

HUNTER REGION OF NSW

2003 BIRD REPORT

The Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. (HBOC) has produced this 11th annual record 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 and organises regular mid-week and weekend outings, and occasional camps. Beginners and more experienced birdwatchers are equally catered for by the range of activities provided. All HBOC members receive a regular newsletter and are able to borrow a comprehensive range of books, tapes, CDs and videocassettes about Australian and world birdlife. Membership categories are Single, Family and Junior, and applications for membership are welcomed at any time.

HBOC can be contacted by telephone on (02) 4958 5942 and at either the postal or Web addresses below. For more information, or to make an e-mail contact, the club's Website is located at: <http://users.hunterlink.net.au/hboc/home.htm>

Copies of this report, at \$10.00 each plus \$1.50 for postage and handling (for 1-3 copies), may be obtained from:

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(photographer: Tom Clarke)

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FOREWORD

I was flattered to be invited to contribute the foreword to the 2003 Hunter Bird Report because it seemed to me a reasonable excuse to indulge in a little mild tub-thumping (well, if you insist, proselytizing!) on the general topic of annual bird reports.

Writing in the 1920s, a prominent Australian bird identity once remarked that if he were asked to nominate a single bird species that he regarded, on long experience, as the essence of Sydney, he would select the Jacky Winter. Looking back now, from the perspective of 2004, it seems an astonishing choice. When I first came to Australia and joined the birdwatchers of Sydney in the 1960s, we knew of a couple of pairs in Centennial Park and in perhaps one or two other suitable parks in the metropolitan area. Now, I'm told, even those have long since gone. What happened? We shall probably never know.

If, in that bygone era, the Sydney region had an annual bird report, similar to the one you're holding now, might it have provided some clues? Is it even possible that the decline might have been reversed? Well, something broadly similar has happened elsewhere in the world several times. Think of Eastern Bluebirds in the USA and Yellow-eyed Penguins in New Zealand, and several other instances in which alarm was sounded, proximal cause uncovered, countermeasure devised, and rescue managed, all by means essentially traceable back to a local bird report or something very like it.

When I was responsible for the NSW bird report during the 1980s, I threw the data-gathering net as widely as I could manage. Most material, of course, was in the form of written notes from club members who annually reported those observations they considered in some way significant. But I also systematically scanned the newsletters of various local groups around the State (including, of course, the HBOC newsletter). From time to time, concerned citizens will pick up a bird killed by traffic, and turn it in to the Bird Room at the Australian Museum. Sometimes these specimens turn out to be of some significance, and staff kept a clipboard by the freezer on which to note such occurrences as and when they cropped up, and the sheet was handed to me at the end of the year to add to the database. Similarly, contacts at Taronga Zoo, WIRES, National Parks, the Forestry Commission's Wildlife Research group, and the Zoology Departments of several universities would also contribute anything their respective agencies had encountered during the year that seemed notable or relevant. I also scanned the technical ornithological literature for reports of any research projects undertaken within the State during the year in question.

I tried to go further, in an attempt to move beyond the preoccupation we all have, as bird watchers, to the unusual record (the fourth Hunter record of the Sooty Tern, or whatever). It's not that such records are not worth compiling – of course they are. It's just that it seems to me appropriate that as bird watchers we should be encouraged to go a step further. Common birds are just as important as rare ones, if not more so. What date did you see the first Dollarbird of the season in your local park? Was it earlier or later than last year? Are Willy Wagtails less common or more common in your suburb this year over last year? If so, do you have any idea why? Right now, Indian Mynahs are obviously increasing

vigorously in several Newcastle suburbs, yet they remain decidedly uncommon in my particular suburb. What's going on? Such material surely has a valid place in the annual report – but, of course, it cannot be assessed and included if local bird watchers don't report it to its compilers in the first place.

Extinction remains technically a very poorly understood process. Even if such reporting machinery fails to detect a population collapse in time to do anything useful, it is still a worthwhile exercise (it yet might succeed the next time). And does it not seem at least plausible that careful monitoring of the collapse of one species might contribute hints and clues to a more successful recovery operation on some other species at some later time? Even if that's all it achieves, it seems to me it's still worth doing.

Of course, the criticism is often levelled that such material is necessarily anecdotal and therefore scientifically useless. Not so. Besides, the fact that the material is assessed overall by a compiler who shares the local perspective, supported by a committee of advisors who are also experienced and familiar with the situation "on the ground", undeniably goes a long way to removing any force such criticism might otherwise have. And in any case, the charge is a classic case of trying to jump the fence before we get to it. Certainly, anecdotal evidence is of limited value in solving any particular population crisis. That's not the point. The issue is the development of a mechanism sensitive enough to reveal the looming crisis in the first place. A bit like installing a smoke alarm, if you like – if it goes off, then you call the pros in to deal with it.

So here is your eleventh annual bird report for the Hunter region. I'm immensely gratified to see it come so close to the aims I've just been talking about. Such a publication is a cog (small, perhaps, if you insist), but nevertheless a vital cog in what I see as the proper custodianship of the avifauna with which we share our living space. Keep it up, Alan!

Terence Lindsey

Terence Lindsey is the author of many books and other publications about Australian birds and the birds of other countries. He was co-editor of the 1977 NSW Bird Report and then sole editor of the Bird Reports from 1978 to 1984. Since 2001, he has been a member of HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee.

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 2003. The information is based upon observation records gathered from a variety of sources.

For this Report, it has been decided to include several species that were recorded in the 1970's and early 1980's as accidental visitors. In general, the passage of time makes it quite difficult to verify past records, and HBOC's policy is that it is preferable to be cautious rather than to risk inclusion of an invalid report.

However, there are well-documented observations of certain of these species, and these have now been included into the Bird Report species list. As a result, there are 14 additions to the 2002 species list – Buller's Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, White Tern, Long-toed Stint, Australian Pratincole, Spotted Bowerbird, Yellow-throated Miner, White-eared Monarch (2003 sightings) and Juan Fernandez Petrel, Cook's Petrel, Broad-billed Prion, Hudsonian Godwit, Cox's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (historic sightings).

The official Hunter Region bird list now stands at 410 species. For 2003, 348 of these species were confirmed to have been present in the Region and information about these observations is presented in the Report. In the past 10 years, 225 species are confirmed to have bred within the Hunter Region. 120 of these were recorded as breeding in 2003.

The severe drought that commenced in mid-2002 continued through the first half of 2003. For the remainder of the year, although rain was more frequent, the dry conditions generally persisted. For example, many ephemeral wetlands mostly had little or no water. The dry conditions in inland Australia quite likely accounted for some of the unusual records for the Hunter Region in 2003. There were also an intriguing near miss – two pair of Bourke's Parrot to the west of Murrurundi in November were just outside the Region.

Previously, the Hunter Region has been defined as the area encompassed by 14 local government authorities (plus the ocean to the east of this). However, recently in NSW there has been a series of amalgamations of local authorities. Locally, this has meant the disappearance of the shires of Merriwa and Murrurundi (these having been joined to the precincts of Mudgee and Tamworth respectively). For consistency of reporting, HBOC has decided to retain the same geographical area for the Hunter Region. Thus, the Region now is defined as:

- The area managed by local government authorities for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Scone, Dungog, Gloucester, Port Stephens, Greater Taree and Great Lakes,
- The ocean to the east of that area, within 100km of the coastline, and
- The land areas that formerly were managed by the Shire Councils of Merriwa and Murrurundi.

A map showing the land area of the Hunter Region is provided at the back of this Report.

The philosophies that we use when preparing Reports were described in the 2000 Bird Report. To assist in vetting records, we have classified each species into one of three categories, as described below. The classification reflects, in part, the frequency of reporting.

Category 1: all records for the species generally are accepted.

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

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

A Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) assigns these categories and decides whether each record can be accepted. For 2003, the RAC members were Sue Hamonet, Ann Lindsey, Wilma Barden, Fred van Gessel, Terry Lindsey and Phil Hansbro.

The value of the Bird Reports is due to the many observers who submit records of what they see during the year. Whether the records are made as a one-off casual observation or as part of a regular and thorough survey program they all are important in helping to continue to build the picture of birdlife in the Hunter Region. Thanks very much to all the contributors for the 2003 Report.

Alan Stuart
October 15, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The highlights for 2003 included the following:

- Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* – at Walka Waterworks Jan/Feb and at Warabrook 8 Oct
- Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* – several at Warabrook Oct-Nov and 1-2 at TWC and WWW Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec
- Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* – at Morpeth STP 14 Mar and 25 May
- White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* – a single bird on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 16 Aug
- Buller's Albatross *Diomedea bulleri* – two birds on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 16 Aug
- Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica* – two birds on a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 25
- Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* – at Walka Waterworks Jan and 13 Mar
- Black Falcon *Falco subniger* – several records from several locations
- Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* – at Ash Island 28 Dec
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* – at Ash Island 8-10 Nov
- Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* – up to 3 birds at Ash Island and Stockton Sandspit during Dec
- Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* – a pair bred at Lemon Tree Passage in November
- Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus* – pair, later with one young at Mudbishops Point/ Farquhar Inlet Mar-Apr and Nov-Dec.
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – up to 3 birds at Nelson Bay 6 Jan and Stockton Sandspit 21 Sep and 14 Nov.
- Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella* – at Ash Island 14-21 Sep
- White Tern *Gygis alba* – a single bird on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 29 Mar
- Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata* – at Kayuga (NW of Muswellbrook) 21 Jun
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* – at Mungo Brush MLNP Mar, Seal Rocks 24 Sep and Harrington 19 & 28 Nov
- Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans* – at Wingen 2 Mar, Cullingral Road late Jul and Bulga Oct 19
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* – at Tinonee 7 Jan, Cundletown Mar and Gloucester 10 Oct
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* – birds were reported to have colonised the lower Merriwa River valley with numerous sightings in cell E6 over Apr-Jul
- Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula* – a single bird at Crowdy Head 15 & 16 Mar

- Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus* – two birds at Wingen 2-3 Mar
- White-eared Monarch *Monarcha leucotis* – single birds at Crowdy Head NP 26 Nov and 29 Dec
- Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata* – single birds at Harrington 15 Oct and Nov
- Spotted Bowerbird *Chlamydera maculata* – a single bird at Merriwa 11 May
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* – several records of 1-2 birds
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis* – a single bird at Yarrawa Road 29 Nov

SYSTEMATIC LIST

INTRODUCTION

Bird species are listed in taxonomic order; the order and nomenclature follows that of Christidis and Boles in the 1994 RAOU publication *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories* (ISBN 0815-2233).

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

Resident: Recorded in all months;

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

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

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

Usual: Equally likely to be found in suitable habitats, but not on all visits;

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

Rare: Species recorded only a few times a year;

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

For many of the species, a general statement about typical distribution and count size is provided as part of the Status description. In these cases, only notable exceptions to this overall description of Status are considered for inclusion into the main body of the Report.

Breeding status is also indicated for each species. For species with no confirmed breeding records for 10 or more years, the breeding status is described as **Past records**. Where a species is anticipated to breed in the Region but there are no confirmed records, the description **None recorded** has been used.

A considerable proportion of records received indicate abundance levels for the species observed by using the following categories: A = 1-5 birds present; B = 6-20 birds; C = 21-50 birds; D = 51-100 birds; E = 100+ birds. Commentaries in this Report are mostly based upon abundance levels reported in this way, although many observers report precise numbers (and we encourage this).

The format for the reported observations generally includes reference to an observer code and to a location (or a location abbreviation). The relevant grid number (e.g. F7) is also cited, except for the more common locations which are listed later in the Report. Observer codes and location abbreviations are also provided later in the Report.

A semi-quantitative measure of the number of observations of a species for the year is indicated by the progressive terms: **occasionally; moderately often; often; frequently; regularly**. Where there are fewer than 12 observations for the year, all of them are reported.

An ID number is provided with each listed species – this is a unique identifier that does not change even though the scientific and/or common name for the species may do so. The ID number corresponds to that assigned to the species under the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

BIRDS

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident in W of Region.

A single bird was recorded at Cooranbong May 19 (LDJ), and three birds (two birds and a separate single bird) near White Box Camp Oct 4 (STA). Cooranbong is an unusual location and how the bird came to be there is not known.

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

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

Reported to be resident in BBNP (TUD). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Barrington House Jan 22 (BRG), Woko NP Jan 24/26 (EVB), Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA), Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC), Wingham Brush Jul 3 (MVBW) and Copeland Nov 22 (VEE), and birds were working mounds at Bow Wow Gorge (L10) early Sep (FIP) and Cape Hawke BBNP Nov 12 (TUD). A chick was at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC).

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

ID No: 009 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain, possibly irruptive.

Birds were heard at Hinton Mar 22 & 29 (TAH), Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), several locations along Jones Reserve Road (near Jerrys Plains) Nov 8 (JED) and Dungog Dec 17 (JED). 6+ birds were recorded at Martindale Nov 8 (JED) and single birds at Gloucester Mar 18 (MCB), Ash Island Jan 6 (JED) and Cardiff Aug 28 (PHP) – these two latter reports being unusual near-coastal records.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

ID No: 011 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

ID No: 012 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare, possibly overlooked

No reports received since 2000.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

ID No: 199 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded at TWC and adjacent wetlands (especially NWR and Market Swamp) as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: The peak count at TWC was of 68 birds present Nov 26 (MCR) and birds were recorded as far away as Warabrook (several km from TWC). There were occasional records of 4-8 birds at SSNR over Feb-Mar (MAM) and 1-3 birds in the Taree area in Jan and Dec (MVBW, GED). Birds were on nest at TWC in late Aug (MCR).

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

ID No: 205 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage.

373 birds were recorded at the regular location Doughboy Hollow (J8) Jul 22 (ROS) and 120 birds there Jun 2 (NEG). Elsewhere, 5 birds were at PNR Dec 29 (VEE) and 1-2 birds there Jan 18, Mar 29, Apr 9 and Dec 7 (NEM, MAM, HBOC), and 2-3 birds at TWC Jan 4 and Dec 3 (ROM, LPC).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

ID No: 204 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

27 birds were recorded at TWC Oct 9 (WCR) but generally there were far fewer records than has been the case in recent years. Eight birds were present at TWC Jan 6 (JED) and six birds at Newcastle University Dec (TAH), and 1-2 birds were at TWC Jun 22 (HBOC), Oct 25 (STA) and Nov 26 (MCR), and 3 birds at PNR Dec 29 (VEE).

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

ID No: 216 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental (*Recorded in 1989, 2002*).

A single bird – either a female or an eclipse male – was recorded at WWW Jan 19, Feb 1 and Feb 9 (BRG, TAH, LIN). There were records for 2002 of a bird in similar plumage at this location. A single bird was also recorded at Warabrook Oct 8 (MCR).

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

ID No: 217 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Most records were from the two usual locations, GTD and WWW, but there were fewer records than has been the case in recent years. 20 birds were present at GTD Jun 7 (CBOC), 14 birds Aug 15 (MAM) and 2-6 birds Mar 7, Sep 19 and Nov 8. 6+ birds were at WWW Jan 19 and 1-3 birds at other times there in Jan (several reports) and on Jun 17 (BRG). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds were recorded at Myall Lakes Apr 10 (TUD), Ellalong Lagoon Jul 31 (MEJ) and Bootawa Nov 28 (MVBW), and some birds also at Warabrook at an unspecified date (WCR).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

ID No: 214 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare.

Six birds were recorded at Warabrook Oct 8 (MCR) and 5-6 birds were present there until at least Nov 10 (several reports). 1-2 birds were at both TWC and WWW regularly during Jan (several reports) and 1-2 birds again were at TWC Mar 29 (BRG), Nov 20 and Dec 22 (WCR) and at WWW Mar 23 (VEE).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

ID No: 203

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at medium to large waters.

Notable records: Large numbers were present in the Myall Lakes system all year (TUD). 400-500 birds were at Morpeth STP over May-Jul (Table 1) while 300-350 birds were at PNR Mar 30 (BRG) and Swan Bay Dec 13 (HAS), 250+ birds at Leneghans Flat Apr 6 (BRG) and 100-200 birds at Swan Bay Jan 19 and Nov 9 (HAS), PNR Mar 22 (MAM) and Hexham Swamp Jul 12 (VEE). 51-100 birds were at Ellalong Lagoon Aug 2 (MOA), Woodberry Swamp May 12 (MAM) and Swan Bay Sep 12 (HAS), and 21-50 birds at Lake Liddell Jan 4 and May 11 (NEG, HBS), Irrawang Swamp May 23 (MAM) and East Seaham May 25 (HBOC). Many breeding records were received, spanning Jan, Mar and Jul-Oct.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

ID No: 207

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental.

A single female bird was recorded at Morpeth STP Mar 14 and May 25 (LIN, LIA/NEM).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

ID No: 202

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at or near fresh to brackish waters.

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at Bolwarra Feb 19 (MAM), Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), near Wybong May 24 (HBOC) and at Ellalong Lagoon Aug 2 (MOA). There were several breeding records spanning Aug-Oct including a pair had at least 12 ducklings at Wallsend Oct 24 (STA).

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

ID No: 200

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2002*).

No reports received for 2003.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

ID No: 948

HBOC Category: 2

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Warabrook Feb 4 and Mar 11 (HBOC, MCR), Wallbridge Reserve Jun 13 (MAM), Kitchener (K10) Jun 21 (LIA) and Williamtown Jul 1 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds at WWW Jan 19 and Mar 4 (HBOC), Bolwarra Feb 19 (MAM) and Richley Reserve BbR Aug 19 (HBOC). Also, some hybrids with Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosa* were at Hannam Vale Jun 8 (HBOC).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

ID No: 208

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds at small to large waters.

Notable records: 737 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP May 25 (see Table 1) and 100+ birds there over Jun-Jul (highlighting the importance of this site as a drought refuge). 100+ birds were at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR) and 50+ birds at KI/Stockton Jan 18 and Apr 16 (Table 3, HBOC) and often at WWW over Jan-Aug (Table 2, HBOC, (BRG)). 21-50 birds were recorded moderately often and there were several breeding records spanning Jan-Mar, Jun and Nov.

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*

ID No: 212 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded at medium to large fresh waters in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 10 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: 80 birds were recorded at Ash Island Aug 9 (VEE), 68 birds at Morpeth STP Jun 8 (see Table 1) and 50+ birds at TWC Jun 23 (MCR). 21-50 birds were at Morpeth STP May 25 and Jul 4, KI/Ash Island Jan 18 and Aug 16 (Table 3) and TWC Jun 22 and Aug 20 & 26 (HBOC, BRG, MCR). 11-20 birds were at Leneghans Flat Jan 18 (NEM), TWC Jan 20 (JED), Ash Island Jun 20, Ellalong Lagoon Aug 2 (MOA) and Morpeth STP Aug 8. Numbers were down compared with recent years.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

ID No: 905 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2002*).

