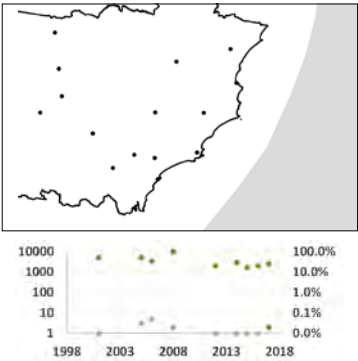
CT c.35 birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM); ten birds from a Swansea pelagic 3 Nov (ROM); four birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM).



Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

V | V | 2_R

Rare summer visitor, recorded principally on pelagic trips at the continental shelf break.
Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.
No reports were received for 2018.



Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*

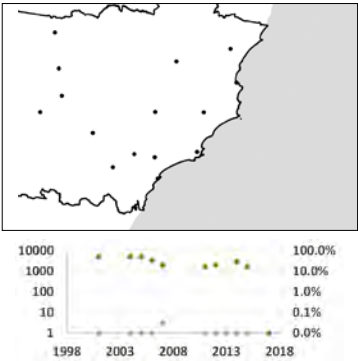
4

Accidental. Birds were migrating with Short-tailed Shearwaters approximately 20 km offshore, with some 12 birds recorded on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 12 November 2017, with seven birds recorded the following day. These records were collectively accepted by NSW ORAC as the 21st for NSW.
No reports were received for 2018.

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

2_R

Rare summer visitor, recorded principally from pelagic trips but sometimes from shore in rough weather.
Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.
No reports were received for 2018.



Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

5

Accidental. A bird was found near Cessnock in October 1988 and taken into care.
No reports were received for 2018.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

V | | 4

Accidental. A single bird was recorded on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 15 October 2017.
No reports were received for 2018.

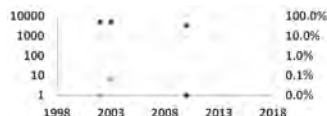
White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

2_R

Rare winter visitor.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



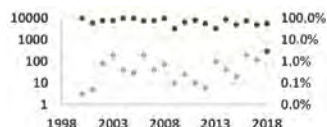
Grey-faced Petrel *Pterodroma gouldi*

1_M

Common spring to autumn visitor, recorded principally on pelagic trips at the continental shelf break but sometimes from shore in rough weather.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT c.300 birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); ten birds from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan (ROM); seven birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM); a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May (ROM). **LC** Two birds seen from Fort Drive, Newcastle on 14 Jan (ROM).



White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

3

Accidental. Recent records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 16 August 2003; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 16 November 2014.

Also recorded in the Region in 1968.

No reports were received for 2018.

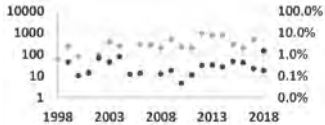
Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

2_R

Rare summer migrant, recorded principally on pelagic trips at the continental shelf break

Pelagic trip data shows a recent increase in local observations.

CT Three birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); single birds from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan and a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM).



Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

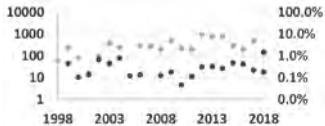
1_{BR}
M

Common summer migrant, several hundred birds often recorded.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

BR A nest with eggs at Broughton Island 19 Dec (STA).

DT The latest record was c.50 birds from MESP 25 Apr (KEM); earliest returning was a single bird from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); a winter record from NOB in Jun (THJ). **CT** c.12000 birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 24 Jan (BEI), with c.11000 there 14 Jan and c.8000 25 Jan (ROM).



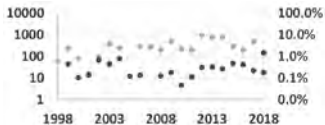
Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

2_R

Rare summer migrant, recorded from both pelagic trips and from shore.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



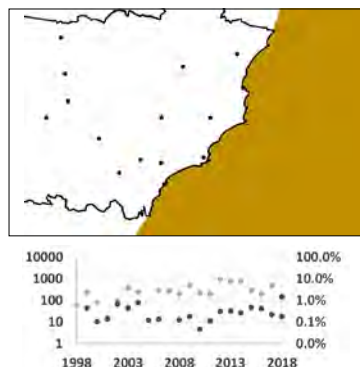
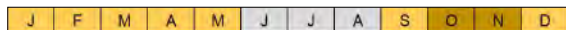
Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

1^{BR}
M

Common spring/summer migrant, flocks of up to 100 birds often recorded.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

DT The latest record was a single bird from Fort Drive, Newcastle 23 Mar (BEI); earliest returning was of seven birds from Crowdy Head 23 Sep (GIT). **CT** c.300 birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 16 Jan, with c.150 there 31 Jan (ROM); c.180 birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); c.100 birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Nov; c.100 from NOB in Feb (THJ).



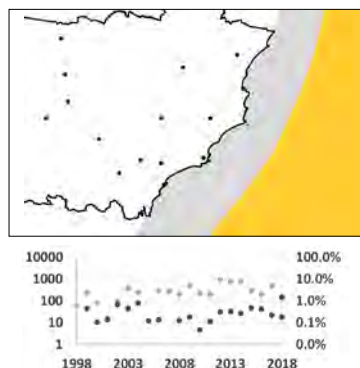
Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

1^{BR}
M

Summer migrant, recorded principally in offshore waters on pelagic trips.

Pelagic trip data shows a recent increase in local observations.

CT c.40 birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Nov (ROM); ten birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); three birds from a Swansea pelagic 3 Nov (ROM); single birds from Port Stephens pelagics 11 Feb and 20 May (ROM).



Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

5

Accidental. There was an unprecedented influx of Great Shearwaters to Southern Australia in 2011. A single bird was recorded around 12 km offshore from Swansea 21 April 2011. Another single bird was recorded on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 20 November 2011.

No reports were received for 2018.

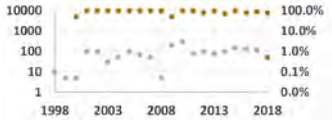
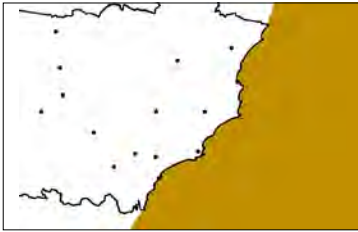
Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

V | 2₁

Common summer migrant in offshore waters.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT c.50 birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM);
c.40 birds from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan (ROM);
c.35 birds from a Swansea pelagic 20 Nov (ROM); three
birds from a Swansea pelagic 3 Nov (ROM).



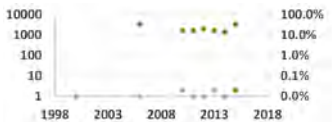
Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

2_R

Rare summer migrant, recorded from both pelagic trips
and from shore.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

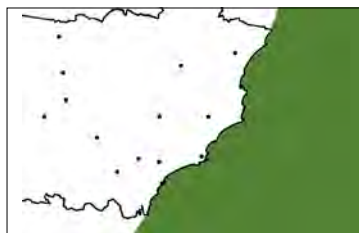
No reports were received for 2018.



Fluttering Shearwater by Dick Jenkin

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER TYPES

It is difficult to differentiate Fluttering Shearwater *P. 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.



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

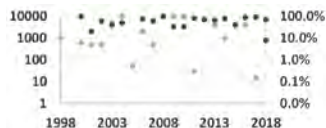
Fluttering Shearwater

Puffinus gavia

1_M

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

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



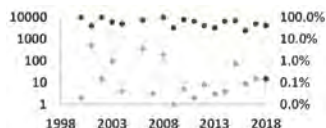
Hutton's Shearwater

Puffinus huttoni

1_M

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

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.



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

Fluttering Shearwater: 60 birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); eight birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM); four birds from a Port Stephens pelagic 20 May and Swansea pelagic 3 Nov (ROM); a single bird from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan (ROM).

Hutton's Shearwater: 15 birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM); ten birds from a Swansea pelagic 2 Oct (STA); two birds from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan (ROM); a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM). A single bird seen from NOB 6 Feb (KEM) and from Fort Drive, Newcastle 22 Mar (ROM).

Records of unidentified birds: c.3000 birds from NOB on 5 Sep (KEM), c.800 from Fort Drive, Newcastle on 8 Jul (ROM), c.800 from Merewether Beach on 5 Aug (BEI), c.300 from a Swansea pelagic on 2 Oct (STA) and c.250 from Fort Drive on 14 May (ROM).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

V | 4

Accidental. Accepted records: a dead bird retrieved at Old Bar 18 February 2002; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 22 January 2007; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 12 November 2017.

No reports were received for 2018.

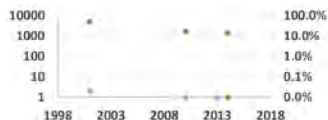
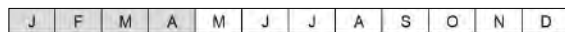
Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

2_R

Rare summer visitor, recorded principally on pelagic trips at the continental shelf break.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 14 October 2012; an influx of birds (up to 300) feeding in inshore waters 20 June to 2 July 2013.

No reports were received for 2018.

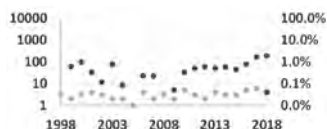
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

E | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend indicates a recent increase in the local population. This followed extensive wetland rehabilitation within the Hunter Estuary.

BR Confirmed breeding of the pair at Tomago, with a young bird fledged 12 Aug (LIA); a juvenile bird was often recorded across the Hunter Estuary in Mar and Sep-Nov; a young bird was at Fairbairns Lane, Forbesdale 26 Mar (DRP). **CT** A peak count of four at Ash Island 18 Feb (SHG) and Hexham Swamp 24 Apr (KEM).



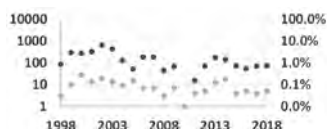
Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

1_M

Resident and irruptive visitor. 1-3 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

CT A peak count of five birds at Hexham Swamp 15 Dec (KEM); four at Four Mile Creek, Chisholm 31 Oct.



Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

1^{BR}

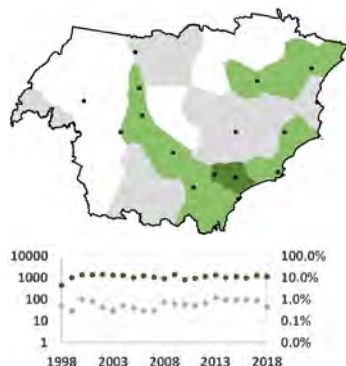
Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Fledged young were at Louth Park Road 17 Jan (CLM).

CT A peak count of 46 birds in the Hunter Estuary 20 Oct, with 41 in similar surveys 17 Mar and 14 Apr (HBOC). **LC**

Other locations with high counts include 21 at Ellalong Lagoon 8 Mar (ROM); 15 at Morpeth WWTP 4 Apr (LIA); 15 at Four Mile Creek, Chisholm 17 Nov (CLM); 15 at SWGC 24 Jan (KEM); 15 at Cattai Wetlands 4 Mar (HUJ).



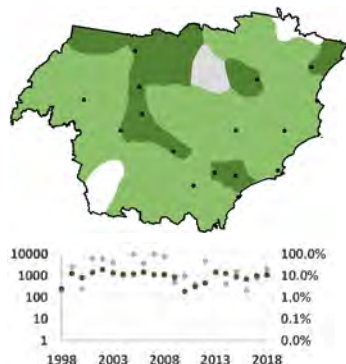
Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

1^M

Usual resident and irruptive visitor. Up to 50 birds regularly recorded, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

CT A peak count of c.2000 birds at Hexham Swamp 1 Mar, with c.1000 there 2-3 Mar (MOA); 499 near East Seaham 9 Oct (KET); 338 at Cattai Wetlands 20 Oct (KEM); c.300 at Hexham Swamp 11 Feb, 5 May (KEM) and 23 May (THJ); c.300 at Hinton 9 Feb (KEM).



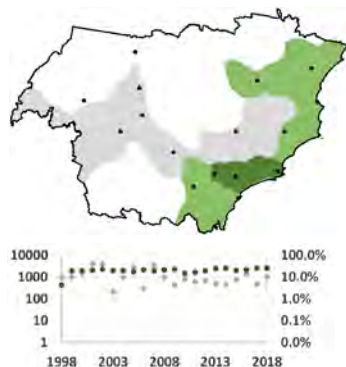
Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 50 birds regularly recorded, and counts up to 100 birds during Mar-Sep.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Fledged young were at HWC 10 Feb (LIP); many other records of nesting birds. **CT** A peak count of 1023 birds at Wallsend Wetlands 27 and 30 Jul (PAL); 500-600 at Hexham Swamp 1-2 Mar (MEL, MOA); c.530 at Raymond Terrace 26 Oct (CLM); c.380 at Whistler Parade, Maryland 10 Mar (ROM), with c.370 there 21 Feb (KEM).



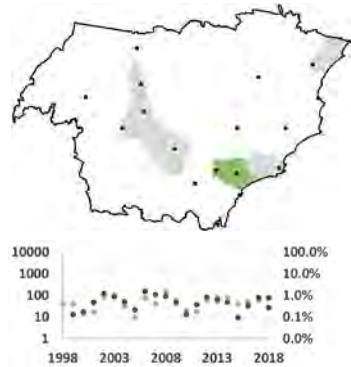
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

2_U

Uncommon irruptive visitor.

The long-term trend exhibits notable fluctuations.

CT A peak count of 77 birds at Lenaghans Drive, Black Hill 13 Oct (WID), with five there 1 Aug (THJ); 16 at Hexham Swamp 5 May, with five there 15 Dec (KEM); 15 at Irrawang Swamp 14 Jan (MEL), with nine there 20 Jan (FLS); c.15 at Woodberry Swamp 28 Oct (DON); eight at Kooragang Island 7 Dec (BEI); six near North Arm Cove 21 Apr (HUN); six at Bureen 10 Oct (STA), with five there 1 Oct (KET).



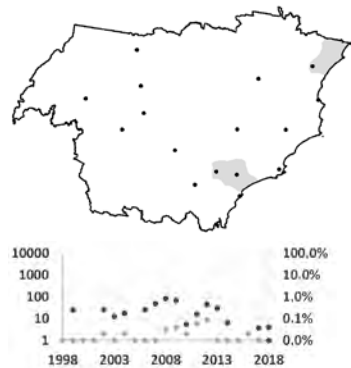
Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

E | E | 2_U^{br}

Rare resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend, but suggests occasional influxes.

CT A single bird at Hexham Swamp 23 Apr (SIM).



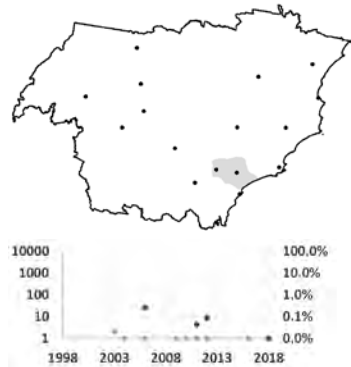
Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

2_R^{BR}

Rare summer migrant.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single bird at Ash Island 1 Nov (BEC).



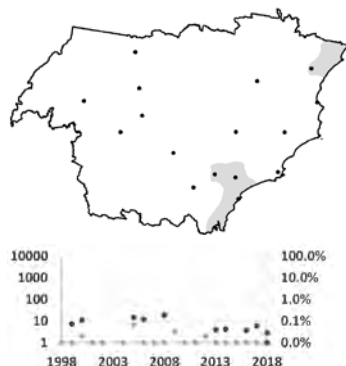
Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

V | 2_U^{br}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



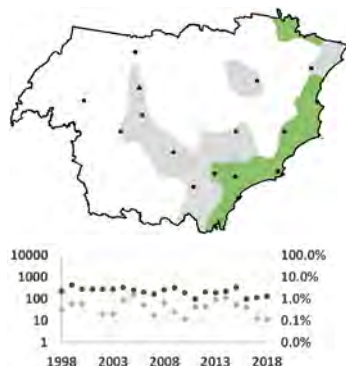
Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

1_M^{BR}

Resident and irruptive visitor.

The long-term trend suggests a possible decline in the local population, with occasional influxes.

BR Five birds including two juveniles at SWGC 24 Jan (KEM). **CT** Peak count of 12 at Raymond Terrace 14 Oct (YAO), with six there 15 Jun and 26 Oct (CLM); 11 at Morpeth 3 Jul (HBOC), with seven there 30 Apr (NAK); nine at Paterson 14 Aug (STD); nine at Salamander Bay 11 Dec (THJ); six at Kooragang Dykes 11 Aug (HBOC).



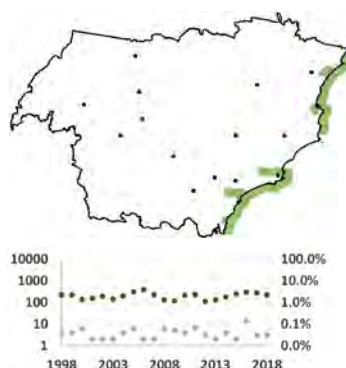
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

1^{br}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT Three birds at Saltwater NP 5 Apr (MCE); three birds at SSS 16 Oct (LAK), with two birds there 5 Jan (BEI), 16 Jan (LAK) and 17 Nov (MUR); three in the Hunter Estuary 20 Oct (HBOC); two birds at Forster/Tuncurry 20 Jan (MOA), 20 Mar (MOA) and 1 Sep (WHS); two birds at Tomago 20 Mar (HBOC); two birds at Galgabba Point 28 May and 13 Nov (ADJ); two birds at Harrington 30 Aug (WHS); two birds at Myuna Bay 18 Sep (MCN).



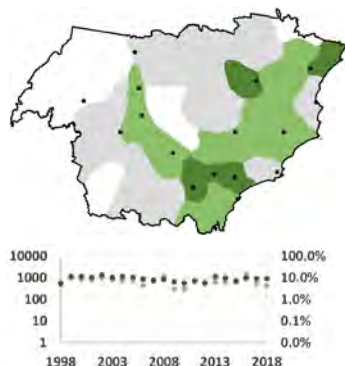
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

1^{BR}

Usual resident. 10-50 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a possible gradual decline in the local population.

BR Breeding colonies with fledged young at Nulama Pond, Cundletown with c.300 birds 11 Jan (ANF) and 5 Feb (STA), HWC with 283 birds 3 Feb (STR) and Gloucester in Jan-Feb (DRP); nest building at Nulama Pond with c.300 birds 12 Nov (STA), Rutherford with c.400 birds 18 Nov (CLM) and HWC with c.150 birds 4 Dec (HBOC).



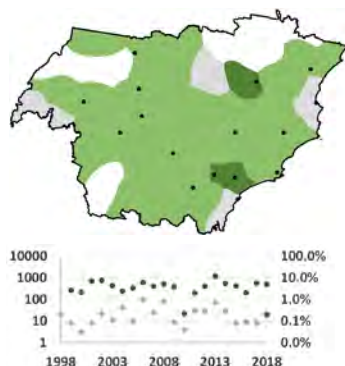
White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

1^{BR}
M

Resident and irruptive visitor. 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR Two nests with a total of three chicks at Gloucester in Feb, with two fledged young 1 Mar (DRP). **CT** Peak of c.20 birds at Hexham Swamp 14 Sep (IRD), with eight there 11 Aug (KEM); c.10 near Bulahdelah 2 Jul and c.10 near Croki 6 Jul (LAN); six birds near Salamander Bay 21 Jul (SDA).



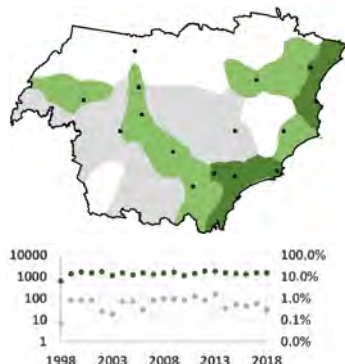
Great Egret *Ardea alba*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Nesting birds were at HWC 8 Jan (LIP) and also in Dec (HBOC, LIP, STA). **CT** c.30 birds at Taree 2 Mar (DCH); c.25 at Hexham Swamp 26 Dec (BED, RUA); 16 at Tuncurry 28 Sep (MOA); 15 at HWC 9 Dec (LIP); 14 at Cattai Wetlands 10 Feb (BIT, MUL); 13 at Cooperook Corner Wetlands 2 Mar (DCH); 13 at Ash Island 17 Nov (MUR); 13 at Morpeth WWTP 29 Nov (LIA); 12 at HWC 9 Mar (LEM); 11 at Tomago 20 Oct (HBOC).



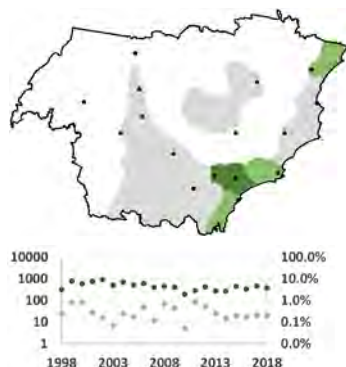
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded at medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a gradual decline in the local population.

BR Nesting birds were at HWC 4 Dec (HBOC). **CT** c.20 birds at Ash Island 16 Nov (EDD, EDK); 19 at Morpeth WWTP 21 Dec, with 15 there 29 Nov (LIA); 11 at SWGC 30 Sep and 9 Nov, with nine there 10 Nov (ROM); 11 at HWC 4 Dec (HBOC); eight at Muswellbrook WWTP 20 Apr (ROM); eight at SWGC 29 Oct (KEM).



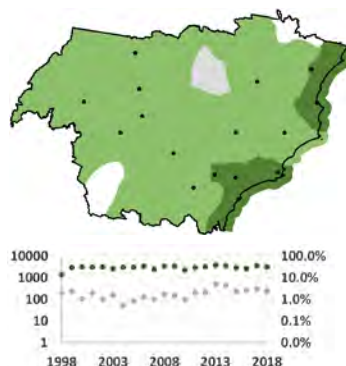
White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Nesting birds were at Forster in Nov (CAA). **CT** Peak count of c.250 birds at Hexham Swamp 23 May (THJ), with c.200 there 10 Jan (HUN, WIJ); 250 at Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC), 220 in the Hunter Estuary 14 Apr (HBOC); c.180 at Hexham Swamp 17 Mar and 17 Jun (KEM).



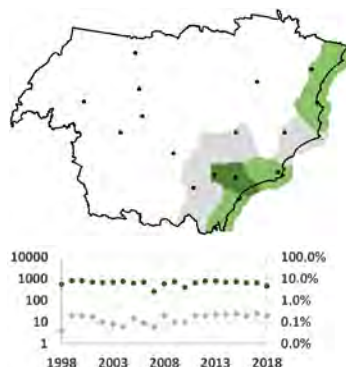
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds are occasionally recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Fledged young were at HWC 10 Feb (LIP); nesting birds were also at HWC 8 Jan (LIP) and also in Dec (HBOC, LIP, STA). **CT** c.20 birds at Belmont Lagoon 18 May, with seven there 18 Jan and six 23 Jul (FEG); c.20 at HWC 4 Dec (HBOC); 18 at Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC); c.15 at Port Stephens 22 Mar (KTH); seven at Tuncurry 24 Mar (MOA); six at Galgabba Point 23 Apr (ADJ); six at HWC 9 Dec (LIP).



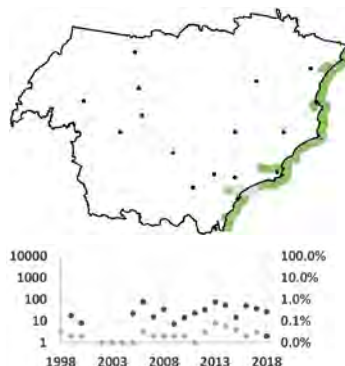
Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

2_U^{br}

Uncommon resident.

Recent increase in records likely attributed to increased survey effort of Broughton Island.

CT Two birds at Broughton Island 19-20 Jan (HBOC) and 19 Dec (STA); two at Seal Rocks 3 Nov (LAN). **LC** Other locations were Saltwater NP 13 Jan (SDE); Birubi Beach 1 Feb (WOL); Dark Point, MLNP 23 Feb (GOS); Dudley Bluff 3 Mar (ROM); Smiths Lake 30 Mar (NED); Boat Harbour 11 Jul (FLS) King Edward Park, Newcastle 13 Sep (YAO) and Burgess Beach, Forster 29 Sep (OND).



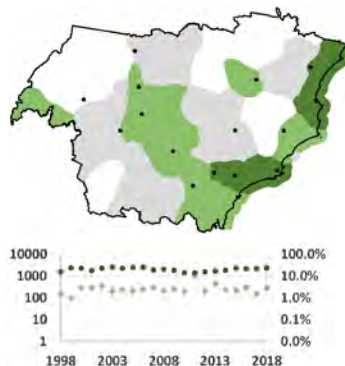
Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded, with frequent counts of up to 50 birds at large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR c.100 nesting pairs at Snake Island, Wallis Lake 18 Aug, with c.150 pairs there 26 Dec (MOA). **CT** The nesting colony at Snake Island also represented the highest count for the year; 154 in Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC); 128 in the Hunter Estuary 14 Apr (HBOC); c.110 birds present at Hexham Swamp 31 Jan (MOA); 83 at Taree 8 Nov (DRA).



Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

3

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: in the wake of ex-tropical cyclone Oswald at least ten individuals were around Newcastle Harbour 29 Jan to 3 Feb 2013; a single bird off Boat Harbour, Port Stephens 30 Jan 2013.

Records for the Region also known from 1957, 1977, 1984 and 2000.

No reports were received for 2018.

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

4

Accidental. An adult female was present around Newcastle Harbour from at least 7-8 Jan 2015. This record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 4th for NSW. Interestingly, the bird exhibited a pink orbital ring, indicating it originated from outside of the Coral Sea, possibly Hawaii given the preceding wind patterns.

No reports were received for 2018.

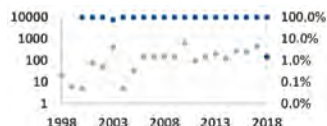
Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

1_M

Usual winter migrant, up to 20 birds often recorded.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT A peak count of c.150 birds from Fort Drive, Newcastle 5 Oct, with c.85 there 2 Jun (ROM); c.60 birds from Swansea pelagics 2 Aug and 20 Nov (ROM).



Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

4

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: a bird rescued at Blacksmiths Beach 24 Mar 2008; a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 27 Mar 2010; a bird found roosting at Swansea Heads 28 Jan 2013; two birds from a Forster pelagic 12 Mar 2017.

Records for the Region also known from 1985.

No reports were received for 2018.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

3

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 27 Mar 2010; a bird seen from Saltwater NP 30 Mar 2011.

Records for the Region also known from 1984, 1986, 1991 and 1993.

No reports were received for 2018.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

V | 3

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 24 Nov 2013.

Records for the Region also known from 1979.

No reports were received for 2018.

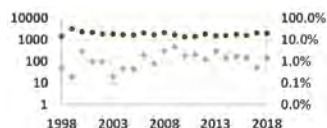
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

1_{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded at small to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Nesting birds were at Salamander Bay from 20 Oct through 15 Dec (STG); at Heritage Park, Rutherford 23 Sep and 29 Oct (CLM); at Nulama Ponds near Taree 12 Nov (STA). **CT** A peak count of 144 birds in Port Stephens 16 Feb and 13 Jul (HBOC); c.125 at Tuncurry 24 Mar (MOA); 105 at Tanilba Bay 26 Jul (MCN).



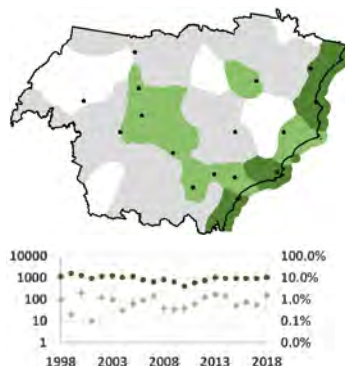
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 10 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR Nesting birds were at SWGC 26 May (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 154 birds in Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC); c.100 at Tahlee 11 Jul (FLS); c.80 at Bombah Point 8 Apr (GOS); 41 at Morpeth WWTP 25 Jul (LIA); c.30 at Lake Liddell 28 Jan (WAC); 24 at HWC 8 Aug (LIA).



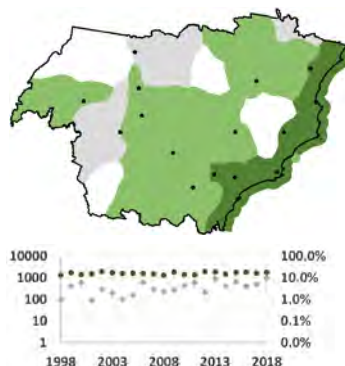
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 30 birds frequently recorded at small to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Nesting birds were at Heritage Park, Rutherford 18 Nov (CLM). **CT** A peak count of c.1000 birds at Harrington 10 Jan (ANF), with c.730 there 20 Oct (KEM) and 559 there 27 Nov (STA); c.460 at Tuncurry 28 Sep (MOA); c.400 at Bombah Point 8 Apr (GOS); c.380 at MESP 24 Dec (MUL); 329 in Port Stephens 16 Feb (HBOC).



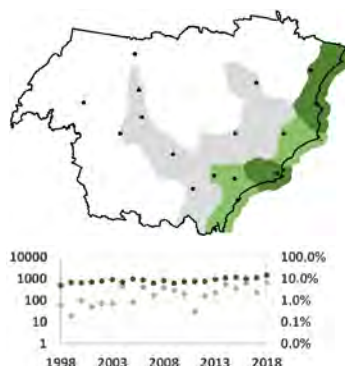
Great Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

1^{BR}

Usual coastal resident; 1-10 birds are often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Nesting birds were at Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of 681 birds in Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC); outside of Port Stephens 53 birds in the Hunter Estuary 20 Oct (HBOC), with 39 there 8 Dec; c.50 at Tuncurry 17 Jun (BON, JAF), with 31 there 4 Feb (MOA).



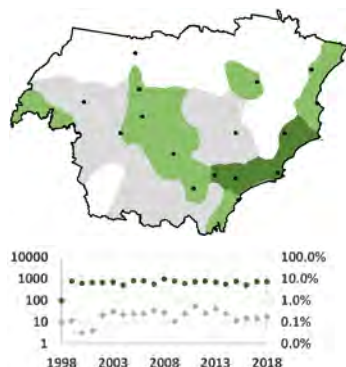
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded at medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Fledged young were at Salamander Bay 15 Dec (STG); nesting birds were also at SWGC 24 Jan and 15 Sep (KEM); Telarah Lagoon 5 Feb (MCL); Nulama Ponds 12 Nov (STA); Heritage Park, Rutherford 18 Nov (MCL). **CT** A peak count of 17 birds at Morpeth WWTP 19 Feb, with 16 there 21 Dec (LIA); 12 at SWGC 24 Jan (KEM); 12 at Salamander Bay 15 Dec (STG).



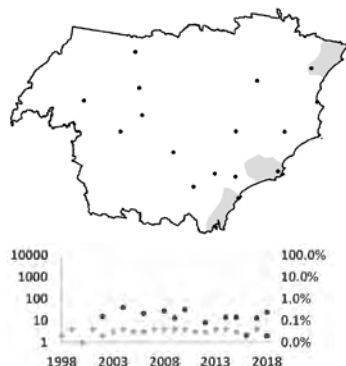
Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

E | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident, restricted principally to suitable habitat around Port Stephens and formerly Lake Macquarie.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A pair at Little Swan Bay 13 Jan and again 20 Oct (WOL); Single birds at Carrington (Port Stephens) 29 Jan and 25 Apr (KEM); birds at Tahlee throughout Jul-Aug (FLS).



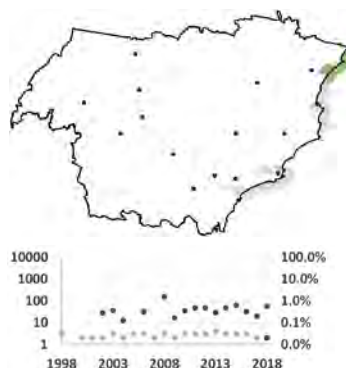
Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*

CE | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident, principally recorded within the Manning Estuary and Port Stephens, where breeding pairs occur.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Two birds at MESP 19 Feb (GRD), with single birds there throughout the (multiple observers); Two birds at Soldiers Point 23 Aug (WOL); A single bird at Harrington over 28-30 Sep (BEN). **LC** A bird at the Wallis Lake Entrance 15 Dec (GAC).



Accidental. A single bird was present at Stockton Sandspit 3 February 2004. The record was accepted by BARC as the for Australia.

A single bird was present at WCL during the regular survey 7 Dec (LIA). It was not seen subsequently in 2018. The bird had a red leg flag labelled 1N; it had been banded at Western Port Bay VIC in Aug 2016, aged three years. The bird has been previously accepted by BARC as the 10th confirmed record for Australia and formal submissions are no longer required.

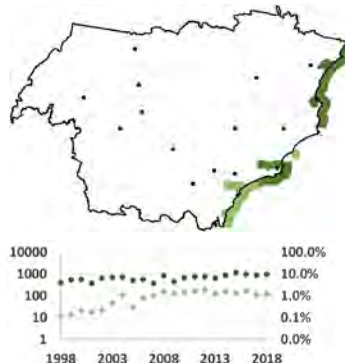
Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

E | 2_T^{BR}

Resident, with several birds often recorded at coastal and estuarine locations. Sizable populations are present at Port Stephens and the Worimi Conservation Lands.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Fledged young at MESP over 17 Nov to 10 Dec (multiple observers), Harrington 3 Nov (MUL) and WCL 7 Dec (LIA); a nest with eggs recorded at Corrie Island 24 Nov (FRN). **CT** A peak count of 118 birds at WCL 24 Mar (BEI). Away from Port Stephens, 26 birds at Tuncurry 4 Feb (MOA) and 11 birds at Harrington 17 Apr (STA).

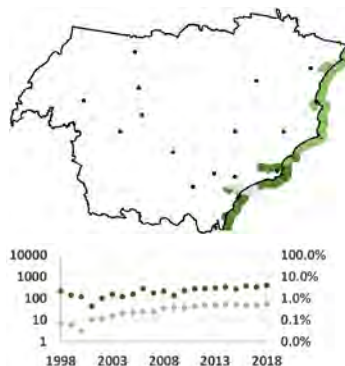


Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

V | 2_T^{BR}

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

CT A peak count of 54 birds at NOB in Mar, with 44 there in Feb, 43 in Jan and 41 in Apr (THJ); elsewhere, 24 at Kooragang Dykes 17 Jan (MEL), 19 at SSS 4 Jan (BEI), 18 at Broughton Island 20 Apr (STA) and Swan Bay 8 Dec (HAO).



Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: two immature birds at Kooragang Island 9 December 1995 to 6 February 1996; a single adult bird at various locations in 2000 and 2001, first recorded at Swan Bay 16 September 2000, last seen at Ash Island 15 December 2001; a single immature bird at Ash Island 20 November to early December 2004; a single adult bird in the Hunter Estuary 3 October 2012 to 11 January 2013.

No reports were received for 2018.

