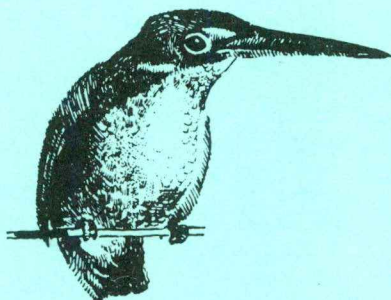


AUSTRALIAN BIRDS



Journal of the
N.S.W. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB

Vol. 16, No. 1
ISSN 0311-8150

September, 1981

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH0790

THE N.S.W. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB

OFFICE BEARERS

PATRON	A.R. McGill
PRESIDENT	A.E.F. Rogers
SECRETARY	C. MacDonald
TREASURER	K. Lisser
RECORDS OFFICER	T. Lindsey
FIELD DAY ORGANISER	E. Lisser
CONSERVATION OFFICER	R. Manson
EDITOR OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS	A.K. Morris
EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER	A. McBride
COMMITTEE	E. Hoskin

The object of the Club is to promote the study and conservation of Australian birds and the habitats they occupy.

Annual subscription rates of the Club (due 1st July each year) are:

Single Member (within Co. of Cumberland)	\$8.00
Single Member (Country and overseas)	\$7.00
Family Member	\$9.00
Junior Member	\$5.00

All members receive a quarterly newsletter and a copy of the quarterly journal "Australian Birds". The price of the journal is \$2.00 plus postage per issue to non-members. Club badges are available to club members at \$1.30 or \$1.50 if posted. The Club holds a meeting and a field excursion each month.

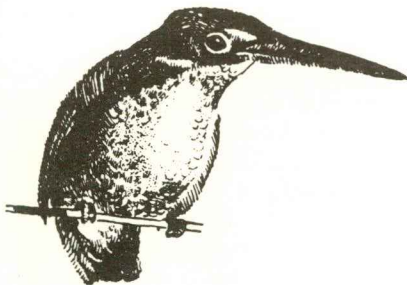
All correspondence should be address to the Hon. Secretary and all membership fees should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at:

P.O. Box C 436, Clarence Street, Sydney. N.S.W. 2000.

Manuscripts should be sent to the Editor at:

P.O. Box 39, Coonabarabran. 2857.

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS



Vol. 16, No. 1

September, 1981

NSW BIRD REPORT FOR 1980

EDITED BY T.R. LINDSEY

This is the Eleventh Annual Report, and covers the period 1 January to 31 December, 1980. For this period, 124 observers submitted a total of 1,931 sightings, plus a quantity of general notes and comments. The species files also contain a scattering of other significant or interesting records gleaned from the literature for the current year, and this report is a distillation of this combined date. Details of about 800 individual sightings (or somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of the total number of reports received) are given in the following pages. It is pleasing to note such continued enthusiastic support for the Annual Report, and again my thanks are due to all of the observers who submitted records.

Highlights for the year include reports of a White-headed Petrel off Sydney, a Tahiti Petrel and a Streaked Shearwater off Ballina, a great-billed Heron near Yamba, a Letter-winged Kite near Gilgandra, a Banded Stilt near Wollongong, a Ringed Plover at Botany Bay, and a White-rumped (Grey) Swiftlet at Iluka, to mention just a few. The Beach Stone-curlew again bred at Red Rock NP, and our knowledge of the status of the Marbled Frogmouth, the Pink Robin, and several other species in NSW continues to grow.

Perhaps more interesting however, are the effects of the lengthy and severe drought over most of the State during 1980. Observations received indicated significant population movements in a number of species, including in particular the following: Freckled Duck, Blue-winged Shoveler, Pink-eared Dyck, Hardhead, Bustard, Rainbow Lorikett, Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Black-eared Cuckoo, White-winged Triller, Rufous Songlark, Brown Songlark, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Orange Chat, Masked Woodswallow and White-browed Woodswallow — most spectacular of these, perhaps, was the influx of Bustards extending south and east at least as far as the Darling R. In a normal year this species is represented by only a cattering of reports within the State, but during 1980, one report, for example, gave an estimate of more than 600 individuals in the Wilcannia area during a week of aerial surveys.

These obvious and widespread invasions were apparently not the only effects of the drought, however. Every year a few observers report some species or other as new to their particular area. These reports are entered on the relevant species files, but unless especially interesting or unless they seem to have a broader significance, such reports are not generally incorporated into the Annual Report. On going through this year's observations, however, I was struck by the unusual number of reports of this type, and the notes for species after species contained some reference to minor aberrations in distribution. Several common species were also reported in unusual places, such as a small flock of Weebills in the unlikely inner Sydney suburb of Bronte. While not particularly significant when taken in isolation, reports of this type were so numerous as to suggest at least local movements of a number of common species, presumably related in some way to the drought. Nor were such observations limited to resident species, and several observers commented on an influx of migratory waders to the South Coast and central tablelands.

In an attempt to maintain editorial consistency in these Reports, two conventions are here introduced. Sewerage Treatment Works are popular places for birds, and hence for bird-watchers, but such installations are of several distinct types, and it is difficult to name them consistently. Accordingly, the abbreviation STW is introduced to indicate "sewage farm", "sewerage works" or any variation thereof. Also the names of private properties are often used in giving details of sightings of birds in NSW, and such places are variously referred to as "homesteads", "properties", "stations" and so on; the abbreviation "HS" is here used to cover all of these terms. The implication is that the place is privately owned and named.

I am grateful to A.K. Morris and A.E.F. Rogers for much help in the preparation of this report. Alan Rogers in particular gave freely of his time in studying the first draft and in discussions on various aspects of the Report.

J. Alan	R. Harmer	National Parks & Wildlife
R. Aldis	L.J. Haeney	Service (NPWS)
N. Anderson	N.L. Hermer	J.E. Noyce
J. Auld (JAu)	C. Heynatz	
	J. Hobbs	J. O'Malley
T. Balfour	D. Hobcroft	
W.P. Barden	G. Holmes	R. Paine
D. Best	R. Holmes (RHo)	J. Pegler
R. Bigg	E. Hoskin	C. Pratten
D. Bishop (DBi)	B. Howie	M. Price
G. Blackwell	F.G. Hunt	
W.E. Boles	Hunter Bird Observers Group	T. Quested
P. Bolger	(HBOG)	
C.M. Bonser	J. Imrie (JIm)	D.C. Richards
P.A. Bourke	J. Izzard	J.H. Robertson
W.J.L. Brooke		A.E.F. Rogers
M. Brooker	W. Jeffs	A.B. Rose
	C. Johnson	J. Russill (JRu)
M.A. Cameron	D. Johnston	N. Russill (NRu)
G.A. Campbell		G. Saals (GSa)
J. Carey	T. Kendall	N.W. Schrader
M. Carey		J. Shearer
M.A. Christiansen	S.G. Lane	R. Shearer
G. Clancy	S. Larsson	E. Small
A.W. Clucas	P. Lester	L. Smith
A. Colemane	A.I.G. Lindsey	N. Smith
M. Crawford (MCR)	T.R. Lindsey	P. Smith
F. Creer	E. Lisser	G. Snodgrass
G. Croft (GCr)	K. Lisser	C. Sonter
	N.W. Longmore	L. Sourry (LSo)
A. Dampney		B. Stokes (BSt)
P. Davies	P. Maher	R. Stokes (RSt)
J. de Hose (JdH)	S.J. Maher	
S. Debus	B. Mannes	D. Turner
J. Dengate (JDe)	S. Marchant	
J. Dixon	R. Mason	H. Vamos
T. Dixon	I. McAllan	F. van Gessell
	A. McBride	P. van Herk
B. Eggins	A.O. McCutcheon	B. Virtue
J. Eveleigh	A.R. McGill	
	R. McKay	N. Wakeling
W. Filewood	G.J. Mendel	R. Walker
B.W. Finch	E. Meyers	J. Waugh
E. Finley	R. Miller (RMi)	E. Wheeler
	R. Moffat (RMo)	B. Williams
L.M. Gibson	A.K. Morris	J. Wilson (JWi)
W. Glynn		J.D. Woodhouse
B. Goldstein		
H. Goldstein		
M. Goodwin		
Gould League Camp (GLC)		

SYSTEMATIC LIST

- Great Crested Grebe** 7 at Fitzroy Falls Reservoir 10 Dec (JH). 64 at Prospect Reservoir 20 Jul — a notably large number for the Sydney area (TQ).
- Hoary-headed Grebe** Recorded in Centennial Park, Sydney 9 Feb — see NSWFOC Newsletter 45, 2.
- Yellow-nosed Albatross** Recorded off Ballina 14 June, not seen after 13 Aug (JI); c 30 off Sydney Heads 31 May (AR *et al*)
- Cape Petrel** 1 off Sydney Heads 31 May (AR *et al*) — a very early date.
- Great-winged Petrel** 3+ recorded 44 km off Sydney Heads 11 Oct (AmcB, GB, AR, *et al*).
- White-headed Petrel** 1 about 44 km off Sydney Heads 11 Oct (AmcB, AR, GB *et al*).
- Providence Petrel** c 10 recorded 44 km off Sydney Heads 11 Oct (AmcB, GB, AR *et al*).
- Tahiti Petrel** 1 seen 29 km ESE of Ballina 20 Mar (JI). (See *Aust. Birds* 16:24).
- Black-winged Petrel** Several at Muttonbird Is. 21 Feb (JI).
- Buller's Shearwater** Recorded at North Wall, Ballina as follows: 2 on 7 Jan and 9 Jan, 1 on 24 Jan and 30 Jan, 2 on 17 Dec and 1 on 31 Dec (JI).
- Short-tailed Shearwater** 1 off Sydney Heads 31 May — a very late date (AR *et al*).
- Streaked Shearwater** 1 seen 6 km off Ballina South Beach 9 Mar (JI).
- Hutton's Shearwater** 25+ mixed Fluttering and Hutton's Shearwaters off Sydney Heads 31 May — at least 4 were conclusively identified as Hutton's by the extensive dark around the face and throat and by the extensive brownish areas on the underwings (AR *et al*).
- Little Shearwater** 1 derelict on Big Marley Beach, Royal NP 12 May (now AM 0.54883), apparently the first record for the Park (DT).
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel** 4 seen 29 km ESE of Ballina 20 Mar, an early date (JI). 3 off Sydney Heads 31 May (AR *et al*).
- Diving Petrel sp.** 1 recorded 44 km off Sydney Heads 11 Oct (AMcB, AR *et al*) — seldom seen in NSW coastal waters; presumably *P. urinatrix*.
- Brown Booby** 1 at North Wall, Ballina 10 Jan and again 28 Feb (JI).
- Darter** A pair breeding at Queens Hill Drive Swamp near Mulgoa on the outskirts of Sydney 2 Feb — Sydney breeding records are few (AMcG).
- Little Black Cormorant** c 8 pairs breeding at Queens Hill Drive Swamp 2 Feb — Sydney breeding records are few (AMcG).
- Great-billed Heron** 1 reported at Romiaka Channel 5 km S of Yamba 23 Apr had apparently been seen previously on several occasions — see NSWFOC Newsletter 47,4.