No reports were received for 2003. The 2002 record from Ash Island was accepted by the NSW Ornithological Records Committee.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

ID No: 211 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters throughout the Region as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: 1737 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP May 25 (see Table 1) and 500-1000 birds there for much of the latter part of the year (highlighting the importance of this site as a drought refuge). 304 birds were at KI/Ash Island Feb 15 (Table 2) and 100+ birds at Irrawang Swamp Jan 11, Feb 1 and Mar 11 (NEM, MAM), KI/Ash Island Jan 18 and Apr 6 (Table 3) and TWC Jun 22 (HBOC). 51-100 birds were at Warabrook Feb 4 and Mar 11 (HBOC, MCR), WWW Jun 11 (Table 2) and TWC Oct 14 (BRG). There were breeding records from the lower Hunter for Mar and Nov.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

ID No: 210 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Regularly recorded at medium to large waters in E of the Region as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 625 birds present Jan 18 and the high numbers persisted for several months gradually declining (see Table 3). Several hundred birds were at Morpeth STP May-Jun with the peak count being 268 birds (Table 1). 100+ birds were also at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR) and Irrawang Swamp Nov 6 (MAM), and 51-100 birds at TWC May 31 and Jun 22 (BRG, HBOC) and Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC). Birds had ducklings at Warabrook Mar 11 and TWC Nov 26 (MCR).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

ID No: 209 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1993*).

No reports received for 2003.

Table 1 Main Waterbirds at Morpeth STP
(regular surveys led by A Lindsey & M Newman)

	Jan 4	Feb 20	Mar 14	Apr 10	May 25	Jun 8	Jul 4	Aug 8	Sep 17	Oct 15	Nov 14	Dec 5
Black Swan	76	0	30	13	500	407	486	37	88	46	66	137
Australian Shelduck	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust. Wood Duck	16	0	3	3	23	4	14	1	0	7	19	6
Pacific Black Duck	21	0	35	28	737	251	144	84	44	39	59	24
Aust. Shoveler	7	0	2	2	45	68	50	16	0	0	0	3
Grey Teal	0	0	22	10	1737	576	900	595	546	224	533	61
Chestnut Teal	0	0	28	30	268	143	6	51	30	60	52	62
Pink-eared Duck	43	0	0	4	4	36	205	311	1	0	2	0
Hardhead	68	0	3	2	76	566	1600	357	114	10	22	58
Aust. Grebe	0	0	1	0	8	13	13	5	0	0	0	13
Hoary-headed Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	0
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Little Black Cormorant	1	0	75	2	2	4	0	2	0	0	22	25
Great Cormorant	2	0	4	0	13	70	70	50	85	4	0	0
Aust. Pelican	47	0	14	11	28	48	11	10	36	7	21	20
Eurasian Coot	166	0	48	31	75	229	214	332	180	70	40	90

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

ID No: 213 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

The two main sites for the year were WWW and Morpeth STP. 250-400 birds were regularly recorded at WWW through January (many reports) and around 500 birds were there Jul 12 (VEE). 130-150 birds were present Mar 13 & 28 (NEM) and there were lesser numbers in several other months (Feb-Apr, Sep-Oct). Counts at Morpeth STP were low for many months but rose to 200+ birds through Jul-Aug (Table 1) and with a peak count of around 500 birds Jul 12 (VEE). Elsewhere, 42 birds were at TWC Jun 12 (MCR), 20 birds at SBS Jun 19 (VVMR), six birds at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Leneghans Flat Jan 18 (NEM), TWC Jun 22 (HBOC), Warabrook Oct 8 (BRG).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

ID No: 215 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 1000+ birds were present in the Myall Lakes system in Jan, the numbers progressively declined to close to zero over the year (TUD). 1600 birds were at Morpeth STP Jul 4 and the numbers were high there over Jun-Sep (Table 1, VEE). 100-150 birds were recorded at GTD Mar 7 (MAM) and Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR) and 50+ birds at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC). Elsewhere, 21-50 birds were at both Hannam Vale and Johns River (S3) Jun 8 (HBOC), TWC Jun 22 and Aug 26 (HBOC, MCR), Wallbridge Reserve Jul 18 (MAM), Irrawang Swamp Jul 20 (MAM), Ellalong Lagoon Aug 2 (MOA) and Bedminster Swamp Aug 27 and Sep 3 (MAM).

Table 2 Waterbirds at Walka Waterworks*(regular surveys led by P Baird & J Smart)*

	Apr 9	May 14	Jun 11	Jul 9	Aug 15	Sep 10	Oct 15	Nov 12	Dec 9
Musk Duck	6	0	7	3	1	1	2	4	2
Black Swan	0	5	4	2	2	3	0	3	2
Aust. Wood Duck	0	7	2	0	0	0	2	1	0
Pacific Black Duck	58	55	44	38	62	22	8	23	21
Aust. Shoveler	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Teal	9	4	97	34	56	2	0	28	7
Chestnut Teal	1	33	0	20	15	10	15	8	2
Pink-eared Duck	92	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Hardhead	0	0	12	0	52	0	0	20	0
Aust. Grebe	5	3	7	14	7	4	0	0	0
Hoary-headed Grebe	2	3	14	4	1	5	0	9	5
Great Crested Grebe	17	10	8	3	0	6	0	4	5
Little Pied Cormorant	5	6	16	4	4	11	1	3	1
Little Black Cormorant	25	12	20	14	16	12	0	0	11
Aust. Pelican	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1
White-faced Heron	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	1
Little Egret	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1
Great Egret	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Straw-necked Ibis	0	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Spoonbill	0	6	7	4	3	2	1	0	0
Purple Swamphen	22	20	10	17	14	12	0	16	5
Dusky Moorhen	20	21	44	10	17	10	0	7	9
Eurasian Coot	0	0	0	41	60	45	0	62	46
Black-fronted Dotterel	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Masked Lapwing	2	8	6	5	4	4	0	4	4

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 061

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at small to large waters as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at TWC Jun 22 (HBOC), Ellalong Lagoon Aug 2 (MOA), GTD Aug 15 and Nov 8 and Richardsons Swamp Nov 8 (all MAM). Birds bred at TWC and Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Table 3 Main Waterbirds of Kooragang/Ash Islands
(Surveys conducted at/nearby shorebird high tide roost sites)

	Jan 18	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 6	May 17	Jun 14	Jul 12/13	Aug 16	Sep 13	Oct 11	Nov 7	Dec 6
Musk Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Swan	7	4	5	39	20	110	138	107	90	60	0	12
Aust. Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Black Duck	60	2	14	9	0	2	2	5	0	1	1	20
Aust. Shoveler	40	0	0	2	4	20	5	50	0	0	0	0
Grey Teal	148	304	4	199	0	4	0	7	0	0	0	30
Chestnut Teal	625	444	302	281	17	6	29	12	2	36	6	60
Hardhead	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aust. Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Hoary-headed Grebe	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6	0	0	0
Aust. Pelican	455	783	408	92	165	155	109	67	73	110	112	227
White-faced Heron	21	36	41	58	18	260	173	40	51	34	13	13
Little Egret	4	6	1	1	1	5	4	5	3	1	3	4
White-necked Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Great Egret	5	5	9	1	3	4	3	5	1	1	1	4
Intermediate Egret	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Australian White Ibis	63	78	60	101	229	68	61	30	22	14	1	87
Straw-necked Ibis	4	4	40	0	13	34	228	78	10	7	0	0
Royal Spoonbill	20	10	19	26	51	27	24	27	18	22	19	42
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

ID No: 062 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Bird of passage.

65 birds were recorded at GTD Aug 15, 48 birds there Sep 19 and 29 birds Nov 8 (all MAM). 20+ birds were at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC) and Richardsons Swamp Nov 8 (MAM), and often at WWW over Jan-Mar (several reports). 14 birds were at Ash Island Sep 21 (VEE) and 6+ birds at Morpeth STP Jul 4 (Table 1) and WWW Jun 17 (BRG). 1-5 birds were at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR), Ash Island Mar 23 and Aug 9 (HBOC, VEE), Lake Liddell May 11 (HBS), Hannam Vale and Johns River (S3) Jun 8 (HBOC), Morpeth STP Jun 8 and Aug 9 (Table 1, VEE) and often at TWC over Jun-Aug (several reports).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ID No: 060 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

250 birds were recorded at GTD Dec 1 (COD) and 40 birds there Apr 18 (TAH), with several other records of <20 birds there through the year (MAM). 20+ birds were at WWW Jan 19 and Mar 4 (HBOC) and up to 10 birds there through Jan-Mar and in Jun and Nov (several reports). Eight birds were at Lake Liddell May 11 (HBS) and 1-5 birds at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG), MLNP Jan 17 & 24 (TUD), Bootawa Dam Jul 3 (MVBW), Cundletown Dec 1 (FOC) and Morpeth STP Nov 14 and Dec 5 (Table 1).

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

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

A single bird was recorded at Elizabeth Beach BBNP Feb 12 (TUD).

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

ID No: 929 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC).

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

ID No: 937 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC).

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

ID No: 080 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant at >5km from shore.

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, around 20 birds were recorded Aug 16, four birds Jul 27, a single bird Sep 6 and 2+ birds Oct 25 (HBOC).

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No confirmed reports received since 2001.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

ID No: 075 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer visitor and bird of passage at and beyond the continental shelf.

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 200 birds were recorded Oct 25, ten birds Aug 16, two birds Sep 6 and a few birds Mar 29 (HBOC).

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

ID No: 077 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded beyond the continental shelf on pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jul 26 (NBL) and several birds on the corresponding Aug 16 survey (HBOC).

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*

ID No: 971 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter visitor at and beyond the continental shelf.

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, around 50 birds were recorded Aug 16 and Sep 6, 30 birds Oct 25 and a few birds on Mar 29 (HBOC).

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta*

ID No: 922 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received since 2001.

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 915 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*new to list*).

No reports received for 2003. See Supplementary Records.

White-necked Petrel *Pterodroma cervicalis*

ID No: 774 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received for 2003.

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

ID No: 918 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

No reports received for 2003. See Supplementary Records.

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti*

ID No: HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2002*).

No reports received for 2003.

Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*

ID No: 078 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant at >5km from shore, except at its breeding grounds.

A single bird was recorded off Swansea Mar 30 (MOA per CBOC) and two birds on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 25 (HBOC). A bird was found on land at Tea Gardens Apr 3 after a storm – it was taken into care and later released (MVBW/FOC).

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

ID No: 082 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

No reports received for 2003. See Supplementary Records.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

ID No: 084 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received since 2000.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

ID No: 942 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received for 2003.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

ID No: 083 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant at >10 km from shore.

Some birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC), and 1000+ birds were flying north off Newcastle Beach Aug 28 (HAP).

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

ID No: 915 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC). Also see Supplementary Records.

Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*

ID No: 917 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Spring visitor at >10km from shore.

No reports received since 2000.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*

ID No: 853 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received since 2000.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

ID No: 069 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Often recorded in counts of several hundred birds during Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec.

Notable records: The earliest record was of a single bird seen on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC). 500+ birds were recorded on the corresponding survey Sep 6 and 1000+ birds on Oct 25 (HBOC). An unusual inland record was of 3 dead birds at Gloucester May 3 (DBP) – a skin is now in the Australian Museum (registration AM O.70679).

Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received since 2001.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

ID No: 072 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No (*text amended*)
Status: Summer migrant at >1km from shore.

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 30 birds were recorded Oct 25, moderate numbers on Mar 29 and a single bird on Sep 6 (HBOC).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

No reports received for 2003.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

ID No: 071 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common spring/summer migrant. Often recorded in flocks of up to 100 birds during Sep-Nov.

Notable records: 10+ birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR). A beach washed bird was found at Fishermans Bay (09) May 4 (MCI) – possibly this was one of the last young birds to leave one of the breeding islands.

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

ID No: 068 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage.

Mixed flocks with *P. huttoni* of several thousand birds were recorded off Newcastle Beach often during late Aug and early Sep (LIT). 6+ birds were also off Newcastle Beach Dec 22 and a few birds again on Dec 30 (MCR). Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 and 200 birds on the corresponding Oct 25 survey (HBOC).

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

ID No: 975 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

Note the above records of mixed flocks with *P. gavia* of thousands of birds late Aug to early Sep. On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 100+ birds were recorded Sep 6, 50 birds Oct 25 and 20 birds Aug 16 (HBOC).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received for 2003.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

ID No: 086 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 – two of subspecies *exulans* and eight of subspecies *gibsoni*. There were 14 birds on the corresponding survey Sep 6 – four of subspecies *exulans*, two of subspecies *antipodensis* and eight of subspecies *gibsoni* (HAP/HBOC). Eight birds were found on the Oct 25 survey – races not recorded.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophrys*

ID No: 088 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Common winter migrant. Regularly recorded during Apr-Nov, including from land.

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 – two were of the subspecies *impavida* (HBOC). On the corresponding survey of Sep 6, there were 20 birds – 15 of subspecies *impavida* and five of subspecies *melanophrys*, and two birds were recorded on an Oct 25 survey.

Shy Albatross *Diomedea cauta*

ID No: 091 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

Three birds of subspecies *cauta* and a single bird of subspecies *salvini* were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 (HBOC).

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

ID No: 089 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Common winter migrant at >5 km from shore.

50 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 and 15 birds on the corresponding survey Aug 16 (HBOC).

Buller's Albatross *Diomedea bulleri*

ID No: 931 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain (*New to list*).

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

ID No: 063 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, five birds were recorded Sep 6 and Oct 25, and a few birds Mar 29 (HBOC).

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

ID No: 065 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 50 birds were recorded Aug 16, three birds Sep 6 and 2+ birds Oct 25 (HBOC). A dead bird was found on a beach near Little Gibber MLNP Jan 5 (TUD).

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

ID No: 066 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

2+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 25 (HBOC).

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received since 2000 (see Supplementary Records).

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

ID No: 104 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage about inshore waters.

400 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 – most of them were in a very large raft approx 20km from shore (HBOC). 20 birds were recorded on the corresponding survey Aug 16 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were off Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR), Hawks Nest May 8 (MAM), Stockton Beach Aug 5 (HBOC) and Dudley Nov 1 (STA), and on a pelagic survey from Swansea Oct 25 (HBOC).

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

ID No: 101 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds but with records of up to 6 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: 24 birds were recorded at NWR Mar 14 and 30+ birds there Apr 9 (MCR). Birds were breeding on both occasions, with 11 nests found Mar 14 and 14 nests, many with young, on Apr 9. Also, two birds were on nests at Stoney Creek Toronto Dec 25 (CLT).

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

ID No: 100 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded at small to large waters, with counts of up to 20 birds often recorded at large waters.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at WWW Jan 19 (HBOC) and NWR Mar 14 (MCR). Birds bred at NWR during the year (WCR).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

ID No: 099 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual coastal resident. Often recorded near to the coast, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds and occasionally in greater numbers.

Notable records: 70 birds were recorded at Corrie Island (09) Feb 15 (FRN) and 50+ birds at NWR Mar 14 (MCR). 20+ birds were at Old Bar Mar 14 (JED), NWR Apr 9 (MCR) and Stockton Sandspit Dec 13 (MCR), and 10-15 birds at Stockton Sandspit Aug 16, Nov 7 and Dec 6 (HWS). Birds bred at NWR with up to 8 nests there over Mar-Apr (MCR).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

ID No: 097C HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters, as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 200+ birds were recorded at McGraths Island MLNP in Mar (TUD) and 140 birds at Myall River Tea Gardens Nov 8 (MAM). 50+ birds were at WWW Mar 4 (HBOC) and there were several records of 21-50 birds – from KI/Stockton (May-Jul and Dec), WWW (Jan and Jul), NWR Mar 14 (MCR), Myall River Tea Gardens Mar 30 (MAM) and Irrawang Swamp Jul 20 (MAM).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

ID No: 096 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

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

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Jun 15 (VEE) and 20+ birds at NWR Apr 9 (MCR) and East Seaham May 25 (HBOC). Birds bred at NWR during the year (WCR).

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

ID No: 106 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded at medium to large waters, mainly as counts of up to 20 birds but with greater numbers not uncommon at large waters.

Notable records: 200 birds were recorded at Maitland Tip Jun 8 (MAM), and 100+ birds at NWR Mar 14 (MCR) and Stockton Sandspit Apr 16 (HBOC). 51-100 birds were at Corrie Island (O9) Feb 15 (FRN), NWR Apr 9 (MCR), Myall River Tea Gardens Nov 8 (MAM) and Stockton Sandspit Jun 1 and Dec 10 & 13 (MCR, CLT). There were a further nine records of 21-50 birds, from five separate locations including at Stockton Sandspit in Mar, Oct and Nov.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

ID No: 188 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, in counts of up to 20 birds at some favoured habitats.

Notable records: 56 birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Jun 8 and 55 birds there May 23 (LIA). 21-50 birds were at TWC Mar 30 and Jun 4 (BAW, MCR), Morpeth STP Jul 4 (LIA) and Stockton Sandspit Oct 13 and Dec 13 (MCR).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

ID No: 185 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Eight birds, with four nests, were at TWC Nov 26 (MCR).

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

ID No: 191 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Cabbage Tree Island Apr 2 (ROM).

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

ID No: 189 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded as 1-2 birds throughout the Region.

Notable records: 11 birds were recorded at Tank Paddock Minmi Nov 30 (LIN) and 10+ birds in the Thornton-Metford area Jun 13 (TAH). Nine birds were at Morpeth STP Nov 14 and five birds there Jun 8 (LIA). Six birds were at Gloucester May 12 (MCB) and Tank Paddock Nov 1 (LIN), and three birds at Woodberry Dec 13 (VEE).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

ID No: 187 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Often recorded at medium to large waters in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds except when breeding.

Notable records: 19 birds were recorded at Woodberry Dec 13 (VEE), 17 birds at Myall River Tea Gardens Mar 30 and also 15 birds there Nov 8 (MAM). Birds were on nests at TWC Nov 26 (MCR).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

ID No: 186

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds except when breeding.

Notable records: Five birds were recorded at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC) and Woodberry Dec 13 (VEE), and four birds at Tank Paddock Minmi Nov 1 (LIN). Two birds were on nests at TWC Jan 8 (MAM).

