

## RECENT OBSERVATIONS; JANUARY - MARCH 1990

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Bill Eddie (BE); Roger Hicks (RH); Edel Kraayo (EK); John Silcock (JS); Geoff Smith (GS).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; Fm = Farm; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; R = River; Rd = Road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus.

Great Frigatebird 23 Jan, 1, Port Moresby (JS).	<i>Fregata minor</i>
Lesser Frigatebird 19 Mar, 88, Motupore I (IB); 23 Jan, 4, Port Moresby (JS).	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
Great Cormorant 11 Jan, 1 ad, Moitaka SP (RH); 1 Feb, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 15 Feb, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Brown Booby 20 Mar, 1, off Ela beach, Port Moresby (JS).	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Cattle Egret 7 Jan, in bp, Ilimo Fm (RH).	<i>Egretta ibis</i>
Striated Heron 24 Mar, 1, Bogio mangroves (JS).	<i>Ardeola striata</i>
Black Bittern 5 Jan, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 1 Feb, 1 juv, Moitaka SP (RH).	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>
Crested Hawk 11 Mar, pair cruising Gawam Rd, Mor (GS).	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
Spotted Marsh Harrier 10 Feb, 1 subad male, nr Gaire (RH).	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
Grey Goshawk 4 Feb & 8 Mar, 1, UPNG (IB).	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Gurney's Eagle 10 Feb, 1 imm, gliding over Magi Highway, near Bogio (RH).	<i>Aquila gurneyi</i>
Grey Teal 15 Feb, 1 female with 4 young (two-thirds ad size), Waigani Swamp (RH).	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i>
Garganey 5 Jan, 2 males and 2 females, Moitaka SP (RH); 11 Jan, 9, Moitaka SP (RH); 1 Feb, c. 40, Moitaka SP (RH).	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Australian White-eyed Duck 24 Mar, Moitaka SP (EK & JS).	<i>Aythya australis</i>

White-headed Stilt 24 Mar, c. 15, Moitaka SP (JS).	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>
Lesser Golden Plover 24 Mar, 2 in breeding plumage, Moitaka SP (JS).	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Mongolian Plover 18 Mar, 40+, Loloata I (IB).	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
Whimbrel 18 Mar, 2, Loloata I (IB).	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Red-necked Stint 18 Mar, 20+, Loloata I (IB).	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
White-winged Black Tern 24 Mar, 2, 1 killed by sling-shot, Moitaka SP (JS).	<i>Chlidonius leucopterus</i>
Common Tern 18 Mar, 65, Loloata I (IB).	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Little Tern 18 Mar, 25, Loloata I (IB).	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Lesser Crested Tern 18 Mar, 8, Loloata I (IB).	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
Great Cuckoo-Dove 25 Feb, 1, Gawam Rd, Mor (GS).	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>
Pinon Imperial Pigeon 4 Mar, good view of calling bird, Bukawa Rd, Mor (GS).	<i>Ducula pinon</i>
Red-flanked Lorikeet 25 Feb, several small parties, Musom village, Mor (GS).	<i>Charmosyna placensis</i>
Double-eyed Fig-parrot 11 Mar, rare chance to observe a perched pair, Gawam Rd, Mor (GS); 18 Mar, Musom, Mor (GS).	<i>Cyclopsitta diopthalma</i>
Oriental Cuckoo 18 Feb, 1, Bogio mangroves (IB); 7 Mar, 1, Unitech campus, Mor (GS); 25 Mar, 1, King Bird Tree (JS).	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
Brush Cuckoo 24 Feb, 1 ad trapped, UPNG (IB).	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Papuan Frogmouth 25 Mar, 1 caught a tree frog from a window grating at 02:00, UPNG. It took about 10 minutes to consume the frog. The frog stopped screeching after about 30 sec. (IB).	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>
Barred Owllet-Nightjar 10 Feb, 1, Bogio mangroves (RH); 18 & 24 Feb, 1, Bogio mangroves (IB); 24 Mar, 1, Bogio mangroves (JS). IB & BE compared their excellent sighting of 24 Feb with skins in the collection of the National Museum and confirmed this bird's identity.	<i>Aegotheles bennettii</i>
Collared Kingfisher 24 Mar, 1, Bogio mangroves (JS).	<i>Halcyon chloris</i>
Sacred Kingfisher 15 Feb, first returning bird in Moresby area, 1 perched on tail of car, Moitaka SP (RH); 21 Feb, first returning bird in Lae, Mor (GS).	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
Azure Kingfisher 4 Mar, on two rivers on Bukawa Rd, Mor (GS).	<i>Alcedo azurea</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater 22 Feb, first migrants of the season observed, Lae, Mor (GS).	<i>Merops ornatus</i>

- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticorus plicatus*  
4 Mar, 8, feeding noisily nr Buso River, Bukawa Rd, Mor (GS); 11 Mar, pair flying, Gawam Rd, Mor (GS).
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
7 Feb, 15 at midday roost on Central Government Offices, Waigani (RH).
- Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*  
4 Mar, Bukawa Rd, Mor (GS).
- Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*  
24 Mar, Bogio mangroves (JS).
- Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*  
25 Mar, above Musom village, Mor (GS).
- Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*  
Continues to be common and conspicuous on Unitech campus, Mor. Only recently common here (GS).
- Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*  
4 Mar, small parties of up to 20, common Bukawa Rd, Mor (GS).
- Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybata*  
11 Mar, pair, Gawam Rd, Mor (GS).
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*  
25 Feb, reasonable view high up tree, Gawam Rd, Mor. The bird seems quite common along the road judging by the calls, but sightings are uncommon, and so far no display areas have been located (GS).
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*  
A new lek located on Gawam Rd, Mor, just before the new bridge about 10 km past the Sankwep River. Four plumed males in extended display with 7 or 8 females in attendance (GS).
- Emperor Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea guilielmi*  
Heard calling above Musom village at the end of the Gawam Rd, Mor. This brings the Emperor within about 40 minutes drive of Lae. However, none were seen, and it does not seem to be as common here as nr Gain village on the Boana Rd. (GS).
- Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*  
25 Mar, c. 8, King Bird Tree (JS).

## RECENT OBSERVATIONS; APRIL - JUNE 1990

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB); Roger Hicks (RH); Edel Kraayo (EK); Geoff Smith (GS); Len Tolhurst (LT); Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; Fm = Farm; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; R = river; Rd = Road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus.

- Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*  
2 Jun, 1, Varirata NP (RH).
- Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
29 Jun, 4, Goroka airfield, EHP (RH).
- Spotted Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*  
29 Jun, 1 male, Goroka airfield, EHP (RH).
- Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*  
3 Jun, Large, round-tailed raptor soaring on flat wings over the Markham-Labu Rd, Mor. Colours would suggest an imm, brief flashes from the mantle were very pale (GS).
- Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*  
27 Apr, 1, Central Government Offices, Waigani (RH).
- Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*  
19 May, flying high above the Gabensis logging Rd, Mor, at c. 7-800 m (GS).
- Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*  
21 Jun, 2 ad & 1 juv, PAC - 1 ad was sitting at the nest site used Dec 1989 - Jan 1990 (LT).
- Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex*  
3 Jun, 1, sitting in the middle of the Highlands Highway, nr 7-mile, Lae, Mor. It was apparently incapacitated although no injury was obvious. First record for this area (GS).
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticorus plicatus*  
Small group of 2 or 3 regularly seen during this period both on the Gawam Rd and Markham-Labu Rd, Mor (GS).
- Black Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura maculipectus*  
2 Jun, 1, along stream, nr picnic site no.2, Varirata NP (RH).
- Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
19 May, 1 male, characteristically tail-shivering, on logging Rd past Gabensis on Mumeng Rd, Mor (GS).
- Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*  
One in an urban garden beside the Bambu R in Lae, Mor. There are mangroves at the mouth of the Bambu R about 2-3 km away (GS).