

EDITORIAL

Issue 2 of 1988 is produced using a new software package, PageMaker 3 (c Aldus corporation), again using an Apple LaserWriter. There have been teething problems, but we hope the system is now sufficiently well set up that it will speed up production in the future. We are now also using a new printery, The PNG Rehabilitation Centre Inc., which provides employment and training for disabled people. We hope that this will mean much faster print times, only a few days in stead of the several months for previous issues. Some slight changes of format have been made in this issue: the table of contents is now on the back page of the cover only, and a slightly larger print size. The larger print size, while making it easier to read, means that issue will be a little longer.

Issue 3 will appear shortly. We hope there will be a fourth issue in 1988, but we are not able to guarantee it at this time.

Thankyou all for your continued patience. Please keep contributions coming in so that we do not run out of material in 1989.

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OBSERVATIONS FROM SIMBAI

NIKLAS WAHLBERG

The Simbai Valley is situated in Madang Province, close to the border with Western Highlands Province. It is separated from the Jimi Valley by the Bismark Ranges. I spent over three weeks in the Simbai Valley, primarily bird watching, from the 5th to the 28th of January 1988. Base camp was at about 1400 m in the Epe Valley, formed by the Soi River, about 6 km SW as the crow flies from Simbai. Its coordinates are 5° 19'S, 144° 35'E.

The vegetation in Epe Valley is mostly secondary growth interspaced with grasslands and stands of *Casuarina*. One larger patch of rainforest is located along the Kadzebnang Creek, 2 km from camp, at about 1500 m.

I made three visits to Kakpi, the mountain behind Kupong, on the 13th, 20th and 26th, and reached a height of c. 2280 m. Montane rainforest started at about 1900 m and coated the ridge tops. Kupong itself is at 1800 m. *Casuarina* stands and grassland are the predominant habitat around the village.

A total of 74 species were recorded on this trip. Locals say that the New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (one man claimed he had shot two in one day on Kakpi), Papuan Lorikeet, Stephanie's *Astrapia*, Superb Bird of Paradise and King of Saxony Bird of Paradise also occur in the area.

This paper was written without any knowledge of Majnep & Bulmer's (1977) book. Their work is based in the Kaironk area c. 10 km NW of Simbai. The following species which I record were not recorded by them: White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo, Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler, Fairy Gerygone, Scrub White-eared and Puff-backed Meliphaga, and Crinkle-collared Manucode.

Following is an annotated list of all birds seen. Included are five species seen only on a previous visit (September-October 1987), which was confined to Epe Valley and lasted five days. Observations from this earlier visit are referred to as the 1987 trip in the list. Local names for birds, if known, are given in **bold**. These were collected directly from local sources and without reference to those given in Majnep & Bulmer (1977).

Annotated List:

Dwarf Cassowary	<i>Casuarius bennetti</i>	Kombri
Two individuals, an immature and an adult, were seen on Kakpi on the second and third visits. Locals say that they are fairly common in the higher forests.		
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	
One was seen soaring over the forest on Kakpi.		