

from the inverted hanging position. The chattering would last for anything from a few seconds to fifteen minutes, sometimes culminating in the "intense phase" of display, but this "intense phase" was not always preceded by chattering, and the duration of chattering did not seem to affect whether or not the "intense phase" followed.

Display would proceed as described above whether or not females were present. After displaying from one site, the male would either fly off and advertise, or would fly to a nearby display site where it would recommence displaying. If females were present, then the male would draw them with him from one display site to the next, and he would display for short spells at each site. There seemed to be no fixed route that the male used when travelling between display sites, but there seemed to be favourite display sites and perches.

I never observed display leading to copulation, and I never heard the "intense phase" of display to go on for more than 30 seconds. However a local man told me that he heard the bird "become electric (*kisim pawa*) for some minutes in June 1994. Perhaps the "intense phase" of the display lasts longer if a female shows enough interest.

As with the morning display sequence, the afternoon display sequence did not have a definite routine. Sometimes the bird would advertise for two hours or more before displaying (perhaps not coming down from its advertising lookout until after 1730), whereas at other times it would begin displaying without any or only very little advertising. It would chatter to itself when preparing for roost.

Conclusion

It was easy to hear the bird advertising from some distance, but the chattering and buzzing sounds could only be heard from fairly close range. Because of this, it is possible that some display went unnoticed during my study.

Some particularly interesting observations are listed below:

1. This bird, and also another plumed male nearby, both chose to display in dense secondary growth, although their foraging areas included primary forest. Earlier records (Coates 1990) suggest that Blue Birds of Paradise generally display in primary forest. Both birds had a number of display sites, commonly amongst tictic (*Miscanthus floridulus*) grass stems very close to the ground. At least one branch from which a bird displayed was within a metre of the ground. Display may not have previously been recorded from so low down (This certainly would seem atypical amongst other members of the genus such as Raggiana *P. raggiana*, Lesser *P. minor* and Greater Birds of Paradise *P. apoda*... *Ed.*)

2. A female plumaged Blue Bird of Paradise with an uneven tail was seen advertising and heard chattering on 24 December, 1993. It was assumed that this was a mature male in eclipse plumage, as a plumed male was observed advertising from this territory several times earlier in 1993 and again in 1994. The bird seemed less wary without its plumes. (Immature male or even a visiting female also seem possible. *Ed.*)

3. The main period of display was in the early morning, with a second major period in the late afternoon. This is not surprising, given what is known about when other birds of paradise display, but Coates (1990) suggests otherwise.

4. On 18 September 1994 the plumed male was observed, after chattering obscured by tictic stems for about twelve minutes, to fly to a vertical sapling, hop down to 1.8m above ground and engage straight into the "intense phase" of display for about ten seconds, after which it hopped back up the sapling and flew off. This may be the first record of display from a vertical post. On closer inspection I found that the green leaves had recently been bitten off the sapling and were lying underneath, so that the sapling was almost devoid of leaves. A fresh dropping (almost certainly from the Blue Bird of Paradise) was also found there. The dropping was orange and resembled a fruit which the male bird was seen to consume.

It is hoped that further observations will add to the information presented in this paper.

References

- Beehler, B. M., Pratt, T. K. and Zimmerman, D. A. 1986. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea**. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
 Coates, B. J. 1990. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea Volume II**. Dove Publications, Alderley.
 Peckover, W. S. 1990. **Papua New Guinea Birds of Paradise**. Robert Brown, Carina.

*Author's address: C/o VSO PNG Field Office, P.O. Box 5685, Boroko, NCD.
 (Received Feb. 1995)*

MANED DUCK (AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK) *Chenonetta jubata* NEAR PORT MORESBY: THE FIRST RECORD FOR THE NEW GUINEA REGION

by Brian Coates

On the afternoon of 13 February 1994 a single Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*, in female or immature male plumage, was observed in an area of flooded low-lying pasture land alongside the Sogerly road, Central Province, opposite the turn-off to the Pacific Adventist College. Although the bird was some distance away, good views were obtained through a telescope. Also present were Pacific Black Ducks *Anas superciliosa* and some Grey Teal *A. gibberifrons*.

Because I am so familiar with this species, which is an abundant resident in the Brisbane area in the vicinity of my home, I recognized it immediately (though almost with a feeling of disbelief!). The following description is from field notes taken at the time:

Slightly smaller than a Pacific Black Duck; bill notably short, and grey; head and neck brown; a darker line through the eye, a short whitish line above the eye and another below it; body generally grey with a prominent black stripe down the side of the back (on scapulars); breast and flanks thickly spotted with white; ventral area white; tail dark; upper surface of wing, observed when the bird stretched, showed extensive white secondaries with a black bar and green speculum.

In the New Guinea region the Maned Duck is to be confused only with the Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*. However, the combination of small bill, grey body and black scapular-stripe is diagnostic.

