

Tari Gap is approximately midway between the eastern extremity of *O. t. dorsalis* distribution (Oranje Mts.) and the western limit of *O. t. victoriana* (Mt. Missim, Kuper Range) and is at least 400 km from either subspecies population. As wing length measurement in the two subspecies overlap (Mayr & Rand 1937, Rand 1940, Rand 1942) specimens of the Tari Gap population would be required in order to be able to clarify subspecific status.

The Logrunner was discussed by Diamond (1972) as one of nine "drop out" species absent from the Eastern Highlands zoogeographical area but present in areas of western and south-eastern New Guinea on the central cordillera. Further searching for this inconspicuous species to the east and west of Tari Gap is required to establish if, in fact, it has a continuous distribution along the length of the central mountains of New Guinea.

During our eight weeks field work we did not see or hear *Orthonyx* other than the two netted individuals; but CBF did note the conspicuous results of logrunner leaf-litter foraging on the forest floor, identical to that of *O. spaldingii*, and saw the stick foundations of two logrunner nests. Clapp (1986) notes that the New Guinea logrunner populations appear less noisy than Australian birds. The logrunner vocalizations described by Beehler *et al.* (1986) are for Australian birds, suggesting a lack of knowledge of calling New Guinea birds. Thus, the presence of the species in New Guinea may be more readily detected by mist netting. Jared Diamond (pers. comm.) has, however, pointed out that intensive mist netting has been carried out at other locations in the Central Range of Papua New Guinea, east of longitude 146°, including Mt. Karimui, Okapa area, Schrader Range and elsewhere.

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Address: "Prionodura", Paluma via Townsville, Queensland, 4816, Australia.

FAWN-BREASTED BOWERBIRD *CHLAMYDERA CERVINIVENTRIS* ON THE LAI RIVER, JIMI VALLEY, WESTERN HIGHLANDS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CLIFFORD B. FRITH

The Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris* is known to occur on New Guinea in coastal areas from the SE tip of the island along the north coast as far west as Jayapura and along the south coast as far west as the Merauke area and also in the Ransiki and Kebor Valley areas of the Vogelkop, Irian Jaya; usually below 500 metres but rarely to 1400 m (Cooper & Forshaw 1977, Beehler *et al.* 1986). It is also found on the north-eastern coastal areas of Cape York Peninsula, Australia.

The 3 to 5 December 1985 were spent at Ruti Cattle Station (5°20', 144°15') on the Lai River in the Jimi Valley, Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea observing birds. Throughout this period the Fawn-breasted Bowerbird was commonly seen and heard about the immediate vicinity of the homestead and throughout adjacent valley floor grassland and abutting rainforest edge along the sides of the valley floor; by myself, Dawn Frith and Roy & Margaret Mackay.

One active and several disused nests of this species were found in isolated small trees and shrubs on the open grassland, and three active bowers were examined. These structures, and the bird activity at them, will be reported fully elsewhere (Frith & Frith, in prep.).

The presence of *C. cerviniventris* on the Lai River represents the first record of the north coast populations inland, or south, of the Schrader and Bismarck Ranges, and is probably the most inland location for it. Ruti Cattle Station is approximately 145 km inland of Bogia, the closest point on the coast. It is likely that the Lai River birds represent an inland extension of populations of the Sepik-Ramu river systems, via the grasslands of the Yuat River Valley.

The Fawn-breasted Bowerbird occurs sympatrically with the Yellow-breasted Bowerbird subspecies *C. lauterbachii lauterbachii* at Aiome in the Ramu River Valley (Gilliard 1969). The Lai River *C. cerviniventris* are located between the presently known distributions of the Baiyer-Wahgi Valley populations of *C. l. uniformis* and the Aiome-Jagei River population of *C. l. lauterbachii*.

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