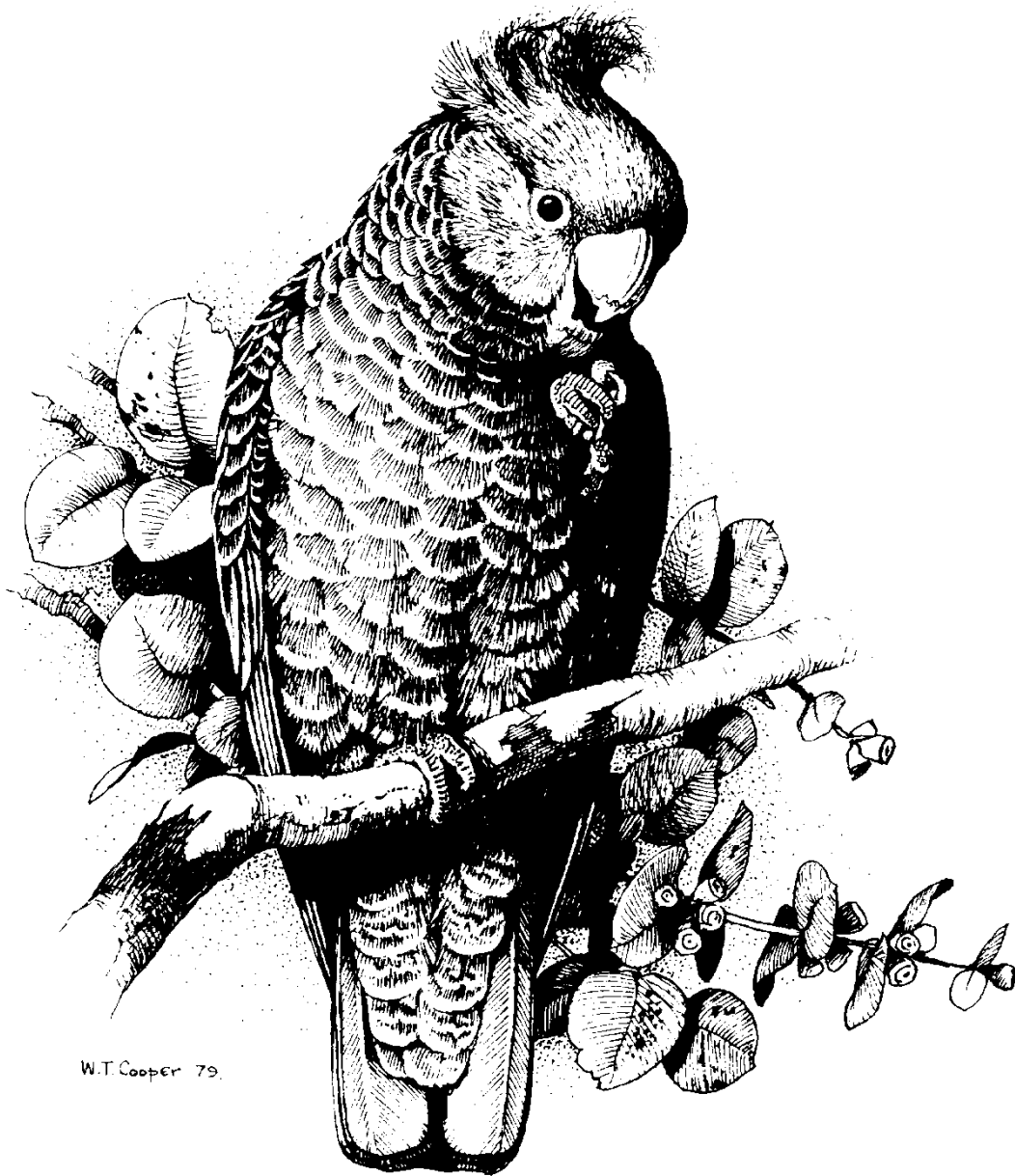


# canberra bird notes

ISSN 0314-8211

Volume 41  
Number 1  
June 2016



Registered by Australia Post – 100001304

**CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP**  
**PO Box 301 Civic Square ACT 2608**

***2015-16 Committee***

<b>President</b>	Alison Russell-French	0419 264 702
<b>Vice-President</b>	Neil Hermes	0413 828 045
<b>Secretary</b>	Bill Graham	0466 874 723
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lia Battison	6231 0147 (h)
<b>Member</b>	Jenny Bounds	
<b>Member</b>	Sue Lashko	
<b>Member</b>	Bruce Lindenmayer	
<b>Member</b>	Chris Davey	
<b>Member</b>	Julie McGuiness	
<b>Member</b>	David McDonald	
<b>Member</b>	Paul Fennell	

***Email contacts***

<b>General enquiries</b>	<b>cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au</b>
<b>President</b>	president@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>Canberra Bird Notes</b>	CBN@canberrabirds.org.au/michael.lenz.birds@gmail.com
<b>COG Database Inquiries</b>	COG.database@iinet.au
<b>COG Membership</b>	membership@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>COG Web Discussion List</b>	canberrabirds-owner@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>Conservation</b>	conservation@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>Gang-gang Newsletter</b>	gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>GBS Coordinator</b>	duncan.mccaskill@gmail.com
<b>Publications for sale</b>	sales@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>Unusual bird reports</b>	rarities@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>Website</b>	cogwebmaster@canberrabirds.org.au
<b>Woodland Project</b>	cogwoodland@canberrabirds.org.au

***Other COG contacts***

<b>Conservation</b>	Jenny Bounds	
<b>Field Trips</b>	Sue Lashko	6251 4485 (h)
<b>COG Membership</b>	Sandra Henderson	6231 0303 (h)
<b>Canberra Bird Notes</b>	Michael Lenz	6249 1109 (h)
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Sue Lashko, Gail Neumann	(SL) 6251 4485 (h)
<b>Databases</b>	Jaron Bailey	0439 270 835 (a. h.)
<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Duncan McCaskill	6259 1843 (h)
<b>Rarities Panel</b>	Barbara Allan	6254 6520 (h)
<b>Talks Program Organiser</b>	Jack Holland	6288 7840 (h)
<b>Records Officer</b>	Nicki Taws	6251 0303 (h)
<b>Website</b>	Julian Robinson	6239 6226 (h)
<b>Sales</b>	Kathy Walter	6241 7639 (h)
<b>Waterbird Survey</b>	Michael Lenz	6249 1109 (h)
<b>Distrib of COG publications</b>	Dianne Davey	6254 6324 (h)
<b>COG Library</b>	Barbara Allan	6254 6520 (h)

Please use the General Inquiries email to arrange access to library items or for general enquiries, or contact the Secretary on 6251 5104. Current details of the COG Committee and other aspects of COG are available at the website: <http://canberrabirds.org.au/>

**ANNUAL BIRD REPORT: 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015**

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

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 previously in ABRs. For example, last year the number of sheets reported for 2012-13 was 4500. This year’s report shows that this number has increased to 4760.

**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). The report makes this information readily available to all COG members and 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 13,675 sq. km, of which the ACT, at 2,357 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 1,911 m at the top of Mt Bimberi, and the ACT proper is about 130 km from the sea.

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

A breakdown of the contribution of each survey type (except for the GBS) to the total records collected is provided in Table 1 (p. 88). However, in the compilation of the species texts in the Systematic List, records from all these surveys are considered collectively and summarised under the heading 'General'. In the Systematic List, WOO has been used to indicate combined records from WOO proper (see Woodland Survey protocol on p. 98) and off-site records collected by standard ABA protocols in the course of conducting the Woodland Surveys. 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/>. Another useful resource is the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Australian Capital Territory, 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 <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 many and varied 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 taken into account when attempting any interpretation of the data in the ABR.

Geographical variables such as temperature, rainfall, and water levels in the main lakes of the region can have a very significant effect on bird demographics. Maximum spring temperatures in the ACT in 2014-2015 were again considerably higher than usual, with variable rainfall, with average or above average rain in Oct, Sept, Dec, Jan and April and very little rain in the other months. Conditions provided sufficient water to maintain a lush 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). The development of new suburbs in Gungahlin and more recently in 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 64 Garden Bird Survey charts, there were 245 contributors of records from surveys from COG or via eBird or BirdLife Australia (see list pp. 101).

The 7857 sheets submitted this year is by far the highest number of observations submitted in COG's history. It would appear that 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 many of the observations tend to be 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 recently been compiled from data currently available in the COG general surveys database. It updates the table that has appeared in this place in every recent ABR. The data in the table may differ from those in previous ABRs.

While the number of observers this year is roughly the same as last year there has been a significant increase in the number of sheets being presented. The average number of sheets per observer has jumped from 18 to 32, with the number of sightings per sheet (15) remaining about the same as last year. This has resulted in the number of sightings increasing to approx. 118,000 this year from 75,000 the previous year.

The number of sightings per sheet (15) indicates that, while many record sheets submitted are incidental sightings of “interesting” birds, there are many sheets reporting on systematic surveys.

<b>Bird Year 2015</b>	
Number of observers	245
Number of sheets	7857
Average number of sheets per observer	32
Number of sightings	118565
Average number of sightings per observer	484
Average number of sightings per sheet	15.1

BirdYear	Species	Grid.Cells	Sheets	Observers
2015	247	246	7860	245
2014	254	242	4562	240
2013	257	231	4760	158
2012	246	263	4371	157
2011	235	301	3311	135
2010	236	247	2578	143
2009	238	273	2538	132
2008	235	268	2545	128
2007	234	191	2598	113
2006	238	210	2458	106
2005	227	181	2201	82
2004	219	166	2082	87
2003	229	192	2187	104
2002	230	331	2235	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
1989	220	178	2422	173
1988	212	170	2586	155
1987	211	167	2395	156
1986	194	39	439	48
1985	178	28	408	33
1984	138	10	236	32
1983	127	10	100	23

In 2014-15, confirmed sightings of 246 bird species were recorded in our area, with 118,565 sightings, up significantly on last year, and many more than in any other year. Some sightings of rare vagrant species that were unable to be confirmed have not been included. As in recent years, totals have been boosted by COG’s 9th “ACT Bird Blitz” (see Allan 2015) held on 25-26 Oct 2014, and by the large increase in sightings submitted through eBird.

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.

Sheets per season				
Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Year
1515	2213	2203	1926	2015
763	1251	1615	1080	2014

The number of grid cells surveyed this year (247) is about the same as last year but above the 30YA (201.7). Most frequently surveyed cells were:

- L&M14 (754 reports cf 450 last year) Jerrabomberra Wetlands NR, Molonglo Reach and Fyshwick Sewage Ponds (FSP).
- K13 (620 cf 186 last year) Acton including ANU and ANBG.
- K15 (475): including 98 observations by a single observer in Garran.
- L13 (438 cf 120 last year): Central Canberra and part of Mt Ainslie NR
- K16 (389): Wanniasa and Fadden with a large contribution from a single observer
- J13 (352 sheets cf 366 last year) including parts of The Pinnacle NR, Mt Painter NR, Cook and Macquarie.
- L12 (286 sheets cf 51 last year): Watson and Mitchell with a large contribution from a single observer.
- L11 (247 cf 167) including part of Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and Forde.
- J12 (223 cf 182 last year) Lake Ginninderra with contributions from a number of observers.
- Z01 (199 cf 96 last year): mainly Goulburn Wetlands with contributions from a single observer
- L10 (187 cf 111): Mulligans Flat Nature reserve with a number of contributors
- M13 (178 cf 123) including Campbell Park NR
- K10 (171 cf 129): nearly all from single address in Ngunnawal

Table 1, p 88, shows the number of “general surveys” records per species. The 11 most frequently recorded species have changed somewhat since last year, as indicated in the table. Thirteen endorsed species were recorded only once.

	Species	Records	Comment
1	Australian Magpie	4903	Same rank as last year
2	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	3786	Back up from 3 last year
3	Crimson Rosella	3749	Down from 2 last year
4	Magpie-lark	3745	Up from 7 last year
5	Red Wattlebird	3539	Up from 9 last year
6	Galah	3499	Down from 4 last year
7	Pied Currawong	3399	Up from 8 last year
8	Australian Raven	3189	Down from 6 last year
9	Superb Fairy-wren	2774	Down from 5 last year
10	Crested Pigeon	2641	Up from 11 last year
11	Eastern Rosella	2408	Up from 12 last year

## Highlights and Lowlights

This year the most important highlight was the significant increase in observer effort, with the highest number of observers ever submitting more reports per observer, with an average of 15 sightings per observation. This has resulted in significant increases in the number of sightings and the number of birds sighted across the board. This has to be taken into account 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.*

Reports of Plumed Whistling Duck were higher, and in increasing numbers, with the median group size being 31. Many reports were from a dam near the Bungendore Trucking Stop Lane. Australian Shelduck are also on the increase in terms of abundance and average group size, also mainly in the Bungendore area. However, most other duck species, while showing increased sightings, are well down in abundance and group size statistics.

Rock Dove appears to be on the increase in the general surveys but decreasing in the GBS, as is the Spotted Dove and Crested Pigeon. All cormorant species appear to be doing quite well, apart from the loss of breeding habitat in Molonglo Reach, probably due at least in part to the clearing of Crack Willow along the banks. Cattle egrets have been well reported at JWNR and Goulburn Wetlands, while the Australian White and Straw-necked ibises are slightly down on last year, but still showed significantly higher reporting rates than the long term averages.

Raptors generally appear to be declining in the area, particularly the Brown Falcon, although the Wedge-tailed Eagle numbers are holding up, while the Little Eagle is doing better this year than might be expected by its declared vulnerability status.

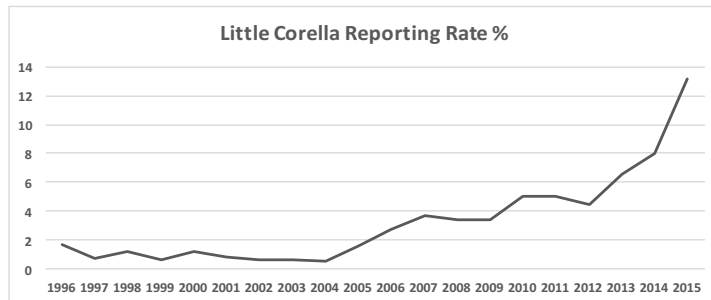
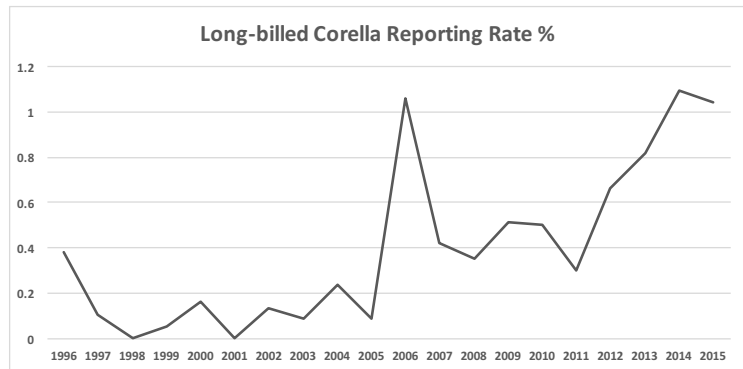
Members of the family Rallidae appear to be doing well, taking advantage of the increase in suburban wetlands as new suburbs develop, and the creation of new wetlands in some of the older suburbs. Purple Swamphen reporting rate has remained steady for the last 15 years, while some of the more uncommon rails (Lewin's, Buff-banded) and



crakes (Baillon's, Australian Spotted and Spotless Crakes) have turned up around ponds in JWNR, Forde, Bonner, Crace and Giralang). Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coot reporting rates are well up on the long term averages.

The Painted Button Quail has been up and down in COG surveys. Reporting rate of 0.1% is about as low as it gets, although it has been lower (0% in 2007 and 2008), from whence it recovered slightly to 0.3% in 2013, before diving to its current value. It might recover as it has done 3 times since 1984.

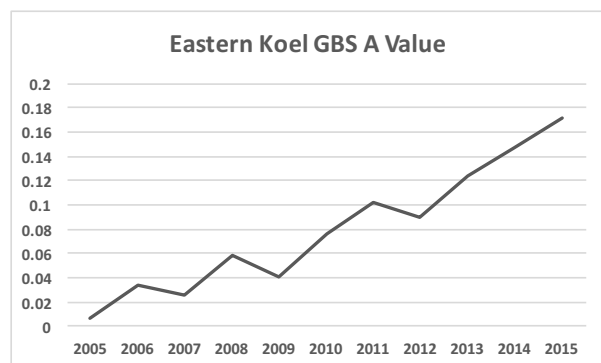
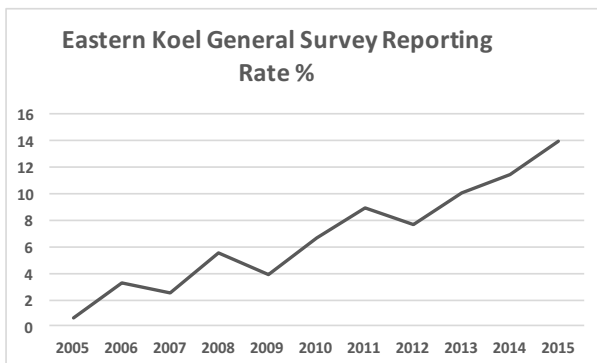
There were more Glossy Black-Cockatoos seen this year than last year, but are still few and far between. Both Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos and Gang-gang Cockatoos are holding their own, with reporting rates above the long term averages. As the graph indicates, Long-billed Coreellas are becoming more common, as are Little Coreellas.



Rainbow Lorikeets are spreading south from their stronghold in Belconnen and are reported regularly in both general and GBS surveys, with increasing numbers of breeding records. Australian King-Parrots have been increasing steadily over the past 10 years, with the abundance in the general surveys more than 3 times the 30YA. Similarly, Superb Parrots sightings are

increasing. Last seen in any numbers in 2011, Swift Parrots were again reported around O'Connor and Ainslie in 33 records in the general and GBS surveys.

The two graphs of Eastern Koel presence and abundance above are really quite remarkable. They



paint an almost identical picture, despite the fact that the underlying data has been collected using differing methodologies and from quite different sets of sites. On first glance one might comment along the lines that of course they should be the same because they deal with the same population of birds in the same general locality. What they do show is that the summer migrant population is increasing at a significant rate. The similarity of the two graphs may also demonstrate the general validity of the approach that COG (and other agencies like BLA and eBird) have taken in designing and implementing the data collection methods. Other cuckoos, such as the Pallid and the Fan-tailed Cuckoo have been in decline in recent years, with their reporting rates now at almost record lows.

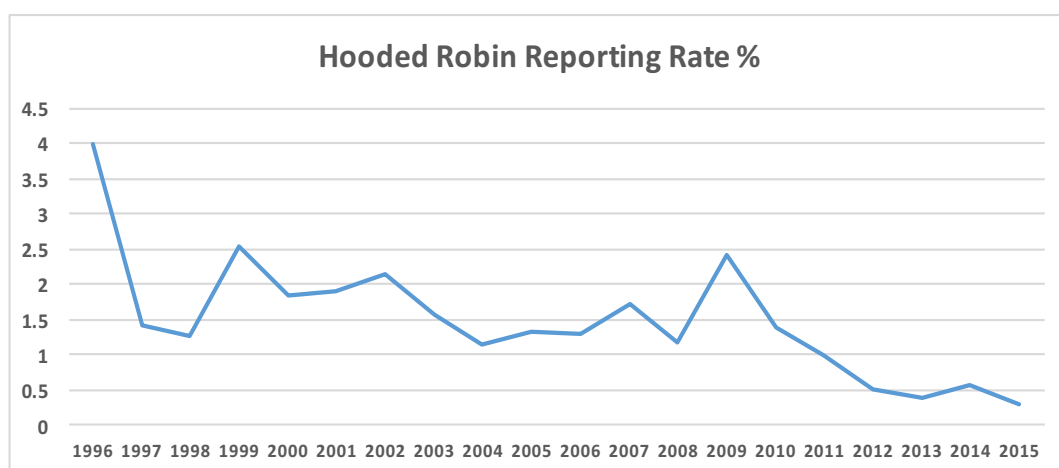
The big news for the year was the continuing presence of a Powerful Owl at the Turner Bowling Club since November 2014. It was still there in May 2016. While sightings of Southern Boobooks were fewer in the general surveys, the GBS data has revealed a stronger presence in the suburbs, particularly Ainslie, Aranda and Cook.

Superb Lyrebirds appear to be few and far between with the reporting rate of 0.6% is as low as that of 2004, the season following the massive bushfires. While the reporting rate of White-throated Treecreepers is in slow decline, that of the Brown Treecreeper is at a record low this year. Similarly, most of the little brown birds (thornbills and allies) have been in gentle decline over the past few years, with a few, such as the Southern Whiteface are displaying reporting rates well below the long-term averages.

The more common honeyeaters, Red Wattlebird and Noisy Miner appear to be increasing significantly, while the Eastern Spinebill and New Holland Honeyeater are also increasing to a lesser extent, while the few White-fronted Chat and Crescent Honeyeater reports are getting fewer. The Crested Shrike-tit is another species in slow decline, with current reporting rates almost at a record low. Golden and Rufous Whistlers appear to be holding their own, but Grey Shrike-thrushes appear to be declining.

Grey Butcherbird sightings in the GBS are taking a consistent upward trend, while Magpies and Pied Currawongs are maintaining their presence. On the other hand, Grey Currawong reporting rate is at a record low, at the end of a very gradual but constant decline since 1991. Similarly the reporting rate for the Rufous Fantail is near a record low, but it has been there before in 2002, 2005 and 2009, but has recovered somewhat after those lows. Of the flycatchers, the Leaden Flycatcher reporting rate remains fairly healthy, but the Satin Flycatcher sightings are in serious decline, and the Restless Flycatcher appears to be heading for local extinction. Magpie-larks, on the other hand, appear to be doing well, as are White-winged Choughs, which also appear to be becoming more prevalent in the suburbs.

The abundance and reporting rates of some of the robins is of some concern, with Jacky Winter numbers taking a sudden dive to the lowest reporting rate since 1998. However, after 1998 the reporting rate did rise significantly until 2013. Hopefully, the reporting rates for this species may once again improve. The Scarlet Robin reporting rate has been declining almost imperceptibly for many years, while Red-capped Robins appear to be maintaining their presence, albeit at quite low levels. The graph below indicates that the Hooded Robin is heading for local extinction.



The growth of Canberra suburbs has had varying and interesting effects on many bird species. Many of the local bush birds appear to be somewhat in decline. For example, the new suburbs of Wright and Coombes have removed some prime birding spots for species such as the Southern Whiteface and the White-fronted Chat. Quail numbers appear to be in decline. On the other hand, there are increased sightings of crakes and rails in new suburban wetlands and ponds, particularly in new suburbs such as Forde in Gungahlin.

**BREEDING**

There were 2418 breeding records, up from 1567 last year and from 1399 the year before. They include “inspecting hollows” and “display” as described in the COG breeding codes (see p 99). Records also include the BA code (br) which excludes “circumstantial” evidence such as “inspecting hollow” or “display”. The table shows the number of breeding events for each species, and the percentage of that behaviour of the total number of breeding observations for 2014-15.

Breeding Behaviour	Count	%
Dependent young	1111	45.9
Bird on or seen leaving nest	441	18.2
Nest with young	248	10.3
Nest building	242	10.0
Inspecting hollow	167	6.9
Carrying food	75	3.1
Copulation	62	2.6
Display	35	1.4
Nest with eggs	25	1.0
Breeding	9	0.4
Faecal sac	3	0.1

**GARDEN BIRD SURVEY (GBS) OVERVIEW**

The Garden Bird Survey (GBS), which started in 1981, completed 34 years of continuous collection in 2014-15. We had records from 64 sites, down from 71 for 2013-14. The survey added 6 new sites, lost 14 sites and 1 site resumed observations (see Map 3, p 109).

Sites are widely, but unevenly distributed across the region. Belconnen, with 18 sites, is well covered. North Canberra has 11 sites, Woden 9 sites, Weston Creek 7 sites, South Canberra 4 sites, Tuggeranong 5 sites, Gungahlin 4 sites, Queanbeyan 1 site, and there is 1 site in the new Molonglo Valley development. 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. At least 10 sites are near to, or include, a water body and frequently record water birds. Many species that are not usually associated with suburban gardens are recorded.

The number of weeks observed per site averaged 44.5, about the same as last year. There were 19 sites which reported 50 or more weeks (up from 17 the previous year). Overall, there were 2,851 weekly records, down 10% on last year, but close the long term survey average.

162 species were recorded in 2014-15, down from 170 last year, but slightly above the average number of species since 2002/03, which is 158. The average for the previous 21 was only 138 species. The reasons for the increase in species in the last decade or so of the GBS are not clear, but may be just an artefact of the patchy and varying coverage of the GBS.

The top 10 species ranked by the Abundance Measure A is largely unchanged from the previous year. Rock Dove has fallen out of the top 10, replaced by Yellow-faced Honeyeater. The abundance measure for both species can be fairly volatile from year to year because they are sometimes recorded in large numbers. The Eastern Koel continues its spread around Canberra, with it now being recorded in 78% of sites, up from 63% last year. Superb Parrot abundance is up on the previous year, and it has surpassed the previous peak in 2011/12. They are now widely recorded in northern Canberra, but are still hardly seen at all in the south. After a big 115% increase in abundance last year, Rainbow

Lorikeets, are up again, but only by 16%. Their distribution remains about the same as last year, at about 40% of sites. Little Corellas have shown a small decrease in abundance (down 11%), but a small increase in distribution, from 66% of site up to 75% of sites.

Common Myna abundance is very slightly (3%) down on last year. Their distribution is also slightly down — recorded at 70% of sites, down from 74% last year. Common Starlings continue their decline, with abundance down by 22% and distribution down from 68% of sites last year to 59% this year. After showing a worryingly steep increase in the first decade of this century, Spotted Doves numbers have declined, with a 29% decline in abundance and distribution down from 37% of sites last year to 25% this year.

Notable rarities this year include a Black-eared Cuckoo in Ainslie, White-fronted Chats in Wright (both species are new to the GBS) and a Brown Songlark in Curtin.

*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 a number of high conservation value Grassy Woodland locations in the ACT. Six locations were initially selected: Mt Majura, Red Hill, Gooroo (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 (Dec 2006). See Map 4 p110.

Part of the reason for the Woodland Survey is to monitor declining and threatened birds in Yellow Box/Red Gum grassy woodlands. The Project now has 142 monitoring points (sites) at 15 locations. A number of sites (generally nine plots of 50 m radius) in habitat structures of low, medium and high complexity are monitored at each location. Each site is surveyed for 10 minutes with all birds seen or heard recorded, and other birds outside the plot in the same habitat within a 100 m radius also being recorded. Surveys are done each season in September, December, March and June.

Woodland Survey data is analysed 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](http://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.

COG provides data to the ACT Government for the monitoring of threatened species, and continues to provide access to its Woodland Project data for research projects. The next major analysis of project data is likely to occur after 2016, when there will be ten years or more data at all project locations.

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



## **WATERBIRD SURVEY OVERVIEW**

### **Lake George**

The lake held a small amount of water in July, but was dry from Aug 14 to late Jan 15. A partial re-fill in late January had attracted by Feb  $\approx$ 22 000 waterbirds, mostly Grey Teals ( $> 13\ 000$ ) and Pink-eared Ducks ( $>6\ 500$ ) and 130 Australian Pelicans. By early March only a small area of shallow water was left, still holding  $\approx 8\ 000$  waterbirds, including 40 White-faced Herons. The lake was dry by the end of March. In Apr 200 Australian Shelducks were observed on green pasture around a few small pools following some rain. The lake was again dry in May and June.

### **Lake Bathurst**

In Jul about 40% of the eastern basin of the lake and of the Southern Morass was under water. By Jan 15 both areas had dried up. The lake has remained dry for the remainder of the report year. Up to 1000 Black Swans had gathered in Aug and 26 nests were built. Most breeding swans had to give up their nests due to falling water level. Of 3 sets of cygnets only one reached a stage where they would have been able to fly out.

A number of species of interest were recorded, for example 256 Red-necked Avocets (Jul); 63 Double-banded Plovers (Aug),  $>1300$  Black-winged Stilts, 14 pacific Golden Plovers, 1 Bar-tailed Godwit,  $>3300$  Sharp-tailed Sandpipers,  $>300$  Whiskered Terns (Oct); 1 Marsh Sandpiper and still 2500 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Dec).

There was one exceptional sighting thought to be the Lesser Sand Plover (Dec), which would be a new species for the AOI, a very rare visitor to inland areas of Australia. However, this sighting is yet to be confirmed by the Rarities Panel.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Geoffrey Dabb

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

## COMMENTS ON THE CONTENT AND WRITING STYLE OF THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The description of most species includes a summary table that conveys 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 some caution, owing to the variability of observer effort in 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 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 98.

The diagram illustrates the relationship between various survey metrics and the data presented in the table for the Australian Wood Duck. Arrows point from descriptive boxes to specific rows in the table:

- This year** points to the 14/15 column.
- Last year** points to the 13/14 column.
- % change between this year and last year** points to the %Δ column.
- 30 year average** points to the 30YA column.
- Number of records – general surveys** points to the R row.
- Number of Woodland records** points to the WR row.
- Number of grid cells general surveys** points to the G row.
- Number of breeding records - general** points to the BR row.
- GBS abundance** points to the GA row.
- GBS number of sites** points to the GS row.
- Number of GBS breeding records** points to the GBR row.

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1624	1075	51	431.6
WR	27	53	-49	22.1
G	114	99	15	81.0
BR	90	34	165	26.1
GA	1.0993	1.0897	1	0.3685
GS	31	31	0	19.3
GBR	44	12	267	11.1

**CASUARIIDAE: emu****Emu** *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

Rare, breeding resident

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

**General:** 7 records with 6 near the Corin Rd near the Tidbinbilla NR and 1 at Cotter NR. One of the interesting sightings reported last year at Goulburn, off Hetherington St was incorrect, in that it was sighted somewhere along a train ride between Sydney and Canberra, and Goulburn happened to be the reported location.

**PHASIANIDAE: quail, peafowl****Stubble Quail** *Coturnix pectoralis*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Local residents of grasslands, more prevalent after rain, when grass growth increases suitable cover.

**General:** While increased observer effort has produced more sightings from more grid cells this year, the reporting rate (0.7%) is down 32% on last year and down 50% on the 30YA. Records as usual from around LBath and areas to the east of LGeo, and the peri-urban grasslands around Canberra. Records from mid-July through to 13 May, with the majority in spring (56% of records) and summer (31%). Max 17/12 Oct LBath E (LeM1) with mean 2.6 and median 2). No breeding reported.

**GBS:** No records this year

Stubble Quail				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	55	47	17	29.2
WR	1	0	Inf	0.6
G	23	16	44	13.7
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0019
GS	0	0	-	0.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** Reporting rate (0.7%) is about half of last years and 36% above the 30YA, but well below the record high (2.3%) of 2011-12. Most records from Canberra and surrounds, such as JWNR, Ginninderra Creek, and West Belconnen Ponds, but also farther afield in Goulburn Wetlands, Wet Lagoon and Michelago. Recorded this year mainly in spring (37%) and summer (41%). Max 10/14 May Cooleman Ridge (HoJ1), mean 2.6 and median 2.

**GBS:** 19 records from a site in Curtin (AJR1) between 24 Jul and 25 Jun (similar to last year and the year before). The A value (A=0.0175) and the number of records is down slightly on last year.

Brown Quail				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	54	58	-7	18.1
WR	0	0	-	0.2
G	22	15	47	7.9
BR	1	0	Inf	0.3
GA	0.0175	0.0197	-11	0.0041
GS	2	1	100	0.7
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:** Only 2 records this year from Narrabundah (6 birds) and Pialligo (2). Peafowl are intermittently and irregularly recorded from an established feral flock that roams the Narrabundah/Griffith area. Max 10/26 Oct Narrabundah – Rocky Knob Park (DaG2). In October 2015 several female and young male peacocks were removed and translocated to the Altina Wildlife Park at Darlington Point NSW, as a result of complaints from residents of a retirement village.

**ANATIDAE: DUCKS, SWAN****Plumed Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Non-breeding vagrant

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

**General:** A large increase in the number of records compared with previous years from 5 sites in the Bungendore area, JWNR and near Hoskinstown. Maximum reported 102/2 Feb BuTSL GrS13 (McD1) with a mean of 41.4, up from 19.7 last year and median 31. Reported throughout the year with much higher numbers between Feb and Apr. Numbers of this species appear to be on the increase in the COG area of interest.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*

Rare, breeding resident

A diving duck preferring deep water.

**General:** Numbers similar to last year from a similar number of grid cells. Birds reported mainly from Yerrabi Pond, FSP and QSP, including an unusual observation 1/18 Feb BuTSL GrS13 (McD1). 4 breeding records all dy from Yerrabi Ponds between 31 Aug and 17 Sep and “co” observed at Foxlow Lagoon GrS18 (BuM1). Largest numbers reported: 4 at Yerrabi Ponds including dy.

**Musk Duck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	41	34	21	33.6
WR	0	0	-	0.2
G	9	8	12	8.7
BR	4	4	0	1.7
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Freckled Duck** *Stictonetta naevosa*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

Declared vulnerable in New South Wales

**General:** A large increase in the number of records from last year but with a greatly reduced total number of birds recorded, with the average dropping from 26 last year to 3.7 with the maximum reported 21/1 Jan MFNR large dam GrL11 (SmA1). Reported from 10 sites which included the various sewage works in the area as well as any large body of water. It would appear that the large influx of the previous two years has now ceased with a similar pattern not seen since the early 1990s. Reported throughout the year with a maximum during the summer months.

**GBS:** A single record 1/16 Oct Giralang Pond GrK12 (KaD1).

**Freckled Duck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	174	102	71	21.8
WR	1	0	Inf	0.0
G	10	18	-44	4.0
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0004	0.0003	10	0.0000
GS	1	1	0	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

Common, breeding resident

Regularly observed on bodies of water throughout the region.

**General:** A large increase in the number of records but the total number of birds reported is down with a corresponding decrease in abundance of 0.9 compared with last year 2.02. Maximum numbers reported similar to last year 881/6 Jul LBath GrY07 (LeM1). Reported throughout the year with little seasonal variation. A large increase in the number of breeding records from 15 grid cells. Breeding reported all months apart from May and June.

**GBS:** Reported from 7 sites in Greenway, Giralang, Acton, Jerrabomberra and Yarralumla. 54 breeding records throughout the year. All dy apart from 11 observations of “on” at Jerrabomberra between 18 Sep and 7 May.

**Black Swan**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	758	467	62	162.8
WR	0	0	-	0.2
G	39	35	11	22.0
BR	73	29	152	25.0
GA	0.1838	0.1142	61	0.0283
GS	7	7	0	1.9
GBR	54	21	157	7.1

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*

Often found grazing next to farm dams.

**General:** The number of records continues to increase with an increase in abundance from 0.21 to 0.35 and an average number of birds reported increasing from 14.3 to 25.1. The number of birds in our area therefore appears to be slowly on the increase. Largest number reported 200/19 Apr LGeo (LeM1) similar to two years ago after a drop last year. Reported throughout the year but with a majority of sightings during the autumn months. The Bungendore/LGeo/LBath area continue to be the hotspots. Five records of breeding: co at Bungendore Meadow Dam (BuM1) followed by four observations of dy at BSP between Oct and Nov.

Rare, breeding visitor

**Australian Shelduck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	112	72	56	47.9
WR	0	0	-	0.2
G	14	16	-12	10.5
BR	5	0	Inf	1.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0002
GS	0	0	-	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Australian Wood Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*

Commonly observed grazing around urban lakes and ponds.

**General:** Despite a large increase in the number of records there is no increase in the abundance or reporting rate with the maximum number of birds similar to last year 360/14 May LGeo GrT10 (LeM1). Reported throughout the year and this year the second most widely distributed and reported waterfowl in our area. Reported breeding throughout the year apart from Jun with a peak in October.

Common, breeding resident

**Australian Wood Duck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1624	1075	51	431.6
WR	27	53	-49	22.1
G	114	99	15	81.0
BR	90	34	165	26.1
GA	1.0993	1.0897	1	0.3685
GS	31	31	0	19.3
GBR	44	12	267	11.1

**GBS:** 489 records from 31 sites, similar to last year. Maximum 60/6 Nov Waterview Gardens Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2). A large increase in the number of breeding records compared with the previous year: 44 records from 12 sites dy (37), co (1), ih (6).

**Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

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

**General:** Large increase in the number of records but from the same number of grid cells as last year. The total number of birds reported is well down (22675 vs 81443) despite the increase in the number of records, reducing the abundance from 17.8 to 2.9. Max 6600/5 Feb LGeo GrT10 (LeM1). There were 6 records or more than 1000 individuals reported from the LBath/LGeo area. Reported throughout the year. This decrease may well represent an end to the increase in numbers reported since 2011-12.

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

**Pink-eared Duck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	370	178	108	50.2
WR	1	1	0	0.0
G	25	25	0	6.5
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0007	0.0045	-84	0.0003
GS	1	2	-50	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**GBS:** A single observation 2/4 Jun Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

**Australasian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchotis*

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

**General:** Double the number of records since last year but from the same number of grid cells. The total number of birds seen is well down (3587 v 9295) despite the increase in the number of records, so leading to a decrease in abundance from 2.03 to 0.45 (a large decrease from the last two years). The maximum number of birds reported was only 221/6 Jul LBath GrY07 (LeM1) with few large numbers seen and only 5 records of more than 100 individuals, all LBath.

Uncommon, breeding visitor

**Australasian Shoveler**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	429	270	59	87.6
WR	3	1	200	0.4
G	24	21	14	12.8
BR	0	1	-100	0.6
GA	0.0007	0.0000	Inf	0.0002
GS	1	0	Inf	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**GBS.** A single record, 2/24 Jul LBG West basin, Acton GrK13 (RoS1).



**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis*

Commonly observed throughout the region.

**General:** A large increase in the number of records from last year with a slight increase in distribution. The total number of birds seen is down (60,184 v 81,723) despite the increase in the number of records, hence a decrease in abundance from 17.9 to 7.6. Max 12,200/5 Feb LGeo GrT10 (LeM1), larger than the maximum of 8000 last year with 8 records of over 1,000 individuals, all from LBath/LGeo. An increase in the number of breeding records, all dy from Lyneham Wetlands, Holt near Strathnairn and MFNR with a single co observed at JWNR.

**GBS:** An increase in the number of records and an increase in abundance and reporting rate. Reported from 7 sites with a maximum 13/18 Dec Giralang Ponds GrK14 (KaD1).

Very common, breeding resident

**Grey Teal**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1213	802	51	191.8
WR	10	7	43	2.8
G	69	59	17	32.1
BR	12	1	1100	5.0
GA	0.1435	0.0722	99	0.0138
GS	7	6	17	1.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

**Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*

Less frequently observed than Grey Teal.

**General:** Similar number of records to last year but with a slight decrease in the number of birds. The average number of birds per record decreasing from 3.5 to 2.8 with a decrease in the maximum number of bird reported 25/3 Dec BSP GrS13 (JeM1). Reported throughout the year from 23 sites in 19 grid cells. A single breeding record dy/29 Dec MFNR Big Dam GrL11 (WiT1).

**GBS.** A single record 2/11 Sep Burra GrM20 (AnI1).

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Chestnut Teal**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	149	156	-4	68.9
WR	0	0	-	0.2
G	19	20	-5	10.8
BR	1	0	Inf	2.4
GA	0.0007	0.0000	Inf	0.0034
GS	1	0	Inf	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Northern Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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 in the near future. The status of Black Duck – Mallard hybrids will also be reviewed.

**General:** A large reduction in the number of birds reported with the maximum record of 3, down from the 14 last year. Reported throughout the year but mainly spring and summer months. Reported from 12 sites including most of the urban ponds and lakes and 2 birds at the Namadgi Visitors Centre.

**GBS:** Reported from 2 sites only in Giralang and Crace. All records of a single bird.

Rare, breeding resident

**Northern Mallard**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	23	49	-53	12.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	9	7	29	4.4
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0133	0.0045	199	0.0009
GS	2	3	-33	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*

A very familiar duck in the region.

**General:** A slight decrease in abundance and reporting rate from last year but generally the trend continues upwards. The most widely reported water-fowl this year. There was a slight decrease in the average number of birds reported but with a slight increase in distribution. The maximum number of birds was 309/17 Jan WBPD (AnI1). The number of breeding records was up compared to previous years with the first record co/27 Aug LGin GrJ12 (FuP1). Most breeding observations of dy but on/8 Oct near Mulligans Flat Big Dam GrL11 (MiP1) and 15 Oct TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1).

