

RECENT OBSERVATIONS: JANUARY - MARCH 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to Port Moresby area unless site is followed by abbreviated province name. Sites mentioned are shown on the map on page 31.

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Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; I. = Island; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NP = National Park; SP = settling ponds; WHP = Western Highlands Province; WEI = Wau Ecology Institute.

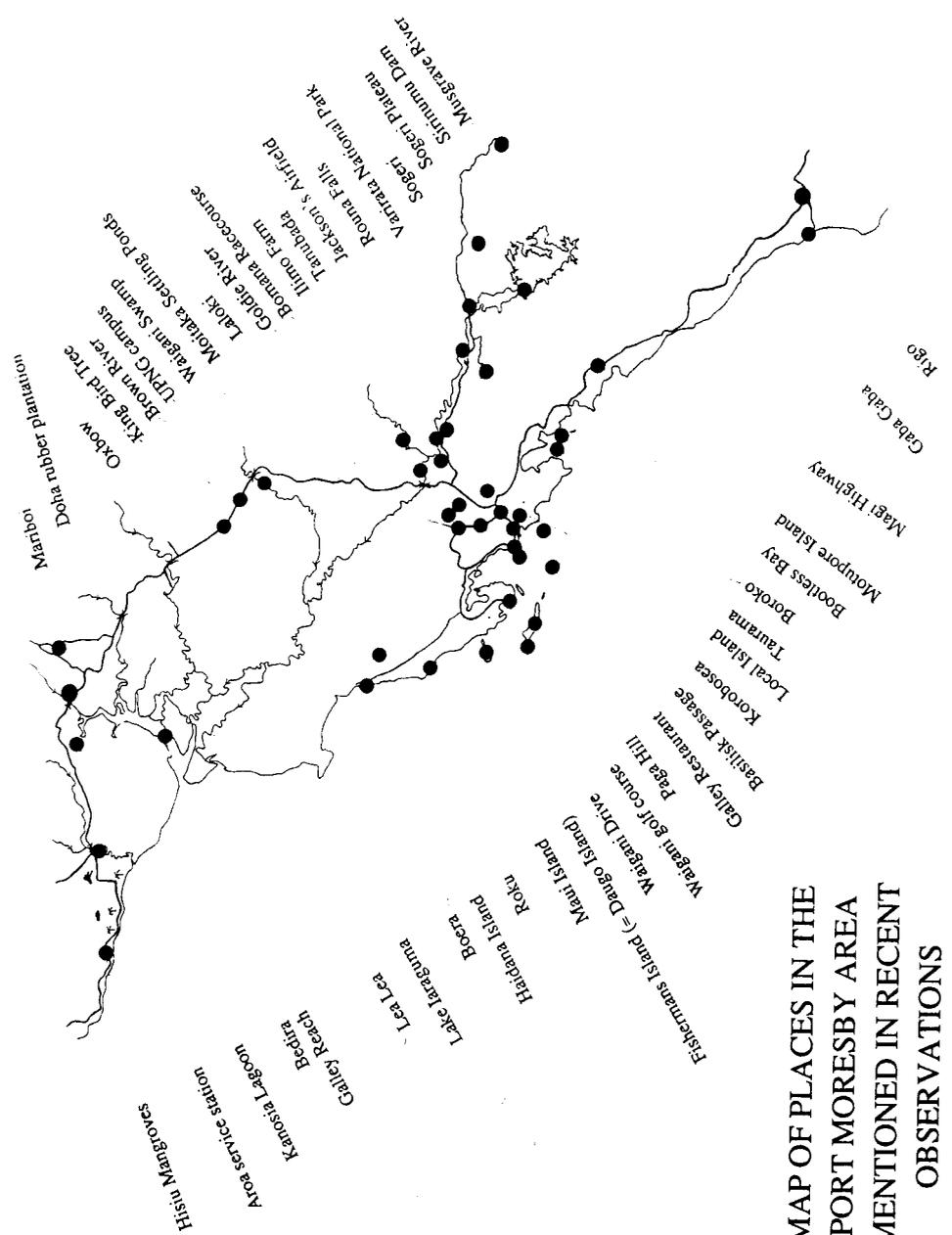
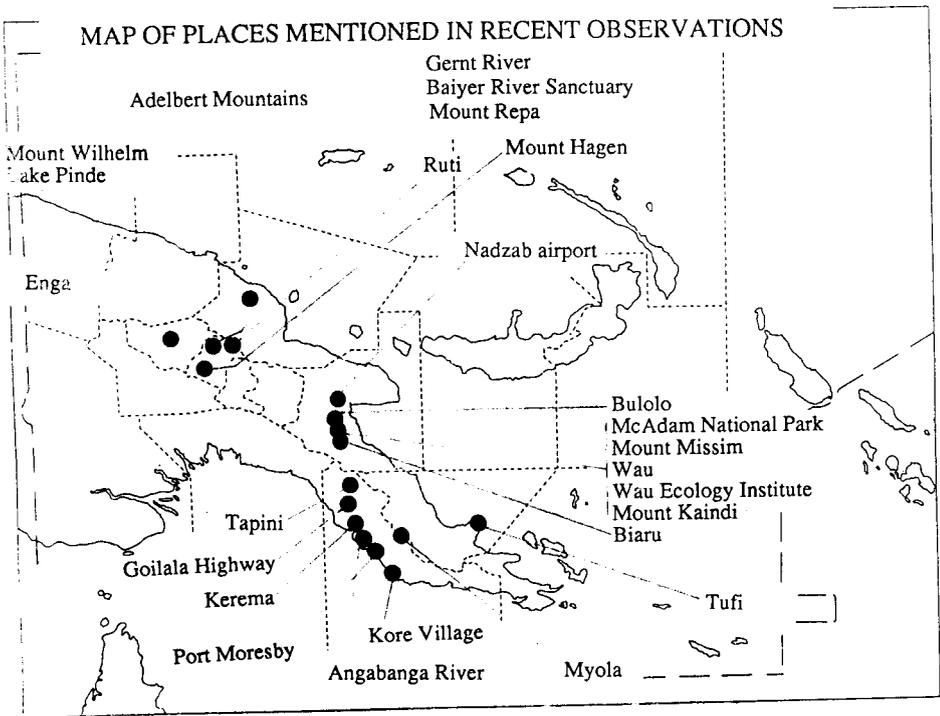
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| DWARF CASSOWARY | <i>Casuarius bennetti</i> |
| Four records of single birds in Varirata NP: beyond Gare's Lookout 24 Jan (MH) and 31 Jan, (RGS); 6 Mar Gare's Lookout trail 6 Mar (IB); between Gare's and Varirata Lookouts 27 Mar (NW). | |
| LESSER FRIGATEBIRD | <i>Fregata ariel</i> |
| 25 Jan: 20 over Local I. (PL) | |
| AUSTRALIAN PELICAN | <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i> |
| 16 Jan: 1 flying over Waigani Drive at c. 15:45 (HFH). | |
| CATTLE EGRET | <i>Egretta ibis</i> |
| 21 Feb: 50+ in bp, near Ilimo Farm (IB). | |
| LITTLE EGRET | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> |
| 11 Mar: 1 in bp, Moitaka SP (RH). | |
| EASTERN REEF EGRET | <i>Egretta sacra</i> |
| 29 Mar: 1 white phase, Haidana I. (NW). | |
| CRESTED HAWK | <i>Aviceda subcristata</i> |
| 17 Jan: birds carrying food c. 10 km east of Brown River bridge on Hiritano Highway (MH). 7 Mar: 1, Laloki (RGS). | |
| LONG-TAILED BUZZARD | <i>Henicopernis longicauda</i> |
| 10 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). 25 Jan: 1, Adelbert Mountains, Mad (HFH). | |
| WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE | <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> |
| 25 Jan: 1, Boera (RGS). 1 Mar: 1 juv., Roku (RGS). 21 Jan: 1 ad., Moitaka SP (RH <i>et al.</i>). | |
| SWAMP HARRIER | <i>Circus approximans</i> |
| 3 Jan: 1 Moitaka SP (RGS). | |
| GREY GOSHAWK | <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i> |
| 3 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). | |
| BROWN FALCON | <i>Falco berigora</i> |
| 22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | |
| AUSTRALIAN KESTREL | <i>Falco cenchroides</i> |
| 26 Feb: 1 possible, Boroko (NW). A very early possible record of this species which usually appears in the Port Moresby area in May. | |
| GARGANEY | <i>Anas querquedula</i> |
| 12 Mar: 13 Moitaka SP (RH & RGS). | |
| BLACK-BILLED BRUSH-TURKEY | <i>Talegalla fuscirostris</i> |
| Two birds recorded on 3 occasions in Varirata NP: 21 Feb: & 6 Mar Gare's Lookout trail (IB), 21 Mar working on mound at bottom of Gare's Lookout trail (RH). | |
| BROWN QUAIL | <i>Coturnix australis</i> |