Cattle Egret Nesting again at Seaham NR 6 Jan (RMO per AKM). Dozens of adults at nests at the Carss Creek rookery 31 Oct and 1 Nov, 1000+ pairs nesting 7 Dec (GC). Inland records 10+ at Mogriguy near Dubbo 28 Oct — did not stay long, perhaps enroute to coastal rookeries (per AKM). 10 in breeding plumage at Parkes STW 2 Nov (JDW). 3 in breeding plumage in the northern section, Macquarie Marshes NR 19 Dec, where they had been present for three days (AKM). South Coast records: Recorded in the Bega Valley and at Pambula 27 Aug - 4 Sept, including 27 roosting in a swamp at Bega (GLC). First arrivals in Berry-Nowra area 3 on 9 Mar, then lower numbers than in previous years — max 316 on 7 Jun most; had left by 26 Oct when 30 were counted, but single birds still present until 4 Dec (JH).

Little Egret 1 at Centennial Park, Sydney 31 May (JHR).

Mangrove Heron 1 at Deep Creek, Narrabeen 7 Sept and 1 at Careel Bay 12 Apr (AL, EM).

Rufous Night Heron Recorded at Mt Wilson 19 Oct (JHR).

Black Bittern 1 at Flemings Creek near St Albans 13 Aug (CMB, RB). 1 at Yarramundi Bridge 26 Apr (RB).

Brown Bittern 2 on Oxley HS wetlands, Macquarie Marshes 5 May (RA per AKM).

Black-necked Stork 1 adult male at Warrell Point near Nambucca Heads 23 Jun; 1 adult male at Brunswick Heads 27 Jun; 1 immature at Red Rock 30 June (GC); 1 at Woodview, W of Casino 2 May — perched in a dead tree (NWS) — other reports were almost all from well-documented localities in the lower Clarence R. region; recorded breeding near Jackadgery in Aug (EW).

Glossy Ibis North Coast records: 4 at Grafton 5 Mar; seen near Cowper March-April (1 on 13 Mar, 5 on 16 Mar, 23+ on 19 Apr, 27+ on 21 Apr), 9+ at Cowans Pond 17 May and 3 on 25 May; 5 at Lawrence 16 Jun; seen at Sportsman Creek July-August (4 on 6 Jul, 9 on 2 Aug and 5 on 10 Aug) (GC). 3 at Lennox Heads 29 Oct and 1 same place 25 Nov; 1 at Ballina STW 3 Nov (JI). South Coast records: 4+ on a swamp between Berry and Toolijooa 25-26 Nov — observer's first record for the Shoalhaven region (JH, BV). Sydney region: 1-2 at McGraths Hill through March and April, present at least until 11 May; max 8 at McGraths Hill and elsewhere in the Hawkesbury Swamps 31 Oct - 7 Dec (GB, JEN); also 30 at Penrith Lakes 22 Nov (RB) and 2 at Cranebrook Quarries 7 Dec (AR).

Sacred Ibis 95 in one flock at Towra Point, Sydney 21 Jan — a notably large group (JW).

Magpie Goose 3 at Beresfield 28 Jul (PAB).

Plumed Whistling-Duck Inland records: 100+ at Kinross 35 km W of Gilgandra 24 Aug (AOMcC). 400+ at Buddah Lake near Trangie 9 Oct (AKM). 60+ camping at Carrana, near Coonamble 23 Jan (per AKM). 2 adults and 12 downy young on a billabong along Marthaguy Creek, Berida HS, Gilgandra 21 Feb (AOMcC). 2 at Parkes STW 16 Feb (NSW), and 10 same place 18 Dec (JDW). 30 at Kiacatoo 21 Nov (NWS). Coastal and near-coastal records: seen at Waterview near Grafton Jul-Dec, max 500+ on 2 Aug; also 200+ at lower Southgate 19 Sept (GC). Present in numbers (max 300+) at Doughboy Hollow, 5 km S of Singleton Jul-Nov (DCR). In the Sydney region, numbers seen (min 6, max 110, usually 80+) throughout the year in the vicinity of Bakers Lagoon, usually at Killarney Horse Stud or Fearnleys Lagoon (RB, CMB, WEB).

Freckled Duck Seen at Fort Grey Basin Lake, Sturt NP as follows — 153 at Fort Grey Basin Lake 13 Jan, 1 on 27 Aug, 10+ on 22 Sept (AKM, GB — see also *Aust. Birds* 15, 33); also 2 at O.Y. Tank, Sturt NP 13 Jan. 4 at Nocoleche NR near Wanaaring 18 Jan (RHo per AKM). 35 at Teasdale Reservoir near Warren 20 Dec (GG per AKM). 9 at Parkes STW 26 Jan; 2 same place 10 Aug, then 4-18 present September-December (NWS, JDW). See regularly at Waterview near Grafton July-Dec, max. 12 (GC). Recorded at Forbes STW during the Labour Day Weekend — see NSWFOC Newsletter 50,4. Sydney region: 6 at Cranebrook Quarry swamps 6 Nov, (see *Aust. Birds* 15,72) then seen regularly by various observers until the end of the year (AMcG, AR, JRu, NRu).

Australian Shelduck A pair at the southern end of Macquarie Marshes NR near Oxley HS 15 Jun (RA per AKM). A pair in pastures around Jellat Jellat 27 Aug-4 Sept (GLC). 1 female at Bakers Lagoon 9 Feb (RB).

Mallard 1 drake at Bega STW 3 Sept (GLC).

Blue-winged Shoveler 21 at Fort Grey Basin Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). Small numbers on all temporary waters in the Coonamble-Teridgerie-Baradine area during July and August - unusual for these localities (AKM). Recorded (max 20) in the Bega swamps 27 Aug-4 Sept (GLC). A pair at Port Macquarie 27 Apr, a pair at Cowans Pond 19 Jul, and a pair at Waterview near Grafton 27 Jul (GC); 1 on a stockdam 10 km NW of Lawrence 15 Jul (DCR).

Pink-eared Duck Recorded (max 11) on the Jellat Jellat swamp 27 Aug-4 Sept (GLC). 4 at Bomaderry STW 9-10 Mar and 8 at Nowra STW 11 Dec — occurrence probably drought induced (JH). Seen frequently at Waterview near Grafton July-Dec max. 32 on 26 July; also 2 at Cowans Pond 19 Jul and 4 same place 13 Dec (GC). Sydney region: 2 at Killarney Horse Stud Lagoon, Richmond 22 Apr (CMB). A few at Chipping Norton 2 Oct (AMcG). 3 at Homebush Bay 25 Oct (AMcB). 20+ at Cranebrook quarries 7 Dec (AR).

Hardhead A flock of 1500 on Flat Rock Dame, Nowra July-September when they left, leaving only one pair with young; 2300 counted at Nowra STW 11 Dec — exceptional numbers for Nowra, occurrence probably drought induced (JH). Royal NP: 7 at Marley Lagoon 12 May, 1 at Audley 23 May, 9 at Marley Lagoon 31 May, 1 at Audley 15 Jul — these appear to be the first records for the Park (DT).

Maned Duck 150 seen at a stockdam near Picton 8 Mar, see NSWFOC Newsletter 45,3 — a notably large flock.

Blue-billed Duck 16 at Fort Grey Basin Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). 1 at Broinowskis Dam near Cobbity 7 Apr; apparently the first occurrence in the County of Cumberland (JD, AMcG) - details in Press.

Musk Duck Single birds at Sportsmans Creek 6 Jul and 2 Aug; seen regularly at Waterview near Grafton July-December (3 on 19 Jul, 4 on 26-27 Jul, 4 on 2 Aug, 3 on 10 Aug, 3 on 4 Oct, 1 on 7 Dec, 3 on 13 Dec) (GC).

Osprey 9 pairs nested Oct-Dec from Forster north to the Queensland border, by only five chicks were fledged from three nests (NPWS survey by GC, per AKM). 1 recorded on the Sydney District Autumn Bird Count 31 May — see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl.

Letter-winged Kite 1 at Berida HS near Gilgandra 28 Feb (AOMcC).

Black Kite 1 at Kinghorn Point between Currarong and Culburra 19 Jul – heading north along the tideline; observer's first record for the Shoalhaven region (JH). 1 seen on several occasions through the year to 6 Aug at Uralla (SD). 1 at Cronulla 26 Jun (JW).

Square-tailed Kite 1 seen 2 km south of Goolgowi 30 Aug (WEB, NWL). 1 near Seelands 20 Jan; single birds seen regularly at Grafton throughout most of the year; also 1 at Waterview Heights 17 Nov (GC).

Black-breasted Buzzard 1 at Kinchega NP mid-July (CJ per SD). 1 seen at Macquarie Marshes NR 23 Apr (see *Aust. Birds* 15,4).

Brahminy Kite 1 at Dawson R., 10 km NE of Taree 12 Jul – a southern record (DCR).

Whistling Kite A flock of 29 immatures in ragged plumage at Comonderry Swamp near Shoalhaven Heads 24 Nov – occurrence probably drought induced (JH).

Grey Goshawk One recorded for three days from 10 Mar in the Coonamble township area – white morph, well to the west of the species' normal range (AKM). 2 in a suburban garden at Oatley, Sydney 2 Apr – 1 a white morph (LMG).

Red Goshawk 2 at Ballina 30 Mar and 1 at East Ballina 23 May (JI).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle Three pairs in Macquarie Marshes NR; one pair in the northern section raised one chick Oct-Dec, but it is not known how successful the other pairs were (AKM). A pair successfully reared young at Lake Keepit (MC per AKM).

Wedge-tailed Eagle Nest with two young near Wollombi 17 Dec (DCR).

Little Eagle 1 near Tanja 27 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC). 1 at Meroo 23 Nov (JH). 2 at the southern end of Wises Track, Royal NP 7 May (DT). 1 near Windsor 9 Jul - a very light phase (CMB), and 1 at South Windsor 25 Jul (JEN). Single birds recorded at Thornleigh 25 Feb, 9 May, 16 May, 2 Jun, 23 Jun (BH).

Marsh Harrier Recorded in Centennial Park, Sydney 9 Feb – see NSWFOC Newsletter 45,2.

Black Falcon 1 at Goolgowi 30 Aug (WEB, BWF, NWL, AL). A pair of Kentucky (near Uralla) 8 Apr and 1 at Werrikimbe NP 4 Sept (SD). 1 at Bakers Lagoon 25 Jun – extended views, sitting on an exposed branch of a willow tree, eating a feral pigeon (AMcG). 1, 20 km N of Singleton 5 Nov and again 1 Dec – observer's first records for the area (DCR). One seen over semi-cleared heathland on Caves Beach Road, Jervis Bay, ACT 14 Jan (CS).

Peregrine Falcon 1 at South Grafton 1 July (GC). A pair near Jellat Jellat 27 Aug-4 Sept (GLC). 1 near Wentworth Falls 20 Jul – attempting to take a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (GB). 1 at the Visitor Centre, Royal NP 26 Sept (DT). 1 at Curra Moors, Royal NP 1 Nov (JHR). Single birds recorded at Thornleigh 12 May, 1 Jun, 2 Jun, 16 Oct, 25 Nov (BH). 1 at Pitt Town Bottoms 21 Jun (GAC). Breeding records from several parts of NSW, including Pilliga NR and the northern and southern tablelands (AKM, SD, JHR).

Grey Falcon 1 at Mt King HS, Sturt NP 30 Aug (GB). 1 at Gunebang 6 Oct – attacked by a Brown Falcon which pirated its prey (NWS).

Malleefowl One crossing the Dubbo road 40 km from Mendooran 11 Jul (GCr per AKM). 1-2 birds recorded near Windera HS 35 km NE of Cobar between Nov 1980 and Jan 1981 in Bimble Box scrub – well to the north of other recent records (RMcK per AKM).

Australian Brush-turkey One feeding in a suburban garden at Killara, Sydney 3 Aug — key points in the description were black plumage, red head, A-shaped tail (FGH). Recorded during the Sydney District Autumn Bird Count on 31 May — see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl.

Brown Quail Further Northern Tableland records (see 1979 Report). 1 female at Woolbrook 19 Apr; remains of 3 found in a feral cat stomach at Mt. Yarrowyck in July (PVH per SD); 1 at Armidale mid-August (SD).

King Quail 1 at Comerong Island 19 Oct (JH).

Red-chested Button-quail 1 in male plumage flew into the side of a house at Grafton 15 Oct — died later (GC). 1 about half-way along the Cobar-Louth Road 5 Apr (AMcB). 1 killed by a cat at Skibo HS 12 km of NE of Gloucester 21 Oct (ABR). A female seen in a dry creek-bed 20 km N of Singleton 7 Sept — appears to be the first record for the Hunter Valley for many years (DCR).

Plains-wanderer A pair 80 km of Deniliquin 17 Aug (PM).

Banded Landrail 1 at Centennial Park, Sydney 15 Nov (see NSWFOC Newsletter 52, 4) and again 31 Dec (GC).

Lewin Water Rail 1 at Shoalhaven Heads 26 May and 1 at Vincentia 29 Jul (JH). 1 at Towra Point 21 Jan — flushed from lantana, and 1 same place 11 Oct — in sedge and samphire (JW). 1 at Kurnell 5 Oct (JRu, NRu). 1 at American Bay, Kuring-gai Chase NP 14 Sept (WG).

Marsh Crake 1 at Tura Heads STW 2-3 Sept (GLC). 1 at Centennial Park, 31 Dec (GC).

Spotted Crake 1+ at Fort Grey Basin Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). Recorded at Comerong Island 19 Oct - 13 Nov, max 7 — observer's first record for the Shoalhaven region (JH).

Bush-hen Calling at East Ballina 6 Nov (JI).

Black-tailed Nativehen 1 on Boundary Road, Marylya 29 Mar (AMcB, TQ, LS, REB *et al*).

Brolga A number of records spanning most of the year from the Macquarie Marshes and other mid-western areas — max 50 at Glenmore HS near Collie 10 Mar (AOMcC, AKM, NA, RA, GG). Several records from the Riverina and other southern localities: 17 on Lake Cowal 23 Feb (ABR); 5 at Wee Waa STW 25 Aug (AL); 2 in flood-pasture at Dareton for a week from 20 Nov, and 4 in saltbush paddocks at Kelso HS near Wentworth Oct-Dec (CS). Also recorded at Telephone Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). Breeding reported at Charnley near Gilgandra during Feb, at Carrana near Coonamble during Jan, at Woodford Is. in the lower Clarence R. in Aug, and (unconfirmed) at Kiacatoo in Oct (AOMcC, AKM, GC, NWS).

Australian Bustard The unusual number of reports received indicates a large-scale irruption — presumably drought-induced — well to the south and east of the normal range; in view of wide-spread interest in this species, the records are here given in full: 1 at Yarrowonga HS near Walgett in early Apr (NS). 1 at Fowlers Gap Research Station N of Broken Hill 19 Aug (SL). 14 at Little Topar and 11 at Lake Tandou (near Menindee) 1-8 Aug (JE per AKM). 600+ in the Wilcannia area during aerial kangaroo surveys carried out by NPWS 1-8 Aug (AKM). 1 seen 7 km east of Little Topar 8 Aug; 40+ on Glen Lyon HS 93 km west of Wilcannia 1 Aug; 3+ on Ravensdale HS near Mootwingie 13 Aug; 5+ on Cymric Vale 13 Aug; 6+ in the Gnalta Section of the Mootwingie-Wertago-Gnalta NPWS reserve 13 Aug (WJ per AKM). 9 on Olive Downs section of Sturt NP throughout July; a pair around Mt. King section, Sturt NP 1-15 Aug; recorded in small numbers (2-6 birds) near Olive Downs, Pine Hole Tank and Twelve-mile Creek, Sturt

NP 1-23 Sept (RHO per AKM). A number of reports of flocks of 10-20 birds and single birds around Ivanhoe and Wilcannia through the winter months (NWS).

Bush Stone-curlew Two pairs nested on the Gulargambone-Curban Stock Route during Sept-Oct (DJ, AKM). 3 at Merryoula between Baradine and Coonamble 18 Jan (AKM). A pair at Clarenza 26 Jul (BE per GC). 2 at Taylors Beach, Lemon Tree Passage 28-29 Jun and 2 at nearby Bulls Is. 1 Nov (HBOG). A breeding pair reported on Rileys Is., Brisbane Water 7 Jun (AMcB, CMB — see NSWFOC Newsletter 47, 3). 1 at Careel Bay, Sydney 12 Apr and again 1 Nov (EM, AL).

Beach Stone-curlew A pair seen regularly at Red Rock NP raised two young in succession that survived to the end of the year. First runner found on 1 Apr, the second on 2 Nov, both banded — see *Aust Birds* 14, 55 (GC, RB).

Painted Snipe Recorded at a swamp near Wanganella 50 km N of Deniliquin 3 Jan (PM) — the only 1980 record received.

Pied Oystercatcher Found nesting at Wapengo Inlet and seen on beaches from Merimbula to Naroma 27 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC). Recorded breeding at Comerong Is. 8 Nov (JH). 1 at Long Reef 26 Apr (AMcB).

Masked Plover A pair nested on the flat roof of a building in Turramurra during Sept — see Newsletter 50, 4.

Banded Plover Recorded breeding at Numbaa near Nowra during Nov (JH); a pair bred on Jamieson Park fields near Penrith during Nov (PL); nesting reported at RAAF base Richmond Jan-Mar (MAC, AL, RB) and again Aug-Sep (JEN, CMB).

Grey Plover 1 at Comerong Is. 19 Oct and 8 Nov (JH). 3 at Towra Point 16 Sept (JW). 1 at Windang 3 Jul (TQ, AMcG). 1 at Empire Bay 30 Sept (MC, AMcG). 1 at Taylors Beach, Lemon Tree Passage 1 Nov (HBOG).

Lesser Golden Plover 1 at Parkes STW 18 Dec (JDW).

Red-kneed Plover Seen frequently at Cowans Pond near Grafton from May to December, max 5 on 25 May, 1 at Trenayr 14 Dec (GC). 43 at Coonamble STW 19 Dec — an area of less than one hectare (AKM). Frequent on the Northern Tablelands through the year, max 9+ at Llangothlin Lagoon 7 Jun (SD). 14 at Wilberforce Lagoon 2 Apr (CMB). 1 with 4 chicks at McGraths Hill 23 Aug (BSt, RSt, AMcG). 175 at Barren Box Swamp near Griffith 1 Mar (ABR).

Ringed Plover 1 at Old Cooks R. mouth first seen 26 Jan, thereafter reported regularly by many observers until at least 1 Nov; seen once (5 Apr) at Boat Harbour (LS, RB) — see *Aust. Birds* 14, 54.

Double-banded Plover Maximum count at Comerong Is. 56 on 16 Jul (JH). 5 at Old Cooks R. mouth 6 Feb (AR). 1 at Bushells Lagoon 15 Jun — see NSWFOC Newsletter 49, 3.

Large Sand Plover 1 at Boat Harbour 23 Feb (JW). 1 at Old Cooks R. mouth 29 Sept (JRu, NRu, MACG).

Oriental Plover 1 at Kooragang Is. 6 Dec (AMcB).

Red-capped Plover 1 at Parkes STW 5 Oct (JDW) and 29 Nov (NWS).

Banded Stilt Recorded in the Illawarra area 1 Nov — see NSWFOC Newsletter 51, Suppl.

Red-necked Avocet 2 at Chaffey Dam near Tamworth 20 Apr (DJ). 66 at Fort Grey Basin Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). 2 at Armidale 4 Oct, subsequently at Armidale STW until the end of the year (SD). 1 at Taylors Beach, Port Stephens 1 Nov (MC, JC, WPB, JP, HBOG). 60 at Kooragang Is. 8 Nov (FvG, TK, WPB). 1 at Bushells Lagoon 1 Mar - 22 Apr (TQ, CMB, AMcG, AC, RB).

Little Whimbrel 1 at Harrington 21 Oct associating with Bar-tailed Godwits — key points in description: noticeable eyebrow, crown maybe striped, bill downcurved, slightly longer than head, tip blackish, basal two-thirds pinkish, dark rump in flight, size slightly smaller than godwit (LJH).

Whimbrel 45 at Towra Point 16 Sept (JW) — an unusually large number for the Sydney region.

Wood Sandpiper Seen near Wanganella, 50 km N of Deniliquin 3 Jan (PM). 2 at Cobar STW 6-7 Nov (AR). 1 at Nowra STW 11 Dec (JH). 1 at Hexham 8 Nov, 2 same place 9 Nov, then max 3 throughout Dec (AMcB, HBOG). 1 at Kurnell 16 Jan (JW). 1 at McGraths Hill 9 Feb-12 Apr (TQ, AMcG, RB, LS, GB).

Wandering Tattler 1 at Kooragang Is. 6 Dec (AMcB).

Greenshank Recorded at Fort Grey Basin Lake and at Telephone Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). 1 at Euabalong 6 Apr (AMcB). 4 at Booberoi near Euabalong West 21 Nov. 2 at Cobar STW 7 Apr (WG, BH), and 1 at Cobar STW 6-7 Nov (AR). 1 at Lauradale Claypan 42 km NW of Bourke 3 Oct (WJB). Recorded often at Macquarie Marshes NR, arrival 29 Oct, departure 8 Apr (AKM). 1 at Parkes STW 23 Nov-8 Dec (NWS). Seen at Spring Creek Reservoir near Orange on 9 occasions between 13 Sept-22 Nov, max 3 on 8 Nov; 1 about 5 km S of Goolma 14 Nov (WJB).

Marsh Sandpiper 2 at Coonamble STW 28 Jul (AKM) — seldom recorded in NSW in winter. Other records: 1 at Corunna Lake 2 Sept (GLC) and at Telephone Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). 1 at Lauradale Claypan 42 km NW of Bourke 1 Oct and 3 Oct (WJB). 1 at Olepoloko Lake near Lake Peri 5 Nov (AR). 1 at Teasdale Reservoir near Warren 20 Dec (GG per AKM). Several records from the Macquarie Marshes, max 19 at Old Buckiinguy HS 19 Dec (AKM, MB). 4-8 at Parkes STW from 1 Oct to the end of the year (NWS, JDW). 1-2 seen at Spring Creek Reservoir near Orange 29 Nov-9 Dec; 1 near Spring Terrace 14 km S of Orange 18 Oct (WJB). 1 near Grafton 14 Dec (GC). 10+ at Uralla 2 Mar (SD). 1 seen 12 km N of Singleton 28 Nov (DCR). 9 at Lake Tabourie near Nowra 25 Dec (JH). Sydney region: 1 at Mascot 22 Nov; 1 at Old Cooks R. mouth 26 Nov (JP); 2 at McGraths Hill 7 Dec (AR); 1 at Cranebrook Quarries 30 Nov (JRu, NRu).

