

MURUK

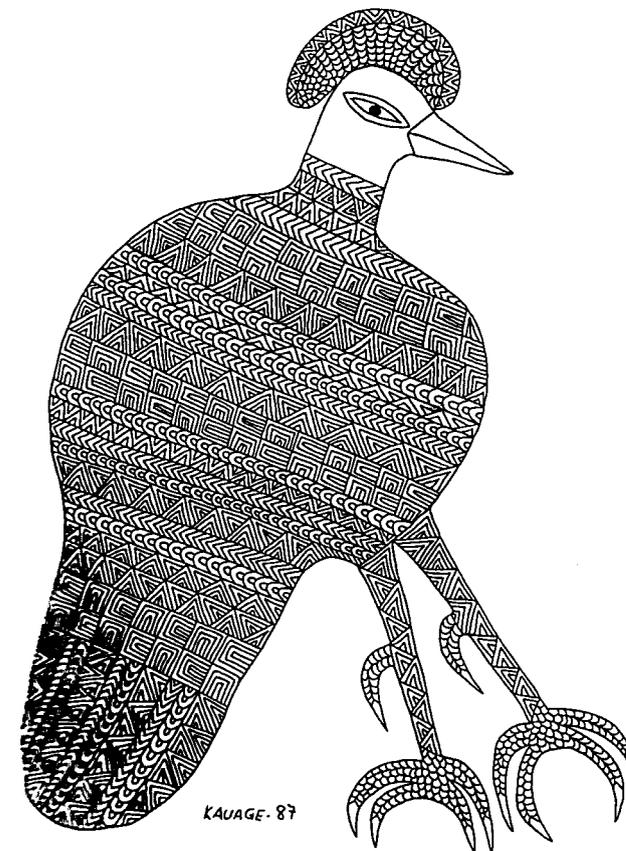
VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1 JUNE 1988

THE JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIRD SOCIETY

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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EDITORIAL

This issue is the first for 1988, and is again later than planned. Eventually there will be four issues in this year, numbers 2 and 3, being already substantially ready for press.

In this issue we have a mixture of material, partly notes on PNG birds, partly travellers' tales, and partly recent observations, the latter two being inherited from the old-style Newsletter. Thus we now see Muruk as having two main functions, firstly to provide a platform for scientific papers on PNG birds, and secondly to provide useful information for bird-watchers, both resident and visiting. We will continue to publish in this form, though the balance will vary from issue to issue. When possible we will devote whole issues to particular topics. The recent observations section is now somewhat less than recent. Two three-month periods appear here, and there will be a further two in the next issue. This will bring us nearly up to date, and recent observations will become just that. Anyone with records should submit them to the PNGBS.

This issue's cover is again by the PNG artist Kauge. Several of his specially commissioned drawings are still available for sale. We would welcome further cover designs, since we will use a different one on each issue. Drawings should be of a Cassowary (= Muruk in Melanesian Pigeon) or on some related theme. Black and white line drawings with minimum shading reproduce best.

EDITORS: Mike Hopkins with assistance from Helen Fortune Hopkins, Jenny Hicks, Roger Hicks, Joan Oliver, and Ian Burrows.

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GREAT REED WARBLER *ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS* AT BENSACH - SECOND RECORD FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRIAN W. FINCH

There have been two previous records of Great Reed Warbler in the New Guinea region, one was collected in Irian Jaya in 1962 (LeCroy 1969), its identity being established later, and in December 1979 I saw a bird at Aroa Lagoon, Central Province (Finch 1980).

On 17 November 1985 whilst successfully searching out Fly River Grassbirds *Megalurus albolimbatus* in the sedge beds along the Bensbach River near Wando (Western Province) I and other birdwatchers heard a song coming from a swampy area which was recognised as belonging to the Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. The party decided to track the bird down, and it was soon located, not in the sedge bed, but in a thick low bush standing in shallow water, in a grassy clearing.

It was difficult to get a view of the bird as it sang its subsong, (a harsh but not very loud jangle of notes rendered as "...krug-krug skirt-skirt kirrik-kirrik gurk-gurk-gurk...") but eventually it moved to the outer edges, keeping low in the bush where its large bulk was apparent. Compared to the resident Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* it had cold brownish plumage a stout shorter bill, obscure streaking on the throat, and a white eye-stripe. After a while the bird was flushed from the bush, and it flew straight into the sedges growing in the lagoon, and did not emerge again.

An hour later we stopped at the same spot, and could again hear the Great Reed Warbler subsong, this time coming from the opposite side of the river in a dense clump of canegrass. We tried to find this bird and succeeded in drawing out numerous Tawny Grassbirds *Megalurus timoriensis*, several Zitting Cisticolas *Cisticola juncidis*, and a party of White-shouldered Fairy-Wrens *Malurus alboscapulatus*, but the *Acrocephalus* did not show itself.

It is probable that the same individual was involved on both occasions, but it is possible that small numbers of Great Reed Warblers may occur in the dense vegetation along the Bensbach River, and the species may be a regular visitor in small numbers, rather than a vagrant.

- Finch, B.W. 1980. First Papua New Guinean record of the Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis* at Aroa Lagoon, Central Province. PNGBS Newsletter 163-164: 16-20.
- LeCroy, M. 1969. *Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis*, first record in New Guinea. Emu 69: 119-120.

Address: P.O. Box 59749, Nairobi, Kenya.

HIGH ALTITUDE SCRUBFOWL

WILLIAM R. COOPER

On 18 October 1987 at 12:50 at an altitude of c. 2600 m whilst climbing up the ridge just beyond the "Treefern Forest" on the way down to Myola (Oro Province) I heard a loud scratching from a spot some 5 m above me. I stopped for about 3 minutes then continued up the track. When I reached the spot where I estimated the noise must have arisen, a large bird flew out over my head and perched on a tree level with me but some 10 m out from the ridge. The most prominent features which I noticed were that the bird had a very distinct peaked cap, slim pale bill, a bare pinkish neck and dark legs. The bird remained perched for more than 5 minutes and the only further note I recorded was an indistinct olive-green wash on the wings.

I did not refer to the Field Guide (Beehler *et al.* 1986) until I was over the ridge and some 200 m lower. It was clear that the bird I saw was a Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*, but I was surprised to see that the bird was not recorded from this altitude. Beehler *et al.* give 'Sea level to 500 m (highest 2100 m)', and I was at least 500 m higher than the maximum given.

I have been unable to find any other record of the bird at this altitude although Coates (1986) says that *M. f. affinis* probably occurs to 2000 m.

Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press.

Coates, B.J. 1985. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea*. Vol 1. Dove Publications.

Address: PO Box 288, Port Moresby, P.N.G.

EURASIAN STARLING *STURNUS VULGARIS* AT MOITAKA

BRIAN FINCH

On 14 August 1985 I found an adult winter-plumaged Eurasian Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* feeding amongst Comb-crested Jacanas *Irediparra gallinacea* on the banks of the sewage-treatment lagoons at Moitaka, on the outskirts of Port Moresby.

This constitutes the second record for this species in Papua New Guinea, the previous record being in the same locality fifteen years previously (Coates 1970).

Later in the morning the bird was also seen by Bill and Laura Oddie. All of the observers are only too familiar with this species elsewhere. The bird was very wary, and attempts to photograph it failed.

The bird was seen over the following two weeks, but then, thankfully, disappeared.

Coates, B. 1970. The Common Starling - a bird new to New Guinea. PNGBS Newsletter 59: 3.

Address: P.O.Box 59749, Nairobi, Kenya.

WHITE PYGMY-GOOSE - A NEW SPECIES FOR THE PORT MORESBY AREA

ROGER K. HICKS¹, CHRIS H.B. EASTWOOD² AND WILL F. GLYNN³

On 22 November 1987, at 14:30, a female White Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* was observed on Aroa Lagoon, Central Province, c. 100 km north-west of Port Moresby. The following description is from notes taken at the time: At first the bird was swimming in a channel of open water, between dense beds of water weed, less than 50 m from the shore. It was similar in size to Green Pygmy-Geese *N. pulchellus* which were present in large numbers, but smaller than the Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*. It had a black bill, a dark crown and a dark smudge about the eye. No obvious white supercilium was noted. The rest of the head, neck, breast and flanks were quite a bright white. It was a much "cleaner" looking bird than expected from the illustration in Beehler *et al.* (1986) so that we considered at first that it was a male in eclipse plumage. After five minutes it flew to another channel further out in the lagoon and was eventually lost to sight. In flight the back and wings appeared grey with a narrow white bar across the tips of the secondaries. The bird was therefore identified as a female.

There are no previous published records of this species in southern P.N.G. (Coates 1985; Beehler *et al.* 1986). The Asian subspecies *N. c. coromandelianus* is resident in the Sepik basin, north-western P.N.G. and Lake Kandeep in the central highlands (Beehler *et al.* 1986). The Australian subspecies *N. c. albipennis* is resident in north-east Australia (Slater *et al.* 1986), although "it can be expected to occur as a vagrant in southern New Guinea" (Beehler *et al.* 1986).

The origins of the bird at Aroa are not clear. Illustrations of the female of the Asian subspecies (Beehler *et al.* 1986, King *et al.* 1984) show a dusky looking bird while illustrations of the Australian subspecies (Slater *et al.* 1986; Simpson & Day 1984) show a much whiter appearance. The bird at Aroa appeared most similar to the illustrations of the Australian subspecies. Unfortunately none of the field guides consulted deal with both subspecies and the written accounts in the above four field guides and in others (Coates 1985; Pizzey 1983; MacDonald 1973; Rand & Gilliard 1967) are very similar, although describing different subspecies.

Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press.

Coates, B.J. 1985. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea*. Vol 1. Dove Publications.

King, B., M. Woodcock & E.C. Dickinson 1984. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. Collins.

MacDonald, D. 1973. *Birds of Australia*. Reed.

Pizzey, G. 1983. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Collins.

Rand, A.L. & E.T. Gilliard. 1967. *Handbook of New Guinea Birds*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

Simpson, K. & N. Day. 1984. *The Birds of Australia*. Lloyd O'Neil.

Slater, P., P. Slater & R. Slater. 1986. *The Slater Guide to Australian Birds*. Rigby.

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³ P.O. Box 477, Boroko, N.C.D., P.N.G.

REDISCOVERY OF A RESIDENT POPULATION OF EURASIAN COOT *FULICA ATRA* IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRIAN W. FINCH¹ AND DAVID GILLIESON²

In the 1960's Harry Bell located a resident population of Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* on Lake Wangbin not very far from what is now the town of Tabubil (Bell 1969). Very shortly afterwards these birds completely disappeared, and he stated that shotguns were responsible. At the time this was the only known resident population of coots in Papua New Guinea.

Other records of non-resident birds in the Port Moresby area at Moitaka Settling ponds and Tanubada Ponds are listed in observations in the PNGBS Newsletter in 1966 and 1967, and also for Hisiu, Kanosia, and Aroa Lagoons (Central Province) in 1978-79.

On 10 June 1985 we were in a helicopter at Ubai Gubi flying over a ridge not far from the lodge (perhaps 3 km in a straight line). In the bottom of a valley was a lake completely bordered by vegetation and well concealed. We went down lower to see what was on this lake, and approached until we were hovering some 40 m from the surface of the water. Through 10 x 40 binoculars it was easy to see that there were at least 30 Coot present, including one on a nest. Two Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis* were present (also new sightings for this area), and there were three Pacific Black Ducks *Anas superciliosa*.

The lake, at about 2000 m, is not marked on any map, and appears to have no name. There are other lakes hidden in other valleys including some on Crater Mountain where birds matching the description of coots have been reported by the local people.

Bell, H. 1969. Field notes on the birds of the Ok Tedi Drainage. *Emu*. 69: 193-211.

Addresses: ¹ P.O. Box 59749, Nairobi, Kenya

² not known to us [Eds].

GREY IMPERIAL PIGEON NEAR KARAWARI LODGE, EAST SEPIK PROVINCE

HELEN C. FORTUNE HOPKINS

On 22 June 1987 I saw a single large pigeon flying over the Karawari River, close to Karawari Lodge, about 135 km from the coast and the mouths of the Sepik and Ramu rivers. The bird had a wing pattern similar to that of the Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* with dark outer wing edges (primaries and secondaries) and pale wing linings. The wing linings and underparts were clearly grey, not white, and the feet were bright pink. Of the four grey and green *Duculas* described by Beehler *et al.* (1986), this description fits only the Grey Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pistrinaria*, and none of the four (Spice, Pacific, Grey, and Elegant Imperial Pigeons) are recorded from inland in the Sepik region. The Grey Imperial Pigeon is known to occur on islands off the coast of the Sepik-Ramu, and on the eastern Papuan Islands, in mangroves and coastal forest, often in flocks (Beehler *et al.* 1986).

Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press.

Address: Biology Department, U.P.N.G., P.O. Box 320, University, P.N.G.

RECORDS OF BIRDS FEEDING AT FLOWERING OR FRUITING TREES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

HELEN C. FORTUNE HOPKINS AND MICHAEL J.G. HOPKINS

Many people watching birds will see them feeding in flowering or fruiting trees. Indeed, one of the best ways to see some species, such as parrots and fruit-doves, is to watch a suitable tree and let the birds come to you. A number of workers have made detailed studies of feeding behaviour in New Guinea birds and a selection of the more important references is given in the bibliography. However, the feeding behaviour of many species is completely unreported, and the amateur bird-watcher can make a valuable contribution by recording food plants.

Of course, detailed studies of particular species will be of much greater value than isolated records. However, if bird-watchers can be encouraged to record and report their feeding observations, a body of information will be built up, and patterns should emerge. Not only is this information of interest to ornithologists studying the feeding habits of birds, but it is also of interest to botanists and ecologists studying the pollination or dispersal ecology of particular plants.

