

## Early Hunter Region avian records Part 2. 1926-1950 articles in *The Emu*

Alan Stuart

81 Queens Road, New Lambton, NSW 2305, Australia  
[almarosa@bigpond.com](mailto:almarosa@bigpond.com)

Articles about 1926-1950 Hunter Region birdlife appearing in *The Emu* are reviewed. A full bibliography is included, and the birds of six nominal sub-areas within the Region - Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter, Gloucester/Comboyne, Port Stephens, Great Lakes/Taree, and Offshore - are discussed separately. 256 species are documented to have been present in the Region in 1926-1950, with breeding records for 146.

The distribution/abundance of species in 1926-1950 is compared with the current situation and apparent changes are noted. The families Ducks, Grebes, Egrets, and Spoonbills were uncommon in 1926-1950, with some exceptions. Nankeen Night-Herons *Nycticorax caledonicus* were present in large numbers in Port Stephens and the Lower Hunter. Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* was common both at Port Stephens and around the Hunter Estuary. Some small shorebirds, such as Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus* and Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* were numerous in the Hunter Estuary and at Port Stephens, as were godwits (in the Hunter Estuary) and Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (at Port Stephens). However, several other shorebird species, recorded regularly now in low to moderate numbers, were not mentioned in 1926-1950 literature.

Reports of Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* at Port Stephens in 1928 and 1931 are critiqued, and some other rare and unusual records are discussed. A number of probable misidentifications in the 1926-1950 literature are also discussed.

Reports of introduced species had begun to increase, but several native species had yet to arrive in the Region. The Rufous Scrub-bird *Atrichornis rufescens* was recorded in the upper part of the Chichester Valley, implying that a range contraction has since occurred.

### INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the long history of ornithology in the Hunter Region, which formally began with the visit by John Gould and his party in 1839-40 (Albrecht & Albrecht 1992), the journal *The Emu*, published by the former Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU, more recently Birds Australia, now BirdLife Australia) has contained many papers and short notes dealing with aspects of ornithology in the Region. Since its publication commenced in 1901, *The Emu* has been a collection house for new knowledge about Australasian ornithology, and by extension, about our local birdlife<sup>1</sup>.

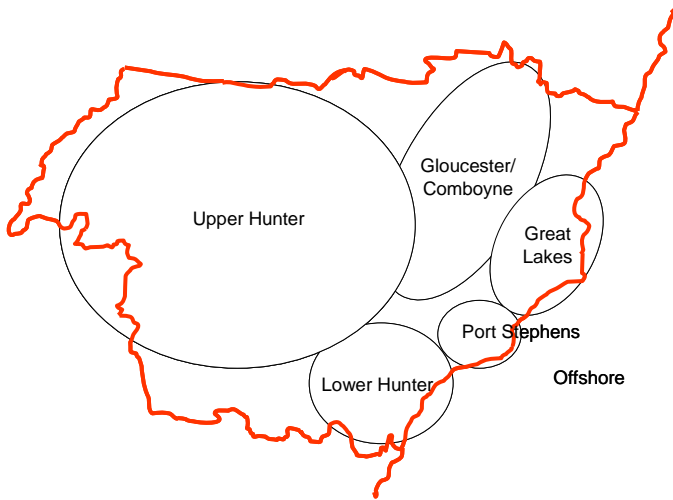
Part 1 of this series (Stuart 2009) reviewed those articles published in *The Emu*, which relate to the period 1901-1925 and were connected with the Hunter Region. This paper covers the period 1926-

1950. A future paper will deal with the journal's post-1950 articles. Suggestions from readers for other sources of early Hunter Region avian records, particularly those from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, are welcomed.

### Approach Taken

In keeping with the approach taken for Part 1, articles about five main parts or districts of the Hunter Region - Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter, Gloucester/Comboyne, Port Stephens, Great Lakes/Taree - have been grouped for discussion purposes, and all seabird records including those in articles about Port Stephens, are discussed under the heading Offshore. The geographic limits for these six nominal sub-areas are indicated in **Figure 1**. The boundaries are arbitrary but convenient.

<sup>1</sup> Tables of Contents for every issue of *The Emu* can be accessed at [www.publish.csiro.au/nid/97.htm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/97.htm).



**Figure 1.** Nominal sub-areas of the Hunter Region

## Nomenclature

This paper uses the Christidis & Boles (2008) nomenclature, with appropriate amendment to the names used in the original articles. Leading up to 1925, much work had been done by the RAOU to rationalise the confusing array of nomenclature (for both the scientific and common names) in use around Australia. This culminated in publication of a new Checklist (Cleland 1927, Dickison 1951)<sup>2</sup>. Consequently, the common names for Australian birds became not very dissimilar to those that are familiar to us now. By 1950 the alignment had become even closer, albeit without some controversy along the way including calls for the adoption of “popular” names such as Leatherhead, Bottle Swallow, Tang, Common Grass Parrot (Boss-Walker 1932). Perhaps fortunately for us, such proposals did not attract a groundswell of support.

Scientific names change as new understandings about individual species emerge. Thus, when reading articles from the period 1926-1950, the scientific names often are different to those presently in use (particularly, the genus) but the common names usually are recognisable, albeit sometimes with minor differences involving hyphens and/or capital letters. There are occasional exceptions, where the common name is now unfamiliar to us, occurring in articles between 1926 and the mid 1930s.

<sup>2</sup> RAOU members were able to purchase a copy of the new Checklist for the sum of 12s 8d (about \$1.27).

## THE 1926-1950 LITERATURE

### Upper Hunter

The driving forces of Upper Hunter ornithology had been H.L. White and his specimen collector S.W. Jackson (Stuart 2009). White’s death in May 1927 (Anon. 1927) ended the era. There were no substantive articles specifically about the Upper Hunter in *The Emu* over 1926-1950. A few short notes to do with breeding records appeared. For example, De Warren (1926b) gave records for 12 species in the Dungog area, including one of a Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* hosting a Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalus*. His list of breeding birds included Yellow-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus ornatus* (De Warren 1926b), which seems surprising, and probably misreports a breeding record for White-plumed Honeyeater *L. penicillatus*.

Thompson (1926) provided a breeding record for White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna* in the Upper Hunter. A review of the status of that species in Australia (Hindwood 1941) detailed many sightings from around Singleton, including more breeding records, and also noted several Lower Hunter (Maitland) reports. Hindwood also reviewed the status of the Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria* (Hindwood 1926); the distribution map clearly indicates their presence in the Upper Hunter although this point was not specifically discussed in the text.

A review of the status of the Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella* (Morse & Sullivan 1930) implied that it was no longer found in the Hunter Region. It had become very rare throughout its former Australian range.

### Lower Hunter

Much of our understanding about the Lower Hunter over the period 1926-1950 comes from the writings of three prominent ornithologists based in Maitland and Newcastle: A.F. D’Ombrian, W.J. Enright and A.J. Gwynne.

In the early 1930s, as Newcastle was being developed industrially, the dredging operations in the Hunter River created many sandflats which became favoured nest sites for Red-capped Plovers *Charadrius ruficapillus* (Gwynne 1932a). This was also favourable for Little Terns *Sternula albifrons*, with >100 birds in the Hunter Estuary and several pairs breeding (Gwynne 1932b).

