

EDITORIAL

We are pleased to publish in this issue, the final one for Volume 7, a miscellany of material : A Check List for Mount Gahavisuka Provincial Part, a variety of observations from the Bismarcks and Manus, including nest data on the Black Imperial Pigeon, papers documenting birds from the little known middle Fly region, a travelogue from Myola, speculation on future additions to the PNG list, an undescribed plumage morph of Grey-headed Goshawk, nesting observations on the little known Grey Crow, a Bat Hawk sighting from Irian Jaya and a summary of significant observations in 1993 and 1994. We welcome this variety and are grateful to our sponsors, Ok Tedi Mining for their continued support in 1995. We hope to continue with three issues per year, but are dependent on contributions for the publishing schedule which is of necessity flexible.

Contributors of sightings have been very few in recent years, and we encourage both residents and visitors to submit their records.

We particularly welcome copies of tour group reports, as many interesting sightings lie hidden in these inaccessible databases and it is a courtesy to the host country to make copies available to the PNGBS. Such reports form part of our archives, and excerpts would be used only if such permission is given. Feedback to notes and papers is welcomed, if you know better please write and tell us, we will be happy to publish, a major aim being to stimulate study and increase the knowledge of New Guinea birds.

Editor : Phil Gregory.

Please continue to send submissions (preferably on disk in the specified format) to :

Editor, *Muruk*, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG.

Phone (675) 589310 or fax (675) 589641

All contributions will be acknowledged.

Muruk is published by the Papua New Guinea Bird Society and is available as part of society membership. Back numbers are K4 each plus postage and packing. Volume one (1986) was reprinted in 1990 and is available for K8. Please note the revised 1995 membership rates.

Membership rates are : Local (within PNG): K12 individual K19 family K8 junior

Overseas K16 (A\$32) surface mail; K18 (A\$36) airmail to Australia, NZ and Singapore

Distant (all other countries) surface K19 (A\$38), K24 (\$A48) airmail

Cheques or drafts should be sent to : *Treasurer, PNGBS, PO BOX 1598, Boroko, PNG.*

If not paying in kina, please use pounds sterling, Australian or US dollars and add K2 equivalent for bank charges.

Cover : *Southern Cassowary head study by Jones Hiaso*

SPONSORED BY OK TEDI MINING LTD.

MT. GAHAVISUKA PROVINCIAL PARK: A Check List of Birds

by Tom Coles

Overview

Mt. Gahavisuka Provincial Park and Lipizauga Botanical Sanctuary is noted primarily for its unique orchard and rhododendron species. Species are on display in the Sehoka and Lipizauga Orchard Houses. The goals of the park focus around recreation, conservation, scientific research, education and tourism.

The park is located 11 km. from the centre of Goroka Town, Eastern Highlands Province. It can be reached by 4-wheel drive vehicle. After crossing over the bridge on the Mt. Hagen side of Goroka, turn off the Okuk Highway, onto the road on the right, opposite the Okiufa Community School (look for the park sign at the turn off). Transportation can be arranged by the Park Director (cost negotiable) or through the Bird of Paradise Hotel in Goroka at a fixed rate. Melanesian Tours has plans to build a bungalow type hotel off the road just below the park gate.

Entry into the park is free. There is a donation box at the information centre next to the car park. There is no fixed time for entering or leaving the park, although early arrivals may have to park their vehicle outside of the park gate if it is locked (only a short walk from the car park). The park land was leased from the people of nearby Nagamiza village in April 1983. There are plans for expanding the boundary of the park, currently covering 77.4 hectares (200 acres). Due to village involvement in managing the park, security is good. The park staff are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.

Arrangements can be made to overnight at the park for individuals or small groups interested in night walks, exploring for nocturnal marsupials and birds. One medium sized marsupial species, which had just been decapitated by a Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), was found on the main track by the author and Park Director. Bring your own bedding, food, torch, rain gear and mosquito repellent if planning an overnight stay. Water is available at the park. Because forest wallabies are crepuscular (dawn and dusk) animals, the Common Mountain Forest Wallaby (*Dorcopsulus vanheurni*), can be seen at the 'Lake,' often on the little island in the centre (most frequently seen in the late afternoon if one is very quiet).

