

## ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF THE ADELBERT RANGE, PNG.

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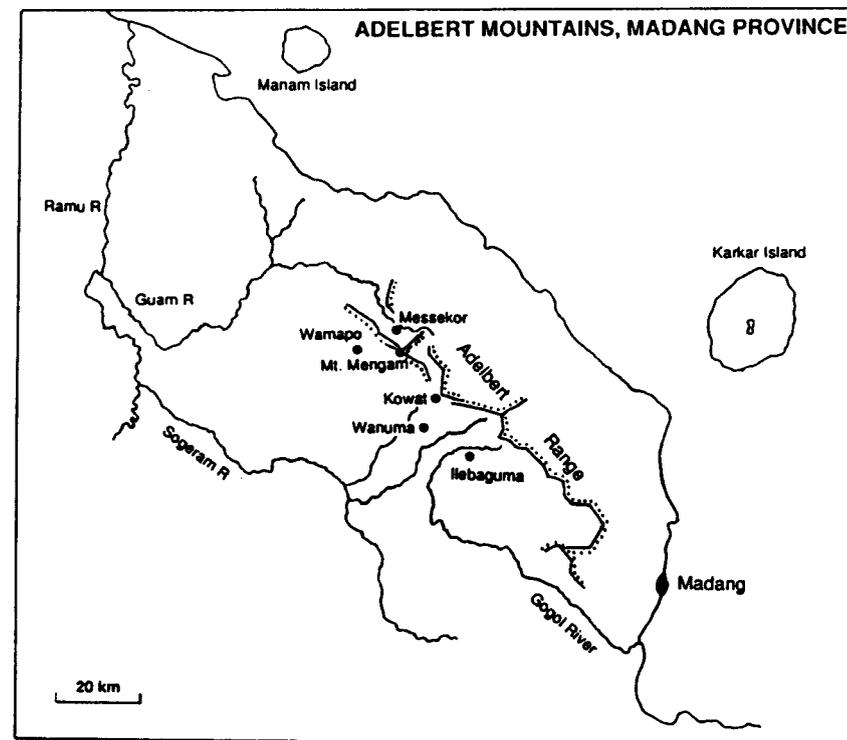
During the period of my studies on the Fire-maned Bowerbird *Sericulus bakeri* in the Adelbert Range, Madang Province, I have kept a note of the birds seen by me and my companions. These records were made between 500 m and 1550 m on the highest peaks of the range around Mt Mengam. This range of altitudes includes three distinct environmental zones: 1) a transition zone from lowland rainforest to hill forest, 500-700 m; 2) hill forest, 700-1450 m; and 3) lower montane forest, 1450-1550 m. The avifauna is largely distributed in a similar way, e.g., the Common Paradise Kingfisher occurs at 600 m near Wanuma airfield and no higher, the Fire-maned Bowerbird occurs only in the hill forest zone and Macgregor's Bowerbird occurs only in the lower montane zone above 1450 m. There are, of course, many species that are not so restricted, for example birds of prey, friarbirds and white cockatoos.

Since the discovery of the Fire-maned Bowerbird in 1928 by Rollo Beck of the American Museum of Natural History, New York (Chapin 1929), there has been moderate interest in the birds of the Adelbert Range. Gilliard & Leroy (1967) made a major expedition to rediscover the bowerbird and collect the birds of this little known area. Another major collecting trip was made by the staff of the Wau Ecology Institute (Pratt 1982). Both of these expeditions made lists of the birds recorded, totalling 144 species. Since then there have been only a few small expeditions (Alpha Helix, Peckover) until my studies and those of Diamond (1985). The total number of birds recorded for the area now totals 177 species and there are likely to be quite a few more as birds, ubiquitous elsewhere, have not yet been recorded, e.g., Willie Wagtail.

Below are the birds I and my companions have recorded over a period of four years on the following six visits, during which I spent 62 days in the field.

16 - 18 Apr 1985	Wanuma 700 m.
3 - 9 Sep 1985	Mt Mengam 1450 m (c. 1600 m at summit)
22 - 31 Oct 1985	Mt Mengam 1450 m.
8 - 19 Sep 1986	Ilebaguma 1000 m.
27 Aug to 7 Sep 1987	Kowat 1000 m.
9 - 16 Nov 1988	Kowat 1000 m.
16 - 24 Nov 1988	Wanuma 700 m.

Only species additional to those listed in Gilliard & LeCroy (1967) and Pratt (1982), with one exception, are listed here.



