

our first round of the nets including three Olive Straightbills, two of which we had ringed the previous September, and a Tawny Grassbird.

Shortly after lunch it began raining and we were treated to heavy showers throughout the afternoon. This was the pattern throughout our stay with clear mornings and wet afternoons. This reduced our bird-watching and bird-catching time. The mist nets were furled during the heaviest rain and checked often while there were only light showers. Despite the rain we managed to see some good birds. Phil caught up with the elusive Spotted Jewel-Babbler, often heard but seldom seen, while Barry and Lynda glimpsed a Lesser Ground-Robin.

On Saturday the bush-walkers made a bog-stomp towards the Kokoda trail as low cloud had deterred them from trying to reach the tree fern forest. This was a wise choice because the rain came early. En route Peter saw a Lesser Melampitta hopping along the trail. The birders stayed around the village seeing Ashy Robin, Regent Whistler and Grey Wagtail and catching Large Scrub-Wren and Rufous-backed Honeyeater. A male Mottled Whistler, not previously recorded from Myola, was also caught.

On Sunday the bush-walkers, accompanied by Phil, but not by Peter, set off early in the hope of reaching the tree fern valley before the rain started. This they managed, even seeing Papuan Lorikeet and Painted Tiger-Parrot on the way, but they were soaked by the time they returned to the village. Meanwhile, the nets were going up and down regularly between the showers and catching few birds. The star of the weekend was the very last bird caught, a male Garnet Robin.

Once again we would like to thank the villagers of Myola for their hospitality, Pacific Expeditions through whom we organised the weekend, and Talair.

People list: bird-watchers: Roger & Jenny Hicks (+1/2), Barry & Lynda Hopkins, and Phil Whittington; Bush-walkers: Veronique Badoux, Dave Briggs, Peter & Andrea Storer.

Bird list: r = ringed, h = heard only

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (h), King Quail, Forbes' Forest-Rail, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Goldie's Lorikeet, Painted Tiger-Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Sooty Owl (h), Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Pacific Swallow, Pied Chat, Lesser Ground-Robin, Island Thrush, Spotted Jewel-Babbler, Blue-capped Ifrita, Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren (r), Tawny Grassbird (r), Mountain Mouse-Warbler, Large Scrub-Wren (r), Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, Papuan Scrub-Wren (r), New Guinea Thornbill, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Dimorphic Fantail, Black Fantail (r), Friendly Fantail, Black Monarch (h), Black-breasted Boatbill, Canary Flycatcher, Garnet Robin (r), Ashy Robin (r), Mottled Whistler (r), Regent Whistler (r), Rufous-naped Whistler (r), Papuan Treecreeper, Fan-tailed Berrypecker (r), Olive Straightbill (r), Rufous-backed Honeyeater (r), Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater (r), Grey-headed Mannikin, Loria's Bird of Paradise, Stephanie's Astrapia.

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

RECENT OBSERVATIONS JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER K. HICKS.

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Chris Eastwood (CE); Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS); Roger Hicks (RH); Helen Hopkins (HFH); Mike Hopkins (MH); Peter Lambley (PL); Joan Oliver (JO); Richard Schodde (RS); Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; ENB = East New Britain Province; i = Island or Isle; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NIP = New Ireland Province; NP = National Park; PAC = Pacific Adventist College, 14-Mile, Port Moresby; R = river; SP = settling ponds; Wes = Western Province; WHP = Western Highlands Province.

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| Lesser Frigatebird | <i>Fregata ariel</i> |
| 16 Aug, 27 over Hisiu beach (RH); 1 Sep, 1 male, over Paga Hill, the first seen over Port Moresby for several months (RH). | |
| Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| 24 Jul, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS). | |
| Pied Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> |
| 26 Jul, FIRST RECORD FOR PNG, 1, Moitaka SP (RS <i>et al.</i>); still present 28 Jul (IB & RGS). | |
| Darter | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> |
| 18 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS). | |
| Red-footed Booby | <i>Sula sula</i> |
| 12 Sep, 4, Yule I, Cen (RGS). | |
| Brown Booby | <i>Sula leucogaster</i> |
| 12 Sep, 1, Gaire No. 2, Cen (RH). | |
| Cattle Egret | <i>Egretta ibis</i> |
| 16 Aug, 24, Kanosia Lagoon (RH). | |
| White-faced Heron | <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i> |
| 12 Jul, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 1 Aug, 1, Laloki gallery forest (RGS). | |
| Eastern Reef-Egret | <i>Egretta sacra</i> |
| 16 Aug, 3 dark phase birds, Hisiu beach (RH). | |
| Striated Heron | <i>Ardeola striata</i> |
| 5 Jul, 1, Idlers Bay (RGS). | |
| Black Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> |
| Regularly recorded at the Oxbow: 4 Jul, 12 Jul & 19 Sep, (RH). | |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> |
| 16 Aug, c. 30 Hisiu Lagoon (RH); 6 Sep, 3, Lake Iaraguma (RH). | |
| Sacred Ibis | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> |
| 12 Jul, 5, Lower Vanapa (HFH & MH); 6 Sep, 12, Lake Iaraguma (RH). | |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> |
| 13 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS). | |
| Crested Hawk | <i>Aviceda subcristata</i> |
| 25 Aug, 2, Kuriva R (RGS). | |

Long-tailed Buzzard	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>
11 Jul, 1, Surinumu (RGS); 23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (RH); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).	
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
20 Jul, 1, nr Nadzab, Mor (RH).	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
19 Jul, 16 counted between Nadzab & Lae in mid-morning (RH); 18 Aug, 30, nr Lae, Mor (RGS).	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
2 Jul, 1 juv., Moitaka SP (RH, RGS <i>et al.</i>); 24 Sep, 2 ads, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Spotted Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
16 Jul, 1 dark phase female, Moitaka SP (RGS); 19 Jul, 1 light phase female, Hiritano Highway (RGS); 16 Aug, 1 male, Kanosia & 1 sub-ad male Hisiu Lagoon (RH).	
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
11 Jul, 1, Surinumu (RGS).	
Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>
11 Aug, 1, Ruti (RGS); 12 Aug, 1 Kundiawa, EHP (RGS); 16 Aug, 1, upper Goldie R road (RGS); 30 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH); 3 Sep, 1, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).	
Doria's Hawk	<i>Megatriorchis doriae</i>
1 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (RH, IB & JO); 19 Sep, Pair, Veimauri logging tracks. Distinct size difference between the two birds (RH, CE <i>et al.</i>).	
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>
23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB <i>et al.</i>).	
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS); 1, Patikalana Cen (RGS).	
Australian Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
8 Jul, 1 female, Paga Hill (RH); 16 Aug, 1 male, Aroa grasslands (RH).	
Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>
17 Jul, 1, Lae town centre, Mor (IB, RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
16 Jul, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 1 Aug, 1, Erima (RGS); 3 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS); 6 Sep, 1, Lea Lea salt pans, catching dragonflies and feeding on them in flight (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
11 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	
White-headed Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>
3 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS); 6 Sep, 1, Lake Iaraguma (RH); 24 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS & RH).	
Australian White-eyed Duck	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Four at Moitaka SP 18 Sep, and 2 on 24 Sep (RH & RGS).	
Common Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>
4 Jul, 1, lower Vanapa (RH); 24 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB); 2 Sep, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).	
Black-billed Brush-Turkey	<i>Talegalla fuscirostris</i>
25 & 26 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).	
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix australis</i>
26 Jul, 1, Boera (RGS).	
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Rallus philippensis</i>
24 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
White-headed Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP generally decreasing from c. 70 at the start of July to c. 20 at the end of September.	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, some still showing traces of bp, Hisiu Beach (RH).	