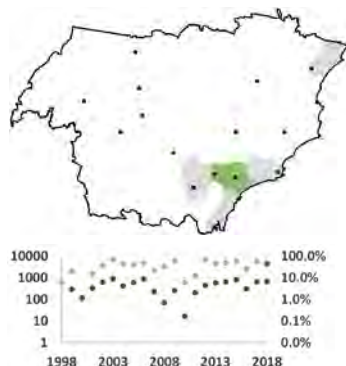
Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

1_M

Usual irruptive visitor. During inland drought, thousands are present in the Hunter Estuary.

The long-term trend exhibits notable fluctuations.

CT Birds present throughout the year, with numbers increasing markedly from June. A peak count of 4538 across the Hunter Estuary survey sites 16 Jun (HBOC). Away from the Hunter Estuary, birds were also recorded around Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie. **LC** Birds were at Ellalong Lagoon from Feb-May, with a peak count of c.50 2 Mar (ROM).



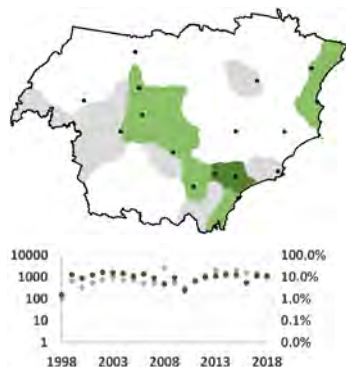
Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

1_{BR}

Usual resident, with up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend exhibits notable fluctuations.

CT Birds present throughout the year with a peak count of 971 across the Hunter Estuary survey sites 13 Jan (HBOC). Other high counts from the estuary surveys include 901 birds 14 Jul and 896 8 Dec. Counts of c.950 birds were also made at Hexham Swamp 5 May and 11 Aug (KEM).



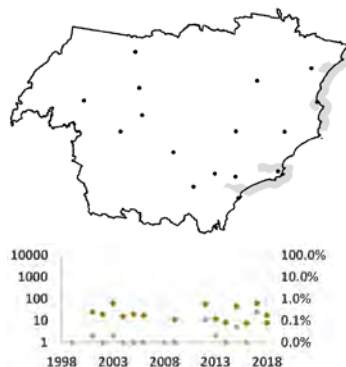
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

2_R

Rare summer migrant.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single bird was present early in the year at MESP 8 Jan (HUN, WIJ). A returning bird was at MESP 7 Oct (WEP) and again there 2 Dec (HUN) and 23 Dec (CAC, WEP).



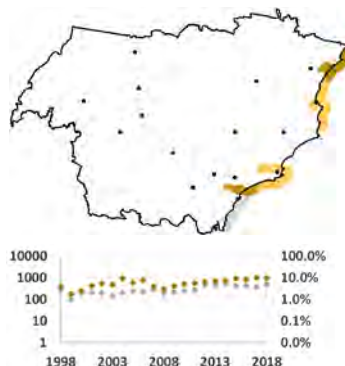
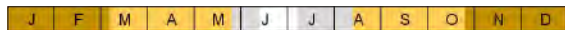
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

1_M

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

DT The latest records were of a single bird at Ash Island 22 Apr (MCN) and 18 birds at MESP 18 Apr (STA); earliest returning birds was a count of 16 at MESP 9 Sep (MUL). Several birds were recorded overwintering in the Hunter and Manning Estuaries. **CT** A peak count of c.500 birds at SSS 30 Jan (ROM), with c.420 there 23 Jan (MEL).



Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

5

Accidental. A single bird was photographed in the Worimi Conservation Lands 25 August 2017 and was accepted by BARC as the 5th record for Australia. A previous record in the Region from 1967 was prior to the formation of BARC, but was peer reviewed at the time.

No reports were received for 2018.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

5

Accidental. A single bird (determined to be an adult female in winter plumage of the race *C. alexandrinus dealbatus*) was at MESP from 14 February to 7 April 2002. Accepted by BARC as the 2nd record for Australia, the bird generated much national interest.

No reports were received for 2018.

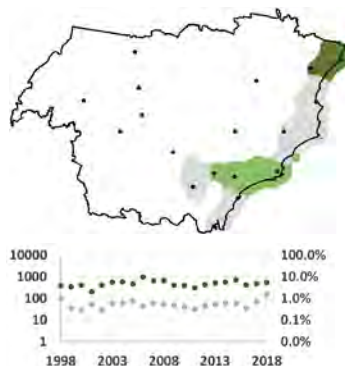
Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

1_{BR}

Usual resident, with several birds moderately often recorded along the coast.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR Fledged young at MESP 3 Mar (KEM), 20 Oct (MUL) and 5 Dec (STA); fledged young also at Ash Island 17 Mar and 8 Dec (HBOC). A nest with eggs at WCL 19 Oct (LIA, STA). **CT** A peak count of 158 birds across the Hunter Estuary survey sites 11 Aug, with 155 of those being at Tomago (HBOC). A peak of c.75 birds at MESP 3 Jan (LEM).



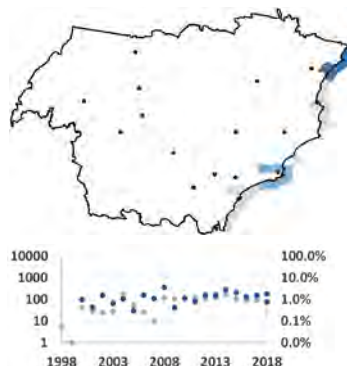
Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

1_M

Winter migrant, recorded principally from Worimi Conservation Lands and MESP.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

DT The earliest returning birds were the 14 at MESP 3 Mar (KEM); latest departure was a count of 18 at MESP 23 Aug (WEP). A few birds were recorded overwintering in the Hunter and Manning Estuaries and WCL. **CT** A peak count of 77 birds in a survey of the Manning Estuary 18 Apr (STA).



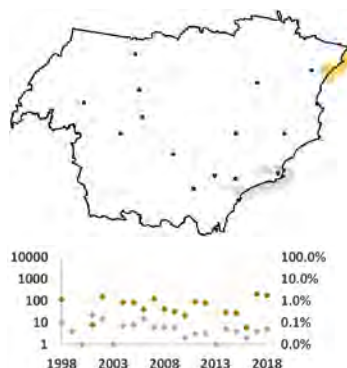
Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

E | V | 2_U

Uncommon summer migrant, recorded principally in the Manning Estuary and occasionally in the Hunter Estuary.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

DT The latest record was of a single bird at MESP 8 Apr (HUJ, WEP); earliest returns were a single bird at MESP 12 Sep (HUJ) and in the Hunter a single bird at SSS 20 Oct (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of 5 birds at MESP 1 Jan (FAA) and in the following summer season 10 Dec and 19 Dec (WAB, JOJ and EGD).



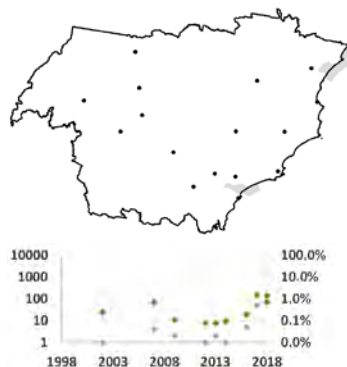
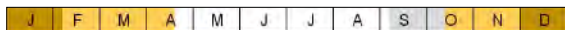
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

V | V | 2_R

Rare summer migrant, recorded principally in the Manning Estuary.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

DT The latest record was of a single bird at MESP 25 Apr (KEM); earliest return was a single bird at MESP 10 Sep (WEP). **CT** Several counts of 3 birds at MESP between 3 Jan (LEM) and 18 Feb (DOS) and in the following summer season 13 Sep and 1 Dec (WEP, MUL).



Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: eight birds at Worimi Conservation Lands 10-16 November 2002; a single bird at Largs 26 January to 8 February 2014; up to ten birds at Hexham Swamp 22 September to 2 October 2017.

No reports were received for 2018.

Hooded Plover *Thinornis cucullatus*

V | CE | 3

Accidental. A juvenile bird was present at Worimi Conservation Lands from 22 July to 19 August 2016.

No reports were received for 2018.

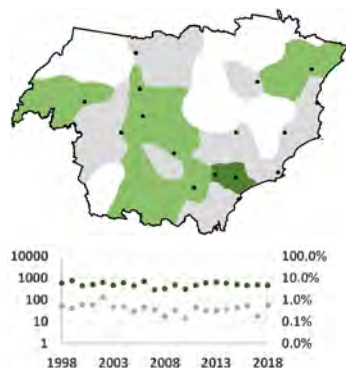
Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseya melanops*

1^{BR}_M

Resident, with several birds moderately often recorded at medium waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR Fledged young at Coopernook Corner Wetlands 2 Feb (BIT) and Kooragang Island 9 Nov (ROM). **CT** A peak count of over 50 birds at Ellalong Lagoon 29 May (BEA, ROM), with at least 27 there 2 Mar (ROM); 49 birds at Tomago 2 Aug (MCN) and 43 there 11 Aug (HBOC).



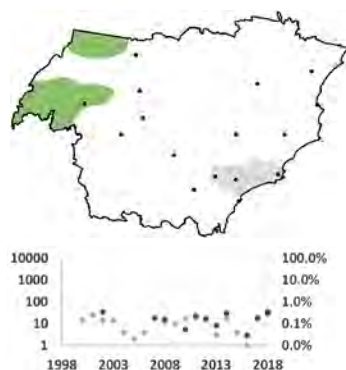
Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

2^{BR}_U

Uncommon resident. Also, an irruptive visitor, likely in response to inland drought conditions.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR 15 fledged young at two locations along Smedes Road 1 Oct, together with 31 adults (KEM); two other breeding records from the same area (BEI, KEM). **CT** At least 20 birds at Ringwood Road 27 Oct (ROM).



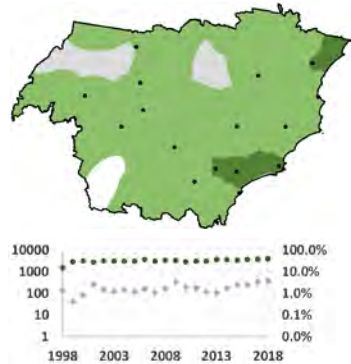
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 20 birds regularly recorded near medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, possibly even a gradual increase.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations across the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.330 birds at Lenaghans Drive 29 Jul (ROM); c.290 birds at Hexham Swamp 5 May (KEM), with other high counts there of c.200 23 May (THJ), 163 11 Jun and 144 11 Aug (KEM).



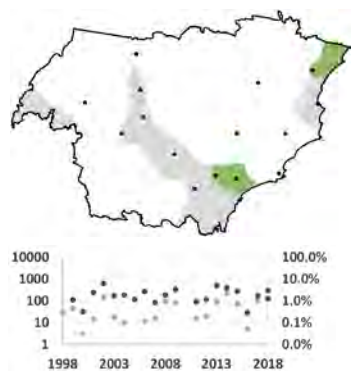
Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonyx cinctus*

1^M

Irruptive visitor, in response to inland drought conditions. Recorded principally at wetland locations in the Manning and Hunter Estuaries.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

CT A peak count of 129 birds across several sites in the Hunter Estuary survey 11 Aug (HBOC); at least 86 birds at Whistler Parade, Maryland 2 Aug (KET), with 66 there 22 Apr (KEM) and at least 56 20 Feb (ROM); 54 birds at Hexham Swamp 14 Jul (HBOC); 43 birds at Tomago 11 Aug (HBOC).

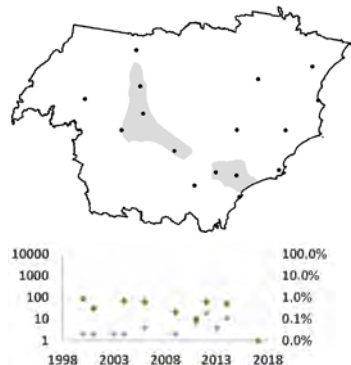
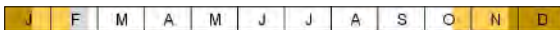


Australian Painted-snip *Rostratula australis*

E | E | 2^{br}_R

Uncommon irruptive summer visitor (all records since 1993 have been spring/summer ones) in response to inland drought conditions.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend. No reports were received for 2018.



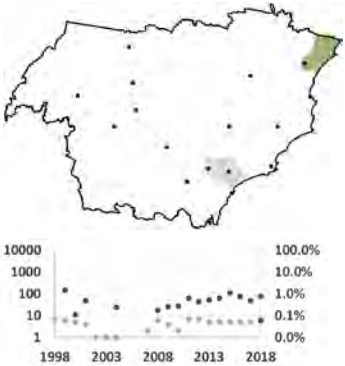
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

V | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident recorded principally at Cattai Wetlands in the Manning Estuary. Previously occurred within the Lower Hunter Valley.

The long-term trend reflects a loss of birds from the Hunter Valley, with the recent upward trend following records from visits to Cattai Wetlands.

CT Three birds were at Cattai Wetlands 6 Jan (POM) and 5 Feb (STA). Records of either a single or two birds at Cattai Wetlands regularly throughout the year. No records from any other location.



Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

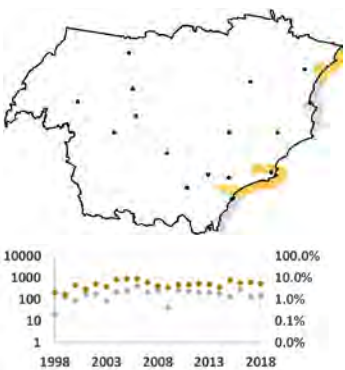
1_M

Usual summer migrant, with several birds moderately often recorded coastally.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest records were of 36 birds at Fullerton Cove and 25 at Swan Bay 14 Apr (HBOC, HAO); earliest returning birds were a count of ten at Oyster Cove 28 Aug (WOL) and 16 at Fullerton Cove 8 Sep (HBOC). A few birds were recorded overwintering at various locations.

CT A peak count of 151 birds in the Port Stephens survey 16 Feb (HBOC).



Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

4

Accidental. Recent Accepted records: three birds at Ash Island 28 October 2001; up to six birds at Hexham Swamp 30 November to 1 December 2014; three birds at Hexham Swamp 29 September 2017.

Previous records for the Region also exist for 1969, 1972, 1985 and 1986.

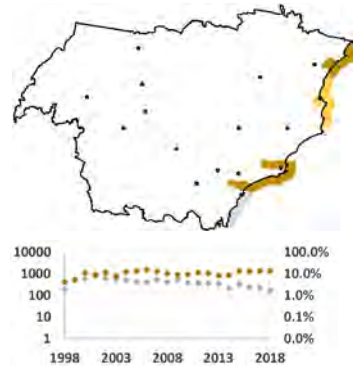
No reports were received for 2018.



Usual summer migrant, with several birds moderately often recorded coastally, with some young birds overwintering.

The long-term trend shows a steady decline in the local population.

DT The latest record was of 32 birds in the Hunter Estuary survey 17 Mar (HBOC); earliest returning birds were a count of 76 in the Hunter Estuary survey and 110 at Swan Bay 11 Aug (HBOC, HAO). Several birds were recorded overwintering at various locations. **CT** A peak count of 188 birds at Swan Bay 8 Dec (HAO).

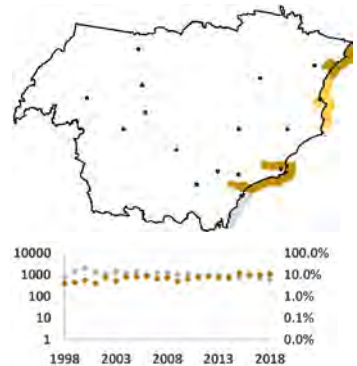


Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The long-term trend shows a steady decline in the local population.

DT The latest record was of 32 birds in the Hunter Estuary survey 17 Mar (HBOC); earliest returning birds was a count of 180 at SSS 29 Sep (MUR).

CT A peak count of 592 birds at Kooragang Dykes 18 Feb (MEL).



Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

Accidental. A single bird was present within the Hunter Estuary in 1982 to 1985, recorded again in 1988.

No reports were received for 2018.



Bar-tailed Godwit by Jim Smart

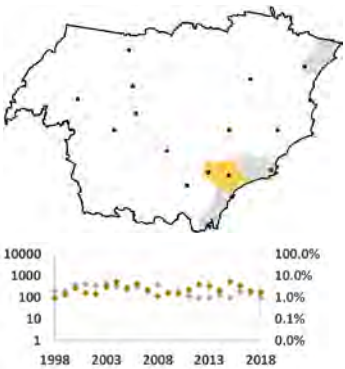
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

V | 2_T

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend shows a recent decline in the local population.

DT The latest records were of a single bird at Kooragang Island 18 May (HBOC) and c.60 birds at Ash Island 14 April; earliest returning birds were an unspecified count at SSS 28 Sep, with c.30 birds there 29 Sep (DOT, MUR). **CT** A peak count of 100 birds in the Hunter Estuary survey 17 Feb and a count of 87 in the survey 14 Apr (HBOC); 78 birds at Kooragang Island 1 Feb (KEM).



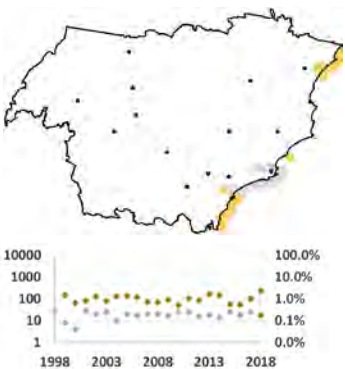
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

2_U

Uncommon summer migrant, with several birds occasionally recorded, principally at coastal rock platform locations.

There is no clear trend discernible in the long-term data.

DT The latest records were of single birds at Tomago 15 May (HBOC) and MESP 18 Apr (STA); earliest returning birds were four at NOB 1 Sep (THJ) and three at MESP 9 Sep (MUL). **CT** A peak count of 17 birds at NOB during Nov (THJ).



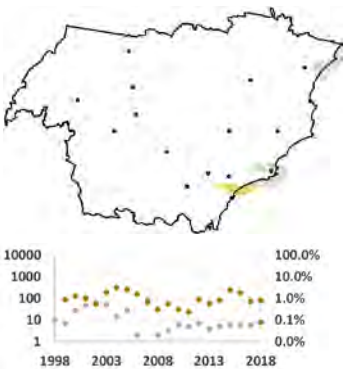
Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

CE | V | 2_U

Uncommon summer migrant, recorded principally within the Hunter Estuary.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

DT The latest record was of a single bird at SSS 7 Feb (MEL) and MESP 18 Apr (STA); earliest returning bird was a single at SSS 8 Oct (YAO). **CT** A peak count of eight birds at MESP 4 Dec (WEP); six birds at SSS 14 Jan (FLS); three birds at MESP 1 Jan and 17 Jan (MUL, LAK) and three at SSS 9 Jan (ANF).



Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

E | | 2_T

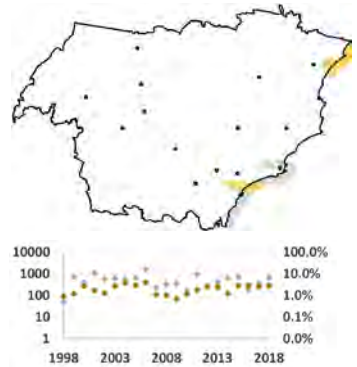
New Siberian Islands Red Knot *spp. piersmai*

North-eastern Siberian Red Knot *spp. rogersi*

rogersi a summer migrant and bird of passage in Sep-Nov.
piersmai a rare summer migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest record was of a single bird at SSS 4 Mar (GOC, MCG); earliest returning birds were ten at SSS 12 Sep (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.650 birds at SSS 11 Oct (YAO), with c.500 there 9 Oct and c.300 6 Oct and 14 Oct.



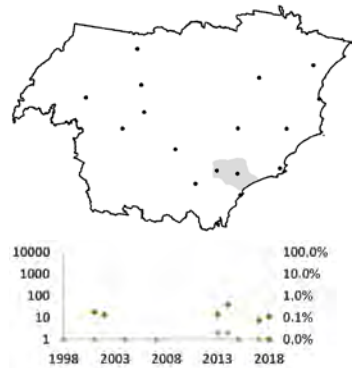
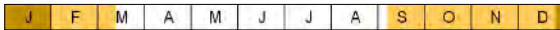
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

2_R

Rare summer migrant recorded principally at wetland locations in the Hunter Estuary.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A bird was at Kooragang Island 1 Feb (KEM).



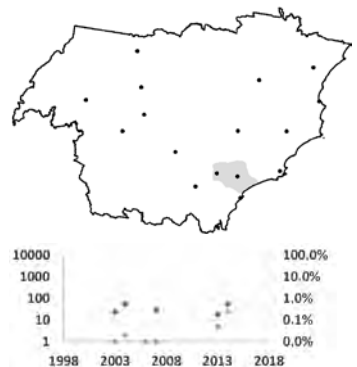
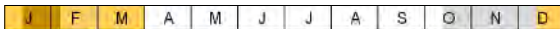
Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

V | 2_R

Rare summer migrant recorded principally within the Hunter Estuary

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



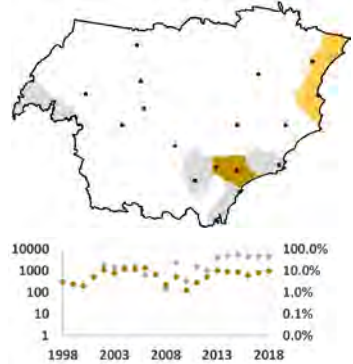
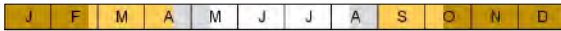
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

1_M

Usual summer migrant, with up to 20 birds moderately often recorded. Huge numbers sometimes recorded within the Hunter Estuary.

The long-term trend shows a recent increase in the local population.

DT The latest record was of three birds at SSS 7 May (ABC); earliest returning birds were three at Tomago 11 Aug (HBOC); some overwintered in the Hunter Estuary, with c.40 at Hexham Swamp 15 Jun (SMJ). **CT** A peak count of 4783 20 Oct from the Hunter Estuary survey (HBOC), with 2713 from a similar survey 8 Dec.



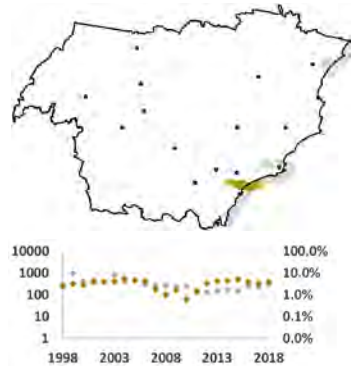
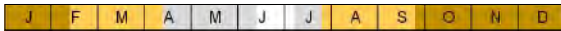
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

CE | E | 2_T

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

DT The latest record was of six birds at Kooragang Dykes 14 Apr (HBOC); earliest returning birds were 14 at Tomago 11 Aug (HBOC); a few winter records with two birds at Hexham Swamp 17 Jun (KEM) and 20 Jul (STA). **CT** A peak count of c.320 at SSS 21 Feb (MEL), with c.300 there 30 Jan (ROM) – the largest since 2005. **LC** A single bird at MESP 9 Mar (BEI) overwintered and was present until at least 4 Dec (WEP).



Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

4

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Ash Island 28 December 2003; a single bird at Kooragang Dykes 22 November 2014. No reports were received for 2018.

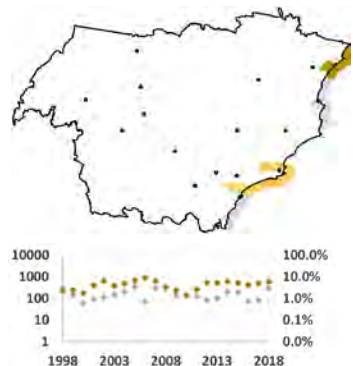
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

1_M

Summer migrant, with several birds sometimes recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest record was of 40 birds at MESP 25 Apr (KEM); earliest returning (or possibly overwintering) birds were 52 at MESP 17 Jul (STA); winter records of 12 at MESP (MUL) and 6 at Hexham Swamp (KEM) 17 Jun. **CT** A peak count of 244 at MESP 5 Dec (STA).



Sanderling *Calidris alba*

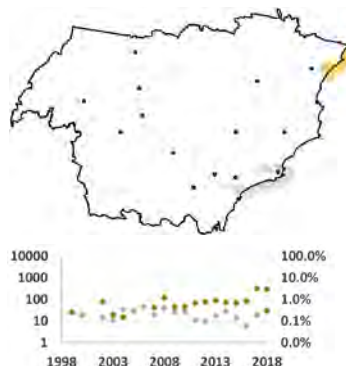
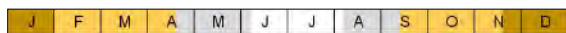
V | 2_u

Uncommon summer migrant recorded principally in the Manning Estuary and occasionally Worimi Conservation Lands.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest record was of three at MESP 25 Apr (KEM); earliest returning was a single bird at MESP 7 Oct (WEP).

CT Peak count of c.30 at MESP 9 Nov (BUT, GOS); 18 at MESP 16 Feb (MCS, WIK), with 17 there 2 Apr (ROM).



Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

4

Accidental (*new to list*). A single bird was present at MESP from at least 1 Dec (MUL) until 10 Dec (ANF). In identification discussions following discovery, most experts agreed on the bird being a Little Stint. It is therefore expected that when a formal submission is prepared for NSW ORAC, it will be accepted as such.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*

5

Single birds were present at Ash Island 13-18 February 2004 and Hexham Swamp 18-27 January 2014; these were accepted by BARC as the 7th and 9th records for Australia respectively. The species is also previously recorded in the Region in 1979.

No reports were received for 2018.

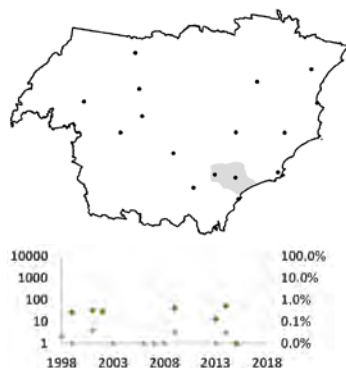
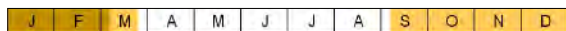
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

2_R

Rare summer migrant recorded principally within the Hunter Estuary, often in association with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

No reports were received for 2018.



Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

4

Accidental. Recorded in the Hunter Estuary in 1985 and again in 1988.

No reports were received for 2018.

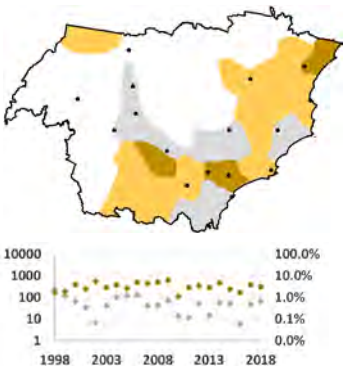
Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

1_M

Summer migrant, with several birds often recorded from wetland locations.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest record was of a single bird at Seaham Swamp 13 Mar (WAB); earliest returning was a single bird at Belmont 8 Aug (CIB). **CT** Peak count of 65 from combined Hunter Estuary locations 10 Nov (ROM, WAB); c.35 at Bulbul Cres, Fletcher 5 Jan (ROM), with 29 at the same location 10 Dec (KEM). **LC** Single birds at Roma Road, Merriwa 8 Sep (WID) and Martindale 10 Oct (LIA).



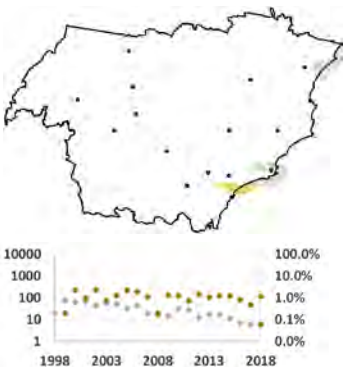
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

V | 2_U

Uncommon summer migrant recorded principally in the Hunter Estuary.

The long-term trend shows a substantial decline in the local population.

DT The latest record was of two birds at Fern Bay 18 Mar (HBOC, TBW); earliest returning was a single bird at Fern Bay 14 Oct (YAO). **CT** Peak count of six at Fern Bay 10 Nov (HBOC); Several counts of four birds at Fern Bay. **LC** A single bird at MESP from 23 Nov (DEB) to 29 Dec (GIT); Two at Harrington 27 Nov (STA).



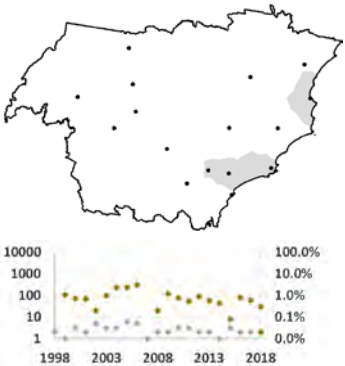
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

2_U

Uncommon summer migrant recorded principally in the Hunter Estuary.

There are too few birds in the local population to warrant an interpretation of the trend data.

DT The latest record was of a single bird at Kooragang Dykes 14 Apr (HBOC); earliest returning was two at Kooragang Dykes 8 Sep (HBOC). **CT** Peak count of two at Kooragang Dykes 20 Oct (HBOC). **LC** Single birds at Saltwater 27 Feb (KET), 17 Sep (HBOC) and 18 Oct (WEB); at Tahlee 4 Apr (FLS), Marmong Point 23 Dec (SDE) and Smiths Lake 29 Dec (GSU).



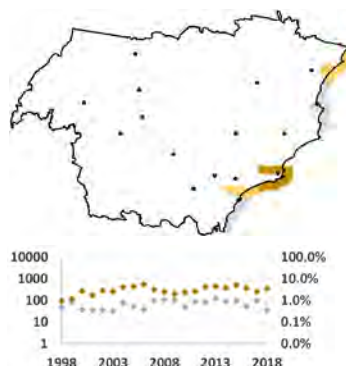
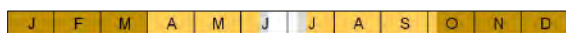
Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

1_M

Summer migrant, with several birds sometimes recorded coastally.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest record was 33 at Swan Bay 20 Apr (WOL); earliest returning was 17 at SSS 14 Oct (YAO); a few birds overwintered in the Hunter Estuary and Port Stephens, with a single bird in the Manning Estuary also. **CT** Peak count of 36 at SSS 22 Dec (KEM); 33 at Swan Bay 14 Apr (HAO).



Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Fern Bay 11-12 December 1999; a single bird at Birubi Point 24 September to 2 October 2008; a single bird at Newcastle Ocean Baths 16 November 2010.

A bird was present at Green Point, Lake Macquarie from at least 12 Oct (BEI) to 24 Oct (STA).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

5

Accidental. A single bird was present at Ash Island from 13-15 September 2001.

No reports were received for 2018.

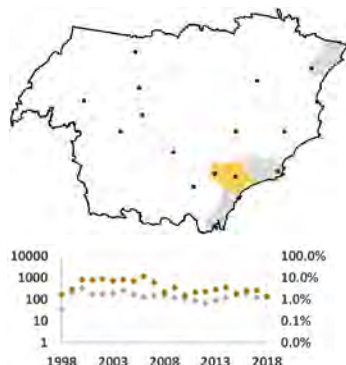
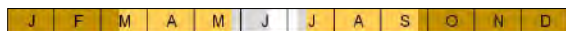
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

1_M

Summer migrant, with several birds often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations.

The long-term trend suggests a steady decline in the local population.

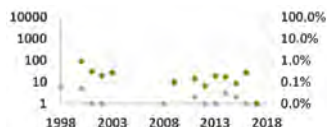
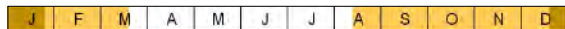
DT The latest record was 30 at Tomago 17 Apr (HBOC); earliest returning was 17 at Tomago 8 Sep (HBOC); several birds overwintered in the Hunter Estuary. **CT** Peak count of 135 from a survey of Hunter Estuary locations 14 Apr (HBOC); 115 from a similar survey 8 Dec. **LC** Two birds at Oyster Cove 26 Oct (WOL); at MESP 19 Feb (GRD).



Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

2_R

Rare summer migrant recorded principally at wetland locations in the Manning and Hunter Estuaries. There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend. No reports were received for 2018.



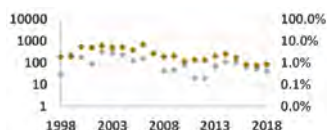
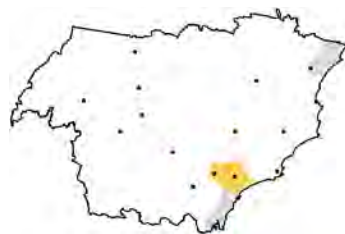
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

1_M

Summer migrant, with several birds often recorded at Hunter Estuary locations.

The long-term trend shows a decline in the local population.

DT The latest record was three at Tomago 17 Apr (HBOC); earliest returning was four at Hexham Swamp 8 Sep (HBOC); one winter record of a single bird at Hexham Swamp 17 Jun (KEM). **CT** Peak count of 42 at Kooragang Dykes 3 Jan (MEL); 31 at Ash Island 15 Nov. **LC** A single bird at Tocal 28 Dec (STD).



Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosus*

V | 4

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Woodville 25 August 1999; two birds at Kooragang Island 2 February 2006; three birds at Kooragang Island 10 February 2007; a bird taken into care at Rathmines in February 2010; a single bird at Indian Head, Crowdy Bay NP 11 December 2011; a single bird at Tuncurry 27 February 2014.

No reports were received for 2018.

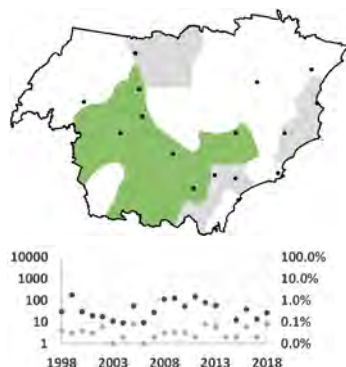
Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius*

2_u^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests occasional influxes to the Region may occur.

CT A peak count of eight at Minimbah 18 Mar (ROM), with three there 20 Mar (BEI); also counts of three birds at Old Gibber Rd, MLNP 30 Jan (WAB) and HEZ 4 Dec (ROM). **LC** Most records were from the Kurri-Cessnock woodlands, but other locations included GWC 12 Nov (BRG), 21 Nov (YAO) and 24 Nov (KEM), Four Mile Creek 17 Apr (NAK), Big Yengo 20 Jul (WIT), Medhurst Bridge 25 Jul (HBOC) and SATA 14 Aug (ROM).



Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhorthorax*

3^{nr}

Accidental. Accepted records: an adult female and immature male at Widden Valley 2 October 2005; a female bird at Wingen 31 October to 1 November 2008; a female bird at Hexham Swamp 28 December 2017.

No reports were received for 2018.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Gloucester Tops 16 November 1996; a single bird at Barrington House 11 January 2004; a single bird at Durrigere Road 24 September 2017.

No reports were received for 2018.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Ash Island 14-21 September 2003; a single bird at Ash Island 31 January to 1 February and again 28 March 2009; a single bird at Hexham Swamp 18 August 2013; a single bird at Hexham Swamp 17-25 August 2016; a single bird at Hexham Swamp 26-28 September, with two birds 29 Sep 2017.

No reports were received for 2018.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

4

Accidental. A single bird was present at Hexham Swamp from 21 to 25 February 2017. The record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 15th for NSW. Also, a historic record from January 1975.

No reports were received for 2018.

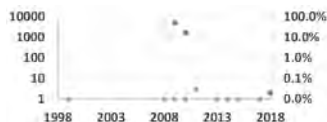
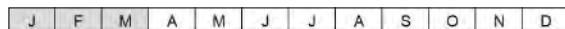
Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

2_R

Rare summer visitor, recorded principally in coastal waters from shore.

