

1977). Moreover, many rail species are known to duet, this usually being performed by a mated pair and termed 'antiphonal singing or duetting' or calling (Diamond & Terborgh 1968; Diamond 1972; Ripley 1977). Diamond & Terborgh (1968) record the Bush-Hen *Amaurornis olivaceus* singing antiphonally in New Guinea.

The confirmed presence of the Chestnut Forest-Rail at Tari Gap represents an extension of its previous known range, from the Telefomin area, of 200 km to the ESE. Coates (1985) indicated an anticipated extension of the range of this rail by a similar distance to the east of Telefomin and it would seem likely that the bird will be found to occur there, if not further eastwards and elsewhere in the Central Highlands. The discovery of this species in the Tari Gap follows that of the Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* (Frith & Frith 1987). Clearly, the ranges of such secretive terrestrial forest dwelling highland birds are more extensive than the current state of ornithological exploration of New Guinea can reflect.

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MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS IN IRIAN JAYA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRUCE M. BEEHLER

Between 9 July and 23 August 1987 I had the opportunity to observe birds in one locality in Irian Jaya and three in Papua New Guinea. Here I present some of the most interesting findings. I was accompanied by Andrew E. Hare (AEH) in Papua New Guinea.

Field Sites

- 10-13 July: Danau Bira (Lake Holmes), in the lowlands of northern Irian Jaya, on the western bank of the Mamberamo River, 2° 28' S, 138° 25' E, 350 m.
- 23-26 July: lower montane forest 4 km south of Suria, Central Province, 9° 5' S, 147° 29' E, 1100 m.
- 28 July to 2 August: Varirata National Park, Central Province, 9° 27' S, 147° 22' E, 750 m.
- 4-17 August: Lake Omha, English Peaks, Northern Province, 8° 46' S, 147° 29' E, 3650 m.

Annotated List

- Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiensis*
At Lake Omha AEH observed a pair to copulate three times in succession on the morning of 9 August. This was followed by a series of stereotyped interactions that may be related to pair-bonding. The two faced each other in the water; first the female bowed to the male repeatedly, and then he to her. Both birds then submerged completely, only to burst out from under the water and flap and splash noisily, side-by-side. Subsequently both left the water and roosted on the bank.
- Brown-collared Brush-Turkey *Talegalla jobiensis*
At Suria a hunter collected a pair in the forest. The stomach of one bird contained many cracked seeds and some insect fragments (Lepidoptera larvae and Coleoptera elytra).
- Victoria Crowned Pigeon *Goura victoria*
At Danau Bira. The voice of a single individual was reminiscent of the call of a cassowary, a very low booming, two notes repeated in pairs: *uh wuh - uh wuh - uh wuh* ..., the series descending in pitch. This was a loud, far-carrying call and very conspicuous. The bird also gave low mmm notes that could be heard only at very close range. Individuals in the forest were very wary and flushed at a distance. The sharp double-slaps produced by the wings when the birds rose from the ground were very distinctive.
- White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
At Suria a nest with a single egg was found. It was constructed on a palm frond in the shaded understory.
- Red-fronted Lorikeet *Charmosyna rubronotata*
At Danau Bira. Voice is indistinguishable from that of the Red-flanked Lorikeet

C. placentis.

Rufous Owl

Ninox rufa

At Varirata a pair was heard duetting in forest near the raggiana lek. At first, a single bird gave pairs of *mumph* notes, followed by a series of pairs of these notes. A bird with a higher pitched voice then joined in, producing an antiphonal duet that eventually had the high-pitched bird giving a quavering and then twittering response in high excitement. One of the birds was spot-lighted on a high open branch of a *Casuarina*.

Tit Berrypecker

Oreocharis arfaki

At Lake Omha a pair was netted on 11 August. This is 600 m higher than the species' regular upper altitudinal limit.

Leadon Honeyeater

Ptiloprora plumbea

Suria. Common in the forest interior, in the lower and middle levels of the forest. The birds foraged for arthropods among twigs and petioles, and also visited understory flowers.

Streaked Bowerbird

Amblyornis subalaris

Suria. Bowers were well-decorated and tended by males at this time. A male in attendance at one bower gave a variety of weird calls, including: (1) sound of leaves rustling, (2) growls and cussing sounds, (3) the trill call of the Magnificent Bird of Paradise, (4) sound of ripping cloth, and (5) the sharp call of the Papuan King-Parrot.

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DISPLAY OF LORIA'S BIRD OF PARADISE

JENNY H. HICKS AND ROGER K. HICKS

At 10:15 on 11 October 1987 a displaying male Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae* was observed briefly in the grounds of Ambua Lodge, Tari, Southern Highlands Province, at c. 2200 m. Our attention was drawn to the displaying bird by a regular clicking noise. We could not at the time decide whether the click was a call or a bill snapping [it was probably the latter since, a male bird in the hand which was recently (13 June 1988) mist-netted at Myola (Oro Province) clicked its bill softly while puffing out its white cheek pouches]. The male bird hung upside down, about 6 m off the ground but below the canopy. He quivered with his wings half open. This display was observed for less than 10 seconds, after which the bird flew off to feed. Although this observation is of such short duration we present it here because, as far as we know, the display of Loria's Bird of Paradise is undescribed.

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GRAY'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER AT MOITAKA

IAN BURROWS¹ AND ROGER K. HICKS²

Whilst mist-netting birds in a reed bed at Moitaka Settling Ponds (National Capital District) on 16 October 1986, an adult Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* was trapped. The following in-hand description and biometrics were taken:

A large greyish-brown warbler with sloping forehead, long bill and graduated tail which gave the bird an elongated appearance. **Bare parts:** Legs bluish-grey, soles yellowish-brown; upper mandible horn, lower mandible pink; rictal bristles black; iris olive-green. **Plumage:** Crown, mantle and scapulars cold olive-brown; upperwing coverts slightly more rufous; secondaries and primaries similar; wing linings light-buff; rump olive; uppertail coverts warm brown; tail brown with a rufous tinge; supercilium short, buffish, ending just behind eye; ear patch olive-green; chin white; upper breast creamy-white, streaked faintly with dark brown; sides of breast and thighs ginger extending to light ginger undertail coverts; belly white. The bird was in adult plumage which was generally abraded and without moult.

Biometric data:

Band number:	02357302		
Weight:	23.8 g	Tarsus:	27 mm
Tail:	62 mm	Culmen:	18 mm
Wing:	83 mm	Exposed culmen:	14 mm

Note: wing is the maximum flattened chord; exposed culmen is from bill tip to basal feathers; culmen is from bill tip to union with skull.

Primary number	Wing formula*	Primary number	Wing formula*
1	-10	6	-8
2	-1	7	-11
3	longest, emarginated	8	-14
4	-1	9	-17
5	-4	10	-18

* (difference in length from longest primary in mm)

Wing length of this bird is the same as the maximum wing length found among 35 individuals examined by Williamson (1960).

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler breeds in Eastern Siberia and migrates through Japan and coastal China to its winter quarters in the Philippines, Sulawesi, Moluccas and