

MOMOTE AIRPORT

Lesser Golden Plover
Ruddy Turnstone
Rainbow Bee-eater

LOU ISLAND

Black Bittern
Brahminy Kite
White-breasted Sea-Eagle (at sea)
Grey Goshawk
Common Scrubfowl
Common Sandpiper
Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove
Rainbow Lorikeet
Brush Cuckoo
White-rumped Swiftlet
Sacred Kingfisher
Beach Kingfisher
Rainbow Bee-eater
Northern Fantail
Admiralty Pied Monarch
Shining Flycatcher
Metallic Starling
Yellow-bellied Sunbird

SAN MIGUEL GROUP

Eastern Reef-Egret
Rufous Night-Heron
Crested Hawk
Brahminy Kite

Common Scrubfowl
Nicobar Pigeon
Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove
Grey Imperial Pigeon
Rainbow Lorikeet
Collared Kingfisher ?
Beach Kingfisher
Manus Rufous Fantail
Island Monarch
Bismarck Black Myzomela
Singing Starling

PAM ISLANDS

Lesser Frigate Bird
Eastern Reef-Egret
Common Scrubfowl
Black Noddy
Rainbow Lorikeet
White-rumped Swiftlet
Beach Kingfisher
Shining Flycatcher
Metallic Starling

BALUAN ISLAND

Rufous Night-Heron
Grey Imperial Pigeon
Rainbow Lorikeet
Brush Cuckoo
Channel-billed Cuckoo
White-rumped Swiftlet

Sacred Kingfisher
Dollarbird
Shining Flycatcher
Yellow-bellied Sunbird
Bismarck Black Myzomela
Singing Starling

TULUMAN ISLAND

Eastern Reef-Egret
Black-naped Tern
Sooty Tern
Black Noddy
Rainbow Lorikeet
Singing Starling

SIVISA ISLAND

Eastern Reef-Egret
Common Scrubfowl
Purple Swampphen
Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove
Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove
Grey Imperial Pigeon
Rainbow Lorikeet
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
White-rumped Swiftlet
Manus Rufous Fantail
Island Monarch
Bismarck Black Myzomela
Metallic Starling

DOES THE GREATER GROUND-ROBIN *AMALOCICHLA SCLATERIANA* INHABIT TARI GAP?

BRUCE M. BEEHLER

On 20 November 1991, while birding the roadside forest of Tari Gap (at c. 2400 m) with several others, I heard a very distinctive song that I could not place to species. The song, musical, clear, and mournful, comprised a loose series of upslurred notes in a middle range. A complete series might contain four notes over a ten second period, and thus the series is quite hesitant or tentatively produced. In some instances only a single loud note was given.

The most remarkable aspect of the song was the ringing upslurred quality of the major notes. These are sometimes preceded by a short flat note, producing something like: "hoo..wrrreeeee?" Keys to characterization of this call are: (a) the sad quality; (b) the clear musical tone; (c) the preponderance of upslurred notes; (d) the slow, hesitant pace of note production; (e) the medium pitch of the notes, easily imitated by a human whistling; and (f) the series of notes moves up and down the scale in an odd fashion.

The song closely approaches songs I have heard of the Greater Ground-Robin *Amalocichla sclateriana* from the English Peaks, in the Owen Stanley Range. Might the song I have heard refer to that species? This song is distinct from those described for the Lesser Ground-Robin *A. incerta* and Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*.

I recommend that birders and fieldworkers visiting the area listen for this remarkable call, which we heard in the late afternoon. If, indeed, this is a Greater Ground-Robin, it should be looked for at elevations above 2500 m. This bird is exceedingly difficult to observe. It can best be encountered by whistling an imitation of the call or playing a tape, while waiting motionless within the forest near the singing bird. It will approach on or near the ground, but rarely affords clear views, as it remains hidden in the vegetation.

This would constitute a considerable range extension for the species, as it is only known from the Snow Mountains of Irian Jaya and the mountains south and east of Wau, Morobe Province (Owen Stanley and Wharton ranges, and Bulldog Road).

Address: Wildlife Conservation International, c/o Division of Birds, NHB MRC 116, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA.

Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press.

Coates, B.J. 1985. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea. Volume I*. Dove Publications.

Coates, B.J. 1990. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea. Volume II*. Dove Publications.

Address: Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko.