

MURUK

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2 OCTOBER 1988
THE JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIRD SOCIETY

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	inner front cover
PAPERS AND NOTES:	
Observations from Simbai. N. Wahlberg	41
The Chestnut Forest-Rail, <i>Rallina rubra</i> (Rallidae), at Tari Gap, Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, and its vocalizations. C. Frith and D. Frith	48
Miscellaneous observations of birds in Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea. Bruce M. Beehler	51
Display of Loria's Bird of Paradise. J.H. Hicks and R.K. Hicks	52
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler at Moitaka. I. Burrows and R.K. Hicks	53
Range extension for Red-headed Myzomela <i>Myzomela erythrocephala</i> . L.P. Tolhurst	54
White-throated Nightjar <i>Eurostopodus mystacalis</i> -first record for the Port Moresby area. R.K. Hicks	55
Gurney's Eagle <i>Aquila gurneyi</i> in the highlands. R.D. Mackay	56
Nest of the Garnet Robin. B. Hopkins, L. Hopkins and P. Storer	57
Breeding record of Raggiana Bird of Paradise, <i>Paradisaea raggiana</i> . H. Sakulas	58
Bird feathers in the traditional sing-sing head-dress of the Kainans area. N. Wahlberg	58
Bryophytes of Papua New Guinea, request for specimens and records. W. Eddie	60
TRAVELLERS REPORTS:	
Birding in the Huon Peninsular. N. Gardner	61
Beyond Myola. R.K. Hicks	65
Myola in December. R.K. Hicks	67
RECENT OBSERVATIONS:	
July to September 1987	69
October to December 1987	77
INDEX TO PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE	87
MAPS OF PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE	76, 88

MURUK



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2 OCTOBER 1988

THE JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIRD SOCIETY

Printed by courtesy of the Department of Environment and Conservation,
Papua New Guinea

EDITORIAL

Issue 2 of 1988 is produced using a new software package, PageMaker 3 (c Aldus corporation), again using an Apple LaserWriter. There have been teething problems, but we hope the system is now sufficiently well set up that it will speed up production in the future. We are now also using a new printery, The PNG Rehabilitation Centre Inc., which provides employment and training for disabled people. We hope that this will mean much faster print times, only a few days in stead of the several months for previous issues. Some slight changes of format have been made in this issue: the table of contents is now on the back page of the cover only, and a slightly larger print size. The larger print size, while making it easier to read, means that issue will be a little longer.

Issue 3 will appear shortly. We hope there will be a fourth issue in 1988, but we are not able to guarantee it at this time.

Thankyou all for your continued patience. Please keep contributions coming in so that we do not run out of material in 1989.

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

MURUK is published by the Papua New Guinea Bird Society, and is available as part of Society Membership.

Membership Rates are:

Local (within PNG)	
Individual	10 kina
Family	16 kina
Junior	7 kina
Nearby Membership (Australia, New Zealand and Solomon Islands)	
Surface Mail	12 kina
Air Mail	15 kina
Distant Membership (All other countries)	
Surface Mail	15 kina
Air Mail	20 kina

Cheques or drafts should be sent to: The Treasurer, PNGBS, PO Box 1598, Boroko, PNG

If it is not possible to pay in Kina, Pounds Sterling, Australian Dollars, or US Dollars are acceptable, but please add the equivalent of 2 Kina to allow for bank charges.

OBSERVATIONS FROM SIMBAI

NIKLAS WAHLBERG

The Simbai Valley is situated in Madang Province, close to the border with Western Highlands Province. It is separated from the Jimi Valley by the Bismark Ranges. I spent over three weeks in the Simbai Valley, primarily bird watching, from the 5th to the 28th of January 1988. Base camp was at about 1400 m in the Epe Valley, formed by the Soi River, about 6 km SW as the crow flies from Simbai. Its coordinates are 5° 19'S, 144° 35'E.

The vegetation in Epe Valley is mostly secondary growth interspaced with grasslands and stands of *Casuarina*. One larger patch of rainforest is located along the Kadzebnang Creek, 2 km from camp, at about 1500 m.

I made three visits to Kakpi, the mountain behind Kupong, on the 13th, 20th and 26th, and reached a height of c. 2280 m. Montane rainforest started at about 1900 m and coated the ridge tops. Kupong itself is at 1800 m. *Casuarina* stands and grassland are the predominant habitat around the village.

A total of 74 species were recorded on this trip. Locals say that the New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (one man claimed he had shot two in one day on Kakpi), Papuan Lorikeet, Stephanie's *Astrapia*, Superb Bird of Paradise and King of Saxony Bird of Paradise also occur in the area.

This paper was written without any knowledge of Majnep & Bulmer's (1977) book. Their work is based in the Kaironk area c. 10 km NW of Simbai. The following species which I record were not recorded by them: White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo, Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler, Fairy Gerygone, Scrub White-eared and Puff-backed Meliphaga, and Crinkle-collared Manucode.

Following is an annotated list of all birds seen. Included are five species seen only on a previous visit (September-October 1987), which was confined to Epe Valley and lasted five days. Observations from this earlier visit are referred to as the 1987 trip in the list. Local names for birds, if known, are given in **bold**. These were collected directly from local sources and without reference to those given in Majnep & Bulmer (1977).

Annotated List:

Dwarf Cassowary	<i>Casuarius bennetti</i>	Kombri
	Two individuals, an immature and an adult, were seen on Kakpi on the second and third visits. Locals say that they are fairly common in the higher forests.	
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	
	One was seen soaring over the forest on Kakpi.	

- Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*
One seen on the 1987 trip at c. 1400 m.
- Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*
Common in the grassland above 1600 m. One was seen over the forest on Kakpi at c. 2200 m.
- Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiensis*
A pair reported on the Soi River during my stay.
- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*
One seen on 1987 trip at c. 1400 m.
- Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis* **Kur**
Common at c. 1400 m, in secondary growth. A pair were also seen at c. 1800 m.
- Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris* **Kur**
Common above 1600 m, in secondary growth and forest. A nest, probably belonging to this species, containing one white egg, was found on Kakpi on the first visit. It was built on a tall tree stump 3 m from the ground, on a small "ledge" created by decaying wood falling off. The nest was a typical pigeon nest, untidy and weakly constructed.
- Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* **Waimen**
A pair were seen in secondary growth on the 6th, at c. 1400 m.
- Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus* **Kombien**
A pair were seen on the first visit to Kakpi.
- White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli* **Kotyer**
Fairly common on Kakpi, though not seen on the third visit.
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*
Common on Kakpi, seen on every visit.
- Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata* **Andunk**
Common on the first and second visits to Kakpi, up to c. 2100 m. Not seen on third visit.
- Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* **Gasin**
Common on Kakpi, recorded on every visit.
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
Abundant at c. 1400 m.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*
Two adults were seen at Kupong on the 5th. Later, an adult and a juvenile were seen 1 km from Kupong on the 17th. Seen in *Casuarina* stands both times.
- White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyerii*
One seen at c. 1400 m on the 6th. Calling cuckoos may have been this or the Brush Cuckoo.
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea* **Nei**
Common at c. 1400 m, over secondary growth and grassland. Most commonly seen at dawn and dusk.
- Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea* **Yimanyng**
Common over the whole area.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* **Yimanyng**
Not as common as *C. hirundinacea*, mainly confined to gullies created by streams and on ridge tops.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta* **Fulolom**
One was seen on the 1987 trip in the town of Kumburuf, at c. 1600. Eero Taskinen, who has been living in Epe Valley for the past 2 years, says one also frequents the valley.
- Mountain Kingfisher *Halcyon megarhyncha* **Fulolom**
A pair inhabited the Kadzebnang forest. Heard on every visit but seen only once. The

- individual seen had no black markings on the top of its bill, but was notably larger and the bill stockier than its lowland congener, the Yellow-billed Kingfisher. The call differed as well, descending continuously until finally petering out, never descending and ascending again as in the Yellow-billed Kingfisher.
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
Common in Simbai. A few seen along open ridge tops, above Epe Valley.
- Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Common and conspicuous along all larger streams and rivers.
- Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
Seen twice, possibly the same individual, in secondary growth, at c. 1400 m.
- Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina morio* **Sinyenya**
A pair inhabited a patch of secondary growth. One of the pair was very aggressive and was seen chasing a Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike, New Guinea White-Eyes, Brown Orioles and a Crinkle-collared Manucode.
- Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
Common in all grassland habitats.
- Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata*
Common in all grassland habitats.
- Blue-capped Ifrita *Ifrita kowaldi*
Common and noisy on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.
- Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis* **Guits**
Common in all grassland habitats. Heard more often than seen.
- Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
One seen in a patch of secondary growth at c. 1400 m, on the 11th.
- White-shouldered Fairy-Wren *Malurus alboscapulatus* **Solonj**
Common in all grassland habitats.
- Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis nigrorufa*
Common in secondary growth and forest below 1600 m.
- Large Scrub-Wren *Sericornis nouhuysi* **Seinyung**
Fairly common on Kakpi. Seen on first two visits. Never seen together with following species, though seen at same altitudes.
- Buff-faced Scrub-Wren *Sericornis perspicillatus* **Seinyung**
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.
- Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa* **Seinyung**
One party of several males and females frequented patches of secondary growth at c. 1400 m.
- Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis* **Seinyung**
Common in the *Casuarina* stands above 1600 m. Rarely in secondary growth.
- Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits. Lowest altitude recorded was c. 1850 m on forest edge.
- Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*
Uncommon on Kakpi. A male seen on the second visit; a male, then a pair seen on the third visit.
- Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*
Common in secondary growth at c. 1400 m. Highest altitude recorded was c. 1500 m. Did not overlap with the preceding species.

Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Koinymaind
Common around villages and adjacent grasslands, up to 1800 m.		
Black Monarch	<i>Monarcha axillaris</i>	
One seen in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th. One individual seen in the same place on all visits to Kakpi.		
Black-winged Monarch	<i>Monarcha frater</i>	
Common in Kadzebnang forest and in a few patches of secondary growth at c. 1400 m. Usually seen in pairs.		
Friilled Monarch	<i>Arses telescophthalmus</i>	
A male of race <i>A. t. insularis</i> seen on the 1987 trip, in the Kadzebnang forest.		
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigripectus</i>	Sumur
One seen in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th.		
Torrent Flycatcher	<i>Monachella muelleriana</i>	
A pair seen on the Soi River on the 18th.		
Canary Flycatcher	<i>Microeca papuana</i>	
Fairly common on Kakpi. Seen on every visit.		
Black-throated Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albonotata</i>	
One only, seen on the third visit to Kakpi.		
Blue-grey Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i>	
Two were seen on Kakpi. One each on the first and third visits.		
Dwarf Whistler	<i>Pachycare flavogrisea</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m.		
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i>	Kondis
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits. An immature was seen on the first visit.		
Black-headed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala monacha</i>	
Common in <i>Casuarina</i> stands and occasionally in secondary growth.		
Little Shrike-Thrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m.		
Hooded Pitohui	<i>Pitohui dichrous</i>	
Common in all secondary growth at c. 1400 m.		
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis versteri</i>	
Fairly common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Papuan Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale</i>	Sep
Abundant at c. 1400 m, occasionally up to 1800 m. On the 6th a fully fledged young was observed being fed.		
Tit Berrypecker	<i>Oreocharis arfaki</i>	
Common on Kakpi. Most often seen in vocal flocks.		
New Guinea White-Eye	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i>	
Common in all habitats, except grasslands, up to 1800 m.		
Long-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melilestes megarhynchus</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m. Twice a display (?) was observed (on the 6th and 21st). Two birds were seen jumping back and forth between a few bare, vertical branches in the sub-canopy. One bird was about 10 cm above the other. Tails were fanned (top bird's more than bottom bird's) and the wings were fluttered. Sometimes they took off and chased each other before landing again and repeating the performance. On the second occasion they periodically stopped jumping and touched bills.		
Slaty-chinned Longbill	<i>Toxorhamphus poliopterus</i>	
Common in the Kadzebnang forest and seen once on the third visit to Kakpi.		

Mountain Red-headed Myzomela	<i>Myzomela adolphinae</i>	Sep
A pair were seen in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th.		
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i>	Sep
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Scrub White-eared Meliphaga	<i>Meliphaga albonotata</i>	Kumsolonki
Fairly common in secondary growth at c. 1400 m.		
Puff-backed Meliphaga	<i>Meliphaga aruensis</i>	
Seen twice; once in the Kadzebnang forest on the 9th and once in secondary growth at c. 1400 m on the 25th.		
Helmeted Friarbird	<i>Philemon buceroides</i>	
Common only around villages, up to 1800 m.		
Rufous-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora guisei</i>	
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Yellow-browed Melidectes	<i>Melidectes rufocrissalis</i>	Nol
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits. Apparently Belford's Melidectes is absent from Kakpi. All individuals seen clearly had red gape wattles and a white forehead. Always in forest and never seen with next species.		
Ornate Melidectes	<i>Melidectes torquatus</i>	Nol
Common in all habitats, except grasslands, up to 1800 m.		
Common Smoky Honeyeater	<i>Melipotes fumigatus</i>	Memna
Common on Kakpi. Seen on all visits.		
Hooded Mannikin	<i>Lonchura spectabilis</i>	Dang
Common in all grassland habitats. A pair seen carrying nesting material into a large bush on the 14th. All birds had buffy-coloured breasts, not white.		
Brown Oriole	<i>Oriolus szalayi</i>	
Common in secondary growth and forest at c. 1400 m.		
Torrent-Lark	<i>Grallina bruijni</i>	
Very common on the 1987 trip at c. 1400 m. Inexplicably absent on the 1988 trip.		
Great Wood-Swallow	<i>Artamus maximus</i>	Kaskas
Common over the whole area. Song heard several times.		
Mountain Peltops	<i>Peltops montanus</i>	Tyepnambungu
Common in all habitats, except grassland, up to 1800 m. One was seen on Kakpi on the second visit.		
Macgregor's Bowerbird	<i>Amblyornis macgregoriae</i>	Konump
Two bowers were found. They seemed to be active but unfortunately no birds were seen. Saplings around the bowers were decorated with dried flowers and sprigs.		
Loria's Bird of Paradise	<i>Cnemophilus loriae</i>	Kambai
Fairly common on Kakpi. Heard on every visit. Seen on second visit calling from a tall tree on the edge of a patch of grassland. Seen on third visit feeding on berries.		
Crinkle-collared Manucode	<i>Manucodia chalybata</i>	
A pair inhabited Epe Valley in secondary growth and <i>Casuarina</i> stands.		
Black Sicklebill	<i>Epimachus fastuosus</i>	Galagnang
First one, then two females were seen flying across the path on the second visit to Kakpi. The locals said these were more common before guns came to the area. This seems to be the only Sicklebill in the area; when locals were asked to imitate the call, they gave the two sharp notes typical of this species.		

- Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae* Kambai
 One female seen in a stand of *Casuarina* at about 1800 m. This stand was at least 2 km from the nearest forest. Positive identification was made; the white eyebrow, eye and rufous flash in wing were seen clearly.
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*
 Common in secondary growth and forest at about 1400 m. A female was feeding a fledged young on the 7th.
- Lesser Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea minor* Yambai
 A female seen in secondary growth at 1400 m, on the 25th.

List for Epe Valley area 1400-1600 m:

Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Brush Cuckoo, White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo, Moustached Tree-Swift, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Mountain Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike, Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Chat, Island Leaf-Warbler, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler, Fairy Gerygone, Northern Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Black Monarch, Black-winged Monarch, Black-breasted Boatbill, Torrent Flycatcher, Dwarf Whistler, Black-headed Whistler, Little Shrike-Thrush, Hooded Pitohui, Papuan Flowerpecker, New Guinea White-Eye, Long-billed Honeyeater, Slaty-chinned Longbill, Mountain Red-headed Myzomela, Scrub White-eared Meliphaga, Puff-backed Meliphaga, Helmeted Friarbird, Ornate Melidectes, Hooded Mannikin, Brown Oriole, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Peltops, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Magnificent Bird of Paradise, Lesser Bird of Paradise: 43 spp.

