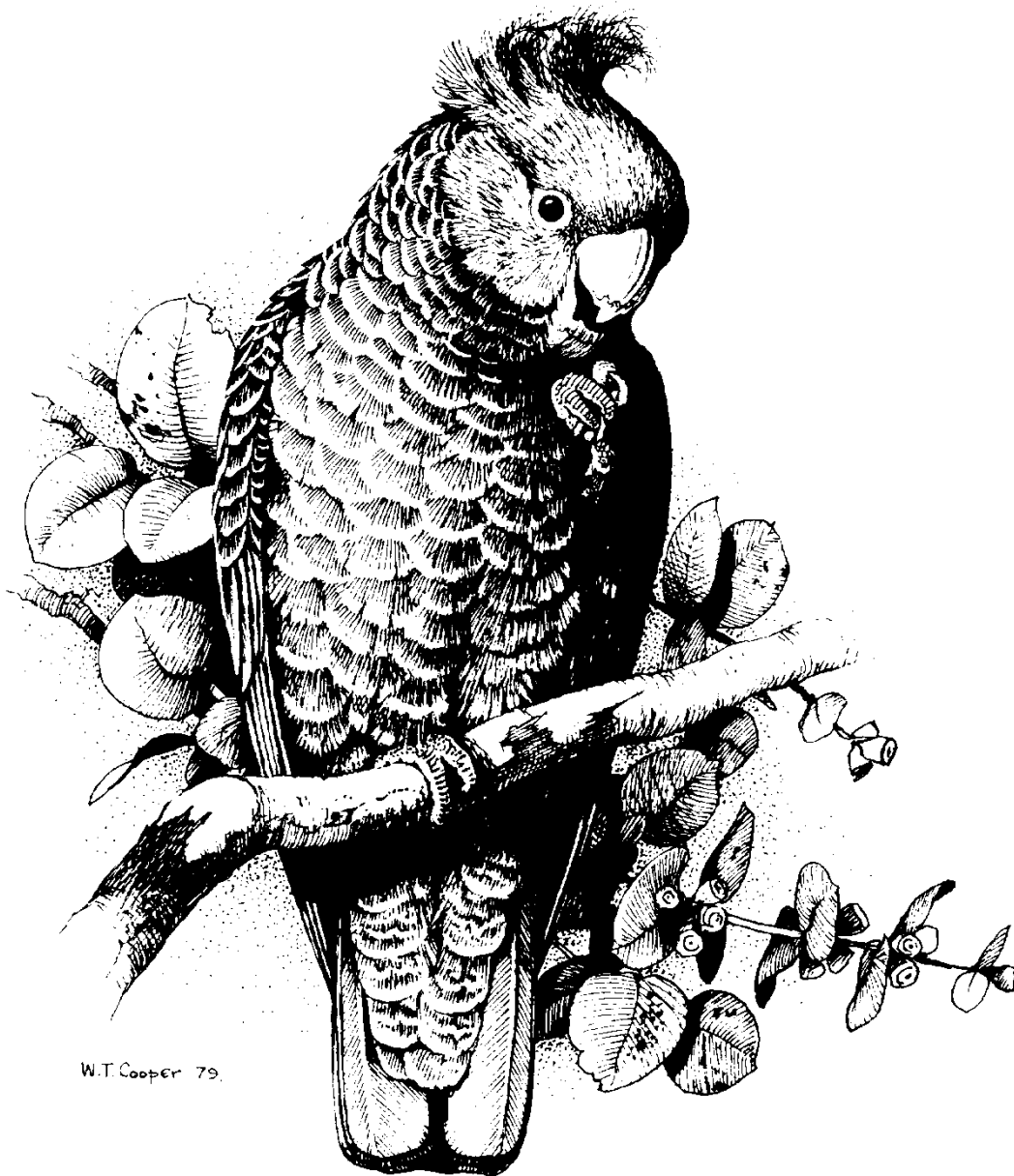


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ANNUAL BIRD REPORT: 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Editor: Paul Fennell

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Readers should note that the COG databases and the others such as eBird and BLA databases are being continually updated, with data being added, sometimes from earlier periods. The annual “snapshot” of data relating to previous years in this Annual Bird Report may be different from that reported in previous ABRs. For example, last year the number of sheets reported for 2015 - 16 was 11621. This year’s report shows that this number has increased to 11703.

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Bird Report (ABR) is part of Canberra Bird Notes (CBN) and is based on all available records of birds recorded in the Canberra region during the year in question. These records are from COG members and members of other bird-watching organisations such as Birdlife Australia and eBird Australia (Cornell University). There are also records from Canberra Nature Map canberra.naturemapr.org/. The report makes this information readily available to all COG members and to the public, and draws attention to significant changes or trends in the distribution or abundance of species. To assist research, nearly all copies of CBN, beginning with Vol 1 (1968) are available on the COG Website <http://cbn.canberrabirds.org.au/>. In addition, statistical reports of each bird species observed in the COG Area of Interest (COG AoI) are stored on the COG website <http://canberrabirds.org.au/our-birds/bird-finder/>.

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. 107). This encompasses an area of 13675 sq. km, of which the ACT, at 2357 sq. km, is only 17.2%. For COG's purposes of data analysis and reporting, 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 alphanumeric code: A-Z across the region from west to east and 1-30 from north to south (see Map 2, p. 108). Elevations in the ACT range from 450 m above sea level to 1911 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. Most records are now by people using the Cornell University eBird application (eBird). Incidental observations (INC) are submitted via Canberra Nature Map and the COG website application <http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/incidental-record-form/>. Specialised COG surveys such as the Garden Bird Survey (GBS), Woodland Survey (WOO), and Waterbird Survey (WBS) are well established. Additionally, records from COG's area of interest that are submitted to BirdLife Australia (BLA) are provided to COG under an agreement between the two organisations. Other atlassing records submitted by COG members by paper record forms are designated COG.

Table 1 (p. 91) provides details of which survey contributes to the records for each species. However, in the Systematic List section, records from all these surveys are considered collectively and

summarised under the heading 'General'. The Garden Bird Survey (GBS) is dealt with separately because records are collected on a weekly basis rather than shorter periods.

COG asks that observers of any sightings of birds considered “unusual” in the Canberra region (see Appendix 2, p. 112) submit an Unusual Bird Report Form to 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 decisions of the rarities panel are published regularly in Canberra Bird Notes, and are available online for members, <http://canberrabirds.org.au>. Another useful resource is the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the ACT, available from <http://canberrabirds.org.au/publications/maps-forms-and-lists/annotated-checklist-of-the-birds-of-the-australian-capital-territory/>. The names and sequence of birds, in this list and in the Systematic List in this report conform to the BirdLife Australia Working List of Australian Birds, available at their website <http://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>.

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 bird species in the region. Several of the major influencing factors on this year's ABR are mentioned briefly here. The effects of these influences need to be considered 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. Max and min temperatures in the ACT in 2016-2017 were again generally higher than usual, except for lower maximum temperatures in Sep and Oct. *The heavy rains in winter and spring across eastern Australia in 2016-17 provided breeding conditions away from the ACT and region that reduced the presence of several waterbird species very significantly.* Rainfall varied, with Jul and Sep much wetter than usual, with Jan, Feb and June much drier. Conditions provided sufficient water to maintain a reasonable growing season for the region. Water levels in natural pondages within the ACT were reasonably high but Lakes George and Bathurst water levels continued to decrease (see WBS overview p. 10, and Appendix 1, p. 111). ACT Govt policy to create wetlands as part of stormwater reticulation structures, and the development of new suburbs in Gungahlin and Molonglo, has created many water retention ponds that have dramatically increased the habitat for water birds, and subsequently the number of species reported.

As well as the 59 Garden Bird Survey charts, there were 160 contributors of records from general surveys (see list p. 103). The 14153 sheets submitted this year is once more the highest number of observations submitted in COG's history. This considerable increase in observations recorded is due to the availability of new technology, such as mobile phone apps, that facilitates the entry of data from the field. While the increase in data submitted is to be welcomed, it should be noted that some of the observations are incidental sightings of interesting species, rather than from a standard atlas survey methodology as advocated by BLA. Nevertheless, these are data issues to be addressed rather than ignored. COG appreciates the efforts of all observers who report their observations.

Government and non-government agencies continue to seek COG's assistance in addressing important environmental issues. Hence, more members should get involved in surveying and submit more records to enhance the value and accuracy of this resource.

SUMMARY STATISTICS

The table on the right has been compiled from data currently available in the COG general surveys database. It updates the table that has appeared in this place in recent ABRs. The data in the table may differ from those in previous ABRs.

Bird Year 2017

Number of observers	160
Number of sheets	14152
Av no of sheets per observer	88
Number of sightings	173350
Av no of sightings per obs	1083
Av no of sightings per sheet	12.2

In 2016-17, 254 bird species were recorded in our area, with 173350 sightings, up significantly on last year, and much higher than in any other year. Some sightings of rare vagrant species not confirmed have not been included. As in recent years, totals have been boosted by COG's 12th "ACT Bird Blitz" (see Allan 2017) held in Oct 2016.

The number of recognised observers this year is down on last year, despite the large increase in sheet numbers. *There are more people, many of them not members of COG, who are entering data via eBird and Canberra Nature Map. If they have made fewer than 5 observations, they are NOT allocated a COG Observer code. The observation is attributed to EbD1 or CNM1. This results in the number of "recognised observers" being lower than might be expected. This also affects the average number of sheets and similar statistics.*

The average number of sheets per observer is now 88, up from 65 last year and 49 the year before. The number of sightings per sheet (12.2) remains about the same as last year (13.8). This has resulted in the number of sightings increasing to 173350 this year up from 161061 last year and from 120920 the previous year. The average number of sightings per sheet (12.2) indicates that, while many record sheets submitted are incidental sightings of "interesting" birds, there are many sheets reporting on more systematic observation. Apart from the total records being much higher than usual, the effort is spread more evenly throughout the year, although winter observations are still decidedly lower. In the last two years, we have witnessed a revolution in the collection and reporting of bird sightings.

Bird Year	Species	Grid Cells	Sheets	Observers
2017	254	315	14152	160
2016	250	298	11703	181
2015	268	248	8367	172
2014	254	243	4643	247
2013	257	231	4778	163
2012	247	263	4381	161
2011	235	301	3317	141
2010	236	247	2581	145
2009	238	273	2539	134
2008	235	268	2547	130
2007	234	191	2596	114
2006	238	210	2459	107
2005	227	181	2199	82
2004	219	166	2078	87
2003	229	192	2186	104
2002	230	331	2236	135
2001	220	390	2725	144
2000	221	331	2455	167
1999	221	273	1824	162
1998	222	96	879	99
1997	220	94	926	96
1996	225	113	1056	103
1995	230	174	1255	106
1994	221	247	978	100
1993	210	194	744	90
1992	213	223	798	68
1991	209	180	920	78
1990	212	188	1174	122

Sheets per season

Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Year
2973	3556	3800	3823	2017
2189	3049	3156	3277	2016
1515	2213	2203	1926	2015
763	1251	1615	1080	2014

The introduction of smart phone applications, particularly the Cornell University eBird application has enabled the instant reporting and editing of data directly from the field. No longer do bird observers have to make written notes that have to be translated and entered into databases. The result has been an explosion in the number of bird observers reporting data, and a similar explosion in the amount of data they are returning.

This ease of reporting has the potential to create some problems with overall data quality, related to observer accuracy and to the survey methods used. Another issue is an increase in the risk of data duplication. These risks raise issues for data managers in relation to monitoring and quality control of data submitted.

The number of grid cells surveyed this year (315) is well above last year and is the highest ever. Most frequently surveyed cells were:

1. L&M14 (1075 cf 754 reports last year): Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, Molonglo Reach and Fyshwick Sewage Ponds (FSP).
2. K15 (1137 cf 704 last year): Woden Valley and part of Red Hill NR including many records from a single observer in Hughes and Garrahan.
3. K13 (1052 cf 832 last year): Acton including ANU and ANBG.
4. J14 (874 cf 313 last year) North Weston, Scrivener Dam, Coombs.
5. K14 (589 cf 272 last year) Yarralumla, Deakin and the northern part of the Red Hill Nature Reserve.
6. J12 (574 cf 451 last year) Lake Ginninderra.
7. L13 (503 cf 555 last year): Central Canberra and part of Mt Ainslie N from different sites in wetlands, parks and nature reserves.
8. K16 (500 cf 375 last year): Wanniasa and Fadden.
9. L12 (395 cf 454): Watson and Mitchell, particularly Downer, Flemington and Mitchell Ponds.
10. J13 (363 cf 391 last year) Aranda, Cook and Weetangera, including Aranda Bushland, Mt Painter and The Pinnacle Nature Reserves.
11. L10 (325 cf 363): Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve.
12. Z01 (300 cf 257) Southwest Goulburn including Goulburn Wetlands.

Table 1, p 91, shows the number of “general surveys” records per species. The 10 most frequently recorded species have changed a little since last year, as indicated in the table. Thirteen endorsed species were recorded only once.

Rank	Species	Records	Comment
1	Australian Magpie	8567	Same rank as last year
2	Magpie-lark	6722	Same rank as last year
3	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	5632	Up one from last year
4	Crimson Rosella	5344	Down from 3 last year
5	Pied Currawong	5126	Up one from last year
6	Galah	5050	Up one from last year
7	Red Wattlebird	4789	Down from 5 last year
8	Australian Raven	4674	Same rank as last year
9	Superb Fairy-wren	4134	Same rank as last year
10	Noisy Miner	3584	Up one from last year

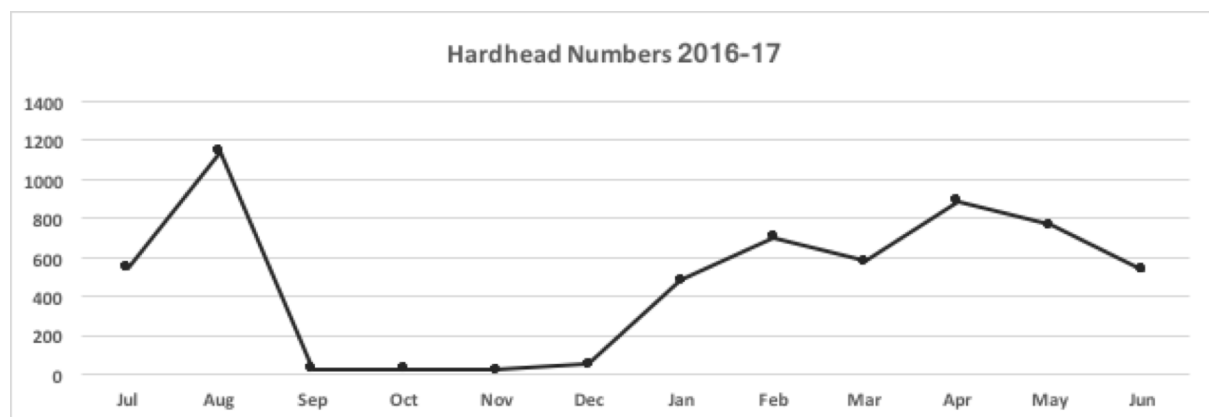
HIGHLIGHTS AND LOWLIGHTS

As was the case last year, this year the most important highlight is still the significant increase in observer effort, with the highest number of observers ever submitting more reports per observer, with an average of 12.2 sightings per observation. This has resulted in significant increases in the number of sightings and the number of birds sighted across the board. This must be considered in interpreting the statistics for individual species. *While the increased number of sightings and higher bird counts may appear to be good news, this is often offset by reductions in the reporting rate and abundance statistics.*

While there have been some highlights, the story this year takes on a very pessimistic tone, with many record low values in reporting rates and abundance values.

On the positive side a group of 16 emus was sighted near the Cotter Dam in September.

There were 141 Australian Wood Duck breeding records (130 dy) up from 109 last year *and now the highest number since records began in 1984*. There is an increase in Australian Shelduck sightings this year, but Freckled Duck, Hardhead and Pink-eared Duck numbers are down. This may be partly accounted for by the heavy late winter and spring rains across eastern Australia, where some species have dispersed further afield to breed, such as Australian White Ibis and Eurasian Coot, whose local numbers were considerably reduced during this period.

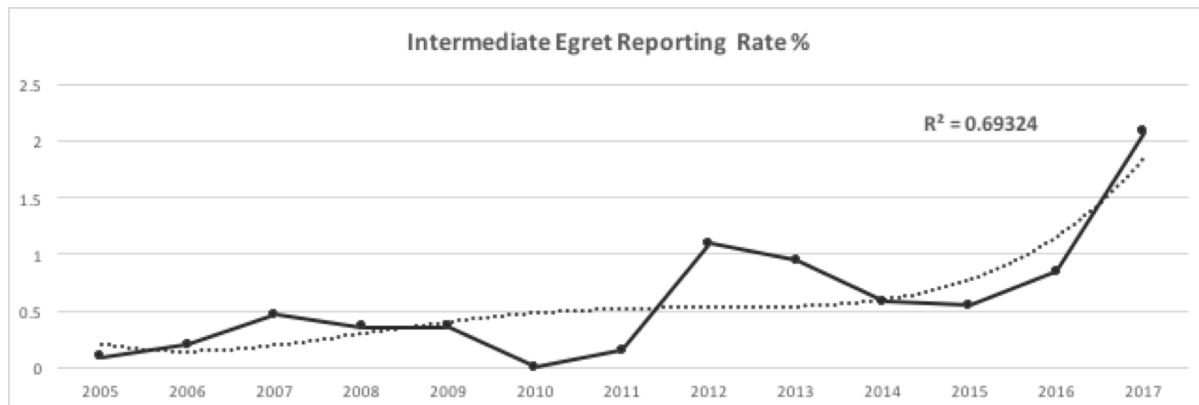


While Australasian Grebe reports are up, including breeding records, Hoary-headed Grebe sightings have declined this year. It was also a good year for Great-crested Grebe with 26 records. Australian Painted-snipe were reported for the first time since 2014, while a Little Curlew was sighted at Lake Bathurst, the first report since 1997. Red-necked Stint were seen in large numbers at Lakes George and Bathurst, but fewer than the numbers in 2013-14.

The Common Bronzewing reporting rate has been in steady decline since a peak in 2007, dropping from 8% to less than 2%. Crested Pigeon reporting rates have increased steadily over the past 35 years, but appear to have reached a plateau starting in 2015. While the Peaceful Dove is not a very prolific species in the COG Area of Interest, this year a breeding event has been recorded for the first time in the ACT.

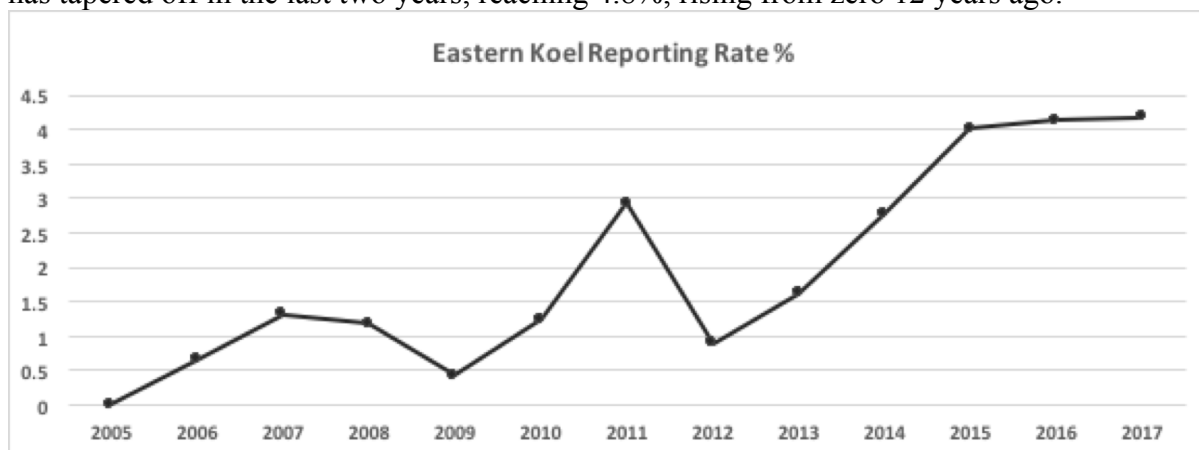
Australian Owlet-nightjar reporting rate this year is close to the record lows shown previously in 2008, 1995 and in 1991.

It has been a good year for cormorants with the Little Black, Great and Little Pied cormorants being well represented this year, although Pied Cormorant sightings were a little lower than usual. Intermediate Egret sightings have jumped this year, as part of a general growth trend since 2005.



Brown Falcon reporting rate this year is at its lowest value ever recorded, a species that seems to be being displaced by Canberra's suburban growth. Most raptor data are showing declines in recent years.

The Eastern Koel is now an established character on the ACT bird scene, but reporting rate increase has tapered off in the last two years, reaching 4.8%, rising from zero 12 years ago.



Channel-billed Cuckoos are at record levels, with 16 sightings this year, but none this year in the GBS. However, the presence of most of the other cuckoos has declined markedly in recent years, with the Pallid Cuckoo looking to be particularly at risk.

The Powerful Owl which had been roosting near the Turner Bowling Club over autumn and winter finally departed for greener pastures at the end of July.

The Superb Lyrebird has been reclassified from "common" to "uncommon" following several years of steady decline of reporting rates and abundance values. After the devastating fires of 2003 there was some recovery in numbers, but since 2008 it has been all slowly downhill.

While the White-throated Treecreeper has not yet been reclassified, its reporting rate is 20% lower than last year and has been in continuous decline since 2001. Brown Treecreeper statistics were holding up quite well until 2008 and, since then, have been in steady and relatively steep decline until the last couple of years when the reporting rate is levelling off, not far above zero %.

While Superb Fairy-wren statistics are holding up, the data for little brown birds shows a general decline: Weebill and Gerygone reporting rates at about half the long-term averages; Striated Thornbill at risk with abundance and reporting rates at an all-time low and Buff-rumped Thornbill reporting rate in decline since 1999, and trending downwards more sharply since 2014, to its lowest value ever. On a more cheerful note, it seems that Yellow Thornbill and Brown Thornbill statistics are more in line with the 30YA. On the other hand, both Spotted and Striated Pardalote data indicate quite sharp declines in abundance and reporting rates.

Honeyeaters are not doing so well either, apart from Red Wattlebirds and Noisy Miners. Species such as Crescent, New Holland, Brown-headed, White-naped honeyeaters and Noisy Friarbird as have reporting rates and abundance well down on 30 Year Averages.

While Spotted Quail-thrush reporting rates remain at about a quarter of long-term averages, it is encouraging to note 2 breeding records of probably the same event in January at Bulls Head. Breeding of this species is seldom recorded. Eastern Whipbird numbers remain steady, with reporting rates being just under the 30YA.

The 4-decade long decline in Varied Sittella reporting rate continues, from 8% in 1989 to its present value of 1.4%. The story is pretty much the same for the Crested Shrike-tit, although there was some recovery in the period 2004-07. Golden and Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush and Olive-backed Oriole reporting rates are also at their lowest level since records began.

While the Dusky Woodswallow reporting rate is at its lowest level ever, it is still about half the long-term average, so the decline is not as significant as for many other species. Not so the Grey Currawong, unlike its Pied relatives, appears to be heading for local extinction, with a 4 decade decline in reporting rate to its lowest level ever.

There were 94 records of a single Apostlebird at North Watson between September and June, the first for the species in the COG AoI.

Both the Rufous and Grey Fantails are suffering declines, while the Willie Wagtail appears to be hanging on, although the reporting rate has been declining in the last few years.

Three of the flycatchers, Leaden, Satin and Restless, are all in serious decline, while the ever-adaptive Magpie-lark reporting rate is at its highest level ever.

Except for the Red-capped Robin, all members of this group are showing the lowest levels in their reporting rates. Even a forest dweller such as the Eastern Yellow Robin is not able to maintain reporting rates at previous levels.

Between 1 and 2 Tawny Grassbirds were observed for the first time in the ACT, at JWNR between Jan and April.

The Mistletoe Bird abundance and reporting rates are the lowest they have ever been. The abundance and reporting rates of Double-barred Finch are at record lows, while the Red-browed Finch is just hanging in there at quite low reporting rates, although the news from the GBS is more positive with the A Value staying around the long-term average.

BREEDING

There were 4801 breeding records, up from 3184 last year and from 2418 the year before. They include “inspecting hollows” and “display” as described in the COG breeding codes (see p 102). Records also include the BA code (br) which excludes “circumstantial” evidence such as “inspecting hollow” or “display”. *EBird breeding codes have more descriptors than COG codes, and in some cases, are subtly different. Currently they are “mapped” across to COG codes, so that the equivalent COG descriptor is used.*

This practice will be reviewed. The table

shows the number of breeding events across all species, and the percentage of that behaviour of the total number of breeding observations for 2016-17.

Breeding Behaviour	Count	%
Dependent young	2593	54.0
Bird seen on or leaving nest	785	16.4
Nest with young	374	7.8
Nest building	320	6.7
Carrying food	246	5.1
Inspecting Hollow	224	4.7
Display	142	3.0
Breeding	76	1.6
Nest with eggs	34	0.7
Faecal sac	4	0.1
Copulation	3	0.1

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY (GBS) OVERVIEW

The Garden Bird Survey (GBS), which started in 1981, completed 36 years of continuous collection in 2016–17. We had records from 59 sites, well down from 67 sites last year. The survey lost 15 sites, gained 5 new sites and 2 sites resumed observations.

Sites are widely, but unevenly, distributed across the region. Belconnen, with 14 sites, is well covered as is North Canberra with 9 sites and Woden with 10 sites and Weston Creek with 6 sites. There are 6 sites in Tuggeranong, 5 in South Canberra. There are only 3 sites in Gungahlin, 1 in the new Molonglo Valley suburbs and 1 in Queanbeyan. There are 4 rural residential sites in NSW.

Despite its name, the GBS is not strictly a “garden” survey. GBS sites are about 3 hectares in area and actually cover a variety of urban and near urban habitats. In addition to the 4 rural sites, many of the suburban sites are near some kind of urban edge such as bushland, urban parks and waterways. Many species that are not usually associated with suburban gardens are recorded.

There are 12 sites (9 suburban, 3 rural) which frequently record water birds such the common ducks, rails and cormorants. For each of the last 10 years of the GBS there have been between 7 and 13 such water bird sites. This is in marked contrast with earlier years of the survey. In the first 10 years of the GBS there was at most one site per year frequently recording water birds, and those sites were all on the ANU campus. The increase in water bird rich sites probably reflects the increase in housing near water in Canberra in recent decades. Most of the suburban sites that record water birds are in locations where there was no housing 20 or 30 years ago.

The number of weeks observed per site averaged 43.5, about the same as last year. There were 12 sites which reported 50 or more weeks (down from 22 the previous year). Overall, there were 2,568 weekly records, well down from 2,908 last year and slightly below the long term survey average.

150 species were recorded in 2016–17, well down from the 166 species recorded last year, and below the average number of species for the previous 10 years which is 162. There were no new species recorded this year. The average for the first 20 years of the survey (1981–82 to 2000–01) was only 138 species. It is not clear why the number of species increased so much in the recent past, although

the increase in habitat diversity of sites is probably a factor. The drop off in the number of species in 2016-17 may be partly random and partly due to the decrease in the number of sites.

There were no records this year for Western Gerygone – a species which has been recorded in all the previous 35 years of the survey, although in recent years there have only been a handful of records. Other missing species include Restless Flycatcher (recorded in 32 previous years), Rufous Songlark (recorded in 25 previous years), and Jacky Winter (recorded in 24 previous years).

Of the top species ranked by the Abundance Measure A, we see Red Wattlebird dropping out of the top 10, down 5 places to number 13, and Little Corella shooting up 10 places to number 6. Several sites reported flocks of Little Corellas of 100 or more and there was one record of 300 birds. In other changes in the top 10, we see Yellow-faced Honeyeater back in the top 10 and Rock Dove out. The abundance measure for these two species is volatile from year to year, as both species are sometimes recorded in large numbers. The full list of species in the GBS, ranked by A, is in Table 2 at page 96.

There have been some notable changes in garden birds in recent years that the GBS has tracked. For example, there has been a recent decline in White-plumed Honeyeaters. 10 years ago they were observed in 61% of sites. In 2016–17 it was down to 20% of sites. In 2002–03 Grey Currawongs were recorded in 50% of sites, 10 years ago it was 31% of sites, and now it down to 20% of sites. Noisy Friarbirds were recorded in 89% of sites 10 years ago and have declined to 59% of sites this year.

Rainbow Lorikeets continue their spread, now seen at 61% of sites, up from 55% of sites last year, and 21% of sites 10 years ago. The Australian White Ibis is another bird on the increase, now seen at 39% of sites, up from 14% of sites 10 years ago.

Notable rarities recorded this year include a Black Falcon in Curtin, a Glossy Ibis in Giralang, an Azure Kingfisher also in Giralang, White-fronted Chats in Wright, and a Bassian Thrush in Cook.

Many thanks to all GBS observers for their continued efforts and those who enter the data from the cumbersome forms into the database.

WOODLAND SURVEY OVERVIEW

In 1998, COG began systematic monitoring of bird species and abundance in several high conservation value Grassy Woodland locations in the ACT. Six locations were initially selected: Mulligans Flat, Mt Majura, Red Hill, Goorooyarroo (north), Symonston and Castle Hill. The following 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 2003); Campbell Park (2003); Goorooyarroo (south) (2004); Naas (2004); Kama in the Molonglo Valley (2005); and Jerrabomberra West (Dec 2006).

One aim of the Woodland Survey is to monitor declining and threatened birds in Yellow Box/Red Gum grassy woodlands. The Project now has 142 monitoring 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, end November/early December, March and June.

Woodland Survey data is analysed to determine trends in bird abundance, and reports are published from time to time in *Canberra Bird Notes* and on the COG website (www.canberrabirds.org.au). The last major analysis was completed in 2010 (data from December 1998 to December 2008), and

reported in *Canberra Bird Notes* in December 2010 (Vol 35/Number 3). This was supplemented by an analysis of habitat changes and bird abundance at the six foundation locations (66 sites), also reported in *Canberra Bird Notes* June 2012 (Vol 37/No 2). All project reports are available on the COG website, under the 'conservation' menu.

In 2017, four monitoring sites were set up in the Nelangelo TSR north of Gundaroo in NSW, according to the woodland survey protocols and methods. This high quality woodland bird habitat is surrounded by farming land. COG is contributing advice to its management. While not formally part of the ACT woodland project, the data collected will be of value for various purposes.

COG provides data to the ACT Government for the monitoring of threatened species, under MOU arrangements. Access to Woodland Project data has also been granted for some research projects. This is now an important and valuable long-term data-set, with ten years or more of data at all project locations. A major analysis of project data will be considered at a future time, including the relevant questions/issues which could be addressed.

Many thanks to all Woodland observers for their continued efforts and those who enter the data.

WATERBIRD SURVEY OVERVIEW

Lake Bathurst

The water levels of Lake Bathurst and the Morass fell steadily. Lake Bathurst was dry by May, but the Morass held water up to later in 2017. Both bodies of water attracted relatively small numbers of ducks with max. >600 Black Swans (May) and 4000 Grey Teals (Feb). Highlights among the waders were Pied Stilts breeding (Nov/Dec), 53 Curlew Sandpipers, 1 Little Curlew, 56 Banded Lapwings (Nov) and 800 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and 2 records of the Pectoral Sandpiper.

Lake George

Water receded steadily and large sections of the western part of the lake fell dry. The only notable concentrations of a few waterbird species were e.g. >1000 Australian Shelduck (Jan), >500 Black Swan (Jun): and >800 Hardhead (Aug).

Many thanks to Michael Lenz for his continued efforts and those who assist him.

COG Prefers Surveys

Information about locations and abundance of bird species are much more useful for research purposes if the data are collected in a standard organised way, so that any statistics derived from that data are usable, and not unduly biased. *Canberra Ornithologists Group strongly recommends that, whenever possible, observers complete surveys in accordance with Birdlife Australia protocols*, rather than reporting incidental sightings of one or two species. BLA survey methods are discussed at <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/atlas-and-birddata/become-an-atlasser-with-the-2-hectare/> 20 minute search being the preferred method.

People using the BLA Birddata app should not find this a problem. People using the eBird app for recording birds can now carry out 2 hectare / 20 min searches and record their data in a way compatible with the BLA protocols. See the instructions for use at <http://ebird.org/content/australia/news/birdlife-surveys/>. This is good news for everyone.

COMMENTS ON THE CONTENT AND WRITING STYLE OF THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The description of most species includes a summary table with a considerable amount of information.

It is important to note that some of the values in the tables for each species in this year's report diverge from those reported last year. The number of records for last year in the current tables may differ from those printed in last year's ABR. This is because a significant number of records have been added to the COG databases after the printing of last year's ABR.

Seasonal variations in the number of records should be viewed with caution, owing to the variability of observer effort across the seasons. Apart from the tendency of observers to go out less in winter and more in spring and summer, the annual COG Bird Blitz in the last weekend in October brings in more records for the spring season. The authors have attempted to accommodate this by paying more attention to the reporting rates and abundance rather than simply quoting number of records.

The table provides a thumbnail sketch of the most relevant statistics normally reported in the Annual Bird Report. By including them in a table, we hope to provide the reader with essential information directly, and to provide the authors an opportunity to discuss interesting highlights and longer term trends.

For further explanation of the terms used in this report, see Data, Methodologies and Explanatory notes on page 99.

Eurasian Coot

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2725	2398	14	375.9
WR	4	4	0	1.6
G	64	58	10	32.0
BR	121	77	57	8.7
GA	1.1305	2.0041	-44	0.4287
GS	7	7	0	1.8
GBR	18	17	6	3.6

SYSTEMATIC LIST

CASUARIIDAE: emu

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

Rare, breeding resident

A small population resides adjacent to Tidbinbilla NR where there is a captive population.

General: 11 records this year from inside Tidbinbilla NR, 11 from near the Cotter Dam, with 1 near the Corin Rd and 1 near LBath (LeM1). There was 1 sighting (supported by a photograph) of 16 birds near the Cotter Dam on 1 Sep (BuJ4).

PHASIANIDAE: quail, peafowl

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Grassland residents, more prevalent after rain, when grass growth increases suitable cover.

General: Considerably more records this year, with the reporting rate (0.9%) up 170% on last year but on a par with the 10 and 30YA. Most records (22) as usual from around LBath and areas to the east of LGeo, with numerous records from the peri-urban grasslands around Canberra such as JWNR (6), MFNR (11) and WBPd (10). Other locations in NSW included Hoskinstown (7) Collector (7) and Wallaroo (9). Records from mid-July through mid-April, with the majority in summer (69% of records) and spring (26%). Max 21/1 Sep Hoskinstown (BuM1), including 1 breeding record dy, with mean 2.2 and median 1. No other breeding reported.

GBS: No records this year, after a single record 1/2wk Dec Curtin last year.

Stubble Quail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	121	37	227	31.3
WR	1	0	Inf	0.6
G	33	17	94	14.8
BR	1	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0008	0.0003	126	0.0019
GS	1	1	0	0.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Less frequently reported than Stubble Quail, preferring a damper habitat.

General: Reporting rate (0.6%) about the same as last year but 31% below the 30YA and still well below the record high (2.3%) of 2011-12. Most records from JWNR (36), but also farther afield in Goulburn Wetlands (AnF1 10) and Michelago (LaS2 4). Recorded throughout the year with more in summer (39%) and fewer in spring (16%). Max 11/17 Feb Coombs (HeS1), mean 2.1 and median 1.

GBS: 1 record only of 7 birds from a site in Giralang (McD4) on 17 Feb. The A value (A=0.0027) and the number of records (1) is down considerably on last year (8 records from a site in Curtin), below the 10YA (14.6) and the 30YA (5.8).

Brown Quail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	80	75	7	22.4
WR	1	0	Inf	0.2
G	20	20	0	9.2
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0027	0.0031	-12	0.0049
GS	1	1	0	0.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Rare, breeding resident/escapee

An introduced species. A long established feral flock in South Canberra.

General: Nearly all 17 records this year from Narrabundah / Red Hill except: Pialligo (3 records of 4 or 5 birds), Bowning (1) and Goulburn (1). Peafowl are intermittently and irregularly recorded from an established feral flock that roams the Narrabundah/Griffith area, and at other sites where they may be domestic rather than wild birds. Max 8/17 Apr Red Hill (MaL2), mean 3.1 and median 2.5.

ANATIDAE: ducks, swan

Domestic ducks and geese will no longer be reported in detail, but are still included in Table 1 p 91.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

Non-breeding resident

Although restricted to the TNR, the birds are free-flying and so may, in the future, establish wild populations.

General: 13 records, all from TNR. Max 16/28 May GrF18 (MaL2).

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Non-breeding visitor

Once regarded as a rare vagrant in this area, this species now appears to be a regular visitor.

General: Reported from 7 grid cells with 111 records. All from the Bungendore area apart from 1/13 Aug Wollogorang Lagoon GrU03 (LaK1), 1/3 Oct JWNR GrL14 (EbD1), 1/3 Oct LGeo GrQ08 (DrC1), 2/9 & 10 Aug Lakes Rd. LGeo GrR12 (TwP1, BuM1) and 2/12 Jan Yass Weir GrG02, (SeB1). Max 65/31 Aug BuTYL (GrS13 (McD1), up from the 45 max of last year. Reported throughout the year.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

Rare, breeding resident

A diving duck preferring deep water.

General: Similar reporting indices to previous years. Reported from 16 grid cells, an increase from 10 the previous year with a max 9/16 Sep Rose Lagoon GrU04 (AnF1). Reported throughout the year. 12 of the 79 records from captive birds at Tidbinbilla NR. 3 breeding records over the period 11 Oct to 6 Dec of on followed by di at Rose Lagoon, possibly same breeding event and di/6 Dec Foxlow Lagoon (BuM1). Unusually, no breeding reported from Yerrabi Pond this year.

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Declared vulnerable in New South Wales

General: When compared with the high of 5442 birds reported in 2013-14, numbers have decreased considerably (1356) and down from previous year. The low number reported is reflected in a decrease in the reporting rate from 3.6 to 1.3. Reported from 8 sites with the majority from JWNR, FSP and MFNR. Regular records from Lakes Rd, LGeo GrR12 and WBPd GrI11. Maximum number 151/17 Jun Farm Dam, Lakes Rd GrR12 (AnF1), mean 7.3, median 3. Very few spring records (1.7%) with 56% of records from the autumn months.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Common, breeding resident

Regularly observed on bodies of water throughout the region.

General: From the low numbers reported last year there has been an increase to more normal levels; abundance (1.01 cf 0.5 last year) and average numbers of birds (9.5 cf 5.8) last year. The number of grid cells reported from has increased from 37 last year to 57 with the maximum number reported 611/17 May LBath GrZ08 (LeM1). The number of breeding cells has increased from 15 last year to 28.

GBS: 103 records from 8 urban sites. Note misprint in last year's report (CBN Vol 42 No 1 p3) number of records should be 119 not 19. 23 reports of breeding (all dy) from Giralang (McD4, KaD1), Jerrabomberra (HaL2), Greenway (HaA2) and Acton (RoS1). Maximum 10/3wk Oct LBG Acton (RoS1).

Black Swan

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1540	1055	46	219.3
WR	1	1	0	0.2
G	57	37	54	23.9
BR	235	88	167	30.0
GA	0.1425	0.1964	-27	0.0419
GS	8	10	-20	2.5
GBR	23	53	-57	10.6

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*

Often found grazing next to farm dams.

General: A large increase in virtually all indices from last year with the number of cells reported increasing from 13 to 25 and the average number of birds reported increasing from 10.4 to 49.1 resulting in a large increase in abundance from 0.16 to 0.88. These increases are despite little increase in the reporting rate. Max 1450/17 Jan Weereewa Lookout LGeo GrR09 (LeM1). Reported throughout the year, slightly higher in summer (33%). All 16 breeding records of dy, 9 from the Bungendore area with breeding also reported from Briars Sharrow Road Hoskinstown GrR16 (BuM1), Wollagorang Lagoon GrU03 (LaK1) and the Morass, LBath GrZ08 (MiP1, AnF1).

Rare, breeding visitor

Australian Shelduck

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	255	185	38	55.1
WR	0	1	-100	0.2
G	25	13	92	11.0
BR	16	13	23	1.5
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

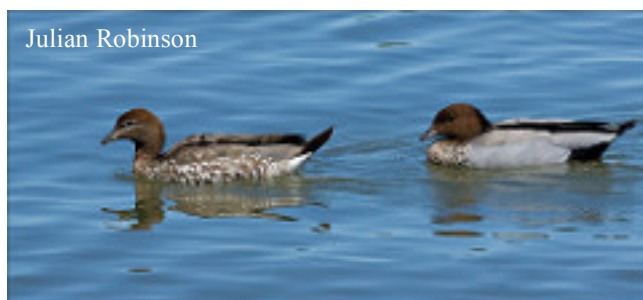
Commonly observed grazing around urban lakes and ponds.

General: Indices very like last year with an increase in abundance (3.07 cf 2.55 last year) from a larger number of grid cells (143 cf 123 last year). Reported throughout the year with a maximum of 300/19 Feb LGeo E GrT09 (LeM1). 141 breeding records (130 dy) up from 109 last year *and now the highest number since records began in 1984*. First breeding

Common, breeding resident

Australian Wood Duck

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	3352	2582	30	562.3
WR	40	58	-31	25.9
G	143	123	16	87.7
BR	141	109	29	32.4
GA	1.7527	1.3456	30	0.4574
GS	33	33	0	20.4
GBR	31	52	-40	14.3



Julian Robinson

ih/18 Aug
The Pinnacle

(AlB1) and final record dy/25 May Fadden Hill (HeS1). As usual, the most widely reported waterfowl.

GBS: 397 records (508 last year) from 33 sites with 30 reports of breeding (di-1, ih-1, dy-28) from 9 sites. Maximum 14/3wk Dec Jerrabomberra (HaL2).

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

A nomadic inland species, whose presence is dependent on water levels at lakes such as LGeo/LBath.

General: The decline in numbers appears to be continuing from the large number reported in 2013-14. All indices show a decline; number of grid cells 15 cf 25 last year, abundance from 1.21 to 0.46 and reporting rate from 5.5% to 2.6%. Max similar to last year 670/4 Jun LGeo GrT09 (LeM1). Reported throughout the year with few in spring to a maximum during autumn (43%). Most observations from Lakes Rd LGeo GrR12, FSP, JWNR, MFNR Big Dam and WBPB. Breeding (dy) was reported on 4 occasions between 5 Dec and 28 Jan from MFNR Big Dam GrL10. Possibly the same breeding pair that bred in the same location last year.

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Pink-eared Duck

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	366	642	-43	81.4
WR	4	2	100	0.2
G	15	25	-40	7.8
BR	4	6	-33	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0007	-100	0.0003
GS	0	1	-100	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

Can be seen throughout the year on larger bodies of water.

General: A small reduction in population indices from last year. This is reflected in a reduction in abundance (0.33 cf 0.49 last year) and a reduction in the reporting rate (4.0 cf 5.7 last year). Despite this there was an increase in the maximum number seen, 360/20 Feb LBath GrY08 (LeM1). Reported throughout the year but smaller numbers during the spring. Most commonly reported from the Bungendore area and JWNR/FSP and WBPD.

GBS. 1 record, 2/Wk4 (Dec) Jerrabomberra GrM116 (HaL2), similar to the last 3 years.

Uncommon, breeding visitor

Australasian Shoveler

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	564	666	-15	120.9
WR	1	1	0	0.6
G	29	26	12	14.1
BR	0	1	-100	0.6
GA	0.0008	0.0014	-43	0.0002
GS	1	1	0	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Commonly observed throughout the region.

General: A small reduction in population indices from last year, a trend continuing from the high of 2013-14. There was a small reduction in abundance (2.97 cf 3.5 last year) and reporting rate (11.7% cf 15.0% last year) with a similar distribution at 74 grid cells. The maximum number of birds reported decreased from 6300 to 4000/17 Feb LBath E GrY08 (LeM1). There was a large increase in the number of breeding records from a greater area than last year (15 cells cf 6 last year). Breeding reported between Aug and Feb, all records of dy apart from a single observation di/5 Sep JWNR (DaC2).

GBS: 49 records from 5 sites; a large reduction in the 101 records reported last year. Max 23/4wk Feb) Jerrabomberra (HaL2).

