

New Guinea. There are thirteen records of the species from Irian Jaya and five from Papua New Guinea: Moitaka (Finch 1982), Vanimo and Kiunga (Finch 1985), Lamkamin (Diamond 1986), and Tari (Finch *et al.* 1987). This sighting was at a typical date, most others in the region falling between 4 October and 9 March.

- Diamond, J.M. 1986. First record of the Large Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* from islands east of New Guinea. *Emu* 86: 249.
- Finch, B.W. 1982. Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* at Moitaka S.F. PNGBS Newsletter 197/198: 40.
- Finch, B.W. 1985. New Guinea bird notes. *Cosmic Flashes* 2: 12-13.
- Finch, B.W. 1987. *The Birds of Ambua and Tari District - A Trans Niugini Guide to the Birds in the Vicinity of Ambua Lodge*. 2nd Ed. Ambua Lodge, Mt Hagen.
- Williamson, K. 1960. Moulting as a study in field taxonomy. *Bird Migration* 1: 171-175.

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RANGE EXTENSION FOR RED-HEADED MYZOMELA *ERYTHROCEPHALA*

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According to Beehler *et al.* (1986) the range of the Red-headed Myzomela is "...from coastal Trans-Fly eastwards to Port Moresby; Aru Is. Also Australia and some Indonesian Islands".

On 1 April 1988 at approximately 16:00 I was looking for birds in mangroves near the village of Domara, a little to the east of Cape Rodney, some 170 km south-east of Port Moresby. I saw a female Red-headed Myzomela at a range of about 15 m. It flew in the tree crowns for a few minutes before flying out of sight. A few seconds later the male bird appeared, giving me excellent views, before he also flew away. The area was semi-cleared, giving very good viewing conditions, and the lighting was excellent. Since both male and female were seen it is possible that breeding may occur in the area.

These sightings would seem to extend the known range of this species by at least 150 km to the south-east of Port Moresby. It would be of interest to know if the bird is represented continuously between Cape Rodney and Port Moresby, and whether it extends further east towards Milne Bay. Other records from the east of Port Moresby should be sent to the PNGBS.

Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press.

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WHITE-THROATED NIGHTJAR *EUROSTOPODUS* *MYSTACALIS* FIRST RECORD FOR THE PORT MORESBY AREA

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On 11 August 1987 several members of the PNGBS were looking for night-birds on the Pacific Adventist College campus, c. 10 km east of Port Moresby at c. 70 m. At 21:30 a large nightjar was seen perched on a bare branch. It was observed for about 15 minutes with the aid of a powerful spotlight from a distance of about 30 m. During this time it made three flights, returning to the same perch each time. It was larger than either of a pair of Large-tailed Nightjars *Capromulgus macrurus* which were seen at the same time. It showed no white markings either in the wing or on the underside of the tail. The undertail coverts and underside of the tail were quite strongly barred. A bird matching this description was seen in the same place on 3 September 1987. After consulting various reference books (Beehler *et al.* 1986; Coates 1985; Slater *et al.* 1986) this bird was identified as a White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mysticalis*. It was seen by nine observers, none of whom had had any previous experience of this species.

Six species of nightjar have been recorded in New Guinea and its satellite islands (Beehler *et al.* 1986). Of these, five were rejected for the following reasons. (1) The Large-tailed Nightjar is the common nightjar of the savanna around Port Moresby. In flight it shows distinct white markings in the wing and on the underside of the tail. (2) Two species, Jungle Nightjar *C. indicus* and Spotted Nightjar *E. argus* have yet to be recorded in PNG, although both are migrants, and could occur. Both show distinct white wing patches and the male Spotted Nightjar has white in the tail. (3) The two all-dark nightjars, both endemic to New Guinea, can be rejected by size and habitat. The Mountain Nightjar *E. archboldi* frequents montane rain forest and has not been recorded below 2000 m (Coates 1985). The Papuan Nightjar *E. papuensis* is found almost exclusively in lowland rain forest. Both are similar in size to the Large-tailed Nightjar.

A race of the White-throated Nightjar *E. m. mysticalis* is a migrant to PNG from its breeding grounds in eastern Australia. It has been recorded infrequently with sightings from Western Province through the highlands to the north coast, but this is the first sighting for south-east New Guinea. There has been one previous 'possible' record for the Port Moresby area when a nightjar showing small white wing patches and lacking white in the tail was flushed from the road near Brown River in August 1986 (Field Guides Inc, 1988). I suspect this species has been overlooked in the past and is not just a vagrant to the Port Moresby area.