Insufficient pelagic trip data to indicate any trend.

CT Two birds at Newcastle Ocean Baths in March (THJ); a single bird at Burwood Beach 19 Mar (ALD).



Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 1 January 2004; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 20 January 2007; a single bird at Nobbys Beach 30 January to 4 February 2013; a single bird at Nobbys Beach 28 February to 3 March 2013.

No reports were received for 2018.

Grey Noddy *Anous albivittus*

V | 3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird from BBNP 21 February 1995; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 23 March 2002.

A single bird was photographed at the end of the Newcastle Breakwall 11 Jan (CAG) and reported 13 Jan but was not subsequently found by other observers.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

V | 3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Swansea 29 March 2003; two birds on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 22 April 2012; a bird taken into care on Wybong Road 13 March 2015; a single bird on a pelagic trip from Port Stephens 17 April 2016.

No reports were received for 2018.

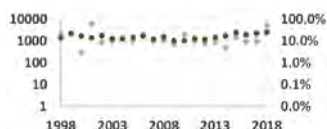
Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

1_{BR}

Common resident, with up to 100 birds regularly recorded. Restricted principally to the coast but also occurs at large water bodies in the Hunter Valley.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at Broughton Island 19-21 Jan and 4 Nov (HBOC). Nesting birds also reported at Moon Island 20 Nov (MOA). **CT** A peak count of c.5000 at Moon Island 20 Nov, with c.2000 there 2 Aug (MOA); 929 at WCL 16 Mar, with 924 16 Feb (LIA); c.900 in flight over Shortland 25 May (ROM); c.850 at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun (KEM).



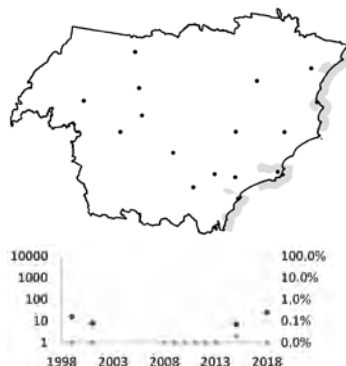
Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

2_R

Rare visitor, recorded principally in winter.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single immature bird at the Hunter River mouth from 4 Jun (BRA) to 12 Jun (THJ) and MESP 4 Nov (WEP).



Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

3_{br}

Accidental. Accepted records: a breeding pair on Moon Island in Nov-Dec 1959; a single bird at NOB 13 December 1998; a single bird at Harrington 17-23 September 2007; single birds at WCL 11 November 2008, 19 November 2012, 18 October 2015 and 28 October 2017

An immature bird was at SSS 13 Oct (BUR) and again at NOB 20 Nov (GOS).

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus*

5

Status uncertain. Two birds were initially photographed at MESP in December 2016 and then up to 15 roosting birds were found to frequent this location from 11 Dec 2017, generating substantial national and international interest.

Up to 18 birds were present at MESP early in the year (ENS, STA, WJA), with the latest departures recorded 17 Apr (WAP). Birds returned to the site 17 Oct (WEB), with peak counts of seven birds 8 Dec (MOA) and 26 Dec (BED, RUA).

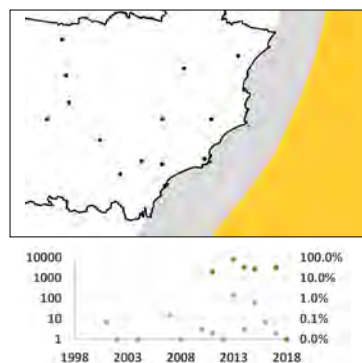
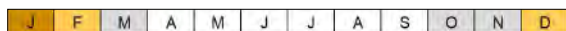
Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*

V | 2_u

Uncommon summer visitor.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Nov (ROM) is the only record for the year.



Accidental. In the wake of ex-tropical cyclone Oswald, a single bird was often recorded offshore from Nobbys Beach from 30 to 31 January 2013. The record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 14th confirmed for NSW.

No reports were received for 2018.

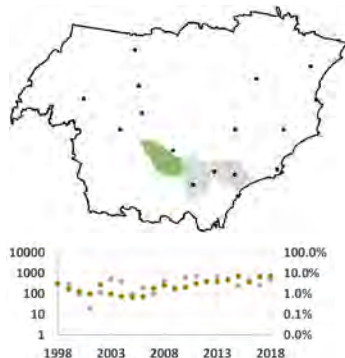
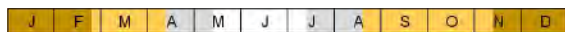
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

E | 2_T^{BR}

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Fledged young were at Winda Woppa 13-26 Feb (FRN), MESP 7 Jan (MUL) and SSS 12-14 Jan (ROM, KEM). Nesting birds also reported at WCL 12 Jan (LIA) and Harrington 27 Nov (STA). **DT** The latest record was a single bird at Salamander Bay 18 May (WOL); earliest returning was five at MESP 13 Sep (WEP) **CT** Peak count of 480 at MESP 20 Oct (MUL) is the highest since 2014.



Common Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

3

Status uncertain. A single bird was present at Stockton Sandspit from 29 December 2017 to 7 February 2018. The record was accepted by NSW ORAC as the 2nd for NSW. Having only recently been recognised as a separate species, it is hoped that the status of this species within the Region will become better understood in the future.

Following the spate of Jan-Feb records, a single bird was again at SSS 10 May (BEI) and WCL 10 Aug (LIA).

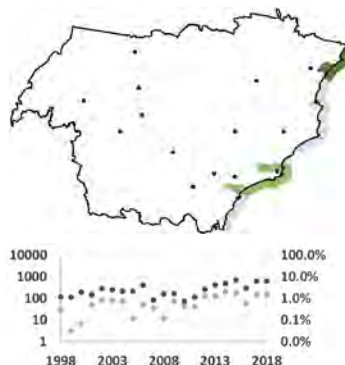
Australian Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*

1_M

Resident and irruptive visitor, with several birds moderately often recorded coastally.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

CT Peak count of 148 at WCL 10 Aug, with 118 19 Oct (LIA, STA); Elsewhere, 52 at SSS 17 Nov (MUR), c.30 at Harrington 20 Nov (FLS) and 21 at Swan Bay 14 Jul (HAO).



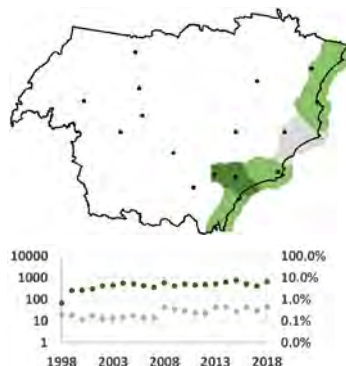
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

1_M

Resident and irruptive visitor, with several birds moderately often recorded coastally.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

CT Peak count of 45 at Port Stephens 13 Jul (HBOC); c.30 at SSS 18 Feb (SHG); 26 at Swan Bay 11 Aug, with 25 there 14 Jul and 20 16 Jun (HAO); 19 at SSS 18 Mar (TBW) and 13 Oct (BUR); 18 at Swan Bay 29 Jun and 15 there 19 May (WOL); 17 at Morpeth WWTP 25 Jul (LIA).



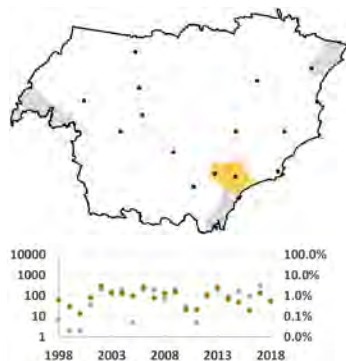
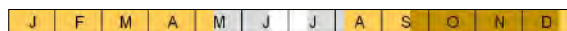
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

1_M

Spring migrant, recorded principally at wetland locations in the Hunter Estuary. The population in the Region fluctuates in response to irruptive visitors from inland.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

DT The latest record was a single bird at Hexham Swamp 19 Jan (BEI); earliest returning was a single bird at Hexham Swamp 11 Aug (KEM). **CT** Peak count of c.50 at Hexham Swamp 4 Nov (BEI, BRM); 31 at Morpeth WWTP 29 Nov, with 18 there 21 Dec (BRG, LIA).



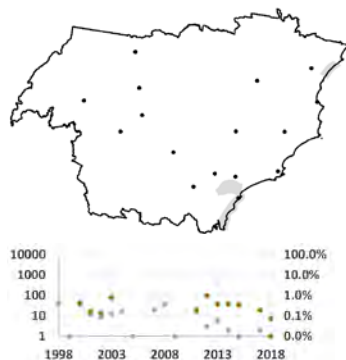
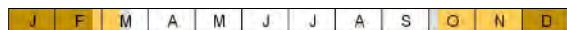
White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

2_R

Rare summer migrant, recorded principally at both wetland locations in the Hunter Estuary and coastal rock platforms.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single bird at MESP between 3 Nov (MUL) and 23 Dec (WEP).



Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

5

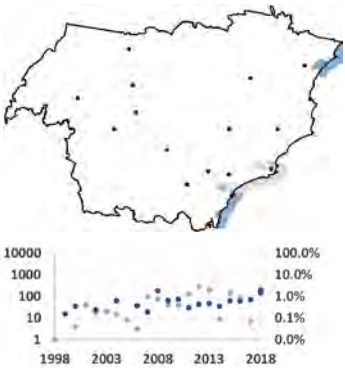
Accidental. A single bird was recorded in the Hunter Estuary in March 1968.
No reports were received for 2018.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

1_M

Winter migrant recorded at coastal locations.
The long-term trend suggests a gradual increase in the local population.

DT The earliest record was a single bird at NOB 29 May (NIR); latest departure was of ten at MESP 4 Nov (WEP) **CT** Peak count of c.200 from Fort Dr, Newcastle 5 Oct (ROM); c.170 at NOB in Sep, with c.80 there in Oct (THJ); 16 at Salamander Bay 23 Aug (WOL). **LC** Eight birds observed from Seal Rocks Lighthouse 24 Jun (KEM).

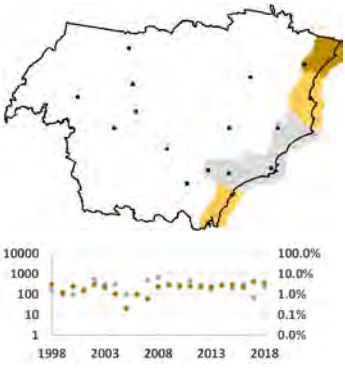


Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

1_M

Summer migrant, often present in large numbers in the Manning Estuary and up to ten birds elsewhere.
The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

DT The latest record was of three at MESP 25 Apr (KEM); earliest returning were a single bird at MESP 20 Oct (MUL), with five at Harrington on the same day (KEM). **CT** Peak count of 235 at MESP 31 Mar (MUL), with 174 there 9 Mar (BEI); Highest count elsewhere was 28 at NOB in Feb (THJ).



Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird on a pelagic trip from Newcastle 28 October 2006; a single bird at Manning Point 23 March 2008; a single bird at Newcastle Ocean Baths 29 October to 4 November 2012.
No reports were received for 2018.

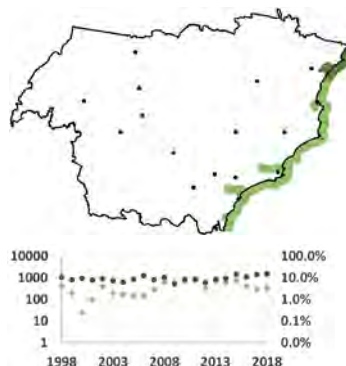
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with up to 50 birds often recorded coastally.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at Broughton Island 19 Jan (HBOC); Nesting birds also reported at Moon Island 20 Nov (MOA). **CT** Peak count of 331 at Kooragang Dykes 3 Jan (MEL); c.260 at NOB in Jun, with c.220 there in Aug and c.200 in Sep (THJ); c.250 at Harrington 20 Oct (KEM), with c.200 there 4 Oct (BEN).



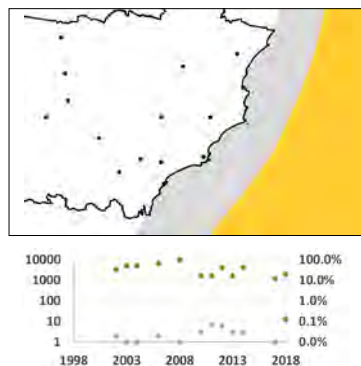
Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

2^U

Uncommon summer migrant, recorded principally from pelagic trips at and beyond the continental shelf break.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT A count of 13 from a Crowdy Head pelagic trip 19 Jan (ROM); **LC** a single bird seen from Seal Rocks Lighthouse 14 Jan (KEM).



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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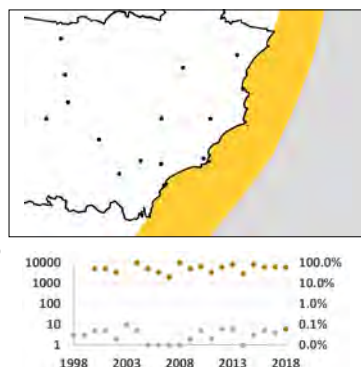
Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1^M

Summer migrant, recorded principally from inshore oceanic waters.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT A count of six from a Swansea pelagic 28 Nov (ROM); three from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan (ROM); a single bird from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM). **LC** Several observations from land including from MESP 9 Jan (DEB), 1 Feb (OOM, TUR) and 9 Nov (GOS); from Seal Rocks Lighthouse 14 Jan (KEM), Yacaaba Headland 24 Feb (GOS) and Fort Dr, Newcastle 22 Mar (ROM).



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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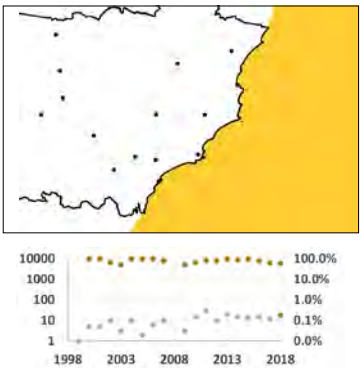
Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

1_M

Usual summer migrant, recorded both from inshore oceanic waters.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT A count of 18 from a Swansea pelagic 28 Nov (ROM); six from a Crowdy Head pelagic 19 Jan (ROM); six from a Port Stephens pelagic 11 Feb (ROM); two from a Port Stephens pelagic 16 Nov (ROM). **LC** Observed from land at Fort Dr, Newcastle 14 Jan (ROM), Seal Rocks Lighthouse 14 Jan (KEM) and Nelson Bay 23 Jan (SJE).



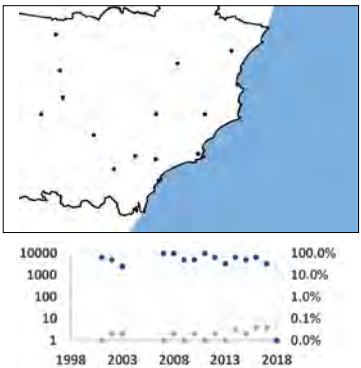
Brown Skua *Catharacta antarctica*

2_U

Uncommon winter visitor, recorded principally from pelagic trips.

Pelagic trip data shows no clear trend.

CT A single bird from a Swansea pelagic 2 Aug (ROM). **LC** A single bird observed from land at Fort Dr, Newcastle 5 Oct (ROM).



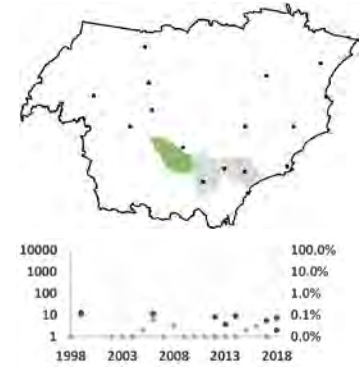
Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

V | 2_R^{br}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of two at Ash Island 16 Nov (MUR), with one there 24 Nov (BRN); a single bird at Tomago 16 Oct (FLS, KET).



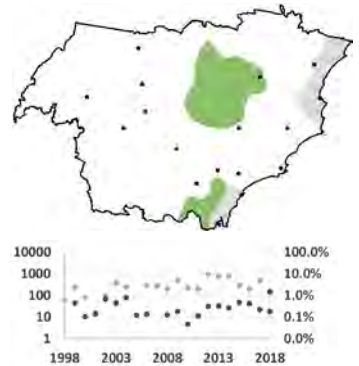
Greater Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

V | 2_u^{nr}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Single birds at Copeland 16 Feb (KEM), 31 Mar (WAC) and 28 Oct (YAO), Gloucester Tops Road 12 Apr (WEP) and 5 Nov (BEJ, BRM), Cobark 18 Feb (KEM) and Wallingat NP 27 Oct (WAJ).



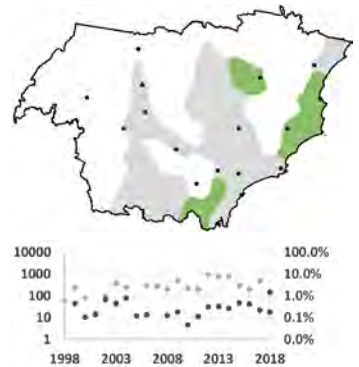
Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

V | 2_u^{br}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Single birds at Old Gibber Road, MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ), 3 Feb (KEM) and 15 Feb (BEI), Smiths Lake 18-21 Feb (GOS), a roadkill near Bulahdelah 25 Feb (BEI), Cattai Wetlands 3 Mar (KEM) and Copeland 28 Oct (YAO).



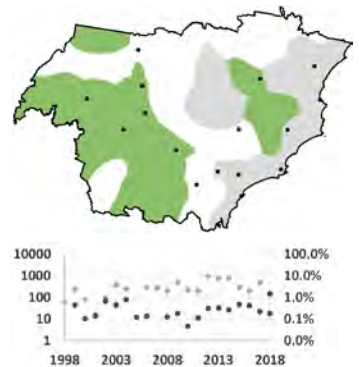
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

1_c^{br}

Resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of seven birds at Chisholm 1 May, with three there 3 May (BEI); three along Ringwood Road, Merriwa 24 Feb (KEM); all other records were of single birds.



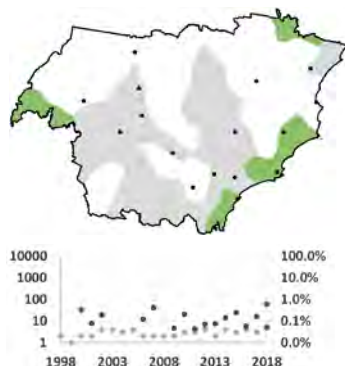
Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

V | 2^{BR}₁

Resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR Fledged young were at University of Newcastle, Callaghan 29 Aug (KLR). **CT** Breeding record included two adults and one chick; two birds at Kahibah 12 Dec (FLS); all other records were of single birds.



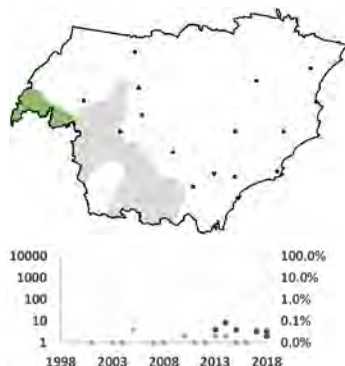
Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

V | 2^U_{br}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Two birds at Ringwood Road, GRNP 24 Feb, with one there 3 Nov (KEM).



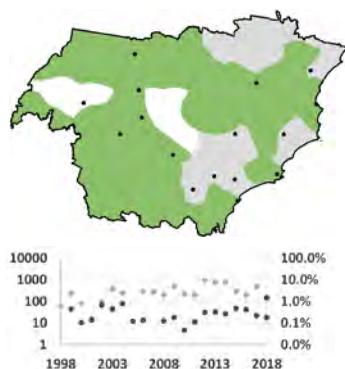
Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook*

1^{BR}_C

Resident. 1-2 birds occasionally recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a gradual decline in the local population.

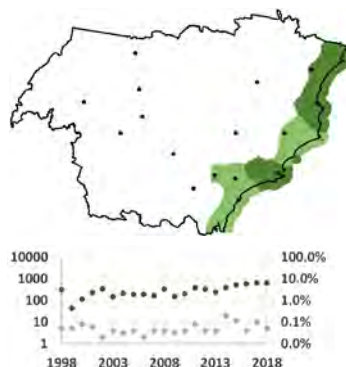
CT A peak count of seven calling birds in the Congewai Valley 16 Feb (ROM); two birds at Rawdon Vale 2 Jan (BRM), Cobark 18 Feb (KEM), Olney SF 9 Mar (TEJ), Copeland 20 Oct (KEM) and Gloucester Tops Road 27 Nov (COJ); all other records were of single birds.



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

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Confirmed breeding was recorded at several locations across the Region, including Harrington, Forster, Salamander, Ash Island and Morisset. Nesting birds were also at Green Point, Karuah and locations within Lake Macquarie. **CT** A peak count of five birds (including fledged young) at Harrington 22 Sep (BEN).



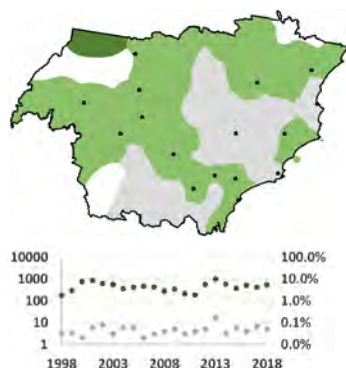
Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR Fledged young were at Crowdy Head 4 Feb (STA) and GWC 24 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of five birds at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM); both breeding records included four birds, being a single adult and three young; four birds at Taree 26 Jul (SAI).



Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

3

Accepted records form part of a known coastal influx, with individuals at Muswellbrook February 1977 and Redhead March 1977.

No reports were received for 2018.

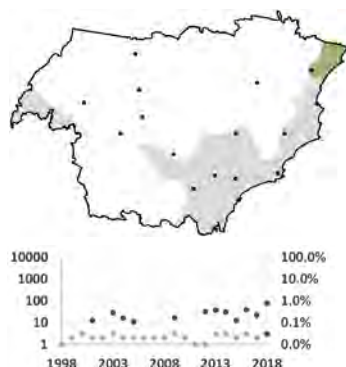
Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

V | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

CT A peak count of three birds at Old Bar 3 Dec (BEI), with two birds there 9 Jul (SMK); two birds at Ash Island 2 Feb (LIM); all other records were of single birds, most often from the Manning Estuary and Hunter Estuary locations, but also from the Myall Lakes, Lake Macquarie and lower Hunter woodlands..



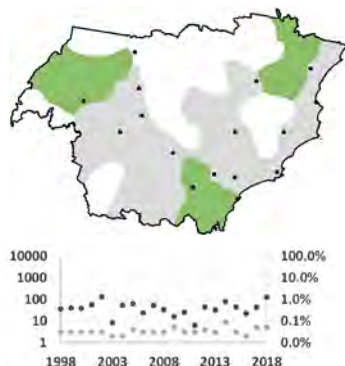
Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Courtship was observed, but no confirmed breeding records. **CT** A peak count of five, including three immature birds, Rankin Park 7 Jan, with four birds seen there 1 Nov (KET); two adults and two immature birds at Bishops Bridge 2 Oct (HBOC); also sightings of three birds at Glenrock SCA 2 Oct (HOM), Lemon Tree Passage 22 Oct (SMG) and Karuah 9 Dec (POM).



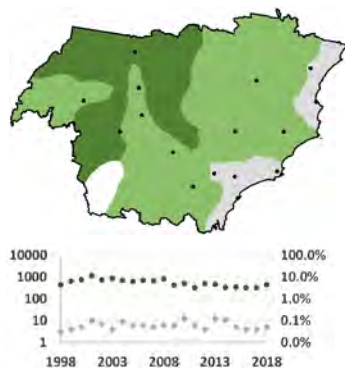
Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-2 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

CT Peak counts of four birds at Medhurst Bridge 5 May (MOA) and again there 28 Aug (KET), Jerrys Plains 15 July (CIB), Roma Road Merriwa 16 Sep (WID) and Lake St. Clair 17 Nov (ZEJ).



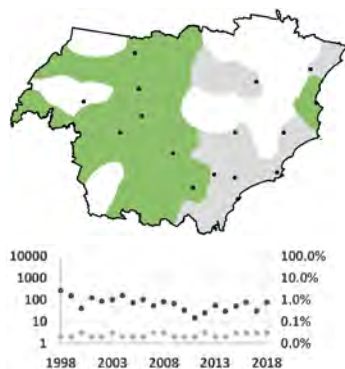
Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

V | 2_U^{br}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

CT Peak count of three birds at HEZ 21 May (CCJ); two birds seen at Tomago 16 Jun (HBOC) and Kitchener 9 Sep (ROM); all other records were of single birds.



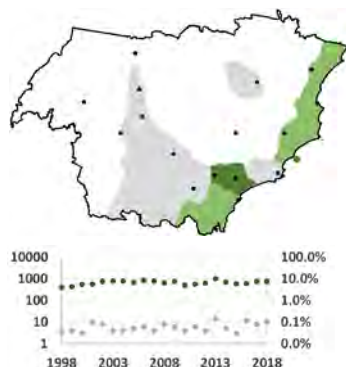
Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Courtship and the carrying of nesting material was observed, but no confirmed breeding records. **CT** A peak count of ten birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Aug, with eight there 11 Jun (KEM); most other large counts were from the same location, but elsewhere seven birds at Ash Island 28 Oct and further there 6 Sep (EDS).



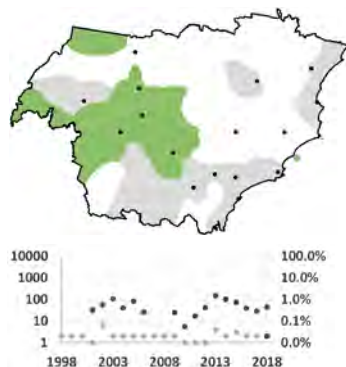
Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

V | 2_U^{nr}

Uncommon resident and irruptive visitor.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional influxes.

CT Peak counts of two birds at Camberwell 4 Jul (NAK), MLNP 27 Oct (WAR) and Medhurst Bridge 4 Dec (KET); all other records were of single birds.



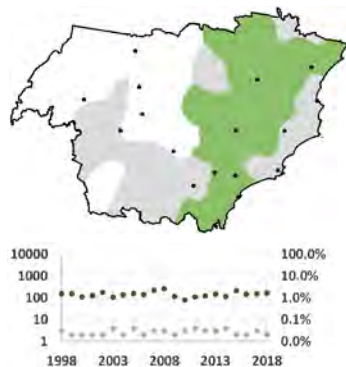
Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

Resident. Single, grey phase birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT Peak counts of two birds at Belmont 10 Mar (SDE) and 10 Apr (MCN), Holmesville 23 Apr (SIM), Wootton 16 Jul (ROM), Cardiff 1 Aug and 5 Sep (SRO), Balickera 9 Oct (STR), Blackbutt Reserve 11 Nov (KLR) and Cattai Wetlands 19 Oct (STJ); all other records were of single birds.



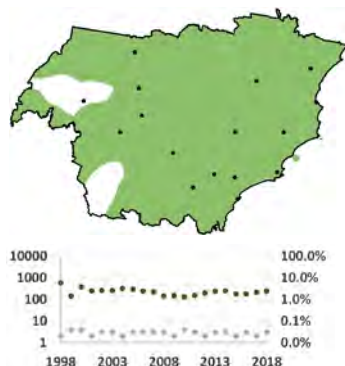
Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A female was on nest at Ringwood Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of three birds near Parkville 28 Sep (ROM); two birds at Pambalong NR 3 Mar (MOA), Wallsend 1 Aug (KEM), Fletcher 7 Aug (KEI), Lake Glenbawn 27 Sep (ROM) and Ridgeland Road 17 Dec (ROM); all other records were of single birds.



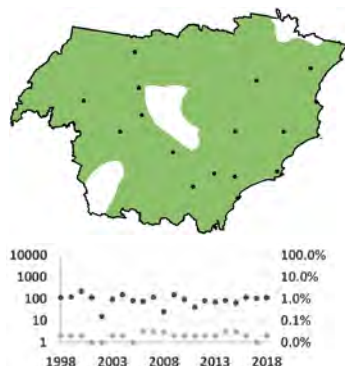
Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

1^{BR}

Resident. Single birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT Peak counts of two birds at Ringwood Road 13 Feb (WAB, JOJ) and near Jesmond 24 Aug (KEM); all other records were of single birds.



White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

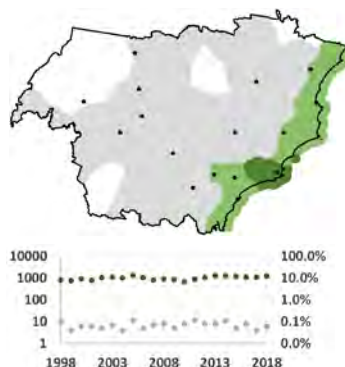
V | 2^{BR}

Usual resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A young bird in nest at Irrawang Swamp 17 Oct (WAB).

CT Peak counts of six birds from surveys of Port Stephens 16 Feb and 13 Jul (HBOC) and WCL 19 Oct (STA); five birds at Broughton Island 22-24 Apr and 17 Aug (STA) and Ash Island 4 Mar (MCG).



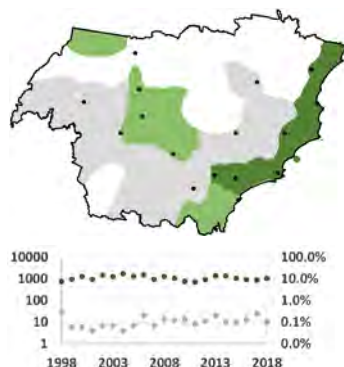
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

1^{BR}

Common resident, up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Adults feeding young in nest at Tahlee 4 Jan (FLS) and Harrington 30 Aug (STA). **CT** A peak count of ten birds at Hexham Swamp 5 May, with six there 11 Aug (KEM); six birds at Irrawang Swamp 30 Mar (FLS), with five there 14 Jan (MEL); five birds at Tea Gardens 8 Apr (GOS) and from the Port Stephens survey 13 Jul (HBOC).



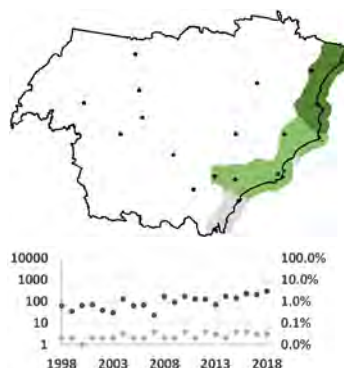
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

1^L

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Dependent young at Lemon Tree Passage 8 Sep (KEM) and 10 Oct (LUA). **CT** Both breeding records involved an adult pair plus a single youngster; three birds together at MESP 18 Apr (STA); records of two birds from multiple locations including the Manning Estuary, Great Lakes, Port Stephens, Hunter Estuary and Lake Macquarie.



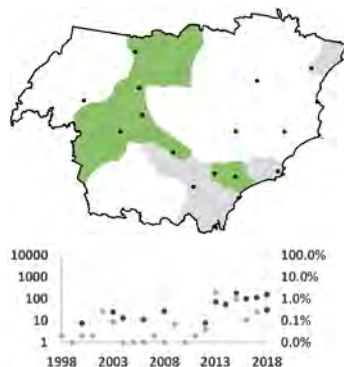
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

1^{BR}_M

Uncommon resident and irruptive visitor.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population, following an irruption in 2013.

CT A peak count of 31 at Thornton 30 Aug; 13 at Scone 25 Mar (LUA), with nine there 28 Apr (KEM); nine at Irrawang Swamp 17 Jul, with six there 15 Aug (WAB); nine at Fletcher 6 Aug (KEI) and 15 Sep (ROM); eight at Chisholm 3 May (BEI); seven at Hexham Swamp 5 May; five near Parkville 28 Sep (ROM).



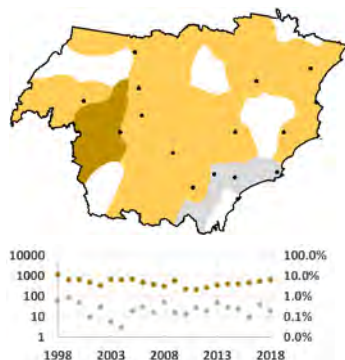
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

1^{BR}_M

Usual summer migrant; up to 10 birds occasionally recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

DT The latest record was from Hannam Vale 9 Apr (WEP), with a bird at Smiths Lake 5 Apr (GOS); earliest returning was two birds at BBNP 18 Aug (MOA), then six at Fordwich 29 Aug (THJ). **CT** Peak counts of 20 at Forster during Feb (CAA) and from MLNP 26 Oct (KDY); 12 birds at Durrigere Road 24 Feb (KEM), Martindale 28 Sep and Bureen Road 10 Oct (HBOC).



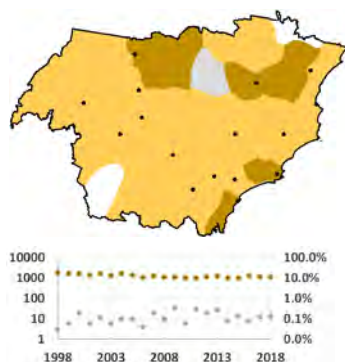
Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

1^{BR}_M

Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Fledged young were at Ridglands road 23 Jan (ROM) and HWC 10 Feb (LIP). **DT** The latest record was at WWW 9 Apr (CLM), with a bird near Thornton 7 Apr (NAK); earliest returning was a bird at Myuna Bay 14 Aug (MCN), then at Oyster Cove 28 Aug (WOL). **CT** Peak count of 14 at Cooranbong 13 Jan (MCE).



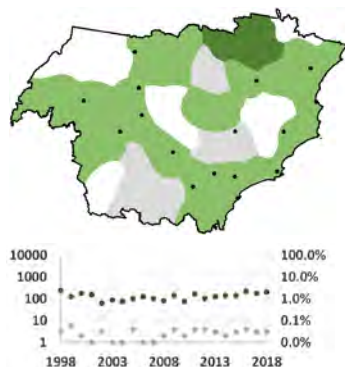
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*

1^{BR}_L

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT Peak count of three at MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ); two birds at Woko NP 6 Apr (COJ), UoN, Callaghan 15 May (BEA), Laguna 1 Jun (BAC), Cattai Wetlands 17 Jun, 6 Jul (MUL), 27 Jul (STA) and 29 Nov (WIJ), Paterson 14 Aug (STD), Bulahdelah 11 Sep (WHS) and Tomago 18 Sep, 16 Oct and 20 Nov (HBOC); all other records were of single birds.





Azure Kingfisher by Claire Philip

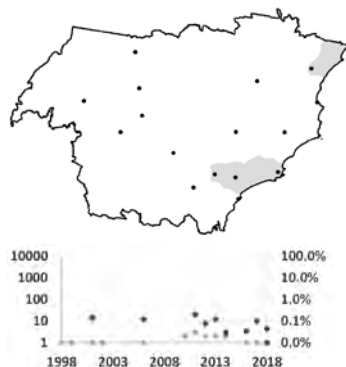
Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

2_R

Rare visitor to the extreme NE of the Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

A bird was present at Tahlee throughout January, until at least 24 Jan (FLS).



