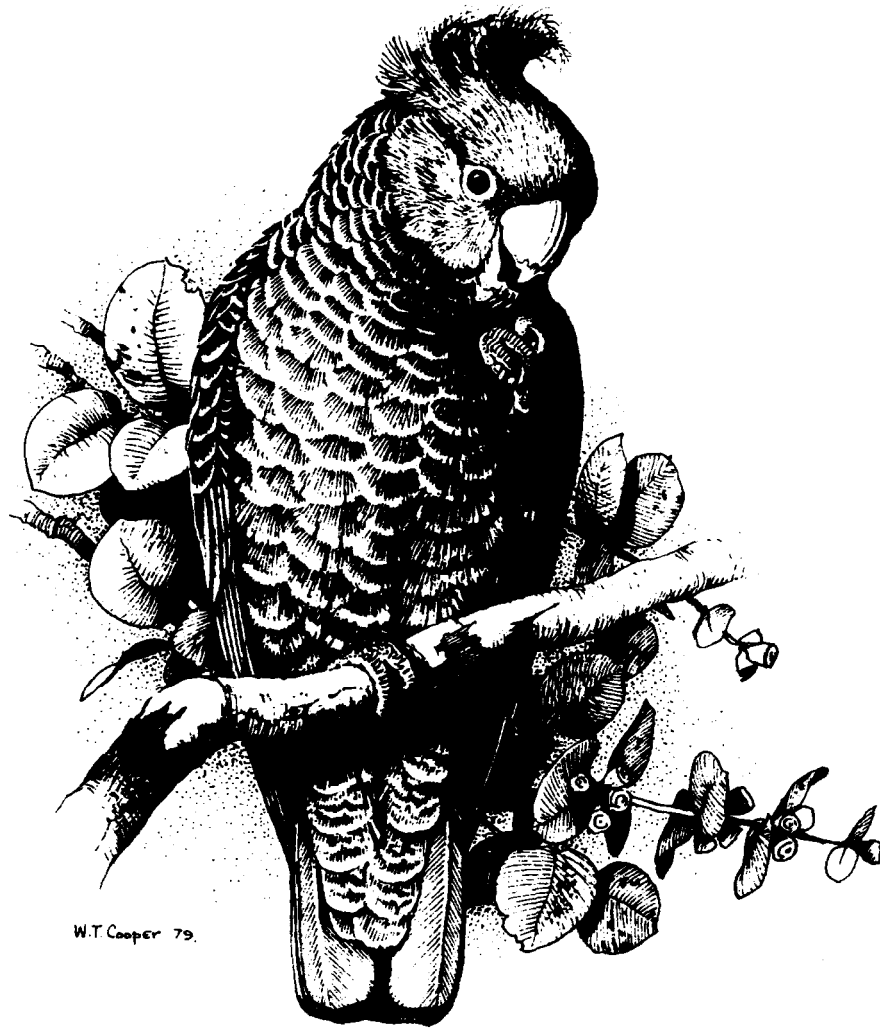


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COG no longer operates an office in the Griffin Centre. If members wish to access the library, please contact Barbara Allan on 6254 6520; to borrow equipment, please contact the field trips officer.

ANNUAL BIRD REPORT: 1 JULY 2005 TO 30 JUNE 2006

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

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 atlasing 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. 53-58). 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. 53) and extralimital records collected by standard ABA protocols in the course of conducting the Woodland Surveys. 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 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 list of unusual birds is currently undergoing revision and will be published on the COG website in due course.

The year in context

The ABR summarises all the records held in the COG databases but can not 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 2005-06 year was characterised by the wettest spring in five years, a hot summer, and one of the driest autumns on record (see Appendix 1, p. 72).

In the three years since the January 2003 bushfires, there have been 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 129 contributors of records from COG or persons whose data were provided to COG via Birds Australia. This is an improvement on last year, and is trending in a positive direction. There continues to be a

disproportionately large number of records submitted by a few dedicated submitters; this has a significant effect both on the spatial distribution of those records and on the species involved. Fifty-three per cent of "general" records were provided by the top ten contributors.

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 2005-06, 233 bird species were recorded in our area. (This total excludes unendorsed records, as well as those species which are regarded as semi-captive at places such as Tidbinbilla NR; it includes, however, aviary escapees and some feral domestics.) This is higher than in recent years and includes the first record for the ACT of a species presumed extinct here, the White-browed Babbler; a few less common waterbirds; and a few more exotics than usual.

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
05-06	233	204	2229	129

* combined total for 1999-2001

All totals were boosted in part thanks to the impact of COG's first "bird blitz" held on 29-30 October 2005, when members were

encouraged to undertake surveys (see Allan 2005).

Records were lodged for 204 of the 780 grid cells (26%) (see Map 2, p. 69). The most frequently surveyed cell was, unsurprisingly, GrL14, comprising Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, Molonglo Reach and the Fyshwick Sewage Ponds. This was followed by GrM11, part of Mulligans Flat NR; GrI 1 1, Dunlop grasslands; GrK13, the ANBG and ANU; GrM13, Campbell Park and GrI15, Cooleman Ridge. The high number of "Incidental" records accounts for some of these rankings.

Table 1, pp. 53-58, shows the number of "general" records per species. The five most frequently recorded species were, in order, the Australian Magpie, Crimson Rosella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian Raven and Galah — all large, easily identifiable species unlikely to be overlooked. Twenty species were only recorded once. These include the genuinely "rare" species such as the Scarlet Honeyeater and the Spangled Drongo, as well as the potentially overlooked species such as the Cicadabird.

Highlights

Presumably due to the continuing dry conditions inland, there were records of Black Falcon, and a wide variety of birds associated with wetlands, including Glossy Ibis and many crakes and rails.

The effect of the January 2003 bushfires in the ranges in the west and south of the region continues to be felt, with low but very gradually improving recording rates for many wet forest species such as the Superb Lyrebird, Wonga Pigeon, Cicadabird,

Bassian Thrush, Red-browed Treecreeper, Eastern Whipbird and Pilotbird. The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, however, which was recorded much more frequently in suburbia

in the previous two years post-fires, is now returning to more usual numbers.

The raptor highlight of 2005-06 was the return of the Swamp Harrier after last year's complete absence of records. The Black-shouldered Kite returned to more usual levels after last year's influx and, pleasingly, was recorded breeding again.

The oddity of the year would have to be the single White-browed Babbler which was discovered in the vicinity of Aranda bushland NR (see Taws 2006). This is the first known record for the species in the ACT since the 1950s and it had been considered extinct in the Territory. Another oddity, not recorded since Mathews (1943) was a single Blue-faced Honeyeater. It has been questioned whether these two birds — and the lone Grey-crowned Babbler still present at Duntroon — reached the ACT of their own volition.

Of other infrequently recorded species, the Pink Robin, Brown Gerygone, Intermediate Egret and White-headed Pigeon were again recorded.

Lowlights

Species which were not recorded in 2005-06 included Baillon's Crake, Little Egret, both bitterns, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Brush Bronzewing, Masked Woodswallow, Regent Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. It appears to be the first year that the spoonbill was not recorded in our region.

Breeding

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, 120 (68%) did so in 2005-06. That total of breeding records is based solely on formal breeding records and does not include the many species 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. It does include, however, all potential breeding records, including "inspecting hollows" and "display".

To allay the fears of those who believe this is an over-representation of breeding, the cumulative most advanced breeding code recorded for any individual species was as follows:

dependent young - 80 species - 67%

nest with young — 10 species — 8%

nest with eggs - 1 species — 1%

carrying food — 5 species — 4%

on nest — 6 species — 5%

nest-building — 6 species — 5%

copulating — 2 species — 2%

display — 1 species — 1%

inspecting hollow — 1 species — 1%

unspecified breeding — 9 species — 8%.

There were breeding records for the Spotless Crake, Rufous Fantail and Australian White Ibis, in each case the first reported for many years. A breeding lowlight was the continued lack of reports of breeding for most 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. One species, the Brown Thornbill, was only recorded as breeding in the GBS.

Garden Bird Survey overview

The Garden Bird Survey (GBS) celebrated its silver anniversary in 2005-06 by completing 25 years of collection. A total of 68 sites provided charts compared with 63 in

2004-05, an 8% increase. It is gratifying to see the number of charts continues to increase as has generally been the case now for more than ten years.

The increase of five sites was a net result of 17 new or resumed sites (5 in Belconnen, 1 in North Canberra, 3 in Tuggeranong, 3 in South/Central Canberra, 3 in Woden, 1 in Weston Creek and 1 in Queanbeyan), and 12 ceased sites from 2004-05 (7 in Belconnen, 4 in North Canberra and 1 in South/Central Canberra). The new and ornithologically interesting area of Gungahlin remains under-represented by GBS observers.

Two of the three work-sites which reported last year ceased (Fyshwick and ANU) and two sites outside the Canberra/Queanbeyan area were again included (Gundaroo and Hoskinstown). These uncharacteristic sites can distort the observations of the GBS, which concentrates on Canberra suburban environments. But some Canberra garden sites can also produce unusual data that introduce their own distortions. For example, sites beside Lake Tuggeranong and in a large suburban block containing a large pool both produced high numbers of ducks and other water birds.

The number of weeks observed per observer in 2005-06 averaged 42.4, ranging from 21 to 52 weeks. This was almost exactly the same as in 2004-05 when the average was 42.3 weeks ranging from 9 to 52 weeks. This resulted in 2884 observer-weeks in 2005-06 compared with 2662 in 2004-05.

A total of 142 species were observed which was 5.5% lower than in 2004-05. Of these, 43 species were recorded breeding, with breeding activity from 54 sites.

The abundances of the observed birds retain a similar pattern to 2004-05 for the most common birds. Of the ten most abundant birds, nine species were the same in both

years. The changes were the inclusion of the Yellow-faced Honeyeater at number 7, its abundance increasing from 2.41 to 3.55. The Common Starling showed a continuing reduction in abundance from 4.17 in 2004-05 to 2.89 in 2005-06 and is no longer amongst the top ten most abundant birds in Canberra's gardens.

Another species to show a significant drop in abundance between the two most recent years is the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. It showed an unusually high ranking at 15 in 2004-05 with an abundance of 1.73, but in 2005-06, its ranking fell to 25 with an abundance of 0.47. This can probably be attributed to the temporary effects of the 2003 bushfires on the species' habitat subsiding. However, another bird affected by the fires, the Yellow-faced Honeyeater, increased in abundance in 2005-06.

Similar to 2004-05, seven species were observed at least once by every observer in 2005-06 (Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Crested Pigeon, Magpie-lark) and 34 species were observed by at least one observer in every week of the year. Included amongst the last group were the Pacific Black Duck and the Satin Bowerbird, both of which displayed about double the abundance measured in 2004-05.

Amongst the most abundant species (arbitrarily set at $A \geq 0.2$), the following species showed increases of at least 100% over the average of all previous years: Crested Pigeon, White-winged Cough, Noisy Miner, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck and Little Corella. Of the same population, the following species displayed reductions of at least 50% compared to the

average of all previous years: Common Starling, Noisy Friarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and White-naped Honeyeater.

Three species were only recorded in the GBS and in no other survey; the Little Lorikeet, Spangled Drongo and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo.

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 (north), Symonston and Castle Hill. The following sites have since been added: Majura Firing Range (1998-99, and from 2004); Hall/Gold Creek, Newline and Tuggeranong Hill (all 2000); Lambrigg (2001 to March 2004); Campbell Park (2003); Gorooyaroo (south) (2004); Naas (2004); and Kama in the Molonglo Valley (October 2005).

The species recorded most frequently during 2005-06 were, in descending order, Crimson Rosella, Australian Magpie, Weebill, Striated Pardalote, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Eastern Rosella, Grey Fantail, Spotted Pardalote and Australian Raven. These are the same ten species as recorded in 2004-05, though the order has changed slightly.

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	69	16	23.2
Jacky Winter	49	11	22.4
Scarlet Robin	176	32	18.2
Flame Robin	101	0	0
Hooded Robin	29	5	17.2
Varied Sittella	94	15	16
Crested Shrike-tit	28	4	14.3
White-winged Triller	82	8	9.8
Dusky Woodswallow	212	14	6.6
Diamond Firetail	102	4	3.9

An updated analysis of the Woodland Survey from December 1998 to December 2005 has been prepared and will be published in *CBN* in June 2007. This updated period includes the spring of 2005 which had good rainfall and may have resulted in successful breeding, increasing the occupancy rate of some species which had several previous poor breeding seasons. The analysis has provided a clearer, but decreasing, trend for the threatened Hooded Robin. The long-term trend for another threatened species, the Brown Treecreeper, is still very unclear due to very low numbers in the woodland sites. In future, statistical analyses of Woodland Survey data will generally be undertaken every two years.

Waterbird Survey overview

Lake George was dry for much of the time and no surveys were conducted there. Water levels at Lake Bathurst were up to 50% in August then declined; the lake was dry in from February. Surveys were conducted there in Aug, Sep, Oct Nov, Dec, Jan, Apr 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.

Highlights included the first record of Bar-tailed Godwit since November 1996, the first Pacific Golden Plover since October 2001, and the first Pectoral Sandpipers at Lake Bathurst since October 1997.

Corrigendum ABR 2004-05

The gremlins crept into last year's ABR at the penultimate moment. Freckled Duck did NOT breed in the ACT. Page 3, paragraph 2 should have read: "A notable "first" for the ACT this year was the Musk Duck breeding on Yerrabi Pond (see Forshaw 2005)."

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1 JULY 2005 To 30 JUNE 2006

CASUARIIDAE: emu

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: A single record this year (cf mean of 1.6 over previous 10 years): 1/29 Oct Laurel Camp Rd - Oakey Creek Rd junction GrG15 (MoM3). There were also three records from within Tidbinbilla NR but these are of captive birds.

PHASIANIDAE: quail etc

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: Another good year for Stubble Quail with 42 records (incl 5 WOO and 9 WBS) cf mean of 15.4, range 2-43, over previous ten years. Most records (69%) were from the summer months, but also Aug (2), Nov (6), May (2) and Jun (3). Recorded from 13 grid cells across the region. Most records 1-5 birds, max 11.
GBS: A single record of one bird 2wk Dec from a site in Curtin (AJR1).

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: Thirteen records this year is again above average (5.6 over the previous ten years, range 2-10) and is the most since 14 records in 1993-94. Five records were from LGin GrJ12, the others from scattered locations including Tidbinbilla GrsF17-18, Murrays Corner GrG15, Booroomba GrJ18, Coppins Crossing GrI13 and Black Mountain GrK13. Max 8 (incl dy), range 1-7 with a mean of 2.3. Only one breeding record: dy/29 Dec LGin GrJ12 (C1G1).
GBS: Four records from a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1): 2/1wk Sep, 9/3wk Dec, 2/4wk Jan, 2/3wk Feb.

Domestic chicken *Gallus gallus* Escapee
 A record of three birds between Kambah Pool and Red Rocks Gorge GrI16 on 30 Oct (BeR3). These presumably represent wandering domestic birds that would appear to be at least a kilometre from the nearest likely source.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* Escapee
 A record of a bird at Callum Brae GrL15 on 29 Oct (DaG2). This is almost certainly a different bird to a known individual that has been resident in Narrabundah for the past ten years.

ANSERANATIDAE: Magpie Goose

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*
 No records this year. Last records from the semi-captive population at Tidbinbilla NR.

ANATIDAE: ducks, swan

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* Rare, Breeding Visitor
General: 30 records, up from last year; all records but one from Fyshwick SP GrL14. One unusual observation from Yerrabi Pond GrK11, 1/9 Aug (CuR1). Recorded all months except Jul with a max of 20/30 Oct GrL14 (C1M1).

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 18 records (incl 1 WBS) similar to last year but with an increase in distribution to 9 grid cells. Range 1-5 birds. Four breeding records: dy/5 Sep, 20 Oct and 12 Nov Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (FoJ2); and one di/28 Feb Tin Hut Dam GrO18 (BoS2).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* Uncommon, Visitor
General: 7 records (incl 2 WBS) from 3 grid cells: JWNR GrL14; and LBath GrsY8,Z8. A maximum of 3, in GrL14, showing a steady decrease over the last few years.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 159 records (incl 16 WBS) from 20 grid cells, similar to last year and again continuing the increase since 2003-04. Range 1-611, the latter recorded 10 Oct The Morass GrZ8 (LeM1). Breeding reported 46 times (cf 26 last year), mainly on (10) or dy (30), from 13 grid cells, and in all months but Feb.

GBS: A single record, Greenway Estate GrJ16 (MaS5).

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant
General: 26 records (17 WBS) from 6 cells, similar to last year and present throughout the year. Largest numbers seen 114/Nov, 102/Dec and 93/Jan LBath GrY8 (LeM1). A single breeding record: br/25 Jul Lade Vale, south of Gunning GrO3 (SpB1).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 403 records (incl 3 WBS and 43 WOO) from 79 grid cells, a slight increase from the previous year and as usual the most widely distributed waterfowl species. Observed throughout the year. Largest concentration 200/2 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1). Twenty-six breeding records, an increase from last year's 16, from 15 grid cells, commencing with ih in July and concluding with dy/14 Jan Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1).

GBS: Records from 28 sites with breeding from 6 sites.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Rare, Breeding Resident
General: 4 records from 2 cells, LGin GrL12 and JWNR and Molonglo Reach GrL14. All most likely to be the domestic form.

Domestic ducks and geese

These records include Pacific Black Duck X Mallard and domestic Muscovy and Greylag geese.

Domestic duck

General: 16 records from 3 cells, 13 records from LGin GrJ12. Largest concentration 6/22 Oct LBG GrL14.

Domestic goose

General: 6 records from 4 cells. Records from LGin GrJ12, Gungahlin Ponds GrK11 and Isabella Pond GrJ17 and Mulloon Fire Station GrY13.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 393 records (incl 3 WBS and 43 WOO) from 64 cells, an increase from previous years. Largest concentration 180/1 Aug GrZ8 Morass LBath (LeM1). Twenty-seven breeding records from 7 grid cells, an increase from previous years. First, dy/2 Sep Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (HoS1); last, br/29 Jan Fyshwick SP GrL14 (SmA1).

GBS: Records from 12 sites, range 1-22 birds. Breeding recorded from 2: ne/4wk Oct-3wk Nov Yarralumla GrK14 (CCR1) and dy/4wk Dec and co/3wk Jun Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4).

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 99 records (incl 11 WBS) from 12 grid cells, but mostly GrL14, similar to last year. Reported all months. An unusually large concentration of 110/12 Jun JWNR GrL14 (McI1). No breeding records.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 203 records (incl 15 WBS and 8 WOO) from 34 grid cells. A continuing increase in the number of records and cells since 1999-2000. Present all year with unusual concentration of 1100/1 Aug GrZ8 Morass (LeM1) and 2800/30 Jun GrY8 L Bath (LeM1). Fourteen breeding records, either dy or unspecified, from 8 grid cells from Jul-Mar.

GBS: Recorded from 2 sites, Hoskinstown GrS17 and CSIRO Crace GrK12.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 57 records (incl 16 WBS) from 8 grid cells, a continuing increase since 1999-2000 and ranging from LGin GrJ12 to LBath GrY8 and points in between. Largest concentration 123/1 Aug LBath GrY8. Two unspecified breeding records, Fyshwick SP GrL14.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

Common, Visitor

General: 73 records (incl 2 WBS) from 6 grid cells, an increase from previous years. 67 of the records (92%) from JWNR GrL14, the remainder from LBath. Largest concentration 80/12 Jun GrL14 (McI1).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 91 records (incl 6 WBS and 1 WOO) from 20 grid cells, an increase from previous years. Recorded throughout the year with the largest concentration 300/28 Aug L Bath/Morass GrZ8 (LeM1) and 220/2 Sep Fyshwick SP GrL14 (HoS1). No breeding records.

PODICIPEDIDAE: grebes**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 142 records (incl 14 WOO) from 36 grid cells. After 4 years of decline, the number of records is back to the level of 2000-01, but from fewer grid cells (37 cf 55 in 2000-01). Although the majority of records (122) came from in or near Canberra, the number from JWNR and Fyshwick SP (24) was again, like the previous year, relatively low. Records were reported in all seasons: spring (31), summer (26), autumn (52), winter (33). Largest numbers

reported: 25/9 Aug Yerrabi Pond GrK11 (CuR1); 25/25 Jan JWNR and sewage ponds GrL14 (C1G1); 21/13 May Dunlop Grasslands Gr1 1 1 (BaJ1). There were 18 breeding records (9 dy, 4 on, 3 br, 1 nb, 1 di) from 6 Nov to 28 Mar. This is the largest number of breeding records since 1988-89 when 32 were reported during the ACT Bird Atlas Project.

GBS: 1/3wk Nov, 2/4wk Nov, 2/1wk Dec CSIRO Crace GrK12 (OrP1); 2/4wk Aug, 2/3wk Mar Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1). One breeding record: on/3wk Nov CSIRO Crace GrK12.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 54 records (incl 7 WBS) from 9 grid cells. The number of records remain close to last year's low level (42) with the majority coming from only 2 cells: GrL14 (26 records mostly from Fyshwick SP); and GrI11 (10 records mostly from ponds in the Dunlop grasslands). The remaining 18 records came from 7 cells away from Canberra. They were reported in all seasons with more being reported in spring (18), summer (14) and autumn (19) than in winter (3). Largest numbers reported: 98/8 Jan, 89/2 Sep Fyshwick sewage ponds GrL14, 57/10 Oct LBath E Basin GrY8 (LeM1, HoS1). There were 2 breeding records: on/10 Oct, on/4 Dec Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Rare, Breeding Visitor
General: Three records: 1/29 Oct LBG GrK14 (Anil); 2/29 Nov Warrina Inlet LBG GrJ14 (CuR1); and 1/28 Mar Queanbeyan SP GrN15 (SmA1).

ANHINGIDAE: **darter**

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: 89 records from 12 grid cells. The majority (57) came from LBG and its environs (including JWNR). Other records came from LGin (9), Point Hut Crossing (2), LTug (1), Queanbeyan Sewage Ponds (1) and Hall TSR (1). Seventeen records of 1 bird and one of 2 birds came from Shepherds Lookout GrH12 between 13 Jan - 17 May. They were reported in all seasons: spring (13), summer (23), autumn (46) winter (7). Breeding was again reported from 2 sites in LBG: East Basin-Molonglo R (GrL14-M14) on/18 Sep, ny/15 Jan, ny/2 Apr, dy/2 Apr, dy/15 May (A1B1, HoJ1); and E side Black Mt Peninsula (GrK13) ny/14 Jan (Hall). The number of birds involved varied from 4 to 55 (E Basin-Molonglo R) and 16 (E side Black Mt Peninsula) and were similar to the past two years. Little Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants were also breeding at both these sites at the same time as the Darters, as well as Great Cormorants at the E Basin-Molonglo R site (Holland 2006a, 2006b).