Japanese Snipe Several observers reported unusually early arrival dates. 1 at Coonamble STW 18 Aug (AKM); 2 at Longneck Lagoon 20 Aug (CMB); 1 at Bega 1 Sept (GLC); arrival Werrikimbe NP 4 Sept (SD); 10+ at McGraths Hill 10 Sept (CMB). Inland record: 1 at Lauradale Claypan 42 km NW of Bourke 3 Oct (WJB).

Black-tailed Godwit Inland records: 1 at Parkes STW 18 Dec (JDW); 5 at Old Buckiinguy, Macquarie Marshes NR 1 Dec (MB per AKM); 1 at Fort Grey Basin, Sturt NP 27 Aug (GB — see also Newsletter 49, 4); 1 at Parkes STW 19 Dec (NWS). Sydney region: 1 at Towra Point 21 Jan (JW); 1 at McGraths Hill 28 Sept (TQ, AC, AMcG); 1 at old Cooks R. mouth 14 Dec (JP). South Coast record: 1 at Comerong Is. 8 Nov (JH).

Curlew Sandpiper 1 at Parkes STW 28 Oct and 4 Nov (NWS, JDW). 1 near Spring Terrace 14 km S of Orange 18 Oct and 1 at Kellys Swamp, Canberra 3 Nov (WJB).

Broad-billed Sandpiper Recorded at Kooragang Is. 6 Dec (AMcB). 1 at Old Cooks R. mouth 29 Jan (AR).

Ruff 1 male at McGraths Hill 16-22 Nov (AMcB, RB). 1 at a swamp near Wanganella, 50 km N of Deniliquin 6 Nov (PM).

Australian Pratincole 2 at Kyogle 19 Sept and 13 Oct (GH).

Arctic Jaeger 1 off Sydney Heads 31 May – a rather late date (AR *et al*).

Pacific Gull Immature viewed for 10 minutes by many observers off Green Cape, Ben Boyd NP 2 Sept (GLC). 2 immatures at Bermagui 29 Jul (PS, LS). 1 immature at Windang 16 May (TQ, AC).

White-winged Black Tern 1 in non-breeding plumage at Bakers Lagoon 26-27 Jul – very unusual in winter (AC, AMcG, RB, TQ).

Caspian Tern Adult at Coonamble STW 24 Jul – an unusual locality (AKM). 6 at Fort Grey Basin Lake, Sturt NP 13 Jan (NPWS per AKM). Sydney records: 3 at Narrabeen Lakes 25 Jan (AL) and 10 at Towra Point 16 Sept (JW), also recorded on the Sydney Birds Counts on 31 May and 1 Nov – see NSWFOC Newsletter 51, Suppl and 48, Suppl.

Arctic Tern 1 seen off Sydney Heads 31 May – see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl. (AR).

Roseate Tern 1 at North Wall off Ballina 7 Jan; 1 at Flat Rock 4 Nov (JI).

Little Tern North coast: breeding attempted at Forster, Nambucca Heads, Sawtell, Red Rock, Station Creek, Woolli, Jerusalem Creek, Byron Bay, Brunswick Heads, and Pottsville (GC). South coast: 10 pairs breeding at Tilba Tilba Lake during Dec (PB per AKM); recorded at Lake Wollumboola and at Comerong Is. but no evidence of breeding (JH). Nested at Botany Bay (NLH).

Fairy Tern A bird showing the characters of this species found incubating an egg, mated to a Little Tern and nesting with about 10 pairs of Little Terns at Tilba Tilba Lake during Dec (PB per AKM).

Crested Tern 500 pairs ready to lay on North Solitary Is. 27 Oct – this compares with estimates of 2000 pairs in both 1978 and 1979 breeding seasons (GSa per AKM).

Black Noddy 1 at Nambucca Heads 11 Dec, had been reported about a fortnight earlier (NW, GC).

Superb Fruit-Dove An adult male flew into a window at Killarney Heights, Sydney 21 Apr – now AM 0.53226 (TRL).

Topknot Pigeon Southern record: 2 at Nelson Creek near Bega 30 Jan (LS, PS).

White-headed Pigeon Sydney records: 1 at Avalon 26 Aug (JDe); 17 at Wahroonga 28 Jul; 5 same place 7 Oct (ABR); 1 at Cheltenham 27 Sept (MP, DBi, AL). Also recorded on Sydney Bird Counts 31 May and 1 Nov – see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl and 51, Suppl.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove 3 near Bega 29 Jan (PS, LS).

Diamond Dove 1 at Pulletop NR 30 Aug (AL, BWF, NWL, WEB).

Bar-shouldered Dove 22+ drinking at one of the few remaining waterholes along Wambelong Creek, Warrumbungle NP 24 May (AKM); 50 at Lawrence 8 Aug and 25+ on 10 Aug (GC) — these are large numbers for NSW.

Common Bronzewing 1 at Trenayr 16 Sept (GC).

Brush Bronzewing 1 at Beacon Hill, Sydney 3 Feb (AL) and 8+ same place 28 Aug (BWF, AL).

Glossy Black Cockatoo Northern and northwestern records: 6 at Carramah HS 20 km SE of Gilgandra 22 Mar (NA per AKM); 15 in scrub 25 km NE of Binnaway 15 Aug (per AKM); up to 6 on Yarrawonga HS near Purlewaugh E of Coonabarabran 14 Sept (per AKM); 1 flew across the Oxley Highway in the Pilliga Scrub 22 Dec (MAC); 2 in the Wittenbra section of the Pilliga West SF (12 km NE of Bugaldie) 19 Apr (DJ); 1 found shot near Coutts Crossing near Grafton 18 May — died later; 2 (both males?) in *Casuarina torulosa* at Glenugie SF 21 Jun (GC); 2 at Cathedral Rocks NP near Armidale 19 Apr (LJH); 2 seen 30 km NW of Singleton 26 Aug (DCR). Other records: several at Basin Camp, Wattagan SF; Wyong 15-16 Feb (LJH); recorded at Burrellow Creek, Blue Mountains NP 5 May — see NSWFOC Newsletter 49,3; 4 flying over Nowra 11 Sept (JH), and max 9 at Bournda 30 Aug-2 Sept (GLC).

Gang-gang Cockatoo 4 at Matcham near Gosford 25 Jan (LSO) — observer's first local record in 27 years of residence in the area; 4 at Hornsby Heights in Aug (HV per MCR); 7 at Trevallyn HS 20 km N of Singleton 7 Jan (DCR); 8 at Hornsby 20 Apr (RM); recorded on both of the Sydney District Bird Counts on 1 Nov and 31 May, see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl and 51, Suppl.

Long-billed Corella A flock of 10 birds feeding in lucerne stubble for several days at Gadsens Bend on the NSW side of the Murray R. 10 km from Robinvale in early Dec (CS).

Little Corella 31 at Mosman Bay, Sydney 26 Jun — playing on yacht masts and perched in coral trees (NWL).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo 300+ at Milbrodale 25 km SW of Singleton 5 Dec — a notably large flock (DCR).

Rainbow Lorikett A number of reports indicate major movements, involving several species of lorikeets but especially Rainbow Lorikeets, over much of eastern NSW during the year. Rainbow Lorikeets were reported as common around Jellat Jellat 27 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC), and as unusually common at Moruya (especially in woodlands away from the coast) 25 Apr - 4 Sept (SM). The species, together with Musk and Little lorikeets, invaded the Nowra area in very large numbers throughout Oct and early Nov; they flocked into crimson bottlebrushes planted as street trees and were a very conspicuous and noisy feature of the town — this coincided with a similar invasion of honeyeaters (JH). Rainbow Lorikeets were also reported in numbers N of Singleton during Sept, where they had not been seen for five years (DCR). A large influx of lorikeets to Armidale March-May consisted mainly of Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, but with some Musk Lorikeets (which remained until at least Nov); none of these species were noted in the area during 1979 (SD).

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet A pair seen feeding in flowering eucalypts at South Durras 13 Jan — rarely this far south in their known range (CS). See also Rainbow Lorikeet.

Musk Lorikeet A pair in the eastern section of Pilliga NR 7 Jul (RMi per AKM); and recorded at Coonabarabran 21 Nov (AKM). Lorikeets were reported as "few and far between" in the Parkes area during 1980, due to drought (NWS), although 10 were seen in flowering eucalypt on the Kangarooie road 8 km N of Orange 13 Apr (WJB). There was a major influx of this and other species of lorikeets onto the New England Tableland March-May, with some Musk Lorikeets remaining until Nov (SD). On the South Coast, an irruption was reported in the Shoalhaven area Oct-Nov (JH), and the species was noted as common in coastal forests in the Tanja-Merimbula area 27 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC) — see also Rainbow Lorikeet. In the Sydney region, 10+ were seen at Castle Hill 31 May (CMB), and 6 were present for most of Nov at Oatley (JWi). Other records: 4 seen 30 km N of Singleton 7 Aug (DCR) and 4 at Norfolk Falls near Coolah 6 Apr (WPB).

Purple-crowned Lorikeet A flock of 5 flew from a flowering black box into river red gums on Loch Island in the Murray R. at Mildura 28 Jun — the birds had been seen feeding in lemon-scented gums in the streets of Mildura during the previous week (CS) — seldom reported in NSW.

Little Lorikeet A major influx into the Shoalhaven Oct-Nov, see Rainbow Lorikeet (JH), and reported as rare in the Parkes region during 1980 (NWS), but there was little to suggest any abnormal movements of this species in reports from other parts of the state. Recorded near Jellat Jellat 27 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC); 21 at Richmond RAAF base 17 May (JEN); recorded on the Sydney Bird Counts 31 May and 1 Nov — see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl and 51, Suppl.; 6 near Katoomba 25 Apr (GB), and a flock at Capertee near Glen Davis 18 May (AMcB).

Australian King-Parrot Small flocks of up to 5 at various localities in the Pilliga NR 6-11 Jul (RMi per AKM).

Superb Parrot Northern records (See *Aust. Birds* 14, 45-50 and RAOU Newsletter 48, 10); 40-50 in three flocks near Ewenmar Creek near Warren 22 May (per AKM); a small flock at Walgett 21 Mar (PD per AKM); a few at Tooraweenah 7 Jul and 20 Aug (DJ); 3 at Berida HS near Gilgandra 15 Jun, then present during July (max 50 on 19 Jul) — none seen after 30 Jul (AOMcC); 4 at Kinross near Collie 9 Aug (AOMcC); flocks of 50+ at Cubbaroo near Wee Waa 11-21 Mar (also recorded Jun-Jul 1977 and Jun-Jul 1978, JAu per AKM). Southern record: 2 at Young Racecourse 17 May — this appears to be unusual date for this area (NLH).

Ground Parrot 15 individuals seen over a half-hectare area in regeneration heath between Carrington Falls and Ebbs Pass 23 Jan (CS).

Budgerigar Several observers commented on the scarcity of this species in inland NSW during 1980 (AKM, NWS).