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

ID No: 977

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

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

Notable records: 117 birds were in the Hunter estuary on the waterbirds survey Jan 18 (HWS) and 100+ birds at Johns River (S3) Jun 8 (HBOC). Birds were often night roosting at SSNR (MAM) – the peak counts at SSNR were 300 birds Jul 20 and 220 birds Sep 5; peak counts at Wallalong were 190 birds Apr 9 and 140 birds Feb 20. 51-65 birds were at SSNR Mar 7, Clarendetown Road Mar 20 and May 30, Glen Oak May 29, Newline Road Jul 2 and Wallalong Sep 14 (MAM records). **Breeding:** Birds nested at TWC over the 02/03 season but there were many nest failures in Jan (MAM). They were once again breeding at TWC in the 03/04 season, with at least 100 nests there Nov 26 (MCR). There were 430 nests at SSNR Dec 9 (MAM).

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

ID No: 193

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Past records

Status: Resident. (*Expanded status description has been deleted; all records are now tracked*).

Two birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit Dec 13 (MCR) and single birds there or nearby on seven other occasions during Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec (several reports). The only other records were of single birds at Saltwater Reserve Feb 6 (MVBW), Harrington Mar 15 (MOA), Ash Island Mar 23 and Sep 16 (HBOC, BRG), Galgabba Point May 18 (FRP), Edgeworth May 19 (FRP), Swan Bay Jun 14 (HAS) and Winda Woppa Nov 8 (MAM). (all records published).

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

ID No: 192

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Resident.

Birds were frequently recorded at Stockton Sandspit (a regular location since 2001), with the peak count being of 21 birds Jul 13 (HAP). Birds were frequently present at two other regular locations – Wallbridge Reserve Raymond Terrace over May-Nov, with peak counts of 8 birds (MAM) and TWC over Jun-Nov with peak counts of 10 birds (many reports). At both sites, the counts were lower than for recent years. Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Glen Oak Jan 12 (MAM), Glen William Jan 12 (JED), Gloucester Jan 14 (MCB), Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC), WWW Mar 4 (HBOC), Mount Arthur North Mar 8 (MOA), Hillville Apr 3 (MVBW), Carrington Oct 4 (GOC), Awabakal NR Nov 1 (POJ), SSNR Nov 19 (JED), Paterson Nov 23 (LIA), PNR Dec 7 (HBOC) and Belmont Swamp Dec 10 (LAK).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

ID No: 195

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: None recorded

Status: Rare (*probably overlooked*).

A female bird was recorded at WWW Jan 20 and then a male bird there Jan 25 (both JED). Subsequently, there were several reports mostly of the male bird, over the remainder of Jan and then again on Mar 13.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare resident (*probably overlooked*).

No reports received for 2003.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

ID No: 197 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Single birds were recorded at Tank Paddock Minmi Aug 5 and Sep 27 (LIA, POJ) and WWW Dec 3 (TAH).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

ID No: 178 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage.

Birds were often recorded over Jan-Sep at Leneghans Flat/PNR and nearby Hexham Swamp, mostly in counts of <20 birds. Numbers rose to 40+ birds in Jun-Jul, with a peak count of 58 birds at Hexham Swamp Jul 12 (VEE). Also, 100+ birds were at Leneghans Flat Feb 15 (FOC). Elsewhere, 40 birds were at TWC Jan 20 (JED), and 1-5 birds at TWC early Jan (LPC, WCR), Irrawang Swamp Feb 1 (MAM), Thornton Feb 2 (ROS) and Bedminster Swamp Feb 5 (MAM).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

ID No: 179 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as <20 birds but with counts of up to 50 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: 100-150 birds were recorded at Wallalong Feb 1 (MAM), Sandgate (flying over) Feb 23 (MAM), Newline Road Feb 23 (MAM), Ash Island Mar 23 (HBOC), Maitland Waste Depot Jun 8 (MAM) and Williamtown Jul 1 (HBOC), and 50+ birds at Swan Bay Jun 14 (HAS). A pair were nesting at TWC Jan 8 (MAM).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

ID No: 180 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as <20 birds but with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: At least 1000 birds were feeding on the flats along the Manning River Mar 15 (MOA). Several thousand birds were flying over Irrawang Swamp May 20, and again on Jul 20 (MAM). 500 birds were at Nelsons Plains Jun 2, 450 birds (flying over) at Raymond Terrace May 20, 400 birds at Hinton May 24 and 360 birds at Eagleton May 30 (all MAM records). These locations lie in the Maitland/Raymond Terrace area for which there were a further 11 records of 100-200 birds over Feb-Aug (MAM). 100+ birds were also recorded at Williamtown Jul 1 (HBOC) and Bulga Oct 19 (LIA).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

ID No: 181 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 25 birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp Jan 11 and Mar 11 (NEM, MAM), and 22 birds at SSNR Sep 12 (MAM).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

ID No: 182 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage. Moderately often recorded throughout the Region as counts of 1-3 birds.

Notable records: Eleven birds were present at PNR Nov 22 and ten birds there Nov 8 (MOA, BRG). 4-8 birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp Jan 8 & 27 and Feb 1 (MAM), Glen Oak Feb 1 (MAM), TWC Feb 12 (WCR), Bedminster Swamp Feb 23 (MAM) and Glen Oak Nov 12 (MAM).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

1-2 birds were often recorded throughout the year at widespread locations around the Region. The number of reports is heartening for this NSW Endangered species. At least one pair was present in the lower Hunter wetlands, with regular reports spanning the Shortland/Minmi/ Woodberry/Raymond Terrace area. There were also several reports of 1-2 birds from the Karuah/Bulahdelah/Tea Gardens area and the Taree/Harrington area. Hence, at least 3 pairs seem to have been present in the Hunter Region. An interesting western record was of a single bird at Milbrodale in Jun (LAD). **Breeding:** Birds had a nest with 2 young at a property near Bulahdelah in Jan (HUF). They nested again there late in the year and raised 2 young, which left the nest in mid Dec (CLG).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

ID No: 241 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded at estuaries and coastal lakes, more frequently in the NE part of the Region, and mostly as counts of 1-2 birds unless with young/juveniles.

Notable records: Three birds were seen together at Harrington Nov 19-21 (VEE) and four birds flying within same area at Wingham Jul 3 (MVBW). There were three nesting pairs in the Forster/Tuncurry area, and each raised 2 young (TUD).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

ID No: 234 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident. Occasionally recorded as 1-2 birds in the E and central parts of the Region.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

ID No: 232 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: Three birds were present at Ash Island Mar 23 (HBOC) and Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG). Birds were on nest at NWR Mar 14 (MCR).

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

ID No: 230 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Single birds were often recorded in the Maitland/Raymond Terrace area during Jan-Aug (several reports) and two birds were at Raymond Terrace Jun 7 (BWA). Elsewhere, single birds were at Bureen May 3 (TAH), Cundletown Jun 1 (MVBW) and Watagans NP Aug 21 (CBOC) whilst in Coopernook SF on Dec 7, there was a breeding pair plus another adult bird approx. 5km away (VEE). **Breeding:** A nest at Coopernook SF reported to have been used in previous years was no longer present on Jul 13 (MVBW). However, a pair had a nest at another site there Nov 20 & 22 and Dec 7, with 2 dependent young (VEE, FOC). Another pair was nest building at Brimbin Jul 19 (MVBW) and then there was a nest with 2 dependent young there Oct 7-Nov 9 (FOC).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

ID No: 229 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon visitor to W of the Region, elsewhere rare.

There were many reports over May-Jul from the Maitland area, and in particular the Maitland Waste Depot where up to nine birds were sometimes present. 1-2 birds were also in the Maitland area Feb 2, Sep 26 and Nov 2 (ROS, BLM, VEE). Elsewhere, single birds were recorded at Scone Mar 11 (NEG) and KI Jun 14 (LIA).

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

ID No: 228 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded, mostly as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit Jun 25 (CLT). At least 4 birds were present at Lake Liddell May 11 – two were at a nest (HBS). Birds were on nest at NWR Apr 9 (MCR) and also had a nest at Swan Bay Aug 16 (HAS).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

ID No: 227 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded (*amended*)
Status: Resident (in coastal north of Region), elsewhere accidental.

Two birds were recorded at Crowdy Head Mar 16 (MOA), and single birds at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR), Hunter estuary Mar 15 (HWS), Old Bar Mar 14 & 19 (MOA), Stockton Sandspit Nov 14 (MCR) and Harrington Nov 20 & 28 (VEE, BRG). The bird at Old Bar Mar 19 was an immature.

After review, the breeding status for this species in the Hunter was amended. It is not sufficiently certain that the previous information can be considered to have been a true breeding record.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

ID No: 226 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near large waters, mostly as single birds or pairs and occasionally also with a juvenile.

Notable records: Seven birds including five juveniles were recorded at Ash Island Feb 13 (VEE), and four birds there Mar 23 (HBOC).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were at Mount Arthur May 4 and Edderton Road (G7) Jul 10 (NEG). Single birds were recorded at KI Jan 18 (HWS), in the Bulga/Warkworth area Mar 12 & 22 and May 24 (NEM, HBOC, VEE), near Wybong May 24 and early Sep (HBOC, PCR), at Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), and at Yarrawa Jun 15 (BRG). Single birds were also recorded in the Maitland area Jan 28 (MAM) and often during Mar-Apr (several reports).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

ID No: 219 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at or near medium to large waters in the E of the Region, mostly as single birds.

Notable records: Four birds were present at GTD Aug 15, with two of them engaging in talon lock aerial display (MAM). Three birds were present at NWR Mar 14 (MCR) and at TWC Aug 20 & 26 (BRG, MCR). Two birds were recorded at TWC Jun 22 (HBOC), Morpeth STP Jul 4 (LIA), Ash Island Aug 9 (VEE) and Tank Paddock Minmi Nov 1 (LIN). The birds at Ash Island were exchanging their catch.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

ID No: 221 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as single birds.

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Carrington Oct 4 (GOC) and Burning Mountain Oct 24 (NEG). Birds had a nest with a dependent young at TWC Nov 26 (MCR).

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

ID No: 220 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mostly as single, grey phase birds.

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Tank Paddock Minmi May 3 (LIN). A pair was nesting at Newcastle University Oct (TAH), and another pair were nesting at Mount Vincent Nov 7 and subsequently raised two young which fledged (FIP).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

ID No: 222 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes (*Revised*)
Status: Resident. (*Expanded status description has been deleted; all records are now tracked*).

A pair was nesting at Paterson Nov 23 (LIA) – *this is the first confirmed breeding record for more than 15 years*. Two birds were also at Bolwarra Jun 9 (TAH) and Richley Reserve BbR Aug 19 (HBOC). Single birds were at WWW Jan 19 & Mar 4 (HBOC), Wallsend Mar 15 & 22 (CLT), Broadmeadow Mar 20 (COG), Bangalay Reserve Jul 15 (HBOC), Green Wattle Creek Jul 20 (NEM), Rankin Park Dec 8 (MCR) and East Maitland Dec 10 (BRG).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

ID No: 224 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-2 birds.

Notable records: Four birds were recorded at Yarrawa Apr 5 (TAH) and Martins Creek May 17 & 18 (NEM), and three birds at Wybong May 24 and Woods Point Morisset Jun 3 (both HBOC). A pair was nesting at Mount Arthur Sep 3 and had a fledgling there Sep 15 (NEG). An uncommon coastal record was of a single bird at Newcastle West Feb 9 (ROM).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

ID No: 225 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Three birds were present at Rouchel Valley May 11 (TAH) and two birds at Tomalpin (K9) Jul 20 (HBOC). Single birds were often recorded from widespread locations around the Region, other than the NE. There were more reports than usual for this species.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

ID No: 239 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, as counts of 1-2 birds, and less frequently in the E of the Region.

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Edderton Road (G7) Jul 10 (NEG). A dark phase bird was at Maitland Waste Depot Jun 14 (JED).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

ID No: 235 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as single birds.

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Speers Point May 19 (HAS). A pair was with an immature bird at Dungog Jan 8, in an area where birds previously have nested (JED). Two birds were at Bolwarra Jan 7 (TAH) and Awabakal NR Aug 22 (CLT).

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare.

1-2 birds were recorded in areas near Maitland (Largs, Tenambit, Morpeth STP) Mar 16, Apr 18 and Nov 14 (TAH, NEM, LIA). Single birds were also present at Ash Island Feb 6 and Sep 13 (NEM, LIA), Mount Arthur May 4 (NEG), Wybong May 24 (HBOC), Yarrawa Oct 16 (TAH) and Aberdeen Nov 1 (NEG).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

ID No: 237 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded, mostly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

Notable records: Three birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp Jan 8 (MAM) and Mount Arthur Sep 15 (NEG). A pair was feeding two young at WWW Jan 19 (HBOC) and a bird was on nest at Ash Island Aug 16 (LIN/BRG). A bird took a Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* at Maitland Waste Depot Jun 15 (VEE) and another took a Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Nov 11 (BRG).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

ID No: 240 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded, usually as single birds or pairs.

Notable records: Nine birds were recorded at Mount Arthur Apr 6, eight birds at Edderton Road (G7) Jul 10 (both NEG) and a party of five birds along Jones Reserve Road Jan 24 (TAH). Three birds were at Bulga Oct 19 (LIA). A pair was copulating at Mount Arthur early Sep (NEG).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were recorded at Black Rock Road Martins Creek May 17 (NEM) and near Bungwahl May 25 (TUD), and single birds at Bolwarra Jan 20 (JED), WWW Jan 25/26 and Mar 16 (JED, SMJ, BRG), Ash Island Sep 16 (BRG), Pelaw Main often in Oct (per CLT) and Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA). Single birds were also recorded at TWC Oct 2 and Nov 26 (CLT, MCR). Birds were reported to have bred at TWC during the year (BAW).

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

ID No: 045 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident (*probably overlooked*).

Single birds were recorded at WWW Feb 7 & 9 and Mar 16 (NEM, LIN, BRG) and Glenrock SRA Mar 3 (JED). Two birds were at Glenrock SRA Oct 5 (HAP).

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

ID No: 050 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident (*probably overlooked*).

Single birds were often recorded at WWW between Jan 20 and Feb 2 (several reports), and also at Green Wattle Creek Jan 14 (NEM), Bolwarra Jan 25 (JED), TWC Feb 2 (STA), Woodville Feb 4 & 7 (NEM) and Warabrook no date (WCR). The bird at Woodville was utilising a garden on a rural block of land.

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

ID No: 049 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident (*probably overlooked*).

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded at both WWW and Ash Island over Jan-Feb (several reports). Single birds were also at Ash Island Jul 5 & 20 (HAP).

Spotless Crane *Porzana tabuensis*

ID No: 051 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident (*probably overlooked*).

Two birds were recorded at WWW Mar 13 & 28 (NEM) and Market Swamp during spring (MCR). Single birds were occasionally recorded at WWW over Jan-Mar (several reports).

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

ID No: 058 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded at medium to large waters, in counts of up to 20 birds at medium waters and up to 50 birds at large waters.

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Leneghans Flat Mar 30 (BRG) and 100+ birds at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR). 50+ birds were recorded at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC) and TWC May 31 and Oct 14 (BRG). There were breeding records from TWC, Market Swamp and Warabrook, spanning Sep-Dec.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

ID No: 056 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded, in counts of up to 20 birds at small to medium waters and up to 50 birds at medium to large waters.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at TWC May 31, Aug 26 and Oct 14 (BRG, MCR) and Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR). There were breeding records from several easterly locations, spanning Feb-Mar and then again in spring.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Not recorded
Status: Accidental (*recorded 2000-2002*).

A bird was resident in a garden at Woodville from Sep until after rains in mid-Dec (NEM). Also see Supplementary Records.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

ID No: 059 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded at medium to large waters as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: Several thousands of birds were present in the Myall Lakes all year (TUD). 600+ birds were at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG) and 200 birds there May 11 (HBS). Birds often were at Morpeth STP in large numbers (Table 1) with the peak count of 332 birds Aug 8. Around 300 birds were at Ellalong Lagoon Jul 31 (MEJ) and 200+ birds there Aug 2 (MOA). 100+ birds were recorded at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR), TWC Jun 22 and Aug 26 (HBOC, MCR), and there were a further 11 records of 51-100 birds – all from the E and central parts of the Region. There were breeding records from TWC, NWR, Market Swamp and Warabrook, in Mar and then again in spring.

Red-backed Button-quail *Turnix maculosa*

ID No: 013 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1999*).

No reports received for 2003.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

ID No: 018 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1996*).

No reports received for 2003.

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

ID No: 014 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

A single bird was recorded at Bootawa Nov 28 (MVBW) and a dead bird was found at Bandon Grove (M7) Dec 28 (per JED).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

ID No: 168 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Usual summer migrant. Often recorded as counts of up to 10 birds at medium to large wetlands in the E of the Region, from Jan to mid-Mar and from late Aug onwards.

Notable records: 35 birds were recorded at PNR in the annual count Dec 7 (HBOC) – the second lowest count on record. Many birds were present at Irrawang Swamp over Jan-Mar, with the peak counts being of 40 birds on both Jan 11 and Mar 11 (NEM, MAM).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

ID No: 152 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were present all year in the Hunter estuary (see Table 4) with the peak count being 425 birds Jan 18 and only a few birds over-wintering. *This is the highest known summer count since February 1989.* Between the March and April surveys (see Table), a relatively high count of 142 birds were present at Stockton Sandspit Mar 23 (HBOC) – some of these birds perhaps were on migration passage. The only record from elsewhere was of ten birds at Winda Woppa in Port Stephens Nov 8 (MAM).

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1983, 1984 and 1988.*) (*New to list*).

No reports received for 2003. See Supplementary Records.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

ID No: 153 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Common summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, in counts of up to 20 birds, and with many young birds remaining over winter.

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in the Hunter estuary and Worimi NR during monthly surveys (see Tables 4 and 6). At Worimi NR the peak count was 150 birds but the usual numbers were 50-80 birds. The peak count in the Hunter estuary over Oct-Dec was 1335 birds present Dec 6. Counts were of <1000 birds in the Jan-Mar surveys; however, around 1500 birds were roosting at Stockton Sandspit Jan 3 (STA). Elsewhere, 229 birds were at Corrie Island (08/09) Feb 15 (FRN), 100+ birds at Old Bar Feb 14 (VEE) and 40+ birds at Farquhar Inlet Mar 14 (MOA).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

ID No: 151 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received since 2001.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

ID No: 150

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Usual summer migrant. Occasionally recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Birds were recorded every time in monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, with 7-12 birds over-wintering and the counts rising to a peak of 85 birds Oct 11 (see Table 6). *This is the lowest peak count since 2000.* There were no exceptional records from elsewhere within the Region.

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

ID No: 149

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Common summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats – as counts of up to 20 birds during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, and as counts of 1-5 birds during May-Aug.

