Paradise Drongo - *Dicrurus megarhynchus*
Three or four birds at Utu
Island Monarch - *Monarcha cinerascens*
A few birds seen on Mussau & Eloaua
Bismarck Pied Monarch - *Monarcha verticalis*
Occasional birds seen
Djaul Pied Monarch - *Monarcha ateralba*
A group of three birds seen in a small feeding flock in swamp forest by the village of Sumuna; a fourth bird (presumed to be a juvenile based on Coates description) was seen later - it had whitish lower breast and belly with a pale orange head and upper breast; also prominent pale eyebrow
Mussau Pied Monarch - *Monarcha mencket*
Fairly common on Mussau; seen in the regrowth along the main road. One bird was feeding a fully fledged juvenile (with a blackish back and nape). Adult birds continually half-flicked their wings (reminiscent of Garnet Robin)
Golden Monarch - *Monarcha chrysomela*
Fairly common; also seen on Djaul
Shining Flycatcher - *Myiagra alecto*
Fairly common in logging area; a female on Djaul Island
Lesser Shining Flycatcher - *Myiagra hebetior*
One female on Djaul Island (seen moments before the female shining)
Golden Whistler - *Pachycephala soror*
Presumably this species - seen on Djaul and Mussau as well as in the logging area
Red Myzomela - *Myzomela cruentata*
Fairly common; also on Djaul
Bismarck Black Myzomela - *Myzomela pammelaena*
Common on Mussau
Black Sunbird - *Nectarinia aspasia*
Fairly common
Yellow-bellied Sunbird - *Nectarinia jugularis*
Fairly common
Bismarck Flowerpecker - *Dicaeum eximium*
Common
Hunstein's Mannikin - Lonchura hunsteini
Common - Kavieng airport & approach roads to logging area
Blue-faced Parrot-finch - Erythrura trichroa
Common on Mussau - seen along the road edge (particularly in the evening) and in the school gardens acting much like mannikins *Lonchura* sp. but feeding on the ground
Metallic Starling - *Aplonis metallica*
Common; also on Mussau. All birds seen had long elongated central tail feathers so presumably this species
Yellow-faced Myna - *Mino dumontii*
Only a few birds seen (but very vocal!)

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## NESTING OBSERVATION OF DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT (CYCLOPSITTA DIOPTHALMA) AT KIKORI

*By Yasuhisa Tanaka*





A nest of Double-eyed Fig-Parrot was observed at Kikori on 21 November 1995. The observation area was about 30 km north of Kikori town, Gulf Province, where a dirt pipeline road cuts through forest. The nest site was about 2 km west of the Kikori River along this oil pipeline road. The nest itself was in a hollow of about 10 cm diameter located about 25 m above the ground on a vertical branch of a 30 m tall dead emergent tree. I had clear views of both the male and female visiting the nest, the female with a head pattern like that of the 9 a female bird on plate 21 of Beehler's "Birds of New Guinea" ( presumably *C. d. diopthalma*). This female was looking into the hollow whilst a male bird was sitting on branch nearby. Calls of juvenile birds "ju ju ju juj ju ju" were heard when the female bird looked into the hollow, suggesting that the female was feeding them. The male gave a "chii chii" call but did not come to the nest at this time.

About an hour late, a female Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot (*C. gulielmitertii*) with the face pattern of the 10a female bird on plate 21 in Beehler ( presumably *C. g. suavissima*) was sitting on top of the tall dead tree some 500m west of the Double-eyed Fig-Parrot nest site. This suggests that the two species co-exist in this area, though Beehler (1986) states that the species replace each other locally, and Coates (1985) gives that they are largely complementary, being rare or absent where the other occurs.

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## FLOWER- PIERCING BY (PRESUMED) HONEYEATERS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*By George E. Clapp*

On 14 December 1994, at an altitude of 1940 m ASL and at a location only a few hundred metres distant from the Girebo Watersource in the Hides area of the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, I noticed a single individual Rufous-backed Honeyeater (*Ptiloprora guisei*) at the flowers of a striking epiphytic plant about 15 m up in a medium size broadleaf tree in lightly mossed forest. It caught my attention that the bird appeared to be probing the bases of the flowers one by one. On a hunch I had the epiphyte retrieved from the tree and discovered an obvious instance of pierced flowers, and the use of those pierced flowers by the honeyeater in question.

The plant was an epiphyte with a single floral umbel hanging down, which consisted of nine white flowers. Each of the nine flowers( which were in excess of 5 cm from the base of the corolla to where it started to flare out) had been pierced near the base. On each bloom there was longitudinal slit about 7.5 mm ( measured) with negligible variation in the length of the slits. These slits were slightly brownish coloured from the bruising of the floral tissue. Subsequently this plant was positively identified by Dr. G. Stocker of the Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute, from photographs I had taken, as belonging to the genus *Rhododendron* ( G. Stocker pers. comm.) Unfortunately an identification to species level could not be achieved from the photographs.

This rhododendron was quite distinctive, and *P. guisei* was certainly feeding from the slits pierced in the flowers, but because the bird was not actually observed piercing the flowers it cannot be stated with certainty that *P. guisei* is a flower piercer.

Moynihan (1979) discusses flower piercing by birds, in particular by the genus *Diglossa* in South America. "Birds of this genus have uniquely shaped bills which are an efficient tool for grasping and piercing the corollas of long tubular flowers from the side. The base.... is held by the hook of