Very common, breeding resident

Grey Teal

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1650	1755	-6	286.7
WR	4	7	-43	3.5
G	74	74	0	36.3
BR	66	20	230	5.9
GA	0.0744	0.1180	-37	0.0232
GS	5	7	-29	2.2
GBR	0	2	-100	0.3

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Less frequently observed than Grey Teal.

General: An increase in all indices, from the number of records, distribution, abundance (0.13 cf 0.06 last year) to reporting rate (3.2% cf 1.6% last year). The average number of birds seen was similar at 4.4 with an increase in the maximum number 310/16 Aug LGeo GrT09 (LeM1). Reported throughout the year with most records during the summer months. Reported throughout the area from all major wetlands. The breeding observations, all dy, were reported from BSP 10 Dec GrS13 (McD1), 6 Dec Foxlow Lagoon GrS18 (BuM1), 3 records from JWNR on 24 Dec (presumably the same brood) and 15 Jan LGeo E GrT09 (LeM1).

GBS. 4 records of a single bird from one site at Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) between 3wk Aug and 2wk Sep.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Chestnut Teal

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	453	189	140	77.8
WR	0	0	-	0.2
G	32	22	45	11.8
BR	6	5	20	2.4
GA	0.0016	0.0010	51	0.0034
GS	1	1	0	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Rare, breeding resident

The status of this exotic feral species as a wild bird in this region is in doubt. This species has only been recorded a very few times in Australia and not in this region. However, COG has been reporting the occurrence of introduced feral domestic Mallards. This past practice will be continued this year, with a view to reviewing the situation soon. The status of Black Duck – Mallard hybrids will also be reviewed.

General: All records most likely to be of feral domestic Mallards. A slight increase in both abundance and reporting rate from last year with the average number of birds reported increasing from 1.9 to 3.2. 35 of these 42 observations from WBPD with a maximum 10/17 Jun WBPD GrI11 (LeM1). 1 breeding record: di/5 Oct WBPD (MoM3).

GBS: A single record 1/2wk Aug Lyneham GrL12 (LeM1), down from the 9 records last year.

Northern Mallard

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	42	20	110	13.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	8	6	33	4.7
BR	1	0	Inf	0.3
GA	0.0004	0.0031	-87	0.0014
GS	1	2	-50	0.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Very common, breeding resident

A very familiar duck in the region.

General: Similar indices to last year (abundance, reporting rate, average and median numbers of birds). These indices have remained relative stable since the increase in 2010-11. There was an increase in the distribution (121 grid cells cf 105 last year) and a large increase in the maximum number seen 450/17 Apr BuTYL GrS13 (MaL2). As with Grey Teal, there was a large increase in the number of breeding records (211 cf 96 last year) 202 records of dy. Breeding observations throughout the year apart from July 2016 and May-June 2017.

GBS: 327 records, down from 384 last year, else all indices very similar to last year. Reported from 18 sites with a maximum of 60/3wk May Giralang (McD4). 29 breeding records (all dy) apart from a single observation of co/4wk Aug Red Hill Gr (WaR4). Records from 7 sites: Red Hill, Giralang (McD4), Burra GrM20, (AnI1), Bonner GrL10 (GrB1), Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2), Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and Crace GrK11 (LeF1).

Pacific Black Duck

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	3208	2739	17	540.2
WR	17	15	13	7.5
G	121	105	15	71.0
BR	211	96	120	26.2
GA	0.8937	0.8972	-0	0.2523
GS	18	17	6	9.3
GBR	29	21	38	7.2

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Common, breeding visitor

A diving duck often seen in deeper waters.

General: A reduction in abundance from last year reflecting the general pattern of falling numbers since the high of 2012-13 (0.41 cf 3.5 in 2012-13) and their movement in response to the heavy winter and spring rains in eastern Australia. The reporting rate follows the same pattern (4.9 cf 12.5 in 2012-13). Max 870/14 Aug LGeo E GrT09 (LeM1) similar to last year. Reported throughout the year from urban ponds and dams and rural waterbodies. No breeding records.

GBS: 36 records from 2 sites, a reduction from the 76 records last year. Reported from Jerrabomberra GrM16 and Crace Wetlands GrK11. Observed throughout the year but less so during the winter and spring (16% of records). Maximum 35/4wk Mar Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

Hardhead

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	690	1120	-38	159.6
WR	2	5	-60	1.1
G	47	50	-6	20.3
BR	0	0	-	0.4
GA	0.1246	0.2686	-54	0.0617
GS	2	3	-33	1.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

Rare, breeding resident

A diving duck with a distinctive bill. Declared vulnerable in New South Wales.

General: A large reduction in indices from last year (number of records, number of birds, average number seen, abundance (0.002 cf .01 last year) and reporting rate (0.2 cf 0.4). Max 2/11 Jul FSP (SmA1). All observations from FSP/JWNR apart from 1/24 Jul Rose Lagoon GrU04 (FuP1) and 1/12 and 19 Mar Woodlands Wetlands Dam GrK03 (SpB1). No records during the summer months and no breeding records.

Pacific Black Duck-Domestic Mallard

General: 27 records from 5 sites, all urban ponds with max 12/18 Mar WBPD (DaC1) cf 10/17 Jun Northern Mallard (LeM1). 3 Breeding records, all dy, probably the same event, between 19 and 24 Feb Curtin (SmA1).

GBS: 15 records from 2 sites: Yarralumla GrK14 (NeG1) and Curtin GrK14 (AjR1) with a maximum of 2/3wk Feb Yarralumla (NeG1).

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

Common, breeding resident

An attractive species often observed on bodies of water in the region.

General: A large increase in all indices (distribution, average number of birds, abundance (0.47 cf 0.27 last year) and reporting rate (10.3% cf 8.3% last year). Reported throughout the year with max 81/26 Mar FSP (SmA1). A large increase in the number of breeding records from a greater area (grid cells 23 cf 12 last year) from Sep through to Apr. Most observations were of dy (n=78) with earliest on/23 Sep Mulanggari Grasslands NR GrL11 (GrB1) and last dy/13 Apr Casey Pond GrK11 (CIJ3).

GBS: Reported from 6 sites Giralang (McD4), Murrumbateman (BIJ1), Crace (LeF1), Giralang (KaD1), Jerrabomberra (HaL2) and Acton (RoS1). An increase in the average number of birds reported (3.0 cf 1.3 last year) with a maximum of 11/2wk Apr Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) up from 4 last year. No breeding records.

Australasian Grebe

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1458	973	50	225.2
WR	14	8	75	5.1
G	78	67	16	42.4
BR	109	41	166	16.6
GA	0.0502	0.0358	40	0.0177
GS	6	6	0	1.6
GBR	0	2	-100	1.1

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Common, breeding resident

Prefers larger bodies of deeper water than the Australasian Grebe.

General: After an increase last year, this reporting period shows a decrease in all indices reflecting a general decline in numbers since the recent peak in 2012-13; abundance (0.3 cf 0.65 last year) and reporting rate (2.9% cf 4.9% last year). Max 215/21 Aug LBath S Morass GrZ08 (LeM1), slightly down from 250 last year. Breeding indices similar to last year with 17 observations of dy plus 9 other records associated with breeding from 6 sites: Parkwood Rd GrH11, Briars Sharrow Rd Hoskinstown GrR16, BSP GrS13, Farm Dam Lakes Rd GrR12, LBath S Morass Gr08 and Mistletoe patch at Collector Road GrU07.

Spotted Dove

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA		30YA
R	307	345	-11	29.7		
WR	2	0	Inf	0.0	0	111.3
G	24	27	-11	5.5	0	0.8
BR	1	2	-50	0.3	3	16.0
GA	0.0903	0.0588	54	0.0378	4	2.0
GS	15	17	-12	9.1	0	0.0007
GBR	1	3	-67	0.5	0	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0		

Great-crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Rare, breeding visitor

Very occasionally seen in the region.

General: A large increase in all indices from last year (distribution, abundance (0.0017 cf. 0.0006 last year) and reporting rate). 23 records from 6 sites: Rose Lagoon, ANU, WBPD, FSP, Point Hut Pond and 16 other records over 9 days between 16 Apr and 19 May from Yerrabi Pond. 78% of observations during the autumn months with the maximum count 2/29 Oct Rose Lagoon GrU04 (AnF1) where the birds were observed displaying.

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

Very common, breeding resident

This introduced species is generally restricted to urban areas. There are almost no WOO records.

General: 1592 records compared with 1547 records last year. Abundance is down 19% on last year following a 17% decline on the previous year but up 62% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is down 15% on last year after an 8% drop in the previous year but up 45% on the 30YA. Max 138/11 Mar Mt Ainslie NR – Campbell Park (SmA1), mean 8.6, median 4. 4 breeding records: earliest, nb/4 Aug LTug GrJ16 (HeS1); latest, ne/13 Nov Turner (BoC4).

Rock Dove

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1592	1547	3	211.5
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	32	34	-6	17.0
BR	4	16	-75	2.4
GA	2.5175	2.0261	24	1.3264
GS	35	37	-5	31.9
GBR	1	1	0	1.9

GBS: There were 687 records compared with 679 last year.

Abundance is up 24% on last year and up 90% on the 30YA. Average number sighted 9.4, median 6 with max 62/2wk Jun O'Connor (DoM1). 1 breeding record: di/4wk Jun Curtin (MoM4).

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Visitors presumably come from populations on the coastal plains and ranges to the east.

General: The pattern of scattered records of single birds continues. 3 records: earliest, 1/16 Aug Wanniasa (InC1); latest, 1/3 Nov Watson L12 (EbD1). Breeding not recorded.

GBS: No records for the third year in a row.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Uncommon, breeding resident

An introduced species. The preferred habitats remain urban – including house gardens, parklands, and the vicinity of urban and peri-urban wetlands.

General: Against general growth trends, this has been a year of falls in most metrics. 307 records compared with 345 records last year from 24 grids compared with 27 last year. Abundance is down 28% on last year but up 29% on the 10YA. Reporting rate is down 26% on last year but up 23% on the 10YA and up 99% on the 30YA. Max 6/17 Dec Victoria Park Goulburn GrZ01 (EbD1), mean 1.4, median 1. 1 breeding record, di//9 Oct JWNR (SmA1).

GBS: 148 records up on 121 records last year from 15 sites down from 17 sites last year, mainly in North Canberra, and Curtin. Abundance is up 54% on last year and up 139% on the 30YA. Max 8/4wk Apr Curtin (AjR1). 1 breeding record: dy/3wk Nov Campbell (LjT1).

Brown-capped Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year after the first ever record for the ACT three years ago.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

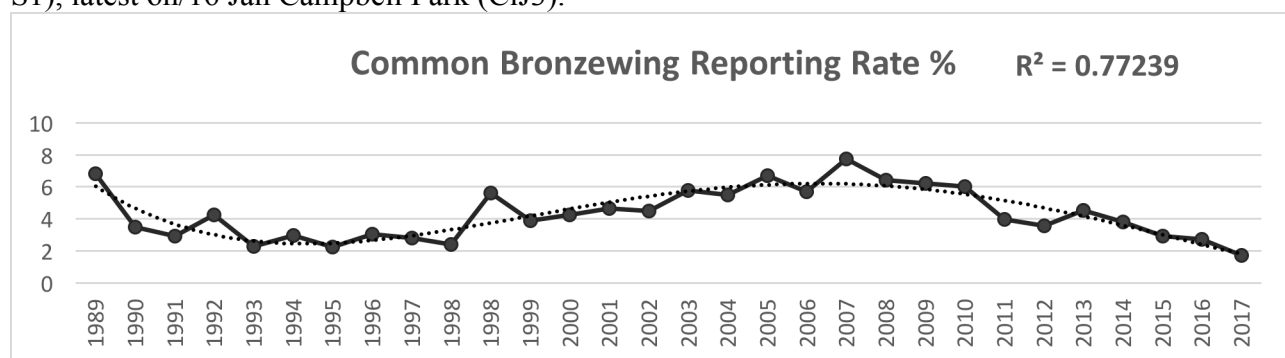
Common, breeding resident

This species is generally recorded in woodlands, on dry ridges of mountain forests and very occasionally in the suburbs.

General: 244 records down on 320 records last year from 59 grids up from 57 last year. There are downward trends in some metrics over the 10-year time frame. Notably, the reporting rate is down 57% and abundance is down 49% over the past ten years. The January 2003 fires may have resulted in the spikes recorded for 2007. Abundance is down 47% on last year and down 42% over the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 37% on last year and down 60% on the 30YA. Max 44/14 Apr Campbell Park (SmA1), mean 2.6, median 1. Two breeding records: earliest, nb/30 Dec ANBG (W S1), latest on/16 Jan Campbell Park (CIJ3).

Common Bronzewing

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	244	320	-24	118.1
WR	13	13	0	10.0
G	59	57	4	37.6
BR	2	6	-67	1.8
GA	0.0323	0.0454	-29	0.0427
GS	7	11	-36	8.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.7



GBS: While varying in detail, the broad pattern of decline in the General records is repeated in the GBS records. 66 records, down from 101 last year, from 7 sites down from 11 sites last year. Abundance is down 29% on last year and down 24% on the 30YA. Max 3/1wk May Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2).

Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*

Rare, breeding resident

Historical records are generally restricted to well-watered habitats such those of the upper Cotter catchment.

General: 3 records all in atypical woodland locations: earliest, 1/13 Jan Bluetts Block (Uriarra) GrI14 (MiP1); latest, 1/13 Feb MFNR (CIJ3).

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Very common, breeding resident

Well-distributed in urban and rural areas and in woodlands, but largely absent from the wetter forests of the Cotter River catchment and surrounding NSW.

General: 3470 records up on 3407 last year. Abundance is down 12% on last year but up 8% on the 10YA and up 59% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is down 16% on last year, down 12% on the 10YA but up 22% on the 30YA. Max 101/25 May JWNR (MaM4), mean 4.4, median 2. 37 breeding records compared with 32 last year: earliest, di/6 Aug Fadden Hills Pond (CaR3); latest, 16 Apr Chifley (Bum4) with an early start for next season, di/27 May Wanniasa Hills (CaR3).

Crested Pigeon

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	3470	3407	2	549.7
WR	42	56	-25	24.5
G	104	113	-8	57.3
BR	37	32	16	7.0
GA	3.3509	3.3986	-1	2.0281
GS	58	66	-12	47.6
GBR	69	94	-27	50.2

GBS: 1996 records down on 2197 last year. Abundance is down 1% on last year, down 3% on the 10YA but up 65% on the 30YA. Max 48/1wk Mar Jerrabomberra (HaL2), mean 4.3, median 3. 69 breeding records down from 94 records last year: earliest, di/4wk Jul Aranda (HaK1); latest, on/4wk Apr Page (AlB1).

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Rare, non-breeding visitor/escapee

Visitors are from the dry interior or escapees from aviaries.

General: 2 records: 1/1 Jan NNPVIC GrJ19 (SmA1) and 1/1 Jan NNP – Yankee Hat car park GrH25 (SmA1).**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*

Rare, non-breeding resident

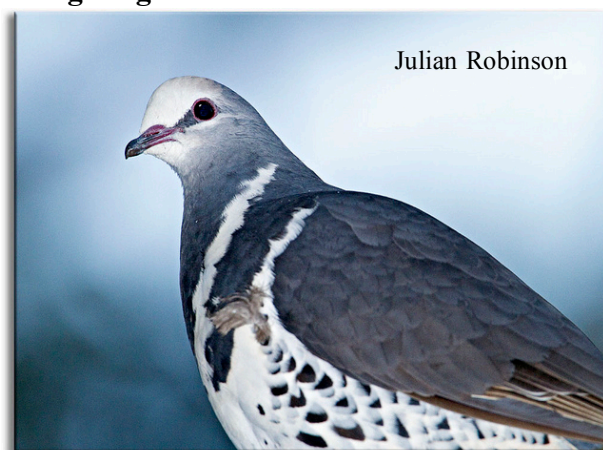
Over time this species has mostly been recorded at locations at or near the Murrumbidgee River.

General: 20 records compared with 31 last year, all from Bibaringa except 1 from Mt Ainslie NR. Abundance is down 40% on last year and down 40% on the 30YA. Max 6/7 May Bibaringa (MaM4), mean 2.6, and median 2. First breeding record for the ACT: dy/19 Jan Bibaringa GrH14 (HoS1).**GBS:** No records following 3 records last year.**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year following 15 records last year, multiple sightings of a single bird in 3 different locations.**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Rare, breeding resident



Julian Robinson

This species is generally restricted to the wet forests of the Brindabellas, Tallaganda and the far south of the AoI. The gradual rise in records may reflect recovery from the 2003 fires – although most metrics are still well below the 30YA.

General: 11 records of 1 to 2 birds from 6 grids. Earliest 2/30 Aug Blue Range Road GrE14 (McD1); latest, 1/19 Apr Tallaganda State Forest - north Gr V19 (LaK1).**GBS:** No records for the second year in a row. Recorded only in 2013 and 1998.**PODARGIDAE: frogmouths****Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*

Common, breeding resident

Observed in suburbs and woodlands in the ACT and AoI.

General: 109 records down on 139 last year. Abundance is down 40% on the previous year and down 11% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 33% on the previous year and down 19% on the 30YA. Breeding: 36 records, up from 34 last year. Earliest, nb/23 Aug Riordan Street Park Fadden (CaR3); latest on/6 Jan The Pinnacle NR - NW (AlB1).**GBS:** 53 records, same as last year, mainly from sites in Aranda (MeP1), Cook (TaN1), Watson (WaK1), Ainslie (HoS1) and one rural site in Carwoola (BuM1). Abundance is up 10% on the previous year and up 39% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is up 11% on the previous year and up 40% on the 30YA. 17 breeding records from 2 sites, up from 14 last year: earliest, nb/2wk Aug and latest, dy/4wk Dec both at Carwoola (BuM1).**Tawny Frogmouth**

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	109	135	-19	25.9
WR	1	0	Inf	0.2
G	28	26	8	11.3
BR	36	34	6	7.4
GA	0.0389	0.0354	10	0.0280
GS	8	8	0	5.7
GBR	17	14	21	9.0

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

Rare, breeding summer visitor

An occasional visitor from coastal area.

General: No records for the second year in a row. Reported in about 1 year in 3 since 1983.**Spotted Nightjar** *Eurostopodus argus*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year. The sole record for the ACT was of a single bird at Goorooyarroo NR on 18 Sep 2011.**AEGOTHELIDAE: owlet-nightjar****Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*

Common, breeding resident

Sparsely but widely distributed in wooded areas.

General: 29 records, down from 55 records last year, mainly from nature reserves around Canberra. Abundance down 61% on last year and down 68% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is 56% down on last year and down 64% on the 30YA. Breeding not recorded.**GBS:** 34 records compared with 39 last year. Most records are from one rural site: Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2). Breeding not recorded.**Australian Owlet-nightjar**

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	29	55	-47	15.6
WR	0	1	-100	1.0
G	16	16	0	7.1
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0132	0.0141	-6	0.0034
GS	5	3	67	1.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Uncommon, non-breeding summer migrant

Records are highly associated with weather fronts.

General: This year continues the pattern of decline in key metrics. Abundance is down 4% on last year and down 86% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is down 60% on last year and down 84% on the 30YA. Number of birds seen (216) is down 29% on the 30YA. Max 60/7 Feb Ainslie (HoS1), mean 13.5 and median 12.5. Seen only in summer (38%) and autumn (62%). Earliest: 18/9 Jan Garran (SmA1); latest, 12/11 Apr Holt (MaL2).**GBS:** 10 records down on 16 last year. Abundance is down 50% on last year and down 74% on the 30YA. Seen only in summer (60%) and autumn (40%). Max 60/1wk Feb Ainslie (HoS1). Earliest record: 1/2wk Jan Cook (DcA1); latest, 1/1wk Apr Florey (BrJ3).**White-throated Needletail**

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	16	32	-50	19.4
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	11	18	-39	13.2
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.0358	0.0722	-50	0.1356
GS	7	10	-30	12.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Rare, non-breeding summer migrant

This species is most often recorded in association with White-throated Needletails.

General: 1 record this year following 10 records last year: 2/2wk Oct Michelago GrL25 (BaL1).**GBS:** No record after 2 records last year.

ANHINGIDAE: darter**Australian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Seen foraging in local water-bodies with only its snake-like head and neck exposed, or drying itself in trees on the margins.

General: 1011 records, at a reporting rate of 7.1%, up 92% on the long-term average. Numbers ranged from 1-36, the latter recorded 15 Apr JWNR (SmA1). Recorded in every week, winter 22%, spring 17%, summer 27% and autumn 34%. From 30 grid cells, both urban and rural. 7 breeding records from 5 grid cells, earliest ny/20 Aug Tidbinbilla (CnM1) and the latest ny/4 May Molonglo R (CaJ4). Other breeding sites were, as usual, Molonglo Reach, LBG and JWNR, though no breeding was recorded at the first-named site during COG's annual field trip there in February (Holland 2017). It is possible that darters are adapting to alternative territories following the clearing of willows and increased human traffic along their traditional haunt of Molonglo Reach. Since 2003, darters have been recorded as breeding every year in our region.

GBS: 39 records this year, at a reporting rate of 1.5% up an astonishing 354% against the long-term average. Numbers ranged from 1-4, average 1.5. They were recorded from 6 urban sites, commonly from LBG and Jerrabomberra, but also occasionally from Giralang, Curtin, and Waramanga. Records came in 28 weeks from Aug to Jun, more commonly in spring 36% and summer 33%.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Australasian Darter

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1011	570	77	101.5
WR	0	0	-	0.4
G	30	20	50	11.5
BR	7	10	-30	3.2
GA	0.0226	0.0320	-29	0.0059
GS	6	9	-33	2.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Common breeding resident

Can be regularly found on the various bodies of water in and around Canberra.

General: By far our most commonly recorded cormorant and the most widespread (from 84 grid cells). 1595 records this year, incl 4 WOO, and the recording rate of 11.3% is 29% up on the 30YA of 8.7%. The abundance value of A= 0.3516 was up 72% on the 30YA. Numbers ranged from 1-80 (80/12 Mar Foxlow Lagoon GrS18 (BuM1)), average 3.2, median 1. Recorded in every week of the year, with 20% of records in winter, 14% spring, 32% summer and 35% autumn. 1 breeding event: on/20 Apr and ny/4 May Molonglo R GrJ14 (CaJ4).

GBS: 203 records, same as last year, at a reporting rate of 7.9%, well up on the 30YA of 2.2%. Recorded evenly over 52 weeks. Numbers ranged from 1 to 12/5 Mar Murrumbateman GrI06 (BIJ1). They were recorded from 14 sites, both urban and rural, but were reasonably common only in Red Hill, Curtin and Giralang.

Little Pied Cormorant

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1595	1208	32	237.5
WR	3	4	-25	2.6
G	84	71	18	40.2
BR	2	1	100	2.8
GA	0.1772	0.1781	-1	0.0508
GS	14	13	8	4.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common, breeding resident

Commonly found on the urban lakes and wetlands.

General: As with all the cormorants, the number of records and reporting rate of the Great Cormorant have soared over the last 30 years, with the new urban wetlands a major contributing factor. Recorded in 49 weeks of the year, with fewer autumn (7%) and winter records (17%), followed by more spring records than usual (40%), and 36% in summer. Max 15/17 Dec Gungahlin Pond (RoM1); average 2.4, median 1. From

Great Cormorant

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	638	652	-2	138.0
WR	0	2	-100	0.4
G	40	36	11	23.5
BR	6	1	500	0.7
GA	0.0362	0.0519	-30	0.0193
GS	7	7	0	4.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

40 widespread grid cells. 6 breeding records from 3 sites, from on/29 Oct to ny/11 Mar QSP (BuM1). Other breeding sites were Gungahlin Pond and Gigerline.

GBS: 50 records, at a reporting rate of 1.9% as against the 30YA of 0.7%. Recorded in 33 weeks. Range 1-7 birds. From 7 sites, LBG, Curtin, Jerrabomberra, Giralang, Ainslie and Gleneagles.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Very common, breeding resident

This species flocks in larger numbers in this region than other cormorants.

General: Total number of birds seen 5086, from 878 records, at a reporting rate of 6.2%, is up on the 30YA of 4.3%. Abundance A=0.3594 up 13% on the 30YA. Max 130/26 Sep Blue Gum Point GrK14 (SmA1), average 5.9, median 2. Recorded in every week of the year: winter 10%, spring 23%, summer 37% and autumn 30 % - a quite normal pattern. From 43 widespread grid cells, with 38% of records from GrL14 JWNR & FSP). 3 breeding records: nb/20 Jan JWNR (SmA1); dy/18 Feb Isabella Pond (HeS1); and on/18 Mar Gungahlin Pond (RoM1).

GBS: 85 records, and the reporting rate of 3.3% remains well up on the 30YA of 0.8%. From 37 weeks spread throughout the entire year, but with only 3.5% winter records. From 8 sites including Giralang, Jerrabomberra, LBG, Curtin, Crace and Lyneham.

Little Black Cormorant

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	878	604	45	118.2
WR	1	2	-50	0.5
G	43	39	10	20.2
BR	3	0	Inf	1.6
GA	0.3217	0.2648	21	0.0454
GS	8	10	-20	2.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

The least common of the locally occurring cormorants.

General: 61 records, at a reporting rate of 0.4%, unusually below the 30YA of 0.5%. From 7 urban and one rural grid cells, with 77% of the records coming from JWNR and other parts of GrL14. Numbers ranged from 1-6 birds, max 6/23 Oct JWNR (SmA1), average 1.4, median 1. Recorded in 26 weeks, between Aug and Feb, mainly in spring with 52% and summer 42 % of records. Autumn and winter records much lower than usual.

GBS: No records. Reported in only 7 years of the GBS.

Pied Cormorant

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	61	84	-27	13.4
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	8	9	-11	4.0
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0002
GS	0	0	-	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

PELECANIDAE: pelican

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Common, non-breeding visitor

Seen on all wetlands but appears to favour JWNR.

General: 316 records, fewer than last year and the reporting rate of only 2.2% was down 64% on the 30YA of 4.3%. Numbers ranged from 1-164, with max 22 Jul LGeo E (LeM1). Average 6.0, median 2. Recorded from 28 widespread grid cells, both urban and rural. Recorded in 45 weeks of the year: winter 27%, spring 50%, summer 19% and autumn 4%. Pelican numbers fluctuate according to conditions inland which presumably accounts for the relatively low numbers of autumn records. As expected, no breeding was recorded.

GBS: 9 records from sites in Giralang, Yarralumla and Ainslie, of 1-2 birds. 5 winter records, 3 in spring and just 1 in summer. The reporting rate of 0.4 was well down on the 30YA of 0.7%.

Australian Pelican

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	316	577	-45	117.4
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	28	30	-7	15.0
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0043	0.0426	-90	0.0182
GS	4	12	-67	6.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

ARDEIDAE: bitterns, herons and egrets**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Non-breeding vagrant

Declared Endangered in NSW and under the *EPBC Act*. Rarely seen in the COG AoI.**General:** 4 records, same as last year, from Red Hill (CnM1), AFP Majura Complex (InC1), and 2 of the same bird at Acacia Inlet on 8 Jun (MiP1 & SmA1).**GBS:** No records this year. Only 2 records of this species in the GBS, in 2012 and 2013.**Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

Rare, breeding visitor

Rarely seen in our area of interest.

General: 30 records of 1 bird on at JWNR between 11 Dec and 15 Apr (MiP1).**White-necked Heron** *Ardea pacifica*

Uncommon, breeding visitor

Occasionally seen in and around local bodies of water.

General: Reporting rate (1.2%) up 18% on last year but down 21% on the 30YA. Number of birds observed (286) considerably above last year (172), the 10YA (148) and the 30YA (67). Most records were expectedly of 1 or 2 birds (mean 1.7, median 1). Max 50/15 Feb Wollagorang Lagoon GrU03 (LeM1). Most records were in summer (65%) and autumn (20%), with fewer in winter (12%) and surprisingly few in spring (4%). This is unlike the long term seasonal figures where typically most sightings are in spring (44%). No breeding recorded; breeding only recorded in 1996, 1997 and 2014.**GBS:** 9 records from 6 sites is well up on last year, similar to the 10YA and 30YA. Abundance a little below the record highs of 2014 and 2015. Records were from Carwoola and Burra, and from Ainslie, Curtin and Jerrabomberra.

White-necked Heron

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	164	115	43	39.8
WR	1	0	Inf	0.6
G	52	37	41	16.6
BR	0	0	-	0.4
GA	0.0039	0.0010	277	0.0014
GS	6	2	200	1.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Has become more common in shallow waters across the region.

General: Reporting rate (2%) down 8% on last year, and down 21% on the 10YA but the same as the 30YA. Records were from scattered sites, JWNR/FSP (143 records) and Goulburn Wetlands (36) being the most prolific. Most records were of 1 or 2 birds, mean 1.3 median 1, slightly more than last year with max 6/3 Apr Upper Stranger Pond (HeS1). Like the White-necked Heron, the proportion of spring records was much lower than normal, with more records in summer and autumn (both 37%), than winter (13%) and spring (12%).**GBS:** 22 records generally of single birds, 19 at Giralang Pond, reported from 2 different sites adjoining the pond (McD4 and KaD1), and 3 records from Jerrabomberra (KaD1) between Jul and Mar, being recorded in 17 weeks.

Great Egret

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	287	259	11	53.8
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	27	21	29	8.9
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0097	0.0179	-46	0.0039
GS	3	5	-40	1.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally single birds are observed in our region.

General: There have been more of this species about since 2012. As well as a huge increase in the number of birds sighted (786 cf 107 last year and the 30YA (15) abundance and reporting rate statistics are much higher than long term values. Generally, between 1-3 birds were observed, but there were 9 occasions of sightings of more than 10 birds, with max 15/17 Feb JWNR (DaC2), mean 2.7, median 2. Most sightings were from JWNR/FSP (168 records) Goulburn Wetlands (41) and WBPd (41). Reporting rate 2.1% is 146% up on last year, 229% up on the 10YA and more than triple the 30YA. Most records (66%) were in summer, with 31% in autumn, and hardly any in winter and spring.

GBS: 1 record this year, same as last year but down from 3 records 4 years ago: 3/3wk Jan Curtin (AjR1).

Intermediate Egret

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	294	99	197	12.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	16	5	220	2.5
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0012	0.0003	240	0.0001
GS	1	1	0	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally seen in grassy surrounds of bodies of water, sometimes in flocks of up to 30.

General: Both the abundance and reporting rates for this species have declined slightly over the past 3 years, with the reporting rate (0.8%) being slightly below last year and the 10 & 30YA (1.1%). Most records were from JWNR/FSP (70) with a few from other Canberra wetlands and sites in NSW. Max 83/29 Oct JWNR (W S1), mean 7.1 and median 3. Most records in spring (46%) and autumn (37%) with the lowest in winter (6%). Like last year there were probably 2 large flocks reported at JWNR in Oct/Nov and again in late Mar/Apr.

GBS: 1 record only from Curtin 2wk Apr (AjR1).

Cattle Egret

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	114	128	-11	29.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	22	19	16	6.5
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0004	0.0103	-96	0.0038
GS	1	5	-80	1.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Common, breeding resident

Often seen on water margins of bodies of water of all sizes across the region.

General: The reporting rate (10.6%) is about the same as last year and the 10 & 30YAs. The reporting rate has wobbled around 10% since 1995. However, the number of birds sighted (3148) is 50% up on last year, and much higher than the 10YA (973) and 30YA (579). Records were from many sites scattered across 122 grid cells and throughout the year (winter 16%, spring 20%, summer 40%, autumn 24%). Max 49/22 Feb Wollongorang Lagoon (AnF1) with mean 2.1 and median 1. 17 breeding records: first nb/21 Aug Isabella Pond (HeS1), and last dy/18 Feb LGin W (AlB1).

GBS: 156 records from 19 sites spread across 13 grid cells, down on last year. Abundance is just below recent record highs (0.1 in 2015 bird year). Records were spread throughout the year (slightly lower in winter 15%) with max 9/1wk Feb Jerrabomberra (HaL2), mean 1.4, and median 1. Records were from 15 suburban and 4 rural sites, mostly near bodies of water. No breeding records this year, having been recorded in only 4 years since the start of the survey.

White-faced Heron

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1506	1271	18	274.9
WR	12	12	0	3.6
G	122	107	14	57.3
BR	17	21	-19	3.6
GA	0.0833	0.0911	-9	0.0435
GS	19	23	-17	11.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Very occasionally seen in the margins of water bodies

General: 50 records this year of generally 1 bird, except for 2 reported by 4 observers on St Patrick's Day. All at JWNR between late Jan and early Apr.**Nankeen Night-Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Uncommon, breeding visitor

Nocturnal feeding habits may lead to under-reporting.

General: Reporting rate (0.9%) is up 100% on last year, and the same as the 10 & 30YA. Max 4/24 Oct JWNR (MaR5), mean 1.4, median 1. Records mainly from summer 58% with spring 2%, winter 17% and autumn 23%. 2 breeding records: dy/3 Feb and dy/5 Feb, both at JWNR (HeS1 & COF1). Breeding previously recorded only in 2012 & 2013 bird years.**GBS:** 10 records from 3 sites is 40% down on last year. 5 records from the 2 sites overlooking Giralang Pond (KaD1 and McD4) and 5 records from Jerrabomberra (HaL2). Abundance down 32% on last year and down 22% on the 10YA but up 134% on the 30YA.**Nankeen Night-Heron**

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	121	50	142	21.5
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	18	11	64	5.8
BR	2	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0047	0.0069	-32	0.0024
GS	3	3	0	0.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Rare, non-breeding visitor

An occasional visitor to marshy areas across the region

General: 151 birds from 35 records in 10 grid cells this year, up from 49 birds from 5 records in 2 grid cells last year. *Very few spring records, compared with 30YA (61%). Sighted more regularly this year, in 13 weeks between Aug and Mar, Nevertheless the reporting rate (0.2%), remains below 30YA (0.3%).* Abundance same as the 30YA. Max 67/12 Dec National Arboretum (MiP1) (18 last year), mean 3 and median 1. Other records of multiple birds: 22/2 Jan and 25/15 Feb Wollogorang Lagoon (LeM1) and 3/9 Feb Wet Lagoon (AnF1). 26 records of 1- 2 birds, observed at one location by several observers on a single date or over a few days: 1/21-28 Jan Giralang Pond, 1/23 Feb-6 Mar Edgeworth Pond Coombes and 1-2/28 Dec-1 Jan Wollogorang Lagoon.**GBS:** One record, second ever GBS record (2003) 1/26 Feb Giralang Pond (KaD1)**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

Common, breeding resident

A regular inhabitant of wetlands around the region.

General: Numbers increased rapidly in recent years: current numbers up 14% on 2016, 10x 30YA. Reporting rate, 8.1%, down from 8.8%, but remains well above long-term averages. This year sightings were distributed more evenly across the seasons, with fewer sightings (23% cf 34% 30YA) in spring. Max 440/28 Jun Hannah Community Park (Fadden) (CaR3), up 6% on last year, mean 16.4, median 3. 4 breeding records: (3 on, 1 ny) compared with only 1 in 2016. Earliest breeding record: on/17 Sep and latest: on/17 Dec both at Gungahlin Pond, (RoM3). TNR only other location with a breeding record, ny/24 Sept TNR, (MeT1).**GBS:** 283 records from 24 sites in 16 grid cells is very like last year. Recorded in all weeks, up 5 weeks from 2016. Overall numbers are down 23% to 2860. Max 227/3wk Jun Fadden (CaR3) (370 in 2016), mean 10.1 (13.9 in 2016) and median 4 (same as 2016). 48 records from Murrumbateman (BIJ1), 41 from Nicholls (LiR1) and 39 from Giralang (McD4, KaD1). Reporting rates were at their highest ever, except for summer which was marginally lower than in 2016. *GBS records do not fully***Australian White Ibis**

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1147	1029	11	152.9
WR	6	7	-14	1.8
G	60	60	0	27.3
BR	4	1	300	1.7
GA	1.1137	1.2737	-13	0.2696
GS	24	24	0	10.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

reflect the low presence of this species in spring reported above. No breeding, only 1 previous record in 2010 (co).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Often seen on well-watered grasslands, including playing fields and golf courses.

General: Compared with 2016, 2% more records, but overall numbers down 61% from 9159 to 3545. *As with other Ibis species, spring presence was lower than expected: only 7 records out of 450, with the spring reporting rate, 0.2%, the lowest ever recorded.* Overall reporting rate was down from 3.8% to 3.2%, dragged down by the low spring rate, but the same as the 20 & 30YA. Max 100/13 Aug, Collector Creek floodplain (LaK1), mean 8, median 2, all substantially lower than in 2016. Only 11 other records were for 50 or more birds including 90/15 Feb Wollogorang Lagoon (LeM1), 70/28 Jan Rose Lagoon (AnF1). A third of records from JWNR & FSP, but also from many widespread sites including suburban playing fields and peri-urban wetlands. No breeding reported.

GBS: 16 sites produced 52 records, down 21% on 2016 from 20 sites. Numbers observed, 500, down 46% on last year; reporting rate (2%) down 19% and abundance (0.19) down 39%, on last year but are substantially above the previous 10YA. Summer reporting rate (0.1%), much lower than long term averages. Autumn and winter had 88% of the records compared with the previous 10YA of 63%. Max, 90/31 Jul (VeP1) up by 80%, mean 9.6 and median 5, both down on last year. Sites were widely dispersed across Canberra suburbs, but also in rural areas. Max 13 from 2 sites in Giralang (KaD1 McD4), 10 from Curtin (AjR1) and 6 from Murrumbateman (BIJ1). No breeding recorded.

Common, non-breeding visitor

Straw-necked Ibis

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	450	441	2	86.6
WR	2	2	0	0.8
G	50	49	2	21.9
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.1947	0.3171	-39	0.3281
GS	16	20	-20	14.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

An irruptive species, sometimes appearing in small groups in wetlands across the region.

General: Declining trends for this species evident from 2013 continued this year: number of records down 40% to 53, the lowest since 2012; grid cells down 36% to 9; total number of birds down 54% to 59, lower than the 30, 20 and 10YAs; abundance (0.0042) and reporting rates (0.4) down 62% and 50% respectively; weeks recorded down 29% to 20. Max down from 4 to 3/15 Oct JWNR (MaM4), mean 1.1 (down from 1.5), median 1. Over 79% of the records were from JWNR/JW

Uncommon, breeding visitor

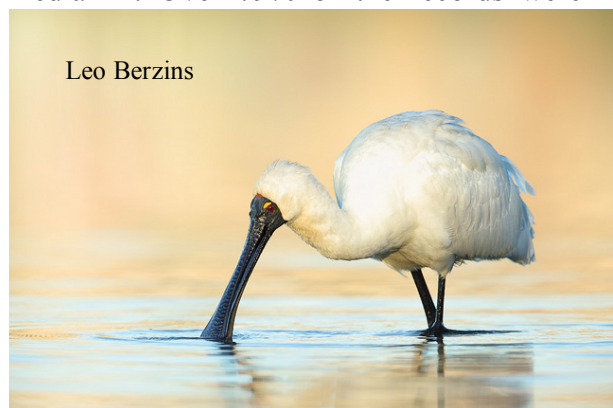
Royal Spoonbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	53	88	-40	36.6
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	9	14	-36	6.2
BR	0	0	-	1.1
GA	0.0004	0.0058	-93	0.0008
GS	1	1	0	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Woodland

Walk of 1-3 birds reported by many observers over extended periods. No other locations had more than a single bird recorded, mainly on 1 or 2 days only. Winter and spring accounted for over 58% of records this year (33% last year). No breeding recorded.

GBS: only 1 record, 1/2wk Dec, Giralang Pond (KaD1). Recorded only 11 times in the GBS.



Leo Berzins

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally seen in small groups in wetlands, including small bodies of water.

General: The decline since a 2014 peak continued with numbers of birds down from 90 to 75, records 30 to 15, reporting rates 0.3 to 0.1 (the lowest ever), grid cells 10 to 9. However, total numbers reported remain above the 30YA and 20YA. All records except one, (1/1 Apr Canturf Turf Farm (Fyshwick) (DaC2), from water bodies north-east of the ACT. Max 20, down from 40, 23/Apr LGeo E (LeM1), mean 5 (3) median 2 (1). Other records of multiple birds included 15/26 Mar and 13/22 Jun LGeo E (LeM1), 7/12 Jun LBath (LeM1), 6/23 Jul Collector Creek floodplain (LaK1). All other records were of 1 to 3 birds at a variety of water bodies. 80% of records were in winter and autumn, with no summer records, typically the most reported season.

GBS: No records this year. Recorded only 5 times in the GBS.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	15	30	-50	22.0
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	9	10	-10	6.7
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0004
GS	0	0	-	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

ACCIPITRIDAE: kites, harriers, goshawks, eagles**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Non-breeding vagrant

Declared vulnerable in NSW. There have been only 3 sightings of this species, possibly of dispersing young, since the first endorsed record in 2011.

General: No records this year.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Numbers fluctuate according to the availability of suitable food, such as mice, small mammals and grasshoppers.

General: A relatively poor year for this species, with only 105 records. The reporting rate of 0.7% pales in comparison with the 30YA of 3.4%, though fluctuating numbers are common for this species, with the reporting rate having varied from 0.4% to 8.5% over the last 30 years. The most recent good year for these kites was 2011-12. Numbers ranged from 1-3, with an average of 1.3, median 1. They were only recorded in 30 weeks and their seasonal distribution was unusual, with a winter peak of 45% of records, followed by spring with 39%, despite winter and spring only accounting for 46% of the annual datasheets. The hotspot for the species was again the ever-popular JWNR, with grid L14 accounting for 54% of the records. There was one possible breeding event: di/11 Sep FSP (SmA1). There have been breeding records in 13 of the previous 30 years.

GBS: Only 4 records, well down on the 30YA of 36.3. The reporting rate was similarly down, 0.2% against the 30YA of 1.3%. All were single birds, in Giralang and Crace, with 2 summer and 2 autumn records.

Black-shouldered Kite

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	105	284	-63	91.3
WR	0	2	-100	0.6
G	26	43	-40	23.1
BR	1	2	-50	1.7
GA	0.0016	0.0076	-79	0.0157
GS	2	7	-71	6.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.6

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

January 2016 saw the first endorsed record of this species in the ACT. It is a regular summer visitor to the south coast.

General: One Feb record from grid Q08, not presented for appraisal.

GBS: No records.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally seen over our area's lakes and rivers, or travelling between them.

General: 35 records, but a reporting rate of 0.2% against the long-term average of 0.8%. Mostly single birds, recorded from 17 widespread mainly rural grid cells. Recorded throughout the year, though with fewer summer records (17%). One rural breeding possibility of birds canvassing a possible nest site, 2 Oct Bloomfield Flats D06 (SeB1).

GBS: One record only, 1/ 9 Oct Curtin (AjR1). Self-evidently the sea-eagle is not a garden bird but a few manage to overfly suburbia from time to time.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	35	31	13	20.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	17	11	55	9.4
BR	1	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0004	0.0007	-43	0.0004
GS	1	2	-50	0.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Seen throughout the region, often near bodies of water or wetlands.

General: 160 records, from 35 widespread grid cells, though 46% of them came from JWNR. Numbers ranged from 1-4 birds, with 4/24 Sep Wet Lagoon S02 (AnF1). Recorded throughout the year, with most records falling in summer (29%) and autumn (34%). However, the reporting rate of 1.1% was well below the long-term average of 1.6%. 2 breeding records of the one event: br/4 Sep and on/24 Sep Wet Lagoon GrS02 (AnF1). There have been breeding records for this species in 12 of the previous 30 years

GBS: One record of a single bird, 21 Aug Page GrJ12 (AlB1). The species has never been a common garden bird, with the highest number of records 5, in 2004.

Whistling Kite

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	160	138	16	43.6
WR	0	4	-100	0.7
G	35	31	13	10.4
BR	2	1	100	0.6
GA	0.0004	0.0003	13	0.0007
GS	1	1	0	1.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

This large and distinctively fork-tailed inland raptor is an occasional visitor.

General: 2 records of single birds, one in spring and one in summer, at Bowning and MFNR. Continues the pattern of regular low-level reporting of this inland species.

GBS: No records this year, but occasionally reported in the GBS.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Common, breeding resident

Regularly observed throughout the region, including Canberra suburbs.

General: 200 records, incl 7 WOO, from 56 widespread grid cells. Numbers ranged from 1-3. The reporting rate of 1.4% was 58% down on the long-term average. Recorded in 50 weeks, with 12% in winter, 26% spring, 41% summer and 20% autumn. 6 breeding records, ranging from di/20 Sep MFNR (MiP1), through br/29 Oct Newline (DaG2) on and dy at TSR48 (LeM1) and LBath to on/5 Dec MFNR (CIJ3).

