### **Vagrant Species**

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The species listed here are those that have been found on very few occasions (usually less than 20 times) in NSW and the ACT, and are not known to have bred here. Species that have been recorded breeding in NSW are included in the Species Accounts sections of the three volumes, even if they have been recorded in the Atlas area less than 20 times. In determining the number of records of a species, when several birds are recorded in a short period together, or whether alive or dead, these are here referred to as a 'set' of records. The cut-off date for vagrant records and reports is 31 December 2019.

As with the rest of the Atlas, the area covered in this account includes marine waters east from the NSW coast to 160°E. This is approximately 865 km east of the coast at its widest extent in the south of the State. The New South Wales-Queensland border lies at about 28°08′S at the coast, following the centre of Border Street through Coolangatta and Tweed Heads to Point Danger (Anon. 2001a). This means that the Britannia Seamounts, where many rare seabirds have been recorded on extended pelagic trips from Southport, Queensland, are east of the NSW coast and therefore in NSW and the Atlas area. Conversely, the lookout at Point Danger is to the north of the actual Point and in Queensland but looks over both NSW and Queensland marine waters.

As with the main sections of the Atlas, the taxonomy and nomenclature of this account generally follow Christidis & Boles (2008), unless noted otherwise. In some instances, significant taxonomic change has occurred since 2008, and so in certain cases revised taxonomies are followed. Two taxa not included here are *Falco peregrinus calidus* (one record accepted by NSWORAC), and *Ninox novaeseelandiae leucopsis* (sometimes placed in *Ninox boobook*) of which there are several specimens.

This list of vagrant species is intended to be as comprehensive as possible and to include all reports of each species covered, though there may be reports that have been missed. Records have been received by the NSWBA from members, well-known birdwatchers, examination of museum specimens and databases and library sources. The authors and NSWBA members have systematically combed the reports and databases of the main vetting organisations, BARC and NSWORAC, the NSW Bird Reports for 1970 to 2005 (published in *Australian Birds* Volumes 5 to 34) and relevant newsletters over many decades. The archives of Birdline NSW were searched from 1 January 2006 to 31 July 2019. In some cases, first and/or last dates of sightings of individual rare birds were sourced from eBird. Many historical specimens housed at the AM, NMV, ANWC and Macleay Museum were investigated. In compiling these records, we note the earlier work by Morris *et al.* (1981), but also recognise that it overlooked much historical literature and many specimens, generally material from before about 1950. Thus, many additional historical records are included. On the other hand, some sources, such as privately published newsletters, and the vast archives of the *Birding-Aus* listserver (available at http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/birding-aus/) have proved to be problematic. For example, it has not been possible for us to systematically find, tabulate and vet all records of vagrant seabirds claimed from hundreds of Wollongong pelagic trips run between 1984 and 2019.

The individual records mentioned below are those that we consider are likely to be valid. Occasionally our opinions differ from those of the vetting committees (BARC and NSWORAC). Many records are from before the foundation of these committees, and so such records must be judged and vetted here on the information available to us, and not simply discarded outright. In some cases where submissions were not received by any vetting committee, but were made by respected and reliable observers, we have given the observer the benefit of the doubt. This has been a reluctant choice, and it does not indicate that we agree with the practice of publicising unfounded or unsubstantiated reports. On the contrary, we recognise the need for greater documentation and vetting of rare birds. The appearance of unconfirmed vagrant records in the ornithological literature and databases is increasing, but it is not entirely the fault of the observers. Editors of newsletters and websites could do more to ensure sufficient documentation and vetting occurs before 'endorsing' records through publication. With a rapidly increasing number of observers, new identification resources, electronic reporting systems, self publication, and the advent of digital photography, vetting processes need to evolve and keep pace with the digital era. One approach that has been unsuccessful was the publication of unsubstantiated records in the NSW Bird Reports which were then subsequently listed in NSWORAC reports as 'not confirmed'. Generally, these cases have not involved a vetting process by NSWORAC, so the 'not confirmed' pronouncement could be implied as a frustrated slur by the authors of the NSWORAC report. No clarity is achieved by this process.

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### **Cape Barren Goose**

Cereopsis novaehollandiae

There have been at least ten sets of records of the Cape Barren Goose for NSW. It is mostly recorded from the Riverina, usually during flood years. The first known record was from Moonahcullah west of Deniliquin in 1939, and it was recorded there again in August and September 1956 (Hobbs 1956a). It was also reported near Euston in January 1956 (Hobbs 1961) and at Barham and Caldwell in May–June 1966 (Wheeler 1966). Three birds were reported to be present on irrigated pastures at Moorna Station west of Wentworth from December 1967 to February 1968 (Simpson 1972). This latter observation is unusual as it was made during a drought period. In February 1973 the species was seen as far north as Morrisons Lake near Ivanhoe (Rogers 1974). More recently the Cape Barren Goose has been recorded in three coastal localities: one at Shell Harbour on 6 April 2009 (NSWORAC case 478); one at Ulladulla on 16 March 2010 (NSWORAC case 505) until it was captured and relocated on 5 May 2010 (Birdline NSW); and at one at Mayfield and Newcastle Beach from 28 April to 17 May 2011 (NSWORAC case 542). The latter was considered the 16th confirmed record for NSW (NSWORAC, no date c), but not all these records have been documented adequately. Birdline NSW contains four unsubstantiated records: Comerong Island on 20 February 2008; Cockrone Lagoon, MacMasters Beach, on 4 July 2011; Lake Cullival, Urana, on 17 March 2012; and Lake Gol Gol, on 11 March 2017. Other occasional reports of this species (e.g. Wilson 1999; Morris & Burton 1992) involve escapees or deliberate releases from captive collections and are not self-sustaining populations. An introduced population at Tidbinbilla ACT bred successfully (Blakers et al. 1984), but it evidently no longer persists (eBird).

The Cape Barren Goose naturally breeds on islands in Bass Strait and the Great Australian Bight and disperses to mainland Australia and Tasmania (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Introduced populations, some augmented by wild birds, have also bred in Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia (Blakers *et al.* 1984). Vagrants reach New Zealand regularly and an introduced population persisted there from 1914 to 1946 (OSNZ 2010).

### Canada Goose

#### Branta canadensis

There are four sets of records for the Canada Goose from NSW. The first was in August 1969 when a pair was seen on Lord Howe Island (McAllan *et al.* 2004) with another bird found there from 3–8 February 1977 (Smithers 1977). One was seen at Shoalhaven Heads and nearby Comerong Island from 18 October to 21 November 2002 (BARC case 401). A flock of four geese roamed the Illawarra for over two months in 2007–2008. They were initially found near Milton on 26 December 2007, then seen and photographed near Ulladulla, on 29 December 2007, and lastly found at Killalea State Park, Shellharbour, on 4 March 2008, where they were shot by authorities on 5 March 2008 (BARC case 551; AM O.74667–O.74670; Brandis 2008; Dolby 2008; Palliser & Carter 2009; Birdline NSW). All reports are of vagrants from New Zealand.

There are no other records from Australia: introductions to Western Australia and Victoria failed, while a pair in Tasmania in 1927 is assumed to have been released (Marchant & Higgins 1990). The Canada Goose was introduced to New Zealand from North America in 1905 and is now widespread there (OSNZ 2010). Vagrants also presumed to be from the New Zealand population were reported from New Caledonia in October 1965 (Delacour 1966).

### **Radjah Shelduck**

Tadorna radjah

There are at least 12 sets of records for the Radjah Shelduck from NSW. Although Frith (1967) suggested that it was originally resident in the lower Richmond and Clarence River valleys, this species was not mentioned in any of the numerous accounts of the birds of these areas before Frith (e.g. North 1901–1914; Jackson 1907; E.P. Ramsay diaries, ML). The first report of the species from NSW was made by Robert Grant near Narromine some time in the 1890s (North 1901–1914), but this cannot be accepted, as Grant was notorious for erroneous records. The first confirmed record was of fifteen birds seen near Moree in November 1897 (North 1901–1914). Other records include near Gulargambone "until" 1935 (Morris *et al.* 1981; presumably based on observations by Arnold McGill); Lismore in August 1965 (Frith 1967); and Lake Brewster in September 1968 (Cooper 1969).

NSWORAC have accepted seven records: A pair was seen and photographed at Urunga on 2 August 2005 (NSWORAC case 404). An exceptionally long-staying pair was recorded in the Myall Lakes-Bulahdelah district from at least 12 October 2005 (NSWORAC case 406) to 16 April 2015 (eBird); the pair was initially found at Mungo Brush, but later recorded at other locations such as Tamboi, The Wells Campground, Bombah Point and especially Bulahdelah, although from late 2008 only a single bird was involved (eBird). Brandwood (2010) considered that this and the Urunga pair in 2005 were likely to be the same, presumably because of the initial close dates. A pair was recorded in urban Ballina on 6 May 2009 (NSWORAC case 484). Two were seen and photographed at Carrs Creek, Grafton between 29 January and 5 February 2011 (NSWORAC case 515). Three were seen on a large farm dam about 15 km NE of Old Bonalbo on 3 February 2012 (NSWORAC case 541). One was seen at a lake in Yamba on 1 April 2013 (NSWORAC case 577). A report from 20 km SE of Macksville from 2–9 December 2002 was considered not confirmed by NSWORAC (NSWORAC no case number, listed in Brandwood 2004). A pair reported from Ulmarra between 22 March and 1 May 2013 (Birdline NSW) was not confirmed or reviewed. A bird was photographed at Safety Beach on 19 December 2016 (Adam Christiansen, NSWBA data).

The Radjah Shelduck is found in northern and eastern Australia, from Wyndham, Western Australia, south to Maryborough, Queensland, as well as eastern Indonesia and New Guinea (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Storr 1984). Vagrants reported in South Australia in the 1960s (Parker *et al.* 1985) were not accepted by Marchant & Higgins (1990).

### **Paradise Shelduck**

Tadorna variegata

There are two valid records for NSW and Australia. Five birds were seen to arrive on Lord Howe Island on 3 March 1950 and were still present in late April 1950 (Hindwood & Cunningham 1950). A single drake was at Lake Wollumboola from at least 27 December 2015 to 6 January 2016 (BARC case 895). A drake, presumed to be the same as the previous bird, was then recorded ~150 km north at Bushells Lagoon, Wilberforce from 4 April to 1 May 2016 (eBird; not submitted for appraisal). A pair that was reported from Mount Annan Botanic Gardens in May 1991 was found to have escaped from a nearby private zoo (Morris & Burton 1993).

This species is endemic to New Zealand and many of the larger offshore islands, apart from the vagrants to NSW and one to the Chatham Islands in 1984 (OSNZ 2010).

### Green Pygmy-goose

*Nettapus pulchellus* 

There are eight definite records of the Green Pygmy-goose from NSW. The first record was of two specimens (a male and female) collected at the Clarence River by S.W. Jackson in August 1895 (NMV HLW 4763 and HLW 4764). Subsequent records include: a bird shot at Tucki in 1956 (Frith 1967); single birds seen at Leeville in October 1967 (Spinaze 1970) and Swan Bay in February 1975 (Gosper 1976b); two birds seen at Loudens Lagoon in the northern Macquarie Marshes (30°45′S 147°35′E) on 21 October 1998 (R. Jones, NPWS, pers. comm.; Morris 2001), though this record was considered not confirmed by NSWORAC (Brandwood 2001). NSWORAC have accepted three records: a single bird at Belmore (Seale Road) Swamp, 20 km east of Kempsey, on 9 December 2004 (NSWORAC case 396); a single bird at Narrabri Lake, Narrabri, on 24 September 2010 (NSWORAC case 511); and a pair seen and photographed at Smiths Lake, Emerald Beach, from 28 May to at least 19 July 2011 (NSWORAC case 520; Birdline NSW). In addition, four birds were reported from Woolooware Bay in 1909 or 1910 when a specimen was supposedly collected (Hindwood & McGill 1958), but the specimen has never been located and the report cannot be verified.

The Green Pygmy-goose occurs in northern Australia from Wyndham, Western Australia south to Gladstone, Queensland (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Storr 1984). Extralimitally it occurs in New Guinea and sparsely in eastern Indonesia (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Eaton *et al.* 2016).

### Garganey

#### Anas querquedula

There is only a single record of this species for NSW. An adult male in breeding plumage was observed at Market Swamp, Sandgate from 4–18 December 1993 (Morris & Burton 1995; NSWORAC case 135).

The Garganey breeds in temperate areas of Europe and Asia, and migrates south to equatorial Africa and Asia (Marchant & Higgins 1990). It has also been reported as a vagrant from other States in Australia (e.g. Crawford 1972; Marchant & Higgins 1990; Lansley & Chandler 1991). There are numerous records for northern Australia where it is an annual visitor in low numbers (Marchant & Higgins 1990).

## Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

There are at least seven sets of records of the Northern Shoveler for NSW. The first record for Australia was made by John Gould (1865), who noted that he observed the species in 'New South Wales' in 1839, and referred to a specimen collected by his brother-in-law, Stephen Coxen, presumably collected near his residence near Scone. Marchant & Higgins (1990) dismissed this record out-of-hand, apparently because the specimen was, not surprisingly, missing. The species was confirmed for Australia through the collection of a free-flying male near Louth, NSW, during March 1975 (Moffat 1979; AM O.47404). A record of an adult male at The Broadwater near Lawrence from 12-28 August 2000 was accepted by BARC (Palliser 2002a; Brandwood 2002b; BARC case 307). An adult male and probable female were seen at Pelican Island, Jerseyville, from about 7–13 May 2002 (Palliser 2003; BARC case 348). A male seen at Ash Island in Newcastle from 28 July to 1 August 2002 was accepted by BARC (Brandwood 2004; BARC case 379). Ken Shingleton (NSWBA data) reported intermittent sightings of adult males (possibly the same individual) at different sites in the Jerseyville area over 15 months in 2005–2006, as follows: Belmore (Seale Road) Swamp from 25 June to 6 July 2005 (Brandwood 2010; BARC case 469); Macleay River at Bellimbopinni from 27-30 July 2006 (NSWORAC case 427; Ken Shingleton, NSWBA data); Pelican Island from 1–18 August 2006.; and Summer Island on 12 August 2006. An adult male at Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton, from 29 July until at least 5 August 2019 was photographed and has been submitted to BARC (case 1096). An adult male was found at Jerrabomberra Wetlands from 10-19 September (Australian Twitchers Facebook page; eBird) and was possibly the same individual as the one at Leeton a few weeks earlier. An observation at Lake Cowal on 17 October 1989 (Brandis 1989) was not accepted by BARC (Patterson 1991).

The Northern Shoveler breeds in the temperate Northern Hemisphere and migrates south to the tropics of the Northern Hemisphere. In eastern Asia the southern limit of its range is usually in Thailand, Indochina and the central Philippines, with vagrants typically occurring south to Singapore and Sarawak (Robson 2000; Dickinson *et al.* 1991; Mann 2008). There are several acceptable records from each of Victoria, South Australia and New Zealand (Marchant & Higgins 1990; BARC). As yet there are no records for Indonesia or New Guinea (Pratt & Beehler 2015; Eaton *et al.* 2016), highlighting the unusual nature of the Australasian records.

### Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

There is a single record for NSW involving the sighting of a male at Cowans Pond near Grafton from 3–10 August 2000 (Palliser 2002a; BARC case 301).

There was one previous record for Australia, of a bird at Chandala Swamp near Perth, Western Australia, in July 1986 (Agar *et al.* 1987; BARC case 111). There have been several more records since: Darwin, Northern Territory, in October 2003 (BARC case 403); Wyndham, Western Australia, in November 2004 (BARC case 445); Mandurah, Western Australia, in July 2010 (BARC case 652); and March 2011 (BARC case 702); Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands, Western Australia, in September 2012 (BARC case 762); and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from January to March 2017 (BARC case 956) with later records from there yet to be submitted (IAWM, Geof Christie & Mike Carter pers. obs.). The Northern Pintail breeds in the Northern Hemisphere and migrates south to northern South America, equatorial Africa and South East Asia (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Vagrants have also been recorded in Sumatra, Java, New Guinea and New Zealand (Coates 1985; Petyt 1999; Eaton *et al.* 2016).