GBS: Recorded from 2 sites: 1/1wk Apr Deakin GrK14 (RoD2); 1/5wk Oct Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

PHALACROCORACIDAE: cormorants

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 161 records (incl 5 WOO) from 27 grid cells; the largest number of records since the ACT Bird Atlas Project in 1988-89 and an increase on last year's 118 records from 30 grid cells. The majority of records, 150 (93%), continue to come from urban lakes and wetlands in Canberra. They were reported in all seasons: spring (16), summer (41), autumn

(76) winter (28). Breeding was reported from three sites: E Basin-Molonglo R GrL14, GrM14 on/2 Apr (1 bird), ny/2 Apr (3 birds) (HoJ1); E side Black Mt Peninsula LBG GrK13 on/14 Jan (9 birds) (HoJ1); and on an island at Yowani Country Club GrK12 ny/27 Sep (10 birds) (CuR1). Darters and Little Black Cormorants were also breeding at the first two sites together with the addition of Great Cormorants at the second. Away from the breeding colonies the largest numbers reported were 12/8 Apr, 9/1 Apr Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (BrM2, CIG1). GBS: 46 records from throughout the year from sites in Curtin GrJ14 (1 record), Hoskinstown GrS17 (9 records) and Greenway GrJ16 (36 records). The records from Greenway varied from 1 to 11 birds (average 6). The others were all of one bird.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Rare, Visitor

This species has been recorded each year since February 2001 at Canberra's main lakes.

General: 6 records: 2/10 Sep LGin GrJ12 (AnI1); 2/22 Oct, 1/30 Jan, 1/17 Mar Aspen I, LBG GrL14 (PeH2, HoS1); 1/25 Apr, 1/13 May dam wall, LTug GrJ16 (PeH2).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common, Breeding Resident

The size of the aggregations of this species seen on suburban lakes continues to be larger than in most previous years (with the exception of 2004-05), possibly as a result of the increased numbers breeding at the two sites on LBG.

General: 65 records from 13 grid cells. As in the previous 2 years most records (63) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra with the majority coming from LBG and JWNP (30) and LGin (17). There were fewer records in winter (8) than in spring (11), summer (19) or autumn (27). Breeding was reported from two sites: E side Black Mt Peninsula LBG GrK13 ny/14 Jan (70 birds), and from E Basin-Molonglo R GrL14 ny/15 Jan (35 birds), ny/2 Apr (25 birds). They were again associated with Darters and Little Pied Cormorants which were also breeding at these sites and Great Cormorants breeding at the second site. The largest numbers of non-breeding birds reported were: 70/4 Jun JWNR GrL14 (SmA1); and, 50/29 Oct National Museum LBG GrK14 (A1B1).

GBS: One record of a single bird 4wk Jan at Letchworth, Queanbeyan GrM 15 (StK2).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common, Breeding Resident

Although smaller than last year, the size of the aggregations of this species seen on suburban lakes continues to be larger than in previous years.

General: 102 records from 21 grid cells, the largest number of records ever reported in this category (the previous largest was 72 from 15 cells last year). Ninety records (88%) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra. They were reported in all seasons: spring (31), summer (33), autumn (35), winter (4); max 25/5 Jun LGin W (C1G1). Two breeding records: br/28 Mar Queanbeyan Sewage Ponds GrN15 (SmA 1) (this record involved 4 birds and is the first from this location); ny/2 Apr E Basin-Molonglo R GrL14 (HoJ1) (this record involved 13 birds associated with Darters, Little Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants which were also breeding at this site).

GBS: 2/2wk Jul, 3/3wk Jul, 1/4wk Mar, 1/1wk Apr Greenway GrJ16 (MaS5).

PELECANIDAE: pelican**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Common, Visitor

General: 93 records (incl 1 WBS) from 18 grid cells which reverses last year's fall in the recording rate (53 records from 8 cells). The number of records is the largest reported in this category since 1988-89 during the ACT Bird Atlas Project. As usual, the majority of records (85) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra, incl 55 from LBG and JWNR and the Fyshwick sewage ponds. As in previous years, there were fewer records in winter (5) and autumn (26), than in spring (27) and summer (35), confirming the findings in the ACT Bird Atlas (Taylor and COG 1992). Max: 34/4 Dec LBath E Basin GrY8 (LeM1); 20/2 Jan Googong Dam nr wall GrO 16 (AnI 1).

GBS: 36 records from 7 sites, all 1-2 birds except for 30/1wk Jan Pearce GrK15 (KrS1). 29 of the records came from a site in Greenway GrJ16 close to LTug.

ARDEIDAE: herons, egrets, bitterns**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 212 records (incl 8 WOO and 8 WBS) from 49 grid cells, the largest number of records reported in this category since 1988-89 during the ACT Bird Atlas Project. 57 (27%) of the records came from 27 cells beyond suburban Canberra. They were reported in all seasons with the lowest numbers in winter (19) and larger numbers in spring (51), summer (69) and autumn (73). This pattern follows that of the 511 records reported since July 2002: spring 124 (24.3%), summer 155 (30.3%), autumn 174 (34.1%) and winter 58 (11.3%). Most records 1-2 birds; max 15/26 Jan Tin Hut Dam and London Bridge GrO18 (AnI). There was an unusually large number of breeding records (10), some probably repeat sightings at the same nest: nb/9 Sep, on/1 Nov, on/4 Nov, dy/6 Nov all LGin W GrJ12 (CuR1); ny/29 Oct LGin peninsula GrJ12 (AlB1); on/30 Oct GrI16 (BeR3); dy/15 Nov Yerrabi Ponds GrL11 (CuR1); on/20 Nov, ny/20 Dec nr Drill Hal1 ANU GrK13 (CuR2); on/15 Jan Molonglo Reach GrL14 (HoJ1).

GBS: 89 records of 1 (75 records) or 2 birds (14 records) from 14 sites scattered through Canberra plus one each from Queanbeyan, Gundaroo and Hoskinstown (there were again no records from Gungahlin). They were reported in all seasons with no discernible pattern. The site in Hoskinstown (30 records) and a site in Red Hill (29 records) accounted for 66% of the total.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare, Visitor

No records in 2005-06. Last recorded 26 Jun 1999.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 6 records from 5 grid cells which continues the low rate of reporting since 2001-02: 1/15 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1); 1/17 Feb Jerrabomberra Ave quarry GrM15 (BoJ1); 1/12 Mar "Pylara" GrW09 (LaS1); 1/23 Mar W Macgregor GrI11 (BaJ1); 1/28 May, 1/25 Jun Strathnairn Hs GrH12 (C1G1).

GBS: 1/2wk Feb Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4).

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 11 records of single birds from 5 grid cells, from 16 Jul - 21 May, similar to the reporting rate of recent years. Five came from LGin and environs Grs J12 and K12, 4 from JWNR GrL 14, 1 from the Dunlop Ponds GrI1 1 and 1 from Tharwa Sandwash GrJ 19. Some may have been repeated sightings of the same bird.

GBS: 9 records: 1/1wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1); 1/5wk Apr Hughes GrK14 (BoM1); 1/1wk-4wk May Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4); 1/4wk Jul, 1/2wk Aug, 1/4wk Aug Greenway GrJ16 (MaS5).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

Rare, Visitor

First records since 4 Jan 2004.

General: 2 records: 1/3 Jan, 1/17 Feb JWNR GrL14 (FrI1, SmA1), plus 2 records not presented for appraisal.

GBS: 1 record not presented for appraisal.

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 8 records from 4 grid cells which continues the low reporting rate of the past 11 years after the peaks in 1991-92 and 1992-93: 1/28 Oct, 5/27 Mar, 1/23 May, 1/10 Jun all JWNR GrL14 (HoS1, SmA1); 8/21 Mar TSR Hall GrJ10 (SmA1); 35/2 Apr Mt Ainslie E GrM13 (LeM1); 2/2 Apr Molonglo Reach GrL14 (HoJ1); 3/23 Apr LGin W GrJ12 (C1G1). The 35 sighted at Mt Ainslie E is the largest number recorded since 29 Oct 1994 when 50 were seen at JWNR (COG 1998).

GBS: 3/3wk May, 1/4wk May Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 13 records from 6 grid cells: 8 were from JWNR and Fyshwick SP GrL14: 1/28 Oct, 2/29 Oct, 1/30 Oct, 2/4 Jan, 1/15 Jan, x/15 Jan, 2/3 Feb (HoS1, FyM1, SmA1). Also x/1 Jul Krawarree GrX27 (CoM4), 2/29 Oct LGin W GrJ12 (A1B1), 1/30 Oct Glencoe GrJ22 (PeH2), 6/22 Jan Uriarra Hs dam GrF13 (LiB1), 1/10 Mar TSR 'Lade Vale' GrL3 (FyM1). All 6 birds reported from Uriarra Hs dam were in adult plumage (Lindenmayer 2006).

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: 1 record (WBS): 2/7 Nov Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 81 records (incl 1 WBS and 1 WOO) from 19 grid cells. Following the fall in the reporting rate last year (31 records) it has returned to the levels of recent years. 72 (89%) of the records came from suburban Canberra. As in previous years, the majority were reported in spring (22) and summer (28), with fewer in autumn (25) and winter (6). Largest counts

73/3 Sep Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (PeH2); 50/13 Aug, 50/22 Aug, 40/16 Oct Callum Brae GrL15 (AnI1, SmA1, DaG2); all others were 30 or fewer. The group sizes are the smallest reported since 1999-2000. There was one breeding record (ny) on 27 Sep of 10 birds on an island at Yowani Country Club GrK12 (CuR1). This is only the third report in an ABR of White Ibises breeding in the ACT, although anecdotal evidence suggests that possibly 30 White Ibises and 8 Little Pied Cormorants have been breeding at this site for at least the last 3 years (D. Cook pers. comm.). The previous breeding records in the ACT came from JWNR (COG 1999) and Tidbinbilla NR (COG 2001). Elsewhere in COG's Area of Interest reports of breeding are also uncommon and have come from nr Taemas Bridge GrE07 (Davey 1995), a farm dam c.10 km NW Bungendore GrQ11 (COG 1998, 1999) and Rose Lagoon GrU04 (COG 1999, 2001).

GBS: 69 records from 13 sites. Although the number of records and sites have increased since last year, abundance ($A=0.0818$) has continued to fall since the high in 2001-02 ($A=0.6638$). This reflects the lower group sizes which are being reported. Largest: 35/4wk Jul, 25/4wk Jan, 10/2wk Mar Kambah GrJ16 (VeP1). The majority were reported in spring (20) and summer (23), with fewer in autumn (13) and winter (13).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Common, Visitor

General: 61 records (incl 6 WBS and 1 WOO) from 19 grid cells. As in recent years, the number of grid cells from which they were reported remains low with most records (51) coming from suburban Canberra, 33 of which came from JWNR and the Fyshwick SP. They were reported in all seasons: spring (8), summer (18), autumn (23) and winter (12). Largest numbers: 160/3 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (LeM1); 150/22 Sep GOO GrM11 and 130/20 Mar Duntroon GrM14 (both HoS1).

GBS: 57 records from 15 sites, mostly in autumn (24) and winter (17), with fewer in summer (16) and spring (0). The records were from sites distributed over most of Canberra (none in Gungahlin) and one site each in Gundaroo and Queanbeyan, with most from sites in Red Hill (16) and Curtin (11). Largest group size: 40/1wk Jul Aranda GrJ13 (HaK1); 37/4wk Jul Higgins GrI12 (CuR1); 33/2wk Feb Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1); all others 20 or fewer.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: A total of 23 records (incl 1 WBS). Of these, 20 records of 1-2 birds came from JWNR Wetlands and Fyshwick SP between 6 Oct - 18 Mar This is similar to previous years. Also 1/7 Nov The Morass S (WBS) GrZ8 (LeM1), 1/24 Jan Canturf dam nr Bungendore GrR13 (DeD2), and 1/21 Mar Hall TSR GrJ10 (SmA1).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

Uncommon, Visitor

No records in 2005-06. Last recorded 12 May 2005. This is the first time this species has not been recorded in an ABR since the first report listing all species was issued in 1977-78.

ACCIPITRIDAE: kites, harriers, goshawks, eagles

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 58 records, of 1-3 birds, in all months. Reported from 22 widespread grid cells containing grasslands, but most regularly from the Tuggeranong Parkway and from JWNR. Compares positively with the average of 31.2 records over the last 10 years, but a

considerable drop from last year's 93 records. Only one breeding record, almost certainly a late one from 04-05: dy/3 Jul, Cooleman Ridge (Hon).

GBS: 14 records, all save one from a site in Curtin (AJR1), and one from O'Connor (GrT1). With $A=0.0049$, the species was 71% down on its long-term average but is noted for its fluctuations.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Rare, Visitor

Continues the now-usual pattern of occasional sightings of this inland species in our area, with an average of one record annually over the last ten years.

General: 3 records: 1/1 Jan, Mugga Lane tip GrL16 (VeP1); 1/2 Jan, Kellys Swamp, GrL14 (FrI1); and 1/4 Mar, Fyshwick Sewage Ponds, GrL14 (WiK1). Plus one record not presented for appraisal.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 65 records, mainly of single birds, with 7 records of 2 and one of 3/8 Mar, JWNR GrL14 (HoS1). Recorded in all months except Dec, though 40% of records came in the autumn, and 86% came from GrL14, comprising JWNR and environs. No breeding recorded. This represents a considerable increase over the previous 10-year average of 13.9 records, but may be accounted for by the popularity of GrL14 as a birding location.

GBS: 2 records: 1/1wk Jun, Gundaroo (NiA1); 1/4wk Jun, Hackett (LeB1).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 9 records, all of single birds except 2/26 Mar, Hall Common Gall (NeG1), and in all seasons. Recorded in 7 grid cells, mainly along the Murrumbidgee River. Near the 10-yr average of 10.8, but well down on the 30 in 1995-96. No breeding.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Rare, Visitor

General: 1/19 Sep, Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1). Spotted Harriers have been recorded in 7 of the previous 10 years.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 6 records, all of single birds, 4 in spring and one each in early summer and early autumn. Recorded in three locations, Lake Bathurst, JWNR and environs, and Old Boboyan Road, but not from their former, now dry, strongholds of Rose and Wet Lagoons. A welcome return, after no records in 2004-05.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 99 records, of 1-3 birds, widespread, and from all months. 11 WOO, from CMP, MAJ, NLQ and SYM. This represents a huge increase on the 36.7 "general" average of the previous 10 years, and is well up on last year's 52. Six breeding records, ranging from co/24 Sep Hall Common GrJ11 (NeG1) to dy/28 Dec Campbell Park GrM13 (DaG2).

GBS: 21 records, all of single birds, from 14 widespread sites. A strong seasonal pattern emerged, with 12 records from Jan-Mar. The abundance ($A=0.0073$) was down 41% on the long-term average.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* Rare, Visitor

General: 4 records: 1/26 Aug, Kaleen GrK12 (C1M1); and 3, presumably of the same bird, from JWNR GrL14 on 2, 3, May (MoM3, SmA 1, LaS1). The 10-yr average for this species is 0.6 p.a.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* Common, Breeding Migrant

Unlike the Brown Goshawk, whose abundance increased this year, the combined numbers of records for the Collared Sparrowhawk decreased markedly from the 102-132 range over the last 5 years. It cannot be discounted that there may be misidentification at work here.

General: 36 records, incl. 4 WOO (CAS, GOO, NLQ and RED). Mainly single birds, though 2/11 Oct Mt Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) and 2/28 Feb JWNR GrL14 (SmA1). Widespread; recorded in all months except Nov, with 42% of records from autumn. No breeding recorded.

GBS: 47 records, all of single birds, from 20 widespread sites, though commonly recorded in only one site in Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). Abundance value of $A=0.0163$ is 22% below its long-term average.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 136 records, incl 4 WOO and 6 WBS, of 1-5 birds, widespread, and in all months. No breeding recorded, but note 5/3 Mar Boboyan Rd GrH24 (SmA1); 5/23 Apr Smiths Rd GrJ20 (VeP1). A welcome increase over the "general" average of 58.4 (range 26-103) over the last 10 years.

GBS: 23 records, of 1-2 birds, from 10 sites, and in all months except Sep-Oct. Commonly recorded (14 wks) in only one site, at Letchworth GrM15 (StK2). Abundance ($A=0.0125$) is 15% above the long-term average.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

For a species generally accepted as being in severe decline in the ACT (Olsen and Osgood 2006), this is a surprising number of records. It may be a result of the encouragement to our members to put in records of this potentially vulnerable species; or it may be misidentification.

General: 58 records, mainly of single birds, but with 8 records of 2 and one of 3/18 Mar, Fyshwick Sewage Ponds GrL14 (SmA1). No WOO, but one record, 1/24 Sep Red Hill GrK14 (PeH2) from a Woodland-related survey. The majority (55%) of records from GrL14, including JWNR; also recorded along the Murrumbidgee near Uriarra Crossing and Casuarina Sands. No breeding recorded.

GBS: 14 records, all of single birds, from 10 sites (Hughes, Griffith, Curtin, Cook, Hackett, Ainslie, Watson, Red Hill and rural Hoskinstown), with most records between 3wk Jan and 1wk May. Abundance down 12% on the long-term average.

FALCONIDAE: **falcons, hobby, kestrel****Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 65 records, of 1-3 birds, in all months, incl. 2 WOO (HAL, MUL). Widespread in rural and semi-rural locations. This represents a return to the "general" reporting level of 2000-01, and compares favourably with the 10-yr average of 34.9 (range 15-66). No breeding recorded but 3/26 Mar Woodstock NR (A1B1) suggestive.

GBS: One record only, 1/1wk Oct, Hackett GrL13 (LeB1). This confirms the pattern of the last two years, and with a long-term average decrease of 95%, we can perhaps conclude that urban Canberra has outgrown the Brown Falcon.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* Common, Breeding Migrant

The quintessentially urban raptor, most commonly recorded of all raptors in the GBS.

General: 53 records, of 1-3 birds, incl 2 WOO (MJF and RED) and 3 WBS. Widespread; recorded in all months but May, most commonly in Oct (13 records). This represents a higher number of "general" records than usual, compared with the 10-yr average of 22.2. Breeding: on/4 Sep, Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (BoJ1).

GBS: 48 records of 1-2 birds, from 17 sites, in all months except Jun, with the usual concentration in Jan (7), Feb (7) and Mar (9), accounting for 48% of records. Records are 49% lower than the long-term average.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger* Rare, Visitor

General: 3 records: 1/28 Aug Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1); 1/16 Feb Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (HoS1); and 2/16 Apr, Mt Ainslie GrM13 (LeM1). This species has been recorded in three of the past ten years, its presence possibly occasioned by inland drought.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 36 records, of 1-2 birds, incl 2 WOO (MJF) and 2 WBS. Regularly seen only in GrH12, the Murrumbidgee at Shepherds Lookout and Woodstock NR, the location which accounted for 42% of records. Recorded in all months except Jul, Dec. More recorded than its 10-yr average of 13.4, (range 8-26). No breeding recorded.

GBS: 13 records, scattered throughout the year, from 8 sites. Regular in none. Its abundance remains fairly stable; A=0.0049, down 5.8% on the long-term average.

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* Common, Breeding Resident

Now the most commonly recorded raptor in our region.

General: 146 records, of generally 1-3 birds, but also 4/5 Oct Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (DaC1); 4/16 Mar Tidbinbilla Space Tracking Station GrH16 (LaD1); and 4/19 Mar Jerrabomberra Grasslands Reserve GrL16 (SmA1). Widespread in rural and semi-rural areas; recorded in all months, though the highest number of records (31) came in Mar. The 10-yr average for the species is 82.2 records p.a. (range 34-195), so this year represents the highest record numbers since 2000-01. Three breeding records: on/29 Oct Callum Brae GrL15 (DaG2); dy/11 Dec CAS GrJ18 (McD1); dy/6 Jan Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (C1G1).

GBS: 27 records of 1-2 birds, from 8 sites. Relatively common in only two, Curtin (AJR1) and Isaacs (MaC2). Not recorded in Jul, Sep. Well down (48.1%) on its long-term average, suggesting that this species too is being displaced by the encroachment of the suburbs.

RALLIDAE: rails, crakes, swamphen, moorhen, coot

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Eleven records for the year represents a high reporting rate (mean of 1.7 records, range 0-9, over the previous 15 years, with records now for 9 of the past 16 years. Reports were of up to 5 birds, incl dy, all from JWNR GrL14. Nine of the records were between 15 Dec and 6 Feb, with records of single birds on 17 Apr and 2 May. A record of dependent

young on 6 Jan (HoS1) is the first record of breeding since a nest with 3 eggs was reported from Gungahlin homestead in Oct 1988 (Taylor and COG 1992).

Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: Six records of a single bird, likely the same individual, from Kellys Swamp GrL14 between 17 Feb and 18 Mar. This is the 5th year in the past 11 in which the species has been recorded.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

Rare, Visitor

Surprisingly, given the large number of records last year and the prevalence of other crakes and rails this year, there were no records of this species in 2005-06. The species has been recorded in 6 of the past 11 years, the mean number of records over the previous 10 years being 3.2 (range 0-15).

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 6 records this year is above the average of 3.4 (range 0-9) over the previous ten years, and this is the 7th year of the past 11 with records. All records were of single birds from Kellys Swamp (GrL14), one from 22 Oct, all others between 28 Apr and 13 May.

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 32 records of up to 4 birds, all from Kellys Swamp (GrL14), regularly between 1 Jan and 29 May (SmA1, HoS1, PeH2, LeM1, MoM3 and DaG2). This is significantly more records than has been reported previously and continues the increasing rate of reporting of this species over recent years; it has now been recorded from 8 of the past 11 years. The mean number of records per year over the past 10 years is 1.9. One unspecified breeding/1 Jan (SmA1) comprised a chick with 2 adults (Alastair Smith pers comm). This is only the second formally reported breeding record for this species in the region after up to 5 dependent young were recorded in Jan-Feb 2001 (COG 2001).

