

# ***Seabirds of the Hunter Region***

**Alan Stuart**



**Hunter Bird Observers Club Special Report No. 5**

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Cover Photo: Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* (Photographer: Alan Stuart). The Black-browed Albatross is regularly recorded during May-November in the waters of the Hunter Region. Both subspecies, *Thalassarche melanophris impavida* (pictured) and *Thalassarche melanophris melanophris* occur locally; the former subspecies is marginally more common.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc (HBOC) maintains a database of records for the Hunter Region of New South Wales. The database includes pelagic birds recorded by birdwatchers from land and from ocean expeditions which usually go to within a few kilometres beyond the continental shelf, surveying for birds including in the journey out and back. All reports of pelagic species are reviewed by a panel of local HBOC experts and those considered acceptable are published in the annual Bird Report for the Hunter Region (Stuart 1994-2010). The panel of experts has also reviewed the pre 1993 records, which mostly were of beach-cast birds.

The coastal boundary of the Hunter Region extends from slightly south of Swansea, to Diamond Head (north of Taree). Over the years, the ocean surveys have variously departed from Swansea, Newcastle and Port Stephens. The surveys have occurred much more frequently since 2000 and in most years since then there have been 3-6 surveys carried out. The frequency of surveys has largely been governed by the availability of suitable boats.

This report is prepared for submission to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water, Australia, as an input into considerations for a mooted new Marine Park (East Marine Region – Hunter). It documents all the records of pelagic birds from the HBOC database.

## **PELAGIC BIRDS OF EAST MARINE REGION – HUNTER**

58 species of pelagic bird are known to have been recorded in the Region (Stuart 1994-2010). Some are reasonably common, present either all year or seasonally, whereas others are recorded much less frequently. Tables 1 and 2 list all the species recorded. The 38 species of truly pelagic birds (Order Procellariiformes, comprising the storm-petrels, albatrosses, prions, shearwaters and petrels) are listed in Table 1, and oceanic/coastal birds (20 species) in Table 2. Note that several gull and tern species locally are normally only recorded very close to the coast and therefore those species are not listed in the Tables.

Table 3 details our understandings of the status of each of the 58 species in the Region. The nomenclature and taxonomic order follows that of Christidis and Boles (2008). Some species have subspecies which other authorities have opted to classify as distinct species. Table 3 includes commentary about such subspecies; however, observers have not consistently recorded birds to subspecies level and knowledge about this aspect of the local birdlife is somewhat lacking.

Table 4 lists four additional pelagic species for which no details have yet been available for the HBOC record appraisal panel. The validity of those records is not confirmed and/or the precise details about the records are not known; the information is presented for completeness.

The Appendix to this Report provides the full set of records of pelagic birds published in the annual Bird Reports for the Hunter Region 1993-2009.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The oceans of the Hunter Region host a rich variety of pelagic bird life. The majority of these are present regularly, usually seasonally, whilst many other species are uncommon or vagrants to the area.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I thank Mick Roderick for reviewing a draft of this report and making many helpful comments.

## **REFERENCES**

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**Table 1 Pelagic Birds recorded in the Region: Order Procellariiformes**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
White-faced Storm-Petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta grallaria</i>
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Yellow-nosed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>
Buller's Albatross	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
Broad-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila vittata</i>
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Black Petrel	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna pacificus</i>
Buller's Shearwater	<i>Ardenna bulleri</i>
Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>
Streaked Shearwater	<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>
Fluttering Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>
Hutton's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus huttoni</i>
Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>
Tahiti Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i>
Juan Fernandez Petrel	<i>Pterodroma externa</i>
Kermadec Petrel	<i>Pterodroma neglecta</i>
White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>
Providence Petrel	<i>Pterodroma solandri</i>
Gould's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>
Cook's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>
White-necked Petrel	<i>Pterodroma cervicalis</i>
Black-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i>
Pycroft's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma pycrofti</i>

**Table 2. Pelagic Birds recorded in the Region: non Procellariiformes**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>
White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>
Little Penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>
Arctic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
Common Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>
White Tern	<i>Gygis alba</i>
Grey Ternlet	<i>Procelsterna cerulea</i>
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscata</i>
White-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>
Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>

**Table 4. Unconfirmed Species**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
New Zealand Storm-Petrel <sup>1</sup>	<i>Pealeornis maoriana</i>
Magellanic Penguin <sup>2</sup>	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>
Royal Albatross <sup>3</sup>	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>
Common Diving-Petrel <sup>3</sup>	<i>Pelacanoides urinatrix</i>

<sup>1</sup> From a March 2010 report; the bird was seen by 14 observers and was photographed, and is very likely to be accepted by the Birds Australia Rarities Committee as the first Australian record for this species.

<sup>2</sup> From a March 2010 report; it would be the second ever Australian record and the report is being reviewed by the Birds Australia Rarities Committee

<sup>3</sup> From the Birds Australia database. Both species are recorded in southern NSW and Bass Strait; the Hunter Region is considered to be at, if not beyond, their standard northern limit.

**Table 3. Regional status of pelagic species**

Seven categories are used below to describe the status of the pelagic birds of the Region: Accidental, Rare, Uncommon, Irregular, Regular, Common, and Very Common. This qualitative series of categories progressively reflects birds that are present more frequently (during the relevant times of the year that they are recorded locally) and in greater numbers.

Species	Status	Comments
Red-tailed Tropicbird	Accidental	Occasional records of beach-cast or rescued birds (1952, 1955, 1973, 1978, 2000, 2006, 2009).
White-tailed Tropicbird	Accidental	Occasional records of beach-cast or rescued birds (1956, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2009).
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Regular, all year	Present unpredictably at / beyond the continental shelf, with 10+ birds sometimes recorded but birds are just as likely to be absent.
White-faced Storm-Petrel	Regular, all year	Often present at / beyond the continental shelf, with 10+ birds sometimes recorded. Regularly breeds on some islands in the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park (for example, ~140 pairs breed each year on Boondelbah Island).
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	Rare/Uncommon	There have been seven records since 2002 of up to 3 birds present at / beyond the continental shelf – three October records but also April, July and August.
White-bellied Storm-Petrel	Rare	The only records are single birds at the continental shelf in March 2006, January 2007 and March 2010.
New Zealand Storm-Petrel	Accidental	A single bird was recorded at the continental shelf March 2010 – the first Australian record (a likely second bird was sighted off Ulladulla in southern NSW the following day).
Wandering Albatross	Regular, in winter	Often, but unpredictably, recorded when >5 km from shore during May-November, usually as 1-3 birds but with greater numbers sometimes present (peak counts of 25 birds in 2006 and 2008). Sub-species present are Gibson's Albatross <i>D. e. gibsoni</i> , comprising 60-70% of records; Antipodean Albatross <i>D. e. antipodensis</i> , 30-40% of records; and Snowy Albatross <i>D. e. exulans</i> with only a small number of confirmed records (but observers are not always able to distinguish this sub-species in the field).
Black-browed Albatross	Common, in winter	Regularly recorded during May-November, including from land. Winter pelagic surveys regularly record up to ten birds, and occasionally up to 20 birds. The sub-species <i>T. m. impavida</i> and <i>T. m. melanophrys</i> both are recorded; the former seems to be marginally more common.
Shy Albatross	Regular, in winter	Small numbers are almost always recorded when >5 km from shore during April-October (there is one sighting from land, in 2006). Unusually, 40 birds were present at ~ 20km off Swansea in August 2002; there is only one other instance of >5 birds since the regular pelagic surveys commenced. Sub-species <i>T. c. cauta</i> and <i>T. c. steadi</i> are recorded most often; the latter being marginally more common. Single <i>T. c. salvini</i> birds have been recorded occasionally.



Yellow-nosed Albatross	Very Common, in winter	Regularly recorded during May-November, including from land. Winter pelagic surveys often record >30 birds.
Buller's Albatross	Accidental/Rare	The only records are of two birds at the continental shelf in August 2003 and a single bird there in January 2007.
Southern Giant-Petrel	Regular, in winter	Small numbers of immature birds are recorded between June-October each year, including from land. Most records are of dark phase birds: a white phase bird (its age therefore less certain) was present off Swansea in August 2002. The confirmed records are from pelagic surveys, where birds generally come close enough to allow differentiation from <i>M. halli</i> .
Northern Giant-Petrel	Regular, in winter	Small numbers of immature birds are recorded between June-October each year, including from land. Most the confirmed records are from pelagic surveys records, where birds generally come close enough to allow differentiation from <i>M. giganteus</i> .
Cape Petrel	Regular, in winter	Small to moderate numbers of birds are recorded between July-October in most years. The usual counts are of 1-5 birds but 20-30 birds were recorded in surveys carried out in August 2000, September and October 2002, and August 2003. Most records are from >5 km off shore but a single bird was very close to shore in October 2007.
Broad-billed Prion	Accidental	The only record is of a beach-cast bird in July 1973.
Antarctic Prion	Accidental	The only record is of a single bird at the continental shelf in August 2000.
Slender-billed Prion	Accidental/Rare	The only records are from August-October 2002, when birds were recorded on three successive surveys including ~20 birds in the August survey and four birds in September.
Fairy Prion	Regular/Common, in winter	Birds are often recorded over June-September, but are absent in some years. Several hundred birds are sometimes present, although the numbers vary considerably from year to year. Most records are from >10 km off shore but birds sometimes forage much closer to the coast and they may be recorded from land in substantial numbers.
White-chinned Petrel	Accidental	The only records are a beach-cast bird in December 1968 and a single bird at the continental shelf in August 2003.
Black Petrel	Accidental/Rare, in summer	The four records are all of single birds at the continental shelf: in November 2000, March 2006, October 2006, and January 2007.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Very Common, in summer	Probably around 20,000 birds are present in the Region from September to mid April and there are frequent records of flocks of several hundred birds seen from land at that time, and 1,000-2,000 birds in pelagic surveys. The first birds arrive in mid August. Birds regularly breed on islands in the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park (for example, ~13,000 pairs breed each year on Boondelbah Island and ~1,050 pairs on Cabbage Tree Island).

Buller's Shearwater	Accidental/Rare	The only records from at sea are of single birds in January 2000 and January 2001. Also, single birds were present on Cabbage Tree Island in both April and December 1995 (these were reported as only the third and fourth records for this species on Cabbage Tree Island).
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Common, in summer	Substantial numbers of birds are present offshore from October each year, departing in late March – early April. It is not uncommon for reports of 100+ birds to be received. Most records are from pelagic surveys; sightings from land are less frequent and they are of far fewer birds.
Sooty Shearwater	Irregular, in summer	Birds are present over September-February. Although 15 birds were recorded in a pelagic survey in October 2006, most reports are of single birds. However, as the species regularly breeds in good numbers on some islands in the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park (for example, ~2,500 pairs breed each year on Boondelbah Island and ~45 pairs on Cabbage Tree Island) it may be that birds are overlooked by observers (in support of this, several of the records are of beach-cast birds) .
Short-tailed Shearwater	Very Common in spring	Many tens of thousands of birds pass through during the September-November migration period and there are frequent records of groups of 100+ birds seen from land at that time. Small numbers are regularly recorded throughout summer/early autumn, and it is not unusual for 1-2 birds to be recorded in July/August.
Streaked Shearwater	Accidental/Rare, in summer	The only records are of single birds in March 2000, March 2006 and March 2010, and of two birds together in March 2010. All records were from within 5km from shore.
Fluttering Shearwater	Common in winter/spring, and Regular in remainder of year	Many thousands of birds are sometimes present in the Region and large flocks are often recorded from land. All of the very high counts (1,000 to 10,000 birds) occur in the period July to September, and with many hundreds of birds sometimes still recorded during October and November. In the other months, counts are of <20 birds and usually with <10 birds recorded.
Hutton's Shearwater	Irregular, all year	Several hundreds of birds are sometimes present in the period late August to October; much lesser numbers are recorded in other months. Very likely, birds are often overlooked; most of the confirmed records are from pelagic surveys, where birds generally come close enough to allow differentiation from Fluttering Shearwater.
Little Shearwater	Accidental	A single bird was recorded at the continental shelf in January 2007, and beach-cast birds were found near Old Bar in February and March 2002.
Tahiti Petrel	Rare, in summer	The only records are of two birds in January 2001 and single birds in February 1997, February 2001 and March 2010, all from at / beyond the continental shelf.
Juan Fernandez Petrel	Accidental	The only record is of a beach-cast bird rescued in October 1988.
Kermadec Petrel	Rare, in summer	Birds were at / beyond the continental shelf in February 2001, April 2005 and March 2006. Three individuals were recorded in 2005 and five birds in 2006 – these numbers suggest that birds may be frequently present in the Region.