Eastern Rosella 6 near Ewenmar Creek, 12 km from Warren on the Gilgandra road, 16 Mar — furthest west the species occurs in this area (AOMcC).

Blue Bonnet 6 at Maules Creek 50 km ESE of Narrabri 26 Nov (DCR), close to the eastern limited of the species' range.

Turquoise Parrot 2 in the Wittenbra section of the Pilliga West SF (12 km NE of Bugaldie) 19 Apr (DJ). 4 at the foot of Mr. Kaputar 20 Aug (AL). 3 at Cooranbong airport 10 Dec (JO'M per HBOG). Several near Grassy Hill on the Putty Road in Oct and again 8 Dec, 3 at Glen Davis 15 Nov (TQ). 1 male near Yarramundi 31 May (RB).

Pallid Cuckoo Arrival dates: Gulargumbone 1 Aug (DB), Berida HS near Gilgandra 9 Aug, Coonabarabran 23 Aug (AKM), 1 near Bournda 31 Aug (GLC), Scheyville 10 Sept (CMB), Red Gables 10 Sept (RB), Armidale 11 Sept (SD), Gloucester 13 Sept (ABR), Hornsby Heights 13 Sept (MCR), Grafton 17 Sept (GC), Royal NP 11 Sept (DT), Warrimoo 26 Sept (PL), Moruya 26 Sept (SM), Shoalhaven region 28 Sept (normally absent to rare in the area, became very common and recorded daily until 24 Nov, JH), and Penrith 29 Sept (PL).

Brush Cuckoo Arrival dates: Warrumbungle PO 24 Sept (AKM), Moruya 2 Oct (SM), Castle Hill 3 Oct (RB), Iluka 5 Oct (GC), Warrimoo 13 Oct (PL), Armidale 19 Oct (SD), Hornsby Heights 22 Oct (MCR). Departure dates: Warrimoo 4 Jan (PL), Moruya 7 Jan (SM).

Black-eared Cuckoo No records from the Coonabarabran region this season (AKM) and notably few from other inland areas, but several records from eastern NSW; 1 at Glen Davis 16 Nov, 1 at Warkworth 8 Dec (TQ), and 1 at Scheyville 16 Sept (WF).

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo Arrival dates: Warrumbungle NP 1 Aug (AKM), Grafton 1 Sept (GC), Scheyville 10 Sept (CMB), Armidale 25 Sept (SD), Red Rock NP 3 Oct (GC). At least two reports indicated an influx to the South Coast in Sept-Dec, reported as "conspicuous" in the Moruya area 29 Sept - 12 Nov (not seen thereafter), with at least two breeding records (SM), and as "very common and recorded daily" in the Shoalhaven area 12 Sept - 20 Dec (JH). The species is normally uncommon to rare in both of these areas.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo 2 records of the New Zealand subspecies *lucidus*: 1 found dead at South Grafton 29 Sept (GC) and 1 found dead at Newcastle 17 Sept (now AM 0.54012, TRL).

Common Koel Arrival dates: South Grafton 1 Sept (GC), Gloucester 17 Sept, Wahroonga 6 Oct (ABR), Thornleigh 20 Sept (1 female) and 31 Sept (1 male) (BH), Hornsby Heights 2 Oct (MCR), Narraweenah 5 Oct (AL), Royal NP 16 Oct (DT), Warrimoo 13 Oct (PL), Nowra area 29 Sept (and subsequently had an unusually successful breeding season, JH). Departure dates: Royal NP 22 Jan (DT), Warrimoo 15 Feb (PL), Thornleigh (a pair) 11 Mar (BH), Iluka 25 Jan, South Grafton 20 Mar (GC). Also seen again (see 1979 Report) at Kennington HS near Coonabarabran 14-18 Oct (AKM).

Channel-billed Cuckoo Arrival dates: Coonabarabran 11 Oct (AKM), Warrimoo 30 Oct (PL), Gloucester 24 Oct (ABR), Armidale 2 Nov (SD). Departure dates: Warrumbungle NP 22 Jan (AKM) and Tooloolom Scrub 3 May (SD). Other records: 1 at Thornleigh 7 Nov (BH) and 1 at St. Ives 1 Dec (JA). Breeding recorded at Moruya in Dec (SM) and at Matcham near Gosford in Jan (LSO) — in both cases Pied Currawongs were the fosterers.

Powerful Owl 1 at Moruya 28 May (SM). 2 in Washpool SF 7 Jul (GH). 1 at Cumberland SF 12 Apr (AMcB). Present at Mitchell Park, Cattai 17 Apr — identified feather and numerous large casts found (LS, CMB). 1 at Kuring-gai Chase NP 1 Nov (FC).

Boobook Owl A pair bred at Stannix Park near Sydney Jan-Feb, seen feeding two young (TQ).

Barking Owl 1 at Glen Acre HS between Walgett and Brewarrina 19 Mar (NS). Nest with 3 young on the Castlereagh R. near Gulargumbone in Oct (DJ, AKM).

Masked Owl 1 roadkill at South Grafton 30 May (GC), 1 picked up dead in the bush at Tobins Creek 74 km W of Port Macquarie 8 Oct (ABR), 1 roadkill at Seven Mile Beach NP near Nowra 25 Feb, 1 roadkill 17 km N of Bega 2 Feb (LS).

Sooty Owl Recorded at Wiangaree SF 14 Mar and 16 Aug; Toonumbar SF 12 Apr and 19 Apr; Beaury SF near Woodenbong 14 Apr, Terania Creek 13 Jan and 26 Dec, and at Gibraltar Range NP 17 Nov (GH).

Marbled Frogmouth 1 seen at Terania Creek 16 Feb (WEB, NWL, TRL *et al*) and 18 Mar, and heard calling 26 Dec, feathers found in Wiangaree SF 16 Feb and 5 Apr (GH). 1 at Kalang Valley 27 Aug (RB).

Australian Owlet-nightjar 1 juvenile found on the road at Mylneford 5 Jan, 1 spotlighted at Fortis Creek SF 23 Jan (GC). 1 at Eden 29 Dec (TQ).

Spotted Nightjar Breeding near Wyalong 13 Oct (AMcG).

White-rumped Swiftlet 1 at Iluka 1 June — see *Aust. Birds* 15, 4 (GC).

Spine-tailed Swift Arrival dates: Station Creek near Grafton 31 Oct, Sydney region 1 Nov (ABR, DT, BH), Moruya 27 Oct (SM), Gulargambone 11 Nov (DB per AKM). 20 recorded in the Illawarra area on the Sydney District Bird Count 31 May, an exceptionally late date — see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Suppl.

Fork-tailed Swift Coastal records: A few (7+) in a large flock of Spine-tailed Swifts at Tunccurry 4 Mar (AKM). 3 at South Grafton 3 Feb (GC). 20-30 in a flock of 200 Spine-tailed Swifts at Mungo Brush 20 Jan (PL). 150 at Caringbah 18 Jan, recorded at Yadboro on the Clyde R. 14 Mar. (JW).

Azure Kingfisher Inland records: 1 along the Murray R. near Mathoura 3 Feb (PM), 2 on the Belubula R. (westward flowing) 20 km E of Canowindra 7 Sept (WJB). 1 at Mt. Wilson 19 Oct (JHR) — not often reported from the Blue Mtns.

Red-backed Kingfisher Found breeding in Warrumbungle NP 14 Oct — first breeding record for the Park (AKM). A pair at Cranebrook Quarry swamps west of Sydney was seen regularly by a number of observers from early Sept until the end of the year, found nesting on 3 Dec (AMcG, JRu, NRu, TQ, AD, AMcB, EH, AR *et al*) — the first breeding record for the Sydney region. Arrival dates: Coonabarabran 17 Sept (AKM), Gulargambone 26 Aug (DB), Repton near Urunga 26 Aug (RB). Departure date: Gulargambone 21 Mar (DB). Other records: 1 at Ravensworth 20 Nov. 1 at Trevallyn 20 km N of Singleton 15 Apr and again 2 Jun — observer's first local record (DCR), 1 at Spring Creek Reservoir near Orange 12 Apr (WJB), 1 in Gibraltar Range NP 11-12 Nov (GH).

Sacred Kingfisher Arrival dates: Trenayr near Grafton 17 Sept, Yamba 1 Oct, Toormina near Sawtell 8 Oct, Iluka 21 Sept (GC), Armidale 25 Sept (SD), Warrimoo 29 Sept (PL), Penrith 7 Oct (PL), Hornsby Heights 21 Oct (MCR), Moruya 11 Oct (SM), Coonabarabran 17 Sept (AKM), Gulargambone 18 Sept (DB). Departure dates: Moruya 24 Feb (SM), Warrimoo 11 Feb (PL), Coonabarabran 31 Mar (AKM), Iluka 19 Apr (GC). 1 in mangroves at Wapengo near Bega 2 Sept (GLC).

Mangrove Kingfisher Nesting pair at South Tweed Heads 17 Oct — female flew from nest hole in termite nest in forest red gum, joined male in mangroves (GC).

Rainbow Bee-eater Arrival dates: South Grafton 19 Aug (GC), Red Rock NP and Corindi 29 Aug (RB), Woodford Island 1 Sept, Wollie 2 Sept, Warrell Point near Nambucca Heads 10 Sept, Macksville 10 Sept, Kremnos Creek 14 Sept, Glenreagh 14 Sept (GC), Armidale 15 Sept (SD), Carrs Creek 16 Sept, Trenayr 17 Sept (GC), Warrimoo and Penrith 20 Sept (PL), Everdale HS 120 km SW of Cobar 29 Sept (CMB), Berida HS near Gilgandra 1 Oct (AKM), Clarenza 4

Oct (GC), Timor Rock 11 Oct (AKM), Nowra 12 Oct (JH). More common and widespread than usual in the Shoalhaven area Oct-Dec, normally avoiding coastal areas and not found E of Burr-ier, the species in 1980 extended right into Nowra and to the Princes Highway across the Shoal- haven R., and numbers upstream were three times normal (JH). Departure dates: South Grafton 1 Mar, Station Creek near Grafton 14 Mar (GC), and Coonabarabran 20 Mar (AKM). The usual scattering of winter records on the far North Coast (GC).

Dollarbird Arrival dates: Moruya 25 Sept (SM), Armidale 1 Oct (SD), Thornleigh 5 Oct (BH), Toormina near Sawtell 8 Oct (GC), Warrumbungle NP 14 Oct (AKM), Castle Hill 16 Oct (RB), Royal NP 16 Oct (DT), Broadwater 17 Oct, Rileys Hill near Broadwater 18 Oct (GC), Cumberland SF 19 Oct (CMB), Warrimoo 19 Oct (PL), South Grafton 20 Oct (GC), Parkes 4 Nov (NWS) and Wahroonga 14 Nov (ABR). Departure dates: Parkes 29 Feb (NWS), Moruya 15 Feb (SM), Warrimoo 14 Jan (PL), Royal NP 29 Jan (DT), Castle Hill 7 Mar (RB), Coonabarabran 22 Feb (AKM), and Grafton 16 Mar (GC). Recorded at Thredbo R. 28 Jan (RM).

