

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.

EDITORS: Mike Hopkins, with assistance from Helen Fortune Hopkins, Jenny Hicks, Roger Hicks, Joan Oliver, Ian Burrows, and Peter Storer.

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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.	

Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>	
One seen on the 1987 trip at c. 1400 m.		
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>	
Common in the grassland above 1600 m. One was seen over the forest on Kakpi at c. 2200 m.		
Salvadori's Teal	<i>Anas waigiensis</i>	
A pair reported on the Soi River during my stay.		
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	
One seen on 1987 trip at c. 1400 m.		
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>	Kur
Common at c. 1400 m, in secondary growth. A pair were also seen at c. 1800 m.		
Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i>	Kur
Common above 1600 m, in secondary growth and forest. A nest, probably belonging to this species, containing one white egg, was found on Kakpi on the first visit. It was built on a tall tree stump 3 m from the ground, on a small "ledge" created by decaying wood falling off. The nest was a typical pigeon nest, untidy and weakly constructed.		
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>	Waimen
A pair were seen in secondary growth on the 6th, at c. 1400 m.		
Ornate Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i>	Kombien
A pair were seen on the first visit to Kakpi.		
White-breasted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i>	Kotyer
Fairly common on Kakpi, though not seen on the third visit.		
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>	
Common on Kakpi, seen on every visit.		
Dusky Lory	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i>	Andunk
Common on the first and second visits to Kakpi, up to c. 2100 m. Not seen on third visit.		
Yellow-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus musschenbroekii</i>	Gasin
Common on Kakpi, recorded on every visit.		
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	
Abundant at c. 1400 m.		
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	
Two adults were seen at Kupong on the 5th. Later, an adult and a juvenile were seen 1 km from Kupong on the 17th. Seen in <i>Casuarina</i> stands both times.		
White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx meyerii</i>	
One seen at c. 1400 m on the 6th. Calling cuckoos may have been this or the Brush Cuckoo.		
Moustached Tree-Swift	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>	Nei
Common at c. 1400 m, over secondary growth and grassland. Most commonly seen at dawn and dusk.		
Mountain Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia hirundinacea</i>	Yimanyng
Common over the whole area.		
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	Yimanyng
Not as common as <i>C. hirundinacea</i> , mainly confined to gullies created by streams and on ridge tops.		
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>	Fulolom
One was seen on the 1987 trip in the town of Kumburuf, at c. 1600. Eero Taskinen, who has been living in Epe Valley for the past 2 years, says one also frequents the valley.		
Mountain Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon megarhyncha</i>	Fulolom
A pair inhabited the Kadzebnang forest. Heard on every visit but seen only once. The		

individual seen had no black markings on the top of its bill, but was notably larger and the bill stockier than its lowland congener, the Yellow-billed Kingfisher. The call differed as well, descending continuously until finally petering out, never descending and ascending again as in the Yellow-billed Kingfisher.		
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	
Common in Simbai. A few seen along open ridge tops, above Epe Valley.		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
Common and conspicuous along all larger streams and rivers.		
Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina caeruleogrisea</i>	
Seen twice, possibly the same individual, in secondary growth, at c. 1400 m.		
Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina morio</i>	Sinyenya
A pair inhabited a patch of secondary growth. One of the pair was very aggressive and was seen chasing a Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike, New Guinea White-Eyes, Brown Orioles and a Crinkle-collared Manucode.		
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	
Common in all grassland habitats.		
Pied Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	
Common in all grassland habitats.		
Blue-capped Ifrita	<i>Ifrita kowaldi</i>	
Common and noisy on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Tawny Grassbird	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i>	Guits
Common in all grassland habitats. Heard more often than seen.		
Island Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>	
One seen in a patch of secondary growth at c. 1400 m, on the 11th.		
White-shouldered Fairy-Wren	<i>Malurus alboscapulatus</i>	Solonj
Common in all grassland habitats.		
Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler	<i>Crateroscelis nigrorufa</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest below 1600 m.		
Large Scrub-Wren	<i>Sericornis nouhuysi</i>	Seinyung
Fairly common on Kakpi. Seen on first two visits. Never seen together with following species, though seen at same altitudes.		
Buff-faced Scrub-Wren	<i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i>	Seinyung
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Fairy Gerygone	<i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>	Seinyung
One party of several males and females frequented patches of secondary growth at c. 1400 m.		
Brown-breasted Gerygone	<i>Gerygone ruficollis</i>	Seinyung
Common in the <i>Casuarina</i> stands above 1600 m. Rarely in secondary growth.		
Friendly Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i>	
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits. Lowest altitude recorded was c. 1850 m on forest edge.		
Black Fantail	<i>Rhipidura atra</i>	
Uncommon on Kakpi. A male seen on the second visit; a male, then a pair seen on the third visit.		
Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>	
Common in secondary growth at c. 1400 m. Highest altitude recorded was c. 1500 m. Did not overlap with the preceding species.		

Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Koinymaind
Common around villages and adjacent grasslands, up to 1800 m.		
Black Monarch	<i>Monarcha axillaris</i>	
One seen in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th. One individual seen in the same place on all visits to Kakpi.		
Black-winged Monarch	<i>Monarcha frater</i>	
Common in Kadzebnang forest and in a few patches of secondary growth at c. 1400 m. Usually seen in pairs.		
Friilled Monarch	<i>Arses telescophthalmus</i>	
A male of race <i>A. t. insularis</i> seen on the 1987 trip, in the Kadzebnang forest.		
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigriceps</i>	Sumur
One seen in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th.		
Torrent Flycatcher	<i>Monachella muelleriana</i>	
A pair seen on the Soi River on the 18th.		
Canary Flycatcher	<i>Microeca papuana</i>	
Fairly common on Kakpi. Seen on every visit.		
Black-throated Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albonotata</i>	
One only, seen on the third visit to Kakpi.		
Blue-grey Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i>	
Two were seen on Kakpi. One each on the first and third visits.		
Dwarf Whistler	<i>Pachycare flavogrisea</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m.		
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i>	Kondis
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits. An immature was seen on the first visit.		
Black-headed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala monacha</i>	
Common in <i>Casuarina</i> stands and occasionally in secondary growth.		
Little Shrike-Thrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m.		
Hooded Pitohui	<i>Pitohui dichrous</i>	
Common in all secondary growth at c. 1400 m.		
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis versteri</i>	
Fairly common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Papuan Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale</i>	Sep
Abundant at c. 1400 m, occasionally up to 1800 m. On the 6th a fully fledged young was observed being fed.		
Tit Berrypecker	<i>Oreocharis arfaki</i>	
Common on Kakpi. Most often seen in vocal flocks.		
New Guinea White-Eye	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i>	
Common in all habitats, except grasslands, up to 1800 m.		
Long-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melilestes megarhynchus</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m. Twice a display (?) was observed (on the 6th and 21st). Two birds were seen jumping back and forth between a few bare, vertical branches in the sub-canopy. One bird was about 10 cm above the other. Tails were fanned (top bird's more than bottom bird's) and the wings were fluttered. Sometimes they took off and chased each other before landing again and repeating the performance. On the second occasion they periodically stopped jumping and touched bills.		
Slaty-chinned Longbill	<i>Toxorhamphus poliopterus</i>	
Common in the Kadzebnang forest and seen once on the third visit to Kakpi.		