## **Red-billed** Tropicbird

#### *Phaethon aethereus*

There is one record for NSW. The first Australian record of the Red-billed Tropicbird was a single bird present at Lord Howe Island from 6 October 2010 until at least early December 2010 (Palliser & Carter 2012; BARC case 656). During its stay it was seen regularly on the northern cliffs in association with Red-tailed Tropicbirds.

There have since been two further Australian records, both from the tropical Indian Ocean. One was photographed in flight over West Island, Ashmore Reef on 14 November 2014 (BARC case 905) and one was photographed in flight at Christmas Island on 15 May 2016 (BARC case 940). The Red-billed Tropicbird has a disjunct, tropical, marine distribution in the Eastern Pacific, Caribbean and Eastern Atlantic (*P.a. mesonauta*), the South Atlantic (*P.a. aethereus*) and the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea (*P.a. indicus*) (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). Records in Australian waters are thus exceptional.

### **Torresian Imperial Pigeon**

Ducula spilorrhoa

There are ten sets of records of the Torresian Imperial Pigeon from NSW, the first three of which are more than eighty years old. The first was a bird shot on Lord Howe Island by the collector Roy Bell on 14 October 1913 (Bruce 1976; AMNH 611383). According to island residents this bird had been present for approximately 4 years. The other records were a bird shot from a group of four at Urunga and a bird shot at Nimbin, both during 1916 (AM O.47054; North 1916, Frith 1982). After a considerable hiatus, the next record was at Millingandi on 1 April 2004 (Brandwood 2006b; NSWORAC case 384). Another was present at Port Macquarie from at least 26–31 March 2005 (Brandwood 2010; NSWORAC case 398). There were no less than four records of single birds in 2009: at Raleigh on 25 April 2009 (NSWORAC, no date a; NSWORAC case 479); at Bulahdelah on 11 May 2009 (NSWORAC, no date a; NSWORAC case 480); at Newport from 8–19 April 2009 feeding on Brush Cherries (NSWORAC, no date a; NSWORAC case 481; Birdline NSW); and one at Summer Island on 18 August to 29 September 2009 (NSWORAC, no date b; NSWORAC case 491; Birdline NSW; Ken Shingleton, NSWBA data). More recently a juvenile Torresian Imperial Pigeon was seen and photographed in a Port Jackson Fig at Palm Beach on 10 and 13 June 2016 (McGovern 2017; NSWORAC case 656). An unconfirmed report from Newport on 27 March 2016, was from the same street as the 2009 bird (Birdline NSW). Another unconfirmed report, also on 27 March 2016, was from Coolgardie Plateau south of Alstonville (Birdline NSW).

The Torresian Imperial Pigeon breeds in northern Australia with a southern limit around Cape Palmerston near Mackay, Queensland (Frith 1982). Australian birds from east of the Kimberley migrate to winter in southern New Guinea (Higgins & Davies 1996). This form is sometimes united with birds breeding from the Nicobar Islands across Indonesia to New Guinea, the Bismarck and Admiralty Islands as the Pied Imperial Pigeon as was done in Christidis & Boles (2008). However, Australian birds now are often treated as a separate species (e.g. Pratt & Beehler 2015; Eaton *et al.* 2016; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017) and this is done so here. The Pied Imperial Pigeon was recorded at Christmas Island in February 1899 (Andrews 1900; James & McAllan 2014; BARC case 1030 accepted; BMNH 1900.3.23.4).

## Australian Swiftlet

*Collocalia terrareginae* 

There are about ten verified sets of records of the Australian Swiftlet for NSW. The first report was in an unpublished list of birds seen from 1951 to 1961 in the Clarence Valley (see Pratt 1979; Clancy 1980). Pratt (1979) inferred that this report may have been in error but Clancy (1980) disagreed. The first positive record for NSW was from 20 September 1969 to 31 October 1969 when a single bird was seen at Reserve Creek near Murwillumbah (Pratt 1979). Subsequent records include: one at Iluka on 1 June 1980 (Clancy 1980); about 100 near Evans Head on 19 February 1982 (Gilmore in Anon. 1982; Holmes 1982); one at Ballina on 1 April 1982 (Izzard in Anon. 1982); one at Cape Byron on 9 December 1982 (Lindsey 1984); 40–50 at Richmond Hill on 21 February 1992 (Morris 1993b, 1994; NSWORAC case 71); 50–75 at Richmond Hill on 21 November 1992 (Morris 1994; NSWORAC case 71); 50–75 at Richmond Hill on 21 November 1992 (Morris 1994; NSWORAC case 71); 50–75 at Richmond Hill on 21 November 1992 (Morris 0.21 November 1992); one at Broken Head NR on 19 December 1993 (Morris & Burton 1995); one at Avalon on 26 January 1998 (Brandwood 2001; NSWORAC case 257); and six at Nobbys Beach, Port Macquarie, on 30 December 2008 (NSWORAC, no date a; NSWORAC case 472).

The Australian Swiftlet occurs in tropical north-east Queensland south to near Mackay, in coastal, sub-coastal and montane areas (Chantler & Driessens 2000). It is often considered conspecific with the White-rumped Swiftlet, which is found from Sulawesi in Indonesia through the Moluccas and New Guinea to Samoa and Tonga, and south to New Caledonia (Salomonsen 1983). Populations throughout this range are non-migratory and have subspeciated to a great degree. Salomonsen (1983) referred to 18 subspecies in the wider complex, with an additional subspecies *chilagoensis* from inland North Queensland which he overlooked as it had only recently been described in an obscure speleological journal, *Tower Karst* (Pecotich 1982). Given the non-migratory habits of this species it is surprising that vagrants have been found in NSW and south-east Queensland, making it likely that these birds were displaced by tropical cyclones or other extreme weather.

## **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**

Hydrobates castro

There is only one set of records of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel from Australia, and it was recent. A single bird was photographed over the Britannia Seamounts off north-east mainland NSW on 9 April 2016 (BARC case 971). Three separate sightings were made through the day, all south of the Queensland border at 28°19′50″S, 28°30′38″S and 28°38′57″S and near 155°35′E.

This species has a wide but disjunct distribution, being both tropical and subtropical in the Atlantic Ocean but largely tropical in the Pacific Ocean (Onley & Scofield 2007). The first records from the South West Pacific were only in April 2013 and April 2014 (and "previous years") off northern New Caledonia when several birds were observed and at least one was photographed (Collins, no date).

# Tristram's Storm-Petrel

Hydrobates tristrami

This species has been recorded once from Australia, on 9 October 2000 when a single bird was photographed off Sydney (Palliser 2002a, 2002b; BARC case 305). This is apparently the only report of this species from the Southern Hemisphere. The Tristram's Storm-Petrel breeds at the Izu, Ogasawara and Iwo Islands south-east of Japan (Brazil 2009) and the north-west Hawaiian Islands (AOU 1998). It usually ranges at sea from the coast of Honshu, Japan, east to Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands, so the Australian record is exceptional.

# New Zealand Storm-Petrel

Fregetta maoriana

There are about seven sets of records of birds referred to as 'New Zealand Storm-Petrel', though they evidently involve two different species. The New Zealand Storm-Petrel was 'rediscovered' in 2003 (Stephenson *et al.* 2008a, 2008b), and then shortly afterwards in 2008, a closely related but different bird, a putative undescribed taxon informally known as the 'New Caledonian Storm-Petrel' (or 'Coral Sea Storm-Petrel') was found off New Caledonia (Collins 2013). Since 2010 both forms have been recorded in Australia, including NSW. BARC decisions on this pair currently remain provisional and BARC acceptance as New Zealand Storm-Petrel means either New Zealand or 'New Caledonian' Storm Petrel and awaits fuller resolution of the taxonomy and identification criteria. Nevertheless, the identification criteria are now sufficiently established (Zufelt, no date; Collins 2013; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017; Flood & Wilson 2017) to segregate some NSW records at least provisionally. One bird photographed off Wollongong on 24 April 2010 (BARC case 691) clearly showed features of New Zealand and not 'New Caledonian' Storm Petrel. Another such bird was photographed off Crowdy Head on 13 January 2019 (BARC case 1050).

Several storm-petrels submitted to BARC as New Zealand Storm Petrels and accepted provisionally as such are a better fit to 'New Caledonian Storm-Petrels' (Menkhorst *et al.* 2017), including: one bird 46 km east of Port Stephens on 28 March 2010 (BARC case 636); one off Ulladulla on 29 March 2010 (BARC case 684); and one off Swansea at The Canyons on 14 April 2013 (BARC case 806). At least four birds were photographed over the Britannia Seamount (between 28°40′S, 155°36′E and 28°42′S, 155°33′E) on 15 April 2012 (Walbridge, no date b; BARC case 755). An unprecedented total of 21 birds was reported over the Britannia Seamount (between 28°13′S, 155°37′E and 28°42′S, 155°32′E) on 13 April 2014, including a minimum of seven together (Walbridge,

no date d; not yet submitted for appraisal) and one of these was caught (Walbridge, no date e). The Britannia Seamounts birds in 2012 and 2014 mostly represent 'New Caledonian' Storm-Petrels, but further scrutiny of each individual bird is warranted to determine if some New Zealand Storm-Petrels were included.

The New Zealand Storm-Petrel was described by Mathews (1932) from three specimens collected in the 19th Century off New Zealand (Bourne & Jouanin 2004; Medway 2004; Bourne *et al.* 2004; Stephenson *et al.* 2008a). However, it went unrecorded for over 170 years before sightings off the Coromandel Peninsula and in the Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand, in 2003 (Saville *et al.* 2003; Flood 2003). Since then, hundreds of birds have been recorded in New Zealand waters in summer and captures of live birds in 2005 and 2006 facilitated the confirmation of the species' identification (Stephenson *et al.* 2008b). Breeding grounds were found for the first time in New Zealand in 2013 (Tennyson *et al.* 2016). A photographic record from Fiji in 2017 (Flood & Wilson 2017) and the two NSW records are the only ones beyond New Zealand so far.

Meanwhile the closely related and possibly specifically distinct 'New Caledonian Storm Petrel' was observed for the first time off New Caledonia in 2008 and reported as a possible New Zealand Storm-Petrel (Howell & Collins 2008). Subsequently there have been numerous and consistent sightings of 'New Caledonian Storm-Petrels' off New Caledonia and attempts to capture birds have not been successful (Collins 2013; Zufelt, no date; Flood & Wilson 2017). Apart from the NSW records, it has also been recorded in south-east Queensland off Southport on 18 June 2011 (Walbridge, no date a; BARC case 699), and over the Queensland Seamount (just north of NSW) on the same voyages as the Britannia Seamount records listed above. This includes at least six birds on 14 April 2004 (Walbridge, no date b; BARC case 755) and four birds on 12 April 2014 (Walbridge, no date d).

## **Tristan Albatross**

#### Diomedea (exulans) dabbenena

Christidis & Boles (2008) treated the Tristan Albatross as a subspecies of the Wandering Albatross. However, many authorities have separated the Wandering Albatrosses' subspecies as species following Nunn *et al.* (1996), Robertson & Nunn (1998), Brooke (2004) and Chambers *et al.* (2009). When these subspecies are elevated to species these are the Wandering Albatross *D. exulans*, Antipodean Albatross *D. antipodensis*, Gibson's Albatross *D. gibsoni*, Tristan Albatross *D. dabbenena*, and Amsterdam Albatross *D. amsterdamensis*, however numerous authors have argued that the Gibson's and Antipodean Albatross are subspecies under a single species *D. antipodensis* either under the name Antipodean Albatross or New Zealand Wandering Albatross (James 2000; Warham 2000; Brooke 2004; Burg & Croxall 2004; Onley & Scofield 2007; OSNZ 2010; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017) and this is followed here. As noted in Volume 1 (Cooper *et al.* 2014), the subspecies *D.a. gibsoni* is the most commonly recorded subspecies of the New Zealand Wandering Albatross recorded in NSW, followed by the subspecies *D.a. antipodensis*. The Wandering Albatross is also regularly reported from NSW, but a report of the Amsterdam Albatross from NSW has not been verified (McAllan & Bruce 1989; Christidis & Boles 2008).

There is one record of Tristan Albatross from Australia, which concerns a banding recovery from ~44 km east of Wollongong on 5 October 1997 (Anon. 1997, 1998a; ABBBS in lit.; BARC case 795). The bird was originally banded as a chick at Gonydale on Gough Island in the South Atlantic on 28 October 1992, and it was subsequently found breeding on Gough Island in 2008 (South African Bird Ringing Unit in litt.). No photographs of the bird were taken in Australia.

The Tristan Albatross breeds on Tristan da Cunha and Gough Islands in the temperate South Atlantic Ocean (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992; Brooke 2004). It mostly forages in the South Atlantic, but sometimes moves east across the Indian Ocean towards the Western Australian coast. Tracking data indicate that it apparently forages in Western Australian waters on occasions, but unfortunately the accuracy of the geo-locator trackers (±180 km) is not enough to confirm specific records (R. Wanless, Birdlife South Africa in litt.). Furthermore, identification in the field is not possible at present. There are no other records of this species from Australia. The Tristan Albatross is endangered, partly as its chicks are defenceless against introduced Mice which have evolved to a large size on Gough Island (IUCN 2019).

## Chatham Albatross

#### Thalassarche (cauta) eremita

Christidis & Boles (2008) treated the Chatham Albatross as a subspecies of the Shy Albatross. However, many authorities have separated the Shy Albatrosses' subspecies as species following Nunn *et al.* (1996), Robertson & Nunn (1998), Brooke (2004) and Chambers *et al.* (2009). When these subspecies are elevated to species these are the Shy Albatross *T. cauta*, White-capped Albatross *T. steadi*, Chatham Albatross *T. eremita* and Salvin's Albatross *T. salvini*, however recent authors have combined the Shy and White-capped Albatross as a single species *T. cauta* usually under the name Shy Albatross (Onley & Scofield 2007; OSNZ 2010; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017) and this is followed for the purposes of this section. As noted in Volume 1 (Cooper *et al.* 2014), the subspecies *T.c. cauta* is the most commonly recorded subspecies of the Shy Albatross recorded in NSW, followed by the subspecies *T.c. steadi.* Salvin's Albatross is also occasionally reported from NSW.

There are no formally confirmed records of Chatham Albatross from NSW, as no records have been sent to BARC or NSWORAC, at least in part owing to its taxonomic status. A near-adult was photographed off Eden on 28 October 1976 (Carter 2011); a photograph of this bird was published in Harrison (1987, p. 37), with no location and incorrectly labelled "June". One was photographed off Batemans Bay on 8 August 1999 (Gladwin 1999; T. Palliser, pers. comm.). An adult was seen off Wollongong on 12 July 2002 (McGovern 2011) and another (or the same bird?) was seen off Sydney on 12 August 2002 (McGovern 2011; Dion Hobcroft in litt.). There are three more possible records off Wollongong: on 27 July 1985 (identification unresolved: Carter 2011), in 1999 (Mantle 2001) and in October 2002 (Vandyke 2011).

The Chatham Albatross breeds only on The Pyramid in the Chatham Islands (Gales 1998) and when not breeding most of the population forages in the Humboldt Current off the west coast of South America (Spear *et al.* 2003; OSNZ 2010). The only formally accepted records for Australia are all from Tasmania. A long-staying bird ashore in a Shy Albatross *T.c. cauta* colony on Albatross Island in Bass Strait was banded on 17 January 1983 and was seen there regularly until at least 1986 (Brothers & Davis 1985; Brothers in Reid & James 1997; BARC case 713). A photograph of this bird in Lindsey (1986b) was wrongly labelled as an immature Shy Albatross. On 9 September 1985, Brothers banded a second adult Chatham Albatross on Albatross Island, which again remained for a few years (Reid & James 1997; BARC case 713). Three birds have been observed at sea off Tasmania. One was observed off the Mewstone, south of Tasmania on 1 February 1995 and another also south of Tasmania on 18 June 1996 (Reid & James 1997; BARC cases 709 and 710). Another was seen on a pelagic trip off Eaglehawk Neck on 3 September 2011 and was accepted by BARC (case 741). A sighting off Pedra Branca, Tasmania, on 19 March 1995 had no substantiating details (Brothers in Reid & James 1997). A sight record from Cape Schanck, Victoria, on 8 August 1979 was not accepted by BARC (case 718).

### **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross**

*Thalassarche (chlororhynchos) chlororhynchos* 

Christidis & Boles (2008) treated the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross as a subspecies of the broader Yellownosed Albatross species. However, many authorities have separated the Yellow-nosed Albatrosses' subspecies as species following Nunn *et al.* (1996), Robertson & Nunn (1998), Brooke (2004) and Chambers *et al.* (2009). When these subspecies are elevated to species, these are the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchos* and the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri*. Recent authors have followed this separation (Onley & Scofield 2007; OSNZ 2010; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017) and this is followed here. As noted in Volume 1 (Cooper *et al.* 2014), the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross is the most commonly recorded of the two in NSW.

There are three accepted records of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross in NSW, all photographic records from pelagic trips off Wollongong. They were on 24 August 1986 (Reid & Carter 1988; BARC case 717), 26 July 2014 (BARC case 849) and 23 August 2014 (BARC case 850). The latter two might have involved the same bird. There are several more unsubstantiated claims including one off Wollongong in June 2011 (R. Hynson pers. comm.)

The Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross breeds on the Tristan da Cunha Group and Gough Island, in the temperate South Atlantic (Gales 1998). It mostly forages in the South Atlantic, but vagrants have occurred in the North Atlantic, Australia and the Chatham Islands (Onley & Scofield 2007). There is a single record for Victoria, from off Portland on 4 April 1994 (BARC case 717); and several recent records from Western Australia: at Perth Canyon on 21 August 2016 (BARC case 931); off Albany on 5 May 2018 (BARC case 1013); and at Cape Naturaliste on 22 April 2018 (BARC case 1022).

## Antarctic Petrel

#### Thalassoica antarctica

There is a single recent record of this species for NSW. A bird was seen off Mistral Point at Maroubra in Sydney on 26 August 1999 (Morris 2002a; Brandwood 2002a; BARC case 277). Beach-washed remains consisting of a skull and sternum were found near Sydney before October 1929 and identified as this species (Iredale 1930). This record was rejected by Morris *et al.* (1981), though it is unlikely these authors viewed the remains.

The Antarctic Petrel is one of the few species of birds that breed only on Antarctica itself. It spends most of its time south of the subantarctic convergence, but vagrants are known farther north. The first two Australian records were overlooked by Marchant & Higgins (1990): a bird found at Discovery Bay, Victoria, on 23 November 1957 (NMV B 30284) and another at Laverna on King Island, Tasmania, on 12 November 1959 (NMV B 30408). There are over ten other Australian records of beach-washed birds, mostly from Victoria but two were from South Australia and one from Tasmania.

### **Grey Petrel**

Procellaria cinerea

There is only one record of this species from NSW, involving a bird found beach-washed at Flat Rock near Ballina on 2 February 1985 and now deposited in the Australian Museum (AM O.61992; Cooper 1989; Marchant & Higgins 1990). There are two earlier possible records from NSW waters that lack accurate location details. In 1839 Gould collected specimens while travelling between Hobart and Sydney, though the exact locality is not known (Gould 1865). Layard & Layard (1882) also reported a specimen collected between New Caledonia and Australia. The specimen is still in the Natural History Museum in Tring (UK), but has no further details attached (Guy Dutson in litt.).

The Grey Petrel has a circumpolar distribution, breeding on subantarctic and temperate islands between 37°S and 49°S but rarely ventures into Australian waters. Marchant & Higgins (1990) tallied 44 records from the southern states of Australia between 1890 and 1984, the most northerly being the Flat Rock specimen.

### **Bulwer's Petrel**

Bulweria bulwerii

There is a single record of this species from NSW waters, a bird photographed well at 28°09'49"S, 154°00'29"E, ~28 nm east of Point Danger on 15 December 2019 (ORAC case 747). Although under review, it is likely this case will be accepted. Earlier reports from NSW have not been confirmed (Cooper 2013).

Bulwer's Petrel is a pantropical breeding species, with its nearest known breeding colonies in the Ryukyu and Bonin groups east to the Hawaiian, Phoenix and Marquesas Islands. It disperses to tropical seas and is common off north-west Australia in summer, though it is uncommon in the waters east of Australia and New Guinea. In eastern Australia there are two recent records from just north of the Queensland border, sighted during pelagic trips out of Southport in 2017 and 2019, a 1985 record near Pith Reef in Queensland, and a 1986 record off Cape Nelson in Victoria (Marchant & Higgins 1990; P. Walbridge in litt.; Birdlife Queensland Rarities Committee cases 194 and 202).

## **Pink-footed Shearwater**

#### Ardenna creatopus

This species has been recorded only once in NSW: a single bird was photographed 21 km east of Wollongong on 22 March 1986 (McBride 1989; Patterson 1991; BARC case 107).

The Pink-footed Shearwater breeds on islands off Chile and migrates north to the eastern Pacific off Alaska and British Columbia (Marchant & Higgins 1990). It has been recorded only four other times in Australasian waters: two to four birds were seen in Canterbury Bight, New Zealand over three days in June 1979 (Tunnicliffe

1982, 1984); and there have been sight records off Kaikoura in January 1994, December 1998, 27 February 1999 and January 2003 (OSNZ 2010).

## **Great Shearwater**

#### Ardenna gravis

There are six accepted records of the Great Shearwater for NSW, five of which were in 2011. One was photographed off Wollongong on 22 April 2006 (BARC case 487). One was photographed off Eden on 5 March 2011 (BARC case 694). One was photographed off Sydney on 9 April 2011 (BARC case 687). One was photographed off Swansea on 21 April 2011 (BARC case 692). One was photographed, captured and banded off Port Kembla on 23 April (BARC case 693). One was photographed off Port Stephens on 20 November 2011 (BARC case 721). Subsequently there have been three unsubstantiated reports through Birdline NSW, all seen from land, as follows: from Mistral Point, Maroubra, on 27 January 2012 and 19 January 2013; and from Fort Drive in Newcastle on 30 January 2013.

The Great Shearwater breeds only on the South Atlantic islands of the Tristan da Cunha Group and Gough Island, and typically migrates into the North Atlantic Ocean (Marchant & Higgins 1990). The five NSW records from 2011 form part of a remarkable invasion into south-east Australian waters that also involved at least the following: three records from Tasmania on 20 February (BARC case 680), 1 April (not submitted for appraisal) and 8 April (five birds, not submitted); two from Victoria on 3 April (BARC case 949) and eight birds on 17 April (BARC case 704); and more than 50 birds in South Australia on 3 April (Rogers & Hull 2016). There were also four records in New Zealand in 2011 (Gaskin 2013). Other than the records from 2011, the species has been recorded only six times in other Australian states: once off South Australia on 31 January–3 February 1989 (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Patterson 1996; BARC case 165); twice off Victoria on 11 April 1999 and 7 April 2002 (BARC cases 267 and 371); once of Western Australia on 31 October 2008 (BARC case 587) and twice off Tasmania on 22 April 2012 and 28–29 April 2018 (BARC cases 761 and 1002). Of the 22 records for Australia, 13 have been from the month of April.

### **Tropical Shearwater**

Puffinus bailloni

This species was treated as a subspecies of Audubon Shearwater *P. lherminieri* by Christidis & Boles (2008). It is known in NSW from a single definite sighting off Wollongong on 28 February 1987 (Carter 1988; BARC case 109: note that Patterson (1991) gave the wrong date for this record). This record was originally accepted by BARC as an Audubon's Shearwater and may warrant further scrutiny considering the taxonomic changes that have occurred in the intervening period.

There are other sightings in NSW that could refer to this species or either of two closely related species, the Manx Shearwater *P. puffinus* and Newell's Shearwater *P. newelli*. These include: singles off Sydney on 25 February 1984 (Lindsey 1986a; DJJ pers. obs.) and 22 September 1984 (Lindsey 1986a; pictured in Lindsey 1986b, p.303, but labelled as a Fluttering Shearwater *P. gavia*); two birds on 30 June 1984 (Carter 1988; IAWM pers. obs.); and singles off Wollongong on 27 October 1996 and 27 June 1998 (Morris & Burton 1999; Brandwood 2000; Morris 2001).

The Tropical Shearwater is one of a group of closely related species with poorly resolved and unstable taxonomy. It is polytypic and breeds on remote islands in the tropical Indian and Pacific Oceans, dispersing into the surrounding seas (Austin *et al.* 2004; Onley & Scofield 2007). Audubon's Shearwater (*sensu stricto*) is now considered confined to the Atlantic Ocean (Austin *et al.* 2004). The nearest known breeding locality of the Tropical Shearwater is at Tanna in Vanuatu, but it has been collected on the neighbouring island of Aneityum, farther south (Bregulla 1992). These birds would be *P. b. gunax* (Austin *et al.* 2004; Dutson 2011). The only other confirmed record for Australia is a bird ashore on North Keeling Island in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands group (BARC case 705). There are also several unverified reports from Queensland and Christmas Island.

## Kerguelen Petrel

Aprodroma brevirostris

There are about ten sets of records of the Kerguelen Petrel for NSW, if treating wrecks and invasions as single sets. However, no sight records have been accepted by NSWORAC. The first record was a bird found inland at Hoxton Park, before 12 July 1954, following a prolonged and severe storm in that month (Hindwood & McGill 1955; Morris et al. 1981; AM O.39282). Three others were found dead shortly after, as follows: at Thirroul on 17 July 1954; at Bulli on 21 July 1954; and at Perkins Beach on 18 October 1954 (Hindwood & McGill 1955). Twenty years later, in 1974, another wreck saw four more birds found dead: at Rushcutters Bay on 25 August; at Collaroy on 27 August; at Woody Head on 29 August; and at Woolgoolga on 15 September (Holmes & Morris 1975; AM O.45083). Subsequent records include: at Tweed Heads on 9 September 1975 (Rogers 1976); at Byron Bay on 14 September 1975 (Rogers 1976); 36 km off Sydney Heads on 30 October 1982 (McBride & Hobcroft 1984); 40 km off Wollongong, on 21 September 1985 (Cooper 1989); 40 km off Eden on 20 July 1986 (Neil Cheshire in litt.; NSWBA data); inland at Wardell on 19 September 1990 (AM O.63185); 20 km off Wollongong on 3 August 1994 (Morris & Burton 1996; Morris 1996; NSWORAC case 156, not accepted); off Sydney on 23 September 1995 (Morris & Burton 1997; Morris 1998; NSWORAC case 195, not accepted); off Wollongong on 27 June 1999 and 19 July 1999 (Morris 2002a); off Sydney on 29 June 1999 (Morris 2002a); and at Long Reef on 13 July 1999 (Morris 2002a). The most recent record, one found alive in a backyard at Callala Bay on 5 June 2016 after a storm, is the only one to be accepted by NSWORAC (McGovern 2018; NSWORAC case 655).

It is evident that the Kerguelen Petrel is not usually found in NSW waters but when it is found, there may be several records over a short period of time, as evidenced in 1954, 1974 and 1999.

The Kerguelen Petrel breeds on subantarctic islands in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Marchant & Higgins 1990). It disperses to near the subantarctic convergence throughout the southern oceans, including the Pacific. Elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand there are some years when there are significant wrecks of this species. These are presumably a consequence of the birds being blown northwards from their preferred foraging areas. New South Wales is evidently well beyond the normal range of this species, and wrecks are more common along the coast from Perth to Melbourne.

### **Barau's Petrel**

#### Pterodroma baraui

There is only one record of Barau's Petrel from NSW, involving a bird photographed near Browns Mountain off Sydney on 9 February 2013 (Palliser & Carter 2015; BARC case 785).

Barau's Petrel breeds only on Réunion and Rodriguez Islands in the Western Indian Ocean and disperses north and east through the tropical and subtropical Indian Ocean (Onley & Scofield 2007; van den Berg *et al.* 1991). There are five other Australian records endorsed by BARC: one off western Victoria on 15 February 1987 (case 115); singles at Bremer Canyon, Western Australia, on 17 February 2015, 4 February 2017 and 15 January 2018 (BARC cases 966, 967 and 989). An individual was also present at the air strip on West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands in March and November 2017–January 2018, acting territorially (BARC case 981; Geof Christie pers. comm.). There are several unconfirmed reports from Australia, mostly from Western Australia or the Indian Ocean Territories (Chapman & Cheshire 1987; Carter *et al.* 1989; Dunlop *et al.* 1988a, 1988b; Bourne 1996; James & McAllan 2014). A bird equipped with a geolocation device was tracked to Western Australia waters off Exmouth (Pinet *et al.* 2011). The NSW record was the first for the Pacific Ocean, but it was closely followed by another seen on 13 March 2013 in the mid Tasman at 36°25′00″S, 161°06′42″E, about 100 km east of the Atlas area (DJJ pers. obs.).

### Juan Fernandez Petrel

#### Pterodroma externa

The Juan Fernandez Petrel is known in NSW from only two records. The first record was a bird seen off Wollongong on 10 August 1985 (Cooper 1989; BARC case 987). The second was found alive in suburban Cessnock on 27 October 1988 (Cooper 1992; Patterson 1996; BARC case 168).

This species breeds only on the Juan Fernandez Group off Chile, and disperses to the central eastern Pacific, mainly south of 20°N (Brooke 1987; Marchant & Higgins 1990). The only other Australian record is a bird photographed off the Tasman Peninsula, Tasmania, on 14 January 2018 (BARC case 1035).

## Herald Petrel

Pterodroma heraldica

There are 13 reports of the Herald Petrel from NSW, but only two have been verified. The first record from NSW, which has gone largely unnoticed, was of two individuals seen between 36°40'S 154°16'E and 36°23'S 153°50'E on 30 November 1962 (Norris 1965). There are two records accepted by BARC, as follows: 30 km east of Ballina on 19 May 1979 (Izzard & Watson 1980; Patterson 1996; BARC case 64); and 35 km east of Sydney Heads on 30 October 1982 (McBride & Hobcroft 1985; Anon. 1988; BARC case 51). Ten subsequent records have not been submitted for appraisal and are not considered verified: 42 km off Sydney Heads on 5 October 1984 (Lindsey 1986a); off Wollongong on 23 August 1987 (Brandis *et al.* 1992); off Wollongong on 17 April 1988 (Brandis *et al.* 1992; Morris 1993; NSWORAC case 14, not confirmed); over the Gascoyne Seamount on 30 April 1989 (Neil Cheshire in litt.); off Wollongong on 28 April 1996 (Brandwood 2000; NSWORAC case 217, not confirmed); off South West Rocks on 31 December 1999 (Ken Shingleton, NSWBA data; Brandwood 2002a; NSWORAC [no case no.], not confirmed); off Wollongong on 9 September 2000 (Morris & Gladwin 2000); off South West Rocks on 8 April 2002 (Brandwood 2004; NSWORAC [no case no.], not confirmed); photographed off Lord Howe Island on 18 April 2012 by J. Shick (Walbridge, no date c); and one seen on a pelagic off Eden on 22 March 2015 (*NSW Birdline*). There are no records of beach–washed Herald Petrels from NSW.

The Herald Petrel mostly breeds on islands in the tropical South West and South Central Pacific Ocean, east to Pitcairn Island and west to Raine Island, Queensland (Onley & Scofield 2007). Raine Island is its nearest breeding place to NSW (King 1984). It has been stated that the Herald Petrel breeds or bred in the Chesterfield Group east of New Caledonia (e.g. Serventy *et al.* 1971; Dutson 2011), as the type specimen was collected there during survey work by the HMS *Herald* (see Salvin 1888; David 1995; Bourne *et al.* 2005). However there is no mention of breeding in any account of the *Herald's* visit. There are, however, recent breeding records from Hunter Island east of New Caledonia (Barré *et al.* 2011; Dutson 2011).

