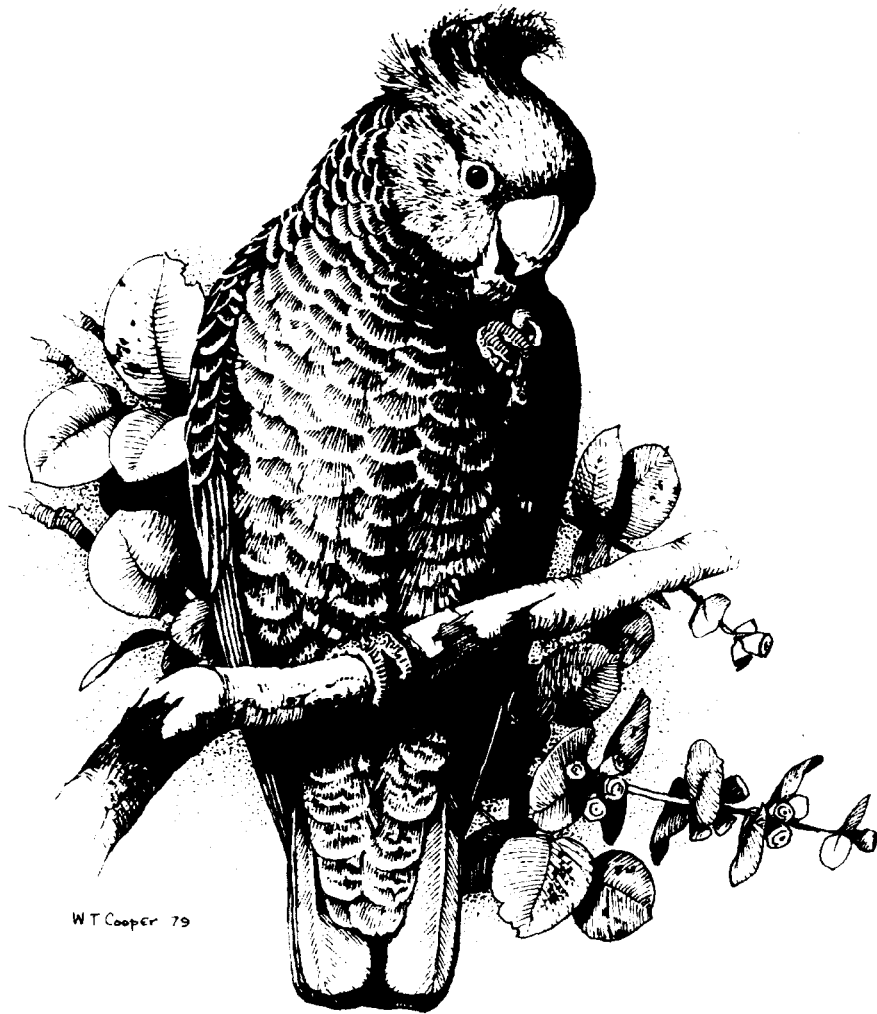


canberra bird notes

ISSN 0314-8211

Volume 31
Number 1
March 2006



W T Cooper 79

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBH 0255

CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP
PO Box 301 Civic Square ACT 2608

2005-06 Committee

President	Jack Holland	6288 7804 (h)
Vice-President	Nicki Taws	6251 0303 (h)
Secretary	Barbara Allan	6254 6520 (h)
Treasurer	Lia Battison	6231 0147 (h)
Conservation	Jenny Bounds	6288 7802 (h)
Conservation	Julie McGuiness	6249 6491 (w)
GBS coordinator	David Rosalky	6273 1927 (h)
Member	Chris Davey	6254 6324
Member	Anthony Overs	6254 0168 (h)
Newsletter editor	Sue Lashko	6251 4485
Webmaster	David Cook	

Email contacts

www.canberrabirds.org.au

CBN@canberrabirds.org.au

cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au

conservation.officers@canberrabirds.org.au

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au

membership@canberrabirds.org.au

rarities@canberrabirds.org.au

webmaster@canberrabirds.org.au

Other COG contacts

Databases	Paul Fennell	6254 1804 (h)
Membership	Alastair Smith	6161 8608 (h)
Sales	Carol Macleay	6286 2624 (h)
Waterbird survey	Michael Lenz	6249 1109 (h)

COG no longer operates an office in the Griffin Centre. If members wish to access the library or to borrow equipment, please contact the secretary.

ANNUAL BIRD REPORT: 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2005

*Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG)
PO Box 301, Civic Square, ACT 2608*

1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The ABR

The Annual Bird Report (ABR) is a summary of all of COG's database records of birds recorded in the Canberra region during the year in question. Its purpose is to make this information readily available to all COG members and the general public, and to draw attention to any significant changes or trends in the distribution or abundance of species in the region.

COG's area of interest ('the Canberra region') is defined as the area bound by parallels of latitude 34° 45' and 36° 00' S and meridians of longitude 148° 40' and 149° 45' E (see Map 1, p. 65). This encompasses an area of 13,675 sq km, of which the ACT, at 2,357 sq km, is only 17.2%. For COG's purposes of record collection, the area is divided into a grid of 780 cells, each of 2.5 minutes of latitude and longitude. Each cell is identified by an alpha-numeric code: A-Z across the region from west to east and 1-30 from north to south (see Map 2, p. 66). Elevations in the ACT range from 450 m above sea level to 1,911 m at the top of Mt Bimberi, and the ACT proper is about 130 km from the sea.

The records maintained by COG are categorised according to the type of survey used to collect the data, for which the methodology used may vary. The majority of records derive from general bird watching, surveying and atlassing done by COG members and are designated ABA (Australian Bird Atlas) records. Sightings made incidentally, e.g. while driving, or on other occasions when not specifically bird

watching, can be submitted and are designated INC. Specialised COG surveys such as the Garden Bird Survey (GBS), Woodland Survey (WOO), and Waterbird Survey (WBS) are well established; and other small-scale targeted surveys such as the Threatened Bird Survey (THR) and the Gungahlin Drive Extension Survey (GDE) have been established. COG's assistance with Greening Australia's 'Birdwatch' project provides further records designated GA. Additionally, records from COG's area of interest that are submitted to Birds Australia (BA) are provided to COG under an agreement between the two organisations. These records are designated BA.

A full breakdown of the contribution of each survey type (except for the GBS) to the total records collected is provided in Table 1 (pp. 51-55). However, for the purposes of the species texts in the Systematic List, records from all these surveys are considered collectively and summarised under the heading 'General'. In the Systematic List, WOO+ has been used to indicate combined records from WOO proper (see Woodland Survey protocol on p. 60) and extralimital records collected by standard ABA protocols in the course of conducting the Woodland Surveys. The latter are designated WOA in Table 1. The GBS is, as usual, dealt with separately. The significant difference in the way in which the records are collected (on a weekly basis rather than daily), and the more systematic and statistically amenable nature of the GBS data, warrants this approach.

COG asks that any sightings of birds considered to be 'unusual' in the Canberra region (see Appendix 2, pp. 70-71) are fully

described, preferably on an Unusual Bird Report Form, and submitted for assessment by the COG Rarities Panel. Only reports accepted by the panel become endorsed COG records. All records of 'unusual' birds in this ABR have been so endorsed unless indicated otherwise.

The year in context

The ABR summarises all the records held in the COG databases but cannot be considered a comprehensive or necessarily accurate reflection of the real situation. Many factors influence the level and consistency of reporting of the many and varied bird species in the region. Several of the major variable influencing factors on this year's ABR are mentioned briefly here. The effects of these influences need to be taken into account when attempting any interpretation of the data in the ABR.

Geographical variables such as temperature, rainfall, and water levels in the main lakes of the region can have a very significant effect on bird demographics. The 2004-05 year was characterised by warmer than average conditions and a very dry autumn (see Appendix 1, p. 69).

Eighteen months after the January 2003 bushfires, there were good signs of habitat renewal in the wet forests in the ranges to the west and south of Canberra, giving hope that the birds frequenting such habitats would return in due course.

There were 107 contributors of records from COG or persons whose data were provided to COG via Birds Australia. This is slightly down on last year, but higher than the very low levels of the mid- to late 1990s. There continues to be a disproportionately large number of records submitted by a few dedicated submitters; this has a significant effect on the spatial distribution of those records and the species involved.

COG is increasingly approached for its data by government and non-government agencies to assist them in addressing important environmental issues. Hence, we need to encourage more members to get involved and submit more records to enhance the value and accuracy of this resource.

Summary and highlights

In 2004-05, 216 bird species were recorded in our area. This is slightly lower than last year but is within historical levels — see table below. (This total excludes unendorsed records, as well as those species which are regarded as semi-captive at places such as Tidbinbilla NR, however it does include aviary escapees and some feral domestics.)

Year	spp	grid	cells	sheets	contrib
95-96	217	108	853	95	
96-97	217	91	591	88	
97-98	210	92	583	88	
98-99	213	239	1076	115	
99-00	206	288	1731	203 *	
00-01	215	435	2489	203 *	
01-02	217	327	1985	157	
02-03	227	191	1566	117	
03-04	222	177	1827	116	
04-05	216	176	1957	107	

* combined total for 1999-2001

Records were lodged for 176 of the 780 grid cells (22.6%) (see Map 2, p. 66). The most frequently surveyed cells were 115 (includes Cooleman Ridge), M13 (Campbell Park area), L14 (includes Kellys Swamp and Fyshwick sewage ponds), M12 (Mt Majura) and K13 (ANBG and ANU). Many of these grid cells are now in the top rankings because Woodland Surveys are conducted within them; others because of high numbers of INC records.

Presumably due to the continuing dry conditions inland, a wide variety of birds

associated with wetlands were again recorded this year, including cranes and rails, Pied Cormorants and Glossy Ibis.

The effect of the January 2003 bushfires in the ranges in the west and south of the region continues to be felt, with low recording rates for many wet forest species. No Cicadabirds were recorded. The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, however, continues to be recorded much more frequently in suburbia than before the fires.

The raptor highlight of 2004-05 was undoubtedly the considerable increase in records for the Black-shouldered Kite, probably associated with an increased availability of mice. From a low of 10 records in 1998-99, we now have a combined minimum number of 120 records, and 14 breeding records. The raptor lowlight was the complete absence of records for the Swamp Harrier, presumably occasioned by the dry conditions at its regular haunts.

The oddity of the year would have to be the single female Grey-crowned Babbler which took up residence at Duntroon (see Overs 2005). This is the first endorsed record for the species in our region since 1968. Of other infrequently recorded species, the Powerful Owl was again recorded in Tallaganda SF, a White-headed Pigeon was recorded in Macquarie, and the Spotted Harrier and Black Falcon were also recorded. Masked and White-browed Woodswallows made one of their irregular appearances, and both species bred.

On the breeding front, there was much good news. Of the now 177 species of bird reliably recorded as having bred in the COG region, 116 (66%) did so in 2004-05. That total of breeding records is based solely on formal breeding records and does not include the many species, such as Flame Robin, Olive Whistler and Collared Sparrowhawk, for which juveniles, almost certainly bred in

COG's area of interest, were recorded. Nor does it include the raptor breeding records of the University of Canberra researchers.

A notable "first" for the ACT this year was the Freckled Duck breeding on Yerrabi Pond (see Forshaw 2005). The honeyeaters too had a good season, with breeding recorded for most species save the Crescent and the Yellow-tufted. In the case of the White-eared and the White-naped Honeyeaters, these were the first breeding records since 2000-01. The Diamond Firetail, Eastern Yellow Robin, Varied Sittella and Mistletoebird were amongst other species also recorded as breeding, after no such records in 2003-04.

A breeding lowlight was the continued lack of reports of breeding for all cuckoo species. It is unclear whether this reflects reality, or is merely an unfortunate side-effect of the limitations of the preferred two hectare/twenty minutes search. The lack of breeding records for the Spotted Turtle-Dove is excellent news, but we note that concerted efforts are required to monitor this introduced species.

Garden Bird Survey overview

The Garden Bird Survey (GBS) completed its 24th year in 2004-05. In this year, 63 sites were monitored, three more than in the previous year. This continues the generally upward trend evident since the nadir of 1995/97, though the figure remains well short of the levels of 90 sites achieved in the Survey's heyday in the 1980s.

The net increase of three sites relative to the 2003-04 year involved 15 sites not active in 2003-04 and 12 sites active in 2003-04 but not in 2004-05. Several new sites were the result of contributors changing address. While some new sites are in the underrepresented areas of Gungahlin and Tuggeranong, further sites in those areas would improve the coverage of the survey.

Not all sites are Canberra-based residences. Three are work sites at ANU, Fyshwick and CSIRO at Crace, and two are rural sites, outside the ACT, at Gundaroo and Hoskinstown. Records from these sites can have a significant and distorting effect on the statistics of a variety of GBS species such as waterbirds and woodland birds. Disaggregation of data for rural and urban sites may be necessary for meaningful future statistical analyses of GBS data.

A total of 150 species was recorded (compared with 148 in 2003-04) from 2668 observer-weeks (5.4% above last year's 2532). Breeding was recorded for 48 species from 51 sites, similar to last year but higher than most recent years. Observation effort of breeding activity needs to be increased to improve COG's records and the value of the GBS.

The ranking of the most abundant species for 2004-05 was very similar to the previous year with the Galah and the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo comfortably leading the league table. Common Mynas and Common Starlings continue to outrank the Silvereye, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie and Red Wattlebird. Another exotic bird, the House Sparrow ranks next in 10th position, followed by Crested Pigeon and Yellow-faced Honeyeater. The latter has improved its ranking following the aftermath of the 2003 fires.

Six species were observed at least once by every observer (Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie and Magpie-lark) and 33 species were observed by at least one observer in every week of the year (some interesting inclusions are the Satin Bowerbird, Red-rumped Parrot, Laughing Kookaburra, Grey Fantail and Australian Wood Duck).

Woodland Survey overview

In 1998, COG began systematic monitoring of bird species and abundance in a number of high conservation value Grassy Woodland locations in the ACT. Six locations were initially selected Mulligans Flat, Mt Majura, Red Hill, Gooroo, Symonston and Castle Hill. The following sites have since been added: Majura Firing Range (1998-99); Hall/Gold Creek, Newline and Tuggeranong Hill (all 2000); Lambrigg (2001), Campbell Park (2003), Goorooyaroo (2004) and Naas (2004). Surveys of the Majura Firing Range which stopped due to access problems, resumed in 2004; the Lambrigg site was discontinued after the March 2004 survey when the owner withdrew his consent.

The species recorded most frequently during 2004-05 were Australian Magpie, Crimson Rosella, Weebill, Striated Pardalote, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian Raven, Grey Fantail, Eastern Rosella and Spotted Pardalote. In these cases Woodland surveys contributed a third to a half of all records.

Part of the reason for the Woodland survey is to monitor declining and threatened birds in Yellow Box / Red Gum grassy woodlands. The following table lists the number of times birds of interest were recorded during the year and the proportion of those records that were made during the Woodland surveys.

species	total woo+	%woo+
Brown Treecreeper	71	21 29.6
Jacky Winter	25	6 24.0
Scarlet Robin	178	38 21.3
Flame Robin	75	4 5.1
Hooded Robin	26	5 19.2
Varied Sittella	89	19 21.3
Crested Shrike-tit	30	8 26.7
White-winged Triller	80	13 16.3
Dusky Woodswallow	155	30 19.4
Diamond Firetail	60	10 16.7

A comprehensive anal. sis of the Woodland Survey is in progress. The report will be published in CBN in June 2006.

Waterbird Survey overview

Lake George and Lake Bathurst were dry for much of the time. Surveys were conducted in Sep, Nov, Dec, Mar and Jun, primarily at The Morass (southern end) but also on occasions at Lake Bathurst east and west basins, and at the Tarago tip at the south-east corner of Lake Bathurst. For the purposes of this **ABR**, Waterbird survey records have been incorporated in General accounts.



A highlight of 2004-05 — a Grey-crowned Babbler [Photo by Anthony Overs]

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE

2005 CASUARIIDAE: emu

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 2 records this year (cf mean of 1.9 over past 10 years): 2/26 Nov Pierces Creek GrF15 (HoS1) and 2/24 Apr Woods Reserve GrG18 (GrT1). These records indicate that emus are beginning to show up again outside of Tidbinbilla NR (though they probably represent birds escaped from the Reserve) in areas devastated by the 2003 bushfires. Also 2 records from within Tidbinbilla NR but these are not considered wild birds.

PHASIANIDAE: quail etc

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: A good year for Stubble Quail with 31 records (cf mean of 13.4, range 2-43, over previous 10 years). Most records were from the summer period, but also 2 records from Aug, 1 from Apr, 2 in May and 1 in Jun. Recorded from 16 grid cells across the region, including several locations such as Pierces Creek and Blue Range which are regenerating after the 2003 bushfires rather than being the typical grassland areas where this species is normally recorded. 5 of the records were from WOO+, 6 were from WBS. Most records were of 1-5 birds, the largest number recorded being 10.

GBS: 13 records of up to 4 birds between 1wk Nov and 4wk Feb from a site in Curtin (AJR1). These are the first GBS records since Feb 2002.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 8 records this year is a little above the average (5.5 over the previous 10 years, range 2-10) and up on the 3 records of last year. 3 of the records were from the well-known location at Diddam's Close (Lake Ginninderra), the others from 5 other scattered locations. Largest number reported was 13 (LaS1), the range being 1-1.3 with a mean of 6.1.

GBS: 5 records of 2-3 birds from a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), first recorded 2wk Feb, then again from mid-April to mid-May. These are the first GBS records since Jul 2001.

ANSERANATIDAE: Magpie Goose

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*
General: 2 records of birds from the semi-captive population at the waterbird ponds at Tidbinbilla NR.

ANATIDAE: ducks, swan

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* Rare, Breeding Visitor
General: 17 records; down on last year's 35 records, and again all from Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14. Recorded throughout the year with a maximum count of 12 in late February. No breeding reported.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 14 records of 1-2 birds from 3 grid cells. An increase on last year's 5 records due to increased number of reports from Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (4) and Uriarra Hs dam GrF13 (9). Other record from a large dam 5 km SW Tarago GrW09. A single breeding record, and an apparent first for our region: dy 20 Oct Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (FoJ1).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* Uncommon, Visitor

General: 15 records, all from Kellys Swamp or Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14, from Nov to Jun. A decrease from the previous 2 years (27 records from 4 grid cells in 2003-04, 22 from 5 in 2002-03). A maximum of 7 birds on 27 Mar (SmA1).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 120 records from 22 grid cells (cf 116 from 13 cells last year). Includes 2 WBS and 2 WOO— records. The last two years have seen a doubling of the number of records from the previous 4 years. Recorded throughout the year, the greatest numbers observed (60, 54, 40) all previous 4 years. Recorded throughout the year, the greatest numbers observed (60, 54, 40) all on LBG GrK14. 26 breeding records from 8 grid cells from Aug-Dec (16 records: 2 on, 12 dy, 2 br) and Apr-Jun (10 records: 1 on, 7 dy, 2 br).

GBS: A single record of 2 birds in 3wk Jan from a site in Fyshwick (VeP1).

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 28 records from 10 grid cells (incl 3 WBS). Similar to last year (32 records from 9 cells) but as for the Black Swan the last two years have seen twice the number of records of the previous 4 years. Recorded from most months of the year but with a drop off in autumn. The highest numbers recorded were 93/12 May Readymix quarries 4 km N Bungendore GrS12 (DeD2). 68 21 Dec The Morass GrZ08 (WBS LeM1) and 50/12 May Canturf dam 4 km SW Bungendore GrR13 (DeD2). A single breeding record: dy/12 Oct Canturf dam GrR13 (DeD2).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 274 records from 71 grid cells, a slight increase from last year (249 from 57). Includes 3 WBS and 54 WOO+ records. As usual the most widely distributed of waterfowl species. Largest concentration 400/9 Jun National Rose Garden, Parkes GrL14 (HoJ1). 16 breeding records from 8 grid cells: 6 ih between 1 Jul and 11 Sep, on 12 Sep and 15 Dec, and 8 dy between 6 Nov and 4 Feb.

GBS: Records from 23 sites from throughout the year, similar to last year, with breeding reported from 3 sites in Bruce GrK13, the ANU GrK13, and CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems Gr K12.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 7 records from 5 grid cells, all from local lakes and ornamental ponds. Similar to previous years.

GBS: A single record: 2/2wk Dec Yarralumla GrK14 (CCR1).

Domestic ducks and geese

These records include domestic Mallard-derived ducks not included above, Pacific Black Duck x Mallard hybrids, Muscovy Ducks and Greylag Geese.

General: 2 records of domestic Mallard-derived ducks from Lake Ginninderra and Lake Tuggeranong. 2 records of Pacific Black Duck X Mallard hybrid from Jerrabomberra Wetlands. 1 record of a Muscovy Duck at Lake Ginninderra. 3 records of up to 8 domestic geese from Lake Ginninderra.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 237 records from 47 grid cells, similar to last year (231 from 46) but an increase from the previous 4 years. Includes 1 WBS and 23 WOO+. Largest concentration 164/25 Jul Grevillea Park, LBG GrL14 (PeH2). 19 breeding records from 4 grid cells, all dy or br between 13 Sep and 22 Jan; an increase from last year (9 from 2).

GBS: Records from 11 sites throughout the year, with breeding reported from 2 sites: Curtin (AJR1) and ANU (PeH2).

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 83 records from 13 grid cells, similar to last year (87 from 12) but an increase from the previous four years. Recorded all months of the year. Largest concentration 33-39 during Feb-Mar Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14. Again, no breeding records.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 144 records from 27 grid cells (incl 4 WBS, 9 WOO+). The number has increased steadily from 43 records in 1999-00. Present all year with the largest concentration 130/21 Dec The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1, WBS). 7 breeding records, all dy or br between 5 Dec and 19 Feb, from Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14, Gorooyaroo GrM11, and Campbell Park GrM13.

GBS: 3 records of 2 birds from Curtin 1wk Jul, 4wk Aug and 5wk Oct (AJR1) and a single record of 2 birds from Hoskinstown 2wk Aug (KaJ1).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 45 records from 9 grid cells (incl 1 WBS). 34 of the records were from Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL 14, but records also from Campbell Park GrM13, National Zoo and Aquarium GrJ14, Tidbinbilla NR GrF18, Naas and Namadgi NP GrJ17, Googong Dam GrO17, near Tarago GrW09, and The Morass GrZ08. Largest concentration was 6/24 Oct 7km SW of Tarago GrW09. A single breeding record: dy/19 Feb Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2).

GBS: 10 records of up to 6 birds between 1wk Jul and 3wk Nov from CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Crace GrK12 (OrP1).

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

Common, Visitor

General: 64 records from 3 grid cells; a slight decrease in the number of cells but a similar number of records since the increase in 2002-03, after a low of just 6 records in 1999-00. 62 of the records were from Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14 throughout the year, but single records also from Readymix quarries 4 km N Bungendore GrS 12 and Yerrabi Pond GrL11. Largest concentration 72/28 May Kellys Swamp GrL14 (SmA1).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 50 records from 13 grid cells, similar to previous years, with 19 of the records from Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14. Largest concentration 150/18

Nov Fyshwick sewage ponds (BuM1). Recorded all months of the year but largest concentrations were recorded over the spring and summer months.

PODICIPEDIDAE: grebes

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 83 records from 28 grid cells (incl 17 WOO+ from 6 sites). The number of records has continued to fall since 2000-01 but the number of cells has increased slightly on the past 2 years (2000-01, 124 records from 55 cells; 2001-02, 90 from 36; 2002-03, 94 from 25; 2003-04, 103 from 22). Although the cells had a slightly greater distribution than in the previous 2 years the majority were still in or near Canberra. Only 15 records came from Jerrabomberra Wetlands and Fyshwick sewage ponds, compared with 52 in the previous year. Records were reported in all seasons: spring (24), summer (12), autumn (27), winter (20). Largest numbers reported: 20 10 Sep JWNP GrL14 (BuM1), 19/26 Mar Uriarra Hs dam GrF13 (PeH2). There were 3 breeding records: on/7 Nov Mulligans Flat GrL10 (HoS1), dy/15 Feb Pond 1 Dunlop GrL11 (CuR1). dy' 11 Mar Majura Firing Range GrN13 (BoJ1). Grl 11 (CuR1) dy' 11 Mar Majura Firing Range GrN13 (BoJ1).

GBS: 1/1 k Apr Hoskinstown GrS17 (Kan).

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 42 records (compared with 75 last year) from 13 grid cells (incl 2 WOO+). After several years of increases, the number of records of this species has fallen back to the level of 2001-02. Of the 42 records, 20 came from Jerrabomberra Wetlands and the Fyshwick sewage ponds. They were reported in all seasons with more being reported in spring (16) and autumn (17) than in summer (5) and winter (4). Largest numbers reported: 130/25 Feb, 126/23 Mar, 96/5 Sep. 50 18 Nov all Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14 (HoS1, PeH2, BuM1) (but note that on 20 Nov. 300 were seen on the Gorman Road sewage ponds, near Goulburn, just outside of COG's "area of interest" (Holland 2004)). No breeding recorded.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Rare, Breeding Visitor
General: A single record: 1/22 Jan bay near Westbourne Woods LBG GrJ14 (LaS1).

