

ground at Kalola. The males are most active in the evening and early morning. The habitat is heavily disturbed and does not deserve too much time. Amongst the few other interesting species are Magnificent Riflebird, Magnificent Bird of Paradise, Red Myzomela, Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler and Grey-green Scrub-Wren.

List of birds seen in the Wasu area (w = Wasu, g = gap area, k = Kabwum area).

Great Frigatebird w, Lesser Frigatebird wg, Brown Booby w, Eastern Reef-Egret w, Black Kite wk, New Guinea Harpy-Eagle g, Brown Falcon gk, Eastern Golden Plover w, Whimbrel w, Common Tern w, Black-naped Tern w, Bridled Tern w, Crested Tern w, Brown Noddy w, Brown Cuckoo-Dove gk, Great Cuckoo-Dove g, Wompoo Fruit-Dove g, Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove k, Ornate Fruit-Dove gk, Rufescent Imperial Pigeon g, Zoe Imperial Pigeon k, Papuan Mountain Pigeon g, Dusky Lory gk, Rainbow Lorikeet k, Western Black-capped Lory gk, Papuan Lorikeet g, Yellow-billed Lorikeet g, Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot g, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot k, Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot g, Eclectus Parrot k, Vulturine Parrot g, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo k, Moustached Tree-Swift gk, Uniform Swiftlet w, Mountain Swiftlet gk, Glossy Swiftlet gk, Blue-tailed Bee-eater w, Dollarbird k, Pacific Swallow wgk, Grey Wagtail g, Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike g, Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike k, Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike k, Black-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike gk, Long-tailed Shrike g, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler k, Blue-capped Ifrita g, Island Leaf-Warbler g, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren gk, Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren g, Rusty Mouse-Warbler gk, Mountain Mouse-Warbler w, Large Scrub-Wren g, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren g, Grey-green Scrub-Wren gk, Fairy Gerygone k, Rufous-backed Fantail k, Dimorphic Fantail g, Black Fantail g, Friendly Fantail g, Willie Wagtail wk, Black Monarch, Black-winged Monarch k, Black-breasted Boatbill g, Canary Flycatcher g, Black-throated Robin g, Blue-grey Robin g, Mottled Whistler g, Regent Whistler g, Grey Whistler k, Brown-backed Whistler g, Little Shrike-Thrush gk, Hooded Pitohui gk, Black Pitohui g, Fan-tailed Berrypecker g, Spotted Berrypecker g, Tit Berrypecker g, Yellow-bellied Sunbird w, Black-fronted White-Eye k, Long-billed Honeyeater k, Slaty-chinned Longbill g, Red Myzomela k, Mountain Red-headed Myzomela g, Mountain Meliphaga g, Yellow-gaped Meliphaga g, Black-throated Honeyeater g, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater k, Marbled Honeyeater g, Meyer's Friarbird k, Rufous-backed Honeyeater g, Cinnamon-browed Melidectes g, Ornate Melidectes gk, Spangled Honeyeater g, Blue-faced Parrot-Finch g, Metallic Starling w, Yellow-faced Myna k, Brown Oriole k, Great Wood-Swallow gk, Hooded Butcherbird gk, Mountain Peltops gk, Macgregor's Bowerbird g, Crinkle-collared Manucode k, Magnificent Riflebird k, Huon Astrapia g, Superb Bird of Paradise g, Wahnes' Parotia g, Magnificent Bird of Paradise k, Emperor Bird of Paradise k, Grey Crow k.