| 21 Jan: 2, Local I. (PL). | |
| KING QUAIL | <i>Coturnix chinensis</i> |
| 1 Jan: 6. 1 male and 5 females, Local I. (RGS). | |
| BEACH STONE-CURLEW | <i>Esacus magnirostris</i> |
| 28 Feb: 2, Lea Lea salt pans (NW). | |

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| LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER | <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> |
| 21 Feb: 8, Ilimo Farm (IB). | |
| LITTLE RINGED PLOVER | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> |
| 12 Mar: 1, Moitaka SP (RH, RGS). 28 Mar: 4, Bootless Bay, probably of resident race as calls were harsh (RH, IB). | |
| GREY-TAILED TATTLER | <i>Tringa brevipes</i> |
| 1 Jan: 1, Local I. (RGS). 22 Mar: 1, Roku (RGS). | |
| TEREK SANDPIPER | <i>Tringa terek</i> |
| 28 Mar: 1, Bootless Bay (RH). 29 Mar: 3 or 4, Haidana I. (NW). | |
| LITTLE TERN | <i>Sterna albifrons</i> |
| 29 Mar: many Haidana I. (NW). | |
| LESSER CRESTED TERN | <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> |
| 29 Mar: c. 10, Haidana I. (NW). | |
| GREAT CUCKOO-DOVE | <i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtoena</i> |
| 6 Mar: 1, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB). | |
| EMERALD GROUND DOVE | <i>Chalcophaps indica</i> |
| 28 Mar: 2 in mangroves along Magi Highway (IB). | |
| STEPHAN'S GROUND DOVE | <i>Chalcophaps stephani</i> |
| 21 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). 21 Feb: 1, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB). | |
| PIEASANT PIGEON | <i>Otidiphaps nobilis</i> |
| 24-25 Jan: 1, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP, disturbed but remained close by for several minutes (MH). | |
| PINK-SPOTTED FRUIT-DOVE | <i>Ptilinopus perlatus</i> |
| 24-25 Jan: Beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH). | |
| ORNATE FRUIT-DOVE | <i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i> |
| 20-21 Jan: 16, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | |
| PURPLE-TAILED IMPERIAL PIGEON | <i>Ducula rufigaster</i> |
| 6 Mar: 2, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB). | |
| ZOE IMPERIAL PIGEON | <i>Ducula zoeae</i> |
| 3 Jan: 2, Varirata NP (RGS). 20-22 Jan: 2, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | |
| DUSKY LORY | <i>Pseudeos fuscata</i> |
| 20-22 Jan: 100, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). 21 Jan: Mt Rea, WHP (RGS). | |
| GOLDIE'S LORIKEET | <i>Trichoglossus goldiei</i> |
| 22 Jan: 4, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | |
| LITTLE RED LORIKEET | <i>Charmosyna pulchella</i> |
| 22 Jan: 2, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | |
| RED-BREASTED PYGMY-PARROT | <i>Micropsitta bruijnii</i> |
| 17 Jan: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). 25 Jan: 2 dead birds brought in to hut, Adelbert Mts, Mad. (HFH). | |
| DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT | <i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i> |
| 19 Jan: 30, Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS). 20-22 Jan: 200, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | |
| ECCLECTUS PARROT | <i>Ecclectus roratus</i> |
| 1 Feb: 1, Korobosea (NW). 27 Mar: Varirata NP (NW). | |
| PAPUAN KING-PARROT | <i>Alisterus chloropterus</i> |
| 16-19 Jan: 2, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 24-25 Jan: 2 beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH). | |
| ORIENTAL CUCKOO | <i>Cuculus saturatus</i> |
| 16-19 Jan: 1, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 21 Feb: 1, entrance to Varirata NP (MH <i>et al.</i>). | |
| BRUSH CUCKOO | <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i> |
| 15 Feb: 1, UPNG campus (IB). | |
| HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO | <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i> |
| 19 Mar: 1, UPNG campus - in garden 17:45 until dark (IB). | |
| WHITE-EARED BRONZE-CUCKOO | <i>Chrysococcyx meyerii</i> |
| 18 Jan: 1, Wau, Mor. (RGS). | |
| DWARF KOEL | <i>Microdynamis parva</i> |
| 21 Feb: 1, near Ilimo Farm (IB). | |
| CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO | <i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i> |
| 20 Feb: 1, Korobosea (NW). | |
| BARN OWL | <i>Tyto alba</i> |
| 1 Jan: 1, Local I. (RGS). 31 Jan: 1, Tanubada (RGS). | |

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| PAPUAN FROGMOUTH | <i>Podiceps papuensis</i> | | |
| 28 Feb: 1, Lake Iaraguma (NW <i>et al.</i>) | | | |
| PAPUAN NIGHTJAR | <i>Eurostopodus papuensis</i> | | |
| 31 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). | | | |
| MOUSTACHED TREE-SWIFT | <i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i> | | |
| 27 Mar: pair near Varirata NP entrance (NW). | | | |
| MOUNTAIN SWIFLET | <i>Collocalia hirundinacea</i> | | |
| 16-19 Jan: 30, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 20-22 Jan: 2, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| HOOK-BILLED KINGFISHER | <i>Melidora macrorrhina</i> | | |
| 8 Mar: 1, Circuit trail, Varirata NP - feeding on a lizard (HFH & PL). | | | |
| SACRED KINGFISHER | <i>Halcyon sancta</i> | | |
| 11 Mar: first returning bird from Australian breeding grounds at Moitaka SP (RH <i>et al.</i>) although 1 in early Feb., Korobosea (RGS). 23 Mar: 1, Waigani golf course (NW). | | | |
| COMMON KINGFISHER | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | |
| 21 Feb: 1, Ilimo Farm (MH, HFH <i>et al.</i>). | | | |
| RAINBOW BEE-EATER | <i>Merops ornatus</i> | | |
| 25 Jan: 1, UPNG campus (PL). | | | |
| BLUE-BREASTED PITTA | <i>Pitta erythrogaster</i> | | |