ANHINGIDAE: darter

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: 63 records from 10 grid cells. This is similar to the large number reported last year (65 records from 7 grid cells). As for last year, all records came from suburban lakes and wetlands, the majority (49) from LBG and its environs (including JWNP), with other records from LGin (10), LTug (2) and the Dunlop Ponds (1). They were reported in all seasons: spring (9), summer (21), autumn (27) winter (5). Largest numbers reported: 42/8 May, 37/12 Dec. 31/4 Feb E Basin-Molonglo R GrL14 (HoJ1, A1B1). These numbers are similar to last year. Breeding was reported from 2 sites: East Basin-Molonglo River (GrL14-M14) ny/12 Dec, dy/12 Dec, ny/4 Feb, ny/26 Feb, ny/8 May, ny/25 May (Hon, A1B1, BuM1); E side Black Mt Peninsula LBG (GrK13) ny/15 Jan, dy/19 Feb (HoJ1). The number of birds involved in these reports ranged from 11 to 53 (E Basin-Molonglo River) and 12 to 16 (Black Mt Peninsula). Little Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants were also breeding at these sites at the same time as the Darters. A breeding record from Jerrabomberra Wetlands (GrL14) on 17 Oct is likely to have been from along the Molonglo River (M. Fyfe [pers. com.](http://pers.com)) which is the site of the breeding colony documented above.

GBS: 19 records from 2 sites: 18 records of 1-8 birds throughout the year from a site in Fyshwick GrM14 (VeP1), and 4/3wk Mar Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

PHALACROCORACIDAE: **cormorants**

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 118 records (incl 8 WOO+) from 30 grid cells. This is the largest number of records since 1988-89 and the number of grid cells has increased from the low of 19 reported last year. Despite the increase in the number of cells, the majority of records, 85 (72%), continue to come from urban lakes and wetlands in Canberra. They were reported in all seasons: spring (26), summer (30), autumn (44) winter (18). Breeding was reported from two sites: E Basin-Molonglo R (GrL14) ny/12 Dec, on/26 Feb (HoJ1, BuM1); E side Black Mt Peninsula-Sullivans Ck LBG (GrK13) ny/15 Jan, dy/19 Feb (HoJ1). The number of birds involved in these reports ranged from 2 to 15 (E Basin-Molonglo R) and 35 to 50 (Black Mt Peninsula-Sullivans Ck). Darters and Little Black Cormorants were also breeding at these sites at the same time. These breeding records were also the largest aggregations reported this year. Away from the breeding colonies the largest numbers reported were 13/22 Aug, 10/22 Sep, 10/17 Oct LGin GrJ12 (BuM1). Most other reports were of 1, 2, or 3 birds.

GBS: 49 records from 4 sites: Curtin GrJ14 (8 records), Macgregor GrI12 (22), Fyshwick GrM14 (16) and Hoskinstown GrS17 (3). This is the largest number of records ever reported for this species in the GBS. They comprised 41 records of 1 bird, 5 of 2 birds, 2 of 3 birds and 1 of 5 birds, from all months of the year.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius* Rare, Visitor
 Since February 2001 this species has been sighted regularly at Canberra's main lakes.
General: 6 records, incl 3 of up to 3 birds from Aspen Island LBG, and 3 of single birds from Lake Ginninderra GrJ 12.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 37 records from 10 grid cells. As in previous years, most records (34) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra with the majority coming from LBG and JWNP (23 records) and LGin (9 records). As in previous years there were fewer records in winter (2) than in spring (10), summer (14) or autumn (11). Breeding was reported from two sites: E side Black Mt Peninsula-Sullivans Ck LBG (GrK13) ny/15 Jan, dy/19 Feb, on/21 Mar, and from E Basin-Molonglo R (GrL14-M14) on/12 Dec, on/4 Feb, on/26 Feb. The number of birds involved in these reports varied from 40 to 120 (Black Mt Peninsula-Sullivans Ck) and 10 to 75 (E Basin-Molonglo R). They were again associated with Darters and Little Pied Cormorants which were also breeding at these sites. The largest numbers of non-breeding birds reported were 140/7 May JWNR GrL14 (SmA1), 70/8 May E Basin-Molonglo R GrM14 (HoJ1). 28/25 Dec LGin GrJ12 (BuM1). These are unusually large aggregations as normally they are reported in numbers of no more than 30.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 72 records from 18 grid cells. Although the number of cells remains fairly low the number of records is the largest ever reported in this category (the previous largest was 51 from 24 cells in 1991-92). Most records (58) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in with the majority (36) coming from LBG and JWNP. They were reported in all seasons: spring

(20), summer (14), autumn (31), winter (7). There were unusually large numbers seen during autumn and winter: 150i28 May Lotus Bay-Weston Park LBG GrK14 (Anil), 50/12 Jun Yarramundi Reach LBG GrK13 (SmA1), 32,26 Mar Tuggeranong Weir and surrounds GrJ17 (PeH2), 21/31 Mar LGin GrJ12 (A1131), 20/8 May E Basin-Molonglo River GrL14 (HoJ1). There were no records of breeding (but see Compston (2005) who reported about 3 Great Cormorants nesting along the Molonglo R on 23 Jan 2005 together with Darters, Little Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants).

GBS: 17 records from 5 sites from Oct to May: 2 records of single birds from Curtin (GrJ14), 1 of a single bird from the ANU (GrK13), 12 of 1 or 2 birds from Macgregor (GrI12), 1 of 4 birds from Fyshwick (GrM14) and 1 of a single bird from Higgins (GrI12).

PELECANIDAE: pelican

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* Common, Visitor

General: 53 records from 8 grid cells is a fall in the recording rate after 4 years of steady growth (2000-01, 17 records from 5 cells; 2001-02, 41 from 11; 2002-03, 66 from 13; 2003-04, 79 from 11). As was the case in recent years the majority of records (45) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra of which 37 were from LBG and its environs (incl JWNP and the Fyshwick sewage ponds). As in previous years there were fewer records in winter (5) and autumn (12), than in spring (19) and summer (17). Largest numbers reported were as usual in JWNR GrL14 during the warmer months: 18/30 Dec, 11/7 Jan, 11/31 Jan, 10/20 Jan (LaS1, HoS1).

GBS: 6 records from 3 sites: 4/2wk Dec Aranda GrJ13 (RoS1), 1/2wk Feb Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1), 3/5wk Oct, 4/1wk Nov, 2/2wk Nov, 3/3wk Nov all Fyshwick GrM14 (VeP1).

ARDEIDAE: herons, egrets, bitterns

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 113 records (incl 8 WOO+ and 1 WBS) from 34 grid cells continues the lower numbers of the past three years. Although the number of cells was almost the same the records were a little more widely distributed this year with 48 (42%) coming from beyond Canberra and its environs compared with 27 (25%) last year. They were reported in all

- seasons with most in autumn (49), followed by spring (25), summer (23) and winter (16). Largest numbers reported: 6/21 Dec LBthW GrY08 (LeM1, WBS), 6/17 Apr, 5/7 May JWNR GrL14 (SmA1), the remainder were of 4 birds or less. There was one breeding record: dy/15 Nov Sullivans Creek, ANU GrK13 (PeH2).

GBS: 83 records of 1 (72 records) or 2 birds (11 records) from 14 sites scattered through southern Canberra (there were no records from Belconnen or Gungahlin) and one site each in Gundaroo and Hoskinstown (these latter 2 rural sites accounted for 46 (55%) of the total records). They were reported in all seasons with no discernible pattern.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare, Visitor

No records in 2003-04. Last recorded 26 Jun 1999.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: 13 records (incl 2 WBS: LBth and The Morass). Although more than the last two years, the number of reports remains low. The reports came from 10 grid cells in and around Canberra. All were of single birds with the exception of: 5/21 Dec The Morass (WBS) GrZ08 (LeM1), 4/15 Dec Kelly Rd nr Michelago GrL22 (HoJ1), 2/19 Dec TSR 48, 8 km N Gundaroo GrN05 (BoJ1), 2/6 Mar Rivergums, Tinderry GrP20 (BrM2). There have been anecdotal reports of breeding in recent years but the most recent breeding record is Nov 1996 (COG 1999). The 15 Dec record at Kelly Rd noted that 2 adults with 2 young were observed but they may have bred elsewhere and flown into the area (see also Holland 2005b).

GBS: 1/4 wk Jul Weston GrJ15 (BoJ1).

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Uncommon, Visitor
General: 14 records (incl 1 WBS: The Morass) from 6 grid cells which is similar to the reporting rate for the past 6 years. They were reported from 29 Aug to 10 Jun. 7 of the records came from JWNR (including the Molonglo R) GrL14, 3 from LGin GrJ12, 2 from Dunlop Ponds Gill 1, 1 from The Morass (WBS) GrZ08 and 1 from Readymix Quarries 4 km N Bungendore GrS 12.

GBS: 1/4wk May Macgregor GrI12 (BrM4).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Rare, Visitor
General: No records in 200405. Last recorded 4 Jan 2004.

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* Uncommon, Visitor
 Numbers have been low since 1991-92 (46 records of up to 17 birds) and 1992-93 (21 records of up to 19 birds) (COG 1996, 1997). The following record was published in CBN but did not appear in the 2003-04 ABR: two Cattle Egrets were observed at LGin on 21 Jun 04 (one caught and ate a Red-browed Finch) (Layton (2004)).

General: 3 records, all from Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14: x/17 Oct (FyM1); x/1 May; 3/7 May (both SmA1).

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: 12 records from 6 grid cells. 7 of the records were spring and summer reports from LGin: 8/10 Oct, 3/17 Oct, 6/1 Nov, 5/5 Nov, 8/8 Nov, 7/14 Nov, 11/25 Dec all LGin GrJ12 (McJ4, BuM1, CuR1, PeH2). Also 1/12 Oct Millpost GrR13 (DeD2), 1/20 Nov Kellys Rd GrL21 (Anil), 1/12 Dec Molonglo R GrM14 (HoJ1), 1/23 Jan Kellys Swamp GrL14 (CuR1), 3/23 Jan Uriarra Hs dam GrF13 (LiB1).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* Rare, Visitor
 No records. Last recorded 20 Jan 2004.

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* Rare, Visitor
 No records. Last recorded 27 Jun 2001.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE: ibises and spoonbills**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare, Visitor

General: 3 records (3% or 2 days from Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14: 3/28 Oct, 21/28 Oct, 19/29 Oct (PeH2. BuM1. HoS1). These were the first records since 30 Jan 2003.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 31 records (incl 1 WOO: MUL) from 15 grid cells. This is a considerable fall on the exceptional 71 records reported last year. 19 of the records reported this year came from suburban Canberra with only 10 (compared with 50 last year) from Jerrabomberra Wetlands and the Fyshwick sewage ponds. As in previous years the majority were reported in spring (7) and summer (12), with fewer in autumn (8) and winter (4). Largest numbers reported: 350/29 Aug Mugga Lane tip GrL16 (BuM1); 253/5 Sep, 47/21 Aug Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2); all others 20 or less.

GBS: 31 records from 11 sites. Although the numbers of records and sites are almost the same as last year, abundance ($A=0.0909$) has continued to fall (2001-02, $A=0.6638$; 2002-03, $A=0.2909$; 2003-04, $A=0.2141$). This reflects the lower group sizes which are being reported. Largest 55 4wk Aug Melba GrJ12 (MoM1), 32/2wk Aug Holt GrI12 (DwB1), 30/4wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). They were reported in all seasons: spring, 11; summer, 8; autumn, 4; winter, 8.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Common, Visitor

General: 30 records (incl 1 WBS: The Morass) from 14 grid cells is a drop on the number of records of the last 2 years (55 in 2003-04 and 48 in 2002-03). Most records (26) were from suburban Canberra. The majority were reported in winter (16), followed by autumn (10), spring (2) and summer (2). Largest numbers reported were: 71/26 Jun Deakin West Playing Fields GrK14 (PeH2), 50/26 Feb E. Basin LBG to Molonglo R. GrL14 (BuM1), 50/15 Jun Kippax Oval GrI12 (CuR1), the remainder were 26 or less. The group sizes are smaller than the last three years when numbers from 100 to 300 were reported.

GBS: 62 records from 16 sites is also a drop from the high levels of the past two years (97 records from 24 sites in 2003-04 and 91 from 22 in 2002-03). The majority were reported in winter (29) and autumn (26), with fewer in summer (4) and spring (3). The records came from sites distributed over most of Canberra (though none from Gungahlin) with the majority coming from sites in Curtin (15) and Fyshwick (10). Largest: 34/4wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1), all others 30 or less. Over three years there has been a steady decline in both the number of records and the group size which is reflected in the abundance figures: 2002-03 $A=0.4046$, 2003-04 $A=0.3949$, 2004-05 $A=0.1386$.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: A total of 20 records (incl 1 WBS: The Morass). Of these 15 records of from 1 to 4 birds and 3 records of x birds came from Jerrabomberra Wetlands from 17 Oct through to 10 Mar. Also 1/21 Dec The Morass (WBS) GrZ08 (LeM1) and 1/26 Feb E. Basin LBG to Molonglo R. GrL14 (BuM1).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 5 records (incl 1 WBS): 1/12 Oct Canturf dam, 4 km SW Bungendore GrR13 (DeD2), 2/21 Dec The Morass (WBS) GrZ08 (LeM1), 1/10 Mar, x/6 May both JWNR GrL14 (HoS1, SmA1), 1/12 May Readymix Quarries, 4 km N Bungendore GrS12 (DeD2).

ACCIPITRIDAE: kites, harriers, goshawks, eagles

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

The raptor highlight of 2004-05 was the considerable increase in records for this species, probably associated with an increased availability of mice. From a low of 10 records in 1998/99, we now have a combined minimum number of 120 records, compared with an average of 49 over the 6 previous years.

General: 93 records (incl 56 INC, but no WOO+), from 27 widespread grid cells, and from all months of the year, but with a peak in autumn and early winter, with 42 records (45%) from Apr-Jun. Records were of 1-5 birds. There were 14 records of breeding, the first COG breeding records since 1997, though University of Canberra research shows otherwise (see Fuentes and Olsen 2005 and Holland 2005a). Breeding ranged from nb/4 Oct to dy/10 May, both Coleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ 1).

GBS: 27 records from 6 sites, mainly in the autumn months. This is a return to usual numbers after a low of 8 records from a single site last year. All records were of single birds except 2/4wk Apr Curtin (AJR1).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Rare, Visitor

No records. Last recorded 30 Jan 2004.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 30 records, about average for this species in recent years. Recorded throughout the year with a concentration in May (10 records); 80% of records from Jerrabomberra Wetlands and environs GrL14 but also recorded around Uriarra Crossing, Googong Dam and Bungendore. No breeding recorded, though note 3/19 Jan JWNR (PeH2).

GBS: 3 records of single birds: twice in Aug at Fyshwick (probably the same birds recorded from Jerrabomberra Wetlands) and once in Watson in Jan.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 4 records, in autumn-winter, of single birds along the Murrumbidgee River, over Black Mountain, and at Kellys Swamp. Continues the regular but low level of reporting of this species in our region.

GBS: 2 records: 1/1wk Jul Kambah (PeH2); and 1/4wk Nov Fyshwick (VeP1).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Rare, Visitor

General: 1 endorsed record: 1/13 Jun Yass Valley Way GrG3 (HoS1); plus 2 further records not presented to the Rarities Panel for appraisal.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

No records, for the first time since regular reporting over COG's broader area of concern has been in practice. The continuing dryness of one of their regular haunts, Rose Lagoon GrU04, has probably occasioned this absence.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* Common, Breeding Resident
 General: 52 records (incl 14 WOO+: CAS, CMP, GOO, HAL, MJF, MUL, NLQ, SYM), of 1-2 birds. throughout the year, from the urban fringes and CNPs. The number of records fluctuates. but these are within historical parameters. Breeding (all DaG2): on/8 Nov Newline GrN14; 26 Nov Oaks Estate GrN15; dy/28 Nov Campbell Park GrL13.

GBS: 23 records. all of single birds, from 13 widespread sites, throughout the year.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* Rare, Visitor
 General: One record: 2/17 Sep Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* Common, Breeding Migrant
 General: 28 records (incl 2 WOO+), all of single birds except 2/12 Dec Turner (CuR1), from

15 grid cells. mainly urban locations and city fringes, including CNPs. Recorded throughout the year: no breeding reported.

GBS: The most recorded garden raptor, with 104 records, the same number as last year. Records from 26 widespread sites, though "regular" only at one site in Curtin (22 wks) and another at Crace (14 wks). Mostly single birds, with 10 instances of 2 birds. Recorded in all months. though less frequently in summer. It now appears that the birds are more resident than migratory (see Wilson 1999) No breeding recorded, but a male in juvenile plumage was recorded three times (1wk, 4wk Apr, 1wk May) at a site in Page GrJ12 (A1B1), on the first occasion with an adult female in attendance.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* Common, Breeding Resident
 Combined number of records (130) up from a five-year average of 99.
 General: 73 records, in all months, from 35 widespread, mainly rural, grid cells, of 1-4 birds. Includes 3 WBS and 6 WOO+ (GOO, GOS, HAL and MUL). No breeding recorded, (but see Fuentes and Olsen 2005).

GBS: 57 records of 1-3 birds from 20 widespread sites. Recorded in every month, but regular (22 wks) at only one rural site in Hoskinstown (KaJ1).

Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
 General: 45 records (incl 1 WBS and 1 WOO+: GOO) of mainly 1-2 birds, all months, from

16 grid cells. Two-thirds of the records from the well-surveyed Mt Majura-Mt Ainslie-Jerrabomberra Wetlands area, with occasional records from further afield e.g. Uriarra Crossing, Lake Bathurst, Tidbinbilla and Gundaroo. 1 breeding record: on/18 Nov TSR48 GrO05 (GrT1).

GBS: A surprising 23 records, all of single birds, from 11 sites. Regular in none.

FALCONIDAE: falcons, hobby, kestrel

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
 General: 29 records (incl 2 WBS and 4 WOO+: HAL, MUL, NAS), of 1-4 birds, from 22 grid cells on the urban fringes. No breeding recorded, though multiples in the Blue Range Hut area hopefully suggestive of breeding: 3/22 May (SmA1) and 4/2 Jun (WaJ2). Fewer records than in recent years but within historical parameters.

GBS: Only 1 record: 1/1wk Feb Fyshwick GrM14 (VeP1).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 24 records, incl 3 WOO+ (HAL, NLQ, RED), all of single birds, from all months except Apr, and from 18 widespread sites in urban, semi-rural and rural locations. Reporting rate on a par with previous years. A single breeding record: on/19 Dec TSR 48 near Gundaroo GrN05 (BoJ1).

GBS: 58 records, from 23 widespread sites, of 1-2 birds, with one record of 3/1wk Mar Kambah (VeP1). As usual, the greatest number of records came from the late-summer early-autumn period, 23 (41%) being recorded in Feb-Mar.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

Rare, Visitor

General: 3 endorsed records: 1/6 Mar Brindabella Rd GrF14 (OvA 1); 1/6 Apr Barton Highway near Murrumbateman GrI06 (HoS1); and 1/2 Jun Chapman horse paddocks GrI15 (HoJ1). Also 1 further record not presented for appraisal. Continues the pattern of recent years of occasional records, especially in autumn, of this predominantly inland species.

GBS: One record not presented for appraisal.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Combined 38 up a little on last 5 years' combined average of 26 but probably not significant in the long term.

General: 26 records (incl 2 WOO+: GOS, NLQ) of 1-2 birds, from 16 widespread grid cells, from urban sites, along the Murrumbidgee River, and from other rural locations. No breeding recorded.

GBS: 12 records, 9 of which were in autumn, all of single birds. Recorded from 5 sites in Ainslie, Watson, Higgins, Curtin and Fyshwick.

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 94 records (incl 2 WBS and 12 WOO+: GOS, HAL, MJF, NLQ, RED, SYM, and TUG), of mainly 1-2 birds, with one record of 3/26 Mar Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HaI I). Recorded in all months, but with a marked seasonal pattern — 32 spring records (34%), 15 summer (16%), 37 autumn (39%) and only 10 in winter (11%). From 44 widespread grid cells. Three indications of breeding (all co): 18 Sep TUG GrK17 (McJ4); 10 Oct and again 29 Oct Narrabundah Hill GrI15 (HoJ1). Numbers appear to be building up again after the slump during the drought, but are still well short of the 2000-01 peak of 195.

GBS: 22 records from throughout the year but again with most records in spring and autumn. One record of two birds, all other records of single birds. Recorded from 4 sites, but relatively common only in two, in Curtin and Fyshwick.

RALLIDAE: rails, crakes, swamphen, moorhen, coot**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Three records for the year, all of single birds from Kellys Swamp (GrL 14) on 7, 14 and 19 Jan (HoS1, PeH2). This compares to a mean of 2.2 records, range 0-9, over the previous 10 years, with records now for 8 of the past 11 years.

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: Lewin's Rails are rarely recorded in the ACT, and 6 of the 7 records for this year relate to a single bird that took up temporary residence near Nerang Pool in Commonwealth

Park (GrL13) from 2 Aug to 2 Sep (see Perkins 2004). The other record was x/27 Mar Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14 (SmA1). This is the 4th year in the past 11 in which the species has been recorded.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

Rare, Visitor

General: A significant increase in sightings this year, with 15 records, of up to 2 birds, all from Kellys Swamp/Jerrabomberra Wetlands between 10 Sep and 26 Jan (BuM1, HoS1, McJ4, PeH2, SmA1). This is the 7th year of the past 11 with records, the mean number of records over the previous 10 years being just 1.9 (range 0-5).

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 8 records this year is somewhat up on the average of 3.3 (range 0-9) over the previous ten years, and this is the 7th year of the past 11 with records. All records were from Kellys Swamp GrL14 (1-2 birds) except for a record of 4 birds from the Molonglo River near Duntroon, also GrL14 (BuM1).

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

Rare, Breeding Resident

- **General:** 12 records, all from Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14, from HoS1, PeH2 and SmA 1, between 2 Sep and 2 Apr. This compares with an average of 2.3 records (range 0-6) over the previous 10 years, with records now for 7 of the past 11 years.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 120 records from throughout the year, generally of fewer than 15 individuals but with one exceptional count of 50 birds in May at Lake Tuggeranong. The urban lakes and associated wetlands account for 97% of the records (75 from Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage works, 19 from various sites around Lake Burley Griffin, 18 from Lake Ginninderra, 3 from Lake Tuggeranong, and 1 from Gungahlin wetlands). Just 4 records from locations away from Canberra, including 3 from Uriarra homestead dam, and 1 from Tidbinbilla NR. There were 14 reports of breeding, all of dy or br, from 15 Nov to 20 Jan.

GBS: No GBS records this year.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 130 records from throughout the year, generally of fewer than 12 individuals with a maximum of 26 birds at LGin in Aug. The urban lakes and associated wetlands account for 89% of the records (73 from Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage works, 20 from various sites around LBG, 19 from LGin, 3 from LTug, and 1 from Gungahlin wetlands). The 14 records from locations away from Canberra include 5 from Tidbinbilla NR, 3 from Uriarra homestead dam, 2 from Googong Dam, and single records from Uriarra Crossing GrG12, Bungendore sewage works GrS13, Yass River GrF03 and Mulwaree River GrZ01. There were 19 reports of breeding (14 dy, 4 br, 1 nb) between 21 Sep and 1 May, all from urban lake sites except for nb/14 Nov Yass River GrF03 (HoJ1).

GBS: Records of a single bird from a site in Macgregor in 1wk Jan and 2wk Apr (BrM4).

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records this year. Last recorded 29 Dec 2002 at Kellys Swamp.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 146 records from throughout the year. 18% of these had counts of more than 50 birds, the largest counts being 142 at Fyshwick sewage ponds, and 105 at Black Mountain Peninsula on Lake Burley Griffin. As usual, most records (80%) came from Canberra's urban lake systems, the remaining 29 from various wetlands, sewage works and larger farm dams around the region. For such a common species, coots are only rarely recorded breeding in the region so the 3 breeding records this year are notable: nb/6 Sep Mulligans Flat GrL 10 (BuM1.); dy/5 Nov Lake Gininderra GrJ12 (CuR1); and ny/20 Nov Mulwaree River GrZ01 (HoJ1).

GBS: No GBS records this year.

TURNICIDAE: **button-quail****Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varia*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 8 records this year (cf average of 4.4, range 1-9 for previous 10 years) from 8 well-scattered sites, including 1 WOO record from RED GrK14 (PeH2). Most records of single birds but also records of 2 and 3 birds in Namadgi NP (Sma1, HoS1), and a single breeding record (1 adult + 4 dy) at 1,150 m near Piccadilly Circus in the Brindabella Range (see Maconachie and Perkins 2005).

SCOLOPACIDAE: **snipe, sandpipers and allies**

No records this year of **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (last recorded Oct 1996), **Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus* (last recorded Oct 1977), **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* (last recorded Nov 2003), **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (last recorded Dec 1996), **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* (last recorded Nov 1999), **Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis* (last recorded Jan 2004), **Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta* (last recorded Dec 2002), **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* (last recorded Jan 2003) or **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* (last recorded Sep 1997).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Uncommon, Migrant

General: 14 records from 3 cells, a decrease from the previous 3 years. 12 records from Kellys Swamp JWNR GrL14, but also 1/1Nov LBathE GrYo8 (LeM1, WBS), and 1/13 Nov Chapman GrI15 (HoJ 1).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Rare, Migrant

General: 5 endorsed records from 2 cells, the first observations since Nov 2002. A single bird at Kellys Swamp JWNR GrL14 was recorded 4 times from 13-15 Sep. Also a WBS record of 6 birds on 21 Dec at LBathE GrY08 (LeM1). 1 other record not presented for appraisal.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare, Migrant

General: 8 records of a single bird at Uriarra Crossing GrG12 between 22 Oct and 26 Mar. This is the second consecutive year that a single bird has been monitored at Uriarra Crossing (see Perkins 2005).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* Common, Migrant
General: 12 records from 2 cells, similar to last year. 11 records from Kellys Swamp GrL14 between 26 Aug and 14 Jan, and a single record from near Tarago GrW09 on 24 Oct. Maximum 16 30 Oct Kellys Swamp.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Rare, Migrant
General: 3 records of a single bird at Kellys Swamp GrL14 from 26-28 Aug (PeH2, HoS1, BuM1). First record since Jan 2002.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE: stilts, avocet

No records this year for **Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* (last recorded Feb 1998) or **Red-necked Avocet** *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* (last recorded Jul 2003).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: 11 records from 2 grid cells: 10 from Kellys Swamp JWNR GrL14 and a single WBS record from The Morass, Lake Bathurst GrZ08. 1 record from 28 Aug, 1 from 21 Dec, 8 from 19-31 Jan, and 1 from 25 May. Maximum 4/21 Dec The Morass (LeM1).
GBS: A single record of 3 birds 4wk Dec at Gundaroo GrO07 (NiA1).

