

The Nest

The nest was constructed from thin sticks supported by two or three thin outer members of the branch beyond the last main fork in the branch. The nest was a platform estimated to be 750 mm by 600 mm by 150 mm deep. The distance to the nest from the observation point was too far to allow a detailed examination of the nest.

Young Grey Crows

When first observed on the 26th and 27th of November 1994 there were four nearly fully fledged young on the nest being fed at short regular intervals by what appeared to be only two adults. Observation times were around 4 pm on the 26th and 10 am on the 27th.

At the next observation of the young on the 3rd of December, they were flexing their wings preparing to leave the nest. This time they were being fed infrequently. Observation time was between 9.30 am and 10.30 am.

The site was visited again on the 18th of December and the nest was found to be vacated. Grey crows could be heard about one kilometre away to the south.

It was noted in May 1995 that the top ten metres of the tree was in full thick foliage and the location of the nest could not be observed from the lookout.

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BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) SIGHTING FROM KOBAKMA, IRIAN JAYA, INDONESIA ON 8TH DECEMBER 1990.

By William F. Glynn.

This is to record the sighting of a Bat Hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) at Kobakma in the Wamena Government District, Irian Jaya, Indonesia on the 8th of December 1990. Kobakma, (elevation 975m) is twenty minutes by a Cessna 185 or a two day walk, north of Wamena (elevation 1525m), the government administration centre for the Baliem Valley region. There were no roads to Kobakma in 1990. The immediate area around (three to four kilometres) Kobakma has cleared areas with regrowth rain forest, beyond this is rain forest. Kobakma is situated on a flat ridge top.

The Bat Hawk was sighted at 8 am about four kilometres east of the air strip (in the centre of Kobakma) above the main walking track to Pasvalley and Wamena. The Bat Hawk was flying in a westerly direction about 100m above the ground. It appeared to be flying direct to a definite location. The sky was clear at the time of sighting. (Editor's note: Will Glynn knows the species from Papua New Guinea and is certain of his identification, though no field notes were made at the time. It is not known from Irian Jaya, but occurs in Java and Borneo and its occurrence in this province of Indonesia is not altogether unexpected.)

Other species sighted between the 4th and 9th of December included: Brown Quail, Grey Gos-hawk (white phase), Collared Sparrow hawk, Crested Hawk, Little Eagle (pale phase and dark phase). Buff-banded Rail, White-browed Crane (Heard), Bush-Hen (Heard), Victoria Crowned Pigeon (fleeting glimpse), Pheasant Pigeon, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Wompoo Fruit Dove,

Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, Bronze Cuckoo sp., Brush Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Yellow Billed Kingfisher, Dollar Bird, Blyth's Horn bill, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Swiftlet, Boyer's Cuckoo Shrike, Brown Oriole, Helmeted Friarbird, Meyer's Friarbird, Black-browed Triller, White-shouldered Fairy Wren, Northern Fantail, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Mountain Peltops (sitting on nest), Black-sided Robin, Grey Wagtail, Grey Shrike-thrush, Dwarf Whistler, Black-headed Whistler, Hooded Pitohui, Black Berrypecker, Black-fronted White-eye, Papuan Flowerpecker, Long-billed Honeyeater, Dwarf Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Myna, Yellow-breasted Bower-bird, Lesser Bird of Paradise, Grey Crow, Singing Starling.

The Mountain Peltops was nesting about six metres above the main walking track to Pasvalley. It's mate kept watch close by. The Grey Wagtail was at an elevation of 880m on the bank of a very fast flowing river.

Reference: B. M. Beehler (1985). **Birds of New Guinea.**
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SPECULATION : ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

by Phil Gregory

I have a checklist of New Guinea birds published by Bill Principe (1991), which details 708 species definitely known to have occurred on the mainland of New Guinea as a whole including the nearby islands, and lists a further 58 as either undocumented, with uncertain taxonomic status or which the author expects to occur. This latter category is unusual in being included in a lighter type face in the main body of the list rather being in an appendix, which can make for confusion. Some of the predictions I find surprising, and with this in mind have decided to speculate on a list of my own.

Basically almost anything which has occurred as a vagrant to Australia is a fair bet, and a few Australian dispersives are possible. Seabirds form the largest body of potential candidates, and given the limited pelagic observations from New Guinea seas so far we can expect a lot of additions in due course. Long distance migrants form the next major category.

Bill's predicted list is given below, and is followed by my own. Other scryers of the crystal ball are welcome to join in ! The Papua New Guinea list is currently 665 from the mainland and nearby islands, with an additional 94 from the Bismarck Archipelago, Admiralty Islands and North Solomons (based on Chris Eastwood's latest pocket check list, PNGBS 1994). The grand total is thus 759 species.

Bill Principe's Predictions * Denotes species now reported from PNG.

Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
Hawaiian Petrel	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>
White-necked Petrel	<i>Pterodroma exsul</i>
Phoenix Petrel	<i>P. alba</i>
Mottled Petrel	<i>P. inexpectata</i>