Notable records: Birds were recorded every month in the Hunter estuary (see Table 4) with the peak count being of 570 birds Dec 6 (HWS). *This is the third lowest peak count for the Hunter estuary since 1993, and the two lower counts (for 1994 and 1998) were not collected systematically and hence probably are under-estimates of the population that was present at the time.* The only notable records from elsewhere were of 100+ birds at Farquhar Inlet/ Muddishops Point Feb 14 (VEE) and 30-35 birds there Mar 14 and Nov 21 (MOA, VEE), and 86 birds at Corrie Island (O9) Feb 15 (FRN).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

ID No: 159

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

The peak count during the monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary was of 172 birds present Oct 11 (Table 4). However, 300 birds were reported to be present at Ash Island Mar 1 (NBL), 250 birds there Feb 13 and 200+ birds Sep 21 (both VEE), and 180+ birds Nov 8 (BIA). Less commonly for the estuary, some birds over-wintered – four birds were recorded both Jun 14 and Jul 6 and 12-14 birds over Jul 12-29 (several reports). The only record from outside the Hunter estuary was of a single bird at Morpeth STP Sep 17 (Table 5).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

ID No: 158

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Usual summer migrant.

The peak counts for the Hunter estuary were 191-194 birds during the two migration periods – these numbers are also consistent with most of the counts over recent years. Less commonly for the estuary, some birds over-wintered – three birds were present May 17 (HWS), and a single bird was at KI Jul 13 (HAP) and five birds at Ash Island Jul 29 (LIA).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

ID No: 809

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental (recorded in 2001).

No reports received for 2003.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

ID No: 154

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Rare summer migrant.

No reports received for 2003.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

ID No: 160 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant.

The peak count for the Hunter estuary during regular monthly surveys was of 33 birds present Nov 7, and birds only were recorded in four of the 12 surveys. However, 54 birds were at Fern Bay Jan 3 (STA) and in the same area 30-35 birds were recorded Oct 13 and Dec 10 & 13, 17 birds Nov 14 and 3-6 birds Mar 23, Sep 7 and Oct 14 (MCR, CLT, HBOC).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Three birds were recorded at locations within the Hunter estuary Feb 15 (see Table 4) and 1-2 birds in the estuary most months (HWS, HAP), except over May-Sep when birds were not recorded.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

ID No: 155 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant. Occasionally recorded at coastal/estuarine mudflats during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: In the regular monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary (Table 4) the peak count was of 27 birds; however, 28 birds were recorded at Stockton/Fern Bay Nov 14 (MCR) and 33 birds there Mar 23 (VEE). Birds were generally absent from the estuary during winter but some birds were recorded at Fullerton Cove Jul 6 (HAP). The peak counts from Worimi NR were of 23 birds Sep 12 and 17 birds Apr 6 (HAS, TAH). *Birds were only recorded at Worimi NR over the period Mar-Sep – none were found there in the summer migration period.*

Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanus*

ID No: 156 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1999*).

No reports received for 2003.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

ID No: 129 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

20+ birds were recorded at Newcastle Beach Dec 22 (MCR), and at least 15 birds were at Newcastle Baths Sep 20 (BRG). 1-2 birds roosted on the KI dykes Oct-Nov (Table 4) and a single bird was at Worimi NR Jun 14 (Table 6). It was reported that, although some birds usually roost over winter at Newcastle Baths, none did so in 2003 (LIT).

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

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

No reports received for 2003.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

ID No: 165 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

The peak counts were of 60 birds at Stockton Sandspit Oct 11 and 55 birds there Jan 3 (HWS, STA). In addition to the data reported in Table 4, there were records for Stockton Sandspit of seven birds Jun 25 (one in breeding plumage), six birds Jul 28 and three birds Jul 12 (CLT, LIA) suggesting that some birds were present in the Hunter estuary all year. The only record from elsewhere was of a single bird at Harrington Nov 20-21 (VEE).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

ID No: 164 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant.

The peak count for the Hunter estuary during the migration passage was of 620 birds Oct 11 and 350-400 birds were often there in the adjacent months (Table 4 and other records). Substantially lesser numbers of birds were present for most other months, except not recorded in Apr and Jun. There were no reports from elsewhere.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

ID No: 166 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare.

Up to 11 birds were sometimes recorded in the Farquhar Inlet/Mudbishops Point area near Old Bar over Feb-Mar and again over Nov-Dec (MOA, VEE).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

ID No: 162 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant.

In the regular monthly surveys of the Hunter estuary, 30+ birds were recorded in most months between Jan-Apr and Aug-Dec, with the peak count being of 68 birds present Mar 15 and 50+ birds there Jan 18, Feb 15 and Nov 10 (Table 4, HAP). However, 150+ birds were recorded at Ash Island Sep 21 and 100+ birds there Sep 18 (VEE, BIA). And although no birds were recorded in the regular winter surveys, two birds were present at Ash Island Jul 5 (HAP) and 30 birds there Jul 29 & 30 (LIA). 18-19 birds were recorded at Worimi NR Feb-Mar and then up to 11 over-wintering birds were there (Table 6). The only records from elsewhere were of eight birds at Mudbishops Point Old Bar Nov 21 (VEE) and 1-5 birds at Irrawang Swamp Nov 18 (MAM) and Old Bar Nov 28 (BRG).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

ID No: 965 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Dec 28 (LIA) – the record was reviewed and accepted by the NSW ORAC.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

ID No: 978 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare.

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Nov 8 & 10 (BIA, HAP).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

ID No: 163 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded at shallow or drying wetlands near to the coast over Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Numbers were high in the Hunter estuary over Jan-Feb, with a peak count of at least 1200 birds (see Table 4) and some estimates being of up to 1500 birds; most of the birds were at Ash Island. Birds were not recorded on the regular surveys over Apr-Aug (but see below); however, by Dec 6 there were 249 birds again present and numbers probably were greater than this on Dec 31, when a large mixed flock with *C. ferruginea* were present at Stockton Sandspit –around 1000 birds in total (CLT). 100-200 birds were sometimes recorded at TWC over Jan-Mar and Irrawang Swamp over Jan-Mar and in Nov, with many other records of 50+ birds for both locations during these periods. Elsewhere, 100 birds were at Morpeth STP Sep 17 and 20+ birds at Leneghans Flat Jan 18 (NEM), Thornton Feb 2 (ROS) and Worimi NR Mar 15 (HAS). Winter records were of 2-3 birds at Ash Island Jul 5 & 29 (HAP, LIA).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

ID No: 161 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Common summer migrant.

The peak count for the Hunter estuary was 812 birds Jan 18 (Table 4) – *the largest known count since January 1999*. The counts in the latter part of the year were more consistent with recent years where 400-500 birds usually have been present in the estuary during the migration period. Very few birds were found on the Nov 7 survey; however, 100+ birds were at Stockton Sandspit Nov 9 (MAM). A large mixed flock with *C. acuminata* were present at Stockton Sandspit Dec 31 –around 1000 birds in total (CLT). Birds generally were absent from the estuary Apr-Jul, however, six birds were at Ash Island Jul 29 (LIA) – these might have been returning birds since 60 birds were present just 18 days later. There were no records from outside of the Hunter estuary.

Cox's Sandpiper *Calidris paramelanotos*

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

See Supplementary Records.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

No reports received for 2003. See Supplementary Records.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

ID No: 167 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

A single bird was at Stockton Sandspit Dec 7 (LEN), and then up to three birds were recorded several times at Ash Island/Stockton Sandspit in the remainder of the month (several reports). *These are the first confirmed records for this species in the Region since 1995.*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

ID No: 934 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received for 2003.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

ID No: 170 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Rare (*probably overlooked*).

Two male birds were recorded at Irrawang Swamp Jan 6 (MAM). There are historical records from this location.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

ID No: 171 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident, more usual in N of Region.

A single bird was recorded at Hillville Dam Apr 3 (MVBW).

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

ID No: 174 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

A bird was heard at Warners Bay Jan 21 (PRG per MOA). A pair nested at LTP in Nov and raised one chick (MOA).

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus neglectus*

ID No: 175 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

1-2 birds were often recorded at Farquhar Inlet over Mar-Apr and again Nov-Dec. A pair was nesting in this area Nov 21 (VEE). Also, 3 birds were recorded there Mar 14 and Apr 7 (JED, CBOC), suggesting that they might also have bred there that season.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

ID No: 130 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

20+ birds were frequently roosting at Stockton Sandspit over Feb-May (peak count of 29 birds), and 2-10 birds in the rest of the year (Table 4, several other reports). 17 birds were also there Jan 23 (BRG). 47 birds were present at Tuncurry Mar 18 and 40+ birds there Mar 15 (TUD, MVBW). 40 birds were at Nelson Bay Jan 6 (ROS) and 29 birds at Harrington Mar 15 (MOA). 12-14 birds were recorded at MLNP Jan 5 (TUD), Corrie Island (O9) Feb 15 (FRN), Tuncurry Aug 27 (TUD) and Newcastle Beach Dec 30 (MCR), and seven birds at Harrington Mar 14 (JED). 1-5 birds were recorded at Oyster Cove Jul 1 (HBOC), Crowdy Bay Oct 15 (MVBW), Myall River Tea Gardens Nov 8 (MAM), Winda Woppa Nov 8 (MAM) and Harrington Nov 28 (BRG), and often at Worimi NR (Table 6). Birds were reported to have bred in the Forster area during the year (TUD).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

16+ birds were recorded at Newcastle baths Mar 25 (per STA), 13 birds at Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR) and 10 birds at Newcastle Beach Nov 12 (POJ). *Previously, the greatest count since 1993 for these locations was of 11 birds in 2001.* 1-4 birds were present at Harrington Mar 14 & 15 (JED, MOA), Tuncurry Mar 15 (MVBW), Winda Woppa Nov 8, Jimmys Beach Nov 8 (both MAM), Newcastle Beach Dec 22 (MCR) and occasionally at Worimi NR (Table 6), and six birds were at Newcastle baths Jun 19 (BRG).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

ID No: 146

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded at medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: Counts were high for the Hunter estuary over Jan-Aug, peaking at 910 birds there Feb 15 (Table 4). *This is the 4th greatest count on record for the estuary since the early 1970s.* Also, an estimated 1000 birds were present at Hexham Swamp Jul 12 (VEE), when 233 birds were still present at Hunter estuary locations. Elsewhere, 100+ birds were recorded at Morpeth STP May, Aug and Sep (Table 5), 80 birds at Irrawang Swamp Feb 1 (MAM), and 21-50 birds at Irrawang Swamp Jan 6 and Mar 11 (MAM), PNR Jan 18 (NEM) and Richardsons Swamp Mar 2 & 7 (MAM).

Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

ID No: 147

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental.

No reports received for 2003.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

ID No: 148

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Bird of passage.

Counts of 1500+ birds persisted all year in the Hunter estuary, rising to be in excess of 4000 birds during Jun-Oct (many reports). Most of the birds roosted at the rehabilitated Stockton Sandspit but several hundreds were often recorded at Ash Island. The peak count in the regular monthly surveys of the estuary was 4802 birds Jul 12 (see Table 4); however, in the following weeks numbers rose still higher and peaked at 7000+ birds Aug 6 & 7 (CLT). *The July/August counts are the greatest known number of birds ever to be present in the estuary, exceeding a count of 4500 birds in June 1996 which itself was exceptionally large compared to the usual numbers.* The only records from elsewhere were of 1-5 birds at WWW Jan 26 (BRG), TWC Mar 2 (BAW) and PNR Mar 22 and Nov 13 & 22 (MAM, BRG, MOA).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

ID No: 8006

HBOC Category: 1

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Summer migrant.

Birds were present in the Hunter estuary Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, with a peak count of 149 birds Feb 15 and several records of 100+ birds (Table 4). They utilised several locations around the estuary. Birds were often recorded at Mudbishops Point Old Bar, with 50+ birds present Feb 14 (VEE) and 40+ birds Mar 14 & 19 (MOA). Up to 17 birds were again there in Nov (VEE, BRG). 29-30 birds were at Worimi NR Jan-Feb but there were no subsequent records from there except for a winter record of a single bird present Jul 12. 20 birds were recorded at Harrington Jan 22 (EVB per MOA) and five birds there Mar 15 (MOA).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

ID No: 136

HBOC Category: 3

Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental.

Three birds were recorded at Nelson Bay Jan 6 (ROS), two birds at Stockton Sandspit Nov 14 (MCR) and a single bird there Sep 21, Oct 30 and Nov 7 (several reports).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

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

There were no reports received for 2003. The 2002 record from Old Bar was accepted by the Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

ID No: 143 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded along the coast, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: The peak count for the Hunter estuary was of 59 birds present Jun 14 and there were several records of 20+ birds (Table 4). Most of the birds were at Ash Island and Stockton Sandspit. 11-20 birds were recorded at Worimi NR most months over Jan-Jul (Table 6), 16 birds at Harrington Mar 15 (MOA), and 6+ birds at MLNP Apr 21 (TUD) and Mudbishops Point Nov 28 (BRG). Several pairs nested on Stockton Sandspit in Jan and over Sep-Dec, some repetitively and usually 2-4 pairs simultaneously. Birds also had chicks at Ash Island Jan 20 and Sep 3 (JED, LIA).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

ID No: 140 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant.

26-28 birds were recorded at Worimi NR over Jul-Aug (Table 6), 11 birds at Harrington Mar 15 (MOA) and six birds at Stockton Beach Apr 3 (ROM). Three birds were present at Corrie Island Apr 20 (ANC), two birds at Mudbishops Point Old Bar Mar 14 (JED) and Ash Island Mar 23 (HBOC), and single birds at Stockton Sandspit Sep 7 (CLT) and Morpeth STP Jun 8 (LIA).

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

ID No: 139 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

A single bird was recorded at Worimi NR Jan 8.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

ID No: 142 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received for 2003.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops*

ID No: 144 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded at medium waters, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 47 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary Jul 12, mostly present at Ash Island, and there were several other records of 20+ birds for the estuary (Table 4). 20+ birds were at Leneghans Flat Apr 6 (BRG) and eleven birds at Irrawang Swamp Jan 11 and Mar 11 (NEM, MAM). Birds were on nest at TWC Oct 19 (HBOC) and also were nesting at Mount Arthur Sep 15 and Nov 25 (NEG).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

ID No: 132 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

18 birds were recorded at Ash Island Aug 9 (VEE) and some birds were there regularly over Jun-Sep (Table 4). Six birds were at Irrawang Swamp Jan 6 and Feb 1 (MAM) and 1-5 birds often were there over Jan-Mar and in Nov (MAM, VEE). Six birds were at TWC Nov 26 (MCR) and 1-5 birds there Jan 6, Oct 6 & 14 and Nov 18 (several reports). 1-5 birds were also recorded at Bolwarra Jan 20 (JED), Morpeth STP Jul 4 and Aug 8, Lake Liddell Sep 14 (NEG) and Stockton Sandspit Dec 13 (MCR). Birds were reported to have bred at TWC during the year (BAW), and a pair were with two young birds at Ash Island Sep 16 (BRG).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

ID No: 135 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

12-14 birds were recorded at Phoenix Park Morpeth Jan 21-26 (HEM, LIN), with one bird being in juvenile plumage. Six birds were at Bolwarra Sep 28 (TAH).

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds not uncommon near medium to large waters.

Notable records: Birds were regularly recorded in the Hunter estuary during monthly surveys, with a peak count of 121 birds Mar 15 and many records of 50+ birds (Table 4). Counts also were often high at Morpeth STP, with several records of 40+ birds and a peak count of 78 birds May 25 (Table 5). 20+ birds were at Warabrook Feb 4 and Mar 11 (HBOC, MCR) and Stockton Sandspit Dec 13 (MCR). There were several breeding records spanning late Aug-Nov.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

ID No: 133 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Ash Island Sep 14 (HDE) and subsequently by many other observers, until last recorded on Sep 21.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua* (*for consistency we are continuing with this taxonomy, but we anticipate that this will soon be elevated to specific status as **Brown Skua Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi***)

ID No: 980 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 (HBOC).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

ID No: 945 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

Three birds were recorded off at Crowdy Head Mar 19 (MOA) and a few birds on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Mar 29 (HBOC).

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

10 birds were recorded off Crowdy Head Mar 19 (MOA) and five birds off Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR). Two birds were off Stockton beach Mar 23 (VEE) and single birds at Farquhar Inlet Mar 14 and Old Bar (MOA). Unusually, no birds were seen in Newcastle Harbour in the period Oct-Dec (LIT).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

ID No: 933 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncertain.

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Mar 29 (HBOC).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

ID No: 126 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No confirmed reports received since 1997.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No confirmed reports have been received since 1998.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

ID No: 125 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded along the coast and at near-coastal waters, with counts of up to 100 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: Around 1000 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 16 and Sep 6 – the birds were close to shore and mainly around Moon Island (HBOC). Many hundreds of birds were often around the Hunter estuary all year, with peak counts of 536 birds Mar 15, 445 birds Jun 14 and 417 birds Dec 6 (HWS). 300 birds were at Rathluba Lagoon May 24 and 150 birds at Glen Oak May 28 (both MAM). 300 birds were also at Warabrook Feb 4 and 100+ birds there Mar 11 (HBOC, MCR).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

ID No: 111 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Resident.

Birds were often recorded at Stockton Sandspit all year, mostly in counts of 1-10 birds; however numbers were sometimes much higher. 80 birds were roosting there Jan 27 and 60 birds Jan 5 (FOC, CLT), and 21-50 birds were frequently present over May-Sep (MCR, CLT). Elsewhere, 10 birds were at GTD Apr 18 (TAH) and 6-8 birds in the Farquhar Inlet/ Mudbishops Point area near Old Bar Feb 14 and Mar 14 & 19 (VEE, JED, MOA). Three birds were at Worimi NR Feb 15 and Mar 15 (HAS) and 1-2 birds at Harrington Jan 22 (EVb per MOA) and Mudbishops Point Nov 21 (VEE) and Nov 28 (BRG). The birds at Harrington Nov 21 were predated eggs of Little Tern *S. albifrons*.

