

- PALM COCKATOO *Probosciger aterrimus*
Three feeding on the fruits of a *Pandanus* in the Jimi Valley (WHP).
- ECLECTUS PARROT *Eclectus roratus*
Two pairs nesting in the same tree, by the Wau - Lae road (Mor).
- WHITE-THROATED NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus mystacalis*
Probable only. A nightjar flushed off the road, in rain forest at Brown River (Cen), showed small white wing patches but no white in tail.
- MOUSTACHED TREE SWIFT *Hemiprocne mystacea*
Two pairs perched over a rushing stream, near Lae (Mor). One bird constructing its tiny nest on a small bare limb.
- BLACK-WINGED MONARCH *Monarcha frater*
On nest at Baiyer River Sanctuary (WHP): a neat cup in the crotch of a sub-canopy tree at the forest edge. c. 12 m up.
- BLACK-THROATED ROBIN *Poecilodryas albonotata*
Pair performing display whereby one bird perched above the other on a vertical stump and expanded its black cheeks and throat so highlighting the white neck tufts. White flank tufts also highly exposed. The whole accompanied by stiff body posturing and song.
- PAPUAN FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum pectorale*
One at c. 2650 m at Wapenamanda Gorge/Murmur Pass (Eng) was higher than usual.
- ORNATE MELIDECTES *Melidectes torquatus*
On Mt. Kaindi (Mor), one at a nest c. 20 m above ground. A neat cup, 12 cm in diameter, in the fork of a horizontal branch just below the top of the tree.
- GREAT WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus maximus*
One as low as c. 92 m on Lae - Wau road (Mor).
- LOWLAND PELTOPS *Peltops blainvillii*
Ads feeding juvs. at Veimauri River area (Cen); harlequin head pattern of juvs apparently undescribed.
- ARCHBOLD'S BOWERBIRD *Archboldia papuensis*
One seen briefly at Tari (SHP).
- MACGREGOR'S BOWERBIRD *Ambylornis macgregoriae*
At Ubai Gubi (EHP) a male was watched reconstructing a bower that had been destroyed by heavy overnight rain. Largely rebuilt between 07:00 and 13:00.
- SHORT-TAILED PARADIGALLA *Paradigalla brevicauda*
Constructing a nest near Ambua Lodge, Tari (SHP).
- BUFF-TAILED SICKLEBILL *Epimachus albertisi*
Female or subad. male seen at Ilaru Pass twice and an ad. male seen briefly.
- LAWES' PAROTIA *Parotia lawesii*
At Ubai Gubi (EHP) ad. males were watched from hides as they cleaned fallen leaves and other debris from display court.
- CAROLA'S PAROTIA *Parotia carolae*
An ad. male seen at Ubai Gubi (EHP).

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OWLING AT THE PACIFIC ADVENTIST COLLEGE, PORT MORESBY

ROGER K. HICKS

Owls, nightjars and frogmouths are not easy birds to see. Most observations tend to be of birds glimpsed in car headlights while travelling at night, when identification is not always possible. Members of the PNGBS are fortunate that Len Tolhurst, a PNGBS committee member, works and lives on the SDA Pacific Adventist College campus, which lies south of the Hubert Murray Highway, near Ilimo Farm, about 10 km from the outskirts of Port Moresby. The campus is surrounded by a security fence which is well lit at night. The lights attract flying insects which in turn attract the night birds and for a change it is possible to see them well. The demand for some night-time bird watching was such that two trips were organised to the college, on 11th and 13th August 1987.

The plan was to drive around the perimeter track to see what had been attracted to the lights. The first birds seen each evening were a pair of Blue-winged Kookaburras using the security fence as vantage point from which to hunt. Barn Owls, Papuan Frogmouths and Large-tailed Nightjars were perched in open situations where they were easy to see. Having followed the security fence for some way, we moved into the farmland beyond the campus and were surprised how many Barn Owls and Large-tailed Nightjars there were. At least five pairs of the latter were scattered over an area of ploughed land, their eyes reflecting red or green in the spot-light beam. These nightjars allowed a close approach when dazzled by the light and subsequently we have managed to trap three for ringing (banding) by this means. While trapped in the light the full detail of their cryptic plumage was seen, although under such conditions it afforded them little protection. In the same area there were at least five Barn Owls. There was no sign of the rarer owls we had hoped for. Papuan Boobook, Barking Owl and Rufous Owl have all been reported from the college.

Our first visit finished on a note of excitement when a large nightjar was trapped in the spotlight beam. It was observed for about 15 minutes spending most of the time perched but occasionally sallying out after insects. It showed no white in the wing or tail and was identified as a White-throated Nightjar. This is thought to be the first sighting of this species, a migrant to New Guinea from its Australian breeding grounds, in the Port Moresby area. A note on this sighting will be in the next issue of Muruk.

On behalf of all those who enjoyed the night time viewing, I would like to thank Len for his hospitality, chauffeuring us around and more importantly knowing where to go, his wife, Val, for the welcoming drinks and cakes, and Mr Wilkinson, the Principal of the college, for allowing us to roam over his campus and for the loan of his spotlight which greatly helped our viewing.

Species List.

Great Egret, Rufous Night-Heron, Masked Lapwing, Barn Owl, Papuan Frogmouth, White-throated Nightjar, Large-tailed Nightjar, Blue-winged Kookaburra.

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