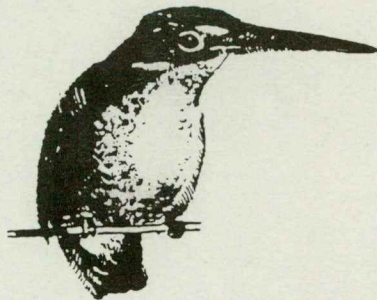


AUSTRALIAN BIRDS



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

Volume 22, No.1&2

May 1989

ISSN 0311-8150

NEW SOUTH WALES FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CLUB

OFFICE BEARERS

President	P.E.Roberts
Vice-President	A.K.Morris
Secretary	F.Brown
Assistant Secretary	N.Maxwell
Minutes Secretary	M.Sach
Treasurer	R.Morrow
Records Officer	R.Cooper
Activities Officer	A.O.Richards
Conservation Officer	E.Karplus
Editor,Australian Birds	R.Cooper
Editor,Newsletter	T.Karplus
Committee Members	P.Davie
	S.Fairbairn
	J.Ironside
	N.McKelvie
	D.Siems

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 1 July each year) are:

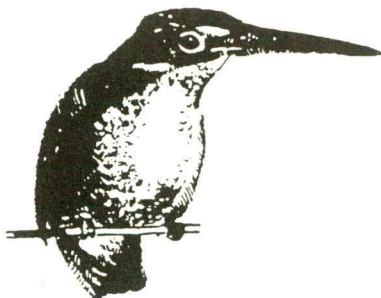
Adult Member	\$20.00
Junior Member (up to 17 years)	\$10.00

All members receive a quarterly newsletter and a copy of the quarterly journal 'Australian Birds'. The price of the journal is \$5.00 plus postage per issue to non members. Club badges are available to club members at \$2.50 or \$3.00 if posted. The club holds a meeting and a field excursion each month.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary and all membership fees should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at: PO Box C436, Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000.

Manuscripts should be sent to the Editor at: PO Box C436, Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000.

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS



Volume 22, Nos.1 & 2 May 1989

1985 NEW SOUTH WALES BIRD REPORT

R.M.Cooper

This report, the sixteenth annual NSW Bird Report, covers the period 1 January to 31 December 1985. It summarises the more significant observations of birds in New South Wales during the 1985 calendar year.

The main aims of the NSW Bird Report are:

- . to record reports of observations of species accidental or rare to NSW;
- . to record observations which more precisely define the normal distributions of the birds within NSW; and
- . to record observations which may indicate changes in species' numbers, frequency, range or movements.

With a change of Records Officer, one might anticipate some differences in the form of the report. Most of the conventions applied previously remain. But let me assure you that changes do exist. One variation in this report's format from its predecessors is that in the more recent reports, observations have been arranged according to 17 State regions. This method is not followed here, though the general presentation of observations follows a north-south pattern.

A Location Guide is provided as Appendix 2 to help readers more accurately establish the general location of reported observations. The Guide is not precise and I would welcome more precise information on any location.

Another variation is that only the person(s) reporting a particular observation is mentioned in the Systematic List. All persons notified as having been present at the time of observation, however, are included in the List of Contributors (see Appendix 1).

There are a number of new, unusual or otherwise significant records in the report. These include Light-mantled Albatross, Kermadec Petrel, Kerguelen Petrel, Blue-footed Petrel, Juan Fernandez Petrel, Grey Petrel, Streaked Shearwater, Grey-backed Storm-petrel, White-bellied Storm-Petrel, Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Magpie Goose, Wandering Whistling-Duck, large numbers of Freckled Duck, Red Goshawk, large numbers of Bustard, Asiatic Dowitcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Sabine's Gull, Black-eared Miner (or hybrids thereof), Purple-gaped Honeyeater and Olive-backed Sunbird.

Full details of some of these records have never been published nor has supporting notes or other evidence been submitted to the Records Officer as part of the report process. The failure to properly report such sightings is detrimental to the accumulation of information about the birds occurring in New South Wales.

In the ordinary course of a report such as this, it would not be inappropriate to omit such records, however, I have refrained from doing so on this occasion for two reasons. Firstly, each of the observations is generally widely known; and, secondly, this situation has meant that now, four years later and simply because of the passage of time, such records have gained a degree of credibility which may not be warranted.

So inclusion in this report is intended to highlight the short-comings of such records rather than validate them. On the other hand, I do not want to suggest the observations are in error. I would like to be able to assure readers that each observation is entirely satisfactory but, as indicated, I cannot do this.

The difficulty is a growing one and appears, I am afraid, to be a sign of the times. The growth in twitching appears to be creating this trend towards avoidance of detailed reports on 'new' birds. The long list of sightings of the Hudsonian Godwit at Stockton is a good example of this situation. More than 6 years have passed since the first sightings and still there is no proper, documented record of either the first Australian record or any of the subsequent sightings.

The point is that for rare species especially simply seeing a bird and saying you have seen it is not good enough. Nor is it sufficient to merely include a note of the observation in the monthly unusual records list, in the RAOU Newsletter's "Twitchers' Corner", the Bird Observer's Unusual Sightings Reports series or even to submit the sighting to a records appraisal committee.

The only practical course is to arrange publication of a full description of the observation in a suitable periodical, e.g. "Australian Birds".

There is a separate matter about which I ask for the support and assistance of all contributors. You will all appreciate that preparation of the report is very time consuming, but, this situation could be improved markedly - with your help.

What I would ask from each contributor is that they submit records in taxonomic order and, then, in regional order within each species (the regions are shown in Fig. 1. Aust. Birds 20:98). If contributors can assist in this way, the whole preparation process can be simplified enormously and save considerable production time. The result would be that reports could be produced on a more timely basis and, I am sure, this would be a benefit to everyone.

Abbreviations are as used in previous reports and other conventions are as explained in the 1983 Report (Aust. Birds 19:65-100), including the organisation of observations according to 17 state regions.

I wish to thank Ian McAllan and Alan Morris for their information and advice. I am also grateful to Alan Morris for his assistance with the compilation of the Location Guide.

I hope YOU find the report useful.

NEW SOUTH WALES ANNUAL BIRD REPORT - 1985

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae* Iluka: 4, in NR, 30 Mar., (CJC); 3, 26 Oct.; 1, immature, 27 Oct., (GC); 3, Mann R., 27 May, (HH). It is likely the latter birds are captive. 80+, approx. 10 km E. of Walgett, 25 July (DR); 2, 15 km. S. Merriwa, 18 Dec., (IMcA).

Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus* Adult with 2 young, Dangar's Lagoon, 16 Nov., (HH). Southern Tablelands: Populations on dams in this region are considered to be of major importance in NSW (pers comm., AKM). Wingecarribee Dam: 126, 5 May; 175, 16 June, (CJC); Raft exceeding 1500, 20 July, (AMcB); 30, 17 Aug., (CJC); Fitzroy Reservoir: 12, 16 June; 6, 12 Oct., (CJC); 2 nesting pairs, Cecil Hoskins NR, 7 Dec., (CJC).

Hoary-headed Grebe, *Podiceps poliocephalus* 2000-3000, Morpeth STW, 27 Apr. (HBOC, AMcB), an exceptional number. 7, Stinkpot Bay, 29 May, (AKM); 1, on stock dam NW of Lake Garnpung, 21 Feb., (IMcA); 4 nesting pairs, Comanditchie Lagoon, 5 Jan.; Winge-carrabee Dam: 200+, 5 May; 250+, 16 June; 200+, Fitzroy Reservoir, 16 June; 30, Comerong Is., 23 June, (CJC).

Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor* 3+, came ashore, North Head, 28 Sept., (AT); 2 adults came ashore to burrow containing 2 large downy chicks, other birds seen/heard, North Head, 27 Dec., (AT); 1, nr. Mascot Airport runway, 14 June, (BD).

Royal Albatross, *Diomedea e. epomophora* 1, off Wollongong, 28 July, (AMcB).

Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans* Sydney: 1, off Long Reef, 13 July; 1, c. 10 km off Sydney, 25 May. (IMcA); 1, off Sydney Heads, 23 June, (AKM); 1, in Sydney Harbour, 29 June; 1, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July, (IMcA). Illawarra: 10, off Wollongong, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

Black-browed Albatross, *Diomedea melanophrys* 1, beach-washed, Station Crk, 20 Oct., (GC). Sydney: at sea, c.10, incl. some *impavida*, off Sydney Heads, 27 Apr., (IMcA); c. 10, off Sydney, 25 May; low numbers reported, from < 10 km off Sydney to c. 40 km, 29 June; 1, off Long Reef, 13 July; 30+, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July; and low numbers again observed off Sydney (from c. 15 km to Continental Shelf), 24 Aug., (IMcA); 2, off Sydney Heads, 14 June, (AKM); c 50, but only two of the race *impavida*, off Wollongong, 10 Aug., (AEFR).

Grey-headed Albatross, *Diomedea chrysostoma* 1, off Wollongong, 26 May, (MJC), (see TBO 643: 75).

Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Diomedea chlororhynchos* 2, off Nambucca Heads, 27 July, (DS). Sydney: 1, off Long Reef, 13 July; low numbers reported off Sydney 25 May- 24 Aug max 30+ 29 June (IMcA). Illawarra: 30+, off Wollongong, 10 Aug., (AEFR); 1, beachwashed, North Shellharbour, 16 March, (CJC).

Shy Albatross, *Diomedea cauta* 1, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July; 1, c. 15 km off Sydney, 24 Aug., (IMcA); 15 - 20, off Wollongong, 10 Aug., incl. 1, *salvini* race, and 10, 21 Sept., (AMcB,AEFR).

Buller's Albatross, *Diomedea bulleri* 1, off Wollongong, 2nd, 3rd and 23rd Sept., (AMcB). Details not supplied.

Sooty Albatross, *Phoebastria fusca* 1, off Wollongong, 25 May, (MJC), (see TBO 643: 75).

Light-mantled Albatross, *Phoebastria palpebrata* 3 beachwashed birds Ballina - Evans Head, 11 - 12 July, (GH). Illawarra: 1, off Wollongong, 21 Sept. and 27 Oct., (AMcB). Details not supplied. If confirmed, these birds comprise the 6th, 7th and 8th NSW records.

Southern Giant-petrel, *Macronectes giganteus* 1, Myall River, 8 July. (MTR), an exceptional record. Newcastle Region: 1, US banded, caught and released, off Swansea, 11 Aug., details of band not provided. (HBOC). Sydney Region: 1, white phase, Long Reef, 13 July, (AMcB); 1, c. 10 km off Sydney, 25 May. (IMcA); 2, off Sydney Heads, 7 June, (AKM); 1, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July; 5+, off Sydney (from bet. 5 km to beyond Continental Shelf), 24 Aug., (IMcA). Illawarra: 8, off Wollongong, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

Northern Giant-petrel, *Macronectes halli* 1, c. 10 km off Kurnell, 25 May; 4, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July, (IMcA); 12, off Wollongong, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

Southern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis* 1, off Wollongong, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

White-necked Petrel, *Pterodroma cervicalis* 1, Ballina, 9 Feb., (GH), 9th NSW record, Dec. - Apr. period is consistent with previous records.

Providence Petrel, *Pterodroma solandri* 1, beachwashed, Wardell, 10 July, (GH). Newcastle Region: 1, Newcastle Beach, 25 Nov., died later (HBOC). Sydney Region: c. 20, off Sydney Heads, 27 Apr.; low numbers reported, from c. 20 km off Sydney, 29 June; 5+, off Sydney (from c. 15 km to Continental Shelf), 24 Aug., (IMcA). Illawarra Region: Off Wollongong, from 5 - 70, 23 Mar. to 21 Apr., (AMcB) (see also TBO 641); 50, 26 May, (see TBO 643), (MJC); 15+, 10 Aug., (AEFR); c.20, 24 and 25 Aug.; 10, 21 Sept.; 1, 23 and 29 Nov., (AMcB). All observations consistent with known occurrences.

Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera* 1985 was an exceptional year for NSW reports of this species, as indicated by the following. 1, beachwashed, Iluka Beach, 31 Mar.; 2 beachwashed birds, Station Crk., 4 Apr., (CJC). Sydney: 5+, off Sydney Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR); 2, in Sydney Harbour (to Laings Point), one found dead later on Camp Cove Beach, 23 Feb., (see Aust. Birds 20:92), (AKM); seen, at Continental Shelf off Sydney Heads, 27 Apr., (IMcA); 1 (dead), Dee Why Beach, 27 Oct., (DSa). Illawarra: 60+, bet. Wollongong and Jervis Bay, 10 Feb.; off Wollongong, 40+, 24 Mar.; 80, 20 Apr.; numbers ranged from 2 to 300+, over 5 trips bet. 25 Aug. and 14 Dec., max. number on 24 Nov., (AMcB); 6 beachwashed birds, South Wollongong Beach, 27 Mar.; 15 beach-washed birds, Port Kembla Beach, 28 Mar., (CJC).

White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii* Illawarra: 1, bet. Wollongong and Jervis Bay, 10 Feb., (AMcB). Off Wollongong, 1, 20 Apr. (AMcB); 6, 26 May; 2, 27 May, (see TBO 643:76), (MJC); 1, 29 June, and 27 July.; 20+, 28 July; 2, 24 Aug.; 8, 25 Aug.; 15, 21 Sept.; 6, 27 Oct., (AMcB); and 1, 16 Dec., (CJC). More records than usual but are consistent with known occurrences.

Kermadec Petrel, *Pterodroma neglecta* Illawarra: Off Wollongong, 1, intermediate phase, 20 Apr. (AMcB); 7, 21 Apr., (AMcB,CJC). First records since 1976. Details not supplied or published, if confirmed, would be represent the 4th and 5th NSW records.

Kerguelen Petrel, *Pterodroma brevirostris* 1, c.40 km off Wollongong, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis* 1, Byron Bay, 10 July, (JW), (see TBO 645); 2, off Wollongong, 10 Aug., (AMcB). Details not supplied or published, if confirmed, would be represent the first and second NSW records.

Black-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma nigripennis* Sydney: 1, c. 22 km off Sydney, 27 Apr., (IMcA,DLa). Illawarra: off Wollongong, 1, 20 Apr.; 7, 21 Apr., (AMcB).

Juán Fernandez Petrel, *Pterodroma externa* 1, off Wollongong, 10 Aug., (AMcB,AEFR), (see TBO 645:99). There are no published, verifiable details of this record which, if confirmed, would be the first NSW and second Australian record.

Blue-footed Petrel, *Pterodroma cookii* 1, c. 13 - 15 km off Sydney, 25 May. (IMcA,DLa). Illawarra: 1 - 2, bet. Wollongong and Jervis Bay, 9 Feb., (AMcB); off Wollongong, 1, 20 and 21 Apr., and 27 Oct., (AMcB,CJC). Details only supplied for first report. If all confirmed then represent the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th NSW records.

Gould Petrel, *Pterodroma leucoptera* 1, beachwashed, Ballina, 29 Mar., (GH). Sydney: 1, at sea, 26 Jan., (AMcB). Illawarra: off Wollongong, 1, 26 Jan., 11, 27 Jan., 3, 24 Mar.; 20+, 20 Apr.; (AMcB); 80 - 100+, 21 Apr., (AMcB,CJC); 2, bet. Wollongong and Jervis Bay, 9 and 10 Feb., (AMcB); 1, beachwashed, South Wollongong Beach, 27 March, (CJC); 1, dead, Boambee Beach, 10 May, (BL). The numbers off Wollongong probably represent part of the post breeding dispersal of the Cabbage Tree Island population, though race of Boambee bird not noted.

Slender-billed Prion, *Pachyptila belcheri* 50+, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July, (IMcA). Illawarra: Off Wollongong, 5, 27 July; 3, 28 July; 2, 10 Aug.; 1, 25 Aug., (MJC per AMcB). 1, Green Cape, 22 Aug., (GH). Prior to these reports there have been few observations of birds at sea due to identification difficulties.

Fairy Prion, *Pachyptila turtur* 1, c. 10 km off Kurnell, 25 May; low numbers reported, 29 June; 50+, < 10 km. off Sydney, 27 July; 1, beach-washed, Long Reef, 13 July; low numbers observed nr Continental Shelf, off Sydney, 24 Aug., (IMcA).

Dove-type Prion, *Pachyptila* sp. Illawarra: off Wollongong, 2, 27 July; 2, 10 Aug.; 20, 24 Aug.; and 5, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

Grey Petrel, *Procellaria cinerea* 1, beach-washed, Ballina, 2 Feb., (JI), (see TBO 641). Details not supplied or published, if confirmed, this would be the first NSW record.

White-chinned Petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis* Illawarra: 1, off Wollongong, 2 Nov., (AMcB). Details not supplied.

Black Petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni* 2, c. 10 km off Sydney Heads, 27 Apr., (IMcA,DLa). Details supplied. Illawarra: 2, bet. Wollongong and Jervis Bay, 9 Feb.; 1, off Wollongong, 24 Feb., 27 Oct., 2 Nov., 3 Nov., 23 Nov. and 24 Nov. (AMcB). Details not supplied.

Streaked Shearwater, *Calonectris leucomelas* 1, Ballina, 1 Feb., (GH). Illawarra: Off Wollongong, 1, 27 Jan. and 24 Feb., (AMcB), (see Aust. Birds, 19: 50 - 51); 1, 28 Jan., (MJC), (see TBO 641); 1, beachwashed, South Wollongong Beach, 27 Mar., (CJC). Constitute 8th - 12th NSW records.

Fleshy-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes* Abt. 40, bet. c. 5 km off Sydney and Continental Shelf, 27 Apr., (IMcA); 1, beachwashed, South Wollongong Beach, 27 Mar., (CJC).

Buller's Shearwater, *Puffinus bulleri* Ballina: 1, beachwashed, 21 Jan.; 1, 17 Feb., 22 Feb. and 10 Mar., (GH). Illawarra: 1, off Wollongong, 24 Feb., (MJC,AMcB), (see TBO 641); 1, on 4 occasions bet. 3 Nov. and 14 Dec., (AMcB). All reports consistent with known occurrences.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus* Sydney: 1, Long Reef, 4 May, (AMcB); Abt. 20, bet. c. 5 km off Sydney and Continental Shelf, 27 Apr., (IMcA); 100+, off Sydney (bet. c. 5 km to beyond Continental Shelf), 24 Aug., (IMcA). All relatively late dates for this species.

Fluttering Shearwater, *Puffinus gavia* Newcastle: 6+, nr mouth of Hunter R., 10 Aug., (IMcA). Regularly sighted between <5 km to Continental Shelf, 25 May; 40+, <10 km. off Sydney, 27 July; 100's, off Sydney (bet. c. 5 km to beyond Continental Shelf), 24 Aug.; 1, in Sydney Harbour, 29 June, (IMcA).

Hutton's Shearwater, *Puffinus huttoni* Sydney: Off Sydney: 10, off Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR,AMcB); 2, <10 km., 27 July; 100's, bet. c. 5 km to beyond Continental Shelf, 24 Aug., (IMcA); 1, Long Reef, 23 Sept. and 3, 10 Nov., (AMcB). Illawarra: off Wollongong, 10+, 24 Feb.; 3, 21 Apr., (AMcB); 1 - c.200, bet. 10 Aug. and 14 Dec., (AEFR,AMcB).

Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis* 1, beach-washed, Long Reef, 13 July.

Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus* 1, beach-washed, Illaroo, 5 Dec., (GC). Sydney: Off Sydney: 2, off Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR); Abt. 40, bet. c. 10 km off Sydney and Continental Shelf, 27 Apr., (IMcA). Illawarra: off Wollongong 10, 23 Nov.; 20, 24 Nov., (AMcB).

Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus* 6, Seal Rocks, 12 May (HBOC). No known previous records for mid-North Coast. Sydney: off Sydney, 5, 26 Jan.; 20+, 23 Feb., (AMcB); 100's, widely distributed and all travelling N (from 5+ km off Sydney Heads to beyond Continental Shelf), 27 Apr., (IMcA,DLA). Similar numbers reported by the WA RAOU seabird group at about this time, (see The West Australian, 27 Apr. 1985). Illawarra: off Wollongong, 70 - 80, 21 Apr.; 1 - 20, bet. 24 Aug. and 14 Dec., (AMcB). (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Black-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregatta tropica* 1 - 2, c.32 - 40 km off Wollongong, 21 Sept., (AMcB). Details not supplied or published. Various researchers suggest field recognition, from the White-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregatta grallaria*, of this species cannot be assured. (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Grey-backed Storm-petrel, *Oceanites nereis* 3, off Wollongong, 27 July, (AMcB). Details not supplied or published, if confirmed, would be the fourth NSW record. (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* 1, Ballina, 9 Feb., (GH); 3, c. 15 km off Sydney Heads, and 1, at Continental Shelf, 27 Apr., (IMcA). Illawarra: off Wollongong c.20, 10 Aug., (AEFR); 5, 24 Aug.; 15, 25 Aug.; 3 - 8, 23 Nov. - 14 Dec., (AMcB); 1, Green Cape, 22 Aug., (GH). (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

White-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregatta grallaria* Illawarra: Off Wollongong, 1, 26 May, (MJC); 2, 10 Aug.; 1, 21 Sept., (AMcB). Details not supplied or published, if confirmed, would comprise the 7th, 8th and 9th NSW records. Various researchers suggest field recognition, from the Black-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregatta tropica*, of this species cannot be assured. (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Red-tailed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon rubricauda* 1, Mount Moonbil, followed very strong SE gales during previous 7 days, 12 July, (BL). Inland records occasionally occur. 1, off Wollongong, 21 Apr., (AMcB,CJC).

White-tailed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon lepturus* Coffs Harbour: 1, flying over, March; 16, 25 Sept., (MLS,SPW), (see Aust. Birds 21:60). Illawarra: 1, beachwashed, South Wollongong Beach, 27 March; 3 beachwashed birds, Port Kembla Beach, 28 March, (CJC).

Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel* 1, c.10 km off Sydney Heads, 23 Feb., (AMcB,AEFR).

Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo* Breeding colonies during year, Shortland and Seaham Swamps (HBOC); Approx. 1000 pairs nesting, Lake Bullogal, January (PM);

Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius* 70, roosting in Quibray Bay and Wheeney Bay, 8 Feb., (AKM); Approx. 5 pairs nesting, Lake Bullogal, January (PM); 1, on pool of snowmelt at c.1750 m on Perisher Valley - Charlotte Pass Rd., 26 Oct. (BD);

Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* Breeding colonies during year, Shortland and Seaham Swamps (HBOC); 4 pairs nesting, The Lakes Golf Course, 1 June, (AKM,BV); 1, Coombie Hsd., 8 Aug., was unusual for this locality, (JaH); Approx. 500 pairs nesting, 30 km SW of Booligal, January (PM).

Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* Newcastle: Breeding colonies during year, Shortland and Seaham Swamps (HBOC). Illawarra: 4 - 6 pairs, breeding, Bellambi Lagoon, Wollongong, Oct. '84 - Mar. '85 and Nov. - Dec. '85, (KAW), (Aust. Birds 21: 66 - 69), first breeding record for County of Camden. Approx. 1500 pairs nesting, in swamp off Lachlan River, 30 km SW of Booligal, January (PM).