Shorebirds in the Estuary received scant mention in any other articles in *The Emu*. Mention is made of “flocks” of Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* “scattered over the flats” (McGill & Keast 1945). Towards the end of an account of individuals of Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* having been rescued from urban locations, D’Ombraïn (1945c) noted that large flocks of these and some other waders were found at Stockton and the upper reaches of Newcastle Harbour. He also referred to the problem of migratory shorebirds being killed through striking overhead power lines – an issue that still has not been properly addressed!

The Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* was unknown in the Lower Hunter area for >50 years until a pair became resident on Eskdale Swamp near Seaham for 18 months from 1930 (Enright 1933). There is a tragic ending as a hunter shot dead one bird and the other disappeared soon after. Enright also reported a pair of Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* successfully breeding near East Maitland, and that this was the first known record of the species in the area (Enright 1936). The arrival at East Maitland seems to be linked with a southerly dispersal as far as Sydney in the 1930s, of a species that previously was not known south of the Clarence River (Hindwood 1939). In Enright’s article he also discussed Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis* leaving the impression that this was not uncommon in the Lower Hunter at the time. Three years later he noted that Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius* had returned to Maitland and that, coincidentally, most waterbirds had departed (Enright 1939).

Ducks of any kind received little mention in any of *The Emu* papers of the era, but at least 80 Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* were reported killed at Rutherford in 1937 during a severe thunderstorm (D’Ombraïn 1938). The author described this as a loss that the district could ill-afford, which supports the conclusion that waterfowl were not abundant locally in that era. D’Ombraïn also reported some arrival dates for migrating species (in Campbell 1938). The Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus* had returned to the Maitland area by mid August in 1937, which would be considered a somewhat early arrival date now.

Nankeen Night-Herons *Nycticorax caledonicus* established a new day roost (of >100 birds) in Maitland in late 1945 and also used it the following summer (D’Ombraïn 1947). D’Ombraïn speculated that the birds had relocated from colonies at either Snapper Island (in Port Stephens)

or Paterson River (due to disturbance by military activities and bushfire, respectively).

During the 1940s, D’Ombraïn studied several species in captivity including Australian Painted Snipe *Rostratula australis*, which he noted issued a soft call during defensive aggression (D’Ombraïn 1944b). The species is generally considered to have no known calls (Marchant & Higgins 1993).

## Gloucester/Comboyne

This part of the Region was very well documented in the period 1926-1950, largely from the writings of H.L. Hyem who took up residence at a property “Mernot” near the headwaters of the Manning River (around its tributaries Curricabark Creek and Barnard River) in about 1926. Coincidentally, the very first article relating to Gloucester/Comboyne was published that year (Enright & Hopson 1926), describing a 1925 journey from Gloucester to Cobark station (on the Barrington River) via Rawdon Vale. It named some birds seen along the way (most notably, large flocks of Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis* and Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*), and documented 45 species on the Cobark property. Enright and Hopson were three days there but much of their time was spent attempting to climb to the Dilgery Valley and so their Cobark list seems unlikely to have been definitive. They recorded nothing unusual by modern standards.

The RAOU had a week-long camp-out alongside the Williams River in October 1926, attended by 32 members. Two papers about the camp-out were produced – one of them (Bettington 1926) had an annotated list of the 82 species recorded in the week; the other (Barrett 1926) describes both the camp and some of the sightings more intimately. Apart from one probable misidentification, discussed below, the two papers are very informative, particularly where Bettington speculated on reasons for the absence of some species (such as Spectacled Monarch *Symposiarchus trivirgatus* and Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*) that the party had expectations of finding. Yellow-throated Scrubwrens *Sericornis citreogularis* were having a successful season and the party found more than 100 of their nests, mostly along the river. Oddly, from a modern perspective, Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* and Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* were both found to be rare in the area.

The RAOU camp-out also included an expedition to higher country to search for the Rufous Scrub-

bird *Atrichornis rufescens*. Although this was not successful, the sighting of a Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* in the Tops at ~1000m altitude was considered to be good compensation. Interestingly, the location targeted for the Rufous Scrub-bird search was “the Chichester Valley” (presumably, the higher slopes of it): Bettington noted that a specimen had been collected “at the head of the Chichester River” in 1922. This indicates that a range contraction has since occurred.

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* appears on the list, based on sightings of seven birds (some were noted to be immature) in three groups always close together. Barrett states they were “closely observed”. The birds were always seen feeding in Casuarinas (*Casuarina* spp) which is consistent with Glossy Black-Cockatoo *C. lathami*. The latter seems a much more plausible species for the area and is one which the party did not record. Most likely, a misidentification occurred.

An important source of information about the Gloucester / Comboyne area is a two-part series of papers by Hyem (1936b, 1936c). He reported 184 species from ten years of observations at his property “Mernot”. Importantly, in his notes about each species, he describes its relative abundance. Among other interesting side points it is mentioned that the property was very degraded when Hyem took possession, and that he put a lot of effort into restoring it. Also, he (along with all private egg collectors) was forced to forfeit his collection in the 1930s. He was somewhat bitter about that (Hyem 1936b).

Highlights from Hyem’s two papers include: breeding record for King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis* (now very rarely recorded, with no recent breeding records); records for Barking *Ninox connivens*, Powerful *N. strenua*, Masked *Tyto novaehollandiae* and Sooty Owl *T. tenebricosa*; Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima* (12km from “Mernot”); Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*; Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*; Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* and Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*; and breeding records for Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* and White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* (for neither of which are there any recent breeding records). Other comments of his indicate that Galahs *Eolophus roseicapillus* were rare (only one sighting, of a single bird which he speculated was an escapee; similarly for a single record of Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*).

Bush Stone-curlews were under severe pressure from foxes, and Eastern Koels *Eudynamis orientalis* passed through only occasionally, whereas Channel-billed Cuckoos *Scythrops novaehollandiae* remained over September-January. The two papers are a rich source of information about the local birdlife of the time – including some introduced species: Common Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* were abundant, having much increased in numbers over the ten years; small flocks of European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* were present and breeding; and he shot House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* on sight.

He reported that Painted Button-quail *Turnix varius* were fairly well distributed on “Mernot”. Also, there was a second *Turnix* species, with a breeding record. Hyem gives reasonably good evidence for it being Red-backed Button-quail *T. maculosus* (Hyem 1936b). The latter remains a rare resident of the Region with no modern breeding records.

Hyem reported that Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* was present as the only corvid on “Mernot” (Hyem 1936c). But he was puzzled by his observation that some birds had a white base to their feathers while others had a grey base. We can recognise now that Torresian Crows *C. orru* also occurred on his property. This highlights the value of thoroughly documenting records, so that others can re-evaluate in the light of new knowledge.

Hyem’s list of 184 species is a remarkable tally by modern standards. Only one species would be considered unusual – a single record of a Striated Heron *Butorides striata*. The bird was present for several days and Hyem was aware it was anomalous; he commented that he was familiar with the species from a recent visit to Wallis Lake.

