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CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP

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ANNUAL BIRD REPORT: 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2009

*Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG)
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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The ABR

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

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. 75). 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 (3.5 x 4.5 km). 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. 76). 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.

Records maintained by COG are categorised according to survey type used to collect the data, for which the methodology used may vary. The majority of records are from general bird watching, surveying and atlassing done by COG members and are designated ABA (Australian Bird Atlas) records. Incidental observations (INC) made while driving, or when not specifically bird watching, can also be submitted. Specialised COG surveys such as the Garden Bird Survey (GBS), Woodland Survey (WOO), and

Waterbird Survey (WBS) are well 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. 61-65). 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. 69) and extralimital records collected by standard ABA protocols in the course of conducting the Woodland Surveys. The Garden Bird Survey (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 systematic and statistically amenable nature of the GBS data, requires this approach.

COG asks that any sightings of birds considered to be "unusual" in the Canberra region (see Appendix 2, p. 80) 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 reviewed from time to time and is published at <http://www.canberrabirds.org.au/>.

The names and sequence of birds, in this list and in the Systematic List in this report conform to *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds* (Christidis & Boles 2008).

The year in context

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

Geographical variables such as temperature, rainfall, and water levels in the main lakes of the region can have a very significant effect on bird demographics. The 2008-09 year was similar in many ways to the previous year: being considerably warmer and drier than the long term average, with November, January and April the months with significant rainfall, and almost no rain in February, March and May (see Appendix 1, p. 79).

In the seven years since the January 2003 bushfires, there has been further habitat renewal in the wet forests in the ranges to the west and south of Canberra, with more evidence (e.g. Eastern Whipbird) that resident species are gradually returning to their previous haunts.

There were 120 contributors of records from all surveys from COG or persons whose data were provided to COG via Birds Australia (see list pp. 73-74). This is a slight increase over the 113 observers last year, but decrease from 137 the year before. More than ever, there continues to be a disproportionately large number of records submitted by a few dedicated submitters, despite the numerous reports of sightings on the COG internet chat line canberrabirds@canberrabirds.org.au.

As in previous years, 50% 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 2008-09, 232 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.)

Year	species	gr cells	sheets	observers
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
06-07	233	194	2421	137
07-08	232	263	2400	113
08-09	232	280	2530	120

* combined total for 1999-2001

Totals were again boosted in part by COG's fourth "bird blitz" (316 sheets) held on 25-26 October 2008, a repeat of the 2005 exercise to encourage members to undertake surveys (see Allan 2008). The number of record sheets submitted by season is as follows: Spring 1048, summer 447, autumn 643, and winter 392. The higher observer effort in spring has a significant impact on the abundance of species reported for that season.

The observers this year must be congratulated for the high number of sheets submitted (2530) and the continuing increase in the area covered, with reports from 280 of the 780 grid cells (36 %), which is 7% more than last year, and not far below the 1999-2000 record

of 288 at the height of the Birds Australia Atlas activity. The most frequently surveyed cell was L14 (131 sheets) Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR (JWNR), Molonglo Reach and Fyshwick Sewage Ponds (FSP). This was followed by I13 (109), including part of the Pinnacle NR. Then came L11 (95), including part of Mulligans Flat NR (MULNR). This was followed by K13 (94 data-sheets) Acton, boosted by 42 sheets from the ANU environmental survey of Lower Sullivans Creek. Next was I15 (90) including Cooleman Ridge, which included 69 incidental (INC) reports mostly by one regular observe. Then came M13 (85 sheets) Mt Ainslie/Campbell Park NR, followed by M11 (71) Goorooyarroo NR (GOONR), and M12 (70) Mt Majura NR (see Map 2 p 76).

Table 1, pp. 61-65, shows the number of “general” records per species. The five most frequently recorded species were, in order, the Australian Magpie, Crimson Rosella, Australian Raven, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Superb Fairy Wren – all easily identifiable species. Sixteen species were recorded only once. These include “rare” species such as the Grey-crowned Babbler, Black-eared Cuckoo and the Painted and Regent honeyeaters.

Highlights

A first for the COG area of interest was the sighting of a single Beautiful Firetail near the Queanbeyan R, Tinderry. Encouraging news too is the increased sighting of Diamond Firetails (146) with 8 breeding records.

The number of observations of Brown Treecreeper this year (101) is 25% higher than last year, with 9 breeding records, while observations of Sacred Kingfisher (204) have continued their steady increase since 2005 (59).

Despite continuing dry conditions on Lakes George and Bathurst there have been some welcome returns after periods of absence:

- Marsh Sandpiper (last recorded Sep 2005)
- Curlew sandpiper (last recorded Aug 2006)
- Common Sandpiper (Mar 2006)

While there have been 13 records of Silver Gulls nesting at various locations (and on boats) around Lake Burley Griffin since 2003, this year there are two reports of them nesting on Spinnaker Island, a first for this island location. 14 nests were observed, 5 with eggs, 4 with chicks, 1 with 1 egg + 1 chick, and 4 with status unsure. The count of 74 individuals did not include chicks. As well there are records of Australian White Ibis and Royal Spoonbills breeding in Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve.

The numbers of Common Myna are down again, from the 3rd most abundant GBS species 4 years ago, to 14th most abundant species this year. It would be hard to deny the continuing effect of Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG) trapping activities on this species. CIMAG claims that a minimum of 23,500 Common Mynas have been removed up to June 2009.

Lowlights

It was a poor year for Black-shouldered Kites, with only 14 records, the lowest number for almost 10 years, and well below the 43.6 ten year average.

Continuing dry conditions on Lakes George and Bathurst reduced the number of wader species observed:

- Common Greenshank (last recorded Jan 2006)
- Ruddy Turnstone (Dec 1996)
- Bar-tailed Godwit (8 records last year)
- Red Knot (Nov 1999)
- Long-toed Stint (Dec 2002)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (Aug 2006)

Breeding

There were 1345 breeding activity records, down from 1428 (7% decrease) last year, but still an increase over the 967 of the previous year. Of the now 188 species of bird with recorded breeding activity in the COG region, 126 (67%) did so in 2008-09. 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. It does include, however, all potential breeding records, including "inspecting hollows" and "display" as described in the COG breeding codes (see p 71). Records also include the BA code (br) which excludes "circumstantial" evidence such as "inspecting hollow" or "display". The list that follows shows (for each breeding behaviour) the number of species exhibiting that behaviour, and the percentage of that behaviour of the total number (1345) of observations for 2008-09:

Behaviour	Count	%
• Dependent young	405	32.3
• On nest	256	30.5
• Inspecting hollow	160	12.3
• Nest building	130	10.2
• Breeding (BA)	118	9.1
• Nest with young	109	8.8
• Carrying food	64	5.4
• Display	34	2.8
• Copulation	14	1.1
• Nest with eggs	9	0.8
• Faecal sac	1	0.1

Garden Bird Survey (GBS) overview

The Garden Bird Survey (GBS) completed 28 years of collection in 2008-09. A total of 82 sites provided charts, an increase of 10 charts over 2007-08. This reflects 19 "additions" (represented by 15 new sites and 4 resumed sites) and 9 ceased sites from 2007-08. Representation is increasing in the new and ornithologically interesting areas of Gungahlin (5 sites in 2008-09), and the areas of Tuggeranong other than Kambah (6 sites). See Map 3 p 77 for suburban site locations.

As is generally the case, a range of types of site is evident. One work site reported as are 5 on-going sites from the hinterland. There is a wide variety of types of suburban Canberra garden sites which can also produce "atypical" data including sites which include a large component of horse paddocks or Canberra Nature Park, and sites beside Lakes, in Tuggeranong and Jerrabomberra, and in a large suburban block containing a large pool

(all of which contributed to high numbers of ducks and other water birds).

The number of weeks observed per observer in 2008-09 averaged 40.9, ranging from 6 to 52 weeks (17 sites reported for 50 or more weeks. This shows a slight reduction in "high-week" sites compared to 2007-08. Overall, observers devoted 3356 observer-weeks to their reporting in 2008-09 compared with 3099 in 2007-08 (8% increase).

A total of 162 species were observed in 2008-09 which was 1 more than in 2007-08. This is the highest number of species recorded in any year. Four taxa were recorded for the first time in year 28 comprising records for Painted Honeyeater and Spotted Quail-thrush as well as an entry for Lovebird species.

Sixty-four species were recorded breeding (an increase of 2 species over 2007-08), with breeding activity from 61 sites (an increase of 4 on 2007-08).

The abundances of the observed birds, measured by the 'A' statistic, retain a broadly similar pattern to 2007-08 for most of the commonly recorded species. Of the ten most abundant birds, nine species were included in the group in both years (although changing a little in positions within the group). The changes were the re-inclusion of the House Sparrow at number 10 (after dropping out of the top 10 last year) and Yellow-faced Honeyeater dropping back to 12 mainly as a result of a site in the middle of the migration stream being unattended for the Autumn migration period. The Common Myna continued to decline in abundance dropping to position 14. Details of these and other changes are in the species accounts.

Four species were observed at least once by every observer in both of the past two years (Galah, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie). Crested Pigeon was reported at all sites in 2008-09 but not reported at one site in 2007-08 while Red Wattlebird was not reported at one site in 2008-09 after being reported at all sites the previous year. 43 species (an increase of two

on 2007-08) were observed by at least one observer in every week of the year.

Among the 42 most abundant species (defined as $A \geq 0.2$), 8 species increased at least 100% over the average of all previous years: 3 of these were water birds (reflecting new sites with large areas of water) and Little Corella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Miner, White-winged Chough and Crested Pigeon. Of the same population, the only species displaying reductions of at least 50% compared to the average of all previous years were Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, House Sparrow and Common Starling (the latter two showing a severe decline the previous year).

Species recorded in the GBS and no other survey include: Rose-ringed Parakeet, Eastern Barn Owl, Lovebird sp, Princess Parrot, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Corella Sp, Fork-tailed Swift, Hybrid Crimson Eastern Rosella.

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. Other locations have since been added: Majura Firing Range (1998-99, and from 2004); Hall/Gold Creek, Newline and Tuggeranong Hill (all 2000); Lambrigg (2001-March 2004); Campbell Park (2003); Goorooyarroo (south) (2004); Naas (2004); Kama in the Molonglo Valley (October 2005); and Jerrabomberra (Dec 2006).

Part of the reason for the Woodland Survey is to monitor declining and threatened birds in Yellow Box/Red Gum grassy woodlands. The Project now has 142 monitoring points (sites) at 15 locations. A number of sites (generally nine plots of 50 m radius), in habitat structures of low, medium and high complexity are monitored at each location. Each 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.

Woodland Survey data is analysed statistically to determine trends. The last analysis of data collected from December 1998 to December 2005, was reported in *Canberra Bird Notes* in June 2007 (Vol 32/Number 2). A summary from a special analysis of data to 2007 was reported in Olsen, *State of Australia's Birds 2008*.

A major analysis of data covering sites with 10 years of surveys from December 1998 to December 2008 was commenced in 2009, and a report is expected to be published in 2010. Data has been drawn from 66 sites at the six (6) original locations.

Surveys commenced at Mulligan's Flat NR in June 1995, so there is now 15 years of data for that location in the database. By December 2010, three (3) additional locations will have ten years of data, Newline, Tuggeranong Hill and Hall/Gold Creek. Data from the COG Woodland Survey is now being utilised in other projects, e.g. PhD studies at ANU.

Species which figure more prominently in Woodland Survey sightings than in other COG surveys include: Weebill (47% of sightings in WOO); Noisy Miner (43%); Western Gerygone (41%); White-throated Gerygone (38%); Mistletobird (36%); and Striated Pardalote (33%).

Waterbird Survey overview

There were no surveys at Lake George (dry for much of the time). There were small amounts of water in Lake Bathurst (July to October) and the Morass held some water for the entire year. There were 33 observation sheets returned covering 6 survey periods covering the entire year. For the purposes of this ABR, Waterbird Survey records have been incorporated in General accounts. Highlights included: Common Sandpiper (last recorded Mar 2006), Marsh Sandpiper (last recorded Sep 2005) and Curlew Sandpiper (last recorded Aug 2006).

The Beautiful Firetail was observed for the first time in the COG Area of Interest



Brown Treecreeper numbers are up a little



SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1 JULY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2009

CASUARIIDAE: emu

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: A single record again this year (cf mean of 1.3 over previous 10 years), this time of an adult and single young on 7 May at Pierces Creek Forest GrG15 (MaM4). The adult bird is most likely an escapee from Tidbinbilla NR, but there have been previous records, including of dependent young, from Pierces Creek. There was also one record from near the koala enclosure within Tidbinbilla NR but these are considered captive birds.

PHASIANIDAE: quail etc

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 25 records: a return to more normal numbers after just 7 records last year (mean for the previous ten years is 17.8 records, with a range of 2-43). Seven of the records were in spring, 12 in summer, and 6 in autumn. 3 of the records were from LBath during the Oct, Nov and Dec WBS. Records were from scattered locations, mainly in the NE part of the region. Up to 10 birds recorded (mean 2.4). No breeding recorded.

GBS: 7 records of 1-2 birds, between 1 wk Sep to 1 wk Jan, from three sites in Burra GrM21 (AnI1), Harrison GrL11 (ReD2), and Rivett GrI15 (HaT1).

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 28 records, from throughout the year, is well above the average reporting rate (mean 8.8 records over the previous ten years, range 2-32) and close to the peak reporting rate of 32 in 2006-07. However, 21 of these records were from two regular locations including 14 from Cooleman Ridge GrI15, and 7 from Ginninderra Peninsula GrJ12. One record was from Castle Hill GrJ18 (WOO), others from Mt Taylor, Coppins Crossing, Stromlo Forest Park, TSR48 near Gundaroo, and Yanununbeyan GrQ20. The largest number reported was 7 birds (mean 4) 7/20 Jun GrI15 Cooleman Ridge (HoJ1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: 8 records of up to 3 birds from throughout the year; from sites in Curtin (AJR1), Ngunnawal (CoJ9) and Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Escapee

General: 2 records: x/9 Oct Narrabundah Lane, Symonston GrL15 (RaM1) and 12/26 Oct Brockman St, Narrabundah GrN15 (DaG2). There has been a roaming flock of more than a dozen birds in the Narrabundah area for the past few years, with several successful breeding events.

ANATIDAE: ducks, swan

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 13 records from 4 grid cells, a decrease from last year but similar to previous seasons. All records from Yerrabi Ponds GrL11 apart from a record from Tidbinbilla NR and 3 from QSP GrN15. 4 breeding records of dependent young all from Yerrabi Ponds. Maximum 9/19 Mar Yerrabi Ponds (CuR1) between 17 Sep and 19 Mar suggesting more than one breeding event.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 13 records all from FSP/ JWNR GrL14. Observations down from previous years. No winter or breeding records. Maximum 8/24 May (RaB1).

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: No records from the region for the first time since 2000-01.

Black Swan *Cygnus atra*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 142 records from 22 grid cells, similar to previous years. Recorded throughout the year. Average abundance 13.4, max 300/21 Jul LBath S Morass GrZ08 (LeM1). 41 breeding records from all seasons of the year from 13 grid cells, a similar number of cells to last year.

GBS: Recorded from 4 sites, Greenway GrJ16 (HaA2), Turner GrK13 (MiP1), Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and Harrison GrL11 (ReD2) with breeding at Greenway and Jerrabomberra sites.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 21 records from 9 grid cells, lower than last year but a similar number of records and cells from previous years. As in previous years recorded in all seasons. Largest concentration 95/6 Nov Canturf Dam 4 km south of Bungendore GrR13 (DeD2). A single breeding record dy/5 Sep GrQ17 Woolcara Lane North (BuM1).

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Common, Breeding Resident

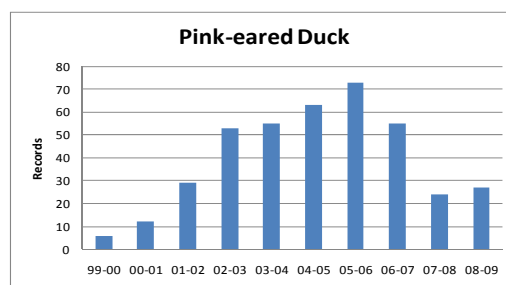
General: 405 records from 89 grid cells (32%), a reduction from last year. As usual the most widely distributed waterfowl. Observed throughout the year with double the number of records over the winter/ spring than in the summer/ autumn. The largest concentration 103/8 Apr Point Hutt GrJ18 (RaB1). Group size (average 10.9) generally lower than previous years. 21 breeding records from 12 grid cells (6 ih, 11 dy, 3 on, 1 br), a large reduction from last year. Breeding reported between 7 Jul and 10 Jan, half of the breeding records from October.

GBS: Records from 31 sites with breeding observed from 6 sites, similar to previous years.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

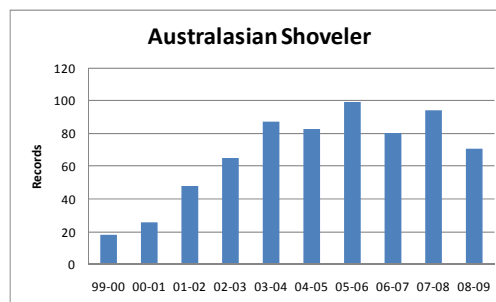
Common, Visitor

General: 27 records from 6 grid cells, a slight increase from last year. Although only ever reported from a few cells, the number of ABR records over the past 10 years has shown an interesting pattern - see graph. This species is much more likely to be recorded over the summer months. Observations of 25 or more individuals have been reported on 7 occasions, all from FSP/JWNR GrL14. No breeding records.

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchos*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 71 records from 12 grid cells, a slight reduction in the number of records from last year. Over the past 10 ABRs the number of submitted records has shown a similar pattern to that of the Pink-eared Duck – see graph. More widespread within the region than the Pink-eared Duck but with more than half the records from GrL14. Reported in all seasons of the year with a maximum 60/ 24 May FSP GrL14 (RaB1). 3 breeding records, dy/10 Oct and 25 Oct Dunlop Pond GrI11 (CuR1) and br/11 Oct Uriarra Station GrF13 (SmA1).



Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 170 records from 42 grid cells, similar to last year but not as high as the 203 records in 2005/06. Reported in all seasons of the year with 44% of records during spring. Average abundance 13.4 with the largest concentrations reported from LBath GrZ08, 108/21 Jul, 152/25 Sep (LeM1) although the large group of 145/25 Oct at GrL14 FSP (LaS1) was unusual. 6 breeding records from 5 grid cells covering Tidbinbilla NR, QSP, Harrison, Tinderry and TSR 48 via Gundaroo but not at JWNR, all records of dy between 12 Oct and 28 Feb.

GBS: Records from 5 sites: Curtin GrJ14 (ArJ1), Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), Murrumbateman GrI8 (BlJ1), Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and a breeding record of dy at Burra GrM21 (AnI1).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 30 records from 11 grid cells. 19 records from the ACT, 7 from the L Bath area and the remainder from QSP GrN15, Foxlow Station GrS18, Googong Dam GrO17 and Bungendore Sewage Works GrS13 where the largest concentration was reported 12/6 Dec (McD1). Reported from all seasons, no breeding records this year.

Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: A single record from GrL11 Yerrabi Ponds 2/19 Mar (HoS1), most likely to be the domestic form, no breeding records.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 306 records from 71 grid cells (25.4%). The 2nd most widely distributed waterfowl after the Australian Wood Duck. A continuation in the reduction of the number of records since the high of 2005-06. Observed throughout the year with 41% of records in spring. Recording rate 12%, mean abundance 9, with max 150/15 Mar SE basin LBG GrL14, 400 m up from Jerrabomberra Ck where birds are being fed. 23 breeding records between 6 Jul and 6 Feb, 11 records dy from Tidbinbilla NR GrF18, JWNR GrL14, Red Hill and Yarralumla GrK14, Yass riverside GrF03, Foxlow Station GrS18 and Callum Brae GrL15.

GBS: Records from 12 sites with breeding from Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4).

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 78 records from 21 grid cells, a slight increase in the number of records from last year but not as high as 2005-06. Reported throughout the year with 62% of records during the spring and summer months. Average abundance 19.2, with the largest concentration reported being 219/19 Oct Pylara - large dam GrW09 (LaS1). No breeding records.

GBS: Records from 2 sites, Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and Harrison GrL11 (ReD2).

Pacific Black Duck X Mallard

General: 2/25 Oct LGin GrJ12 (HaK1) and 2/26 Oct Yowani Golf Club Lyneham GrL12 (CuR1).

Domestic goose

General: 11 records from 6 grid cells, an increase from previous years with records from QSP GrN15, LGin GrI12, JWNR GrL14/M14, Landtasia Mulloon GrW15 and Red Hill and Yarralumla GrK14 of between 1-4 birds. No breeding records.

Muscovy duck

General: 8 records from 3 grid cells. All records from Yerrabi Ponds GrL11 except for a record from Wamboin Big Dam GrP12 and Queanbeyan CBD GrN15. Numbers ranging from 1-5.

PODICIPEDAE: grebes**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 143 records (4 WBS and 4 WOO) is similar to last year but still short of the 237 records in 1988-89 during the atlas project. The number of cells (42) with reports remains relatively low. Of the total records 94 (66%) came from 15 cells in or near Canberra of which 44 came from the JWNR and FSP. Records were reported in all seasons: spring (62), summer (35), autumn (30), winter (16). Largest numbers reported: 37/24 May, 11/21 Feb FSP GrL14 (RaB1, SmA1); 20/17 Sep, 15/19 Mar Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (CuR1). There were 12 breeding records, the lowest number since 2004-05 when only 3 were reported: the first on/19 Oct Pylara GrW09 (LaS1); the last dy/19 Mar Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (CuR1).

GBS: 71 records of 1 to 16 birds throughout the year from 4 rural or urban sites close to bodies of water at Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2), Burra GrM21 (AnI1) and Harrison GrL11 (ReD2). There were 16 breeding records, the highest number for this species reported in the GBS. Of these 14 came from Jerrabomberra (first nb/3wk Sep; last dy/4wk Mar), and 2 from Burra on/2wk Dec, on/3wk Dec.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 36 records from 10 grid cells, a small increase on last year's low numbers (28 records from 9 grid cells). They were reported in all seasons with the usual pattern of fewer records in winter (5), than in spring (10), summer (10) and autumn (11). Largest numbers reported all came from FSP GrL14: 70/16 Jan, 50/15 Sep, 50/6 Feb, 14/25 Oct (HoS1, LaS1. Last year the numbers reported from FSP and elsewhere were exceptionally low.

GBS: 3 records of single birds from a site close to a body of water at Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: 9 records (many of them probably repeat sightings of the same bird): 1/1 Oct Yerrabi Pond GrL10 (3 records), 1/13 Nov LBG Acacia Inlet GrK13 (2 records), 1/27 Nov LBG Acacia Inlet, 1/20 Feb FSP GrL14, 1/4 Mar, 1/5 Mar JWNR GrL14 (BuM1, HoS1, MoM3, RaB1).

COLUMBIDAE: pigeons and doves**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 95 records from 15 grid cells (115 records from 13 grid cells last year). Highest number: 200/31 Jan Kellys Swamp GrL14 (SmA1). No breeding records.

GBS: Recorded from 41 sites across all weeks (40 sites last year). Highest numbers: 55/1wk Mar, 50/1wk Aug, 2wk Mar and 4wk May all from a site in Page GrJ12 (AlB1). Abundance (A=1.3883) is 14.8% higher than the long-term average. It was the 17th most frequently recorded GBS species, down from 14th last year. Breeding from 2 sites: ny/3wk, 4wk Jul and dy/5wk Jul Turner GrK13 (BoC4) and di/3wk Aug Deakin GrK14 (RoD2).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

Rare, Visitor

No records this year: 3 records last year including 2 GBS records of a single bird.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Extra effort in recording sightings would be useful in providing good baseline records for this invasive species.

General: 17 records of up to 2 birds from 8 grid cells, in suburban areas. This is up from 5 records in 4 grid cells last year and also up from 14 records in 7 grid cells in the year before that. Breeding: A single record: di/25 Oct in GrJ16 (PeH2).

GBS: 1-5 birds recorded from 21 sites (15 sites last year). Abundance ($A=0.0810$) is up on last year ($A=0.0662$). Highest count: 5/3wk Jun from a site in Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2). Recorded in all weeks. Breeding: 6 records, all di, from the same site in Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2). First record was 2wk/Oct, and last 1wk/Jan.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 152 records (23 WOO) from 69 grid cells (159 records from 54 grid cells last year). Recorded throughout the year, with max 25/25 Mar Mt Majura GrM13 (HoS1), 24/17 Jun Campbell Park GrM13 (LeM1) and 12/13 Sep MULNR GrL11 (AnI1). Breeding: 4 records. First was nb/25 Oct Paddys River Road GrG15 (MoM3), and last ny/21 Feb Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

GBS: Up to 6 birds recorded from 13 sites, in all weeks except 2wk Apr. Abundance ($A=0.0557$) is 51.3% higher than the long-term average, probably due to regular records from rural sites in Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1) and GrM21 Burra (AnI1). Also regular records from a site in Holder GrJ15 (AsM1). No breeding records.

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: A single record from Pierces Creek 1/3 May GrF15 (SmA1).

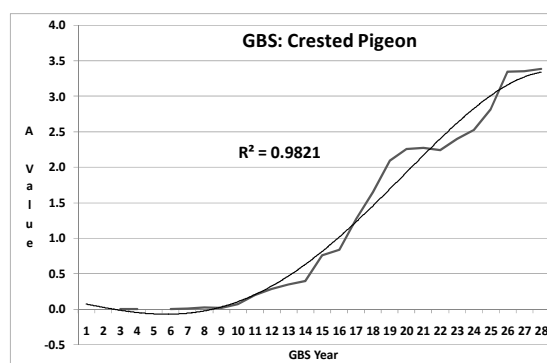
Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Common, Breeding Resident

Appears to have resumed its upward trend after a pause last year.

General: 514 records (79 WOO) from 96 grid cells (462 records from 91 grid cells last year). Recording rate 20.3%, mean abundance 4.36. The majority of records are of 10 birds or fewer; max 44/10 Aug Point Hutt Water Quality Pond GrJ18 (RaB1). Breeding: 15 records (14 last year). First di/6 Sep Hawker Oval GrI12; last ny/9 Jan Flynn GrJ11 (Both AlB1).

GBS: The 6th most reported bird in the GBS, up from 7th position last year and 8th the year before. There were records from all sites. The highest number: 45/1wk Jan from Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). Abundance ($A=3.3832$) is twice the long-term average. Breeding (including di) recorded from 23 sites and in most months, with more reports in Sep/Oct than in other months.



Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Vagrant/Escapée

General: 3 records (same as last year) each of 2 birds: 2/20 Aug McKellar Pond GrJ12, 2/2 Nov Dunlop GrH11 and 2/24 Dec West Macgregor GrH11 all (CuR1). These sites are different from last year's three sites.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 16 records (5 WOO) from 7 grid cells (17 records from 7 grid cells last year). Mean abundance 1.53. Numbers: generally 1-2 birds, with highest 3/27 Jun Newline Quarry GrN14 (LaS1). Breeding: a single record, di/10 Feb Newline Quarry GrN14 (BuM1).

GBS: 10 records of single birds in Deakin GrK14 (FrM2).

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia picata*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 4 records of single birds in 4 grid cells: 1/25 Oct Mt Clear Campground GrI27 (GoJ3), The Tinderries 1/2 Nov GrO24 (LaS1) and 1/27 Nov GrP24 (BuM1), and 1/9 May MULNR GrL11 (AnI1). This follows a recent pattern of low numbers of records from widely distributed locations.

PODARGIDAE: frogmouths**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A cryptic species, generally faithful to the same nest site. Frogmouths have been recorded breeding in nine of the previous ten years. Research by Dr Stuart Rae suggests the species is more common than is recorded here.

General: Twenty-seven records, of 1-5 birds, from 13 widespread grid cells in urban areas, nature reserves and rural sites. Over half of the records came from the spring months when the birds were breeding. There were 14 breeding records, representing at least seven breeding events, from on/21 Sep Hawker GrI13 (BrJ3) to dy/11 Dec Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1).

GBS: Fifty-three records, on a par with the previous two years, and with an A value of 0.0268, up 70% on the long-term average. Numbers ranged from 1-4. Birds were recorded from 11 sites, but were regular in only two, where breeding occurred: from on/4wk Sep to dy/2wk Dec Watson GrL12 (WaK1); and from on/1wk Oct to ny/4wk Nov Carwoola (BuM1).

CAPRIMULGIDAE: nightjars**White-throated Nightjar** *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

No records. Last recorded JWNR GrL14 in Mar 07.

AEGOTHELIDAE: owl nightjar**Australian Owllet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Thirteen records (3 WOO), all of single birds, from 11 grid cells covering urban, nature reserve and rural locations. Only recorded in spring and autumn, though this may be a consequence of the proportion of datasheets (66.8%) from these seasons. Continues the pattern of regular low level reporting of this species. No breeding recorded.

GBS: Nine records, of 1-2 birds, from three sites in Griffith, Carwoola and Burra. Six of the records fell between Jan and Mar. Abundance up 52% on the long-term average.

APODIDAE: swifts**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Uncommon, Migrant

General: Only 3 records for the year, all between the 26 Jan to 3 Mar. One substantial flock of 20 birds was recorded over the Melba Playing Fields GrJ12 (FeP1) on the latter date.

GBS: Recorded 8 times from 7 sites from 2wk Dec to 2wk Mar - a similar abundance to the previous year but continues the decade long decrease in records. One group of 20/2wk Mar, Queanbeyan GrM15 (BeL2), other records are of 1-6 birds only.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Rare, Migrant

General: No records.

GBS: Three records from 2 sites: 1/5wk Jan and 15/2wk Mar, both Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1) and 8/1wk Jan, Fraser GrJ11 (WaS1).