Table 4 Hunter Estuary Wader Surveys*(Surveys conducted at high tide roost sites)*

	Jan 18	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 6	May 17	Jun 14	Jul 12/13	Aug 16	Sep 13	Oct 11	Nov 7	Dec 6
Black-tailed Godwit	425	131	87	30	3	1	3	22	20	190	100	364
Bar-tailed Godwit	750	858	965	184	125	129	163	81	250	1200	1121	1335
Whimbrel	41	16	13	60	12	11	7	12	35	85	41	22
Eastern Curlew	372	520	130	102	74	63	85	328	330	467	407	570
Marsh Sandpiper	31	168	111	43	0	4	14	10	81	172	0	30
Common Greenshank	194	66	83	48	3	0	0	8	25	72	105	191
Terek Sandpiper	3	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
Common Sandpiper	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	8	3	27	5	0	0	0	2	1	13	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Great Knot	30	3	21	2	7	0	3	4	5	60	9	10
Red Knot	0	9	32	0	14	0	11	14	350	620	400	45
Red-necked Stint	50	52	68	30	0	0	0	34	40	22	5	46
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	432	1201	154	0	0	0	0	0	143	106	4	249
Curlew Sandpiper	812	241	54	0	0	0	0	60	230	501	25	405
Pied Oystercatcher	10	29	22	21	24	5	3	2	5	9	5	4
Sooty Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	3	1	6
Black-winged Stilt	728	910	755	697	213	655	233	462	54	15	6	190
Red-necked Avocet	2686	3869	2820	1573	1934	4115	4802	4488	3540	4285	2840	3369
Pacific Golden Plover	146	149	111	10	0	0	0	0	1	100	28	19
Grey Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Red-capped Plover	12	16	28	24	0	59	6	19	23	35	13	37
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	10	0	2	1	23	47	8	0	0	0	3
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	8	2	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	86	73	121	60	67	83	19	29	28	38	39	79

Table 5 Morpeth STP Wader Counts*(regular surveys led by A Lindsey & M Newman)*

	Jan 4	Feb 20	Mar 14	Apr 10	May 25	Jun 8	Jul 4	Aug 8	Sep 17	Oct 15	Nov 14	Dec 5
Latham's Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Common Greenshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	4
Black-winged Stilt	25	0	0	0	113	0	14	160	122	0	50	0
Red-capped Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-fronted Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	20	0	59	40	78	42	47	35	24	38	67	18

Table 6 Wader Surveys at Worimi NR and Swan Bay
(Surveys conducted at high tide)

	Jan 8	Feb 15	Mar 15	Jun 14	Jul 12	Aug 16	Sep 12	Oct 11	Nov 9	Dec 13
Bar-tailed Godwit	68	50	30+	80	61	66	150	60+	79	32
Whimbrel	1	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	0
Eastern Curlew	250	240	104	31	0	261	250	260	311	310
Common Greenshank	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	0	10	14	7	5	23	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Stint	0	18	19	0	4	11	0	0	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied Oystercatcher	0	2	3	4	2	2	0	0	0	1
Sooty Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0
Pacific Golden Plover	30	29	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Red-capped Plover	11	13	20	0	18	5	0	3	3	0
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	26	28	0	0	0	0
Lesser Sand Plover	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Masked Lapwing	<6	2	2	4	4	<6	4	0	2	2

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

ID No: 112 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Resident.

10-12 birds were recorded in Hunter estuary (mainly at Stockton Sandspit) during Jun-Aug and 1-5 birds in most other months (HWS, others). 14 birds were at Swan Bay Aug 16 and 1-5 birds were occasionally there in other months (HAS). 1-5 birds were also recorded at Bedminster Swamp Feb 23 (MAM), Old Bar Mar 14 (JED), Harrington at Mar 15 (MOA), Tuncurry Mar 15 & 18 (MVBW, TUD), Ash Island Mar 23 (HBOC), Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR), Morpeth STP Jun 8 (LIA), Oyster Cove Jul 1 (HBOC), Bolwarra Sep 27 (TAH) and Raymond Terrace Oct 12 and Nov 14 (MAM).

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

ID No: 115 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Often recorded along the coast, with counts of up to 20 birds not uncommon.

Notable records: 200+ birds were at Newcastle Beach Dec 30, with some dependent fledged young birds present (MCR). 50+ birds were also at Newcastle Beach Dec 22 (MCR), and at Old Bar Mar 14 (JED). 40 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC), and 20-30 birds in Hunter estuary Jan, May & Dec (HWS).

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*

ID No: 114 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant (*probably under-reported*).

Around 20 birds were recorded at Stockton breakwater Apr 2 (GOD), and seven birds at Newcastle baths Aug 16 (BRG). Five birds were also recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 (HBOC).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

ID No: 953 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant. Frequently recorded along the coast over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

At least 300 birds were present in the Farquhar Inlet/Mudbishops Point area near Old Bar over Feb-Mar (several reports). In the same period, counts at Newcastle harbour rose steadily to around 100 birds (HWS, BRG), and 40 birds were still in this area Apr 12 (TAH). 50+ birds were again at Mudbishops Point Nov 21 (VEE) and 100+ birds at Newcastle Beach Dec 22 & 30 (MCR). Elsewhere, seven birds were at Swan Bay Sep 12 (HAS) and some birds at Saltwater Reserve Feb 6 (MVBW).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

ID No: 117 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded along the coast over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Many hundreds of birds were recorded in the Farquhar Inlet/Mudbishops Point area near Old Bar over Feb-Mar and again in Nov (many reports) with the peak counts being of 450 birds Mar 14 (JED) and 500+ birds Nov 28 (BRG). Birds were breeding at Mudbishops Point in Nov – some eggs were being predated by Gull-billed Tern *S. nilotica* Nov 21 (VEE). Elsewhere, four birds were at MLNP Dec 18 (TUD) and single birds near Newcastle harbour Mar 14 (HWS) and Jul 17 (HAP) – the latter being an unusual winter record.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*

ID No: 120 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received for 2003.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

ID No: 110 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Bird of passage.

There was again an influx into the lower Hunter during Sep-Oct, with 30-35 birds being recorded several times at Ash Island between Sep 14 and Oct 5 (several reports) and c135 birds at Hexham Swamp Sep 28 (NEM). 15 birds were also at GTD Oct 5 (HAP), and 2-5 birds at WWW Feb 2 (NEM), GTD Sep 19 (MAM) and Morpeth STP Dec 5 (LIA).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant (*probably under-recorded*).

Birds were recorded at sites around Newcastle harbour between Feb 15 and Apr 12, with the peak count being of 13 birds Mar 15 (HWS, others). Six birds were at Old Bar Dec 7 (VEE).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1977 & 1999*)

No reports received for 2003. See Supplementary Records.

Grey Ternlet *Procelsterna cerulea*

ID No: 982 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1995, 2002*)

No reports received for 2003.

White Tern *Gygis alba*

ID No: 972 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Mar 29 (HBOC).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

ID No: 957 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Moderately often recorded around Newcastle and suburbs, and less frequently at other townships, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at WWW Jun 17 (BRG) and Stockton Sandspit Oct 13 & 14 (MCR) – some birds were nest building at the latter location.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

ID No: 028 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

At least eight birds were present at Green Point BBNP Oct 25 (TUD), and 1-5 birds at Woko NP Jan 24-26 (EVB), White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA) and Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

ID No: 989 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded in the E of the Region, mainly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 30+ birds were recorded at Wallsend Apr 14 (CLT) AND 20+ birds at TWC Jun 4 (MCR). Birds were on nest at TWC Aug 26 & Nov 26 (MCR) and also bred at Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

ID No: 029 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

10+ birds were at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), and 1-5 birds were often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

ID No: 033 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Copeland SF Nov 21-22 (VEE), two birds at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and Copeland NR Jun 8 (FOC), and single birds at Barrington House Feb 5 (HUF) and Allyn River Oct 18 (BRG).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

ID No: 034 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Six birds were recorded near Wybong May 24 (HBOC) and at Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG). 1-5 birds (where numbers were noted) were occasionally but widely recorded.

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

ID No: 035 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident (*Revised from: Rare*).

Two birds were recorded at Awabakal NR Nov 13 (BRG) and a single bird there Apr 7 (MCR).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

ID No: 043 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Redhead Jan 15 (GJC), WWW Mar 4 (HBOC) and Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA). Birds were on nest at Glen Oak Feb 1 (MAM) and also bred at TWC in spring (MCR) and at Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

ID No: 031 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Not recorded
Status: Accidental (*last recorded in 1995*).

A single bird was recorded at Kayuga (NW of Muswellbrook) Jun 21 (WAR).

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

ID No: 030 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident.

There were surprisingly few records – 1-2 birds were at Martindale Jan 18 (BRG) and Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC), and a bird was heard at Abernethy (K10) Jun 21 (LIA).

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

ID No: 032 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Williamtown Jul 1 (HBOC) and Belmont Swamp Nov 10 (LAK).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

ID No: 044 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident.

1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region. 6+ birds were at Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC).

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

ID No: 025 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded (*amended*).
Status: Resident.

Six birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), and 2-3 birds at Woko NP Jan 24-26 (EVB), Harrington Nov 19, Copeland SF Nov 22 and Gloucester Tops Dec 30 (all VEE records).

After review, the breeding status for this species in the Hunter was amended. It is not sufficiently certain that the previous information can be considered to have been a true breeding record.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

ID No: 023 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare.

No reports received for 2003.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

ID No: 021 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Five birds were recorded at Seal Rocks Sep 24 (VGF), two birds at Mungo Brush MLNP Mar (KDB), and single birds at Harrington Nov 19 & 28 (VEE, BRG).

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

ID No: 027 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident and bird of passage.

An estimated 200 birds were recorded in at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC). 50 birds were at Dungog Sep 27 (JED) and 20-30 birds at Nabiac May 11 (GED), Gloucester May 12 (MCB), Dungog Sep 24 (JED) and Belmont Oct 7 (HBOC). 19 birds were at Ash Island Sep 16 (BRG) and also 13 birds were in the Hunter estuary Oct 11 (HWS). 1-10 birds, where numbers were noted, were present at Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC), Monkerai NR May 12 (JED), Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC), Little Pelican (L11) Oct 7 (LAK) and Harrington Nov 15 & 21 (MVBW, VEE).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

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

Six birds were recorded at PNR Mar 13 (NBL) and birds were sometimes seen in flocks of 10 or more at Gloucester Tops during the year (per MCB). 1-5 birds were at Gloucester Jan 15 (MCB), The Basin Watagan SF Jan 15 (MOA), Galgabba Point Feb 22 (FOC), Hannam Vale Mar 4 (MVBW), Korsmans MLNP Apr 21 (TUD), Laguna Aug 16-17, Oct 3-6 and Nov 7-8 (RDB, HBOC), East Seaham Aug 30 (SJR), Wybong early Sep (PCR), Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC) and Wyee Point Oct-Nov (MDV). There was a dependent young bird at Laguna Nov 7-8 (RDB).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

ID No: 267 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 80 birds were flying over Islington early Sep (per ROM) and 21 birds were at Edgeworth Dec 1 (OCG). Birds were feeding young at Keinbah Aug (GOJ).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

ID No: 268 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Six birds were recorded in the Watagans Jul 13 (HAP) and five birds at Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC). Pairs were at Martindale Apr 5 (TAH), Cullingral Road (E6) Apr 20-25 (MCI), Boarding house Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC) and at Laguna Apr 20-22, Aug 16-17 and Nov 7-8 (RDB).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

ID No: 273 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, as counts of up to 10 birds in the E of the Region and up to 20 birds further inland.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Redhead Apr 18 (GJC) and 21-50 birds at Morpeth STP Feb 20 (LIA), Stanhope Creek (K8) Feb 23 (HBOC), Wybong May 24 (HBOC) and Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA). Birds were inspecting hollows at Tomalpin (K9) Jul 20 (HBOC) and TWC Nov 26 (MCR), and had dependent young at Wingen Oct 30 (NEG).

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

ID No: 272 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

13 birds were recorded in the Hunter estuary Jul 12 (HWS) and 1-5 birds at Cundletown Jan 9 (MVBW), Nelsons Plains May 16 (MAM), Hexham Swamp Jul 12 (VEE), Mandalong Aug 24 (HBOC), Glen Oak Sep 20 and Oct 7 & 12 (MAM), 2 at Minmi Nov 22 (MOA), Tank Paddock Minmi Dec 20 (LIN, HBOC), and at TWC/NWR occasionally during the year (WCR). The bird at Tank Paddock was inspecting hollows with Little Corella *C. sanguinea*.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

ID No: 271 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

60+ birds were recorded at Warabrook Sep 2 (MCR) and often at BbR/New Lambton during the year (STA). 21-50 birds were at NWR Mar 14 (MCR), and Green Point Belmont Sep 16 (HBOC), and 20 birds at Seaham Jul 1 (MAM). 1-20 birds were present at WWW Jan 19 & 26 and Mar 4 (HBOC, BRG), Woods Point Morisset Jun 3 (HBOC), Wingen Oct 30 (NEG), Morpeth STP Dec 5 (LIA), PNR Dec 7 (HBOC), Rankin Park Dec 8 (MCR), and often at Tank Paddock Minmi and in the TWC/NWR area. Note the above record of a bird inspecting hollows with Long-billed Corella *C. tenuirostris* at Tank Paddock Dec 20.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

ID No: 269 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were at Richley Reserve Aug 19 (HBOC). 21-50 birds were recorded at Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), Seaham Jul 1 (MAM), Nelsons Plains Jul 20 (MAM), Jesmond Park Sep 2 (HBOC), Owens Gap (G5) Nov 8 (NEG) and Jesmond Park Dec 8 (MCR). Birds were on nest at Wingen Oct 30 (NEG) and inspecting hollows at Richley Reserve Aug 19.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

ID No: 274 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.
See Escapees.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

ID No: 254 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Jesmond Park Sep 2 (HBOC). 21-50 birds were at Awabakal NR Feb (GJC), Woods Point Morisset Jun 3 (HBOC), Whitebridge Jun 16 (GOC), Richley Reserve Aug 19 (HBOC), Green Point Belmont Sep 16 (HBOC) and Jesmond Park Dec 8 (MCR). Some birds had dependent young at Jesmond in Jun (BRG).

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

ID No: 256 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded near to the coast, mostly as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at East Seaham May 25 (HBOC).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

ID No: 258 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records (*revised*)
Status: Bird of passage.

50 birds were present at Dunns Creek Apr 3 (GOD) and 26 birds at Wingen Nov 19 (NEG). 6+ birds were recorded at HRBG Mar 19 (MOA) and Toronto May 29 (FRP), and 1-5 birds at Moonan Flat Jan 14 (TAH), Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG), Blackalls Park Oct 4 (GRN) and White Box camp Oct 4 (STA).

The breeding status is revised – John Gould collected 2 eggs from a nest at Cedar Brush 24 Oct 1839 and these are lodged in the British Museum (per COD).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

ID No: 260 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of <10 birds but with greater numbers being not uncommon.

Notable records: 50 birds were recorded at Wyee Point Oct 5 (HAP) and 20+ birds at Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC). Many birds were reported to have been present at HRBG Mar 14 (MOA) – actual numbers were not noted.

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

ID No: 281 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded in the E and central parts of the Region, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

ID No: 280 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received since 1999.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

ID No: 282 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Barrington House Jan 22 (BRG). Birds were inspecting hollows at Jesmond Park Sep 2 (HBOC).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

ID No: 288 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50 birds were recorded at Vacy Apr 3 (GOD) and 21-50 birds at Wingen Mar 2-3 and Sep 13 (NEG), WWW Mar 4 (HBOC), Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), Middlebrook (H4) May 20 (NEG) and Wybong May 24 (HBOC). There were several breeding records spanning late Aug to Dec.

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

ID No: 309 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

Nine birds were recorded at Wallsend Jun 26 (EKP), seven birds at Whitebridge Jun 16 (GOC), two birds at Chain Valley Bay (L11) Apr 1 (HBOC) and a single bird at Wallsend Jun 27 (EKP).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

ID No: 295 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR). Birds had dependent young at Wingen in Nov (NEG) and also bred at NWR, TWC, Warabrook and Market Swamp during the year (WCR).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

ID No: 302 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident.

10+ birds were recorded at Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI). Birds were reported to be present all year in MLNP (TUD).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

ID No: 336 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports were received for 2003.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

ID No: 337 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant

Single birds were seen or heard at Martindale Sep 6 and Nov 10 (TAH, JED), Bulga Oct 19 (LIA), Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG), Worindi Creek Road Nov 1 (HAS) and PNR Nov 8 (BRG), and occasionally at NWR/TWC during spring (BAW, MCR).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

ID No: 339 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Summer migrant.

Single birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded at Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG), Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG), Tank Paddock Minmi Nov 1, 8 & 30 (LIN, BRG), Laguna Nov 7-8 (RDB), Martindale Nov 8 (JED), Hillville Dam Nov 20 (VEE), Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA) and TWC Nov 26 (MCR). An unusual winter record was of a single bird at Laguna Jun 8 (RDB).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

ID No: 338 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as <5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC). Birds bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

ID No: 341 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Accidental.

Two birds were recorded at Bulga Oct 19 (HBOC) and single birds at Wingen Mar 2 (NEG) and Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15 & 18 (MCI).

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalus*

ID No: 342 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant, some birds are present all year.

Winter records were of single birds at Wingham Brush Jul 3 (MVBW) and Laguna Jun 8 and Aug 16-17 (RDB). All other records were also of single birds seen or heard – at Hunter estuary Jan 18 (HWS), White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), Stanhope Creek (K8) Feb 23 (HBOC), Laguna Apr 20-22 (RDB), Bolwarra Sep 28 (TAH) and TWC Oct 14 (BRG).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

ID No: 344 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds are present all year.

Birds were widely and often recorded, with 30% of the reports being for the period May-Aug. Most records were of 1-2 birds, and all were of <5 birds. One bird fed another a grub at Stockton Sandspit Aug 28 (CLT).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

ID No: 345 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1992*).

No reports received for 2003.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

ID No: 347 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Two pairs were at Wingen Oct 30 (NEG) – an unusual westerly record. Young birds fledged at TWC during the year (WCR).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

ID No: 348 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Two birds were recorded at Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 and at Wingen Oct 30 (NEG) – both are unusual westerly records.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

ID No: 349 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded in the E of the Region, usually as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

ID No: 248 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Two adult birds were regularly roosting in George McGovern Park (Rankin Park) between Oct 28 and Dec 8 (many reports). An adult bird was dead by the roadside in this same area Oct 16 (CLT). 1-2 birds were seen or heard in BbR Apr 16, May 11, Jul 13 and Aug 2 (STA, LPC). A pair and two fledged young were recorded at Floraville Oct 10 and Dec 2 (CLT, WMR). Two birds were at Fennel Bay Jan 6 (DIT per MPM) and a single bird at Gwandalan Nov 18 (LAT).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

ID No: 246 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental.

Single birds were seen or heard at Tinonee Jan 7 (MVBW), Cundletown Mar (MVBW) and near Gloucester Oct 10 (DBP).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 242 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as single birds or pairs.

Notable records: An adult bird and a fledgling were recorded at Glen Oak Oct 13 (MAM).

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

ID No: 253 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare.