For the bird-watcher the difficult part is not in identifying the bird, but in collecting and identifying the plant. While there are about 700 species of bird on the mainland of New Guinea (Beehler *et al.* 1986), it has been estimated that there are about 9000 species of plant in the same area (Good 1960). Vague descriptions of the plant, or small samples of the flowers, fruit, or leaves picked up off the ground are usually inadequate to identify the plant accurately. Good botanical specimens are required. Making such collections is not difficult, but the technique may be unfamiliar to many bird-watchers. To assist bird-watchers in making collections we give some notes here which we hope will encourage them to collect identifiable botanical specimens and to submit feeding records for publication in *Muruk*. A much fuller account may be found in Womersley (1976).

1) Field notes. These are best taken while you have the fresh specimen in your hand. Colours especially are usually lost in the dried specimen. The following notes should be recorded:

a) Locality of collection; province; altitude; date of collection. Latitude and longitude are also useful, especially if the locality is difficult to locate on a map.

b) Collector's name(s) and collection number. It is very important that the specimen you collect can be uniquely identified. "*H.C.F. Hopkins & M.J.G. Hopkins #224*" can refer to only one individual collection. Anyone finding mention of this in the literature can (at least in theory) go to the plant collection (herbarium) where it is stored and verify the identification for themselves. Start a number series in your name, and number your collections sequentially. Be careful never to use the same number for two different collections.

c) Description of the plant. This should include its habit (tree, shrub, liana, epiphyte, herb etc); the height of the plant, and for a tree, its trunk diameter; its frequency in the habitat (dominant, abundant, common, rare etc); colour of the flowers and/or fruits; description of any odour; anything else distinctive about the plant (presence of buttresses, colour of bark etc).

d) The vegetation type in which it was found (e.g. forest, secondary growth, garden, savanna, mangrove etc).

2. Making the specimen. The eventual aim is to produce a flat, dry sample of the plant, which can be glued or sewn onto cardboard and stored with other specimens in a herbarium.

a) Take a sample from the plant. Select a portion which includes fertile material, i.e. flowers or fruit, or both if they are present. The size should be sufficient to fit on a normal-sized newspaper.

Taking a sample from a shrub or herb usually presents no problems. All you need is a pair of secateurs or similar device. With trees however this can be difficult. Various methods have been developed for sampling from trees, including climbing with or without ropes, using shotguns, and using trained monkeys. Most of these are impracticable for the casual collector. Pole clippers, which lift a clipping device into the canopy using an extending pole can be used, but again are not often available. In practice it is often close to impossible for a bird-watcher restricted to the ground to collect a good specimen from a large tree. If you are unable to collect from the actual plant there are two possibilities. Firstly search the ground for freshly fallen branches, leaves or fruit. You may be able to find sufficient material for an identifiable collection. This should only be done when there is no other alternative. A good collection of freshly cut material is infinitely preferable. The other alternative is to look for another tree of the same species growing nearby, one which is easier to reach. This is of course dangerous because mistakes in field identification could lead to false records, so again only use this *in extremis*.

b) Preparing the specimen. Place the collected parts between a folded double sheet of newspaper. Try to arrange it so that it is more or less flat, with the leaves spread out, and the fertile parts visible. Write your name and collection number either on the outside of the sheet or on a tag attached to the plant. The specimen should then be placed in a plant press. A botanist's press consists of two latices of wooden strips the same size as the newspaper. If you do not have a press, two thick cardboard sheets could be used instead. With the specimen(s) inside the press is then squeezed with two straps (or pieces of string) to hold the specimen firmly in place.

c) Drying the specimen. This is best done in a special drying oven, where the whole press is put in the oven, with each specimen in its newspaper sandwiched between two sheets of cardboard with a corrugated metal separator between each of these. If you have a small number of collections however, this can be done by leaving the press in hot sun or above a light bulb in a drying cupboard. The aim is to get the specimen as dry as possible as soon as possible. Drying can be speeded up by replacing the inner piece of newspaper with a fresh dry one regularly (once or twice a day). When the specimen feels quite dry, and has become stiff and brittle the process is complete.

3) Preservation and identification. Your specimen should now be sent to a herbarium for mounting, identification, and storing. The two largest herbaria in the country are in Lae (P.O. Box 314, Lae, P.N.G.), and in Port Moresby (The Herbarium, Biology Department, UPNG, P.O. Box 320, University, P.N.G.). The specimen(s) can be taken or sent (securely packaged) to either of these with requests for identification. With each specimen you should include a label (approximately 15 x 10 cm) with all the information which you took as field notes neatly typed or written out. Herbarium staff will carry out the identification, mount the specimen, and add it permanently to their collection.

It is usual to collect more than one specimen each time you make a collection, so that there are several duplicates for each collection number. This is so that one duplicate can be sent to a specialist for identification if necessary, and so that one collection can be represented in several herbaria. For Papua New Guinea the suggested number of duplicates is about four.

To encourage the publication of feeding records we will be happy to attempt identifications of material sent to us at the University. However, identifications can be time consuming and there may be some delay in reporting identifications after receipt.

When writing up feeding records for publication you should include much of the information collected in the field notes, and refer to the specimen you collected by its name and number, and say where it is deposited. It then acts as a voucher for your observations. The name of the plant, its authority (the name of the taxonomist who described it), and the family to which it belongs should all be given. A detailed description of the flowers or fruits should also be given, paying special attention to how they are presented to the birds, for example are they single or in bunches, terminal on branches, or hidden amongst leaves etc, was there an indication of ripeness, and did the fruit all become ripe at once, or were there just a few ripe fruit in the tree? What was the fruit size and colour, did the fruit open to reveal an edible seed or aril within the fruit etc.? For flowers one might need to know if the flower was tube or bowl-shaped, was there nectar available, etc. Also important is the behaviour of the bird. Did it ingest the whole fruit, did it immediately swallow it, or did it fly away with a fruit in its beak? How long did it spend in the tree, how many fruit did it eat, how long did it take to eat each fruit etc.?

In this issue of Muruk there is a short collection of papers reporting feeding observations. It is to be hoped that this be a regular feature, and that Muruk will become an important source of information of the feeding ecology of New Guinea birds.

- Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. **Birds of New Guinea**. Princeton University Press.
- Good R. 1960. On the geographical relationships of the angiosperm flora of New Guinea. **Bulletin of the British Museum of Natural History (Botany) 2: 205-226.**
- Womersley, J.S. 1976. Plant collecting for Anthropologists, Geographers and Ecologists in Papua New Guinea. 2nd Edition. **Botany Bulletin no. 2**. Office of Forests, Lae, Papua New Guinea.

The following references may be useful for background reading about feeding records for New Guinea birds. The list is by no means comprehensive.

- Beehler, B.M. 1983a. Frugivory and polygamy in birds of paradise. **Auk** 100: 1-12.
- Beehler, B.M. 1983b. Notes on the behaviour and ecology of Macgregor's Bird of Paradise. **Emu** 83: 28-30.
- Clapp, G.E. 1987. Mixed flocks of birds feeding on fruits of the savanna tree *Antidesma gaisambulla* near Girua airfield, Papua New Guinea. **Muruk** 2: 58-60.
- Diamond, J.M. *et al.* 1977. Fruit consumption and seed dispersal by New Guinea birds. **Wildlife in New Guinea. Wildlife Publication 77/9**. Department of Natural Resources, Konedobu, P.N.G.
- Frith, H.J., F.H.J. Crome & T.O. Wolfe 1976. Food of fruit pigeons in New Guinea. **Emu** 76: 49-58.
- Kwapena, N. 1985. **The Ecology and Conservation of Six Species of Birds of Paradise in Papua New Guinea**. N. Kwapena, Port Moresby, P.N.G.
- Lamothe, L. 1979. Diet of some birds in *Araucaria* and *Pinus* forests in Papua New Guinea. **Emu** 79: 36-37.
- Pratt, T.K. 1983. Diet of the Dwarf Cassowary *Casuarus bennetti picticollis* at Wau, Papua New Guinea. **Emu** 82: 283-285.
- Pratt, T.K. 1984. Examples of tropical frugivores defending fruit-bearing plants. **Condor** 86: 123-129.
- Pratt, T.K. & E.W. Stiles 1985. The influence of fruit size and structure on composition of frugivore assemblages in New Guinea. **Biotropica** 17: 314-321

Address: Biology Department, UPNG, P.O. Box 320, University, P.N.G.

OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS FEEDING IN A FRUITING *PLANCHONELLA*

ROGER K. HICKS AND JENNY H. HICKS

During a visit to Ambua Lodge, near Tari (Southern Highlands Province) at c. 2200 m, we observed several species of birds feeding in a fruiting *Planchonella* sp. (Sapotaceae) tree. It stood near the top of a steep-sided valley and was c. 20 m tall with a large spreading canopy with sparse foliage that allowed clear views of feeding birds. The fruits were about 10 mm in diameter, grew singly on short stalks amongst leaves and usually contained two elongated seeds. Birds were only recorded feeding on ripe fruits which were distinguished from the unripe fruits by being black with soft flesh. Other *Planchonella* trees in the same area of forest were also in fruit and Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda* (Hicks & Hicks 1988) and Superb Birds of Paradise *Lophorina superba* were noted feeding in them.

We first found the tree on 9 October 1987. Over the following three days (10-12 October) this *Planchonella* tree was watched for a total of 465 minutes spread over five periods (10 Oct 14:30-16:00; 11 Oct 09:30-12:15 & 16:45-18:00; 12 Oct 07:15-08:15 & 09:30-10:45). The shortest observation period was 60 minutes and the longest 165 minutes. We observed the tree from a convenient vantage point, less than 20 m from the trunk and which allowed us to view most of the canopy. We used 10x and 8x binoculars.

Over the four days seven species were observed feeding in the tree, including a minimum of nine individuals of five species of bird of paradise. No birds were noted in the tree for 289 minutes (62% of the total observation time). Periods of no bird activity coincided with overcast, cooler and windier conditions, particularly when the wind was strong enough to move the branches. During the remaining 176 minutes five species of birds were recorded feeding. Most activity was noted in sunny and calm conditions (11 Oct 10:00-11:25, 14 feeding records; 12 Oct 09:39-10:30, 9 feeding records) and in the early evening (11 Oct 16:47-17:54, 15 feeding records).

During our first cursory observation at 15:30 on 9 October two species of bird of paradise, a female Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi* and two Short-tailed Paradigalla, considered to be an adult and an immature (Hicks & Hicks 1988), were seen feeding in the tree but were not subsequently recorded.

A party of four Buff-faced Scrub-Wrens *Sericornis perspicillatus* was seen on three occasions, moving noisily through the tree foraging along the smaller branches and twigs and amongst epiphytes. They were present for less than five minutes each time and were not seen to feed on the fruit.

The remaining four species were all recorded feeding on *Planchonella* fruit. White-breasted Fruit-Doves *Ptilinopus rivoli*, never more than one male and one female at any one time, were present in the tree for 124 minutes. They spent very little time actively feeding, mostly just perching in leaf shade. A solitary male was present on two occasions, spending 44 minutes in the tree, but was seen to take only one fruit. A solitary female also made two visits, both times overlapping with the single-male, and was seen to take four fruits, three of them in a nine-minute period. This species ingested the fruits whole.

Three species of bird of paradise visited the tree to feed (other than the two species only recorded during our first observation as mentioned above). In total they spent much less time in the tree than the fruit-doves, only coming to this *Planchonella* tree to feed, but they took more fruits.

A female Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesii* spent 10 minutes in the tree (two visits lasting seven and three minutes respectively, both on the same morning). In this time it fed on 11 fruits. The bird pulled each fruit from the tree using its bill and then held the fruit against a branch while it tore strips off with its bill.

Superb Birds of Paradise, never more than one male or one female at any time, were present in the tree for 20 minutes and took 17 fruits. A male made four visits to the tree during the two morning observation periods, no visit exceeding four minutes. A female also made four visits all during the evening observation period, thus never overlapping with the male. Both male and female birds foraged throughout the canopy of the tree in a "tit-like" manner, often hanging upside down to reach fruit. As well as the fruit, a male was noted feeding on a grub which it had gleaned from the bark of the tree. It probably obtained other food items this way as it was observed feeding along branches and among epiphytes.

Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae* were present in the tree for 30 minutes and took 20 fruits which were ingested whole. Only one female was present at any one time. A solitary female made six visits to the tree, feeding on the fruits each time, except once when she was in the tree for less than one minute. The mean length of a feeding visit was 2.25 minutes and the mean number of fruits taken per visit was 1.5. A solitary male made three visits to the tree while during one five minute period two males and one female were present. Males fed on the *Planchonella* fruit on each visit. The average length of a feeding visit was 2.66 minutes and the average number of fruit taken per visit was 1.2. Male(s) and the female were only present together in the tree for six minutes.

As far as we know *Planchonella* has not been previously recorded as a food of birds of paradise or fruit-doves (Rand & Gilliard 1967; Gilliard 1968), although the seeds have been recorded in Dwarf Cassowary *Casuarius bennetti* droppings (Pratt 1983).

In the lowlands of Papua New Guinea flocks of fruit-doves, sometimes numbering 50-100 birds, are found in fruiting trees often feeding in a frenzy. At most, only two birds were present in this tree and only occasionally took a fruit. This may indicate that *Planchonella* is not a favoured food source of fruit-doves, but will be taken to supplement the diet, or that there are fewer frugivores at this altitude both in terms of species (e.g. only one fruit-dove versus six species of fruit-dove at sea-level) and individuals means less competition for the food source which possibly leads to less frenetic feeding activity.

Two species, Blue Bird of Paradise and Lawes' Parotia were at the limits of their altitude range and had not previously been recorded in the grounds of Ambua Lodge, at c. 2200 m, although both were known to occur lower in the Tari Basin (Finch 1987).

Voucher specimen at UPNG is Hicks & Hicks #5. We would like to thank Paul Katik of the National Herbarium, Lae, for identifying the plant, and Helen Fortune Hopkins for her helpful criticisms of earlier drafts.

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SOME FEEDING RECORDS FOR BIRDS OF PARADISE

HELEN C. FORTUNE HOPKINS

1. MAGNIFICENT RIFLEBIRD *Ptiloris magnificentus*
a) Varirata National Park, Central Province, 800 m, Feb 1987. Observers: HCFH & M.J.G. Hopkins.