White-headed Petrel	Rare/Uncommon, in winter/ spring	The only records are from at / beyond the continental shelf – several birds in August 2003 and single birds in September 2002, July 2003 and June 2010.
Great-winged Petrel	Regular/Common, in summer	Birds often are recorded over September-March, with occasional records from mid August and in early April. Most records are from at / beyond the continental shelf and are of <10 birds; however, much higher counts are common in October and include ~200 birds in 2003 and 2006, and 70-75 birds in 2002 and 2008.
Providence Petrel	Common, in autumn to spring	Birds are commonly recorded at / beyond the continental shelf between March and October, with the exception being a single bird in early November 2000. Most counts are of 10-30 birds but the numbers can sometimes be higher – including 50 birds in August-September 2003, 60 birds in July 2010, 75 birds in October 2002, 100+ birds in June 2001 and 150+ birds in July 2009.
Gould's Petrel	Regular, in summer	Single birds are moderately often recorded at / beyond the continental shelf over January-April and October-December. The species regularly breeds on some islands in the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park – about 1,000 pairs on Cabbage Tree Island, 30 pairs on Boondelbah Island and also recently discovered breeding on Broughton Island.
Cook's Petrel	Accidental	The only records are a beach-cast bird in December 1971 and a single bird at the continental shelf in October 2006.
White-necked Petrel	Rare/Uncommon, in summer	There have been six records since 2001 of birds present at / beyond the continental shelf – three January records, two from February and one from March. Three birds were recorded in January 2007; all other records have been of single birds.
Black-winged Petrel	Accidental	The only record for the Region is of a single bird at the continental shelf in January 2007.
Pycroft's Petrel	Accidental	The only record for the Region is of a single bird at the continental shelf in October 2002.
Little Penguin	Resident	Small numbers of birds are often recorded close to the coast and the offshore islands in the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park. Birds presumably are usually overlooked, since it is known that ~100 pairs breed each year on Boondelbah Island and ~140 pairs on Cabbage Tree Island, as well as many pairs on Broughton Island and some on Stasis Island (near Seal Rocks).
Great Frigatebird	Accidental	Although there are no confirmed records, birds seen at both the Hunter Estuary and Seal Rocks in March 2009 very likely were of this species although the observers did not note/report all the features to differentiate from Lesser Frigatebird.
Lesser Frigatebird	Accidental	Three individual single birds, one beach-cast, were recorded at Cabbage Tree and Broughton Islands in February 1957. Other beach-cast birds were recorded in the Region in December 1977, March 1984 and in 2000.

Australasian Gannet	Very Common, in winter	Many hundreds of birds are present within ~10 km of shore during March-October, with 1-5 birds often recorded close to shore and 100+ birds during pelagic surveys and sometimes from land. Young birds often forage close to shore including sheltered waters such as Port Stephens.
Red-footed Booby	Accidental	There are three records – of single birds taken into care in August 1985 and March 2008, and a single bird ~15km offshore in March 2010.
Masked Booby	Accidental	The only record is of a beach-cast bird in September 1979.
Brown Booby	Rare/Accidental, in summer	There have been four records – of small numbers of birds in December 1984, October 1986, May 1991 and March 2010.
Brown Skua	Irregular, all year	1-2 birds have occasionally been recorded in pelagic surveys – mostly from the July-September period but there are two February records in recent years.
Pomarine Jaeger	Regular, in summer	Regularly recorded between October and early April, including sometimes from land. Pelagic surveys in that period regularly record up to five birds, and occasionally up to ten birds.
Arctic Jaeger	Regular, in summer	Small numbers are regularly recorded between September and early April, mostly from close offshore and around harbours and estuaries but occasionally from further offshore.
Long-tailed Jaeger	Irregular, in summer	1-2 birds are occasionally recorded between September and early April, ranging from sightings from land to birds at the continental shelf.
Common Noddy	Accidental/Rare	Prior to 2009 there had only been three records – of single birds in November 1977, January 1999 and March 2008. In March 2009 there were several records from widespread locations, whilst a young bird was regularly present around Newcastle Beach throughout March 2010 (roosting locally every day) and a bird was recorded at sea in March 2010. All records, excepting 1977 and one record for 2009 and for 2010, were sightings from land.
Black Noddy	Accidental	The only records for the Region are of a single bird at the continental shelf in January 2004 and January 2007.
White Tern	Accidental	The only record for the Region is of a single bird at the continental shelf in March 2003.
Grey Ternlet	Accidental	A single bird was at the continental shelf in March 2002, while in February 1995, after heavy storms, a single bird was offshore from Booti Booti National Park.
Sooty Tern	Rare/Uncommon, in summer	Many birds were recorded in January 2007 in several pelagic surveys, including days with 15+ birds and 4-5 birds. There were also several records in early 2010. Prior to 2007 there were only occasional records although this included one record of 7+ birds. It seems plausible they may be regular visitors, but more data are needed.
White-fronted Tern	Regular, in winter	1-2 birds are often recorded at / beyond the continental shelf but most records are from near to the coast, where 10-20 birds roost at some favoured sites or are fishing near to shore.
Crested Tern	Common, all year	Most records are from near to the coast, where several hundred birds sometimes roost at favoured sites or are fishing near to shore. However, 1-2 birds are often recorded at / beyond the continental shelf.

## Appendix – all pelagic bird records from Bird Reports (1993-2009)

(Note: records from prior to 1993 were collected less systematically)

### Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*

#### 2009

A bird was taken into care at Stroud 17 Feb after a tropical low pressure system moved south into NSW; the bird was released off Nobbys Beach 26 Feb (ERE/Newcastle Herald). Also, a single bird was recorded Merewether Baths 30 Mar (HOG).

#### 2006

A dead bird was found near Stockton bridge 21 Jan (SPJ).

#### 2000

A single bird was recorded at Hawks Nest 16 Apr 2000 (*Aust. Birds*, 33, 13).

### White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*

#### 2000

After a storm, a bird was found inland at Stewarts Brook near Scone on 21 Mar. The bird was taken into care overnight then released at the coast the following day (per MOA).

#### 1999

A single bird was 17 naut. miles ENE of Crowdy Head 25 Jan 1999 (*Aust. Birds*, 32, 186).

#### 1994

An immature bird was recorded at BBNP Jan 12 (TUD).

### Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

#### 2009

15 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul, six birds on the analogous survey 19 Mar and four birds on 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

#### 2008

~100 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

#### 2007

1-3 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Swansea 23 Jan and 21 Oct (HAP), Newcastle 22 Jan (HAP) and Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM).

#### 2006

20 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct and ten birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP). Two birds were present on the corresponding 26 Mar survey (HPS).

#### 2004

Eight birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan, and five birds on the corresponding 1 Feb survey (HAP).

#### 2003

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, five birds were recorded Sep 6 and Oct 25, and a few birds Mar 29 (HBOC).

#### 2002

Around 100 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14, and 60-70 birds during an equivalent survey Mar 23 (HBOC).

#### 2001

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 and a single bird on another survey to this area Jun 8 (HBOC).

#### 2000

17+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 8, and nine birds on the corresponding Nov 4 survey (HBOC records).

#### 1999

A single bird was recorded off Hallidays Point Oct 8 (ALP).

## **White-faced Storm-Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*

### **2009**

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul and a single bird there 1 Oct (ROM/STA). See Supplementary Records.

### **2007**

1-2 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 & 22 Jan and E of Swansea 23 Jan (HAP).

### **2006**

1-5 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar, 20 Aug and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

### **2005**

Around 50 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

### **2004**

Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan, and five birds on the corresponding 1 Feb survey (HAP).

### **2003**

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 50 birds were recorded Aug 16, three birds Sep 6 and 2+ birds Oct 25 (HBOC). A dead bird was found on a beach near Little Gibber MLNP Jan 5 (TUD).

### **2002**

Birds were recorded during three pelagic trips SE of Swansea, with the counts as follows: 20 birds Sep 14, five birds Oct 14 and a single bird Mar 23 (HBOC).

### **2001**

25+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 15, 12 birds on the corresponding Aug 11 survey and two birds on the Jan 28 survey (all HBOC).

### **2000**

8+ birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea on Aug 5 and Oct 8 (HBOC records).

### **1996**

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ).

### **1995**

Birds were not recorded during the year. However, advice was received (MOA) that breeding occurs each year on Storm Petrel Island (near Broughton Island, cell P8), with birds first arriving in late spring.

## **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta tropica*

### **2009**

Two birds were recorded together on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

### **2006**

Two birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 Aug and 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

### **2005**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS).

### **2003**

2+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 25 (HBOC).

### **2002**

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 15 (HBOC).

## **White-bellied Storm-Petrel** *Fregetta grallaria*

### **2007**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 22 Jan (HAP).

### **2006**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

## **Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans*

### **2009**

One bird (sub-species *gibsoni*) was recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA), and a single bird was off Port Stephens late Jan (BIA).

### **2008**

A total of 26 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct - 25 x *gibsoni* and 1 x *antipodensis* (HAP). A single bird was off Broughton Island 21 Oct (TBW).

## 2007

1-2 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Seal Rocks 19 Jan (FOC) and Newcastle 20 Jan (HAP), and E of Port Stephens daily over late Jan and early Feb (FOC). 1 x *exulans* was off Port Stephens 21 Jan and 1 x *gibsoni* off Newcastle 20 Jan.

## 2006

A total of 41 birds was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct - 25 x *gibsonii* and 8 each of *exulans* and *antipodensis* (HAP). On the corresponding survey on 30 Oct, 23 birds were present - 20 x *gibsonii*, 2 x *antipodensis* and 1 x *exulans* (HAP). 1-5 birds (races not always identified) were present on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar (1+ x *gibsonii*) and 20 Aug (1+ x *exulans* and 1+ x *antipodensis*) and offshore from Newcastle beach 24 Jun and 26 Aug and 5 Nov (1 x *antipodensis*) and Swansea headlands 4 Jul (HPS, MCR, HAP).

## 2005

A juvenile bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS). An adult and a juvenile bird were off Newcastle 9 Jun (MCR/LIN).

## 2003

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 – two of subspecies *exulans* and eight of subspecies *gibsoni*. There were 14 birds on the corresponding survey Sep 6 – four of subspecies *exulans*, two of subspecies *antipodensis* and eight of subspecies *gibsoni* (HAP/HBOC). Eight birds were found on the Oct 25 survey – races not recorded.

