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GURNEY'S EAGLE *AQUILA GURNEYI* IN THE HIGHLANDS

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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).

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

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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

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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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