

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (*Platalea flavipes*) AT BENSBACK

During August 1992 two tour groups (FG Inc led by Jan Pierson and Rose Ann Rowlett, and Victor Emmanuel led by David Bishop) reported Yellow-billed Spoonbill from Bensbach, with the Field Guides Inc group seeing at least 6 individuals. These are the first documented for Papua New Guinea, of a not unexpected vagrant to the Trans-Fly. Roy Edwards of Ou Ou Creek Plantation reports two sightings of this species in the past 25 years, most recently 2 birds on 22.8.91. (*R. Edwards in litt. --ed.*)

Whilst travelling down the Bensbach River on 14th June 1993, at fishing spot number 2, I found a single individual Yellow-billed Spoonbill perched on a treetop with Royal Spoonbills (*P. regia*). The bird was photographed for record purposes but the pale yellow bill made identification straightforward. This individual may have been a leftover from the influx of 1992, or the species may be more regular than previously supposed in these remote and little watched areas.

Phil Gregory, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG.
(Received December 1993)

FAIRY MARTIN (*Hirundo ariel*) AT TABUBIL

A single Fairy Martin was perched on a fence by the rugby pitch with Pacific Swallows (*H. tahitica*) on 9th October 1993. The small size, striking white underparts, head coloured orangey down to the nape and the white rump made identification obvious.

This is the second Tabubil record, the previous being on 26th September 1986 (Murray A. 1988 Muruk Vol 3 No 3 p. 105), and coincided with an influx of other Australian migrants. The species remains a rare vagrant to PNG but may be more frequent than currently realised along the Fly River drainage system.

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GREAT KNOT (*Calidris tenuirostris*) AT TABUBIL

A single Great Knot frequented the airstrip and rugby pitch at Tabubil from 10th-14th November 1991, the first inland record for the country and entirely unexpected so far from the coast. The whitish scalings on the pale grey upperparts suggest a first year bird, whilst the rather short legs were greenish in colour. The bird was a typical "tubby" knot-shape, slightly larger than Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), with a whitish belly and flanks and a streaked chest ending in a distinct gorget. Pale supercilium and white rump, with a narrow whitish wing-bar. Dark slightly drooped medium length bill. The bird foraged on the damp grass of the rugby pitch after moving from the gravelly airport area, sometimes alone but also joining up with Pacific Golden Plovers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*).

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SHP= Southern Highlands Province
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