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!)

Author's address: 5 Forrest Street, Geelong South 3220, Australia.
(*Received September 1996*)

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.

Author's address: 7-1-505, 2-Chome, Koyamadai, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 142, Japan.
(*Received February 1996*)

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

the upper mandible while an incision is made by the lower mandible" (Skutch 1954 in Moynihan 1963). Nectar, with or without small insects which may have drowned in it, is then sucked or lapped up by the U-shaped and brushy tongue (Vuilleumier 1969).

" The great advantage of this mechanism is that it enables the *Diglossa* to "tap" long tubular flowers that would not otherwise be manageable or useful to them, and would instead be reserved for birds with longer bills. Most flowers are not seriously damaged by the process. They are only marked by small slits. The openings are persistent, however, a fact which is not without consequences for many species of the local community, perhaps including the plants. " (Moynihan 1979).

P. guisei does not have a specially adapted beak, but it does have a decurved bill which could conceivably be used to pierce flowers. Rand and Gilliard (1967) state that the length of the culmen in *P. guisei* is 27 mm. I have no knowledge of the tongue structure o length in *P. guisei* but it seems probable that this species could not reach the nectaries in the flowers of this particular species of *Rhododendron* without access from the side.

I could find no reference in the literature to any previous record of flower piercing by birds in Papua New Guinea. B. Coates (*pers comm*) confirmed that he knew of no previously documented instance of flower piercing by birds in the country.

Conclusions: although it is now clear that flower piercing does occur in Papua New Guinea, at least on *Rhododendron* spp. and that the honeyeater *P. guisei* certainly uses the pierced flowers, little more can be safely assumed from this one observation. This raises a number of questions : Which flowers (if any) other than *Rhododendron* spp. are pierced ? How common is flower piercing in Papua New Guinea, and in what environments does it occur ? Which species pierce the flowers ? Which birds might opportunistically visit already pierced flowers ? How often are pierced flowers revisited ? These are all questions which spring to mind (*and which would repay observers looking out for the behaviours indicated- Editor*).

Abstract : *This is claimed as the first documented record of the use of a pierced flower by a honeyeater in Papua New Guinea.*

Acknowledgements
I am grateful to Dr. G. Stocker, Director of the Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute, for identifying to generic level the plant involved in this observation. I am also grateful to B. Coates for discussion on flower piercing with reference to Papua New Guinea.

Author's address: 123, Kennedy Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland 4064, Australia.
(Received June 1996)

TWO NEW SPECIES FOR MISIMA ISLAND, MILNE BAY PROVINCE

By Len Tolhurst

During early August 1995 I spent several days on Misima Island in Milne Bay Province, and saw two Rainbow Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) on the north coast, in hilly country back from the coast near Singana Village. The birds were in bush or secondary growth.

According to Coates "Birds of Papua New Guinea" Volume 1 page 438 this species "doesn't seem to have been recorded from eastern satellite islands". The distribution maps therein also show no previous sightings from the Louisiade Archipelago.

Still on Misima Island, at Bwagasia the main town, I heard the distinctive call of the Bush-Hen (*Amaurornis olivaceus*). This bird was calling at dusk in scrub growth near a little used road. I am familiar with the call of the species, as for many weeks a family of them lived near my back yard at Pacific Adventist College near Port Moresby. The nest was located with one bird sitting on eggs. Again reference to Coates Volume 1 indicates that there are no records from Misima Island, thus this may be the first record of the species here.

Author's address: Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko, NCD 111, Papua New Guinea.
(*Received March 96*)

AZURE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo azurea*) CHOKING ON AN OUWEN'S GOBY (*Sicyopterus ouwensi*)

By A. C. Redmayne

On the afternoon of 16 th October 1995, while walking along the Oh River. A fast flowing boulder stream at the Crater Mountain Biological Research Station- Wara Sera study site (6 43675 S 145 05 5755 E) at 850 m a. s. l. I observed an Azure Kingfisher (*A. azurea*) in obvious distress. The bird was exhausted and unable to fly. Closer examination showed that it was choking on a fish.

I collected the bird and took it back to the research station, removed the fish and identified it as an Ouwen's Goby which was 98 mm in length and 13.6 g in weight. The Azure Kingfisher weighed 40.0 g, had a bill length of 45.6 mm and a wing length of 76.0 mm. It showed no signs of moult and no brood patch. After the fish was removed it rapidly recovered and was duly released.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Haia Landowner Committee for permission to work in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area. These observations were made whilst assisting on a NYZS / The Wildlife Conservation Society sponsored project.

Reference

Allen, G. 1991. **Freshwater Fishes of New Guinea**. Publication number 9 of the Christensen Research Institute.

Author's address: Zoology Dept. Otago University, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.
(*Received January 1996*)