**GBS:** 434 records, an increase from 357 last year with a slight increase in abundance and reporting rate. Reported from 17 sites with the largest number 80/9 April Giralang GrK12 (McD4). 24 breeding records from 5 sites at Red Hill, Jerrabomberra, Giralang Nicholls and Crace. All observations dy between 2 Oct and 1 Jan apart from co/11 Jun Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4).

Very common, breeding resident

**Pacific Black Duck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1834	1151	59	401.5
WR	13	14	-7	6.5
G	91	81	12	65.7
BR	66	26	154	21.2
GA	0.8520	0.6551	30	0.1912
GS	17	15	13	8.7
GBR	24	13	85	5.7

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis*

A diving duck often seen in deeper waters.

**General:** The number of birds reported was slightly down despite an increase in the number of sightings. This reduced the abundance from 1.7 last year to 0.8. The average number of birds reported decreased from 16.0 to 10.2 with the largest number reported also lower than last year 400/6 Nov Careys Reserve (Wee Jasper) GrA09 (AnF1). Reported throughout the year but more frequently during the spring months.

**GBS:** A small increase in abundance from 4 sites at Crace, Jerrabomberra, Giralang and Murrumbateman. Largest number 46/8 Jan Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2).

Common, breeding visitor

**Hardhead**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	702	553	27	101.8
WR	4	4	0	0.8
G	45	47	-4	17.5
BR	1	0	Inf	0.4
GA	0.1880	0.1543	22	0.0451
GS	4	6	-33	0.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Blue-billed Duck** *Oxyura australis*

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

**General:** An increase in the number of records provided an increase in the number of birds reported with little change in abundance. Reported from two sites only, FSP and Yerrabi Ponds. Recorded between Aug and Mar with over 50% of records during the spring months. Unusually, no records from LBath. The maximum number seen was 7/12 Mar FSP GrL14 (WiC2). An unconfirmed breeding record dy/11 Sep Yerrabi Pond GrL11.

Rare, breeding resident

**Blue-billed Duck**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	42	22	91	23.4
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	2	6	-67	2.9
BR	1	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Black Duck-Mallard hybrid**

**General:** 17 records from 7 sites, all urban ponds. Max 6/2 Feb Dunlop West Belconnen Pond GrI11 (CuR1). No breeding records. A large increase in abundance over the last 2 reporting periods.

**GBS:** 19 records from 2 sites in Curtin and Yarralumla, all records of a single bird. Reported throughout the year.

**Domestic Duck**

**General:** A very large increase in the number of records and in abundance from 0.004 to 0.05 with reports from 18 grid cells, up from 7 last year. Reported from virtually all of the urban water bodies with additional records from sites in Goulburn, Yass and Namadgi Visitors Centre. A single breeding



record dy/25 Dec 1004 Wamboin GrQ12 (McD1). As with Black Duck-Mallard hybrid, a large spike in abundance reported.

**Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

**General:** An increase in the number of records, all in urban water bodies. The average number of birds reported decreased from 1.7 to 1.0 this year but from a larger number of grid cells (5).

**Domestic Goose (including previously identified Greylag Goose)**

**General:** Reported from 3 sites, Molonglo Reach, JWNR and Queanbeyan river. In small numbers with an average of 2.2 birds per record.

**PODICIPEDIDAE: grebes**

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Common, breeding resident

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

**General:** Although there was an increase in the number of records there was a decrease in the average number of birds per record from 3.1 last year to 2.5. The abundance continues to decrease from the 2010-11 10-year peak. Max 20/26 Oct QSP GrN15 (BuM1), slightly lower than the 25 reported last year. Reported throughout the year with a large increase in the number of breeding records ranging from cf (1), dy (22), nb (3), ny (3) and on/leaving nest (16). Breeding reported between Sep and Mar from 14 sites.

**GBS:** 70 records from 6 sites, an increase from last year. An increase in abundance and reporting rate from last year with a maximum 7/14 Jul Greenway GrJ16 (HaA2).

Australasian Grebe

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	708	457	55	171.4
WR	6	8	-25	4.6
G	52	42	24	39.0
BR	45	25	80	13.7
GA	0.0484	0.0143	238	0.0146
GS	6	3	100	1.2
GBR	0	0	-	1.0

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Common, breeding resident

Prefers larger bodies of deeper water than the Australasian Grebe.

**General:** Despite a large increase in the number of records the abundance has dropped from 1.3 last year to 0.4 but with a similar reporting rate to last year. The mean has dropped from 24.6 to 8.9 with max 105/27 Dec FSP (SmA1). Reported throughout the year with a peak during the spring months. 5 breeding observations from sites at Flemington Road Ponds, Uriarra Homestead Dam and JWNR between Dec and Mar. All dy apart from nb/2 Dec JWNR GrL14 (DaC2).

**GBS:** A single record 1/30 Apr Yarralumla GrK14 (NeG1).

Hoary-headed Grebe

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	408	267	53	82.7
WR	3	3	0	0.5
G	29	25	16	14.5
BR	5	2	150	0.9
GA	0.0004	0.0022	-84	0.0007
GS	1	2	-50	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Great-crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Rare, breeding visitor

Very occasionally seen in the region.

**General:** An increase in the number of records from 7 sites. It appears that there were 3 birds seen around the LBG/ANU Black Mt Peninsular area with 2 birds at Uriarra Homestead Dam (FeP1) and a single bird at QSP (BuM1) at different times. Difficult to know if the sightings are of the same birds moving around the local area. Single possible breeding observation co/17 Mar ANU GrK13 (MiP1).

**COLUMBIDAE: PIGEONS AND DOVES****Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

This introduced species is generally restricted to urban areas.

**General:** As with last year, there are significant increases in most metrics this year. There are 1210 records cf 393 last year. Abundance is up 57% on last year and 180% on the 10YA. Reporting rate is up 79% on last year and 146% on the 10YA. Max 175/7 Mar Duffy (MiP1). There were 8 breeding records: earliest, on/26 Sep ANU (MiP1); latest, ny/13 May Turner (BoC4).

**GBS:** There were 636 records cf 699 last year. Abundance is down 11% on last year but up 38% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is the same as last year and up 19% on the 10YA. Maximum: 92/2wk Jul O'Connor GrL13 (DoM1). 1 breeding record: di/1wk Oct Curtin GrJ14 (MoM3).

Very common, breeding resident

**Rock Dove**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1210	393	208	120.6
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	33	31	6	15.1
BR	8	2	300	1.5
GA	2.1585	2.4165	-11	1.2637
GS	34	37	-8	33.0
GBR	1	2	-50	2.4

**White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela*

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

**General:** Most records over the past decade have been in winter and, to a lesser extent, spring. 4 records of 1-2 birds: earliest, 2/17 Jul Queanbeyan West GrN15 (InC1); latest, 1/7 Mar AIS Bruce (MiP1). Other sightings in Narrabundah and O'Connor Ridge. Breeding not recorded.

**GBS:** No records this year after 2 records last year.

Rare, non-breeding visitor

**White-headed Pigeon**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	4	4	0	1.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	2	100	0.7
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0013	-100	0.0004
GS	0	1	-100	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

An introduced species. The preferred habitats remain urban – including house gardens, parklands, and the vicinity of urban and peri-urban wetlands. In the AoI it continues to be recorded from Goulburn and Queanbeyan. The population continues to grow but the distribution at grid cell scale seems to have paused. It is now recorded in all months.

**General:** 196 records cf 113 records last year from 16 grids cf 13 last year. Abundance is up 19% on last year and up 253% on the 10YA. Reporting rate (2.5%) is up 1% on last year and 116 % on the 10YA. Max 6/21 Jan JWNR (MiP1). 2 breeding records: earliest nb/25 Oct Kambah (FrM1); latest, di/26 Oct Turner (BoC4).

**GBS:** 134 records down on 241 records last year from 16 sites down from 26 sites last year. Abundance is down 29% on last year and 8% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 39% on last year and 15% on the 10YA. Max 6/3wk Dec Kambah GrK12 (KaD1). Breeding not recorded.

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Spotted Dove**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	196	113	73	11.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	16	13	23	4.1
BR	2	1	100	0.2
GA	0.0698	0.0977	-29	0.0329
GS	16	26	-38	8.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.4

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** No records this year after the first ever record for the ACT last year.**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:** 237 records up on 177 records last year. Grids the same as last year. Abundance is the same as last year but down 16% on the 10YA. The reporting rate (3 %) is down 22% on last year and



Geoffrey Dabb

41% on the 10YA. Max 21/13 Apr Mt Ainslie NR-Campbell Park (SmA1). There were

2 breeding records this year, after no records last year, both on the same day; earliest on/20 Aug Jerrabomberra Mt Reserve GrN15 (CoF1); latest on/20 Aug MFNR GrL10 (WyP1).

**GBS:** 58 records down from 86 records last year. Abundance is down 23% on last year and down 47% on the 10YA. Breeding was not recorded.

**Common Bronzewing**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	237	177	34	100.2
WR	12	11	9	9.1
G	45	46	-2	34.4
BR	2	0	Inf	1.6
GA	0.0274	0.0356	-23	0.0422
GS	11	12	-8	8.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.9

**Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*

Rare, breeding resident

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

**General:** No records this year.

**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:** 2640 records up on 1435 records last year. Abundance (1.4) is up 19% on last year and 97% on the 10YA. The reporting rate (33.6 %) is up 7% on last year and 35% on the 10YA. Max 77/15 Feb Yerrabi Pond (HaJ7), is up 60% on last year but down 9% on the 10YA. 17 breeding records of 10 last year: earliest, nb/16 Aug Acton GrK13 (McD1); latest, dy/13 Apr Gordon Pond GrJ17 (CaR3).

**GBS:** 2219 records down on 2435 last year. Abundance is up 8% on last year and up 6% on the 10YA. Max 43/4wk Jun Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2). 76 breeding records down from 85 records last year: earliest, co/4wk Jul Aranda GrK13 (MeP1); latest, di/4w Jun Hackett GrM13 (LeC1).

**Crested Pigeon**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	2640	1435	84	347.5
WR	36	24	50	21.3
G	95	90	6	50.4
BR	17	10	70	5.4
GA	3.5349	3.2838	8	1.7632
GS	63	68	-7	43.2
GBR	76	85	-11	44.4

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*

Rare, non-breeding visitor/escapee

Visitors are from the dry interior or escapees from aviaries.

**General:** Last recorded in 2011/12.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia striata*

Rare, non-reeding resident

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

**General:** There are 11 records compared with 20 records last year. Most records are from Bibaringa (SmA1) mostly from summer and autumn. Breeding was not recorded.

**GBS:** 9 records, all from Templeton St, Cook (DiB1) compared with no records last year

**Peaceful Dove**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	11	20	-45	8.6
WR	0	0	-	0.7
G	5	6	-17	4.1
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0056	0.0000	Inf	0.0003
GS	1	0	Inf	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Rare, breeding resident

This species is generally restricted to the wet forests of the Brindabellas, Tallaganda and the far south of the AoI.

**General:** 8 records of 1 to 2 birds, the same as last year. Earliest 1/31 Dec Namadgi NP GrE16 (SmA1); latest, 1/6 Jun Yanunbeyan NR and adjacent private land Gr Q19 (TaN1).

**GBS:** No records this year after a single record last year.

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

Common, breeding resident

Observed in suburbs and woodlands in the ACT and AoI.

**General:** Abundance is up 23% on the previous year and up 20% on the 10YA. The reporting rate (1.2 %) is down 2% on the previous year but up 34% on the 10YA. Breeding, 22 records, up from 19 records last year: earliest, on/12 Sep The Pinnacle NR (AlB1); latest br/17 Jan Mt Ainslie (MoE1).

**GBS:** 91 records from 10 sites. Abundance is down 38% on the previous year but up 36% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 29% on the previous year and up 44% on the 10YA. 22 breeding records cf 48 last year: earliest, nb/5wk Jul Carwoola GrQ16 (MuM1); latest, dy/2wk Feb Ainslie GrL13 (HaS3).

**Tawny Frogmouth**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	93	55	69	18.3
WR	3	0	Inf	0.1
G	23	20	15	9.8
BR	22	19	16	5.5
GA	0.0561	0.0910	-38	0.0247
GS	10	11	-9	5.2
GBR	22	48	-54	7.8

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

Rare, breeding summer visitor

An occasional visitor from coastal area.

**General:** Four records of a single bird in a single location on the same day by four observers: 1/19 Sep Lyneham Ridge GrK12 (LeM1).

**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*

Widely but sparsely distributed in wooded areas.

**General:** 71 records, up sharply from 17 records last year. This is probably an artefact of increased recording effort, although the reporting rate (0.9 %) is 80% up on the 10YA. Most sightings were in ACT peri-urban woodlands. A single breeding record: ny/12 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (BIA1).

**GBS:** 20 records compared with 8 last year. Most records are from a single rural site in Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2). Breeding not recorded.

Common, breeding resident

**Australian Owlet-nightjar**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	71	17	318	11.3
WR	3	2	50	0.9
G	18	13	38	6.0
BR	1	0	Inf	0.3
GA	0.0070	0.0025	176	0.0028
GS	2	3	-33	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:** The reporting rate is down 44% on last year, 35% on the 10YA, and down 67% on the 30YA. Max 150/10 Oct Michelago (LsA2), mean 37.3 and median 7. Earliest: 2/28 Sep Richardson (WaB1); latest, 107/24 Mar Red Hill NP (SmA1).

**GBS:** 14 records cf 7 last year. Abundance is nearly 4x last year's, more than twice the 10YA, but just under the 30YA. Max 200/3wk Feb Duffy (CaJ4). Earliest: 4/1wk Dec Curtin (AjR1), and latest 2/3wk Mar Scullin (FeP1).

**White-throated Needletail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	22	23	-4	17.6
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	19	14	36	12.1
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.1221	0.0290	322	0.1356
GS	10	4	150	13.1
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:** One record this year following 6 records last year: 2/6 Jan Woodstock NR GrH12 (RoV1).

**GBS:** No records, following 4 records last year.

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

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** 377 records, including 2 WOO, up 75% on the previous year and up 440% on the 30YA. Reporting rate 4.8% also well up on the 30YA of 3.4%. Numbers ranged from 1-21, average 2.7. Max 21/26 Apr JWNR (SmA1). Recorded from 23 grid cells, covering most urban waterways, the hotspot being Molonglo Reach and environs. Recorded in every week of the year, confirming that the species may now be considered a resident, with more records in autumn (33%) as usual. Breeding recorded in the past between Sep and May but this year there were only 2 breeding records: on/25 Oct Molonglo Reach GrL14 (McD1), and dy/27 Feb Molonglo R Corridor GrJ14 (CaJ4). Breeding of this species may be under-reported but Jack Holland, who has conducted the boat trips to view the Molonglo Reach darters for many years, wrote that the 2015 numbers were the lowest he had recorded and he believed the clearing of the willows was implicated (Holland 2015).

**Australian Darter**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	377	215	75	69.9
WR	2	1	100	0.3
G	23	16	44	10.2
BR	2	3	-33	2.8
GA	0.0260	0.0045	483	0.0038
GS	4	3	33	1.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



**GBS:** 36 records, compared with the 30YA of 6.4. The abundance value  $A=0.0260$  well up on the long-term value of 0.0038. Range 1-7 birds, average 2.1. Recorded in 29 weeks, most commonly out of the breeding season in winter (39% of records) and autumn (36%). The darter, while not a traditional “garden bird”, does overfly the suburbs; it was recorded in 4 sites adjacent to water in Giralang, Jerrabomberra, LBG W and Yarralumla.

## 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:** The reporting rate (10%) for this species has remained quite constant since 1987. However, increased observer effort this year has resulted in a huge increase in records (785 - up 70% over last year) and up 346% on the 30YA. While normally seen in low numbers, it remains our most widespread (58 grid cells) and commonly recorded cormorant. Numbers ranged from 1-18, the latter recorded 14 Feb Scrivener Dam GrJ14 (SmA1). Recorded fairly evenly throughout the year. 2 breeding records: co/17 Sep Yerrabi Pond GrL11 (CoF1) and dy/27 Feb Molonglo R corridor GrJ14 (CaJ4). A young bird was also photographed at JWNR in Feb.

**GBS:** 245 records, 442% up on the 30YA. Range 1-30, average 2. Recorded from 12 sites, mostly near water, and fairly evenly throughout the year. The recording rate for this species began increasing in 2005 and has remained relatively high ever since.

#### Little Pied Cormorant

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	785	463	70	176.0
WR	4	0	Inf	2.3
G	58	40	45	37.0
BR	2	5	-60	2.7
GA	0.1680	0.0856	96	0.0383
GS	12	12	0	4.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

### Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common, breeding resident

Commonly found on the urban lakes and wetlands.

**General:** Many more records than last year, and 344% up on the 30YA. Records from 34 grid cells, covering most urban and many rural waterways. Range 1-55, with 5max 5/13 Feb LTug (FrM1). The reporting rate of 6% was up on the 30YA of 5.1%. Recorded in every week of the year, with the peak in spring (34%). No breeding records. The most recent recorded breeding was in the 2011-12 season. While birds in breeding plumage have been recorded (see Holland, 2015) they have evidently retreated to less frequented waterways to breed.

**GBS:** 88 records, up on last year, and up 511% on the 30YA of 14.4. Numbers ranged from 1-12, at an average of 2.4. Recorded throughout the year, slightly more in spring (34%) than the other seasons, from 7 sites adjacent to water in 5 urban grid cells.

#### Great Cormorant

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	475	327	45	106.9
WR	0	2	-100	0.3
G	34	37	-8	22.2
BR	0	0	-	0.6
GA	0.0733	0.0321	128	0.0150
GS	7	7	0	3.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Very common, breeding resident

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

**General:** More records than last year, up 321% on the 30YA, from 24 widespread grid cells. Max 60/12 Apr JWNR GrL14 (SmA1), mean 7. Reporting rate 4.7% cf the 30YA of 4.3%. Recorded throughout the year, winter 11%, spring 28%, summer 33% and autumn 28%. Breeding last recorded in 2011-12.

**GBS:** 110 records, well up on last year and up 617% on the 30YA. The reporting rate of 3.9% was also well above the long-term average of 0.6%. Records from 9 mainly urban sites near water. From 1-90 birds, at an average of 9. Max 90/9 Apr LBG west basin (RoS1). Recorded throughout the year, but as shown in the general records, slightly more commonly in summer (39% of records).

**Little Black Cormorant**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	373	274	36	88.5
WR	1	2	-50	0.3
G	24	30	-20	18.5
BR	0	0	-	1.6
GA	0.3458	0.0897	285	0.0237
GS	9	6	50	2.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

The least common of the locally occurring cormorants.

**General:** 72 records, massively up on the 8.5 30YA. Numbers ranged from 1-5, average 1.8. Though recorded from 11 grid cells, the hotspot for the species was as usual GrL14, JWNR and environs. Reporting rate 0.9% well up on the 30YA of 0.4%. Recorded in all seasons but particularly spring and summer with 39% of the records in each. The status of this species remains unclear. It has been recorded in relatively low numbers every year since 1982.

**Pied Cormorant**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	72	58	24	8.5
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	11	9	22	3.5
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0002
GS	0	1	-100	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:** Double the number of records to last year, and up 564% on the 30YA. Reporting rate (which has fluctuated considerably over the years) of 6.9% compares favourably with the 30YA of 3.9%. Numbers ranged from 1-130 birds, with max 130/5 Feb LGeo SE GrT10 (LeM1), mean 6.5. Recorded from 34 widespread grid cells, throughout the year, with winter records (15%) suggesting that some of the population is “resident”, at least when not involved in a breeding event in the inland. The species has bred in our area, at LGeo. There was, however, a surprising record of birds displaying at JWNR in Oct.

**GBS:** 83 records, up 476% on the 30YA of 14.4. The reporting rate 2.9% was up from the 30YA of 0.5%. Recorded from 14 sites over 9 grid cells. As with most waterbirds in the GBS, the majority of sightings were from gardens near bodies of water in Greenway, Jerrabomberra, Giralang and LBG W. Numbers ranged from 1-6. Recorded in 44 weeks, with spring providing the lowest percentage of records (13.3%).

**Australian Pelican**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	541	276	96	81.5
WR	1	0	Inf	0.0
G	34	31	10	13.3
BR	1	0	Inf	0.1
GA	0.0551	0.0541	2	0.0154
GS	14	12	17	5.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



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

Non-breeding vagrant

Declared vulnerable in NSW.

**General:** 23 records of 26 last year: nearly all from Rose Lagoon (13 sightings of 1-3 birds between 1 Jul (GoS1) and 14 Jun (NeG1)) and from McKellar Wetland (7 records of a single bird in the period 4-9 Jul and 1 record of a single bird on 15 Jun (RoM3)). Previous to last year most records were in 1996 (6 records), with the species being reported only 10 times in the period 1982-2014.

**GBS:** No records this year. 1 record from a site adjacent to Giralang Pond last year.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

Rare, breeding visitor

Rarely seen in our area of interest.

**General:** A single record of 1 bird on 3 Jul at McKellar Wetland (WaS1). This was not much different from last year, with a single bird being observed by a number of observers at the same location. On average one or two birds are seen every second year or so.

**White-necked Heron** *Ardea pacifica*

Uncommon, breeding visitor

Occasionally seen in and around local bodies of water.

**General:** Reporting rate (2.6%) down 17% on last year but still up 80% on the 30YA. Most records were expectedly of 1 or 2 birds (mean of 1.6, median 1). Unlike last year where the mean was boosted by some larger counts including groups of up to 36, there was only 1 sighting of 17 birds at Wet Lagoon on 8 Oct (AnF1). Most records were in spring (55%) and summer (23%), with fewer in winter (9%) and autumn (13%). No breeding recorded.

**GBS:** 17 records from 9 sites is slightly down on last year, but well above the 10 and 30YAs. Abundance is just under last year's record high. Records were between 1wk Jul and 1wk Apr. The distribution was the same as last year. 2 of the sites were rural (Carwoola and Murrumbateman), the others being on the margins of Curtin, and near water bodies in Giralang and Jerrabomberra.

White-necked Heron

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	201	149	35	29.6
WR	2	0	Inf	0.6
G	46	40	15	14.1
BR	0	2	-100	0.4
GA	0.0063	0.0067	-6	0.0011
GS	9	5	80	1.5
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 (2.7%) down 35% on last year, but up 10% the 10YA and up 45% on the 30YA. Records were from scattered sites, JWNR (108 records) and Goulburn Wetlands (58) being the most prolific. Most records were expectedly of 1 or 2 birds (median 1); mean of 1.4 (same as last year) with max 8/27 Mar Goulburn Wetlands (AnF1). Records were again spread evenly: spring 28%, summer 29%, autumn 22%, and winter 21%.

**GBS:** Most records are of generally a single bird (occasionally up to 3) at Giralang Pond, reported from 2 different sites adjoining the pond (McD4 and KaD1) throughout the year, being recorded in 37 weeks. This accounts for 44 of the 48 records, with a Jerrabomberra site contributing 3 records (HaL2) and 1 record from Yarralumla (NeG1).

Great Egret

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	211	189	12	38.4
WR	1	0	Inf	0.0
G	17	13	31	7.8
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0186	0.0111	67	0.0026
GS	4	3	33	1.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally single birds are observed in our region.

**General:** Similar to last year single birds were observed by multiple observers over limited times at a small number of sites: 1 at Goulburn Wetlands early Aug and in early Jan (AnF1); JWNR 1 between late Nov and mid-Mar (SmA1, MiP1, BuM1, AwB1 and several others); Wamboin 1/14 Jan (McD1) and Yerrabi Pond 6/Mar (AwB1). Max 4/25 Oct Uriarra HS Dam (FeP1 and WaS1). Reporting rate 0.6% is the same as last year, but 45% up on the 30YA. Unlike last year, most records (77%) were in summer rather than autumn.

**GBS:** No records this year, down from 3 records 2 years ago.

**Intermediate Egret**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	44	27	63	8.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	5	3	67	2.2
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	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:** Another big year for this species, with the number of birds seen (747) a little down on last year. Most records were from JWNR (87) and Goulburn Wetlands (34), but also from other Canberra wetlands, Uriarra HS Dam, BuTSL and MFNR. Max 29/19 Apr JWNR (SmA1), with mean 5.5 and median 3. Reporting rate 1.8% is up 101% on the 10YA and 74% on the 30YA. Records spread evenly in all seasons except summer (5%). Probably the same large flock was reported at JWNR in Apr and May.

**GBS:** 12 records from 2 sites between 1wk Nov and 1wk May: 5 sightings of between 2 and 13 birds at Curtin (AjR1), and 7 sightings of 2 – 24 birds at Jerrabomberra (HaL2). Abundance is nearly that of the record high in 1991, 16 times the 10YA and 7.5 times the 30YA.

**Cattle Egret**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	139	73	90	21.1
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	13	12	8	5.6
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0214	0.0048	348	0.0025
GS	2	3	-33	0.9
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 (11.2%) is 25% lower than last year, but 19% higher than the 10YA and 12% higher than the 30YA. Records were widespread across the region (from many sites scattered across 96 grid cells) and throughout the year (winter 19%, spring 28%, summer 30%, autumn 23%). Max 40/5 Mar LGeo (KaJ1) with mean 2 and median 1 but there were 18 records of 10+ birds. 6 breeding records: first ny/30 Oct Hoskinstown (BuM1), and last nb/24 Nov Harrison (MiP1).

**GBS:** 238 records from 18 sites spread across 18 grid cells continues a decade-long general increase in GBS records. Abundance is a record high. Records were spread throughout the year with max 5/5 3wk Jan, mean 1.2, and median 1. Records were from 14 suburban and 4 rural sites. No breeding records this year.

**White-faced Heron**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	881	684	29	207.7
WR	7	7	0	3.0
G	96	80	20	51.5
BR	6	5	20	2.7
GA	0.0989	0.0760	30	0.0373
GS	18	16	12	11.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Very occasionally seen in the margins of water bodies

**General:** 1 record only this year, of 1 bird: 3 Dec Shepherds Lookout (DaC2).

**Nankeen Night-Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Nocturnal feeding habits may lead to under-reporting.

**General:** Reporting rate (0.8%) is up 64% on the 10YA but about equal to the 30YA. Max 5/16 Oct JWNR (SmA1) mean 1.7 (1.9 last year), median 1. Records mainly from summer 52% with spring 28%, autumn 8%, and winter 12%. No breeding recorded.

**GBS:** 34 records from 4 sites is 80% up on last year. Reports of up to 5 birds throughout the year from Giralang (McD4). 27 records are from the two sites overlooking Giralang Pond (KaD1 and McD4) over the period Jul to Jun, recorded over 29 weeks. 6 records from Jerrabomberra (HaL2) and 1 from Curtin (AjR1). Abundance twice that of last year, 3 times the 10YA and 10 times the 30YA.

Uncommon, breeding visitor

**Nankeen Night-Heron**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	65	23	183	17.9
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	9	4	125	5.3
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.0179	0.0083	116	0.0016
GS	4	3	33	0.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

An occasional visitor to marshy areas across the region.

**General:** Only 3 records this year: 1/21 Sep JWNR (MeT1); 1/21 Sep Lyneham Wetland (MiP1); and 1/29 Oct LBath E (LeM1). The numbers of records for this species are highly variable. Most years there are nil or few records, but there were notable peaks in the last two years, in 1995, 2003, over the three-year period 2007-2009, 2013 and 2014.

Rare, non-breeding visitor

**Glossy Ibis**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3	33	-91	8.5
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	3	5	-40	1.6
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

A regular inhabitant of wetlands around the region.

**General:** While the number of records and grid cells is up on last year, the reporting rate (7.5%) is 17% down on last year, but is up 41% on the 10YA and 58 % up on the 30YA. Max 240/18 Apr Goulburn Wetlands (AnF1), mean 11.4, and median 3. Most records in the warmer months – spring (33%), summer (43%) autumn (16%) and winter (8%). 1 breeding record: co/25 Oct MFNR (BoJ1)

**GBS:** 196 records from 17 sites continues the gradual increase since 2007. 49 records this year from Murrumbateman (BlJ1), 33 from the 2 sites near Giralang Pond (McD4 and KaD1), 20 from Jerrabomberra (HaL2), and several other sites, not all or them adjacent to bodies of water. Max 100/4wk Jul Jerrabomberra (HaL2), mean 10.9 and median 4.5. No breeding.

Common, breeding resident

**Australian White Ibis**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	592	412	44	99.5
WR	2	4	-50	1.5
G	43	37	16	24.2
BR	1	0	Inf	1.6
GA	0.7517	0.4699	60	0.1977
GS	17	18	-6	9.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis*

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

**General:** 40% of records from JWNR & FSP. Other sites included many suburban playing fields, BuTSL, MFNR, and wetlands to the northeast of Canberra: Rose Lagoon, and Wet Lagoon GrS02. Reporting rate (3.9%) a little below last year, but still 24% up on the 10YA and 30% up on the 30YA. Records higher in autumn (40%) with a fairly even spread across the other seasons. Max 150/15 Jan LGeo (HaJ7), mean 13.8 (lower than last year) and median 5. There were 15 counts of 50+ birds. No breeding reported.

**GBS:** 46 records from 17 sites is up slightly on last year but the A value is down 34% on last year because the number of bird observed dropped from 555 last year to 331 this year. Max 40/2wk Jul Murrumbateman (BIJ1), mean 7.2 and median 2, all considerably lower than last year. Reports varied across the year: winter 26%, spring 17%, summer 11% and autumn 46%. Most records (12) from Curtin (AJR1), and 7 from Jerrabomberra (HaL2). No breeding recorded.

Common, non-breeding visitor

**Straw-necked Ibis**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	305	193	58	62.2
WR	5	2	150	0.5
G	52	42	24	18.7
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.1161	0.1766	-34	0.3208
GS	17	14	21	13.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

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

**General:** While the number of records and grid cells is about the same as last year, the reporting rate (1.2%) is just over half that of last year. As with some other “uncommon” species, the bulk of the reports document 1 or 2 birds seen by multiple observers over extended periods of time at the site. Half the records were JWNR and other sites include Goulburn Wetlands (15 records), MFNR (10) and BSP (4). Max 16/23 Dec Wet Lagoon (AnF1), mean 2.2, median 1. Most records were from the warmer months (winter 5%, spring 41%, summer 32%, autumn 22%). No breeding recorded.

**GBS:** Reported in only 10 years of the survey since 1982. 5 records from Giralang Pond, reported at the 2 sites overlooking the pond: (McD4 and KaD1), with reports of 1 or 2 birds between 3wk Dec and 3wk Apr.

Uncommon, breeding visitor

**Royal Spoonbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	93	90	3	30.7
WR	1	0	Inf	0.0
G	10	10	0	5.5
BR	0	0	-	1.1
GA	0.0025	0.0038	-36	0.0005
GS	2	2	0	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes*

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

**General:** Fewer records than last year, from JWNR (33%), MFNR (28%), Goulburn Wetlands (10%) and Wet Lagoon (7%). As with the Royal Spoonbill, there were 12 records of between 1 and 2 birds at JWNR in over a week in late Mar early Apr. Reporting rate (0.8%) was 72% down last year, but up 32% on the 10YA and 19% on the 30YA. Max 10/2 May LGeo (LeM1), mean 1.8 (half last year's), median 1. In contrast to last year, records mainly in autumn 44% with winter 8%, spring 25% and summer 22%.

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

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	59	124	-52	19.3
WR	1	0	Inf	0.1
G	12	14	-14	6.0
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0048	-100	0.0004
GS	0	3	-100	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 very few ACT sightings of this species, possibly of dispersing young, since the first endorsed record in 2011.

**General:** One record from LGeo in Oct, not presented for appraisal. Most recent endorsed record in Feb 2013 at Googong Dam GrO17 (AnI1).

**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:** Fewer records than last year but up 195% on the 30YA. The reporting rate of 2.8% was, however, 22% down on the 30YA (3.6%). Numbers ranged from 1-3, mean 1.2. Recorded widely, mainly from rural grasslands and nature reserves on the fringes of the city. Over half the records came from JWNR and environs, possibly reflecting more on the popularity of the wetlands as a birding site than anything else. Recorded in all but 2 weeks, and fairly evenly throughout the year. Again, only one suggestion of breeding: co/27 Sep Goulburn Pony Club GrZ01 (AnF1). This species has been recorded breeding in four of the previous 10 years.

**GBS:** 59 records, fewer than last year, but well up on the 30YA. Even the reporting rate of 2.1% was also well up on the long-term value of 1.3%. These kites were recorded from only 6 sites, and were

**Black-shouldered Kite**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	222	232	-4	75.2
WR	0	1	-100	0.6
G	29	30	-3	21.0
BR	1	1	0	1.6
GA	0.0224	0.0331	-32	0.0158
GS	6	8	-25	6.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.6



only relatively common in sites with nearby grasslands in Palmerston, Nicholls and Curtin. Numbers ranged from 1 - 2 birds. Unlike the general records, there were fewer winter records (19%) and more summer records (32%) than usual. No breeding recorded.

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

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

**General:** Just over half as many records as last year, from only 16 grid cells with the reporting rate (0.6%) down on the 30YA (0.9%). Mainly single birds. Recorded throughout the year, more commonly in autumn 38%. As is common with many raptors, a large proportion of the records – in this case 42% - came from JWNR and environs.

**GBS:** Self-evidently not a garden bird but the sea-eagle will occasionally drift over the suburbs on its way between watercourses. There were 3 records, all of single birds, in summer, from sites in Curtin and near LBG west.

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	48	88	-45	18.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	16	26	-38	8.7
BR	0	1	-100	0.2
GA	0.0011	0.0038	-72	0.0003
GS	2	2	0	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** The number of records was down on last year but still 280% up on the 30YA. The reporting rate was the same, however, at 1.7%. Mainly single birds, with a few twos. Recorded in 48 weeks throughout the year, in winter 24%, spring 36 %, summer 21% and autumn 19%, and from both peri-urban and rural settings. Unsurprisingly 40% of the records came from JWNR and environs. There was only one possible breeding record: ih/8 Oct Wet Lagoon GrS02 (AnF1).

**GBS:** 4 records, the same as last year, all of single birds, from 3 sites in 3 grid cells. All were of single birds, 2 in autumn and 2 on 26 Feb in Curtin and Ainslie possibly relating to the same bird. While not a classical “garden bird”, it does cross the suburbs occasionally.

**Whistling Kite**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	134	187	-28	35.3
WR	1	4	-75	0.6
G	29	23	26	8.8
BR	1	4	-75	0.6
GA	0.0014	0.0013	10	0.0006
GS	3	4	-25	1.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

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

**General:** 14 records, from 10 widespread and mostly rural grid cells, mainly of single birds, between Aug and Apr. While the recording rate has doubled over the long term, it has done so from a very low base.

**GBS:** No records this year. Recorded only three times in the previous 10 years in the GBS.

**Black Kite**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	14	10	40	1.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	10	8	25	1.2
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0010	-100	0.0001
GS	0	2	-100	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

Common, breeding resident



Geoffrey  
Dabb

Regularly observed throughout the region, including Canberra suburbs. A “proper” garden bird, unlike most other raptors.

**General:** A considerable increase in records over last year, and on the 30YA of 78.5. Numbers ranged from 1-4, average 1.1, with max 4/28 Dec Mulligans

Flat NR GrL10 (MiP1). The reporting rate of 2.2% is well down on the 3.8% 30YA and appears to be broadly trending downwards since 2006. Recorded throughout the year, with 17% in winter, 39% spring, 29% summer and

16% autumn. Recorded from 47 grid cells, largely from peri-urban nature reserves, the hotspots being JWNR and MFNR. 4 breeding records of 3 breeding events: earliest co/13 Nov MFNR GrL10 (MiP1), on/15 Nov same location (LaK1), dy/30 Dec Les Reardon Reserve Bywong GrQ11 (McD1) and dy/5 Jan Michelago GrL25 (LaS2).

**GBS:** 27 records, similar to the 30YA 29.1, but at a reporting rate of 0.9 cf 1.1. All single birds. Recorded from 13 mainly urban sites; common in none. A majority of records came in autumn, with fewer spring and summer records than usual. No breeding recorded.

**Brown Goshawk**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	174	107	63	78.5
WR	9	10	-10	5.0
G	47	46	2	34.9
BR	4	4	0	4.2
GA	0.0095	0.0095	-1	0.0113
GS	13	12	8	13.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Common, breeding resident/sum. migrant

A relatively common woodland and urban bird, which may be confused with the rather similar Brown Goshawk.

**General:** Records well up on last year, and on the 30YA. Mainly single birds. Reporting rate 1.6% is just above the 30YA (1.5%) though this has fluctuated considerably over the years. Surprisingly recorded fairly evenly throughout the year, with an unusually strong winter presence (21%). Records came from 44 widespread grid cells, mainly urban. Three distinct breeding events: dy/18 Jan Uriarra Crossing E GrG12 (CoF1); dy/28 Jan Kambah GrJ16 (GrB1); and co/15 Apr Giralang Pond GrK12 (BuM1). Sparrowhawks have been recorded breeding in 4 of the previous 10 years.

**GBS:** A relatively common garden raptor, with 78 records this year, holding up well against the 30YA of 54.6. Reporting rate of 2.7% well above the 30YA of 2%. Mainly single birds recorded, from 17 grid cells, both suburban and rural. Recorded fairly evenly throughout the year. No breeding recorded; there has only been one possible indication of breeding (“di”) in the previous 10 years.

**Collared Sparrowhawk**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	123	69	78	30.4
WR	1	3	-67	1.6
G	44	33	33	16.7
BR	3	0	Inf	0.9
GA	0.0295	0.0191	54	0.0210
GS	17	25	-32	17.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.7

**Grey Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

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

**General:** 3 records, against a 30YA of 2. All single birds, and all recorded on the same day (21 June), in or near JWNR, so probably the same bird. This continues the pattern of low numbers of records in most years.

**GBS:** No records this year. Recorded in 6 of the previous 10 years.

**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:** Far fewer records than in the previous two years, but still up a massive 173% on the 30YA, admittedly from a very low base. Reporting rate down to 0.3%, compared with the 30YA of 0.4%. Mostly single birds recorded in 16 weeks between late Oct and late May. While it was recorded from 12 widespread and mostly rural grid cells, a third of the records came from JWNR and environs, suggesting that there were probably very few individual harriers. No breeding has been recorded here.

**Spotted Harrier**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	22	43	-49	8.1
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	12	14	-14	3.3
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0006	-100	0.0001
GS	0	1	-100	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Infrequently observed over grasslands, wetlands and streams.

**General:** 59 records this year, the same as last year but massively up on the 30YA of 14.8. The reporting rate of 0.8% is also slightly up on the 30YA of 0.7%. Generally seen singly or in twos, but also 6/9 Jan Old Boboyan Rd GrH25 (SmA1). Recorded in 25 weeks, winter 19%, spring 56%, summer 17% (a surprisingly low figure), and autumn 8%. While 14 widespread grid cells were involved, as usual Wollogorang, Wet and Rose Lagoons accounted for many of the extra-urban records while JWNR was the urban hotspot, with 42% of the records. No breeding was recorded. There have only been 4 breeding records in our area since 1982, and none was of dependent young.

**Swamp Harrier**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	59	59	0	14.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	14	10	40	6.4
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	0	-	0.2
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:** Our most widespread raptor continues to be well reported, with more records this year than last year, and up 192% on the 30YA. Mean 1.6, max 5/6 Jul LBath GrY07 (LeM1). Recorded from 102 widespread grid cells, covering most habitats, and fairly evenly throughout the year. For such an apparently successful raptor, there were only 3 breeding records, from 3 sites: ny/25 Oct Gorooyarroo NR GrM11 (DaC1); dy/14 Mar Foxlow Lagoon GrS18 (KaJ1); and di/ 4 May Coulter Dr GrJ13 (StD6). It is possible that the lack of breeding records reflects some self-censorship on the part of observers, to protect the nest sites from disturbance.