List for altitudes between 1600 - 1800 m:

Brown Falcon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Pacific Swallow, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Chat, Tawny Grassbird, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Willie Wagtail, Black-headed Whistler, Papuan Flowerpecker, New Guinea White-Eye, Helmeted Friarbird, Ornate Melidectes, Hooded Mannikin, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Peltops, Carola's Parotia: 22 spp.

List for Kakpi (mostly above 2000 m):

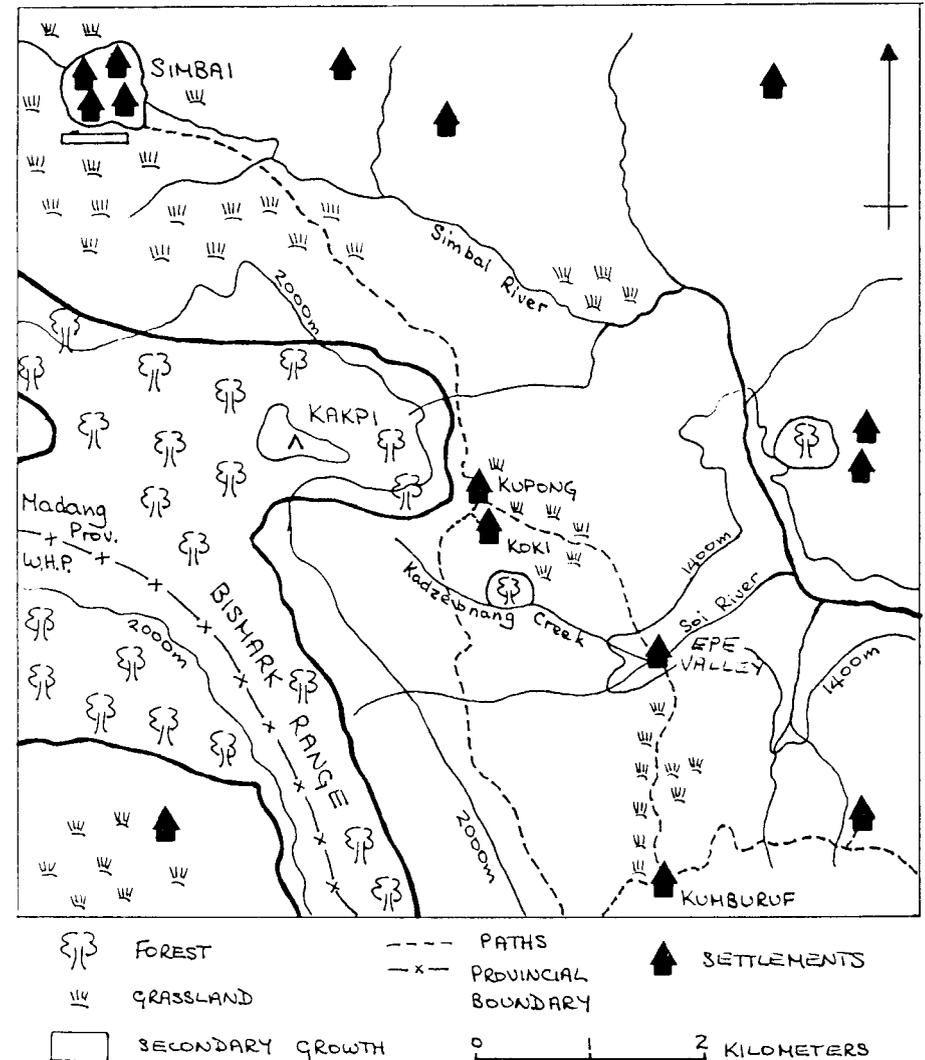
Dwarf Cassowary, Brahminy Kite, Brown Falcon, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Ornate Fruit-Dove, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Dusky Lory, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Blue-capped Ifrita, Large Scrub-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-throated Robin, Blue-grey Robin, Regent Whistler, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Tit Berrypecker, Slaty-chinned Longbill, Red-collared Myzomela, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Peltops, Loria's Bird of Paradise, Black Sicklebill: 32 spp.

Acknowledgements

Eero Taskinen and Riitta Huttunen kindly accommodated me during the trip. Thanks are also due to Nelson for showing me around Kakpi. I am grateful to Roger and Jenny Hicks for comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

Majnep, I.S. & R. Bulmer. 1977. *Birds of my Kalam Country*. Auckland University Press & Oxford University Press.

Address: c/o U.N.D.P., P.O. Box 1041, Port Moresby, P.N.G.



MAP OF THE SIMBAI AREA

THE CHESTNUT FOREST-RAIL, *RALLINA RUBRA*
(RALLIDAE), AT TARI GAP, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND ITS
VOCALIZATIONS

CLIFFORD FRITH AND DAWN FRITH

The Chestnut Forest-Rail *Rallina rubra* is found on the island of New Guinea in montane forests of the Arfak Mountains and the Central Ranges east as far as the Victor Emanuel and Hindenburg Mountains, western Papua New Guinea in the vicinity of Telefomin (Ripley 1977; Coates 1985; Beehler *et al.* 1986). Recent altitudinal ranges given for this species are 1500 to 3050 m (Coates 1985) and 1500 to 2700 m (Beehler *et al.* 1986). The only population in Papua New Guinea is, however, the subspecies *R. r. telefominensis* which is known from about 2200 m in the Victor Emanuel and Hindenburg Ranges near Telefomin, where it is apparently very uncommon (Gilliard & LeCroy 1961; Coates 1985).

Caution must be exercised in identifying this rail as it may be easily confused with the Forbes' Forest-Rail *Rallina forbesi* in which both sexes have black barring across the tail, while in the Chestnut Forest-Rail the tail is plain chestnut. Whereas male Chestnut Forest-Rails are near-uniform chestnut, the male Forbes' Forest-Rail has contrastingly darker wings. Female Chestnut Forest-Rails have the white-spotted black wings and back pattern extending on to much of the mantle, whereas in the female Forbes' Forest-Rail most of the mantle is plain chestnut. It is, however, often difficult to see these secretive terrestrial birds well in their dense dark habitat, let alone see the species-specific plumage details.

During ornithological field work in the moss forests of Tari Gap (5° 58' S, 143° 8' E) we were able to confirm the identity of the *Rallina* forest-rail that is not uncommon there (pers. obs.). Between 15 October and 5 December 1987 CF spent much time in canvas hides making observations for periods of two to four hours at bowers of Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia sanfordi* and nests of Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris*. During one such watch on 4 November at 08:06, CF watched a male Chestnut Forest-Rail walk to within 2 m of his hide and then give a series of approximately 60 sharp shrill *krill* or *keow* notes of even tone, slowly for the first five to ten notes and then every 1 to 2 seconds, with head and bill lifted upwards and gape wide open for each note as the nictating membrane was brought briefly up over the eye. The entire bird was very clearly seen to be uniform chestnut, except for blackish flight feathers as is indicated in the colour plate in Ripley (1977) but not in Beehler *et al.* (1986). The tail was clearly unmarked. After calling, the bird walked past CF at a distance of only 30 cm. At 08:08 the same bird walked up a broad sloping fallen mossy branch whilst commencing to call. It stopped on the

branch, 1 m above the ground, and gave approximately 60 to 70 notes in total, whilst another distant bird immediately replied to each note.

At 08:35 our local field assistant brought us an adult male Chestnut Forest-Rail he had caught by hand. This bird had a mid-chestnut iris, a blue-grey base to its bill, and black legs and feet. It was photographed and quickly released without being weighed or measured to avoid distressing it further. On 20 November CF photographed an adult female as she walked across the forest floor. Her soft-part colours were as in the male. Colour transparencies of both sexes have been deposited in the PNGBS library as these represent the first pictures taken of the species alive and provide confirmation of its occurrence at Tari Gap.

On 6 November at 08:44, CF again heard rail calls whilst in another hide. Of 156 *krill* or *keow* notes the first 5 or 6 were softer, and the following ones were of even volume and pitch, at intervals of 1.5, seconds until the last 20 to 30 which were a little slower in pace, one about every 2 seconds.

At 08:32 on 9 November, CF heard two rails duetting, giving alternate rather squeaky *kreel*, *krill* or *keow* notes every 1.5 to 2 seconds, about 40 times each, after which the more distant bird stopped. The closer bird continued to call and after about its sixtieth note a third rail replied with a slightly faster rate of notes. The first bird stopped calling after a total of about 120 notes, and the third bird continued to give its sharp and rapid *kee* call until stopping at 130 notes.

At 11:15 on 21 November, CF heard another duet. The first bird to call started with *kriow* notes about every 1.5 to 2 seconds, soon becoming more rapid and changing to a quicker and sharper *kee* or *kek*. Approximately 135 notes were given by each bird alternately, one bird's note being slightly shorter, sharper, and higher than that of the other.

On 27 November, between 08:00 and 08:30, CF heard calls of 48, 41, 34, 55, and 84 *kee* notes, apparently given by at least three different individuals in immediately adjacent areas of moss forest. Again, each note of a call was repeated at about 1.5 second intervals, being a little slower and softer at the start of the call. Each note was vigorously and sharply produced, giving the impression of being squeezed out of the bird.

These call notes do not appear to be similar to those described for the congeneric White-striped Forest-Rail *Rallina leucospila*, Forbes' Forest-Rail *Rallina forbesi* and the Red-necked Forest-Rail *Rallina tricolor*, by Beehler *et al.* (1986). The Kalam language name for the Forbes' Forest-Rail is 'Kongak' or 'Kungak' (Majnep & Bulmer 1977), given for its 'noisy call', which would seem more similar to notes of the Chestnut Forest-Rail heard by us than those described for congeneric species. The notes we record are, however, typical of members of the rail family (Ripley

1977). Moreover, many rail species are known to duet, this usually being performed by a mated pair and termed 'antiphonal singing or duetting' or calling (Diamond & Terborgh 1968; Diamond 1972; Ripley 1977). Diamond & Terborgh (1968) record the Bush-Hen *Amaurornis olivaceus* singing antiphonally in New Guinea.

The confirmed presence of the Chestnut Forest-Rail at Tari Gap represents an extension of its previous known range, from the Telefomin area, of 200 km to the ESE. Coates (1985) indicated an anticipated extension of the range of this rail by a similar distance to the east of Telefomin and it would seem likely that the bird will be found to occur there, if not further eastwards and elsewhere in the Central Highlands. The discovery of this species in the Tari Gap follows that of the Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* (Frith & Frith 1987). Clearly, the ranges of such secretive terrestrial forest dwelling highland birds are more extensive than the current state of ornithological exploration of New Guinea can reflect.

We thank Wildlife Conservation International of the New York Zoological Society for supporting this work as part of a larger ornithological project at Tari Gap. We are grateful to the Department of Environment and Conservation, and particularly to its Secretary, Mr Karol M. Kisokau, for permission and support for this study. Bob and Pam Bates of Trans Niugini Tours and Ambua Lodge kindly provided valuable support and interest.

- 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.
- Diamond, J.M. 1972. Further examples of dual singing by southwest Pacific birds. *Auk*: 180-183.
- Diamond, J.M. & J.W. Terborgh. 1968. Dual singing by New Guinea birds. *Auk* 85: 62-82.
- Frith, C. & D. Frith. 1987. The Logrunner, *Orthonyx temminckii* (Orthonychidae), at Tari Gap, Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. *Muruk* 2: 61-62.
- Gilliard, E.T. & M. LeCroy. 1961. Birds of the Victor Emanuel and Hindenburg Mountains, New Guinea. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 123: 1-86.
- Majnep, I.S. & R. Bulmer. (1977). *Birds of my Kalam Country*. University of Auckland.
- Ripley, S.D. 1977. *Rails of the World*. Godine.

Address: "Prionodura", Paluma via Townsville, Queensland, 4816, Australia.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS IN IRIAN JAYA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRUCE M. BEEHLER

Between 9 July and 23 August 1987 I had the opportunity to observe birds in one locality in Irian Jaya and three in Papua New Guinea. Here I present some of the most interesting findings. I was accompanied by Andrew E. Hare (AEH) in Papua New Guinea.

Field Sites

- 10-13 July: Danau Bira (Lake Holmes), in the lowlands of northern Irian Jaya, on the western bank of the Mamberamo River, 2° 28' S, 138° 25' E, 350 m.
- 23-26 July: lower montane forest 4 km south of Suria, Central Province, 9° 5' S, 147° 29' E, 1100 m.
- 28 July to 2 August: Varirata National Park, Central Province, 9° 27' S, 147° 22' E, 750 m.
- 4-17 August: Lake Omha, English Peaks, Northern Province, 8° 46' S, 147° 29' E, 3650 m.

Annotated List

- Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiensis*
At Lake Omha AEH observed a pair to copulate three times in succession on the morning of 9 August. This was followed by a series of stereotyped interactions that may be related to pair-bonding. The two faced each other in the water; first the female bowed to the male repeatedly, and then he to her. Both birds then submerged completely, only to burst out from under the water and flap and splash noisily, side-by-side. Subsequently both left the water and roosted on the bank.
- Brown-collared Brush-Turkey *Talegalla jobiensis*
At Suria a hunter collected a pair in the forest. The stomach of one bird contained many cracked seeds and some insect fragments (Lepidoptera larvae and Coleoptera elytra).
- Victoria Crowned Pigeon *Goura victoria*
At Danau Bira. The voice of a single individual was reminiscent of the call of a cassowary, a very low booming, two notes repeated in pairs: *uh wuh - uh wuh - uh wuh* ..., the series descending in pitch. This was a loud, far-carrying call and very conspicuous. The bird also gave low mmm notes that could be heard only at very close range. Individuals in the forest were very wary and flushed at a distance. The sharp double-slaps produced by the wings when the birds rose from the ground were very distinctive.
- White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
At Suria a nest with a single egg was found. It was constructed on a palm frond in the shaded understory.
- Red-fronted Lorikeet *Charmosyna rubronotata*
At Danau Bira. Voice is indistinguishable from that of the Red-flanked Lorikeet

C. placentis.

Rufous Owl

Ninox rufa

At Varirata a pair was heard duetting in forest near the raggiana lek. At first, a single bird gave pairs of *mumph* notes, followed by a series of pairs of these notes. A bird with a higher pitched voice then joined in, producing an antiphonal duet that eventually had the high-pitched bird giving a quavering and then twittering response in high excitement. One of the birds was spot-lighted on a high open branch of a *Casuarina*.

Tit Berrypecker

Oreocharis arfaki

At Lake Omha a pair was netted on 11 August. This is 600 m higher than the species' regular upper altitudinal limit.

Leadon Honeyeater

Ptiloprora plumbea

Suria. Common in the forest interior, in the lower and middle levels of the forest. The birds foraged for arthropods among twigs and petioles, and also visited understory flowers.

Streaked Bowerbird

Amblyornis subalaris

Suria. Bowers were well-decorated and tended by males at this time. A male in attendance at one bower gave a variety of weird calls, including: (1) sound of leaves rustling, (2) growls and cussing sounds, (3) the trill call of the Magnificent Bird of Paradise, (4) sound of ripping cloth, and (5) the sharp call of the Papuan King-Parrot.

Address: Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560, USA.

DISPLAY OF LORIA'S BIRD OF PARADISE

JENNY H. HICKS AND ROGER K. HICKS

At 10:15 on 11 October 1987 a displaying male Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae* was observed briefly in the grounds of Ambua Lodge, Tari, Southern Highlands Province, at c. 2200 m. Our attention was drawn to the displaying bird by a regular clicking noise. We could not at the time decide whether the click was a call or a bill snapping [it was probably the latter since, a male bird in the hand which was recently (13 June 1988) mist-netted at Myola (Oro Province) clicked its bill softly while puffing out its white cheek pouches]. The male bird hung upside down, about 6 m off the ground but below the canopy. He quivered with his wings half open. This display was observed for less than 10 seconds, after which the bird flew off to feed. Although this observation is of such short duration we present it here because, as far as we know, the display of Loria's Bird of Paradise is undescribed.

