

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

A large conspicuous raptor regularly seen soaring over woodlands and open country, and sometimes over the suburbs.

General: The iconic “wedgie” is one of the very few raptor success stories in our region, with 429 records this year, from 124 widespread grid cells. The relatively healthy reporting rate of 3.0% is nevertheless well below the 30YA of 5.5%. Numbers ranged from 1-7 birds (7/23 Mar Warriwillah GrL23 (EmD1); average 1.5, median 1. Recorded in every week and fairly evenly throughout the year. June was the top month for wedgie observations, with records from over a third of all grid cells

Common, breeding resident

Wedge-tailed Eagle

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	429	523	-18	150.4
WR	2	8	-75	2.9
G	124	121	2	63.7
BR	5	4	25	2.5
GA	0.0331	0.0327	1	0.0219
GS	21	28	-25	14.4
GBR	0	0	-	0.2



Julian Robinson

for which records were entered. There were 5 breeding records, from br/14 Oct Lower Molonglo GrK13 (CnM1) to br/18 May Jerrabomberra GrL15 (CnM1). Additional breeding reported by Olsen (2017), on the COG chat line and elsewhere was not reflected in the formal record.

GBS: There were fewer garden bird records this year, at 66, but the reporting rate of 2.6% compared more than favourably with the 30YA of 1.6%. Range 1-3 birds. Records came from 21 widespread sites, both urban and rural, over 42 weeks, with a slight peak in autumn 35% of records. No breeding ever recorded in the GBS.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Irregularly observed across the region, and over the suburbs. Declared vulnerable in NSW and the ACT.

General: Once again, a surprising number of records (162) (including 2 WOO) for a vulnerable species, but the reporting rate of 1.1% is 55% below the 30YA of 2.5%. Range 1-4 birds, average 1.1, median 1, with max 4/7 Oct Goulburn Wetlands GrZ01 (AnF1). Recorded fairly evenly throughout the year, and from 41 widespread mainly northerly grid cells. Unsurprisingly JWNR again accounted for a large proportion of the records (42%). 3 breeding records: di/20 Sep JWNR (MiP1); on/29 Oct Strathnairn (CuR1); and dy/5 Jan LGeo (LeM1). A further Canberra record of a successful breeding event in Campbell Park (see Olsen 2017) did not reach our databases. We note that this may be partial information.as a joint research project between the ACT Government, the University of Canberra, CSIRO and Ginninderry Joint Venture has only made available selected findings. The project did report the GPS tracking of a male from the Strathnairn pair to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory from 9 Mar, as it migrated between its breeding and wintering territories, returning to the ACT on 13 August.

Uncommon, breeding resident

Little Eagle

	16/17	15/16	%Δ	30YA
R	162	213	-24	69.1
WR	2	2	0	1.1
G	41	36	14	24.1
BR	3	3	0	2.0
GA	0.0051	0.0052	-2	0.0065
GS	6	8	-25	7.2
GBR	0	0	-	0.0

GBS: 12 records, from 5 urban sites – Bonner, Narrabundah, Ainslie, Campbell and Curtin – and one rural – Carwoola. Common in none. Range 1-2 birds. The reporting rate of 0.5% was slightly below the long-term average of 0.6%. Half of the records came in summer and two each in the other seasons.