**GBS:** 102 records, at a reporting rate of 3.6%, compared with the 30YA of 1.4%. Only single birds or twos were recorded, average 1.2. Wedgies were recorded from 25 sites, over 18 widespread grid cells, and fairly evenly throughout the year, with a slight dip in spring. While not a “garden bird”, it is now unsurprising to record this species overflying suburban gardens. By all parameters, the iconic wedgie is doing well in our region.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	358	291	23	122.5
WR	7	3	133	2.4
G	102	100	2	56.9
BR	3	3	0	2.2
GA	0.0431	0.0334	29	0.0193
GS	25	25	0	13.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

**Little Eagle** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** For a declared vulnerable species, this year’s tally of 170 records seems anomalous. The higher numbers may be a reflection of increased observer effort, the greater capacity of COG members to identify the species correctly, following many photographic depictions on the chat line, and a greater understanding of the importance of reporting vulnerable species. While the number of records is up 57.2% on the 30YA, the

reporting rate (2.2%) is, however, well below the 30YA of 2.8%. Numbers ranged from 1-3, with max 3/10 Mar Rose Lagoon (CaJ4). Recorded over 49 weeks, but slightly more frequently in spring



Stuart Harris

**Little Eagle**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	170	81	110	57.2
WR	4	1	300	0.9
G	40	31	29	22.1
BR	6	6	0	1.7
GA	0.0063	0.0089	-29	0.0062
GS	8	10	-20	7.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

(32%) and from 40 widespread grid cells, both urban and rural. 6 breeding records, from 3 breeding events: earliest on/7 Sep up to ny/21 Nov Strathnairn GrH12 (CuR1); also 25 Oct Mt Ainslie GrM12 (SmA1); and on/30 Oct Hoskinstown GrS16 (BuM1). The former two, and one additional nest unreported by COG members, all fledged one young (Olsen et al. 2015) and the Strathnairn juvenile was radio-tagged (Olsen et al, 2015). According to Olsen, the Little Eagle is “stable at low levels in the ACT” at the moment but is likely to be forced further out by suburban sprawl.

**GBS:** 17 records, of 1-2 birds, near the 30YA. Recorded between 7 Aug and 4 Jun from 7 suburban sites in Curtin, Ainslie, Yarralumla, Fraser, Campbell and Kambah, and from a rural site in Carwoola. There were fewer winter and summer records than usual, with 41% of the records coming in autumn.

**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:** Our most common raptor, as measured by number of records (402) this year, up 157.7% on the 30YA although the reporting rate (5.1%) is down 33% on the 30YA. Numbers ranged from 1-5, with max 5/25 Oct Callum Brae NR GrL15 (HeS1). Recorded in every week of the year: winter 22%, spring 36%, summer 26% and autumn 16%. Recorded from 80 widespread grid cells, from urban nature reserves to rural areas. There were 6 breeding records of apparently 4 breeding events in JWNR, Michelago, NatArbor and Cooleman Ridge NR: the earliest co/3 Oct JWNR (SmA1) and the latest dy/31 Dec Kerabee Equestrian Centre (CaJ4), with an early start for next season di/11 Jun Cooleman Ridge GrI15 (HoJ1).

**GBS:** 53 records, slightly down on last year, though still up from the 30YA of 45. Reporting rate (1.9%) is slightly above the 30YA of 1.6%. Mainly single birds were recorded. Recorded in all seasons: winter 24%, spring 23%, summer 15% and autumn 38%, from 14 mainly urban sites in 12 grid cells. The low number of summer records goes against trend and may have been affected by the unusually wet stormy weather in Jan and Feb.

**Nankeen Kestrel**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	402	344	17	157.7
WR	12	11	9	5.6
G	80	85	-6	56.5
BR	6	2	200	3.9
GA	0.0196	0.0216	-9	0.0186
GS	14	14	0	12.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.3

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

Uncommon, breeding resident

A resident of grasslands and open woodlands.

**General:** More records than last year and up 45% on the 30YA. Max 4/8 Oct Wollagorang Lagoon GrU03(AnF1); average 1.3. Reporting rate (1.6%) down 62% on the 30YA of 4.1%, suggesting that this species is one adversely affected by Canberra's increasing urbanisation. Recorded throughout the year: winter 15%, spring 33%, summer 32% and autumn 19%, a similar pattern to last year. Recorded from 55 grid cells, rural and suburban, particularly nature reserves. Possible breeding recorded: ih/26 Sep Collector Reserve GrS04; and ih/10 Dec Gundaroo GrP07 (both AnF1).

**GBS:** 2 records of a single bird from sites in Curtin and Duffy, one each in summer and autumn. The recording rate of 0.1% compares poorly with the 30YA of 0.5%. With the exception of two good wet years 2012 and 2013, there has been a steady decline in records of this species since 1986. The Brown Falcon is one of the least urban of our raptors.

**Brown Falcon**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	123	101	22	84.9
WR	3	4	-25	1.8
G	55	52	6	39.8
BR	2	0	Inf	1.2
GA	0.0007	0.0003	120	0.0053
GS	2	1	100	4.9
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:** Far more records than last year and 213% up on the 30YA, but reporting rate (1.8%) down on the 30YA (2.2%). Range 1-3 birds, average 1.1. Recorded in 44 weeks. Probably partially migratory, with only 13% of the records in winter, cf 18% in spring, 34% summer and 34% autumn. The hobby is one of the more urban of our raptors, with only a sprinkling of rural locations amongst the 42 grid cells providing records. Only a single breeding record: co/24 Nov Harrison District playing fields (MiP1). Breeding recorded every year since 2003.

**Australian Hobby**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	142	92	54	45.3
WR	4	8	-50	1.4
G	42	33	27	21.7
BR	1	4	-75	1.5
GA	0.0105	0.0102	3	0.0279
GS	14	19	-26	21.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.9

**GBS:** 28 records, down 58% on the 30YA of 66.9. The A Value and reporting rate (1.0%) are significantly down against the 30YA of A= 0.0279 and 2.4%. This supports the opinion that “there aren’t as many hobbies around as there used to be” – though it is not clear why. The GBS records matched the seasonal frequency of general records this year. Recorded in 14 sites in 10 mainly suburban grid cells, common in none. No breeding this year, breeding has been recorded in 5 of the previous 10 years.

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

An inland species favouring eucalypt woodland.

**General:** 11 records, of 1-2 birds, recorded in 11 weeks, mainly summer and autumn. The reporting rate of 0.1% is the same as the long-term average. Records from 9 grid cells, 4 of them rural. This inland raptor continues to be recorded infrequently in our region, its presence here probably dictated by conditions inland. It is perhaps worth noting that it continues to be recorded only by a very few experienced bird watchers.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** A few more records than last year and up 138% on the 30YA. Reporting rate of 0.8% well down on the 30YA of 1.3%. Range 1-5 birds, 5/25 Oct Red Rocks Gorge Gr I16 (HeS1); average 1.3. Seasonal distribution fairly usual: winter 14%, spring 31%, summer 31% and autumn 23%. Recorded from 33 widespread urban and rural grid cells. 7 records of a single breeding event at a regular site at Red Rocks Gorge GrI16: from on/16 Oct to dy/23 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	64	56	14	26.9
WR	0	0	-	0.5
G	29	26	12	16.5
BR	7	0	Inf	0.9
GA	0.0067	0.0099	-32	0.0062
GS	8	10	-20	6.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

**GBS:** 18 records, mainly single birds. Reporting rate the same as the long-term average of 0.6%. Recorded in only 17 weeks, most commonly autumn and winter. Recorded from 7 grid cells; semi-regular only in Curtin and Ainslie.

**RALLIDAE: rails, crakes, swamphen, moorhen, coot**

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Very common, breeding resident

There has been a steady growth in numbers of this species over recent years, particularly around the growing number of water-bodies throughout Canberra suburbs.

**General:** In the period 1982 to 2006 the number of birds sighted was in the range 500-800. Since then the number of records has risen to 9419. While the number recorded is partly the result of increased observer effort, the recording rate 11.9% in 2015 indicates that the species is doing very well. It would appear that most water bodies or wetlands of any size have a resident population. Max 100/6 Jun LGin (AnI1), with mean 10.9 and median 7. Recorded in all weeks of the year with an even spread

Purple Swamphen

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	938	654	43	184.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	31	27	15	16.1
BR	76	22	245	11.3
GA	0.2908	0.2701	8	0.0610
GS	7	6	17	1.1
GBR	36	14	157	5.1

across the seasons. 76 breeding records: first dy/1 Jul JWNR (DaC2) and last dy/13 Apr Point Hut Pond (CaR3). Most breeding records were of dependent young in the period Oct – Feb.

**GBS:** 198 records from 7 sites in 6 grid cells continues the gradual increase since 2005. Sites were in Giralang (McD4 and KaD1), Greenway (HaA2), Jerrabomberra (HaL2), Crace (LeF1) and Yarralumla (NeG1). Reports were spread evenly over 52 weeks, with max 17/2wk Feb Jerrabomberra (HaL2), mean 4.2 and median 3. Breeding at 3 sites: Jerrabomberra, Giralang and Yarralumla, between 2wk Jul and 3wk Apr.

**Lewin's Rail** *Lewinia pectoralis*

A very occasional visitor.

**General:** While there were 39 records for this shy, elusive species, there were probably only 5 birds involved at most: 1 between 7 Sep and 12 Mar JWNR (6 observers reported); 1/11 Sep and 1 Oct Yarramundi Reach (MiP1), ANU (MiP1), and Forde (CIJ2). The reporting rate this year (0.5%) is just under the highest rate (0.6%) of 2005, and reflects a steady increase in the sightings of this species from 2011.

Rare, breeding visitor

**Lewin's Rail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	39	11	255	1.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	3	3	0	0.6
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*

A secretive bird, often difficult to observe. Large numbers of sightings often made up of multiple reports of the same birds at the same site.

**General:** Reporting rate (0.3%) down to 30% above the 30YA from the record high of 2013. In Forde in Jan and Feb groups of up to 8 birds were seen by 4 observers. Other records were of single birds. Max 8/14 Feb Forde (CIJ2), mean 2.5, and median 1. Records mainly in spring 23% and summer 64%. 7 breeding records, all dy between 21 Dec and 14 Feb at Forde (HaJ1, CIJ2 and SmA1).

Uncommon, breeding summer-migrant

**Buff-banded Rail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	22	34	-35	8.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	7	8	-12	2.0
BR	7	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	0	-	0.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*

The number of observations of this species in this region has fluctuated considerably over the last 10 years. Usually seen on mud around reed beds.

**General** A further decline from the 2013 reporting rate (1.4%) to 0.3%. This year most records are of 1 or 2 birds at JWNR from 20 Nov to 12 Jan (DaC2, SmA1, LaK1, GeR1, RyS1). The lower numbers of sighting this year reflects the significant fluctuation from year to year in recent years. All records were in spring and summer. No breeding reported.

Rare, non-breeding summer migrant

**Baillon's Crake**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	25	29	-14	11.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	3	7	-57	1.7
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Australian Spotted Crake** *Porzana fluminea*

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

**General:** Fewer records than last year, with the reporting rate (0.7%) less than half last year's, but 28% up on the 10YA and 11% up on the 30YA. Records were generally of 1 or 2 birds (mean of 1.8, median 2). 45 records were from ponds in Gungahlin, including Crace Wetland and ponds in Bonner and Forde, with a few records from JWNR. 52% of records were from summer and 21% in spring. 4 breeding records: earliest dy/13 Nov Forde (GrB1) and latest dy/14 Feb Forde (HaJ1). These are the first breeding records for the COG AoI,

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

**Australian Spotted Crake**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	52	73	-29	12.4
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	5	7	-29	2.0
BR	4	0	Inf	0.0
GA	0.0011	0.0000	Inf	0.0000
GS	1	0	Inf	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



**Spotless Crane** *Porzana tabuensis*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Found occasionally in local wetlands, mainly JWNR and Namadgi Visitors Centre.

**General:** More records than last year, with the reporting rate (0.4%) 35% down on the 10YA and 7% down on the 30YA. Max 2/14 Nov JWNR (SmA1) with mean 1.2, and median 1. Recorded from 31 Aug to 29 Jun, the majority being in summer (48%). Records from a variety of sites including JWNR and Forde Pond. No breeding recorded.

**GBS:** No records this year following the first occurrence of a Spotless Crane in the GBS at a site in Giralang last year.

**Spotless Crane**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	31	12	158	7.7
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	10	5	100	1.5
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0004	0.0000	Inf	0.0000
GS	1	0	Inf	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**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. No records this year after 1 record last year of a single bird at LBath. Previous years with records are: 2013 (76), 2012 (3), 2010 (57), 2008 (8), 2003 (15), 2002 (26) 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:** Another water bird with higher reporting rates in recent years. While down slightly on last year the reporting rate (12.6%) is up 15% on the 10YA and 30% on the 30YA. Nearly all records come from the wetlands and lake margins in and around Canberra where observer effort is highest. Max 100/6 Oct Yerrabi Pond (HaJ7), mean 5.6 and median 4. Records throughout the year: winter 22%, spring 30%, summer 26% and autumn 22%. 36 breeding records this year: first nb/1 Sep Crace Wetland (HaJ7) and latest dy/16 Mar Mitchell Pond (MiP1).

**Dusky Moorhen**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	988	680	45	201.2
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	34	31	10	21.7
BR	36	21	71	13.7
GA	0.2410	0.1250	93	0.0622
GS	8	6	33	1.1
GBR	10	10	0	4.7

**GBS:** 232 records from 8 sites is even more than last year which was the highest number ever for the GBS. There are now 8 "waterbird" sites: 2 in Giralang (McD4 and KaD1), Greenway (HaA2), Jerrabomberra (HaL2), Nicholls (HaJ7), Crace (LeF1), Acton (RoS1) and Murrumbateman (BIJ1). More birds were reported than last year: Max 8/4wk Jan Jerrabomberra, mean 3 and median 2. 10 breeding records from Giralang and Jerrabomberra sites between 3wk Jan and 3wk Mar.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

Very common, breeding resident

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

**General:** While the number of records and number of birds sighted (57670) are higher than last year, the reporting rate (20%) is 9% down on last year, but still up 56% on the 10YA and 64% on the 30YA. Last year this was the most prolific species, but this year has been displaced to 3<sup>rd</sup> (50263 birds) by Grey Teal (82602) and Pink-eared Duck (81464). Max 2200/2 May LGeo (LeM1) with mean 40.2, and median 12. Records were throughout the year: winter 21%, spring 30%, summer 28% and autumn 21%. 38 breeding records: earliest dy/9 Nov Bonner (GrB1) and latest dy/23 Feb Crace Wetland (HaJ7).

**Eurasian Coot**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1562	996	57	252.5
WR	5	6	-17	1.2
G	54	54	0	29.1
BR	38	6	533	4.9
GA	2.2550	1.7582	28	0.2761
GS	11	8	38	1.3
GBR	6	0	Inf	2.8

**GBS:** As with other birds inhabiting local ponds and lakes, reports of this species grown over the last few years. Reported from the 8 "waterbird" sites (see Dusky Moorhen entry above) plus Burra (AnI1) and Curtin (AJR1) throughout 52 weeks: winter 22%, spring 24% summer 30% and autumn 24%. Max 166/3wk Jan Jerrabomberra (HaL2), mean 20.7 (26.6 last year) and median 8. Abundance

is 28% higher than last year, more than twice the 10YA and 7 times the 30YA. 6 breeding records at Giralang and Crace: earliest dy/4wk Aug Giralang (KaD1) and latest dy/1wk Dec Crace (LeF1).

### RECURVIROSTRIDAE: stilts, avocet

#### Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Uncommon, non-breeding Visitor

Occasionally seen at JWNR, but most observations from Lakes Bathurst and George.

**General:** The reporting rate (0.9%) is less than half that of last year, but in line with the 10 and 30YA. Records mostly from the JWNR/FSP/Canturf Farm, with a group of up to 21 birds observed in mid to late Nov, but also Rose Lagoon and from LBath & LGeo where larger groups were observed. Max 1333/29 Oct LBath East Basin (LeM1), but also 3 other sightings of between 160 and 420 birds. Mean 44.1 and median 9. Records mostly in spring 63% and summer 29%, quite different from last year. 1 breeding record: on/22Sep LBath E (LeM1).

##### Black-winged Stilt

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	68	105	-35	26.1
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	13	9	44	4.8
BR	1	0	Inf	0.5
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

#### Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

Non-breeding vagrant

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

**General:** Fewer sightings from fewer grids this year by a single observer (LeM1) during the Water Bird Survey, nearly all at LBath. Max 256/28 Jul LBath E, mean 133.7, median 160, with a total of 1203 birds recorded, considerably lower than last year. Most records in winter 33% and spring 56%, summer 11% and autumn nil.

##### Red-necked Avocet

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	9	26	-65	4.1
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	6	-33	1.6
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

### CHARADRIIDAE: plovers, dotterels, lapwings

#### Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Non-breeding migrant

Very few reports outside the LBath East basin.

**General:** 4 records this year: 14/29 Oct LBath E Basin (LeM1) and 3 records of 2 birds on 16 Nov FSP (SmA1 and RoV1).

#### Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Uncommon, non-breeding visitor

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

**General:** Relatively large numbers reported from 1 grid cell at LBath E during the Waterbird Surveys. Max 164/28 Jul LBath E (LeM1), mean 71.6 (56.6 last year) and median 55.5 (23 last year). All records were of 43 or more birds. Records were in winter 25%, spring 38%, summer 38% and autumn nil.

##### Red-capped Plover

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	8	16	-50	20.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	1	5	-80	3.3
BR	1	0	Inf	0.4
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



**Double-banded Plover** *Charadrius bicinctus*

Rare, non-breeding migrant

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

**General:** 2 records cf 4 last year: 82/6 Jul and 4/28 Jul LBath E Basin (LeM1). Prior to 2000, there were between 5 and 15 records every year, but since 2001 the number of records per year has been fewer than 5 per year with 4 years recording zero.

**Oriental Plover** Non-breeding vagrant No records this year. The first and only record for the CG AoI 2 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 (4.5%) is down 44% on last year, and about the same as the 10 & 30YAs. Records were from many widely spread locations, largely from Canberra's suburban lakes and wetlands (JWNR & FSP), Goulburn Wetlands, Crace Wetland and MFNR. Max 35/27 Jul FSP (SmA1), mean 3.6 (5.2 last year), and median 2. Most records were in spring 37% and summer 27%, with autumn 16% and winter 20%. 1 breeding record: dy/2 Feb Forde Creek (HaJ7).

**GBS:** 16 records, all from Crace (LeF1). Mostly records of 2 birds between 4wk Aug and 1wk June, observed over 16 weeks. There are only 5 years in the previous 32 that have GBS records: 1982, 1995, 2002, 2012 and 2015. No breeding records.

**Black-fronted Dotterel**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	350	360	-3	82.9
WR	3	3	0	0.8
G	37	31	19	16.1
BR	1	5	-80	1.5
GA	0.0091	0.0000	Inf	0.0001
GS	1	0	Inf	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythrogonys cinctus*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Occurs most frequently around vegetated shallow lakes and ponds.

**General:** Fewer records than last year's high. Reporting rate (1.9%) 53% down on last year, but still 27% up on the 10YA and 55% up on the 30YA. Nearly all records from JWNR & FSP, with a few from MFNR, Goulburn Wetlands and WBPd. Max 19/14 Feb FSP (SmA1), mean 5.3, median 3. Records mainly in spring 60%, with few in summer 17%, autumn 13% and winter 9%. 1 breeding record: co/23 Sep JWNR (InC1). Only 3 previous breeding records.

**Red-kneed Dotterel**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	152	186	-18	26.0
WR	1	1	0	0.0
G	7	14	-50	3.9
BR	1	1	0	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolour*

Rare, breeding visitor

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

**General:** More records this year, but still below the record high of 36 two years ago. 6 records from MFNR (MiP1, SmA1 and AnF1), 6 from Gundaroo in spring (LeM1) 5 from LBath E (LeM1), and 5 from Horse Park Drive Throsby in late Nov. Max 20/13 Oct Gundaroo (LeM1), mean 3.4, and median 3. Records were from 6 July to 15 Mar. 5 breeding records at 2 sites: earliest dy/27 Sep MFNR (SmA1) and latest dy/7 Dec Gundaroo (LeM1).

**Banded Lapwing**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	24	6	300	8.6
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	6	5	20	2.9
BR	5	0	Inf	0.9
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:** Reporting rate 12.8 down 25% on last year, and about the same as the 10 and 30YAs. Max 100/5 Feb LGeo SE (LeM1), mean 3.4, and median 2. Most records from the wetlands and open grassy areas spread throughout the ACT. Records were throughout the year: winter 22%, spring 34%, summer 24% and autumn 20%. 15 breeding records from 9 grid cells, earliest ne/6 Jul Chapman (HoJ1) and latest ne/4 Dec Tuggeranong Town Centre (FrM1).

**GBS:** 247 records from 27 sites (cf 281 records from 30 sites last year) is a small drop from the record high of last year. The A Value is down considerably on last year, but still 43% above the 10YA and 56% up on the 30YA. Max 5/1wk Sep Greenway (HaA2), mean and median 2. Records evenly spread throughout the year, with slightly more (28%) in spring. 25 breeding records (cf 32 last year), from 2 sites (Greenway and Bonner): earliest nb/1wk Jul and latest dy/4wk Nov Greenway (HaA2)

**Masked Lapwing**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1003	777	29	275.0
WR	13	13	0	2.7
G	78	79	-1	51.2
BR	15	7	114	8.3
GA	0.1726	0.2014	-14	0.1107
GS	27	30	-10	24.8
GBR	25	32	-22	2.7

**ROSTRATULIDAE: PAINTED SNIPE****Australian Painted Snipe** *Rostratula australis*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

An unusual bird in our region. Declared endangered in New South Wales and vulnerable in the Commonwealth

**General:** No records this year, but recorded most recently in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

**SCOLOPACIDAE: snipe, sandpipers and allies****Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*

Common, non-breeding summer migrant

**General:** A decline in the abundance and reporting rate from last year, possibly a continuing trend since the high of 2011-12. The average number of birds per record was 2.9, down from 4.2 last year with max 22/5 Oct Rose Lagoon GrU04 (WaB1). Reported from 17 sites including many of the urban ponds between 12 Aug JWNR (BiL1) and 25 Mar WBPD (DaC2).

**GBS.** 18 Records from 2 sites Giralang and Murrumbateman, largest number 2 on several occasions at Giralang. Reported between 11 Sep and 12 Mar.

**Latham's Snipe**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	174	198	-12	37.5
WR	1	0	Inf	0.0
G	12	15	-20	6.4
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0077	0.0070	10	0.0012
GS	2	2	0	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** A single observation 1/14 Oct LBath GrY07 (LeM1).

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** Of the 13 records 11 were from FSP between 14-17 Nov, all observations of a single bird reported by 7 observers. In addition, 1/8 Dec LBath GrY07 (LeM1) and 1/5 Feb LGeo GrT10 (LeM1).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** 2 records. 1/8 Dec LBath GrY07 (LeM1), 1/18 Jan JWNR GrL14 (SmA1).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** No records.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** No records.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** Reported from 2 sites. 23 of the observations between 17 Nov and 1 Jan from 7 observers at FSP of between 1-2 birds. The 2 remaining records were 2/29 Oct and 1/12 Jan LBath GrY07 (LeM1).

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

Non-breeding vagrant

Occasionally seen in summer at FSP, LBath and LGeo.

**General:** The total number of birds was half the number reported last year but from the same number of records. The average number declined from 22.0 to 10.7, median 1.5. Reported from 2 sites. 13 records between 17 Nov and 29 Dec of between 1-2 birds from FSP by 8 observers. 7 records from LBath between 6 Jul and 12 Jan with max 54/22 Sep and 56/8 Dec (LeM1).

**Red-necked Stint**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	20	20	0	9.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	2	4	-50	2.1
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**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:** With a large increase in the number of records the total number of birds reported increased from 6864 last year to 7630. The median number of birds was 7 with an average of 146.7 birds per record, up from the 72.3 last year with max 3000/14 Nov LBath GrY07 (LeM1). For the Oct, Nov and Dec surveys at LBath there were over 2500 birds but this had dropped to 29 by the Jan survey. Also reported from FSP GrL14, WBPd GrI11, JWNR GrL14 and LGeo GrT10. Reported between 22 Sep and 11 Feb (LeM1).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	52	98	-47	19.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	11	-64	3.5
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** 2 records 4/29 Oct, 2/8 Dec LBath GrY07 (LeM1).

**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:** 4 records, the same as last year, all of a single bird. The reporting rate (0.1%) is 76% down on the 10YA and 80% down on the 30YA. Earliest record 1/26 Nov Goorooyarroo NR (MiP1), then 1/24/Dec McLeods Ck NR Gundaroo (DaC2), 1/9 Jan Namadgi NP VC, and 1/2 Feb Bendora Rd. No breeding reported.

**GBS:** No records this year. 1 record last year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this species has been recorded in the GBS, from 2007, 2008 and 2014.

**Painted Button-quail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	4	4	0	5.4
WR	0	1	-100	0.3
G	4	3	33	4.2
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0000
GS	0	1	-100	0.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Little Button-quail** *Turnix velox*

Rare, non-breeding migrant

An 'unusual' bird in the ACT. Only 14 records in the COG database.

**General:** No records this year.

**LARIDAE: gulls and terns****Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** No records.**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Non-breeding vagrant

A conspicuous but rare visitor.

**General:** 6 records, down from 17 last year. A single bird sighted ANU/LBG on 10 Sep by 2 observers and again a single bird reported on 4 occasions between 6-18 Dec from FSP/JWNR and ANU.**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

Rare, Non-reeding visitor



David Cook

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

**General:** A decrease in abundance from the high of last year with a return to the number of observations normally recorded. The maximum number recorded was 329/29 Oct LBath, well down from the previous year. Reported from 4 sites, LBath, FSP/JWNR and Wollogorang Lagoon (GrU03). Reported between 22 Sep and 18 Jan. All sites, apart from LBath, reported 1-4 individuals whilst at LBath more than 300 were reported on 2 occasions.

**Whiskered Tern**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	27	18	50	6.7
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	4	0	2.6
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** 2 records, both on the same day 1/15 Oct FSP GrL14 (LaK1, MiP1).**Silver Gull** *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

Common, breeding resident

A resident of larger bodies of water in the region.

**General:** There was an increase in the number of records from last year and an increase in the total number of birds reported. The average number of individuals per record was similar to last year with an increase in abundance (but a slight decrease in the reporting rate) continues the increase started in 2011-12. Largest number 450/5 Sep ANU GrK13 (MiP1), similar to last year. A single breeding record ny/21 Nov LBG Orana Bay GrK14 (MiP1). Unlike last year there was no survey of Spinnaker Island LBG to determine breeding success (C. Davey pers. comm.)

**GBS:** 134 records up from 91 last year and an increase in abundance from 0.43 last year to 1.21. The average number of birds reported increased from 15.1 to 25.8 with the largest number 260/13 Nov Curtin GrK14 (AjR1). Reported from 6 sites at Yarralumla, Curtin, Acton, Greenway, Lyneham and Giralang. 28 breeding records all from Yarralumla, Orana Bay breeding on boats (NeG1).

**Silver Gull**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	559	346	62	121.1
WR	1	2	-50	0.1
G	22	28	-21	14.9
BR	1	5	-80	1.4
GA	1.2112	0.4378	177	0.4316
GS	6	8	-25	4.7
GBR	28	11	155	0.4

**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:** 10 records this year (1 last year) compared with 30YA of 7.6. Most records of 3-4 birds in Mt Majura NR (GrM12, M13). Earliest record 1/2 Aug Burra (InC1), largest number and latest record 6/10 Dec O'Connor (MiP1). No breeding records (1 in 2010-11).

**GBS:** Recorded from 1 rural site (2 sites last year): 1/4wk Jul Burra GrM20 (AnI1).

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	10	1	900	7.6
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	5	1	400	2.4
BR	0	0	-	0.2
GA	0.0004	0.0019	-82	0.0015
GS	1	2	-50	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Common, breeding resident

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

**General:** Reporting rate (4.3%) is slightly up from 4.1% last year and just over the 30YA average of 4.1%. Reported all year but more frequently in autumn 29% and summer 27%. Average 8.7 with max 200/15 Oct Kings Hwy near ACT /NSW border GrP15 (InC1). 13 breeding records: earliest dy/17 Jul Norton Rd, Wamboin (McD1), latest dy/25 Jun Stromlo Forest Park (HoJ1).

**GBS:** 245 records from 44 sites (68%) from 51 weeks in groups of varying size averaging 7.6 with max 158/11 Sep Curtin (AJR1). Abundance was 11% higher than last year and 81% higher than the 30YA but much lower than the peak abundance after the 2003 bushfires (A=2.2998 in 2003-04). 30% of records in winter and 37% in autumn. Breeding recorded from 2 sites (4 last year): earliest dy/1wk Jul Wamboin (CoK2), latest dy/2wk May Curtin (AJR1).

**Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	337	189	78	85.7
WR	3	0	Inf	2.0
G	79	60	32	38.2
BR	13	7	86	1.5
GA	0.6499	0.5864	11	0.3599
GS	44	36	22	23.3
GBR	11	22	-50	2.7

**Gang-gang Cockatoo** *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Common, breeding resident/alt. migrant

Often found in the older areas of Canberra.

**General:** Reporting rate (7.5%) higher than last year (6.2%) and above the 30YA of 7.0%. Average 4 with max 50/18 May ANU (MiP1). Recorded all year but fewer records in winter (18%) and higher in summer (31%). 6 breeding records (2 last year) earliest ih/28 Aug ANBG (HeS1), latest dy/19 Apr Greenleigh GrO15 (InC1).

**GBS:** 733 records from 39 sites (61%) from all weeks of up to 30 individuals. Max 30/17 Jul Duffy (CaJ4), with little seasonable variation although slightly fewer records in winter (22%). Abundance was 10% higher than last year, well below the peak of 2012-13 (A=1.27) and also 10% above the 30YA. Records from throughout Canberra. 34 breeding records (20 last year) from 8 sites with first breeding record ih/10 Jul Aranda GrK13 (MeP1) and last dy/3wk May Duffy (HoS1), with an early start for the next season ih/4wk May Deakin GrJ14 (RoD2).

**Gang-gang Cockatoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	592	285	108	146.6
WR	13	13	0	5.8
G	52	59	-12	45.5
BR	6	2	200	2.2
GA	0.8365	0.7630	10	0.7577
GS	39	44	-11	46.0
GBR	34	20	70	7.1



**Galah** *Eolophus roseicapillus*

Widespread throughout the region.

**General:** The reporting rate (44.5%) was 2% higher than last year and 20% above the 30YA. The reporting rate has gradually been tending upwards since 1998. Average 9.6 with max 1700/21 June BuTSL (ChR1). 63 breeding records (35 last year): first br/7 Jul Red Hill (LeH1), last dy/16 Feb Carwoola (BuM1) with an early start to next season ih/31 May Uriarra Village (LaS1).

**GBS:** Records from 100% of sites in all weeks of 1-200 individuals with little seasonal variation. Mean 7.8 with max 200/4wk Mar Giralang (KaD1). Second most abundant species recorded in the GBS. Abundance 1% above last year and 10% below the 30YA. Breeding recorded from 22 sites; earliest ih/3wk Jul Hackett GrM13 (LeC1) and last dy/3wk Feb Carwoola (BuM1) with an early start to next season ih/4wk Jun Burra (AnI1).

Very common, breeding resident

**Galah**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3498	1991	76	770.0
WR	168	198	-15	107.0
G	147	125	18	99.9
BR	63	35	80	19.5
GA	6.4174	6.3780	1	7.1150
GS	64	70	-9	65.9
GBR	108	96	12	53.0

**Long-billed Corella** *Cacatua tenuirostris*

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

**General:** Increase in records to 82 (50 last year), the most since they were first recorded in 1990. Seen mostly in groups of 1-3, with a larger group in Goulburn. Mean 2.2, max 12/23 Dec Eastgrove Pk Goulburn GrZ01 (AnF1). More records in summer (34%) with fewer (15%) in autumn. 4 breeding records (4 last year) all in Campbell Park NR GrM13: earliest dy/16 Aug Campbell Pk (CoE1), latest ih/25 Oct Campbell Pk (SmA1).

**GBS:** 21 records of 1-6 birds from 5 sites. Recorded in 21 weeks, predominately in summer (47.6%). 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 80% higher than last year (from a small base) and 81% higher than the 30YA. Earliest record 6/1wk Jul Holt (DaC1) and latest record 1/4wk Apr Curtin (AjR1). No breeding records.

Uncommon, breeding resident/escapee

**Long-billed Corella**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	82	50	64	7.6
WR	1	2	-50	0.5
G	12	16	-25	3.0
BR	4	4	0	0.5
GA	0.0109	0.0060	80	0.0060
GS	5	6	-17	1.8
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 (13.1%) is 63% up on last year (8%) and nearly 4 times the 30YA (2.8%). 20 groups of 100+ reported from Goulburn, Red Hill, JWNR, Lyneham, O'Connor, Downer, Fadden, ANU, the Pinnacle NR and Callum Brae NR. Recorded from all seasons with 32% of records in summer. Average 13.6, max 800/21 Mar Goulburn (AnF1). 12 breeding records (8 last year): earliest ih/29 Aug Callum Brae (HeS1), latest dy/27 Feb O'Connor GrK13 (CaR3).

**GBS:** The abundance was 11% lower than last year (after a peak in 2010-11) and about 1.5 times the 30YA. Records from 48 sites from all weeks with 33% of records in summer; max 100/1wk Apr Scullin (FeP1). Breeding recorded from 3 sites; earliest ih/1wk Sep Watson (WaK1) and last dy/1wk Mar Wanniasa (HeS1).

Very common, breeding resident

**Little Corella**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1030	366	181	57.3
WR	22	19	16	6.0
G	60	52	15	13.6
BR	12	8	50	1.6
GA	1.3690	1.5406	-11	0.4860
GS	48	47	2	16.8
GBR	9	8	12	0.6

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

Very common, breeding resident

A common bird of the ACT and surrounding region.

**General:** Reporting rate 48% is 4% higher than last year and 27% higher than 30YA of 38%. Like the Galah, the reporting rate has gradually been tending upwards since 1998. Recorded in all months but only 19% in winter. Average 9.9 with max 500/21 Feb AIB1 GrJ12 LGin (AIB1). Breeding records 39% higher than last year: first dy/2 Jul and latest dy/28 May both at Hawker Ovals GrI12 (AIB1).

**GBS:** Most abundant species recorded in the GBS. Records from all sites and all weeks with little seasonal variation. Average number seen 9.4, max 1000/2wk May Garran (QuA1). Abundance 2% higher than last year and 34% higher than the 30YA. Abundance peaked in 2003 at A=9.0, which is not much above the present value. Breeding recorded from 17 sites; earliest dy/1wk Jul Scullin (FeP1) and last dy/4wk Jun Chapman GrI15 (HaJ1).

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3785	2112	79	786.7
WR	224	223	0	105.3
G	148	131	13	114.9
BR	50	36	39	12.3
GA	8.5570	8.4292	2	6.3754
GS	64	71	-10	65.1
GBR	90	51	76	17.7

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

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:** 6 records of single birds (4 last year): 1/6 Dec Duffy GrI15 (MiP1), 1/13 Dec Lyneham GrL12 (MiP1), 1/19 May, 20 May, 22 May Lyneham Wetland GrL12 (MiP1), 1/15 Mar Giralang GrK12 (MiP1).

**GBS:** Single birds recorded from 2 sites (4 last year): 1/4wk Nov Watson (MuT1), 1/4wk Nov, 1wk Dec Watson (WaK1).

**Cockatiel**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	6	4	50	1.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	4	0	1.5
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0011	0.0041	-75	0.0020
GS	2	4	-50	2.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Uncommon, breeding resident

A small resident population in Belconnen region gradually spreading south.

**General:** 516 records from 28 grids (207 records from 24 cells last year). As in previous years many records come from Belconnen suburbs, however, there are now many records from south side suburbs. Reporting rate was 6.6%, 43% higher than last year and nearly 5 times the 30YA. Since 2004, the reporting rate has risen steadily from 0.15% to the current value, a significant increase over the 10-year period. Records from all months with little seasonal variation. Average 3.7, with max: 52/30 May Hawker Oval GrJ12 (MiP1). 14 breeding records (4 last year): earliest dy/13 Jul Hawker GrI12 (AIB1), latest on/20 Apr Farrer Ridge (CaR3), with an early start for the next season, ih/29 Jun Callum Brae NR GrL15 (SmA1).

**GBS:** Abundance was 19% higher than last year and about 7.5 times the 30YA. 595 records from 26 sites, including many on the south side. Max 31/3wk Feb Page (AIB1), mean 3, and median 2. Observed in 52 weeks with little seasonal variation. 5 breeding records from 3 sites in Page, Cook and Florey (none last year): earliest dy/3wk Nov Page (AIB1), latest dy/2wk Dec Cook GrJ13 (TaN1).

**Rainbow Lorikeet**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	516	209	147	25.7
WR	6	12	-50	1.0
G	28	24	17	5.0
BR	14	4	250	0.8
GA	0.6868	0.5759	19	0.0918
GS	26	29	-10	8.6
GBR	5	0	Inf	0.4

**Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

Non-breeding vagrant/escapee

Occasionally strays from coastal areas in the Illawarra region.

**General:** 21 records (10 last year) of 1-2 birds. Max and earliest: 2/8 Jul Wanniasa (MiP1), latest 1/4 Apr Fadden Gr (CaR3). 2 breeding records: ih/12 Jan and 14 Mar Fadden (CaR3)**GBS:** No records this year (1 in 2012-13 with the only previous record 1992-93).**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

Occasionally strays from eastern ranges.

**General:** 5 records (15 last year) of 1-7 birds, max 7/26 Jul Deakin (SmA1). Earliest record 6/8 Jul Wanniasa (MiP1) and latest 2/14 Feb Wanniasa (MiP1).**GBS:** 15 records of 2 birds from 1 site (7 records last year) from 3 Jul to 9 Apr 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 (1 record in 2012-13).**GBS:** No records (one last year, three in 2008-09).**Purple-crowned Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*

Non-breeding vagrant

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

**General:** 6 records (15 last year, no records 1992-2013): 5 records of probably the same bird in Hawker between 9 and 15 Sep Hawker Oval (AlB1) and another record 30 May Hawker Oval Gr I12 (MiP1).**GBS:** No records (one last year).**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:** 1383 records from all months reaching a peak in autumn (32%). Reporting rate (17.6) is 69% higher than last year, over twice the 30YA and the highest on record. Average 5.5 with max 543/23 May LBG (LeM1). The number of birds reported (7436)

more than 3 times that of last year, and the abundance (0.9464) twice that of last year, 3 times the 10YA and 4 times the 30YA. There appears to be a significant growth in numbers since 2010. 9 breeding records (7 last year): first ih/26 Oct Jerrabomberra Grasslands Reserve GrL16 (HaL2) and last dy/25 Feb Fadden GrK16 (CaR3).

**GBS:** Records from 59 sites from all weeks of up to 50 individuals

with 30% in autumn. Abundance 32% higher than last year and 45% higher than the 30YA. Max 50/4wk Jul Yarralumla (NeG1). 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 17 sites: earliest di/2wk Sep Deakin (RoD2) and last dy/3wk May Wanniasa (HeS1).

Australian King-Parrot

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1383	476	191	168.1
WR	30	32	-6	11.2
G	64	52	23	31.3
BR	9	7	29	2.5
GA	2.4132	1.8301	32	1.6609
GS	59	64	-8	53.8
GBR	41	42	-2	18.8

**Superb Parrot** *Polytelis swainsonii*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

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

**General:** Movement of Superb Parrots into Belconnen from 2005-06 continues with the number of records in central and southern Canberra increasing. Most records in spring (32%) and summer (37%). Reporting rate (4.8%) is the same as last year and well above the 30YA (2.1%). Average number seen 6 with max 53/27 Dec Yass GrF03 (JaN2). 13 breeding records (12 last year) from dy/6 Dec to dy/3 Feb at Hawker Ovals GrI12 (AIB1).

**GBS:** Records from 20 sites from 41 weeks (20% in spring, 51% summer and 25% autumn with only 4% of records in winter). Max 40/3wk Jan Bonner GrL10 (GrB1). Abundance 79% higher than last year but over 7x the 30YA reflecting the increase in movement of birds into suburban Canberra. Breeding recorded from 6 sites in Cook (3), Ainslie, Page and Nicholls: earliest dy/1wk Dec Cook (BrM2) and last dy/2wk Feb Cook (TaN1).

Superb Parrot				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	376	219	72	43.6
WR	17	15	13	2.7
G	27	20	35	9.2
BR	13	12	8	4.0
GA	0.3883	0.2164	79	0.0540
GS	20	17	18	5.6
GBR	24	13	85	2.1

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*

Very common, breeding resident

An attractive common resident of the COG area of interest.

**General:** Reporting rate (48%) 4% lower than last year and 2% 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 very gradually declined to 48% in 2013 with the trend being reversed last year but with a decline to 47% this year. Average 5.5 with max 226/20 Feb Mt Majura GrM12 (LeM1). Recorded in all seasons but fewer in winter (19%). Breeding: first ih/4 Jul ANU (McI1) and last on/8 Mar Wanniasa Hills NR Gr K16 (CaR3). Crimson Rosella/Eastern Rosella hybrid reported from Gungahlin.