Check List

Of the 708 verified species of birds of New Guinea and its neighbor islands (Principe 1991), 138 are listed for the park of which 33 species are listed as questionable due to their habitat requirements and altitude distribution. The one exception is the Superb Bird of Paradise (*Lophorina superba*) which was seen by the author at its upper altitude limit of 2300 meters. Since birds do not read bird books, they are often able to adapt to different habitat. Expanded altitude distribution for different species continues to be noted in *Muruk* (Journal of the Papua New Guinea Bird Society). Of the 40 Birds of Paradise listed for the country, eleven (11) species are listed for the park (the presence of three species is questionable). This list will most likely undergo future revision. It has been compiled from observations made by the author, the park staff and other birders. Information was also compiled from the listed references. Notes concerning confirmation of the species listed as questionable or of species not listed should be passed on to the Park Director or the author.

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
<i>PHASIANIDAE</i>				
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix australis</i> S-2600/3600	*	*	?
<i>TURNICIDAE</i>				
Red-backed Button-Quail	<i>Turnix maculosa</i> S-2500	*	?	
<i>RALLIDAE</i>				
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Rallus philippensis</i> S-3350	*	*	*
Lewin's Rail	<i>Rallus pectoralis</i> 1040-2600	*	*	
Forbes' Forest-Rail	<i>Rallina forbesi</i> 1100-3000	*	*	*
Spotless Crane	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i> S-3150	*	*	*
Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i> L-1500-2450		*	
<i>SCOLOPACIDAE</i>				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i> S-3200	?	?	?
Latham's (Japanese) Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> S-3550	?	?	?
Swinhoe's (Chinese) Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i> S-3720	?	?	?
Rufous Woodcock	<i>Scelopax saturata</i> S-3720	?	?	?
<i>COLUMBIDAE</i>				
White-throated Pigeon	<i>Columba vitiensis</i> S-2750	*	*	
Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i> S-2600	*	*	
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i> S-3380	*	*	*
Bronze Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba beccarii</i> 1200-2700	*	*	
White-bibbed Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba jobiensis</i> L-2300	*		
Ornate Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i> 200-1350/3260	?	?	?
White-breasted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i> 300/1000-3260	*	*	*
Rufescent Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula chalconota</i> 1000-2400	*		
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertsii</i> S-3350	*	*	*
<i>PSITTACIDAE</i>				
Dusky Lory	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i> L-2400	*		
Goldie's Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus goldiei</i> L-2750	*	*	
Little Red Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna pulchella</i> 750-2300	*		
Papuan Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna papou</i> 1500-2800	*	*	
Plum-faced Lorikeet	<i>Oreopsittacus arfaki</i> 1700/2650-3650		*	*
Yellow-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus musschenbroekii</i> 1100-2800	*	*	*
Orange-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus pullicauda</i> 2180/2300-3660	*	*	*
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> S-1500/2400	?		
Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot	<i>Micropsitta bruijnii</i> 500-2300	*		
Brehm's Tiger-Parrot	<i>Psittacella brehmi</i> 1600-2800	*	*	*
Painted Tiger-Parrot	<i>Psittacella picta</i> 2450-3680	?	*	*
Madaras's Tiger-Parrot	<i>Psittacella madaraszii</i> 1150-2500	*	?	
Papuan King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus chloropterus</i> S-2300	*		
<i>CUCULIDAE</i>				
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i> 1300/1500-2900/3700	*	*	*
Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx ruficollis</i> 1300-3230	*	*	*