1-2 birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), Copeland SF Mar 22 (MCB), Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC) and Gloucester Tops Dec 30 (VEE).

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

ID No: 250 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

At least one bird was present at Gloucester Tops Jul 2 (CBOC/FOC).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

ID No: 249 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident (*probably under-recorded*).

Single birds were recorded at Mount Arthur Jan 25 (NEG), Hinton May 3, 26 & 27 (NEM), Warabrook Jun 3 (TAH) and at two locations around Dungog Oct 18 (BRG).

Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

ID No: 729 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received for 2003.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

ID No: 313 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, usually as single birds or pairs.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

ID No: 330 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant

Two birds were recorded at Hannam Vale Mar (MVBW) and at Mandalong Oct 5 (HAP). A bird was heard at Bolwarra May 6 (TAH) – a late departure. Birds had a nest with eggs at Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC).

Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*

ID No: 331 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1989*).

No reports received for 2003.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

ID No: 317 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Boarding House Dam Oct 5 (HAP) and single birds at Oyster Cove May 20 (MCN), Mandalong Oct 5 (HAP) and Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Harrington Nov 21 (VEE) – numbers were not noted.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 150 birds were recorded at Dungog Jan 30 (JED) and 50+ birds at Awabakal NR Jan & Feb (GJC). 21-50 birds were at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG), White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), Dungog Feb 14 (JED), Putty Oct 25 (FOC), Leneghans Flat Nov 15 (HAP), Harrington Nov 28 (BRG), and often at Medowie late Nov and early Dec (COD).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

ID No: 335 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Some birds were present at Harrington Jan 22 (EVB per MOA).

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

ID No: 319 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, mainly as single birds and occasionally as pairs.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

ID No: 322 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as <10 birds and usually as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: There were several breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayi*

ID No: 324 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1998, 2001, 2002*).

There were no confirmed reports for 2003.

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhoptera*

ID No: 325 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 2002*).

No reports received for 2003.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

ID No: 326 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant, some birds may be locally resident. Widely and regularly recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Winter records were of single birds at Stockton Sandspit Jun 18 and Aug 5 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at HRBG Nov 22 (MOA) and had nests with young at Swan Bay Sep 12 (HAS), Glenrock SRA Nov 4 (HBOC) and Jesmond Park Dec 8 (MCR).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

ID No: 329 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. Occasionally but widely recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of <10 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

ID No: 318 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. Widely and frequently recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Jesmond Park Dec 8 (MCR). Birds had dependent young there and also at both Glenrock SRA and Burwood Beach Nov 4 (HBOC).

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

ID No: 352 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

At least two birds were present at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and a single bird was recorded at Copeland SF Nov 21-22 (VEE).

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

ID No: 350 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the central part of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: Eight birds were recorded at Copeland NR Apr 26 (FOC), five birds at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR), and four birds at Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC). A bird was feeding young at a nest near Mandalong Aug 24 (HBOC).

Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens*

ID No: 355 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Four birds were recorded at Gloucester Tops Dec 30 (VEE) and a single bird there Jul 2 (FOC).

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*

ID No: 558 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of <10 birds and predominantly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Birds had dependent young at Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

ID No: 560 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Two birds were recorded at Copeland Nov 21-22 (VEE) and a single bird at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Wallingat NP Jun 21 (MVBW) and near Karuah early Sep (ROM).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

ID No: 555 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region, mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG), Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI) and Tomalpin (K9) Jul 20 (HBOC). Birds had a nest with young at White Box Camp Oct 4 (STA).

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

ID No: 529 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and often as counts of 21-50 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were present at TWC Aug 26 (MCR) and birds had dependent young there Oct 14 and Nov 26 (BRG, MCR). Birds also were nest building at Battery Rock Sep 22 (STA).

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*

ID No: 536 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 1-5 birds and frequently as up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Tank Paddock Minmi Nov 30 (LIN). Birds had a nest with young at Teralba Dec 1 (CLT) and also bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Red-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus melanocephalus*

ID No: 541 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident, in north of Region.

A pair was recorded at Harrington Nov 21 (VEE) and some birds were at Dungog Nov 5 (JED).

Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*

ID No: 526 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident, locally common.

Six birds were recorded at Awabakal NR Nov 15 (HAP) and 1-5 birds at Smiths Lake Mar 12 (VGF), Awabakal NR Apr 7 (MCR), Warakeila May 2 (NEM) Teralba Jun 18 (HAS) and BBNP Aug 6 (TUD). Some birds, numbers not noted, were also at Crowdy Bay NP Oct 15 (MVBW). An adult was feeding a young bird at Harrington Nov 21 (VEE).

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

ID No: 565 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds being not uncommon.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Abernethy (K10) Jun 21 (HBA) and Jun 22 (NEM). 21-50 birds were at Dry Creek Scone (H4) Apr 8 (NEG), Tomalpin (K9) Jul 20 (HBOC) and Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG). A pair was nesting at Quorrobolong Aug 6 (FOC) and birds were feeding young at Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

ID No: 976 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Edderton Road (G7) Jul 10 (NEG) and Chain Valley Bay (L11) Apr 1 (HBOC). 6+ birds were at Wingen Sep 13 and Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (both NEG). Birds bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

ID No: 506 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain.

No reports received since 2000.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

ID No: 505 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were at Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI) and 5+ birds in the Watagans Oct 11 (HAP). 1-5 birds were recorded near Wybong May 24 (HBOC) and in the Laguna area Apr 20-22, Aug 16-17 (both RDB) and Oct 3-6 (HBOC) – birds had a nest on the latter occasion.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

ID No: 493 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC) and Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR) and 1-5 birds at Barrington House Jan 22 (BRG), Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA), Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC), Peach Tree Chichester SF Sep 7 (BRG), White Rock Chichester SF Sep 7 (BRG) and Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC). Some birds were also at Jerusalem Creek May 12 (JED), Wallingat NP Jun 21 (MVBW) and Copeland Nov 21-22 (VEE). A bird was on nest at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

ID No: 488 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mainly as counts of 1-5 birds but with counts of up to 20 birds being not uncommon.

Notable records: Birds were on nest at Whitebridge Sep 3 (COG) and were nest building at Hallidays Point May 1 (MVBW). They also bred at TWC during the year (WCR).

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris*

ID No: 494 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Gap Creek Watagans NP Jan 15 (MOA), Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Jan 15 (MOA), Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA), Peach Tree Chichester SF Sep 7 (BRG) and Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR). Some birds were also at Wallingat NP Jun 21 (MVBW) and Copeland Nov 21-22 (VEE). A pair was feeding a juvenile bird at Bow Wow Gorge Mount Vincent early Sep (FIP).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

ID No: 498 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon resident, possibly overlooked.

6+ birds were recorded at Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI), and single birds along Jones Reserve Road Jan 24 and Nov 8 (TAH, JED).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

ID No: 504 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

ID No: 465 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

ID No: 454 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of 21-50 birds being not uncommon.

Notable records: 50+ birds were present around Barrington House Sep 7 and some were on nest there (MCR).

Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*

ID No: 460 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded at mangrove areas as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Stockton Sandspit Nov 14 and Dec 13 (MCR).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

ID No: 463 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Uncommon bird of passage in the W and central parts of the Region.

Single birds were recorded at Seaham Jan 18 (TAH), Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG), Jones Reserve Road Jun 8 (BRG), and Edderton Road (G7) Jul 10 (NEG). Some birds were also at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

ID No: 453 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. Widely and frequently recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Vacy Sep 14 (TAH) and 6+ birds at Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA). A single bird was at Oakhampton Apr 6 (NEM) – a somewhat late departure date.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

ID No: 475 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at East Seaham May 25 (HBOC) and Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR). Birds were on nest at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG) and had dependent young at Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC) and Whitebridge Oct 7 (COG).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

ID No: 484 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Bulga Oct 19 – with some dependent young present (LIA).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

ID No: 486 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded near Wybong May 24 (HBOC). Birds had a nest with young at Worindi Creek Road Nov 1 (HAS).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

ID No: 471 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Wybong May 24 (HBOC), East Seaham May 25 (HBOC), Tank Paddock Minmi Jul 5 (LIN) and Stockton Sandspit Nov 14 (MCR). Birds were on nest at TWC Nov 26 (MCR) and had dependent young at Wingen Oct 30 (NEG).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

ID No: 470 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Barrington House Jan 22 (BRG) and Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA). Birds were nesting at Quorrobolong Aug 2 (FOC) and Green Wattle Creek Oct 7 (NEM).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

ID No: 466 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Uncommon resident in W of Region.

No reports received for 2003.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

ID No: 638 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Kitchener (K10) Jun 21 (LIA) and Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA). Birds had dependent young at Warabrook Sep 25-Oct 8 (MCR) and Wingen Oct 30 (NEG), and were nesting at Awabakal NR Dec 2 (HBOC).

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

ID No: 637 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Regularly recorded near to the coast as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Birds were nesting near Stockton STP Aug 5 (HBOC), and also bred at Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

ID No: 640 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Birds were reported to have colonised the lower Merriwa River valley with numerous sightings in cell E6 over Apr-Jul (MCI). This seems to match with several confirmed and unconfirmed reports since 2000 of sightings in cells F6 and A6.

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

ID No: 585 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded near Wybong May 24 (HBOC) and at Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI) and Bulga Oct 19 (LIA). Birds had dependent young at Crowdy Head Mar 16 (MOA) and were nesting at Tuncurry Dec 4 (MVBW).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

ID No: 645 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and moderately often as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC) and around 50 birds at Dunns Creek Apr 3 (GOD). Birds were on nest at Laguna Nov 7-8 (RDB) and had dependent young at Owens Gap (G5) Nov 8 (NEG).

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

ID No: 646 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Bird of passage.

No reports received for 2003.

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

ID No: 603 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon winter migrant.

A single bird was at Ellalong Jan 25 (per LIA). There were no further reports until 22 birds were recorded at a property near Quorrobolong Aug 2, and then substantial numbers in the area over the remainder of the month (MOA, FOC/CBOC). The peak count was 72 birds Aug 6, including one pair nesting. On Aug 29 the nest was apparently empty but the pair was still in the area (MOA). The latest record for the location was of two birds there Sep 3 (MOA).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

ID No: 641 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Bolwarra Sep 30 (TAH), Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC) and Tahlee/Carrington Oct 6 (ANC), while 5-8 birds were present all summer at Bulga (LAD).

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

ID No: 633 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 10-30 birds.

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Bangalay Reserve Jul 15 (HBOC) and 50+ birds at Rankin Park Dec 8 (MCR).

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Crowdy Head Mar 15 & 16 (MOA).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

ID No: 634 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and moderately often as counts of 21-50 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were present at Jesmond Park Sep 2 (HBOC). A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* at Maitland tip Jun 15 (VEE). There were several breeding records through spring.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

ID No: 605 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Regularly recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds, and often as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC), Awabakal NR Apr 7 (MCR) and Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR). Birds were nest building at Stanhope Creek Nov 9 (LAD).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

ID No: 614 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident, with influxes in autumn/winter. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 30 birds over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec, and counts of up to 100 birds during the Apr-Aug migration passage.

Notable records: Flocks of 200-300 birds were constantly moving through Awabakal NR over the period Apr 22-28 (GJC). In the return migration period, many flocks of 20-30 birds were moving through near Mount Arthur early Sep (NEG). 200+ birds were recorded at Mount Vincent Jun 9 (FRP) and several hundreds at Bayswater Colliery Apr 23 (NEG). 100+ birds were at TWC May 31 (BRG) and Laguna Aug 16-17 (RDB). Birds were nest building at Mount Arthur early Sep (NEG) and had a nest with young at Teralba Dec 1 (CLT).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

ID No: 608 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1993, 1998, 1999, 2002*).

No reports received for 2003.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

ID No: 617 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

ID No: 619 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Aberdare SF Jun 21 (LIA), Tomalpin Jul 20 & 23 (BRG, HBOC), Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA), Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC) and Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA). There were several breeding records spanning Jul 20-Aug 29 from the Quorrobolong and Tomalpin areas.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

ID No: 613 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Tomalpin Jul 20 & 23 (HBOC, BRG) and at Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

ID No: 625 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Moderately often recorded in the W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Birds were feeding young along Jones Reserve Road Jan 24 (TAH) and had a nest with young at Mount Arthur Sep 15 (NEG).

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

ID No: 580 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident in central/west of Region.

6+ birds were present at Tomalpin (K9) Jul 20 (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Bulga Mar 12 (NEM), Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC), Broke Road Jun 15 (BRG/LIN), Kings Gap Jun 15 (BRG), Vacy Jul 5 (TAH), Tomalpin Jul 23 (BRG), Quorrobolong Aug 2 & 6 (MOA, FOC) and Mount Vincent early Sep (FIP).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

ID No: 583 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident, uncommon in E of Region. Widely and moderately often recorded in W and central parts of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Birds had dependent young at Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG).

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

ID No: 578 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region over Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of 21-50 birds being not uncommon over Apr-Jul.

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Mount Vincent Jun 9 (FRP). 20+ birds were at Laguna Aug 16-17 (RDB).

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

ID No: 597 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

52 birds were present in the mangroves around Carrington Oct 4 (GOC). 6+ birds were often present in the TWC/NWR area (BRG, MCR), with a peak count of 11 birds Apr 9 (MCR). 6+ birds were also at Islington Feb 1 (ROM) and Stockton Sandspit Oct 13 (MCR). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded from locations in the E of the Region – the most westerly record was from WWW Nov 22.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

ID No: 598 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1993 and 2001*).

A single bird was recorded near Martindale Oct 5 & 30, and two birds there Oct 16 (TAH, LIA et al).

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

ID No: 630 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

No reports received for 2003.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

ID No: 631 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

20+ birds were at the regular location Awabakal NR Dec 2 (HBOC) and lesser numbers there on several occasions during the year. 6+ birds were at Kitchener (K10) Jun 21 (LIA). Elsewhere, 1-5 birds were recorded at Belmont Jan 10 (CJB), Old Bar Mar 14 (JED), Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC) and Glenrock SRA Nov 4 (HBOC), and often at TWC and nearby areas during the year.

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris nigra*

ID No: 632 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Regularly recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and with counts of up to 50 birds being not uncommon.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR Jan (GJC) and 20+ birds at TWC Aug 20 & 26 (BRG), MCR). Birds had dependent young at TWC Aug 26, Oct 14 and Nov 26 (MCR, BRG).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*

ID No: 593 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Awabakal NR Apr 7 and Dec 2 (MCR, HBOC) and at Glenrock SRA Nov 4 (HBOC).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

ID No: 591 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Chain Valley Bay (L11) Apr 1 (HBOC) and Awabakal NR Apr (GJC). Birds had dependent young at TWC Nov 26 (MCR).

Black Honeyeater *Certhionyx niger*

ID No: 589 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received for 2003.

Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegatus*

ID No: 590 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

Two birds were recorded at Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG).

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

ID No: 586 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds, and occasionally as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at TWC Oct 14 (BRG) and birds had dependent young there Nov 26 (MCR).

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

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

A total of 51 birds were recorded around the Hunter estuary Dec 6 (HWS). 10-20 birds were often present at Ash Island (STA, VEE) and 20+ birds were there Mar 23 (HBOC). Six birds were at Forster May 31 (MVBW) and Swan Bay Aug 16 (HAS), and 1-5 birds at Swan Bay Sep 12 (HAS) and moderately often at Stockton sandspit (HWS, BRG).

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

ID No: 377 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG), Wybong May 24 (HBOC), Kings Gap Jun 15 (BRG), Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC) and Martins Creek Nov 23 (LIA). Birds were nest building at Honeysuckle Creek Wollemi NP (D7) Aug 1 (BRG) and were on nest at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG) and Stanhope Creek Nov 9 (LAD).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

ID No: 380 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Resident (and altitudinal migrant).

1-5 birds were recorded at Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA), Baerami Apr 5 (TAH), Jerrys Plains area Apr 5 (TAH), Jones Reserve Road May 3 (TAH), Middlebrook (H4) May 20 (NEG), Tomalpin Jul 20 & 23 (HBOC, BRG), Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC), Bulga May 24 and Jul 30 (VEE, LIA), and at two locations along Jones Reserve Road Apr 5 (TAH).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

ID No: 381 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Jones Reserve Road Jan 24 (TAH), Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG), Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC), Martindale Apr 5 (TAH), Cullingral Road (E6) Apr 20-25 (MCI), Bulga May 24 and Jul 23 (VEE, BRG). Three breeding pairs were in the Bulga area Oct 19 and some had dependent young (LIA).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

Single birds were at Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA) and Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

ID No: 384 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Usual resident (and altitudinal migrant). Often recorded in counts of 1-5 birds in low and mid altitude areas during Apr-Aug and at mid to high altitudes in the remainder of the year (*text added*).

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC). Birds arrived at Woodville Apr 5 (NEM).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

ID No: 385 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident, in west of Region.

1-2 birds were recorded at Wingen Mar 2 (NEG), Kings Gap Jun 15 (BRG), Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI) and in the Bulga area Jul 23 and Oct 19 (BRG, LIA). Birds had a nest with young at Lake Liddell Sep 14 (NEG).

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

ID No: 396 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were present at Frying Pan Creek Jan 12 (JED), Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC) Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC) and Sharpes Creek Sep 23 (VGF).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

ID No: 392 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds and occasionally as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: There were several breeding records spanning Jan and Aug-Oct.

Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

ID No: 434 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were seen/heard at Copeland SF Nov 21-22 (VEE) and 1-5 birds at Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA), Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC), Barrington House Sep 7 and Nov 9 (MCR, TAH) and Problem Creek (~20km N of Dungog) Oct 27 (JED).

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

ID No: 443 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded in counts of up to 10 birds (*text added*).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Bulga May 24 (VEE) and 12 birds at Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA). Birds had a nest with young at Woodville Aug 16 (BRG) and were with fledged young in this area Sep 8 (NEM). Other breeding records were of pairs nest building at Buchanan Jun 8 (VEE), nesting at Quorrobolong Aug 2 (FOC) and with dependent young at Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

ID No: 445 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

10+ birds were present at Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI). 4-5 birds were recorded along Jones Reserve Road Nov 8 (JED) and at Doyles Creek Oct 5 & 16 and Nov 29 (all TAH records). There were two nests at Doyles Creek on the latter date.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

ID No: 421 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR) and Glenrock SRA Nov 4 (HBOC). Birds had dependent young at Barrington House Jan 22 (BRG).

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinlosoma punctatum*

ID No: 436 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-3 birds were recorded at Laguna Feb 26 and Apr 20-22 (RDB), Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI), Watagans Jul 13 & 20 and Oct 11 (HAP) and Tomalpin Aug 23 (BRG).

