

STATUS OF BIRDS IN THE RICHMOND RIVER DISTRICT, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1973–2000

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The status of selected bird species in the Richmond River district, New South Wales, was analysed for the period 1973–2000. Several species clearly increased or decreased numerically. The White-winged Cough, Zebra Finch and White-backed Swallow are probably extinct locally; the Eastern Bristlebird and Coxen's Fig-Parrot are confirmed to be Critically Endangered in the state. The Little Corella, Galah, Cattle Egret and Bell Miner have increased greatly in abundance whilst populations of the Osprey, Magpie Goose and several rainforest pigeons (in particular Wompoo Fruit-Dove) appear to be recovering from earlier periods of decline. Recent arrivals, the Common Myna and Long-billed Corella, are likely to become established.

Open (dry) forests in the Bungawalbin Creek catchment in the southern part of the district have significant potential for conservation purposes, for they still support a diverse temperate woodland avifauna that is becoming threatened nationally. In coastal locations, the effects upon both resident and migratory shorebirds are relatively small, despite continuing human settlement. Certain seasonal and climatic influences that govern occurrence in the district of both aquatic and terrestrial species are enumerated.