



RECENT OBSERVATIONS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988

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; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; R = River; Rd = Road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus.

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| Dwarf Cassowary | <i>Casuarius bennetti</i> |
| 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (IB). | |
| Australian Pelican | <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i> |
| 9 Oct, 15+, L Iaraguma (CE, NW). | |
| Cattle Egret | <i>Egretta ibis</i> |
| 1 Dec, several in breeding plumage, Goldie River Barracks (NW); 24 Dec, 13, Kanosia, all in breeding plumage (RH). | |
| Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> |
| 13 Oct, 11, Moitaka SP (IB). | |
| Eastern Reef-Egret | <i>Egretta sacra</i> |
| 26 Dec, 2, white phase birds, Yule I (RGS). | |
| Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> |
| 29 Dec, 1 heard, Moitaka SP (RH). | |
| Black Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> |
| 1 Oct & 20 Nov, 2, Oxbow (CE); 15 Nov (RGS), 8 Dec (RH) & 12 Dec (RGS), 1, Moitaka SP. | |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> |
| 9 Oct, 1, L Iaraguma (CE). | |
| Royal Spoonbill | <i>Platalearegia</i> |
| 9 Oct, 6, L Iaraguma (CE); 22 Oct, 15, nr Magarida, Cen (IB). | |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> |
| 22 Oct, 1, Magarida, Cen (IB). | |
| Crested Hawk | <i>Aviceda subcristata</i> |
| 16 Oct, 1 engaged in spectacular aerial display of rising sharply and plunging down again, Markham - Labu Rd, Mor (GS); 10 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS). | |

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- Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*
31 Dec, 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH).
- Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*
24 Dec, 1, King Bird Tree (CE).
- Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
1 Oct, 1, Mt. Gahavisuka, EHP (IB); 2 Oct, 3, Goroka airport, EHP (IB).
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
6 Oct, 1 ad, Moitaka SP (IB); 8 Dec, 1 sub-ad, Moitaka SP (RH, RGS).
- Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*
20 Oct, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
10 Dec, 1 white phase, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*
2 Oct, 1 perched, Gawam Rd, Mor (GS); 27 Dec, 1, King Bird Tree (BC).
- New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
28 Oct, 1, Lake Omha, Oro (BC); 6 Nov, 1, Madilogo (IB & CB).
- Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*
19 Nov, 1 imm., Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP (CE).
- Little Eagle *Hieraetus morphnoides*
31 Oct, 1, nr Gogol R, Mad (GS).
- Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*
10 Oct, 1, Nadzab, Mor. (RGS); 16 Oct, 2, Myola, Oro (IB); 27 Dec, 1, Yule I (RGS).
- Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*
12 Dec, 1, UPNG (IB).
- Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*
1 Oct, Oxbow (CE).
- Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiuiensis*
28 Oct, 2 ad & 4 ducklings, Lake Omha, Oro (BC).
- Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*
29 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).
- Garganey *Anas querquedula*
All records from Moitaka SP; 8 Dec, 2 females (RH); 22 Dec, 2 (RGS); 29 Dec, 5 (RGS, RH).
- Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*
20 & 21 Nov, 2 & 1, nr Laua village, Cen (IB).
- Bare-eyed Rail *Eulabeornis plumbeiventris*
23 Oct, 2+, King Bird Tree (CE).
- Forbes' Forest-Rail *Rallinaforbesi*
15 Oct, 1, Myola, Oro (IB).
- Red-necked Rail *Rallinatricolor*
23 Oct, 1 bathing in a puddle, King Bird Tree (CE); 27 Dec, 1, King Bird Tree (CE, BC).
- Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*
6 Oct, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 12 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).
- Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*
31 Oct, several feeding with cattle in the Markham Valley, Mor (GS).
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
15 Oct, 21, Hisiu Beach (NW).
- Eastern Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
2 Oct, c. 20, Goroka airport, EHP (IB); 15 Oct, 3, Hisiu Beach (NW). Present on UPNG playing fields throughout this period with numbers peaking at 77 on 4 Nov and c. 80 on 2 Dec (IB).