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 163 records from throughout the year, generally of fewer than 20 individuals but with one exceptional count of 50/10 Sep LGin GrJ12 (AnI1). The urban lakes and their associated tributaries and wetlands account for 97% of the records (89 from JWNR/ Fyshwick SP, 33 from LGin, 22 from various sites around LBG, 11 from Macgregor/Dunlop, 1 from LTug, and 1 from Gungahlin wetlands). Just 6 records from locations away from Canberra, including 5 from Uriarra Station dam, and 1 from Googong Dam. There were 18 reports of breeding (on, ny, dy or br) from 11 Oct to 25 Jan.

GBS: 42 records from throughout the year of up to 8 birds from a site in Greenway (LTug GrJ16) (MaS5).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 190 records from throughout the year, generally of <15 individuals, max 100/10 Sep LGin GrJ 12 (Ann). The urban lakes and associated tributaries and wetlands account for 83% of the records (87 from JWNR/Fyshwick SP, 39 from LGin, 17 from Macgregor/Dunlop, and 14 from various sites around LBG). The 33 records from locations away from Canberra include 19 from Shepherds Lookout GrH12, 6 from Uriarra Station dam GrF13, 3 from Tidbinbilla NR GrG17/F18, 2 from Googong Dam GrO16/18, and single

records from Pine Island and Point Hut Crossing GrJ17, and Queanbeyan SP GrN15. There were 22 reports of breeding (co, dy, br) between 22 Aug and 28 Feb, all from urban wetland sites except for dy/30 Oct Tidbinbilla NR.

GBS: 42 records from throughout the year of up to 7 birds from a site in Greenway (LTug GrJ16) (MaS5). Includes 2 records of breeding (nb) in 2-3wk Oct.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

Rare, Visitor

No records again this year. Last recorded Dec 2002.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 217 records (incl 1 WBS and 1 WOO) from throughout the year. Of these, just 6% had counts of more than 50 birds, max 172/2 Sep Fyshwick SP (HoS1). As usual, most records (82%) came from Canberra's urban lake systems, the remaining 40 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 21 breeding records this year, up from the 3 records of the previous year, are especially notable. Furthermore, these records came from a variety of locations including Macgregor/Dunlop (CuR1, Kellys Swamp and Fyshwick SP (SmA1), LBG (CuR1), LGin (CuR1), Bungendore sewage works (DaC1), Queanbeyan SP (SmA1) and Googong Dam (An11). The breeding records, mainly dy but also nb and on, stretch from 23 Oct to 29 Mar.

GBS: 43 records from throughout the year of up to 11 birds from a site in Greenway (LTug GrJ16) (MaS5).

TURNICIDAE: button-quail

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

Rare, Migrant

General: A single record: 1/10 Jan Goorooyarroo NR GrM11 (HoS1).

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 13 records this year (up on the average of 4.6, range 1-9 for previous 10 years), of up to 4 birds. Most records were from woodland sites in and around Canberra, but there were also single records from JWNR GrL14, and Square Rock Track in Namadgi NP GrF19.

SCOLOPACIDAE: snipe, sandpipers and allies

No records of **Little Curlew** (last recorded Oct 1977), **Ruddy Turnstone** (last recorded Dec 1996), **Red Knot** (last recorded Nov 1999), **Long-toed Stint** (last recorded Dec 2002) and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (last recorded Sep 1997).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Uncommon, Migrant

General: 26 records from 4 cells, 22 from JWNR GrL14, an increase from last year but similar to the previous three years. First reported 27 Sep with last report 6 Mar, both GrL14 (SmA1). Largest concentration 9/4Jan GrL14 (HoS1). Unusual records from Pine Island GrJ17, 1/30 Oct (BeR3) and Dunlop Grasslands GrI11 1/2Mar (BaJ1).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Vagrant

General: 1/7 Nov LBath GrYO8 (LeM1), first record since Nov 1996.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Rare, Migrant

General: 2 WBS records from 2 grid cells, both LBath between Sep and Jan and similar to previous years. Largest concentration 10/19 Sep Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Rare, Migrant

General: 2 records (1 WBS) from 2 grid cells, 2/4 Dec LBath GrY8 (LeM1), the first record since Nov 2003 and before that 2000-01; and 1/2 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Rare, Migrant

General: 3 records, of probably the same bird, from the same location, Uriarra Crossing GrI2 between 15 Jan and 27 Mar (PeH2, HoS1, SmA1). This is now the third consecutive year that a single bird has been seen at this location.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* Rare, Migrant

General: 4 records, all WBS, from LBath East basin GrY8 between 19 Sep and 4 Dec. Largest concentration 5/4 Dec (LeM1). Good to see this species return after a year's absence.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* Common, Migrant

General: 9 records (5 WBS) from 4 grid cells, a slightly decreased recording rate from the previous three years. Largest concentration 130/10 Oct LBath GrY8 (LeM1). Observed in COG area of concern between 19 Sep and 30 Jan.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Rare, Migrant

General: 2/19 Sep and 1/10 Oct both LBath E GrY8 (LeM1). First report for COG area of concern since the 19 records of a bird from Kellys Swamp GrL14 in late 2002.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Rare, Migrant

General: 3 records from LBath E GrY8 (LeM1). Recorded between 19 Sep and 4 Dec with maximum of 5/4 Dec.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE: **stilts, avocet**

No records this year for **Banded Stilt** *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* (last recorded Feb 1998).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 19 records (incl 7 WBS) from 5 grid cells, all observations from LBath, JWNR or in between. Records between 28 Aug and 24 Jan with largest concentration 60/7 Nov Morass GrZ8 (LeM1) and includes an 'on nest' breeding observation, 7 Nov Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1).

CHARADRIIDAE: **plovers, dotterels, lapwings**

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Rare, Migrant

General: 1/10 Oct, 14/7 Nov LBath GrY8 (LeM1), first records since Oct 2001.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 13 records from 2 grid cells, present throughout the year. An increase in the number of records from previous years. All records WBS from LBath. Max 150/4 Dec GrY8 (LeM1).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* Uncommon, Migrant
General: 34/30 Jun LBath GrY8 (LeM1). An irregular winter visitor from across the Tasman. Appears to visit LBath on alternate years with last record Sep 2003.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 73 records (6 WBS and 3 WOO) from 19 grid cells, an increase from previous years. Reported throughout the year, maximum 28/17 Apr JWNR area GrL14 (SmA1). A single breeding observation: dy/18 Feb Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (PeH2).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus* Uncommon, Visitor
General: Only 3 records, a large decline from the last four years: 3/24 Jan 4 km N of Bungendore GrS12 (DeD2); 1/17 Feb Jerrabomberra Avenue Quarry GrM15 (BoJ1); and 1/13 May JWNR GrL14 (SmA1).

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor
General: Total of 8 records, all WBS, from LBath GrsY8-Z8, an increase in the number of records from past years. Max 9/7 Nov (LeM1).

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 201 records (incl 14 WBS and 1 WOO) from 51 grid cells, an increase from previous years. Max 93/30 Jan LBath GrY8 (LeM1). 13 breeding records from 9 grid cells, Jul-Jan.

GBS: Records throughout the year from 22 sites, with breeding from 2 sites: dy/3wk Sep- 1wk Oct CSIRO Crace GrK12 (OrP1); and dy/1wk Oct Holt GrI12 (HaP4).

LARIDAE: gulls and terns

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 74 records from 12 grid cells, a similar number of reported cells from previous years. Largest concentration 310/30 Jan LBath GrY8 (LeM1). Three breeding records, from 29 Oct to 14 Jan, around Lotus Bay LBG GrK14 (Anil, HoJ1).

GBS: Recorded Aug-Oct from one site in Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* Rare, Visitor
 None. Last record Sep 2002.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* Rare, Visitor
General: 1/1 Aug LBath GrY8 (LeM1).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* Rare, Breeding Visitor
General: 6 records (3 WBS) from the 3 most likely grid cells, LBath GrsY8-Z8 and JWNR GrL14. Largest concentration 76/10 Oct LBath GrY8 (LeM1). Recorded between Oct-Dec.

COLUMBIDAE: pigeons and doves

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Common, Breeding Resident

A species of limited interest to observers, mostly recorded from feeding and resting areas (i.e. major bridges). Only breeding reported was copulation; documentation of the length of the breeding period (all year round?) could easily be achieved since the species is present at shopping centres, office buildings etc. that are frequently visited by observers.

General: 61 records from throughout the year. Highest counts: 50/4 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1); 200/16 May Garema Place, Civic GrL13 (LeM1).

GBS: Recorded from 33 sites, from 1-47 birds. Abundance ($A=1.5357$) is up by 32% compared to long-term average largely due to an increase in average group size (G). The species moved from the 20th to the 16th most commonly recorded species.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

Rare, Visitor

Continues the pattern of occasional records of this species each year.

General: 1 record: 1/13 Oct Queanbeyan GrN15 (FIR1).

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Stronger presence than in previous year although numbers still low; all general and most GBS records from south of LBG; other sites Weetangera and Watson. Present throughout the year.

General: 3 records: 1/23 Oct Chapman GrI15 (Hon); x/30 Oct Kambah GrJ16 (PoD1); 1/22 Dec Rivett GrI15 (HoJ1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0267$) is double that of the previous year, although overall numbers are low with only 5 out of 67 records concerning more than 1 bird; max. 4/5wk Jan Duffy (WiM1).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recording frequency (133 records, incl 25 WOO) similar to previous year, with lowest numbers and number of records in Dec. Maximum numbers lower than in previous year, with 8 birds recorded 3 times, on 18 Aug CMP GrM13 (HoS1), 26 Sep Majura Firing Range N GrN12 (FeP1), and 16 Apr Campbell Park GrM13 (McI1). Breeding/24 Aug Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0489$) down from last year but still above long-term average, but with records only from 11 sites and out of 108 records, only 3 of more than 2 birds (max. 4), any changes difficult to interpret. Most records 4wk Oct to 4wk Feb.

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

Rare, Breeding Resident

No record. Last reported May 2003.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Further increase in the number of records (388 records incl 43 WOO, cf 283 in previous year). Highest average numbers Aug and Apr: 6.6 and 7.3. Max. numbers recorded lower than previous year: 31/2 Mar Dunlop (BaJ1); 35/ 8 Apr Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). Excluding display, which the birds do throughout the year, there were 4 breeding records, from on/28 Oct JWNR GrL14 (HoS1) to on/11 Nov Dunlop grasslands GrI1 1 (BaJ1) and dy/29 Oct Callum Brae NR GrL15 (DaG2).

GBS: The abundance continues to rise ($A=2.8183$), 244% above the long-term average. Species now evenly distributed across all sites with $F=100\%$. Max no: 36/2wk Nov Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1). 14 sites with indications of breeding: display throughout the year, records of more definite breeding (nb to ny/cf) 3wk Jul to 1wk Apr, although no records of fledglings.

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Vagrant/Escapee

General: Only one record: 2/11 Jan "Bibaringa" GrH14 (SmA1); recorded from this area before.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 20 records of 1-2 birds Jul to Apr from Callum Brae GrL15 (HoS1, BoJ1, SmA1) "Bibaringa" GrH14 (SmA1), Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (C1G1), and TSR57, Mt Creek Rd GrE8 (FyM1) .

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Although an improvement on last year's single record, the 3 records for this species do not appear to reflect its true status: 2/29 Oct Bendora Dam GrE16; 1/29 Oct Warks Rd GrD16 (both McD1); and 1/30 Oct Cotter Hut Rd GrD21(LaS1).

CACATUIDAE: **cockatoos****Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Rare, Visitor

General: 19 records of 1-13 birds, mostly from Mt Majura NR GrM12 and Burra Ck GrM21, known locations for this species. Fewer than the 27 records in 2004-05. No breeding reported.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 100 records (incl 10 WOO and 2 WBS), many in suburban Canberra, compared with 124 records in 2004-05. Recorded throughout the year though somewhat more commonly in autumn. No breeding records.

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.4657$), much lower than the peak abundance after the 2003 bushfires ($A=2.2998$ in 2003-04) and representing a return to earlier levels of abundance. Seen in 86.8% of sites.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 98 records (incl 21 WOO), a slight increase on 93 in 2004-05. Recorded throughout the region and throughout the year, with 48% of the records in spring. Max 14/26 Mar Mt Taylor GrJ15 (PaR2). Four breeding records, from ih/30 Jul Canberra Uni GrK12 (CuR1) to ih/12 Nov Bruce Ridge GrK13 (FyM1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.8294$) represents a decline from 2004-05 ($A=0.9812$) and 2003-04 ($A=1.1505$). Seen in 67.6% of sites. Breeding recorded from 1 site: dy/3 wk Mar-1 wk Apr Cook GrJ13 (BrM2).

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 757 records (incl 198 WOO), compared with 621 records in 2004-05. Often recorded in large flocks; max 120/16 Jul Dunlop grasslands GrI 11 (BaJ1). Twenty-four

breeding records from ih/8 Aug East O'Malley GrK15 (KrS1) to dy/25 Apr Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3) then recommencing with ih in May.

GBS: Second most abundant species recorded in the GBS, down from most abundant in 2004-05. Abundance (A=7.4102) down from 2004-05 (A=8.6555) and 2003-04 (A= 9.0458). Recorded from all sites. Breeding recorded from 17 sites, from co/1wk Jul Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) to dy/2wk Mar Reid GrL13 (CaJ2), then an early start to the next season with ih in May.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

Vagrant/Escapee

This species was removed from COG's unusual birds list in the course of this year, hence all records have been treated as if endorsed.

General: 25 records, particularly from the inner south of the city, incl 2 unspecified breeding records from Callum Brae.

GBS: 9 records of 1-2 birds from 5 sites.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 66 records (incl 10 WOO), compared with 28 records in 2004-05. Max 300/27 Jun Narrabundah GrL15 (DaG2). Four breeding records from Callum Brae GrL15: on/29 Oct (DaG2); and br/25 Aug, 4 Sep and 11Nov (SmA1).

GBS: Abundance (A=O.2684), significantly up from 2004-05 (A=O.1236). Recorded from 25 sites (36.8%).

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri*

Escapee

GBS: 1 / 2-4 wk Aug, 4 wk Sep-I wk Oct, 3 wk Oct Chapman GrI15 (HAJ 1); presumably the same bird which has been frequenting the southern suburbs for some years now.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 818 records (incl 219 WOO), compared with 604 in 2004-05. Max 150/12 May Burra Ck GrM21 (An11). Twenty breeding records, from ih/23 Jul Black Mt GrK13 (DaC1) to br/8 Feb Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1).

GBS: Most abundant species recorded in GBS (up from second place in 2004-05). Range 1-200. Abundance (A=8.1519) up from 2004-05 (A=7.5496) but below 2003-2004 (A=8.6051). Seen in all sites. Breeding recorded from 7 sites, with dy recorded throughout the year.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Vagrant/Escapee

These records of single birds are most probably of escapees; wild flocks are sometimes recorded in the COG area, however.

General: 1/6 Nov Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (SmA1), compared with 3 non-breeding records in 2004-05.

GBS: Recorded from 3 sites: 1/4 wk Dec Weston GrJ15 (BoJ1); 1/2 wk Nov Hackett GrL13 (LeB1); 1/1 wk Jan Hughes GrK15 (BeR3).

PSITTACIDAE: lorikeets, parrots

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 15 records, compared with 8 in 2004-05; range 1-4 birds, and mostly from Callum Brae and The Pinnacle NR. No breeding reported.

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0392$) up from 2003-04 ($A=0.0237$), with a range of 1-6 birds. Recorded from 9 sites (13.2%), 6 in Belconnen and one each in Griffith, Pearce and Letchworth.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* Rare, Visitor

General: 5 records of 2-4 birds, all from Chapman oval GrJ15 between 10-17 May. First records since Nov 2002.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* Rare, Visitor

General: No records, compared with one in 2004-05.

GBS: Recorded from 1 site: 4/2 wk Oct Hackett GrL13 (LeB1).

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

General: 144 records (incl 21 WOO), compared with 103 in 2004-05. One notable flock recorded: 78/3 Jul Mt Majura GrM13 (LeM1). Two breeding records: dy/6 Nov Warks Rd GrE15 (WaK1); and on/7 Jan Bruce Ridge GrK13 (DaC1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=1.99790$) down from 2004-05 ($A=2.0556$), continuing a downward trend since 2002-2003 ($A=2.5261$). Seen in 65 sites (92.6%). Breeding recorded from 11 sites.

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 27 records (incl 6 WOO), compared with 14 in 2004-05. Records from 1/1 Oct GOO GrM11 to 2/19 May Aranda paddocks GrJ13 (both TaN1), with flocks of up to 82 birds in the Belconnen area GrJ13 in Jan (see Lashko 2006). Five breeding records, all dy, from 26 Dec GOO GrM11 (TaN1) to 16 Feb Mulligans Flat GrL10 (HoS1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0388$) up from 2004-05 ($A=0.0131$). Recorded from 8 sites between 4wk Nov and 4wk Jan. Breeding recorded from 3 sites: dy/1 wk Jan Cook GrJ13 (BrM2); dy/2 wk Jan Page GrJ12 (A1B1); and dy/1-2 wk Jan Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 1082 records (incl 308 WOO), compared with 916 in 2004-05. Range 1-102. Thirty-five breeding records, from ih/22 Aug Campbell Park GrM13 (McI1) to br/29 Jan Acacia Inlet GrJ13 (SmA1) then recommencing ih in May.

GBS: Fourth most abundant species recorded in GBS (up from sixth in 2004-05.)

Abundance ($A=3.9393$) up from 2004-05 ($A=3.7761$). Seen in all sites. Breeding recorded from 14 sites, with dy mainly between 3wk Nov and 1wk Jan. A considerably earlier instance of "dy" may have been courtship feeding.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 646 records (incl 187 WOO), compared with 487 in 2004-05. Twenty-eight breeding records, with dy to late Jan.

GBS: Abundance (A=1.7743) up from 2004-05 (A=1.6123). Seen in all but one site (98.5%), with breeding recorded from 11 sites: first, ih/4wk Jul and last, dy/1 wk Feb, both Cook GrJ 13 (BrM2).

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

Rare, Migrant

General: No records in 2005-06, compared with 11 in 2004-05.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 300 records (incl 51 WOO), compared with 211 records in 2004-05. Max 50/17 Feb Duffy Gr115 (HoJ1). Fifteen breeding records: first, ih/5 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1); last, dy/LGin W 30 Jan GrJ12 (C1G1).

GBS: Abundance (A=0.2895) very much lower than 2004-05 (A=0.7400), and almost back to 2002-2003 levels (A=0.2184). Found in 20 sites (29.4%).

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Vagrant/Escapee

General: No records. Last recorded Jun 2005.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

Vagrant

General: 2 records: 1/29 Oct Orroral Valley GrG22 (SmA1); and 2/6 Feb "Kama" GrI13 (DaC1). First records since Oct 2002.

Indian Ringneck

General: 1 /29 Oct Dunlop Grassland NR Grill (Bail).

Escapee

CUCULIDAE: **cuckoos, koel**

The number of records for several species is relatively high (in part due to the 29-30 October "Bird Blitz"), yet again no records of locally raised young, probably a reflection of drought-related low breeding activity of hosts.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 82 records (incl 16 WOO, with 24 (29%) from Oct Blitz); single birds, with the exception of 10 records of 2 birds, plus 3/29 Oct Callum Brae GrL15 (DaG2) and 3/6 Nov Mulligans Flat NR GrL11 (HoS1). First, 1/7 Sep (Bon), and last, 1/19 Mar (SmA 1) both from Jerrabomberra Grasslands GrL 15. No breeding record.

GBS: 8 records of single birds from 3 sites in Holt, Hoskinstown and CSIRO Crace 3wk Sep to 4wk Nov.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 7 records. First 2/29 Oct Gudgenby River GrH24, last 1/24 Mar Namadgi GrF19 (both SmA1). No breeding record.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 88 records (with 1 WOO, and 49 (56%) from Oct Blitz), mostly of single birds but 8 records of 2 and 4 records of 3 birds, plus a notable 7/24 Mar Square Rock GrF19 (SmA1). First 1/2 Aug Fyshwick SP GrL14 (CuR1), last 1/2 Apr Molonglo Reach GrL15 (HoJ1). No breeding recorded.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*
No record, last endorsed ACT record Feb 1989.

Rare, Visitor

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 60 records (incl 12 WOO) of mostly 1-2 birds, max 3/29 Oct Campbell Park GrM13 (CoE1). First 1/20 Sep nr Tidbinbilla Space Tracking Stn GrH16 (LaD1), last 1/24 Mar NLQ1 GrN14 (BoJ1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: Records only from 2 sites: 1/1wk Oct CSIRO Crace GrK12 (OrP1) and 1/3wk Jan Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 53 records (incl 11 WOO) of mostly single birds, with 7 records of 2, plus 3/5 Oct Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1) and 4/30 Oct Mulligans Flat NR GrM10 (Boil). First 1/3 Sep Mt Majura GrM12 (LeM1) and last 1/4 Feb ACT/NSW border, Namadgi NP GrH28 (Anil). No record of young, but indication of breeding with co/30 Oct Mulligans Flat GrM10 (Boil).

GBS: Single record: 1/1wk Oct Watson GrL12(WaK1).

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

Uncommon, Migrant

If both general and GBS records are combined, they show records from a considerably wider spread of suburbs (24) than in previous years.

General: 15 records of mostly calling single males from suburban Canberra; first 1/30 Oct Kambah GrJ16 (McJ4) and last, 1/26 Jan Scullin GrI12 (CIG1). Max 3/15 Jan Macquarie oval GrJ13 (LeM1) comprising one adult and one immature male and one possible female. One very notable record outside suburbia: 1/13 Jan Boboyan Rd/Old Boboyan Rd N GrH24 (DeD2).

GBS: Records from 31 sites, mostly of single birds, with 3 records of 2 in Yarralumla (CCR1), Weetangera (WoD1) and Weston (Bon). First, 1/4wk Oct Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) and last, 1/3wk Feb O'Connor GrK13 (GrT1). Abundance (A=O.0336) showing an enormous rise over the long-term average.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Vagrant

General: 1 record 1/13 Jan Kaleen GrK12 (C1M1).

STRIGIDAE: hawk owls

Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*

Rare, Breeding Resident

No records this year. Last recorded May 2005 in Tallaganda SF.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

Rare, Visitor

General: 1 record not presented for appraisal.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 10 records, of 1-2 birds, from late Sep to early Mar. Three records came from Gorooyarroo NR GrM11 and four from Burra Creek GrM21. One breeding record: dy/19 Jan Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1).

