

EDITORIAL

Firstly, apologies for the long delay in the appearance in this issue of MURUK. Most of the delays have been due to uncertainty over the future of the journal. However, the PNGBS committee has now decided about its future, and we are committed to the continuation of MURUK, although in rather a different form from that originally envisaged.

The original problem over the Newsletter, which led us to start a new journal, was that of delays in the production. It was felt that by starting a new journal most of the more time-consuming (in terms of editing) articles would then be removed from the Newsletter and production would be much faster. At the same time it was hoped that MURUK would attract "high quality" articles and become a recognised international journal. Two things have gone wrong. The Newsletter has not become shorter, and we have not had the time, expertise, or a sufficient quantity of articles for MURUK. It is apparent that the bulk of the material that the Society publishes is not suitable for an "international" journal, and we were over-optimistic for MURUK.

After considerable debate we have decided to continue both MURUK and the Newsletter. From henceforth the Newsletter will be produced monthly and strictly limited to Society business. It will be distributed locally, and included with MURUKs for foreign members. It will not be more than two pages in length. All other material will appear in MURUK. Thus MURUK will contain "serious" articles, notes, and travelers tales etc. Indeed it will become more like the Newsletter used to be, but without the month to month Society business. This will restore the Newsletter to its original function "a newsletter".

The editors of MURUK will be pleased to accept more serious scientific articles, and will attempt to reproduce these as well as possible, but each MURUK issue will also contain a variety of other material.

Some members had suggested that we might be better dropping MURUK and introducing another title for the news sheet. We feel it would be confusing to drop one title now and add a third. While the Newsletter has built up a reputation in libraries, and is widely known, it is notoriously difficult to quote due to past errors in numbering sequences etc. The snappier "Muruk" should be much easier to quote.

SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE BISMARCKS

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SUMMARY

An annotated list is provided of species encountered on a seven day expedition to Manga and Taron in New Ireland and the Hoskins area of West New Britain. This list includes notes on some aspects of the endemics, comparisons with familiar mainland populations and some taxonomic discussion. Details are given of an apparently undescribed flycatcher *Microeca* sp. which was encountered on both islands.

INTRODUCTION

Our itinerary was as follows - 20 April 1984 we left Port Moresby for Rabaul where after a brief stop we took a chartered aircraft for Manga. We camped overnight at Manga and were driven next morning to Taron. After hiring carriers we commenced walking into the mountains (a spur of the Hans Meyer Range). Camp No. 1 that night was at about 400 m altitude. Five hours walk next morning (22 April) took us to an altitude of 1400 m. Camp No. 2 was quickly set up and the rest of the day and three hours next morning were devoted to bird watching. The rest of the day was spent walking down the mountain and the night was spent at Taron. After a few hours bird watching next morning we were driven to Manga and from there after a few hours flew to Hoskins via Rabaul, Sula and Biella. Using the hotel as a base, in the following three days we worked the country around Hoskins, the thermal springs area at Pokilli, the garden areas and Galuku Creek near Lavege and various patches of forest along the Hoskins-Lavege road. We returned to Port Moresby on 27 April, 1984. The main localities studied are shown on the map in Figure 1 below.