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

ID No: 549 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Kings Gap Jun 15 (BRG).

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

ID No: 416 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: Three birds were at Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC) and Ellalong Oct 21 (MEJ). Birds were with dependent young along Jones Reserve Road Jan 24 (TAH).

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*

ID No: 419 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1987*).

No reports received for 2003.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident, of highland areas.

A single bird was recorded at Gloucester Tops Dec 30 (VEE).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

ID No: 398 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 10 birds and mostly as <5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Tank Paddock Minmi Apr 5 (LIN) and Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

ID No: 401 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant, some birds over-winter. Widely and regularly recorded over Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of up to 20 birds but mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at Bulga Oct 19 (LIA). Winter records were of single birds at Black Rock Road Martins Creek May 17 (NEM) and TWC Jul 13 (CBOC). Birds were nest building at Owens Gap (G5) Nov 8 (NEG).

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

ID No: 413 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncertain

No confirmed reports received since 1996.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

ID No: 408 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

ID No: 373 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Around 20 birds were present at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at Gap Creek Watagans NP Jan 15 (MOA).

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

ID No: 375 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

Five birds were recorded at Copeland SF Nov 21-22 (VEE) and four birds at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and Harrington Feb 13-14 (VEE). 1-2 birds were also at Harrington Nov 21 and Dec 29 (VEE), and 1-2 birds at Barrington House Feb 5 (HUF), Tellarah Feb 24/25 (HUF) and Sharpes Creek Sep 23 (VGF).

White-eared Monarch *Monarcha leucotis*

ID No: 376 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Crowdy Head NP Nov 26 and then again there Dec 29 (BIA/FOC, VEE).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

ID No: 365 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and from mid-Sep onwards, as counts of up to 5 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

A pair was recorded at Gloucester Tops Dec 30 (VEE). Two birds were near Vacy Jan 9 and a single bird there Nov 27 (TAH), and a single bird at TWC 7 Nov (LIA/LIT).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

ID No: 369 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident.

1-2 birds were recorded at Wingen Mar 2-3 and Sep 13 (NEG), Johns River (S3) and Hannam Vale Jun 8 (HBOC) and TWC Jul 3 (LPC). Some birds were also at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC) and along Jones Reserve Road Nov 8 (JED).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

ID No: 415 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Numbers were high (20+ birds) at Morpeth STP over Jun-Sep, with a peak count of 46 birds there Jul 4 (LIA). 20+ birds were also recorded at WWW Mar 4 and East Seaham May 25 (both HBOC). There were numerous breeding records spanning Oct-Dec.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

ID No: 362 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region from Jan until mid-Apr and from late Sep onwards, as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Six birds were present at Awabakal NR Feb (GJC). A late record was of a single bird Glen NR (O5) Apr 25-27 (HBOC). Birds had a nest with young at Old Bar Nov 6 (MVBW). Records from uncommon locations – Woodville Mar 16 (NEM), Wambo Colliery Mar 21 (NEM) and TWC Mar 25 (WCR) – possibly were for birds on passage migration.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

ID No: 361 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at East Seaham May 25 (HBOC) and TWC Jun 4 and Aug 26 (MCR). Birds were nest building at Green Wattle Creek Oct 4 (NEM) and had dependent young at TWC Oct 14 and Nov 26 (BRG, MCR), PNR Dec 7 (HBOC) and Teralba Dec 23 (CLT).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

ID No: 364 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of 1-5 birds and occasionally as up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were at TWC Nov 18 (HBOC). There were numerous breeding records spanning Jan and Sep-Dec.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

ID No: 673 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Winter migrant and bird of passage. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region over Apr-Oct as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Single birds were recorded at TWC Feb 20 (BAW) and Harrington Feb 13-14 and Nov 19-21 (VEE).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

ID No: 424 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds but mostly as 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Birds were carrying food at Swan Bay Nov 9 (HAS) and nesting at Tuncurry Dec 4 (MVBW), and also bred at TWC during the year (BAW).

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

ID No: 428 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Accidental.

Single birds were recorded at Harrington Oct 15 and Nov 21 (MVBW, VEE).

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

ID No: 425 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

Three birds were recorded at Tomalpin Jul 20 (HBOC) and 1-2 birds at Glen NR (05) Apr 25-27 (HBOC), Tomalpin Jul 23 (BRG), Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA), Laguna Oct 3-6 (HBOC), Cassilis area Oct 4 (STA), White Box Camp Nov 9 (HAP), Martindale Nov 10 (JED) and Crowdy Bay NP Dec 7 (MVBW). Some birds were also at Cullingral Road (E6) Apr 20-25 (MCI), Quorrobolong Sep 3 (MOA), Jones Reserve Road Nov 8 (JED) and Hillville Dam Nov 20 (VEE).

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

ID No: 429 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant. Moderately often recorded in the central and E parts of the Region from Jan to mid-Mar and from mid-Sep onwards, as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: A late record was of at least one bird at Dry Creek Scone (H4) Apr 8 (NEG).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*

ID No: 423 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental.

No reports received since 2000.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

ID No: 430 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant.

1-5 birds were widely and moderately often recorded in the Region over Sep-Dec. Eight birds were at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG), Doyles Creek Nov 8 (TAH) and Martindale late Nov (HDE). Birds were feeding young along Jones Reserve Road Jan 24 (TAH).

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

ID No: 431 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Uncommon summer migrant.

All records were from Harrington rainforest – five birds were there Feb 13-14 and again on Nov 21, three birds Nov 28 and Dec 29, and single birds Jan 22 and Oct 15 (VEE, BRG, MVBW, EVB).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

ID No: 671 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: At least ten birds were present along Jones Reserve Road Jun 15 (BRG/LIN). Birds had a nest with young at HRBG Nov 22 (MOA) and also were with dependent young at Jesmond Park Dec 8 (MCR).

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

ID No: 432 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the E of the Region, especially at locations near to the coast, as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Harrington Nov 28 (BRG).

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

ID No: 543 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common summer migrant. Frequently recorded at or near medium to large fresh waters in the E of the Region over Jan-Apr and from mid-Aug onwards as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: There were several breeding records spanning Oct-Dec.

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

ID No: 544 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded (*amended*)
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

No reports received for 2003.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

ID No: 545 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Rare irruptive visitor.

50-60 birds were recorded at Martindale Nov 18 (BRG) and lesser numbers (up to six birds) were present at widespread locations in the Doyles Creek-Jerrys Plains-Martindale-Merriwa area through Nov (several reporters). A single bird was at Moonan Flat Dec 28 and birds had dependent fledged young in this same area Jan 14 (both TAH). Birds were feeding young and copulating along Jones Reserve Road Nov 8 (JED).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

ID No: 547 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant, and some birds are present all year. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of 1-10 birds, mainly over Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at PNR Sep 23 (MCR) and 6+ birds at Wingen Mar 2-3 (NEG). "Winter records" were of 1-5 birds at Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), Aberdare SF Jun 21 (LIA) and Tomalpin Jul 20 (HBOC).

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor*

ID No: 548 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1987*).

No reports received for 2003.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

ID No: 702 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: Birds were nest building at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG) and were with dependent young at TWC Nov 26 (MCR). They also bred at Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

ID No: 700 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: There were several breeding records spanning January and Sep-Dec.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

ID No: 705 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and occasionally as 21-50 birds especially during Mar-Aug.

Notable records: 40 birds were present at Morpeth STP Feb 20 (LIA). There were numerous breeding records spanning Feb and Sep-Dec.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

ID No: 694 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident (and altitudinal migrant). Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Jan 15 and Sep 21 (MOA, HBOC), Kings Gap Jun 15 (BRG) and at Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR). Birds were on nest at White Box GRNP Oct 4 (STA) and had dependent young at Dartbrook Road (G4) Oct 28 (NEG), and were carrying food at Wingen Sep 13 (NEG).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

ID No: 697 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No

Status: Accidental.

Not recorded since 1997.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

ID No: 686 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded

Status: Uncommon resident.

At least two birds, including an adult male, were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC). Two birds were at Jerusalem Creek May 12 and a single bird there Oct 27 and at Monkerai NR May 12 (all JED records).

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

ID No: 930 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes

Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds and occasionally as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: 21-50 birds were recorded at Whitebridge Mar (GOC), Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), Jesmond Park Sep 2 (HBOC) and TWC spring (MCR). There were several breeding records spanning late Aug-Nov.

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*

ID No: 868 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Smiths Lake Mar 12 (VGF), Farquhar Inlet Mar 14 (MOA), Old Bar Mar 19 (MOA), Vacy Jul 5 (TAH), Smiths Lake Sep 24 (VGF) and Harrington Nov 21 & 28 (VEE, BRG).

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

ID No: 954 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Around 50 birds were recorded at Yarrawa Apr 5 (TAH).

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

ID No: 692 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in counts of up to 10 birds in the area bounded by Dungog and Gloucester in the west and Port Stephens to the south, and in counts of up to 5 birds around Hunter estuary wetlands (*text amended*).

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC). Birds are now well established in parts of the lower Hunter, with frequent records from Ash Island and TWC and nearby locations, for example. A single bird was recorded at Mandalong Jun 14 (VEE), suggesting that the spread southwards of this species may be continuing.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

ID No: 693 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the central and W parts of the Region, and occasionally in the E, mostly as counts of 6-20 birds.

Notable records: 23 birds were recorded at Wingen Sep 13 and birds had dependent young at Owens Gap (G5) Nov 8 (both NEG).

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

ID No: 676 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and 1-5 birds at Woko NP Jan 24-26 (EVB), Jerusalem Creek May 12 (JED), Waitui Jun 7-9 (HBOC), Wingham Brush Jul 3 (MVBW), Peach Tree Chichester SF Sep 7 (BRG), Barrington House Sep 7 (MCR), Stanhope Creek Nov 9 (LAD) and Copeland Nov 21-22 (VEE).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

ID No: 684 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Resident.

Six females or young males were present at Green Point Forster May 23 (MVBW) and at least six birds also at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were moderately often recorded in the E and central parts of the Region.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

ID No: 679 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Spotted Bowerbird *Chlamydera maculata*

ID No: 680 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Accidental (*New to list*).

A single bird was recorded at Merriwa May 11 (GED).

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 648 HBOC Category: 2 (*revised*) Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Rare.

Single birds were recorded at Mount Arthur North Jan 25 (NEG), Bureen and Yarrawa Oct 16 (both TAH), Jones Reserve Road Nov 8 (JED) and Ringwood Road GRNP (C6) Nov 9 (STA et al). Two birds were present at Doyles Creek Nov 8 (TAH). Also see Supplementary Records.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

ID No: 993 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental.

A single bird was recorded at Yarrawa Road (F7) Nov 29 (TAH).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

ID No: 647 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and moderately often recorded, mostly as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were present at Mount Arthur North Colliery Apr 6 (NEG).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

ID No: 877 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Rare summer migrant.

Birds were recorded at the usual locations at Ash Island from Jan 22 to Apr 2 (many reports), with the maximum count being of six birds Feb 6 (VGF). Two birds were again recorded at Ash Island Nov 26 (FOC) and three birds there Dec 7 (HDE). A Feb 1 record from Ash Island was accepted by the NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee. HBOC now accepts all Jan-Mar records from Ash Island.

Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens*

ID No: 781 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: No
Status: Accidental (*recorded in 1998*).

No reports received for 2003.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ID No: 995 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Frequently recorded at or near populated areas as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Moderately often recorded in the central and W of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds, and occasionally in the E of the Region as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 80+ birds were recorded at Yarrawa Jun 8 (BRG).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

ID No: 655 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Widely and moderately often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Vacy Sep 14 (TAH) and 21-50 birds at Wybong May 24 (HBOC), and Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA). Birds were nesting at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC).

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

ID No: 661 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Rare.

No reports received for 2003.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

ID No: 662 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and moderately often as counts of up to 50 birds.

Notable records: 100+ birds were recorded at Hannam Vale Jun 8 and 50+ birds at nearby Waitui Jun 7-9 (both HBOC). Birds had dependent young at both locations and also were nesting at Whitebridge Jul 5 (GOC) – such winter breeding records are uncommon locally. Birds were also nesting at Glen Oak Dec 7 (MAM) and Jesmond Park Dec 8 (MCR), and were displaying at TWC Mar 29 (BRG).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

1-5 birds were recorded at Moonan Flat Jan 14 (TAH), Mount Arthur Apr 6 (NEG), Wallaby Scrub Road May 24 (FOC), Wambo Road Bulga Jul 23 (BRG), Bulga Jul 30 and Oct 19 (LIA), Kings Gap Sep 1 (BRG), Doyles Creek Oct 16 (TAH), and along Jones Reserve Road Nov 8 & 9 (JED, STA). 6-10 birds were at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC) and Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI). Some of the birds at Wambo Colliery were nest building.

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

ID No: 983 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Accidental (*last recorded in 1991*)

No reports received for 2003.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncommon resident.

30+ birds, including some dependent young, were recorded at Leneghans Flat Mar 30 (BRG) and 15 birds (12 were immature) at Gloucester Mar 14 (JED). There were infrequent records of lesser numbers from Leneghans Flat, TWC and Tank Paddock Minmi. Some birds were nest building at Morpeth STP Mar 18 (LIN).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

ID No: 996 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

12 birds were present at Martindale May 3 (TAH) and 6-10 birds at WWW Mar 4 (HBOC) and Hunter estuary Mar 15 (HWS). 1-5 birds were recorded at WWW Jan 19 (HBOC), Quorrobolong Aug 2 (MOA), Morpeth STP Aug 8 (LIA) and at locations around the Hunter estuary Jan-Mar and again in Oct (HBOC, HWS).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

ID No: 564 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Tank Paddock Minmi Feb 2 (HBOC). Birds were nest building at Mount Arthur early Sep (NEG).

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*

ID No: 358 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Past records
Status: Summer migrant.

1-2 birds were recorded at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 (HBOC), Cullingral Road (E6) Jul 15-18 (MCI) and at two locations near Bulga Jun 15 (BRG/LIN).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

ID No: 357 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and regularly recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and as counts of up to 50 birds near medium to large waters.

Notable records: Several hundreds of birds were often recorded at Morpeth STP over Mar-Jul, with a peak count of 500 birds May 23, and then 100 birds again were present Nov 14 (all LIA). 100+ birds were also at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC), TWC May 31 (BRG) and Hunter estuary Jan 18 and Aug 16 (HWS). Birds were nesting at Tuncurry Dec 4 (MVBW) and also bred at TWC and Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

ID No: 359 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally but widely recorded as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: Birds were on nest at Warabrook Mar 11 (MCR).

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

ID No: 360 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant; some birds appear to be resident. Frequently recorded at medium to large waters in the E and central parts of the Region from Jan to mid-Mar and from early Aug onwards, as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 50+ birds were recorded at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC). Winter records were of six birds at Kooragang Jul 20 (HAP), two birds at Ash Island Jul 5 (HAP) and single birds at Millers Forest Jun 15 (VEE) and Tank Paddock Minmi Jul 5 (LIN). Birds were nesting at Worindi Creek Road Nov 1 (HAS) and feeding fledged young at WWW Nov 22 (MOA), and also bred at TWC and Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

ID No: 990 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

No reports received for 2003.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

ID No: 524 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual summer migrant; some birds are resident. Widely and often recorded near medium to large waters during Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec as counts of up to 10 birds.

Notable records: 20+ birds were recorded at Lake Liddell Jan 4 (NEG) and Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC). Birds were with dependent young at WWW Jan 26 (BRG), Warabrook Feb 4 and Mar 11 (HBOC, MCR) and at PNR Dec 7 (HBOC).

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

ID No: 523 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-5 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at TWC Oct 14 and Nov 26 (BRG, MCR).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

ID No: 522 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident. Occasionally recorded near medium to large waters in the E of the Region as counts of 1-2 birds.

Notable records: 6+ birds were recorded at Market Swamp in spring (MCR). Birds had dependent young at Tank Paddock Minmi Nov 1 (LIN).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

ID No: 509 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Summer migrant in central/west of Region.

15-20 birds were present at Kerrabee Oct 26 (BRG) and Rouchel Brook Oct 31 (TAH), 13 birds at Martindale Nov 8 (JED) and 6+ birds at Worindi Creek Road Nov 1 (HAS). Lesser numbers were recorded at widespread locations in the Doyles Creek-Jerrys Plains-Martindale-Merriwa area through Oct and early Nov (several reporters).

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

ID No: 508 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Uncertain.

Four birds were recorded at Morpeth STP Jan 4 (LIA) and Martindale Nov 8 (JED), two birds at Mount Arthur Nov 25 (NEG), and single birds at Hunter estuary Jan 18 (HWS), Hexham Swamp Feb 6 (NEM), Morpeth STP Feb 20 (LIA) and Doyles Creek Nov 8 (TAH).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

ID No: 525 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Often recorded in the E of the Region as counts of up to 20 birds.

Notable records: 21 birds were at Morpeth STP Feb 20 (LIA). Birds bred at Warabrook during the year (WCR).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

ID No: 574 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident and winter migrant. Widely and regularly recorded all year as counts of up to 50 birds, and as counts of up to 100 birds in the E of the Region during Apr – mid-May and mid-Jun – Jul.

Notable records: 100+ birds were at Wambo Colliery Mar 22 and Hannam Vale Jun 8 (both HBOC), and 50+ birds at TWC Jun 4 and Oct 14 (MCR, BRG). Birds were nest building at Teralba Dec 1 (CLT).

Bassian Thrush *Zoothra lunulata*

ID No: 779 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: None recorded
Status: Resident.

Three birds were recorded at Boarding House Dam Watagans NP Sep 21 (HBOC) and two birds at White Rock Chichester SF Jan 25-27 (HBOC) and Wingham Brush Jul 3 (MVBW). Single birds were at Mount Royal NP (J6) Feb 22 (LIA), Laguna Apr 20-22 (RDB), Quorrobolong Aug 2 (FOC) and Sharpes Creek Sep 23 (VGF).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothra heinei*

ID No: 780 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Resident.

6+ birds were recorded at Copeland SF Nov 21-22 (VEE). Two birds were at Chichester SF 25-27 and Sep 7 (HBOC, BRG) and single birds at Sharpes Creek Sep 23 (VGF), Allyn River Oct 18 (BRG) and Wingham Dec 7 (MVBW).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991 HBOC Category: 2 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Rare.

A single bird was frequently recorded at Lorn Sep-Nov (GOJ, HEM).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID No: 999 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Common resident. Widely and frequently recorded as counts of up to 100 birds.