**GBS:** 8<sup>th</sup> most abundant species recorded in GBS (5<sup>th</sup> last year). Records from 64 sites from all weeks with almost no seasonal variation: Max 89/2wk May Red Hill (WaR4). Abundance very slightly up on last year and 6% higher 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 slightly to A=3.3406 in 2012-13. Breeding recorded from 17 sites: earliest on/1wk Jul Red Hill (WaR4) and latest dy/3wk Weetangera (WoD1) with an early start to next season ih/2wk Jun Red Hill (WaR4). Crimson Rosella/Eastern Rosella hybrid reported from two sites in Curtin and Rivett.

Crimson Rosella				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3747	2262	66	1017.0
WR	314	327	-4	158.7
G	177	157	13	143.8
BR	57	39	46	22.6
GA	3.4332	3.3430	3	3.2303
GS	64	70	-9	65.6
GBR	57	101	-44	31.2

**Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*

Very common, breeding resident

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

**General:** Reporting rate is 30.6%, 3% lower than last year but 6% higher than the 30YA. Since 1991, the reporting rate for this species has remained stable at about the current rate. Recorded in all seasons (33% in spring). Average 5.2, max 105/6 Apr Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). Breeding: 37 records (same as last year): first ih/20 Jul The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AIB1) and last on/28 Jan Wanniasa (HeS1) with an early start for next season, ih/7 May Mt Ainslie NR (AwB1).

**GBS:** Records from 62 sites from all weeks with very little seasonal variation. Abundance 10% higher than last year and 5% lower than the 10 and 30YAs. Max 24/3wk Jul Wanniasa (HeS1). Breeding recorded from 7 sites: earliest ih/1wk Sep Kambah (VeP1) and last dy/1wk Jan Florey (BrJ3) with three early house hunting “inspecting hollows” later in the year.

Eastern Rosella				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	2407	1442	67	603.4
WR	172	180	-4	95.6
G	120	124	-3	92.5
BR	37	37	0	14.9
GA	1.4356	1.3054	10	1.5047
GS	62	67	-7	63.6
GBR	30	43	-30	19.6



**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*

Rare, non-breeding winter migrant

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

**General:** 21 records (9 last year) of 1-15 birds. Max 15/22 May Mt Ainslie NR (MiP1). Earliest 4/9 Jul O'Connor (MiP1), last 4/28 Jun Mt Ainslie NR (BuM1). Seen in any number only in 2005, 2008, and 2011.

**GBS:** 12 records from 2 sites in Ainslie over 10 weeks (none last year, recorded from 2 sites 2012-13). Max: 12/3wk May Ainslie (HoS1). Earliest 4/3wk Apr Ainslie (HoS1) and latest 4/4wk Jun Ainslie (BHoS1).

Swift Parrot

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	21	9	133	2.3
WR	0	2	-100	0.1
G	3	6	-50	1.2
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0246	0.0000	Inf	0.0011
GS	2	0	Inf	0.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**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 (32% in spring, 16% in winter) with a reporting rate of 19%, 18% below last year and 34% above the 30YA. The reporting rate has increased steadily since 2002. Average 7.2 with max 114/23 May Conder (MiP1). Breeding: first 1h/21 Aug Bruce (AnF1) and last 2y/23 Feb Crace Wetland GrK11 (HaJ7).

**GBS:** Records of up to 60 individuals from 34 sites from all weeks (30% in summer). Average 4.8, max 60/3wk Jun Giralang (KaD1). Abundance 10% higher than last year, 47% higher than the 30YA, and has steadily increased since 2006. Breeding recorded from 4 sites: earliest 2y/3wk Nov Curtin GrK14 (AjR1) and latest 2y/1wk Mar Nicholls (HaJ7).

Red-rumped Parrot

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1465	1036	41	290.3
WR	68	43	58	21.1
G	86	82	5	51.4
BR	33	31	6	7.1
GA	0.6506	0.5899	10	0.4434
GS	34	37	-8	26.8
GBR	11	6	83	2.7

**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:** 1 record (2 last year): 1/7 Mar Duffy GrI15 (MiP1).

**Blue-winged Parrot** *Neophema chrysostoma*

Non-breeding vagrant

A rare visitor from the west.

**General:** One record 1/7 May Cooleman Ridge NR GrI15 (MiP1).

**Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella*

Non-breeding vagrant/escapee

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

**General:** No records (last recorded 2009-10).

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Escapee

A common caged bird.

**General:** Two records (none last year, one 2012-13): 1/18 Jun, 20 Jun Isaacs GrK15 (HoA1).

**GBS:** One record (none last year, 1 in 2012-13): 1/3wk Jun Isaacs (HoA1).



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

Common, breeding summer migrant

This species is now an established part of Canberra's avifauna - so much so that the claimed sleep deprivation impact of its nocturnal calling has sparked public controversy about a mooted cull. It continues its rapid increase in numbers and distribution.

**General:** There is a continuing strong increase in all population indicators this year. 322 records up on 129 records last year. Abundance is up 60% on last year and 287% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 45% on the previous year and 181% on the 10YA. There were no WOO records indicating that this species may still depend largely on urban habitats. Earliest, 1/18 Oct Ginninderra Creek behind Kangaroo Close (HaJ7); latest, 1/25 Mar Flynn GrJ12 (DaC2). 13 breeding records after 9 the previous year. Earliest: dy/6 Jan Mt Rogers GrJ11 (WaS1); latest dy/19 Feb Waramanga GrJ15 (InC1).

**GBS:** 397 records up from 361 records last year from 50 sites up on 45 sites last year. Abundance is up 17% on last year and 137% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 21% on last year and 123% on the 10YA. Earliest record: 1/2wk Oct Melba GrJ12 (MoM1); latest 1/3wk Apr Weetangera GrJ12 (WoD1). Breeding: 13 records compared with 14 in the previous year: earliest dy/3wk and latest dy/4wk Feb both at Page GrJ12 (AIB1).

**Eastern Koel**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	322	129	150	19.4
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	27	20	35	5.5
BR	13	9	44	1.2
GA	0.1715	0.1470	17	0.0303
GS	50	45	11	13.9
GBR	13	14	-7	1.3

**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:** 1 record this year: 1/19 Dec Bibaringa, Cotter Road GrH14 (SmA1).

**Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo** *Chalcites basal*

Common, Breeding summer migrant

**General:** 190 records up from 56 last year from 45 grids up from 26 grids last year. Abundance is up 139% on the previous year and up 8% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 97% on last year but down 6% on the 10YA. Earliest, 1/10 Sep Newline Quarry GrM14 (BoJ1); latest, 1/4 Apr Percival Hill NR GrK11 (HaJ1). Breeding not recorded.

**GBS:** 7 records this year, similar to 6 records last year: earliest 1/3wk Aug Aranda GrK13 (MeP1); latest 1/2wk Feb Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

**Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	190	56	239	62.5
WR	16	6	167	5.2
G	45	26	73	30.5
BR	0	0	-	0.9
GA	0.0035	0.0019	84	0.0059
GS	5	3	67	5.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.3

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chalcites osculans*

Rare, non-breeding visitor.

**General:** 1 record this year: 1/1 Dec Mt Ainslie NR GrL13 (MiP1).

**GBS:** 1 record this year: 1/3wk Nov Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

**Shining Bronze-cuckoo** *Chalcites lucidus*

Common, Breeding summer migrant

An inhabitant of woodlands and forests.

**General:** 215 records, up from 107 records last year, from 72 grids, up from 59 grids the previous year. Abundance is up 34% on last year and 82% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 17% on last year and up 40% on the 10YA. Earliest, 1/4 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1); latest 1/27 Apr ANBG (BuM4). Breeding: 3 records, earliest co/28 Sep Newline Paddocks GrN14 (DaC2); latest, co/4 Jan Campbell Park (CoE1).

**GBS:** Most sightings from rural sites, or sites adjacent to woodland. The addition of rural sites in recent years has probably affected the reporting rate of this species. 38 records compared with 51 records last year. Abundance is down 18% on last year but up 142% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 18% on last year but up 141% on the 10YA. The earliest record, 1/1wk Sep Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1); latest 1/1wk Mar Weetangera (WoD1).

**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	215	107	101	57.7
WR	26	15	73	5.0
G	72	59	22	30.0
BR	3	1	200	0.8
GA	0.0140	0.0172	-18	0.0068
GS	6	9	-33	6.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Common and widespread throughout the region in spring and summer.

**General:** 214 records this year, up from 104 records last year, from 78 grids up on 60 grids last year. 7 WOO records, up from 1 last year. Abundance is 4% up on last year but down 4% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is 19% down on last year and down 13% on the 10YA. Earliest record: 1/16 Aug Goulburn Wetlands GrZ01 (AnF1); latest, 1/12 Apr Michelago GrL25 (HeS1). Max 7/25 Oct Nursery Swamp Track GrG22 (BeS1). Breeding, 2 records: earliest, dy/26 Oct Black Mountain GrK13 (BoC4); latest, dy/2 Feb Gibraltar Peak GrG18 (FiM3).

**GBS:** 31 records, up from 25 last year, from 7 sites compared with 4 last year. Abundance is up 47% on last year and up 63% on the 10YA. Reporting rate is up 37% on last year and up 51% on the 10YA. Earliest record is 1/3wk Aug Burra GrM20 (AnI1); latest, 1/4wk Jun Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1). Breeding not recorded.

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	214	104	106	106.5
WR	7	0	Inf	2.2
G	78	60	30	50.4
BR	2	0	Inf	0.7
GA	0.0126	0.0086	47	0.0092
GS	7	4	75	7.8
GBR	0	1	-100	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 ACT and the AoI.

**General:** 46 records up on 18 records last year from 26 grids up on 12 grids last year. The abundance is up 28% on last year and up 16% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 48% on last year and up 11% on the 10YA. Earliest: 1/24 Oct MFNR GrL10 (HoS1); latest, 1/7 Oct Googong Reservoir Gr017 (LaK1). A single breeding record: dy/14 Jan Gigerline Nature Reserve (BuM1).

**GBS:** No records after a single record last year.

**Brush Cuckoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	46	18	156	15.2
WR	3	2	50	1.7
G	26	12	117	11.1
BR	1	0	Inf	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0009
GS	0	1	-100	1.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cacomantis pallidus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Records tend to come from drier areas of the ACT and AoI in spring and summer.

**General:** 72 records up from 31 records last year from 35 grids up on 22 grids last year. Abundance is up 29% on last year but down 73% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 35% on last year but down 70% on the 10YA. Earliest: 1/4 Aug Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1); latest, 1/18 Apr Campbell Park (AnI1). Breeding: 1 record: dy/15 Dec Hoskinstown GrS16 (BuM1).

**GBS:** 11 records down from 21 records last year, from 4 sites down from 5 sites last year. Abundance is down 45% on last year and down 74% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 42% on last year and down 69% on the 10YA.

**Pallid Cuckoo**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	72	31	132	89.5
WR	6	1	500	15.0
G	35	22	59	37.9
BR	1	1	0	1.7
GA	0.0039	0.0070	-45	0.0209
GS	4	5	-20	13.4
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:** The Powerful Owl is undoubtedly the “bird of the year”, following the discovery on 2 Nov by Terry Munro of a roosting bird by the Turner Bowling Club. Where it has remained, to the surprise and joy of most Canberra residents but to the consternation of the possum population. How long it had been there, undiscovered, is unknown. Apart from “Powl” or “Turner” as this bird has been dubbed, there was an unlikely suburban record not presented for appraisal, and another from Namadgi. There are 1 or 2 Powerful Owl records most years but generally from Tallaganda SF. No breeding was recorded. We have only one breeding record, dy in 1988 at Shanahans Mtn. Powl was still roosting in its favourite tree in May 2016.

**Powerful Owl**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	60	7	757	2.4
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	4	5	-20	1.1
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*

Non-breeding vagrant

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

**General:** One unendorsed record from north Canberra. 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:** 44 records, above the 30YA, but the reporting rate (0.6%) is well down on the 30YA of 1.4%. Mostly single birds, but max 4/2 Jan The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (GoS1). The seasonal pattern differed this year, with 18% of records in spring, 27% in summer, 32% in autumn, and a surprising 23% in winter. Recorded in 27 weeks, and from 16 widespread grid cells, urban and rural. Again, breeding not formally recorded by COG members but researchers Olsen and Trost (2015) found one breeding pair in the Aranda Bushland area and CBN published an article about boobook breeding in Hughes (Lacey 2015).

**GBS:** A surprising 158 records, with even the reporting rate of 5.5% above the long-term average of 3.3%. Mostly single birds. Recorded in 42 weeks throughout the year, and from considerably more sites (27), though boobooks were relatively common only in Ainslie, Aranda and Cook. The seasonal distribution was slightly at variance with the general records, with nearly half (49%) of the records

**Southern Boobook**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	44	26	69	28.9
WR	0	1	-100	0.4
G	16	15	7	14.2
BR	0	0	-	0.9
GA	0.0561	0.0334	68	0.0366
GS	27	20	35	22.4
GBR	0	1	-100	1.0

in spring. Probably the majority of GBS records were of calling birds, which is a poor indicator of actual numbers. No breeding this year.

### 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:** Only 9 records this year, 8 of them in winter, and all of single birds, from 6 grid cells. Barn Owls tend to occur in our area when there are mice plagues and clearly 2014-15 was not sufficiently rich in rodents to keep the birds here in good numbers. They have never been recorded as breeding in our area and have only been recorded in high numbers in 1991, 1995 and 2012.

**GBS:** No records. Single Barn Owls have been recorded in 7 of the previous 10 years.

Barn Owl

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	9	7	29	3.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	6	3	100	2.0
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0004
GS	0	1	-100	0.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

### ALCEDINIDAE: kingfishers

#### Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*

Non-breeding vagrant

Occasionally found perching over water.

**General:** 7 records of a single bird at JWNR. The earliest 1/18 July JWNR (LaS1) and latest 1/17 Aug.(SmA1). They have only been reported in 10 of the previous 32 years, being reported in all seasons.

### HALCYONIDAE: kookaburra, kingfishers

#### Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common, breeding resident

This species is showing a slow but steady decline in the region over the years.

**General:** Reporting rate 14.8% is down 6% on last year, down 8% on the 10 YA and down 31% 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. Recorded throughout the year but higher in spring 33% and summer 28%. Max 19/24 Sep MFNR (MiP1). Earliest breeding was ih/16 Aug the Pinnacle NR (AlB1) and latest dy/10 Jan Wamboin GrQ13 (McD1). There has been a significant fall in the breeding reporting rate of 38% on 10YA and 62% on the 30YA.

**GBS:** 595 records from 46 sites (503 from 48 last year). Recorded all seasons, highest in both summer and autumn (28.6%). Mean 1.7, median 2 with max 5/2wk Dec Red Hill (WaR4). No breeding records (2 from 2 sites last year).

Laughing Kookaburra

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1159	713	63	447.5
WR	57	60	-5	33.4
G	142	124	15	107.0
BR	7	5	40	4.9
GA	0.3627	0.3073	18	0.3335
GS	46	48	-4	46.1
GBR	0	2	-100	4.5

#### Red-backed Kingfisher *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*

Breeding vagrant

This inland species appears here occasionally.

**General:** 1 record 1/6 Jan INC Brindabella Rd S Uriarra HS GrF14 (LaD1). In the last 30 years they have been reported in 2001, 2003 and 2008 onwards.



**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

**General:** Reporting rate 5.0% is much the same as last year and the 10 and 30YA. However, the abundance 0.0896 is 31% above last year, 22% up on the 10YA and 47% up on the 30YA. Most records are in spring 44% and summer 48%. Max 13/15 Oct JWNR (MiP1). 11 breeding records: earliest ih/12 Oct Tinderry NR Gr N22 (NeG1) and latest ny/6 Mar MFNR GrL10 (HoS1).

**GBS:** 34 records from 9 sites (fewer than last year's 46 from 13), nearly all single birds. Max: 3/3wk Oct Burra GrM20 (AnI1). Earliest 1/2wk Oct and latest 1/3wk Mar both Murrumbateman GrI06 (BIJ1). No breeding records. Only 4 years in the last 34 years had breeding records.

**Sacred Kingfisher**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	390	216	81	101.7
WR	11	18	-39	8.4
G	78	61	28	39.3
BR	11	6	83	3.4
GA	0.0137	0.0146	-7	0.0104
GS	9	13	-31	11.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

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

Common, breeding summer migrant

Found near sandy banks of rivers and creeks.

**General:** Reporting rate 0.7% is down 58% on the 10YA and down 66% on the 30YA. Abundance 0.0223 is down 59% on last year, 60% on 10YA and 65% on 30YA. Max: 18/6 Feb Bibaringa GrH14 (SmA1), mean 3.1 and median 2. Earliest 2/23 Aug Dunlop GrI11 (InC1) and latest 3/18 Mar Gigerline NR Gr K20 (BuM1). 1 breeding record: ih/26 Oct Naas Valley Rd GrJ22 (MaD5).

**GBS:** 4 records from 4 sites. Earliest: 1/1wk Sept Watson GrL12 (WaK1) latest and maximum 20/1wk Mar Curtin GrK14 (AjR1). Other sites: 1/3wk Oct Lyneham (LeM1) and 1/1wk Oct Ainslie (HoS1).

**Rainbow Bee-eater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	58	97	-40	44.9
WR	2	1	100	0.6
G	33	36	-8	21.3
BR	1	2	-50	2.7
GA	0.0084	0.0070	20	0.0119
GS	4	4	0	4.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant



Geoffrey Dabb

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

**General:** Reporting rate 2.5% is down on last year 3.5% and down 15% on the 10YA and 20% on the 30YA. Observed from Oct to Mar with spring 34%, and summer 62%. Max 7/7Feb JWNR Gr L14 (SmA1). 5

breeding records: earliest ih/26 Oct Mt Pleasant GrL14 (McD1) and latest dy/23 Jan JWNR GrL14 (WiP1).

**GBS:** 66 records from 15 sites cf 47 from 12 last year.

Although the reporting rate 2.3% is 39% above last year it is the same as the 10YA and 28% below 30YA. Earliest: 1/2wk Oct Ainslie (HoS1) and latest 2/2wk Mar Murrumbateman GrI06 (BIJ1). Breeding records: earliest 3dy/2wk Dec Campbell (Lit1) and latest 3dy/ 2wk Jan Scullin GrI12 (FeP1).

**Dollarbird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	197	158	25	65.0
WR	7	3	133	4.1
G	40	33	21	22.4
BR	5	4	25	2.1
GA	0.0358	0.0245	46	0.0469
GS	15	12	25	19.5
GBR	2	6	-67	2.6



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

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 down 34% on last year, 48% below the 10 YA and down 77% on the 30YA. The current reporting rate is the same as 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. Most records were from the mountainous country in the ACT and were of generally between 1-5 birds. Max 10/13 Jun Camel Back Fire Trail, TNR GrF17 (McD4). Earliest 1/15 Jul Warriwillah GrL23 (AnF1) and latest 1/30 Jun Booroomba Rocks Trail GrH20 (VaP2). The records were spread throughout the year. No breeding records. There have only been 4 years in the past 30 with breeding records.

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Superb Lyrebird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	49	43	14	56.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	19	21	-10	26.0
BR	0	0	-	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*

Prefers more mature open forests especially at higher altitudes.

**General:** An increase in records to 1039 from virtually the same number of grid cells (135) as last year (55%), from all months, with fewer in winter. Annual number of birds seen continues to rise and approaching previous highs seen at end of 1980s. Reporting rate (13.2%) continues the previously reported slow decline from the 30YA (22.2%). Max 19/24 Jan MFNR GrL10 (MiP1), mean 2.1, median 1. 4 breeding records from 4 grids: ih/20 Aug Mt Jerrabomberra NR GridN15 (FuP1), ih/25Aug MFNR GridL10 (MiP1), on/8 Sep ANBG (MiP1), and dy/17 Nov The Pinnacle NR (AlB1).

**GBS:** 152 records from 3 rural and 6 suburban sites (14.1% of sites), from all weeks. Abundance lower than the previous year but still higher than long term averages. Average group size 1.5 but nearly all sightings were of 1. Only rural sites reported group sizes more than 1. Max 8/1wk Aug/24 Aug Burra GrM20 (AnI1). No GBS breeding records.

Common, breeding resident

**White-throated Treecreeper**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1039	757	37	488.9
WR	120	94	28	63.4
G	135	133	2	113.5
BR	5	4	25	2.7
GA	0.0786	0.0843	-7	0.0626
GS	9	10	-10	10.8
GBR	0	1	-100	0.2

**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythroptis*

Found mostly in the forests west of the Murrumbidgee.

**General:** 14 records from only 5 grid cells from Oct to Apr with a summer peak (43%). Reporting rate fell again (0.2%) and continues to be well below the 30YA (0.7%). The species is well below the high number of records from 1987 to 1990 and high abundance from 1990 to 1997. All records of 1 or 2 birds and from Namadgi NP except 1 bird at Tallaganda SF. Mean 1.3, median 1. No breeding records. In 33 years, breeding only recorded in 8 years.

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Red-browed Treecreeper**

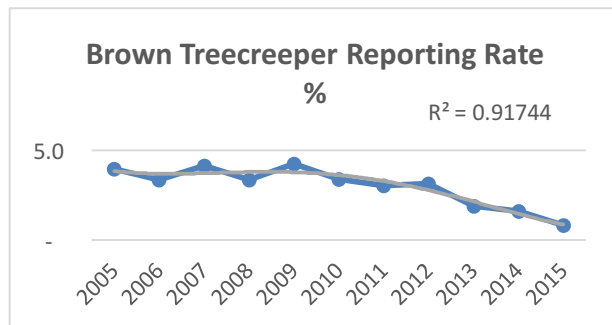
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	14	22	-36	14.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	5	9	-44	8.9
BR	0	0	-	0.6
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*

Rare, breeding resident

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

**General:** Only 65 records, a 12% drop from last year. This is the third drop in annual records after a very gradual rise from 20 in 1998 to 138 in 2012. Records from all months with a peak in spring (35% of records). 5 were WOO and significantly down (62%) from last year. However, grid cells reporting birds remains relatively constant. Reporting rate has declined significantly in the last 5 years to a record low (0.8%), cf 30YA of 3.8%.

**Brown Treecreeper**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	65	74	-12	78.4
WR	5	7	-29	8.7
G	27	25	8	25.2
BR	1	1	0	3.3
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0001
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

Mean number of birds 3.3, median 2, max 12/8 Jun TSR48 GrO05 (WiT1). Only 1 breeding record, still well down on 11 records in 1989 and 10 in 2011: cf/7 Dec TSR48 Grid05 (LeM1).

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

Common, breeding resident

An inhabitant of wet forests, moving into Canberra suburbs.

**General:** Increase of 72% of records (275) this year from last year, from 51 grid cells (21%) from all months with slight peak in spring (33%). Now recorded in 51 weeks. Another big increase in numbers of birds (98%) to 561, which continues an increasing trend. Records still mainly from ACT but now also from scattered sites across AOI. Reporting rate (3.5%) is the same as last year, and higher than the 10 and 30YAs. Abundance increasing



Geoffrey Dabb

**Satin Bowerbird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	275	160	72	58.3
WR	7	3	133	0.6
G	51	45	13	22.9
BR	10	5	100	1.1
GA	0.2985	0.2507	19	0.1471
GS	29	32	-9	14.9
GBR	12	6	100	2.5

for 3 years. Mean 2.1, median 1, and max 15/6 Jul Narrabundah Hill GridI15 (HoJ1). All breeding records from east of the Murrumbidgee and south of The Pinnacle NR. 10 breeding records (double previous year which had been previous highest), from di/21 Aug The Pinnacle NR (AlB1) to nb/2 Jun at Chisholm (InC1).

**GBS:** 332 records from 29 sites from all weeks. Abundance up again from last year and a doubling of 10 and 30YA. Average group size 2.6. Groups of up to 20 were again seen in winter at a single site in Kambah 1wk Jun GrJ16 (VeP1). 12 breeding records from 4 sites again up on previous years. All GBS breeding sites south of LBG. Commencing with di/1wk July Duffy GrI15 (CaJ4) and concluding with dy/5wk Jan Chapman (HoJ1) with an early start to advertising for the next season di/4wk Apr Red Hill K14 (WaR4)..

**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:** Increased observer effort has resulted in a large (45%) increase in records this year from last year and almost double the numbers of individual birds (21,880) but from a similar number of 173 grid cells. However, the reporting rate (35%) is below that of last year (42%) and both 10 (38%) and 30YA (40%). From all weeks and, this year, a spring peak (33%). Generally, records have doubled over 30 years and numbers of birds have increased rapidly in the past few years but abundance is only slowly increasing. WOO records also increasing. Max 122/18 Jul JWNR (LaS1), mean 8.5 and median 5. Only 18 breeding records commencing with nb/21 Sep The Pinnacle NR (AlB1) and concluding with dy/7 Mar Glendale Depot GrI23 (NeG1)

**GBS:** 1252 records from 57 sites (89%) from all weeks. Abundance, the number of records, and number of birds all a little down on last year but all up on long-term values. Mean 4.4, median 3 and max 32/3wk May Jerrabomberra NSW GrM16 (HaL2). 27 breeding records commencing with nb/3wk Aug Red Hill (WaR4) and concluding with dy/26 Feb Giralang (McD4).

**Superb Fairy-wren**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	2771	1916	45	839.9
WR	179	128	40	57.8
G	173	169	2	128.3
BR	18	14	29	13.9
GA	1.9400	2.0334	-5	1.0774
GS	57	67	-15	50.5
GBR	27	29	-7	11.5

**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:** A small drop in indices this year from a low base. Fewer records (18) than last year, but from one more grid cell (8). All but 1 record for Brindabella Mountains and one at Tallaganda NP. Only 11% of records in winter and spring. Reporting rate 0.2% which is less than half the 30YA (0.5%). Average number of birds 1.4, and median 1. Only record of more than 2 birds was 3 birds 13 Mar GridD16 Bendora Road (WiC2). No breeding recorded.

**Pilotbird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	18	28	-36	9.8
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	8	7	14	5.3
BR	0	1	-100	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis*

Very common, breeding resident

Found in most areas where there is suitable cover.

**General:** Many more records (1038) than last year and increase of 164% on 10YA. From 107 grid cells (46%), from 52 weeks. Number of birds has increased significantly in past 3 years and 83% again this year (3576). Reporting rate 13.2% much the same as the 30YA (15.4%). Max 30/4 Aug ANBG (HoS1), mean 3.5 and median 2. 11 breeding records in 6 grid cells, starting late and finishing early: commencing with cf/20 Sep Acacia Inlet LBG GrK13 (HeS1) and concluding with dy/18 Dec ANBG (AnF1).

**White-browed Scrubwren**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1038	645	61	319.4
WR	41	8	412	2.1
G	110	114	-4	81.3
BR	11	11	0	6.9
GA	0.2785	0.3293	-15	0.1800
GS	32	46	-30	22.1
GBR	10	12	-17	4.8

**GBS:** Overall not much change in 10 years and a slight increase over 30 years. 465 records from 32 sites (50%), 26% lower than last year. From all weeks. Higher numbers in autumn. Abundance similar to last year but up 55% on the 30YA, continuing a general upward trend starting in about 2000. Average group size 1.7 and median 2. 10 breeding records (4 from rural sites) commencing with co/11 Sep Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2) and concluding dy/12 Feb Chapman GrI15 (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:** Only 4 records of a total of 5 birds (three singles and one a group of two) from 2 grid cells. Earliest 4 Dec (MiP1) Shepherds Lookout GrH12 and latest 17 Jan (RoV1) Bluetts Block Uriarra GrI14. The slight increase in records of the past 5-6 years has tailed off. All records in summer. Reporting rate 0.1% which is the 30YA. No breeding records.

**Chestnut-rumped Heathwren**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	4	7	-43	2.1
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	2	5	-60	1.4
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Speckled Warbler** *Chthonicola sagittata*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Prefers undisturbed dry open woodland. Declared vulnerable in NSW.

**General:** An increase in records (346) in 51 grid cells (20.6%) from last year. Observed in every week. An increase (75%) in the number of birds. Overall records, abundance, reporting rate are all broadly steady. The reporting rate was 4.4% and has been around 6% since 1991. Average number of birds 2.2 and median 2, max 12/25 Aug MFNR GrL10 (MiP1). 3 breeding records in 3 grid cells; cf/20 Sep

**Speckled Warbler**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	346	233	48	121.3
WR	26	36	-28	16.9
G	51	50	2	32.3
BR	3	2	50	2.4
GA	0.0035	0.0054	-35	0.0092
GS	2	3	-33	3.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.1



David Cook

Female Speckled Warbler feeding a juvenile Black-eared Cuckoo

Michelago GridL25 (LaS2),

dy/2 Nov "Bundigerry" GridL06 (TaN1), and nb/10 Nov (SmA1) Callum Brae NR.

**GBS:** 9 records of 10 birds from 2 rural sites: Burra GrM20 (AnI1) and Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1), in 9 weeks and all seasons. No breeding records.

**Weebill** *Sericornis brevirostris*

Common, breeding resident

Forages mainly for lerps in eucalypts in most areas.

**General:** A 40% increase in records from last year from 94 grid cells (38.1%), from all weeks. Over 200% higher than the 30YA. Number of birds increased 84% from last year which is an increase of over 400% from 30YA. Reporting rate 18.6%, however, is just below the 30YA (21.5%). Mean 4.6, median 3, max 50/26 May Percival Hill GrK11 (AlB1). 12 breeding records from 5 grids, commencing with dy/28 Oct Mt Ainslie(LaK1) and concluding dy/13 Feb The Pinnacle NR GrK12 (AlB1).

**GBS:** 578 records from 30 sites (47%), from all weeks. Slight tapering down on many measures including: Abundance (A=0.5496) and reporting rate (20.3%). Mean 2.7, median 2. Max 12/4wk July Pearce (KrS1), mean 2.7, median 2. 6 breeding records from 2 sites: nb/4wk Jul Curtin Grid K14 (AjR1) to dy/1wk Mar GrK12 Giralang (McD4).

**Weebill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1458	1045	40	447.2
WR	187	223	-16	125.2
G	94	78	21	60.6
BR	12	8	50	5.5
GA	0.5496	0.5635	-2	0.5710
GS	30	41	-27	35.0
GBR	6	9	-33	4.1

**Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*

Rare, winter visitor

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

**General:** No records this year. Erratic increase since 2004. Every year from 2010 to 2014. Distinct winter peak. No summer or autumn records. No breeding records.



**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*

Found in drier woodland with a scrubby understory.

**General:** Slightly more records (205) than last year and up 100% on 10YA, from 31 grid cells (12.6%), mainly spring and lesser numbers in summer and then less again in autumn. Reporting rate (2.6%) down on 10yA (3.2%) and 30YA (3.5%). Mean 2.4, median 1, max 23/24 Sep MFNR GrL10 (MiP1). 3 breeding records in 3 grids: nb/12 Oct Williamsdale GrL21 (HoJ1), on/25 Oct MFNR GrM10 (BoJ1), dy/3 Jan MFNR GrL10 (MiP1).

**GBS:** 2 records each of single birds: 1/3wk Sep Cook (TaN1) and 1/2wk Mar Curtin (AjR1). 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**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	205	140	46	72.1
WR	41	47	-13	23.5
G	31	29	7	21.1
BR	3	1	200	1.0
GA	0.0007	0.0016	-56	0.0034
GS	2	3	-33	3.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*

Prefers fairly well watered woodlands, including Canberra gardens.

**General:** Slightly more records (380) than last year, from 64 grid cells (269%). No winter records and most from spring and summer (86%). Reporting rate 4.8% down on last year and less than 30YA (7.5%). Mean 2.3, median 1, max 32/25 Oct Kambah Pool (HeS1). 8 breeding records from 2 grids, Campbell Park and MFNR: first nb/4 Sep Campbell Park (AnI1) (*earliest ACT record*) and last dy/3 Jan MFNR GrL10 (MiP1).

**GBS:** 41 records from 9 sites (14.1%), from 28 weeks. No winter records and 41% in spring. Total number of birds 70 cf last year 84 birds. Abundance ( $A=0.0246$ ) 40% higher than 30YA. Mean 1.7 Median 1. No breeding records.

Common, breeding summer migrant

**White-throated Gerygone**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	380	339	12	156.8
WR	89	107	-17	43.8
G	64	60	7	41.5
BR	8	6	33	3.4
GA	0.0246	0.0267	-8	0.0176
GS	9	11	-18	10.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.2

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*

Generally, found foraging in the upper foliage of wet and dry forests and woodlands.

**General:** Increase in records and birds but abundance largely unchanged over 30 years. More records (681) than last year from 109 grid cells (44%), from 52 weeks. Number of birds 3904 which is 63% more than last year and 282% more than the 30YA. Reporting rate 8.7%, less than last year and less than the 30YA (12.9%). Mean 5.9 median 4, max 50/13 Apr MFNR GridL10 (MiP1). 16 breeding records from 11 sites, which is higher than the 10 and 30YA. First breeding record nb/24 Aug The Pinnacle NR GrJ13 (AIB1) and last dy/3 Jan GrL10 MFNR (MiP1).

**GBS:** 204 records from 19 sites from 52 weeks. Seasonal records highest in winter. Abundance ( $A=0.4353$ ) similar to the previous year and 79% above the 30YA. Average group size 6.1, median 4, max 30 (which is down on long term average) 24 Jul Pearce GrK15 (KrS1). Only 1 breeding record: dy/2wk Oct Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2) (last year's record of 6 breeding records was unusually high and has not been repeated).

Very common, breeding resident

**Striated Thornbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	681	502	36	268.9
WR	44	67	-34	30.4
G	109	102	7	85.4
BR	16	13	23	7.1
GA	0.4353	0.5243	-17	0.2437
GS	19	26	-27	22.8
GBR	1	6	-83	1.0



**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana*

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** 148% increase in records from last year to 151 in 42 grid cells (17%), from 48 weeks. Reporting rate (1.9%) lower than the 30YA (2.1%) but not much change in past decade. Max 13/4 Jun Lake Bathurst GrY08 (LeM1); mean 2.9 and median 2. 1 breeding record: dy/11 Feb Lake Bathurst GrY08 (LeM1)

**GBS:** 20% increase from last year to 71 records from 4 suburban and 2 rural sites (9%), from 38 weeks. Fewest records in spring.

Abundance ( $A=0.593$ ) is up 41% on last year and up 152% of the 30YA. These increases continue a recent upward trend. Average group size 2.4, median 2. 3 breeding records in one location. dy from 1 to 15 Jan Giralang (McD4). Breeding in three of last four years but only 3 times in 30 previous years. Abundance ranked 99<sup>th</sup> in ACT in 2008-9 and last year 79. Is this bird becoming a more regular garden species?

**Yellow Thornbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	151	61	148	43.0
WR	5	1	400	1.5
G	42	26	62	23.1
BR	1	2	-50	1.1
GA	0.0593	0.0477	24	0.0235
GS	6	7	-14	5.7
GBR	3	2	50	0.2

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Very common, breeding resident

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

**General:** Significantly more records (1509) than last year from more (117) grid cells (55%) for all weeks. Reporting rate (19.2%) is similar to the 30YA (25.7%). Max 99/14 Jun MFNR GrL10 (MiP1), mean 5.7, and median 4. Similar breeding records (28) to last year from fewer (19) grid cells: first nb/13 Jul MFNR GrL10 (MiP1) and last dy/2 Mar Hawker Ovals (AlB1) with an early start to next season nb/29 Jun Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1).

**GBS:** 596 records from 40 sites (63%) in all weeks. Abundance ( $A=0.9940$ ) was lower than the previous year continuing a slight 5 year downward trend and below the 10 and 30YAs. Mean 4.8, median 4 and max 24/3wk May Nicholls (HaJ7). An increase to 15 breeding records from 7 sites with 8 records from Nicholls (HaJ7) including last record of dy/1wk Jan. Earliest nb/1wk Aug Giralang (McD4)

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1509	1094	38	531.1
WR	77	71	8	38.0
G	135	123	10	101.9
BR	28	25	12	21.1
GA	0.9940	1.0092	-2	1.3871
GS	40	51	-22	54.7
GBR	15	10	50	21.4

**Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides*

Common, breeding resident

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

**General:** A slight increase to 878 records from 96 grid cells (39%), from all weeks. Similar records for most indices to previous year but number of birds up by 68% and numbers higher than 10 and 30YAs. Reporting rate 11.2%. a little under the 10 and 30YA but declining very gradually for the past 15 years. Mean 6, median 4, max 84/14 7 June MFNR GrL10 (MiP1). 27 breeding records from 15 grids: 13 in ACT, 1 in Goulburn and 1 in Michelago - same as last year and over double the 30YA. First breeding (very early) nb/13 Jul MFNR GrL10 (MiP1) and last nb/6 Jan Campbell Park (CoE1).

**GBS:** Generally, down about 50% across measures on 10 year averages. Fewer (61) records this year (down from 143) from only 6 sites (9%), and only 40 weeks. Abundance ( $A=0.0775$ ) was 52% lower than last year and 63% less than the 10YA. Average 3.6, mean 3, with max 12/3wk May GrQ12 Wamboin (CoK2). No breeding records.

**Buff-rumped Thornbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	878	627	40	325.6
WR	96	121	-21	61.1
G	96	87	10	75.6
BR	27	27	0	11.5
GA	0.0775	0.1626	-52	0.1480
GS	6	13	-54	11.0
GBR	0	0	-	1.5

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla*

Found everywhere in the region except open grasslands.

**General:** Indices show no overall long term change. 1102 records from 130 grid cells (53%), from all weeks. 77% more records than the previous year and 98% more birds. Reporting rate (14%) similar to the 30YA (16%). Abundance: mean 3, median 2, max 40/13 Jun Tidbinbilla GrF18 (HeS1). 11 widely scattered breeding records in 9 grids commencing with nb/13 Jul MFNR GridL10 (MiP1) and concluding with dy/19 Jan The Pinnacle NR (AlB1) with an early start for the next season di/23 Jun The Pinnacle (AlB1).

**GBS:** Overall not much change. 783 records from 40 sites (62%), from all weeks. Numbers of birds similar to last year, and up 82% up on 30YA. Abundance ( $A=0.5395$ ) was similar to previous year and 76% above the 30YA. Average group size 2. 4 breeding records (long term average is only 2.4 breeding GBS records) in 3 sites: earliest cf/5wk Aug Deakin (RoD2) and latest dy/2wk Dec Rivett (BrT2).

Very common, breeding resident

**Brown Thornbill**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1102	624	77	346.2
WR	61	37	65	13.4
G	130	115	13	99.2
BR	11	5	120	4.5
GA	0.5395	0.4709	15	0.3070
GS	40	48	-17	34.1
GBR	4	1	300	2.4

**Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucops*

A ground-feeder in drier scrub and grassland margins.

**General:** The 69 records of 170 birds (from 29 grid cells and from all seasons) is 64% up on last year. Max 7, well down on the 10YA of 50. The abundance of birds has been declining since 2009 to levels last seen in about 2003. Reporting rate 0.9% is well below 10 YA (2.7%) and 30YA (2.5%). Mean number of birds 2.4 and median 2. 1 breeding record (30 YA 1.9), cf/1 Oct Bibaringa Grid H14 (SmA1).

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Southern Whiteface**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	69	42	64	51.7
WR	11	4	175	2.9
G	29	25	16	22.7
BR	1	3	-67	1.9
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:** Records (1783) up 74% on last year and 263% higher than 30YA. More grid cells (130). WOO showed small increase (130 records) Reporting rate 22.7% is close to the 30YA (23.5%). Mean 3.7 median 2, max 121/20 Apr ANU (MiP1) is similar to the 30YA (130). Increase in breeding records 13 from 11 grid cells: first on/20 Jul GridJ13 and last dy/25 Jan both at The Pinnacle NR (AlB1).

Very common, breeding resident/Migrant

**Spotted Pardalote**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1783	1026	74	491.4
WR	130	161	-19	67.1
G	138	120	15	101.4
BR	13	8	62	6.5
GA	0.6875	0.7856	-12	0.6981
GS	51	56	-9	51.6
GBR	9	20	-55	10.2



Geoffrey Dabb

**GBS:** Overall small decrease from last year. 989 records from 51 sites (80%), from all weeks. Abundance ( $A=0.6875$ ) close to the 30YA. Mean 2 with max 16/4wk Apr Cook (TaN1). Drop in breeding records (9) from last year (20) in only 2 grid cells. Commencing with nb/1wk Sep K14 Curtin (AjR1) and concluding with on/3wk Dec Palmerston (SaB1).