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|--|---------------------------------|
| Grey-headed Goshawk  | <i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>  |
| 4 September 1987, seen only once as it hunted in a garden at Kowat.  |                                 |
| Brown Falcon   | <i>Falco berigora</i>           |
| Common, recorded in each zone.   |                                 |
| Wattled Brush-Turkey   | <i>Aepyodius arfakianus</i>     |
| 9 September 1986, one flushed off a walking track as Brian Coates and I were stalking <i>Ptilorrhoa castanonotus</i> . We had a short sighting as it raced off into open undergrowth at Ilebaguma and another seen from a hide near a <i>Sericulus bakeri</i> bower. |                                 |
| White-throated Pigeon  | <i>Columba vitiensis</i>        |
| 28 August 1987, one froze on the forest floor a few metres off a walking track as we passed in mature second-growth forest at Kowat.   |                                 |
| Emerald Ground-Dove  | <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>       |
| This is a high altitude sighting for this species but Gilliard & LeCroy (1967) recorded <i>C. stephani</i> at about the same altitude, 1400 m, and both are normally found much lower (Bechler <i>et al.</i> 1986)   |                                 |
| Cinnamon Ground-Dove   | <i>Gallinula rufigula</i>       |
| 13 September 1986, seen from a hide as it searched for food on the ground near a bower of <i>Sericulus bakeri</i> at Ilebaguma.  |                                 |
| Ornate Fruit-Dove  | <i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i>       |
| 30 October 1985, several seen feeding in fig tree <i>Ficus xylosyca</i> which is also a major food tree of <i>Sericulus bakeri</i> at Mesekor.   |                                 |
| Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove  | <i>Ptilinopus perlatus</i>      |
| 14 November 1988, feeding in a fig tree with many other birds at Kowat.  |                                 |
| White-crowned Koel   | <i>Caliechthrus leucolophus</i> |
| Seen and heard in several localities from 700 m at Wanuma airfield to the edge of the lower montane forest at 1400 m.  |                                 |

- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*  
Often seen, heard and netted in the hill forests at about 1000 m.
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*  
Seen and heard from Wanuma at 700 m to near Mt Mengam at c. 1450 m.
- Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*  
Only seen and heard at Wanuma, 700 m.
- Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*  
Commonly seen up to 1400 m. One pair seen duetting while perched on dead branches only 2 m, from the ground in tall grass at Wamapo 1400 m.
- Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*  
Commonly heard at night at several localities from 1000-1450 m.
- Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*  
Only one seen at Ilebaguma, 1000 m, but commonly heard at all altitudes.
- Owlet-nightjar sp. *Aegotheles* sp.  
None seen, but calls suggesting *A. bennettii* heard at several localities.
- Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*  
Very common around Wanuma at 700 m; each evening hundreds, even thousands gather before roosting.
- Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea*  
Recorded only around Mt Mengam area, 1450 m.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*  
Recorded only near Mt Mengam, 1450 m.
- Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*  
Seen once at Kowat but heard at all altitudes to 1400 m.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*  
17 Apr 1985, one, Wanuma 700 m.
- Mountain Kingfisher *Halcyon megarhynchus*  
One seen at Kowat, 1000 m; heard at same altitude elsewhere. The call of *H. megarhynchus* is quite a bit stronger than that of *H. torotoro* and, so far as I have heard, does not start with a sharp downward trill before giving the long continuous trill characteristic of both species.
- Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa castanonotus*  
10 September 1986. This is not an additional species, but Brian Coates noted a brown headed bird not typical of the others we saw at Ilebaguma.
- Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*  
Seen at Mt Mengam, 1400 m, and Kowat, 1000 m.
- Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*  
Netted in lower montane forest, Mt Mengam, 1450 m.
- Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*  
Common in the lower montane forest on Mt Mengam, 1450-1500 m.
- Yellow-legged Flycatcher *Microeca griseocephala*  
Netted at Ilebaguma, 1000 m.
- Ashy Robin *Poecilodryas albispecularis*  
Seen on the forest floor in the lower montane forest on Mt Mengam.
- Brown-backed Whistler *Pachycephala modesta*  
Seen on two visits to the Mt Mengam area, 1400 m, at edge of lower montane forest and hill forest.
- Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*  
6 September 1985, seen by Margaret Mackay and I on damaged trees at edge of lower montane forest on Mt Mengam, 1400 m.
- Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*  
In food gardens at Wanuma, 700 m.

- Mountain Red-headed Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*  
One at edge of lower montane forest, Mt Mengam, 1400 m.
- Mountain Meliphaga *Meliphaga orientalis*  
Seen at Ilebaguma and Kowat, both at 1000 m.
- Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*  
Recorded on two visits to Wanuma, 700 m. A separate paper is being prepared on these records.
- Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*  
An unusually high-altitude sighting in old village garden area at Ilebaguma, 1000 m.
- Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*  
One pair calling and feeding young in second growth just below Wanuma housing area, 700 m.

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## RECENT OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EASTERN HIGHLANDS, ENGA AND GULF PROVINCES

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During 1989 it was my good fortune to travel widely in PNG. I spent a week in Enga Province (March 27 - April 2) and the six weeks (June 28 - August 20) "on the road" visiting Omaura in the Yonki Valley, Eastern Highlands Province (EHP), Goroka and Kabiufa (also EHP) before returning to Enga for several weeks. Next, I flew to the Gulf Province for three weeks before returning to Port Moresby via Goroka. While this was a work assignment, I was able to spend some time observing birds in a variety of centres. As the PNGBS does not have many records from Enga, Eastern Highlands or Gulf Provinces, I present here lists of the species I recorded. I hope these lists will be of some use to those studying the bird life of PNG and to those who may wish to visit the same areas.

Perhaps the most interesting discovery made during these weeks was that 16 species were recorded above their normal altitude range as defined in the current literature