There is a small breeding population of Herald Petrels at Round Island off Mauritius, in the western Indian Ocean where it makes up about 10% of the population of petrels as does a similar number of Kermadec Petrels, with the remainder, or 80% of the petrel population, being Trindade Petrels (Brown *et al.* 2011). This mixed petrel population hybridizes to some extent on Round Island with genetic evidence of some of these hybrids reaching other populations and breeding there (Booth Jones *et al.* 2017). One Herald Petrel found on Round Island with a chick in April 2006,was a pale-plumaged bird that was banded on Raine Island in July 1984 and where it had bred on subsequent years through to 1987 with the same partner (King & Reimer 1991; Tatayah in James & McAllan 2014; Booth Jones *et al.* 2017). This bird was again recorded breeding on Round Island in October 2008 and May 2012, at a minimum age of 28 years old, and switching breeding locations between oceans. Two petrels from Round Island have been tracked using geolocators (Booth Jones *et al.* 2017). One bird left Round Island and went west to the Atlantic Ocean past the Trindade Island group as far north as the Gulf Stream, and the other, phenotypically a Kermadec Petrel, travelled east to forage in the Coral Sea north to near Raine Island and in the Tasman Sea between the NSW mainland and Lord Howe Island. The two birds between them travelled to within the foraging ranges of breeding populations of the three species: the Trindade Petrel, Herald Petrel and Kermadec Petrel.

When not breeding, the Herald Petrel disperses to mostly south of the equator to 30°S, with a vagrant record from Hawaii (Onley & Scofield 2007). Two records from the Australian Indian Ocean Territories suggest possible breeding in the tropical Eastern Indian Ocean. Three birds found ashore on North Keeling Island in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in April 1986 (Stokes & Goh 1987; Marchant & Higgins 1990) were apparently prospecting or breeding, although there have been no subsequent records in over 30 years (James & McAllan 2014). One captured ashore at Christmas Island on 28 August 2006 had active brood patches (James & McAllan 2014). Other acceptable Australian records (away from Raine Island) include: a dead bird found at Burleigh Heads, Queensland, in January 1971 (Vernon & McKean 1972; Lindsey 1986b); one 35 km east of Fraser Island at 25°10′S 153°42′E on 20 June 1998 (C. Jowett in Comben et al. 2001) one off Southport, Queensland, on 11 February 2000 (BARC case 300); one off Dunnalley, Tasmania, on 10 January 2001 (BARC case 311); one over the Queensland Seamount, Queensland, on 19 March 2015 (BARC case 877); and a few from Western Australian waters (Johnstone & Storr 1998).

### Soft-plumaged Petrel

#### Pterodroma mollis

There are about 21 reports of the Soft-plumaged Petrel from NSW, ten of which have been accepted by NSWORAC, one not accepted and ten not confirmed or not assessed. There are no historical records, no specimens and no beach-cast records.

Records accepted by NSWORAC are as follows: three singles off Wollongong on 23 October 1988 (Morris 1993b; case 83), 27 October 1996 (Brandwood 2000; case 250) and 10 July 1999 (Brandwood 2002a; case 297); one off Batemans Bay on 6 October 2003 (Brandwood 2006a; case 371); three singles off Sydney on 3 September 2004 (Brandwood 2006b; case 389), 26 October 2012 (McGovern 2014; case 583), and 11 May 2013 (McGovern 2014; case 581); one off Eden on 7 September 2014 (McGovern 2016; case 625); one off Port Stephens on 15 October 2017 (McGovern 2019; case 680); and one off Lord Howe Island on 17 May 2018 (McGovern 2019; case 695). Accepted records have occurred between May and October.

Other records here considered valid are one at the margin of the Atlas area in the south central Tasman Sea at 37°05′S 158°05′E on 8 June 1979 (Neil Cheshire in litt.); and one at Circular Quay in Sydney in early April 1988, which may have been ship-assisted (Cooper 1992).

There is also a large number of unsubstantiated claims of this species, as follows: one off Byron Bay on 9–10 July 1985 (Cooper 1989; Glen Holmes in litt.); six reports from off Wollongong on 10 August 1985, 17 September 1998, 19 September 1998, 27 June 1999, 8 August 1999 and 26 August 2000 (Cooper 1989, Brandwood 2001, 2002a; Morris & Gladwin 2000); one off Batemans Bay on 7 August 1999 (Peter Milburn in litt.); one sea-watched off Royal NP on 15 June 2008 (Birdline NSW); one off Lord Howe Island on 19 October 2016 (Birdline NSW); and one off Sydney on 8 June 2019 (Birdline NSW). One supposed 'dark morph' sea-watched off Maroubra on 14 May 2011 was assessed by NSWORAC and not accepted (NSWORAC, no date c; case 521).

The Soft-plumaged Petrel breeds on subantarctic islands in the South Atlantic and South Indian Oceans as well as the Antipodes Islands south-east of New Zealand (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Onley & Scofield 2007; OSNZ 2010). It may breed on Macquarie Island (OSNZ 2010) and breeds on Maatsuyker Island off southern Tasmania (Wiltshire & Hamilton 2002). It ranges at sea from South America to New Zealand, roughly between 30°S and 60°S latitudes, and mostly over waters below 20°C in temperature (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Onley & Scofield 2007; OSNZ 2010). There is one specimen and one sight record from Queensland, and numerous records for the southern states of Australia, Western Australia in particular (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Comben *et al.* 2001).

# **Collared Petrel**

#### *Pterodroma brevipes*

There is only one record of the Collared Petrel for NSW. A single bird was photographed over the Britannia Seamounts off northern NSW at 28° 10′S, 155° 35′E on 13 April 2014 (Walbridge, no date d, no date e; BARC case 837). Two birds were seen on the previous day on the same voyage, but these were farther north in Queensland waters. Although all three were dark morph birds, it is not certain whether they belonged to the nominate subspecies *P.b. brevipes* or the recently described *P.b. magnificens* (Bretangolle & Shirihai 2010). Nonetheless, the validity of the latter subspecies has been challenged by Tennyson *et al.* (2012).

The Collared Petrel is a pelagic species that breeds in the tropical South West Pacific in Fiji, Vanuatu and possibly elsewhere, and ranges widely in the tropical Pacific Ocean (Onley & Scofield 2007). The only other accepted records for Australia are from seas near Norfolk Island in March 2007, April 2008, October 2008 and March 2009 (BARC cases 603 to 608). These were all light morph birds and therefore nominate *brevipes*.

### Vanuatu Petrel

#### Pterodroma occulta

The Vanuatu Petrel is known in Australia from a single record. One of the few known specimens is a bird found on 9 April 1983, dead on the Pacific Highway in the Cooperabung Range, south of Kempsey (AM. O.58135; Boles *et al.* 1985).

This species was described only recently (Imber & Tennyson 2001) and was discovered breeding on Vanua Lava in Vanuatu in 2009 (Totterman 2009, 2012). Shirihai & Bretangolle (2010) made tentative observations at sea in Vanuatu in 2006 and 2007 and conclusive observations in December 2009, and Peter Harrison (in Shirihai & Bretagnolle 2010) made further observations there in February 2010. There is a sight record from New Caledonia (Dutson 2011), but the NSW specimen remains the only record outside of Melanesia. However, the difficulty of separating it in the field from the White-necked Petrel hinders determination of their pelagic distributions (Shirihai & Bretagnolle 2010).

## South Georgian Diving-Petrel

Pelecanoides georgicus

The South Georgian Diving-Petrel is known from NSW by a single beach-washed bird found on Bellambi Beach on 28 December 1958 (Gibson & Sefton 1959; AM O.63451). Although accepted by Morris *et al.* (1981) and Marchant & Higgins (1990) its identification needs clarification following the split of birds from Whenua Hou (Codfish Island) New Zealand, as a separate species, the Whenua Hou Diving Petrel (Fischer *et al.* 2018).

The Bellambi specimen was recently examined at the Australian Museum by IAWM. It consists of two wings, a tail, two legs and the skull; but the septum is missing. The specimen is too small (wing 117 mm; tail [longest feathers] 37 mm; tarsus 24.3 mm) for the Common Diving Petrel. The lower mandible matches the broad arch with partly parallel sides typical of the South Georgian Diving Petrel. The specimen lacks the well-defined contrasting and completely white scapulars, and the extensive, contrasting white markings on the secondaries that are characteristic of Whenua Hou Diving Petrel (Fischer *et al.* 2018).

This species breeds on the subantarctic islands of the South Atlantic and South Indian Oceans. This includes the Australian Territories of Heard Island and Macquarie Island, although the population at the later is very small and was feared extinct (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Fischer *et al.* 2018). As noted above, the birds from Whenua Hou, New Zealand, along with an extinct population from the Auckland Islands, have been separated (Fisher *et al.* 2018). The South Georgian Diving-Petrel usually disperses into adjacent seas and is rarely recorded far from its breeding islands (Onley & Scofield 2007; OSNZ 2010). The only other record from mainland Australia is a specimen found beach-washed at Vivonne Bay on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, on 13 January 1985 (Horton *et al.* 2000).

# Northern Rockhopper Penguin

Eudyptes moseleyi

Christidis & Boles (2008) recognised a single species of Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome*. However, many authorities now treat it as a complex of two species, namely the Southern (*E. chrysocome*) and the Northern (*E. moseleyi*) Rockhopper Penguins (OSNZ 2010).

The Northern Rockhopper Penguin is known in NSW from a pair of records in 2016 that still require better documentation. One juvenile penguin was seen and photographed at the Lord Howe Island jetty on 8 November 2016, and a second juvenile was found on the Island on 28 December 201 (Ian Hutton in litt.). Both birds were repatriated to Taronga Zoo. Photographs indicate that the first was a rockhopper and most likely a Northern, while the second was a definite Northern Rockhopper Penguin (IAWM & DJJ pers. obs.; Ian Hutton & Jeff Davies pers. comm.; Paul Scofield in litt.). In addition, DNA testing by the Australian Museum also showed that both were the Northern Rockhopper Penguin (Leah Tsang &Walter Boles in litt.).

The Northern Rockhopper Penguin breeds on the St Paul and Amsterdam Islands in the Indian Ocean and the Tristan da Cunha Group and Gough Island in the South Atlantic Ocean (Marchant & Higgins 1990; del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). It ranges widely in the high subtropical and low subantarctic zones and reaches southern Western Australia occasionally but the eastern States only very rarely (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Johnstone & Storr 1998). There are two to four records from New Zealand, as far east as the Chatham Islands (OSNZ 2010).









Soft-plumaged Petrel

Mark Simpson

























Yellow-bellied Sunbird

Pam Kenway



# **Fiordland Penguin**

*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* 

The Fiordland Penguin is known from seven records in NSW. The first record was from Ettalong Beach on 5 December 1907 (Hindwood 1940c; AM O.26096). The next was from Gerringong Beach on 2 October 1938 (Hindwood 1940c; AM O.37004). Another was seen at Kurnell around August 1953 by John Hobbs (Morris *et al.* 1981; Marchant & Higgins 1990). One found at Congo Beach near Moruya on 1 October 1994 (Morris & Burton 1996; NSWORAC case 159) was repatriated to Taronga Zoo (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 January 1995). There were three in late 2006, as follows: one at South Bermagui on 19 October (NSWORAC case 429) and 23 October (Birdline NSW); one at Green Cape on 5 and 6 November (Birdline NSW; NSWORAC case 431); and one at Norah Head on 7 November (NSWORAC case 432), which was repatriated to Taronga Zoo on 12 November (Anon 2006; Tait 2007). An unconfirmed report involves one found injured and taken into care at Tura Beach on 13 September 2013 (Birdline NSW).

The Fiordland Penguin breeds on the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand to Stewart Island, including coastal and offshore islands, and disperses to surrounding seas (Marchant & Higgins 1990; OSNZ 2010). It also occurs occasionally elsewhere in southern Australia as far west as Fremantle (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Johnstone & Storr 1998).

# Macaroni Penguin

#### *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

The only NSW record of the Macaroni Penguin is of a bird that came ashore at Malua Bay near Batemans Bay on 10 December 1997 (Brandwood 2000; NSWORAC case 288). The bird subsequently died and is now in the Australian Museum collection (AM O.69156). It is of the white-faced subspecies *schlegeli*, sometimes separated as the species Royal Penguin.

The 'Royal' Penguin breeds only on Macquarie Island and disperses into the surrounding seas. Birds identified as this subspecies have also occurred in the other southern States as far west as Augusta in Western Australia (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Johnstone & Storr 1998).

# **Great Frigatebird**

#### Fregata minor

There are only seven records of the Great Frigatebird accepted by NSWORAC for NSW. These include single birds: off Nambucca Heads on 15 February 1981 (Morris 1994; NSWORAC case 108); at Yamba on 21 February 1987 (Clancy 1995; Morris 1993; NSWORAC case 4); at East Ballina Lighthouse on 4 May 1996 (Brandwood 2000; NSWORAC case 222); at South Ballina on 5 May 1996 (Brandwood 2000; NSWORAC case 235); at Clarence Head, Yamba, on 6 March 2003 (Brandwood 2006b; NSWORAC case 374); at Montagu Island on 10 January 2010 (NSWORAC, no date b; NSWORAC case 501); and at Newcastle on 7–8 January 2015 (Brandwood 2000; NSWORAC case 638). The last was an adult female with a red orbital ring and pink bill, which indicates that it was from either the central Pacific Ocean north of the Equator or the western Indian Ocean (DJJ & IAWM; James 2004).

Nevertheless, there are other records that are likely to be valid. These include: ten off Ballina from 24–26 April 1989 (John Izzard & Glenn Holmes in Morris & Burton 1992); an all-dark bird and thus adult male at Port Macquarie on 27 February 1993 (BRC pers. obs., NSWBA data); and one at Lennox Head on 7 March 2004 (Brandwood 2006b).

There have also been a series of reports from Lord Howe Island, all since 2003, most of which appear to be valid. These include: a female seen at Clear Place by Bob Way on 29 March 2004 (LHI Museum data; Ian Hutton pers. comm.); one photographed by Steve Halliday over Roach Island on 20 March 2007 (Hutton 2007; eBird); one at Clear Place on 31 January 2008 (Ian Hutton pers. comm.); an immature female seen by Chris and Jane Gregory and Jack Shick on a pelagic trip between Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid on 26 March 2014 (Morris 2014; eBird); and one seen over Neds Beach by Benjamin and Peter Harms on 5–6 December 2015 (eBird).

However, there are many other unverified or records not accepted by NSWORAC, including: one reported off Terrigal on 8 April 1930 (Macarthur 1930), one at Lennox Head in late August 1964 (Benham 1965); one at Cardiff on 31 January 1983 (Anon. 1983); off South West Rocks on 16 December 2000 (Brandwood 2002b; NSWORAC case 319, not accepted); at Mona Vale Golf Course on 20 July 2002 (Brandwood 2004; NSWORAC, not confirmed); at South Broulee Beach on 31 January 2013 (McGovern 2014; NSWORAC case 580, not accepted); one at Shelley Beach, Port Macquarie, on 14 January 2015 (Birdline NSW); and one seen from Hastings Point Headland on 30 December 2017 (Birdline NSW).

The Great Frigatebird breeds on islands in tropical seas around the world and disperses locally (Marchant & Higgins 1990). The nearest breeding localities to NSW are on various islands in the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea off Cairns, the Gulf of Carpentaria, and off New Caledonia (Hindwood *et al.* 1963; Marchant & Higgins 1990; Barré *et al.* 2011). It is likely to be seen more frequently in NSW waters with global warming.

## **Great-billed Heron**

#### Ardea sumatrana

There is a single acceptable record of the Great-billed Heron from NSW. A bird seen at the Romiaka Channel near Yamba in April 1980 (Gibson 1980, 1981) was overlooked by Morris *et al.* (1981) and has not been assessed by NSWORAC but was accepted by Marchant & Higgins (1990). The description provided by Gibson (1981) adequately eliminates all other Australian herons and the Black-necked Stork. There is also one historical but unspecific account of the Great-billed Heron in NSW. Edward P. Ramsay (1877 p. 341) "observed them as far south as the Clarence River" and reported that John McGillivray collected a specimen there. However, the whereabouts of the specimen is now unknown. The Australian Museum originally had two specimens (AM P.8616 and P.8617), both registered in 1878 that could have included the bird collected by Macgillivray. One, a mounted specimen, still survives (AM P.8616) but has no locality or collector details.

Extralimitally the Great-billed Heron occurs in coastal areas of New Guinea and South East Asia north-west to Burma (Marchant & Higgins 1990). In Australia it occurs mostly in large estuaries fringed by mangroves, from Derby, Western Australia, around the northern coasts south to Tin Can Bay near Fraser Island, Queensland, with very few inland records (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Burnham *et al.* 2002). Historically, Ramsay (1877) recorded observations and a specimen from Moreton Bay, which suggest that the species' normal range extended much farther south in the 19th century than it currently does. This species is known to be sensitive to human disturbance (Marchant & Higgins 1990).

### Corncrake

#### Crex crex

There is only one record of the Corncrake for NSW. A bird was shot on a rifle range at Randwick in Sydney on 14 June 1893 (North 1893; AM. O.6138). At the time there was speculation as to whether this specimen had been ship-assisted, but Mayr (1949) considered the Randwick record to be valid, as did Marchant & Higgins (1993) and BARC (case 94).

The Corncrake breeds in Europe and Asia, from Britain east to central Siberia near Lake Baikal and western Sinkiang in China. It migrates south to winter mainly in eastern Africa, Madagascar and Arabia, though there are vagrant records from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and southern Vietnam (Harrison *et al.* 1997; de Schauensee 1984; Robson 2000; Brazil 2009). The only other records for Australia are a bird that was found aboard a troop ship off Western Australia on 9 December 1944 (Mayr 1949) and a bird photographed on Christmas Island in December 2016 (Baxter, no date; not yet submitted to BARC for appraisal).

### White-browed Crake

#### Porzana cinerea

There is only one record of the White-browed Crake from NSW. A single bird was photographed at West Byron Wetlands on 11–12 February 2010 in the wake of Cyclone Olga (NSWORAC, no date b; NSWORAC case 500; Birdline NSW).

The White-browed Crake occurs from Malaysia through the archipelagos of South East Asia to New Guinea, through the Pacific Ocean east to Samoa and south to New Caledonia and northern Australia. In Australia it occurs coastally between the eastern Kimberley Division, Western Australia, and Townsville, Queensland (Storr 1984; Marchant & Higgins 1993).

## American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominicus

There are only two verified records of the American Golden Plover from NSW. The first accepted record for NSW was a bird photographed at West Byron wetlands, Byron Bay on 8 November 1994 (Patterson 1996; BARC case 189). The second record involved a bird at Boat Harbour near Kurnell from 12 January to about 5 April 2009 (Palliser & Carter 2015; BARC case 766). This bird was well-documented and photographed on multiple occasions.

The 'lesser golden plover' species-group was split into two species, Pacific Golden Plover *P. fulva* and American Golden Plover *P. dominicus*, by Connors (1983). The split was first adopted in Australia by the 1994 Australian checklist (Christidis & Boles 1994), and previous records that used the specific name *dominicus* are generally assumed to have been Pacific Golden Plovers *P. fulva*. Most reports of American Golden Plovers made prior to 1994 have insufficient documentation. The first claimed sightings are from Comerong Island between 1976 and 1981, but have no descriptions included in the account (Hobbs 1988). Similarly, undated reports from Ballina have no details (Holmes in Chafer & Brandis 1990). Chafer & Brandis (1990) reported this species at Comerong Island on 3 October 1989, but the record was not accepted by NSWORAC (Morris 1993b; NSWORAC case 23). A sighting at Pitt Town Lagoon on 22 November 1997 was not accepted by BARC (Palliser 1999; Morris 2000; BARC case 233). Further reports from Comerong Island on 1 April 2006 (BARC case 481) and 27 September 2006 (BARC case 645) were also not accepted. One reported at Penrhyn Estuary, Botany Bay, on 15 and 19 September 2006 was not confirmed (Birdline NSW).

The American Golden Plover breeds in grassy tundra in northern North America and winters south to northern Chile and Argentina (AOU 1998). Despite several claims, there has only been one other accepted record for Australia, a bird at Dry Creek Saltfields, South Australia, from 6 November 2006 to 18 March 2007 (BARC case 529). The difficulty of separating these taxa means that in the future most reports of the American Golden Plover will be considered unacceptable.

## **Ringed Plover**

#### Charadrius hiaticula

There are four acceptable records of the Ringed Plover from NSW, while two historical records are problematic. The first report of this species for Australia was a bird in John Gould's possession that was collected at 'Port Stevens' (Gould 1865). Hindwood & Hoskin (1954) suggested that this bird was collected at Port Stevens in South Africa and noted that Stone & Mathews (1913) had attributed a Gould specimen of *Herodias pannosus* [=Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis schistacea*] to be from Port Stevens, South Africa. However the Western Reef Egret is not known from South Africa and is not found south of Kenya (Clancey 1980; Sibley & Monroe 1990) and so the collection of both specimens cannot be satisfactorily reconciled with either locality. Another specimen of the Ringed Plover was supposedly collected by Robert Grant at Long Bay in Sydney on 30 August 1908 (Mathews 1922; Hindwood & Hoskin 1954; Marchant & Higgins 1993). However there are often problems with Grant's specimens and this one is likely to be erroneous.

The first acceptable record for NSW was a bird at observed at Kooragang Island on 18 February 1967 and again from 14 October to 12 December 1967 (Holmes 1967; McGill 1969b). Another was at Bermagui on 15 July 1978 (RAOU Atlas; Marchant & Higgins 1993). One was present at the Old Cooks River Mouth in Botany Bay from 16 January 1980 to at least 1 November 1980 (Russill & Russill 1980; Lindsey 1981). One was photographed at the Worimi Conservation Lands on Stockton Beach on 25 August 2017 (BARC case 985).

The Ringed Plover breeds in the Holarctic, excepting western North America (Marchant & Higgins 1993). For the most part it winters in Africa and the Middle East with occasional records from farther east in South East Asia, New Guinea and New Zealand (Hayman *et al.* 1986; Marchant & Higgins 1993). Other accepted records from Australia include: two at Buckland Park, South Australia, from 4–18 October 1976 (Rix 1977); and singles at Sanderson, Northern Territory, on 9 February 1980 (McKean 1980); Queenscliff, Victoria, from 19 January to

9 May 1981 (BARC case 1023); Boonooroo, Queensland, on 13 August 1983 (Patterson 1996; BARC case 133); Western Port Bay, Victoria, from 23 November to 21 December 1996 (BARC case 1018); Marlo, Victoria, from 22 January 2002 until at least early April 2002 (Stafford 2002a, 2002b; BARC case 330); Rottnest Island, Western Australia, from 11 November 2005 (BARC case 476); and Mandurah, Western Australia, from 4 February 2007 (BARC case 527).

## **Semipalmated Plover**

*Charadrius semipalmatus* 

The Semipalmated Plover is known from just three records in NSW. One was photographed at the Tuross River estuary on 22 May 2010 (BARC case 648) with another photographed by several observers at Moseley Park Swamp on Lord Howe Island from 21 March to 3 April 2017 (BARC case 982). One was photographed well at Shoalhaven Heads from 2–7 October 2019 (BARC case 1086; eBird).

The Semipalmated Plover breeds in Alaska and northern Canada, and normally migrates as far south as Chile and Patagonia (Cramp & Simmons 1983; AOU 1998). It is a vagrant to the Western Palearctic (Cramp & Simmons 1983) and New Zealand (OSNZ 2010). There are just three other accepted records for Australia: a bird at Broome, Western Australia, returning for multiple seasons from 23 October 2009 until at least March 2015 (BARC case 873); one at Clonmel Island, Victoria, from 13–15 June 2010 (BARC case 646); and one at Carpenter Rocks, South Australia, from 4 November to 2 December 2014 (BARC case 871).

### Kentish Plover

#### Charadrius alexandrinus

The Kentish Plover has been recorded twice in NSW. A bird was found at Old Bar on 14 February 2002 and remained there until at least early April 2002 (Palliser 2003; BARC case 343). Another bird was found at Quibray Bay and Bonna Point Reserve, Kurnell from 14–31 December 2019 (Australian Twitchers Facebook page; BARC case 1099).

The Kentish Plover is a Palaearctic migrant that winters in the Mediterranean, tropical Africa, Arabia, and South and South East Asia, east to the Philippines and the Moluccas (Cramp & Simmons 1983; Hayman *et al.* 1986; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is a common migrant throughout western and central Indonesia (Eaton *et al.* 2016) but has not been recorded in New Guinea (Pratt & Beehler 2015), so it might be overlooked there and in northern Australia. There are only three other reports for Australia, all from the tropics. The first was at Buffalo Creek near Darwin, Northern Territory, from 6 to 23 November 1988 (McCrie 1995; BARC case 170); another was at Leslie Saltworks in Port Hedland, Western Australia, on 4 April 1993 (Johnstone & Storr 1998; not submitted for appraisal); and one was at Christmas Island from 17 April to 15 May 2005 (James & McAllan 2014; BARC case 641).

## **Grey-headed Lapwing**

Vanellus cinereus

There are only two records of the Grey-headed Lapwing for NSW. One was found at Burren Junction on 19 June 2006 and observed through to late August (Clarke *et al.* 2008; BARC case 492). One was at Penrith Lakes from 5-14 September 2015 (BARC case 1007).

The Grey-headed Lapwing breeds in North East China and neighbouring Russia and Japan; mainland birds migrate to South Asia from Southern Central China to Bangladesh, North East India and Nepal, and South East Asia (del Hoyo *et al.* 1996; Eaton *et al.* 2016). In Australia, vagrants have been recorded once each in Victoria in 2014 (BARC case 866), South Australia in 2014 (BARC case 1009), the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 2016 (BARC case 1010) and Western Australia in 2017 (BARC case 1011).

# Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

Although there have been several reports of the Hudsonian Godwit in NSW, many were not adequately documented. The first record was a bird found on 26 December 1982 at Stockton Sandspit (Lindsey 1984; Patterson 1996; BARC case 148). The same bird is believed to have been regularly resighted until at least December 1983 (Lindsey 1985; Morris 1991). Sightings continued through 1984 and 1985 at this locality (Lindsey 1986a; Cooper 1989) but there is no way of telling if these sightings were of the same individual (Morris 1991). Additional birds were reported at Kooragang Island on 15 October 1988 (Cooper 1992) and nearby Fullerton Cove on 29 October 2000 (Eades 2000b), but these reports have not been reviewed by a records appraisal committee. The second confirmed record is a bird at Lake Wollumboola from 19 December 2015 to 19 January 2016 (BARC case 896). Another bird was photographed well at Lake Wollumboola between 1 July and 23 August 2018 (BARC case 1006; eBird), and another bird from this locality from 24–31 March 2019 (BARC case 1089). A bird was photographed well at Kogarah Bay on 25 September 2019 and was still present on 18 October 2019 (BARC case 1085; eBird; Australian Twitchers Facebook page).

The Hudsonian Godwit breeds in the tundra of North America and migrates to the southern coasts of South America (AOU 1998). Elsewhere in Australia, it has also been recorded in South Australia in 1986 (BARC case 123), Tasmania in 1991–1992 and 2018 (Patterson 1996; BARC cases 127 and 999), Victoria in 2000 and 2009 (BARC cases 512 and 592), and Western Australia in 2012 (BARC case 732). It is a fairly regular visitor in low numbers to New Zealand (OSNZ 2010).

# **Upland Sandpiper**

#### Bartramia longicauda

The Upland Sandpiper is known in Australia from a single specimen record. Gould (1865) noted that the specimen was loaned to him by the Australian Museum. This bird had been 'killed by an old sportsman, while snipe-shooting near the reservoir between the town of Sydney and Botany Bay in 1848'. Hindwood (1950b) considered the specimen concerned was AM specimen P.8563, collected at the present location of Centennial Park in Sydney.

The Upland Plover breeds in grasslands in North America, south to the prairies of the central United States, and winters in eastern South America (AOU 1998; del Hoyo *et al.* 1996). Vagrants frequently reach the Western Palaearctic but not Asia (Hayman *et al.* 1986; Brazil 2009). One vagrant reached New Zealand in 1967 (McKenzie 1968; OSNZ 2010).

### Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

There are four acceptable records of the Lesser Yellowlegs for NSW. The first was at Ash Island in the Hunter Estuary from 13–15 September 2001 (Lindsey 2001; Palliser 2003; BARC case 325). Another was found at Boyters Lane Swamp, Jerseyville, on 28 October 2007 and remained there until at least 23 March 2008 (Ken Shingleton, NSWBA data; Palliser & Carter 2009; BARC case 550; Birdline NSW). Presumably the same bird was also recorded at this location during the next two seasons (9 October 2008 to 24 March 2009 and 26 September to 6 January 2010) by the original finder (Ken Shingleton; NSWBA data) and numerous other observers (Birdline NSW).

The Lesser Yellowlegs breeds from central Alaska east to Quebec and winters south to southern Chile and Argentina (AOU 1998). Vagrants have reached Western Europe, South Africa, Indonesia, Polynesia and New Zealand (Hayman *et al.* 1986; Higgins & Davies 1996; Eaton *et al.* 2016). Accepted records from elsewhere in Australia include one near Geelong in Victoria from January to March 1983 (Smith 1983; BARC case 60); and another at Werribee on 9 April 1995 (Patterson 1996; BARC case 190). Four other reports in Australia, all since 1984, have been not accepted by BARC (cases 192, 284, 470 and 479) and several other claims have not been submitted to any records appraisal committee (Higgins & Davies 1996).

# Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

There is only a single accepted record of the Common Redshank in NSW. This was a bird found near Jerseyville from 14–27 September 2000 (Shingleton 2001; Brandwood 2002b; NSWORAC case 311). An earlier report from Wallagoot Lake on 29 December 1987 was not accepted by NSWORAC (Coventry 1990; Morris 1992; NSWORAC case 7). One reported from Long Reef on 8 July 1996 was listed as unconfirmed by NSWORAC (Brandwood 2000).

The Common Redshank breeds in temperate Europe and Asia, and mostly winters in northern Africa and southern Asia (Higgins & Davies 1996). Elsewhere in Australia, most birds are considered vagrants, except in the north-west of Western Australia and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands where they are regular (Higgins & Davies 1996; IAWM & Geof Christie pers. obs.).

# Asian Dowitcher

#### *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

There have been four records of the Asian Dowitcher from NSW. The first record was at Shoalhaven Heads where at least one bird was seen on 20 February 1977 (Rogers & Lindsey 1978). The next two records involved single birds at Stockton Sandspit from 6–27 April 1985 (McBride & Lindsey 1986; Patterson 1991; BARC case 85) and on 2 August and 8 October 1988 (Morris 1993; NSWORAC cases 15 and 79). The most recent record was from Comerong Island on 16 November and 1 December 2013 (McGovern 2014; NSWORAC case 603; Birdline NSW). Two reports from Narooma on 10 January 2001 and 4 January 2002 were listed as unconfirmed by NSWORAC (Brandwood 2003, 2004).

The Asian Dowitcher breeds in central and eastern Siberia and migrates south to the coasts of South East Asia (Higgins & Davies 1996). It occurs regularly along the north-east Pilbara and south-west Kimberley coasts of Western Australia and has been recorded as a vagrant from most Australian States, as well as New Zealand (Higgins & Davies 1996; OSNZ 2010).