On Gare's Lookout trail, a male and female were observed for several minutes feeding on the fruits of *Eurya tigang* Schumann & Laut. (Theaceae). This is a small to medium sized tree, common at Varirata in disturbed and second growth vegetation, and indicative of poor soils. The fruits are sessile, borne singly or in clusters in leaf axils or on bare twigs, and they have an involucre of bracts around the base. They are spherical, 3-5 mm in diameter, red to blue-black, fleshy when ripe, and contain numerous small seeds.

- b) Varirata National Park, Central Province, 750 m, 4 October 1987. Observers HCFH & M.J.G. Hopkins.

A female was seen taking fruits of a palm, possibly *Hydriastele beccariana* Burret, in dense forest near the stream along the boundary trail. The palm was about 7 m high, and bore a bunch of red fleshy fruits just below the crown. Each was c. 5 x 7 mm, with a thin layer of flesh surrounding a single, comparatively large, fibrous seed.

2. KING BIRD OF PARADISE *Cicinnurus regius*
McAdam National Park, Morobe Province, 850 m, 20 April 1987. Observers HCFH, M.J.G. Hopkins & N. Wahlberg.

Several males, probably 4 or 5, and 1 or 2 females were observed feeding for about 30 minutes flying in and out of the canopy of a fruiting *Dysoxylum* tree (Meliaceae). The birds were not actually seen to take fruits because of the dense foliage, and fruit eating is therefore only assumed because of the more or less continuous rain of discarded fruit capsules that were falling to the ground. When not in this particular tree, some of the males were displaying in a nearby crown, or flying into the crown of another *Dysoxylum*, some 20 m away which was also in fruit.

A female Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana* flew into the crown of the first *Dysoxylum*, but feeding could not be confirmed.

The fruits of this tree were orange-red capsules, c. 15-22 x 11-17 mm, which split open to reveal three or four red seeds.

Bechler (1983) recorded a *Dysoxylum* species, and other trees of the Meliaceae, as food plants for several birds of paradise.

3. LAWES' PAROTIA *Parotia lawesii*
BLUE BIRD OF PARADISE *Paradisaea rudolphi*
SUPERB BIRD OF PARADISE *Lophorina superba*
Road from Wau towards Biaru, c. 20 km south of Wau Morobe Province, 1800 m, 19 April 1987. Observers: HCFH & other members of PNGBS.

A mixed flock of birds of paradise were seen feeding in the crown of a 15 m high tree of *Trema orientalis* (L.) Bl. (Ulmaceae), close to the road side. The principal birds in the flock were about 20 female Lawes' Parotias, but one male Lawes' Parotia, a female Blue Bird of Paradise, and both sexes of Superb Bird of Paradise were also identified. Not all the birds were continuously present, most of the female Lawes' Parotias remained in this tree, while the other birds flew between this tree and a neighbouring *Trema*. Common Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotes fumigatus* was also present in the canopy.

Trema orientalis is a medium sized tree of second growth and disturbed forest. Here it was common along the forest margin by the roadside. It has an open crown and rather distinctively arranged foliage. The fruit is a small, ovate to spherical drupe, 3-5 x 2-4 mm, and black when ripe. The fruits are borne in clusters on short, branched peduncles.

4. STEPHANIE'S ASTRAPIA *Astrapia stephaniae*
Road from Wau towards Biaru, c. 20 km south of Wau Morobe Province, 1800 m, 19 April 1987. Observers HCFH & members of PNGBS.

About one km further along the road a male Stephanie's Astrapia was seen feeding on the mature fruit of another *Trema orientalis* tree, again close to the road. After feeding it continued to perch in the small crown for about 30 minutes.

McWhirter (1986) records numerous species foraging in *Trema orientalis* at the Wau Ecology Institute, but many of the birds he observed were insectivorous, and did not feed on the fruit.

Acknowledgements: My thanks are due to Kipling Naoni and Paul Katik for help with plant identifications, and to members of the PNGBS who were also observers.

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FOOD PLANTS OF FEMALE FAN-TAILED BERRYPECKERS

ROGER K. HICKS

During a brief stay at Ambua Lodge, Tari (Southern Highlands Province) in November 1987 female Fan-tailed Berrypeckers *Melanocharis versteri* were observed feeding on the fruits of three different plants. No male Fan-tailed Berrypeckers were seen feeding. Samples of each plant were collected, and subsequently identified by Lawong Balun. They were *Planchonella* sp. (Sapotaceae), *Rubus cf. ferdinandi-muelleri* Focke (Rosaceae) and *Pipturus argenteus* Willd. (Urticaceae). The fruit of each plant was ingested whole by the birds, the largest fruit being that of *R. ferdinandi-muelleri* which measured c. 7 mm x 5 mm.

Voucher specimens at UPNG are: *Planchonella*, Hicks & Hicks #8; *Rubus*, #9; *Pipturus*, #10.

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FEEDING OBSERVATIONS OF SHORT-TAILED PARADIGALLA

ROGER K. HICKS AND JENNY H. HICKS

Between 9 and 12 October 1987 Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda* were regularly recorded in the grounds of Ambua Lodge, Tari, Southern Highlands Province, at c. 2200 m. Most observations were of two birds, presumed to be an adult and a juvenile. The adult had creamy-yellow forehead wattles and pale blue gape wattles as depicted by Beehler *et al.* (1986). The juvenile lacked blue gape wattles but its forehead wattles were as large as those of the adult. It was seen to solicit food, in the form of whole fruit, from the adult on three occasions. Each time the juvenile adopted a begging posture with its head held low, neck stretched towards the adult and wings held slightly away from the body and quivering. On this occasion we could discern no calls associated with the begging.

The adult was observed feeding on the fruit from two *Planchonella* (Sapotaceae) trees on three occasions. The fleshy berries of these trees were c. 10 mm in diameter and grew singly on short stalks among the leaves. They usually contained two smooth elongated seeds. The adult moved through the trees taking only ripe black fruit, leaving hard, green, unripe fruit. The whole fruit was ingested. The juvenile was present each time, but it was not seen to take any fruit other than those offered to it by the adult.

At 15:30 on 9 October the juvenile was seen feeding on its own, in a non-fruiting tree. It probed holes in the branches using its relatively long decurved bill and took at least one grub. It then pulled dead leaves from the branches, worried at the leaves and seemed to pull further grubs from them (the dead leaves were too high for us to examine them other than through binoculars). When the adult, carrying a *Planchonella* fruit, landed near the juvenile it stopped its own search for food and begged for the fruit, which it received.

At 06:30 on 12 October the adult and juvenile were seen in a species of *Sericolea*, possibly *S. pullei* (Laut.) Schltr. (Elaeocarpaceae). This tree was c. 6 m high and stood in the Lodge grounds on the edge of moss forest. The adult was feeding on the small (2 x 1 mm) red fruits which are produced singly on short (1.5 cm), thin peduncles amongst the leaves. The juvenile followed the adult through the tree but did not attempt to feed and did not beg to be fed.

At 17:00 on 9 November, also in the grounds of Ambua Lodge, two birds (assumed to be the same ones seen in October), were observed feeding on the berries of a *Perrotetia alpestris* (Bl.) Loes ssp *moluccana* (Bl.) Hou (Celastraceae) tree. This tree was c. 20 m high. The fruits were very small (c. 1 mm x 0.5 mm), and were black when ripe. Fruits were borne singly on short green stems, several of which grew alternately from a more major stem. Although the juvenile was feeding itself it still followed the adult and was seen to beg for food. A begging call, an often repeated, faint, high-pitched squeak was heard.

Voucher specimens at UPNG are: *Planchonella*, Hicks & Hicks #5; *Sericolea*, #6; *Perrotetia*, #7. We would like to thank Paul Katik, Lawong Balun, and Helen Fortune Hopkins for identifying the food plants

Beehler, B.M., T.K. Pratt & D.A. Zimmerman. 1986. *Birds of New Guinea*. Princeton University Press.

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FEEDING OBSERVATIONS AT A FRUITING *PIPTURUS*

ROGER K. HICKS

On 30 August 1987 a fruiting *Pipturus argenteus* Willd. (Urticaceae), which was attracting several species of birds was watched for approximately one hour from 09:00. The tree was c. 10 m tall and stood in a small clearing beside a dry stream bed in the Veimaui logging area, c. 70 km north-west of Port Moresby at c. 200 m.

The birds were feeding on small, green, spherical, cone-like structures, 2 - 3 mm in diameter, which are the immature compound fruits. These compound fruits are borne at intervals, on thin, angled (zig-zag) stems, produced in the leaf axils. The fruits were hard and dry. The mature fruit of *P. argenteus* is a white fleshy false berry, but none were seen on this tree.

Eight species were observed feeding in the tree. Two pairs of Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta guilielmierti* were present for the whole time. They fed actively, climbing from branch to branch throughout the tree. Females of three species of birds of paradise, Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*, King Bird of Paradise *C. regius*, and Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*, visited the tree for short periods, each feeding in only one part of the tree before moving on. A male Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis* landed on a low branch of the tree. It took a single fruit before attempting to climb to a smaller branch which could not bear its weight. It fell out of the tree and flew into the surrounding forest. A pair of Plain Honeyeaters *Pycnopygius ixoides*, and a pair of Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters *Xanthotis flaviventer* made repeated visits, feeding throughout the crown. All these birds appeared to ingest the fruit whole. Two Grey Whistlers *Pachycephala simplex* also visited the tree but did not feed on the fruit, instead they gleaned items from the leaves. No inter-specific aggression was noted, although at times there were eight individuals of four species in the tree.

Voucher specimen at UPNG for *P. argenteus* is Hicks & Hicks #2. I would like to thank Paul Katik for identifying the food plant.

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FEEDING OBSERVATIONS OF FEMALE CRESTED BIRD OF PARADISE

ROGER HICKS

At 07:45 on 10 October 1987, a female Crested Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregoriae* was observed feeding in a shrub on the edge of the grasslands of Tari Gap, Southern Highlands Province, at c. 2780 m. The shrub *Symplocos cochinchinensis* (Loureiro) S. Moore (Symplocaceae), was typical of the area, standing c. 4 m high and having dense foliage. The bird moved about the outer twigs of the shrub selecting small (4 x 3 mm) green berries, apparently at random. The berries were hard with very little flesh covering the woody seed and were borne on short spikes amongst the leaves.

Voucher specimen for *S. cochinchinensis* is Hicks & Hicks #4. I would like to thank Paul Katik for identifying the food plant.

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MYOLA IN JUNE

ROGER K. HICKS

Five members of the PNGBS and 10 others celebrated the Queen's official birthday by leaving the heat of Port Moresby for the cooler delights of Myola. Myola lies in the heart of the Owen Stanley mountain range at a height of 2080 m and is less than 25 minutes flying time from the capital. However the contrast could not be greater. Myola is a small satellite village of about 20 huts, two of which are the guest house sleeping quarters and common room, situated on the edge of moss forest and the swampy grassland of the Myola basin. The origin of this grassland is uncertain although a blackened slope where the vegetation had been burnt suggested one possible cause.

This was the first time we had trapped birds using mist nets at Myola. Rings (bands) were supplied by the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme. The nets were sited close to the track leading to the Kokoda Trail. Over the weekend we caught, ringed, weighed and measured 16 birds of 10 species: four Ashy Robins, all caught in the same net, three Fan-tailed Berrypeckers, two Regent Whistlers, a pair of Black-billed Cuckoo-Doves, and one each of Bronze Ground-Dove, Mountain Mouse-Warbler, Friendly Fantail, Black Fantail and Rufous-backed Honeyeater. Pride of place though went to a female Macgregor's Bowerbird caught on the Sunday. She was a large, powerful bird with uniform olive-brown plumage and a pale yellow-orange underwing. It was nice to confirm the presence of this bird at Myola. We have subsequently heard of a bower close to where we caught the female.

We spent most of the weekend in the vicinity of the village as we did not want to leave the nets unattended for too long. Even so about 40 species were recorded. An unidentified fruiting tree proved attractive to several species including a pair of Loria's Bird of Paradise, several Fan-tailed Berrypeckers and the noisy Belford's Melidectes. Individual Stephanie's Astrapia, usually females or subadult males were seen, occasionally on the edge of the forest close to the village. In the grassland of the Myola basin Tawny Grassbirds were common, Spotless Crakes were heard calling but not seen and King Quail, in small groups, were recorded for the first time.

Our long weekend break, 6-9 June 1987, ended with a flight back to Moresby early on Tuesday morning. We all enjoyed our stay and would like to thank the villagers of Myola for their hospitality and Talair for getting us there and back. Accommodation at the Myola guest house can be booked via Pacific Expeditions (tel. 257803).

Species List. r = ringed, h = heard only.

Harrier sp, New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (h), Brown Falcon, Wattled Brush-Turkey, King Quail, Forbes' Forest-Rail, Spotless Crake (h), Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove (r), Bronze Ground-Dove (r), White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Goldie's Lorikeet, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Sooty Owl (h), Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Forest Kingfisher, Pacific Swallow, Island Thrush, Spotted Jewel-Babbler (h), Lesser Melampitta, Blue-capped Ifrita, Tawny Grassbird, Mountain Mouse-Warbler (r), Large Scrub-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, *Gerygone* sp, Dimorphic Fantail, Black Fantail (r), Friendly Fantail (r), Black-breasted Boatbill, Black Monarch, Canary Flycatcher, Ashy Robin (r), Blue-Grey Robin, Regent Whistler, Rufous-naped Whistler, Fan-tailed Berrypecker (r), Red-collared Myzomela, Rufous-backed Honeyeater (r), Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Grey-headed Mannikin, Macgregor's Bowerbird, Loria's Bird of Paradise, Stephanie's Astrapia.

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MYOLA IN SEPTEMBER

ROGER K. HICKS

Following our successful trip to Myola in early June, another was organised for late September 1987. Heavy overnight rain in the week preceding our departure, early on Friday 25 September, did not bode well for our long weekend. The general concensus was "If it's wet in Moresby, it must be worse in Myola". So we were pleasantly surprised upon landing to find clear blue skies, even if it was a bit chilly until the sun climbed above the surrounding hills. There might even have been a frost on the runway. It remained sunny, dry and mostly cloudless for the duration of our stay, surely a record for Myola.

