

days, in 1994 for 3 1/2 days, all in late February. Morning and evening were the usual times for observations from deck and similar behaviour at other times of day might be missed. Nevertheless, to have seen this behaviour only 3 times in 17 days indicates that it is sporadic and is likely associated with a superabundance of insects near the surface, such as occurs when mayflies hatch.

### References

Burrows I. 1993 Some notes on the birds seen in the Turama River area, Gulf Province. *Muruk* 6 (1): 28-32.

Clapp G.E. 1993. Unusual foraging behaviour by *Aplonis* starlings believed to be *Aplonis metallica*. *Muruk* 6 (1): 12-13.

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### Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*): A new species for Papua New Guinea

Although the Yellow-billed Spoonbill is illustrated in Beehler et al (1986) there were no documented records until those listed in *Muruk* 6:3 (1994), which include brief details of the 1992 records following:

On August 13th 1993 a flock of at least ten Yellow-billed Spoonbills were observed at fishing hole number two together with large numbers of other waterbirds including c. 100 Royal Spoonbills (*Platalea regia*). All individuals were observed at length through a Questar telescope and 10x40 Zeiss binoculars, both in flight and standing. Immediate comparison was made with neighbouring Royal Spoonbills and the pale yellow bill and legs were noted. A similar flock was previously observed by this author whilst leading a Victor Emanuel Nature Tours Inc. trip to Bensbach, during August 1992 (*Muruk* 6(3)1994). That Yellow-billed Spoonbills were observed at the same site two years running suggest this species may now regularly occur in the Bensbach region of Papua New Guinea.

Other records of interest:

**Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*):** A flock of 23 including some in breeding plumage foraging in open short grass plains near the Bensbach River appears to represent the first record of this recent addition to the PNG avifauna for Western province. August 12th 1993

**White-faced Heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae*):** A single adult observed along the fly River c. 20 km north of Kiunga. August 16th 1993 This appears to be one of the few published record of this species north of more typical habitat such as occurs around the Bensbach River. (*There is a single Tabubil record recorded in Murray (Muruk 3 (3)1988)...ed.*

**Spotted Jewel Babbler (*Ptilorhoa leucosticta*):** A single bird similar to that illustrated for the Central Highlands (Beehler et al 1986) was exceptionally confiding as it foraged around the paths and car park of Ambua Lodge. August 25-26, 1993. This is a shy and rarely recorded species in the Ambua-Tari Gap area.

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### INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

***Muruk*** welcomes any contributions which add to the body of knowledge about the birds of the New Guinea region. We welcome scientific papers, travelogues, regional lists and casual notes and observations, particularly from the less well known areas. Please send all contributions to:

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or Editor, *Muruk*, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG Ph. 675 589310 or fax 589641

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In general please follow the stylistic conventions as used in *Emu* (or see earlier issues of *Muruk*). Please pay special attention to the correct citation of references. Note the guidelines for reporting records as outlined on the front page of this issue.

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 PNGBS (Hicks R. 1987 **Checklist of the Birds of Papua New Guinea**, PNGBS). With bird lists please follow the order used in these publications.

For place names kindly try to ensure that they can be located using standard maps. If they do not occur on the PNG 1:100,000 series maps then please give the nearest mapped locality. Always give the province after the name, and grid references are useful.

Illustrations should be neatly drawn in black ink and avoiding too much detail. For all maps please submit two copies, one without any annotation and another with the place names marked. Alternatively, mark the place names on a transparent overlay. Line drawings of birds are welcome. Again, use black ink and as few shades as possible. Drawings on the theme of cassowaries are always welcome as potential cover items. Black and white photographs may also be included for possible usage.

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