Noisy Pitta 1 picked up alive at Bondi Junction, Sydney at 0915 hrs, 2 May – taken to Taronga Zoo (JdH). 1 at Pimlico Island in the Richmond R. 13 Jul (GJM, see NSWFOC News- letter 48, 4). 1 near Barnard R. N of Gloucester 27 Sept (FvG, WPB).

Albert Lyrebird 1 at Toonumbar SF 1 Nov – possibly the first record for the Richmond Range (GH). Several seen and heard at Terania Creek 16-17 Feb (TRL).

Rufous Scrub-bird 9 different males heard in Wiangaree SF – recorded in Feb, Aug, Oct, Dec (GH).

Barred Cuckooshrike 30 at Old Grevillea 8 Feb (GH).

Cicadabird Arrival dates: Piggabeen 17 Oct, South Grafton 19 Oct (GC), Castle Hill 19 Oct (RB), Cumberland SF 22 Oct (CMB), Hornsby Heights 20 Oct (MCR), Thornleigh 17 Oct (BH), Warrimoo 26 Oct (PL), Warrumbungle NP 21 Nov (AKM), and Moruya 29 Sept (male seen) – recorded regularly from 11 Oct onwards (SM). Departure dates: Moruya 23 Feb (SM), Warrimoo 24 Feb (PL), Hornsby Heights 2 Mar (MCR).

Ground Cuckoo-shrike 1 at Everdale HS 120 km SW of Cobar 2 Oct (CMB). 3 at Lake Peri 5 Nov (AR). 4 about 3 km NW of Singleton 28 Oct, 5 at Trevallyn 20 km N of Singleton 14 Dec (DCR).

White-winged Triller Reported as much more common than usual during spring in both the Shoalhaven and Hawkesbury river valleys. Around Nowra, a large movement of the species 6-24 Oct coincided with a similar movement of woodswallows; however, only a few pairs remained to breed in what are probably regular or traditional sites; breeding numbers normal (JH). In the Windsor-Richmond area, several observers noted an increase in numbers during Sept-Nov; a nest with 3 young found at Bakers Lagoon 12 Nov (JEN). Arrival dates: Armidale 11 Sept (SD), Berida HS near Gilgandra 1 Sept, Goorianawa 14 Sept (AKM), Gullargambone 6 Aug, (DB); also reported at Everdale HS 120 km SW of Cobar 29 Sept (CMB). Reported from various North Coast localities during Oct-Nov (JI, GC).

Vaired Triller 1 male at Maclean Lookout 2 Feb, 1 adult male at Evans Head 18 Jun, 1 adult male at Sherwood NR 14 Sept, 1 adult male carrying food at Tweed Heads South 17 Oct (GC), 2 at Bonnie Hills 1 Sept (TQ), 1 near Barnard R. N of Gloucester 27 Sept (FvG, WPB).

Red-wiskered Bulbul Recorded at Deniliquin 27 Sept (PM).

Ground Thrush 2 in wet forest on Mt. Duval near Armidale 25 May – perhaps an isolated population at the western limits of range (SD).

Rose Robin Arrivals in the Sydney area: Warrimoo 7 Apr (PL) and Hornsby Heights 19 Apr (MCR), last seen at Warrimoo 22 Oct (PL).

Pink Robin 1 “brown” bird near Wapengo Inlet near Bega 2-3 Sept (GLC). Fairly common in suitable habitat at Bondi SF near Bombala 22-29 Jan (TRL). 1 seen in the Illawarra area 31 May, during the Sydney District Bird Count – see Newsletter 48, Suppl.

Flame Robin 3 pairs at Moruya 18 Aug-1 Nov, two of which bred successfully – observer's first local record in 6 years (SM). 1 male near Tucklan 15 km S of Dunedoo 7 May (WJB).

Scarlet Robin 1 at Kyogle 15 Jul (GH). A pair nested Aug-Sept at Mt Dyrning 20 kms N of Singleton Aug-Sept, 400 m a.s.l. (DCR).

Red-capped Robin Unusually common in the Armidale district from 28 Sept (SD). Sydney records: a pair at Marylya 6 Aug (RB), 1-2 birds recorded at South Windsor 16 Feb, 25 Jul, and 31 Oct (JEN).

Hooded Robin Arrival Armidale 4 Oct (SD). A pair nesting by the roadside at Cobbity 11 Sept – nest with one egg (AMcG).

Olive Whistler Fairly common in suitable habitat at Bondi SF near Bombala 22-29 Jan (TRL).

Red-lored Whistler 1 immature male near Cobar 6 Apr – seen well and detailed description on file (BH).

Rufous Whistler Arrival dates: Borah HS near Rocky Glen 7 Sept (AKM), Scheyville 10 Sept (CMB), Coonabarabran 11 Sept (AKM), Warrimoo 14 Sept (PL), Moruya 22 Sept (SM), Gulargumbone 28 Sept (DB), Penrith 29 Sept (PL), Royal NP 22 Oct (DT). Departure dates: Warrimoo 10 Feb (PL), Moruya 3 Apr (SM), Coonabarabran 17 Apr (AKM), and Gulargumbone 12 May (DB).

Black-faced Monarch Arrival dates: Sherwood NR near Grafton 14 Sept, Iluka 5 Oct (GC), Royal NP 17 Oct (DT), Castle Hill 23 Sept (RB), Moruya 26 Sept (SM). Departure dates: Moruya 19 Feb (SM), Castle Hill 9 Feb (RB), and Warrimoo 11 Feb (PL), 1 seen during Sydney Bird Count on 31 May – an exceptionally late date, see Newsletter 48, Suppl. A pair found nesting in an *Araucaria cunninghamia* tree at Cumberland SF 1 Nov (CMB).

Spectacled Monarch Arrival Iluka 21 Sept (GC), reported “in flocks” at Sea Acres Sanctuary near Port Macquarie 1 Oct – very active, appeared to have just arrived on the way south (DCR). 3 seen near Barnard R. N of Gloucester 27 Sept (FvG, WPB), and recorded at Barrington Guest House 25 Oct (TD). Two Sydney records: 1 on the edge of mangroves at Careel Bay 18 Feb – full details supplied (BW), and 1 at Pelican Point in Botany Bay 12 Oct – feeding in lantana near mangroves (KL, EL, JP).

White-eared Monarch A party on the edge of rainforest at Terania Creek 17 Feb – 2 adults and 2 immatures (TRL *et al*), recorded again at Terania Creek 19 Jul and 6 Oct (AMcB). 2+ at Iluka 21 Dec (GC).

Leaden Flycatcher Arrival dates: Sherwood NR near Grafton 14 Sept (GC), Moruya 28 Sept (SM), Warrimoo 2 Oct (PL), Timor Rock 11 Oct (AKM), South Grafton 19 Oct (GC),

Castle Hill 22 Oct (RB), Hornsby Heights 25 Oct (MCR), Cumberland SF 1 Nov (CMB), Thornleigh 1 Nov (BH) and Red Rock NP 2 Nov (GC). Departure dates: Coonabarabran 3 Feb (AM), Moruya 17 Feb (SM), Warrimoo 24 Feb (PL), Gulargumbone 15 Mar (BD), Hornsby Heights 25 Mar (MCR) and East Ballina 7 Jun (JI). Breeding reported in Bunberry SF, E of Parkes 26 Nov – 3 pairs, 1 pair nesting on the side of a ridge in stringy-bark (NWS).

Satin Flycatcher Arrival dates: Armidale 22 Sept (SD), Castle Hill near Sydney 22 Oct (CMB, RB), Cumberland SF and Thornleigh 1 Nov (CMB, BH), also recorded at Glen Davis 16 Nov (TQ). Last seen at Warrimoo 10 Feb (PL).

Rufous Fantail Arrival dates: Iluka 21 Sept (GC), Warrimoo 26 Oct (PL), Wahroonga 3 Nov (ABR), Cumberland SF 22 Oct (CMB), Thornleigh 1 Nov (BH), and Moruya 3 Nov (SM). Departure dates: Moruya 13 Apr (SM), Royal NP 12 Mar (DT), Warrimoo 5 Apr (PL), Wilberforce 9 Apr, Mitchell Park, Cattai and Marylya 16 Apr, Cumberland SF 19 Apr (RB, CMB), and Iluka 2 Feb (GC). Other records of interest: 1 found in a house at Bronte, Sydney 30 Mar (JHR), and 1 in dry scrub 10 km E of Manildra 17 Mar – presumably on migration (WJB).

Willie Wagtail 21 feeding in a loose flock amongst grazing cattle at Trevallyn 20 km N of Singleton 1 Aug (DCR).

Spotted Quail-thrush 1 adult and 2 feathered young in Bunberry SF near Parkes 26 Nov (NWS).

Grey-crowned Babbler 4 at Central Macdonald near St. Albans 2 Aug (TQ), 10 at Flemings Creek, St Albans 13 Aug (CMB). Recorded at Pebbly Beach 14-16 Jun – see NSWFOC Newsletter 48,3.

White-browed Babbler 7 at Glen Davis 16 Nov (TQ).

Hall's Babbler 6 adults seen twice 50-52 km NNW of Bourke on the road running NE from the Hungerford Road through Lower Lila Station to the Mitchell Highway 20-22 Sept. Another 6 adults with 2 young seen 10 km from the first sighting. Another group (uncounted) seen 75 km NW of Bourke on the road running N from Fords Bridge to Ella Vale on 25 Sept (AWC) – these sightings further extend to the SE the known range of the species.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler Arrival dates: Lawrence 10 Aug (GC), Magomonton near Coonamble 17 Aug, Coonabarabran 23 Aug (AKM), Sydney 28 Aug (CMB), Bega 31 Aug (GLC), and Armidale 8 Sept (SD). Last seen Coonabarabran 14 Feb (AKM). Reported to be resident throughout the year at Dareton STW (CS).

Tawny Grassbird Arrival Armidale 27 Sept (SD), reported 15 km S of Merriwa 5 Oct (IMcA), seen in heath just north of Tuncurry 4 Mar (AKM). 1 at Woolaware Swamp, Sydney 10 May (AMcB), and recorded on the Sydney District Bird Counts on 1 Nov and 31 May – see NSWFOC Newsletter 48, Supp and 51, Suppl. 3 pairs with recently fledged young at Comonderry Swamp, Shoalhaven Heads 24 Nov (JH).

Rufous Songlark North Coast records: 1 at Grafton 19 Sept, 2 at Macksville 23 Oct (GC), and 1 at Ballina STW 17 Sept (JI). A large movement of this species in the Nowra region 19 Sept - 8 Nov, only a few pairs remained to breed – numbers about normal (JH). Regularly seen in the Hawkesbury Swamps area from 10 Sept until the end of the year, with reports from McGraths Hill, Richmond, Bakers Lagoon and Castle Hill (LS, JEN, CMB *et al*), found nesting at Yarramundi 25 Oct (TQ).

Brown Songlark Common and regularly recorded in the Hawkesbury Swamps area from 13 Sept until the end of the year (TQ, LS, CMB *et al*), also several records from various places in Sydney during the year. 1 at Cammeray 28 Jun (EF), 1 at Chipping Norton 2 Oct (AMcG), 1 at Boat Harbour 3 Jan, 5 males at Pelican Point 9 Oct (JW). In the Nowra region a massive invasion of this species began 19 Sept, it became common to abundant not only on the Shoalhaven R. flats but in hill pastures in Kangaroo Valley and on coastal heathlands at Currarong and Jervis Bay, many remained to breed and were still present at the end of the year (JH). Other records: 1 killed by a cat a night at Moruya 14 Dec — specimen sent to AM (SM), 1 male at Jerusalem Creek near Ballina 17 May and 1 at Ballina STW 15 Nov - 12 Dec (JI).

