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Survey of Birds on Floodplain-estuarine Wetlands on the Hunter and Richmond Rivers in Northern N.S.W.

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A systematic account of birds observed on wetlands of the Hunter and Richmond Rivers between 1970 and 1977 is given. Numbers of migratory waders and terns on the estuaries were highest between December and early March, and were lowest between late June to early August. Marked annual and seasonal variation in waterbird numbers were observed. In years of high waterbird concentration a relatively few species comprised the bulk of the population during peak periods. In seasonal terms, overall waterbird numbers showed a broad correlation with seasonal habitat availability as inferred from the normal rainfall distribution pattern.