

- Torrent-Lark** *Grallina bruijni*
One on the river in the same area as Torrent Flycatchers. At one time the lark and a flycatcher were perched on the same rock.
- Hooded Butcherbird** *Cracticus cassicus*
A family of four or five birds lived on the forested slope above Dorobisoro.
- Crinkle-collared Manucode** *Manucodia chalybata*
One or two birds on the edge of disturbed forest.
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea raggiana*
Seemingly the only common bird in the area. At times abundant.

Address: c/o Price Waterhouse, P.O. Box 921, Port Moresby, N.C.D.

EXTENSION OF THE KNOWN RANGE OF SPLENDID ASTRAPIA ASTRAPIA SPLENDISSIMA

LEN TOLHURST

On 25 and 26 March 1989 a female Splendid *Astrapia Astrapia splendissima* was seen near the bailey bridge, above Ambua Lodge, Tari Gap, Southern Highlands Province. It flew away from me, at a distance of about 25 m when first seen. The tail-feathers were bi-coloured, white near the base and brown towards the end. The line of demarcation between the two colours was about half-way down the length of the tail. The white on the base of the tail covered the full width of the tail feathers, hence ruling out confusion with female Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia A. mayeri*. A male Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia* was seen in the same area.

These sightings were at c. 3600 m, only a little above Splendid *Astrapias*' upper altitudinal limit (Beehler *et al.* 1986). However, the Tari Gap is c. 150 km east of the Victor Emmanuel ange, the known eastern limit of this species. It is no doubt still true that the "Eastern limit of range unknown". However, these sightings do extend the known range to at least the Tari Gap area. Visitors to Ambua Lodge and the Tari Gap should carefully check all *astrapias*.

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

Address: c/o Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko.

BIRD NOTES FROM WALLAI ISLAND

RICHARD GREGORY-SMITH AND JUDYTH GREGORY-SMITH

Wallai Island, waterless and uninhabited, is situated about 6 km south of Kupiano in the Central Province of Papua New Guinea. We visited the island on 17 - 18 December 1988. The crossing from Kupiano takes one or two hours by outboard canoe, depending on wind and tide, and should not be attempted unless the sea is reasonably calm.

The island is a typical coral cay, c. 600 m in diameter with maritime forest in the centre, fringed with white coral sand and encircled by a reef with few passages.

Wallai Island is the site of a colony of Black Noddies *Anous minutus*. Up to a thousand were sighted at a time. They roosted in the forest but there was no current evidence of nesting. The noddies were accompanied on their fishing expeditions by Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* and Brown Noddies *Anous stolidus*.

At least one Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga* inhabits the island. It was seen perched on dead branches from which it occasionally flew down to settle on the beach, where Hermit Crabs were the only food source in evidence. The kingfisher is a large strikingly white bird with green back and blue wings and tail. Its call is loud, instantly recognisable as a kingfisher, but reedy rather than full throated. Beehler *et al.* (1986) state that the sole record for the south coast of PNG is from Kupiano.

The island is frequented by Pied Imperial Pigeons *Ducula bicolor*. Six were seen coming into roost in the higher trees. There were also about 20 Varied Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus versicolor*, easily located by their melodious song. The race here has brown wings and back, touched with olive, and a black facial mask.

Species List: Lesser Frigatebird 5, Brown Booby 10, Eastern Reef-Egret (grey phase) 1, Ruddy Turnstone 1, Grey-tailed Tattler 1, Common Sandpiper 2, Black Noddy 1000, Brown Noddy 20, Crested Tern 1, Pied Imperial Pigeon 6, Beach Kingfisher 1, Varied Honeyeater 20.

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

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