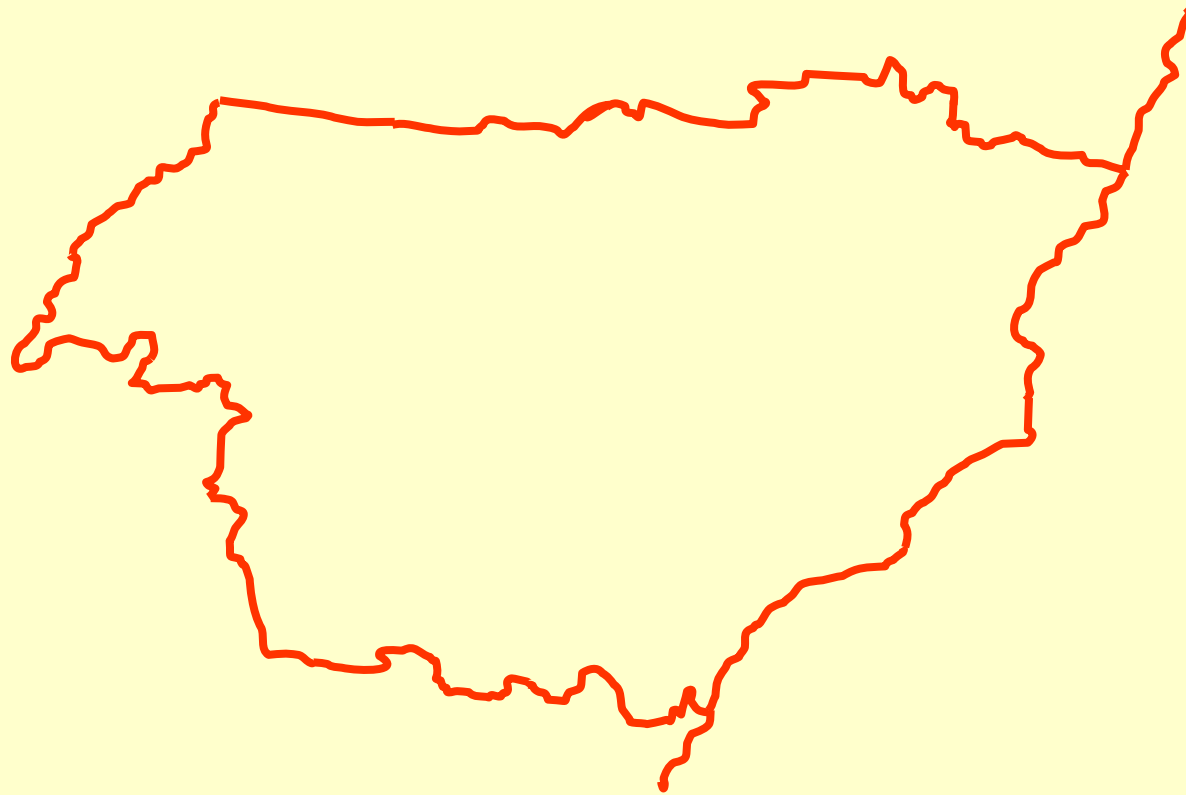
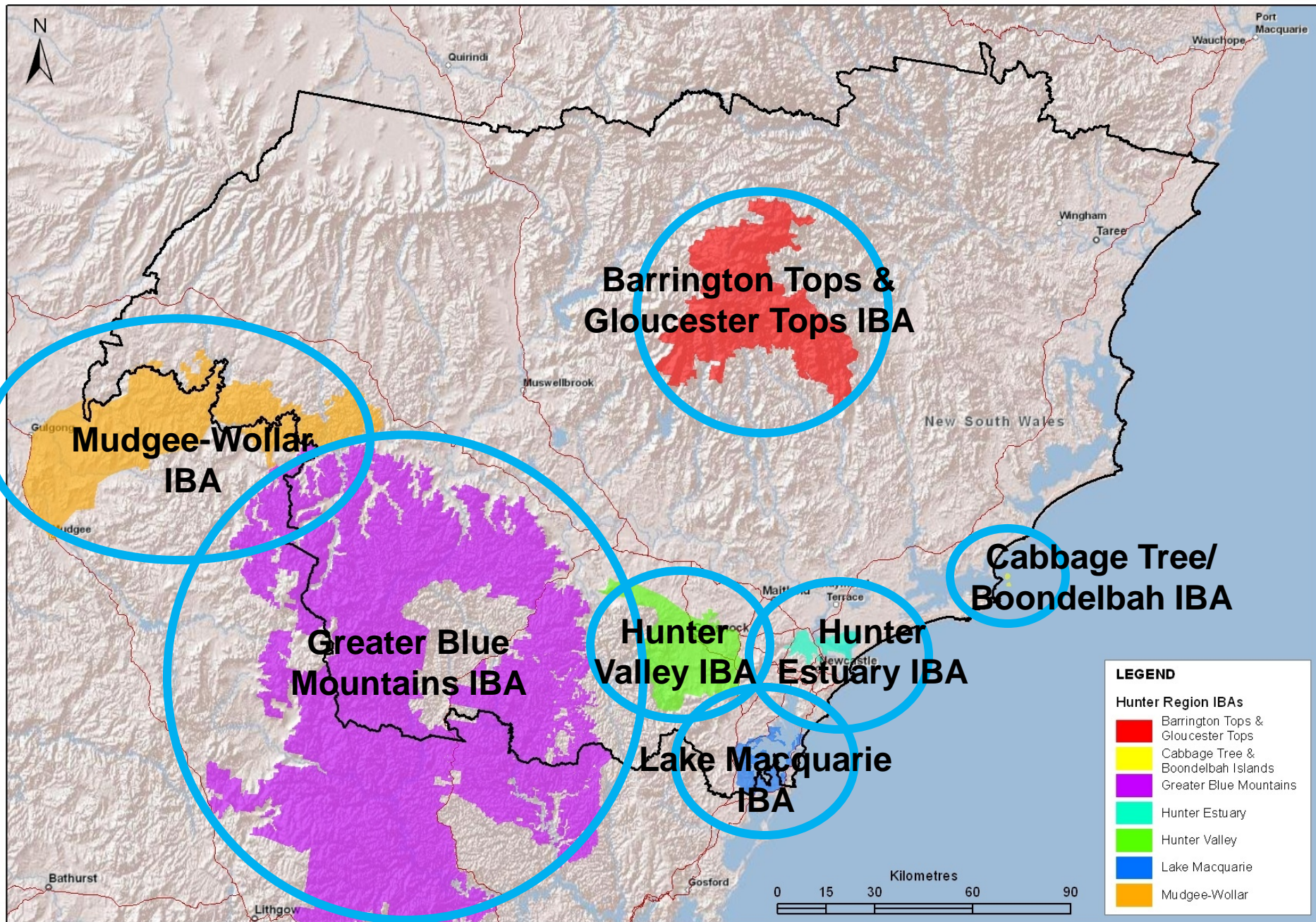


Monitoring the Hunter Region IBAs



Alan Stuart

26 July 2014



Priority 1 IBAs

Hunter Estuary

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal monthly surveys (~25 sites!) for general waterbirds & shorebirds<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplemented by many structured & unstructured visits by individuals• Also supplemented by targeted surveys (with a focussed methodology) for Australasian Bittern and for Latham's Snipe• 1,600 hr/yr of formal effort in Hunter Wetlands NP alone (→ 2,000-3,000 hr/yr overall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local processing (annual & overall spreadsheets)• Data submitted to BLA Atlas• Most sites treated as 500m area surveys• Summary tables & discussion in HBOC's annual Bird Report• Supplemented by some papers (<i>Stilt</i>, <i>Whistler</i>)



Red-necked
Avocet
Chestnut
Teal



Straw-necked
Ibis



Australasian Bittern

Sharp-tailed
Sandpiper



Latham's Snipe



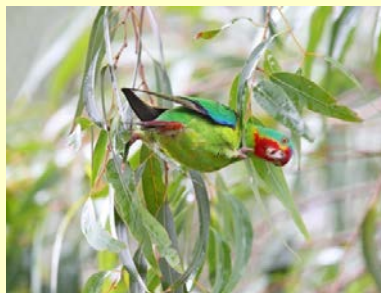
Eastern
Curlew

Priority 1 IBAs

Hunter Valley

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeted visits to prospective areas during May & August BLA surveys<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prospective = previous occurrences, blossom or potential blossom• Supplemented by many unstructured visits by individuals• Also supplemented by a BLA/OEH survey program at “key sites”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regent Honeyeater & Swift Parrot results are sent to BLA coordinator• Some data submitted to BLA Atlas (we encourage it)• Most sites treated as 500m area surveys• Summary in HBOC’s annual Bird Report

Swift
Parrot



Regent
Honeyeater



Priority 1 IBAs

Barrington Tops & Gloucester Tops

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rufous Scrub-bird surveys in spring• 2 x 3-day camp-outs supplemented by day visits• Also supplemented by RSB/Song Meter studies• Lower altitude habitats monitored through unstructured visits by individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local processing of RSB records (annual & overall spreadsheets)• All data from RSB surveys submitted to BLA Atlas• Most sites treated as 500m area surveys• Supplemented by some papers (<i>AFO</i>, <i>Whistler</i>)



Priority 2 IBAs

Lake Macquarie

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeted visits to prospective areas during May & August BLA surveys<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prospective = previous occurrences, blossom or potential blossom• Supplemented by many unstructured visits by individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regent Honeyeater & Swift Parrot results are sent to BLA coordinator• Some data submitted to BLA Atlas (we encourage it)• Most sites treated as 500m area surveys• Summary in HBOC's annual Bird Report

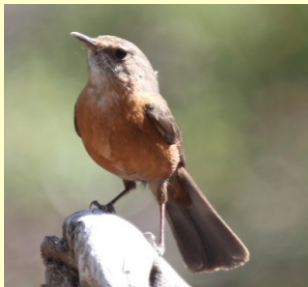


Priority 2 IBAs

Mudgee-Wollar (Goulburn River NP)

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occasional visits to prospective areas• Birding NSW 2ha sites?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regent Honeyeater results are sent to BLA coordinator• Some data submitted to BLA Atlas (we encourage it)• Summary in HBOC's annual Bird Report

Rockwarbler



Regent
Honeyeater



Diamond
Firetail



Priority 3 IBAs

Cabbage Tree & Boondelbah Islands









Gould's
Petrel

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPWS (Nelson Bay office) surveys are done at start and mid breeding season• Some field assistance by HBOC members (wearing other hats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPWS coordination• Data → NPWS Wildlife Atlas• Some information makes its way into HBOC's annual Bird Report

Greater Blue Mountains (Yengo NP, Wollemi NP)

Activities	Data handling & analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• >3hr distance away for most HBOC members• A database of Rockwarbler territories is slowly being developed• Most information comes from unstructured visits by individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some data submitted to BLA Atlas (we encourage it)• Summary in HBOC's annual Bird Report



Looking back

Survey methodology

- Method selection should be based on the behaviour of the species not on ideology
- Compatibility with BLA Atlas is secondary (but usually it is possible)
- Local data analysis is a must! (*ownership, team feedback*)

Original IBA nomination process

- Many Hunter Region IBAs had no monitoring plans in place at the time of their nomination
- Local consultation during the nomination process was sub-optimal
- The dimensions of some IBAs inhibits focus on what is important
 - Lake Macquarie, Barrington Tops / Gloucester Tops & Greater Blue Mountains

Looking forward

IBA Review

- Possible new:
 - Port Stephens (Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Curlew)
 - Manning Estuary (Little Tern)
- Possible expansions:
 - Hunter Estuary IBA (→ Tomago Wetlands)
 - Cabbage Tree / Boondelbah IBA (→ Broughton Island Group)

Improvement Opportunities

- Eliminate data double entry!
- Automated annual reporting to local coordinators for each IBA from the Atlas database
 - The # of records & the Reporting Rates for each IBA target species
 - This would facilitate analysis of the IBA's status