The bird-watching matched the weather all the way with everyone seeing new birds. We recorded 72 species, several of which had not been recorded in the area previously. PNGBS members have visited Myola six times in the past two and a half years. Some species seemed more common and others less numerous than on previous visits. Less in evidence were Common Smoky Honeyeater, Blue-capped Ifrita and to a certain extent Belford's Melidectes, or maybe the latter were just quieter. Stephanie's Astrapia was only recorded on two occasions, at the edge of the forest. Black Monarch seemed to be present in greater numbers, or at least was recorded more often. Many of the birds 'new' to Myola were active canopy species, which I think would have been noted if they had been present on previous visits. Good views were had of both Sittellas, Varied and Black, in the same area of forest, although on different days. Joan Oliver rustled up Garnet Robins wherever she went, but I had real trouble getting to grips with these birds and am still waiting for my first good sighting; maybe next time. Two skulkers were also added to the list. These may have been present all the time but avoided detection. Chris Eastwood found a Black-throated Robin on our last afternoon, and a Lesser Ground-Robin was caught in a net. I subsequently had a glimpse of another one on the forest floor. One of the highlights of the weekend for me was seeing a male Macgregor's Bowerbird perched in the open with his crest partially raised, unfortunately a sight that only Ian Burrows and I witnessed.

As on our last visit we used mist nets to trap birds for ringing (banding). This time we set the nets to the east of the village, two in dense secondary growth and the rest in moss forest. We were much more successful than previously, catching 82 birds of 20 species. We seemed to have birds in the net all the time, but without doubt Saturday morning was the high spot. Our first round of the nets, just after dawn, produced only one bird, but that was a Mountain Owllet-Nightjar, the first in that family for most of us. This was followed in the next couple of hours by a succession of good birds, including Lesser Ground-Robin, (making Ian and Helen members of a very select club having seen and ringed the Greater Ground-Robin on English Peaks), Rufous-naped Whistler, which was much brighter than the illustration in the field guide, and New Guinea White-Eye. Fan-tailed Berrypecker was the most commonly caught species although only rarely seen out of the net; over the weekend we handled 21 of which 13 were female or juvenile and the majority were caught in the nets in the secondary growth. Ashy Robins were caught wherever we placed nets and always in the lowest shelves. The larger individuals all showed a pale horn-coloured tip to the bill which the smaller birds lacked. Further studies may indicate whether this is a reliable field character for aging or sexing birds, or whether it is just individual variation.

Mike Hopkins, Simon Headford and Krysia Lupa left the relative comfort of the guest house on Saturday morning for an expedition to the higher altitude of the central divide to the north of Myola. They spent a frosty night in the tree fern forest at c. 2600 m and then moved higher. Mike eventually reached c. 3150 m to the north-east of Myola and saw several species not recorded lower. Eastern Alpine Mannikins were common in the tree fern forest and higher he saw Painted Tiger-Parrot, Mountain Robin, Alpine Pipit and Sooty Melidectes. There was no sign of the hoped for Macgregor's Bird of Paradise but the bird's main food plant, *Dacrycarpus*, was not in flower or fruit. Mike returned full of

TARI BASIN (c. 1700 m)
INCL. TOWN AND AIRSTRIP

Black-shouldered Kite
Black Kite
Waders (on airfield)
Richard's Pipit
Long-tailed Shrike
Black-headed Whistler
New Guinea White-Eye } check
Western White-Eye }
Raggiana Bird of Paradise

BIRD WATCHING at AMBUA LODGE by Roger KI Hicks

ROAD ABOVE BAILEY BRIDGE
(open forest)

Black-mantled Goshawk	Black Monarch
Little Red Lorikeet	Dwarf Cassowary
Plum-faced Lorikeet	Brown Falcon
Orange-billed Lorikeet	Goldie's Lorikeet
Papuan Lorikeet	Mountain Nightjar
Ribbon-tailed Astrapia	Logrunner
King of Saxony BoP	Papuan Scrub-Wren
Brown Sicklebill	Tit Berrypecker
White-winged Robin	Archbold's Bowerbird
Grey Wagtail	
Tawny Grassbird	
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	
Lesser Melampitta	
Chestnut Forest-Rail	} identify with care
Forbes' Forest-Rail	



Tari township and airfield c. 20 km from lodge

Banari Road is first road south off main highway below lodge

Woods here hold Blue and Superb BoPs and Lawes' Parotia. Good viewing from road

Woods either side of river hold a wide range of birds

Woods below orchid garden hold Superb and other BoPs

To Banari. No need to go further than top of hill after river. Listen for "reversing truck" call of Blue Bird of Paradise

orchid garden

chalets

AMBUA LODGE

View overlooking valley can be good for birds

Lodge access road and car park can be good, especially in evening

This track may not be productive for birds, although Wattle-ploughbill and Torrent Lark have been seen. Worth while for view of large waterfall and rope bridge

Old road is impassible to traffic so there is less disturbance. Harpy-Eagle has been recorded here

King of Saxony BoP display tree on crown of hill, west of bridge and close to road. Good morning or evening

"Bridge" on old road is a bit of a misnomer. There are stepping stones/ford just upstream

Bailey bridge on new road can be a good spot

Good forest starts above these "S" bends, but surprisingly good birds in scrub between Lodge and bends

Above bailey bridge there are numerous "lay-bys" where the road has been straightened. It is worth walking around these

TARI GAP - road flattens out but zig-zags about. Dwarf forest either side of road is excellent for birds. Forest gives way to montane grassland

To Mendi Mt Hagen and Lae

AMBUA LODGE to TARI GAP is about 12 km on main road, longer on old road

BANARI ROAD (c. 1900 m)

Blue BoP
Black Sicklebill
Superb BoP
Lawes' Parotia
Papuan King Parrot
Blue-collared Parrot
Hooded Mannikin
Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike
Black-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike
Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike
Island Warbler
Long-tailed Shrike
Black Butcherbird
Macgregor's Bowerbird

GROUNDS OF AMBUA LODGE (c. 2200 m)

At least 7 Birds of Paradise
Lawes' Parotia
Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
Brown Sicklebill
Short-tailed Paradigalla
Buff-tailed Sicklebill
Blue BoP
Superb BoP
Loria's BoP
Blue-faced Parrot-Finch
Torrent Flycatcher
Torrent Lark
Salvadori's Teal
Rufous-naped Whistler
Papuan Boobook - usually in tree between chalets 9 & 11

Blue-grey Robin
Black-throated Robin
Papuan Lorikeet
Varied Sitella
Black Sitella
Black Fantail
Dimorphic Fantail
Friendly Fantail
Mountain Peltops
White-breasted Fruit-Dove
Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike
Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren
Mottled Whistler

ROAD BELOW BAILEY BRIDGE

(forest trees closer together)

Mountain Mouse-Warbler	King of Saxony BoP
Ashy Robin	Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
Canary Flycatcher	Brown Sicklebill
Black-breasted Boatbill	Macgregor's Bowerbird
Sclater's Whistler	Grey Wagtail
Regent Whistler	Canary Flycatcher
Brown-backed Whistler	Brown-breasted Gerygone
Blue-capped Ifrita	Grey Gerygone
Belford's Melidectes	Common Smoky Honeyeater

TARI GAP (c. 2900 m)

Tiger Parrots
Mountain Firetail
Crested BoP
King of Saxony BoP
Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
Brown Sicklebill
Macgregor's Bowerbird
Archbold's Bowerbird
Crested Berrypecker
New-Guinea Harpy-Eagle
Alpine Pipit (rare)
Brown Quail
Red-collared Myzomela
Grey-streaked Honeyeater
Sooty Melidectes
Belford's Melidectes

A WEEKEND IN TARI

ROGER K. HICKS AND JENNY H. HICKS

The Tari area, in the Southern Highlands Province, is the home of some of the stranger and more spectacular of PNG's birds. With the opening of Ambua Lodge, in early 1986, it has acquired a reputation as one of the top birding locations in the world. Bird tours, from all over, visit the lodge and an extensive list of species, including 13 birds of paradise, have been recorded. A booklet detailing the species to be seen in the area, written by Brian Finch and updated by Cliff & Dawn Frith and Nick Gardner, is available from the lodge. Although several members of the PNGBS have visited the area, and stayed at the lodge, little has appeared in the PNGBS publications.

Ambua Lodge lies at about 2200 m on the edge of the inhabited, and cultivated Tari basin and unspoilt moss forest. The township of Tari lies 700 m lower while the forest above the lodge extends to the grassland of Tari Gap at 2800 m. Within this altitude range can be found a wide variety of birds and nearly every species seen will be a PNG endemic.

We visited Ambua Lodge on an Air Niugini weekender package in early October 1987. It was the first time this year that we had been away on our own and with due deference to PNGBS members it made a very nice change. We arrived in Tari before mid-day and were transported to the lodge. The bird-watching was delayed by lunch and then heavy rain but later we found a fruiting tree in the woods below the orchid garden which was attracting several birds of paradise. Over the weekend we watched this tree for about 8 hours and recorded the following feeding on the ripe black berries; an adult and juvenile Short-tailed Paradigalla; a female Blue Bird of Paradise; a female Lawes' Parotia; male and female Superb Bird of Paradise; male and female Loria's Bird of Paradise. Female Brown Sicklebill and Ribbon-tailed Astrapia were seen nearby. An impressive complement of birds, and all within the lodge grounds.

Early on Saturday morning we got a lift up to the Gap and began walking down to the lodge. In the low scrub bordering the grassland we watched a female Crested Bird of Paradise feeding on small berries and a pair of Crested Berrypeckers feeding in the next bush. The machine-gun-like call of a male Brown Sicklebill could be heard almost continuously while a female was watched foraging along moss-covered branches. Lower down in open moss forest the "radio-static" call of a male King of Saxony Bird of Paradise was heard and he was eventually located displaying in the top of a tree with his "antennae" waving in all directions, an unforgettable sight. Our stroll down the hill became a sprint through heavy rain and we arrived at the lodge soaked to the skin. The log fire of the bar/lounge was most welcoming.

On Sunday we went below the lodge and saw Superb Bird of Paradise and numerous Island Leaf Warblers but neither the hoped for Black Sicklebill nor male Blue Bird of Paradise. The remainder of the day we spent in the grounds of Ambua. A Torrent-Lark was seen near the spectacular waterfall, across the road from the lodge. A pair of Varied Sitella foraged on the trunks of trees along the driveway and a female Macgregor's Bowerbird was seen in the wood below the orchid garden.

Only a few of the species we recorded this weekend are mentioned above. Our list is presented below, but a dedicated bird watcher could add many to that over a long weekend. For any bird-watcher visiting PNG this area must be high on the list of places to visit. Nowhere else in the country is it possible to find so many endemic species which are so readily accessible. For example we saw ten species of bird of paradise in our first 24 hours. For "non-birders" there is the intriguing culture of the Huli wigmens, the inhabitants of the Tari basin, who use bird of paradise feathers in their head-dresses. It is a fascinating destination, whatever your interest.

Species list. h = heard only

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (h), Little Curlew, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Dusky Lory, Rainbow Lorikeet, Papuan Lorikeet, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Tiger-Parrot sp., Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo, Papuan Boobook, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Pacific Swallow, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Chat, Island Thrush, Tawny Grassbird, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Large Scrub-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Canary Flycatcher, Black-throated Robin, White-winged Robin, Blue-grey Robin, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Crested Berrypecker, Red-collared Myzomela, Grey-backed Streaked Honeyeater, Belford's Melidectes, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Hooded Mannikin, Mountain Firetail (h), Torrent-Lark, Great Wood-Swallow, Macgregor's Bowerbird, Crested Bird of Paradise, Loria's Bird of Paradise, Short-tailed Paradigalla, Brown Sicklebill, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Stephanie's Astrapia, Lawes' Parotia, King of Saxony Bird of Paradise, Blue Bird of Paradise.

The illustration on the centre pages is a birder's map of the Tari Gap area.

Address: c/o N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, Waigani, P.N.G.

FIELD GUIDES INC. TOUR OF PNG 1986

Field Guides Inc. arrange annual bird-watching tours to PNG. Brett Whitney, the tour leader, has supplied the PNGBS with a 16 page annotated list of the species recorded on the 1986 tour. Some of the tour highlights and interesting observations have been extracted from the list and are presented here. The full list is held in the PNGBS library.

Field Guides Inc. were in PNG for four weeks from 11/8/86 - 7/9/86. Nearly 350 species of birds were recorded, including 24 birds of paradise and several rarely seen species.

PROVINCE ABBREVIATIONS: Cen = Central; Eng = Enga; = Eastern Highlands; Mor = Morobe; NCD = National Capital District; SHP = Southern Highlands; WHP = Western Highlands. [Note: we have been unable to locate Ilaru Pass - Eds.]

- DWARF CASSOWARY *Casuarius bennetti*
Pair seen on track at Baiyer River Sanctuary (WHP).
- BLACK-MANTLED GOSHAWK *Accipiter melanochlamys*
At Mt. Kaindi (Mor), Wapenamanda (Eng) and Tari (SHP).
- MEYER'S GOSHAWK *Accipiter meyerianus*
One Moitaka settling ponds (NCD), and one Lae (Mor). Both dark morphs.
- NEW GUINEA HARPY-EAGLE *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
Two sightings. one soaring bird at Ilaru Pass. At Wapenamanda Gorge (Eng) an adult was seen reaching into a mossy cavity, attempting to extract something. Eventually it gave up and began to consume a cuscus that it had apparently already captured.
- CHESTNUT FOREST RAIL *Rallina rubra*
A pair in cloud forest near Tari Gap (SHP), duetting loudly.
- LITTLE RED LORIKEET *Charmosyna pulchella*
Possible nest in thick moss on the underside of a heavy limb, at Trauna Ridge (WHP).
- PAPUAN LORIKEET *Charmosyna papou*
Possible nest in thick moss on underside of a limb at c 2150 m, above Ambua Lodge, Tari (SHP).
- ORANGE-BILLED LORIKEET *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*
Pair working on a cavity 3.5 m up in a diameter trunk, possibly a nesting cavity, at 2125 m on Mt Kaindi (Mor).