Eastern Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
5 Jul, 46 on Rabaul airfield, ENB (IB); 18 Sep, first returning migrants in Port Moresby area, some in bp (RH).	
Mongolian Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, Hisiu beach (RH); 30 Aug, 6, Hula (RGS); 19 Sep, 13, Kankas (RGS).	
Large Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, 9, Hisiu beach (RH); 12 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS).	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
16 Aug, 8, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
18 Sep, first returning migrant, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, 10, some in bp, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
16 Jul, first returning migrant, 1, Moitaka SP. No June records (RH).	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
6 Sep, first returning migrant, 1, Lea Lea salt pans (RH).	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
18 Sep, first returning migrants, 2, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
3 Sep, first returning migrants, 2, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
6 Sep, first returning migrants, Lea Lea beach (RH).	
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, 11, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP increasing throughout this period, proportion of birds in bp similarly increasing. 30 Jul, 61 (RH); 18 Sep, c. 100, most in full bp (RH); 6 Sep, 1 in full bp, Lake Iaraguma (RH).	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
17 Jul, first returning migrant, Lae, Mor (RH).	
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
13 Sep, 10, Yule I, Cen (RGS).	
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
7 Jul, 1 found at Daru, Wes, had been ringed (banded) nr Whale-Skate I in the Hawaiian Islands (PL).	
Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>
19 Jul, 4, Yule I, Cen (RGS); 13 Sep, 40, Yule I, Cen (RGS).	
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>
24 Jul, 3, Goldie R road (IB); 16 Aug, 1, nr Mariboi (RH); 16 Sep, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).	
Emerald Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
24 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Stephan's Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>
23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB).	
New-Guinea Bronzewing	<i>Henicophaps albifrons</i>
Veimauri logging tracks: 26 Aug, 1 (RGS); 13 Sep, pair (NW); 16 Sep, 1 (CE).	
Cinnamon Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba rufigula</i>
23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB).	