Address:

BEYOND MYOLA

BY ROGER HICKS

Early on 16th October 1987 I was again on my way to Myola, only three weeks after my last visit. Then Mike Hopkins had reached 3150 m to the east of the village. Such was his enthusiasm for this high altitude forest that he had organised this trip in order to return as soon as possible. This time I, and five others, were going to accompany him. We arrived in Myola before 07:00 to be greeted by the now traditional coffee and toast. After breakfast, porters were hired to carry our bags to a campsite selected by Mike on his previous visit. We set off at about 08:30 on the first stage of our trek. The path climbed steeply most of the way and it took us about 4 hours to reach the tree fern forest at 2800 m (700 m higher than Myola). Towards the top of the ridge some flowering trees were attracting a variety of lorikeets, including Papuan, Little Red, Yellow-billed and Plum-faced. Nearby, and moving with contrasting slowness, we saw a male Brehm's Tiger-Parrot. The hunting trail we were following continued beyond the weird scenery of the tree fern forest but still climbed just as steeply. Orange-billed Lorikeets replaced Yellow-billed but there was much less bird activity during the afternoon or maybe I was just getting too tired to notice. Mike, Peter and Burk pushed on ahead, and by the time Bill and I reached the grassland, where Mike intended us to camp, they had already set up the tents. Our campsite was on a slight rise in the grassland, at 3150 m. Alpine Pipits were common, flying from the grass to perch on tree ferns while Island Thrushes and White-winged Robins were to be seen at the forest edge.

As the sun sank, the temperature dropped rapidly and we all opted for the warmth of our sleeping bags. When I woke there was ice on the tent and until the sun climbed above the surrounding peaks it was chilly. A pair of Eastern Alpine Mannikins and a small party of Mountain Firetails, which drew attention to themselves by their mewing calls were seen at the grassland edge near the camp. Belford's Melidectes and Crested Berrypecker were common in the forest. After breakfast, and a stand in the sun to warm up, Mike and Peter set off in an attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Kenevi (3400 m), while Helen and I went in search of birds in the forest nearer the campsite. Three Greater Ground Robins, intent on a dispute of their own, stopped less than 2 m from us. Upon realising we were there, one flew for about 2 m, never more than 10 cm from the ground. This may be the first time this species has been recorded flying. Before returning to the camp for lunch we added Lesser Melampitta and Blue-capped Ifrita to our list. For the latter, this is *c.* 300 m above the extreme upper limit given in Beehler *et al.*. After lunch we ventured to another part of the forest seeing a male Painted Tiger-Parrot climbing along moss covered branches, a very cryptic Rufous Woodcock foraging amongst the leaf-litter and a flock of *c.* 20 New Guinea Thornbills flitting through

the canopy. Chris went in search of the ground robins and dipped, but did see a male Crested Bird of Paradise, some consolation! Mike and Peter returned having not quite made it to the top of Mt. Kenevi but they did see Mountain Robin, a species that eluded the rest of us. We spent the evening chatting around the camp-fire while watching UFOs glide across the milky way. By the time we turned in there was a hard covering of ice on the tents.

After an early morning birding session around the camp that produced nothing new, we packed and headed back to Myola. Walking up had been hard work but going down was painful and although I was rewarded with a good look at a male Garnet Robin, shining in the sun, I was very pleased to wander into Myola at 16:00. A restful evening in the Myola guest house, with dinner cooked for us, was a nice way to round off the weekend.