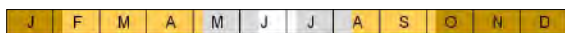
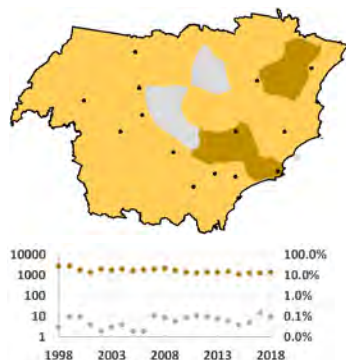
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

1_M^{BR}

Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Some birds over-winter at coastal locations.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Confirmed breeding recorded at Mudbishops Point 8 Dec (LAS) and Awabakal NR 27 Dec (KLR). **DT** The latest non-coastal record was at Durrigere Road 24 Apr (WAB); earliest returning was a bird at Cardiff 24 Sep (YAO), then at Moonan Flat 26 Sep (ROM).



Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Bureen 13-27 October 2002; an irruption of birds to the Region in September-October 2017, mostly at Ulan Road and Durrigere Road sites, but also Windy Station, Bureen and Yarrowa

No reports were received for 2018.

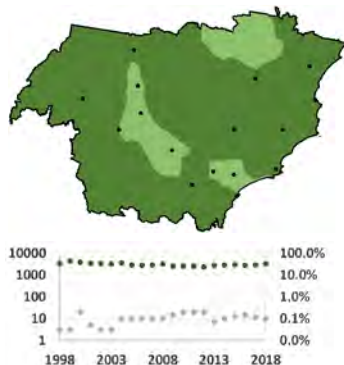
Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

1^{BR}

Common resident. Up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations across the Region. **CT** Peak counts of ten birds at Tahlee 6 Jun, with nine there 28 Aug and eight 11 Jul (FLS); ten at GRNP 8 Aug (BRM); eight birds at Blackbutt Reserve 20 Jan (HAC) and 24 Feb (LIP), Salamander 9 Jun (STG), Swan Bay 20 Oct (HAO) and BBNP 21 Dec (CAM).



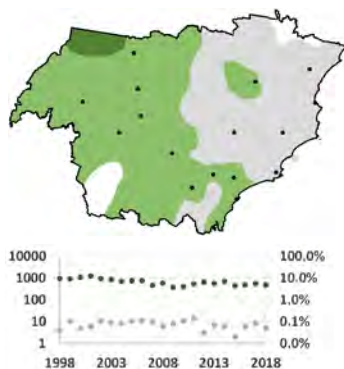
Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-2 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but an adult was with a young bird at Black Hill 7 Aug (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of five birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); four at Martindale 18 May (MOA), with three there 23 Jun (NAK); three at NOB in Feb (THJ), Hexham Swamp 14 Feb (BEI), WCL 16 Mar (LIA), Doyles Creek 1 May (KET) and Ringwood Road, Merriwa 3 Nov (KEM).



Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

1^{BR}

Resident. Single birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but an adult pair was with a young bird at Old Bar 10 Jan (DEB, HUN, WIJ); an adult was with a young bird near Parkville 24 Jan (ROM). **CT** In addition to the breeding records, two birds were observed at locations across the Region, including at Pambalong NR hunting migrating honeyeaters 24 Apr (KET).



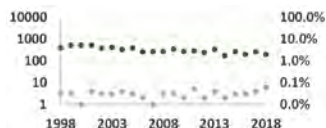
Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT A peak count of six birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Aug, with three there 5 May and 9 Jun (KEM); five at Viney Creek, Nerong 10 Feb (BIT, MUL); four at Smedes Road 19 Nov (BRG); three at Dungog 28 Oct (JED).



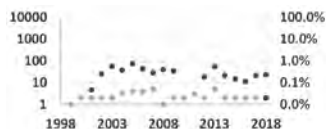
Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

V | 2₀^{br}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Two birds at Maitland 26 Apr (DON) and near Parkville 10-11 Jul (ROM), with a single there 17 Dec; singles at Hexham Swamp 1-2 Mar (DCH, MOA) and 5 May (KEM), Medhurst Bridge 5 May (MOA), near Cassilis 29 Jun (ROM), Wallalong 13 Sep (BRG), Martindale 28-30 Sep (HBOC), HWC 14 Oct (LIP), Ash Island 8 Nov (WAB) and at Bureen 4 Dec (KET).



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

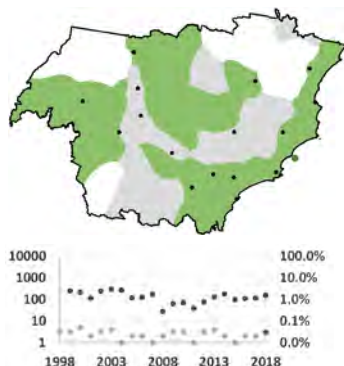
1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds are occasionally recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A begging juvenile bird near Parkville 17 Dec (ROM).

CT Peak counts of three birds including the breeding record and Kooragang Dykes 18 Feb (MEL); two birds at Congewai 1 Feb (ROM), Ash Island 24 Feb (ROM, WID) and 17 Jun (KEM), Minimbah 16 Mar (BEI), Hexham Swamp 11 Aug (KEM), LHNP 19 Aug (WEJ, WER), HEZ 25 Nov (KEM) and Forster 30 Dec (OND).



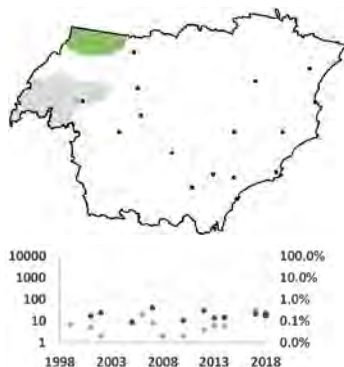
Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

2_U^{nr}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of 18 at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM), with 11 there 6 Apr (WAB) and three 17 Oct (BRM); six near Kars Springs 19 Jun (WAB, JOJ); four at Summerhill Road 29 Jun (ROM); two at Windy Station 29 Apr KEM) and Ringwood Road, Merriwa 1 Oct (ROM) and a single bird at Durrigere Road 11 Sep (ROM).



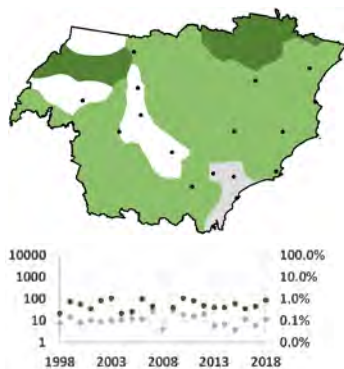
Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*

V | 2_T^{BR}

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR An adult female was with a begging juvenile at Durrigere Road 24 Feb (KEM). **CT** Peak counts of 12 birds at Ringwood Road, GRNP 27 Oct (WID) and MLNP 27 Oct (FRT, MEE, WAJ); ten near Bungwahl 20 Oct (DRP); seven at Myall View 25-29 Jan (KAA); six near Cells River 17 Apr (WOM) and Indian Head, CBNP 1 Jan (MUL).



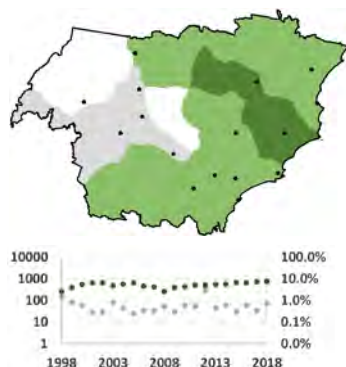
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Zanda funerea*

1^{BR}

Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Two pairs, each with a begging juvenile at Nabic 27 Sep (KEM); fledged young were also at HRBG 28 Oct (MOA). **CT** A peak count of at least 70 birds at MESP 3 Mar (KEM), with c.50 there 9 Nov (WE), WER) and 27 26 Jan (KEM); 53 birds at Crowdy Head 1 Oct (BEN); 25 at East Maitland 23 Dec and 22 at Morpeth 17 Nov (BRG); 21 at Hawks Nest 10 May (BEI).



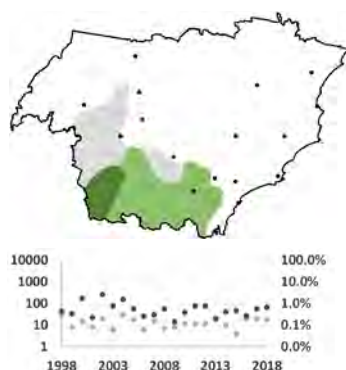
Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

V | 2^{BR}

Resident, with local movements off the ranges to lowland locations during the winter months.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of 18 birds at Pelton 29 Sep (COB); ten near Abernethy 5 Jun (HBOC); six at KSFT, Kitchener 6 May (KEM), with four there 25 May (ROM); five at Mount Coricudgy 17 May (BEI) and Bucketty 10 Jun (HAJ); four at Laguna 29 Mar (STD), 1 Jun (BAC) and 22 Oct (PAR), Watagans NP 20 May (RMI), near Quorrobolong 23 May (BEA, ROM) and Ellalong 15 Aug (ROM).



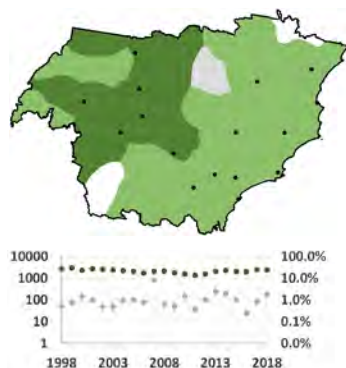
Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A flock of c.60 birds, including dependent young at Cobark 17 Feb (KEM); young in nest also at Oakhampton Heights 11 Mar (NAK). **CT** A peak count of c.180 at Windy Station 28 Apr (KEM); c.100 at Bureen 30 Jun (KEM); c.80 at Sandy Hollow 26 Feb (KEM); at least 70 at Singleton 25 Jan (WAC).



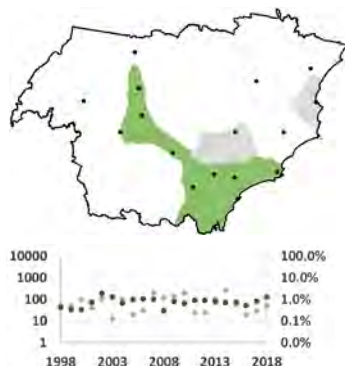
Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds sometimes recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT A peak count of c.50 at Morisset Park 16 Jan (CAG); c.30 at Hexham Swamp 8 Oct (YAO); c.20 at Cooranbong 2 Feb (TAM) and Windella 17 Mar (NAK); 17 at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); 13 at New Lambton 3 Jan (HAC); 12 at Tahlee 23-29 Apr (FLS); ten at WWW 10 Oct (MEL).



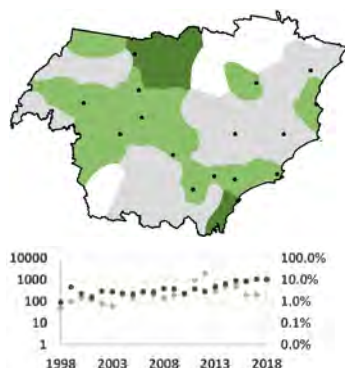
Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

1^{BR}

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

The long-term trend shows a recent increase in the local population.

CT A peak count of c.1000 at Jerrys Plains 30 Jun (KEM) and c.150 there 19 May (MAP); c.420 at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); c.370 at Fort Scratchley 3 Sep (ROM); c.300 at Willow Tree 20 Apr (ROM); c.200 at Speers Point 19 Apr (MOA) and Nobbys Head 9 Sep (BEI); c.150 at SWCG 9 May (BEA); 108 at Tanilba Bay 30 Jan (WOL).



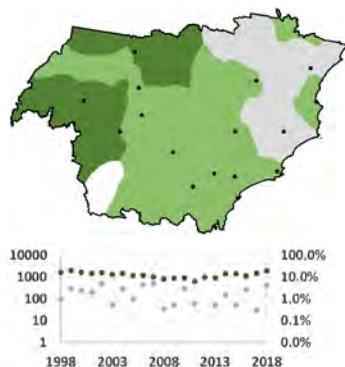
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR An adult pair with two fledged young at Forster 24 Dec (MOA). **CT** A peak count of c.425 near McCullys Gap 27 Aug, with c.60 there 23 Dec (APR); c.250 at Bureen 6 Mar (KET); 211 at Copeland 20 Oct (KEM); c.120 at Wallsend Wetlands 25 Sep (YAO); 76 at Windy Station 28 Apr (KEM); c.75 at GRNP 8 Aug (BRM); c.60 at Willow Tree 20 Apr (ROM) and in Newcastle 14 Sep (YAO).



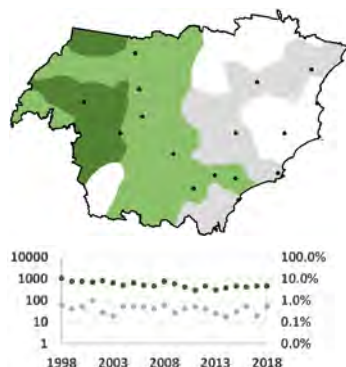
Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

1^{BR}

Usual resident. Up to 20 birds moderately often recorded. The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Recently fledged young were at WWW 11 Jan (STD).

CT A peak count of 52 near Parkville 11 Apr (ROM); 32 at Seaham Swamp 13 Mar (WAB); c.25 birds at Martindale 23 Jun (NAK), 25 Jul (HBOC) and 30 Sep (KET); c.20 birds at Denman 24 Jun (NAK) and 18 Jul (BLG); 19 at Windella 17 Mar (NAK).



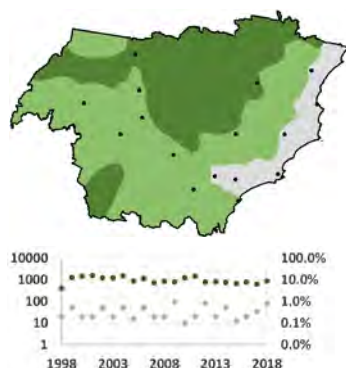
Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR An adult pair with three recently fledged young were at Gloucester in Jan (DRP). **CT** A peak count of over 80 feeding on an abandoned crop of seeding wheat at Cobark 18 Feb (KEM); c.50 birds at Polblue, BTNP 2 Jan (GEG) and Brett Reserve 5 Apr (COJ); c.40 at Kerripit Road 4 Feb (KEM).



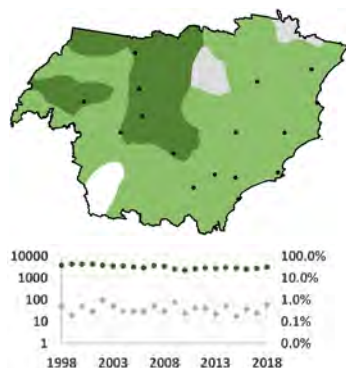
Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

1^{BR}

Common resident. Up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were at Eagleton 13 Feb (MEN), Bobs Farm in Oct (THJ) and Abermain 7 Dec (PAM). **CT** A peak count of c.60 birds at Black Hill 8 Jul, with c.45 there 1 Aug (THJ); c.50 at Wangi Wangi 22 Apr (NIS); c.45 at Wollombi 18 Aug (RMI); c.30 at Secret Bay 28 Apr (NIS) and GRNP 7 Aug and 20 Aug (BRM).



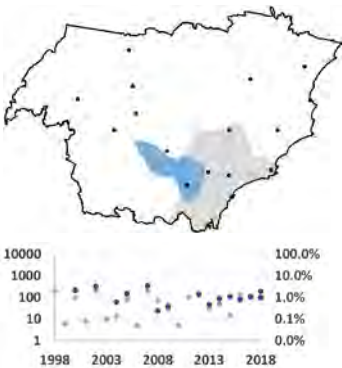
Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

CE | E | 2_u

Uncommon winter migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

DT The earliest birds were eight at KSFT, Kitchener 30 Apr, with 18 on the same day at Pelton (MUL). Latest record was of a bird found injured at The Vintage Golf Course and taken into care 2 Oct (GRG). **CT** At least 100 birds at Pelton 8 May (ROM), with over 80 there 27 May (KEM); c.45 birds at HEZ 19 May, with at least 35 there 27 Jun (ROM); elsewhere, at least five birds were at Rankin Park 8-9 Sep (KET) and two at Lansdowne 15 Jul (WEP).



Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

V | 3^{nr}

Uncertain. Presumed extinct in the wild within the Region (last recorded 1935) until a spate of recent records. Accepted records: a single bird near Cape Hawke 28 March 2002

A bird was flushed from the side of a track in CBNP at dawn 4 March 2018, but could not be relocated (BEA, KEM). A bird was subsequently heard calling from a nearby location on the night of 10 March (MUL).

A single bird (and possibly another) was feeding on fallen seed along a track edge near Minimbah on at least the mornings of 15 March and 18 March (MCB, ROM, THN).

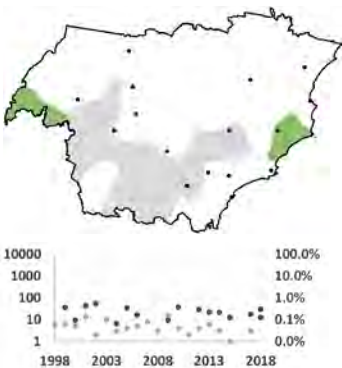
Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

V | 2_u^{nr}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of 13 at Old Gibber Road, MLNP 30 Jan (WAB), with five there 24 Jan (WPE) and four 28 Jan (MEL) and 11 Mar (CLM); nine birds at Parkview, GRNP 11 Sep (ROM); six birds at Peach Tree Flats 27 Aug (ROM); five males at Ringwood Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM); elsewhere, two birds were at HEZ 5 May (ROM) and two in the Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM).



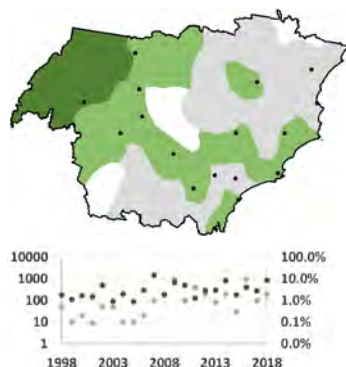
Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

1^{BR}

Resident in the west of the Region and irruptive visitor elsewhere.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with occasional fluctuations.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were inspecting a hollow at Cassilis Rest Area 23 Oct (KET). **CT** Peak counts of c.200 birds at Mount Tomaree 30 Apr (TAP) and Shoal Bay 27 Jul (BEI); c.120 at Belmont North 1 Jul (CIB); c.100 at Tahlee 11 Apr (FLS), Hamilton 23 Apr (KEM), Kurri Kurri 11 Dec (ROM) and HEZ 13 Dec.



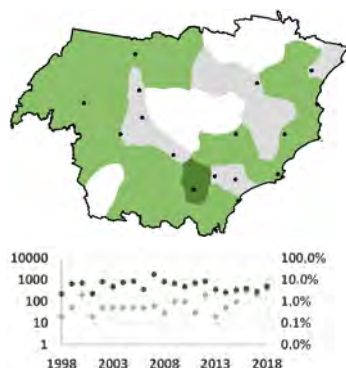
Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

V | 2^{br}

Resident; up to 10 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were inspecting hollows at HEZ 7 Aug (KET) and 17 Oct (ROM). **CT** A peak count of c.400 birds at HEZ 13 Nov, with c.150 there 17 Oct and c.100 19 Nov and 11 Dec (ROM); c.200 at Nulkaba 22 Jun (THJ); c.100 at Tahlee 4 Apr (FLS); c.80 birds at SATA 1 May (ROM).



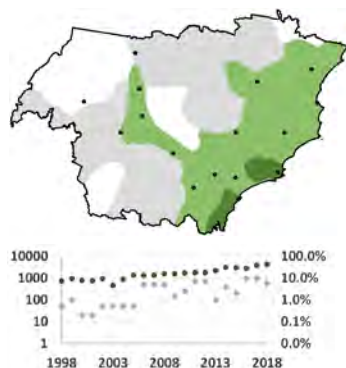
Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend shows a recent increase in the local population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were at Raymond Terrace 12 Jan (BUM), Nords Wharf 8 Apr (HAM) and HRBC 22 Jul (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.600 birds from SSS 31 Jan (KEM); c.200 at Shoal Bay 27 Jul (BEI); c.150 at Tanilba Bay 23 Apr (PRD) and Mount Tomaree 30 Apr (TAP); c.100 at Corlette 20 Jan (BRJ) and Taree 28 Oct (DRA).





Scaly-breasted Lorikeet by Alan Stuart

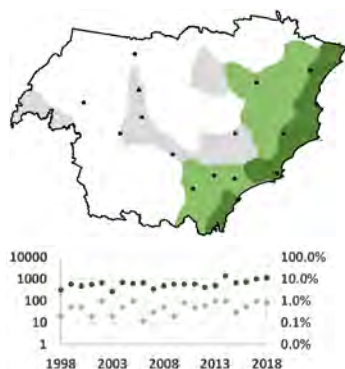
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young at Lemon Tree Passage 14 Dec (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 86 birds at Coopernook 9 May (TAM); c.60 at Tahlee 4 Apr (FLS); c.40 at Smiths Lake 21 Feb (GOS) and Abermain 7 Dec (PAM); 39 birds from SSS 31 Jan (KEM); 36 birds at Old Gibber Road, MLNP 15 Feb (BEI).



Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: four birds at Mount Arthur 7 September 2005; a flock of c.7 birds near Merriwa 27 November 2010; an irruption of 100s of birds into the Region, predominantly in April to May (some as late as August) 2013, mostly in the Martindale to Sandy Hollow area, but coastally as far as HEZ.

No reports were received for 2018.

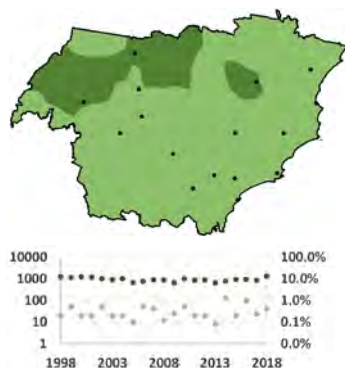
Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

1^{BR}

Common resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A female bird with a begging juvenile at HEZ 29 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.40 at Gloucester 9 Jun (MUR); c.20 near Salisbury 16 Mar (BOD); 16 at Tahlee 6 Jun (FLS) and Copeland 15 Oct (WEB); 15 at Balickera 6 Feb (HBOC); 14 at Medhurst Bridge 1 Jul (KET) and Martindale 28-30 Sep (HBOC).



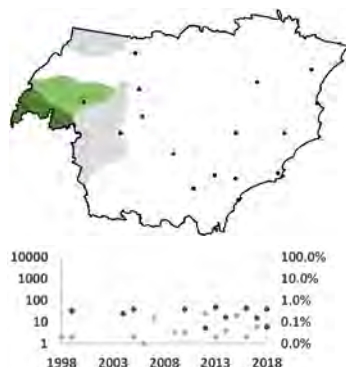
Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

2^{nr}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a male seen entering a hollow and not re-emerging at Cassilis Rest Area 23 Oct (KET). **CT** A peak count of six birds at Durrigere Road 24 Oct (KET); five at Flight Springs Road, Merriwa 1 Nov (HOT), with four there 27 Apr (HOE).



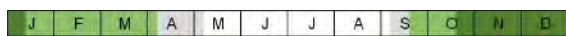
Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

1^M

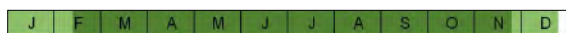
Altitudinal migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

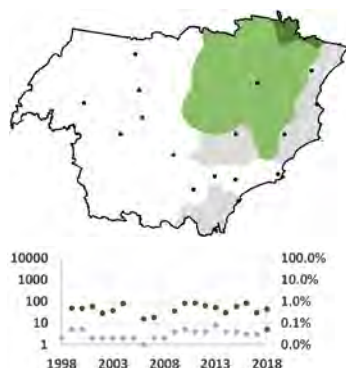
CT A peak count of five birds near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK); two at Copeland Tops SCA 15 Oct (WEB) and 29 Dec (PED); all other records were of single birds, with locations including BTNP, Allyn River, O'Sullivan's Gap and Doyles River. **LC** Coastal records include Glenrock SCA from 7 Aug (KLR) to 18 Aug (NED); at Green Point, Valentine 24 Jul (CLM) and Cape Hawke 9 Feb (MUS).



High Altitude



Low Altitude



Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

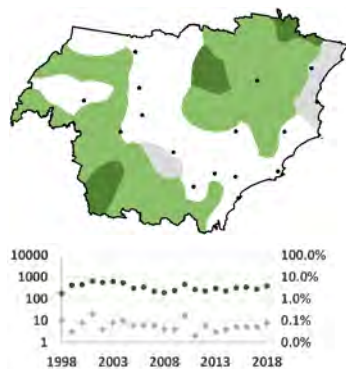
Northern Superb Lyrebird *spp. edwardi*

Central Superb Lyrebird *spp. novaehollandiae*

edwardi a usual resident north of the Hunter River and *novaehollandiae* a usual resident south of the Hunter River.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of eight birds at Sharpes Creek 5 Mar, with five there 12 Mar and 27 Mar (STA); six birds at Chichester SF 16 Jun (BEA); six at Gloucester Tops from 27-30 Nov (COJ), with five there 17 Oct (GOJ, LAS, WAK).



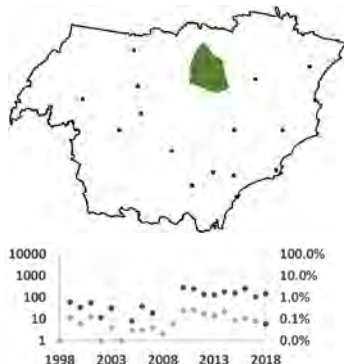
Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

E | V | 2_U^{nr}

Uncommon resident of high-altitude open woodlands.

Recent increase in WRR due to targeted surveys of Gloucester Tops.

CT All records were from the Gloucester Tops, including locations at Gloucester Tops Road, Kerripit Road, Gloucester Falls, Careys Peak Track and Glowang Track. Seventeen calling male birds were recorded in surveys in the Gloucester Tops over 24-26 Sep (HBOC).



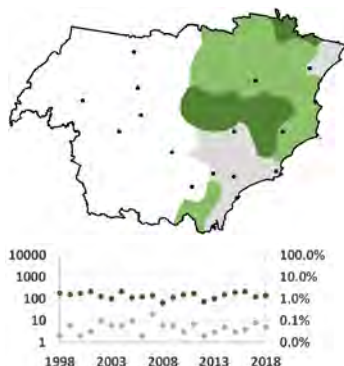
Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of five birds at Copeland Tops SCA 18 Aug (KEM), with four there 15 Oct (WEB) and three 17 Feb, 18 Aug and 21 Oct (KEM) and 16 Oct (WEB); five at Pacific Palms 20 Dec (CAM); four birds at Mungo Brush 24 Jan (WPE) and Allyn River 28 Oct (BRG); three at The Old Brush, Brunkerville 15 Oct (YAO).



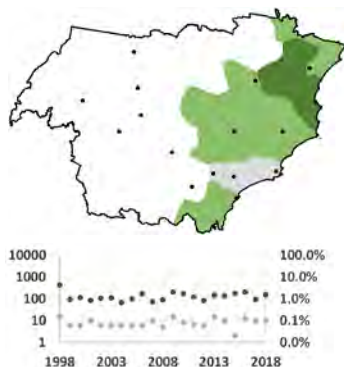
Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential increase in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a bird was carrying food at Saltwater NP 13 Dec (ASB, SRA). **CT** A peak count of ten birds at Saltwater NP 10 Jan (DEB, HUN, WIJ), with four there 13 Mar (HUJ) and 17 Sep (HBOC); six at Glenrock SCA 28 Sep (YAO); five at Booti Hill Track 21 Dec (CAM); four at Mungo Brush 23 Jul (TUI), CBNP 1 Dec (KEM) and Cattai Wetlands 24 Dec (CAC).



Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 10 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A bird was on nest at Eleebana 9 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of at least 20 birds at Riverwood Downs, Monkerai 27 Jun (FRP); 15 at Abernethy 18 Nov (HBOC); 12 at Wootton 30 Aug (HEL) and Charlestown 23 Oct (LOL); ten at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC) and Sharpes Creek 15 Oct (WEB).



Spotted Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus maculata*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Merriwa 11 May 2003; a single bird at North Rothbury in July 2010 and during Apr-May 2011; a single bird at Rothbury 30 April and 3 November 2011; a single bird at HEZ 31 May 2013.

No reports were received for 2018.

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

1^{BR}

South-eastern White-throated Treecreeper

ssp. leucophaeus

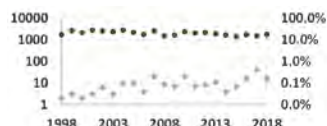
Central Eastern White-throated Treecreeper

ssp. metastasis

leucophaeus a common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded. Status of *metastasis* unknown but potentially occurs in the far north of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding but young birds were at Wingen 5 Sep (NEG).



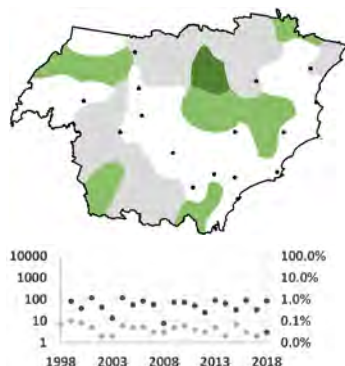
Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrops*

1^{BR}

Resident, typically of higher altitude areas.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a pair was investigating tree hollows at BTNP 30 Sep (LIK). **CT** Three birds at Barrington Tops SF 5 Jan (GEG) and 18 Feb (KEM). **LC** Records away from the Barrington and Gloucester Tops were at Mount Coricudgy 17 May (BEI), Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM), Crawney Pass NP 28 Jul (TBW) and 6 Aug (CAN) and O'Sullivan's Gap 16 Jul (ROM) and 9 Dec (GO), LAS, WAK).



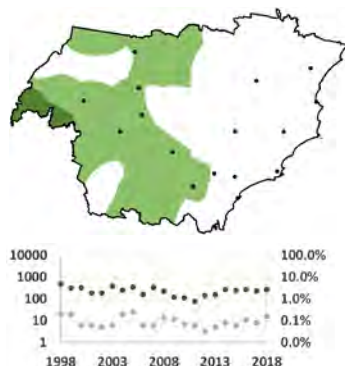
Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

V | 2^T

Usual resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with fluctuations.

BR A pair had a nest with young at Durrigere SCA 4 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 14 birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM), with seven there 6 Apr (WAB); eight at GRNP 7-8 Aug (BRM); seven birds near Parkville 17 Dec (ROM).



Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

1^{BR}

Purple-backed Fairy-wren

ssp. assimilis

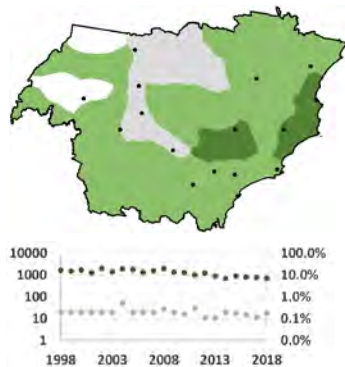
Central East Coast Variegated Fairy-wren

ssp. lamberti

Usual resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded. Predominantly *lamberti*, but *assimilis* could occur in the far west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Recently fledged young at GWC 24 Nov, HEZ 29 Nov and Tanilba Bay WWTP 22 Dec (KEM).



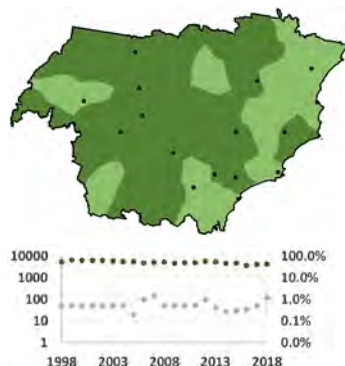
Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 119 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun, with 86 there 11 Aug, 75 5 May and 50 15 Dec (KEM); 64 at HWC 26 May (KEM); 41 at Tanilba Bay WWTP 22 Dec; 38 at Ash Island 4 Jan (BAL, HES, LAS).



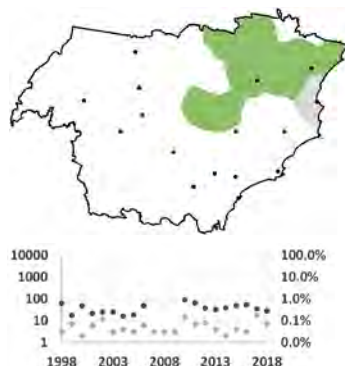
Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

2^U

Uncommon resident.

Recent increase in WRR likely attributed to the opening of Cattai Wetlands.

CT A peak count of seven birds at Cattai Wetlands 18 Dec (WAB, JOJ); four at CBNP 2 Dec (KEM), with three there 8 Apr (WIG) and 12 Feb (KEM). **LC** A record from the Hunter River catchment at Sugarloaf Road near Dungog 6 Jan (WJC).



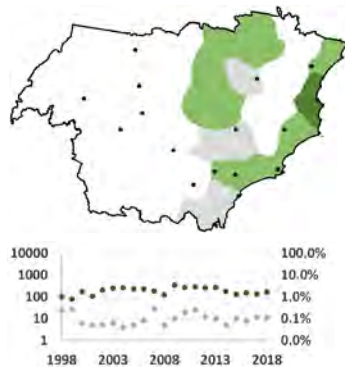
Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

1^L

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of 12 birds at Minimbah 11 Jul (BEI), with five there 27 Sep (KEM); 11 at Hexham Swamp 5 May, with five there 17 Mar (KEM); ten at Tomago 16 Jan (HBOC), with nine there 17 Mar (TBW) and five 18 Sep (HBOC); ten at Cobark 17 Feb (KEM); eight at CBNP 18 Mar (WAB, JOJ), with six there 4 Mar (BEA), 9 Mar (BEI) and 1 Dec (KEM) and five there 4 Mar (KEM).



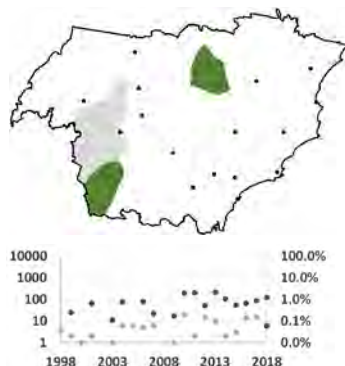
Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

1^{nr}

Resident of high-altitude woodlands.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of six birds at Gloucester Tops 4 Feb (KEM), 27 May (LEM) and 5 Nov (BEJ, BRM), with five there 28 May (LEM) and four 4 Nov (BEJ, BRM); four at BTNP 17 Feb (KEM); elsewhere, two in Yengo NP 21 Jul (WIT) and Mount Coricudgy 30 Sep (BRM, GOS).



White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

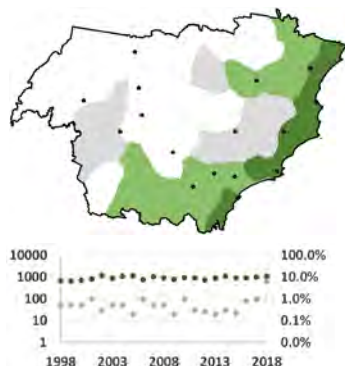
1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A pair had two dependent young at Old Gibber Road, MLNP 3 Feb (KEM).