## 2002

Three different races were recorded during pelagic trips SE of Swansea during Aug-Oct, as follows: 1 x *exulans* and 1 x *antipodensis* on Aug 18; 6 x *gibsoni* and 1 x *antipodensis* on Sep 14; 10 x *gibsoni* on Oct 14 (HAP, HBOC). Also, a single bird was recorded offshore near Smiths Lake late May (MVBW) – the race was not noted.

## 2000

Birds were recorded on all three pelagic surveys SE of Swansea – seven birds Aug 5, a single bird Oct 8 and two birds Nov 4 (HBOC records).

## Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

### 2009

10-12 birds were close off Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM), and a single bird off Newcastle Baths 2 May (BRG). Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul, and a single bird (subspecies *melanophris*) on the corresponding survey 1 Oct (ROM/STA).

### 2008

12 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct including 10 x *impavida* (HAP). 1-5 birds were regularly off Nobbys beach over Jun-early Sep, with 12 birds recorded 28 Jun (ROM, HBOC, THJ, ANC) and 50+ birds 29 Jul, sitting on the water (ROM). Two birds were off Broughton Island 21 Oct (TBW) and single birds off Nobbys beach 27 Jul, 29 Nov and 12 Dec (RIA, WID, THJ).

### 2007

20 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM) and four birds on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 21 Oct (HAP). Four birds were off Newcastle beach 21 Jul (LIG) and a single bird off Moon Island in Nov (BCC per MOA). A bird was found 10km inland from Newcastle after very severe storms in early June - it was taken into care and then released to sea off Newcastle 22 June (VDI/NBL).

### 2006

1-5 birds were recorded on a pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 Aug and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP), and offshore from Newcastle beach 24 Jun and Swansea 4 Jul (MCR). Two of the birds 28 Oct were of race *impavida* (HAP).

### 2005

One bird was off Bar Beach 8 Jun and three birds off Newcastle baths 25 Jun (both MCR).

### 2003

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 – two were of the subspecies *impavida* (HBOC). On the corresponding survey of Sep 6, there were 20 birds – 15 of subspecies *impavida* and five of subspecies *melanophrys*, and two birds were recorded on an Oct 25 survey.

### 2002

15 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14, and 5 birds during an equivalent survey Oct 14 (HBOC). Two birds were at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP) and a single bird off Forster Jun 16 (TUD).

### 2001

Seven birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach Aug 6 (LIT). Six birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 and a single bird on another survey to this area Jun 8 (HBOC).

**2000**

Birds were recorded on all three pelagic surveys SE of Swansea – 24 birds Aug 5, 8+ birds Oct 8 and 15 birds Nov 4 (HBOC records). Two birds were also recorded off Caves Beach Jun 3 (LAK).

**1999**

Two birds were on the water off Birubi Point (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC) and a single bird was recorded off Forster/Tuncurry early Oct (ALP).

**1997**

Many birds were recorded off One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 3 (OCG) and a single bird was at Seal Rocks Jun 8 (HBOC).

**1996**

A group of at least five birds were feeding behind a fishing boat off Nobbys Head, Newcastle Jul 18 (TUD).

**Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta***2009**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul and a single bird 1 Oct (ROM/STA) – all birds were of the *cauta* sub-species.

**2008**

Seven birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct including 1 x *salvini* (HAP).

**2007**

A single bird was recorded off Swansea 20 Jun (CCFOC).

**2006**

Two birds (1 x *salvini*) were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS) and a single bird was close to shore at Saltwater 6 Apr (MVBW).

**2003**

Three birds of subspecies *cauta* and a single bird of subspecies *salvini* were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 (HBOC).

**2002**

Around 40 birds were recorded at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 – one bird was of the race *salvini* (HAP). Single birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 and Oct 14 (HBOC).

**2001**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC).

**2000**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5 (HBOC).

**1998**

A single bird was recorded 4km off Port Stephens (P9) Aug 14 (PEJ).

**1997**

Some birds were recorded off One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 3 (OCG).

**Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche chlororhynchos***2009**

15 birds were recorded in-shore and 20 birds near the continental shelf during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul, and three birds on the analogous survey 1 Oct (ROM/STA). A single bird was off Myall Lakes NP 4 Jul (BUM).

**2008**

Birds were regularly off Nobbys beach over Jun-Jul (ROM, HBOC, others), mostly as counts of <10 birds but 81 birds in two groups were sitting on the water 15 Jul and 37 birds were following a fishing trawler 7 Jul (ROM).

**2007**

3+ birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach 18 Aug (KEM), and single birds offshore of Swansea 20 Jun (CCFOC) and Myall Lakes NP 19 Jul (KEM), and on a pelagic survey offshore from Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM).

**2006**

30 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS) and 25 birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP). 1-4 birds were offshore from Swansea 4 Jul (MCR), Nobbys beach 24 & 25 Aug (RIA, KEM), and Awabakal NR 9 Sep (KEM).

**2005**

1-2 birds were recorded off Newcastle baths 8 & 25 Jun and off Bar Beach 8 Jun (both MCR).



**2003**

50 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 and 15 birds on the corresponding survey Aug 16 (HBOC).

**2002**

Around 20 birds were recorded at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP).

**2001**

Three birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach Aug 6 (LIT). Five birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC).

**2000**

30 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5, and a single bird on the corresponding Nov 4 survey (HBOC records).

**1998**

Flocks of up to 12 birds were often recorded 1-3 km off Port Stephens (P9) in mid-July (FUF), and nine birds were recorded off Swansea Heads Jul 15 (LAK).

**1997**

Two birds were recorded off One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 3 (OCG) and a single bird off Caves Beach (L11) Jul 18 (LAK).

**1994**

Six birds were recorded off Seal Rocks late Jun (PEJ).

**Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri***2007**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 21 Jan (HAP).

**2003**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC).

**Southern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus***2009**

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA).

**2007**

Single birds were recorded off Caves Beach 23 Sep (HBOC) and on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 21 Oct (HAP).

**2006**

Single birds were recorded on pelagic trips E of Newcastle 28 & 30 Oct (HAP).

**2003**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC).

**2002**

Two birds – one of them a white phase bird – were recorded at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP), and four birds during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC).

**2000**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5 (HBOC), and a single immature bird was at Newcastle Baths Oct 2 (ROM).

**1994**

A single bird was recorded off Seal Rocks on Jul 1 (PEJ).

**Northern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes halli***2009**

Two birds were positively identified (with four other Giant-Petrels) offshore from Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM), and a single bird was offshore from Newcastle Baths 2 Jun (LIN).

**2007**

A bird was taken into care at Broadmeadow (inner Newcastle suburb) on 11 Jun after severe storms, and was released to sea off Newcastle 22 June (VDI/NBL).

**2006**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 20 Aug and three birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**2004**

Three birds were offshore from Newcastle Baths 31 Oct (HTH).

**2003**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 7 (HBOC).

**2002**

Two birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC).

**2000**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5 (HBOC).

**Cape Petrel** *Daption capense***2009**

Three birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA).

**2007**

A single bird was within a few metres of the Nobbys beach breakwater 20 Oct (BEA per MOA).

**2006**

1-3 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20 Aug and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**2003**

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, around 20 birds were recorded Aug 16, four birds Jul 27, a single bird Sep 6 and 2+ birds Oct 25 (HBOC).

**2002**

20-30 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 and 25 birds during a similar survey Oct 14 (both HBOC).

**2000**

26 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5, and single birds on two additional surveys of this area on Oct 8 and Nov 4 (HBOC records).

**1999**

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens Oct 8 (FRP).

**Broad-billed Prion** *Pachyptila vittata*

No reports were received over 1993-2009.

**Antarctic Prion** *Pachyptila desolata***2000**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5 (HBOC).

**Slender-billed Prion** *Pachyptila belcheri***2002**

Around 20 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14, and a single bird during an equivalent survey Oct 14 (both HBOC). Four birds were at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP).

**Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur***2006**

Around 20 birds were recorded off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR), and a single bird on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS).

**2005**

20+ birds recorded off Newcastle baths 8 Jun and 40+ birds there 25 Jun (both MCR) are considered probably to have been this species.

**2004**

Several hundred birds that were recorded off Newcastle beach 27 Jun are considered probably to have been mainly of this species (HAP).

**2003**

Some birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC), and 1000+ birds were flying north off Newcastle Beach Aug 28 (HAP).

**2002**

Around 40 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14, and a single bird during an equivalent survey Oct 14 (both HBOC). Ten birds were at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP).

**2001**

13 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC).

**2000**

A single bird, that later died, was found at The Ruins BBNP Jun 13 (TUD). Eight birds were recorded during a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5 (HBOC).

**White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis***2003**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC)

**Black Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni***2007**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Jan (HAP).

**2006**

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 28 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**2000**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Nov 4 (HBOC).

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna pacificus***2009**

*Notable records:* 2,500+ birds (mostly feeding at ~4km offshore) were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Oct (ROM/STA) and ~1,000 birds off Nobbys Beach 1 Nov (THJ). 1,000+ birds off Seal Rocks 13 Mar were probably *A. pacificus* (BRG/LIN). Several hundred birds were off Nobbys Head 7 Feb and 12 Aug (MOA *et al.*, ROM) and Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA). 50+ birds were at Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) – late departure. See Supplementary Records.

**2008**

*Notable records:* 2,000 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP) and 800-1,000 birds were off Nobbys beach 11-12 Mar (SRM, ROM). Many hundreds of birds were off Newcastle harbour/Nobbys beach 20 & 27 Jan, 19 & 21 Mar, 14 Apr, 5 Sep and 24 Dec (THJ, HBOC, ANC), and off Crowdy Head 16 Oct (STA). Birds had returned by 22 Aug, when ~20 were off Nobbys beach (ROM).

**2007**

*Notable records:* 1000+ birds were recorded daily in pelagic trips E of Port Stephens over late Jan to early Feb (BIA), 2,000 birds on a pelagic survey from Swansea 21 Oct and 800 birds on the corresponding survey 23 Jan (both HAP). 1000+ birds were offshore from Awabakal NR 21 Sep (KEM). 200-500+ birds were recorded on several other occasions in Jan-Feb and Sep-Oct (HAP, KEM) and ~200 birds off Nobbys beach 1 Apr (NBL). Many hundreds of birds were roosting on Cabbage Tree Island mid Jan (BIA) and some birds were on nests at Broughton Island 24-26 Oct (CLT).

**2006**

*Notable records:* 2,000+ birds were present off Belmont beach 22 Sep and off Swansea Heads 13 Nov (KEM), and 1,500 birds on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP). 500-1,000 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 20 Aug (HPS), off Swansea Heads 20 Sep and Belmont beach 3 Nov (KEM), and off Newcastle harbour 19 Mar (MOA). Birds were nesting at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT). A bird present on the 26 Mar pelagic had been banded at sea off Wollongong Nov 2002 (HAP).

**2005**

Around 1,500 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr and ~500 birds on the corresponding survey 10 Apr (both HPS). 100+ birds were off Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA).

**2004**

*Notable records:* Around 400 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb, and 150 birds on the corresponding Jan survey (HAP).

**2003**

*Notable records:* The earliest record was of a single bird seen on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC). 500+ birds were recorded on the corresponding survey Sep 6 and 1000+ birds on Oct 25 (HBOC). An unusual inland record was of 3 dead birds at Gloucester May 3 (DBP) – a skin is now in the Australian Museum (registration AM O.70679).

**2002**

*Notable records:* Around 2000 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC). 50 birds were at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP) – the first arrivals for the season. Birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island early Mar (ROS/FRN).