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

GRAY'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER AT MOITAKA

IAN BURROWS¹ AND ROGER K. HICKS²

Whilst mist-netting birds in a reed bed at Moitaka Settling Ponds (National Capital District) on 16 October 1986, an adult Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* was trapped. The following in-hand description and biometrics were taken:

A large greyish-brown warbler with sloping forehead, long bill and graduated tail which gave the bird an elongated appearance. **Bare parts:** Legs bluish-grey, soles yellowish-brown; upper mandible horn, lower mandible pink; rictal bristles black; iris olive-green. **Plumage:** Crown, mantle and scapulars cold olive-brown; upperwing coverts slightly more rufous; secondaries and primaries similar; wing linings light-buff; rump olive; uppertail coverts warm brown; tail brown with a rufous tinge; supercilium short, buffish, ending just behind eye; ear patch olive-green; chin white; upper breast creamy-white, streaked faintly with dark brown; sides of breast and thighs ginger extending to light ginger undertail coverts; belly white. The bird was in adult plumage which was generally abraded and without moult.

Biometric data:

Band number:	02357302		
Weight:	23.8 g	Tarsus:	27 mm
Tail:	62 mm	Culmen:	18 mm
Wing:	83 mm	Exposed culmen:	14 mm

Note: wing is the maximum flattened chord; exposed culmen is from bill tip to basal feathers; culmen is from bill tip to union with skull.

Primary number	Wing formula*	Primary number	Wing formula*
1	-10	6	-8
2	-1	7	-11
3	longest, emarginated	8	-14
4	-1	9	-17
5	-4	10	-18

* (difference in length from longest primary in mm)

Wing length of this bird is the same as the maximum wing length found among 35 individuals examined by Williamson (1960).

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler breeds in Eastern Siberia and migrates through Japan and coastal China to its winter quarters in the Philippines, Sulawesi, Moluccas and

New Guinea. There are thirteen records of the species from Irian Jaya and five from Papua New Guinea: Moitaka (Finch 1982), Vanimo and Kiunga (Finch 1985), Lamkamin (Diamond 1986), and Tari (Finch *et al.* 1987). This sighting was at a typical date, most others in the region falling between 4 October and 9 March.

- Diamond, J.M. 1986. First record of the Large Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* from islands east of New Guinea. *Emu* 86: 249.
- Finch, B.W. 1982. Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* at Moitaka S.F. PNGBS Newsletter 197/198: 40.
- Finch, B.W. 1985. New Guinea bird notes. *Cosmic Flashes* 2: 12-13.
- Finch, B.W. 1987. *The Birds of Ambua and Tari District - A Trans Niugini Guide to the Birds in the Vicinity of Ambua Lodge*. 2nd Ed. Ambua Lodge, Mt Hagen.
- Williamson, K. 1960. Moulting as a study in field taxonomy. *Bird Migration* 1: 171-175.

Addresses: ¹Biology Department, UPNG, P.O. Box 320, University, N.C.D.
²clo N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, N.C.D.

RANGE EXTENSION FOR RED-HEADED MYZOMELA *ERYTHROCEPHALA*

LEN P. TOLHURST

According to Beehler *et al.* (1986) the range of the Red-headed Myzomela is "...from coastal Trans-Fly eastwards to Port Moresby; Aru Is. Also Australia and some Indonesian Islands".

On 1 April 1988 at approximately 16:00 I was looking for birds in mangroves near the village of Domara, a little to the east of Cape Rodney, some 170 km south-east of Port Moresby. I saw a female Red-headed Myzomela at a range of about 15 m. It flew in the tree crowns for a few minutes before flying out of sight. A few seconds later the male bird appeared, giving me excellent views, before he also flew away. The area was semi-cleared, giving very good viewing conditions, and the lighting was excellent. Since both male and female were seen it is possible that breeding may occur in the area.

These sightings would seem to extend the known range of this species by at least 150 km to the south-east of Port Moresby. It would be of interest to know if the bird is represented continuously between Cape Rodney and Port Moresby, and whether it extends further east towards Milne Bay. Other records from the east of Port Moresby should be sent to the PNGBS.

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

Address: Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko, P.N.G.

WHITE-THROATED NIGHTJAR *EUROSTOPODUS* *MYSTACALIS* FIRST RECORD FOR THE PORT MORESBY AREA

ROGER K. HICKS

On 11 August 1987 several members of the PNGBS were looking for night-birds on the Pacific Adventist College campus, c. 10 km east of Port Moresby at c. 70 m. At 21:30 a large nightjar was seen perched on a bare branch. It was observed for about 15 minutes with the aid of a powerful spotlight from a distance of about 30 m. During this time it made three flights, returning to the same perch each time. It was larger than either of a pair of Large-tailed Nightjars *Capromulgus macrurus* which were seen at the same time. It showed no white markings either in the wing or on the underside of the tail. The undertail coverts and underside of the tail were quite strongly barred. A bird matching this description was seen in the same place on 3 September 1987. After consulting various reference books (Beehler *et al.* 1986; Coates 1985; Slater *et al.* 1986) this bird was identified as a White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mysticalis*. It was seen by nine observers, none of whom had had any previous experience of this species.

Six species of nightjar have been recorded in New Guinea and its satellite islands (Beehler *et al.* 1986). Of these, five were rejected for the following reasons. (1) The Large-tailed Nightjar is the common nightjar of the savanna around Port Moresby. In flight it shows distinct white markings in the wing and on the underside of the tail. (2) Two species, Jungle Nightjar *C. indicus* and Spotted Nightjar *E. argus* have yet to be recorded in PNG, although both are migrants, and could occur. Both show distinct white wing patches and the male Spotted Nightjar has white in the tail. (3) The two all-dark nightjars, both endemic to New Guinea, can be rejected by size and habitat. The Mountain Nightjar *E. archboldi* frequents montane rain forest and has not been recorded below 2000 m (Coates 1985). The Papuan Nightjar *E. papuensis* is found almost exclusively in lowland rain forest. Both are similar in size to the Large-tailed Nightjar.

A race of the White-throated Nightjar *E. m. mysticalis* is a migrant to PNG from its breeding grounds in eastern Australia. It has been recorded infrequently with sightings from Western Province through the highlands to the north coast, but this is the first sighting for south-east New Guinea. There has been one previous 'possible' record for the Port Moresby area when a nightjar showing small white wing patches and lacking white in the tail was flushed from the road near Brown River in August 1986 (Field Guides Inc, 1988). I suspect this species has been overlooked in the past and is not just a vagrant to the Port Moresby area.

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.
Field Guides Inc. 1988. Field Guides Inc. tour of Papua New Guinea 1986. *Muruk* 3: 23-24.

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

Address: *clo N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, Waigani, P.N.G.*

GURNEY'S EAGLE *AQUILA GURNEYI* IN THE HIGHLANDS

ROY D. MACKAY

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* is one of the rarer eagles of the world and is confined to the island of New Guinea and its satellite islands, Misool, Waigeo, Salawati, Aru, Yapen, Normanby and Goodenough. Beehler *et al.* (1986) state that it occurs at altitudes of up to 100 m (rarely 1500 m) and only 10 to 15 km inland from the coast.

Thus, it is worth recording the origin of a live bird now in the Baiyer River Sanctuary, Western Highlands Province. It was collected by a highlands boy near Banz, WHP at 1700 m on 31 January 1986. Banz is approximately 130 km inland from the north coast.

The boy was out hunting when he saw the bird on the ground feeding on a cuscus. The bird tried to get away but one hind claw was caught up in the skin of the carcass. The boy pounced on the bird, tied its legs and brought it in to Mount Hagen town to sell. It was purchased by the Sanctuary.

There are other records of this species in the highlands: C.B. Frith saw it at 2970 m in the Tari Gap area of the Southern Highlands Province (in Finch 1987), an even higher altitude, and Diamond (1985) notes it inland to the North Coastal Range. A further range extension into the Australian islands in the Torres Strait has also been reported (Garnett 1987).

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

Diamond, J.M. 1985. New distributional records and taxa from the outlying mountain ranges of New Guinea. *Emu* 85: 69.

Finch, B.W. 1987. *The Birds of Ambua & Tari District - A Trans Niugini Guide to the Birds in the Vicinity of Ambua Lodge*. 2nd Edition. Ambua Lodge, Mount Hagen.

Garnett, S. 1987. An Australian record of Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*. *Australian Birdwatcher* 12: 134-135.

Address: *CMB 16, Paluma via Townsville, Queensland 4816, Australia.*

BREEDING RECORD OF RAGGIANA BIRD OF PARADISE, *PARADISAEA RAGGIANA*

HARRY SAKULAS

On 7 December 1987 a nest of a Raggiana Bird of Paradise was located 2-3 km north-east of old Wanduli village, near Wau, Morobe Province. The nest was built 4-5 m off the ground in a small *Castanopsis* tree, and it contained one white egg which was streaked with orange. The nest still contained one egg on 11 December, and on 14 and 15 December a female bird was sitting on the nest, but on 18 December the nest had been removed, presumably by local children.

These observations are recorded here as there are no breeding records of this species in PNGBS newsletters. Indeed there are few breeding records of any species of birds of paradise, and for some nothing at all is known of their nesting behaviour.

Forshaw and Cooper (1977) state that nesting in *P. raggiana* usually takes place between August and February. The number of eggs is one or two. The colour of the eggs and the height above the ground are also typical.

Forshaw, J.M. & W.T. Cooper. 1977. *The Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds*. William Collins. 304 pp.

Address: *Wau Ecology Institute, PO Box 77, Wau, Morobe.*

NEST OF THE GARNET ROBIN

BARRY HOPKINS¹, LYNDA HOPKINS¹ AND PETER STORER²

On 6 December 1987 the nest of a Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra* was discovered at Myola (Oro Province) at c. 2100 m. As far as we know the nest of this species is undescribed. It was situated below the forest canopy in a small tree at the junction of two 0.5 cm diameter branches, about 5 m from the ground. The nest was a small cup of moss, and other material which looked like cobwebs. It was about 3 cm high and 5 cm in diameter. Both sexes regularly visited the nest, the female appearing three times more frequently than the male. On 7 December only the female was observed, making six visits in 15 minutes (R. Hicks pers. comm.). On each occasion she perched over the nest with wings slightly spread and made bobbing movements into the nest cavity. We thought this was to shape the cup of the nest that was presumably still being built. Further observations were not possible as we left Myola later that day.

Addresses: ¹*clo N.C.C., Wards Strip P.O., Waigani, N.C.D.*

²*P.O. Box 4464, Boroko, N.C.D.*

BIRD FEATHERS IN THE TRADITIONAL SING-SING HEAD-DRESS OF THE KAINANS AREA

NIKLAS WAHLBERG

The village of Kainans is situated in Madang Province, close to Simbai. I visited the area in late October 1987 and had the pleasure of seeing an authentic sing-sing (traditional dances). It started at about 18:00 and continued to dawn. While watching I attempted to identify the bird feathers used on the head-dresses. I found there were eleven species used, of which six were Birds of Paradise.

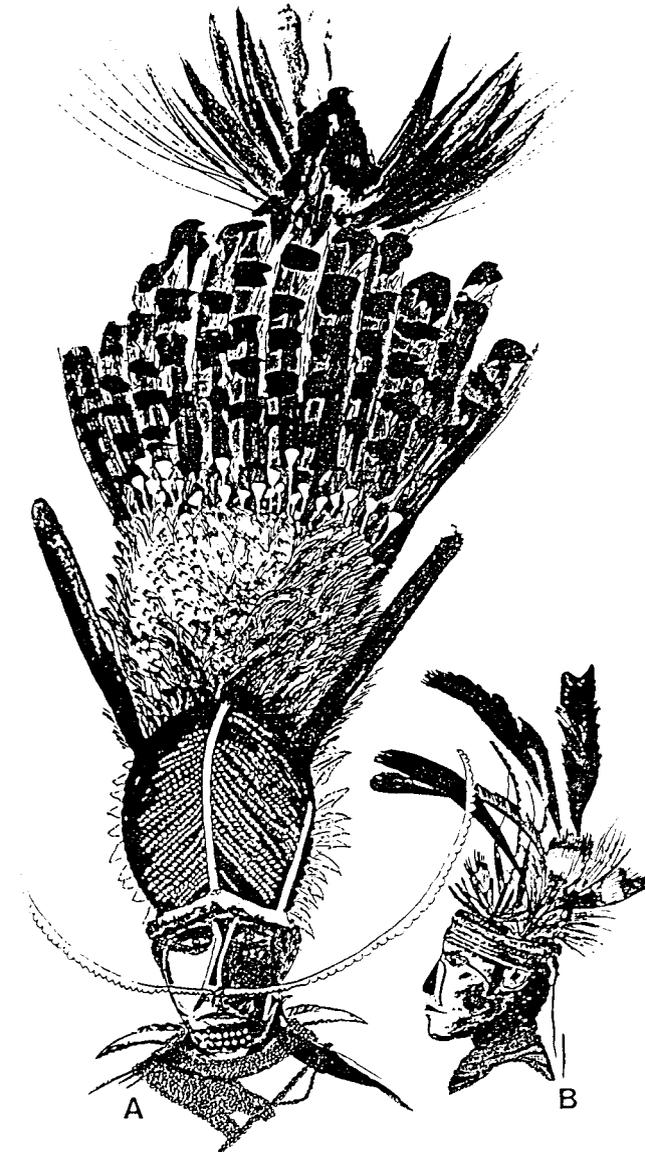
There were two main types of head-dress. Type A was like a crown. Its sides were covered with the heads of a green beetle. The crest feathers of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo were used down the sides in a column. The next piece on top of this was a jumble of chicken feathers or Christmas decorations. The breast shields of Superb Birds of Paradise sometimes stuck out of the side of this section. Above came a ring of large feathers, usually the tail feathers of the Long-tailed Buzzard. The tail feathers of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Crowned Pigeons were also used. Occasionally whole Papuan Lorikeets were used in place of these. In the middle of the upper section was an upright thin pole, about a metre long, with a Lesser Bird of Paradise at the top. Sometimes a Black Sicklebill was used instead. The head plumes of a King of Saxony Bird of Paradise were put through the nasal septum of the dancer. The people wearing these head-dresses usually had a necklace made of about six upper mandibles of Blyth's Hornbill.

Type B head-dresses were not as tall as type A. These were mainly Papuan Lorikeets (whole birds with outstretched wings) arranged in a spiral pattern. From these projected feathers of Stephanie's *Astrapia*, Black Sicklebill, King of Saxony Bird of Paradise or Lesser Bird of Paradise. Also there were whole skins of Common Paradise-Kingfishers and Magnificent Birds of Paradise.

The local people said that all the birds were caught in the area, i.e. from the Ramu Valley to the high peaks of the Bismark Ranges. There were about 200 dancers, and many of the head-dresses were old; however, I do not think that hunting pressure on the birds was too great. With the introduction of shotguns, and with customers in the central Highlands willing to pay high prices for feathers, hunting pressure on some species may increase.

The drawing is by Keith Harris from photographs.

Address: c/o UNDP, P.O. Box 1041, Port Moresby.



BRYOPHYTES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

REQUEST FOR SPECIMENS AND RECORDS

BILL EDDIE

Studies of the bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) of Papua New Guinea are still in their infancy. Although the bryoflora is relatively well-known compared to other regions of Malesia, it is under-explored, while taxonomic investigations largely remain at the "alpha" level.

I am planning an interim checklist of bryophytes and would welcome specimens from any locality in PNG. In addition, I would like to have records of the use of bryophytes by birds (e.g. nest-building, bower-decoration, foraging sites, etc.).

