

- Hooded Mannikin *Lonchura spectabilis*
 Small groups of these were seen on a couple of occasions near patches of cassava plants. Evidently it was the nest building season, as one was carrying nesting material.
- Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*
 These were the most common birds of the area, and could often be heard and seen. We saw one large tree where they had a nesting colony.
- Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*
 Only one pair was seen the whole time we were there. I thought they would have been more common.
- Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
 Seen fairly often.
- Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*
 These were rather plentiful, and very noisy. Indeed they seemed to make more noise than any group of crows I have seen before, and it was different from the usual crow noises. They were fond of perching on the tops of the taller trees on the campus.

Peckover, W.S. & L.W.C. Filewood. 1976 **Birds of New Guinea and Tropical Australia**. A.H. & A.W. Reed

Address: 172 Harbord Street, Bonnells Bay, New South Wales 2264, Australia

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides* feeding on red ants. Len Tolhurst. On 10 October 1990 at the Pacific Adventist College, NCD, I noticed Helmeted Friarbirds feeding on red ants. The red ants had formed several nests by pulling together leaves of a golden shower tree *Cassia fistula*. The friarbirds flew up to the nests and picked off ants while hovering for a second or so in mid-air, then returned to a branch where they perched and swallowed the ants they had observed. Address: Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko, N.C.D.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus* attacking birds caught in a mist net. Roger K. Hicks and Robin Restall. On 17 July 1990 we visited the Pacific Adventist College (PAC), National Capital District, in the hope of catching some Mannikins *Lonchura* spp. We set a 20 m, 4 panel mist net at a site where mannikins had been observed feeding on the ground. We then left the net for an hour. On our return we had caught 12 birds (10 Grey-headed Mannikins *L. caniceps* and 2 Chestnut-breasted Mannikins *L. castaneothorax*). Two Pheasant Coucals had been attracted to the net, presumably by the flutterings of the trapped mannikins. One of the coucals was actually in the net but escaped as we approached. It had attacked and killed two juvenile Grey-headed Mannikins by pecking at the head and neck, but had not been able to get the mannikins out of the net. After extracting the birds we again left the net. RR returned after about half an hour. We had caught no more birds, but a Pheasant Coucal was sitting close by the net where it was apparently visible to the mannikins as these were now flying higher than they had earlier and so missed the net. Previously, RH had noted Pheasant Coucals sitting under mist nets set in his garden on Matirogo Point, Port Moresby, but no birds had been found dead in the nets. Address: (Hicks) 7 Newtown, Codicote, Herts, SG4 8UG, U.K.; (Restall) 31 South Bay Road, Hong Kong.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* fishing? Roger K. Hicks. Since January 1990 I have regularly recorded an adult and immature Brahminy Kite on my Town Bird Survey site at Matirogo Point, Port Moresby, National Capital District. Over this time the immature has been slowly obtaining its adult plumage and now only has some flecks of white in the rufous of the upper wing. North of Matirogo Point, a stream flows into a small, unnamed bay and at low tide flows across the exposed mudflats. At 11:05 on 17 September 1990, when the tide was half out, these two Brahminy Kites were seen bathing in the stream. They stood within two feet of each other, in water that was almost belly-deep. After about 5 minutes, the immature flew c.10 m to a rock, on which it perched. The adult remained in the water and began, apparently, to fish. It waded c.30 m through the shallows of the stream, stopping frequently. During the stops it occasionally stabbed at something on or in the water. It made a total of six stabs in seven minutes. Each stab seemed to be successful, although the distance from my vantage point to the bird, c.150 m, was too great for the prey to be discernible. The stabbing action it used for "fishing" was of too short a duration for the