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
24 Nov, 1, Arau village, Cen (IB).
- Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
8 Oct, 2, Moitaka SP (IB); 12 Nov, 1 (and 1 dead), Moitaka SP (IB); 19 Nov, 7, Kankas (RGS); 4 Dec, 1, Kankas (RGS).
- Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
26 Dec, 1, Yule I (RGS).
- Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*
One adult present on UPNG playing fields 26 Oct - 26 Nov, joined by an immature from 7 - 15 Nov (IB *et al.*).
- Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
15 Oct, 5, Hisiu Beach (NW); 24 Dec, 2, Hisiu Beach (RH); 26 Dec, 5, Yule I (RGS).
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
15 Oct, 21, Hisiu Beach (NW).
- Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*
19 Oct, 12+, Jackson's airport (CE); 22 Oct, 1, Magarida airstrip, Cen (IB); 29 Oct, 2, UPNG playing fields (IB); 31 Oct, 1, UPNG playing fields (IB); 6 Nov, 7, Jackson's airport (IB); 7 Nov, 16, UPNG playing fields (IB); 8 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 12 Nov, 4, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
15 Oct, 4, Hisiu Beach (NW).
- Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*
15 Oct, 1, Hisiu Beach (NW).
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
One or two at Moitaka SP from 13 Oct to 10 Nov (IB).
- Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
15 Oct, 18, Hisiu Beach (NW).
- Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
15 Oct, 1, Hisiu Beach (NW); 12 Nov & 15 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 24 Dec, 1, Yule I (RGS). Fewer records than previous years.
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Present at Moitaka SP from 13 Oct to 15 Nov, with a maximum of 4 on 20 Oct (IB, RGS); Juvs present on 29 & 31 Oct (IB); 22 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).
- Terek Sandpiper *Tringaterk*
24 Dec, 1, Hisiu Beach (RH).
- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*
6 Oct, 3, Moitaka SP, first of southward migration (RGS).
- Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*
6 Oct - 29 Nov, 1 - 4, Moitaka SP, probably this species (IB).
- Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*
1 at Moitaka SP from 8 - 12 Nov (IB *et al.*). Only the third record of this species in PNG.
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Present at Moitaka SP throughout this period, peaking at 32 on 12 Nov (IB).
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
15 Oct, 4, Hisiu Beach (NW).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
15 Oct, 8, Hisiu Beach (NW). Present at Moitaka SP throughout this period, peaking at 170 on 31 Nov (IB); 8 trapped, 15 Nov (IB).	
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
20 Oct, 2; 27 Oct, 2; 29 Oct, 1; 31 Oct, 2; 3 Nov, 1; all at Moitaka SP (IB).	
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
15 Oct, c. 157, Hisiu Beach (NW). Present at Moitaka SP throughout this period with a maximum of 11, 18 Nov (IB <i>et al.</i>). Numbers lower than recent years?	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Present at Moitaka SP from 8 Nov - 8 Dec (IB <i>et al.</i>) with a maximum of 3 on 8 Dec (RH); 2 trapped on 15 Nov (IB),	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP decreasing from c. 100 on 6 Oct to 2 on 15 Nov (IB).	
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
13 - 29 Oct, 1; 3 Nov, 2, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nitotica</i>
6 Oct, 5, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
8 Oct, 1, outer reef nr Port Moresby (RGS).	
Emerald Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
11 Dec, 1, Motupore I (IB).	
Stephan's Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>
23 Oct, 1, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Cinnamon Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba rufigula</i>
6 Nov, 1, Koiari Rd (IB).	
Bronze Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba beccarii</i>
15 Oct, 1, trapped, Myola, Oro (IB).	
Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus aurantiifrons</i>
2 Oct, 4, Yule I (RGS); 26 Dec, 20, Yule I (RGS).	
Superb Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>
30 Oct, 1 male, Varirata NP (CE); 19 Nov, 1 male and female, Varirata NP (CE).	
Coroneted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus coronulatus</i>
1 Oct, 5+, feeding in a fruiting tree, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Beautiful Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus pulchellus</i>