ANHINGIDAE: darter**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 103 records from 13 grid cells. This reverses last year's decline in the number of records and brings them back to the higher levels of 2005-06 and 2006-07. As is usual the majority (74) came from LBG and its environs (incl JWNP). The remainder were from LGin (9) and other Canberra lakes and ponds with the exception of 1/20 Jul Tharwa/Gigerline Sandwash Hill GrJ19 (COF1), 1/25 Oct QSP GrN15 (BuM1), 1/2 Nov Tinderry NR GrO21 (McI1), 3/6 Apr Queanbeyan CBD GrN15 (BuM1). They were reported in all seasons: spring (31), summer (28), autumn, and (31) winter (13). This year breeding was reported from only 1 site: Molonglo Reach GrL14 br/11 Oct (SmA1), ny/25 Oct, (LaS1), br/22 Nov (SmA1), dy/15 Mar (COF1), dy/24 Apr (HoS1), dy/9 May (HoS1). The number of birds involved varied from 4 to 60. The removal of the trees from the north bank of the reach during the year appears not to have reduced the number of Australasian Darters nesting there (Holland 2009). This year there were no records of breeding on the E side of Black Mt Peninsula although 1 nest was reported there by Rod McKay in Holland (op. cit.). Little Pied Cormorants and Great Cormorants were also breeding at the Molonglo Reach site.

GBS: 9 records of 1 to 5 birds from 5 sites. All but 1 of the sites were suburban and away from bodies of water.

PHALACROCORACIDAE: cormorants**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Common, Breeding Resident

The number of records continues to remain high.

General: 174 records (2 WOO, 1 WBS) from 38 grid cells. Although the number of records has shown a small increase over last year (163) the number of grid cells from which they were reported has decreased from 49 to 38. The majority of records, 124 (65%), continue to come from urban lakes and wetlands in Canberra. They were reported in all seasons: spring (70), summer (31), autumn (51) winter (22). Breeding was reported from two sites: on an island in a small lake at Yowani Country Club GrL12 on/10 Oct, ny/26 Oct (CoD1, CuR1) (both records were of 20 birds with approx. 10 nests) and Molonglo Reach GrL14 on/25 Oct, br/1 Jan, on/15 Mar (1 to 4 birds) (LaS1, SmA1, COF1). Little Black Cormorants, Australian White Ibis and Royal Spoonbills were also breeding at the Yowani Country Club site and Australasian Darters and Great Cormorants at the Molonglo Reach site. Away from the breeding colonies the largest number reported was: 13/25 May Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (RaB1). The others were 10 or fewer with the majority being of 1 or 2 birds.

GBS: 111 records throughout the year from 11 sites is similar to last year's large number. They came mostly from rural and urban sites close to bodies of water with the majority from Murrumbateman GrI8 (32 records), Jerrabomberra GrM16 (30), Hoskinstown GrS17 (18) and Curtin GrJ14 (10). The largest numbers were 13/4wk Mar Murrumbateman, and 11/4wk Feb, 11/4wk Mar, 10/1wk Mar from Jerrabomberra.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common, Breeding Resident

The number of records remains at the historically high numbers of the past five years.

General: 101 records from 23 grid cells. 83 (82%) of the records came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra. They were reported in all seasons: spring (42), summer (25), autumn (25), winter (9). The largest numbers were: 30/17 Jan Googong Dam GrO17 (AnI1), 22/8 Sep LGin Peninsula GrJ12 (AlB1), 20/19 Nov LGin GrJ12 (BuM1). These were observed over survey distances of 5 km and 500 m. There were two breeding records from the Molonglo Reach GrL14 on/15 Mar (COF1) and on/31 Mar (HoS1) involving 12 birds and 16 birds respectively, and one

from LGin W shore (GrJ12) br/20 Nov (SmA1). Australasian Darters and other species of cormorant were also breeding at the Molonglo Reach site at the same time.

GBS: 37 records from 7 sites. 26 of the records involved sightings of 1 to 9 birds from Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2), a suburban site close to a body of water. Of interest are records from a site which includes a portion of LTug: 27/2wk Oct, 22/3wk Apr, 22/4wk Apr Greenway GrJ16 (HaA2). In recent years, particularly 2006-07 (COG 2008), a number of observers have recorded flocks of Great Cormorants on LTug.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common, Breeding Resident

Although both the number of records and individuals has remained consistent, there has been a sharp decline in the number of breeding records reported on the COG database.

General: 65 records from 11 grid cells. As in previous years, most records (62) came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra with the majority coming from LBG and JWNR (28) and LGin (17). There were fewer records in winter (7) than in spring (26), summer (11) or autumn (21). The only breeding record this year was a pair building a nest among Australian White Ibis at Yowani Country Club GrL12 (CoD2) which is the first time they have been recorded breeding at this site. This is the lowest number of breeding records since 2004 (COG 2005) when the species started to regularly breed each year in the Canberra region. There is, however, reference in Holland (2009) to an observation by Rod Mackay on 28 Feb of at least 150 Little Black Cormorants with 45 nests (the birds were carrying nesting material, mating and feeding young) just west of the mouth of Sullivans Ck. This record is not on the COG database. Largest numbers reported: 80/10 Apr LBG Yarralumla GrK14 (AlM2), 80/19 Apr LTug GrJ16 (HoJ1), 70/24 May FSP GrL14 (SmA1), 55/10 Apr LGin GrJ12 (AlB1).

GBS: 13 records from 2 sites (none in winter): Curtin GrJ14 2 records of 2 and 15 birds, and Jerrabomberra GrM16 11 records of 1 or 2 birds.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Rare, Visitor

General: 11 records from 3 grid cells covering LBG or immediate vicinity: 2/11 Oct, 1/26 Oct, 6/9 Jan JWNR GrL14; 5/25 Oct, 2/26 Oct, 2/28 Jan, 2/12 Feb, 9/20 Apr Aspen Island LBG GrL14; 1/17 Sep Molonglo R below Scrivener Dam; 1/26 Aug, 1/8 Sep LGin GrJ12 (SmA1, PeH2, LaS1, DaG2, HeS1, HoS1, AlB1).

GBS: 1/4wk Apr Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

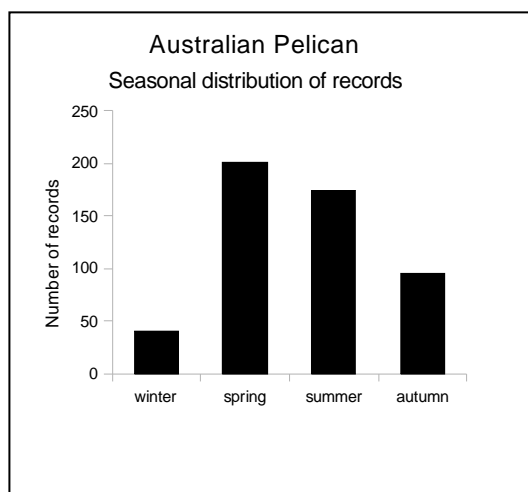
PELECANIDAE: pelican

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Common, Visitor

Although present throughout the year, since 2001-02 most have been recorded during the warmer months.

General: 57 records from 6 grid cells continue last year's low recording rate. Other than one record of 5 birds from Googong Dam on 8 Nov the records came from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra of which the majority (46) were from LBG and JWNR. As usual there were fewer records in winter (2) and autumn (5), than in spring (35) and summer (15). Since 2001-02 there have been 512 general records of Australian Pelicans reported in the ABRs, the seasonal distribution of these are: winter 8% (40 records); spring 39% (201); summer 34% (175); and autumn 19% (96). This seasonal distribution is similar to that



reported in the ACT Bird Atlas (Taylor and COG 1992). Largest numbers reported were as usual during the warmer months: 22/26 Oct, 19/26 Oct, 19/16 Nov all JWNR GrL14 (SmA1, PeH2).

GBS: 15 records (1 in winter, 5 in spring and 9 in summer) from 7 sites in Belconnen (4), central Canberra (2) and Jerrabomberra (1). The numbers seen varied from 1 to 25.

ARDEIDAE: herons, egrets, bitterns

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Rare, Visitor

No records. Last recorded 27 Jun 2001.

Australian Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Rare, Visitor

No records. Last recorded 10 Feb 2008.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 19 records from 14 grid cells. They were widely distributed and reported in all seasons: spring (10), summer (5), autumn (3), winter (1). The largest number reported was: 4/21 Mar Foxlow Lagoon GrS18 (BuM1). All other reports were of single birds.

GBS: 8 records of single birds from sites in Hoskinstown GrS17 (6 records), Carwoola GrQ16 (1 record) and Jerrabomberra GrM16 (1 record).

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 35 records from 8 grid cells. This reporting rate is similar to the last two years and are the largest numbers of records reported for this species in an ABR, although some may have been repeat sightings of the same bird. 33 of the sightings were from suburban lakes and wetlands in Canberra and 2 were from Queanbeyan. The numbers reported were 1 bird (30 records), 2 birds (4 records) or 3 birds (1 record). They were recorded in all seasons: spring (24), summer (5), autumn (5), winter (1).

GBS: 1/4wk Feb, 1/3wk Mar Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

Rare, Visitor

General: 9 records, each of 1 bird at JWNR GrL14 from 8 Oct to 1 Jan (SmA1, HoS1, LaS1, WiT1). It is possible these sightings are all of the same bird.

GBS: 1/3wk Apr Kingston GrL14 (StL1). Is this the bird, or one of the birds, seen at JWNR?

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 10 records from 3 grid cells. This continues last year's decline in the reporting rate. Numbers varied from 1 to 18 and were reported from JWNR GrL14 (6 records), Molonglo Reach GrL14 (2), LGin GrJ12 (1) and Tarago GrX03 (1). A number of the records may have been of the same bird or birds.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

The number of records has dropped this year.

General: 101 records (1 WOO and 1 WBS) from 34 grid cells. After three years of high numbers (2005-06, 212 records from 49 cells; 2006-07, 174 from 44; 2007-08, 175 from 57) both the number of records and cells have dropped back to the low numbers of 2001-05. They were reported in all seasons: spring (35), summer (26) and autumn (32), with, as is usual, the lowest number in winter (8). Where numbers were provided 71 (75%) were of 1 bird, 13 (14%) of 2 birds, 7 (7%) of 3 birds, and 4 (4%) of 4 birds. Surprisingly, there were no breeding records.

GBS: 84 records from 13 sites which is considerably lower than last year's 153 records from 16 sites. The majority came from sites in Hoskinstown (25 records), Red Hill (19) and

Jerrabomberra (10). The number of records from each of these 3 sites was about 30% lower than last year. 75 of the records were of 1 bird, 7 were of 2 birds and 2 were of 3 birds. There was 1 breeding record: nb/5wk Oct Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare, Visitor

General: 1/25 Oct Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (FoJ2).

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: The number of records has risen from 7 last year to the more usual 20 this year (incl 1 WBS). The majority came from LGin (9 records of 1 to 4 birds) and JWNP (9 records of 1 or 2 birds). There was also a record of 1 bird on the Molonglo R below Scrivener Dam GrJ14 and 1 bird at the east basin LBath GrY08. There were no records reported in the cooler months of May, Jun and Jul.

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

THRESKIORNITHIDAE: ibises and spoonbills

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare, Visitor

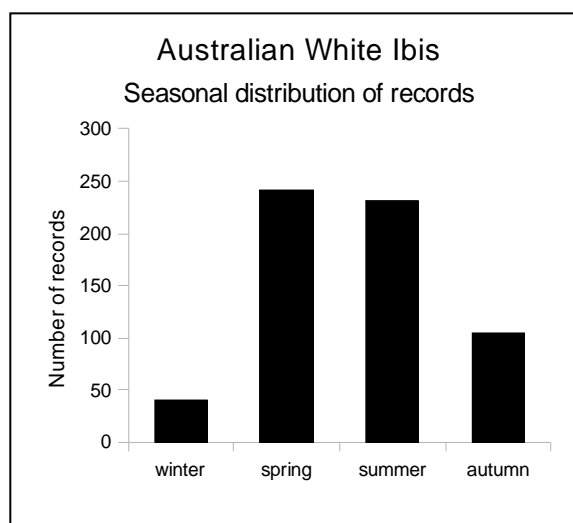
General: 10 sightings of 1 or 2 birds by 5 observers, all JWNR GrL14 from 9 Nov to 22 Nov. These sightings are likely to have been of the same individual or individuals.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Common, Breeding Resident

Although present throughout the year, since 2001-01 most have been recorded during spring and summer. Breeding continues to be reported in the Canberra region.

General: 103 records (5 WOO and 1 WBS) from 32 grid cells which is similar to the last three years' reporting level although there is a rise of about 50% in the number of cells from which they were reported. 82 (80%) of the records came from parks and reserves in Canberra. As in previous years the majority were reported in spring (51) and summer (35), with fewer in autumn (14) and winter (3). Since 2000-01 there have been 618 general records of Australian White Ibis reported in the ABRs, the seasonal distribution of these are: winter 7% (41 records); spring 39% (241); summer 38% (232); and autumn 16% (104). Largest numbers reported away from the breeding colony: 90/31 Jan, 26/30 Jan, 23/6 Feb JWNR GrL14 (SmA1, HoS1), 28/15 Aug Bungendore Sewage Works GrS13 (LaS1). There were 2 breeding records (ny) from an island at Yowani Country Club GrK12. The first was on 10 Oct when 150 birds were reported as being present with about 85 nests (CoD1) and the second on 26 Oct when 150 birds were again reported as being present with about 30 nests (CuR1). On both occasions it was thought that some birds may have also been sitting on eggs. This is the largest number reported from this site. Little Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants were also reported as breeding there on 10 Oct. There was also one breeding record from JWNR br/1 Jan (SmA1), but no further information was provided. This is the second report of Australian White Ibis breeding in the JWNR. The first was a record of a bird on a nest on 5 Feb 1998 (COG 1999). Butterfield (2008) makes reference to an unpublished report by Rod Mackay of an Australian White Ibis nesting in the JWNR in 2007.



GBS: 85 records from 16 sites which continues last year's high recording rate. 54 (64%) of the records came from two sites: 34 from Murrumbateman GrI08 and 20 from Jerrabomberra GrM16. Largest: 17/1wk Sep Kingston GrL14 (StL1). As is usual, the majority of records were reported in spring (25) and summer (34), with fewer in autumn (21) and winter (5).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Common, Visitor

General: 63 records (2 WOO) from 19 grid cells continues last year's substantial drop in the number of records compared with 2006-07 which were at an all time high (123 from 27 grid cells). 54 (86%) of the records came from parks and reserves in Canberra, 36 of which came from the JWNR. They were reported in all seasons: spring (31), summer (13), autumn (13) and winter (6). The largest numbers reported were: 100/11 Nov TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1), 50/10 Apr LBG Yarralumla GrK14 (AlM2), 40/22 Nov Wamboin GrP12 (McD1), 38/12 Sep JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: 47 records from 18 sites continues last year's substantial drop in the number of records compared with 2006-07 which was at an all time high (137 from 26 grid cells). They were reported in all seasons: spring (11), summer (6), autumn (12) and winter (18). The largest group was: 80/2wk Sep Weetangera GrJ13 (OnP1).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 47 records of which 44 came from the JWNR GrL14, most of these were the results of observations made by many people from 10 Sep through to 25 Feb of the successful breeding of Royal Spoonbills at three nests. This is described in detail by Butterfield (2008, 2009) and Compston (2009). This is the second report of Royal Spoonbills breeding at JWNR; the first was on 5 Feb 1998 when a nest with young was recorded (COG 1999). Butterfield (2008) makes reference to an unpublished report by Rod Mackay of an abandoned nesting attempt in the same area in 2007. The remaining three records were an observation of an adult in breeding plumage displaying to an adult Australian White Ibis at Yowani Country Club GrL12 on 10 Oct (CoD2), and two sightings, each of 2 individuals, at Yerrabi Pond GrL11 on 19 Mar (HoS1, CuR1).

GBS: 1/3wk Jan Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: 3 records (2 WBS): 2/25 Sep LBath Morass S GrZ08, 2/15 Feb LBath-Glenoval Rd GrX07 (LeM1), 1/26 Mar Dunlop Pond GrI11 (CuR1).

ACCIPITRIDAE: kites, harriers, goshawks, eagles

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Very few records of this species this year – only 14, the lowest number recorded since 1999-2000, and well below the previous ten-year average of 43.1. All records were of single birds, except 2/13 Sep JWNR GrL14 (HoS1). Recorded in 11 grid cells, from the edges of suburbia to rural grasslands, between Sep and Apr. Breeding has not been recorded for three years.

GBS: Only two records: 1/3wk Jan Burra GrM21 (AnI1); and 1/4wk Mar Gundaroo GrO07 (NiA1). Abundance (A) own 53.83% on the long term average.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Uncommon, Visitor

General: Thirteen records, of 1-2 birds, as against a 10-year average of 5.8 records p.a. All records came from around the urban lakes or the Murrumbidgee River. Although from a low base, the species does show a pronounced seasonal pattern this year, with eight records coming in autumn. No breeding recorded.

GBS: No records. The species is rarely recorded over the suburbs, only four times in the previous ten years.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Twenty-five records, the lowest number since 2003-04, and below the ten-year average of 27.5. Mainly single birds were recorded, though 2-3 were seen on three occasions at JWNR GrL14, which accounted for 72% of all records. Other locations included Uriarra Crossing, Googong Dam, Tharwa Sandwash and LBath. Birds were recorded in most months, though 56% of records came in spring. No breeding was recorded, though the species has bred in GrL14 in the previous two years.

GBS: Two records only, of single birds: 1/3wk Dec Aranda GrJ13 (OrP1); and 1/3wk Mar Gordon GrK18 (RaB1). Though this species is recorded in most years in the GBS, it is not a species one would expect in suburbia as reflected by its abundance value of 0.0006.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Rare, Visitor

General: Three records, all of single birds, two in Nov and one, surprisingly, in Jun, and all from the north-west of COG's area of interest, around Yass and Bowning. The species has been recorded in six of the previous ten years, probably as a result of the continuing inland drought.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Eighty-nine records (15 WOO), of 1-3 birds, comparable with the results for the previous three years. Most records (46%) came in spring, the season with most datasheets (41.4%) submitted. Records came from 44 widely dispersed grid cells, both urban and rural. There were nine breeding records, from di/16 Sep Mt Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) to cf/30 Dec The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1). 19 and 31 Jan records from the latter site described three juveniles (BrJ3).

GBS: Twenty-eight records, all of single birds, between 4wk Aug and 1wk May, and from 14 sites. The majority of observations fell between Jan-Apr. No breeding was recorded. This species is down 30.4% on the long-term average, but the possibility of confusion with the other common *Accipiter*, the Collared Sparrowhawk cannot be ruled out.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: Thirty-four records, mostly of single birds, with only 2 groups of 2. Recorded in most months, though 46% of the records came in spring. Observed in 24 widespread grid cells, with urban nature reserves heavily represented. Only one breeding record: nb/13 Sep Cotter River GrG14 (MaM4).

GBS: Fifty-four records, all of single birds except 2/4wk Oct Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). Recorded in all months, though uncommon in spring; from 21 widespread sites. Down 24.42% on the long-term average for this species.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records this year. Most recent record Jun 2008 at Coppins Crossing GrI13. The species is generally recorded once or twice in most years.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Rare, Visitor

This species is an irregular visitor to COG's region, being recorded in seven of the previous ten years.

General: One record of a single bird, 2 Oct TSR48 GrN05 (LeM1).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Five records, 4 of single birds and 2/25 Oct Yankee Hat GrH24 (GoJ3). Recorded from 4 grid cells, from locations including Lake Tuggeranong, the Orroral Valley and JWNR. 4 spring records, one winter. Over the previous ten years, record numbers have ranged from none in 2004-05 to 13 in 2006-07. No breeding recorded.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Common, Breeding Resident

So far, the iconic “Wedgie” appears to be coping adequately with Canberra’s urban sprawl. The paucity of breeding records may tell a different story, though University of Canberra research into raptor breeding in our area always points to far more breeding events than are recorded by COG members (see, for example, J. Olsen et al, 2009). That same paper stated: “Canberra ... is the only city in the world with nesting *Aquila* eagles inside the city limits. Wedge-tailed Eagles will probably be lost as a breeding species inside city limits within the decade.”

General: One hundred and twenty-eight records (5 WOO), with a range 1-5 birds, average 1.7. This compares well with an average of 90.6 records p.a. over the previous ten years. Birds were recorded from 73 widespread grid cells, both urban and rural, and representing over a quarter of the grid cells surveyed. The majority of records came in autumn (40%) when young birds might be dispersing; with winter accounting for 12%, spring 28% and summer 20% of records. Breeding was recorded only twice (though see Olsen 2009) in locations previously known to be used: br/10 Oct Woodstock NR GrG12 (SmA1); and an early start to the 2009-10 season with co/31 May Lower Molonglo GrI14 (LeM1). However many autumn records also included notes to the effect that young birds were involved, viz 3/20 Feb Tharwa Rd GrJ19 (HoS1) and 4/18 Mar GOONR GrM11 (HoS1).

GBS: Seventy-five records, of 1-3 birds, from 29 sites. Recorded in all months except Oct, though more commonly in the second half of the year. The A value of 0.0325 was 171% above the long-term average.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

For a species reported as being in severe decline in the ACT (Olsen et al 2008, 2009, COG 2008), this is again a surprising number of records, and may be the consequence of the many warm exhortations to COG members to submit all records of this species declared “vulnerable” in the ACT in 2008. Misidentification cannot be ruled out entirely, however.

General: Sixty-five records, of 1-2 birds (45 singles and 18 twos, with two “presence”), observed in all months though more commonly in spring and summer. Compares favourably with the average number of records over the previous ten years, viz 34.8 p.a. Records from 22 grid cells, the hot spots being West Macgregor GrH11 and GrI11, and Kellys Swamp GrL14. Five breeding records, of two breeding events: on/15 Oct to ny/24 Dec West Macgregor GrH11 (CuR1); and dy/29 Dec TSR48 GrO05 (LeM1), but see Olsen (2009). Breeding has been recorded in four of the previous five years.

GBS: Thirteen records, compared with 19 last year, coming from one rural and seven suburban sites. All records of single birds except 2/4wk Dec Isaacs GrK16 (MaC2), and only two records in the first half of the year. A=0.0042, down 24.42% against the long-term average.



Julian Robinson

FALCONIDAE: kestrel, falcons, hobby**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

Common, Breeding Resident

Our most commonly recorded raptor, if we exclude GBS sightings, though the Wedge-tailed Eagle pips the kestrel in combined surveys. It is probably unsurprising that these two species are arguably the most visually distinctive raptors in our region.

General: One hundred and forty-five records (16 WOO), with a range of 1-4 birds, at an average of 1.26, with 58% of the records coming in spring. The birds were recorded over 73 widespread grid cells, principally on the urban fringes and in rural grasslands. The number of records compares well with the annual average of 112, over the previous ten years, but is still well below the 2000-01 high of 195. There were only three breeding records, of potentially two breeding events: di/15 Sep and on/10 Oct GOONR GrM11 (HoS1); and di/25 Oct Molonglo Gorge GrN13 (ZwM1).

GBS: Thirty-eight records, the highest number also since 2000-01, of 1-2 birds, from Sep onwards. From 14 sites, either rural locations or urban sites adjacent to grasslands. Somewhat regular in only one, at Burra GrM21 (AnI1). A=0.0131, down 40% against the long-term average.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Seventy-five records (2 WOO), with a range of 1-4 individuals, at an average of 1.24. This represents the highest number of records for the species over the previous ten years. While the Brown Falcon was recorded in all months, 39% of records came in the spring, and 29% in autumn. The species was recorded in 42 grid cells, almost exclusively from rural areas or the urban fringes. No breeding was recorded, though the record of four birds from Gundaroo in Feb is suggestive.

GBS: Only five records, 2/2wk Oct Hackett GrL13 (LeB1), and the remainder single birds from sites in Turner, Carwoola and Burra. The Brown Falcon is increasingly the least urban of our raptors; its abundance level is down 71% on the long-term average.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

Records for this largely urban raptor have dropped slightly from last year's positive figures, but remain within historic parameters.

General: Thirty-five records, with a range of 1-3 birds, the majority (37% of records) coming in summer. Only two winter records, suggestive of at least a partial migration of this species. Recorded from 20 widespread grid cells principally, covering suburbs and fringes. Three breeding records: on/21 Oct Westbourne Woods GrK14 (HaK1); on/25 Oct Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4); and dy/1 Feb Naas Valley GrJ22 (BrM2).

GBS: Seventy-two records, with a range of 1-4 birds, from 21 widespread sites. Regular in only one, where a pair bred again: from on/2wk Oct to dy/3wk Dec Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4). Hobbies were recorded in all months, though more commonly in Feb when the young are dispersing. The abundance for this species was down 22.8% on last year and 11% on the long-term average.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

Rare, Visitor

General: Two records, both of single birds and both from The Morass S GrZ08: 1/22 Mar (FrM1) and 1/29 Apr (LeM1). This inland raptor has been recorded in our area in each of the previous five years, albeit infrequently.

GBS: A surprising record from inner Canberra: 1/5wk Jan Turner GrK13 (MiP1), the first GBS record for this species since 2002-03.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Twenty-five records (no WOO), mainly of single birds, from 18 widespread grid cells, both urban and rural. There were no records for the period Oct-Dec, or Apr. This is the lowest number of general records in the past five years, though compares better with the average of 19.6 records p.a. over the previous ten years. No breeding was recorded, though University of Canberra research shows otherwise (J. Olsen, pers comm).

GBS: 17 records, all of single birds except for one record of 4/3wk Dec Burra GrM21 (AnI1). Records came from 11 widespread sites, with the birds regularly observed in none. Records were quite seasonal, in Aug-Sep, then again from Dec-May. This is a distinct improvement on last year's miserly 4 records; the A value for the species is 0.0060, up nearly 22% on the long-term average.

RALLIDAE: rails, crakes, swamphen, moorhen, coot**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 160 records, a typical reporting rate for recent years. The urban lakes and their associated tributaries and wetlands account for most records, 94% again this year (72 from JWNR, 22 from various other sites around LBG, 28 from LGin, 2 from LTug, 13 from Point Hut Pond, 6 from Gungahlin Wetlands, and 8 from Dunlop). There are just 9 records from widespread locations away from Canberra, including Uriarra Homestead Dam GrF13, Tidbinbilla GrF18 (2), Bendora Dam GrD17, Queanbeyan GrN15, Briars Sharrow area GrR16 (2), Tarago GrX08, and a single WBS record from LBath GrX07 in Apr. The mean number of individuals reported per record was 12, the largest number reported was 60/6 Aug LTug GrJ16 (HeS1). There were 27 records of breeding (16% of all records) including co, nb, on, dy and br, over a period from 20 Aug to 28 Feb, with first on/20 Aug Giralang Pond GrK12 (CuR1) and last dy/28 Feb Jarramlee Pond GrI11 (FeP1).

GBS: Regular records throughout the year, of up to 24 birds, from two sites, one in Greenway (LTug) GrJ16 (HaA2), the other at LJerr, NSW GrM16 (HaL2). Breeding observed at Jerrwith co 1-3 wk Sep and dy from 4 wk Oct to 2 wk Feb.

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: No records this year. The species has been recorded in 7 of the previous 10 years with an average of 2 records per year.

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: After 19 records last year, the 9 records this year is still a little higher than average (mean 5.0, range 0-19 for the previous 10 years). This species has been recorded from 10 of the past 11 years. Seven of the reports were from Kellys Swamp JWNR in Oct-Nov, the other two from Norgrove Park in Kingston in Aug and Jan.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

Rare, Visitor

General: 15 records this year is similar to last year (13) but still above average (mean 8.1, range 0-41 for the previous 10 years). The species has been recorded in 8 of the past 11 years. All records were from Kellys Swamp or the FSP GrL14, between 28 Aug and 25 Jan, of up to 3 birds.



Julian Robinson

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 6 records this year (mean 6.3, range 0-24 for the previous 10 years). The species has been reported in 9 of the past 11 years. All records of up to 3 birds were from Kellys Swamp or FSP GrL14, between 18 Nov and 25 Jan (SmA1, HoS1).

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis*

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: 10 records this year is slightly above average (mean 7.4, range 0-32 for the previous 10 years). The species has now been recorded from 10 of the past 11 years. Two of the records were from the Namadgi Visitors Centre GrJ19 in Jul (following records from there since Feb), and there were 5 records from Kellys Swamp and 3 from Norgrove Park between 26 Aug and 21 Feb. After suspected breeding at the Namadgi Visitor's Centre last year, breeding this year is evidenced from dy/18 Nov Kellys Swamp (HoS1) and br/23 Jan Norgrove Park (SmA1).

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records this year. The species was recorded in low numbers in 2007-08, 2002-03 and 2001-02.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 165 records this year is typical of recent reporting rates (cf 155 last year, 177 in 2006-07). The urban lakes and their associated tributaries and wetlands account for most records, 90% this year (well up on 81% last year): 70 from JWNR, 25 from various other sites around LBG, 27 from LGin, just 1 from LTug, 13 from Point Hut Pond, 9 from Gungahlin Wetlands, and 5 from Dunlop. The 15 records from locations away from Canberra include several from Uriarra Homestead, Tidbinbilla, Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Gunning, Yass, and Googong dam (no records from either WBS or WOO). The average number of individuals reported per record was 8.2, max 103/19 Mar Yerrabi Pond (CuR1). There were 20 records of breeding (up on 14 last year and 7 the year before that) including on, dy, and br, between 12 Oct and 13 Feb, a more restricted breeding season than last year, but from more widespread locations including Yowani Golf Club and Tidbinbilla as well as the major urban wetlands.

GBS: Regular records throughout the year, of up to 28 birds, from two sites, one in Greenway (LTug) GrJ16 (HaA2), the other at LJerr, NSW GrM16 (HaL2). Breeding observed at LJerr with co 3 wk Sep and dy from 2 wk Nov to 4 wk Mar.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 194 records this year is typical of recent reporting rates (cf 175 last year, 207 in 2006-07). The urban lakes and associated tributaries and wetlands account for most records, 81% this year (down on 82% last year and 86% in 2006-07): 66 from JWNR, 30 from various other sites around LBG, 26 from LGin, 2 from LTug, 13 from Point Hut pond, 9 from Gungahlin wetlands, and 12 from Dunlop. The 36 records from locations away from Canberra include several from Uriarra, Tidbinbilla, Queanbeyan, Murrumbateman, Bungendore, Googong Dam, and several other rural locations. While there were no WBS records, two of the records came from MJF WOO. The average number of individuals reported per record was 31, the largest number reported being 618 at Yerrabi Pond on 25 May (RaB1). Local breeding was again evident this year, with 9 records from several locations including 4 records from the ponds at Dunlop, and single records from JWNR, Harrison GrL11, MJF (WOO), Tidbinbilla NR, and Murrumbateman. Indicators included nb, n and dy, from 25 Oct to 28 Feb, with first on/25 Oct Fassifern Pond GrI11 (CuR1) and last dy/28 Feb Jarramlee Pond GrI11 (FeP1).