Variegated Wren 5 at Bermagui 2 Feb — in spotted gum forest with mainly cycad understorey, and 1 near Barragoot Swamp 10 km S of Bermagui 27 Apr — in coastal sand dunes, banksia and dense understorey (LS, PS) were close to the southern limit of distribution.

Southern Emu-Wren Recorded at Mt. Clunie near Woodenbong 9 Apr and at Beaury SF 16 Apr (GH) — interesting northern highland localities.

Eastern Bristlebird Four birds seen in regeneration heath and scrubland between Carrington Falls and Ebbs Pass 23 Jan (CS).

Rock Warbler Recorded at Porters Creek Dam near Ulladulla 16 Jun (AMcB).

Speckled Warbler 2 near South Grafton 19 Oct (GC).

Weebill Recorded near South Grafton 7 Apr and 25 May, 1 near Ramornie 9 Aug (GC). 10 at Bronte, Sydney 1 Jun (JHR).

Brown Warbler Usually common around Moruya but only a few records this summer (SM). 1 in dry open forest near South Grafton 25 May, 1 in a garden at South Grafton 28 May (GC). 1 at Kooragang Island 8 Nov — singing in mangroves (FvG per HBOG).

Mangrove Warbler 1 at East Ballina 18 Apr, in Tuckeroo *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* — 150 m from the nearest mangroves (JI). Recorded at Swansea 29 Nov (DH).

Western Warbler 1 at Alheena 21 Dec, 1 seen 12 km S of Dubbo 22 Dec (MAC). 1 at Kyogle 10 Apr (GH). Arrival Coonabarabran 22 Aug, departure Warrumbungle NP 24 Jan (AKM).

Southern Whiteface Recorded at Capertee near Glen Davis 18 May (AMcB).

White-throated Warbler Arrival dates: South Grafton 29 Aug, Urunga 10 Sept, Warrell Point near Nambucca Heads 10 Sept (GC), Red Gables 10 Sept (RB), Armidale 11 Sept (SD), Coonabarabran 13 Sept (AKM), Warrimoo 14 Sept (PL), Glenreagh 14 Sept (GC), Hornsby Heights 21 Sept (Mcr), Penrith 29 Sept (PL), and Moruya 30 Sept (SM). Departure Dates: Warrimoo 10 Feb (PL), Coonabarabran 25 Mar (AKM), Red Gables 2 Apr (RB), Hornsby Heights 10 Apr (Mcr); 1 near South Grafton 7 April and 25 May (GC).

White-browed Treecreeper Very common at Mallee Cliffs NP 12-15 Jul (CS).

Red Wattlebird 70+ moving NNW at Winton near Bathurst 10 May — in small groups (GC).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Recorded at Capertee near Glen Davis 18 May — small flocks passing N overhead (AMcB). 500 at Wannara Creek 10 km E of White Cliffs 5 Nov (AR). 1 at Gunnedah 8 Oct (DCR). Several records in the Dunedoo-Elong area Feb-Apr, also several seen near Cumnock 1 Jun and 24 km N of Yeoval 3 Aug (WJB).

Noisy Friarbird 1000+ moving south through banksia scrub and heath at Red Rock NP 25 Apr (GC). Unusual numbers recorded in the Nowra region Oct-Nov (JH). Inland records: 2 at Tullamore, 4 at Tottenham, and 6 at Albert, all on 8 Nov (NWS).

Regent Honeyeater 1 in crimson bottlebrush in the main street of Kangaroo Valley township 9 Oct (JH). 4 at Burrendong Dam 27 Sept, feeding 2 young on nectar from *Grevillia longifolia*, 6 with 2 young at Glen Davis 15 Nov (CMB, TQ). 3 about 12 km N of Singleton 16 Aug (DCR).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater Abundant at Jellat Jellat 27 Aug - 4 Sept, with a marked southwards movement noted 31 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC).

Singing Honeyeater A pair frequenting Golden Cypress and wattle in gardens at Jellat Jellat 27 Aug - 4 Sept (GLC).

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater Usually common around Moruya but only a few records during 1980 (SM). 1 at Beacon Hill, Sydney 3 Feb (AL) — an unusual locality.

Fuscous Honeyeater Winter visitor at Moruya 13 Apr - 5 Aug (SM). At South Grafton, single birds on 28 Apr, 30 Apr, 27 May — observer's first local records (GC). Recorded at Deniliquin 12 Jul (PM).

White-plumed Honeyeater 1 at Barcoongere SF 3 May; at South Grafton 1-2 present between 1 May and 6 Aug — observer's first area records (GC). Minor influx to the Northern Tablelands May-June, including Llangothlin Lagoon near Guyra at about 1400 metres asl (SD).

Brown-headed Honeyeater Recorded at Port Macquarie 14 Jun (GH). Recorded at Hornsby Heights 26 Oct (MCR) and at Dawsons Hill 30 km N of Singleton Sept - Oct (DCR) — both were the respective observers' first local records in many years.

White-throated Honeyeater Recorded at Smoky Cape 4-6 Oct (GH) — close to the southern limits of the normal range.

Painted Honeyeater Present near Sandy Camp, Macquarie Marshes NR in Jan and again in Dec (MB per AKM). Present at Armidale from 16 Oct — display flight suggested breeding (SD). 1 male at Wyalong 12 Oct (AMcG). Common in redgum forests with mistletoe 20 km S of Deniliquin Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec (PM). Small flocks 18 km NW of Manildra 12 Oct, at Koolewong HS 16 km NW of Orange 14 Oct (CP per WJB), and near Abercrombie Caves 19 Oct (WJB) were all close to the SE limits of the normal distribution.

Crescent Honeyeater Reported as much more common than usual in the Blue Mts Apr-Aug (GB).

New Holland Honeyeater 2 in rainforest trees at Willowie Scrub, Washpool SF 9 Nov (GC). Much more common than usual in the Nowra region — numbers about double (JH), see comments under White-cheeked Honeyeater.

White-cheeked Honeyeater An irruption into the Nowra area 29 Sept - 15 Nov, which peaked in early Oct, was especially obvious in flowering crimson bottlebrush planted along streets in Nowra, Berry, and Kangaroo Valley. At the peak of the influx there were probably 200-300 birds in the built-up areas of these towns (JH), the Shoalhaven is approximately the southern limit of distribution for this species (but see *Corella* 2, 97-163). Single birds were also recorded at Tathra 29 Aug and 1 Sept, and at Bermagui 27 Aug (GLC).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater 1 at Moorebank, Sydney 29 Dec (AMcG) — an unusual suburban record.

Eastern Spinebill Single birds at South Grafton Apr - Jul (GC). In flocks at Cape Hawk, Forster 12 Jul — feeding on lantana flowers (DCR). Unusual numbers recorded in the Nowra region Oct-Nov (JH). Recorded at Deniliquin 12-30 Jul (PM).

Black Honeyeater 6 south of Bourke 3 Sept, 2 at Round Hill NR 4 Oct (NWS) and 9 Oct (RB). 30-40 at Wannara Creek 10 km E of White Cliffs 5 Nov (AR). Recorded 70 km N of Deniliquin 18 Oct and 120 km N of Deniliquin 19 Oct (PM). Several birds seen during banding operations between Dareton and Wentworth, a female mist-netted 5 Oct — reported also from the Victorian side of the Murray R. (CS).

Pied Honeyeater 4 (males and females) at Byrock 16 Aug — feeding on emu-bush (NWS).

Scarlet Honeyeater Nowra region: a few were in the area from 22 Jun, but irrupted into the street crimson bottlebrushes 7 Oct - 2 Nov, numbers about half those of White-cheeked Honeyeater (see comments under that species) (JH). 1 male at Leura Falls 18 May (JEN). Several Sydney records: 2 at Cumberland SF 28 Aug (CMB), 1 feeding on bottlebrush in a garden at Thornleigh 7 Oct (ES per MCr), 1 male at Thornleigh 30 Oct and 18 Nov — feeding on coachwood blossom along creek (BH), and a total of 29 recorded on the Sydney District Spring Bird Count on 1 Nov — see NSWFOC Newsletter 51, Suppl.

Crimson Chat Small flock at Tibooburra Airport 21-23 Sept (AKM). 10+ on Gumin Road just W of Warrumbungle NP 29 Oct (AKM). 2 near Gamboola 26 Dec (NWS). 2 south of Cobar 7 Oct (CMB). Nested both at Spring Creek Reservoir near Orange (two young produced but did not survive) 15 Nov - 9 Dec and 11 km NE of Orange (WJB).

Orange Chat 60+ near Sandy Camp on the eastern side of Macquarie Marshes NR 15 Jan (MB per AKM). Reported in spring and early summer from a number of localities, extending much further E than in most years, 3 at Mt Grenfell 4 Oct (RB), an adult male on Pleasant View HS 36 km SE of Coonamble 14 Sept (DJ, AKM), widespread and common throughout the Macquarie Marshes NR area during Oct - Dec, especially in areas where scotch thistle was common, breeding in Dec (MB, AKM), recorded at Tinderra Tank N of Cobar 3 Apr, breeding in Dec (MB, AKM), recorded at Tinderra Tank N of Cobar 3 Apr, breeding (nest with 2 eggs) near Wamboyne Hill, Lake Cowal 2 Oct (JW), many in the Wyalong area 12 Oct — certainly nesting by their actions (AMcG).

White-fronted Chat Up to 11 birds in two localities in the Foster-Tuncurry area 25 Feb - 6 Mar (AKM). 30+ seen in open field 3 km W of Jeerabung 16 Jan (NWS). Present at Spring Creek Reservoir near Orange 7 Feb - 26 Apr and 11 Oct - 14 Dec, also near Spring Terrace 27 Apr and 8 Dec — not often seen in the area (WJB).

Striated Pardalote *P. striatus* ("yellow-tipped" subspecies), 1 at South Grafton 5 Aug (GC), 1 at Hornsby Heights 6-31 Jul (MCr).

Beautiful Firetail 1 at Flat Rock Creek, Jervis Bay, ACT (JH), an unusual locality — see *Canberra Bird Notes* 5 (3) (JH).

Diamond Firetail 1 near South Grafton 7 Apr (GC). 1 stunned against windows at New Visitors Centre, Royal NP 23 Jan, bird subsequently recovered and released — appears to be the first record for the park since 1904 (DT).

Star Finch 3 at Bakers Lagoon 23 Feb (JP), and 1 adult same place 6 Jun (TQ).

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin Seen throughout the year in the Shoalhaven region, max 70 (including some juveniles) at Terara 25 Jun, nest building seen at Toolijooa 20 Oct – now well established in the Shoalhaven area (JH).

Common Mynah 2 seen 15 km S of Wollombi 20 Dec (DCR). South Coast records: seen throughout the year at Berry, Meroo, Shoalhaven Heads and Greenwell Point, with breeding noted at the latter place – obviously establishing itself in the Shoalhaven area (JH), a flock of 50+ seen on the edge of dense dry *schlerophyll* forest 25 km SW of Mittagong 20 Jan – no houses within several kilometres, also seen on the Wombeyan Caves Road 17 km from Mittagong 20 Jan (CS) – these localities are outside the limits of distribution given by Hone, *Emu* 78:227.