Australian Darter, *Anhinga novaehollandiae* 1, Coombie Hsd., 4 - 5 Apr., and again in Oct., were unusual for this locality, (JaH). Sydney: 6, Towra Point, 25 Jan., (AKM). Illawarra: 2, Nowra SW, 12 Feb.; 1, Numbaa Is., 7 July; 4, Maquarie Rivulet, 7 Oct.; and 1, Bamerang, 21 Nov., (CJC). These are an unusually large number for this region. Approx. 80 pairs nesting, 30 km SW of Booligal, January (PM).

Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra* 1, Ballina, 21 May, (GH). 5th NSW record.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* Illawarra: 1, off Wollongong, 23 Mar. (AMcB,CJC); 1, off Windang Is., 30 Nov., (CJC). Reports south of Port Stephens are rare.

Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus* 3000+ pairs nesting, Lake Brewster, Jan. - May, (AKM); Small colony, Martins Is., Five Islands NR, Oct. '84 - Jan. '85, (HB,AJL,LES), (see Aust. Birds 20: 61-62); Max. 368, 25 June, and 446, 29 July, Wentworth, feeding on dead or dying Bony Bream, (JH).

Pacific Heron, *Ardea pacifica* Approx. 300 pairs nesting, in 2 swamps near Booligal, January (PM); 1, Faulconbridge, unusual locally, 27 Jan., (AT); 1, flushed from small swamp in heathland, North Head, SHNP, 25 June (AKM); 26, soaring, Narrandera - Jerilderie Rd, 29 Sept., (KH); 2 small colonies in Moruya area, Nov. - Dec., (SM), (see Aust. Birds 21:3).

Great Egret, *Egretta alba* Approx. 750 pairs nesting, in 2 swamps near Booligal, January (PM); breeding colonies during year, Shortland and Seaham Swamps (HBOC).

Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia* 1, Coombie Hsd., 1 Dec., was unusual for this locality, (JaH); Approx. 605 pairs nesting, in 2 swamps near Booligal, January (PM); breeding colonies during year, Shortland and Seaham Swamps (HBOC).

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* Approx. 12 pairs nesting, in 2 swamps near Booligal, January (PM); breeding colonies during year, Shortland and Seaham Swamps (HBOC); 2, Fivebough Swamp, 14 Dec., not common this area, (KH).

Cattle Egret, *Ardeola ibis* 3, Monkeygar Crk, 25 Nov., (AnL). Newcastle: An estimated 150 - 200, Seaham Swamp, 16 Jan. (AEFR); Shortland and Seaham Swamps colonies bred during year, (HBOC,IMcA); 1200+, Hexham, 19 Apr. (EF). Sydney: Upto 18, Roses Crk, Dharug NP, 6 Apr. - 11 May; 16, St Albans Common, 17 Mar.; 41, Lower McDonald R, 16 Apr.; Upto 41, Gunderman, 1 May - 21 Aug., (GC); 130+ feeding with Straw-necked and Sacred Ibis, Richmond, 9 June (AEFR); 16, Leeton, 16 Sept. then seen regularly in district throughout summer, (KH); 360, at night roost, considered to be the total winter population in the Shoalhaven area, Numbaa, 26 May, (JH).

Reef Heron, *Egretta sacra* 1, Station Creek Beach, 30 Mar., (CJC); Black Head: 1, 8 Apr.; 2, 16 Apr.; and 2, single birds, 10 Sept., (CJC); 1, Murray's Beach, 17 Sept., (CJC);

Mangrove Heron, *Butorides striatus* Newcastle: 6, Swansea, 19 Apr. (EF). Sydney: Dharug NP: 1 - 2, Hazel Dell, 11 Feb. - 18 Mar., first park records, (GC); 1, Homebush Bay, 3 Nov., (SJG); Observations of this species in Parramatta R suggest some improvements are being achieved in water quality and habitat preservation in this area. Illawarra: 1, Comerong Is., 27 May (JH); 1, Nowra Creek, 20 June, (CJC).

Rufous Night-heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus* Approx. 4000 pairs nesting, in 2 swamps near Booligal, January, (PM), an exceptional breeding colony. 1, Fivebough Swamp, 20 and 27 Jan., (KH); Juvenile bird, Mungo NP, 24 Feb., found dead on 27 Feb., (IMcA).

Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus* 1, Shortland Swamp, 10 Nov. (HBOC), first record for the Wetland Centre; 1, nr Deniliquin, 12 Jan., (CJC); Several pairs heard and seen in Deniliquin area during November (PM).

Black Bittern, *Dupetor flavicollis* 1, nr Macksville, 24 Mar.; 1, Valla, 3 July, (DS); 1, Hyde Creek, 27 Apr. (BL); 1, Wyong R., 2 Feb., (AMcB); 1, Bakers Lagoon, 9 Mar., (AMcB); 1, immature, Mowll Village, Castle Hill, 27 July, (IMcA). A small number of reports in comparison with recent years.

Brown Bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus* 1, Shortland Swamp, 3 Feb. (HBOC); Booming call heard, 4 Jan., Mill Crk, Dharug NP, considered to be from this species, (GC); 1, seen regularly, Kurnell area, 1 - 15 June (AKM); 1, Woollooware Swamps, 3 Aug., (AMcB); 1, Killalea Lagoon, 3 Mar., (CJC); 1, Shellharbour STW, bet. 26 May and 15 June, (CJC); 1, nr Windang, 16 June, (AMcB).

Jabiru, *Xenorhynchus asiaticus* 3, Tucabia, 3 Apr., (CJC); Numerous sightings in Grafton-Glenugie-Coutts Crossing area, 3 Apr. - 24 Nov., (GC); More sightings this year in Nambucca Valley than prior 5 years: Adult with immature, 7 Oct., (DS); 2, Manning Point, 28 July, (DG); 1, Seaham, 16 Nov. (HBOC).

Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus* 1, nr Coutts Crossing, 16 Oct., (GC); 1, Macksville, 6 Oct., (DS); Flock, Armidale, 31 Jan. and 2 Mar., (SD); 1, Racecourse Lagoon, 9 Mar., (SD). Newcastle: 18, Minml, 22 Jan. (HBOC); 100+, at temporary surface water bet. Tarro-Hexham-Shortland, 20 May (PAB); 1, Tarro, 9 June (HBOC). Sydney: 6, Bushells Lagoon, 23 Feb., (AT); McGraths Hill, 9, 28 Jan., (DSm); 13, 9 Feb., (AT); 3, Cattai SRA, 1 Apr., (LJH). Illawarra Region: 5, Maquarie Rivulet, 7 Oct., (CJC). Approx. 2000 pairs nesting on Little Wood Hsd., January (PM); 400 - 500, roosting, Fivebough Swamp, Jan. and Feb., (KH); 38, Barham - Moulamein road, 13 Jan. (EBT); 16, 'Cambria', 2 Oct., (EBT).

White Ibis, *Threskiornis aethiopica* Sydney: Royal Botanic Gardens: c. 20 active nests, 10 Sept., (IMcA); cf. around 320 birds and at least 60 active nests were seen in a count lasting just over 1 hour on 26 Sept. (EF); 232, in salt marsh and exposed seagrass beds from Quibray Bay to Woollooware Bay, (Observer's highest recorded number), 29 May (AKM).

White Ibis/Straw-necked Ibis, *Threskiornis aethiopica* and *Threskiornis spinicollis* Bet. 40,000 and 50,000 pairs nesting on Little Wood Hsd., January. Majority of breeding birds were Straw-necked Ibis (PM).

Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia* Approx. 50 pairs nesting, 30 km SW of Booligal, January (PM); c. 50, Longneck Lagoon, 10 Feb., (AT).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill, *Platalea flavipes* Illawarra: 2, Toolajoola, 29 Mar.; 1, Comerong Is., 2 June; 3, Albion Park, 16 June; 1, Pyree, 7 July; 1, Comerong Is., 7 July - 31 Aug.; 7, Worrigeer Swamp, 10 Oct., (CJC). These are higher numbers than usual for this area. c. 50 pairs nesting, 30 km SW Booligal, January (PM).

Magpie Goose, *Anseranas semipalmata* 13, Waterview Heights, 31 Aug. and 4 Sept., 14, 15 Sept.; 18, Cowans Pond, 12 Oct., (GC); 1, Macquarie Marshes, 20 Feb., (AKM); 1, Little Lagoon, 8 Mar., (HH). Newcastle: 4, Seaham Swamp, first reported 10 Jan., stayed in area during remainder of year (HBOC,GH,AEFR, AMcB,AKM), (see also Aust. Birds 19: 41-45).

Plumed Whistling-duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata* Recorded near Yalgogrin 7 - 9 Dec. (HH); Dangar's Lagoon: 2, 27 Oct., (AnL); 2, 16 Nov., (HH). Newcastle: 2, Minmi, 8 Nov. (HBOC). Sydney: 111, 3 July, and 105, 31 Aug., Killarney Stud, (IMcA,EF); Approx. 80, just west of Richmond, 24 Sept. (FL). Illawarra: 150, Hazeldeens Hsd 12 Jan., (CJC). Fivebough Swamp: 30, 3 Mar.; 100, 13 Apr., 210, 8 Sept.; 300, 2 Nov.; (KH). 9, Junee STW (unusual in this locality), 26 Apr. (AKM,BV,MC); 2, Cambria Hsd, 25 Dec., (EBT).

Wandering Whistling-duck, *Dendrocygna eytoni* More reports of this species than usual. 14, Llangothlin Lagoon, 23 Sept., (HH); Moonee: 28, 3 Aug., 40, 11 Aug., 33, 5 Oct., (DS); small group, nr Yalgogrin, 7 - 9 Dec., (HH); Dangar's Lagoon: 2, 20 Oct., (AnL); and 2, 16 Nov., (HH). Port Macquarie STW: 3, 13 Jan., 1, 23 and 27 Dec., (GC). Newcastle: Numerous sightings in Shortland Swamps area throughout year, incl. 7, 3 Jan.; 20, 5 Jan.; 17, 6 Jan.; 20, 8 Jan.; 2, 13 Sept.; 7, 22 Oct.; and 2, 3 Nov., (HBOC,GH, MT); 2, Minmi, 9 Nov. (HBOC).

Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus* 1, Coombie Hsd., Feb., was unusual for this locality, (JaH).

Freckled Duck, *Stictonetta naevosa* 32, Sturt NP, 27 Sept. (MS); 20, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm); 400 - 1000, Yantara Lake, 28 Sept. (PM,GH); Occasional sightings, Nocoleche NR, 3 - 10 Oct., (WL); Dangar's Lagoon: 1 bird, 5 Apr.; 7, 16 Nov.; and 1, 28 Nov., (HH); 1, 2 Nov. (AOR); Pair, 23 Nov., (SD); Newcastle: Numerous sightings during year, including Shortlands Swamp, 3, 19 Apr. (EF); 3, 16 Apr. (DSm); 1, 10 Nov. and 13, 16 Nov. (HBOC); 5, Kooragang Island, 12 May; 10, Morpeth STW, 28 June; 3, Tarro, 7 Sept.; Sydney: 1, Pitt Town, 19 June, 3 and 5 July (IMcA,DLa); 11, Lake Wyangan, 17 Apr.; 15+, near Lake Wyangan, 1 Dec. (EF); 1, Weetawa, 25 Feb. (DR); 14, shot at Barren Box Swamp, and a further 9, shot in lower Lachlan swamps on Duck Opening Day, 2 Mar., (AKM); 25, Tupuntil Hsd, 29 June, (JB). Tullakool Saltworks: Bet. 50+ and 200+, from 6 Jan., gradually declining in numbers until 10 Mar. when last sighting was of a single bird only, (EBT,PM,CJC,AMcB); The 20+ shot at this location on Duck Opening Day, 2 Mar., probably explains the low count on 10 Mar., (GC); Reported from Corowa, 3 Feb., (PSh), (see TBO 639).