# Little Stint

#### Calidris minuta

There are at least two and probably three acceptable records of the Little Stint in NSW. 'Little Stints' were occasionally referred to in older literature (before 1950) from NSW, but these cases referred to the Red-necked Stint. The first State record was at Comerong Island on 7 April 1984 (Chafer 1989). The next valid record was at Tullakool Saltworks where a bird was seen from 23 November 1987 to 24 January 1988 (Morris 1993; NSWORAC case 8). A recent bird at Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar, from 1–10 December 2018 (eBird; Birdlne NSW) was observed and photographed by many and its identification was discussed in detail on social media, though it has not yet been submitted to NSWORAC. NSWORAC did not accept a reported bird from Kooragang Island on 30 December 1990 (Morris 1994; NSWORAC case 54) and BARC did not accept a reported bird from the Tuross River estuary on 5 March 2012 (BARC case 746). NSWORAC has listed two other records as not confirmed: at Kooragang Island on 4 November 1991 (Morris 1994); and at Tullakool Saltworks in January to March 1995 (Morris 1998; NSWORAC case 172). A possible sighting at Penrhyn Estuary in Botany Bay on 1 December 2006 was not confirmed (Birdline NSW).

The Little Stint breeds in the Palaearctic tundra and migrates largely to Africa and the coasts of southern Asia, east to Burma (Higgins & Davies 1996). It has been reported well over 50 times elsewhere in Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996; Rogers & Cox 2015).

# White-rumped Sandpiper

#### *Calidris fuscicollis*

There are four accepted records of the White-rumped Sandpiper in NSW. The first record was at Pitt Town from 29 October to 24 December 1977 (McGill 1978; Patterson 1991; BARC case 89). During this period the bird also visited Bakers Lagoon and McGraths Hill STW (NSWBA data). One was observed at Windang on 31 October to 9 November 1984 (Smith & Chafer 1989; Patterson 1991; BARC case 101). One was at Tullakool Saltworks from 18 December 1987 to 19 January 1988 (Cooper 1991; Patterson 1996; BARC case 143). One was seen and photographed at Lake Wollumboola and Shoalhaven Heads from 5 January to 25 March 2015 (BARC case 884; Birdline NSW). A report from Tenambit Common near Maitland on 21 December 1989 was not accepted by BARC (Patterson 1996; BARC case 156).

The White-rumped Sandpiper breeds in tundra areas of Arctic North America and migrates south to winter in South America (Higgins & Davies 1996; AOU 1998). It has been recorded twice in Victoria and once in South Australia (Anon. 1988; Higgins & Davies 1996; BARC cases 87, 88 and 124), and twice in New Zealand (OSNZ 2010).

# Dunlin

#### *Calidris alpina*

There is a single record of the Dunlin from NSW. One was photographed and filmed at Tuross Lake on 5 January 2010 (Palliser & Carter 2012; BARC case 633).

The Dunlin breeds in the temperate and subarctic Holarctic and mostly winters on coasts in the Northern Hemisphere south of winter ice and north of 15° North (Cramp & Simmons 1983; Marchant & Higgins 1996). Only stragglers reach the Southern Hemisphere (Cramp & Simmons 1983), but vagrants have reached Indonesia (Eaton *et al.* 2016) and New Zealand (OSNZ 2010). There are three other accepted records from Australia, one from Western Australia in 1985 and two from Queensland in 1983 and 1999 (BARC cases 68, 70 and 271). Many earlier reports from southern Australian States involved misidentifications of the stereotyped hybrid 'Cox's Sandpiper', and have since been retracted or discredited (see Higgins & Davies 1996).

### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

#### Tryngites subruficollis

There are ten acceptable records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in NSW. The first was seen at the mouth of the Old Cooks River in Botany Bay from 4 to 8 April 1965 (Hoskin & Hindwood 1966). One was recorded at Moseley Park Swamp on Lord Howe Island some time during 1978 to 1980 (McAllan *et al.* 2004). Subsequent records include: Kooragang Island on 10 March 1979 (van Gessel & Barden 1979; Anon. 1988; BARC case 97); Bakers and Bushells Lagoons near Richmond from 19 December 1982 to 6 March 1983 (Hobcroft 1987; Anon. 1988; BARC case 61); and Lake Bathurst from 8 January to 27 February 1993 (Patterson 1996; BARC case 159). Another report from Lake Bathurst on 2 March 1994, although not reviewed by the NSWORAC, was accepted on the COG database (see also Morris & Burton 1996). Further reports accepted by BARC include individual birds at Lake Wollumboola from January to 26 March 1999 (Brandwood 2002a; BARC case 382), Bushells Lagoon on 14–15 December 2002 (Brandwood 2004; BARC case 366), Ash Island from 13–19 February 2004 (Brandwood 2006b; BARC case 416), and Hexham Swamp on 18–27 January 2014 (BARC case 808). One at Boyters Lane in Jerseyville from 24 November to 4 December 2018 (eBird; Birdline NSW) has not yet been submitted for appraisal but was photographed well. One reported on Lord Howe Island on 6 April 1992 was not accepted by BARC (Patterson 1996; BARC case 139). One reported by Glenn Holmes at Stockton Borehole Swamp, Teralba, on 29 December 2006 (Birdline NSW), was not confirmed.

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper breeds in tundra areas of the high Arctic of North America and migrates south to winter mainly in the pampas grasslands of Paraguay, Uruguay and northern Argentina (AOU 1998). It has only rarely been reported elsewhere in Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996). BARC has accepted one record for South Australia in 1986, one for Tasmania in 1988, and two for Victoria in 1984 and 2017 (BARC cases 435, 128, 1019 and 988, respectively).

## **Red-necked Phalarope**

#### Phalaropus lobatus

There are just three records of the Red-necked Phalarope for NSW. The first was a bird seen at Mother of Ducks Lagoon near Guyra on 29 January and 3 February 1979 (Holmes 1979; Patterson 1991; BARC case 93). Other records involve one at Flat Rock, Ballina, from 3 March to 6 April 2016 (McGovern 2017; NSWORAC case 643); and one photographed at sea near Balls Pyramid, Lord Howe Island, on 29 November 2016 (McGovern 2018; NSWORAC case 667. NSWORAC listed a bird seen at sea off Wollongong on 4 October 1994 as not confirmed (Morris 1998; NSWORAC case 149).

The Red-necked Phalarope breeds widely in high latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere and winters primarily at sea in the tropics around the world (AOU 1998). There are numerous records of the species from other Australian States, and it is considered regular visitor to salt fields near Port Hedland and Rottnest Island in Western Australia and Adelaide in South Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996).

## **Oriental Pratincole**

Glareola maldivarum

There are approximately 13 sets of records of the Oriental Pratincole for NSW. The first NSW record was a bird collected near Botany and registered in the Australian Museum in July 1877 (AM O.18411; Hindwood & Hoskin 1954). Five further sets of records are from before the foundation of NSWORAC, as follows: Bakers Lagoon on 22 May 1971, 11–26 December 1971 and 3 February 1973 (Rogers 1972; Rogers 1974); Kooragang Island in January 1975 (Rogers 1976); Lord Howe Island some time during 1978 to 1980 (McAllan et al. 2004); Lord Howe Island from 4-30 May 1987 (Cooper 1991; McAllan et al. 2004); and at least six birds at Bakers Lagoon from 26–28 December 1987 and 18 January to early February 1988 (Cooper 1991; 1992; Hoskin 1991). Seven records have been accepted by NSWORAC, as follows: Macksville from 10–13 December 1992 (Morris 1994; NSWORAC case 107); Parkes Sewage Treatment Plant on 12 April 1993 (Morris 1995; NSWORAC case 121); Pitt Town Lagoon from 28 November 1996 to 11 January 1997 (Brandwood 2000; NSWORAC case 241; NSWBA data); Dangars Lagoon, Uralla, from 27 December 2001 to early January 2002 (Brandwood 2003; NSWORAC case 334); Jerseyville on 11 February 2006 (NSWORAC case 412; Lord Howe Island on 2 January 2012 (NSWORAC, no date c; NSWORAC case 551); and Hexham Swamp from 21-25 September 2017 (McGovern 2018; NSWORAC case 673). A specimen supposedly collected by Robert Grant at Brewarrina on 4 February 1899 in the HL White Collection, Museum Victoria (NMV HLW 5738) cannot be accepted as valid owing to the problems associated with many of Grant's specimens. A report from Fivebough Swamp, Leeton, on 1-2 January 2010 (Birdline NSW) was not confirmed.

The Oriental Pratincole breeds from Pakistan across the Indian subcontinent through South East Asia to northern China, western Japan and the Philippines (Higgins & Davies 1996). A large proportion of the population migrates south to spend the non-breeding season in northern Australia. Vagrants have reached all the southern States of Australia as well as New Zealand (Higgins & Davies 1996).

## South Polar Skua

Stercorarius maccormicki

There have been ten sets of records of the South Polar Skua confirmed for NSW waters. The first was a bird photographed and collected approximately 10 km south-east of Tathra on 13 November 1977 (Barton 1978). Barton (1982) also reported an unspecified number of 'light-coloured large skuas' that he believed were this species, which were seen by tuna fishermen in the summer of 1978–79, 'near a shallow bank, 500 km east-north-east of Eden', presumably near the highest point of the Gascoyne Seamount. BARC has accepted seven records of single birds, as follows: from off Sydney on 22 October 1983 (Lindsey 1985, 1986b; BARC case 690), 9 April 2011 (BARC case 689) and 14 April 2012 (BARC case 742); and from off Wollongong on 20 June 1990 (Burton & Morris 1993; BARC case 144), 23 February 2008 (BARC case 777), 25 October 2009 (BARC case 688), and 23 September 2012 (BARC case 780). NSWORAC has also accepted two records: off South West Rocks on 30 August 2018 (NSWORAC case 719); and off Forster on 4 April 2019 (NSWORAC case 723).

There have been many other unconfirmed reports, for example: Ballina from 2–5 December 1986 (Cooper 1990); off South West Rocks on 30 August 2018; off Forster on 4 April 2019 (Birdline NSW) ; off Sydney on 11 February 1995 (Morris & Burton 1997); from Mistral Point on 6 October 2018 (Birdline NSW); off Wollongong

on 26 November 1995 (Morris & Burton 1997), 14 April 1996 (NSWORAC case 209), 1 March 1997, 31 July 1999 (Morris 2002a), 7 February 2000 (Eades 2000a), 24 February 2007 (BARC case 522), 23 February 2008 (Birdline NSW), 26 February 2008, 25 October 2009, and 23 September 2012; off Kiama on 27 March 2017; off Green Cape on 8 October 1995 (Morris & Burton 1997); and off Lord Howe Island on 4 April 2014 (Birdline NSW). Some of these are backed by photographic evidence, but they all remain to be documented fully.

The South Polar Skua breeds in Antarctica and has been recorded from all States of Australia except the Northern Territory (Higgins & Davies 1996). Its non-breeding distribution is not well-known, though it appears to be in both tropical and northern temperate waters of all oceans. It is hard to account for the scatter of dates recorded for this species in NSW waters as they should not be expected in the warmer months.

# **Bridled Tern**

#### *Onychoprion anaethetus*

There are five records of the Bridled Tern from NSW. A bird was seen approximately 35 km east of Wollongong on 27 November 1994 (Brandis 1996). NSWORAC have accepted four records, as follows: off Wollongong on 28 November 2009 (case 498); at Ballina on 18 December 2009 (case 499); off Sydney on 10 March 2012 (case 548); and at Nobbys Breakwall, Newcastle, on 30–31 January 2013 (case 576). Edward P. Ramsay (1878, 1888) listed this species for NSW, but gave no specific records. A report of a Bridled Tern at Long Reef from February 1985 (Anon. 1985b) was likely to have been a Sooty Tern, some of which were also seen in the vicinity at the same time (Cooper 1989). Two further reports from Flat Rock, Ballina, on 5 December 2010 and 29 January 2013 (Birdline NSW), were not confirmed.

The Bridled Tern breeds on islands in the tropical and subtropical Atlantic, Indian and western Pacific Oceans and disperses locally (Higgins & Davies 1996). In Australia it breeds on numerous islands in Queensland and Western Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996), and the nearest breeding locality to NSW is Lady Elliot Island in Queensland (Walker 1989).

### Common Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

Since Christidis & Boles (2008), the Australian Gull-billed Tern of Australia has been recognised by some authorities as a separate species from the Common Gull-billed Tern of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas (e.g. del Hoyo *et al.* 2014; Gill & Donsker 2019; see also Vol. 2. Cooper *et al.* 2016). Following reports of the Common Gull-billed Tern in NSW in 2017, NSWORAC added this species to their review list. NSWORAC have since accepted four records for NSW with an earlier record from before the foundation of NSWORAC. Thus, there are five records of the Common Gull-billed Tern for NSW, all of which involve the Asian subspecies *G.n. affinis*.

The first record, previously unpublished, concerns a bird observed at Stockton Sandspit on 22 February 1991 by DJJ and Dion Hobcroft. The bird was roosting on the sandspit with six Australian Gull-billed Terns. The records accepted by NSWORAC are as follows: one seen and photographed at Shoalhaven Heads on 4 November 2017 (McGovern 2019; case 686); one seen and photographed at Stockton Sandspit on 30 December 2017 (McGovern 2019; case 687), where it continued until at least 21 January 2018 (Birdline NSW); two seen and photographed at Micalo Island near Yamba on 14 February 2018 (McGovern 2019; case 691); and one seen and photographed at Worimi Conservation Lands on Stockton Beach on 10 August 2018 (McGovern 2019; case 706). Further reports from Worimi Conservation Lands on 10 January 2019 and Stockton Sandspit on 12 January 2019 (Birdline NSW) were not verified.

The Common Gull-billed Tern breeds at scattered localities in North, Central and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa (Higgins & Davies 1996). The Asian subspecies (*affinis*) is migratory, breeding mostly in China and wintering south as far as Northern Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996). Johnstone (1977) collected one specimen in the Kimberley Division of Western Australia, and shortly after that McKean (1981) reported that small numbers winter in the Darwin area annually. Rogers *et al.* (2005) documented its occurrence more thoroughly in tropical Australia, but it remains a rare bird in Southern Australia. Two birds present in Brisbane in December 1990 and January 1991 were the first record for the east coast and the first south of the tropics (Chris Corben pers. com.; DJJ). There is also a record from Barwon Heads, Victoria, on 4–5 November 2017 that is pending assessment (https://vorac.net).

## **Black Tern**

Chlidonias niger

There are three accepted records of the Black Tern in NSW. The first was a bird in breeding plumage seen at The Entrance on 18 September 1958 (Bell 1959; Patterson 1991; BARC case 78). The second was a bird in non-breeding plumage seen in the Newcastle area on 13 January and 30 March 1968 (Rogers 1969; Patterson 1991; BARC case 79). The last was a bird found at Boat Harbour, Kurnell, from 10–17 March 1990 (Pegler 1990; Palliser & Carter 2013; BARC case 674). A bird believed to be this species was photographed at Wanaaring, in mid-May 1971 (Miller & Lalas 1974), but it was later questioned (Hobbs 1975) and then not accepted by BARC (Anon. 1988; case 81). Another report from Woody Head at Iluka on 21 April 2007 was also not accepted by BARC (Palliser & Carter 2009; case 528).

The Black Tern breeds in central North America south to the central United States, and in northern Europe and north-west Asia east to central Siberia and north-west China (AOU 1998; de Schauensee 1984). For the most part it winters south to central South America and Africa, but vagrants have been reported from India and Singapore (AOU 1998; Ripley 1982; Robson 2000). There are no other accepted records of this species in Australia. The only other report, a sighting at Lake Joondalup near Perth, Western Australia, on 31 December 1973 (Jacobs 1975) was not accepted by BARC (Patterson 1991; BARC case 80).