GBS: 85 records from 27 sites, mostly of a single bird, with only 5 records of 2, and from all months except Jun. Birds were most recorded in spring, with 38 records (44.7%). With an

abundance value of $A=0.0312$, this is 23% down on the long-term average. No breeding reported.

TYTONIDAE: masked owls

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Rare, Visitor

General: 1 record, 1/3 Aug, Braddon GrL13 (Mull). Continues the pattern of regular records of this species, but in very low numbers.

PODARGIDAE: frogmouths

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 30 records, generally of 1-2 birds but 4/29 Oct Tuggeranong Hill GrK17 (IrJ1). Ten records came from the ANBG, 6 from Burra Creek, while the remainder were widespread. There were 3 breeding records: on/29 Oct Theodore Hills GrK17 (IrJ1); dy/29 Oct Tuggeranong Hill GrK13 (IrJ1); ne/29 Oct ANBG GrK13 (GrT1).

GBS: 34 records of 1-3 birds, from 8 sites. Fairly regular at only two, in Chapman and Watson, which both recorded 3 birds. Breeding recorded from 2 sites: dy/3wk Nov Cook GrJ13 (BrM2); and on/1-4wk Nov Watson GrL11 (WaK1).

CAPRIMULGIDAE: nightjars

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

General: 1/10 Feb Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (HoS1).

AEGOTHELIDAE: owlet-nightjar

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 16 records, all of single birds save 2/11 Feb, Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1). Seven records came from Burra, 4 from Campbell Park/Mt Ainslie, 3 from Gorooyaroo NR and one each from GrH14 and GrV9.

GBS: 5 records between Dec and Apr from 2 sites, in Duffy and Griffith.

APODIDAE: swifts

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Common, Migrant

General: Once again there were no spring records, with 10 sightings between 2 Jan and 27 Mar, of which 7 were in Mar. Abundance ranged from 1-12 birds, apart from the last record of 30/27 Mar Mt. Rogers GrJ12 (B1R1).

GBS: Recorded 11 times from 8 sites, similar to last year but down 92% on the long-term average. All records in the period 1 wk Jan to 2 wk Mar. The average group size was 5, the lowest for some time.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Rare, Migrant

General: One endorsed record: 50/2 Feb Woden GrK15 (AIR1); and two records not presented for appraisal.

GBS: Two sites at Ainslie GrL13 and Kambah GrJ16 recorded 30 and 20 birds respectively in 5wk Jan (HoS1, VeP1).

ALCEDINIDAE: **kingfishers**

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records. Last endorsed record was Jun 2001.

HALCYONIDAE: **kookaburra, kingfishers**

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: As usual recorded throughout the year from all parts of the local area. Only 4 of the 420 sightings (0.9%) were of breeding records: ih/ 27 Jul Mt Taylor GrJ15 (PaR2); dy/ 29 Oct Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (RoD2) and Black Mountain GrK13 (LaS1); and br/16 Oct Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). Of the 420 sightings, 55 (13%) were from WOO.

GBS: Same recording pattern as previous years, with records from 45 sites with 4 of those recording regular sightings through the year. Two breeding records: ih/3wk Oct Watson GrL12 (WaK1); and dy between 3wk Oct and 2wk Jan Kambah GrJ16 (PeM1).

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygia*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records. Last endorsed record was Oct 2002.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 113 times (incl 7 WOO), 40% more than last year, with 5 breeding records in Oct-Nov, the most advanced being cf/29 Oct Coleman Ridge GrI15 (MaR4). First record for the year was 1/30 Sep Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1) and the last 1/26 Mar MUL23 GrL11 (HoS1), plus one highly unusual winter record.

GBS: 21 records from 8 sites in the period 3wk Oct to 2wk Apr, with one unusual winter record.

MEROPIIDAE: **bee-eater**

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 31 times with one breeding record nr Scott NR (StH3). First record for the year was 2/14 Oct Dunlop grasslands GrI11 (SmA1) and the last 15/10 Mar Hillgrove Rd GrL2 (FyM 1). Abundance ranged from 1-44, the latter being a migrating flock 18 Feb Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (PeH2).

GBS: 8 records from 5 sites in the period 4wk Oct to 3wk Mar. Of the 8 records, 3 were in spring (4wk Oct to 2wk Nov), 1 in summer and 4 in autumn (4wk Feb to 3wk Mar).

CORACIIDAE: **dollarbird**

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: A total of 71 records (incl 13 WOO), almost double last year's 36, and including two breeding records, both on 3 Jan: dy/ Hoskinstown GrT16 (KaJ1); and cf/The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1). First record for year 1/23 Oct Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1); last, 15 Mar Kellys Swamp GrL14 (SmA1).

GBS: A similar pattern to last year. Recorded from 20 sites (30%), with two breeding events: from ih/3wk Oct to dy/2wk Jan at one site in Watson GrL12 (WaK1); and dy/1wk Jan Higgins GrI12 (HAR1). The first record for the year was 1/4wk Sep Melba GrJ12 (MoM1); and the last 1/1wk Mar in both O'Connor GrK13 (GrT1) and Hughes GrK15 (AnI1).

MENURIDAE: lyrebird

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Resident
General: Recorded 33 times, from 20 grid cells in Namadgi NP or Tidbinbilla NR, in most months although 10 sightings were in Jun-Jul. Range 1-6 birds. This compares with 20 records last year, suggesting a steady return to pre-fire numbers.

CLIMACTERIDAE: treecreepers

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus* Common, breeding resident
 The number of general records somewhat higher than the previous years.
General: 547 records from 122 grid cells, with half the records from just 11 cells, from all months of the year. Number of records 19% higher than the previous year. 111, or 20%, were WOO. Abundance: mean 1.7, median 1, range 1-10, 95% were 1-3 birds, max 10/27 Oct Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1) and 10/4 Jun SE of Collector GrS4 (CIG 1). 2 breeding records: ih/8 Sep Black Mt Reserve GrK13 (A1B1); and ny/30 Oct Aranda Bushland NR GrJ13 (BrM2).

GBS: Similar to the previous year on most parameters. Recorded from 7 sites (10%) over 49 weeks. Mean group size 1.10, all records being of 1 or 2 birds.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera* Uncommon, Breeding resident
 A species of the wet gullies with lower numbers recorded following the Jan 2003 fires.
General: 7 records compared with none in 2004-05 and 2 in 2003-04. Fewer than recorded most years before the Jan 2003 fires (a mean of 6.2 and a median of 5 in the 10 years pre-2003 fires). Observed in Oct, Jan, Mar in Namadgi NP and Jul, Feb, in Tallaganda SF. 4 reports of 1 bird; 3 of 2 birds. 1 breeding record: br/3 Mar Boboyan Road GrH24 (SmA1).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* Uncommon, Breeding resident
 Listed as vulnerable in the ACT owing to the loss of its woodland habitat.
General: 69 records (a little lower than the 71 records the previous year) from 23 grid cells, in all months, with 16 (23%) WOO. 17 of the records (25%) were from the Newline Quarry woodland. No clear temporal pattern. Abundance: mean 2.8, median 2, range 1-10. Most (77%) of the records of 1-3 birds, max 10/7Jan TSR 48 via Gundaroo GrO5 (Anil) and Kelly Road near Williamsdale 10/27 Jan GrL22 (Anil). No breeding recorded.

MALURIDAE: fairy-wren

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* Common, Breeding Resident
 A higher number of records than in previous years.
General: 742 records from 110 grid cells (14%), from all months, 30% more records than the previous year. 98 (13%) were WOO. Abundance: mean 6.8, median 5, range 1-50, 75% of records of 9 or fewer birds. Max 50/25 Jan JWNR and Fyshwick SP GrL14 and 50/May

Cotter Dam area GrG14 (both CIG1), and 50/29 Oct Red Hill GrK14 (AnI1). 13 breeding records (9 last year) from nb/11 Sep Uriarra Crossing GrG12 (PeH2) to dy/8 Feb Goorooyarroo NR GrM 11 (HoS1).

GBS: The mean abundance ($A=1.1113$) was 47% higher than the long-term figure, maintaining the trend of recent years. Records from 54 sites (79%) from all weeks. Most records were of 1-6 individuals (range 1-14) with a mean group size of 3.5. Particularly large parties were recorded for part of the year from 2 sites, Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) and Crace GrK12 (OrP1). Three breeding records of, presumably, a single breeding event from di/2wk Oct to dy/4wk Nov from one site in Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

PARDALOTIDAE: pardalotes, scrubwrens, gerygones, thornbills and allies

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: 641 records (with 166 (26%) from WOO and 125 (19%) from Oct Blitz). Max no in spring not exceeding 15 birds in groups or along transects, also in autumn/winter group size only twice exceeding 25 birds with 100/22 Mar, 60/26 Mar, both Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2), probably indicating poor breeding success. Fourteen breeding records from nb/16 Jul Bruce Ridge GrK13 (GrT1) to on/20 Jan Orroral Valley GrG21(IrJ1) with a few unspecified late breeding records.

GBS: Increase in abundance ($A= 0.6515$) by 29% compared with previous year and 7% above long-term average. Max 30/4wk Mar Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1). Breeding records from 4 sites, from nb/2wk Aug Aranda GrJ 13 (OrP 1) to dy/4wk Oct Kambah GrJ 16 (PeH2).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus* Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: 668 records (with 242 (36%) from WOO and 97 (15%) from Oct Blitz). Numbers in flocks appearing/ passing overall small, highest in spring: 40/6 Aug Goorooyarroo NR Gr M11, 50/13 Aug Callum Brae GrL15 (both Anti). Autumn/winter max only 30/22 Mar "Kama" GrI13 (DaC1), probably indicating poor breeding success (same trend in GBS). Twenty reports of breeding activity, from ih/3 Sep The Pinnacle NR (A1B 1), with the first dy/30 Oct Mt Taylor GrJ15 (HaB2) to dy/1 Feb LGin W (C1G1).

GBS: Recorded from 45 sites throughout the year. Increase in abundance ($A= 0.4632$) by 16% from previous year but still 22% below long-term average. Weekly max also highest in spring, 40/1wk Sep Cook GrJ 13 (TaN 1), and in autumn/winter max not exceeding 10 birds. Breeding at 3 sites, with dy/2wk Sep Aranda GrK13 and 1wk Oct CSIRO Crace GrK12 (both OrP1).

Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 5 records from 2 areas: 1/30 Oct Shanahans Mt Namadgi NP GrI26 (HoS1); and 4 records from Warks/Blundells Creek Rds in the Brindabella Range: 1/12 Jan GrD15 (SmA1); 1/22 Jan GrE15 (LiB1); 2/5 Feb, 1/27 Mar GrD15 (both SmA1).

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 234 records (incl 2 WOO, and with 52 (22%) from October Blitz), spread over all months. Counts along pathways: 18/29 Oct Red Hill to LBG GrK14 (AnI1); 20/22 Jan Blundells Creek Rd to Warks Rd GrD15/E15 (LiB1). Six breeding records, from ny/18 Aug Molonglo Reach GrL14 (A1B1) to dy 30 Oct Naas fire trail J27 (PeH2).

GBS: Recorded from 30 sites throughout the year, generally 1-4 birds. Abundance (A=O.1990) lower than previous year but still above long-term average. Breeding recorded from 2 sites: dy/2wk Oct and 3wk Mar-2wk Apr WestonGrJ15 (BoJ1); dy/1-2wk Nov Isaacs GrK16 (MaC2).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*

Uncommon, Resident

No record, last observed Feb 2005.

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 154 records (with 32 (21%) records from WOO and 16 (10%) from Oct Blitz) of mostly 1-8 birds; notable high counts 20/18 Jun Old Boboyan Rd GrH24 (FyM1), and 10/21 Jun Red Hill NR GrK14 (BeD1). Three breeding records: nb/3 Sep The Pinnacle NR GrI13; cf/30 Oct Gungahlin Hill GrK12 (both AlB1); and dy/30 Oct Gorooyaroo NR GrM11 (BoJ1).

GBS: 2 records from gardens: 2/1wk Feb Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1); and 1/3wk Feb Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1).

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 681 records (with 298 (46%) of these from WOO and 53 (8%) from Oct Blitz); all months throughout the region. Highest counts from Gorooyaroo NR GrM11: 50/5 Jul (LaS1); and 40/6 Aug (AnI 1). Ten breeding records: nb Aug and Dec, dy Oct, Nov.

GBS: Recorded from 33 sites throughout the year, from 1-15 birds. Abundance (A=O.4442) similar to previous year, close to the long-term average. One breeding record: nb/1wk Jan Watson GrL12 (Wak1).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

Rare, Visitor

Notable influx in May/June, highest numbers recorded so far in ACT, mainly around base of Black Mt.

General: 13 records: 1-3/17 & 18 May Warrina Inlet/Westbourne Woods GrJ/K14 (SmA1, ZwM1, HoS1); 15/24 May ANBG GrK13 (HoS1) and 1-6 recorded at same site 28 May to 12 Jun (SmA1, HoS1, AlB1).

GBS: 1-2/3wk May-3 wk Jun Cook GrJ13 (TaN1), plus one record not presented for appraisal.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 109 records, incl 53 (49%) from WOO. Seasonal pattern: rare Jul to early Sep, max late Sep to Nov, with highest no. records Sep (23) and average 2.3 birds/record Nov, declining presence Dec to Feb, another rush of records Mar (19), 3 records still Apr, absent May, with 1 late record Jun. First: 1/5 Jul (LaS1), next only 1/6 Aug (AnI1) both Gorooyaroo NR GrM11; last, 2/24 Jun Mt Majura Gr M12 (SmA1). Max: 6/24 Sep HAL2 GrJ11 ((NeG1). Despite many records during the breeding season only breeding from two locations: nb/1-13 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1, HoJ1); and br/15 Oct Barron Woodlands GrL16 (SmA1).

GBS: 5 records from 3 sites of single birds, from 2wk Aug Cook GrJ13 (TaN1) to 1wk May Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea* Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 211 records (with 72 (34%) from WOO and 36 (17%) from Oct Blitz). First 1/8 Aug Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1); next only 3/21 Sep SYM2 (DaG2); and last 1/24 Apr Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (CIG1); max 10/24 Sep HAL2 GrJ11 (NeG1) and 10/29 Oct Callum Brae (DaG2). Despite many records during the breeding season breeding reported only from 3 areas: nb/23 Oct Callum Brae GrL 15 (BoJ 1); plus several observations from nb to on for at least 2 pairs Campbell Park GrM13 29 Oct-17 Jan (CoE1, HoS1, HoJ1); and ny/8 Nov "Strathearn" GrN8 (TaN1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0135$) 28% below long-term average but higher than previous year. Records of mostly single birds from 12 sites 2wk Aug to 4wk Mar, max 2/2wk Feb Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 298 records, similar to previous year (with 19 (6%) from WOO and 50 (17%) from Oct Blitz). Max from counts in Brindabellas: 14/Blundells Creek Rd GrSD15/ E15 (LiB1), 21/14 Mar Blue Range Rd GrF13 (SmA1). No breeding record: lack of attention to breeding or a reflection of a poor breeding season?

GBS: Recorded from 36 sites, range 1-10 birds. Abundance ($A=0.3426$) similar to previous year and again above long-term average. Two breeding records: cf/2-3wk Nov Greenway GrJ16 (MaS3); dy/2-3wk Feb Page (A1B1).

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

General: 382 records (with 113 (29%) from WOO and 44 (12%) from Oct Blitz). Max recorded: 50/5 Jul Goorooyaroo NR GrM11 (LaS1). Sixteen breeding records from 12 areas, 21 Sep to 20 Feb, dy from 30 Oct to 20 Feb (A1B1, HoJ1, BoJ1, Anil).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.1491$) 39% above the long-term average (39%) and 51% increase over previous year. Reported from 9 sites, breeding at 1 site: ny/1-2wk Dec, dy/1wk Jan Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

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

General: 500 records (with 62 (12%) from WOO and 65 (13%) from Oct Blitz). Highest numbers from Goorooyaroo NR GrM11: 30/5 Jul (LaS1); 40/21 Jun (HoS1). Notably more breeding records: 26 records from 18 areas, from nb/16 Jul TSR43 GrH2 (HoS1); records of dy from 3 Sep to 31 Jan The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (A1B 1) and many other locations.

GBS: Recorded from 48 sites. Abundance ($A=1.1231$) lower than last year and 23% below long-term average. Highest numbers: 15/2wk Feb Kambah GrJ16 (MDN1); 20/4wk May Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1); 17/1wk Jun Higgins GrI12 (HAR1); and 20/3wk Jun Curtin (AJR1). Two sites with breeding activity: nb/4wk Aug and dy/1-2wk Nov Kambah GrK15 (VeP1); nb/3wk Jul Watson GrL12 (WaK1).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 60 records (with 5 each (8%) from WOO, WBS and Oct Blitz). In general 1 to 11 birds, but one notable max: 25/4 Jun S of Collector GrS4 (CIG1). One breeding record: nb/25 Sep Mulligans Flat GrL10 (BoJ1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0381$) 95% above long-term average, but 50% below value from previous year. 1-2 birds present on 9 sites, but more regular only at 2 sites in Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) and Gundaroo GrOO7 (NiA1).

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 286 records (with 81 (28%) from WOO and 43 (15%) from Oct Blitz). Highest counts: 20/12, 26 Jan Burra Creek GrM21 (Anil); 30/23 Apr Smiths Rd Tharwa GrJ20 (VeP 1). Notably more breeding records with 10 from 10 different sites from dy/22 Sep GOS3 GrM11 (HoS1) to br/10 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=0.0583$) 74% below long-term average and 63% below value from previous year. Reported from only 14 sites, max 10/1wk Apr Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1). No breeding record.

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 72 records, similar to previous year (with 7 (10%) from WOO, 4 WBS (6%) and 5 (7%) from Oct Blitz). Mostly 1-8 birds, higher numbers from Apr onwards: 10/12 Apr Namadgi VC GrJ19 (BoJ1); 16/19 Apr Kelly Road/TSR GrL22 (GrT1); 25/18 Jun Yankee Hat carpark GrH25 (FyM1); 20/26 Jun Brandy Flat Rd GrI23 (GrT1). Only 2 breeding records: br/28 Aug Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (SmA1); and dy/13 Jan Boboyan pines, Namadgi NP GrH25 (DeD2).

MELLIPHAGIDAE: honeyeaters and chats

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* Common, Breeding Resident
 The most commonly reported honeyeater with records throughout the year across the region.
General: 646 records (incl 104 WOO) including 31 breeding records, which at 4.8% of records is a little higher than the usual 4%. Largest numbers were recorded during autumn migration, 63/23 Apr Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1). An early breeding record for the 2004-5 season was ny/26 Jun 2004 Cook GrJ 13 (TaN 1). Next breeding record 24 Aug Campbell Pk GrM 13 (SmA1), last dy/29 Mar Queanbeyan Railway Stn GrN15 (C1G1).

GBS: Recorded at all but one of 68 sites in all weeks with breeding at 34 sites. The abundance value ($A=2.9872$) was well above the long term average but down on last year ($A=3.2524$). This is the 10th most abundant species in the GBS and the 2nd most abundant honeyeater. First breeding record was typically early: ny/3wk Jul, last dy/4wk Mar.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* Vagrant
 Very rare vagrant from coastal districts. No records this year. Last record at ANBG in Aug-Sep 2003.

General: 1 record not presented for appraisal.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* Vagrant
 Very rare vagrant from inland districts. No records this year. Last records Sep-Oct 2004.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* Common, Breeding Migrant
 Common summer migrant mostly to the lowland woodland regions.
General: 303 records (incl 97 WOO), similar to last year. First record 1/22 Aug Callum Brae NR GrL 15 (SmA 1) with regular records thereafter during spring and summer. Few records through Apr, last of regular records 1/29 Apr Newline GrM14 (SmA1). 1 overwintering record 1/17 Jun Gooroo Sth GrM13 (BoJ1). Largest number 15/25 Feb Mulligans Flat GrL11 (Anil), largest number during autumn migration only 6. 15 breeding records: first were 2

records on 19 Oct, at Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1) and nb/Stoney Ck NR GrP15 (KaJ1); last cf/20 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded at 58 of 68 sites. First arrivals 3wk Aug; last records 4wk May. Abundance (A=O.4515) was lower than last year (A=O.5402) and only half the long-term average. Breeding at 10 sites, fewer than last year. First breeding records nb/2wk Oct, last dy/4wk Feb.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Uncommon, Migrant

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

General: 5 records, 3 from Mulligans Flat GrL10, L11, 2/8 Feb, 6/12 Feb (both SmA1), and 2/15 Feb (HoS1). 2 records from Ellery Cres ANU GrK13, both 1/20 May (BeR3, HoS1). One breeding record: br/6 Feb Mulligans Flat NR GrL11 (SmA1).

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Very rare vagrant from inland districts. Only previous reports from Mathews (1943) in Wilson (1999).

General: 4 records, all presumably of the same bird at ANU GrK13, 3 May (MaT2), 20 May (SmA1 and HoS1), 13 Jun (C1G1).

Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

Rare summer visitor to the region. No records this year. Last records were in Apr 2005 from ANU.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

Vagrant

Rare species for the region, more common in coastal forests. Records for the region usually come from the upper Queanbeyan River (GrP-Q21). No records this year.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Common, Breeding Resident

Common sedentary species of woodlands.

General: 368 records, 150 (41%) from WOO surveys. 11 breeding records: first, nb/8 Aug East O'Malley GrK15 (KrS1); last, on/13 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (HoJ1).

GBS: Recorded at 23 sites, but consistently throughout the year from only 3 sites, in Cook GrJ13, Watson GrL12 and Red Hill GrK14. Breeding recorded at only 2 sites, in Cook GrJ13, dy/2wk Dec, and in Kambah GrJ16, dy from 2wk Sep-1wk Oct. Abundance has been increasing over the last few years and this year (A=O.5288) was again more than double the long term average and well above last year (A=O.3618).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Vagrant

Usually found in Tallaganda forests in the east of the region, rare further west. No records this year. Last recorded in 2003.

