EDITORIAL

The majority of the Papua New Guinea Bird Society's PNG resident members have lived in the capital, Port Moresby. This is reflected by the preponderance of records from this area in PNGBS publications. It is still true today and this issue of **MURUK** is devoted to papers and notes on the birds of the Port Moresby area.

For a long time, there has been an area regarded as the Port Moresby bird watching area, in this issue it has been formally defined. Someone may care to make use of this and produce an annual bird report for the Port Moresby area, along the lines of those produced for county reports in the U.K. Bird watchers in other parts of PNG might similarly define their bird watching areas and also produce regular reports (for inclusion in **MURUK**, hopefully).

The cost of producing **MURUK** has risen steeply over the past year (in keeping with the general rise in cost of living in PNG). In the past, the Department of Environment and Conservation have eased the financial burden on the PNGBS by printing first the Newsletter and later **MURUK**. With the current financial constraints on all Government departments this is no longer possible. We have sought sponsorship from a wide range of commercial and environmental organisations, both here and abroad. Ok Tedi Mining Limited has come forward and offered to support **MURUK** on a long-term basis. Without this support the PNGBS would not be able to produce **MURUK**, so we take this opportunity to thank Ok Tedi Mining Limited.

EDITORS: Roger Hicks with technical assistance from Mike Hopkins and editorial help from Ellie Brown, Helen Fortune Hopkins, Jenny Hicks and Jerry Hoskyns. Special thanks to Jenny Hicks who drew the graphs for the migrants paper and to Bill Eddie for the wader vignettes.

MURUK is published by the Papua New Guinea Bird Society and is available as part of the Society membership. Backnumbers are available at K4 each plus postage and packing. Volume one (first published in 1986) but is currently out of stock. It will shortly be reprinted. We always require articles for publication or records for inclusion in "Recent Observations". Please send your contributions to :- The Editor, PNGBS, P.O. Box 1598, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

Roger Hicks (Editor)

A PORT MORESBY RECORDING AREA

ROGER K. HICKS

Mackay (1970) previously defined a Port Moresby district (Map 1), which included all of the main roads out of Port Moresby at that time. Subsequently, the road network has been extended to the north-west (Hiritano and Goilala Highways), to the south-east (Magi Highway), and more recently to the east (Koiari Road). The bird-watching area of Port Moresby-based Papua New Guinea Bird Society members has similarly expanded.

Here I define a Port Moresby bird-recording area (Map 1) that includes all areas regularly visited by Port Moresby bird watchers. The squares on this map are the 10 km grid from the PNG Topographical maps. In the east the boundary is the Kemp Welch River and a tributary the Aieme River (also known as Musgrave River); from the head-waters of the Aieme River, in the vicinity of Return Saddle (147° 37'E, 9° 22'S), a straight line is drawn in a north-west direction until it crosses the Vanapa River (147° 17'E, 9° 5'S). Thus far the boundary is the same as that of Mackay. From this point on the Vanapa River, the border continues north-west to the crossing of the Angabanga River by the Goilala Highway (146° 51'E, 8° 34'S). This section of the Angabanga River, as far as its mouth, near Bereina, forms the northern boundary. The western and southern borders are the coral reef to the mouth of the Kemp Welch River.

This boundary encompasses an area approximately 50% larger than Mackay's Port Moresby district. All bird-watching areas within a comfortable day's drive of Port Moresby are included, but not all accessible main roads out of the capital. Over 70% of all bird records in PNGBS publications have occurred in this area.

Mackay, R.D. 1970. **The Birds of Port Moresby District.** Nelson.

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