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
<i>TYTONIDAE</i>				
Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i> 1000-2500	?		
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i> L-3660	*	*	*
Papuan Boobook	<i>Ninox theomacha</i> L-2500	*	?	
<i>AEGOTHELIDAE</i>				
Feline Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles insignis</i> 80/1150-2800	*	*	*
Mountain Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles albertsi</i> 800-2900	*	*	*
<i>HEMIPROCENIDAE</i>				
Mountain Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia hirundinacea</i> L-4000	*	*	*
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i> S-3600/4500	*	*	*
<i>ALCEDINIDAE</i>				
Shovel-billed Kingfisher	<i>Clytoceyx rex</i> L-2400	*		
<i>MEROPIIDAE</i>				
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i> S-1600/3960	?	?	?
<i>HIRUNDINIDAE</i>				
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i> S-2200/2700	?	?	
<i>MOTACILLIDAE</i>				
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> 600-2800	*	*	*
<i>CAMPEPHAGIDAE</i>				
Hooded Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina longicauda</i> 1300/2100-2800/3700	*	*	*
Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina caeruleogrisea</i> 600-1700/2450		?	
Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina montana</i> 770/1000-2450/2800	*	?	?
<i>LANIIDAE</i>				
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i> 400/1000-2650	*	*	
<i>TURDIDAE</i>				
Pied Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i> L/1200-2300/2850	*	?	?
Island Thrush	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i> 1980/2300-4120/4500	*	*	*
<i>ORTHONYCHIDAE</i>				
Log-runner	<i>Orthonyx temminckii</i> 1980-2840/3550	?	?	?
Spotted Jewel-babbler	<i>Ptilorrhoa leucosticta</i> 1200-2700	*		
Lesser Melampitta	<i>Melampitta lugubris</i> 1150/2000-2800/3500	*	*	*
Blue-capped Ifrita	<i>Ifrita kowaldi</i> 1460/2000-2900/3680	*	*	*
<i>SYLVIIDAE</i>				
Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> S-2300	?	?	?
Tawny Grassbird	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i> S-3850	?	?	?

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i> S-1250/2225	?		
Island Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i> 640/1200-1800/2400	*		
MALURIDAE				
White-shouldered Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus alboscapulatus</i> L-2150/2500	*		
Orange-crowned Fairy-wren	<i>Clytomyias insignis</i> 1200/1700-2800	*	*	*
ACANTHIZIDAE				
Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler	<i>Crateroscelis nigrorufa</i> 1200-2500		*	
Mountain Mouse-Warbler	<i>Crateroscelis robusta</i> 1250-3680	*	*	*
Large Scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis nouhuysi</i> 1200/1400-3500	*	*	*
Buff-faced Scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i> 850/1500-2450/2850	*	?	?
Papuan Scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis papuensis</i> 1500/2000-3500	*	*	*
Grey Gerygone	<i>Gerygone cinerea</i> 1000/2000-2800	*	*	*
Brown-breasted Gerygone	<i>Gerygone ruficollis</i> 1100/1400-2450/3300	*	?	?
RHIPIDURIDAE				
Dimorphic Fantail	<i>Rhipidura brachyrhyncha</i> 2000-3680/3900	*	*	*
Black Fantail	<i>Rhipidura atra</i> 700/1000-2150/3200	?	?	?
Friendly Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i> 1130/1370-3600	*	*	*
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> S-850/2800	?		
MYIAGRIDAE				
Black Monarch	<i>Monarcha axillaris</i> 700/800-2350	*		
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigriceps</i> 850/1130-2750		*	*
EOPSALTRIIDAE				
Torrent Flycatcher	<i>Monachella muelleriana</i> 450-2300/2600	*	?	
Yellow-legged Flycatcher	<i>Microeca griseiceps</i> 550-1400/2300	?		
Canary Flycatcher	<i>Microeca papuana</i> 1100/1800-2500/3500	*	?	?
Garnet Robin	<i>Eugerygone rubra</i> 1400/1700-2500/3680	*	?	?
Lesser Ground-Robin	<i>Amalocichla incerta</i> 900/1200-2750	*	*	
Ashy Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albispectularis</i> 1400/1700-2400/2600	*	?	
Black-throated Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albonotata</i> 1150/1800-2750	*	*	
White-winged Robin	<i>Peneothello sigillatus</i> 2150/2400-3900	?	*	*
Blue-gray Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i> 900/1500-2500/2750	*	?	
PACHYCEPHALIDAE				
Mottled Whistler	<i>Rhagologus leucostigma</i> 820/1500-2550/2900	*	?	?
Slater's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala soror</i> 350/1000-2000/2450	?		
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i> 1300/1850-3650	*	*	*
Brown-backed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala modesta</i> 1130/1830-3600	*	*	*
Rufous-naped Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufinucha</i> 1200/1400-2600/3600	*	*	?
Little Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i> L-1850/2300	?		
Black Pitohui	<i>Pitohui nigrescens</i> 1000/1600-2000/2600	?	?	
Wattled Ploughbill	<i>Eulacestoma nigropectus</i> 1250/1950-2850	*	*	?