CHARADRIIDAE: plovers, dotterels, lapwings

No records this year for **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* (last recorded Oct 2001) or **Double-banded Plover** *Charadrius bicinctus* (last recorded Sep 2003).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 3 records from 2 cells: 2/16 Jul, 1/12 May Canturf dam 4 km SW of Bungendore GrR13 (DeD2); and 14/21 Dec LBathE GrY08 (LeM1, WBS).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elsyornis melanops* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 64 records (incl 3 WOO+) from 13 grid cells, a continuation of the increase in the number of records over the last 4 years. Records from throughout the year with a maximum of 14/10 Mar Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (HoS1).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythronys cinctus* Uncommon, Visitor
General: 38 records from 5 grid cells, similar to previous 2 years. 31 records from Kellys Swamp JWNR GrL14. Recorded Jul-Aug, Oct, Jan and Mar-Jun, with a maximum of 5/28 May Kellys Swamp/Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (SmA1).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: 2 WBS records: 5/21 Dec The Morass GrZ08 and 1/21 Dec LBathE GrY08 (LeM1). An increase from the 2 birds seen last year from similar locations.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 144 records (incl 3 WOO+) from 33 grid cells, similar to last year. Max 46/19 May (SmA1) and 47/21 May (LaS1) at Kellys Swamp GrL14. Breeding was again poorly reported, just 2 breeding records: ne/7 Oct Chapman (HoJ1); dy/2 Dec ANU GrK13 (PeH2).

GBS: Records throughout the year of 1-4 birds from 29 sites, but no breeding reported.

LARIDAE: gulls and terns

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 41 records from 11 cells. Lowest number of records since 2000-01. Maximum number reported 342/25 Jul Grevillea Park LBG GrL14 (PeH2). Breeding recorded at Lotus Bay (on) and Yarralumla Bay (nb), LBG GrK14 between 24 Jul and 8 Aug (HoJ1, BoJ1). **GBS:** 20 records from 3 sites in Bruce (BuM1), Curtin (AJR1) and Ainslie (HoS1).

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* Rare, Visitor

General: A single record: 1/23 Jan East Basin LBG GrL13 (CoE1).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: 4 records from Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14: 1/10 Sep (BuM1), 1/13 Sep (HoS1), x/17 Oct (FyM1) and 4/17 Oct (BuM1).

COLUMBIDAE: pigeons and doves

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Common, Breeding Resident

A species of limited interest to observers. Available observations do not reflect the true status of this species. No breeding reported; does this species nest all year round?

General: 60 records from throughout the year, mostly from feeding and resting areas fringing build-up areas. Highest counts: 30 JWNR GrL14 (HoS1); and Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=1.1183$) is up by 26% compared to previous year, due to a slight increase in the number of sites recording the species (32 sites, up from 26 last year) and in average group size.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* Rare, Visitor

Since 1997 there has been one to a few records of this species each year.

General: 2 records: 1/15 Aug Macquarie GrJ13 (BuM1) (same bird as recorded in GBS below); and 1/14 Nov ANBG GrK13 (David Marshall).

GBS: Records of a single bird in Macquarie GrJ13 from 5wk July to 3wk Aug (LaS1).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: A drop from last year's 9 records to 4 records this year: 2/3 Jul Weston GrJ15 (Bon), x/31 Oct Canberra GrK14 (Ken Schaefer), 1/29 Jan Rivett GrI15 (HoJ1), and 1/22 May Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0131$) is down by 25% compared to previous year, but with overall numbers still low these changes mean little. A total of 29 records of 1-2 birds from 9 sites in Chapman, Weston, Duffy, Kambah (3 sites), Watson (2 sites) and Ainslie. Interestingly, present only between 1wk Jul to 3wk Jan.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera* Common, Breeding Resident

General: More frequently recorded than last year (132 vs 85 records). Includes 2 WBS and 29 WOO+ records. Present all year round although highest average numbers in Jul, Apr,

May, Jun (4.1/4/3/2.3). Highest counts: 18/9 Apr Mt Majura dams in evening (LeM1), 12/7 Sep, 9/31 Oct Campbell Park (HoS1), 10/16 Jun Campbell Park (SmA1). Birds fly to dams etc. to drink in the evening; so those locations provide the best opportunity to get some idea of number of birds in an area. 2 breeding events evidenced by 3 records: on/29 Dec, 2/Jan Chapman Pre-School Gr 115 (HoJ1); and on/19 Feb Campbell Park GrM13 (CoE1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0582$) down from last year by 26%, but with overall small numbers such changes difficult to interpret. A total of 109 records from 12 sites similar to last year, but only from 2 sites more regularly: Holder GrJ15 for 40 weeks (AsM1) and Bruce GrK12 for 25 weeks (BuM1). 1 breeding record: ne/3wk Dec Bruce GrK12 (BuM1).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

Rare, Breeding Resident

No record. Last reported May 2003.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: More frequently recorded than last year (283 vs 207 records). Includes 1 WBS and 52 WOO+ records. Highest average numbers Feb and May: 7.1 and 6.3. Highest counts: 68/13 Feb Duffy-Holder GrI14 (BuM1), 40/17 May Munday's Lane GrIO8 (HaK1), 32/5 May North Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3), 28/13 Nov Duntroon GrM14 (PeH2).

GBS: Abundance ($A=2.5259$) up by 5% compared to last year and the measure of distribution (F) and of recording rate (R) were high with 98% and 76% respectively. Indications of breeding throughout the year; some level of breeding activity recorded from 14 sites. An almost continuous record of breeding with dy on 5 different occasions throughout the year in Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Vagrant/Escapee

GBS: 3 records from 2 sites: 1/1wk and 4wk Mar Curtin (AJR1); and one record not presented for appraisal.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 7 records of 1-2 birds between Sep and Mar: 2/18 Sep Callum Brae GrL15 (AnI1), 1/3 Oct Kambah Pool GrI16 (VeP1); 2/17 Oct Bibaringa GrH14 (BuM1), 1/29 Dec and 9 Jan Coleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1), x/29 Jan Bibaringa GrH14 (SmA1), and 1/27 Mar NLQ (WOO) GrM14 (BoJ1).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: As in previous year, only rarely encountered after the Jan 2003 fires. A single record: 1/27 Feb Boboyan Rd, Namadgi NP GrI25 (HoS1).

CACATUIDAE: cockatoos

Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Rare, Visitor

General: 27 records (incl 1 WOO, MAJ) of up to 14 birds, most from Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura NP GrsM12, M13, L13 throughout the year. Compares with 23 records in 2003-2004. 1 indication of breeding: co/28 Mar Mt Majura GrM13 (LeM1).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 124 records (incl 16 WOO+), many in suburban Canberra, up on 105 records in 2003-04. Largest groups in winter: 170/7 Jul CSIRO Entomology GrK13 (LeM1), 150/8 Aug Campbell GrL14 (HoS1), 100/13 Jul Pialligo GrM14 (HaK1); all other records 40 or fewer. Four breeding records: dy/21 Feb Mt Majura GrM12 (HoS1), dy/23 Feb near Bungendore GrR12 (HaK1), ih/11 Mar Bruce Ridge GrK13 (DaC1), dy/22 June Oakey Hill GrJ15 (BoJ1).
GBS: Abundance (A=1.7310) down from 2003-04 (A=2.2998) but still much higher than 2002-03 (A= 1.3211). Seen in 94% of sites. Most records of fewer than 50 birds, but exceptional 350/4wk Jul Fyshwick (VeP1). Breeding recorded from 2 sites: dy/ 1 wk, 4wk Feb Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3); and dy/2wk Mar Weetangera GrJ12 (WoD1).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 93 records, up on 66 in 2003-2004. Incl 23 WOO+, mainly RED (16) but also MAJ (3), CMP (2), GOS and TUG. Most records of fewer than 10 birds; largest: 47/31 Aug CSIRO Entomology GrK13 (LeM1). 2 breeding records: ih/18 Dec RED GrK14 (HaS4), dy/26 Jan Moonlight Hollow Rd GrD16 (McD1).
GBS: Abundance (A=0.9812) lower than 2003-04 (A=1.1505). Seen in 79% of sites. Six breeding records constitute 4 breeding events from 4 sites: ih in Sep-Oct in Watson and Aranda; dy in Jan-Feb in Kambah and Ainslie.

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 621 records (incl 257 WOO+), up from 504 records in 2003-04. Most records of fewer than 20 birds, only 16 records with more than 20, largest 903 Jun Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3). 19 breeding records.
GBS: Most abundant species recorded in the GBS. Abundance (A=8.6555) down from 2003-04 (A= 9.0458). Recorded from 100% of sites. Breeding recorded from 19 sites.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris* Vagrant/Escapee
General: No endorsed records. Two unendorsed records from Parkes Way and Commonwealth Park where the species has been recorded previously. The species is clearly under-reported or has been included in Little Corella records.
GBS: Endorsed records from 1 site: 1/2wk, 4 wk Oct, 4 wk Nov, 1-2wk Dec Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1). Unendorsed records from 2 other sites in west Belconnen.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 28 records (incl 10 WOO+ records from GOS, MUL, RED, SYM), up from 11 records in 2003-2004. 2 breeding records: ih/5 Sep Gooroo GrM11 (BoJ1), di/6 Sep Mulligans Flat GrL10 (BuM1).
GBS: 80 records throughout the year; abundance (A=0.1236), down from 2003-2004 (A=0.1536). Recorded from 27% of sites.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri* Escapee
Records continue of a single bird which has been present in the Woden-Kambah-Weston Creek area for several years.
General: 2 endorsed records: 1/14 Oct Stirling College GrJ15 (LaM1), 1/29 Jan Chapman GrI15 (BuM1); and 2 unendorsed records also from Chapman.

GBS: Unendorsed records from three sites (Hughes, Chapman, Weston) incl records from one site from most months from Aug-Jun.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 604 records (incl 205 WOO+), up from 495 in 2003-04. 11 breeding records.

GBS: Second most abundant species recorded in GBS. Abundance (A=7.5496) down from 2003-2004 (A=8.6051). Seen in 100% of sites. Breeding recorded from 13 sites.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* Vagrant/Escapee

General: 3 records: 1/21 Dec The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1, WBS); 1/14 May Macquarie GrJ13 (McI1); and 1/28 May Weston GrJ15 (LeB1).

GBS: 9 records, all single birds, from 8 sites across Canberra from Nov-May.

PSITTACIDAE: lorikeets, parrots

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 8 records (up from 1 record in 2003-2004) of up to 4 birds. All from the Pinnacle NR, Hawker and Cook Grsl12, 113, J13 between Jul and Nov; except 2/24 Feb Yass golf club GrF03 (HaK1).

GBS: 27 records from 8 sites across the belt of southern Belconnen suburbs. Seasonality in reporting with all records Jul-Oct or Mar-May. One breeding record: dy/2wk Apr Page GrJ 12 (A1B1).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* Rare, Visitor

No records. Last recorded 24 Nov 2002.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* Rare, Visitor

General: A single record: Y/26 Jan Mt Majura GrM12 (HoS1).

GBS: 7 records from 2 sites: 2-15/1wk Dec, 3-5wk Jan, I -2wk Feb Watson GrL12 (WaK1); and 2/3wk Feb Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 103 records (incl 24 WOO+: RED (8), MAJ (8), CMP (6) and SYM (2)), up from 71 in 2003-2004. Four breeding records, all of ih and all from the Bruce Ridge area GrK13 during Gungahlin Drive Extension surveys (DaC1, FyM1, A1B1).

GBS: Abundance (A=2.0556) down from 2003-2004 (A=2.4352) and 2002-2003 (A=2.5261). Seen in 92% of sites. Breeding: 20 records from 12 sites, Mel ih/5wk Jul, dy 1-2wk Nov, the remaining 17 records of dy between 4wk Jan and 1wk Mar.

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 14 records (down from 19 in 2003-2004) from Nov-May, including 1 WOO (GOO). 3 breeding records: dy/23 Dec Hawker GrI12 (A1B1), dy/23 Dec Mt Rogers Ga11 (B1R1), dy/31 Dec Mulligans Flat GrL11 (WiT1).

GBS: 12 records from 5 sites. Abundance A= 0.0131 up from 2003-2004 (A=0.0016). Summer records include 6/4wk Dec Spence (HaJ5); 10/4wk Nov and 5/1wk Jan Macgregor (BrM4); and 1-3 birds most weeks from 1wk Dec-4wk Jan Gundaroo (NiA1). Out of season records: 1/4wk Apr Watson (WaK1) and 1/2wk Jun ANU (PeH2).

- Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 916 records (incl 345 WOO+), up from 814 in 2003-04. 18 breeding records.
GBS: Sixth most abundant species recorded in GBS. Abundance (A=3.7761) up from 2003-04 (A=3.4822) and 2001-02 (A=3.6385). Seen in 100% of sites. Breeding records from 11 sites.
- Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 487 records (incl 194 WOO+), up from 380 in 2003-04. 7 breeding records.
GBS: Abundance (A=1.6123) up from 2003-04 (A=1.5521). Seen in 98% of sites. Breeding records from 8 sites.
- Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor* Rare, Migrant
General: 13 records between 7 Sep and 16 May. 6 of the records, incl 1 WOO, were of up to 60 birds from Mt Majura NR near Hackett GrM12 in Mar-Apr (see Taws and Saunders 2005). Other records: 10/7 Oct Cook GrJ13 (A1B1), 16/19 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (OvA1), 1/29 Sep Higgins GrI12 (McA4), Campbell Park in Apr (2 unendorsed records), 1/12 May ANU GrK13 (KuR1) and 1/16 May Curtin GrJ14 (A1R1).
GBS: Endorsed records from 2 sites: 9/1-2wk Oct Cook GrJ13 (TaN1). 3/1wk Mar, 1/1wk Apr Cook GrJ13 (TaN1). Unendorsed records from 2 other sites in Macquarie and Higgins.
- Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 211 records (incl 44 WOO+), up from 137 records in 2003-04. 5 breeding records, 4 from Campbell Park.
GBS: Abundance (A=0.7400) significantly up from 2003-04 (A=0.5036) continuing a recovery since 2002-03 (A=0.2184). Recorded from 32% of sites.
- Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus* Vagrant/Escapee
General: 3 records of 2 birds which were seen over a period of about a week in Jun in grassland between the Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Yarramundi Reach GrsK13-J13-J14: 2/10 Jun, 2/12 Jun (LaJ1, CuR1, SmA1).
- Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella* Vagrant
 No records. Last recorded Oct 2002.
- Yellow-crowned Parakeet** *Cyanoramphus auriceps* Escapee
General: 1 endorsed record: 1/23 Dec Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1).
- Peachface Lovebird** *Agapornis roseicollis* Escapee
GBS: A single record: 1/4wk Sep Aranda GrJ13 (HaK1).

CUCULIDAE: cuckoos, koel

Number of records for several species up on previous year, but still low overall, probably as result of the drought and consequent low breeding activity of host species. No records of locally raised young.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 67 records, including 2 WBS and 22 WOO+ records. First 1/28 Aug Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1) and last 1/15 Feb Campbell Park (HoS1). All records of 1-2 birds except 5/5 Dec Goorooyaroo NR GrM11 (GrT1). No breeding records.

GBS: Recorded 21 times from 6 sites between 4wk Aug and 3wk Mar, more consistently only from one site between 4wk Sep and 4wk Dec in Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Just 3 records, all outside the ACT: 1/8 Nov Wamboin GrP12 (TaN1), 1/28 Nov Tarago Rd GrU11 (LeM1), and 2/27 Jan Berlang camp ground, Deua NP GrX24 (PeH2).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 40 records (including 2 WOO+). Most records (32) from Sep to Jan incl, but records from all months except May. Most records of 1 or 2 birds but also 2 records of 3 and 1 of 4 birds. No breeding recorded.

GBS: In contrast to previous years no GBS records.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

Rare, Visitor

General: 1 record from outside the ACT, not presented for appraisal.

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 40 records, more than in previous year (8 records), but still well below pre-drought years. Includes 5 WOO+ records. Records mainly of single birds, with just 2 records of 2 birds. First 1/1 Aug Gooroo NR GrM11 (Born; and last x/2 Apr Fyshwick SP GrL14 (SmA1).

GBS: 8 records of single birds from 2 sites in Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) and Macgregor GrI12 (BrM4) between 4wk Aug and 1wk Feb.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 21 records (incl 9 WOO+), still far less common than in pre-drought years. First 2/24 Sep GOS (WOO) GrM11 (CoD2) and last 1/18 Feb Cuumbeun NR GrO15 (HoS1). 18 of the records were of single birds, 3 were of 2 birds.

GBS: 4 records from 3 sites during spring passage: 1/3wk Sep Cook GrJ13 (DiB1); 1/4wk Sep and 3wk Oct Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1), and 1/3wk Oct Macgregor GrI12 (BrM4).

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

Uncommon, Migrant

General: No records this year, down from 6 last year and 2 in 2003-03.

GBS: 16 records from 6 sites in Hughes, Pearce, Curtin, Weston and Higgins. This is a drop from the 20 records from 11 sites in 2003-04, and 34 records from 11 sites in 2002-03. First 2/4wk Oct Pearce GrK15 (KrS1) and last 1/2wk Jan Hughes GrK15 (AnI1, BeR3). Only 1 site recorded consistently: 4wk Oct to 1wk Jan Pearce GrK15 (KrS1).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Vagrant

No records this year after low numbers of records over the past several years.

STRIGIDAE: hawk owls

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* Rare, Breeding Resident
General: 3 records, 2 of which were on 21 May of presumably the same two birds in Tallaganda SF GrU19 (McJ4, WaJ2); and 1 record of a single bird in the same location 26 May (GrT1). The most recent previous record was also in Tallaganda in May 2002.

GBS: 1 record, possibly in error.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 9 records (incl one WOO: TUG), all of single birds or presence (x), in Sep, Oct, Dec, Apr and May, from urban or semi-rural locations.
GBS: 105 records, slightly up on recent years, from 23 widespread sites, of 1-5 birds. Only 6 winter, records. Two breeding records: dy/3wk-5wk Jan, Aranda (RoS1); and dy/3wk Feb-1 wk Mar Cook (BrM2). Three other records of 3 birds in summer possible further indicators of breeding.

TYTONIDAE: masked owls

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Rare, Visitor
General: 2 records: 1/25 Nov Burra GrM21 (Anil); 1/21 Jun Parkes Place GrL14 (HoJ1).

PODARGIDAE: frogmouths

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 8 records, incl 6 INC, of 1-2 birds from both urban and rural locations, between Jul and Jan. No breeding records.
GBS: 41 records of 1-4 birds from 11 sites, 8 of which were in the adjacent suburbs of Cook, Aranda and Bruce. A single breeding event recorded: on, 1 wk-4wk Oct followed by ny/5wkOct-2wk Nov Cook (TaN1).

CAPRIMULGIDAE: nightjars

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis* Rare, Breeding Migrant
 No records. Last recorded 5 Dec 2003 at Big Hole GrX24.

AEGOTHELIDAE: owlet-nightjar

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 12 records, between Aug and Apr, from 6 widespread locations, ranging from urban nature reserves (Campbell Park) to rural areas (Burra). Reporting rate slightly down on recent years.

GBS: 3 records of a single bird, in Jan, Mar and Apr, from a site in Ainslie (HoS1).

APODIDAE: swifts

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* Common, Migrant

General: Only 6 records this year, all after 6 Dec and of 1-6 birds. Two of the records were very late: 1/27 Apr Tara Bush GrK06 and 1/10 May Mt Elliot GrO04 (both DaC1).

GBS: Recorded 10 times from 8 sites, similar to last year but down on previous 4-year average of 35 records from 18 sites. All records in the period 2wk Dec to 1wk Feb apart from 1 record of 15/2wk Apr Cook GrJ13 (DiB1). The average group size was 8 (range 1 to 30).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Rare, Migrant

General: One record not presented for appraisal.

GBS: 1 record: 12/1wk Apr Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

ALCEDINIDAE: kingfishers

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

Rare, Visitor

No records. Last endorsed record was Jun 2001.

HALCYONIDAE: kookaburra, kingfishers

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* Common, Breeding Resident

Breeding for such a well-known species continues to be under-recorded.

General: 322 records, Mel 1 WBS and 79 WOO+, recorded throughout the year with a similar pattern to last year. Again only 3 breeding records: ih/7 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1) and 2 separate records of ih/26 Jun Red Hill GrK14 (PeH2).

GBS: The recording pattern is similar to previous years, with the species being recorded from 44 (70%) of sites, with only 5 sites recording regular sightings through the year. The abundance level of 0.2720 is below the 0.3116 of last year but still above the 0.22 average of other years. Again only 1 breeding event recorded involving 7 weekly records of ih between 1wk Aug and 4wk Oct at a site in Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrropygia*

Rare, Visitor

No records. Previous endorsed record was Oct 2002.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 81 times (incl 3 WBS and 11 WOO+) between 8 Sep Shepherds Lookout GrG12 (BuM1) and 27 Mar HAL 02 GrJ11 (NeG1), although there were only 4 records after 20 Feb. A total of 6 breeding records from ih/24 Oct Willeroo GrU07 (BoJ1) to cf/5 Feb Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1).

GBS: Recorded 29 times from 13 sites, first record being 1/4wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) and the last 1/4wk Mar Melba GrJ12 (MoM1). Records were mainly of single birds although 3 birds were recorded 3wk Feb, 4wk Feb and 1wk Mar at a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

MEROPIDAE: bee-eater**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 15 times (incl 2 WOO+: GOO, NAS) with one breeding record: dy/Tharwa sandwash GrJ19 (PeH2). First record 2/17 Oct Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (BuM1) and last record 7/15 Mar Dunlop Grill (PeH2). Significant numbers noted on inward migration, 21/2wk Oct Crace GrK12 (OrP1), and outward migration, 28/4wk Feb Aranda (SaD1).

GBS: Recorded 8 times from 5 sites. The first and last records were 1/3wk Sep and 5/2wk Mar at Hackett GrL13 (LeB1). There were no records in the months of Nov, Dec, and Jan.

CORACIIDAE: dollarbird**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: A total of 36 records (incl 7 WOO+) in the period from 17 Oct to 26 Feb. Three breeding records: cf/1 Jan and dy/21 Jan at Campbell Park GrM13 (Anil, HoS1); and on/13 Jan Tharwa sandwash GrJ19 (PeH2).

GBS: Recorded 101 times from 21 sites (33%). The first sighting for the year was 1/2wk Oct Campbell GrL13 (C1S I) and the last was 1/1wk Mar at Watson GrL12 (WaK1). 8 weekly breeding records constituted 3 breeding events: co/1wk Nov, ih4wk Nov, on/ 1 wk and 2wk Dec and dy/3wk and 4wk Jan at Watson GrLi2 (WaK1); cf/4wk Dec Hackett GrL13 (LeB1); and dy/3wk Jan Mawson GrK15 (RaG1).

MENURIDAE: lyrebird**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 20 records, 18 of which were from Namadgi NP or Tidbinbilla NR, and one each from Deua NP GrY24 and the Tinderries GrQ24. More of the records (10) came from the summer months than the winter (7). 1-3 birds; no breeding reported. A steady return towards pre-fire numbers.

CLIMACTERIDAE: treecreepers**White-throated Treecreeper** *Cormobates leucophaeus*

Common, breeding resident

General: 460 records from 102 grid cells, from all months of the year. Number of records 28% higher than the previous year. 118 (26%) were WOO+. Abundance: mean 1.8, median 1, range 1-10, 93% were of 1-3 birds. Of the records of 5 or more birds, 9 were from a single site at Burra Creek GrM21 (Anil) and 5 from various parts of Namadgi NP. One breeding record: cf/2 Dec Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1).

GBS: Similar to the previous year on most parameters. Recorded from 9 sites (14%) over 49 weeks. Mean group size 1.13, all records being of 1 or 2 birds. Mainly from the Belconnen area plus one each from Yarralumla (CCR1), Ainslie (HoS1) and Hoskinstown (KaJ1).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

Uncommon, Breeding resident

A species of the wet gullies with lower numbers recorded following the Jan 2003 fires. No records this year. Last recorded 12 Oct 2003.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* Uncommon, Breeding resident
Listed as vulnerable in the ACT owing to the loss of its woodland habitat.

General: 71 records from 21 grid cells, in all months, with 21 (30%) WOO+. Number of records 25% higher than the previous year. Relatively high numbers in July, May and June and low numbers in August and September. Abundance: mean 2.8, median 2, range 1-10. Most (71%) of the records of 1-3 birds, with two standouts from Kelly Road: 9/15 Dec GrL22 (HoJ 1) and 10/20 Nov GrL21 (AnI1). No breeding recorded.