From 1930 onwards, Hyem published several short notes about various observations, including breeding records from “Mernot”. In August 1936, whilst writing his two major papers, he also submitted a brief note naming 47 species that had bred within 100 yards (~60 metres) of his house (Hyem 1936a). It was indeed a rich country for birds where he lived.

When Chisholm (1934) described the birds of the Comboyne Plateau, his area of interest partly overlapped with the Hunter Region north of Upper Lansdowne. His paper therefore provides useful insights although he did not usually indicate where the individual species had been recorded. He did specifically mention the Bush Stone-curlew as

occurring on the southern side of the Plateau (i.e. in the Hunter). He was pessimistic about its future because of predation by foxes and dingoes.

Chisholm detailed one fascinating record: a White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor* in February 1927. The record, although for a bird >1,000 km out of normal range, appears genuine; the identification of the bird (presumably after it had been shot) was confirmed by the Australian Museum, and a detailed account was published in *The Australian Zoologist* (paper not sighted by this author). As the record was from Chisholm's home in Comboyne, outside the Region, we can regard it as an interesting curiosity and nothing more.

## Port Stephens

Some members of the RAOU visited the Port Stephens area in November 1928 and January 1931 (Chisholm & Cayley 1928, Horden & Horden 1931). In both cases, they also recorded birds in the Myall River and around Myall Lake, and made visits to offshore islands. The duration of the 1928 visit was "a few days". In 1931 the "large party" of visitors spent three weeks in the Port Stephens area. Aside from three days on offshore islands (discussed later), they were based firstly at Nelson Bay, then Tea Gardens and finally at Legges Camp (in what is now Myall Lakes NP). In the reports in *The Emu* for both visits, comprehensive annotated bird lists were provided (130 and 109 species were recorded, respectively). However, it is not always clear in which sub-area of the Region the birds were recorded. For simplicity, all but the obvious offshore records are discussed in this section.

There was a very large breeding colony of Nankeen Night-Heron on Snapper Island (the first mention of the colony in *The Emu* was in 1910). Two hundred breeding pairs were present in 1928 with the nests containing eggs and young in all stages. The colony was continuing to prosper when the group visited in 1931. During World War II, Snapper Island suffered disturbance from smoke bombs; the consequences for the Night-Heron colony were not known (D'Ombra 1947).

Many pigeon and dove species were present in 1928 but far fewer of them in the lengthier 1931 visit. Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*, described as fairly common in 1928 (and nesting), was not recorded in 1931. The Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*, Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae* and all four local cormorant species were very common, but there were very few Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* present either

time. In 1931, Pacific Black Duck was very common but a solitary Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* was the only other duck species recorded. No ducks were present in 1928, and there were no grebes, ibis or white egrets recorded on either visit. These absences echo the surprising dearth of waterbirds in the period 1901-1925 (Stuart 2009).

Many shorebird species were found on both visits, with the two reports reasonably consistent about numbers, including noting that large flocks of Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* were present. However the Bar-tailed Godwit, now very common in Port Stephens in summer (Stuart 2011), was not recorded by either group. Both papers noted the presence of small numbers of Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* and Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*. The former is an accidental visitor here now and the latter is uncommon (in 1931, only the white phase was seen, there are no modern records of this phase in the Region).

On both visits small numbers of Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis* were reported, which is remarkable given the species' restricted range today. McAllan (2001) concluded that these were misidentifications; he noted the difficulties in distinguishing birds in non-breeding plumage from some other small shorebirds. His comment overlooks the fact that, in January 1931 and perhaps also in November 1928, Hooded Plovers would very likely be in breeding plumage and therefore much more readily identified. This is an important point, because if Hooded Plovers (now an Endangered species in NSW) were present in the Hunter Region in the 1920s and 1930s they have since undergone a considerable contraction in range. Nevertheless, in light of the several other apparent misidentifications made in the two visits (discussed below), the Port Stephens records are uncertain.

Several species of tern were recorded; for instance, a small flock of Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis* was reported in 1928 and they were described as "very common" in 1931. Presumably this is a misidentification of Little Tern *S. albifrons* (which itself could hardly be described as a common species now). Sharland (1938) has discussed the problems of separating Fairy and Little Tern in the field. He concluded that the RAOU observers most likely were mistaken. Also, Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens* was described as "fairly common" on both visits. McAllan (2001) has commented that books of the era had a flawed illustration, such that Yellow-faced Honeyeater *L. chrysops* and Singing Honeyeater mis-

identifications could occur. That may account for what is a very unusual record by modern standards.

The Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* was described as “fairly common” in 1931 but not recorded in 1928. Much the same happened for Budgerigar, of which a few small flocks were reported present in 1931. Conversely, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*, Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* and Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittata* were reported in 1928 (with the Heathwren described as “fairly plentiful”), but were not recorded in 1931. All these species are now considered to be uncommon and all but the Heathwren are only expected in the central and west of the Region (the Budgerigar is an accidental visitor).

The above analysis suggests that several mis-identifications may have occurred during the 1928 and 1931 visits. However, some dry country birds, such as Speckled Warbler, were also reported at Wallis Lake in 1921 (Stuart 2009). It may be that conditions near the coast were much drier than they are now, and hence more suitable for the species reported.

Members of the 1928 RAOU expedition searched for but did not find any Ground Parrots *Pezoporus wallicus* (Chisholm & Cayley 1928). One of them, W.J. Enright, continued to search the general area in the ensuing years and finally found some near “Tanilbah” (presumably he was referring to Tanilba Bay). Also, a local birdwatcher told him of seeing a flock closer to the coast (Enright 1932b).

The 1928 expedition recorded several flocks of White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons* in cleared areas between Newcastle and Nelson Bay. They also saw a Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii* during the same trip (Chisholm & Cayley 1928).

## Great Lakes/Taree

Enright (1928) noted some coastal Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* records over 1926-1928 from the area around Myall River and Mungo Brush, including a record of six birds in early 1928. In 1935, he reported that some were still present but he was pessimistic about their prospects (Enright 1936). In the same article, Enright also reported that a walker had flushed a pair of Ground Parrot east of Myall Lake in November 1935. There are no known reports of any more recent sightings of Ground Parrot in the Region.

Chaffer (1932) reported on Regent Bowerbirds *Sericulus chrysocephalus* nesting at Wallis Lake, while McGill (1944) was surprised to find many Striped Honeyeaters *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* at Harrington, not having recorded them there on six previous visits. McGill also reported on a 1945 observation of one Striped Honeyeater at Raymond Terrace; he considered this unusual, commenting about the absence of the species between Gosford and Wallis Lake (McGill 1947).

## Offshore

MacGillivray (1927) reported on a sea voyage from South Australia to New South Wales. He was offshore of the Hunter Region probably on 18 November 1926<sup>3</sup>, after departing from Sydney that morning. The locations for many of his records that day are uncertain. However Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* and Short-tailed *Ardenna tenuirostris* and/or Wedge-tailed Shearwater *A. pacifica*, were plentiful everywhere, with several Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* also seen. A surprising record was a Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca* off Port Stephens – this species now is exclusive to the southern oceans and it is very unusual for it to range so far north. As he also reported another Sooty Albatross further north off Smoky Cape the following day, it may be that these were cases of mis-identification.