GBS: 20 records from 9 sites, all single birds. The reporting rate of 0.8% was not far below the 30YA of 1.0%. Goshawks were recorded throughout the year with 25% records in summer and 50% in autumn. One rural breeding record, cf/4wk Oct Carwoola (BuM1).

Brown Goshawk

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	200	253	-21	91.2
WR	7	13	-46	5.8
G	56	58	-3	37.7
BR	6	8	-25	4.6
GA	0.0078	0.0086	-9	0.0106
GS	9	14	-36	13.1
GBR	1	0	Inf	0.1

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Common, breeding resident/sum. migrant

Regularly observed throughout the region, especially in the warmer months.

General: 118 records (3 WOO), from 47 widespread urban and rural grid cells, but with a reporting rate of 0.8%, down 43% on the 30YA of 1.5%. Numbers ranged from 1-3 birds. Recorded in 49 weeks of the year, 20% of records coming in winter, 23% spring, 34% summer and 23% autumn. Breeding recorded between br/16 Jul Higgins (CnM1) and on/15 Jan Uriarra East Reserve (HeS1). Breeding has been recorded for sparrowhawks in 15 of the previous 30 years.

GBS: A surprising 92 records, from 20 sites across 15 grid cells, mainly urban but including rural Wamboin and Carwoola.

Common in none. The reporting rate of 3.6% is the only instance of a raptor exceeding its 30YA, which in this case is 2.1%. Its seasonal pattern was similar to the general records, above. Mostly single birds, with some twos.

Collared Sparrowhawk

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	118	157	-25	39.8
WR	3	1	200	1.8
G	47	43	9	19.5
BR	4	1	300	1.1
GA	0.0397	0.0220	80	0.0221
GS	20	18	11	17.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.7

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

A bird of the wet forests, very occasionally observed in the region.

General: Only 5 records this year, a more expected return. All single birds from 3 urban and 2 rural grid cells, between 4 Jul and 25 Sep

GBS: Again 2 winter records (3 and 10 Jul) from the same site along Ginninderra Ck in Giralang (McD4) and probably the same bird recorded there in June last year.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Declared vulnerable in NSW. This handsome harrier's stronghold is the arid and semi-arid zones so its presence in the ACT is irregular.

General: Only 5 records this year, all single birds, from two grid cells – GrR16 (Carwoola) and GrL14 (JWNR). 1 in spring and 4 in summer. Over the last 30 years' record, numbers for this species have varied from one to 91 (in 2013).

GBS: No records this year. There have been harrier GBS records in only 4 of the previous 30 years.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Infrequently observed over grasslands, wetlands and streams.

General: 60 records, of 1-3 birds, from 18 largely rural grid cells, at a reporting rate of 0.4% against the 30YA of 0.7%. Recorded in 31 weeks, primarily in spring (37% of records) and summer (48%). The last five years have seen significantly more records of this species, perhaps a reflection of a growing interest on the part of birders in the region's lagoons.

GBS: No records since 1999 and only 4 before then.

Swamp Harrier

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	60	38	58	17.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	18	10	80	7.1
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Common, breeding resident

A large conspicuous raptor regularly seen soaring over woodlands and open country, and sometimes over the suburbs.

General: The iconic “wedgie” is one of the very few raptor success stories in our region, with 429 records this year, from 124 widespread grid cells. The relatively healthy reporting rate of 3.0% is nevertheless well below the 30YA of 5.5%. Numbers ranged from 1-7 birds (7/23 Mar Warriwillah GrL23 (EmD1); average 1.5, median 1. Recorded in every week and fairly evenly throughout the year. June was the top month for wedgie observations, with records from over a third of all grid cells for which records were entered. There



Julian Robinson

Wedge-tailed Eagle

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	429	523	-18	150.4
WR	2	8	-75	2.9
G	124	121	2	63.7
BR	5	4	25	2.5
GA	0.0331	0.0327	1	0.0219
GS	21	28	-25	14.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

were 5 breeding records, from br/14 Oct Lower Molonglo GrK13 (CnM1) to br/18 May Jerrabomberra GrL15 (CnM1). Additional breeding reported by Olsen (2017), on the COG chat line and elsewhere was not reflected in the formal record.

GBS: There were fewer garden bird records this year, at 66, but the reporting rate of 2.6% compared more than favourably with the 30YA of 1.6%. Range 1-3 birds. Records came from 21 widespread sites, both urban and rural, over 42 weeks, with a slight peak in autumn 35% of records. No breeding ever recorded in the GBS.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Irregularly observed across the region, and over the suburbs. Declared vulnerable in NSW and the ACT.

General: Once again, a surprising number of records (162) (including 2 WOO) for a vulnerable species, but the reporting rate of 1.1% is 55% below the 30YA of 2.5%. Range 1-4 birds, average 1.1, median 1, with max 4/7 Oct Goulburn Wetlands GrZ01 (AnF1). Recorded fairly evenly throughout the year, and from 41 widespread mainly northerly grid cells. Unsurprisingly JWNR again accounted for a large proportion of the records (42%). 3 breeding records: di/20 Sep JWNR (MiP1); on/29 Oct Strathnairn (CuR1); and dy/5 Jan LGeo (LeM1). A further Canberra record of a successful breeding event in Campbell Park (see Olsen 2017) did not reach our databases. We note that this may be partial information.as a joint research project between the ACT Government, the University of Canberra, CSIRO and Ginninderry Joint Venture has only made available selected findings. The project did report the GPS tracking of a male from the Strathnairn pair to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory from 9 Mar, as it migrated between its breeding and wintering territories, returning to the ACT on 13 August.

GBS: 12 records, from 5 urban sites – Bonner, Narrabundah, Ainslie, Campbell and Curtin – and one rural – Carwoola. Common in none. Range 1-2 birds. The reporting rate of 0.5% was slightly below the long-term average of 0.6%. Half of the records came in summer and two each in the other seasons.

Little Eagle

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	162	213	-24	69.1
WR	2	2	0	1.1
G	41	36	14	24.1
BR	3	3	0	2.0
GA	0.0051	0.0052	-2	0.0065
GS	6	8	-25	7.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Uncommon, breeding resident

A common resident and breeding species, the most observed raptor in the region.

General: 590 records, including 9 WOO, making the kestrel the most recorded and the most numerous raptor in our region once again, though the Wedge-tailed Eagle is marginally more widespread. The reporting rate of 4.2% was the lowest since 2004 and down on the 30YA of 6.9. Numbers ranged from 1-9, average 1.4, median 1; max 9/29 Oct Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1). Recorded in every week: winter 17%; spring 35%; summer 32%; and autumn 17%, the usual seasonal spread. Recorded from 120 widespread grid cells. As in most years, there were breeding records, 10 this time, from ih/20 Aug Wanniasa Hills NR GrK16 (CaR3) to dy/24 Jan MFNR GrL11 (CIJ3).

GBS: 50 records this year, an improvement on last year. The reporting rate was 1.9%, up on the 30YA of 1.5%. Kestrels were recorded in 34 weeks, and in all seasons, with the highest number of records again coming in autumn (50%). 10 urban and 2 rural sites were involved, though kestrels were not particularly common in any of them.

Nankeen Kestrel

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	590	546	8	187.7
WR	9	18	-50	6.6
G	120	104	15	61.9
BR	10	12	-17	4.5
GA	0.0199	0.0107	86	0.0164
GS	12	10	20	11.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Uncommon, breeding resident

A resident of grasslands and open woodlands.

General: More records than usual, 160, including 3 WOO, though the reporting rate of 1.1% against the 30YA of 3.4% *tells a different story – a 67% drop, to the lowest value recorded.* Recorded from 74 widespread grid cells over 48 weeks in numbers ranging from 1-4, average 1.2, median 1. Max 4/13 Aug Wollogorang Lagoon U03 (LaK1). Winter accounted for 18% of records, spring 36%, summer 30% and autumn 16%. A somewhat lower figure for autumn and winter than usual. No breeding records. Breeding recorded in 14 of the previous 30 years. This species appears to be one suffering more than most from Canberra's suburban growth.

GBS: Only one record, 1/ 2 Oct Giralang GrK12 (McD4). Even given the fact that this falcon is not an urban bird, this is an exceptionally low return, compared with, for example, the 26 records in 2001.

Brown Falcon

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	160	152	5	92.5
WR	3	8	-62	2.2
G	74	63	17	43.2
BR	0	1	-100	1.3
GA	0.0004	0.0028	-86	0.0047
GS	1	4	-75	4.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Common, breeding resident/summer migrant

A distinctive small raptor often observed when the next generation takes flight around February.

General: 160 records this year, but as usual the reporting rate of 1.1% is significantly down on the 30YA of 2.1%. Hobbies were recorded in 47 weeks, 19% in winter, 16% spring, summer 30% and autumn 35%. Range 1-5 birds, average 1.1, median 1. Max 5/8 Mar Hoskinstown GrR16 (BuM1). Recorded in 50 widespread but largely urban grid cells. There were 2 possible breeding records: on/9 Oct Karool GrL25 (CaR3); and di/24 Feb ANU (MiP1).

GBS: Only 28 records. The A value (0.0117) and the reporting rate (1.1%) are both down on the 30YA of A=0.0259 and 2.3%, respectively. Hobbies were recorded in 22 weeks but unlike the general records there were more winter records 25%, spring 18%, summer 21% and autumn 36%. Most records were of single birds, from 14 largely urban sites. No breeding recorded since 2012.

Australian Hobby

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	152	201	-24	56.5
WR	2	0	Inf	1.5
G	48	45	7	24.4
BR	2	2	0	1.6
GA	0.0117	0.0093	26	0.0259
GS	14	18	-22	20.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.9

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

An inland species favouring eucalypt woodland.

General: 4 records, all single birds, from 4 grid cells, covering Wollogorang Lagoon, Mt Majura, O'Connor and Bungendore. 2 summer records, one each in winter and spring. Continues the pattern of regular but low level reporting of this inland raptor.

GBS: 1 record, the first since 2010, 1/1wk Feb Curtin (AjR1).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon, breeding resident

A small resident population, possibly limited by lack of suitable breeding sites.

General: 77 records, of 1-4 birds, average 1.2, median 1. Max 4/6 Dec Mt Mugga Mugga GrL15 (CnM1). The reporting rate of 0.5%, down on the 30YA of 1.2%, reflects the situation in which most raptors in our region find themselves. Recorded widely from 30 grid cells across urban and peri-urban areas and in 39 weeks, seasonally: winter 34%, spring 26%, summer 26% and autumn 14%, a pattern showing more winter and fewer autumn records than usual. There were 4 breeding records from on/7 Oct Hattons Corner GrF03 (SeB1) to dy/5 Jan Red Rocks Gorge GrI16 (HeS1). Oddly there have been no records for many years of peregrines breeding on ledges of city buildings, despite the healthy feral pigeon population.

GBS: 14 records, the same as last year, of 1-2 birds, from 6 urban sites in Chapman, Curtin, Ainslie, Scullin, LBG and Kambah, over 13 weeks, with 6 records in winter, 4 in autumn, 3 in spring and 1 in summer. A typical result for this survey, the reporting rate at 0.5% just below the 30YA of 0.6%.

Peregrine Falcon

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	77	85	-9	31.4
WR	0	1	-100	0.6
G	30	30	0	18.1
BR	4	11	-64	1.5
GA	0.0058	0.0052	13	0.0064
GS	6	7	-14	6.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

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

Very common, breeding resident

This large, distinctive water bird can readily be seen all year at water-bodies across the region.

General: Recent rapid large increases in numbers paused this year, though records increased by 21%. Total birds 13010, 10% down on 2016. Reporting rate, 13.2%, as in 2016, but higher than 10 & 30YAs. Abundance down from 1.24 to 0.92, but well above the 30YA of 0.63. Recorded in all weeks, but fewer birds in spring than usual, but more in autumn. Max 60/2 July JWNR (SmA1), mean 7, median 5, all down on last year. 159 breeding records (mainly di), up from 59. First, di/15 Aug JWNR (LaK1), last dy/15 June, Fadden Hills Pond (BaL1). Grid cells, frequency and reporting rates are all substantially higher than long-term averages, perhaps increased effort to spot and report breeding. *Length of the breeding season possibly trending upwards. The average number of months with a breeding record increased from 4 in 1985/2007 to 9 in 2008/2017.* Breeding is starting earlier and extending later, e.g. prior to 2010, no breeding records after March: since then, June breeding records in 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2017, and one April record in 2015.

GBS: 151 records of 653 birds from 6 sites in 5 grid cells, all down from the previous year. Abundance, frequency and reporting rates were all down. Sites were in Giralang (McD4 and KaD1), Greenway (HaA2), Jerrabomberra (HaL2) and Crace (LeF1). Reports were spread over 51 weeks with a max 15/1wk April (HaL2), mean 4.3, median 3. Breeding at 2 sites, Jerrabomberra and Greenway, 3wk September to 1wk March, with 16 records, all dy.

Purple Swamphen

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1866	1539	21	262.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	38	39	-3	18.1
BR	159	59	169	15.6
GA	0.2543	0.2892	-12	0.0820
GS	6	7	-14	1.5
GBR	16	24	-33	7.1

Lewin's Rail *Lewinia pectoralis*

Rare, breeding visitor

A very occasional visitor.

General: Statistics suggest a recent decline in this elusive species since 2015. This year, 16 birds (down from 32) from 14 records (down from 30) from 2 grid cells (down from 5) between July and March. Reporting rate 0.1%, down 61% on last year, and half of 30YA and 20YA, lowest since 2012. All records from JWNR, except one 1/1 Feb Forde (WyP1). At JWNR, 1-2 birds were seen every month between July & March except February, possibly the same birds throughout the period. Max 2/17 Aug JWNR (SmA1), mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding reported

GBS: No records. Only 2 previous GBS records, both in 2016.

Lewin's Rail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	14	30	-53	4.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	2	5	-60	0.9
BR	0	1	-100	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0007	-100	0.0000
GS	0	1	-100	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

Uncommon, breeding summer-migrant

A secretive bird, often difficult to observe.

General: Despite year to year fluctuations, upward trends are apparent since 2011, when compared with 30YAs, in numbers of records (to 58 from 10.3), birds (to 73 from 15.9). Reporting rates (0.4) and abundance (0.01) are identical to 20YAs, suggesting greater observer effort is responsible for the increased records/numbers. Reported from 8 grid cells, all within the ACT, with multiple records of 1-3 birds from several observers at some sites; North Watson/Watson 31 records across 8 months, JWNR 13 records across 6 months. Max 3/20 Apr North Watson (NaT1), 3/17 Jun Watson (CnM1). No breeding records. Breeding recorded only in 6 years since 1984.

Buff-banded Rail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	58	35	66	10.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	8	7	14	2.4
BR	0	2	-100	0.6
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	0	-	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

rare, non-breeding summer migrant

Usually seen on mud around reed beds.

General A poor year for sightings of this rare bird - 24 birds (down 51% on last year), the lowest since 2011, from 23 records (down 31%) from 2 grid cells (down 71%). Reporting rate 0.2%, lowest since 2002 and well below the 10 & 30YAs of 0.7% and 0.5%. Typically seen mainly in spring and summer, 2017 saw disproportionately high sightings in autumn. It is possible that only 3 separate

birds were seen as all records are from 2 sites: Hoskinstown 2/29 Dec & 1/9 Jan (BuM1) and at JWNR where several observers recorded 1 bird between 29/11 and 10/3, mainly in late February/March. No breeding reported.



Australian Spotted Crane *Porzana fluminea*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Another furtive species, now seen in a variety of wetlands in and around Canberra.

General: Despite a small increase in locations from 5 to 6, a poor year for this uncommon bird, in decline from an exceptional peak in 2013, with the further falls in key indicators such as total number 21 (down 57% on last year) and number of records 20 (down 46%); The reporting rate down is down 55% to 0.1%, (10YA 0.8% & 30YA 0.6%) and abundance is down 65% to 0.0015. All records, of 1-2 birds, are from within the ACT, except for 1/15 Mar, Googong (DaC2). Multiple records from JWNR (6), Casey Wetlands (6), Coombes (3), and Crace Pond (2). *Historically most sightings in summer, but this year summer records were relatively low.* Winter and autumn accounted for 40% of records, up from 30YA of 16%. No breeding reported. Only one previous year with breeding records, 4 in 2015.

Australian Spotted Crane

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	20	37	-46	15.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	6	5	20	2.3
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Spotless Crane *Porzana tabuensis*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Found occasionally in local wetlands, mainly this year JWNR and Gungahlin and Fadden Hills.

General: After a peak in indicators in 2016, grid cells were up from 7 to 10, but 2016 saw lower presence: 113 birds (down 18% on last year), 86 records (down 22%), reporting rate 0.6% (down 35%) abundance 0.0080 (down 32%). *Summer records somewhat down (45.3% cf 30YA 49%), with a fairly even distribution across the other seasons, spring records having increased from 8.2% in 2016 to 20.9%, Overall seasonal distribution close to long term averages.* Birds seen throughout the year: JWNR (69%), with several observers regularly reporting 1-2 birds, Crace, Forde and MFNR (15%). Only one record outside ACT, 1/19 Feb, Goulburn Wetlands, (AnF1). Max 4/19-21 Feb NNPVC, 3-4 birds seen by several observers, mean 1.3, median 1. 2 breeding records, dy/4 Nov JWNR (EbD1), dy/4 Jan JWNR (SmA1).

Spotless Crane

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	86	110	-22	12.5
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	10	7	43	2.0
BR	2	4	-50	0.5
GA	0.0000	0.0017	-100	0.0001
GS	0	2	-100	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

GBS: No records this year, down from 5 at 2 sites in 2016. Other records only in 2013, 2015.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Tribonyx ventralis*

Non-breeding vagrant

A very occasional visitor.

General: This is an irruptive species, not commonly recorded in the region. Last record 3 years ago, a single bird at LBath. Previous years with records are: 2013 (75), 2012 (5), 2010 (63), 2008 (14), 2003 (32), 2002 (41) and 1996 (1).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Common, breeding resident

One of the species regularly seen on the margins of Canberra's lakes and ponds.

General: All key indicators up on last year: numbers 121%, (6914 to 15293), records 25%, abundance 83% (0.59 to 1.08,) reporting rate 3% (12.4% to 12.8%), grid cells 24% (41 to 51). Increase in grid cells and relatively low increase in reporting rate suggests increased observer effort is a key factor for increased numbers/records. Reported every month across ACT's wetlands and at a range of suitable grid cells outside ACT including sites around Goulburn, Yass, Googong and Bungendore. Seasonal distribution similar to long term records, but with spring 8% below long-term averages. Max 75/31 Jan Yerrabi Pond (WyP1). mean 8.7, median 5. Big increase in breeding records: numbers up 388% to 200, grid cells

Dusky Moorhen

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1806	1449	25	278.1
WR	1	0	Inf	0.1
G	51	41	24	23.7
BR	200	41	388	16.2
GA	0.3150	0.2988	5	0.0818
GS	8	7	14	1.6
GBR	20	15	33	5.5

up 57% to 22, breeding reporting rates up 303% to 1.4%. First nb/21 Aug, LGin W (AlB1), last 4dy/17 Mar Casey Wetlands (HeS1).

GBS: Seen at 8 sites in 7 grid cells, both up 1, but fewer records (189, down 10% on last year) and birds (809, down 7%). Reporting rate up 2% to 7.4%. Seasonal distribution similar to historical patterns, but with spring records down 18% from last year. Max 20/2 Dec Crace Wetlands (LeF1), mean 4.3 median 4, similar to last year. 20 breeding records, up from 15, from 4 sites, all dy, earliest dy/4wk Oct Giralang, (McD4), latest dy/4wk Feb Jerrabomberra (HaL2), the location of 16 breeding records.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Another regular inhabitant of Canberra water bodies, but sometimes seen also in very large numbers on LBath and LGeo.

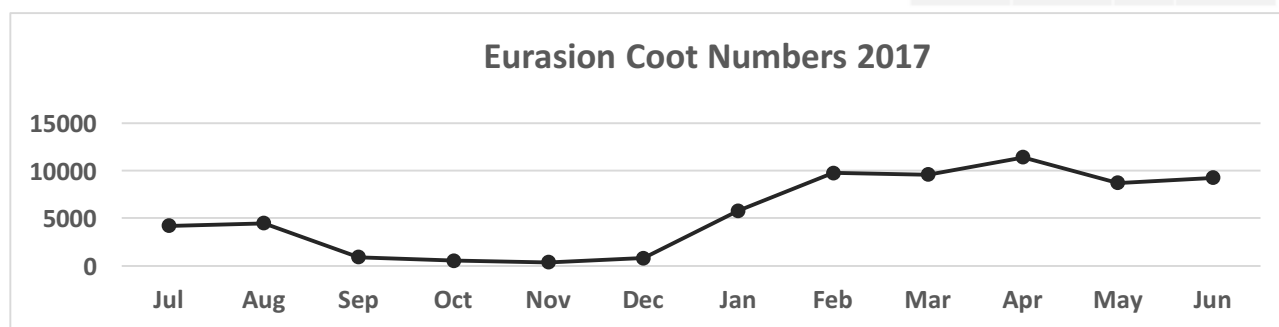
General: 14% increase in records to 2725, but numbers up only 2% to 65638. Spring records were down 35% from 2016. Ibis and some other waterbirds exhibited similar seasonal patterns, perhaps related to high rainfalls in winter and early spring (see Lenz, 2016). As can be seen from the graph, Coot almost disappeared entirely in spring and early summer. Records predominantly from the ACT with many records from

Very common, breeding resident

Eurasian Coot

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2725	2398	14	375.9
WR	4	4	0	1.6
G	64	58	10	32.0
BR	121	77	57	8.7
GA	1.1305	2.0041	-44	0.4287
GS	7	7	0	1.8
GBR	18	17	6	3.6

Eurasian Coot Numbers 2017



JWNR, Lyneham Wetlands and Scrivener Dam. Otherwise, most records in Goulburn area. Max 1293/12 Feb Yerrabi Pond (GrB1) (up 25%), mean 24.7 (down 13% on last year), median 6 (down 25%). 121 breeding records, up 57% from 20 grid cells (up 2) predominantly dy. Breeding reporting rate 0.9%, up on 2016. Earliest record on/27 Aug, Fadden (CaR3), latest dy/26 Apr, North Watson, (CaR3).

GBS: No change in number of sites, but drop in records from last year of 32% and numbers 50%. Spring records down to 13.3% compared with long term averages of around 25%. Max, average and means down on last year and long-term averages. 18 breeding records from 2 sites, Jerrabomberra (HaL2) and Crace (LeF1), between 9 Oct and 5 March, all dy.

BURHINIDAE: stone-curlews

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

Reintroduced, rare resident
This species has been reintroduced to the predator free sanctuary within Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve. Declared endangered in NSW.

General: 11 sightings at MFNR between Oct and June (LaK1, BoJ1, GrB1, McD4, DaC1 & ClJ3). Max 9/17 Jun (ClJ3).

GBS: No records.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE: stilts, avocet**Pied Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*??

Uncommon, breeding visitor

Occasionally seen at JWNR, but most observations from LBath and LGeo.

General: Number of birds, 823, (up 1% on last year), but lower than the 10YA. Sightings down 34%, reporting rate down 45% and abundance all below last year, with reporting rate 0.4%, lowest since 2012 and abundance, 0.0582, substantially less than 10 & 30YAs. Spring records, 12.7%, are 80% below 2016 percentage and substantially less than long-term averages. Max 250/20 Feb 1 LBath E (LeM1), mean 15 (both up on 2016), median 4, (down 1). Most birds seen outside ACT, with 13 records of 4-250 birds from sites around LBath between Aug and

Pied Stilt

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	55	82	-33	29.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	9	15	-40	5.5
BR	5	0	Inf	0.5
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Apr. JWNR/FSW had 23 records of 1-6 birds between Jan and Mar, often repeat reports of birds over a short period. 5 breeding records, all dy, LBath, Southern Morass 28 Oct to 22 Jan. Breeding has previously been reported only in 1994, 1997, 2006, 2012 and 2015, all outside the ACT.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

Non-breeding vagrant

Mostly found on LBath and LGeo with sporadic sightings since 1988 in the ACT.

General: Big increase from a single sighting in 2016 in records (21), grid cells (6), numbers (339), abundance (0.0240) and reporting rates (0.1%), but all these measures, except records, are below the 30YA. Records are second highest since 1984. Winter records were very low compared with long term averages, 5% compared with 24% 10YA and 34% 30YA. Spring and autumn records are higher than long-term levels. Records mainly from LBath (11) and LGeo (7) as well as Hoskinstown and JWNR. Max 106/20 Feb, LBath East Basin, (LeM1), mean 16.1, median 4. One breeding record, on/30 Oct, LBath East Basin, (LeM1), first since co/2008.

CHARADRIIDAE: plovers, dotterels, lapwings**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

Non-breeding vagrant

Very few reports outside the LBath E basin. Reported in low numbers most years.

General: 3 records from LBath of 5 or 6 birds (LeM1 & AnF1) and 1 record of a single bird at JWNR on 16 July (SmA1), following 1 record last year and 4 the year before.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Prefers open mudflats and bare spaces in wetlands, rarely recorded in the ACT.

General: 14 sightings of a total 354 birds, 7x last year's number. All sightings from LBath or LGeo from mid-Jul to mid-Jun, but with most records in summer (57%). Max 96/17 LBath E (LeM1), mean 25.3, median 15.5. No breeding records this year.

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*

Rare, non-breeding vagrant

Migrates to Australia from New Zealand in the first half of the year, with virtually all sightings from LBath.

General: 2 records this year: 10/17 Mar L Bath (LeM1) and 3/17 Jun L Bath (LeM1).

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year. The first and only record for the COG AoI 4 years ago.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Usually resident on the margins of bodies of water across the region.

General: Reporting rate (3.6%) is about the same as last year, but down slightly on the 10 & 30YAs. Records were from many widely-spread locations, largely from Canberra's suburban lakes and wetlands including JWNR/FSP, MFNR, Edgeworth Ponds (Coombs), Flemington Rd Ponds, Forde Pond, National Arboretum, The Valley Av Ponds, and Uriarra Homestead Dam, as well as NSW sites - Goulburn Wetlands, BSP and Rose Lagoon. Max 27/17 May FSP (SmA1), mean 3.8 (3 last year), and median 2. Reported this year mostly in summer (45%) and autumn (31%), with a lower rate in winter (14%) and spring (31%). 6 breeding records: earliest dy/16 Dec Nth Weston Ponds (HeS1) and latest dy/17 Mar Woodlands Wetlands Dam GrK03 (SpB1).

GBS: No records this year. There are only 6 years in the previous 33 that have GBS records: 1982, 1995, 2002, 2012, 2015 and 2016. No breeding records ever in the GBS.

Black-fronted Dotterel

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	516	411	26	105.7
WR	2	3	-33	1.0
G	41	34	21	18.0
BR	6	4	50	1.6
GA	0.0000	0.0017	-100	0.0005
GS	0	1	-100	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonyx cinctus*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Occurs most frequently around vegetated shallow lakes and ponds.

General: More records than last year but considerably fewer than the peak of 2014. Reporting rate (0.9%) 17% up on last year, but 34% down on the 10YA and 23% down on the 30YA. Most records (74) from JWNR/FSP, with a few from MFNR (12), Lake Rd LGeo (41), Edgeworth Pond Coombs (3) and WBPD (2). Max 10/17 May FSP (SmA1), mean 3.2, median 3. Records mainly in summer (43%) and autumn (26%). 2 breeding records: dy/17 Feb Lake Rd LGeo (McD1) and dy/17 Apr FSP (SmA1). Only 5 previous breeding records: 2016, 2013, 2004 and 2002.

Red-kneed Dotterel

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	134	95	41	33.6
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	6	6	0	4.2
BR	2	1	100	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*

Rare, breeding visitor

Occasionally sighted in the ACT in short grasses, but mostly around LBath.

General: Fewer records this year, 2 records from Hoskinstown (BuM1 & DaC2), with 11 from LBath (LeM1). There were 10 sightings of between 2 and 17 birds at the Anderson VC rest area on LGeo in Oct-Nov. Max 56/16 Nov LBath E (LeM1), mean 12, and median 8. In contrast to last year most records were in spring (72%) and summer (24%). 2 breeding records at 2 sites: on/9 Nov LBath E and dy/9 Nov LBath W, both (LeM1).

Banded Lapwing

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	25	37	-32	10.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	5	9	-44	3.2
BR	2	3	-33	1.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

Common, breeding resident

Well distributed throughout the ACT in suitable grassy areas.

General: The reporting rate for this species declined gradually from 1984 (35.6%) to 2001 (6.1%) but since 2001 has risen gradually to 14.6%, indicating that the species is doing well in the COG AoI. Max 73/17 Jun LBath (LeM1), mean 4.2, and median 2. Most records from the wetlands and open grassy areas widely spread throughout the COG AoI. Records were throughout the year: winter 18%, spring 26%, summer 32% and autumn 24%. 135 breeding records from 19 grid cells, a large

Masked Lapwing

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2062	1594	29	355.0
WR	12	20	-40	3.9
G	99	89	11	55.8
BR	135	35	286	9.9
GA	0.1554	0.1706	-9	0.1155
GS	22	25	-12	24.5
GBR	11	17	-35	4.1

increase over previous years: earliest ne/16 Jul Goulburn Wetlands (AnF1) and latest dy/17 Jan FSP (HoS1).

GBS: 200 records from 22 sites is a further drop from the record high of 3 years ago. Max 11/3wk Jan Pearce (KrS1), mean and median 2. Records spread evenly throughout the year. 11 breeding records (cf 17 last year and 25 the year before), from 1 site (Greenway): earliest nb/2wk Jul and latest dy/2wk Oct (HaA2).

ROSTRATULIDAE: painted-snipe

Australian Painted-snipe *Rostratula australis*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

A very unusual sighting in our region. Declared endangered in New South Wales and vulnerable in the Commonwealth. This species was reported in 1964 when Lake Burley Griffin was filling, and subsequently sporadically through the seventies.

General: An excellent year for this species with 43 records from 22 observers between 2-27 Feb. Not reported since 2014. All records from Farm Dam Lakes Rd LGeo GrR12. Two birds reported up to 5 Feb then a single bird apart from 2 reported on 15 Feb (LeM1).

SCOLOPACIDAE: snipe, sandpipers and allies

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Common, non-breeding summer migrant

General: An increase in virtually all indices from last year (number of records, distribution, abundance (0.13 cf 0.08 last year) and reporting rate (3.2% cf 2.3% last year). Reported between 15 Aug and 13 Mar from 33 sites. Max 49/21 Jan Wet Lagoon, Breadalbane GrS02 (AnF1). 20 or more birds also recorded on at least one occasion from JWNR, Forde Pond-Horse Park Drive Wetland GrL11, Rose Lagoon GrU04 and Collector Reserve GrS04. The increase may be due to the Snipe survey conducted by the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (see Davey, C & Gould, L, 2017).

Latham's Snipe

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	457	269	70	51.6
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	27	16	69	7.2
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0043	0.0041	4	0.0016
GS	3	3	0	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

GBS: 9 records from the same 3 sites as last year, Giralang (McD4, KaD1) and Yarralumla (NeG1). Recorded between 3wk Oct and 3wk Feb, all single birds apart from 2/3wk Jan Giralang (McD4).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: A single record 1/12 Nov LGeo Anderson VC Rest area GrR09 (MaL2).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

Non-breeding vagrant

A most unusual sighting from the COG AoI.

General: 1/30 Oct LBath E GrY08 (LeM1). Last recorded within COG AoI 27 Oct 1997 the Morass Gr08.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year, reported in 20 of the previous 35 years.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year, reported in 22 of the previous 35 years.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year, last reported in 2014 and only 5 times before then.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year, last reported in 2014 and only 6 times before then.**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: Two records; 1/20 Feb and 1/13 Apr LBath E GrY08 (Le M1). Last reported within COG AoI 2014-15, see CBN Vol 41 No. 1.**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

Non-breeding vagrant

Occasionally seen in summer at FSP, LBath and LGeo.

General: A large increase in all indices since last year but not yet reached the numbers reported in 2013-14 (abundance 0.03 cf 0.09 in 2013-14). 8 records between 30 Oct and 13 Apr at LBath GrY08 plus a single record of 10 birds on 26 Mar from LGeo GrT09. Max 160/9 Nov with 2 other records of over 50 birds (LeM1).**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

Uncommon, non-breeding summer migrant

The most common of the Scolopacidae. Can be seen between Aug and Apr on some wetlands.

General: An increase in indices from last year but not yet reached the numbers reported in 2013-14 (Abundance 0.23 cf 1.48 in 2013-14) and reporting rate (0.1 cf 2.1 in 2013-14). Max 800/25 Jan LBath GrY08 (LeM1); a large increase on 19 reported last year. The 16 observations were reported from 4 locations: Briars Sharrow Road Hoskinstown GrR16, FSP, JWNR and 10 records from LBath with six of more than 200 birds. Reported between 21 Aug and 13 Apr.**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: Reported on 6 occasions, all from LBath E between 30 Oct and 25 Jan with a maximum of 56/9 Nov and 31/25 Jan. Last reported within COG AoI in 2014-15.**TURNICIDAE: button-quail****Painted Button-quail** *Turnix varius*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Generally, inhabits the higher forests with leaf litter, but sometimes strays to lower altitudes in nature parks around Canberra.

General: 6 records, each of a single bird, slightly more than last year: 10 Jul Mt Ainslie NR (OrY1); 29 Nov Brindabella NP Gr D14 (Ebd1); 27 Dec & 16 Jan Carwoola (BuM1); 15 Mar Mt Ainslie NR (BuM1); and 24 Jun Bluetts Block GrI14 (ReS1). No breeding reported.**GBS:** No records this year. 1 record 3 years ago, the 3rd time this species has been recorded in the GBS, from 2007, 2008 and 2014.**Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

An 'unusual' bird in the ACT. Only 16 records in the COG database, but from 9 widespread sites.

General: 2 records: 1/5 Dec MFNR (GoJ3) and 1/7 Dec Nelangelo TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1).**LARIDAE: gulls and terns****Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No records this year. Most recent records 2013 and 2008.**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Non-breeding vagrant

A rare visitor in the period 2012 – 2016, but only 2 records before then in 2004 and 1987.

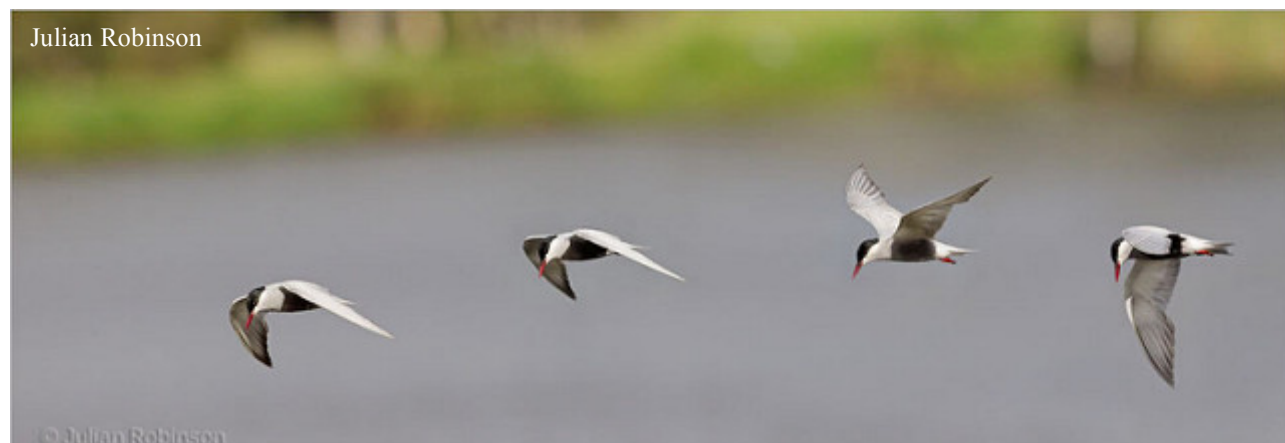
General: Two records most likely the same bird 2/25 Sep North Weston Pond GrJ14 (HeS1, DaC2).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Rare, Non-reeding visitor

A bird found on inland waterways and marshes. First seen in the ACT when LBG filled in 1964.

General: An increase in numbers since the last year but not yet reached the number reported in 2013-14. There has been an increase in the distribution, average number of birds (24) and abundance (0.07 cf 0.004 last year) and reporting rate. Maximum number reported 110/2 Jan Wollongorang Lagoon GrU03 (LeM1) an increase from the maximum number seen last year of 26. Reported between 6 Nov and 24 Jan from 9 sites. Breeding reported from Briars Sharrow Road Hoskinstown GrR16 between 10 Dec and 24 Jan (BuM1) - see Butterfield 2017.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Non-breeding vagrant

A rare visitor, appeared in low numbers in 2014 – 2016, but only twice previously in 2009 and 1990.

General: 4 records between 4-12 Dec. A single bird reported on 4 Dec from FSP (MiP1) and again on 11 Dec (SmA1). On 11 Dec 3 birds were reported from Black Mt Peninsular (SmA1) and again from same location the next day (MiP1). The previous year the same observers reported a single bird on 3 Dec from the same general area on Black Mt Peninsula.

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

Common, breeding resident

A resident of larger bodies of water in the region.

General: Numbers reported appear to be slowly increasing since the relative stable numbers before 2010-11. Over this period, the abundance has increased from 0.31 in 2009-10 to 3.42 and the reporting rate from 3.1 to 10.5. This year there were slightly fewer records in winter than in the other seasons. Max 800/16 Sep LBG (FuP1), similar to last year. In addition to the records from Spinnaker Island, more than 600 birds were reported from Tuggeranong GrK17 (CaR3) and FSP GrL14 (SmA1). Of the 12 breeding records 8 were dy with the remaining 4 of ne or on/leaving nest at LBath S Morass Gr08, Spinnaker Island LBG GrK14 and Canberra Yacht Club GrK14.

GBS: 104 records from 10 sites, an increase from the 4 sites reported last year. An increase in the average number of birds (22.3 cf 16.6 last year. Max 424/2wk May Fadden (CaR3) of birds flying overhead possibly to roost. 25 breeding records from a single site Yarralumla GrK14 (NeG1) of birds breeding on moored boats.

Silver Gull

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1480	885	67	161.9
WR	1	0	Inf	0.1
G	33	25	32	15.8
BR	12	9	33	1.7
GA	0.9030	0.7981	13	0.3710
GS	10	6	67	4.2
GBR	25	24	4	2.1

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

Rare, breeding visitor.

Occasionally seen in casuarina food source trees on Mts Ainslie and Majura. Declared vulnerable in the ACT and NSW.

General: No records this year. 2 confirmed records last year and in most previous years. No breeding records (1 in 2010-11 and recorded in 4 earlier years).

GBS: No records (recorded from 1 rural site in 2014-15).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Zanda funereus*

Common, breeding resident

Found mainly in the ranges to the west and south of Canberra.

General: Reporting rate (4.7%) is 8%, up from 4.4% last year and 13% above the 30YA average of 4.2%, having increased from 2012-13 (2.2%) but below the after-fire peak of 2004-05 (6.9%). Reported all year but more frequently in autumn (28%) and winter (28%). Average 7.9, median 3 with max 182/4 Aug North Lynham Ridge GrK12 (LeM1). 12 breeding records (12 last year): earliest br/3 Jul Mt Majura (CnM1), latest dy/27 Apr Ginninderra Creek Evatt GrJ12 (KiB1).

GBS: 266 records from 44 sites (75%) from 52 weeks in groups of varying sizes averaging 6.4, median 3 with max 75/2 wk May Curtin GrK14 (AjR1). Abundance was 11% higher than last year and 63% higher than the 30YA but much lower than the peak abundance after the 2003 bushfires (A=2.2998 in 2003-04). 31% of records in winter and 33% in autumn. 11 breeding records from 4 sites (4 last year): earliest dy/2 wk Nov Chapman (HaJ1) and latest dy/2 wk Jun Curtin GrK14(AjR1).

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	671	515	30	114.2
WR	5	5	0	2.3
G	103	92	12	43.6
BR	12	12	0	2.5
GA	0.6678	0.6001	11	0.4085
GS	44	46	-4	26.2
GBR	11	11	0	3.6

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Common, breeding resident/alt. migrant

Often found in the older areas of Canberra. Declared Vulnerable in NSW.

General: Reporting rate (6.8%) 14% lower than last year and 6% below the 30YA of 7.2%. Average 2.8, median 2 with max 39/2 May ANU (MiP1). Recorded all year but fewer records in summer (18%) and higher in spring (31%). 22 breeding records (80 last year): earliest dy/21 Jul Mt Ainslie NR GrI13 (HoS1), latest dy/30 May ANBG (BeL3) with an early start for the next season ih/28 Jun ANU GrK13 (CrK3).

GBS: 819 records from 45 sites (76%) from all weeks of up to 29 individuals. Average 3.4, median 2 with max 29/1wk Apr Curtin GrK14 (AjR1), with little seasonable variation although slightly fewer records in winter (22%) and more records in autumn (32%). Abundance was 17% higher than last year, well below the peak of 2012-13 (A=1.27) but 40% above the 30YA. Records from throughout Canberra. 37 breeding records (44 last year) from 8 sites with first breeding record dy/1 wk Curtin GrK14 (MoM3) and last dy/4 wk Weston GrJ15 (BoJ1).

Gang-gang Cockatoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	959	926	4	196.8
WR	16	12	33	6.7
G	75	84	-11	49.4
BR	22	80	-72	5.1
GA	1.0701	0.9168	17	0.7664
GS	45	42	7	44.2
GBR	37	44	-16	9.6

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri*

Non-breeding escapee

Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: No records. Last record 2007-2008.

GBS: No records. Last record 2007-2008.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*

Widespread throughout the region.

General: Ranks 6th in the reporting rate this year. The reporting rate (35.7%) was 7% lower than last year and 6% below the 30YA, representing a downward trend since 2012-2013 (46.5%). Recorded from all seasons. Average 8.9, median 4, with max 1000/15 Jun BuTYL GrS13(LeM1). 97 breeding records (67 last year): first br/2 Jul Mount Mugga Mugga GrK15 (CnM1), last dy/23 Mar Cook (DrC1) with a few early starts for the next season later in the year.

GBS: 2nd most abundant species recorded in the GBS Records from 100% of sites in all weeks of up to 200 individuals with little seasonal variation. Average 7.0, median 4 with max 200/29 Jan Cook (DiB1). Abundance 7% below last year and 23% below the 30YA with a 25% decline since 2009-10. Breeding recorded from 18 sites (22 last year): earliest ih/3wk Aug Fadden (CaR3) and last dy/2wk Apr Duffy (HaS3), with an early start to the next season co/3wk Jun Ainslie (HaS3).

Very common, breeding resident

Galah

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	5050	4514	12	1029.9
WR	224	236	-5	121.9
G	181	175	3	109.3
BR	97	67	45	23.8
GA	5.4692	5.9127	-7	7.1182
GS	59	67	-12	64.5
GBR	54	94	-43	58.1

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

Small groups occasionally seen around Callum Brae NR and Campbell Park NR and central Canberra.

General: Reporting rate 0.6%, 11% less than last year but 28% above the 30YA (0.5%). Seen in small groups of 1-10, average 2.0, median 2 with max 10/7 Mar Goulburn GrZ01 (AnF1). More records in winter (33%) with fewer (18%) in spring. 5 breeding records (7 last year), 4 at Campbell Park at the same location, indicating a single breeding event. Breeding records include: earliest ih/20 Aug Campbell Park (SmA1), latest dy/24 Jan Bowen Park (HiC2).

GBS: 4 records of single birds from 3 sites in Red Hill, Narrabundah and Weston. Recorded in 4 weeks, 2 records in summer and one each in spring and winter with no records in autumn. Abundance of this species throughout the survey has been very low, except for a spike in 2010-11 of 10 times the usual value. This year's A value is 35% lower than last year and 76% lower than the 30YA. Records: 1/4wk Red Hill (WaR4); 1/2 wk Nov and 1wk Dec Narrabundah GrL14 (PaR9); and 1/1wk Dec Weston (BoJ1). No breeding records ever in the GBS.