MALURIDAE: fairy-wren

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: Similar to the previous year on most parameters. 570 records from 96 grid cells, from all months, just 4% more records than the previous year. 122 (21%) were WOO+. Abundance: mean 5.1, median 4, range 1-30, 75% of records of 6 or fewer birds. 16 records (3.1%) with abundance greater than 15 with the largest numbers recorded being 30/12 May Lake Ginninderra GrL12 (A1B1), 30/28 May LBG GrK14 (Anil) and 24/5 Jun Coppins Crossing GrI13 (LaS1), all three sites being adjacent to water. 9 breeding records, mainly dy: earliest, on/31 Oct Mt Taylor area GrI16 (IoA1); latest, dy/19 Feb TNR GrF18 (McJ2).

GBS: The mean abundance ($A=1.0571$) was 42% higher than the long-term figure, maintaining the upward trend of recent years. Records from 49 sites (78%) from all weeks. Most records were of 1-6 individuals (range 1-16) with a mean group size of 3.3. Particularly large parties were recorded for most of the year from 2 sites, Isaacs (MaC1) and Crace (OrP1). 12 breeding records from nb/4wk Nov to dy/1wk Feb from just 4 sites: Chapman (HAJ1), Curtin (AJR1), ANU (PeH2) and Ainslie (HoS1).

PARDALOTIDAE: pardalotes, scrubwrens, gerygones, thornbills and allies

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant
General: 482 records (175 WOO+), almost double the number of the previous year. However, numbers in flocks appearing/passing through from early Dec onwards small, max. 20, except 50/8 May Benbullen, Urila Rd GrQ21 (BrM2). 5 reports of breeding activity: earliest, nb/ 5 Sep Tidbinbilla NR GrF18(McJ2); latest, dy/12 Feb Big Hole GrX24 (PeH2).

GBS: Recorded from 47 sites. Increase of abundance ($A= 0.5045$) from the low values of previous year by 25%, however still below long-term average. Breeding (ih and nb only) at 5 sites between 2wk Jul and 1wk Nov, at one site 3 nb efforts: 4wk Jul, 1wk Sep and 1wk Nov Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus* Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant
General: 644 records (incl. 290 from WOO+), a 47% increase from previous year. However, numbers in flocks appearing/ passing overall small, with one notable exception: 250/13 Jul NLQ GrN14 (HoS1), otherwise no more than 60 birds. 13 reports of breeding activity: earliest, ih/17 Sep CMP GrM13 (LeM1); latest, dy/10 Jan Black Mt GrK13 (A1B1). Plus a possible early start for the next season, di/5 Jun TSR 39 GrP09 (HoS1).

GBS: Increase of abundance ($A= 0.3997$) from the low values of previous year by 48%, however still well below long-term average. Breeding at 3 sites between 2wk Aug and 4wk Jan: ny/cf/ 4 wk-5wk Oct Aranda GrJ13 (OrP1) and 3wk-4wk Nov Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: After not being recorded the previous year 2 records, presumably of the same bird: 1/23 Jan **Blundells** Creek Rd GrD15 (LiB1, BoJ1).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 161 records (inc 5 WOO+), spread over all months. Counts of 20-30 in Jun along Camel Back Trail, Tidbinbilla NP GrsF17, G17 (DaC1, BoJ1). 3 breeding records: dy/2 Nov LBG, Acacia Peninsula GrK13 (PeH2); br/15 Feb Farrer Ridge CNP GrK16 (Ian Davidson); and dy/19 Feb Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2).
GBS: Abundance ($A=0.2630$) very similar to previous year, well above long-term average. 2 breeding records: cf/3wk Sep Isaacs GrK15 (HoA1); ny/1wk Feb Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia* Uncommon, Resident
General: 2 records: 1/6 Oct ANBG GrK13 (Andrew Cockburn); 1/13 Feb Rob Roy NR GRL18 (SmA1, Michael Wright).

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 113 records, incl. 49 records from 12 WOO sites, of mostly 1-7 birds; notable max. 12/7 Mar NLQ GrN14 (BuM1). 1 breeding record: cf/26 Sep CAS Gr J18 (McD1).
GBS: 4 records from 1 site in Ainslie Gr L13 (HoS1).

Weebill *Smicromnis brevirostris* Common. Breeding Resident
General: 591 records, 340 (57%) of these from WOO+; reported all year round throughout the region. Max. reported for one area: 30/1 Aug Gooroo NR GrM11 (BoJ1). 7 breeding records: earliest, nb/10 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1); latest. cf 18 Dec Red Hill GrK14 (HaS4).
GBS: Increase of abundance ($A=0.4418$) from previous year by 11%, at level of long-term average. 2 sites with breeding activity: late nb/1wk Mar Kambah GrJ16 (MDN1); and a series of breeding events Watson GrL12, nb/4wk Aug, dy/4wk Sep, dy/1wk Nov and nb/1wk Dec (WaK1).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant
General: 87 records, 56 (87%) of these from WOO+. This species shows a pronounced seasonal pattern, being rare to absent in Jul/Aug, present all other months. First 1/3 Jul CMP GrM13 (Anil), but probable first "return" 5 Sep Mulligans Flat GrL10 (TaN1), max Dec with 20 records with on average 2.05 birds/record, then 12 records in Mar, 2 records each Apr, May, 4 records in Jun. Highest counts: 6/26 Sep CAS 04 (McD1); and 6/ 5 Dec. Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (GrT1). Single breeding record: dy/22 Jan near Hal1 Gri10 (A1B1).
GBS: 2 records: 1/4wk Oct Watson GrL12 (WaK1), 1/2wk Nov Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea* Common, Breeding Migrant
General: 165 records, 82 (50%) of these from WOO+. Seasonal pattern: first, 1/6 Sep Mulligans Flat GrL10 (BuM1); last 1/10 Apr Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (TaN1); max. Nov. with on average 2.3 birds/record (15 records) and Feb with on average 2.1 birds /record (7 records). Highest counts: 6/25 Nov Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (GrT1), 6/23 Dec Hal1 Common GrJ11 (NeG1). 6 breeding records from 2 sites, at Campbell Park and SYM, probably

involving the same nest or pair: first, nb/31 Oct Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1); last, dy/19 Feb Campbell Park GrM13 (CoE1).

GBS: Recorded from 14 sites between 4wk Aug and 4 wk Apr. Increase in abundance ($A=0.0158$) and distribution ($F=22.2\%$) compared with previous year.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 251 records, similar to previous year, 26 (10%) from WOO+. Max counts: 20/4 Jul Lone Pine Fire Trail GrC23 and 20/Oldfields Hut GrC23 (LuN1), 30 + 6/ 23 Jan Blundells Creek Rd GrD15/ E15 (LiB1). 2 breeding records: very early nb/28 Jul Mt Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1); cf/26 Sep MAJ 09 GrM13 (WaK1).

GBS: Recorded at 38 sites, and in all weeks. Abundance ($A=0.3189$) similar to previous year and again above long-term average. No breeding recorded.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 352 records, 108 (30%) from WOO+. Max recorded: 30/1 Aug Gooroo NR GrM11 (BoJ1). 8 breeding records: first, on/26 Aug Burra Creek GrM21 (Anil); last, dy/10 Jan Black Mt GrK13 (A1131).

GBS: Reported from 9 sites, present almost all months at 2 sites, Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) and Watson GrL12 (WaK1). Breeding at 2 sites: nb/4wk Oct Bruce GrK13 (BuM1); nb/1wk Aug and dy/3wk Oct Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 396 records, of these 103 (26%) from WOO+. Highest numbers: 25/10 Jul NLQ GrN14 (HoS1); 25/27 Feb Namadgi NP Visitor Centre Woodland walk GrJ19 (HoS1); and 25/3 Mar Burra Crk GrM21 (Anil). Only 4 breeding records: first, nb/7 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1); last, dy/28 Dec Hawker Ovals GrI12 (A1B1).

GBS: Recorded from 46 sites, in all weeks. Abundance ($A=1.2122$) increased by 42% from previous year, but still 18% below long-term average. Highest numbers: 18/4wk Mar Watson GrL12 (WaK1) and 30/3wk Apr Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1). 5 sites with breeding activity: earliest nb/3wk Sep; latest 1wk Feb, both Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1)

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 51 records, 6 (12%) from WOO+. In general 1-8 birds, but one notable max.: 20/16 Jun LBG Yarralumla Bay GrK14 (BoJ1). 1 breeding record: cf/29 Nov Tarago Tip GrY08 (LeM1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0766$) increased by 323% from previous year (and by 350% from the long-term average), largely due to very regular records from 2 out of the 7 sites with this species: 38 weeks with max 4 birds Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1); and 26 weeks with max 6 birds Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 274 records, incl 80 (29%) from WOO+. Highest count: 35/4 Oct Mt Clear fire trail GrJ26 (McD1). 2 breeding records: dy/10 Sep CMP GrM13 (HoS1) and dy/29 Sep HAL GrK10 (TaN1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0920$) declined by 64% from previous year, also well below the longterm average (see also COG 2005 for comments on abundance changes in recent years). Reported from 22 sites similar to previous year, but reporting rate ($R=3.72$) compared with $R=5.4$ in previous year. Group size (G) declined from 4.7 in 2003-04 to 2.47. 1 indication of breeding: co/2wk Oct Aranda GrK13 (HaL1).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: Notable increase in numbers: 63 records, of these 14 (22%) from WOO+, compared with 32 records last year. 1 to 8 birds generally reported, but >5 on 9 occasions. Max: 8/5 Apr Tidbinbilla Tracking Station GrH16 (LaD1). 8 breeding records, from 5 sites - NLQ, The Pinnacle CNP, Campbell Park, Cooleman Ridge and Goorooyaroo NR: earliest, nb/27 Jul The Pinnacle CNP GrI13 (HoS1); and latest, cf/25 Nov and cf/2 Dec Goorooyaroo NR GrM11 (GrT1):

MELIPHAGIDAE: honeyeaters and chats

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* Common, Breeding Resident
 The most commonly reported honeyeater with records throughout the year across the region. **General:** 541 records (including 130 WOO+) with 20 breeding records, which returns the percentage of breeding records to the usual 4% after the low of 1.4% last year. Largest numbers were recorded during autumn migration: 195/14 May Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2). First breeding, nb/26 Sep MAJ GrM12 (WaK1); last, dy/26 Mar Tuggeranong Weir GrJ17 (PeH2). However, there was an early breeding record for the following season: ny/26 Jun Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

GBS: Recorded at all but one of 63 sites in all weeks with breeding at 37 sites. The abundance value ($A= 3.2524$) was the highest recorded for this species, more than 50% above the long-term average. This is the now the 9th most abundant species in the GBS and the most abundant honeyeater. First breeding record was very early, ny/2wk Jul; last dy/2wk Mar.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* Vagrant
 Very rare vagrant from coastal districts. One record not presented for endorsement this year. Last endorsed record at ANBG in Aug-Sep 2003.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* Vagrant
 Very rare vagrant from inland districts. Previous records in Nov 2003, but before that, Jun-Jul 1994. **General:** 2 endorsed records, 1/15 Sep Emu Ridge GrJ12 (TaN1), 1/30 Sep-8 Oct Sutton Rd GrO12 (ScG1).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* Common, Breeding Migrant
 Common summer migrant mostly to the lowland woodland regions.
General: 269 records (incl 111 WOO+), 60% more than last year. First record 1/27 Aug Belconnen GrJ12 (TaN1) with regular records thereafter during spring and summer. Fewer records through Apr and May; last, 1/30 May Gundaroo Rd GrR12 (HaK1). Largest number: 79/10 Apr Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (DaC1). 10 breeding records; first, on/31 Oct Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1), last, cf/10 Jan Black Mt GrK13 (A1B1).

GBS: Recorded at 55 of 63 sites. First arrivals recorded at 6 sites 3wk Aug. Last records 3wk May. Abundance ($A=0.5402$) was higher than last year but still less than half the long-term average. Breeding at 16 sites, similar to last year. First breeding records nb/3wk Sep, last, dy/3wk Feb.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Uncommon, Migrant

Uncommon summer migrant, recorded mostly to the north-west of the ACT.

General: 3 endorsed records, 1/25 Nov Goorooyaroo NR GrN12 (GrT1), 1/11 Dec Hall GrJ11 (LiT1), 1/12 Mar Watson GrL12 (GoJ3). Also 2 records not presented for endorsement.

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

Rare summer visitor to the region. Last records were in Jan 2004 Mt Ainslie, Feb 2001 near Braidwood but before that not recorded in Canberra since 1998-1999 when there were 15 records.

General: 5 records: 3 from Campbell Park GrM13 1/10-12 Sep (HoS1, MoM3); 2 from ANU GrK13 1/16 Apr (LeM1), 1/19 Apr (LaS1).

GBS: Recorded at 1 site at ANU GrK13 1/3wk Apr (the same bird as reported from the ANU under general records).

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

Vagrant

Rare species for the region, more common in coastal forests. Records usually come from the upper Queanbeyan River (GrP21-Q21).

General: 4 records not presented for endorsement.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Common, Breeding Resident

Common sedentary species of woodlands.

General: 329 records, almost 50% from WOO+. 11 breeding records, 3 from WOO+. First, ny/17 Sep CMP GrM13 (LeM1); last, dy/19 Feb Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2).

GBS: Recorded at 21 sites, but consistently throughout the year from only 2 sites in Cook GrJ13 and 1 in Watson GrL12. Breeding recorded at only 1 site in Cook; first, nb/3wk Sep, last, ny/5wk Oct. Abundance has been increasing over the last few years and this year ($A=0.3618$) was more than double the long-term average.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Vagrant

Usually found in Tallaganda forests in the east of the region, rare further west.

General: 1 unendorsed record.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

Common, Breeding Migrant

Migratory species with spectacular autumn departure in large flocks, returning in spring to breed mainly in the mountains.

General: 282 records (incl 70 WOO+) from across the region but more from forested mountain areas. 9 overwintering records in Jul, but then a gap in records until 24 Aug when the majority of records begin, continuing into May (21 records) and Jun (8 records) indicating a number of overwintering birds. Highest number during the spring return migration, 400/17 Sep and 200/23 Sep Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1). Highest number during the autumn outward migration, 4380/19 Apr Casuarina Sands GrG14 (TaN1). 3 breeding

records, the first since 2000-01: ny/17 Nov Molonglo/Murrumbidgee River confluence GrG12 (BuM1); dy/20 Jan Warks Rd GrE15 (BuM1); ny/5 Mar Honeysuckle Campground GrH21 (TaN1).

GBS: Recorded at 45 of 63 sites in all but 2 weeks. Overwintering records from 20 sites during Jul-Aug. Major increase from 3wk Sep until 4wk Oct, then very few records through Nov-Mar. Main autumn migration started 4wk Mar. Few records from 2wk May to end of Jun. Largest number of birds: 500 in each of 4 weeks during Sep-Oct at a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17. Abundance ($A=2.4057$) was a little below the long-term average but above last year ($A=1.8286$). No breeding records.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis* Common, Breeding Resident
Altitudinal migrant, generally irregular in the suburbs.

General: 188 records, mostly from forested mountain areas, throughout the year. Virtually all WOO+ records were in winter. 4 breeding records, the first since 2000-01: cf/18 Oct Cotter River GrD22 (IrJ1); dy/28 Dec Mt Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1); dy/12 Feb Berlang camp ground GrX24 (PeH2); dy/19 Feb Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2).

GBS: Recorded at 12 of 63 sites, only half the number of last year. The only regular records all year were from a rural property in Hoskinstown GrS17. At all other sites there were no records from 1wk Aug to 4wk Apr. Abundance ($A=0.0571$) was very similar to last year despite the lesser number of sites and the complete absence of suburban records from Aug- Apr. The A-value has been maintained because of the consistent numbers recorded at the rural site, however it is still only half the long-term average. No breeding records.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
Uncommon in the region, usually found along drier mountain valleys, typically in Apple Box woodland.

General: 11 records, 4 from Newline Quarry GrM14 all in Jul and presumably of the same bird. Remaining records from Queanbeyan River GrQ21 (all BrM2). No breeding records.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus* Common, Breeding Resident
Altitudinal migrant, breeding in the mountains over summer.

General: 27 records. Those in Jul—Sep and Apr-Jun from lowland areas, most records from Oct-Mar from mountain areas to the south-east and south-west of Canberra. Largest number 50/10 Jul Newline GrN14 (HoS1). 4 breeding records: dy/14 Oct Hospital Hut GrH25 (DeD2); dy/18 Oct Orroral Valley GrG21 (WO); on/15 Dec Kelly Rd GrL22 (HoJ1); ne/27 Feb Old Boboyan Rd GrH24 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded at 7 of 63 sites, half the number of last year, and with very few records from any one site. No records from 4wk Aug to 5wk Apr. Mostly single birds reported. Abundance levels over the years have fluctuated greatly. This year's ($A=0.0293$) was similar to last year but is only one-fifth of the long-term average. No breeding records.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus* Common, Breeding Resident
Non-migratory honeyeater of woodlands in lowland areas.

General: 194 records from throughout the year in urban and rural areas, commonly recorded in Woodland Surveys. 11 breeding records, twice as many as last year: first, dy/19 Sep Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 (A1B1); last, dy/14 Feb Tharwa sandwash GrJ19 (HoS1).

GBS: Records from 16 of 60 sites. Consistently throughout the year from only 1 site in Crace GrK12. Abundance has fluctuated over the years but this year ($A=0.1191$) was nearly double last year's but still below the long-term average. No breeding records.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris* Common, Breeding Resident

Uncommon species of drier forests at all altitudes.

General: 117 records throughout the year, 23 of these from WOO+. Highest number 10/18 May Mt Majura GrM 13 (GrT 1). 3 breeding records all from Campbell Park GrM 13: nb/7 Sep (HoS1); dy/24 Nov (PeH2), dy/6 Mar (SmA1).

GBS: Irregular records of small groups of 3-10 birds from 5 urban sites in Holt and Higgins GrI12, Cook GrJ13 and Watson GrL12. More regular records throughout the year from a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17, which has raised the A value to 0.1048, 3 times the long-term average. No breeding records.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus* Common, Breeding Migrant
Migratory, departing in large flocks in autumn and returning in spring to breed in the mountain forests.

General: 78 records from all months but mostly from late Aug to early May. 4 overwintering records in early Jul in ANBG GrK13, Newline GrN14 and Campbell Park GrM13, and 3 records in late Jun from Orroral Valley GrG22 and Tidbinbilla NR GrG17 and H18. No records greater than 10 birds during spring return migration. Highest number recorded during autumn migration 500/19 Apr Casuarina Sands GrG14 (TaN1). 5 breeding records, the first since 2000-01: dy/18 Oct Bimberi Wilderness GrG21 (IrJ1); dy/12 Nov Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 (CuR1); on/23 Jan Blundells Ck Rd GrE15 (LiB1); dy/19 Feb Tinderry Range GrO24 (Anil); dy/28 Feb Warks Rd GrE15 (BuM1).

GBS: Records from 21 of 63 sites, one-third fewer than last year. Two main periods of records; the return migration from 2wk Aug to 4wk Oct. Then no records until 1wk Apr when autumn migration began. Only 3 records in May-Jun. Abundance ($A=0.1995$) was almost 50% below last year's and less than half the long-term average. No breeding records.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

Vagrant

Declared a "vulnerable" species in the ACT in Jan 1998. A vagrant with a major influx to the region in 2002-03 (Bounds 2004).

General: 5 records all from TSR 48, 8km N of Gundaroo GrO05; presumably the same suite of birds: 4/2 Nov (BuM1), 2/18 Nov (GrT1), 6/23 Nov (BoJ1), 2 and 2/19 Dec (Boil). 1 breeding record from this location: nb/23 Nov (Boil).

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
Altitudinal migrant, reported mostly during the winter months.

General: 13 records, 9 from Jul-Dec, 4 in May-Jun, 6 records from ANBG GrK13, 3 from gardens in Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1), the remaining 4 from Namadgi NP and Tidbinbilla NR. No breeding records.

GBS: Records from 4 sites but for more than 1 week from only 2 sites in Chapman GrI15 and Bruce GrK13. Single sightings from 2 sites, in Page GrJ12 and Kambah GrJ16. All sightings in Jul or 1wk May- 1 wk Jun. Long-term annual Abundance is highly variable. This year's ($A=0.0041$) was half last year's and only one-fifth the long-term average. No breeding records.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
Uncommon altitudinal migrant, reported regularly from a few locations where grevilleas or banksias are abundant.

General: 58 records throughout the year, 41 from Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14, 14 records from ANBG GrK13, 3 remaining records from Commonwealth Park GrL13 (HoS1), Cook GrJ13 (TaN1), and Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (McJ2). 1 breeding record, the first since 1999-2000, dy/23 Aug ANBG GrK13 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded at 3 sites, half that of last year, and only recorded in one week at each, Kambah GrJ16, Curtin GrJ14 and ANU GrK13. Abundance for this species fluctuates greatly and this year (A=0.0011) was very low, less than 1/20th the long-term average. No breeding records.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* Common, Breeding Resident
Altitudinal migrant, common in gardens during autumn and winter.

General: 121 records, throughout the year and across the region from mountain and lowland areas, but no breeding records.

GBS: Recorded from 53 of 63 sites, in all weeks but less commonly from 1wk Oct to 3wk Mar. Abundance (A=0.4790) was slightly lower than the last two years and 15% below the long-term average. Breeding recorded at 3 sites: dy/2-3wk Jan in Aranda GrK13; dy/3-4wk Jan in Isaacs GrK16; and dy/1-2wk Mar in Higgins GrI12.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta* Rare, Migrant
Rare summer vagrant. No records this year. Last record in Feb 2003.

Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor* Vagrant
Very rare vagrant to the region from inland districts. First definite record for the ACT Nov 2003. No records this year.

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
Uncommon resident, now rarely reported except at Lakes George and Bathurst.

General: 9 records, incl 5 WBS from LBath GrY08 (LeM 1) from Sep to Mar. Also 2/23 Sep Taylors Ck Rd GrU09 (TaN1), 1/20 Oct Readymix quarry GrS12 (DeD2), 1/24 Oct 'Pylara' GrW09 (HoJ1), and 8/17 May Munday Lane GrI08 (HaK1). No breeding records.

PETROICIDAE: robins

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 25 records, incl 6 WOO+; 16 in the 5 months Nov-Mar. Four breeding records all at TSR 48 near Gundaroo GrsN05-005, from on/2 Nov until dy/19 Dec (BuM1, GrT I, BoJ1).
GBS: Only 1 record: 4/1wk Oct Campbell GrL13 (A1B3).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor* Common, Breeding Resident

General: Similar observation pattern to last year, being recorded 178 times incl 29 (15%) WOO+, in all months with half of them in the three months Apr-Jun. Only 2 breeding records: nb/26 Sep MUL GrL10 (McJ2); and ny/10 Oct Royalla GrL19 (TaN1).

GBS: Recorded from only 5 (8%) of sites this year compared with an average of around 15% in the previous 6 years. However the abundance (A) has almost doubled from around

the 0.01 level of the previous 6 years to 0.0184. Urban records of 1-2 birds from sites in Aranda, Bruce, Cook and Macgregor, plus records of 1-6 birds in 19 weeks from a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS 17.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii* Rare, Breeding Visitor
General: Recorded 7 times, in Sep, Nov, Dec, Apr and Jun, Mcl 2 WOO+. One breeding record: ny/3 Nov Aranda Bushland GrK13 (BuM1).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea* Common, Breeding Resident
General: Recorded 75 times through the year, from 38 grid cells, with only 17 records in the half year October to March when it moves to the high country. Only recorded once in the Woodland Survey. Highest count, 20/23 Jan Blundells Creek Rd GrD15 (LiB1). No breeding recorded, though many juveniles were reported from the Brindabella Range.
GBS: Recorded only 6 times from 2 sites, in Curtin and Macgregor. No records from 4wk Aug to 5wk Apr.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant
General: A total of 9 records (incl 1 WOO+), all of single birds. No records from Oct to Feb incl. No breeding reported.

GBS: Few records this year, only 18 records from 6 sites compared with an average of 50 records from 13 sites over the last 3 years. The abundance has also decreased to 0.0068 from the 0.02 average of that period. Only 1 of these records (3wk Nov) was in Sep to Mar period.

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster* Rare, Breeding Migrant
No records. Last record was Aug 2001.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
Declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in May 1997.
General: Recorded 26 times, of which 3 were WOO+, from 15 grid cells. This is similar to last year's numbers (23 records, incl 3 WOO+) but down on the 33-50 of the previous 4 years. Breeding recorded 5 times, from 4 sites: nb/22 Sep GOO GrM11 (TaN1), dy/18 Nov TSR 48 GrO05 (GrT1), dy/20 Nov Kelly Rd GrL21 (AnI1), dy/19 Dec TSR 48 GrN05 (BoJ1), dy/29 Dec Mulligans Flat NR GrL10 (WiT1).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* Common, Breeding Resident
General: A total of 68 records, with just 2 from WOO+. This compares with a total of 57 last year but 70 to 130 in the 4 years before that. Only 1 breeding record: dy/23 Feb ANBG GrK13 (HoS1).
GBS: 1/3wk Apr Higgins GrI12 (MiP1).

POMATOSTOMIDAE: babblers

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis* Vagrant
The first endorsed record of this species in COG's area of concern since 1968, although there have been anecdotal reports in the interim. The closest resident group is believed to be at Boorowa (Overs 2004).

General: 4 records of a single female at Duntroon Golf Course GrM14: 24 Sep (OvA1), 31 Oct, 11 Nov and 15 Feb (all HoS1). First reported on the *Canberrabirds* email list by Michael Kingsford (bird seen on 23 Sep). The bird remained in the same locality for the rest of the year, building a number of roosting nests (Overs 2004).

CINCLOSOMATIDAE: whipbird, quail-thrush

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

Uncommon, Breeding resident

This "species was particularly affected by the Jan 2003 fires as its habitat included the wet, east-facing gullies of the ranges to the west of Canberra.

General: 4 records from 3 widely-separated localities, all in Dec/Jan with only 1 from fire-affected Namadgi NP: 2/25 Dec Moonlight Hollow GrD16 (LiJ1). Others 3/6 Jan and 2/8 Jan, both Tinderry Range GrQ21 (BrM2), and 1/27 Jan Berlang camp ground GrX24 (PeH2). The 4 records this year is a similar number to records over the long-term but contrasts with the years just before the fires: 19 in 2000-01; 21 in 1999-2000 and 14 in 1998-99. No breeding recorded.

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma punctatum*

Uncommon, Breeding resident

A bird of the dry forests now rarely recorded from Namadgi NP.

General: 11 records from 7 localities in 8 grid cells over 9 months, 8 of single birds and 3 of 2 birds. Although this is a similar number of records to before the Jan 2003 fires, with similar abundance, there were just 2 records from their former strongholds in the fire-affected areas: 2/17 Jul Devils Gap track, Tidbinbilla NR GrG18; and 2/27 Feb Boboyan Rd scenic lookout GrI25 (both HoS1). No breeding recorded.

NEOSITTIDAE: sittella

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Uncommon, Breeding resident

This species was declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in December 2003; however, this year's record numbers were encouraging.

General: 89 records, a significant increase on recent years, from all months. Recorded from 33 grid cells, with 18% of all records from Burra Creek GrM2 I (Ant 1). Abundance: mean 3.5, median 3, range 1-15, 77% being of 1-4 birds. The largest numbers recorded were 15/10 Apr Harts Rd GrW23 (BrM1), 11/5 Jun Newline Quarry GrM14 (A1131) and 10 from 4 widely distributed sites. 5 breeding records (none last year) from MUL, the Pinnacle CNP and Campbell Park, commencing with nb/26 Sep MUL GrL11 (LiB1) and concluding with on/14 Nov Campbell Park GrM 13 (HoJ 1).

GBS: 10 records scattered throughout the year from just 4 sites (2 at Cook and 1 each in Bruce and Higgins), with abundance ranging from 2 to 6. No breeding recorded.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE: whistlers and allies

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 30 times through the year incl 8 WOO+. From 11 grid cells, though almost half the records from Newline Quarry GrM 14-N 14. Three breeding records, all dy at Newline, on 23 Jan (HoS1), 7 Mar (BuM I, and 27 Mar (BoJ1).

GBS: 1 bird recorded 1wk, 3wk, 4wk and 5wk Oct at Crace GrK12 (OrP1).

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: Only 1 record of a juvenile bird, 20 Jan Blundells Creek Rd GrD15 (BuM1), as described in Allan (2005).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 201 records of which 23 (11%) were WOO+. Again there were few records in the summer months, only 8 in Dec, 4 in Jan and 1 in Feb. Only one breeding record, on/30 Oct Westbourne Woods GrJ14 (CuR1).

GBS: The abundance of this species has declined this year to $A=0.1101$, a similar level to the average 0.12 of the 1980s but down from the 0.16 of the 1990s and the 0.20 of the first years of the 2000s. It was recorded from 40 (63%) of sites, again down on the 70-78% of sites over the last 5 years. As usual very few records (only 3 from 2 sites) in the summer months.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris* Common, Breeding Migrant
General: Recorded 331 times with just under a third of all records coming from the Woodland Survey. Again in the 4 cold months (Jul, Aug, May, Jun) the bird largely disappeared from the local area, being recorded only 3 times. Breeding was noted 6 times: cf/24 Oct Willeroo GrU08 (BoJ1), cf/2 Dec Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (GrT1) and 4 times at Campbell Park GrM13: nb/15 Dec, on/8 Jan, on/15 Jan, ny/21 Jan (CoE1, HoS1).

GBS: The abundance ($A=0.0391$) of this species was similar to last year's but still down on the 0.08/0.09 levels of the mid-1990s. However the number of sites recording this species was only 13 (21%) compared with the last 4 years' figures of 45%, 38%, 29% and 34%. Only 4 records in the 4 winter months.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica* Common, Breeding Resident
General: Recorded 293 times in all months of the year, 38 (13%) during the Woodland Survey. Only 3 breeding records: ny/ 10 Oct Royalla GrL 19; ny/21 Oct Hoskinstown GrS 17 (both TaN 1); and cf/21 Nov Uriarra Rd GrG13 (PeH2).

GBS: The number of sites recording this species has dropped to 17 (27%) compared with the 35% average of the last 5 years. However the abundance has only dropped slightly from 0.0821 to 0.0695 but still above the 0.04 average of the previous 4 years.

DICRURIDAE: monarchs, flycatchers, fantails

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis* Rare, Visitor
General: No records. Last record was Mar 2004.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* Common, Breeding Migrant
General: Recorded 107 times with the Woodland Survey contributing a third of the records. The first record for the year was 2/10 Sep Black Mt GrK13 (GrT1) and the last 1/23 Mar Mt Ainslie GrM12 (HoB1), apart from two unexpected outliers in Namadgi NP in May. Eight breeding records from on/10 Oct Mt Rogers GrI11 (B1R1) to cf/21 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1).

GBS: The abundance level of $A=0.0417$ is similar to last year's and above the 0.02/0.03 levels of previous years, although the number of sites where the species has been recorded has decreased over the last 3 years from 35% to 28% to 22% (14) this year. The first record for the year was 1/1wk Oct Campbell GrL13 (C1S1) and the last 1/2wk Mar at Cook GrJ13 (BrM2) and Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 13 times, with 3 breeding records: on/25 Dec Bulls Head GrD16 (LiJ1); on/20 Jan Warks Road GrE15 (BuM1); and dy/23 Jan Blundells Creek GrD15 (LiB1). First and last records for the year were 2/16 Oct Tidbinbilla NR GrF17 (McJ2) and 1/27 Feb Namadgi NP GrH26 (HoS1) respectively.

GBS: Single birds recorded 6 times from 5 sites (in Kambah, Aranda, Watson, Hughes, and Crace) in 4wk Oct, 1wk and 2wk Nov and 4wk Jan.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded only 22 times this year, a similar number to last year but down on the previous 4 years. Records from 14 grid cells, mainly to the south and west of the city. 1-2 birds, with one exception, 5/9 Mar Uriarra Homestead dam GrG13 (HoS1). One breeding record: nb/Kelly Road GrL22 (HoJ1).

GBS: A single bird 1wk and 2 wk Jan Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 437 times (incl 92 WOO+) in all months with 28 breeding records; compared with 359 times and 19 breeding records last year. First breeding was nb/ I 8 Sep The Pinnacle GrI13 and last was on/4 Feb Duntroon GrM14 (both AIB1). WOO+ contributed 62 (14%) of records.

GBS: Recorded at every site. The abundance (A) of 2.2224 was slightly lower than the average 2.3 of the previous 2 years and below the around 2.5 level of the 6 years before that. Breeding was similar to previous years, being recorded from a third of the sites (21). First breeding of nb/1wk Sep was reported at two sites in Pearce GrK15 (KrS1) and Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). This was the same week as last year. The last breeding recorded was dy/2wk Mar Isaacs GrK16 (MaC2). There were 4 instances of double broods and 1 of a triple brood.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 9 times, compared with 8 in 2003-04. First for the year was 1/31 Oct Mt Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1), the last, 20 Mar Symonston GrL15 (SmA1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: Five records from 5 sites. First for the year was 1/4wk Nov Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) and the last 2/2wk Apr Yarralumla GrK14 (CCR1).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: A total of 586 records of which 157 (37%) were from WOO+. Despite this large number of observations, breeding was recorded only 6 times. The first breeding was co/24 Sep GOS GrM12 (CoD2) and the last, dy/28 Feb Warks Road GrE15 (BuM1). This year there was an increase in winter sightings with 10% of the total sightings in the three winter months compared with the 5% in the previous 6 years.

GBS: The abundance (A) decreased again this year to 0.2678 from last year's 0.2923 and around 0.34/0.36 in previous years. Recorded from 43 (68%) of sites down on the 85% to 90% of other years. Recorded in winter months of Jul, Aug and Jun from 22 (35%) of sites. Two breeding records: di/1wk Nov Watson (WaK1); and dy/1wk-2wk Feb Macgregor (BrM4).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common, Breeding Resident

This year the reduction in numbers of this species in the winter months was not so noticeable as in previous years.

General: Recorded 279 times (incl 42 WOO+) with 19 breeding records, compared with 263 times and 8 breeding records last year. First breeding recorded was nb/11 Oct Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1) and the last ny/6 Jan Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2).

GBS: The abundance (A) this year was 0.2085, an increase from last year's 0.1406 and getting up to the 0.25 levels of the years before 2000 although it was only recorded from 32 (50%) of sites compared with around 80% in those years. Two breeding records: nb/2wk Oct Curtin GrJ14 (AJR); and dy/3wk Jan Macgregor GrI12 (BrM4).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* Rare, Migrant

No records. Last endorsed record was Apr 2002.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE: cuckoo-shrikes, cicadabird, triller

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Res/Migrant A widespread, easily identified, largely summer migrant with numbers up on the previous year but well below the long-term figure.

General: 328 records, a 43% increase on the previous year, from 82 grid cells. 30% of records WOO+, up 19% on the previous year's proportion. Recorded from all months but with very few winter records, just 12, and almost all from Canberra and adjacent woodlands. Abundance: mean 1.7, median 1, range 1-10, 86% were of 1 or 2 birds. Just 5 records of 6 or more birds with the highest count being 10/3 Apr Mulligans Flat GrL 10 (BoJ1). 15 breeding records, compared with last year's 7, from nb/16 Oct The Pinnacle GrI13 (A1B1) to dy/18 Mar Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded from 55 sites (87%) in all months, but very few records May-Aug. Abundance (A=0.3343) was 36% below the long-term figure though 36% higher than the previous year. Most observations were of 1 or 2 birds, with 7 records of 4 and 1 of 5. A site at Hoskinstown GrS17 (Kan) recorded 8-10 birds most weeks from 2wk Oct to 1wk Jan. 9 breeding records, from nb/1wk Nov Bruce (BuM1) to dy/4wk Feb Ainslie (HoS1).

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis* Rare, Visitor

The patchy continental distribution of this nomadic species means that it is only occasionally recorded in the Canberra region. The usual pattern of low numbers of records of this rare species continued this year.

General: 5 records but 3 probably of the same individual: 1/7 Sep, 1/10 Sep and 1/12 Sep Campbell Park area GrM12 (all HoS1); 1/22 Sep Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 (BuM1); and 2/25 Apr Narrabundah GrL15 (DaG2). No breeding recorded.

GBS: One record: 1/1wk May Curtin (AJR1).

Cicadabird *Coracina papuensis*

Uncommon, Migrant

No records. Last recorded Dec 2003.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

Another species declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in December 2003. Similar to the previous year on most parameters.

General: 80 records (79 in 2003-04), the highest number recorded since 1988-89 (151). Annual numbers have fluctuated markedly since then, ranging from 6 to 80 with a mean of 37 and a median of 31. From 35 grid cells (4%). 13 were WOO+. All records from Sep to Jan: first, 1/24 Sep GOS GrM12 (CoD2); and last, 20/29 Jan Googong Dam GrO17 (AnI1). Abundance: mean 2.8, median 2, range 1-30, 78% of records of 1 or 2 birds. Three large assemblages: 30/18 Nov Bellmount Forest GrO05 (GrT1); 20i22 Jan GrO05 Gundaroo area (AnI1); and 20/29 Jan GrO17 Googong Dam GrO17 (AnI1). 11 breeding records: first, nb/17 Oct Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (BuM1), and last, dy/29 Jan Googong Dam GrO17 (AnI1).

GBS: Recorded from just 3 sites from Sep to Feb, in Curtin, Watson and Macgregor. The first and last were from the Curtin site: 4/4wk Sep; and 2/1wk Feb (AJR1). The abundance for the year ($A=0.0252$) was 86% above the long-term figure, in parallel with the general records. Mean group size 3.05. 5 breeding records, all from the Curtin site. from dy/1wk Jan to ny/ 1 wk Feb.

ORIOLIDAE: oriole**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

A migratory woodland species not uncommonly recorded in Canberra suburbs, and one of the first of the summer migrants to return to our region. Unusually. no records of over-wintering this year.

General: 104 records from 30 grid cells; 46% were WOO'. A 42% increase in number of records over last year's 73 but similar to the 106 of 2002-03. Abundance: mean 1.3, median 1, range 1-5; all records of 1 or 2 birds except for 3 records of 3. 4 22 Dec Gossan Hill GrK12 (BuM1) and 5/18 Sep The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1, WBS). Found across the region from Sep to Apr with 1 late record in May: first 1/5 Sep The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1, WBS); and last, 1/14 May Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (HoS1). 6 breeding records: from on/11 Dec Campbell Park GrM13 (CoE1) to dy/10 Jan Black Mt GrK13 (A1B1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0740$) similar to previous 2 years but 30% above the long-term mean. At 25 sites (40%); all of 1 or 2 birds plus 1 record of 3; from 3wk Aug to 5wk Apr. 15 breeding records probably covering just two breeding events: dy/3-4wk Dec at Cook (BrM2); and from nb/3wk Oct to dy/4wk Jan at Watson (WaK1).

ARTAMIDAE: woodswallows, butcherbirds, magpie, currawongs**Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*

Rare, Visitor

A return to the usual small number of records following two bumper years.

General: 3 records all from grassy woodland habitats in the NE of COG's area: 50/18 Nov (GrT1) and 18/23 Nov (BoJ1) both TSR 48 Bellmount Forest GrO05, and 2/29 Nov The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1). 2 of the 3 included breeding observations: on/18 Nov and nb/23 Nov, both from TSR 48.

GBS: 1 record: 14/4wk Nov Higgins (MiP1). No breeding recorded.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* Uncommon Breeding Migrant
The number of records of this woodland species was higher than usual but far below the number from the 2002-03 irruption.

General: 12 records from 8 grid cells, incl 2 WOO+, compared with 5 records the previous year and the massive 55 in 2002-03. Excluding that outlier, the mean for the last decade is 4.9 records. Mostly from woodlands in the eastern part of the area, from the Gundaroo vicinity south to Naas. Abundance: mean 23, median 9, range 1-100 with 7 records of 12 birds or fewer, 1 each of 18, 30 and 40, 50/18 Nov Bellmount Forest GrO05 (GrT1) and 100/24 Oct E side Lake George GrT09 (LeM1). 2 breeding records: on/18 Nov Bellmount Forest GrO05 (GrT1); and dy/22 Jan Gundaroo area GrO05 (Anil).

GBS: 2 records: 20/2wk Oct at MacGregor (BrM4); and 38/4wk Dec Higgins (MiP1).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus* Common, Breeding Migrant
A migrant woodland species; some over-winter. This year the largest number of records since the late 1980s.

General: 155 records from 55 grid cells, from all months of the year, with lower numbers of records in winter. Number of records highest since ACT Atlas period (1988-89: 426 records), 41% higher than the 110 recorded last year and 67% above the mean of 93 for the previous 15 years. 30 records (19%) WOO+. Abundance: mean 5.8, median 3, range 1-60, 71% of records being 1-5. Largest numbers recorded in the Apr-May period with 3 abundance outliers: 30/22 Apr Woden Property GrL 16 (BoJ1); 40/9 May Curtin GrJ14 (MoM1); and 60/12 May Lake Ginninderra Peninsula GrJ12 (A1B1). 28 breeding records from nb/25 Sep NLQ GrN14 (LaS 1) to dy/15 Feb Duntroon Oval GrM14 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded at 14 sites covering all weeks except for 4 weeks in winter and the Christmas week, twice the long-term mean number of weeks observed. Recorded most weeks at a site at Curtin (AJR1). Group size ranged from 1-40 ($G=7.52$), the A value (0.3193) is over 4 times the long-term mean and the recording rate ($R%=4.24$) is approaching 4 times the long-term mean. 10 breeding records all from the Curtin site (AJR1), commencing with on/4wk Nov, thence ny and dy, and ending with on/1wk Feb.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
A woodland species more frequently recorded this year than in the recent past.

General: 150 records from 48 grid cells, all months with a distinct autumn peak, probably post-breeding dispersal. A 14% increase on the previous 5 years' mean. 42 records (28%) WOO+ and 35 records (23%) from a site at Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1). Abundance: mean 1.4, median 1, range 1-12, 77% of records were of 1 bird, max 5/3 Mar at Burra Creek.. One breeding record: dy/9 Dec at the Burra Creek site.

GBS: Recorded at 17 sites in all months except Sep and Jul with a Mar-Apr peak, almost all sightings being of 1 bird. Well above the long-term means on most parameters: abundance ($A=0.0225$) 4 times the long-term mean, recorded from 27% of sites (21/2 time the mean) in 30 weeks (31/2 times the mean), recording rate almost 4 times the mean. No breeding recorded.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis* Rare, Visitor
No records this year. Last recorded 31 Jul 2003.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Common, Breeding Resident

No significant changes this year.

General: 955 records from 124 grid cells, 363 (38%) WOO+, from all months. A 9% increase on the previous year but still well below the 1,635 records in 2000-01. Abundance: mean 3.6, median 2, range 1-70, 78% of records being 1-4 birds, max 70/15 Dec Campbell Park area GrM13 (HoS1). 38 breeding records from dy/1 Jul Kambah GrK16 (McD1) to dy/4 Feb Molonglo Reach GrM14 (AIB1).

GBS: Recorded from all sites and in all weeks, with most parameters similar to the long-term figures. Ranked 8th most abundant species (A=3.4726), the same rank as the previous year. Mean group size 3.7 with the largest 20/4wk Jan at Pearce (KrS 1). Breeding records from 37 sites (57%) from nb/4wk Jul to dy/3wk Feb.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Common, Breeding Resident

A higher number of general records than the previous year.

General: 484 records from 98 grid cells, from all months. incl 122 WOO-. 19% more than the 407 the previous year. Abundance: mean 2.6, median 1. range 1-56. 75% of records were of 1 or 2 birds, just 15 of 10 or more. Max: 56/2 Jun Mt Majura dams GrM13 (LeM1), recorded as a roost flight. 18 breeding records (15 in the previous year), from cf 1 Jul MAJ GrM12 (RoA1) to dy/20 Feb Reid GrL13 (PeH2).

GBS: 7th most abundant species (A=3.7243), abundance 7% below long-term mean. Recorded in all weeks, with records from at all sites. Breeding records from 39 sites (62%) from nb/5wk Jul Kambah (VeP1) to dy/4wk Mar Deakin (RoD2).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

Common. Breeding Resident

Generally thought of as a bird of the forests and woodlands. but also found in Canberra, particularly the suburbs near its periphery.

General: 130 records from 44 grid cells, from all months. incl 25 WOO+. Abundance: mean 1.2, median 1, range 1-4, 96 records (74%) being of 1 bird. max 4 11 Jun Yarramundi Reach LBG GrJ13 (SmA1). 2 breeding records: cf/12 Dec MAJ GrM12 (WaK1); and dy/12 Feb Berlang (Big Hole) camp ground GrX24 (PeH2).

GBS: Recorded at 23 (37%) sites compared with 26 in the previous year, in all months and all but 4 weeks. All records of 1 or 2 birds. The measure of abundance (A=0.0710) 14% lower than the long-term mean. Two breeding records: dy/5wk Jan and 1wk Feb, at a site in Ainslie (HoS1).

CORVIDAE: ravens**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 639 records from 102 grid cells, with the number of records up 17% on the previous year, from all months. 205 records (32%) WOO+. Abundance: mean 2.6, median 2, range 1-20, 78% were of 1-3 birds with 2 particularly large groups recorded: 20/13 Dec Goorooyaroo NR GrM11 (HoS1); and 20/31 Jan Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR GrL14 (HoS1). 18 breeding records compared with 6 in the previous year: from on/29 Jul Mt Ainslie GrM13 (HoS1) each month to Dec, cf/4 Feb Molonglo Reach GrL14 (AIB1) then recommencing with nb/26 Jun HAL GrJ11 (NeG1).

GBS: Recorded from 95% of sites and in every week. Abundance ($A=1.4410$) 43% above the long-term mean. Breeding at 13 sites, commencing with nb at 2 sites in 1wk Jul and ending with dy/2 wk Jan.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

This species is sometimes difficult to identify and some of the records of one or two birds may be of the Australian Raven.

General: 37 records (incl 4 WOO+) from all months except Jul, spread fairly evenly throughout the year, from 23 grid cells. Abundance: mean 14, median 5, range 1-150, 6 records of 20 or more. The largest flocks recorded were 150/13 Mar Tarago tip GrY08 (LeM1) and 65/28 Mar near Naas GrJ21 (PeH2). Most records to the north and east of the Murrumbidgee. No breeding recorded.

GBS: 19 records from 10 sites with 12 (63%) in the period 4wk Feb to 3wk Apr. No records in the period 2wk Oct to 2wk Feb. The mean group size was 29 with the largest 180/3wk Mar and 80/3wk Apr, both at Fyshwick (VeP1). The abundance ($A=0.2055$) was approximately 150% greater than the long-term mean. The recording rate this year, however, was only 56% of the long-term rate. No breeding recorded.

CORCORACIDAE: chough

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

Common, Breeding Resident

A woodland species also found in the suburbs, with current GBS numbers somewhat higher than the long-term mean.

General: 209 records from 59 grid cells, a 17% increase on the number of records for the previous year, from all months. 70 (33%) were WOO+. Abundance: mean 6.9, median 8, range 1- 37, 32% were 1-3 birds and 10% of records were of 10 or more. 20 breeding records (compared with 13 the previous year) from on/7 Sep Campbell Park area GrM13 (HoS1) to on/25 Mar Australian War Memorial GrL13 (LeM1).

GBS: Recorded from 25 (40%) of the sites in all but 1 week of the year. Abundance ($A=0.4808$) 49% higher than the long-term figure. Mean group size 8.3, range 1-30. Recorded at Hoskinstown GrS17 in high numbers continuously 2wk Feb to 3wk Jun (Kan). Largest group 30/1wk Jun Yarralumla (CCR1).

PTILONORHYNCHIDAE: bowerbird

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Common, Breeding Resident

Of Australia's 10 species of bowerbirds this is the only one found in COG's area of concern, and this area is near the western edge of its distribution at this latitude.

General: 31 records from 14 grid cells. Abundance: mean 2.0, median 2, range 1-5. The largest abundance recorded was 5/8 Jun Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3). Only 7 (23%) were from localities outside Canberra including 3 in Namadgi NP. 2 breeding records: nb/18 Sep ANBG GrK13 (McD1) and di/6 Nov Red Hill GrK14 (AnI1).

GBS: Recorded at 19 sites (30%), more than twice the long-term average, on all weeks of the year, with a recording rate of 7% which is 81% higher than the long-term figure. The mean group size was 1.7 (similar to the long-term figure), range 1-9. The largest numbers recorded were from Yarralumla: 9/4 wk Apr (CCR1). No clear seasonal pattern, but birds recorded on 43 weeks at the Yarralumla site. The 19 sites were, with two urban exceptions (Cook and Macquarie) and one rural site (Hoskinstown GrS17), all from the south or south-

west of the city; the outliers accounted for records in 4 weeks, compared with 159 weeks in the species' strongholds. One breeding record: on/1wk Nov Yarralumla (CCR1).

ALAUDIDAE: larks

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records. Last record was Dec 2003.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 38 times (Mcl 1 WOO+), from 19 grid cells. No breeding was recorded. This year instead of the normal lack of records after Dec there were a few — 2 in Jan, 1 in Apr and 3 in May.

GBS: Recorded 29 times from 2 sites, in Curtin and Fyshwick. from 2wk Aug to 5wk Apr, with one outlier in winter, 1wk Jun.

MOTACILLIDAE: pipit

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 68 times including 7 breeding records, the first being cf/4 Oct Naas Creek GrI27 (McD1) and the last dy/25 Jan Burra Creek GrM21 (Anil). This year there were a few more autumn-winter records than normal, with 4 in Apr, 4 in May and 8 in June.

GBS: Recorded 44 times at two sites (Curtin and Fyshwick) with only 5 records in the months of Jul, May and Jun. One breeding record: cf/1wk Dec Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).

PASSERIDAE: sparrow, grass-finches

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 101 records, widespread, throughout the year, incl 12 WOO+. An increase on last year's 76 but well below the 184 of 2001-02. 3 breeding records: dy/4 Nov Fisher GrI16; nb/16 Dec Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (HoS1); and nbi 1 Jan The Pinnacle CNP (A1B1). **GBS:** Recorded from 50 sites (79%). Abundance (A=3.0793) down 54% from the long-term average. Tenth most abundant bird in the GBS, down from ninth in 2003-04 and sixth in 2001-02. Apart from an outlier ih in 4wk July, breeding recorded from only 4 sites between 4wk Aug and 4wk Feb.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Rare, Breeding Visitor/Escapee

General: 6 records all in Mar/Apr at Dunlop GrH11, I 1 1 (1 record in 2003-04).

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 78 records (Mel 22 WOO+), cf 42 in 2003-04; 43 of records (55%) from the autumn months. Highest count 23/22 Apr "Woden" GrL16 (BoJ1). 1 breeding record: dy/4 Nov Colquhoun Park GrI 16 (IoA1).

GBS: Abundance (A=0.0894) well down on 2003-04 (A=0.1236) and 32% below the long-term average. Recorded at 11 (17.5%) of sites, though reasonably regular only at 3, in Crace, Isaacs and Bruce.