To collect bryophytes, all that is required is a series of small polythene bags, preferably of the sealable kind. The plants can be collected intact by gently teasing the rhizoids (root-like structures) from the substrate. Fertile material with capsules is most desirable but not absolutely necessary. Liverwort capsules tend to collapse very quickly and would probably be unsuitable for preservation in most cases, but collect capsules if you can. A good handful of material is much better than just one or two stems since duplicate material for other herbaria is often required, but please remember to tidy up the collecting site afterwards. Do not collect in any protected area or National Park. Bryophytes on bark or twigs are best collected together with the substrate using a small knife. No preservation is necessary, but remove any excess water by gently squeezing. Specimens should be air-dried as soon as possible but generally they will remain in good condition even after several days in polythene bags. Most importantwrite collecting details in pencil on a small slip of paper or card and place this in *each* bag. Minimum details to record are as follows:

1. Locality (e.g. nearest town/village) and approximate elevation.
2. Habitat (e.g. lowland forest, mangrove, alpine grassland, etc.)
3. Microhabitat (e.g. on boulders, rotten logs, buttress roots *Pandanus* stems, etc.).
4. Shade (e.g. dark forest, bright areas by streams, etc.).

When you next sit down on a mossy log in the forest and the jewel-babblers are as elusive as ever, cast your thoughts to the humble bryophytes. They may not turn you into a budding William Blake but their subtle beauty is quite unsurpassed in the plant world, and rewards are a-plenty! Good luck.

Address: The Herbarium, Biology Department, P.O. Box 320, University, N.C.D., P.N.G.

BIRDING IN THE HUON PENINSULAR

NICK GARDNER

Introduction

Between October 6th and 13th 1986 I visited the montane forest above the village of Wasu, on the Huon peninsula, Morobe Province. Wasu is an ideal location for gaining access to this area which boasts five endemic species, and many other interesting birds. The newly constructed road now runs all the way to Kabwum, while regular PMV traffic assures one of transport to all the attractive localities. Increasing population pressure and rapid development in the Kabwum valley, coupled with the construction of a good access road to Wasu port, have all contributed to greater disturbance and forest clearance in the region. The continued existence of such rare species as New Guinea Harpy Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguinae* and Vulturine Parrot *Psittichas fulgidus* would appear to be threatened.

Transport

There are daily flights from Lae to Wasu. The port of Wasu is also served by weekly boats from Madang and Lae.

Accommodation

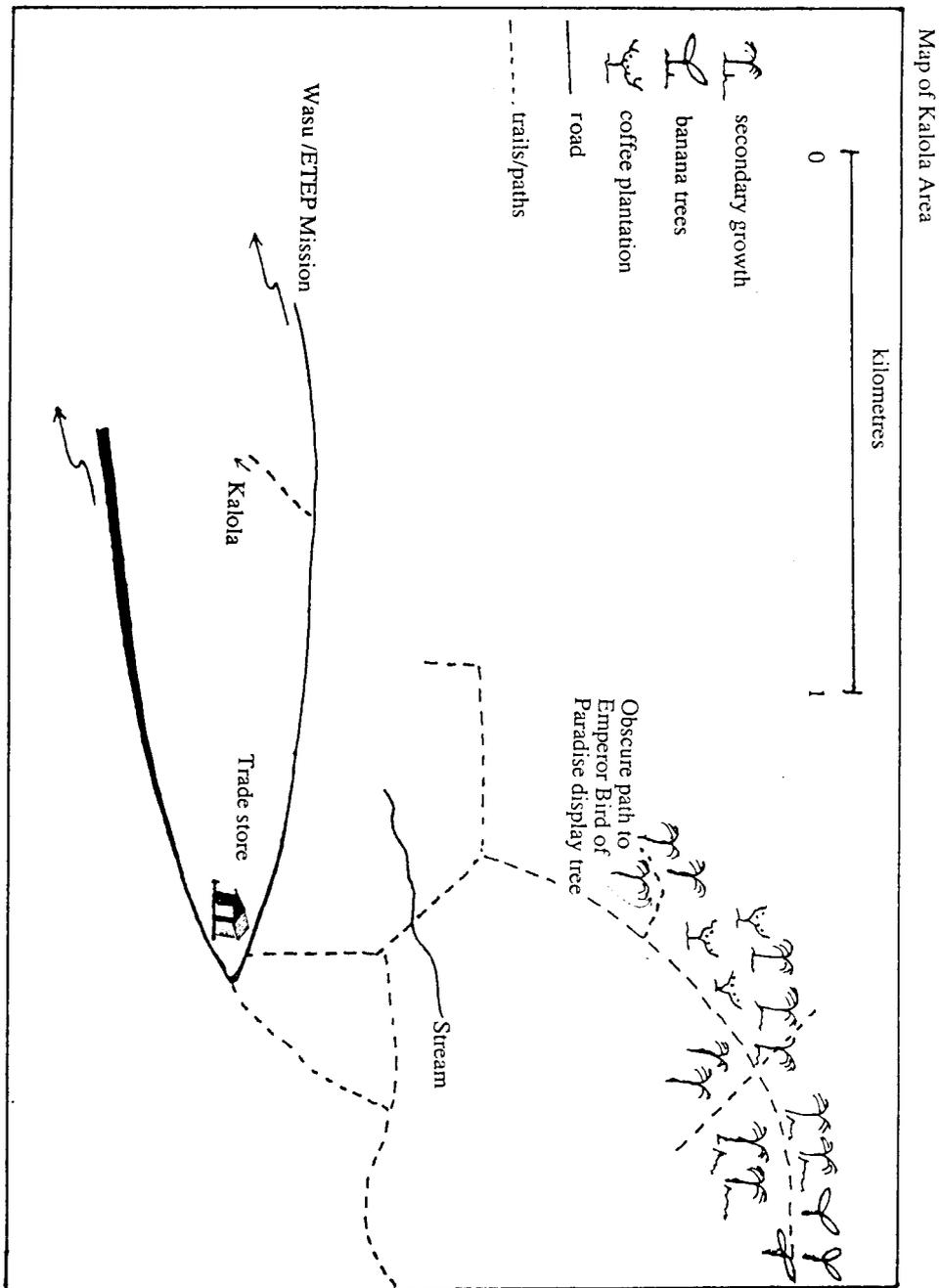
There are no hotels in Wasu, although such facilities probably exist in the larger town of Kabwum. In Wasu I stayed at the Police Station. Out of Wasu I spent three nights in a small house belonging to the community leader at Satop village, and two nights in another located on a property near the highest part of the road. For one night I camped at Kalola.

Birding sites

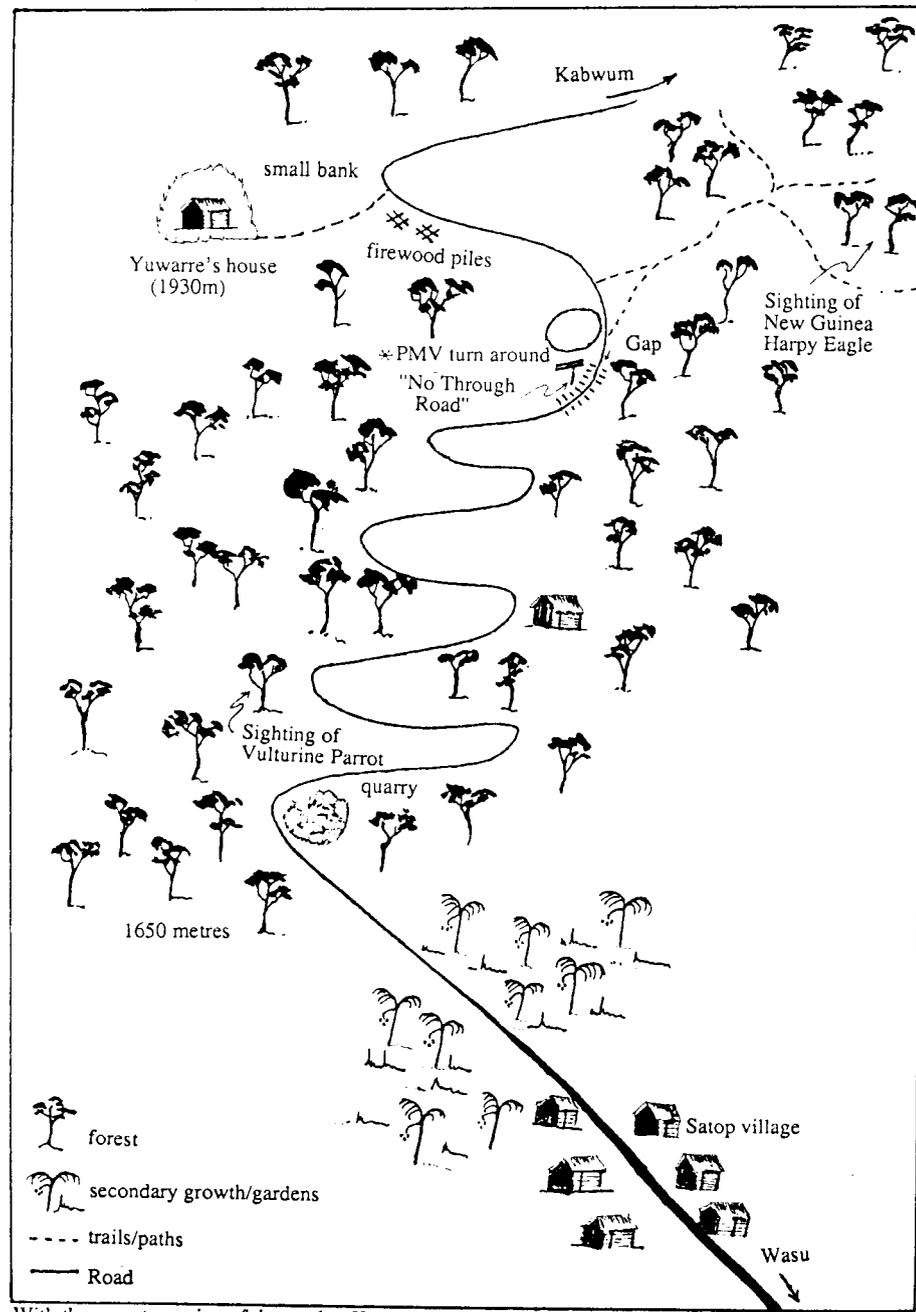
Most time should be spent birding the area of forest between 1650 and 1930 m (see map). This stretch of about 9 km can either be worked from Satop village or Yuwarre's property just below the gap. Due to the infrequency of PMVs early in the morning and the need to bird in the higher elevation areas before the weather deteriorates in mid-morning, the hut located on Yuwarre's property would probably make a better base. Naturally prior permission should be sought from the owner.

Four of the five Huon endemics (Spangled Honeyeater, Wahne's Parotia, Huon *Astrapia* and Huon *Melidectes*) are present along this stretch of road, although I missed the Huon *Melidectes*. The trails that penetrate the forest on the west side of the road host such unusual birds as Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot, Mottled Whistler, and New Guinea Harpy Eagle. Further down the road towards Wasu birds such as Vulturine Parrot and Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot can be seen; while the secondary growth just above Satop Village shelters Grey-green Scrub-Wren.

The only other site worth investigating is the Emperor Bird of Paradise lekking



Map of Gap Area .



* With the recent opening of the road to Kabwum the PMV turn around and the "No Through Road" sign are likely to disappear.

ground at Kalola. The males are most active in the evening and early morning. The habitat is heavily disturbed and does not deserve too much time. Amongst the few other interesting species are Magnificent Riflebird, Magnificent Bird of Paradise, Red Myzomela, Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler and Grey-green Scrub-Wren.

List of birds seen in the Wasu area (w = Wasu, g = gap area, k = Kabwum area).

Great Frigatebird w, Lesser Frigatebird wg, Brown Booby w, Eastern Reef-Egret w, Black Kite wk, New Guinea Harpy-Eagle g, Brown Falcon gk, Eastern Golden Plover w, Whimbrel w, Common Tern w, Black-naped Tern w, Bridled Tern w, Crested Tern w, Brown Noddy w, Brown Cuckoo-Dove gk, Great Cuckoo-Dove g, Wompoo Fruit-Dove g, Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove k, Ornate Fruit-Dove gk, Rufescent Imperial Pigeon g, Zoe Imperial Pigeon k, Papuan Mountain Pigeon g, Dusky Lory gk, Rainbow Lorikeet k, Western Black-capped Lory gk, Papuan Lorikeet g, Yellow-billed Lorikeet g, Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot g, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot k, Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot g, Eclectus Parrot k, Vulturine Parrot g, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo k, Moustached Tree-Swift gk, Uniform Swiftlet w, Mountain Swiftlet gk, Glossy Swiftlet gk, Blue-tailed Bee-eater w, Dollarbird k, Pacific Swallow wgk, Grey Wagtail g, Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike g, Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike k, Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike k, Black-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike gk, Long-tailed Shrike g, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler k, Blue-capped Ifrita g, Island Leaf-Warbler g, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren gk, Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren g, Rusty Mouse-Warbler gk, Mountain Mouse-Warbler w, Large Scrub-Wren g, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren g, Grey-green Scrub-Wren gk, Fairy Gerygone k, Rufous-backed Fantail k, Dimorphic Fantail g, Black Fantail g, Friendly Fantail g, Willie Wagtail wk, Black Monarch, Black-winged Monarch k, Black-breasted Boatbill g, Canary Flycatcher g, Black-throated Robin g, Blue-grey Robin g, Mottled Whistler g, Regent Whistler g, Grey Whistler k, Brown-backed Whistler g, Little Shrike-Thrush gk, Hooded Pitohui gk, Black Pitohui g, Fan-tailed Berrypecker g, Spotted Berrypecker g, Tit Berrypecker g, Yellow-bellied Sunbird w, Black-fronted White-Eye k, Long-billed Honeyeater k, Slaty-chinned Longbill g, Red Myzomela k, Mountain Red-headed Myzomela g, Mountain Meliphaga g, Yellow-gaped Meliphaga g, Black-throated Honeyeater g, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater k, Marbled Honeyeater g, Meyer's Friarbird k, Rufous-backed Honeyeater g, Cinnamon-browed Melidectes g, Ornate Melidectes gk, Spangled Honeyeater g, Blue-faced Parrot-Finch g, Metallic Starling w, Yellow-faced Myna k, Brown Oriole k, Great Wood-Swallow gk, Hooded Butcherbird gk, Mountain Peltops gk, Macgregor's Bowerbird g, Crinkle-collared Manucode k, Magnificent Riflebird k, Huon Astrapia g, Superb Bird of Paradise g, Wahnes' Parotia g, Magnificent Bird of Paradise k, Emperor Bird of Paradise k, Grey Crow k.

Address:

BEYOND MYOLA

BY ROGER HICKS

Early on 16th October 1987 I was again on my way to Myola, only three weeks after my last visit. Then Mike Hopkins had reached 3150 m to the east of the village. Such was his enthusiasm for this high altitude forest that he had organised this trip in order to return as soon as possible. This time I, and five others, were going to accompany him. We arrived in Myola before 07:00 to be greeted by the now traditional coffee and toast. After breakfast, porters were hired to carry our bags to a campsite selected by Mike on his previous visit. We set off at about 08:30 on the first stage of our trek. The path climbed steeply most of the way and it took us about 4 hours to reach the tree fern forest at 2800 m (700 m higher than Myola). Towards the top of the ridge some flowering trees were attracting a variety of lorikeets, including Papuan, Little Red, Yellow-billed and Plum-faced. Nearby, and moving with contrasting slowness, we saw a male Brehm's Tiger-Parrot. The hunting trail we were following continued beyond the weird scenery of the tree fern forest but still climbed just as steeply. Orange-billed Lorikeets replaced Yellow-billed but there was much less bird activity during the afternoon or maybe I was just getting too tired to notice. Mike, Peter and Burk pushed on ahead, and by the time Bill and I reached the grassland, where Mike intended us to camp, they had already set up the tents. Our campsite was on a slight rise in the grassland, at 3150 m. Alpine Pipits were common, flying from the grass to perch on tree ferns while Island Thrushes and White-winged Robins were to be seen at the forest edge.