GBS: Regular records throughout the year, of up to 130 birds, from two sites, one in Greenway (LTug) GrJ16 (HaA2), the other at LJerr, NSW GrM16 (HaL2). Also two records of 1-2 birds in Aug and Nov from a site in Harrison. Breeding observed at LJerr with dy from 4 wk Oct to 4 wk Mar.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE: stilts, avocet

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

General: 16 records from 5 grid cells with 75% of records during the spring. Average abundance 5.6, with largest concentration 16/27 Oct LBath S morass GrZ08 (LeM1). Regularly reported from GrS18 Foxlow Station and GrL14 JWNR. No breeding records this year.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* Uncommon, visitor

General: 2 records from GrZ08 LBath S morass between 21 Jul and 25 Sep, 1-2 birds only.

CHARADRIIDAE: plovers, dotterels, lapwings

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Rare, Migrant

General: A single record of 19 birds on 27 Oct from LBath S Morass GrZ08 (LeM1). The number well up from the 2 birds seen last year.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 3 records all from LBath S Morass GrZ08 (LeM1) between 21 Jul and 27 Oct with numbers varying from 17 to 115 (LeM1).

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* Uncommon, Migrant

General: 1 record from LBath S Morass GrZ08 (LeM1) on 21 Jul. Similar reporting rate to previous years.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops* Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 58 records from 20 grid cells with a single record during winter, an increase in both the number of records and grids cells from last year. Average abundance 3.1 with highest concentration 25/20 Apr JWNR GrL14 (SmA1). 2 breeding records only, dy/17 Nov GrQ16 Carwoola (BuM1) and dy/20 Feb GrJ19 Tharwa Sandwash (HoS1).

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus* Uncommon, Visitor

General: 15 records from 5 grid cells, similar to last year. Reported throughout the year with 73% records during spring. Average abundance 2.1 with max 4/11 Oct Uriarra Station Dam GrF13 (SmA1) and 4/6 Nov Canturf Dam 4 km SW of Bungendore GrR13 (DeD2). No breeding records.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolour* Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

General: 5 records from 3 grid cells, similar to last year. All from LBath between 25 Sep and 28 May in groups of 2, 3 and 8 with largest concentration 36/15 Dec LBath east basin GrY08 (LeM1). No breeding records.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* Common, Breeding Resident

General: 166 records from 50 grid cells, the number of records down from the last three years but similar number of cells. Generally seen in groups of 2 with largest concentration 33/25 Sep LBath S Morass GrZ08 (LeM1), well down on last year. 5 breeding records between 16 Aug and 19 Dec all from different grids cells (2 on, 2 ne, 1 dy).

GBS: Records from 24 sites in all weeks, with largest group 10/3wk Feb Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) but no breeding observations.

ROSTRATULIDAE: painted snipe**Australian Painted Snipe** *Rostratula australis*

Rare Visitor

General: No records. One record last year.**SCOLOPACIDAE: snipe, sandpipers and allies**

No records of

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (last recorded Jan 2006)

Rare, Migrant

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (last recorded Dec 1996)

Rare, Migrant

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (8 records last year)

Vagrant

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (last recorded Nov 1999)

Rare, Migrant

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* (last recorded Dec 2002)

Rare, Migrant

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (last record Aug 2006)

Rare, Migrant

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (last recorded Sep 1997)

Rare, Migrant

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Uncommon, Migrant

General: 26 records from 7 grid cells, similar to previous years but lower than the 45 records of 2006-07 and an increase in the number of cells since last year. Reported from Dunlop Pond GrI11 (2 records), JWNR GrL14 (17 records), and Acacia Inlet LBG GrK13/J13 (4 records). Also reported from Pylara - large dam GrW09 (1 record), Orroral Valley Nursery Swamp car park GrH22 (1 record) and Uriarra Station dam GrF13 (1 record). Reported between 10 Oct and 18 Feb. Largest concentration of 9 birds seen on 3 occasions all from the JWNR area.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rare, Migrant

General: 3 records all of a single bird from LGin GrJ12 over the period 19-20 Nov. The first record of this species since Mar 2006.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Rare, Migrant

General: 4 records from 2 grid cells, the first records since Sep 2005. A single record from LBath S morass GrZ08 (LeM1) on 27 Oct and 3 records of a single bird at Kellys Swamp GrL14 on 22 Jan.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Rare, Migrant

General: 2 records from GrZ08 LBath S morass (LeM1) between 25 Sep and 27 Oct. Largest concentration 10/27 Oct.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Common, Migrant

General: 7 records from 2 grid cells, the lowest number of records for many years but reported from the usual spots of LBath and JWNR. The largest concentrations were reported from LBath 93/25 Sep and 30/27 Oct (LeM1) with a maximum of 4 only from JWNR. Records between 12 Sep and 3 Nov.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Rare, Migrant

General: A single record from LBath S morass GrZ08 of 2/27 Oct (LeM1). Previously recorded Aug 2006.

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

Rare, Breeding Resident

General: Seven records this year is a return to normal recording (mean 4.1 range 0-12 over previous 10 years) after an unusual two years without records. Records were scattered in location and date: 1/31 Mar Symonston (WOO) (BoJ1), 1/23 Sep Cooleman Ridge GrI15, 1/28 Jan Paddys River Rd GrG15 and 1/2 Feb Corin Rd GrE19 (all HoS1), 1/8 Jun Stoney Ck nr Cotter Reserve GrG14 (MaM4), 2/26 Oct Old Boboyan Rd GrH27 (LaS1), and 2/13 May Belili 12 km ENE of Murrumbateman GrL05 (TaN1). No breeding reported.

Little Button-quail *Turnix velox*

Rare, Migrant

General: This species is rarely recorded in the ACT, but this year there were three records. Two of the records were almost certainly of the same bird at Mountain Creek Rd GrG13 on 10 and 11 Oct (HoS1, SmA1), the other of a bird at TSR 48 near Gundaroo (GrO05) on 29 Dec (LeM1).

LARIDAE: gulls and terns

No records of:

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (last record 7 Nov 2005)

Rare, Visitor

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (last record 1 Aug 2005)

Rare, Visitor

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: 8 records from 2 grid cells, similar to previous years. All records from FSP/JWNR GrL14 apart from a single record at LBath S morass GrZ08. Records between 15 Sep and Jan with largest concentration 20/27 Oct LBath S morass (LeM1), else records of 1-2 birds.

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: GBS: 68 records from 10 grid cells, similar to previous years. Largest concentrations 140/31 Mar Molonglo Reach GrL14 (HoS1), 100/2 Jan LGin GrJ12 (AlB1), 96/21 Jul LBath S morass GrZ08. 2 breeding records, 1 possibly 2-3 more ne/5 Dec (McD1) and ny/10 Dec (RoJ3) both Spinnaker Island LBG GrK14. Possibly the first records of breeding on an island on LBG. **GBS:** Reported from 4 sites Curtin GrJ14 (ArJ1), Griffith GrL14 (BaS2), Greenway GrJ16 (HaA2) and Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

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

Rare Visitor

General: Seven records of 3-10 birds this year from 5 grids compared with only one record last year and 20 records in 2006-07. Most records in Mt Ainslie/Mt Majura NP although there were also records from Kowen Forest, Tinderry NR and The Pinnacle. Records from 26 Oct to 30 Mar. One breeding record: co/28 Mar Mt Ainslie East GrM13 (HoS1).

GBS: Mean abundance $A=0.0077$ ($A=0.0113$ in 2007-08). Recorded from 2 sites: 6/5 wk Jul, 2/1 wk Aug, and 1-4 between 3 wk Dec and 4 wk Mar, Burra GrM21 (AnI1), and 3/1 wk May Oxley GrJ16 (WaJ3). No breeding records.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 98 records (4 WOO 4.1%) this year from 58 grids (20.7%) compared with 62 records last year and 117 records in 2006-07. Reporting rate 3.9%. Abundance: mean 6.6, median 2, max 113/Molonglo R 23 Aug GrM15 (LaS1). 6 breeding records (none last year) from dy/12 Oct Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2) to dy/29 Jan Tidbinbilla NR GrG18 (HoS1).

GBS: Records from 64 sites (78%) from all weeks of 1-25 individuals. Mean abundance ($A=0.3784$) was 19.6% higher than the long-term mean but 27.7% lower than 2007-08 ($A=0.5237$) and much lower than the peak abundance after the 2003 bushfires ($A=2.2998$ in 2003-04), representing a return to earlier levels of abundance. Reporting rate twice the long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 6 sites (compared with 3 sites last year) commencing with dy/1 wk Jul Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1) and concluding with dy/3 wk Jun Cook GrJ13 (BrM2).

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 125 records from 64 grid cells (22.9%) from all months, compared with 118 the previous year. 12 (9.6%) were WOO. Reporting rate 4.9%. Abundance: mean 3.1, median 2, max 25/25 Oct Red Hill and Yarralumla GrK14 (AnI1). 2 breeding records (4 last year): ih/10 Nov Mt Majura GrM12 (HoB1), dy/15 Feb L Bathurst East Basin GrY08 (LeM1).

GBS: Records from 70.7% of sites from all weeks of 1-28 individuals. The mean abundance ($A=0.998$) was 9.1% higher than 2007-08 ($A=0.915$) but not yet back at the levels of 2003-04 ($A=1.1505$). Abundance was 38.8% higher than long-term mean and the reporting rate 23.4% higher. Breeding recorded from 8 sites (compared with 7 last year) from dy/1 wk Jul to dy/3wk Jun Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3).

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Lophochroa leadbeateri*

Escapee/Vagrant

General: No records this year after 12 records of a single bird last year.

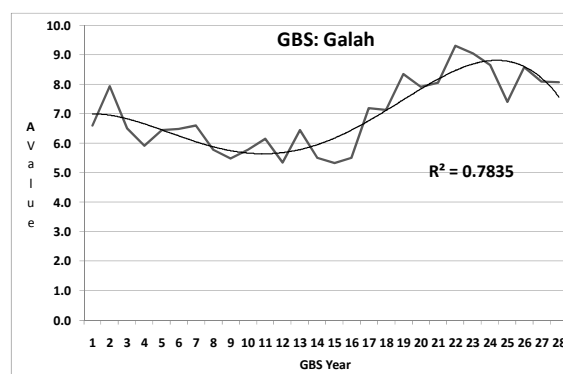
GBS: Single bird recorded from two sites (recorded from four sites in 2007-08) 1/1 wk Jul Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1) and 1/4-5 wk Jul Rivett GrI15 (HaT1).

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 838 records from 135 grid cells (48.2%) from all months, compared with 912 in the previous year. 243 (29%) were WOO. Reporting rate 33.1%. Abundance: mean 9.7, median 3, max 150/29 Jun Hawker Ovals GrI13 (AIB1). 39 breeding records (38 last year) commencing with ih/6 Jul Mt Taylor GrJ15 (FrM1), concluding with dy/5 Jan The Pinnacle GrI13 (AIB1) followed by 2 early hollow inspections in May and Jun, and nb in Mar.

GBS: Records from all sites in all weeks of 1-100 individuals. Most abundant species recorded in the GBS. The mean abundance ($A=8.0724$) was similar to last year ($A=8.0965$) and 15.9% above the long-term mean. Reporting rate 4.9% higher than long-term mean. 69 breeding records from 14 sites (compared with 19 last year) from ih, co/3 wk Sep Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) to dy/4wk Mar Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2) with early ih 5 wk Apr and nb 3 wk Jun.



Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

Uncommon Breeding Resident

General: 11 records (1 WOO) from 6 grid cells (2.1%) compared with 9 in 2007-08. Abundance: mean 2, median 1.5, max 4/25 Oct Harrison GrL11 (ReD2) and 4/26 Oct Coppins Crossing GrI13 (CIG1). No breeding records (one last year).

GBS: Records from 5 sites (6.1%) compared with 5 last year. Recorded in 11 weeks. The mean abundance ($A=0.006$) was 45.6% lower than 2007-08 ($A=0.011$) but nearly 3 times higher than the long term mean. Records were of 1-2 individuals. Reporting rate 3 times the long-term mean. No breeding records.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

Breeding Resident

General: 78 records from 24 grid cells (8.6%), compared with 83 last year; mainly from southern suburbs but some records from northern suburbs (e.g. ANU GrK13). 14 (18%) were WOO. Reporting rate 3.1%. Abundance: mean 4.4, median 2, max 60/17 Jul Queanbeyan Escarpment GrO15 (BoJ1). 2 breeding records: ih/25 Oct GOONR GrM11 (AnF1), on/25 Oct Callum Brae NR GrL15 (DaG2)

GBS: The mean abundance ($A=0.7226$) was 24.1% higher than 2007-08 ($A=0.5821$) continuing a long term increase (6 times the long-term mean). Records from 48.8% of sites of 1-152 individuals from all weeks. Reporting rate over 3 times the long term mean.

Corella Spp

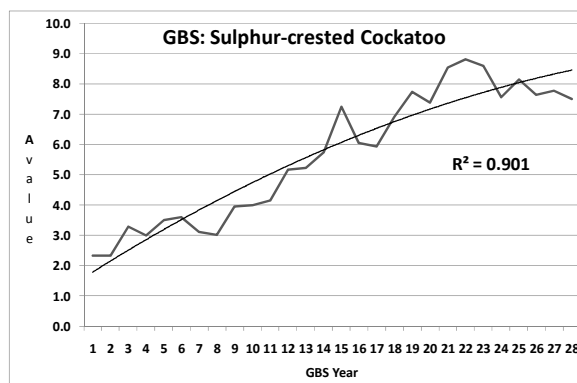
General: One record from Aranda Bushland 25 Oct (HaK1).

GBS: Records of 1-240 birds from a site in Narrabundah GrL15 (RoJ4) over 20 weeks throughout the year as well as occasional sightings from sites in Hughes, Holt and Ainslie. Highest concentration 240/1 wk May at the Narrabundah site.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*

General: 865 records from 161 grid cells (57.5%) from all months, compared with 875 in the previous year. 232 (26.8%) were WOO. Reporting rate 34.2%. Abundance: mean 5.8, median 2, max 200/21 Jul L Bathurst GrY07 and GrY08 (LeM1). 26 breeding records (22 last year) commencing with on/4 Sep ANBG GrK13 (HoS1) and concluding with ih/13 Jan Black Mt GrK13 (AlB1).

GBS: Second most abundant species recorded in the GBS. Records from 97.6% of sites from all weeks of 1-200 individuals. The mean abundance ($A=7.5060$) was 3.3% lower than last year ($A=7.7654$), but 35.8% higher than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 17.5% higher than long-term mean. 26 breeding records from 10 sites (compared with 13 last year) from dy/4 wk Dec Burra GrM21 (AnI1) to dy/4 wk Jun Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3).

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Rare Vagrant

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

General: 2 records (1 last year): 1/2 Nov Dunlop GrH11 (CuR1), 11/16 Jan Dunlop GrH11 (MoM3)

GBS: Recorded from 3 sites (3 in 2007-08): 1/1 wk Apr Scullin GrI12 (FeP1), 1/2 wk Dec Hackett GrL13 (LeB1), 2/2-4 wk Jan Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

PSITTACIDAE: lorikeets, parrots**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Uncommon Breeding Resident

General: 25 records from 6 grid cells (2.1%) compared with 14 in 2007-08 mostly from Hawker and The Pinnacle NR. Abundance: mean 2.4, median 2, max 7/5 Jan The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1). Five breeding records: from ih/24 Sep The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1), to dy/5 Jan The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1).

GBS: The mean abundance ($A=0.2238$) was over twice that than 2007-08 ($A=0.0694$), and 9 times higher than the long-term mean. Records from 20.7% of sites of 1-15 individuals from 52 weeks, with most records coming from Scullin, Page, Macquarie and Aranda. Reporting rate 6.5 times the long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 1 site (no records last year): dy/1-2 wk Nov Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

Rare Visitor

General: No records in 2008-09, one record in 2007-08.

GBS: No records (recorded from 2 sites in 2006-07)

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

Rare Visitor

General: 5 records of 3-5 birds compared with none in 2007-08 and 25 records in 2006-07. Three records from Acacia Inlet GrK13 and two from TSR 48 GrO05.

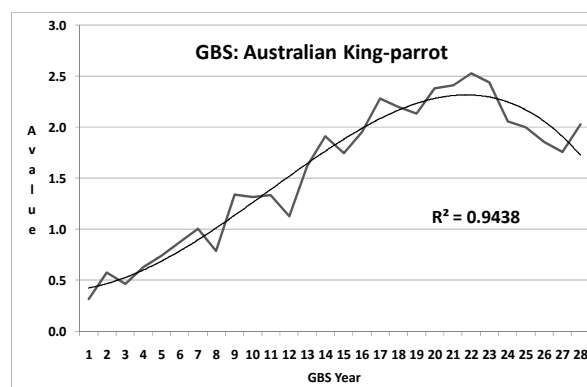
GBS: One record from each of 3 sites (2 sites in 2007-08): 2/2 wk Jan Macquarie GrJ13 (LaS1), 1/5 wk Jan Watson GrL12 (WaK1), 2/4 wk Jan Rivett GrI15 (HaT1).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 147 records from 42 grid cells (15%) from all months, compared with 164 in the previous year. 23 (15.6%) were WOO. Reporting rate 5.8%. Abundance: mean 4.7, median 2, max 74/20 Sep Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1). 7 breeding records (same as last year) commencing with ih/25 Oct Tuggeranong Hill NR GrK17 (HoO1) and concluding with dy/28 Jan Gordon GrK18 (RaB1) and an early hollow inspection ih/20 Jun Majura NP GrM12 (WaK1).

GBS: Eleventh most abundant species recorded in the GBS. Records from 86.6% of sites from all weeks of 1-50 individuals. The mean abundance ($A=2.0286$) was 15.7% higher than 2007-08 ($A=1.7538$) but still below 2002-2003 ($A=2.5261$) and 34% higher than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 36% higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 7 sites (compared with 11 last year) from dy/3 wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3) to dy/3 wk Jun Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3).

**Superb Parrot** *Polytelis swainsonii*

Rare Visitor

General: 71 records from 26 grid cells (9.3%) compared with 39 in the previous year with most records from September to March with one record each from May and June. 8 (11.3%) were WOO. Reporting rate 2.8%. Abundance: mean 4.0, median 3, max 25/4 Oct Weedon Close Belconnen GrJ12 (FeP1). 3 breeding records (2 last year): ih/20 Oct GOONR GrM11 (HoS1), ih/28 Oct Kama woodlands GrI13 (DaC1), dy/1 Jan Cook GrJ13 (HaK1).

GBS: Records from 25.6% of sites of 1-25 individuals from 33 weeks (all records from 1 wk Jul to 2 wk Mar). The mean abundance ($A=0.1573$) was 43.8% higher than 2007-08 ($A=0.1094$) and hugely higher than the long-term mean reflecting the increase in post-breeding movement of

birds into urban Canberra. Reporting rate 13 times higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 3 sites (compared with 1 last year): dy/2-4 wk Dec Cook GrJ13 (BrM2), dy/2 wk Dec Aranda GrJ13 (SaD1), dy/3-4 wk Dec, 1,3-4 wk Jan Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

Princess Parrot *Polytelis alexandrae*

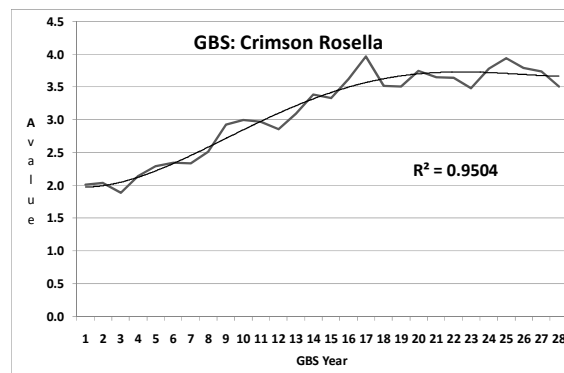
Escapee

GBS: One record: 1/5 wk Oct Rivett GrI15 (HaT1).

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 1203 records from 206 grid cells (73.6%) from all months, compared with 1249 last year. 331 (27.6%) were WOO. Reporting rate 47.5%, the 2nd most sighted species in general surveys after the Australian Magpie. Abundance: mean 4.8, med 3, max 96/20 Jul Mt Majura NR GrL12 (LeM1). 42 breeding records (57 last year) commencing ih/26 Jul Black Mt GrK13 and concluding with dy/22 Jan Warks Rd GrE15 (HoS1).



GBS: Fifth most abundant species recorded in GBS. (Records of 1-23 individuals from all sites from all weeks. The mean abundance ($A=3.5092$)

was 6.1% lower than 2007-08 ($A=3.7393$) but 14.4% higher than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 13.3% higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 15 sites (compared with 18 last year) from ih/2 wk Aug Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) to dy/4 wk Mar Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 730 records from 130 grid cells (46.4%), from all months, compared with 752 in the previous year. 217 (29.7%) were WOO. Reporting rate 28.8%. Abundance: mean 4.36, median 3, max 40/26 Jan Mulligan's Flat GrL10 (WiT1). 36 breeding records (22 last year) commencing with ih/12 Jul Black Mt GrK13 (PIV1) and concluding with dy/8 Dec TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1) and ih/16 Dec Jerrabomberra GrL16 (BoJ1).

GBS: Fifteenth most abundant bird in the GBS. Records of 1-20 individuals from 97.6% of sites from all weeks. The mean abundance ($A=1.6332$) was 5.85% lower than 2007-08 ($A=1.6606$) and 7% higher than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 3% higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 10 sites (compared with 13 last year) from ih/3 wk Jul Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) to dy/3 wk Jan Turner GrK13 (MiP1) and Aranda GrJ13 (OrP1).

Crimson-Eastern Rosella Hybrid

GBS: Records of 1-2 birds from 7 sites in 2008-09 in 14 weeks from 3 wk Jul to 4 wk Jun (no records in 2007-08 but records of single birds recorded from 1 site in 2006-07).

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

Rare Visitor

General: 5 records of 1-5 birds compared with 8 in 2007-08:

2/7 Jul Newline GrM14 (BoJ1), 1/27 Sep Kama GrI13 (DaC1), 4/10 Apr MULNR GrL11 (SmA1), and 1/17 Apr Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded from 2 sites (1 in 2007-08): 1-11/4 wk Sep, 1 wk Oct Aranda GrJ13 (SaD1), 2/4wk Sep Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 321 records from 74 grid cells (26.4%), from all months, compared with 289 in the previous year. 53 (16.6%) were WOO. Reporting rate 12.6%. Abundance: mean 6.2, median 4,

max 60/15 Feb Rivett Hindmarsh Dr GrI15 (HoJ1). 13 breeding records (7 last year) commencing with ih/16 Jul Newline Quarry GrN14 (KaJ1) and concluding with dy/21 Feb Callum Brae GrL15 (AnI1).

GBS: Records of 1-18 individuals from 46.3% of sites from all weeks. The mean abundance ($A=0.3850$) was 17.3% lower than 2007-08 ($A=0.4656$) and 9.4% lower than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 10.8% higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 5 sites (2 last year) from ih/4 wk Sep Watson GrL12 (WaK1), to dy/3 wk Mar Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

Rare Vagrant

General: No records (1 record in 2007-08)

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Rare Vagrant

General: No records. Last recorded Jun 2005.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Escapee

General: No records. Last recorded Oct 2006.

GBS: Recorded from one site: 1/3 wk Jan-3 wk May Watson GrL12 (MuT1) (last recorded in 2006-07).

Lovebird spp

Escapee

GBS: One record: 1/4 wk Nov Watson GrL12 (MuT1).

CUCULIDAE: cuckoos, koel

Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

Uncommon, Migrant

General: 9 records from 3 grid cells (28 records of single birds from 6 grid cells last year). Most records are from urban areas. First record 1/25 Oct Cotter Reserve GrG14 (MoM3); last record 1/9 Feb Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1). 4 breeding records: first dy/21 Jan Mt Ainslie GrL13 (HaS3); last dy/9 Feb Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1).

GBS: 1-2 birds recorded from 24 sites (33 sites last year). Abundance ($A=0.0414$), down 29% from last year but three times the long term average. First 1/1wk Oct Macquarie GrJ13 (LaS1), last 1/4wk Feb Holder GrJ15 (AsM1).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Vagrant

No records this year. 1 record last year and 1 the year before.

Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo *Chalcites basalis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

There has been high volatility in both General and GBS records over the past three years.

General: 95 records from 51 grid cells compared with 150 records from 60 grid cells the previous year and 48 records from 24 grid cells the year before that. First 1/17 Aug West Macgregor GrH11 (CuR1), last TSR48 GrO05 1/21 Mar (NiA1). Records mostly of single birds, max 3/8 Oct Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1) and 3/25 Oct Callum Brae NR (DaG2). 3 breeding records: first di/17 Sep Molonglo River GrJ14 (BuM1), last dy/15 Feb Morass S GrZ08 (LeM1).

GBS: Recorded from 5 sites during 11 weeks compared with 9 sites during 23 weeks last year and 2 records from 2 sites the year before that. Most records are from four rural sites. First 1/3wk Aug Burra GrQ13 (MDN1), last 1/1wk Jan Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1). Breeding not recorded.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

Rare, Visitor

General: A single bird recorded 16 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1).

Shining Bronze-cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 41 records from 29 grid cells (38 records from 29 grid cells last year). All records mainly of single birds except 3/25 Oct MULNR GrL11 (SmA1). First 1/29 Sep Goorooyaroo GrM11 (TaN1), last 1/24 Feb Mt Majura GrM12 (HoS1). Breeding not recorded.

GBS: 9 records from 3 sites. First 1/2wk Oct Burra GrM21 (AnI1), last 1/4wk Feb Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 144 records of 1-3 birds from 64 grid cells (134 records from 62 grid cells last year). First 1/26 Aug Wamboin GrQ12 (McD1), last 2/22 Feb Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). Breeding not recorded.

GBS: 1-2 birds recorded from 12 sites (13 sites last year). First 1/4wk Aug from a site in Burra GrQ13 (AnI1), last 1/4wk Feb Kambah GrJ16 (VeP1). Breeding: 2 records, di/2wk Sep in Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and dy/4wk Jan Burra GrM21 (AnI1).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

The number of records for this species has fluctuated significantly over the past 10 years.

General: 96 records from 56 grid cells (70 records from 47 grid cells last year). Numbers: mainly single birds with max 3 sightings of 3 birds. First 1/5 Sep Sugar Loaf Ridge Road GrR18 (BuM1), last 1/11 Apr Yarralumla Woolshed GrJ14 (AIM2). Many of the records are from the ACT's western and southern ranges. Breeding not recorded.

GBS: 14 records from 5 sites. First 1/2wk Sep GrM21 (AnI1) and Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and last 1/3wk GrM21 (AnI1).

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 11 records from 10 grids (10 records of 10 grid cells last year). First 1/21 Oct Namadgi Visitors Centre GrJ19 (HoS1), last 1/2 Feb Corin Road GrE19 (HoS1). Breeding not recorded.

GBS: 3 records of single birds from 3 sites (15 records of single birds from 3 sites last year). First 1/2wk Nov Burra GrM21 (AnI1) and last 1/3wk Feb Chapman GrI15 (HaJ1).

STRIGIDAE: hawk owls**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*

Rare, Breeding Resident

No records this year, although the Australian National Botanic Gardens-frequenting bird has apparently returned to terrorise the possums and gliders since. Powerful Owls have been recorded in our region in 6 of the previous 10 years. They are believed to be resident in Tallaganda SF and have also been recorded in the Brindabella Range and Tidbinbilla.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

Rare, Visitor

No records. The most recent endorsed record for this species comes from Shepherds Lookout in Apr 1998. The Rarities Panel concedes that some of the reports to it based on calls might indeed be Barking Owls but in an urban environment there are just too many alternatives that go "woof woof" in the night to be confident of identification based on call alone.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Eighteen records, range 1-3, average 1.56, and from 14 grid cells, both urban and rural. This species has a distinct seasonal pattern with 16 of the records coming in spring, two in autumn, and none in winter or summer.

GBS: One hundred and four records, with a range of 1-4 birds, from 23 grid cells and in all months except Jun. Abundance $A=0.0364$; down nearly 9% on the long-term average. One breeding event recorded: dy/1wk- 4wk Jan Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

TYTONIDAE: masked owls

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Rare, Visitor

GBS: Two records: 1/3wk May Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1); and 1/2wk Aug Swinger Hill GrK15 (YoL1).

ALCEDINIDAE: kingfishers

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*

Rare, Visitor

General: No records to follow last year's report from Shoalhaven River/Kings Highway Crossing. Previous endorsed record was Jun 2001.

HALCYONIDAE: kookaburra, kingfishers

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Regularly reported through the year from across the recording area. 365 records (57 WOO) from 123 grid cells cf 443 records from 139 grid cells last year. Recording rate 14%. Average abundance 1.6. As usual, very few breeding records (4): br/8 Oct Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1); on/29 Oct The Pinnacle GrI13 (BrJ3); di/4 Nov Newline Quarry GrN14; and dy/15 Dec Sweeneys TSR GrU11 (LeM1).

GBS: Similar to the previous 5 years with reporting from 47 sites with 9 recording regular observations through most of the year. A particularly high count (9 birds) was noted in Hughes GrK15 during 5wk Jan (BeR3). There were 9 breeding records from 5 sites, including the 4th year in succession that breeding events were recorded at Watson GrL12 ih/1wk Oct to 3wk Nov (WaK1). Further breeding records were noted from Red Hill GrK14 ih/1wk Sep (WaR4); Hughes GrK15 cf/2wk Nov (BeR3); Ainslie GrL13 co/1wk Dec (HoS1); and Aranda GrJ13 dy/1wk Jan (RoS1).