Uncommon, breeding resident/escapee

Long-billed Corella

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	87	81	7	13.1
WR	0	0	-	0.5
G	14	15	-7	3.9
BR	5	7	-29	0.8
GA	0.0016	0.0024	-35	0.0065
GS	3	3	0	2.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

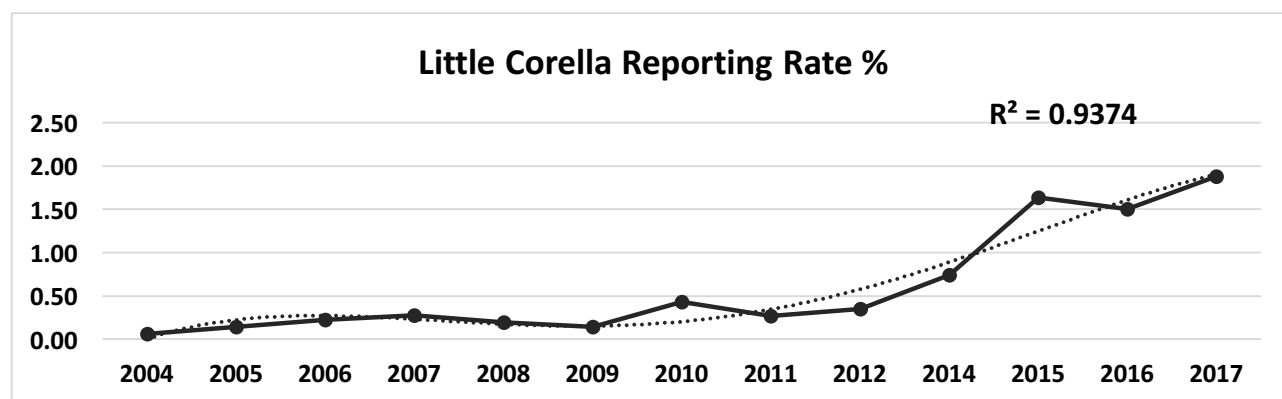
Once confined to the southern suburbs, now reported from the northern suburbs, surrounding nature reserves and farther afield.

General: Reporting rate (8.6%) is 7% down on last year (9.3%) representing a further decline from the 2015 peak (12.4%) but up 83% on the 30YA (3.9). 31 groups of 200+ reported from Goulburn, North Lyneham, Gowrie, LGin, Wallaroo, Evatt, JWNr and Dickson. Recorded from all seasons with 30% of records in summer and 20% in winter. Average 22.1, median 3 and max 900/7 Jun Hannah Community Park (Fadden) (CaR3). 20 breeding records (14 last year): earliest ih/19 Jul Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1), latest dy/24 May Fadden (CaR3) with a single report of early activity for next season, ih/5 Jun MFNR (Wyp1).

Very common, breeding resident

Little Corella

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1219	1089	12	128.2
WR	24	22	9	7.7
G	72	59	22	17.5
BR	20	14	43	2.5
GA	3.0070	1.7290	74	0.6007
GS	46	46	0	20.0
GBR	9	6	50	1.1



GBS: The abundance was 74% higher than last year and over 5 times the 30YA % to the highest A value recorded for this species since the GBS began. Records from 46 sites from all weeks with 33% of records in summer. Average 11.4, median 3, with max 300/2 wk Dec Kambah (VeP1). Breeding recorded from 5 sites: Curtin, Narrabundah, Greenway, Gleneagles and Watson; earliest ih/1wk Aug Gleneagles (PeH2) and last dy/4wk Mar Narrabundah (PaR9).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

A common bird of the ACT and surrounding region.

General: Reporting rate 39.8% is 8% lower than last year (43.5%) but 1% higher than 30YA of 39.5%. Like the Galah, the reporting rate has gradually been tending upwards since 1998, however, there has been a downward trend since 2012-2013. Recorded in all months with 23% in winter and 27% in autumn. Average 10.4, median 3 with max 775/7 May Hannah Community Park Fadden (CaR3). Breeding records (73) 6% lower than last year: first dy/4 Jul Hannah Community Park Fadden (CaR3) and latest dy/22 Jun Hawker Ovals GrI12 (AlB1).

GBS: Most abundant species recorded in the GBS. Records from all sites and all weeks with little seasonal variation. Average number seen 9.2, median 4 with max 300/3wk Apr Hughes (AnI1). Abundance 4% lower than last year but 18% higher than the 30YA. Abundance peaked in 2003 at A=9.0, which is 12% above the present value. Breeding recorded from 10 sites (18 last year): earliest dy/2wk Jul Page (AlB1) and latest dy/3wk Jun Curtin (AjR1).

Very common, breeding resident

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	5632	5086	11	1076.4
WR	255	260	-2	122.8
G	184	170	8	124.3
BR	73	78	-6	16.6
GA	8.0125	8.3453	-4	6.7764
GS	59	67	-12	64.1
GBR	47	82	-43	23.1

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Rare, non-breeding visitor/escapee

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

General: 8 records of single birds (3 last year) from Bonner (3 records), MacArthur (4) and Bungendore. Earliest: 1/19 Jul Bonner (GrB1) and latest: 1/8 Apr BSP GrS13 (McD1)

GBS: No records this year (recorded from 3 sites last year).

PSITTACULIDAE: lorikeets, Australian parrots**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus moluccanus*

Common, breeding resident

A resident population in Belconnen region gradually spreading south.

General: 1077 records from 41 grids (758 records from 33 last year). As in previous years many records from Belconnen suburbs, however, there are now records throughout Canberra. Reporting rate 7.6%, 17% higher than last year and three times the 30YA. Since 2006-2007, the reporting rate has risen steadily from 0.7% to the current value, a significant increase over the 10-year period. Records from all months, winter 32% and summer 20%. Mean 3.3, median 2 with max 30/24 Feb Aranda (BuM1). 16 breeding records from 6 grid cells (11 last year from 1 grid cell): earliest dy/6 Aug Fadden Hills Pond (CaR3), latest br/21 Jan Narrabundah Hill (CaJ4).

GBS: Abundance was 39% higher than last year and about 7.5 times the 30YA. 783 records from 37 sites (63%), including many on the south side. Max 32/1wk Dec Waramanga (LaD3) with average 3.6, median 2. Observed in 52 weeks with more sightings in autumn (29%). 3 breeding records from 1 site in Page: dy/2wk Feb, 4wk Mar, 1wk Apr Page (AlB1).

Rainbow Lorikeet

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1077	758	42	68.2
WR	24	20	20	1.9
G	41	33	24	7.0
BR	16	11	45	1.6
GA	1.0888	0.7823	39	0.1457
GS	37	37	0	10.6
GBR	3	11	-73	0.9

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

Non-breeding vagrant/escapee



Julian Robinson

Occasionally strays from coastal areas in the Illawarra region, or escapes from local aviaries.

General: 7 records (3 last year) of 1-2 birds from Nicholls and Wanniasa: earliest: 2/29 Apr Nicholls Sports Grounds (SmA1); latest 1/12 Jun Erindale College playing fields (DaC2).

GBS: No records this year. Earlier records from 2012-13 and 1992-93.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally strays from eastern ranges.

General: 25 records (11 last year) of 1-4 birds in Wanniasa, Fadden, Belconnen Golf Course, Callum Brae, and Garran. Max 4/6 May Wanniasa Hills Primary School (MaL2). Earliest record 1/20 Aug Fadden (SmA1) and latest 1/28 Jun Fadden (MaL2).

GBS: 11 records (20 last year) of 1-3 birds from 1 site from 2wk Nov to 2wk Jun Wanniasa (HeS1).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

A nomadic species feeding mainly on flowering eucalypts. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: No records this year, last recorded in 2012-13 with records in most years before then.

GBS: No records (one 2014-15, three in 2008-09 and records in most years before then).

Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*

Non-breeding vagrant

A nomadic species feeding mainly on flowering eucalypts. The ACT is a considerable distance from its normal range. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: No records (6 in 2013-2014, 5 in 2012-2013 and only 1 record before then, in 1967-1968).

GBS: No records (2 in 2012-2013 and 1 in 1984-1985).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* 430

Common, breeding resident

A bird of the Brindabellas that has gradually spread through Canberra suburbs and nature parks.

General: 1897 records from all months reaching a peak in autumn (35%). Reporting rate (13.4%) is 7% lower than last year representing a decline since a peak in 2014-15 but 36% higher than the 30YA. Average 3.8, median 2 with max 88/26 Sep Yarralumla Bay (SmA1). Significant growth in numbers (7047 birds this year, 8168 last year) since 2010. 17 breeding records (7 last year): first dy/22 Sep Riordan St Park Fadden (HeS1) and last dy/17 Jun Riordan St Park Fadden (HeS1).

GBS: Records from 53 sites (90%) from all weeks of up to 47 individuals with 30% in winter and 29% in autumn. Abundance 17% higher than last year and 32% higher than the 30YA. Max 47/7 May Curtin Gr K14 (AjR1), average 4.4, median 3. *The A value increased steadily from A=0.3187 in 1982 to A=2.5949 in 2003, but declined gradually to A=1.5666 in 2012-13, but has again risen to its current value.* Breeding recorded from 18 sites (16 last year): earliest ih/1wk Sep Watson (WaK1) and last dy/2wk Mar Ainslie (HoS1).

Australian King-Parrot

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1897	1684	13	268.2
WR	33	36	-8	13.7
G	77	73	5	35.5
BR	17	7	143	3.0
GA	2.3509	2.0151	17	1.7780
GS	53	64	-17	54.9
GBR	45	36	25	21.1

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Gradually extending its range into the ACT from western woodlands. Declared vulnerable in the ACT and NSW and under the EPBC Act.

General: Movement continues across Canberra following the initial movement into Belconnen from 2005-06. Records from 37 grid cells this year compared with 26 in 2014-15. Reporting rate 3.1% is 13% lower than last year (3.6%) representing a decline since a peak (5.1%) in 2012-13 but well above the 30YA (2.6%). Most records in summer (34%) and autumn (32%). Average 6, median 3 with max 56/22 Feb Watson (MeM2). 10 breeding records (10 last year) from di/7 Jul Isaacs GrK15 (CnM1) to dy/28 Jan Watson (MeM2).

GBS: Records from 16 sites (20 last year) from 47 weeks (20% spring, 39% summer and 32% autumn with only 9% of records in winter). Max 25/5wk Oct Murrumbateman (BIJ1), average 3.8, median 2. Abundance 4% lower than last year, arresting the continual increases since movement of birds into suburban Canberra commenced in 2005-06 (with a peak of 0.37 in 2014-15, but almost 3x the 30YA). Breeding recorded from 4 sites in Cook, Ainslie and Watson: earliest dy/2wk Dec Cook (TaN1) and last dy/1wk Mar Ainslie (HaS3).

Superb Parrot

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	438	415	6	70.5
WR	14	14	0	3.7
G	37	31	19	11.1
BR	11	10	10	4.9
GA	0.2200	0.2111	4	0.0754
GS	16	20	-20	6.8
GBR	22	11	100	3.2

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

Very common, breeding resident

An attractive common resident of the COG area of interest.

General: Reporting rate (37.8%) is 15% lower than last year and 21% below the 30YA. From 1991 to 1998, the reporting rate was steady between 20% and 40%. In 1999, it rose to 53% and since then has then declined to 44% last year with a further decline to 38% this year. Average 4.8, median 3 with max 98/12 Jun Campbell Pk GrM13 (SmA1). Recorded in all seasons but highest in spring (28%). Breeding: 88 records (65 last year) first ih/14 Jul Coolemon Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1) and last dy/19 Feb Campbell Park (BuM4) with a very early display di/20 May Yass Gorge GrF03 (SeB1). Crimson Rosella/Eastern Rosella hybrid reported from West Macgregor 1/25 Jun Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1). Yellow Rosella last reported 2014-15.

Crimson Rosella

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	5344	5181	3	1305.4
WR	372	416	-11	185.5
G	203	212	-4	155.3
BR	88	65	35	26.7
GA	2.9942	3.2008	-6	3.3189
GS	59	67	-12	64.4
GBR	79	60	32	34.0

GBS: 8th most abundant species recorded in GBS (6th last year). Records from 59 sites from all weeks with almost no seasonal variation: Average 3.6, median 3 with max 25/4 wk Jun Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2). Abundance 6% lower than last year and 10% lower than the 30YA. *The A value for this species climbed steadily from A=2.0069 in 1982 to A=3.9689 in 1998. It remained around that value until 2006, and from then has declined to A=2.9942 in 2016-17.* Breeding recorded from 14 sites: earliest ih/3 wk Jul Kambah Gr J16 (VeP1) and ih/3 wk Jul Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4); latest dy/3 Feb Florey (BrJ3) with any number of “inspecting hollows” to the end of the year, the last being ih/4 wk Jun Kambah Gr J16 (VeP1). Crimson Rosella/Eastern Rosella hybrid reported from two sites in Curtin and Deakin. Yellow Rosella last reported 2010-11.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

Very common, breeding resident

A resident of the grassy woodlands in and around the ACT.

General: Reporting rate 22.4%, 17% lower than last year and 22% lower than the 30YA representing a decline of 28% since 2013-14 and the lowest rate since 1998-99 (except for 2003-04). Recorded in all seasons (29% in spring). Average 4.9, median 3 with max 61/27 Aug Callum Brae NR (SmA1). Breeding: 60 records (44 last year): first ih/7 Aug Wanniasa Hills (CaR3) and last dy/12 Feb Melba (KiB1) with an early start to next season ih/25 Jun Wanniasa Hills (BaL1).

Eastern Rosella

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	3170	3173	-0	784.1
WR	214	216	-1	109.9
G	153	151	1	100.2
BR	60	44	36	17.6
GA	1.4050	1.3508	4	1.4905
GS	56	64	-12	62.4
GBR	28	19	47	20.3

GBS: Records from 56 sites from all weeks with very little

seasonal variation (winter 28%). Abundance 4% higher than last year but 6% lower than the 30YA. Average 2.8, median 2 with max 36/3wk Mar Cook (DcA1). Breeding recorded from 10 sites: earliest ih/3wk Aug Watson (WaK1) and last dy/1wk Mar Ainslie (HoS1) with numerous inspecting hollow records after that, the latest being ih/4wk Apr Kambah (VeP1).

Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*

Escapee

A bird of central and western New South Wales west of the Southern Tablelands.

General: One record: 1/10 Apr Palmerston (CnM1). Last recorded 1999-2000.

Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*

Rare, non-breeding winter migrant

An occasional nomadic winter migrant from Tasmania. Declared Vulnerable in the ACT, Endangered in NSW and under the EPBC Act.



Tobias Hayashi

General: 2 records (23 last year) of 1-2 birds from Campbell Pk: 2/30 Apr Campbell Pk (MaL2), 1/1 May Campbell Pk GrM13 (HiC2). Seen previously in any number only in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2015 and 2016.

GBS: No records this year (3 last year).

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Common, breeding resident

Often seen on the short grasses of Canberra's playing fields and nature reserves.

General: Reported in all months (22% in spring, 37% in summer, 24% autumn, 17% in winter) with a reporting rate of 16.6%, 2% below last year but 13% above the 30YA. The reporting rate increased steadily from 2002 to 2014 but has declined in the last three years. Average 8.1, median 4 with max (roost flight) 222/29 Mar Exhibition Park GrL12 (LeM1). 46 breeding records (33 last year): first ih/12 Aug Callum Brae NR (HeS1) and last 27 Jan Ginninderra Ck Latham (KiB1) with an early start to next season ih/25 Jun Wanniasa Hills NR (BaL1).

GBS: Records of up to 40 individuals from 36 sites from all weeks (29% in summer). Average 4.9, median 3 with max 40/2wk May Duffy (CaJ4). Abundance 12% higher than last year and 107% higher than the 30YA, steadily increasing from 2006. Breeding recorded from 2 sites (1 last year): earliest ih/3wk Aug and latest dy/4 wk Dec, both Curtin (AjR1).

Red-rumped Parrot

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2351	1986	18	401.8
WR	43	71	-39	26.0
G	90	97	-7	56.8
BR	46	33	39	9.3
GA	0.9287	0.8284	12	0.4488
GS	36	35	3	26.2
GBR	4	4	0	2.5

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Rare, non-breeding visitor/escapee

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

General: 4 records of single birds (8 last year) at Fadden (27 Nov), Ginninderra Creek (28-29 Jan) and Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR (3 May).

Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*

Non-breeding vagrant

A rare visitor from the west.

General: No records (records in 2015-2016, 2014-15 and 2012-13 and none before that).

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

Non-breeding vagrant/escapee

An occasional nomadic visitor from the eastern coastal areas. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: 1 endorsed record (6 last year): X/29 Jan Namadgi NP GrJ26 (CnM1) and one not presented for endorsement in May at Fyshwick.

PSITTACIDAE: Afro-tropical parrots**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Escapee

A common caged bird.

General: No records (4 in 2014-15, 1 in 2005-06).

GBS: No records (1 record in 2015-16 and in 2014-15).

Peach faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis*

Escapee

A common caged bird.

GBS: Last recorded 2010-11

CUCULIDAE: cuckoos, koel**Eastern Koel** *Eudynamys orientalis*

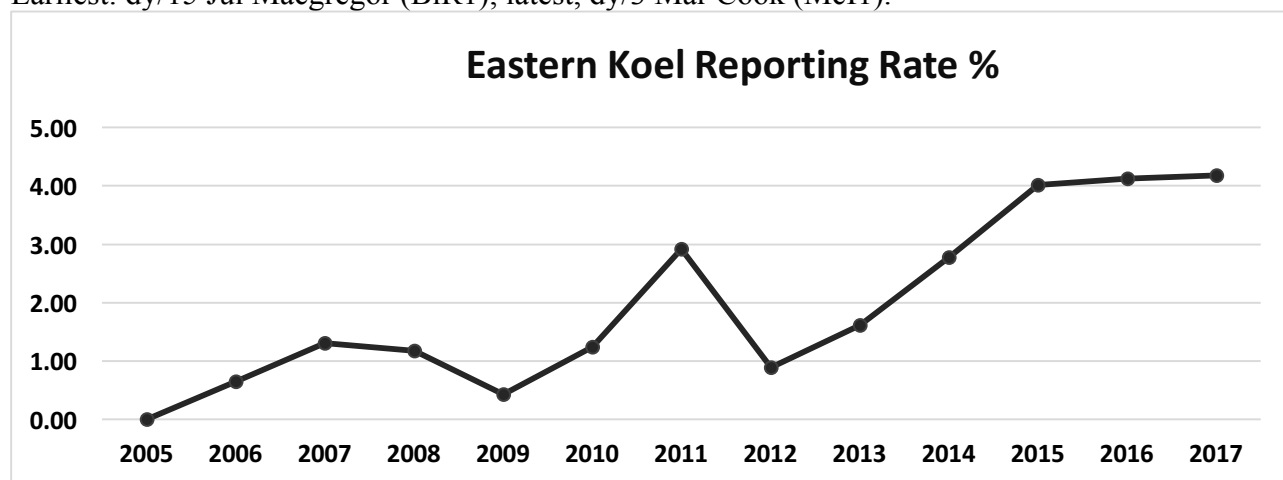
Common, breeding summer migrant

This species is now an established part of Canberra's urban avifauna.

General: 591 records up on 483 records last year. Abundance up 4% on last year and up 177% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is up 1% on last year and up 144% on the 30YA. There were no WOO records indicating that this species still depends largely on urban habitats. Max 3/20 Nov Macarthur GrL16 (MaL2), mean 1.2, median 1. Earliest record: 2/3 Jul Mount Majura (CnM1); latest, 1/30 Mar Flynn (DaC2). Breeding: 38 records up from 9 last year in 16 grids up from 5 last year (see Holland 2017 for more information on Koel breeding). Earliest: dy/15 Jul Macgregor (BlR1); latest, dy/3 Mar Cook (McI1).

Eastern Koel

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	591	483	22	46.7
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	40	29	38	7.4
BR	38	9	322	2.0
GA	0.2445	0.2111	16	0.0441
GS	49	55	-11	17.5
GBR	23	13	77	2.1



GBS: 443 records down from 478 last year from 49 sites down on 55 sites last year. Abundance is up 16% on last year and up 455% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is up 5% on last year and 363% on the 30YA. Earliest record: 1/2wk Oct Weetangera (WoD1); latest, 1/4wk Mar Wright (DeD2). 23 breeding records, up on 13 last year: earliest co/2wk Jan Yarralumla (NeG1); latest, dy/1wk Mar Giralang (McD4).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Rare, non-breeding summer migrant

First reported in 1995 and in most years since then, with between 1 and 3 sightings each year, with 7 sightings in 2012 and 6 in 2011.

General: 16 records, each of a single bird, is the highest number ever. Abundance is 65% up on last year and up 81% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is up 89% on last year and up 89% on the 30YA. Earliest 1/26 Jul Jerrabomberra (CnM1); latest, 1/30 Jan O'Connor (MiP1).

GBS: 3 records from 3 sites, 1 fewer than last year: 1/2wk Nov Ainslie (HoS1); 1/4wk Dec Carwoola (BuM1) and 1/4wk Mar Wright (DeD2). No breeding.

Channel-billed Cuckoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	16	7	129	1.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	12	5	140	1.4
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0012	0.0014	-15	0.0004
GS	3	3	0	1.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo *Chalcites basal* Common, Breeding summer migrant
Occurs in open forest mainly in spring and summer.

General: 110 records down from 265 last year from 46 grids down from 57 grids last year. Abundance is down 72% on last year and down 74% on the 30YA. *The reporting rate is down 66% on last year and down 72% on the 30YA, the second lowest rate after 2004.* Observed almost exclusively in spring 37% and summer 58%. Earliest 1/13 Aug Michelago GrL25 (LaS2); latest, 1/8 Apr Yass Gorge GrFo3 (SeB1). 1 breeding record: di/14 Oct Bibaringa GrH14 (SmA1).

GBS: 1 record this year, down from 10 last year: 1/2wk Nov Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	110	265	-58	76.3
WR	11	20	-45	6.4
G	46	57	-19	33.1
BR	1	3	-67	0.9
GA	0.0004	0.0034	-89	0.0053
GS	1	4	-75	4.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chalcites osculans*

Rare, non-breeding visitor.

Canberra is on the edge of this species' range from the dry inland.

General: 1 record this year down from 5 records last year: 1/22 Jan JWNR (SmA1).

GBS: No record this year after 1 record 2 years ago, the first and only record in the GBS.

Shining Bronze-cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus*

Common, Breeding summer migrant

An inhabitant of woodlands and forests.

General: For the second year running most metrics for general records, WOO records and GBS records are down quite sharply against a previously rising general trend. 143 records, down from 191 records last year, from 49 grids, down from 63 grids the previous year. 10 WOO records down from 16 last year. Abundance is down 44% on last year and 58% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 38% on last year and down 61% on the 30YA. Recorded almost exclusively in spring (66%) and summer (33%). Earliest record: 1/5 Sep North Mulligans NR (GrB1); latest, 1/10 Mar TNR GrF18 (WyP1). Breeding: No records this year after 1 record last year.

GBS: The addition of rural sites in recent years has probably affected the reporting rate of this species. 27 records compared with 31 records last year, 20 records from rural sites. Abundance is down 13% on last year but up 41% on the 30YA. Earliest record 1/4wk Aug Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2); latest, 1/4wk Feb Jerrabomberra (HaL2).

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	143	191	-25	69.8
WR	10	16	-38	6.4
G	49	63	-22	34.0
BR	0	1	-100	0.9
GA	0.0105	0.0120	-13	0.0075
GS	5	6	-17	6.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Common and widespread throughout the region in spring and summer.

General: Record numbers the same as last year. Statistics are somewhat skewed by a single outlier record of 25 birds. Abundance is down 21% on last year and down 61% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is down 18% on last year and down 68% on the 30YA. Recorded in all seasons, with a peak in spring of 62%. Earliest record 1/19 Jul ANBG (McI3); latest, 1/18 Jun Devils Gap GrG18 (DaC1). No breeding records, 4 last year.

GBS: 17 records down from 35 records last year from 6 sites down from 7 sites last year. 11 records from Carwoola (BuM1). Abundance is down 37% on last year and down 11% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 45% on last year and down 24% on the 30YA. Earliest record: 1/4wk Aug Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1); latest, 1/2wk Mar Ainslie (HoS1). 3 breeding records after 6 last year: earliest, di/4wk Aug and latest, di/3wk Nov both from Carwoola (BuM1).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	197	199	-1	118.0
WR	6	5	20	2.6
G	80	85	-6	55.2
BR	0	4	-100	0.9
GA	0.0082	0.0131	-37	0.0092
GS	6	7	-14	7.5
GBR	3	0	Inf	0.3

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

There are widely distributed records of passage migrants as well as records from preferred summer habitats in the wet forests of the COG AoI.

General: 76 records up on 64 records last year from 39 grids up on 33 grids last year. The increased grid numbers possibly reflect observers picking up more birds in atypical habitats during migration passage. The abundance is down 16% on last year and down 19% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 2% on last year and down 22% on the 30YA. Most records in spring 33% and summer 63%, with 4% in autumn, and none in winter. Earliest: 1/28 Oct Greenleigh GrN15 (EbD1); latest, 1/19 Mar Campbell Park GrM13 (NaT1). No breeding.

GBS: 12 records after 9 last year, mainly from Carwoola (BuM1) and Wamboin (CoK2). Earliest record: 1/3wk Nov Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2); latest, 1/4wk Feb Giralang (McD4).

Brush Cuckoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	76	64	19	18.9
WR	7	2	250	1.9
G	39	33	18	13.0
BR	1	0	Inf	0.1
GA	0.0047	0.0031	51	0.0009
GS	3	4	-25	1.3
GBR	0	1	-100	0.0

Pallid Cuckoo *Heteroscenes pallidus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Records tend to come from drier areas of the COG AoI in spring and summer. *May possibly be heading for extinction locally.*

General: 65 records down from 125 records last year from 32 grids down on 40 grids last year. Abundance is down 63% on last year and down 86% on the 30YA. *The reporting rate is down 57% on last year and down 87% on the 30YA, now at its lowest level ever.* Reported predominantly in spring 65% and summer 29%. Earliest record 1/18 Aug Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1); latest, 1/4 Feb Campbell Park (SmA1). 1 breeding record: di/14 Oct Michelago GrL25 (LaS2).

GBS: 16 records down from 19 last year, from 4 sites down from 6 last year. Abundance is down 14% on last year and down 65% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 5% on last year and down 61% on the 30YA. First record: 1/3wk Aug Carwoola (BuM1); latest, 1/1wk Feb Oxley (WaJ3).

Pallid Cuckoo

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	65	125	-48	94.2
WR	7	11	-36	15.6
G	32	40	-20	39.6
BR	1	2	-50	1.8
GA	0.0062	0.0072	-14	0.0178
GS	4	6	-33	11.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.4

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

Rare, breeding resident

A seldom-observed inhabitant that breeds in old-growth forests. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: 6 records, all of presumably the same bird at Turner Bowling Club between 2-26 Jul. Powerful Owls have been recorded in 19 of the previous 30 years, most commonly in years in which a bird chooses to roost in a central Canberra location such as the ANBG or Turner, rather than Tallaganda. See Munro, T, Bell, T & Bundock, J 2016,

GBS: None.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

Non-breeding vagrant

Declared vulnerable in NSW. A very occasional visitor to woodlands and suburbs.

General: No records this year. Most recent endorsed record is of a bird sighted at Shepherds Lookout in 2011.

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

Common, breeding resident

The most numerous of our local owls, heard more often than seen in the suburbs. In serious decline nationally, according to BirdLife Australia (2015).

General: 45 records, all single birds except for 2/15 Mar O'Connor (MiP1). From 24 mainly urban grid cells. The reporting rate of 0.3%, while the same as last year, is well below the 30YA of 1.2%. Recorded in 26 weeks: winter 11%; spring 38%; summer 27% and autumn 24%.

GBS: 78 records, at a reporting rate of 3.0% compared with a long-term average of 3.4%. The abundance value of $A=0.0327$ is holding up reasonably well against the long-term average of $A=0.0374$. Mainly single birds. Max 3/1 Jan Burra GrM20 (AnI1). Recorded over 34 weeks, with 6% of records in winter, 30% spring, 42% summer and 22% autumn. From 13 grid cells; relatively common only in Cook and Ainslie. One possible breeding record: ih/28 Aug Watson GrL12 (WaK1), where boobooks have bred before.

Southern Boobook

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	45	33	36	31.4
WR	1	0	Inf	0.4
G	24	18	33	15.3
BR	1	0	Inf	0.9
GA	0.0327	0.0416	-21	0.0374
GS	22	20	10	22.5
GBR	1	2	-50	1.1

TYTONIDAE: masked owls**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

The local population fluctuates according to the availability of suitable food, such as mice.

General: Barn Owls tend to occur in our area when there are mice plagues and this year was not sufficiently rich in rodents to attract the birds in good numbers. Only 8 records, all single

birds and 5 were of presumably the same bird at the ANU on 25 May. Two others were winter records from LBG and

Mt Majura, and one spring record from Narrabundah Hill. They have never been recorded as breeding in our area so it was surprising to encounter a possible indication of breeding this year: di/8 Jul Mt Majura (CnM1). Barn Owls have only been recorded in high numbers in 1991, 1995 and 2012.

GBS: One record only: 1/4wk Apr Giralang Pond (KaD1). Barn Owls have been reported in very low numbers in 18 of the years that the GBS has been operating.



Julian Robinson

Barn Owl

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	8	5	60	3.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	5	-20	2.4
BR	1	0	Inf	0.0
GA	0.0004	0.0007	-43	0.0004
GS	1	1	0	0.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

ALCEDINIDAE: kingfishers, kookaburra**Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azureus*

Non-breeding vagrant

Occasionally found perching over water.

General: 5 records of single birds from 5 sites. Earliest was 1/5 Aug London Bridge, Googong (DaC2) and latest 1/9 May Ginninderra Ck Giralang (McD4). Other records include Glenbower GrG07 and Deua NP - Big Hole Marble Arch GrX24. They have only been reported in 12 of the previous 33 years, being reported in all seasons.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common, breeding resident

This species is showing a slow, slight but steady decline in the region over the last 18 years.

General: Reporting rate 11.8% is down 11% on last year, 20% on the 10 YA and 40% on the 30YA. *In 1999, the reporting rate was 20% and since then there has been a slow and steady decline to the current value.* Seasonal records: spring 24% summer 30% autumn 28% and winter 19%. Max 12/11 Nov Tallaganda SF GrV19 (LaK1), average 1.8 and median 1. Earliest breeding was br/22 Oct Red Hill (CnM1) and latest dy/15 Feb Ginninderra Ck Latham Gr L12 (KiB1).

GBS: Recorded all seasons with summer max 27%. The A value has varied from approx. A=0.6 at the beginning of the survey, down to A=0.2 in the mid-nineties, back up to about A=0.4 now. Average 1.8, median 2 with max 12/2wk Dec Ainslie (HaS3). 2 breeding records of the same event: on/4wk Nov and on/1wk Dec Watson (WaK1).

Laughing Kookaburra

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1668	1551	8	532.9
WR	64	79	-19	38.3
G	166	162	2	115.9
BR	15	16	-6	5.6
GA	0.3676	0.3545	4	0.3261
GS	43	42	2	44.8
GBR	2	2	0	4.4

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

Breeding vagrant

This inland species appears here occasionally.

General: No records this year. 8 records, all a single bird in the previous year. In the last 32 years this species has been reported in 2001, 2003 and 2008 onwards.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Sparsely distributed but widespread in the woodlands of the ACT.

General: Reporting rate 4.5% is down 12% on the 10YA and 7% on the 30YA. On the other hand, the abundance (0.0719) is 9% above the 30YA. Max 7/12 Nov Callum Brae NR (SmA1), average 1.6 and median 1. Most records were in spring (52%). and summer (42%). Breeding: earliest on/26 Aug JWNR (CnM1) and latest dy/26 Feb Yerrabi Walking Track GrH26 (CoF1).

GBS: 17 records this year cf 25 last year. Abundance 0.0070 down is 25% on last year, 42% on 10YA and 32% on 30YA. Max 2/4wk Oct Weetangera (WoD1). Earliest 1/3wk Sept Giralang (KaD1) and latest 1/3wk Feb Chapman (HaJ1). No breeding records. Only 5 years in the last 36 years had breeding records.

Sacred Kingfisher

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	630	501	26	130.9
WR	22	9	144	9.1
G	101	82	23	44.2
BR	26	11	136	4.1
GA	0.0070	0.0093	-25	0.0104
GS	12	15	-20	10.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

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

Common, breeding summer migrant

Found near sandy banks of rivers and creeks.

General: Reporting rate 0.9% is down 50% on the 10YA and 48% on the 30YA. Max 20/12 Feb Woodlands Wetland Dam GrK03 (SpB1), average 3.5 and median 2. Earliest 3/26 Sept Coolalie TSR Gr HO2 (SeB1) and latest 10/20 Mar Mt Majura GrL13 (LuN1). 4 breeding records from 2 sites: earliest ih/25 Dec and latest ny/23 Jan both Casuarina Sands Reserve Gr H14 (TaN1).

GBS: 2 records from same site: 15/2wk Oct, maximum and latest 19/3wk Mar at Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

Rainbow Bee-eater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	125	69	81	46.6
WR	0	0	-	0.7
G	44	26	69	22.7
BR	4	0	Inf	2.3
GA	0.0093	0.0117	-20	0.0118
GS	1	2	-50	4.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Hawks for insects from power lines or dead trees on the edges of woodland or suburbs.

General: Reporting rate 2.3% is 14% up on last year but down 19% on the 10YA and 24% on the 30YA. Observed from Nov to Feb with most records from spring 25%, and summer 70%. Max 6/4 Feb Yass Weir GrG02 (SeB1). Breeding: earliest di/1 Nov Campbell Pk (BoC4) and latest dy/1 Mar Ginninderra Ck Latham (KiB1).

GBS: Reporting rate 2.4% is up 11% on last year, 8% up on the 10YA but down 15% on the 30YA. Earliest: 1/2wk Oct Gleneagles GrI16 (PeH2), and latest 1/1wk Mar Campbell GrL13 (LjT1).

Dollarbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	320	308	4	80.6
WR	14	10	40	4.6
G	49	36	36	24.4
BR	13	16	-19	2.7
GA	0.0397	0.0337	18	0.0438
GS	15	16	-6	18.3
GBR	0	1	-100	2.5

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

Uncommon, breeding resident

Occurs in the wetter forests of the ranges. Traditionally considered as “Common” however with the dramatic and continuing decline in the number of records received in recent years, it has been reclassified as “Uncommon”.

General: The reporting rate 0.6% is 2% below the 10 YA and down 74% on the 30YA. The current reporting rate is just below the 0.61% of 2004, the season following the devastating fires of Jan 2003. The reporting rate recovered a little until 2008, but has been in slow but continual decline since then.

Average 1.6 and median 1. Most records were from the mountainous country in the ACT and were generally of a single bird. Max 20/18 Jun Camel Back Fire Trail, TNR GrF17 (HeS1). Earliest 1/4 Jul Old Boboyan Rd GrH24 (W S1) and latest 4/28 Jun Tallaganda State Forest GrV19 (W S1). Recorded in all seasons with a summer maximum of 47%. No breeding records. There have only been 4 years in the past 32 years with breeding records.

Superb Lyrebird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	81	84	-4	60.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	32	36	-11	27.7
BR	1	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Common, breeding resident

Prefers more mature open forests especially at higher altitudes.

General: Fewer records, fewer birds (down 13% but well above the 30YA of 889) than last year, from fewer grid cells, from all weeks. Slightly fewer birds in winter (22%) and more in summer (27%) than the other seasons. *Reporting rate (10.6%) 20% lower than last year and continues the previously reported slow decline from the 10YA (16%) and the 30YA (21%) to the lowest level since systematic records have been kept.*

Abundance (0.2056) also at low level. Max 13/26 Feb Yerrabi Walking Track GrH26 (CoF1), mean 2, median 2. 11 breeding records from 9 grid cells: first nb/18 Aug The Pinnacle NR (WiT1) and last ih/30 Apr McLeods Ck NR Gundaroo GrP07 (CoF1).

GBS: 81 records (204 last year) from 2 rural and 2 suburban sites (6.8% of sites), from 49 weeks. Abundance less than half the previous year and the 10 and 30YAs. All sightings were of single birds. No GBS breeding records and none last year, with only 3 reports throughout the GBS survey.

White-throated Treecreeper

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1498	1555	-4	568.9
WR	104	115	-10	71.9
G	150	162	-7	122.2
BR	11	4	175	3.0
GA	0.0331	0.0880	-62	0.0651
GS	4	10	-60	10.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrops*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Found mostly in the forests west of the Murrumbidgee.

General: 19 records (21 last year) from only 10 grid cells (7 last year). 10 records were in Jan, with 1-3 records sporadically throughout the year. Most sightings at Warks/Blundells Creek Rds, but also Bendora Rd, Tallaganda NP and Corin Dam. Reporting rate (0.1%) half that of last year, well below the 10YA (0.3%) and the 30YA (0.6%). *The reporting rate has always been low, but seldom lower than that of the last 3 years.* Max 4/3 Jan NNP Warks & Blundells Creek Rds (SmA1) and 4/17 Jan NNP – Bendora Rd (DaC2), mean 1.6, median 1. No breeding records. In 35 years, breeding recorded in only 8 years.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Rare, breeding resident

A resident of relatively dry woodlands. Declared vulnerable in the ACT and NSW.

General: Only 72 records (69 last year), well below the 2012 peak of 137, the 10 and 30YAs. Records from all months with a peak unusually in autumn (32%) this year rather than in spring. Reported from only 4.8% of grid cells cf 7.8% last year and 10.9% the year before. *Reporting rate and abundance—parameters that are independent of the recent huge increase in observer effort—have plateaued off at an extremely low level:* reporting rate (0.5%) lower than last year (0.6%), the 10YA of 2.0% and the 30YA of 3 %; abundance (0.0181) the same as last year (0.0174), and much lower than the 10YA (0.0584) and the 30YA (0.0673). Mean 3.6, median 3, max 10/12 Aug Nelangelo (TSR 48) (WiT11). 6 breeding records (2 last year), which is encouraging: cf/9 Oct Bredbo GrM28 (RaL1) and last dy/19 Feb Boboyan Rd Woodland GrH24 (ZwM1).

Brown Treecreeper

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	72	69	4	82.9
WR	2	1	100	8.9
G	15	22	-32	26.9
BR	6	2	200	3.4
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

PTILONORHYNCHIDAE: bowerbird**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Common, breeding resident

An inhabitant of wet forests, now regularly observed in Canberra suburbs.

General: Slightly fewer birds than last year (789 cf 839). Records still mainly from numerous sites in and around Canberra with a few from the Brindabellas. Reporting rate (3.2%) is a little lower than last year, and just over than the 10YA and the 30YA. Abundance is down 22% on last year after increasing for the previous 4 years. Mean 1.8, median 1, max 19/16 Aug Wee Jasper valley GrA09 (DaC2). 22 breeding records (27 last year) which was the largest number recorded, from dy/1 Jul Mt Majura (CnM1) to dy/6 Jan The Pinnacle NR (AlB1), with some early showing off with di/13 May Warrina Inlet/Westbourne Woods (NeG1).

Satin Bowerbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	447	412	8	81.7
WR	7	4	75	1.0
G	62	61	2	26.5
BR	22	27	-19	2.5
GA	0.3680	0.3662	0	0.1727
GS	30	36	-17	16.9
GBR	16	13	23	3.3

GBS: 448 records (403 last year) from 30 sites from all weeks. Abundance up slightly from last year, 60% more than the 10YA and 113% more than the 30YA. *The A value for this species has plateaued after 8 years of significant growth.* 163 breeding records from 4 sites – many more than the 10YA (6.9) and the 30YA (3.3) – from dy/1wk Jul Yarralumla (NeG1) to dy/1wk Mar Curtin (AjR1), with an early start for next season di/4wk Jun Yarralumla GrK14 (NeG1).

MALURIDAE: fairy-wren**Superb Fairy-wren** *Malurus cyaneus*

Common, breeding resident

Found where dense cover for nesting is adjacent to open spaces for foraging.

General: As with last year, increased observer effort has resulted in another increase (11%) in records this year but a very slight decrease in the numbers of individual birds observed (26582), from 62% of grid cells (64% last year). Reporting rate (29%) just under last year (32%) and both 10YA (36%) and 30YA (38%). From all weeks with marginally higher proportions of records in spring and summer than the other seasons. Generally, records have tripled over 30 years and numbers of birds have increased rapidly, but abundance remains reasonably stable. Max 106/14 Jul JWNR (DaC1), mean 6.6 and median 4. Breeding records commenced with br/10 Jul Greenway (CnM1) and finished with dy/19 Feb LGin Pen (AIB1).

GBS: 994 records (1338 last year) from 47 sites (80%) from all weeks. Abundance and number of birds down on last year but all up on long-term values. Mean 3.3, median 3 and max 24/4wk Apr Curtin (AjR1). 21 breeding records (14 last year) commencing with di/2wk Sep Curtin (AjR1) and concluding with nb/3wk Mar Red Hill (WaR4).

Superb Fairy-wren

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	4134	3735	11	1040.0
WR	94	175	-46	70.4
G	196	192	2	138.8
BR	37	24	54	14.9
GA	1.2905	1.5767	-18	1.1586
GS	47	56	-16	50.8
GBR	21	14	50	12.1

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

Rare, breeding resident

An elusive species generally found in the Cotter Valley in the Brindabella Range.

General: All records from the Brindabella Range, Tidbinbilla and Tallaganda SF. Most records from summer (73%), autumn (5%), winter (5%) and spring (16%). Reporting rate 0.1% half that of last year and well below the 10YA (0.3%) and the 30YA (0.4%). Abundance (0.0020) lower than last year (0.0024), the 10YA (0.0047) and the 30YA (0.0054). Average number of birds 1.6, median 1, max 4/1 Mar TNR Lyrebird Trail (DaC2). 2 breeding records this year (only 4 breeding records previously, 1989, 1996, 2011 and 2014): 2dy/15 Feb NNP Warks Rd GrE15 (CoF1 & HiC2).

Pilotbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	19	18	6	11.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	10	9	11	5.8
BR	2	0	Inf	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Found in most areas where there is suitable cover.

General: The table shows how records have increased, and the number of birds sighted has increased to 4535, the highest ever. From 116 grid cells (37%), from 52 weeks. Reporting rate 10.9% similar to last year (11.8%), the 10YA (12.5) and the 30YA (14.3%). Abundance (0.3204) similar to last year, the 10YA and the 30YA. Max 26/8 Apr ANBG (MaL2), mean 3.0 and median 2. Breeding in 14 grid cells, from nb/23 Aug JWNR (HeS1) to dy/2 Mar Corin Dam (HeS1).

GBS: 400 records (473 last year) from 33 sites (56%) from all weeks. Higher number of records in summer (30%) and autumn (33%). Abundance like last year and the 10YA but up 46% on the 30YA, continuing a general upward trend starting in about 2000. Average 1.9 and median 1. 8 breeding

Very common, breeding resident

White-browed Scrubwren

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1549	1382	12	390.3
WR	7	27	-74	4.4
G	116	122	-5	87.9
BR	28	11	155	7.3
GA	0.2882	0.2696	7	0.1969
GS	33	39	-15	23.9
GBR	8	9	-11	5.5

records (9 last year) from 4 suburban sites, commencing with dy/2wk Aug Page (AlB1) and concluding with dy/4wk Feb Chapman (HaJ1).

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygia*

Rare, non-breeding resident

Prefers heathlands but can be found occasionally in the COG AOI in similar habitats.

General: One more record than last year, 13 records – the largest number since records commenced in 1983, from 5 sites. Unlike last year, with about half the records being of the same birds submitted by multiple observers, there are only 2 records apparently of the same bird, at Mt Ainslie NR on 2 Feb (HoS1). Records in Oct and Mar from Cuumbuen NR, in Jan and Feb at Bluetts Block (Uriarra), and Mt Ainslie NR, Queanbeyan West and NNP Yerrabi Walking Track. Max 3/8 Jan Yerrabi Walking Track GrH26 (CaR3), all other records of 1 or 2 birds. Most records (62%) in summer, a complete reversal of last year, and unlike the usual pattern where records are spread across the year. Reporting rate 0.1% which is the 30YA. No breeding records, with only 3 previous records: 1995, 2011 and 2013.

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Prefers undisturbed dry open woodland. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: Observed in every week. A decrease (25%) in the number of birds compared with last year. The reporting rate (2.9%), is well down on the 10YA of 5.2% and the 30YA of 5.5%. The abundance (0.0615) is down about 40% on last year and the 10 and 30YAs. Average number of birds 2.2, median 2, max 9/1 Jul Newline Paddocks (DaC2). 8 breeding records (14 last year) from 6 widely-separated grid cells from nb/24 Jul The Pinnacle NR (AlB1) to dy/28 Jan JWNR (CIJ3).

Speckled Warbler

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	409	507	-19	149.6
WR	26	37	-30	19.3
G	55	59	-7	35.7
BR	8	14	-43	3.0
GA	0.0039	0.0014	183	0.0088
GS	1	1	0	2.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

GBS: 5 records (4 last year) each of 1 bird from a site at Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1), mid-Apr to late Jun. No breeding recorded, only 2 breeding records in the GBS, in 1987 and 1993.

Weebill *Sericornis brevirostris*

Common, breeding resident

Forages mainly for lerps in eucalypts in most areas.

General: Number of birds down 27% on last year but still 64% up on the 10YA and 244% on the 30YA. Reporting rate 11.5%, also down on last year (15.8%) and about half the 10YA (21%) and the 30YA (20%). Abundance (0.4141) down about 40% on last year, the 10YA and the 30YA. Mean 3.7, median 2, max 32/11 Jun Aranda Bushland (LaS1). 24 breeding records (12 last year) from 12 grid cells, from nb/28 Jul JWNR (LeM1) to cf/9 Feb MFNR (CIJ3).

Weebill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1632	1852	-12	558.6
WR	164	189	-13	139.8
G	99	100	-1	66.6
BR	24	14	71	6.4
GA	0.4712	0.4766	-1	0.5814
GS	26	38	-32	35.3
GBR	7	6	17	4.0

GBS: 443 records from 26 sites (44%), from all weeks, well down on last year. Number of birds (1,210) a little below last year, half the 10YA and 24% down on the 30YA. Mean 2.7, median 2, max 20/2wk May Holder (SpK9). 7 breeding records (6 last year) from 3 sites: first nb/4wk Nov Curtin (AjR1) and last dy/3wk Apr Cook (TaN1).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

Rare, winter visitor

A bird of the coastal forest, occasionally seen in the COG AOI.

General: 6 records this year: 5 records of probably the same bird at ANBG 5-14 May (SmA1, MiP1, LaK1, HoS1 and W S1), and another sighting at Deua NP Big Hole on 13 Aug (EbD1). No breeding records ever in the COG AOI.

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*

Found in drier woodland with a scrubby understory.

General: Observed mainly in spring (53%) and summer (34%), lower in autumn (10%) and winter (2%). Reporting rate 1.6% down on last year (2.3%) and lower than the 10YA (2.7%) and the 30YA (3.2%). Abundance (0.0276) lower than last year (0.0423) the 10YA and the 30YA. Mean 1.7, median 1, max 6/11 Sep MFNR (LaK1). 7 breeding records – like last year, an unusually high number – from 4 locations from nb/29 Oct Newline Paddocks (DaG2) to dy/20 Feb NNPVIC (SmA1).

GBS: No records this year. 3 records last year. Continues pattern of lower garden records in past 2 decades compared to higher numbers in first decade of GBS. No breeding records ever recorded in GBS.

Common, breeding summer migrant

Western Gerygone

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	230	272	-15	87.5
WR	39	45	-13	26.4
G	40	36	11	23.0
BR	7	5	40	1.3
GA	0.0000	0.0017	-100	0.0030
GS	0	2	-100	3.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

Prefers fairly well watered woodlands, including Canberra gardens.

General: Very few winter records and most from spring (52%), summer (38%) and autumn (10%) close to the long-term averages. Earliest record 2/25 Aug MFNR (LaK1) and latest 2/7 Apr MFNR (ClJ3). Reporting rate 3.4% down 20% on last year and lower than the 10YA (5.7%) and half the 30YA (6.8%). Mean 2.0, median 1, max 14/20 Nov MFNR (LaK1). Abundance (0.0676) lower than last year, the 10 and 30YAs. 12 breeding records from 9 areas in the ACT and from Nelangelo TSR 48 in NSW: first nb/16 Oct Mt Ainslie NR (DaC2) and last dy/26 Feb Yerrabi Walking Track (CoF1).

GBS: 12 records (34 last year) from 4 sites (7%), from 12 weeks. No winter or autumn records, 50% each in spring and summer. Total number of birds 12 cf 36 last year and 71 the year before. This is down 78% on the 10YA (55) and 74% on the 30YA (46). Abundance (0.0047) much lower than last year (0.0124), the 10YA (0.0172) and the 30YA (0.0168). All records of single birds. No breeding records this year, breeding reported only in 2011 and 2012.

Common, breeding summer migrant

White-throated Gerygone

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	480	497	-3	185.3
WR	69	84	-18	49.6
G	77	72	7	45.5
BR	12	13	-8	4.1
GA	0.0047	0.0124	-62	0.0168
GS	4	8	-50	9.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Forages in groups in the upper foliage of wet and dry forests and woodlands.

General: Abundance and reporting rates are 37% down on last year and are 40-50% lower than the 10 & 30YAs. *The reporting rate is at an all-time low since 1988, as is the abundance.* Number of birds (3503) which is 24% less than last year but twice the 30YA. Mean 4.6, median 4, max 30/16 Apr Wamboin GrP11 (McD1). 10 breeding records from 7 grid cells, on a par with the 10 & 30YAs. First breeding record nb/28 Jul Lyneham Ridge (LeM1) and last dy/22 Dec Collector Rd GrU07 (LeM1).

GBS: 116 records from 2 rural and 9 suburban sites from 48 weeks. Seasonal distribution again quite even this year. Abundance (A=0.1861) again down on last year and is now 28% below the 30YA. Average group size 4.1, median 4, max 15/2wk Aug Gleneagles (PeH1). Only 2 breeding records both dy in Nov at Curtin (AjR1).

Very common, breeding resident

Striated Thornbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	783	860	-9	318.0
WR	30	35	-14	33.4
G	119	119	0	92.1
BR	10	14	-29	8.1
GA	0.1861	0.3136	-41	0.2594
GS	11	16	-31	22.1
GBR	2	2	0	0.8

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

Least common resident thornbill, generally found in densely branching undergrowth such as wattle trees.

General: There is some good news this year for this species. As well as increased records, bird numbers are up 60% on last year, more than twice the 10YA and over 3x the 30YA. Reporting rate (1.5%) is up 50% on last year, about the same as the 10YA (1.4%) but just under the 30YA (1.8%). Similarly, the abundance is climbing a little off the bottom of the chart. Max 16/27 Jan LBath GrZ08 (LeM1), mean 2.7 and median 2. Reported regularly throughout the year with slightly more in spring (26%) and autumn (30%). 7 breeding records: first nb/18 Aug The Pinnacle NR (AlB1) and last dy/5 Jan JWNR (LeM1).

GBS: 41% decrease from last year to 55 records from 3 suburban (Lyneham, Giralang and Curtin) and 2 rural sites (Carwoola and Wamboin), 9% of sites, from 39 weeks, essentially the same as last year. Fewest records in spring, most in autumn (33%) with 26% in winter and 24% in summer. Abundance ($A=0.0393$) is down 46% on last year but up 45% on the 10YA, and even more on the 30YA. Max 5/1wk Feb Wamboin (CoK2), mean 1.8, median 2. A single breeding record: nb/2wk Sep Curtin (AjR1).

Uncommon, breeding resident

Yellow Thornbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	215	119	81	50.2
WR	1	2	-50	1.8
G	51	37	38	25.2
BR	7	1	600	1.1
GA	0.0393	0.0726	-46	0.0261
GS	5	6	-17	5.5
GBR	1	1	0	0.3

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

An easily recognised ground feeding bird of open forests, urban parks and suburban streets and gardens.

General: More records (2093) than last year but from fewer grid cells (48%) for all weeks. Number of birds recorded (10758) down 8% on last year. Reporting rate (14.8%) is well below the 30YA (23.5%). Max 55/23 Jun LGeo E (LeM1), mean 5.3, and median 4. Records distributed evenly throughout the year, with slightly fewer in autumn (21%). 54 breeding records from 25 grid cells: first nb/17 Jul Gungahlin Hill NR (CoF1) and latest dy/8 Jan Mt Ainslie NR (HoS1) with an early start to next season nb/22 Jun Campbell Park (HoS1).

GBS: 351 records from 35 sites (59%) in all weeks. Abundance ($A=0.5533$) was lower than the previous year continuing a downward trend from $A=1.5$ in 2009, and less than half the 10 and 30YAs. Mean 4.0, median 3 and max 30/4wk May Crace (LeF1). 16 breeding records from 3 sites with 8 records from Curtin (AjR1) with first nb/4wk Aug Curtin (AjR1) and last dy/2wk Jan Page (AlB1).

Very common, breeding resident

Yellow-rumped Thornbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2093	1947	7	640.7
WR	54	87	-38	44.0
G	151	156	-3	110.1
BR	54	60	-10	23.9
GA	0.5533	0.6874	-20	1.3274
GS	35	38	-8	52.3
GBR	16	23	-30	20.9

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

Forages in the middle levels of foliage in drier grassy woodlands.

General: Number of birds (5562) down by 18% on last year but numbers much higher than 10 (3061) and 30YAs (1759). Reporting rate 7.2% is 26% down on last year, and well under the 10 and 30YA and is still declining since 1999 towards its lowest value ever. Mean 5.7, median 4, max 42/9 Apr Michelago Gr124 (HeS1). 48 breeding records from 20 grids. First breeding nb/16 Jul The Pinnacle NR (AlB1) and last dy/17 Apr The Pinnacle NR (AlB1).

GBS: A massive reduction in records from 86 last year to only 19 this year from only 2 rural and 1 suburban site (5%), and only 19 weeks. There were only 2 sightings in Canberra suburbs. The plummeting abundance value, and reporting rate make for a very

Common, breeding resident

Buff-rumped Thornbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1019	1145	-11	390.8
WR	93	116	-20	69.0
G	98	111	-12	81.6
BR	48	38	26	13.7
GA	0.0238	0.1080	-78	0.1442
GS	3	11	-73	10.6
GBR	0	5	-100	1.6

pessimistic outlook for this species in Canberra gardens. Abundance ($A=0.0238$) is 78% lower than last year and down 88% on the 10YA. Average 3.2, median 2, with max 6/2wk Feb Giralang (McD4). No breeding records.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

Found everywhere in the region except open grasslands.

General: When observer effort is considered, indices such as the abundance and reporting rates show little overall long term change since 1991. However, the reporting rate (11.3%) is down on last year and is below the 30YA (15.7%). Mean 2.4, median 2, max 18/18 Mar Blundells Ck Rd (KyP1). 11 widely scattered breeding records in 9 grids commencing with dy/9 Oct Michelago GrL24 (AlB1) and concluding with dy/26 Jan NNP Mt Ginini (HoS1).

GBS: 539 records from 33 sites (56%), from all weeks.

Numbers of birds (989) well down on last year, but up 9% on 30YA. Abundance ($A=0.3851$) is 17% down on last year but still 15 % above the 30YA. Average 1.8, median 2. Only 2 breeding records (long-term average 2.5) at 1 site: ny/3wk Oct and dy/1wk Nov at Curtin (AjR1).

Very common, breeding resident

Brown Thornbill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1602	1543	4	427.6
WR	23	38	-39	17.1
G	147	146	1	107.1
BR	11	11	0	5.3
GA	0.3851	0.4622	-17	0.3350
GS	33	43	-23	35.0
GBR	2	11	-82	2.8

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*

A ground-feeder in drier scrub and grassland margins.

General: Although the number of records and number of grids (32) are up this year, the number of birds seen (270) was almost the same as last year. Recorded in 42 weeks spread throughout the year, with slightly more (31%) in spring and slightly less (16%) in winter. Max 11 (well down on the 10 & 30YA of 50) sighted on 4 Jul at Naas and Apollo Rds (W S1), mean 3.2, median 2. Reporting rate 0.7% is the same as last year, but well below 10 YA and 30YA (both 2%). Abundance has remained at the low level of 0.2 over the last 5 years. 10 breeding records

(10 & 30 YAs are 3 and 2 records) at 6 sites, including 5 records from Narrabundah Hill: earliest nb/17 Aug Mulanggari Grasslands GrL11 (GrB1) and latest dy/22 Jan LBath S Morass (LeM1); other breeding sites include JWNr, Centennial Trail Taylor GrK10, and Red Hill.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Southern Whiteface

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	105	86	22	57.0
WR	2	4	-50	3.5
G	32	25	28	24.5
BR	10	8	25	2.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0002
GS	0	0	-	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

PARDALOTIDAE: pardalotes

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

Easily recognised from its call, foraging in larger eucalypts.

General: Reporting rate 12.3% is down around 22% on last year as well as down on the 10 and 30YAs. *It is the lowest it has been since 1995. Abundance (0.36) is also low, approaching the record lows of 1995 and 1996.* Mean 3.0 median 2, max 165/9 Apr Bredbo GrL28 (TaN1) is above the 30YA (130). Seasonal distribution follows the long-term pattern of a low (16%) in summer. 10 breeding records from 7 grid cells: first ih/7 Aug Percival Hill NR (HaJ7) and last dy/27 Nov Callum Brae NR (SmA1).

GBS: Another decrease from the previous year, with 626 records from 38 sites (64%), from all weeks. Abundance (32%) is under the 30YA. Mean 2 with max 15/2wk Apr Ainslie (HoS1). Only 1 breeding record this year: dy/2wk Jan Page (AlB1), cf 6 last year and 30 3 years ago.

Very common, breeding resident/migrant

Spotted Pardalote

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1738	1840	-6	609.8
WR	78	84	-7	75.2
G	139	143	-3	109.6
BR	10	13	-23	7.4
GA	0.4650	0.5932	-22	0.6832
GS	38	48	-21	51.1
GBR	1	6	-83	9.8

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

Very common, breeding resident/migrant

Common in the tablelands and often heard in the suburbs.

General: Fewer records than last year and fewer birds seen (4856 cf 6719 last year). WOO records up on last year. *Both the abundance measure and reporting rate have fallen to record lows, with the A value being 0.3431 and the reporting rate 12% both about half of the long-term averages.* Mean 2.9, median 2, with max 45/10 Apr Belconnen Golf Course (CaR3). 32 breeding records from 21 grids commencing with ih/7 Aug Wanniasa Hills NR (CaR3) and last ny/13 Feb Ngunnawal (LeM1). Breeding reporting rate at a record low of 12%.

GBS: Indices now show some downward change over previous years: 487 records from 35 sites (59%), in all weeks. Abundance (A=0.3789) down 12% on last year. Mean 2, median 1 with max 24/3wk Aug Page (AlB1). 7 breeding records from 1 rural and 3 suburban sites: from ih/3wk Aug Watson (WaK1) to dy/1wk Mar Ainslie (HoS1).

Striated Pardalote

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1697	1951	-13	712.4
WR	204	257	-21	143.6
G	155	163	-5	122.4
BR	32	34	-6	17.6
GA	0.3789	0.4309	-12	0.5687
GS	35	45	-22	48.6
GBR	7	10	-30	15.5

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

Common, breeding resident

A common bird of gardens, particularly in autumn and winter.

General: The number of records decreased from last year and reporting rate declined from 10.4% to 8.1%, well above the lowest reporting rate of 5.6% in 2009, and comparable to the long-term averages. Observed throughout the year but a higher proportion of sightings in autumn (30%) and winter (36%). Breeding records typically rare, 5 this year after 1 last year, all dy, on 6 Nov, 9 Nov and 18 Nov at ANBG, 15 Jan Collector Rd GrU07 and 7 Apr Murrumbateman.

GBS: Recorded from 80% of sites, slightly less than last year (85%). Abundance was also lower than last year (26% lower) and below the 30YA. More birds seen in autumn (36%) and winter (34%), similar to the general records. 4 breeding records, all dy, earliest 1wk Nov Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4), 3 from 1 site in Page GrJ12, 1-3wk Feb (AlB1).

Eastern Spinebill

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1143	1222	-6	296.1
WR	12	17	-29	10.5
G	125	99	26	66.0
BR	5	1	400	1.6
GA	0.4692	0.6358	-26	0.5958
GS	47	57	-18	57.5
GBR	4	6	-33	3.3

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Non-breeding vagrant

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

General: 5 records this year, 6 in each of the last 2 years. 1 record 1/10 Jan Tidbinbilla NR Grid F17 (SmA1); 2 from Tallaganda National Park GrU21 2/30 Jan and 1/20 Feb; 2 from Namadgi NP Warks/Blundells Ck Rds, probably the same bird on 10 and 12 Mar (AlR1).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

Very common, breeding resident/summer migrant

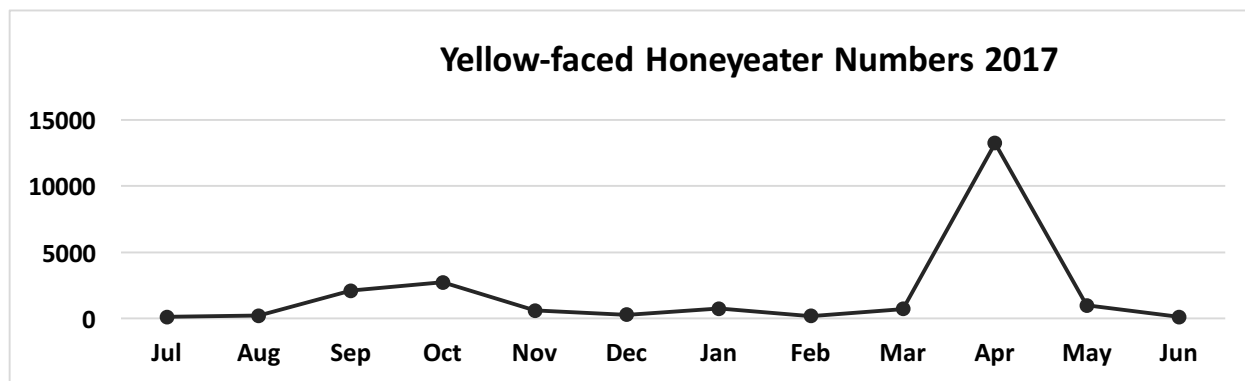
Migratory species with spectacular autumn departure in large flocks, some overwintering birds, but the majority returning in spring to breed, mainly in the mountains.

General: The reporting rate of 13.8% was slightly higher than last year (13.3%) although still well below the 30YA (19.3%). Increased observer effort this year has resulted in the number of records and the number of birds being higher than last year. The 2nd most commonly reported honeyeater, 46% of records in spring and 24% in autumn. Records of overwintering birds

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1957	1557	26	527.2
WR	59	53	11	35.5
G	200	184	9	124.5
BR	9	5	80	3.6
GA	3.6215	1.9453	86	2.2080
GS	45	49	-8	52.7
GBR	7	2	250	1.1

in the suburbs during July and August were common again this year (similar to last year) with the first large group of returning birds 90/10 Sep near Michelago GrL25 (LaS2). Autumn movement was first noted in late March 42/26 Mar along the Murrumbidgee north of ACT GrG09 (HeS1). Max during autumn migration 2000/19 Apr Gigerline GrK20 (BuM1), mean 11.6 median 2. 9 breeding records, 4 from Baroona Rd Michelago GrL25 (LaS2) where breeding has been recorded for the past 3 years. 2 broods recorded. Other records include the earliest record cf/18 Sep from Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Bibaringa GrH14, Kambah Pool and the latest record ny/26 Jan Namadgi NP Warks/Blundells Ck Rds (HoS1).



GBS: Recorded at 76% of sites (similar to last year) in all but 1 week. Abundance ($A=2.7648$) was significantly higher (42%) than last year, and 28 % higher than the 30YA. 6 overwintering records in July from only 2 sites, 12 in Aug from 7 sites. Spring return movement first noted in 1wk Sept with 30 in Weston GrJ15 (MaA2) and 25 in Duffy GrI15 (CaJ4), then small flocks of 8-40 in 2wk Sept from 9 sites. Autumn movement started strongly in 4wk Mar with flocks of 8-30 recorded from 8 sites. 9 Flocks of 100+ birds with largest flock 500 in 3wk and 4wk Apr from Pearce GrK15 (KrS1). 7 breeding records, 6 from the one site in Carwoola GrQ16, of 2 different breeding events. First nb/2wk Dec Carwoola (BuM1), last dy/5wk Jan Giralang GrK12 (McD4).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens*

Non-breeding vagrant

Usual distribution is well inland of the ACT. Only 4 previous records, with 1 in Wilson (1999) and the most recent being in 2006-07, 2009-10, then 22 records in 2013-4 of probably only 1 or 2 birds.

General: No records this year.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*

Common, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

Generally uncommon in the suburbs.

General: The number of records (602) was lower than last year. Reporting rate of 4.3% was 37% lower than last year (6.8%) and significantly below the 11.2% 30YA. Records highest in autumn and winter (36% each). Max 12/30 Oct Hall GrJ10 (McD4), mean 2, median 1. 3 breeding records: dy/8 Jan NNP Warks/Blundell Ck Rds GrE15 (ReS1), dy/23 Jan Cuumbeun NR GrO15 (BuM1) and ny/26 Jan Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

White-eared Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	602	794	-24	305.1
WR	28	40	-30	20.2
G	126	127	-1	97.8
BR	3	5	-40	2.9
GA	0.0635	0.0997	-36	0.0986
GS	22	19	16	29.3
GBR	1	2	-50	0.5

GBS: Recorded at 37% sites, higher than last year. 35% of records in autumn, 24% in winter and 27% in spring, double the usual percentage. More than half of all records were from 3 rural sites in Wamboin GrQ12, Carwoola Gr Q16 and Burra GrM20, with records virtually absent (as usual) from suburban sites between Sep and March. The A-value (0.0635) was one-third lower than last year and the 30YA.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

Rare, breeding resident

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

General: 10 records, (14 last year), but 7 records from Gigerline NR GrK20 of 1-6 birds between 17 July and 21 May. The other 3 records were from Michelago Gr N25 1/9 Oct (BrJ3), Naas Valley GrJ26 2/30 Oct (HaS4) and Bredbo River GrQ30 29 Dec (FeH1) where the max number of birds was seen (20). The number of records has declined from a peak in 2009, but this is largely due to an absence of reports from a stronghold of the species along the Queanbeyan River. 1 breeding record ny/30 Oct Naas Valley (HaS4).

GBS: No records this year. 1 record 4 years ago and the previous year from Hoskinstown. Recorded in most years with low numbers of sightings.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus*

Uncommon, breeding resident/ autumn migrant

Uncommon in the suburbs but sometimes overwinters.

General: Number of records slightly higher but reporting rate the same as last year, and less than half the 2.3% 30YA. 41% of records in the winter months, all from lowland locations, but most of these in Jul-Aug and few in the following June, indicating few birds overwintering in 2017. Max 35/9 April near Bredbo GrM28 (LaS1), mean 3.9 and median 2. 5 breeding records, all from southern Namadgi NP; 2 records from Boboyan Rd GrH24 on/1 Jan (SmA1) and dy/13 Feb (DaC2), 2 records from Yankee Hat Gr H25 dy/26 Jan (McD1) and dy/13 Feb (DaC2), and dy/27 Feb Glendale Crossing Gr I23 (LaK1).

GBS: Only 3 records (10 last year, 32 the previous year), the equal lowest number of records (also 2013). 3 sites: 1/4wk Sep Weston GrJ15 (BoJ1), 1/3wk Oct Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1) and 1/16 Apr Giralang GrK12 (McD4). *The A value ($A=0.0012$) was the lowest recorded and 98% down on the 30YA.* No breeding records. There has been only 1 breeding record in the 34 years of the GBS, in 2002.

Fuscous Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	122	106	15	63.5
WR	1	0	Inf	2.2
G	45	38	18	29.3
BR	5	4	25	2.7
GA	0.0012	0.0041	-72	0.0744
GS	3	5	-40	15.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

Common, breeding resident

Most common in woodlands in lowland areas.

General: *Fewer records and a lower reporting rate (6.3%) than last year, bringing it down close to half the 30YA, its lowest value, similar to the values of 1997 and 1998.* WOO records only half that of last year. Records spread evenly across the season. Max 32/5 Feb Nelangelo TSR 48 GRO05 (LeM1), mean 3.1, median 2. Similar large numbers recorded consistently from LGin and Nelangelo TSR 48. 19 breeding records (16 last year): first dy/15 Nov Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (GrB1) and last dy/18 Mar LGin Pen GrJ12 (AlB1).

GBS: Recorded at 22% of sites, down from last year. Abundance ($A=0.0503$) was only slightly lower than last year, 56% below the 30YA. 1 breeding record, from the same site as last year's breeding in Jerrabomberra GrM16: dy/3wk Dec (HaL2).

White-plumed Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	889	1010	-12	300.1
WR	23	52	-56	28.7
G	84	80	5	55.7
BR	19	16	19	12.0
GA	0.0506	0.0519	-3	0.1156
GS	13	18	-28	25.3
GBR	1	2	-50	0.8

White-fronted Honeyeater *Purnella albifrons* 624

Rare, non-breeding vagrant

A rare visitor from the west.

General: No records this year. First recorded in 2007 at JWNR, and sporadic sightings subsequently in 2010, 2011 (all in the ACT) and 2013 at LGeo.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

Non-breeding vagrant

Usual distribution is coastal forests of south-eastern Australia. Records for the region usually come from the upper Queanbeyan River.

General: No records this year. 1 record in 2006 and 3 records 2014.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Very common, breeding resident

Woodland species commonly observed in Canberra suburbs and surrounding nature parks.

General: Number of records higher than last year as is the reporting rate (5%) still 43% above 30YA. Since 1991, the reporting rate has increased dramatically from 4.3% to a peak of 25% this year. The number of WOO records was the same as last year. Max 60/10 July Mt Ainslie NR (OrY1), the mean dropped from 7.0 to 4.9 and the median from 4 to 3. 49 breeding records, close to the highest number of records (54) from two years ago, and more than twice the 30YA: first nb/16 Jul Mt Ainslie NR (HoS1); last dy/27 Feb Sutton GrO10 (McD1).

Noisy Miner

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	3584	2818	27	482.7
WR	237	237	0	95.5
G	95	99	-4	58.3
BR	49	31	58	14.1
GA	1.4907	1.5186	-2	0.4706
GS	35	39	-10	19.8
GBR	63	39	62	11.1

GBS: Recorded at 59% of sites, similar to last year, but in decreased numbers. Between 1982 and 2004 the abundance hovered around $A=0.2$. Since then the abundance has dramatically increased year after year to its highest level of $A=1.5186$ last year. This year it is slightly lower $A=1.4907$. Max 25/2wk Oct Ainslie GrL13 (HaS3), mean 4.4, median 3. 63 breeding records from 7 sites, more records than last year (39) but from fewer sites: first nb/2wk Jul Bonner GrL10 (GrB1); last dy/3wk May Ainslie (HaS3), with an early start to the next breeding season co/2wk June Ainslie (HaS3).

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

Non-breeding vagrant

Vagrant from inland districts.

General: No records this year. Previous records: Aug 2011 Gundaroo, Oct 2010 Michelago and 2010 Mt Ainslie.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Non-breeding vagrant

Vagrant from coastal districts.

General: No records this year. 1 record in Nov 2013.

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

Rare, breeding visitor

Rare summer visitor to the region. Declared endangered in the ACT, and critically endangered in NSW and the Commonwealth.

General: 1 record this year, none last year, 3 records previous year. 1/21 Nov ANU GrK13 (MiP1). Recorded in about half the years since 1983.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* Very common, breeding resident/ autumn migrant

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

General: Number of records almost identical to last year, but reporting rate of 34% was below the 41% last year and much closer to the 34.4% 30YA. The number of birds was lower than last year's significant peak, but still more than 5 times the 30YA, continuing the dramatic increase of the last 3 years. This appears to be due to increased observer effort and large groups (20+) being regularly reported from several locations around Canberra. Records fairly even throughout seasons with a slight peak in spring (28%). Max 123/23 April JWNr (MiP1), mean 3.5, median 2. 130 breeding

Red Wattlebird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	4789	4800	-0	937.2
WR	109	124	-12	57.4
G	169	161	5	114.1
BR	130	91	43	28.2
GA	2.2745	2.5585	-11	2.4739
GS	58	67	-13	63.9
GBR	179	193	-7	128.9

records, the highest number ever, and 39 more than last year: the first relatively late for this species, nb/29 Aug JWNR (LeM1), last dy/26 Feb Wamboin (McD1).

GBS: Recorded at all but one site in all weeks, with observations distributed evenly throughout the four seasons. Abundance ($A = 2.2745$) has declined slightly over the last two years, and has now dipped below the 30YA. Like last year, the Red Wattlebird is the most abundant honeyeater species in the GBS. Breeding records slightly fewer than last year, recorded at 32 of 59 sites: first nb/5wk Jul Florey (BrJ3), last dy/1wk Mar Chapman (HoJ1),

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

Rare, breeding resident

Not often reported, except from LGeo and LBath and Stromlo Forest Park. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: 88 records, the highest number ever, but fewer birds reported. 24 records from the Stromlo Forest Park – Coombs ponds area, 18 records from NatArbor, 18 from Hume wetland, and 23 from LGeo & LBath. Max 30/22 June LGeo E (LeM1). 8 breeding records from 4 locations: first ny/3 Sept Hume wetland (CaR3) last cf/6 Jan Edgeworth Pond, Coombs (HeS1).

GBS: 3 records this year after none last year. The first records for the GBS were two years ago from a single site in Wright.

All 3 records this year were from the same site, 1/3wk Aug, 2/11 Nov, 2/30 Apr (DeD2).

White-fronted Chat

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	88	57	54	24.5
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	14	14	0	7.4
BR	7	2	250	1.2
GA	0.0019	0.0000	Inf	0.0001
GS	1	0	Inf	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Black Honeyeater *Sugomel niger*

Non-breeding vagrant

Vagrant from inland.

General: A single record: 1/26 Feb JWNR (SmA1). Recorded only 4 times since 1982: 1991 (Wilson 1999) 15 records in 2006-07, 1 at West Macgregor in Oct 2009 and 12 records in 2013-14.

Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Rare, non-breeding visitor.

Visitor from coastal districts.

General: 2 records this year, of the same bird, 1/9 Nov ANBG (MiP1, SmA1). 2 records in each of 2006-07, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2012-13 and 7 records in 2013-14.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

Uncommon, breeding resident/alt. migrant

Reported mostly during the winter months.

General: 49 records this year, 38 last year but reporting rate of 0.3% is still well down on the 1.1% 30YA. Most records are of 1 or 2 birds, 45% in winter. 10 records from TNR, 4 from NNP, 3 from Tallaganda, and the remainder from lowland nature parks and ANU/ANBG during winter months. Max 5/30 Oct Kambah Pool (PeV1). Reporting rate 0.3% compared with the long-term average of 1.0%. The only breeding records are 1 in 2014 and 3 in 1990. None this year.

GBS: 8 records from a single site in Chapman (HaJ1). Records from 2-5wk Jul, then 3wk May-2wk June. Abundance dropped sharply in 2003 and has remained at very low levels since. This year $A=0.0031$, less than one-fifth of the 30YA.

Crescent Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	49	38	29	30.5
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	14	18	-22	13.4
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0031	0.0045	-30	0.0169
GS	1	4	-75	5.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Uncommon but reported regularly from a few locations where grevilleas or banksias are abundant.

General: The number of records, number of birds and reporting rate have all increased from last year. This does not necessarily reflect a real increase in the population as 88% of records are from two locations and probably reporting the same birds; ANBG (26% of records) and JWNR (62%). The seasonal pattern is typical for this species with most records in spring (35%) and fewest in summer (18%). Max 20/15 Aug ANBG (HoS1), mean 3.6 and median 2. 12 breeding records, more than any other year, but most records are probably of the same breeding events; first nb/31 July JWNR (LaK1), dy/18 Nov ANBG (MiP1).

GBS: 35 records this year, down from 54 records last year. Records at 5 sites: Chapman, Duffy, Gleneagles, Giralang, and Carwoola GrQ16. Abundance has fluctuated greatly over the years. Following a period of low abundance from 2002 to 2009, the A value steadily increased until 2012 and has remained fairly stable around the present value of A=0.0304, close to the 30YA. Seasonal distribution similar to the other years with only one record between 3wk Aug and 1wk Jan. 1 breeding record this year: dy/2wk Jan Carwoola (BuM1). This is only the 7th year in the history of the GBS where breeding has been recorded.

Uncommon, breeding resident

New Holland Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	586	449	31	104.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	24	22	9	13.3
BR	12	1	1100	1.1
GA	0.0304	0.0361	-16	0.0332
GS	5	5	0	6.4
GBR	1	0	Inf	0.3

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

A species of drier forests at all altitudes.

General: Number of records, number of birds and reporting rate of 2.5% all lower than last year, and reporting rate less than half the 30YA. WOO records similar to last year. Lowest proportion of records in autumn (14%). Max 20/1 Jul MFNR (CIJ3), mean 3.8, median 3. 12 breeding records, same as last year: first nb/9 Oct Michelago (MaS3), last dy/7 Apr MFNR (CIJ3).

GBS: 36 records, 38 last year, from only 6 sites. Records from 2 rural sites: 22 Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2), 4 Carwoola (BuM1); and 4 suburban sites: 5 Giralang GrK12, 3 Chapman GrI15, 1 each Cook GrJ13 and Red Hill GrK14. Mostly observed in groups of 3-10. Abundance A=0.0498 was lower than last year, but still above the 30YA.

Common, breeding resident

Brown-headed Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	347	433	-20	118.7
WR	33	34	-3	17.8
G	67	78	-14	43.5
BR	12	12	0	2.6
GA	0.0498	0.0646	-23	0.0424
GS	6	4	50	4.8
GBR	0	3	-100	0.2

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

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

General: Number of records higher than last year and reporting rate slightly above last year's record low but still less than half the 30YA. Fewer records in winter this year than last year (19%) with most records in spring (42%). The return migration in spring contained a few large flocks including the year's maximum 80/22 Sep Athllon Drive (FrM1). Autumn migration was first noted with a few small flocks in the first week of April, typical for this species. Mean 6.2, median 3. 6 breeding records: first on/1 Jan Booroomba Rocks (SmA1), last dy/8 Feb Tallaganda NP (DaC2).

Common, breeding resident/summer migrant

White-naped Honeyeater

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	405	320	27	177.2
WR	7	4	75	5.3
G	99	83	19	67.1
BR	6	4	50	4.6
GA	0.2177	0.2118	3	0.3745
GS	17	22	-23	28.1
GBR	1	0	Inf	0.0

GBS: 69 records is above the 58 of last year, but still only about half the 30YA. No records in July, only 1 in Aug, but sudden start to return migration 25/1wk Sept in Duffy. Unusually, the number of records continued strongly through Oct and even into 1wk Dec at 1 site in Weston. Then no records until autumn migration started 1wk Apr. Max 100/5wk Apr Jerrabomberra (HaL2). Abundance ($A=0.2177$) was marginally higher than last year but still only about half of the 30YA. Since the last peak of $A=1$ in 1999, A values have usually been between 0.1 and 0.2.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

A species mostly of lowland woodland regions.

General: Number of records and reporting rate (7.3%) lower than last year and the 30YA (14.0%). Since 1990, the reporting rate has remained steady around 10%, with high points in 1999 and 2000, *but this year is the lowest since 1995*. Nearly all records (91%) in spring and summer. Earliest record 1/18 Aug JWNR (LeM1), last 3/15 Apr JWNR (SmA1). Max 50/8 Mar Mulligans Flat (WyP1), mean 2.9, median 2. 72 breeding records, the highest number recorded: the first unusually late nb/17 Nov North Lyneham (LeM1), last dy/19 Feb Campbell Park (BuM4).

GBS: Number of records halved from last year. Recorded at 61% of sites, well below 81% last year and the 30YA of 89%. First record was a month earlier than usual: 1/5wk Jul Florey (BrJ3); last record was also early, 1/5wk Apr Curtin GrK14 (AjR1). Max 10/1wk Sep Narrabundah (PaR9). *Abundance ($A=0.1573$) was the lowest recorded, well below last year and now 75% below the 30YA*. From a peak of $A=1.23$ in 2000, the species has recorded a steady decline in the GBS. However, the 21 breeding records was a big improvement on last year's 5: first di/2wk Sept Curtin (AjR1), last dy/5wk Jan Curtin (AjR1).

Common, breeding summer migrant

Noisy Friarbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1032	1181	-13	381.8
WR	67	98	-32	58.8
G	94	99	-5	68.6
BR	72	60	20	19.0
GA	0.1573	0.2665	-41	0.6252
GS	36	54	-33	57.5
GBR	21	5	320	33.1

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

More commonly found to the north and west of the ACT.

General: 5 records this year after none last year and 2 the year before. 1/25 Nov Casey Wetlands (CIJ3), 1/16 Jan Goulburn Wetlands (EbD1), 1/28 Jan Callum Brae NR (SmA1), 1/9 Mar Mulligans Flat (CIJ3), 1/27 Mar JWNR (SmA1). No breeding records.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*

Rare, breeding visitor

Major influx to the region in 2002-3. A few records in 2006-07, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2012-13. Declared vulnerable in the ACT and NSW.

General: No records this year.

POMATOSTOMIDAE: babblers

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

Non-breeding vagrant

The ACT is on the south-eastern edge of the range of this species. Eastern subspecies declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: No records this year, most recent records in 2011-12 (Gundaroo Common) and in 2004-07 (Duntroon Golf Course).

CINCLOSOMATIDAE: quail-thrush**Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*

A resident of the dry forests of the ACT.

General: 41 birds recorded, more than last year (27), the 10YA (25) and the 30YA (26). Recorded in 18 weeks. Reporting rate (0.2%) similar to last year's (0.1%) and the 10YA (0.3%), though much lower than the 30YA (0.8%). Recorded from 5% of grid cells surveyed (4% last year). All records of 1, 2 or 3 birds, max 3/13 Mar Bulls Head GrD16 (HiC1) and 3/17 Apr Brindabella Road walking track GrC15 (AuN1). Records from NNP, Googong Foreshore, Gundaroo, Mt Majura NR, Mulloon Creek and Tallaganda. Two unusual breeding records, both from Bulls Head GrD16: cf/17 Jan (DaC2) and cf/21 Jan (ReS1). Previous breeding records only from 1987, 1999 and 2012.

GBS: no records.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Spotted Quail-thrush

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	27	16	69	21.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	14	11	27	14.0
BR	2	0	Inf	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

PSOPHODIDAE: whipbird**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

The Brindabella Range is towards the western edge of its range.

General: 112 birds recorded, more than last year (82) and far more than the 10YA (48) and the 30YA (28). Recorded in all months except for May and Jul, with 26% in spring, 53% in summer, 10% in autumn and 11% in winter. Reporting rate (0.4%) similar to last year (0.3%), the 10YA (0.5%) and the 30YA (0.6%). Recorded from 6% of grid cells surveyed (4% last year), more than the 10YA the 30YA (both 4%), all from NNP, Tallaganda, Tharwa Sandwash, Tidbinbilla, Uriarra Forest, Wee Jasper and Woods Reserve. Max 8/3 Jan Warks/Blundells Ck Rd GrE15 (SmA1), mean 1.9, median 1. 2 breeding records (probably of the same bird), the first since 1994: both dy/3 Jan Warks/Blundells Ck Rd GrE15 (SmA1).

Uncommon, breeding resident

Eastern Whipbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	62	39	59	17.5
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	20	13	54	8.7
BR	2	0	Inf	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

A species thinly spread in COG's area, usually in dry woodland. Declared vulnerable in the ACT and NSW.

General: *The reporting rate this year is the lowest on record, continuing its 4 decade-long decline from 8% in 1989 to its present value of 1.4%.* Despite the low reporting rate, high observer effort recorded 998 birds, similar to last year (1,043) though many more than the 10YA (379) and the 30YA (254). Recorded in every month, with more records in spring (38%) than in summer (18%), autumn (21%) and winter (24%). Reporting rate (1.4%) lower than last year (2.1%) and the 10YA (2.2%), and much lower than the 30YA (3.1%). Recorded from 14% of grid cells (13% last year), about the same as the 10YA (12%) and the 30YA (14%). Max 25 (16 last year), mean 5.1, median 4. 7 breeding records (10 last year): first on/26 Oct Kama NR I13 (DaC2) and last dy/15 Feb MFNR (DaC2).

Uncommon, breeding resident

Varied Sittella

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	199	241	-17	85.8
WR	15	16	-6	6.7
G	45	40	12	31.5
BR	7	10	-30	5.7
GA	0.0105	0.0464	-77	0.0247
GS	3	4	-25	4.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

GBS: Only 27 birds recorded compared with 135 last year, fewer than the 10YA (47) and the 30YA (67). 10 records, 8 of which from one site at Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2), in Aug-Oct & Dec. No breeding records (none last year; recorded in only 7 years of the GBS).

CAMPEPHAGIDAE: cuckoo-shrikes, cicadabird, triller

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Common, breeding resident/summer migrant

A widespread, easily identified, largely summer migrant. Some of the population over-winters here.

General: 3,882 birds recorded (last year 4,180) though far more than the 10YA (1,728) and the 30YA (920). Recorded in every week, with a marked spring and summer peak (both 39%), compared with autumn (17%) and winter (6%). Reporting rate (13%) similar to last year (15%), but below the 10YA (19%) and the 30YA (20%). Recorded from 50% of grid cells surveyed, just above to last year's 47%, the 10YA (45%) and the 30YA (43%). Max 20 (49 last year), mean 2.1, median 1.

53 breeding records (39 last year), from br/9 Oct Greenway GrJ17 (CnM1) to cf/29 Mar Isaacs Ridge NR-Mugga Lane GrL15 (HeS1).

GBS: 671 birds recorded (last year 760) though fewer than the 10YA (922) and the 30YA (1,085). 460 records (last year 479), fewer than the 10YA (625) and the 30YA (722). Recorded in all weeks with higher proportions in spring (36%) and summer (37%) than in autumn (22%) and winter (5%). Records from 78% of sites, a similar proportion to last year (85%), the 10YA (81%) and the 30YA (87%). Abundance (0.2613) identical to last year, close to the 10YA (0.2881), though lower than the 30YA (0.3988). Max 7 (12 last year), mean 1.5, median 1. 9 breeding records (8 last year) from just 3 sites: first di/5wk Oct Curtin GrK14 (AjR1) and last dy/3wk Holt GrI12 (DaC1).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1842	1809	2	540.9
WR	100	115	-13	56.4
G	157	140	12	95.8
BR	53	39	36	14.6
GA	0.2613	0.2613	-0	0.3988
GS	46	57	-19	56.7
GBR	9	8	12	7.6

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

Rare, non-breeding autumn migrant

The patchy continental distribution of this nomadic species means that it is only occasionally recorded in the Canberra region.

General: 8 records, higher than the long-term trends after the 2013-14 year's surge to 20, from 7 widely scattered grid cells. However, the reporting rate is 60% below the long-term averages. Observed in Jul, Sep, Oct, Apr & May, 2 records of 2 birds, the rest only 1. Earliest sighting 2/26 Jul Googong Foreshore GrG19 (CnM1) and latest 2/25 May Diddams Close (WiT1).

GBS: No records (one last year). Recorded in small numbers irregularly over the years.

Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostris*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

An elusive species of the tall wet ranges, with occasional lowland observations of migrating birds.

General: 6 records (just 2 last year), similar to the 10YA (5.1) and the 30YA (4.4), 4 from NNP, 1 from Gibraltar Falls and 1 from Mt Ainslie, all of a single bird, 3 in Oct and 3 in Jan. First 1/29 Oct Mt Ainslie NR GrM13 (SmA1) and last 1/15 Jan Bendora Road NNP GrE16 (MiP1). No breeding recorded; one breeding record only, from 1990.

White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Declared vulnerable in the ACT.

General: Although the number of records annually has increased markedly since the time of the declaration, the reporting rate has fluctuated markedly and is low again this year. 376 birds recorded, far fewer than last year (731), similar to the 10YA (418) and more than the 30YA (202). Recorded in every month from Aug to Feb: first 2/7 Aug Higgins (CnM1) and last 3/19 Feb Callum Brae NR (HeS1). Reporting rate (1.2%) half of last year's 2.4% and well below the 10YA and the 30YA (both 3.5%). Recorded from 12% of grid cells surveyed (14% last year). Max 11 (18 last year), mean 2.3, median 2. 14 breeding records compared with 25 last year, the same as the 10YA and more than the 30YA (9): from nb/13 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (COF1) to dy/19 Feb Callum Brae NR GrL15 (HeS1).

GBS: Just 3 records (8 last year), well below the 10YA (14) and the 30YA (12), all of 1 bird, from 1 urban and 1 rural site: 1/4wk Nov Curtin GrK14 (AjR1), 1/2/wk Dec Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1) and 1/3 wk Dec same site and observer. No breeding records (and none last year).

White-winged Triller

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	168	278	-40	96.1
WR	15	16	-6	9.0
G	39	43	-9	30.8
BR	14	25	-44	9.0
GA	0.0012	0.0038	-69	0.0082
GS	2	4	-50	3.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.9

FALCUNCULULIDAE: shriketit**Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*

Rare, breeding resident

A sparsely, but widely distributed species. Its reporting rate has fallen significantly since its 1990s peak.

General: 77 birds recorded, more than last year (86) and the 10YA (61) and the 30YA (47). Reporting rate (0.3%) similar to last year (0.4%), though well below the 10YA (0.7%) and the 30YA (1.2%). *The current reporting rate is at its lowest value ever, and is the result of continuous decline since 1996, although there was some recovery in the period 2004-07.* Recorded in all months but Nov, with a higher proportion of records in spring (23%), summer (44%) and autumn (23%) than in winter (10%). Recorded from just 2.9% of grid cells surveyed (4.4% last year). Max 6 (last year 5), mean 1.6, median 1. 3 breeding records (5 last year): dy/5 Feb Tidbinbilla Bushland Meander GrF18 (ZwM1), dy/5 Feb TNR (Black Flats) GrF18 (ZwM1) and dy/5 Mar Nelangelo (TSR48) GrO05 (LeM1).

Crested Shrike-tit

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	48	50	-4	31.9
WR	0	0	-	1.6
G	9	13	-31	15.9
BR	3	5	-40	1.9
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0015
GS	0	0	-	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

PACHYCEPHALIDAE: whistlers and allies**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

Uncommon, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

A bird of the ranges, though altitudinal migration occurs. Declared Vulnerable in NSW.

General: 12 records of 16 birds (the same as last year), more than the 10YA of 5.5 and the 30YA of 8.7, from NNP, Tallaganda and the ANBG. Recorded in Oct, Nov, Jan and Jun. 4 records of 2 birds, the rest of 1. 1 breeding record, the second ever recorded, the previous one being in 1987: dy/30 Jan Tallaganda NP, Rocky Pic GrU21 (ZwM1).

GBS: no records.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Common, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

Most of the birds of this species in the Canberra region are altitudinal migrants. Breeding seldom reported here.

General: 1,326 birds recorded (last year 1,254) though well above the 10YA (598) and the 30YA (349). Recorded from 26% of grid cells (33% last year), in every week, with a lower proportion in summer (8%) than in autumn (31%), winter (29%) and spring (31%). *Reporting rate is at its lowest level since systematic recording began, (5.3%) lower than last year (6.6%), the 10YA (7.7%) and the 30YA (9.1%).* Max 18/12 Nov NNP--Warks/Blundells Creek Roads GrE15 (LaK1), mean 1.8,

median 1. Abundance (0.0937) similar to last year (0.1072), though lower than the 10YA (0.1261) and the 30YA (0.1282). 2 breeding records (2 last year): dy/3 Jan NNP – Warks/Blundells Creek Roads GrE15 (SmA1) and di/5 Feb TNR – Mountain Ck Trails) GrF17 (ZwM1).

GBS: 254 birds recorded, similar to last year (298) though fewer than the 10YA (354), and the 30YA (383). 228 records, a little below last year (270), the 10YA (316) and the 30YA (330). Recorded in 40 weeks: autumn 44%, winter 35%, spring 20% and summer 1%. Records from 41% of sites (58% last year), a lower proportion than the 10YA (59%) and the 30YA (62%). Abundance about the same as last year and the 10YA (0.1105) though lower than the 30YA (0.1407). Max 4 (4 last year as well), mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding records (1 last year).

Golden Whistler

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	745	769	-3	248.5
WR	31	28	11	16.5
G	82	97	-15	68.5
BR	2	2	0	0.9
GA	0.0989	0.1025	-3	0.1407
GS	24	39	-38	40.4
GBR	0	1	-100	0.1

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Common, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant found mostly in open woodlands.

General: 2,533 birds recorded, similar to last year (2,456) though many more than the 10YA (1,284) and the 30YA (778). Recorded in every month, with a far higher proportion of records in spring (48%) and summer (39%) than in autumn (11%) and winter (1%). *Reporting rate is at its lowest level since systematic recording began, (8.4%) similar to that of last year (9.7%) but lower than the 10YA (13.8%) and the 30YA (16.7%).* Recorded from 56% of grid cells surveyed (54% last year), close to the 10YA (54%) and the 30YA (49%). Max 20

(21 last year), mean 2.2, median 1. Abundance (0.1790) similar to last year (0.2099) though lower than the 10YA (0.2706) and the 30YA (0.2855). 23 breeding records (14 last year) from nb/11 Nov JWNR (WyP1) to dy/19 Mar Whiskers Creek Rd, Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

GBS: 105 birds recorded, similar to last year (133) though fewer than the 10YA (170) and the 30YA (199). 76 records compared with 91 last year, fewer than the 10YA (122) and the 30YA (158).



Julian Robinson

Recorded in every month except for May, Jun and Aug, with a much higher proportion of records in spring (42%) and summer (45%) than in autumn (12%) and winter (1%). The apparent contraction in the length of stay commented upon last year has continued, albeit to a lesser extent than in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Records from 15% of sites, similar to last year (18%) though lower than the 10YA (26%) and the 30YA (41%). Abundance similar to last year.

Rufous Whistler

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1190	1130	5	454.1
WR	102	93	10	68.5
G	175	161	9	109.9
BR	23	14	64	7.3
GA	0.0409	0.0457	-11	0.0730
GS	9	12	-25	26.9
GBR	0	3	-100	0.7

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Common, breeding resident

Occurs in a wide variety of habitats in the COG area of interest.

General: 1,794 birds recorded (last year 1,827) though many more than the 10YA (833) and the 30YA (596). Recorded in every week, with a winter (29% of records) and spring (28%) peaks cf lower proportions in summer (23%) and autumn (20%). Reporting rate (7.8%) similar to last year (9.4%) though lower than the 10YA (11.6%) and the 30YA (16.3%). *Since 1992 there has been a steady decline in reporting rate from over 20% to well under 8% this year, its lowest level ever.* Recorded from 56% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year

(58%), the 10YA (56%) and the 30YA (54%). Max 10/30 Oct Kambah Pool GrI16 (VeP1) (max 18 last year), mean 1.7, median 1. 6 breeding records (1 last year), from rural areas: first dy/10 Oct Lake Road LGeo GrR12 (GaP1) and last cf/15 Feb Farm Dam on Lake Rd LGeo GrR12 (LeM1).

GBS: 116 birds recorded, fewer than last year (189), the 10YA (261) and the 30YA (205). 108 records, fewer than last year (170), the 10YA (210) and the 30YA (174). Recorded in 50 weeks with a higher proportion of records in autumn (28%) and winter (42%) than in spring (16%) and summer (15%). Records from 19% of sites (last year 21%), similar to the 10YA (23%) though lower than the 30YA (31%). Abundance lower than last year, the 10YA (0.0815) and the 30YA (0.0753). Max 3 (4 last year), mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding records (1 last year).

Grey Shrike-thrush

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1099	1097	0	444.1
WR	44	66	-33	27.3
G	177	172	3	120.0
BR	6	1	500	3.9
GA	0.0452	0.0650	-30	0.0753
GS	11	14	-21	20.0
GBR	0	1	-100	0.5

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

Common, breeding summer migrant

A migratory woodland species also recorded in Canberra's suburbs. Generally, the first of the summer migrants to arrive. Some over-winter in the Canberra region, as occurred this year.

General: 708 birds recorded, fewer than last year (909) though many more than the 10YA (316) and the 30YA (175). Recorded in every month with marked spring (49% of records) and summer (36%) peaks compared with autumn (7%) and winter (8%). *Reporting rate is at a record low, (3.3%) less than last year (4.8%), the 10YA (5.0%) and the 30YA (5.3%).* Recorded from 20% of grid cells surveyed (21% last year), similar to the 10YA (20%) and the 30YA (17%). Max 15, mean 1.5, median 1. 14 breeding records (31 last year, an unusually high number), more than the 10YA (6.5) and the 30YA (4.4), all

Olive-backed Oriole

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	467	564	-17	144.1
WR	49	42	17	22.2
G	63	64	-2	38.7
BR	14	31	-55	4.4
GA	0.0460	0.0495	-7	0.0627
GS	23	27	-15	27.6
GBR	0	2	-100	2.7



Julian Robinson

from Canberra suburbs or nature reserves, from on/29 Nov Ginninderra Creek-Latham GrI12 (KiB1) to dy/19 Feb LGin Pen (AlB1).

GBS: 118 birds recorded, similar to last year (144), fewer than the 10YA (207) and the 30YA (170). Number of records (109) fewer than last year (136), the 10YA (184) and the 30YA (154). Recorded in every month Aug to May, with marked spring (49%) and summer (32%) peaks cf autumn (15%) and winter (4%). Records from 39% of sites (40% last year), similar to the 10YA (41%) and the 30YA (42%). Abundance lower than last year (A=0.0495), the 10YA (0.0646) and 30YA (0.0627). Max 4, mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding records (2 last year).

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

Rare, breeding summer migrant

Usually seen in company with the White-browed Woodswallow.

General: 122 birds recorded, far fewer than last year (479), fewer than the 10YA (151), but more than the 30YA (60). Just 2 records, fewer than last year (6), the 10YA (11) and the 30YA (5): 114/9 Aug Braddon GrL13 (InC1) and 8/18 Apr O'Connor GrK13 (MiP1). No breeding records, none last year but 3 in 2013-14 which were the first since 2004-05.

GBS: no records, 3 last year.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

An occasional visitor from the north and west.

General: 57 birds recorded, far fewer than last year (250), the year before (1,429), the 10YA (828) and the 30YA (351). Number of records (2) well below last year (11) the 10YA (43) and the 30YA (23): 3/19 Dec Narrabundah Hill GrI15 (CaJ4) and 54/18 Apr O'Connor GrK13 (MiP1). No breeding records.

GBS: No records, 4 last year. No breeding ever recorded in the GBS.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

A migrant woodland species, some over-winter.

General: 2,937 birds recorded, fewer than last year (3,382) though more than the 10YA (1,902) and the 30YA (1,017). Recorded in every month except Jun, with a far higher proportion of records in spring and summer (both 36%) than in autumn (20%) and winter (7%). *While the reporting rate is at its lowest level ever, it is still about half the long-term average.* The rate is (4.2%), lower than last year (5.6%), the 10YA (7.4%) and the 30YA (8.2%). Recorded from 35% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (31%), the 10YA (32%) and the 30YA (29%). Max 45 (103 last year), mean 5.1, median 3. Abundance (0.2075) lower than last year (0.2890), the 10YA (0.4008) and the 30YA (0.3731). 57 breeding records (62 last year): first ny/26 Aug JWNr (CnM1) and last dy/24 Feb LBath S Morass (LeM1).

GBS: 60 birds recorded, fewer than last year (139), the 10YA (231) and the 30YA (210). Number of records (16) far fewer than last year (34), the 10YA (44) and the 30YA (35). Recorded in Jul, Sep, Oct and Feb to Apr, with a marked autumn peak (75%) and lower proportions in winter (6%), spring (12%) and summer (6%). Records from 19% of sites (the same as last year), similar to the 10YA (19%) and the 30YA (16%). Abundance far lower than last year (0.0478), the 10YA (0.0723) and the 30YA (0.0772). Max 12, mean 3.8, median 3. No breeding records, 2 last year.

Dusky Woodswallow

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	590	656	-10	223.6
WR	20	39	-49	12.4
G	109	93	17	65.4
BR	57	62	-8	25.7
GA	0.0234	0.0478	-51	0.0772
GS	11	13	-15	10.5
GBR	0	2	-100	0.8

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

Common, breeding resident

A woodland species, also found in the suburbs, with number of birds, records, and reporting rate far higher in recent years than in the past.

General: Number of birds (1,974) about the same as last year (1,998) though many more than the 10YA (637) and the 30YA (292). Recorded in every week of the year, with an autumn peak (30%) cf winter (19%), spring and summer (both 25%). Reporting rate (10.8%) close to last year (12.7%), the 10YA (10.7%) and the 30YA (8.9%). From 42% of grid cells (41% last year), similar to the 10YA (35%) though more than the 30YA (27%). Abundance (0.1395) down on last year (0.1707),

Grey Butcherbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1532	1486	3	242.0
WR	114	107	7	33.5
G	131	123	7	60.7
BR	15	13	15	2.7
GA	0.3283	0.3552	-8	0.0723
GS	46	53	-13	18.0
GBR	1	1	0	0.3

though higher than the 10YA (0.1343) and the 30YA (0.1072). Max 6 (8 last year), mean 1.3, median 1. 15 breeding records (13 last year): first nb/9 Aug Callum Brae NR GrL15 (LaK1) and last dy/21 Jan Rocky Hill War Memorial Park and Bush Reserve, Goulburn GrZ01 (AnF1).

GBS: Number of birds (843) lower than last year (1,083), though more than the 10YA (554) and the 30YA (197). Number of records (715) fewer than last year (903) though far higher than the 10YA (488) and the 30YA (174). Recorded in all weeks, with higher proportions of records in autumn (34%) than in winter (22%), spring (20%) and summer (24%). Reporting rate (28%) similar to last year (31%) though higher than the 10YA (15%) and the 30YA (6%). Records from 78% of sites, a similar proportion to last year (79%) though higher than the 10YA (55%) and the 30YA (28%). Abundance lower than last year though higher than the 10YA (0.1732) and the 30YA (0.0723). Max 4, mean 1.2, median 1. 1 breeding record (1 last year): dy/4wk Dec Campbell GrL13 (LjT1).

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

Uncommon, breeding visitor

COG's area of interest is near the south-eastern limit of the range of this species. Reporting rates have fluctuated markedly over the last two decades, with rates now higher than in the past, and abundance also higher than before.

General: Number of records (42) more than last year (32) and far more than the 10YA (14) and the 30YA (6). Reporting rate (0.3%) the same as last year and the 10YA but higher than the 30YA (0.2%). Abundance (0.0042) higher than last year (0.0032), similar to the 10YA and higher than the 30YA (0.0027). From 21 widely-spread sites, including 18 reports from Uriarra Reserve East, Uriarra Road and Uriarra Woodland. Records in all months except Feb and Jun, all records of 1 or 2 birds, plus 2 separate records of 3. No breeding records, 1 last year which was just the 3rd in the COG AoI.

GBS: No records, only reported in 2005, 2007 and 2013.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Very common, breeding resident

An iconic native species. Continues recent history of being well above the long-term figures on key parameters. The most reported species.

General: Number of birds (39,696) similar to last year's figure (35,310), though many more than the 10YA (12,091) and the 30YA (6,021). Recorded in all weeks, with a lower proportion in winter (21%) than in spring (26%), summer (25%) and autumn (28%). Records from 71% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (73%), the 10YA and the 30YA (both 72%). Reporting rate the same as last year (60%) and in the same range as the 10YA (59%) and the 30YA (57%). 8th most abundant species (2.8050), abundance similar to last year (3.0172) and the 10YA (2.5481) though higher than the 30YA (2.2098). Max 135 (136 last year), mean 4.7, median 3. 365 breeding records (237 last year) in each month except May, with a large peak in Oct, mostly dy.

GBS: Number of birds (8,763) fewer than last year (11,072) and the 10YA (11,091) though more than the 30YA (8,596). Number of records (2,388) a little less than last year (2,709), the 10YA (2,948) and the 30YA (2,423). Recorded in all weeks, with similar numbers of records in each season. Records from all sites. Most recorded and 3rd most abundant species, abundance similar to that of last year and the 10YA (3.4647) and the 30YA (3.1594). Max 46/1 wk Oct Curtin (AjR1), mean 3.7, median 3. 254 breeding records (358 last year) from 29% of sites in all months Jul-Feb, with a strong peak in Oct/Nov, plus a dy in May and nest-building for the next season in Jun.

Australian Magpie

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	8567	7017	22	1556.7
WR	389	433	-10	203.3
G	223	217	3	158.8
BR	365	237	54	90.9
GA	3.4124	3.8074	-10	3.1594
GS	59	67	-12	64.6
GBR	254	358	-29	216.5

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Very common, breeding resident

5th most commonly reported species in the general records and 4th most commonly reported in the Garden Bird Survey.

General: Number of birds (16,490), similar to last year (17,017), and very many more reported than the 10YA (5,755) and the 30YA (2,700). Recorded in every week with a higher proportion of records in spring (29%) than in summer (22%), autumn (27%) and winter (22%). Reporting rate (36%) similar to last year (40%), the 10YA and the 30YA (both 37%). *The reporting rate in 2014-15 (41.3) was the highest since 1990, and was the peak of a long-term steady rise since 1991.* Recorded

from 57% of grid cells, similar to last year (58%) the 10YA (59%) and 30YA (57%). Max 107 (227 last year) well below the 10YA and the 30YA (both 521), mean 3.3, median 2. 156 breeding records (102 last year), many more than the 10YA (47) and the 30YA (33), each month Aug to Feb plus nb in Jun, peaking in Oct/Nov.

GBS: Number of birds (8,422) fewer than last year (10,968), the 10YA (12,319) and the 30YA (10,684). Number of records (2,158) similar to last year (2,527), fewer than the 10YA (2,804) and similar to the 30YA (2,311). Recorded in all weeks, similar proportions of records in winter, spring and summer (24-25%) and 26% in autumn. Records from all sites. Abundance similar to last year, the 10YA (3.8481) and the 30YA (3.9267). *The abundance has been remarkably steady around A=4.0000 since 1996.* Max just 55 (127 last year), mean 3.9, median 2. 162 breeding records (192 last year) from 42% of sites, in each month Aug to Apr with 60% in Nov-Jan.

Pied Currawong

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	5126	4670	10	1000.2
WR	137	137	0	60.3
G	180	173	4	127.5
BR	156	102	53	32.9
GA	3.2796	3.7717	-13	3.9267
GS	59	67	-12	64.3
GBR	162	192	-16	153.5

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Seen in small numbers in forests and woodlands, with some Canberra GBS records as well.

General: Number of birds (298) far fewer than last year (499) though more than the 10YA (227) and the 30YA (192). Recorded in 50 weeks of the year, with higher proportions of records in winter (28%) and spring (32%) than in summer (17%) and autumn (22%). Reporting rate (1.5%) half that of last year (3.3%) and also well below the 10YA (4.0%) and the 30YA (6.0%). *The reporting rate has undergone a long, continuous, ever-so-gentle decline from 1991's 6.2% to last year's 3.3%, with the sudden drop to this year's 1.5% (lowest ever).* *The reporting rate was 5% or above for every year between 1991 and 2008, and below 5% every year since then.* Recorded from 18% of grid cells surveyed (25% last year), lower than the 10YA (21%) and 30YA (23%). Max 8 (4 last year), mean 1.4, median 1. 6 breeding records (8 last year), more than the 10YA (4.8) and the 30YA (4.5); recorded in Sep and Oct only: first cf/25 Sep Bluetts Block Gr14 (CaJ4) and last ny/28 Oct MFNR (BoJ1).

Grey Currawong

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	219	386	-43	162.7
WR	13	23	-43	14.1
G	56	76	-26	51.8
BR	6	8	-25	4.5
GA	0.0374	0.0430	-13	0.0708
GS	12	15	-20	20.6
GBR	0	3	-100	2.2

Recorded from 18% of grid cells surveyed (25% last year), lower than the 10YA (21%) and 30YA (23%). Max 8 (4 last year), mean 1.4, median 1. 6 breeding records (8 last year), more than the 10YA (4.8) and the 30YA (4.5); recorded in Sep and Oct only: first cf/25 Sep Bluetts Block Gr14 (CaJ4) and last ny/28 Oct MFNR (BoJ1).

GBS: Number of birds (96) fewer than last year (125), the 10YA (197) and the 30YA (193). Number of records (88) fewer than last year (116), the 10YA (171) and the 30YA (165). Recorded in 49 weeks (52 weeks last year), with higher proportions of records in autumn (31%) and winter (26%) than in spring and summer (both 22%). Reporting rate (3.4%) similar to last year (4.0%), though lower than the 10YA (5.4%) and the 30YA (6.1%). *As with the general records, the reporting rate has fallen steadily over the last two decades.* Records from 20% of sites (22% last year), a lower proportion than the 10YA (28%) and the 30YA (32%). Abundance like last year though lower than the 10YA (0.0615) and the 30YA (0.0708). Max 5, mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding records (3 last year).

DICRURIDAE: drongo**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Non-breeding vagrant

A coastal species not often recorded in the ACT.

General: No records this year or the 3 previous years. Follows a period of 15 years where there were records every year except 3 and a decade of increasing records. Prior to 2000 there was only one year where the species was recorded, in 1990.

GBS: No records. Previously recorded in GBS in 2005, 2012 and 2014.

RHIPIDURIDAE: fantails**Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant to the ranges in the ACT, sometimes observed passing through the suburbs.

General: The reporting rate of 0.4% is down 32% on the 10YA and down 54% the 30YA. *The reporting rate has varied over the years, but the trend has been downward from 1993 to the present day, where the rate is the second lowest it has ever has been.* Most records were in summer 59% and autumn 26%. Maximum 7/20 Feb Tallaganda SF north GrV19 (LaK1). Earliest record: 1/22 Oct West Goulburn Bushland Reserve GrY01 (AnF1) and latest 1/6 Apr Cook (DeB3). The 2 breeding records were on/15 Feb NNP Warks/Blundells Ck Rds GrE15 (CoF1) and dy/6 Mar TNR Lyrebird Trail GrF17 (LaK1). There have only been breeding records in 9 of the last 31 years (last in 2005).

GBS: 1 record 1/3wk Mar Curtin (MoM3).

Rufous Fantail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	53	33	61	22.4
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	19	14	36	13.5
BR	2	0	Inf	0.3
GA	0.0004	0.0014	-72	0.0028
GS	1	4	-75	5.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Common, breeding resident/summer migrant

A summer migrant to ACT woodlands

General: Reporting rate 19.6% is down 16% on last year, down 31% on the 10YA and 37% on the 30YA. *The reporting rate is still at a reasonable level, although it is at its second lowest level since records began.* 6 of the records are from winter, which indicates that some of the birds do not migrate. 40% of the records from spring. Max 40/10 Apr Wanniasa Hills GrK16 (EbD1) average 3.3 median 3. Breeding: earliest cf/12 Oct JWNR (SmA1) and latest dy/2 Mar Wamboin GrQ13 (McD1).

Grey Fantail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2775	2727	2	851.1
WR	148	202	-27	116.0
G	199	183	9	137.2
BR	29	58	-50	14.1
GA	0.2173	0.3143	-31	0.3395
GS	32	44	-27	49.8
GBR	3	6	-50	2.8

GBS: Reporting rate 14.1% is down 19% on last year, 20% on the 10YA and down 34% on 30YA. Max 8/1wk Jan Carwoola Gr16 (BuM1), average 1.5 and median 1. Earliest breeding dy/2wk Dec Curtin (AjR1) and latest dy/4wk Jan Giralang (McD4).



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Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Very common, breeding resident

A conspicuous resident of ACT woodlands, although the much lower number of sightings in winter may suggest some altitudinal migration.

General: Reporting rate 18.7% down on last year, down 21% on the 10YA and 20% on the 30YA. Recorded in all seasons with 32% in spring and 37% in summer. Max 24/5 Mar JWNR (SmA1), average 2.3 median 2. The earliest breeding report was on/7 Aug Higgins (CnM1) and latest dy/15 Mar Campbell Park NR (BuM1).

GBS. Abundance 0.2403 is up 4% on last year and the 10YA but down 3% on the 30YA. Recorded fairly evenly in all seasons. Average 1.5 and median 1. Max 8/4wk Jan and earliest breeding record nb/2wk Oct both Curtin (AjR1) and latest dy/3wk Feb Florey (BrJ3).

Willie Wagtail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2645	2593	2	637.3
WR	44	71	-38	29.5
G	175	162	8	106.2
BR	107	64	67	23.2
GA	0.2403	0.2307	4	0.2469
GS	37	39	-5	46.2
GBR	27	11	145	8.3

CORVIDAE: ravens**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides* 737

Very common, breeding resident

At home in urban and rural sites, calling from high vantage points and scavenging by shops, schools, parks and roads.

General: The reporting rate 33.0% is down 11% on last year and 15% on the 10YA and 14% on the 30YA. Recorded in all seasons with a slight spring peak 27%. Australian Ravens do not usually flock together in large numbers, with the median being 2 and average this year 2.8. There were 7 records in the 20's and an unusually large 33/10 Jul JWNR (SmA1). The historical database shows this species is typically nest building between Jun & Oct and then a smattering of breeding records through summer and autumn. Another breeding parameter shows dy is typically between Sep and Jan. This ABR fits some of this pattern with nb from Jul to Sept and dy Oct to Dec.

GBS: Recorded in all weeks at most sites. While group sizes are typically 6 or fewer, the max was 26/Feb Pearce (KrS1). Abundance (A=1.6830) is a little higher than last year, 14% up on the 10YA and 34% up on the 30YA. This species starts breeding very early in the season. Earliest breeding for this reporting year was co/1wk Jul Gleneagles GrI16 (PeH2). Breeding activity would have started well before then, and the last dy/2wk Mar Duffy (HaS3).

Australian Raven

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	4674	4340	8	1046.8
WR	217	244	-11	104.1
G	186	187	-1	133.9
BR	100	47	113	18.0
GA	1.6830	1.5650	8	1.2519
GS	58	65	-11	62.3
GBR	48	38	26	30.5

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

Uncommon, breeding resident/winter migrant

This species is generally considered a flocking species in this region.

General: Reporting rate 5.1% is down 14% on last year, down 5% on the 10YA but about the same as the 30YA. Max 300/28 Jan Foxlow Lagoon GrS18 (BuM1). average 10.7 median 4. Seasonal records: winter 21%, spring 32%, summer 30% and winter 178%. Earliest breeding on/7 Sept Hoskinstown GrS16 (BuM1) and latest dy/26 Jan Namadgi NP GrH25 (McD1), with an early start for the next season nb/4 Jun Hoskinstown GrR16 (BuM1).

GBS: 21 of the 35 records from 2 rural and 7 suburban sites were of small numbers (1-10) with max of 160/3wk Dec Gleneagles GrI16 (PeH2). The majority of records were in summer (57%) and autumn (26%). No breeding records ever recorded in the GBS.

Little Raven

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	728	700	4	137.2
WR	1	4	-75	3.1
G	112	107	5	51.8
BR	9	5	80	1.4
GA	0.2488	0.1860	34	0.1230
GS	9	11	-18	7.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Common, breeding summer migrant

Usually recorded in the woodlands around Canberra suburbs.

General: Reporting rate 2.8% is down 7% on last year, down 36% on the 10YA and down 44% on the 30YA. *The reporting rate has declined from 6.9% in 1998 to its lowest value ever of 2.8% in 2017.* No winter records with spring 43%, summer 52% and autumn 5%. Max 10/30 Oct Kambah Pool GrI16 (VeP1), average 2.3 and median 2. Earliest sighting 1/29 Aug Macquarie (CnM1), and latest 1/9 May E Tallaganda Lane GrM10 (TwP1). Breeding records: earliest di/25 Oct Wamboin GrQ13 (McD1) and latest dy/3 Feb Federal Hwy Gurney Rest Area GrR06 (AnF1).

GBS: The abundance value for this species is erratic and varies widely from year to year. At 0.0218 it is down 9% on last year, 22% on 10YA and 29% on 30YA. Maximum and earliest record 8/4wk Sep Red Hill (WaR4) and latest 2/2wk Mar Campbell (LjT1).

Leaden Flycatcher

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	390	346	13	134.4
WR	25	23	9	17.1
G	71	70	1	44.5
BR	37	47	-21	11.4
GA	0.0218	0.0241	-9	0.0307
GS	8	9	-11	12.3
GBR	0	3	-100	1.3

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant, usually recorded in the Brindabella Ranges, and occasionally on passage at lower altitudes.

General: Reporting rate 0.3% like last year, down 48% on the 10YA and 68% down on the 30YA. *Since 1993 the reporting rate has been no higher than 1.3% and for most years below 1.0%, but in 2017 it was at its lowest level.* No winter records, most in spring 36% and summer 55%. Max 4/26 Feb Yerrabi Walking track GrH26 (CoF1) average 2.4 and median 2. Earliest 1/3 Oct Wanniasa Hills NR GrK16 (CaR3) and latest 2/22 Mar Black Mt NR (HoS1). 6 breeding records: earliest on/29 Nov NNP Warks and Blundells Ck Rds GrE15 (GoJ3) and latest ny/26 Feb Yerrabi Walking Track GrH26 (CoF1).

GBS: 1 record 1/1wk Apr Yarralumla GrK14 (NeG1).

Satin Flycatcher

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	42	35	20	25.7
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	18	18	0	16.8
BR	6	3	100	2.3
GA	0.0004	0.0010	-62	0.0020
GS	1	2	-50	3.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

Rare, breeding resident

Found mainly in open woodland, generally avoiding closed forests.

General: Reporting rate 0.3% down 51% on the 10YA and down 80% on the 30YA. *While the reporting rate has declined very slightly since last year, it is still just above its lowest level ever.* Seasonal distribution was winter 43%, spring 18%, summer 8%, and autumn 31%. Max 5/27 Nov and only breeding record dy/27 Nov Glendale Depot Gr T23 (LiJ1). Earliest 1/1Jul Callum Brae NR (SmA1) and latest 1/14 Jun Woodland west of Athlon Drive GrJ16 (FrM1).

Restless Flycatcher

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	49	46	7	46.5
WR	0	0	-	1.4
G	23	23	0	24.7
BR	1	1	0	1.1
GA	0.0000	0.0007	-100	0.0027
GS	0	2	-100	2.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

Rare, Visitor

Seldom reported in the ACT, rarely occurring as far inland as the ACT.

General: 2 records on the same day 1/20 Feb Tallaganda SF GrV19 and 1/20 Feb Tallaganda NP GrU21 both by (LaK1). This level of reporting is typical for the COG AoI.

Maggie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Our largest and most visible flycatcher.

General: Reporting rate 47.5% is up 5% on last year and up 26% on the 10YA and 30% on the 30YA. *It is at its highest level ever.* Abundance 1.7046 is like last year, but up 26% on the 10YA and 58% on the 30YA. Recorded throughout the year: spring 25%, summer 28% and autumn 28% and slightly lower in winter 19%. Max 127/25 Jun FSP (SmA1), average 3.6 and median 2. Earliest breeding nb/27 Aug Fadden Hills Ponds (Gr K16 (CaR3) and latest dy/3 Mar LJerr GrM16 (HeS1).

GBS: 1,958 records, down 12% on last year. Abundance (A=2.0140) is up 5% on last year, 3% on the 10YA but down 2% on the 30YA. Recorded in all weeks evenly throughout the year. Max 16/2wk Feb Curtin (AjR1), average 2.6 and median 2. Earliest breeding nb/3 wk Aug Weston (MaA2) and latest dy/3wk May Aranda (HaK1).

Very common, breeding resident

Maggie-lark

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	6722	5287	27	993.7
WR	138	135	2	52.2
G	168	151	11	99.2
BR	240	142	69	40.9
GA	2.0140	1.9147	5	2.0656
GS	58	66	-12	63.7
GBR	126	94	34	81.3

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

Conspicuous in groups in woodlands and dry open forests.

General: Reporting rate 8.6% is down on last year (15%), down 23% on the 10YA and 28% on the 30YA. Abundance 0.6977 is down 23% on last year and 16% on 10YA, but just about the same as the 30YA. *Both reporting rates and abundance values have declined somewhat in the last year, but they have oscillated around the current values for many years.* Seasonal records: winter 23%, spring 33% summer 24% and autumn 20%. Max 67/9 Jun National Arboretum, Cork Plantation GrJ13 (HeS1), average 8.4 and median 7. Breeding: earliest nb/29 Jul North Lyneham Ridge GrK12 (LeM1) and latest dy/12 Apr Bowen Park (KyP1).

GBS: Abundance (A=0.8143) down 8% on last year, up 27% on 10YA and up 72% on 30YA. Average 7.7 and median 6 with max 40/1wk Apr Ainslie Gr L13 (HaS3) and earliest breeding nb/4wk Jul Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2) and latest dy/2wk Feb Curtin Gr K14 (AjR1).

Very common, breeding resident

White-winged Chough

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1211	1175	3	322.7
WR	74	86	-14	33.9
G	104	101	3	66.9
BR	132	114	16	31.0
GA	0.8143	0.8841	-8	0.4726
GS	25	29	-14	23.8
GBR	46	25	84	9.3

Apostlebird *Struthidae cinerea*

Rare, vagrant

General: First record in the ACT. 94 records of 1 bird mainly at N Watson Wetlands. Earliest 1/28 Sep (NaT1) and latest 1/4 Jun Aspinall St, Watson (MeM2).

PETROICIDAE: robins**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

A bird of relatively undisturbed woodland.

General: Reporting rate (0.5%) is just above its lowest level ever (0.3% in 1998), about 60% below the long-term averages of 1.3%. The number of birds sighted (136) is up 16% on last year and a just over twice the 30YA. Recorded throughout the year: winter 19% spring 25%, and both summer and autumn 28%. 4 breeding records, earliest dy/27 Oct NNPVIC (AlB1) and latest, dy/13 Feb Sep TSR 48 (LeM1) the site of a successful breeding event in the last 2 years. **GBS:** No records this year. A handful of records in 24 of the last 34 years.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Jacky Winter

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	75	77	-3	36.5
WR	4	5	-20	3.9
G	16	19	-16	13.9
BR	4	2	100	2.3
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0008
GS	0	1	-100	0.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

Uncommon, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

Lives in open forest & woodland at middle altitudes, dispersing to lower levels in autumn. Declared vulnerable in the ACT and NSW.

General: Reporting rate (5.9%) is as low as it has ever been, and down 27% on the 10YA and 45% on the 30YA. While present throughout the year, most records were in autumn (37%) and winter (43%), not very different from the typical seasonal pattern. Despite the low reporting rate and low abundance figure (0.1336), with the high observer effort of the last couple of years, the number of records and the number of birds sighted (1877) is a little down on last year (2158), the highest on record. 26 Breeding records, earliest nb/7 Aug MFNR (CIJ3) and the latest dy/21 Jan Narrabundah Hill (CaJ4), with an early start to next season with di/31 May Wirraway GrN04 (SeB1).

GBS: 51 records (112 last year), mostly of 1-2 birds from 11 sites, is well down on last year and abundance (A=0.065) 50% down on last year, a sharp downturn following the previous 5 years of recovery from the very low numbers from 2000-2011. Recorded from 2 rural (Wamboin, Carwoola) and 9 suburban sites, nearly all abutting woodland. Most records are from autumn (57% of records) and winter (39%). No breeding recorded. Only 2 breeding records in the GBS, in 1987 and 2009.

Scarlet Robin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	828	904	-8	289.9
WR	52	73	-29	33.1
G	118	122	-3	79.1
BR	26	11	136	5.0
GA	0.0265	0.0547	-52	0.0397
GS	11	16	-31	15.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*

Uncommon, breeding visitor

A resident of inland woodlands, sometimes visiting the local region.

General: The reporting rate (0.4%) is down 39% on last year and similarly on the long-term averages. Recorded throughout the year with records in each month. 39 records from MFNR, but also from Bibaringa (6), and a few other sites. Most records were in winter (45%), which differs from the usual distribution where more sightings are in spring. 1 breeding record: dy/9 Dec MFNR (WyP1). Breeding has been observed in 13 of the years since 1983.

GBS: No records this year, with 5 records 3 years ago, the first records in the GBS since 2009/10.

Red-capped Robin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	51	69	-26	15.5
WR	0	1	-100	1.9
G	7	10	-30	7.3
BR	1	1	0	0.6
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0002
GS	0	0	-	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*

Uncommon, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

An altitudinal migrant reported less in summer. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: The reporting rate (1.5%) is the lowest it has been since 1997 (1.3%), the lowest value since records were kept. It is down 52% on the 10YA and 69% on the 30YA. Total number of birds sighted (770) is just over half that of last year. The average number of birds per record (3.8) is, however, slightly up on the long-term averages. The seasonal distribution of records differs from the 30YA, in that winter records are higher (42% cf 31%) and spring records lower (17% cf 30%). Breeding - 7 records: earliest cf/29 Oct Cotter Hut Rd GrD21 (AlB1) and latest, dy/9 Dec Mt Aggie GrC18 (CaR3).

GBS: 4 records from 3 suburban and 1 rural site in winter (500%) and autumn (50%) only in 8 weeks of the year. Records from Bonner (GrB1), Curtin (AJR1), Carwoola (BuM1)) and Narrabundah (PaR9). Only a single record from each site. No breeding recorded.

Flame Robin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	208	303	-31	129.6
WR	0	2	-100	1.0
G	83	85	-2	59.8
BR	7	5	40	4.7
GA	0.0016	0.0034	-55	0.0081
GS	4	4	0	3.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

Reported more often in the cooler months.

General: The reporting rate of 0.5% is slightly less than last year and 43% down the 30YA, almost the lowest on record (0.4% in 2012). Most records in spring (48%), rather than winter (18%), which is unusual. Records from different widespread areas: mainly MFNR (18), ANU/ANBG (12) and NNP Warks/Blundell Ck Rds (12). No breeding records this year. While the species has been recorded in all but 3 of the previous 30 years, breeding has only been recorded in 9.

GBS: 11 records of single birds from 2 suburban sites. 1 record from Cook (TaN1) and 1 from Curtin (AjR1). Recorded in winter (36%), spring (18%) and autumn (46%). Abundance is higher than last year, and is just above the 10YA, but 61% down on the 30YA.

Uncommon, breeding migrant

Rose Robin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	77	73	5	25.9
WR	1	0	Inf	0.3
G	22	27	-19	12.9
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0043	0.0028	56	0.0110
GS	2	2	0	8.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*

Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: 7 records this year, in line with the 10YA (4) and 30YA (2): 1/12 Jan NNP Warks/Blundell Ck Rds (LaS1); 1/19 Feb Tallaganda NPGv17 (EbD1); and 5 records from ANBG between 6 Apr (HoS1) and 5 May (MiP1). No breeding records in over 30 years.

Rare, non-breeding winter migrant

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

Studies suggest a preference for Yellow-box/Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands. Declared vulnerable in the ACT.

General: Number of birds seen (42) is half that of last year, with observations of between 1 – 4 birds. The reporting rate (0.1%) is the lowest it has ever been, 90% down on the 30YA. Sighted at only 7 locations mostly in open woodland, such as London Bridge (3 sightings), Brindabella Rd at East West Rd (11), and Googong Dam (3). Most records in winter 57%, with spring 5%, summer 33% and autumn 19%. 2 breeding records: dy/1 Jan Brindabella Rd East West Rd (SmA1) and cf/13 Jan at the same location (DaC3).

Rare, breeding resident

Hooded Robin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	21	39	-46	37.9
WR	0	0	-	2.6
G	8	19	-58	19.8
BR	2	0	Inf	3.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0016
GS	0	0	-	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

Occurs mainly in the moist forest of the western dividing range, but also in smaller numbers in wet gullies and along watercourses.

General: The reporting rate (2.7%) is down slightly on last year and down 21% on the 10YA and 53% on the 30YA. The reporting rate has been in ever so gentle decline since 1992 to its lowest level ever. Present all year with slightly more in summer (30%), spring (26%) and autumn (26%). Records from wide-ranging sites, including ANBG (80 records), Bibaringa (14), and in the Brindabellas and along the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers. Max 8/9 Jan Gigerline NR (SmA1), mean 1.7, median 1. 7 breeding records: earliest br/23 Oct Jedbinbilla Gr17 (CnM1), and latest dy/6 Mar TNR Lyrebird Trail (LaK1).

GBS: 39 records (59 last year) throughout the year from the same 2 rural sites that have provided most of the records in recent years. 34 records from Carwoola (BuM1) and 5 records from Burra (AnI1) over 35 weeks with more records in summer (38%) this year. Records are of 1 or 2 birds. No breeding records, 1 in Carwoola 3 years ago.

Common, breeding resident

Eastern Yellow Robin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	379	368	3	153.9
WR	0	1	-100	1.2
G	83	85	-2	55.4
BR	7	4	75	2.8
GA	0.0175	0.0237	-26	0.0063
GS	2	2	0	1.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

ALAUDIDAE: larks**Horsfield's Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

General: 34 records of 129 birds from 10 grid cells, a significant increase on last year. Reporting rate of 0.2% is above last year's 0.1%, 10% below the 10YA but 9% above the 30YA. Seasonal records were: spring 26% summer 68% and autumn 6%. Earliest 1/30 Oct LBath East Basin Gr Y08, latest 2/23Apr and max 31/20 Nov LGeo East all (LeM1).

Breeding: cf/16 Dec Parkwood Rd Wallaroo (DrC1). Only 7 breeding records in the last 32 years.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common, breeding resident

An introduced species, but at home in our grasslands.

General: Reporting rate of 2.0% down 33% on the 10YA and down 38% on the 30YA. Recorded in all seasons with peaks in spring 47% and summer 34%. Max 51/20 Nov LGeo E GrTO9 (LeM1).

GBS: 6 records from 2 sites: earliest 2/3wk Aug and latest 1/1wk May, both Curtin (AJR1) and the other records from the new suburb of Wright GrI14 (DeD2).

Eurasian Skylark

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	283	290	-2	88.6
WR	0	3	-100	0.3
G	45	41	10	23.8
BR	0	1	-100	0.6
GA	0.0027	0.0021	32	0.0222
GS	2	2	0	1.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

CISTICOLIDAE: cisticolas**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Found most often in grassy areas near water.

General: Reporting rate 4.0% is 20% down on last year, down 15% on the 10YA but about the same as the 30YA. The abundance 0.1007 is down 33% on last year down 17% on the 10YA but about the same as the 30YA. Max 25/20 Nov LGeo E (LeM2), average 2.6, median 2. 4 breeding records: earliest cf/1 Dec (EbD1) and latest dy/14 Feb (LeM1) both JWNr.

GBS: Recorded in 2 sites near water. Earliest: 1/1wk Sep Giralang Gr K12 (McD4) and maximum 2/2wk Mar and latest 1/2wk Apr Curtin GrK14 both (AjR1).

Golden-headed Cisticola

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	564	582	-3	107.7
WR	0	2	-100	0.2
G	43	37	16	16.4
BR	4	3	33	0.9
GA	0.0066	0.0028	141	0.0069
GS	2	3	-33	1.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.4

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

Common, breeding summer migrant

Inhabits reed beds surrounding lakes, ponds and wetlands. Some birds remaining over winter.

General: The upward trend from last year continues probably due to an increase in wetlands for new ACT suburbs. Reporting rate 9.4% is up 8% on the 10YA and 29% on the 30YA. Earliest 1/9 Jul LGin GrJ12 (McI1) and latest 2/22 May Forde (BeC2). Max 38/11 Nov JWNr (LeM1), average 4.8, median 3. 58 breeding records: earliest nb/6 Oct Yass GrF03 (SeB1) and latest dy/19 Mar Weston Park Yarralumla GrK14 (SeB1).

GBS: 97 records from 6 suburban sites near bodies of water.

Max 8/1wk Nov Crace Wetlands (LeF1). Since 2006, the A value has been increasing steadily from just above zero to A=0.1090. 2 breeding records from same site: earliest dy/2wk Feb and latest dy/1wk Mar both Giralang (McD4).

Australian Reed-Warbler

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1335	1043	28	199.1
WR	0	0	-	0.8
G	62	48	29	26.8
BR	58	19	205	6.0
GA	0.1090	0.0750	45	0.0241
GS	6	6	0	1.8
GBR	3	2	50	0.6

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

A cryptic species occurring in suitable cover near water.

General: Reporting rate 2.5% is the same as last year. Abundance 0.0362 is down 19% on the 10YA but up 16% on the 30YA. This result reflects an increase in urban wetlands such as Crace Pond and Forde Pond, although 80% of the records come from JWNR/FSP. Recorded in all seasons with most in spring 34% and summer 37%. Earliest 1/1 Jul (W S1) JWNR and latest 2/26 Jun Crace Pond GrK11 (WyP1). Max 5/18 Aug JWNR (LeM1), average 1.5 and median 1.

GBS: 4 records from same site. Earliest 1/2wk Oct and latest 1/4wk Apr Crace Wetland GrK11 (LeF1).