RAOU members visited Cabbage Tree Island in 1928 and 1931, and Broughton Island in 1928 (Chisholm & Cayley 1928, Horden & Horden 1931). Large numbers of Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* and Wedge-tailed Shearwater were breeding on Cabbage Tree Island; the latter species also had a large colony on Broughton Island in 1928. The Gould’s Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera* colony on Cabbage Tree Island was much studied by both groups; unusually, in 1928 some of the birds had laid their eggs out in the open. Some White-faced Storm-Petrels *Pelagodroma marina* were found on Cabbage Tree Island in 1931 but there was no mention about them breeding.

Interesting land birds on Cabbage Tree Island in 1928 included Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*, Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* and an unidentified button-quail (Chisholm & Cayley 1928). None of these was recorded in 1931. Hindwood (1948a) mentioned that the Rose-

<sup>3</sup> MacGillivray gives the date as 18 September. Earlier though he states he did not depart from South Australia until mid October.

crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* could be found there.

The importance of Cabbage Tree Island for Gould's Petrel began to attract more attention in the 1940s, resulting in several papers (Hindwood & Serventy 1941, 1943, D'Ombrain 1943, Hindwood 1948a). Little wonder that the Royal Zoological Society was quick to intervene when it was discovered that the Island was being used by the Army for artillery practice! (Hindwood 1943).

In their 1941 paper, Hindwood and Serventy summarised all the prior visits to Cabbage Tree Island. All visitors struggled to quantify how many breeding pairs of Gould's Petrel were present. Some estimates were of less than 100 pairs, while Hindwood and Serventy thought that at most there were 200-300 pairs. There was a lot of evidence of egg predation occurring. These observations, depressing though they are, serve to highlight the success of the modern recovery program whereby 800-1000 pairs now breed each year on the Island (Priddel & Carlile 2007).

Hindwood (1948a) discussed seabirds breeding at near-coastal islands off NSW. He detailed five species which were known to breed on one or more of seven islands off Port Stephens: Little Penguin, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Gould's Petrel, Wedge-tailed and Sooty Shearwater *A. grisea*. Only the Wedge-tailed Shearwater bred on all seven islands.

In a review of the White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata* in Australia, Hindwood (1946a) commented that there had been no records of the species from between Diamond Head (the northern extremity of the Region) and the Sydney area. It must be a modern phenomenon to have flocks of 10-20 birds roosting in both the Manning and Hunter Estuaries in winter/spring.

## DISCUSSION

### Species List

The list in **Table 1** is a composite prepared from *The Emu* articles relating to the Hunter Region in 1926-1950. For completeness, all 256 cited species are listed, including some that perhaps were misidentifications. There were breeding records reported for 146 species (indicated in the Table). The supplementary list shows four additional species recorded at Comboyne (Chisholm 1934) and at sea north of Sydney (Hindwood 1945). All

four species may reasonably be expected to have also been present in the Region from time to time.

The modern checklist for the Region has 438 species (Stuart 2012). However, that list includes many accidental and rare visitors to the Region, and ~30 pelagic seabirds which are unlikely to be recorded close to the coast. About 330 species in the modern list are considered resident or frequent visitors to the Region. Comparing with this subset of the modern checklist, there are some notable absences in 1926-1950. In a few cases the reason lies in the more recent advances in knowledge – for example the genera *Corvus* and *Zoothera* had not been split into the sets of species we now recognise. Most of the differences though are due to species known but not reported in 1926-1950. The missing waterfowl include Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*, Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*, Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*, Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*, white egrets except for Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*<sup>4</sup>, Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*, and both spoonbills. No crakes or rails, other than Buff-banded Rail, appear in the 1926-1950 list. Several shorebirds, recorded regularly now in low to moderate numbers, were not mentioned in the 1926-1950 literature – for example Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Grey-tailed Tattler *T. brevipes*, Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*, both knots, and several species of sandpiper. Two honeyeaters – Yellow-tufted *Lichenostomus melanops* and Black-chinned *Melithreptus gularis* – were notably absent, as were Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*, Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*, and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*.

The species named above also did not appear in the 1901-1925 list of birds recorded in the Region (Stuart 2009). It is a matter of conjecture as to whether they were absent in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, or overlooked.

Also not recorded in 1926-1950 were Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*, Western Gerygone *G. fusca*, and White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*. Their arrival dates in the Region will be discussed in a future Part of this series.

<sup>4</sup> Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* did not occur in NSW at the time and Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* was rare (McGill 1955).

## Changes in Distribution & Abundance

In the first 25 years of *The Emu* from 1901, there were relatively few reports of waterfowl (Stuart 2009). By and large the pattern continued from 1926-1950 but with some species being reported in greater numbers. Hyem noted Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata* was present in good numbers around the Barnard and Pigna Barney Rivers but mentioned very few other waterfowl in his comprehensive articles (Hyem 1936b, 1936c). In the Port Stephens / Myall Lakes area, only the four local cormorants and White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* were recorded in any numbers in 1928 (all were common). The 1931 RAOU expedition added Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck and Australasian Darter to the list of common waterfowl. Both expeditions reported small numbers of some waterbirds but, importantly, no grebes, ibis or white egrets were recorded on either visit (Chisholm & Cayley 1928, Horden & Horden 1931). In similar vein, waterfowl apparently were uncommon in the Lower Hunter (D’Ombraïn 1938). The Grey Teal *Anas gracilis* is scarcely mentioned in any 1926-1950 article and Chestnut Teal not at all. The Lower Hunter is now an important national stronghold for the latter (Lindsey & Roderick 2011). Chisholm (1934) mentions that ducks were very wary because of hunters. Perhaps this explains the general absence of waterfowl records for the Region.

Some small shorebirds were abundant in 1926-1950. Lesser Sand Plover and Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus* were in large numbers in the Hunter Estuary, as were “godwits, stints and sandpipers” (Gwynne 1932a, 1932b, D’Ombraïn 1945c). Red-capped Plover was also common at Port Stephens, as was Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (Chisholm & Cayley 1928). Large flocks of Eastern Curlew were at Port Stephens but Bar-tailed Godwit was not recorded there. Port Stephens is now a site of international importance for Eastern Curlew (Bamford *et al.* 2008). Probably that was the case in the 1920s and 1930s too.

Little Tern (not always correctly identified) was common in both Port Stephens and the Hunter Estuary, and breeding at the latter location. There were no reports of other tern species, except Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* and a few Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (Chisholm & Cayley 1928, Horden & Horden 1931, Gwynne 1932b).

The Turquoise Parrot had been relatively common in the Upper Hunter early in the century (Stuart 2009). By the 1930s it was no longer being recorded in the Region. It had become rare throughout its former Australian range (Morse & Sullivan 1930). Nowadays it is found in small numbers in the west of the Region and in Myall Lakes National Park.

The Common Myna *Sturnus tristis* and Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* were not found north of Sydney in NSW (Chisholm 1950, Tarr 1950). Despite this, there was more mention of introduced species over 1926-1950 compared to the previous 25-year period (for which there were almost no reports).