22 Nov, 3, nr Laua Village, Cen (IB).	
Dwarf Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus nanus</i>
1 Oct, 20+, feeding in fruiting tree, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula rufigaster</i>
1 Oct, 1, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>
1 Oct, 1, Aroa (RGS); 13 Dec, 3, UPNG (IB); 24 Dec, 1, Aroa (RGS).	
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>
10 Dec, 16, Varirata NP (RGS).	
Dusky Lory	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i>
20 Nov, 2+, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Western Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius lory</i>
10 Dec, 3, Varirata NP (RGS).	

Pygmy Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna wilhelminae</i>
15 Oct, 3, Myola, Oro (IB); 6 Nov, Madilogo (IB). First two records of this species for a while.	
Little Red Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna pulchella</i>
6 Nov, c. 30, Madilogo (IB).	
Papuan Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna papou</i>
15 Oct, 4, Myola, Oro (IB).	
Plum-faced Lorikeet	<i>Oreopsittacus arfaki</i>
16 Oct, 1 & 17 Oct, 3, Myola, Oro (IB).	
Orange-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus pullicauda</i>
16 Oct, 5, Myola, Oro (IB).	
Palm Cockatoo	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>
21 Nov, 3, Laua village, Cen (IB).	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
16 Oct, several groups of 2 - 9 birds seemed to all along the Labu - Markham Rd, Mor. They are often conspicuous in this area, in noisy screeching parties (GS); 18 Dec, 2, Kupiano, Cen (RGS).	
Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot	<i>Micropsitta pusio</i>
6 Nov, Madilogo (IB).	
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>
30 Oct, 17, Mumeng, Mor (RGS); 24 Dec, 1, Paukama (RGS).	
Vulturine Parrot	<i>Psittrichas fulgidus</i>
2 Oct, a pair flying over the road and one perched briefly, Gawam Rd, Mor (GS).	
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
19 Nov, 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (CE); 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
30 Nov, 6, UPNG (IB).	
White-crowned Koel	<i>Caliechthrus leucolophus</i>
30 Oct, 1, Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (CE).	
Common Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>
20 Nov, 1, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
29 Oct, 1, Oxbow (NW); 26 Dec, 1, Yule I (RGS).	
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Three road killed birds: 11 Nov, 1, Magi Highway, 8 km from Port Moresby; 17 Dec, 1, Tahira; 24 Dec, 1, Aroa (all RGS).	
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>
14 - 16 Oct, heard pre-dawn and at dusk, Myola, Oro (IB).	
Papuan Frogmouth	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>
19 Nov, 1 road kill, Kankas (RGS); 20 Nov, 1 on nest, Magi Highway/Hula junction (RGS).	
Owlet-Nightjar sp.	<i>Aegotheles</i> sp.
19 Nov, 1 flushed from tree, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (CE).	
Barred Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles bennettii</i>
1 Oct, 1 flushed from tree hollow, King Bird Tree (CE, NW).	
Mountain Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles albertisii</i>
14 Oct, 1 trapped and re-trapped, 16 Oct, Myola, Oro (IB).	
Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>
30 Oct, 1, Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP (CE); 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	