Green Figbird Departure Nowra 8 Apr, arrival 19 Aug, breeding noted at Greenwell Point as well as Nowra (JH).

Spangled Drongo Several autumn records at Armidale by local observers (SD). 1 at North Beach near Urunga 26 Aug (RB). 1 at Bennetts Green S of Newcastle 27 Jul (DCR). Sydney records: present in Royal NP 27 Apr - 1 Oct (DT), 1 at Narraweena 4 Jun (AL), 2 in Centennial Park, Sydney 31 May (JHR).

Masked Woodswallow A pair nesting at Cobbity Oct-Nov – the first breeding record in the Sydney area in thirty years (EH, AMcB). Numbers present in a movement of White-browed Woodswallow (qv) in the Nowra area 6-18 Oct (JH). Also reported at Goorianawa 14 Sept (AKM), Gulargambone 31 Jan (DB), near Cobar 7 Oct (moving S with White-browed Woodswallows, often settling to feed on the ground, CMB), and at least 1 in a large flock of White-browed Woodswallows at Orange 14 Apr (WJB).

White-browed Woodswallow Exceptional numbers reported from many places in eastern NSW, with breeding confirmed at several localities:

Moruya – fairly large flocks 29 Sept - 18 Nov (SM).

Braidwood – very large flocks appeared in late Oct or early Nov and bred everywhere about the town; “on 14 Dec I could find only two nests with eggs, but there were hundreds of birds about, some with flying young” (SM).

Nowra – a large movement through the area 6-18 Oct, 2 pairs bred near Comerong Island (see 1977 Report), and nest-site prospecting was noted many times, but most of the birds moved on (JH).

Sydney – reports from many observers at several places west of the city 10 Oct - 1 Nov (AMcG, LS, JEN *et al*), 6 pairs nesting near Cobbity 29 Oct (EH), and a pair nesting near Wilberforce 29 Oct (CMB), a total of 151 was recorded on the Sydney Bird Count 1 Nov – see NSWFOC Newsletter 51, Suppl.

Singleton – 100+ bred in scrub 15 km N of Singleton, they vanished after 100 mm rain fell in the area 28 Dec (DCR).

New England Tableland – 11 at Uralla 6 Sept, followed by an exceptional spring influx to the Armidale area (SD), numerous, breeding suspected at Gibraltar Range NP during Nov (GH).

Also noted at Mungo Brush 28 Sept (FvG per HBOG), Red Rock NP 18 Sept, Grafton area 19 Sept, Trenayr 21 Sept (GC), and East Ballina 22 Sept (JI).

Inland, movements were noted at Goolgowi 30 Aug (WEB, BWF, AL), Goorinawa 14 Sept, Coonabarabran 21 Sept (AKM), and near Cobar 7 Oct (CMB), also recorded at Orange 14 Apr (WJB).

Little Woodswallow Several at Toonumbar SF 12 Apr and 7 Jun (GH), and at Lightning Ridge 4 Jan (AL). A pair watched building a nest at Everdale HS 120 km SW of Cobar 3-4 Oct (CMB, RB).

Pied Currawong 30 at Condobolin 31 May - 1 Jun - apparently representing a winter movement down the Lachlan R. (NWS). "Several hundreds" seen in open plains up to 36 km W of Hay 18 Jul - some distance from the Murrumbidgee R. the main habitat of the species in this area (CS).

Forest Raven Common in Werrikimbe NP early Sept (SD) - this record fills the gap between Doyles R. and New England NP (see *Aust Bird Watcher* 8:194-198). 1 along a beach S of Port Macquarie 5 Sept (TQ). 2 at Mungo Brush 2 Aug (BH). 5 at Seal Rocks 28 Sept (FvG per HBOG).

Little Raven Several pairs found breeding at Barrington Tops in Jan and again in Nov (BH).

Torresian Crow Present at Armidale throughout the year, confirmed breeding Dec (contra Rowley, CSIRO *Wildl. Res.* 15, 27-71, who stated it to be an autumn visitor (SD). 1 recorded on the northern outskirts of Sydney during the Sydney Bird Count 1 Nov - see Newsletter 51, Suppl.

APPENDIX A

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS: 1978 REPORT

The following typographic and other errors have been brought to my attention:

In the list of contributors, the name G. Clancy is incorrectly spelled G. Clancey.

Osprey Only 1 pair at Iluka, not 2 as stated.

Masked Lapwing The record quoted concerns 1 bird of the southern subspecies *novaehollandiae* incubating eggs on the taxi runway at Tamworth airport, not of the nominate subspecies *miles* as stated.

Rainbow Bee-eater Coraki is a typographical error for Cobaki (on the Tweed R.).

Common Mynah The record at Peats Ridge should be attributed to GC, not GCP as shown.

APPENDIX B

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS: 1979 REPORT

Red-backed Kingfisher 1 was watched closely for about 10 minutes at Camden, just W of Sydney on 20 May (A.R. McGill) - this appears to be the fifth record for the County of Cumberland, see 1980 Report.

OCCURRENCE AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE TAHITI PETREL IN CENTRAL EASTERN AUSTRALIAN GLENN HOLMES

The distribution of the Tahiti Petrel *Pterodroma rostrata* is not adequately documented, King (1967) speculated that it occurs essentially in the south-west Pacific Ocean, west to the eastern coast of Australia. Recorded nesting localities include the Society Islands, Marquesas Islands and New Caledonia.

Tahiti Petrels were first identified in the waters of central eastern Australia near Swain Reefs and Marion Reef in July 1962 and near Kenn and Wreck Reefs in October 1963 (Norris 1967). The description of several unidentified petrels observed in the same region, south of Cato Island in October 1960 and November 1961 (see Hindwood *et al.* 1963, p. 8), clearly indicates that they were also Tahiti Petrels. Beach-washed specimens were found in south-eastern Queensland at Fraser Island in May 1969 (QM011165, see McKean and Vernon 1970) and at North Stradbroke Island in March 1974 (QM015341, see Corben 1975). In north-eastern New South Wales, I observed Tahiti Petrels in continental shelf waters near Coffs Harbour in December 1975, December 1976 and April 1977 and obtained additional reports from professional fisherman R.C. Smith in January and March 1976 and January 1977 (see details in Rogers 1976, 1977; and Rogers and Lindsey 1978). Another record concerns one bird off Ballina in March 1980 (J. Izzard, pers. comm.).

Occurrence of the Tahiti Petrel in the offshore waters of northern New South Wales exemplifies the influence of the complex East Australian Current. This current, which transports Coral Sea water southward by residual drift, is strongest and most persistent during January and February and least intense from May to Aug (Hamon *et al.* 1975). From 1974 to 1977 I recorded surface temperatures exceeding 25 degrees C only from December to April, corresponding to the period when Tahiti Petrels have been observed.

Standard references concerning seabirds (e.g. Alexander 1955, King 1967, Harper and Kinsky 1978) describe the Tahiti Petrel as moderately large, with upperparts, underwings, throat and upper breast sooty brown, sharply demarcated from the white abdomen and undertail coverts. These characters were described for birds observed by Norris (1967). Birds observed by Hindwood *et al.* (1963) differed by the possession of a white underwing stripe. Consequently they were not accorded a specific identity. However, in both specimens from south-eastern Queensland and all birds observed in north-eastern New South Wales, there is a conspicuous white underwing stripe extending from the axillaries to the base of the primaries. Accordingly, it seems reasonable to conclude that at least two forms of the Tahiti Petrel occur in eastern Australia. A small form *P.r. becki* has also been described, known only from specimens collected near the Solomon Islands (Mayr 1945).

REFERENCES

- Alexander, W.B. 1955. *Birds of the Ocean*. New York: Putnam.
- Corben, C. 1975. Number of beach-washed birds for 1973 and 1974 at Main Beach, Stradbroke Island, south-east Queensland. *Aust. Seabird Group Newsl.* 6, 8.
- Hamon, B.V., J.S. Godfrey and M.A. Greig. 1975. Relation between mean sea level, current and wind stress on the east coast of Australia. *Aust. J. Mar. Freshwat. Res.* 26, 389-403.
- Harper, P.C. and F.C. Kinsky. 1978. *Southern Albatrosses and Petrels*. Melbourne: Price.
- Hindwood, K.A., K. Keith and D.L. Serventy. 1963. *Birds of the South-west Coral Sea*. CSIRO Div. Wildl. Res. Tech. Paper No. 3.
- King, W.B. 1967. *Seabirds of the Tropical Pacific Ocean*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Inst.
- Mayr, E. 1945 *Birds of the Southwest Pacific*. New York: Macmillan.
- McKean, J.L. and D.P. Vernon, 1970. New records of tube-nosed birds (Order Procellariiformes) from Queensland. *Mem. Old. Mus.* 16, 141-144.
- Norris, A.Y. 1967. Seabird observations from the south-west Pacific in the southern winter. *Emu* 67, 33-54.
- Rogers, A.E.F. 1976 N.S.W. Bird Report for 1975. *Aust. Birds* 10, 61-84.
- Rogers, A.E.F. 1977. N.S.W. Bird Report for 1976. *Aust. Birds* 11, 81-104.
- Rogers, A.E.F. and T.R. Lindsey. 1978. N.S.W. Bird Report for 1977. *Aust. Birds* 12, 1-22.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors are requested to observe the following points when submitting articles and notes for publication.

1. Species, names, and the order in which they occur are to be in accordance with "Handlist of Birds in New South Wales". A.K.Morris, A.R.McGill and G. Holmes 1981 Dubbo: NSWFOC.
2. Articles or notes should be typewritten if possible and submitted in duplicate. Double spacing is required.
3. Margins of not less than 25mm width at the left hand side and top, with similar of slightly smaller at the right hand side of pages.
4. No underlinings and no abbreviations except as shown in the examples.
5. Photographs should be glossy finish and not too small.
6. The *Style Manual*, Commonwealth Government Printing Office, Canberra (1966) and subsequent editions will be the guide for this Journal.
7. Diagrams should be on plain white paper drawn with india ink. Any lettering is to be 'professional style' or lightly pencilled.
8. Dates must be written "1 January 1975" except in tables and figures where they may be abbreviated.
9. The 24-hour clock will be used, times being written 06:30, 18:30 for 6.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. respectively.
10. Mr, Mrs, Dr are not followed by a full stop.
11. In text, numbers one to ten are spelt; numbers of five figures or more should be grouped in threes and spaced by a thin gap. Commas should not be used as thousands markers.
12. References to other articles should be shown in the text—'...B.W. Finch and M.D. Bruce (1974) stated...' and under heading

REFERENCES

Finch, B.W. and M.D. Bruce 1974 The Status of the Blue Petrel in Australian Waters
Aust. Birds **9**, 32–35

13. Acknowledgements to other individuals should include Christian names or initials.

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

CONTENTS

Lindsey, T.R.	N.S.W. Bird Report for 1980	1
	Contributors	2
	Systematic List	3
Holmes, Glenn	Occurrence and Identification of the Tahiti Petrel in central eastern Australia	24

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH0790