### **Roseate Tern**

Sterna dougallii

There are just two records of the Roseate Tern accepted by NSWORAC from NSW but given its similarity to several other species of tern it may be widely overlooked. Most reports of this species in NSW have come from the immediate vicinity of Ballina. The accepted records are as follows: one bird seen at Woody Head on 24 January 1999 (Brandwood 2002a; NSWORAC case 306); and one at Broadwater NP on 2 April 2000 (Brandwood 2002b; NSWORAC case 312). There have also been a at least nine unconfirmed reports from Flat Rock Beach in Ballina on the following dates: 16 January 1973, 30 August to 8 September 1976, 4 October 1976, 15 November 1976, 7 January 1980, 4 November 1980, 28 September to 1 October 1995, 29–30 January 2013, and 22–24 March 2017 (Gosper *et al.* 1978; Lindsey 1981; Morris & Burton 1997; Birdline NSW). A report from Maroubra on 18 July 2001 was not accepted by NSWORAC (Brandwood 20003; NSWORAC case 337).

The Roseate Tern breeds on islands in tropical waters almost around the world. It also reaches temperate latitudes in Western Australia, eastern North America, southern Africa, and the coasts of China to southern Japan (Higgins & Davies 1996). The nearest breeding locality to NSW is Lady Elliot Island, Queensland (Walker 1989).

## **Black-naped Tern**

Sterna sumatrana

There are only two acceptable records of the Black-naped Tern from NSW. A bird was seen in the company of Crested, Common and Little Terns at Fingal Beach on 15 February 1984 (Bigg 1984). One was seen by Ian Hutton and John Blyth at North Bay, Lord Howe Island, on 14 April 1989 (McAllan *et al.* 2004). Edward P. Ramsay (1878, 1888) also listed this species for NSW but gave no details. There are two more unconfirmed reports from Birdline NSW: one at Jerusalem Creek in Bundjalung NP from 2 November to at least 6 December 2010; and one on a sandbank in the Richmond River at Ballina on 13 July 2015.

The Black-naped Tern breeds on islands in the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans and disperses locally (Higgins & Davies 1996). The nearest breeding locality is Lady Elliot Island, Queensland (Walker 1989).

## Franklin's Gull

#### *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

There are two verified records of Franklin's Gull for NSW. The first was a bird recorded from various sites in Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay from 11 May to 18 November 1981 (Eades & Debus 1982; BARC case 40). The other record is of a bird seen at Lake Cowal between 25 January and 17 February 1992 (BARC case 167 and NSWORAC case 67). Unconfirmed (not accepted) reports of Franklin's Gull have come from Menindee Lakes on 3 October 1991 (BARC case 132 and NSWORAC case 51), Little Bay in Sydney (BARC case 405 and NSWORAC case 395) and Avoca Beach on 26 March 2005 (BARC case 459 and NSWORAC case 401).

Franklin's Gull breeds in the centre and north-west of North America from northern British Columbia to South Dakota, and it migrates south to winter on the west coast of central and South America (AOU 1998; Higgins & Davies 1996). There are now at least 19 records of Franklin's Gull from Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996). BARC has accepted 17 records from other states, five each from Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia, and one each from South Australia and the Northern Territory.

## Laughing Gull

Leucophaeus atricilla

There is a single record of the Laughing Gull for NSW. One was present on Lord Howe Island from 12 January to 13 February 2010 (Palliser & Carter 2012; BARC case 627; Birdline NSW).

The Laughing Gull breeds in coastal eastern North America from Nova Scotia south to Mexico and the Caribbean, and locally in western North America in California and north-west Mexico; it migrates south to winter coastally in the southern United States, Central America and South America north of the Equator (AOU 1998; Higgins & Davies 1996). There are several records of the Laughing Gull from other Australian States (Higgins & Davies 1996). Five sets of records from Queensland (BARC cases 265, 266, 341, 352 and 521) include two long staying birds at the Cairns Esplanade between December 1987 and September 1990 (Fisher & Fisher 1989; Higgins & Davies 1996). There are also single records from Tasmania (December 1988 to January 1989; BARC case 122), Western Australia (also December 1988 to January 1989; BARC case 117), Victoria (November to December 1989; BARC case 120) and recently another long-staying bird at Venus Bay, South Australia, from 21 July 2016 (BARC case 926), until at least 15 October 2017 (eBird).

## Sabine's Gull

#### Xema sabini

This species is known in NSW from two sightings made three months apart. The first was of a bird in heavy moult seen 25 km east of Wollongong on 23 March 1985 (McBride & Reid 1988; BARC case 76). The second sighting was of a bird in fresh plumage approximately 45 km east of Wollongong on 30 June 1985 (Corben 1988). As noted by Corben, these sightings could have been of the same individual. One reported ashore at North Beach, Urunga, on 7 March 2007 (Birdline NSW) is not confirmed.

The Sabine's Gull breeds on coastal wetlands in the Arctic (Higgins & Davies 1996). It usually winters at sea off the coasts of eastern Siberia, North America, Europe and the west coasts of South America and Africa. There are at least eight other reports of the Sabine's Gull in Australia: at Darwin Harbour, Northern Territory, in April 1982 (Shannon & McKean 1983; BARC case 86); 30 km off Port Macdonnell, South Australia, on 17 June 1984 (Reid 1988; BARC case 90); and six records from Western Australia as follows: at Leslie Saltworks on 23 February 1989 (Johnstone & Storr 1998); Port Hedland on 28 January 1990 (Johnstone & Storr 1998); Coconut Well Beach on 14 December 2001 (BARC case 328); Eighty Mile Beach on 22 November 2004 (BARC case 447); near Derby on 17 August 2006 (BARC case 518); and at Bremer Bay from 15 to at least 19 January 2019.

# Long-tailed Cuckoo

#### *Eudynamys taitensis*

In NSW the Long-tailed Cuckoo is known from eight sets of records, all of which are from Lord Howe Island (McAllan *et al.* 2004; Boles *et al.* 2015). The first record is of a skin collected before September 1892 (Hindwood 1940b; AM O.4930). An additional specimen was collected in Spring 1905 by John Waterhouse (Hull 1910; ANWC 19066). Sightings were made by Norman Chaffer and Gary Sefton in January and February 1967 (Disney & Smithers 1972). One was seen by Ben Miller on Little Slope some time in 1978 to 1980 and another was seen by Ian Hutton at the meteorological station on 11 February 1989 (McAllan *et al.* 2004). One was seen at Neds Beach by Carol and Andrew Isles on 24 November 2002 (LHI Museum data). One was recorded near the churches in the Settlement by Hank Bower on 9 November 2009 (Hutton 2009). One was found dead by Courtney Turner and Maddie Giles after it hit a window on 2 December 2010 (Boles *et al.* 2015; AM O.72639; BARC case 807).

The Long-tailed Cuckoo breeds in New Zealand and migrates to Oceania (Bogert 1937; OSNZ 2010). Hindwood (1940b) suggested that Lord Howe Island records are of wayward migrants, and Hutton (1991) considered it an irregular visitor there, whereas Schodde & Mason (1997) and OSNZ (2010) considered that it migrates through Lord Howe. The species has been reported from Norfolk Island more regularly, at least historically, but is declining there (Hull 1910; Schodde *et al.* 1983; Hermes 1985; Schodde & Mason 1997; Christian 2005). Suggestions of breeding on Norfolk Island are not fully confirmed (Hermes 1985; Higgins 1999; Nance & Clarke 2019). There are no acceptable records from the Australian mainland: BARC did not accept a report from the Northern Territory (BARC case 39) or four from Queensland (BARC cases 503, 504, 514, and 593), including a published record from Cairns (Meadows & Meadows 2000).

## **Great Bowerbird**

Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis

There is a single record of the Great Bowerbird from NSW. A bird was reported in a garden at Iluka over a period of several days from 11 September 1991 (Clancy 1994b). Whist the identification was confirmed from a photograph, the bird has been questioned as a possible aviary escapee (Clancy 1994b; Morris 1996; Higgins *et al.* 2006). For this reason, the record was considered "not confirmed" by NSWORAC (Morris 1996), though the record was not actually assessed by that committee. However, the species is rarely if ever held in aviaries (IAWM & Dion Hobcroft pers. obs.). While neither escape from captivity nor vagrancy are proved, the latter is far more plausible.

The Great Bowerbird is endemic to northern Australia from the Kimberley Division of Western Australia, east across the Top End and Gulf Country to Cape York Peninsula and south to about Claremont and St Lawrence in Queensland. There is a vagrant record from Point Vernon, Hervey Bay, Queensland, in September and October 2000 (Higgins *et al.* 2006), ~460 km north of Iluka.

## **Purple-gaped Honeyeater**

Lichenostomus cratitus

There are only two records of the Purple-gaped Honeyeater from NSW. In 1958 it was "fairly common" in mallee areas between Euston and Buronga from May to August (Hobbs 1961). At the time there was also an influx to neighbouring areas of Victoria. The other record is from the same general area of NSW, involving a single bird at Mallee Cliffs NP on 3 November 1985 (Cooper 1989). A sighting reported from Corowa in 1985 (Cooper 1989; Cooper & McAllan 1995), was an error for the Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (Higgins *et al.* 2001). Historical reports from the Macleay River (De Warren 1928) are erroneous (Higgins *et al.* 2001).

The Purple-gaped Honeyeater is found in mallee areas across southern Australia from Western Australia to central Victoria, with a gap at the Nullarbor Plain (Blakers *et al.* 1984; Schodde & Mason 1999). It breeds north of the Murray River in South Australia and may occasionally occur in the Scotia mallee area west of the Darling River.

## **Banded Honeyeater**

#### *Certhionyx pectoralis*

This species is known in NSW from a single record. A bird was seen and photographed at Greenwell Point over several days in late February 1993 (Morris & Burton 1995; Morris 1995; NSWORAC case 118). This is an exceptional record, being the only occurrence outside tropical Australia (Higgins *et al.* 2001). Thus, although NSWORAC accepted the record, Morris (1995) expressed suspicion that the bird was an aviary escapee. Nevertheless, the species is not kept legally in captivity in NSW, so it is more plausible that the bird at Greenwell Point occurred naturally.

The Banded Honeyeater is found in savannah woodland across tropical northern Australia with the nearest known records of this species from central Queensland in the one degree blocks 20°S 145°E and 21°S 145°E (Blakers *et al.* 1984).

### **House Crow**

#### *Corvus splendens*

There is one record of the House Crow for NSW. A bird found at Dee Why on 13 March 2008 remained there until at least 25 August 2008 (Palliser & Carter 2009; BARC case 556; Birdline NSW). The species' close association with humans and record of travelling on ocean-going vessels are reasonable grounds to suspect that this bird was ship-assisted.

The House Crow is widespread in southern Asia from Iran to western China, as well as Sri Lanka and the Maldives (Higgins *et al.* 2006). There are numerous records from Western Australia, and several from Victoria, all of which are assumed to have arrived on ships (see Higgins *et al.* 2006 for details).

### **Oriental Reed-Warbler**

#### Acrocephalus orientalis

The Oriental Reed-Warbler is known from a single record in NSW. A bird was viewed briefly and heard calling at Pelican Island at Port Macquarie in November 1992 (Patterson 1996; BARC case 161; NSWORAC case 122). Subsequent sightings and audio tapes made of the calls at the same locality on 27 December 1992 and 2 January 1993 confirmed the identity of the bird.

The Oriental Reed-Warbler breeds from south-east Siberia and eastern Mongolia south to central China and Japan and usually winters from north-east India and southern China south to the Lesser Sundas and New Guinea (de Schauensee 1984; Coates 1990; Robson 2000; Higgins *et al.* 2006; Brazil 2009; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). While there are numerous reports from northern Australia (e.g. McKean 1983; James & McAllan 2014), only eight others have been accepted by BARC (four from Ashmore Reef, two from Western Australia and two from Queensland), though several other specimens exist (Higgins *et al.* 2006). McKean (1983) considered that the Oriental Reed-Warbler was probably a regular wet season visitor to northern Australia, citing records from near Darwin in the Northern Territory as well as Kununurra in Western Australia, although a single specimen from Humpty Doo was considered the only confirmed record for the Northern Territory by Higgins *et al.* (2006).

### Yellow White-eye

#### *Zosterops luteus*

There is a single accepted record of the Yellow White-eye from NSW. One was photographed among coastal wattles at Sawtell on 22 February 2009 (Palliser *et al.* 2011; BARC case 594).

The Yellow White-eye is endemic to northern Australia, mainly in mangroves, south to about 20°S in eastern Queensland and about 25°S in Western Australia (Higgins *et al.* 2006). The Sawtell record is the only one outside of the species' usual range.

## **Barn Swallow**

#### Hirundo rustica

There are only four confirmed sets of records of the Barn Swallow from NSW. A single bird was at McGraths Hill Sewerage Treatment Works from 15 November 1981 to 20 January 1982 (Hobcroft 1982). Later records include: Mullumbimby on 18 December 1982 (Lindsey 1984); Main Creek via Dungog during the spring of 1986 (Mabs George, NSWBA data); and at least two birds near the Shortlands Wetlands Centre from 5–12 March 1988 (Cooper 1992; Morris 1992; NSWORAC case 11). A report of four birds at Meroo near Nowra in May 1987 (Morris & Chafer 1987) was evidently withdrawn, as the sighting was not included in the 1987 Bird Report (Cooper 1991) nor in an updated list of birds of the Illawarra (Smith *et al.* 1989).

The Barn Swallow is a widespread breeding species in the Northern Hemisphere and migrates south to winter in central and southern Africa, southern Asia and Central and South America (AOU 1998). It is regularly recorded in northern Australia, with occasional birds reaching south-east Queensland and vagrants reaching South Australia (Blakers *et al.* 1984; Higgins *et al.* 2006). Thus vagrancy in NSW is not surprising.

### **Metallic Starling**

Aplonis metallica

There are five sets of records of the Metallic Starling from NSW. Although all of these records have been disregarded as escapees from aviaries (Morris *et al.* 1981; Morris 1994, 1996) the evidence suggests otherwise. The first record of the Metallic Starling from NSW was made by Edward P. Ramsay at Haberfield, on 12 July 1886. He observed two immature birds with red eyes feeding in a hawthorn on his property (Chisholm 1932; E.P. Ramsay diaries, ML). The second State record relates to another immature bird seen at West Pennant Hills in about 1922 (Hindwood & McGill 1958). An immature bird was observed at Nambucca Heads on 9–10 November 1992 (Morris & Burton 1994; Morris 1994; NSWORAC case 99). Two adult-plumaged birds were observed 6 km west of Bowraville on 4 March 1994 and a single adult-plumaged bird was observed at the same place on 28 August 1994 (Mitchell 1995; Morris 1996; Morris & Burton 1996; NSWORAC cases 193 and 194).

Although the observations from the 1990s were 'not accepted' by NSWORAC (Morris 1994; 1996) we have included all as valid records for several reasons. NSWORAC agreed that the birds were Metallic Starlings but considered them to be aviary escapees. However, the Metallic Starling is rare in captivity and does not breed in captivity in NSW, so the chance of finding escaped birds, especially immature ones, is extremely low. NSWORAC noted that the species is not known from south-east Queensland and argued that the Broad Sound Barrier between Mackay and Rockhampton in Queensland prevents them from occurring farther south. However, this does not mean that the species could not reach south-east Queensland, nor that the Barrier is impassable. By way of comparison, Pied Imperial Pigeon is not known from south-east Queensland, yet there are several records from NSW south to Sydney (see above). Both species migrate to New Guinea and usually have a southern range limit near Mackay (Storr 1984), and on migration both pass over Torres Strait, the Princess Charlotte Bay Divide and the Burdekin Divide south of Townsville. The Broad Sound Barrier is unlikely to be a significant barrier for any migratory bird species, and it seems more likely that conditions to the south of the Barrier are unsuitable for the Metallic Starling. We suggest that NSW records of the Metallic Starling may be the result of a 'wrong way' migration.

The Metallic Starling is found in the Moluccas and Tanimbar Islands in Wallacea as well as New Guinea, and the Bismarck and Solomon Islands (Pratt & Beehler 2015; Eaton *et al.* 2016). As noted above it is also found in eastern Queensland from Torres Strait south to near Mackay (Storr 1984; Higgins *et al.* 2006).