As the sun sank, the temperature dropped rapidly and we all opted for the warmth of our sleeping bags. When I woke there was ice on the tent and until the sun climbed above the surrounding peaks it was chilly. A pair of Eastern Alpine Mannikins and a small party of Mountain Firetails, which drew attention to themselves by their mewing calls were seen at the grassland edge near the camp. Belford's Melidectes and Crested Berrypecker were common in the forest. After breakfast, and a stand in the sun to warm up, Mike and Peter set off in an attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Kenevi (3400 m), while Helen and I went in search of birds in the forest nearer the campsite. Three Greater Ground Robins, intent on a dispute of their own, stopped less than 2 m from us. Upon realising we were there, one flew for about 2 m, never more than 10 cm from the ground. This may be the first time this species has been recorded flying. Before returning to the camp for lunch we added Lesser Melampitta and Blue-capped Ifrita to our list. For the latter, this is *c.* 300 m above the extreme upper limit given in Beehler *et al.*. After lunch we ventured to another part of the forest seeing a male Painted Tiger-Parrot climbing along moss covered branches, a very cryptic Rufous Woodcock foraging amongst the leaf-litter and a flock of *c.* 20 New Guinea Thornbills flitting through

the canopy. Chris went in search of the ground robins and dipped, but did see a male Crested Bird of Paradise, some consolation! Mike and Peter returned having not quite made it to the top of Mt. Kenevi but they did see Mountain Robin, a species that eluded the rest of us. We spent the evening chatting around the camp-fire while watching UFOs glide across the milky way. By the time we turned in there was a hard covering of ice on the tents.

After an early morning birding session around the camp that produced nothing new, we packed and headed back to Myola. Walking up had been hard work but going down was painful and although I was rewarded with a good look at a male Garnet Robin, shining in the sun, I was very pleased to wander into Myola at 16:00. A restful evening in the Myola guest house, with dinner cooked for us, was a nice way to round off the weekend.

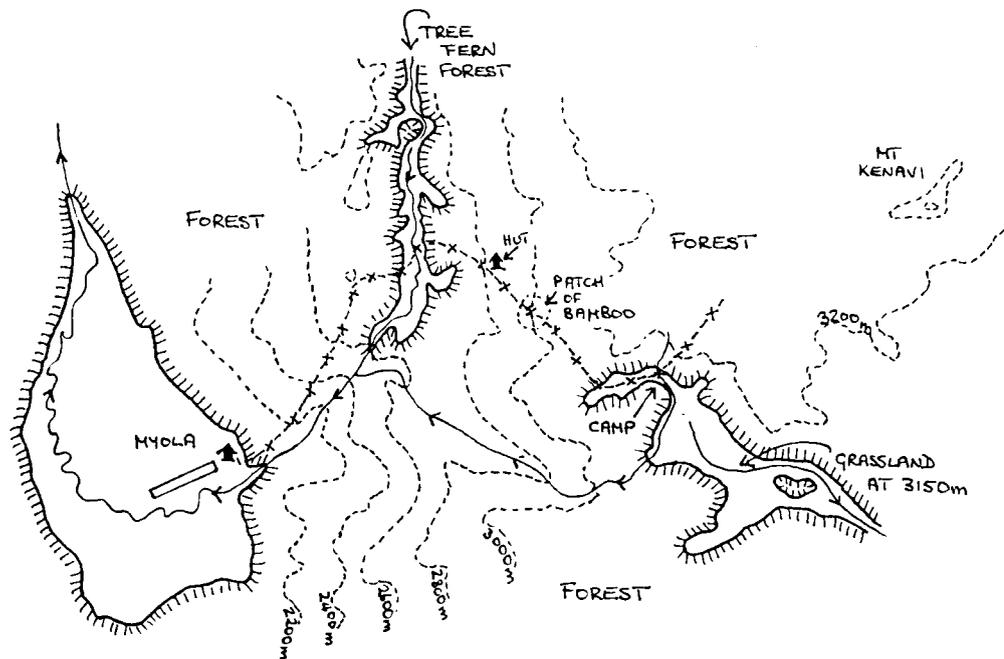
As always our thanks to Talair, Pacific Expeditions and especially the people of Myola. Thanks also to Mike for organising the venture. I enjoyed it and despite the distance walked, the lack of oxygen, the intense midday sun and freezing conditions at night; I think everyone else did too. Isn't that right, Chris? Bill?

People List: Bill Cooper, Chris Eastwood, Roger Hicks, Mike & Helen Hopkins, Peter Lambley and Burk Sharpless.

Species List

Brown Goshawk, Rufous Woodcock, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Goldie's Lorikeet, Little Red Lorikeet, Papuan Lorikeet, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Plum-faced Lorikeet, Orange-billed Lorikeet, Brehm's Tiger-Parrot, Painted Tiger-Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo, Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Alpine Pipit, Greater Ground Robin, Island Thrush, Spotted Jewel-Babbler, Lesser Melampitta, Blue-capped Ifrita, Tawny Grassbird, Mountain Mouse-Warbler, Large Scrub-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-wren, Papuan Scrub-Wren, New Guinea Thornbill, Dimorphic Fantail, Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-breasted Boatbill, Canary Flycatcher, Garnet Robin, Mountain Robin, White-winged Robin, Regent Whistler, Rufous-naped Whistler, Papuan Treecreeper, Black Sitella, Mid-mountain Berrypecker, Tit Berrypecker, Crested Berrypecker, Red-collared Myzomela, Black-throated Honeyeater, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Sooty Melidectes, Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Mountain Firetail, Eastern Alpine Manikin, Macgregor's Bowerbird, Crested Bird of Paradise, Brown Sicklebill, Stephanie's Astrapia.

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



MYOLA IN DECEMBER

ROGER K. HICKS

The heat and humidity of pre-wet season Port Moresby was gladly swapped for the cooler, fresher air of Myola at 2080 m in the Owen Stanley Mountains. We landed at Myola shortly after 07:00 on Friday 4 December 1987. The birding began almost immediately with small parties of Goldie's Lorikeets flying overhead as they left their roost in the crowns of nearby *Pandanus* trees. Glossy Swiftlets and Tawny Grassbirds were soon added to the list, all these birds being new for Phil who had recently arrived from England for a bird-watching holiday.

Following the welcoming breakfast, the bird-watchers and the bush-walkers went their separate ways. The walkers stretched their legs in the direction of the crashed WW2 aircraft while the birders set the mist nets in the forest to the east of the village, using the same sites as in September 1987 (see *Muruk* 3:1). The first birds, a pair of Orange-crowned Fairy-Wrens, were in the net before we had even finished putting it up. Once up, the nets were left for a while and we bird-watched in the moss forest, seeing female Stephanie's *Astrapia* feeding in the canopy and a Papuan Treecreeper spiralling up tree trunks. We had caught several birds when we made

our first round of the nets including three Olive Straightbills, two of which we had ringed the previous September, and a Tawny Grassbird.

Shortly after lunch it began raining and we were treated to heavy showers throughout the afternoon. This was the pattern throughout our stay with clear mornings and wet afternoons. This reduced our bird-watching and bird-catching time. The mist nets were furled during the heaviest rain and checked often while there were only light showers. Despite the rain we managed to see some good birds. Phil caught up with the elusive Spotted Jewel-Babbler, often heard but seldom seen, while Barry and Lynda glimpsed a Lesser Ground-Robin.

On Saturday the bush-walkers made a bog-stomp towards the Kokoda trail as low cloud had deterred them from trying to reach the tree fern forest. This was a wise choice because the rain came early. En route Peter saw a Lesser Melampitta hopping along the trail. The birders stayed around the village seeing Ashy Robin, Regent Whistler and Grey Wagtail and catching Large Scrub-Wren and Rufous-backed Honeyeater. A male Mottled Whistler, not previously recorded from Myola, was also caught.

On Sunday the bush-walkers, accompanied by Phil, but not by Peter, set off early in the hope of reaching the tree fern valley before the rain started. This they managed, even seeing Papuan Lorikeet and Painted Tiger-Parrot on the way, but they were soaked by the time they returned to the village. Meanwhile, the nets were going up and down regularly between the showers and catching few birds. The star of the weekend was the very last bird caught, a male Garnet Robin.

Once again we would like to thank the villagers of Myola for their hospitality, Pacific Expeditions through whom we organised the weekend, and Talair.

People list: bird-watchers: Roger & Jenny Hicks (+1/2), Barry & Lynda Hopkins, and Phil Whittington; Bush-walkers: Veronique Badoux, Dave Briggs, Peter & Andrea Storer.

Bird list: r = ringed, h = heard only

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (h), King Quail, Forbes' Forest-Rail, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, White-breasted Fruit-Dove, Goldie's Lorikeet, Painted Tiger-Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Sooty Owl (h), Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Pacific Swallow, Pied Chat, Lesser Ground-Robin, Island Thrush, Spotted Jewel-Babbler, Blue-capped Ifrita, Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren (r), Tawny Grassbird (r), Mountain Mouse-Warbler, Large Scrub-Wren (r), Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, Papuan Scrub-Wren (r), New Guinea Thornbill, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Dimorphic Fantail, Black Fantail (r), Friendly Fantail, Black Monarch (h), Black-breasted Boatbill, Canary Flycatcher, Garnet Robin (r), Ashy Robin (r), Mottled Whistler (r), Regent Whistler (r), Rufous-naped Whistler (r), Papuan Treecreeper, Fan-tailed Berrypecker (r), Olive Straightbill (r), Rufous-backed Honeyeater (r), Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater (r), Grey-headed Mannikin, Loria's Bird of Paradise, Stephanie's Astrapia.

Address: clo N.C.C., P.O. Wards Strip, Waigani, P.N.G.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER K. HICKS.

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Chris Eastwood (CE); Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS); Roger Hicks (RH); Helen Hopkins (HFH); Mike Hopkins (MH); Peter Lambley (PL); Joan Oliver (JO); Richard Schodde (RS); Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; ENB = East New Britain Province; i = Island or Isle; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NIP = New Ireland Province; NP = National Park; PAC = Pacific Adventist College, 14-Mile, Port Moresby; R = river; SP = settling ponds; Wes = Western Province; WHP = Western Highlands Province.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Lesser Frigatebird | <i>Fregata ariel</i> |
| 16 Aug, 27 over Hisiu beach (RH); 1 Sep, 1 male, over Paga Hill, the first seen over Port Moresby for several months (RH). | |
| Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| 24 Jul, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS). | |
| Pied Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> |
| 26 Jul, FIRST RECORD FOR PNG, 1, Moitaka SP (RS <i>et al.</i>); still present 28 Jul (IB & RGS). | |
| Darter | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> |
| 18 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS). | |
| Red-footed Booby | <i>Sula sula</i> |
| 12 Sep, 4, Yule I, Cen (RGS). | |
| Brown Booby | <i>Sula leucogaster</i> |
| 12 Sep, 1, Gaire No. 2, Cen (RH). | |
| Cattle Egret | <i>Egretta ibis</i> |
| 16 Aug, 24, Kanosia Lagoon (RH). | |
| White-faced Heron | <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i> |
| 12 Jul, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 1 Aug, 1, Laloki gallery forest (RGS). | |
| Eastern Reef-Egret | <i>Egretta sacra</i> |
| 16 Aug, 3 dark phase birds, Hisiu beach (RH). | |
| Striated Heron | <i>Ardeola striata</i> |
| 5 Jul, 1, Idlers Bay (RGS). | |
| Black Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> |
| Regularly recorded at the Oxbow: 4 Jul, 12 Jul & 19 Sep, (RH). | |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> |
| 16 Aug, c. 30 Hisiu Lagoon (RH); 6 Sep, 3, Lake Iaraguma (RH). | |
| Sacred Ibis | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> |
| 12 Jul, 5, Lower Vanapa (HFH & MH); 6 Sep, 12, Lake Iaraguma (RH). | |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> |
| 13 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS). | |
| Crested Hawk | <i>Aviceda subcristata</i> |
| 25 Aug, 2, Kuriva R (RGS). | |

Long-tailed Buzzard	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>
11 Jul, 1, Surinumu (RGS); 23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (RH); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).	
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
20 Jul, 1, nr Nadzab, Mor (RH).	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
19 Jul, 16 counted between Nadzab & Lae in mid-morning (RH); 18 Aug, 30, nr Lae, Mor (RGS).	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
2 Jul, 1 juv., Moitaka SP (RH, RGS <i>et al.</i>); 24 Sep, 2 ads, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Spotted Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
16 Jul, 1 dark phase female, Moitaka SP (RGS); 19 Jul, 1 light phase female, Hiritano Highway (RGS); 16 Aug, 1 male, Kanosia & 1 sub-ad male Hisiu Lagoon (RH).	
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
11 Jul, 1, Surinumu (RGS).	
Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>
11 Aug, 1, Ruti (RGS); 12 Aug, 1 Kundiawa, EHP (RGS); 16 Aug, 1, upper Goldie R road (RGS); 30 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH); 3 Sep, 1, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).	
Doria's Hawk	<i>Megatriorchis doriae</i>
1 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (RH, IB & JO); 19 Sep, Pair, Veimauri logging tracks. Distinct size difference between the two birds (RH, CE <i>et al.</i>).	
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>
23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB <i>et al.</i>).	
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS); 1, Patikalana Cen (RGS).	
Australian Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
8 Jul, 1 female, Paga Hill (RH); 16 Aug, 1 male, Aroa grasslands (RH).	
Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>
17 Jul, 1, Lae town centre, Mor (IB, RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
16 Jul, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 1 Aug, 1, Erima (RGS); 3 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS); 6 Sep, 1, Lea Lea salt pans, catching dragonflies and feeding on them in flight (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
11 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	
White-headed Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>
3 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS); 6 Sep, 1, Lake Iaraguma (RH); 24 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS & RH).	
Australian White-eyed Duck	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Four at Moitaka SP 18 Sep, and 2 on 24 Sep (RH & RGS).	
Common Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>
4 Jul, 1, lower Vanapa (RH); 24 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB); 2 Sep, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).	
Black-billed Brush-Turkey	<i>Talegalla fuscirostris</i>
25 & 26 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).	
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix australis</i>
26 Jul, 1, Boera (RGS).	
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Rallus philippensis</i>
24 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
White-headed Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP generally decreasing from c. 70 at the start of July to c. 20 at the end of September.	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, some still showing traces of bp, Hisiu Beach (RH).	

Eastern Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
5 Jul, 46 on Rabaul airfield, ENB (IB); 18 Sep, first returning migrants in Port Moresby area, some in bp (RH).	
Mongolian Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, Hisiu beach (RH); 30 Aug, 6, Hula (RGS); 19 Sep, 13, Kankas (RGS).	
Large Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, 9, Hisiu beach (RH); 12 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS).	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
16 Aug, 8, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
18 Sep, first returning migrant, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, 10, some in bp, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
16 Jul, first returning migrant, 1, Moitaka SP. No June records (RH).	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
6 Sep, first returning migrant, 1, Lea Lea salt pans (RH).	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
18 Sep, first returning migrants, 2, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
3 Sep, first returning migrants, 2, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
6 Sep, first returning migrants, Lea Lea beach (RH).	
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
16 Aug, first returning migrants, 11, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP increasing throughout this period, proportion of birds in bp similarly increasing. 30 Jul, 61 (RH); 18 Sep, c. 100, most in full bp (RH); 6 Sep, 1 in full bp, Lake Iaraguma (RH).	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
17 Jul, first returning migrant, Lae, Mor (RH).	
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
13 Sep, 10, Yule I, Cen (RGS).	
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
7 Jul, 1 found at Daru, Wes, had been ringed (banded) nr Whale-Skate I in the Hawaiian Islands (PL).	
Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>
19 Jul, 4, Yule I, Cen (RGS); 13 Sep, 40, Yule I, Cen (RGS).	
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>
24 Jul, 3, Goldie R road (IB); 16 Aug, 1, nr Mariboi (RH); 16 Sep, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).	
Emerald Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
24 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH & RGS).	
Stephan's Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>
23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB).	
New-Guinea Bronzewing	<i>Henicophaps albifrons</i>
Veimauri logging tracks: 26 Aug, 1 (RGS); 13 Sep, pair (NW); 16 Sep, 1 (CE).	
Cinnamon Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba rufigula</i>
23 Jul, 1, Goldie R road (IB).	