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

Rare, Visitor

General: Following the arrival of birds into the region in spring 2007 and subsequent breeding attempts that summer, several birds returned to the Dunlop/West Macgregor area this spring. There were 8 records, the earliest being a single bird on the 8 Oct West Macgregor GrI11 (CuR1), with the same observer noting the only breeding record of a pair on nest along Ginninderra Creek GrH11 on the 2 Nov. The last recorded sighting came from this site on the 26 Nov (AlB1).

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 204 records from 77 grids, including 24 WOO, continues the dramatic increase in records over the last six years (175, 148, 113, 81, 59 since 2005). Recording rate 8%. Average abundance 1.6. Records of 1 or 2 birds (max 5/26 Oct Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 (AlB1)) from 1/13 Sep Mt Taylor GrJ15 (FrM1) through to 1/18 Mar Red Hill NR GrK14 (LaS1). Six breeding records between 12 Oct and 30 Nov, included 2 of birds on nest – on/12 Oct Pierces Creek Forest GrG15 (MaM4) and on/12 Nov Hall GrJ11 (CuR1).

GBS: 27 records from 10 sites through the period 1wk Oct to 1wk Apr including one breeding record at Aranda GrJ13 dy/5wk Jan (RoS1). 44% of all records came from a single rural site in Hoskinstown GrS17, with a max count of 3/5wk Oct (KaJ1).

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

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 51 times from 27 grid cells - similar to the 2 previous years. The earliest record was 1/24 Sep Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1) with significant numbers having arrived back in the region by the 25/26 Oct (16 records during the Bird Blitz). 55% of records in spring and 44% records in summer. The northward migration involved slightly larger flocks with all double-digit records (6) occurring between the 20 Jan and 20 Feb – the largest being 30/1 Feb Naas River GrJ22 (BrM2) and 20/20 Feb Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (HoS1). The last record was from Urilla East GrP20 2/16 Mar (BuM1). 3 breeding records: 3 first on/25 Oct Naas Valley GrJ22 (PeB1) and last br/11 Jan Coppins Crossing GrI13 (SmA1).

GBS: 13 records from 8 sites were clustered around the peak migration periods with no records through the middle of summer (3wk Nov to 4wk Jan). Observed in small groups of 2-5 with max 15/3wk Oct Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

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

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 77 records from 28 grid cells including 8 WOO. First record 1/01 Oct Castle Hill GrJ18 (RoA1) and the last 1/10 Mar The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1). Average abundance 1.6, max 4/30 Jan JWNR. A single breeding record: ih/28 Oct Kama Woodlands GrI13 (DaC1).

GBS: 84 records from 19 sites (23%) with records from 2wk Oct through to 1wk Mar. A single breeding record: on/3wk Jan Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

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

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 40 records from 30 grid cells in all months except July is down from 51 records (31 grid cells) last year. As usual the majority of ACT records were from Namadgi NP and Tidbinbilla NR with 10 records for these areas on the “Blitz” weekend (25/26 Oct). No breeding records.

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

Common, Breeding Resident

A common breeding resident in forests at all altitudes in COG’s area of interest.

General: 464 records from 146 grid cells (52% of those surveyed), with half the records from just 16 cells, from all months of the year. Number of records is 13% lower than the previous year. 78 (17%) were WOO. Recording rate 18.3%. 42% of records from spring (incl. the October Bird Blitz). Mean abundance 1.7, max 14/4 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (WiT1), 94% of records were 1-3 birds. 4 breeding records (9 the previous year) from nb/6 Sep The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1) to cf/6 Nov Bruce ridge GrJ13 (DaC1).

GBS: The mean abundance ($A=0.0641$) is 20% lower than last year but 15% higher than the long-term mean. Recording rate ($R=5.18\%$) similar to last year and to the long term mean. Recorded from 18% of sites, over all weeks. Mean group size 1.24, all of 1 to 3 birds plus 2 records of 4 and 1 of 6/3wk Oct Burra GrM21 (AnI1). No breeding recorded.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrops*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A species of the wet gullies of the Brindabellas, with numbers again at the pre- Jan 2003 fires levels.

General: 6 records compared with 8 last year, 15 in 2006-07, 7 in 2005-06, none in 2004-05 and 2 in 2003-04. Five were from Namadgi NP and 1 from Corin Dam. Similar to the number of records in 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 Dec-Jan, Mar and Apr. Recording rate 0.24%. 4 records of 1 bird and 1 of 2 birds. 1 breeding record: br/23 Dec Yerrabi Walking Track GrH26 (SmA1).

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

This species is listed as vulnerable in the ACT owing to the loss of its woodland habitat. More records than in the previous year.

General: 101 records (81 last year) from 26 grid cells (the same as last year), 9% of those surveyed, in all months, with 16 (16%) WOO. 40% from 3 grid cells (I13, N14 and Q21) that are frequently surveyed. Recording rate 4%. Mean abundance 3.14 (last year 2.74), max 17/28 Feb TSR 48 via Gundaroo GrO05 (AnI1). 76% of the records of 1-3 birds. 9 breeding records (6 last year) from nb/19 Oct TSR 51 GrO12 (ZwM1) to dy/01 Feb Pine Ridge Farm GrI12 (DaC1).

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 interest, and this area is near the western edge of its distribution at this latitude.

General: 65 records (50 last year) from 37 grid cells (27 last year), 13% of those surveyed. Recorded in all months, with 75% of records from spring and summer. Recording rate 2.57%. Mean abundance 1.89, max 8/26 Oct Lees Creek, Warks Rd GrE15 (MoM3). 80% of reports were 1 or 2 birds. 2 breeding records: di/22 Oct Tallaganda East GrV20 (BuM1) and nb/26 Oct Lees Creek, Warks Rd GrE15 (MoM3).

GBS: Recorded at 26 sites (32%), recording rate ($R=6.97\%$) 67% higher than the long-term mean, in all weeks of the year. Abundance ($A=0.1260$) 10% higher than last year and 14% higher than the long-term figure. The mean group size was 1.81, max 5/3wk Aug and 2wk Sep at a site at Kambah GrJ16 (VeP1) and 5/1wk Sep. GrK14 (WaR4). No clear seasonal pattern, but (as last year) recorded in most weeks at a site at Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4). 4 breeding records (6 last year) from 3 sites: dy/5wk Oct and di/4wk Jan Red Hill GrK14 (WaR1); and dy/5wk Jan Yarralumla GrK14 (CCR1).

MALURIDAE: fairy-wren

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

Common, Breeding Resident

A common breeding resident throughout much of COG's area of interest, especially in dense under-storey.

General: 860 records from 177 grid cells (63% of those surveyed), from all months, figures similar to the previous year. 107 (12%) were WOO. 5th most frequently observed species, up from 8th last year. Recording rate 34%. Mean abundance 6.3, median 4, max 54/08 Sep LGin Peninsula Circuit GrJ12 (AlB1). 13 breeding records (23 last year) commencing with nb/8 Oct LGin Peninsular GrJ12 (AlB1) and concluding with dy/7 Dec Old Boboyan Rd GrH25 (HoJ1).

GBS: The mean abundance ($A=1.3915$) was 14% higher than last year's figure and 74% higher than the long-term mean, maintaining the trend of recent years. Records from 66 sites (80%) from all weeks. Most records (78%) were of 1-5 birds with a mean group size of 3.48, max 28/1wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). Recording rate 40.11% was 59% higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 4 sites (7 last year) from on/4wk Oct Aranda GrJ13 (RoS1) to dy/3wk Jan Scullin GrI12 (FeP1).

ACANTHIZIDAE: scrubwrens, thornbills and allies**Pilotbird** *Pycnoptilus floccosus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 4 records of 1-2 birds from 3 grid cells compared to 12 records from 5 grid cells last year. 1/28 Jan Tidbinbilla NR GrG17 (SmA1) and 3 records from Warks Rd/Blundells Ck Rd/Old Mill Rd GrD15 & GrE15(SmA1, WaK2). Almost certainly under-recorded, perhaps due to lack of observer effort in the species montane forest habitat. No breeding records.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 293 records (2 WOO) from 109 grid cells, compared with 298 records from 102 grid cells last year. Most records of fewer than 10 birds with a maximum of 12/25 Oct Cotter Reserve GrG14 (MoM3) and 12/11 Nov Ginini car park to Priors Hut and Mt Gingera GrC20 (AlB1). Breeding: 6 records (11 last year), first dy/25 Oct Naas Rd, 7 km south of Caloola Farm GrJ24 (PeB1) and nb/25 Oct Murrays Corner, Paddys River Road GrG15 (MoM3), last br/25 Jan Kellys Swamp GrL14 (SmA1).

GBS: Recorded from 27 sites and in all months, similar to last year. Numbers 1-4. Abundance ($A=0.1606$) is 21.5% higher than the long-term average. 6 breeding records from 3 sites: first nb/3wk Oct Isaacs GrK15 (HoA1) and last dy/5wk Jan Aranda GrJ13 (RoS1).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygia*

Uncommon, Resident

General: A bumper year for this species with 8 records of 1-2 birds from 4 grids. A single record last year was the first report since Feb 2005. Single records from Cotter Hut Rd GrE21 (DaC1) and Wallaby Hill Rd, Wyanbene GrY25 (ZwM1), 2 records of 1-2 birds from Birchmans Estate/Lot 16 & 17 Orana Rd, Wamboin GrP12 (ZwM1, LaS1) and 4 records of up to 2 birds from Vanitys Crossing Rd, Pierces Creek GrF15 (SmA1, HoS1). Anecdotal reports suggest there were at least 6 birds present at the last site. The Pierces Creek records may reflect that vegetation in the area had reached a suitable stage for the species since being burnt in the 2003 fires, but as the area appears to be rarely visited by birders, the heathwrens may have been present for some time before being detected.

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 137 records (39 WOO 28%) from 45 grid cells, compared to 157 from 38 cells last year. Maximum counts: 9/25 Oct Red Hill/Yarralumla GrK14 (AnI1) and 9/31 May Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1). 2 breeding records (7 last year): cf/19 Oct TSR 51 GrO12 (ZwM1) and dy/26 Oct Mt Ainslie western slopes GrL13 (LeM1).

GBS: 18 records of 1-3 birds from Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1), Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1), Burra GrM21 (AnI1). The latter rural site accounted for 13 of the records. No breeding.

Weebill *Sericornis brevirostris*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 600 records (280 WOO) from 88 grid cells, compared with 637 records from 95 grid cells last year. Woodland survey accounted for 46.7% of records, one of the highest ratio of WOO-to-General records for any species. The majority of records are of 10 birds or fewer with highest 23/26 Oct Mt Majura NR western slopes GrM12 (DaG2). 7 breeding records (the same as last year and the year before): earliest were 5 separate reports ny/on/nb 25/26 Oct (Blitz weekend) and last on/2 Dec Campbell Park GrM13 (CoE1).

GBS: Records from 46 sites (49 last year) with $A=0.8412$, 8% higher than last year and 77% higher than the long term average. Numbers: most records are of 10 birds or fewer, although a site in Turner GrK13 regularly had counts of 20 or more from Mar to June, with a maximum 50/4wk Mar (MiP1). Breeding: none reported (7 records last year).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

Rare, Visitor

General: No reports, last records were 2006-07.**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: 93 records (38 WOO) in 27 grid cells, similar to last year, with first 1/9 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1) and last 1/5 Apr Campbell Park GrM13 (RoA1). No winter records (2 last year). Numbers: most records are of 1-2 birds, highest, 6/25 Oct MULNR east GrL11 (AnF1).

Breeding: none reported (2 records last year)

GBS: 5 records of single birds from 3 sites, compared with 15 records last year: first 1/2wk Oct Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and last 1/5wk Jan from the same site.**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone albogularis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 167 records (63 WOO) from 52 grid cells, compared with 185 records (95 WOO) from 44 grids last year. First 1/10 Sep GOONR GrM11 (HoS1) and last 1/20 Apr JWNR GrL14 (HoS1). Numbers: mostly 1-5 birds, highest, 20/20 Sep GOONR south GrM11 (AnI1). 4 breeding records (5 last year): first on/16 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (HoJ1) and last dy/21 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1).**GBS:** 1-3 birds recorded from 8 sites: first 1/3wk Sep Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and last 1/2wk April Turner GrK13 (MiP1).**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 236 records (32 WOO) from 113 grid cells, last year 264 (57 WOO) from 105 grid cells. The majority of records were of 10 birds or fewer with 3 records of 15 (Shanahans Mt car park, Mt Ginini car park, Castle Hill). 9 breeding records (10 last year): first nb/19 Aug Glendale Depot to Reedy Creek GrI23 (NeG1), last cf/27 Oct Sweeneys TSR Bungendore-Tarago Rd GrU11 (LeM1).**GBS:** Recorded from 22 sites, cf 25 last year, with $A = 0.2738$, 35% higher than last year but about the same as the long term average. Numbers: most records of 1-10 birds but there were some larger counts with a maximum of 36/4wk June Turner GrK13 (MiP1). High counts were in June-July. No breeding reported.**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 75 records from 38 grid cells, a large increase over 37 from 23 grid cells last year. Most records were of 1-10 birds, with a maximum 14/21 Mar Lake Road (SW corner of Lake George) GrR10 (LaS1). Breeding: 2 records from same site (4 last year), dy/16 Nov and dy/15 Dec Lake Bathurst E basin GrY08 (LeM1).**GBS:** 20 records from 5 sites, the same number of sites as last year, down about 45% from both last year and the long term average. Highest count was 10/4wk Feb Griffith (BaS2). 13 records came from a site in Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) between Jan and May. No breeding recorded.**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 596 records (112 WOO) from 144 grid cells compared with 506 records (80 WOO) from 120 grid cells last year. Many records are for 10 birds or fewer, but 30 or more reported quite frequently with highest 50/10 Apr Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (AIM2) and 44/29 Apr The Morass N GrZ07 (LeM1). Breeding: 27 records, down from 38 last year, first nb/6 Sep The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1), last dy/4 Jan Tallerack, 4.5 km NE of Hall GrI10 (AlB1). Also a winter record for the new breeding season nb/21 Jun The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1),**GBS:** Records from 57 sites (1 more than last year) with $A = 1.3754$, about the same as last year and the long term average. Most records of 20 birds or fewer with highest 30/2wk Mar Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) and 30/1wk Jun Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1). 29 breeding records from 8 sites:

first nb/5wk Jul Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) and nb/5wk July Hackett GrL13 (LeB1). Last records were 4wk Nov from 3 different sites.

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza uropygialis*

Rare, vagrant

General: No records, last recorded June 2007.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 384 records (110 WOO) from 105 grid cells, compared with 390 (121 WOO) records from 102 grid cells last year. Most records are of 15 birds or fewer. Highest numbers: 30/18 Jun Namadgi Visitor Centre GrJ19 (COG Outing). 9 breeding records compared to 13 last year, first ne/19 Aug MULNR GrL10 (HoS1) and last dy/4 Jan Tallerack, 4.5 km NE of Hall GrI10 (AlB1).

GBS: Recorded at 15 sites (9 last year) from all months, with $A=0.2086$, 12% higher than last year, and 74% higher than the long term average. The relatively high A value is a result of the majority of reports coming from rural sites in Hoskinstown, Burra, Carwoola and Wamboin, and an Aranda site bordering on Black Mt NR. Numbers: mostly fewer than 10, highest, 15/3wk Feb Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1). Breeding: 2 records dy/3 & 4wk Jan Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 277 records (9 WOO) from 118 grid cells, compared with 336 records from 130 grid cells last year. The low WOO number probably reflects the lack of a shrub understorey in many WOO sites. Nearly all records of fewer than 10 birds, with highest counts 12/25 Oct Fairbairn Pines GrN14 (BuM1) and 10/15 Oct Cuumbeun NR South GrO16 (BuM1). Breeding: 3 records (5 last year), the first nb/26 Jul Stony Creek NR GrP15 (McD1), cf/3 Sep Mt Majura NR GrM12 (HoS1) and cf/3 Oct ANBG GrK13 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded in 38 sites (37 last year), with $A=0.2718$, about the same as last year but down 22% from the long term average. All records of 1-5 birds, except 10/2wk Mar Lyons GrJ15 (KoL1). Breeding: 5 records from nb/1wk Jul and 1 & 2wk Aug Cook GrJ13 (BrM2) to cf/2wk Sep Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) and dy/2wk Sep Florey GrJ12 (BrJ3).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 97 records (18 WOO) from 43 grid cells, up from 80 records (9 WOO) from 29 grid cells last year. Most records of 1-10 birds but also 20/13 Mar Wamboin, Birchmans Estate GrP12 (ZwM1) and 11/19 Aug Glendale Depot to Reedy Creek GrI23 (NeG1). Breeding: 3 reports: on/19 Oct Sunnybrook Big Hill revegetation site GrU09 (TaN1), dy/9 Nov NW The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1) and nb/8 Apr Red Hill, south Woden area GrK15 (KeA1).

PARDALOTIDAE: pardalotes

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: 592 records (126 WOO) from 148 grid cells, similar to last year's 582 records (129 WOO) from 146 grid cells. All records of 1-15 birds except for 34/4 Apr Red Hill RED 04 GrK14 (PeH2) and 20/26 Oct Cotter Hut Rd GrF21 (DaC1). 11 breeding records (10 last year): first nb/27 Aug Molonglo Gorge GrN14 (HoS1), last cf/7 Dec Old Boboyan Rd to creek crossing GrH25 (H0J1). Observed throughout the year although 47% of records were in spring (280).

GBS: Recorded in 63 sites, compared to 57 last year, with $A=0.9830$, 53% higher than last year and 58% higher than the long term average. Records mostly in the 1-20 range but some higher counts recorded, notably 80/2wk Apr Turner GrK13 (MiP1). Of 16 counts of 20 or more, 14 were in the period March to June. Breeding: 6 records from 3 sites: first nb/3wk Jul Turner GrK13 (BoC4), last on/2wk Oct Deakin GrK14 (RoD2).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: A decrease with 774 records (253 WOO) from 173 grid cells compared with 877 records (348 WOO) from 189 grid cells last year, but greater than the 646 records of the previous year. 96% of records are of 1-10 birds with highest 50/20 July Newline Quarry GrN14 (BoJ1). Observed throughout the year with a peak of 436 records in spring (56% of records). Breeding: 22 records (26 last year): from di/6 Sep The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1) to ih/16 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (HoJ1).

GBS: Recorded in 60 sites (57 last year), with $A=0.6564$, 11% higher than last year and 8% above the long term average. Most records of 1-10 birds with highest 100/2wk Feb Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1). 26 breeding records (21 last year) from 5 sites: first nb/4wk Jul Burra GrM21 (AnI1), last dy/4wk Jan Rivett GrI15 (HaT1).

MELIPHAGIDAE: honeyeaters and chats**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Common, Breeding Resident

Altitudinal migrant, common in gardens during autumn and winter.

General: 135 records (18 WOO) from 70 grid cells, similar number of records to last year but from 20 more grids. 43% of records in autumn. No breeding records (2 last year).

GBS: Recorded from 80% of sites, slightly less than last year. Recorded in all weeks but fewer in period 4wk Nov to 1wk Feb. Abundance ($A=0.4741$) was 12% less than last year and the long term average. 4 breeding records: nb/2wk Sep Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4), nb/2wk Nov Burra GrM21 (AnI1), dy/1wk Jan Aranda GrJ13 (RoS1), dy/4wk Feb Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Vagrant

Usually found in Tallaganda forests in the east of the region, rare further west. Last records in 2003.

General: 1 record of a single bird which regularly visited a backyard in Queanbeyan GrN15 (BeL2) from July until last seen on 25 Oct. 2 records not presented for endorsement; 1 Jul Krawarree GrX27 (CoM4), 1/3 Jan Molonglo R Queanbeyan GrO16 (BeL2).

GBS: Recorded from the site in Queanbeyan referred to above GrN15 for 8 weeks from 1wk Sep to 4wk Oct.

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: 534 records, 5% fewer than last year, from 174 grid cells, the most of any honeyeater. 51 WOO, less than half last year but similar to 2006-07. In contrast to only 3 records in Jul-Aug 07 there were 18 in Jul-Aug 08. Big increase in records from early Sep and 61% of all records from spring. Largest number recorded during spring migration 80/21 Sep Naas Valley GrJ19 (McJ4). Autumn movement seemed to start in late March, largest number recorded during autumn migration 1750/8 Apr Kambah Pool GrI16 (FrM1). 15 records in May, most before 10 May and none after 20 May. No records in June. Only 1 breeding record, dy: 26 Oct Orroral Valley GrG21 (IrJ1).

GBS: Recorded at 76% of sites in all but 1 week (1wk Jun). Overwintering records from 24 sites during Jul, many more than last year (2). First records for spring return migration were the same as last year, 50/3wk Aug from a rural site at Burra GrM21 (AnI1) but increase in numbers at most sites not until 2wk Sep. Many records until 4wk Sep, then very few records through Nov-Feb. Main autumn migration started 4wk Mar, 3 weeks later than last year and continued until 5wk Apr. In contrast to last year, almost no records through May-Jun. Abundance ($A=1.9568$) was 32% below last year. The species is the 12th most abundant bird in the GBS, and 2nd

honeyeater behind Red Wattlebird. 1 breeding record: ny/5wk Jan from a rural site at Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

Vagrant

Rare vagrant from the inland. Only 3 previous records in Wilson (1999) and 1 in 2006-07. No records this year.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Vagrant

Rare vagrant from coastal districts.

General: 1 record of a single bird 18 Sep ANBG GrK13 (HoS1). Although not presented for appraisal this record is likely to be of the same bird that was endorsed last year. Also 2 records of 1 bird, 18 and 25 Sept Kippax GrI12 (FeP1).

GBS: 1 record, 1/4wk May Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

Common, Breeding Resident

Altitudinal migrant, generally irregular in the suburbs.

General: 320 records (23 WOO) from 135 grid cells, 18% more records from more grids, although fewer WOO records than last year. 37% of records from spring and 37 % from autumn but nearly all WOO records from winter. 2 breeding records (10 last year but only 2 the year before), ne/25 Oct Naas Fire Trail GrJ25 (AlB1), dy/26 Oct Pond Creek Flats Namadgi NP GrE22 (HoJ1).

GBS: Recorded at 45% of sites, similar to last year. Almost no records from suburban sites between 1wk Sep and 4wk Mar, but records continued during this time from rural sites at Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1), Burra GrM21 (AnI1) and Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1). Abundance ($A=0.0947$) was lower than last year ($A=0.1236$) but still above the low of several years ago, probably due to the inclusion of more rural sites which adds records during the summer months. 1 breeding record, dy/3wk Feb from a rural site at Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

Uncommon, Breeding Visitor

Uncommon in the region, found along drier mountain valleys, in Apple Box woodland.

General: 36 records from 7 grid cells, nearly double the number of records than last year, but from fewer grid cells. Most records (28) from Tinderry area GrQ21 and P21 (BrM2) between 12 Oct and 9 Jun, maximum number of birds 20. A few more urban records than usual; 1/25 Jul Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1), 3/30 Apr The Pinnacle GrI13 (BrJ3), 2/2 May Coppins Crossing GrI13 (WiT1), 1/30 May Campbell Park (AnI1). 4 breeding records, all dy from Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2) between 3 Jan and 18 Feb.

GBS: Records from 3 sites: 2/4wk May Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1), 1/4wk Jun Turner GrK13 (MiP1), 1/5wk Apr-3wk May Gordon GrK18 (RaB1).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

Common, Breeding Resident

Altitudinal migrant, breeding in the mountains over summer.

General: 104 records (3 WOO) from 46 grid cells, 42% more records than last year from more grid cells. One-third of the records coming from Blitz surveys in the mountains in Oct. Highest number 130/16 Jul Newline Quarry GrN14 (KaJ1). 4 breeding records (8 last year); dy/25 Oct Naas Fire Trail GrJ26 (HaS4), nb/26 Oct Old Boboyan Rd GrH24 (LaS1), nb/13 Nov Hospital Hut GrH25 (DeD2), dy/7 Dec Yankee Hat car park GrH25 (HoJ1).

GBS: Recorded at 16% of sites, similar to last year. Records from 2wk Jul-3wk Sep then only 1 until 2wk Apr-4wk Jun. Abundance levels over the years have fluctuated greatly. This year ($A=0.0146$) was almost half that of last year ($A=0.0252$) and 88% below the long term average.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

Non-migratory honeyeater of woodlands in lowland areas.

General: 325 records (63 WOO) from 77 grid cells, 26% more records than last year and from 8 more grid cells. Recorded throughout the year in urban and rural areas. 16 breeding records, 6 more than last year. First on/8 Sep Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 (AlB1), last dy/21 Feb TSR 48 Bellmount Forest GrO05 (LeM1).

GBS: Recorded at 54% of sites, up on last year. Only a few records during Jul-Aug then almost none until consistent records start from 3wk Jan at 2 sites, Greenway GrJ18 (HaA2) and Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1). Most records from 3wk Apr to 4wk Jun. Abundance has fluctuated over the years and this year ($A=0.1496$) was similar last year.

Common, Breeding Resident



David Cook

White-fronted Honeyeater *Purnella albifrons*

Rare, Vagrant

Very rare vagrant from inland. First record for ACT of 1 bird at JWNR Jun 2007, then a single bird in Kambah from Jul-Sep 2007. No records this year.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

Uncommon, Vagrant

Rare species for the region, more common in coastal forests. Records for the region usually come from the upper Queanbeyan River (GrP-Q21), but 1 record from 2006-07 was from Captains Flat GrS21. No records last year.

General: 3 records all from Tidbinbilla NR GrG17 and F18, 1/28 Jan (SmA1 and HoS1), and 1/1 Feb (BuM1).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Common, Breeding Resident

Common sedentary species of woodlands.

General: 459 records from 75 grid cells, very similar to last year. 198 records (43%) from WOO, by far the most commonly reported honeyeater in the Woodland Survey. 16 breeding records, 17 last year; first nb/26 Jul ANU GrK13 (FeP1), last dy/8 Dec TSR 48 Bellmount Forest GrO05 (LeM1).

GBS: Recorded at 40% of sites (44% last year), and consistently throughout the year from 10 sites, more than the usual 3 in previous years. Abundance has been increasing over the last few years and this year (0.8084) was 32% up on last year and more than double the long term average. Breeding recorded at only 2 sites both in Watson GrL12: on/3wk Oct, ny/4wk Nov and dy/2wk Dec (WaK1), dy/4wk Oct, 2wk Nov and 1wk Jan (DoM1).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

Vagrant

Very rare vagrant from inland districts. Last endorsed records Sep-Oct 2004.

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

Rare summer visitor to the region. Last records were in Apr 2005 from ANU.

General: 1 record, 1/24 Sep Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HoS1).

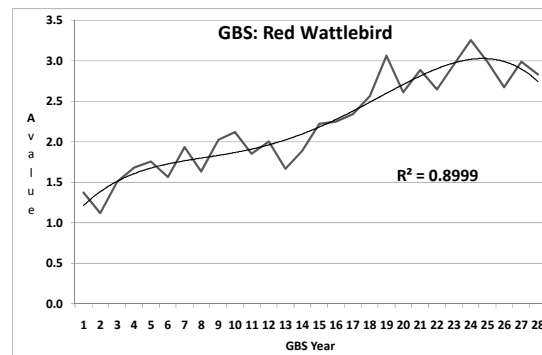
Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

Common, Breeding Resident

The most commonly reported honeyeater with records throughout the year across the region.

General: 798 records (107 WOO) from 167 grid cells, very similar in all respects to last year. Largest number recorded 65/25 Oct Red Hill and Yarralumla GrK14 (AnI1). 45 breeding records, nearly double the number from last year; the first ny/4 Sep Jamison Centre GrJ13 (TaN1) was later than usual for this species, and the last dy/2 Feb Lake Ginninderra Peninsula GrJ12 (HoS1) was much earlier than usual.

GBS: Recorded at all but 1 of 82 sites in all weeks with breeding at 43 sites. The abundance value (2.8293) was similar to last year and maintains the high A-values of the last few years. The Red Wattlebird is now the 8th most abundant species in the GBS and the most abundant honeyeater. First breeding record nb/1wk Aug in Turner GrK13 (MiP1) last dy/4wk Feb in Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1).

**Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor*

Very rare vagrant to the region from inland districts.

First definite record for the ACT was in 2004-05. No records this year.

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albigrons*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Uncommon resident, now rarely reported except at Lakes George and Bathurst.

General: 20 records from 8 grid cells, similar to last year. 9 records from the Lake Bathurst area GrsY07 and Z08. 6 records from Stromlo Forest Park GrI14 throughout the year. 5 other records; 2/18 Sep 10 km w of Gunning GrL02 (TaN1), 1/19 Oct Pylara near Tarago GrW09 (LaS1), 2/19 Oct Sunnybrook near Tarago GrU09 (TaN1), 3/15 Apr Murrumbidgee R GrJ16 (COF1), 5/6 May Jones Ln off Nanima Rd GrJ08 (AlB1). 2 breeding records; cf/27 Oct Lake Bathurst Morass S GrZ08 (LeM1), dy/29 Oct Stromlo Forest Park GrI14 (MaB3).

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

Rare, Vagrant

Rare vagrant from inland. Only 1 early record (Wilson 1999). 15 records in 2006-07 from

MULNR GrsL11, M10 -11, Bellmount Forest GrO05 and Queanbeyan GrN15. No records this year.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Rare, Summer Vagrant.

Rare vagrant from coastal districts. 2 records in 2006-07, none in 2007-08.

General: 2 records; 1/18 Sep ANBG GrK13 (HoS1), 1/16 Oct Farrer GrK16 (ReG1).

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Altitudinal migrant, reported mostly during the winter months.

General: 10 records from 10 different grid cells, a similar number to previous years, but from more grid cells. Records only in Sep, Oct, Mar and Apr. 6 records from Namadgi NP, 2 from Tallaganda area, 1 from Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 and only 1 from ANBG GrK13, normally a reliable location in winter.

GBS: A single record from only 1 site (4 last year), 1/5wk Jul. Abundance for this species fluctuates and this year (A=0.0003) was as low as it can go.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Uncommon altitudinal migrant, reported regularly from a few locations where grevilleas or banksias are abundant.

