

- Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus*
11 - 13 Aug, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (BQP & IB).
- Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*
13 Aug, 3 females, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*
11 - 15 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (BQP).
- Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*
13 Aug, 6, Bailey bridge - Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Supert Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba*
6 Aug, 1 female, Koiari rd (IB); 12 Aug, c. 8 Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB); 24 Sep, 2 females trapped, Koiari rd (IB).
- Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesii*
6 Aug, 3 females, Koiari rd (IB); 12 Aug, 2 males & 2 females, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB).
- King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*
13 Aug, 1 female, Tari Gap, SHP & 1 male, nr Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*
16 Jul & 4 Aug, 1 male, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*
24 Jul, 1 female trapped, Varirata NP (RH); 6 Aug, 1 female, Koiari rd (IB).
- Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*
12 Aug, 1 male, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB).
- Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*
5 Aug, 8+, Veimauri (IB).

REVIEW

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF HAWAII AND THE TROPICAL PACIFIC

BY H.D. PRATT, P.L. BRUNER & D.G. BERRETT

Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1987. 407 pages, 45 colour plates plus line drawings and maps.

For many bird watchers owning bird books is almost as much fun as watching the birds themselves and this book is no exception, as it does not involve getting up before dawn and missing breakfast, swatting mosquitoes in the forest, or changing a wheel on a jeep in the rain. For me, owning a field guide for a place I have not yet visited is a special pleasure, enabling me to plan the trip and anticipate the birds to be seen, which may be the closest I ever get to many of them.

This book is beautifully produced, as would be expected from Princeton University Press, publisher of "Birds of New Guinea" (Beehler *et al.* 1986), and it contains much interesting information which can be read while waiting at airstrips or harbours to hop from one island to another.

Geographically it covers the Hawaiian Islands, Micronesia, Polynesia and Fiji, but excludes Melanesia (New Guinea, the Bismarck archipelago, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia) to the west and Easter Island (which is just south of the Tropic of Capricorn) to the east. While there are other bird guides for some of the islands covered, this is the only one to include them all in one volume, and it is sure to become the standard field guide for the Pacific. The bulk of the book consists of species descriptions arranged taxonomically. All breeding species and regular visitors, from the familiar Sacred Kingfisher and Pacific Swallow to the exotic Tooth-billed Pigeon and Orange Dove, are illustrated on more than 40 excellent colour plates towards the back. The rarer visitors are shown in about 50 beautiful black and white illustrations. In order to indicate which birds are likely to be seen on which islands, the land birds are grouped on plates according to their place of origin, so that pigeons are on plate 21 for Micronesia and on plates 26 and 27 for Polynesia. Introduced species have 4 plates of their own.

To help plan a birding trip, and to present information on bird distribution concisely, there are 6 regional checklists, and an appendix of maps shows the position of all islands mentioned in the text. There is a glossary, an index to bird names and an extensive bibliography. I was particularly pleased to see information included on the different kinds of islands in the Pacific (continental and oceanic) and information on habitats, illustrated by several black and white photographs. The colour plates of plants of importance to birds and birders sets a trend that, as a botanist, I hope other field guides will follow.

Although an extensive section would have been out of place in a field guide, I would have liked to have seen some information about the affinities of the birds, especially the land birds of the different island groups. If one were very keen or knowledgeable, this could be worked out from the checklists, knowing where else the genera occur. Diamond and Mayr have written about the origin, distribution and speciation patterns of Pacific birds, but it would have been nice to see views of Pratt *et al.* as well.

A few Pacific island endemics are already extinct, with interesting names like Oahu Oo and Akialoa, and a considerable number are rare or endangered, including the Hawaiian Goose and Coot illustrated on the front cover. Besides listing extinct and endangered species, a section on conservation discusses threats such as the presence of mosquitoes on Hawaii and introduced brown tree snakes on Guam. Outside of Hawaii, there seem to be few reserves.

I actually borrowed a copy of the book to write this review and now I shall have to go and buy my own, to take with me on my trip to Western Samoa to see Tooth-billed Pigeon and to peruse during the long tropical evenings, while I save up the air fare.

Helen Fortune Hopkins.