CT An estimate of over 600 birds at Minimbah 11 Jul (BEI), with c.100 there 11 Mar (WID) and over 90 25 Apr (KEM); c.100 at Kitchener 9 Sep and HRBG 18 Sep (ROM); c.80 at CBNP 4 Mar (KEM); 77 at Belmont Lagoon 18 May (FEG); over 60 at Old Gibber Road and Old Gibber Trail, MLNP 3 Feb (KEM).



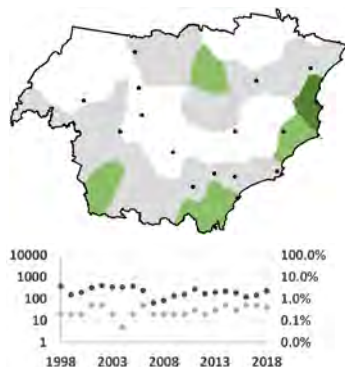
New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of at least 40 birds at Awabakal NR 22 Feb (THJ), with c.20 there 30 Jun (ROM) and 16 1 Aug (HMB); c.10 at Seal Rocks 11 Mar (WJC) and Blacksmiths 9 Jun (HOM); nine near Timor 28 Jul (TBW); eight at MLNP 23 Feb (GOS), Yaccaba 6 Aug (EDS) and Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM); six birds at Paxton 23 Feb (KEM), Gloucester Tops 12 Mar (STA), Smiths Lake 19 Apr (PIB) and Seal Rocks 24 Jun (KEM).



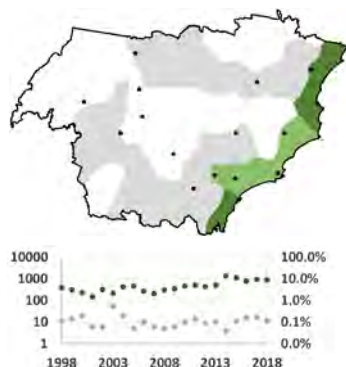
Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

1^{br}

Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

CT A peak count of 12 at Tomago 21 Aug (FLS); c.10 at Galgabba Point 19 Feb and 9 Jul (ADJ), MLNP 10 Jun (WAC), Belmont Lagoon 25 Jul (CIB) and Kooragang 12 Sep (KEM); nine at Waratah West 29 Nov (KEM); eight at Salamander Bay 10 Feb (STG), Shoal Bay 27 Jul (BEI) and Forster 25 Sep (BEN).



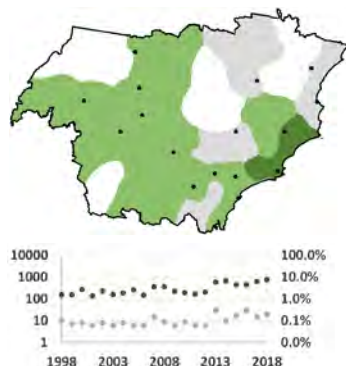
Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds occasionally recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were at Tahlee from 24 Jan to 21 Feb (FLS), East Seaham 14 Aug (KET) and Bobs Farm in Oct (THJ). **CT** A peak count of c.15 at Mungo Brush 20 Mar (KTH); 14 at Seaham Swamp 1 May (HBOC); 12 at Kitchener 25 May (ROM) and Wollombi 18 Nov (JAM).



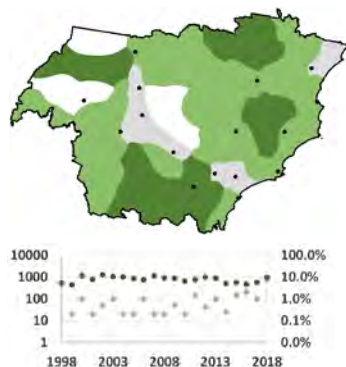
White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded, with counts of up to 50 birds during Apr-Jul migration passage.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at Bucketty 8-13 Jan and 26 Nov (HAJ), Wallingat NP 20 Jan (PAT), BTNP 17 Feb (KEM), Nerong 27 Sep (KEM), HEZ 23 Nov (KEM) and Werakata NP 24 Dec (ROM). **CT** Peak counts were associated with migration passage, with c.800 at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); c.400 at Pambalong NR 5 May (ROM) and c.200 at HEZ 5 May (ROM).



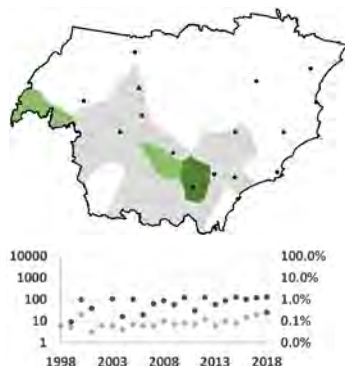
Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

V | 2_{br}

Resident.

The recent increase in WRR is likely due to increased survey effort in the Lower Hunter woodlands.

CT A peak count of c.25 at HEZ 5 May, with eight there 19 May and six 17 Oct (ROM); c.15 at Pelton 8 May, with c.10 near there 17 May (ROM); eight at Ellalong 15 Aug (BEA, ROM); elsewhere, three birds at Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM) and Durridgere Road 11 Sep (ROM); two birds at Putty Road 5 Aug (RMI).



Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

1_{BR}

South-eastern Brown-headed Honeyeater

ssp. brevirostris

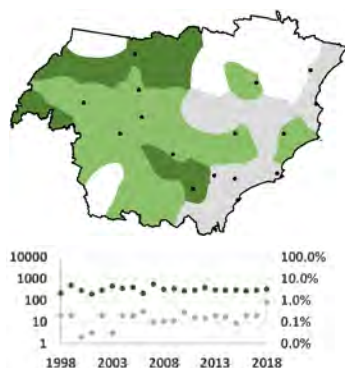
Northern Brown-headed Honeyeater

ssp. pallidiceps

Brevirostris is a resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded. Status of *pallidiceps* unknown but could potentially be a rare visitor to the far west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of c.80 at HEZ 5 May; 18 at GRNP 4 Sep (BRM).



White-eared Honeyeater *Nesoptilotis leucotis*

1_{BR}

Western White-eared Honeyeater

ssp. novaenorciae

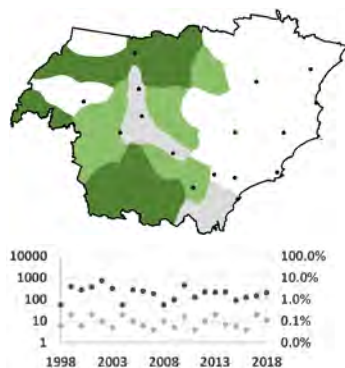
South-eastern White-eared Honeyeater

ssp. leucotis

leucotis is a resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded. Status of *novaenorciae* unknown but could occur in the far west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of 11 at Polblue, BTNP 2 Jan (GEG); eight at Yengo NP 21 Jul (WIT); seven at Ringwood Road, GRNP 24 Feb (KEM).



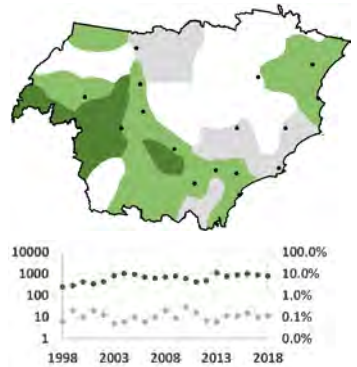
Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential increase in the local population.

BR Birds were feeding young at Ash Island 14 Dec (ASB, SRA). **CT** A peak count of 12 birds at Medhurst Bridge 10 Mar (STR); ten at Irrawang Swamp 20 Jan (FLS), with eight there 14 Jan (MEL) and 23 Sep (FLS); eight at Cattai Wetlands 13 Dec (GAS); seven at Belmont Lagoon 24 Dec (FEG).



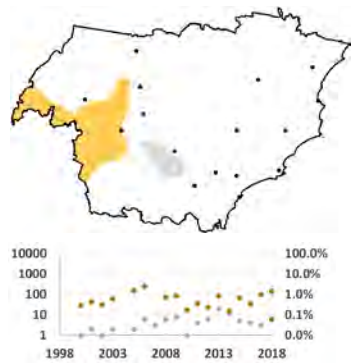
Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

V | V | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon spring-summer visitor to the west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were nest-building at Durrigere SCA 4 Nov (KEM). **DT** There were no records in the first half of the year; earliest returning record was from Medhurst Bridge 16 Sep (WID). **CT** A peak count of six birds at Durrigere SCA 6 Nov (WAB, JOJ); four birds at Hulks Road, GRNP 17 Oct (BRM) and Durrigere Road 24 Oct (KET); three at Medhurst Bridge 9-10 Oct (HBOC).



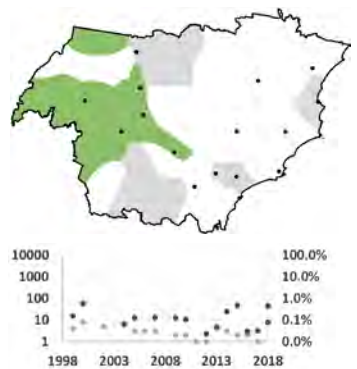
Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

2_U^{br}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR No confirmed breeding, but some juveniles were along Bureen Road 30 Jun (KEM) and 6 Jul (WPE). **CT** A peak count of eight at Putty 16 Apr (SMD); four at Bureen Road from 28 Jun to 10 Jul (BEI, KET, ROM); elsewhere, 1-2 birds at Merriwa 29 Sep and 25 Oct (KEM, YAO), Black Hill 7 Aug (HBOC), Ridglands Road 27 Sep (ROM), Durrigere Road 13 Feb (WAB) and near Owens Gap 17 Dec (ROM).



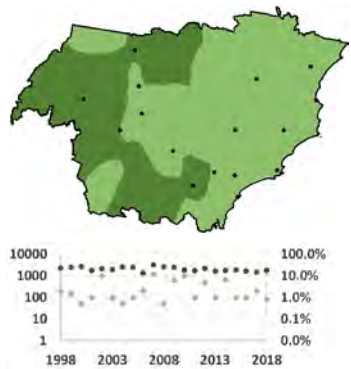
Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded, and counts of up to 50 birds during the April-May migration passage.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of at least 80 birds at HEZ 13 Nov (ROM); c.65 at Forster in May (CAA); 53 at Old Gibber Trail, MLNP 3 Feb (KEM); c.50 at Minimbah 25 Apr (KEM); c.50 at Durrigere Road 4 Nov (KEM); 48 birds at Pambalong NR 21 Apr (ROM).



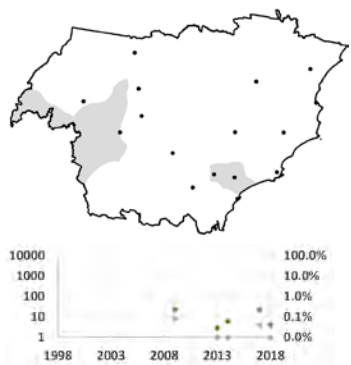
Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

2^R

Rare spring-summer visitor, principally to the west of the Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A single bird was at Singleton Heights 7 October (BEI).



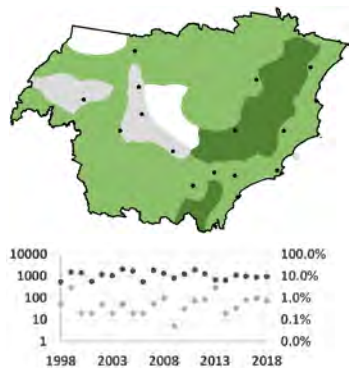
Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were nest-building at Wingham Brush NR 29 Sep (OND) and HEZ 29 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.70 migrating birds at Pambalong NR 9 Apr (ROM) and c.70 at HEZ 29 Nov (KEM), with c.50 there 13 Nov and c.40 17 Oct(ROM); c.50 migrating birds at Mount Sugarloaf Road 17 Apr; c.40 at Wallingat NP 27 Oct (FRT, MEE, WAJ).



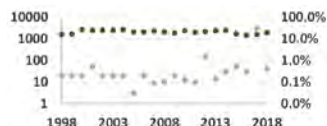
Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young recorded at Gloucester in Feb-Mar (DRP), Old Gibber Trail, MLNP 8 Feb (CLM) and BTNP 17 Feb (KEM). **CT** A peak count of at least 40 birds at MLNP 9 Jun (WAC); c.20 at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC), Sugarloaf SCA 11 Aug (KYR) and Wallingat NP 27 Oct (WAJ); 17 birds at Old Gibber Road, MLNP 3 Feb (KEM).



Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus*

V | 3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Paxton 9-11 October 2002; two birds at Wingen 2-3 March 2003; two males at Baerami Creek 30 September 2007; a pair at Warkworth 19 November 2008.

No reports were received for 2018.

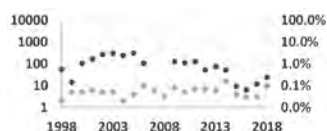
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops*

1^{br}

Resident of coastal heathland.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT A peak count of c.10 at Minimbah 18 Mar (ROM), with eight there 20 Mar (BEI) and 2 Apr (ROM) and four there 25 Apr (KEM) and 8 May (WAB, JOJ); elsewhere, birds at Oyster Cove 5 Mar (MCN), CBNP 2 Apr (KEM), 18 Aug (HUJ) and 1 Dec (KEM) and BBNP 11 Nov (REC).



Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor*

3

Accidental, with historic records. Recent Accepted records: a pair at Wybong Road 16 November 2015; two females at Durrigere Road late-September to early-October 2017; a male at Windy Station 30 September to 2 October 2017.

A male was feeding on the ground with a flock of Masked and White-browed Woodswallows at Durrigere SCA 4 November (KEM).



White-fronted Chat by Alwyn Simple

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

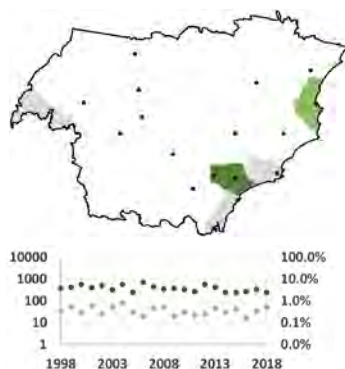
V | 2_T^{BR}

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with fluctuations.

BR Birds had a nest with eggs at Tomago 17 Jul (HBOC).

CT A peak count of c.50 birds at Hexham Swamp 5 Jan, with c.40 there 10 Jan (ROM), 27 7 Jan (BEI) and 24 11 Feb (WID); 47 birds at Tomago 14 Apr, with 19 there 11 Aug and 16 17 Apr (HBOC); elsewhere, c.20 at Swan Bay 14 Apr (HAO), three near Ulan 4 Nov (KEM), with a pair there 23 Apr (ROM).



Orange Chat *Epthianura aurifrons*

3

Accidental. A female at Hexham Swamp 29 November 2014 was the first confirmed record for the Region.

No reports were received for 2018.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

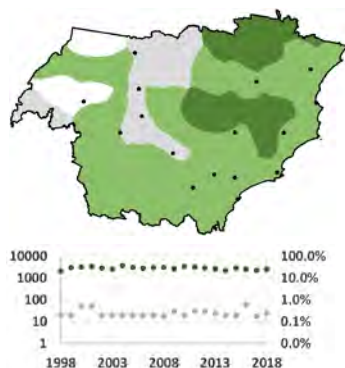
1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 15 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at Mungo Brush 1 Jan (BUM), Sharpes Creek 4 Feb (KEM) and Cooranbong 9 Feb (TAM).

CT A peak count of 24 at Copeland Tops SCA 18 Aug (KEM), with c.20 there 15-16 Oct (WEB); c.20 at MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ), Tabbil Forest 18 Feb (HBOC), Watagans NP 21 Apr (HOC) and Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC).



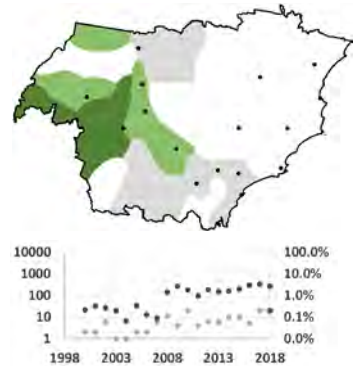
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

1^{br}

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

CT A peak count of over 20 birds in the Martindale Valley 23 Jul (STA); 17 at Medhurst Bridge 18 May (MOA). **LC** Easterly records were two birds at Ash Island 17 Nov (MUR) and heard there again 18 Dec (HBOC), a bird at Whistler Parade, Maryland 4 Oct (THJ), one at Abermain 13 Nov (ROS) and two at Kitchener 5 Jun (HBOC).



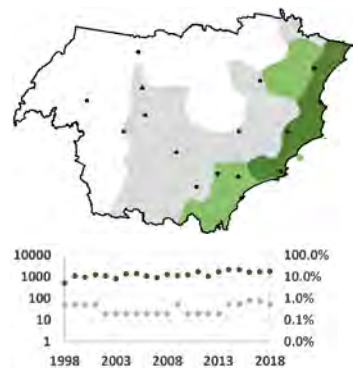
Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

1^{BR}

Common resident; 1-20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were at Forster in Jan (CAA), Bobs Farm in Oct (THJ), Coralville 2 Dec (KEM) and Medowie 24 Dec (FLS). **CT** A peak count of c.50 at MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ) and 3 Feb (KEM); c.30 at Awabakal NR 30 Jan THJ) and Minimbah 25 Apr (KEM); c.20 at HRBG 25 Aug (IRD) and 18 Sep (ROM) and Mudbishops Point 22 Jul (MUL); 17 at Belmont Lagoon 18 May, with 16 there 10 Feb (FEG).



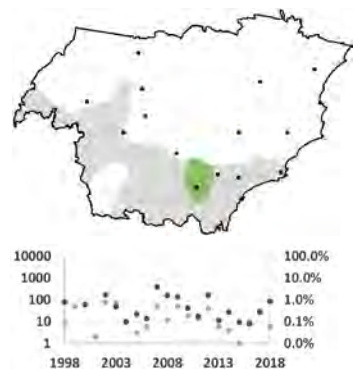
Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

CE | CE | 2^u^{BR}

Uncommon winter migrant and occasional breeder.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

BR A young bird was with an adult pair at HEZ 1 Dec (LIA), with three family groups there 31 Dec (ROM, WID). **CT** A peak count of 18 birds at HEZ 31 Dec; birds at HRBG from at least 21 Jul (KIB) to 21 Aug (SJE), with a peak count of six 26 Jul (ROM); four at Qurrobolong 21 Aug and HEZ 13 Nov (ROM). **LC** Individuals at Mudbishops Point 22 Jul (MUL); and Flight Springs Road 28 Jul (HOT); two birds at Morpeth 28-30 Dec (BRG, CLM, PED).



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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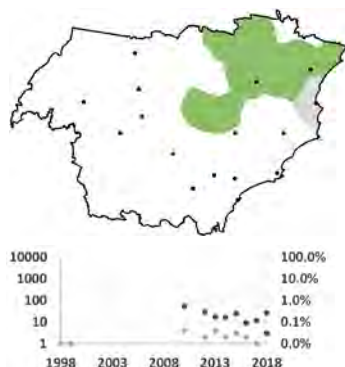
Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.75 at Mount Coricudgy 17 May (BEI); c.70 at Pambalong NR 1 May (MUL, ROM); c.40 at Kitchener 9 Sep (ROM); c.35 at Polblue, BTNP 2 Jan (GEG); c.25 at Galgabba Point 28 May (ADJ); 23 at Pelton 20 May (COB).



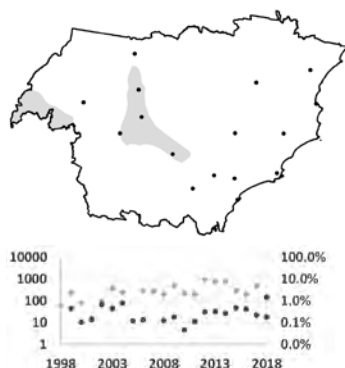
Singing Honeyeater *Gavicalis virescens*

2^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Birds present near Millers Dam, Ulan throughout the year, with peak counts of three 24 Feb (KEM) and 23 Apr (ROM); two birds at Durrigere Road 12 Jun, with one there 13 Feb (WAB, JOI); a bird at Summer Hill Road 28 Jun (ROM); a bird at GRNP 20 Aug and 4 Sep (BRM).



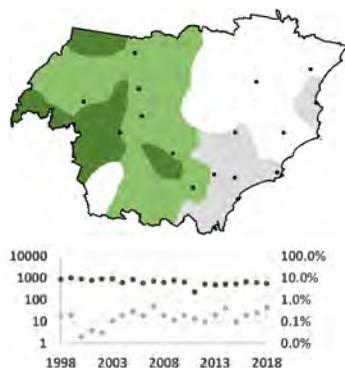
White-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula penicillata*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were at WWW 11 Jan (STD), near Parkville 23-24 Jan (ROM), Bureen 10 Oct (HBOC) and GRNP 3 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of over 40 at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); c.30 at Ridgeland Road 23 Jan (ROM); 24 at GRNP 17 Aug (BRM). **LC** Easterly records include individuals at HRBG 8 Aug (SMG) and Tarro 25 Sep (YAO).



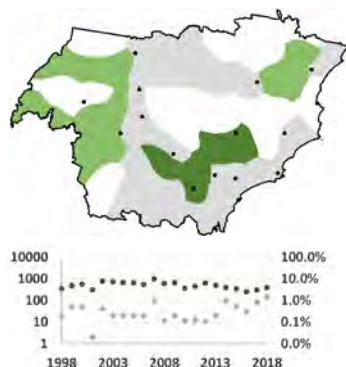
Fuscous Honeyeater *Ptilotula fusca*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A pair had a nest with two young at GWC 19 Nov (BRG) and 24 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.150 near Quorrobolong 21 Aug, with c.75 there 19 Aug, c.50 28 Aug and c.40 4 Dec (ROM); c.75 at HEZ 19 May, with c.50 there 5 May, 27 Jun, 9 Aug (ROM). **LC** c.20 birds at Roma Road, Merriwa 10-11 Jun (WID).



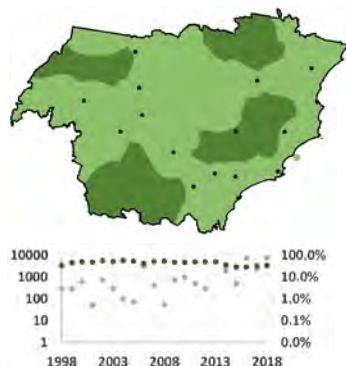
Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Caligavis chrysops*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 30 birds regularly recorded, and up to 100 birds during Apr-Aug migration passage.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 7850 during the migration at Pambalong NR 22 Apr (KEM); between 17 Apr and 5 May, surveyed passage rates of 5000-8000 birds per hour (bph) were typical at Pambalong NR, with the peak being 3800 in 20-mins (i.e. 11 400 bph) 5 May (ROM), around a 50% increase on the 2017 migration.



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

1^{BR}

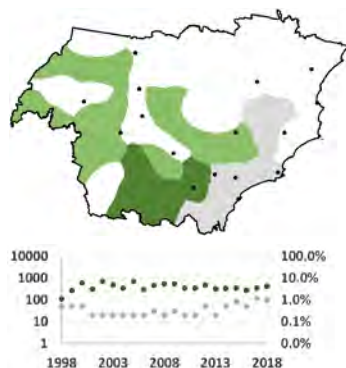
Eastern Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *ssp. melanops*

Western Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *ssp. meltoni*

Resident; 1-20 birds occasionally recorded. Most likely restricted to only *melanops*, but *meltoni* could be a rare visitor to the far west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were near Quorrobolong 19 Aug, 24 Aug and 18 Sep (ROM). **CT** A peak count of c.100 at Pelton 8 May and Ellalong 29 May (ROM). **LC** c.10 birds at Roma Road, Merriwa 10-11 Jun (WID).



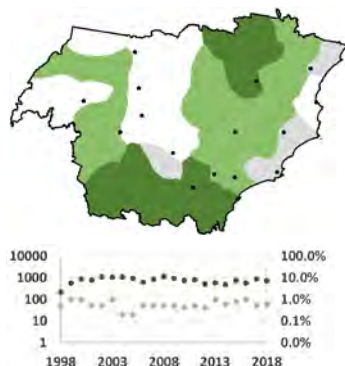
Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 10-30 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds had dependent young near Cooranbong 2 Feb (TAM) and Pelton 27 May (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.60 at Pelton 8 May (ROM); c.50 at Cooranbong 2 Feb (TAM) and 6 Nov (HBOC), Pelton 27 May (KEM) and Blue Gum Hills RP, Minmi 24 Nov (FLS); 35 at Glenrock SCA 31 Dec (DEB).



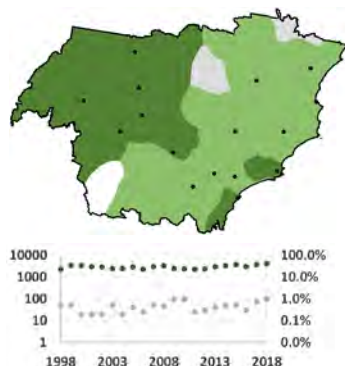
Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.100 at Black Hill 7 Aug (HBOC), with c.50 there 24 May (THJ); c.50 at Shoal Bay 27 Jul (BEI); 47 at Myuna Bay 14 Jun (HAL).



Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula*

3

Accidental. Accepted records: a single bird at Crowdy Head 15-16 March 2003; a single bird at Seal Rocks 13 March 2009.

No reports were received for 2018.

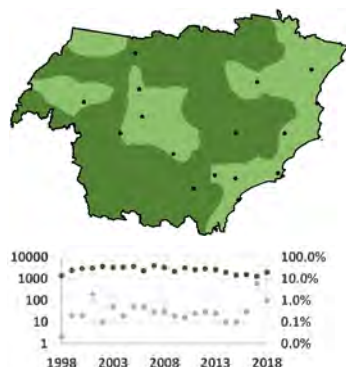
Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

1^{BR}

Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A pair had a nest with young at Minimbah 27 Sep (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.100 birds along Putty Road 5 Aug (RMI); c.70 at KSFT, Kitchener 25 May (ROM), with c.50 there 6 May (KEM); c.50 at Pelton 30 Apr (MUL), HEZ 19 May (KEM) and Wollombi 18 Aug (RMI); counts from other locations include c.30 at SATA 1 May (ROM), Ellalong 29 May (BEA, ROM) and GRNP 7 Aug (BRM).



Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

1^{BR}
M

Black-headed Pardalote *ssp. melanocephalus*

Eastern Striated Pardalote *ssp. ornatus*

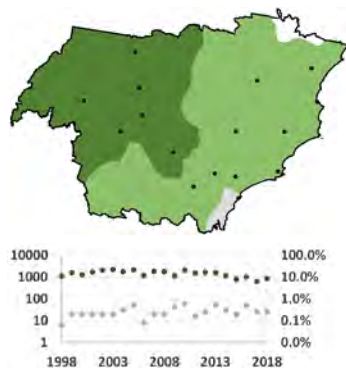
Yellow-tipped Pardalote *ssp. striatus*

Western Striated Pardalote *ssp. substriatus*

Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded, typically *ornatus* coastally and *substriatus* inland. Tasmanian breeding *striatus* is an autumn and winter migrant. *melanocephalus* possibly a rare resident in the far north, with records of intergrade birds.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Adults on a nest at Tocal 14 Aug (STD) and Smedes Road 1 Oct (KEM).



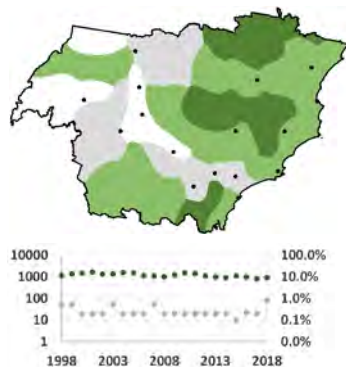
Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds had a nest with young near Marlee 29 Oct (DRA). **CT** A peak count of c.80 at Wallingat NP 27 Oct (FRT, MEE, WAJ); 38 at Copeland Tops SCA 18 Aug (KEM); 34 at Tabbil Forest 18 Feb (HBOC); c.30 at Sharpes Creek 17 Oct (GOJ, LAS, WAK); 28 at Galgabba Point 28 May (ADJ); c.20 recorded at MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ) and Cooranbong 6 Nov (HBOC).



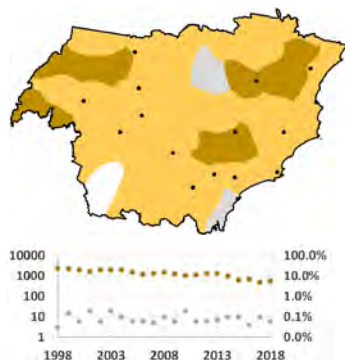
White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

1^{BR}_M

Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

BR A pair was at a nest at Lemon Tree Passage 22 Dec (KEM). **DT** The latest record was from Gloucester 10 Jun (DRP), with a few records from the Manning Valley 3 Jun (MUL); earliest returning was heard at HRBG 19 Aug (WIT); winter record near Wingham 17 Jul (ROM). **CT** A peak count of over six birds at Bishops Bridge 2 Oct (HBOC).



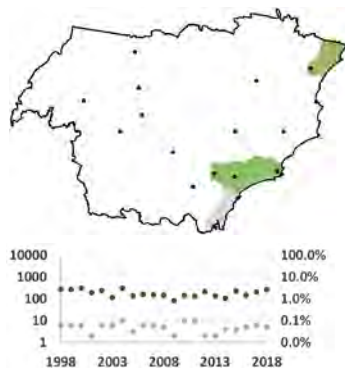
Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

1^L_{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR An adult bird with a dependent juvenile was at SSS 10 Mar (PED). **CT** Peak counts of five birds at Hexham Swamp 3 Mar (MOA), with four there 4 Jan and 9 Mar (LEM) and again 23 May (THJ); five at Ash Island 4 Mar (PEM) and 19 Aug (STA), with four there 6 Sep (EDS), 17 Nov (MUR) and 15 DEC (CRJ); three birds at Tahlee 27 Jun (FLS).



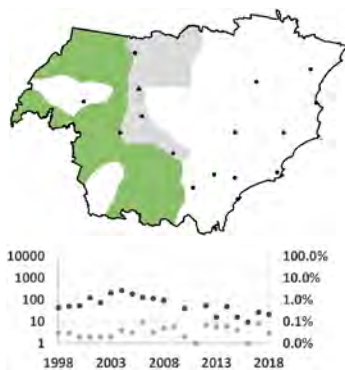
Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

2^u_{br}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT A peak count of three birds near Wybong 16 Sep (KEM); birds were also at Roma Road, Merriwa 8 Sep and 15 Sep, and near Ulan 15 Sep (WID), Ringwood Road, GRNP 1 Oct (ROM) and Smedes Road 1 Oct (KEM), 19 Oct (BEI), 4 Nov (KEM) and 19 Nov (BRG).



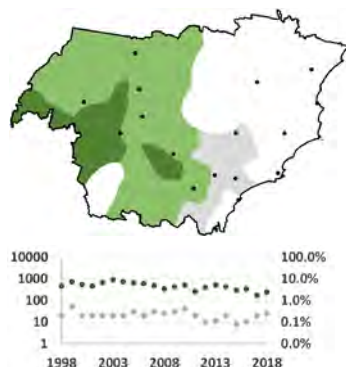
Weebill *Smicronis brevirostris*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT Peak counts of c.20 birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM) and GRNP 7 Aug, with c.10 there 17 Aug and 3 Sep (BRM); 11 at Wingen TSR 10 Aug, with seven there 28 Sep (NEG); c.10 near Parkville 27 Sep, with eight birds there 10 Jul and 27 Sep (ROM); eight birds at SATA 7 May, with seven there 27 Nov (ROM); six at Baerami Creek 10 Jul (KET), Martindale 28-30 Sep (HBOC) and Durrigere SCA 4 Nov (KEM).



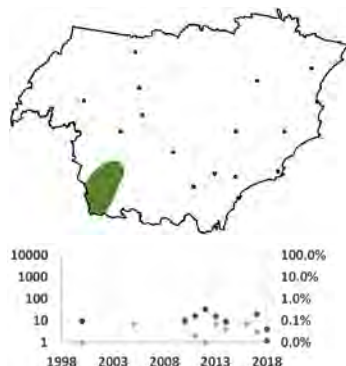
Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

1^{nr}

Resident in the higher altitude parts of Wollemi NP.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT The only record was of four birds at Mount Coricudgy 17 May (BEI).



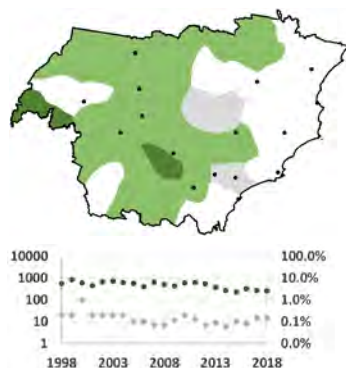
Speckled Warbler *Pyrholaemus sagittatus*

V | 2^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

BR A pair with a dependent young was at Abermain 1 Nov (ROS). **CT** A peak count of c.15 at GRNP 7 Aug, with c.10 17 Aug and eight 4 Sep (BRM); 11 birds at Durrigere Road 28 Jun (ROM), with six there 13 Feb and five 24 Apr (WAB, JOJ); 11 at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); c.10 at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); nine at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM) and Ridgeland Road 16 Sep (CLM).



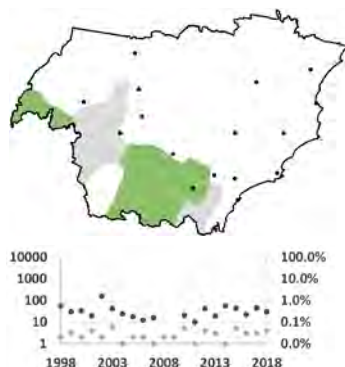
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygius*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of four birds at SATA 1 May, with singles there 7 May, 14 Aug and 27 Nov (ROM); three at HEZ 9 Aug (ROM), 30 Nov (KEM) and 4 Dec (ROM); two at GRNP 24 Feb (KEM), with singles there 18 Aug (BRM), 27 Aug (ROM) and 3 Sep (BRM); birds were also at Ellalong 29 May, Abermain 8 Jun and Paxton 17 Sep and 26 Nov (ROM).



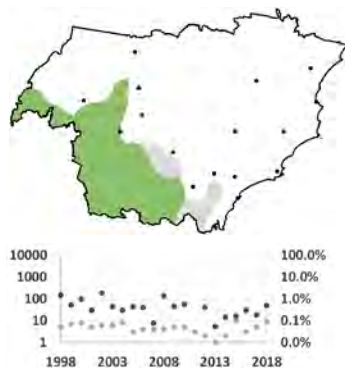
Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

1_L^{BR}

Resident in sandstone country.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend, but likely stable.

CT A peak count of nine birds at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); eight at GRNP 18 Aug (BRM), with at least three birds there 29 Jun and 11 Sep (BRM, ROM); two birds at Giants Creek 27 Mar (WAB, JOJ), Sandy Hollow 9-10 Apr (STR), in the Martindale Valley 24 Jul and 28-30 Sep (HBOC) and Durrigere Road 22 Aug and 16 Oct (WAB, JOJ).