- PALM COCKATOO *Probosciger aterrimus*
Three feeding on the fruits of a *Pandanus* in the Jimi Valley (WHP).
- ELECTUS PARROT *Eclectus roratus*
Two pairs nesting in the same tree, by the Wau - Lae road (Mor).
- WHITE-THROATED NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus mystacalis*
Probable only. A nightjar flushed off the road, in rain forest at Brown River (Cen), showed small white wing patches but no white in tail.
- MOUSTACHED TREE SWIFT *Hemiprocne mystacea*
Two pairs perched over a rushing stream, near Lae (Mor). One bird constructing its tiny nest on a small bare limb.
- BLACK-WINGED MONARCH *Monarcha frater*
On nest at Baiyer River Sanctuary (WHP): a neat cup in the crotch of a sub-canopy tree at the forest edge. c. 12 m up.
- BLACK-THROATED ROBIN *Poecilodryas albonotata*
Pair performing display whereby one bird perched above the other on a vertical stump and expanded its black cheeks and throat so highlighting the white neck tufts. White flank tufts also highly exposed. The whole accompanied by stiff body posturing and song.
- PAPUAN FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum pectorale*
One at c. 2650 m at Wapenamanda Gorge/Murmur Pass (Eng) was higher than usual.
- ORNATE MELIDECTES *Melidectes torquatus*
On Mt. Kaindi (Mor), one at a nest c. 20 m above ground. A neat cup, 12 cm in diameter, in the fork of a horizontal branch just below the top of the tree.
- GREAT WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus maximus*
One as low as c. 92 m on Lae - Wau road (Mor).
- LOWLAND PELTOPS *Peltops blainvillii*
Ads feeding juvs. at Veimauri River area (Cen); harlequin head pattern of juvs apparently undescribed.
- ARCHBOLD'S BOWERBIRD *Archboldia papuensis*
One seen briefly at Tari (SHP).
- MACGREGOR'S BOWERBIRD *Ambylornis macgregoriae*
At Ubai Gubi (EHP) a male was watched reconstructing a bower that had been destroyed by heavy overnight rain. Largely rebuilt between 07:00 and 13:00.
- SHORT-TAILED PARADIGALLA *Paradigalla brevicauda*
Constructing a nest near Ambua Lodge, Tari (SHP).
- BUFF-TAILED SICKLEBILL *Epimachus albertisi*
Female or subad. male seen at Ilaru Pass twice and an ad. male seen briefly.
- LAWES' PAROTIA *Parotia lawesii*
At Ubai Gubi (EHP) ad. males were watched from hides as they cleaned fallen leaves and other debris from display court.
- CAROLA'S PAROTIA *Parotia carolae*
An ad. male seen at Ubai Gubi (EHP).

Address: Field Guides Incorporated, P.O. Box 160723, Austin, Texas, 78746, U.S.A.

OWLING AT THE PACIFIC ADVENTIST COLLEGE, PORT MORESBY

ROGER K. HICKS

Owls, nightjars and frogmouths are not easy birds to see. Most observations tend to be of birds glimpsed in car headlights while travelling at night, when identification is not always possible. Members of the PNGBS are fortunate that Len Tolhurst, a PNGBS committee member, works and lives on the SDA Pacific Adventist College campus, which lies south of the Hubert Murray Highway, near Ilimo Farm, about 10 km from the outskirts of Port Moresby. The campus is surrounded by a security fence which is well lit at night. The lights attract flying insects which in turn attract the night birds and for a change it is possible to see them well. The demand for some night-time bird watching was such that two trips were organised to the college, on 11th and 13th August 1987.

The plan was to drive around the perimeter track to see what had been attracted to the lights. The first birds seen each evening were a pair of Blue-winged Kookaburras using the security fence as vantage point from which to hunt. Barn Owls, Papuan Frogmouths and Large-tailed Nightjars were perched in open situations where they were easy to see. Having followed the security fence for some way, we moved into the farmland beyond the campus and were surprised how many Barn Owls and Large-tailed Nightjars there were. At least five pairs of the latter were scattered over an area of ploughed land, their eyes reflecting red or green in the spot-light beam. These nightjars allowed a close approach when dazzled by the light and subsequently we have managed to trap three for ringing (banding) by this means. While trapped in the light the full detail of their cryptic plumage was seen, although under such conditions it afforded them little protection. In the same area there were at least five Barn Owls. There was no sign of the rarer owls we had hoped for. Papuan Boobook, Barking Owl and Rufous Owl have all been reported from the college.

Our first visit finished on a note of excitement when a large nightjar was trapped in the spotlight beam. It was observed for about 15 minutes spending most of the time perched but occasionally sallying out after insects. It showed no white in the wing or tail and was identified as a White-throated Nightjar. This is thought to be the first sighting of this species, a migrant to New Guinea from its Australian breeding grounds, in the Port Moresby area. A note on this sighting will be in the next issue of Muruk.

On behalf of all those who enjoyed the night time viewing, I would like to thank Len for his hospitality, chauffeuring us around and more importantly knowing where to go, his wife, Val, for the welcoming drinks and cakes, and Mr Wilkinson, the Principal of the college, for allowing us to roam over his campus and for the loan of his spotlight which greatly helped our viewing.

Species List.

Great Egret, Rufous Night-Heron, Masked Lapwing, Barn Owl, Papuan Frogmouth, White-throated Nightjar, Large-tailed Nightjar, Blue-winged Kookaburra.

Address: c/o N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, Waigani, P.N.G.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS: JANUARY - MARCH 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to Port Moresby area unless site is followed by abbreviated province name. Sites mentioned are shown on the map on page 31.

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB), Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS), Roger Hicks (RH), Helen Fortune Hopkins (HFH), Mike Hopkins (MH), Peter Lambley (PL), Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; I. = Island; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NP = National Park; SP = settling ponds; WHP = Western Highlands Province; WEI = Wau Ecology Institute.

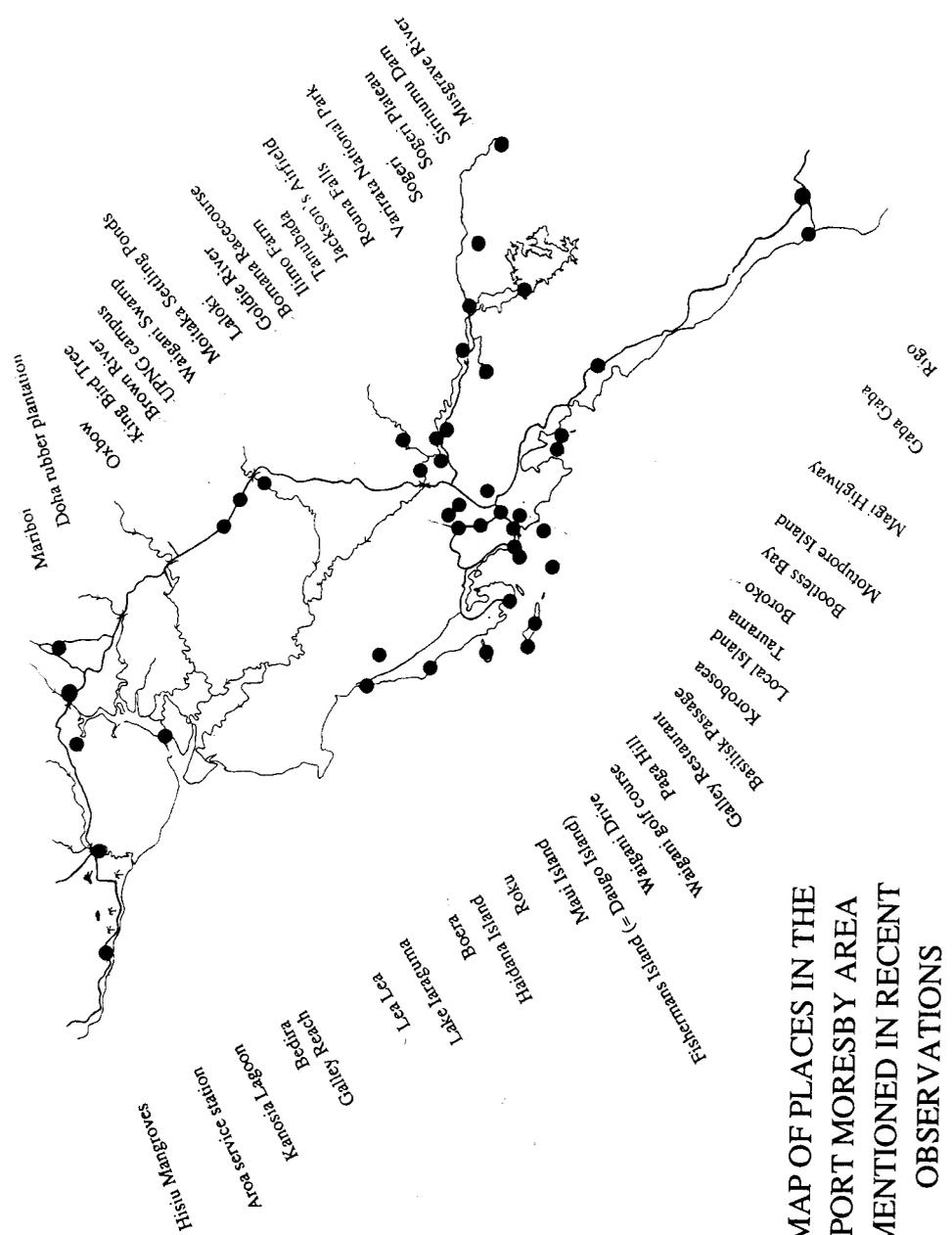
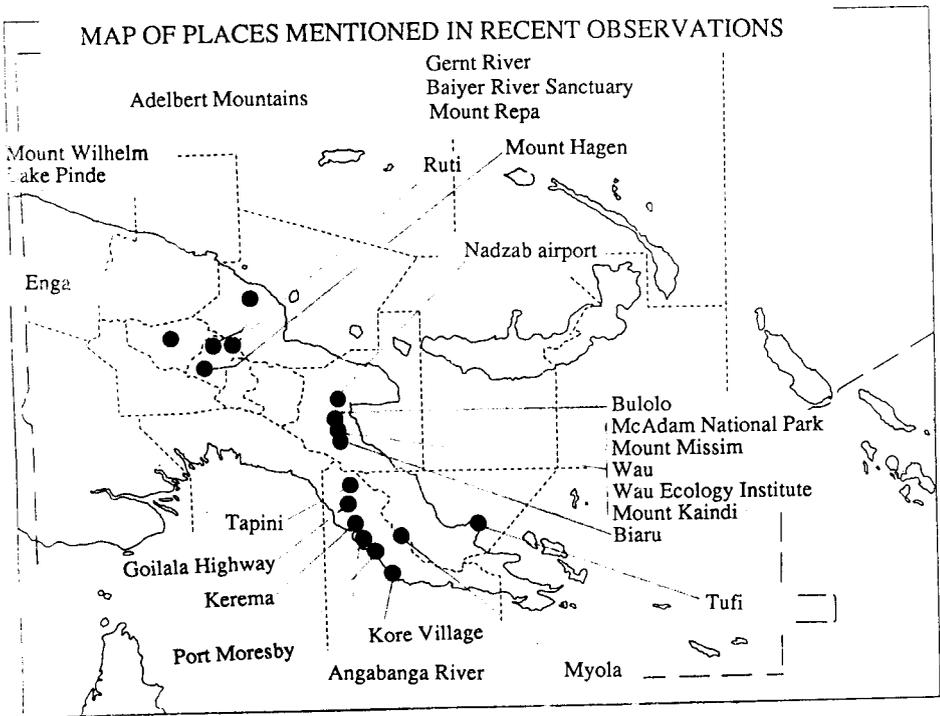
DWARF CASSOWARY	<i>Casuarus bennetti</i>
Four records of single birds in Varirata NP: beyond Gare's Lookout 24 Jan (MH) and 31 Jan, (RGS); 6 Mar Gare's Lookout trail 6 Mar (IB); between Gare's and Varirata Lookouts 27 Mar (NW).	
LESSER FRIGATEBIRD	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
25 Jan: 20 over Local I. (PL)	
AUSTRALIAN PELICAN	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
16 Jan: 1 flying over Waigani Drive at c. 15:45 (HFH).	
CATTLE EGRET	<i>Egretta ibis</i>
21 Feb: 50+ in bp, near Ilimo Farm (IB).	
LITTLE EGRET	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
11 Mar: 1 in bp, Moitaka SP (RH).	
EASTERN REEF EGRET	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
29 Mar: 1 white phase, Haidana I. (NW).	
CRESTED HAWK	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
17 Jan: birds carrying food c. 10 km east of Brown River bridge on Hiritano Highway (MH). 7 Mar: 1, Laloki (RGS).	
LONG-TAILED BUZZARD	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>
10 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). 25 Jan: 1, Adelbert Mountains, Mad (HFH).	
WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
25 Jan: 1, Boera (RGS). 1 Mar: 1 juv., Roku (RGS). 21 Jan: 1 ad., Moitaka SP (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
SWAMP HARRIER	<i>Circus approximans</i>
3 Jan: 1 Moitaka SP (RGS).	
GREY GOSHAWK	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
3 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS).	
BROWN FALCON	<i>Falco berigora</i>
22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).	
AUSTRALIAN KESTREL	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
26 Feb: 1 possible, Boroko (NW). A very early possible record of this species which usually appears in the Port Moresby area in May.	
GARGANEY	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
12 Mar: 13 Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
BLACK-BILLED BRUSH-TURKEY	<i>Talegalla fuscirostris</i>
Two birds recorded on 3 occasions in Varirata NP: 21 Feb: & 6 Mar Gare's Lookout trail (IB), 21 Mar working on mound at bottom of Gare's Lookout trail (RH).	
BROWN QUAIL	<i>Coturnix australis</i>
21 Jan: 2, Local I. (PL).	
KING QUAIL	<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>
1 Jan: 6. 1 male and 5 females, Local I. (RGS).	
BEACH STONE-CURLEW	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>
28 Feb: 2, Lea Lea salt pans (NW).	