General: 71 records from 7 grid cells, throughout the year, 25% fewer records than last year. 41 from grevillea plantings at JWNR GrL14, 16 records from ANBG GrK13, 8 records from Point Hutt Water Quality Pond GrJ18 (RaB1). 2 breeding records, both from JWNR GrL14: dy/12 Sep (HoS1), 30 Dec (SmA1).

GBS: Recorded at 6 sites, and regularly over several months from 2 sites: from 1wk Feb-4wk Apr in Scullin GrI12 (FeP1), and up to 5 birds from 1wk Apr-4wk Jun in Florey GrJ12 (BrJ3). Abundance for this species fluctuates greatly and this year (0.0185) was more than twice that of last year ($A=0.0071$), but only half the long term average.

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

Vagrant

Very rare vagrant although normal distribution is only about 100 km to north-west of ACT. First endorsed records in Jun 2007 from Mt Majura GrM12 and Newline GrsM14-N14. A single bird remained at Newline until 22 Sep 2007. No records this year.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

Common, Breeding Resident

A species of drier forests at all altitudes.

General: 131 records (31 WOO) from 62 grid cells throughout the year, same number of records as last year (slightly fewer WOO records) but from more grid cells. 4 breeding records: dy/26 Oct Castle Hill GrJ18 (VeP1), dy/26 Oct Callum Brae NR GrL15 (AIM2), nb/17 Nov The Pinnacle GrJ13 (TaN1), dy/13 Mar Wamboin GrP12 (ZwM1).

GBS: Recorded at 6 sites, most frequently from 3 rural sites, at Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and Burra GrM21 (AnI1). The other records from 3 suburban sites were all single records: 8/1wk Apr in Chapman GrI15 (HAJ1), 7/4wk May in Cook GrJ13 (TaN1), 4/4wk Mar in Rivett GrI15 (HaT1). Abundance ($A=0.0572$) was very similar to the last 2 years and still well above the long term average largely due to the influence of the rural sites.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

Migratory, departing in large flocks in autumn and returning in spring to breed in the mountain forests.

General: 179 records (8 WOO) from 80 grid cells, similar to last year but WOO records down from 25. 17 records in Jul-Aug indicate many overwintering birds compared to last year (only 2 records Jul-Aug). Majority of records from spring (60%), many of these coming from the mountain areas visited during the Blitz in Oct. Only 6 records in May and none in Jun, indicating very few overwintering birds compared to last year. Highest number recorded was unusually in winter 110/16 Jul Newline Quarry GrN14 (KaJ1) where large numbers of several honeyeater species were recorded in flowering box trees. Highest number recorded during autumn migration 100/8 May Pierces Creek GrF15 (SmA1). 6 breeding records, half last year's but similar to the year before: first dy/25 Oct Woods Reserve GrG18 (KaJ1), last dy/4 Feb Old Boboyan Rd GrH24 (HoS1).

GBS: Records from 32% of sites, less than last year (42%). Several records in Jul-Aug of overwintering birds. Most records in two distinct periods: the return migration from 4wk Aug to 1wk Oct, then almost no records until autumn migration from 2wk Apr to 1wk May. Only a single record after this indicate almost no birds overwintering in contrast to last year. Abundance ($A=0.1249$) was 25% lower than last year and still below the long term average.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Rare, Vagrant

Very rare vagrant from inland districts. One bird at ANU May-Jul 2007. No records this year.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

Common summer migrant mostly to the lowland woodland regions.

General: 441 records from 95 grid cells, 31% more records than last year from 30 more grid cells. 143 WOO, a 64% increase on last year, making it the 2nd most reported honeyeater in the Woodland Survey. As with many of the other migratory honeyeaters, there were several records during Jul of overwintering birds, which is unusual for this species. A record on 22 Aug could have been an overwintering bird or a first return, but a large increase in records from 7 Sep suggests this is when the majority of birds started returning. Most records in spring (72%). Few records late in the season, 5 in the first half of April, only 2 in May, the last 11 May. The largest number was recorded during autumn migration 50/4 April Murrumbateman GrL04 (COF1). 26 breeding records, slightly more than last year: first nb/5 Oct The Pinnacle GrI13 (AlB1), last ny/14 Jan Stony Ck NR GrP15 (BuM1).

GBS: Recorded at 84% of sites, similar to last year. First returns 4wk Aug at 6 sites. Last records by 2wk Apr at all sites except 1 rural site at Hoskinstown GrS17. Abundance ($A=0.4493$) was similar to last year ($A=0.4282$) and about 50% lower than the long term average. Breeding at 8 sites, 3 fewer than last year. First breeding record nb/3wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (ALR1), last breeding, dy/4wk Jan Aranda GrJ13 (RoS1).

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

Uncommon, Migrant

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

General: 2 records: the first was very early in the season 1/30 Jul Braddon GrL13 (LeM1), 1/30 Sep Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

GBS: 4 records at 2 sites: 1/2wk Mar Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1), 2/4wk Mar-2wk Apr Queanbeyan GrN15 (BeL2).

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

Vagrant

Very rare vagrant with a major influx to the region in 2002-3. 3 records 2006-07, no records 2007-08.

General: 1 record: 2/1 Oct Yass River Rd GrJ04 (TaN1).

GBS: 1 record: 1/1wk Dec in Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

POMATOSTOMIDAE: babblers**Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*

Vagrant

General: One unendorsed record. Last recorded at Duntroon Golf Course, GrM14, during the three years from 2004-05, the first endorsed records since 1968.

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

Vagrant

General: No records this year. Recorded in 2005-06 and 2006-07 at Aranda Bushland GrJ13/K13, first general records since the 1950s. Remains located in nest of Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* 12 Dec 2003, Black Mountain Nature Reserve GrK13 (Trost et al. 2008 and J. Olsen pers com.) Remains also reported in nest of Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* in the Canberra region during the 2002-2003 period (Olsen et al. 2008).

EUPETIDAE: whipbird, quail-thrush**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A bird of the dry forests. Number of reports now double the annual mean in the decade prior to the 2003 Canberra region wildfires.

General: 18 records (the same as last year, with 7 and 6 in the 2 preceding years) from 16 widespread grid cells. Recorded Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb and Mar, all records 1 or 2 birds plus 4/15 Mar Slap Up Fire Trail, Gourock NP GrU29 (ZwM1). Recording rate 0.71%. Despite being a resident species, no breeding recorded.

GBS: One record from the rural area: 1/4wk Sep Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

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: 21 records, many more than last year (14), from just 6 grid cells (the same number as last year): 9 records from Namadgi National Park, 9 from the Tinderry Range, 2 from the Queanbeyan River GrQ21 and 1 from Tallaganda NP, in Oct-Nov and Jan-Mar., all of 1-4 birds. The 21 records this year is more than twice the number of records over the long-term and similar to the years just before the 2003 fires: 19 in 2000-01; 21 in 1999-2000 and 14 in 1998-99. Recording rate 0.83%. Despite being a resident species, no breeding recorded.

NEOSITTIDAE: sittella**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 65 records, similar to last year's 67 and lower than the 101 in 2005-06, from all months. Recorded from 27 grid cells (10% of those surveyed). 16 (25%) WOO. Recording rate 2.57%. Mean abundance 3.12, median 3, max 10/29 Apr Yanunbeyan Corner Hill GrQ20 (BuM1). 5 breeding records (7 last year) from nb/25 Sep Sweeneys TSR GrU11 (LeM1) to ny/8 Apr Red Hill GrK15 (KeA1).

GBS: 12 records (6 last year) from 2 suburban and 4 rural sites: Cook GrJ13 (BrM2 and TaN1), Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1), Burra GrM21 (AnI1) and Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1), with abundance ranging from 1 to max 10/3wk May Cook GrJ13 (BrM2).

CAMPEPHAGIDAE: cuckoo-shrikes, cicadabird, triller**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Common, Breeding Res/Migrant

A widespread, easily identified, largely summer migrant

General: 424 records, a number similar to the previous year (477), from 117 grid cells (104 last year), 42% of those surveyed. 87 (21%) WOO. Recorded from all months with only 15 winter records cf 256 in spring, 106 in summer and 47 in autumn. Recording rate 16.75%. Mean abundance 1.93, median 1. Just 5 records of 10 or more birds with max 15/19 Nov Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1). 13 breeding records (the same as last year), from di/29 Sep Hall TSR GrJ10 (HoS1) to br/9 Jan Newline Paddocks GrN14 (SmA1).

GBS: Recorded from 76% of sites in all months. Abundance ($A=0.2277$) was 26% lower than last year and 53% below the long-term mean. Recording rate 16.54%, 21% lower than last year and 47% lower than the long-term mean. Mean group size 1.38, most observations of 1 to 3 birds with max 2 groups of 6: 3wk Oct Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1) and 1wk Dec Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). Just 2 breeding records compared with 9 last year: ny/2wk Jan Watson GrL12 (WaK1) and dy/3wk Jan Aranda GrJ13 (RoS1).

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. The GBS record is particularly unusual.

General: 3 records (1 last year), all of 1 bird: 1/29 Sep Hall TSR GrJ10 (HoS1), 1/6 Oct Mt Ainslie NR GrL13 (HoS1) and 1/3 Apr GOONR GrM11 (TaN1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: One record: 1/2wk Mar Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

Cicadabird *Coracina papuensis*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

This elusive species was recorded more frequently in the past than now. Assumed to breed in COG's area of interest, but only one record: ny/9 Dec 1989 Lowden Camp, Tallaganda, GrW19 (AIR1).

General: 2 records (3 last year), both obtained from Namadgi NP during the October Bird Blitz: 1/26 Oct Cotter Hut Rd GrF21 (DaC1) and 1/26 Oct Upper Cotter Catchment GrD23 (AnI1). No breeding recorded.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

A species declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in Dec 2003. More records than in recent years.

General: 124 records, continuing the high number reported last year (125), from 47 grid cells (17% of those surveyed) cf. 55 grid cells last year. 24 (19%) WOO; 25 (20%) from the October Bird Blitz. Recording rate 4.9%. First 1/27 Sep Kama GrI13 (DaC1) and last 1/28 Feb TSR 48 GrO05 (AnI1). Mean abundance 2.37, median 2, max 5 records of 10 birds: 25 Oct Kama Woodland GrI13 (DaC1), 26 Oct West Macgregor GrH11 (CuR1), 28 Oct Kama Woodlands GrI13 (DaC1), 16 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (HoJ1) and 20 Dec TSR 48 GrO05 (AnI1). 8 breeding records (17 last year), from nb/31 Oct TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1) to dy/19 Jan The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (BrJ3).

GBS: Recorded from 4 sites (6 last year) from 2/4wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (AIR1) (records from most weeks from this site until 3wk Jan), 1/4wk Sep Turner GrK13 (MiP1), 1/2wk Nov Burra GrM21 (AnI1) and 1/3wk Jan Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1). A=0.011, about 20% lower than last year and the long term average. Most records of 1 or 2 birds, plus 2 of 3 birds, 2 of 4 and max 5/2wk Jan Curtin GrJ14 (AIR1). Breeding recorded from that site: ny/1-3 wks Dec and dy/2-3 wks Jan.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE: whistlers and allies**Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 26 times (37 records last year) from 16 grid cells throughout the year with a notable increase through spring (50% of records). Recorded generally in groups of 1-2, with 4 records of 3 birds. There were no reports from the previously regular sites at Campbell Park and Newline Quarry. One breeding record involving 3 birds: dy/5 Feb Norwood Park Crematorium GrL12 (MuT1).

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Two records: 1/15 Mar Tallaganda NP GrU22, and 3/15 Mar Gourock NP GrU29 (both ZwM1). No records within the ACT.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 160 times from 76 grid cells including 21 WOO survey records - a slight decrease from the 187 and 225 records of the previous two years. Recorded in groups of 1-5 birds, with average abundance 1.6 and max 10/16 Sep Mt Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1). As usual, the number of records dropped off dramatically through the summer months - only 7.5% of records.

GBS: The abundance value ($A=0.0995$) is the lowest in over ten years but the number of sites recording birds (46 sites(56%)) compares closely with the previous two years (45, 46). The decrease in summer records is even greater than observed for the General Records. This is to be expected for the more urban, lower altitude environments covered by the GBS. There was only one record between the 4wk Oct and 3wk Feb – 1/4wk Dec Weetangera GrJ12 (WoD1).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 512 times from 165 grids including 106 WOO survey records. This continues the apparent increase over the previous five years - 475, 457, 480, 331, and 276 records. Reporting rate 20% and average abundance 2, with max 15/28 Oct Gunning GrN01 (AnI1). Six breeding records, the most advanced with dependent young: 3/26 Jan JWNr GrL14 (HeS1) and 3/15 Feb Lake Bathurst GrY08 (LeM1). Typically most birds moved away from the recording area during the colder winter months (only 2 records).

GBS: The abundance value ($A=0.05$) decreased from last year ($A=0.08$) but still above the ten year average ($A=0.04$). Recorded from 24 sites (38%) with a marked decrease through the colder months. Six breeding records from one site in Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) progressed from nest building (2wk Nov) through to a nest with young (1-3wk Dec).

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Widely recorded (416 records) across the region (154 grids) in all months – including 27 WOO survey records. This compares with 418 and 374 records in the previous two years. Average abundance 1.4, max 5/26 Oct Kowen Pine Forest GrR14 (KrS1). The spring months account for 54% of all records including 3 breeding events: on/15 Oct West Macgregor GrH11 (CuR1), dy/25 Oct Blundells Creek Road GrE15 (McD1) and nb/26 Oct Corin Dam Rd GrG19 (RoM3).

GBS: The abundance value ($A=0.715$) decreased markedly from the high value of the previous year ($A=0.1236$) but just slightly below the long term average. Recorded from 12 sites (15%), down from 22 sites (31%) last year. All records of 1 or 2 birds. At 3 sites recorded for over 40 weeks. One breeding record: dy/1wk Jan Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

ORIOLIDAE: oriole

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

A migratory woodland species also recorded in Canberra suburbs. Generally the first of the summer migrants to return to the Canberra region, though some may occasionally over-winter here.

General: 120 records from 48 grid cells (17% of those surveyed), fewer than the 170 records from 58 grid cells last year. 29 (24%) were WOO. Recording rate 4.74% (last year 7.1%). Mean abundance 1.32, all but 7 records of 1 or 2 birds, max 4/25 Oct MULNR NR GrL11 (SmA1) and 4/16 Nov Campbell Park GrM17 (HoJ1), both 500 m area searches. Recorded across the region, with first 1/4 Sep Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and last 1/20 Apr The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1), plus an unusual winter record 1/4 Jun JWNr GrL14 (AWB1). 2 breeding records (4 last year): nb/30 Nov Majura NR GrM12 (GoJ3) and dy/20 Mar Hoskinstown GrT17 (KaJ1).

GBS: Recorded at 33% of sites, recording rate 5.45%, all records of 1-3 birds. Abundance ($A=0.0629$) 20% lower than last year and similar to the long-term mean. Unusual winter records of one bird in 1, 2, 4, 5 wks Jul from Watson GrL12 (WaK1) from where recorded frequently to 1/4wk Mar. Last 1/4wk May Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1). No breeding recorded.

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

Rare, Visitor

8 records (7 last year) from 8 widely dispersed grid cells. First x/30 Sep West Macgregor GrH11 (CuR1) and last 3/17 Feb Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (RaB1). Abundance: 1 record of 3 birds, 3 of 5, 2 of 10 and max 50/19 Oct Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1). No breeding recorded.

GBS: 4 records from 3 sites: 30/4wk Sep Turner GrK13 (MiP1), 5/1wk Oct Page GrJ12 (AlB1), 30/1wk Oct Cook GrJ13 (TaN1) and 20/3wk Oct Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

Uncommon Breeding Migrant

No repeat of the irruption that occurred two years ago.

General: 15 records from 9 grid cells (3.21% of those surveyed) similar to the 16 records from 11 grid cells last year. Recording rate 0.59%. Mean abundance 35, median 18, with max 120/31 Oct TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1) from where 6 of the 15 records came in Oct, Nov and Dec. First 50/27 Sep Cook GrJ13 (TaN1) and last 4/8 Apr Red Hill GrK15(KeA1). 1 breeding record (2 last year): ne/8 Dec TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1).

GBS: 9 records from 7 sites from 20/4wk Sep Turner GrK13 (MiP1) to 10/2wk Nov Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Common, Breeding Migrant

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

General: 285 records from 88 grid cells (31% of those surveyed) cf 237 records from 76 grid cells last year, from all months except Jun, with very few records in Jul, Aug and May. Number of records highest since ACT Atlas period (1988-89: 426 records), this year's figure nearly 4 times the annual mean of 76 reported during the 1900s. Recording rate 11.26%. Mean abundance 5.87, median 4, 8% of records being 1-9 birds. Max 36/21 Mar Caloola Farm GrJ23 (MoM3). 30 breeding records, number similar to 35 last year, from nb/2 Oct TSR 48 GrN05 (LeM1) to dy/13 Mar Birchmans Estate Wamboin GrP12 (ZwM1).

GBS: Higher than the long-term figures on most parameters. Recorded over 22 weeks from a single site in 1wk Sep to 3 sites in 1wk May. Abundance ($A=0.0745$) 25% lower than last year but similar to the long-term mean. The percentage of sites at which recorded ($F\%=22$) 46% higher and recording rate ($R\%=1.37$) 17% higher than the long-term means. Group size ranged from 1 to 25/4wk Apr Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1), mean $G=5.43$. 1 potential breeding record: co/4wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (AlR1).

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A woodland species more frequently recorded in recent years.

General: 222 records from 82 grid cells (29% of those surveyed), a slightly greater than the 200 records from 61 grid cells last year. Present in all months. 50 records (23%) WOO. Recording rate 8.77%. Mean abundance 1.25, all records of 1 or 2 birds plus 4 of 3, 1 of 4 and max 5/22 Nov Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1). 1 breeding record (3 last year): dy/22 Nov Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

GBS: As last year, far above the long-term means on key parameters. Recorded at 48% of sites, 4 times the long-term mean, over 51 weeks (4 times the long-term mean). Recording rate ($R=8.97\%$) 7 times the long term mean. Mean abundance ($A=0.1025$) 9% lower than last year but 8 times the long term mean. Mean group size ($G=1.14$) similar to the long term mean. All reports of 1 or 2 birds, plus 3/1wk Apr Weetangera GrJ12 (WoD1) and 3/3wk Apr Macarthur GrL16 (AHF1).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

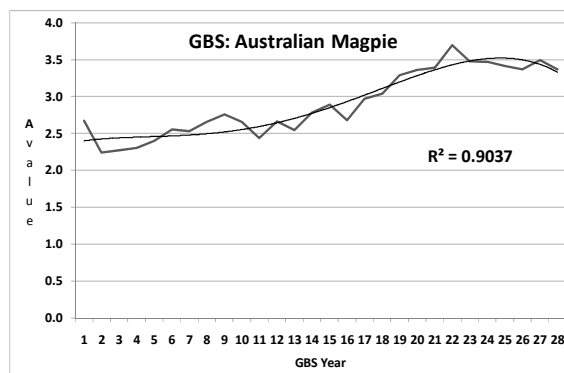
Rare, Visitor

General: 5 records (cf 8 last year): x/1 Apr Iron Mines Rd GrK03 (SpB1), 1/5 Apr MUL GrL11 (HoS1), 1/5 Apr MUL GrL11 (LiB1), 1/11 Apr Murrumbateman area GrF08 (AnI1) and 1/18 May Ravensworth TSR GrH06 (TaN1).

Australian Magpie *Cracticus tibicen*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: The most frequently recorded species, with 1,336 records from 194 grid cells, 69% of those surveyed (similar to the 1,367 records from 204 grid cells last year), incl 363 (27%) WOO, from all months. High numbers but still well below the 1,635 records in 2000-01. Recording rate 52.8%. Mean abundance 4, median 3, max 71/17 Nov Plains Rd West GrR16 (BuM1), 83% of records being 1-5 birds. 113 breeding records (98 last year) from July, Sep-Jan and a late record of dy/3 May Bungendore GrS13 (McD1).



GBS: 7th most abundant species, recorded from all sites and in all weeks, with most parameters similar to the long-term figures except for abundance ($A=3.3692$) which was 17% higher than the long-term mean though similar to last year's figure. Mean group size 3.68 with the largest 32/4wk Aug Curtin GrJ14 (AlR1); relatively large numbers recorded from this site most weeks. Breeding records from 45 sites (55%) in all months to 4/wk Feb, then one late record dy/1wk Apr Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1).

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: The 12th most frequently reported species (7th last year), with 674 records from 161 grid cells (58% of those surveyed), far fewer than the 863 records last year, from all months, with 31% reported in Oct, the month of COG's annual Bird Blitz. 99 (15%) WOO. Recording rate 26.63% (last year 36%). Abundance: mean 4.62, median 2 and max (roost flight) 436/20 Jul Mt Majura GrL12 (LeM1). 77% of records were of 1-3 birds. 36 breeding records (50 last year) from on/6 Sep Hawker oval GrI12 (AlB1) to dy/28 Jan Tidbinbilla NR GrG17 (HoS1) plus a late record cf/10 Mar The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1).

GBS: 3rd most abundant species, the same rank as last year, recorded in all weeks, with records from all sites. Abundance ($A=3.8844$) similar to last year and to the long-term mean. Recording rate 88%. Mean group size 4.40, max 100/2wk Jun Murrumbateman GrI08 (BlJ1). Breeding records from 38 sites (46%) from nb/4wk Jul Weston GrJ15 (MaA2) to dy/1wk Feb Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3) and Hughes GrK15 (BeR3).

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

Common, Breeding Resident

Generally thought of as a bird of the forests and woodlands, but also sometimes recorded in Canberra suburbs.

General: 99 records from 53 grid cells (19% of those surveyed) cf 152 records from 56 grid cells last year, from all months with 53% of the total in spring (which included the October ACT Birds Blitz). Recording rate 3.91%. Mean abundance 1.24, median 1, max 4/26 Oct Waterholes Fire Trail GrH28 (LaS1) and 4/11 Dec Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1), 82% being of 1 bird, 14% of 2 and 1% of 3 birds. 7 breeding records cf 9 last year, from ny/15 Oct Cuumbeun NR GrO16 (BuM1) to br/22 Feb Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1).

GBS: Similar to the long-term means on all parameters calculated. Recorded at 33% of sites, in 49 weeks. Abundance $A=0.0808$, similar to last year's figure. Recording rate 7.15%. Mean group size 1.13, max 4/4wk Jul Chifley GrK15 (VaM1), 3 records of 3 birds, the rest of 1 or 2. 3 breeding records from 2 sites, 3, 5wk Jan Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) and 1wk Feb Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1).

DICRURIDAE: drongos

Rare Migrant

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

General: Four records on two dates from the one site (presumably the same bird): 1/18 Oct and 1/04 Nov (CoB5, SmA1, BuM1, and HoS1) JWNR GrL14.

RHIPIDURIDAE: fantails

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded only 10 times this year (cf 20 and 22 in the previous two years). The first spring record was 3/26 Oct Blundells Creek Road GrD15 (MoM3), the last 1/7 Apr Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (RaB1). An uncommon winter record: 1/17 Aug Angle Crossing GrK20 (HeS1). Average abundance 2, max 4 7/Jan and 22/Jan Warks Rd GrD15 (SmA1, HoS1). No breeding records.

GBS: Eight records from 4 sites for the period 1wk Feb to 3wk April. Five records (including the earliest and latest) come from a single site in Aranda GrJ13 (GeJ1).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*

Common, Breeding Resident/Migrant

General: The 741 records from 68% of grids, including 156 WOO survey records, is similar to the two previous years (711, 749 records). Recording rate 29%, average abundance 2.6, with max 50/18 Jan Blundells Ck Rd GrE15 (LiB1) observed during a 5 km search. 15 breeding events were noted from nb/08 Oct MULNR GrL11 (HoS1) to br/15 Mar Newline Paddocks GrN14 (SmA1). The well documented decrease in winter records was particularly apparent this year (2.4% of records cf 7% last year) with only 3 Jun records.

GBS: The abundance value ($A=0.16$) was down slightly on last year ($A=0.17$) and well below the ten year average ($A=0.29$), Reported from 47 sites (57%) compared with 52% of sites last year and 85 to 90 % for much of the previous 10 years.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 519 times from 48% of grids surveyed (including 156 WOO survey records). This is a large increase cf with 397 records last year and 432 the year before. Recording rate 21%, average abundance 2.2 with max 14/29 Jan TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1). Breeding recorded 23 times: earliest on/9 Oct SE of Murrumbateman GrJ07 (BrJ3) and latest dy/21 Jan Campbell Park GrM13 (HoS1). The expected decrease in records for the 3 winter months was again noted (only 7% of records).

GBS: Recorded at 46 sites (56%). The abundance value ($A=0.176$) decreased this year from last ($A=0.212$) but remains well within the standard deviation. Breeding recorded at 3 sites, included 2 sites that followed the progress through nest building and on nest, to having dependent young: Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) and Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1).

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

Common, Breeding Resident

General: The 3rd most frequently reported species (same rank as last year), with 893 records from 165 grid cells (59% of those surveyed) cf 941 records from 170 grid cells last year, from all months. 200 records (22%) WOO. Recording rate 35.28%. Mean abundance 2.52, median 2, max 20/31 May Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1), 92% were of 1-5 birds. 25 breeding records cf 43 last year, each month from Jul to Dec, from on/26 Jul ANU GrK13 (FeP1) to dy/13 Dec Page GrI12 (AlB1), plus an early record for the next year nb/17 Jun Dickson GrL13 (ReJ5).

GBS: Recorded from 95% of sites and in every week. Abundance ($A=1.3477$) similar to last year's figure but 27% higher than the long-term mean. Recording rate 64%, 27% higher than the long-term mean. Mean group size 2.10, max 14/2wk Feb Pearce GrK15 (KrS1). Breeding at 6 sites (same as last year) from nb/3wk Jul Kambah GrJ16 (VeP1) to dy/5wk Jan (3 sites), plus the following season's activity nb/4wk Feb Red Hill GrK14 (WaR1), nb/2wk May Curtin GrJ14 (AlR1) and nb/3wk Jun Red Hill GrK14 (WaR1).

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

This species is sometimes difficult to identify and some of the records of small numbers of birds may be of Australian Ravens.

General: 90 records from 54 grid cells, 19% of those surveyed, figures similar to last year, from all months. Recording rate 3.56%. Mean abundance 26 (31 last year), a highly skewed distribution with a median of 6 and a mode of 2. 6 records of 100 or more, max 460/28 May Morass South GrZ08 (LeM1). 1 breeding record (4 last year): ny/26 Oct Nursery Swamp GrH23 (BaS2).

GBS: Records from 9 sites (11%), the same as last year, with no clear temporal pattern. Abundance ($A=0.0554$) 57% below last year and 35% below the long-term mean. Recording rate ($R=0.86\%$) 56% below the long-term mean. Mean group size ($G=6.41$), max 30/3wk Feb Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2). No breeding recorded.

MONARCHIDAE: flycatchers, monarchs**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 118 times in 43 grids including 24 WOO. The first arrivals for the year were noted as 1/28 Sep from Hall GrJ11 (NeG1) and Campbell Park GrM13 (LeM1) with the last record of 1/29 Mar Bumbalong Valley GrL26 (COF1). Recording rate 4.7%. average abundance 2 with max 7/25 Oct MULNR GrL11 (SmA1). Ten breeding records: the first di/20 Oct GOONR GrM11 and the last dy/05 Feb ANBG GrK13 (both HoS1).

GBS: The abundance value ($A=0.033$) dropped slightly from last year ($A=0.038$) as did the number of sites (10 cf 14 the previous year). The first record for the year was: 1/4wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1), and a late final record in 3wk Apr Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1). Three breeding events: on/4wk Oct through to dy/1wk Dec Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1); on/5wk Oct Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1); and dy/4wk Feb Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Common, Breeding Migrant

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

General: Recorded 28 times with the first observation 1/19 Oct Pylara Station (McD1) and the last 2/4 Feb Orroral Valley GrG22 (HoS1). Two breeding records: on/27 Nov Tinderry GrP24 (BuM1) and nb/7 Dec Hospital Creek GrH15 (HoJ1).

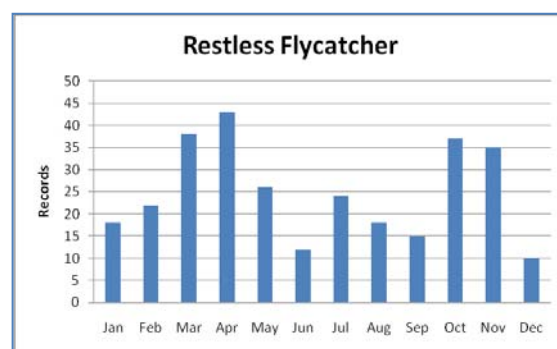
GBS: Two records: 1/4wk Oct Rivett GrI15 (HaT1) and 1/3wk Dec Holt GrI12 (DaC1).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 26 records from 15 grids (5%) including 4 WOO. 65% of records (17) were from the autumn months (Feb-May) with only 6 records from Jun-Feb. This low number of spring-summer records is not typical – the records since Jul 2000 show significant increases in abundance in both spring and autumn. No breeding records.

GBS: 7 records of a single from 1 site in Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1) from 1wk Apr to 4 wk Jun.

**Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis*

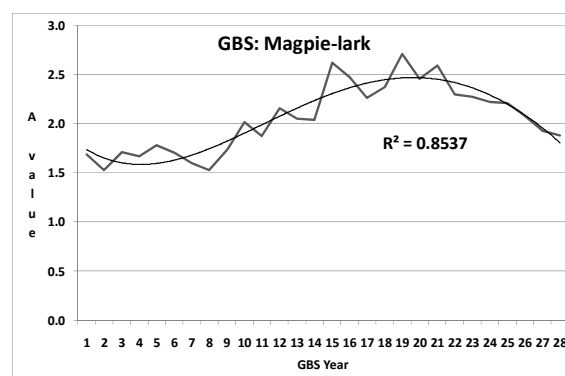
Rare, Visitor

General: No records this year. Previously recorded 1 Apr 2006 at Wamboin GrQ12.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 665 times (737 last year), including 98 WOO survey records, throughout the year, from 44% of grids. Most records were during the spring (45%) with only 13% of records during the winter months. Recording rate 26%, average abundance 3.3 with max 70/18 Feb Rivett Oval GrI15 (HoJ1). 41 breeding records (down from 60 last year): earliest nb/08 Sept Lake Ginninderra GrJ12 (AlB1); latest dy/03 Feb Telopea Park GrL14 (HoS1).