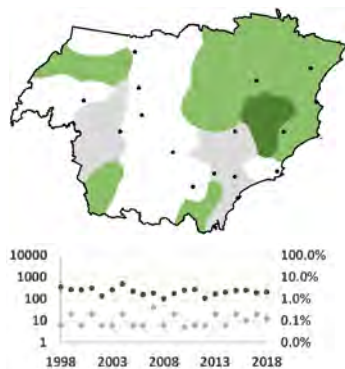
Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded at rainforest locations.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of 13 birds at Copeland Tops SCA 17 Feb (KEM), with eight there 16 Oct (WEB) and seven 21 Oct (KEM); eight at The Old Brush, Brunkerville 28 Dec (HBOC); eight at Wingham Brush NR 29 Sep (OND), with six there 9 Jan (ANF) and 23 Jan (MUL); six at Mungo Brush 1 Jan (BUM); five at Barrington House 27 Mar (BOD) and Cooranbong 6 Nov (HBOC).



White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

1^{BR}

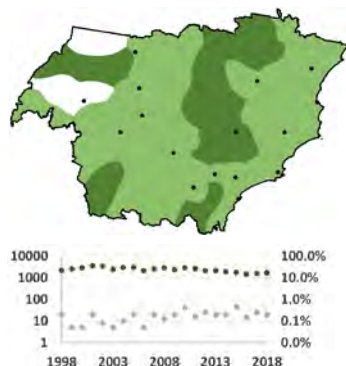
South-eastern White-browed Scrubwren *ssp. frontalis*

Central East Coast White-browed Scrubwren *ssp. tweedi*

Common resident; 1-10 birds regularly recorded. Most likely only *frontalis*, but *tweedi* could be a rare resident in the far north of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds were feeding young at Wingham Brush NR 29 Oct (DRA). **CT** A peak count of c.20 at HWC 26 May (KEM).



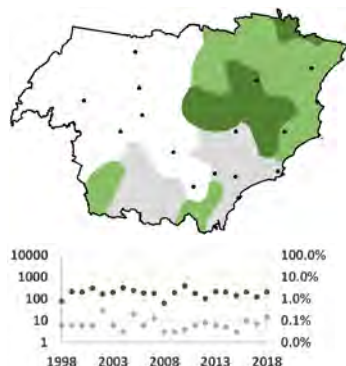
Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

1^{BR}

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

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding but young birds were at Cattai Wetlands 21 Oct (STD). **CT** A peak count of c.15 at Copeland Tops SCA 4 Jan (GEG), with 14 there 18 Aug (KEM) and seven 20 Mar (WAB, JOJ); 11 at Watagans NP 30 Sep (CAC); six at Tabbil Forest 18 Feb (HBOC) and Wingham Brush NR 3 Jul (NOM); five at O'Sullivan's Gap 30 Oct (KET).



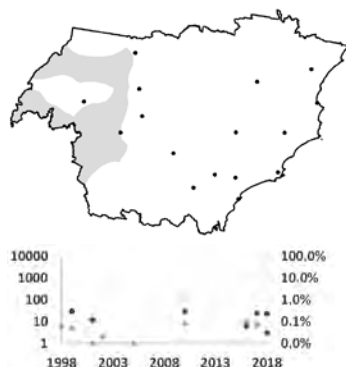
Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

2^{br}

Rare resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Peak counts of three birds at Durrigere Road 28 Jun (ROM) and Smedes Road 29 Jun (ROM) and 19 Oct (BEI), with two there 24 Feb and 1 Oct and a single 16 Sep (KEM); two near Denman 23 Aug (STA) and Martindale 24 Nov (STJ); two at locations near GRNP 28 Aug and 11 Sep (ROM).



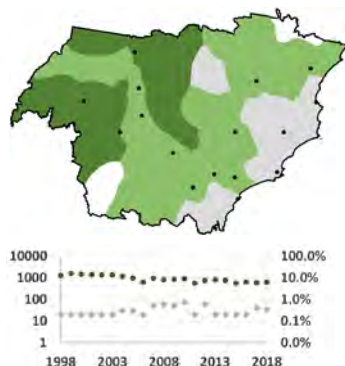
Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were nest-building at Medhurst Bridge 9 Jun (KET) and Morpeth 30 Sep (CLM). **CT** A peak count of c.35 birds at Lake Glenbawn 10 Jul (ROM); c.30 at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM), Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC) and near GRNP 29 Jun (ROM); c.25 at Medhurst Bridge 15 Jul (CIB).



Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

1^{BR}

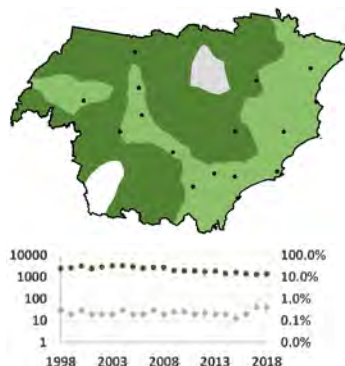
Western Yellow Thornbill *spp. modesta*

East Coast Yellow Thornbill *spp. nana*

Usual resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded. Predominantly *nana*, but *modesta* could potentially occur in the far west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT A peak count of c.40 birds at Minimbah 11 Jul (BEI); c.30 at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); c.25 at Ash Island 29 Sep (MUR); 24 at Hexham Swamp 17 Mar (KEM).



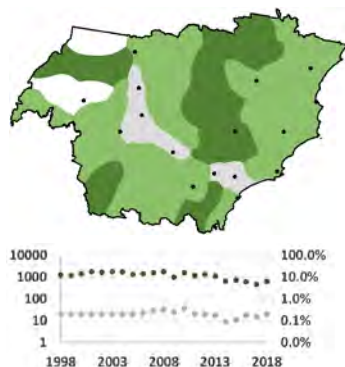
Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A nest with young was at Blue Gum Hills RP, Minmi 6 Sep (BRG) and two dependent young were at Durridgere Road 4 Nov (KEM). **CT** Peak counts of c.20 at Thornton 17 Apr (NAK) and GRNP 29 Jun (ROM) and 7 Aug (BRM); c.15 at Columbey NP 18 Nov (NAK).



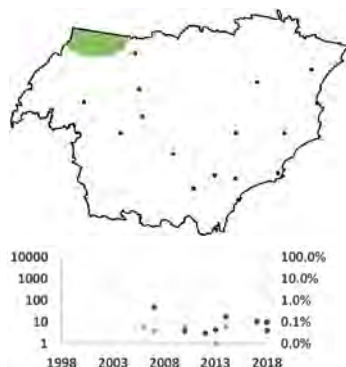
Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident in extreme NW of Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of ten birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM), with two there 29 Aug (WAB, JOJ) and a single bird 28 Apr (KEM).



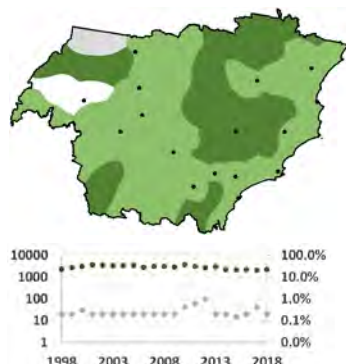
Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Birds had a nest with young at Bobs Farm in Oct (THJ). **CT** A peak count of c.20 birds at Awabakal NR 30 Jun (ROM); 18 at Gloucester Tops 20 Dec (MID); 16 at GRNP 7 Aug (BRM); c.15 at Polblue, BTNP 2 Jan (GEG), HEZ 5 Jul (NAK) and Saltwater NP 17 Sep (HBOC); 13 at Belmont Lagoon 2 May (FEG) and Tanilba Bay WWTP 19 May (KEM).



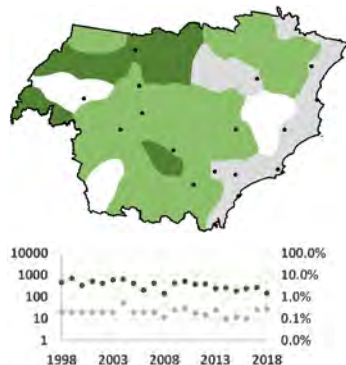
Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

1^{BR}

Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT A peak count of 27 birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); c.15 at GRNP 29 Jun (ROM), with c.10 there 7 Aug (BRM); c.10 at SATA 7 May, Pelton 8 May, and 10 Aug and near Parkville 10 Jul, with eight there 10 Apr (ROM); eight birds at Tintinhull TSR near Gundy 18 Aug (TBW); six at KSFT, Kitchener 30 Apr (MUL) and Bishops Bridge 2 Oct (HBOC).



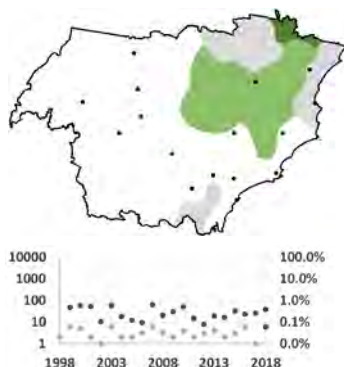
Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

1^{BR}
L

Resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of six birds near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK); four at Copeland Tops SCA 23 Oct (KEM), with three there 18 Aug (KEM) and two 20 Mar (WAB, JOJ) and 16 Oct (WEB); two at BTNP 4 Jan (ASD, CLI), Cobark 18 Feb and 19 Aug (KEM), O'Sullivan's Gap 17 Jul (ROM), Gloucester Tops 25 Sep (HBOC) and Allyn River 28 Oct (MOA).



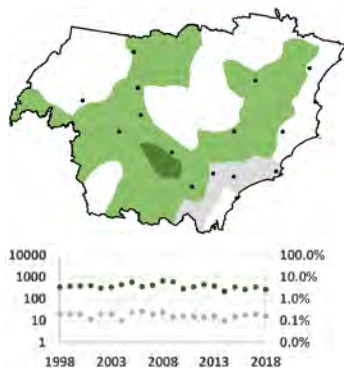
Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

V | 2^T
T

Resident; parties up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Birds were feeding a fledged young at East Seaham 14 Aug (KET). **CT** A peak count of 16 birds at Chisholm 17 Jan, with 12 there 23 Feb and ten 31 Jul (BEI); 12 at Lake Glenbawn 27 Sep (ROM); c.10 at Appletree Flat 8 Jun (MEL), Martindale 28-30 Sep (HBOC) and East Seaham 11 Dec (KET).



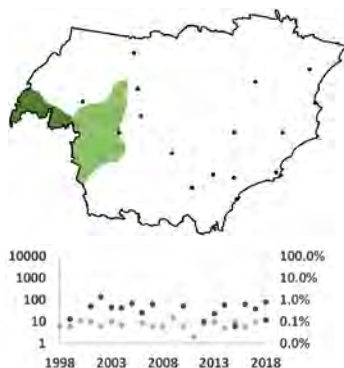
White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

1^{BR}
L

Resident in west of the Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

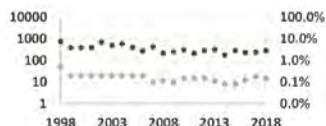
BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were nest-building at Durrigere SCA 4 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 12 at Denman WWTP 24 Jun, with six there 2 Oct (NAK); 11 at Durrigere Road 22 Aug (WAB, JOJ), with seven there 4 Nov (KEM) and five 24 Apr (WAB, JOJ) and 24 Oct (KET); six at GRNP 17 Oct, with five there 8 Aug (BRM); five at Ridgeland Road 16 Sep (CLM, KEM);.



Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A pair had a nest with young at Mambo Wetland 30 Oct (FRN). **CT** A peak count of c.15 near Paxton 17 May (BEA, ROM); 14 at Tahlee 2 Apr (FLS) and Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); 13 near Parkville 10 Jul (ROM); 12 at Yengo NP 20-21 Jul (WIT); 11 at Durrigere Road 13 Feb (WAB, JOJ).



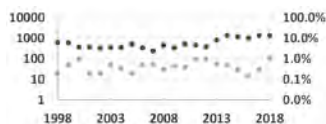
Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

1^{BR}

Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.110 birds at Islington 8 Mar (BEI); c.40 at Wingham Brush NR 16 Apr (STA); 38 at Crowdy Head 10 Jan (ANF); c.30 at Forster in Jul (CAA), Saltwater NP 17 Sep (HBOC), Harrington 17 Nov and Gloucester 19 Nov (STJ); 28 at Waratah West 9 Mar (KEM).



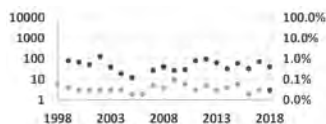
Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

1^{BR}

Usual resident. 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds had nests with young at Forster in Jan (CAA), Myall View, MLNP 25-29 Jan (KAA, STA) and HEZ 26 Dec (BED, RUA). **CT** A peak count of c.15 at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); 14 at Tahlee 30 Oct, with seven there 4 Jan (FLS); c.10 at HEZ 13 Nov (ROM); eight at GWC 12 Nov (BRG), with seven there 24 Nov (KEM); eight at Cattai Wetlands 13 Dec (GAS); seven at Smiths Lake 21 Feb (GOS); six at Ash Island 17 Nov (MUR) and Myuna Bay 24 Nov (ROM).



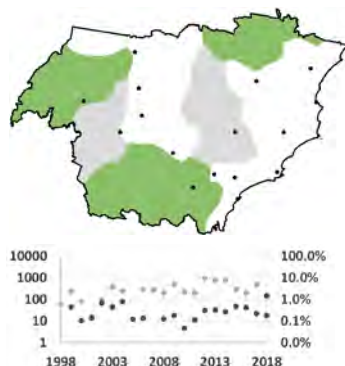
Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

BR

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT Peak counts of three birds at KSFT, Kitchener 30 Apr (MUL) and GRNP 20 Aug, with two there 7 Aug (BRM); two at Pelton 8 May (ROM) and 23 Jun (CAC) and HEZ 27 Nov (BRG, LIA) **LC** Records remote from the above locations include birds at Moonan Brook 18 Feb (KEM), SATA 7 May (ROM), Yengo NP 20-21 Jul (WIT), Bucketty 15 Sep (MOA), Sugarloaf SCA 7 Oct (KYR) and near Quorrobolong 4 Dec (ROM).



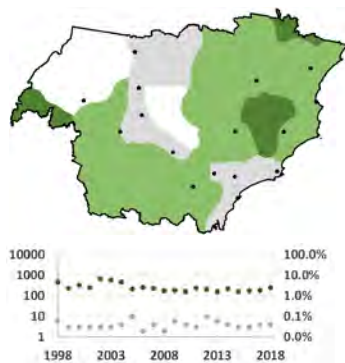
Eastern Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-2 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A pair was with a dependent youngster at Hulks Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM). **CT** Peak counts of four birds near Nowendoc 21 Apr (WOM), Pelton 8 May (ROM) and near Stewarts River 17 Nov (EDD, EDK); three near Pelton 17 May (BEA, ROM), Hannam Vale 22 Jun (MOT), Cattai Wetlands 7 Jul (DAD, DRD), Yengo NP 21 Jul (WIT), Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM) and near Quorrobolong 4 Dec (ROM).



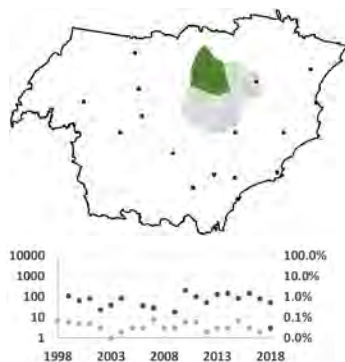
Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

V | 1^{nr}

Resident of high-altitude Beech forest.

Recent increase in WRR due to targeted surveys of Gloucester Tops.

CT Most records were from the Gloucester Tops and BTNP, including locations at Kerripit Road, Barrington Tops Forest Road and Gloucester Tops Road. Peak counts of three birds along Barrington Tops Forest Road 17 Feb (KEM) and Kerripit Road 23 Oct (WAB, JOJ).



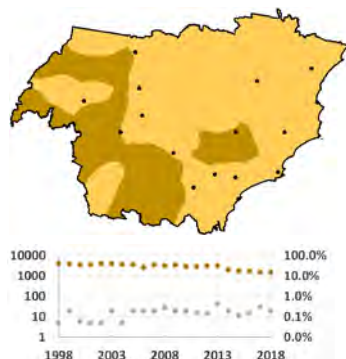
Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

1^{BR}

Common summer migrant; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Some birds over-winter.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Dependent young were near Parkville and at Ridglands Road 23 Jan (ROM) and Rutherford 27 Jan (BRG). **DT** The latest record was Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); earliest returning was at Tomago 21 Aug (HBOC); numerous winter records also. **CT** A peak count of 21 birds at HEZ 30 Nov (KEM).



Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

1^{BR}

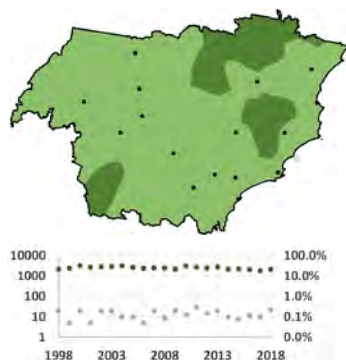
Eastern Golden Whistler *ssp. pectoralis*

South-eastern Golden Whistler *ssp. youngi*

Common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded. Subspecies status uncertain – predominantly *pectoralis*, but *youngi* may also potentially occur in the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but birds were nest-building near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK). **CT** A peak count of c.20 at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); 12 near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK).



Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarrhyncha*

3^{nr}

A historic record from near Vacy in 1996 is the only record accepted by the RAC.

No reports were received for 2018.

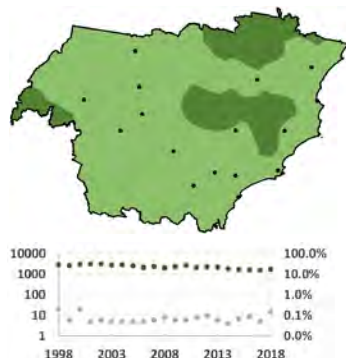
Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

1^{BR}

Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Dependent young were at Barrington Tops SCA 17 Feb (KEM), Balickera 9 Oct (STD) and Duns Creek 15 Nov (MLR). **CT** A peak count of c.15 along Putty Road 5 Aug (RMI); eight at Ellalong 21 Dec (ROM) and GRNP 8-9 Aug (BRM); seven at Copeland Tops SCA 23 Oct (WAB, JOJ) and HEZ 30 Nov (KEM).



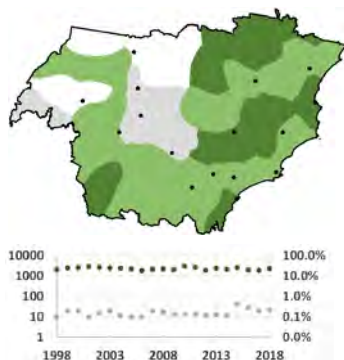
Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but suggestive behaviour was noted near Charlestown 23 Oct (LOL). **CT** A peak count of 22 birds at Glenrock SCA 28 Sep (YAO); 14 near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK); 12 at Belmont Wetlands 1 Jan (FEG), The Old Brush, Brunkerville 15 Oct (YAO) and Tahlee 30 Oct (FLS); c.10 at Awabakal NR 2 Aug (HMB), Cattai Wetlands 27 Sep (BEN) and Wallingat NP 27 Oct (FRT, MEE, WAJ).



Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

3

Accidental. Historic records. Recent Accepted records: a single bird near Sandy Hollow 2 November 2000; two birds at Yarrawa 5 June 2004; two birds near Ulan 27 December 2011. A single bird was at Lake Glenbawn 27 Sep (ROM).

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

V | 3^{nr}

Accidental. Historic records exist. Recent Accepted records: a single bird at Harrington 14 January 2000; single birds at Harrington 15 October and 21 November 2003; single birds at Harrington 7 November and 21 November 2004

No reports were received for 2018.

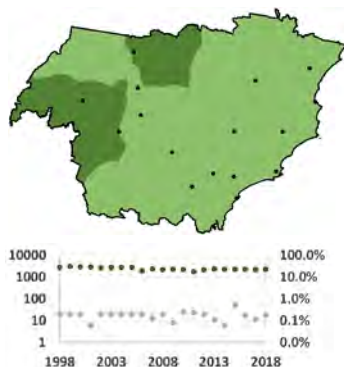
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

1^{BR}

Common resident and passage migrant; up to 10 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 18 birds at Lenaghan 16 May (THJ); 12 at Congewai 18 Feb (ROM); 10 at Hexham Swamp 24 Jun (THJ); nine at Corlette 20 Jan (BRJ), Grahamstown Dam 20 May (HBOC) and Ash Island 4 Jul (LAN); seven at HWC 9 Mar (LEM), Ellalong 29 May (ROM) and Morpeth 31 May (CLM).



White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

1^{BR}_L

Eastern White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

ssp. artamoides

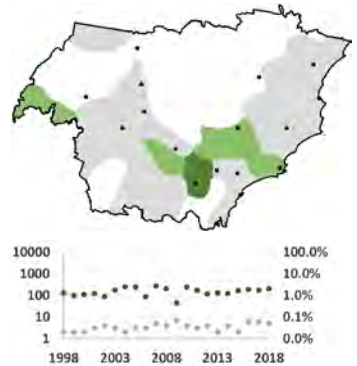
South-eastern White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike

ssp. robusta

Resident. Most likely restricted to *robusta*, but *artamoides* could be a rare visitor to the far north of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at GWC 28 Oct (BRG) and HEZ 14 Nov and 25 Nov (KEM, YAO). **CT** A peak count of five birds at Ellalong 15 Aug (ROM).



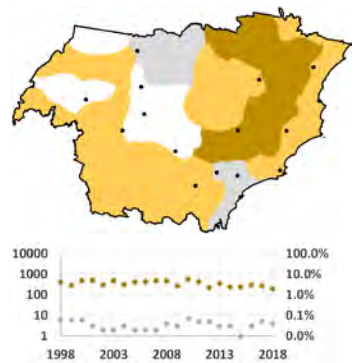
Common Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostre*

1^{BR}_M

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

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

DT The latest record was from Coopernook SF 2 Apr (MUL); earliest returning were at GWC and O'Sullivan's Gap 28 Oct (BRG, WID). **CT** A peak count of four birds at GWC 12 Nov (BRG); two at Grahamstown Dam 23 Feb (CLM), Girvan 6 Nov (FLS), Bindera 9 Nov (SOR), SATA 27 Nov (ROM), near Quorrobolong 4 Dec (ROM) and Cattai Wetlands 14-18 Dec (ASB, SRA, WAB).



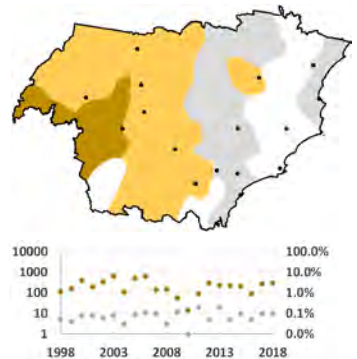
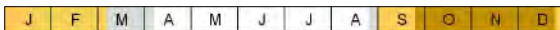
White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

1^{BR}_M

Summer migrant and irruptive visitor. 1-2 birds occasionally recorded Oct-Feb.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

DT The latest record was from CBNP 18 Mar (WAB, JOJ); earliest returning was at Durrigere Road 11 Sep (ROM), then at Roma Road, Merriwa 15 Sep (WID). **CT** A peak count of c.10 at HEZ 13 Nov, with four there 17 Oct (ROM), 9 Nov and 25 Nov (KEM, YAO); at least six birds near Ellerston 26 Sep (ROM); four at Durrigere Road 24 Oct (KET).



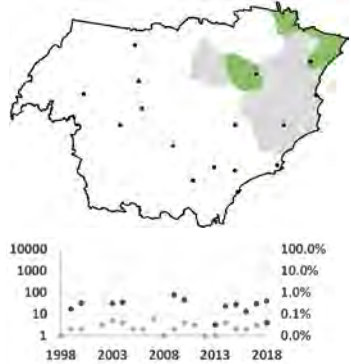
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident in NE of the Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR A begging juvenile was at CBNP 1 Dec (KEM). **CT** The breeding record includes a peak count of four birds; two at Harrington 9 Mar (BEI) and near Bobin 17 Oct (LAK). **LC** Records away from the Harrington and CBNP areas were of birds at Copeland Tops SCA 23 Jan (KET), Bindera 30 Sep (LIK), Cape Hawke 1 Oct (MVA) and Maxwells Flat 30 Dec (COC).



Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

1^{BR}

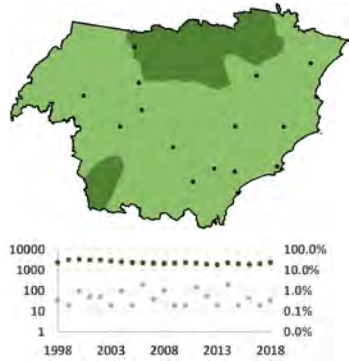
Eastern Pied Currawong *ssp. graculina*

South-eastern Pied Currawong Whistler *ssp. nebulosa*

Common resident (and altitudinal migrant); up to 20 birds regularly recorded. Most likely only *graculina*, but *nebulosa* could be a rare visitor to the far south of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 36 birds at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC).



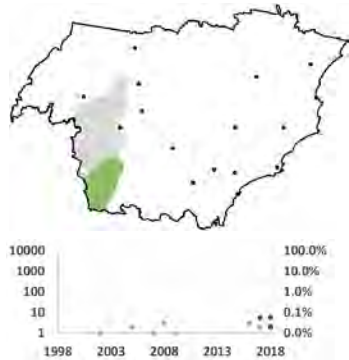
Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

2_R^{nr}

Rare resident of highlands in far SW of Region.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT All records were from Mount Coricudgy, with two birds present 30 Sep (BRM, GOS) and an individual 17 May (BEI).



Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

1^{BR}

Eastern Australian Magpie *ssp. terraereginae*

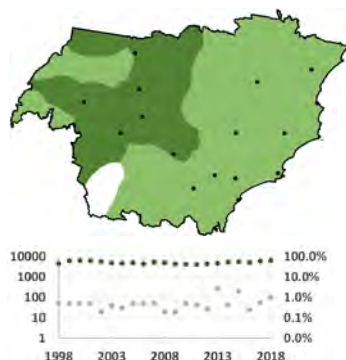
Coastal New South Wales Australian Magpie *ssp. tibicen*

Southern Victoria Australian Magpie *ssp. tyrannica*

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded. Predominantly *tibicen*, but *terraereginae* could occur in the far west of the Region. 'White-backed' birds occasionally reported, presumably of *ssp. tyrannica* or intergrade forms.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.100 at Hexham Swamp 15 Dec (KEM).



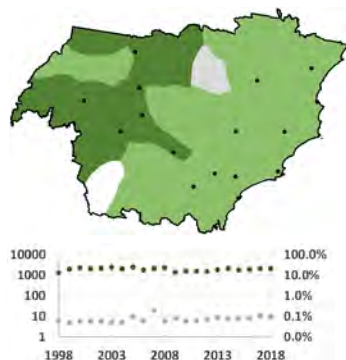
Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.10 birds at Wollombi 18 Aug (RMI); nine at Gloucester 7 Jul (DAD, DRD); eight at Doyles Creek Road 1 May (KET) and Myuna Bay 14 Jun (HAL); seven at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM), GRNP 8 Aug (BRM) and East Seaham 14 Aug (KET).



Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

1^{BR}

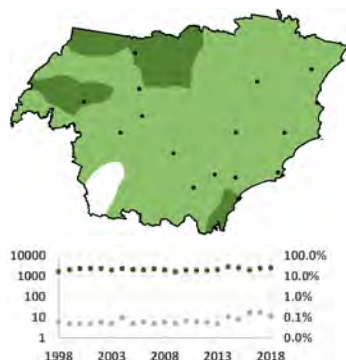
South-eastern Grey Butcherbird *ssp. torquatus*

Eastern Grey Butcherbird *ssp. leucopterus*

Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded. Predominantly *torquatus*, status of *leucopterus* unknown but could occur in the far west of the Region.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 12 at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); eight at Belmont Wetlands 1 Jan (FEG) and GRNP 7 Aug (BRM).



WHITE-BROWED/MASKED WOODSWALLOW TYPES

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

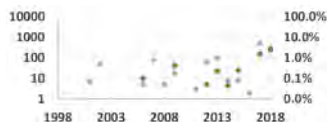
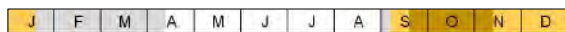
Masked Woodswallow

Artamus personatus

2_U^{br}

Uncommon irruptive visitor and occasional breeder.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.



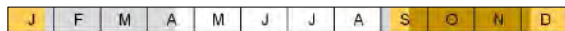
White-browed Woodswallow

Artamus superciliosus

1_M^{BR}

Irruptive visitor and occasional breeder.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.



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

Masked Woodswallow: There were no records from early in the year; first arrivals were 15 Sep at Roma Road, Merriwa (WID), Fletcher and Shortland (ROM); latest records from 4 Dec at Medhurst Bridge (KET) and HEZ (ROM). A peak count of c.250 birds at HEZ 13 Nov (ROM); c.200 near Ellerston 26 Sep (ROM); c.180 at Shortland 15 Sep (ROM).

White-browed Woodswallow: Dependent young were at HEZ 24 Dec (ROM) and 26 Dec (BED, RUA). There were no records from early in the year; first arrivals were 15 Sep at Roma Road, Merriwa (WID), Fletcher and Shortland (ROM); latest record from HEZ 31 Dec (ROM). A peak count of c.700 at HEZ 13 Nov (ROM); c.650 at Shortland 15 Sep (ROM); c.500 at Medhurst Bridge 15 Sep (WID); c.500 at SATA 27 Nov (ROM).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

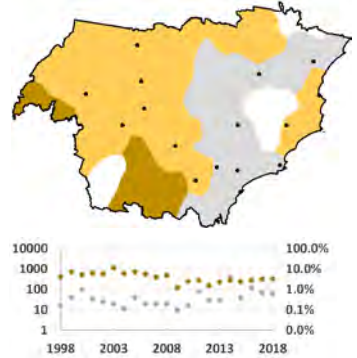
V | 2^{BR}

Summer migrant; 1-10 birds occasionally recorded.

Some birds present all year.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **DT** There were fewer records in Jun-Jul, but no clear point of migratory arrivals and departures was evident. **CT** A peak count of c.60 birds at Minimbah 25 Apr (KEM); c.35 at HEZ 5 May (ROM); c.30 at Pelton 10 May (THJ); c.25 at Medhurst Bridge 26 Aug; 24 at Werakata NP 22 Jul (KEM).



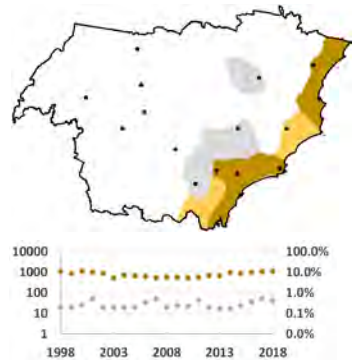
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

1^M | 2^{BR}

Common summer migrant; 1-10 birds frequently recorded at medium to large fresh waters.

The long-term trend suggests a recent increase in the local population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **DT** The latest records were 9 May from Irrawang Swamp (WAB) and SWGC (BEA); earliest returning was at Anna Bay 28 Jul (SDA) then 11 Aug at Tomago (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of 42 birds at Cattai Wetlands 28 Jan (KEM); 23 at Hexham Swamp 17 Mar (KEM).



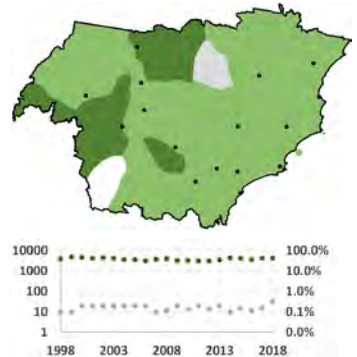
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

1^{BR}

Common resident; 1-5 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 32 at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun, with c.20 there 5 May and 13 Dec (KEM); 19 at Irrawang Swamp 14 Feb (WAB); 16 at Cooranbong 13 Jan (MCE) and MESP 29 Jul (GIT); 12 at Tocal 26 Jun (STD) and East Seaham 14 Aug (KET).



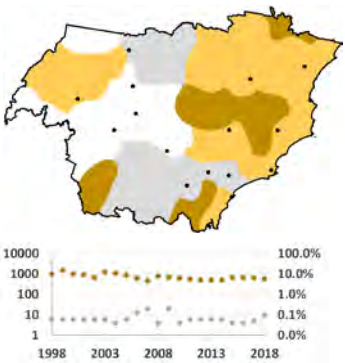
Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

1^{BR}_M

Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR An adult was on nest at CBNP 1 Dec (KEM). **DT** The latest record was at Ash Island 11 Apr (MCN), with one at Saltwater NP 7 Apr (WIG); earliest returning was at Saltwater NP 17 Sep (HBOC), then at Ash Island 25 Sep (MCN). **CT** A peak count of c.10 at Myall View, MLNP 25-29 Jan (KAA); seven at GWC 24 Nov (KEM); five at Tahlee 28 Oct (WAR).



Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

1^{BR}

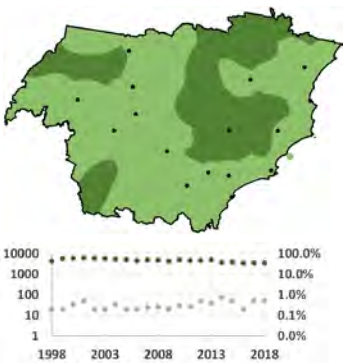
Tasmanian Grey Fantail *ssp. albiscapa*

South-eastern Grey Fantail *ssp. alisteri*

Common resident and passage migrant; up to 20 birds regularly recorded. *alisteri* present in summer, with some departing for winter. Possibly *albiscapa* supplement the local winter population. Larger numbers observed during migration periods.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Dependent young were at Gloucester Tops 15 Jan (STA) and Saltwater NP 27 Dec (KET). **CT** Peak counts of c.50 at Black Hill 7 Aug (HBOC) and Cattai Wetlands 26 Oct (WEP).



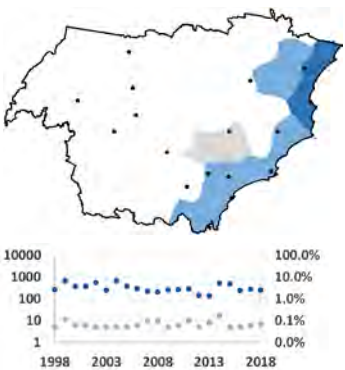
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

1^M

Winter migrant and bird of passage; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

DT The earliest record was at Glenrock SCA 27 Jan (HAC) then MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ); latest departure was at Galgabba Point 13 Nov (ADJ); a few records from CBNP and Cattai Wetlands in Nov-Dec. **CT** A peak count of seven birds at Galgabba Point 28 May (ADJ); four at Cattai Wetlands 24 Apr (HUN, WIJ) and HWC 27 Feb (STR).