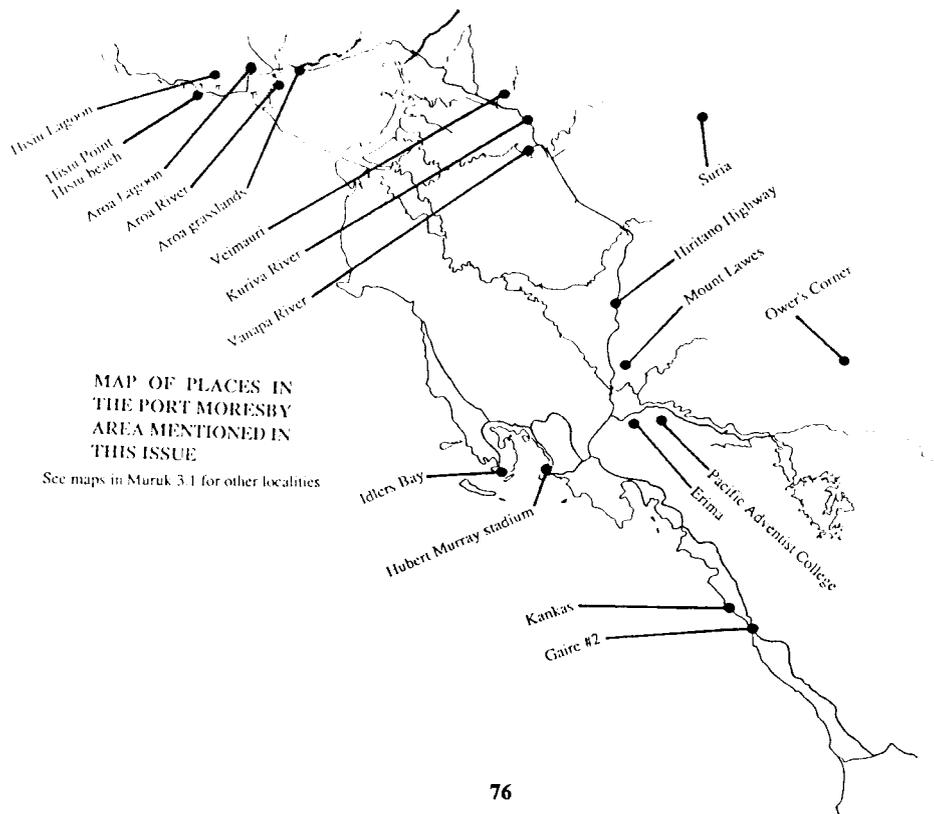
- Thick-billed Ground-Pigeon *Trugon terrestris*
Veimaui logging tracks: 26 Aug, 1 (RGS); 16 Sep, 1 (RH); 19 Sep, pair (CE).
- Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis*
23 Jul, 1 Goldie R road (RH) 26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*
16 Aug, 3, Goldie R road (RGS); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
19 Jul, 2, Yule I, Cen (RGS); 12 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS).
- Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*
13 Sep, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*
26 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Zoe Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*
18 Jul, pair nest building, Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (RH *et al.*); 16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS); 30 Aug, 1 carrying nesting material, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*
4 Jul, 23 in one tree, Lower Vanapa (RH); 5 Jul, 2, Roku (RGS); 12 Jul, c. 40, Lower Vanapa (RH); 15 Aug, Varirata NP (CE); 12 Sep, 1 Aroa R (RGS).
- Cardinal Lory *Chalcopsitta cardinalis*
9 Jul, c. 10, Masahet I, NIP (IB).
- Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*
30 Aug, pair nesting in base of large epiphytic fern, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Little Red Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*
19 Jul, 6, Boana, Mor (IB *et al.*).
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
12 Sep, 1, Korobosea, probably an escape (NW).
- Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta gulielmiterti*
25 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*
6 Sep, pair nesting in hollow eucalypt, Lake Iaraguma (RH).
- Vulturine Parrot *Psitturichas fulgidus*
18 Jul, 2, Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (RH, IB *et al.*). For many the highlight of the RAOU congress weekend.
- Papuan King-Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus*
25 - 26 Aug, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
2 Aug, 1, in garden, UPNG (IB).
- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
24 Jul, 1, in fruiting tree, Goldie R road (IB).
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
16 Aug, 1, sago patch, Hiritano Highway (IB).
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
4 Jul, 1, Lower Vanapa (RH); 18 Jul, 2, nr Lae, Mor (IB); 1 Aug, 2, King Bird tree (RH); 8 Aug, 1, King Bird tree; 26 Aug, 24, Patikalana, Cen (RGS).
- Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*
4 Jul, pair, Lower Vanapa (RH); 23 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (CE).

- Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
25 Jul, 1, dead on road nr Mt Lawes (RH); 11 Aug, 3, PAC (RH); 13 Aug, 4+, PAC (RH, IB *et al.*).
- Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*
23 Aug, pair, King Bird tree (BC, RH *et al.*).
- Barred Owllet-Nightjar *Aegotheles bennetti*
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*
11 Aug, 1, PAC, possibly a first record for the Port Moresby area (RH) (see p. 55).
- Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
11 Aug, 2, on ploughed land, PAC (RH); 13 Aug, c. 12, PAC (RH, IB *et al.*); 12 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS).
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
9 Jul, 2, Masahet I, NIP (IB); 16 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS); 19 Sep, pair, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*
1 Aug, 5, King Bird tree (IB); 16 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS); 26 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Australian Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
16 Sep, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*
25 Aug, 4, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*
1 Aug, 1, netted at King Bird tree (IB); 13 Sep, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (NW).
- Little Kingfisher *Alcedo pusilla*
16 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
18 Jul, pair, flying over Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (IB).
- Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
18 Jul, heard along Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (IB).
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*
28 Jul, 2, Boera (RGS).
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
One pair nesting, Pacific View Apartments, Korobosea, late Aug - Sep (NW).
- Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
2 Jul, c. 40, Moitaka SP (RGS); 28 Jul, c. 20 Moitaka SP (RH); 9 Sep, 2, Sogeri (RGS).
- Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
11 Aug, 4, Ruti, WHP (RGS); 13 Aug, 1, Minj, WHP (RGS).
- Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
25 Aug, 3, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Black Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaena*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina morio*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS); 26 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Golden Cuckoo-Shrike *Campochaera sloetii*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).

- Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
22 Aug, 1, nr Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).
- Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata*
1 Aug, Laloki; 10 Aug, 1, Mt Hagen, WHP; 11 Aug, 4, Ruti, WHP; 12 Aug, 2, Kundiawa, EHP; 22 - 23 Aug, 6 singing males, Mt Hagen WHP (all obs RGS).
- Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
26 Aug, 2, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Rufous Babbler *Pomatostomus isidorei*
1 Aug, King Bird tree (JO); regularly recorded at Veimauri logging tracks: 26 Aug, 2 (RGS); 16 Sep (RH *et al.*); 19 Sep, 5 or 6 (RII *et al.*).
- Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*
22 - 23 Aug, grasslands above Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).
- Emperor Fairy-Wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
25 Aug, 4, Kuriva (RGS).
- Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronotus*
25 Aug, 2, Kuriva R, & 2, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS); 3 Sep, 1, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).
- Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*
21 Jul, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Sooty Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax*
1 Aug, 1 netted at the King Bird tree bearing a very old ring. 9 Aug, same bird caught again. Originally ringed in the same area on 24 Aug 1975 by L.W.C. Filewood, and is at least 12 years old (IB *et al.*).
- Black Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura maculipectus*
9 Aug, 1 netted at the King Bird tree (IB *et al.*).
- White-bellied Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*
9 Aug, 1 netted King Bird tree (IB *et al.*). (All three species of thicket-fantail were caught and ringed on 9 Aug).
- Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road; 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R; 26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (all obs RGS).
- Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*
26 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Friilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*
26 Aug, 6, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*
16 Aug, 2 males & 1 female, Hisiu mangroves (IB).
- Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana*
23 Jul, pair, Goldie R (RII); 16 Aug, 4, Goldie R (RGS).
- Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*
6 Sep, pair nr Lake Iaraguma (RH).
- Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*
9 Aug, 3, Sogeri (RGS).
- Olive Flycatcher *Microeca flavirescens*
25 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks; 26 Aug, 4, Veimauri logging tracks; 3 Sep, 1, Laloki/Goldie R (all obs RGS).
- Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*
25 Sep, Myola, Oro (JO).

- Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
26 Aug, 1 Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Banded Yellow Robin *Poecilodryas placens*
Recorded regularly at the recently discovered Veimauri logging tracks site. Most often found along the relatively steep-sided stream valleys: 26 Aug, 4 (RGS); 13 Sep, 1, possibly 2 (NW); 16 Sep, several pairs (RH *et al.*); 19 Sep, several pairs (RII).
- Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliosus*
9 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (RH); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*
11 Aug, 1, Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).
- Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*
16 Aug, 1, female, Hisiu mangroves (RII).
- Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*
3 Sep, 4, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).
- Crested Pitohui *Pitohui cristatus*
For a change several observations of this usually "often heard - seldom seen" bird and from several localities: 31 Jul, 1, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 1 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (IB); 9 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (IB & CE); 13 Sep, pair, Veimauri logging tracks (NW); 16 Sep, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Tawny Straightbill *Timeliopsis griseigula*
23 Aug, pair, King Bird tree (RH).
- Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*
31 Jul, 1, netted, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).
- Slaty-chinned Longbill *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*
31 Jul, 1, netted, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 20 Sep, Varirata NP (CE).
- Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Red-throated Myzomela *Myzomela eques*
15 Aug and 13 Sep, 1 male, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH); 13 Sep, few in flowering tree, Veimauri logging tracks (NW & CE).
- Red Myzomela *Myzomela cruentata*
26 Jul, Varirata NP (CE).
- Yellow-gaped Meliphaga *Meliphaga flavirictus*
1 Aug, 1 trapped, King Bird tree (IB); 26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RII).
- Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*
5 Jul & 8 Aug, Roku, Cen, (RGS).
- Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*
13 Sep, 1, in flowering tree, Veimauri logging tracks (NW); 16 Sep, 1, feeding in *Albizzia* tree, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*
12 Jul, pair, Lower Vanapa (RH); 13 Sep, 1, in flowering tree, Veimauri logging tracks (NW); 19 Sep, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*
19 - 20 Jul, 1, Nadzab, Mor (IB, RH *et al.*).
- Streak-headed Mannikin *Lonchura tristissima*
18 Jul, flock c. 20 Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (RH *et al.*); 16 Aug, 4, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Grand Mannikin *Lonchura grandis*
11 Jul, 4, Surinumu (RGS).

- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*
12 Jul, 3, Surinumu (RGS).
- White-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus buccoides*
31 Jul, 2, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 15 Aug, pair, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH); 26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS); 13 Sep, 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH); 13 Sep, 3, feeding on berries, Veimaui logging tracks (NW & CE).
- Macgregor's Bowerbird *Amblyornis macgregoriae*
27 Sep, 1 female netted and ringed & 1 male seen, Myola, Oro (RII).
- Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*
12 Jul, 1 male, Lower Vanapa (RH).
- King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*
23 Aug, 1 male, King Bird tree; 26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS); 30 Sep, several males & females in one area, Veimaui logging tracks (RH *et al.*).
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*
19 Jul, 1 male in bp, Boana, Mor (RH *et al.*); 2 Aug, Varirata NP (CE).
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*
4 Jul, female carrying nesting material, Lower Vanapa (RH).
- Emperor Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea guilielmi*
19 Jul, 1 male in full bp & 3 - 5 females Boana, Mor (RH *et al.*).
- Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*
4 Jul, c. 30, Lower Vanapa (RH); 12 Jul, 1, Lower Vanapa (RH).



RECENT OBSERVATIONS OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

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Abbreviations : ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NP = National Park; PAC = Pacific Adventist College, 14-mile, Port Moresby; R = river; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; Wes = Western Province; WHP = Western Highlands Province; WNB = West New Britain.

- Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*
23 Dec, 1, Kimbe Bay, WNB (RH & PW)
- Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*
22 Nov, 1 male, over Hisiu beach (RH); 16 Dec, c. 3 with each flock of Lesser Frigatebirds, over Paga Hill (see below) (RII).
- Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*
22 Nov, Hisiu Beach (RH); 16 Dec, 2 flocks, each c. 50 birds heading NW over Paga Hill at 17:45 (RH).
- Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
10 Oct, 1, at c. 760 m, Naoro, Cen (NW).
- Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
3 Dec, 4, Aroa Lagoon (NW).
- Cattle Egret *Egretta ibis*
26 Nov, 23, 2 in bp, Moitaka SP (RII); 18 Dec, 3, 1 in bp, Ilimo Farm (RII); 19 Dec, 5, 2 in bp, Kanosia Lagoon (now dry) (RII).
- White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*
19 Dec, 1, Hisiu Lagoon (RII).
- Eastern Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra*
23 Dec, 2 dark phase & 1 light phase on Restorff I, WNB (RH & PW).
- Striated Heron *Ardeola striata*
2 Dec, 1, Bootless Bay (RII & PW).
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
Usual records from the Oxbow: 2 Oct & 19 Dec (RII).
- Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
1 Nov, 5, flying over Moitaka SP (RH); 22 Nov, 1, Aroa Lagoon (RII); 3 Dec, c. 14 Aroa Lagoon (NW); 19 Dec, 1, Hisiu Lagoon (RH).
- Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
17 Oct, 8, over Brown R (IB).
- Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*
3 Dec, c. 10 Aroa Lagoon & 3 at the Oxbow (NW & PW).