Eleven species were recorded in 1901-1925 but not recorded in 1926-1950. These are listed in **Table 2**. Some of them are rare or only locally common even now and their absence is not a great surprise. D’Ombraïn (1945c) referred to large flocks of godwits in the Hunter Estuary but he did not specifically mention Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* and therefore we cannot be certain about its status then. The lack of records for Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* is a surprise. It is a common species now around Port Stephens but was not recorded in two extended visits by RAOU members in 1928 and 1931.

**Table 2.** Birds recorded 1901-1925 and not recorded 1926-1950

Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Australian Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet <i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>
Turquoise Parrot <i>Neophema pulchella</i>
Black-eared Cuckoo <i>Chalcites osculans</i>
Eastern Bristlebird <i>Dasyornis brachypterus</i>
Varied Triller <i>Lalage leucomela</i>
Satin Flycatcher <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>
Spectacled Monarch <i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i>

## Rare and Unusual Records

Some of the species listed below are considered rare or accidental visitors to the Hunter Region. The other species (indicated with #) do not appear on the modern Hunter Region checklist (Stuart 2012) because their validity is uncertain. Perhaps one day the doubtful species will be reported again and can become confirmed additions to the checklist:



- Emu: birds were still present around Myall River / Mungo Brush until at least 1935.
- King Quail: reported to be breeding near Curricabark in 1935.
- Sooty Albatross<sup>#</sup>: a bird was reported off Port Stephens in November 1926.
- Hooded Plover<sup>#</sup>: a few birds were reported to be in the Port Stephens area in 1928 and 1931.
- Little Curlew: a few birds were reported to be in the Port Stephens area in 1928 and 1931.
- Red-backed Button-quail: reported to be a rare breeding resident at “Mernot” near Curricabark.
- Fairy Tern<sup>#</sup>: reported to be common in the Port Stephens area in 1931, also reported in 1928.
- Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo<sup>#</sup>: seven birds were reported to have been at Upper Williams River in October 1926.
- Ground Parrot: a pair east of Myall Lake in November 1935, and some earlier records.
- Budgerigar: a few small flocks were reported to be in the Port Stephens area in 1931.
- Barking Owl: reported twice at “Mernot” near Curricabark, dates not given (Hyem 1936b).
- Forest Kingfisher: a bird was reported from between Newcastle and Nelson Bay in 1928.
- Singing Honeyeater: reported to have been common in the Port Stephens area in 1928 and 1931.
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater: reported to have been common in the Port Stephens area in 1931.
- Yellow-plumed Honeyeater<sup>#</sup>: reported to be breeding near Dungog in 1926.
- Ground Cuckoo-shrike: a group of six birds was reported present at Barnard River near “Mernot” in winter 1933.

## CONCLUSIONS

The birds of the Hunter Region continued to be well documented in *The Emu* over 1926-1950. There were breeding records reported for 146 species. 256 species were mentioned at least once – this is around 80% of the resident species and frequent visitors in the modern checklist for the Region. It is also ~25% larger than the list developed for 1901-1925 (Stuart 2009). These two points, in combination, tell us that understandings about the Region’s birdlife increased substantially in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and were beginning to approach the level of our current understandings.

There have been changes to the documented distribution and/or abundance of some species since 1926-1950. The families Ducks, Grebes, Egrets, and Spoonbills were uncommon then, with some exceptions. Some small shorebirds were present in large numbers, as were godwits (in the Hunter Estuary) and Eastern Curlew (in Port Stephens). However, several now-common shorebirds and bush birds were not reported. Reports of introduced species had begun to increase, although some of them, such as Common Myna, were yet to reach the Region.

Nankeen Night-Herons were present in large numbers in Port Stephens and the Lower Hunter. Rufous Scrub-bird had recently been recorded in the Chichester Valley. This implies that a range contraction has since occurred. However, species such as Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, White-breasted Woodswallow, and Mangrove Gerygone were yet to arrive in the Region.

The majority of articles in *The Emu* continued to be accounts of the birds of a local area or descriptions of some unusual or interesting behaviour which had been observed. However, there was a trend for more papers reviewing the overall status of individual species. This could be described as a shift in focus for *The Emu*, from birdwatching to ornithology.

By the late 1920s, a degree of conformity had emerged in the use of bird names (both scientific and common names). In general, the species lists of 1926-1950 are recognisable to modern readers.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Some of the articles listed below were specifically cited; the others helped to generate the overall impression of what the Hunter Region was like at the time.