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: 486 records (incl 48 WOO), a large increase on 282 last year. Eleven records in Jul of overwintering birds and 5 in Aug, then 24 in May and 18 in Jun from lowland areas indicating a larger than usual number overwintering. First spring return migration reported

from the east of the region: 64/25 Aug Mayfield Rd GrZ14 (A1B1); and 30/25 Aug Lake Bathurst GrY8 (LeM1). Highest numbers during the autumn outward migration, 1427/8 Apr Smiths Rd GrJ20 (WhB2) and 1237/23 Apr at the same place (VeP1). No breeding records. GBS: Recorded at 53 of 68 sites in all but 5 weeks. Overwintering records from 11 sites during Jul-Aug. First records for spring return migration 500/4wk Aug from rural site at Hoskinstown GrS17, first in Canberra 100/1wk Sep Aranda GrJ13. Many records until 4wk Oct, then very few records through Nov-Mar. Main autumn migration started 4wk Mar. More than the usual number of overwintering records for Jun. Abundance ($A=3.5510$) was well above the long-term average and nearly 50% up on last year ($A=2.4057$). This has elevated the species to the 7th most abundant bird in the GBS and the most abundant honeyeater. No breeding records.

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

General: 278 records, up from 188 last year, throughout the year. Most of the 42 records from WOO surveys were in winter. Three breeding records: cf/29 Oct Orroral Ridge Rd GrH21 (WaK1); on/30 Oct Alpine walking track off Cotter Hut Rd GrF12 (LaS1); and dy/30 Oct Cotter Hut GrD22 (McJ4).

GBS: Recorded at 24 of 68 sites, twice 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 almost no records until 4wk Mar. Abundance ($A=0.0534$) was very similar to last year ($A=0.0571$) despite the greater number of sites, mainly due to absence of records up until the end of Mar. The A-value is still only half the long-term average and would be much lower if it was not being maintained by the consistent numbers recorded at the rural site. 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: 22 records, 12 from Tinderry area GrsP21-Q21 (all BrM2) including a record of 100/22 Mar. Other records from Australian National Gallery sculpture gardens GrL14 in Jul, Apollo Rd GrI21 and Uriarra Crossing GrG12 in Oct, Michelago GrL25 in Nov, and The Pinnacle NR GrI13 in June. 1 breeding record: dy/18 Dec Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2).

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

General: 55 records (4 WOO), those from Oct-Mar were mostly from mountain areas to the south-east and south-west of Canberra. Largest numbers 20/27 Jan Kelly Rd GrL22 (AnI1), 20/3 Mar Glendale Crossing GrH23 (SmA1), 20/22 Mar Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2). Three breeding records: ny/30 Oct Naas firetrail GrJ26 (PeH2); dy/13 Jan Boboyan Rd GrH24 (DeD2); and br/30 Mar Glendale Crossing GrH23 (SmA1).

GBS: Recorded at 7 of 68 sites, similar to last year, and with very few records from any one site. No records from 1wk Nov to 3wk May. Mostly only single birds reported. Abundance levels over the years have fluctuated greatly. This year ($A=0.0069$) it is 95% down on the long-term average. No breeding records.

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

General: 296 records from throughout the year in urban and rural areas, commonly recorded in WOO surveys (55 records this year). 25 breeding records, more than twice as many as last year: first, br/31 Jul Callum Brae GrL 15 (SmA 1); last for the season br/22 Mar Hall TSR GrJ10 (SmA1), but an early record for the 2006-07 season nb/7 Jun Symonston GrL15 (DaG2).

GBS: Records from 14 of 68 sites. Consistently throughout the year from only 2 sites, CSIRO in Gungahlin GrK 12 and Greenway GrJ 16. Abundance has fluctuated over the years but this year ($A=0.0801$) is lower than last year ($A=0.1191$) and 46% below the long term average. One breeding record: nb/2-3wk Oct and nb/2-3wk Nov from Greenway GrJ16 (MaS5).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris* Common, Breeding Resident
Now somewhat less common species of drier forests at all altitudes.

General: 136 records throughout the year, 40 of these from WOO surveys. Highest number 15/20 AO Burra Ck GrM21 (AnI1). Three breeding records: on/5 Oct Gorooyarroo NR GrM11 (DaC1); cf/27 Nov Mulligans Flat NR Gr L 11 (LaS1); and br/8 Feb Mulligans Flat NR GrL11 (SmA1).

GBS: Records from 4 sites, including a group of up to 12 at a rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17 from 1wk Jul to 2wk Sep. Urban records include a single record from Holt GrI12, and 2 sites in Cook GrJ13 including a group of up to 8 birds from 1wk Mar to 4wk Apr. Abundance ($A=0.0527$) is still well above the long-term average largely due to the influence of the rural site. No breeding records.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus* Common, Breeding Migrant
Largely migratory, departing in large flocks in autumn and returning in spring to breed in the mountain forests (but see Perkins 2006).

General: 147 records incl 10 WOO from all months but mostly from late Aug to early May. Probable overwintering records, 5 in Jul, 11 in Jun. Eleven records in Aug, some possibly of early returns, such as 10/6 Aug Tidbinbilla NR GrG17 (McJ2 10/7 Aug Orroral Valley GrG21 (A1B1) and 20/17 Aug Woods Reserve GrG18 (GrT1). No records greater than 15 birds during spring return migration. Highest number recorded during autumn migration 557/23 Apr Smiths Rd Tharwa GrJ20 (VeP1). Six breeding records: first dy/6 Nov Warks Rd GrE15 (WaK1); last 24 Mar Square Rock Track GrF19 (SmA1).

GBS: Records from 26 of 68 sites. Two distinct periods of records; the return migration from 3wk Aug to 4wk Oct, then no records until 1wk Apr when autumn migration begins. Records this year continue through May-Jun indicating a number of overwintering birds. Abundance ($A=0.2209$) is slightly higher than last year ($A=0.1995$) but still 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. Very rare vagrant with a major influx to the region in 2002-03.

General: 1 record, 1/7 Jan TSR 48, 8km N of Gundaroo GrO5 (AnI1).

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

General: 3 records, a big decrease on 9 from last year. 1/17 Aug ANBG GrK13 (HoS1), 1/21 Aug ANBG (SmA1), 2/8 Feb Tallaganda SF GrV19 (BoJ1). No breeding records.

GBS: Records from 3 sites; for only 4wk Aug in Chapman GrI15, 4wk Apr and 4wk May-4wk Jun in Kambah GrJ16, and 3wk May, 2wk-4wk Jun in Weetangera GrJ13. Abundance is highly variable. This year's ($A=0.0049$) is very similar to last year's but is 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: 80 records throughout the year, incl 48 from grevillea plantings at JWNR GrL14, and 26 records from ANBG GrK13. No breeding records.

GBS: Recorded at 6 sites. Only recorded in one week at 3 sites, Latham GrI12, Greenway GrJ16 and Weston GrJ14. Recorded in 2 weeks at 2 sites, in Aranda GrJ13 and **dolt** GrI12, and recorded in 3 weeks at a site in Higgins GrI12. Abundance for this species fluctuates greatly and this year ($A=0.0049$) was higher than last year ($A=0.0011$) but still 88% down on the long-term average. No breeding records.

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

General: 148 records, throughout the year and across the region from mountain and lowland areas. Five breeding records: 25 Sep ANBG GrK13 (SmA1); nb/29 Oct Corn Dam GrD19 (RaS1); br/3 Mar Boboyan Rd GrH24 and br/9-10 Mar ANBG GrK13 (all SmA1).

GBS: Recorded from 52 of 68 sites, in all weeks but less commonly from 1wk Oct to 3wk Jan. Abundance ($A=0.3918$) was lower than the last 3 years and 30% below the long-term average. No breeding records.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta* Rare, Migrant
Rare summer vagrant.

General: 1 record, of a male bird, 27 Oct Dendy P1 Florey GrJ12 (MaS3).

Crimson Chat *Epthianura tricolor* Vagrant
Very rare vagrant to the region from inland districts. First definite record for the ACT 2004-05. 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 6 WBS from LBath, Tarago tip and Morass S. Other records 20/12 Mar "Euroka" GrUO9 (TaN1); 3/12 Mar "Pylara" GrWO9 (HoS1); and 4/12 Mar "Pylara" GrWO9 (TaN1). No breeding records.

PETROICIDAE: robins

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 49 records, compared with 25 last year, and incl 11 WOO. Newline Quarry was the hotspot for the species, accounting for 37% of the records. Two breeding records: on/1 Oct

Newline GrM14 (CoE1); and on/15 Dec NLQ2 (BoJ1). As usual, few records from the colder months, with none in May, 1 in Jun, and 2 in Jul.

GBS: Two records, compared with one last year: 1/1wk Sep Greenway GrJ16 (MaS5); and 2/5wk Apr Weston GrJ15 (EyC1).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: A similar reporting pattern to the last three years. A total of 176 sightings incl 32 (18%) from WOO. Just two breeding records: dy/29 Oct Stoney Creek NR GrG14 (MoM3); and br/5 Nov Melrose Valley GrL17 (SmA1). Again the majority of records were from the cooler months with only 17 summer records (10%).

GBS: 18 records, from 5 sites. Recorded regularly from 1 site at Hoskinstown GrS17 from 1wk Jul until 1 wk Sep and then from 4wk Mar until end of year (KaJ1). There were 4 other records from 4 sites in the period 1wk Apr to 3wk Jun. Abundance (A=O.0097) 78% down on the long-term average.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: Recorded 6 times, in 6 separate grid cells, between Jul-Mar, all single birds. No breeding recorded.

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 101 times and from 58 grid cells, compared with 75 records from 38 grid cells in 2004-05. Two breeding records, both at Blundells Creek GrD15: dy/22 Jan (LiB1); and br/27 Mar (SmA1). Rarely recorded in the hotter months: Nov (5); Dec (1); Jan (3); and Feb(4); with all but one coming from Namadgi NP. Not recorded during the Woodland Survey. Highest count 30/12 Feb Mt Ginini GrC19 (HoS1).

GBS: Between 1-4 birds recorded 7 times from 2 sites, in Curtin and Gundaroo. No records in the period 4wk Aug to 1wk May. Abundance (A=O.0049) 63% down on the long-term average.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: A total of 13 records this year, with none from WOO and no breeding. As usual not recorded in the warmer months of Nov, Dec and Jan. This year there were no records of overwintering birds in Jul and Aug.

GBS: No records from 4wk Sep to 3wk Mar. Recorded 7 times from 4 sites from 1wk Jul to 3wk Sep and then 25 times from 7 sites from 4wk Mar to 4wk Jun. Abundance (A=O.0111) similar to last year but still down 19% on the long-term average and on the average 0.02 of the prior 3 years.

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

General: There were 3 records of a single bird in the ANBG GrK13 in the period 28 May to 8 Jun (DaG2, HoS1, SmA1). The first records since Aug 2001.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in May 1997. Over the last three years this species seems to have declined in reported numbers although the numbers involved are fairly small.

General: Very similar reporting pattern to the last 3 years, which is slightly down on the 4 years before that. A total of 29 records (incl 5 WOO), 3 of which were breeding records:

dy/30 Oct Mulligans Flat GrM10; dy/29 Nov Majura GrN13 (both Ball); and ne/26 Dec Woodland site GOO1 (TaN1). Abundance 1-6 birds, and recorded in only 12 grid cells, with the hotspots being Mulligans Flat NR, Goorooyarroo NR, Brandy Flat and Tharwa Sandwash.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* Common, Breeding Resident
General: Recorded 87 times in all months of the year from all parts of the region, a normal reporting pattern for this bird. 22% of records from ANBG GrK13. Three breeding records: all dy, 29 Oct Corin GrE19 (RaS1); 27 Nov Michelago GrL25 (TaN1); and 18 Dec Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2).
GBS: 1/3wk Mar Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1).

POMATOSTOMIDAE: **babblers**

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis* Vagrant
 2004-05 saw the first endorsed record of this species in COG's area of concern since 1968, although there have been subsequent records not presented for appraisal.
General: 3 records of a single female at Duntroon Golf Course, GrM14, 31 Jan (SmA1), 13 Mar (PeH1) and 20 Mar (HoS1). Other information sources reveal that the bird was in the same locality for the full year, building a number of roosting nests. No breeding recorded.

White-browed Babbler

The first report of this species in the Canberra region since the 1950s (Taws 2006).
General: 10 records of what is assumed to be a single bird, at Aranda Snow Gums GrK13 and the adjacent Aranda Bushland NR GrK13 from 21 Feb-19 May (both TaN1). No breeding recorded.

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: 6 records (4 in the previous year) from 3 widely-separated localities, from Sep to Mar, including 2 from fire-affected Namadgi National Park: x/12 Jan and 2/27 Mar, both Warks/Blundells Roads GrD15 (SmA1), 3 from the Tinderry Range area GrQ21 and 1 from Tallaganda SF GrV19. The 6 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 *Cinlosoma punctatum* Uncommon, Breeding resident
 A bird of the dry forests now rarely recorded in its former strongholds in Namadgi NP and Tidbinbilla NR owing to fire-damaged habitats.
General: 6 records from 3/29 Oct GrG22 Nursery Swamp track (SmA1) to 2/3Mar Nursery Creek GrH23 (SmA1). The intervening records were 1/5 Feb Warks/Blundells Ck Rds GrD15 (SmA1), 2/12 Feb Mt Franklin Rd GrD16 (HoS1), 3/12 Feb Mt Franklin Rd Gr17 (HoS1) and 1/3 Mar Swampy Plain GrH24 (SmA1). No breeding recorded.

NEOSITTIDAE: **sittella**

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* Uncommon, Breeding resident

This species was declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in December 2003. More records than last year, and many more than in previous years.

General: 94 records (incl 15 WOO) compared with 88 last year, from all months. Recorded from 32 grid cells (4%), with 16% of all records from Campbell Park GrM13. Abundance: mean 3.8, median 3, range 1-20, 77% being of 1-4 birds, highest counts 14/22 Mar Urila Rd, Tinderry GrP21 (BrM2) and 20/15 Mar Callum Brae GrL15 (GrT1). Eight breeding records (5 last year) from nb/5 Oct Campbell Park area GrM13 (HoS1) to dy/19 Dec "Kama" (DaC1).

GBS: 4 records from 3 sites (Watson, Hoskinstown and Cook), from 5wk Jan to 5wk Apr with abundance ranging from 2 to 6. No breeding recorded.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE: **whistlers and allies**

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 28 times through the year incl 4 WOO, from 14 grid cells. Three breeding records: a group of up to 8 birds feeding 3 young on 1 Feb and 6 Feb at LGIN W GrJ12 (CIG1); and br/22 Mar Hall GrJ10 (SmA1).

GBS: A single bird recorded 7 times from 4wk Jul to 4wk Sep at Crace GrK12 (OrP1).

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: A single record: 1/25 Jul Tallaganda SF GrV19 (GrT1).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* Common, Breeding Resident

General: Although there were 203 records, no breeding was recorded. 23 of the records (11%) were from WOO. Again few records (only 8%) in the warmer months, with 5 in Nov, 2 in Dec, 4 in Jan, and 6 in Feb.

GBS: This species continues to decline in reporting rates. This year abundance is down to A=0.1012 compared with O.1101 last year and is down 32% against the long-term average. It was reported from 36 sites (53%), down from 63% last year and 70% - 78% in the 5 years before that. As usual, few records in summer, with only 1 site in Aranda GrJ 13 recording a single bird 5 times.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris* Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 480 times (incl 131 WOO), an increase on the last four years' counts of 331, 276, 289 and 364. Range 1-10 birds. Breeding was recorded 11 times, the earliest being on/29 Oct Mt Taylor GrJ15 (IoA1) and the latest cf/31 Jan The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (A1B1). The bird virtually disappeared from the area in the colder months, being recorded only 8 times in the four months Jul, Aug, May and Jun.

GBS: This year's abundance (A=0.0284) was down from last year (O.0391) and well down on the O.08/O.09 levels of the mid-1990s. Recorded from 17 sites (25%) compared with 21% last year. Only 5 records in the months of Jul, Aug and Jun, all of single birds.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica* Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 410 times throughout the year from all over the local area, incl 54 WOO (13%); an increase on last year's 293 records. Range 1-8 birds. Breeding was recorded 7 times, from on/19 Nov "Warrambui" GrK5 (TaN1) to dy/ 20 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1).

GBS: A comparable pattern to last year, with a similar abundance ($A=0.0742$ this year) and with records from 19 sites (28%) of sites compared with 17 sites (27%) last year. Records of 1-2 birds, with the exception of 4/3wk Jan Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1), a site which recorded the species regularly throughout the year.

DICRURIDAE: monarchs, flycatchers, fantails

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis* Rare, Visitor

General: A single juvenile bird was found dead, having presumably flown into a window, on 1 April at Womboin GrQ12 (CoD2). Previous record Mar 2004.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* Common, Breeding Migrant

This species stayed one month later than usual in our area this year with regular recordings until mid-April.

General: Recorded 145 times including 28(19%) during WOO. First record for the year was 4/1 Oct GOO1 GrM 11 (TaN 1). This year birds stayed later than usual with 8 records after the middle of March, the final one being 3/24 Apr Shepherds Lookout GrH 12 (C1G 1). Breeding was recorded 18 times, the first being nb/30 Oct Gossan Hill GrK12 (HaK1) and the last a late dy/20 Mar Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (C1G1). An earlier breeding record was most probably courtship feeding.

GBS: The abundance level of $A=0.0184$ dropped from last year's high of $A=0.0417$ down to the $0.02/0.03$ level of previous years. The number of sites recording the bird (12, or 18%) continues to drop compared with 22% last year and 28% - 35% of the previous three years. The first record for the year was 1/2wk Oct Watson GrL12 (WaK1) and the last 2/1wk Apr at Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* Common, Breeding Migrant

A summer migrant, usually recorded in the Brindabella Range, and very occasionally on passage through the suburbs.

General: Recorded 24 times with three breeding records: two were of nb/ 6 Nov Warks Rd GrE15 (WaK1); and the other dy/22 Jan Blundells Ck Rd GrE15 (LiB1). First record was 3/29 Oct Old Boboyan Rd GrH26 (SmM4); and last, 2/21 Mar Namadgi NP GrH24 (SmA1).

GBS: Single birds recorded once each at 3 sites: 5wk Oct Macquarie (LaS1); 3wk Feb Watson (MuT1); and 2wk Apr Melba (MoM1).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 26 times this year (incl 1 WOO), similar to the last two years but down on the previous 4 years. No breeding, though one immature bird was recorded, 29 Mar Yarramundi Reach GrK13 (CuR1). Half the sightings were in Feb, Mar and Apr with none in Jul and Aug.

GBS: 5 records of 1 or 2 birds from a rural site between 4wk Mar and 3wk Jun Gundaroo GrO7 (NiA 1) and 1/2wk Apr Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca* Common, Breeding Resident

Of the 38 breeding observations, 15 were made during the weekend of 29-30 Oct when COG conducted its "Bird Blitz".

General: Recorded 619 times across our area in all months. Regularly seen in large aggregations. There were 38 breeding observations but some of these were of the same nest on different occasions. First, nb/24 Sep CMP2 GrM13 (LeM1); last, dy/22 Feb LGin GrJ12 (CIG1). The Woodland Survey contributed 109 sightings (18%) incl 1 breeding record.

GBS: Recorded at every site, with breeding reported from 21 sites (31%). First breeding nb/2wk Aug Isaacs GrK16 (MaC2), which was a month earlier than last year; last dy/3wk Mar Deakin GrK14 (RoD2). This year there was only one example of a double brood, in Watson (WaK1). Abundance ($A=2.2084$) was similar to last year's.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 16 times including the first breeding record for seven years, dy/8 Feb Lowden Forest Park GrW19 (BoJ1). The first record for the year was 1/29 Oct Warks Rd GrE15 (LiB1), and the last 1/7 Apr Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (CIG1).

GBS: Single birds recorded once each at 3 sites: 4wk Feb Watson (WaK1); 2wk Mar O'Connor (GrT1); and 4wk Mar Cook (TaN1).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

A movement of groups through our area was recorded at the beginning of April (Allan 2006).

General: Recorded 722 times including 16 breeding records. The first breeding was nb/24 Sep Hall Common Gri11 (NeG1) and the last dy/12 Mar "Pylara" GrW9 (HoS1). This year there appeared to be a movement through the Canberra Nature Park at the beginning of April. A large flock of 100+ was recorded on 2 Apr at The Pinnacle NR GrH12 (A1B1), groups of between 8 and 16 were recorded at Shepherds Lookout (also grid H12) on 10 visits between 31 Mar and 24 Apr (C1G1), a group of 10 was seen on Mount Rogers on 27 Mar GrH12 (B1R1) and 8 were recorded on 1 Apr at Red Hill GrK14 (PeH2). The Woodland Survey contributed 173 records this year (including one breeding record) compared with 157 last year. The number of sightings in the three winter months of July, August and June was 5% (the average of previous years) down from the high of 10% last year.

GBS: Continues to decline in reporting rates. The abundance this year ($A=0.2167$) was down compared with $A=0.2678$ last year and $0.34/0.36$ in previous years. Recorded from 43 sites (63%) compared with 68% last year and 85% to 90% of earlier years. No breeding reported.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 407 times incl 34 WOO. Seventeen breeding records, from on/23 Oct Callum Brae GrL15 (BoJ1) to dy/LGin GrJ12 (CIG1). Again a decrease in sightings in winter, with only 10% of records from the three winter months.

GBS: The abundance this year of $A=0.2004$ was similar to last year; records from 41 sites (60%).

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Rare, Migrant

GBS: 1/20 Apr Holt GrI12 (DaC1). First endorsed record of this species since Feb 2002.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE: cuckoo-shrikes, cicadabird, trifler

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* Common, Breeding Res/Migrant
 A widespread, easily identified, largely summer migrant with numbers up on the previous year. **General:** 438 records, a 34% increase on the previous year. From 90 grid cells (12%). WOO 22%. Recorded from all months with only 12 winter records. Abundance: mean 2.1, median 2, range 1-34, 78% were of 1 or 2 birds. Just 5 records of 10 or more birds with max 34/28 Mar Queanbeyan SP GrN15 (SmA1). Sixteen breeding records (similar to the previous year), from nb/7 Oct Hawker GrI12 (A1B1) to br/27 Feb Callum Brae GrL15(SmA1).

GBS: Recorded from 53 sites (78%) in all months, with relatively few records in July (19) Aug (21) and Jun (4). Abundance (A=O.2372) was 54% below the long-term figure. Most observations were of 1 or 2 birds, with 8 records of 4, 3 of 6 and one of 8. This included the hotspot at Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1) with 2-8 birds during almost every week from 4wk Oct to 4wk Mar. Seven breeding records from 5 sites from di/3wk Sep Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) to dy/3 wk Mar Cook GrJ13 (BrM2).