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
NEOSITTIDAE				
Varied Sitella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i> 1075/1400-2200/2650	?	?	
Black Sitella	<i>Daphoenositta miranda</i> 2000/2450-3700	?	*	*
DICAEIFIDAE				
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis versteri</i> 1250/1700-3680	*	*	*
Streaked Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis striativentris</i> 550/1150-2300/2600	*	?	
Spotted Berrypecker	<i>Rhamphocharis crassirostris</i> 850/1150-2300/2700	*	?	
Tit Berrypecker	<i>Oreocharis arfaki</i> 1400/2200-2700/3000	*	*	?
Crested Berrypecker	<i>Paramythia montium</i> 2150/2450-3800/4100	?	*	*
Papuan Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale</i> L-1700/2350	?		
ZOSTEROPIDAE				
New Guinea White-eye	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i> 700/1200-2400/2600	*	?	
MELIPHAGIDAE				
Olive Straightbill	<i>Timeliopsis fulvigula</i> 1100-2450/2700	*	?	
Slaty-chinned Longbill	<i>Toxorhamphus poliopterus</i> 500-2000/2450	?		
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i> 600/1200-3700/3950	*	*	*
Sooty Melidectes	<i>Melidectes fuscus</i> 2000/3000-3700	?	?	?
Belford's Melidectes	<i>Melidectes belfordi</i> 1400/1600-3550/3800	*	*	*
Yellow-browed Melidectes	<i>Melidectes rufocrissalis</i> 1100/1400-2400		*	
Black-throated H.	<i>Lichenostomus subfrenatus</i> 1070/1350-2000/3680	?	?	?
Rufous-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora guisei</i> 1340/1800-2450/2900	*	?	?
Grey-streaked Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora perstriata</i> 1650/2500-3750	*	*	
Common Smoky Honeyeater	<i>Melipotes fumigatus</i> 1100/1400-2800/3400	*	*	*
ESTRILDIDAE				
Blue-faced Parrot-Finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i> 1000-3000		*	*
Hooded Mannikin	<i>Lonchura spectabilis</i> L-2450		*	
ARTAMIDAE				
Great Wood-swallow	<i>Artamus maximus</i> 600-2600/2800		*	*
CRATICIDAE				
Mountain Peltops	<i>Peltops montanus</i> 600/750-1680/2800	?	?	?
PTILONORHYNCHIDAE				
Spotted Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus melanotis</i> 600-1700/2250		?	
Macgregor's Bowerbird	<i>Amblyornis macgregoriae</i> 1950/1600-2300/2800	*	?	?
PARADISAEIDAE				
Crested Bird of Paradise	<i>Cnemophilus macgregorii</i> 2300/2600-3500/3650	?	*	*
Loria's Bird of Paradise	<i>Cnemophilus loriae</i> 1200/2000-2800/3500	*	*	*
Short-tailed Paradigalla	<i>Paradigalla brevicauda</i> 1400/1570-2380/2580	*		
Buff-tailed Sicklebill	<i>Epimachus albertsi</i> 600/1100-1900/2250	?		
Black Sicklebill	(*) <i>Epimachus fastuosus</i> 1280/1800-2150/2550	?		
Brown Sicklebill	(*) <i>Epimachus meyeri</i> 1525/1900-2900/3200	*	*	*

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
Stephanie's Astrapia	<i>Astrapia stephaniae</i> 1280/1500-2800/3500	*	*	*
Superb Bird of Paradise	<i>Lophorina superba</i> 1000/1650-1900/2300	*		
Lawes' Parotia	<i>Parotia lawesii</i> 500/1200-1900/2300	?		
King of Saxony BOP	<i>Pteridophora alberti</i> 1400/1800-2500/2850	*	?	?

