

TABLE 1. SPECIES RECORDED ABOVE PUBLISHED ALTITUDE RANGE

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	ALTITUDE	UPPER LIMIT
Black Kite	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	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	3000 ft* 1200 m <sup>b</sup> 1800 m <sup>c</sup>
Brush Cuckoo	17/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5500 ft* 1700 m <sup>b</sup> 1800 m <sup>c</sup>
Moustached Tree-Swift	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	4000 ft* 1000 m <sup>b</sup> 1580 m <sup>c</sup>
Pacific Swallow	6/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	6500 ft* 1900 m <sup>b</sup>
Cicadabird	21/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	2500 ft* 1500 m <sup>b</sup>
Golden-headed Cisticola	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	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	29/7/89	Wabag, Enga	2133 m (7000 ft)	6000 ft* 1800 m <sup>b</sup>
Black-headed Whistler	6/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5000 ft* 1600 m <sup>b</sup>
Grey Shrike-Thrush	5/7/89	Kabiufa, EHP	1830 m (6000 ft)	2000 ft* 1500 m <sup>b</sup>
Yellow-bellied Sunbird	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1200 m <sup>b</sup>
Mountain Meliphaga	21/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	3750 ft* 1700 m <sup>b</sup>
Helmeted Friarbird	27/3/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	1500 m <sup>b</sup>
Singing Starling	9/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5200 ft* 1500 m <sup>b</sup>
White-bellied Wood-Swallow	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

crosses a small river where Torrent Larks and Torrent Flycatchers can be seen (or so say the men of Kagi). It is hard to hear over the stream, so you will have to look for birds here without the aid of your ears. The water in this stream is suitable for drinking.

Walking in the other direction, the Kokoda Trail winds up and into the mountains through grasslands and past many local gardens. White-shouldered Fairy-Wrens, Golden-headed Cisticolas, Great Wood-Swallows, and some myzomelas are common here. After about one-hour's walk, the trail enters the forest. Bird watching along the Kokoda Trail is nice, but if you hire a local guide they can take you on smaller bush trails. George Moiah and Archie Moiah and Eddie Loeve each helped me on different days and know where to find most of the common birds and bowers of the Streaked Bowerbird.

One-and-a-half hours from Kagi the trail enters a clearing. There is an established fire place and the area looks suitable for camping although it is not level. Mt Victoria, Kagi, and some of the other villages can be seen on a clear day. Water is available 15 minutes farther up the trail. The bush does get thicker here, and I saw Red-collared Myzomela, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Regent Whistler, Black-breasted Boatbill, and Blue-grey Robin close to this spot. Many smaller branch trails give access to the bush. This clearing is about a 3-hour walk from Myola.

I did not find the New Guinea Harpy-Eagle although some village men did know the location of a nest. My search for the Streaked Bowerbird produced three bowers, two of which were still active. Both were located on west-facing hillsides in the forest. The first was within 45-minutes of Kagi and the second and third were c. 150 m away from the first on the same hillside. The first was a round, bowl-shaped structure made of sticks and decorated with three different types of yellow-green capsular fruits and several bright yellow flowers. My guide, George, told me that females ate the fruits. The lack of intricate decoration or structure suggested it was the bower of a younger male (G. Borgia pers. comm.). The second bower was a hut built around the base of a small sapling. A tunnel went in the front, around the sapling, and out of another entrance in the front. Between the two entrances a mat of moss was woven into the structure and decorated with dark blue plastic and seeds, and yellow flowers. A semi-circular platform made of sticks protruded from the front of the bower. It was decorated with red leaves on the right hand side, three species of capsular fruits (the same as at first bower) in the front, and a cluster of yellow flowers (also the same as at first bower) on the left. Two dark blue, partially chewed shotgun shell cases were located near the bower on the left and appeared to be the source of the plastic decoration. The third bower was 3.5 m down the hill from the second and only a shell of sticks remained. The male bowerbird was extremely wary and despite our efforts to conceal ourselves away from the bower, he did not return all morning.

I would like to thank Dr. Bruce Beehler for making the trip possible.

#### Bird list

Thanks to Eddie Loeve and to Magau and his sons Noah and Alex, I have been able to include many birds of the Kagi area that I did not see. All bird records given only by them are noted with a K following the species name.

Dwarf Cassowary (K), Brahminy Kite, Grey Goshawk (K), New Guinea Harpy Eagle (K), Little Eagle, Common Scrubfowl (K), Wattled Brush-Turkey (K), Brown Quail, King Quail (K-towards Myola), Forbes' Forest-Rail (K), Red-necked Rail (K), Baillon's Crake (K), Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Great Cuckoo-Dove (K), Stephan's Ground-Dove (K), Bronze Ground-Dove (K), White-bibbed Ground-Dove (K), Wompoo Fruit-Dove (K), White-breasted Fruit-Dove (K), Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Zoe Imperial Pigeon (K), Papuan Mountain Pigeon (K), Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot (K), Large Fig-Parrot (K), Eclectus Parrot (K), Fantailed Cuckoo, Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo (K), White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo (K), Dwarf Koel (K), Marbled Frogmouth (K), Papuan Frogmouth (K), Large-tailed Nightjar, Moustached Tree-Swift (K), Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Common Paradise-Kingfisher (K), Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher (K), Forest Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Spotted Jewel-Babbler (K), Lesser Melampitta (K), Golden-headed Cisticola, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Gerygone sp., Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-breasted Boatbill, Torrent Flycatcher (K), Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (K), Olive Flycatcher (K), Canary Flycatcher (K), White-faced Robin, Banded Yellow Robin (K), Blue-grey Robin, Regent Whistler, White-Eye sp., Red-collared Myzomela, Meliphaga sp., Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Grey-headed Mannikin, Torrent Lark (K), Great Wood Swallow, Mountain Peltops (K), Macgregor's Bowerbird (K), Streaked Bowerbird, Brown Sicklebill (K), Stephanie's Astrapia (K), Superb Bird of Paradise, Lawes' Parotia (K).

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## A SHORT WEEK IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TIMOTHY AND LAUREL OSBORNE

We spent the week of 15-22 April 1989 visiting Papua New Guinea. Whilst in Port Moresby, we stayed at the Civic Guest House [now renamed Amber's Guest House, Ed.] in Boroko. Outside in an *Acacia* sp. tree a pair of Rufous-banded Honeyeaters were feeding young in a suspended cup nest, just below the canopy. We found another pair 100 m up the road in the process of building a nest at the end of a branch.

We flew to Tari on 17 April and stayed at Ambua Lodge. We enjoyed the area but had the feeling that April might not be the best month to see all the resident birds of paradise in a short time. After five days we had only seen five species. The paradigallas and astrapias were mainly female and juvenile plumaged birds. Although we walked all over the Lodge grounds and adjacent paths and up to Tari Gap three times there did not appear to be many trees in fruit by the road or trail sides, where we could sit and wait