## 2001

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

## 2000

3000+ birds were recorded off Stockton Beach/Newcastle Beach Jan 30 (FRP) and around 1000 birds there Feb 26 (STA). A mixed flock with *P. tenuirostris* of 2000+ birds were off Merewether Beach Oct 31 (ANC). Several hundreds of birds were also recorded off Swansea Mar 1 (BAR) and on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Oct 8 and Nov 4 (HBOC). Some additional reports were received of lesser numbers present offshore during Feb/mid-Apr.

## 1999

Around 5000 birds were recorded off Newcastle Baths (M10) Jan 23 (KEM) and 1000+ birds off Port Stephens Oct 8 (FRP) and off Birubi Point (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC). 100+ birds were also off Broughton Island in early Jan (HLC). Three birds were recorded off MLNP (Q7) Dec 22 (KEM),

## 1998

Occasionally recorded over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec, with most reports being of several hundred birds. 1000 birds were seen off Newcastle Baths Nov 9 (ROS) and an estimated 10,000 birds off Seal Rocks Oct 7 (PEJ). A few birds (<20) were recorded around Newcastle Harbour/Stockton Apr 5/6 (BIA, OCG).

## 1997

Approximately 10,000 birds were recorded off Seal Rocks Oct 7 (PEJ), and 1000+ birds off Merewether Beach (M10) Feb 5 (STA). Groups of 200-500 birds were also at Nelson Bay (O9) Feb (LAK), Stockton Beach Mar 1 (LIA), and near Moon Island (M11) Dec 7 (PEJ). Some birds were also recorded at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 (LAK), Merewether Beach Feb 6 (STA) and Crowdy Head (S4) Sep 21 (HBOC). Birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG). The birds at Nelson Bay had been following fishing boats returning to the marina.

## 1996

Often recorded in groups of 10-100+ or as beach-washed dead birds, along the coast during Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec. 1000+ birds were off Newcastle/Stockton beaches (M10) Jan 15 & 21 (LIA, HBOC), and 500+ off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ). Single beach-washed dead birds were found along Stockton beach Apr 30 (NATF) and May 6 (BOS). Two unusual inland records – of a bird found dead by a roadside at East Maitland May 3 following storms (PRK) and of an injured bird, taken into care, found at Singleton May 7 (NATF).

## 1995

Flocks of 50-200+ birds, sometimes mixed with Short-tailed Shearwater *P. tenuirostris*, were recorded several times during Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec from beaches around Newcastle. 500+ birds were off Glenrock SRA Dec 10 (HBOC) and at Seal Rocks late Dec (PEJ), and 1000+ were at sea off Moon Island (M11) Oct 2 (MOA). Five birds were seen off Stockton Beach (M10) Apr 1 and 10-12 birds off Glenrock SRA Apr 29 (STA).

## 1994

2000+ birds were recorded off Stockton Beach (M10) Jan 23 (HBOC) and several hundred off Nobby's Beach (M10) Sep 16 (OCG). 21-50 birds at Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 and Bar Beach (M10) Dec 28 (STA); smaller groups off Stockton Beach Feb 19 and Newcastle Beach Aug 20 (STA), Awabakal NR Aug 21 (HBOC), Seal Rocks Nov 18 and late Dec (MOA, NBA), Cabbage Tree Island Dec 12-16 (CBOC), Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) late Dec (NBA).

## **Buller's Shearwater** *Ardenna bulleri*

### 2009

A single bird was seen off Merewether Baths 30 Mar (HOG).

### 2001

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 (HBOC).

### 2000

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 8 (HBOC).

### 1995

A single bird was recorded on Cabbage Tree Island in April, and another bird was banded there on Dec 18 (CAN). These were only the third and fourth records, respectively, for this species on the island, and the first ever banding of the species in Australia. To date, there has been only one other record in Australia of Buller's Shearwater on land – on Montague Island near Narooma.

## **Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Ardenna carneipes*

### **2009**

200+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA). 20+ birds were off the Newcastle foreshore 26 Apr (WID) and 10+ birds off Nobbys Head 7 Feb (MOA et al.) and Newcastle Baths 1 Apr (ROM). A single bird was off Seal Rocks 13 Mar (BRG/LIN).

### **2008**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP) and 6+ birds were off Nobbys Beach 20 Jan (HBOC).

### **2007**

25-50 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 20, 21 & 22 Jan and Swansea 23 Jan and 21 Oct (all HAP) and daily off Port Stephens late Jan/early Feb (BIA). A single bird was offshore close to Newcastle baths 23 Jan (THJ).

### **2006**

70 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 50 birds on a similar survey 28 Oct (HPS, HAP). 1-5 birds were present off Newcastle beach 29 Oct (DDR), off Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/RUR) and off Newcastle harbour 19 Mar (MOA).

### **2005**

100+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (STA).

### **2004**

50 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb, and ten birds on the corresponding Jan survey (HAP).

### **2003**

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 30 birds were recorded Oct 25, moderate numbers on Mar 29 and a single bird on Sep 6 (HBOC).

### **2002**

Around 100 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14, and 50+ birds during an equivalent survey Mar 23 (both HBOC).

### **2001**

Around 100 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28, and 30+ birds on a similar survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

### **2000**

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 8 (HBOC).

### **1999**

Some birds were recorded off Broughton Island in early Jan (HLC).

### **1998**

At least 10 birds were present off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 11 (MOA), and 6+ birds off Newcastle heads Dec 1 (HBOC).

### **1996**

100+ birds were recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ). Three birds were at Seal Rocks Jan 1/3 (PEJ) and a single bird at Newcastle Beach (M10) Jan 15 (LIA). Also, a dead bird was found at Merewether (M10) Aug 30 (NATF).

## **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

### **2008**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

### **2006**

15 birds were recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP).

### **2004**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb (HAP).

### **2002**

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC).

### **2000**

Single birds were recorded at Newcastle Harbour Jan 11 (LAK) and during a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 8 (HBOC).

### **1997**

Some birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG).

**1996**

Some birds were recorded at Cabbage Tree Island (where birds are often found) during Dec 13/16 (BIA). Single dead birds were found along Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) and Merewether/Burwood beaches (M10) during a beach survey Nov 10 (HBOC).

**1995**

10+ birds were at Cabbage Tree Island Dec 4/8 (MOA), and 3 dead birds were found washed ashore at Glenrock SRA Dec 10 (HBOC). We were advised that birds breed regularly on offshore islands, such as Broughton Island and Cabbage Tree Island (MOA).

**1994**

A dead bird was found at a fox den near Forster on Nov 21 (TUD).

**Short-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna tenuirostris***2009**

*Notable records:* 2,500 birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach 25 Oct and 1,000+ were again present 10 Nov (ROM). 600-700 birds were feeding inside Port Stephens 28 Oct in many rafts, rising to ~3,000 birds 29 Oct in rafts of 100-250 and no birds present 30 Oct (ROA).

Some 8,000-10,000 dead/dying birds (based on an estimated average density of 25-30 per 100m) were along Stockton Beach 16 Nov (NEM/STA) – this reflected a major wreck that occurred for the species in SE Australia in early Nov. Dead birds were present from at least 1 Nov (IVT). Several beaches further to the north of the Region were assessed over 17-18 Nov and these had few/nil beachcast birds (STA); however, 111 dead birds were at Mudbishops Point beach 10 Nov (DBP). There were few surveys made at any beaches in the south of the Region, but Redhead Beach had 16-17 dead birds in a small area surveyed (POJ).

**2008**

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**2007**

*Notable records:* Thousands of birds were flying south off Newcastle beach mid Oct (THJ), and 100 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey from Swansea 21 Oct (HAP). Eleven birds were offshore from Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM), 6+ birds off Swansea Heads 13 Sep (KEM) and 1-5 birds on other pelagic surveys from Newcastle 20-22 Jan and Swansea 23 Jan (all HAP), and off Nobbys Beach 17 Mar and 1 Apr (KEM, NBL).

**2006**

*Notable records:* Around 100 birds were present on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 28 & 30 Oct (HAP). The first documented return was when a single bird was recorded on the pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS).

**2005**

*Notable records:* Small numbers of birds were recorded off Mudbishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/ MCR) and off Newcastle beach 6 Dec (HBOC).

**2004**

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**2003**

*Notable records:* 10+ birds were recorded off Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR). A beach washed bird was found at Fishermans Bay (O9) May 4 (MCI) – possibly this was one of the last young birds to leave one of the breeding islands.

**2002**

*Notable records:* Around 500 birds were recorded off Newcastle Baths Feb 22 (LAK), and 200 birds during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14 (HBOC).

**2001**

There were no exceptions to the general description of status.

**2000**

A mixed flock with *P. pacificus* of 2000+ birds was recorded off Merewether Beach Oct 31 (ANC), and 100+ birds during pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Oct 8 and Nov 4 (HBOC). Dead birds were found on all coastal beaches in the Region during October, with the numbers estimated to total tens of thousands. Similar mortality levels were noted throughout eastern Australia at this time.

**1999**

A few birds (<6) were recorded off Birubi Point (O9) Oct 24 (HBOC). Three beach-washed birds were found at Hallidays Point in early Jan (WOR), and many dead birds were on MLNP beaches Jan 23 (TUD).



**1998**

100+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island Jan 5/22 (HLC) and off Boat Harbour (O9) Nov 10 (HBOC), and 600+ birds off Port Stephens (P9) Nov 14 (KEM). A single bird was present off Stockton beach Mar 1 (LIA). Some birds at Broughton Island had nests with eggs.

**1997**

Single birds were recorded off Stockton Beach Mar 1 (LIA) and Birdie Beach Nov 23 (FOC).

**1996**

Eight birds were recorded off Seal Rocks Jan 1/3 (PEJ), and 500+ birds offshore from BBNP Nov 24 (HBOC). A total of 11 dead birds were found along Merewether/ Burwood beaches (M10) and Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) during a beach survey Nov 10 (HBOC). 14 injured birds were treated during the year – up until May 17 and from Oct 29 (NATF); seven of these cases were in May.

**1995**

Many dead birds found along beaches north from Port Stephens in late December (TUD). Single dead birds were also found at Glenrock SRA Dec 10 (HBOC) and Newcastle Beach (M10) Dec 17 (STA). A mixed flock, with *P. pacificus*, of 150 birds was seen off Stockton Dec 30 (BIA), and several birds were at Hallidays Point Mar 2 (MVBW). At least one bird was at Cabbage Tree Island Dec 15 (CBOC), and four birds were at Seal Rocks late Dec (PEJ). We were advised that birds breed regularly on offshore islands, such as Broughton Island and Cabbage Tree Island (MOA).

**1994**

100+ birds were recorded at Crowdy Head/Harrington Oct 30 E (HTH) and 60+ at Yagon (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA). Three birds were sighted at Bombah Point/ Mungo Brush (P8) Nov 17 (MOA). Birds were also recorded at both Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) and Seal Rocks in late Dec (NBA) - numbers not noted. A bird was found dead on an island in Cape Hawke Harbour (Q6) - date not noted (TUD).

**1993**

A single bird recorded near Manning River, between Taree & Manning Point (Q4, R4, S4) during May 5-7 (HAS).

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas***2006**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

**2000**

A single bird was recorded, from land, offshore from Nobbys Head (M10) Mar 26 (LOM).

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia***2009**

~500 birds were off Nobbys Beach 10 Nov (ROM). Eight birds were feeding with a group of Silver Gull and Crested Tern 30m off Stockton Breakwater 20 Jul (ERE). 1-2 birds were recorded on a Port Stephens pelagic survey 2 Jul (ROM/STA) and off Birubi Point 17 Oct and Nobbys Beach 1 Nov (RIA, HHB), and a beach-cast bird at Newcastle Beach 17 Feb (ROM).