**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus*

Very common, breeding resident/Migrant

Common in the tablelands and often heard in the suburbs.

**General:** Slightly more records (1555) than last year from more grid cells, from all weeks, 160% higher than the 30YA. Continues a steady long-term increase. WOO records down from last year. Reporting rate (19.8%) lower than last year and about 30% below the long term averages. Mean 3.5, median 2, with max 200/24 Apr Mt Ainslie (HoS1). 25 breeding records from 17 grids commencing with co/23 Aug Narrabundah Hill GridI14 (CaJ4) and concluding with co/6 Jan MFNR (DaC2). Breeding reporting rate half of last year.

**GBS:** Indices show little change over last year or previous years: 714 records from 47 sites (73%), from all weeks. Abundance (A=0.436) very similar to last year. Mean 1.7 with max 25/23 Apr Ainslie (HoS1). Big increase in breeding records from 3 last year to 25 but from only 3 sites: from ih/4wk Aug Palmerston (SaB1) to ny/3wk Dec Carwoola (BuM1).

Striated Pardalote

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1555	1117	39	597.3
WR	199	256	-22	127.5
G	132	126	5	113.4
BR	25	33	-24	15.6
GA	0.4360	0.4582	-5	0.5825
GS	47	49	-4	49.7
GBR	25	3	733	14.4

**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 doubled on those of the previous year leading to another significant increase in reporting rate from 10.9% to 12.9%. The lowest reporting rate was 5.6 in 2009 but has been steadily increasing since then. Observed fairly evenly throughout the year with slightly more sightings in autumn (29%) and winter (30%). Breeding records typically rare, 6 this year: first nb/20 Aug Mt Jerrabomberra Reserve GrN15 (FuP1) and dy/12 Feb ANBG (DaC2). Few breeding records over the last 30 years, in contrast to the GBS.

**GBS:** Recorded from 92% of sites, similar to last year. Abundance increased by 10% over last year and is 19% above the 30YA. 9 breeding records but all from just 2 sites: first, di/1wk Jul Red Hill GrK14 (WaR4) and last dy/1wk Dec Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2).

Eastern Spinebill

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1015	499	103	226.5
WR	20	27	-26	9.0
G	109	76	43	59.9
BR	6	2	200	1.3
GA	0.6833	0.6198	10	0.5753
GS	59	65	-9	58.4
GBR	9	12	-25	3.1

**Lewin's Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii*

Non-breeding vagrant



Lindsay Hansch

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

**General:** 6 records this year: 2 from Tidbinbilla NR Grids F17 & F18 (presumably the same bird) 1/28 Feb (CaM4) and 1/9 Mar (SmA1); 3 from Namadgi NP on 2-3 Nov (JaN1); and 1/1 May ANBG (MiP1). Since 1998, there have been 1 or 2 records in most years, 4 in 2012, 3 in 2013, 18 last year.



**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 16.6% is a decrease on last year's 20.4%, and below the 30YA (21.2%). although increased observer effort this year has resulted in the number of records being higher by 40% than last year and the number of birds being significantly higher (56%). 44% of records were in spring and 29% in autumn. A group of 20/16 Aug Baroona Rd Michelago GrL25 (HeS1) may not have been returning migrants as the next large flocks weren't recorded until 15/10 Sep at Newline Quarry GrM14 (BoJ1), 12/14

Sep Gigerline GrJ19 (SmA1) and 14/14 Sep O'Connor GrK13 (MiP1). Autumn movement was first noted 23/20 Mar Gigerline NR GrK20 (SmA1). Largest number during autumn migration 700/11 Apr McKellar GrK12 (RoM3). Only 3 breeding records, 2 from a single location, Baroona Rd Michelago GrL25 (LaS2) where breeding was also recorded last year, dy/10 Jan and ny/6 Feb. Only other breeding: on/2 Feb Warks Rd GrD16 (WaS1).

**GBS:** Recorded at 73% of sites in all weeks. Abundance ( $A=2.87487$ ) increased from last year, partly due to two records of 1,000 birds in April, bringing the A-value above the 30YA. Overwintering records of 1-2 birds in July-Aug were common this year. Spring return movement first noted in the same week as the general records (2wk Sep) with flocks of 12 in Kambah GrJ16, and 20 at a rural site in Burra GrM20. Early autumn movement was noted 20/4wk Feb at a site in Carwoola GrQ16, but not at other sites until 3wk Mar. Largest flock 1000/2-3wk Apr from a site in Pearce GrK15. 4 breeding records, cf/3wk Jan Burra GrM20 (AnI1), dy/1wk Feb Chapman GrI15 (HoJ1), and 2 from Carwoola GrQ16 of ny/1wk Feb and dy/2wk Feb (BuM1).

**Yellow-faced Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1306	930	40	441.0
WR	68	76	-11	31.4
G	163	146	12	114.0
BR	3	6	-50	3.3
GA	2.8748	1.6758	72	2.3283
GS	47	55	-15	54.8
GBR	4	3	33	0.9

**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 on 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:** Reporting rate of 6.8% was lower than last year and well below (68%) the 12.6% 30YA, despite the number of records being higher. Records in autumn (36%), winter (28%), and spring (23%). Max 24/17 May MFNR GrL10 (MiP1), mean 2.3 median 1. Only 2 breeding records: dy/25 Feb Gibraltar Falls GrG18 (BuM1), dy/3 Mar Mt Ainslie GrL13 (ReJ5).

**GBS:** Recorded at 39% sites, similar to last year. In contrast to the general records, 71% of records occurred in winter and autumn, with only 14% in spring. Nearly half of all records were from 4 rural sites in Murrumbateman GrI06, Wamboin GrQ12, Carwoola GrQ16 and Burra GrM20, with records virtually absent from suburban sites between Sep and April. From the 1998 peak in abundance ( $A=0.1585$ ) there has been a fluctuating decline to the present value, although it is still 16 % higher than the 30YA. No breeding records.

**White-eared Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	536	405	32	262.0
WR	34	46	-26	17.0
G	125	109	15	90.4
BR	2	3	-33	2.6
GA	0.1126	0.1085	4	0.0969
GS	25	29	-14	30.8
GBR	0	1	-100	0.5

**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus melanops*

Rare, breeding resident

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

**General:** 8 records, up from 4 last year and the same as the previous year. The number of records has declined steadily 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. All records were from the ACT this year: 1/25 Aug MFNR GrL10 (MiP1), 3 records on 26 Oct Naas Fire Trail GrJ22, J24, J26 (MaD5, HaS4, HaB2), 1/26 Dec The Angle GrK21 (FeM1) and 3 records from Gigerline NR GrK20 from 18-20 Mar (BuM1, SmA1, MiP1). The number of birds was much higher than the last 2 years, with 4-8 birds being reported from this latter site. No breeding records.

**GBS:** No records this year. 1 record 2 years ago and the previous year from Hoskinstown.

**Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	8	4	100	11.1
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	6	4	50	4.7
BR	0	0	-	0.6
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0018
GS	0	0	-	1.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*

Uncommon, breeding resident/ autumn migrant

Uncommon in the suburbs but sometimes overwinters.

**General:** Number of records higher and reporting rate (1.6%) higher than last year but still just half of the 2.7% 30YA. A higher proportion than usual of records in Jul-Aug, 30% compared to 5% last year, all from lowland locations. Max 25/25 Oct Orroral Valley (WiK2), mean 4.6 and median 2. 4 breeding records: nb/12 Oct Strike-a-light TSR GrN29 (TaN1), on/25 Oct Glendale Crossing GrI23 (RoJ5), on/26 Oct Naas Fire Trail GrJ25 (MaD5), and dy/17 Jan Glendale Crossing GrH23 (DaC2).

**GBS:** 32 records at 8 suburban sites up from 7 records at 3 sites last year. The A value (A=0.0410) has increased from the historic low of 0.0018 two years ago, but is still 50% below the 30YA. No breeding records. There has been only 1 breeding record in the 31 years of the GBS, in 2002.

**Fuscous Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	126	61	107	55.8
WR	2	2	0	2.1
G	44	35	26	26.7
BR	4	0	Inf	2.4
GA	0.0410	0.0032	1190	0.0804
GS	8	3	167	16.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

Common, breeding resident

Most common in woodlands in lowland areas.

**General:** A greater number of records but a slightly lower reporting rate (8.8%) than last year, and below the 11.9% 30YA. Most records in spring (35%) with the other seasons very even. Largest number recorded during a survey period 54/25 Oct LGin (AlB1). Consistently large groups recorded from this location and TSR at Bellmount Forest GRO05. 21 breeding records, 6 from TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1), first LTug nb/24 Aug (CoF1) and last dy/12 Feb TSR 48 (LeM1).

**GBS:** Recorded at 36% of sites, a big increase from 21% last year. Consequently, the A-value (A=0.106) increased by 87% on last year to its highest level since 2010, although still below the 30YA. No breeding records.

**White-plumed Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	693	427	62	246.9
WR	28	28	0	25.8
G	73	62	18	51.1
BR	21	22	-5	10.9
GA	0.1059	0.0566	87	0.1240
GS	23	15	53	26.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.9

**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. 1 record in 2006-7 from Captains Flat GrS21. 3 records last year of 1 (presumably the same) bird 22-23 May Casuarina Sands (GrG14).

**General:** No endorsed records.

**Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*

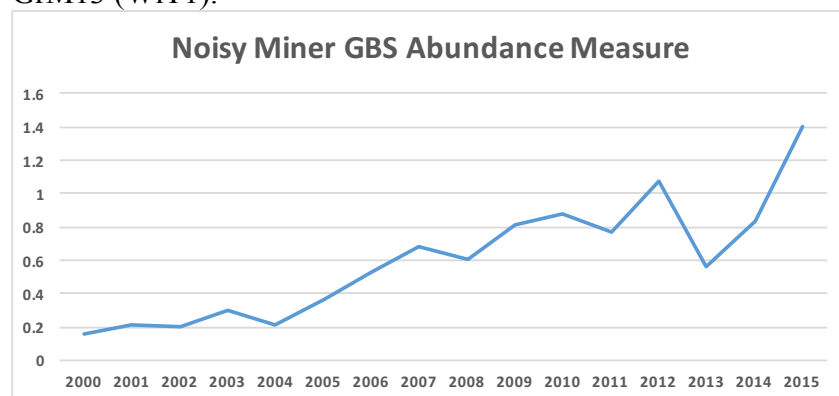
Very common, breeding resident

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

**General:** The number of records was more than twice that of last year and the number of birds nearly three times. Reporting rate of 25.6% increased significantly from last year to its highest level ever. Since 1991, the reporting rate has increased dramatically from 4.3% (see graph below). The number of WOO records was very similar to last year. Max 64/6 April Callum Brae (SmA1), mean 7.0, median 4. 52 breeding records, a significant increase on 34 last year; first nb/3 Aug Hawker (AlB1), last dy/11 Apr Cook (DrC1) with an early start on the next season - nb/2 May Campbell Park GrM13 (WiT1).

**Noisy Miner**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	2009	952	111	319.5
WR	178	175	2	79.8
G	77	80	-4	52.6
BR	52	34	53	11.3
GA	1.3985	0.8320	68	0.3749
GS	38	31	23	18.2
GBR	63	35	80	7.7



**GBS:** Recorded at 59% of sites (44% last year). 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 ever of A=1.3985. Max 30/1wk Apr Scullin (FeP1). 63 breeding records from 6 sites: first nb/2wk Jul Pearce (KrS1), last dy/1wk Mar Ainslie (HaS3).

**Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*

Non-breeding vagrant

Vagrant from inland districts.

**General:** No records this year. Recent previous records: Aug 2011 Gundaroo, Oct 2010 Michelago and Feb 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. Last confirmed records in 2010. Declared endangered in the ACT, and critically endangered in NSW and the Commonwealth.

**General:** 3 records this year, 2 of the same bird 21 Oct Greenway GrJ17 (HeS1, SmA1), 1/17 May JWNR (SmA1).

**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:** Reporting rate has continued to increase, 45% this year up from 40% last year and at the second highest level recorded. The number of birds observed was significantly higher than in any previous year, continuing the dramatic increase of the last 2 years. This appears to be due to increased observer effort and also large groups sizes (20+) being regularly reported from a number of locations around Canberra. Highest proportion of records in spring (30%) and lowest in winter (17%). Max 122/9 Apr Lyneham Ridge GrK12 (LeM1), mean 4.5, median 2. 85 breeding records: the first relatively late for this species, on/16 Aug O'Connor (MiP1), and last dy/21 Feb Lyneham Ridge (LeM1).

**GBS:** Recorded in 98% of sites in all weeks, same as last year, with observations distributed very evenly throughout the four seasons. Abundance ( $A = 2.99$ ) increased from last year, but has been fairly consistently around 3.0 from 2000. Similar to last year, the Red Wattlebird is the most abundant honeyeater species in the GBS. Breeding at 28 sites, fewer than the 38 last year: first nb/5wk Jul Rivett (BrT1) and last dy/5wk Apr from the same site.

**Red Wattlebird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3539	1841	92	661.8
WR	91	119	-24	49.8
G	149	137	9	104.6
BR	85	53	60	22.2
GA	2.9972	2.7127	10	2.3915
GS	63	70	-10	65.1
GBR	224	228	-2	119.0

**White-fronted Chat** *Epthianura albifrons*

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

**General:** 48 records total, 6 from LBath, 4 from LGeo, 5 from Stromlo Forest Park, 3 from the NatArbor and the remainder from several sites in the surrounding region: Rose and Wet Lagoons, Bellmount Forest and near



Lindsay Hansch

Tarago. Max 34/6 July LBath E GrY07 (LeM1). 1 breeding record nb/13 Oct Gundaroo and vicinity GrO07 (LeM1).

**GBS:** 2 records from a single site in Wright: 8/3wk Jul and 1/2wk Jan (DeD2). This is a first for the GBS, being in a newly developed suburb, once a popular birding spot.

Rare, breeding resident

**White-fronted Chat**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	25	44	-43	23.9
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	10	10	0	6.9
BR	1	1	0	1.1
GA	0.0032	0.0000	Inf	0.0000
GS	1	0	Inf	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger*

Non-breeding vagrant

Vagrant from inland. Recorded only 4 times since 1982: 1991 (Wilson 1999) 15 records in 2006-07, West Macgregor in Oct 2009 and 12 records in 2013-14.

**General:** No records this year after 12 records last year.

**Scarlet Honeyeater** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Rare, non-breeding visitor.

Visitor from coastal districts.

**General:** No records this year. 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:** Fewer records than last year. The reporting rate of 0.4% is down 39% on the 10YA and 72% below the 30YA of 1.4%. While last year the number of records in winter and summer was similar (around 30%), this year the distribution was 77% winter and autumn, 10% spring and 13% summer. Most records were from Tidbinbilla NR and Namadgi NP, a couple from ANBG. No breeding records.

**GBS:** 7 records from Chapman (2 sites last year and 4 the year before). All records in May and Jun at Chapman (HaJ1).

**Crescent Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	31	38	-18	29.2
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	16	14	14	12.6
BR	0	1	-100	0.1
GA	0.0039	0.0060	-36	0.0183
GS	1	2	-50	6.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

**New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Uncommon, breeding resident

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

**General:** Reporting rate 4.3% is above last year's 3.9, but below the previous year's highest ever value of 5.0% and above the 30YA of 3.9%. Most records in spring (40%) and fewest in summer (14%) which is more like the usual seasonal distribution. Max 33/20 Oct ANBG (MiP1), mean 4 and median 2. Well distributed around Canberra and suburbs, with the bulk of records from JWNR/FSP, ANBG and ANU. 1 breeding record, fs/13 Oct ANBG

**New Holland Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	339	179	89	81.2
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	21	13	62	12.4
BR	1	1	0	1.0
GA	0.0123	0.0372	-67	0.0374
GS	4	7	-43	6.8
GBR	0	1	-100	0.7

(MiP1).

**GBS:** Only 19 records this year cf 54 last year and well below the 30YA of 45. Records at 4 sites: Carwoola, Nicholls, Chapman and Red Hill. Abundance has fluctuated greatly over the years. Following a period of low abundance from 2002 to 2009, the A value steadily increased until 2012 but has declined since then to its present value of A=0.0123, 67% below the 30YA. No breeding this year. There have been only 6 years in the history of the GBS where breeding has been recorded.

**Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris*

Common, breeding resident

A species of drier forests at all altitudes.

**General:** Reporting rate 4.1%, very similar to last year and the 30YA. More reports in spring (38%) but fairly consistently reported throughout the other seasons. Max 49/17 May MFNR (MiP1), mean 4.8 and median 3. The reporting rate has remained fairly steady for this species at around 3-4% since 1992. 5 breeding records (3 last year): earliest nb/16 Aug The Pinnacle NR (AIB1) and latest dy/3 Jan MFNR (MiP1).

**GBS:** 26 records from 4 suburban sites (Chapman, Cook, Kambah and Curtin) and 2 rural sites (Carwoola and Wamboin). Mostly observed in groups of 3-7, with max 12/2wk May Kambah (HaB2). Abundance has fluctuated around A=0.1 for the last ten years.

**Brown-headed Honeyeater**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	323	195	66	93.2
WR	41	43	-5	15.1
G	64	57	12	38.8
BR	5	4	25	2.0
GA	0.0424	0.0242	76	0.0393
GS	6	7	-14	4.8
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

**White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus*

Common, breeding resident/summer migrant

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

**General:** The reporting rate of 3.2% is a little below last year, 36% below the 10YA (4.9%) and 59% down on the 30YA of 7.7%. Seasonal distribution is interesting, with significant numbers of over-wintering birds: winter 14%, spring 34%, summer 16% and autumn 35%. The return migration in spring was fairly low-key with most sightings were fewer than 10 birds, with the most birds seen being 48/14Sep Tharwa Sandwash (SmA1). Similarly, there

was little mass movement away from the region in autumn, with only 12 sightings of 20 or more bird throughout autumn. Max 61/13 Apr MFNR (MiP1). Mean 6.6, median 3. 7 breeding records, after 4 last year: earliest dy/25 Oct Cotter Hut Rd (AlB1) and latest dy 23/Feb Blundells Ck Rd (WaS1).

**GBS:** 84 records this year is a about the same as last year. Return migration commenced in wk3-4 Aug with small flocks at sites in Cook, Curtin and Weston at the same time as general records. As usual, no records at all in Jan and Feb. Max 65/3wk Apr Jerrabomberra (HaL1), identical to last year's max record. No winter records contrasts with the many general records of overwintering birds. The number of birds (503) was significantly higher than last year (382) slightly above the 10YA (426) but less than half the 30YA (1164), leading to an higher A value ( $A = 0.1764$ ) compared to last year ( $A=0.1215$ ) but still well below the 30YA of  $A = 0.424$ .

White-naped Honeyeater

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	249	193	29	159.6
WR	12	13	-8	4.7
G	77	79	-3	62.5
BR	7	4	75	4.2
GA	0.1764	0.1215	45	0.4240
GS	22	22	0	29.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

A species mostly of lowland woodland regions.

**General:** Reporting rate (13.4%) lower than last year (15.1%) but about the same as the 10 and 30YA. Since 1990, the reporting rate has remained steady around 10%, with high points in 1999 and 2000. Nearly all records in spring and summer (89%). Earliest 1/5 Jul Wanniasa (SmA1) and last 1/26 May Macarthur (MaL2). No records in June. Max 77/3 Apr New Line Quarry(LaS1). Groups of around 10-50 birds reported regularly from several locations over the summer resulting in an Abundance value (0.3932) a little above last year and the 3<sup>rd</sup> greatest abundance value since surveys started. 31 breeding records, about the same as last year: first nb/18 Oct Callum Brae (SmA1), last dy/18 Feb The Pinnacle NR (AlB1).

**GBS:** Recorded at 83% of sites, up 18% on last year. First records a month later than general records 1/5wk Aug Hughes (AnI1) and last record 1/14 May Campbell (LjT1). Abundance ( $A=0.3732$ ) is well up on last year but is still well below the 30YA. 17 breeding records from 6 sites: first di/4skOct Carwoola (BuM1), last dy/3wk Feb Curtin (AjR1).

Noisy Friarbird

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1056	688	53	309.5
WR	83	114	-27	52.8
G	84	73	15	63.3
BR	31	33	-6	16.0
GA	0.3732	0.2739	36	0.6930
GS	53	50	6	59.3
GBR	17	28	-39	34.4

**Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

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

**General:** 1 record this year after 4 last year: 1/2 Nov Cotter Camp Ground (JaN1). 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:** 3 records this year, each of a single bird, cf 46 last year: 1/25 Oct Goorooyarroo NR (BoJ1), 1/2 Dec Uriarra Rd (LaK1) and 1/20 Dec Uriarra Rd (SmA1).



**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, one in 2011-12 from Gundaroo Common GrO07. The previous endorsed records were for a single bird at Duntroon Golf Course, GrM14, during the 3 years from 2004-05; they were the first endorsed records since 1968.

**GBS:** No records.

**White-browed Babbler** *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

Non-breeding vagrant

**General:** No records this year. Recorded in 2000-01 at Gundaroo GrM05 and in 2005-06 and 2006-07 at Aranda paddocks GrJ13/K13, the first general records since the 1950s. Remains located in nests of predators in previous years.

**GBS:** No records.

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

A resident of the dry forests of the ACT.

**General:** 37 birds recorded, more than last year (27), the 10YA (20) and the 30YA (24). Recorded Aug, Oct, Dec, Jan, Mar and Jun. Reporting rate (0.2%) well below that of last year's (0.4%), the 10YA (0.5%) and the 30YA (1.0%). Recorded from 4.0% of grid cells surveyed (4.1% last year). All records of 1, 2 or 3 birds plus 4/3 Jan Deua NP Wyanbene Caves GrY26 (JaN1). Other records from Namadgi NP, Tallaganda, Tidbinbilla, Tinderries, Cuumbuen NR, Yanunbeyan NR, etc. No breeding recorded.

**GBS:** No records.

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Spotted Quail-thrush**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	19	16	19	20.2
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	10	10	0	13.3
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*

The Brindabella Range is towards the western edge of its range. This species appears to have recovered from the Jan 2003 fires.

**General:** 73 birds recorded, fewer than last year (100) though more than the 10YA (34) and the 30YA (23). Recorded Oct to Apr, plus Jun, with two-thirds of records (66%) in summer. Reporting rate (0.4%) lower than last year (0.8%), the 10YA (0.6%) and the 30YA (0.7%). Recorded from 4.9% of grid cells surveyed (4.1% last

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Eastern Whipbird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	32	35	-9	15.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	12	10	20	8.0
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

year), more than the 10YA (3.1%) and the 30YA (3.9%), mostly in Namadgi NP, with a small number of records from Gigerline, Tallaganda and Tidbinbilla. Max 7/12 Dec Warks/Blundells Creek Roads GrE15 (DaC2), mean 2.4, median 2. No breeding recorded.





**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:** 557 birds recorded, many more than last year (245), the 10YA (281) and the 30YA (203). Recorded in every month with a marked spring peak (44% of records), compared with summer (23%), autumn (18%) and winter (15%). Reporting rate (1.7%) similar to last year (1.9%), though well below the 10YA (2.6%) and the 30YA (3.6%). Recorded from 12% of grid cells surveyed (10% last year), a lower proportion than the 10YA (12%) and the 30YA (14%). Max 29 (8 last year), mean 4.0, median 3. 15 breeding records (7 last year): first on/4 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1) and last dy/12 Apr Michelago GrL23 (LaS1).

**GBS:** 46 birds recorded, many more than last year (13), more than the 10YA (33) though fewer than the 30YA (83). 7 records, all from the rural areas of Carwoola and Wamboin in Jul, Nov and Mar-Jun, compared with 5 last year, similar to the 10YA (7.4) though fewer than the 30YA (15.4). No breeding records (none last year).

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Varied Sittella**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	137	87	57	74.0
WR	7	10	-30	5.8
G	29	24	21	29.7
BR	15	7	114	4.9
GA	0.0161	0.0041	290	0.0303
GS	2	3	-33	5.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.3

**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:** 3,391 birds recorded, more than last year (1,820), the 10YA (1,105) and the 30YA (673). Recorded in every week with a marked spring (43%) and summer (34%) peak, compared with autumn (18%) and winter (5%). Reporting rate (19%) lower than last year (22%) though similar to the 10YA (20%) and the 30YA (21%). Recorded from 55% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year's 48%, the 10YA (44%) and the 30YA (42%). Max 22 (last

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1469	1013	45	435.5
WR	108	87	24	48.8
G	137	117	17	87.6
BR	24	25	-4	12.5
GA	0.3399	0.2574	32	0.4190
GS	54	52	4	58.3
GBR	11	14	-21	8.1



Julian Robinson

year 26), mean 2.4, median 2. 24 breeding records (25 last year), from di/12 Sep The Pinnacle NR GrI13 (AlB1) to dy/23 Feb Wamboin GrQ13 (McD1).

**GBS:** 969 birds recorded, more than last year (809), similar to the 10YA (899) though fewer than the 30YA (1,150). 575 records (last year 554), fewer than the 10YA (624) and the 30YA (766). Recorded in all weeks with higher proportions in spring (40% of records) and summer (34%) than in autumn (18%) and winter (7%). Records from 84% of sites, a

higher proportion than last year (73%), though similar to the 10YA (80%) and 30YA (88%). Abundance higher than last year ( $A=0.2574$ ) and the 10YA (0.2844), though lower than the 30YA (0.4190). Max 23 (12 last year), mean 1.7, median 1. 11 breeding records (14 last year) from 4 sites: first nb/2wk Sep Curtin GrK14 (AjR1) and last dy/4wk Jan Page GrJ12 (AlB1).

**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:** Number of records similar to the long-term trends after last year's surge to 20, from 5 grid cells, all but 1 being in central or northern Canberra. Observed in Sep (2 records), Nov, Apr & May, 1 record each. No breeding recorded.

**GBS:** No records, 1 last year.

**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	5	20	-75	3.5
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	5	10	-50	2.3
BR	0	0	-	0.0
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0005
GS	0	1	-100	0.9
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

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

**General:** 6 records (7 last year), well above the 10YA (4.4) and the 30YA (4.4), in Oct, Nov, Dec & Jan, from Namadgi NP, MFNR & Palmerston. 4 records of 1 bird, 1 of 2 and 1 of x. No breeding records and none last year.

**White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

Declared vulnerable in the ACT in Dec 2003. Although the number of records annually has increased markedly since the time of the declaration, the reporting rate has fluctuated markedly and is very low this year.

**General:** 638 birds recorded, similar to last year (707) though many more than the 10YA (322) and the 30YA (157). Recorded in every month from Sep to Feb: first 2/4 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1) and last 2/23 Feb Narrabundah Hill CaJ4). Reporting rate (2.5%) far lower than last year (6.1%) and 10YA (4.3%) and 30YA (3.9%). Recorded from 18% of grid cells surveyed (23% last year), a higher proportion than the 10YA (16%) and the 30YA (14%).

Max 30 (20 last year), mean 3.2, median 2. 18 breeding records (17 last year), more than the 10YA (12) and 30YA (8), from di/25 Oct MFNR (BoJ1) to cf/6 Jan Woodstock NR GrH12 (SmA1).

**GBS:** 12 records (14 last year), fewer than the 10YA (15) and the 30YA (14). Recorded in just 4 sites (all in Canberra) from 1/3wk Sep Giralang GrK12 (KaD1) to 1/3wk Dec at the same site. 2 breeding records (4 last year): di/30 Oct & 13 Nov, both Curtin GrK14 (AjR1).

**White-winged Triller**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	200	278	-28	80.6
WR	7	28	-75	8.2
G	45	55	-18	28.2
BR	18	17	6	7.7
GA	0.0067	0.0115	-42	0.0096
GS	4	4	0	3.9
GBR	2	4	-50	1.0

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

Rare, breeding resident

A sparsely, widely distributed species. On the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee's 'rare species' working category as its reporting rate has fallen significantly since its 1990s peak.

**General:** 66 birds recorded, similar to last year (59) and the 10YA (56) though higher than the 30YA (42). Recorded in every month except Jun, with a higher proportion of records in spring (35%) and summer (37%) than autumn (12%) and winter (15%). Reporting rate (0.5%) well below that of last year (0.9%), the 10YA (1.0%) and the 30YA (1.5%). Recorded from 5% of grid cells surveyed (6% last year). Max 6 (last year 5): 24 May TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1), mean 1.7, median 1. 4 breeding records (1 last year), more than the 10YA (1.9) and the 30YA (1.6).

**Crested Shrike-tit**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	40	41	-2	28.9
WR	0	0	-	1.6
G	12	14	-14	15.1
BR	4	1	300	1.6
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0015
GS	0	0	-	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*

Uncommon, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

A bird of the ranges, though altitudinal migration occurs.

**General:** 6 confirmed records (9 last year), more than the 10YA of 4.0 and the 30YA of 7.8, from Namadgi NP & Tallaganda, in each month Dec to Apr. 5 sightings of 1-2 birds, 1 of 3 birds.**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:** 1,269 birds recorded, many more than last year (803), the 10YA (401) and the 30YA (267). Recorded from 36% of grid cells (32% last year), in every month, with a lower proportion in summer (5%) cf autumn (40%), spring (25%) and winter (30%). Reporting rate (8.7%) similar to last year (9.8%), the 10YA (8.2%) and the 30YA (9.7%). Max 13/12 Dec Warks/Blundells Creek Roads GrE15 (LaK1) (max 50 last year), mean 1.9, median 1. Abundance (0.1615) similar to last year (0.1760) though higher than the 10YA (0.1256) and the 30YA (0.1285). 1 breeding record (1 last year): dy/2 Feb Warks/Blundells Creek Roads GrE15 (WaS1).**GBS:** 316 birds recorded, similar to last year (385), the 10YA (349) and the 30YA (385). 280 records, fewer than last year (338), the 10YA (311) and the 30YA (331). Recorded in 42 weeks: autumn 48%, winter 38%, spring 13% and summer 2%. Records from 56% of sites (63% last year), similar to the 10YA (59%) and the 30YA (61%). Abundance similar to last year and the 10YA (0.1104) though lower than the 30YA (0.1403). Max 4 (5 last year), mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding records; none last year.

Golden Whistler

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	682	449	52	201.9
WR	38	46	-17	13.9
G	88	78	13	63.1
BR	1	1	0	0.8
GA	0.1108	0.1225	-10	0.1403
GS	36	45	-20	40.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.1

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Common, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant found mostly in open woodlands.

**General:** 2,084 birds recorded, more than last year (1,373), the 10YA (975) and the 30YA (1,088). Recorded in every month, with a far higher proportion of records in spring (49%) and summer (33%) than in autumn (16%) and winter (1%). Reporting rate (12%) similar to that of last year (16%) and the 10YA (16%), though lower than the 30YA (19%). Recorded from 61% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year's 56% though more than the 10YA (53%) and the 30YA (49%). Max 31 (20 last year), mean 2.3, median 1. Abundance (0.2652) lower than last year (0.3010), the 10YA (0.3056) and the 30YA (0.5232). 8 breeding records (12 last year) from di/25 Oct Cotter Hut Rd at Smokers Trail GrF21 (HaL2) to dy/15 Feb The Pinnacle NR (AIB1).**GBS:** 118 birds recorded, fewer than last year (190), the 10YA (162) and the 30YA (219). 85 records compared with 125 last year, fewer than the 10YA (118) and the 30YA (177). Recorded in every month from Aug to Apr, with a much higher proportion of records in spring (41%) and summer (34%) than in autumn (23%) and winter (1%). It is interesting to note that up until 2001, there were records, every year, for the entire year. Since then the date range has been reduced for 9 of the 13 years, with the current year being the shortest duration on record, from August 21 to April 23. Records from 23% of sites, a higher proportion than last year (18%), similar to the 10YA (26%) though lower than the 30YA (45%). Abundance lower than last year (A=0.0605), the 10YA (0.0513) and the 30YA (0.0798). Max 4 (5 last year), mean 1.4, median 1. No breeding records (4 last year).

Rufous Whistler

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	917	728	26	393.8
WR	118	108	9	61.4
G	151	135	12	100.7
BR	8	11	-27	6.9
GA	0.0414	0.0605	-32	0.0798
GS	15	13	15	29.7
GBR	0	4	-100	0.6



**Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*

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

**General:** 1,403 birds recorded, more last year (891), the 10YA (605) and the 30YA (497). Recorded in every week, with a spring peak (33% of records) cf lower proportions in summer (16%), autumn (25%) and winter (26%). Reporting rate (9.9%) lower than last year (12.4%) and below the 10YA (14%) and the 30YA (19%). Recorded from 59% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (57%), the 10YA (55%) and the 30YA (54%). Max 12 (and 12 last year), mean 1.8, median 1. 3 breeding records (7 last year): nb/21 Aug Mt Ainslie NR-Campbell Park GrM13 (SmA1), cf/15 Nov Mulligans Flat NR GrL10 (LaK1) and cf/4 Jan Parkwood GrH11 (LaK1).

**GBS:** 196 birds recorded, fewer than last year (341) and the 10YA (256) though similar to the 30YA (207). 152 records compared with 266 last year, fewer than the 10YA (203) and the 30YA (178). Recorded in 51 weeks of the year with a higher proportion of records in autumn (35%) and winter (32%) than in spring and summer (both 16%). Records from 22% of sites (last year 30%), similar to the 10YA (24%) though lower than the 30YA (33%). Abundance much lower than last year, the 10YA (0.0810) but close to the 30YA (0.0753). Max 4 (4 last year), mean 1.3, median 1. No breeding records (3 last year).

Common, breeding resident

**Grey Shrike-thrush**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	775	565	37	388.2
WR	58	42	38	22.7
G	146	139	5	110.5
BR	3	7	-57	3.8
GA	0.0687	0.1085	-37	0.0753
GS	14	21	-33	21.7
GBR	0	3	-100	0.5

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

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

**General:** 638 birds recorded, more last year (293), the 10YA (193) and the 30YA (124). Recorded in every month with a marked spring peak (61%) peak cf summer (23%), autumn (10%) and winter (5%). Reporting rate (5.2%) the same as last year and similar to the 10YA (5.1%) and the 30YA (5.4%). Recorded from 29% of grid cells surveyed, a higher proportion than last year's 20%, the 10YA (19%) and the 30YA (17%). Max 8, mean 1.6, median 1. 10 breeding records (4 last year) from ny/25 Oct Aranda Bushland and environs GrJ13 (RoS1) to dy/21 Dec TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1).

Common, breeding summer migrant

**Olive-backed Oriole**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	409	236	73	112.1
WR	40	29	38	19.5
G	71	49	45	34.5
BR	10	4	150	3.1
GA	0.0684	0.0461	48	0.0601
GS	30	24	25	27.2
GBR	1	9	-89	2.6



David Cook

**GBS:** 195 birds recorded, more than last year (145) though similar to the 10YA (203) and the 30YA (165). Number of records (184) more than last year (131) and similar to the 10YA (179) though more than the 30YA (149). Recorded in every month Aug to May, with a marked spring (48%) and summer (34%) peak cf autumn (15%) and winter (3%). Records from 47% of sites (34% last year), a higher proportion than the 10YA (39%) and the 30YA (41%). Abundance much higher than last year (A=0.0461) though similar to the 10YA (0.0643) and 30YA (0.0601). Max 3, mean 1.1, median 1. 1 breeding record (9 last year): dy/2wk Jan Wybalena Grove, Cook GrJ13 (BrM2).

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

Rare, breeding summer migrant

Usually seen in company with the White-browed Woodswallow.

**General:** 56 birds recorded, fewer than last year (158) and the 10YA (104) though more than the 30YA (42). Recorded each month from Oct to Jan, all but one record from Canberra. First 6/24 Oct MFNR GrL10 (MiP1) and last 1/17 Jan LGin Pen (AlB1). Max 11 (last year 30), mean 5.6, median 5. No breeding records of 3 last year which were the first recorded since 2004-05.

**GBS:** No records (2 last year).

**Masked Woodswallow**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	10	21	-52	4.8
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	6	10	-40	3.5
BR	0	3	-100	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0127	-100	0.0051
GS	0	2	-100	0.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

An occasional visitor from the north and west.

**General:** 1,429 birds recorded, fewer than last year (2,024) though more than the 10YA (691) and the 30YA (295). Number of records well below last year's (153) though much higher than the 10YA (26) and the 30YA (20). Recorded each month Sep to Mar, first 16/9 Sep Mt Majura NR GrM12 (SmA1) and last 22/20 Mar MFNR GrL10 (MiP1). Reporting rate (0.8%) much lower than last year (3.4%), and a little under the 10YA (1.2%) and the 30YA (1.0%). Recorded from just 5.7% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year's 6.3% though lower than the 10YA (6.3%) and higher the 30YA (4.6%). Max 120/9 Sep Mt Majura NR GrM12 (MiP1), mean 23, median 12. 20 breeding records (22 last year) more than the 10YA (7) and the 30YA (3): first di/16 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (HoJ1) and last dy/24 Jan MFNR GrL10 (MiP1).

**GBS:** 2 records (17 last year): 1/1wk Oct Curtin (AjR1) and 2/3wk Oct Wybalena Grove, Cook (TaN1).

**White-browed Woodswallow**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	63	153	-59	20.1
WR	1	8	-88	0.8
G	14	35	-60	9.6
BR	20	22	-9	3.5
GA	0.0011	0.1047	-99	0.0355
GS	2	7	-71	2.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*

Common, breeding summer migrant

A migrant woodland species, some over-winter. The abundance and reporting rate appear to be rising from the extremely low levels of 2012. On the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee's 'insufficiently known species' working category.

**General:** 2,710 birds recorded, more last year (1,851), the 10YA (1,491) and the 30YA (820). Recorded in every month, with a far higher proportion of records in spring (45%) and summer (33%) than in autumn (20%) and winter (2%). Reporting rate (6.2%) lower than that of last year (8.0%), the 10YA (8.6%) and the 30YA (9.0%). Recorded from 36% of grid cells surveyed, the same as last year though more than the 10YA (32%) and the 30YA (29%). Max 80 (73 last year), mean 5.7, median 4. Abundance (0.3449) lower than last year (0.4057), the 10YA (0.4670) and the 30YA (0.3943). 63 breeding records (46 last year): first nb/4 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1) and last dy/12 March Narrabundah Hill GrI15 (CaJ4).

**GBS:** 123 birds recorded, fewer than last year (200), the 10YA (335) and the 30YA (207). Number of records (47) similar to last year (43), lower than the 10YA (55) though higher than the 30YA (33). Recorded in all months except Jun, with a marked spring peak (36% of records) and lower proportions in summer (28%), autumn (25%) and winter (11%). Records from just 9% of sites (17% last year), lower than the 10YA (20%) and the 30YA (16%). Abundance well below last year, the 10YA and the 30YA. Max 10, mean 2.6, median 2. No breeding records (1 last year).

**Dusky Woodswallow**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	489	365	34	187.7
WR	28	20	40	10.2
G	90	87	3	60.0
BR	63	46	37	21.6
GA	0.0431	0.0636	-32	0.0755
GS	6	12	-50	10.4
GBR	0	1	-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 (1,296) far higher than last year (700), the 10YA (349) and the 30YA (182). Recorded in every week of the year, with a summer (29%) and autumn (31%) peak cf winter (16%) and spring (23%). Reporting rate (11.8%) similar to last year (12.2%) though higher than the 10YA (9.4%) and the 30YA (7.7%). From 41% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (37%) though higher than the 10YA (33%) and the 30YA (26%). Max 9 (7 last year), mean 1.4, median 1. 7 breeding records (3 last year) from dy/26 Oct Mt Ainslie GrL13 (LeM1) to dy/25 Jan National Equestrian Centre Kerrabee GrI15 (CaJ4).

**GBS:** Number of birds (804) higher than last year (604), the 10YA (375) and the 30YA (133). Number of records (684) higher than last year (526) and far higher than the 10YA (333) and the 30YA (119). Recorded in all weeks, with higher proportions of records in summer (28%) and autumn (39%) than winter (17%) and spring (16%). Records from 75% of sites, a higher proportion than last year (63%) and far higher than the 10YA (46%) and the 30YA (22%). Abundance higher than last year, the 10YA and the 30YA. Max 6, mean 1.2, median 1. No breeding records (none last year).

Grey Butcherbird

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	931	557	67	160.8
WR	72	82	-12	27.3
G	102	90	13	53.2
BR	7	3	133	2.0
GA	0.2820	0.1922	47	0.0484
GS	48	45	7	14.7
GBR	0	0	-	0.3

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*

Rare, non-breeding visitor

COG's area of interest is near the south-eastern limit of the range of this species.

