

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.

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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.)

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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.