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: One record not presented for appraisal.

Cicadabird *Coracina papuensis* Uncommon, Migrant
 This illusive species was recorded more frequently in the past than now, owing to fire damage to its breeding areas in the wet forests to the west of Canberra.
General: 1 record, the first since Dec 2003: 1/15 Nov Goorooyaroo NR GrM11 (HoS1). No breeding recorded.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant
 Another species declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in December 2003. Records similar to the previous year on most parameters.
General: 82 records (80 the previous year), the highest number recorded since 1988-89 (151). Annual numbers have fluctuated markedly since then. From 36 grid cells (5%). 8 WOO (10%). All records from September to March: first 1/24 Sep CAS GrJ18 (McD1); last 3/7 Mar Uriarra Station dam GrF13 (SmA1). Widely distributed in woodland and other open country. Abundance: mean 2.1, median 2, range 1-6, 71% of records of 1 or 2 birds. Thirteen breeding records, from nb/29 Oct Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (MaR4) to dy/20 Jan Campbell Park area M13 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded from 3 sites from 4/3wk Oct Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) to 1/3wk Jan Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1). Abundance ranged from 1 to 5. No breeding reported.

ORIOLIDAE: oriole

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* Common, Breeding Migrant
 A migratory woodland species not uncommonly recorded in Canberra suburbs. Generally the first of the summer migrants to return to our region.

General: 141 observations from 45 grid cells; 24% were WOO. A 36% increase in number of records over last year's 104. Abundance: mean 1.4, median 1, range 1-6, all records of 1-3 birds except for 4/30 Oct Kambah Pool GrI16 (BeR3), 5/30 Oct Mt Ainslie SW GrL13 (LeM 1) and 6/19 Oct Stoney Creek NR GrP 15 (KaJ1). Found across the region from late Aug to Apr: first 2/28 Aug Callum Brae GrL15 (HoS1); last 1/23 Apr Kambah Pool carpark GrI16 (FrM1). Just 1 breeding record cf. 6 last year: nb/24 Sep CAS GrJ18 (McD1).

GBS: Abundance ($A=O.0409$) 29% below the long-term mean. Recorded at 19 sites (27.9%); all of 1-2 birds, from 3wk Aug Deakin (RoD2) to 1wk May Watson (MuT1). 1 breeding record: dy/2wk Jan at Watson (WaK1).

ARTAMIDAE: woodswallows, butcherbirds, magpie, currawongs

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

Rare, Visitor

No records, cf. 3 general records and 1 GBS record last year.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

Uncommon Breeding Migrant

The number of records of this woodland species was similar to previous years but far below the number from the 2002-03 irruption.

General: 2 records from 2 grid cells : 30/7 Jan TSR 48 via Gundaroo GrO05 (Anil) and 2/11 Feb Newline Paddocks GrM 14 (SmA1). A stark contrast to the 12 records the previous year and the massive 55 in 2002-03.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

A migrant woodland species; some over-winter. The highest number of records since the late 1980s.

General: 212 records (incl 14 WOO) from 69 grid cells (9%), from all months except Jun, with lower numbers of records in winter. Number of records highest since ACT Atlas period (1988-89: 426 records), 37% higher than last year (155) and well above the mean of 93 for the 15 years before then. Abundance: mean 5.6, median 4, range 1-80, 76% of records being 1-6. Largest flocks 80/21 Jul Kellys Swamp paddocks GrL14 (LaS1), 50/1 and 8 Sep, both Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). Forty-one breeding records cf 28 last year, from nb/3 Oct Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1) to dy/28 Feb Gorooyarroo NR GrM11 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded at 11 sites (16%) over 39 weeks, 40% above the long-term average. Recorded throughout much of the year at a site in Curtin (AJR1); from Nov to Feb at a site at Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1); and Aug-Dec at CSIRO Crace (OrP1). Group size ranged from 1-40 ($G=6.0$) and the A value ($O.1612$) is 30% above the long-term mean. No breeding records.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A woodland species more frequently recorded this and last year than in the recent past.

General: 190 records from 55 grid cells (7%), in all months. 54 records WOO (28%); 34 records (18%) from a site at Burra Creek GrM21 (AnI1). Abundance: mean 1.3, median 1, range 1-6, 72% of records were of 1 bird, max 6/25 Feb Mulligans Flat NR GrM11 (AnI1). 2 breeding records: on/30 Oct Naas Valley near Mt Clear campground GrI27 (HoS1); dy/12 Dec Westbourne Woods GrJ12 (CuR1).

GBS: Above long-term means on key parameters. Recorded at 18 sites (twice the long-term mean) over 35 weeks (4 times the long-term mean), in all months, though most records in

Feb-Jun. Five sightings of 2 birds, the remainder 1 bird. Abundance ($A=0.0246$) and reporting rate ($R=2.29$) both 4 times the long-term means. No breeding recorded.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

Rare, Visitor

General: One endorsed record: 1/30 Jan Lumley Rd GrZ8 (LeM1). The previous record was Jul 2003.

GBS: One record not presented for appraisal.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 1,113 records from 137 grid cells (18%) from all months, incl 305 WOO (27%). A 17% increase on the previous year but still well below the 1,635 records in 2000-01. Abundance: mean 4.7, median 3, range 1-185, 76% of records being 1-5 birds, max 185/9 Apr Morass South GrZ8 (LeM1). Eighty-seven breeding records (38 last year) from nb/13 Aug Mt Rogers GrJ 11 (B1R1) to dy/21 Jan Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (A1B 1). Plus one early record for the coming year: br/9 Jun Mt Ainslie GrL13 (SmA1).

GBS: Recorded from all sites and in all weeks, with most parameters similar to the long-term figures. Ranked 9th most abundant species ($A=3.4116$). Mean group size 3.7 with the largest 20/5wk Jan at Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1). Breeding records from 32 sites (47%) from nb and cf/3wk Jul to dy/2wk Feb.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* Common, Breeding Resident

A higher number of general records than the previous two years.

General: 645 records from 123 grid cells (16%), from all months, 33% more than the previous year; 107 WOO (16%). Abundance: mean 3.4, median 2, range 1-171, 76% of records were of 1-3 birds, just 22 of 10 or more. Max (roost flight) 171/3 Jul Mt Majura dams GrM13 (LeM 1). Forty breeding records (18 last year) from di/8 Sep Black Mt NR GrK 13 (DaC 1) to dy/11 Feb Burra Creek GrM21 (Anl1).

GBS: 6th most abundant species ($A=3.7601$), recorded in all weeks, with records from all sites. Max group size 45 from Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3). Breeding records from 37 sites (54%) from co/5wk Jul to dy/5wk Jan.

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: 142 records from 46 grid cells (6%), from all months with 29 WOO (20%). Abundance: mean 1.5, median 1, range 1-15, 103 records (73%) being of 1 bird and 30 (21%) of 2, max 15/13 Feb Googong Dam wall GrO17 (BoS2). Three breeding records: dy/30 Oct Mt Painter area GrJ13 (BrM2); dy/19 Dec SYM GrL15 (DaG2); and dy/1 Feb LGin W GrJ12 (C1G1).

GBS: Recorded at 21 sites (31%), in all months and all but 3 weeks. Most records of 1 or 2 birds (mean group size 1.35), plus 5 of 3, 1 of 4 and 7/2wk Jul Isaacs GrK15 (HoA1). 2-3 recorded from a site at Cook each week from 2wk Jan to 4wk Jun. Abundance ($A=0.0815$) similar to the long-term mean. No breeding records.

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

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 816 records from 121 grid cells (16%), with the number of records up 28% on the previous year, from all months. 162 records WOO (20%). Abundance: mean 2.6, median 2, range 1-70, 80% were of 1-3 birds, max 70/30 Oct Barron Woodland area GrL16 (DaG2). Twenty-seven breeding records compared with 18 in the previous year, from nb/23 Jul Black Mt NR GrK13 (DaC1) to dy/23 Jan LGin W GrJ12 (CIG1) and resuming with nb/25 Jun Hall Common GrJ11 (NeG1) and nb/28 Jun John Knight Park GrJ12 (TaN1).

GBS: Recorded from 66 sites (97%) and in every week. Abundance ($A=1.3589$) 32% above the long-term mean. Mean group size 2.3, range 1-13, max 13/2wk Oct Hackett GrL13 (BoS2). Breeding at 12 sites from nb at 2 sites in 1wk Jul to dy/2wk Feb, and recommencing with nb/2wk Jun.

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 Australian Ravens.

General: 80 records, from all months, from 45 grid cells (6%), contrasted with last year 37 records from 23 cells. Abundance: mean 21 (14 last year), median 7, range 1-200, 10 records of 50 or more, max 200/8 Apr Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). 1 breeding record: ny/30 Oct Naas Valley nr Mt Clear campground GrI27 (HoS1).

GBS: 23 records from 8 sites during 21 weeks with no clear temporal pattern. The mean group size was 7 (29 last year) with the largest 20 at 3 sites in Oct, Feb and Apr. Abundance ($A=0.0565$) was 35% lower than the long-term mean. No breeding recorded.

CORCORACIDAE: though**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: 293 records from 62 grid cells (8%), a 40% increase on the number of records for last year, from all months. 74 were WOO (25%). Abundance: mean 7.9, median 6, range 1-100, 2% were more than 10 birds, max 44/25 Oct "Kama" Woodland GrI14 (DaC1) and 100/19 Mar GOS GrM11 (HoS1). 40 breeding records (20 the previous year) from nb/16 Jul Greenwood Road Murrumbateman GrJO5 (HoS1) to dy/29 Mar Mt Ainslie NR GrL13 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded from 29 sites (43%) in all weeks of the year. Abundance ($A=0.7181$) close to twice the long-term mean. Mean group size 9.63, range 1-40, max 40/1-3wk May O'Connor GrK13 (GrT1). Breeding records from five sites, from ny/3wk Oct to dy/5wk Apr, and then nb/3-4wk Jun.

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: 42 records from 21 grid cells (3%), contrasted with 31 records from 14 grid cells last year. Recorded in all months. Abundance: mean 1.9, median 1, range 1-11, max 11/7 Aug Orroral Valley GrG21 (A1B1). 1 breeding record: br/5 Feb Warks/ Blundells Roads GrD15 (SmA1).

GBS: Recorded at 25 sites (37%), 150% above the long-term mean, in all weeks of the year. The mean group size was 1.9, range 1-6, max 20/3wk Apr Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1). No clear seasonal pattern, but birds recorded in most weeks of the year at Yarralumla GrK14 (CCR1) and Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4). Breeding records from 3 sites from nb/5wk Oct Red Hill GrK14 (GrR2) to dy/5wk Jan Deakin GrK14 (RoD2).

ALAUDIDAE: larks

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

Rare, Visitor

General: Three endorsed records: 1/7 Nov and 30 Jan LBath GrY8 (LeM1); and 1/12 Mar nr Tarago GrV8 (HoS1). Plus one record not presented for appraisal. These are the first records since Dec 2003. The species is probably overlooked.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 66 times, incl 1 WOO, with only 4 records in Jul and Jun. A considerable increase on last year's 38 records. No breeding recorded.

GBS: 1/4wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).

MOTACILLIDAE: pipit

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 134 times (incl 6 WOO) with only 2 breeding records: di/29 Oct Corin Rd GrH17 (LaD1); and nb/23 Nov Goorooyaroo NR GrM11 (HoS1). Only 8 of the records were in the months of July, May, and June.

GBS: 8 records of 1-3 birds from a site in Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) between 3wk Jul-5wk Oct, plus a further record there 2wk Feb.

PASSERIDAE: sparrow, grass-finches

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 142 non-breeding records (incl 10 WOO), compared with 101 in 2004-05. Range: 1-20 birds. Only 3 breeding records, from nb/28 Oct (HoS1) to ny/25 Jan (C1G1), both JWNR GrL14.

GBS: Eighth most abundant bird in the GBS, up from tenth in 2004-05. Abundance (A=3.5357) up from 2004-05 (A=3.0793) representing a partial reversal of a long-term decline (e.g. A=6.0488 in 1999-2000). Range: 1-60 birds. Found in 54 sites (79.4%). Breeding recorded from 9 sites: earliest, on/1wk Sep Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2); latest, dy/1wk Feb Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1).

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Rare, Breeding Visitor/Escapee

General: 1 record: 2/6 Jul Fassifern Pond GrI1 1 (CuR1), compared with 6 records in 2004-05.

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 97 records (incl 8 WOO), compared with 78 in 2004-05. A surprisingly large group of 40/11 Aug Cork plantation GrJ 14 (BrM2). Unusually, no breeding recorded.
GBS: Abundance (A=O.0579), down from 2004-05 (A=O.0894) and well below historical levels e.g. 1999-2000 (A=O.1971). Recorded at 8 sites (11.8%).

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 154 records (incl 5 WOO), compared with 88 records in 2004-05. Largest group 67/12 May ANBG eucalyptus lawn GrK13 (Curl). Nine breeding records: earliest, nb/28 Oct JWNR. GrL14 (HoS1); latest, br/28 Mar Queanbeyan SP GrN15 (SmA1).

GBS: Abundance (A=O.1273), continuing a long-term decline: 2004-05 (A=O.2960) 2003-2004 (A=O.4799) and 1999-2000 (A=O.4909). Seen in 11 sites (16.2%). Breeding recorded from 1 site: nb/1 wk Oct Deakin GrK14 (RoD2).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* Uncommon, Breeding Resident
General: 102 records (incl 4 WOO), compared with 60 in 2004-05. From 33 widespread grid cells; max 60/19 Apr Kelly Rd GrL22 (GrT1). Nine breeding records: earliest, nb/6 Aug Castle Hill GrJ18 (VeP1); latest, dy/6 Mar Goorooyarroo NR GrM11 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded from 2 sites: 4/4wk Jun Gundaroo GrOO7 (NiA1), 1-2/4wk Oct, 3wk Jan Hoskinstown GrS 17 (KaJ1).

FRINGILLIDAE: finches

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Rare, Breeding Resident
General: 12 records (2 WOO), compared with 14 in 2004-05; mostly from JWNR GrL14.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Common, Breeding Resident
General: 136 records, incl 2 WOO (NLQ), compared with 88 in 2004-05. Max: 60/23 May JWNR GrL14 (HoS1). One breeding record: dy/8 Mar JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).
GBS: Abundance (A=O.0506) significantly lower than 2004-05 (A=O.1176) and below historical levels e.g. 2001-02 (A=O.1746). Recorded from 8 sites (11.8%).

DICAEIDAE: mistletoebird

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* Common, Breeding Migrant
General: 179 records (incl 78 WOO), compared with 136 in 2004-05. Max: 7/30 Oct Mulligans Flat NR GrM10 (BoJ1). Four breeding records, from co/18 Sep Newline Quarry GrM14 (A1B1) to on/6 Nov Mulligans Flat NR (HoS1).

GBS: Abundance (A=O.0191) down from 2004-05 (A=O.0229) and below historical levels e.g. 1999-2000 (A=O.0537). Recorded from 7 sites (10.3%).

HIRUNDINIDAE: swallow, martins

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* Common, Breeding Resident
General: Recorded 279 times incl 6 WOO; range 1-100 birds. Five breeding records, the first ne/9 Sep inside Magnet Mart Belconnen GrJ12 and the last, on/2 Nov Warrina Inlet GrJ14 (both CuR1). Birds again recorded in May and June, especially over water.

GBS: The abundance this year ($A=O.2764$) was quite a rise from the $A=O.2111$ of last year and the average level of $O.23$ in previous years. Conversely the bird was recorded from only 22 sites (32%) compared with the normal average of 40%.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans* Common, Breeding Migrant
The "Bird Blitz" helped in increasing the recording of breeding for this species.

General: Six breeding records were recorded in the short period 14 to 30 October with 4 being on the same date of the 30th. In total 112 records, incl 19 WOO (17%). Again very few winter records with only 1 record in both Apr and Jun, and 0 in May and Jul.

GBS: Recorded 16 times from 6 sites between 3wk Aug and 5wk Apr with the highest number being 8 birds in 4wk Jan.

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel* Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 37 times including 6 breeding records (on, dy) between 29 Oct and 1 Dec at the Dunlop Grasslands Grids Ill, H11 (BaJ1, CuR1). First record for the year was x/21 Aug Acacia Inlet GrJ13 (SmA1) and the last at JWNR GrL14 on 27 Mar (HoS1).

SYLVIIDAE: old-world warblers

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 130 records compared with 79 last year, from 22 grid cells with 71 (55%) from JWNR and environs GrL14, from 3/2 Sep Fyshwick SP GrL14 (HoS1) to 1/21 Apr MJF GrM12 (BoJ1). Abundance: mean 4.4, median 3, range 1-22, max 22/29 Oct LGin W GrJ12 (A1B1). Four breeding records from on/29 Oct LGin Peninsula GrJ12 (A1B1) to dy/27 Jan LGin W GrJ12 (C1G1).

GBS: 1 or 2 birds from 4wk Sep to 3wk Oct CSIRO Crace GrK12 (OrP1) and 1 during various weeks in the period 1wk Sep to 3wk Mar Greenway GrJ16 (MaS3). No breeding reported.

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 42 records (2.5 times last year's figure) from 3 grid cells: 34 from Kellys Swamp area GrL14; 7 from LGin GrJ12; and 2 from Bogong Creek area GrG25 in all months except Jul, Apr and Jun; 16 (38%) in Jan. Abundance: mean: 1.2, median 1, range 1-7; 30 (86%) of the 35 records providing abundance data were of 1 or 2 birds; max 7/25 Jan JWNR/Fyshwick SP GrL14 (C1G1). No breeding recorded.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi* Common, Breeding Migrant

A woodland migrant whose numbers have increased in recent years.

General: 105 (compared with 64, 45, 16 & 31 records in the 4 preceding years) from 35 grid cells (4% of the total) with grid cell 115 (Cooleman Ridge) the hotspot with 21 records (20%). WOO comprised 13%. Recorded from all months but Aug, Sep & Jun, but with 2 surprising Jul records. Abundance: mean 3.0, median 3, range 1-20, 67% of records were of 1 or 2 birds, max 20/30 Oct "Huntly" Urriara Road GrH13 (OvA1) and 20/7 Jan TSR 48 via Gundaroo GrO05 (AnI1). Probable first return: 1/3 Oct Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1); last 1/18 May "Kama" GrI13 (DaC 1). Eight breeding records compared with none last year, from on/6 Nov Gundaroo area GrN8 (TaN 1) to dy/25 Jan Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (C1G 1).

GBS: Recorded at 2 sites: 1 /2wk Oct Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1); and 1 weekly from 2wk Oct to 1wk Dec CSIRO Crace GrK12 (OrP1). No breeding reported.

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

A rarely recorded summer migrant.

General: 17 records, incl 3 WBS, an unusually large number compared with previous years, from 7 widespread grid cells from 4/29 Oct to 1/1 Feb, both Dunlop Grasslands GrI11 (BaJ1). Three breeding records: all di/29 Oct Dunlop Grasslands NR (BaJ1).

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A cryptic grass bird.

General: 66 records (36 last year) from 9 grid cells with 42 (62%) from JWNR and environs GrL14. Recorded in all months except Dec. Abundance: mean 2.3, median 2, range 1-9, 76% of records of 1 or 2 birds, max 9/25 Jan JWNR/ Fyshwick SP GrL14 (C1G1). One breeding record: nb/23 Oct Kellys Swamp GrL14 (PeH2).

GBS: 10 records, of 1-5 birds, from a single site in Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) between 1wk Dec and 1wk Jun.

ZOSTEROPIDAE: **silvereeye**

Silvereeye *Zosterops lateralis*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: 267 records (incl 31 WOO), compared with 214 in 2004-05. Max: 50/27 Mar JWNR GrL14 (HoS1). Most commonly recorded on passage, with 62 records (23%) in Oct and 66 (25%) in Mar/Apr. Only 1 breeding record: cf/28 Oct JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: Fifth most abundant bird in the GBS, as last year. Abundance (A=3.8811) down slightly from 2004-05 (A= 3.9718) and continuing a decline from 2001-02 (A=6.3723). This year's figure is 33% below the long-term average. Reported from 64 sites (94.1%). Breeding recorded from 3 sites, from dy/3wk Nov Page GrJ12 (A1B1) to dy/2wk Feb Kambah GrJ16 (VeP1).

MUSCICAPIDAE: **thrushes**

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 2 records: 1/27 Mar Warks/Blundells Ck Rds GrD15 (SmA1); and 1/17 Jul ANBG GrKI3 (BoJ1).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 196 records (incl 4 WOO), compared with 123 in 2004-05. Generally 1-4 birds recorded, with a few larger counts from "within 5km" surveys. Four breeding records: earliest, nb/6 Oct JWNR GrL14 (HoS1); latest, ny/10 Nov Munday Lane GrI08 (HaK1).

GBS: Abundance (A=1.3949) similar to 2004-05 (A=1.3952). Recorded from 63 sites (92.6%). Breeding recorded from 10 sites, from nb/1wk Sep Page J12 (A1B I) to cf/4wk Jan Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2).

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

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 553 records (incl 115 WOO), compared with 375 records in 2003-04. Recorded throughout the year and often in large flocks, e.g. 1500/9 Apr Morass S GrZ8 (LeM1). Forty-six breeding records, from ih/1 Aug Tarago tip GrY9 (LeM 1) to br/5 Jan Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1).

GBS: This year, eleventh most abundant species recorded in the GBS, down from fourth position in 2004-05. Abundance ($A=2.8949$) dramatically down from 2004-05 ($A=4.1747$) continuing a long-term decline since 1995-96 ($A=9.8804$). Recorded from 47 sites (69.1%), in numbers ranging from 1-230. Breeding recorded from 6 sites.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 304 records (incl 55 WOO), compared with 158 in 2004-05. Sixteen breeding records, from ih/5 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1) to dy/2 Feb LGin W GrJ12 (CIG1).

GBS: This year, third most abundant species recorded in the GBS, despite the work of CIMAG. Abundance ($A=4.9587$), slightly higher than in 2004-05 ($A=4.8009$) and 74% above the long-term average. Range 1-90 birds. Recorded from 66 sites (97.1%). Breeding recorded from 11 sites, from ih/3wk Aug Watson GrL12 (WaK1) to dy/2wk Mar Pearce GrK15 (KrS1).

TABLE 1. Number of records per species for each survey type

ABA: Australian Bird Atlas BA: Birds Australia INC: Incidental Record WOO: Woodland GA: Greening Australia Survey WBS: Waterbird Survey

Species	Total ABA		BA GA GDE INC WBS WOO						
Australian Magpie	1113	544	188	6	14	13	6	305	
Crimson Rosella	1082	557	151	3	24	8	2	308	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	818	402	144	3	18	4	4	219	
Australian Raven	816	445	155	1	21	11	2	162	
Galah	757	381	126	3	17	5	5	198	
Superb Fairy-wren	742	425	170	6	12	8	4	98	
Grey Fantail	722	389	120	5	4	10	1	173	
Weebill	681	298	63	3	1	7		298	
Striated Pardalote	668	300	76	5	20	7		242	
Eastern Rosella	646	328	85	4	16	6	4	187	
Red Wattlebird	646	387	115	2	13	11	1	104	
Pied Currawong	645	389	110	2	20	6		107	
Spotted Pardalote	641	362	71		18	6		166	
Magpie-lark	619	328	142	3	4	11	3	109	
Common Starling	553	288	119	3		3	6	115	
White-throated Treecreeper	547	323	71	2	21	1		111	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	500	296	100	4		13	7	62	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	486	335	68	3	6	11	1	48	
Rufous Whistler	480	257	67	3		6	2	131	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	438	229	86	2	8	12	1	88	
Laughing Kookaburra	420	249	93	3	2	9		55	
Grey Shrike-thrush	410	278	44	3	4	9	4	54	
Willie Wagtail	407	249	85	1		16	9	34	
Australian Wood Duck	403	249	82	3	6	11	3	43	
Pacific Black Duck	393	229	112		3	5	6	22	
Crested Pigeon	388	199	124	1	1	7	5	43	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	382	200	42	4	16	2		113	
Noisy Miner	368	147	55	2		8		150	
Common Myna	304	172	62			9		55	
Noisy Friarbird	303	141	42	1	10	7		97	
Red-rumped Parrot	300	159	65			15	3	51	
Brown Thornbill	298	208	53	2				19	
White-plumed Honeyeater	296	173	58	1		4		55	
White-winged Chough	293	140	62	2	3	8		74	
Striated Thornbill	286	155	38	2	3			81	
Welcome Swallow	279	161	81	2		6	7	6	
White-eared Honeyeater	278	181	33	4		3	1	42	
Silvereye	267	152	68	1	1	1		31	
White-browed Scrubwren	234	146	80	1				2	

Eurasian Coot	217	129	68			14	1	1
Dusky Woodswallow	212	129	39	1		25	2	14
White-faced Heron	212	111	53			19	8	8
White-throated Gerygone	211	98	33	3		2		72
Golden Whistler	203	123	30		7	6	1	23
Grey Teal	203	87	78			8	15	8
Masked Lapwing	201	115	57			11	14	1
Common Blackbird	196	111	74			1		4
Dusky Moorhen	190	116	65			7		
Grey Butcherbird	190	80	34			10	2	54
Mistletoebird	179	86	13	1		1		78
Scarlet Robin	176	101	21	1	4	9	1	32
Purple Swamphen	163	87	73			3		
Little Pied Cormorant	161	107	32			6		5
Black Swan	159	76	56			8	16	
Speckled Warbler	154	75	42			4		32
Red-browed Finch	154	79	63			2	1	5
Eastern Spinebill	148	104	30			2		6
White-naped Honeyeater	147	97	28	1	1	2	2	10
Nankeen Kestrel	146	65	39			20	6	12
Leaden Flycatcher	145	86	18	1	4	6		28
Australian King-Parrot	144	56	45		18	3		21
Grey Currawong	142	86	17		3	3		29
Australasian Grebe	142	65	44			15		14
House Sparrow	142	73	56			1		10
Olive-backed Oriole	141	60	23	2	5	10	1	38
European Goldfinch	136	62	56	2		1	5	2
Wedge-tailed Eagle	136	64	33	1		15	6	4
Brown-headed Honeyeater	136	73	20	1			2	40
Richard's Pipit	134	73	22			6	20	6
Common Bronzewing	133	73	25	1	3	2	1	25
Clamorous Reed-Warbler	130	73	49			2		3
Sacred Kingfisher	113	70	28	1	4	2		7
Tree Martin	112	65	22	1		2		19
Western Gerygone	109	33	20			3		53
Rufous Songlark	105	60	15	1		11	3	14
Great Cormorant	102	57	35			3		
Diamond Firetail	102	38	31	1		26	1	4
Flame Robin	101	64	13			17	3	
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	100	42	30		6	10	2	10
Brown Goshawk	99	39	31			13	1	11
Australasian Shoveler	99	30	52			3	11	
Gang-gang Cockatoo	98	39	21	1	9	7		21
Double-barred Finch	97	53	28			8		8
Varied Sittella	94	53	16	2	2	4		15

Australian Pelican	93	47	40			2	1	
Hardhead	91	39	33			8	6	1
Darter	89	52	32			2		
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	88	73	7			7		1
Eastern Yellow Robin	87	60	21			5		
White-winged Triller	82	52	11	2		8		8
Pallid Cuckoo	82	52	10	1	1	2		16
Australian White Ibis	81	33	37			6	1	1
Little Raven	80	39	23	1		4	5	2
New Holland Honeyeater	80	32	46	1		1		
Silver Gull	74	43	14			4	12	
Pink-eared Duck	73	22	48			1	2	
Black-fronted Dotterel	73	26	33			3	6	3
Southern Whiteface	72	31	19	1		6	4	7
Dollarbird	71	36	17		3	2		13
Brown Treecreeper	69	31	19			2		16
Golden-headed Cisticola	66	38	24			4		
Little Corella	66	18	33			2	3	10
Skylark	66	35	11			4	13	1
Brown Falcon	65	19	20			12	7	2
Little Black Cormorant	65	47	16			1		
Whistling Kite	65	24	35			6		
Straw-necked Ibis	61	19	29			6	6	1
Rock Dove	61	24	35			2		
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	60	41	2	1		4		12
Yellow Thornbill	60	39	4	1		1	5	5
Black-shouldered Kite	58	6	15			32	1	3
Little Eagle	58	25	26			5		1
Chestnut Teal	57	16	24				16	
Fuscous Honeyeater	55	34	13			2		4
Hoary-headed Grebe	54	20	22			3	7	
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	53	32	7	1		2		11
Australian Hobby	53	17	18			8	3	5
Jacky Winter	49	14	17	1		4		11
Stubble Quail	42	23	1			4	9	5
Satin Bowerbird	42	21	13			7		
Little Grassbird	42	16	24			2		
Fairy Martin	37	18	13			6		
Peregrine Falcon	36	21	7			2	2	2
Collared Sparrowhawk	36	11	14		1	2		4
Superb Lyrebird	33	26	6			1		
Spotless Crake	32	7	20			5		
Rainbow Bee-eater	31	14	10			6		1
Blue-billed Duck	30	9	19			2		
Hooded Robin	29	15	7			1		5

Crested Shrike-tit	28	17	4	1	2	4
Tawny Frogmouth	28	18	5		5	
Superb Parrot	27	8	2	2	9	6
Restless Flycatcher	27	14	5		5	1
Australian Shelduck	26	4	5			17
Latham's Snipe	26	8	16			
Long-billed Corella	25	1	22		2	
Satin Flycatcher	24	20	3		1	
Royal Spoonbill	23	9	13			1
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	22	17	4		1	
Peaceful Dove	20	9	11			
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	19	11			8	
Black-winged Stilt	19	5	6			7
Musk Duck	18	5	5		6	1
Brown Songlark	17	7	2		5	3
Rufous Fantail	16	13	2		1	
Domestic Ducks	16	16				
Australian Owllet-nightjar	16	11	1		3	
Common Koel	15	2	1		12	
Rainbow Lorikeet	15	7	8			
Red-capped Plover	13					13
Painted Button-quail	13	8	2		3	
Brown Quail	13	7	1	2	3	
Brown Gerygone	13	2	7		4	
Nankeen Night Heron	13	7	6			
Rose Robin	13	4	3	1	4	
European Greenfinch	12	8	4			
Great Egret	11	5	4		1	
Buff-banded Rail	11	3	7		1	
White-throated Needletail	10	3	4		3	
White-browed Babbler	10	1	4		5	
Southern Boobook	10	7	1		2	
White-fronted Chat	9				3	6
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	9	3	1		3	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	9	1	3			5
Cattle Egret	8	5	2		1	
Banded Lapwing	8					8
Red-browed Treecreeper	7	4	1		2	
Brush Cuckoo	7	4	1		1	1
Freckled Duck	7	3	2			2
Swamp Harrier	6	3	1			2
Lewin's Rail	6	1	4		1	
Australian Spotted Crake	6	1	3		2	
Domestic Goose	6	6				
Whiskered Tern	6	1	2			3

Eastern Whipbird	6	4	2		
White-necked Heron	6	1	1	3	
Spotted Quail-thrush	6	1	3	2	
Pied Cormorant	6	3		3	
Red-capped Robin	6	3	2	1	
Little Friarbird	5		2	3	
Pilotbird	5	2	3		
Musk Lorikeet	5		1	4	
Black Kite	4			4	
Grey Goshawk	4		1	3	
Mallard	4	3	1		
Intermediate Egret	4		1	3	
Blue-faced Honeyeater	4		1	3	
Red-necked Stint	4				4
Singing Bushlark	3		1	1	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	3	1	1		
Crescent Honeyeater	3	2	1		
Common Sandpiper	3	1	1	1	
Black Falcon	3			2	1
Spotted Turtle-Dove	3		1	2	
Great Crested Grebe	3	1	1	1	
Curlew Sandpiper	3				3
Pink Robin	3		1	2	
Wonga Pigeon	3	3			
Grey-crowned Babbler	3	1	1	1	
Turquoise Parrot	2	1		1	
Bassian Thrush	2		1	1	
White-browed Woodswallow	2	1	1		
Pacific Golden Plover	2				2
Red-necked Avocet	2				2
Common Greenshank	2		1		1
Marsh Sandpiper	2				2
Pectoral Sandpiper	2				2
Fork-tailed Swift	1			1	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	1		1	1	
Painted Honeyeater	1	1			
Emu	1	1			
White-throated Nightjar	1			1	
Spotted Harrier	1				1
Zebra Finch	1			1	
Red Junglefowl	1	1			
Indian Peafowl	1	1			
Little Button-quail	1			1	
Cicadabird	1			1	
Spangled Drongo	1			1	

Black-faced Monarch	1		1	
Olive Whistler	1		1	
Scarlet Honeyeater	1		1	
Barn Owl	1		1	
Glossy Ibis	1			1
Indian Ringneck	1	1		
Cockatiel	1		1	
Diamond Dove	1		1	
White-headed Pigeon	1		1	
Caspian Tern	1			1
Double-banded Plover	1			1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1			1

TABLE 2: Garden Bird Survey Statistics - 2005-06
Values for A, F, W, R and G for 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (Year 25), together with percentage change when compared with the mean of all previous years (Years 1-24).

Rank	SPECIES	A	dA%	F%	dF%	W	R%	G
1	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	8.1519	53.9	100.0	2.5	52	85.33	9.55
2	Galah	7.4102	8.8	100.0	0.5	52	82.45	8.99
3	Common Myna	4.9587	74.0	97.1	40.6	52	75.07	6.61
4	Crimson Rosella	3.9393	31.3	100.0	1.1	52	90.50	4.35
5	Silveryeye	3.8811	-33.2	94.1	-2.9	52	54.54	7.12
6	Pied Currawong	3.7601	-5.6	100.0	1.1	52	88.87	4.23
7	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	3.5510	34.3	77.9	-9.6	47	19.69	18.03
8	House Sparrow	3.5357	-46.4	79.4	-15.8	52	44.90	7.87
9	Australian Magpie	3.4116	20.9	100.0	0.5	52	91.50	3.73
10	Red Wattlebird	2.9872	41.0	98.5	0.9	52	90.05	3.32
11	Common Starling	2.8949	-71.4	69.1	-26.9	52	37.17	7.79
12	Crested Pigeon	2.8183	243.9	100.0	112.7	52	81.17	3.47
13	Magpie-lark	2.2084	7.4	100.0	1.9	52	83.81	2.64
14	Australian King-Parrot	1.9979	32.7	92.6	21.7	52	61.34	3.26
15	Eastern Rosella	1.7743	18.9	98.5	2.1	52	59.57	2.98
16	Rock Dove	1.5357	32.2	48.5	-4.1	52	19.59	7.84
17	Common Blackbird	1.3949	-18.1	92.6	-0.1	52	66.19	2.11
18	Australian Raven	1.3589	32.2	97.1	3.3	52	59.81	2.27
19	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1.1231	-23.1	70.6	-19.2	52	27.29	4.12
20	Superb Fairy-wren	1.1113	47.1	79.4	13.2	52	31.76	3.50
21	Gang-gang Cockatoo	0.8294	17.0	67.6	-5.1	52	30.83	2.69
22	White-winged Cough	0.7181	118.2	42.6	52.3	52	7.45	9.63
23	Spotted Pardalote	0.6515	7.4	75.0	-3.6	52	29.58	2.20
24	Noisy Miner	0.5288	201.6	33.8	64.5	52	12.27	4.31
25	Yellow-tailed B1.-Cockatoo	0.4657	58.5	86.8	397.7	51	12.90	3.61
26	Striated Pardalote	0.4632	-21.8	66.2	-11.7	52	21.36	2.17
27	Noisy Friarbird	0.4515	-50.6	85.3	-8.6	39	24.69	1.83
28	Weebill	0.4442	2.0	48.5	-0.5	52	16.89	2.63
29	Australian Wood Duck	0.4223	145.6	41.2	78.7	52	9.60	4.40
30	Eastern Spinebill	0.3918	-30.4	76.5	-13.6	52	27.74	1.41
31	Brown Thornbill	0.3426	38.8	52.9	15.2	52	14.29	2.40
32	Pacific Black Duck	0.3419	254.1	17.6	87.7	52	6.38	5.36
33	Red-rumped Parrot	0.2895	-29.9	29.4	-25.7	51	5.44	5.32
34	Laughing Kookaburra	0.2888	-20.0	66.2	-10.1	52	14.91	1.94
35	Welcome Swallow	0.2764	22.1	32.4	-13.9	50	6.24	4.43
36	Little Corella	0.2684	358.0	36.8	241.3	48	4.72	5.69
37	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	0.2372	-54.2	77.9	-16.1	51	17.16	1.38
38	White-naped Honeyeater	0.2209	-65.6	38.2	-27.2	24	2.98	7.41
39	Grey Fantail	0.2167	-38.3	63.2	-23.1	52	11.34	1.91
40	Satin Bowerbird	0.2053	87.5	36.8	150.5	52	10.40	1.97
41	Willie Wagtail	0.2004	-27.7	60.3	-24.1	52	14.36	
42	White-browed Scrubwren	0.1990	53.8	44.1	75.1	52	11.69	1.70
43	Dusky Woodswallow	0.1612	131.9	16.2	14.2	39	2.67	6.04
44	Buff-rumped Thornbill	0.1491	39.4	13.2	-17.5	51	4.06	3.68
45	Straw-necked Ibis	0.1342	-66.7	22.1	-2.5	27	1.98	6.79

Rank	SPECIES	A	dA%	F%	dF%	W	R%	G
94	Clamorous Reed-Warbler	0.0087	274.6	2.9	58.7	19	0.80	1.09
95	Golden-headed Cisticola	0.0087	223.6	1.5	26.5	10	0.35	2.50
96	Brown Goshawk	0.0073	-40.7	20.6	-6.7	16	0.73	1.00
97	Fuscous Honeyeater	0.0069	-95.2	10.3	-70.8	10	0.45	1.54
98	White-winged Triller	0.0066	-53.1	4.4	-44.2	8	0.31	2.11
99	Varied Sittella	0.0059	-85.6	4.4	-55.9	4	0.14	4.25
100	Richard's Pipit	0.0055	-69.1	1.5	-59.7	9	0.31	1.78
101	Brown Quail	0.0052	431.0	1.5	218.7	4	0.14	3.75
102	Grey Teal	0.0049	48.2	2.9	166.7	7	0.28	1.75
103	Black-shouldered Kite	0.0049	-70.9	2.9	-74.5	13	0.49	1.00
104	Little Eagle	0.0049	-12.1	14.7	57.0	11	0.49	1.00
105	Peregrine Falcon	0.0049	-5.8	11.8	26.9	10	0.45	1.08
106	Crescent Honeyeater	0.0049	-80.7	4.4	-64.1	8	0.38	1.27
107	New Holland Honeyeater	0.0049	-88.2	8.8	-22.8	10	0.35	1.40
108	Flame Robin	0.0049	-63.0	2.9	-58.8	7	0.24	2.00
109	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	0.0035	1011.1	1.5	311.7	2	0.07	5.00
110	Long-billed Corella	0.0035	307.6	7.4	693.9	9	0.31	1.11
111	Brown Gerygone	0.0035	3097.9	2.9	4488.2	6	0.21	1.67
112	Rufous Songlark	0.0035	-26.5	2.9	22.9	9	0.35	1.00
113	Australasian Grebe	0.0031	226.4	2.9	433.1	5	0.17	1.80
114	Great Egret	0.0031	898.3	5.9	566.2	9	0.31	1.00
115	Pallid Cuckoo	0.0028	-91.2	4.4	-84.2	6	0.28	1.00
116	Great Cormorant	0.0024	-43.8	1.5	-65.2	4	0.14	1.75
117	Crested Shrike-tit	0.0024	14.6	1.5	113.0	7	0.24	1.00
118	Restless Flycatcher	0.0024	-43.2	2.9	-54.1	6	0.21	1.17
119	Diamond Firetail	0.0024	-50.6	2.9	211.5	3	0.10	2.33
120	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	0.0021	297.1	1.5	119.3	6	0.21	1.00
121	Australian Owllet-nightjar	0.0017	-33.5	2.9	69.1	5	0.17	1.00
122	Western Gerygone	0.0017	-65.1	4.4	-28.8	5	0.17	1.00
123	Mallard	0.0014	94.7	1.5	104.3	2	0.07	2.00
124	Cattle Egret	0.0014	-48.1	1.5	53.7	2	0.07	2.00
125	Little Lorikeet	0.0014	-4.4	1.5	-7.7	1	0.03	4.00
126	Cockatiel	0.0010	-39.4	4.4	24.9	3	0.10	1.00
127	Speckled Warbler	0.0010	-90.6	2.9	-43.0	2	0.07	1.50
128	Jacky Winter	0.0010	-12.6	2.9	103.4	2	0.07	1.50
129	Satin Flycatcher	0.0010	-71.2	4.4	-36.1	3	0.10	1.00
130	Rufous Fantail	0.0010	-68.7	4.4	-49.8	3	0.10	1.00
131	Darter	0.0007	-48.9	2.9	365.6	2	0.07	1.00
132	Whistling Kite	0.0007	7.3	2.9	89.7	2	0.07	1.00
133	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	0.0007	-91.9	2.9	-72.9	2	0.07	1.00
134	Stubble Quail	0.0003	-74.2	1.5	69.0	1	0.03	1.00
135	Little Black Cormorant	0.0003	-88.6	1.5	0.0	1	0.03	1.00
136	White-necked Heron	0.0003	-37.6	1.5	-0.6	1	0.03	1.00
137	Intermediate Egret	0.0003	988.0	1.5	976.6	1	0.03	1.00
138	Brown Falcon	0.0003	-95.0	1.5	-83.5	1	0.03	1.00
139	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	0.0003	-95.4	1.5	-86.4	1	0.03	1.00
140	Channel-billed Cuckoo	0.0003	156.1	1.5	155.7	1	0.03	1.00
141	Eastern Yellow Robin	0.0003	-92.8	1.5	-40.3	1	0.03	1.00
142	Skylark	0.0003	-98.9	1.5	-30.6	1	0.03	1.00

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. 59-61. The methods used to calculate these are described below. Table 2 also shows the percentage changes in some of these values when compared with the average of the previous 24 years. The long-term average has been calculated as the average of the values from the previous years. For 2005-06, 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

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 Needletail 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)

Nine sub-sites (plots of 50 m radius), in habitat structures of low, medium and high complexity are set up at each site. 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, when those lakes have water.

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 from time to time 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. 64-65.) 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 'dy' (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 Veerman (2003).

Abbreviations for the Woodland Survey sites (CAS, CMP, GOO, GOS, HAL, KAM, MAJ, MJF, MUL, NLQ, RED, SYM, TUG) are only used when the Woodland Surveys are being referred to.