| Regularly recorded at the start of Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP. 24 Jan (MH), 31 Jan (MH & HFH), 17 Feb (MH), 21 Feb (MH <i>et al.</i>), also on Circuit trail 8 Mar (HFH). Could be attracted to tapes. | | | |
| HOODED PITTA | <i>Pitta sordida</i> | | |
| Also regularly recorded at the start of Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP. 23 Jan (NW), 1 Feb (PL), 14 Feb: (PL), 21 Feb (MH <i>et al.</i>). (With both species of pitta appearing in the same area there was much discussion amongst PNGBS members as to their identity. All became clear on 21 Feb when individuals of both species were seen!). | | | |
| SINGING BUSHLARK | <i>Mirafra javanica</i> | | |
| 25 Jan: 6, Boera (RGS). 30 Jan: 1, UPNG campus (PL). | | | |
| BARN SWALLOW | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | |
| 30 Jan: 1, UPNG campus (PL). | | | |
| GREY WAGTAIL | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | |
| 18 Jan: 2, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). 21 Jan: 1, Mt Repa, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| RICHARD'S PIPIT | <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i> | | |
| 21 Jan: 4, Rutu (RGS). | | | |
| STOUT-BILLED CUCKOO-SHRIKE | <i>Coracina caeruleo-grisea</i> | | |
| 24-25 Jan: 1, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH). | | | |
| BLACK-SHOULDERED CUCKOO-SHRIKE | <i>Coracina morio</i> | | |
| 22-22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). 21 Feb: 2, main picnic area, Varirata NP (IB). 21 Mar: 1, Gare's lookout, Varirata NP (IB). | | | |
| BLACK CUCKOO-SHRIKE | <i>Coracina melaena</i> | | |
| 22 Jan: pair Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| LONG-TAILED SHRIKE | <i>Lanius schach</i> | | |
| 17 Jan: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). 19 Jan: Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| PIED CHAT | <i>Saxicola caprata</i> | | |
| 16 Jan: 2, Bulolo, Mor.. 16-19 Jan: 4, Wau, Mor.. 17 Jan: 2, Mt Kaindi, Mor.. 22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP. 23 Jan: 1, at 2000 m, Enga. 7 Mar: 1, Laloki. (all obs RGS). | | | |
| PAINTED QUAIL-THRUSH | <i>Cinclosoma ajax</i> | | |
| 3 Jan: 1 male, Varirata NP (RGS). 25 Jan: 1, female, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW). 21 Feb: male, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB). | | | |
| CHESTNUT-BACKED JEWEL-BABBLER | <i>Ptilorrhoa castanonotus</i> | | |
| 27 Mar: 1 Circuit trail, Varirata NP (NW). | | | |
| CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER | <i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i> | | |
| 3 Feb: 1, Moitaka SP (RGS). 7 Mar: 1, Laloki (RGS). | | | |
| BICOLOURED MOUSE-WARBLER | <i>Crateroscelis nigrorufa</i> | | |