### **Rosy Starling**

*Pastor roseus* 

There are two records of the Rosy Starling from NSW. A single bird was captured in a Common Myna trap at Coffs Harbour on 4 December 2006 and released two days later (BARC case 520). An adult was photographed on the grassed nature strip of a suburban street in Gwandalan on 12 August 2019 (Birdline NSW).

The Rosy Starling breeds in Eastern Europe to southern and central Asia and winters mainly in the Indian Subcontinent but also the south-east Arabian Peninsula, Sri Lanka and the Andaman Islands (Cramp & Perrins

1994, Higgins *et al.* 2006; Brazil 2009; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is in eruptive species known for vagrancy (Cramp & Perrins 1994). There are three other confirmed Australian records: at Broome, Western Australia, on 3 September 2009 (BARC case 437), on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands on 30 November 2005 (BARC case, 474); and in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, on 27 September 2017 (BARC case 979). Three more sets of records from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 2016-2017, 2018 and 2019 are yet to be formally documented (Geof Christie and DJJ, unpubl. data). The NSW records are extraordinary for being the only records south of the tropics, from eastern Australia and from the South Pacific.

## Yellow-bellied Sunbird

Nectarinia jugularis

There are seven sets of records of the Yellow-bellied Sunbird in NSW. Although some of these records have been disregarded as escapees from aviaries (Morris 1994) the evidence suggests otherwise. The first record was a bird at Wauchope in 1979 during the RAOU Field Atlas, but it was not accepted by the Atlas vetting process at the time (Cooper 1989; c.f. Blakers *et al.* 1984). A lone female built a nest at Hawks Nest in November 1985 to January 1986 and again in November 1986 (Ross 1986; Cooper 1989, 1990). Another female was seen at Stroud on 10 December 1985 (Cooper 1989). A male was seen at Sawtell on 14 December 1989 (T. Nixon, NSWBA data). A female was in a garden at Coffs Harbour on 30 September 1993 (Lane 1994). A bird was reported 15 km south-west of Macksville from 24 November to 7 December 2000 (Anon. 2001b). None of these reports has been reviewed by NSWORAC, though the Coffs Harbour record was listed as 'not confirmed' (Morris 1996). A record from Walka Water Works at Maitland from 3–11 March 2006 (NSWORAC case 414; Stuart 2007) was accepted.

This species is resident from southern China through South East Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, and the Bismarck and Solomon Islands (de Schauensee 1984; Robson 2000; Dickinson *et al.* 1991; Pratt & Beehler 2015; Eaton *et al.* 2016). In Australia it occurs from Cape York along the east coast of Queensland, south regularly Agnes Waters north of Bundaberg (Blakers *et al.* 1984; Storr 1984; eBird).

## **Citrine Wagtail**

Motacilla citreola

There are two records of the Citrine Wagtail for NSW. A single bird was seen at Woolooware Bay on 1 July 1962 and resignted two days later (McGill 1963; BARC case 22). One was found at Putta Bucca Wetlands, Mudgee on 24 August 2014 and was last reported on 8 September (BARC case 855).

This species breeds in central and eastern Eurasia from eastern Iran to Siberia and northern China and winters from Pakistan to southern China, south to central Thailand and northern Laos (de Schauensee 1984; Robson 2000; Alström & Mild 2003; del Hoyo *et al.* 2004; Brazil 2009; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). Vagrants have not been recorded from Indonesia or New Guinea (Pratt & Beehler 2015; Eaton *et al.* 2016). The Citrine Wagtail has been recorded only three other times in Australia: one at Goolwa in South Australia from 29 May to 5 June 1987 (Holder *et al.* 1988; BARC case 186); one on Christmas Island on 5 May 2009 (James & McAllan 2014; BARC case 597); and one at Whyalla Wetlands in South Australia from 27 December 2018 until at least 7 or perhaps 8 January 2019 (eBird; BARC case 1047).

## **Grey Wagtail**

#### Motacilla cinerea

There is only one record of the Grey Wagtail from NSW. A bird was seen and photographed at Coopers Creek between Huonbrook and Wanganui, 20 km west of Mullumbimby, by Jeanette Olley and three other observers on 6–7 March 2019 (NSWORAC case 721).

The Grey Wagtail breeds in the Palaearctic south to southern Europe, Iran, the Himalayas and central China, and winters in Africa, South and South East Asia, the Greater Sundas and Wallacea (Alström & Mild 2003; del Hoyo *et al.* 2004). In Australia it is a regular visitor to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands between August and January (James & McAllan 2014; IAWM & Geof Christie pers. obs.). Elsewhere in Australian

territory, it is a vagrant. BARC accepted six records from Queensland, four each from Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and one from South Australia, before removing it from their review list. There is a recent report from Hobart, Tasmania in November 2018 (eBird).

## White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

There are three records of the White Wagtail in NSW. The first was a bird not identified to subspecies, reported at Clear Lake, Narran Lake, on 20 November 1997. Although this record was not accepted by BARC, that was because the bird was not safely distinguished from the Black-backed Wagtail *M. (alba) lugens,* which was then considered a separate species (Palliser 2000; BARC case 248). Since the Black-backed Wagtail is now regarded as a subspecies of the White Wagtail, this record can be accepted. A second-year female Black-backed Wagtail subspecies *M.a. lugens* was found at Glendale in suburban Newcastle from 4–10 April 1998 (Carter 1999; Palliser 1999; BARC case 245). One White Wagtail not identified to subspecies was observed near Newrybar on 4 December 2013 (BARC case 818).

The White Wagtail breeds in the northern Palaearctic and Alaska south to southern Europe, northern India and northern South East Asia; northern and high-altitude populations winter south to Africa, South and South East Asia and the Philippines (Robson 2000; Kennedy *et al.* 2000; Alström & Mild 2003; del Hoyo *et al.* 2004). It is regular in Malaysian Borneo (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993; Mann 2008; Phillipps & Phillipps 2009) but recorded only twice from Indonesia (Eaton *et al.* 2016). BARC has accepted 25 records from other states and territories of Australia: eight each from Western Australia and Christmas Island; four from Victoria; three from Queensland; and one each from the Northern Territory and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The subspecies *leucopsis, lugens* and *ocularis* have been confirmed in Australia along with possible *baicalensis* (BARC files).

### **Common Chaffinch**

Fringilla coelebs

The Common Chaffinch is included based on several sets of records from Lord Howe Island that are not all documented precisely. Singles were seen by Glenn Fraser and Bill Retmock and Norm Fenton between 1980 and 1983: one was present from 21 September to December 1980; one was seen on 1 September 1981; one was present from 6 October to mid December 1982; and one was present in the winter of 1983 (Fraser 2004; McAllan *et al.* 2004; Higgins *et al.* 2006). Bill Retmock saw the species several more times in the 1990s, but specific details are not available (McAllan *et al.* 2004). These birds were undoubtedly vagrants from New Zealand, where the species is common (OSNZ 2010).

The Common Chaffinch breeds in Europe and Central Asia and migrates to winter from Pakistan to the Middle East and North Africa (Higgins *et al.* 2006; OSNZ 2010; Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The species was introduced to New Zealand in the 1860s and 1870s and has now spread to many islands including the Chatham, Auckland and Campbell Island groups, while vagrants have reached the Antipodes and Kermadec Islands (OSNZ 2010). BARC has accepted two other records from Australian Territory: one from Phillip Island (Norfolk Island Group) on 1–2 May 2001 (Clarke & Stephenson 2002; BARC case 314); and one from Macquarie Island on 5 November 2002 (BARC case 378). Both of these were considered to derive from New Zealand. In addition, Doolan (2016) reported one from Norfolk Island in December 2015, which has not been verified.

### **Common Redpoll**

Acanthis flammea

The Common Redpoll is known in NSW from three sets of records. Fifteen individuals were collected on Lord Howe Island in late August 1913 and more were present at the time (Hindwood 1940b; McAllan *et al.* 2004). Five birds were recorded from Blackburn Island, Lord Howe Island, on 9 June 1983 (Ingram & Roberts 1983; Fraser 2004). These birds were all vagrants from New Zealand. A sighting of one bird near Towra Point, Botany Bay, on 31 December 1978 by John Waugh (Hoskin 1991; J. Waugh diaries) was surely also a vagrant from New Zealand, as the Common Redpoll is not kept in Australian aviaries.

The Common Redpoll occurs naturally in northern Eurasia and North America and winters in southern Eurasia and the northern United States (OSNZ 2010). It was introduced to New Zealand from Europe several times between 1862 and 1875 and has since spread to many regional islands including the Chatham, Auckland, Snares Campbell, Antipodes, Kermadec and Macquarie Island groups (OSNZ 2010; Higgins *et al.* 2006). Apart from the established population on Macquarie Island (Higgins *et al.* 2006) there are few other Australia records. A single bird at Inskipp Point, Queensland, on 2 June 2013 was accepted by the Birds Queensland Rarities Committee (case 170). Surprisingly there are no confirmed records for Norfolk Island (Higgins *et al.* 2006; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017). However, Doolan (2016) reported a flock of 40–50 on Mt Pitt in the Norfolk Island NP in August and September 2015 that gradually dwindled and disappeared; it was corroborated by a Birdline NSW report of 16 birds on 12 September 2015. Doolan, who was posted on the Island with Parks Australia, noted there had been consideration of eradicating the flock prior to its disappearance. There have been two records of single vagrants in Vanuatu, on Aneityum in March 1961 and on Tanna in 2008 (Bregulla 1992; Dutson 2011) that also presumably derived from the New Zealand population.

## Yellowhammer

#### Emberiza citrinella

There is a single accepted record of Yellowhammer in Australia. A male bird was seen on Lord Howe Island on 18 August 1949 (Hindwood & Cunningham 1950; BARC case 790). This bird was presumably a vagrant from New Zealand (McAllan *et al.* 2004) where the species is introduced and common (OSNZ 2010).

The Yellowhammer occurs naturally in Europe and west Asia, and winters in southern and central Asia and North Africa (Higgins *et al.* 2006; OSNZ 2010). It was introduced to New Zealand during the 1860s and has since spread to the Kermadec Islands, while vagrants have been reported from the Chatham, Snares and Campbell Islands off New Zealand (OSNZ 2010). There is an unconfirmed record for Macquarie Island of a single male on 5 July 2001 (Higgins *et al.* 2006; BARC case 324: not accepted).

## **Unconfirmed Species**

This list is based on the Unconfirmed species list in Cooper (2013), with additional information from BARC and NSWORAC cases, reports to Birdline NSW, and other sources as noted. Reports since Cooper (2013) are marked with an asterisk (\*).

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* – it has not been established whether birds found at Thule east of Barham are wild or recent escapees.

Swamp Quail Coturnix ypsilophora ypsilophora - Tasmanian ssp. of Brown Quail (see McAllan & Bruce 1989)

\*Elegant Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula concinna* (Birdline NSW: Ocean Shores, 17 June 2017)

Large-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus macrurus (Cooper 2013)

\*Glossy Swiftlet Collocalia esculenta (BARC case 261; NSWORAC cases 345, 348)

House Swift Apus affinis (BARC cases 199, 238, 387, 768, 782; NSWORAC cases 351, 381)

Amsterdam Albatross Diomedea amsterdamensis (Cooper 2013, contra Shirihai 2007)

Fulmar Prion Pachyptila crassirostris (Cooper 2013)

Jouanin's Petrel Bulweria fallax (Cooper 2013; Brandwood 2004).

Cory's Shearwater Calonectris diomedea (Cooper 2013; Brandwood 2003)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* (Cooper 2013; Brandwood 2000; see Tropical Shearwater in the Vagrant Species chapter)

Newell's Shearwater Puffinus newelli (Cooper 2013; see Tropical Shearwater in the Vagrant Species chapter)

Audubon's Shearwater Puffinus Iherminieri (see Tropical Shearwater in the Vagrant Species chapter)

Murphy's Petrel Pterodroma ultima (Cooper 2013)

Pycroft's Petrel *Pterodroma pycrofti* (Cooper 2013; BARC case 599); a bird found in a petrel nest box on Broughton Island in October 2019 has yet to be submitted to BARC (Stuart 2019)

Atlantic Petrel Pterodroma incerta (Cooper 2013)

\*Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus* (Birdline NSW: Booti Booti NP, 15 March 2010)

White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle *Butastur teesa* (Cooper 2013; BARC case 95)

Eastern Marsh (Papuan) Harrier Circus spilonotus spilothorax (Cooper 2013; BARC case 263)

Grey-headed Swamphen Porphyrio poliocephalus (Cooper 2013)

\*Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius (Birdline NSW: Tuross River, 5 and 22 May 2010)

\*Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (BARC case 174; NSWORAC case 129)

\*Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (Birdline NSW: Stockton Sandspit, 19 February 2010)

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus (Cooper 2013; BARC case 66)

\*Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (BARC case 175; NSWORAC case 128)

Western Sandpiper Calidris mauri (Cooper 2013; BARC cases 35, 36, 318; 897; NSWORAC case 349)

\*Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla (BARC case 745)

\*Temminck's Stint Calidris temminckii (BARC case 749)

Baird's Sandpiper Calidris bairdii (Cooper 2013; BARC cases 100, 254; 764; Brandwood 2001)

Stilt Sandpiper Calidris Himantopus (Cooper 2013; BARC case 422)

Wilson's Phalarope Steganopus tricolor (Cooper 2013; NSWORAC case 12)

Lesser Noddy Anous tenuirostris (Cooper 2013)

Saunders's Tern Sternula saundersi (Cooper 2013)

Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata* (Cooper 2013)
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Lesser Crested Tern Thalasseus bengalensis (Cooper 2013; NSWORAC case 131; eBird)

Black-tailed Gull Larus crassirostris (Cooper 2013)

Common Black-headed Gull Chroicocephalus ridibundus (Morris 1996)

Paradise Parrot Psephotus pulcherrimus (Cooper 2013)

\*Elegant Parrot *Neophema elegans* (case 385 was accepted by NSWORAC, but the description was not adequate, and omitted crucial details including the pattern of the wing on the perched bird; Birdline NSW on 14 April 2018)

Night Parrot Pezoporus occidentalis (Olsen 2018)

Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher Tanysiptera sylvia (Cooper 2013)

\*Blue-winged Kookaburra Dacelo leachii (NSWORAC case 304)

Mallee Emu-wren Stipiturus mallee (Cooper 2013; NSWORAC case 332)

Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa* (Cooper 2013)

Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor* (Cooper 2013)

White-gaped Honeyeater Lichenostomus unicolor (Cooper 2013)

\*Yellow Chat *Epthianura crocea* (Cooper 2013; case 446 was accepted by NSWORAC, but the description was not adequate, omitting crucial details)

Black-billed Magpie Pica pica (Cooper 2013)

\*Arctic Warbler Phylloscopus borealis (BARC case 839)

\*Kamchatka Warbler Phylloscopus examinandus (Birdline NSW: Werri Beach, Gerringong, 25 February 2015)

Chestnut-tailed Starling Sturnia malabarica (BARC case 629)

Linnet Linaria cannabina (Cooper 2013)

## Introduced species, populations now extinct

Helmeted Guineafowl Numida meleagris Californian Quail Callipepla californica Chukar Partridge Alectoris chukar Indian Peafowl Pavo cristatus Red Junglefowl Gallus gallus Common Pheasant Phasianus colchicus Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Barbary Dove Streptopelia roseogrisea Collared Turtle-Dove Streptopelia turtur Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* Red-collared Lorikeet Trichoglossus haematodus rubritorquis Green Rosella Platycercus caledonicus Rose-ringed Parrot Psittacula krameri Peach-faced Lovebird Agapornis roseicollis North American Barn Owl Tyto alba pratincola (Lord Howe Island only) Red-vented Bulbul Pycnonotus cafer Crimson Finch Neochmia phaeton Cordon Bleu Uraeginthus angolensis Red Bishop Euplectes orix

White-winged Widowbird Euplectes albonotatus

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As this paper is an extract from Cooper *et al.* (2020), the reference list is an abridged version of the list in that volume. Consequently, the annotation of references here corresponds with the references in that work.

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