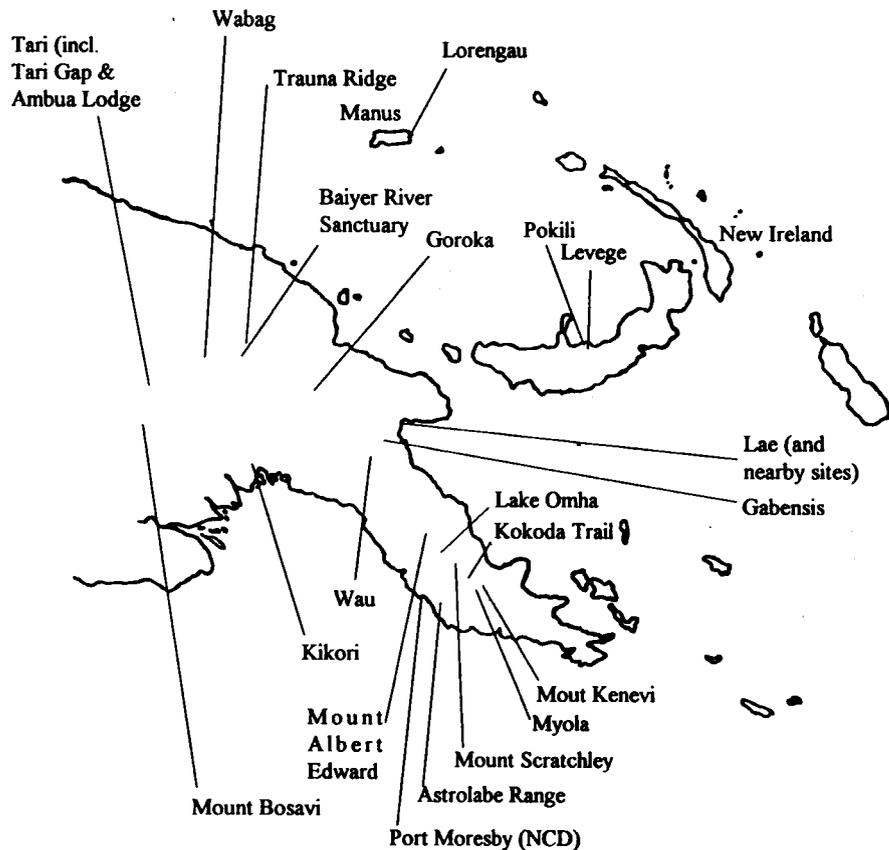


Raggiana Bird of Paradise

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.

