

- 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.

I gratefully acknowledge the help and observations given by Margaret Mackay, Clifford Frith and Dawn Frith, Brian Coates, Andrew Yaga, James Menzies, Jared Diamond and Don Bruning.

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

L.P. TOLHURST

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

(Rand & Gilliard 1967, Coates 1985, Beehler *et al.* 1986). A list of these species with locations, altitudes and published upper altitude limit is presented in Table 1. This highlights how little is known of even some of PNG's more common birds and the need for continuous observation and reporting of sightings. Following the table are bird lists for each of the main localities that I visited.

**OMAUVA - YONKI VALLEY AREA (EHP). 1500 m.**

1 - 4 July 1989.

Black Kite 2; Spotted Marsh-Harrier dark phase; Oriental Hobby above range; Brown Quail heard; Dusky Lory common; Rainbow Lorikeet common; Brush Cuckoo heard; Moustached Tree-Swift above range; Mountain Swiftlet; Glossy Swiftlet; Richard's Pipit; Pacific Swallow common; Cicadabird 2 males and 1 female; Long-tailed Shrike; Pied Chat; Tawny Grassbird; Golden-headed Cisticola above range; Rusty Mouse-Warbler heard; White-shouldered Fairy-Wren heard; White-faced Robin 3 or 4; Black-headed Whistler common, parents seen feeding young on a branch; Grey Shrike-Thrush 2; Yellow-bellied Sunbird above range; Hooded Mannikin c. 12; White-breasted Wood-Swallow 3, above range; Yellow-breasted Bowerbird 3; Raggiana Bird of Paradise 1 female.

**KABIUFA (EHP). 1829 m.**

5 July 1989.

Willie Wagtail above range, heard; Grey Shrike-Thrush above range; Common Smoky Honeyeater.

**RAKAMANDA (ENGA). 1980 m.**

6 - 28 July 1989.

Black-winged Kite; Brahminy Kite; Black Kite above range; Spotted Marsh-Harrier dark phase, also adult male of Central Highlands population; Collared Sparrowhawk; Peregrine Falcon 2; Brown Cuckoo-Dove 3; Rainbow Lorikeet; Brush Cuckoo above range, very common, seen and frequently heard; Papuan Boobook heard; Mountain Swiftlet; Sacred Kingfisher; Pacific Swallow above range, parents seen feeding young out of nest; Richard's Pipit 2 seen, one local boy had a young one in the hand; Cicadabird 2 females and 1 male above range; Long-tailed Shrike; Pied Chat; Tawny Grassbird; Island Leaf Warbler; White-shouldered Fairy-Wren 3 or 4; Large Scrub-Wren; Buff-faced Scrub-Wren; Brown-breasted Gerygone; Black Fantail 1 female; Willie Wagtail above range; Black-headed Whistler above range; Rufous-naped Whistler; Papuan Flowerpecker; New Guinea White-eye, small flock seen; Mountain Red-headed Myzomela; Mountain Meliphaga above range; Helmeted Friarbird above range; Marbled Honeyeater; Belford's Melidectes; Common Smoky Honeyeater; Hooded Mannikin; Singing Starling 5 or 6, above range; Superb Bird of Paradise heard almost every day around house, and seen several times, both male and female present, male seen more often because it called frequently.

**SOPAS (ENGA). 2225 m.**

7 July 1989.

Black Kite above range; Pied Chat; Willie Wagtail heard above range.

**WABAG (ENGA). 2133 m.**

29 July 1989.

Torrent Flycatcher above range.

**PORGERA (ENGA). 2225 m.**

25 July 1989.

Mountain Swiftlet; Long-tailed Shrike; Tawny Grassbird; Pied Chat; Willie Wagtail above range; Mountain Red-headed Myzomela heard; Belford's Melidectes; Yellow-browed Melidectes; Great Wood-Swallow; Superb Bird of Paradise heard.

**KANDEP PASS (ENGA). 3048 m.**

17 July 1989.

Garnet Robin; Crested Berrypecker.

**BAIMURU (GULF). Sea-level.**

Intermediate Egret; Helmeted Friarbird heard.

**KEREMA (GULF). Sea-level.**

30-31 July 1989.

Intermediate Egret; Uniform Swiftlet; Pacific Swallow; Willie Wagtail; Grey Shrike-Thrush; Singing Starling; White-breasted Wood-Swallow.

**KIKORI (GULF). Sea-level.**

1-15 August 1989.

Little Pied Cormorant; Darter; Great Egret; Intermediate Egret; Little Egret; Brahminy Kite; Whistling Kite; Grey Goshawk; Black-billed Brush-Turkey heard; White-headed Stilt; Southern Crowned Pigeon; Ornate Fruit-Dove; Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove; Coroneted Fruit-Dove; Pied Imperial Pigeon; Zoe Imperial Pigeon; Collared Imperial Pigeon; Pinon Imperial Pigeon; Greater Streaked Lory; Rainbow Lorikeet; Western Black-capped Lory; Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; Palm Cockatoo; Red-cheeked Parrot; Eclectus Parrot; Vulturine Parrot; Brush Cuckoo heard; Shining Bronze-Cuckoo; Lesser Black Coucal much further East than range indicated in Beehler *et al.* 1986; Uniform Swiftlet; Glossy Swiftlet; Papuan Spine-tailed Swift; Rufous-bellied Kookaburra; Sacred Kingfisher; Forest Kingfisher; Common Kingfisher; Rainbow Bee-eater; Dollarbird; Blyth's Hornbill; White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike; Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike; Cicadabird female seen; Black Cuckoo-Shrike male seen; Golden Cuckoo-Shrike both male and female seen; Varied Triller; Blue Jewel-Babbler; Rusty Mouse-Warbler heard; Mangrove Gerygone; Variable Pitohui; Papuan Flowerpecker; Yellow-bellied Sunbird; Black Sunbird; Yellow-bellied Longbill; Long-billed Honeyeater; Red-throated Myzomela; Mimic Meliphaga; Streak-headed Honeyeater; Helmeted Friarbird; Brown-backed Honeyeater; Rufous-banded Honeyeater; Singing Starling; Metallic Starling; Golden Myna; Yellow-faced Myna; Brown Oriole; Spangled Drongo; Hooded Butcherbird heard; Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise female seen.