Cape Barren Goose, *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* 3, not always together, Minnie Waters, 2 Jan. - 7 Jan. Not known to be escapees but probably so (AKM).

Mountain Duck, *Tadorna tadornoides* Adult male, Swan Crk Swamp, 29 Dec., (EW), rarely recorded on North Coast. Newcastle: 1, Morpeth STW, 10 Jan (HBOC,GH). Sydney: Bushells Lagoon: 3 - 15, 6 Feb. - 10 Mar., 1, 22 Sept., and 1, female, 29 Dec., (AT,AKM,ML,AMcB). 100+, Fivebough Swamp, 29 Dec., (KH).

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* 1, nr Coutts Crossing, 13 Nov.; Port Macquarie STW: 1, 13 Jan. and 19 July, (GC).

Grey Teal, *Anas gibberifrons* 1000+, Stockton/Kooragang area, 13 Apr. (AEFR); Large influx to Illawarra district during June/July, viz. 1830, Lake Illawarra, 6 July, and 2873, in lower Shoalhaven R., 7 July, (CJC).

Chestnut Teal, *Anas castanea* Pair, Armidale WWT Plant, 8 Jan., (HH). Pair with 3 half-grown young, Towra Point NR, 25 Jan., (AKM); 330, Comerong Is., 27 May (JH); Single male, Fivebough Swamp, 6 July, (KH); 2 males, 1 female, Tullakool Salt Works, 13 Jan., (EBT).

Australasian Shoveler, *Anas rhynchos* Nambucca Heads STW: 2, 22 June, 2, 2 June; Macksville STW: 14, 29 June; 16, 21 July, (DS); Port Macquarie STW: 2, 7 Mar., 10 Mar. and 16 May, (GC). Newcastle: Approx. 100, Stockton/Kooragang area, 13 Apr. (AEFR). Sydney: 100+, Pitt Town, 3 July, (IMcA); Female at Dee Why Lagoon, 11 Dec., (FC). Illawarra: 128, Lake Illawarra, 6 July; 137, on lower Shoalhaven R., 7 July; and 10, Cecil Hoskins Res., 7 Dec., (CJC); Killalea Swamp, 25 and 27 Apr. (AL); Comerong Is.: 53, 11 May; 83, 27 May, (JH); 50, 23 June, (CJC). These are higher numbers than usual for Newcastle and Illawarra regions. 100+, Fivebough Swamp, 8 June, (KH); 131, Mourquong Saline Basin nr Buronga, 27 June, (JH).

Pink-eared Duck, *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* Nambucca Heads STW: 8, 25 Apr.; 2, 5 May; 1, 2 June; Macksville STW: 3, 29 June; 6 June (DS). Newcastle: Kooragang Is., 2000+, 15 Sept., 700 - 800, 7 Oct., (HBOC,AMcB). Sydney: 300+, Pitt Town, 3 July, (IMcA); 2, Homebush Bay, 9 June, (BD) and 3 Nov., (DSa). Illawarra: 12, Killalea Swamp, 25 and 27 Apr. (AL); 1, Comerong Is., 27 May (JH); 142, Bevans Is., 6 July; 25, Pig Is., 7 July, (CJC); 6, Cecil Hoskins Res., 7 Dec., (CJC).

Hardhead, *Aythya australis* Valla: Seen May - Sept., max. 22, 9 Aug.; Macksville STW: Seen most of year, maximum numbers being 56, 29 June and 75, 20 July; 160, Moonee, 3 Aug., (DS); Total of 127, on Mill Pond, Airport Swamp and Eastlakes, 1 June, (AKM,BV); 52, Killalea Lagoon, 6 July; 765, Nowra SW., 7 July, (CJC); 50+, Fivebough Swamp, 29 Dec., (KH).

Blue-billed Duck, *Oxyura australis* 2, Dangar's Lagoon, Uralla, 2 Nov., (LJH); 1, Port Macquarie STW, 4 May, 1st North Coast record, (GC); 2, Grahamstown Reservoir, 23 June (HBOC); 1, Coombie Hsd., 3 Mar., was unusual for this locality, (JaH); 20+, Griffith STW, June, (AMcB); 1, near Lake Wyangan, 1 Dec., (EF); Cecil Hoskins Res.: 5, 7 Dec., and 4, 28 Dec., (CJC); 1, (female), Comerong Is., 21 May, (CJC); 1, shot, Tullakool Salt Works, 19 Jan., (EBT).

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus* 3 pairs bred, Nambucca Valley, (DS); Breeding on Mitchell Is., 28 July. Limb collapsed and new nest built in a tree nearby (10 metres away); Breeding, nr Old Bar, 28 July, (DG). Newcastle: Lake Macquarie (Eraring) 1, 20 Sept.; Bird observed attending nest, 6 Jan., (Blackalls) 1, 4 May (HBOC); Pair at nest, S. Newcastle, 25 June., (GC). Illawarra: 1, Murray's Beach, 22 June, (CJC). 1, on Mirool Crk, 8 July, an unusual inland record, (JB).

Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus notatus* Blue Mtns: 1, Faulconbridge, 1 July; 1, Springwood, 28 July, considered unusual this area, (AT); Over 100, seen bet. Leeton and Coleambally, 20 July, 54 of which were in one rice stubble paddock nr Coleambally, (KH).

Letter-winged Kite, *Elanus scriptus* 1, with approx. 80 Black-shouldered Kites, 20 km N Conargo, during mouse plague, 2 Feb. (PM).

Crested Hawk, *Aviceda subcristata* 3, Forest Top, Border Ranges NP, 4 Oct.; Coutts Crossing: Single birds, 25 Oct. and 3 Nov., (GC); Pair, Jacana Hsd Clarenza, 13 May (AKM, EW). Newcastle: Nesting, Stockrington, Feb., (KI), (see TBO 651); at least 9 reports, 1 - 2, bet. 8 June and 11 Aug. from Seaham, Lemon Tree Passage, Blackbutt Reserve and Gwandalan, (HBOC). 1, nr Ourimbah SF, 30 Nov., (IMcA). Sydney Region: 1 adult, Middle Dural, 13 Aug., (HR). Winter records for Hunter/Sydney regions are unusual.

Black Kite, *Milvus migrans* 1, near Little Lagoon, 17 Jan., (HH); 1, Armidale, 6 Oct., (SD); Five sightings in Leeton/Griffith area during year, viz. 3 Mar., 15 June, 9 July (9.), 27 Sept. and 30 Nov., (KH); 1, 12 km W of Bathurst, 19 Feb., (IMcA); Pair bred in Wanganella area, during Sept. First known breeding record for area (PM); 1, Howlong, 1 Jan., (JS), TBO 639; Four single sightings in Barham area during year, viz. 17 Jan., 10 Mar., 12 Mar. and 15 Apr., (EBT).

Square-tailed Kite, *Lophoictinia isura* 1, Chaffin Swamp nr Tucabia, 16 Jan.; 1, approx. 15 km N. of Armidale, early Feb., (SD); Probably same bird seen over Armidale, 15 Mar., (HH); Pair, nested in Baradine area, nest failed, 13 Sept.-29 Nov., (DJ); 1, Lee Crk, Wollemi NP., 31 Jan., (GC); 1, Kooragang Is., 6 July (HBOC,AMcB); 1, 5 km SE of Capertee, 28 Jan., (IMcA); 1, Leeton, 13 Feb., (KH); 1, Eurragobah nr Booligal, 3 Mar., (GC); 1, nr Pigeon House Mtn., 4 Jan. (IMcA); 1, Cootamundra, 10 Sept., (JB).

Black-breasted Kite, *Hamirostra melanosterna* Sturt NP: 1 adult, Sept. (MS); 2 seen and a pair reported as nesting, 27 Sept., (PM,GH). 2 separate sightings along NSW/SA border S. Hawker Gate, 26 Sept., (PM,GH); 1, Narran Lake Hsd., 22 Sept., (AnL); Occasional sightings, Nocolche NR, 3 - 10 Oct., (WL); 1, Harparary Hsd, 31 Jan. (DR); 1, dark phase bird being harassed by Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*, Willandra NP, 25 Aug.,(LJH); 1, c.20 km N. Rylstone, 9 Nov.,(AMcB).

Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*, Willandra NP, 25 Aug., (LJH); 1, c.20 km N. Rylstone, 9 Nov., (AMcB). A good year for reports of this species.

Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus* 1, flying over Manning R., 28 July, (DG); 1, immature, S. Bonny Hills, 17 May, (GC); unusual these areas.

Whistling Kite, *Haliastur sphenurus* Adult seen feeding 2 young along Grosvenor Track, nr Bobbin Head, 29 Sept., (EF).

Brown Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus* 1, South Turramurra, 31 Aug., (DLA); First record for South Head, SHNP, 20 Jan., (AKM); Noted at Fivebough Swamp, only on 23 Feb. and 23 June, (KH).

Collared Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter cirrocephalus* 1, East Wahroonga, 3 Aug., (EF); 1, over Tasman Sea nr Green Cape, 9 May, (KH).

Grey Goshawk, *Accipiter novaehollandiae* 1, Barham, (PD), (see TBO 651).

Red Goshawk, *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* 1, nr Ballina, 27 July, (F&RS), (see TBO 647:123); 1, Bom Bom SF, 18 Aug. (DG,SD); seen at Burringbar Gap, 2 Dec., (SG). Note that this species is clearly an endangered species in NSW and as such is in urgent need of strong, positive conservation action.

White-bellied Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 1, Guy Fawkes R. valley, 11 - 21 Apr., (KM), (Aust. Birds 20: 44 - 47); 1, Dumaresq Dam, 24 Feb., (HH); 1, adult, Tala Lake, 30 Aug. (AKM); 1, immature, Homebush Bay, 9 June, (BD); 1, flying bet. Darling Harbour and McMahon's Point, 24 Oct., (IMcA).

Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax* 2, Beacon Hill, 29 Jan., (LJH); Not common at Fivebough Swamp, with sighting confined to 2, on 26 May and 1, on 28 Sept., (KH).

Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides* 1, nr Central Mangrove, 13 Mar.; 1, Roses Crk, Dharug NP, 19 Apr., (GC). Sydney: 1, Bernera HSD, Hoxton Park, 22 Jan., 3 Feb., and 21 Apr., may have bred here; 1, South Turramurra, 11 Aug., (DLA). Illawarra: 1, Shoalhaven Heads/Berry area, 24 Mar., (AKM). Generally scarce, Leeton area throughout year, (KH).

Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis* 1, immature bird, Ebor, 24 Mar., (SD); Pair quartering paddock nr Moorland, an unusual location, 18 May, (AKM); 1, Royal NP, 13 Sept. (AOR); 2, over wheat stubble, Tully's Hill, 28 Apr.; 1, Fivebough Swamp, 8 June, considered an unusual record, (KH).