Mountain Red-headed Myzomela	<i>Myzomela adolphinae</i>	Sep
A pair were seen in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th.		
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i>	Sep
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Scrub White-eared Meliphaga	<i>Meliphaga albonotata</i>	Kumsolonki
Fairly common in secondary growth at c. 1400 m.		
Puff-backed Meliphaga	<i>Meliphaga aruensis</i>	
Seen twice; once in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th and once in secondary growth at c. 1400 m on the 25th.		
Helmeted Friarbird	<i>Philemon buceroides</i>	
Common only around villages, up to 1800 m.		
Rufous-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora guisei</i>	
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Yellow-browed Melidectes	<i>Melidectes rufocrissalis</i>	Nol
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits. Apparently Belford's Melidectes is absent from Kakpi. All individuals seen clearly had red gape wattles and a white forehead. Always in forest and never seen with next species.		
Ornate Melidectes	<i>Melidectes torquatus</i>	Nol
Common in all habitats, except grasslands, up to 1800 m.		
Common Smoky Honeyeater	<i>Melipotes fumigatus</i>	Memna
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Hooded Mannikin	<i>Lonchura spectabilis</i>	Dang
Common in all grassland habitats. A pair seen carrying nesting material into a large bush on the 14th. All birds had buffy-coloured breasts, not white.		
Brown Oriole	<i>Oriolus szalayi</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m.		
Torrent-Lark	<i>Grallina bruijni</i>	
Very common on the 1987 trip at c. 1400 m. Inexplicably absent on the 1988 trip.		
Great Wood-Swallow	<i>Artamus maximus</i>	Kaskas
Common over the whole area. Song heard several times.		
Mountain Peltops	<i>Peltops montanus</i>	Tyepnambungu
Common in all habitats, except grassland, up to 1800 m. One was seen on Kakpi on the second visit.		
Macgregor's Bowerbird	<i>Amblyornis macgregoriae</i>	Konump
Two bowers were found. They seemed to be active but unfortunately no birds were seen. Saplings around the bowers were decorated with dried flowers and sprigs.		
Loria's Bird of Paradise	<i>Cnemophilus loriae</i>	Kambai
Fairly common on Kakpi. Heard on every visit. Seen on second visit calling from a tall tree on the edge of a patch of grassland. Seen on third visit feeding on berries.		
Crinkle-collared Manucode	<i>Manucodia chalybata</i>	
A pair inhabited Epe Valley in secondary growth and <i>Casuarina</i> stands.		
Black Sicklebill	<i>Epimachus fastuosus</i>	Galagnang
First one, then two females were seen flying across the path on the second visit to Kakpi. The locals said these were more common before guns came to the area. This seems to be the only Sicklebill in the area; when locals were asked to imitate the call, they gave the two sharp notes typical of this species.		

- Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae* **Kambai**
 One female seen in a stand of *Casuarina* at about 1800 m. This stand was at least 2 km from the nearest forest. Positive identification was made; the white eyebrow, eye and rufous flash in wing were seen clearly.
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*
 Common in secondary growth and forest at about 1400 m. A female was feeding a fledged young on the 7th.
- Lesser Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea minor* **Yambai**
 A female seen in secondary growth at 1400 m, on the 25th.

List for Epe Valley area 1400-1600 m:

Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Brush Cuckoo, White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo, Moustached Tree-Swift, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Mountain Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike, Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Chat, Island Leaf-Warbler, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler, Fairy Gerygone, Northern Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Black Monarch, Black-winged Monarch, Black-breasted Boatbill, Torrent Flycatcher, Dwarf Whistler, Black-headed Whistler, Little Shrike-Thrush, Hooded Pitohui, Papuan Flowerpecker, New Guinea White-Eye, Long-billed Honeyeater, Slaty-chinned Longbill, Mountain Red-headed Myzomela, Scrub White-eared Meliphaga, Puff-backed Meliphaga, Helmeted Friarbird, Ornate Melidectes, Hooded Mannikin, Brown Oriole, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Peltops, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Magnificent Bird of Paradise, Lesser Bird of Paradise: 43 spp.

List for altitudes between 1600 - 1800 m:

Brown Falcon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Pacific Swallow, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Chat, Tawny Grassbird, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Willie Wagtail, Black-headed Whistler, Papuan Flowerpecker, New Guinea White-Eye, Helmeted Friarbird, Ornate Melidectes, Hooded Mannikin, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Peltops, Carola's Parotia: 22 spp.