GBS: Recorded from 80 of 82 sites with the abundance value ($A=1.88$) dropping very slightly below the long term average. Breeding reported from 19 sites (23%) including 17 sites noting dependent young. The earliest breeding event was nb/2wk Sep Deakin GrK14 (RoD2) and the latest were dy/3wk Feb Aranda GrJ13 (HAJ1) and on/3wk Feb Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3).

CORCORACIDAE: chough**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

Common, Breeding Resident

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

General: 324 records from 84 grid cells (30% of those surveyed), similar to last year, from all months. 70 WOO (22%). Recording rate 12.8%. Mean abundance 8.36, median 6, max 50/14 Feb Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1). 49 breeding records (similar to last year) from nb/2 Aug Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1) to dy/24 Feb Mt Majura NR GrM12 (HoS1).

GBS: Recorded from 46% of sites (similar to last year) over all weeks. Abundance ($A=0.8608$) 24% higher than last year's figure and 128% of the long-term mean. Recording rate $R=10\%$, more than twice the long-term mean. Mean group size 8.5, max 62/4wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AlR1). Breeding records from 5 sites (4 last year), from ne/3wk Aug Pearce GrK15 (KrS1) and Kingston GrL14 (StL1) to dy/1wk Apr Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1).

PETROICIDAE: robins**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascians*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 42 times in 18 grids throughout the year cf 31 last year and 76 the year before, with 57% of the records coming from Campbell Park GrM13 (11 records), MULNR GrL11-M10-M11 (6 records), and Newline Quarry GrN14 (7 records). 21 spring records were followed by only 4 summer observations – a larger than normal discrepancy. Three breeding records were noted for Campbell Park GrM13: nb/9 Sept (HoS1) followed by two ‘on nest’ records on the 4 Nov (WiT1) and 27 Nov (CoE1).

GBS: No records for the first time in 7 years.

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 220 times (including 52 WOO and 22 Blitz records) from 34% of grids; this is up from last year’s 159 records. Recording rate 8.7%, average abundance 1.3 with max 20/21 Mar Caloola Farm, Naas River GrJ23 (MoM3). Three summer records (1.4%) are fewer than normal but the 5 breeding records through Oct-Nov is standard, with first nb/12 Oct Tidbinbilla NR GrF18 (HoS1) and last nb/13 Nov Old Boboyan Pines Rd GrH25 (DeD2).

GBS: 79 records from 13 sites continue the notable increase in records over the last 5 years. The abundance value ($A=0.0378$) is the highest in over ten years, but still similar to the long term average. Only 3 records between 1wk Oct and 3wk Mar.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

Rare, Breeding Visitor

General: Recorded 30 times this year compared to 25 and 41 records from the previous 2 years, including 12 records from MULNR GrL10-L11-M10 and GOONR GRM11. This scarce breeding bird is rarely recorded in the cooler winter months and as it becomes quieter through the hotter summer months/late breeding season; it is easiest to locate in spring by call (a long, dry trill). There were only 2 summer records and no winter records this year. One breeding record: on/9 Sept Callum Brae GrL15 (BoJ1).

GBS: A single bird 2wk Sep Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 108 times compared to the 121, 120, 101, 75, and 58 in the preceding 5 years, from 23% of grids. Only 3 records were WOO. The majority of late spring-summer records were from typical breeding habitat in the Brindabella Ranges. Recording rate 4.3%, average abundance 3.25 with max 18/19 Sept Glendale Depot GrI23 (NeG1) during a 5 km search. 4 breeding records: dy/25 Oct Mt Aggie GrC18 (OvA1), ih/25 Oct Smokers Trail CF GrG19 (RoM1), dy/25 Oct Mt Tennent GrI20 (PeH2), and dy/02 Feb Corin Dam GrE19 (HoS1).

GBS: Four autumn-winter records: 5/3wk Jul Gundaroo GrO07 (NiA1), 1/4wk Jul Hughes GrK15 (BeR3), 3/1wk Apr Wamboin GrQ13 (MDN1), and 1/5wk Apr Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1). This species has been recorded at the Curtin site for 16 consecutive years (since the site joined the GBS).

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 20 times including 12 spring records (60%) and only 1 winter observation. The majority of early spring records come from lowland woodlands and suburban reserves as the birds move towards higher, wetter breeding areas; all the Nov-Mar records (5) within the ACT are from the Brindabella Ranges.

GBS: 13 records of single birds from 5 suburban sites in Aranda GrJ13, Cook GrJ13 (2 sites), Florey GrK14 and Red Hill GrJ12. One overwintering bird was recorded for 9 consecutive

weeks from 1wk Jul to 4wk Aug Cook GrJ13 (BrM2). The abundance value ($A=0.0039$), as for the last 5 years, remains well below the 10 year average ($A=0.1555$).

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

General: No records this year. Last record was in 2005/6.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

Declared "vulnerable" in the ACT in May 1997.

General: Recorded 58 times (including 5 WOO survey records) from 23 grids. This represents a significant increase compared to the last five years (29, 43, 29, 26, 23). Average abundance 2.2, with max 5/13 Mar Wamboin GrP12 (LeM1). 6 breeding records: dy/01 Oct and cf/15 Oct MULNR GrL10 and GrM10 (both MoM3), dy/26 Nov Ginninderra Creek GrH11 (AlB1), and dy/22 Feb, 13 Mar, 14 Mar Wamboin GrP12 (McD1, ZwM1).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: 102 records from 49 grids (17.5%) compared to 86, 99, 87, 68, 57 records in the previous 5 years. Despite this increase, there were no breeding records for the year. Birds were observed in a wide variety of woodland habitats across all months of the year, although only 9 records were from the winter months. Reporting rate 4%, average abundance 1.5, max 5/21 Mar Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM1) during a 500 metre search.

GBS: As for last year, all records (12) were received from only one site in Burra GrM21 (AnI1). These records were mostly of one bird, but also included a high count of 6 birds in 5wk Jan.

CISTICOLIDAE: cisticolas

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

A cryptic grass bird.

General: 33 records from 7 grid cells, far fewer than the 61 records from 10 grid cells in 2006-07. 25 (76%) from JWNR and environs GrL14. Recorded in all months except Jun. Recording rate 1.30%. Mean abundance 4.3 (last year 1.9), max 4 records of 20 birds all from JWNR in Nov, Dec and Jan (all SmA1). 1 breeding record: br/1 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1).

GBS: 2 records from a single site at Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) cf 4 last year from the same site. No breeding records.

ALAUDIDAE: larks

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

Rare, Visitor

General: 2 records (probably under-recorded): 1/27 Oct Tarago Tip GrY08 (LeM1), x/17 Dec Monaro Hwy GrL30 (CuC2).

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 64 times from 27 grids (10%) cf 84, 75, 66, 38, 24 records in the previous 5 years. As usual the majority of observations were in spring (63%) and summer (23%) when the birds sing more frequently from high above open grasslands; some birds may also leave the area during the autumn-winter months when they may form small flocks. Average abundance 4, max 20/29 April The Morass GrZ08 (LeM1) during a 5 km search. 6 breeding records: first di/10 Oct Coppins Crossing Road GrJ13 (HoS1) and last was br/31 Dec Yarramundi Reach GrJ13 (SmA1).

GBS: 3 records from 1 site: 5wk Jul to 3wk Aug Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1).

ACROCEPHALIDAE: reed-warblers**Australian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: 128 records from 34 grid cells (12% of those surveyed), similar to last year, with 44 (34%) from JWNR and FSP GrL14. Recording rate 5.06%. First 1/5 Sep JWNR GrL14 (HoS1) and last x/17 Mar Tharwa Sandwash GrJ19 (RaB1). Mean abundance 5.9, median 4, max 41/25 Oct JWNR GrL14 (LaS1). 6 breeding records (5 last year) from JWNR GrL14, Acacia Inlet GrK13 and Lake Ginninderra Peninsula GrJ12, commencing with br/18 Oct JWNR GrL14 (SmA1) and ending with cf/30 Jan JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: Records from 2 sites: most weeks from 3wk Sep to 5wk Jan (all 2 birds) Greenway GrJ16 (HaA2) and from 2wk Sep to 2wk Mar Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) with max 11/3wk Nov at that site.

MEGALURIDAE: grassbirds and songlarks**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*

Uncommon, Breeding Resident

General: 54 records from 6 grid cells, well above last year's 31 records from 4 grid cells. 43 records (80%) from JWNR and FSP GrL14. Recorded Sep to Feb, then May. Recording rate 2.13%. Mean abundance 1.86, max 4/18 Oct JWNR (SmA1), 4/25 Oct JWNR GrL14 and 4/26 Jan Yarramundi Reach GrJ13 (SmA1). Despite being a resident species, no breeding records.

GBS: Recorded intermittently from 2wk Sep to 4wk May, all of 1 or 2 birds, at Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Common, Breeding Migrant

A woodland summer migrant whose numbers have increased in recent years

General: 59 records from 34 grid cells (12% of those surveyed) cf 90, 70, 105, 64, 45 and 16 in the 6 preceding years. Recording rate 2.33% (3.8% last year). Mean abundance 2.3, median 1, with max 10/15 Nov TSR 48 GrO05 (WiT1). First record 1/18 Sep Chain-of-Ponds Rd GrL02 (TaN1) and last 3/21 Feb TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1), with 39% of records in Aug. 5 breeding records (3 last year) from di/29 Sep Hall TSR GrJ10 (HoS1) to cf/28 Jan TSR48 GrO05 (LeM1).

GBS: Just 1 record: 1/1wk Jan Turner GrK13 (MiP1).

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

Rare, Breeding Migrant

A infrequently recorded summer migrant.

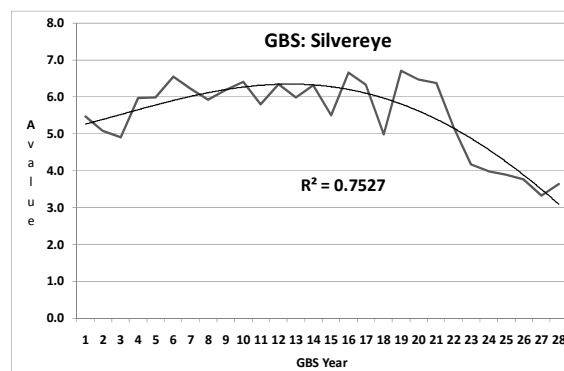
General: 8 records from 7 grid cells cf 15 records from 11 grid cells last year. Recording rate 0.32% cf 0.63% last year. Mean abundance 3.0, all records of 1 or 2 birds plus 14/15 Dec Lake Bathurst Morass South GrZ08 (LeM1). First record 1/10 Oct Coppins Crossing Rd GrJ13 (HoS1) and last Molonglo River-Coppins Crossing GrI13 (SmA1). 1 potential breeding record: di/10 Oct Coppins Crossing Rd GrJ13 (HoS1).

TIMALIIDAE white-eyes**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 267 records from 96 grid cells (34%), most commonly recorded on passage, compared with 301 in the previous year. 18 (6.7%) were WOO. Reporting rate 10.6%. Abundance: mean 5.88, median 3, max 50/17 Sep Molonglo R GrJ14 (BuM1). 2 breeding records (six last year): dy/21 Feb Callum Brae GrL15 (AnI1), cf/8 Apr Red Hill GrK15 (KeA1).

GBS: 4th most abundant bird in the GBS, up from 8th last year. Records of 1-175 individuals from 89% of sites from 52 weeks. The mean abundance ($A=3.6386$) was 9.6% higher than 2007-08 ($A=3.3195$) but 34.4% lower than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 26% lower than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 5 sites (8 last year) nb/2 wk Oct to dy/4 wk Jan Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

**HIRUNDINIDAE: swallow, martins****Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 375 times from 112 grids (40%) of 333 and 401 times in the previous two years. Two flocks of 100 birds were observed at the JWNR GrL14 on 25 Feb (HoS1) and 17 Apr (BuM1); all other records (12) of greater than 25 birds were also from wetland sites. Typically the greatest number of records was in spring (47%) and the fewest in winter (9%); some birds leave the region during the cooler months. Recording rate 14.8%, average abundance 6.3. Recorded breeding 9 times including one particularly early record: br/01 Jul Krawarree GrX27 (CoM4).

GBS: The abundance value ($A=0.2390$) is down slightly from the last year ($A=0.2617$) but remains close to the long-term average – as does the number of sites (29) recording birds. No breeding records.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Uncommon, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 46 times with 13 records of flocks of 20 or more birds, from 19 grids. As for last year, the first and last records were from JWNR GrL14: 20/5 Sep (HoS1) and an unusually late record of x/15 May (GiM3). There were a typically high number of spring records (61%) with only 3 autumn records (7%) and no winter observations. Recorded breeding 11 times: from on/25 Oct West Macgregor GrH11 (CuR1) to on/28 Jan Cotter Road GrH15 (HoS1) and dy/28 Jan TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1).

GBS: Three records from 2 sites: 3/1wk Sep and 30/4wk Mar Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and 4/1wk Nov Turner GrK13 (MiP1). Recorded in 4 of the last 10 GBS years.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Common, Breeding Migrant

General: Recorded 105 times from 49 grids including 16 WOO. As usual, Tree Martins arrived up to a month earlier (4 August records) than Fairy Martins, with several May and July records possibly referring to overwintering birds. Average abundance 7.6, max 60/28 Oct Kama GrI13 (DaC1). 12 breeding records from ih & on/27 Sept Newline Quarry GrM14 (DaC1, LaS1) to ih/06 Dec Kama GrI13 (DaC1).

GBS: 13 records from 6 sites from 4/3wk Sep Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1) to 26/1wk Mar Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2). The abundance value ($A=0.0218$) is above the 10 year average ($A=0.0187$).

TURDIDAE: thrushes

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

Uncommon Breeding Resident

General: 3 records compared with 5 last year: 1/13 Aug ANBG GrK13 (HoS1), 1/26 Oct Warks and Blundells Ck GrE15 (FeP1) and 1/26 Oct Yerrabi Track, Namadgi NP GrH27 (BaS2)

GBS: No records (1 in 2006-07)

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 167 records from 46 grid cells (16.4%) from all months, compared with 195 in the previous year. Reporting rate 6.6%. Abundance: mean 1.9, median 1, max 10/13 Sep JWNR L14 (HoS1). 1 breeding record (2 last year): br/19 Oct JWNR L14 (SmA1).

GBS: Records of 1-6 individuals from 87.8% of sites from all weeks. The mean abundance ($A=0.9666$) was 12.6% lower than 2007-08 ($A=1.1065$) and 41.2% lower than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 22% lower than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 9 sites (compared with 10 last year) from nb/2 wk Oct Florey GrJ12 (BrJ3) and cf/2 wk Oct Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1) to dy/5 wk Jan Kambah GrJ16 (PeH2).

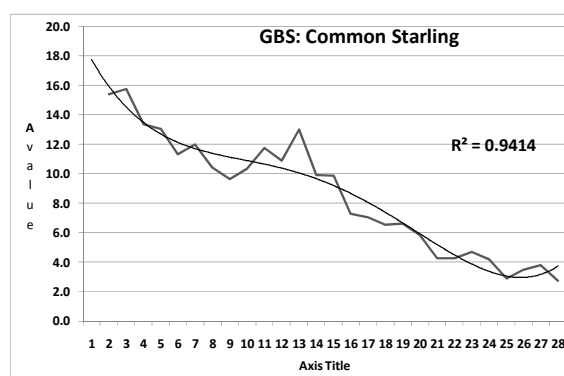
STURNIDAE: starling, myna

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 708 records from 130 grid cells (46.4%) from all months, compared with 684 in the previous year. 162 (22.9%) were WOO. Reporting rate 28.0%. Abundance: mean 17.3, median 7, max 554/21 Mar Lake George GrR12 (LaS1). 71 breeding records (51 last year) commencing ih/21 Aug Shepherds Lookout GrH12 (BuM1) and concluding with ny/22 Dec Taliesin GrP16 (BuM1) and an early hollow inspection in April.

GBS: This year, 9th most abundant species recorded in the GBS, down from 4th position in 2007-08. Records of 1-150 individuals from 79.3% of sites from all weeks. The mean abundance ($A=2.744$) was 27.5% lower than 2007-08 ($A=3.7867$) and well below 2004-05 ($A=4.1747$) and historical levels e.g. 1995-96 ($A=9.8804$) with abundance 70.7% lower than the long-term average. Reporting rate 44.8% lower than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 7 sites (compared with 8 last year) from nb/1 wk Jul Rivett GrI15 (HaT1) to dy/3 wk Dec Kambah GrJ16 (VeP1).

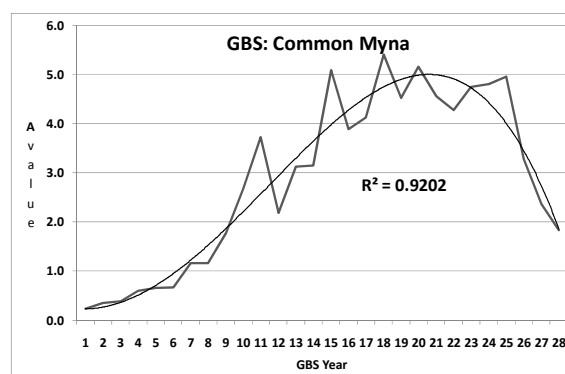


Common Myna *Sturnus tristis*

General: 267 records from 44 grid cells (15.7%) from all months, compared with 302 in the previous year. 43 (16.1%) were WOO. Reporting rate 10.6%. Abundance: mean 4.4, median 2, max 45/7 May Rivett GrI15 (HoJ1). 21 breeding records (21 last year) commencing with on/27 Sep New Line Quarry GrM14, GrN14 (LaS1) and concluding with dy/1 Feb Pine Ridge Farm GrI12 (DaC1).

GBS: Fourteenth most abundant species recorded in the GBS down from twelfth last year and third in 2005-06 most probably as a result of the work of CIMAG. Records of 1-40 individuals from 87.8% of sites from all weeks. The mean abundance ($A=1.8293$) was 22.5% lower than 2007-08 ($A=2.3611$) and 34.6% lower than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 4.4% higher than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 7 sites (compared with 8 last year) from ih, nb/4 wk Sep from four sites to dy/1 wk Feb Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) with early hollow inspection in 4 wk Jun.

Common Breeding Resident

**NECTARINIIDAE: mistletoebird****Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 116 records from 47 grid cells (16.8%) from all months, compared 135 in the previous year. 42 (36%) were WOO. Reporting rate 4.6%. Abundance: mean 1.34, max 8/26 Oct Castle Hill GrJ18 (VeP1). 1 breeding record (1 last year): nb/8 Oct MULNR GrL11 (HoS1).

ESTRILDIDAE: weaver finches**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*

Rare Visitor

General: 3 records (1 in 2007-08) including one breeding record: 4/11 Apr Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (SmA1), 5 and br/11 Apr Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (SmA1), and 6/28 Apr Hoskinstown GrS16 (BuM1).

GBS: No records (1 in 2006-07)

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Uncommon Breeding Resident

General: 76 records from 31 grid cells (11.1%) from all months compared with 72 in the previous year. 4 (5.3%) were WOO. Reporting rate 3.0%. Abundance: mean 5.76, median 3, max 30/28 Apr Coppins Crossing GrI13 (AlB1). 3 breeding records (6 last year): on/17 Sep Molonglo River GrJ14 (BuM1), dy/26 Oct Coppins Crossing GrI13 (ClG1), and on/9 Nov Callum Brae GrL15 (BoJ1).

GBS: Records of 1-10 individuals from 13.4% of sites from 28 weeks. The mean abundance ($A=0.0414$) was 71% higher than 2007-08 ($A=0.0242$) but well below historical levels e.g. 1999-2000 ($A=0.1971$). Abundance 64.9% lower than long-term mean. Reporting rate 51% lower than long-term mean. No breeding records.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 190 records from 67 grid cells (23.9%) from all months %, WOO 2.6%), compared with 145 in the previous year. Reporting rate 7.5%. Abundance: mean 6.4, median 4, max 50/20 Aug Stromlo FP GrI14 (BuM1). 10 breeding records (11 last year) commencing with nb/19 Aug Glendale Depot GrI23 (NeG1) and concluding with nb/16 Jan JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: Records of 1-26 individuals from 22.0% of sites from 48 weeks. The mean abundance ($A=0.2652$) was 35.8% higher than 2007-08 ($A=0.1952$) but 16.8% lower than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 9.6% lower than long-term mean. Breeding recorded from 2 sites (same as last year) nb/2 wk Oct, 4 wk Nov Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4), dy/1 wk Feb Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

Uncommon Breeding Resident

General: 146 records from 49 grid cells (17.5%) from all months, compared with 86 from 33 grid cells in the previous year. 14 (9.6%) were WOO. Reporting rate 5.8%. Abundance: mean 4.8, median 3, max 30/28 Feb TSR 48 GrO05 (AnI1). 8 breeding records (1 last year), 3 of which appear to be the one event at TSR 48 GrO05: commencing with nb/19 Aug Glendale Depot GrI23 (NeG1) and concluding with dy/18 Feb Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2).

GBS: Recorded from 3 sites (2 in 2007-08) 2/2 wk Jul Weston GrJ14 (PeM1), 1/1 wk Jan 2 wk Mar Hoskinstown GrS17 (KaJ1), 2-7/2 wk May 4 wk Jun Weston GrJ14 (MoK1).

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

Rare Vagrant

General: One record, the first for the COG area of concern: 1/25 Nov Queanbeyan R, Tinderry GrQ21 (BrM2).

PASSERIDAE sparrows

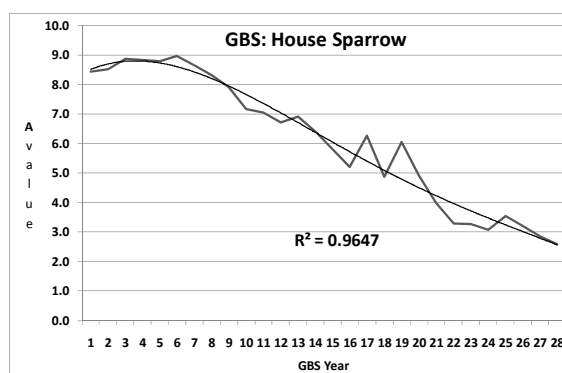
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 114 records from 45 grid cells (16%) from all months, compared with 121 last year. Reporting rate 4.5%. Abundance: mean 5.8, median 3.5, max 35/25 Oct FSPt GrL14 (LaS1). 6 breeding records (6 last year) commencing with ih/17 Sep Molonglo R GrJ14 (BuM1) and concluding with cf/16 Jan JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: Tenth most abundant species recorded in GBS (up from 11th in 2007-08.). Records of 1-50 individuals from all sites from all weeks.

The mean abundance ($A=2.5760$) was 9.8% lower than 2007-08 ($A=2.8558$) and 59.0% lower than the long term mean. Reporting rate 32.2% lower than the long term mean. Breeding recorded from 8 sites (compared with 4 last year) from nb/1 wk Oct Giralang GrK12 (ReM1) to on/3 wk Mar Ngunnawal GrK9 (CoJ9).



MOTACILLIDAE: pipit

Australian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Common, Breeding Resident

General: Recorded 139 times from 25% of grids (70) compared to 112 and 128 the previous two years. Reporting rate 5.5%, average abundance 3.1, max 25/14 Dec Sweeneys TSR (McD1). 8 breeding records from di/20 Aug Stromlo Forest Park GrI14 (BuM1) to cf/28 Jan Paddys River Road GrG17 (HoS1). Only 6% (8) of records were from the 3 winter months.

GBS: 15 Records from 2 sites: 14 records through the year from Curtin GrJ14 (AJR1) and one record of 1/4wk Aug Burra GrM21 (AnI1).

FRINGILLIDAE finches**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Common Breeding Resident

General: 142 records from 52 grid cells (18.6%) from all months, compared with 108 in the previous year. Reporting rate 5.6%. Abundance: mean 5.2, median 3, max 60/28 Aug JWNR GrL14 (HoS1). 1 breeding record (none last year): br/31 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1).

GBS: Records of 1-10 individuals from 6 (7.3%) of sites from 27 weeks. The mean abundance ($A=0.0313$) was 24.8% lower than 2007-08 ($A=0.0416$) and 87.8% lower than the long-term mean. Reporting rate 88% lower than long-term mean. No breeding records.

Common Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Uncommon Breeding Resident

General: 12 records from GrL14 compared with 11 in the previous year. All of the records of 1-10 birds from either JWNR or Norgrove Pk from Aug to June. Reporting rate 0.47%. Abundance: mean 2.6, median 2

GBS: One record: 5/2 wk Jan Ngunnawal GrK9 (CoJ9).

European Goldfinch sightings are increasing in the General
Records, but decreasing in the Garden Bird Survey



Lindsay Hansch

The Australian Magpie is the most recorded species in the General Survey



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

ABA = Australian Bird Atlas (COG's general survey), **BA** = Birds Australia, **INC** = Incidental, **GA** = Greening Australia, **WOO** = Woodland Survey (including subsites, transects and incidental). Unusual sightings not endorsed by the Rarities Panel are not included. Waterbird Survey included with ABA.

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	INC	WOO	% WOO
1	Australian Magpie	1336	751	106	107	9	363	27
2	Crimson Rosella	1203	698	76	90	8	331	28
3	Australian Raven	893	569	87	30	7	200	22
4	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	865	528	75	26	4	232	27
5	Superb Fairy-wren	860	572	97	83	1	107	12
6	Galah	838	480	75	35	5	243	29
7	Red Wattlebird	798	565	69	48	9	107	13
8	Striated Pardalote	774	421	28	68	4	253	33
9	Grey Fantail	741	456	60	63	6	156	21
10	Eastern Rosella	730	413	41	54	5	217	30
11	Common Starling	708	446	71	28	1	162	23
12	Pied Currawong	674	471	73	25	6	99	15
13	Magpie-lark	665	452	79	31	5	98	15
14	Weebill	600	249	29	39	3	280	47
15	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	596	358	41	78	7	112	19
16	Spotted Pardalote	592	409	28	25	4	126	21
17	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	534	402	31	40	10	51	10
18	Willie Wagtail	519	372	45	38	1	63	12
19	Crested Pigeon	514	346	67	19	3	79	15
20	Rufous Whistler	512	324	27	44	11	106	21
21	White-throated Treecreeper	463	330	27	25	3	78	17
22	Noisy Miner	459	205	27	25	4	198	43
23	Noisy Friarbird	441	227	38	26	7	143	32
24	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	424	276	37	21	3	87	21
25	Grey Shrike-thrush	416	306	38	41	4	27	6
26	Australian Wood Duck	405	290	44	4	2	65	16
27	Buff-rumped Thornbill	384	208	14	47	5	110	29
28	Welcome Swallow	375	289	64	9	5	8	2
29	Laughing Kookaburra	365	253	36	18	1	57	16
30	White-plumed Honeyeater	325	194	32	36	0	63	19
31	White-winged Chough	324	201	25	13	15	70	22
32	White-eared Honeyeater	320	241	25	28	3	23	7
33	Red-rumped Parrot	320	206	40	19	2	53	17
34	Pacific Black Duck	306	239	55	1	4	7	2
35	White-browed Scrubwren	293	230	45	14	2	2	1
36	Dusky Woodswallow	285	223	20	6	13	23	8
37	Brown Thornbill	277	207	23	38	0	9	3
38	Common Myna	267	188	26	8	2	43	16
39	Silvereye	267	185	41	20	3	18	7
40	Striated Thornbill	236	142	16	45	1	32	14
41	Grey Butcherbird	222	135	24	4	9	50	23
42	Scarlet Robin	220	115	21	23	9	52	24
43	Sacred Kingfisher	204	155	15	5	5	24	12
44	Eurasian Coot	194	145	45	0	2	2	1
45	Red-browed Finch	190	132	41	6	6	5	3
46	White-naped Honeyeater	179	144	16	10	1	8	4
47	Little Pied Cormorant	175	134	38	1	0	2	1
48	Grey Teal	170	118	43	1	2	6	4
49	White-throated Gerygone	167	83	6	11	4	63	38
50	Common Blackbird	167	125	36	4	0	2	1
51	Masked Lapwing	166	128	33	1	2	2	1
52	Dusky Moorhen	165	123	41	0	1	0	0