**2008**

Around 10,000 birds (count estimated from photographs examined afterwards) flew past Nobbys beach in a flock stretching over 2km 24 Aug (ROM). 80-100+ birds were also off Nobbys beach 27 & 29 Jul (HBOC, ROM) and 5 Sep (ANC) and lesser numbers there 28 Jun and 6 Aug (ROM, THJ). Five birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

**2007**

~500 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 21 Oct (HAP), 200+ birds off Swansea Heads 13 Sep (KEM) and 100+ birds offshore from Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM). 30 birds were offshore from Newcastle Baths 28 Oct (LIA), and there were several records in Jan and Sep-Oct of 1-5 birds. Winter records were of 100+ birds offshore from Newcastle 21 Jul (LIG) and ~30 birds near Moon Island Jul (BRG), and 15+ birds off Nobbys Beach 18 Aug (KEM).

**2006**

2,000+ birds were present off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR) and 308 birds were off Newcastle Baths 20 Aug (LIA). A mixed flock with *P. huttoni* of 200+ birds was off Belmont beach 12 Aug (KEM). 50-100+ birds were recorded offshore from Nobbys beach 25 Aug and 9 Nov and Swansea Heads 13 Nov (all KEM), and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP). Around 20 birds were off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR) and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS), and six birds offshore from Awabakal NR 1 Dec (MCR/RUR). 1-5 birds were off Awabakal NR 9 Sep (KEM), Newcastle beach 29 Oct (HHB) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR), and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 30 Oct (HAP).

**2005**

50+ birds were recorded off Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA) and some birds at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan (HLC).

**2004**

Large numbers of birds were off Newcastle in August. An estimated 10,000 birds were seen from Dudley Bluff 14 Aug (POY) and many thousands of birds were off Newcastle Beach and to further south 29 Aug (BRG/LIN). A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb (HAP).

**2003**

Mixed flocks with *P. huttoni* of several thousand birds were recorded off Newcastle Beach often during late Aug and early Sep (LIT). 6+ birds were also off Newcastle Beach Dec 22 and a few birds again on Dec 30 (MCR). Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 and 200 birds on the corresponding Oct 25 survey (HBOC).

**2002**

500+ birds were recorded off Stockton beach Aug 4 (TAH) and 250 birds during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14 (HBOC). 50 birds were recorded during an equivalent survey Sep 14 (HBOC) and 15 birds at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP).

**2001**

100+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC) and several hundred birds were sighted off Swansea Aug 25 (CBOC). 12 birds were near the Forster/ Tuncurry breakwater Aug 26 (TUD). Some birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 and SE of Swansea Sep 15 (HBOC).

**2000**

600+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Nov 4 (HBOC), and several hundreds of birds off Newcastle Baths Jan 22 (FRP) and off Caves Beach Jun 3 (LAK). 1-5 birds were also recorded off Swansea Mar 1 (BAR), and on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 5 and Oct 8 (HBOC).

**1998**

1000+ birds were recorded off Caves Beach/Moon Island (L11) Jun 11 & Jul 10 (PEJ, LAK); 500 birds still remained in this area Jul 15 (LAK). Many hundreds of birds were 1-3 km off Port Stephens (P9) in mid-July (FUF). 20-50 birds were off Newcastle Baths Nov 9 (ROS) and off Port Stephens Oct 23 (OCG).

**1997**

Approximately 1200 birds were off Caves Beach (L11) Jul 17 (LAK).

**1996**

Two birds were recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ), and a single dead bird was found along Nine Mile Beach (L11/M11) during a beach survey Nov 10 (HBOC).

**1995**

20+ birds were recorded at Seal Rocks late Dec (PEJ).

**1994**

Approximately 10,000 birds were sighted off Harrington/Crowdy Head Sep 6/7 (HAS). Other records were a single bird at Seal Rocks late Jun (PEJ), 10+ birds at Yagon (Q7) Nov 18 (MOA), and unknown numbers at both Bungwahl/ Horse Point (Q7) and Seal Rocks in late Dec (NBA).

**Hutton's Shearwater** *Puffinus huttoni***2009**

Single birds were recorded during a Port Stephens pelagic survey 1 Oct (ROM/STA) and off Nobbys Beach 25 Oct (ROM).

**2008**

200 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP). At least one bird and probably more was with the large flock of *P. gavia* off Nobbys beach 24 Aug (ROM). A single bird was off Nobbys beach 14 Mar (ROM/RIA).

**2007**

Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey offshore from Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM).

**2006**

350 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Aug (HPS), and a mixed flock with *P. gavia* of 200+ birds were off Belmont beach 12 Aug (KEM). 20+ birds were off Swansea 4 Jul (MCR) and 1-5 birds off Nobbys breakwater 24 Aug (RIA) and on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 28 Oct (HPS, HAP).

**2004**

Four birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in January (HAP).



**2003**

Note the above records of mixed flocks with *P. gavia* of thousands of birds late Aug to early Sep. On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 100+ birds were recorded Sep 6, 50 birds Oct 25 and 20 birds Aug 16 (HBOC).

**2002**

15 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14, and two birds and one bird during equivalent surveys Mar 23 and Sep 14 respectively (HBOC). A single bird was at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP).

**2001**

Several hundred birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 15, and two birds on a survey to the same area Aug 11 (HBOC).

**2000**

Single birds were recorded during pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 5 and Nov 4, and two birds on the Oct 8 survey (HBOC records).

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis***2007**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 22 Jan (HAP).

**2002**

A dead bird was found at Old Bar Feb 18, and was sent to the Australian Museum (D James per BAR/MOA). A second dead bird was found in the same area on 11 Mar (MCI). Both specimens have been lodged in the Australian Museum.

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pseudobulweria rostrata***2001**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 (HBOC) and a single bird on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

**1997**

A single bird was recorded approximately 40km E of Port Stephens (R9) Feb 25 (PEJ).

**Juan Fernandez Petrel** *Pterodroma externa*

No reports were received over 1993-2009.

**Kermadec Petrel** *Pterodroma neglecta***2006**

Five individual birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

**2005**

Three birds each having differing plumage (dark, intermediate and light morphs) were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 10 Apr (HPS).

**2001**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

**White-headed Petrel** *Pterodroma lessonii***2003**

A single bird was recorded beyond the continental shelf on pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jul 26 (NBL) and several birds on the corresponding Aug 16 survey (HBOC).

**2002**

A single bird was recorded beyond the continental shelf during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC).

## **Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera*

### **2009**

Ten birds were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and some birds off Port Stephens late Jan (BIA). A beach-cast bird was found near Nobbys Beach 17 Feb and, unusually, a bird was close offshore from Nobbys Beach 20 Apr after two days of high winds (both ROM).

### **2008**

70 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

### **2007**

40 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 30 Jan (BIA), and 1-10 birds on pelagics off Newcastle and Swansea over 20-23 Jan (HAP).

### **2006**

15-20 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 30 Oct (HPS, HAP), 200 birds on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP).

### **2005**

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

### **2004**

40 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb and also ten birds on the corresponding Jan survey (HAP).

### **2003**

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, 200 birds were recorded Oct 25, ten birds Aug 16, two birds Sep 6 and a few birds Mar 29 (HBOC).

### **2002**

75 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14, and 3+ birds and 10 birds during equivalent surveys Mar 23 and Sep 14 respectively (HBOC).

### **2001**

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28, and two birds on another survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

### **2000**

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea on Aug 5 and Oct 8, and three birds on the Nov 4 survey (HBOC records).

### **1996**

6+ birds were recorded off Port Stephens (Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ).

## **Providence Petrel** *Pterodroma solandri*

### **2009**

15-20 birds were recorded during pelagic surveys off Port Stephens 19 Mar and 2 Jul, and then 150+ birds on 1 Oct (ROM/STA) – the latter being the highest known counts for the Region.

### **2008**

Ten birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

### **2007**

Five birds were recorded on a pelagic survey 21 Oct (HAP).

### **2006**

15-20 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 28 & 30 Oct (HPS, HAP), and 30 birds on a similar survey 20 Aug (HPS).

### **2005**

Several birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

### **2003**

On pelagic surveys SE of Swansea, around 50 birds were recorded Aug 16 and Sep 6, 30 birds Oct 25 and a few birds on Mar 29 (HBOC).

### **2002**

75 birds were recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14, and 3-5 birds during an equivalent survey Mar 23 (HBOC).

### **2001**

100+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jun 8, and 3-4 birds on other surveys of this area Aug 11 and Sep 15 (HBOC).

### **2000**

19 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5, four birds on the Oct 8 survey and a single bird on the Nov 4 survey (HBOC records).

## **Gould's Petrel** *Pterodroma leucoptera*

### **2009**

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA). A bird had a nest with egg at Broughton Island in Dec (Birds Australia news bulletin) – this is the first breeding record for this location; there are now three islands where the birds breed.

### **2008**

Six adult birds were sitting in nest boxes at Boondelbah Island 27 Oct - this was early in the season and no eggs/young were present (CLT). A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP). Also see Supplementary Records.

### **2007**

1-5 birds were recorded on a pelagic surveys off Newcastle and Swansea over 20-23 Jan (HAP) and off Port Stephens twice in late Jan (BIA). There were 30 breeding pairs on Boondelbah Island in 2007. The number of breeding pairs on Cabbage Tree Island has been stable at ~1,000 pairs since 2001 and the numbers on Boondelbah Island have increased steadily from a single breeding pair in 1999. (All information is from D. Priddel, *State Of Australia's Birds 2008*, Birds Australia, p30).

### **2006**

Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS) and a single bird on a similar survey 28 Oct (HAP).

### **2005**

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Newcastle 3 Apr and 10 Apr (HPS). **Breeding:** There are around 1000 breeding pairs on Cabbage Tree Island, with close to 500 chicks fledging each year. Also, around 20 pairs now breed on Boondelbah Island (information from N Carlisle in CBOC's April 2006 Newsletter). *The recovery of this species, which was commenced as a National Parks & Wildlife project in the 1990's, continues to be encouraging.*

### **2004**

At least two birds were present during a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan, and 3+ birds in the corresponding survey 1 Feb (HAP).

### **2003**

A single bird was recorded off Swansea Mar 30 (MOA per CBOC) and two birds on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Oct 25 (HBOC). A bird was found on land at Tea Gardens Apr 3 after a storm – it was taken into care and later released (MVBW/FOC).

### **2002**

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14 (HBOC). Several birds were found inland in late April – near Muswellbrook (>100 km inland) and at Eraring, Seaham and Woodville (FOC, Newcastle Herald). 360 nestlings and 63 adults were banded at Cabbage Tree Island early March, with an estimated 488 fledglings for the season (ROS/FRN).

### **2001**

An estimated 1025 breeding pairs now utilise Cabbage Tree Island. In December, 538 nest sites were found to contain eggs (ROS).

### **2000**

A single bird was recorded 10km offshore from Newcastle Nov (BAR). The breeding success on Cabbage Tree Island for the 99/00 season was 57% - a very good result. Also, a pair nested on nearby Boondelbah Island. Once again, 100 near-fledged chicks were transferred to Boondelbah Island in March in an attempt to further establish this as a second breeding site.

### **1999**

Continued efforts by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and volunteers have led to increasing numbers of pairs nesting and successfully raising young on Cabbage Tree Island. Almost 300 chicks were fledged there in the 1998/99 breeding season. NPWS later trans-located 100 of the chicks to nearby Boondelbah Island in the hope that, as adults, they will return there to breed. This will reduce the vulnerability from having a sole breeding location (*this information was taken from CBOC's May - June 1999 Newsletter*). 510 active nests were recorded over November/December, but some of the chicks were being eaten by Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* (NSW NPWS Newsletter).

### **1998**

No reports were received.