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>
21 Feb: 8, Ilimo Farm (IB).	
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
12 Mar: 1, Moitaka SP (RH, RGS). 28 Mar: 4, Bootless Bay, probably of resident race as calls were harsh (RH, IB).	
GREY-TAILED TATTLER	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
1 Jan: 1, Local I. (RGS). 22 Mar: 1, Roku (RGS).	
TEREK SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa terek</i>
28 Mar: 1, Bootless Bay (RH). 29 Mar: 3 or 4, Haidana I. (NW).	
LITTLE TERN	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
29 Mar: many Haidana I. (NW).	
LESSER CRESTED TERN	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
29 Mar: c. 10, Haidana I. (NW).	
GREAT CUCKOO-DOVE	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtoena</i>
6 Mar: 1, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).	
EMERALD GROUND DOVE	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
28 Mar: 2 in mangroves along Magi Highway (IB).	
STEPHAN'S GROUND DOVE	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>
21 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). 21 Feb: 1, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).	
PIEASANT PIGEON	<i>Otidiphaps nobilis</i>
24-25 Jan: 1, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP, disturbed but remained close by for several minutes (MH).	
PINK-SPOTTED FRUIT-DOVE	<i>Ptilinopus perlatus</i>
24-25 Jan: Beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).	
ORNATE FRUIT-DOVE	<i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i>
20-21 Jan: 16, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).	
PURPLE-TAILED IMPERIAL PIGEON	<i>Ducula rufigaster</i>
6 Mar: 2, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).	
ZOE IMPERIAL PIGEON	<i>Ducula zoeae</i>
3 Jan: 2, Varirata NP (RGS). 20-22 Jan: 2, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).	
DUSKY LORY	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i>
20-22 Jan: 100, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). 21 Jan: Mt Rea, WHP (RGS).	
GOLDIE'S LORIKEET	<i>Trichoglossus goldiei</i>
22 Jan: 4, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).	
LITTLE RED LORIKEET	<i>Charmosyna pulchella</i>
22 Jan: 2, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).	
RED-BREASTED PYGMY-PARROT	<i>Micropsitta bruijnii</i>
17 Jan: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). 25 Jan: 2 dead birds brought in to hut, Adelbert Mts, Mad. (HFH).	
DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>
19 Jan: 30, Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS). 20-22 Jan: 200, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).	
ECCLECTUS PARROT	<i>Ecclectus roratus</i>
1 Feb: 1, Korobosea (NW). 27 Mar: Varirata NP (NW).	
PAPUAN KING-PARROT	<i>Alisterus chloropterus</i>
16-19 Jan: 2, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 24-25 Jan: 2 beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).	
ORIENTAL CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
16-19 Jan: 1, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 21 Feb: 1, entrance to Varirata NP (MH <i>et al.</i>).	
BRUSH CUCKOO	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
15 Feb: 1, UPNG campus (IB).	
HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO	<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>
19 Mar: 1, UPNG campus - in garden 17:45 until dark (IB).	
WHITE-EARED BRONZE-CUCKOO	<i>Chrysococcyx meyerii</i>
18 Jan: 1, Wau, Mor. (RGS).	
DWARF KOEL	<i>Microdynamis parva</i>
21 Feb: 1, near Ilimo Farm (IB).	
CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
20 Feb: 1, Korobosea (NW).	
BARN OWL	<i>Tyto alba</i>
1 Jan: 1, Local I. (RGS). 31 Jan: 1, Tanubada (RGS).	

PAPUAN FROGMOUTH	<i>Podiceps papuensis</i>		
28 Feb: 1, Lake Iaraguma (NW <i>et al.</i>)			
PAPUAN NIGHTJAR	<i>Eurostopodus papuensis</i>		
31 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS).			
MOUSTACHED TREE-SWIFT	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>		
27 Mar: pair near Varirata NP entrance (NW).			
MOUNTAIN SWIFLET	<i>Collocalia hirundinacea</i>		
16-19 Jan: 30, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 20-22 Jan: 2, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).			
HOOK-BILLED KINGFISHER	<i>Melidora macrorrhina</i>		
8 Mar: 1, Circuit trail, Varirata NP - feeding on a lizard (HFH & PL).			
SACRED KINGFISHER	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>		
11 Mar: first returning bird from Australian breeding grounds at Moitaka SP (RH <i>et al.</i>) although 1 in early Feb., Korobosea (RGS). 23 Mar: 1, Waigani golf course (NW).			
COMMON KINGFISHER	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		
21 Feb: 1, Ilimo Farm (MH, HFH <i>et al.</i>).			
RAINBOW BEE-EATER	<i>Merops ornatus</i>		
25 Jan: 1, UPNG campus (PL).			
BLUE-BREASTED PITTA	<i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>		
Regularly recorded at the start of Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP. 24 Jan (MH), 31 Jan (MH & HFH), 17 Feb (MH), 21 Feb (MH <i>et al.</i>), also on Circuit trail 8 Mar (HFH). Could be attracted to tapes.			
HOODED PITTA	<i>Pitta sordida</i>		
Also regularly recorded at the start of Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP. 23 Jan (NW), 1 Feb (PL), 14 Feb: (PL), 21 Feb (MH <i>et al.</i>). (With both species of pitta appearing in the same area there was much discussion amongst PNGBS members as to their identity. All became clear on 21 Feb when individuals of both species were seen!).			
SINGING BUSHLARK	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>		
25 Jan: 6, Boera (RGS). 30 Jan: 1, UPNG campus (PL).			
BARN SWALLOW	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		
30 Jan: 1, UPNG campus (PL).			
GREY WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		
18 Jan: 2, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). 21 Jan: 1, Mt Repa, WHP (RGS).			
RICHARD'S PIPIT	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>		
21 Jan: 4, Rutu (RGS).			
STOUT-BILLED CUCKOO-SHRIKE	<i>Coracina caeruleo-grisea</i>		
24-25 Jan: 1, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).			
BLACK-SHOULDERED CUCKOO-SHRIKE	<i>Coracina morio</i>		
22-22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS). 21 Feb: 2, main picnic area, Varirata NP (IB). 21 Mar: 1, Gare's lookout, Varirata NP (IB).			
BLACK CUCKOO-SHRIKE	<i>Coracina melaena</i>		
22 Jan: pair Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).			
LONG-TAILED SHRIKE	<i>Lanius schach</i>		
17 Jan: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS). 19 Jan: Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).			
PIED CHAT	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>		
16 Jan: 2, Bulolo, Mor.. 16-19 Jan: 4, Wau, Mor.. 17 Jan: 2, Mt Kaindi, Mor.. 22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP. 23 Jan: 1, at 2000 m, Enga. 7 Mar: 1, Laloki. (all obs RGS).			
PAINTED QUAIL-THRUSH	<i>Cinclosoma ajax</i>		
3 Jan: 1 male, Varirata NP (RGS). 25 Jan: 1, female, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW). 21 Feb: male, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).			
CHESTNUT-BACKED JEWEL-BABBLER	<i>Ptilorrhoa castanonotus</i>		
27 Mar: 1 Circuit trail, Varirata NP (NW).			
CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>		
3 Feb: 1, Moitaka SP (RGS). 7 Mar: 1, Laloki (RGS).			
BICOLOURED MOUSE-WARBLER	<i>Crateroscelis nigrorufa</i>		
21 Mar: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB).			
MOUNTAIN MOUSE-WARBLER	<i>Crateroscelis robusta</i>		
17 Jan: 4, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			
PALE-BILLED SCRUB-WREN	<i>Sericornis spilodera</i>		
10 Jan: Varirata NP (RGS).			
BUFF-FACED SCRUB-WREN	<i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i>		
17 Jan: 4, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			
MANGROVE GERYGONE	<i>Gerygone levigaster</i>		
22 Mar: common and easy to see in mangroves at Bootless Bay (RH).			
WHITE-BELLIED THICKET-FANTAIL	<i>Rhipidura leucothorax</i>		
20-22 Jan: 1, Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).			
CHESTNUT-BELLIED FANTAIL	<i>Rhipidura hyperythra</i>		
31 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS).			
FRIENDLY FANTAIL	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i>		
18 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			
ISLAND MONARCH	<i>Monarcha cinerascens</i>		
4 Jan: 2 in forest near Tufi, Oro (NW).			
BLACK-WINGED MONARCH	<i>Monarcha frater</i>		
22 Jan: Baiyer River, WHP (RGS).			
LEADEN FLYCATCHER	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>		
22 Jan: a pair, Varirata NP (RGS).			
YELLOW-BREASTED BOATBILL	<i>Machaerirhynchus flaviventer</i>		
21 Mar: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB).			
BLACK-BREASTED BOATBILL	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigripectus</i>		
17 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			
JACKY WINTER	<i>Microeca leucophaea</i>		
20 Mar: 1, Bomana Racecourse (NW).			
YELLOW-LEGGED FLYCATCHER	<i>Microeca griseiceps</i>		
24-25 Jan: 1, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH). 21 Mar: 1, Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (IB).			
WHITE-FACED ROBIN	<i>Tregellasia leucops</i>		
10 Jan: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). 21 Mar: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (PL).			
NORTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN	<i>Drymodes superciliosus</i>		
14 Feb: Varirata NP (PL, IB).			
DWARF WHISTLER	<i>Pachycare flavogrisea</i>		
31 Jan: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (MH, HFH).			
HOODED PITOHUI	<i>Pitohui dichrous</i>		
16-19 Jan: 2, Wau, Mor. (RGS).			
CRESTED PITOHUI	<i>Pitohui cristatus</i>		
29 Mar: 1, feeding in low canopy, Varirata NP (RH).			
NEW GUINEA WHITE-EYE	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i>		
16-19 Jan: 8, Wau, Mor. (RGS). 17-18 Jan: flocks of 12, 20 & 12, Mt. Kaindi Mor. (RGS).			
SLATY-CHINNED LONGBILL	<i>Toxorhamphus poliopterus</i>		
17 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			
PYGMY HONEYEATER	<i>Oedistoma pygmaeum</i>		
21 Jan: 4, Gernt River, WHP (RGS).			
PAPUAN BLACK MYZOMELA	<i>Myzomela nigrita</i>		
9 Jan: 1, feeding in rain tree, Sirinumu Dam (NW). 31 Jan: Varirata NP (RGS).			
MOUNTAIN RED-HEADED MYZOMELA	<i>Myzomela adolphinae</i>		
16 Jan: 3, Wau, Mor. (RGS).			
RED-COLLARED MYZOMELA	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i>		
17 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			
MIMIC MELIPHAGA	<i>Meliphaga analoga</i>		
25 Jan: 1, Boera (RGS).			
GRACEFUL MELIPHAGA	<i>Meliphaga gracilis</i>		
25 Jan: 1, Boera (RGS).			
VARIED HONEYEATER	<i>Lichenostomus versicolor</i>		
29 Mar: common, Haidana I. (NW).			
BELFORD'S MELIDECTES	<i>Melidectes belfordi</i>		
17-18 Jan: 2, Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).			

- COMMON SMOKY HONEYEATER *Melipotes fumigatus*
 17-18 Jan: 3, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).
- HOODED MANNIKIN *Lonchura spectabilis*
 17 Jan: 5, Wau, Mor. & 1 c. 500 m in Mt. Kaindi, Mor. 21 Jan: Ruti, 23 Jan: 2, Mt. Hagen, WHP (all obs RGS).
- CHESTNUT-BREADED MANNIKIN *Lonchura castaneothorax*
 3 Jan: 4 (with 40 Grey-headed Mannikins *L. caniceps*, Sirinumu Dam) (RGS).
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
 7 Feb: 1 female, near Galley Restaurant, Port Moresby (RGS). Only third record for PNG?
- MOUNTAIN DRONGO *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*
 21 Mar: 6, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 27 Mar: Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW).
- GREAT WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus maximus*
 17-18 Jan: 13 Mt. Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).
- BLACK BUTCHERBIRD *Cracticus quoyi*
 24 Jan: beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).
- MOUNTAIN PELTOPS *Peltops blainvillii*
 18 Jan: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor. (RGS).
- WHITE-EARED CATBIRD *Ailuroedus buccoides*
 24-25 Jan: 2, beyond Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (MH).
- STEPHANIE'S ASTRAPIA *Astrapia stephaniae*
 18 Jan: 1, Mt. Kaindi, c. 800 m, Mor. (RGS).
- MAGNIFICENT BIRD OF PARADISE *Cicinnurus magnificus*
 17 Feb: pair near Gare's lookout, Varirata NP, male in poor plumage with no tail wires.
- GREY CROW *Corvus tristis*
 27 Mar: c. 14 Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW).

MAP OF PLACES MENTIONED IN RECENT OBSERVATIONS



MAP OF PLACES IN THE PORT MORESBY AREA MENTIONED IN RECENT OBSERVATIONS

RECENT OBSERVATIONS APRIL TO JUNE 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB). Chris Eastwood (CE). Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS). Roger Hicks (RH). Helen Fortune Hopkins (HFH). Mike Hopkins (MH). Peter Lambley (PL). Joan Oliver (JO). Hugh Parry-Jones (HPJ). Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; I. = Island; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NP = National Park; SP = settling ponds; WHP = Western Highlands Province; WEI = Wau Ecology Institute.