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	INC	WOO	% WOO
53	Purple Swamphen	160	116	41	0	3	0	0
54	Golden Whistler	160	101	17	18	3	21	13
55	Common Bronzewing	152	101	11	12	5	23	15
56	Australian King-Parrot	147	101	17	5	0	23	16
57	Diamond Firetail	146	105	5	6	16	14	10
58	Nankeen Kestrel	145	106	18	1	4	16	11
59	Pallid Cuckoo	144	96	7	4	7	30	21
60	Australasian Grebe	143	98	37	1	3	4	3
61	Black Swan	142	113	29	0	0	0	0
62	European Goldfinch	142	106	22	11	2	1	1
63	Australasian Pipit	139	107	24	6	1	1	1
64	Speckled Warbler	137	72	10	13	3	39	28
65	Eastern Spinebill	135	88	13	16	0	18	13
66	Brown-headed Honeyeater	131	79	7	12	2	31	24
67	Wedge-tailed Eagle	128	100	16	0	7	5	4
68	Australian Reed-Warbler	128	93	30	0	1	4	3
69	Gang-gang Cockatoo	125	98	10	2	3	12	10
70	White-winged Triller	124	76	15	5	4	24	19
71	Olive-backed Oriole	120	69	14	8	0	29	24
72	Leaden Flycatcher	118	85	4	1	4	24	20
73	Mistletoebird	116	62	3	7	2	42	36
74	House Sparrow	114	86	21	6	0	1	1
75	Flame Robin	108	81	14	4	6	3	3
76	Tree Martin	105	73	12	4	0	16	15
77	Fuscous Honeyeater	104	94	5	2	0	3	3
78	Australasian Darter	103	67	33	0	3	0	0
79	Australian White Ibis	103	71	26	0	1	5	5
80	Eastern Yellow Robin	102	88	9	4	1	0	0
81	Brown Treecreeper	101	75	8	2	0	16	16
82	Great Cormorant	101	73	26	0	2	0	0
83	White-faced Heron	101	73	21	1	5	1	1
84	Grey Currawong	99	72	11	1	3	12	12
85	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	98	67	21	1	5	4	4
86	Southern Whiteface	97	59	8	5	7	18	19
87	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	96	89	3	0	2	2	2
88	Rock Dove	95	62	33	0	0	0	0
89	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	95	70	8	7	2	8	8
90	Western Gerygone	93	43	3	5	4	38	41
91	Little Raven	90	76	5	1	4	4	4
92	Brown Goshawk	89	64	10	0	0	15	17
93	Hardhead	78	60	15	0	3	0	0
94	Little Corella	78	49	12	1	2	14	18
95	Dollarbird	77	51	13	3	2	8	10
96	Double-barred Finch	76	47	13	5	7	4	5
97	Yellow Thornbill	76	37	1	36	0	2	3
98	Brown Falcon	75	56	12	1	4	2	3
99	Australasian Shoveler	71	43	28	0	0	0	0
100	New Holland Honeyeater	71	47	23	1	0	0	0
101	Superb Parrot	71	39	1	8	15	8	11
102	Silver Gull	68	48	20	0	0	0	0
103	Little Black Cormorant	65	47	15	0	3	0	0
104	Satin Bowerbird	65	53	9	0	1	2	3
105	Varied Sittella	65	40	3	4	2	16	25
106	Little Eagle	65	46	14	0	4	1	2
107	Eurasian Skylark	64	43	19	1	1	0	0
108	Straw-necked Ibis	63	37	23	0	1	2	3
109	Rufous Songlark	59	41	4	6	2	6	10
110	Black-fronted Dotterel	58	38	17	0	1	2	3

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	INC	WOO	% WOO
111	Hooded Robin	58	47	2	1	3	5	9
112	Australian Pelican	57	36	21	0	0	0	0
113	Little Grassbird	54	30	24	0	0	0	0
114	Rainbow Bee-eater	51	43	6	0	2	0	0
115	Royal Spoonbill	47	28	18	0	1	0	0
116	Fairy Martin	46	35	9	0	0	2	4
117	Jacky Winter	42	28	3	1	2	8	19
118	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	41	34	4	0	1	2	5
119	Superb Lyrebird	40	29	5	0	6	0	0
120	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	36	36	0	0	0	0	0
121	Hoary-headed Grebe	36	23	13	0	0	0	0
122	Australian Hobby	35	23	6	1	3	2	6
123	Eastern Great Egret	35	25	7	0	3	0	0
124	Collared Sparrowhawk	34	23	4	1	2	4	12
125	Golden-headed Cisticola	33	17	16	0	0	0	0
126	Red-capped Robin	30	13	3	6	1	7	23
127	Chestnut Teal	30	21	7	0	1	1	3
128	Satin Flycatcher	29	23	5	0	1	0	0
129	Brown Quail	28	20	2	0	5	1	4
130	Pink-eared Duck	27	17	10	0	0	0	0
131	Tawny Frogmouth	27	15	1	1	10	0	0
132	Crested Shrike-tit	26	22	0	2	1	1	4
133	Latham's Snipe	26	13	13	0	0	0	0
134	Restless Flycatcher	26	14	2	3	3	4	15
135	Rainbow Lorikeet	25	19	1	0	3	2	8
136	Peregrine Falcon	25	15	3	0	7	0	0
137	Whistling Kite	25	12	13	0	0	0	0
138	Stubble Quail	25	15	6	4	0	0	0
139	Australian Shelduck	21	19	2	0	0	0	0
140	Eastern Whipbird	21	17	3	0	1	0	0
141	Rose Robin	20	14	2	0	3	1	5
142	White-fronted Chat	20	14	2	0	4	0	0
143	Nankeen Night-Heron	20	11	7	0	2	0	0
144	White-necked Heron	20	16	1	0	3	0	0
145	Southern Boobook	18	14	2	1	1	0	0
146	Spotted Quail-thrush	18	11	1	0	6	0	0
147	Spotted Dove	17	6	6	0	5	0	0
148	Peaceful Dove	16	6	5	0	0	5	31
149	Black-winged Stilt	16	13	2	0	1	0	0
150	White-browed Woodswallow	15	13	0	0	2	0	0
151	Red-kneed Dotterel	15	7	8	0	0	0	0
152	Baillon's Crake	15	7	8	0	0	0	0
153	Black-shouldered Kite	14	7	3	0	4	0	0
154	Australian Owlet-nightjar	13	7	0	0	3	3	23
155	Musk Duck	13	11	1	0	1	0	0
156	Blue-billed Duck	13	6	7	0	0	0	0
157	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	13	6	3	0	4	0	0
158	Pied Cormorant	12	7	3	0	2	0	0
159	Common Greenfinch	12	7	4	0	1	0	0
160	Domestic Goose	11	10	1	0	0	0	0
161	Brush Cuckoo	11	7	1	0	2	1	9
162	Long-billed Corella	11	5	5	0	0	1	9
163	Rufous Fantail	10	7	2	0	1	0	0
164	Glossy Ibis	10	5	5	0	0	0	0
165	Cattle Egret	10	6	2	0	2	0	0
166	Spotless Crake	10	6	2	0	2	0	0
167	Crescent Honeyeater	10	9	1	0	0	0	0
168	Buff-banded Rail	9	4	4	0	1	0	0

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	INC	WOO	% WOO
169	Eastern Koel	9	7	1	0	1	0	0
170	Great Crested Grebe	9	6	2	0	1	0	0
171	Intermediate Egret	9	4	5	0	0	0	0
172	Whiskered Tern	8	5	3	0	0	0	0
173	Masked Woodswallow	8	7	0	0	1	0	0
174	Red-backed Kingfisher	8	7	1	0	0	0	0
175	Brown Songlark	8	4	4	0	0	0	0
176	Muscovy Duck	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
177	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	8	5	3	0	0	0	0
178	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	7	4	2	0	1	0	0
179	Painted Button-quail	7	2	0	1	3	1	14
180	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	7	3	1	0	3	0	0
181	Red-browed Treecreeper	6	2	4	0	0	0	0
182	Australian Spotted Crake	6	1	5	0	0	0	0
183	Little Lorikeet	5	4	1	0	0	0	0
184	Swamp Harrier	5	3	2	0	0	0	0
185	Pied Butcherbird	5	0	1	2	0	2	40
186	Banded Lapwing	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
187	Swift Parrot	5	2	1	0	1	1	20
188	Pilotbird	4	1	3	0	0	0	0
189	Marsh Sandpiper	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
190	Red-capped Plover	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
191	Wonga Pigeon	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
192	Bassian Thrush	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
193	Zebra Finch	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
194	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	3	2	0	0	0	1	33
195	Little Wattlebird	3	1	0	0	2	0	0
196	White-throated Needletail	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
197	Black Kite	3	1	0	0	2	0	0
198	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
199	Little Button-quail	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
200	Lewin's Honeyeater	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
201	Bell Miner	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
202	Common Sandpiper	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
203	Spangled Drongo	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
204	Red-necked Avocet	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
205	Diamond Dove	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
206	Horsfield's Bushlark	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
207	Scarlet Honeyeater	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
208	Little Friarbird	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
209	Black Duck-Mallard hybrid	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
210	Olive Whistler	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
211	Magpie Goose	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
212	Indian Peafowl	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
213	Cicadabird	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
214	Double-banded Plover	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
215	Red-necked Stint	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
216	Black Falcon	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
217	Emu	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
218	Cockatiel	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
219	Grey-crowned Babbler	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
220	Pacific Golden Plover	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
221	Curlew Sandpiper	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
222	Spotted Harrier	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
223	White-browed Treecreeper	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
224	Black-eared Cuckoo	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
225	Brush Bronzewing	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
226	Painted Honeyeater	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	GA	INC	WOO	% WOO
227	Northern Mallard	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
228	Little Egret	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
229	Corella sp	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
230	Brown Gerygone	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
231	Regent Honeyeater	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
232	Beautiful Firetail	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

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

Eastern Whipbird sightings in the Brindabellas are increasing



Julian Robinson

TABLE 2: GARDEN BIRD SURVEY STATISTICS — 2008-09

Values for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (year 28), together with percentage change when compared with the mean of all previous years (years 1-27).

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

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

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

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

W (weeks) = number of weeks with records

Legend for Table 2

An indication of the status of a species for the GBS year, relative to the average for all previous GBS years, is provided by a + or – prefix when dA% and dR% are both greater than $\pm 25\%$. This may be indicative of a general increase or decrease over the 28 years of the GBS, or may simply reflect a particularly good or poor reporting year for that species. In cases where A and R values are small, this indicator may be misleading.

* indicates a species for which both endorsed and unendorsed records contribute to the statistics.

** indicates a species for which there were only unendorsed record(s).

	Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW%	R	dR%	G
	1 Galah	8.0724	15.90	100.00	0.59	52	0.07	83.2	4.9	9.70
	2 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	7.5060	35.82	97.56	-0.04	52	0.00	82.1	17.5	9.14
	3 Pied Currawong	3.8844	-2.19	100.00	1.07	52	0.00	88.3	8.9	4.40
	4 Silveryeye	3.6386	-34.38	89.02	-7.73	52	0.07	48.7	-26.0	7.47
	5 Crimson Rosella	3.5092	14.38	100.00	1.19	52	0.00	90.7	13.3	3.87
+	6 Crested Pigeon	3.3832	213.90	100.00	104.4	52	37.65	84.2	157.5	4.02
	7 Australian Magpie	3.3692	17.27	100.00	0.47	52	0.00	91.9	6.0	3.68
	8 Red Wattlebird	2.8293	28.76	98.78	1.15	52	0.00	88.3	13.7	3.20
	9 Common Starling	2.7440	-70.68	79.3	-14.1	52	0.07	35.7	-44.9	7.69
	10 House Sparrow	2.5760	-58.99	78.05	-15.4	52	0.07	45.8	-32.2	5.62
	11 Australian King-Parrot	2.0286	33.99	86.59	13.61	52	0.86	54.6	36.2	3.72
	12 Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1.9568	-26.35	75.61	-11.9	51	1.03	18.1	-28.9	10.82
	13 Magpie-lark	1.8781	-7.65	97.56	-0.52	52	0.00	79.7	6.0	2.36
	14 Common Myna	1.8293	-34.69	87.80	27.02	52	0.21	50.6	4.4	3.62
	15 Eastern Rosella	1.6332	7.04	97.56	1.05	52	0.00	59.8	3.2	2.73
	16 Superb Fairy-wren	1.3915	73.93	80.49	14.49	52	0.00	40.1	58.5	3.48
	17 Rock Dove	1.3883	14.80	50.00	-2.79	52	0.07	19.6	11.0	7.09
	18 Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1.3754	-3.36	69.51	-19.1	52	0.07	30.4	-12.3	4.53
	19 Australian Raven	1.3477	27.48	95.12	1.23	52	0.00	64.2	26.8	2.10
	20 Gang-gang Cockatoo	0.9985	38.85	70.73	-0.30	52	0.29	29.5	23.3	3.38
	21 Spotted Pardalote	0.9830	58.39	76.83	-0.04	52	0.14	36.6	26.2	2.69
	22 Common Blackbird	0.9666	-41.17	87.80	-5.44	52	0.07	55.1	-22.2	1.75
+	23 White-winged Chough	0.8608	128.08	46.34	56.03	52	15.94	10.1	112.2	8.55
	24 Weebill	0.8412	77.77	56.10	13.46	52	0.29	27.7	51.3	3.04
+	25 Noisy Miner	0.8084	252.09	40.24	74.36	52	3.46	17.8	186.0	4.55
+	26 Eurasian Coot	0.7744	1352	3.66	380.4	47	597.25	2.1	591.0	36.61
+	27 Little Corella	0.7226	625.71	48.78	249.9	52	122.15	9.1	338.4	7.92
+	28 Australian Wood Duck	0.6803	222.21	37.80	53.28	52	31.83	12.9	203.0	5.26
	29 Striated Pardalote	0.6564	11.20	73.17	-1.57	52	0.00	26.4	-2.5	2.49
	30 Eastern Spinebill	0.4741	-13.39	80.49	-7.60	52	0.86	32.1	-5.7	1.48
	31 Noisy Friarbird	0.4493	-47.73	84.15	-9.03	40	-6.98	22.7	-37.5	1.98
	32 Red-rumped Parrot	0.3850	-9.40	46.34	16.50	52	2.41	9.6	10.8	4.00
	33 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	0.3784	19.65	78.05	224.9	52	196.83	12.3	209.9	3.07
+	34 Corella Sp	0.3239	8949	4.88	1982	25	13400	0.8	8191.9	38.82
+	35 Pacific Black Duck	0.2929	163.96	14.63	40.34	52	64.98	6.8	167.6	4.31
	36 Laughing Kookaburra	0.2905	-19.64	57.32	-21.5	52	0.00	16.0	-20.1	1.81
	37 Striated Thornbill	0.2738	30.47	26.83	24.43	52	13.59	6.1	6.7	4.50
	38 Brown Thornbill	0.2718	5.46	46.34	1.42	52	2.11	14.2	7.4	1.91
	39 Red-browed Finch	0.2652	-16.85	21.95	-8.16	48	9.18	4.1	-9.6	6.40
	40 Welcome Swallow	0.2390	4.30	35.37	-7.97	50	1.28	6.4	-9.5	3.75
	41 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	0.2277	-53.38	75.61	-17.1	52	0.57	16.5	-47.5	1.38
+	42 Rainbow Lorikeet	0.2238	928.95	20.73	149.2	52	180.24	8.0	653.0	2.81
	43 Buff-rumped Thornbill	0.2086	73.51	18.29	15.65	52	29.88	5.6	75.5	3.72
+	44 Purple Swamphen	0.1767	1252	2.44	278.5	45	553.23	1.8	499.5	10.05
-	45 Willie Wagtail	0.1758	-34.27	56.10	-27.7	52	0.07	12.6	-37.8	1.39
+	46 Dusky Moorhen	0.1713	1120	2.44	278.5	38	648.91	1.3	510.5	13.37

		Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW%	R	dR%	G
+	47	Hardhead	0.1663	1326	2.44	940.8	36	2527	1.2	2197.1	13.61
-	48	Grey Fantail	0.1630	-50.40	57.32	-27.4	50	-3.50	9.4	-55.8	1.74
	49	White-browed Scrubwren	0.1606	21.49	32.93	26.02	52	10.12	9.7	27.3	1.65
+	50	Superb Parrot	0.1573	1247	25.61	680.6	33	748.57	3.3	1342.1	4.71
	51	White-plumed Honeyeater	0.1496	1.61	53.66	26.86	37	-20.27	6.7	-5.0	2.23
+	52	White-browed Woodswallow	0.1281	375.15	8.54	273.6	5	200.00	0.3	239.2	47.78
	53	Satin Bowerbird	0.1260	13.67	31.71	98.99	52	51.62	7.0	66.7	1.81
-	54	White-naped Honeyeater	0.1249	-78.84	31.71	-37.8	27	-11.85	2.4	-63.8	5.17
	55	Straw-necked Ibis	0.1219	-66.72	21.95	-2.17	29	12.99	1.4	-38.0	8.70
	56	Australian White Ibis	0.1183	-20.25	19.51	69.07	42	125.45	2.5	145.8	4.67
+	57	Little Pied Cormorant	0.1082	1003	13.41	332.0	50	474.47	3.3	584.8	3.27
	58	Masked Lapwing	0.1076	9.23	29.27	-20.9	51	7.24	5.8	8.4	1.86
+	59	Grey Butcherbird	0.1025	707.59	47.56	320.6	51	337.14	9.0	655.4	1.14
	60	Golden Whistler	0.0995	-31.18	56.10	-5.84	35	-18.74	9.0	-26.6	1.10
	61	White-eared Honeyeater	0.0948	-2.63	45.12	-9.28	50	22.50	7.5	2.4	1.26
+	62	Spotted Dove	0.0810	816.83	25.61	426.7	52	377.55	5.8	735.2	1.41
	63	Grey Currawong	0.0808	-2.08	32.93	-5.54	49	-0.45	7.2	3.0	1.13
+	64	Black Swan	0.0766	1070	4.88	233.1	42	682.07	1.7	615.7	4.43
	65	Dusky Woodswallow	0.0745	-2.00	21.95	45.80	22	21.47	1.4	16.9	5.43
	66	Grey Shrike-thrush	0.0715	-8.09	14.63	-61.7	52	8.67	5.4	-21.4	1.32
+	67	Australasian Grebe	0.0664	2454	4.88	494.8	46	1578	2.1	1482.6	3.14
	68	White-throated Treecreeper	0.0641	15.22	18.29	5.85	52	11.16	5.2	7.4	1.24
	69	Olive-backed Oriole	0.0629	9.65	32.93	-18.4	45	30.79	5.5	4.0	1.15
	70	Brown-headed Honeyeater	0.0572	67.58	7.32	-3.92	37	129.66	1.7	110.3	3.43
+	71	Common Bronzewing	0.0557	51.31	15.85	45.50	51	59.01	4.0	92.5	1.40
	72	Little Raven	0.0554	-34.76	10.98	18.58	25	117.74	0.9	55.7	6.41
-	73	Rufous Whistler	0.0524	-44.98	29.27	-44.2	42	-4.06	3.8	-50.9	1.36
+	74	Great Cormorant	0.0471	658.17	8.54	96.92	31	389.47	1.1	314.6	4.27
-	75	Silver Gull	0.0447	-92.25	4.88	-43.7	30	56.67	0.9	-2.8	4.84
+	76	Eastern Koel	0.0414	395.94	30.49	178.3	21	241.57	3.9	392.1	1.05
-	77	Double-barred Finch	0.0414	-64.90	13.41	-32.2	28	-24.85	1.5	-51.1	2.84
	78	Scarlet Robin	0.0378	-10.88	15.85	-43.0	31	19.40	2.4	-16.3	1.57
	79	Southern Boobook	0.0364	-8.83	28.05	-17.9	41	7.79	3.1	-15.3	1.17
-	80	Dollarbird	0.0343	-39.89	23.17	-30.4	22	-0.83	2.5	-29.5	1.37
+	81	Wedge-tailed Eagle	0.0325	171.25	35.37	140.5	40	151.75	2.3	171.6	1.43
	82	Leaden Flycatcher	0.0325	2.94	12.20	-42.5	26	13.23	1.9	-14.8	1.68
-	83	European Goldfinch	0.0313	-87.82	7.32	-81.4	27	-43.18	0.9	-88.0	3.39
	84	Australian Hobby	0.0304	-11.46	25.61	-25.0	41	12.73	2.1	-26.3	1.42
+	85	Australian Reed-Warbler	0.0283	610.95	2.44	30.11	24	359.57	1.0	302.0	2.97
	86	White-faced Heron	0.0283	-3.46	15.85	2.12	40	26.46	2.5	24.6	1.13
+	87	Tawny Frogmouth	0.0268	70.54	13.41	122.3	35	92.86	1.6	84.7	1.67
+	88	Masked Woodswallow	0.0253	643.47	3.66	467.7	3	376.47	0.1	360.7	21.25
	89	Mistletoebird	0.0238	2.18	15.85	13.23	32	15.35	2.3	7.7	1.05
	90	Australian Pelican	0.0221	34.56	8.54	-9.49	11	0.00	0.4	-10.6	4.93
	91	Tree Martin	0.0218	-18.07	7.32	-8.83	11	-9.17	0.4	-32.1	5.62
-	92	New Holland Honeyeater	0.0185	-48.90	7.32	-32.5	22	-10.68	1.1	-27.8	1.72
-	93	Pallid Cuckoo	0.0173	-39.46	14.63	-43.5	22	16.24	1.5	-40.6	1.12
	94	Collared Sparrowhawk	0.0167	-17.61	25.61	9.02	33	7.87	1.6	-13.6	1.02
-	95	Varied Sittella	0.0167	-58.20	7.32	-25.2	12	-21.55	0.4	-52.0	4.67
	96	Rainbow Bee-eater	0.0158	8.03	9.76	28.11	10	94.24	0.4	50.6	4.08
+	97	Grey Teal	0.0155	230.66	6.10	333.7	18	273.85	0.7	204.0	2.36
-	98	Fuscous Honeyeater	0.0146	-88.22	15.85	-50.6	17	-30.66	0.8	-80.1	1.75
	99	Yellow Thornbill	0.0134	-38.95	6.10	-24.0	16	-30.77	0.6	-46.3	2.25
	100	Nankeen Kestrel	0.0131	-40.42	17.07	-13.5	26	-7.51	1.2	-39.1	1.13
-	101	White-throated Gerygone	0.0122	-35.66	9.76	-46.3	23	11.29	1.1	-38.4	1.14
-	102	White-throated Needle-tail	0.0119	-93.85	8.54	-62.2	6	-45.27	0.2	-77.0	5.00
	103	Sacred Kingfisher	0.0113	1.12	12.20	-36.5	17	10.87	0.8	-19.9	1.41
+	104	Fairy Martin	0.0110	197.29	2.44	81.02	3	92.86	0.1	44.6	12.33
	105	White-winged Triller	0.0110	-19.01	4.88	-39.2	13	15.46	0.5	-38.9	2.31
+	106	Little Black Cormorant	0.0104	171.74	2.44	54.20	13	298.86	0.4	192.9	2.69
	107	Brown Goshawk	0.0083	-30.40	17.07	-21.0	19	-11.09	0.8	-25.8	1.00
-	108	Australasian Pipit	0.0083	-47.14	2.44	-31.7	15	-11.38	0.4	-44.3	1.87
+	109	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	0.0077	769.31	2.44	362.6	11	1463	0.3	1040.1	2.36
+	110	Fork-tailed Swift	0.0072	73.35	2.44	73.48	3	305.00	0.1	130.3	8.00
-	111	Speckled Warbler	0.0069	-32.66	3.66	-27.4	17	32.66	0.5	-2.8	1.28
+	112	Little Grassbird	0.0066	4045	1.22	1981	16	3827	0.5	2915.2	1.38

		Species	A	dA%	F	dF%	W	dW%	R	dR%	G
+	113	Long-billed Corella	0.0060	298.65	6.10	300.3	11	356.92	0.4	302.2	1.54
	114	Peregrine Falcon	0.0060	21.58	13.41	48.69	15	44.64	0.5	11.9	1.18
	115	Eastern Yellow Robin	0.0057	30.42	1.22	-45.2	12	32.24	0.4	-7.5	1.58
+	116	Rose-ringed Parakeet	0.0057	2088	1.22	160.2	19	2750	0.6	2088.1	1.00
+	117	Australasian Darter	0.0054	265.82	6.10	550.5	8	307.55	0.3	245.5	2.00
+	118	Hybrid Crimson Eastern Rosella	0.0045	2291	8.54		14	2808	0.4	2132.4	1.07
-	119	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	0.0045	-54.54	6.10	-53.7	9	-41.02	0.4	-52.3	1.00
+	120	Swift Parrot	0.0042	458.11	2.44	316.3	2	350.00	0.1	378.4	4.67
	121	Little Eagle	0.0042	-24.42	9.76	-0.28	11	-7.76	0.4	-24.5	1.08
+	122	Brown Quail	0.0039	202.79	3.66	593.9	8	468.42	0.2	336.4	1.63
	123	Diamond Firetail	0.0039	-19.56	3.66	228.7	5	45.16	0.1	6.9	2.60
-	124	Rose Robin	0.0039	-68.44	6.10	-52.9	11	-34.44	0.4	-65.9	1.00
+	125	Australian Owllet-nightjar	0.0036	51.68	3.66	89.25	9	67.59	0.3	25.2	1.33
-	126	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	0.0036	-56.43	6.10	-42.5	11	-10.81	0.3	-58.0	1.09
+	127	Peaceful Dove	0.0030	1281	1.22	89.25	10	1700	0.3	1282.0	1.00
-	128	Flame Robin	0.0030	-73.92	4.88	-27.6	4	-62.89	0.1	-77.5	2.50
+	129	Stubble Quail	0.0027	88.45	3.66	346.1	7	195.31	0.2	119.9	1.29
	130	Rufous Fantail	0.0027	-14.42	4.88	-42.6	6	1.89	0.2	-20.3	1.13
-	131	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	0.0027	-59.62	3.66	-62.1	8	-30.32	0.3	-59.1	1.00
+	132	Lewin's Honeyeater	0.0024	5427	1.22	940.8	8	7100	0.2	5427.9	1.00
+	133	White-necked Heron	0.0024	360.66	3.66	160.2	8	554.55	0.2	402.5	1.00
	134	Cockatiel	0.0024	23.76	3.66	-0.87	5	19.47	0.1	-12.2	1.60
	135	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	0.0021	-8.74	3.66	73.48	6	90.59	0.2	30.9	1.17
-	136	Eurasian Skylark	0.0021	-91.72	1.22	-38.8	3	-81.16	0.1	-87.3	2.33
-	137	Restless Flycatcher	0.0021	-47.42	1.22	-79.8	7	-18.88	0.2	-44.6	1.00
+	138	Little Friarbird	0.0018	492.28	2.44	160.2	4	468.42	0.1	336.4	1.50
-	139	Brown Falcon	0.0018	-70.87	4.88	-41.4	5	-57.81	0.1	-72.1	1.20
+	140	Common Greenfinch	0.0015	842.26	1.22	246.9	1	285.71	0.0	196.1	5.00
	141	Little Lorikeet	0.0015	-3.13	3.66	115.3	3	138.24	0.1	68.1	1.67
-	142	Western Gerygone	0.0015	-68.87	3.66	-41.1	5	-46.64	0.1	-66.2	1.00
+	143	Hoary-headed Grebe	0.0009	288.68	1.22	1981	3	440.00	0.1	314.6	1.00
	144	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	0.0009	-1.29	2.44	160.2	3	32.79	0.1	-1.3	1.00
	145	Brush Cuckoo	0.0009	13.07	3.66	131.3	3	55.77	0.1	15.2	1.00
+	146	Eastern Barn Owl	0.0006	88.45	2.44	144.9	2	170.00	0.1	97.4	1.00
	147	Whistling Kite	0.0006	-3.58	2.44	60.13	2	35.00	0.1	3.6	1.00
	148	Golden-headed Cisticola	0.0006	-77.71	1.22	9.56	2	-55.74	0.1	-66.0	1.00
	149	Eastern Great Egret	0.0006	-3.58	1.22	-5.38	2	38.46	0.1	3.6	1.00
-	150	Satin Flycatcher	0.0006	-82.51	2.44	-62.5	2	-64.24	0.1	-79.2	1.00
-	151	Black-shouldered Kite	0.0006	-96.07	2.44	-77.1	2	-91.35	0.1	-95.2	1.00
+	152	Princess Parrot	0.0003	314.59	1.22	1981	1	440.00	0.0	314.6	1.00
+	153	Pied Cormorant	0.0003	159.12	1.22	940.8	1	1250	0.0	936.5	1.00
+	154	Intermediate Egret	0.0003	590.99	1.22	593.9	1	800.00	0.0	591.0	1.00
+	155	Nankeen Night-Heron	0.0003	59.46	1.22	593.9	1	107.69	0.0	59.5	1.00
+	156	Red-capped Robin	0.0003	159.12	1.22	246.9	1	237.50	0.0	159.1	1.00
	157	Royal Spoonbill	0.0003	-9.87	1.22	197.4	1	68.75	0.0	29.6	1.00
+	158	Black Falcon	0.0003	38.20	1.22	73.48	1	92.86	0.0	38.2	1.00
	159	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	0.0003	-39.03	1.22	-5.38	1	-18.18	0.0	-39.0	1.00
-	160	Rufous Songlark	0.0003	-93.52	1.22	-52.7	1	-82.24	0.0	-90.5	1.00
	161	Little Wattlebird	0.0003	38.20	1.22	246.9	1	80.00	0.0	38.2	1.00
-	162	Crescent Honeyeater	0.0003	-98.71	1.22	-89.2	1	-94.84	0.0	-98.2	1.00

Total birds per observation-week: 73.1395

Note: Some of these values are extreme, for species that have undergone big changes in populations since the start of the GBS.

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. The preferred survey method is that of Birds Australia Atlas 2 hectare search, although other types of search (Area searches) are also acceptable. See full instructions for BA searches at:

<http://www.cogatlas.org.au/userGuides/AtlasInstructions10Jan07Version2.pdf>. COG Observation Record Forms can be downloaded from: http://www.canberrabirds.org.au/Forms/COG_obs_form.pdf

Woodland Survey (WOO)

Generally 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.

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 and nearby areas. Observers record the maximum number of each species seen at any one time during a week within an area of approximately 3 ha - equivalent to a radius of 100 metres from 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. 64-66. 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 28 years. The long-term average has been calculated as the arithmetic average of the appropriate observations over the previous years. In previous years the long-term average has been calculated as the average of the final values of the statistics. 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, especially where the values of the statistics have changed over time.

A Measure of abundance

This is the average number of individuals of a species recorded at a site for each week over the full year. It is obtained by adding all weekly observations of the species and dividing the sum by the total number of weeks in which observations were made. For example, if the total number of weeks during which observations were made was 2156 and the total number of Eastern Spinebills recorded was 1106, the average number of that species seen each week, at each site, over the full year (A) would be $(1106/2156) = 0.513$.

F Measure of distribution

This is the number of sites at which a species was recorded at least once during the year expressed as a percentage of the total number of sites. If there were 50

sites and the White-throated Needletail was recorded at least once at 9 of them, the value of F for the year is $(9/50 \times 100) = 18\%$.

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 were 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. 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.

Explanatory notes on the text

The names and sequence of birds in the Systematic List conform to *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds* (Christidis & Boles 2008).

The status shown for each bird in the Systematic List is based on previous survey data. It is updated from time to time by the COG Rarities Panel.

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. 70-71.) Note that x indicates presence of the species instead of the number of individuals.