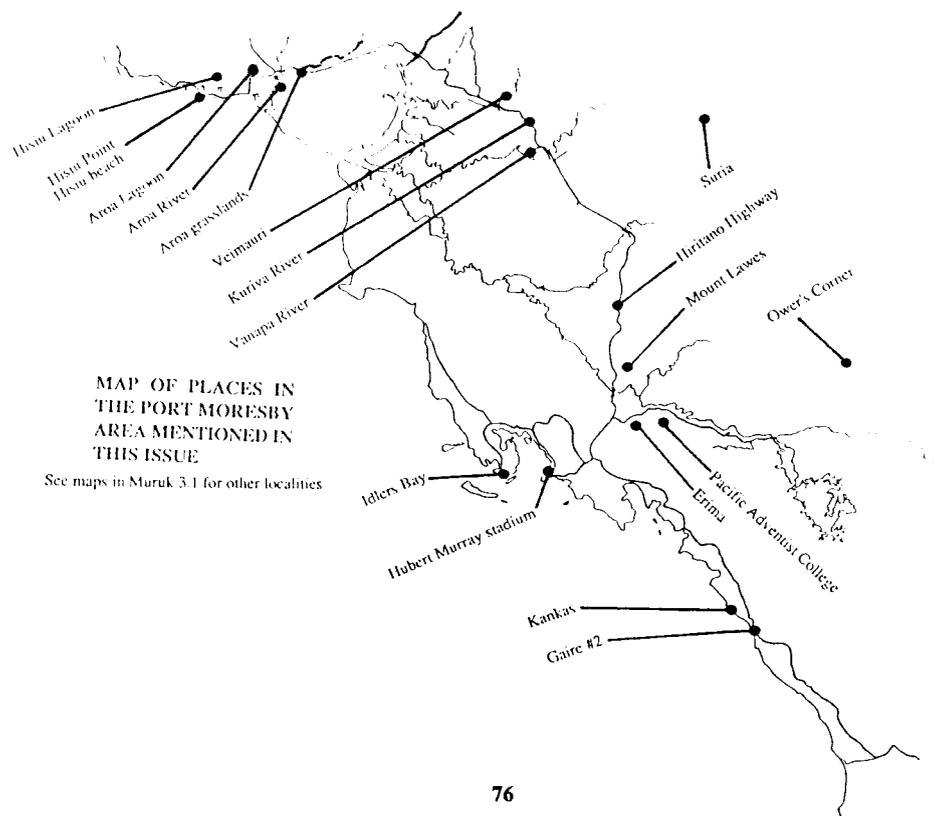
- Thick-billed Ground-Pigeon *Trugon terrestris*
Veimaui logging tracks: 26 Aug, 1 (RGS); 16 Sep, 1 (RH); 19 Sep, pair (CE).
- Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis*
23 Jul, 1 Goldie R road (RH) 26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*
16 Aug, 3, Goldie R road (RGS); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
19 Jul, 2, Yule I, Cen (RGS); 12 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS).
- Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*
13 Sep, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*
26 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Zoe Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*
18 Jul, pair nest building, Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (RH *et al.*); 16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS); 30 Aug, 1 carrying nesting material, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*
4 Jul, 23 in one tree, Lower Vanapa (RH); 5 Jul, 2, Roku (RGS); 12 Jul, c. 40, Lower Vanapa (RH); 15 Aug, Varirata NP (CE); 12 Sep, 1 Aroa R (RGS).
- Cardinal Lory *Chalcopsitta cardinalis*
9 Jul, c. 10, Masahet I, NIP (IB).
- Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*
30 Aug, pair nesting in base of large epiphytic fern, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Little Red Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*
19 Jul, 6, Boana, Mor (IB *et al.*).
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
12 Sep, 1, Korobosea, probably an escape (NW).
- Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta gulielmiterti*
25 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*
6 Sep, pair nesting in hollow eucalypt, Lake Iaraguma (RH).
- Vulturine Parrot *Psitturichas fulgidus*
18 Jul, 2, Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (RH, IB *et al.*). For many the highlight of the RAOU congress weekend.
- Papuan King-Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus*
25 - 26 Aug, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
2 Aug, 1, in garden, UPNG (IB).
- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
24 Jul, 1, in fruiting tree, Goldie R road (IB).
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
16 Aug, 1, sago patch, Hiritano Highway (IB).
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
4 Jul, 1, Lower Vanapa (RH); 18 Jul, 2, nr Lae, Mor (IB); 1 Aug, 2, King Bird tree (RH); 8 Aug, 1, King Bird tree; 26 Aug, 24, Patikalana, Cen (RGS).
- Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*
4 Jul, pair, Lower Vanapa (RH); 23 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (CE).

- Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
25 Jul, 1, dead on road nr Mt Lawes (RH); 11 Aug, 3, PAC (RH); 13 Aug, 4+, PAC (RH, IB *et al.*).
- Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*
23 Aug, pair, King Bird tree (BC, RH *et al.*).
- Barred Owllet-Nightjar *Aegotheles bennetti*
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*
11 Aug, 1, PAC, possibly a first record for the Port Moresby area (RH) (see p. 55).
- Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
11 Aug, 2, on ploughed land, PAC (RH); 13 Aug, c. 12, PAC (RH, IB *et al.*); 12 Sep, 1, Yule I, Cen (RGS).
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
9 Jul, 2, Masahet I, NIP (IB); 16 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS); 19 Sep, pair, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*
1 Aug, 5, King Bird tree (IB); 16 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS); 26 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Australian Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
16 Sep, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RH).
- Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*
25 Aug, 4, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*
1 Aug, 1, netted at King Bird tree (IB); 13 Sep, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (NW).
- Little Kingfisher *Alcedo pusilla*
16 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
18 Jul, pair, flying over Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (IB).
- Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
18 Jul, heard along Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (IB).
- Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*
28 Jul, 2, Boera (RGS).
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
One pair nesting, Pacific View Apartments, Korobosea, late Aug - Sep (NW).
- Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
2 Jul, c. 40, Moitaka SP (RGS); 28 Jul, c. 20 Moitaka SP (RH); 9 Sep, 2, Sogeri (RGS).
- Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
11 Aug, 4, Ruti, WHP (RGS); 13 Aug, 1, Minj, WHP (RGS).
- Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
25 Aug, 3, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Black Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaena*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina morio*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS); 26 Aug, 2, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS).
- Golden Cuckoo-Shrike *Campochaera sloetii*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).

- Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
22 Aug, 1, nr Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).
- Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata*
1 Aug, Laloki; 10 Aug, 1, Mt Hagen, WHP; 11 Aug, 4, Ruti, WHP; 12 Aug, 2, Kundiawa, EHP; 22 - 23 Aug, 6 singing males, Mt Hagen WHP (all obs RGS).
- Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
26 Aug, 2, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Rufous Babbler *Pomatostomus isidorei*
1 Aug, King Bird tree (JO); regularly recorded at Veimauri logging tracks: 26 Aug, 2 (RGS); 16 Sep (RH *et al.*); 19 Sep, 5 or 6 (RII *et al.*).
- Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*
22 - 23 Aug, grasslands above Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).
- Emperor Fairy-Wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
25 Aug, 4, Kuriva (RGS).
- Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronotus*
25 Aug, 2, Kuriva R, & 2, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS); 3 Sep, 1, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).
- Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*
21 Jul, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Sooty Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax*
1 Aug, 1 netted at the King Bird tree bearing a very old ring. 9 Aug, same bird caught again. Originally ringed in the same area on 24 Aug 1975 by L.W.C. Filewood, and is at least 12 years old (IB *et al.*).
- Black Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura maculipectus*
9 Aug, 1 netted at the King Bird tree (IB *et al.*).
- White-bellied Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*
9 Aug, 1 netted King Bird tree (IB *et al.*). (All three species of thicket-fantail were caught and ringed on 9 Aug).
- Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*
16 Aug, 2, Goldie R road; 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R; 26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (all obs RGS).
- Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*
26 Aug, 1, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Frisled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*
26 Aug, 6, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*
16 Aug, 2 males & 1 female, Hisiu mangroves (IB).
- Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana*
23 Jul, pair, Goldie R (RII); 16 Aug, 4, Goldie R (RGS).
- Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*
6 Sep, pair nr Lake Iaraguma (RH).
- Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*
9 Aug, 3, Sogeri (RGS).
- Olive Flycatcher *Microeca flavirescens*
25 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks; 26 Aug, 4, Veimauri logging tracks; 3 Sep, 1, Laloki/Goldie R (all obs RGS).
- Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*
25 Sep, Myola, Oro (JO).

- Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
26 Aug, 1 Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Banded Yellow Robin *Poecilodryas placens*
Recorded regularly at the recently discovered Veimauri logging tracks site. Most often found along the relatively steep-sided stream valleys: 26 Aug, 4 (RGS); 13 Sep, 1, possibly 2 (NW); 16 Sep, several pairs (RH *et al.*); 19 Sep, several pairs (RII).
- Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliosus*
9 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (RH); 25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*
11 Aug, 1, Mt Hagen, WHP (RGS).
- Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*
16 Aug, 1, female, Hisiu mangroves (RII).
- Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*
3 Sep, 4, Laloki/Goldie R (RGS).
- Crested Pitohui *Pitohui cristatus*
For a change several observations of this usually "often heard - seldom seen" bird and from several localities: 31 Jul, 1, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 1 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (IB); 9 Aug, 1, King Bird tree (IB & CE); 13 Sep, pair, Veimauri logging tracks (NW); 16 Sep, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Tawny Straightbill *Timeliopsis griseigula*
23 Aug, pair, King Bird tree (RH).
- Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*
31 Jul, 1, netted, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).
- Slaty-chinned Longbill *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*
31 Jul, 1, netted, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 20 Sep, Varirata NP (CE).
- Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Red-throated Myzomela *Myzomela eques*
15 Aug and 13 Sep, 1 male, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH); 13 Sep, few in flowering tree, Veimauri logging tracks (NW & CE).
- Red Myzomela *Myzomela cruentata*
26 Jul, Varirata NP (CE).
- Yellow-gaped Meliphaga *Meliphaga flavirictus*
1 Aug, 1 trapped, King Bird tree (IB); 26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RII).
- Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*
5 Jul & 8 Aug, Roku, Cen, (RGS).
- Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*
13 Sep, 1, in flowering tree, Veimauri logging tracks (NW); 16 Sep, 1, feeding in *Albizzia* tree, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*
26 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RGS).
- Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
25 Aug, 1, Kuriva R (RGS).
- Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*
12 Jul, pair, Lower Vanapa (RH); 13 Sep, 1, in flowering tree, Veimauri logging tracks (NW); 19 Sep, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*
19 - 20 Jul, 1, Nadzab, Mor (IB, RH *et al.*).
- Streak-headed Mannikin *Lonchura tristissima*
18 Jul, flock c. 20 Sankwep road, nr Lae, Mor (RH *et al.*); 16 Aug, 4, Goldie R road (RGS).
- Grand Mannikin *Lonchura grandis*
11 Jul, 4, Surinumu (RGS).

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Chestnut-breasted Mannikin | <i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i> |
| 12 Jul, 3, Surinumu (RGS). | |
| White-eared Catbird | <i>Ailuroedus buccoides</i> |
| 31 Jul, 2, Gare's lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 15 Aug, pair, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH); 26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS); 13 Sep, 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH); 13 Sep, 3, feeding on berries, Veimaui logging tracks (NW & CE). | |
| Macgregor's Bowerbird | <i>Amblyornis macgregoriae</i> |
| 27 Sep, 1 female netted and ringed & 1 male seen, Myola, Oro (RII). | |
| Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise | <i>Seleucidis melanoleuca</i> |
| 12 Jul, 1 male, Lower Vanapa (RH). | |
| King Bird of Paradise | <i>Cicinnurus regius</i> |
| 23 Aug, 1 male, King Bird tree; 26 Aug, 1, Veimaui logging tracks (RGS); 30 Sep, several males & females in one area, Veimaui logging tracks (RH <i>et al.</i>). | |
| Magnificent Bird of Paradise | <i>Cicinnurus magnificus</i> |
| 19 Jul, 1 male in bp, Boana, Mor (RH <i>et al.</i>); 2 Aug, Varirata NP (CE). | |
| Raggiana Bird of Paradise | <i>Paradisaea raggiana</i> |
| 4 Jul, female carrying nesting material, Lower Vanapa (RH). | |
| Emperor Bird of Paradise | <i>Paradisaea guilielmi</i> |
| 19 Jul, 1 male in full bp & 3 - 5 females Boana, Mor (RH <i>et al.</i>). | |
| Grey Crow | <i>Corvus tristis</i> |
| 4 Jul, c. 30, Lower Vanapa (RH); 12 Jul, 1, Lower Vanapa (RH). | |



RECENT OBSERVATIONS OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1987

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

Contributors : Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Chris Eastwood (CE); Will Glynn (WG); Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS); Roger Hicks (RH); Helen Hopkins (HFH); Mike Hopkins (MH); Peter Lambley (PL); Joan Oliver (JO); Niklas Wahlberg (NW); Phil Whittington (PW).