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TABLE 1. SPECIES RECORDED ABOVE PUBLISHED ALTITUDE RANGE

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	ALTITUDE	UPPER LIMIT
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	7/7/89	Sopas, Enga	2225 m (7300 ft)	5300 ft*
	9/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	1750 m <sup>b</sup> 2200 m <sup>c</sup>
Oriental Hobby <i>Falco severus</i>	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	3000 ft* 1200 m <sup>b</sup> 1800 m <sup>c</sup>
Brush Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	17/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5500 ft* 1700 m <sup>b</sup> 1800 m <sup>c</sup>
Moustached Tree-Swift <i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	4000 ft* 1000 m <sup>b</sup> 1580 m <sup>c</sup>
Pacific Swallow <i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	6/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	6500 ft* 1900 m <sup>b</sup>
Cicadabird <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	21/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	2500 ft* 1500 m <sup>b</sup>
Golden-headed Cisticola <i>Cisticola exilis</i>	26/3/89	Tari Gap, SHP	2590 m (8500 ft)	5000 ft*
	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1400 m <sup>b</sup>
Willie Wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	7/3/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	6000 ft*
	29/3/89	Sopas, Enga	2225 m (7300 ft)	1000 m <sup>b</sup>
	1/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	
	5/7/89	Kabiufa, EHP	1830 m (6000 ft)	
	25/7/89	Porgera, Enga	2225 m (7300 ft)	
Torrent Flycatcher <i>Monachella muelleriana</i>	29/7/89	Wabag, Enga	2133 m (7000 ft)	6000 ft* 1800 m <sup>b</sup>
Black-headed Whistler <i>Pachycephala monacha</i>	6/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5000 ft* 1600 m <sup>b</sup>
Grey Shrike-Thrush <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	5/7/89	Kabiufa, EHP	1830 m (6000 ft)	2000 ft* 1500 m <sup>b</sup>
Yellow-bellied Sunbird <i>Nectarina jugularis</i>	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1200 m <sup>b</sup>
Mountain Meliphaga <i>Meliphaga orientalis</i>	21/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	3750 ft* 1700 m <sup>b</sup>
Helmeted Friarbird <i>Philemon buceroides</i>	27/3/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	1500 m <sup>b</sup>
Singing Starling <i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>	9/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5200 ft* 1500 m <sup>b</sup>
White-bellied Wood-Swallow <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1600 ft* 800 m <sup>b</sup>

\* = Rand &amp; Gilliard 1967.

EHP = Eastern Highlands Province

<sup>b</sup> = Beehler *et al.* 1986.

SHP = Southern Highlands Province

<sup>c</sup> = Coates 1985.

## BIRD WATCHING IN KAGI

J. DUMBACHER

Kagi (Central Province) is a small village of 25-30 houses situated at c. 1400 m along the Kokoda Trail between Efogi-2 and Mt Bellamy. The diversity of elevations and habitats around Kagi is rich, ranging from the deep forested valley and river between Kagi and Efogi, large clearings and grasslands, to higher forested slopes within a 1-hour walk from Kagi towards Myola.

I visited Kagi from 28-31 July 1989 to look for New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* and Streaked Bowerbird *Amblyornis subalaris*. During my brief stay I found the people of Kagi hospitable and knowledgeable about the bush. The purpose of this paper is to offer travel suggestions and descriptions of the area to those wishing to visit Kagi.

## Transport

Simbu Air takes passengers to Kagi on Mondays and Fridays for K38.00 (one way) plus extra for baggage exceeding their limit. Be prepared to wait all day in the terminal. You should talk to a pilot and make sure he will pick you up when you need to leave. Since foul weather can keep the planes from making the "scheduled" flights, you may like to plan your return to Port Moresby a couple days before any departing international flights. For the more adventurous traveller, Kagi is a 3-day walk from Ower's Corner at the Port Moresby end of the Kokoda Trail.

## Accommodation

Mr Gai Amur runs a guest house that offers lodging at K6.00 per person per night, K7.00 for lodging and meals. He is willing to lead bird tours for K4.00 per person. I stayed at the rest house owned by the community leader, Mr Dimute. The rest house is cheaper, but is meant to house hikers walking the Kokoda Trail. One should not stay for more than one evening at the rest house. Remember that most men and women are Seventh-Day Adventists and will not work on Saturday for any amount of money. Knowledge of Pidgin is helpful.

## Places to Visit

The airstrip is a 5-minute walk from Kagi and offers good views of the countryside and a good place to watch raptors. I saw adult and immature Brahminy Kites and a Little Eagle here. Flocks of mannikins (mostly Grey-headed) also feed in the grass along the airstrip. If you continue towards Efogi, the Kokoda Trail descends steeply and begins to enter forest. Plenty of birds call from just inside the bush, but seeing them requires hard work, patience and, of course luck. Thirty minutes away from Kagi the trail