References

- Anon. 1991. **Mt. Gahavisuka Provincial Park and Lipizauga Botanical Sanctuary.**
- Beehler, B. M., T. K. Pratt and D. A. Zimmerman, 1986. **Birds of New Guinea.** Princeton University Press. Cambridge.
- Coates, B. J. 1985. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea.** Vol. 1, Dove Publications. Alderley.
- Coates, B. J. 1990. **The Birds of Papua New Guinea.** Vol. 2, Dove Publications. Alderley.
- Menzies, J. I. 1991. **A Handbook of New Guinea Marsupials & Monotremes.** Kristen Pres Inc. Madang
- Principe, B. 1991. **A Check List of the Birds of New Guinea.** Bird Processing.

Author's address: C/o Madang Lodge, PO Box 59, Madang, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea.

(Received September 1995)

BIRDS OF WILD DOG, EAST NEW BRITAIN

by Chris Eastwood

Will Glynn, Mark Walker & I visited the mining camp of Wild Dog over the Easter weekend of 1995. We arrived at midday on the 14th of April and left on the morning of the 17th. Wild Dog is situated almost exactly in the centre of the Gazelle peninsula approximately 2 hours drive south west of Kokopo, which itself is just south of Rabaul. The camp is at an altitude of approximately 950 metres asl and currently consists primarily of just one building. The mine is not yet at the development stage and the surrounding bush is largely untouched apart from a number of vehicular tracks and a few small areas where some exploration activity has occurred.

We stayed at the camp courtesy of David Lindley, of Gold Mines of Niugini Holdings Pty Limited. If anybody is interested in visiting the area they should contact David on 96 4827 (tel/fax) or write to him at Box 808, Rabaul.

Species List

Underlining denotes a species endemic to the Bismarck (and Admiralty) or Solomon Islands.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

A single bird flying over the camp (approximately 50 kilometres from the sea) on two different days (one an immature?).

Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*)

A pair was resident at the camp.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

One bird perched by the track as we returned to Kokopo.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia amboinensis*)

Single birds seen on most days.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia nigrirostris*)

Only one bird positively identified.

White-breasted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus rivoli*)

A pair were seen in some casuarina saplings.

Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus insolitus*)

Fairly common and small numbers were seen every day.

Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula rubricera*)

The second most common pigeon or dove and small numbers were seen every day; particularly vocal.

Finsch's Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula finschii*)

Two birds were seen perched by the side of the road - very dumpy looking pigeons appearing large eyed.

Black Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula melanochroa*)

Single birds occasionally flying over; one perched bird by the camp on our last morning.

Pied Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*)

The commonest pigeon or dove - several birds had a pale cream wash and a green bill.

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

Small numbers seen on two days.

Eastern Black-capped Lory (*Lorius hypoinochrous*)

A few pairs seen flying past.

Red-chinned Lorikeet (*Charmosyna rubrigularis*)

Small flocks of presumably this species were seen in flight on two days.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua ophthalmica*)

Mainly single birds seen, although on one day a flock of at least 10 birds were in the valley below the camp.

Song Parrot (*Geoffroyus heteroclitus*)

Only single birds seen, although a small flock was also heard on one day.

Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus roratus*)

Just one bird seen flying over.

Violaceous Coucal (*Centropus violaceus*)

Single birds were seen almost every day along the track, though they were more often heard than seen.

White-necked Coucal (*Centropus ateralbus*)

Only one bird seen.

Glossy Swiftlet (*Collocalia esculenta*)

Small numbers.

Moustached Tree-swift (*Hemiprocne mystacea*)

A pair was resident near the camp.

White-mantled Kingfisher (*Halcyon albonotata*)

One bird seen well on one day - we had heard a kingfisher calling in the evening but were unable to track it down; we returned to the site the next morning and eventually found it; it would perch for long periods of time, calling almost continuously. A bird was seen again in the afternoon. Another bird was also heard in a different area.

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)

Small numbers on two days.

Blyth's Hornbill (*Rhyticeros plicatus*)

A pair was resident near the camp and were often seen flying past.