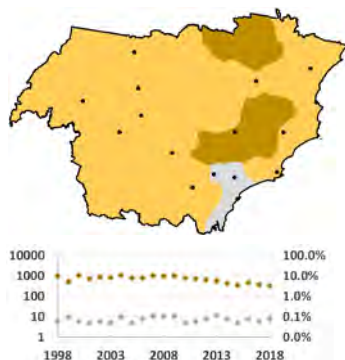
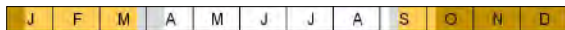
Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

1^{BR}_M

Summer migrant; up to 5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Birds had dependent young near Parkville 24 Jan (ROM), Balickera 9 Oct (STD, STR), GWC 24 Nov and Lemon Tree Passage 22 Dec (KEM). **DT** The latest record was at Bucketty 13 Apr (HAJ), with birds at Smiths Lake 4-5 Apr (GOS); earliest returning was at Swan Bay 22 Sep (HAO) and then Harrington 24 Sep (BEN). **CT** Peak count of 8 at GWC 12 Nov (BRG).



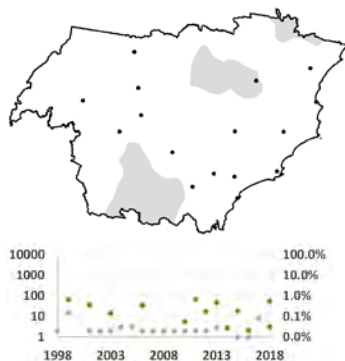
Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

2^{BR}_R

Rare summer migrant to high altitude areas. Records away from such locations require verification due to the difficulty in separation from Leaden Flycatcher.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

DT The latest record was at BTNP 18 Feb (KEM); earliest returning was at Bindera 29-30 Sep (LIK). **CT** Peak counts of three birds at Bindera 30 Sep (LIK) and Gloucester Tops 5 Nov (BEJ, BRM).



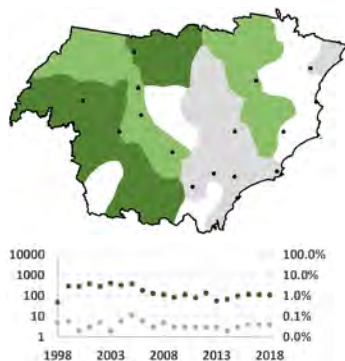
Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

1^{BR}_L

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds had dependent young at Ringwood Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM). **CT** The breeding record was of two adults and two young; three birds at Medhurst Bridge 2 Mar (WAB, JOJ), with two there 6 Mar (KET); two at Wingen 3 Jan (NEG), Rutherford 27 Jan (CLM), Durridgere Road 24 Feb (KEM), near Nowendoc 19 Apr (WOM), Abernethy 5 Jun (HBOC), Ridgellands Road 10 Jul (ROM), Putty Road 5 Aug (RMI) and Broke Road 13 Sep (SER).



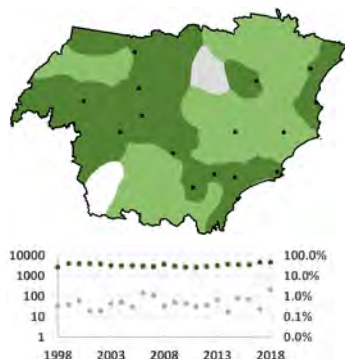
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds are regularly recorded, with larger aggregations in winter.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 217 birds at Hexham Swamp 5 May, with c.140 there 11 Jun and c.120 11 Aug (KEM); c.60 at Raworth 12 Feb (KEM); 34 at Tarro Wetland 1 Mar (STD), with 27 there 6 Mar (CLM); c.30 at Morpeth 3 Jul (HBOC); 24 at Thornton 20 Dec (CLM); 23 at Phoenix Park 9 Feb (KEM) and Black Hill 8 Jul (THJ).



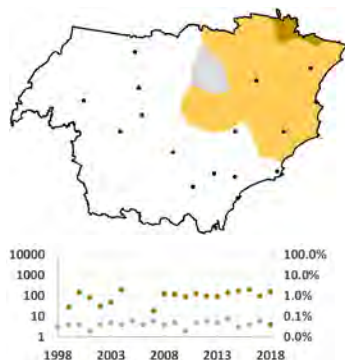
Spectacled Monarch *Symphoricarthus trivirgatus*

1^M

Summer migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a potential increase in the local population.

BR Birds had dependent young at Myall View, MLNP 25-29 Jan (KAA) and CBNP 2 Dec (KEM). **DT** The latest record was at Saltwater NP 5 Apr (MCE), with birds at Harrington 2 Apr (MUL); earliest returning was at Harrington 30 Aug (STA). **CT** A peak count of four birds at Copeland Tops SCA 21 Oct (KEM).

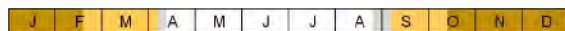


White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*

V | 3^{nr}

Accidental. Historic record from 1993 (thought to be the same location as the later discovery) but then not recorded until 2003, when a single bird was found at Fig Tree, CBNP 26 November. Birds were recorded there regularly until 2008 and then ceased, despite subsequent search efforts. Breeding potentially occurred, as immature birds were also observed.

No reports were received for 2018.



Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

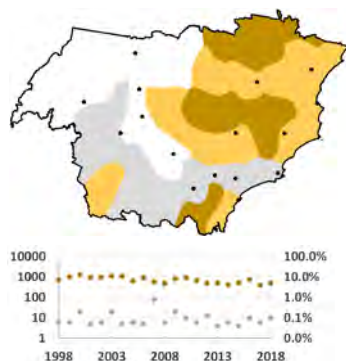
1^{BR}_M

Usual summer migrant; 1-5 birds are moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds had dependent young at Gloucester Tops 4 Feb (KEM) and The Old Brush, Brunkerville 28 Dec (HBOC).

DT The latest record was at Werakata NP 8 Mar (LEM), with one at Harrington 4 Mar (KEM); earliest returning was 18 Sep at Cattai Wetlands (HBOC) and Heaton SF (BAA). **CT** A peak count of c.10 birds at The Old Brush, Brunkerville 28 Dec (HBOC); six at MLNP 30 Jan (WAJ).



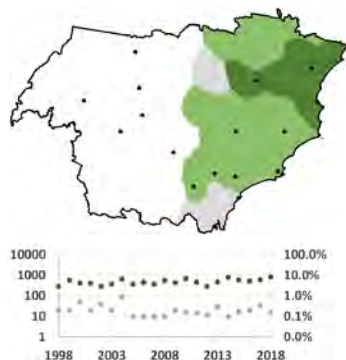
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 10 birds are often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a increase in population, possibly associated with a range expansion.

BR An adult was on nest at Copeland Common 21 Oct (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 16 birds at MLNP 10 Jun (WAC); 15 near Wingham 9 Jan (ANF) and Fosterton 11 Jun (MUR); 12 at Forster in Sep (CAA); c.10 at Wingham Brush NR 2 Jan (KIH) and 12 Sep (HUJ), Yaccaba 24 Feb (GOS), near Dungog 30 Sep (MVA) and Taree 31 Dec (SDA).



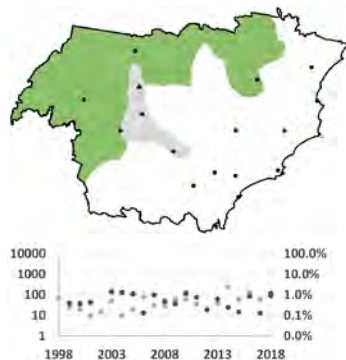
Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

1^{BR}_L

Resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT Peak counts of c.120 birds at Hinton 9 Feb (KEM) and c.110 at Congewai 18 Feb (ROM) were from further east than the typically recorded range, perhaps indicating an influx event; most other large counts were from the Turill area, with c.100 at Summerhill Road 16 Sep and 36 there 24 Feb (KEM); c.50 near Cassilis 29 Jun (ROM); c.30 near Denman 26 Feb (KEM).



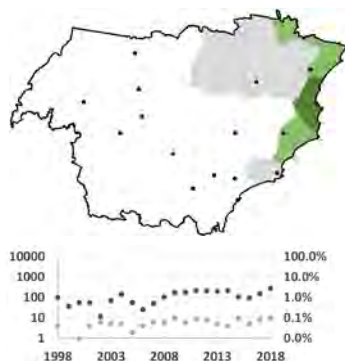
Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

1^{br}

Resident.

The recent increase in WRR is likely due to an increased survey effort in the species range.

CT A peak count of c.10 birds at Old Bar 10 Jan (DEB, HUN, WIJ), with five there 5 Jan (POM); six at Smiths Lake 22 Feb (GOS), Darawank Reserve 25 Mar (MOA) and MESP 3 Dec (BEI), with five there 9 Nov (BUT, GOS); four at Forster 20 Jan and 25 Mar (MOA); three at MLNP 8 Apr (GOS) and Crowdy Head 7 Jul (STA).



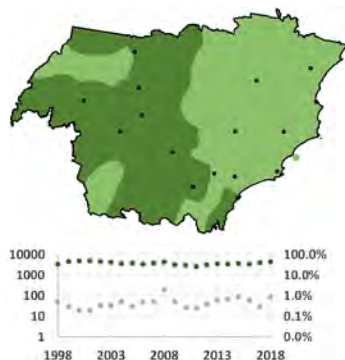
Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds had dependent young at Morpeth 17 Nov (CLM) and HEZ 23 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of c.90 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun, with 61 at Phoenix Park 9 Feb and c.50 at Whistler Parade, Maryland 21 Feb (KEM); 39 at Whittingham 2 Jun (KRH); 31 at HWC 22 Apr (LIP); 28 at WCL 11 Feb (WID), with 24 there 18 May (LIA); 25 at NOB in May (THJ); 23 at Anambah 21 Feb (CLM).



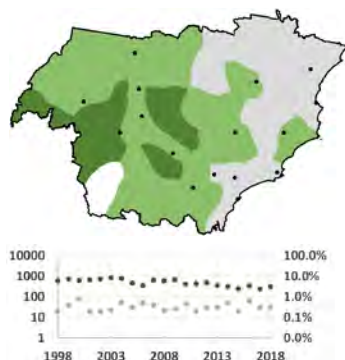
White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

1^{BR}

Resident; up to 20 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Dependent young in or out of nests were at Ridglands Road 27 Sep and near Parkville 18 Dec (ROM). **CT** Peak counts of c.30 birds at Ridglands Road 23 Jan (ROM) and Belford NP 23 Jul (STA); c.20 at GRNP 8-18 Aug (BRM); 18 at Laguna 29 Mar (STD) and Ridglands Road 10 Jul, with 15 there 27 Sep (ROM); 15 at Lake Glenbawn 6 May (ABC).



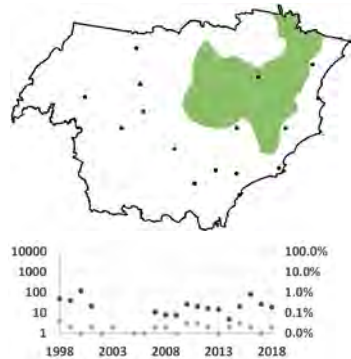
Paradise Riflebird *Lophorina paradisea*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT 1-2 birds were at Barrington House 27 Mar (BOD), Thunderbolts Lookout, BTNP 23 May (VDL), Gloucester Tops Road 25 Sep (BEI, STA), 9 Nov (STA), 27-30 Nov (COJ) and 18 Dec (STA), 13 Nov (WAB, JOJ) and 27 Nov (KET), Copeland Tops SCA 23 Oct (WAB, JOJ) and O'Sullivan's Gap 28 Oct (WID).



Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

1_M^{BR}

Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant). 1-5 birds often recorded at low-mid altitudes Apr-Aug and mid-high altitudes other months.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

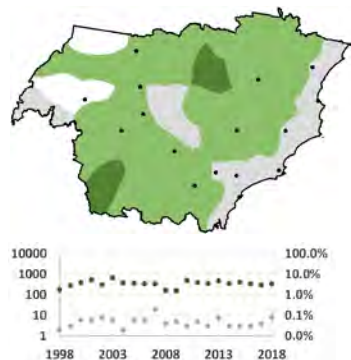
BR A begging juvenile was at Gloucester Tops 4 Feb (KEM). **CT** A peak count of eight birds at Copeland Tops SCA 18 Aug (KEM); five at the Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM); four at Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC), Wollombi 18 Aug (RMI) and Gloucester Tops 18 Oct (GOJ, LAS, WAK).



High Altitude



Low Altitude



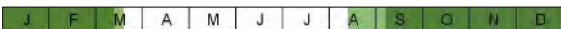
Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

V | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident (and altitudinal migrant).

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

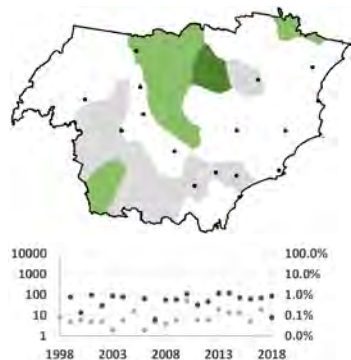
CT Most records were from the Barrington and Gloucester Tops, with peak counts of eight birds at Gloucester Tops 19 Mar (FAA) and 25 Sep (HBOC), with four there 22 Mar (FAA); seven at Polblue, BTNP on 17 Feb (KEM), with six near there 20 Mar (FAA). **LC** The only record from elsewhere in the Region was at Big Yengo Homestead, Yengo NP 20 Jul (WIT)



High Altitude



Low Altitude



Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

V | 2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident and altitudinal migrant.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

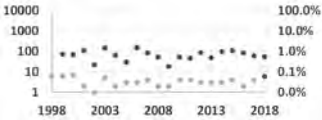
BR Birds had dependent young at Barrington Tops SCA on 17 Feb (KEM) and Timor Caves 23 Dec (WID). **CT** A peak count of six birds at Bylong Valley Way 16 Jun (BUR); four at Barrington Tops SCA 17 Feb (KEM); three at GRNP 8 Aug (BRM), Wollombi 18 Aug (RMI) and Timor Caves 23 Dec (WID). **LC** A female was at Sugarloaf SCA 6 May (KYR).



High Altitude



Low Altitude



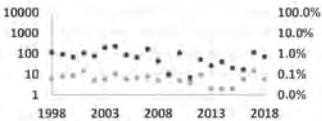
Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

2_U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT Peak counts of six birds at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM) and Appletree Flat 7-12 Jun (HBOC); three at Durridgere Road 13 Feb and Giants Creek 19 Jun (WAB, JOJ), and GRNP 29 Jun (ROM). **LC** Easterly records were at Werakata NP 30 May (THJ) and 1 Jun (CLM), HEZ 31 Jul (ROM) and Rutherford 25 Aug (CLM).



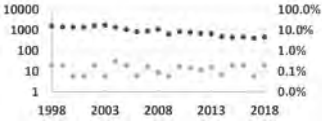
Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

BR Birds had dependent young at Krambach 20 Oct (KEM), Ringwood Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM), HEZ 25 Nov (KEM) and Sheppheard Drive 21-23 Dec (LIA, ROM). **CT** Peak counts of c.20 birds at GRNP 7 Aug and Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM); 12 at GRNP 27 Aug (ROM) and 4 Sep (BRM); eight at Windella 19 Jul (NAK); seven at Windy Station 6 Apr (WAB, JOJ).



Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

1^{BR}

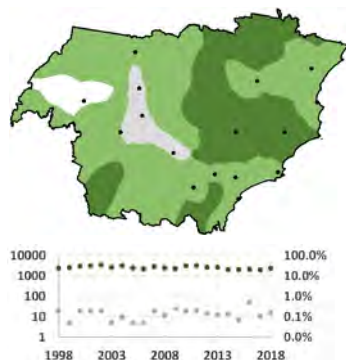
South-eastern Yellow Robin *ssp. australis*

North-eastern Yellow Robin *ssp. chrysorrhoa*

Common resident; 1-5 birds are regularly recorded. Predominantly *australis*, but *chrysorrhoa* could occur in the far north of the Region, with past records of intergrade birds.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of 16 birds at Copeland Tops SCA 18 Aug (KEM).



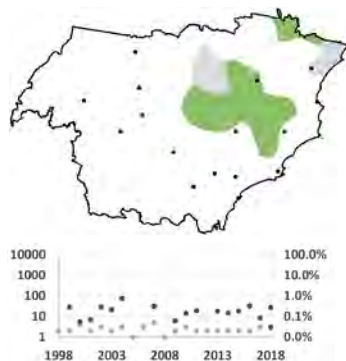
Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

1^L

Resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of three birds at Copeland Tops SCA 18 Aug, with two there 17 Feb and 21 Oct (KEM); two at The Glen NR 19 Aug (KEM) and O'Sullivan's Gap 21 Sep (CLM) and 30 Oct (KET). **LC** Other locations were at Wingham Brush NR 11 Jan (ANF), Gloucester Tops 12 Apr (WEP) and 15 Oct (WEB), the Grandis Trail 30 Oct (KET) and Boolambayte Creek 10 Dec (WID).



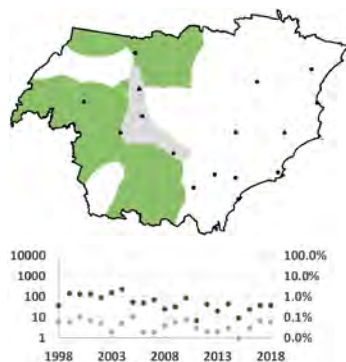
Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

V | 2^U

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

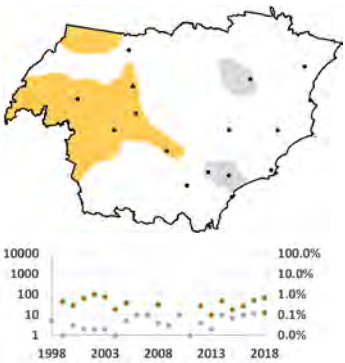
CT A peak count of six at Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM); three at Medhurst Bridge 1 Jul (KET) and Hulks Road, GRNP 28 Aug (ROM). **LC** Other locations were at Durrigere Road 27 Mar (WAB, JOJ) and 11 Apr (KEM), Giants Creek 9 Apr (STR) and 9 Aug (NEM), and near Wollombi 15 Nov (JAM).



Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafrja javanica*

2_U^{nr}

Uncommon summer migrant.
There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.
DT The latest record was at Pitnacree 1 Mar (STD); earliest returning was near Merriwa 27 Aug (ROM). **CT** A peak count of at least 13 birds at Ringwood Road, Merriwa 3 Nov (KEM); five at Phoenix Park 9 Feb (KEM), with three there 19 Oct (BRG); five near Merriwa 27 Aug (ROM); four at Ridgeland Road 17 Dec (ROM).



Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

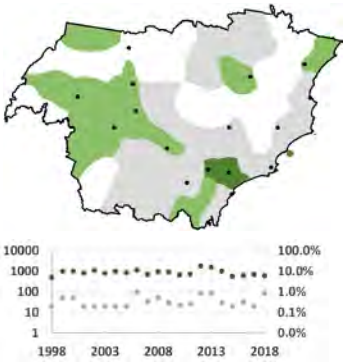
3_{br}

Accidental. Historic records. Recently Accepted records: a single bird at Yarrawa 29 November 2003; two to eight birds regularly at Kooragang Island between 15 November 2005 and 15 September 2007; a single bird at Tomago 9 November 2006.
No reports were received for 2018.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

1_{BR}

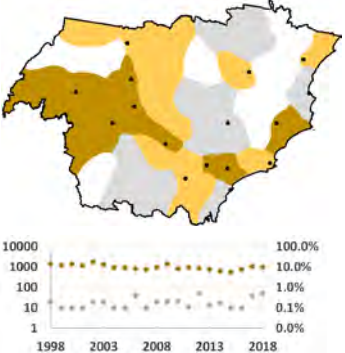
Usual resident. Up to 20 birds are often recorded.
The long-term trend suggests a stable population.
BR No confirmed breeding, but suggestive behaviour observed at Ash Island 29 Sep (MUR) and Broughton Island 3 Nov (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of 84 at Hexham Swamp 5 May, with 34 there 11 Jun (KEM) and c.30 15 Dec (ASB, KEM, SRA); 14 at Lavis Lane 17 May (KEM); 12 at Ash Island 5 Nov, with eight there 4 Nov (MES) and 14 Dec (ASB, SRA); eight at Chisholm 17 Feb (CLM) and Broughton Island 3 Nov (HBOC).



Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

1_M^{BR}

Usual summer migrant. 1-10 birds often recorded and some birds are resident.
The long-term trend suggests a stable population.
BR Birds had dependent young at Battery Rock 26 Feb (KEM). **DT** The latest record was at Lenaghan 24 Jun (THJ), with one at HWC 17 Jun (HBOC); earliest returning was at Hexham Swamp 9-14 Aug (KEM, WAB) and then at SWGC 17 Aug (BOD). **CT** A peak count of over 50 birds at Hexham Swamp on 15 Dec (KEM), with c.20 there 7 Nov (KEM, YAO).





Horsfield's Bushlark by Rachel Klyve

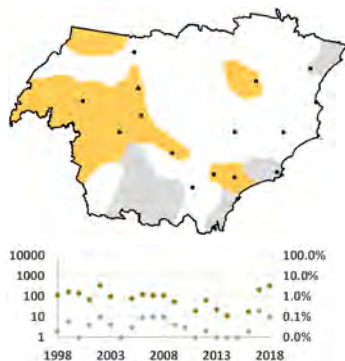
Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

2_U^{br}

Uncommon summer migrant and irruptive visitor.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

DT The latest record was at Summerhill Road 24 Feb (KEM), with one at Swan Bay 17 Feb (FLS, HAO); earliest returning was at Martindale 26 Aug (ROM), then at Ash Island 5 Sep (STA). **CT** Peak counts of c.10 birds at Phoenix Park 19 Oct and Rawdon Vale 20 Nov (BRG); six at Wallalong 13 Sep, with five there 12 Nov (BRG); four at Hexham Swamp 14 Sep (IRD), 7 Nov (KEM, YAO) and 15 Dec (KEM).



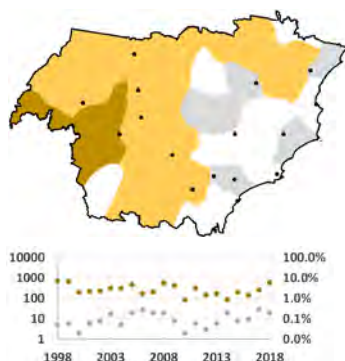
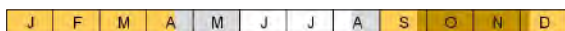
Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

1_M^{BR}

Summer migrant and irruptive visitor; 1-2 birds sometimes recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population, with notable fluctuations.

BR No confirmed breeding, but suggestive behaviour observed at Morpeth 25 Oct (CLM) and HEZ 23 Nov (KEM). **DT** The latest record was at Durrigere Road 24 Feb (KEM); earliest returning was at Martindale 16 Aug (MUL). **CT** Peak counts of c.20 birds at Raworth 20 Oct and Wallalong 12 Nov (BRG); c.15 at HEZ 13 Nov (ROM).



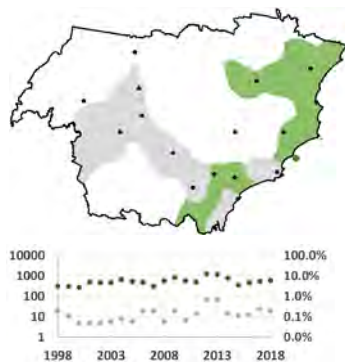
Tawny Grassbird *Cincloramphus timoriensis*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of 21 birds at Hexham Swamp 15 Dec (KEM), with c.15 there 15 Dec (ASB, KEM, SRA); 18 at Ash Island 25 Sep (YAO), with seven there 1 Jan (LAK) c.15 at Broughton Island 20-21 Apr (STA) and 2-4 Nov (HBOC); four at HWC 17 Mar (LIP) and Whistler Parade, Maryland 10 Dec (KEM).



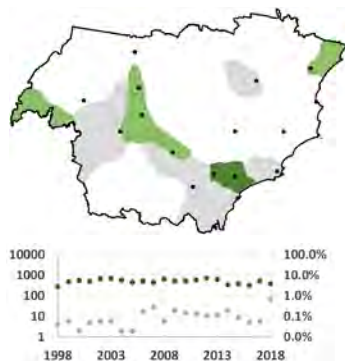
Little Grassbird *Poodytes gramineus*

1^{BR}

Resident. 1-5 birds usually recorded near medium to large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but suggestive behaviour was observed at Sandgate 22 Nov (STR). **CT** A peak count of c.70 birds at Hexham Swamp 9 Aug, with c.60 there 9 Jun and 44 11 Jun (KEM); 11 at Kooragang Island 7 Sep (HBOC); five at HWC 19 Mar (COT) and Ash Island 15 Jun (KEM); four at Whistler Parade, Maryland 6 Nov (KEM).



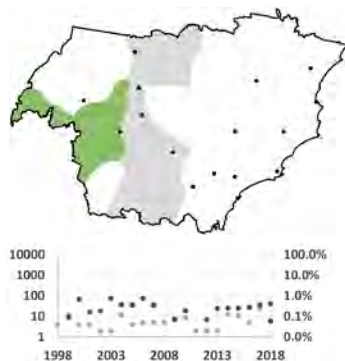
White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

2^U^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of six birds at Bureen Bridge 12 May, with three there 26 Aug (ROM); four at GRNP 17 Aug, with three there 8 Aug (BRM); three at Baerami 13 Sep (MUL) and Smedes Road 1 Oct (KEM). **LC** Other locations were at Bureen 23-25 Jul (STA, HBOC), Keerrabee 27 Aug (ROM), Pokolbin 28 Aug (THJ), near Denman 3 Sep and Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM).



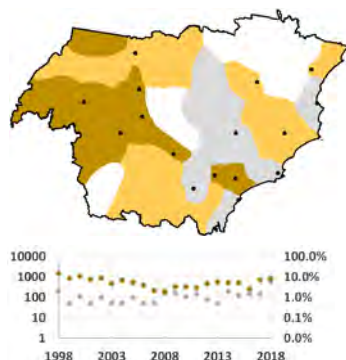
Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

1^{BR}
M

Summer migrant; up to 20 birds frequently recorded and small numbers over-winter.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR A colony of 50+ nests with young was at Cundletown 5 Feb (STA). **DT** The latest record was at HWC 25 May (THJ), with one at Maryland 19 May (HBOC); earliest returning at Branxton 5 Aug (BAA) then at Lenaghan 7 Aug (HBOC). **CT** A peak count of c.600 birds at Irrawang Swamp 20 Jan (FLS); c.500 at Maryland 27 Jan (ROM).



Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

1^{BR}
M

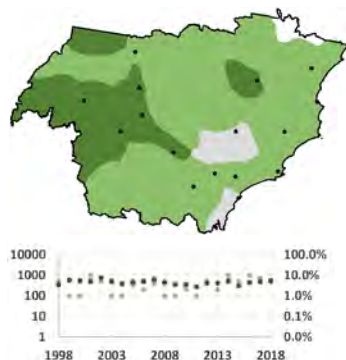
Mainland Tree Martin *spp. neglecta*

Tasmanian Tree Martin *spp. nigricans*

Summer migrant; up to 20 birds occasionally recorded. Many birds over-winter. Breeding birds are *neglecta*. Status of *nigricans* unknown, but may form part of the winter population.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of c.500 bird at Shortland 2 May (ROM); c.400 at Irrawang Swamp 14 Jan (MEL); over 150 at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM).



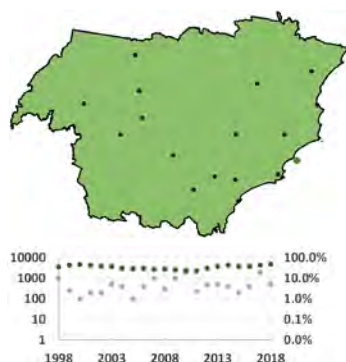
Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

1^{BR}

Common resident, with influxes in autumn. Up to 50 birds regularly recorded near medium-large waters.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Breeding was recorded at numerous locations throughout the Region. **CT** A peak count of c.500 birds at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun, with over 300 there 11 Feb (KEM) and c.200 31 Jan (MOA); c.300 at Irrawang Swamp 15 Aug and 5 Sep (WAB); c.200 at Black Hill 8 Jul and Pokolbin 2 Sep (THJ).



A single bird was recorded at Shortland 5-12 March 1988 and accepted by NSW ORAC as the 3rd for NSW, although this was the first record to have been formally assessed.

No reports were received for 2018.

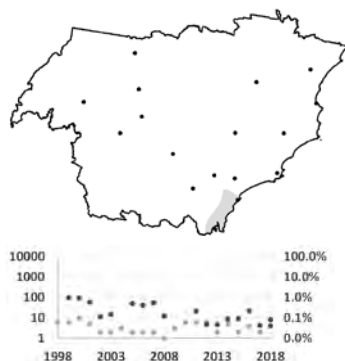
Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

2_U^{nr}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

CT Two birds at Black Neds Bay 12 May (KEM) and Cooranbong 21 Aug (WAB, JOJ), with one there 22 Aug (ROM); one at Belmont 7 Jul (HOM).



Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

1_M^{BR}

Eastern Silvereye *spp. cornwalli*

Tasmanian Silvereye *spp. lateralis*

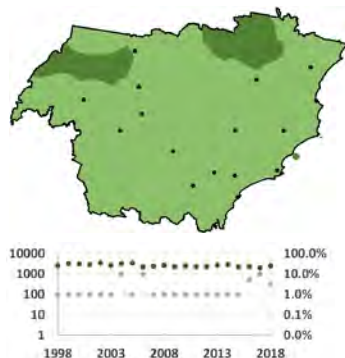
South-eastern Silvereye *spp. westernensis*

cornwalli a common resident, *westernensis* (or intergrade birds) could occur in the south of the Region. *westernensis* and *lateralis* are autumn/winter visitors.

Many birds migrate through the Region in autumn/winter, with up to 50 birds regularly recorded during that period.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR A pair had dependent young at Gloucester Tops 29 Jan (STA).



Silvereye by Marg Clarke

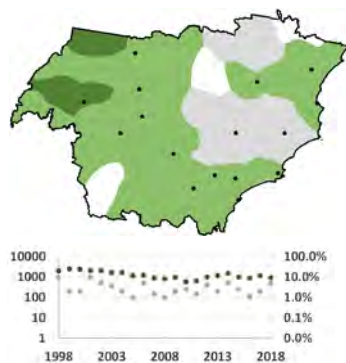
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 50 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Birds had nests with young at Merriwa 29 Sep (KEM), 25 Oct (KEM, YAO) and 3 Nov (KEM). **CT** A peak count of over 500 birds at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM); over 150 at Hexham Swamp 11 Jun, with c.100 there 5 May (KEM); c.140 at Bureen 6 Jul (WPE); c.100 at Hexham Swamp 6 Jan and 20 Mar (GIN).



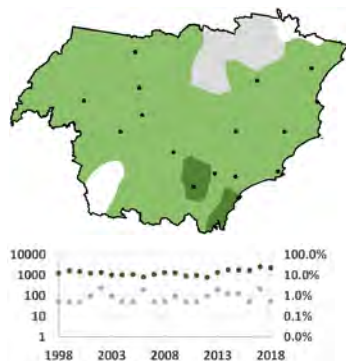
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 50 birds often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR Birds were on nest at Forster in Sep (CAA). **CT** A peak count of 52 birds at Sandy Hollow 26 Feb (KEM); 49 at Lavis Lane 17 May (KEM); c.45 at Cooranbong 23 Aug (TAM); c.40 at Aberglasslyn 17-24 Feb (WPE) and Invergordon 27 Mar (STA); c.30 at Waratah 4 Jul (DON) and Tuncurry 11 Oct (FLS); 28 at Tarro Swamp 26 Aug (KEM).



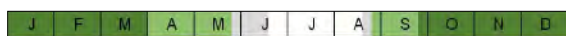
Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

1^M^{BR}

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

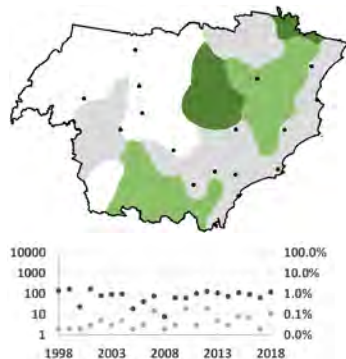
BR Birds had a nest with young at HRBG 26 Aug (KEM). **CT** A peak count of 11 birds at Gloucester Tops 4 Feb (KEM); six at Sharpes Creek 20 Mar (WAB, JOJ), with five there 19 Mar and four 12 Mar (STA); four at HRBG 26 Aug (KEM), with three there 23 Jul (STA) and 3 Aug (BUR); three at Myall View, MLNP 25-29 Jan (KAA); two near Quorrobolong 19 Aug (ROM) and Galgabba Point 29 Aug (ADJ).



High Altitude



Low Altitude



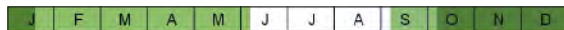
Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

1^{BR}

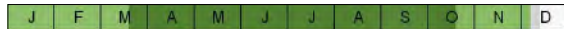
Resident.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

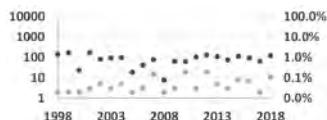
BR Dependent young in or out of nest were at Copeland Tops SCA 17 Feb (KEM) and Wingham Brush NR 9 Nov (DRA). **CT** A peak count of five birds at Copeland Tops SCA 17 Feb, with four there 18 Aug (KEM) and three 23 Jan (KET); four at Wingham Brush NR 9 Nov (DRA); two at Sharpes Creek 5 Mar (STA) and Allyn River 28 Oct (BRG).



High Altitude



Low Altitude



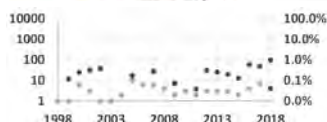
Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

1^{BR}

Resident in many inland towns; 1-2 birds often recorded.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT A peak count of four birds at Denman 18 Jul (BLG); two at Aberglasslyn 15-28 Apr (WPE), Pokolbin 21 Jul (SDA), Lorn 29 Aug (CLM), Greta 25 Oct (SJI) and Merriwa 25 Oct (KEM). **LC** Birds were at Polblue, BTNP (a previously known location) 1 Jan (GEG), Waratah West 16 Aug (KEM), Widden Valley 6 Sep (BRM), Mount Coricudgy 30 Sep (BRM, GOS), GRNP 27 Oct (MOA) and Seaham 16 Nov (REC).



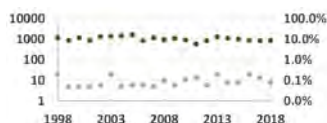
Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

1^{BR}

Usual resident; 1-5 birds frequently recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

BR No confirmed breeding but a young bird was at Old Gibber Road, MLNP 24 Jan (WPE). **CT** A peak count of eight birds at Hulks Road, GRNP 3 Nov (KEM); seven at HEZ 25 Nov (KEM); six near Thornton 7 Apr (NAK) and near Quorrobolong 19 Aug (ROM); five at WWW 18 Jan (NAK), Coopernook Wetland 3 Jun (WEP), Cattai Wetlands 6 Jul (MUL), 18 Sep (CLM) and 18 Oct (LAK) and Lemon Tree Passage 10 Oct (LUA).



Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

4

Accidental. Accepted records: a female nested at Hawks Nest in November 1985 and January 1986 (although no male bird was present) and was seen there again in November 1986; a single bird at Stroud 10 December 1985; a female at WWW 3-6 March 2006.

No reports were received for 2018.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

3^{br}

Historic records. Possibly extinct in the wild and last recorded in the Region in 1991.

No reports were received for 2018.