Black Falcon, *Falco subniger* 1, Sturt NP, 27 Sept.; 1, Tibooburra, 27 Sept.; 1, Carypundy Swamp, 28 Sept., (GH); 1, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm); 2, seen bet. Coleambally and Conargo, 17 Sept.; 1, Westward Downs Hsd, 25 Sept.; 1, Carroll, 4 Apr.; 1, Tamworth, 29 July, (SD); 1, Seaham Swamp, 13 Apr., (CJC); 1, nr Yanga Lake, 27 Feb., (IMcA); Single birds, 60 km NW. Grifflith, 16 Feb., (JB); Pair courting, C Lake Hsd, 14 June, (JH); 1, Tupuntil Hsd, 29 June, (JB); 1, approx. 10 km. W. Cowra, 28 Nov. (EF); 1, Lake Urana, 5 Sept., (AKM). A good spread of records for 1985.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* Pair nesting, Nocoleche NR, 3 - 10 Oct., (WL); Coutts Crossing: Single Birds, 5 Sept., 7 Oct. and 6 Dec., (GC); 1, 6 km SW of Merriwa, 18 Dec., (IMcA); 1, Widden Valley, Wollemi NP, 31 Jan., (GC); 1, Port Macquarie, 27 Dec.; 1, Bonny Hills, 19 July, (GC); Sydney: Dharug NP: Frequently seen, 21 Apr. - 11 Aug., (GC); 1, McGraths Hill, 8 Dec., (IMcA); 1, Baulkham Hills, 24 Oct. (GG); 2, East Wahroonga, 4 Feb. (EF); 1, South Turramurra, 16 Feb., 7 Apr., 6 Sept., (IMcA); 1, from 10th floor of North Sydney office block 6 different dates during year (AEFR); 1, flying over Sydney Domain, 12 Jan., and 1, from Centrepoint Tower, 20 Nov., (IMcA,DLa); 1, Wentworth Park, 23 Jan., (DLa); 1, flying bet. York St. buildings, Sydney, 26 Sept., (RMO); 1, on Sydney Harbour Bridge, 29 June, (IMcA,DLa); 1, South Head, SHNP, 6 Apr. and 5 May, (AKM); Juvenile at fresh kill (= Little Pied Cormorant), Towra Point NR, 25 Jan., (AKM); 1, Lake Wyangan, 8 July, (JB); 2, Shepherds Hill Quarry, 12 Mar., (JB); Considered resident in Cocoparra NP, (KH); Fivebough Swamp: 1, 10 Mar., successfully fended off Swamp Harrier and Brown Falcon from Grey Teal kill; 2, 22 June, (KH); Pair, nest with 3 eggs, Mootwingee NP, 5 Sept., (DSm); Nesting pair, The Rock NR, 6 Sept., (AKM); 1, near Barham, 9 Mar., (EBT).

Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis* 1, at The Gap, first known record for SHNP, 14 Feb., (AKM).

Grey Falcon, *Falco hypoleucos* Pair observed near Tibooburra during Sept. (PM); 1, Wilbriggie, 12 Sept. (ER); 1, nr NSW/SA border in Scotia Country mallee, 22 Sept., (GH).

Mallee-fowl, *Leipoa ocellata* 1, Wittenbri SF, 24 Sept.; 1, nr Yearinan, 24 Sept., (ER); 1, Coombie Hsd., 26 Apr., in very burnt mallee area. (JaH); 1, Pulletop NR, 30 Nov. and 2 Dec. (EF); Disused mound and fresh tracks found in mallee vegetation Lock Lily Hsd, September (PM,GH); 1, Mallee Cliffs NP, where considered extremely rare, 9 Nov., (JH).

Brown Quail, *Coturnix australis* Regularly recorded during year in short heath, North Head, SHNP, (AKM).

King Quail, *Coturnix chinensis* 4+, Diggers Camp, 24 Nov., 2, Red Rock, 26 Dec., (DG); 1 male, Valla, 3 and 13 Dec., (DS); 1, male, Harparary Hsd, 10 Mar. and again on 27 Aug. (DR).

Painted Button-quail, *Turnix varia* 3, caught and banded, Minnie Water, 18 Dec., (DG); 1, Gloucester Tops NP, 12 Jan., (HBOC); 1, Round Hill NR, 27 Apr., (CJC); 1, Bethungra SF, 28 Apr., (AKM); 2, caught and banded, Pampoolah, 27 July, (DG); 4, Sackville Lagoon, 28 July (EF); 1, McClymonts Crossing, Scheyville, 29 Dec., (AKM, ML); 1, in tall heath, Dobroyd Head, 23 June, (AKM); 2, Pulletop NR, 30 Nov. (EF).

Little Button-quail, *Turnix velox* Adult with 4 well-grown young, Minnie Water, 18 Dec., an unusual location but observer is quite familiar with most quail, (DG); min. 5, Fowlers Gap, 8 Sept., (DSm); 2, Conargo, 11 Jan., (CJC).

Red-chested Button-quail, *Turnix pyrrhоторax* 6, seen 20 kms Booligal, 2 Jan. (PM); reportedly numerous in Wanganella/Conargo areas, incl. adults with young, during Jan. and Feb. (PM,CJC); 1, Conargo, 11 Jan., (CJC); 1, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm); 1, nr SA border in mallee area known as Scotia Country, 22 Sept., (GH).

Chukar, *Alectoris chukar* 1, (probable escapee), Martins Creek, 25 Nov. and several other observations this locality (HBOC).

Plains-wanderer, *Pedionomus torquatus* 7, Conargo, 11 Jan., (CJC); Present in good numbers throughout year in Wanganella/ Conargo areas. Nest and small young found on 27 Dec. (PM).

Banded Landrail, *Rallus philippensis* The following records broadly indicate the species NSW range. 1, Lake Zot, 26 Oct., and another, 3 kms. N. of Armidale, same day, (HH). Sydney: Dharug NP, frequently seen, Jan. - Aug., (GC); 6, Bushells Lagoon, 23 Feb., (AT); 1, Lindfield, 10 Feb. (WB); 1, Deepwater Park, 27 Dec., (DSm). Illawarra: 1, (road-killed), Bendeela, 29 Dec.; 1, Bamerang, 5 Jan.; 5, Why Juck Bay, 28 Jan.; 4, Culburra, 2 Feb., (CJC). 1, Willandra Billabong, 30 Aug., (LJH); Adult with half grown young observed 20 km N Booligal, Jan., (PM); 6, in about 12 ha. of rice fields (i.e. 1.:2 ha.), 12 km S. Griffith, 1 May, (JB); 1, Fivebough Swamp, 13 Jan., (KH); 1, Wentworth STW, 30 Sept., (JH); 1, Cambria Hsd, 31 Jan., and 1, c. 25 km. from Barham on Moulamein road, 5 June, (EBT).

Lewin's Rail, *Rallus pectoralis* 1, Geebung Munmorah SRA, 23 Mar., (EF,IMcA); Several birds, Dudley, 8 May (HBOC); Dharug NP: Frequently recorded, 7 Jan. - 23 Aug., (GC,AMcB); 1, heard, Shaws Creek, 10 June, (AMcB); 1, Towra Point NR, 2 Nov., (SBr).

Marsh Crane, *Porzana pusilla* 1, Shortland Swamps, 1 Jan. (HBOC); Up to 5, Killalea Lagoon, 14 Jan.-Mar., (CJC); 2, in about 20 ha. of rice fields (i.e. 1.;10 ha.), 10 km S. Griffith, 1 May, (JB); 1, Fivebough Swamp, 13 Jan., (KH); 1, 25 km E. Deniliquin. 12 Jan., (CJC).

Spotted Crane, *Porzana fluminea* 2, 10-15 km S. of Uralla, 24 Mar (HH); at least 3, Dangar's Lagoon, 5 Apr.(HH); 1, Harparary Hsd, 24 Jan. (DR); 2, Shortland Swamps, 6 Jan. (HBOC); 1 - 2, St. Albans Common, 24. Feb., 26 Feb. and 26 Mar., (GC); 2, Deepwater Park, 27 Dec., (DSm). Illawarra: Up to 5, Killalea Lagoon, Jan., (CJC); 2, Windang, 5 - 14 Mar., (CJC); 3, Broughton Crk, 2 Sept., (CJC); Single birds at Kully Bay, and at Killalea Lagoon, 16 Aug., (CJC). Often seen, Fivebough Swamp, 13 Jan. to 20 July, (KH); Wanganella: 6, 12 Jan., (CJC); 1, 22 June, (AMcB); Present in numbers in Dareton area, mid-Jan. to Apr., with max. 29, seen at any one time, (JH); Max. 9, Finley SW, 26 Apr., (AKM).

Spotless Crane, *Porzana tabuensis* 1, Lake Cargelligo, 29 Nov. (EF); 1, Shortland Swamps, 19 Jan. (HBOC); 1, under mangroves at Hazel Dell, Dharug NP, 26 Mar., (GC); 1, Woolaware, 1 Feb., (AMcB); 1, 25 km E. Deniliquin, 10 and 12 Jan., (CJC).

Black-tailed Native-hen, *Tribonyx ventralis* Only 4, seen, same place, 19 Oct. and none seen for remainder of year, (KH); 1, Harparary Hsd, 11 Apr. (DR); Large parties, Coombie Hsd., through Apr. and May. A few birds reappeared in Sept.. Not seen this locality since 1983, (JaH); 300+, Lake Cargelligo, 26 Apr., (CJC); Over 500, Fivebough Swamp, 13 Jan. with 250 - 400, remaining through year until early Sept.; Small invasion during second week of Jan. with good numbers remaining present until end Aug., Dareton area, up to 250, seen at any one time, (JH).

Brolga, *Grus rubricundus* Pair, Macksville, 29. June, 6 Sept. and 30 Dec., local residents advised in area since 'late 1984', (DS); Groups of 3, 2 and 2 resp., northern sections of Macquarie Marshes NR, 20, 21 and 25 Nov., (AnL); 3, Lake Ballyrogan, 22 Feb.; 3, Banar Lake, 22 Feb.; 7, Lake Cullivel, 24 Feb.; and 25+, 8 km E. of Darlington Point, 26 May, (JB); 2, Fivebough Swamp, 13 Apr., (KH); Pair, Jerilderie, 5 Sept., (AKM).

Bustard, *Ardeotis australis* Numbers observed in all parts of NSW during the year represent the largest numbers recorded for many years. These include: 3, 35 km NE. Coonamble; 4, 15 km. NE. Coonamble, June-July, (DJ); 1, Greenthorpe, 1 July; 2, nr Collie, 11 July; 9, Bywanah Hsd, Dandaloo, 11 July, (TK); 2, Currawan Hsd, Tooraweenah, June-July, (DJ); 1, Wemabung Crk., 4 Oct., first for area since mid-1950s, (HAJ); 1, near Narromine, Nov.; a number of birds reported as having been sighted near irrigation channels in Trangie area earlier in the year (BS); 2, White Cliffs area, 5 Jan., (RA), (see TBO 639); 1, 20 km Lake Cargelligo, 8 - 9 June; 1, c.30 km N. Carathool, 6 July, (JaH); 1, 35 km N. Griffith, 10 and 15 June; 1, 60 km NW. Griffith, 15 June; 1, 30 km N. Griffith, 19 June; 2, South Bri Bri Hsd, June - Sept., breeding attempt suspected from behaviour; 2, Gunbar Hsd, mid-Aug. to mid.-Oct.; and 1, Merri Merrigal Hsd, 21 July and 9 Sept., (JB); 1, Blue Plains, 15 June, feeding on broken ground in stubble paddock where trees had been pulled and stumps and branches being burnt, (KH); 1, bet. Marsden and Caragabal, 13 Sept. (ER); 1, Fan Ban Hsd, 4 May (JH).

Coot, *Fulica atra* 1, Coombie Hsd., 3 Mar., was unusual for this locality, (JaH); 550, lower Shoalhaven R., an unusually high number in this locality, 7 July, (CJC).

Lotusbird, *Jacana gallinacea* 14, Tucabia, 3 Apr., (CJC); 6, 10-15 km. E. Grafton, 28 Apr. (HH); 2, Dorrroughby, 15 Sept., (DSm). 1, Bushells Lagoon, 20 Oct., (TL).

Bush Stone-curlew, *Burhinus magnirostris* Pair, nest with 2 eggs, 4 km N. Pilliga, 11 Sept., (JA); 4, Riley's Island, Feb., (JW, MCA); 2, adj. Sturt Highway, c.100 km. E. Hay, 27 Aug. (AH); Nest with 2 eggs, Barham Lawn Cemetery, 18 Jan., (EBT).