Abbreviations : ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; Mt = Mount; NP = National Park; PAC = Pacific Adventist College, 14-mile, Port Moresby; R = river; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; Wes = Western Province; WHP = Western Highlands Province; WNB = West New Britain.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Streaked Shearwater | <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i> |
| 23 Dec, 1, Kimbe Bay, WNB (RH & PW) | |
| Great Frigatebird | <i>Fregata minor</i> |
| 22 Nov, 1 male, over Hisiu beach (RH); 16 Dec, c. 3 with each flock of Lesser Frigatebirds, over Paga Hill (see below) (RII). | |
| Lesser Frigatebird | <i>Fregata ariel</i> |
| 22 Nov, Hisiu Beach (RH); 16 Dec, 2 flocks, each c. 50 birds heading NW over Paga Hill at 17:45 (RH). | |
| Little Pied Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i> |
| 10 Oct, 1, at c. 760 m, Naoro, Cen (NW). | |
| Darter | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> |
| 3 Dec, 4, Aroa Lagoon (NW). | |
| Cattle Egret | <i>Egretta ibis</i> |
| 26 Nov, 23, 2 in bp, Moitaka SP (RII); 18 Dec, 3, 1 in bp, Ilimo Farm (RII); 19 Dec, 5, 2 in bp, Kanosia Lagoon (now dry) (RII). | |
| White-faced Heron | <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i> |
| 19 Dec, 1, Hisiu Lagoon (RII). | |
| Eastern Reef-Egret | <i>Egretta sacra</i> |
| 23 Dec, 2 dark phase & 1 light phase on Restorff I, WNB (RH & PW). | |
| Striated Heron | <i>Ardeola striata</i> |
| 2 Dec, 1, Bootless Bay (RII & PW). | |
| Black Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> |
| Usual records from the Oxbow: 2 Oct & 19 Dec (RII). | |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> |
| 1 Nov, 5, flying over Moitaka SP (RH); 22 Nov, 1, Aroa Lagoon (RII); 3 Dec, c. 14 Aroa Lagoon (NW); 19 Dec, 1, Hisiu Lagoon (RH). | |
| Sacred Ibis | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> |
| 17 Oct, 8, over Brown R (IB). | |
| Royal Spoonbill | <i>Platalea regia</i> |
| 3 Dec, c. 10 Aroa Lagoon & 3 at the Oxbow (NW & PW). | |

Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
1 & 6 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	
Long-tailed Buzzard	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>
3 & 4 Oct, 1, Varirata NP (RH); 7 Nov, 1, Varirata NP (RII); 3 Dec, 1, Veimauri (PW).	
New-Britain Buzzard	<i>Henicopernis infuscata</i>
24 Dec, 1 at sea level, nr Hoskins, WNB (RH & PW).	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
2 Oct, 1, King Bird Tree (RH).	
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
10 Dec, 18 over Moitaka SP (RH).	
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
3 Oct, a nest containing one almost fledged young in a eucalypt to east of lake, Varirata NP (RH).	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
1 & 6 Oct, 1 ad, Moitaka SP (RH).	
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
17 Oct, 1, Brown River (IB).	
Black-mantled Goshawk	<i>Accipiter melanochlamys</i>
11 Dec, 1, Tari Gap, SIIP (PW).	
Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>
Three records from the King Bird tree: 1 Oct (RII); 17 Oct (IB) & 2 Dec (RII).	
Meyer's Goshawk	<i>Accipiter meyerianus</i>
29 Oct, 1 carrying prey item over Bulldog Track, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
New Guinea Harpy-Eagle	<i>Harpyopsis novaeguineae</i>
28 Oct, 1 heard at 05:30, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Spotted Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna guttata</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP rose to a peak of c. 400 on 10 Dec as surrounding wetlands dried up. Subsequent heavy rains resulted in fewer birds at Moitaka SP: 17 Dec, c. 60 & 31 Dec, c. 50 (RH).	
Wandering Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>
Generally more numerous than Spotted WD, c. 200 - c. 300 present at Moitaka SP throughout Oct & Nov. A peak of c. 600 on 10 Dec (therefore in excess of 1000 ducks at Moitaka on this day). Numbers dropping markedly following heavy rains in the second half of Dec: 17 Dec, c. 20 & 31 Dec, c. 50 (RII).	
White-headed Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>
One present at Moitaka SP throughout this period with 3 on 10 Dec (RII).	
Green Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>
19 Nov, 4, Moitaka SP (RII); 12 Dec, pair, Oxbow (RII).	
White Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
22 Nov, 1 female, Aroa Lagoon. Possibly a first record for southern PNG (RII, CE & WG) (see Muruk 3.1).	
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
As with the whistling duck, numbers of this species at Moitaka SP rose throughout Oct & Nov to a peak of c. 300 on 10 Dec, after which, as a result of heavy rain, numbers dropped. Only 1 on 17 Dec and 2 on 31 Dec (RII).	
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
10 Dec, first returning migrant, 1 male, Moitaka SP (RII).	
Australian White-eyed Duck	<i>Aythya australis</i>
1 Oct, 2, Moitaka SP (RH).	
Common Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>
29 Oct, pair on Bulldog Track, at 2000 m, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	

Wattled Brush-Turkey	<i>Aepyodius arfakianus</i>
27-30 Oct, heard daily but not seen, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix australis</i>
5 & 19 Nov, 2, Moitaka SP (RH).	
King Quail	<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>
4 Dec, Myola, Oro (RH & PW).	
Red-backed Button-Quail	<i>Turnix maculosa</i>
19 Dec, 2, Aroa Lagoon (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Rallus philippensis</i>
10 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP. Not recorded as often this year as last (RH).	
White-headed Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>
Numbers at Moitaka SP generally decreasing from c. 20 at the start of Oct to 1 on 31 Dec. (RH).	
Beach Stone-Curlew	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>
22 Nov, 1, Hisiu beach (RH).	
Eastern Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
3 Dec, 23 on ploughed field, Veimauri (PW).	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
7 Nov, 1, Oxbow (RII); 3 Dec, 1, Oxbow (NW & PW); 6 Dec, 1, Lower Vanapa (NW); 28 Dec, 5, Tanuabada pond (PW).	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
24 Oct & 22 Nov, Hisiu Beach (RH).	
Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
24 Oct, first returning migrant, Hisiu Beach (RII).	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
24 Oct, 10, Hisiu Beach (RH).	
Little Curlew	<i>Numenius minutus</i>
12 Oct, first returning migrant, 1, Tari airfield, SHP (RH); 13 Oct, first returning migrant in Port Moresby area, 3 on Hubert Murray stadium, present until 2 Nov (RII).	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
31 Oct & 29 Oct, 1, nr Police Club on Paga Hill (RH).	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
1 Oct, 19 & 26 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 15 Dec, 2, Tanubada Pond (PW).	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Singles at Moitaka SP: 1, 6 & 29 Oct (RH).	
Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
5 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP. A small snipe, only slightly larger than nearby Sharp-tailed Sandpipers <i>Calidris acuminata</i> , was observed feeding in the open. It seemed darker than other snipe previously recorded, although none were available for direct comparison. It was thought to be this species (RH).	
Rufous Woodcock	<i>Scolopax saturata</i>
17-18 Oct, 1, feeding on forest/grassland edge at c. 3100 m east of Myola, Oro (RII <i>et al.</i>).	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Singles at Moitaka SP throughout this period (RII).	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Recorded at Hisiu beach throughout this period (RH).	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
10-20 at Moitaka SP throughout this period (RH); 6 Nov, c. 70, Moitaka SP, was the largest flock of this migration (RH); 19 Dec, c. 40, Hisiu Lagoon (RH).	
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
Single at Moitaka SP from 5 Oct - 6 Nov (RH).	

- Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Small numbers at Moitaka SP throughout this period (RH); 19 Dec, c. 20, Hisiu lagoon (RH).
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
6 Oct, first returning migrants, 2, Moitaka SP (RH).
- Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
Numbers at Moitaka SP decreasing throughout Oct: 1 Oct, c. 100; 6 Oct, 48; 29 Oct, 3; majority in bp (RH); No Nov records received. 17 Dec, first returning migrant (presumably from Australian breeding grounds), 1 moulting out of bp, Moitaka SP (RH).
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
1 Nov, first returning migrants (presumably from Asian breeding grounds), 2, Moitaka SP (RH). Many fewer records than previous two years with only two further sightings: 5 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH) & 19 Dec, 1 juv, Hisiu beach (PW).
- Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
10-20 at Moitaka SP throughout this period (RH).
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Small numbers at Moitaka SP from 1 Nov; 19 Dec, 29, Hisiu Point (RH).
- Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
Single at Moitaka SP throughout Nov (RH); 19 Dec, 3, Hisiu Point (RH).
- Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*
27-30 Oct, common, 10-12 birds seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Bronze Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba beccarii*
29 Oct, 1 male, Bulldog Track, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis*
3 Oct, Varirata NP (CE); 16 Dec, 1, Gare's Lookout - Varirata Lookout Trail, Varirata NP (PW).
- Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*
27 Oct, 1, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*
3 Oct, 1 male, Varirata NP (CE).
- Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
27 Dec, 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (PW).
- White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
27-30 Oct, common, 6-25 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*
Recorded at Veimauri logging tracks: 19 Nov (RH) & 3 Dec, 3 (PW).
- Pinon Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon*
3 Dec, Veimauri logging tracks (PW).
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*
27-30 Oct, very common, 10-50 birds seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Little Red Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*
16 Oct, pair at 2700 m, nr Myola, Oro (RH).
- Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*
9-12 Oct, 1 dark phase & 1 light phase bird paired, seen regularly nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP. Common in forest above lodge (RH); 27-30 Oct, very common, 10-50 birds seen daily (equal numbers of light and dark plumage phase), Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Plum-faced Lorikeet *Oreopsittacus arfaki*
16 Oct, c. 10 at c. 2700 m nr Myola, Oro (RH); 27-30 Oct, 4-10 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB); 9 Nov, 2, Tari Gap, SHP (RH).
- Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*
27-30 Oct, 1-2 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).

- Orange-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus pullicauda*
16-17 Oct, large flocks of c. 100 birds seen above 3000 m nr Myola, Oro (RH); 27-30 Oct, common, 10-20 birds seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*
3 Dec, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (PW & NW). Some consider that this sighting refers to a crow that had been eating red berries, but that is probably just sour grapes!
- Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*
29 Oct, party of 4, along Bulldog track, Mor (IB).
- Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*
16 Oct, 1 at c. 2700 m nr Myola, Oro (RH); 29 Oct, 1 female, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB); 30 Oct, 2 females, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB); 3 Dec, 1 male, Myola, Oro (PW); 11 Dec, 1 male, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (PW).
- Painted Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella picta*
17 Oct, 1 male, at c. 3100 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH *et al.*); 30 Oct, 1 female, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*
28 Oct, 2, in tree tops nr Nauti village (nr Wau), Mor (IB); 9-14 Nov, flights of c. 30 birds over Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH).
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
27 Dec, 1, Gare's Lookout Trail, Varirata NP (PW).
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*
27-30 Oct, c. 6 seen/heard daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*
10 Oct, 1, calling from exposed perch, Tari Gap, SHP (RH); 16 Oct, heard calling at c. 3100 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH).
- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
24 Oct, 1 male, Veimauri logging tracks (RH).
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
2 Dec, pair, King Bird tree (RH).
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
26 Dec, 10 in forest on first volcano east of Hoskins, WNB, at a time of year when they should be on their breeding grounds in Australia (PW).
- Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
2 Oct, 1, Hiritano Highway nr Mt Lawes (RH).
- Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*
12 & 28 Dec, pair at King Bird tree (RH, NW & PW).
- Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
13 Oct & 10 Nov, pair perched in tree behind chalet 11, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH); 13 Dec, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (PW).
- Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*
6 Dec, 1, roosting on ground, Veimauri logging tracks (CE & NW).
- Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*
2-3 Oct, 2, Varirata NP (RH).
- Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
2 Oct, at least 6 on access road to Varirata NP (RH); 3 Oct, at least 5 calling birds, Varirata NP (RH).
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
Regularly recorded at Veimauri logging tracks: 24 Oct, 2 (RH); 22 Nov, 2 (RH); 3 Dec, 1 ad & 1 juv (RH); 20-26 Dec, common and easy to see between Walindi & Hoskins, WNB (RH & PW).
- Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea*
27-30 Oct, 10-20 seen daily, Hidden Valley (IB).

- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
27-30 Oct, 5-10 seen daily, Hidden Valley (IB).
- Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
10 Oct, c. 5, at c. 760m, Naoro, Cen (NW); 22 Nov, Veimauro logging tracks (RH); 19 Dec, c. 10 over the Oxbow (RH).
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*
21 Nov, first returning migrants, 2 over Hula, Cen (NW); 28 Dec, 3 over King Bird tree (RH).
- Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*
18 Dec, c. 6 over Paga Hill (RH & PW).
- Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera nigriceps*
26 Dec, 1 seen in forest east of Hoskins, WNB (PW).
- Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*
3 Oct, 1, netted and ringed, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (RH).
- Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*
Two records from Hisiu mangroves: 24 Nov, 1 & 3 Dec, pair (RH); 20-21 Dec, common in secondary growth nr Walindi, WNB (RH & PW).
- Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurorhaga*
23 Dec, 1, Restorff I, WNB (RH & PW).
- White-mantled Kingfisher *Halcyon albonotata*
20 Dec, perched beside road between Hoskins and Walindi, WNB (RH & PW).
- Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*
28 Dec, 1, perched in forest understorey, King Bird tree (RH & PW).
- Little Kingfisher *Alcedo pusilla*
24 Oct, 3, Oxbow (RH); 22 Nov, 1, Hisiu mangroves (RH).
- Common Kingfisher *Alcedo althis*
26 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 18 Dec, 1, Tanubada pond (PW & RH); 23 Dec, 1, Rostorff I, WNB (RH).
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
21 Dec, 2 males & 3 females flying over Walindi oil palm plantation, WNB (RH & PW).
- Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*
28 Dec, 1, King Bird Tree (RH).
- Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
14 Dec, Tari airfield, SHP (PW); 20 Dec, c. 50 over Nadzab airfield terminal buildings, Mor and 58, Hoskins, WNB (RH & PW).
- Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
12 Oct, 1, Tari airfield, SHP (RH).
- Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Several records from the Tari area where commonly seen alongside the Highway above Ambua Lodge: 9-12 Oct (RH); 9-13 Nov (RH); 9 Dec (PW); 6 Dec, 1, Myola, Oro (RH & PW).
- Alpine Pipit *Anthus gutturalis*
16-18 Oct, common in grasslands at c. 3000 m between Myola & Mt Kenevi, Oro (RH *et al.*).
- Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina longicauda*
29 Oct, One pair, nr Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
28 Oct, 1, male in grassland nr Nauti village (nr Wau), Mor (IB).
- Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
11 Oct, 1 in grassland below Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH).
- Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*
27-30 Oct, 2-5 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).

- Spotted Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*
29 Oct, 1, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris*
17-18 Oct, regularly seen in forest at c. 3100m east of Myola, Oro (RH); 28-30 Oct, recorded daily in Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Blue-capped Ifrita *Ifrita kowaldi*
17 Oct, pair recorded at 3150 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH & HFII). This is 250 m above the extreme highest altitude given in Beehler *et al.* (1986). This species has also been recorded on Mt Scratchley (Clapp in *Muruk* 1.1, 1986) and probably occurs up to the tree line.
- Rufous Babbler *Pomatostomus isidorei*
14 Oct, nest found with occupants, Veimauro logging tracks (NW).
- Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*
4 Dec, 1, netted and ringed, Myola, Oro (RH).
- Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
11 Oct, common in woods of Tari Basin, SHP (RH); 28 Oct, 1, in overgrown garden, Nauti village (nr Wau), Mor (IB).
- Wallace's Fairy-Wren *Sipodotus wallacii*
7 Nov, 1, King Bird tree (RH). First record for Port Moresby area for several years.
- Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis nigrorufa*
29 Oct, c. 10, along Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Mountain Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis robusta*
16 Oct, 1, carrying nesting material, Myola, Oro (RH); 30 Oct, 1, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Large Scrub-Wren *Sericornis nouhuysi*
27-30 Oct, common, 6-25 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Buff-faced Scrub-Wren *Sericornis perspicillatus*
30 Oct, 3, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Papuan Scrub-Wren *Sericornis papuensis*
27-30 Oct, 6-8 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Grey-green Scrub-Wren *Sericornis arfakianus*
8 Nov, 1, Varirata Lookout trail, Varirata NP (RH). New record for Varirata. Field notes: watched for c. 20-30 seconds from a distance of 3-5 m while perched and moving through bamboo beside trail. Dark grey-green upperparts, paler below with faint streaking on breast (not as pronounced as in Pale-billed Scrub-Wren *S. spilodera*). Bill fine and black (not as heavy and definitely not pale as in Pale-billed SW).
- New Guinea Thornbill *Acanthiza murina*
27-30 Oct, 1-4 seen daily, Hidden valley, Mor (IB).
- Grey Gerygone *Gerygone cinerea*
29 Oct, 6+, along Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*
28 Oct, 1, carrying nesting material, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB); 29 Oct, 1, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*
22 Nov, 1, Hisiu mangroves (RH).
- Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*
27-30 Oct, common 6-10 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Mangrove Fantail *Rhipidura phasianiana*
22 Nov, 1, Hisiu mangroves (RH).
- Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*
29 Oct, 3 females along Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*
27-30 Oct, common, 8-12 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).

