

COURTSHIP DISPLAY OF THE LONG-BILLED HONEYEATER *MELILESTES MEGARHYNCHUS*

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While visiting the Simbai area in January 1988, I observed what appeared to be courtship display in the Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*. I have already reported this behaviour (Wahlberg 1988), but would like to describe my observations in more detail. B.J. Coates (1990) has also seen this behaviour in the field, but his description also lacks detail.

The display was observed twice, on 6 and 21 January, 1988. The birds were in a rather tall patch of secondary growth at about 1500 m. The two birds were about 10 cm apart, one being directly above the other. Their tails were fanned and wings were fluttered as they jumped back and forth (in almost perfect unison) between a few bare, vertical branches. These branches were c. 1 m below the canopy. The birds called constantly, a high-pitched "tsii-tsii". I could not tell whether only one or both birds were calling. Occasionally the birds would take off and chase each other for a while, before landing in a tree (the same or different one) and repeating the performance. On the 21st I noted that the upper bird's tail was more fanned than the lower bird's. Also on the 21st, the birds would stop occasionally and touch bills gently, then resume jumping. Both times the birds flew off chasing each other until out of sight.

This behaviour is very interesting, I cannot remember seeing mention of it anywhere besides Coates (1990). Are we the only ones to have observed this, or have others also had the privilege? Beehler *et al.* (1986) says nothing of this type of behaviour. It would be interesting to know if the display leads to copulation.

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

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

Wahlberg, N. 1988. Observations from Simbai. **Muruk** 3:41-47.

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BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, MADANG PROVINCE

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We visited Long Island, Madang Province from 1 - 3 September, 1990. Long Island lies c. 50 km north of Wasu, in the Bismarck Sea. It is an extinct volcano with a large crater lake (Lake Wisdom) at its centre. The island experiences a wet and dry season, our visit was during the dry. The island is surrounded by coral reefs, which we found were good for snorkelling.

The vegetation of Long Island is mainly tropical rainforest, but near villages the forest has been cut back for gardens and coconut plantations. In the forest are many soft-leaved vines, orchids and ferns.

Our birding was concentrated in the vicinity of the airstrip and nearby villages. We made one trip to Lake Wisdom along a poorly defined track, guided by local people. The track passed through village gardens and secondary growth. As we approached the edge of the crater the gardens gave way to virgin forest. From the crater edge, the view over the lake was spectacular. A list of the birds we recorded during our stay on the island is given below.

In addition to birds we saw, some interesting reptiles, including a species of small boa, skinks and monitor lizards. These reptiles were photographed for latter identification.

Species List:

Little Grebe	Coronated Fruit-Dove	Golden-headed Cisticola
Lesser Frigatebird	Grey Imperial Pigeon	Island Monarch
Osprey	Rainbow Lorikeet	Mangrove Golden Whistler
Whistling Kite	Common Koel	Louisiades White-Eye
Brahminy Kite	Uniform Swiftlet	Bismarck Black Myzomela
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Glossy Swiftlet	Sclater's Myzomela
Pacific Black Duck	Collared Kingfisher	Hooded Mannikin
Common Scrubfowl	Sacred Kingfisher	Singing Starling
Whimbrel	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	Metallic Starling
Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove	Hooded Pitta	
Stephan's Ground-Dove	Pied Chat	
White-breasted Fruit-Dove		33 species.

Addresses: unknown to editor.