**General:** Number of records (23) similar to last year (27). From sites around the ANU and Hall, with many records from multiple observers submitting records from the same location on similar dates. All records of 1 or 2 birds. 1 very unusual breeding record: cf/24 Jul Brooklands Road GrH10 (HaS4).

**GBS:** None, 1 last year.

**Australian Magpie** *Cracticus tibicen*

Very common, breeding resident

The most frequently recorded species in both the general records and the Garden Bird Survey, although not the most abundant species. Continues recent history of being well above the long-term figures on key parameters.

**General:** Number of birds (23,761) nearly twice last year's figure (12,355) and far more than the 10YA (6,947) and the 30YA (4,100). Recorded in all weeks, with a lower proportion in winter (19%) than in spring (29%), summer (27%) and autumn (24%). Records from 72% of grid cells surveyed, a similar proportion to last year (68%), the 10YA (70%) and the 30YA (71%). Reporting rate (62%) similar to last year (63%) and the 10YA (58%) and the 30YA (both 56%). 6<sup>th</sup> most abundant species (3.0243), abundance higher than last year (2.7082), the 10YA (2.1763) and the 30YA (1.9711). Max 147/Briars-Sharrow Road GrR16 (BuM1), mean 5.0, median 3. 203 breeding records (119 last year) in each month Jul to Jan with a large peak in Oct.

**GBS:** Number of birds (10,523) similar to last year (10, 839) and the 10YA (10, 799) though more than the 30YA 8,385). Number of records (2,697) similar to last year (2,906), the 10YA (2,905) and the 30YA (2,419). Recorded in all weeks, with similar numbers of records in each season. Records from all sites. Most recorded and 5<sup>th</sup> most abundant species, abundance similar to that of last year and the 10YA (3.4145), though higher than the 30YA. Max 30, mean 3.9, median 3. 323 breeding records (292 last year) from 60% of sites in all months Jul to Feb, plus some nest-building for the next season in Jun.

Australian Magpie

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	4900	2867	71	1172.4
WR	335	335	0	174.9
G	178	165	8	147.3
BR	203	119	71	77.0
GA	3.6910	3.4486	7	3.0538
GS	64	71	-10	65.9
GBR	323	292	11	204.4

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*

Very common, breeding resident

7th most commonly reported species in the general records and 3<sup>rd</sup> most commonly reported in the Garden Bird Survey.

**General:** Number of birds (13665) more than twice last year (5723) and very many more than the 10YA (2,986) and the 30YA (1,687). Recorded in every week, with marginally more records in spring (30%), summer (24%) and autumn (26%) than winter (20%). Reporting rate (43%) similar to last year (40%) though higher than the 10YA (34%) and the 30YA (35%). Recorded from 60% of grid cells, similar to last year (57%) the 10YA (59%) and 30YA (57%). Max 267 (116 last year) well below the 10YA and the 30YA (both 521), mean 4.2, median 2. 66 breeding records (43 last year), more than the 10YA (35) and the 30YA (27), each month Aug to Jan, peaking in Oct.

**GBS:** Number of birds (11,404) similar to last year (11,551), the 10YA (12,096) and the 30YA (10,807). Number of records (2,464) similar to last year (2,669), the 10YA (2,779) and the 30YA (2,299). Recorded in all weeks, similar numbers of records in each season. Records from 98% of sites. Abundance similar to last year, the 10YA (3.8245) and the 30YA. Max 86 (148 last year), mean 4.6, median 3. 196 breeding records (172 last year) from 55% of sites, in each month Jul to Feb.

Pied Currawong				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3399	1832	86	738.5
WR	101	105	-4	51.5
G	148	139	6	118.2
BR	66	43	53	27.5
GA	4.0000	3.6752	9	3.9361
GS	63	69	-9	65.6
GBR	196	172	14	146.3

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Seen in small numbers, largely in forests and woodlands.

**General:** Number of birds (367) double last year (184), the 10YA (175) and the 30YA (165). Recorded in every week, with more records in spring (32%) than in summer (13%), autumn (29%) or winter (26%). Reporting rate (3.3%) similar to last year (3.8%) though below that of the 10YA (4.7%) and the 30YA (6.8%). Recorded from 23% of grid cells surveyed (19% last year), similar to the 10YA (21%) and 30YA (23%). Max 6 (and 6 last year), mean 1.4, median 1. 3 breeding records (1 last year), fewer than the 10YA (4.2) and the 30YA (4.3): ny/29 Sep Mt Ainslie NR GrM13 (SmA1), dy/25 Oct Casuarina Sands GrG14 (MoM3) and dy/13 Jan Wamboin GrQ13 (McD1).

**GBS:** Number of birds (114) fewer than last year (146), the 10YA (215) and the 30YA (207). Number of records (106) fewer than last year (131), the 10YA (183) and the 30YA (177). Recorded in 50 weeks (the same as last year), with a higher proportion of records in winter (36%) than spring (18%), summer (20%) and autumn (26%). Records from 17% of sites (28% last year), a lower proportion than the 10YA (30%) and the 30YA (33%). Abundance similar to last year though lower than the 10YA (0.0679) and the 30YA. Max 2, mean 1.1, median 1. No breeding records and none last year.

Grey Currawong				
	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	260	173	50	141.9
WR	14	15	-7	12.8
G	58	47	23	47.7
BR	3	1	200	4.3
GA	0.0400	0.0465	-14	0.0753
GS	11	20	-45	22.0
GBR	0	0	-	2.1

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

Non-breeding vagrant

A coastal species not often recorded in the ACT.

**General:** No records this year. Follows a period of 15 years where there were records every year except 3 and a decade of increasing records.

**GBS:** No records. Previously recorded in GBS in two years April 2006 and spring 2012.

**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 on last year 0.8%, down 42% on the 10YA and down 58% the 30YA. Recorded over 14 weeks with most in summer 69% and autumn 28%. Earliest record: 1/21 Nov Namadgi NP GrE15 (JaN1) and latest 1/26 Apr ANBG (MiP1)). Max 6/21 Jan Namadgi NP GrE15 (CoF1). No breeding records. There have only been breeding records in 8 of the last 30 years (last 2005/6).

**GBS:** 4 records from 3 sites, all of a single bird: 1/4wkOct Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2) and 1/1wkApr Aranda (BrM2 and TaN1).

**Rufous Fantail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	32	36	-11	20.3
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	13	16	-19	12.8
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0014	0.0025	-45	0.0029
GS	3	6	-50	5.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Common, breeding resident/summer migrant

A summer migrant to ACT woodlands

**General:** Reporting rate 27.9% is up 5% on last year, down 10% on the 10YA and down 17% on the 30YA. 9.6% of the records are from winter, which indicates that some of the birds do not migrate. 40% of the records from spring. Most of the records are of 1-2 birds and about 5% of the records are of 10 or more birds. Max 77/15 Oct JWNR L14 (MiP1), mean 4.2 and median 2. 21 breeding records cf 14 last year: earliest nb/27 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (Dac2) and latest dy/8 Feb Wanniasa Hills NR GrK16 (CaR3).

**GBS:** 677 records from 45 sites (748 from 54 last year) a 9% decrease. Recorded in all seasons with an autumn high of 32%. Max 15/2wk Mar Aranda (BrM2), mean 2 and median 1. Earliest 1/1wk Jul Holt GrI12 (Dac1) and latest 1/4wk Jun Curtin (AjR1). 5 breeding records: earliest 1/1wk Oct Giralang (McD41) and latest 1/1wk Jan Curtin (AjR1).

**Grey Fantail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	2192	1212	81	697.0
WR	218	243	-10	101.4
G	170	160	6	126.8
BR	21	14	50	11.6
GA	0.4812	0.4034	19	0.3302
GS	45	54	-17	51.1
GBR	5	7	-29	2.5

**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 24.0% is down last year 26.8% but 2% above the 10YA and 30% above the 30YA. Recorded in all seasons with 37% in spring and 31% in summer. Max 23/12 Nov LGin GrJ12 (FuP1). 70 breeding records cf 29 last year. The earliest was ne/4 Sep Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1) and latest dy/14 Feb Barooka Rd Michelago GrL25 (LaS2).

**GBS:** 571 records from 41 sites cf 493 from 42 sites last year. Recorded fairly evenly in spring, summer and autumn with winter lower at 19%. Reporting rate 20% is up on last year 15.7%, up 28% on the 10YA, but up 5% on the 30YA. Max 6/2wk Sep Curtin (AJR1). 3 sites recorded breeding: earliest nb/2wk Sep and latest dy/5wk Jan both from same site Greenway (HaA2).

**Willie Wagtail**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1882	1224	54	493.7
WR	50	41	22	25.5
G	148	128	16	96.9
BR	70	29	141	18.8
GA	0.2880	0.2227	29	0.2524
GS	41	42	-2	48.5
GBR	20	27	-26	8.2

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

Very common, breeding resident

**General:** The reporting rate (40.5%) is similar to last year and both the 10YA and 30YA. Recorded in all seasons, highest in spring 30% and summer 26%. Australian Ravens do not usually flock together in large numbers, with the most common count being 1 bird, with the average this year 3.3. There were 7 records in the 20's and an unusual large 68/14 Aug Callum Brae GrL15 (SmA1). The historical database shows this species is typically nest building between Jun & Oct and then a smattering of 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 Sept to Jan.



Geoffrey Dabb

**Australian Raven**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3186	1911	67	808.9
WR	195	190	3	87.5
G	153	149	3	124.2
BR	45	33	36	14.9
GA	1.6973	1.6284	4	1.1759
GS	63	70	-10	63.1
GBR	24	60	-60	28.6

**GBS:** 2051 records from 63 sites (2082 from 70 last year). Recorded in all weeks at most sites. While group sizes are typically 6 or fewer, the max was 50/3wk Apr Greenway (HaA2). Abundance (A=1.6973) is a little higher than last year, 18% up on the 10YA and 44% up on the 30YA. This species starts breeding very early in the season. Earliest breeding for this reporting year was nb/3wk Jul Wamboin GrI16 (CoK2). Breeding activity would have started well before then, and the last dependent young was dy/2wk Feb Kambah (VeP1). The earliest sighting of breeding for the forthcoming season was reported nb/1wk Apr Gleneagles (PeH2) with several breeding events reported until the latest being on/4wk Jun Gleneagles GrI16 (PeH2).

**Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*

Uncommon, breeding resident/winter migrant

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

**General:** Reporting rate 6.2% is down 17% on last year but up 30% on both the 10 and 30YAs. Max 630/22 Jan (the sum of several flocks) LGeo GrR10 (LeM1). Recorded throughout the year, with a summer peak of 34% and a winter low of 10%. 4 breeding records: earliest cf/20 Sep Goulburn Wetlands and dy/3 Nov Eastgrove Park Goulburn both GrZ01 (AnF1)).

**GBS:** 31 records from 12 sites (43 from 13 last year). The reporting rate 1.1% is down 21% on last year, down 25% on the 10YA but up 29% on the 30YA. 26 of the records were of small numbers (1-11) with max of 70/3wk Apr Curtin GrK14 (AJR1). The earliest was 7/5wk Jul Lyneham GrL12 (LeM1) and latest 3/1wk Jun Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK2). No breeding records ever recorded in the GBS.

**Little Raven**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	484	340	42	98.2
WR	5	14	-64	2.6
G	93	76	22	45.4
BR	4	1	300	1.1
GA	0.1038	0.2304	-55	0.1103
GS	12	13	-8	7.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



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

Common, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant, usually recorded in the woodlands around Canberra suburbs.

**General:** Reporting rate 3.8% is down on last year (5.2%), and down 25% on the 10YA and down 30% on the 30YA. No winter records with spring 44% and summer 52% autumn 5%. Max 20/15 Nov Campbell Park GrM13 (AnI1), mean 2.6 and median 2. 27 breeding records cf 16 last year: earliest nb/25 Oct Uriarra East GrG12 (RoM3) and latest on/1 Feb Kambah Pool NR GrI16 (BaJ1).

**GBS:** 40 sightings compared with 67 last year. Abundance is down 18% on last year, 15% on 10YA and 20% on 30YA. Maximum 6/3wk Nov Burra GrM20 (AnI1). Earliest record: 1/1wkOct Cook (TaN1) and latest 1/1wkApr Kambah (VeP1).

**Leaden Flycatcher**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	302	237	27	114.2
WR	33	36	-8	15.3
G	77	60	28	40.1
BR	27	16	69	9.0
GA	0.0246	0.0299	-18	0.0305
GS	9	10	-10	12.7
GBR	0	0	-	1.2

**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% half last year's 0.6%, down 57% on the 10YA and 71% down on the 30YA. Recorded over 13 weeks from mid Oct to early April. No winter records, most in spring 35% and summer 58%. Max 5/31 Dec Namadgi NP GrE15 (SmA1), mean 1.8 and median 1. 3 breeding records: earliest 4dy/9 Jan Boboyan Rd. Booth GrH24 (SmA1) and latest ny/24 Jan Warks/Blundells Ck Rd GrE15 (WaK2).

**GBS:** 2 records both on 2/2wk Feb Weetangera (WoD1) and Carwoola Gr Q16 (BuM1).

**Satin Flycatcher**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	26	29	-10	23.8
WR	0	1	-100	0.1
G	16	14	14	15.8
BR	3	0	Inf	2.1
GA	0.0011	0.0013	-17	0.0024
GS	2	1	100	3.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta*

Rare, breeding resident

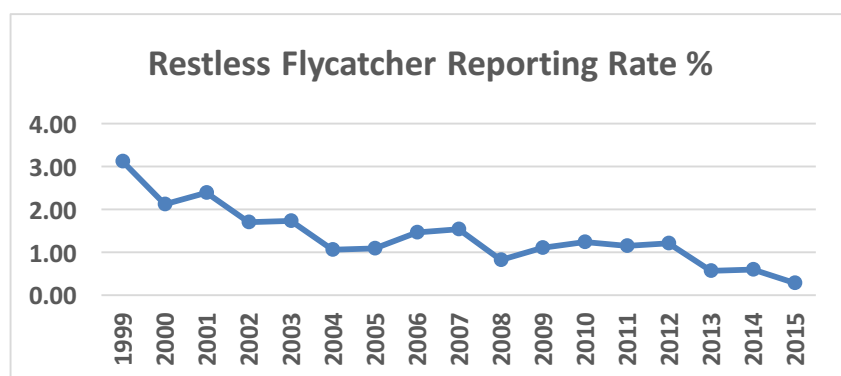
Found mainly in open woodland, generally avoiding closed forests. Looks as if it is heading for extinction in this part of the world.

**General:** Reporting rate 0.3% is half last year's, down 73% on the 10YA and down 87% on the 30YA. Seasonal distribution was winter 14%, spring 4%, summer 27%, and autumn 54%. All sightings were of a single bird. Earliest 1/5 Aug Pegasus Farm, Holt GrI12 (DaC2) and latest 1/30 Jun TNR Gr G17 (VaP2). Breeding: No records this year cf 4 last year.

**Restless Flycatcher**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	22	27	-19	44.8
WR	0	0	-	1.4
G	14	16	-12	23.7
BR	0	4	-100	1.1
GA	0.0004	0.0006	-45	0.0030
GS	1	2	-50	3.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**GBS:** A single record down from 2 last year 1/4wkApr Aranda (RaJ1).



**Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Our largest and most visible flycatcher.

**General:** Reporting rate 47.6% is up 16% on last year and up 41% on the 30YA. Abundance (2.0233) is up 12% on last year and a significant rise of 138% on the 30YA. The increase in urban wetlands may account for this. They are recorded throughout the year with a peak in summer of 34%. Max 113/10Aug FSP (SmA1) mean 4.4 and median 2. 100 breeding records, 75% more than last year, with earliest cf/29 Aug Goulburn Wetlands GrZ01 (AnF1) and latest dy/12Mar LGeo GrR09 (McD1).

**GBS:** There were 2,276 records down 4% on last year. Abundance (A=2.2325) is up 13% on last year, 13% on the 10YA and 10% on the 30YA. Recorded in all weeks evenly throughout the year. Max 60/1wk Mar Chapman (HoJ1), mean 2.8 and median 2. Earliest breeding nb/1wk Sep Curtin GrK14 (AjR1) and latest dy/4wk Mar Aranda Gr K14 (HaK1).

Very common, breeding resident

**Magpie-lark**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	3743	1877	99	701.8
WR	89	72	24	44.2
G	137	105	30	90.7
BR	100	57	75	33.0
GA	2.2325	1.9787	13	2.0382
GS	63	69	-9	65.1
GBR	113	106	7	78.7

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

Conspicuous in groups in woodlands and dry open forests.

**General:** Reporting rate 10.5% is similar to last year 10.7%, down 12% on the 10YA and down 15% on the 30YA. Seasonal records: winter 20%, spring 36% summer 20% and autumn 23%. Max 100/26 Apr Mundoonan Rest Area GrJ02 (ReC1), mean 9.1 and median 7. 68 breeding records: earliest nb/3 Aug Lyneham Ridge (LeM1) and latest dy/23 Apr Uriarra Crossing Gr K12 (AwB1).

**GBS:** 242 records cf 213 last year. Abundance up 18% on last year, down 2% on 10YA but up 38% on 30YA. Max 28/3wk Mar Kambah (VeP1), mean 7.1 and median 6. There were 14 breeding records cf 20 last year: earliest nb/1wk Aug Garran Gr K15 (QuA1) and latest dy/3wk Mar Wamboin GrQ12 (CoK1).

Very common, breeding resident

**White-winged Chough**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	824	486	70	258.0
WR	59	66	-11	28.6
G	91	82	11	60.9
BR	68	48	42	25.0
GA	0.6058	0.5132	18	0.4386
GS	31	32	-3	22.9
GBR	14	20	-30	8.3

**PETROICIDAE: ROBINS****Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans*

A bird of relatively undisturbed woodland.

**General:** Reporting rate (0.5%) was 60% down on last year, 70% down on the 10YA and 66% down on the 30YA. The number of grid cells is up on last year but below the 30YA (12.9%). Recorded throughout the year: winter 21% spring 40%, summer 26% and autumn 12%, which distribution is pretty close to the 30YA. 5 breeding records, 4 of which are a single breeding event over the period 21 Sep to 2 Nov at TSR 48 (LeM1), with the other on 12 Oct Michelago (HoJ1). This is in line with the 10 and 30YAs.

**GBS:** 1 record from a rural site in 2wk Sep at Burra (AnI1). A handful of records in 24 of the last 33 years.

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Jacky Winter**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	42	61	-31	32.6
WR	7	6	17	3.4
G	16	13	23	12.9
BR	5	1	400	2.1
GA	0.0004	0.0010	-63	0.0010
GS	1	2	-50	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 NSW.

**General:** Reporting rate (7.3%) is 27% down on last year and down 13% on the 10YA and 37% on the 30YA. While present throughout the year, the majority of records were in autumn (48%) and winter (30%) which is similar to last year and similar to the 30YA of 40% in autumn and 30% in winter. The number of records is slightly up on last year, and is the highest since 1989.

The number of WOO records is higher than last year and, like last year, sets a new high. Earliest breeding was nb/25 Aug MFNR (MiP1) and the latest dy/17 Dec MFNR (LaK1). 6 breeding records were from The Pinnacle NR, 4 from MFNR and 2 from Michelago.

**GBS:** Number of records (87), mostly of 1-3 birds from 16 sites, is down slightly on last year (103) but abundance ( $A=0.0530$ ) is slightly up, continuing recovery from the very low numbers from 2000-2011. Recorded from 3 rural and 13 suburban sites, nearly all abutting woodland. Recorded throughout the year, but most records are from autumn (53% of records) and winter (39%). No breeding recorded.

**Scarlet Robin**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	576	457	26	242.6
WR	78	76	3	27.6
G	93	90	3	73.0
BR	14	6	133	4.2
GA	0.0530	0.0449	18	0.0409
GS	16	23	-30	16.9
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 similar to last year and the 30YA of 0.6%. Recorded throughout the year with records in each month. Most records from MFNR, but also from Bibaringa, Pine Island and Lyneham and Coolamon Ridges. The majority of records were in summer (40%), which is above the 30YA (22%). The percentage of spring records (30%) is just under the 30YA (45%). No breeding records but this is not unusual. While the species has been recorded in 27 of the last 30 years, breeding has only been recorded in 13 of these years.

**GBS:** No records this year. 5 last year, the first records in the GBS since 2009/10.

**Red-capped Robin**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	30	21	43	12.2
WR	1	4	-75	1.8
G	9	11	-18	6.8
BR	0	0	-	0.6
GA	0.0000	0.0019	-100	0.0002
GS	0	2	-100	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 is still declining, from 5.1% in 2008 (the highest since 1994) to 2.0% in the current year. The average number of birds per record (4.3) is 54% higher than last year but down 45% on the 10YA and 64% on the 30YA. The seasonal distribution of records is similar to the 30YA, with a lower summer reporting (7%) compared to 43% in winter. The number of breeding records (8) is twice last year's: first on/4 Sep Campbell Park NR (AnI1) and last dy/21 Jan Bendora Dam/Warks Rd (CoF1). The other breeding records were in Namadgi NP and Bibaringa.

**GBS:** 28 records from 5 suburban sites in winter (54%), spring (21%) and autumn (25%) in 20 weeks of the year. Records from Nicholls (HaJ7), Curtin (AJR1), Wright (DeD2) and Bonner (GrB1). Interestingly, no records from rural sites, the same as last year. No breeding recorded.

**Flame Robin**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	157	113	39	115.6
WR	2	0	Inf	0.8
G	54	47	15	55.8
BR	8	4	100	4.3
GA	0.0168	0.0076	120	0.0086
GS	5	3	67	3.6
GBR	0	0	-	0.3

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*

Uncommon, breeding, summer migrant

Reported more often in the cooler months.

**General:** The reporting rate of 0.8% is slightly less than last year and the 30YA. More records in winter (34%) and autumn (30%) than in spring (15%) and summer (21%). Most records from the ANU/ANBG area, O'Connor and Mt Majura NR. 1 breeding record: ny/21 Jan Warks/Blundells Ck Rds (CoF1). While the species has been recorded in all but 3 of the previous 30 years, breeding has only been recorded in 9.

**GBS:** 15 records of 1 or 2 birds from 6 suburban sites (last year 12 from 7 sites). 10 records from Cook (TaN1 and BrM2), 1 from Aranda (MeP1), 1 from Chapman (HaJ1), and 3 from Ainslie (HoS1 and HaS3). Recorded only in winter (20%) and autumn (80%). Abundance is up a little on last year, up on the 10YA, but down 48% on the 30YA.

Rose Robin

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	61	48	27	21.6
WR	1	2	-50	0.3
G	20	17	18	11.6
BR	1	0	Inf	0.3
GA	0.0056	0.0045	26	0.0108
GS	6	7	-14	8.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Pink Robin** *Petroica rodinogaster*

Rare, non-breeding winter migrant

Declared vulnerable in NSW.

**General:** Only 2 records this year, in line with the 10YA (3.3) and 30YA (1.9). 1 bird sighted at Bibaringa on 29 Oct (SmA1), and another single bird sighted in Giralang on 21 May (RoM3). No breeding records in 30 years.

**GBS:** No records this year. Last recorded in 2006/07.

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*

Rare, breeding resident

Studies suggest a preference for Yellow-box/Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands. Declared vulnerable in the ACT in May 1997, and in NSW.

**General:** 23 records from 16 grid cells. The reporting rate (0.3%) is 50% lower than last year, representing the low point of a steady decline since 1985. Most sightings were in open woodland in the COG AoI SE of the ACT, such as Williamsdale, Bredbo, Michelago and Googong Dam. The records are evenly distributed across all seasons (30%) apart from winter (9%). No breeding records.

Hooded Robin

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	23	26	-12	35.8
WR	0	1	-100	2.6
G	16	16	0	18.7
BR	0	1	-100	3.0
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0017
GS	0	0	-	0.5
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis*

Common, breeding resident

**General:** The reporting rate (3.0%) is down 30% on last year (the highest since 2004) and down 19% on the 10YA and 55% on the 30YA. Present fairly evenly all year. Records from wide-ranging sites, including ANBG, Bibaringa, Namadgi NP (several different areas), Tidbinbilla NR and Shepherds Lookout. 5 breeding records is the same as last year, from Blundells Ck Rd (3 records) (WaS1, CoF1 & LaK1), Sutton Rd and Tidbinbilla NR (AlB1). Breeding was observed between 26 Oct and 2 Feb.

**GBS:** 59 records throughout the year from the same 2 rural sites that have provided most of the records in recent years. 40 records from Carwoola (BuM1) and 19 records from Burra (AnI1). Most records are of 1 or 2 birds, but 4 were recorded 2wk Dec in Carwoola and 3 in 3wk Jul and 1wk Feb in Burra. No breeding records, 1 last year in Carwoola.

Eastern Yellow Robin

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	235	196	20	139.0
WR	1	1	0	1.1
G	69	69	0	50.9
BR	5	5	0	2.6
GA	0.0246	0.0204	21	0.0051
GS	2	2	0	1.3
GBR	0	1	-100	0.1



**ALAUDIDAE: larks****Horsfield's Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*

**General:** Reporting rate of 0.32% is half last year's, 29% below the 10YA and 9% below the 30YA. The only seasonal records were: spring 41% and summer 59%. Max 10/13 Nov LGeo SE GrT10



Tobias Hayashi

Rare, breeding summer migrant

**Horsfield's Bushlark**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	17	16	6	5.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	5	8	-38	2.5
BR	0	0	-	0.1
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0000
GS	0	0	-	0.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

(LeM1), mean 2.1 and median 2. Earliest 1/29 Oct LBath GrZO8 (LeM1) and latest 1/15 Jan Uriarra Rd Gr G13 (LaK1). No breeding records. Breeding only recorded in 3 of the last 30 years.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

An introduced species, but at home in our grasslands.

**General:** Reporting rate of 2.3% is down on last years 3.6%, down 31% on the 10YA and down 38% on the 30YA. Recorded in all seasons: winter 10%, spring 53%, summer 33% and autumn 4%. Max 42/8 Dec LBath East Basin GrY07 (LeM1), mean 6.3 and median 2. 2 breeding records: cf/2 Nov and on/9 Nov both JWNR (SmA1).

**GBS:** 11 records of a single bird from 2 sites: earliest 1/1wk Aug and latest 1/5wk Apr both Curtin (AJR1) and the new suburb of Wright (DeD2).

Common, breeding resident

**Eurasian Skylark**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	178	165	8	76.2
WR	0	1	-100	0.2
G	31	36	-14	21.9
BR	2	1	100	0.5
GA	0.0039	0.0038	1	0.0219
GS	2	2	0	1.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**CISTICOLIDAE: cisticolas****Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*

Found most often in grassy areas near water.

**General:** Reporting rate 5.4% is 15% down on last year, up 29% on the 10YA and 50% on the 30YA. The abundance is 17% down on last year but up 63% on the 10YA and 84% on the 30YA. Max 21/21 Jan JWNR GrL14 (MiP1), mean 2.9, median 2. 7 breeding



Leo Berzins

Uncommon, breeding resident

**Golden-headed Cisticola**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	424	290	46	74.7
WR	3	0	Inf	0.0
G	34	28	21	14.2
BR	7	2	250	0.5
GA	0.0386	0.0356	8	0.0055
GS	2	4	-50	1.1
GBR	0	6	-100	0.4

records: earliest ny/11 Oct Narrabundah Hill Gr J14 and latest dy/27 Feb Molonglo R Corridor GrJ14, both (CaJ4).

**GBS:** Recorded in 2 sites cf 4 last year. Maximum: 5/3wk Nov, earliest 1/3wk Jul and latest 1/4wk Jun), all Nicholls GrK11 (HaJ7). Other records from Curtin GrK14 (AjR1).

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

Common, breeding summer migrant

A common breeding summer migrant with some birds remaining over winter.

**General:** Reporting rate 21% below last year's but up 5% on the 10YA and 23% on the 30YA. Abundance is up 7% on last year, 51% on the 10YA and 78% on the 30YA. Max 63/12 Nov LGin (FuP1) mean 4.6 and median 3. 15 breeding records: earliest nb/18 Oct Melba GrJ12 and latest dy/4 Feb JWNR both (MiP1)

**GBS:** Records from 5 sites cf 6 last year at Jerrabomberra, Acton, Nicholls, Crace and Giralang (2). Max 8/2wk Dec Acton (RoS1). 4 breeding records: earliest cf/1wk Oct Jerrabomberra (HaL2) and latest dy/4wk Jan Giralang (McD4)

**Australian Reed-Warbler**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	683	499	37	146.9
WR	0	0	-	0.8
G	40	39	3	24.4
BR	15	12	25	5.0
GA	0.0782	0.0697	12	0.0187
GS	5	6	-17	1.6
GBR	4	1	300	0.4

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

Uncommon, breeding resident

A cryptic species occurring in suitable cover near water.

**General:** Reporting rate 3.7% is just under last year but up 26% the 10YA and 68% the 30YA. Abundance 0.0622 is up 73% on the 10YA and 127% on the 30YA. This result reflects an increase in urban wetlands. Recorded in all seasons with most in spring 48% and summer 38%. Max 8/15 Nov Crace Pond Gr K11 (HaJ7), mean 1.8 and median 1. 2 breeding records: nb/28 Sept JWNR GrL14 (SmA1) and nb/9 Dec Crace Wetland GrK11 (HaJ1).

**GBS:** Records from 3 sites. Max 4/1wk Feb, earliest 1/3wk Jul and latest 1/4wk Jun, all Nicholls (HaJ7). Other sites: Jerrabomberra (HaL2) and Giralang GrK12 (McD4).

**Little Grassbird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	288	175	65	45.4
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	15	14	7	6.4
BR	2	0	Inf	0.2
GA	0.0228	0.0172	33	0.0016
GS	3	2	50	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Common, breeding summer migrant

A woodland summer migrant.

**General:** Reporting rate 2.6% is 6% is below last year's 4.0%, down 27% on the 10YA and down 18% the 30YA. Max 20/ Oct Castle Hill Gr I18 (VeP1), mean 2.9 and median 2. Earliest 1/29 Sept LGin GrJ12 and latest 1/9 Mar Freshford Rd GrI17 both (MiP1). 9 breeding records: earliest co/10 Nov Woolcara Lane GrR17 (BuM1) and latest cf/12 Feb TSR 48 GrO05 (LeM1).

**GBS:** A single record: 1/5wk Oct Curtin Gr K14 (AJR1).

**Rufous Songlark**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	203	182	12	65.9
WR	12	13	-8	5.7
G	54	46	17	26.8
BR	9	7	29	2.2
GA	0.0004	0.0010	-63	0.0028
GS	1	1	0	1.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*

Rare, breeding summer migrant

A rarely recorded summer migrant.

**General:** The reporting rate 0.2% is below last year's 0.6% and 69% below the 10YA and 64% below the 30YA. The only seasonal records were: spring 56.3% and summer 43%. Max 4/3 Nov Well Station Drive (M1P1), but most sightings were of single birds. Earliest 3/30 Oct at Well Station Drive, Harrison GrL12 (MiP1) and latest: 1/11 Feb LBath East Basin (LeM1). No breeding records. Breeding records in 4 of the last 30 years.

**GBS.** A single record 1/5wk Oct Curtin GrK14 ( AjR1).

**Brown Songlark**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	16	28	-43	11.7
WR	0	0	-	0.1
G	8	11	-27	6.4
BR	0	0	-	0.3
GA	0.0004	0.0000	Inf	0.0002
GS	1	0	Inf	0.3
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

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

Common, breeding resident/migrant

A common sight in Canberra parks, gardens, and the surrounding woodlands.

**General:** Number of birds (9,371) more than last year (5,596) and far higher than the 10YA (2,174) and the 30YA (1,303). Recorded in every week, with a lower proportion in winter (12%) than in spring (29%), summer (31%) and autumn (27%). Reporting rate (19%) similar to last year (21%), the 10YA (17%) and the 30YA (19%). Records from 42% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (44%) but more than the 10YA (37%) and 30YA (36%). Max 100 (133 last year), mean 6.4, median 4. No breeding records (2 last year).

**GBS:** Number of birds (9,869) similar to last year (10,648) though fewer than the 10YA (11,826) and the 30YA (14,141). Recorded in all weeks, with fewer in winter than the other seasons. Records from 87% of sites, similar to last year (90%), the 10YA (93%) and the 30YA (96%). 7<sup>th</sup> most abundant species, abundance similar to last year and the 10YA (3.7391) though lower than the 30YA. 18 breeding records (11 last year) from 7 sites, from dy/1wk Oct Weston (BoJ1) to dy/4wk Feb Page GrJ12 (AIB1).

**Silvereye**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1535	952	61	387.6
WR	64	33	94	12.2
G	105	106	-1	73.6
BR	0	2	-100	5.5
GA	3.4616	3.3878	2	5.1503
GS	56	64	-12	63.2
GBR	18	11	64	16.2

**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:** Number of birds (19257) almost double last year's figure (11,868) and far higher than the 10YA (4,260) and the 30YA (2,551). Recorded in every week, with a higher proportion of records in spring (38%) than summer (25%), autumn (23%) and winter (15%). Reporting rate (24%) similar to last year (27%) though marginally higher than the 10YA and the 30YA (both 20%). Recorded from 56% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (52%) though higher than the 10YA (44%) and 30YA (43%). Max 600 /11 Jun Kingston (LeM1) (550 last year), mean 12.6, median 4. 40 breeding records (15 last year), many more than the 10YA and 30YA (11): first on/14 Sep Gungahlin Town Centre (GrB1) and last ny/23 Jan Lyneham Wetland GrL13 (MiP1).

**Welcome Swallow**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1884	1220	54	415.7
WR	23	27	-15	5.1
G	138	126	10	89.4
BR	40	15	167	10.5
GA	0.7895	0.4913	61	0.2668
GS	35	34	3	26.3
GBR	11	10	10	2.4

**GBS:** Number of birds (2,251) more than last year's figure (1,544), the 10YA (1,037) and the 30YA (733). 488 records, similar to last year (435), though more than the 10YA (296) and the 30YA (213). Recorded in all weeks, with a lower proportion of records in winter (17%) than in spring (30%), summer (24%) and autumn (30%). Records from 55% of sites, similar to last year (48%) though more the 10YA (42%) and the 30YA (40%). Abundance greater than last year and the 10YA (0.3278) and the 30YA (0.2668). 11 breeding records (10 last year), from just 3 sites, from on/3wk Sep Greenway GrJ16 (HaA2) to dy/2wk Dec LBG West Basin GrK13 (RoS1).



David Cook

**Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

A summer migrant now appearing in our region more frequently. The number of records and reporting rate have both increased markedly since 2005.

**General:** Number of birds (760) more last year (447), the 10YA (439) and the 30YA (199). Recorded in all months except Apr & Jun with almost all records in spring (45%) and summer (50%). Reporting rate (1.5%) lower than last year and the 10YA (both 1.9%) and similar to the 30YA (1.7). Recorded from 13% of grid cells surveyed, more than last year (10.7%), the 10YA (8.5%) and the 30YA (7.2%). Max 52 (40 last year), mean 6.7, median 5. 5 breeding records (6 last year) from 3 sites, first on/25 Oct Fassifern Pond Dunlop GrI11 (CuR1) and last ny/18 Dec same site (MiP1).

**GBS:** 4 records (8 last year) from 1 site at Jerrabomberra GrM16 (HaL2): first 2/4wk Aug and last 16/4wk Feb. Max 16, mean 8.2, median 8. No breeding records this year nor last year.

**Fairy Martin**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	118	87	36	35.3
WR	1	0	Inf	0.1
G	32	26	23	14.9
BR	5	6	-17	3.5
GA	0.0119	0.0210	-43	0.0056
GS	1	3	-67	1.1
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Uncommon, breeding summer migrant

A regular summer woodland migrant.

**General:** Number of birds (1,790) more than last year (1,370), the 10YA (1,175) and the 30YA (741). Although a migratory species, some over-winter hence recorded in all months, with many more records in spring (44%) and summer (40%) than in autumn (8%) and winter (7%). Reporting rate (3.4%) lower than last year (4.7%), the 10YA (4.5%) and the 30YA (5.2%). Recorded from 24% of grid cells surveyed, similar to last year (20%), the 10YA and the 30YA (both 19%). Max 300 (75 last year), mean 7.0, median 4.

10 breeding records (11 last year) from 8 sites, similar to the 10YA (9.2) though more than the 30YA (6.7): first nb/10 Sep Kama NR GrI13 (SmA1) and last on/26 Oct Dunlop Grassland GrI11 (CuR1).

**GBS:** Number of birds (30) far fewer than last year (152) though more than the 10YA (62) and the 30YA (65). 8 records (22 last year), fewer than the 10YA (14) and the 30YA (13) from 5 sites. First 2/4wk Aug Curtin (AjR1) and last 3/4wk Feb same site and observer. Abundance higher than last year, the 10YA (0.0195) and the 30YA. No breeding records this year nor last year.

**Tree Martin**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	268	216	24	107.6
WR	21	13	62	10.9
G	59	48	23	39.3
BR	10	11	-9	6.7
GA	0.0105	0.0484	-78	0.0238
GS	5	8	-38	5.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Rare vagrant

**General:** A single sighting reported from Cook on 17 May (AnD1). The only other record in the general databases was from Kambah in 1993.

**TURDIDAE: thrushes****Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulata*

Uncommon, breeding resident/altitudinal migrant

Most records come from the wet forests of the ACT and AoI and from the ANBG.

**General:** There are 18 records compared with 34 last year. Abundance is down 80% on last year and down 34% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 69% on last year and down 25% on the 10YA. Breeding: one record, ny/8 Jul ANBG GrK13 InC1.

**GBS:** No records this year. Recorded in 11 years during the GBS.

**Bassian Thrush**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	18	34	-47	9.3
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	5	8	-38	4.9
BR	1	1	0	0.2
GA	0.0000	0.0000	-	0.0004
GS	0	0	-	0.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.0



**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Common, breeding resident

An introduced species. Prefers dense vegetation in wet forests, from urban parks, and from gardens, including those of farmhouses. It is virtually absent from undisturbed drier woodlands.

**General:** 1143 records up on 636 records last year. Notably, WOO records are 15, up on 8 last year. Abundance is up 7% on last year and up 101% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 4% on last year and up 30% on the 10YA. 2 breeding records: earliest, cf/9 Nov JWNR GrL14 (SmA1); latest, nb/14 Nov Ginninderra Creek behind Kangaroo Close GrK11 (HaJ1).

**GBS:** There are 1207 records down from 1405 records last year from 55 sites down from 64 sites last year. Abundance is down 10% on last year and down 31% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 5% on last year, and down 23% on the 10YA. 16 breeding records similar to 17 breeding records last year: earliest, nb/2wk Sep and latest, dy/5wk May, both from Deakin GrK14 (RoD2).

**Common Blackbird**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1143	636	80	282.2
WR	15	8	88	1.9
G	64	53	21	41.1
BR	2	3	-33	5.9
GA	0.6955	0.7690	-10	1.4917
GS	55	64	-14	61.3
GBR	16	17	-6	35.0

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

Very common, breeding resident

An exotic species that is virtually absent from the wet forests but otherwise common throughout the region.

**General:** 2273 records up 1468 from 118 grids up on 108 grids last year. There are 111 WOO records up on last year. Abundance up 20% on last year and up 6% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 10% on last year, and down 1% on the 10YA. Max 1000/14 Apr Mt Ainslie-Campbell Park GrM13 (GiM3). Breeding, 60 records cf 66 records last year: earliest, ih/21 Aug The Pinnacle NR (AlB1); latest, on/8 Jan Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve GrK16 (CaR3).

**GBS:** There are 606 records compared with 716 records last year from 38 sites down from 48 sites last year. Abundance is down 22% on last year and down 55% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 7% on last year and down 33% on the 10YA. Breeding, 13 records down from 18 last year: earliest, ih/4wk Aug Deakin GrK14 (RoD2); latest, cf/3wk Dec Curtin GrK14 (AlB1).

**Common Starling**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	2273	1468	55	610.8
WR	111	99	12	61.2
G	118	108	9	93.4
BR	60	66	-9	40.2
GA	1.1571	1.4906	-22	6.8069
GS	38	48	-21	57.3
GBR	13	18	-28	41.5

**Common Myna** *Sturnus tristis*

Very common, breeding resident

An exotic species subject to ongoing attempts at population control. This year there is quite a sharp dichotomy between general and GBS records. General record metrics are up sharply. These differences in general records may reflect the strong upsurge in records based on digital recording. GBS records are down significantly. The GBS records are based on standardised methodology and may more accurately reflect the urban situation in particular.

**General:** 1562 records up from 771 records last year from 48 grids similar to 47 grids last year. 14 WOO records up on 10 WOO records last year. Abundance is up 30% on last year and up 65% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 18% on last year and up 34% on the 10YA. The maximum number was 60/27 May Gungaharra NR GrL11 (MaM4). 24 breeding records, up on 9 last year: earliest, ih/21 Aug AIS Wetland Bruce GrK12 (AnF1); latest, on/22 Feb Kambah Village (CaR3), with an early start to next season ih/14 Jun Gilmore Horse Paddocks GrL16 (CaR1).

**Common Myna**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	1562	771	103	252.0
WR	14	10	40	18.9
G	48	47	2	29.1
BR	24	9	167	8.5
GA	1.4107	1.4556	-3	2.7158
GS	45	53	-15	50.4
GBR	9	33	-73	33.4

**GBS:** 1920 records down on 1122 records last year from 18 grids, down on 20 grids last year and from 45 sites, down on 53 sites last year. Abundance is down 3% on last year and down 41% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 10% on last year and down 40% on the 10YA. Max 55/2wk Mar Curtin GrK14 (AjR1). 9 breeding records down from 33 breeding records last year: earliest, dy/4wk Oct Rivett GrJ15 (BrT2), latest, dy/5wk Jan Ainslie GrL13 (HoS1).

#### NECTARINIIDAE: mistletoebird

##### Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Common, breeding summer migrant

Occurs where there is mistletoe in the ACT and AoI.

**General:** 353 records this year up on 240 records last year from 71 grids up on 57 grids last year. 82 WOO records cf 54 last year. Abundance is up 1% on last year and 40% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 15% on last year and down 12% on the 10YA. Max 29/13 Nov MFNR GrL10 (MiP1). 8 breeding records: earliest, nb/16 Oct Kambah Pool to Red Rocks Gorge (I16) GrI16 (HeS1); latest, dy/12 Jan Tarago to Collector Rd GrU07 (LeM1).

**GBS:** 44 records, down from 58 records last year from 9 grids compared with 13 grids last year and from 11 sites compared with 15 sites last year. Abundance is down 14% on last year and down 39% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 16% on last year and down 35% on the 10YA. Breeding not recorded.

##### Mistletoebird

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	353	240	47	117.3
WR	82	54	52	25.3
G	71	57	25	39.3
BR	8	3	167	1.9
GA	0.0158	0.0185	-14	0.0245
GS	11	15	-27	10.0
GBR	0	1	-100	0.1

#### ESTRILDIDAE: weaver finches

##### Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Rare breeding visitor/escapee

A bird of the dry inland

**General:** Not recorded this year. There was a single record in the AoI in the 2011/12 recording year.

##### Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Usually found near water in woodlands and grasslands in the region.

**General:** 161 records down on 184 records last year. Abundance is down 46% on last year and down 44% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 49% on last year and down 41% on the 10YA. 12 WOO records up on 4 last year. Max 20/14 Aug Coolemon Ridge (HoJ1). 2 breeding records: earliest on/13 Nov Gungahlin Pond Park – Percival Hill GrK11 (McD4); latest, dy/1 Jan The Pinnacle NR (AIB1).

**GBS:** 98 records up on 90 records last year. Abundance is up 126% on last year and up 128% on the 10YA. The reporting rate is up 20% on last year and up 58% on the 10YA. 8 breeding records: from dy/3wk Oct to dy/1wk Dec Nicholls (HaJ7).

##### Double-barred Finch

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	161	184	-12	76.6
WR	12	4	200	2.6
G	37	39	-5	23.3
BR	2	3	-33	1.3
GA	0.1599	0.0706	126	0.0907
GS	9	13	-31	12.4
GBR	8	0	Inf	0.1

##### Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*

Non-breeding visitor/escapee

Last year saw the first endorsed record for either the ACT or the AOI.

**General:** No records this year after first endorsed records last year.

**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:** 743 records up from 600 records last year from 93 grids similar to 90 grids last year. 32 WOO records up on 6 records last year. Abundance down 26% on last year and up 20% on the 10YA. The reporting rate (9.5%) is down 28% on last year and down 6% on the 10YA. Max 72/21 Jun Spring Valley Farm GrI14 (TaN1), mean 7.2 and median 4. Breeding: 27 records up on 13 records last year; earliest, nb/6 Sep LGin Pen GrJ12 (AlB1); latest dy/1 Mar JWNR GrL14 (MeT1).

**GBS:** 231 records down from 439 records last year from 19 sites down from 31 sites last year. Max 45/2wk Oct Giralang GrK12 (McD4). 17 breeding records similar to 15 last year: earliest, di/1wk Jul Giralang GrK12 (McD4); latest, ny/2wk Mar Carwoola GrQ16 (BuM1).

Red-browed Finch

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	743	600	24	235.8
WR	32	6	433	2.8
G	93	90	3	57.1
BR	27	13	108	7.3
GA	0.8102	1.0029	-19	0.4195
GS	19	31	-39	18.0
GBR	17	15	13	3.3

**Diamond Firetail** *Stagonopleura guttata*

Uncommon, breeding resident

Prefers undisturbed woodland with shrubs and eucalypts. Watching brief for the ACT and declared vulnerable in NSW.

**General:** 141 records up on 126 records last year from 49 grids up on 43 grids last year. 6 WOO records up on 4 last year. Abundance is 36% down on last year and 66% down on the 10YA. The reporting rate is down 35% on last year and 56% on the 10YA. Max 15/6 Apr TSR48 GrO05 (LeM1). Breeding, 11 records up on 5 records last year; earliest nb/24 Sep The Pinnacle NR (AlB1); latest, dy/29 Apr Tarago to Collector Rd GrU07 (LeM1).

**GBS:** No records this year after a single record last year.

Diamond Firetail

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	141	126	12	73.7
WR	6	4	50	3.9
G	49	43	14	29.7
BR	11	5	120	3.8
GA	0.0000	0.0003	-100	0.0049
GS	0	1	-100	1.0
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

**PASSERIDAE: house sparrow****House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Common, breeding resident

Introduced species of urban and semi-urban areas.

**General:** Increase in the number of records from last year (77%) and over 200% increase over 10 YA. Records from a few more grid cells (26%) and all weeks. Reporting rate of 11.7%, exactly the 30YA. The total numbers of birds continue to rise: 3671 this year is up 62% on last year and up 325% of 10YA. Max (down again on previous years) 58/22 Feb JWNR (SmA1), mean 4.3, median 3. Only 8 breeding records in 7 grids. Earliest ny/12 Oct Bredbo GridM30 (TaN1) and last dy/3 Feb LTug (HeS1).

**GBS:** Increase from last year when many key indicators were down compared to past 30YAs. Abundance (A=3.5216) is back up but still lower than the 30YA of 5.2139. Average group size up to 9.7 from 7.4 last year, max number of birds up from 60 to 95/3wk May Jerrabomberra (HaL2). 39 breeding records from 8 sites (up from 18 records and 6 sites) commencing with nb/4wk Aug Nicholls Grid K11 (HaJ7) and concluding with dy/1wk Mar Rivett (BrT2).

House Sparrow

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	920	521	77	242.5
WR	5	0	Inf	2.0
G	64	55	16	41.9
BR	8	7	14	6.8
GA	3.5216	2.8358	24	5.2139
GS	44	48	-8	57.5
GBR	39	18	117	29.2

**MOTACILLIDAE: pipit****Australian Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Found in most grasslands around the ACT.

**General:** Little change from last year. 316 records from 66 grid cells (27%), from 51 weeks. 5 WOO records. Reporting rate and abundance both down a little over 30 years. Abundance: mean 2.7, median 2, and max 25/20 Sep NatArbor GrJ13 (DaC1). 5 breeding



Mat Gilfeder

records from 5 grid cells.

Earliest di/25 Oct North

Curtin GridJ14 (AjR1) and latest dy/11 Feb Tarago Road GridU07 (LeM1).

**GBS:** 70 records from 4 sites (6.3%), from all seasons. A few records from Wright and Bonner but most from Nicholls and Curtin. Max of 5 seen at Wright GrI14 (DeD2). General overall increase in many measures over 10YA but little change from last year. Mean 1.8, median 2. 12 breeding records at once site (di/dy) between 14 Aug and 1 Jan at GridK14 Curtin (AjR1).

Common, breeding resident

**Australian Pipit**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	316	276	14	150.9
WR	5	1	400	0.6
G	66	55	20	50.0
BR	5	3	67	3.8
GA	0.0445	0.0417	7	0.0157
GS	4	5	-20	2.2
GBR	12	2	500	0.2

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

An introduced species found in suitable terrain (paddocks with seedy weeds) in the region.

**General:** Small increase in records (588) this year from 78 grid cells (32%) from all weeks. Reporting rate (7.5%) is similar to the previous 10YA, but less than the 30YA (11.2%). Mean 8.7, median 2, with max a huge 200/17 July JWNR (AnF1). 4 breeding records from 4 widely spaced grids: earliest, dy/8 Dec Lake Bathurst GrZ08 (LeM1) and latest dy/7 Mar Glendale GrI23 (NeG1).

**GBS:** 109 records from 11 sites (17%), from 48 weeks. 1 breeding record dy/1wk Feb Curtin (AjR1).

Common, breeding resident

**European Goldfinch**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	588	489	20	232.5
WR	10	2	400	1.1
G	78	80	-3	56.4
BR	4	4	0	3.0
GA	0.1291	0.2230	-42	0.2002
GS	11	14	-21	20.1
GBR	1	0	Inf	0.7

**European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Introduced species previously only found around the central area of Canberra but now spreading.

**General:** This species is increasing its presence in ACT and region. Increase of 64% records (205) from last year in 9 grid cells and in 45 weeks. About 90% of records still from eastern end of LBG. The number of birds reported (614) is 79% more than last year and 468% higher than 10YA. Abundance (0.0781) is up 131% on 10YA and reporting rate (2.6%) is up 83% on the 10YA. Of continuing concern is the number of grid cells is 3 times higher than the value for previous 10 years. Although increased observer effort may be a factor, this suggests the continuing spread of this species. Max 19, median 2. Spring high of 46% of records. No breeding records.

Uncommon, breeding resident

**European Greenfinch**

	14/15	13/14	%Δ	30YA
R	205	125	64	21.0
WR	0	0	-	0.0
G	9	7	29	3.0
BR	0	2	-100	0.2
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 2013-2014**

**R** = Rank, **ABA** = Australian Bird Atlas (COG's general survey), **BA** = BirdLife Australia, **eBird**= eBird Australia (formerly Eremaea), **WBS**=Waterbird Survey **INC** = Incidental, and **WOO** = Woodland Survey. Greening Australia data included in ABA. GBS records are not included (see Table 2). Unusual sightings not endorsed by the Rarities Panel are not included.

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	eBird	INC	WBS	WOO	WOO%
1	Australian Magpie	4903	802	62	3667	9	28	335	49.6
2	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	3786	600	43	2898	10	11	224	33.2
3	Crimson Rosella	3749	694	52	2666	10	13	314	46.5
4	Magpie-lark	3745	538	46	3051	5	16	89	13.2
5	Red Wattlebird	3539	608	48	2778	13	1	91	13.5
6	Galah	3499	595	41	2674	7	14	168	24.9
7	Pied Currawong	3399	558	49	2682	7	2	101	15
8	Australian Raven	3189	613	34	2331	6	10	195	28.9
9	Superb Fairy-wren	2774	628	39	1899	9	20	179	26.5
10	Crested Pigeon	2641	331	26	2235	1	12	36	5.3
11	Eastern Rosella	2408	489	19	1723	1	4	172	25.5
12	Common Starling	2274	401	16	1732	4	10	111	16.4
13	Grey Fantail	2192	516	35	1410	4	9	218	32.3
14	Noisy Miner	2009	251	15	1563	2		178	26.4
15	Welcome Swallow	1885	393	19	1429	10	11	23	3.4
16	Willie Wagtail	1884	415	32	1362	9	16	50	7.4
17	Pacific Black Duck	1836	281	14	1507	4	17	13	1.9
18	Spotted Pardalote	1783	355	25	1266	7		130	19.3
19	Australian Wood Duck	1624	320	13	1253	5	6	27	4
20	Eurasian Coot	1565	237	12	1300	1	10	5	0.7
21	Common Myna	1562	225	10	1312	1		14	2.1
22	Striated Pardalote	1556	429	13	908	6	1	199	29.5
23	Silveryeye	1535	202	29	1236	3	1	64	9.5
24	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	1511	378	19	1014	6	17	77	11.4
25	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	1469	399	15	944	1	2	108	16
26	Red-rumped Parrot	1466	284	17	1082	4	11	68	10.1
27	Weebill	1458	390	15	864	2		187	27.7
28	Australian King-Parrot	1383	132	13	1200	8		30	4.4
29	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	1306	376	20	831	9	2	68	10.1
30	Grey Teal	1216	152	9	1021	1	23	10	1.5
31	Rock Dove	1210	88	8	1112	2			
32	Laughing Kookaburra	1159	272	22	803	3	2	57	8.4
33	Common Blackbird	1143	124	16	986	2		15	2.2
34	Brown Thornbill	1102	240	17	764	9	11	61	9
35	Noisy Friarbird	1056	242	14	714	3		83	12.3
36	White-throated Treecreeper	1039	306	13	593	6	1	120	17.8
37	White-browed Scrubwren	1038	168	15	804	9	1	41	6.1
38	Little Corella	1030	103	1	899	3	2	22	3.3
39	Eastern Spinebill	1015	175	9	804	5	2	20	3
40	Masked Lapwing	1005	175	2	793	5	17	13	1.9
41	Dusky Moorhen	988	150	12	824	2			
42	Purple Swamphen	938	167	15	754	2			

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	eBird	INC	WBS	WOO	WOO%
43	Grey Butcherbird	931	161	8	681	6	3	72	10.7
44	House Sparrow	922	132	12	769		4	5	0.7
45	Rufous Whistler	917	280	16	493	3	7	118	17.5
46	White-faced Heron	881	153	12	692	2	15	7	1
47	Buff-rumped Thornbill	878	280	10	484	5	3	96	14.2
48	White-winged Chough	824	223	4	523	11	4	59	8.7
49	Little Pied Cormorant	785	131	4	643	2	1	4	0.6
50	Grey Shrike-thrush	776	275	10	417	5	11	58	8.6
51	Black Swan	761	102	12	624	2	21		
52	Red-browed Finch	744	157	16	527	9	3	32	4.7
53	Australasian Grebe	708	131	4	564	2	1	6	0.9
54	Hardhead	702	137	3	553	1	4	4	0.6
55	White-plumed Honeyeater	693	141	8	515	1		28	4.1
56	Australian Reed-Warbler	683	136	11	535	1			
57	Golden Whistler	682	153	5	485	1		38	5.6
58	Striated Thornbill	681	197	10	422	8		44	6.5
59	Australian White Ibis	592	83	7	497	1	2	2	0.3
60	Gang-gang Cockatoo	592	59	6	467	47		13	1.9
61	European Goldfinch	591	123	4	432	3	19	10	1.5
62	Scarlet Robin	576	216	2	265	13	2	78	11.6
63	Silver Gull	562	46	1	493	1	20	1	0.1
64	Australian Pelican	541	57	10	470	1	2	1	0.1
65	White-eared Honeyeater	536	187	6	301	7	1	34	5
66	Rainbow Lorikeet	516	45		460	5		6	0.9
67	Dusky Woodswallow	489	174	8	274	4	1	28	4.1
68	Little Raven	482	67	3	378	2	27	5	0.7
69	Great Cormorant	475	70	5	399		1		
70	Australasian Shoveler	432	19	5	392	1	12	3	0.4
71	Golden-headed Cisticola	424	58	5	341	13	4	3	0.4
72	Olive-backed Oriole	409	95	3	265	6		40	5.9
73	Hoary-headed Grebe	408	66	2	329		8	3	0.4
74	Nankeen Kestrel	403	92	2	283	6	8	12	1.8
75	Sacred Kingfisher	390	110	5	258	6		11	1.6
76	White-throated Gerygone	380	99	1	188	3		89	13.2
77	Australian Darter	377	40	6	329			2	0.3
78	Superb Parrot	376	68	2	262	27		17	2.5
79	Little Black Cormorant	373	73	5	294			1	0.1
80	Pink-eared Duck	373	23	8	321	1	19	1	0.1
81	Wedge-tailed Eagle	358	87	6	238	10	10	7	1
82	Mistletoebird	353	85	1	182	2	1	82	12.1
83	Black-fronted Dotterel	351	58		283	3	4	3	0.4
84	Speckled Warbler	346	110	3	198	6	3	26	3.9
85	New Holland Honeyeater	339	27	5	306	1			
86	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	339	72	4	239	11	10	3	0.4
87	Brown-headed Honeyeater	323	71	4	201	4	2	41	6.1
88	Eastern Koel	322	29	2	280	11			
89	Australian Pipit	319	95	1	197		21	5	0.7
90	Straw-necked Ibis	305	27	5	262	3	3	5	0.7
91	Leaden Flycatcher	302	95	1	169	4		33	4.9
92	Little Grassbird	288	63	6	219				

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	eBird	INC	WBS	WOO	WOO%
93	Satin Bowerbird	275	49	9	197	13		7	1
94	Tree Martin	268	70	7	169		1	21	3.1
95	Grey Currawong	260	41	1	202	2		14	2.1
96	White-naped Honeyeater	249	93	5	136	3		12	1.8
97	Common Bronzewing	237	65	3	151	5	1	12	1.8
98	Eastern Yellow Robin	235	84	6	132	6	6	1	0.1
99	Black-shouldered Kite	222	38	4	178	2			
100	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	215	68	2	117	2		26	3.9
101	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	214	84	2	121			7	1
102	Great Egret	211	19	1	190			1	0.1
103	European Greenfinch	205	16	2	184		3		
104	Western Gerygone	205	39		123	2		41	6.1
105	Rufous Songlark	203	59	7	113	10	2	12	1.8
106	White-necked Heron	202	27	3	164	2	4	2	0.3
107	White-winged Triller	200	62	1	125	4	1	7	1
108	Dollarbird	197	48	1	138	3		7	1
109	Spotted Dove	196	12	3	178	3			
110	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	190	40	4	125	4	1	16	2.4
111	Eurasian Skylark	181	14		140		27		
112	Brown Goshawk	174	37	2	120	4	2	9	1.3
113	Freckled Duck	174	11	4	153		5	1	0.1
114	Latham's Snipe	174	19	1	149	4		1	0.1
115	Little Eagle	170	24	2	129	10	1	4	0.6
116	Double-barred Finch	161	62	8	76	3		12	1.8
117	Flame Robin	159	38	1	109	2	7	2	0.3
118	Chestnut Teal	152	22	1	119		10		
119	Red-kneed Dotterel	152	7		143	1		1	0.1
120	Yellow Thornbill	151	24	2	112		8	5	0.7
121	Domestic Duck	144	29	1	114				
122	Australian Hobby	143	26	1	107	2	3	4	0.6
123	Diamond Firetail	142	56	4	61	8	7	6	0.9
124	Cattle Egret	139	3		134	2			
125	Varied Sittella	137	38		91	1		7	1
126	Whistling Kite	135	10	2	111	3	8	1	0.1
127	Fuscous Honeyeater	126	45	2	76	1		2	0.3
128	Brown Falcon	124	29	1	76	2	13	3	0.4
129	Collared Sparrowhawk	123	24	1	91	6		1	0.1
130	Fairy Martin	119	23	1	88		6	1	0.1
131	Australian Shelduck	113	1	2	93		17		
132	Royal Spoonbill	93	6	1	82	2	1	1	0.1
133	Tawny Frogmouth	93	32	2	50	6		3	0.4
134	Long-billed Corella	82	7	1	71	1	1	1	0.1
135	Pallid Cuckoo	72	31		33	2		6	0.9
136	Pied Cormorant	72	11	1	60				
137	Australian Owlet-nightjar	71	16	1	49	2		3	0.4
138	Southern Whiteface	71	22		29	5	4	11	1.6
139	Black-winged Stilt	70	2	1	52	1	14		
140	Brown Treecreeper	65	47		12	1		5	0.7
141	Nankeen Night-Heron	65	8	2	55				
142	Peregrine Falcon	64	15		46	3			

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	eBird	INC	WBS	WOO	WOO%
143	White-browed Woodswallow	63	22		38	2		1	0.1
144	Rose Robin	61	7	1	50	2		1	0.1
145	Plumed Whistling-Duck	60	4		55	1			
146	Powerful Owl	60		2	56	2			
147	Swamp Harrier	59	7	2	44	1	5		
148	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	59	7	1	49		1	1	0.1
149	Rainbow Bee-eater	58	23		32	1		2	0.3
150	Stubble Quail	55	23		23	1	7	1	0.1
151	Brown Quail	53	18		28	6	1		
152	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	53	5		40		8		
153	Australian Spotted Crake	52	33	1	16	2			
154	Superb Lyrebird	49	9		33	7			
155	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	48	10		31	2	5		
156	Brush Cuckoo	46	16	2	25			3	0.4
157	Intermediate Egret	44	3	1	40				
158	Southern Boobook	44	7		37				
159	Blue-billed Duck	42	3		39				
160	Jacky Winter	42	15		19	1		7	1
161	Musk Duck	41	12		28	1			
162	Crested Shrike-tit	40	19	1	19	1			
163	Lewin's Rail	39			37	2			
164	Pied Butcherbird	36	18		17	1			
165	Eastern Whipbird	32	4	1	26	1			
166	Rufous Fantail	32	3	2	27				
167	Crescent Honeyeater	31	2		26	3			
168	Spotless Crake	31	5	1	22	3			
169	Red-capped Robin	30	6		20	3		1	0.1
170	Whiskered Tern	27			21		6		
171	White-fronted Chat	27	3		8	3	13		
172	Muscovy Duck	26	9		16	1			
173	Satin Flycatcher	26	10		16				
174	Baillon's Crake	25	7	2	14	2			
175	Banded Lapwing	25	5		13		7		
176	Pectoral Sandpiper	25			23		2		
177	Australasian Bittern	23	2		20	1			
178	Hooded Robin	23	17		6				
179	Northern Mallard	23	16	1	5	1			
180	Buff-banded Rail	22	6		13	3			
181	Red-necked Stint	22			13		9		
182	Restless Flycatcher	22	8	1	13				
183	Spotted Harrier	22	4		14		4		
184	White-throated Needletail	22	1		16	5			
185	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	21			20	1			
186	Swift Parrot	21			21				
187	Spotted Quail-thrush	19	3	1	13	2			
188	Bassian Thrush	18			17	1			
189	Pilotbird	18	1		16	1			
190	Horsfield's Bushlark	17	1		13		3		
191	Brown Songlark	16	3		12		1		
192	Great Crested Grebe	15	1		14				



Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	eBird	INC	WBS	WOO	WOO%
193	Black Kite	14	3		9	2			
194	Red-browed Treecreeper	14	2		12				
195	Common Greenshank	13			11		2		
196	Black Falcon	11		1	6		4		
197	Emu	11			11				
198	Peaceful Dove	11	1		9	1			
199	Red-necked Avocet	11					11		
200	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	10	1		7	2			
201	Masked Woodswallow	10	3		7				
202	Red-capped Plover	10					10		
203	Barn Owl	9	1		5	3			
204	Greylag Goose	9	1		8				
205	Wonga Pigeon	8	1		7				
206	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	8	3		5				
207	Azure Kingfisher	7	1		6				
208	Olive Whistler	7	2		5				
209	Caspian Tern	6			6				
210	Cicadabird	6		1	4	1			
211	Cockatiel	6			6				
212	Lewin's Honeyeater	6		3	3				
213	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	6	1		5				
214	Blue-faced Honeyeater	5			5				
215	Domestic Goose	5	3		2				
216	Musk Lorikeet	5			5				
217	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	5	2		3				
218	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	4			4				
219	Double-banded Plover	4					4		
220	Pacific Golden Plover	4			3		1		
221	Painted Button-quail	4			4				
222	Painted Honeyeater	4	1		3				
223	White-headed Pigeon	4			2	2			
224	White-throated Nightjar	4	1		3				
225	Curlew Sandpiper	3					3		
226	Glossy Ibis	3			2		1		
227	Grey Goshawk	3			3				
228	Regent Honeyeater	3			2	1			
229	Bell Miner	2		1	1				
230	Indian Peafowl	2	1		1				
231	Little Friarbird	2	1	1					
232	Marsh Sandpiper	2			1		1		
233	Pink Robin	2			1	1			
234	Ring-necked Parakeet	2				2			
235	White-winged Black Tern	2			2				
236	Bar-tailed Godwit	1					1		
237	Black-eared Cuckoo	1			1				
238	Blue-winged Parrot	1			1				
239	Budgerigar	1			1				
240	Channel-billed Cuckoo	1			1				
241	Fork-tailed Swift	1			1				
242	Little Bittern	1	1						

Rank	Species	Total	ABA	BA	eBird	INC	WBS	WOO	WOO%
243	Little Egret	1			1				
244	Osprey	1	1						
245	Red-backed Kingfisher	1				1			
246	Red-whiskered Bulbul	1				1			

**Table 2: Garden Bird Survey Statistics 2014-15**

Values for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (Year 34), together with percentage change when compared with the mean of all previous years (years 1-34). 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 dA% and dR% 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.

	Rk	Species	A	$\Delta A\%$	F	$\Delta F\%$	W	R	G	B
	1	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	8.24	35	100.0	2	52	91.41	9.0	27
	2	Galah	6.42	-10	100.0	1	52	82.25	7.8	34
	3	Pied Currawong	4.00	1	98.4	0	52	86.43	4.6	55
	4	Australian Magpie	3.69	23	100.0	0	52	94.60	3.9	59
+	5	Crested Pigeon	3.53	118	98.4	65	52	77.83	4.5	23
-	6	House Sparrow	3.52	-36	68.8	-22	52	36.44	9.7	13
	7	Silvereye	3.46	-33	87.5	-8	52	48.86	7.1	11
	8	Crimson Rosella	3.43	10	100.0	1	52	87.06	3.9	27
	9	Red Wattlebird	3.00	30	98.4	0	52	87.20	3.4	44
	10	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	2.87	17	73.4	-12	52	19.75	14.6	5
+	11	Australian King-Parrot	2.41	54	92.2	17	52	54.68	4.4	27
+	12	Eurasian Coot	2.25	775	17.2	835	52	10.91	20.7	3
	13	Magpie-lark	2.23	11	98.4	0	52	79.83	2.8	34
	14	Rock Dove	2.16	67	53.1	4	52	22.31	9.7	2
+	15	Superb Fairy-wren	1.94	89	89.1	20	52	43.91	4.4	13

	<b>Rk</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ΔA%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>ΔF%</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>
+	16	Australian Raven	1.70	48	98.4	4	52	71.94	2.4	14
	17	Eastern Rosella	1.44	-4	96.9	1	52	52.93	2.7	11
-	18	Common Myna	1.41	-44	70.3	-2	52	32.27	4.4	9
+	19	Noisy Miner	1.40	286	59.4	121	52	30.83	4.5	9
+	20	Little Corella	1.37	206	75.0	222	52	19.26	7.1	5
+	21	Silver Gull	1.21	155	9.4	17	52	4.70	25.8	2
-	22	Common Starling	1.16	-85	59.4	-32	52	21.26	5.4	9
+	23	Australian Wood Duck	1.10	222	48.4	77	52	17.15	6.4	19
-	24	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	0.99	-29	62.5	-25	52	20.90	4.8	11
+	25	Pacific Black Duck	0.85	382	26.6	113	52	15.22	5.6	8
	26	Gang-gang Cockatoo	0.84	11	60.9	-12	52	25.71	3.3	13
+	27	Red-browed Finch	0.81	104	29.7	14	52	8.10	10.0	6
+	28	Welcome Swallow	0.79	200	54.7	37	52	17.12	4.6	5
+	29	Australian White Ibis	0.75	312	26.6	95	50	6.87	10.9	
-	30	Common Blackbird	0.70	-53	85.9	-6	52	42.34	1.6	9
	31	Spotted Pardalote	0.69	-1	79.7	4	52	34.69	2.0	3
+	32	Rainbow Lorikeet	0.69	711	40.6	234	52	20.87	3.3	5
	33	Eastern Spinebill	0.68	22	92.2	6	52	42.93	1.6	3
+	34	Red-rumped Parrot	0.65	44	53.1	29	52	13.43	4.8	6
+	35	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	0.65	96	68.8	114	51	8.59	7.6	3
+	36	White-winged Chough	0.61	41	48.4	46	52	8.49	7.1	5
	37	Weebill	0.55	0	46.9	-8	52	20.27	2.7	3
+	38	Brown Thornbill	0.54	87	62.5	29	52	27.46	2.0	5
	39	Grey Fantail	0.48	49	70.3	-8	52	23.75	2.0	3
	40	Striated Pardalote	0.44	-27	73.4	-1	52	25.04	1.7	5
	41	Striated Thornbill	0.44	78	29.7	-12	52	7.16	6.1	2
+	42	Superb Parrot	0.39	679	31.3	293	41	7.09	5.5	9
-	43	Noisy Friarbird	0.37	-50	82.8	-8	38	20.59	1.8	9
	44	Laughing Kookaburra	0.36	3	71.9	1	52	20.87	1.7	
+	45	Little Black Cormorant	0.35	>999	14.1	371	45	3.86	9.0	
	46	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	0.34	-24	84.4	-5	52	20.17	1.7	6
+	47	Satin Bowerbird	0.30	120	45.3	120	52	11.65	2.6	6
+	48	Purple Swamphen	0.29	418	10.9	622	52	6.94	4.2	5
	49	Willie Wagtail	0.29	10	64.1	-14	52	20.03	1.4	5
+	50	Grey Butcherbird	0.28	531	75.0	265	52	23.99	1.2	
+	51	White-browed Scrubwren	0.28	67	50.0	60	52	16.31	1.7	8
+	52	Dusky Moorhen	0.24	321	12.5	700	52	8.14	3.0	3
+	53	Hardhead	0.19	353	6.3	467	47	2.84	6.6	
+	54	Black Swan	0.18	604	10.9	304	52	4.42	4.2	6
-	55	White-naped Honeyeater	0.18	-64	34.4	-25	22	2.95	6.0	
+	56	Masked Lapwing	0.17	63	42.2	15	52	8.66	2.0	3

	<b>Rk</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ΔA%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>ΔF%</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>
+	57	Eastern Koel	0.17	514	78.1	306	26	13.92	1.2	5
+	58	Little Pied Cormorant	0.17	376	18.8	221	52	8.59	2.0	
	59	Double-barred Finch	0.16	46	14.1	-28	51	3.44	4.7	2
+	60	Grey Teal	0.14	>999	10.9	341	45	3.54	4.0	
-	61	European Goldfinch	0.13	-42	17.2	-49	48	3.82	3.4	2
	62	White-throated Needletail	0.12	-23	15.6	-23	8	0.49	24.9	
	63	Straw-necked Ibis	0.12	-62	26.6	31	26	1.61	7.2	
	64	White-eared Honeyeater	0.11	13	39.1	-18	51	6.03	1.9	
	65	Golden Whistler	0.11	-19	56.3	-5	42	9.82	1.1	
	66	White-plumed Honeyeater	0.11	-20	35.9	-11	50	4.70	2.3	
	67	Little Raven	0.10	0	18.8	80	21	1.09	9.5	
+	68	White-faced Heron	0.10	179	28.1	72	52	8.35	1.2	
	69	White-throated Treecreeper	0.08	27	14.1	-15	51	5.33	1.5	
+	70	Australian Reed-Warbler	0.08	349	7.8	204	29	3.09	2.5	5
-	71	Buff-rumped Thornbill	0.08	-47	9.4	-42	40	2.14	3.6	
+	72	Great Cormorant	0.07	413	10.9	105	47	3.09	2.4	
+	73	Spotted Dove	0.07	130	25.0	126	48	4.70	1.5	
	74	Grey Shrike-thrush	0.07	-12	21.9	-36	51	5.33	1.3	
	75	Olive-backed Oriole	0.07	16	46.9	16	38	6.45	1.1	2
+	76	Yellow Thornbill	0.06	166	9.4	16	38	2.49	2.4	2
+	77	Tawny Frogmouth	0.06	139	15.6	104	49	3.19	1.8	5
+	77	Southern Boobook	0.06	42	42.2	25	42	5.54	1.0	
+	79	Australian Pelican	0.06	219	21.9	145	44	2.91	1.9	
	80	Scarlet Robin	0.05	32	25.0	-3	29	3.05	1.7	
+	81	Australasian Grebe	0.05	247	9.4	423	45	2.46	2.0	
+	82	Australasian Pipit	0.04	190	6.3	81	44	2.46	1.8	2
+	83	Wedge-tailed Eagle	0.04	139	39.1	107	43	3.58	1.2	
	83	Dusky Woodswallow	0.04	-42	9.4	-40	37	1.65	2.6	
	85	Brown-headed Honeyeater	0.04	8	9.4	25	21	0.91	4.7	
-	86	Rufous Whistler	0.04	-52	23.4	-49	33	2.98	1.4	
-	87	Fuscous Honeyeater	0.04	-60	12.5	-54	29	1.12	3.7	
-	88	Grey Currawong	0.04	-48	17.2	-48	50	3.72	1.1	
+	89	Golden-headed Cisticola	0.04	669	3.1	100	39	1.58	2.4	
-	90	Dollarbird	0.04	-30	23.4	-24	23	2.31	1.5	3
+	91	Collared Sparrowhawk	0.03	44	26.6	6	45	2.74	1.1	
	92	Common Bronzewing	0.03	-31	17.2	40	36	2.03	1.3	
+	93	Australasian Darter	0.03	639	6.3	183	29	1.26	2.1	
+	94	Swift Parrot	0.02	>999	3.1	278	10	0.42	5.8	
	94	White-throated Gerygone	0.02	32	14.1	-14	28	1.44	1.7	
	94	Leaden Flycatcher	0.02	-21	14.1	-29	24	1.40	1.8	
+	94	Eastern Yellow Robin	0.02	310	3.1	39	45	2.07	1.2	



	<b>Rk</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ΔA%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>ΔF%</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>
+	98	Little Grassbird	0.02	>999	4.7	750	29	1.12	2.0	
+	99	Black-shouldered Kite	0.02	42	9.4	-7	43	2.07	1.1	
+	100	Cattle Egret	0.02	825	3.1	162	11	0.42	5.1	
	101	Nankeen Kestrel	0.02	-9	21.9	10	37	1.86	1.1	
+	102	Eastern Great Egret	0.02	688	6.3	278	37	1.68	1.1	
+	103	Nankeen Night-Heron	0.02	>999	6.3	656	29	1.19	1.5	
+	104	Brown Quail	0.02	360	3.1	224	18	0.67	2.6	
+	105	Flame Robin	0.02	73	7.8	29	20	0.98	1.7	
-	106	Varied Sittella	0.02	-52	3.1	-64	7	0.25	6.6	
-	107	Mistletoebird	0.02	-36	17.2	14	25	1.54	1.0	
+	108	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	0.01	99	9.4	0	21	1.33	1.1	
	109	Sacred Kingfisher	0.01	20	14.1	-24	18	1.19	1.1	
+	110	Northern Mallard	0.01	>999	3.1	325	38	1.33	1.0	
	111	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	0.01	24	10.9	-11	23	1.09	1.2	
-	112	New Holland Honeyeater	0.01	-66	6.3	-41	18	0.67	1.8	
+	113	Fairy Martin	0.01	99	1.6	-6	4	0.14	8.5	
+	114	Long-billed Corella	0.01	97	7.8	204	21	0.74	1.5	
-	115	Australian Hobby	0.01	-66	21.9	-32	22	0.98	1.1	
+	115	Musk Lorikeet	0.01	>999	1.6	183	15	0.53	2.0	
-	115	Tree Martin	0.01	-59	7.8	-2	8	0.28	3.8	
	118	Brown Goshawk	<.01	-17	20.3	-1	21	0.95	1.0	
+	119	Black-fronted Dotterel	<.01	>999	1.6	580	16	0.56	1.6	
-	120	Rainbow Bee-eater	<.01	-36	6.3	-15	4	0.14	6.0	
+	121	Latham's Snipe	<.01	612	3.1	518	17	0.63	1.2	
+	122	Australian Owlet-nightjar	<.01	165	3.1	28	19	0.70	1.0	
+	122	Black Duck-Mallard hybrid	<.01	>999	3.1	>999	19	0.67	1.1	
	124	Peregrine Falcon	<.01	8	12.5	31	17	0.63	1.1	
-	124	White-winged Triller	<.01	-46	6.3	-12	10	0.42	1.6	2
+	126	White-necked Heron	<.01	476	14.1	525	16	0.60	1.1	
	126	Little Eagle	<.01	5	12.5	24	16	0.60	1.1	
+	128	Peaceful Dove	<.01	>999	1.6	162	9	0.32	1.8	
-	128	Rose Robin	<.01	-46	9.4	-22	13	0.53	1.1	
-	130	Pallid Cuckoo	<.01	-85	6.3	-73	9	0.39	1.0	
-	130	Crescent Honeyeater	<.01	-79	1.6	-84	7	0.25	1.6	
-	130	Eurasian Skylark	<.01	-81	3.1	62	11	0.39	1.0	
-	133	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<.01	-51	7.8	-18	6	0.25	1.4	
-	133	Speckled Warbler	<.01	-62	3.1	-33	9	0.32	1.1	
+	135	White-fronted Chat	<.01		1.6		2	0.07	4.5	
+	137	Royal Spoonbill	<.01	423	3.1	467	5	0.18	1.4	
+	138	Hybrid Crim/Eastern Rosella	<.01	106	3.1	240	5	0.18	1.0	
+	139	Whistling Kite	<.01	132	4.7	192	3	0.14	1.0	

	<b>Rk</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ΔA%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>ΔF%</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>
-	139	Rufous Fantail	<.01	-53	4.7	-41	3	0.14	1.0	
+	141	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<.01	225	3.1	325	3	0.11	1.0	
+	141	Australian Spotted Crake	<.01	>999	1.6	>999	3	0.11	1.0	
-	141	Cockatiel	<.01	-43	3.1	-13	2	0.11	1.0	
-	141	White-browed Woodswallow	<.01	-97	3.1	3	2	0.07	1.5	
-	141	Satin Flycatcher	<.01	-62	3.1	-43	1	0.07	1.5	
+	146	Pink-eared Duck	<.01	161	1.6	751	1	0.04	2.0	
+	146	Australasian Shoveler	<.01	383	1.6	>999	1	0.04	2.0	
-	146	Chestnut Teal	<.01	-77	1.6	209	1	0.04	2.0	
-	146	Brown Falcon	<.01	-87	3.1	-59	2	0.07	1.0	
-	146	Western Gerygone	<.01	-82	3.1	-44	2	0.07	1.0	
+	146	Spangled Drongo	<.01	>999	3.1	>999	2	0.07	1.0	
+	152	Freckled Duck	<.01	>999	1.6	>999	1	0.04	1.0	
	152	Hoary-headed Grebe	<.01	-43	1.6	386	1	0.04	1.0	
+	152	Australian Little Bittern	<.01	>999	1.6	>999	1	0.04	1.0	
+	152	Spotless Crake	<.01	>999	1.6	>999	1	0.04	1.0	
-	152	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	<.01	-76	1.6	89	1	0.04	1.0	
+	152	Black-eared Cuckoo	<.01		1.6		1	0.04	1.0	
-	152	Restless Flycatcher	<.01	-89	1.6	-69	1	0.04	1.0	
-	152	Jacky Winter	<.01	-68	1.6	0	1	0.04	1.0	
-	152	Rufous Songlark	<.01	-91	1.6	-32	1	0.04	1.0	
+	152	Brown Songlark	<.01	74	1.6	278	1	0.04	1.0	
+	152	Canary	<.01	249	1.6	580	1	0.04	1.0	
	152	Ring-necked Parakeet	<.01	-22	1.6	209	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 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 97. 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  $(9/50*100) = 18\%$ .

**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. It 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. 100) Note that x indicates presence of the species instead of the number of individuals.