Uncommon, breeding resident

Little Grassbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	348	295	18	63.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	15	10	50	7.0
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.0016	0.0069	-77	0.0026
GS	1	1	0	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Rare, vagrant

General: The first recording of this species in the ACT and COG AoI. 35 records, all from JWNR. Largest number 2/8 Jan (W S1), earliest 1/29 Dec (LaK1) and latest 1/9 Apr (SmA1).

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

A woodland summer migrant.

General: Reporting rate 0.7% is down on last year's 1.7%, and down 76% on the 10 & 30YAs. *Reporting rate has declined from 3.9% to 0.7% since 2014.* Reported almost exclusively in spring 23% and summer 76%. Max (and earliest sighting and first breeding record) 11dy/11 Jan Nelangelo TSR 48 Gundaroo (LeM1), average 2.2 and median 1. Latest 1/5Mar Nelangelo TSR 48 Gundaroo (LeM1). Latest breeding dy/27 Jan also Nelangelo (LeM1).

GBS: No records this year, 2 last year from Curtin.

Common, breeding summer migrant

Rufous Songlark

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	97	197	-51	79.1
WR	11	18	-39	6.7
G	26	46	-43	30.0
BR	4	0	Inf	2.5
GA	0.0000	0.0007	-100	0.0020
GS	0	1	-100	1.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

A rarely recorded summer migrant.

General: 13 records from 5 grid cells cf 26 from 11 grids last year. The reporting rate 0.1% below last year and 80% below the 10 & 30YAs. *The reporting rate has bumped around the bottom of the graph for the last 40 years, and is at another low point this year.* Most records were in spring 46% and summer 46%. Max 3/28 Nov LGeo E, Western Leg Rd GrYO9 (LeM1), but most sightings were of single birds. Earliest 1/11Nov (WyP1) and latest 1/2 Apr (SmA1) both JWNR. No breeding records. Breeding recorded in 5 of the last 32 years.



ZOSTEROPIDAE: white-eyes**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

Common, breeding resident/migrant

A common sight in Canberra parks, gardens, and the surrounding woodlands.

General: Number of birds (13,090) like last year (13,597) though far higher than the 10YA (4,243) and the 30YA (2,017). Recorded in every week, with a lower proportion in winter (14%) than in spring (27%), summer (32%) and autumn (27%). Reporting rate (17%) similar to last year, the 10YA and the 30YA (all 18%). Records from 42% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (41%), the 10YA (38%) and 30YA (36%). Max 80 (94 last year), mean 5.5, median 3. 6 breeding records (7 last year): first dy/27 Oct Turner GrK13 (BoC4) and last dy/23 Feb Weston Park GrK14 (CIJ3).

Silvereye				
	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2437	2132	14	500.7
WR	23	43	-47	15.8
G	131	123	7	80.1
BR	6	7	-14	5.5
GA	2.7262	2.8377	-4	4.9341
GS	46	55	-16	61.4
GBR	17	17	0	14.7

GBS: Number of birds (7,001) slightly lower than last year (8,254) and fewer than the 10YA (11,491) and the 30YA (13,425). Recorded in all weeks, with a lower proportion in winter (20%) than in spring (24%), summer (29%) and autumn (29%). Reporting rate (41%) similar to last year (39%) though lower than the 10YA (50%) and the 30YA (60%). Records from 78% of sites, similar to last year (82%), but a little below the 10YA (91%) and the 30YA (95%). 7th most abundant species. Abundance similar to last year but lower than the 10YA (3.5895) and the 30YA (4.9341). 17 breeding records (and 17 last year) from 8 sites: first cf/6 Nov Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and last cf/23 Apr Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4).

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

Very common, breeding resident

A well-known resident often seen foraging over and around our lakes and ponds.

General: A similar high number of birds (37,287) as last year (39,848), far higher than the 10YA (9,909) and the 30YA (4,380). Recorded in every week, with a higher proportion of records in spring (34%) than summer (29%), autumn (22%) and winter (15%). Reporting rate (19%) lower than last year (25%) though similar to the 10YA (22%) and the 30YA (21%). *Since 1998 there has been a steady rise in reporting rate from 9% to 19% in 2017.* Recorded from 55% of grid cells surveyed, the same as last year and similar to the 10YA (47%) and 30YA (44%). Max 2,150 (1,579 last year), mean 14.2, median 3. 79 breeding records (57 last year), many more than the 10YA (21) and 30YA (14): first nb/30 Aug Brindabella Road at East West Road GrF14 (DaC2) and last dy/22 Feb Edgeworth Pond (Coombs) GrI14 (HeS1).

Welcome Swallow				
	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2678	2953	-9	569.7
WR	12	46	-74	7.7
G	172	165	4	98.4
BR	79	57	39	13.7
GA	0.5238	0.7249	-28	0.3080
GS	37	36	3	26.2
GBR	13	16	-19	3.5

GBS: Number of birds (1,345) fewer than last year (2,108), similar to the 10YA (1,348) and more than the 30YA (838). 411 records, similar to last year (502) and the 10YA (363) though more the 30YA (230). Recorded in all weeks, with a lower proportion of records in winter (15%) than in spring (36%), summer (19%) and autumn (29%). Records from 63% of sites, similar to last year (54%) though more the 10YA (46%) and the 30YA (40%). Abundance lower than last year, though higher than the 10YA (0.4211) and much higher than the 30YA (0.3080). 13 breeding records (16 last year) cf the 10YA of 8.3 and the 30YA of just 3.3. Breeding at 4 sites: first nb/28 Aug Jerrabomberra GrMa6 (HaL2) and last dy/18 Dec same site and observer.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant. Its reporting rate has fluctuated markedly over the last decade but has now fallen to that observed in the first decade of the 21st century.

General: Number of birds (664) fewer than last year (873), like the 10YA (549) though many more than the 30YA (249). Recorded in all months Jul to Mar with most records in spring (42%) and summer (41%) and much lower in autumn (0.8%) and winter (16.5%). Reporting rate (0.9%) lower than last year (1.2%) and below the 10YA (1.7%) and the 30YA (1.6%). Recorded from 11.4% of grid cells surveyed (10.1% last year), like the 10YA (9.5%), and a higher proportion than the 30YA (7.5%). Max 35 (40 last year), mean 5.5, median 3. 9 breeding records (14 last year) from 6 widely-distributed sites: first ih/2 Oct Bloomfield Flats GrD06 (SeB1) and last br/1 Jan Forde GrJ10 (DaC1). **GBS:** 2 records (4 last year): 12/4wk Aug Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2) and 14/1wk Sep same site and observer. No breeding ever recorded in the GBS.

Fairy Martin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	127	142	-11	43.5
WR	0	1	-100	0.2
G	36	30	20	16.7
BR	9	14	-36	4.2
GA	0.0101	0.0134	-25	0.0058
GS	1	2	-50	1.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

A regular summer woodland migrant.

General: Number of birds (2,744) more than last year (2,033) and much more than the 10YA (1,205) and the 30YA (855). Although a migratory species, some over-winter hence recorded in all months, with many more records in spring (35%) and summer (38%) than in autumn (9%) and winter (18%). Reporting rate (2.9%) similar to last year (3.0%) though lower than the 10YA (3.9%) and the 30YA (4.7%). Recorded from 25% of grid cells surveyed (last year 20%), a little above the 10 and 30YAs (both 19%). Max 125 (50 last year), mean 7.0, median 3. 7 widely distributed breeding records (6 last year), on a par with the 10YA (9.1) and the 30YA (7.2): first on/26 Oct Kama NR GrI13 (DaC2) and last ih/16 Nov Gigerline NR GrJ19 (CoF1). **GBS:** Number of birds (68) like last year (64), the 10YA (63) and the 30YA (62). 15 records (14 last year), similar to the 10YA (14) and the 30YA (13), from 7 sites. Records from Sep, Oct and Dec to Apr. Reporting rate (0.6%) just above last year (0.5%) though more than the 10YA (0.4%) and the 30YA (0.5%). Abundance higher than last year and the 10YA (0.0197) and the 30YA (0.0226). No breeding ever recorded in the GBS.

Tree Martin

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	413	356	16	127.3
WR	11	26	-58	12.5
G	80	61	31	42.8
BR	7	6	17	7.2
GA	0.0265	0.0220	20	0.0226
GS	7	7	0	5.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



Leo Berzins

PYCNONOTIDAE: bulbuls**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Non-breeding vagrant

General: No reports this year but 2 in 2014-15. The only other endorsed record in the general databases was from Kambah in 1993.

TURDIDAE: thrushes**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothra lunulata*

Uncommon, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

Most records come from the wet forests of the ACT and AoI and from the ANBG.

General: 33 records up from 25 last year. Abundance is down 4% on last year and down 42% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is up 9% on last year and down 40% on the 30YA. While present in the ACT and AOI throughout the year, it is recorded only sporadically in locations such as the ANBG & NNP. Generally, sightings of 1-2 birds with max 4/30 Jun ANBG (Dac2).

GBS: 1 record: 1/2wk Apr Cook (TaN1).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common, breeding resident

An introduced species. Prefers dense vegetation in wet forests, urban parks and gardens, including those of farmhouses. Virtually absent from undisturbed drier woodlands.

General: 1682 records up on 1356 records last year from 96 grids up on 77 last year. Abundance is down 5% on last year but up 17% on the 30YA. Reporting rate is up 3% on last year but down 9% on the 30YA. Max 10/28 Aug JWNR (SmA1), mean 1.7, median 1. Observed throughout the year, but more so in spring (37%) when territorial behaviour draws attention. 11 breeding records up on 4 last year: earliest, cf/18 Aug Hume Wetland GrL16 (HeS1); latest, cf/29 Dec JWNR (SmA1).

GBS: 935 records down from 1087 records last year from 45 sites down from 53 sites last year. Abundance is up 7% on last year but down 56% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 3% on last year, and down 44% on the 30YA. 13 breeding records up on 6 last year: earliest nb/4wk Oct Page (AlB1); latest, ny/4wk Dec Page (AlB1).

Common Blackbird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1682	1356	24	355.9
WR	5	11	-55	2.9
G	96	77	25	44.7
BR	11	4	175	6.0
GA	0.6398	0.5959	7	1.4392
GS	45	53	-15	59.7
GBR	13	6	117	32.6

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

Very common, breeding resident

An introduced species that is virtually absent from the wet forests but otherwise common throughout the region.

General: This year more birds were counted for this species than for any other, 99064 up on 95505 last year. 3167 records the same as 3168 records last year, from 154 grids up on 144 grids last year. 147 WOO records down from 163 last year. Abundance is down 14% on last year but up 50% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 17% on last year, and down 22% on the 30YA. Max 3200/13 May Gordon GrJ17 (CaR3), mean 32, median 6. Records generally distributed evenly throughout the year with slightly more in spring 31%. Breeding: 117 records up on 103 records last year: earliest, ih/31 Jul Norwood Park Crematorium (GrB1); latest, cf/17 Jan JWNR GrL14 (HoS1).

GBS: 573 records down on 614 records last year from 44 sites up on 42 sites last year. Abundance is up 7% on last year but down 67% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is up 6% on last year and down 56% on the 30YA. Mean 8.7, median 4 with max 240/1wk May Bonner GrL10 (GrB1). Breeding, 11 records, the same as last year: earliest, nb/2wk Sep Curtin (AjR1); latest, dy/4wk Dec Curtin (AjR1).

Common Starling

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	3167	3168	-0	784.8
WR	147	163	-10	70.9
G	154	144	7	100.7
BR	117	103	14	45.6
GA	1.9346	1.8140	7	5.8965
GS	44	42	5	54.2
GBR	11	11	0	37.1

Common Myna *Sturnus tristis*

Very common, breeding resident

An exotic species subject to ongoing attempts at population control.

General: 8227 individuals were counted, up from 7972 last year. 2292 records, down from 2311 last year, from 65 grids similar to 66 grids last year. 27 WOO records up on 19 last year. Abundance is down 15% on last year, up 13% on the 10YA and up 41% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 18% on last year, down 5% on the 10YA but up 16% on the 30YA. Max 75/16 Apr Florey (KiB1); mean 3.6, median 2. Observed throughout the year with most observations in spring 29% and summer 37%. 122 breeding records up on 29 last year: earliest, on/9 Aug Fadden GrK16 (CaR3); latest, dy/8 Mar Page (KiB1).

Common Myna

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	2292	2311	-1	381.1
WR	27	19	42	20.0
G	65	66	-2	32.7
BR	122	29	321	10.3
GA	1.6316	1.2789	28	2.7854
GS	44	48	-8	51.6
GBR	17	25	-32	34.1

GBS: 4190 individual birds reported, up from 3719 last year. 1024 records, up on 1013 records last year from 20 grids, up from 18 last year, and from 44 sites down from 48 sites last year. Abundance is up 28% on last year, down 7% on the 10YA and down 41% on the 30YA. Average number of birds 4.1, median 2 and max 70/3wk Mar Lyneham (LeM1). Records spread evenly throughout the year, with slightly more in summer (27%). 17 breeding records down from 25 last year: earliest, cf/1wk Sep Ainslie (HaS1); latest dy/2wk Feb Ainslie (HaS1).

DICAEIDAE: mistletoebird**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Occurs where there is mistletoe in the ACT and AoI.

General: A continuing fall in most metrics from general and GBS records. 221 records down from 254 records last year from 49 grids down from 59 grids last year. 376 individuals counted, down on 404 last year. *Abundance is down 23% on last year and down 62% on the 30YA, and is just about as low as it has ever been. The reporting rate (1.6%) is down 28% on last year and down 69% on the 30YA, its lowest level since systematic records began.* Max 20/21 Dec Stony Creek Nature Reserve GrG13 (CoF1). Most sightings are of single birds. Present throughout the year with most sightings in spring 46% and summer 35%. 1 breeding record: nb/10 Dec Campbell Park (SmA1).

Mistletoebird

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	221	254	-13	135.4
WR	28	29	-3	29.2
G	49	59	-17	43.3
BR	1	4	-75	2.3
GA	0.0078	0.0089	-13	0.0246
GS	7	7	0	10.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

GBS: 20 records, down from 25 records last year. Abundance is down 13% on last year and down 68% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 9% on last year and down 65% on the 30YA. Breeding not recorded, with single historical breeding records in the GBS in both 2009 and 2013.

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

Rare breeding visitor/escapee

A bird of the dry inland

General: 41 records after none last year. Given the unnatural colour types and the concentrated distribution of the sightings around JWNR, there may well have been a pattern of deliberate aviary release(s). Historically, 1 or 2 birds had been regularly recorded since 2005-6. The 2 breeding records, both of nest building, may relate to roost nests with no other breeding activity recorded.

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Usually found near water in woodlands and grasslands in the region.

General: 181 records down from 186 records last year. Abundance is down 20% on last year and down 50% on the 30YA to the lowest level since 1989. The reporting rate is down 20% on last year and down 60% on the 30YA to its lowest level ever. No WOO records down from 8 last year. Most records in autumn 33% and spring 26%. Max 30/24 Jun Wellington Road GrG03 (SeB1), mean 4.3, median 2. 3 breeding records: earliest nb/8 Oct The Pinnacle – NW Corner (AlB1); latest, nb/21 Nov Latham (KiB1).

GBS: 37 records up from 24 last year. Abundance is up 182% on last year but down 47% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is up 75% on last year and down 42% on the 30YA. Mean 3.3, median 2 with max 12/3wk Aug Nicholls GrK11 (LiR9). A more even spread of records across the seasons than for the general surveys. Breeding not recorded, having been reported only in 1995, 2003 and 2014.

Double-barred Finch

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	178	186	-4	86.9
WR	0	8	-100	3.3
G	37	34	9	25.2
BR	3	0	Inf	1.3
GA	0.0475	0.0169	182	0.0896
GS	10	11	-9	11.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.4

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

Non-breeding visitor/escapee

General: No records this year. Only 2 previous records in 2005 and 2014.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

Common, breeding resident

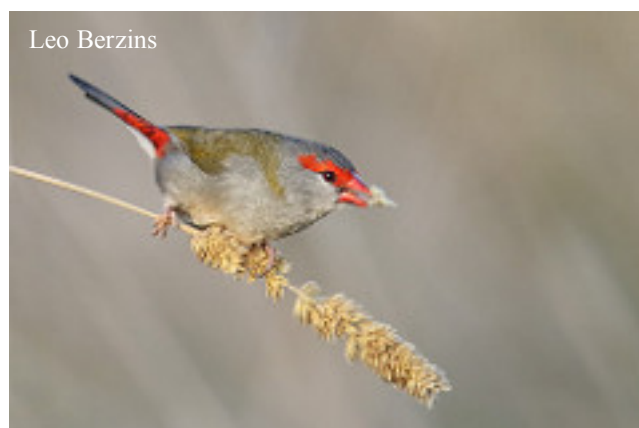
Canberra's most common finch, it is generally observed in or near dense growth beside rivers and creeks as well as in suburban gardens.

General: 5733 individuals counted down from 6692 last year. 860 records down from 931 records last year from 94 grids similar to 95 grids last year. 2 WOO records down from 27 last year. Abundance down 29% on last year and down 17% on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 24% on last year and down 42% on the 30YA. Max 63/10 Sep JWNR (CaR3), mean 6.9, median 4. Breeding: 19 records down from 24 records last year; earliest di/15 Jul Flynn GrJ12 (DaC2); latest ny/25 Mar LGin Pen (AlB1), with an early start to next season, nb/11 Jun JWNR (SmA1).

GBS: 135 records down from 162 records last year. Abundance up 18% on last year and up 5% on the 30YA. Reporting rate down 6% on last year and down 16% on the 30YA. Max 40/1wk Sep Giralang (KaD1), mean 8.9, median 4. 11 breeding records from 4 sites: earliest, di/3wk Aug Giralang (McD4); latest, dy/5wk Apr Giralang GrK12 (McD4).

Red-browed Finch

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	860	931	-8	284.2
WR	2	27	-93	4.9
G	94	95	-1	62.3
BR	19	24	-21	9.0
GA	0.4669	0.3941	18	0.4426
GS	15	18	-17	17.9
GBR	11	8	38	4.1



Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

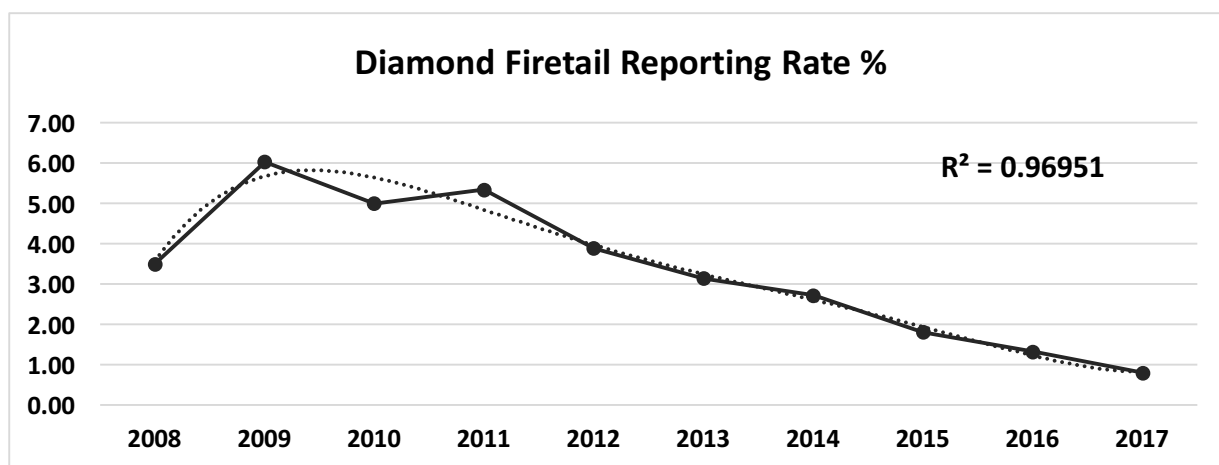
Uncommon, breeding resident

Prefers undisturbed woodland with shrubs and eucalypts. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

General: 112 records down on 154 records last year. 6 WOO records down on 16 last year. Abundance is down 52% down on last year and 77% down on the 30YA. The reporting rate is down 40% on last year and down 74% on the 30YA. *It has sharply declined since 2009 to its lowest level ever.* Max 17/6 Oct Gilmore Horse Paddocks GrL16 (CaR3), mean 2.8, median 2. Breeding: 4 records up from 1 last year: earliest, dy/21 Dec TSR48 GrO05 (LeM1); latest, dy/13 Feb Boboyan Road Woodland (Booth) GrH24 (DaC2).

Diamond Firetail

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	112	154	-27	83.5
WR	6	16	-62	4.6
G	46	41	12	32.5
BR	4	1	300	4.3
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0044
GS	0	0	-	0.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



GBS: No records, last recorded in 2013, with irregular sightings in previous years.

PASSERIDAE: house sparrow**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Common, breeding resident

Introduced species of urban and semi-urban areas.

General: There was an increase in the number of records from last year (45%) and a 255% increase over 10 YA and a 393% increase in the 30YA. Records from a few more grid cells (10%) and all weeks. Reporting rate of 11.5%, almost exactly the 30YA. *While there were some dips in the reporting rate – dropping below 10% in the period 1985 to 1989, and again between 2002 to 2009 – in the last 6 years the reporting rate has held steady at the current level. This contrasts with the abundance and reporting rate for the GBS survey (see below).* The total number of birds reported continues to rise: 6812 this year is up 84% on last year and up 470% of 10YA and 779% on the 30YA. Max 60/5 Dec JWNR (GrB1), mean 5.2, median 3. Only 12 breeding records in 12 grids: earliest on/5 Sep (in Fairy Martin nests) Nelangelo TSR 48 (LeM1) and last cf/13 Jan Bibaringa (SmA1).

GBS: Decrease from last year with the abundance (A=2.2944) is at its lowest levels ever in the survey. *In 1983 and 1986 the A value was above 8.0 and since then there has been an ever so gradual, almost constant, decline down to the present value A=2.2944.* Average group size down to 7.7 from 9.4 last year, median 4, max 74/3wk Feb Jerrabomberra (HaL2). 13 breeding records from 4 sites (down from 39 records and 8 sites) commencing with nb/4wk Sep and concluding with nb/3wk Dec both at Crace GrK11 (LeF1).

House Sparrow

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	1353	1344	1	315.5
WR	1	12	-92	2.5
G	77	69	12	45.7
BR	14	12	17	7.4
GA	2.8548	2.2944	24	4.7485
GS	38	42	-10	54.7
GBR	20	13	54	26.9

MOTACILLIDAE: pipit**Australian Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Found in most grasslands around the ACT.

General: A slight decrease in records but bird numbers are 38% up, while the reporting rate is marginally lower than last year, the abundance measure is up 14%. *Nevertheless, the reporting rate has only been lower in the period 2002-2004.* Mainly observed in spring (37%) and summer (33%). Mean 3.5, median 2, and max 69/2 Oct LGeo Anderson VC Rest Area (AnF1). 9 breeding records from 8 sites: earliest di/JWNR (SmA1) and latest cf/22 Jan LBath (LeM1).

GBS: 24 records from 4 sites (6.8%), mainly in spring (54%) and summer (37%), mainly from Curtin. Max 4/5wk Oct Curtin (AjR1), also the first (cf) breeding record. Abundance back to normal levels. Mean 2.5, median 2. 3 breeding records at one site (cf and dy) in Oct/Jan at Curtin (AjR1).

Common, breeding resident

Australasian Pipit

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	420	437	-4	172.2
WR	1	13	-92	1.2
G	81	78	4	54.2
BR	9	6	50	4.1
GA	0.0140	0.0131	7	0.0166
GS	4	3	33	2.1
GBR	3	2	50	0.6

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

An introduced species found in suitable terrain (paddocks with seedy weeds) in the region.

General: While the number of records is down on last year, the number of birds seen is up 10%. The reporting rate is low, 22% down on last year and 33% down on the 10YA and 49% down on the 30YA. The abundance is down 9% on last year and a little below 10 & 30YAs. More observations in summer (41%) and spring (25%) than in autumn (19%) and winter (15%). Mean 8.1, median 2, with max 346/25 Jun JWNR (SmA1). 2 breeding records: earliest, dy/31 Jan JWNR (HeS1) and latest br/6 Feb Murrumbateman (CnM1).

GBS: 64 records from 8 sites (14%), in 44 weeks in such places as Giralang, Crace, Curtin and Lyneham. A single breeding record: dy/3wk Jan Bonner (GrB1).

Common, breeding resident

European Goldfinch

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	712	755	-6	266.8
WR	0	10	-100	1.8
G	91	84	8	60.7
BR	2	2	0	3.1
GA	0.0643	0.0846	-24	0.1843
GS	8	10	-20	17.5
GBR	1	0	Inf	0.6

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Introduced species previously only found around the central area of Canberra but has been sighted further afield, in Goulburn and Bungendore.

General: Records further down this year from last year in 45 weeks with a further 31% decrease in the number of birds reported. Nearly all records still from eastern end of LBG. Abundance (0.0201) is a little over half last year and 53% down on the 10YA and 33% down on the 30YA. Similarly, the reporting rate (0.8%) is down 43% on last year, down 52% on the 10YA and down 33% on the 30YA. The reporting rate has decreased to historic levels after a significant elevation over the last 7 years. Max 27/2 Jul JWNR (SmA1), mean 2.5, median 1. More records in summer this year (39%) rather than the spring high of 51% of records last year. No breeding records this year after 2 last year.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Common Greenfinch

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	113	163	-31	32.5
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	7	-43	3.5
BR	0	2	-100	0.3
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	0	-	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Table 1: Number of records for each species segregated by survey type 2016-2017

COG COG's paper record sheet, **BA** BirdLife Australia, **CNM** Canberra Nature Map, **eBird** eBird Australia, **INC** Incidental on COG Website and **WOO** Woodland Survey. Greening Australia data included in COG. GBS records are not included (see Table 2). Unusual sightings not endorsed by the Rarities Panel are not included.

Rank	Species	Total	COG	BA	CNM	eBird	INC	WOO	WOO%
1	Australian Magpie	8567	289	85	21	7782	1	389	4.5
2	Magpie-lark	6722	138	63	11	6372		138	2.1
3	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	5632	196	47	20	5111	3	255	4.5
4	Crimson Rosella	5344	250	66	26	4629	1	372	7
5	Pied Currawong	5126	180	44	11	4752	2	137	2.7
6	Galah	5050	165	45	15	4597	4	224	4.4
7	Red Wattlebird	4789	205	54	16	4405		109	2.3
8	Australian Raven	4674	177	38	7	4233	2	217	4.6
9	Superb Fairy-wren	4134	221	69	21	3727	2	94	2.3
10	Noisy Miner	3584	52	9	7	3279		237	6.6
11	Crested Pigeon	3470	82	35	12	3299		42	1.2
12	Australian Wood Duck	3352	91	30	22	3166	3	40	1.2
13	Pacific Black Duck	3208	52	39	19	3081		17	0.5
14	Eastern Rosella	3170	174	33	16	2730	3	214	6.8
15	Common Starling	3167	116	36	4	2863	1	147	4.6
16	Grey Fantail	2775	159	50	9	2408	1	148	5.3
17	Eurasian Coot	2725	26	22	10	2660	3	4	0.1
18	Welcome Swallow	2678	86	27	3	2550		12	0.4
19	Willie Wagtail	2645	118	48	12	2422	1	44	1.7
20	Silvereye	2437	60	22	6	2326		23	0.9
21	Red-rumped Parrot	2351	65	21	19	2200	3	43	1.8
22	Common Myna	2292	45	22	4	2194		27	1.2
23	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2093	143	29	9	1857	1	54	2.6
24	Masked Lapwing	2062	38	15	8	1987	2	12	0.6
25	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1957	137	29	10	1722		59	3
26	Australian King-Parrot	1897	21	6	15	1821	1	33	1.7
27	Purple Swamphen	1866	36	15	5	1809	1		
28	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1842	131	39	13	1557	2	100	5.4
29	Dusky Moorhen	1806	30	17	7	1750	1	1	0.1
30	Spotted Pardalote	1738	113	14	7	1526		78	4.5
31	Striated Pardalote	1697	156	16	3	1317	1	204	12
32	Common Blackbird	1682	34	30	3	1610		5	0.3
33	Laughing Kookaburra	1668	83	16	14	1490	1	64	3.8
34	Grey Teal	1650	10	15	3	1617	1	4	0.2
35	Weebill	1632	166	18	3	1281		164	10
36	Brown Thornbill	1602	88	12	9	1469	1	23	1.4
37	Little Pied Cormorant	1595	16	14	8	1554		3	0.2
38	Rock Dove	1592	13	9	2	1567	1		
39	White-browed Scrubwren	1549	45	31	4	1462		7	0.5
40	Black Swan	1540	23	13	15	1486	2	1	0.1
41	Grey Butcherbird	1532	62	10	14	1332		114	7.4
42	White-faced Heron	1506	24	22	16	1430	2	12	0.8
43	White-throated Treecreeper	1498	122	15	8	1249		104	6.9
44	Silver Gull	1480	22	12	2	1443		1	0.1
45	Australasian Grebe	1458	9	12	10	1413		14	1
46	House Sparrow	1382	16	11	2	1352		1	0.1

Rank	Species	Total	COG	BA	CNM	eBird	INC	WOO	WOO%
47	Australian Reed-Warbler	1335	35	26	6	1268			
48	Little Corella	1219	34	6	6	1146	3	24	2
49	White-winged Chough	1211	57	11	12	1056	1	74	6.1
50	Rufous Whistler	1190	95	33	5	954	1	102	8.6
51	Australian White Ibis	1147	8	5	4	1124		6	0.5
52	Eastern Spinebill	1143	27	18	6	1079	1	12	1
53	Grey Shrike-thrush	1099	118	11	8	916	2	44	4
54	Rainbow Lorikeet	1077	24	3	10	1013	3	24	2.2
55	Noisy Friarbird	1032	48	17	9	891		67	6.5
56	Buff-rumped Thornbill	1019	118	7	2	797	2	93	9.1
57	Australasian Darter	1011	12	11	7	980	1		
58	Gang-gang Cockatoo	959	29	7	24	872	11	16	1.7
59	White-plumed Honeyeater	889	54	6	1	805		23	2.6
60	Little Black Cormorant	878	11	10	2	854		1	0.1
61	Red-browed Finch	860	37	22	10	787	2	2	0.2
62	Scarlet Robin	828	97	3	41	610	25	52	6.3
63	Striated Thornbill	783	63	14	1	675		30	3.8
64	Golden Whistler	745	55	3	13	642	1	31	4.2
65	Little Raven	728	15	3	1	706	2	1	0.1
66	European Goldfinch	712	18	7	6	681			
67	Hardhead	690	4	1	2	681		2	0.3
68	Yellow-tailed Blk-Cockatoo	671	14	2	15	631	4	5	0.7
69	Great Cormorant	638	20	6	3	608	1		
70	Sacred Kingfisher	630	46	15	4	541	2	22	3.5
71	White-eared Honeyeater	602	47	7	6	514		28	4.7
72	Eastern Koel	591	8	7	19	551	6		
73	Dusky Woodswallow	590	63	12	8	484	3	20	3.4
74	Nankeen Kestrel	590	42	9	4	525	1	9	1.5
75	New Holland Honeyeater	586	16	2	4	564			
76	Australasian Shoveler	564	3	5	3	552		1	0.2
77	Golden-headed Cisticola	564	4	3	1	556			
78	Black-fronted Dotterel	516	3	8	7	495	1	2	0.4
79	White-throated Gerygone	480	34	13	3	361		69	14.4
80	Olive-backed Oriole	467	34	7	2	375		49	10.5
81	Latham's Snipe	457	1	9	6	440	1		
82	Chestnut Teal	453	2	2	1	448			
83	Straw-necked Ibis	450	5	3	4	434	2	2	0.4
84	Satin Bowerbird	447	22	13	7	397	1	7	1.6
85	Superb Parrot	438	16	1	15	387	5	14	3.2
86	Wedge-tailed Eagle	429	24	8	20	369	6	2	0.5
87	Australasian Pipit	420	24	4	1	390		1	0.2
88	Tree Martin	413	24	8	2	368		11	2.7
89	Speckled Warbler	409	53	5	3	320	2	26	6.4
90	Hoary-headed Grebe	405	1	3	2	399			
91	White-naped Honeyeater	405	55	8	3	332		7	1.7
92	Leaden Flycatcher	390	31	9	3	321	1	25	6.4
93	Eastern Yellow Robin	379	29	3	8	339			
94	Pink-eared Duck	366	2	1		359		4	1.1
95	Little Grassbird	348	10	7		331			
96	Brown-headed Honeyeater	347	34	2	3	275		33	9.5
97	Dollarbird	320	15	11	8	270	2	14	4.4
98	Australian Pelican	316	4	4	3	304	1		
99	Spotted Dove	307	2	2	3	298		2	0.7

Rank	Species	Total	COG	BA	CNM	eBird	INC	WOO	WOO%
100	Intermediate Egret	294		3	5	286			
101	Great Egret	287	2	2	6	277			
102	Eurasian Skylark	283	8			275			
103	Australian Shelduck	255		2	1	252			
104	Common Bronzewing	244	5	5	8	213		13	5.3
105	Western Gerygone	230	14	2	3	171	1	39	17
106	Mistletoebird	221	11	3	3	176		28	12.7
107	Grey Currawong	219	6	1	7	191	1	13	5.9
108	Yellow Thornbill	215	8	3	1	200	2	1	0.5
109	Flame Robin	208	11	2	5	188	2		
110	Brown Goshawk	200	6	1	6	178	2	7	3.5
111	Varied Sittella	199	18		3	163		15	7.5
112	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	197	33	6	2	149	1	6	3
113	Domestic Mallard	192		1		191			
114	Double-barred Finch	181	13		3	164	1		
115	Freckled Duck	181			2	178		1	0.6
116	White-winged Triller	168	3	10	3	134	3	15	8.9
117	White-necked Heron	164	2	1	10	147	3	1	0.6
118	Little Eagle	162	2		8	149	1	2	1.2
119	Australian Hobby	160	7	1	7	143		2	1.2
120	Brown Falcon	160	11		4	142		3	1.9
121	Whistling Kite	160		3	1	156			
122	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	143	17	2	2	112		10	7
123	Red-kneed Dotterel	134				134			
124	Fairy Martin	127	4		1	122			
125	Rainbow Bee-eater	125	7	2	5	111			
126	Fuscous Honeyeater	122	19	2	1	99		1	0.8
127	Nankeen Night-Heron	121		1	4	116			
128	Stubble Quail	121	1			119		1	0.8
129	Collared Sparrowhawk	118	5	1	2	106	1	3	2.5
130	Cattle Egret	114		1	3	110			
131	Common Greenfinch	113	1			112			
132	Diamond Firetail	112	11	2	3	89	1	6	5.4
133	Plumed Whistling-Duck	111		1	1	109			
134	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	110	9	4		86		11	10
135	Tawny Frogmouth	109	5	2	6	89	6	1	0.9
136	Black-shouldered Kite	105		3	2	99	1		
137	Southern Whiteface	105	9		6	82	6	2	1.9
138	Apostlebird	99		1	4	94			
139	Rufous Songlark	97	4	8		74		11	11.3
140	White-fronted Chat	88	1		2	85			
141	Long-billed Corella	87		2	1	83	1		
142	Spotless Crake	86			1	85			
143	Superb Lyrebird	81	4		2	75			
144	Brown Quail	80	2		1	75	1	1	1.2
145	Musk Duck	79	1	2	1	75			
146	Peregrine Falcon	77	4	2	3	66	2		
147	Rose Robin	77	3		1	71	1	1	1.3
148	Brush Cuckoo	76	8		1	59	1	7	9.2
149	Jacky Winter	75	4	1	1	65		4	5.3
150	Brown Treecreeper	72	15		1	54		2	2.8
151	Pallid Cuckoo	65	11	1		46		7	10.8
152	Eastern Whipbird	62	2			60			

Rank	Species	Total	COG	BA	CNM	eBird	INC	WOO	WOO%
153	Pied Cormorant	61	2	1		58			
154	Swamp Harrier	60	1			59			
155	Buff-banded Rail	58			3	55			
156	Pied Stilt	55				55			
157	Royal Spoonbill	53	1		1	51			
158	Rufous Fantail	53	1	1	1	50			
159	Red-capped Robin	51	1		1	49			
160	Little Egret	50			3	47			
161	Crescent Honeyeater	49	1	1		46	1		
162	Restless Flycatcher	49	4	1	3	41			
163	Crested Shrike-tit	48	13	1	2	32			
164	White-cheeked Honeyeater	46		1	1	44			
165	Southern Boobook	45	1		6	35	2	1	2.2
166	Australian Painted-snipe	43		1		42			
167	Northern Mallard	42	1		1	40			
168	Pied Butcherbird	42	2	1	1	36	1	1	2.4
169	Satin Flycatcher	42	1	2	1	38			
170	Zebra Finch	41				41			
171	Whiskered Tern	40				40			
172	Tawny Grassbird	36		1		35			
173	Glossy Ibis	35			2	33			
174	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	35				35			
175	Horsfield's Bushlark	34				34			
176	Bassian Thrush	33			2	31			
177	Australian Little Bittern	30				30			
178	Australian Owlet-nightjar	29	2		1	26			
179	No sighting	29				29			
180	Spotted Quail-thrush	28			1	27			
181	Pac Bl Duck x Dom Mallard	27				27			
182	Banded Lapwing	25				25			
183	Musk Lorikeet	25			1	24			
184	Emu	24			1	23			
185	Baillon's Crake	23				23			
186	Domestic Graylag Goose	23				23			
187	Great Crested Grebe	23				23			
188	Blue-billed Duck	22		2	1	19			
189	Hooded Robin	21			2	17	2		
190	Red-necked Avocet	21				21			
191	Australian Spotted Crake	20				20			
192	Peaceful Dove	20				20			
193	Pilotbird	19				19			
194	Red-browed Treecreeper	19	2			17			
195	Muscovy Duck	17				17			
196	Channel-billed Cuckoo	16			2	13	1		
197	Indian Peafowl	16	1			15			
198	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	16				16			
199	White-throated Needletail	16				16			
200	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	15				15			
201	Lewin's Rail	14				14			
202	Red-capped Plover	14				14			
203	Brown Songlark	13		1		12			
204	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	13			1	11	1		
205	Magpie Goose	13			1	12			

Rank	Species	Total	COG	BA	CNM	eBird	INC	WOO	WOO%
206	Olive Whistler	12				12			
207	Bush Stone-curlew	11	1		2	8			
208	Wonga Pigeon	11				11			
209	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	10	2			8			
210	Barn Owl	8			3	4	1		
211	Cockatiel	8				6	2		
212	Red-necked Stint	8				8			
213	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	8			3	3	2		
214	Pink Robin	7				7			
215	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	7				7			
216	Brown Gerygone	6				6			
217	Cicadabird	6				6			
218	Curlew Sandpiper	6				6			
219	Lewin's Honeyeater	6	1			5			
220	Painted Button-quail	6				6			
221	Powerful Owl	6		1		5			
222	Azure Kingfisher	5				5			
223	Blue-faced Honeyeater	5				5			
224	Grey Goshawk	5				5			
225	Little Friarbird	5				5			
226	Spotted Harrier	5				5			
227	Black Falcon	4				4			
228	Budgerigar	4				4			
229	Pacific Golden Plover	4				4			
230	White-winged Black Tern	4				4			
231	Australasian Bittern	3				2	1		
232	Brush Bronzewing	3				3			
233	Little Wattlebird	3				3			
234	White-headed Pigeon	3				2	1		
235	Black Kite	2				2			
236	Black-faced Monarch	2				2			
237	Caspian Tern	2				2			
238	Diamond Dove	2				2			
239	Domestic Goose	2				2			
240	Double-banded Plover	2				2			
241	Little Button-quail	2				2			
242	Masked Woodswallow	2				1	1		
243	Pectoral Sandpiper	2				2			
244	Scarlet Honeyeater	2				2			
245	Swift Parrot	2				2			
246	White-browed Woodswallow	2				1	1		
247	Turquoise Parrot	1			1				
248	Australian Ringneck	1			1				
249	Bar-tailed Godwit	1				1			
250	Black Honeyeater	1				1			
251	Black-eared Cuckoo	1				1			
252	Fork-tailed Swift	1	1						
253	Little Curlew	1				1			
254	Regent Honeyeater	1				1			
		173333	6478	1847	1020	158628	196	5164	412.4

Table 2: Garden Bird Survey Statistics 2016-17

Values for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (Year 36), together with percentage change when compared with the mean of all previous years (Years 1-35). The Long-term Average Values of each summary statistic are posted on the COG Website <http://canberrabirds.org.au/index.htm> under "Maps, Forms and Lists" see the "Lists" section.

- Rk (rank) = rank of the species
- A (abundance) = mean number of birds/site/week
- F (distribution) = % of sites with record(s)
- W (weeks) = number of weeks with records
- R (recording rate) = % of observer weeks with record(s)
- G (group size) = mean number of individuals/observation
- B (breeding) = % of sites with one or more breeding obs

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 $\Delta A\%$ and $\Delta R\%$ are both greater than $\pm 25\%$. This may be indicative of a general increase or decrease over the 34 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.