Beach Stone-curlew, *Esacus magnirostris* Reported from all known regular sites, viz: 2, Clarence Estuary, Feb., (JM); 2, Nambucca Heads, Feb., (DS); Red Rock Estuary: 3, 30 Mar., (CJC); 2, 6 Sept., (AT); Up to 3, incl. runner, 20 Oct. - 7 Dec., (GC).

Painted Snipe, *Rostratula benghalensis* 2 - 3, Bushells Lagoon, 13 - 19 Jan., (AMcB); 4, on swamp 20 km N Boolgal, Jan., (PM); 25, on wetlands in Urana District, 18 Nov., (AKM), (see TBO 648).

Pied Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus* 8, and nest with 2 eggs, Brunswick Heads, 12 Nov., (RMO); 18, Shark Beach, 16 May, (AKM); 1, Woody Head, 31 Mar.; 1, Diggers Camp, 16 Jan.; 1, Illaroo, 4 Dec.; 1 - 3, Red Rock, 20 Oct. - 8 Dec., (GC). Botany Bay: Recorded throughout year incl. nesting pair (1 egg), max 20 birds on 17 Apr., Towra Point NR, (PDA,ADR,AKM,RMO,BD). Recorded at Comerong Is., all year with a max. of 21, 7 July, no nesting reported in this locality during the year, (CJC); Reported at Moruya, 23 - 26 Feb. (ADR).

Sooty Oystercatcher, *Haematopus fuliginosus* 2, Brunswick Heads, 12 Nov., (RMO); 21, Woody Head, Feb., (JM); 4, Diggers Camp, 16 Jan., 5, Woolli, 16 Jan. and 31 Mar., (GC); 2, Station Crk., 30 Mar., (CJC); 1 - 2, Red Rock Estuary, 6 Sept., 18 and 22 Nov., (AT,GC). Sydney: 15, Long Reef, Feb., (FC); 1, Nielsen Park, SHNP, Oct., (AKM, Aust. Birds 20:73); 12, Boatharbour, 4 June, (AKM). Illawarra: 8, Bellambi Point, 1 June, (CJC); 14, Black Head, 8 Apr., (CJC).

Banded Plover, *Vanellus tricolor* 30+, Retreat, 16 Nov. (HH); 1, Merriwa, 7 Oct. (HBOC). Newcastle: Kooragang Is., several birds, 5 Jan.; 11, mid-Sept. (HBOC). Sydney: Richmond Air Base: 12, 3 July, 7, 30 Aug., (IMcA,EF); 25, Baker's Lagoon, Feb., (RB,AC,JF); 6, Camden Airport, 17 Nov., (DLA); 10, Bankstown Airport, 28 Feb., (GC); Pair, vicinity of Malabar Treatment Plant, 1 Sept. (HLB); 1, Botany Bay, 3 Aug., (AMcB). 12, Fivebough Swamp, 30 Mar.; 2, same place, 13 July, (KH). Illawarra: 12, Pyree, 15 Dec., (CJC).

Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola* 2, Ballina, Feb., (JM); 1, Nambucca Heads, 30 Nov., (DS). Newcastle: 1, Kooragang, 15 Sept, (AMcB); 1, Swansea, 7 Sept., (CJC). Illawarra: 1, Windang, 21 - 26 Sept., (CJC); 1, Comerong Is., 19 Jan. and 2 Mar.; 10, 29 Sept. - 30 Nov., (CJC). 3, Tullakool Salt Works, 24 Nov., first record for this area, (EBT).

Lesser Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica* 1, of American form, Ballina, 22 Nov., (GH); 15, Tyagarah, 1 Apr., (RMO); 226, Clarence Estuary, Feb., (JM). Newcastle: 220, Kooragang Island, Feb., (HBOC). Sydney: 66, Parramatta R., Feb., (BM); 134, Botany Bay, Feb., (JPe,AKM,PDa). Illawarra: Present all year, Shoalhaven Heads-Comerong Is., max. 150+, 23 Mar., and 172+, 29 Dec., 3, over-wintered, (CJC,AKM). Earliest return: 2, Koona Bay Lake Illawarra, 24 Sept., (CJC).

Red-kneed Dotterel, *Erythrogonys cinctus* Macksville: 5, 16 Feb.; 3, 29 June; 3, 7 Sept., 1, 16 Oct., (DS); Newcastle: Large numbers, Shortlands Swamp, 23 Mar. (EF); Stockton/ Kooragang, March-May, max. 63, 13 Apr., (AEFR,GH). 1, St. Albans, 24 - 26 Feb., (GC). Sydney: 35+, McGraths Hill; 20, Pitt Town, 28 July (EF) 4, Mason Park Homebush, 13 July, (BD).. Present all year, Fivebough Swamp, with max. 141, 10 Mar., (KH). Illawarra: 1, on flood-water, Dunmore, 26 May (JH); 1, Saltwater Swamp, 7 July, (CJC); 153, Fletcher's Lake, Feb., (JH); 80, Dry Lake, Feb., (KH); 99, Menindee/Cawndilla Lakes, Feb., (JS).

Hooded Plover, *Charadrius rubricollis* 4, Bherwerre Beach, 22 June, (CJC); 5, Disaster Bay, 22 Aug., (GH).

Mongolian Plover, *Charadrius mongolus* 304, Clarence Estuary, Feb., (JM); 171, Richmond R. Estuary, Feb., (JM); Max. 32, Comerong Is., 19 Jan., (CJC). Latest Sighting: 30, Comerong Is., 2 Mar., (CJC).

Double-banded Plover, *Charadrius bicinctus* Early records for 1985 season: 1, immature bird, North Botany Bay, 3 Feb., (AKM); 1, Windang, 24 Jan.; 1, Comerong Is., 19 Jan., (CJC). Latest Sightings: 4, Windang, 25 Aug.; 12, Comerong Is., 31 Aug., (CJC); 2, N. Botany Bay, 31 Aug.,

(RMo). Other reports: 4, Red Rock Estuary, 6 Sept., (AT); 10, North Haven, 19 July, (GC); Max. 149, Botany Bay, 29 June, is higher than usual, (AKM); 2, Long Reef, 24 Mar.; Max. 100, Comerong Is., 23 June, (CJC); Fivebough Swamp: Single birds, 10 Mar., 23 June and 3 Aug.; 3, 6 July, (KH); 1, The Lakes Beach, 6 Apr., (IMcA); 1, Corowa, 22 Apr., (JTh), TBO 643:75).

Large Sand Plover, *Charadrius leschenaulti* 38, Richmond R., Feb., (JM); 1, Long Reef, 13 Jan. (FC); 1, Boat Harbour, 17 Dec. (AOR); 1, Comerong Is., 19 Jan., (CJC).

Oriental Plover, *Charadrius veredus* 1, North Botany Bay, 12 Jan. - 3 Feb., (AMcB,AKM,DSm).

Red-capped Plover, *Charadrius ruficapillus* 5295, Yantara Lake, Feb., (JHo); 200+, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm); 75, North Botany Bay, 20 May, is the highest winter count in this area for many years (AKM); Comerong Is.: 170, 2 Mar. and 195, 7 July, the latter being the highest known local count (CJC); 300, Dry Lake, 16 Feb., (KH); 1200, Tullakool Salt Works, Feb., (PD).

Inland Dotterel, *Peltohyas australis* 14 adults and 2 runners, Fowlers Gap, 1 - 8 Sept., (DSm); 1, Coombie Hsd., 25 Apr., was unusual for this locality, (JaH); 1, 20 kms N of Booligal 15 Jan. (PM); 2, 20km N of Conargo 20 Apr. (PM).

Pied Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus* 1205, Hunter Wetlands, Feb., (HBOC); 270, Dry Lake, (KH); 10, Dunmore, 26 May; 634, Mourquong Saline Basin, 27 June, (JH); 250, Fivebough Swamp, 23 Nov., (KH); 860, Tullakool Salt Works, Feb., (PD).

Banded Stilt, *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* 1 bird, Mourquong Saline Basin, Feb., (JH); 166, Fletchers Lake, 14 Feb., (JH); 4, 19 Jan., and 5, 9 Feb., Tullakool Salt Works, (PM).

Red-necked Avocet, *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* 300+, Lake Corooran, 25 July (DR); 1, on beach at Bunjalung NP, 17 May, (AKM); 1, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm); 1, 20 km SE. Narrabri, 28 June, (DR); 1, Dangar's Lagoon, 24 May, (HH); 2000+, Wilcannia, 31 Aug. Newcastle: Still present all year at Kooragang Is., max. 1200+, 1 Sept., (HBOC,AMcB,GH). Sydney: 1, at Curl Curl Lagoon, 20 April (NM,FC). Illawarra: 12, Comerong Is., 11- 18 May, (CJC). 12, Lake Merimbley, 27 Apr., (AKM); 400, Tongo Lake, Feb., (MM); 340, Olepoloko Lake, Feb., (MM); 11, Wentworth Swamp, 16 Feb. (HBOC); Present all months except May, bird, Fivebough Swamp, max. 35, 20 Jan.; 89, Dry Lake, (KH); 454, Tullakool Salt Works, Feb., (PD); 541, Mourquong Saline Basin, 27 June, (JH). The Bundjalung NP and Curl Curl records are of note while numbers in the Hunter Estuary continue to increase.

Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres* 1, Lake Salisbury, 11 - 14 Oct., (WL); 3, Cape Byron, 3 Apr., (RMo). Sydney: 65, Long Reef, Feb., (FC); Botany Bay: 86, Feb., (JPe, AKM, PDa); Fivebough Swamp: 1, 19 Oct.; 2, 2 Nov., considered very scarce at this location (KH); 1, Fletcher's Lake, 20 Sept. (PM). Inland records, other than Fletchers Lake (which is a regular site), are rare.

Eastern Curlew, *Numenius madagascariensis* Newcastle: 418, Port Stephens, Feb., (HBOC); 310, Kooragang Is., Feb., 1 Sept. and 1 Dec., (HBOC, AMcB); 650+, Stockton Bridge, 12 Jan.,

(AEFR). Sydney: 216, Botany Bay, Feb., (JPe,AKM,PDa); several birds, Careel Bay, 15 and 20 May (JP); Illawarra: Comerong Is.: 170, 19 Jan.; 123, 15 Dec., (CJC). Observations of c. 1500 birds bet. Port Stephens and Comerong Is. is consistent with reports in recent years.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus* 52, Clarence Estuary, Feb., (JM); 22, Macleay R. Estuary, Feb., (DS); 145, Pelican Is Port Macquarie., Feb., (RDr). Newcastle: 60+, Kooragang, 1 Dec., (AMcB). 63, Towra Point NR, 29 May, (AKM). Sighting of several birds nr Deniliquin during Sept. (PM,GH), represents 3rd inland record for NSW. 25, South Head, Moruya Estuary, Feb., (SM).

Little Curlew, *Numenius minutus* Observation of 2 birds, Wentworth Swamp, 10 Jan. (HBOC,GH), is the 5th record for County of Northumberland and first for that county away from Kooragang Is. Sydney: 1 - 3, Bakers Lagoon, 2 - 21 Feb., (AC,JF,AMcB).

Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola* 1, Casino, 20 Oct., (GH); 1, Morpeth, 30 Dec., (GH). The Griffith-Leeton area appears to be the most regular NSW site for this wader with 1985 reports of 1, on small swamp near Lake Wyangan, 1 Dec. (EF); and Fivebough Swamp: A few birds through year, i.e. 4, in Feb., 5, in Mar., 2, in Apr., and 1 - 2, from 18 Aug. to Dec., (KH).

Grey-tailed Tattler, *Tringa brevipes* 114, Richmond R. Estuary, Feb., (JM); Brunswick Heads, 12, 29 Mar.; 20+, 1 Apr., (RMO); 120, Clarence R. Estuary, Feb., (JM); 69, Botany Bay, Feb., (AKM).