DWARF CASSOWARY	<i>Casuaris bennetti</i>
28 Jun: 1 Varirata NP (RGS).	
TAHITI PETREL	<i>Pterodroma rostrata</i>
5 Apr: 6 from boat c. 24 km off Port Moresby (IB RH <i>et al.</i>).	
STREAKED SHEARWATER	<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>
5 Apr: c. 85 from boat c. 24 km off Port Moresby (IB RH <i>et al.</i>).	
WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER	<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>
5 Apr: 4 from boat c. 24 km off Port Moresby (IB RH <i>et al.</i>). 13 May: 1 passing close under Paga Hill, Port Moresby, shortly after dawn (RH).	
AUSTRALASIAN GREBE	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
26 Apr: 1 ad & 3 y, Oxbow (RH). 28 Jun: pair nesting, with 2 eggs, Varirata NP (RGS).	
LESSER FRIGATEBIRD	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
11 Apr: 2 over Local I. (IB).	
LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
29 Jun: 1 Myola, 2100 m, Oro (PL).	
LITTLE PIED CORMORANT	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucus</i>
30 Jun: 1 Myola, 2100 m, Oro (PL).	
DARTER	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
6 Jun: 1 Myola, 2100 m, Oro (CE).	
BROWN BOOBY	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
5 Apr: c. 15 Basilisk Passage marker (RH). 20 Jun: 100+, ads & juvs, Maui I. (RH, IB).	
GREAT-BILLED HERON	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>
23-24 May: seen alongside Angabanga R. (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
INTERMEDIATE EGRET	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
11 Apr: c. 100, majority in bp, Waigani Swamp (RH).	
CATTLE EGRET	<i>Egretta ibis</i>
14 Jun: 6 in non bp, Sogeri Plateau (RH).	
WHITE-FACED HERON	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
23 Apr: first returning migrant at Jackson's Airfield (IB). 14 Jun: 1, Sogeri (IB). 15 Jun: 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
EASTERN REEF-EGRET	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
18 Apr: 3, 1 white phase, Motupore I. (IB). 13 May: 10, all dark phase, Haidana I. (PL). 20 Jun: c. 30 Maui I., incl. 3 white phase (RH, IB).	
STRIATED HERON	<i>Ardeola striata</i>
16 & 30 May: 1 Roku (RGS).	
FOREST BITTERN	<i>Zonerodius heliosylus</i>
2 May: 1 by stream beside Varirata Lookout trail, Varirata NP (JO).	
BLACK BITTERN	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>
23 Apr: 1, Moitaka SP (RH). 26 Apr: 1 Oxbow (RH). 7 May: 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	
OSPREY	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
24 May: 1, Angabanga R. (RH).	
CRESTED HAWK	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
10 May: 2, King Bird Tree (RGS).	

LONG-TAILED BUZZARD	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>
23 May: 2, Hiritano Highway, near Mariboi, Cen (RH). 14 Jun: 1, Musgrave R. (RGS). 16 Jun: 1, Goldie R. road (PL).	
BAT HAWK	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
6 Apr: 1, King Bird Tree (CE).	
BLACK KITE	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
28 Apr: 3 near Kore Village, Rigo (PL). 4 May: 1 Korobosea (NW). 12 May: 1, near Ilimo Farm (RH).	
BRAHMINY KITE	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
25 Apr: 1, c. 7 km offshore from Fishermans I. (IB).	
WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
2 Apr: 1 ad, Moitaka SP (RH).	
SPOTTED MARSH HARRIER	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
26 Apr: 2 males, Kanosia Lagoon (RH). 28 Jun: 1 Myola, Oro (PL).	
SWAMP HARRIER	<i>Circus approximans</i>
28 Apr: 1, near Kore Village, Rigo (PL).	
BROWN GOSHAWK	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
16 May: 2, Roku (RGS). 30 May: 1, Roku (RGS).	
COLLARED SPARROWHAWK	<i>Accipiter cirrhocephalus</i>
10 May: 1, King Bird Tree (RGS). 13 May: 1, Paga Hill (RH).	
NEW GUINEA HARPY-EAGLE	<i>Harpyopsis novaeguineae</i>
19 Apr: 1, Biaru road, Mor (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
GURNEY'S EAGLE	<i>Aquila gurneyi</i>
25 Apr: 1, near Mariboi (JO). 8 Jun: 1 imm, Varirata NP (RGS).	
LITTLE EAGLE	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>
17 Apr: 1 dark phase, WEI (RH <i>et al.</i>). 23 May: 1, Goilala Highway bridge over Angabanga R. (RH).	
BROWN FALCON	<i>Falco berbeora</i>
26 Apr: Doha rubber plantation, perched by road (RH). 25 Jun: 1, Rouna Falls (PL). 29 Jun: 1, Myola, Oro (PL).	
AUSTRALIAN KESTREL	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
13 May: first returning migrant, 1 female, Paga Hill (RH). 21 May: 1 female, roosting on Pacific View apartments, Korobosea (NW).	
ORIENTAL HOBBY	<i>Falco severus</i>
26 Jun: 1, Taurama road (RGS). 30 Jun: 1, Korobosea (RGS).	
AUSTRALIAN HOBBY	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
23 May: first returning migrant, 1, Aroa service station (RH). 27 May: 1 (possibly) Waigani Golf Course (NW). 10 Jun: 1, near UPNG (PL). 18 Jun: 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
PEREGRINE FALCON	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
1 May: 1, probably male, Varirata NP (RH). 20 Jun: 1, taking a tern, over Maui I., flying with its prey to Fishermans I. (IB, RH).	
WANDERING WHISTLING DUCK	<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>
26 Apr: 2 families with young, Kanosia Lagoon (RH).	
SALVADORI'S TEAL;	<i>Anas waiyuensis</i>
14 Apr: 2, Lake Pinde, Mt Wilhelm, WHP (PL).	
GARGANEY	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
2 Apr: 3 males and 2 females, Moitaka SP (RH).	
COMMON SCRUBFOWL	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>
10 May: 2, King Bird Tree (RGS, JO).	
BROWN QUAIL	<i>Coturnix australis</i>
14 Jun: 2, Musgrave R. road (RGS).	
RED-BACKED BUTTON-QUAIL	<i>Turnix maculosa</i>
17 May: 2, Varirata NP (RGS).	
BARE-EYED RAIL	<i>Eulabeornis plumbeiventris</i>
10 May: in forest near King Bird Tree (JO).	
FORBES' FOREST-RAIL	<i>Rallina forbesi</i>
6 Jun: 4 running across trail, near Myola, Oro (RH).	

RED-NECKED RAIL	<i>Rallina tricolor</i>		
Three records from King Bird Tree: 26 Apr (RH). 18 & 26 Jun (CE).			
WHITE-BROWED CRAKE	<i>Porzana cinerea</i>		
28 Apr: 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).			
WHITE-HEADED STILT	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>		
Numbers at Moitaka SP increased through May and June from 23 (incl. 3 juvs) on 7 May, to 72 (incl. 14 juvs) on 19 May, to 87 (incl. 25 juvs) on 18 Jun (RH).			
BEACH STONE-CURLEW	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>		
13 May: 2, Haidana I. (PL).			
EASTERN GOLDEN PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>		
2 Apr: 4, incl. 1 in bp, Moitaka SP (RH).			
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		
23 May: pair on gravel bank, Angabanga R. (RH).			
MONGOLIAN PLOVER	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>		
13 May: c. 40 Haidana I. (PL).			
LARGE SAND-PLOVER	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>		
13 May: c. 20, Haidana I. (PL).			
WHIMBREL	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		
13 May: 25, Haidana I. (PL). 20 Jun: 6 flying along shore, Fishermans I. (RH).			
GREY-TAILED TATTLER	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>		
9, 16 & 20 May: 1-2, Roku (RGS). 13 May: c. 20, Haidana I. (PL).			
COMMON GREENSHANK	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		
Three records for Moitaka SP: three on 2 Apr, and 1 on 23 Apr and 7 May (RH).			
TEREK SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa terek</i>		
13 May: 1, Haidana I. (PL).			
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		
11 Apr: 2, Moitaka SP (RH).			
RED-NECKED STINT	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>		
13 May: c. 5, Haidana I. (PL). 20 Jun: 3, Maui I. (RH IB).			
POMARINE SKUA	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		
5 Apr: 4, from boat c. 24 km off Port Moresby (IB, RH, <i>et al.</i>). 25 Apr: 2, c. 7 km offshore from Fishermans I. (IB).			
WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		
7 May: 1, in full bp, Moitaka SP (RH).			
COMMON TERN	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		
20 Jun: flock of c. 100 on Maui I. favouring southern end of islet where there were some nest scrapes (of unknown species) with eggs. Unlike Common Terns previously recorded in the Port Moresby area which had black bills and darkish legs (of the race <i>longipennis</i>) these had red bills and bright red legs. There is a possibility of misidentification. Photos have been taken (RH IB).			
ROSEATE TERN	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>		
5 Apr: 1, Basilisk Passage marker (IB, RH, <i>et al.</i>).			
BLACK-NEPED TERN	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>		
5 Apr: 8, Basilisk Passage marker (IB, RH, <i>et al.</i>).			
LESSER CRESTED TERN	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>		
5 Apr: 2, Basilisk Passage marker (IB, RH, <i>et al.</i>). 11 Apr: 5, off Motupore I. (IB). 18 Apr: 10, off Motupore I. (IB). 31 May: 3, off Motupore I. (IB).			
GREAT CUCKOO-DOVE	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>		
23 May: 1, Angabanga R. gorge (RH).			
STEPHAN'S GROUND-DOVE	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>		
9 Apr: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 23 May: 1, trapped, King Bird Tree (IB). 14 Jun: 1, Musgrave R. road (RGS).			
CINNAMON GROUND-DOVE	<i>Gallicolumba rufigula</i>		
9 Apr & 3 May: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB).			
CORONATED FRUIT-DOVE	<i>Ptilinopus coronulatus</i>		
10 May: 1, King Bird Tree (RGS).			
BEAUTIFUL FRUIT-DOVE	<i>Ptilinopus pulchellus</i>		
16 Jun: Goldie R. road (PL).			
DWARF FRUIT-DOVE	<i>Ptilinopus nanus</i>		
10 May: 2, King Bird Tree (RGS).			
PURPLE-TAILED IMPERIAL PIGEON	<i>Ducula rufigaster</i>		
7 May: 1, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).			
LITTLE RED LORIKEET	<i>Charmosyna pulchella</i>		
30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL).			
PALM COCKATOO	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>		
24 May: 1, Angabanga R. gorge (RH MH <i>et al.</i>).			
ORANGE-BREADED FIG-PARROT	<i>Cyclopsitta gulielmiterti</i>		
10 May: 10, King Bird Tree (RGS).			
MADARASZ'S TIGER-PARROT	<i>Psittacula madaraszi</i>		
17 Apr: 1, near top of Mt Kaindi, Mor (RH <i>et al.</i>).			
PAPUAN KING-PARROT	<i>Alisterus chloropterus</i>		
9 Apr: 1, female, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 23 May: 1, male, King Bird Tree (NW).			
ORIENTAL CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>		
26 Apr: last sighting of a wintering bird, King Bird Tree (RH).			
CHIESTNUT-BREADED CUCKOO	<i>Cacomantis castaneiventris</i>		
18 Apr: 2, in grounds at WEI, Mor. (RH <i>et al.</i>).			
FAN-TAILED CUCKOO	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>		
5 Apr: 1, Myola, Oro (PL).			
SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>		
31 May: 1, UPNG campus in gardens (IB).			
WHITE-EARED BRONZE-CUCKOO	<i>Chrysococcyx meyerii</i>		
18 Apr: 1 female, WEI (RH <i>et al.</i>).			
CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>		
11 Apr: 2, Moitaka SP (RH). 25 Jun: 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).			
PHEASANT COUCAL	<i>Centropus phasianus</i>		
18 Apr: 2, Motupore I. (IB).			
BARN OWL	<i>Tyto alba</i>		
28 Apr: 1, dead on road, near Gaba Gaba (PL).			
SOOTY OWL	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>		
4 Apr: 1 heard, Myola, Oro (PL). 2 May: 1 heard, Varirata NP (IB). 7 Jun: 1 heard, Myola, Oro (RH).			
PAPUAN HAWK-OWL	<i>Uroglaux dimorpha</i>		
6 May: 1, UPNG campus, flying over at 18:15 (IB).			
BARKING OWL	<i>Ninox connivens</i>		
1-3 May: heard calling from savanna below lodge, Varirata NP (RH IB <i>et al.</i>).			
PAPUAN BOOBOOK	<i>Ninox theomacha</i>		
1-2 May: heard calling, Varirata NP (RH IB <i>et al.</i>).			
LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>		
28 Jun: 2, Varirata NP (RGS).			
MOUSTACHED TREE-SWIFT	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>		
23-24 May: perched in riverside trees, usually in pairs, Angabanga R. (RH). 14 Jun: 1, Musgrave R. (RGS).			
PAPUAN SPINE-TAILED SWIFT	<i>Mearnsia novaeguineae</i>		
23 May: c. 10, with swiftlets, moving in front of rain storm, Goilala Highway (RH). 14 Jun: 2, Musgrave R. (IB RGS).			
COMMON PARADISE-KINGFISHER	<i>Tanysiptera galatea</i>		
26 Apr: easy to see in recently logged area near King Bird Tree (RH). 10 May: 3, King Bird Tree (RGS) and 1 trapped (IB). 23 May: 3, trapped, at King Bird Tree, 3 others seen (IB).			
BROWN-HEADED PARADISE-KINGFISHER	<i>Tanysiptera danae</i>		
All records for Boundary trail, Varirata NP. 2 May: 1, trapped, and another subsequently seen (IB RH). 31 May: 3 (IB). 13 Jun: 1 (RH).			
COLLARED KINGFISHER	<i>Halcyon chloris</i>		
26 Apr: 1, Hisiu Mangroves (RH).			
SACRED KINGFISHER	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>		
18-19 Apr: 8 trapped, Motupore I. (IB)			

DWARF KINGFISHER
17 May: 1, King Bird Tree (JO). *Ceyx lepidus*

LITTLE KINGFISHER
1, Oxbow. (RGS). 20 May: Galley Reach Mangroves (PL). *Alcedo pusilla*

AZURE KINGFISHER
4 Jun: 1, Musgrave R. (RGS). 28 Jun: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Alcedo azurea*

BLYTH'S HORNBILL
23 May: pair, flying over Angabanga R. gorge (RH). *Rhyticeros plicatus*