| 21 Mar: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). | | | |
| MOUNTAIN MOUSE-WARBLER | <i>Crateroscelis robusta</i> | | |
| 17 Jan: 4, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| PALE-BILLED SCRUB-WREN | <i>Sericornis spilodera</i> | | |
| 10 Jan: Varirata NP (RGS). | | | |
| BUFF-FACED SCRUB-WREN | <i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i> | | |
| 17 Jan: 4, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| MANGROVE GERYGONE | <i>Gerygone levigaster</i> | | |
| 22 Mar: common and easy to see in mangroves at Bootless Bay (RH). | | | |
| WHITE-BELLIED THICKET-FANTAIL | <i>Rhipidura leucothorax</i> | | |
| 20-22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| CHESTNUT-BELLIED FANTAIL | <i>Rhipidura hyperythra</i> | | |
| 31 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). | | | |
| FRIENDLY FANTAIL | <i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i> | | |
| 18 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| ISLAND MONARCH | <i>Monarcha cinerascens</i> | | |
| 4 Jan: 2 in forest near Tufi, Oro (NW). | | | |
| BLACK-WINGED MONARCH | <i>Monarcha frater</i> | | |
| 22 Jan: Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| LEADEN FLYCATCHER | <i>Myiagra rubecula</i> | | |
| 22 Jan: a pair, Varirata NP (RGS). | | | |
| YELLOW-BREASTED BOATBILL | <i>Machaerirhynchus flaviventer</i> | | |
| 21 Mar: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). | | | |
| BLACK-BREASTED BOATBILL | <i>Machaerirhynchus nigripectus</i> | | |
| 17 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| JACKY WINTER | <i>Microeca leucophaea</i> | | |
| 20 Mar: 1, Bomana Racecourse (NW). | | | |
| YELLOW-LEGGED FLYCATCHER | <i>Microeca griseiceps</i> | | |
| 24-25 Jan: 1, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH). 21 Mar: 1, Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (IB). | | | |
| WHITE-FACED ROBIN | <i>Tregellasia leucops</i> | | |
| 10 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). 21 Mar: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (PL). | | | |
| NORTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN | <i>Drymodes superciliosus</i> | | |
| 14 Feb: Varirata NP (PL, IB). | | | |
| DWARF WHISTLER | <i>Pachycare flavogrisea</i> | | |
| 31 Jan: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (MH, HFH). | | | |
| HOODED PITOHUI | <i>Pitohui dichrous</i> | | |
| 16-19 Jan: 2, Wau, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| CRESTED PITOHUI | <i>Pitohui cristatus</i> | | |
| 29 Mar: 1, feeding in low canopy, Varirata NP (RH). | | | |
| NEW GUINEA WHITE-EYE | <i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i> | | |
| 16-19 Jan: 8, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 17-18 Jan: flocks of 12, 20 & 12, Mt. Kaindi Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| SLATY-CHINNED LONGBILL | <i>Toxorhamphus poliopterus</i> | | |