35yr	Rk	Species	A	$\Delta A\%$	F (%)	$\Delta F\%$	W	R	G	B
	1	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	8.01	30	100.0	2	52	87.31	9.2	17
	2	Galah	5.47	-22	100.0	0	52	77.88	7.0	31
	3	Australian Magpie	3.41	13	100.0	0	52	92.99	3.7	49
+	4	Crested Pigeon	3.35	105	98.3	56	52	77.73	4.3	29
	5	Pied Currawong	3.28	-17	100.0	1	52	84.03	3.9	42
+	6	Little Corella	3.01	574	78.0	212	52	26.44	11.4	8
	7	Crimson Rosella	2.99	-5	100.0	1	52	83.22	3.6	24
-	8	House Sparrow	2.85	-47	64.4	-26	52	30.37	9.4	10
	9	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	2.76	14	76.3	-8	51	19.94	13.9	3
-	10	Silvereye	2.73	-47	78.0	-18	52	40.77	6.7	10
+	11	Rock Dove	2.52	89	59.3	17	52	26.75	9.4	2
	12	Australian King-Parrot	2.35	45	89.8	12	52	53.35	4.4	31
	13	Red Wattlebird	2.27	-2	98.3	0	52	80.41	2.8	47
	14	Magpie-lark	2.01	-1	98.3	0	52	76.25	2.6	37
-	15	Common Starling	1.93	-75	74.6	-14	52	22.31	8.7	5
+	16	Australian Wood Duck	1.75	379	55.9	96	52	15.46	11.3	17
+	17	Australian Raven	1.68	44	98.3	3	52	69.55	2.4	19
	18	Common Myna	1.63	-37	74.6	2	52	39.88	4.1	10
+	19	Noisy Miner	1.49	276	59.3	113	52	33.88	4.4	12
	20	Eastern Rosella	1.40	-6	94.9	-2	52	50.74	2.8	17
+	21	Superb Fairy-wren	1.29	25	79.7	6	52	38.71	3.3	12
+	22	Eurasian Coot	1.13	250	11.9	415	51	6.43	17.6	3
+	23	Australian White Ibis	1.11	382	40.7	177	52	11.02	10.1	
+	24	Rainbow Lorikeet	1.09	884	62.7	354	52	30.49	3.6	2
+	25	Gang-gang Cockatoo	1.07	41	76.3	10	52	31.89	3.4	14
+	26	Red-rumped Parrot	0.93	104	61.0	48	52	18.85	4.9	3
+	27	Silver Gull	0.90	86	16.9	119	48	4.05	22.3	2

35yr	Rk	Species	A	ΔA%	F (%)	ΔF%	W	R	G	B
+	28	Pacific Black Duck	0.89	333	30.5	137	52	12.73	7.0	12
+	29	White-winged Chough	0.81	89	42.4	26	52	10.59	7.7	10
+	30	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	0.67	91	74.6	126	52	10.36	6.4	7
-	31	Common Blackbird	0.64	-56	76.3	-17	52	36.41	1.8	7
-	32	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	0.55	-60	59.3	-28	52	13.67	4.0	5
+	33	Welcome Swallow	0.52	83	62.7	57	52	16.00	3.3	7
	34	Weebill	0.47	-11	44.1	-14	52	17.25	2.7	5
	35	Eastern Spinebill	0.47	-18	79.7	-9	52	31.11	1.5	3
	36	Red-browed Finch	0.47	16	25.4	-4	50	5.26	8.9	8
	37	Spotted Pardalote	0.46	-31	64.4	-17	52	24.38	1.9	2
+	38	Brown Thornbill	0.39	29	55.9	12	52	20.99	1.8	2
-	39	Striated Pardalote	0.38	-35	59.3	-20	52	18.96	2.0	7
+	40	Satin Bowerbird	0.37	149	50.8	130	52	17.45	2.1	7
	41	Laughing Kookaburra	0.37	4	72.9	3	52	20.60	1.8	2
+	42	Grey Butcherbird	0.33	502	78.0	246	52	27.84	1.2	2
+	43	Little Black Cormorant	0.32	820	13.6	287	37	3.31	9.7	
+	44	Dusky Moorhen	0.32	426	13.6	591	52	7.36	4.3	7
+	45	White-browed Scrubwren	0.29	70	55.9	72	51	15.58	1.9	7
-	46	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	0.26	-41	78.0	-12	52	17.91	1.5	5
+	47	Purple Swamphen	0.25	321	10.2	448	51	5.88	4.3	3
+	48	Little Raven	0.25	130	15.3	38	22	1.36	18.3	
+	49	Eastern Koel	0.24	633	83.1	284	24	17.25	1.4	19
	50	Willie Wagtail	0.24	-8	62.7	-15	52	16.51	1.5	5
+	51	Superb Parrot	0.22	294	27.1	223	47	5.72	3.8	7
-	52	White-naped Honeyeater	0.22	-55	28.8	-38	23	2.69	8.1	2
-	53	Grey Fantail	0.22	-35	54.2	-30	51	14.06	1.5	3
	54	Straw-necked Ibis	0.19	-41	27.1	24	25	2.02	9.6	
	55	Striated Thornbill	0.19	-25	18.6	-45	48	4.52	4.1	2
+	56	Little Pied Cormorant	0.18	371	23.7	280	52	7.90	2.2	
-	57	Noisy Friarbird	0.16	-79	61.0	-32	37	10.16	1.5	5
+	58	Masked Lapwing	0.16	44	37.3	0	52	7.79	2.0	2
+	59	Black Swan	0.14	353	13.6	339	50	4.01	3.6	8
+	60	Hardhead	0.12	175	3.4	176	28	1.40	8.9	
+	61	Australian Reed-Warbler	0.11	504	10.2	264	32	3.78	2.9	2
	62	Golden Whistler	0.10	-28	40.7	-33	40	8.88	1.1	
+	63	Spotted Dove	0.09	218	25.4	128	51	5.76	1.6	2
+	64	White-faced Heron	0.08	115	32.2	85	51	6.07	1.4	
+	65	Grey Teal	0.07	313	8.5	202	30	1.91	3.9	
-	66	European Goldfinch	0.06	-72	13.6	-58	44	2.49	2.6	2
-	67	White-eared Honeyeater	0.06	-37	37.3	-21	48	4.63	1.4	2
-	68	White-plumed Honeyeater	0.05	-61	22.0	-45	47	2.96	1.7	2
+	69	Australasian Grebe	0.05	276	10.2	397	32	1.67	3.0	
+	70	Brown-headed Honeyeater	0.05	29	10.2	33	30	1.40	3.6	
-	71	Double-barred Finch	0.05	-57	16.9	-12	26	1.44	3.3	
	72	Olive-backed Oriole	0.05	-22	39.0	-6	37	4.24	1.1	
-	73	Grey Shrike-thrush	0.05	-42	18.6	-45	50	4.21	1.1	
-	74	Rufous Whistler	0.04	-51	15.3	-66	32	2.96	1.4	
+	75	Collared Sparrowhawk	0.04	88	33.9	34	44	3.58	1.1	
	75	Dollarbird	0.04	-23	25.4	-16	21	2.38	1.7	
+	77	Yellow Thornbill	0.04	64	8.5	4	39	2.14	1.8	2
+	78	Tawny Frogmouth	0.04	67	13.6	74	38	2.06	1.9	3

35yr	Rk	Species	A	ΔA%	F (%)	ΔF%	W	R	G	B
-	79	Grey Currawong	0.04	-51	20.3	-38	49	3.43	1.1	
+	80	Great Cormorant	0.04	136	11.9	113	33	1.95	1.9	
-	81	White-throated Needletail	0.04	-79	11.9	-43	8	0.39	9.2	
+	82	Wedge-tailed Eagle	0.03	80	35.6	79	42	2.57	1.3	
-	82	White-throated Treecreeper	0.03	-46	6.8	-58	49	3.15	1.0	
	84	Southern Boobook	0.03	-19	37.3	8	34	3.04	1.1	2
	85	Common Bronzewing	0.03	-16	11.9	-5	37	2.57	1.3	
	86	New Holland Honeyeater	0.03	-19	8.5	-20	26	1.36	2.2	2
-	87	Scarlet Robin	0.03	-34	18.6	-27	25	1.99	1.3	
	87	Tree Martin	0.03	8	11.9	47	13	0.58	4.5	
-	89	Buff-rumped Thornbill	0.02	-83	5.1	-68	19	0.74	3.2	
-	90	Dusky Woodswallow	0.02	-68	18.6	19	11	0.62	3.8	
+	91	Australasian Darter	0.02	399	10.2	320	28	1.52	1.5	
-	92	Leaden Flycatcher	0.02	-30	13.6	-32	23	1.48	1.5	
	93	Nankeen Kestrel	0.02	-7	20.3	4	34	1.95	1.0	
+	94	Eastern Yellow Robin	0.02	156	3.4	44	35	1.52	1.2	
	95	Australasian Pipit	0.01	-17	6.8	94	20	0.93	1.5	2
+	96	Australian Owlet-nightjar	0.01	312	8.5	249	29	1.32	1.0	
-	97	Australian Hobby	0.01	-62	23.7	-26	22	1.09	1.1	
+	98	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	0.01	40	8.5	-12	19	1.05	1.0	
-	98	Varied Sittella	0.01	-68	5.1	-40	8	0.39	2.7	
	100	Fairy Martin	0.01	71	1.7	11	2	0.08	13.0	
+	101	Eastern Great Egret	<.01	234	5.1	171	17	0.86	1.1	
-	102	Rainbow Bee-eater	<.01	-29	1.7	-76	2	0.08	12.0	
	103	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<.01	-19	10.2	-17	14	0.66	1.2	2
-	104	Brown Goshawk	<.01	-31	15.3	-26	19	0.78	1.0	2
-	104	Mistletoebird	<.01	-68	11.9	-21	14	0.78	1.0	
+	106	Musk Lorikeet	<.01	636	1.7	177	11	0.43	1.6	
-	106	Sacred Kingfisher	<.01	-39	20.3	11	14	0.66	1.1	
	108	Golden-headed Cisticola	<.01	18	3.4	100	11	0.43	1.5	
-	109	Pallid Cuckoo	<.01	-76	6.8	-70	15	0.62	1.0	
	110	Peregrine Falcon	<.01	-3	10.2	5	13	0.55	1.1	
	111	Little Eagle	<.01	-15	10.2	0	12	0.47	1.1	
+	112	Nankeen Night-Heron	<.01	155	5.1	422	8	0.39	1.2	
+	112	Brush Cuckoo	<.01	431	5.1	168	10	0.47	1.0	
-	112	White-throated Gerygone	<.01	-74	6.8	-59	12	0.47	1.0	
-	115	Australian Pelican	<.01	-78	6.8	-31	9	0.35	1.2	
+	115	Latham's Snipe	<.01	265	5.1	683	7	0.35	1.2	
-	115	Rose Robin	<.01	-61	3.4	-73	11	0.43	1.0	
+	118	White-necked Heron	<.01	238	10.2	301	9	0.35	1.1	
-	118	Speckled Warbler	<.01	-56	1.7	-63	5	0.19	2.0	
-	120	Crescent Honeyeater	<.01	-83	1.7	-82	8	0.31	1.0	
-	121	Brown Quail	<.01	-28	1.7	70	1	0.04	7.0	
-	121	Eurasian Skylark	<.01	-88	3.4	66	6	0.23	1.2	
+	123	White-fronted Chat	<.01	>999	1.7	>999	3	0.12	1.7	
	124	Chestnut Teal	<.01	-51	1.7	195	4	0.16	1.0	
-	124	Black-shouldered Kite	<.01	-90	3.4	-67	4	0.16	1.0	
-	124	Long-billed Corella	<.01	-67	5.1	96	4	0.16	1.0	
-	124	Flame Robin	<.01	-85	6.8	11	4	0.16	1.0	
	124	Little Grassbird	<.01	-20	1.7	177	4	0.16	1.0	
+	129	Intermediate Egret	<.01	967	1.7	372	1	0.04	3.0	

35yr	Rk	Species	A	ΔA%	F (%)	ΔF%	W	R	G	B
+	129	Channel-billed Cuckoo	<.01	280	5.1	325	3	0.12	1.0	
-	129	Fuscous Honeyeater	<.01	-99	5.1	-82	3	0.12	1.0	
-	129	White-winged Triller	<.01	-90	3.4	-51	3	0.12	1.0	
-	133	Stubble Quail	<.01	-54	1.7	62	2	0.08	1.0	
+	133	Australasian Shoveler	<.01	309	1.7	719	1	0.04	2.0	
+	133	Grey Goshawk	<.01	177	1.7	126	2	0.08	1.0	
-	133	Cockatiel	<.01	-56	1.7	-53	1	0.04	2.0	
-	137	Northern Mallard	<.01	-68	1.7	81	1	0.04	1.0	
-	137	Cattle Egret	<.01	-88	1.7	17	1	0.04	1.0	
+	137	Glossy Ibis	<.01	>999	1.7	>999	1	0.04	1.0	
	137	Royal Spoonbill	<.01	-39	1.7	160	1	0.04	1.0	
	137	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<.01	15	1.7	90	1	0.04	1.0	
-	137	Whistling Kite	<.01	-39	1.7	-3	1	0.04	1.0	
-	137	Brown Falcon	<.01	-93	1.7	-77	1	0.04	1.0	
+	137	Black Falcon	<.01	92	1.7	180	1	0.04	1.0	
-	137	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<.01	-95	1.7	-82	1	0.04	1.0	
	137	Eastern Barn Owl	<.01	7	1.7	48	1	0.04	1.0	
+	137	Azure Kingfisher	<.01	527	1.7	923	1	0.04	1.0	
-	137	Rufous Fantail	<.01	-87	1.7	-79	1	0.04	1.0	
-	137	Satin Flycatcher	<.01	-86	1.7	-69	1	0.04	1.0	
	137	Bassian Thrush	<.01	0	1.7	157	1	0.04	1.0	

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 / 20-minute search**, although other types of search (Area searches) are also acceptable.

Woodland Survey (WOO)

Generally, 9 sub-sites (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 regular surveys of Lake Bathurst (including The Morass) and Lake George. The survey normally covers all areas under water at Lake Bathurst and some sections of 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 p 96. 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 30 years (30YA). 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 were 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 the *BirdLife Australia Working List of Australian Birds*. BirdLife Australia and Charles Darwin University has developed this list and will maintain it into the future. The BirdLife Australia Working List is available for download: <http://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy>.

The status shown for each bird in the COG Area of Interest on the Systematic List is based on previous survey data. The COG Rarities Panel updates it from time to time.

As a 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 p. 103) 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).

For some reason the term Reporting Rate is used in relation to General Survey statistics and Recording Rate is used in the Garden Bird Survey. They refer to the same thing: the percentage of sheets or weeks in which the species is reported/recorded.

Pallid Cuckoo (female rufous morph)

Julian Robinson



ABBREVIATIONS**General**

10YA	10-year average
30YA	30-year average
ANBG	Australian National Botanic Gardens
ANU	Australian National University
BA	Birds Australia
br	breeding (unspecified)
BSP	Bungendore Sewage Ponds
BuTYL	Bungendore Trucking Yard Lane
CAS	Castle Hill (WOO site)
CBN	Canberra Bird Notes
CIMAG	Canberra Indian Myna Action Group
Ck	creek
CMP	Campbell Park (WOO site)
CNM	Canberra Nature Map
CNP	Canberra Nature Park
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation. The abbreviation is followed by the location, e.g. CSIRO Black Mountain
E	East
f	female
FSP	Fyshwick Sewage Ponds
GA	Greening Australia
GBS	Garden Bird Survey
GOO	Gooroo/Goorooyarroo (WOO site)
GOS	Goorooyarroo South (WOO site)
Gr[A01]	COG grid cell (number A01)
GunL	Gungahlin Lakes
HAL	Hall/Gold Creek (WOO site)
HS	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
LBG	Lake Burley Griffin
LGeo	Lake George
LGin	Lake Ginninderra
LGin Pen	Lake Ginninderra Peninsula
LJerr	Lake Jerrabomberra
LTug	Lake Tuggeranong
Ln	lane
m	male
MAJ	Mt Majura (WOO site)

max	maximum
MFNR	Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve
MJF	Majura Firing Range (WOO site)
MtJerraNR	Mt Jerrabomberra Nature Reserve
MUL	Mulligans Flat (WOO site)
N	North
NAS	Naas (WOO site)
NatArbor	National Arboretum
NLN	Newline Quarry (WOO site)
NMA	National Museum of Australia
NNP	Namadgi National Park
NNPVIC	NNP Visitors' Information Centre
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)
TNR	Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
TUG	Tuggeranong (WOO site)
TUGH	Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve
W	West
WBS	Waterbird Survey
WBPD	West Belconnen Pond Dunlop
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	C N M	B A	C O G	e B d	G B S
AjR1	Richard Allen Family			*		*
AlB1	Barbara Allan			*		*
AlR1	Richard Allen				*	
AnF1	Frank Antram				*	
AnI1	Ian Anderson			*		*
AuN1	Nancy Auerbach				*	
AwB1	ANU Womens BC			*		
BaG1	Graham Barwell		*			
BaI1	Ian Baird	*			*	
BaL1	Lia Battisson			*	*	
BaS2	Shaun Bagley			*		
BeC1	Catherine Bennett			*		
BeC2	Cedric Bear	*			*	
BeD1	Darryl Beaumont			*	*	
BeL3	Linda Beveridge				*	
BeS1	Sue Beatty			*	*	
BiJ1	John Bissett		*		*	
BiT2	Tony Bischoff				*	
BIJ1	J & N Black					*
BIR1	Rosemary Blemings	*				
BoC4	Con Boekel		*	*	*	
BoJ1	Jenny Bounds			*		*
BoS2	Suzi Bond			*	*	
BrJ3	John Brannan			*		*
BrJ5	John Brown				*	
BuJ3	John Buckley			*	*	
BuJ4	John Bundock	*			*	
BuM1	Martin Butterfield				*	*
BuM3	M Buszynski					*
BuM4	Mikayla Burke				*	
BuP1	Prue Buckley			*		
CaJ4	Jean Casburn			*	*	*
CaR3	Ryu Callaway	*			*	*
ChD2	David Churches		*			
ClG1	Grahame Clark			*		*
ClJ3	Julie Clark				*	
CIM1	Mark Clayton			*		
CnM1	CNM observer	*				
CoD2	David Cook			*	*	
CoF1	COG Outing			*	*	
CoK2	Kathy Cook				*	*
CuR1	Roger Curnow			*		
Code	Observer	C N M	B A	C O G	e B d	G B S
DaC1	Chris Davey	*			*	*
DaC2	Christine Darwood					*
DaG2	Geoffrey Dabb				*	
DaJ1	Joan Dawes		*			
DcA1	C & A Drake					*
DeB3	Brian Deans				*	
DeD2	D Deans					*
DeN1	Nigel Dears	*				
DiB1	R Digan					*
DoM1	M Doyle					*
DrC1	Ms C Drake				*	
DwB1	B & K Dwyer					*
EbD1	eBird Observer				*	
EdM1	Muriel S Edwards				*	
FeH1	Hickson Fergusson				*	
FeP1	Paul Fennell				*	*
FoW1	Wilber Forsooth				*	
FrM1	Matthew Frawley	*			*	
FuP1	Peter Fullagar				*	
GaP1	Paul Gatenby		*		*	
GaP9	P Gatenby					*
GiJ2	Jesse Gibson				*	
GoJ3	John Goldie				*	*
GrB1	Bill Graham				*	*
HaA2	A Hall					*
HaJ1	J & A Holland					*
HaJ7	John Harris				*	
HaK1	Kay Hahne				*	*
HaL2	Lindsay Hansch				*	*
HaS3	S Haygarth					*
HaS4	Stuart Harris				*	
HaW1	William Hall				*	
HeJ2	Jonathon Henshaw				*	
HeS1	Sandra Henderson				*	*
HiC2	Celia Hindmarsh				*	
HoA1	A Howarth					*
HoJ1	Jack Holland				*	
HoS1	Steve Holliday				*	*
HuC2	Chris J. Hudson				*	
InC1	COG Incidental				*	
KaD1	D Kay					*
KeJ5	J Duncan K Bissett				*	
KiB1	Bron King				*	
KoL1	L Kossek					*

Code	Observer	C N M	B A	C O G	e B d	G B S
KrS1	Shirley Kral			*		*
LaD1	David Landon			*		
LaD3	D Laing					*
LaK1	Kim Larmour				*	
LaS1	Sue Lashko			*	*	
LaS2	Sandra Lauer				*	
LeC1	C Ledger					*
LeF1	F Leary					*
LeM1	Michael Lenz			*	*	*
LiB1	Bruce Lindenmayer			*		
LiJ1	Joan Lipscombe				*	
LiR1	R Lister					*
LiT1	Trevor Lipscombe			*		
LjT1	T & J Lipscombe					*
LuN1	Noel Luff				*	
MaA2	Alison Mackerras			*	*	*
MaL2	Liam Manderson				*	
MaM4	Michael Maconachie				*	
MaR5	Rod Mackay			*		
MaS3	Sue Mathews			*		
McD1	David McDonald	*	*	*	*	
McD4	Duncan McCaskill			*	*	*
McI1	Ian J McMahon				*	
McJ4	Julie McGuinness			*		
MeM2	Megan Mears				*	
MeP1	P & D Mellor & Lockie					*
MiJ5	Judy Middlebrook			*		
MiP1	Peter Milburn				*	
MiR2	R Minne		*			
MoK1	K Moore					*
MoM1	M Moncur					*
MoM3	Martyn Moffat			*	*	*
MuH1	Heather Murray			*		
MuM4	Matthew Mullaney	*				
NaT1	Tony Nairn				*	
NeG1	Gail Neumann		*	*	*	*
NiS1	Stuart Nielsen				*	
OmD1	Desley O'Mara			*		
OnP1	P & A O'Neil					*
OrY1	Yarden Oren				*	
PaR9	R Parnell					*
PeH2	Harvey Perkins	*		*	*	*
PoD1	David Pool		*			
PoH1	Hugh Possingham				*	

Code	Observer	C N M	B A	C O G	e B d	G B S
QuA1	A Quick					*
RaJ1	A & J Russell					*
RaL1	Lucy Randall				*	*
RaM1	Michael Ramsey					*
ReJ5	Julian Reid				*	
ReS1	Steve Read				*	*
RiM1	M J Richards					*
RoA1	Alison Rowell				*	
RoJ5	Julian Robinson					*
RoM3	Margaret Robertson					*
RoS1	S Robertson					*
RoV1	Vivien Rolland					*
RuA1	A Russell-French				*	
RuA2	Ashwin Rudder					*
SaD1	Debbie Saunders					*
SmA1	Alastair Smith					*
SmJ2	Jenny Smits	*				
SpB1	Bob Spiller		*			
SpK9	K Speldewinde					*
StD4	Dr A D Stuart		*			
StD6	Daniela Stehlik			*		
StM4	Margaret Strong					*
TaK1	Dr M K Tarburton		*			
TaM1	I McComas Taylor					*
TaN1	Nicki Taws		*	*	*	*
TeJ1	Julian Teh					*
ThA1	Alan Thomas			*		
TuA2	Alison Turner					*
TwP1	Precocious Twitch					*
VeP1	Philip Veerman			*		*
W S1	shorty w					*
WaJ3	J Waldron					*
WaK1	Kathy Walter			*		*
WaR4	R Walcott			*		*
WhW1	Wendy Whitham			*		
WiK2	Kevin Windle			*		*
WiT1	Tony Willis			*	*	
WoD1	D Wood					*
WyP1	Patrick Wyllie					*
ZwM1	Marnix Zwankhuizen		*		*	

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The contributions for the Systematic List are:

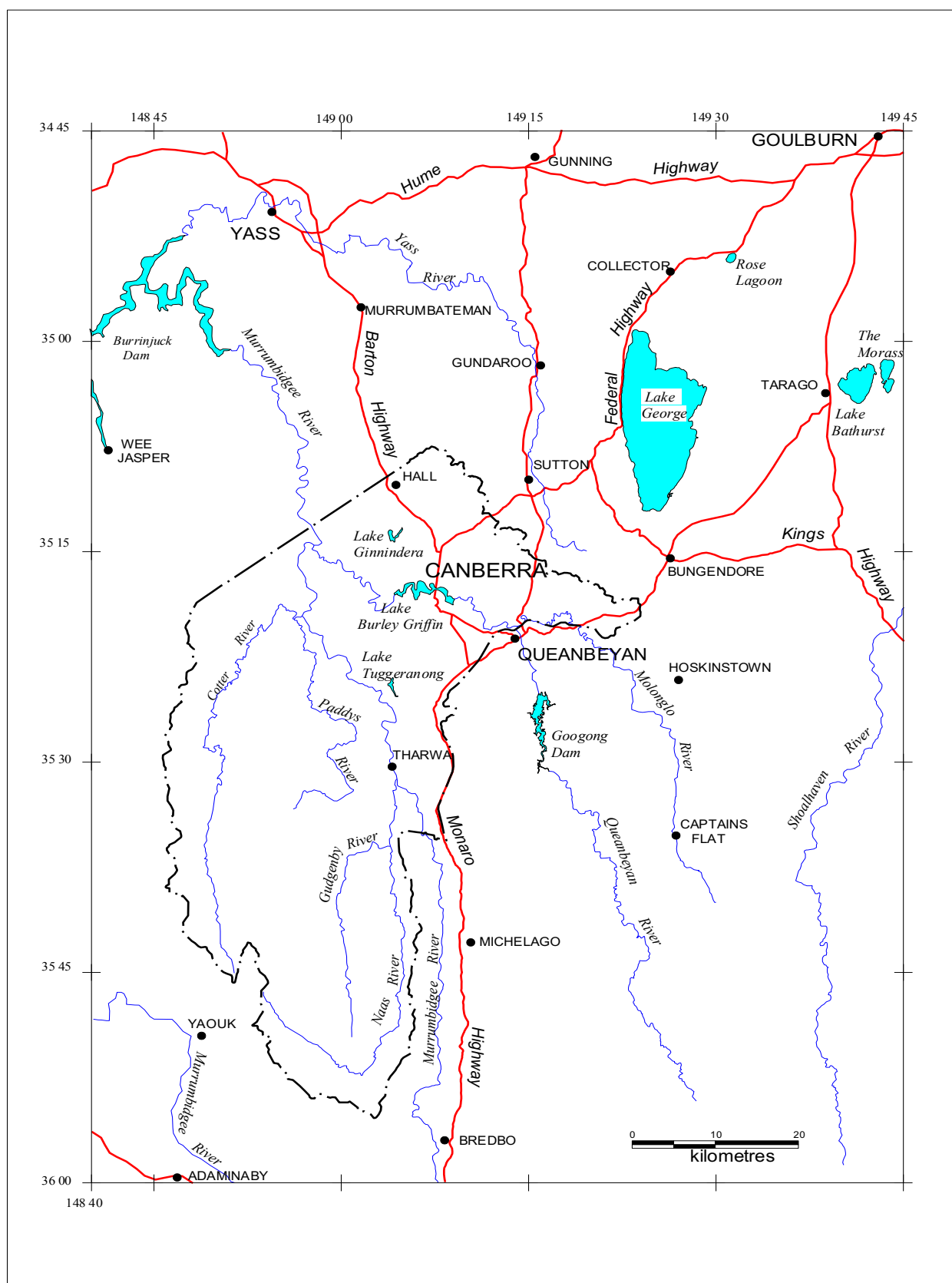
- Chris Davey (ducks, grebes & waders)
- Barbara Allan (raptors, cormorants and night birds)
- Con Boekel (pigeons, cuckoos, frogmouths, nightjars, swifts, thrushes, starlings and finches)
- Ian McMahon (cockatoos & parrots,)
- Bill Graham (kingfishers and allies, lyrebird, fantails, flycatchers, chough and ravens, larks and songlarks)
- David McDonald (babbler, whipbird, bowerbird, treecreepers, cuckoo-shrikes, sittella, whistlers, oriole, woodswallows, magpies and allies)
- Nicki Taws (honeyeaters).
- Joan Lipscombe (rails, stilts, avocets, ibis and spoonbills)
- Paul Fennell (robins, emu, quail, button-quail, herons, egrets, plovers, thornbills and allies)

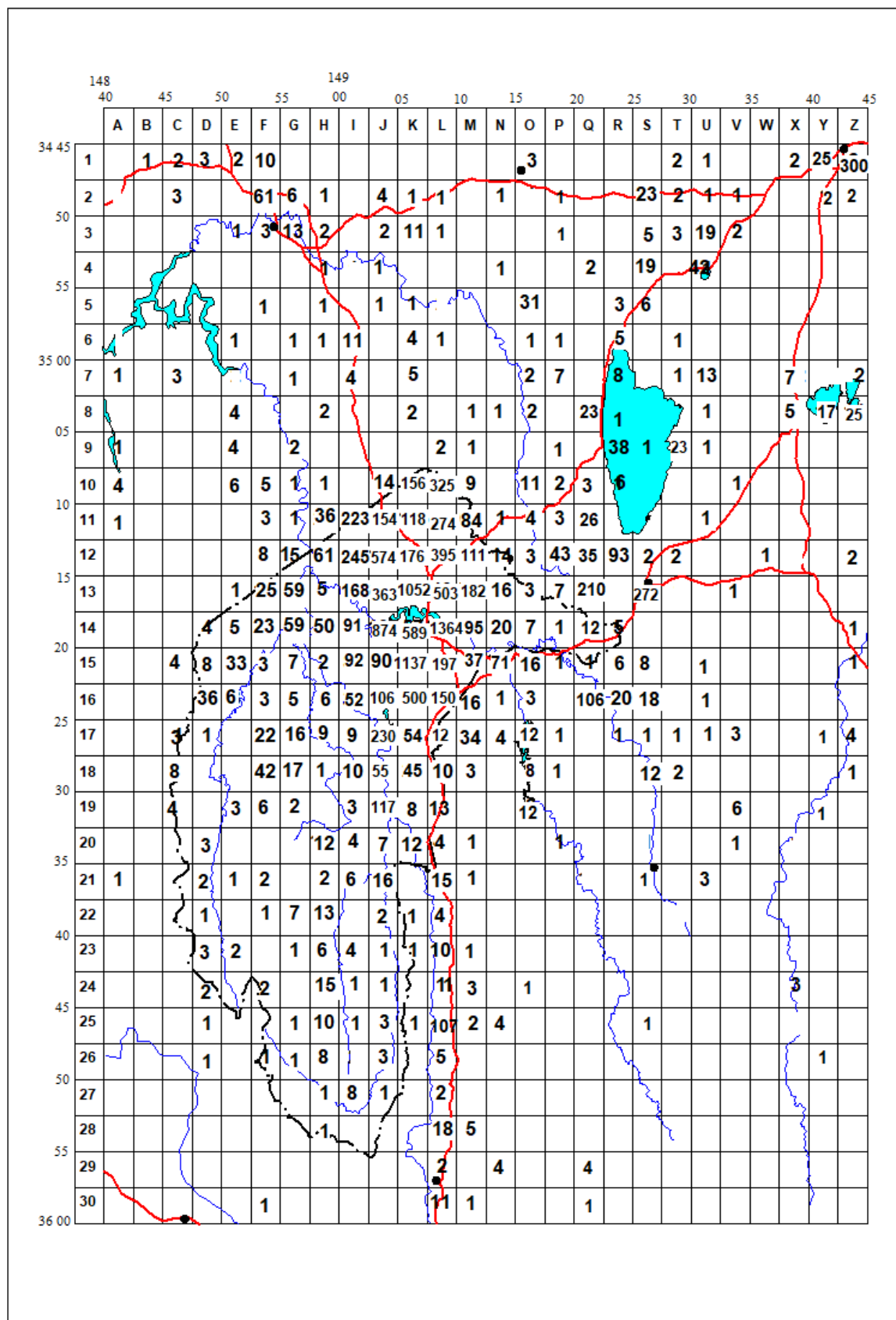
Their consistent efforts over the years are gratefully acknowledged. The survey overviews are written by: Duncan McCaskill (GBS), Michael Lenz (Waterbirds Survey) and Jenny Bounds (Woodland Survey). The maps are prepared by Nicki Taws. The Weather Summary is prepared by Paul Fennell from data provided on the Australian Bureau of Meteorology website.

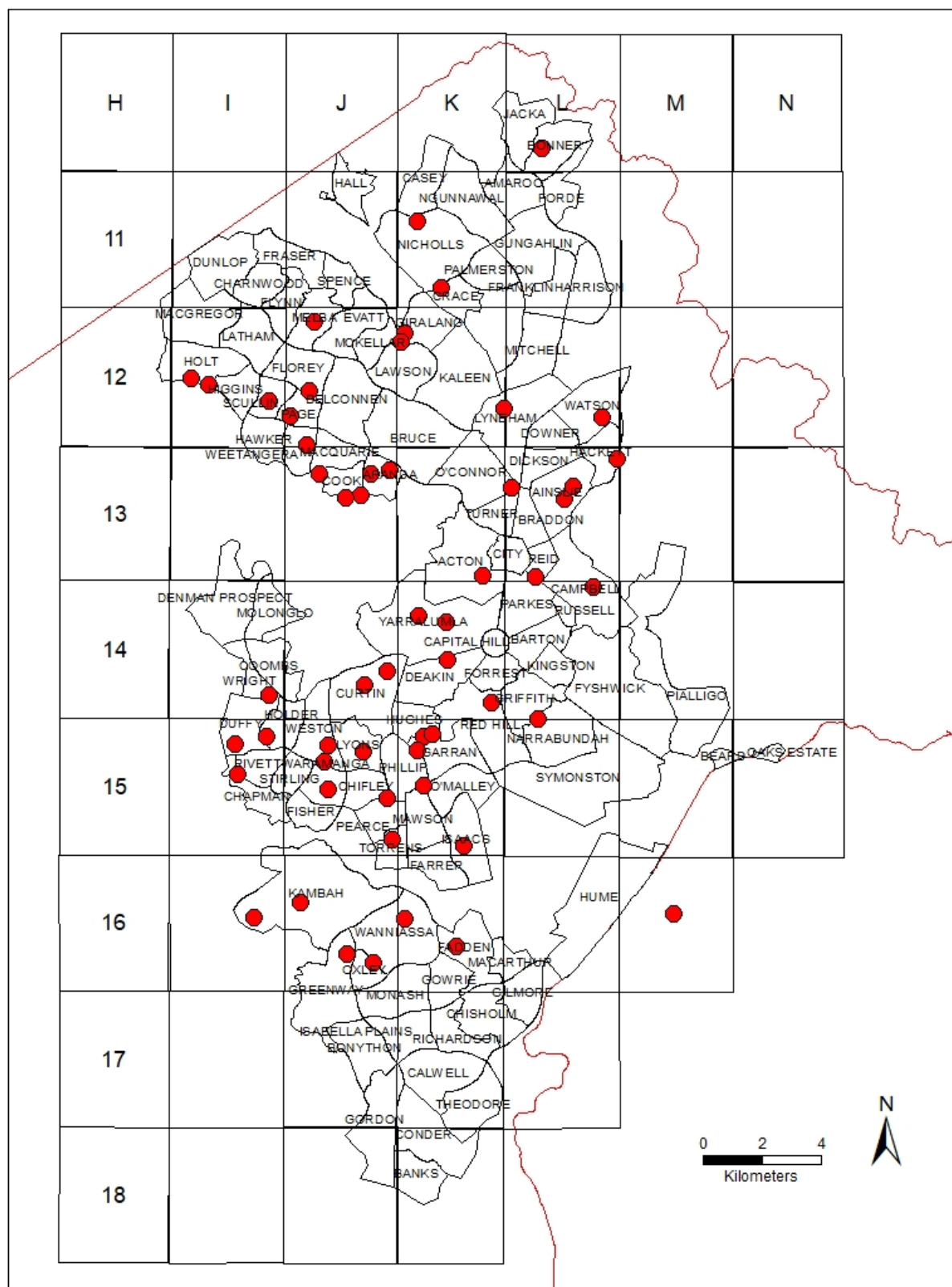
Final responsibility for quality control rests with the ABR editor, Paul Fennell, in conjunction with the Canberra Bird Notes editor, Michael Lenz.

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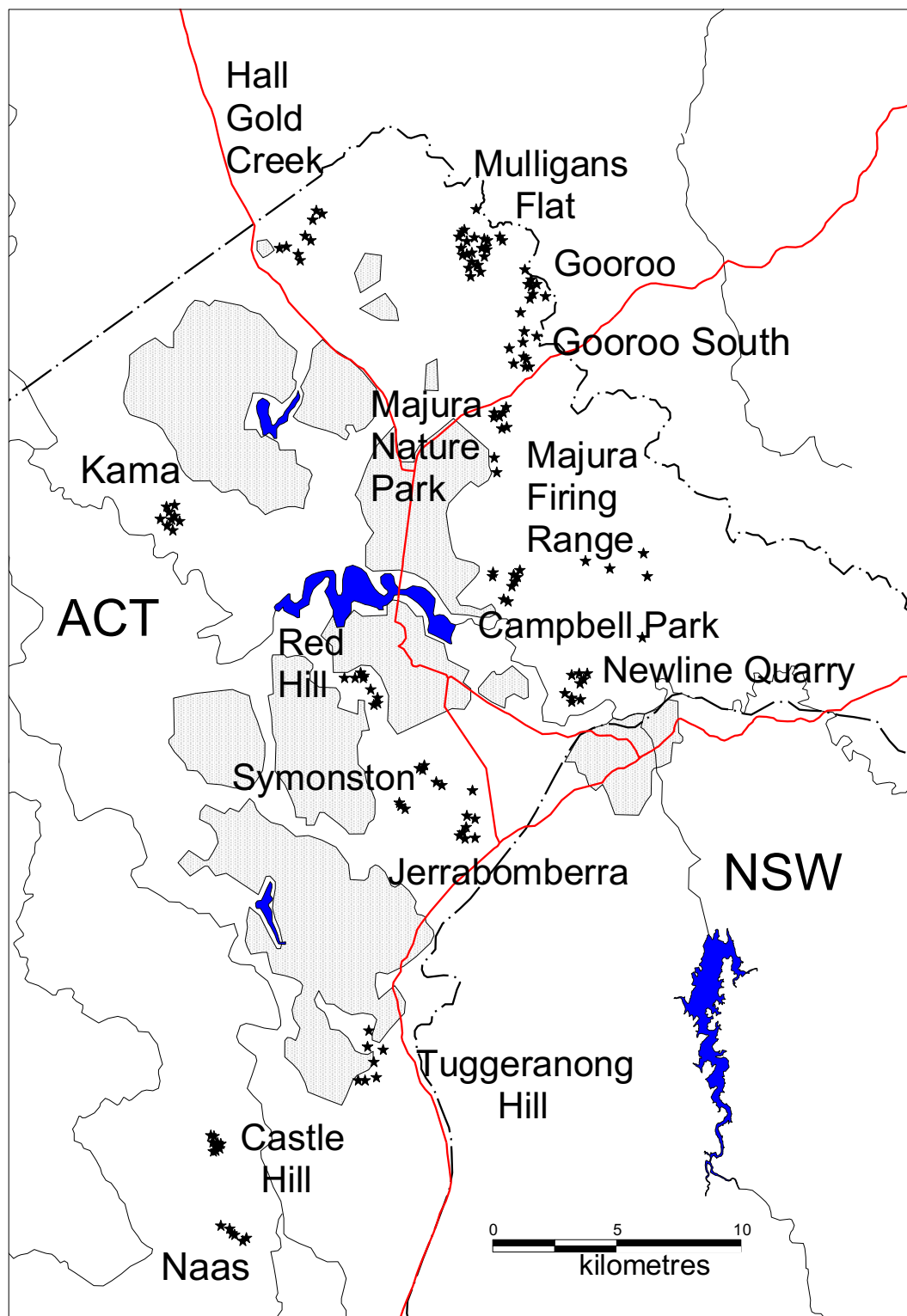
Map 1. The Canberra Region (COG's Area of Interest)

Map 2: Number of record sheets per grid cell for 2016-17

Map 3: Location of Garden Bird Survey Sites for 2016-17

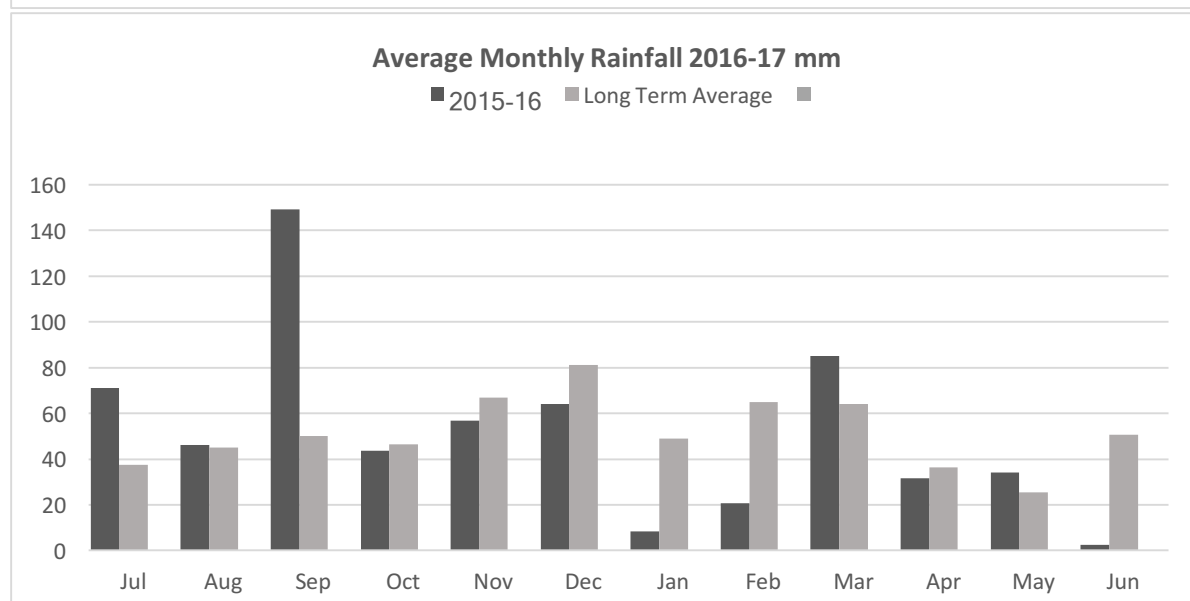
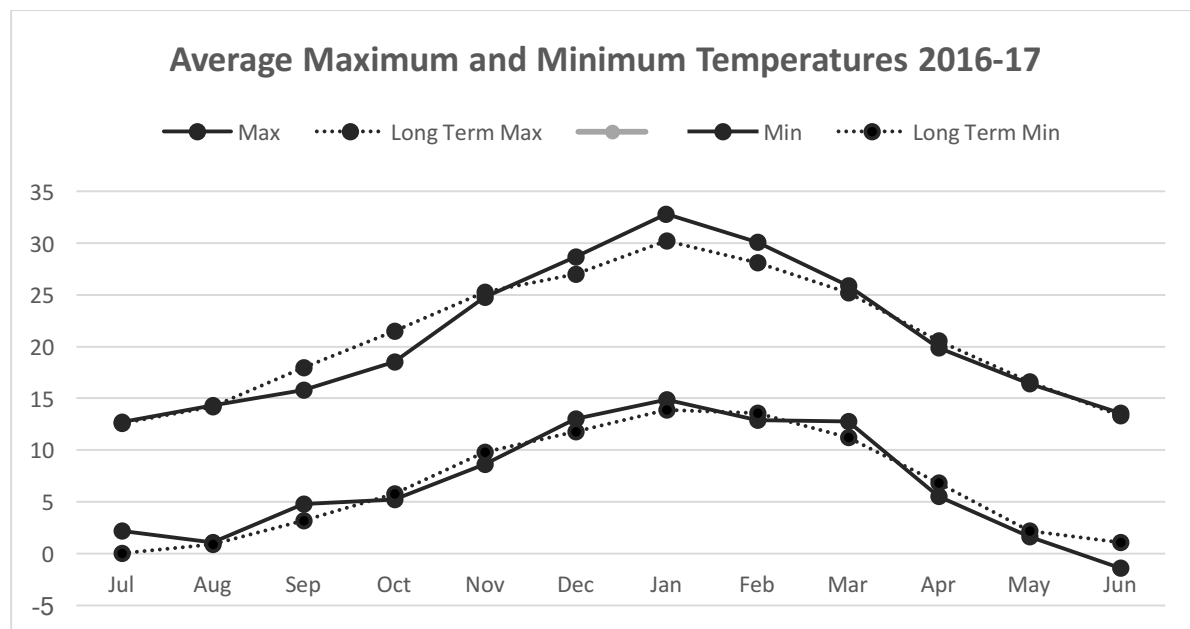
In addition, there are rural sites at Burra, Carwoola, Hoskinstown, Murrumbateman and Wamboin.

Map 4. Location of Woodland Survey Sites for 2016-17



Appendix 1: 2016-2017 Weather Summary (derived from BOM Website)

- Third-wettest winter on record (behind 1998 and 1991), with warm winter nights and very warm temperatures during July. Winter mean temperature 1.3°C above average, the third-warmest winter on record behind 2013 and 2009. A cold front brought strong winds on 13 July, with snow reported in many Canberra suburbs
- Spring was variable in the ACT during 2016, with a cold, wet September followed by closer to average rainfall in the rest of the season. Temperatures were close to normal, although September was the 5th warmest on record for minimum temperatures at Canberra Airport.
- Warmest summer on record for daytime temperatures and the 2nd-warmest mean temperatures on record behind summer 2005-06. Overnight temperatures were also warmer than average, particularly during December. Rainfall was below average and the driest summer for Canberra since 2002-03, with few heavy rain days.
- Days were generally warm in Canberra during autumn, with warm March nights followed by cool nights during April and May. Rainfall was above average with the most rain days since autumn 1989, largely because of persistent rainfall during March.



Appendix 2: List of “unusual” birds in the Canberra region

The current list of unusual or “rare” species for which there have been confirmed sightings within the last 35-40 years is now maintained on the COG Website (<http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/frequently-asked-questions/unusual-birds/>). The list does not include species which have been classified purely as escapees. The COG standard Observation Form is obtainable from [http://canberrabirds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/COG Observation Record July 2012.pdf](http://canberrabirds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/COG_Observation_Record_July_2012.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://canberrabirds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/unbdrept2.doc>

Appendix 3: List of threatened or vulnerable species in COG’s Area of Interest 2017

Species	ACT Status	NSW Status	Federal Status
Freckled Duck		Vulnerable	
Blue-billed Duck		Vulnerable	
Australasian Bittern		Endangered	Endangered
Bush Stone-curlew		Endangered	
Square-tailed Kite		Vulnerable	
Spotted Harrier		Vulnerable	
Little Eagle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Grey Falcon		Endangered	
Australian Painted Snipe		Endangered	Endangered
Curlew Sandpiper		Endangered	
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Gang-gang Cockatoo		Vulnerable	
Superb Parrot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Swift Parrot	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Little Lorikeet		Vulnerable	
Turquoise Parrot		Vulnerable	
Powerful Owl		Vulnerable	
Barking Owl		Vulnerable	
Brown Treecreeper	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Speckled Warbler		Vulnerable	
Regent Honeyeater	Endangered	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
White-fronted Chat		Vulnerable	
Painted Honeyeater	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Varied Sittella	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
White-winged Triller	Vulnerable		
Dusky Woodswallow		Vulnerable	
Scarlet Robin	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Flame Robin		Vulnerable	
Pink Robin		Vulnerable	
Hooded Robin	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Diamond Firetail		Vulnerable	

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Annual Bird Report: 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Canberra Bird Notes

Canberra Bird Notes is published three times a year by the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc. and is edited by Michael Lenz. Major articles of up to 5000 words are welcome on matters relating to the distribution, identification or behaviour of birds in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding region. Please discuss any proposed major contribution in advance. Shorter notes, book reviews and other contributions are also encouraged. All contributions should be sent to cbn@canberrabirds.org.au.

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

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