List for Kakpi (mostly above 2000 m):

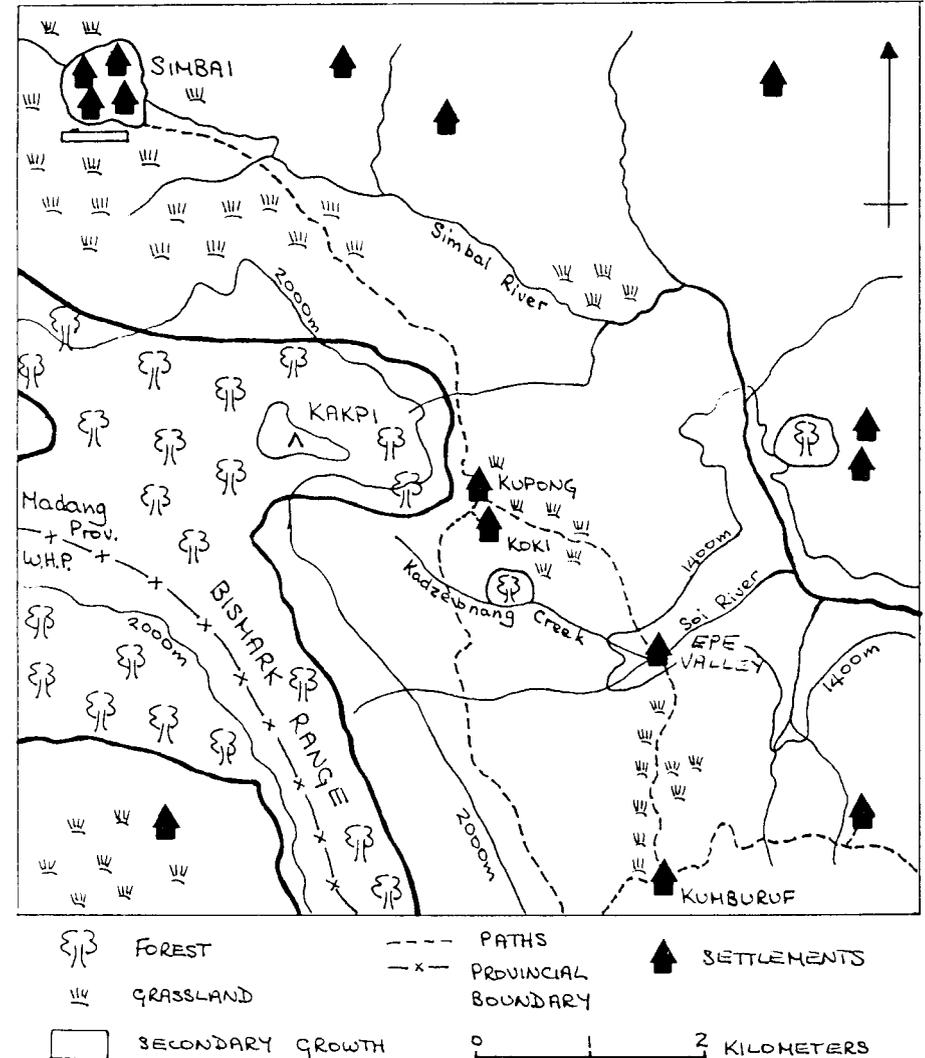
Dwarf Cassowary, Brahminy Kite, Brown Falcon, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Ornate Fruit-Dove, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Dusky Lory, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Blue-capped Ifrita, Large Scrub-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-throated Robin, Blue-grey Robin, Regent Whistler, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Tit Berrypecker, Slaty-chinned Longbill, Red-collared Myzomela, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Peltops, Loria's Bird of Paradise, Black Sicklebill: 32 spp.

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Majnep, I.S. & R. Bulmer. 1977. *Birds of my Kalam Country*. Auckland University Press & Oxford University Press.

Address: c/o U.N.D.P., P.O. Box 1041, Port Moresby, P.N.G.



MAP OF THE SIMBAI AREA