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 (Eastern Spinebill) /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 often 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 JER KAM MAJ MJF MUL NAS NLN 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
CIMAG	Canberra Indian Myna Action Group
Ck	creek
CMP	Campbell Park (WOO site)
CNP	Canberra Nature Park
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation. The abbreviation is followed by the location, e.g. CSIRO Black Mtn
E	East
f	female
FSP	Fyshwick Sewage Ponds
GA	Greening Australia
GBS	Garden Bird Survey
GOO	Gooroo/Goorooyarroo (WOO site)
GOONR	Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve
GOS	Goorooyarroo South (WOO site)
Gr[A01]	COG grid cell (number A01)
GunL	Gungahlin Lakes
HAL	Hall/Gold Creek (WOO site)
Hs/Hstd	Homestead
Hwy	Highway
incl	including
juv	juvenile
JER	Jerrabomberra (WOO site)
JWNR	Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve
KAM	Kama (WOO site)
km	kilometre
LBath	Lake Bathurst
LBath E	Lake Bathurst east basin
LBath W	Lake Bathurst west basin
LBG	Lake Burley Griffin
LGeo	Lake George
LGeo N	Lake George northern end
LGeo S	Lake George southern end
LGIN	Lake Ginninderra
LJerr	Lake Jerrabomberra
LTug	Lake Tuggeranong
Ln	lane
m	male

MAJ	Mt Majura (WOO site)
max	maximum
MJF	Majura Firing Range (WOO site)
MUL	Mulligans Flat (WOO site)
MULNR	Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve
N	North
NAS	Naas (WOO site)
NLN	Newline Quarry (WOO site)
NP	National Park
nr	near
NR	Nature Reserve
QSP	Queanbeyan Sewage Ponds
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)
TUGH	Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve
VIC	Visitors Information Centre, Tidbinbilla
W	West
WBS	Waterbird Survey
WOO	Woodland Survey
wk	week
x	presence of species (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
fs	faecal sac

List of contributors

Code	Observer	BA	COG	GBS	Code	Observer	BA	COG	GBS
AHF1	F & H Allsop			*	HaB2	Bill Handke		*	*
AJR1	R & J Allen			*	HaH1	Horst Hahne		*	
AlB1	Barbara Allan		*	*	HAJ1	J & A Holland			*
AlM2	Mark Allen		*		HaK1	Kay Hahne		*	*
AnF1	Frank Antram		*		HaL2	L & R Hansch			*
AnI1	Ian Anderson		*	*	HaS3	Stephanie Haygarth		*	
AsM1	M Caston			*	HaS4	Stuart Harris		*	
AWB1	ANU Women's BC		*		HaT1	Tobias Hayashi			*
BaJ1	J Barr			*	HeS1	Sandra Henderson		*	
BaL1	Lia Battison		*		HoA1	A Howarth			*
BaS2	Shaun Bagley		*	*	HoB1	Bill Horrigan		*	
BeD1	Darryl Beaumont		*		HoB3	Bryan Hooley	*		
BeL2	Leo Berzins		*	*	HoJ1	Jack Holland		*	
BeR3	R Bell			*	HoJ2	Jim Hone		*	
BIJ1	J & N Black			*	HoO1	Owen Holton		*	
BIR1	Rosemary Blemings		*		HoS1	Steve Holliday		*	*
BoA3	Anne Booth	*			IrJ1	Janet Irons		*	
BoC4	C Boekel			*	JoI2	Ivor Jones	*		
BoJ1	Jenny Bounds		*	*	KaJ1	Julienne Kamprad		*	*
BoM1	M Boots			*	KiS1	Simon King		*	
BoS2	Suzi Bond		*		KoL1	L Kosseck			*
BrJ3	John Brannan		*	*	KrS1	Shirley Kral		*	*
BrM2	Muriel Brookfield		*	*	LaD1	David Landon		*	
BuM1	Martin Butterfield		*	*	LaJ5	John Layton		*	
CCR1	R & C Cannon			*	LaJ8	John Land	*		
ClG1	Grahame Clark		*		LaS1	Sue Lashko		*	*
CIM1	Mark Clayton		*		LaT2	Tony Lawson		*	
CIS1	S Cleland			*	LeB1	Brendan Lepschi		*	*
CoB5	Bill Compston		*		LeM1	Michael Lenz		*	*
CoD2	David Cook		*		LeM2	Margaret Leggoe		*	
CoE1	Elizabeth Compston		*		LiB1	Bruce Lindenmayer		*	*
COF1	COG Outing		*		LuN1	Noel Luff		*	
CoJ9	J Cole			*	MaA2	Alison Mackerras		*	*
CoM4	Maurice Cowan	*			MaB3	Beth Mantle		*	
CuC2	Clive Curson	*			MaC2	C & K Macleay			*
CuR1	Roger Curnow		*		MaM4	M Maconachie		*	
DaC1	Chris Davey		*	*	MaR4	Rod Mackay		*	
DaG2	Geoffrey Dabb		*		MaS3	Sue Mathews		*	
DaJ1	Joan Dawes	*			McD1	David McDonald		*	
DeD2	Dianne Deans		*		McD4	Duncan McCaskill		*	
DoC1	C Dow			*	McI1	Ian J McMahon		*	
DoM1	M Doyle			*	McJ4	Julie McGuinness		*	
DwB1	B & K Dwyer			*	McL3	Lynda McLaughlin	*		
EdS1	S Edgar		*		MDN1	D & N McDonald			*
EyC1	C&R Ey			*	MiP1	P Milburn			*
FeP1	Paul Fennell		*	*	MoK1	K Moore			*
FoA1	Alan Ford		*		MoM1	M Moncur			*
FoJ2	Joe Forshaw		*		MoM3	Martyn Moffat		*	*
FrM1	Matthew Frawley		*		MuT1	Terry Munro		*	*
FrM2	M Freeman			*	NeG1	Gail Neumann		*	
FuP1	Peter Fullagar		*		NeS2	S Nelson			*
FyM1	Malcolm Fyfe		*		NiA1	A O (Nick) Nicholls		*	*
GeJ1	J Geue			*	NiH1	Henry Nix		*	
GiM3	Mat Gilfedder	*			OnP1	P & A O'Neil			*
GoJ3	John Goldie		*		OrP1	P Ormay			*
GoP2	Phyl Goddard		*		OvA1	Anthony Overs		*	*
HaA2	A Hall			*	PeB1	Barrie Pennefather		*	

Code	Observer	BA	COG	GBS	Code	Observer	BA	COG	GBS
PeH2	Harvey Perkins		*	*	SpB1	Bob Spiller	*		
PeM1	M Peachey			*	StK2	K Stapleton			*
PIV1	Vanessa Place		*		TaN1	Nicki Taws		*	*
PoD1	David Pool	*			TeJ1	Julian The		*	
RaB1	B J Ramsay		*	*	ThA1	Alan Thomas		*	
RaG1	Greg Ramsay		*		TrS2	Silvana Tridico		*	
RAJ1	A & J Russell			*	UpA1	J & A Hone & Upitis			*
RaM1	Michael Ramsey	*			VaM1	M Van Den Berg			*
ReD2	David Rees		*	*	VeM1	Maret Vesk	*		
ReG1	Gillian Redmond		*		VeP1	Philip Veerman		*	*
ReJ5	Julian Reid		*		WaJ2	John Walter	*		
ReM1	M Reid / Robertson			*	WaJ3	J Waldron		*	*
RoA1	Alison Rowell		*		WaK1	Kathy Walter		*	*
RoD2	D Rosalky			*	WaK2	K& J Walter/Goldie		*	
RoG2	G Robertson			*	WaR4	R Walcott		*	*
RoJ4	J Robinson			*	WaS1	S Wallace			*
RoJ5	Julian Robinson		*		WhB2	Benjamin Whitworth		*	
RoM1	Michael Robbins		*		WiK2	K Windle			*
RoM3	Margaret Robertson		*		WiT1	Tony Willis		*	
RoS1	Susan Robertson		*	*	WoD1	D Wood			*
SaD1	D Saunders			*	YoL1	L Young			*
SmA1	Alastair Smith	*			ZwM1	Marnix Zwankhuizen		*	
SmM4	Milton Smith		*						
StL1	L Stanners			*					

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Final responsibility for any errors rests with the ABR editor, Paul Fennell.

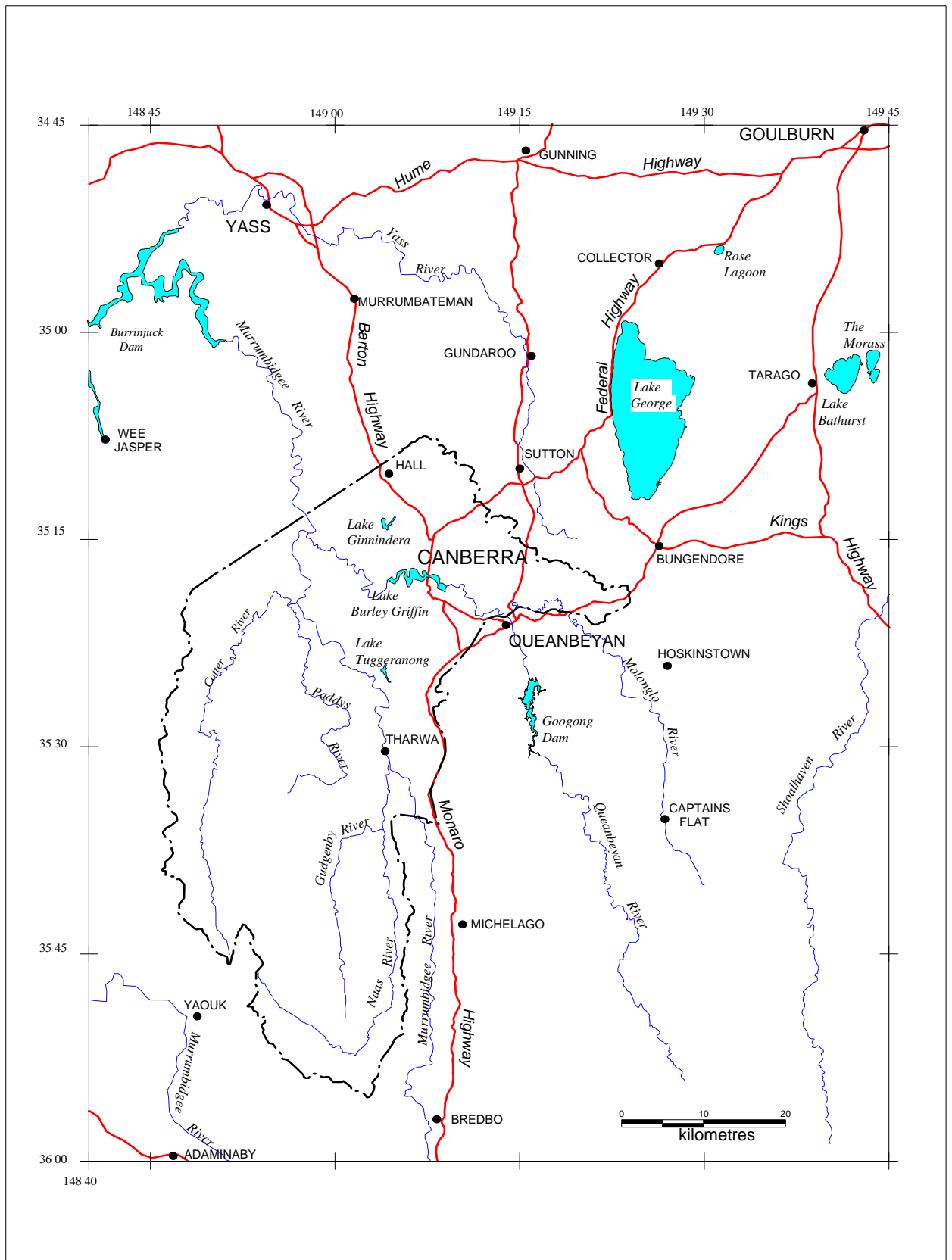
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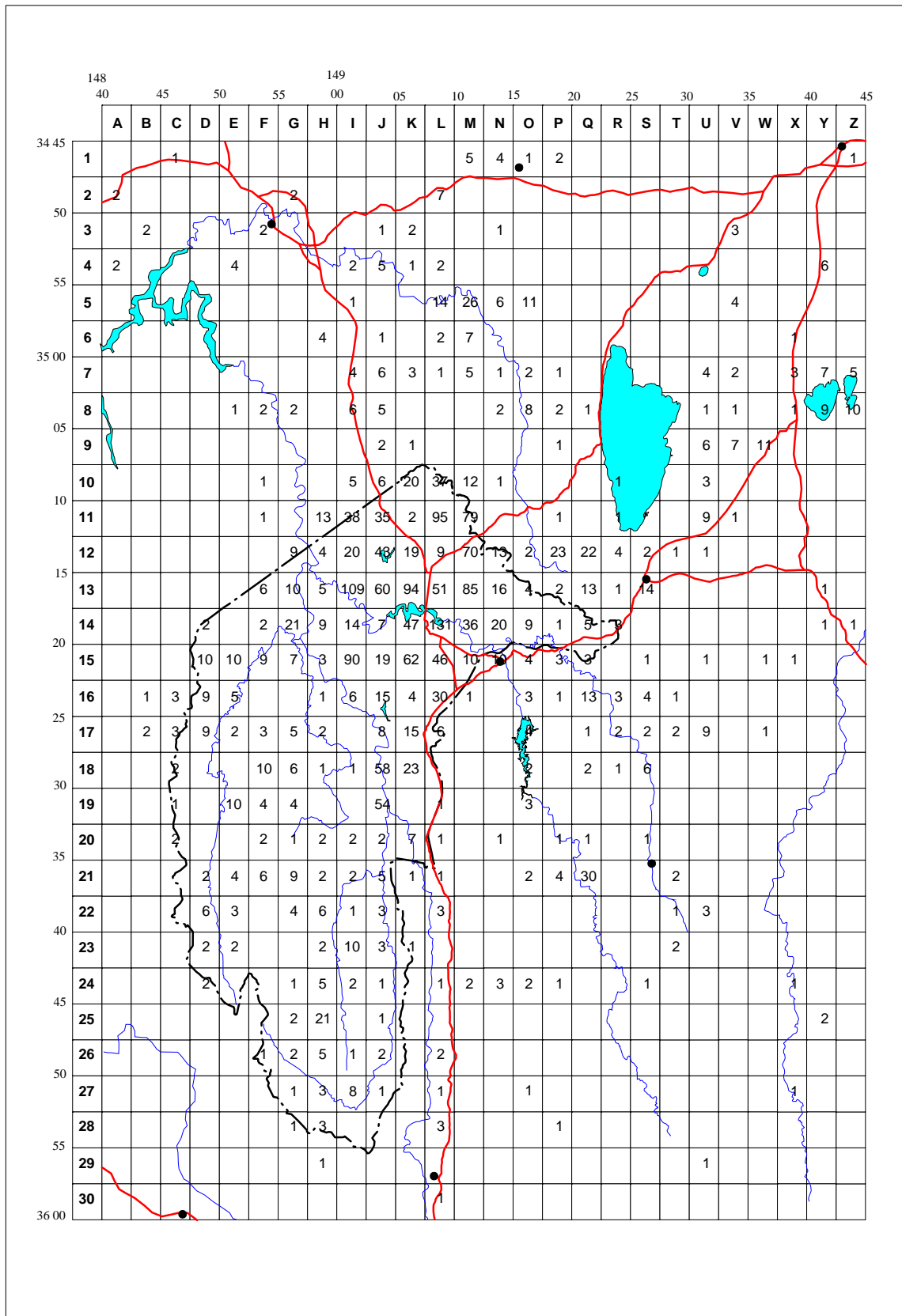
A Royal Spoonbill at Kellys Swamp



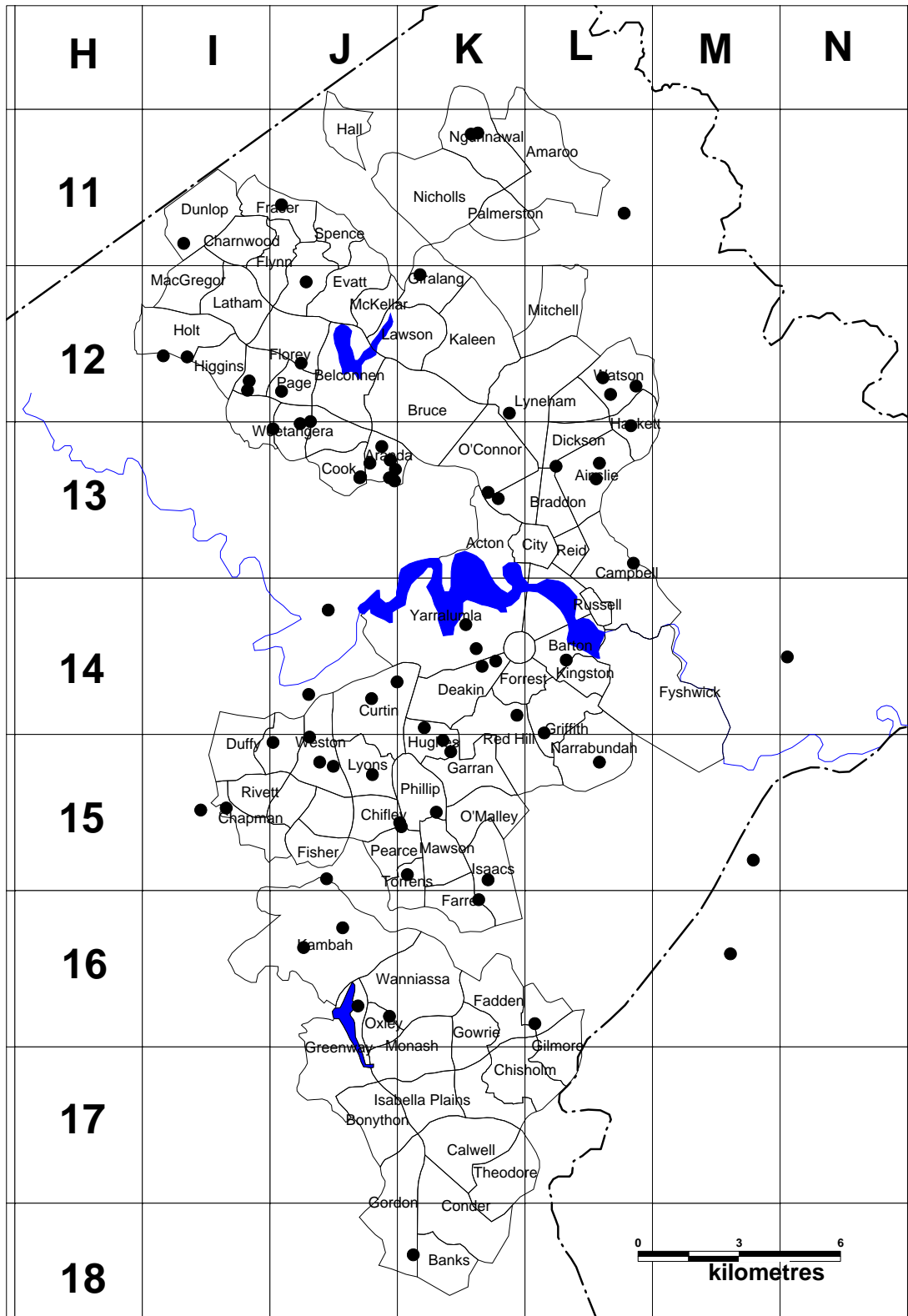
MAP 1. THE CANBERRA REGION (COG'S AREA OF INTEREST)



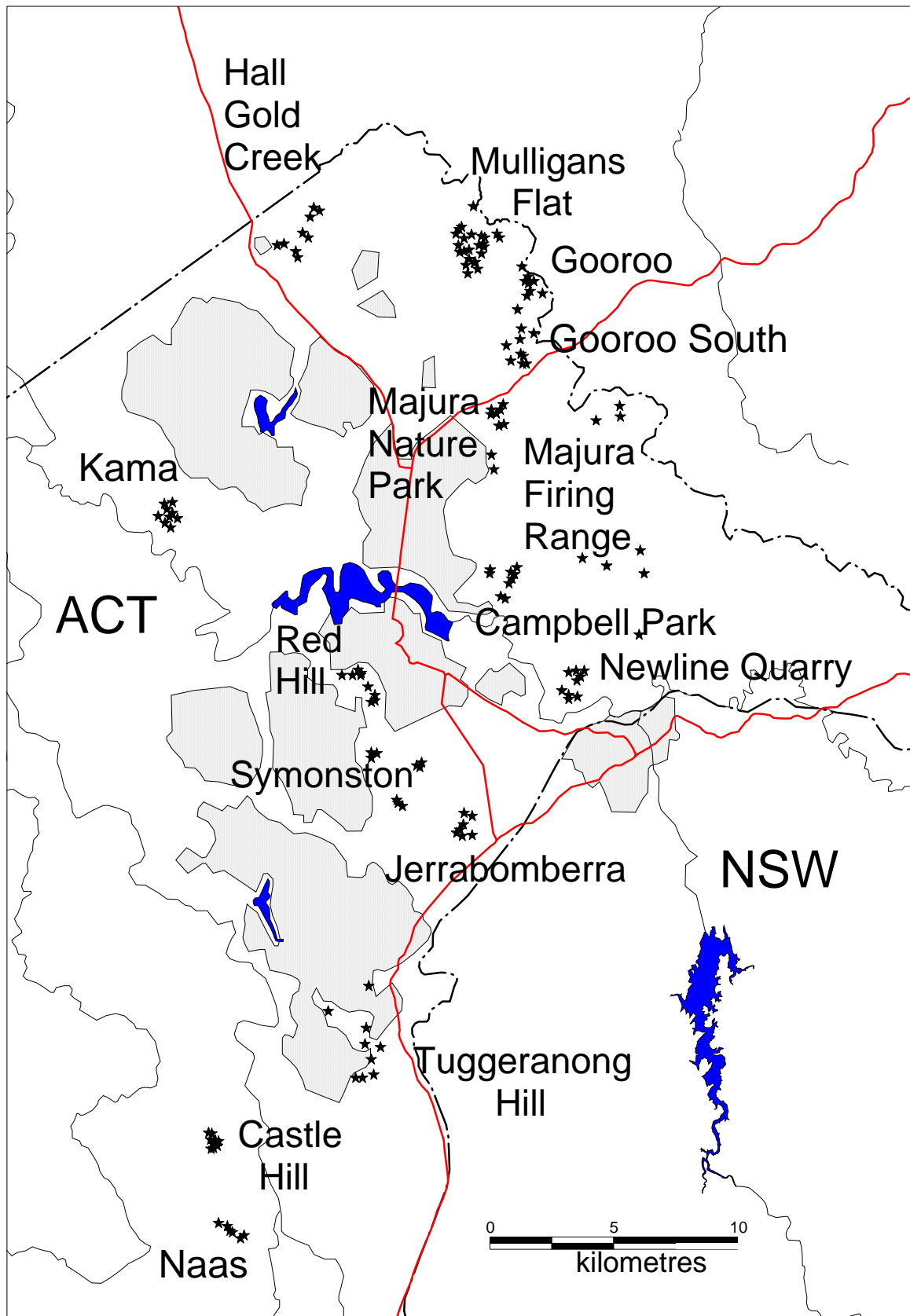
MAP 2: NUMBER OF RECORD SHEETS PER GRID CELL FOR 2008-09



MAP 3: LOCATION OF GARDEN BIRD SURVEY SITES FOR 2008-09

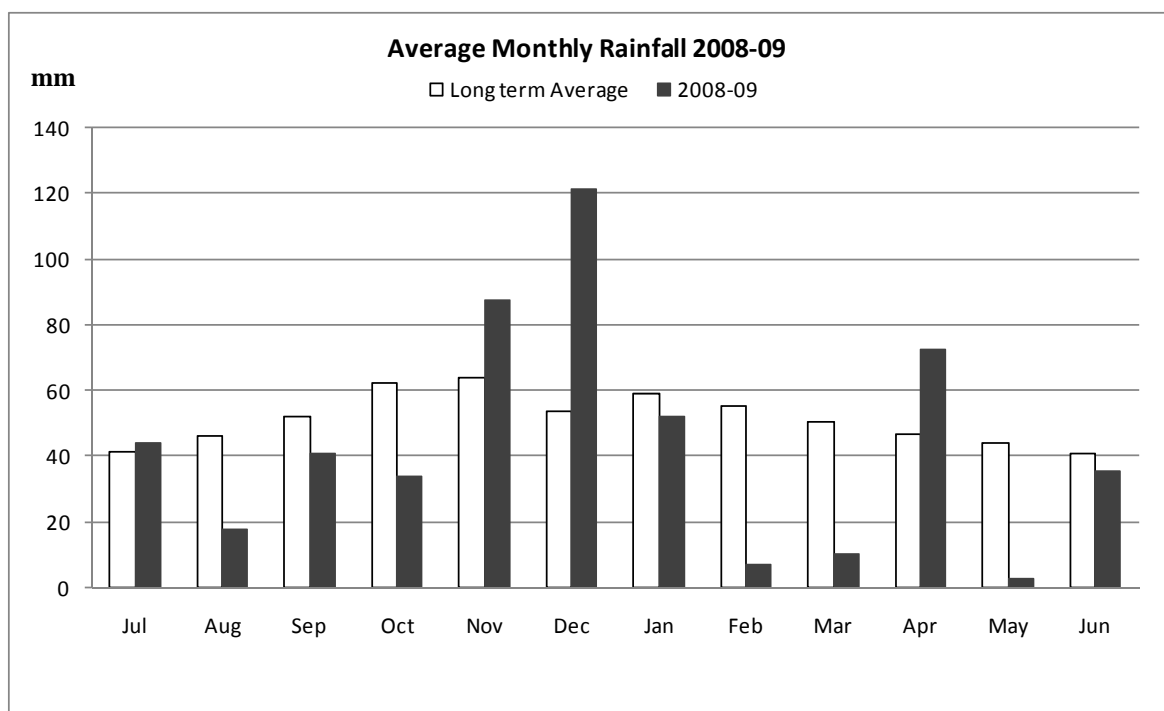
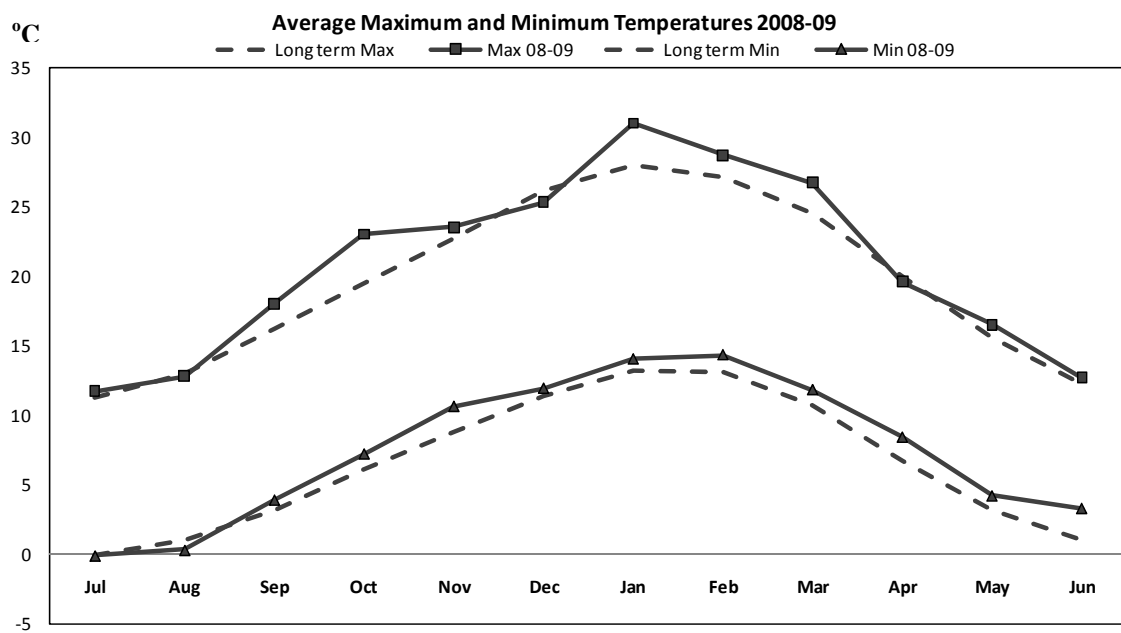


MAP 4 LOCATION OF WOODLAND SURVEY SITES FOR 2008-09



Appendix 1 2008-09 Weather Summary

- A year of patchy rainfall with a dry spring, wetter summer (wettest December since 1999) and little rain after January except for better than average rain in April (wettest April since 1990, 6th driest May)
- Warm spring and summer, but average autumn and winter maximum temperatures. However minimum temperatures higher than the long term average for almost every month
- January 2009 was the sunniest month on record for Canberra, while February was the driest February for 14 years despite the above average cloud cover



APPENDIX 2: LIST OF “UNUSUAL” BIRDS IN THE CANBERRA REGION

The current list of unusually occurring or “rare” species for which there have been confirmed sightings within the last 35-40 years is now maintained on the COG Website (<http://www.canberrabirds.org.au/>). The list does not include species which have been classified purely as escapees. The COG standard Observation Form is obtainable from http://www.canberrabirds.org.au/Forms/COG_obs_form.pdf. It lists all species classified as “usual”, so if any species is observed that is not on that form, it is classified as “unusual”. All “unusual” species require endorsement by the COG Rarities Panel. The Panel would appreciate records of unusual species on the Unusual Bird Report form available from the COG website <http://www.canberrabirds.org.au/Unusuals.htm>.

The Little Wattlebird is an occasional visitor to Canberra



Canberra Bird Notes

Canberra Bird Notes is published by the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc and is edited by Anthony Overs. Major articles of up to 5000 words are welcome on matters relating to the distribution, identification or behaviour of birds in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding region. Please discuss any proposed major contribution with the editor on 6254 0168 (h) or email cbn@canberrabirds.org.au. Short notes, book reviews and other contributions should be sent to the above email address or discussed with the editor on 6254 0168 (h).

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