Wandering Tattler, *Tringa incana* 1, Woody Head, Feb., (JM). Sydney: Long Reef, 1, 3 Feb., (IMcA) and 1, 10 Nov., (AMcB). 1, in breeding plumage, Windang, 13 - 23 Mar., (CJC).

Common Sandpiper, *Tringa hypoleucos* 5, Salisbury Lake, Feb., (MM); 1, Westward Downs Hsd, 25 Sept., (GH); 6 Cawndilla Creek and Channel, Feb., (JS); 1, Red Rock Estuary, 20 Oct., (GC); Stockton: 1, 23 Mar. (EF); 1, 29 Mar., (CJC); 1, Werri Swamp, 16 Apr., (CJC).

Asiatic Dowitcher, *Limnodromus semipalmatus* Single birds reported at Kooragang and Stockton, (possibly the same individual), 6 - 28 April (AMcB,TRL,HBOC,AEFR,CJC,AKM). Second NSW record, (see Aust. Birds 20: 91).

Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* 2, Port Macquarie, Apr., (DG); 561, throughout Hunter Wetlands, Feb., (HBOC). 1, Coombie Hsd., 10 Jan., is unusual for locality, (JaH); Fivebough Swamp: 25, 6 Apr.; Up to 11 at one time, Oct.-Dec., (KH); 55, Comerong Is., 7 Apr., (CJC); 55, Shoalhaven Heads, 23 Mar., (AKM); 30+, Windang, Oct.-Dec., with max. 36, on 18 Dec., (CJC); Reported at Moruya, 23 - 24 Feb. (ADR);

Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis* Occasional sightings, Lake Salisbury, 50, Feb., (MM,JHo); 11 - 14 Oct., (WL); 277, Hunter Wetlands, Feb., (HBOC); 7, Lake Wyangan, 5 July, (JB); 70+, on small swamp near Lake Wyangan, 1 Dec. (EF); 4, Fivebough Swamp, 18 Aug., rising to summer peak of 56, in Dec., (KH); 1, Comerong Is., 22 Oct., (CJC); Tullakool Salt Works: 4,6 Jan. and 2, 10 Mar., (EBT); 110, 11 Jan., (CJC); and 112, Feb., (PD); 50+, 24 Nov., (EBT). Numbers recorded in NSW each year continue to rise.

Terek Sandpiper, *Tringa terek* Max. counts: 40, Clarence Estuary, Feb., (JM); 64, Richmond Estuary, Feb., (JM); 1, Nambucca Heads, 13 Oct., (DS); 16, Botany Bay, 17 Apr., (AKM); 1, Windang, 18 Dec., (CJC).

Japanese Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii* First for season, Coutts Crossing, 17 Sept., (GC). 79, Hunter Wetlands, Feb., (HBOC). 3, St. Albans, 24 Feb.. Sydney: 1, Dubbo Gully, 17 Feb., (GC); 42, Hawkesbury Wetlands, Feb., (JMi,AC,GC,JF); 13, Eastlakes Golf Course, 6 Mar., (AKM); 27+, Deepwater Park, 27 Dec., (DSm). 1, Fivebough Swamp, 20 Oct. was only 1985 record, (KH).

Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa* Newcastle: 800 - 3000, Kooragang Is., Jan. - Feb., and rising from c.100 on 1 Sept. to 4000 on 9 Nov. before declining to around 2000 on 1 Dec., (HBOC, AEFR,AMcB). The Hunter Wetlands is the most important NSW site NSW for this species. Sydney: 3, Pitt Town, 31 Aug., (AMcB). Illawarra: Comerong Is., 5, 2 June-7 July; 1, 30 Nov., (CJC). Inland records: 1 bird (almost taken by Black Falcon), Westward Downs Hsd, 25 Sept., (PM,GH). 1, Fivebough Swamp, 20 Oct. only 1985 record, (KH); 7, Tullakool Salt Works, 24 Nov., (EBT).

Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica* 1, Kooragang Is., 5 Jan. and 7 April (HBOC,AMcB). Note: Although many people have seen this species at this location, no published details of such sightings exist. The above reports probably represent the 3rd and 4th NSW records. All same bird?

Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica* 700, Clarence R. Estuary, Feb., (JM). Newcastle: Bet. 2000 and 4000, Kooragang Is., Jan. - Feb., and 3000 - 4000, 1 Sept. - 1 Dec., (HBOC,AMcB). Sydney: 534, Botany Bay, Feb., (JPe, AKM, PDa). Illawarra: Numbers at Comerong Is., viz. max. 440 on 19 Jan. and max. 272 on 7 July, considered to be much lower than previous years, (CJC).

Red Knot, *Calidris canutus* 160, Clarence R. Estuary, Feb., (JM). Newcastle: Kooragaong, c.400, 15 Sept. and 9 Nov., (AMcB). Sydney: 220, North Botany Bay, 19 Oct., (AKM). Illawarra: Comerong Is., 5, 11 May; 1, 23 June; 114, 29 Sept., (CJC). 1, Fivebough Swamp, 13 Oct., (KH).

Great Knot, *Calidris tenuirostris* 15, Clarence R. Estuary, Feb., (JM). Sydney: Towra Spit: 2, 25 Jan.; 1, 8 Feb. (AKM); 2, off Penrhyn Rd., Botany, 3 Feb.; 1, 19 Oct., (AKM). Illawarra: 8, Comerong Is., 29 Sept., (CJC).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata* 6266, Yantara Lake, Feb., (MM,JHo,DL); 14, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm). 157, Towra Point NR, 2 Nov., (AKM), a large number for this site. Max. 1000, Fivebough Swamp, Jan., (KH); 635, Olepoloko Lake, Feb., (MM); 690, Fletchers Lake, 14 Feb., (JH); 800, Tullakool Salt Works, Feb., (PD).

Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos* Newcastle: 1, Shortland Swamps, 8 Jan.; 1, Grahams-town Lake, 11 Jan., (GH); 1, Wentworth Swamp, 13 Jan. (HBOC); 1 - 2, Stockton/Kooragang

area, 13 and 14 Apr. and 1 Dec., (AEFR,HBOC,AMcB,IMcA); 3, Morpeth, 27 Dec., (GH). Sydney: Bushells Lagoon, 1, 19 Jan.; 2, 6 Feb.; and 1, 22 Sept., (AMcB). Fivebough Swamp: Up to 3, from Jan. - Apr.; 1, 29 Dec., (KH); Max. 2, at Tullakool Salt Works, through Jan. and Feb., (EBT,PM). Numbers of this species continue to increase. This may reflect an improved ability by observers in identifying the species.

Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis* 4, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept., (DSm); 369, Botany Bay, Feb., (JPe, AKM,PDa); 409, Comerong Is., 15 Dec., highest count for year, (CJC); 408, Fletcher's Lake, Feb., (JH).

Long-toed Stint, *Calidris subminuta* 1, on many occasions, Fivebough Swamp, 26 Oct. - 14 Dec., (KH).

Curlw Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea* 47, Yantara Lake, Feb., (MM). Kooragang Is., 1900, Feb., and 4000 9 Nov., (HBOC,AMcB). 14, Botany Bay, 31 Aug., (RMO). 100, Windang, 18 Dec., an unusually high number for this locality, (CJC). 158, Tullakool Salt Works, Feb., (PD).

Sanderling, *Calidris alba* 40, Richmond R. Estuary, Feb., (JM).

Broad-billed Sandpiper, *Limicola falcinellus* 2, Ballina, 22 Jan., (GH). Newcastle: Kooragang Is., 2, 21 Jan., 1, Feb. and 9 Mar. (HBOC); 3, Stockton, 23 Mar. (EF). In this area, numbers have declined since the early 1970's when up to 180 birds could be seen. Sydney: 1, Botany Bay, 12 Jan. and 10 Mar., (AMcB).

Ruff/Reeve, *Philomachus pugnax* Single male, Fivebough Swamp, 17 Nov. until 29 Dec., (KH); Up to 2 Ruffs and 1 Reeve at Tullakool Salt Works, from 13 Jan. to 18 Feb., (EBT,PM,AMcB).

Australian Pratincole, *Stiltia isabella* 41, Dry Lake, 16 Feb., (JB,KH); 1, Fivebough Swamp, 7 Oct., (KH); 74, on freshly tilled arable paddock, nr Whitton, 27 Apr., (KH); 1, Hay SF, 24 June, (AMcB).

Great Skua, *Stercorarius skua* Off Sydney: 1, c. 10 km, 25 May; 2, <10 km, 27 July, (IMcA). (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Arctic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus* 20+, off Sydney Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR). (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus* About 50, off Sydney Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR). (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicauda* 1, Ballina, 9 Feb., 22 Feb. and 24 Feb., (GH). Sydney: About 20, off Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR). Illawarra: 1 - 20+, seen regularly from Wollongong to Jervels Bay, bet. 27 Jan. and 21 Apr.; 5 - 8, off Wollongong, bet. 27 Oct. and 14 Dec., (AMcB). (See also Wood, K., in prep.)

Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae* Large numbers reported at sea (very flat) off Sydney out to Continental Shelf, 29 June, (IMcA).

Pacific Gull, *Larus pacificus* 3 immature plumaged birds, Long Reef, 4 April (FC); No records for Windang this year, (CJC); 1, Comerong Is., 27 May (JH).

Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus* Sydney: 1, off Penrhyn Rd., Botany, 17 Dec. and 30 Dec., (AOR). Illawarra: Present all year, Windang, max. 9, 25 May, (CJC); 2 immature birds, Windang, 19 Jan (DD); 9, Bellambi Point, 1 July, (CJC).

Sabine's Gull, *Larus sabini* 1st NSW record and 3rd Aust. record: off Wollongong, a first winter bird moulting to 1st summer plumage, 23 Mar. (AMcB,CJC,PSL,TR), (refer Aust. Birds 21:89-90). 1, same area, 30 June, possibly same bird as on 23 Mar., (AMcB,CJC). (2nd NSW record and 4th Aust. record., see Aust. Birds, 21:91-92).

Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybrida* 1, Macksville, 30 Dec., (DS); Flock of 17, seen bet. Hexham and Tarro, 20 May (PAB); 5, Windang, 27 Sept., (CJC); Fivebough Swamp: Massive influx, more than 2000, 21 Sept. yet all had departed by 22 Sept.; 120, 29 Dec., (KH); 500+, Tullakool Salt Works, 11 Jan., (CJC).

White-winged Tern, *Chlidonias leucoptera* 1, Station Crk., 9 Nov., (DS); 1, Nambucca Heads, 5 Jan. and 22 Feb., (DS); 7, Lawrence, 21 Apr., (GH). Newcastle: Approx. 150, Grahamstown Reservoir, 9 Feb. (HBOC), the largest number ever recorded in NSW. 1, Kooragang Is., 10 Mar. (HBOC). Illawarra: Windang, 1, 1 Jan. - 24 May, (CJC); 1, 9 - 22 Dec. and 8, 29 Dec., always in association with Little Terns, *Sterna albifrons*, (CJC).

Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica* Small numbers, Poon Boon Lakes, 31 Aug. - 4 Sept. (AKM); 17, Stockton Bridge, 12 Jan. (AEFR); Group of c. 60 and another of c 40, Stockton/Kooragang area, 13 Apr. (AEFR); 1 - 4, Comerong Is., 19 - 23 June, usually considered rare in this area, (CJC); Only 2, Dry Lake, 16 Feb., (KH); 1, 65 km. W. of Hay, 27 Feb., (IMcA); Approx. 600 pairs nesting, in three colonies, at Tullakool Salt Works, during Jan. (PM,CJC); again nested same area during Dec., with 22 runners counted on 22 Dec., (EBT).

Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia* 1, Lake Corooran, 25 July (DR); small numbers, Poon Boon Lakes, 31 Aug. - 4 Sept. (AKM).

Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo* Brunswick Heads: 3, 29 Mar.; 1, 1 Apr., (RMO); 1, Black Rock Beach, 17 May, (AKM), a late date. Departure date, Nambucca Heads: 14 Apr.; Arrival date: 28 Sept., (DS). Sydney: Approx. 340, Botany Bay., 9 March, (BD); 5, Clovelly, roosting in car park during heavy storm, 13 Oct., (RMO); 4, Broadmeadow, 29 Oct., (BD).

Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* Illawarra: Off Wollongong, 1, 21 Apr., (AMcB); 1, 25 May, (MJC), (see TBO 643:76); 1, 27 July, (AMcB); 1, 10 Aug., (AEFR,AMcB); and 3, 21 Sept., (AMcB).

White-fronted Tern, *Sterna striata* 1, nr Bradleys Head, 27 Apr., (IMcA); 5, Murray's Beach, 22 June (CJC); 1, <10 km. off Sydney, 27 July; also seen c. 15 km. off Sydney and nr. Continental Shelf, 24 Aug., (IMcA).

Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons* Brunswick Heads: 3, 29 Mar.; 4, 1 Apr., (RMO); 7+ pairs bred, Red Rock, Nov. - Dec., 11 runners banded, 7 Dec., (GC); Departure: Nambucca Heads: 25 May. Arrival: 15 Sept.; Bred here, (DS); Max. 258, Windang, 7 Dec., (CJC).

Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata* 1, off Long Reef, 9 Feb., (IMcA); 1, off Sydney, 23 Feb., (AMcB). Bet. 1 and 4, off Wollongong, 27 Jan., 24 Feb., 20 Apr., and 14 Dec., (AMcB).

Common Noddy, *Anous stolidus* 1, Cape Byron, 29 Mar., (RMO).

Black Noddy, *Anous minutus* 1, Ballina, 15 and 17 Feb., (GH).

Grey Noddy, *Procelsterna albivittata* Ballina: 1, 25 Jan. and 11 Feb., (GH); Sydney: 1, possibly 2, off Sydney Heads, 23 Feb., (AEFR,AMcB). Illawarra: off Wollongong - Jervis Bay, 3, 9 and 10 Feb.; 9, off Wollongong, 24 Feb., (AMcB).

White Noddy, *Gygis alba* 1, Ballina, 8 Mar. and 21 May, (GH); 1, found exhausted after heavy rain, Dorrigo, 21 Feb., (SGL), (see Aust. Birds 20:94). 1, off Wollongong, 12 Dec., (AMcB).

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus regina* Illawarra: 1, immature, Bass Point, 20 Aug. - 1 Sept., (CJC). Second record for County of Camden.

Superb Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus superbus* Single birds, feeding on blackberries, Kiah, 29 Mar. (LS).

Wompoo Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus magnificus* 1, found dead, Plum Scrub, Port Macquarie, Oct., (GC). Sydney: 1, feeding in rain-forest remnant, Collaroy, 11 Aug. (SB); 1, feeding on Blue Berry Ash berries, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, Collaroy Plateau, 9 Sept. (AM). Probably the same bird. Second and third records for County of Cumberland.

Topknot Pigeon, *Lopholaimus antarcticus* 10+, Iluka NR, 4 Aug., (DG); 1, in Camphor Laurel at South Grafton, 12 Nov., (DG); 20+, Pappinbarra FSC, 22 June, (DG). Newcastle: 8, Blackbutt Reserve, 28 July; 5, 26 Oct., (HBOC). Up to 100, McBrides Beach area, and c.5, Elizabeth Beach area, 5 Sept. (AEFR); 1, Ourimbah SF, 23 Mar., (IMcA). Sydney: Westleigh, max. c.50, 9 Mar., (AEFR).

White-headed Pigeon, *Columba leucomela* Newcastle: Numerous reports throughout year, of between 1 and 8, from various suburbs, esp. nr Blackbutt and Glenrock Reserves, (HBOC); 1, Ourimbah SF, 23 Mar., (IMcA); Sydney: Regular sightings, usually 1 - 6, max. 40+ (on 10 Sept.), Beecroft, along Devlins Creek/Lane Cove River area of South Turramurra, East Wahroonga, Killara, Lindfield and East Roseville, 17Mar. - 19 Oct., (BD,EF,HR,MH, IMcA,DLA). Reports and numbers in from Sydney Region appear to be increasing.

Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis* 1, Tamworth, 24 Mar., (AnL).

Collared Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* 1, Boambee, 18 Jan., probable escapee, (BL).

Brown Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia amboinensis* Numerous reports, of 1 or 2, from various Newcastle suburbs, esp. near Blackbutt and Glenrock Reserves, and from East Maitland, throughout year (HBOC); 1 - 6, regularly seen or heard along Devlins Creek and in South Turramurra, (BD,EF,IMcA).

Peaceful Dove, *Geopelia placida* 1, Cardiff, 4 Mar. (? possible escapee) (HBOC).

Diamond Dove, *Geopelia cuneata* 4, Lake Bancannia, 4 Sept.; 2, nr Nuclea Lake, 7 Sept., (DSm); 5, along Lake Cargelligo - Rankin Springs Rd., 29 Nov. (EF); Barham district: 1, 31 Jan.; 2, 10 Mar.; and 1, 10 Nov., (EBT); Pair, Lake Eucumbene, 13 Mar., (DLi; 1, Tabletop Mtn. Fire Trail, 24 Mar. (ML).

Bar-shouldered Dove, *Geopelia humeralis* Pair, observer's first record for area, 15 km. S. Merriwa, 14 - 18 Dec., (IMcA). 1, Bulga, 5 Dec., (DSm). Reported as unusually abundant in the Budgewoi/Lake Munmorah area, including an adult accompanied by a juvenile, 23 Mar. Numbers considered to have increased quite significantly in the area during the past 2 years (EF). Sydney: 1, North Head, SHNP, Oct., (AKM) and 4 Nov., (GG), (see Aust. Birds 20:74); 2, in dune scrub, Towra Point NR, 29 May. and 26 June, (AKM). These birds appear to be resident, cf. 1984 Report.

Common Bronzewing, *Phaps chalcoptera* 68, Grono Farm Rd., 28 July (EF).

Brush Bronzewing, *Phaps elegans* Sydney: Beacon Hill, 1, 30 Jan.; 3, 9 Aug.; 2, 15 Aug., (LJH). 1, Manly Dam, 29 Oct., (DS). Few recent records for Sydney Region.

Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica* Single birds, Blackbutt Reserve, Kotara, during April and on 13 Aug. (HBOC); 1, Cooranbong, mid-June (HBOC); 1, Byrell Crk., 13 Sept., (DSm).

Crested Pigeon, *Ocyphaps lophotes* Numerous coastal sightings reported from Q'land border to Sydney, incl. regular reports on long-established, small population along Hawkesbury R., in vicinity of Dharug NP, (GC); Breeding, South Turramurra, 7 July, (IMcA); Up to 16, throughout year, at feed station in Chatswood garden; First sighting, Falconbridge, 3 Feb., of a single bird. Since that date, sightings have been regular and included observations of more than one bird.

Flock Pigeon, *Phaps histrionica* 1, Yantara Lake, 28 Sept., (PM,GH).

Wonga Pigeon, *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* 1, Ashton Park, SHNP, Oct., (AKM, (see Aust. Birds 20:74).

Glossy Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* 4, Coultts Crossing, 11 Dec., (GC); 2, Arrawarra, 12 May, (AKM); 3, Station Crk., 3 Mar., (CJC); Nambucca Heads: Up to 29 separate individuals identified, by plumage, during year; Juvenile being fed by adults, Aug.; Seen at Valla, Bellin-

gen, Urunga and Scott's Head, bet. Jan. and June, (DS); Pair, 8 km N. of Lees Pinch, 18 Dec., (IMcA). Sydney: Small numbers, Dharug NP, 1 Jan. - 20 Aug., max. 6 on 10 Jan. and 25 June; 1+, Wrights Crk., 12 Feb.; 1+, Spencer, 13 Feb., 1, nr Gunderman, 5 May, (GC); 3, nr Appletree Bay, 2 June, (IMcA); Cowan Creek: 1, 30 June, and 3, 28 Sept., (BD). 3, Little Smoky Mtn., 22 July (GN); 2, Tully's Hill, 23 Apr.; 2, Mt. Misery, 5 May, (KH).

Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus funereus* Sydney: Westleigh, several occasions between 12 May (3,) and 21 Aug. (c. 20), (AEFR); 4, East Wahroonga, 9 June (EF); 6, South Turramurra, 3 Aug., (DLA); 3, 17 Aug., Pymble, (RMO). 50+, Bellanglo SF, 30 June, (CJC).

Gang-gang Cockatoo, *Callocephalon fimbriatum* Small numbers, Dharug NP, Jan. - Aug., Max. 10+, at Dubbo Gully, 17 Feb., (GC). Sydney: 2, Devlins Creek/Lane Cove River area of South Turramurra, 2 Jan., 12 Jan., 3 Aug., 14 Sept., 24 Nov.; 2, Kissing Point Road, South Turramurra, 3 Nov., (DLA); 6, Campbelltown, 23 Oct. (AJ). 2, The Rock NR. 2 Apr., (JB) - an exceptional record although occasionally recorded in winter nearby at Wagga Wagga and Livingston SF.

Galah, *Cacatua roseicapilla* Reported from many coastal and hinterland districts from Kyogle to Sydney, throughout year, indicating that this species is clearly well established east of the Great Divide, (GC).

Long-billed Corella, *Cacatua tenuirostris* 1, Tyalgum, probable ex-avairy, 13 Sept., (DSm); 1, Gunderman, probable ex-avairy, 18 Aug., (GC); 6, Tullakool, 18 Feb., (GC); 60+, feeding on grain spilled on road nr Deniliquin township, 26 Apr., (AKM), consistent with NSW occurrences.

Little Corella, *Cacatua sanguinea* 1, Tyalgum, probable ex-avairy, 13 Sept., (DSm); 7, Harparary Hsd, 7 June, and 17, c.10kms NE. of Boggabri, 8 Sept. (DR); Sydney: 80+, McGraths Hill, 29 Dec., (AKM); 2, in Hoop Pine, Royal Botanical Gardens, 2 Jan. (DD); 8, 5 Mar., 1, 17 June; 14, 18 July; 1, 3 Aug.; 2, 19 Oct., East Wahroonga - Turramurra, (EF,IMcA). 35, Kooraleigh, 31 Aug. (AKM); 2, Seven Mile Beach, Sept. - Nov., (CJC).

Pink Cockatoo, *Cacatua leadbeateri* Small flock, just S. of Nyngan, 19 Feb., (IMcA); 2, Bogan R., 31 Aug., (DSm); 2, Mootwingee NP, 5 Sept., (DSm); Pair, attending nest, nr Nuclea Lake, 7 Sept., (DSm); 1, Yelkin SF, 29 Nov. (EF); 2, Kyalite, 2 Sept. and 2, Penarie, 4 Sept. (AKM); 80, Tarrara Hsd, 13 May; seen regularly in the area bet. Dareton and Ivanhoe (300 km), throughout year with max. 35, on 27 Aug., (see also Aust. Birds 21: 104); throughout year at Dareton, with max. 18, at one time, (JH); 68, Buronga, 5 Feb., (IMcA).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua galerita* Nambucca Heads: Seen sporadically, usually 2 - 3, throughout year (since Christmas 1983); Valla: recorded in Mar., and May - Sept., (DS); Lower McDonald R.: 170+, 27 Apr.; 400+, 1 June; hundreds, 10 June and 13 July; 250+, 21 July, (GC).

Musk Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta concinna* 20+ feeding on flowering Forest Redgum, bet. Tabbimobile and Woodburn, 14 May, (AKM); Up to 14, present, East Wahroonga, bet. 20 Mar. and 12 Apr. (EF).