### **1997**

The 97/98 season on Cabbage Tree Island had 866 nest sites (for comparison, there were 816 nest sites in 96/97) of which 514 were active (316 in 96/97), and with 493 of the nests having a bird and egg (269 in 96/97). (N Carlisle per G O'Connor).

**1996**

Birds had nests with eggs at Cabbage Tree Island Dec 13/16 (BIA). An injured bird, which was successfully treated, was found at Nelson Bay (O9) Mar 23 (NATF). Since 1992, there has been a 60% increase in the number of chicks hatching on Cabbage Tree Island (MVBW).

**1995**

The 1994/95 breeding population was 150 pairs, of an estimated world population of around 1000 birds. Most breeding burrows were at Cabbage Tree Island, but a minor satellite colony was discovered at nearby Boondelbah Island. A 25% increase in breeding success has been achieved as a result of an intensive conservation program. (*Information about the NSW National Parks & Wildlife program was supplied by CAN*). In December, 350 pairs were nesting (CAN/MOA).

**1994**

One record from Cabbage Tree Island, of birds present during Dec 12-16 (CBOC); this island is the only known nesting site. Nesting success is reported to have increased due to control of predators (mainly Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*), removal of Bird-lime Tree (*Pisonia umbellifera*) plants from around the nesting area and improvements to the design of artificial nest chambers (CBOC, describing the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service program).

**1993**

Birds continue to be breeding at Cabbage Tree Island (CBOC); further details were not available at the time of publication.

**Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii***2006**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 28 Oct (HAP).

**White-necked Petrel** *Pterodroma cervicalis***2007**

Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Jan (HAP) and a single bird on a similar survey off Port Stephens 22 Jan (BIA).

**2006**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS).

**2004**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb (HAP).

**2001**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

**Black-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma nigripennis***2007**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Jan (HAP).

**Pycroft's Petrel** *Pterodroma pycrofti***2002**

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Oct 14 (HBOC). The features to differentiate the bird from the also rare Cook's Petrel were clearly observed in the field and in photographs that were taken.

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor***2009**

Five birds were in Port Stephens 11 Apr (WID) and four birds off Hawks Nest 8 May (EVM). 1-3 birds were recorded off Seal Rocks 13 & 23 Mar (BRG/LIN, MCR/KEM), Shoal Bay 18 Mar (CLT), on Broughton Island 7-9 Apr (CLT) and in Port Stephens 1 Oct (ROM/STA). Breeding: Some birds were on eggs and others had dependent young at a small island off Seal Rocks late Jan (FRA), and a chick was in a burrow at Broughton Island 17 Jan (HCL). BA Atlas: One record, from cell P8. See Supplementary Records.

**2008**

Four birds were recorded near Newcastle Baths 8 & 11 Feb (ROM, RIA) and single birds at Fly Point Port Stephens 29 Jan and Boondelbah Island 27 Oct (CLT), and a dying bird was at Nobbys Beach 8 Feb (THJ). Three advanced juveniles were in separate burrows at Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC).

**2007**

Ten birds were present at Broughton Island 24-26 Oct (CLT), two birds at Tomaree 30 Jan (CLT) and a single bird in the Swansea channel (lake side) 7 Jul (ADJ).

**2006**

3-4 birds were recorded at the entrance to Newcastle harbour 20 Mar (LIG) and two birds within the harbour 25 Mar (LIN). Four birds were present off Fingal Head 3 Mar (CLT) and two birds offshore from Belmont 29 Sep (HAM). Some birds were at Broughton Island 19-21 Sep (CLT), and a dead bird was found near Newcastle baths early June (per THJ).

**2005**

Six birds were recorded at the mouth of Newcastle harbour 16 Jan (HAP) and four birds in Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC) and at Shoal Bay 8 Jul (CLT). Some birds were at Broughton Island 9-10 Jan and two breeding colonies were noted (HLC).

**2004**

Four birds were recorded off Tomaree Heads, Port Stephens Jan and three birds at Seal Rocks Sep; also, three birds were in burrows at Broughton Island Nov (all LEN records). A single bird was at Bar Beach Newcastle 3 Dec (MCR).

**2003**

A single bird was recorded at Elizabeth Beach BBNP Feb 12 (TUD).

**2002**

40-50 birds were present on Cabbage Tree Island early Mar and birds were nesting there (ROS/FRN). Two birds were recorded at Nelson Bay Apr 14 (CBOC).

**2001**

A single bird was recorded at Port Stephens heads Jul 19 (MAM) and two birds in the same area Nov 29 (JED).

**2000**

Two birds were recorded at Nelson Bay (O9) mid Feb (LAK), and birds were heard calling in the Port Stephens area late Feb (VEE). Birds were nesting at Boondelbah Island Mar 23 (BAA). There were four records of injured birds treated by Native Animal Trust Fund, spanning Mar-May.

**1999**

50+ birds were recorded at Cabbage Tree Island Dec 10 (CBOC), and single birds at Crowdy Head (S4) Apr 9 (CLT), Swansea Heads May 22 (MOA) and Elizabeth Beach BBNP Jun 14 (TUD). A few birds (<6) were at Broughton Island early Jan and there was a nest with young (HLC).

**1998**

6+ birds were recorded at Broughton Island Jan 5/22 (HLC), and 4-7 birds around Port Stephens Heads (P9) Feb 11 & 26 (MOA, OCG) and in late Oct (OSP, OCG). Single adult birds were present at Stockton Apr 9 (CBOC), Swansea Channel Dec 16 (HAM) and Seal Rocks Dec 24 (PEJ). Birds at Broughton Island and Seal Rocks had chicks.

**1997**

Three birds were recorded at Nelson Bay (O9) Feb (LAK), a single bird at Swansea Mar 4 (HBOC), and five birds were at sea off Stockton Beach Nov 9 (STA). Some birds were nesting on Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG).

**1996**

A group of c 30 birds were swimming in Port Stephens during Sep (WAC). All other reports were of 1-3 birds, where numbers were noted – at Seal Rocks Jan 1/3 (PEJ), Shoal Bay (P9) Feb 2 (LAK), Stockton Breakwater (M10) Feb 4 (LIC), Nobbys Beach (M10) Apr 6 (LAK), Cabbage Tree Island Dec 13/16 (BIA) and Coal Point (L11) Dec 26 (HAM). Injured birds were found at Newcastle Feb 29, Shoal Bay Mar 22 and Stockton May 13 - the latter bird died but the other two were successfully treated (NATF).

**1995**

Birds were breeding at Cabbage Tree Island during Dec, with 220+ being present over Dec 4/8 (CAN/MOA). At nearby Port Stephens, 1-3 birds were present Jan 1/6, Feb 22 and Mar 11 (BID, HDD). Three distressed birds were rescued at Old Bar Beach (R4) in late Mar, following storms (MVBW), and a single bird was at Seal Rocks late Dec (PEJ).

**1994**

Up to three birds were seen regularly each day at Shoal Bay (O9) over Jan 1-7, while a distressed bird was found on Nobby's Beach (M10) during rough seas on Feb 9 (BID, both reports). Two birds, each with a nest with one egg, were recorded at Seal Rocks late Jun (PEJ). The Native Animal Trust Fund treated six injured or distressed single birds over the Feb-Apr period.

## **Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*

**2000**

A single bird was recorded at Forster (*Aust. Birds*, 33, 14).

## **Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

**2009**

Notable records: 150+ birds (mostly feeding at ~4km offshore) were recorded during a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 1 Oct and 30 birds (20 in one raft) on the analogous survey 2 Jul (ROM/STA). 35 birds were off Nobbys Beach 18 Apr and 7-9 birds 30 Apr/1 May (THJ) and 20 birds off Crowdy Beach 26 Jan (ERE). 12 young birds were inside and around Port Stephens mid May (BTS) and six birds on 27 Jul (Table 8), and 7-8 birds often off the Birubi Point – Fingal Head coastline May-Aug (Table 5). BA Atlas: Six records from five cells.

**2008**

A total of 154 birds were off Newcastle harbour/Nobbys beach 31 May and ~100 birds 29 Jul (ROM), and 70 birds 2 Jun (THJ), and there were many reports of 20-50+ birds there over Jun-early Sep. 20 birds also were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP). 1-5 birds were frequently and widely recorded offshore over Apr-Sep. 1-5 birds were also off Newcastle harbour/Nobbys beach occasionally over Jan-Mar and in late Oct and 7 Dec (THJ, HBOC, HHB), Stockton beach 21 Mar and 28 Oct (MOA, TBW), Crowdy Head 16 Oct (STA) and Harrington/ Manning Point 26 Oct (MCR/KEM).

**2007**

150 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 21 Jan and 100 birds on a similar survey E of Swansea 23 Jan (both HAP). 50+ birds were off Nobbys beach 1 Apr (NBL) and 25-50 birds off Nobbys Beach 17 Jan (KEM), Harrington 16-19 Sep (HBOC) and Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM). There were records all year of up to 10 birds offshore from many coastal locations. Also, a bird was rescued in Newcastle city after very heavy storms in early June (VDI).

**2006**

150 birds were recorded on a pelagic trip E of Newcastle 20 Aug including a raft of 45 together (HPS), and 50+ birds off Awabakal NR 20 Aug (HBOC) and Nobby's beach 25 Aug (KEM). 20-30 birds were present on pelagic surveys E of Newcastle 26 Mar and 30 Oct (HPS, HAP) and off Newcastle beach 24 Jun (MCR). 17 birds were offshore from Mungo Brush 13 Aug (KEM) and 1-10 birds were moderately often recorded all year offshore everywhere. An immature bird was often seen in Newcastle harbour and nearby during June 1-10 (THJ, STA) - it was found dead on Horseshoe Beach 11 Jun with some fishing line around its neck (THJ).

**2005**

34 birds were recorded off Bar Beach 8 Jun (MCR), 20+ birds off Newcastle baths 25 Jun (MCR/ LIN) and ten birds off Redhead 15 Aug (GOC). 1-5 birds were off Muddishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR), Nelson Head 2 Jun (CLT), Fingal Bay 12 Jul (TBW), Awabakal NR 15 Sep (STA), and Crowdy Bay NP 20 Sep (HBOC), and on pelagic surveys SE of Newcastle 3 Apr and 24 Jul (STA, TOM). Also, uncommon records were of several young birds were fishing within Port Stephens 15 Jun (FRN) and a single bird off LTP in Port Stephens 14 Jun (COD).

**2004**

1-5 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea 1 Feb (HAP), and offshore from Forster 14 May (MVBW), Fingal Head 22 Jun (COD), Hawks Nest beach 1 Aug (MEL) and BBNP 21 Aug (MVBW).

**2003**

400 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 – most of them were in a very large raft approx 20km from shore (HBOC). 20 birds were recorded on the corresponding survey Aug 16 (HBOC). 1-5 birds were off Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR), Hawks Nest May 8 (MAM), Stockton Beach Aug 5 (HBOC) and Dudley Nov 1 (STA), and on a pelagic survey from Swansea Oct 25 (HBOC).



## 2002

21-50 birds were recorded off Crowdy Head (S4) Nov 22-24 and during pelagic trips SE of Swansea Aug 18 and Sep 14 (HBOC, HAP). Lesser numbers were recorded off Old Bar Feb 19 (OCG) and off Forster Jun 16 (TUD), and during pelagic trips SE of Swansea Mar 23 and Oct 14 (HBOC).