Notable records: 300 birds were recorded at Maitland Apr 16 (MAM). 366 were in the Stockton/Fullerton Cove area May 17, 103 birds Aug 16 and 252 birds Dec 6 (HWS). 200 birds were at Morpeth STP Jul 4 and 100+ birds were regularly present there over Apr-Aug (LIA). Birds bred at TWC, NWR and Warabrook during the year (MCR, BAW). A bird was taken by a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Nov 11 (BRG).

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

ID No: 998 HBOC Category: 1 Regional Breeding Status: Yes
Status: Usual resident. Widely and often recorded as counts of up to 20 birds, and as counts of up to 50 birds in the E of the Region

Notable records: Around 100 birds were present at Maitland Waste Depot Jun 8 (MAM). Birds had dependent young at Marmong Point Feb 21 (MUW) and there were a number of other breeding records spanning Oct-Dec.

SUPPLEMENTARY RECORDS

HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the records described below:

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

ID No: 001

A bird was found dead by the Newcastle freeway near Jigadee Creek (4km N of Dora Creek) May 2002 (COD).

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

ID No: 915

A bird was found alive at Cessnock on 27 Oct 1988 and taken into care then subsequently released (NSW ORAC Case No. 17, BARC Case No. 168, also reported in *Aust. Birds*, 1994).

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

ID No: 915

A beach-washed bird was found near Newcastle in December 1968 (Holmes, 1969, *Emu*, 69; 244-245).

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

ID No: 918

A beach-washed bird was found at Newcastle Bight 18 Dec 1971 (Holmes, 1972, *Aust. Bird Watcher*, 4; 166-167). At the time it was the 3rd Australian record for the species.

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

ID No: 082

A beach-washed bird was found near Newcastle in July 1973 (Rogers, 1974, *Aust. Birds*, 8; 100).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

ID No: 067

In addition to the record of a dead bird found on a beach at Old Bar on 18 Feb 2002, detailed in the 10th Bird Report, a second dead bird was found in the same area on 11 Mar 2002 (MCI). Both specimens have been lodged in the Australian Museum. Also, the February bird was first located by D James.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

ID No: 108

After a storm, a bird was found inland at Stewarts Brook near Scone on 21 Mar 2000. The bird was taken into care overnight then released at the coast the following day (per MOA). There had been no records for this species since 1994.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

ID No: 196

A single bird was recorded at WWW 8 Dec 2002 (SMJ).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

ID No: 182

20 birds were recorded at PNR 8 Dec 2002 (MOA).

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

ID No: 183

Single birds were recorded near Clarencetown in 2000 (per COD) and at Gloucester 13 Nov 2002 (per DBP) and New line Road Raymond Terrace Jan 2001 (per COD).

Baillon's Crane *Porzana pusilla*

ID No: 050

Two birds were recorded at WWW 8 Dec 2002 (SMJ).

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

ID No: 055 HBOC Category: 3 Regional Breeding Status: Not recorded

Status: Accidental.

In 2002, a bird was resident in a garden at Woodville from May until after rains in Dec (NEM).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

ID No: 218

Single birds were recorded in the Maitland area 20 Nov and 8 Dec 2002 (TAH,).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

ID No: 240

Birds had dependent young at Newcastle 6 Dec 2002 (BLM) and Valentine 7 Dec (TAB).

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

ID No: 046

Three birds were recorded at Blackhill 8 Dec 2002 (MPM).

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

ID No: 815

A single bird was recorded at KINR on many occasions during 1983 and 1984 and again on 15 Oct 1988 (Lindsey, 1986, *Aust. Birds*, 20; 116).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

ID No: 157

Single birds were recorded at Stockton 24 Nov and 8 Dec 2002 (BRG, MOA).

Cox's Sandpiper *Calidris paramelanotos*

ID No:

A single bird was recorded at Stockton Sandspit in 1988 (*Aust. Birds*, 1992).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

ID No: 887

A bird was banded on Kooragang Island 10 Mar 1979 (van Gessel & Barden, 1979, *Aust. Birds*, 14, 33-34; Lindsey, 1980, *Aust. Birds*, 15; 22).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*

ID No: 131

Five birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths 24 Nov 2002 (BRG).

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

ID No: 148

15 birds were recorded at SBS 1-5 Dec 2002 (FRP).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

ID No: 109

A single bird was recorded at Newcastle Harbour 1 Dec 2002 (MOA) and 15 birds at Woodberry Swamp 13 Dec 2002 (FOC).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*

ID No: 122

A single bird was recorded near Broughton Island 26-27 Nov 1977 (Rogers & Lindsey, 1978, *Aust. Birds*, 13, 11).

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

ID No: 265

Birds had two dependent young at Wyee Point Oct-Dec 2002 (MDV).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

ID No: 334

100+ birds were recorded at Awabakal NR Dec 2002 (GJC).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

ID No: 382

A single female bird was recorded at Barrington Tops 28 Dec 2002 (TAH).

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

ID No: 405

A single male bird was recorded at Gloucester Tops 15 Dec 2002 (FOC),

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

ID No: 64.

A single bird was recorded at Yarrawa 23 Nov 2002 and two birds at Phoenix Park Maitland Nov 15 2002 (TAH).

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

ID No: 653

Birds had dependent young at Bolwarra 16 Nov 2002 (TAH).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

ID No: 652

A single bird was recorded at Jerrys Plains 28 Dec 2002 (TAH).

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

ID No: 657

Three birds were recorded at Leneghans Flat 20 Nov (BRG).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

ID No: 991

A single bird was frequently present at Lorn during spring of 2001 and 2002 (GOJ).

UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Some reports for 2003 were not accepted by HBOC's Records Appraisal Committee – because of inadequate description or insufficient information having been provided by the time of printing. The information presented below is for completeness; future Reports will advise of any records that have been accepted as a result of supplementary details being provided.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

ID No: 238

A single bird was reported to have been observed along the Bucketts Way (near Raymond Terrace end) Aug 31.

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*

ID No: 236

A single bird was reported to have been at Burning Mountain Oct 19.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata*

ID No: 920

A single bird was reported to have been off Fingal Bay Feb 25.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

ID No: 981

A single bird was reported to have been off Newcastle Beach Dec 22.

House Swift *Apus affinus*

ID No: 828

A single bird was reported to have been at Dungog Jan 30. This species is on the Birds Australia watch list and so a description of the sighting was submitted to their Rarities Committee. BARC concluded that the observation could not be confirmed, as an absolute differentiation from some other uncommon Swift species could not be made. The observer considered the bird to be of the subspecies *nipalensis*.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

ID No: 324

A single bird was reported to have been at Crowdy Bay NP Dec 7.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

ID No: 366

Single birds were reported to have been at Keinbah Sep 27 and Tank Paddock Nov 1.

ESCAPEES

The species below were recorded in the Region during the year, but are considered probably to be escapees rather than part of a self-sustaining wild population.

Note that for this and for future Bird Reports, records of feral geese have been ignored – these usually do not identify the species involved, also it is considered that the birds often are semi-domesticated (e.g. deliberately or opportunistically fed by visitors).

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Single birds were recorded at Green Point Belmont Mar 3 (JED) and at TWC no date (BAW).

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

ID No: 286

Birds were on nest at Jesmond Park Sep 2 (HBOC). A single bird was recorded at Warabrook Feb 4 (HBOC) and TWC no date (BAW).

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

Two birds were recorded at Blackalls Park Apr 27 (JOD). A hybrid with *Platycercus sp.* was present at Jesmond Jun 21 (BRG).

Red-capped Parrot *Purpureicephalus spurius*

ID No: 290

A single bird was recorded at Keinbah Sep 28 (GOJ).

CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

Reports of Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia* at Valentine (L11) Oct 27 2002 and Dudley (M10) Oct 29 2002 have been withdrawn.

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations for locations within the Hunter Region have been used:

BBNP	Booti Booti National Park	NR	Nature Reserve
BbR	Blackbutt Reserve	NWR	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve
GTD	Grahamstown Dam	PNR	Pambalong Nature Reserve
GRNP	Goulburn River National Park	SBS	Stockton Borehole Swamp
HRBG	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	SF	State Forest
KI	Kooragang Island	SRA	State Recreation Area
KNR	Kooragang Nature Reserve	SSNR	Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve
LTP	Lemon Tree Passage	TWC	The Wetlands Centre, Shortland
MLNP	Myall Lakes National Park	STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
NP	National Park	WWW	Walka Water Works

GRID REFERENCES FOR COMMON LOCATIONS

Recorders visit many common locations regularly, and it would be repetitious to cite their grid references every time that they are mentioned in the Report. Grid references for commonly visited locations are:

Aberdare SF	K10	Hexham Swamp NR	L10/M10
Allyn River	K5	Howes Valley	H10
Appletree Flat	H8	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	M9
Arrowfield	H7	Irrawang Swamp	M9
Ash Island	M10	Jerrys Plains	H7
Awabakal N. R.	M10/11	John Brown's Lagoon	L10
Balickera	M9	Kooragang Island	M10
Barrington House	L5	Kurri Kurri	K9
Battery Rocks	E6	Laguna	I10
Bayswater Colliery	H6	Lemon Tree Passage (LTP)	O9
Belmont Swamp & Lagoon	M11	Lenaghans Flat	L10
Blackbutt Reserve (BbR)	M10	Maitland	L9
Bootawah	Q4	Market Swamp	M10
Bolwarra	L9	Martindale	G7
Boondelbah Island	P9	Medowie	N9
Booti Booti NP (BBNP)	R6	Morisset	K11
Broke	I9	Morpeth	L9
Broughton Island	P8	Mount Arthur	H6
Bulahdelah	P7	Mount Vincent	K10/L10
Bulga	I8	Newcastle	M10
Cabbage Tree Island	P9	Newcastle Wetlands Reserve	M10
Cessnock	K9/K10	New Lambton Heights	M10
Chichester Dam	M6	Old Bar	R4
Chichester SF	K5/L5	Oyster Cove	N9
Clarencetown	M8	Paterson	L8
Cooranbong	K11	Pokolbin	J9
Copeland Common	N4	Pambalong Nature Reserve (PNR)	L10
Copeland Forest Preserve	M4/M5	Quorrobolong	K10
Copeland Tops State Forest	M4	Rathluba Lagoon	L9
Denman	G7	Raymond Terrace	M9
Dungog	M7	Redhead	M11
Ellalong & Ellalong Lagoon	J10	Salt Ash	N9
Fingal Bay	O9	Scone	H5
Forster	R6	Seaham Swamp NR (SSNR)	M8
Fosterton Loop	M7	Seal Rocks	R7
Galgabba Point	L11	Singleton	I8/J8
Glenrock SRA	M10	Stockton	M10
Gloucester	N5	Stockton Borehole Swamp (SBS)	L10
Gloucester Tops	M5/L5	Swan Bay	N9
Grahamstown Dam (GTD)	M9	Swansea, Swansea South	L11
Green Wattle Creek	L9	Taree	Q4
Hallidays Point	R5	Tarro	M9
Harrington	S4	The Wetlands Centre (TWC)	M10
Hawks Nest	P8/P9	Toronto	L11

Tuncurry	R6	White Box Camp (in GRNP)	C6
University of Newcastle	M10	Williamstown	N9
Vacy	L8	Wingen	H4
Waitui	R3	Wingham/Wingham Brush	Q4
Walka Water Works (WWW)	L9	Woko NP	M3
Wallingat SF	Q6/Q7	Woodville	L9
Warakeila	L6	Worimi NR	N9
Warkworth	I8	Wyee Point	L11
Watagans SF & NP	K11	Yarrawa	F7

OBSERVER CODES

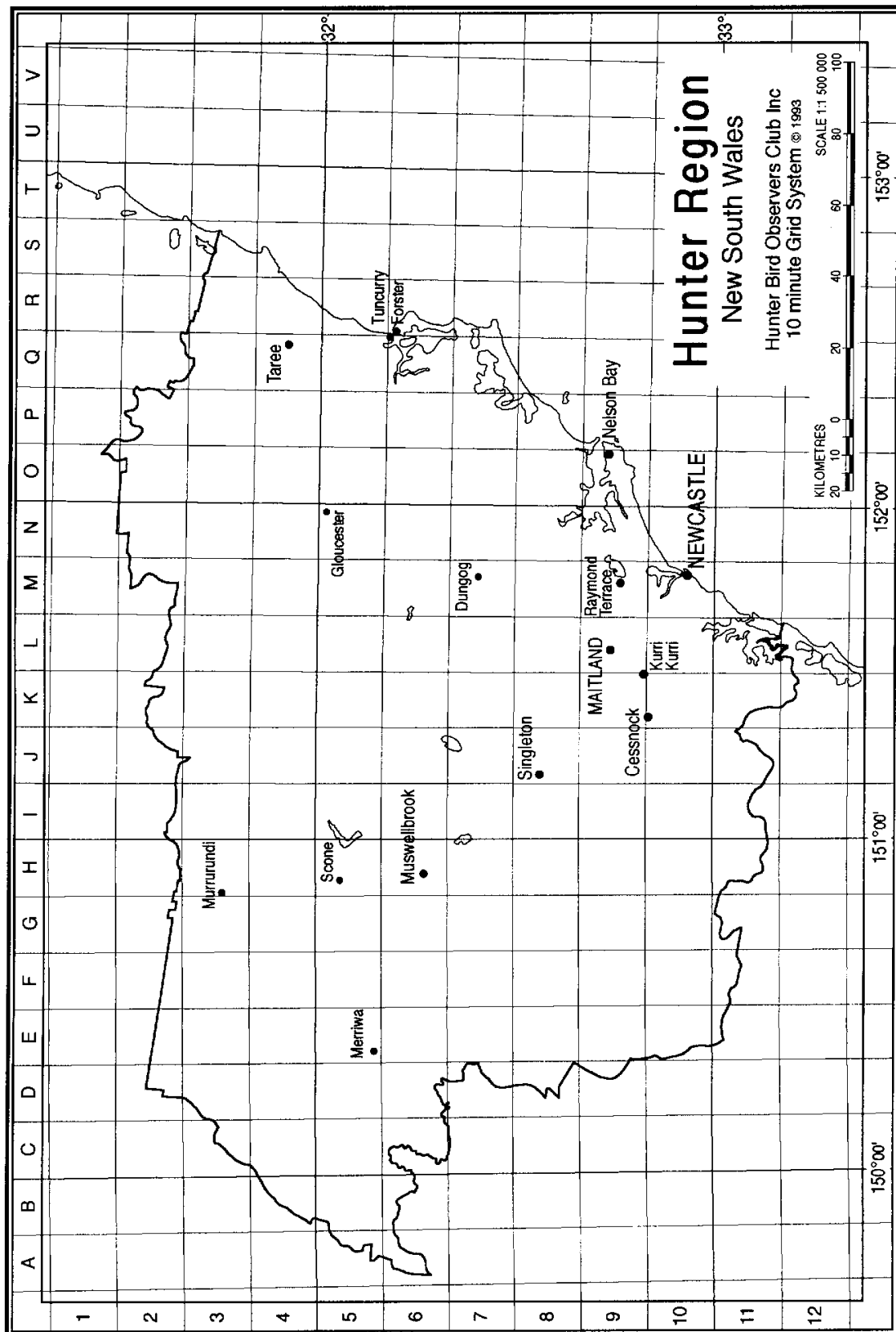
Although not all reporters are specifically cited in the main body of the Report, every observation by every observer was important for the analyses that were made. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from ALL those listed below. Observers are identified by codes that are made up of letters from the names of the persons or organisations concerned.

ANC	Craig Anderson	GEP	Peter George
BAP	Paul Baird	GIK	Ken Gibson
BAW	Wilma Barden	GJC	John, Cynthia Grebert
BIA	Birding-Australia (Internet group)	GOC	Colin Goodenough
BLM	Max Blanch	GOJ	John Goswell
BRG	Grant Brosie	GRN	Neil Granter
BWA	Wayne Barnden	HAA	A Hamer
CBOC	Reported in Cumberland Bird Observers Club newsletter	HAP	Phil Hansbro
CJB	John, Beth Cockerell	HAR	Richard Harris
CLG	Greg Clancy	HAS	Sue Hamonet
CLT	Tom Clarke	HBA	HBOC Atlassing Survey
COD	Dick Cooper	HBS	HBOC Singleton group
CRL	Liz Crawford	HBOC	Observation from an HBOC outing or camp
DBP	Penny Drake-Brockman	HDE	Doug, Elke Howarth
DIR	Ruth Dircks	HEM	Martin Heffron
DIT	Toni Diacci	HOG	Glenn Holmes
DUP	Pam Durie	HUF	Florence Humphreys
EKP	Peter Ekert	HWS	HBOC Wader Surveys
EVB	Brian Everingham	JAM	Mavis Jackson
FIP	Pamela Fitzsimons	JED	Dick Jenkin
FOC	Reported in NSW Field Ornithologists Club newsletter	JOD	Di Johnson
FRN	Neil Fraser	KDB	David, Bev Kibble
FRP	Paul Freeman	LAD	Diane Lamb
GED	David Geering	LAK	Keith Laverick
		LAT	Terry Langworthy

LDJ	Denise, John Lombard	PCR	Christine, Ray Phelps
LEN	Nick Leseberg	PHP	Peter Phillips
LIA	Ann Lindsey	POJ	Jenny Powers
LIN	Nick Livanos	PRG	Graham Pritchard
LIT	Terry Lindsey	RDB	Dorothy, Bob Raine
LPC	Paddy, Caryl Lightfoot	ROM	Michael Roderick
MAH	Heather Maddock	ROS	Steven Roderick
MAM	Max Maddock	SMJ	James Smart
MCB	Bruce McKay	SMT	Tristan Smythe
MCI	Ian McAllan	SJR	Judith, Rowley Smith
MCN	Neville McNaughton	STA	Alan Stuart
MCR	Robert McDonald	TAB	B Tait
MDV	Don, Val Moon	TAH	Harold Tarrant
MEJ	Jenny Meynell	THF	Faye Thomson
MOA	Alan Morris	TUD	David Turner
MPM	Peter, Margaret McLauchlan	VEE	Edwin Vella
MUJ	Jenny Musicka	VGf	Fred van Gessel
MUW	Wendy Murdoch	WAL	Les Walker
MVBW	Reported in newsletter of the Manning Valley Birdwatchers	WAR	Rosemary Waymark
NEG	Greg Newling	WCR	Wetlands Centre Record
NEM	Mike Newman	WEJ	Judy Westphal
OCG	Graeme O'Connor	WMR	Marian, Ray Walker

MAP OF THE HUNTER REGION

The map below indicates the boundaries for the Hunter Region, with grid lines for latitude and longitude in 10-minute divisions. The cells created by the grid pattern have unique alpha-numeric identifiers, which have been used in the Report to indicate the approximate locations for the reported observations.



NOTES