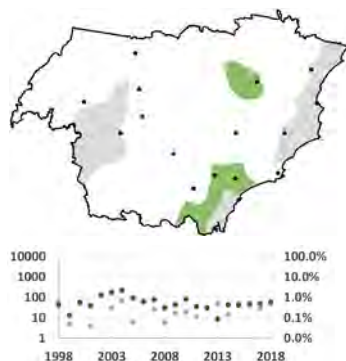
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

2_u^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT Peak counts of c.50 birds at HWC 27 Feb (STR) and Minimbah 20 Mar (BEI), with c.45 there 2 Apr (ROM) and c.35 16 Mar (BEI) and 8 May (WAB, JOJ); c.30 at Wallsend Wetlands 21 Feb (KEM), Tomago 17 Apr (HBOC) and Hexham Swamp 26 Aug (BEI) and 6 Sep (EDS) **LC** Other locations were at Coopernook Road Wetland 1 Jan (MUL), Cattai Wetlands 17 Feb (WES), 20 May (HUJ) and 18 Sep (HBOC) and Raworth 19 Oct.



Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

3^{nr}

The only accepted record for the Region is from Red Creek in the Widden Valley in February 1977.

No reports were received for 2018.

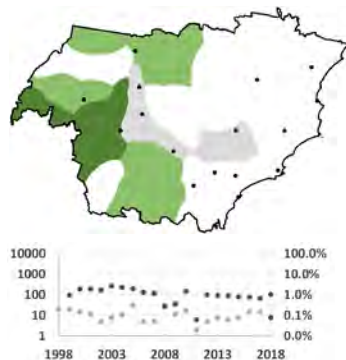
Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

V | 2_T^{BR}

Resident.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but a birds were nest-building at Medhurst Bridge 5 May (MOA) and at Ringwood Road, GRNP 1 Oct (ROM). **CT** A peak count of eight birds at Durrigere Road 13 Feb (WAB, JOJ); seven at Medhurst Bridge 1 Jul (KET), with six there 10 Mar (STR), 5 May and 18 May (MOA); four at Ridgeland Road 10 Apr and 27 Sep (ROM) and Windy Station 29 Apr (KEM).



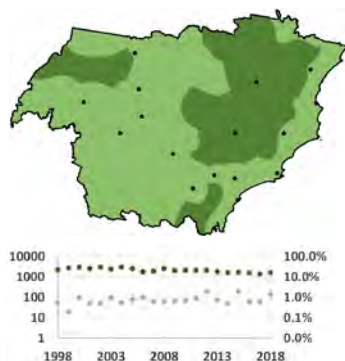
Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

1^{BR}

Common resident; up to 20 birds regularly recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a potential decline in the local population.

BR Birds had dependent young at Bucketty 8 Jan (HAJ), Gloucester in Mar (DRP) and Tahlee 20 Jun (FLS). **CT** A peak count of 143 birds at Martindale 28-30 Sep (HBOC); c.100 at Smiths Lake 19 Feb (GOS), c.60 at Nerong 1 Oct (OND); c.55 at HWC 4 Aug (STR), with 43 there 11 Oct (YAO); at least 50 at Cobark 18 Feb (KEM).



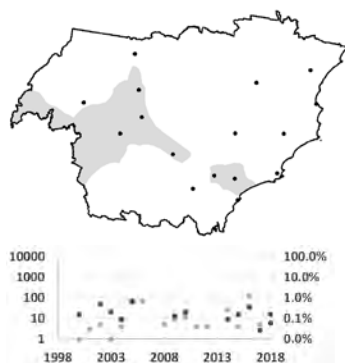
Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

2^{br}

Rare irruptive visitor.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

BR No confirmed breeding, but juvenile birds were at Medhurst Bridge 15 Jul (CIB) and 30 Sep (KET). **CT** A peak count of six at Medhurst Bridge 30 Sep (KET), with five there 15 Jul (CIB) and one 28 Aug (KET); three at Raworth 11 Feb (CLM) and Millers Dam, Ulan 24 Feb, with two there 4 Nov (KEM); two at GRNP 8-9 Aug (BRM) and Hebden 17 Oct (MIH); one at Gungah 6 Apr (ETR).



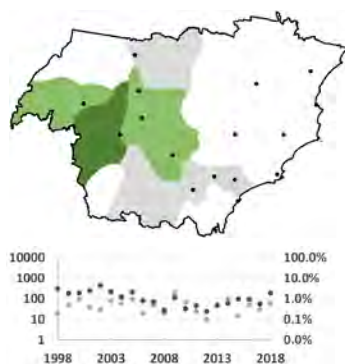
Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia castanotis*

1^{BR}

Resident; up to 10 birds sometimes recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

BR No confirmed breeding, but nest building behaviour observed at Medhurst Bridge 15 Jul (CIB) and near McCullys Gap 27-28 Aug (APR). **CT** A peak count of c.60 birds at Medhurst Bridge 15 Jul (CIB), with 32 there 18 May (MOA); 52 at Singleton WWTP 29 Jun (HAR); c.40 at Martindale 28 Aug (KET); c.30 at Bolwarra 4 Feb (NAK) and Bureen 30 Jun (KEM); c.25 at Raworth 4 Feb (NAK).



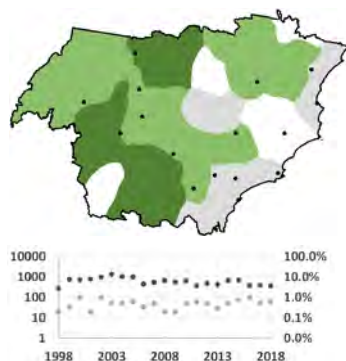
Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

1^{BR}

Resident; up to 20 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of c.60 birds at Warrah Ridge 28 Apr (KEM); c.40 at Jerrys Plains 15 Jul (CIB); 37 at Cessnock 7 Jun (COB); c.30 at Werakata NP 30 May (THJ) and Medhurst Bridge 15 Jul (CIB), with 24 there 30 Sep (KET); c.25 at Martindale 23 Jun (NAK); c.20 at Doyles Creek 10 Mar (STR), Summerhill Road 28 Jun (ROM), SSS 1 Aug (BAA) and Giants Creek 4 Aug (WHD); 16 at Wingen 13 Apr (NEG).



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

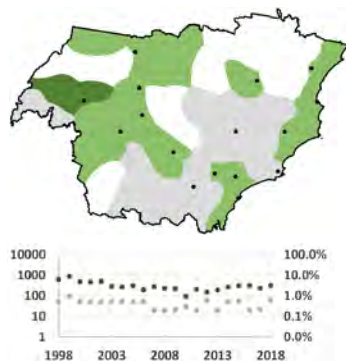
1^{BR}

Usual resident; up to 20 birds frequently recorded around populated areas.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

BR Nesting birds were at Merriwa 3 Nov (KEM), Ghinni Ghinni 7 Dec (MOA) and Willow Tree 28 Dec (RHC).

CT A peak count of c.60 birds at Windy Station 28 Apr (KEM); c.30 near Merriwa 1 Nov (HOT); c.20 at Denman 18 Jul (BLG); 16 at Lorn 25 Jul (CLM); 15 at Shortland 25 Jul (ROM); 13 at Whittingham 2 Jun (KRH).



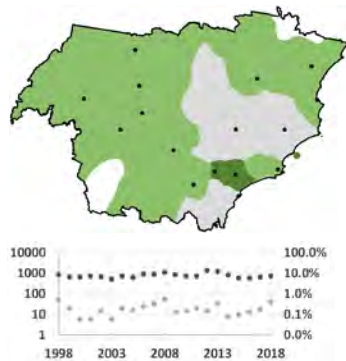
Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

1^{BR}

Resident; 1-5 birds moderately often recorded.

The long-term trend suggests a stable population.

CT A peak count of c.40 birds at Rawdon Vale 20 Nov (BRG), with eight there 4 Jan (BRM); c.30 at Hexham Swamp 5 Jan (ROM), with 16 there 15 Dec (ASB, SRA) and 14 on 5 May (KEM); 11 at WCL 3 Feb (WID) and Ash Island 29 Sep (MUR), with ten there 3 Mar (MOA); nine at Tomago 18 Sep, with seven there 15 May (HBOC); seven at Louth Park 23 Apr (CLM); six at Raworth 23 Sep (NAK) and Phoenix Park 19 Oct (BRG).



Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

2_R

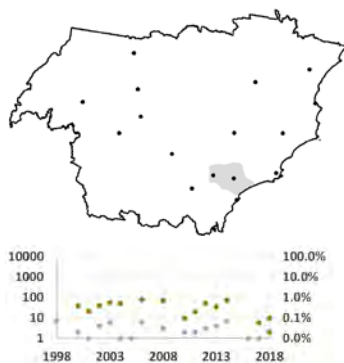
East Siberian Yellow Wagtail *ssp. tschutschensis*

Green-headed Wagtail *ssp. taivana*

Rare summer migrant, predominantly of *tschutschensis*. However, *taivana* has also been recorded in 2003 and 2014.

There are insufficient records to gauge a long-term trend.

CT All records were of *tschutschensis* birds and were at Hexham Swamp: two birds 17-18 Mar (HBOC, KEM, TBW) and a single bird 26 Dec (BED, RUA).



White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

5

A female bird with an injured foot, of *ssp. lugens*, was first recorded at Glendale Shopping Centre 4 April 1998 and disappeared following heavy rain 10-11 April. The bird attracted much interest nationally amongst birders and locally amongst the wider community. The record was accepted by BARC and constitutes the only accepted NSW record of this species.

No reports were received for 2018.

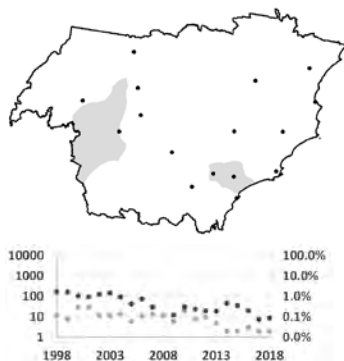
European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

2_U ^{BR}

Uncommon resident.

The long-term trend suggests a recent decline in the local population.

CT Two birds at Maitland 9 Feb (KEM), and Ash Island 28 Oct (EDS) and 16 Nov (EDD, EDK), with one there 19 Sep (LIG); single birds at WWW 10 Aug (BRG) and Lorn 13 Aug (DON).



SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the pre-2018 records detailed below:

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* 1^{br}

Breeding records for the Region have been confirmed from the Forster and BBNP area in 1925 (GOJ) and Nov 1986 (TUD). The species status has therefore been updated to 1^{br}.

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.*

Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis* 1^{BR}_M

A bird was reported to have been at Rothbury 14 Jun, which would constitute an exceptional winter record.

Pallid Cuckoo *Heteroscenes pallidus* 1^{BR}_M

A bird was reported to have been at Clarence Town 7 Jul, which would constitute an exceptional winter record.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* 1^{BR}

A report of six birds at Kerripit Road 20 Dec is a large count for this high altitude location.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* 2^R

A bird was reported to have been at SSS 1 Jan and 16 Jan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For this Bird Report, Rob Kyte organised images, designed the layout and coordinated the final production. BirdLife Australia and Cornell Labs provided access to the Birddata and eBird bird recording databases respectively and Ian Benson and Mick Roderick undertook vetting of records being submitted to both databases. As outgoing Editor, Alan Stuart provided welcome support and undertook a thorough and diligent review of the Draft Report. Many others contributed photographs and are acknowledged accordingly within the document.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following abbreviations/acronyms have been used in the Report:

BBNP	Booti Booti National Park	NP	National Park
BTNP	Barrington Tops National Park	RP	Regional Park
CBNP	Crowdy Bay National Park	SATA	Singleton Army Training Area
GRNP	Goulburn River National Park	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
GWC	Green Wattle Creek	SCA	State Conservation Area
HEZ	Hunter Economic Zone	SF	State Forest
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanical Gardens	SP	State Park
HWC	Hunter Wetlands Centre	SSS	Stockton Sand Spit
KSFT	Kearsley South Fire Trail	SWGC	Shortland Waters Golf Club
MESP	Manning Entrance State Park (inc. Farquhar Inlet)	TSR	Travelling Stock Route
MLNP	Myall Lakes National Park	WCL	Worimi Conservation Lands
NOB	Newcastle Ocean Baths	WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant
		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	Paterson	L8
George McGregor Park	M10	Phoenix Park	L9
Glenrock SCA	M10	Pokolbin	J9
Gloucester	N5	Quorrobolong	K10
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9	Raymond Terrace	M9
Green Wattle Creek	L9	Redhead	M11
Gir-um-bit NP	N9	Ringwood Rd (GRNP)	C6
Hallidays Point	R5	Salt Ash	N9
Harrington	S4	Scone	H5
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Hexham Swamp	L10/M10	Seal Rocks	R7
Hunter Economic Zone (HEZ)	K9	Sheppeard Dr	L10
Howes Valley	H10	Shortland Waters Golf Club	
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens		(SWGC)	M10
(HRBG)	M9	Singleton	I8/J8
Hunter Wetlands Centre (HWC)	M10	Smedes Rd	B6
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	M10
Morisset	K11	Warakeila	L6
Moon Island (off Swansea)	L11	Warkworth	I8
Morpeth	L9	Watagans NP	K11
Mount Arthur	H6	Williamtown	N9
Mount Vincent	K10/L10	Windy Station	E2
Mudbishops Point (Old Bar)	R4	Wingen	H4
Newcastle	M10	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
New Lambton Heights	M10	Woko NP	M3
Old Bar	R4	Woodville	L9
Oyster Cove	N9	Wyee Point	L11
Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10	Yarrawa	F7

APPENDIX – 2018 RAC REPORT

Compiled by Mick Roderick, September 2019

Below is a list of cases assessed by the Hunter Bird Observers Club Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) in 2018 (or in some cases, early 2019). A summary of each case is provided, along with selected photographs. A summary for the Hunter Region assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) or the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2018 is also provided.

List of Accepted Cases

503	Grey Noddy	Nobbys Breakwall	11 Jan 2018
504	Red-chested Button-quail	Tempus Two Winery, Pokolbin	13 Jan 2018
506	Ground Parrot	Crowdy Bay National Park	4 Mar 2018
507	Ground Parrot	Minimbah Nature Reserve, Nabiac	15 Mar 2018
508	White-tailed Tropicbird	Thornton	22 Mar 2018
509	Pacific Gull	Nobbys Beach	4 Jun 2018
510	Pacific Gull	Seven Mile Beach, Booti Booti NP	16 Jun 2018
511	Superb Fruit-Dove	Booti Hill Lakeside Walking Track	10 May 2016
512	Ground Parrot	Cape Hawke	28 Mar 2002
513	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Lake Glenbawn	27 Sep 2018
514	Black Honeyeater	Singleton Heights	6 Oct 2018
515	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (spp. <i>lucidus</i>)	Abermain + Walka Water Works	6 Oct 2018
516	Kelp Gull	Stockton Sandspit	13 Oct 2018
517	Wandering Tattler	Green Point (Lake Macquarie)	10 Oct 2018
518	Australian Little Bittern	Ash Island	1 Nov 2018
519	Crimson Chat	Durrigere SCA	4 Nov 2018
520	Pacific Gull	Farquhar Inlet	4 Nov 2018
521	Kelp Gull	Newcastle Ocean Baths	20 Nov 2018
522	Red-backed Kingfisher	Martindale	10 Nov 2018
523	Little Button-quail	Glendonbrook	14 Dec 2018
524	Apostlebird	Timor Caves Reserve	28 Jul 2018
525	South Isl. Pied Oystercatcher	Stockton Beach	7 Dec 2018

Case Summaries

Case 503 A **Grey Noddy** *Procelsterna albigutta* was photographed standing on rocks at the end of Nobbys Breakwall on 11th January 2018. Subsequent attempts to relocate the bird (albeit several days after the initial sighting) were unsuccessful. **Gillian Carter**

Case 504 A **Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhothorax* was collected dead from a swimming pool at Tempus Two Winery, Pokolbin on 13th January 2018. **Alwyn Simple**

Case 506 This case involved two reports of a **Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*** from Crowdy Bay National Park and was (at the time) the first evidence of the existence of Ground Parrots in the Hunter Region for over 60 years. Initially a bird was flushed at dawn on the 4th March 2018 (unable to be seen again), whilst the second report was of a bird heard calling at a nearby site on the 10th March 2018. It is unknown if this was the same or different bird. **Alex Berryman, Michael Kearns and Liam Murphy**

Case 507

This case also involved reports of **Ground Parrots *Pezoporus wallicus*** just west of Minimbah Nature Reserve, approximately 60km south of the Crowdy Bay site mentioned above. Birds were seen on at least two mornings (15th and 18th March 2018) feeding on fallen seed on bush tracks just west of the reserve. It is still unclear whether or not more than one bird was involved. Photographs were obtained of a bird on the 18th March, being the only known Ground Parrot photos from the Hunter Region.

Nick Thompson, Brian McCauley and Mick Roderick

Photo by Brian McCauley



Case 508 This case referred to an injured **White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*** taken into care at Medowie on 22nd March 2018. The bird was later released at sea. This came at a time of severe weather and when several other White-tailed Tropicbirds were taken into care in Sydney and the mid-north coast. **Joy Nicholls**

Case 509 This case related to a juvenile **Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*** that was first seen at Nobbys Beach, 4th June 2018. The bird was subsequently seen by many observers on both sides of Newcastle Harbour, with several reports (and photographs) of two birds. **Archie Brennan**

Case 510 This case also concerned a juvenile **Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus***, this time at Seven Mile Beach (Booti Booti National Park) 16th June 2018. **Neil and Barbara Ryan per Barryalley**

Case 511 This case related to a pair of **Superb Fruit-Doves *Ptilinopus superbus*** seen and photographed along the Booti Hill Lakeside Walking Track (Booti Booti National Park), 10th May 2016. The photo provided by the observer clearly showed the male bird, with the female having flown off before the photos were taken. **Corinne Carpenter**

Case 512 This was yet another case involving a claim of a **Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus***, this bird at Cape Hawke, 28th March 2002. The report was noticed long after the event inside an eBird checklist, but with lengthy notes to support the identification. Notwithstanding the veracity of these notes and due to the significance of the report, the observer was contacted and provided a very detailed submission which was unanimously accepted by the committee, thus becoming the first accepted record of Ground Parrots in the Hunter Region in modern times. **Graham Langley**

Case 513 This case concerned a **Ground Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina maxima*, heard and then seen/photographed flying west over the eastern edge of Lake Glenbawn 27th September 2018. This is the first confirmed record of this species in this part of the Region. **Mick Roderick**

Case 514 This case refers to a male **Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger* found in a semi-suburban setting in Singleton Heights, 6th October 2018. The bird was feeding in planted street trees and was present for several days, with subsequent observers locating the bird after the initial sighting. **Michael Akrill**

Case 515 This case concerned the uncommon but possibly overlooked nominate subspecies of **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus lucidus*, seen and photographed at Abermain, 6th October 2018. This is the subspecies of Shining Bronze-Cuckoo that breeds in New Zealand that migrates to islands in the Pacific Ocean, with some birds returning via the Australian east coast (particularly Queensland). Remarkably, a second *lucidus* bird was photographed at Walka Water Works on the same day. Together, these form the first confirmed records of this subspecies for the Hunter Region. **Mick Roderick and Kris Mills/Dick Jenkin**

Case 516 This case referred to an immature **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* photographed at Stockton Sandspit 13th October 2018. The committee took care to rule out possible vagrant Larus gulls in accepting the record. **Ray Burton**

Case 517

This case deals with the well-known **Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana* that frequented Green Point (Lake Macquarie) for at least two weeks after being found on 10th October 2018 (last sighting ~27th October). The habitat where the bird was found was rather atypical for the species, being well inside the lake, and it was likely that the bird was on passage.

Gary Tong and Jim Stone

Photo by Dick Jenkin



Case 518 An **Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius* was discovered by frog researchers in an artificial wetland created for Green and Golden Bell Frogs on Ash Island, 1st November 2018. The bird was filmed and footage shared on social media. Despite subsequent searches the bird was not relocated. **Chad Beranek**

Case 519 A male **Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor* was found associating with a flock of White-browed and Masked Woodswallows feeding on the ground at the campground at Durrigere State Conservation Area on 4th November 2018. Excellent photographs were obtained. This was the first report of this species in the Hunter Region since the influx of birds during spring 2017. **Michael Kearns**

Case 520 This case concerns an adult **Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus* that was found loafing with Silver Gulls and Crested Terns at Farquhar Inlet, 4th November 2018. Although no photographs were obtained the description provided to the committee left no doubt as to the bird's identity. **Peter West and Sue Proust**

Case 521 This case referred to a large immature Larus gull identified as a **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* during a seawatch at Newcastle Ocean Baths, 20th November 2018. As with Case 520, no photographs were taken, but the observer provided a very detailed description of the bird, confirming it as a first or second year Kelp Gull. **Simon Gorta**

Case 522 A **Red-backed Kingfisher** *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius* was photographed on powerlines along Horseshoe Road in the Martindale Valley on 10th November 2018. This was the first report of this species in the Hunter Region since the influx of birds that occurred during spring 2017. **David and Graeme Catt**

Case 523 A deceased **Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox* was found on a property at Glendonbrook on the 14th December 2018. Excellent photographs of the bird in the hand aided an easy identification of the bird. The cause of death was unknown. **Per Ian Benson**

Case 524 This was an interesting case resulting in a new species for the Hunter Region. A group of **Apostlebirds** *Struthidea cinerea* were observed during an outing of the Tamworth Birdwatchers at the Timor Caves Reserve on 28th July 2018. A group of 17 birds were feeding on the side of a track and eventually flushed and flew out of sight. No photographs were able to be obtained. The submission detailed the sighting, which was corroborated by all 12 observers present. Although there are historical accounts of Apostlebirds in the Hunter Region, the ongoing presence of the species has not been able to be confirmed and this record represents an addition of the species to the Hunter Region bird list. **Joan Dunne, Denise Kane & other members of the Tamworth Birdwatchers**

Case 525

This case refers to a banded **South Island Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus finschi* found during a monthly survey of Worimi Conservation Lands (Stockton Beach), 7th December 2018. The bird ("IN") is well-known in the birding community, having been banded at Stockyard Point, Victoria 6th August 2016, with subsequent resightings in northern NSW (Broadwater Beach 31st December 2016), back at Stockyard Point in June 2017, until then being resighted at Clontarf, Brisbane 18th September 2017, returning to Stockyard Point in winter 2018 before the record at Stockton Beach on 7th December 2018. Although this species is on the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) review list, it is not subject to assessment and a HBOC RAC case number was created to capture the observation for Hunter Region records.

Ann Lindsey

Photo by Mick Roderick



Hunter Region Cases assessed by BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) and the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) in 2018

Two contemporary cases relevant to the Hunter Region were assessed by the BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC) during 2018; Cook's Petrel off Port Stephens 12th November 2017 and Ringed Plover on Stockton Beach [Worimi Conservation Lands] 25th August 2017. These cases were documented in the HBOC Records Appraisal Committee 2017 Report. With the addition of White-bellied Storm-petrel to the BARC review list during 2018, two old reports from the Hunter Region were assessed (off Newcastle 23rd April 2006 and off Port Stephens 27th March 2010). All of these were accepted by BARC. Note also that during 2018 Cook's Petrel was removed from the BARC review list and added to the NSW ORAC review list.

The following cases were assessed by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee (ORAC) during 2018, the first four of which were documented in the HBOC Records Appraisal Committee 2017 Report. Cases 690 and 706 are outlined below. Note that Common Gull-billed Tern was removed from the NSW ORAC review list early in 2019 and will thus be treated as a Category 3 species in the Hunter Region pending review by the HBOC RAC.

679	Little Curlew	Hexham Swamp	29 th September 2017
680	Soft-plumaged Petrel	off Port Stephens	15 th October 2017
684	Mottled Petrel	off Port Stephens	12 th November 2017
685	Little Shearwater	off Port Stephens	12 th November 2017
690	Black-winged Petrel	off Crowdy Head	19 th January 2018
706	Common Gull-billed Tern	Stockton Beach	10 th August 2018

Case 690

A **Black-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma nigripennis* was well seen and photographed on a pelagic trip off Crowdy Head on 19th January 2018. The high quality photographs and detailed description left no doubt as to the identification of this bird and the committee voted unanimously for acceptance. This is the first confirmed record of Black-winged Petrel since the species was reinstated to the NSW ORAC Review list in January 2018 and is the fourth reported sighting off the NSW coast since 2000.

Mick Roderick

Photo by Mick Roderick



Case 706

A **Common Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* was seen and photographed on the Worimi Conservation Lands (Stockton Beach), north of Newcastle on 10th August 2018. The description and photographs clearly demonstrated the diagnostic features of Common Gull-billed Tern and the committee accepted the record unanimously. It becomes the 4th record to be confirmed by NSW ORAC since being added to the Review List in January 2018.

Ann Lindsey

Photo by Ann Lindsey



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.

ABC	Carol Abbott	CCJ	Julianne Cripps Clark
ADJ	Jack Adams	CIB	Belle Ciezak
ALD	Dan Allen	CIR	Rebecca Citroni
ANF	Frank Antram	CLI	Isaac Clarey
APR	Ruth Appleby	CLM	Margaret Clarke
ASB	Bob Ashford	CLT	Tom Clarke
ASD	Dan Ashdown	COB	Brooke Corrigan
BAA	Andrew Barski	COC	Charlotte L Cooper
BAC	Chris Bath	COJ	John Cockerell
BAL	Lia Battisson	COT	Tim Coles
BEA	Alex Berryman	CRJ	John Creighton
BEC	Chad Beranek	CRS	Sue Crabbe
BED	Donna Belder	DCH	Christine D
BEI	Ian Benson	DEB	Brian Deans
BEJ	Joshua Bergmark	DON	Nina Dowden
BEN	Nicholas Beswick	DOS	Sean Dooley
BIT	Tony Bischoff	DOT	Tegan K Douglas
BLG	Gary Bletsch	DAD	Dale D
BOD	David Bound	DRA	Alistair and Carmen Drake
BON	Nikki Botial	DRD	Dylan Draper
BRA	Archie Brennan	DRP	Penelope Drake-Brockman
BRG	Grant Brosie	EDD	David Eddington
BRJ	Jason Brown	EDK	Kara Eddington
BRM	Max Breckenridge	EDS	Steve Edwards
BRN	Neil Broekhuizen	EGD	Darryl Eggins
BRR	Ron Broomham	ENS	Sam Englund
BUA	Anthony Burgin	ETR	Rohan Etherington
BUM	Mikayla Burke	FAA	Adam Fawcett
BUR	Ray Burton	FEG	Grahame Feletti
BUT	Thomas Burley	FLS	Stuart Fleming
CAA	Ashley Carlson	FRN	Neil Fraser
CAC	Corey Callaghan	FRP	Paul Freeman
CAG	Graham Castles	FRT	Tom Frisby
CAM	Mark Cavill	GAC	Cameron Galle
CAN	Nicholas Cary	GAS	Stephen Gallivan

GEG Garry Germon
GIN Nick Giles
GIT Ted Giblin
GOC Catherine Goswell
GOJ J. Gogerley
GOL Leo Gomm
GOS Simon Gorta
GRD Danny Green
GRG Gregory Griffiths
GSU Sue Gould
HAC Curtis Hayne
HAI Judy M Harrington
HAL Luke Halpin
HAM Matt Hayward
HAO Olive Hamonet
HAR Richard Harris
HEL Linda Henley
HES Sandra Henderson
HMB Mark and Bron Horvath
HOC Clint Hook
HOE Edmund Hogan
HOM Matt Howarth
HOT Teresa Hogan
HUJ Julia Hudd
HUN Nerida Hudspith
INA Ann Inouye
IRD David Irving
JAF Forest Jarvis
JAM Michael Jackson
JED Dick Jenkin
JOJ Jeff Jones
KAA Andrzej Karpiel
KDY Dylan K
KEI Ian Kerr
KEM Michael Kearns
KET Thomas Kendall
KIB Bill Kinsey
KIH Harley Kingston
KLR Rachel Klyve

KRH Heidi Krajewsky
KTH Theo Kemp
KYR Rob Kyte
LAK Kim Larmour
LAN Nick Lambert
LAS Sue Lashko
LEM Mark Ley
LIA Ann Lindsey
LIG Greg Little
LIK Kurtis Lindsay
LIM Marie Lister
LIP Patrick Lightfoot
LOL Lisa Lowe
LUA Akos Lumnitzer
MAP Peter Madvig
MCB Brian McCauley
MCE Eula McKane
MCG Greg McLachlan
MCI Ian McMahon
MCN Neville McNaughton
MCS Steven McBride
MDR Robert McDonnell
MEE Emily Mendel
MEL Lorna Mee
MEN Nicole Merrion
MES Steve Mesick
MID Daniele Mitchell
MIH Heath Milne
MLR Rob McLaughlin
MOA Alan Morris
MOT Tim Morris
MOV Vincent Mourik
MUL Liam Murphy
MUR Richard Murray
MUS Stephen Murray
MVA Valentin Moser
NAK Krishna Nagarajan
NED Dennis Neader
NEG Greg Newling

NEM	Mike Newman	STJ	Jenny Stiles
NIR	Richard Nicholas	STR	Robert Stewart
NIS	Stuart Nicholson	TAM	Michael Tarburton
NOM	Michael Noble	TAP	Peter Taylor
OND	David Ongley	TAS	Susan Talburt
OOM	Margot Oorebeek	TBW	Tamworth Birdwatchers
PAL	Lene Parashou	TEJ	Julian Teh
PAM	Martin Parker	THJ	Judi Thomas
PAR	Robert Pawley	THN	Nick Thompson
PAT	Timonhy Paasila	TUD	David Turner
PED	Dan Pendavingh	TUJ	Jean Tucker
PEM	Magen Pettit	TUR	Ray Turnbull
POM	Martin and Penny Potter	VDL	Jeannet Van Der Lee
PRD	David Price	WAB	Bruce Watts
RAL	Lyn Rayward	WAC	Cameron Ward
REC	Chris Reidy	WAJ	Jayden Walsh
RHC	Chris Rehberg	WAK	Kathy Walter
RMI	Michael Ronan	WAP	Peter Waanders
ROM	Mick Roderick	WAR	Rufus Wareham
RUA	Ashwin Rudder	WEB	Bruce Wedderburn
SAI	Ian Samson	WEJ	Jodi Webber
SDA	David Steel	WEP	Peter West
SDE	Derek Stokes	WER	Richard Webber
SER	Ronald Sell	WES	Shorty Westlin
SHG	Greg and Georgie Shaw	WHD	David White
SIM	Mark Simpson	WHS	Sally and Derek Whitehead
SJE	Jennifer Smith	WID	Dan Williams
SJI	Jim Strong	WIG	Glenn Wilson
SMD	Darryl Smedley	WIJ	Joy Williams
SMG	Guy Smith	WIK	Kathy Wilk
SMJ	Jim Smart	WIT	Tom Wilson
SMK	Karen Smedley	WJA	Jack Winterbottom
SOR	Roy Sonnenburg	WJC	J&C Wall
SRO	Robert Stabler	WOL	Lois Wooding
SRA	Ralph Stadus	WOM	Mike S Wood
STA	Alan Stuart	WPE	Peter Weinstock
STD	Dinah Stehr	YAO	Owen Yates
STG	Graeme Stevens	ZEJ	Joan Zealey



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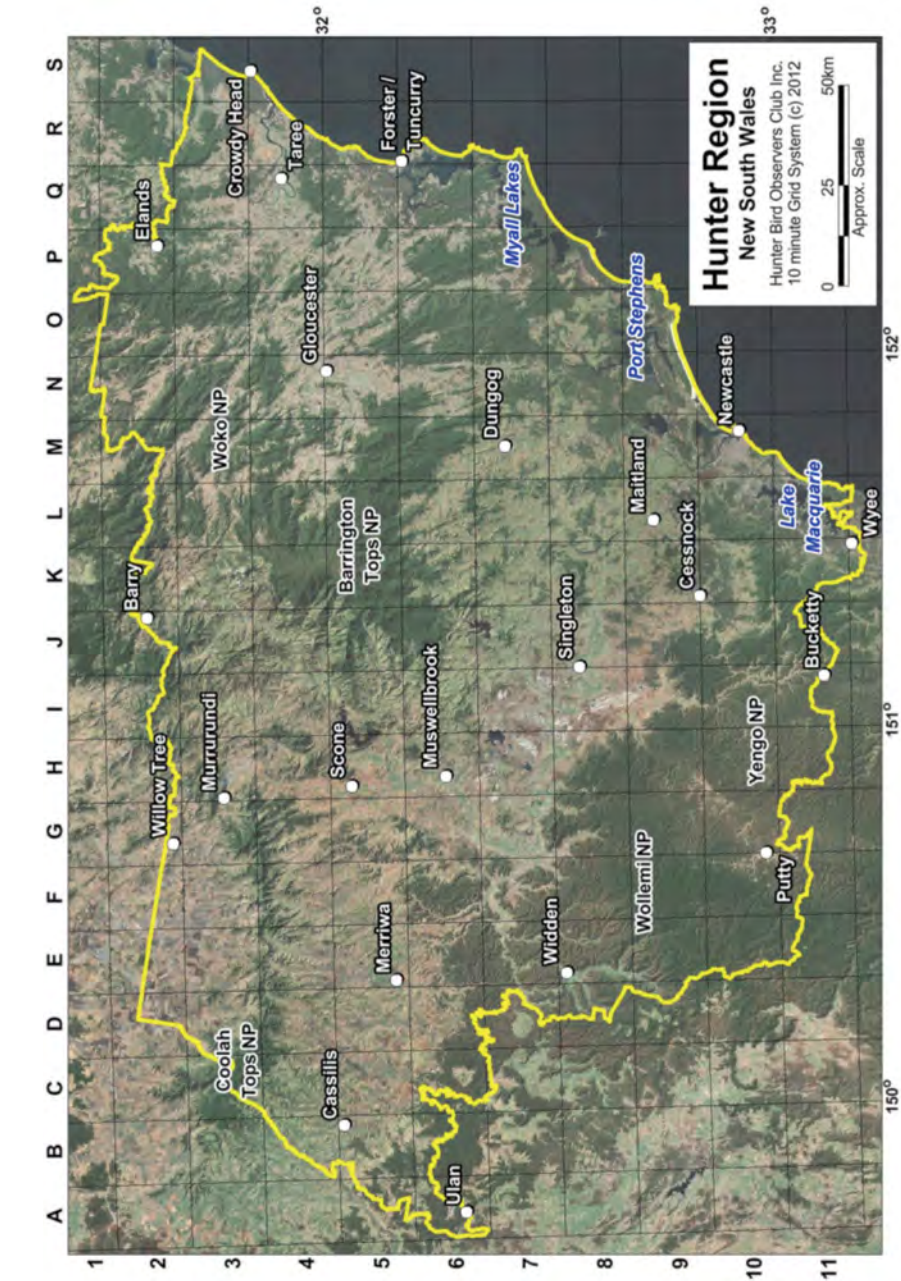
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MAP OF THE HUNTER REGION

The boundaries of the Region are shown below, with latitude and longitude lines in a 10-minute grid. Each cell in the grid has a unique alpha-numeric identifier, used in the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations. Our thanks go to Dan Williams for generating the map.





Great Egret at Hexham Swamp by Alwyn Simple