Abbreviations

General

- ANBG** Australian National Botanic Gardens
- ANU** Australian National University
- BA** Birds Australia
- br** breeding (unspecified)
- CAS** Castle Hill (WOO site)
- CBN** Canberra Bird Notes
- Ck** creek
- CMP** Campbell Park (WOO site)
- 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

GA Greening Australia
 GBS Garden Bird Survey
 GOO Gooroo (WOO site)
 GOS Goorooyarroo South (WOO site)
 Gr COG grid cell (number)
GunL Gungahlin Lakes
HAL Hall/Gold Creek
Hs/Hstd Homestead
Hwy Highway
incl including
juv juvenile
JWNR Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve

KAM "Kama" (WOO site)
km kilometre
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 (WOO site)
max maximum
MJF Majura Firing Range (WOO site)
MUL Mulligans Flat (WOO site)
N North
NLQ Newline Quarry (WOO site)
NP National Park
nr near
NR Nature Reserve
R River
Ra Range
Rd Road
RED Red Hill (WOO site)
Res Reserve
S South
SF State Forest
SP sewage ponds
SYM Symonston (WOO site)
TSR Travelling Stock Reserve
TUG Tuggeranong (WOO site)
W West
WBS Waterbird Survey
WOO Woodland Survey

wk week

x presence (BA records)

Breeding codes

br unspecified 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
AIB1	Barbara Allan
AIB3	B Allanson
AIR1	Richard Allen
AnI1	Ian Anderson
AsM1	Margaret Aston
BaJ1	Joe Barr
BaS2	Shaun Bagley
BeD1	Darryl Beaumont
BeR3	Rosemary Bell
BIR1	Rosemary Blemings
BoJ1	Jennifer Bounds
BoM1	Margaret Boots
BoS2	Suzi Bond
BrJ3	John Brannan
BrM2	Muriel Brookfield
BuP1	Prue Buckley
CaJ1	J Carnahan
CCR1	R&C Cannon
CIG1	Grahame Clark
CIM1	Mark Clayton
CIS1	S. Cleland
CoD2	David Cook
CoE1	Elizabeth Compston
CoJ2	Judy Collett
CoM4	Maurice Cowan
CuJ5	John Cummings
CuR1	Roger Curnow
DaC1	Chris Davey
DaG2	Geoffrey Dabb

DeD2	Dianne Deans	MaR4	Rod Mackay
DiB1	Bob Digan	MaS3	Sue Mathews
DrA2	Alex Drew	MaS5	S Matthews
DwB1	Barry & Kay Dwyer	MaT2	Tony Martin-Jones
EnJ1	Jan England	McD1	David McDonald
EyC1	Carol Ey	McI 1	Ian J McMahan
FeP1	Paul Fennell	McJ2	Jonette McDonnell
FiA1	Adam Fitzgerald	McJ4	Julie McGuinness
F1R1	Robert Flynn	MDN 1	McDonald family
FoA1	Alan Ford	MoM1	M Moncur
FoJ2	Joe Forshaw	MoM3	Martyn Moffat
FrI1	Ian Fraser	MuL1	Louise Muir
FrM1	Matthew Frawley	MuT1	Terry Munro
FuP1	Peter Fullagar	NeG1	Gail Neumann
FyM1	Malcolm Fyfe	NiA1	Nick Nicholls
GeJ1	Jean Geue	NiH1	Henry Nix
GrR2	R Griffiths	OgM1	Mike Ogden
GoJ3	John Goldie	OnP1	P & A O'Neil
GoP2	Phyl Goddard	OrP1	Peter Ormay
GrT1	Tom Green	OvA1	Anthony Overs
HaB2	Bill Handke	PaR2	Ruth Parker
HAI 1	Holland family	PeH2	Harvey Perkins
HaK 1	Kay Hahne	PeM1	Marg Peachey
HaP4	P Harwod	PoD1	David Pool
HAR1	Roy Harvey	PrJ5	J Harrison
HaS4	Stuart Harris	RaG1	Greg & Sallie Ramsay
HoA1	A Howarth	RaS1	Stuart Rae
HoB1	Bill Horrigan	ReD2	David Rees
HoJ1	Jack Holland	ReJ1	Julian Reid
HoJ3	J Hodgetts	RoA1	Alison Rowell
HoS1	Steve Holliday	RoD2	David Rosalky
IoA1	Anne I'Ons	RoS1	Susan Robertson
IrJ1	Janet Irons	ScB2	Brian Scales
KaJ1	Julienne Kamprad	SmA1	Alastair Smith
KiM2	Michael Kingsford	SmM4	Milton Smith
KoL1	Lana Kosseck	SpB 1	Bob Spiller
KrS 1	Shirley Kral	StH3	Helen Stevens
LaD1	David Landon	StK2	Kathy Stapleton
LaJ5	John Layton	TaN1	Nicki Taws
LaS1	Sue Lashko	VeP1	Philip Veerman
LaT1	Terena Lally	WaJ3	John Waldron
LaT2	Tony Lawson	WaK1	Kathy Walter
LeA1	Adam Leavesley	WaR4	R & B Walcott
LeB 1	Brendan Lepschi	WhB2	Benjamin Whitworth
LeM1	Michael Lenz	WiK2	Kevin Windle
LiB1	Bruce Lindenmayer	WiM1	Margaret Windle
LiJ1	Joan Lipscombe	WiP1	Pauline Wicksteed
MaC2	Macleay family	WiR2	R Williams
MaP6	P MacNicol	WoD1	Don Wood

Where a family rather than a single individual contributes to the Garden Bird Survey, the practice in the past has been to provide a COG code comprising capital letters. Individuals of that family who contribute other records on an individual basis are also provided with an individual code.

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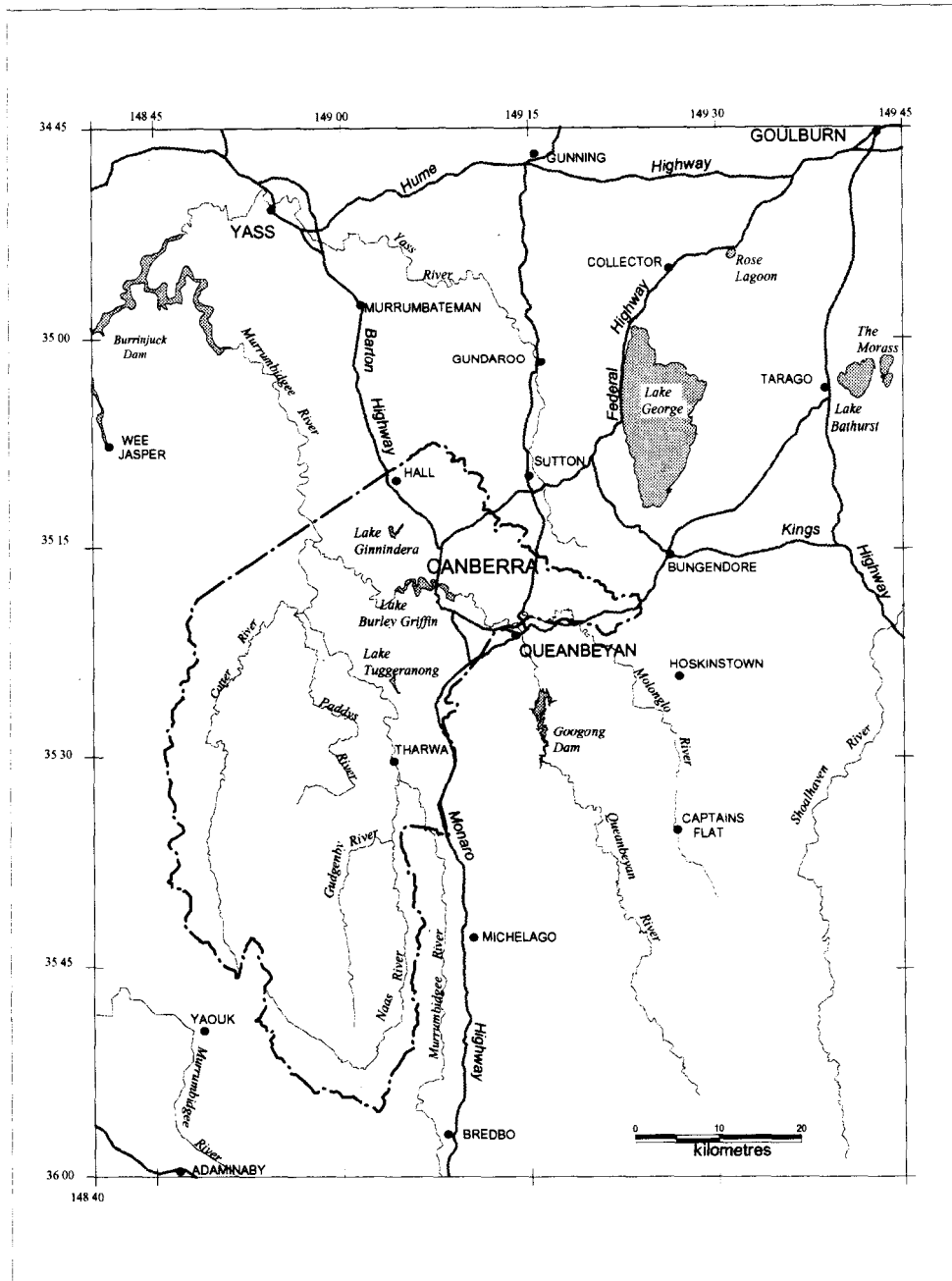
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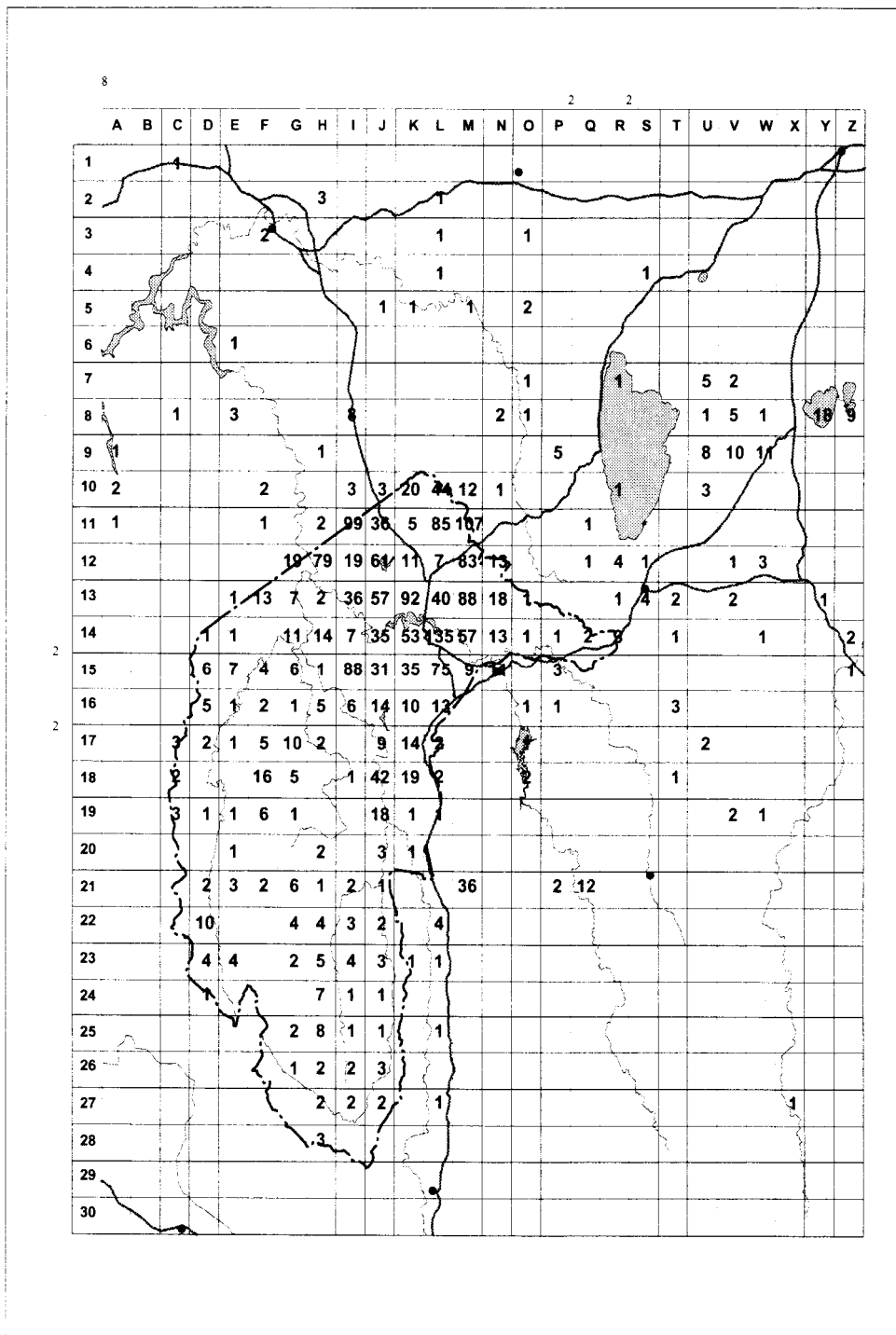
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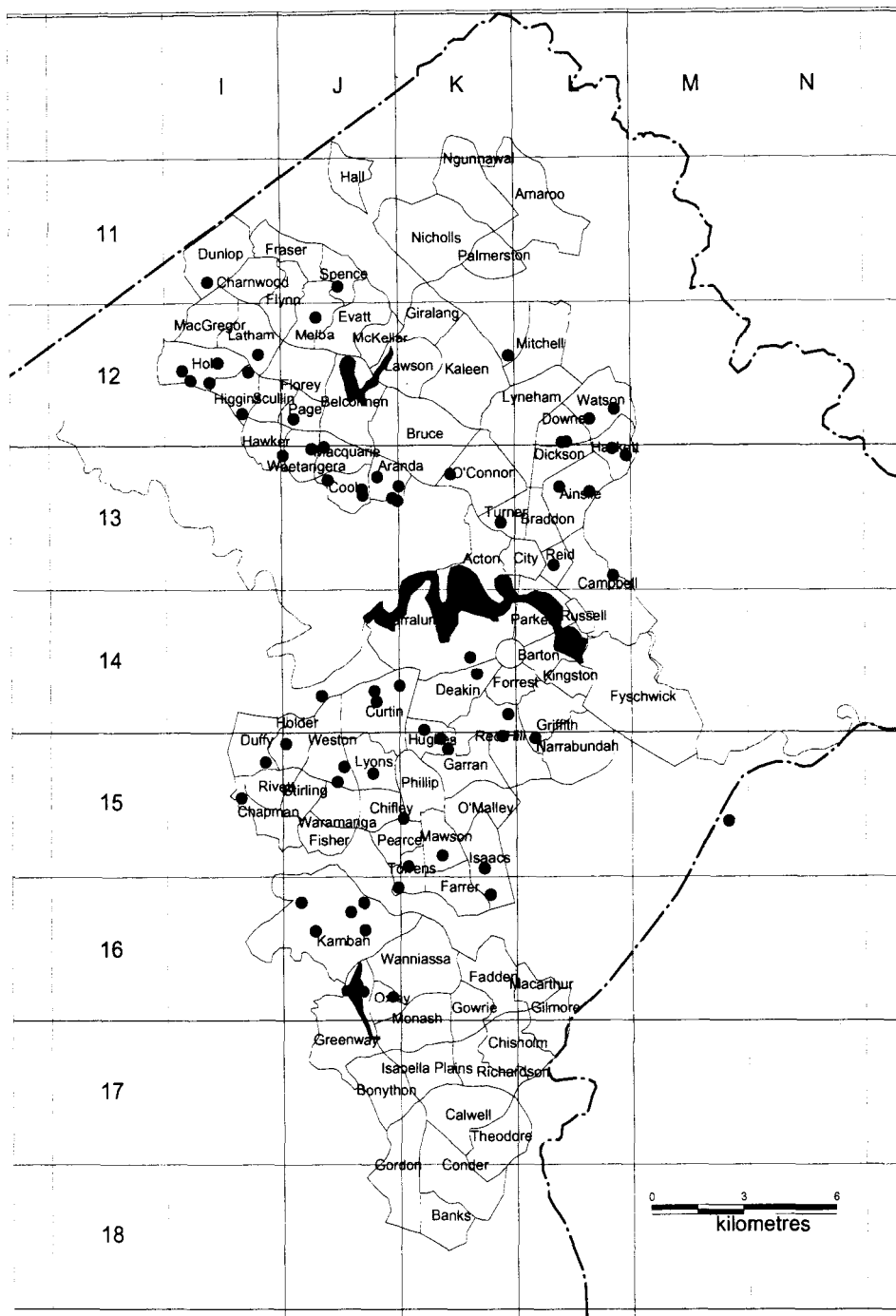
MAP 1. THE CANBERRA REGION (COG'S AREA OF INTEREST)



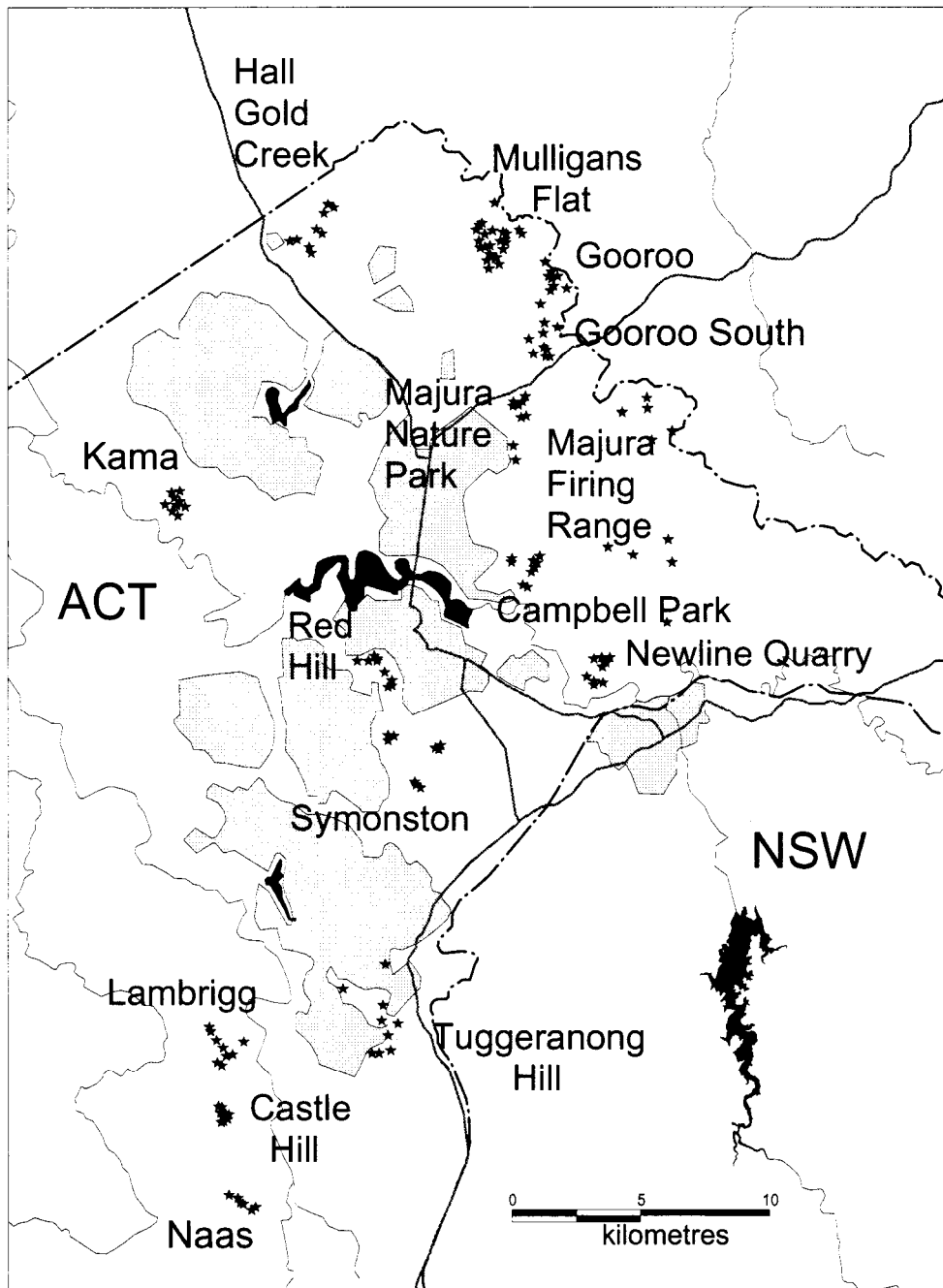
MAP 2. NUMBER OF RECORD SHEETS PER GRID CELL FOR 2005-06



MAP 3. LOCATION OF GARDEN BIRD SURVEY SITES FOR 2005-06



MAP 4. LOCATION OF WOODLAND SURVEY SITES FOR 2005-06

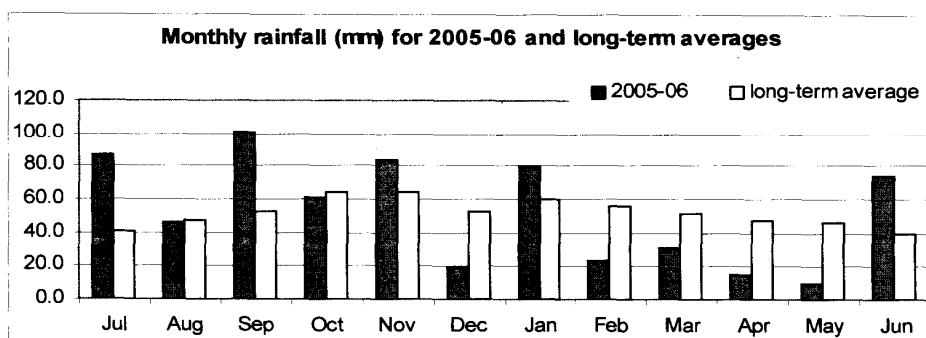
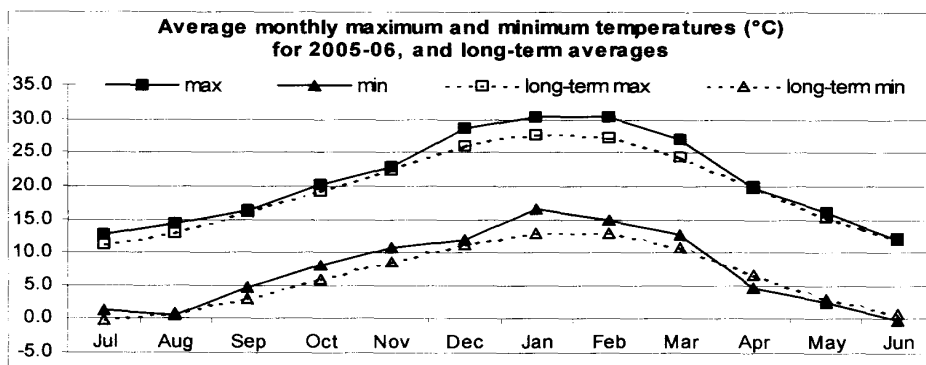


APPENDIX 1. 2005-06 WEATHER SUMMARY

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 in the ACT was a wet, windy and warm affair; wettest ACT spring in five years; ACT has 7th driest autumn on record. Total rainfall was about average on 629.2 mm.

- Above-average July rainfall and temperatures in the ACT
- Warm days and snow in the ACT in August
- September rains in the ACT near double the average
- Warm October for the ACT
- Wet, warm November in the ACT
- A very th, warm and sunny December in the ACT
- Rains tumble during a hot January in the ACT
- Well above average day and night temperatures in Feb, well below average rainfall
- March much drier and warmer than average in the ACT
- April cool and dry in the ACT
- warm days, cool nights, well below average May rainfall
- Cold and frosty in June



Canberra Bird Notes is published by the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc and is edited by 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 in advance. Short notes, book reviews and other contributions should be sent to email cbn@canberrabirds.org.au 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.

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