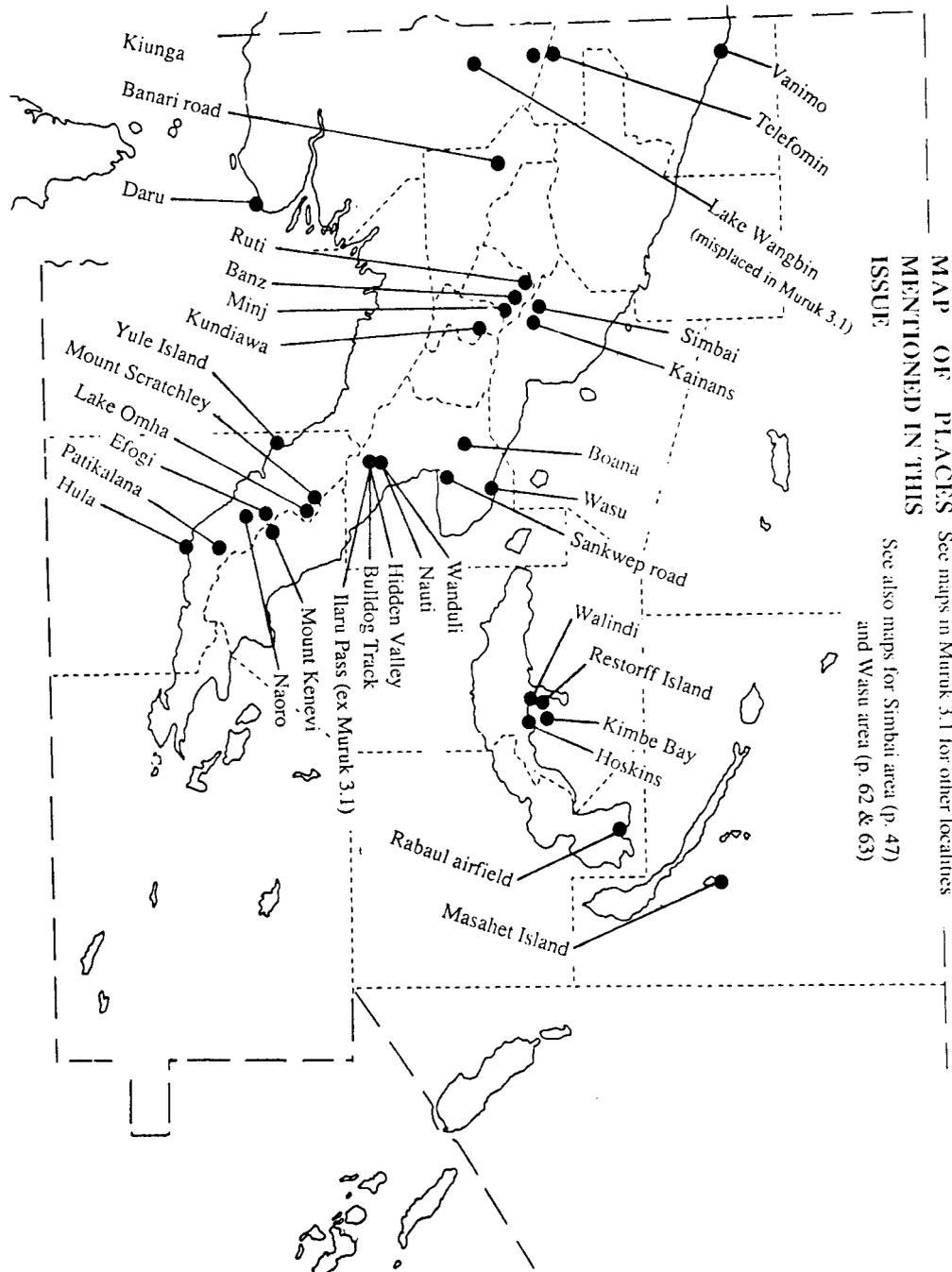
Friilled Monarch	<i>Arses telescopthalmus</i>
24 Oct, pair nest building, Veimauro logging tracks (RH).	
Leadon Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>
18 Dec, pair nesting in a <i>Casuarina</i> nr the tollgate, Varirata NP (PW); 19 Dec, pair nesting, Hisiu mangroves (RH).	
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>
21 Dec, pair on rain forest/plantation edge, Walindi, WNB (RH & PW).	
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigripictus</i>
27-30 Oct, 1-2 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Torrent Flycatcher	<i>Monachella muelleriana</i>
9-12 Oct, frequently seen along streams between Efogi and Ower's Corner, Cen, but not as common as Torrent-Lark (NW).	
Olive Flycatcher	<i>Microeca flavirescens</i>
13 Dec, ad feeding fledged juv, King Bird tree. This juv lacked the pale lower mandible of ad (RH).	
Canary Flycatcher	<i>Microeca papuana</i>
27 Oct, 1, & 30 Oct 3, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Garnet Robin	<i>Eugeryone rubra</i>
18 Oct, 1 male at c. 3000 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH); 30 Oct, 1, female, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB); 6 Dec, 1 male trapped and ringed & a nesting pair seen, Myola, Oro (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Black-sided Robin	<i>Poecilodryas hypoleuca</i>
1 Nov, 1, King Bird tree (RH).	
Black-throated Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albonotata</i>
27 Oct, 1 & 30 Oct, 3, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Greater Ground-Robin	<i>Amalocichla sclateriana</i>
17 Oct, 3, involved in a chase and observed within 3 m, in moss forest at c. 3100 m east of Myola, Oro. One bird was seen to fly a short distance (RH & HFH).	
Lesser Ground-Robin	<i>Amalocichla incerta</i>
28-30 Oct, 1 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
White-winged Robin	<i>Peneothello sigillatus</i>
16-18 Oct, common in moss forest from c. 2500 to 3000 m+ to the east of Myola, Oro. Several juvs recorded and ads noted feeding fledged young (RH <i>et al.</i>); 27-30 Oct, 1-5 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Blue-grey Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i>
28 Oct, 1, & 29 Oct, 2, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Dwarf Whistler	<i>Pachycare flavogrisea</i>
3 Oct, Varirata NP (CE).	
Mottled Whistler	<i>Rhagologus leucostigma</i>
5 Dec, 1 male trapped and ringed, Myola, Oro (RH).	
Common Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
23 Dec, 1 male, Restorff I, WNB (RH & PW).	
Mangrove Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala melanura</i>
19 Dec, 1 pair, Hisiu mangroves (RH).	
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i>
27-30 Oct, 6-12 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Brown-backed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala modesta</i>
29 Oct, 1, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).	
Rufous-naped Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufinucha</i>
30 Oct, 2, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Papuan Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris placens</i>
27 & 29 Oct, 3, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	

Varied Sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>
11 Oct, pair, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH); 28 Oct, 2 seen in mixed flock of scrub-wrens and thornbills, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Black Sittella	<i>Daphoenositta miranda</i>
11 Dec, c. 6, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (PW).	
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis versteri</i>
28 Oct, 1, 29 Oct 5 & 30 Oct, 2, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB); 4-6 Dec, 10, all females trapped, including 2 females ringed in Sep, Myola, Oro (RH).	
Tit Berrypecker	<i>Oreocharis arfaki</i>
27-30 Oct, 2-8 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Crested Berrypecker	<i>Paramythia montium</i>
16-18 Oct, common above 2500 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH <i>et al.</i>); 27-30 Oct, 2-8 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Black-fronted White-Eye	<i>Zosterops atrifrons</i>
27 Dec, Varirata NP (RH).	
New Guinea White-Eye	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i>
28 Oct, 1 & 29 Oct, 5, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).	
Long-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melilestes megarhynchus</i>
7 Dec, 1, Varirata NP (PW).	
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i>
27-30 Oct, 1-3 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Black-throated Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus subsphenatus</i>
16 Oct, 1, Myola, Oro (RH); 28 & 29 Oct, 1, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Rufous-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora guisei</i>
27-30 Oct, 5-20 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Sooty Melidectes	<i>Melidectes fuscus</i>
16-18 Oct, commonest bird above 3000 m in moss forest to east of Myola, Oro (RH <i>et al.</i>); 30 Oct, 1 at 2900 m in a ridge top tree, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB); 19 Dec, Tari Gap, SHP (PW).	
Belford's X Yellow-browed Melidectes	Hybrids
27-30 Oct, abundant 30-40 seen daily, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Blue-faced Parrot-Finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>
29 Oct, 4, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB); 11 Nov, 2, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH); 10 & 12 Dec, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (PW).	
Eastern Alpine Mannikin	<i>Lonchura monticola</i>
17-18 Oct, small parties in high altitude grassland at c. 3100 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Mountain Firetail	<i>Oreostruthus fuliginosus</i>
17 Oct, pair in high altitude grassland at c. 3100 m, east of Myola, Oro (RH <i>et al.</i>); 27-30 Oct, 2 heard calling each day, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Golden Myna	<i>Mino anais</i>
19 Dec, 2, Lower Vanapa (RH).	
Torrent-Lark	<i>Grallina bruijnii</i>
9-12 Oct, seen on nearly every stream between Efogi and Ower's Corner, Cen (NW); 11 Oct, 10 & 12 Dec, 1, on stream nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH & PW).	
White-breasted Wood-Swallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
15 Oct, nest at Moitaka SP, outcome unknown (RH).	
Great Wood-Swallow	<i>Artamus maximus</i>
28 & 30 Oct, 1, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).	
Lowland Peltops	<i>Peltops blainvillii</i>
7 Nov, nest at King Bird tree, outcome unknown (RH).	

- Mountain Peltops *Peltops montanus*
11 Oct (RH) & 9 Dec (PW) 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP.
- White-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus buccoides*
17 Oct, King Bird tree (NW).
- Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis*
11 Dec, Tari Gap, SHP (PW).
- Macgregor's Bowerbird *Amblyornis macgregoriae*
10 Oct, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH); 29 Oct, 3, Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Crested Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregorii*
10 Oct, 1 female, Tari Gap (c. 2900 m), SHP (RH); 17 Oct, 1 male at 3100 m east of Myola, Oro (CE); 30 Oct, 1 male & 2 females, feeding in a fruiting tree on a ridge top (c. 2900 m), Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae*
9-12 Oct, males and females observed feeding and a male seen displaying, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH); 28 Oct, 2 females, along Bulldog Track, Mor (IB).
- Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda*
9-12 Oct, 1 ringed adult accompanied by a fully fledged young around Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH).
- Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*
17 Oct, 1 male, King Bird tree (NW); 19 Dec, excellent views of a displaying male, Lower Vanapa (RH *et al.*).
- Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*
27-30 Oct, up to 11, 5 males & 6 females, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*
7 Oct, 1 female feeding in umbrella tree, Tari Gap, SHP (RH).
- Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*
27-30 Oct, up to 11, 5 males & 6 females, Hidden Valley, Mor (IB).
- Supercb Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba*
9-12 Oct, male & female feeding, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH).
- King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*
9 Oct, several males calling, Tari Gap, SHP (RH).
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*
3 Oct, female carrying nesting material, Varirata NP (RH).
- Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*
9 Oct, female feeding, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RH); 10 Nov, 2 males seen, Banari road, nr Tari, SHP. Male's call sounds like a reversing bus or truck (RH).

INDEX TO PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

- Ambua Lodge 52, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86
- Aroa grasslands 70
- Aroa Lagoon 77, 78, 79
- Aroa River 72
- Baiyer River Sanctuary 56
- Banari road 86
- Banz 56
- Bismark Range 41
- Boana 72, 76
- Boera 70, 73
- Bootless Bay 77
- Brown River 55, 77, 78
- Bulldog Track 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86
- Danau Bira 51
- Daru 71
- Efogi 84, 85
- English Peaks 51
- Epe Valley 41, 43, 45, 46
- Erima 70
- Gaire #2 69
- Goldie River road 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75
- Hidden Valley 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86
- Hiritano Highway 70, 72, 81
- Hisiu beach 69, 70, 71, 77, 79, 80
- Hisiu Lagoon 69, 70, 77, 79
- Hisiu mangroves 74, 75, 83, 84
- Hisiu Point 80
- Hoskins 78, 81, 82
- Hubert Murray stadium 79
- Hula 71, 82
- Idlers Bay 69
- Ilimo Farm 77
- Jimi Valley 41
- Kabwum 61, 64
- Kadzebnang Creek 41
- Kadzebnang forest 42, 44, 45
- Kainans 58
- Kaironk 41
- Kakpi 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46
- Kalola 61, 64
- Kankas 71
- Kanosia Lagoon 69, 70, 77
- Kimbe Bay 77
- King Bird tree 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86
- Kiunga 54
- Korobosea 72, 73
- Kumbunuf 42
- Kundiawa 70, 74
- Kupong 41, 42
- Kuriva River 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75
- Lae 70, 71, 72
- Lake Holmes 51
- Lake Iaraguma 69, 70, 71, 72, 74
- Lake Omha 51, 52
- Laloki 70, 74, 75
- Lamkamin 54
- Lea Lea beach 71
- Lea Lea salt pans 70, 71
- Mamberamo River 51
- Mariboi 71
- Masahet Island 72, 73
- Minj 73
- Moitaka Settling Ponds 53, 54, 69, 70, 71, 73, 77, 78, 79, 80, 85
- Mount Hagen 74, 75
- Mount Lawes 73, 81
- Mount Kenevi 66, 82
- Mount Scratchley 83
- Myola 52, 57, 58, 67, 74, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86
- Nadzab 70, 75, 82
- Naoro 77, 82
- Nauti 81, 82, 83
- Ower's Comer 84, 85
- Oxbow 69, 77, 79, 82
- Pacific Adventist College 55, 73
- Paga Hill 69, 70, 77, 79, 82
- Patikalana 70, 72
- Port Moresby 71
- Rabaul airfield 71
- Restorff Island 77, 82, 84
- Roku 72, 75
- Ruti 70, 73, 74
- Sankwep road 72, 73, 75
- Satop 61
- Simbai 41, 42, 58
- Sogeri 74
- Soi River 41, 42, 44
- Suria 51, 52
- Surinumu 70, 75, 76
- Tanuabada pond 79, 82
- Tari 52, 54, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86
- Tari Gap 48, 50, 56, 78, 80, 81, 86
- Telefomin 48, 50
- University of PNG 72
- Vanapa River 69, 70, 72, 75, 76, 79, 85, 86
- Vanimo 54
- Varirata National Park 51, 52, 72, 74, 75, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86
- Veimauri 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84
- Walindi 81, 82
- Wanduli 57, 84
- Wasu 61, 64
- Wau 57, 81, 82, 83
- Whale-Skate Island 71
- Yule Island 69, 71, 72, 73



INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Please type all manuscripts, double spaced. This makes it much easier for us to ensure accuracy. If you have access to a word processor then manuscripts can be submitted on disc. We print on an Apple Laserprinter from an IBM XT. Early processing of manuscripts is done using Microsoft WORD, later the file is taken into PageMaker for its final layout. Documents should preferably be on 5-inch floppies and produced on an IBM (or IBM compatible) machine. Documents in WORD are best, but Pagemaker can take documents from most other programs. Manuscripts on disc can be processed much faster than type-written ones.

We also have a facility for reading typed text directly into the computer. If you have a long manuscript which cannot be sent on disc, please make sure the print is clear (use a new ribbon) and that the letters are widely spaced, and use as few type styles as possible.

In general articles and notes should follow the guidelines used by EMU (or see earlier issues of MURUK). Please pay special attention to the correct citation of references.

For english and scientific names of birds use those in Beehler, B.M. *et al.* (1986). **Birds of New Guinea**, Princeton University Press, or the checklist produced by the Society (Hicks, R. (1987). **Checklist of the Birds of Papua New Guinea**, PNGBS). In listings of birds please use the order used in these publications.

For place names, please amke sure that these are locatable. If they do not occur on the standard PNG maps then give the nearest mapped locality. Always give the province after the name.

Illustrations should be neatly drawn in black ink. Try not to put on too much detail. For all maps etc. please submit two copies, one without any annotation and another with the place names (etc.) marked. Alternatively mark the place names on a transparent overlay. Line drawings of birds are welcome. Again, use black ink, and use as few shades as possible; stippling prints well.

If you have any special requirements with regard to publication please let us know. The editors reserve the right to make whatever changes they see fit, and will not normally return manuscripts for proof reading unless this is specifically asked for by the authors.

Recent observations is compiled from observations submitted. Casual observations are always welcome for inclusion from any part of PNG.