

EDITORIAL

Once again a MURUK editorial has to start with apologies for the late appearance of this issue. This has largely been my fault as I did not realise quite how much work was involved, but has been compounded by that staple editor's excuse - the computer. Here is issue 4.1, I hope you find the wait was worthwhile. In producing this issue I have received a great deal of help from the previous editor, Mike Hopkins and my wife Jenny. I cannot thank either of them enough.

I hope issues 4.2 and 4.3 will follow in quick succession. These issues will each have a theme. In 4.2 most papers/notes will be on bird behaviour and 4.3 will concentrate on the birds of the Port Moresby area.

We always require more articles, whether a scientific study or interesting one-off observations. Examples of the latter are short accounts of areas visited in PNG, in the style of the Gregory-Smiths' "Wallai Island" note in this MURUK or amendments/additions to Beehler *et al*, like Tolhurst's Splendid *Astrapia* note. The displays and nesting behaviour of many species are unknown, so notes on these would be particularly welcome. (I would like to produce an issue of MURUK devoted to breeding behaviour one day). Even if you feel unable to submit a note or paper, please send in your "recent observations". Visitors, as well as residents can contribute as so relatively little is known of PNG's birds. Please, please write.

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The cover of this MURUK, showing a Dwarf Cassowary was drawn by Gideon Anton.

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PORT MORESBY RINGING REPORT 1986 - 1987

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After an absence of about ten years, bird-ringing, or banding, was re-established in the Port Moresby area in October 1986. Permits are required from both the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS). The ANPWS administer the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes (ABBBS) and it is their rings we use. As far as we know there has been no bird-ringing in the Port Moresby area since 1977, when the late Harry Bell was working at Brown River (Bell 1982), close to one of the sites we now use. Indeed there have been few licensed bird ringers working in PNG in recent years, other than professional ornithologists who have been active near Tari, Southern Highlands Province, and Wau, Morobe Province. A summary of our ringing activities in the Port Moresby area between October 1986 and December 1987 is presented below.

Ringing Sites.

A wide range of ringing sites, from small offshore islets to high altitude (3000+ m) forests have been tried over these 15 months. Location details and a brief descriptions of each site are given below. The numbers after each site name refer to the following :

- PNG 1:100000 topographic survey map sheet number;
- eight figure map reference;
- number of birds trapped at that site (excluding retraps);
- number of species trapped at that site;
- number of days on which ringing was carried out at that site.

a) Brown River (8379, EK213857, 49, 25, 6)

This ringing site lies north of the Hiritano Highway, c. 5 km beyond the Brown River bridge and c. 40 km from Port Moresby. Recent logging activities (early 1987) in this area have created numerous trails along which we have set mist nets. This area has been logged on at least two occasions in the previous 30 years and is a mixture of dense secondary growth and rain forest. Approximately 150 species of birds have been recorded here in the past three years and many records from this area have been published in PNGBS newsletters and Muruk.