

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

ROGER K. HICKS

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.

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

Coates, B.J. 1985. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea*. Vol 1. Dove Publications.  
Field Guides Inc. 1988. Field Guides Inc. tour of Papua New Guinea 1986. *Muruk* 3: 23-24.

Slater, P., P. Slater & R. Slater. 1986. *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Rigby.

Address: *clo N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, Waigani, P.N.G.*

## GURNEY'S EAGLE *AQUILA GURNEYI* IN THE HIGHLANDS

ROY D. MACKAY

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* is one of the rarer eagles of the world and is confined to the island of New Guinea and its satellite islands, Misool, Waigeo, Salawati, Aru, Yapen, Normanby and Goodenough. Beehler *et al.* (1986) state that it occurs at altitudes of up to 100 m (rarely 1500 m) and only 10 to 15 km inland from the coast.

Thus, it is worth recording the origin of a live bird now in the Baiyer River Sanctuary, Western Highlands Province. It was collected by a highlands boy near Banz, WHP at 1700 m on 31 January 1986. Banz is approximately 130 km inland from the north coast.

The boy was out hunting when he saw the bird on the ground feeding on a cuscus. The bird tried to get away but one hind claw was caught up in the skin of the carcass. The boy pounced on the bird, tied its legs and brought it in to Mount Hagen town to sell. It was purchased by the Sanctuary.

There are other records of this species in the highlands: C.B. Frith saw it at 2970 m in the Tari Gap area of the Southern Highlands Province (in Finch 1987), an even higher altitude, and Diamond (1985) notes it inland to the North Coastal Range. A further range extension into the Australian islands in the Torres Strait has also been reported (Garnett 1987).

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

Diamond, J.M. 1985. New distributional records and taxa from the outlying mountain ranges of New Guinea. *Emu* 85: 69.

Finch, B.W. 1987. *The Birds of Ambua & Tari District - A Trans Niugini Guide to the Birds in the Vicinity of Ambua Lodge*. 2nd Edition. Ambua Lodge, Mount Hagen.

Garnett, S. 1987. An Australian record of Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*. *Australian Birdwatcher* 12: 134-135.

Address: *CMB 16, Paluma via Townsville, Queensland 4816, Australia.*

## BREEDING RECORD OF RAGGIANA BIRD OF PARADISE, *PARADISAEA RAGGIANA*

HARRY SAKULAS

On 7 December 1987 a nest of a Raggiana Bird of Paradise was located 2-3 km north-east of old Wanduli village, near Wau, Morobe Province. The nest was built 4-5 m off the ground in a small *Castanopsis* tree, and it contained one white egg which was streaked with orange. The nest still contained one egg on 11 December, and on 14 and 15 December a female bird was sitting on the nest, but on 18 December the nest had been removed, presumably by local children.

These observations are recorded here as there are no breeding records of this species in PNGBS newsletters. Indeed there are few breeding records of any species of birds of paradise, and for some nothing at all is known of their nesting behaviour.

Forshaw and Cooper (1977) state that nesting in *P. raggiana* usually takes place between August and February. The number of eggs is one or two. The colour of the eggs and the height above the ground are also typical.

Forshaw, J.M. & W.T. Cooper. 1977. *The Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds*. William Collins. 304 pp.

Address: *Wau Ecology Institute, PO Box 77, Wau, Morobe.*

## NEST OF THE GARNET ROBIN

BARRY HOPKINS<sup>1</sup>, LYNDA HOPKINS<sup>1</sup> AND PETER STORER<sup>2</sup>

On 6 December 1987 the nest of a Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra* was discovered at Myola (Oro Province) at c. 2100 m. As far as we know the nest of this species is undescribed. It was situated below the forest canopy in a small tree at the junction of two 0.5 cm diameter branches, about 5 m from the ground. The nest was a small cup of moss, and other material which looked like cobwebs. It was about 3 cm high and 5 cm in diameter. Both sexes regularly visited the nest, the female appearing three times more frequently than the male. On 7 December only the female was observed, making six visits in 15 minutes (R. Hicks pers. comm.). On each occasion she perched over the nest with wings slightly spread and made bobbing movements into the nest cavity. We thought this was to shape the cup of the nest that was presumably still being built. Further observations were not possible as we left Myola later that day.

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