## 2001

73 birds were recorded off Hawks Nest Sep 4 (ROM) and 30+ birds on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 11 and Sep 15 (HBOC). 6+ birds were off Dudley (M10) Aug 16 (GJC). All other reports were of 1-5 birds: off Spoon Rocks (L11) Jun 17 (STA), Dudley Jun 20 (GJC), Crowdy Head (S4) Jul 21 (OCG), Fingal Bay Jul and Aug (FRN), Stockton Beach Aug 19 (ROM) and Hallidays Point Aug 18 (MVBW). *All records are from Jun-Sep – unusual compared to previous years.*

## 2000

1-5 birds, where numbers were noted, were recorded off Broughton Island Feb 17 (LAK), Swansea Mar 1 (BAR), Nobbys Beach Mar 29 (ROS), Harrington May 4 and Dec 1/3 (MVBW, OCG), Caves Beach (L11) Jun 3 (LAK) and Crowdy Head (S4) Sep 9 (TBW), and during pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 5, Oct 8 and Nov 4 (HBOC).

## 1999

1-5 birds were recorded off Hallidays Point early Jan (WOR), Old Bar Feb 4 (OCG), Belmont Jun 1 (HBOC) and Forster/Tuncurry early Oct (ALP), and 6+ birds off Broughton Island early Jan (HLC). Some birds were also recorded off Saltwater (R4) Mar 20 and BBNP Sep 19 (MVBW) – numbers were not noted.

## 1998

20+ birds were recorded off Port Stephens (P9) mid-Jul (FUF) and Nov 14 (KEM), and 6-20 birds offshore from Mungo Brush (P8) Apr 12 (KEM), Glenrock SRA May 30 (KEM) and Swansea Heads Jul 15 (LAK). 1-5 birds were off Broughton Island Jan 5/22 (HLC), Stockton Apr 6 and Jul 12 (OCG, LIA), Newcastle Baths Apr 13 (WMR), Port Stephens Oct 23 (OCG) and Mungo Brush Dec 17 (KEM).

## 1997

1-5 birds were recorded at Newcastle Beach Apr 9 & 23 (LIA, KEM). One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG), Boat Harbour (O9) Aug 9 (KEM), Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC) and Cabbage Tree Island Dec 11/14 (OCG). 6-20 birds were at Dudley (M11) Apr 26 (GJC), Seal Rocks Jun 8 (HBOC), Forster Aug 23 (KEM) and Crowdy Head (S4) Sep 21 (HBOC).

## 1996

Low numbers of birds (<10, and usually <5) were moderately often recorded along the coast all year. 20+ birds were seen offshore from Crowdy Bay NP (S3) Jun 29/Jul 6 (CJB) and 50+ birds off Stockton beach (M10) Mar 5 (HBOC).

## 1995

Groups of 1-5 birds were recorded at Harrington Mar 18 and Jun 10 (MVBW, HBOC), Wallabi Point (R5) Apr 6 (OCG), Mungo Brush MLNP (P8) Aug 12/13 (CJB) and Cabbage Tree Island Dec 4/8 (MOA). Six birds were at BBNP Jan 8 (LIA), 10 birds off Glenrock SRA Apr 29 (STA) and 20+ at Seal Rocks late Dec (PEJ). Unrecorded numbers were at Hallidays Point Mar 2 (MVBW) and Yaccaba Head (P9) May 2 (HBOC).

## 1994

Several hundred birds were recorded off Bar Beach (M10) Aug 7 (GIM) and Forster Beach (R6) Aug 15 (ROA2), and groups of 50-60 birds were at Seal Rocks late Jun (PEJ) and in Cape Hawke Harbour (R6) Nov 21 (TUD). 1-5 birds at Dudley/ Awabakal NR Aug 21 & 27 (HBOC, YAR), Harrington/Crowdy Head Sep 6/7 and Oct 30 (HAS, HTH), Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 (STA); 6-20 birds were recorded off Crowdy Bay NP (S3) Jun 13 and Nobby's Beach (M10) Sep 16 (OCG). Birds were recorded regularly all year (including immatures during winter) in Cape Hawke Harbour (TUD); other records were from Harrington Mar 26/28 (MOA), Seal Rocks late Dec and Forster late Dec (NBA).

## 1993

6-20 birds recorded around Shoal Bay/Mt Tomaree area (P9) Apr 24/25 (STA), 21-50 in Tea Gardens/ Hawks Nest area (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18 (HAS). Also recorded at Swansea Heads Apr 25 (HBOC).

### **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*

No reports were received over 1993-2009.

### **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

No reports were received over 1993-2009.

## **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

No reports were received over 1993-2009.

## **Brown Skua** *Stercorarius antarcticus*

### **2009**

A bird was taken into care at Belmont and released, after several weeks, off Nobbys Beach 26 Feb (Newcastle Herald article), and a single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA).

### **2008**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP) and a single bird off Nobbys breakwater 13 Feb (RIA).

### **2007**

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys off Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM) and Swansea 21 Oct (HAP).

### **2003**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 (HBOC).

### **2002**

Two birds were recorded at 10-15 nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP).

### **2001**

Single birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea Aug 11 and Sep 15 (HBOC).

## **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

### **2009**

Four birds were recorded offshore from Newcastle 2 Apr (ROM), three birds on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and a single bird off Seal Rocks 23 Mar (KEM/ MCR).

### **2007**

10+ birds were recorded on pelagic surveys off Newcastle 22 Jan and Swansea 23 Jan, and 5+ birds on surveys off Newcastle 20 & 21 Jan (all HAP). 2-3 birds were seen daily off Port Stephens over late Jan to early Feb (BIA), and single birds were off Moon Island 24 Feb (CBOC) and Cape Hawke 14 Oct (KEM).

### **2006**

Six birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS), and 1-2 birds on similar surveys 28 & 30 Oct (HAP). Four birds, in company with many other birds, were at Shoal Bay 24 Mar following behind fishing trawlers (ROA).

### **2005**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS).

### **2004**

Eight birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan and ten on the corresponding 1 Feb survey (HAP). Also a single bird was recorded offshore of Swansea 7 Dec (HBOC).

### **2003**

Three birds were recorded off at Crowdy Head Mar 19 (MOA) and a few birds on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Mar 29 (HBOC).

### **2002**

10+ birds were recorded on a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Mar 23 and a single bird on an similar survey Sep 14 (HBOC). Five birds were offshore between Forster and Old Bar late May (MVBW) and a single bird was off Nobbys Head Jan 13 (CBOC).

### **2001**

2+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 and 5+ birds on a similar survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

### **2000**

Five birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Nov 4 (HBOC), and single birds on the Oct 8 pelagic survey (HBOC) and at Newcastle Harbour Mar 11 (MOA).

### **1998**

A single bird was recorded off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 11 (KEM).

### **1995**

A single dark phase bird was recorded at Swansea Jan 20 (YAR).



## **Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

### **2009**

12-13 birds were recorded offshore from Newcastle 2 Apr (ROM), 3-4 birds off Seal Rocks 13 Mar and late Mar (BRG/LIN, ROM/HAP), two birds on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and single birds off Hawks Nest early Jan (WIT) and at Crowdy Bay 7 Apr (WID).

### **2008**

Two birds were recorded at Mudbishops Point Jan (BRG) and single birds around Nobbys breakwater/Newcastle harbour 13 Feb, 3 & 21 Mar and 22 Apr (RIA, MOA, ROM), and on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

### **2007**

Four birds were recorded off Nobbys beach 1 Apr (NBL) and three birds at Swansea Heads 6 Nov (CJB). Two birds were off Seal Rocks 25 Feb (HAP) and single birds on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Jan (HAP) and at Nobbys Beach 17 Mar (KEM), Hawks Nest 1 Apr (BIA) and Moon Island Nov (BCC).

### **2006**

1-2 birds often were harassing Crested and Common Terns and Silver Gulls in Newcastle harbour in late Feb (ROM). Single birds were recorded off Nobbys beach 23 Mar (LIN) and on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 30 Oct (HAP), and two birds off Swansea Heads 13 Nov (KEM). Four birds, with many other birds, were at Shoal Bay 24 Mar following fishing trawlers (ROA).

### **2004**

Five birds were present on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan and one bird on the corresponding 1 Feb survey (HAP). Five birds were recorded in a survey of all of Port Stephens 8 Feb (HBOC), and a single bird was seen off Stockton Beach 7 Mar (MOA).

### **2003**

10 birds were recorded off Crowdy Head Mar 19 (MOA) and five birds off Nobbys Beach Apr 1 (MCR). Two birds were off Stockton beach Mar 23 (VEE) and single birds at Farquhar Inlet Mar 14 and Old Bar (MOA). Unusually, no birds were seen in Newcastle Harbour in the period Oct-Dec (LIT).

### **2002**

Three birds were off Nobbys Head Jan 13 (CBOC), and single birds at Cabbage Tree Island Mar 5 (ROS), Hunter estuary Mar 30 (CBOC) and off Crowdy Bay Dec 30 (STA). The latter was harassing some Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*. The frequency of sightings in Newcastle harbour was substantially decreased compared to previous years (LIT).

### **2001**

Single birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC) and off the coast from Marks Point Dec 5 (CJB). 2-3 birds were nearly always present in Newcastle harbour during the migration season (LIT).

### **2000**

1-2 birds were moderately often recorded over Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. Five birds were found on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Nov 4 (HBOC) and a single bird was at lower Myall River (P8) Sep 25 (BAA).

### **1999**

Three birds were recorded at Nobbys Beach Feb 26 (LAK).

### **1998**

1-3 birds were occasionally recorded around both Newcastle Heads and Swansea Channel between Feb 2 and Apr 10 (several reports).

### **1997**

6+ birds were recorded approximately 50km E of Port Stephens (R9) Mar 3 (PEJ). A single bird was near Moon Island (M11) Dec 7 (PEJ) and two birds at nearby Pelican (M11) Jan 27 (YAR). Some birds were also recorded at One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG).

### **1996**

One or occasionally two birds were moderately often recorded at Newcastle Harbour (M10) over Jan-Apr (LAK, TUB), and single birds off Cabbage Tree Island Feb 3 (LAK) and Nine Mile Beach (M11) Sep 11 (CLT). At least 6 birds were off Port Stephens (cells Q9/R9) Mar 3 (PEJ).

### **1995**

Two light phase birds were recorded at Swansea Jan 20 (YAR), and three birds were recorded at Newcastle Harbour over March 13-15, after storms (PHP). A single bird was seen at Seal Rocks late Dec (PEJ).

### **1994**

A single bird was recorded in Newcastle Harbour Nov 22, chasing/harassing Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* (LAK).

### **Long-tailed Jaeger** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

**2008**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 25 Oct (HAP).

**2007**

A single bird was within 100m of the Newcastle breakwater 1 Apr (NBL).

**2006**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS) and a single bird on a similar survey 30 Oct (HAP).

**2004**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan (HAP).

**2003**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Mar 29 (HBOC).

**2002**

Two birds were recorded on a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Mar 23 (HBOC).

### **Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

**2009**

Single birds were recorded off Seal Rocks 13 & 26 Mar (BRG/LIN, RIA/ROM), off Port Stephens 19 Mar (ROM/STA) and off Merewether Baths 30 & 31 Mar (HOG, ROM). Also, a dead bird was found at Manning Entrance SP 10 Nov (DBP).

**2008**

A single bird was recorded offshore from Manning Point 23 Mar (HAP).

**1999**

A single bird was recorded at Crowdy Head (S4) Jan 15 (WOR).

### **Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

**2007**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 20 Jan (HAP).

**2004**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea in Jan (HAP).

### **White Tern** *Gygis alba*

**2003**

A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Mar 29 (HBOC).

### **Grey Ternlet** *Procelsterna cerulea*

**2002**

A single bird was recorded during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Mar 23 (HBOC).

**1995**

A single bird was recorded off BBNP Feb 21, after heavy storms (WAJ).

### **Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscata*

**2008**

An immature bird was present at Old Bar 22 Mar (FOC/BIA).

**2007**

15+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey off Newcastle 21 Jan and 4+ birds on 20 Jan (HAP). 4-5 birds were off Port Stephens 21-22 Jan (FOC) and 1-2 birds were seen daily off Port Stephens over late Jan to early Feb (BIA).

**2004**

1-2 birds were recorded on pelagic surveys SE of Swansea in Jan and on 1 Feb (HAP).

**2002**

A single bird was recorded at Old Bar Feb 20 (MVBW).

**2001**

7+ birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Jan 28 and an adult and a juvenile bird on a similar survey E of Port Stephens Feb 18 (HBOC).

**1997**

A single bird was recorded at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 (LAK).

## **White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata***

### **2009**

1-3 birds were in the Manning Estuary Apr-Jun then the numbers rose, to a peak count of 40 birds 4-5 Sep (Table 9). Birds were present at Newcastle Baths Jul-Sep with ten birds recorded there in Aug (Table 15). Six birds were at Swansea/Lake Macquarie 25 Jul (Table 13) and 1-5 birds at Port Stephens 23 Mar and 27 Jul (WOL, Table 8), Newcastle Harbour 20 May (ERE), Nobbys Beach 31 May (ROM), Stockton Beach 2 & 4 Aug (WID, HBOC), and on a pelagic survey off Port Stephens 2 Jul (ROM/STA). BA Atlas: Two records from two cells.

### **2008**

Birds were present off Newcastle/Nobbys beaches from 28 Jun to 10 Sep, with peak count of 75 on 7 Aug (THJ, several others). First record in Manning River was 13 May, with peak count 22 birds 19 Jul and birds present until late Sep (Table 10). Two birds were recorded at Saltwater 2 Jun (STA) and three birds at Port Stephens 4 Jul (Table 7).

### **2007**

100 birds (in several large flocks) were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Swansea 21 Oct (HAP). Birds were often in the Newcastle harbour/baths area over Aug-Nov, with peak count being 42 birds 7 Sep (see Table). Four birds were off Newcastle beach 21 Jul (LIG), and a single bird was at Nobbys Beach 24 Mar (KEM).

### **2006**

1-3 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey E of Newcastle 26 Mar (HPS) and at Harrington 23 Jul (MOA), Hunter estuary 29 Jul (HWS), Newcastle Baths 27 Aug (per ROM) and Belmont 22 Sep (KEM).

### **2005**

Eight birds were present at Newcastle baths 8 Jun (MCR) and four birds at Worimi NR 23 Jul (HAS). A single bird was recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Newcastle 3 Apr (HPS). Five birds were recorded at Newcastle rock platform 21 Jul (HEC).

### **2004**

15 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths 25 Jul (FOC), and also a single bird there 29 Aug (BRG/LIN).

### **2003**

Around 20 birds were recorded at Stockton breakwater Apr 2 (GOD), and seven birds at Newcastle baths Aug 16 (BRG). Five birds were also recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 6 (HBOC).

### **2002**

17+ birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Aug 28 (BRG) and 11-14 birds there Jul 11 & 28 (LIA). Eight birds were at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP), five birds during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC), and 1+ birds at Fingal Bay Jun 6 (FRN) and off Stockton beach Aug 4 (TAH).

### **2001**

40 birds were recorded off Stockton Beach Aug 19 (ROM) and six birds near the Forster/ Tuncurry breakwater Aug 26 (TUD). Three birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Sep 15 (HBOC), two birds at Newcastle Baths Jul 21 (ROS) and single birds at Worimi NR Jun 23 (HWS) and Stockton Beach Jul 1 (MAM).

### **2000**

Two birds were recorded at Stockton Beach Jul 7 and four birds there Jul 15 (both LIA),

### **1998**

A single bird was recorded at Horseshoe Beach (M10) Aug 8 (STA).

### **1997**

Six birds were recorded at Nobbys Beach (M10) May 19 and two birds at Caves Beach (L11) Jul 18 (both LAK records). Some birds were also recorded at One Mile Beach (P9) Jun 4 (OCG).

### **1994**

Single birds were recorded at Seal Rocks late Jun (PEJ) and Merewether Beach (M10) Jul 31 (YAR); <5 birds were also at Crowdy Head/Harrington Sep 6/7 (HAS).

### **1993**

Records at KI on Feb 15 and Mar 12 (OCG) may possibly have been *S. hirundo*; no other records were received.

## **Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

### **2009**

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded most months at Newcastle Baths/Harbour with the peak count 600 birds in Aug (Table 15), and also in most months at Manning Estuary with many records of 200-300+ birds (Table 9). 300 birds were along the Birubi-Fingal coastline 17 Nov and 50+ birds several times (Table 5). 250-269 birds were at Port Stephens Mar and 29 Oct, 112 birds 8 Feb and 50+ birds Jan and Aug (Table 8, ROA). Breeding: Some birds were breeding at a small island off Seal Rocks late Jan (FRA). BA Atlas: 37 records from ten cells; RR 10.7%.

### **2008**

*Notable records:* The peak count for Manning River was 638 birds 16/17 Nov and there were many records of 100-200+ birds (Table 10, MCR *et al.*). 228 birds were recorded at Birubi Point-Fingal Bay 13 Jul with several other counts of 50-100+ birds (Table 5). 100+ birds were present off Newcastle/Nobbys beaches most months with peak count 470 birds Aug (THJ, others). 120 birds were at Port Stephens Mar and 65 Apr (Table 8). **Breeding:** More than 100 pairs had nests with young at Moon Island 17 Dec (HEC).

### **2007**

*Notable records:* Many birds (peak counts of 250-300) were often present at/near Newcastle baths Jan and Sep-Oct, and 50+ birds most other months (THJ, others, also see Table). 161 birds were recorded in a full survey of Port Stephens 18 Feb (HBOC). 50-60+ birds were at Muddishops Point 29 Jan (KEM/MCR) and Moon Island 13 Sep (KEM). **Breeding:** Birds were nesting at Moon Island Nov (BCC) and were feeding a fledged young at Nobbys Beach 24 Mar (KEM).

### **2006**

*Notable records:* 146 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 26 Feb (HBOC) and 70-80 birds at Newcastle baths 25 Aug and 10 Dec (KEM). 20+ birds occasionally were roosting at Newcastle Baths Jan-April and lesser numbers regularly; in May the counts frequently were of 50+ birds and a peak count of 132 birds 29 May (THJ). 21-50 birds were at Coon Island 20 Sep (KEM), Newcastle harbour 22 Oct (LIG) and Harrington 23 Nov (MCR/RUR). Birds were feeding fledged young at Myuna Bay 18 Dec and Newcastle baths 25 Dec, and many birds were carrying food to Moon Island 13 Nov (all KEM).

### **2005**

*Notable records:* 149 birds were recorded in a survey of Port Stephens 12 Mar (HBOC), 100 birds including six begging young at Newcastle baths 20 Jan (LIA) and 92 birds including ten juveniles at a beach at Crowdy Bay NP 29 Jan (STA). 50+ birds were at Muddishops Point 8 Feb (BRG/MCR) and off Newcastle 9 Jun (MCR).

### **2004**

*Notable records:* 178 birds were recorded in a survey of all of Port Stephens 8 Feb (HBOC) and 100+ birds at Muddishops Point 6 Feb (BRG/MCR). 20+ birds were at Worimi NR 7 Feb (HAS), Stockton Sandspit 21 Mar (HBOC) and Muddishops Point 21 Dec (LIN).

### **2003**

*Notable records:* 200+ birds were at Newcastle Beach Dec 30, with some dependent fledged young birds present (MCR). 50+ birds were also at Newcastle Beach Dec 22 (MCR), and at Old Bar Mar 14 (JED). 40 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 16 (HBOC), and 20-30 birds in Hunter estuary Jan, May & Dec (HWS).

### **2002**

*Notable records:* 106 birds were recorded at Crowdy Head (S4) Dec 30 (STA), and 51-100 birds at ten nautical miles SE of Swansea (M12) Aug 18 (HAP), Nobby's Beach Oct 14 (BRG) and in the Harrington/Crowdy Head area Nov 22-24 (HBOC). 21-50 birds were at Hunter estuary Jan 11 (HWS), during a pelagic trip SE of Swansea Sep 14 (HBOC), at Swansea Dec 3 (HBOC) and at Old Bar Dec 31 (STA).

### **2001**

*Notable records:* 50-55 birds were recorded at Stockton STP Aug 19 (ROM) and on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 11 (HBOC), and 100+ birds at Newcastle Baths Jul 13 (WMR). A bird taken into care at Wangi Wangi (L11) Feb 2 had been banded as a chick at Phillip Island Victoria Nov 3 1999 (NATF).

### **2000**

*Notable records:* 24 birds were recorded on a pelagic survey SE of Swansea Aug 5 (HBOC).

### **1999**

*Notable records:* Around 200 birds were recorded at Newcastle Baths Oct 5 (FRP) and Coon Island Swansea Dec 12 (MOA), and 100+ birds at Broughton Island early Jan (HLC). 50-60+ birds were at Harrington Apr 9 (CLT) and Coon Island Oct 24 (MOA).

**1998**

*Notable records:* 100+ birds were recorded at Harrington Feb 14/15 and Nov 22 (STA, HBOC), off Port Stephens (P9) Feb 26 (OCG) and at Horseshoe Beach (M10) Aug 8 (STA), and 50+ birds at Harrington Feb 21 (OCG). Birds had dependent young at Broughton Island Jan 5/22 (HLC), and were also feeding immatures at Newcastle Baths Jan 4 & 23 (STA, KEM) and Dudley Beach (M10) Feb 18 (WEJ).

**1997**

Often recorded along the coast, mostly as <20 birds. 20+ birds were at Birubi Point (O9) Feb 18 and Nelson Bay (O9) during Feb (both LAK), and at Stockton bridge Mar 1 and Newcastle/Nobbys Beach (M10) Apr 9 (both LIA). 100+ birds were at KI/Stockton Mar 1 (LIA) and Harrington Sep 21 (HBOC).

**1996**

Widely and frequently recorded along coast; around 60% of reports were of 6+ birds including 20% being of 20+ birds. Birds were with dependent young at KI/Stockton Jan 21 (HBOC).

**1995**

Widely and frequently recorded along coast; around 40% of reports were of 6-20 birds. 70 birds were at Swansea Jan 20 & Feb 5 (YAR), and 100+ birds at Harrington Jun 10 (HBOC). There were 150 nests on Moon Island NR (M11) Oct 2 (MOA).

**1994**

Widely and often recorded along coast; around 50% of reports were of 1-5 birds. 51-100 birds were recorded at Crowdy Head/Harrington Sep 6/7 (HAS) and Seal Rocks late Jun (PEJ), and 21-50 birds at Merewether Beach (M10) Jul 31 (YAR), Shoal Bay (P9) Sep 3/4 and Nelson Bay (O9) Sep 4 (STA), Crowdy Head/ Harrington Oct 30 (HTH) and Swansea Dec 25 (YAR). Birds were feeding young at KI Jan 23 (HBOC).

**1993**

Regularly recorded in suitable areas near the coast; slightly less frequently so than for the Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* and in fewer numbers. 21-50 birds at Shoal Bay (O9) Apr 24/25 (STA) and Minmi (L10) Apr 27 (OCG); 6-20 birds recorded along lower Manning River (Q4, R4, S4) on most days over May 3-7 (HAS), Minmi (L10) May 13 (OCG), Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens (O8,9/ P8,9) Sep 18/19 (HAS, HBOC) and at KI Mar 12 and Oct 13 (OCG).