

- 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).

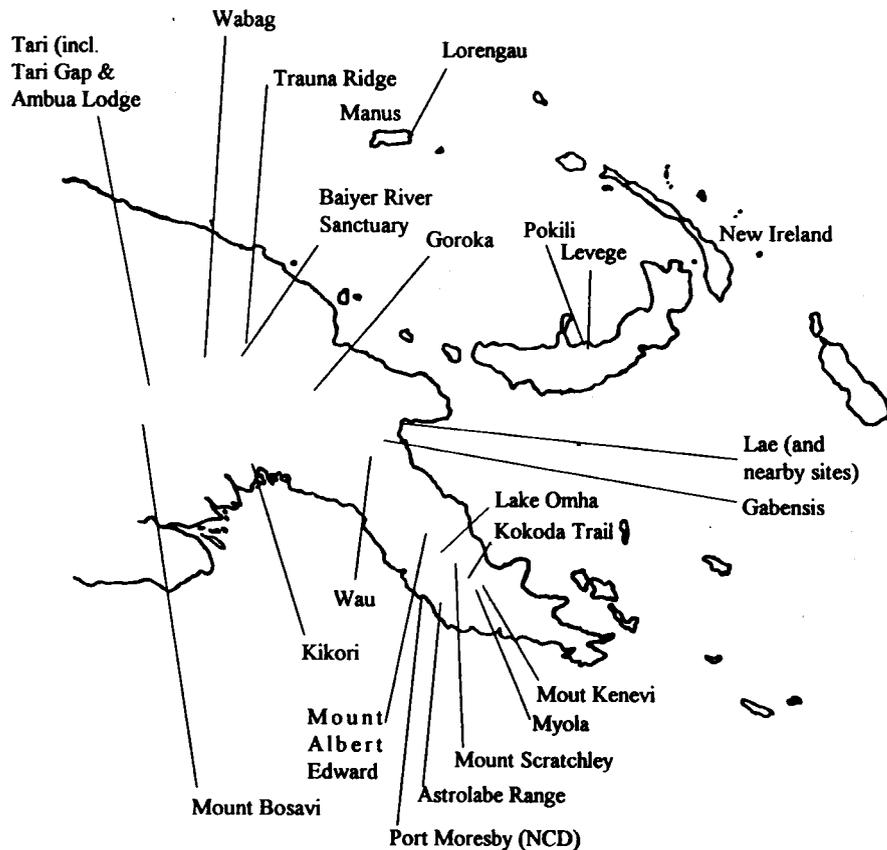
Abbreviations: ad = adult; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; Fm = Farm; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; R = river; Rd = Road; 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).

Raggiana Bird of Paradise

Paradisaea raggiana

A new lek located on the Gawam Rd, just before the new bridge about 10 km past the Sankwep R has been a great success with visitors. Several groups of non-birders have been treated to early morning displays which has aroused an interest in birds among some (GS).



Book Review

Coates, Brian J., (1990), *The Birds of New Guinea. Volume II.* Dove Publications (P.O. Box 59, Alderley, Queensland 4051, Australia. Available from the PNGBS at 110 Kina. (Volume one is still available, priced at 85 Kina)

Brian Coates should be greatly congratulated on producing an absolutely magnificent second volume of his *Birds of Papua New Guinea*. This book is beautifully produced, and is generally of much better quality than volume I. One reason for the better quality is that he has used pictures from a wider variety of sources (twenty-one acknowledged instead of seven in volume I), including many very fine portraits by specialist photographers Clifford and Dawn Frith, and Bill Peckover. This has also resulted in a better photographic coverage so that only a few species are not illustrated with colour photographs, most of these are island endemics. Many of the pictures are simply stunning, and the reproduction is excellent. To say that it is a bargain at 110 Kina is perhaps an overstatement, but it will certainly be avidly devoured by most birders with an interest in Papua New Guinea. Other aspects of the production are also an improvement over the first volume, and the whole has a more professional feeling. I have found no glaring errors of fact, or typographical misplacement, and the author has done a thorough checking of volume one picking up various minor errors. Apart from the main text there are some useful appendices giving notes on the birds which occur only in the Irianese half of the island, and those from the Solomon Islands. Altogether a very remarkable achievement.

As in volume I some of the birds are listed with different names from those which are become most widely used (i.e. those in Beehler et al, *The Birds of New Guinea*. Some of these are a little confusing (e.g. Goldenface for Dwarf Honeyeater, Black-cheeked Robin for Ashy Robin, Sharpe's Cicadabird for Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, etc) but alternative names are always listed. Certain changes in the ordering of the birds have been made to fit in with DNA hybridization evidence, which is in some eyes distinctly equivocal (Blue-capped Irit and Papuan Whipbird with the Jewel-Babblers, Longbills with the Berrypeckers, Melampittas with the Birds of Paradise, etc.). There are also some splittings and lumpings which twitchers will want to take note of. Splittings include the Brown-capped Jewel-Babbler, split from the Blue Jewel-Babbler, the Ochre-collared Monarch split from the Frilled Monarch, and the Graceful Meliphaga is also split into two species. Lumpings include the various island thicket-warblers into the Melanesian Thicket-Warbler, Beccari's and Perplexing Scrub-Wren, and the Streak-headed and White-spotted Mannikins.

Altogether this book represents a very important contribution to the knowledge of Papua New Guinea's birds, and it will be a very long time before the breadth of information and excellence of photographic material are bettered.

Mike Hopkins.