- Albrecht, G. and Albrecht, J. (1992). The Goulds in the Hunter Region of NSW 1839-1840. *Naturae* 2. Museum of Victoria.
- Anon. (1927). Obituary H.L. White. *The Emu*, 27: 59-60.
- Bamford, M., Watkins, D., Bancroft, W., Tischler, G. and Wahl, J. (2008). Migratory Shorebirds of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway: Population Estimates and Internationally Important Sites. (Wetlands International – Oceania: Canberra, Australia.)
- Barrett, C. (1926). The Williams River Camp. *The Emu*, 26: 184-187.
- Bettington, B.C.J. (1926). Birds Recorded near RAOU Camp, Upper Williams River, NSW: October, 1926. *The Emu*, 26: 188-192.
- Boss-Walker, H.B. (1932). A Plea for the Adoption of Popular Bird Names. *The Emu*, 32: 309-311.
- Campbell, A.J. (1926). The Belltrees Oological Collection. *The Emu*, 26: 300-301.
- Campbell, A.J. (1927). The Ornithology of H.L. White. *The Emu*, 27: 198-200.
- Campbell, A.G. (1938). Charting Bird Movements. *The Emu*, 38: 317-322.
- Chaffer, N. (1932). The Regent Bird. *The Emu*, 32: 8-11.
- Chisholm, A.H. (1950). Birds introduced into Australia. *The Emu*, 50: 97-100.
- Chisholm, A.H. and Cayley N.W. (1928). The Birds of Port Stephens. *The Emu*, 28: 243-251.
- Chisholm, E.C. (1934). Birds of the Comboyne Plateau, 1923-1934. *The Emu*, 34: 8-23.
- Christidis, L. and Boles, W.E. (2008). 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds'. (CSIRO Publishing: Collingwood, Victoria).
- Cleland, J.B. (1927). The New Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia. *The Emu*, 27: 197-201.
- De Warren, J.J. (1926a). A Brown Hawk's Record. *The Emu*, 26: 13.
- De Warren, J.J. (1926b). Five Nests in Five Months. *The Emu*, 26: 78.
- Dickison, D.J. (1951). The First Fifty Years of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. *The Emu*, 51: 184-284.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1938). Destruction of Birds by Hail. *The Emu*, 38: 59.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1940a). Nests of Magpie-Larks. *The Emu*, 40: 323.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1940b). Vicissitudes of a Dove's Egg. *The Emu*, 40: 323-324.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1943). The Cabbage Tree Island Colony in the 1941-42 Season. *The Emu*, 42: 156-159.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1944a). The Black Duck in Captivity. *The Emu*, 44: 8-32.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1944b). Behaviour of Painted Snipe in Captivity. *The Emu*, 43, 247-248.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1945a). Notes on Young of Plumed Tree Duck. *The Emu*, 44: 324-327.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1945b). Nesting Notes on Plumed Tree Ducks. *The Emu*, 45: 80-82.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1945c). Migratory Birds and Overhead Wires. *The Emu*, 45: 173-174.
- D'Ombraïn, A.F. (1947). Nankeen Night-Herons 'come to town'. *The Emu*, 47: 65-66.
- Enright, W.J. (1928). Emus on the Myall River. *The Emu*, 28: 242.
- Enright, W.J. (1932a). Musk-Duck. *The Emu*, 32: 206.
- Enright, W.J. (1932b). Ground Parrot. *The Emu*, 32: 224.
- Enright, W.J. (1933). The Jabiru. *The Emu*, 32: 226.
- Enright, W.J. (1936). Random Notes. *The Emu*, 36: 55-56.
- Enright, W.J. (1939). West Maitland Notes. *The Emu*, 38: 413.
- Enright, W.J. (1944). Black Swamp-Pheasant. *The Emu*, 44: 182.
- Enright, W.J. (1948). The White Fulica. *The Emu*, 48: 160-161.
- Enright, W.J. & Hopson, J. (1926). Birds of Cobark NSW. *The Emu*, 26: 135-136.
- Gilbert, P.A. (1934a). The Seasonal Movements and Migrations of Birds in Eastern New South Wales. Part I. *The Emu*, 34: 101-105.
- Gilbert, P.A. (1934b). The Seasonal Movements and Migrations of Birds in Eastern New South Wales. Part II. *The Emu*, 34: 200-209.
- Gilbert, P.A. (1935). The Seasonal Movements and Migrations of Birds in Eastern New South Wales. Part III. *The Emu*, 35: 17-27.
- Gilbert, P.A. (1937). Field Notes from New South Wales. *The Emu*, 37: 28-31.
- Gwynne, A.J. (1930). The White-browed Scrub-Wren. *The Emu*, 30: 109-110.
- Gwynne, A.J. (1931). The White-browed Scrub-Wren. *The Emu*, 31: 279.
- Gwynne, A.J. (1932a). Notes on the Red-capped Dotterel and the Period of Incubation of its Eggs. *The Emu*, 32: 117-118.
- Gwynne, A.J. (1932b). Notes on the Little Tern. *The Emu*, 32: 307-309.
- Gwynne, A.J. (1934). The Striated Thornbill. *The Emu*, 34: 234-235.
- Gwynne, A.J. (1948). Notes on the Brown Honeyeater. *The Emu*, 47: 162-164.
- Higgins, P.J. (Ed.) (1999). 'Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Volume 4: Parrots to Dollarbird'. (Oxford University Press: Melbourne.)
- Hindwood, K.A. (1926). The Rock Warbler: A Monograph. *The Emu*, 26: 14-24.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1932). The Ground Parrot. *The Emu*, 32: 241-246.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1939). Notes on the Distribution and Habits of the Jacana or Lotus-bird. *The Emu*, 39: 261-267.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1941). The White-backed Swallow in Coastal New South Wales and Queensland. *The Emu*, 40: 304 – 307.

- Hindwood, K.A. (1943). Cabbage Tree Island as an Artillery Target. *The Emu*, **43**: 220.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1945). The Fleshy-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*). *The Emu*, **44**: 241-248.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1946a). The White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*) in Australia. *The Emu*, **45**: 179-200.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1946b). Obituary. *The Emu*, **45**: 255-256.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1946c). The Mangrove Warbler - Extension in Range. *The Emu*, **45**: 311-314.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1948a). Notes on sea-birds breeding on the coastal islands of New South Wales. *The Emu*, **48**: 73-81.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1948b). Mortality among Prions. *The Emu*, **48**: 167-168.
- Hindwood, K.A. (1951). Grey-crowned Babbler and Pied Butcher-bird near Sydney. *The Emu*, **50**: 209-210.
- Hindwood, K.A. and Serventy, D.L. (1941). The Gould Petrel of Cabbage Tree Island. *The Emu*, **41**: 1-20.
- Hindwood, K.A. and Serventy, D.L. (1943). Further Notes on *Pterodroma leucoptera*. *The Emu*, **42**: 153-155.
- Hordern, H.E. & Hordern H.M. (1931). Birds of Port Stephens. *The Emu*, **31**: 21-26.
- Hyem, E.L. (1929a). Nesting Lyrebird. *The Emu*, **29**: 192.
- Hyem, E.L. (1929b). Blue Wren's Strange Meal. *The Emu*, **29**: 227.
- Hyem, E.L. (1929c). Yellow Robin's Eggs. *The Emu*, **29**, 277.
- Hyem, E.L. (1929d). Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren's Eggs. *The Emu*, **29**: 288.
- Hyem, E.L. (1929e). Birds Nesting Together. *The Emu*, **29**: 291.
- Hyem, E.L. (1929f). Thornbill's Double Nest. *The Emu*, **29**: 303.
- Howe, F.E. (1930a). Cuckoo Combinations. *The Emu*, **30**: 32.
- Hyem, E.L. (1930b). Notes on Hawks. *The Emu*, **30**: 250-251.
- Hyem, E.L. (1931a). The Grey Goshawk in Captivity. *The Emu*, **31**: 27-29.
- Hyem, E.L. (1931b). Whistling Eagle's Prey. *The Emu*, **31**: 36.
- Hyem, E.L. (1931c). "Visiting" Blue Wren. *The Emu*, **31**: 40.
- Hyem, E.L. (1932a). A Wagtail's devotion to "duty". *The Emu*, **32**: 66-67.
- Hyem, E.L. (1932b). Wild and semi-tame Goshawks mate. *The Emu*, **32**: 71.
- Hyem, E.L. (1933). Glossy Black Cockatoo. *The Emu*, **33**: 56-58.
- Hyem, E.L. (1936a). Birds Around a Country House. *The Emu*, **36**: 102.
- Hyem, E.L. (1936b). Notes on the Birds of "Mernot" Barrington NSW Part 1. *The Emu*, **36**: 109-127.
- Hyem, E.L. (1936c). Notes on the Birds of "Mernot" Barrington NSW Part 2. *The Emu*, **36**: 262-272.
- Keast, J.A. and McGill, A.R. (1947). The Sooty Shearwater in Australia. *The Emu*, **47**: 199-202.
- Lindsey, A. and Roderick, M. (2011). Chestnut Teal count – March 2011. *The Whistler* **5**: 51-52
- Macarthur, A.J. (1930). Bird Notes from Terrigal, N.S.W. *The Emu*, **30**: 143.
- MacGillivray, W. (1927). Birds from a Coastal Boat. *The Emu*, **27**: 92-94.
- Marchant, S. and Higgins, P.J. (Eds) (1993). 'Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Volume 2: Raptors to Lapwings'. (Oxford University Press: Melbourne.)
- McAllan, I.A.W. (2001). Comments on Northern Reports of the Hooded Plover. *Australian Bird Watcher* **19**: 121-126.
- McGill, A.R. (1944). Striped Honeyeater. *The Emu*, **44**: 47.
- McGill, A.R. (1947). The Striped Honeyeater. *The Emu*, **46**: 232.
- McGill, A.R. (1951). An Australian Review of the Sanderling. *The Emu*, **50**: 197-206.
- McGill, A.R. (1955). The Little Egret. *The Emu*, **55**: 75-76.
- McGill, A.R. and Keast, J.A. (1945). The Mongolian Sand-Dotterel in Australia. *The Emu*, **44**: 202-216.
- Morse, B.S. and Sullivan, C. (1930). The Turquoise Parrot. *The Emu*, **29**: 289-291.
- Priddel, D. and Carlile, N. (2007). Population size and breeding success of Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera* on Cabbage Tree Island, New South Wales: 1996-97 to 2005-06. *Corella* **31**: 79-82.
- Robin, L. (2001). 'The Flight of The Emu. A Hundred Years of Australian Ornithology 1901-2001'. (Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.)
- Serventy, D.L. (1942). A Burrowing Variation among Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. *The Emu*, **41**: 243-244.
- Sharland, M.S.R. (1938). Two Small Terns. *The Emu*, **38**: 1-6.
- Stuart, A. (2009). Early Hunter Region avian records. Part 1. 1901-1925 Articles in The Emu. *The Whistler* **3**: 40-51.
- Stuart, A. (Ed.) (2012). Hunter Region Annual Bird Report Number 19 (2011). (Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.: New Lambton, NSW.)
- Stuart, A. (2011). Shorebird Surveys at Port Stephens, New South Wales, 2004-2011 and Comparisons with Results from Previous Surveys. *Stilt*, **60**: 14-21.
- Tarr, H.E. (1950). The Distribution of Foreign Birds in Australia. *The Emu*, **49**: 189-198.
- Thompson, M. (1926). White-backed Swallow. *The Emu*, **26**: 71.