Moustached Tree-Swift	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>
6 Nov, 2, Madilogo (IB); 21 Nov, 1, nr Laua village, Cen (IB).	

Mountain Swiftlet 3 Oct, 80, Mumeng, Mor (RGS).	<i>Collocalia hirundinacea</i>	Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike 6 Nov, 3, Madilogo (IB).	<i>Coracina lineata</i>
Papuan Spine-tailed Swift 6 Nov, Madilogo (IB).	<i>Mearnsia novaeguineae</i>	Black-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike 6 Nov, 1 male, Madilogo (IB).	<i>Coracina montana</i>
White-throated Needletail 6 Nov, c. 40, Madilogo (IB).	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Long-tailed Shrike 1 Oct, 1, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB).	<i>Lanius schach</i>
Paradise-Kingfisher sp. 22 Dec, 1, flying around NSRC at UPNG and into windows. Later seen perched in a tree but half an hour later had gone (HFH).	<i>Tanysiptera sp</i>	Island Thrush 15 Oct, 2, Myola, Oro (IB).	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i>
Common Paradise-Kingfisher 20 Nov, 1, King Bird Tree (CE).	<i>Tanysiptera galatea</i>	Painted Quail-Thrush 30 Oct, pair, Circuit trail, Varirata NP (CE).	<i>Cinclosoma ajax</i>
Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher 30 Oct, 1, Circuit trail, Varirata NP (CE).	<i>Tanysiptera danae</i>	Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler Heard often along the Circuit trail, Varirata NP, throughout this period (CE); 6 Nov, pair, Madilogo (IB).	<i>Ptilorrhoa castanonotus</i>
Hook-billed Kingfisher 22 Nov, 2 heard, nr Laua village, Cen (IB).	<i>Melidora macrorrhina</i>	Lesser Melampitta 14 Oct, 1, Myola, Oro (IB).	<i>Melampitta lugubris</i>
Shovel-billed Kingfisher 21 Nov, 1 heard, nr Laua village, Cen (IB).	<i>Clytoceyx rex</i>	Blue-capped Ifrita 15 Oct, 1 trapped, Myola, Oro (IB).	<i>Ifrita kowaldi</i>
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra 11 Oct, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Dacelo gaudichaud</i>	Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren 16 Oct, 2, Myola, Oro (IB).	<i>Chytomyias insignis</i>
Forest Kingfisher 10 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Halcyon macleayii</i>	Mountain Mouse-Warbler 15 Oct, 2 trapped, Myola, Oro (IB).	<i>Crateroscelis robusta</i>
Collared Kingfisher 1 Oct, 2, Paukama (RGS).	<i>Halcyon chloris</i>	Pale-billed Scrub-Wren 30 Oct & 19 Nov, 2+, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (CE).	<i>Sericornis spilodera</i>
Little Kingfisher 1 Oct, 1, Oxbow (CE).	<i>Alcedopusilla</i>	Papuan Scrub-Wren 15 Oct, 1 trapped, Myola, Oro (IB).	<i>Sericornis papuensis</i>
Azure Kingfisher 1 Oct, 1, Oxbow (CE).	<i>Alcedo azurea</i>	New Guinea Thornbill 28 Oct, Lake Omha, Oro (BC).	<i>Acanthizamura</i>
Blue-tailed Bee-eater 4 Oct, 6, Nadzab, Mor (RGS).	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	Fairy Gerygone 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>
Dollarbird 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 26 Dec, 1, Yule I (RGS).	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Black Thicket-Fantail 9 Oct, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 6 Nov, 1, Varirata NP (CE).	<i>Rhipidura maculipectus</i>
Blyth's Hornbill 22 Oct, 7, nr Magarida, Cen (IB); 20 - 24 Nov, 10 - 20 daily, nr Laua village, Cen (IB).	<i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i>	Black-faced Monarch 11 Dec, 1 juv, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>
Blue-breasted Pitta Heard regularly throughout this period at the King Bird Tree (CE); 6 Nov, heard, Koiari Rd (IB).	<i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>	Black-winged Monarch 11 Dec, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Monarcha frater</i>
Hooded Pitta Heard regularly throughout this period at the King Bird Tree (CE).	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	Spot-winged Monarch 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Monarcha guttula</i>
Singing Bushlark 3 Oct, 2, Mumeng, Mor (RGS).	<i>Mirafrja javanica</i>	Frilled Monarch 20 Nov, pair nesting, King Bird Tree (CE); 11 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Arses telescopthalmus</i>
Barn Swallow 24 Dec, 1, Kanosia Lagoon (RH).	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Satin Flycatcher 9 Oct, 3 & 11 Dec, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>
Red-rumped Swallow 24 Dec, at least 1, Kanosia Lagoon (RH).	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Shining Flycatcher 7 - 8 Oct, pair trapped, Motupore I (IB).	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>
Grey Wagtail 23 Nov, 1, nr Arau village, Cen (IB).	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Yellow-breasted Boatbill 30 Oct, 1 female, Boundary trail, Varirata NP	<i>Machaerirhynchus flaviventer</i>
Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike 6 Nov, 1, male, Madilogo (IB).	<i>Coracina caeruleogrisea</i>	Torrent Flycatcher 6 Nov, 2, Koiari Rd (IB); 23 Nov, 1, nr Arau village, Cen (IB).	<i>Monachella muelleriana</i>