INDEX TO PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

- Ambua Lodge (SHP) 68, 73, 74, 75,
77, 78, 79, 86, 87, 92
Astrolabe Mountains (Cen) 67
Baiyer River Sanctuary (WHP) 49-
52
Bambu River (Mor) 97
Benari Road (SHP) 87
Bogio (Cen) 94, 95, 96
Bootless Bay (NCD) 67, 68, 74, 80
Brown River (Cen) 57, 66, 69, 71,
72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80,
82, 83
Bukawa Road (Mor) 95, 96
Buso River (Mor) 96
Dugura Inlet (NCD) 68
Ela Beach 94
Fisherman's Island (NCD) 66
Gabensis (Mor) 97
Gawum Road (Mor) 94, 95, 96, 97,
98
Gaire (Cen) 94
Goroka (EHP) 97
Illimo Farm (NCD) 57, 66, 94
Kikori (Gul) 93
King Bird Tree (Cen) 95, 96
Kokoda Trail (Cen/Oro) 67, 68
Lake Omha (Oro) 66, 70, 71, 72, 73,
74, 76, 77, 79, 81, 82
Lae (Mor) 94, 95, 97
Levege (WNB) 61
Loloata Island (NCD) 69, 95
Lorengau (Man) 85
Madilogo Ridge (Cen) 68, 76, 77, 78,
79
Magi Highway (NCD) 68, 94
Manus 64-65, 85
Markham-Labu Road (Mor) 97
Maui Islet (NCD) 66, 70
Moitaka Settling Ponds (NCD) 67,
69, 70, 94, 95
Motupore Island (NCD) 67, 69, 71,
75, 79, 80, 94, 95
Mount Albert Edward (Oro/Cen) 66
Mount Bosavi (SHP) 68, 72, 73, 75,
76, 77, 79, 80, 82
Mount Diamond (NCD) 68, 71
Mount Kenevi (Oro) 88
Mumeng Road (Mor) 97
Musom (Mor) 95, 96
Myola (Oro) 67, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74,
75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82,
86, 87, 88
New Ireland 61
Owen Stanley Mountains (Oro/Cen)
66, 67, 86
Pacific Adventist College (NCD) 65,
66, 97
Pokili WMA (WNB) 62
Port Moresby (NCD) 93, 94
Tari Gap (SHP) 86, 87, 93
Trauna Valley (WHP) 51
University of Technology (Mor) 95,
96
University of Papua New Guinea
(NCD) 67, 70, 71, 75, 78, 80,
82, 94, 95
Varirata National Park (Cen) 67, 72,
76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83, 97
Veimauri (Cen) 57, 68, 71, 72, 75,
76, 77, 78, 80
Wabag (Eng) 49
Waigani (NCD) 96, 97
Waigani Swamp (NCD) 67, 94
Wau (Mor) 90

INDEX TO PLANT SPECIES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

- Dacrycarpus* 88
Dacrycarpus compactus 67
Dendrobium 86
Dimorphanthera c.f. *amplifolia* 88
Dimorphanthera c.f. *cornuta* 86
Homalanthus 87
Nothophagus 86
Papuacedrus papuanus 88
Polygonum nepalense 86-87
Rhododendron 86
Rubus ferdinandi-muelleri 88
Sapotaceae 87-88
Sauraria 86
Sericolea pullei 87

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

MURUK welcomes any contributions which enlarge the body of knowledge of the birds of the New Guinea region. We welcome scientific papers, travelogues, regional lists, and casual observations. The recent observations section is compiled from submitted observations. Please send all contributions to:

The Editor, MURUK, PNGBS, PO Box 1598, Boroko, P.N.G.

Please type all manuscripts, double spaced. This makes it much easier for us to ensure accuracy. If you have access to a word processor then manuscripts can be submitted on disc (any type compatible with IBM standards). We edit initially in Microsoft Word 5, and later compose the final publication in PageMaker IV. We can cope with documents from most other word-processing programs, but it may be advisable to create an ascii version of the document in case this proves difficult.

In general articles and notes should follow the style used in EMU (or see earlier issues of MURUK). Please pay special attention to the correct citation of references.

For english and scientific names use those in Beehler, B.M. *et al.* (1986) *Birds of New Guinea*, Princeton University Press, or the checklist produced by the Society (Hicks, R. (1987) *Checklist of the Birds of Papua New Guinea*, PNGBS). In listings of birds please follow the order used in these publications.

For place names, please make sure that they can be located using standard maps. If they do not occur on the standard PNG 1:100,000 maps then please give the nearest mapped locality. Always give the province after the name.

Illustrations should be neatly drawn in black ink. Illustrations are scanned into a computerized format. Try not to put in too much detail. For all maps etc. please submit two copies, one without any annotation and another with the place names (etc.) marked. Alternatively, mark the place names on a transparent overlay. Line drawings of birds are welcome. Again, use black ink, and use as few shades as possible, stippling points well. Drawings of accessories or related things for the covers are always welcome. The Society is considering the possibility of including black and white photographs in future issues if there is sufficient demand.

If you have any special requirements with regard to publication please let us know. The editor reserves the right to make any changes they see fit, and we do not normally return manuscripts for proof-checking unless this is specifically asked for by the authors.