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

Escapee

General: 1 record of a probable escapee: 1/20 Feb Mt Rogers GrJ11 (B1R1).**Red-browed Finch** *Neochmia temporalis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 88 records (incl 3 WOO+ records from RED, MAJ and CAS), an increase on the 65 records in 2003-04. Highest number 30/5 Jan LGin west (CuR1). 3 breeding records: dy/13 Jan Tharwa sandwash GrJ19 (PeH2); nb/23 Feb ANBG GrK13, and nb/2 May Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR GrL14 (both HoS1).**GBS:** Abundance ($A=0.2960$) well down on 2003-04 (0.4799) and 14% below the long-term mean. Recorded in 12 sites (19%) but regular only in sites in Aranda and Isaacs.**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 60 records (incl 10 WOO+ records from CAS, HAL and MAJ), compared with 26 in 2003-04, from 27 grid cells; 22 records (37%) in autumn. Highest count 30/8 Jul Kelly Rd GrL22 (AnI1). 7 breeding records; earliest, on/18 Nov TSR 48 GrO05 (GrT1); latest, di/14 Jun Booroomba GrJ18 (HoS1).**FRINGILLIDAE: finches****European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 14 records (11 in 2003-04) mostly from Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14. Highest count 30/7 May Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (SmA1). No breeding recorded.**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 88 records (incl 6 WOO+), similar numbers to previous years. One breeding record: nb/16 Dec Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (HoS1).**GBS:** Abundance ($A=0.1176$) similar to 2003-04 ($A=0.1189$) but 60% below the long-term average. Recorded from 9 sites (15%) but regular only at two sites, in Curtin and Crace. Breeding recorded from one site: dy/1wk Jan, 1wk Feb Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).**DICAEIDAE: mistletoebird****Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 136 records (incl 62 WOO+), cf 97 in 2003-04; widespread, and incl 12 winter records. Mainly 1-2 birds, but also 6/18 Nov TSR48 GrO05 (GrT1). 2 breeding records: nb/17 Oct Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (BuM1); nb/23 Dec Hall Common GrJ11 (NeG1).**GBS:** Abundance ($A=0.0229$) the same as 2003-04 but 7.8% below the long-term average. Recorded from 14 sites (22.2%) from 4wk Aug to 1wk Jun, mainly single birds but 3 instances of 2.**HIRUNDINIDAE: swallow, martins****Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 209 times (incl 16 WOO+) in all months but with only one breeding record: on/5 Sep Tidbinbilla GrF18 (McJ2). This year there was an increase in the numbers in May and June with regular recording of birds, especially over areas of water. With one

exception, 45/14 May Tidbinbilla NR waterbird ponds GrF18 (McJ2), they were recorded only in small numbers of up to 10 rather than in large flocks.

GBS: The abundance (A) of 0.2111 is similar to last year's and compares to levels around 0.23 in previous years. Numbers decreased over winter.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 82 times, 25% during the Woodland Survey. 9 breeding records starting with nb/26 Sep CAS GrJ18 (McD1) and ending with ih/23 Jan Michelago GrL25 (McD1).

GBS: Recorded 13 times from 6 sites between 3wk Aug and 3wk May with the highest group size being 4 birds.

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 16 times with 1 breeding record: dy/27 Jan Parkwood GrH12 (CuR1). The first record was 20/31 Aug Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (HoS1) and the last 6/29 Jan Willow Tree Creek GrT04 (PeH2). Groups ranged up to 60/13 Nov Duntroon GrM14 (PeH2).

GBS: Recorded 4 times at 2 sites, in Higgins and Macgregor. between 3wk Aug and 4wk Jan.

SYLVIIDAE: old-world warblers

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

Virtually the same number of records as the previous year.

General: 79 records with 43 (54% of records) from Kellys Swamp/Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14 and an additional 10 (12%) from Lake Ginninderra GrJ12. Records from 21 grid cells from 29 Aug to 25 May. Abundance: mean 3.5, median 3, range 1-10. 3 breeding records: dy/30 Dec Lake Tuggeranong GrJ16 (PeH2); dy/19 Jan Jerrabomberra Wetlands GrL14 (PeH2); and ny/26 Feb Carillon to Duntroon GrL14 (BuM1).

GBS: 13 records from 2 sites, in Macgregor and Crace, between 1wk Oct and 2wk Feb.

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Number of records just half of last year's figure.

General: 17 records (compared with 32 in 2003-04) from 3 grid cells: 13 from Kellys Swamp area GrL14, 3 from Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 and 1 from Lake Tuggeranong GrJ16 between Sep and May. No breeding recorded.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Common, Breeding Migrant

A woodland migrant whose record numbers have increased in recent years.

General: 64 records (compared with 45, 16 and 31 in the 3 preceding years) from 30 grid cells with GrI15 (Cooleman Ridge) the hotspot with 11 (17%) of the records. WOO+ accounted for 10 records (16%). Abundance: mean 2.7, median 2, range 1-10, 68% of records were of 1 or 2 birds, outliers 10/24 Nov Pierces Creek GrF15 (HoS1), 10/29 Nov Bullock Paddock area GrF14 (HoS1), 10/1 Dec Blue Range area GrE14 (HoS1) and 10/22 Jan Gundaroo area GrO05 (Anil). First, 2/17 Oct 'Bibaringa' GrH14 (BuM1) and an unusually late last, 1/13 Jun Uriarra Forest GrF14 (GrT1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: Records from just 3 sites, in Curtin, Watson and Crace, of 1-3 birds: first, 1/4wk Sep Curtin (AJR1) and last, from the same site, 1/5wk Apr.

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

A rarely recorded migrant.

General: 6 records (4 from WBS) from 4 grid cells, a return to more usual numbers after last year's peak of 11. 2/1 Nov Lake Bathurst GrY08 (LeM1), 1/18 Nov Uriarra Rd GrG13 (HoS1), 2/29 Nov The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1), 1/12 Dec MUL GrL10 (Boil), 1/21 Dec Lake Bathurst GrY08 (LeM1) and 2/21 Dec The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1). No breeding recorded.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A cryptic grass bird rarely recorded in the first half of the year.

General: 36 records (cf 39 in 2003-04) from just 7 grid cells with 23 (64%) from Kellys Swamp/Jerrabomberra Wetlands/Fyshwick sewage ponds. Abundance: mean 1.8, median 2, range 1-4. All months except Dec and Feb, 28 records in the Jan-Jun period. 3 breeding records: dy/30 Dec Lake Tuggeranong GrJ16 (PeH2); dy/19 Jan Kellys Swamp GrL14 (PeH2); and ny/26 Feb Carillon to Duntroon GrL14 (BuM1).

GBS: 8 records of 1-9 birds from 1 site in Curtin (AJR1), between 5wk Jan and 2wk Apr.

ZOSTEROPIDAE: silvereeye**Silvereeye** *Zosterops lateralis*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: 214 records (incl 40 WOO+), cf 148 in 2003-04, widespread, and recorded throughout the year. Range 1-40 birds. 3 breeding records: ny/18 Nov Kellys Swamp GrL14 (BuM1); dy/5 Jan Hawker GrJ12; and nb/4 Feb Molonglo Reach GrL14 (both A1B1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=3.9718$) down from 2003-04 (4.1671) and 32.6% below the long-term average. Records throughout the year, and from 61 sites (96.8%), of up to 50 birds. Breeding recorded from 5 sites, from nb/2wk Sep to dy/3wk Feb both Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2).

MUSCICAPIDAE: thrushes**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 2 records: 2/25 Jul ANBG GrK13 (McI1), and 1/11 Aug ANBG GrK13 (HoS1).

Continues the low level of reporting of this species from suitable damp habitat.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 123 records (incl 8 WOO+), one more than last year but down on the 233 records in 2001-02. One breeding record: cf/18 Nov Blueberry Farm GrI08 (HaK1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=1.3952$) 18.7% below the long-term average. Recorded from all but one site. Breeding recorded from 9 sites between 2wk Sep and 3wk Feb.

STURNIDAE: starling, myna**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common, Breeding Resident

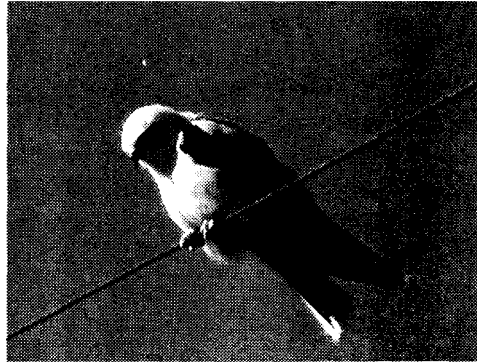
General: 375 records (incl 119 WOO), cf 312 records in 2003-04. Recorded in numbers of up to 200 at Kellys Swamp GrL14. 18 breeding records, between 18 Sep and 19 Dec.

GBS: Fourth-ranked garden bird, yet its Abundance ($A=4.1747$) continues a long-term decline since 1995-96 (9.8804). Recorded from 79.4% of sites. Breeding recorded from 7 sites between 1wk Aug and 3wk Jan. Highest count 141.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 158 records (incl 52 WOO+), of 137 in 2003-04, 120 in 2002-03 and 236 in 2001-02. Highest count 37/8 Jun Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3) - again, surprisingly low. We can only conclude that the species is under-reported. 11 breeding records from dy/24 Oct Taylors Creek Rd GrU09 (HoJ1) to ih/23 Jan Newline GrN14 (HoSI).

GBS: Remains the third most abundant species recorded in the GBS, with counts of up to 70 birds. Abundance ($A=4.8009$) up from 2003-04 (4.7500) and 73.69c above the long-term average. Recorded from 61 sites (96.8%). Breeding recorded from 16 sites, with nb commencing in 3wk Sep and dy to 1wk Apr.



It was a good year for Black-shouldered Kites
[Photo courtesy of Ian Fraser]



Masked Woodswallows bred this year
[Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Dabb]

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF RECORDS FOR EACH SPECIES SEGREGATED BY SURVEY TYPE

ABA: Australian Bird Atlas, BA: Birds Australia, GA: Greening Australia, GDE: Gungahlin Drive Extension, INC: Incidental, THR: Threatened Bird Survey, WBS: Waterbird Survey, WOO: Woodland Survey, WOA: Woodland Survey-associated Atlas records, WOO+: WOO and WOA combined.

Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	GDE	INC	THR	WBS	WOO	WOA	%WOO+
1 Australian Magpie	955	502	70	3	14	2	-	1	306	57	38.0
2 Crimson Rosella	916	474	62	5	23	7	-	-	284	61	37.7
3 Striated Pardalote	644	300	27	3	23	-	1	-	244	46	45.0
4 Australian Raven	639	346	65	2	20	1	-	-	161	44	32.1
5 Galah	621	296	48	-	17	2	-	1	215	42	41.4
6 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	604	324	50	1	22	2	-	-	173	32	33.9
7 Weebill	591	222	21	4	1	2	-	-	285	56	57.7
8 Grey Fantail	586	318	42	3	8	7	1	4	157	46	34.6
9 Superb Fairy-wren	570	370	64	3	9	2	-	-	87	35	21.4
10 Red Wattlebird	541	334	58	2	13	4	-	-	100	30	24.0
11 Eastern Rosella	487	247	28	3	13	1	-	1	155	39	39.8
12 Pied Currawong	484	278	54	1	22	7	-	-	93	29	25.2
13 Spotted Pardalote	482	261	32	-	14	-	-	-	137	38	36.3
14 Wh-throated Treecreeper	460	288	26	1	22	4	-	1	91	27	25.7
15 Magpie-lark	437	267	62	1	3	11	-	1	62	30	21.1
16 Yellow-rumped Thornbill	396	239	43	3	-	5	-	3	68	35	26.0
17 Common Starling	375	205	48	1	-	2	-	-	96	23	31.7
18 Buff-rumped Thornbill	352	202	20	4	17	1	-	-	83	25	30.7
19 Rufous Whistler	331	189	15	-	-	9	1	2	96	19	34.7
20 Noisy Miner	329	148	18	2	-	2	-	-	134	25	48.3
21 Blk-faced Cuckoo-shrike	328	181	36	1	6	7	-	-	74	23	29.6
22 Laughing Kookaburra	322	206	25	1	7	3	-	1	55	24	24.5
23 Grey Shrike-thrush	293	220	17	3	4	1	1	1	38	8	15.7
24 Crested Pigeon	283	185	37	-	-	8	-	1	39	13	18.4
25 Yellow-faced Honeyeater	282	190	18	1	1	2	-	-	54	16	24.8
26 Willie Wagtail	279	194	28	1	-	12	-	2	30	12	15.1
27 Australian Wood Duck	274	177	24	-	5	11	-	3	40	14	19.7
28 Striated Thornbill	274	173	13	4	3	1	-	-	63	17	29.2
29 Noisy Friarbird	269	126	17	1	9	5	-	-	94	17	41.3
30 Brown Thornbill	251	203	16	1	2	1	-	2	18	8	10.4
31 Pacific Black Duck	238	164	42	-	3	5	-	1	11	12	9.7
32 Silveryeye	214	141	31	1	-	1	-	-	20	20	18.7
33 Red-rumped Parrot	211	134	15	1	-	16	-	1	39	5	20.9
34 White-winged Chough	209	109	19	1	4	5	-	1	50	20	33.5
35 Welcome Swallow	209	154	35	-	-	3	-	1	10	6	7.7
36 Golden Whistler	201	129	21	-	10	3	-	1	23	14	18.4
37 White-plumed Honeyeater	194	121	16	2	-	3	1	1	42	8	25.8
38 White-eared Honeyeater	188	154	13	2	-	2	-	-	14	3	9.0
39 Scarlet Robin	178	114	14	-	6	6	-	-	29	9	21.3
40 White-throated Gerygone	165	74	6	1	-	2	-	-	66	16	49.7
41 White-browed Scrubwren	161	128	26	1	-	-	-	1	2	3	3.1

<i>Canberra Bird Notes 31 (1)</i>												<i>March 2006</i>
Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	GDE	INC	THR	WBS	WOO	WOA	%WOO+	
42 Common Myna	158	93	12	-	-	2	-	-	41	10	32.3	
43 Dusky Woodswallow	155	92	7	-	-	22	1	3	18	12	19.4	
44 Grey Butcherbird	150	88	14	-	-	5	-	1	32	10	28.0	
45 Eurasian Coot	146	107	36	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	0.7	
46 Grey Teal	144	95	34	-	-	2	-	4	4	5	6.3	
47 Masked Lapwing	144	102	29	-	-	8	-	2	2	1	2.1	
48 Mistletoebird	136	70	2	-	-	1	1	-	52	10	45.6	
49 Common Bronzewing	132	79	14	1	1	6	-	2	25	4	22.0	
50 Dusky Moorhen	130	93	35	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
51 Grey Currawong	130	86	13	-	3	3	-	-	21	4	19.2	
52 Yellow-tail Blk-Cockatoo	124	65	15	1	8	18	-	1	11	5	12.9	
53 Common Blackbird	123	89	26	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	6.5	
54 Eastern Spinebill	121	92	13	1	-	-	-	-	9	6	12.4	
55 Black Swan	120	79	28	-	-	9	-	2	1	1	1.7	
56 Purple Swamphen	120	81	38	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
57 Little Pied Cormorant	118	80	21	-	-	9	-	-	3	5	6.8	
58 Brown-head Honeyeater	117	80	7	1	-	2	-	4	19	4	19.7	
59 White-faced Heron	113	69	26	-	-	9	-	1	3	5	7.1	
60 Speckled Warbler	113	49	15	-	-	-	-	-	28	21	43.4	
61 Leaden Flycatcher	109	61	2	-	5	2	-	-	34	5	35.8	
62 Olive-backed Oriole	104	43	6	-	2	4	-	1	34	14	46.2	
63 Australian King-Parrot	103	45	13	-	16	5	-	-	20	4	23.3	
64 House Sparrow	101	69	20	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	11.9	
65 Nankeen Kestrel	94	48	19	-	-	13	-	2	6	6	12.8	
66 Black-shouldered Kite	93	21	16	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	
67 Gang-gang Cockatoo	93	46	11	-	7	5	-	1	18	5	24.7	
68 Varied Sittella	89	60	5	-	2	3	-	-	13	6	21.3	
69 Red-browed Finch	88	59	24	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	3.4	
70 European Goldfinch	88	63	14	-	-	3	-	2	2	4	6.8	
71 Western Gerygone	87	24	5	1	-	1	-	-	43	13	64.4	
72 Australasian Shoveler	83	54	28	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
73 Australasian Grebe	83	49	15	-	-	2	-	-	8	9	20.5	
74 Tree Martin	82	50	1	1	-	3	1	2	20	4	29.3	
75 Sacred Kingfisher	81	49	9	-	3	6	-	3	9	2	13.6	
76 White-winged Triller	80	43	-	-	1	18	1	4	10	3	16.3	
77 Clamorous Reed-Warbler	79	64	11	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	1.3	
78 White-naped Honeyeater	78	66	4	-	-	3	-	-	3	2	6.4	
79 Double-barred Finch	78	35	18	2	-	1	-	-	9	13	28.2	
80 Flame Robin	75	47	7	1	-	15	-	1	1	3	5.3	
81 Wedge-tailed Eagle	73	42	11	-	-	11	-	3	4	2	8.2	
82 Great Cormorant	72	50	20	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
83 Brown Treecreeper	71	43	3	-	-	3	1	-	17	4	29.6	
84 Eastern Yellow Robin	68	58	7	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2.9	
85 Richard's Pipit	68	44	9	-	-	10	-	4	-	1	1.5	
86 Pallid Cuckoo	67	39	2	-	-	2	-	2	15	7	32.8	
87 Pink-eared Duck	64	37	26	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	

Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	GDE	INC	THR	WBS	WOO	WOA	%WOO+
88Black-fronted Dotterel	64	43	15	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	4.7
89Rufous Songlark	64	40	3	-	-	10	-	1	8	2	15.6
90Darter	63	42	18	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
91Southern Whiteface	63	27	6	-	-	15	-	1	2	12	22.2
92Rock Dove	60	40	19	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
93Diamond Firetail	60	31	5	-	-	10	1	3	8	2	16.7
94New Holland Honey eater	58	33	22	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
95Australian Pelican	53	40	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
96Brown Goshawk	52	24	8	-	-	6	-	-	9	5	26.9
97Yellow Thornbill	51	29	8	-	1	1	-	6	3	3	11.8
98Hardhead	50	34	12	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
99Chestnut Teal	45	27	14	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	2.2
100Little Eagle	45	21	17	-	-	5	-	1	-	1	2.2
101Hoary-headed Grebe	42	28	8	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	4.8
102Silver Gull	41	27	10	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
103Fan-tailed Cuckoo	40	37	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	5.0
104Horsfield's Brz-Cuckoo	40	28	4	-	-	3	-	-	3	2	12.5
105Red-kneed Dotterel	38	16	20	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
106Skylark	38	27	5	-	-	2	-	3	-	1	2.6
107Little Black Cormorant	37	29	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
108Little Raven	37	24	7	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	10.8
109Dollarbird	36	24	2	-	-	3	-	-	7	-	19.4
110Golden-headed Cisticola	36	16	14	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-
111Stubble Quail	31	9	1	-	-	10	-	6	3	2	16.1
112Australian White Ibis	31	23	3	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	3.2
113Satin Bowerbird	31	19	4	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	6.5
114Straw-necked Ibis	30	16	6	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	-
115Whistling Kite	30	17	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
116Crested Shrike-tit	30	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	26.7
117Brown Falcon	29	12	5	-	-	6	-	2	3	1	13.8
118Australian Shelduck	28	21	3	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
119Collared Sparrowhawk	28	15	6	-	1	4	-	-	-	2	7.1
120Little Corella	28	10	1	-	-	4	-	3	7	3	35.7
121Glossy Black-Cockatoo	27	9	2	-	-	15	-	-	1	-	3.7
122Fuscous Honeyeater	27	22	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	14.8
123Peregrine Falcon	26	8	6	-	-	10	-	-	2	-	7.7
124Hooded Robin	26	17	1	-	-	2	1	-	3	2	19.2
125Jacky Winter	25	16	1	-	-	1	1	-	5	1	24.0
126Australian Hobby	24	9	3	-	1	6	1	1	2	1	12.5
127Restless Flycatcher	22	13	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	27.3
128Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	21	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	3	42.9
129Royal Spoonbill	20	15	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
130Superb Lyrebird	20	16	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
131Blue-billed Duck	17	9	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
132Little Grassbird	17	9	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
133Fairy Martin	16	11	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-

Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	GDE	INC	THR	WBS	WOO	WOA	%WOO
134Freckled Duck	15	9	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
135Baillon's Crake	15	11	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
136Rainbow Bee-eater	15	10	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	I	13.3
137Musk Duck	14	9	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
138Great Egret	14	8	2	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
139Latham's Snipe	14	10	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
140Superb Parrot	14	5	1	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	7.1
141European Greenfinch	14	6	5	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
142White-necked Heron	13	6	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	-	-
143Swift Parrot	13	2	1	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	7.7
144Crescent Honeyeater	13	6	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
145Satin Flycatcher	13	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
146Nankeen Night Heron	12	7	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
147Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	12	9	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
148Australian Owllet-nightjar	12	11	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
149Wh-brow Woodswallow	12	7	-	-	-	-	1	2	I	I	16.7
150Black-winged Stilt	11	6	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
151Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	11	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
152Spotted Quail-thrush	11					2			-	-	-
153Spotless Crake	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
154Southern Boobook	9	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	I	-	11.1
155White-fronted Chat	9	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
156Rose Robin	9	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	11.1
157Rufous Fantail	9	4	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
158Brown Quail	8	2	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
159Australian Spotted Crake	8	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
160Painted Button-quail	8	2	1	-	-	4	-	-	1		12.5
161Common Sandpiper	8	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
162Rainbow Lorikeet	8					3	-	-	-	-	-
163Tawny Frogmouth	8					6	-	-	-	-	-
164Mallard	7					-	-	-	-	-	-
165Lewin's Rail	7	1	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
166Peaceful Dove	7	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	14.3
167Red-capped Robin	7	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	28.6
168Pied Cormorant	6	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
169Marsh Sandpiper	6	2	1	-	-	2	-	I	-	-	-
170White-throated Needletail	6	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
171Zebra Finch	6	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
172Brown Songlark	6	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-
173Yellow-billed Spoonbill	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-
174Regent Honeyeater	5	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
175Painted Honeyeater	5	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
176Wh-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	5	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
177White-bellied Sea-Eagle	4	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
178Black Falcon	4	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
179Whiskered Tern	4	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Canberra Bird Notes 31 (1)

Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	GDE	INC	THR	WBS	WOO	WOA % W00+
180 Spotted Turtle-Dove	4	-	I	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
1st Maj Mitchell's Cockatoo	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
182 Bell Miner	4	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
183 Grey-crowned Babbler	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
184 Eastern Whipbird	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
185 Cattle Egret	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
186 Glossy Ibis	3	I	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
187 Spotted Harrier	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
188 Buff-banded Rail	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
189 Curlew Sandpiper	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
190 Red-capped Plover	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-
191 Cockatiel	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	I	-	-
192 Budgerigar	3	-	I	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
193 Brush Cuckoo	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
194 Powerful Owl	3	-	I	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
195 Little Friarbird	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
196 Masked Woodswallow	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-
197 Domestic Goose	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
198 Emu	2	I	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
199 Magpie Goose	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
200 domestic ducks	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
201 Black Duck x Mallard	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
202 Banded Lapwing	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
203 Long-billed Corella	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
204 Barn Owl	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
205 Pilotbird	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
206 Ch'nut-rump Heathwren	2	-	I	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
207 Spiny-cheek Honeyeater	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
208 Bassian Thrush	2	1	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
209 Muscovy Duck	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
210 Great Crested Grebe	1	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
211 Grey Goshawk	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
212 Caspian Tern	1	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
213 White-Headed Pigeon	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
214 Wonga Pigeon	1	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
215 Little Lorikeet	1	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
216 Yellow-crowned Parakeet	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
217 Lovebird sp.	1	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-
218 Black-eared Cuckoo	1	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
219 Fork-tailed Swift	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
220 Little Wattlebird	1	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
221 Lewin's Honeyeater	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
222 Olive Whistler	1	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
223 Plum-headed Finch	1	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

This table is based on database records only for these survey types. GBS records are not included.

TABLE 2: GARDEN BIRD SURVEY STATISTICS - 2004-05

Values for A, F, W, R and G for 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (year24), together with percentage change when compared with the mean of all previous years (years 1-23).

Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW	R	dR%	G
1 Galah	8.6555	29	100.0	0.6	52	0	81.33.6		10.7
2 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	7.5496	45	100.0	3	52	0	82.220.8		9.2
+ 3 Common Myna	4.8009	74	96.8	43	52	0.3	74.6463.1		6.43
- 4 Common Starling	4.1747	-60	79.4	-17	52	0	42.30-38.7		9.87
5 Silveryeye	3.9718	-33	96.8	-0.1	52	0	52.10-23.4		7.62
6 Crimson Rosella	3.7761	27	100.0	1	52	0	89.2613.4		4.23
7 Pied Currawong	3.7243	-7	100.0	1	52	0	87.159.2		4.27
8 Australian Magpie	3.4726	24	100.0	0.5	52	0	93.098.9		3.73
9 Red Wattlebird	3.2524	57	98.4	0.8	52	0	86.8514.5		3.74
- 10 House Sparrow	3.0793	-54	79.4	-16	52	0	43.58-39.1		7.07
+ 11 Crested Pigeon	2.5259	239	98.4	120	52	47	75.96202.2		3.33
12 Yellow-faced Honeyeater	2.4057	-9	71.4	-18	50	-2	14.43-45.6		16.68
13 Magpie-lark	2.2224	9	100.0	2	52	0	80.057.7		2.78
+ 14 Australian King-Parrot	2.0556	39	92.1	22	52	0.9	61.6865.2		3.33
+ 15 Yellow-tailed Blk.-Cockatoo	1.7310	649	93.7	563	52	345	26.561423.1		6.52
16 Eastern Rosella	1.6123	8	98.4	2	52	0	58.56 1 7		2.75
17 Australian Raven	1.4410	43	95.2	1	52	0	60.5924.2		2.38
18 Common Blackbird	1.3952	-19	98.4	6	52	0	66.60-7.7		2.09
19 Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1.2122	-18	73.0	-17	52	0	26.97-25.3		4.49
20 Rock Dove	1.1183	-4	50.8	0.4	52	0	17.620.1		6.35
+ 21 Superb Fairy-wren	1.0571	42	77.8	11	52	0	31.8632.0		3.32
+ 22 Gang-gang Cockatoo	0.9812	41	79.4	12	52	0.3	34.7551.8		2.82
23 Red-rumped Parrot	0.7400	86	31.7	-21	52	3	7.89-9.6		9.38
24 Noisy Friarbird	0.5402	-42	87.3	-7	39	-10	30.58-19.8		1.77
+ 25 Australian Wood Duck	0.5116	226	34.9	55	52	40	8.72168.7		5.87
26 Spotted Pardalote	0.5045	-17	74.6	-4	52	0.1	30.396.2		1.66
+ 27 White-winged Chough	0.4808	49	39.7	44	51	17	5.8238.3		8.26
28 Eastern Spinebill	0.4790	-16	84.1	-5	52	0.9	32.53-5.8		1.47
29 Weebill	0.4418	2	52.4	8	52	0.3	15.33-10.6		2.88
30 Striated Pardalote	0.3997	-34	74.6	-0.5	52	0	22.80-16.9		1.75
+ 31 Noisy Miner	0.3618	116	33.3	67	50	-0.2	7.8163.4		4.63
- 32 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	0.3343	-36	87.3	-6	51	-2	22.20-33.9		1.51
+ 33 Dusky Woodswallow	0.3193	444	22.2	61	47	215	4.24379.9		7.52
34 Brown Thornbill	0.3189	31	61.9	37	52	2	13.796.1		2.31
35 Red-browed Finch	0.2960	-14	19.0	-27	51	18	5.3710.5		5.51
. 36 Laughing Kookaburra	0.2720	-26	69.8	-5	52	0	15.21-25.7		1.79
. 37 Grey Fantail	0.2678	-25	68.3	-18	52	0.3	14.16-38.4		1.89
+ 38 White-browed Scrubwren	0.2630	113	46.0	90	52	12	16.15128.9		1.63
39 Welcome Swallow	0.2111	-7	34.9	-7	49	-0.8	7.020.9		3.01

	Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW	R	dR%	G
-	40 Willie Wagtail	0.2085	-26	50.8	-37	52	0	13.94	-35.2	1.50
+	41 Little Raven	0.2055	152	15.9	76	13	39	0.71	55.6	28.79
-	42 White-naped Honeyeater	0.1995	-70	33.3	-38	23	-27	1.92	-73.7	10.41
+	43 Pacific Black Duck	0.1608	72	17.5	93	50	78	4.77	149.3	3.37
	44 Straw-necked Ibis	0.1386	-67	25.4	13	30	26	2.33	2.8	5.95
+	45 Little Corella	0.1236	122	27.0	168	45	136	3.01	136.6	4.11
	46 White-plumed Honeyeater	0.1191	-21	25.4	-42	50	9	5.15	-27.2	2.31
-	47 European Goldfinch	0.1176	-60	14.3	-67	49	-0.2	4.47	-48.3	2.63
	48 Satin Bowerbird	0.1168	7	30.2	115	52	66	6.72	80.8	1.74
	49 Golden Whistler	0.1101	-27	63.5	4	39	-11	10.07	-20.8	1.09
+	50 Brown-headed Honeyeater	0.1048	286	9.5	27	43	220	1.84	175.0	5.69
	51 Buff-rumped Thornbill	0.0988	-8	14.3	-11	48	25	3.72	27.3	2.66
-	52 Striated Thornbill	0.0920	-59	34.9	-5	43	-7	3.72	-37.7	2.47
	53 Australian White Ibis	0.0909	-45	17.5	60	27	67	1.16	25.9	7.81
	54 Masked Lapwing	0.0909	-6	46.0	23	51	9	5.45	4.4	1.67
-	55 Double-barred Finch	0.0894	-32	17.5	-17	41	9	2.40	-26.0	3.72
+	56 Yellow Thornbill	0.0766	350	11.1	42	48	138	2.82	209.6	2.72
+	57 Olive-backed Oriole	0.0740	30	39.7	-6	37	9	6.57	25.7	1.13
	58 Grey Currawong	0.0710	-14	36.5	4	48	-3	6.54	-6.6	1.09
	59 Grey Shrike-thrush	0.0695	-9	28.6	-27	51	8	5.30	-22.9	1.31
+	60 Common Bronzewing	0.0582	77	19.0	95	48	61	4.09	136.7	1.42
-	61 White-eared Honeyeater	0.0571	-44	19.0	-64	44	10	2.78	-64.6	2.05
	62 Dollarbird	0.0567	-5	33.3	-0.9	22	-2	3.79	4.5	1.50
	63 Southern Boobook	0.0526	32	36.5	8	38	0.5	3.94	6.1	1.33
	64 Silver Gull	0.0477	-92	4.8	-46	20	7	0.75	-19.0	6.35
	65 White-throated Treecreeper	0.0447	-17	14.3	-18	49	6	3.94	-17.0	1.13
+	66 Collared Sparrowhawk	0.0428	115	41.3	85	47	62	3.91	110.5	1.10
+	67 Leaden Flycatcher	0.0417	30	22.2	2	24	3	3.01	28.7	1.39
-	68 Rufous Whistler	0.0391	-62	20.6	-63	34	-24	3.04	-63.9	1.28
	69 White-faced Heron	0.0353	20	22.2	47	49	68	3.12	69.0	1.13
+	70 Wedge-tailed Eagle	0.0312	213	31.7	143	38	191	2.14	212.3	1.46
-	71 White-throated Needletail	0.0308	-87	12.7	-49	7	-40	0.38	-68.1	8.20
+	72 Richard's Pipit	0.0297	70	3.2	-14	33	95	1.65	100.0	1.80
-	73 Fuscous Honeyeater	0.0293	-80	11.1	-69	14	-48	0.94	-80.7	3.12
	74 Rainbow Bee-eater	0.0289	107	7.9	8	8	63	0.30	16.9	9.63
	75 White-winged Triller	0.0252	86	4.8	-41	16	43	0.83	2.8	3.05
+	76 Rainbow Lorikeet	0.0237	73	12.7	77	17	14	1.01	41.7	2.33
+	77 Little Pied Cormorant	0.0233	1142	6.3	179	38	905	1.84	1022.9	1.27
-	78 Australian Hobby	0.0233	-36	36.5	4	32	-13	2.18	-29.3	1.07
	79 Mistletoebird	0.0229	-8	22.2	58	33	23	2.14	-3.4	1.07

A (abundance) = mean number of birds/site/week

F (distribution) = % of sites with record(s)

W (weeks) = number of weeks with record(s)

R (recording rate) = % of observer weeks with record(s)

G (group size) = mean number of individuals/observation

Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW	R	dR%	G
+ 80 Grey Butcherbird	0.0225	414	27.0	256	30	354	2.07	384.5	1.09
81 White-browed Woodswallow	0.0218	-23	3.2	57	2	31	0.08	-2.4	29.00
+ 82 Darter	0.0214	4316	3.2	509	19	2200	0.71	2060.9	3.00
+ 83 Tawny Frogmouth	0.0203	46	17.5	263	28	79	1.54	105.8	1.32
- 84 Scarlet Robin	0.0184	-59	7.9	-74	20	-25	0.98	-68.3	1.88
85 Skylark	0.0180	-45	3.2	53	27	56	1.09	28.6	1.66
86 White-throated Gerygone	0.0158	-17	22.2	21	23	14	1.58	-9.2	1.00
+ 87 Little Lorikeet	0.0139	1429	3.2	108	7	705	0.26	577.0	5.29
88 Sacred Kingfisher	0.0139	27	20.6	6	16	7	1.09	6.1	1.28
- 89 Varied Sittella	0.0135	-68	6.3	-38	9	-46	0.38	-52.4	3.60
+ 90 Spotted Turtle-Dove	0.0131	135	14.3	318	22	181	1.09	146.5	1.21
+ 91 Superb Parrot	0.0131	654	7.9	372	11	517	0.45	550.2	2.92
+ 92 Swift Parrot*	0.0124	7487	6.3	2491	5	2200	0.23	2960.0	5.50
+ 93 Golden-headed Cisticola	0.0113	389	3.2	195	12	194	0.45	164.2	2.50
+ 94 Chestnut Teal	0.0105	202	1.6	293	10	351	0.38	281.2	2.80
- 95 Black-shouldered Kite	0.0105	-38	9.5	-18	22	-11	1.01	-26.4	1.04
96 Tree Martin	0.0098	-64	9.5	20	9	-26	0.49	-14.7	2.00
+ 97 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo**	0.0090	5726	4.8	866	23	6513	0.90	5726.3	1.00
+ 98 Great Cormorant	0.0086	109	7.9	95	16	212	0.64	194.0	1.35
- 99 Brown Goshawk	0.0086	-31	20.6	-7	19	-12	0.86	-25.9	1.00
+ too Little Eagle	0.0086	61	17.5	94	19	69	0.86	73.6	1.00
- 101 Nankeen Kestrel	0.0086	-64	6.3	-70	19	-36	0.83	-60.5	1.05
- 102 Pallid Cuckoo	0.0083	-75	9.5	-67	18	-9	0.79	-73.2	1.05
+ 103 Rufous Songlark	0.0083	81	4.8	108	16	212	0.64	108.8	1.29
+ 104 Stubble Quail	0.0075	600	1.6	89	13	7 3 1	0.49	521.6	1.54
- 105 Rose Robin	0.0068	-52	9.5	-34	13	-26	0.68	-47.7	1.00
- 106 Australian Pelican	0.0064	-66	4.8	-54	6	-42	0.23	-55.9	2.83
+ 107 Common Koel	0.0064	69	9.5	32	10	132	0.60	69.2	1.06
- 108 Flame Robin	0.0053	-61	3.2	-57	6	-50	0.23	-63.3	2.33
+ 109 Masked Woodswallow	0.0053	45	1.6	181	1	64	0.04	40.1	14.00
+ 110 Clamorous Reed-Warbler	0.0049	122	3.2	77	12	254	0.49	214.0	1.00
111 Peregrine Falcon	0.0045	-13	7.9	-15	11	5	0.45	-5.2	1.00
112 Fork-tailed Swift	0.0045	32	1.6	29	1	35	0.04	2.1	12.00
+ 113 Brown Quail	0.0041	391	1.6	285	5	505	0.19	384.6	2.20
- 114 Crescent Honeyeater	0.0041	-84	6.3	-49	9	-57	0.34	-81.8	1.22
+ 115 Long-billed Corella*	0.0034	356	4.8	527	7	496	0.26	441.4	1.29
+ 116 Cockatiel	0.0034	105	12.7	305	8	130	0.34	144.3	1.00
117 Fairy Martin	0.0034	-2	3.2	180	4	163	0.15	164.8	2.25
118 Grey Teal	0.0030	-9	3.2	214	4	11	0.15	-3.5	2.00
- 119 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	0.0030	-66	3.2	-72	8	-39	0.30	-64.4	1.00
- 120 Satin Flycatcher	0.0023	-39	7.9	16	4	-35	0.23	-26.9	1.00
- 121 Rufous Fantail	0.0023	-33	6.3	-29	5	-20	0.19	-41.4	1.20
- 122 Speckled Warbler	0.0019	-84	1.6	-70	4	-72	0.15	-75.6	1.25

Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW	R	dR%	G
+ 123 White-headed Pigeon	0.0015	237	1.6	199	4	411	0.15	335.7	1.00
- 124 Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	0.0015	-81	4.8	-57	3	-77	0.15	-80.5	1.00
125 Jacky Winter	0.0015	28	1.6	10	1	-60	0.04	-62.2	4.00
126 Crested Shrike-tit	0.0015	-30	1.6	144	4	12	0.15	-3.2	1.00
+ 127 Whistling Kite	0.0011	80	3.2	115	3	116	0.11	96.6	1.00
128 Black-winged Stilt	0.0011		1.6		1		0.04		3.00
+ 129 Diamond Dove*	0.0011	1777	3.2	1187	3	2200	0.11	1776.7	1.00
- 130 Australian Owllet-nightjar	0.0011	-58	1.6	-9	3	-45	0.11	-52.5	1.00
+ 131 Little Friarbird*	0.0011	243	3.2	222	2	188	0.08	142.9	1.50
- 132 New Holland Honey eater	0.0011	-97	4.8	-59	3	-89	0.11	-93.5	1.00
- 133 Restless Fly catcher	0.0011	-74	1.6	-76	3	-67	0.11	-73.0	1.00
- 134 Black Swan	0.0008	-66	1.6	46	1	-23	0.04	-26.9	2.00
135 Mallard	0.0008	6	1.6	133	1	10	0.04	-11.7	2.00
+ 136 White-bellied Sea-Eagle	0.0008	397	3.2	472	2	475	0.08	396.8	1.00
137 Dusky Moorhen	0.0008	-26	1.6	296	2	48	0.08	39.6	1.00
- 138 Western Gerygone	0.0008	-85	3.2	-50	2	-80	0.08	-84.1	1.00
139 Muscovy Duck	0.0004		1.6		1		0.04		1.00
140 Australasian Grebe	0.0004	-62	1.6	213	1	15	0.04	-20.3	1.00
- 141 White-necked Heron	0.0004	-33	1.6	8	1	-21	0.04	-26.8	1.00
142 Great Egret	0.0004	21	1.6	86	1	53	0.04	44.9	1.00
143 Brown Falcon	0.0004	-95	1.6	-83	1	-93	0.04	-94.0	1.00
+ 144 Black Falcon**	0.0004	66	1.6	129	1	77	0.04	66.1	1.00
- 145 Peachface Lovebird**	0.0004	-38	1.6	-2	1	-34	0.04	-33.0	1.00
146 Powerful Owl	0.0004		1.6		1		0.04		1.00
147 Regent Honeyeater	0.0004	-46	1.6	143	1	28	0.04	31.4	1.00
- 148 Hooded Robin	0.0004	-85	1.6	23	1	-71	0.04	-73.3	1.00
- 149 Eastern Yellow Robin	0.0004	-93	1.6	-37	1	-90	0.04	-91.5	1.00
- 150 Wh-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**	0.0004	-33	1.6	8	1	-28	0.04	-32.6	1.00

A (abundance) = mean number of birds/site/week
record(s)

F (distribution) = % of sites with record(s)
individua's/observation

W (weeks) = number of weeks with record(s)

R (recording rate) = % of observer weeks with

G (group size) = mean number of

Legend for Table 2

An indication of the status of a species for the GBS year, relative to the average for all previous GBS years, is provided by a + or - prefix when dA% and dR% are both greater than $\pm 25\%$. This may be indicative of a general increase or decline over the period of the GBS, or may simply reflect a particularly good or poor reporting year for that species. In cases where A and R values are small, this indicator may be misleading.

* indicates a species for which both endorsed and unendorsed records contribute to the statistics. ** indicates a species for which there were only unendorsed record(s).

DATA, METHODOLOGIES, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Sources of data*General records*

All records other than the GBS records have been included this year as 'General' records.

Garden Bird Survey (GBS)

GBS data are derived from standard charts on which participants record observations on a weekly basis at sites throughout suburban Canberra. Observers record the maximum number of each species seen at any one time during a week within a radius of 100 metres of their home or workplace. Details of the Garden Bird Survey methodology can be found in Veerman (2003).

Statistical values for measures of abundance (A), distribution (F), weekly presence (W), recording rate (R), and group size (G), are shown in Table 2 on pp. 56-59. The methods used to calculate these are described below. Table 2 also shows the percentage changes in these values when compared with the average of the previous 23 years. Except for year 23 (2003-04), the long-term average has been calculated as the average of the values from the previous years. For 2003-04, the average was calculated directly from the observed data. For most species, the differences are not significant, but care should be taken when comparing the percentage changes between that year with this and previous editions.

A Measure of abundance.

This is the average number of individuals of a species recorded at a site for each week over the full year. It is obtained by adding all weekly observations of the species and dividing the sum by the total number of weeks in which observations were made. For example, if the total number of weeks during which observations were made was 2156 and the total number of Eastern Spinebills recorded was 1106, the average number of

that species seen each week, at each site, over the full year (A) would be 0.513 .

F Measure of distribution.

This is the number of sites at which a species was recorded at least once during the year expressed as a percentage of the total number of sites. If there were 50 sites and the White-throated Needle-tail was recorded at least once at 9 of them, the value of F for the year is 18%.

W Measure of weekly presence

The number of weeks in the year for which a species was recorded at any site. In the case of a resident species such as the Crested Pigeon, which is present throughout the year, W=52; whereas a migrant such as the Dollarbird, was present only for 19 weeks, for example. W=19.

R Measure of the recording rate

This is the number of observer-weeks during which a species was recorded, expressed as a percentage of the total number of observer-weeks for the year. For example, if the Noisy Miner was recorded during 111 of the observer-weeks and the total number of observer-weeks for the year was 2156, for the Noisy Miner R=5.15%.

G Measure of group size

Average number of individuals of a species recorded in each observation. For example, if the calculated G value for the Silver Gull was 134.3, it is an indication that the Silver Gull was usually observed in sizeable flocks.

Woodland Survey (WOO)

Data are collected systematically following protocols which have a sound statistical basis. Nine sub-sites (plots of 50 m radius), in habitat structures of low, medium and high are set up at each site, and surveys are conducted seasonally (four times a year). Each sub-site is surveyed for 10 minutes with all birds seen or heard recorded, and other

birds outside the plot in the same habitat within a 100-m radius also being recorded. Surveys are done each season in September, December, March and June.

Waterbird Survey (WBS)

Data on the number of waterbirds present are normally collected during monthly surveys of Lake Bathurst (including The Morass) and Lake George. The survey normally involves visits to three locations at Lake Bathurst and to two locations at Lake George.

Explanatory notes on the **text**

The names and sequence of birds in the Systematic List conform to *The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories* (Christidis & Boles 1994).

The status shown for each bird in the Systematic List takes account of results of the 1986-89 'Atlas' survey of the ACT (Taylor & COG 1992), database records, survey results and other data currently available. It is updated regularly by the COG Rarities Panel

As applicable, information for each species in the Systematic List is in the sequence: '**General**' (all surveys except GBS), and '**GBS**' (Garden Bird Survey). For some species, there may also be a brief general commentary preceding the data summary.

As a general rule details of specific records are set out in the following format:
number of individuals/date, place, grid (observer). For example, '4/15 Jun ANBG GrK13 (WiJ1)', indicates four birds on 15 June at Australian National Botanic Gardens grid cell K13 and the observer was Jacqui Winter. (A full list of observers and their observer codes is provided on pp. 62-63. When sufficient data are available, breeding records giving the first and last nest and/or dependent young records are often included. In these cases the breeding code, e.g. 'ne' (nest with eggs) or 'dv' (dependent young).

or other abbreviation as appropriate, takes the place of the number of individuals. For breeding records of cuckoos, the host species, if recorded, is shown in brackets immediately following the breeding indicator, e.g. dy (White-plumed Honeyeater)/ 18 Dec.

The words 'record(s)' are not used to indicate the number of birds involved. Where available and appropriate the number of individuals is included. Numbers and distribution of birds are sometimes compared with the previous year. Unless indicated otherwise, a statement in this report such as 'overall numbers lower' should be taken to mean lower than in the immediately preceding year.

Because the Garden Bird Survey works on a weekly basis, GBS data have no specific dates, but are of the form '2wk May', '2wk' referring to the second week of the month. The first day of the first week rarely starts on the first day of the month, however. The dates of each GBS week are shown at the top of the GBS chart and are also listed by Taylor (1987) and Veerman (2003).

Abbreviations

General

- ANBG** Australian National Botanic Gardens
- ANU** Australian National University
- BA** Birds Australia
- CAS** Castle Hill
- CBN** Canberra Bird Notes
- Ck** creek
- CMP** Campbell Park
- CNP** Canberra Nature Park
- CSIRO** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.
The abbreviation is followed by the location, e.g. CSIRO Black Mtn
- E** East
- f** female
- GA** Greening Australia
- GBS** Garden Bird Survey
- GOO** Gooroo

GOS Goorooyaroo South
 Gr COG grid cell (number)
 GunL Gungahlin Lakes
 HAL Hall/Gold Creek
Hs/Hstd Homestead
Hwy Highway
inc, hid including/inclusive
juv juvenile
JWNR Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature
ne
 Reserve
km kilometre
LAM Lambrigg
LBath' Lake Bathurst
LBathE Lake Bathurst east basin
LBathW Lake Bathurst west basin
LBG Lake Burley Griffin
LGeo Lake George
LGeoN Lake George northern end
LGeoS Lake George southern end
LGin Lake Ginninderra
LTug Lake Tuggeranong
m male
MAJ Mt Majura
max maximum
MJF Majura Firing Range
Mt/Mtn Mount/Mountain
MUL Mulligans Flat
N North
NLQ Newline Quarry
NP National Park/Nature Park
nr near
NR Nature Reserve
R River
Ra Range
Rd/rd Road
RED Red Hill
Res Reserve
S South
SF State Forest
SP sewage ponds
SYM Symonston
TSR Travelling Stock Reserve
TUG Tuggeranong
W West
WBS Waterbird Survey
WL wetlands
WOO Woodland Survey
wk week
x presence (BA records)

Breeding codes

br breeding (BA records)
cf carrying food
co copulation
di display
dy dependent young
ih inspecting hollow
nb nest building

ne nest with eggs

ny nest with young

on bird on or observed leaving nest

List of contributors

Code	Contributor name
AJR1	Allen family
A1B1	Barbara Allan
A1B3	B Allanson
AIR1	Richard Allen
AnI1	Ian Anderson
AsM1	Margaret Aston
Bal 1	Ian Baird
BaJ 1	Joe Barr
BeD1	Darryl Beaumont
BeR3	Rosemary Bell
BIR1	Rosemary Blemings
BoJ1	Jennifer Bounds
BoM1	Margaret Boots
BoS2	Suzi Bond
BrM2	Muriel Brookfield
CaJ1	J Carnahan
CCRI	R&C Cannon
CM1	Mark Clayton
C1S1	S. Cleland
CoD2	David Cook
CoE1	Elizabeth Compston
CuR1	Roger Curnow
DaC1	Chris Davey
DaG2	Geoffrey Dabb
DeD2	Dianne Deans
DeT1	Thomas Delaney
DiB1	Bob Digan
DwB1	Barry & Kay Dwyer
EyC1	Carol Ey
FeP1	Paul Fennell
FoA1	Alan Ford

Foil	Joe Forshaw	MiP1	Peter Milburn
FuP1	Peter Fullagar	MoM1	M Moncur
FjM1	Malcolm Fyfe	MoM3	Martyn Moffat
GO 1	Jean Geue	MuT1	Terry Munro
Gal1	John Goldie	NeG1	Gail Neumann
GrT1	Tom Green	NiA1	Nick Nicholls
HAI1	Holland family	OrPI	Peter Ormay
HaJ5	J Harrison	OvA1	Anthony Overs
HaH1	Horst Hahne	PaR2	Ruth Parker
HaK1	Kay Hahne	PeH2	Harvey Perkins
HaL1	Lee Halasz	RaG1	Greg & Sallie Ramsay
HAR1	Roy Harvey	RoA1	Alison Rowell
HaS4	Stuart Harris	RoD2	David Rosalky
HoA1	A Howarth	RoS1	Susan Robertson
HoB1	Bill Horrigan	SaD1	Debbie Saunders
HoJ1	Jack Holland	ScB2	Brian Scales
HoJ3	John Hodgetts	ScG1	Gutta Schoen
HoS1	Steve Holliday	SmA1	Alastair Smith
IoA1	Anne I'Ons	TaN1	Nicki Taws
Id1	Janet Irons	VeP1	Philip Veerman
KaJ1	Julienne Kamprad	WaJ2	John Walter
KoL1	Lana Kosseck	WaK1	Kathy Walter
KsI1	Shirley Kral	WiM1	Margaret Windle
KuR1	Rick Kuhn	WiP1	Pauline Wicksteed
LaD1	David Landon	WiR2	R Williams
LaJ5	John Layton	WoD1	D Wood
LaM1	Matthew Larkin		
LaS1	Sue Lashko		
LeA1	Adam Leavesley		
LeB1	Brendan Lepschi		
LeM1	Michael Lenz		
LiB1	Bruce Lindenmayer		
LJT1	Lipscombe family		
LuN1	Noel Luff		
MaC2	Macleay family		
McA4	Alex McLachlan		
McD1	David McDonald		
McI1	Ian J McMahan		
McJ2	Jonette McDonnell		
McJ4	Julie McGuinness		
MDNI	McDonald family		

The following were either contributors to Birds Australia (and whose data were made available to COG via an exchange agreement) or non-COG members.

Andrew Cockburn
Maurice Cowan
Ian Davidson

Michael Maconachie
David Marshall
Alan Morris

Ken Schaefer
Colin Smith
Michael Wright

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The first and most heartfelt acknowledgment must go to all contributors of data. Without their endeavours, the ABR could not exist.