BLUE-BREASTED PITTA
9 Apr: 2, heard, along Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 24 May: 1, Varirata NP (CE). *Pitta erythrogaster*

SINGING BUSHLARK
17 Jun: 2, Nadzab airport, Mor (RGS). *Mirafra javanica*

TREE MARTIN
2 Apr: first returning bird from Australian breeding grounds, Moitaka SP (RH). 25 Jun: 5, Moitaka SP (RGS). *Hirundo nigricans*

ALPINE PIPIT
14 Apr: several seen up to 4300 m near summit of Mt Wilhelm, WHP (PL). *Anthus gutturalis*

YELLOW-EYED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
21 Jun: 3, Varirata NP (RGS). *Coracina lineata*

BOYER'S CUCKOO-SHRIKE
14 Jun: 2, Musgrave R. (RGS). *Coracina boyeri*

BLACK-SHOULDERED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
17 Apr: 1, WEI, Mor (RH *et al.*). *Coracina morio*

VARIED TRILLER
21 Jun: 2, Varirata NP (RGS). *Lalage leucomela*

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE
18 Apr: 1, Mt Kaindi, Mor (RH *et al.*). *Lanius schach*

PIED CHAT
28 Apr: Kore Village, near Rigo, Cen (PL). *Saxicola caprata*

ISLAND THRUSH
14 Apr: several Lake Pinde, near summit of Mt Wilhelm, WHP (PL). *Turdus poliocephalus*

PAINTED QUAIL-THRUSH
9 Apr: 2 males. Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 17 May: 1, Varirata NP (CE). *Cinclosoma ajax*

BLUE JEWEL-BABBLER
10 May: 2, King Bird Tree (RGS). 31 May: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). 8 Jun: 3, Varirata NP (CE). *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

LESSER MELAMPITTA
30 Jun: 1 ad. & 1 juv., Myola, Oro (PL). *Melampitta lugubris*

EMPEROR FAIRY-WREN
25 Apr: 2 males, Bedira, Galley Reach (NW). 10 May: 2, King Bird Tree. *Malurus cyanocephalus*

BICOLOURED MOUSE-WARBLER
2 May: 1 trapped, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). *Crateroscelis nigrorufa*

MOUNTAIN MOUSE-WARBLER
30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL). *Crateroscelis robusta*

FAIRY GERYGONE
21 Jun: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Gerygone palpebrosa*

BLACK THICKET-FANTAIL
25 Apr: Bedira, Galley Reach (NW). 2 May: (JO) & 31 May: (RH) 1, Varirata Lookout trail, Varirata NP. The altitude range of this species is reported as being sea level, the bird(s) reported here were at c. 700 m. *Rhipidura maculipectus*

RUFOUS FANTAIL
26 Apr: 1, Hisiu Mangroves (RH). *Rhipidura rufifrons*

RUFOUS-BACKED FANTAIL
23 May: 1, King Bird Tree (NW). *Rhipidura rufidorsa*

DIMORPHIC FANTAIL
30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL). *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*

MANGROVE FANTAIL
26 Apr: 1, Hisiu Mangroves (RH). *Rhipidura phasiana*

NORTHERN FANTAIL
10 May: 1, incubating, King Bird Tree (RH). *Rhipidura rufiventris*

WILLIE WAGTAIL
26 Apr: 1, nesting on top of a stump in the Oxbow (RH). *Rhipidura leucophrys*

BLACK-FACED MONARCH
8 Jun: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Monarcha melanopsis*

SATIN FLYCATCHER
8 Apr: 1 male, UPNG campus in gardens (IB). 24 May: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

SHINING FLYCATCHER
24 May: pair, nesting on branch overhanging water, Angabanga R. (RH). 28 May: 1 subad. male. Motupore I. (IB). *Myiagra alecto*

TORRENT FLYCATCHER
23-24 May: abundant alongside Angabanga R. (RH). 16 Jun: Goldie R. (PL). *Monachella muelleriana*

LEMON-BELLIED FLYCATCHER
26 Apr: 1, nesting at Hisiu Mangroves (RH). *Microeca flavigaster*

YELLOW-LEGGED FLYCATCHER
9 Apr: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). *Microeca griseiceps*

OLIVE FLYCATCHER
16 May: 1, on nest, King Bird Tree (RH). *Microeca flavirescens*

WHITE-FACED ROBIN
31 May: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Troglodytes leucops*

BLACK-SIDED ROBIN
20 Apr: 1 calling, McAdam NP, Mor (HFH MH NW). 10 May: 1, King Bird Tree (RH). 23 May: numerous at King Bird Tree (NW). *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

NORTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN
7 May: 2, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB). *Drymodes superciliaris*

WHITE-WINGED ROBIN
29 Jun: 1, Myola, Oro (PL). *Peneothello sigillatus*

DWARF WHISTLER
Recorded from Varirata NP: 9 Apr: 1 male, Boundary trail (IB). 10 May: & 18 Jun: (CE). *Pachycare flavogrisea*

MANGROVE GOLDEN WHISTLER
2 Apr: in mangroves, Kerema, Gulf (JO). *Pachycephala melanura*

SCLATER'S WHISTLER
29-30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL). *Pachycephala soror*

REGENT WHISTLER
30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL). *Pachycephala schlegelii*

RUFOUS WHISTLER
17 May: & 21 Jun: Varirata NP (RGS). *Pachycephala rufiventris*

HOODED PITOHUI
17 May: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Pitohui dichrous*

FAN-TAILED BERRYPECKER
30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL). *Melanocharis versteri*

TIT BERRYPECKER
30 Jun: at 2700 m near Myola, Oro (PL). *Oreocharis arfaki*

TAWNY STRAIGHTBILL
10 May: 1, trapped, King Bird Tree (IB). *Timeliopsis griseigula*

SLATY-CHINNED LONGBILL
9 Apr: 6+ Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 31 May: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (NW). *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*

DWARF HONEYEATER
1 King Bird Tree (RGS). *Oedistoma titolophus*

PYGMY HONEYEATER
3, Musgrave R. (RGS). 21 Jun: 1, Varirata NP (RGS). *Oedistoma pygmaeum*

RED-THROATED MYZOMELA
16 Jun: Goldie R. road (PL). *Myzomela eques*

DUSKY MYZOMELA
1, Bootless Bay (RGS). *Myzomela obscura*

RED MYZOMELA
17 Apr: 1 male, WEI, Mor (RH *et al.*). *Myzomela cruentata*

RED-HEADED MYZOMELA *Myzomela erythrocephala*
 2 Apr: in mangroves, Kerema, Gulf (IO). 25 Apr: common in mangroves, Bedira, Galley Reach (NW).

RED-COLLARED MYZOMELA *Myzomela rosenbergii*
 30 Jun: Myola, Oro (PL).

POT-BREASTED MELIPHAGA *Meliphaga mimikae*
 31 May: 2, Varirata NP (RGS).

SCRUB WHITE-EARED MELIPHAGA *Meliphaga albonotata*
 10 May: 1, King Bird Tree (RGS).

MIMIC MELIPHAGA *Meliphaga analoga*
 8 Jun: 1, Varirata NP (RGS).

GRACEFUL MELIPHAGA *Meliphaga gracilis*
 7 Jun: 1, Bootless Bay (RGS).

VARIED HONEYEATER *Lichenostomus versicolor*
 20 Jun: 3, on Fishermans I. (RH IB).

BROWN-BACKED HONEYEATER *Ramsayornis modestus*
 26 Apr: pair, feeding young, Hisiu Mangroves (RH).

MOUNTAIN DRONGO *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*
 3 May: 4+ birds, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH). 7 May: 5, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).

TORRENT-LARK *Grallina bruijii*
 17 Apr: 1 in dry culvert, near top of Mt Kaindi, Mor (RH *et al.*).

GREAT WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus maximus*
 17 Apr: 1, Wau airstrip, Mor (RH). 18 Jun: 1, c. 3 km ENE from Tapini, Cen., seen flying from helicopter at c. 2750 m (HPJ).

BLACK BUTCHERBIRD *Cracticus quoyi*
 31 May: 2, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (NW).

LOWLAND PELTOPS *Peltops blainvillii*
 10 May: 3, King Bird Tree (RGS). 14 Jun: 3, Musgrave R. (RGS).

WHITE-EARED CATBIRD *Ailuroedus buccoides*
 9 Apr: 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 26 Apr: 1, King Bird Tree (RH). 3 May: 1 trapped, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB). 7 May: 1 heard, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB). 31 May: pair, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (NW). 28 Jun: 1, King Bird Tree (CE).

MACGREGOR'S BOWERBIRD *Amblyornis macgregoriae*
 7 Jun: 1 female, trapped, Myola, Oro (RH).

LORIA'S BIRD OF PARADISE *Cnemophilus loriae*
 7 Jun: 1 female trapped, Myola, Oro (RH).

CRINKLE-COLLARED MANUCODE *Manucodia chalybata*
 12 Apr: Varirata Lookout trail, Varirata NP (NW). 17 Apr: foothills of Mt Missim, near Wau, Mor (RH *et al.*). 25 Jun: Varirata NP (CE).

TRUMPET MANUCODE *Manucodia keraudrenii*
 24 May: 2, Varirata NP (RGS).

STEPHANIE'S ASTRAPIA *Astrapia stephaniae*
 19 Apr: 1 male, feeding in small tree, beside Biaru road, near Wau, Mor (RH *et al.*). 29 Jun: 1, Myola, Oro (PL).

SUPERB BIRD OF PARADISE *Lophorina superba*
 19 Apr: 3 females, feeding in one tree, Biaru road, near Wau, Mor (RH *et al.*).

LAWES' PAROTIA *Parotia lawesii*
 19 Apr: 10+ females, feeding in same tree as Superb BoPs (RH *et al.*).

KING BIRD OF PARADISE *Cicinnurus regius*
 One subad. male at King Bird Tree 16 Apr: (RH) & 23 May: (NW). 20 Apr: 3 males & 2 females, McAdam NP, Mor (HFH, MH, NW).

MAGNIFICENT BIRD OF PARADISE *Cicinnurus magnificus*
 12 Apr: 1 female, feeding in tree beside Varirata Lookout trail, Varirata NP (RH). 31 May: 2 males seen, others calling, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (NW).

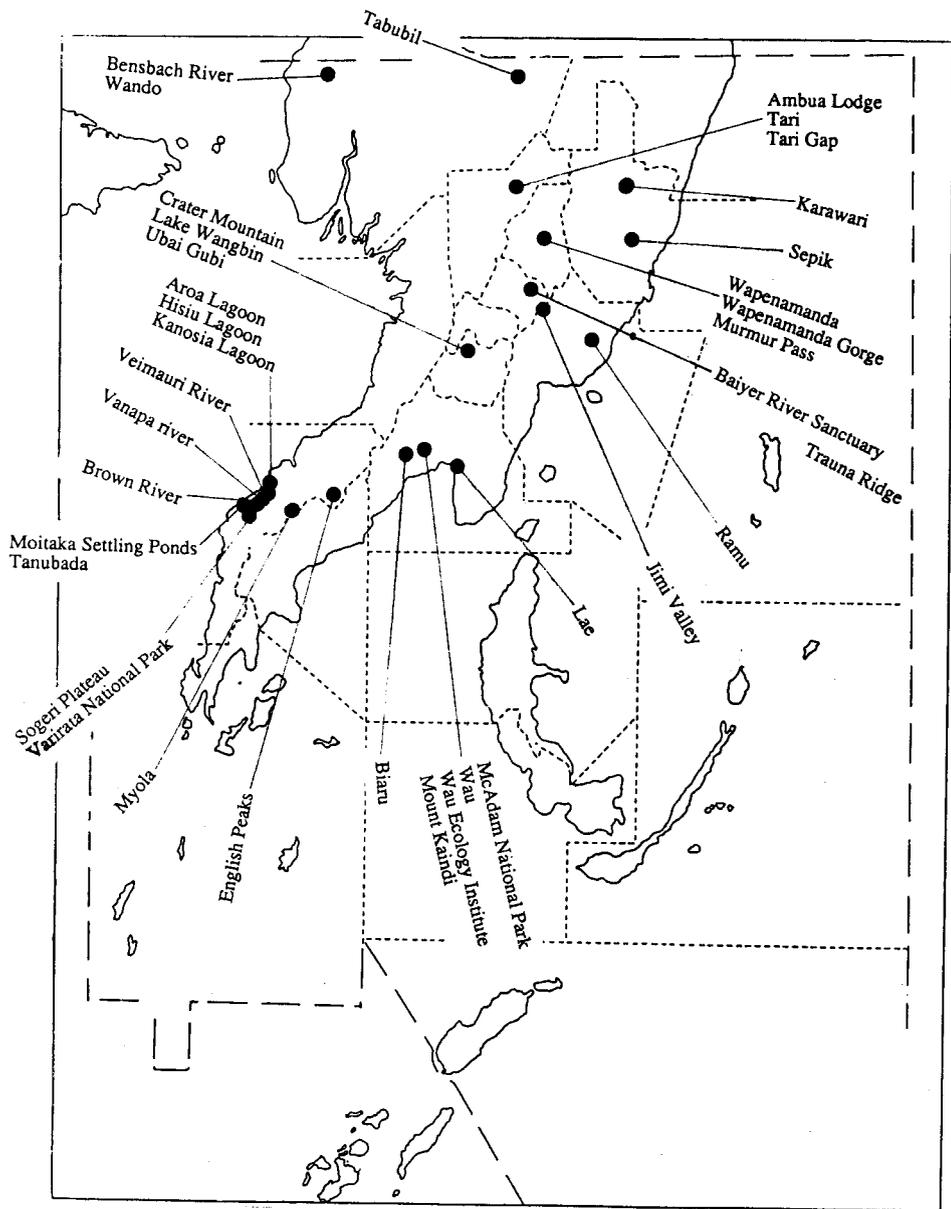
BLUE BIRD OF PARADISE *Paradisaea rudolphi*
 19 Apr: 1 female, in a fruiting tree beside Biaru road near Wau, Mor - same tree as Superb BoPs and Lawes' Parotia (RH *et al.*)

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PLACES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT

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