

Editorial

There has been a 7-year gap between the last issue of the Papua New Guinea Birdwatching Society's journal *Muruk* in 2000 (Vol. 8: 2) and this issue, which completes that volume. It serves a valuable purpose documenting significant records of New Guinea birds, and publishing notes and papers relevant to New Guinea ornithology. Thanks are due to Conservation International's Melanesia Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation) for coming up with funds for the printing of the journal, with particular thanks to Roger James.

The idea is to clear a large backlog of records, and publish articles relating to New Guinea ornithology, with the help of an editorial team:

Editor - Phil Gregory

Editorial consultants: K. David Bishop, Ian Burrows, Brian Coates, Guy Dutson, Chris Eastwood.

We would like feedback about the direction the journal should take; it has been a useful reference resource over the years and is cited in many publications. Current thinking is to publish two issues per annum, with thoughts about expanding coverage to include other nearby areas such as Halmahera and the Solomon Islands, which have a large New Guinea component to the avifauna.

The Pacific region as a whole is poorly served and there may be scope to include other parts of Melanesia and Polynesia.

We now complete the old pre-2000 subscriptions with this issue, which is sent free to former subscribers, and invite new subscriptions.

Editorial address: PO Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881, Australia.

Email - sicklebill@optusnet.com.au

Significant Sightings from Tour Reports

Compiled and edited by Phil Gregory

More and more companies are offering tours to PNG, mostly doing the same circuit but still coming up with interesting records or little known or rare species, breeding data or distributional information. We encourage companies to let us have their reports so we can extract this information, which is otherwise lost. We use editorial discretion over very unusual records and qualify these where appropriate. Ideally very rare or poorly known species should have documentation and/or photos to substantiate them, and such sightings are flagged in the reports. We hope this causes no offence but we reserve the right to sometimes temper enthusiasm, and would be happy to be proven wrong. Editorial comments are italicized. Major rarities will be submitted to the PNG Rarities committee where details are available.