| 17 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| PYGMY HONEYEATER | <i>Oedistoma pygmaeum</i> | | |
| 21 Jan: 4, Gernt River, WHP (RGS). | | | |
| PAPUAN BLACK MYZOMELA | <i>Myzomela nigrita</i> | | |
| 9 Jan: 1, feeding in rain tree, Sirinumu Dam (NW). 31 Jan: Varirata NP (RGS). | | | |
| MOUNTAIN RED-HEADED MYZOMELA | <i>Myzomela adolphinae</i> | | |
| 16 Jan: 3, Wau, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| RED-COLLARED MYZOMELA | <i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i> | | |
| 17 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |
| MIMIC MELIPHAGA | <i>Meliphaga analoga</i> | | |
| 25 Jan: 1, Boera (RGS). | | | |
| GRACEFUL MELIPHAGA | <i>Meliphaga gracilis</i> | | |
| 25 Jan: 1, Boera (RGS). | | | |
| VARIED HONEYEATER | <i>Lichenostomus versicolor</i> | | |
| 29 Mar: common, Haidana I. (NW). | | | |
| BELFORD'S MELIDECTES | <i>Melidectes belfordi</i> | | |
| 17-18 Jan: 2, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). | | | |

- COMMON SMOKY HONEYEATER *Melipotes fumigatus*
 17-18 Jan: 3, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).
- HOODED MANNIKIN *Lonchura spectabilis*
 17 Jan: 5, Wau, Mor. & 1 c. 500 m in Mt. Kaindi, Mor. 21 Jan: Ruti, 23 Jan: 2, Mt. Hagen, WHP (all obs RGS).
- CHESTNUT-BREADED MANNIKIN *Lonchura castaneothorax*
 3 Jan: 4 (with 40 Grey-headed Mannikins *L. caniceps*, Sirinumu Dam) (RGS).
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
 7 Feb: 1 female, near Galley Restaurant, Port Moresby (RGS). Only third record for PNG?
- MOUNTAIN DRONGO *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*
 21 Mar: 6, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 27 Mar: Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW).
- GREAT WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus maximus*
 17-18 Jan: 13 Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).
- BLACK BUTCHERBIRD *Cracticus quoyi*
 24 Jan: beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).
- MOUNTAIN PELTOPS *Peltops blainvillii*
 18 Jan: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).
- WHITE-EARED CATBIRD *Ailuroedus buccoides*
 24-25 Jan: 2, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).
- STEPHANIE'S ASTRAPIA *Astrapia stephaniae*
 18 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, c. 800 m, Mor. (RGS).
- MAGNIFICENT BIRD OF PARADISE *Cicinnurus magnificus*
 17 Feb: pair near Gare's lookout, Varirata NP, male in poor plumage with no tail wires.
- GREY CROW *Corvus tristis*
 27 Mar: c. 14 Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW).

MAP OF PLACES MENTIONED IN RECENT OBSERVATIONS



MAP OF PLACES IN THE PORT MORESBY AREA MENTIONED IN RECENT OBSERVATIONS