Thanks must also go to Paul Fennell, for his work in maintaining the COG database and to Tony Harding and Kay Hahne for data input.

Texts for the Systematic List received contributions from Barbara Allan (raptors, nightbirds), Grahame Clark (swifts, kingfishers and allies, robins, whistlers, flycatchers, larks, pipits, swallows), Chris Davey (ducks, waders), Michael Lenz (pigeons, cuckoos, thornbills and allies), David McDonald (treecreepers, fairy-wren, babbler, whipbird, cuckoo-shrikes, sittella, oriole, woodswallows, magpies and allies, ravens, chough, bowerbird, old-world wabblers), Ian McMahon (cockatoos and parrots, finches, thrushes, starlings), Harvey Perkins (emu, quail, rails, button-quail), David Purchase (grebes, darter, cormorants, herons, ibises, pelican), Nicki Taws (honeyeaters). Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. Final responsibility for any errors of commission or omission rests however with the editors, Harvey Perkins and Barbara Allan.

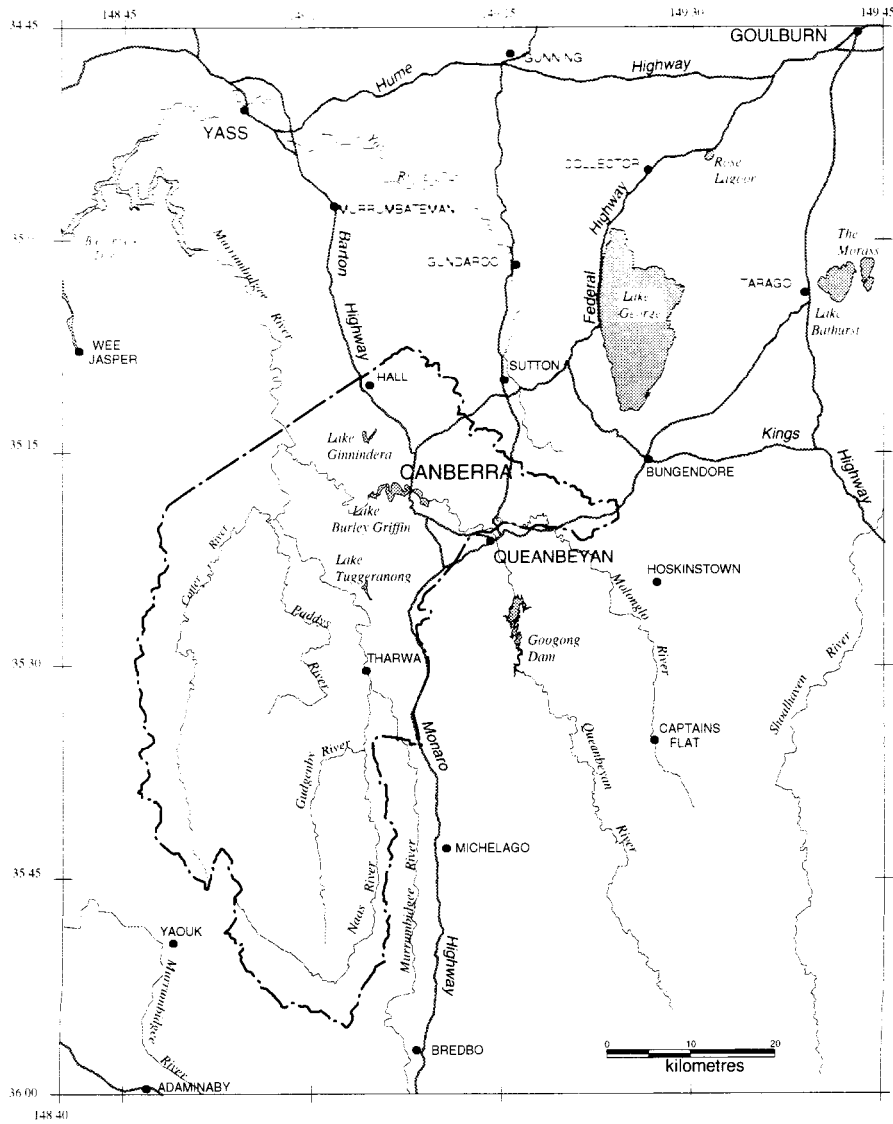
The exceptional quality of the maps in this ABR is due to Nicki Taws and the wonders of advanced technology. Rainfall and temperature data were sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Woodland Survey support from Environment ACT is particularly appreciated, as is the work of all survey organisers and participants.

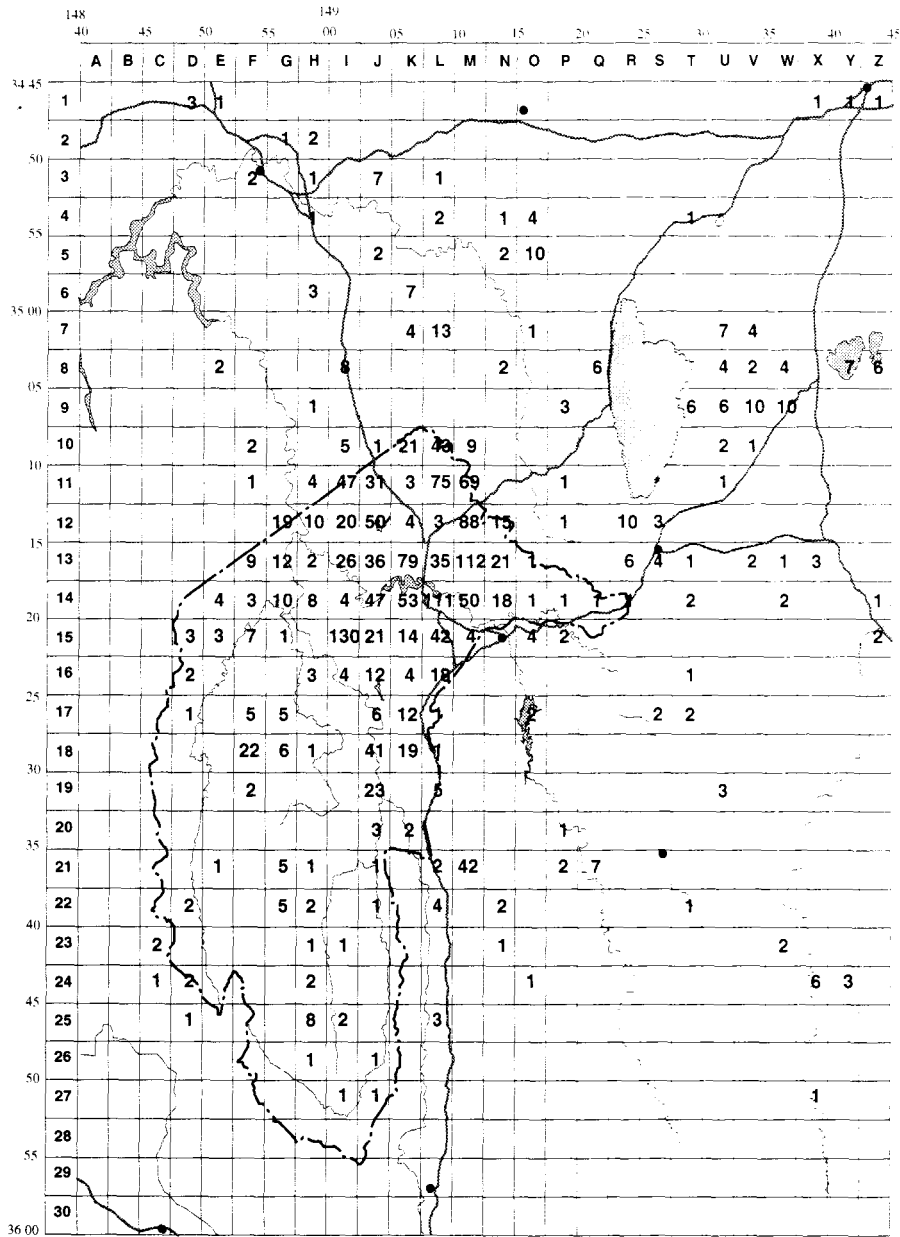
REFERENCES

- Bounds J (2004). Painted Honeyeater reports in the Canberra region since the 2002-03 influx. *CBN* 29: 143-145.
- Christidis L and Boles W (1994). The taxonomy and species of birds of Australia and its territories. RAOU.
- COG (1996). Annual Bird Report: 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992. *CBN* 21: 69-124.
- COG (1996). Annual Bird Report: 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993. *CBN* 22: 1-54.
- COG (1999). Annual Bird Reports: 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 and 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. *CBN* 24: 49-143.
- Compston E (2005). Darters on the Molonglo 23 January 2005. *Gang-gang* February 2005: 4-5.
- Fuentes E and Olsen J (2005). Breeding status of birds of prey living in the Canberra region 2002-03. *CBN* 30: 65-72.
- Holland J (2004). Goulburn; Saturday-Sunday 20-21 November 2004. *Gang-gang* December 2004: 4-6.
- Holland J (2005a). Post-fire activity in the north-west part of Chapman during 2004-05 with particular reference to breeding. *CBN* 30: 97-118.
- Holland J (2005b). Kelly Road, Wednesday 15 December 2004. *Gang-gang* February 2005: 3.
- Layton JK (2004). Cattle Egret takes Red-browed Finch. *CBN N* 29: 78-79.
- Maconachie M and Perkins H (2005). Brindabella breeding of Painted Button-quail. *CBN* 30: 81-82.
- Overs A (2004). A Grey-crowned Babbler in Canberra. *CBN* 29: 149-150.
- Perkins H (2004). Lewin's Rail in Commonwealth Park. *CBN* 29: 93-95.
- Perkins H (2005). Common Sandpiper at Uriarra Crossing. *CBN* 30: 73-75.
- Taws N and Saunders D (2005). Swift Parrot invasions 2004-05. *CBN* 30: 76-78.
- Veerman P (2003). Canberra Birds: A report on the first 21 years of the Garden Bird Survey. P.A. Veerman, Kambah.
- Wilson S (1999). Birds of the ACT: two centuries of change. Canberra Ornithologists Group.

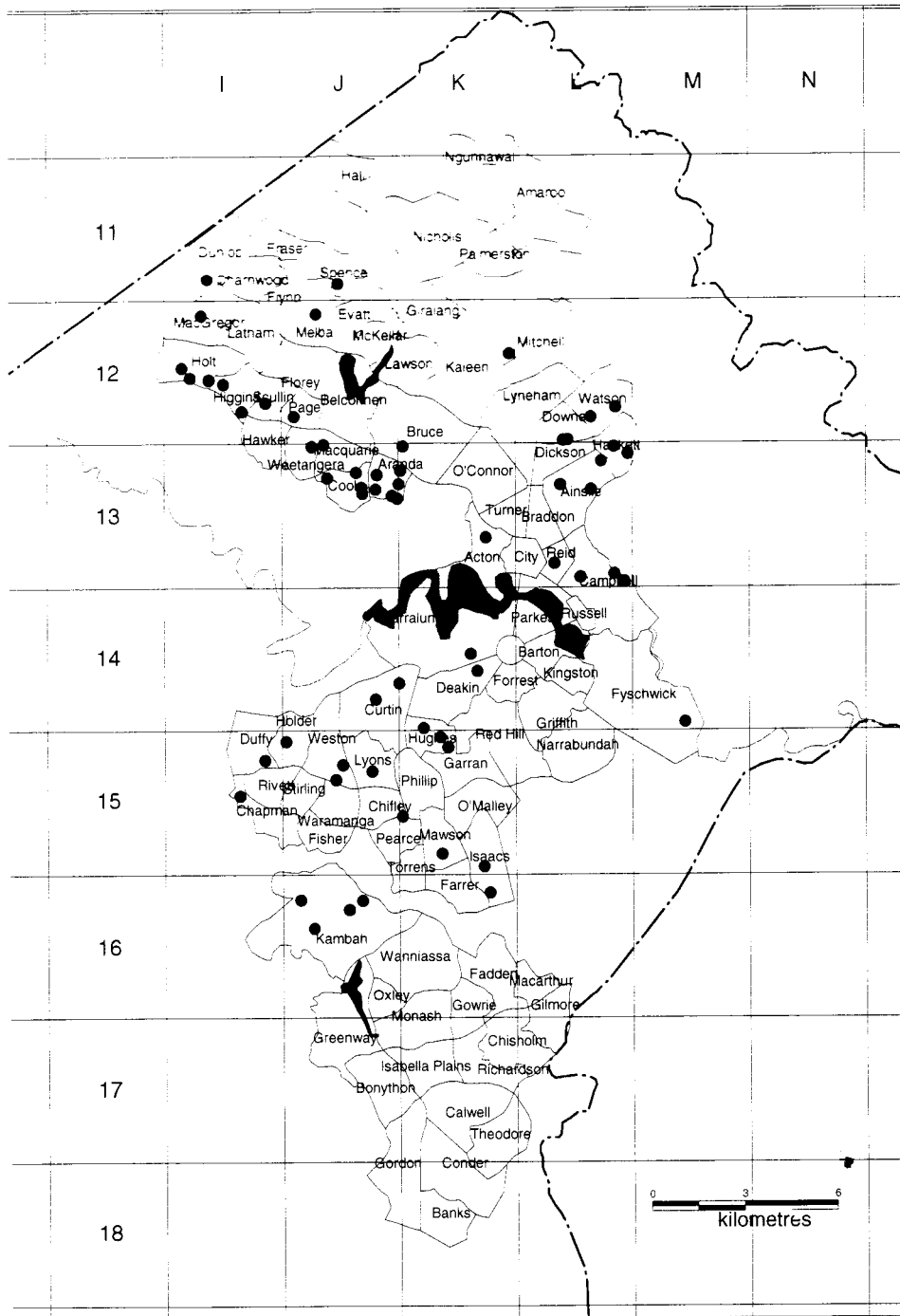
MAP 1. THE CANBERRA REGION (COG's AREA OF INTEREST)



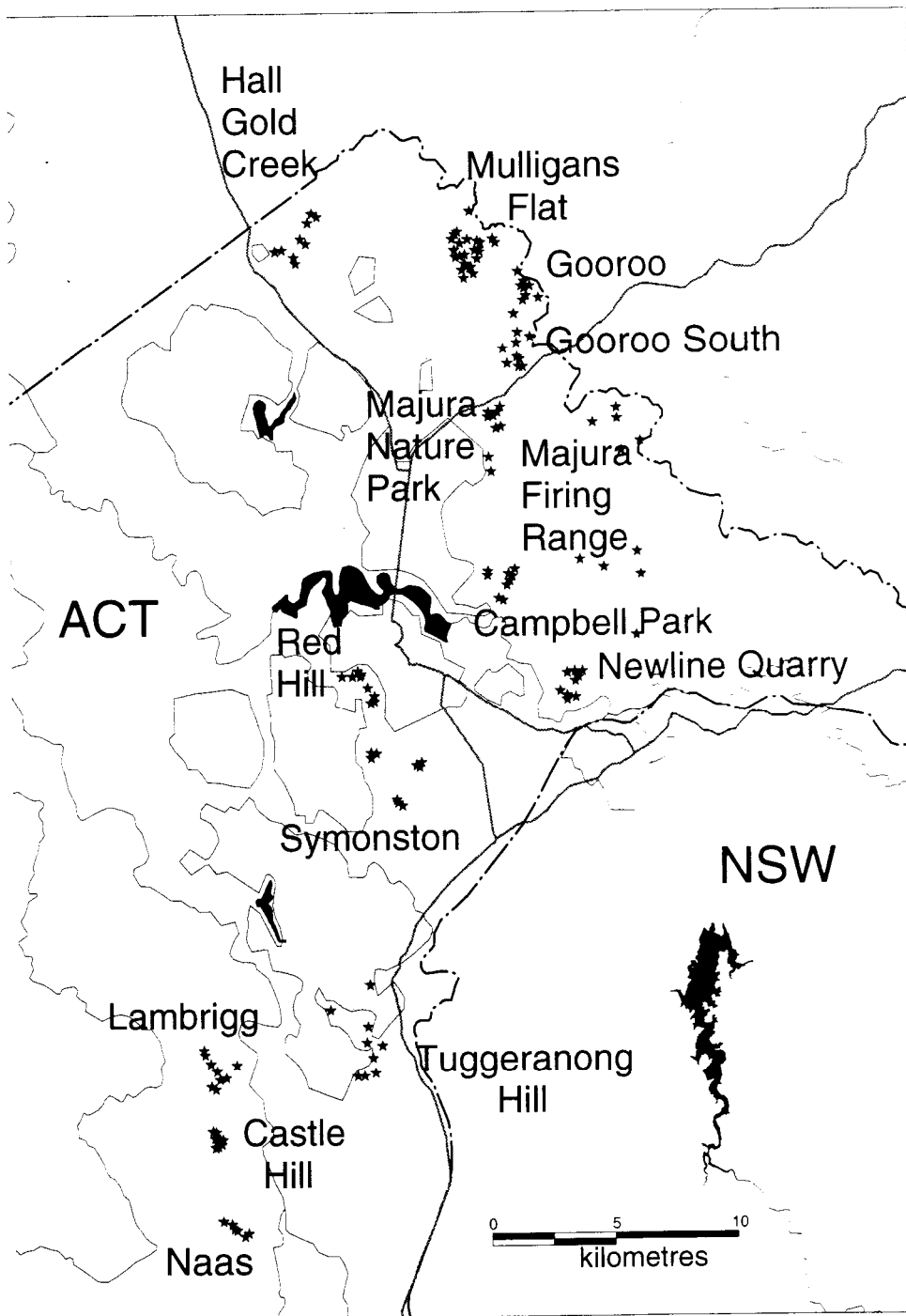
MAP 2. NUMBER OF RECORD SHEETS PER GRID CELL, FOR 2004-05



MAP 3. LOCATION OF GARDEN BIRD SURVEY SITES FOR 2004-05



MAP 4. LOCATION OF WOODLAND SURVEY SITES FOR 2004-05



APPENDIX 1. 2004-05 WEATHER SUMMARY

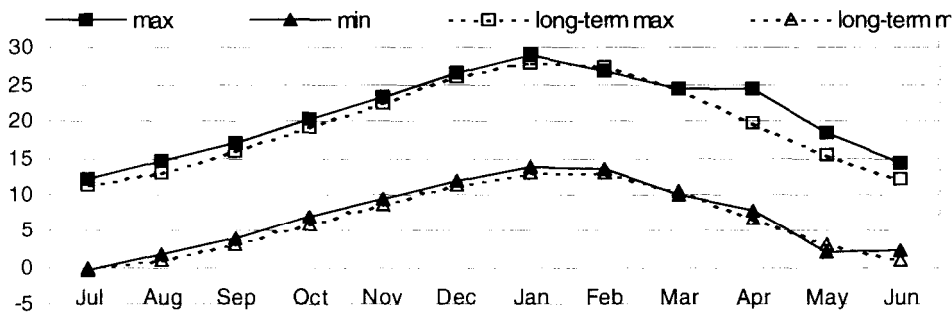
Rainfall and temperature data for Canberra Airport, and summaries of the overall weather characteristics for each season and month for the ACT, were sourced from the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology web site http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/media_releases/act.

Winter rains down on average in a warm season; spring temperatures higher than average; thunderstorms highlight a warm and windy summer; record warm autumn for a dry ACT.

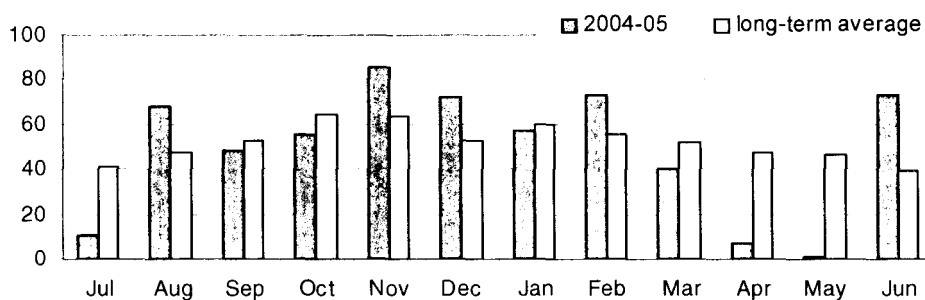
- Record dry six months for ACT after meagre July rainfall - Warm August nights and days in the ACT
- Welcome return to normal rainfall in ACT in September
- October a warmer and drier-than-average month in the ACT
- A warm and wet November in the ACT
- December was wetter and warmer than normal in ACT
- ACT records a hotter than average January
- February rainfall totals high but variable in the ACT
- March rains in ACT less than average but more than median
- Record heat and near record dry in the ACT in April

Record warm March in ACT as the winter ends

Average monthly maximum and minimum temperatures (°C) for 2004-05, and long-term averages



Monthly rainfall (mm) for 2004-05 and long-term averages



**APPENDIX 2. LIST OF "UNUSUAL" BIRDS IN THE CANBERRA REGION
(AS AMENDED FEBRUARY 2006 BY COG'S RARITIES PANEL)**

This list is made up of unusually occurring or "rare" species for which there have been confirmed sightings within the last 35-40 years. The list does not include species which have been classified purely as escapees. Any other species which is not listed on COG 's datasheet is also classed as "unusual". Records of these species would be appreciated by COG 's Rarities Panel. The appropriate form can be downloaded from the COG website, picked up at COG meetings or requested from the secretary.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata* [excluding birds at Tidbinbilla NR]

Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius* [excluding Aspen Island sightings]

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis* [excluding Jerrabomberra Wet lands sightings]

Black-tailed Native—hen *Gallinula ventralis*

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Little Curlew *Numerius minutus*

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* [excluding Uriarra Crossing_ sightings]

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

List of "unusual" birds in the Canberra region, continued

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*
 Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*
 Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*
 Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*
 Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster*
 Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*
 Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*
 Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*
 Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
 Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*
 Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*
 Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*
 Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*
 White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*
 Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*
 Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*
 Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygia*
 Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti*
 Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*
 Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*
 Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*
 Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* [excluding Mulligans Flat records]
 Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*
 Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*
 Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Phylidonyris melanops*
 Black Honeyeater *Certhionyx niger*
 Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
 Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor*
 Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*
 Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis* [excluding Duntroon bird]
 White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*
 Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*
 Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*
 White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*

Canberra Bird Notes is published by the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc and is edited by Harvey Perkins and Barbara Allan. Major articles of up to 5000 words are welcome on matters relating to the distribution, identification or behaviour of birds in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding region. Please discuss any proposed major contribution with Harvey Perkins on 6231 8209 or email cbn@canberrabirds.org.au. Short notes, book reviews and other contributions should be sent to the above email address or discussed with Barbara Allan on 6254 6520.

Please note that the views expressed in the articles published in *Canberra Bird Notes* are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Canberra Ornithologists Group. Responses to the views expressed in CBN articles are always welcomed and will be considered for publication as letters to the editors.

Canberra Bird Notes 31 (1) March 2006
Annual Bird Report: 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

CONTENTS

Introduction and overview	1
Systematic list	
Casuariidae: emu	6
P h a s i a n i d a e : q u a i l	6
Anatidae: ducks, swan	6
Podicipedidae: grebes	9
Anhingidae: darter	9
Phalacrocoracidae: cormorants	10
P e l e c a n i d a e : p e l i c a n	11
Ardeidae: herons, egrets, bitterns	11
Threskiornithidae: ibises, spoonbills ..	13
Accipitridae: kites and eagles	14
Falconidae: falcons, kestrel	15
Rallidae: rails, crakes, etc	16
Turnicidae: button-quail	18
Scolopacidae: snipe, sandpipers.....	18
Recurvirostridae: stilts, avocet.....	19
Charadriidae: plovers, dotterels etc ...	19
Laridae: gulls, terns	20
Columbidae: pigeons, doves	20
Cacatuidae: cockatoos	21
Psittacidae: lorikeets, parrots	23
Cuculidae: cuckoos, koel	24
Strigidae: hawk owls	26
Tytonidae: masked owls	26
Podargidae: frogmouth	26
Caprimulgidae: nightjar	26
Aegothelidae: owlet nightjar	26
Apodidae: swifts	27
Alcedinidae: kingfisher	27
Halcyonidae: kookaburra, kingfishers ..	27
M e r o p i d a e : b e e - e a t e r	28
Coraciidae: dollarbird	28
Menuridae: lyrebird	28
Climacteridae: treecreepers	28
M a l u r i d a e :	29
Pardalotidae: pardalotes, thornbills etc	29
Meliphagidae: honeyeaters	36
Petroicidae: robins	36
Cinclosomatidae: whipbird, q-thrush ..	38
Neosittidae: sittella	38
Pachycephalidae: whistlers etc	38
Dicruridae: flycatchers, fantails	39
Campephagidae: cuckoo-shrikes etc ..	41
Oriolidae: oriole	42
Artamidae: woodswallows, magpie etc ..	42
Corvidae: ravens	44
Corcoracidae: chough	45
Ptilonorhynchidae: bowerbird	45
Alaudidae: larks	46
Motacillidae: pipit	46
Passeridae: sparrow, grass-finches ...	46
Fringillidae: finches	47
Dicaeidae: mistletoebird	47
Hirundinidae: swallow, martins	47
Sylviidae: old-world warblers	48
Zosteropidae: silvereye	49
Muscicapidae: thrushes	49
Sturnidae: starling, myna	49
Table 1 Species by survey type	51
Table 2 GBS statistics	56
Data, Methodologies, and Explanatory Notes	60
Maps	65
Appendix 1 - Rainfall and temperature for 2004-05	69
Appendix 2 - COG Unusual Bird List	70