The Maned Duck is endemic to Australia including Tasmania, where it is fairly widespread; it is absent north of about 15° S, except as a vagrant. It has occurred as a vagrant on Badu Island, Torres Strait and New Zealand (see Marchant & Higgins 1990). This is a gregarious species,

rarely seen alone. Just how this solitary individual reached the Port Moresby district will probably never be known. There had, however, recently been a series of tropical cyclones off the NE coast of Queensland and it seemed likely that one of these resulted in its occurrence.

The other observers present when the bird was first sighted were Brad and Cassandra Warrick and John (Jay) Kistler, all visitors from the USA. Later that day the bird was shown to Len Tolhurst. The bird remained at this site for several months and was seen by many observers including Ian Burrows and Phil Gregory on 13 March. What was presumably the same individual reappeared on 20 November 1994 (L. Tolhurst *in litt.*).

Reference

Marchant, S. and Higgins P.J. 1990. **Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds, Volume 1, Part B.** Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Author's address: PO Box 59, Alderley, Queensland 4051, Australia. (Received Oct. 94)

JUVENILE PAPUAN HAWK-OWL *Uroglaux dimorpha* NEAR VANIMO

by Noam Shany

During the morning of 11 August 1992, Hector Gomes de Silva and I were searching for Pale-billed Sicklebills *Epimachus bruijnii* along the road from Passy to Waterstone. We noticed a noisy flock of Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters *Xanthotis flaviventer* voicing alarm calls and echoed by Variable Pitohuis *Pitohui kirhocephalus*. A short look for the cause of this excitement revealed a juvenile Papuan Hawk-owl roosting in a roadside bush at about 3.5m above the ground.

The road is located on the edge of a flood-plain; a second growth forest grows alongside the road. The escarpment is just 100m away so the elevation is about 50m above sea -level.

The Papuan Hawk-owl is a small-headed, slender-bodied and long-tailed owl. The bird had all white underparts and face, and was therefore determined to be a downy fledgling. The upperparts were all dark frosty grey, the head and forehead streaked and the back diffusely barred. The undertail was white and faintly barred with 3-4 narrow pale bars. The large eyes with yellow irides were located on a non-typical facial disc: the eyes were positioned a bit to the side of the head. The feet were yellow.

To our enjoyment the owl was motionless and ignored the activity around it. It was bothered only by some dust that had got into its eye, and which caused it to blink rapidly for a few minutes. We watched for about 40 minutes then continued our search for the sicklebill, which we never found. Instead, we observed Edward's Fig-parrot *Psittaculirostris edwardsii* and numerous fruit-doves *Ptilinopus* spp. foraging on a fruiting fig tree. On the way back, two hours later, we found the owl still present on the same branch.

(Editor's note: This record is the only reasonably recent Papuan Hawk-owl sighting of which the PNGBS is aware, which led to the species being listed as data deficient in "Birds To Watch 2" by Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J. and Stattersfield A. 1994. BirdLife International. The bird concerned being a juvenile is particularly noteworthy as breeding data are almost non-existent.)

Author's address: 1718 Burgundy, Leucadia, CA 92024, USA. (Received Dec. 94)

LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA DURING THE PERIOD 16 OCTOBER, 1992 TO 29 NOVEMBER, 1992

by Allan Richards and Richard Rowland

Richard Rowland and I spent six weeks on a bird-watching trip to Papua New Guinea during the period from 16 October, 1992 to 29 November, 1992.

AREAS VISITED

Port Moresby area

17/10/92

A day trip to Varirata National Park (N. P.) and to the area around the Monument at the beginning of the Kokoda Trail.

18/10/92

Moitaka settling ponds.

Ambua Lodge, Tari - 19/10/92 to 27/10/92.

Day trips along trails around the Lodge; to the Bailey bridge and Tari Gap; along Banari Road below the Lodge; and by coach to various sites in the Tari valley.

Tabubil - 27/10/92 to 1/11/92 and 5/11/92 to 6/11/92

Day trips to Mt. Binnie and Mt. Robinson near the Ok Tedi mine; along Dablin Creek Road just north of Tabubil township; to Ok Menga and along Ok Ma Road.

Kiunga - 1/11/92 to 5/11/92.

Two morning walks to an old logging area about 8 km north of Kiunga. One day trip by boat as far as possible along the Fly and Elevala Rivers. Another boat trip to an unknown village on the Elevala River, then by vehicle over 10 km along a road, walking back to the boat.

6/11/92

Flew from Tabubil to Vanimo, stopping at several villages on the way including Telefomin.

Vanimo - 6/11/92 to 12/11/92

We hitched rides as far as the Sossy logging camp along the Bewani Road west of Vanimo and generally walked most of the way back to Vanimo, sometimes hitching from the corner of the Bewani Road. Brief visits to airstrip verges to observe waders at a high-tide roost

Madang - 12/11/92 to 13/11/92 and 15/11/92 to 16/11/92

Two stop-overs on our way to and from Karkar Island.

Karkar Island - 13/11/92 to 15/11/92

Travelled by boat both ways between Madang and Karkar Island. Stayed at a village about an hour's drive east of the wharf and birdwatched in the plantations and forest above that village.