**Table 1.** Birds Recorded in the Hunter Region 1926-1950 (Species confirmed breeding are indicated in **Bold**)

Emu <i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Straw-necked Ibis <i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>
<b>Australian Brush-turkey</b> <i>Alectura lathami</i>	Black-shouldered Kite <i>Elanus axillaris</i>
<b>Stubble Quail</b> <i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>	Pacific Baza <i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
<b>Brown Quail</b> <i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
<b>King Quail</b> <i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>	<b>Whistling Kite</b> <i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
<b>Plumed Whistling-Duck</b> <i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>	<b>Brown Goshawk</b> <i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Musk Duck <i>Biziura lobata</i>	<b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b> <i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
Black Swan <i>Cygnus atratus</i>	<b>Grey Goshawk</b> <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Australian Wood Duck <i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Spotted Harrier <i>Circus assimilis</i>
Grey Teal <i>Anas gracilis</i>	Swamp Harrier <i>Circus approximans</i>
Northern Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<b>Wedge-tailed Eagle</b> <i>Aquila audax</i>
Pacific Black Duck <i>Anas superciliosa</i>	<b>Nankeen Kestrel</b> <i>Falco cenchroides</i>
Hardhead <i>Aythya australis</i>	<b>Brown Falcon</b> <i>Falco berigora</i>
Australasian Grebe <i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	Black Falcon <i>Falco subniger</i>
Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i>	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> <i>Falco peregrinus</i>
<b>White-headed Pigeon</b> <i>Columba leucomela</i>	<b>Purple Swamphen</b> <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	<b>Buff-banded Rail</b> <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>
Brown Cuckoo-Dove <i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>	Dusky Moorhen <i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
<b>Emerald Dove</b> <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>
<b>Common Bronzewing</b> <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	<b>Bush Stone-curlew</b> <i>Burhinus grallarius</i>
<b>Brush Bronzewing</b> <i>Phaps elegans</i>	Australian Pied Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus longirostris</i>
<b>Peaceful Dove</b> <i>Geopelia striata</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>
<b>Wonga Pigeon</b> <i>Leucosarcia picata</i>	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Wompoo Fruit-Dove <i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove <i>Ptilinopus regina</i>	<b>Red-capped Plover</b> <i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>
<b>Topknot Pigeon</b> <i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
<b>Tawny Frogmouth</b> <i>Podargus strigoides</i>	<b>Black-fronted Dotterel</b> <i>Elsayornis melanops</i>
<b>White-throated Nightjar</b> <i>Eurostodopus mystacalis</i>	Hooded Plover <i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>
<b>Australian Owllet-nightjar</b> <i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	<b>Banded Lapwing</b> <i>Vanellus tricolor</i>
White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	<b>Masked Lapwing</b> <i>Vanellus miles</i>
<b>White-faced Storm-Petrel</b> <i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	<b>Comb-crested Jacana</b> <i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>
Wandering Albatross <i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Australian Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula australis</i>
Black-browed Albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Latham's Snipe <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
Sooty Albatross <i>Phoebastria fusca</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Fairy Prion <i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Little Curlew <i>Numenius minutus</i>
<b>Wedge-tailed Shearwater</b> <i>Ardenna pacifica</i>	Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Flesh-footed Shearwater <i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	Eastern Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
<b>Sooty Shearwater</b> <i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
<b>Gould's Petrel</b> <i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
<b>Little Penguin</b> <i>Eudyptula minor</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Australasian Gannet <i>Morus serrator</i>	Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Australasian Darter <i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>	<b>Red-backed Button-quail</b> <i>Turnix maculosus</i>
Little Pied Cormorant <i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>	<b>Painted Button-quail</b> <i>Turnix varius</i>
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Brown Skua <i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	<b>Little Tern</b> <i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Pied Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Fairy Tern <i>Sternula nereis</i>
Australian Pelican <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Black-necked Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Australasian Bittern <i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	<b>Silver Gull</b> <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>
Black Bittern <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	<b>Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo</b> <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>
White-necked Heron <i>Ardea pacifica</i>	<b>Glossy Black-Cockatoo</b> <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>
Eastern Great Egret <i>Ardea modesta</i>	<b>Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo</b> <i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Striated Heron <i>Butorides striata</i>	Galah <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>
<b>White-faced Heron</b> <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	<b>Sulphur-crested Cockatoo</b> <i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Eastern Reef Egret <i>Egretta sacra</i>	Rainbow Lorikeet <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
<b>Nankeen Night-Heron</b> <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Musk Lorikeet <i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>

**Table 1.** Birds Recorded in the Hunter Region 1926-1950 (Species confirmed breeding are indicated in **Bold**) (cont.)

Little Lorikeet <i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Eastern Spinebill <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
<b>Australian King-Parrot</b> <i>Alisterus scapularis</i>	<b>Lewin's Honeyeater</b> <i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>
<b>Crimson Rosella</b> <i>Platycercus elegans</i>	<b>Yellow-faced Honeyeater</b> <i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>
<b>Eastern Rosella</b> <i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Singing Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>
<b>Red-rumped Parrot</b> <i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	<b>White-eared Honeyeater</b> <i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i>
Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Fuscous Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus fuscus</i>
Ground Parrot <i>Pezoporus wallicus</i>	<b>Yellow-plumed Honeyeater</b> <i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>
Pheasant Coucal <i>Centropus phasianinus</i>	White-plumed Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>
<b>Eastern Koel</b> <i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>	<b>Bell Miner</b> <i>Manorina melanophrys</i>
<b>Channel-billed Cuckoo</b> <i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	<b>Noisy Miner</b> <i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
<b>Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo</b> <i>Chalcites basalıs</i>	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater <i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>
<b>Shining Bronze-Cuckoo</b> <i>Chalcites lucidus</i>	<b>Little Wattlebird</b> <i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
<b>Pallid Cuckoo</b> <i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>	Regent Honeyeater <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>
<b>Fan-tailed Cuckoo</b> <i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	Red Wattlebird <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
<b>Brush Cuckoo</b> <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	<b>White-fronted Chat</b> <i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
Powerful Owl <i>Ninox strenua</i>	<b>Scarlet Honeyeater</b> <i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Barking Owl <i>Ninox connivens</i>	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater <i>Glyciphila melanops</i>
Southern Boobook <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	<b>Brown Honeyeater</b> <i>Lichmera indistincta</i>
Sooty Owl <i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	<b>New Holland Honeyeater</b> <i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
Masked Owl <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	White-cheeked Honeyeater <i>Phylidonyris niger</i>
Eastern Barn Owl <i>Tyto javanica</i>	<b>Brown-headed Honeyeater</b> <i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>
Azure Kingfisher <i>Ceyx azureus</i>	<b>White-naped Honeyeater</b> <i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>
<b>Laughing Kookaburra</b> <i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	<b>Blue-faced Honeyeater</b> <i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>
Forest Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus macleayii</i>	<b>Noisy Friarbird</b> <i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> <i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	Striped Honeyeater <i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i>
<b>Rainbow Bee-eater</b> <i>Merops ornatus</i>	<b>Painted Honeyeater</b> <i>Grantiella picta</i>
Dollarbird <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>
<b>Superb Lyrebird</b> <i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>	Australian Logrunner <i>Orthonyx temminckii</i>
Rufous Scrub-bird <i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>	<b>Spotted Quail-thrush</b> <i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>
<b>White-throated Treecreeper</b> <i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>	<b>Eastern Whipbird</b> <i>Psophodes olivaceus</i>
<b>Red-browed Treecreeper</b> <i>Climacteris erythroptis</i>	<b>Varied Sittella</b> <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>
<b>Brown Treecreeper</b> <i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Ground Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina maxima</i>
<b>Green Catbird</b> <i>Ailuroedus crassirostris</i>	<b>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</b> <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
<b>Regent Bowerbird</b> <i>Sericulus chrysocephalus</i>	<b>White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike</b> <i>Coracina papuensis</i>
<b>Satin Bowerbird</b> <i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>	<b>Cicadabird</b> <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>
<b>Superb Fairy-wren</b> <i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	<b>White-winged Triller</b> <i>Lalage sueurii</i>
Variiegated Fairy-wren <i>Malurus lamberti</i>	Crested Shrike-tit <i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>
<b>Southern Emu-wren</b> <i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>	Golden Whistler <i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Rockwarbler <i>Origma solitaria</i>	<b>Rufous Whistler</b> <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
<b>Yellow-throated Scrubwren</b> <i>Sericornis citreogularis</i>	<b>Grey Shrike-thrush</b> <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
<b>White-browed Scrubwren</b> <i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	Australasian Figbird <i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>
<b>Large-billed Scrubwren</b> <i>Sericornis magnirostra</i>	<b>Olive-backed Oriole</b> <i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren <i>Hylacola pyrrhopygia</i>	Masked Woodswallow <i>Artamus personatus</i>
<b>Speckled Warbler</b> <i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	<b>White-browed Woodswallow</b> <i>Artamus superciliosus</i>
Weebill <i>Smicromis brevirostris</i>	<b>Dusky Woodswallow</b> <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>
<b>Brown Gerygone</b> <i>Gerygone mouki</i>	<b>Grey Butcherbird</b> <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
<b>White-throated Gerygone</b> <i>Gerygone albogularis</i>	<b>Pied Butcherbird</b> <i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
<b>Striated Thornbill</b> <i>Acanthiza lineata</i>	<b>Australian Magpie</b> <i>Cracticus tibicen</i>
<b>Yellow Thornbill</b> <i>Acanthiza nana</i>	<b>Pied Currawong</b> <i>Strepera graculina</i>
<b>Yellow-rumped Thornbill</b> <i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	<b>Rufous Fantail</b> <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>
<b>Buff-rumped Thornbill</b> <i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>	<b>Grey Fantail</b> <i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
<b>Brown Thornbill</b> <i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	<b>Willie Wagtail</b> <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
<b>Southern Whiteface</b> <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	<b>Australian Raven</b> <i>Corvus coronoides</i>
<b>Spotted Pardalote</b> <i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	Torresian Crow <i>Corvus orru</i>
<b>Striated Pardalote</b> <i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	<b>Leaden Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiagra rubecula</i>

**Table 1.** Birds Recorded in the Hunter Region 1926-1950 (Species confirmed breeding are indicated in **Bold**) (cont.)

<b>Restless Flycatcher</b> <i>Myiagra inquieta</i>
<b>Black-faced Monarch</b> <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>
<b>Magpie-lark</b> <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
<b>White-winged Chough</b> <i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>
Paradise Riflebird <i>Ptiloris paradiseus</i>
<b>Jacky Winter</b> <i>Microeca fascians</i>
<b>Scarlet Robin</b> <i>Petroica boodang</i>
<b>Red-capped Robin</b> <i>Petroica goodenovii</i>
<b>Flame Robin</b> <i>Petroica phoenicea</i>
<b>Rose Robin</b> <i>Petroica rosea</i>
<b>Hooded Robin</b> <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>
Pale-yellow Robin <i>Tregellasia capito</i>
<b>Eastern Yellow Robin</b> <i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
<b>Horsfield's Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafrja javanica</i>
Australian Reed-Warbler <i>Acrocephalus australis</i>
Little Grassbird <i>Megalurus gramineus</i>
<b>Rufous Songlark</b> <i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>
<b>Brown Songlark</b> <i>Cincloramphus cruralis</i>
<b>Silvereve</b> <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
<b>White-backed Swallow</b> <i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>

<b>Welcome Swallow</b> <i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
<b>Fairy Martin</b> <i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>
<b>Tree Martin</b> <i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>
<b>Ground Thrush</b> <i>Zoothera spp</i>
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
<b>Mistletoebird</b> <i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
Zebra Finch <i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>
Double-barred Finch <i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>
Plum-headed Finch <i>Neochmia modesta</i>
<b>Red-browed Finch</b> <i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
<b>Diamond Firetail</b> <i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Australasian Pipit</b> <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
<b>European Goldfinch</b> <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY LIST (BIRDS RECORDED NEARBY)</b>
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i> (at Comboyne)
Fluttering Shearwater <i>Puffinus gavia</i> (at sea)
Pomarine Jaeger <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> (at sea)
Spangled Drongo <i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i> (at Comboyne)