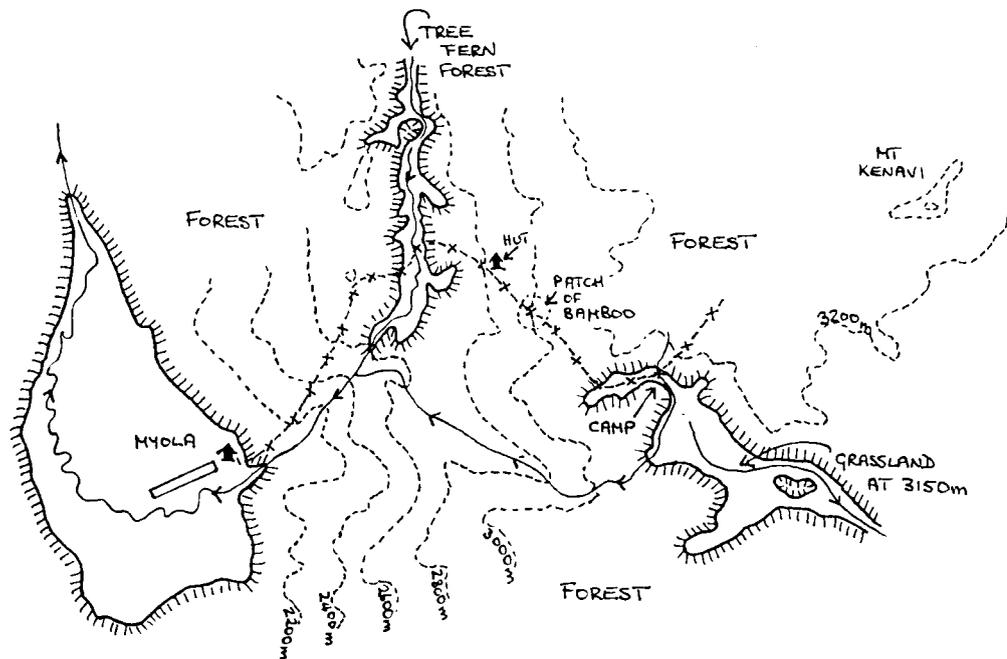
As always our thanks to Talair, Pacific Expeditions and especially the people of Myola. Thanks also to Mike for organising the venture. I enjoyed it and despite the distance walked, the lack of oxygen, the intense midday sun and freezing conditions at night; I think everyone else did too. Isn't that right, Chris? Bill?

People List: Bill Cooper, Chris Eastwood, Roger Hicks, Mike & Helen Hopkins, Peter Lambley and Burk Sharpless.

Species List

Brown Goshawk, Rufous Woodcock, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Goldie's Lorikeet, Little Red Lorikeet, Papuan Lorikeet, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Plum-faced Lorikeet, Orange-billed Lorikeet, Brehm's Tiger-Parrot, Painted Tiger-Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Alpine Pipit, Greater Ground Robin, Island Thrush, Spotted Jewel-Babbler, Lesser Melampitta, Blue-capped Ifrita, Tawny Grassbird, Mountain Mouse-Warbler, Large Scrub-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-wren, Papuan Scrub-Wren, New Guinea Thornbill, Dimorphic Fantail, Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-breasted Boatbill, Canary Flycatcher, Garnet Robin, Mountain Robin, White-winged Robin, Regent Whistler, Rufous-naped Whistler, Papuan Treecreeper, Black Sitella, Mid-mountain Berrypecker, Tit Berrypecker, Crested Berrypecker, Red-collared Myzomela, Black-throated Honeyeater, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Sooty Melidectes, Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Mountain Firetail, Eastern Alpine Manikin, Macgregor's Bowerbird, Crested Bird of Paradise, Brown Sicklebill, Stephanie's Astrapia.

Address: c/o N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, Waigani, P.N.G.



MYOLA IN DECEMBER

ROGER K. HICKS

The heat and humidity of pre-wet season Port Moresby was gladly swapped for the cooler, fresher air of Myola at 2080 m in the Owen Stanley Mountains. We landed at Myola shortly after 07:00 on Friday 4 December 1987. The birding began almost immediately with small parties of Goldie's Lorikeets flying overhead as they left their roost in the crowns of nearby *Pandanus* trees. Glossy Swiftlets and Tawny Grassbirds were soon added to the list, all these birds being new for Phil who had recently arrived from England for a bird-watching holiday.

Following the welcoming breakfast, the bird-watchers and the bush-walkers went their separate ways. The walkers stretched their legs in the direction of the crashed WW2 aircraft while the birders set the mist nets in the forest to the east of the village, using the same sites as in September 1987 (see *Muruk* 3:1). The first birds, a pair of Orange-crowned Fairy-Wrens, were in the net before we had even finished putting it up. Once up, the nets were left for a while and we bird-watched in the moss forest, seeing female Stephanie's *Astrapia* feeding in the canopy and a Papuan Treecreeper spiralling up tree trunks. We had caught several birds when we made