When sufficient data are available, breeding records giving the first and last nest and/or dependent young records are often included. In these cases, the breeding code, e.g. 'ne' (nest with eggs) or 'dy' (dependent young),

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

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

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

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



Superb Lyrebird

David Cook

**ABBREVIATIONS****General**

10YA	10-year average	m	male
30YA	30-year average	MAJ	Mt Majura (WOO site)
ANBG	Australian National Botanic Gardens	max	maximum
ANU	Australian National University	MFNR	Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve
BA	Birds Australia	MJF	Majura Firing Range (WOO site)
br	breeding (unspecified)	MtJerraNR	Mt Jerrabomberra Nature Reserve
BSP	Bungendore Sewage Ponds	MUL	Mulligans Flat (WOO site)
BuTSL	Bungendore Trucking Stop Lane	N	North
CAS	Castle Hill (WOO site)	NAS	Naas (WOO site)
CBN	Canberra Bird Notes	NatArbor	National Arboretum
CIMAG	Canberra Indian Myna Action Group	NLN	Newline Quarry (WOO site)
Ck	creek	NMA	National Museum of Australia
CMP	Campbell Park (WOO site)	NP	National Park
CNP	Canberra Nature Park	nr	near
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation. The abbreviation is followed by the location, e.g. CSIRO Black Mt	NR	Nature Reserve
E	East	QSP	Queanbeyan Sewage Ponds
f	female	R	River
FSP	Fyshwick Sewage Ponds	Ra	Range
GA	Greening Australia	Rd	Road
GBS	Garden Bird Survey	RED	Red Hill (WOO site)
GOO	Gooroo/Goorooyarroo (WOO site)	Res	Reserve
GOS	Goorooyarroo South (WOO site)	S	South
Gr[A01]	COG grid cell (number A01)	SF	State Forest
GunL	Gungahlin Lakes	SP	sewage ponds
HAL	Hall/Gold Creek (WOO site)	SYM	Symonston (WOO site)
HS	Homestead	TNR	Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
Hwy	Highway	TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
incl	including	TUG	Tuggeranong (WOO site)
juv	juvenile	TUGH	Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve
JER	Jerrabomberra (WOO site)	W	West
JWNR	Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve	WBS	Waterbird Survey
KAM	Kama (WOO site)	WBPD	West Belconnen Pond Dunlop
km	kilometre	WOO	Woodland Survey
LBath	Lake Bathurst	wk	week
LBG	Lake Burley Griffin	x	presence of species (BA records)
LGeo	Lake George		
LGin	Lake Ginninderra		
LGin Pen	Lake Ginninderra Peninsula		
LJerr	Lake Jerrabomberra		
LTug	Lake Tuggeranong		
Ln	lane		

**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	COG	E G			Code	Observer	COG	E G		
			B	B	B				B	B	B
			A	d	S				A	d	S
dAcM1	Marleen Acton		*			CaE1	Emi Callaway		*		
AjR1	R Allen Family	*			*	CaJ4	Jean Casburn	*			*
AlB1	Barbara Allan	*			*	CaJ6	Jonathan Carr		*		
AlB3	Brett Allen	*				CaK1	K Callaway		*		
AlM2	Mark Allen	*				CaM4	Mark Carey		*		
AnD1	Dean Ansell	*				CaM5	Mia Callaway		*		
AnF1	Frank Antram	*	*			CaR3	Ryu Callaway		*		
AnI1	Ian Anderson	*			*	ChD2	David Churches		*		
ArR1	Richard Arnold		*			ChP1	Peter Christian		*		
AsM1	M C Aston				*	ChR1	Rob Child		*		
AsR1	R Ashby	*				CIJ2	Joe Clifton	*			
AwB1	ANU WBC	*				ClM1	Mark Clayton	*			
BaI1	Ian Baird		*			CoC2	C Coomber	*			
BaJ3	Jaron Bailey		*			CoD2	David Cook	*			
BaL1	Lia Battison	*				CoE1	E Compston	*			
BeD1	D Beaumont	*				CoF1	COG Outing	*	*		
BeD2	Donna Belder		*			CoK2	K Cook				*
BeL3	Linda Beveridge	*				CoP4	Patrick Colmer		*		
BeS1	Sue Beatty	*				CoR4	Ray Comer		*		
BiJ1	John Bissett	*				CrJ2	Julie Crawford	*			
BiL1	Birdline ACT		*			CuC2	Clive Curson		*		
BlA1	Alex Blanden		*			CuR1	Roger Curnow	*			
BlJ1	J & N Black				*	DaC1	Chris Davey	*			*
BIR1	R Blemings	*				DaC2	C Darwood		*		
BoC4	Con Boekel	*				DaG2	Geoffrey Dabb	*			
BoJ1	Jenny Bounds	*			*	DaP1	Peter Davidson	*			
BoS2	Suzie Bond				*	DeB2	B & C De Bruine	*			
BrA3	Amanda Brown		*			DeD2	Dianne Deans	*			*
BrJ3	John Brannan	*			*	DeT2	Taffy Denmark	*			
BrJ5	John Brown		*			DiB1	R Digan				*
BrM2	M Brookfield	*			*	DiS1	Sue Dillicar		*		
BrM6	Michael Brooks		*			DoA1	Dominic Auld		*		
BrT2	Tina Bromhead	*			*	DoC2	Craig Doolan		*		
BuA3	Anthony Bushell	*				DoM1	M Doyle				*
BuG1	G Burchfield		*			DoP1	Phil Doerr		*		
BuM1	M Butterfield	*	*		*	DrC1	Ms C Drake		*		
BuM2	M Burgmann	*				DwB1	B & K Dwyer				*
BuM3	M Buszynski	*			*	EdA1	A Edmonds		*		
BuM4	Mikayla Burke		*			EmL1	Lindell Emerton	*	*		
BuP1	Prue Buckley	*				EzL1	L and C Ezzy		*		
BuS1	Suzanne Burgin	*				FeH1	H Fergusson		*		
						FeM1	Mike Felstead		*		
						FeP1	Paul Fennell	*	*		*

Code	Observer	COG	E G			Code	Observer	COG	E G		
			B A	B d	B S				B A	B d	B S
FiM3	Mark Field		*			JoB2	B & M Johnson		*		
FrI1	Ian Fraser		*			KaD1	D Kay				*
FrM1	Matt Frawley	*				KaJ1	J Kamprad	*			
FuP1	Peter Fullagar	*	*			KaM3	M Kaufman		*		
FyM1	Malcolm Fyfe	*				KaT2	T Kalishenko		*		
GaS2	Shaun Gambrell		*			KeI1	Ian Kerr		*		
GeJ1	Jean Geue			*		KeJ4	Jim Kennedy	*			
GeR1	Rob Geraghty		*			KiS2	Suzy Killmister		*		
GiM3	Mat Gilfedder		*			KoL1	L Kosseck				*
GiR2	R Giller		*			KrS1	Shirley Kral	*			*
GoJ3	John Goldie	*				LaD1	David Landon	*			
GoS1	Simon Gorta		*			LaK1	Kim Larmour	*	*		
GrB1	Bill Graham	*	*	*		LaL1	Logan Lalonde		*		
GrT2	Tom Griffith		*			LaS1	Sue Lashko	*			
HaA1	Anne Hain	*				LaS2	Sandra Lauer	*			
HaA2	A Hall			*		LaT2	Tony Lawson	*			
HaB2	Bill Handke	*		*		LaT3	Tania Laity		*		
HaB4	Benjamin Harms		*			LeA1	Adam Leavesley	*			
HaB6	Beth Hall		*			LeC1	C Ledger				*
HaJ1	J & A Holland			*		LeC2	Chris Leys		*		
HaJ7	John Harris	*		*		LeD1	David Lescinsky		*		
HaK1	Kay Hahne	*		*		LeF1	Fleur Leary	*			*
HaK3	Kathy Handel		*			LeH1	H R F Levy	*			
HaL2	Lindsay Hansch	*		*		LeJ2	John Leonard	*			
HaM1	M Hamon		*			LeM1	Michael Lenz	*			*
HaS3	S Haygarth			*		LeM3	Mark Ley	*			
HaS4	Stuart Harris	*				LiB1	B Lindenmayer	*			
HeJ2	J Henshaw		*			LiB2	B Linklater		*		
HeM1	Mark Herron		*			LiK2	Kurtis Lindsay		*		
HeS1	S Henderson	*		*		LjT1	T & J Lipscombe				*
HoA1	Ann Howarth	*		*		LoM3	M -Samorzeki		*		
HoJ1	Jack Holland	*				LuN1	Noel Luff	*			
HoJ5	Jayne Hoschke		*			LyP1	Paul Lynch		*		
HoL3	Luke Hoschke		*			MaA2	A Mackerras	*			*
HoS1	Steve Holliday	*	*	*		MaD5	D Maxwell	*			
HuJ2	Julia Hudd		*			MaD7	David Marshall		*		
InC1	COG Incidental	*				MaL2	L Manderson		*		
JaC2	Carla Jackett		*			MaM4	M Maconachie	*			
JaM1	Michael -Gibson		*			MaR5	Rod Mackay	*			
JaN1	Neville James	*				McD1	D McDonald	*	*		
JaN2	Nigel Jackett		*			McD4	D McCaskill	*	*	*	
JeM1	Mick Jerram		*			McI1	Ian J McMahon	*			
JeP1	Paul Jensen		*			McJ4	Julie McGuinness	*			

Code	Observer	COG	E G			Code	Observer	COG	E G		
			B A	B d	B S				B A	B d	B S
McR9	R McGregor		*			RoA1	Alison Rowell	*			
McS4	Aheryl McNair		*			RoA5	Andrew Ross		*		
MeM2	Megan Mears	*				RoD2	D Rosalky				*
MeP1	P & D Mellor				*	RoJ5	Julian Robinson	*			
MeT1	T Merklings		*			RoM1	MI Robbins	*			
MiP1	Peter Milburn		*			RoM3	M Robertson	*			
MiT1	Tristan Miller		*			RoS1	Sue Robertson	*			*
MoA3	Anne Monge		*			RoT4	Tim Robinson		*		
MoE1	Euan Moore	*				RoV1	Vivien Rolland		*		
MoK1	K Moore				*	RuA1	A Russll-French	*			
MoM1	M Moncur				*	RuR1	Ryne Rutherford		*		
MoM3	Martyn Moffat	*	*		*	RyS1	Scott Ryan		*		
MoR3	Rory Molinari		*			SaB1	B Sargeson	*			*
MuT1	Terry Munro	*			*	SaI1	Ian Samson		*		
NaT1	Tony Nairn		*			SaS1	S Samson		*		
NeD1	Daniel Newton		*			ScA3	Anna Schutz		*		
NeG1	Gail Neumann	*			*	ShB1	Brendan Sheean		*		
NeP1	Paul Nesbitt		*			ShP1	Peter Shanley		*		
NiA1	A O Nicholls	*			*	SiJ1	Jim Siedow		*		
NoA1	A Norris				*	SkJ1	Jeff Skevington		*		
OhM1	Martin O'Hare	*				SmA1	Alastair Smith	*	*		
OnP1	P & A O'neil				*	SmJ2	Jenny Smits	*			
OrL1	Lowana Ormay	*				SmR2	Rob Smith		*		
OrP1	Peter Ormay	*				SoR2	Roy Sonnenburg		*		
PaN1	Nick Payne	*				StD4	Dr A D Stuart	*			
PeH2	Harvey Perkins	*				StD5	Derek Stokes		*		
PhK1	Katrina Phillips		*			StD6	Daniela Stehlik	*			
PhL1	Lee Philip		*			StG2	G E Stevens	*			
PhR1	R Phillips	*				StH3	Helen Stevens	*			
PoD1	David Pool	*				StJ4	Jennie Stock		*		
PoH1	H Possingham		*			SwK1	Kotie Swart		*		
PoM1	M & P Potter		*			TaK1	Dr M Tarburton	*			
PrS1	Stephen Prowse		*			TaN1	Nicki Taws	*			*
QuA1	A Quick				*	TeJ1	Julian Teh	*			
RaJ1	A & J Russell				*	ThA1	Alan Thomas	*			
RaJ2	Julian Randell		*			ToD1	Dirk Tomsa		*		
RaL1	Lucy Randall	*				TuA1	Ayesha Tulloch		*		
RaM1	Michael Ramsey		*			TuN1	Neil Tucker	*			
ReC1	Chris Reidy	*				VaP2	Peter Valentine		*		
ReJ3	Janelle Redfern		*			VeM1	Maret Vesk	*			
ReJ5	Julian Reid	*				VeP1	Philip Veerman	*			*
ReS1	Steve Read	*				WaA2	Adrian Walsh		*		
RiD3	David Ripley		*			WaB1	Ben Walmsley		*		

Code	Observer	COG	E G			Code	Observer	COG	E G		
			B A	B d	B S				B A	B d	B S
WaD1	Doug Watkins		*			WaS1	Stephen Wallace	*			*
WaJ3	J Waldron				*	WiC2	C Wiley			*	
WaJ6	Jenny Warren		*			WiK2	Kevin Windle	*			*
WaK1	Kathy Walter	*			*	WiT1	Tony Willis	*			
aK2	WalterGoldie	*				WoD1	D Wood				*
WaL2	L Wangerek	*				WyP1	Patrick Wyllie			*	
WaR3	Ron Walker	*									
WaR4	R & B Walcott				*						



Pink-eared Ducks

Geoffrey Dabb

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The sincerest acknowledgment must go to all contributors of data. Without their endeavours, the ABR could not exist. A special thanks goes to those observers who undertake surveys in line with the BLA Atlassing protocols, because data collected systematically is more useful than lists of random sightings.

The work of the Rarities Panel, the data checkers Alison Rowell (WOO), Nicki Taws, Chris Davey, Harvey Perkins and Barbara Allan, and Duncan McCaskill for the GBS, is also vital in maintaining the integrity of our records. Thanks also go to Paul Fennell, for his work until recently in maintaining the COG databases, and to Jaron Bailey who has taken over the database management task recently. Thanks are also due to Duncan McCaskill for coordination of the GBS database and to Tony Harding, Kay Hahne, Anne Hall and Helen Mason for data input. A special thanks to Steve Wallace for creating the system for producing the essential statistics, tables and graphs and maps for use by the authors in describing the status of species for this report. Thanks also to Jaron Bailey who now produces the statistics for authors to use.

COG acknowledges the contribution made by BirdLife Australia, particularly Andrew Silcocks for providing BA data for the COG Area of Interest, and also the contribution of eBird Australia, particularly Alastair Smith, Frank Antram and Peter Milburn for their role in monitoring the ACT eBird database.

The contributions for the Systematic List are from:

- 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, cuckoo-shrikes, sittella, whistlers, oriole, woodswallows, magpies and allies)
- Nicki Taws (honeyeaters).
- Paul Fennell (robins, emu, quail, rails, button-quail, herons, egrets, spoonbills, stilts, avocets and plovers)
- Neil Hermes (bowerbird, treecreepers thornbills and allies)

Their consistent efforts over the years are gratefully acknowledged. The Overviews are written by: Duncan McCaskill (GBS), Waterbirds Survey (Michael Lenz) and Woodland Survey (Jenny Bounds).

COG particularly wishes to thank all survey organisers and participants for their continuing valuable support.

Final responsibility for quality control rests with the ABR editor, Paul Fennell, in conjunction with the Canberra Bird Notes editor, Michael Lenz.



**REFERENCES**

Allan B (2008) The Canberra Bird Blitz 2007. CBN 33: 96-102.

BirdLife Australia (2015) The State of Australia's Birds: Headline Trends for Terrestrial Birds 2015.

BirdLife Australia & Charles Darwin University (2013) BirdLife Australia Working List of Australian Birds <http://birdlife.org.au/conservation/science/taxonomy> .

Bounds J, Taws N, and Cunningham R (2010) A statistical analysis of trends in occupancy rates of woodland birds in the ACT, Dec 1988 to Dec 2008: ten year data analysis. CBN 35: 158-191.

Holland J (2015), East Basin/Molonglo Reach - electric boat cruise, Gang-gang March 2015.

Lacey A (2015), Southern boobooks – a hoot of a tale. CBN 40 (3) Dec 2015, p. 273.

Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins (eds) 1990. Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume 1: Ratites to Ducks. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Olsen, J, Osgood M and Dabb G (2015), Little Eagles in the Australian Capital Territory in 2014, CBN 40 (3) Dec 2015, pp207-209.

Olsen J and Trost S (2015), Are southern Boobooks declining, CBN 40 (3) Dec 2015, p.270.

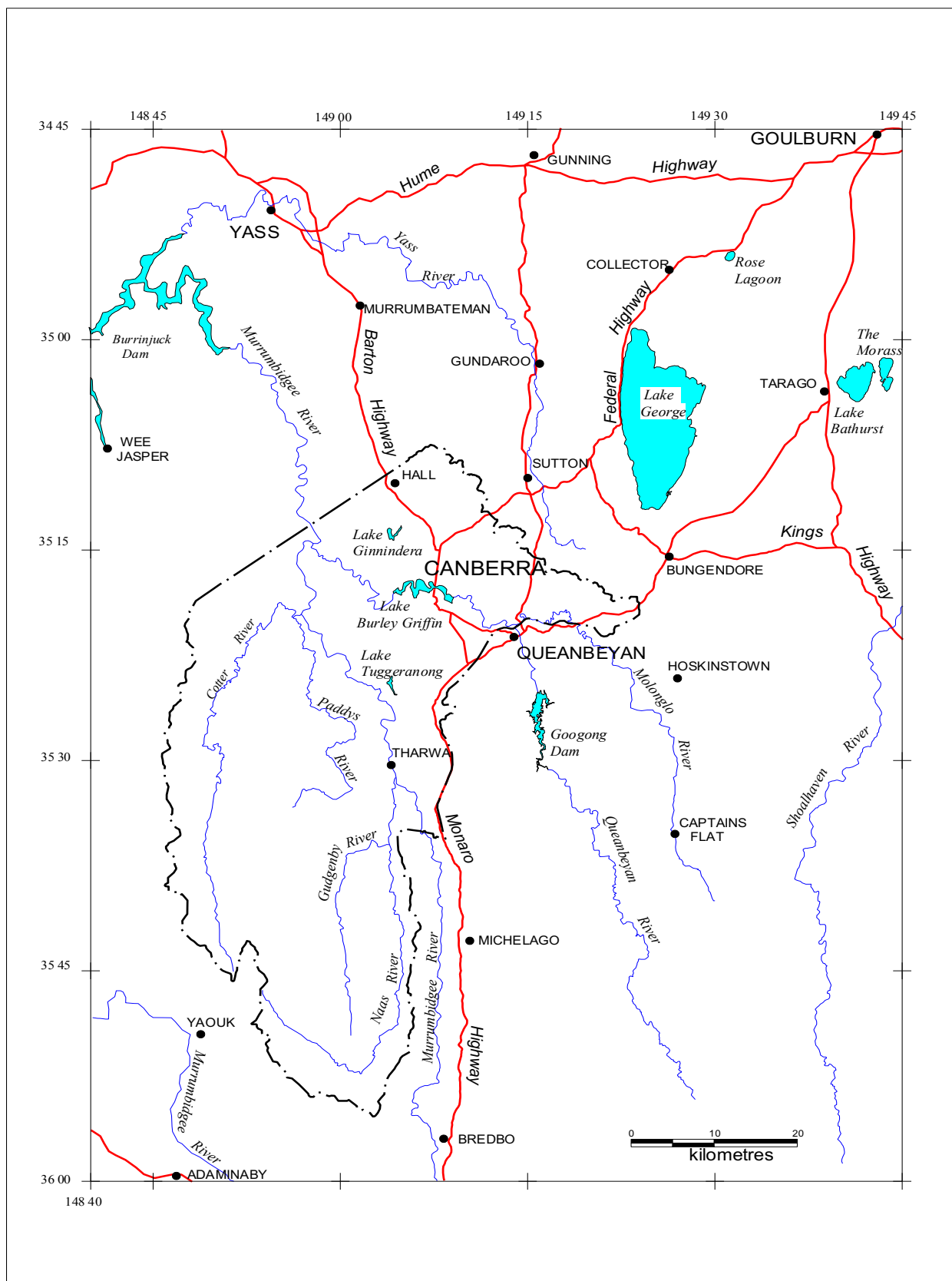
Olsen J, Long T and Trost S (2015), A radio-tagged Little Eagle, CBN 40 (3) DEC 2015, p. 276.

Taws, N, Bounds, J, Rowell, A and Cunningham, R (2012) An Analysis of Bird Occupancy and Habitat Changes at Six Woodland locations – 2003 and 2010. CBN 37 100-129.

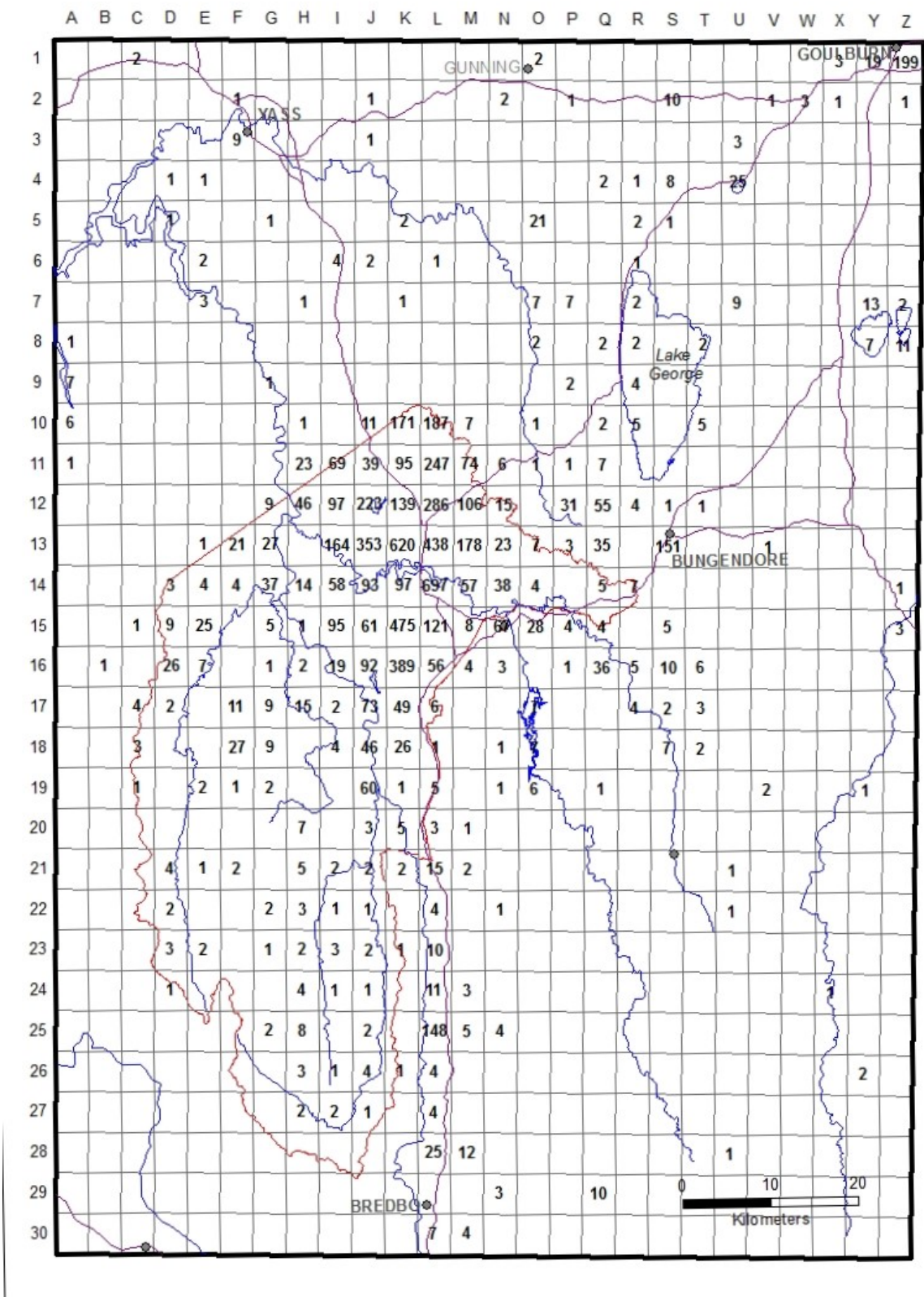
Taylor M and COG (1992). Birds of the ACT: an atlas, COG and NCPA, Canberra.

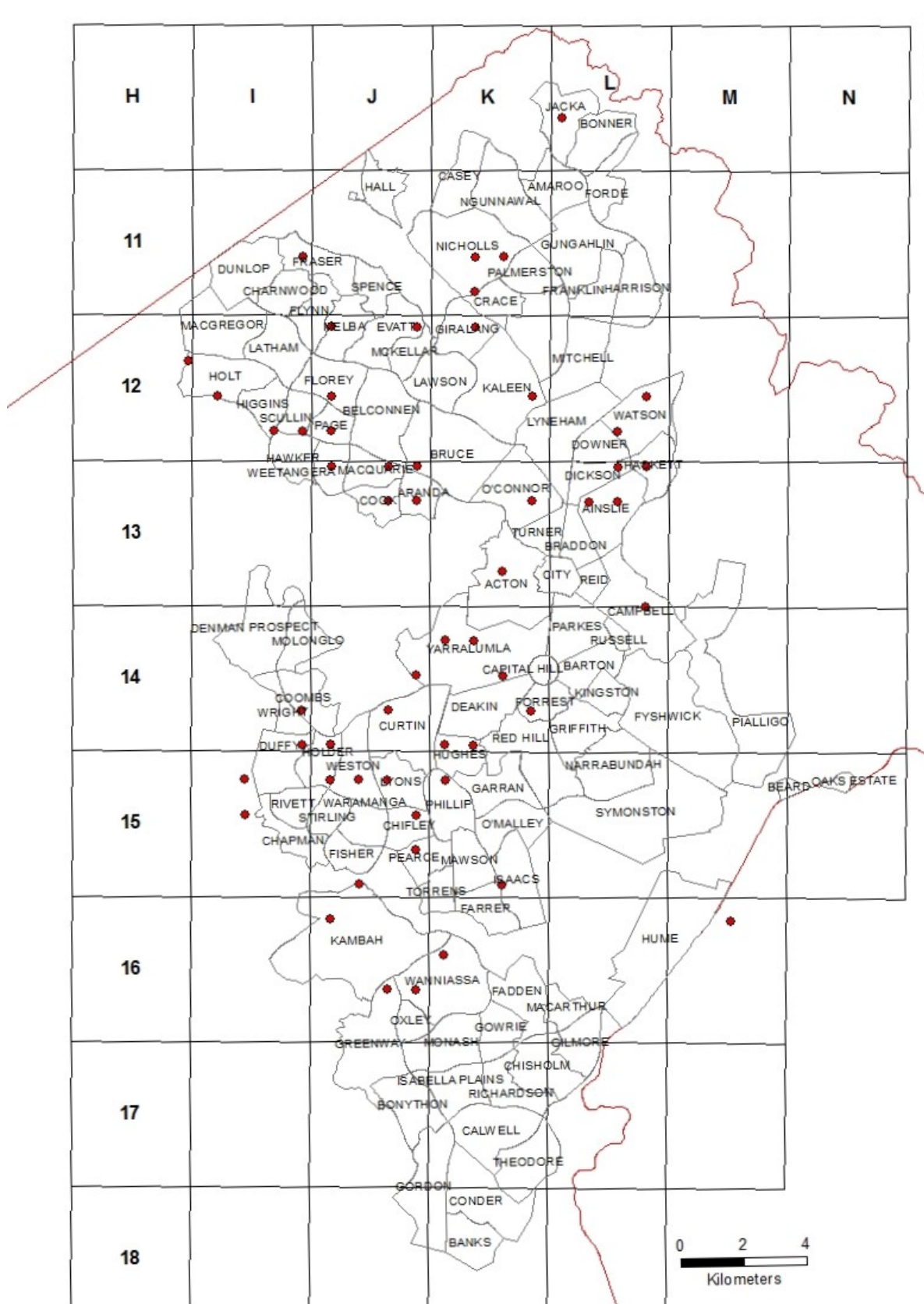
Veerman P (2003) Canberra Birds: A report on the first 21 years of the Garden Birds Survey. P A Veerman Kambah.

Wilson, S. (1999). Birds of the ACT: two centuries of change. COG, Canberra.

**Map 1. The Canberra Region (COG's Area of Interest)**

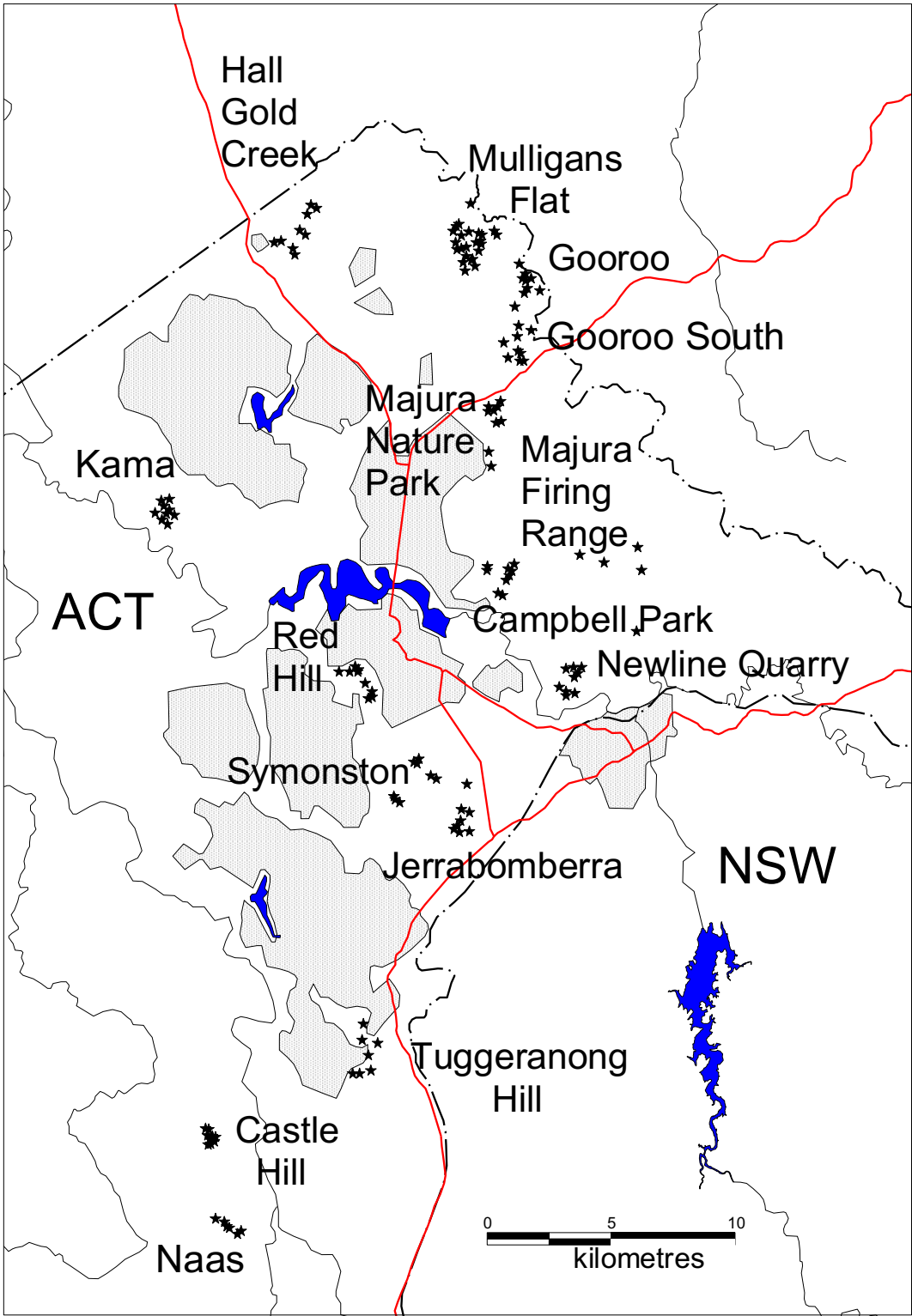
Map 2: Number of record sheets per grid cell for 2014-15



**Map 3: Location of Garden Bird Survey Sites for 2014-15**

In addition, there are rural sites at Burra, Carwoola, Hoskinstown, Murrumbateman and Wamboin.

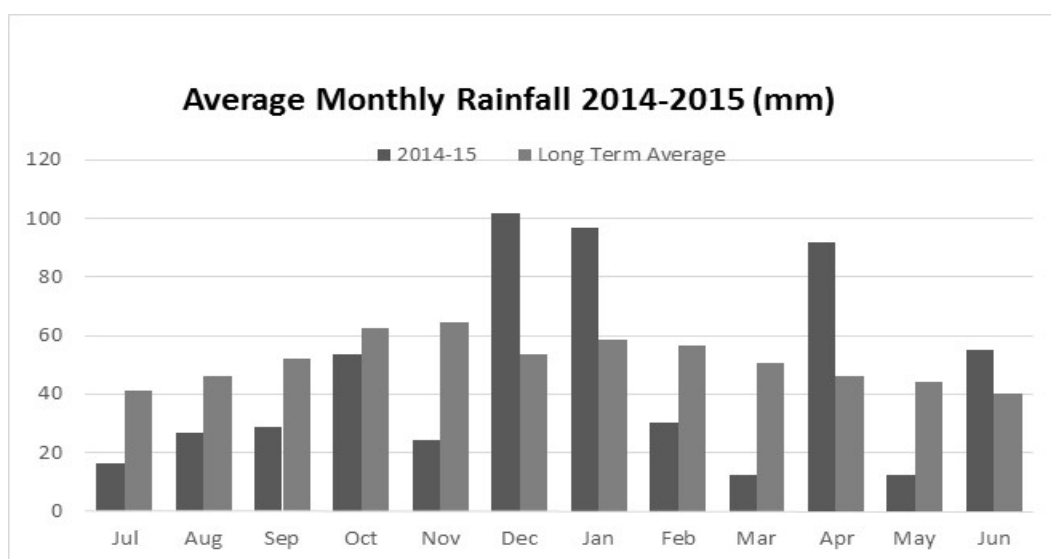
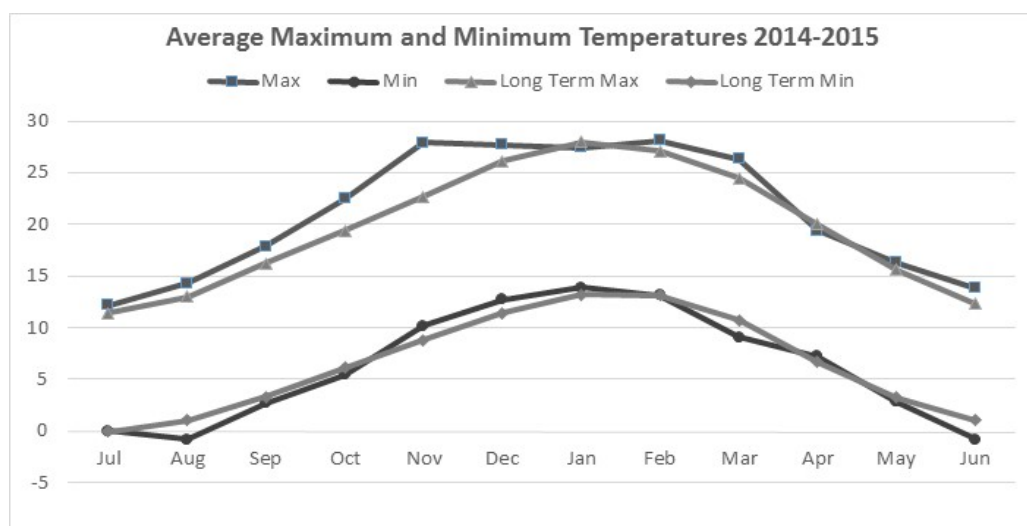
**Map 4. Location of Woodland Survey Sites for 2014-15**





### Appendix 1: 2014-2015 Weather Summary

- Winter was a little drier than usual, after a relatively wet June. Maximum temperatures were generally above average, with well above average minimum temperatures during June. However, nights were colder than usual during August (below  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) with the equal coldest cold spell on record for Canberra.
- Spring was much drier than usual and was the second warmest spring on record, particularly in October and November. Minimum temperatures were close to normal, cooler in September and October but warmer in November.
- Summer was wetter than usual, particularly in January and February, with most of the rain coming from thunderstorm activity. Both maximum and minimum temperatures were higher than normal, being warm in December and February, but cooler and cloudier in January, with fewer days above  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- Rainfall was a little below average during autumn, but most of it fell in April. Maximum temperatures were a little above average, warmer in March, but considerable cooler in April. Minimum temperatures were below average, associated with fewer warm nights rather than very cold nights.



## 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 2015

Species	ACT Status	NSW Status	Federal Status
Freckled Duck		Vulnerable	
Blue-billed Duck		Vulnerable	
Australasian Bittern		Endangered	Endangered
Square-tailed Kite		Vulnerable	
Spotted Harrier		Vulnerable	
Little Eagle	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Australian Painted Snipe		Endangered	Endangered
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Gang-gang Cockatoo		Vulnerable	
Superb Parrot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Swift Parrot	Vulnerable	Endangered	Endangered
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	
Varied Sittella	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
White-winged Triller	Vulnerable		
Crested Shrike-tit	Watching Brief		
Dusky Woodswallow	Watching Brief		
Scarlet Robin	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Flame Robin	Watching Brief	Vulnerable	
Pink Robin		Vulnerable	
Hooded Robin	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
Diamond Firetail	Watching Brief	Vulnerable	

**Canberra Bird Notes 40 (1) June 2016**  
**Annual Bird Report: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015**

**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](mailto: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.



# Canberra Bird Notes 40 (1) June 2016

## Annual Bird Report: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

### Preliminary section

Introduction.....	1	Breeding.....	8
The year in context.....	2	Garden Bird Survey Overview.....	8
Summary Statistics.....	3	Woodland Survey Overview.....	9
Highlights and Lowlights.....	5	Waterbird Survey Overview.....	10

### Systematic list

Comments on the content and writing style of the Systematic List	11
Casuariidae: emu.....	12
Phasianidae: quail.....	12
Anatidae: ducks, swan.....	13
Podicipedidae: grebes.....	17
Columbidae: pigeons, doves.....	18
Podargidae: frogmouth.....	20
Caprimulgidae: nightjar.....	20
Aegothelidae: owl nightjar.....	21
Apodidae: swifts.....	21
Anhingidae: darter.....	21
Phalacrocoracidae: cormorants.....	22
Pelecanidae: pelican.....	23
Ardeidae: herons, egrets, bitterns.....	24
Threskiornithidae: ibises, spoonbills.....	26
Accipitridae: kites and eagles.....	28
Falconidae: kestrel, falcons, hobby.....	32
Rallidae: rails, crakes, etc.....	33
Recurvirostridae: stilts, avocet.....	36
Charadriidae: plovers, dotterels etc.....	36
Rostratulidae: painted snipe.....	38
Scolopacidae: snipe, sandpipers.....	38
Turnicidae: button-quail.....	39
Laridae: gulls, terns.....	40
Cacatuidae: cockatoos.....	41
Psittacidae: lorikeets, parrots.....	43
Cuculidae: cuckoos, koel.....	47
Strigidae: hawk owls.....	49
Tytonidae: masked owls.....	50
Alcedinidae: kingfisher.....	50
Halcyonidae: kookaburra, kingfishers.....	50
Meropidae: bee-eater.....	51
Coraciidae: dollarbird.....	51
Menuridae: lyrebird.....	52
Climacteridae: treecreepers.....	52
Ptilonorhynchidae: bowerbird.....	53
Maluridae: fairy-wren.....	54
Acanthizidae: thornbills.....	54
Pardalotidae: pardalotes.....	58
Meliphagidae: honeyeaters.....	59
Pomatostomidae: babblers.....	66
Eupetidae: whipbird, quail-thrush.....	66
Neosittidae: sittella.....	67
Campephagidae: cuckoo-shrikes etc.....	67
Pachycephalidae: whistlers etc.....	68
Oriolidae: oriole.....	70
Artamidae: woodswallows, magpie etc.....	71
Dicruridae: drongo.....	73
Rhipiduridae: fantails.....	74
Corvidae: ravens.....	75
Monarchidae: flycatchers.....	76
Corcoracidae: chough.....	77
Petroicidae: robins.....	77
Alaudidae: larks.....	80
Cisticolidae: cisticola.....	80
Acrocephalidae: reed warblers.....	81
Megaluridae: grass birds and songlarks..	81
Timaliidae: white-eyes.....	82
Hirundinidae: swallow, martins.....	82
Turdidae: thrushes.....	83
Sturnidae: starling, myna.....	84
Nectariniidae: mistletoebird.....	85
Estrildidae: weaver finches.....	85
Passeridae: house-sparrow.....	86
Motacillidae: pipit.....	87
Fringillidae: finches.....	87

### Tables and Appendices

Table 1 Species by survey type.....	88	Acknowledgements & References	105
Table 2 GBS statistics.....	93	Maps	107
Data, Methodologies, etc.....	98	App 1: Weather Summary 2012-13	111
Abbreviations and Breeding Codes	100	App 2: Unusual birds in the region	112
List of survey contributors	101	App 3: Threatened or vulnerable species	112